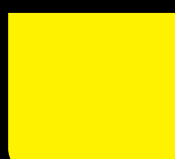


thecourt

November / December 2021



EARLS COURT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PAST

PRESENT

GREAT FUTURE

FROM EARL'S COURT
TO SOHO

Full Festival Guide

OUR FESTIVAL GOES
INTERNATIONAL

366 foreign entries

INTRODUCING LOCAL
YOUTH TO FILM

Rollercoaster 2020



Keeping
Life Local

Roll, Camera... Action!

In this issue of **The Court** we meet cinematic visionaries, community champions and a bevy of creative, hard working people - each one of them dedicated to bringing life back to the silver screen and also to our local venues. The team at The Court is deeply proud to support The Earls Court International Film Festival, and our stories in this issue are dedicated to film in all its forms. We cover the Festival's past and a very hopeful present. We also learn more about how it has come of age and how the team are coping with (and celebrating) the staggering rise in global short film submissions. Lights. Camera. Action. Let the Film Issue begin...



The Earls Court Development Company is pleased to support the Earls Court International Film Festival



The Earls Court Development Company

A STORY OF GROWTH AND GREAT THINGS

By William Sinclair Tod

The Earl's Court Film Festival (ECFF) was established in 2014, and this year, with its staggering international growth in popularity, relaunches to become The Earl's Court International Film Festival.

Born from a collective love of the performing arts, and realised in honour of the area's rich film history, this wonderful short film festival was the brainchild of local residents Caroline Tod-Richardson, Sean Duffy and Toby Brown.

LOCAL FILM. GLOBAL OUTLOOK.

In 2014, under the patronage of the Earl's Court Community Trust and with local sponsorship on board, the team founded Film Earl's Court - an event, co-production and funding entity that financially and logistically supports the UK's most talented emerging filmmakers.

The following year, thanks to a grant from RBKC (and a lot of community goodwill), the festival financed and screened their first two original short films, *Fellow Travellers* and *The Door To*. Filmed locally and produced that summer, the shorts premiered to local film enthusiasts at the inaugural Gala & Awards Night at St. Cuthbert's Church that November. Filmmaking had returned to the area once more.

Thanks to the increasingly generous support of local sponsors, the Festival grew, as did the number of emerging UK filmmakers that could be offered funding and co-production support. From film school graduates to the young people at the Earl's Court Youth Club, budding film writers, producers, directors and editors came together to make it happen. In 2016, five more short films were shot at locations in the Earl's Court ward, and between then and now 25 Earl's Court Shorts have been made.

We have a fabulously diverse range of filmmakers from all cultural backgrounds. We actively encourage women in film, and make a concerted effort to be very representative of everything that our society is. The films that we make and screen are selected to clearly

Co-founder and producer of Film Earl's Court, Caroline Tod-Richardson meets The Court and details the rise and rise of the Earl's Court International Film Festival



reflect contemporary society. Our shorts celebrate life and address homophobia and racism head on. Our goal? To use the power of short films to celebrate the good in life and subvert the bad.

A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION

The Earl's Court International Film Festival was invited by the UK's leading festival promoter, Underbelly, to screen a special Best of the Fest event at this summer's London Wonderground (Earl's Court). The festival itself welcomed 114,000 people, and the screening was a great evening for all.

A TRULY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Year on year, the Earl's Court Film Festival has not only grown in scale and talent, it has also generated a significant increase in the volumes of quality international film submissions received for review. In 2021, despite the unprecedented impact of Covid and Brexit, a record 366 submissions have been made, from countries as far afield as Iran, China, Peru, Chile, Japan, Korea, and Egypt.

Since Victorian times, Earl's Court has been a cultural hub, and in our own way we are doing our bit to put this small but significant area of London back on the world map. This year's incredible numbers of international submissions are a clear demonstration that our goal is being achieved. The film world now knows that Earl's Court International Film Festival is one not to be missed.

The visual storytelling used in the short film format has a universal impact. Through our network of filmmakers, judges and

supporters, we have successfully accessed a global network of conscious creators. At our screenings and online events, we offer the film community, and those that simply love short films, a unique opportunity to hear from a vast range of world voices - this year, more than ever.

NURTURING GLOBAL REACH

The festival reaches a diverse talent set primarily through word of mouth. A clear demonstration of this is that in 2017 Sa'ad's Olive Tree was the winner of the International Submissions category at the Earl's Court Film Festival. Arguably, one of the best short films ever submitted to the Festival, Sa'ad's Olive Tree was a tragic Syrian story created by Iranian filmmaker Ahmad Zayery.

