

Many films to choose from at EIFF 2015



The programme was announced earlier today for the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2015 with what we considered to be a fairly subdued fanfare. The programme is not as glossy as in the past but what it contains is! You will be presented with the opportunity of attending 164 features from 36 countries including 24 World Premiers, 8 International Premiers, 16 European Premieres, 84 UK Premieres and 2 Scottish Premieres.

As if that's not enough there will be a retrospective in Little Big Screen sponsored by American Airlines and celebrating the best of 60s and 70s movies.

There is much to entertain you and Douglas Greenwood [has already made his choices](#) to give you a guide as tickets go on sale.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to the CEO of EIFF Ken Hay and the new Artistic Director Mark Adams about this year's programme:

[The Edinburgh Reporter NEWS](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Scott Graham's beautifully shot drama, IONA, will close the 69th edition of the Festival on Sunday 28 June at the Festival Theatre Edinburgh when it will receive its World Premiere.

Shot entirely on location in Scotland, the film stars Ruth Negga (*Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D*), Douglas Henshall (*Shetland*), Tom Brooke (*The Boat That Rocked*) and Michelle Duncan (*Atonement*), with remarkable debuts by two young Scottish actors, Ben Gallagher and Sorcha Groundsell. IONA is

director Scott Graham's second film following his award winning *Shell* in 2012.

Director Scott Graham said: 'I discovered many films and filmmakers at the Edinburgh International Film Festival. Edinburgh was my home all through my twenties and it was in venues like Filmhouse and the Cameo where I learned the value of the stories we tell and the emotions we share. I'm thrilled *IONA* will have its premiere here and doubly thrilled it will close the Festival. What an honour.'

Part coming-of-age story and part returning-home drama, Graham's striking and enthralling film is set against the stunning backdrop of the Hebridean island of Iona. *Named after her birthplace, Iona, played by Ruth Negga, returns to the island with her teenage son to seek refuge from a violent crime in Glasgow. Iona's return exposes her tormented son Bull to a way of life she rejected when she left the island as a teenager and sends a shock wave through the family she left behind.*

Mark Adams, Artistic Director of EIFF said: "We are thrilled to be closing this year's Festival with Scott Graham's lovely, moving and enthralling *Iona*. He is a striking cinematic talent and the film will wrap this year's Festival in the perfect way."

IONA is produced by Margaret Matheson and co-produced by Gunter Hanfgarn. The film is executive produced by Christopher Collins, Lizzie Francke, Ian Davies and Rebecca Long and is set for release in the UK later this year. The film is co-financed by the BFI and Creative Scotland.

Tickets on sale now on the EIFF [website](#).

Here is the programme for you to see what you would like to book:

