



UNDER 30'S GUIDE TO CINEMA REDISCOVERED

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Wed 23 - Sun 27 July 2025

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Cinema Rediscovered returns to venues in and around Bristol UNESCO City of Film from Wed 23 - Sun 27 July 2025 with 80+ screenings and events consisting of newly restored films, rediscoveries, film-on-film rarities, cinema walks, and a quiz.

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Please note titles and events listed below are hyperlinked to their page on Watershed's website.

Follow [Cinema Rediscovered on Letterboxd](#) for more insights, and tag CineRedis25 in your reviews - we'll share our favourites on [Bluesky](#) and [Instagram](#)!

With thanks to our contributors: Gavin Sunderland, JoJo Myers-Insole, and Steph Read.

FESTIVAL STRANDS

Against the Grain: 1980s British Cinema – Amid the rise of Channel 4 and the decline of Thatcherism emerged some of the most ambitious and influential films in British cinema, showcased in a curated strand featuring special guests who share how they challenged the status quo.

Masumura x Wakao – Having worked on 20 films together, legendary director-actor duo Yasuzō Masumura and Ayako Wakao redefined Japanese cinema, pushing society's boundaries with progressive themes in daring style.

Restored & Rediscovered – Featuring 19 UK-premieres, it's your chance to watch classics and rare cinematic gems as they were meant to be seen – beautifully restored on the big screen.

Reframing Film – An in-depth exploration into the who, how and why of rediscovering cinema, delving into the histories of the festival, Bristol, Channel 4, 16mm film, and more.



WED 23 JULY

Opening Keynote: Stephen Woolley

Wed 23 July / 19:00 – 20:00 / Watershed Cinema 1

BAFTA-winning and Oscar®-nominated producer Stephen Woolley (of The Scala Cinema and Palace Pictures fame) delivers our Opening Night Keynote, ushering in the festival's main strand Against the Grain: 1980s British Cinema.

Absolute Beginners

Wed 23 July / 20:30 – 22:33 / Watershed Cinema 1

With an introduction by producer Stephen Woolley, hosted by season curator and Cinema Rediscovered founder Mark Cosgrove.

“Camp, colourful and surreal, Julien Temple’s film (starring David Bowie and Sade!) captures the rebellious spirit of youth in the 50s whilst documenting social changes that were about to take place. Carry on the 80’s party after the film with DJ Cheeba in Watershed’s Café & Bar.” EM



THU 24 JULY

Lunchtime Talk: A Brief History of Film on Channel 4

Thu 24 July / 13:00 – 14:00 / Watershed Waterside 3

Join Professor Ian Christie, film historian Sheldon Hall, and Film4 Rights & Sales Manager Jessica Levick for a talk exploring the influence of Channel 4's approach to film.

“Film on Channel 4 saved the British Film Industry, simple as. The list of artists they've supported over the last forty-plus years is endless, creating modern-day classics and cult favourites. Your next deep dive starts here!” NH

UK Premiere: *Deprisa, Deprisa* (*Hurry, Hurrury!*)

Thu 24 July / 14:10 – 16:00 / Watershed Cinema 1

Winner of the Golden Bear at the 1981 Berlin Film Festival, Carlos Saura's raw, startlingly naturalistic tale of love outside the law reflects the turmoil of a generation navigating the social upheavals of the post-Franco Spanish society.

“Live fast, steal faster are the law these nihilistic teenagers live by, falling in love whilst Spain is in disarray. A cast of non-actors creates an immersive representation of youth in revolt, set against a banging flamenco soundtrack.” NH

THU 24 JULY

UK Premiere: *The Working Girls*

Thu 24 July / 16:30 – 18:10 / Watershed Cinema 1

(Clashes with Slovenian Double Bill: Shorts Showcase)

1974 LA, and three self-determined young women look for their place in the world. Female friendship, work, and utopian socialism braid the narrative beautifully together. Will the women do anything for money?