Despite serious logistical challenges, Ahmad's trophy was successfully sent to Iran - a gesture that over time has encouraged both the development of an audience, and generated significant interest amongst the artistic and creative communities there. So much so, in 2021 the Festival's demonstrated commitment to global inclusion has resulted in 95 short film submissions from Iran alone - not just from cities such as Tehran but from rural regions. In 2021, the Festival will have its first UK-Iranian member of the judging panel.

FOSTERING TALENT

There is a consistent message across the community and the film festival that what they do offers a space for talent to be fostered - no matter what stage in the process people are at. Filmmakers and actors that started as creative newcomers to the industry in earlier Festivals are now competing at The Oscars, Sundance Film Festival, TriBeCa, the BFI, and many others. They remember us, and we keep in contact. Many still offer to support the Festival as judges or mentors for emerging talent, and that delights us.

The Earls Court Development Company (ECDC) has been the Film Festival's principal sponsor since 2020. In collaboration with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the company has enabled the team at Film Earl's Court to produce 25 short films, support a wide variety of creative initiatives, and host a series of main and fringe film events annually. "Returning for its seventh year, the festival has become an annual fixture on our local cultural calendar and represents the electric mix of talent, enthusiasm, and culture that Earl's Court is known for across the globe," says ECDC CEO Rob Heasman. "We're even more proud to support the filmmakers that benefit from grants, location and production office support and screening opportunities provided by the Festival to ensure that everyone across our talented community has the chance to share in their artistic talent."

Collaborating with Film Earl's Court is all about a learning experience, and connecting talented people. We offer our filmmakers practical support and a way to make positive connections that will last a lifetime. From 2014 to now, our local film festival has made impressive strides, and this year's festival is set to be the best yet. To learn more about the Earl's Court Film Festival, go to www.filmearlscourt.com.

Friday 12th November

Opening night at K+K George Hotel, Earl's Court

7pm to 9.15pm

Come and join an audience of film lovers and film makers at the K+K George (Kensington) Hotel. Located at the very heart of Earl's Court, this wonderfully welcoming venue will host our Opening Night screening - an event that will feature some of the world's best local and international short films. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday 14th November

ECIFF Goes to Soho

Soho Theatre

4.30pm to 7pm

Take a trip to Soho, our creative sister! We guarantee you will enjoy a night of eclectic, entertaining, edgy and excellent short films. Screening at the iconic Soho Theatre, you and your fellow film lovers can enjoy a selection of the world's best locally produced and international short films.

EARLS COURT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2021 PROGRAMME

GO TO WWW.FILMEARLSCOURT.COM
FOR TICKETS AND SCREENING DETAILS

Monday 15th November

ECIFF Online event

From 6.30pm

WWW.FILMEARLSCOURT.COM
FOR DETAILS

Tuesday 16th November

ECIFF Community Screenings at Inkerman House

From 2pm (Private event, by invitation only)

Afternoon tea will be served.

Wednesday 17th November

ECIFF Online Event

From 6.30pm

WWW.FILMEARLSCOURT.COM
FOR DETAILS

Friday 19th November

Earl's Court International Film Festival - Gala & Awards Night

From 6.45pm to 10pm

Note: Guest list or pre-purchased tickets for entry only - no tickets on the door.

Enjoy stunning short films in a truly stunning venue. We welcome you to the most important night in the calendar, the Gala Night of the Earl's Court International Film Festival. Meet the filmmakers, the writers, the actors. The backstage of stage and screen will be at the final Festival screening - there to see who has won an award! A must-see cinematic event, capacity is limited and seats will be on a first-come-first-served basis (max 2 x tickets per booking). If you are unable to attend please kindly let us know as soon as possible. It is requested that you are double vaccinated against Covid-19. GO TO WWW.FILMEARLSCOURT.COM FOR TICKETS AND MORE DETAILS

OTHER FILM EVENTS

St Cuthbert's, Earl's Court

A Night at the Musicals documentary screening

From 5pm to 6pm

Note: This event does not allow entry to the Gala & Awards evening. Go to www.thecourt.london/musicals for ticket details.



tlc... Crowned Best Agent in SW5 2021

020 7370 4000 | www.tlclondon.com

A DECADE OF DEDICATION

The Earls Courtiers Celebrate the Greatest Show

The Earls Courtiers are soon to celebrate their 10th anniversary, and have produced dozens of shows at venues and garden squares locally. Entertaining more than 15,000 local residents, these events have raised in excess of £250,000 for charity. In recent years, over 500 local children have been given the opportunity to publicly perform some of the world's most famous musical theatre shows. From The Wizard of Oz to Oliver to this year's show, A Night at the Musicals - which was a stunning matinee show at London Wonderground this summer.

