

Scotland's Environmental Film
Festival at the Montrose Playhouse

12-14 Sept 2025

MONTROSE LANDXSEA FILMFEST

THE
MONTROSE
PLAYHOUSE

landxsea.org



SCREEN SCOTLAND
SGRIN ALBA

Welcome to the 3rd Annual Montrose LandxSea Film Fest!

Each September, our coastal town becomes a gathering place for filmmakers, artists, scientists, and audiences to face the climate crisis through powerful storytelling.

In just three years, LandxSea has grown from a grassroots weekend into Scotland's national platform for environmental film, ideas, and action.

This year's theme, **Creative Ground: Artists Respond to the Climate**, celebrates artists as truth-tellers and change-makers. Inspired by Sea Change, Montrose's new embedded artist project, our programme showcases painters, musicians, poets, and performers making sense of a changing world and inviting us to do the same.

We're thrilled to present **22 new films** from around the globe, including the Scottish premiere of *Lost for Words*, a stunning exploration of language and landscape; *Tracing Light*, a luminous meditation on science and perception; and *When Fish Begin to Crawl*, an awe-inspiring orchestral triptych. Also premiering are two powerful international features: *Lowland Kids*, about America's first climate refugees, and *Yanuni*, a love story of resistance in the Amazon.

This year brings collaborations with Havana-Glasgow Film Festival, Angus Climate Hub, and Culture for Climate Scotland; and expanded family programming like *The Enchanted Cinema*, a joyful event where kids and grown-ups create live soundtracks to animated classics.

But LandxSea is more than what's on screen. It's about participation. Community. Sparking change. So speak up in a Q&A. Get your hands dirty in a workshop. Jump in the sea. Bring your curiosity, your questions, your family.

Heartfelt thanks to our brilliant volunteers, partners, artists, audiences, and sponsors—especially **Screen Scotland**, whose two-year support helps us grow a welcoming, creative home for environmental storytelling on Scotland's northeast coast.

We can't wait to share this weekend with you.

Warmly,

**Rachel Caplan, Co-Founder
& Festival Director**

**Anthony Baxter, Co-Founder
& Trustee**

Tag us @landxseafest

Big Nights

OPENING NIGHT
PREMIERE:

LOST FOR
WORDS

12 Sept 7:30pm



Hannah Papacek Harper · UK, France · 93 min · English & Gaelic with English subtitles
Scottish Premiere. What happens when nature's names vanish from our tongues? *Lost for Words* unfurls across Britain's landscapes as children, elders, poets, and scientists fight to save the vanishing words that shape our environment. Inspired by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris's *The Lost Words*, this is a manifesto on the power of language.

+Q&A with: Hannah Papacek Harper, director; Gabriela Sawaya, producer; Amanda Thomson, visual artist/writer

OPENING NIGHT DRINKS 10:00pm

Raise a glass! Join us in the Playhouse Bar to meet Festival filmmakers and special guests as we kick-off a weekend of storytelling, ideas, and connection.

CLOSING NIGHT
PREMIERE:

YANUNI

14 Sept 7:30pm



Richard Ladkani · Austria, Brazil, USA, Canada, Germany · 112 min · English, Portuguese with English subtitles

Scottish Premiere. In the beating heart of Brazil's Amazon, Indigenous leader Juma Xipaia and her partner Hugo risk everything to defend their land and unborn child. A rallying call to action, and stirring portrait of resistance, courage, and the sacred bonds that unite a people in crisis.

+Q&A with: Richard Ladkani, director

CLOSING NIGHT WRAP DRINKS 10:00pm

It's a Wrap! Gather with filmmakers, guests, and fellow festivalgoers in the Playhouse Bar for a celebratory nightcap to close the 2025 Festival.

Beyond the cinema screen, discover our diverse line up of stimulating events, conversations, and workshops!

IN CONVERSATION: DAVID MACPHERSON – STORIES FROM THE RIG

13 Sept 12:30pm
Montrose Playhouse



Join screenwriter **David Macpherson** of TV hit *The Rig* for a behind-the-scenes look at bringing North Sea oil stories to the screen. Through clips and conversation, explore how climate and class currents shape compelling narratives, and discover what Scotland's new Leith film studios mean for storytelling's next chapter. Hosted by **Gemma Bradshaw** of the TV Foundation/Edinburgh TV Festival.

