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THE PENISTONE FILM FESTIVAL

2026 EDITION

16TH – 18TH OCTOBER

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

VENUES | PENISTONE PARAMOUNT CINEMA & ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH



WELCOME

Now in our second year, we are delighted to welcome you to Penistone Film Festival 2026, our three-day celebration of the world of film hosted in our wonderful historic venues. This programme is the guide to your weekend: what is happening, where to find it, and when to be there.

Our cinema screenings will be held at the Penistone Paramount, and across the road Saturday's free fringe event and Sunday's awards gala and closing party are being hosted at St John the Baptist Church. Whether you have come to experience a cult classic, silent masterpiece, new short film, a conversation or the music – thank you for being a part of our festival.

Congratulations to all of our selected filmmakers and finalists this weekend. We have an incredible range of independent short films to showcase from both local and international filmmakers. Some are their first films; others have years of experience. Give their work your attention, tell them what stayed with you, and help it reach beyond this weekend by leaving a thoughtful review.

We hope you enjoy your time with us and get ready to dive into the truly wonderful world of film!

JENNIFER BULCOCK, MICHAEL MCKENZIE AND LAURA STEVENS | **FESTIVAL DIRECTORS**



Hayley Everitt offering popcorn, with Tommy in the background, performing with Fools Talk Theatre at Penistone Film Festival 2025.

Gary Sidebottom, Design by Gary

USING THIS PROGRAMME

The cinema times shown are the start of each complete session, not the start of every individual film. Each Saturday cinema block brings together classics and contemporary films. Films from different award categories appear together; a screening block is not an award category. Please follow the host's announcements for the running order and intervals.

The church fringe runs alongside the cinema programme. Choose the talks and screenings you most want to see, and allow time to return for your next cinema block.

Programme and appearances are subject to change. Follow venue announcements and ask the festival team for the latest information.

THE WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

DAY / TIME	WHAT IS HAPPENING	WHERE
Friday 16th October		
19:00	Nandor Fodor and the Talking Mongoose + exclusive recorded Q&A with Adam Sigal	Paramount
Saturday 17th October		
09:30	Early doors for VIP Saturday Day and VIP Weekend guests; collect VIP bags and wristbands at the door	Paramount
10:00	BLOCK 1 · The Cabinet of Dr Caligari + contemporary films. Immersive welcome and introductions. The Cabinet of Dr Caligari begins no later than 10:20.	Paramount
10:00–16:00	Free Festival Fringe · heritage, talks, displays, art stalls and refreshments	St John's Church
10:00–15:30	Staffed Retro Photo Booth · included with Saturday VIP passes, or £5 for a photobooth day wristband	St John's Church
13:30	BLOCK 2 · Harold Lloyd + Silent Curiosities (sensory-friendly)	Paramount
16:30	BLOCK 3 · From Vaudeville to Avant Garde	Paramount
19:00	BLOCK 4 · Battling Butler + action, sport and comedy shorts	Paramount
Sunday 18th October		
10:00	Gala doors open · Penistone Folk Ensemble, guest conversations and awards throughout the day	St John's Church
Around midday	First course served · further courses between the day's events	St John's Church
17:00	Gala Awards conclude	St John's Church
17:00–18:00	Interval and room changeover. Guests staying for Reductio are welcome to remain; the paid bar stays open.	St John's Church
18:00–20:00	Reductio: closing aftershow party with live pipe organ performance.	St John's Church



Rowan and Will, our Little Tramp and Keystone Cop immersive performers, at Penistone Film Festival 2025.

Gary Sidebottom, Design by Gary

FINDING YOUR WAY

PENISTONE PARAMOUNT

Friday's opening-night film and all four Saturday cinema blocks take place here. Saturday early doors are at 09:30 for VIP Saturday Day and VIP Weekend pass holders. Collect your VIP bag and wristband at the door and keep your ticket ready for check-in.

Individual screening tickets admit you to the event you have booked. Please follow the front-of-house team's directions when one block ends and the next audience arrives. A photobooth wristband is not a cinema ticket.

Step-free access is available via Vicarage Walk with an accessible toilet with adaptions (right transfer) available on the ground floor in the left rear of the auditorium. Baby changing facilities are also available in the accessible toilet. If you require any assistance please speak to a member of the Paramount staff or a festival volunteer. Limited accessible parking is available to the rear of the building.