The Earls Courtiers team has worked with local filmmakers to produce a documentary telling their story. An emotional and uplifting 30-minute film, A Night at the Musicals will premiere at the Earl's Court International Film Festival Gala & Award Matinee at St. Cuthbert's in Philbeach Gardens on Friday the 19 November at 5pm. Come along and see how a determined group of passionate performers put on their biggest show ever despite (and maybe in spite of) challenging Covid conditions. The show really did go on... Go to www.filmearlscourt.com for tickets.



A WORD FROM OUR FILM FESTIVAL FRIENDS!

TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR FRIENDS AND HOW WE COLLABORATE, GO TO www.filmearlscourt.com/interviews



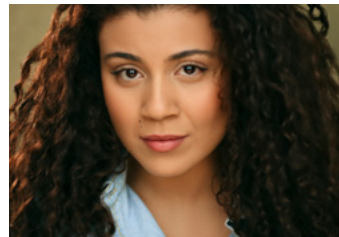
PAULA COMLEY - PRODUCER

Caroline asked me to produce a community film, Jan, in Liverpool, a short documentary film about a woman and her family fleeing Pakistan and seeking asylum in the UK. I was then invited to sit on the Festival judging panel alongside such luminaries as the late Dame Diana Rigg, Wayne Sleep and Leigh Lawson. And this year I have produced my first full length feature film 'To A Cinder', which is supported by the Film Earl's Court fund, and whose writer and director, Henry Scriven, I met via our association with the Festival. So not only has Film Earl's Court given me the chance to meet other people in the industry, but they also came on board with this feature film project making it their first venture into longer-form feature film production as well. *Read more:* www.filmearlscourt.com/interviews



ARO KOROL - FILMMAKER

Three years ago, I was approached by one of the Festival directors to join the judging panel for the Earl's Court Film Festival, and I felt honoured to be part of it. The event was at the Soho Theatre, and I was asked to judge as I had produced a film of my own called the Battle of Soho - a film about the gentrification of Soho and the negative impact that is having on the LGBT community and its Drag Queen sub-culture. I remain a judget to this day. Last year was very different because we could only watch the Festival's films at home - with voting done remotely. This year, I am very much looking forward to getting back to live events in great venues in Earl's Court and Soho again. A cinema is a place to celebrate film, and by being together we bring films alive. I have made ten short films myself, and I love the format. You have people's undivided attention, and you need to make every second matter. *Read more:* www.filmearlscourt.com/interviews



SAMYA DE MEO - ACTOR

I am an actor and voiceover artist, and have lived in the Earl's Court neighbourhood since 2014. I started my acting journey here when I joined the Earls Courtiers amateur dramatic theatre group, and in 2015, took to the stage as Beatrice in Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing. That is where I met the Film Earl's Court team and we became friends. In 2019, Caroline asked me if I wanted to be part of one of the short films that they were producing. 2025: The Long Hot Winter. The climate change storyline really appealed to me. The director, Jake Lancaster, was amazing. The producer was great, Alastair Hope Morley as well. The film went on to win best Earl's Short that year, and last year it was part of the official selection for Aesthetica, which is a BAFTA qualifying festival. So it was so exciting to be a part of that. This year, I am also part of the submission panel for the festival. *Read more:* www.filmearlscourt.com/interviews



DAVID YORKE - DIRECTOR

I met Caroline through a previous short film I directed called Fellow Travellers - she and her team really championed the film and supported it from conception all the way through to delivery, whether that be financially or providing locations and just overall general assistance. Without Film Earl's Court it would not have been made. We have stayed in contact ever since and have become great friends. I was also recently asked to judge this year's Earl's Court International Film Festival, which was a great honour and it was great to see the work of local and global talent. I am also currently in post-production on my next short horror film called Eric, and once again Caroline has helped fund part of the film, which has helped me massively. I can't wait to screen it at the Festival next year. *Read more:* www.filmearlscourt.com/interviews

A ROLLER COASTER YEAR FOR YOUNG EARL'S COURT FILMMAKERS

By Amin Alamin

In addition to being a hub of the local community for more than 40 years, the Earl's Court Youth Club has, for generations, nurtured and empowered local talent, and in recent years boasts an impressive alumni - from Premier League footballers to Hollywood's acting A-list.

