

Tish

UK | 2023 | 90m | 12A
Director: Paul Sng
Starring: Maxine Peake, Ella Murtha

Premiering internationally at the 2023 Sheffield DocFest, this documentary charts the life and work of photographer Tish Murtha (Patricia Anne) who, during the 1970s and 1980s, spent time with marginalised sections of society in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the northeast.

Director Paul Sng – a British Chinese filmmaker and 2022 BAFTA Breakthrough Artist – grew up in South London and is now based in Edinburgh. His work features mostly social documentaries with a political edge, such as *Sleaford Mods* (2015), with which he ‘saw an opportunity to make a film that would be part music doc, part state of the nation; about a band articulating the disenfranchisement many people feel towards Westminster politics.’

The film is led by Tish’s daughter, Ella, in a similar vein to Sng’s 2021 documentary *Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché*, which features Bell, Poly Styrene’s daughter ‘exploring her mother’s history and legacy through archival footage and interviews with her peers and fans.’

Ella talks to her mother’s family, friends, peers and tutors while extracts from her letters, diary and essays are read by Maxine Peake. The documentary is edited by Ling Lee, Angela Slaven and Lindsay Watson while composer Alexandra Hamilton-Ayres’

score masterfully echoes the range of emotions on show.

Sng and Ella use *Tish* to draw attention to issues of social exclusion, inequality, and poverty while consistently maintaining focus on Murtha herself. The film effectively raises awareness of Murtha’s art and showcases her work to wider audiences, and in effect, garners wider appreciation for the artist.

Tish is an ode to the brilliance and flair of an extraordinary artist that highlights just how frighteningly easy it is for such excellence to be lost due to systematic inequalities.

‘Tish is a tremendous, humane tribute to a real artist,’
The Guardian.

Excellent

Fair

Poor

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

Please detach this from your Film Note and drop it into the box or hand it in at the end of the screening. Thank you!

Did You Know?

- Born in South Shields in 1956, Tish Murtha was one of ten children, lived in a council house and died in 2013 aged 56 of a brain aneurysm, a victim of the poverty and social inequalities she sought to draw attention to during her lifetime.
- As a teenager, Tish found a camera in an abandoned house. She discovered that carrying a camera deterred kerb crawlers and child abusers that used to follow her.

Tell Us What You Think!

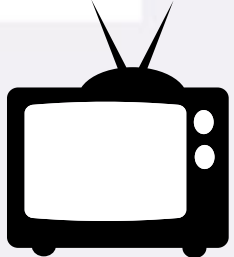


Nominate your favourite film to be this year's Audience Award Winner and enter our prize draw to win a FilmBath Fan Club Membership!

We really value your opinion and your answers are really helpful to help us understand our audiences, improve the festival and apply for funding.

Continue Your Journey...

If you enjoyed this film, you might like:



Shameless

The dramedy based on the British series of the same name, centres on siblings in a dysfunctional Chicago family who struggle to cope with their alcoholic father.



Youth Unemployment by Tish Murtha

An important and stunning photographic essay on the hardships of youth unemployment in Newcastle during Thatcher's reign.

FilmBath Club 2024

To bring you that FilmBath feel out of festival time, FilmBath will host monthly evenings of film and food at Widcombe Social Club. Our first three screenings are a selection of heartwarming, remarkable and absorbing films: **EO**, **Mother and Son** and **War Pony**.

Tickets are just £10 and go on general sale on 20 November OR become a FilmBath Fan and book today!

FilmBath Fan

FilmBath Fan's can enjoy top benefits including a free ticket to the first FilmBath Club screening of the year, priority booking, invites to launch parties and a 25% discount off tickets to the FilmBath Club!

Become a FilmBath fan today for just £20 a year.

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

Please detach this from your Film Note and drop it into the box or hand it in at the end of the screening. Thank you!