

JUNE 28th **Encounters** **2pm**

The Harlington, 236 Fleet Rd, Fleet GU51 4BY

Deaf Shorts Showcase Programme

Presented at the 2017 edition of Encounters Festival, the films selected for this programme feature the representation of Deafness not as the main form of conflict but as part of a wider narrative. The filmmakers come from both Deaf and hearing backgrounds and together their work presents a unique representation of the Deaf community in the 21st Century.

THE SILENT CHILD won the 2017 Encounters Deaf Shorts Showcase Award.

Programme:

Swimming in the Desert

Dir: Alvaro Ron

USA 2017

17 mins

Fiction

Synopsis: In the drought-stricken town of Agua Dulce in the California High Desert, a ten year old deaf girl challenges her grandfather, a cranky retired firefighter, to follow a crazy plan and bring the water back to the dry river.

Hitch

Dirs: Sophie Hexter & Poppy Walker

Australia 2016

10 mins 37 secs

Fiction

Synopsis: A young, deaf boy wanders alone through a remote Australian landscape. A mysterious man pulls up in a ute to offer him a ride. Equal parts suspense and coming-of-age, HITCH explores loss and acceptance in a silent world, where nothing is as it appears to be.

Nevith the Dragon

Dir: Paul Miller

UK 2017

8 mins 31 secs

Animation

Synopsis: Lily a deaf girl, has just lost her mother and moved to live with her father. They don't get on well. Her father can't sign, and they find it difficult to communicate. After an argument, Lily runs off. She is suddenly caught in bad weather, and falls into a cave stumbling into her mother's mystical past.

The Silent Child

Dir: Chris Overton

UK 2017

19 mins 54 secs

Fiction

Synopsis: Set in rural England and inspired by real life events. The Silent Child centres around a profoundly deaf four year old girl named Libby who is born into a middle class family and lives in a world of silence until a caring social worker teaches her the gift of communication.

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Dir: Bim Ajadi

UK 2014

6 mins 24 secs

Fiction

Synopsis: A young Deaf man is challenged to a game of Connect 4, only to find that this is no ordinary game. Are the odds stacked against him?

Encounters

Silent Laughs (Bridging the Gap)

Dir: Natalia Kouneli

UK 2017

10 mins 58 secs

Documentary

Synopsis: A Deaf stand-up comedienne performs in sign language fulfilling her dream to make people laugh as well as bringing Deaf Culture to mainstream audiences.

The Song for Single (单身情歌)

Dirs: Zheng Xiaosan/Sam Zheng

China 2016

5 mins 19 secs

Fiction

Synopsis: There is a place, both in deaf and mainstream culture, to feel, hold and express universal themes of human emotion through musical expression.

Signs of an Affair

Dir: Louis Neethling

UK 2017

28 mins

Fiction

Synopsis: Signs of an Affair tells the story of Flora, who has been married to Fred for many years, when suddenly, he doesn't want sugar in his tea – something's not right! Flora is suspicious and determined to find out the truth, but ends up in some unexpected places. Starring Jean St Clair and Ilan Dwek; produced for BSLBT by Mutt and Jeff Pictures.

June 25th 2pm The Harlington 236 Fleet Rd, Fleet GU51 4BY