

DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Schools Programme
November 2026

Cinema experiences enhancing
classroom learning

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

All screenings
FREE

Welcome

Hello! I'm pleased to welcome you to the 23rd edition of Discovery Film Festival, bringing you another incredible selection of cinema experiences to enhance your classroom learning.

I'm delighted that for the second year running, we're making the festival **free**, removing barriers to attendance and ensuring that all children can experience the magic of cinema at DCA. Bus travel is also free for Dundee schools.

A trip to the cinema can be accompanied by a workshop, and we have free resources made by a dedicated group of local teachers.

We have fantastic international films for all ages, from Early Years to Senior Phase.

Read on for an overview of what's on, then visit our website for full details of each film. We can't wait for your pupils to see our brilliant films in the best place to experience them: the cinema!

Olivia Knight
Discovery Film Festival Coordinator





How to Book

Take a look at our screening times and once you've decided, fill in our online enquiry form. We'll be back in touch to confirm your booking as soon as we can.

Please note that this is a change to last year's booking system: if you have any questions please get in touch. If we have high demand for specific titles, we may be able to accommodate extra screenings.

Bookings will open on Mon 24 August and close on Fri 4 September: please book early to secure your visit.

Travel and Accessibility

Buses for Dundee schools will be **free**. Bus travel will be available at a reduced rate of £3 per pupil for schools travelling from Fife, Perthshire and Angus (minimum of 25 pupils bus, up to a maximum distance of 50 miles.)

If you have any students for whom a first visit to the cinema at DCA might be a daunting prospect, we are happy to arrange a pre-visit.

To find out about arranging such a visit please contact Simon Lewis, Cinema Manager at DCA, via simon.lewis@dca.org.uk. We can also provide detailed visitor information in the format of your choice.

What teachers say...

"The visit for us was not just an incredible opportunity to engage with films from across the world, it was an opportunity for our young people to be introduced to the creative sector, fuelling their ambition towards creative careers."

"The free screenings reduced the burden on our rural school budget, and avoided passing the cost onto parents."

"It was run fantastically and all the staff were AMAZING!!"

"We had a fantastic time. Some of our children experienced the cinema for the first time on this trip which made it extra special for us as staff."

"It is a wonderful experience and opportunity. A highlight in the year."

"Our class absolutely loved their visit to the festival. The short films were excellent and the children really enjoyed them."

Workshops

In addition to your film screening we can offer a range of CfE-linked creative, expressive and film education workshops. You can indicate your preferences when you're filling in your enquiry form and we'll be back in touch to make arrangements once your film screening is confirmed.

Exhibition

We'd love to welcome you and your class to a gallery visit and creative art making session with France-Lise McGurn's exhibition *The Charm Offensive* in DCA Galleries. McGurn's expansive paintings spill out from canvases directly onto the walls and floors, creating a vibrant and inspiring encounter with contemporary art.

Visiting Discovery

Teachers Resource Packs

Every year we share a range of amazing Curriculum for Excellence-relevant learning resources written by teachers for teachers to assist you with your festival planning and lesson delivery. Find the packs here: dca.org.uk/discovery-film-festival-resources

2026 programme at a glance

For ages 0+

Enjoy these colourful adventures packed with fun characters and exciting stories.

- Shorts for Wee Ones (3+)
- Papaya (5+)
- When Mumbo Jumbo Grew Giant (5+)
- Le Ballon Rouge (6+)

For ages 7+

Enjoy a selection of short films from around the world, dig for fossils with Mary Anning.

- Shorts for Middle Ones (7+)
- Mary Anning (7+)

For ages 9+

We're travelling through time with a brave German boy and learning the value of friends and community with a Catalan family in these acclaimed international films.

- The Secret Floor (9+)
- Olivia and the Invisible Earthquake (10+)

For ages 15+

Troubled teens are uplifted by the power of rap music (*Beef*) and skateboarding (*Ollie*), plus a rare chance to see groundbreaking climate change documentary *Lowland Kids*.

- Beef (15+)
- Ollie (15+)
- Lowland Kids + Q&A (15+)

CLPL sessions for teachers

Join these practical, hands-on sessions to help maximise the curriculum benefits of a visit to Discovery Film Festival. Refreshments and materials provided.

For Primary

- Expressive Art focus on visual storytelling
- Stop Motion Animation Top Tips for the Classroom

For both Primary and Secondary

- Get to know the new Screen Scotland Film and Screen Education Curriculum

To see the full schedule and screening times, visit our website.

dca.org.uk/discovery-film-festival-schools-programme

01382 213 610

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Find out more



Enquiry form



Find out more

Visit our website to find out more about this year's programme, including film trailers, content guidance, and showtimes, then go to our booking link at dca.org.uk/discovery-film-festival-schools-programme and fill in the form to book your visit.

If you have any questions, please contact Discovery Film Festival coordinator Olivia Knight at olivia.knight@dca.org.uk

School visits throughout the year

In addition to our festival activities, DCA screens a full programme of feature films throughout the year, and we are happy to welcome school groups to these screenings at discounted ticket rates.

If our public screening times don't fit your timetable, please get in touch with our Cinema Manager, Simon Lewis, at simon.lewis@dca.org.uk to discuss the possibility of a special viewing for your class.