

WWS

OFF

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th May 2022

Wonderous Stories Film Festival



In partnership with **Hilton London Syon Park**



On the edge of the 200 acre Syon Estate...

Mood in the Park Restaurant, Bar and outdoor Terrace are ideal for dining, sipping cocktails, meeting or escaping

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th May 2022



Supported by

Watermans Arts Centre



Watermans Arts Centre

40 High Street Brentford TW8 0DS

website: www.wonderousstoriesff.com

email: info@wonderousstoriesff.com

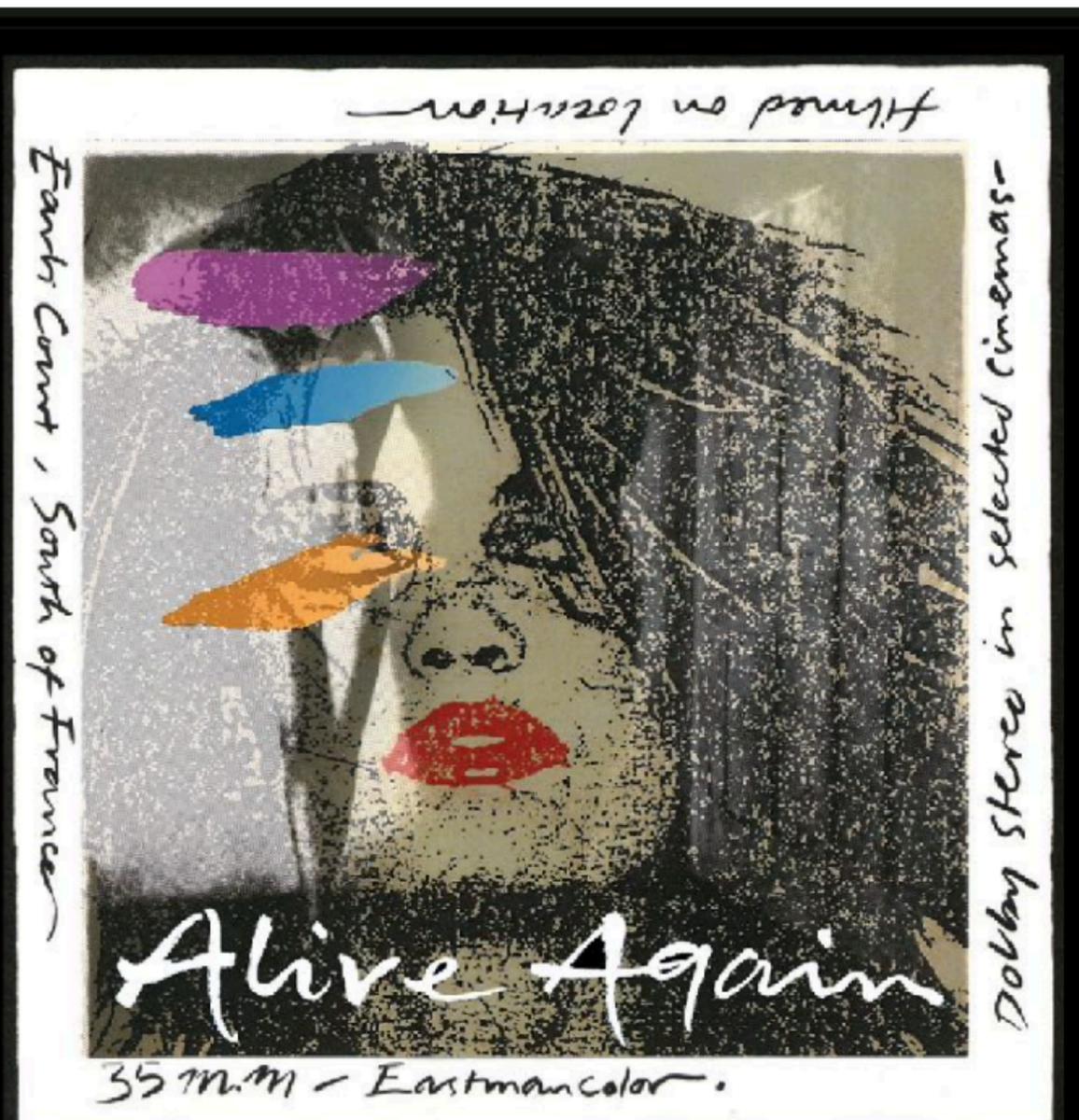
instagram: [wonderousstoriesfilmfestival](https://www.instagram.com/wonderousstoriesfilmfestival)