IN CONVERSATION: AMANDA THOMSON – BELONGING, LANGUAGE, AND THE LIVING WORLD

13 Sept 2:30pm
Activity Room,
Montrose Playhouse
Free event



Join artist and nature writer **Amanda Thomson** (*Belonging, A Scots Dictionary of Nature*) for a reflective conversation on language, place, and environmental change. Tied to our screening of *Lost for Words*, this session uncovers how naming and noticing the natural world can deepen our connection to it, and to each other.

SEA CHANGE: CLIMATE, COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY

14 Sept 2:00pm
Activity Room,
Montrose Playhouse
Free event



Join us on Montrose's shifting shore for a collaborative workshop and conversation led by *Sea Change* embedded artist **Eve Mosher** with **Culture for Climate Scotland** and **Angus Climate Hub**. Together, we'll map personal connections to our coastline, imagine collective responses to erosion and climate change, and co-create actions to shape Montrose's future shoreline.

MONTROSE BEACH DOOK

14 Sept 9:30am
Montrose Beach
Free event



Our beloved Beach Dook returns! Join fellow festivalgoers for a bracing dip in the North Sea - a chance to celebrate together, whether you're diving in or cheering from the dunes. This LandxSea tradition is the perfect way to kick off your festival Sunday. The dook is free, open to everyone, and guarantees a whole lot of fun.

Festival Calendar

Fri 12th Sept

10:00am Free Schools Programmes – contact us to bring your class at hello@landxsea.org

OPENING NIGHT

7:30pm Opening Night Premiere:
LOST FOR WORDS

Until Late Opening Night Drinks

GENERAL ACCESS: Montrose Playhouse is fully accessible with step-free entry, a lift to all floors, accessible toilets on every level, and a Changing Places facility. Each screen has wheelchair spaces. There are four disabled parking bays (two at the front, two at the rear). Free tickets are available for carers and essential companions. Captioned and subtitled screenings are noted in the website and box office listings. Q&As and speaker events include live captioning. Quiet spaces are available and our friendly team is here to help. If you have specific access needs, just ask at the box office or email us in advance.

Sat 13th Sept

10:00am The Enchanted Cinema: WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

10:30am FROM HAVANA WITH HOPE: CLIMATE SHORTS FROM CUBA

12:00pm The Enchanted Cinema: MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO

12:30pm IN CONVERSATION: David Macpherson—Stories from THE RIG

2:00pm THE PICKERS with HEADLAND

2:30pm IN CONVERSATION: Amanda Thomson—BELONGING, Language & the Living World

4:40pm TRACING LIGHT with ANIMAL EYE

7:30pm Centrepiece Premiere:
LOWLAND KIDS with IN THE FLAME
WE REVEAL OURSELVES + live music

Sun 14th Sept

9:30am Montrose Beach Dook

11:45am NORTH SEA, NATURE UNTAMED with THE PINE HUNTERS

2:00pm SEA CHANGE: Climate, Community, and Creativity

2:40pm ITU NINU with THE WORLD WE MAKE IS SHAPED BY THE STORIES WE TELL

5:15pm WHEN FISH BEGIN TO CRAWL with CHASING WHALES

CLOSING NIGHT

7:30pm Closing Night Premiere: YANUNI

Until late Closing Night Wrap Drinks

Please check landxsea.org and [@landxseafest](https://www.instagram.com/landxseafest) on socials for event updates and additions!

Box Office

Online: montroseplayhouse.co.uk

Phone: 07395 071 636

Email: info@montroseplayhouse.co.uk

In Person: at the Montrose Playhouse box office

Individual tickets can be printed at home, scanned from your phone, or collected at the box office, which opens 30 minutes before the first show daily. Films start on time, no trailers or ads. Most screenings include Q&As. Filmmaker and guest attendance is never guaranteed. LandxSea Film Festival is exempt from all Montrose Playhouse memberships—a separate ticket is required. All ticket sales are final—no refunds, exchanges, or replacements. Unused tickets convert to donations supporting year-round programming.

Tickets & Passes

All seating is reserved – please book online, call, or visit the box office.

£9.50 Adult

£7.75 Senior

£7.25 Student

Free 18 & Under / Carer / Essential Companion

£47.50 6-Ticket Voucher Pack (6 for the price of 5)

Price includes £1 admin fee per ticket to support Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO.

We believe cinema should be for everyone. If cost is a barrier, free tickets are available, no questions asked. Just choose the option online, call us, or speak to the box office.

