

26 OCT / 3 NOV
**BIRMINGHAM INDIAN
FILMFESTIVAL**



2023



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We are delighted to present our new programme launching in October for the first time, with a spectacular showcase of Indian and South Asian premieres, classic movies, and even our first web series preview.

Kicking this all off in Birmingham, is the European premiere of the fast-paced, whodunnit espionage drama *Berlin*, starring Aparshakti Khurana, Kabir Bedi, and many other much-loved faces. Our closing night film will be the Anurag Kashyap's serial killer thriller, *Kennedy*, which received a standing ovation at Cannes, and is part of our new action strand, *Death By Any Means*. If you're a fan of Bengali cinema, don't miss the highly-anticipated biopic, *Padatik*, celebrating seminal Bengali director Mrinal Sen, lovingly directed by Srijit Mukherji - I dare you not to well up watching this one!

See Oscar winner S.S. Rajamouli's (*RRR*) early film *Eega*, (*The Fly*) - a brilliantly creepy reincarnation vengeance flick and horror fans won't want to miss the classic Indian zombie action comedy *Go Goa Gone* both showing on UK screen for the first time.

This year, the 'Extra-Ordinary Lives' strand has a range of premieres from the stunning noir film *Privacy*, which tells the story of a big city surveillance cop who goes off the rails (Rajshri Deshpande), to the moving character drama, *Joram*, about a father on the run, starring LIFF alums Manoj Bajpayee and Tannishtha Chatterjee.

Our Young Rebels strand is back, with the wildly camp South African road trip movie *Runs In The Family* - think *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, with television

star Ace Bhatti. The British Bangladeshi rite-of-passage tale, *A House Named Shahana*, follows a fierce and forthright divorcee in rural Bangladesh, who defies social stigma to live life on her own terms. For emerging filmmakers and Q&As, check out our groundbreaking Brit-Asian Shorts and Satyajit Ray Short Film Competition.

For the tech aficionados, we have VR debates in Birmingham celebrating British Asian XR Storytellers plus an exciting immersive exhibition; Sahjan Kooner: dankEconogy1_ ALIENVillage. If you love gaming, jump on a train to experience the festival's exciting new Indian computer gaming premieres at FORMAT festival in Manchester and you can check out our new content on BFI Player

To make cinema more accessible to audiences who are deaf and hearing-impaired, the festival will be offering an increased number of screenings with BSL-interpreted Q&As. We are delighted to welcome back our Major Funders Bagri Foundation and BFI Audience Projects Fund, Film Hub Midlands, FilmHub North, Birmingham City University, Manchester Metropolitan University, and many others.

Cary Rajinder Sawhney MBE
Director

FUNDERS



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PARTNER VENUES



Patrons: Shehkar Kapur, Tony Matharu, Lord David Puttnam, Adoor Gopalakrishnan.
Festival Brand Ambassadors: Antonio Aakeel, Sunny & Shay Grewal

Thank you to all our valuable friends, supporters and volunteers and of course, you our audience.

OPENING GALA / EUROPEAN PREMIERE

BERLIN

26 Oct | 19:00 | MAC



Probably the most cleverly-constructed Indian film of 2023, Writer-Director Atul Sabharwal's compelling spy thriller is set in the Delhi of the early 90s, where Indian government security factions compete for supremacy ahead of the Russian President's visit. Sign language teacher Pushkin Verma, played by Aparshakti Khurana (Jubilee) is lured into the dark world of espionage. He finds himself forced to interrogate - in sign language - a deaf man, Ashok Kumar, who's been accused of spying, played by Ishwak Singh (Rocket Boys) who's been accused of spying. However, as the seemingly innocent Ashok gradually exposes that he has been a witness to information dealing and murders that could bring down the heads of security forces, Pushkin's life is very quickly turned upside down, and he becomes a pawn in the game of violent secrets that emerge.

