



**BRISTOL
RADICAL
FILM
FESTIVAL**

23 / 24 OCTOBER 2021

Tickets:

partyforthepeople.org
facebook.com/RadicalFilmFestival

Contact:

bristolradicalfilmfestival@gmail.com

Venue:

trinitybristol.co.uk

PROGRAMME DESIGN

NICHOLAS CHANDLER

2021

2021 sees the 150th anniversary of the Paris Commune, when ordinary people seized control of the city and elected an independent government. What happened then represented in the words of the director Peter Watkins “the idea of commitment to a struggle for a better world” . Over the last 18 months, even when the world seemed to come to a standstill, we have witnessed the continuation of the fighting spirit of people for a better world; from the “Kill the Bill” protests to Black Lives Matter, from the protests against HS2 or the toppling of statues all over the world to women protests against male violence or fighting off attempts to limit the right to abortion. Precarity at work, environmental concerns, racism, attacks on freedom of speech and protest are some of the targets of these cultures of resistance.

On Saturday, we want to offer you a space to reflect and discuss some of these issues. To show you inspiring stories (*The Eighth*, on Ireland’s fight to approve abortion and *The Lonely Battle of Thomas Reid* who successfully fought against the forced selling of his farm in county Kildare to make way for a new factory). To visualise hidden struggles and stories of collective support (*Caught*, a film on how a community of trans Latina migrants in Queens, New York support and rely on each other). To bring back “forgotten” and hidden stories of British police brutality and racism (*Ultraviolence*) and, using the short film *The Felling of Colston* as a starting point, to discuss how Bristol should remember its historical links to slavery and deal with its present of inequality.

On Sunday, the **short-film session** will highlight job insecurity and precarity (using as an example universities) and the protests against the construction of the HS2 railway among other issues.

We will end the festival by going back to the beginning: we will celebrate the anniversary of the Paris Commune with a very rare screening in the UK of the complete version of Peter Watkins’ *La Commune (de Paris 1871)*.

The Bristol Radical Film Festival was set-up in 2011 to provide a platform for politically engaged, aesthetically innovative cinema, and is now part of The Radical Film Network, an international network of similar organisations involved in progressive, alternative film culture.

All session timings include a post-screening discussion.

Bristol Radical Film Festival

SATURDAY

23

OCTOBER

The 8th

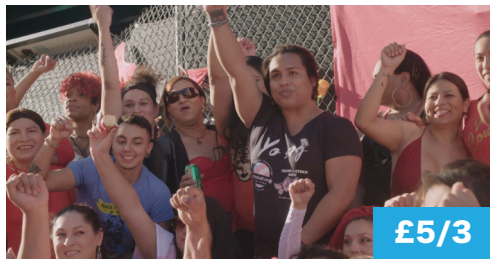
12-2

95 mins, 2020

Lucy Kennedy, Aideen Kane, Maeve O'Boyle.

The 8th tells the story of Irish women's campaign to remove the 8th Amendment – a constitutional ban on abortion. After a 35-year struggle the pro-choice side must radically shift tactics to try and bring this historically conservative electorate over the line. It shows a country's ongoing transformation from a conservative state in thrall to the Catholic church to a more liberal secular society.

Content Warning: This film contains flickering or flashing lights that may affect those with photosensitive epilepsy.



The Felling of Colston Panel Discussion.

4-5

10 mins, 2020

Arthur Cauty.

The toppling of the statue of Edward Colston resonated around the world and has sparked similar actions in the United States and in many countries in Latin America. People around the world still feel and suffer the consequences of slavery, racism and colonialism.

But where do we go from here? How should Bristol remember and recognise its past? What do we do with the statue? Should the plinth remain empty? Is acknowledging the past enough? The Felling of Colston may have been only the beginning but the beginning of what?

Join the discussion with the presence of Countering Colston campaigner Ros Martin and Arthur Cauty.

Caught

2:15-3:30

61 mins, 2020

Nicola Mai.

The result of the collaboration between Nicola Mai and the TRANSGrediendo Intercultural Collective – a grassroots association defending the rights of trans Latina migrant women in Queens, New York City. The film mixes collaborative ethno-fiction methods with an observational documentary to involve its participants throughout its production. Written and performed by members of the Collective, the film follows Rosa and Paloma as they face transphobic violence, persecution from the police, and fight against a hostile political environment in the US, while also expressing their identities in positive ways during a drag show that allows them to counter their marginalisation and stigmatisation.



Ultraviolence **+ Conversation with Ken Fero**

75 mins, 2020

5:15-7:15

Ken Fero.

