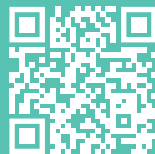




# REAL Documentary Festival

By filmmakers, for filmmakers  
20th – 22nd April 2023

[www.realdocumentaryfestival.com](http://www.realdocumentaryfestival.com)  
Phoenix Cinema & Art Centre, Leicester



**Phoenix**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# REAL Documentary Festival

## By filmmakers, for filmmakers

REAL Documentary Festival champions the work of independent filmmakers: a place to be inspired, challenged, and entertained. Over the course of three days the festival will bring some of the UK's leading independent documentary filmmakers to Leicester for film premieres, panel discussions, Q&As and more. Open to all.

REAL Documentary Festival is part of REAL Initiative, a business development programme funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Midlands Engine, Arts Council England and Phoenix.

### Booking

Tickets for Individual screenings are available from:  
[www.phoenix.org.uk/events/real-documentary-festival/](http://www.phoenix.org.uk/events/real-documentary-festival/)

Only Industry Pass holders will be able to access the full festival programme including Industry Sessions. Industry Passes are just £30 (£25 plus VAT).

### Industry Days 20th – 21st Apr

A two-day programme of panel discussions led by some of the UK's most accomplished documentary filmmakers, film premieres, Q&As, networking, and special events. Aimed at filmmakers and aspiring filmmakers, but open to all.

### Community Day 22nd Apr

A day of screenings of documentary features with filmmakers in attendance, alongside screenings of locally made short films from REAL Initiative.



**Ulrike Kubatta**  
Festival Director

I am thrilled to introduce the inaugural REAL Documentary Festival, a three-day celebration of the art of documentary filmmaking. Our festival boasts a rich programme of new and international documentaries, shorts, and features, along with industry sessions, special events, networking, and social gatherings.

We founded this festival with the goal of not only showcasing and celebrating non-fiction filmmaking but also creating a hub to support independent filmmakers working in the regions. Leicester is a place with a rich history and a diverse and dynamic population. It is no surprise that the city has become a centre for documentary filmmakers, with REAL Documentary Festival offering an opportunity for those looking to make their mark in the industry.

Our film programme showcases a compelling mix of subjects and creative techniques, crafted by both emerging and established filmmakers. We are delighted that every feature playing this year will be accompanied by the director. We firmly believe that documentary has the power to shed light on, and inspire discussions about, the most pressing issues facing our world today.

As documentary filmmakers, we embark on each project with a sense of curiosity and anticipation for the inspiring moments that await us. We invite you to engage in REAL Documentary Festival with the same spirit.

REAL Documentary Festival is founded and organised by a group of local stakeholders working on behalf of Phoenix Cinema and Art Centre.



**Asif Vehvaria**  
Film Programmer



**John Coster**  
Community Engagement



**Kiran Raval**  
Technical Lead



**Suzanne Alizart**  
Industry Engagement



**Nick Hamer**  
REAL Initiative Project Manager



**Irina Tsokova**  
Digital Arts Manager



**Tina Barton**  
Youth Engagement & Event Manager



**Alexandra Jackson**  
BFI NETWORK Talent Executive



**Matt Holt**  
Independent Filmmaker



**Ben Fleming-Dufour**  
Graphic Design & Photography

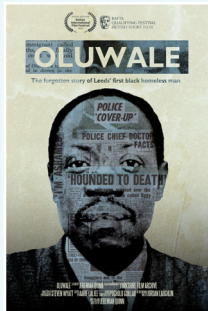


### Hotel Partner

The Ramada Encore by Wyndham Leicester City Centre is a superb stylish hotel located in the Cultural Quarter, a 5-minute walk from Phoenix.

## Official Selection

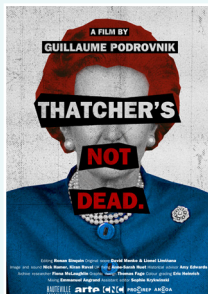
New documentaries selected from open submission. You will notice that most of our Official Selections are certified 18. This isn't a reflection of the content of the films, but is because as pre-release titles they have not yet been through the BBFC process. As such, we are able to screen these films at the festival to over 18s only.