Films A-Z



ANIMAL EYE

Carlo Nasisse · USA, Costa Rica · 13 min
English, Spanish with English subtitles
13 Sept 4:40pm

Scottish premiere. Shattering the boundaries between science and wonder, this spectacular documentary blends scientific images with ultraviolet capture, infrared imaging, and 16mm texture to bring to life the world as seen through animal eyes. A kaleidoscopic encounter that challenges what we know about vision, consciousness, and connection.



CHASING WHALES

La Fille Renne · France · 5 min
French with English subtitles
14 Sept 5:15pm

Scottish Premiere. In this experimental short, La Fille Renne travels from fjord-wrapped inlets to the open ocean in search of whales. Shimmering visuals and dreamlike narration collide to explore how our bond with these giants has morphed from song and wonder to industrial hunting, and remind us of the urgency to bear witness.

+Q&A with: La Fille Renne, director



FUTURE COUNCIL

Damon Gameau · Australia · 81 min
12 Sept 10:00am

Scottish Premiere. Eight school kids - including 'CC' from Edinburgh - go on a biofuelled bus trip across Europe to confront the giants behind the climate crisis. From boardroom challenges to grassroots innovation tours, they form a 'Future Council' to hold powerful companies to account and shape environmental policy.

+Q&A with: Damon Gameau, director (online); Clemence "CC" Currie, film's subject (in person)



HEADLAND

Mariana Duarte · UK · 13 min
13 Sept 2:00pm

A nature reserve on the English Channel is a place of wonder and solace, shaped and haunted by violence. *Headland* is an intimate look at life on a pebble beach reclaimed from the ocean, interweaving the tradition of sea rescues with recent Channel crossings, as witnessed by the last of the Dungeness fishermen.

+Q&A with: Mariana Duarte, director



THE PICKERS

Elke Sasse · Germany · 80 min · English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, Bambara & Urdu with English subtitles
13 Sept 2:00pm

Behind every supermarket orange or strawberry lies a hidden cost. Across Europe's fields, migrant workers pick the food we eat whilst living on the margins, exposing a network of exploitation and igniting a movement for a FAIR PICK. A necessary interrogation of our food system.

+Q&A with: Ben Kempas, Meet the Pickers campaign producer; Catriona Fraser, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre



THE PINE HUNTERS

Ted Simpson · UK · 15 min
14 Sept 11:45am

In the Scottish Highlands' hidden glens ecologists James and Jane of the Wild Pine Project set out to find the last wild Scots pines. *The Pine Hunters* is an evocative short film following their map-led quest to protect these ecological relics, living links to a primeval forest and vital lifelines for Scotland's biodiversity. Both a visual meditation on ecological loss and a call to remember our cultural ties to native woodland.

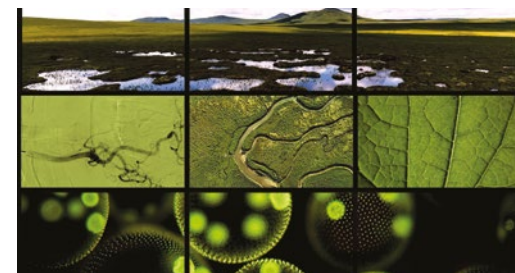


TRACING LIGHT

Thomas Riedelsheimer · Germany, UK · 99 min
English and German with English subtitles
13 Sept 4:40pm

Scottish Premiere. From the mist-swept Scottish isles to cutting-edge German research labs, *Tracing Light* is a luminous exploration of ecosystems forged by light. Fire, photon pulses, and marble reflections reveal the secrets of the universe, reminding us that the planet's health hinges on the ineffable nature of light itself.

+Q&A with: Sonja Henrici, producer; Leslie Hills, executive producer



WHEN FISH BEGIN TO CRAWL

Morag Mckinnon, Jim Sutherland · UK
65 min
14 Sept 5:15pm

Join an orchestral odyssey through time, climate, and the Flow Country in this awe-inspiring triptych, with an original score by Jim Sutherland, performed by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. From primordial seas to climate emergency, this epic synthesis of music, science, and art offers a stirring vision of hope and interconnection.

+Q&A with: Morag Mckinnon, director; Jim Sutherland, director/composer



IN THE FLAME WE REVEAL OURSELVES

Virginia Heath · UK · 15 min

13 Sept 7:30pm

World Premiere with live music! A haunting ode to our burning, beautiful world, paired with *Afterlands'* soundtrack. Destruction and devotion burn together, inviting us to feel both climate grief and the hope that emerges when we face the flames.