Speaking of movies, among the crop of hopefuls at this year's film festival is this youthful quartet - working as an ensemble to create a fun but telling portrayal of what has been a seminal year.

ROLLER COASTER 2020 is a sub-three minute short film that sees our young auteurs take a 20/20 (pun intended) look at the events which made up the year just passed. As the title suggests, a theme-park is used as a filmic trope, and through it the characters coarse by the touchstones which made up the year. From Lock-down and the Pandemic, to BLM and anti-knife crime initiatives.

Written, starring, directed and edited by the young group themselves, this film project is the result of a workshop funded by Film Earl's Court and the Earl's Court International Film Festival. The Five Week Film Challenge has been running at the Earl's Court Youth Club every autumn since 2019. Led by Film Earl's Court partner filmmakers Theo Krekis and Casey Hennessey, producers of more than a dozen short and feature films themselves, these workshops cover practical guidance on briefing, concept, shooting, edits and screening.

Karim - 14

At 5'4 he is larger than life and, the beating heart of the outfit- if not the entire borough. It was only right that Karim plays the ringmaster inviting the audience to 'enjoy' the rollicking ride through a tumultuous year. "The closest I came to filmmaking prior, was a photography workshop we'd done at the club, which I enjoyed very much." As we speak, Karim is his usual jumpy self. It takes a while to get him to settle, but that might be because his attention is equally divided with the lemon drizzle baking in the oven, which Karim treats the club to at least once a week. When asked what he took from the experience of making a movie, the response was startling in its maturity. "Our film is less than three minutes long, yet took five weeks to make. I now realise the effort and planning that goes into every frame."



Ellis - 14

If Karim is the manic showman, his best friend and fellow collaborator is the foil. Calm and considerate, Ellis is the brains of the operation, as well as the co-star. "I remember a poster in my bedroom that read Life's a Rollercoaster, and I thought, there's a metaphor!" When asked if he has a desire for more projects, Ellis is his typical nonchalant self. "Not really. Even though I had a good time making the film, when it comes to the creative industries I've got my eye on graphic design."

Danah - 15

Amid the band of boys sits Danah, who with subtle poise answers every question with the intimation the whole affair ought to be accredited to someone else. A talented artist by nature, it's unsurprising she took to the visual aspects of the film, as she explains, "I was intrigued by how each shot is constructed, and likewise when it comes to piecing it altogether in the edit." Her directorial touch is none more inventive than in the blow-dryers, employed to give the green-screen rollercoaster proper effect.

Mehdi - 16

In his first year of sixth form, Mehdi is the fourth and final collaborator. "I've always

been interested in media production, and the workshop appealed as it was a chance to work in a group, as opposed to the YouTube videos I make alone." Writing and co-starring with Ellis, Mehdi was also involved in squeezing the hour of amassed footage down to its final cut. "Studying media at college, this course allowed me to build upon my skills and definitely influenced me into studying more about the topic."

A GUIDING HAND

Needless to say, those overseeing the job were not at a loss in lavishing praise upon their cadet crew. "On this project particularly, we were struck by the camaraderie and buoyancy shown by the young people. The highlight for me was observing how sharp and attentive to current affairs the kids were. For sure, that insight greatly enhanced the overall product." Theo explains. Casey added, "Absolutely. I was amazed by how seamlessly everyone acclimatised to their roles, as well as working together to see how certain things could be improved. I would sum up by expressing how much pleasure we had being allowed to partake in this extra curricular activity. I wish I had these opportunities growing up."

Turn Trauma Into Drama is a line coined by Elia Kazan, an Oscar winning filmmaker who brought the school of the 'Method' to mainstream Hollywood. The adage could easily be applied to the young makers of ROLLER COASTER 2020, who, in an incredibly short time, have fast tracked their talent and turned a truly topsy turvy year of ups and downs into pure art.

Once completed, ROLLER COASTER 2020, a Festival supported project, will be screened over the coming year.

See www.filmearlscourt.com for details.

Since the Festival began in 2014, we have worked to create great films, forge creative collaborations, and funded worthwhile film initiatives in the Earl's Court area and beyond. By introducing The London Film School team, as well as the writers, actors, filmmakers and directors we have supported over time, the young people from the Earl's Court Youth Club have benefited from inspired teaching and developed into proficient filmmakers themselves. Time and time again, their creative flair and love of short films amazes us, and every year since 2015 the Club's films have been screened to audiences locally and worldwide. Thanks to Theo and Casey for their continued commitment to EOCYC and we look forward to screening the great work that these talented young people are producing over the coming months.