Hindi with English Subtitles
India 2022 | 124 mins



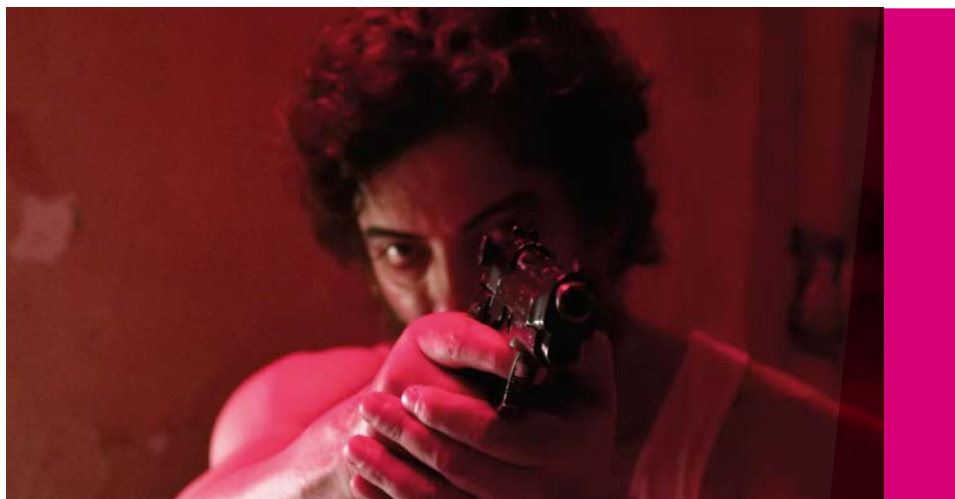
Dir: Atul Sabharwal
With: Aparshakti Khurana, Ishwak Singh, Rahul Bose, Anupriya Goenka

Special guest Q&A expected

CLOSING GALA / UK PREMIERE

KENNEDY

3 Nov | 20:00 | Cineworld



The Tarantino of India, Anurag Kashyap, is back with one of his hardest hitting movies since Gangs of Wasseypur. Kennedy opened in Cannes earlier this year, to a standing ovation. It tells the grisly tale of a cop, played by Rahul Bhat, who goes too far and has to go into hiding. Presumed dead, he is kept on the police payroll as a hitman, employed to execute criminals. After losing his police job and his family, Kennedy becomes unhinged and takes a sadistic delight in dispatching his targets, but as non-criminals also soon become his victims, the police realise they have a homicidal maniac on their hands. Expect stunning performances from Rahul Bhat and Sunny Leone, playing a gangster's moll.

Hindi with English subtitles
India 2023 | 142 Mins

Director: Anurag Kashyap
With: Rahul Bhat, Jeniffer Piccinato, Sunny Leone, Abhilash Thapliyal



Q&A with director Anurag Kashyap



Creative postgraduate degrees

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From one of the UK's longest-running writing schools through to a new School of Digital Arts (SODA), Manchester Met is home to an extensive range of creative postgraduate degrees.

Our courses are taught by staff who are at the forefront of their discipline and as a modern university we ranked second in the UK for research power in art and design (REF 2021).

Find out more about our practice-based creative courses at our postgraduate open day on Wednesday 15 November 2:00pm – 6:00pm.

Book now



SERIES SPECIAL PRESENTATION / UK PREMIERE

THE PINK SHIRT

29 Oct | 14.30 | Mockingbird



In a special presentation, the Manchester Indian Film Festival is bringing the first three episodes of Zee Zindagi Original drama *The Pink Shirt* to the big screen. Realising that their relationship is no longer working, Sophia (Sajal Aly) and Sameer decide it is best to part ways. Sophia tries to keep busy by running a daily series of errands in order to forget the haunting memories of her ex. On one of these errands she bumps into Umer (Wahaj Ali), a handsome young businessman, and sparks fly. As Sophia struggles to cope with the fallout from her broken relationship, she begins to wonder if the best way to move on is to jump straight into a new romance.

Episode 1 - She Arrives with a Suitcase

Episode 2 - Knocked Out

Episode 3 - You too, brutus!