Supported by **Syon House**



Feature Films & Documentaries



Edward

WORK IN PROGRESS

A FILM BY MARCUS THOMPSON
FEATURING THE WORK OF EDWARD BELL

Edward... work in progress 2022 (doc 2022 40mins)

Director: Marcus Thompson

Writer: Marcus Thompson

Country: United Kingdom

Language: English

World Premier

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'I found the 35mm negatives to my film inspired by Edward Bell in the BFI Archives. The idea is to revisit the artist's world four decades later, as he looks back at the chronic, the creative, the static and chaotic... and a lingering love. Is this film set in the early 1980s, but haunted by the future? Or is it set in the present, and haunted by the past? In Edward's own words, 'In the early eighties I was a fully fledged junkie and contributed nothing creative to your filming; I wish to right that wrong. Let's put it on a different level, with more depth and stretch the time-scale, then and now.' The artist is now obsessed with landscapes and skies amongst other things, and the psychology of colour and emotion in the forces of nature; an unlimited source of real inspiration to him, and myself as a film-maker. Victor Hugo wrote that 'there is one spectacle grander than the sky, that is the interior of the soul', and that is what I'm attempting to portray. Illuminating nature's mystery, capturing skies in this fascinating interface between art and science, reinterpreting, reinvigorating and producing a new original film. Edward has told me 'I have plenty of time, commitment and imagination...' and so do I, and others, for this film.

The project is the progression of a natural development that started when I made my first 35mm film. This new film enables me to take a fresh look at a subject that I have longed to return to and complete. The landscapes depicted in Edward Bell's new work are constantly changing as the atmospheric drama of the sky above alters due to the light, and Edward is always checking the sky for rapid mood swings, and painting what he sees. As a film-maker it is also an opportunity to capture, through time-lapse and macro lenses, both the heavens and the very quintessence of the oils that Bell uses to portray the structure and movement of clouds in the skies above him, and the accuracy of his depiction of this atmospheric drama. It is my chance to capture the madness of thunder clouds, the sadness of a troubled life, the beauty of a dispersing mist, the gloom of darkening hillsides, and the approaching autumn of an artist's life.'

Saturday 7th May 7.30pm - Theatre

Sunday 8th May 6pm - Theatre



KRYŠTOF (feature film 2021 1h50)

Director: Zdenek Jiráský

Writer: Zdenek Jiráský

Country: Czech Republic/Slovakia

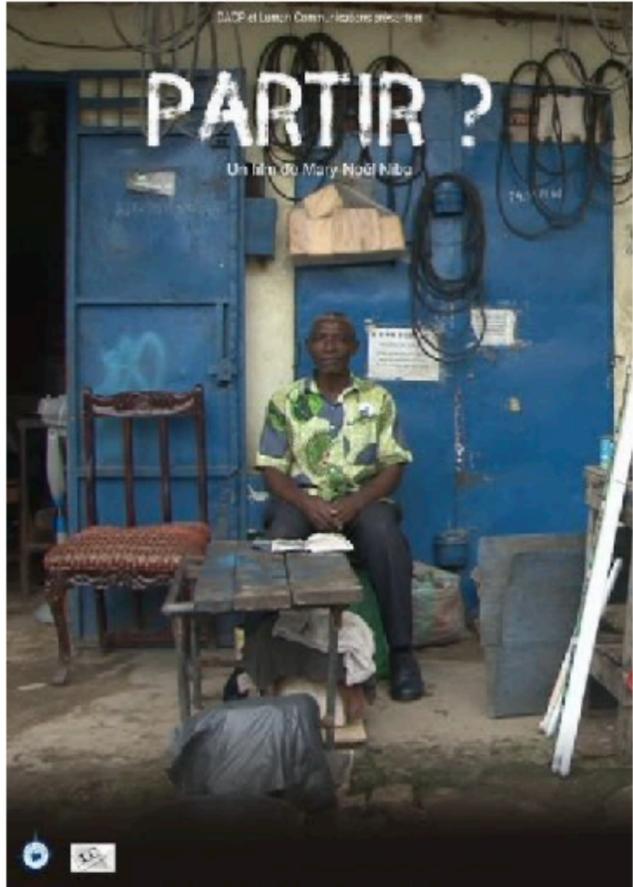
Language: Czech (English subtitles)

