

# FESTIVAL PROGRAMME 2021



## INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

**Festival Dates:** 27 August – 4 September

**Online Screenings:** 27 – 30 August

**Live Screenings:** 2 – 4 September

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# Welcome to OXISFF 2021

There's no denying it's been a less than usual year for most, and our 2020 festival was no different: after working according to a 'go big or go home' ethos, the first UK lockdown was announced on the very week we were due to begin. Fortunately, within a month we had managed to reformat everything and ran entirely online from May to July.

Our festival has always looked at things through a slightly different lens. Last year, we adopted a unique approach of showcasing a new block each week, so our audience and filmmakers had something exciting to look forward to whilst the world seemed to be standing still! (We joked that we were 'the world's longest running short film festival'). This strategy served us well in terms of building up relationships with filmmakers and cultivating a loyal audience. Skip a year ahead, and we've now made everything hybrid: half in-person, half online.

Trying to plan a film festival in the midst of a pandemic is not without its challenges. Times have been difficult for so many, both personally and for those in the arts and entertainment industries. So we took the

decision early on that – unlike 2020 – this time we needed to play things safer. This year's mantra has been, 'we really want to host live screenings, but right now it's more important to just keep going'. The good news is that we are now able to accommodate the best of both worlds – including showcasing 100 films online for free!

Each year, new themes emerge. The 2019 programme was steeped in romanticism. In 2020, explorations of loss featured heavily. In 2021, after our shortest submission period ever, the dominant theme has been one of isolation. While this isn't surprising, the sheer amount of humour, warmth, spirit, and creativity the pandemic has produced has both delighted and surprised us.

We have a very distinctive festival in store this year – one that is certainly of its time! To mark this, we have created a special one-off awards category for 'Best Lockdown Short'. We really hope you enjoy our third edition: our team are thrilled and we can't wait to start planning for 2022.

Andrew Carslaw (Festival Director)





# Father Figures

(63mins)

FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 10.30am

Fathers are terrorizing figures in the first half of this block, exploiting a patriarchal kind of power and often dominating the stories despite their visual absence. As the block progresses, the tone shifts: the child becomes a source of hope and possibility, the father as a progenitor of ambition and creativity.



## The Summer of Snakes

UNITED STATES (15min)

*Dir: Lara Panah-Izadi*

A famous sculptor revisits a childhood summer haunted by a trauma that she will overcome through her colorful art. Inspired by the life of Niki de Saint Phalle (1930-2002).



## Our Father

UNITED STATES (15min)

*Dir: Felicity Price*

Disowned as a child by her father, a wealthy and infamous composer, a young English woman returns to New York, the glamorous playground of her youth, to help the brother she hasn't seen since childhood. Awaiting trial for murder in New York's notorious Rikers Island jail and fearful for his life, her brother implores her to do the one thing she cannot: beg their father for help. Based on true events.



## The Widow

IRELAND (13min)

*Dir: Ailish Castillo, Nicola Morris*

Ireland, 1952, a young mother's cry for help in a man's world where silence is a virtue. This is a hauntingly beautiful tale which highlights the strength of a woman, however tough the road became for her.



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## Otanimm/Onnimm (Daughter/Father)

CANADA (3min)

Dir: Neko Wong-Houle , Terrance Houle

A short animation based on the relationship of an artist and his daughter, and their deep connection to one another.

Using dialogue, music, traditional animation, stop-motion, experimental DIY photography using Caffinol (coffee/vitamin C developer) and 2D rotoscoping Terrance and his daughter Neko share a unique look at an indigenous father/daughter story.



## Dad Joke

UNITED KINGDOM (16min)

Dir: David Abramsky

A disabled comedian spots an influential TV commissioner in the crowd before his make or break gig. Tonight is his last chance to fulfill his promise of success to his unborn son who is due to be born.

# Mothers

(70mins)

FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 1.30pm

When a mother fails to protect her children, the emotional consequences reverberate from difficult childhoods to the pains of adolescence, right through to the retrospective makings of the films themselves. Films in this block uncover maternal tensions, as well as some of the hidden sacrifices mothers make for their children.



## Fitting

AUSTRALIA (14min)

Dir: Emily Avila

Inside a lingerie fitting room, two strangers - a customer who has recently undergone a mastectomy and a bra fitter - are bound on a mission to find a bra that works.



