

Contact
Anys Williams or Olivia Rhodes at Anita Morris Associates
Anys@anitamorrisassociates.co.uk / Olivia@anitamorrisassociates.co.uk / 01943 603311
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Grants awarded for 37 new films that challenge perceptions and show life in Bradford, created by those who live there

Filmmakers from across the Bradford district have received 'Make: Film' grants to create original short films and documentaries, at a time when the district continues to expand its cultural activity, as it prepares to bid for the UK City of Culture 2025 title.

More than 94 submissions were received from people who live, study or have a strong connection to Bradford, through an open process launched earlier this year. Local talent was encouraged to come forward and explore stories that will challenge perceptions and showcase the distinctive characteristics of the district and its communities.

A wide range of submissions was received with 37 projects selected by a panel of representatives from Bradford Council and other partners including Bradford 2025, Bradford UNESCO City of Film and the National Science and Media Museum. The filmmakers' work will be showcased through the partners' digital platforms and potentially screened publicly (subject to Covid-19 guidelines) with a selection being considered by the BFI National Film and Television Archive for the national collection.

The aspiring filmmakers have been awarded grants of either £1,000 or £4,000 by Bradford Council to develop and produce mini documentaries and short films. Covering subjects as diverse as a first day at primary school; the effects of the pandemic on those with dementia; the experiences of Congolese migrants and female prisoners; ghost stories and tales of forbidden love, these filmmakers will tell stories about the communities and cultures of the district through the eyes of the people who call it home.

Ten filmmakers have been awarded the larger £4,000 grants. Projects in this category include '**Holme Grown**', a short, vibrant and positive documentary by local company **Outloud**, telling untold stories from the community of Holme Wood. In documentary '**From**

sunrise to sunset in the cold and the heat', Bradford is contrasted with Karachi on one specific day, as told by **Faiza Shaikh** ('Pink Riders', Theatre in the Mill). **'Viv of the Dump'**, a dark Christmas comedy from actor and content creator **Tanya Vital** ('Emmerdale', 'Red Sparrow') is set among the rolling hills of suburban Bradford; Leeds Road is the setting for a British Bangladeshi love story in **'And Their Song Mingles With The Moonlight'** from actor and writer **Kamal Kaan** ('The Thief of Baghdad') and the diversity of the city is celebrated by award winning* producer **Thea Burrows** (*Creative England's Top 50 most creative and disruptive screen companies) through the life of a local chippy in the fictitious tale **'Mushy Peas to Green Tea Kulfi'**.

A further 26 films have been supported with grants of £1,000. This group features a collection of documentaries, music films, animation and drama, including: two teenage Jewish refugees return to Bradford to re-invent themselves in **'TVINS'** from **Bradford Synagogue** and **Kimia Modarresi Chahardehi** looks at the positive impact that Khidmat Centres have had on women who have been through the Criminal Justice System in **'Muslim Women in Prison'**. **Freedom Studios** meanwhile are bringing teenagers with superpowers to Bradford in their 10-minute film **'Lights out in Little Germany'**.

Cllr Sarah Ferriby, Bradford Council's Executive Member for Healthy People and Places, said: "This project has been a great opportunity for people to reflect the immense creativity and diversity of our district today and those filmmakers who have made the shortlist have achieved this through their stories and the locations and communities they want to represent. We were delighted to see so many submissions from across the district and look forward to sharing them early in 2021."

Bradford 2025 Bid Director Richard Shaw added: "It is inspiring to see such an imaginative and creative range of subjects proposed by these filmmakers and it shows what a rich a seam of talent we have here in Bradford district. In a place with such a strong screen heritage it's thrilling to be able to support a new generation of filmmakers that will help create a new narrative for Bradford. Prepare to be surprised!"

ENDS

For more information, images or interviews please contact Anys Williams or Olivia Rhodes at Anita Morris Associates on Anys@anitamorrisassociates.co.uk / 07909 151441
olivia@anitamorrisassociates.co.uk / 07970 591426

NOTES TO EDITORS

Bradford 2025 is the city's bid to be UK City of Culture 2025. The bid will be submitted in 2021. Awarded every four years by Government the UK City of Culture title has had a transformational impact on previous host cities, securing millions of pounds of investment and acting as a catalyst for creative place-making and culture-led regeneration. Bradford joins a number of cities and areas competing for the title, with Lancashire, Medway, Gloucester and Southampton also having announced their intentions to bid. <https://bradford2025.co.uk/>

Full list of projects awarded funding

Those awarded £4,000:

- Faiza Shaikh 'From sunrise to sunset in the cold and the heat'. (BD9)
- Julian Butler 'The Beckoning Fair One'. (BD16)
- Kamal Hussain 'And Their Song Mingles With The Moonlight'. (BD17)
- Nina Farooqui 'All Inclusive'. (BD18)
- Outloud Ltd 'Holme Grown'. (BD4)
- Pishdaad Modaresi Chahardehi 'HEGIRA (Emigration)'. (BD1)
- Reel Street Films '55 years' [working title]. (LS11)
- Sema Basharan 'The Branches Are Hope; The Roots Are Memory'. (BD2)
- Static Flow Productions 'Bradford a Love Letter'. (BD4)
- Tanya Vital 'Viv of The Dump'. (BD12)
- Thea Burrows 'Mushy Peas to Green Tea Kulfi'. (BD1)

Those awarded £1,000:

- Armchair Painting Group 'The strange story of the Laughing Salmon of Knowledge of Bradford' [working title]. (BD18)
- Bewildered Dad. (LS29)
- Bradford Movie Makers 'Bradford in the frame'. (BD15)
- Bradford Synagogue. (LS17)
- Carolyn Mendelsohn 'The Faces of the people of Bradford'. (BD18)
- Cecil Green Arts. (BD9)
- Dan Mcglade. (BD18)
- Dance United Yorkshire 'Out of the Woods'. (BD1)
- Dementia Friendly Keighley. (BD21)
- Donat Horvath. (BD7)
- Freedom Studios 'Lights out in Little Germany'. (BD1)
- Heifer Productions CIC 'This is our City'. (BD22)
- Highfield Community Film Collective. (BD21)
- Ilkley Manor House trust 'Ilkley in Lockdown. Stories behind the squares'. (LS29)
- Joanne Crowther 'Bradford a Fascinating City! (Then and Now)'. (BD18)
- Kascarade (Music Artist) 'This Life & This Life: The Bradford Life'. (BD13)
- Kimia Modaresi Chahardehi 'Muslim Women in Prison'. (BD1)
- Letty McHugh. (BD22)
- Louisa Rose Macklestone 'Ruth & Safiya'. (BD21)

- Matthew Broadbent 'Colin (the very ambitious) Crab'. (BD16)
- MOBE 'Better Must Come Pt 1'. (BD5)
- Nathan Allen 'Auditions'. (BD16)
- New Focus (impressions Gallery) 'Girl Power' [working title]. (BD1)
- Rochyne Delaney McNutty. (BD10)
- Sam Clegg. (BD21)
- Tim Smith Photos 'Drummond Mill Habib's Wedding., Bradford Ukrainian Story'. (BD17)