UK Premier

Sunday 8th May 7pm - Cinema

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Kryštof, barely an adult man, is admitted into a monastic community at the end of the 1940s. The brothers live in a monastic holding in Šumava near the German-Czech border. The monastery's original property has been seized. Kryštof is about to take his vows, having fled to the community not merely on the path leading to God but also from personal conflict with his father and political circumstances after the February coup. As one of the final links in a long chain, he smuggles runaways the communist regime through the German border. Upon returning at night from one of his missions, Kryštof witnesses a brutal police crackdown on a group of students. That same night, the monastic community where he lives is destroyed (Action K, April 1950). Kryštof powerlessly stands by as he observes the brother's violent transport. The place in which he lay his hopes and faith is gone. Towards morning, he finds the wounded student Cyril, a chance survivor of the brutal raid. He senses that his fate hangs on fleeing the border region, and Cyril is in dire need of medical attention. Kryštof seeks out his father, a dentist, who treats Cyril in his office but is too afraid to provide any more help. Their joint desperate escape presents a topography of 1950s Czechoslovakia, a crazed flight through a broken, "displaced" landscape and a futile search for the interned brothers. Cyril is arrested near the border and Kryštof is made into a helpless outcast. Despondent and almost by accident, he reaches a homestead at the outskirts of a Šumava village and is helped by Johana. Her family had rejected collectivisation – her father committed suicide, while her brother was sent to the mines. Johana quickly understands the situation and hides Kryštof in a barn. Both hope to withstand this short period, and whatever comes later, together. The moment they begin to sense intimacy, they witness their farmstead brutally seized. This is their last chance to cross the border as it closes in, occupied by the emboldened police and army.



PARTIR ? (doc 2019 1h20)

Director: Mary-Noël NIBA

Writer: Mary-Noël NIBA

Country: Cameroon

Language: Afrikaans, English, French (English subtitles)

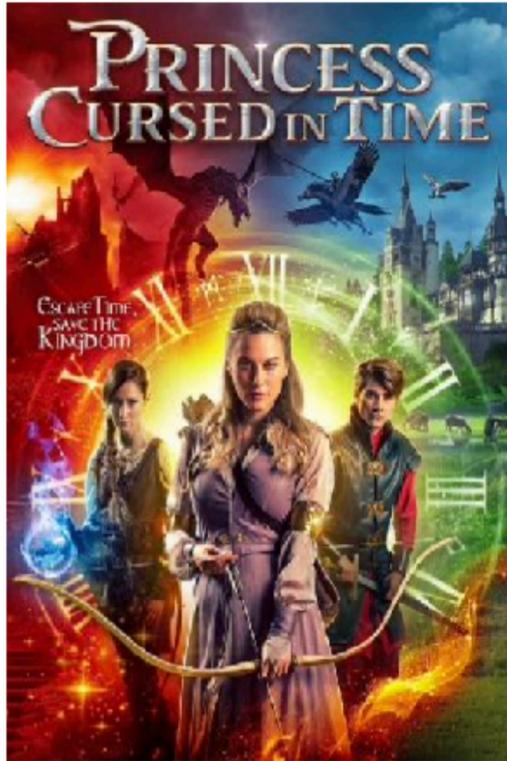
Those who have the courage to return are the heroes. Because sometimes the hardest thing is not the difficulty in the West, it is to face the eyes of those who are waiting for you there that is the hardest to overcome.