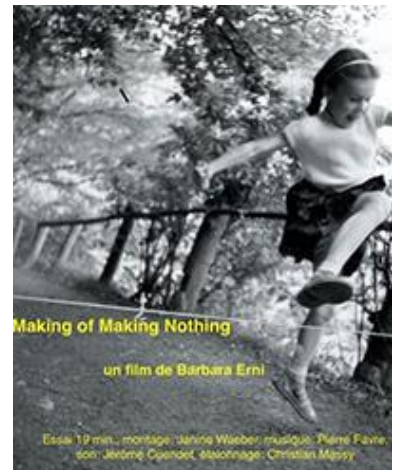
## Letter To My Mother

GERMANY/IRAN/MALAYSIA (19min)

Dir: Amina Maher

A heartfelt letter to tell the mother the most painful of secrets. Amina, who in 2002 was the small protagonist of *Ten* by Kiarostami is now a transgender director who tries to make her voice heard, understood, and be understood." Written by 35th Lovers Film Festival

A fearless and strong autobiographical examination that touches upon the centre of the pain and that dares to look precisely. It finds exact scenes for despair and cruelty and searches openly for ways of coping.



## Making Of Making Nothing

SWITZERLAND (19min)

Dir: Barbara Erni

The filmmaker makes frequent visits to her old mother who lives far away. The visits are trying. Invaded by the past she loses her creativity and sinks into lethargy. Why mother and daughter couldn't they build a bond of trust? How was the life of her female ancestors? The filmmaker decides to tell this period starting with the family photos, and the videos and artistic photos made during this period. She sees her mother in a last encounter.

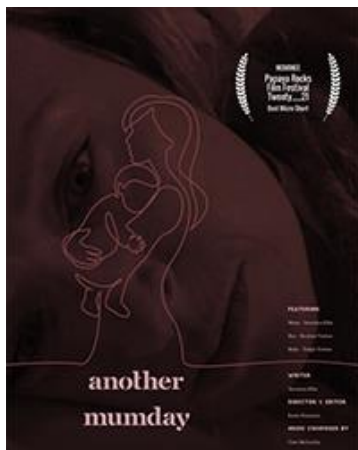


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## Another Munday

UNITED KINGDOM (1min)

Dir: Katia Shannon

A young mother struggles to balance the juxtaposition of intense maternal love and its repetitive frustrations.



## Test - the IVF Film

UNITED STATES (16min)

Dir: Courtney Lamb

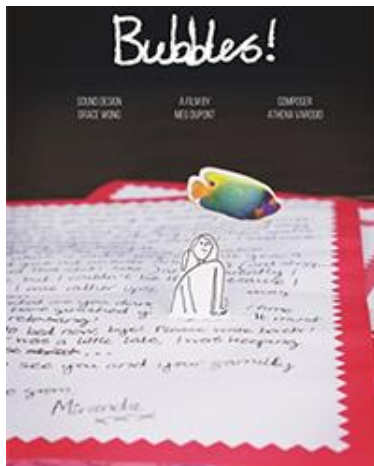
A short film about a long process. Melissa tells the story of her 4 years of trying to get pregnant after the age of 40, including 18 months of infertility treatments. In monologues and recreations, we join her on her surreal, painful, ridiculous, confusing, and heartbreaking quest.

# Kids Today!

(67mins)

FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 4pm

The filmmakers in this block revel in the capacity for curiosity and friendship unique to young people. Kids rush to grow up, learn to acclimatise themselves to their own bodies, and get a taste of adulthood. Their naïve friendships are full of the empathy natural to kids before they are socialised into conflict – a perspective perhaps more profound by the fact of its own limitedness.



Bubbles

UNITED KINGDOM (3min)

Dir: Meg Dupont

A stop motion animated documentary on 20mm stamps, exposing the fragility of hand written letters written by genuine penpals.

