**LGBTQIA+ Screen Studies – Student essay prize (report to BAFTSS EC)**

The LGBTQIA+ Screen Studies is pleased to report that the Richard Dyer Essay Prize scheme has concluded. The scheme, funded by BAFTSS, was launched in November 2022, with the aim of recognising and rewarding outstanding student writing in any area relating to LGBTQIA+ screen studies. It was open to undergraduate and master’s-level students, who were invited to submit essays, or excerpts from longer dissertations, up to a maximum of 7,000 words. The scheme attracted a total of 20 submissions by the time it closed in January 2023, all from students based at UK universities, and all of a very high standard, with some extremely impressive pieces of work. The essays were read and discussed by the SIG convenors, who selected one winner (awarded £100), and two runners-up (awarded £50 each). The winning entry and one of the runner-up submissions were writing completed at master’s level, and the other runner-up was a very accomplished piece of undergraduate coursework. The full results of the scheme were:

First prize: Ellie Smith (Warwick), writing on lesbian representation in *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* and *Blue Is the Warmest Colour*.

Runner-up prizes: Rachel Milne (Glasgow), writing on ‘Afrobubblegum’ and queer African love in *Rafiki*; and Rachel Clark (Warwick), writing on queer politics and community in *120 BPM*.

The panel also highly commended Oliver Wilson (Cambridge) and Polly Maxted (Portsmouth) for their submissions.