Sunday 8th May 6pm - Cinema

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Mary-Noël NIBA is the author of many documentaries among others: "Le dos de la veuve", "Yannick ou le Pied de l'Espoir", "Double H ou le Brouetteur d'Essos" as well as other films broadcast via radio, "l'Héritier de Mellan" and "Zéro Ballon", and a feature film « Claire ou l'enfant de l'amour ». Mary-Noël NIBA, of Cameroonian origin, was trained in Cinematography at ESRA in Paris, at the University of Valenciennes (she obtained a DEUG in Plastic Arts) and then at the University of Aix Marseille where she obtained a Maîtrise en Science et techniques des Métiers de l'Image et du Son. (MSc in science and techniques of Image and Sound). She began her career at CRTV (Cameroon Radio and Television broadcasting station), as a producer of information programmes (news broadcast) and information magazines such as "Thermomètre", "Recto Verso". Next, she creates and animates the programme "Le Français Tel Quel", a magazine on the specificities of French as spoken in Cameroon. This makes her popular throughout the country. Mary-Noël NIBA is later on appointed to high posts at the enterprise's management level; in turns she occupies the post of Deputy Director in charge of Production and then, the strategic post of Deputy Director in charge of Marketing and Advertisement. After being Consultant in charge of the "Maisons des Savoirs" project at the International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF), she is presently in charge of Public Relations at the Cameroon Embassy in Paris and at the same time a freelance film maker and Producer Delegate of Luman Communications, a production, film distribution and communication advisory company whose head office is in Yaounde, Cameroon.



Princess Cursed in Time (feature film 2020 1h50)

Director: Petr Kubík

Writer: Petr Kubík

Country: Czech Republic

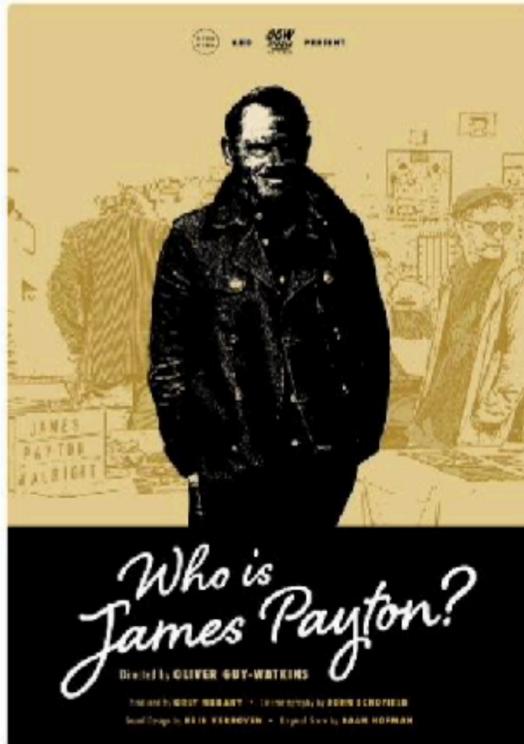
Language: English

Family film sponsored by Morrisons

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A princess with the magic to relive the same day over and over is the only hope to save her kingdom from the coming darkness. Her friends are willing to sacrifice everything but why should they be successful right now? Well, maybe destroying the witch is not the only way and the princess will have to sacrifice much more.

Saturday 7th May 4pm - Theatre



Who is James Payton (doc 2021 1h20)

Director: Oliver Guy-Watkins

Writer: Oliver Guy-Watkins

Country: United Kingdom

Language: English

From playing Frank Longbottom in Harry Potter to Adolf Hitler in Captain America, as well as standing in for Anthony Hopkins and Jude Law; James Payton has been part of the British Film Industry for the best part of 20 years. Yet he is still largely unknown. Director Oliver Guy-Watkins followed James for a year as he attended Comic Cons, taught wizardry skills to children and was cast as Tony Blair in the Nick Moran helmed film Creation Stories. This is a story of fandom, loneliness and perseverance, that plays with the boundaries of reality and fiction, but do we find out Who Is James Payton?

