

OffBeat FolkFilmFestival *Press Release*

12th - 18th May 2025

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Press

hello@offbeat.film
festival@offbeat.film

50 Contemporary Films Exploring Britain's Landscape, Trades, and Folk Culture

OffBeat Folk Film Club has become something of a cultural phenomenon. Since 2022, it has been bringing audiences together to watch archive documentaries about British and Irish heritage, working culture, and folk traditions. This year, OffBeat is taking things a step further with the first-ever OffBeat Folk Film Festival, running from 12th–18th May across four London venues:

- Walthamstow Trades Hall - A historic working men's club and OffBeat's spiritual home.
- SET Social (Peckham) - A thriving artist-run venue with a focus on community-led events.
- The Mildmay Club - A grand, old-school London social club with deep roots in working-class culture.
- The Garden Cinema - A beautiful, independent cinema celebrating film in all its forms.

The festival will showcase 50 contemporary films, ranging from experimental shorts to feature-length documentaries about thatchers, dry stone wall builders, and Britain's most eccentric folk traditions.

Audiences can expect everything from stories of weaving and seagulls to the legendary Padstow Obby Oss festival and even a woman learning to fly.



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A Living Archive of Folk Culture

OffBeat Folk Film Club was founded on the idea that Britain's folk traditions and working lives should be celebrated on screen, creating a *living archive*. The regional archives do a fantastic job getting historical films out there," says the OffBeat team, "but there's no real platform for contemporary documentaries that slow, contemplative, and deeply human films. That's what we're building."

Filmmaker Alex Cantouris, whose film about our relationship to the solar system, is screening at the festival, says:

"OffBeat is doing something quite unique and giving space to stories and films that often get overlooked.

It's a festival with real heart, and I'm so excited to be part of it."

Festival Highlights

- Opening Night: Town & Country - An exploration of where rural and urban life collide.
- Folk Traditions: Old & New- A deep dive into Britain's strangest and most wonderful customs.
- Trades & Crafts- Documentaries on the makers and keepers of Britain's working traditions.
- Narrative Shorts and Beyond - For the first time, OffBeat screens narrative fiction.
- Daisy Rickman Live - A closing night gig featuring Daisy Rickman, following the festival's award ceremony, with ceramic awards inspired by ancient stone circles designed by emerging artist Hannah Rot.

Press & Media

Comps available for screenings. Interviews, images, and further details can be provided on request.

For more information, visit

www.offbeat.film

or contact

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