The struggles for justice by the families of people that have died in police custody. The silence over the police killings of Black people is now broken. Since 1969, over two thousand people have died at the hands of the police in the UK. Shootings, chokeholds, batons, gassing, suffocation, restraint and brutal beatings are some of the methods used. The numbers of deaths is escalating. Inevitably police officers involved are not convicted for these killings. In this documentary, the families of the victims of police violence demand justice. They ask why society ignores human rights abuses by agents of the state. This reflection on resistance is poignant and political, capturing the brutality and trauma as well as the unrelenting fightback of those who will not be silent about state violence.



£7/4

**TICKET INCLUDES PRIORITY ACCESS
TO THE PREVIOUS SESSION**

The Lonely Battle of Thomas Reid

85 mins, 2017

8-10

Feargal Ward.

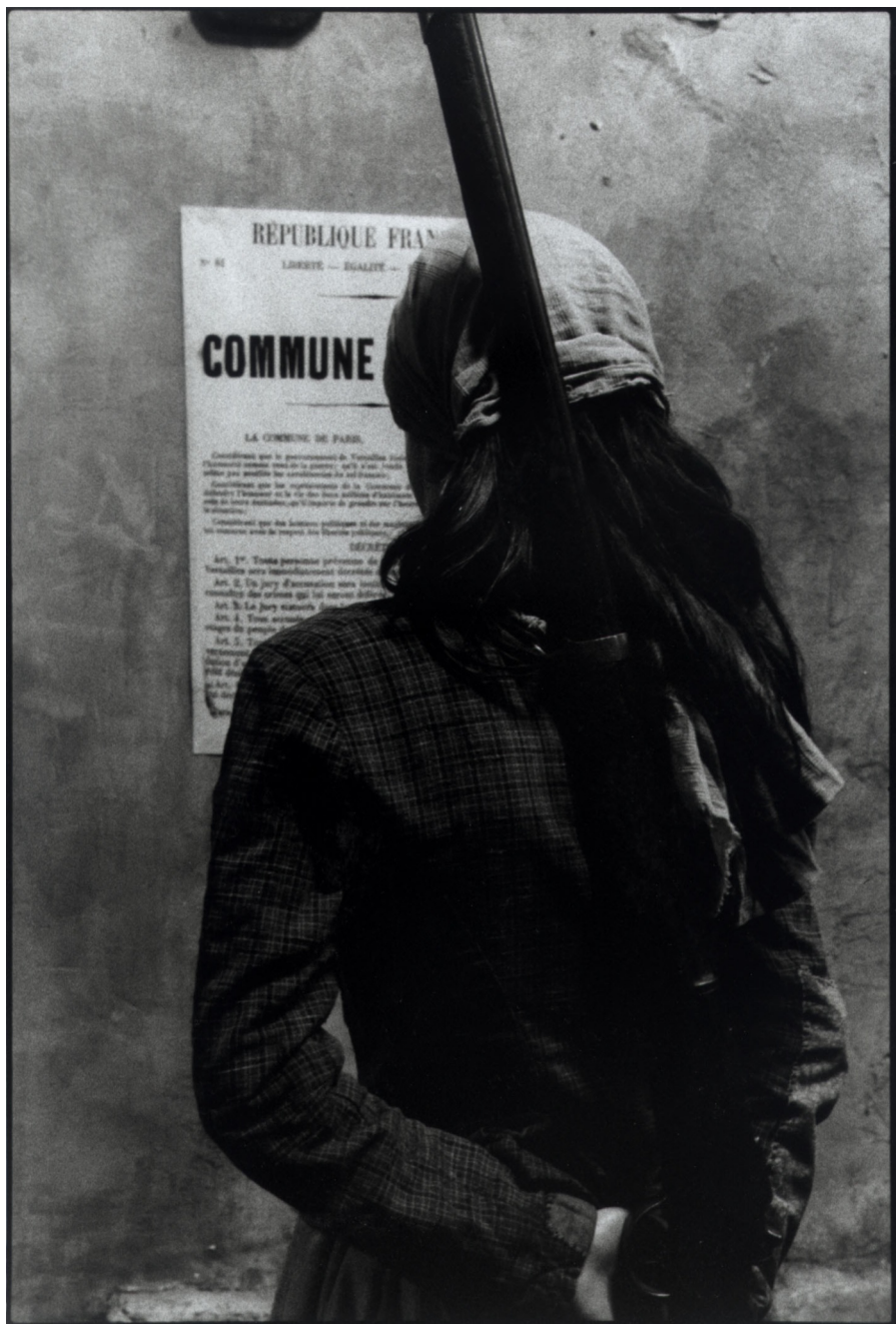


£5/3

A psychological portrait of a fascinating individual and his experience of the country that houses him, and the State that seeks to evict him.