Urdu with English subtitles.
India, Pakistan 2023. 98 mins.



Dir: Kashif Nisar
With: Sajal Aly, Wahaj Ali

Q&A expected

EUROPEAN PREMIERE

PADATIK

2 Nov | 20:00 | Cineworld



Director Srijit Mukherji returns to the festival with this biopic of one of India's greatest directors, Mrinal Sen, which is guaranteed to leave no dry eyes in the house. We follow him from his early days around the time of India's independence, where he was a struggling political idealist with an all-consuming hunger for cinema but unable to feed himself or his young wife, to 1950s Calcutta, where (alongside Satyajit Ray) he helped start the Indian New Wave cinema movement. Mukherji deftly delves into the heart and spirit of a cinematic genius, with glimpses of Sen's iconic films like *Bhuvan Shome* - which propelled him to international fame while his own family were left to suffer. Lovingly crafted, with brilliant performances from an ensemble cast, this film is a delightful and fitting tribute to Sen on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Bengali with English subtitles
India 2023 | 125 Mins



Dir: Srijit Mukherji
With: Akshay Kapoor, Chanchal Chowdhury, Korak Samanta, Monami Ghosh

BSL Q&A with Srijit Mukherji

YOUNG REBELS

Younger people often challenge and change the world with fresh ideas and open hearts. We present a clutch of new films that depict young South Asians, some are joyous while others present youth facing and overcoming real-life challenges in South Asia today.

European Premiere

RUNS IN THE FAMILY

29 Oct | 19:00 | The Light Cinema



Varun (Ace Bhatti) and his transgender son River (Gabe Gabriel) must take a road trip from Durban to Eswatini to rescue River's estranged mother in this heartwarming exploration of identity and family. Truly capturing the forgotten side of South Africa's natural beauty, this film is complete with laugh-out-loud comedy, heartfelt dialogue and extravagant drag performances. A daring and sweet film that will make you chuckle



English
South Africa 2023 | 107 mins

Director: Ian Gabriel
With: Ace Bhatti, Gabe Gabriel, Kathleen Stephens, Paul Snodgrass

Q&A with actor Ace Bhatti

European Premiere

BARIR NAAM SHAHANA (A HOUSE NAMED SHAHANA)

1 Nov | 19:30 | MAC



Based on real events, Leesa Gazi's debut feature is an empowering tale of a young woman battling the odds to live life as she wishes. Raised by a weak and ineffectual father and stepmother, Dipa is essentially under the control of her uncle. Having committed a teenage indiscretion, she is forced to marry a widower in England. After suffering abuse and not being able to settle down, Dipa runs away and returns to Bangladesh. Seven years later, she has become a forthright and independent young woman living life on her own terms.

Bengali with English subtitles
Bangladesh, UK, India 2023 | 137 Mins

Director: Leesa Gazi
With: Aanon Siddiqua, Lutfur Rahman George, Iresh Zaker, Kazi Ruma

Q&A with director Leesa Gazi

KANDUKONDAIN KANDUKONDAIN (I HAVE FOUND IT)

2 Nov | 14:00 | MAC



Adapted from Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, Rajiv Menon's hit film tells of two sisters with very different personalities, who are both looking for love. Bollywood superstar Aishwarya Rai Bachchan plays extrovert Meenakshi, alongside her more self-controlled sister Sowmya (Tabu). The siblings are to the manor born and in demand by many suitors, but as financial disaster hits their family, the women's lovers show their true colours. With fabulous songs by A. R. Rahman and cinemascope song sequences filmed everywhere from Egypt to the Scottish Highlands, this well-told, classic commercial movie has it all.

