

Celebrating Women's Animation: in Leeds, the UK, & the World!
Tuesday 25th September – 6.30pm

2 recognised classics

The Black Dog

Dir: Alison De Vere

United Kingdom, 1987, 18mins, 35mm

Alison De Vere (1927 – 2001) was first woman in the UK to make cartoon films as an individual artist. *Black Dog*, shown here on 35 mm film, is recognised as her major lifetime achievement. The subject is a story of self-discovery and life experience: a woman travels through a fantastical dreamscape accompanied by a shamanic dog. A classic, influential film and winner of many international awards.

Black Soul

Dir: Martine Chartrand

Canada, 2000, 9mins,

This breathtaking animation by Martine Chartrand tells the story of black people's culture and history in her native Canada.

In the middle of a Montreal winter, an old lady sits down with her grandson to help him learn about the events that shaped their cultural heritage. Haitian-Canadian Martine Chartrand travelled to Russia to study the demanding paint-on-glass technique. Each oil-painted frame is destroyed by the next, and exists only for the present moment: symbolising both the way history sets the foundation for the future, and a determination never to return to the evils of the past.

Winner of many international awards.

*Leeds premiere (? I think)

3 films by two brilliant young women directors from the Czech republic

***First UK screenings**

New Species (Nový Druh)

Dir: Katerina Karhánková

Czech Republic, 2014, 6mins

This is a story about three kids who find a mysterious bone and their journey in trying to find the creature that the bone belong to.

Otesánek

Dir: Linda Retterová,

Czech Republic, 2017, 5:25

Animated entirely from felt and embroidery, this is a dark, updated version of a traditional fairytale about a childless woman whose husband carves a tree stump into the shape of a baby. Their new child however is unusually greedy...

The Fruit of Clouds (Plody mraků)

Dir: Katerina Karhankova

Czech Republic, 2017, 10mins

This wonderful new film is about fear of the unknown. Despite dire warnings from the whole community, one individual makes a brave venture and finds a way to share the benefits with everyone.

Czech Grand Design Awards Nominee 2017

2 films by amazing young animators from indigenous peoples, reflecting on their heritage

***First English screenings**

Nutag - Homeland

Dir: Alisi Telengut

Canada, 2016, 6mins

Made by a member of the indigenous Siberian Kalmyk community, who is now an animator living in Canada, this award-winning film is a hand-painted visual poem about diaspora, homeland, and the tragic mass-deportations of the Kalmyk people during WWII.

Three Thousand

Dir: Asinnajaq

Canada, 2017, 14mins

In this award-winning short film, Inuk artist Asinnajaq plunges us into a sublime imaginary universe of luminescent, archive-inspired cinema, revealing the present, past and future of her people in a radiant new light. Diving into the vast archive of Canada's National Film Board, she unpicks the complicated cinematic representation of the Inuit, from a range of sources—newsreels, propaganda, ethnographic docs, and work by Indigenous filmmakers. Embedding historic footage into original animation, she conjures up a vision of hope and possibility.

A film by an emerging young US animator
***First North of England screening**

Phototaxis

Dir: Melissa Ferrari
United States, 2017, 7mins

This award-winning film is about the uncanny and the unknowable. It draws parallels between Mothman, a prophetic demon creature of West Virginia folklore, and Narcotics Anonymous, which is helping to treat those affected by West Virginia's addiction epidemic. Rooted in nonfiction, this film contemplates the role of belief systems in perception and pseudoscience; the tendency to assign supernatural meaning; anonymous and apocryphal oral histories; and the attraction of the moth to the flame. Made by a Cal-Arts graduate animator, using natural materials and pastel-on-paper palimpsest animation woven together using a multiplane and analogue overhead projection.

From Leeds

No Offence

Dir: Leeds Animation Workshop
United Kingdom, 1996, 12 mins

Once upon a time, there was a magnificent castle, the domain of a queen both wise and good... This film about equality at work is an entertaining fairy story with a difference: taking as its theme the very real issue of sexual harassment.

Queen Ella is a model employer, but everyone makes mistakes: perhaps she should not have appointed Lord Bluebeard to an executive position. Disguising herself as a serving maid, the queen discovers what is really happening in the organisation at canteen and office level.

A Leeds Animation Workshop film from over 20 years ago, this film is as topical as ever.

They Call Us Maids

Dir: Leeds Animation Workshop
United Kingdom, 2015, 7mins

This short animated film tells the story of the thousands of women from extremely poor backgrounds, in countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, South Asia or Africa, who have to find work abroad to support their families.

Based on the real life stories of migrant domestic workers, THEY CALL US MAIDS uses vivid watercolour animation to reveal some disturbing truths about modern slavery. Commissioned by Pavilion and made in consultation with the organisation Justice 4 Domestic Workers.

Leeds Animation Workshop's most recent film won the "Best UK film on Modern Slavery" award earlier this year.

Own Skin

Dir: Geena Gasser and Saskia Tomlinson
3 mins., Leeds, 2018

Made during their internship at Leeds Animation Workshop earlier this year, this hand-painted film by two emerging animators is about body image and how all of us, particularly young people, are affected more and more by the pressure to look perfect. The voice-over is a specially-written poem by Bristol-based performance-poet Malaika Kegode, read by herself. Music composed and performed by Lucy Treacher.

***World premiere**