**Oluwale + Q&A (18)**  
UK 2022, 21mins

This short documentary explores the harrowing true story of David Oluwale, a Nigerian immigrant who was chased into the River Aire by Leeds Police in 1969.

**Thu 20th Apr, 12:00** — Followed by Q&A with Dir. Jeremiah Quinn.  
**Fri 21st Apr, 15:00**

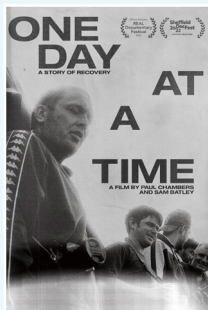


**Thatcher's Not Dead + Q&A (18)**  
France 2022, 1hr 32mins

**International Premiere**

A personal and political portrait of Margaret Thatcher's eleven years, six months and 24 days as the UK's Prime Minister. Archives and interviews are complemented by songs from the period, to illustrate the social atmosphere of that time.

**Thu 20th Apr, 20:00** — Followed by Q&A with Dir. Guillaume Podrovnik.  
**Sat 22nd Apr, 18:30**



**One Day at a Time + Q&A (18)**  
UK 2022, 1hr 02mins

An abstinence-based recovery centre in Liverpool houses a group of recovering alcoholics and drug addicts who acted in 'Three Bull-Mastiffs in a Corner Kitchen', a film about addiction. DJK House rehabilitates its residents by introducing art, sport & culture back into their lives.

**Thu 20th Apr, 15:00** — Q&A with Dir. Paul Chambers and Sam Batley.  
**Fri 21st Apr, 11:00** — Followed by the launch of the Recovery Communities Steering Group, supported by Dear Albert.



**The Endless Drifter + Q&A (18)**  
UK 2022, 1hr 22mins

**World Premiere**

The son of a horse-drawn traveller captures a snapshot of his father's lifestyle before it is lost forever. Part observational, part internal monologue, this intimate portrait of a father and son presents a poetic insight into a counter-cultural way of living.

**Thu 20th Apr, 17:30** — Q&A with Dir. Peter Vaughan.  
**Sat 22nd Apr, 20:00**



**Energy: A Documentary about Damo Suzuki + Q&A (18)**  
UK 2022, 1hr 11mins

An existential journey through the power of healing with enigmatic frontman Damo Suzuki. The film follows five years of Suzuki's life in Germany and the UK as he confronts cancer and attempts to continue a never-ending global tour.

**Fri 21st Apr, 19:00** — Q&A with Dir. Michelle Heighway.



**Dust and Metal + Q&A (PG)**  
UK 2022, 1hr 23mins

97 million people; 45 million motorbikes. Take a cinematic journey across Vietnam by motorbike. Through the repositioning of difficult to access archive film, contemporary footage and score, this rare archive film is available to new audiences, illuminating unfamiliar histories of Vietnam.

**Fri 21st Apr, 17:30** — Q&A with Dir. Esther Johnson.  
**Sat 22nd Apr, 13:30**



**Father Earth + Q&A (PG)**  
UK 2022, 1hr 23mins

A successful character comedian tires of his profession and domestic strife and decides to drive an electric car to a remote Orkney island where he plans to build an eco-friendly recording studio. His ultimate aim is to save the world – but life gets in the way.

**Fri 21st Apr, 18:30** — Q&A with Dir. Graham Fellows.

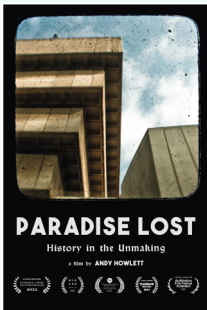


**The Mess We Make + Q&A (18)**  
Netherlands 2022, 1hr 25mins

**International Premiere**

After twenty years of minimal contact with his mother, Allard Detiger is called by the police. His mother's neighbours have been complaining. Her house is totally neglected, and professional help is needed. As her condition deteriorates, the walls between them fade. An intimate film about a child's struggle to be independent from a parent who won't let go.