Tamil with English subtitles
USA 2000 | 158 mins

Director: Rajiv Menon
With: Mamooty, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Tabu, Ajith

HONOURING BIRMINGHAM'S BRITISH ASIAN XR STORYTELLERS: BFI/BIFF & BHXR EVENT

3 Nov | 17:30 - 19:15
STEAMhouse, Belmont Works,
Cardigan St, Birmingham B4 7RQ

WELCOME & KICKOFF

17:30 - 18:15

MEET THE CREATIVES & DIVE INTO THEIR WORK

18:15 - 18:45

ENGAGE IN A DYNAMIC PANEL DISCUSSION

18:45 - 19:15

NETWORK AND IMMERSE IN VR EXPERIENCES (REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED)

Discover the world of grassroots immersive film, Virtual and Extended Reality, and gaming as we present a panel of British Asian creatives based in Birmingham. Taran 3D and Harmeet Chagger-Khan will share excerpts of their exciting work and discuss the challenges and opportunities of telling stories using technology that has people and culture at its heart.

Join the conversation, immerse yourselves in their worlds, and don't miss the chance to try out virtual reality experiences. Light refreshments will be provided. This is a unique opportunity you won't want to miss!



FOLLOW US ONLINE



WELOVEBIFF

DEATH BY ANY MEANS

The festival's newest strand celebrates the wildest and weirdest vengeance thrillers, gore-fests, and even glorious dark comedy. It's the perfect complement to Halloween, and if you want to get in the spirit, there'll be prizes for the Best Fancy Dress at each screening!

GO GOA GONE

* HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

31 Oct | 19:30 | MAC



Come and celebrate Halloween with LIFF, and catch our special 10th anniversary screening of India's first zombie-comedy horror, *Go Goa Gone*. A group of friends looking to get high take a road trip to Goa, desperate to attend a party being thrown by the Russian Mafia. Getting there is easy enough, but getting off the island turns into a hilariously horrifying experience as a new drug turns partygoers into bloodthirsty zombies. Propelled by endlessly quotable one-liners, an infectious soundtrack - and an unforgettable cameo by Saif Ali Khan as a blond-haired, vodka-swigging Russian gangster - *Go Goa Gone* is a trippy, fun-fuelled ride that can sit alongside classics like *Shaun of the Dead*.

Hindi, English with English subtitles
India 2013 | 108 Mins

Director: Krishna D.K & Raj Nidimoru
With: Vir Das, Kunal Khemu, Saif Ali Khan,
Anand Tiwari

EEGA (THE FLY)

27 Oct | 19:50 | The Light Cinema



A staple of Indian cinema, the classic reincarnation story gets a refreshing, comical, and weirdly romantic twist in S.S. Rajamouli's (*RRR*, *Baahubali: The Beginning*, and *Baahubali: The Conclusion*) action film *Eega*. Nani, a warm-hearted, charming young man, loves Bindu, but their romance is short-lived as Nani is killed by the jealous Sudeep, who also lusts after Bindu. Nani is reincarnated as a housefly, however, and he teams up with Bindu to make Sudeep's life a living hell and seek revenge for his death. Incredible action sequences coupled with imaginative storytelling and brilliant performances are bound to leave audiences whooping and cheering in delight. If you want to bring your friends to see their first Indian movie this is it!

Telugu, Tamil with English subtitles
India 2012 | 145 Mins

Director: S.S. Rajamouli
With: Sudeep, Nani, Samantha Ruth Prabhu

EXTRA-ORDINARY LIVES

A showcase of films that offer glimpses of every-day people's lives from the subcontinent and Asian diaspora. These are sometimes challenging, sometimes feelgood, even comic - but always compelling.

English Premiere

JORAM

28 Oct | 13:30 | Mockingbird



Following a violent incident, Dasru (Manoj Bajpayee) and his wife escape rural Jharkhand to struggle in the big city. When they are recognised by Phulo Karma, a visiting tribal leader from their past, Dasru is forced to go on the run with his three-month-old baby, Joram, before deciding he must eventually return to his village to bargain for their lives with Phulo Karma. Cradling his baby in a makeshift sling and trying to avoid the police, Dasru makes it back to Jharkhand, where he is confronted by a reality that could lead to a brutal endgame. Powered by a spine chilling performance from Simta Tambe as the ice-blooded Phulo Karma, Joram is a heart-thumping survival thriller with a hard political edge.

