

# BRISTOL RADICAL FILM FESTIVAL



*3<sup>rd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014*

# Bristol Radical Film Festival 2014

The Bristol Radical Film Festival was founded in 2011 to showcase contemporary and historical works of overtly political left-wing documentary and fiction filmmaking. Organised by staff, students and alumni from the Centre for Moving Image Research and the Film team at the University of the West of England (UWE), the festival also aims to draw attention to a range of other progressive, community-based initiatives in the city. Venues include digital outreach projects, anarchist social centres, drop-in centres for sex workers, political squats, radical bookshops, community bicycle hubs, trade union halls and so on.

All our events feature an introduction to the topic and are followed by an audience discussion. This is in keeping with the tradition of political film cultures around the world, in which the films are the pretext for action and debate as much as being important aesthetic and cultural objects in themselves. Our interpretation of the word 'radical' is an open one: while we believe that radical social, economic and political change is needed for a more equal, just and sustainable society, that fundamental belief can be articulated in a variety of ways. Film is a rich medium and we are keen to exhibit works that interrogate political and aesthetic radicalism in new and challenging ways.

Since its first event the festival has grown significantly, and the team now organises events throughout the year as well as the annual festival. We are not-for-profit, with all the money made from our work reinvested into the organisation. We are always looking to develop new relationships and try new things, so if you are interested in working with us please get in touch.

Get tickets at our website:

[bristolradicalfilmfestival.org.uk](http://bristolradicalfilmfestival.org.uk)

For the opening night at **The Cube** tickets cost £5/4. Events from Tuesday to Thursday are free with a donation. **An Evening with Mania Akbari** on Friday costs £6/4. Weekend events at **The Arc** are priced as follows (though no one will be turned away for lack of funds and asylum seekers can come for free):

**£4 per session / £10 day pass / £25 weekend pass**

# Programme at a Glance

Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	19:30 - 21:30	<b><i>Enemies of the People</i></b> <i>The Cube Cinema, 4 Princess Row, BS2 8NQ</i>
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup>	19:00 - 22:30	<b><i>Our Times &amp; We Are Half of Iran's Population</i></b> <i>SPAN, Silai Centre, 178 Easton Rd, BS5 0ES</i>
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	19:30 - 21:30	<b><i>The Man with a Movie Camera</i></b> <i>Roll for the Soul Community Bike Cafe, 2 Quay Street, BS1 2JL</i>
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	19:30 - 21:30	<b><i>McLibel</i></b> <i>Knowle West Media Centre, Leinster Avenue, BS4 1NL</i>
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	19:30 - 21:30	<b><i>Dancing Mania &amp; From Tehran to London</i></b> Followed by director Q&A <i>Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, BS1 4QA</i>

**Headline Weekend** - All events hosted at **The Arc**, 27 Broad Street, BS1 2HG

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 - 11:30	Coffee and Welcome
	11:30 - 13:30	<b><i>Tracing Movements Showcase</i></b>
	14:00 - 16:30	Parallel Session 1
		<b><i>The Spanish Earth &amp; To Die in Madrid</i></b> (1 <sup>st</sup> floor) <b><i>Arna's Children</i></b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)
	17:00 - 19:30	Parallel Session 2
		<b><i>Video-Activism Workshop</i></b> (1 <sup>st</sup> floor) <b><i>Many Wars Ago</i></b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)
	20:00 - 22:30	<b><i>On the Art of War</i></b> - Followed by director Q&A
23:00 - Late	<b><i>PARTY</i></b>	
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	13:00 - 15:00	Parallel Session 3
		<b><i>Strangers in Good Company</i></b> (1 <sup>st</sup> floor) <b><i>Short Film Competition Showcase</i></b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)
	15:30 - 18:00	Parallel Session 4
		<b><i>Paths of Glory</i></b> (1 <sup>st</sup> floor) <b><i>Matewan</i></b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)
19:00 - 21:30	<b><i>The Happy Lands</i></b> Followed by director Q&A	



## Cambodian Killing Fields: *Enemies of the People*

Thet Sambeth & Rob Lemkin UK/Cambodia,  
2009, 94min

Joshua Oppenheimer's *The Act of Killing* was one of the most significant documentaries of 2013. Cambodian filmmaker Thet Sambeth set the precedent for Oppenheimer's film with his work on the Khmer Rouge, which slaughtered nearly a third of Cambodia's population from 1975 to 1979. Featuring extraordinarily candid interviews with former Khmer Rouge murderers, many of whom acknowledge their crimes for the first time, *Enemies of the People* is at once cinematically beautiful, chillingly insightful and as personal as it is political.