**Fri 21st Apr, 20:00** — Q&A with Dir. Allard Detiger and Editor Paul de Heer.  
**Sat 22nd Apr, 11:30**



**Paradise Lost, History in the Unmaking + Q&A (18)**  
UK 2021, 1hr 24mins

Among the ruins of yesterday's future, what might we learn about the forces that shape a city? When UK filmmaker Andy Howlett set out to document the final days of a condemned Brutalist complex, little did he know the rabbit hole he was stumbling into.

**Sat 22nd Apr, 15:30** — Q&A with Dir. Andy Howlett.



**Leaving to Remain + Q&A (12A)**  
UK 2022, 1hr 30mins

A compelling and nuanced portrayal of three Roma – Petr, Denisa and Ondrej – which raises questions about the identity of post-Brexit Britain. A rare glimpse into the realities of our bureaucratic systems, this documentary is an urgent and essential portrait of the nation today.

**Sat 22nd Apr, 18:00** — Q&A with Dir. Mira Erdevički plus special guests.



**No Fare + Q&A (18)**  
UK 2022, 1hr 21mins

2013. New York. A taxi mounts the sidewalk and hits 23-year-old British tourist, Sian Green. A celebrity doctor and quick-thinking plumber save her life, but she loses her leg. There's no compensation and the driver is still behind the wheel. No Fare tells the story of that day, Sian's inspiring road to recovery and her long fight for justice.

**Sat 22nd Apr, 19:30** — Q&A with Pro. Wayne Kelly, Dir. Matt Holt and Subject Sian Green.

**UK Shorts Showcase (18)**  
1hr 10mins

**Picturing Wonderland**  
Dir. Alfie Elms

**Still We Thrive**  
Dir. Campbell X

**Feed**  
Dir. Tomas Hassall

**Overground, underground**  
Dir. Luke Dobson

**Witch, Reborn**  
Dir. Maria Shevtsova

**Thu 20st Apr, 15:00**  
**Sat 22nd Apr, 12:00**

**International Shorts Showcase (18)**  
1hr 10mins

**Panorama**  
Dir. Djuly Gava, Daniel Leão, Brazil

**Toilet home violin**  
Dir. Laura Suárez Fernández, Spain

**Break the egg**  
Dir. Michael Demetrius, Greece

**Silver Men: Survivors on The Street**  
Dir. Marsha Nurfitri Azzahra, Indonesia

**Monologues around my parents**  
Dir. César Ulloa Cuéllar, Peru

**Fri 21st Apr, 16:30**  
**Sat 22nd Apr, 12:00**

# Industry Sessions

Taking place on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st April, our Industry Sessions will be led by some of the UK's most accomplished independent documentary filmmakers. The sessions will deal with issues around the craft, ethics and business of non-fiction filmmaking, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by filmmakers working in the regions. This will be an opportunity to learn from the experts, engage in critical thinking around key issues, and be inspired to make and commercialise your best work.

Only Industry Pass holders will be able to access our Industry Sessions.

REAL Documentary Festival includes screenings of a selection of films by our Industry Session contributors – some of the best UK feature documentaries from recent years.

## Thursday 20th April

### 10:30 Independent & Regional

A discussion about the nature of independence in a hierarchical industry, and how this relates to being based in the regions.

Panel: Sean McAllister, Anthony Baxter, Jeanie Finlay, Iain Cunningham, Campbell X

### 13:30 Cinematography for the Self-shooter

Masterclass on elevating your camerawork for the big screen, even when you're working solo.

Panel: Carol Salter, Kim Hopkins, Sean McAllister, Anthony Baxter

### 16:00 BFI Doc Society

BFI Doc Society welcomes local storytellers to hear the latest news and guidance on funding and support available for UK independent documentary filmmakers. We will also be inviting shared experience and advice from a panel of filmmakers (alumni of the fund) working across non-fiction shorts and features and how they developed their practice in this field.

