



Birmingham Centre for Film Studies

B-FILM: THE BIRMINGHAM CENTRE FOR FILM STUDIES

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SPECIAL REPORT

The SCREENING RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL 2015

B-Film's **SCREENING RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL** took place between Thursday 9th of July and Saturday 11th of July at the Midlands Arts Centre in Birmingham. The event was organised by B-Film's **Michele Aaron** and included screenings, interviews with filmmakers, discussions and several Q&As, some of which were conducted via Skype with filmmakers in Denmark and Kenya. The festival began with a symposium on the subject of **SCREENING VULNERABILITY** that included many participants and attendees at the festival, including B-Film's **Roger Shannon, Kate Ince, John Horne** and **Rob Stone**. The festival received extensive media coverage and was a huge success, thereby demonstrating its clear potential to become a significant annual event. If you weren't there, you missed several challenging and heartfelt films as well as emotive discussions and an atmosphere of collective goodwill that hopefully repaid the commitment and hard work of **Michele Aaron** and her collaborators.



The symposium **SCREENING VULNERABILITY** featured four panels of speakers and included academics, filmmakers and postgraduate students. Participants included B-Film's **Michele Aaron, Roger Shannon, Rob Stone, Kate Ince** and **John Horne** as well as eminent colleagues Shohini Chaudhuri, Charlotta Salmi, Alisa Lebow, Dima Saber, Bharat Malkani, Hannah Gorman, Caroline Chapain and the illustrious keynote speaker, Sonia Tascon (left), an expert on human rights and film from the University of the Sunshine Coast. With panel themes such as 'Gender, Nation and Human Vulnerability in Visual Culture', 'Screening Revolution and Human Vulnerability' and 'Visual Culture and Death Sentences', the tone was set for an important and exciting three days of debate and engagement with some of the most vital and emerging themes in Film Studies.



B-Film's **Michele Aaron** coordinates and conducts one of the interviews with filmmakers via Skype.



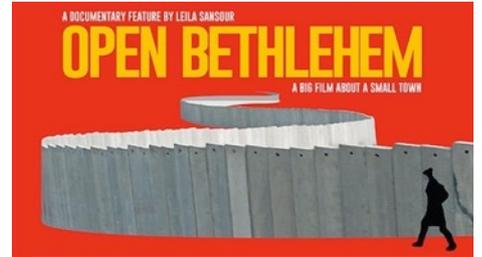
B-Film's **John Horne** sets out the festival stall in the foyer of the Midlands Arts Centre.



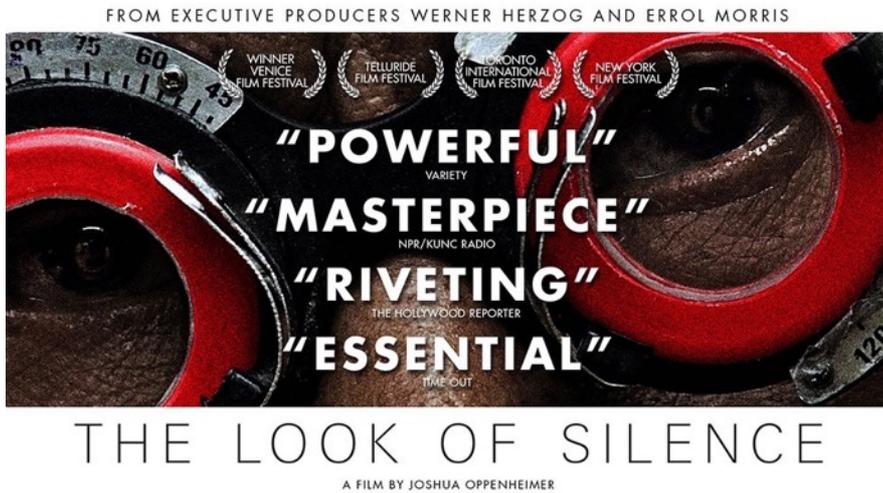
B-Film's **Roger Shannon** introduces the festival before the first screening.



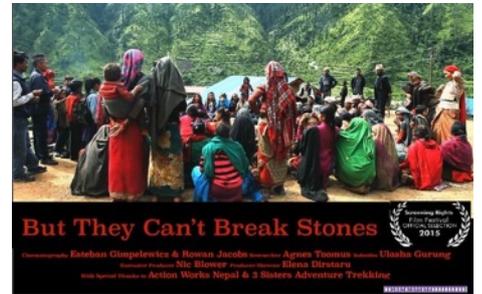
Michele Aaron (left) discusses the inaugural film, the deeply personal **OPEN BETHLEHEM** (right), with (left to right) Deborah Burton of the Tipping Point film Fund), the director Leila Sansour, and Salma Yaqoob, former leader of the Respect Party.



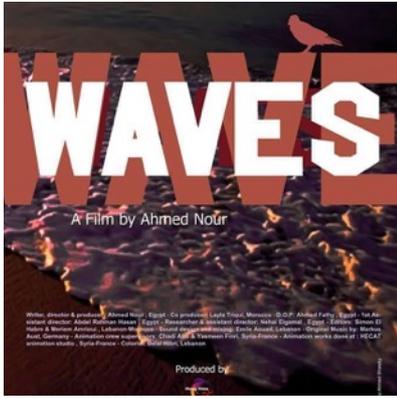
Shohini Chaudhuri interviews Elena Dirstaru (above) following the screening of the honest and revealing **BUT THEY CAN'T BREAK STONES** about women's rights in Nepal (below).



Following the screening of the powerful and questioning **THE LOOK OF SILENCE** (above), Joshua Oppenheimer's companion-piece to **THE ACT OF KILLING**, **Michele Aaron** interviews the film's producer Signe Byrge Sorenson via Skype (left).



Left to right: Shohini Chaudhuri of the University of Essex, Callum Macrae (the director of **NO FIRE ZONE: THE KILLING FIELDS OF SRI LANKA**) and Dima Saber of Birmingham City University contribute to the informative and challenging debate that characterised the impact and engagement of the festival.



Above: Michele Horne introduces Dima Saber, who provides an introduction to the Egyptian WAVES (left).



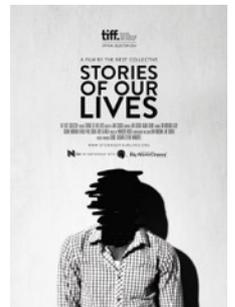
Above: B-Film's John Horne discusses the harrowing NO FIRE ZONE: THE KILLING FIELDS OF SRI LANKA with its director Callum Macrae following its screening.



Left: The director of RIOTS REFRAMED, Fahim Alam, participates in a post screening Q&A with the audience at the Midlands Arts Centre.



Left: Representatives of The Nest, an arts collective working to explore African identities, participate in a lively discussion with the audience via Skype following the wonderful STORIES OF OUR LIVES, an anthology film offering five vignettes of LGBTI life in Kenya.



Forthcoming events from B-Film: The Birmingham Centre for Film Studies include (left) CINE CUBANO at Birmingham's Mockingbird Theatre - a new monthly B-Film event beginning 27 September 2015 and featuring film screenings, guest speakers, live music, Cuban food and drink, and (right), in collaboration with Routledge, the Midlands Arts Centre and the Centre for World Cinemas at the University of Leeds, a major international conference entitled REMAPPING WORLD CINEMA: REGIONAL TENSIONS AND GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS to be held at the Midlands Arts Centre between 12-14th January 2017.

REMAPPING WORLD CINEMA



Regional Tensions and Global Transformations