“Part of Sun, Sex & Socialism: The Cinema of Stephanie Rothman, this is Rothman’s most personal and beloved film—a vivid reflection of her experience as a woman director in 1970s Hollywood and a politically charged portrait of young womanhood in California during that era.” EM



THU 24 JULY

Slovenian Double Bill: Shorts Showcase

Thu 24 July / 16:40 – 18:16 / Watershed Cinema 2
(Clashes with *The Working Girls*)

Co-director of Alpe-Adria Underground! Matevž Jerman has selected some recently restored experimental/avant-garde shorts from the Socialist Republic of Slovenia (1945-1991).

“For short film lovers and makers, this showcase brings the artistic approaches from the Slovenian experimental filmmaking scene of the 1960s, 70s and 80s to Bristol.” EM

UK Premiere: *Killer Of Sheep*

Thu 24 July / 20:50 – 22:25 / Watershed Cinema 3

Charles Burnett’s pioneering account of blue-collar existence paved the way for African American representation on the big screen.

“A striking slice of life that blurs fact and fiction with the smoothest soundtrack you’ll ever hear, newly restored so Dinah Washington’s beautiful voice takes you to another planet! One of THE essential films of all time.” JMI



FRI 25 JULY

The Swimmer

Fri 25 July / 11:10 – 12:55 / Watershed Cinema 1

She wrote, he directed: The Swimmer, adapted by husband-wife duo Frank and Eleanor Perry, is a surreal odyssey through the suburbs starring Burt Lancaster.

“An adaptation of John Cheever’s short story, this is a surreal spiral of a suburban nightmare, all shot in glorious Technicolor. Insane slow-mo shots of Burt Lancaster prancing around in a grassy field in his tight little swimming trunks like a gin-fuelled prize-winning show pony. *Falling Down*, but make it Don Draper. Dive in!” SR

Lunchtime Talk: Other Ways of Seeing

Fri 25 July / 13:00 – 14:00 / Watershed Waterside 2

Find out how a festival like Cinema Rediscovered is programmed by joining a discussion with some of the festival curators who will share their insight, thinking and journey and discuss how to get involved.

“Looking for inspiration and practical advice on getting into film festivals? Listen to the panel’s journeys of going from audience member to co-curator, or find out how to programme your own festival and join our lovely community.” NH



FRI 25 JULY

Handsworth Songs

Fri 25 July / 14:30 - 15:40 / Watershed Cinema 3
(or Sat 26 July / 20:50 – 22:00 / Cinema 2)

A groundbreaking experimental film essay on race and disorder in Britain, filmed by John Akomfrah from the Black Audio Film Collective in Birmingham and London during the riots of 1985.

“Blending socio-political documentary with arthouse cinema, Akomfrah’s integral experimental essay captures what living in England is like for marginalised communities, remaining extremely relevant to this day.” NH



FRI 25 JULY

UK Premiere: *Kalamita* (*Calamity*)

Fri 25 July / 16:10 – 18:00 / Watershed Cinema 1
(Clashes with *Ping Pong*, *Desert Hearts*)

In this spirited comedy, an aimless young man's search for purpose, sex and self-identity becomes a microcosm of Czechoslovakian life amid the height of the Cold War.

“Wild editing, aggressive free-form jazz soundtrack and *banter* make up this satirical Czechoslovakian sex-comedy, poking fun at both male-driven slacker coming-of-age films and the oppressive bureaucracy of the Eastern Bloc. NH

Ping Pong

Fri 25 July / 16:15 – 18:15 / Watershed Cinema 3
(Clashes with *Kalamita*, *Desert Hearts*)

This stylish and inventive comedy thriller stars Lucy Sheen as Elaine, a young law clerk, tasked with executing the will of Chinatown businessman Sam Wong, who has died in mysterious circumstances.

“*Ping Pong* is revolutionary as the first British-Chinese film, the first film to be shot in London's Chinatown, and the screen debut of Lucy Sheen as the charming, pants-suit wearing, chain-smoking Elaine Choi.” NH



FRI 25 JULY

Desert Hearts

Fri 25 July / 16:40 – 18:20 / Watershed Cinema 2
(Clashes with *Ping Pong*, *Kalamita*)

Forty years after its release, Donna Deitch's 1950s-set romance remains one of the most influential and beautifully shot lesbian films of all time.