Sean Duffy, Co-Producer, Earl's Court International Film Festival

Earl's Court Square Honours Local Legends

By Sue Lupton

On a sunny September afternoon in Earl's Court Square, late summer flowers in bloom, gazebos festooned with Union flags, families, friends and neighbours of four important local residents gathered to celebrate their contribution to the community. The event marked the placing of four commemorative plaques on the properties where they once lived. Chrissie Courtney, Chairman of the Earl's Court Residents' Association welcomed the guests. The unveiling of the plaques was preceded by presentations by the families, who fondly, and with some humour, reminisced about their father, grandfather, godparent or colleague.

In past years the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association and the Garden Sub-Committee have given special recognition to people who have given their time selflessly to organisational aspects over a long period to the Square and surrounds whilst they were alive. For some there has been a trellis, a bench or an area of planting where a message could be placed in the garden square, and more recently, an obelisk for Victor Smith. The committee and families would attend a gathering with refreshments.

But when Jennifer Ware died two years ago it was decided to do something extra special - to place a plaque on the building where she was born and died. It was also decided to commemorate other worthy people. The Selection Committee reviewed a long list of 'notables' who had lived in Earl's Court Square - from people responsible for the buildings, to those famous for artistic performance or entertainment, as well as those who made an impact globally.

Jennifer Ware gave over 50 years of dedicated community work in the square, to Earl's Court, to the borough and beyond. Her plaque names her 'The Doyenne of Earl's Court'. Douglas Eaton moved to the square in 1950, and was a founding member of the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association along with Jennifer Ware. He was also a Kensington Councillor for 33 years. Jennifer, whose family has lived in Earl's Court Square for over 100 years, wrote in her time, 'We who worked with Douglas, building Earl's Court Square into a community, were privileged to know one of the best examples of patrician Councillors who used the benefits of their positions only towards making the world a better place. He accomplished this by exercising



wit and wisdom, kindness, tolerance and an understanding of human nature to a degree rarely encountered. We learnt so much from him'.

Dame Ninette de Valois (nee Edris Stannus) was brought up in 23 Earl's Court Square where, early on, she ran ballet dancing classes in the salon/ballroom on the first floor, and years later was the Founder of the Royal Ballet.

Fuad Rouhani was the First Secretary General of OPEC, Ambassador-at-Large and a man of letters with a lifelong passion for classical music.

Once the four 'local heroes' were chosen and the ECSRA Executive Committee approved the choice, 'the plaque was designed'. A dark green was chosen to go

well with London brick and light coloured stucco, the external finishes of the buildings in Earl's Court Square. The wording was agreed with the families.

The initiative was supported by several sources including a grant from City Living Local Life, whose funding to make the plaques was supported by our three Ward Councillors; John D. Wood & Co, The Sloane Club and private donations.

Everyone worked together to ensure the event was a worthy appreciation of local people who made our world a better place. We hope we succeeded in demonstrating to residents now and in the future that we are a community made better by the legacy of people who have volunteered their time, skills and efforts.

FILMMAKER IN FOCUS

Dan Sloan

Dan Sloan is a multi-award-winning filmmaker

based in the North West of the UK.

Injecting his unique vision and love of storytelling into every project he is involved in, he is a writer, producer and director of short films, music videos and documentaries, and is fast becoming one of the most exciting emerging filmmakers in the UK.

