



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR THE XVI LONDON ROLLING FILM FESTIVAL – EARLY BIRD ENTRY FROM JUST £1

THE GROWING INDEPENDENT FESTIVAL RETURNS TO CENTRAL LONDON FROM 17–21 SEPTEMBER 2026 WITH EXPANDED SCREENINGS, INDUSTRY PANELS, NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES, AND 15 AWARDS CELEBRATING FILMMAKING TALENT.

London, UK - 5 March 2026 - The **London Rolling Film Festival** has officially opened submissions for its **XVI edition**, set to take place **17–21 September 2026** at **Vue Cinema Piccadilly** and other prestigious venues across central London.

The upcoming edition will feature more screenings, expanded industry panels, and increased networking opportunities with professionals from across the film and television industries, offering filmmakers a platform not only to showcase their work but also to develop new collaborations and career opportunities.

The festival will present **15 awards**, recognising excellence across filmmaking craft: from the **Best Short Film Audience Award** to jury honours celebrating professionals working both in front of and behind the camera, including **acting, cinematography, casting and music score**.

The festival is also delighted to confirm the return of the **True Spark Award** for a second consecutive year. The award celebrates films that bring uplifting, inspiring and meaningful stories to the screen, highlighting the power of cinema to inspire positive change in the world. The **“Kimberley Marren Recognition Award”** will also continue to be presented, reflecting the festival’s commitment to shining a light on those who work tirelessly behind the scenes and whose contributions often go unseen. Presented for several years now, it celebrates the people who help shape the industry every day, ensuring their work is recognised and appreciated during their careers.

Continuing its commitment to supporting independent creatives, the festival will once again present the **Help To Roll Fund**, an initiative designed to provide practical support to filmmakers and creatives looking to take the next step in their careers.

The fund has already supported a number of projects, including the short film **You and Me Makes Three** by **Emmalie El Fadli**, which will premiere at **BFI Flare: London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival** on **28 March 2026**. The London Rolling Film Festival extends its congratulations to the entire cast and crew on this important milestone.

Over the years, the festival has welcomed guests and speakers associated with some of the most respected organisations in the British and international film and television industries, including **BBC, Channel 4, Sky, Lionsgate**, and members of **BAFTA**.

Notable guests and industry professionals included Emmy-nominated director **Neil Marshall** (*Dog Soldiers, The Descent, Game of Thrones*), Emmy Award-winning actor **Nikolay Moss**, BAFTA-winning producer **Bob Clarke**, BAFTA winner **Kwadjo Dajan**, Lionsgate Senior Theatrical Sales Manager **Paul Sophocli**, BBC presenter and Sky awards producer **Amanny Mohamed**, actress and producer **Giulia Lupetti** (*Top Gun: Maverick*), entertainment journalist **Stephanie Takyi**, whose work appears in Daily Mail, GB News, alongside many other professionals from across the film and media industries.

The festival has also attracted media coverage from a range of international outlets, including **BBC, SBS Australia, RAI, British Cinematographer, Live London Post, The Fan Carpet, Complitaly, Staffordshire Living**, and **Getty Images**.

Festival Director **Alida Pantone** said:

“Steady, little steps have brought us here, and I couldn’t be prouder of what the festival has become and what it continues to offer filmmakers. Seeing the London Rolling Film Festival grow from a small film night in Shoreditch into a multi-day event in central London has been incredibly rewarding. Our aim remains the same: to create a welcoming platform where independent filmmakers can showcase their work, connect with industry professionals, and feel part of a vibrant creative community.”

Submissions for the **XVI London Rolling Film Festival** are now open on FilmFreeway, with a limited-time Early Bird entry fee starting at just **£1**.

About the London Rolling Film Festival

The **London Rolling Film Festival** is an independent international film festival. Through screenings, industry discussions, networking opportunities and awards, the festival provides filmmakers with a platform to showcase their work and build meaningful connections within the global film community.

Key Facts – London Rolling Film Festival XVI

Festival: London Rolling Film Festival – XVI Edition

Dates: 17–21 September 2026

Location: Vue Cinema Piccadilly and other prestigious locations to be confirmed

Programme: Screenings, industry panels, networking events and awards

Awards: 15 awards including Audience Award and Jury Awards.

True Spark Award: Saving the world one film at the time.

Filmmaker Support: Help To Roll Fund, Pitch Corner

Submissions: Now open. Early Bird Fee starting at £1