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cube Cinema, £5/4, Doors 19:30 for 20:00 start

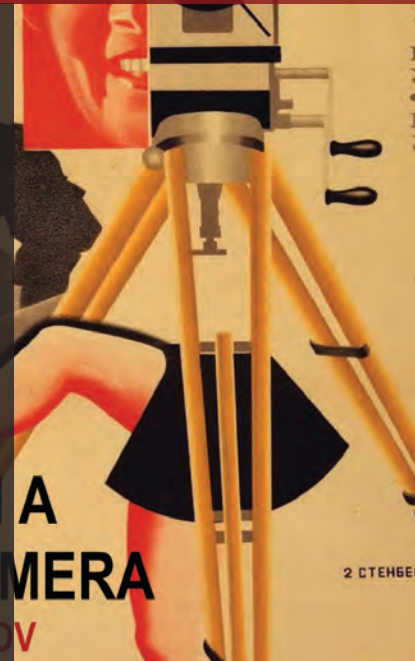


## Films on Wheels: *The Man with a Movie Camera*

Dziga Vertov, USSR, 1929, 68mins

For this event we join forces with Cycletricity and DJ Spin Thief to present a screening of the revolutionary Soviet classic, *The Man with a Movie Camera* (1929), that is truly unique. Not only will the film be accompanied by a live, improvised soundtrack, but the entire event will be pedal-powered by 'cycletricity'... Also with bonus short film, *The Bristol Bike Project*, this event is not to be missed.

Wed 5<sup>th</sup>, Roll for the Soul Community Bike Cafe,  
£5/4, Doors 19:30 for 20:00 start



## Feminism Iranian Style: *Our Times & We Are Half of Iran's Population*

Rākhshan Bani-E'temād  
Iran, 2002/2009, 75/47min

One of Iran's foremost filmmakers, Bani-E'temad has made a unique body of work over the last 40 years, tackling issues from poverty and polygamy to women's oppression and war. Tonight we show two of her most acclaimed films on the myriad challenges women face in Iran and the variety of ways they are being overcome. Seldom screened in the UK, these films offer insight into an Iran we rarely see in the West. Served with Iranian food from the Silai Centre cafe, from £2-5.

Tue 4<sup>th</sup>, S.P.A.N., Silai Centre  
FREE, Doors 19:00 for 20:00 start

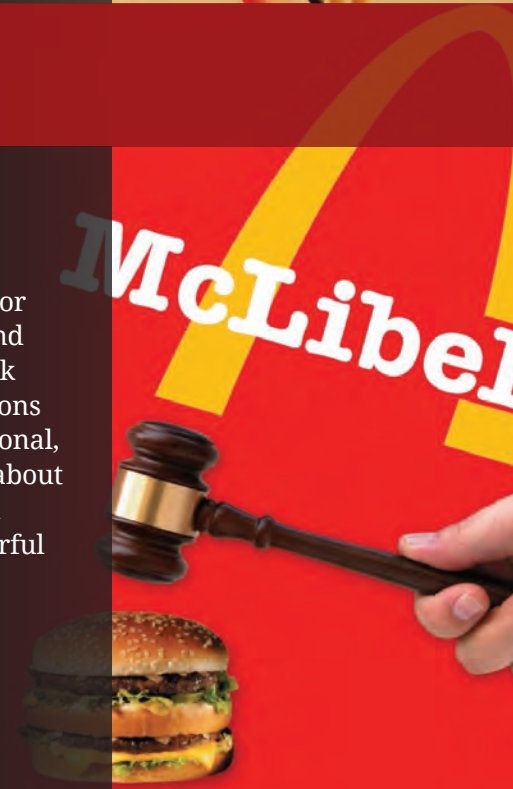


## Food for Thought: *McLibel*

Franny Armstrong  
UK, 2005, 85mins

Filmed over ten years by 'no-budget' director Franny Armstrong, *McLibel* is the David and Goliath story of two people who fought back against one of the most powerful corporations on the planet. Funny, moving and inspirational, *McLibel* is not just about hamburgers; it's about the importance of freedom of speech when multinational corporations are more powerful than countries.

Thu 6<sup>th</sup>, Knowle West Media Centre  
FREE, Doors 19:30 for 20:00 start





**An Evening with Mania Akbari:**  
**From Tehran to London & Dancing Mania**  
*Followed by director Q&A*

*Mania Akbari, Iran, 2012, 45min*  
*Roya Akbari, Iran, 2013, 25min*

Since her debut role in Abbas Kiarostami's *Ten* (2002) Mania Akbari's own films have dealt with some of the most sensitive topics in the Iranian cultural landscape. We are delighted to present the premiere of her latest film, completed after her exile from Iran in 2012, alongside *Dancing Mania*, by Mania's sister, Roya, which explores the themes of dance, sex and death in her sister's film.

