

Press release press release.....

The Iris Prize opens for submissions confirming the importance of diversity in its 15th anniversary year!



- **£30,000 available to make a new short film**
- **Cardiff based film festival set to return in October 2021**
- **Opportunity to reach a UK wide audience through sponsorship with Film4 on All 4**

Submissions are now open for the **2021 Iris Prize LGBT+ Film Festival**. Celebrating its 15th edition, the Cardiff (UK) based festival, will take place in October 2021. The organisers are keen to continue to share LGBT+ stories from all over the world and closer to home, with the introduction of community and education awards at main festival.

The festival present 9 awards:

- **Iris Prize** – the largest LGBT+ short film prize in the world supported by The Michael Bishop Foundation
- **Iris Prize Best British Short** Supported by Film4
- **Iris Prize Best Feature** sponsored by Bad Wolf
- **Best Performance in a Female Role** sponsored by Diva Magazine
- **Best Performance in a Male Role** sponsored by Attitude Magazine
- **Youth Jury Award** sponsored by TBC
- **Community Award** - £250 to enable the winning community group to make more films

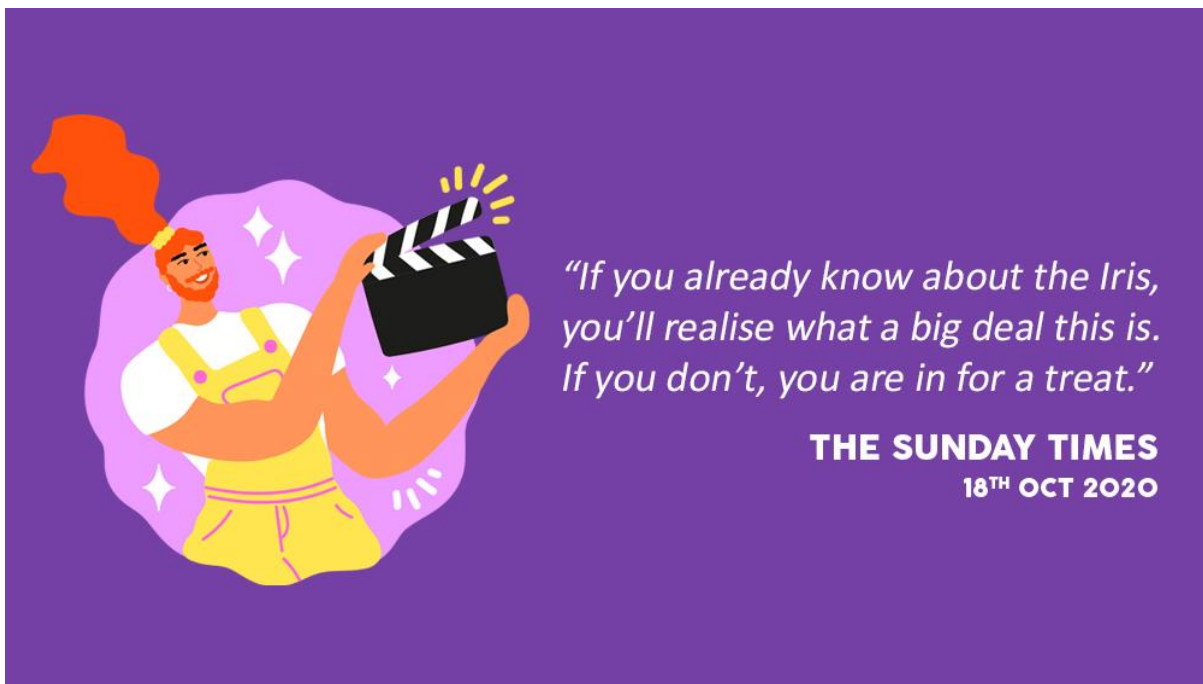
- **Education Award** - £250 to enable the winning education/youth group to make more films
- **Micro Short Award** - £100 to enable the filmmaker to make more films

Andrew Pierce, Festival Chair commented:

“Diversity has been at the heart of Iris from the beginning. Thanks primarily to the relationships we have with 30 partner festivals located in 20 countries we have always enjoyed seeing diversity represented on our screens.

Diversity across the board is taking a little longer. However, I’ve been encouraged by the improved gender balance and over the past three years we have seen women directors taking the main prize.

We have also seen a steady increase in the number of trans stories included in the festival programme. I’m hoping in 2021 and from this point in time we will also see an increase in films made by Trans filmmakers.”



Community and Education Awards

The 2021 festival will see the inclusion of the fourth Iris Community and Education Awards, and for the first time they will be presented during the main festival in Cardiff.

