FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

Realtime International Film Festival 2026

Featuring the 2nd edition of BlackAIfest

October 23 – 25, 2026
Worcester, United Kingdom.

This schedule is jointly for RTF and BlackAIfest 2026.

DAY 1 — Friday, 23 October 2026

Arrivals, Worcester Tourism & Welcome Soirée

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM A warm welcome for early arrivals, featuring light hospitality and guided introductions to Worcester's cultural highlights.

Tour of the Guildhall, Worcester

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM A friendly, guided tour of Worcester's historic Guildhall, offering guests a glimpse into the city's civic heritage.

Welcome Red Carpet & Cocktails

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Fun drinks, live music, and professional photos on the red carpet.
Highlight: Enjoy the filmmakers' stars on our Walk of Fame.

The Grand Opening Ceremony

5:00 PM – 7:30 PM Welcome speeches from the Mayor and the Festival Director.
Highlights: Live music, exclusive movie trailer previews, and the presentation of the first three festival awards.

Meet & Greet

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM A relaxed space for filmmakers to connect, chat, and build new creative relationships.

Festival Launch Party

8:30 PM – 10:00 PM Food, drinks, music, and celebration to officially kick off the 11th edition of RTF.

DAY 2 — Saturday, 24 October 2026

Film Screenings

Venues: The Hive, Worcester • Swan Theatre • RTF MVC
Time: 9:30 AM – 10:00 PM

A full day of screenings across three festival venues, showcasing diverse films from emerging and established creators around the world.

Industry Sessions

Venue: The Hive, Worcester

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Workshop 1: The Global Pipeline Shift

Series: *The Uncomfortable Conversation — AI in Film (Part 1)* A deep dive into how artificial intelligence is reshaping global film production workflows, creative processes, and industry standards.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Industry Talk: Making & Selling Indie Films

What: Professional guidance on navigating distribution pathways—from TV networks to cinema screens and mobile platforms.

Focus: Practical business strategies for filmmakers who want to build successful independent film careers in the Midlands.

Special Highlight: Insight into the upcoming opening of the Scala Theatre in Worcester, and how creatives can help shape its programming, audience experience, and cultural impact.

Festival After Party

Time: 8:00 PM – 11:30 PM

Venue: *TBD* A vibrant night of music, food, drinks, and celebration with filmmakers, guests, and industry professionals.

DAY 3 — Sunday, 25 October 2026

Film Screenings

Venues: The Hive, Worcester • Swan Theatre • RTF MVC
Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Final screenings across festival venues, leading into the closing celebrations.

Industry Sessions

Venue: The Hive, Worcester

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Workshop 2: Legal Bedrock & Human Rights

Series: *The Uncomfortable Conversation — AI in Film (Part 2)* A critical discussion on emerging legal frameworks designed to protect human copyright, creative ownership, and artists' rights in an AI-driven era.

Closing Gala & Awards Night

Venue: Freedom Hall, Lowesmoor Wharf, Worcester **Time:** 4:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Closing Gala Programme

4:15 PM – 5:00 PM — The Historic Joint Red Carpet

What: Drinks, social mingling, and press interviews. **Highlight:** All filmmakers walking the red carpet together in a symbolic gesture of unity.

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM — Grand Closing Gala & Final Awards

What: Presentation of final prizes, launch of the festival magazine, and plenty of photo moments.
Fun Surprise: A lucky dip raffle with a £100 cash prize for one guest.
Note: The evening concludes no later than 7:30 PM to ensure safe travel for attendees across the UK.

Special Feature (Interlude during the closing Gala, featuring Festival Presidents and Directors)

Panel: What Festivals Look for in Films Practical insights on how filmmakers can strengthen their submissions and improve their chances of selection.