**Press Release**

**Comedy as therapy, cocktails and chemistry, the One Bum Cinema club and a beach party: Flatpack Festival’s programme dishes up a series of unexpected experiences**

Tickets are now on sale for Flatpack Festival which promises audiences a menu of delights from well-respected artists, filmmakers and musicians over six days this May. The much loved BAFTA-qualifying short film programme returns with 40 films from 17 countries along with extraordinary live audiovisual performances.

****

Based in Digbeth, Flatpack Festival is known for its eclectic and surprising programming of live performances alongside archive shorts and feature films. This year's highlights will not disappoint audiences wishing to escape:

**>**The festival’s new **comedy** strand features:

An evening with Instagram comedian **Alistair Green** with a Q&A session. Birmingham cult artist **Tat Vision** unveils his brand new interactive show ***Tattered Earth***combining film and a rave with the audience.

BBC broadcaster and musician **Neil Brand** will present his new show about *Laurel & Hardy*, accompanying a series of their silent short films. Find your 'Happy Place' in the cinema for one person at a time with **One Bum Cinema Club** which offers a hit of comic adrenaline showing comedy shorts on loop. Comedian Luisa Omielan will be introducing the classic comedy film Sister Act II: Back in the Habit.

A cocktail sommelier has created a cocktail menu to match with Billy Wilder’s classic film for an extravagant **Some Like It Hot with cocktails** night**.**

**Sam Groves, Flatpack programmer said:** "This year's festival line-up is as eclectic as ever, celebrating the breadth of film and the moving image right across the spectrum. I love the idea you could turn up to the festival and see some Laurel & Hardy with live piano accompaniment, followed by some brilliant new shorts, drop-in to a 16mm AV performance, head to a punk puppet show, watch a new sci-fi feature and end up at a beach party! Coming to a festival should be a ride where you get your mind blown and your perceptions changed, and I hope that's what'll happen for audiences this year."

**>**Flatpack Festival **special events** include:

**Joe Lycett's Curiosities** **with Shaun Keaveny**. Joe and Shaun chat about Joe's forays into filmmaking while showing his short films and talking about what inspired him.

**Comedian Joe Lycett said:** "I am thrilled to be appearing at this year’s Flatpack Festival. It’s the perfect place to debut the short I made last year in Birmingham, plus I get to chat about my favourite inspirations with my friend, the legendary Shaun Keaveny. I can’t promise that my inspirational clips won’t just be loads of old episodes of Loose Women."

**The ICHI Anime Show** sees Japanese one-man-band ICHI perform brand new scores to a series of seminal Japanese anime shorts from the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

Belgium band **Frankie’s *Laguna Beach*** is an interaction between live music and mechanically powered installations that create a scene where shrill guitars, noise, screeching, worn-out puppets, fishing line and wood play the leading parts. Ranging from utter failure to tropical idyll, the cheerful naivety of *Laguna Beach* is always disarming. Following on from Frankie's *Laguna Beach* performances, the festival's Saturday night knees-up takes the form of a **beach party**.

Flatpack hosts the world premiere of their commissioned score by instrumental ‘dream-pop-post-folk-neo-everything' band **Haiku Salut**and jazz pianist **Meg Morley**. They will be performing to Billy Wilder's penned silent classic *People on Sunday* (1930).

**>**The festival’s **live audiovisual performances** include:

A brand new collaboration supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry, where the festival brings together visual artist Laura Spark, Dr Zoe Schnepp, a chemist from the University of Birmingham, and musician Jon Hering. Together they will create a live audiovisual interactive experience piece **The Art of the Matter** using live chemical reactions.

**Tadej Droljc** is a Slovenian interdisciplinary artist and creative coder. He will perform his unique electronic music, and computer-generated audiovisual composition works: **‘Capillaries Capillaries’ and ‘Singing Sand’.**

Netherlands-based visual artist **Lichun Tseng** teams up with sound artist **Robert Kroos** for a unique AV performance **Ebb & Flow.** Using five 16mm projectors with layering, constructing, and deconstructing visual and auditory textures they strive for a sense transcending experience where the spectator is no longer consciously watching nor listening.

**abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz** is an audiovisual voice performance from Austrian artist Jörg Piringer. Image and sound are created in real-time through custom written software that analyses and captures the sound of his voice to create animated abstract visual text and sound compositions.

**>**Flatpack Festival **Shorts showcases:**

**Overlap** is an animation shorts show and tell social night which highlights the very best in Midlands' made animation.

For dance and film fans there will be an afternoon of **Screendance** shorts, including the competition programme in partnership with Birmingham International Dance Festival.

The **BFI Network Screening** showcases the best emerging filmmakers from the region who have all found support from BFI Network. This event will involve a screening of a number of shorts with intros by all the filmmakers themselves.

Designed for those with complex disabilities, **touch screen** makes short films more accessible by augmenting them and turning them into interactive sensory installations.

The festival wraps up with an **Awards Ceremony** with eight awards including an Audience Award. **The Short Film competition** shows more than 40 films from all around the world with the usual dose of absurd humour, outstanding animation in all shapes and sizes.

Running alongside the festival is the unmissable exhibition **‘Wonderland’**  which explores how cinema has shaped the streets, social lives and dreams of Brummies over the past 125 years. It’s presented by Flatpack Projects and Birmingham 2022 Festival in **Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery**. Associated events include a walking tour exploring key cinema sites in Birmingham city centre, a conversation with DJ and entrepreneur **Cecil Morris** about the legendary blaxploitation and kung fu nights he hosted in the 70s and 80s and a **Wonderland Pecha Kucha** evening at the festival hub where a range of guests will share their cinema stories.

Flatpack Festival will be in venues throughout Birmingham from 17 to 22 May this year. Tickets are on sale now book here <https://flatpackfestival.org.uk/flatpack-2022>

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**Listings Info:**

Flatpack Festival

Tues 17 May to Sun 22 May 2022

Various venues throughout Birmingham

More information and booking link: <https://flatpackfestival.org.uk/flatpack-2022>

**Images:** Belgium band Frankie’s Laguna Beach\_Image copyright Simon Lenskens

[Google drive LINK](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sKLeRSTzxgqAliIHyKXSdxtvF_QYv9oS?usp=sharing) to this and more images.

**PR rep:** Binita Walia 07734 507799 [binita@thespaceinbetween.co.uk](mailto:binita@thespaceinbetween.co.uk)

**Flatpack Festival Credit:**

Flatpack Festival is an international film festival based in Birmingham. It is funded by the National Lottery via Arts Council England and the British Film Institute.

**About Wonderland:**

28 April - 30 October 2022, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Wonderland is presented by the Birmingham 2022 Festival, produced by Flatpack Festival with Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. It is supported by Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. [LINK](https://flatpackfestival.org.uk/event/wonderland-birminghams-cinema-stories?perf_no=1781)

**About Flatpack Festival**

Flatpack Festival is produced by Birmingham-based charitable organisation Flatpack Projects, a mobile arts organisation that shows amazing work, brings people together and develops new ideas. Since 2006, the festival (which began life as a monthly mixed-media night at the Rainbow pub in Digbeth) has shown over 3,000 films to over 100,000 people and is a vital fixture in Birmingham’s cultural calendar. Stirring together a colourful stew of screenings and performances, walks and installations, the Flatpack programme boasts a mind-boggling range of international talent with an emphasis on the playful, surprising and indefinable. <https://flatpackfestival.org.uk/>

Flatpack Festival is funded by the National Lottery via Arts Council England and the British Film Institute.

 