



## FILM PROGRAMME FOR SCOTTISH MENTAL HEALTH ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES GROUND BREAKING UK AND EUROPEAN PREMIERES

The film programme for the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival (SMHAFF) features a diverse and valiant film programme in the Central Belt, with screenings taking place in Glasgow and Edinburgh from **9-31 October**. In this impressive line-up of films, over half the features presented are directed by women, creating a unique opportunity for audiences to observe female directors at the forefront of intensely personal filmmaking.

Personal appearances by filmmakers during the festival include, **Karen Guthrie**, Scottish director of the exquisite autobiographical film *The Closer We Get* (Hot Docs 2015 Best International Feature Documentary) will take part in a Q&A at the CCA (19 Oct). The film's composer **Malcolm Middleton** of Arab Strap will also be present.

Director of *Ida's Diary*, **August B. Hanssen**, will attend screenings in Glasgow and Edinburgh and discuss the reach of the powerful documentary and the role film can play tackling stigma and engaging the public.

Director **Mark Aitken** will also be in attendance for the European premiere of *Dead When I Got Here*, a compassionate and redemptive film set in a patient-run mental asylum.

### Other 2015 highlights include:

**Ivan Gergolet's** vibrant documentary *Dancing with Maria*, about a 90-year-old Argentinian dance teacher and her lively Buenos Aires studio, receives its Scottish premiere in Glasgow

*Rocks in My Pockets*, Latvian director **Signe Baumann's** surreal animated feature, screens in Glasgow and Edinburgh

Daring Norwegian documentaries in *Good Girl* and *Ida's Diary*

UK premiere of *Juanicas*, **Karina Garcia Casanova's** mature debut about her brother's relapse into depression

A special presentation of Billy Wilder's Hollywood classic *Sunset Boulevard*, in partnership with the Southside Film Festival

*The Silence of the Flies*, a poignant documentary about a mysterious suicide epidemic in the Venezuelan Andes, receives its UK premiere in Edinburgh.

The *International Film Awards Ceremony*, a showcase event for the Festival hosted by **Siobhan Synott**, honouring the very best of over 400 mental health films from across the globe that were submitted to the 2015 competition.

Many of the winning feature films are also screened in the 2015 programme and other selected films will be screened at Glasgow School of Art.

Richard Warden, Film Curator said: *'Many of the valiant films in this year's programme involve individuals who are willing to openly explore their own mental health stories, whether they are in front of the camera, behind it or both. These brave and generous people deserve our attention and gratitude and we are proud to provide a platform for this important cinematic work to reach wider audiences and spark invaluable conversations'*.

Rosie Crerar, Creative Scotland said: *'Creative Scotland is delighted to support SHMAFF in 2015 as it celebrates film and art that challenge preconceived ideas and break down stigma surrounding mental health. The thoughtful curation and off-screen discussion provides a vibrant platform to explore, discuss and illuminate. From shorts, docs, drama to archive, SHMAFF's 2015 theme of passion promises to elucidate, engage and entertain in cinemas and community venues.'*

-Ends-

**To arrange interviews, images and media tickets for the launch or any other Festival event, please contact Sophie Crabb SMHAFFMedia@mentalhealth.org.uk, 0141 226 9846. For more information, please visit [www.mhfestival.com](http://www.mhfestival.com).**

**Full listings:**

**SUNSET BOULEVARD**

Gloria Swanson and William Holden feature in director Billy Wilder's classic orchestration of the bizarre. *In partnership with Southside Film Festival.*

**Fri 9 Oct, 3 - 5.30pm Pollockshaws Burgh Hall, Glasgow  
£6/£5, [www.wegotickets.com/southsidefilmfestival](http://www.wegotickets.com/southsidefilmfestival)**

**DANCING WITH MARIA**

A beautiful documentary featuring elderly Argentinian dancer, Maria Fux, who has taught her method all her life, inspired by her inner rhythms and innate connection with music. *In partnership with Southside Film Festival.*

**Wed 14 Oct, 8 - 10pm The Glad Café, Glasgow  
£5/£3, [www.dancingwithmaria.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.dancingwithmaria.eventbrite.co.uk)**

**Mon 19 Oct, 6 - 8pm Filmhouse, Edinburgh  
£6/£4, [www.filmhousecinema.com](http://www.filmhousecinema.com)**

**DEAD WHEN I GOT HERE**

After coming close to death in the Mexican desert, Josué was rescued and placed in a mental asylum run by its own patients. Six years later, he receives an unexpected opportunity in this life-affirming documentary. *In partnership with Document International Human Rights Film Festival.*

**Thu 15 Oct, 7 - 9pm Flourish House, Glasgow  
Free, [www.dead-when-i-got-here.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.dead-when-i-got-here.eventbrite.co.uk)**

**9999**

Mentally ill criminals in Belgium become separated from society, ending up in prison without any possibility of therapy or release date. Ellen Vermeulen's film follows five inmates in this real life purgatory. *In partnership with Document International Human Rights Film Festival.*

**Sat 17 Oct, 4 - 6pm CCA Glasgow  
£4.50/£3.50, [www.cca-glasgow.com](http://www.cca-glasgow.com)**

**THE CLOSER WE GET**

In this autobiographical documentary, Scottish filmmaker Karen Guthrie returns to her family home when her mother suffers a devastating stroke. At the same time, a revelation forces her to come to terms with an astonishing secret.

