



**MANCHESTER  
ANIMATION  
FESTIVAL**

For Immediate Release Thursday 16th October 2025

## **Manchester Animation Festival's Family Day Returns for a Big-Screen Adventure!**

**A fun-filled day of animated films, special previews, creative workshops, and inspiring talks for kids, teens, and grown-ups alike.**

[Images](#)

**Manchester, UK** - [Manchester Animation Festival](#) (MAF), the UK's only Oscar® and BAFTA®-qualifying animation festival, is thrilled to announce the return of its much-loved Family Day, taking place on Sunday 9th November at HOME in Manchester. This vibrant day of big-screen entertainment invites families to step away from the small screen and immerse themselves in a world of animated storytelling.

Leading the line-up are two special feature screenings. *Hola Frida* (U) is a sparkling and imaginative portrait of Frida Kahlo as a young girl, celebrating curiosity, creativity, and resilience. With its rich visuals and uplifting message, it's a perfect introduction to one of art's most iconic figures. Meanwhile, an advanced screening of Netflix's new comedy adventure *In Your Dreams* (PG) invites audiences to join siblings Stevie and Elliot as they plunge into the chaotic world of their own dreams - where snarky stuffed animals, zombie breakfasts, and the formidable queen of nightmares stand between them and their ultimate wish: the perfect family.

The day also features the *BBC Family Boxset*, a joyful screening packed with family favourites and cult classics from CBBC and CBeebies that are sure to spark laughter and nostalgia. The Boxset event will include a special preview of the brand-new CBBC show *Duck and Frog*, produced by Sun and Moon - a fast-paced, dialogue-free slapstick comedy bursting with energetic, anarchic humour. For those looking to discover something new, the *Short Films for Children Competition* presents a curated selection of animated shorts from around the world, designed to enchant kids and adults alike. And *Shorts for Teens* showcases bold ideas, fresh perspectives and unforgettable stories - perfect for budding film fanatics eager to explore what lies beyond the mainstream.

**Festival Director Steve Henderson** said: *"MAF's Family Day is one of the most joyful parts of the festival. It's packed with beautiful, heart-warming stories, fun-filled workshops, and hands-on activities that spark creativity and imagination. With exclusive preview screenings and inspiring talks, it's a day that brings families of all ages together to share in the magic of animation and celebrate the power of storytelling. We're proud to offer a space where film-loving families can be inspired, entertained, and feel part of something truly special."*

[WWW.MANCHESTERANIMATIONFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.MANCHESTERANIMATIONFESTIVAL.CO.UK)

Registered office: Fletchers Mill, Dean Clough Mills, Halifax, England, HX3 5AX

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Beyond the screen, Family Day offers hands-on creative fun with stop-motion workshops running throughout the day, giving children a chance to create their own stories. Budding animators and curious teens can also attend inspiring talks and panels aimed at 11-18 year olds, including *Laura Tofarides: My Animation Journey* and *Paths into Animation*, a talk by BAFTA®-winning director Will Anderson and stand-out directors Baz Sells and Francesca Adams which offers behind-the-scenes insights into the world of animation.

To top it all off, the Young Animator of the Year Awards 2025, sponsored by Hue and hosted by the team from award-winning animation studio Blue Zoo, will celebrate the next generation of animation talent, showcasing the creativity and passion of young artists from across the UK.

Whether you're raising a future animator or just looking for a magical day out, MAF's Family Day promises a one-of-a-kind experience that brings families together for a fun-filled adventure through the world of animation.

Manchester Animation Festival is presented with the support of Higher Education Partner University of Salford, Festival Partner HOME and Festival Patrons Adult Swim, BBC Children's & Education, BBC Studios Kids & Family, Blue Zoo Animation Studio, Bridge AI, Epic Games, Industrial Light & Magic, Innovate UK, Toon Boom and Moho Animation Software.

Tickets for Family Day are now available and include access to all sessions and events. For more details and to book your pass, visit the Manchester Animation Festival website [www.manchesteranimationfestival.co.uk](http://www.manchesteranimationfestival.co.uk)

- Ends -

### **Notes to editors:**

Manchester Animation Festival Director is Dr Steve Henderson, Producer and Programmer is Jen Hall, and Bill Lawrence is the Finance Director.

Manchester Animation Festival Board: Tom Box (Chair), Sherelle Fairweather, Jackie Edwards, Jo Clayton, Helen Bowdur, Elroy Simmons, Kate O'Connor.

Tickets and passes are now on sale.

Details of all events are available on the MAF website.

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**Links:**

[www.manchesteranimationfestival.co.uk](http://www.manchesteranimationfestival.co.uk)

<https://www.manchesteranimationfestival.co.uk/submissions/>

<https://filmfreeway.com/ManchesterAnimationFestival>

**Social media:**

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#MAF2025

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For further publicity information, please contact:  
Anna Lewis - Publicist, Manchester Animation Festival  
M: 07984955880 | E: [annalewispr@gmail.com](mailto:annalewispr@gmail.com)

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