HASTINGS ROCKS

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Fri/Sat/Sun
30 Oct - 1 Nov
2026

✦ 66 Films ✦ Hallowe'en Horror Special ✦ Films from Hastings ✦ ✦ Fantastic Features ✦ Special Guests David Quantick & Franny Armstrong ✦ Films from Palestine, Iran and the Middle East ✦ Imagine a Better Future Together! ✦

The Printworks
& The Observer Building

Tickets

ROCKSFESTIVALS.COM/HRIFF

VENUES

THE PRINTWORKS: 14 CLAREMONT, TN34 1HA

THE VENUE IS JUST A FEW MINUTE'S WALK FROM THE TOWN STATION. IT IS ADJACENT TO HASTINGS TOWN LIBRARY & AT THE ENTRANCE OF GOTHAM ALLEY

Book Tickets: www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026

VENUES

The Observer Building
53 Cambridge Rd, Hastings TN34 1DT

Book Tickets: www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026

FRIDAY

30 OCTOBER 2026

PRINTWORKS

5 -7 PM

Home is where I want to be,
but I guess I'm already there

Celebrating Local and Coastal Cinema

I THINK I'D LIKE TO MOVE TO THE SEASIDE · MERRY ENGLAND · IS FOLKESTONE THE BIRTHPLACE OF TELEVISION? · RABBIT EARS · A TAIL · DON'T YOU WANT ME BABY · HEY SEXY · THE WEIGHT OF IT · TINY · MADAM

Q&A with Filmmakers

Our local session brings together a diverse selection of films made in and around East Sussex. This session celebrates the people, places, characters and stories that make up our local film community. You might recognise a familiar landmark or street and will see films of all genres including documentaries, comedies, dramas and more! Come and discover filmmakers working on our doorstep and experience all of these films alongside our local creatives.

Book Tickets: **www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026**

FRIDAY

30 OCTOBER 2026

PRINTWORKS
7 -9 PM

Love, Loss and Leviathans

Experimental Films & Animation

TELLING AND RETELLING DUNGENESS · SIRENA · HER NAME IS DOG · ALLIGATOR · I HAD SEX, BUT ... · EMMA'S BIRTHDAY · HELL · SMALL HOURS · SMOKING NO SMOKING · PERFECT GIRL

Q&A with Filmmakers

Take a dawn-to-dusk pilgrimage through Dungeness. Meet a fisherman caught in something stranger than he bargained for. Dive into animation, music videos, experimental film and dark stories that go somewhere you definitely weren't expecting. These films are intimate, strange and uniquely beautiful. Each film in this session captures the bold and daring creative spirit of Hastings Rocks.

Book Tickets: **www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026**

FRIDAY

30 OCTOBER 2026

PRINTWORKS

9 –11 PM

So this is how it ends

Sci-fi & Dystopian Film

WELL-BEING · MERCY · RUN · UNTOUCHED · THE NOMOPHOBE

FEATURE FILM

LUNA

With the moon hurtling towards Earth and the world unraveling, one woman's quiet descent into solitude mirrors the chaos above. Set in Brighton with scenes shot in Hastings, "Luna" is a reflective tale of loss, connection, and finding serenity in the face of inevitable endings.

Q&A with Filmmakers

Across five different and distinctive visions of the future, this dystopian sci-fi session explores isolation, connection and what it means to be human in our ever-changing digital age. From the moon hurtling towards Earth and the search for intimacy in virtual reality, to smartphone addiction and a human-robot fugitive seeking refuge. These films often raise important questions about the ways in which we respond and retain our humanity as the world we know begins to unravel.

Book Tickets: **www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026**

SATURDAY

31 OCTOBER 2026

PRINTWORKS

11 AM -1 PM

I don't have another land

Documentaries & Drama
In Search of a Better Future

FEATURE FILM

LITTLE BALUCHES

A heart-warming documentary set in ShirAbad, a neighborhood in the suburb of Zahedan City in the Baluchistan province of Iran, where its people hope for a better future despite great deprivation

AT NIGHT · HIND · THE LONG SPRING · WE'RE ALL BLACK DOWN HERE · KINDER THAN CUTS · RULE BRITANNIA

Q&A with Filmmakers

This session explores the search for a better future — from war zones and divided communities to migration, racism, disability and the universal desire for somewhere to belong. These films bring together voices and experiences too often pushed to the margins: children in Sistan and Baluchistan dreaming of a brighter future; a Caribbean miner confronting racism in 1950s Britain; refugees navigating borders; and people fighting for disability rights. Together, they ask what happens when home is taken away, belonging is denied, or the hope of a safer life means crossing a border into the unknown. At the heart of the programme is a simple but urgent question: how can we collectively change the world for the better? The session takes its title from artist Nathan Coley's 'I Don't Have Another Land', a work inspired by graffiti encountered in Jerusalem and later exhibited across Sussex. In the context of the Channel, the phrase takes on new meaning — reflecting the journeys of people seeking a different life and the complex ideas of home, borders and belonging. For Hastings, a town shaped by arrival and departure and looking across the same stretch of water that has become both border and route, these questions feel particularly close to home.

