



REFUGEE WEEK PREVIEW

Name Me Lawand

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Director: Edward Lovelace

©: Lawand Film Limited, Pulse Films, ESC Studios, British Film Institute

a Pulse Films production

This film was made with and for:

The Royal School for the Deaf in Derby

Presented by: BFI Doc Society Fund, Pulse Films, Electric Shadow Company

Executive Producers: Tim O'Shea, Thomas Benski, Diene Petterle, Lisa Marie Russo, Kwesi Dickson, Isabel Freer

Produced by: Fleur Nieddu

Producers: Sam Arnold, Beyan Taher, Neil Andrews, Marisa Clifford, Edward Lovelace

Line Producer: Lottie Allen

Written by: Edward Lovelace

Director of Photography: Ben Fordesman

VFX: FrameStore

Edited by: David Charap, Shahnaz Dulaimy,

Michael Nollet, David Whitaker

Film Titles by: Lucia Garcia

Colourist: Matthieu Toullet

Original Score by: Tom Hodge

End Credit Music by: Danny Lane

Sound Designer & Mixer: Ed Downham

Sound Recordists: Joe Harris, Stephen Hodge

Deaf Consultant: Sean Chandler

UK 2022

91 mins

A BFI release

The screening will be presented with subtitles, including descriptions of non-dialogue audio.

BSL interpreters: Pascale Maroney, Sarah Meeks

Live captions from MyClearText

Presented in partnership with Counterpoints Arts

COUNTERPOINTS.



refugeeweek.org.uk

Name Me Lawand will be released by BFI on 7 July

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+ discussion with director Edward Lovelace; Steve Crump OBE, founder and chair of Deaf Kidz International; and Sophie Stone, deaf artist, activist and support teacher. Hosted by Stuart Brown, BFI Head of Programme and Acquisitions.

Convinced of the potential of their deaf son, a Kurdish family leave Iraq and finally arrive in Derby, where Lawand joins the Royal School for the Deaf Derby. Empowered with British Sign Language, he reveals himself as a witty and popular student, while his family navigate a new common language and fight to remain in the community that has embraced them. Director Edward Lovelace (*The Possibilities Are Endless*) spent years alongside Lawand and his family, to produce this striking, affecting portrait. On World Refugee Day we are proud to present this powerful documentary, highlighting the importance of community and the transformative effect of finding your voice.

Director's statement

Name Me Lawand is a story about the power that language gives us, the freedom that a real home allows us, and the burning light of hope that never goes out.

This is a film that feels, instead of tells. It constantly searches, at first unknowingly, for a sense of understanding. Its audience is asked to experience Lawand's journey just as he did.

Fear initially turns into truth, friendship and connection. As it becomes clearer in Lawand's mind who he is, and what the world around him feels like, we too begin to understand.

Lawand is someone who for most of his life has had other people speak for him, represent him. This has been his greatest frustration, desperately wanting to communicate to the world who he is, in his own way. For Lawand it is simple – when he communicates in British Sign Language, he is the real Lawand.

The film's goal is to show the world what can happen when someone is given the freedom to express themselves in their language of choice, in a place they feel they can be celebrated as their true self.

I discovered Lawand and his brother through a photo taken by a photographer who had visited the family when they first arrived in Derby. On learning more about their story, I visited his school and met him and his family early in 2019. Then, we didn't have a shared language, but we quickly bonded as I learnt British Sign Language and we started to build our film team – with a Kurdish and a deaf producer.

I wanted to build trust and a strong foundation, so I spent most of 2019 being present at Lawand's school (The Royal School for the Deaf Derby), talking to teachers and forging bonds. They saw that I felt inspired just to exist there.

Our connection with the family has also been something we have been so proud of. We have assisted them on their visits to court and helped in various ways in their Home Office case. Possibly, the most notable moment was a segment from the film showcasing Lawand's fluency in British Sign Language which became a pivotal moment in the Home Office's understanding of the importance of this language to Lawand.

To become a part of Lawand's journey, however small, is one of my proudest achievements. I want the film to celebrate the light that shines from Lawand.