CHECKING IN

For Saturday cinema passes, check in at the Paramount and collect your applicable wristband and VIP bag. For Sunday-only Gala or Reductio tickets, check in at St John the Baptist Church. Please have your booking confirmation ready and keep your festival wristband visible.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Directly across Shrewsbury Road from the Paramount, St. John the Baptist Church hosts Saturday's free fringe event and Sunday's Gala and Reductio closing party. Step-free access to the church is possible from the Market Place and there is a ramp available through the main south-side church doors (the main entrance). There is one accessible toilet within the church.

During the Gala Awards Day, there is one accessible toilet inside the church, with additional outdoor toilets available. Where suitable for you, please use the outdoor toilets to help keep the indoor facility available for those who need it. Not all disabilities or access needs are visible. Please be considerate and ask a volunteer if you need directions or assistance.

Saturday fringe: 10:00–16:00. Sunday Gala: doors at 10:00, with celebrations through the day. Reductio: 18:00–20:00.

YOUR PASS AND WRISTBAND

Please keep your festival wristband visible. On Saturday, photobooth use is included with VIP Saturday Day and VIP Weekend passes. Other visitors can buy a £5 photobooth day wristband for unlimited visits during the booth's operating hours. A photobooth wristband does not include cinema or Gala admission.

Sunday Gala and VIP Weekend admission includes Reductio. Standalone Reductio admission is for the closing aftershow party, not the daytime Gala or its meal. Sunday's self-service photobooth is included for Sunday Gala and VIP Weekend guests. Reductio ticket holders are also welcome to use it during the evening event at no extra charge.

ACCESS, COMFORT AND HELP

The 13:30 Harold Lloyd session is sensory-friendly: house lights remain partially raised, sound levels are adjusted and you are welcome to move around when needed. These are changes to the screening environment, not a guarantee that every film is suitable for every age or sensitivity.

For access assistance, information about BSL interpretation, carer admission, a place to take a break, or help finding your next event, speak to a festival volunteer. Please check the session's content information before watching. Our teams can also direct you to entrances and toilets.

SATURDAY VIP BENEFITS

Saturday VIP Day and VIP Weekend benefits include 09:30 early entry, a wristband and goody bag, a reserved headrest cover, reusable festival cup, cream soda, printed programme, mini Henderson's Relish, Penistone honey and photobooth use during its operating hours.

FULL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER
19:00 • PENISTONE PARAMOUNT
NANDOR FODOR AND THE TALKING MONGOOSE

Opening-night screening + exclusive recorded Q&A with writer-director Adam Sigal

Set in 1935 and filmed in Yorkshire, this curious story follows paranormal investigator Dr. Nandor Fodor as he looks into a family's extraordinary claim: that a talking animal is living with them. Starring Simon Pegg, Minnie Driver and Christopher Lloyd.

The screening is accompanied by an exclusive recorded Q&A with writer-director Adam Sigal – a chance to look behind the scenes with the film's creative team. Adam also judges this year's Best Picture award. And then an educational recorded insight into film score music creation from the film's composer, Bill Prokopow. Interview with Adam Sigal: produced, filmed and edited by Tom Bowen.

Saturday's cinema sessions are guided by Mrs Fanny Barker, our immersive compère.
Please help us celebrate the filmmakers with a wave and applause when they are introduced. Filmmakers may stand or acknowledge the audience from their seat. There are no individual filmmaker speeches between Saturday's films; Sunday's Gala includes scheduled conversations with attending finalist filmmakers and opportunities to meet and chat.



SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER • BLOCK 1
10:00 • PENISTONE PARAMOUNT
THE CABINET OF DR CALIGARI
LIVE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY ANDY QUIN

A mysterious doctor brings a sleepwalker to a travelling fair. When murders disturb the town, suspicion falls on the strange pair. This session also includes contemporary films that explore inner lives, perception and the expressive possibilities of the screen.

This is one cinema session, bringing together The Cabinet of Dr Caligari, the contemporary films listed below and filmmaker introductions. Please follow the host's announcements for the running order and interval.