## Friday 21st April

### 10:00 Whose Story is it Anyway?

The ethics of exploiting subjects/contributors. What gives you the right to tell this story? Working in other cultures and countries.

Panel: Kim Hopkins, Sean McAllister, Rubika Shah, Iain Cunningham

### 13:30 Developing Access and Ongoing Consent

The ethics and practice of managing and directing contributors/subjects.

Panel: Iain Cunningham, Paul Sng, Carol Slater, Anthony Baxter, Rubika Shah, Rico Johnson-Sinclair

### 15:30 Adventures in Archive

The creative opportunity, commercial challenge, and ethics, of researching and using archive in filmmaking.

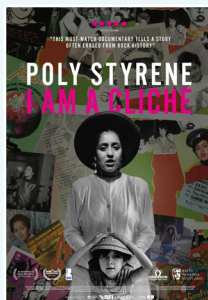
Panel: Paul Sng, Esther Johnson, Ben Reynolds



**A Northern Soul + Q&A (15)**  
UK 2018, 1hr 13mins

Sean McAllister returns to his hometown, Hull, as curator of its UK City of Culture opening. Back living with his 90-year-old parents and reflecting on changes to a city hit by cuts in public spending and divided by Brexit, Sean is drawn to the fringes of town where he encounters Steve – a struggling warehouse worker with a dream.

**Thu 20th Apr, 12:30** — Q&A with Dir. Sean McAllister, Dr Yasin El Ashrafi, and Conrad Smart.



**Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché + Q&A (12A)**  
UK 2021, 1hr 36mins

The death of punk icon and X-Ray Spex frontwoman Poly Styrene sends her daughter on a journey across the world and through her mother's archives to reconcile their fraught relationship.

**Thu 20th Apr, 18:30** — Q&A with Dir. Paul Sng and Ruth Miller, and a live performance by The Verinos.



**White Riot + Q&A (15)**  
UK 2019, 1hr 20mins

The story of Rock Against Racism, an heroic grassroots political movement whose importance reveals itself more clearly in retrospect with every year that passes.

**Fri 21st Apr, 11:30** — Q&A with Dir. Rubika Shah.



**Seahorse + Q&A TBC (15)**  
UK 2019, 1hr 31mins

One trans man's pioneering quest to fulfil an age-old desire: to start his own family. This is the story of the dad who gave birth.

**Fri 21st Apr, 15:00**



**Almost Heaven + Q&A (12A)**  
UK 2017, 1hr 12mins

Far from home and terrified of ghosts, 17-year-old Ying Ling is training to become a mortician in one of China's largest funeral homes. An intimate, tender and life-affirming portrait of a young woman on the cusp of adulthood.

**Thu 20th Apr, 17:00** — Q&A with Dir. Carol Salter.



**Irene's Ghost + Q&A (PG)**  
UK 2018, 1hr 18mins

Irene's Ghost follows a son's search to find out about the mother he never knew. He breaks the silence and tracks down her friends and family to rebuild a picture of her.

**Fri 21st Apr, 17:30** — Q&A with Dir. Iain Cunningham and Claire Neaves.



**A Bunch of Amateurs + Q&A (12A)**  
UK 2022, 1hr 40mins

A bunch of amateur filmmakers, with nothing left to lose, tackle one of Hollywood's greatest musicals in order to save their beloved Bradford Film Club. This handful of die-hard members desperately cling to their dreams, and to each other, in this warm and funny look at shared artistic folly that speaks to the delusional dreamer in us all.

**Sat 22nd Apr, 14:30** — Followed by Q&A with Dir. Kim Hopkins plus special guests.



**Flint + Q&A (12A)**  
UK 2020, 1hr 54mins

Flint, Michigan is a city in crisis. Filmed over 5 years, the gripping story of the largest water poisoning disaster in American history is an open-ended exploration of fact-finding in a world of post-truths and fake news.