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Arnolfini, £6/4, Doors 19:30  
for 20:00 start



**Headline Weekend:** *All events hosted at The Arc, 27 Broad Street, BS1 2HG*

**Migrant Solidarity:**  
**Tracing Movements Showcase**

*Tracing Movements* is a collaborative project documenting the relentless attempts to suppress and control the movement of people within Europe's borders - as well as the inspirational struggles, strikes and occupations of those resisting them. In this session activists and filmmakers from Tracing Movements introduce and showcase a selection of their work, exploring the collaborative and process-based approach used and the importance of challenging borders and other social barriers in the struggle for a better world.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> The Arc, £5/4, 11:30 - 13:30 £4



**Parallel Session 1** *Spanish Civil War & Israel/Palestine*

**The Spanish  
Earth &  
To Die in Madrid**



*Joris Ivens, USA, 55min*  
*/ Frédéric Rossif, France, 85min*

2014 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Spanish Civil War, when a fragile socialist democracy was overturned by the combined forces of European fascism and the British and French ruling class, whose policy of non-interventionism condemned the republic to death. In this session we screen two rarely seen films made in support of the revolution.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> The Arc, 14:00 - 16:30  
(1<sup>st</sup> Floor) £4

**Arna's  
Children**



*Juliano Mer Khamis,  
Israel/Palestine/Netherlands,  
2004, 84mins*

This moving documentary explores how war, poverty and oppression affect those who grow up under their influence. Palestinian-Israeli actor, director and activist Juliano Mer Khamis, and his Jewish mother, Arna founded a drama therapy and education centre in Palestine in the 1980s. Years later, Khamis returns to Jenin refugee camp to discover the fate of the children he taught. *Arna's Children* is a bitter examination of the Israel/Palestine conflict and the chronic chaos experienced by those who cannot escape it.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> The Arc, 14:00 - 16:30  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) £4



## *Languages of Video-Activism*

Video-activism is one of the most prevalent forms of radical filmmaking in the world, but is rarely subject to serious consideration. Concha Mateos and Luis Lanchares, activists, academics and authors of one of the first studies of video-activism in Spain, present their work and explore how what you shoot can reveal the way you think.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> The Arc, 17:00 - 19:30  
(1<sup>st</sup> floor) £4

## *Many Wars Ago*

*Francesco Rosi*  
*Italy/Yugoslavia, 1970, 100mins*

In association with the Bristol Radical History Group:  
Italy 1917 – society is violently split down the middle over the question of whether to continue intervention in the war. Anarchists and socialists are intent on causing so much trouble that continued intervention is impossible. Railway lines are ripped up, battle lines are drawn. On the Isonzo front a General smells socialism behind the troops' reaction to his orders.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> The Arc, 17:00 - 19:30  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) £4

## Headline Event:

## *On the Art of War* Followed by director Q&A

*Luca Bellino & Silvia Luzi, Italy/USA, 2012, 85min*

British premiere with directors' Q+A. Provocative, mature and cinematic, Luca Bellino and Silvia Luzi's award-winning documentary explores the 15-month struggle of militant factory workers in Milan to save their plant from closure. Expertly combining the heat of battle with ice-cold political analysis, this film is both a complex evocation of 21st-century class struggle and an object lesson in how to fight and win.

Sat 8<sup>th</sup>, The Arc, £5/4, 20:00 - 22:30 £4



## *Party!*

As Emma Goldman may or may not have said:

***"If I can't dance it's not my revolution."***

Featuring BRFF regulars DJ Dad, DJ Mon and DJ Mo with politically-charged funk, soul & blues, and a lairy dose of drum 'n' bass and techno later on.

The Arc, 23:00 - Late - Suggested £4 Dontation







## *Strangers in Good Company*

*Cynthia Scott, Canada, 1990, 101min*

What is 'radical' film anyway? In a cynical bid to exploit the economic potential of the West's ageing population, mainstream cinema is increasingly focusing on old age. Yet these films frequently represent ageing as a problem to be either solved or survived. In this context, Cynthia Scott's award-winning docu-fiction, which uses photo-montage & improvised dialogue to represent the richness of long-lived, well-lived, is a highly radical film.

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> The Arc, 13:00 - 15:00  
(1<sup>st</sup> Floor) £4

## *BRFF Short Film Showcase*

The radical short-film session returns, showcasing a range of politically-charged works chosen from the hundreds of films submitted over the previous months. With films from countries including Denmark, Dubai, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain and more, this session promises to reveal some of the best radical short filmmaking from around the world today.