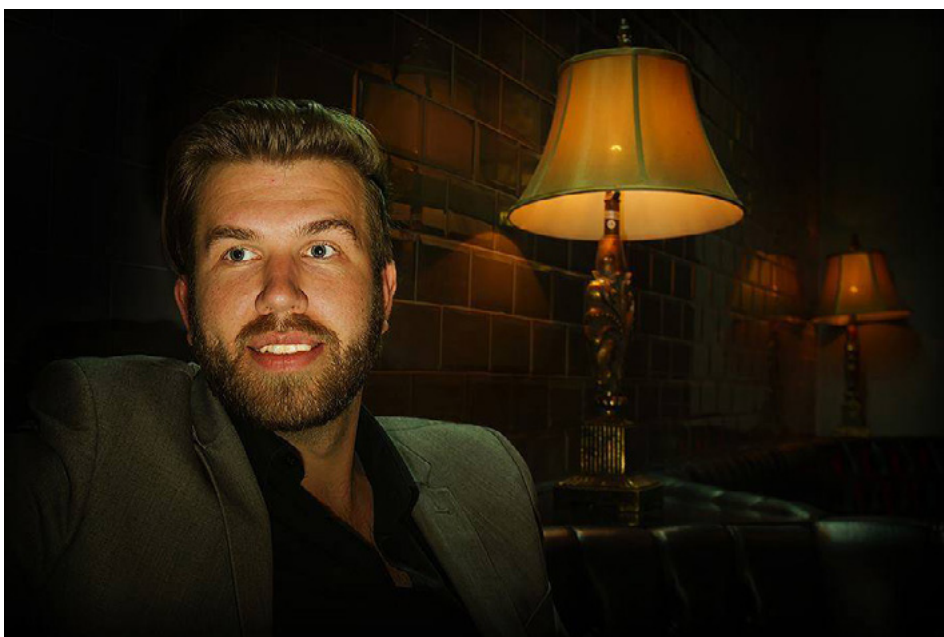
He has become a friend and collaborator of the team at Film Earl's Court, and his latest short, *Swallow Your Dreams*, will screen at ECIFF 2021. Starring Paul McGann and Amy Bailey (*Vikings*), the short featured at this summer's sell-out festival fringe screening - Best of The Fest, at Underbelly's London Wonderground Festival in Earl's Court.

So, how did you meet, and begin to collaborate with, Film Earl's Court?

I met Caroline Tod-Richardson at the Liverpool Short Film Festival in 2018, where she was one of the judges, along with Ricky Tomlinson and a couple other people. I won Best Short Film there, and then she invited me to participate in the Earl's Court Film festival the following year. The judging panel selected my 2018 short film - *Tory Baby* - for screening, and, over time, we really got on. This summer my latest short film, *Swallow your Dreams*, a project that Caroline was Executive Producer on, made its London debut at a Film Earl's Court screening event, and my team and I very much look forward to screening again at the upcoming Earl's Court International Film Festival in November.

How important are development, funding and showcase relationships like the ones offered by Film Earl's Court?

They are absolutely essential. I need to keep writing and creating great work and increasing my profile as a filmmaker at the same time. Film Earl's Court wants to help - I have met some great actors, filmmakers and crew, many of whom I could and will work with in the future. What Film Earl's Court does is unique, in that they collaborate and help to fund projects. It is absolutely vital that these supportive platforms and not-for-profit community-building initiatives exist.



From School Plays to the World Stage

I started to write screenplays at the age of 13. Supported by a brilliant English teacher, I was really into writing as a kid. I wrote the main end of year play in Year 11 - it was 30 minutes long. I looked at it the other day actually, and said to myself - how the hell did I do that? I was 15 then, and that was pretty cool. In my teens and early 20s, I was writing plays and screenplays, and was always passionate about that, but really, really into film and a big film nerd. I would literally dissect film's structures and analyze everything to the nth degree. But I didn't actually make a film at that point - I did a visual arts degree, which is more fine art than a filmmaking course. I was always into music and bands, until I turned 27 - then I made my first five-minute short film proper, the film that Caroline picked for the 2019 Festival, and how me and her met.

Since then it's been really busy. The last four years I have been making shorts, have produced six music videos, and written a couple of features that I'm trying to get off the ground at the moment. Next step is a TV series - I am pitching to one of the big networks this month, so it's an exciting time!

What do you love about short film?

Besides the accessibility and convenience of making a short film, it is a great way to hone your craft, exploring ideas and trying different things out. It's just a great, great medium. I like the challenge of trying to get across the same emotion that you get from a feature and trying to condense that into just a few minutes. It's not easy to do. My goal is to try and get that across. I'm also really interested in structure and the techniques used to move an audience. So, it's always fun, and from a practical point of view it's a lot easier to do a short than it is a feature, obviously.

Has your short film success boosted your creative confidence?

Absolutely. I mean, people like Caroline and the team at Film Earl's Court give people like me a big boost - you really want someone in your corner who can champion you and give you the extra confidence needed to take things forward. And it's the same with making this latest short film, which is the first time I'd ever worked with leading professional actors - Paul McGann, of whom I am a big fan, and now he's in my short film. Hard to believe! Same with Amy Bailey from *Vikings* - she's really, really great.

It was a pleasure to work with quality professional actors like these - it's also a kind of external validation that I am on the right track. We all crave recognition, and it's good to have people to tell you you are heading in the right direction. When industry peers enjoy your work you can say to yourself, I must be doing something right!