+Q&A with: Virginia Heath, director; Grant Keir, producer

+Live music with: Rick Anthony, *Afterlands*



ITU NINU

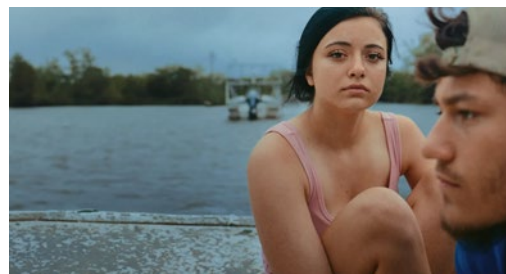
Itandehui Jansen · Mexico, UK · 72 min

English, Mixtec with English subtitles

14 Sept 2:40pm

Indigenous sci-fi, green-produced in Leith. In 2084, in a high-surveillance smart city, climate migrants Ángel and Sofia defy authority by swapping handwritten Mixtec letters, igniting kinship, intimacy, and hope. A quiet reflection on language, migration, and the human need for unfiltered connection. It champions sustainable filmmaking and indigenous futurism.

+Q&A with: Itandehui Jansen, director; Armando Bautista, actor/producer



LOWLAND KIDS

Sandra Winther · USA, Denmark · 94 min

13 Sept 7:30pm

Scottish Premiere. As rising seas swallow Louisiana's Isle de Jean Charles, two Indigenous teens and their uncle face the painful decision of leaving their ancestral home. *Lowland Kids* paints a vital, urgent portrait of America's first climate refugees, capturing a family's hope and struggle to remain whole as the ground disappears beneath their feet.

+Q&A with: Sandra Winther, director (online)



NORTH SEA, NATURE UNTAMED

Mark Verkerk · Netherlands · 88 min

Dutch with English subtitles

14 Sept 11:45am

Scottish Premiere. Plunge beneath the waves through the eyes of diver and underwater cameraman Peter van Rodijnen. From the wild blue waters around the Scottish islands to the shallow delta of the Low Countries and up along the dramatic coastline of the Norwegian fjords, *North Sea, Nature Untamed* is a thrilling cinematic adventure that showcases the North Sea in all its glory.

+Q&A with: Peter van Rodijnen, underwater cameraman



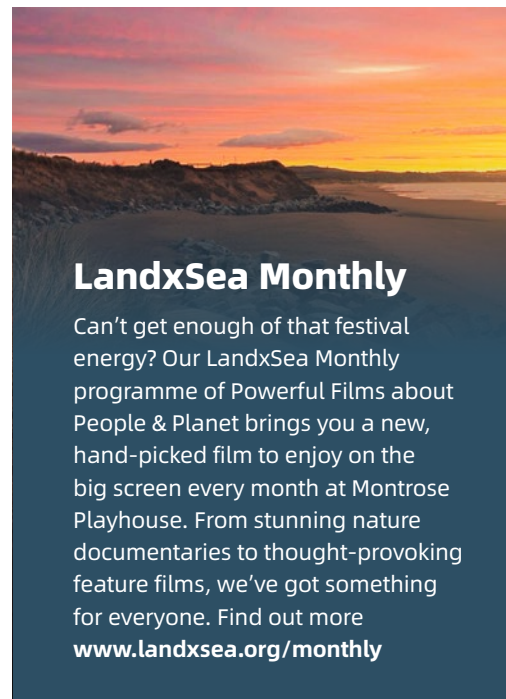
THE WORLD WE MAKE IS SHAPED BY THE STORIES WE TELL

Mark Jenkins · UK · 16 min · Subtitled

14 Sept 2:40pm

BAFTA-winning Mark Jenkins crafts a "recycled" short from past films, archive footage, and local collaboration, mapping energy from sunlit seas and peat bogs through coal, nuclear, and wind. Created in response to the Orkney Creative Landscape Futures workshop, it's a reflection on place, process, and how small stories—rooted in land and sea—can shape what comes next.