Production notes

REGULAR PROGRAMME

Projecting the Archive: The Return of the Frog + introduction by film historian Jonathan Rigby

Tue 20 Jun 18:30

Experimenta Mixtape S02E03 curated by Mark Leckey + Mark Leckey in conversation with novelist Sheena Patel, author *I'm A Fan*

Thu 22 Jun 18:20

African Odysseys: A Charmed Life + panel with directors and special guests

Sat 24 Jun 14:00

Relaxed Screening:

Under the Skin + intro and discussion

Mon 26 Jun 18:15

Black Self-Building On Screen + discussion

Tue 27 Jun 18:30

Film Wallahs: Restoration UK Premiere: Amar, Akbar, Anthony

Sun 2 Jul 15:00

Woman with a Movie Camera: The Apple (Sib) + intro by Programmer Jelena Milosavljevic

Thu 6 Jul 18:10

Projecting the Archive: Son of a Stranger + intro by Josephine Botting, BFI Curator

Tue 11 Jul 18:15

Experimenta: Nico Night Part 1: Solitude + Nina Danino in conversation with BFI National Archive curator William Fowler + Key

Wed 19 Jul 18:15

Experimenta: Nico Night Part 2: The Inner Scar (AKA La Cicatrice Intérieure) + intro

Wed 19 Jul 20:30

African Odysseys:

Passing Through + intro & Q&A

Sat 22 Jul 14:00

African Odysseys: Wattstax + intro

Sat 22 Jul 18:10

Seniors' Free Matinee: Summertime (aka Summer Madness) + intro

Mon 24 Jul 14:00

Art in the Making: Sickert's London + intro by historian, writer and artist Kate Aspinall + Walter Sickert: Painter of the Third Floor Back

Tue 25 Jul 18:10

Silent Cinema: The Signal Tower + intro by film historian Kevin Brownlow

Sun 30 Jul 15:40

Relaxed Screening:

Fantasia + intro and discussion

Mon 31 Jul 18:00

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Edward Lovelace is known for his critically acclaimed work, including his award-winning third feature film co-directed with James Hall, *The Possibilities Are Endless* (2014 – SXSW, BFI London Film Festival) and their Volvo x Sky Atlantic documentary series *Human Made Stories* (Cannes Lions, Tribeca Film Festival 2020). His previous work also includes *A Song Still Inside* (2020 – short narrative), *Katy Perry: Part of Me* (2012 – feature documentary) and *Werewolves Across America* (2010 – feature documentary). His most recent feature film *Name Me Lawand* (2022) won Best International Film at Hot Docs 2023, received a Grierson Award 'Best Feature Documentary' nomination at BFI London Film Festival 2022 and has been nominated for a One World Media 'Refugee Reporting' Award. *Name Me Lawand* is released by BFI Distribution in July 2023 across the UK & Ireland. He is currently also developing a fiction feature with BBC Film.

Steve Crump OBE

A global health and development professional, Steve has worked at senior level in a number of international development, relief and health organisations including ICRC, MAG and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. In addition, he has worked as a consultant for organisations such as the Start Network and Babylon Health. He is currently working as the Director of Charities and Voluntary Services at University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust in Brighton.

Profoundly deaf, Steve originated and founded DeafKidz International when he learned of the appalling abuse endured by deaf children in sub-Saharan Africa. Resolving to address this injustice, the result was DeafKidz International which is today, in its 10th anniversary year, acknowledged by academics and political decision makers alike as the global leader for the safeguarding and protection of deaf children. Steve has lectured and presented extensively on the protection of deaf children including at Yale University (CT USA), the World Health Summit (Berlin), World Humanitarian Forum (London), World Health Organisation (Geneva) and UNICEF (New York). He was awarded the OBE in 2022 in recognition of services for the global protection of deaf children.

In 2017, when working with DeafKidz International colleagues in France to assess the protection of needs of deaf children within the European refugee/migrant crisis, Steve chanced upon five year-old Lawand and his family. The rest, as they say, is history and the subject of tonight's award winning documentary.

For more information on DeafKidz International and its work, visit www.deafkidzinternational.org

Sophie Stone

Sophie is Co-Founder of the Deaf & Hearing Ensemble Theatre Co.

Sophie's recent theatre appearances include *Galatea* (Brighton Festival/WildWorks); *Othello* (The Watermill Theatre); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* (NT/Frantic Assembly Tour); *The Living Newspaper* (The Royal Court); *The New Tomorrow* (The Young Vic); *The Beauty Parade* (Wales Millennium Centre) *As You Like It* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Emilia* (Shakespeare's Globe/ West End); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Watermill Theatre); *Jubilee* (Lyric, Hammersmith/ Manchester Royal Exchange); *The Greatest Wealth* (The Old Vic); *The Government Inspector* (Birmingham Rep/ UK Tour); *Hérons* (Lyric, Hammersmith); *Mother Courage and Her Children* (National Theatre).

Her screen credits include:

Television: *The Chelsea Detective*, *Moving On*, *Two Doors Down*, *Shakespeare & Hathaway*, *Shetland*, *The Crown*, *Doctor Who*, *Mapp & Lucia*, *Moonstone*, *Marchlands*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Small World*, *Holby City*, *Casualty* and *FM*.

Film: *Name Me Lawand*, *Retreat* (Best Actress Award), *My Christmas Angel*, *Happiness*, *Confessions* and *Coming Home*.