**Mon 19 Oct, 7.30 - 9.30pm CCA, Glasgow  
£5/£3, [www.cca-glasgow.com](http://www.cca-glasgow.com)**

**JUANICAS**

This mature and introspective debut from Quebec-based filmmaker Karina Garcia Casanova captures her brother Juan's distressing relapse into depression and paranoia. Juan's condition allows Karina to explore the connections between her family's rootlessness and battles with mental illness.

**Tue 20 Oct, 7.30 - 9.30pm CCA, Glasgow  
£5/£3, [www.cca-glasgow.com](http://www.cca-glasgow.com)**

**GOOD GIRL (FLINK PIKE)**

When filmmaker Solveig Melkeraen receives a diagnosis of severe depression, she tries everything to return to her old self. Electroconvulsive therapy is the solution and quickly seems to bring Solveig back, but the treatment raises questions about the nature of personality.

**Tue 20 Oct, 6 - 8pm Filmhouse, Edinburgh**  
**£6/£4, [www.filmhousecinema.com](http://www.filmhousecinema.com)**

**Wed 21 Oct, 7.30 - 9.30pm CCA, Glasgow**  
**£5/£3, [www.cca-glasgow.com](http://www.cca-glasgow.com)**

#### **ROCKS IN MY POCKETS**

Latvian director Signe Baumanes' surreal animated feature traces the lives of five women in her family as they embark on a quest for sanity.

**Wed 21 Oct, 6 - 8pm Filmhouse Edinburgh**  
**£6/£4, [www.filmhousecinema.com](http://www.filmhousecinema.com)**

**Thu 22 Oct, 7.30 - 9.30pm CCA, Glasgow**  
**£5/£3, [www.cca-glasgow.com](http://www.cca-glasgow.com)**

#### **IDA'S DIARY**

Ida is a young Norwegian woman, struggling with an emotionally turbulent life brought about by Borderline Personality Disorder. Using footage shot over the last eight years, the film is about hope and courage, finding your own identity and daring to live.

**Sun 25 Oct, 2.15 - 4.15pm Platform, Glasgow**  
**Free, [www.platform-online.co.uk](http://www.platform-online.co.uk)**

**Mon 26 Oct, 7 - 9pm James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh**  
**Free, [www.idasdiary.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.idasdiary.eventbrite.co.uk)**

#### **GARNET'S GOLD**

Lost and alone in the Scottish Highlands, Garnet Frost discovered a mysterious wooden staff which he believes marked the site of one of history's great forgotten treasures. Twenty years later, he is ready to return to this extraordinary landscape to uncover its secrets and rediscover his life's meaning.

**Wed 28 Oct, 7 - 9pm Flourish House, Glasgow**  
**Free, [www.garnetsgold.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.garnetsgold.eventbrite.co.uk)**

#### **THE SILENCE OF THE FLIES (EL SILENCIO DE LAS MOSCAS)**

Since the 1990s, a mysterious suicide epidemic has been spreading in rural communities across the Venezuelan Andes. This poignant documentary presents an idyllic landscape, permeated with stillness and violence.

**Mon 12 Oct, 7 - 9pm Summerhall, Edinburgh**  
**£5/£3, [www.thesilenceoftheflies.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.thesilenceoftheflies.eventbrite.co.uk)**

#### **SMHAFF INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS AND SCREENINGS**

A special showcase of winners of the International Mental Health Film Competition.

**AWARDS Thu 29 Oct, 6 - 8pm Filmhouse, Edinburgh**  
**Free, [www.filmhousecinema.com](http://www.filmhousecinema.com)**

**SCREENINGS Sat 31 Oct, 1 - 3pm & Sun 1 Nov, 7 - 9pm The Art School, Glasgow**  
**Free, [www.ifc-screenings.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.ifc-screenings.eventbrite.co.uk)**

## Editor's Notes:

- 1) ABOUT **SMHAFF**: Now in its ninth year, the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival is one of Scotland's most striking and provocative cultural events, encompassing music, film, visual art, theatre, dance, and literature. The annual Festival takes place in venues across Scotland throughout October, aiming to support the arts and challenge preconceived ideas about mental health. By engaging artists, connecting with communities and forming collaborations, the Festival celebrates the artistic achievements of people with experience of mental health issues, explores the relationship between creativity and the mind, and promotes positive mental health and wellbeing. [www.mhfestival.com](http://www.mhfestival.com)
- 2) **PARTNERS**: The Festival is led by The Mental Health Foundation in association with the following national partners: Creative Scotland, See Me, Scotland's programme to end mental health stigma, NHS Health Scotland, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Lothian, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, Lanarkshire Recovery Network, Voices of Experience, Healthier Scotland Scottish Government, University of Strathclyde and Bipolar Scotland. The Festival is also supported by hundreds of arts, community and public organisations across Scotland. These groups programme events in their own towns and cities on behalf of the festival, in partnership with local artists and activists.
- 3) The **MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION** is a leading UK mental health charity that conducts robust research, provides practical solutions to help everyone lead mentally healthier lives, and works to raise public awareness and improve mental health services for the entire population. The Foundation is proud of the vital role it plays in hosting, developing and managing the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival [www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)
- 4) **Creative Scotland** is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. [www.creativescotland.com](http://www.creativescotland.com).