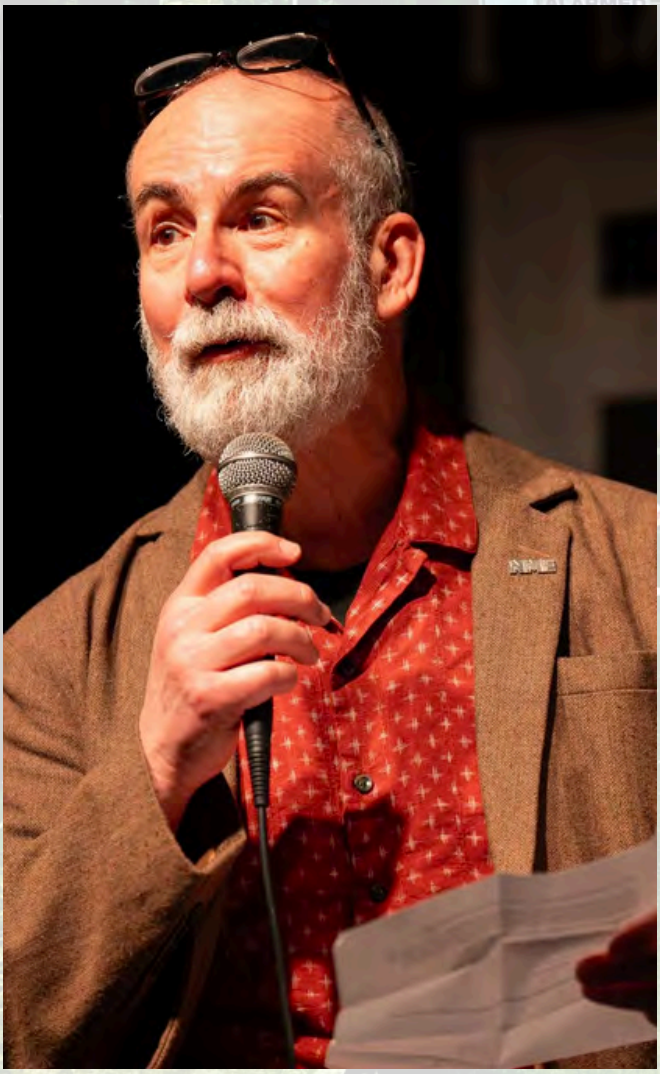
Book Tickets: **www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026**

SATURDAY

31 OCTOBER 2026
PRINTWORKS
2 - 3:30 PM

IN CONVERSATION WITH

DAVID QUANTICK



Script Club is like a book club, where screenwriters, filmmakers and industry professionals discuss screenplays for produced feature films and TV shows. Join us at the Hastings Rocks Film Festival for a deep dive discussion with the Emmy-award winning writer David Quantick.

David will be talking about his screenplay for the 2022 romantic comedy Book Of Love, which follows an English author whose failing romance novel becomes a sensation in Mexico after a translator secretly rewrites it. We'll be breaking down the key scenes with David and putting questions to him from the audience about the script and his writing process.

David will also be discussing his work on the upcoming comedy horror film Spider Island, co-written with Christopher Jolley and directed by Christopher Smith, about deadly spiders plaguing influencers at a tropical resort.

David won an Emmy for Veep and was nominated for a BAFTA for The Thick Of It. His credits also include Brass Eye, Blue Jam, The Day Today and Smack The Pony.

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SATURDAY

31 OCTOBER 2026

PRINTWORKS

3:30 - 5:30 PM

Stories of Sanctuary

A moving series of true stories about survival and resilience
supported by Hastings Supports Refugees @hsrefugees
Hastings Community of Sanctuary
https://hastings.cityofsanctuary.org

A KING COMES TO TOWN

FREE FISH

ONLY WHEN YOU BURY ME IN THIS EARTH

WHY WE CRY

ADAS FALASTEEN

SANCTUARY FESTIVAL

Book Tickets: www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026

SATURDAY

31 OCTOBER 2026

PRINTWORKS

5:30 - 7 PM

The Shape of Silence

We are incredibly grateful to give a platform to Irainan filmmakers whose beautiful, bold and important work might otherwise struggle to be seen. At Hastings Rocks, we believe their voices deserve to be heard, their stories deserve an audience, and their films deserve a screen.

