



EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00 BST, THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2026

LONDON ROLLING FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2026 OFFICIAL SELECTION

Boutique filmmaker-focused festival doubles its programme from 2025, with four world-premiere features, two UK premieres and films featuring Jodie Whittaker, Vicky McClure, Dave Johns and music by Daniele Silvestri

LONDON, UK – 27 August 2026 – The London Rolling Film Festival (LRFF) has announced the Official Selection for its 16th edition, taking place from **17–21 September 2026** at VUE Cinema Piccadilly and other central London locations.

The 2026 programme comprises **48 selected films from 12 countries**, following submissions from **28 countries worldwide**, and marks a doubling of the number of films presented by the festival in 2025.

LRFF has deliberately retained its **boutique, filmmaker-focused format**, with all selected films represented by their filmmakers **in person** throughout the five-day event.

The model is designed to give filmmakers opportunities to meet one another, connect with industry professionals, participate in Q&As and networking, and develop relationships that can extend beyond the festival and into future projects.

The feature programme comprises 12 feature-length films, including **four confirmed world premieres**: *ROOTED OUT – Chapter 2*, *Connected*, *DAAL* and *Innovation Secrets – Will Innovation Save Us or Kill Us?* It also includes **two UK premieres**, *RIP* and *Dreamer*, with *Dreamer* screening out of competition.

The wider festival will also feature additional filmmaker projects through LRFF's Pitch Corner and special initiatives, bringing the total number of projects represented during the edition to **60**.

A BOUTIQUE FESTIVAL BY DESIGN

LRFF has grown from its origins as a film night in a Shoreditch pub into a multi-day independent film festival in central London, while deliberately maintaining an intimate format centred on filmmaker participation.

The festival's scale is intentional. Rather than simply screening films, LRFF brings the filmmakers behind them together in person, creating opportunities to see each other's work, exchange ideas, meet industry professionals and develop connections around future projects.

The 2026 programme spans feature films, documentaries, shorts and micro-shorts, bringing together emerging filmmakers, established performers and filmmakers with international industry credits.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

Among the titles in this year's selection is ***Truckload***, directed by National Film and Television School graduate **Aella Jordan-Edge** and starring **Jodie Whittaker** (*Doctor Who*, *Broadchurch*), **Joe Dempsie** (*Game of Thrones*, *Guilt*), **Cathy Tyson** (*Mona Lisa*, *Band of Gold*) and **Lara McDonnell** (*Belfast*, *The Little Stranger*). The film was the inaugural winner of the **Primetime Empower Fund**, an initiative launched at Cannes to support women and non-binary filmmakers.

The festival's Opening Film, ***Quiet on Set: The Class Division in the Film Industry?***, directed by **Mark Forbes**, examines class access within the British film and television industry and features contributions from **Maxine Peake** (*Fanny Lye Deliver'd*, *Funny Cow*), **Vicky McClure** (*Line of Duty*, *This Is England*), **Paul Lavery** and **Christopher Fairbank**.

American writer and filmmaker **Gary Apple**, co-writer of *The Simpsons* Season 4 episode "Homer's Triple Bypass", is represented in the selection by two short animations, ***Final Performance of The Year*** and ***OTP (One-Time Password)***.

Italian cinema is represented by ***RIP***, the feature debut of writer-directors **Alessandro D'Ambrosi** and **Santa de Santis**, which receives its **UK premiere** at LRFF. The film features original music by Italian singer-songwriter **Daniele Silvestri** and is among the Italian titles competing for the **2026 David di Donatello Awards**.

Making Up, directed by **Ryan Paige**, stars **Dave Johns**, who won the BAFTA Award for Leading Actor for Ken Loach's *I, Daniel Blake*. Set against London's East End drag scene, the film explores identity, family and the possibility of starting again.

The Dying of The Light, directed by **Ivan Perić** and **Alvaro Congosto**, features production work by Perić, whose credits include collaborations with Academy Award-winning director **Danis Tanović** and projects connected with international festival selections including the Berlinale.