Sunday 8th May 7.30pm - Theatre

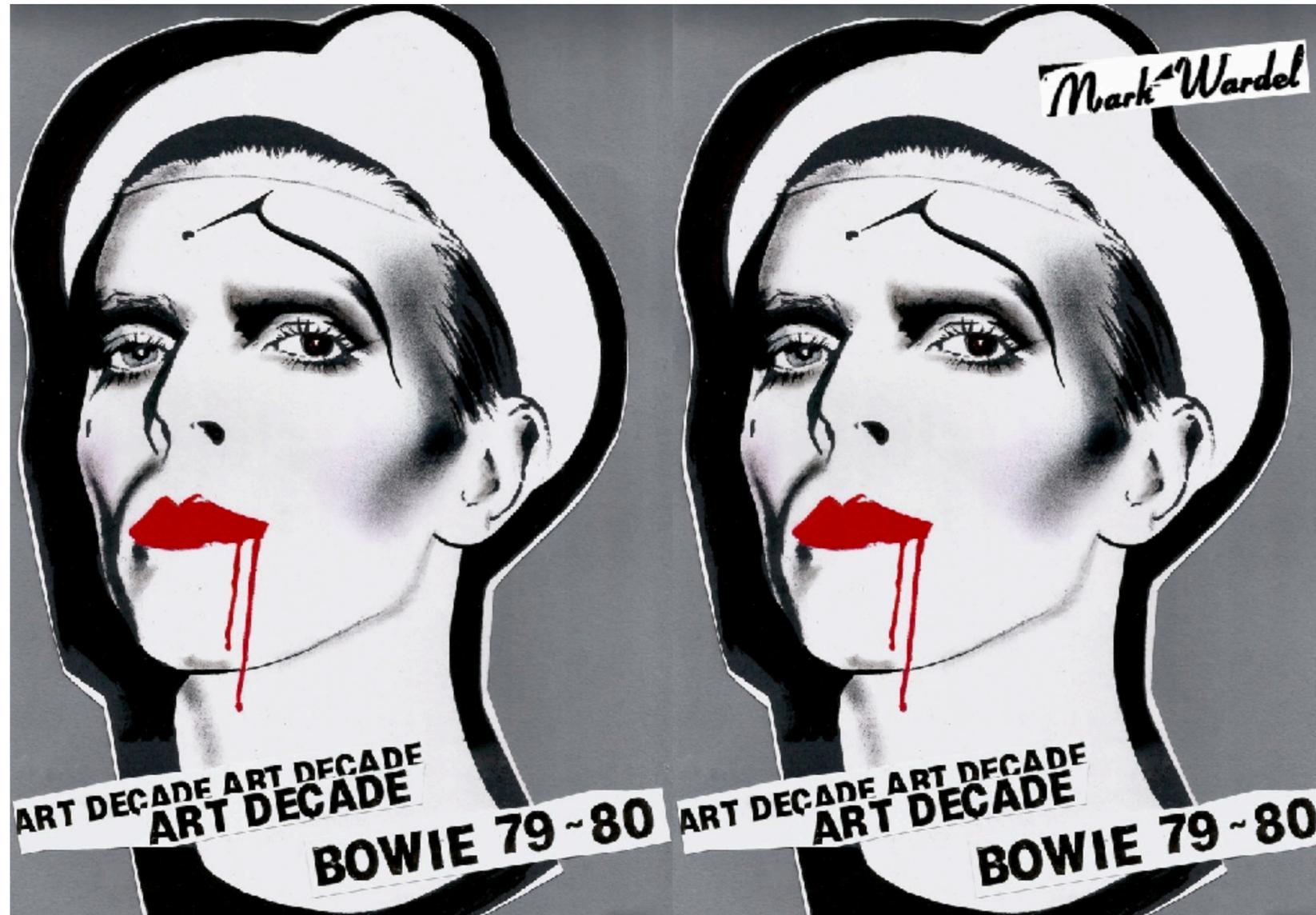
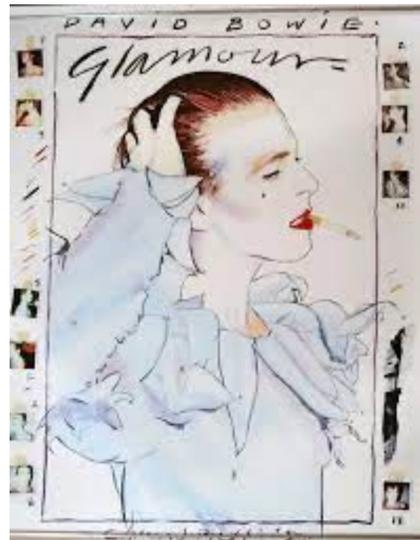


Special event
ART DECADE

Saturday 7th May 7.30pm

Saturday 7th May 7.30pm - Theatre

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An evening of 1979 - 1980 New York/David Bowie, hosted by London Artist and Bowie aficionado **Mark Wardel** which includes the **World Premier** of 'Edward...a work in progress 2022', Q&A with director **Marcus Thompson**, the full screening of Bowie's iconic **Saturday Night Live** performance, followed by an interview with **Joey Arias** live from New York... and much, much more.