Set against the backdrop of the Irish Supreme Court legal action between Kildare farmer Thomas Reid and the Irish Industrial Development Agency over its attempt to seize his farm for a multinational company, the film is a searching examination of the tension between a high-tech, low-tax globalised Ireland and the right of an individual citizen to continue living and working the lands of his ancestors.

Beyond the walls of Thomas Reid 17th century farm looms a vast American factory - vital to the national economy but long an unsettling presence in Thomas' life. Suspicious of intrusion, Thomas does not welcome the State agents who come to forcibly purchase his house and lands. He vows to resist.



La Commune (de Paris, 1871)

SUNDAY
24
OCTOBER



Films from the Front Line

12-1:30

A selection of short films that highlight different issues which affect us all and that demand our action and resistance against the neoliberal assault.

See our Facebook page for details of the films screened in the session.

La Commune (de Paris, 1871)

2-9

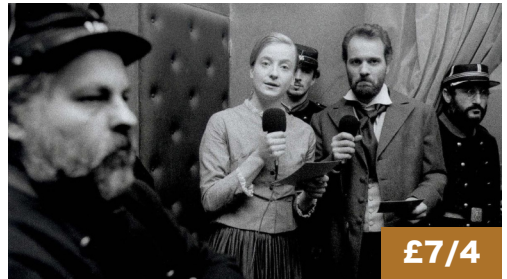
345 mins, 2000
(30 mins intermission between parts 1 and 2).

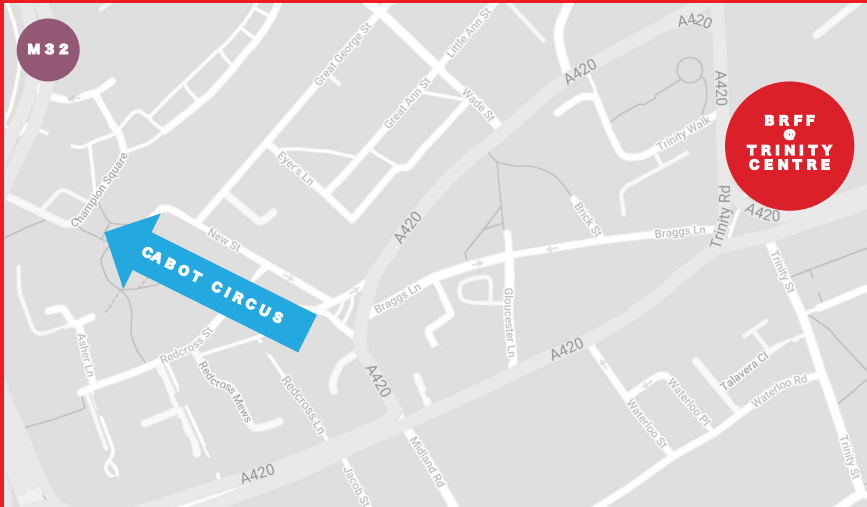
Peter Watkins.

The film is an attempt to challenge existing notions of documentary film, as well as the notions of 'neutrality' and 'objectivity' so beloved by the mass media today.

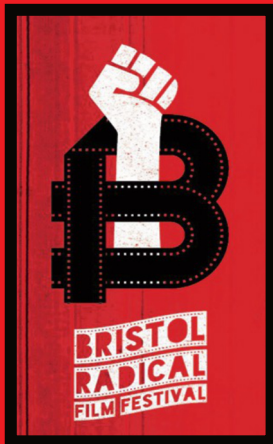
We travel back in time to 1871. A journalist for Versailles Television broadcasts a soothing and official view of events while a Commune television is set up to provide the perspectives of the Paris rebels. On a stage-like set, more than 200 actors interpret characters of the Commune. They voice their own thoughts and feelings concerning the social and political reforms. The telling of this story rests primarily on depicting the people of the Commune, and those who suppressed them.

"I hope that the open form of 'La Commune', and especially the process of discussion and community activity which can accompany the film screening, will help to forge the kind of collectivity, and frontal resistance to globalization and its satellite mass media which is now needed" (Peter Watkins).





TRINITY ARTS CENTRE, TRINITY ROAD, BRISTOL, BS2 0NW



**RADICAL
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NETWORK**



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