



Film Fest International Academy

Expert Tuition from Academy Member & Acclaimed Filmmaker AJ Sykes



AJ Sykes's most recent film, *Regrets*, has so far screened at twenty international film festivals, received eleven nominated and won 'Best Scottish Short Film' and 'Best Scottish Star'. It is still currently doing the festival circuit and can next be seen at the BAFTA accredited Carmarthen Bay Film Festival in May.

AJ's last film *Perfect Worlds*, a thirty-five minute science-fiction film, screened at eighteen international film festivals, received twenty eight nominations and won five awards including Best Short Film in Amsterdam. AJ is currently working on two science fiction features - *Dandelion* and an extended *A Perfect World*, with *Dandelion* about to go into pre-production.

AJ is a member of Directors UK, and a part of their recently formed DUK Scottish Working Group. She is also a member of the Working Group for the Association of Film and Television Practitioners Scotland (AFTPS). AJ served for two years as a committee member for BECTU, was with Equity for over fifteen years and is a BAFTA member.

AJ Sykes originally trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Stage Management and Television Production. After this, AJ went on to have a successful career as an award winning actor, writer and director, before retraining as a filmmaker.

AJ graduated from Screen Academy Scotland, Napier University Edinburgh, with a 'MFA' in Advanced Film Practice, and a 'Masters' in Film Directing - with specialisms in Screenwriting and Producing.

Most recently, she had the opportunity to become involved with the filming of Amazon/BBC co-production of Neil Gaiman's *Good Omens* and BBC's *Shetland*.



Film Fest International Masters Course



The filmmakers Festival International Course in Advanced Filmmaking is intended to inspire and create a supportive environment for you the filmmaker to learn the professional tools, apps and programmes used within the film industry.

The FFIMC is a course for filmmakers wishing to become more rounded, professional creatives whatever your speciality

This is not a traditional course that tells you what you need to do. The FFIMC allows you to customise your learning to support you to become the best filmmaker you can be.

Over an intensive week of workshops you will learn among other things:

- The tools needed to write and break down a professional script.
- The skills used by the professional director.
- How to give and get the best out of actors.
- How to produce, schedule and budget your film.
- And in the final workshop, distribution and planning for the market.

With your mentor you will decide and create your own specialist study areas to complete two of the four modules.

You will develop a script from premise to finished film. This film will screen at the graduating festival for your third module.

Finally in your fourth module, you will write a reflective essay on the skills you have learned, gained and put into practice through out your time on the FFIMC.