Renowned artist and Bowie aficionado Mark Wardel has exhibited his work internationally in galleries and museums including London's V&A museum. He has become widely known for his David Bowie life mask artworks, several of which were bought by David Bowie/Isolar in 2014 for inclusion in the official David Bowie archive and his work has been included in several prestigious club, art and Bowie focussed books and magazines worldwide. Mark Wardel is currently working with US writer Susan Compo on a book about the classic Bowie documentary 'Cracked Actor' due for publication by Red Planet Books in early 2022



Edward Bell studied art at Brighton College of Art, graphic design at Chelsea School of Art and photography at the Royal College of Art. He worked as a freelance photographer and illustrator for Vogue, Tatler and Elle magazines. He was commissioned for portraits for album covers for **David Bowie** (Scary Monsters (And Super Creeps) and Tin Machine) and Hazel O'Connor (Sons and Lovers). He has exhibited widely on the London art scene and his work covers many genres from life paintings to bronzes, from pop art to landscapes Bell was also the subject of a film by the artist Marcus Thompson, titled Edward.



Marcus Thompson's film career is built on a solid foundation of drawing, painting and experimenting with magnetic tape, collage and any other medium he could find to express himself. Having made several experimental films during his time at art college in Bristol, he joined Granada Television as an assistant film editor in order to learn the craft of professional film post-production. After years as a picture and sound editor, Marcus has become an accomplished screenwriter, director and producer. His years of experience as a film editor proved to be an invaluable foundation on which to base his directorial career. He made a name for himself editing award winning SOUTH BANK SHOWS and several BBC classic documentaries including Michael Wood's IN SEARCH OF series. He began directing corporate films for French fashion house Marie Claire, Harrods and Honda, before a short period making music videos for bands such as Ocean Colour Scene, Jesus Jones, Runrig etc. He has produced and directed four feature films, MALEVOLENCE, MIDDLETON'S CHANGELING, the musical film noire THE BIGGEST THING THAT EVER HIT BROADWAY (In Competition Sitges 2018), and award winning, A PLACE TO STAY (GAIA Award at California's WCFF) the supernatural love story. Thompson's short film 'Wisteria Cottage' won Best Short Award 2021 Prague International Indie Film Festival. The short film 'Edward - Alive Again' is a work in progress.



Joey Arias is an American artist based in New York City, best known for work as a performance artist, cabaret singer, and drag artist, but also as a published author, comedian, stage persona and film actor. He also goes by the names Joseph Arias and Joe Arias.

Saturday 7th May 7.30pm - Theatre

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SHORT FILMS



David Bowie - Saturday Night Live (1979 11mins)

Updated by: Nacho

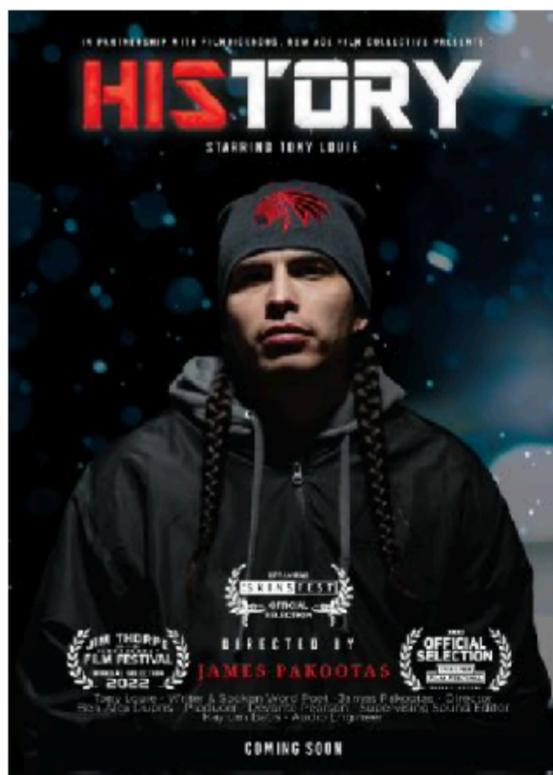
Country: USA

Language: English

It was on this day in 1979 when David Bowie waved goodbye to the 1970's with a memorable performance on **Saturday Night Live**. Bowie performed 'The Man Who Sold The World', 'TVC15' and 'Boys Keep Swinging' with Klaus Nomi, and Joey Arias. The show was hosted by actor Martin Sheen