Berwyn Rowlands, Festival Director commented:

“We have a popular outreach programme at Iris working with community and education groups across Wales and the rest of the UK. Using film to further understanding and tolerance of LGBT+ issues we have been successful in introducing elements of the main festival into our outreach work. It was therefore only natural that we would bring the celebration of community and education awards into the main festival.

Who knows, the future community and education winner could be an Iris Prize winner of the future.”

“We can now look back at 2020 as the year Iris came of age – when she stood tall and stepped out into the world, stronger and more determined. We are going to build on the success of 2020, and over the next few months we are looking forward to sharing more exciting news about our work and how Iris is going to be continue to share LGBT+ stories to a growing audience.”

Details about submitting films can be found here: <http://filmfreeway.com/IrisPrizeFestival>

The main festival sponsors are: The Michael Bishop Foundation, Welsh Government, the BFI awarding funds from the National Lottery, Ffilm Cymru Wales, Film 4, University of South Wales, Co-op Respect, Bad Wolf, Gorilla Group, Peccadillo Pictures, Pinewood Studios, Attitude Magazine, Diva Magazine and The Ministry of Sound.

The festival also works in partnership with BAFTA Cymru, Pride Cymru and Stonewall Cymru.

Ends.

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Notes to Editors:

The Iris Prize – the largest LGBT+ short film prize in the world is supported by The Michael Bishop Foundation. £30,000 is available to the winner to make a new LGBT+ themed film in the UK. In 2020, for the 5th time, Iris was identified as one of the “top 50 film festivals worth the entry fee” by Movie Maker Magazine. In 2017 the festival was promoted by BAFTA to A-list festival status, alongside Cannes and Sundance, by officially being recognised as a qualifying festival for the BAFTA awards.

Iris Prize

The largest LGBT+ short film prize in the world with £30,000 to make your next LGBT+ short here in the UK and an invitation to sit on the 2022 International Jury.

Iris Prize Best British Short supported by Film4

A package of production services sponsored by Pinewood Studios and an invitation to sit on the 2022 Best British Jury. All films in the Best British 2020 shortlist will be broadcast on Film4 and streamed on their online streaming service, All 4. A licence fee will be paid to all shortlisted Best British filmmakers.

Iris Prize past winners: Dee Rees (US) – 2007, Till Kleinert (Germany) – 2008, Eldar Rapaport (Israel/US) – 2009, Magnus Mork (Norway) – 2010, Daniel Ribeiro (Brazil) – 2011, Grant Scicluna (Australia) – 2012, Tim Marshall (Australia) – 2013, Brendan McDonall (Australia) – 2014, Arkasha Stevenson – 2015 (US), Toby Fell-Holden – 2016 (UK), Mikael Bundsen – 2017

(Sweden), Lara Zeidan (Lebanon) 2018, Sarah Smith (US) 2019 and Victoria Warmerdam (Netherlands) 2020.

Iris Prize Best British past winners: 2007 – Abbe Robinson (Private Life); 2008 – Connor Clements (James); 2009 – Aleem Khan (Diana); 2010 – Ana Moreno (Mosa); 2011 – Andrew Steggall (The Red Bike); 2012 – Fabio Youniss (A Stable for Disabled Horses); 2013 – Jay Bedwani (My Mother); 2014 – Charlie Francis (Middle Man); 2015 – Lloyd Eyre-Morgan (Closets); 2016 – Toby Fell-Holden (Balcony); 2017 – Dionne Edwards (We Love Moses); 2018 – Claire Lawrie (BEYOND (There’s Always a Black Issue, Dear)); 2019 – Alfie Dale (My Brother is a Mermaid); 2020 – Michael J Ferns (Better).

Iris Prize Best Feature, past winners:

2008 – Dream Boy (USA) directed by James Bolton
2009 – Redwoods (USA) directed by David Lewis
2010 – My Friend from Faro (Germany) by Nana Neul
2011 – August (USA) by Eldar Rapaport
2012 – Sex of Angels (Spain) by Xavier Vilaverde
2013 – Cupcakes (Israel) by Eytan Fox
2014 – Boy Meets Girl (USA) by Eric Schaeffer
2015 – Fourth Man Out (USA) by Andrew Nackman
2016 – Real Boy (USA) by Shaleece Haas
2017 – Prom King, 2010 (USA) by Christopher Schaap
2018 – 1985 (USA) by Yen Tan
2019 – And Then We Danced (Sweden/Georgia/France) by Levan Akin
2020 – Cocoon (Germany) by Leonie Krippendorff



IRIS PRIZE LGBT+ FILM FESTIVAL

CARDIFF | OCTOBER | HYDREF 2021 | CAERDYDD