Hindi with English subtitles
India 2023 | 138 Mins

Director: Devashish Makhija
With: Manoj Bajpayee, Smita Tambe, Mohd. Zeeshan Ayyub, Tannishtha Chatterjee

European Premiere

PRIVACY

30 Oct | 19:00 | Mockingbird



Sudeep Kanwal's debut feature is a fascinating neo-noir social thriller that asks the question, how much access to someone's private life is okay? Roopali (Rajshri Deshpande from Netflix's Trial by Fire), is an ambitious police officer confined to monitoring CCTV footage of the bustling streets of Mumbai. After a burglary takes place on her watch, Roopali becomes troubled and ignores protocol to investigate the incident. As she delves deeper into the investigation, her obsession with the CCTV surveillance grows, leading Roopali down a dark path from which she may not be able to return.

Hindi with English subtitles
India 2022 | 85 Mins

Director: Sudeep Kanwal
With: Rajshri Deshpande, Nishank Verma, Sandesh Kulkarni

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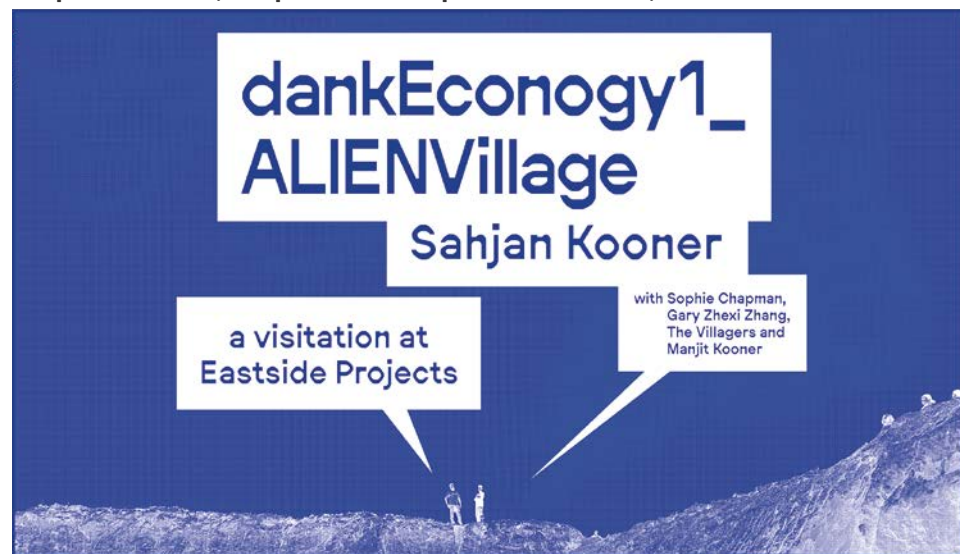
SAHJAN KOONER: DANKCONOGY1_ALIENVILLAGE

Eastside Projects, 86 Heath Mill Lane, Birmingham, B9 4A

Incidental Artist, Sahjan Kooner, welcomes you to a multi-stranded project – exhibition, video, games, sculpture, sound – exploring themes of the village and all they encompass. The village was born in North India, it was later reborn as a vessel. It will visit many sites in the future. It is composed of stories, migrants, materials, houses, biologies, technologies, mycologies, and futures, but most of all it's the inhabitants who contaminate and make the village.

This place will move across time and space. It will have visitations on Earth. The sites of the visits will be evolving and sprawling transformations of architectures, educations, performances, smells, technologies and world making exercises.

12-5pm Weds - Sat, and performance 7pm Fri 3 November, until 16 December 2023



7 October – 16 December 2023



NEW BRIT-ASIAN SHORTS

1 Nov | 17:00 | MAC

Support your local filmmaker! This is your chance to see the work of exciting and diverse emerging filmmakers from across the UK.

