



FLATPACK UNVEILS HIGHLIGHTS FOR 11TH EDITION

4-9 APRIL 2017, BIRMINGHAM

#FLATPACK11

<http://www.flatpackfestival.org.uk>

“Joyously inventive.” *The Guardian*

“An incredible mix of film and music for all ages.” *The Times*

“Britain’s most exciting and innovative film festival.” *Lonely Planet*

Birmingham’s world renowned Flatpack Film Festival returns from 4-9 April 2017. Famed for its diverse and eclectic programme, the second city’s largest and most adventurous film festival prides itself on creating unique and memorable experiences for audiences of all ages. Now in its 11th year, Flatpack attracts over 14,000 attendees annually and will screen over 200 films across the 6 days. The festival’s boundary-defying cinematic fun and games will span Birmingham’s city centre, with a focus on the Southside district this year.

The festival will open in spectacular style with a launch in famous Birmingham hotel, **The Grand**. Closed to the public for many years, The Grand’s historic ballroom (which is about to undergo an extensive refurbishment) will return to life for one night only and showcase mesmerising short films from the pioneering filmmaker **Segundo de Chomón** with a live score by Stephen Horne. The event will also pay homage to some of The Grand’s most illustrious guests including Charlie Chaplin and Winston Churchill.

Headline events from the Flatpack 11 programme include:

A celebration of the inimitable filmmaker David Lynch with a series of special events including the UK premiere of the new digital 4K restoration of **MULHOLLAND DRIVE**, a live rescore of **ERASERHEAD** by French band Cercueil and an exclusive preview of acclaimed new documentary **DAVID LYNCH: THE ART LIFE**.

Film industry strand **Unpacked** will shine a spotlight on the virtual reality (VR) boom and include the UK premiere of **THE SHARED INDIVIDUAL**, a unique Danish-Swedish live performance piece in which the audience are tele-transported into the perspective of the person on stage. Flatpack will also be partnering with Channel 4's **Random Acts** to host a day of Unpacked workshops for emerging artists and filmmakers in the region.

To 'gongoozle' is 'to gaze at canals' and **Gongoozling Day** on Saturday 8 April will salute Birmingham's famous waterways – with everything from underwater family films and boat screenings to the launch of Birmingham-based journalist and broadcaster Alys Fowler's new book *Hidden Nature*, charting her kayak voyages around the canal network.

Food and film will play a central role in the festival and Birmingham's culinary tour de force **The Wilderness** will create a unique dining experience to accompany **BUGS**, a documentary which sets out to address the cultural barriers keeping insects off our plates.

AROUND CHINA WITH A MOVIE CAMERA: A JOURNEY FROM BEIJING TO SHANGHAI will explore 50 years of Chinese history with a breathtaking range of historical footage and features a live score by celebrated composer Ruth Chan.

Deborah Pearson will present her poignant comedy documentary **HISTORY, HISTORY, HISTORY** which uses film and live performance to explore the connect and disconnect between the personal and political.

Optical exhibition **Holorama** will utilise small-scale dioramas and holographic imaging to recreate iconic scenes from the likes of *Twin Peaks*, *E.T.* and *The Big Lebowski*, all in perfect miniature.

Popular family strand **Colour Box** will feature a wide range of interactive screenings and activities for younger viewers (aged 4-11), including the Oscar-nominated animated feature **MY LIFE AS A COURGETTE**.

Matthew Barney's epic multimedia project **THE CREMASTER CYCLE**, a series of five feature-length films that explore processes of creation will also receive a rare public screening at Flatpack.

Other programme highlights include:

Music documentary **BUNCH OF KUNST** which follows Midlands DIY-punk duo Sleaford Mods on their two-year journey from Nottingham bedroom recording sessions to mainstream success.

Indie animation collective **Late Night Work Club** will showcase their latest short film anthology, **STRANGERS** showcasing some of the most exciting and innovative animation work from around the globe.

Acclaimed Swedish filmmaker Johannes Nyholm's debut feature **THE GIANT** will screen alongside a retrospective of his most memorable shorts.

The **Optical Sound** strand will showcase the sonic side of cinema and welcome musicians and composers from all over the world to Birmingham. Live AV sets include the UK premiere of Zeno Van Den Broek's **SHIFT SYMM** production and a performance from international artists Kaliber16 and MimiCof. Music doc **FONKO** explores the new music blends unleashed in Africa by the digital age and **NEW VOICES IN AN OLD FLOWER** showcases the diverse contemporary music scene in Ethiopia.

Flatpack's acclaimed **Short Film Competition** will celebrate short film in all its weird and wonderful permutations and highlight some of the best emerging talent in international filmmaking. The film selected by the jury for the Short Film Award will receive a prize of £1,000.

In early 2016 Flatpack established **Flatpack: Assemble**, a year-round partnership with the BFI to help build a more thriving, connected film community and pilot new activity across the West Midlands. At this year's festival the Flatpack: Assemble team will launch **Film Camp**, a day of panels, talks and workshops exploring the future of film.

Also returning to the festival is **My Flatpack**, a 2-day workshop which offers young film and media enthusiasts (aged 16-24) the chance to expand their film horizons and pick up practical skills from leading industry professionals.

Tickets for select highlight events will be on sale from 10 February, with the full programme announced and festival passes on sale from early March at www.flatpackfestival.org.uk

For further information and image requests please contact Rachel Devenport:
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Notes to Editors:

SAVE THE DATE:

The full programme of Flatpack 11 events and venues will be launched in Birmingham on 22 March and audiences will be treated to a Flatpack 11 taster event in London on 23 March 2017.

ABOUT FLATPACK:

After starting life as a monthly night in a Birmingham pub ten years ago, Flatpack's mobile film empire has grown to be recognised as one of the most distinctive and downright fun in the UK calendar, which has seen admissions grow annually since the festival launched in 2006. Flatpack Projects recently confirmed charitable status, and embarked on a new strategic partnership with the British Film Institute to develop film audiences in the West Midlands – Flatpack: Assemble.