FILMS IN THIS BLOCK	CREDIT	LENGTH (M:SS)
Tele'vision'	Joshua Savage	5:30
Sonatax	Miguel Anjos; Tiago Morais	9:58
Noise 307	Hossein Bahari	8:00
Malorum (mute)	Arthur Ericsson	4:59
Where Time Lingers	Owen Joiner-Hopkinson	11:46
Acerola	Sofia Mendes Lara	8:31
Everyday Life (Nichijō)	Mcowen Fran	9:53
The Crossing	Christian Azzola	4:01

A film from the holdings of the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau-Stiftung (www.murnau-stiftung.de) in Wiesbaden.

> **After the screening:** Log, rate and review the films on our Letterboxd Official Selections list. Find Penistone Film Festival on Letterboxd or use the details in this programme's review section.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER • BLOCK 2
13:30 • PENISTONE PARAMOUNT • SENSORY-FRIENDLY
HAROLD LLOYD + SILENT CURIOSITIES
HIGH AND DIZZY (1920) • NEVER WEAKEN (1921)

Harold Lloyd's physical comedy leads into a showcase of new filmmakers, including PQA work, student films and Minecraft storytelling. Watch how filmmakers use movement, image, sound and imagination to make their mark.

Following introductions from Fanny, the Harold Lloyd classics and contemporary films play as one continuous programme. Attending filmmakers will be acknowledged before playback. This is a relaxed session, and you are welcome to step out and return when needed.

FILMS IN THIS BLOCK	CREDIT	LENGTH (M:SS)
The Human Pyramid	Jon Parkin	1:02
The Witch	Kim Di	0:35
The Case	Ethan Hall	2:15
Attack of The Beast	Ethan Hall	3:16
Home from Home	Ethan Hall	2:38
Second Nature	Phoebe Meikle	3:42
Starlet Go!	Coco Butters	6:18
Buster Keaton in Minecraft	Nipin Dim	1:00
"Tolkat" (Push)	Hector Javier Delgado III	2:20
Eu Sou (I am)	Ana Margold	3:07
On time	Jouni Hynynen	3:15
Palace	Jacob Forman; Joseph Hurt	12:42
Thought Loop	Django Finn Osborne	3:00
STANDBY	Shruthi Trichy Lakshmanan	3:23
Whistle	Varun Gangalam	4:57

Student Film judge: Ruby Barker. Wizard Keen Minecraft Challenge judge: Adam Clarke (Wizard Keen).

About this relaxed screening: House lights are partially raised, sound levels are adjusted, and you are welcome to move around when needed. The classics include danger at height, drunkenness and comic treatment of suicide attempts. A relaxed screening environment does not mean that every film is suitable for every age or sensitivity. Ask the team about the contemporary films' content before watching.

The staffed church photobooth closes at 15:30. Visit before this session if you want to watch the whole cinema block.

> **After the screening:** Log, rate and review the films on our Letterboxd Official Selections list. Find Penistone Film Festival on Letterboxd or use the details in this programme's review section.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER • BLOCK 3
16:30 • PENISTONE PARAMOUNT
FROM VAUDEVILLE TO AVANT GARDE
PUTTING PANTS ON PHILIP (1927) • THE LUCKY DOG (1921) • FILM (1965)

From Laurel and Hardy's comic world to Samuel Beckett's Film, starring Buster Keaton, this session follows cinema towards stranger territory. The contemporary selection continues through cinema heritage and work led by image, sound and musical invention.

This session brings together the three classic films and the contemporary selection below, with filmmaker introductions. Please follow the host's announcements for the running order.

FILMS IN THIS BLOCK	CREDIT	LENGTH (M:SS)
Charlot s'en va en guerre	Anthony Champeil	2:58
Finding Louis Le Prince	James Tolcher	9:28
Spheres	Martin Gerigk	5:52
Yoiaanisqatsi: A Pittsburgh Tone Poem	Willard Simmons	17:38
Sour Grapes	Lorena Santana; Evan Hunt	6:19

Music, Sound and Composition judge: Andy Quin. Films considered for this award appear in more than one screening block.

Film (1965): courtesy of BFI Distribution.