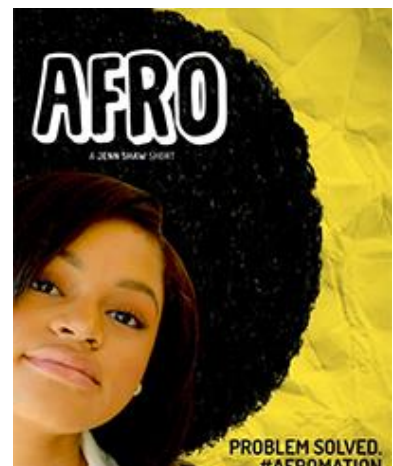


Wooden Sword

IRAN (7min)

Dir: Behzad Alavi , Sousan Salamat

Two little boys meet each other in a green space, and make friends. On the other hand, their fathers have a big problem. A film about the difference between the world of children and adults, and the effects of parents behavior patterns on their children.



Afro

UNITED STATES (11min)

Dir: Jenn Shaw

After multiple encounters with her bully and a little academic inspiration, an African-American teen girl finally stands up for herself against classmates that question her cultural identity.



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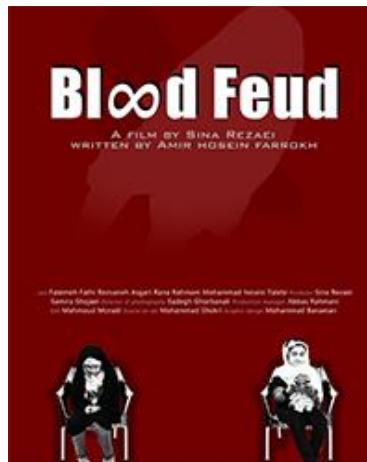


## The Fullest Day of Summer

UNITED STATES (14min)

Dir: *Natasha Maidoff*

In foothills of Appalachia, three teenagers try to rise out of poverty and come to terms with the emotional struggles that hold them back.

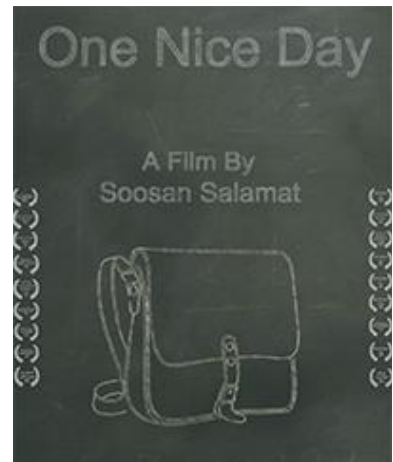


## Blood Feud

IRAN (3min)

Dir: *Sina Rezaei*

The world always finds a way to ruin beautiful things.



## One Nice Day

IRAN (3min)

Dir: *Sousan Salamat*

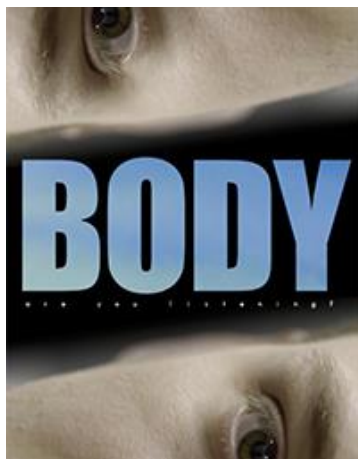
The Teacher decided to give a bag as a prize to one of his students by holding a ballot. One of the students, Rasooli, doesn't have a bag and stands to benefit the most.

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## Body

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UNITED KINGDOM (11min)

*Dir: Brandon Wade, Matthew McGuinness*

A young man with autism learns to love himself.

Body invites us inside the mind of Sam, who experiences the world differently to those around him. On the surface, Sam is misunderstood by those around him, being perceived as awkward and prone to outbursts. Ultimately we see a battle play out between Sam's external and internal worlds, culminating in Sam's acceptance and in his own way, love of the special parts of his personality which have been ignored too long.




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## Shiney

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UNITED KINGDOM (15min)

*Dir: Paul Holbrook*

Two creative but impressionable kids hatch a plan to purchase their first packet of cigarettes, whilst clinging on to their prized possession; an impossible-to-get shiny gold football sticker.



# Bad Things

(90mins)

FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 8pm

Bad things don't just happen to bad people. This horror-thriller block takes our darkest fears from everyday reality – stalking, obsession, over-consumption, greed – and transfigures them into panic-inducing tales of revenge and exploitation, moving from stories of individuals trying to cheat death to full-on zombie apocalypses. This block contains violence and nudity; not suitable for children.



Alone

UNITED KINGDOM (3min)

*Dir: Phil Beastall*

Local Oxfordshire short which was filmed during lockdown. This is a story about a woman alone at home, or so she believes.