“Director Donna Deitch had one mission: give lesbian lovers a happy ending. Queer icon Ayo Edebiri on Letterboxd left this review: “it’s crazy how crazy it feels to see something so romantic and sensual and intimate and sexy and cool and good lol.” EM

UK Premiere: *My Beautiful Laundrette*

Fri 25 July / 18:30 to 20:50 / Watershed Cinema 1
(Clashes with *Kalamita*, *Desert Hearts*)

Join director Stephen Frears, writer Hanif Kureishi and actor Gordon Warnecke for this 40th anniversary showing of the delightfully transgressive *My Beautiful Laundrette*, the story of two lovers attempting to open a glamorous laundromat amid the turbulence of life in 1980s Britain.

“This culture-clash comedy is also a subversive work of social realism that dares to address racism, homophobia, and class marginalisation in the trenches of Thatcher’s Britain.” EM



FRI 25 JULY

The Velvet Vampire

Fri 25 July / 21:15 – 22:45 / Watershed Cinema 2
(Clashes with *Irezumi*)

A young Los Angeles couple is invited by the mysterious Diane to her secluded desert home. Unbeknownst to them, she is a centuries-old vampire, and it's not long before they become the objects of her desires.

“A surreal exploration of the heroine-versus-monster dichotomy. Although vampire antagonists are usually easy to root against, Rothman's take on blood-sucking killers will challenge your preconceptions and leave you flustered.” GS

Irezumi (The Spider Tattoo)

Fri 25 July / 21:30 – 23:05 / Watershed Cinema 1
(Clashes with *The Velvet Vampire*)

Yasuzō Masumura adapts Junichiro Tanizaki's story as a visually arresting story of sexually charged vengeance.

“Want to watch something like Kill Bill and get some tattoo inspo? Look no further than Masumura's *Irezumi*, starring Ayako Wakao as the badass female protagonist with a Jorogumo (creature of Japanese folklore) on her back.” JMI

SAT 26 JULY

Projection Tour

Sat 26 July / 9:30 – 10:30 or Sun 13:00 – 14:00 /

Watershed

(Clashes with *Henry Fonda for President*, *Fall of Otrar*)

Join BFI National Archive Curator Rosie Taylor on a tour of Watershed's projection booth and discover how the films screening at the festival make it to the screen.

“Where the magic happens! An exclusive look at how Watershed brings film on film to life, and why we're lucky to experience these rarities on the big screen.” NH

Henry Fonda For President

Sat 26 July / 10:00 – 13:10 / Watershed Cinema 2

Fact and fiction are intertwined to dazzling effect as the legacy of screen actor Henry Fonda becomes a metaphor for America's ever-changing landscape.

“As MoMA put it: ‘The story of Henry Fonda, both on screen and off, is the story of the United States.’ A three-hour sprawling epic of an essay film, which draws Adam Curtis-esque connections between this most American of icons and the broader culture and politics of the time. An unconventional, forensic fever dream of an archive doc. I dug it.” SR



SAT 26 JULY

UK Premiere: *Fall of Otrar*

**Sat 26 July / 10:00 – 12:56 / Bristol Megascreen
(Clashes with *Henry Fonda for President*, Projection Tour)**

From state-of-the-art 13th-century warfare to perfumed sex, *The Fall of Otrar* is a hypnotic epic about one of world history's crucial battles championed by Martin Scorsese.

“If you love action and historical epics, this is the film for you. Robert Eggers said this unseen film, along with some other Soviet Medieval classics, served as inspiration for the battle scenes featured in *The Northman*.” JMI

The Angelic Conversation* + Short: *Dungeness

Sat 26 July / 13:45 – 15:20 / Watershed Cinema 3

Structured around fourteen of Shakespeare's sonnets read by Judi Dench, Derek Jarman's film is an exploration of love and desire between two men.

“Jarman! Jarman! Jarman! Smith! Smith! Smith! Wham double-bill. Judi Dench delivering Shakespeare sonnets to ethereal Super-8 sequences, married with a hypnotic, haunting soundtrack by frequent Jarman-collaborators Coil. Tight, abstract 3-min short from Smith to tee things up, featuring an unintended cameo of Jarman's Prospect Cottage. Sign me up!” SR



SAT 26 JULY

Diva

Sat 26 July / 15:20 – 17:30 / Bristol Megascreen
(Clashes with *Compensation*)

Two tapes, two Parisian mob killers, one corrupt policeman, an opera fan, a teenage thief, and the coolest philosopher ever filmed.

