

•• UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 9am TUESDAY 22nd OCTOBER ••



LONGLIST OF FILMS REVEALED FOR BIFA'S RAINDANCE DISCOVERY AWARD 2019

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TUE 22 OCT: Britain's biggest independent film festival, Raindance is recognised as a place to discover the work of passionate and pioneering new filmmakers: those whose vision isn't restricted by budget, and whose determination to tell compelling stories never wavers. It's therefore fitting that Raindance should put its name to the **Raindance Discovery Award** at the annual British Independent Film Awards (BIFA), the awards system founded by Raindance in 1998. This vanguard award honours British films that break convention, and whose directors demonstrate the ingenuity and adaptability required when working with a maximum budget of £500,000.

Previous recipients include Ben Wheatley, receiving an early accolade for his bold first feature *Down Terrace*. The Raindance Discovery Award was most recently presented to May Miles Thomas for the haunting and extraordinary *Voyageuse*.

This year's **Discovery Award longlist comprises 16 remarkably varied films** that are altogether unified in their vision to tell relevant and uncompromising stories.

"I and all at Raindance are thrilled to shine a spotlight on this impressive list of bold, fresh and innovative work. This attention we believe will enable new voices to be discovered," says Elliot Grove, founder of Raindance and BIFA.

The longlist includes *HILDA*, a gritty, contemporary drama that had its world premiere at the Raindance Film Festival 2019. Also seen at this year's Raindance, the darkly comic *MASTERS OF LOVE* is a wry take on the British rom-com. Other longlisted features include *BAIT*, the story of a Cornish fisherman and his family whose lives and livelihoods depreciate in the face of incomers from London. The drama *PINK WALL* examines the pressures of gender expectations, and our perpetual struggle between life and ambition. Tackling issues of mortality and gender identity, *TUCKED* stars veteran British actor Derren Nesbit as an aging drag queen who develops an unlikely friendship with a younger queen, played by Jordan Stephens. With a cast including Emily Mortimer, comedy-drama *GOOD POSTURE* is the directorial debut of British actress Dolly Wells. An unhappy office worker sees his life taken over by his personal trainer in psychological thriller *MUSCLE*, starring Cavan Clerkin and Craig Fairbrass. Commissioned through the Film London, BFI and BBC Films' Microwave scheme, *MARI* stars acclaimed dancer Bobbi Jene Smith as a young dancer attempting to reconcile motherhood, performance and family. *LOVE TYPE D* is a satire on the perils of modern dating, following a woman who's been dumped 12 times in a row. *A BUMP ALONG THE WAY* tells of a boozy single mum who shames

her teen daughter by becoming pregnant after a one-night-stand. An ambitious vlogger experiences the dark side of the internet in THE DEATH OF A VLOGGER.

Longlisted documentaries include THE STREET, depicting the exclusion and xenophobia faced by some long-time residents of Hoxton Street in east London amidst the influx of art spaces, coffee shops and property developers. With accolades from the Locarno Film Festival, HERE FOR LIFE is a hybrid mix of documentary, poetry and fiction with actors from Cardboard Citizens (the UK's only homeless people's professional theatre company) playing versions of themselves as they try to keep old communities alive in the face of gentrification. Britain's battle with illiteracy is laid bare in H IS FOR HARRY, exposing the difficulties facing white working-class boys. CHILDREN OF THE SNOW LAND documents the particular challenges faced by families in Nepal's remote mountain villages. ROMANTIC COMEDY explores the past, present and future of this ubiquitous film genre.

Full longlist:

BAIT (Mark Jenkin)
A BUMP ALONG THE WAY (Shelly Love)
CHILDREN OF THE SNOW LAND (Zara Balfour, Marcus Stephenson, Mark Hakansson)
DEATH OF A VLOGGER (Graham Hughes)
GOOD POSTURE (Dolly Wells)
H IS FOR HARRY (Jaime Taylor, Ed Owles)
HERE FOR LIFE (Andrea Luka Zimmerman, Adrian Jackson, James Lingwood, Michael Morris, Cressida Day)
HILDA (Tomos Roberts, Nassim Mniai)
LOVE TYPE D (Sasha Collington)
MARI (Emma Duffy, Georgia Parris)
MASTERS OF LOVE (Matt Roberts)
MUSCLE (Gerard Johnson, Matthew James Wilkinson, Richard Wylie, Ed Barrett)
PINK WALL (Tom Cullen)
ROMANTIC COMEDY (Elizabeth Sankey)
THE STREET (Zed Nelson)
TUCKED (Finn Bruce, Jamie Patterson)

Each year around 300 of nearly 700 registered voters split into subgroups to watch, discuss, and vote on the entered films to reach the year's nominations. Round two voting will take place later in October, with the final list of 5 nominations announced on 30 October. The winner will be announced at the BIFA ceremony on 1 December.

For more information, please contact:

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EDITORS NOTES:

Raindance founded the British Independent Film Awards in 1998, and sponsor its Discovery Award. This category is for all British features with budgets under £500,000, with the award aiming to champion innovation, uniqueness of vision, maverick filmmaking and risk-taking. For more details about rules and eligibility, please visit: www.bifa.film/about/rules-and-eligibility