THE SPECTATOR

THE MOULD

LIKE FRIEND, LIKE DEER

THE TONGUE TIED

POSTER

THE POETICS OF STONES

THE BRUISED SHADOW

Book Tickets: www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026

SATURDAY

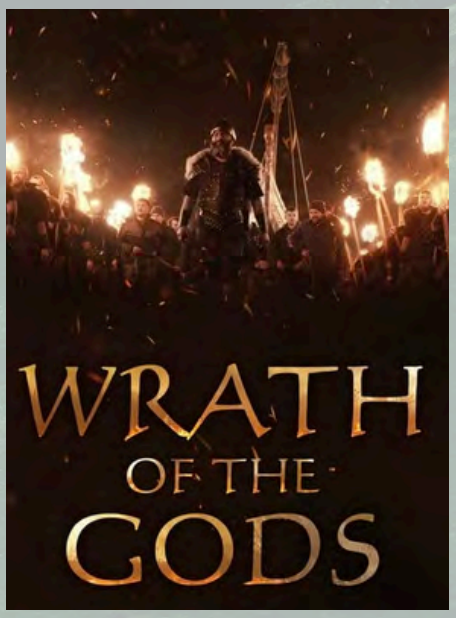
31 OCTOBER 2026

THE OBSERVER BUILDING

6 -8 PM

Wrath of the Gods

Young, grieving widow Anna returns to Hel Island to bury her late husband after his suicide. She is cast out by the eccentric locals for being a symbol of bad luck and evil. When children start going missing the island is forced to reckon with its dark history of familial abuse and the terrifying beast-like forces of the sea.



This Halloween, we celebrate the life, work and legacy of acclaimed director Justin Hardy (1964 - 2026) with a special screening of *Wrath of the Gods*, starring Francis Magee, Christiane Schaldemose and Jamie Rhodes.

Join us, alongside members of the film's cast and crew, as we revisit Justin's remarkable journey — exploring his work, his passion for filmmaking, the stories he brought to life and the lasting mark he leaves on those who knew and worked with him.

Wrath of the Gods is more than a film for us on this occasion. It is an opportunity to come together, remember Justin, celebrate his extraordinary creative spirit and share stories about the journey behind the film.

Q&A with Filmmakers

Book Tickets: www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026
or www.rocksfestivals.com/hriff

SATURDAY

31 OCTOBER 2026

THE OBSERVER BUILDING

8 –11 PM

Eleavator to the Gallows

Hallowe'en Horror

DUVET · SMOKEY · HOUSE · NIGHT WHISPERERS · PRETTY LITTLE HEAD · SERUMEL · FOR SALE · I HATE JACK · NIGHT OWLS · RING RING · CANDLES · THE STOLEN FUTURE · DEAD ON DISTRIBUTION · INEBRIATED · THE FINAL ATTUNEMENT · DREAD · ALBERT

Q&A with Filmmakers

This Halloween Hastings Rocks takes a walk on the wild side with a chilling selection of horror shorts that explore fear in all the forms it may take. From psychological unease to supernatural terror, expect stories that get under your skin and have plenty of scares. Across the session, filmmakers explore many ideas from trauma to guilt, obsession and isolation to new inventive and experimental approaches that you certainly have not seen before.

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SUNDAY

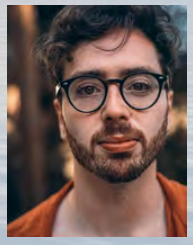
1 NOVEMBER 2026
PRINTWORKS
12 -2 PM

The Earth We Leave Behind

Documentaries Series

FEATURE FILM

The Dying Trade



Jack is a vegan activist. His father is a slaughterhouse worker. After years of avoiding the subject, Jack sets out to confront the unspoken tension between them. This intimate and contemplative documentary follows a son's attempt to understand his father - and the industry that stands between them.

FACING THE WIND · TURNING THE TIDE · ONE MAN'S TRASH · WHAT RHYMES WITH TOXIC

Q&A with Filmmakers

From the rescue of an endangered monk seal and a son confronting his father's life inside the meat industry, to the devastating impact of the global plastic trade and toxic pollution. All of these films examine conservation, consumption and the often-unseen cost of human activity. This thought-provoking session explores our complicated relationship with the natural world and the consequences of treating animals, ecosystems and resources as commodities. Moving between intimate documentary, animation and environmental storytelling, The Earth We Leave Behind invites us to consider the connections between our everyday choices and the wider world. At the heart of this session is this vital question: what it might take to leave a better world behind for our future generations?

Book Tickets: **www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026**

SUNDAY

1 NOVEMBER 2026

PRINTWORKS

2 -4.30 PM

The Age of Stupid

In the year 2055, the world has been devastated by rising sea levels and various natural disasters; an archivist examines videos from 2008 to understand why humans didn't stop climate change before it was too late.

Pie Net Zero

Q&A with FRANNY ARMSTRONG (Director)

We are thrilled to welcome Award-winning filmmaker and activist Franny Armstrong. One of the most distinctive voices in socially engaged documentary, Franny has spent her career making films that don't simply observe the world – they challenge us to think differently about it. From the groundbreaking *The Age of Stupid* onwards, Franny has shown how documentary can be provocative, inventive and a powerful catalyst for change.

Book Tickets: **www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026**

SUNDAY

1 NOVEMBER 2026

4.30 -5.30 PM

HASTINGS ROCKS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2026

AWARDS CEREMONY

Book Tickets: www.rocksfestivals.com/event-details/hastingsrocks2026