ROOTED OUT – Chapter 2, directed by **Freddie Hutton-Mills**, receives its **world premiere** at LRFF. The film stars **Jonas Armstrong** (*The Bay*, *Ripper Street*), **Olivia Grant** (*The Capture*, *Mr Selfridge*), **Nadine Mills** (*Supacell*) and **CJ Beckford**, continuing the independent feature project following the festival recognition of its first chapter, which received three Raindance nominations including Best UK Feature.

The selection also includes ***SELF+TAPE***, directed by **James Cleave**, which examines the pressures of the modern self-tape audition process. The film was produced from pre-production to shoot within seven days, with its 12-page script filmed in a single day.

The range of the selection extends to emerging filmmakers, including ***Knock Knock***, directed by **Tyler Field**, a student horror film recognised at the Royal Television Society East Student Awards.

TRUE SPARK AND THE DEVELOPING ALLIANCE

The **True Spark Award**, introduced by LRFF in 2025, returns for its second consecutive year. The award recognises films that inspire, uplift and leave audiences with a renewed sense of possibility.

The initiative is now developing into the wider **True Spark Alliance**, a growing network of like-minded festival partners committed to supporting and amplifying films that drive meaningful

change, with the aim of creating greater visibility and opportunities for these films and their filmmakers internationally.

Five films are competing for the 2026 True Spark Award at LRFF: ***Wild Horses at the Door***, ***Truckload***, ***Final Performance of The Year***, ***25 Minutes*** and ***Approval Needed***.

The initiative also provides a point of connection between LRFF and new sponsor **Tumani Productions LLC**, led by producer/executive producer **Wanda Bryant Hope** and director/producer **Tyler Hope**. Tumani Productions brings bold creativity and cultural understanding together to develop original stories that entertain, enlighten and inspire a more hopeful future.

AN INTERNATIONAL SELECTION

The 2026 Official Selection brings filmmakers from **12 countries** to London, following submissions from **28 countries worldwide**.

Alongside British and American filmmakers, the programme includes work connected to Italy, Croatia, Spain and other international territories, bringing different production cultures and perspectives into a London-based festival programme.

The international dimension is also reflected in LRFF's growing network of industry partnerships and its focus on creating opportunities for filmmakers to meet beyond the screening of their work. Audrey Chan, Programme Director of the London Rolling Film Festival, said:

“This year, we are particularly pleased to see a strong selection of documentaries, bringing diverse perspectives on identity, memory, archives and history, and adding further depth and richness to the programme. We are also inspired by the many women filmmakers represented this year, whose works celebrate the joys of everyday life while offering powerful and uplifting perspectives on finding strength and hope in times of difficulty.”

A FESTIVAL BUILT AROUND FILMMAKERS

Filmmaker participation remains central to the 2026 edition. **All 48 selected films will be represented by their filmmakers in person**, with directors and filmmakers attending screenings, Q&As and festival events throughout the five-day edition.

The festival's **Pitch Corner** will give selected filmmakers the opportunity to present projects directly to industry professionals and receive feedback.

Palm Tree Films returns as **Main Sponsor** of the London Rolling Film Festival's 16th edition, following its previous support of the festival in 2024. Its continued support contributes to LRFF's programme of independent film screenings, filmmaker participation and industry activities in Central London.

Tumani Productions LLC, led by producer/executive producer **Wanda Bryant Hope** and director/producer **Tyler Hope**, joins LRFF as a new sponsor and supporter of the **True Spark** initiative.

DCP for ALL is the festival's Technical Partner, supporting the 2026 DCP and print-traffic workflow, while **Stage 32** is the Educational Partner, extending professional development opportunities to filmmakers that have submitted to the 16th edition. **The Queens Head Piccadilly**

continues its relationship with LRFF as a Community Partner, alongside **Yes She Cannes**, with whom the festival has collaborated since 2018.

The visual identity for LRFF XVI is *Iris*, the official festival poster created by artist, director and composer **Marco Salom**, first previewed during LRFF's activities at the 2026 Marché du Film in Cannes before its official release in July.

Alida Pantone, Founder and Festival Director of the London Rolling Film Festival, said:

“We have doubled the number of films in the programme since last year, but we are still intentionally boutique. For us, growth is not about becoming bigger for the sake of it. It is about being able to bring more filmmakers together while preserving the environment that allows them to actually meet, talk and build relationships. Every selected film is represented by its filmmaker, and that remains fundamental to LRFF.”