From award-winning dramas to insightful documentaries, we're showcasing a rarely-presented slice of life of Asian Britain today. Expect a discussion with young filmmakers on stage.



FOG

A nuanced portrayal of a mother-daughter relationship exploring the obligations and family ties of being a Sikh woman in contemporary British society.

English, Punjabi with English subtitles
Director: Malinda Kaur | 10 mins

BONA VACANTIA

Property protection officer Nadia Basheer explores the empty homes of those who die alone, while battling her own severe death paranoia.

Director: Shezah Salam | 18 mins

QUEEN OF DIAMONDS

As they sit on Greenwich Hill, Paula and Ali discuss their relationship for the last time.

Dir: Shehroze Khan | 14 mins

I CARRY IT WITH ME EVERYWHERE

This ever-relevant short looks at the lives of two migrants living in London, as well as the issues faced by all people of colour in this city.

Dir: Arwa Aburawa & Turab Shah | 19 mins

ALL THE LIGHTS STILL BURNING

A violinist and drug dealer reconnect after years apart, and begin to see their relationship in a new light in this queer romance set in Bradford.

Dir: Dominic Leclerc | 15 mins

NOW AND THEN

While moving house, Aisha becomes obsessed with old VHS tapes hiding secrets from her husband's romantic past.

Dir: Harris Alvi | 16 mins

VENUE BOOKS & DETAILS

Please book all tickets directly with venues.
See Bookings contacts.

MAC

Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham B12 9QH

BOOKINGS:

www.macbirmingham.co.uk

MOCKINGBIRD

The Custard Factory, Gibb St, Deritend,
Birmingham B9 4AA

BOOKINGS:

www.mockingbirdcinema.com

THE LIGHT CINEMA

62 Wolverhampton St,
Walsall WS2 8DD

BOOKINGS:

www.walsall.thelight.co.uk

STEAMHOUSE

Belmont Row,
Birmingham B4 7RQ

BOOKINGS:

www.steamhouse.org.uk

EASTSIDE PROJECTS

86 Heath Mill Ln, Deritend,
Birmingham B9 4AR

BOOKINGS:

www.eastsideprojects.org

For questions regarding accessibility,
please contact us at
info@birminghamindianfilmfestival.co.uk

For ticket information and cinema ticket links,
updated information, additions to the programme
and changes, please check out the website
www.birminghamindianfilmfestival.co.uk

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Thu 26 Oct

Opening Night
BERLIN

19:00 | MAC

**SAHJAN KOONER:
ANKECONOGY1_
ALIENVILLAGE**

UNTIL 16TH DEC | EASTSIDE PROJECT

Fri 27 Oct

EEGA (THE FLY)

19:50 | LIGHT CINEMA

Sat 28 Oct

JORAM

13:30 | MOCKINGBIRD

Sun 29 Oct

THE PINK SHIRT

14.30 | MOCKINGBIRD

RUNS IN THE FAMILY

19:00 | THE LIGHT CINEMA

Mon 30 Oct

PRIVACY

19:00 | MOCKINGBIRD

Tue 31 Oct

GO GOA GONE

19:30 | MAC

Wed 1 Nov

**NEW BRIT -
ASIAN SHORTS**

17:00 | MAC

GO GOA GONE

19:30 | CULTPLEX

**A HOUSE CALLED
SHAHAN**

19:30 | MAC

Thur 2 Nov

**KANDUKONDAIN
KANDUKONDAIN**

(I FOUND IT NOW)