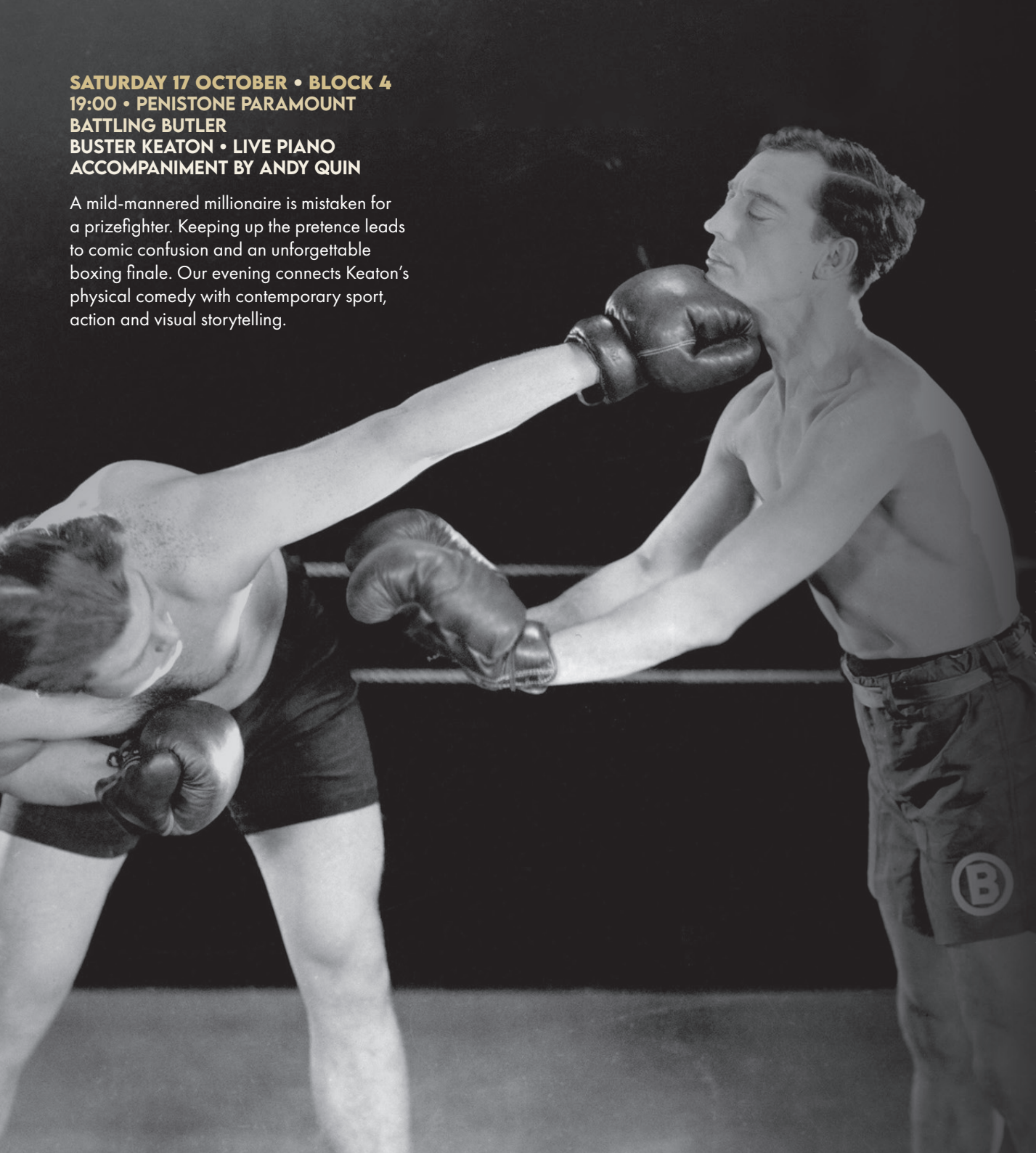
Before the evening screening

The next cinema block begins at 19:00. Please allow time for the audience changeover and follow the front-of-house team's directions. Saturday's church fringe will already have closed.

> **After the screening:** Log, rate and review the films on our Letterboxd Official Selections list. Find Penistone Film Festival on Letterboxd or use the details in this programme's review section.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER • BLOCK 4
19:00 • PENISTONE PARAMOUNT
BATTLING BUTLER
BUSTER KEATON • LIVE PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY ANDY QUIN

A mild-mannered millionaire is mistaken for a prizefighter. Keeping up the pretence leads to comic confusion and an unforgettable boxing finale. Our evening connects Keaton's physical comedy with contemporary sport, action and visual storytelling.