*Dan's short film, **Swallow Your Dreams**, will be available to view during the upcoming Earl's Court International Film Festival. Go to www.filmearlscourt.com for details.*



LOOKING FOR

ACTING COURSES IN LONDON?



SUPPORTING YOUNG FILM ACTORS WITH THE REEL SCENE

Alex Fidelski on talent, tool kits and the importance of short film as a showcase

As an aspiring actor, I studied and soon

realised that there was no clear route to the industry, and certainly no explanation about how to make it. So, after lots of independent courses and a time in drama school, I realised that loads of people needed help to get acting placements. I decided to teach actors how to gain a foothold in the industry and working with an American enterprise, I soon learned that actors needed to build their brand and raise awareness of who they were and what they could do that was unique.

Acting is a profession and we need to generate business, like any other enterprise. And so The Reel Scene was born. We don't just provide acting training, we also give people the opportunities and show them how to create the tools they need to promote themselves effectively - the headshots, the showreel, the

network building techniques. To actually go out and pursue acting and understand that it's a business is essential. We don't have teachers at The Reel Scene, we have actors, we have agents come in, we have producers, directors that run classes and workshops.

Getting back to our link to the Earl's Court International Film Festival and Film Earl's Court, the filming aspect, as well as the business aspect, is really important. Leading filmmakers work with us and help students create screen showreels. Acting students also get a chance to work behind the scenes - if they're interested in editing, they can learn. It's important that they understand and respect the production process. It's not all about you, it's about your team. It's collaborative - they start to realize they are a cog in a big wheel.

So, at the end of each course we shoot a film,

so not only do they have headshots that they can show, but they also have a film that will bring them to market. The Reel Scene has made eight films in total. And that's where we met the Earl's Court team. Film Festival winner, Henry Scriven, is one of our mentors. I explained what we do, Caroline explained what she does, and there is that sense of community of support. We are now collaborating with Film Earl's Court on the next Reel Scene student film - Film Earl's Court is helping with that and hopefully we will be screened at the festival in 2022! Before that, a short film that we shot with Frank Harper and Steve North called Sisterhood is going to be screened at this year's festival.

If you would like to learn more about The Reel Scene, go to www.reelscene.co.uk

Local organisations secure £180,000 from new Community Fund

The Earls Court Development Company (ECDC) have announced nineteen local organisations from Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea are to receive grants from the £180,000 Earls Court Community Fund.

With the first round launched in the summer, the fund will support investment across the local community in music, theatre, training programmes, health & wellbeing, children and young people. Over 35 applications totalling requests of more than £450,000 were received and assessed by an independent panel, recruited through an open process and comprised of six members of the public and an ECDC representative

Applications came from a broad range of organisations working within the Earl's Court area and went through a detailed review process to allocate funds. Some of the successful initiatives include cultural events, two performing arts organisations, children's holiday activities and workshops that will enable people to explore and discover more about their local area, in addition to sporting activities and volunteering opportunities to support vulnerable families, and rough sleepers.



Speaking about the launch of the fund, Chief Executive of ECDC, Rob Heasman, said: "The Earls Court Development Company is a local business, it is right that we look to invest in the communities within which we work. I am thrilled the panel has chosen this amazing range of local charities and organisations. These exceptional groups play an important role in and around Earl's Court, providing activities, support and classes for residents through sport, art and culture. We are pleased to see there was such a strong interest in our fund and look forward to working with these groups, as well as our partners, to deliver real difference to the lives of our community."

Since acquiring the Earls Court development site in 2019, ECDC has made a commitment to positively supporting their neighbours and contributing towards the community.

Throughout 2021, ECDC has already donated £260,000 to local charities and community groups, supporting numerous activities and initiatives to benefit local people. These include the Earl's Court Youth Group, Dads House, and Solidarity Sports.

Working with Lowe Guardians ECDC has also created new short term homes for key workers and those on low incomes in formerly derelict buildings on Empress Place and the Seven Stars pub on North End road.