14:00 | MAC

PADATIK

20:00 | CINEWORLD

Fri 3 Nov

**Honouring Birmingham's
British Asian XR Storytellers:**

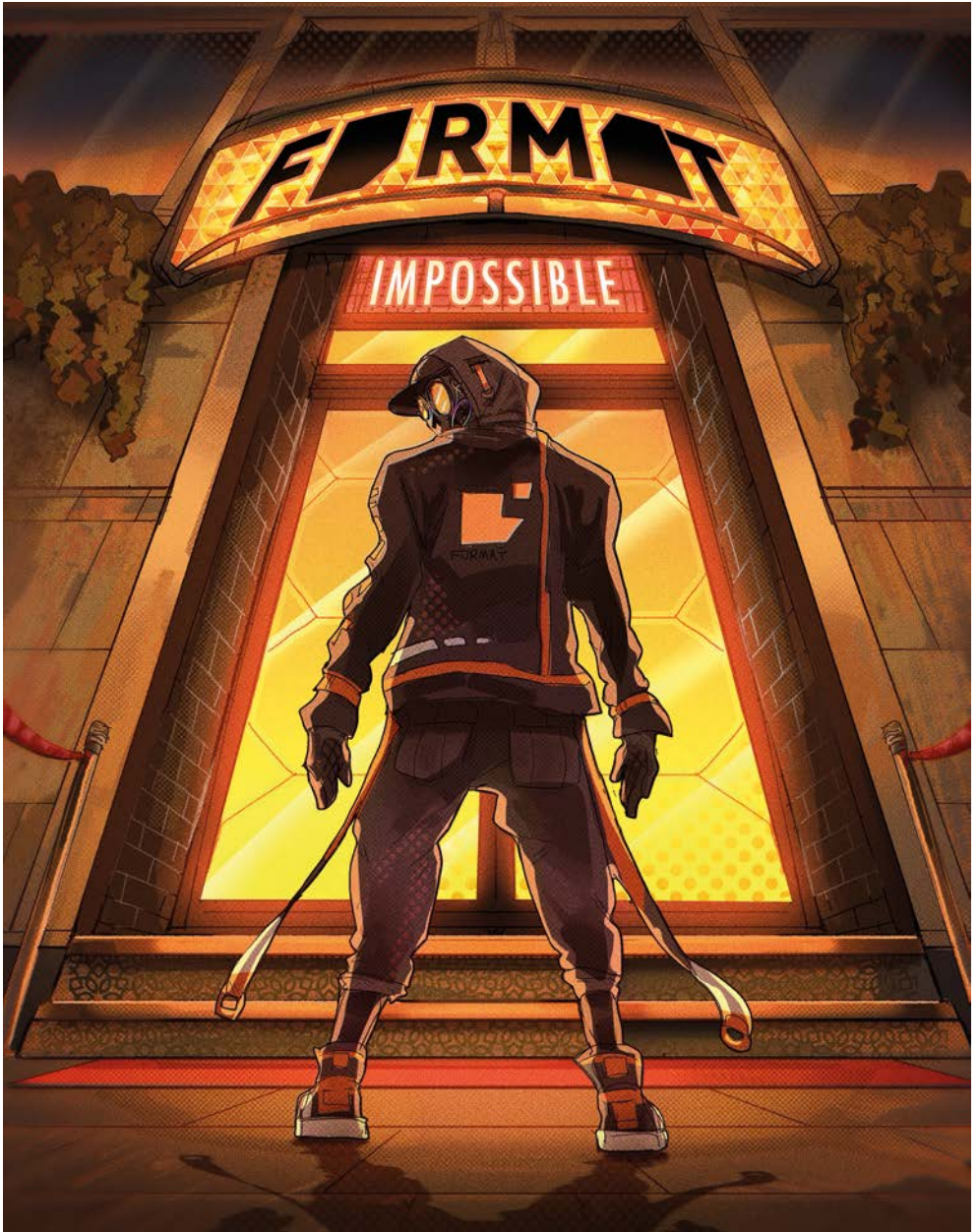
17:30 | BCU STEAMHOUSE

**Closing Night
KENNEDY**

(I FOUND IT NOW)

20:00 | CINEWORLD

Please note that films start at the listed time,
as there are no advertisements before them.



THE UK'S BIGGEST GAMING NIGHTLIFE EVENT

OCTOBER 26TH

6PM - LATE

IMPOSSIBLE MCR - 36 PETER ST, MANCHESTER M2 5QR