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> The Arc, 13:00 - 15:00  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) £4

## *Closing Event: The Happy Lands*



## *Paths of Glory*

*Stanley Kubrick  
USA, 1957, 85min*

*Paths of Glory* is one of the most powerful anti-war films ever produced. Adapted from a novel based on true events, the film exposes the irrationality and inhumanity of the military machine. Dismissed by the Hollywood intelligentsia, the film was shot on a tiny budget of \$1 million. Its title, from a poem by 18th-century English poet Thomas Gray, is ironic:

*"The paths of glory lead but to the grave."*

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> The Arc, 15:30 - 18:00  
(1<sup>st</sup> Floor) £4

## *Followed by director Q&A*

*Robert Rae,  
UK, 2012, 108min*

When they fought for their country they were heroes. When they fought for their own they were traitors. It's the General Strike, 1926 - only seven years after the slaughter of the trenches, miners' unions lead the country

## *Matewan*

*John Sayles  
USA, 1987, 135min*

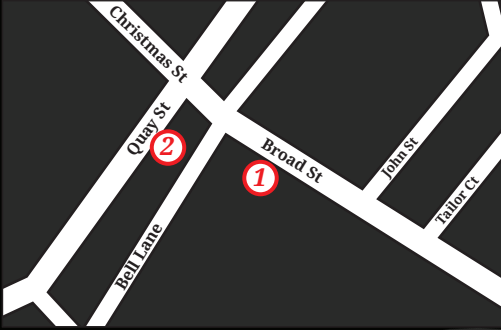
Based on the West Virginia coalfield wars of the 1920s, when striking miners clashed with the tyrannical owners of the region's coal companies, *Matewan* exemplifies the revolutionary potential of narrative cinema. Told from the perspective of union organiser Joe Kenehan (Chris Cooper), the film explores the complexities of race and class in the much maligned yet rich history of labour struggles in the U.S.

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> The Arc, 15:30 - 18:00  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) £4

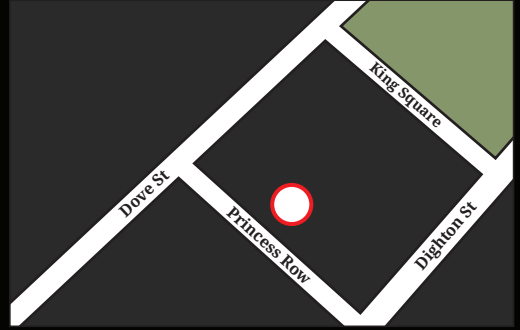
against the savage austerity of an earlier Liberal-Conservative government. Director Robert Rae will be present to discuss the extraordinary process of the film's creation and the clear parallels with the political situation today.

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> The Arc, 19:00 - 21:30  
(1<sup>st</sup> Floor) £4

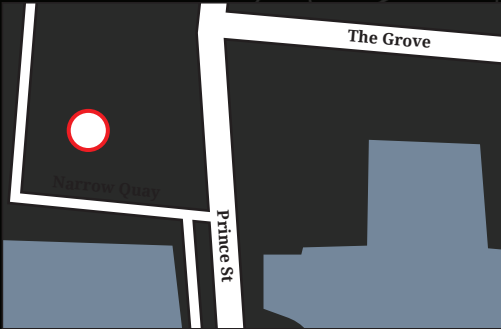
# Festival Locations



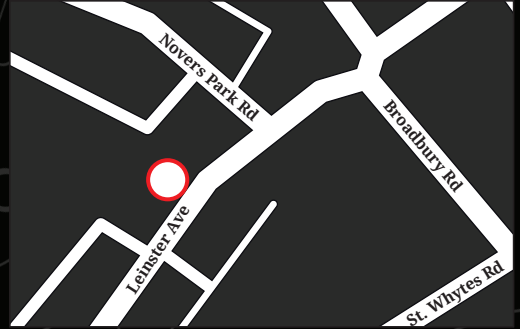
1. *The Arc*, 27 Broad Street, BS1 2HG
2. *Roll for the Soul*, 2 Quay Street, BS1 2JL



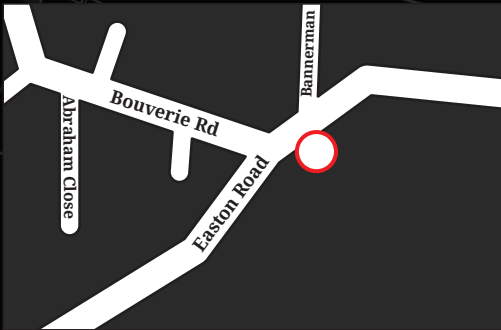
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*Arnolfini*, 16 Narrow Quay, BS1 4QA



*Knowle West Media Centre*,  
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*SPAN, Silai Centre*, 178 Easton Rd, BS5 0ES

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Bristol Radical History Group



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