19:00 is the start of the whole cinema event. Battling Butler is part of this session alongside the contemporary films listed below. Please follow the host's announcements for the running order and interval.

FILMS IN THIS BLOCK	CREDIT	LENGTH (M:SS)
Day of the Catch	Jared Engel	16:33
Art Defenders We Do Not Forget (2026) – Short Mobile Silent Film	Akiko Matsumoto	5:40
A week away	John Clarke	7:30
Dobrina	Hannes Rall	5:00
CONCRETE ANKLES	Osho Dhudwar	1:57
Big Trouble in Little Italy	Ben Wallwork	2:26
Beyond Reality	Tony Christian	10:55
The Action House Promo	Tony Christian	4:09
Zantrox and Stockbroker	Ben Slotover	4:50
Ticket, Please	Rod Lara	3:22
Piping Hot Throughout	Richard Jackson; Liam Taylor	5:25
The Weird Guy	Sandy Honig	8:43

The Buster Award judge: David Arquette, on behalf of the International Buster Keaton Society. Sporting Stories judge: Tony Currie. Art in Action judges: British Stunt Register.

An International Buster Keaton Society recorded introduction to Battling Butler is also being shown during Saturday's free church fringe. Ask the team at the church for screening times before joining us for the evening cinema event.

Following the selected films, film editor and University of Bristol PhD researcher Polly Rose (@keatonscuttingroom) introduces Battling Butler in a recorded contribution. Her research explores Buster Keaton's filmmaking process, with a particular focus on editing. After the interval, Keaton's feature closes the evening with live piano accompaniment by Andy Quin. Her profile-research link can be found at https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/en/persons/polly-rose/

After the screening: Log, rate and review the films on our Letterboxd Official Selections list. Find Penistone Film Festival on Letterboxd or use the details in this programme's review section.

SATURDAY'S FREE FESTIVAL FRINGE

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER
10:00–16:00
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
FREE ENTRY

Come in for a talk, browse the displays, meet people working in film, or stop for refreshments between screenings. You do not need a cinema ticket to visit the fringe. Immersive actors will add to the atmosphere around the venue.

TALKS & FILMS

CONTRIBUTOR	TALK OR FILM
Noor Hashmi – Historian and Presenter	Penistone history and heritage
Rowan Athale	A filmmaking conversation with the Barnsley director of Giant
International Buster Keaton Society	A recorded introduction to Battling Butler, ahead of the 19:00 cinema event



For talk and film times, please check the information at the church or ask the festival team. The filmmaking conversation is not a screening of Giant. The IBKS film introduces Battling Butler ahead of the cinema event beginning at 19:00.

AROUND THE CHURCH
PENISTONE ARCHIVE • NOOR HASHMI – HISTORIAN AND PRESENTER • MARTYN HOLGATE – COHORT ARMOURY • SHEFFIELD HOME OF FOOTBALL • LAIKIN' TO LIVELIHOODS • ART STALLS • IMMERSIVE ACTORS

Delve into a display from Sheffield Home of Football, local history including from Noor Hashmi – Historian and Presenter, and beautiful creative work including that of Helen Frances. You can also explore prop firearms and production photographs with film armourer Martyn Holgate at his drop-in display, and discover more about the professional work behind screen action through informal, drop-in conversations.

You can also pick up a free DIY filmmaking kit created by LJayBee Illustrations and take your film idea home. Ask the festival team for the collection point.

FOOD AND DRINK
The church team is selling refreshments to raise money for the church. Purchases support our hosts and are separate from festival admission.

BLISS BOOTH: YOUR FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPH
Staffed Retro Booth · Saturday 10:00–15:30

Self-service Photomatic · Sunday during the Gala and aftershow party

Saturday photobooth use is included with VIP Saturday Day and VIP Weekend passes. Other visitors can buy a £5 photobooth day wristband for unlimited visits during Saturday's booth operating hours. Ask the festival team to purchase one.