The **London Rolling Film Festival XVI** takes place from **17–21 September 2026** at VUE Cinema Piccadilly and other central London locations.

2026 OFFICIAL SELECTION:

FEATURE FILMS & DOCUMENTARIES

Beyond the Gaze: Jule Campbell's Swimsuit Issue – Jill Campbell

Connected (WORLD PREMIERE) by Deborah Hadfield

DAAL (WORLD PREMIERE) by Richa Moitra

Dreamer (UK PREMIERE, OUT OF COMPETITION) by Robbie Moffat

Innovation Secrets – Will Innovation Save Us or Kill Us? (WORLD PREMIERE) by Sindre Kaupang

Quiet on Set: The Class Division in the Film Industry? by Mark Forbes

RIP (UK PREMIERE) by Alessandro D'Ambrosi and Santa de Santis

ROOTED OUT – Chapter 2 (WORLD PREMIERE) by Freddie Hutton-Mills

The Bridge by Jimmy Hedger

The Dying of The Light by Ivan Perić and Alvaro Congosto

The Engineer by Sam Reynard

The Man Who Spoke Twice by Lawton Charman

SHORT FILMS

A Girl Called Alice by Tristan Loraine

After A Long Day by Lidya Esmelioglu

ASKING4IT by Emma Jesse

Aspettando/Waiting by Alessandro Marchese

Born to Dance by Michał Cygan

Braced for the Truth by Alexandra Shaw

DEAD DREAMS FALLING by Craig Murray

FutureGaze by Freddie Hill

Haunted by Lee Apsey

Knock Knock by Tyler Field

Lethni by Luigi Di Domenico

Making Up by Ryan Paige

Maureen by James Peaty

Midmorning Dawn by Grace Truly

My Hero by Jessica Magaye

My Private Yellowstone by Liam Bosman
No Swan In Sight by Vanessa Rose
OTP (One-Time Password) by Gary Apple
Plaster by Tanguy Pichon
SELF+TAPE by James Cleave
Sold As Seen by Dan Eycott
Sophie's Bakes by Hugo Coelho
Sylvia by Jevan Chowdhury
The Audition by James 'JJ' Johnson
The Black Cube: Hunting by Vitali Pikalevsky
The Postman by Gavin Irvine
THE VERY LAST GLIMPSE OF GRACE by Daphnea Doto
The Wolf by Maeve Murphy
Untouched by Simon Drew
We Duel at Dawn! By Kristofer Seppälä
WELL-BEING by Kevin McNally

TRUE SPARK AWARD

Wild Horses at the Door by Carrie Lederer
Truckload by Aella Jordan-Edge
Final Performance of The Year by Gary Apple
25 Minutes by Tarik Ben Salah
Approval Needed by Karen Anstee (aka Kaz Anstee)

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

ABOUT THE LONDON ROLLING FILM FESTIVAL

The London Rolling Film Festival is a female-led nonprofit independent film festival dedicated to supporting filmmakers through curated screenings, industry engagement, networking opportunities and project development. Founded in London, LRFF has grown from a film night in a Shoreditch pub into a multi-day festival at VUE Cinema Piccadilly and other central London locations.

The festival is known for its **intimate, filmmaker-focused format, with selected filmmakers required to attend in person**, creating opportunities for filmmakers to connect with audiences, industry professionals and one another. Its core values are **Connect, Inspire, Support**, captured in its motto: **Stay Focused and Keep Rolling**.

The 16th edition takes place **17–21 September 2026**.

Main Sponsor: Palm Tree Films

With the contribution of: Tumani Productions LLC

Technical Partner: DCP for ALL

Educational Partner: Stage 32

Community Partners: The Queens Head Piccadilly; Yes She Cannes

Special Initiative: True Spark Award / True Spark Alliance

Official 2026 Poster: *Iris* by Marco Salom

Official website: www.rollingfilmfestival.com

Instagram: [@rolling_film_festival](https://www.instagram.com/rolling_film_festival)

Press assets: [Google Drive](#)