+Q&A with: Mark Jenkins, director



LandxSea Monthly

Can't get enough of that festival energy? Our LandxSea Monthly programme of Powerful Films about People & Planet brings you a new, hand-picked film to enjoy on the big screen every month at Montrose Playhouse. From stunning nature documentaries to thought-provoking feature films, we've got something for everyone. Find out more www.landxsea.org/monthly

2025 LandxSea Team

Festival Director – Rachel Caplan

Core Team

Emma Jamieson, *Marketing & Communications Manager*

Holly Muse, *Guest Manager & Assistant Festival Producer*

Anthony Baxter · Fiona Guest · Graham Black · Rebecca Taylor

Pre-Screeners

Graham Black · Holly Muse · Michelle Rodley · Mick Muse · Nadia Ward · Rachel Caplan · Rebecca Taylor · Scott Gray

Trustees

Anthony Baxter · Fiona Guest · Gemma Bradshaw · Kenny Alexander

Montrose Playhouse Project SCIO Team

Claire Carle · Jenna Henderson · Stewart Buchanan

Creative & Publicity

Festival Trailer – Montrose Pictures
Festival Photographer – Graham Black
Photography
Graphic Design – Kati Woods, Katypical Ltd
Publicist – Ruth Marsh PR

Thank you to our many passionate and dedicated volunteers!

More at landxsea.org/people

Get in touch at hello@landxsea.org

Photo credits: Program @BGS_Photography_Scotland;
North Sea, Nature Untamed ©Dutch Maritime Productions - Joost van Uffelen; The Pickers © Marcus Zahn.

Printed on 100% recycled paper



SHORTS PROGRAMME:

From Havana With Hope: Climate Shorts From Cuba

13 Sept 10:30am | Montrose Playhouse

Enjoy an inspiring collection of Cuban short documentaries marking ten years of Havana-Glasgow Film Festival. Meet farmers pioneering agroecology, eco-friendly car wash entrepreneurs, recycled paper artisans, and revolutionary cyclists! These shorts showcase everyday people solving environmental problems creatively in their own backyards, but making an impact far beyond Cuba's shores.

- Designing a Different Kind of Car Wash
- A Labour of Love (Trabajo De Amore)
- The Magic of Mending
- A Modern Agrarian Future: The Life & Work of Agroecologist Fernando Funes Monzote
- Promoting Cycling, Empowering Women
- Turning Old Paper Into New Opportunities
- The Woodland (El Monte)

Guests: Eirene Houston and Julia Harriman, Havana-Glasgow Film Festival; Daniesky Acosta, filmmaker

For Kids & Families

Age 4+

THE ENCHANTED CINEMA

13 Sept
Activity Room,
Montrose Playhouse



10:00am WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

12:00pm MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO

Scottish Debut! What if *you* became the soundtrack to your favourite films? In these joyful, hands-on shows, children and families create live sound effects and music for animated favourites. Perfect for ages 4+, this is family cinema as you've never seen, or heard, it before.

FREE SCHOOLS PROGRAMMES

12 Sept 10:00am



LandxSea is pleased to present two special preview screenings for young audiences.

Age 9+ FUTURE COUNCIL (description above)

Age 15+ LOWLAND KIDS (description above)

Want to bring your class or group to our Schools Programme or other shows? Contact us at hello@landxsea.org for details.

More than movies, a movement.

Lights! Camera! Take action!

Let the energy of the festival ripple outward. Visit landxsea.org/takeaction to connect with local partners, make your Green Pledge, explore our online film archive, and discover year-round ways to protect the places we love.

Festival Awards

AUDIENCE AWARD - voted by you at screenings!

NORTH LIGHT AWARD

Our annual juried award shines a light on bold Scottish filmmaking that reimagines our relationship with the natural world. With a £500 cash prize, it honours originality, impact, and creative vision in environmental storytelling. Finalists screen throughout the weekend, with the winner announced at Closing Night.

2025 Jury: **Daniesky Acosta**, filmmaker
Katherine Bruce, Executive Director, Planet in Focus, Canada
Karen Ridgewell, Climate Emergency & Sustainability Lead, Creative Scotland

Films in Competition:

- In the Flame We Reveal Ourselves
- Itu Ninu
- Lost for Words
- The Pine Hunters
- Tracing Light
- When Fish Begin to Crawl
- The World We Make is Shaped by the Stories We Tell

North Light Award Sponsor: Lisa Kentgen
Festival awards created by Irene Hughes

Thank You 2025 Sponsors & Partners!



SCREEN SCOTLAND
SGRÌN ALBA



Lisa Kentgen
North Light Award
sponsor



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION THROUGH THE GREEN FILM NETWORK



LandxSea is proud to be the first UK representative of the Green Film Network, a prestigious international alliance of over 30 film festivals across 23 countries. This partnership allows us to showcase the best global environmental films, connect with international partners, and promote Scottish filmmaking talent worldwide. To learn more, visit greenfilmnet.org

View full list at landxsea.org/thanks

Montrose LandxSea Film Festival SCIO is a Registered Charity in Scotland (SC053626)