**Sat 22nd Apr, 16:00** — Followed by Q&A with Dir. Anthony Baxter.

## Special Events

**Hold Tight Raver (work in progress screening)**  
Thu 20th Apr – 17:45-18:30

A screening of a proof of concept for the forthcoming feature documentary Hold Tight Raver by Keith Allott, Rory Booth, and Laura Wilkinson.

**Feeling Frequencies (screening plus meditation)**  
UK 2023, 7mins  
Thu 20th Apr – 18:30-19:00

A short film by Sarah Michelle Durrant about Lisa Lashes' journey from superstar DJ to meditation practitioner, 7 mins duration.

Followed by a short meditation session led by Lisa playing her quartz crystal singing bowls.

**Filmmakers' Party**  
Thu 20th Apr – 21:00 till 01:00

Starting with a 30-minute set from The Verinos, straight after the screening of Poly Styrene: I Am A Cliché. DJ Simon Pang, will follow with the most influential tunes from the Thatcher era (1979-1990) after the International Premiere of Thatcher's Not Dead. All welcome.

**REAL Incubation Showcase**  
Fri 21st Apr – 11:30-13:00

A showcase of work produced by filmmakers who have taken part in REAL Incubation, part of REAL Initiative, Phoenix's ERDF funded business development programme.

**Disappearing Midlands Showcase**  
Fri 21st Apr – 14:00-15:00  
Sat 22nd Apr – 15:30-16:30

A new archive film and contemporary collecting initiative in partnership with MACE (Media Archive For Central England) and Doc Media Centre focused on the disappearing places and peoples within the region. MACE (Clare Watson & Phil Leach), Doc Media Centre (John Coster).

**Grandfather (Nana)**  
UK 2023, 15mins  
Fri 21st Apr – 15:30-16:00

A short film by Nabil Abdul Sattar, produced with support from the REAL Incubation programme.

**REAL Inspiration Showcase; Documentary 101**  
Sat 22nd Apr – 12:30-14:00

A showcase of work produced by filmmakers who have taken part in Documentary 101, a short course for aspiring entrepreneurial filmmakers as part of REAL Initiative, Phoenix's ERDF funded business development programme.

**REAL Inspiration Showcase: Doc Media Centre**  
Sat 22nd Apr – 12:00-14:00

A showcase of work by emerging filmmakers covering heritage, sustainable development and social justice issues. It includes short films from the REAL Inspiration's My Motivational Minute course, part of REAL Initiative, Phoenix's ERDF funded business development programme.

**Conflict Memory (short documentary in production)**  
Sat 22nd Apr – 15:00

Chechen filmmaker, Aslanbek Dadaev will be discussing his Ukrainian documentary production with John Coster, and screening clips of several interviews filmed here in Leicester.

**Lestah Creatives**  
UK 2023, 30mins  
Sat 22nd Apr – 16:45-17:30

A short film by Rendah Films in collaboration with LCB Depot, exploring the creative scene in Leicester.

**Virtual production demonstrations in REAL Studio**  
Thu 20th – Fri 21st Apr

A practical, hands-on demonstration of the cost-effective use of virtual production in documentary filmmaking.

**Tri Doc Installation, Gallery**  
Thu 20th – Sat 22nd Apr

Featuring the work of students studying Creative Media, TV & Film at Leicester College.

**Place and Memory, Gallery**  
Thu 20th – Sat 22nd Apr

A celebration of the legacy and heritage of Phoenix through the use of digital interactive displays, based on archival materials. Working with material collected by the public and Leicester-based archives, it presents the history of Phoenix like never before.

