

ARNOLFINI



Eno Mfon, Check The Label

Bristol showcase for 200 emerging artist filmmakers Playback: Touring Exhibition in association with Random Acts

From 18-28 August, Arnolfini is delighted to welcome touring exhibition *Playback*, a dynamic display of over 200 short films made by up and coming artist filmmakers from all across England, many from Bristol.

Presenting films that cover a wide variety of subjects and art forms, *Playback* reflects the concerns and vision of a diverse pool of young people working with film today. From narrative films about drag queens, super-heroes, job centres and zombies to animated stories that feature talking goldfish and radioactive snails.

Hand-drawn animations tell the story of Syrian refugees rescued by Greek fishermen whilst explorations of cities like Manchester, London and Birmingham are seen alongside imagined futures and digital worlds.

Poetry and spoken word features in films about feminism, age, identity, the prison system and the shipyards of the North East. Powerful films with a focus on dance are seen alongside surreal dreamscapes and comic tales.

“Playback draws on the positives of a culture that is increasingly dominated by images and a generation that is highly literate in digital media and film. Young people are often criticised for spending too much time on their phones or screens, but Playback allows young people from all walks of life and backgrounds, to communicate and express their ideas and creativity through the medium of film.”

Corinne Orton - Playback Tour Manager

The award-winning short films included in the interactive exhibition were created by 16-24 year olds, many with no previous experience in industry, following a nationwide open call. Many of those selected have now embarked on successful careers with film studios, in the fashion and music industries and in the art world.

Bristolians exhibiting in *Playback* who have already gone onto celebrate further achievements include Issy Snailman, who recently received the *Best Emerging Talent Award (16-19)* at BFI Future Film Festival, remarkably for her first ever film; Marnik Loyson, who is now working for Aardman studios and Bristol University 2016 graduate Eno Mfon, who has recently been commissioned to write a full-length play for Theatre West, in partnership with Bristol Old Vic.

Playback travels across the length and breadth of the country in some of England’s major galleries, cinemas and arts venues until March 2018. Other locations include London, Manchester, Newcastle and York with more to be announced.

Playback is funded by Arts Council England and is a joint initiative with Channel 4 Random Acts. Until 20 October, 16-24 year-olds in the South West can still apply to be part of the overall project and receive mentoring, training and equipment, see ‘Notes to Editors’ below.

Watch the *Playback* trailer here: [youtube.com/watch?v=THtlQTnkbP4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THtlQTnkbP4)

Visiting information

Playback: Touring Exhibition in association with Random Acts

Friday 18 August – Monday 28 August 2017

Free Admission

Arnolfini

16 Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA

Box Office +44 (0)117 917 2300

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holidays, 11am-6pm

arnolfini.org.uk | @Arnolfiniarts | #Playback

Press requests and further information

For press images please visit arnolfini.org.uk/about/press

For further information, images or interviews with selected filmmakers please contact:

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Notes to Editors

About Playback

Playback develops talent by offering film education, training and production support to 16-24 year-olds to make their short films. Participating filmmakers do not need to have any experience, just a great idea and a clear creative vision. By 2018, 360 films will have been made and screened to audiences nationwide. The films range from 90 seconds to 3 minutes in length.

Until 20 October 2017, 16-24 year-olds that are currently living or studying in the South West can still apply to be part of the project working with Calling the Shots and have a chance to become one of 72 successful young people whose ideas will go into production over the next three years. All successful applicants will be partnered with an industry mentor who will guide them through the filmmaking process and provide the equipment, training and crew that they need to create a broadcast-quality short film.

More on how to apply: callingtheshots.co.uk/random-acts/

Playback: Touring Exhibition culminates with the second Playback Festival at the ICA in London (21–25 March 2018), which hosts the exhibition alongside an accompanying festival of events aimed at emerging artist filmmakers. *Playback* also tours concurrently with Random Acts Presents, where cinemas across the country screen curated selections of the films.

The films featured in *Playback* were made possible by ICA, Calling the Shots, Rural Media, Screen South and Tyneside Cinema. *Playback* is funded by Arts Council England and is a joint initiative with Channel 4 Random Acts. Many of the short films are broadcast by Channel 4 on television or online as part of Random Acts' First Acts series.



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