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD AWARDS GALA
DOORS 10:00
CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY
REDUCTIO 18:00–20:00

Today we celebrate the films and the people behind them. Penistone Folk Ensemble provides live music through the day, alongside guest and filmmaker conversations, our awards presentations and a three-course meal from Shoot the Bull.

TIME	YOUR DAY
10:00	Doors open, arrivals and live music from Penistone Folk Ensemble
During the morning	Welcome, guest and filmmaker conversations, and awards
Around midday	First course served
Throughout the afternoon	Further courses served between talks, music and awards; attending finalist filmmakers are invited to the front
17:00	Gala Awards conclude
17:00–18:00	Interval and room changeover. Guests staying for Reductio are welcome to remain; the paid bar stays open.
18:00–20:00	Reductio: closing aftershow party with live pipe organ performance.

Please follow the host's announcements as meal service and presentations alternate. Your meal follows the choice made when booking. The Gala menu is gluten free; speak to the catering team about any other allergies or dietary requirements.

Sunday Gala and VIP Weekend guests receive a complimentary alcohol-free sparkling welcome drink in a reusable plastic glass to keep. Complimentary table bottles are available while the supplied stock lasts; further drinks are payable separately at the licensed bar provided by Shoot the Bull. Free tap drinking water will be available throughout the event. You are welcome to head home after the Gala or stay for Reductio. The bar will remain open during the changeover; please follow the team's directions while tables and equipment are rearranged.

The self-service Bliss Booth Photomatic is available during Sunday's celebrations. Ask the team about daytime access. Guests attending Reductio are welcome to use it during the aftershow party.



REDUCTIO: THE FESTIVAL FINALE
18:00–20:00 • ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Reductio (Matt Walters) brings the church organ together with modern dance music for our final celebration of the weekend. Stay for the aftershow party, enjoy the atmosphere and help us send the festival off in style.

Entry is included with Sunday Gala and VIP Weekend passes. Standalone Reductio tickets admit you to the aftershow party, not the daytime Gala or its meal. Drinks from the licensed bar are payable separately.



Ruth Sharman from the International Buster Keaton Society with Jennifer Bulcock as Mrs Fanny Barker at Penistone Film Festival 2025.
Gary Sidebottom, Design by Gary

MEET THE JUDGES

Our judging panel brings together experience in directing, acting, music, sport, stunts and digital storytelling. Films competing for these awards appear across the programme, and winners are announced during Sunday's Gala.



Adam Sigal
Best Picture

Writer-director of Friday's opening-night film, Nandor Fodor and the Talking Mongoose. His exclusive recorded Q&A accompanies the screening. Adam brings a director's perspective to this year's Best Picture judging.



David Arquette
The Buster Award

Actor and filmmaker David Arquette judges The Buster Award on behalf of the International Buster Keaton Society, recognising work that carries forward the spirit of physical comedy, visual invention and screen performance.



Ruby Barker
Student Film

Known to audiences from Bridgerton, Ruby Barker judges the Student Film award, celebrating emerging filmmakers and the possibilities of visual storytelling. Student work appears alongside the wider programme of contemporary films.



Andy Quin
Music, Sound and Composition

Composer, pianist and organist Andy Quin has written extensively for film and television. Alongside judging this category, he brings live piano accompaniment to The Cabinet of Dr Caligari and Battling Butler.



Tony Currie
Sporting Stories

Former England international and Sheffield United favourite Tony Currie judges Sporting Stories, our celebration of the connection between art and sport. The category brings sporting experience and the power of film together.



British Stunt Register
Art in Action

British Stunt Register coordinators and performers create action for film and television. Its professionals judge our physical-action category and have helped participants explore screen-action filmmaking through the Action to Screen project.



Adam Clarke — Wizard Keen
Wizard Keen Minecraft Challenge

Digital artist and storyteller Adam Clarke is known as Wizard Keen in Wonder Quest. His work uses Minecraft for creativity, learning and imaginative world-building. He judges films made through the storytelling possibilities of the game.

Judging contributions include recorded and in-person involvement. A judging credit does not guarantee attendance. Please follow the festival team's announcements for guest appearances.



INTRODUCING MRS FANNY BARKER

BACK TO THE PICTURES

Sheffield roots. Penistone stories. A slight disturbance in the space-time continuum.