The nineteen organisations that successfully applied for grants for funding in 2021 are:

- Barons Court Project: A day centre supporting vulnerable groups, rough sleepers and the homeless
- Community Education Forum: A grassroots organisation that provides social, educational and economic activities for young people and families
- Dadihiye Somali Development Organisation: A charity that supports BME communities with finance, health and education.
- Dads House: A charity supporting fathers and families including a foodbank, weekend lunch club, Buddy service and Community Food nights
- Earl's Court Community Trust: A local group that seeks to celebrate art and culture in Earl's Court, their project will celebrate the LGBT history of Earl's Court
- Family Friends: A charity that supports disadvantaged families training young adults to become buddies in the local area
- Finborough Theatre: A local theatre, supported to reopen after Covid and provide a volunteer placement scheme
- London Sports Trust: A charity supporting young people across London offering weekly sessions for 150 vulnerable young people during term time and the holidays.
- Open Age: Local youth club organising a wide range of activities in the area
- Outside Edge Theatre Company: Supporting addiction through performance skills including pastoral care for recovery, education, employment and mental health support
- Response Community Projects: Local charity working to reduce social isolation
- Solidarity Sports: Local sports club providing for 120 children in February half-term
- St Andrew's, Fulham Fields: Local church (Church of England) supporting a weekly youth club
- St Cuthbert's Centre: A charity that supports homeless and vulnerable groups
- St Cuthbert with St Matthias CE School: Local primary school
- The Brunswick Club for Young People: Local sports club for young people and children, helping disadvantaged young people join a local sports team
- The Smile Brigade: Social enterprise initiative that offers hot cooked meals for vulnerable groups
- Urbanwise London: Voluntary organisation that holds in cultural programmes for residents
- 10th Fulham Scout Group: Scouts organisation that arranges outdoor activities for young people, supporting 16 young people to complete their Duke of Edinburgh award

For further details on the Earls Court Community Fund you can go to : <https://theearlscourtdevelopmentcompany.com/community/community-fund>

A LYRICAL ENTERTAINMENT CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCALS WITH UNDERBELLY AND THE EARLS COURT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Earl's Court was truly brought back to life

this summer by the arrival of London Wonderground. Over 10 weeks 46,924 tickets were sold, and 114,000 local and London-wide people entered the former Exhibition Centre site.

Running alongside this, a generation of young people were given the opportunity to gain insight and practical experience of the production and staging of large-scale events and festivals through the Underbelly Training Academy, an initiative by Underbelly, producers of London Wonderground, supported by The Earls Court Development Company, and delivered in partnership with the Young Lyric Team at the Lyric Hammersmith.

Over four weeks, 11 talented students, aged between 18 and 25 from Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea enrolled in the programme. Working alongside industry professionals, the recruits mastered the key elements of a festival,



including programming, stage management, and technical production, to front of house, marketing, and finance. The Academy was brought an end by a performance produced by the group and watched by an enthused crowd.

Speaking about his experience at the Underbelly Training Academy, Joe said, "the four weeks have been an absolute delight" whilst Alex said she "had never realised how many roles were available in the industry". The students felt that the experience had helped them debunk myths of the industry, with Mai commenting that the job isn't just about "putting tents up for a festival". The Underbelly Training Academy left the group hungry to learn even more about theatre

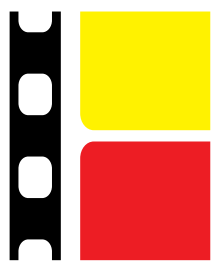
and production and George said he would like to "hopefully become a deputy stage manager".

Speaking about the Underbelly Training Academy, Charlie Bindels, Producer (Education) at the Lyric Hammersmith, said: "At The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre we are committed to giving young people from all backgrounds access to the arts and we were thrilled to be the Delivery Partner for the London Wonderground Training Academy this August. I had the privilege of being on site throughout most of the programme and it was brilliant to see participants from both boroughs collaborate and produce their own show as part of the festival. The programme gave local young people a unique opportunity to learn about festival production and gain hands-on experience in the industry, opening up opportunities and career pathways."

A poster for the Earls Court International Film Festival. The background is a dark, textured image of a building facade with graffiti. In the top left corner, there is a logo for "FILM EARLS COURT PRESENTS" featuring a stylized film strip and the text "FILM EARLS COURT PRESENTS". The main title "EARLS COURT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL" is written in large, bold, red, 3D-style letters. Below the title, the dates "NOV 12 TO 19 2021" are written in blue, 3D-style letters. Underneath the dates, it says "TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM" in white, followed by the website "FILMEARLSCOURT.COM" in yellow, 3D-style letters. At the bottom, it says "SPONSORED BY" in white, followed by "The Earls Court Development Company" in white, with "PRINCIPAL SPONSOR" in smaller white text above the company name. There is also a small mouse cursor icon pointing at the website address.



SUPPORTED BY EARL'S COURT COMMUNITY TRUST



EARLS COURT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Earl's Court International has shortlisted the following global submissions for this year's festival. A world of great short films to enjoy.