# Schedule — Thursday 20th April

## Screen 1

## Screen 2

## Screen 3

## Screen 4

## Other

|       |  |  |  |                                      |  |
|-------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 10:00 | Independent & Regional<br>10:30 - 12:00 *              |  |  |                                      | Foyer / Bar                                |
| 11:00 |  |  |  |                                      | Doors open & registration<br>09:30 onwards |
| 12:00 |  |  | Oluwale + Q&A<br>12:00 - 13:00                     |                                      | Filmmakers' Party<br>21:00 - 01:00         |
| 13:00 |  | A Northern Soul + Q&A<br>12:30 - 14:30     |  |                                      | The Verinos<br>21:15 - 21:45               |
| 14:00 | Cinematography for the Self-shooter<br>13:30 - 15:00 * |  |  |                                      | REAL Studio                                |
| 15:00 |  | UK Shorts Showcase<br>15:00 - 16:10        | One Day at A Time + Q&A<br>15:00 - 16:30           |                                      | Virtual production demo<br>12:00 - 13:00 * |
| 16:00 | BFI Doc Society<br>16:00 - 17:30 *                     |  |  |                                      | Virtual production demo<br>18:00 - 19:00 * |
| 17:00 |  |  |  | Almost Heaven + Q&A<br>17:00 - 18:45 |  |
| 18:00 | Hold Tight Raver<br>17:45 - 18:30 **                   | The Endless Drifter + Q&A<br>17:30 - 19:30 |  |                                      | Gallery                                    |
| 19:00 | Feeling Frequencies<br>18:30 - 19:00 **                |  | Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché + Q&A<br>18:30 - 20:30 |                                      | Tri Doc Installation<br>Open all day *     |
| 20:00 | Thatcher's Not Dead + Q&A<br>20:00 - 22:00             |  |  |                                      | Place and Memory<br>Open all day *         |
| 21:00 |  |  |  |                                      |  |

Key:



Film Screening



Industry Session



Special Event



Industry Pass holders only



Industry Pass holders and invited guests



# Schedule — Friday 21st April

## Screen 1

## Screen 2

## Screen 3

## Screen 4

## Other

|       |  |  |   |  |  |
|-------|--|--|---|--|--|
| 10:00 | Whose Story is it Anyway? *<br>10:00 - 11:30             |  |   |  | Foyer / Bar                                |
| 11:00 |  |  |   | One Day at A Time + Q&A<br>11:00 - 13:00               | Doors open & registration<br>09:30 onwards |
| 12:00 |  | REAL Incubation Showcase **<br>11:30 - 13:00 | White Riot<br>11:30 - 13:30               |  | REAL Studio                                |
| 13:00 |  |  |   |  | Virtual production demo<br>09:00 - 10:00   |
| 14:00 | Developing Access and Ongoing Consent *<br>13:30 - 15:00 |  | Disappearing Midlands **<br>14:00 - 15:00 |  | Virtual production demo<br>12:30 - 13:30   |
| 15:00 |  | Oluwale<br>15:00 - 15:30                     |   | Seahorse + Q&A TBC<br>15:00 - 16:30                    |  |
| 16:00 | Adventures in Archive *<br>15:30 - 17:00                 |  | Grandfather (Nana) **<br>15:30 - 16:00    |  | Gallery                                    |
| 17:00 |  |  | International Shorts<br>16:30 - 17:40     |  | Tri Doc Installation *<br>Open all day     |
| 18:00 | Irene's Ghost + Q&A<br>17:30 - 19:30                     | Dust and Metal + Q&A<br>17:30 - 19:30        |   |  | Place and Memory *<br>Open all day         |
| 19:00 |  |  | Father Earth + Q&A<br>18:30 - 20:30       |  |  |
| 20:00 | The Mess We Make + Q&A<br>20:00 - 22:00                  |  |   | Energy: A Doc about Damo Suzuki + Q&A<br>19:00 - 20:45 |  |
| 21:00 |  |  |   |  |  |