Meet Penistone Film Festival's time-travelling Mistress of Ceremonies, played by Jennifer in tribute to her maternal great-great-grandmother, Fanny Barker.

Fanny's partner David worked at the Sheffield United Gas Light Company. Their son Frank married Theresa Cleary; Frank and Theresa's daughter Irene, became Jennifer's much-loved Nannan.

Irene remembered childhood visits to Abbeydale Picture House, including seeing The Wizard of Oz when it first came out. Her husband Alfred sang in army concerts. His father was a silversmith and musician who worked at Wilson Peck, demonstrating pianos and organs and playing in Sheffield's picture houses accompanying silent films, often paid in ale, according to family recollections.

Those memories of cinema, music and ordinary people finding a little magic in everyday life helped inspire the festival.

FIND A FILM

All 40 films below are included in Saturday's cinema programme at the Paramount. The block start time is the start of the whole cinema event, not necessarily the start of that individual film. The classic screenings are also described on their session pages.

FILM	BLOCK / START	FILM	BLOCK / START
A week away	4 · 19:00	Second Nature	2 · 13:30
Acerola	1 · 10:00	Sonatax	1 · 10:00
Art Defenders We Do Not Forget (2026) – Short Mobile Silent Film	4 · 19:00	Sour Grapes	3 · 16:30
Attack of The Beast	2 · 13:30	Spheres	3 · 16:30
Beyond Reality	4 · 19:00	STANDBY	2 · 13:30
Big Trouble in Little Italy	4 · 19:00	Starlet Go!	2 · 13:30
Buster Keaton in Minecraft	2 · 13:30	Tele'vision'	1 · 10:00
Charlot s'en va en guerre	3 · 16:30	The Action House Promo	4 · 19:00
CONCRETE ANKLES	4 · 19:00	The Case	2 · 13:30
Day of the Catch	4 · 19:00	The Crossing	1 · 10:00
Dobrina	4 · 19:00	The Human Pyramid	2 · 13:30
Eu Sou (I am)	2 · 13:30	The Weird Guy	4 · 19:00
Everyday Life (Nichijō)	1 · 10:00	The Witch	2 · 13:30
Finding Louis Le Prince	3 · 16:30	Thought Loop	2 · 13:30
Home from Home	2 · 13:30	Ticket, Please	4 · 19:00
Malorum (mute)	1 · 10:00	"Tolkat" (Push)	2 · 13:30
Noise 307	1 · 10:00	Where Time Lingers	1 · 10:00
On time	2 · 13:30	Whistle	2 · 13:30
Palace	2 · 13:30	Yoiaanisqatsi: A Pittsburgh Tone Poem	3 · 16:30
Piping Hot Throughout	4 · 19:00	Zantrox and Stockbroker	4 · 19:00

WATCHED IT? TELL THE FILMMAKER.

LOG IT. RATE IT. LEAVE A REVIEW.

Your reaction does not have to end with the applause. Our Official Selections list brings the festival films together on Letterboxd, so you can record what you watched and share what you thought.

FIND OUR OFFICIAL SELECTIONS ON LETTERBOXD

Find Penistone Film Festival on Letterboxd and open "Penistone Film Festival 2026: Official Selections". Choose the film you have just seen and sign in or create an account. Open the film's logging or review option, record your viewing date, add a rating and a review, then save it.

Review the film itself, rather than leaving your review as a comment on the festival list. Marking a film "watched" records that you have seen it; logging it also records when you saw it.

A FEW THOUGHTFUL SENTENCES CAN MATTER

What caught your attention? A performance, a shot, a sound, a moment that made you laugh, or a story told without a word? You do not have to be a critic to say what you noticed.

Our programme includes early experiments as well as more experienced filmmaking. A film made with a phone and a few friends deserves a real audience too. Honest, constructive responses can encourage its makers and help another viewer decide to watch it.

Please only review films you have watched. Avoid spoilers, or use a spoiler warning. Public ratings and reviews are separate from the festival's jury awards.

Phones away while the films are playing. Log and review between screenings or afterwards.



FOR FILMMAKERS: KEEP YOUR FILM'S INFORMATION TOGETHER

Our selections are also listed on TMDb. To improve your poster, synopsis or credits, edit the existing TMDb entry rather than creating a duplicate. TMDb changes can take time to appear on Letterboxd. Contact the festival team if you need help finding your film's existing listing.