“A cult, atmospheric French thriller with the pacing of Hitchcock and a chase scene considered one of the best of all time. The slick ‘Cinéma du look’ style will look stunning on the biggest screen in the South West.” NH

Compensation

Sat 26 July / 16:00 – 17:45 / Watershed Cinema 2
(Clashes with *Diva*)

The plight of the African American Deaf community is put under the spotlight in this moving and ambitious landmark of independent cinema.

“A beautiful romance told across generations, this work highlights the power of accessible storytelling—both in its writing and execution—while serving as a poignant reminder that, despite change, history has a way of repeating itself.” NH



SAT 26 JULY

Manji (All Mixed Up).

Sat 26 July / 20:30 – 22:10 / Watershed Cinema 1
(Clashes with *Compensation*)

Director Yasuzō Masumura broke new ground in Japanese cinema with this progressive exploration of lesbian sexuality.

“Erotic, daring and ahead of its time, Masumura’s *Manji* was the first Japanese film that explicitly portrayed lesbian love #letsgolesbians.” EM



SUN 27 JULY

Lunchtime Talk: The Art of the Trailer

Sun 27 July / 13:00 – 14:00 / Watershed Waterside 2
(Clashes with *Rita, Sue and Bob Too*)

Join John Piedot from Silk Factory, one of the world's leading Creative Agencies, for a plotted history of the cinema trailer.

“With the current style of three-minute trailers revealing the whole plot or misleading audiences on what will be the next scariest film of all time, listen to the experts who make our trailer to see how it's really done.” NH

Rita, Sue and Bob Too

Sun 27 July / 13:30 – 15:20 / Watershed Cinema 3
(Clashes with *The Art of the Trailer*)

Alan Clarke's screen adaptation of playwright Andrea Dunbar's uninhibited portrait of working-class life caused outrage at the time and reset the debate about class and representation on screen.

“If Challengers took place on a Yorkshire council estate in the 80s... Written by Andrea Dunbar and inspired by her own experiences growing up on Bradford's Butterworth estate, Alan Clarke's film depicts a ménage à trois between two teenagers and a married man, that evokes insights into sex, class and the social fabric of the UK.” EM



SUN 27 JULY

Code Unknown

Sun 27 July / 18:20 – 20:30 / Watershed Cinema 3

Austrian auteur Michael Haneke places social tensions and cultural neuroses under the microscope with characteristic precision.

“Haneke’s work exists to provoke and unsettle, with Code Unknown being composed of unedited long takes so audiences have to really sit with these interconnected stories stemming from racial inequality and our inability to communicate as they unfold.”
NH

Cinema Rediscovered Film Quiz

Sun 27 July / 20:30 – 22:30 / Watershed Café & Bar

It’s time to prove your film knowledge at this year’s Cinema Rediscovered Film Quiz — a night where deep-cut movie knowledge meets friendly competition.

“This ain’t your granddad’s quiz! The Cinema Rediscovered film quiz will award those who indulge in the titles shown during the festival, but it will also be sprinkled with some Y2K classics, as well as contemporary films from the 2020s to keep you on your toes.” GS

TICKET GUIDE

Cinema Rediscovered Festival Pass

(full access to 80+ events and screenings)

24 and under: £80

Concession: £100

Standard: £120

Concessions apply to Full Time Students, Job Seekers Allowance and Employment Support Allowance, 66+ who have retired, Equity and BECTU members and disabled people.

Please note: the Cinema Walks, Projection Tours, 16mm Projection Taster Sessions and the Film Quiz are excluded from the Pass and Package.

Multi-Ticket Package Offer

Get 20% off the regular ticket price when you book 4-10 Cinema Rediscovered screenings and/or events. The discount will automatically apply when you add the tickets to your basket.

Cinema Rediscovered is a Watershed production. The principal funders and sponsors are BFI awarding funds from the National Lottery, Park Circus and STUDIOCANAL.

This guide was created by BFI Film Academy South West in partnership with Cinema Rediscovered and Watershed.