Key:  Film Screening

 Industry Session

 Special Event

\* Industry Pass holders only

\*\* Industry Pass holders and invited guests

# Schedule — Saturday 22nd April

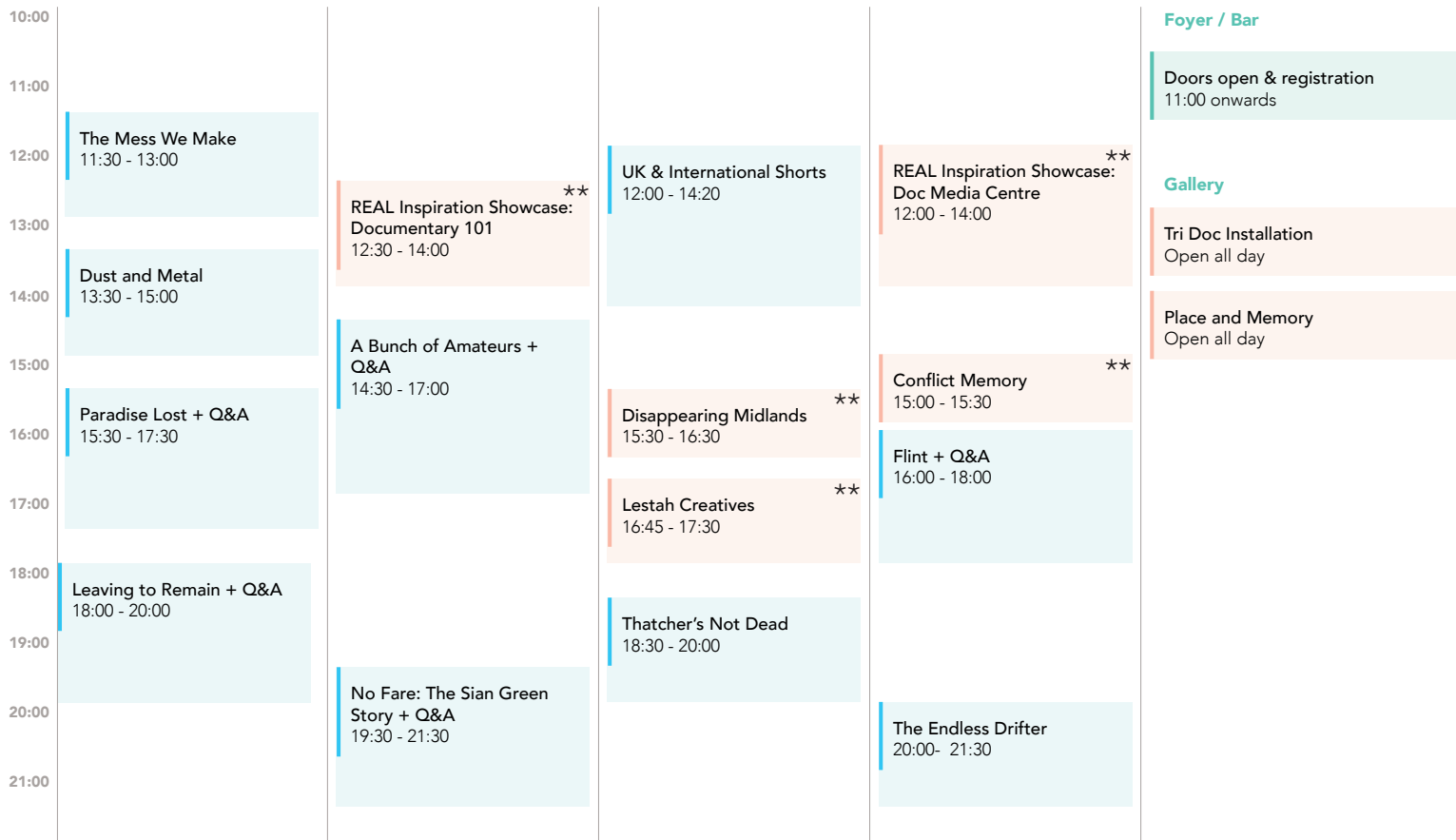
## Screen 1

## Screen 2

## Screen 3

## Screen 4

## Other



Key:



Film Screening



Industry Session



Special Event



Industry Pass holders only



Industry Pass holders and invited guests