Letterboxd: letterboxd.com/peni_film_fest

Look for the list "Penistone Film Festival 2026: Official Selections".

FILMS, IDEAS & PEOPLE TO REMEMBER

A SCENE THAT STAYED WITH ME • A QUESTION TO ASK • AN IDEA FOR MY NEXT FILM.

PEOPLE I MET AT PENISTONE

FILMMAKERS, PERFORMERS, NEW FRIENDS AND FAMILIAR FACES.

Autographs are at each guest's discretion.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS

As a volunteer-run, not-for-profit Community Interest Company, we are so grateful for the support we have received from our volunteers, local community, charities, businesses, organisations, performers, judges and filmmakers to enable us to bring this festival to life. A huge thank you to you all!



Gary Sidebottom, Design by Gary

SPECIAL THANKS...

With special thanks to St John the Baptist Church, Friends of St John's Church, Linda and John Lister, Ruth Pearson, Richard Galliford, Kevin Neill, and all the very many church volunteers who have helped make the weekend possible. We also extend special thanks to Polly Rose, film editor and PhD researcher at the University of Bristol (@keatonscuttingroom), for her recorded introduction to Battling Butler, her profile-research link can be found at https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/en/persons/polly-rose/

We would also like to thank Penistone Archive group, their many volunteers and members, including Marlene; Laikin' to Livelihoods; Sheffield Home of Football, including John Clark; Penistone Paramount and its team, Brian, Emily, Neil; Penistone Town Council; Penistone Round Table; Quest Taekwondo; British Stunt Register; International Buster Keaton Society; Penistone Theatre Group; RS Building; Rolley Ltd; Penistone Honey; Jimmy Daley, Melany Hill and Colin Pons; Rob Speranza – South Yorkshire Filmmakers Network; Jon Gilbert; Fools Talk Theatre; and PQA Barnsley and its students for supporting Penistone Film Festival for the second year running.

We are pleased to welcome the Mayor of Barnsley, Cllr Liam Hardcastle, to the opening section of Sunday's Gala, in his civic capacity.

We also offer heartfelt thanks to our volunteer hospitality, access, technical, publicity, setup and logistics teams, and everyone who has given their time to bring the festival to life.

CONTRIBUTION	CREDIT
Festival directors	Jennifer Bulcock, Michael McKenzie and Laura Stevens
Saturday compère	Jennifer Bulcock as Mrs Fanny Barker — Mistress of Ceremonies
Festival visual identity and artwork	Hugh Mann Adamson / ENON films
Programme design	www.rolley.io – A specialist web development studio
Fringe and Gala technical management	Jeremy Power
Finishing Artist	Heinz Schmidt / FilmColorGrade
Website design	Ben Bulcock / Studiobws web-design
Social media	Online management: Jennier Bulcock With Social Media Editing support from: Hannah O'Brian — @keatonkeatonkeaton
Recorded Adam Sigal interview	Tom Bowen
Banner production/printing	Andy / Simply Signs, Penistone
Live piano accompaniment	Andy Quin, in addition to his judge profile
Sunday live music	Penistone Folk Ensemble
Closing performance	Reductio — Matt Walters
Illustration and DIY filmmaking kit	Lucy / LJayBee Illustrations
Venue/access maps pop up theatre	Helen Frances
Immersive performance actors	William Bill Robins, Rowan Naylor Mayors, Matthew Hartley, Jennifer Bulcock
Unicycle guest	William Turton — @william_unicycle
Photobooths	Bliss Booth
Gala catering and licensed bar	Shoot the Bull
Heather Tudor	BSL/English Interpreter, NRCPD Registered
Penistone Film Festival volunteer production team	Caitlin Jones, Saffy Wilson, Matthew Hartley, David Hartley, Tom Bowen, Izzie Simpson

All details correct at the time of printing and we have done our absolute best to thank everyone who has supported us and contributed to our festival. Information and scheduling can be subject to change – please speak to a festival volunteer if you have any queries.

THE FESTIVAL ENDS.
THE FILMS KEEP GOING.

LOG WHAT YOU WATCHED. LEAVE A THOUGHTFUL REVIEW.
HELP THE NEXT VIEWER FIND IT.



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