Saturday 7th May 7.30pm - Theatre

Sunday 8th May 6pm - Theatre



HIStory (2022 5mins)

Director: James G. Pakootas

Writer: Tony Louie

Country: USA

Language: English

A captivating spoken word piece, poetically displaying the historical traumas of Indigenous Peoples through the lens of a Native American.

Sunday 8th May 6pm - Cinema

Mr Theatre Comes Home Different (2021 12mins)

Director: Adam Jackson-Smith, David Symmons

Writer: Will Eno

Country: United Kingdom

Language: English

A funny and moving glimpse behind the safety curtain. Witness the love scene, the storm scene, the inevitable death scene and remember, it's all only pretend. Pulitzer-nominated playwright, Will Eno's monologue Mr Theatre Comes Home Different has been adapted for the screen to celebrate all those who have been unable to work in the theatre industry due to the pandemic. Made in London, during lockdown in April 2021, with a cast of 12 actors and a small, dedicated crew, Mr Theatre Comes Home Different was conceived to raise money for the Theatre Artists Fund, supporting theatre freelancers in the UK. Now, as COVID-19 takes centre stage once again, we're releasing Mr Theatre to film festivals to continue generating support as an already fragile industry faces further disruption and potentially irreparable damage. Let's set the stage again. Together.

Sunday 8th May 7.30pm - Theatre

Just Be (2020 4mins)

Director: Susanna Kosa

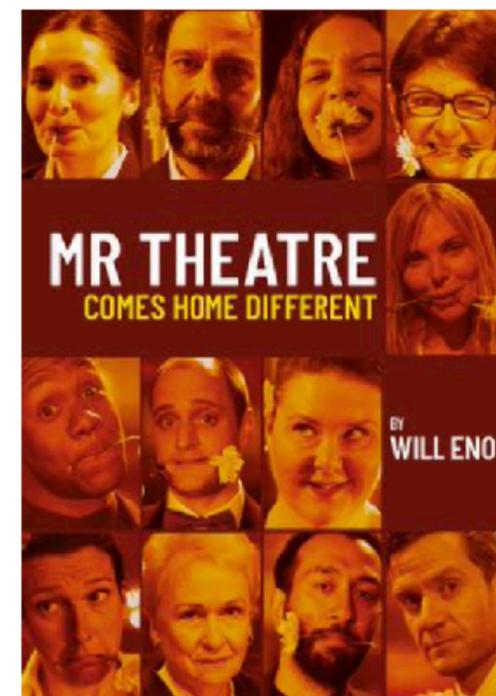
Writer: Susanna Kosa

Country: German

Language: English

"Just Be" is a short movie about the art of living wide rather than living long. Yes, it's two girls mountain biking, but the message is transferable to everyone, no matter which activity you choose outdoors.

Saturday 7th May 4pm - Theatre





Marie-Luise (2022 23mins)

Director: Hervine De Boodt

Writer: Marion H von Loewenstern

Country: German

Language: German (English subtitles)

Sunday 8th May 8.15pm - Theatre



A Final Elegant Gesture (2022 9mins)

Director: Thomas Pickarski

Writer: Thomas Pickarski

Country: USA

Language: English

A Final Elegant Gesture is a short film comprised of a personal essay narration paired with old B&W found film footage. The essay is set in New York City and draws from the storytellers' direct experience standing beneath the Twin Towers on the morning of 9/11, and the unusual and beautiful ramifications that ensued through recurring and evolving dreams over the months that followed.

Friday 6th May 7pm - Theatre

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PROGRAMME



Date	Time	Cinema	Theatre
Saturday 7th May	4pm		Princess Cursed in Time Just Be
	7.30pm		ART DECADE
Sunday 8th May	6pm		Partir ? HIStory
	7pm	Kryštof A Final Elegant Gesture Marie-Luise	
	8pm		Who is James Payton Mr Theatre Comes Home Different

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Friday 6th - Sunday 8th May 2022