Any Given Saturday

UNITED KINGDOM (11min)

*Dir: Laurence Mills*

A cab driver (Floyd) is hired by a passenger (Harvey) to take him to three random locations across London. Once Floyd begins to recognise each address it becomes clear that the two of them have more in common than he first thought.



Today is Friday

IRAN (15min)

*Dir: Mohammad Ahangar*

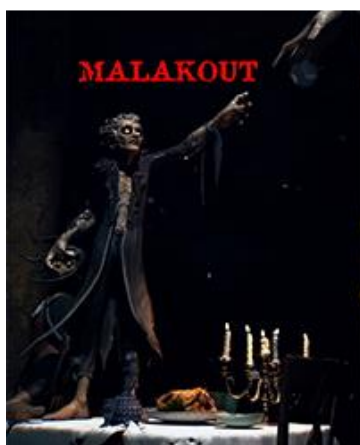
Nader and Saeid are arguing with each other because of their problems in the company. But suddenly something happens which causes some changes to their destiny.

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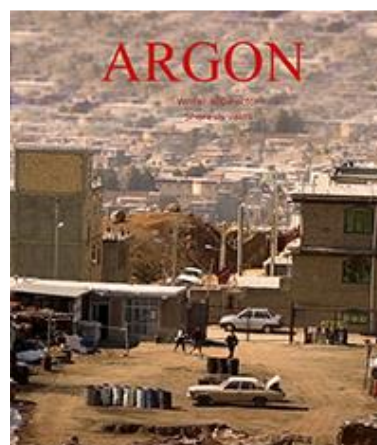
Malakout

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IRAN (11min)

*Dir:* Farnoosh Abedi

Macabre animation. Music was his passion... Love was his masterpiece...



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Argon

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IRAN (15min)

*Dir:* Shoresheh Vakili

In the city where the zombie attacked, several people are hiding in the garage when a zombie enters the garage...

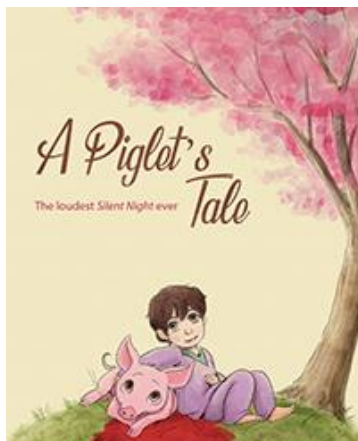


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## A Piglet's Tale

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UNITED KINGDOM (12min)

*Dir: Fabrizio Gammardella*

A newly-wed couple struggle to have children. They give up their jobs in London and move to the countryside, hoping to fulfil their dreams. Few years later a very special baby is born, one who can turn himself into a piglet!

How will the parents cope with a reality that is nothing short of a miracle?

And what if a terrible fate awaited the kid?




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## Hungry Joe

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UNITED KINGDOM (22min)

*Dir: Paul Holbrook, Sam Dawe*

A single mother struggles to bond with her apathetic child; born with an insatiable and increasingly inhumane appetite.

# Hopes and Dreams

(80mins)

SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 10.30am

This series of films confronts the dreams and ambitions of youth as they slowly give way to the harsher side of life's realities. As characters' aspirations go against the grain of tradition, we see tales of individuals facing shattered ideals and clanging disappointments. However, when the force of the dream is charged enough, we see a little bit of hope remaining amongst the heartbreak.



Rottweiler

UNITED KINGDOM (15min)

*Dir: Jonny Powell*

When Sophia's boyfriend returns from prison with a debt over his head, she is forced to choose between love and freedom.



Shear

UNITED KINGDOM (20min)

*Dir: Riyadh Haque*

Yasmin, an impressionable South Asian teen, finds herself trapped between her strict, traditional family and the man she is in love with. One night, when Yasmin sneaks out to a party, she inadvertently starts a chain of events that changes her life forever.



Songbird

CANADA (14min)

*Dir: Heather Hawthorn Doyle*

A young married couple finally conceive their first child but when it ends in a heartbreaking miscarriage they discover that grieving their loss is much harder than expected.

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## Handscape

CHINA (19min)

Dir: Yiru Chen

Xia Qing, a boy who has been wearing Cochlear Implants due to hearing impairment, has a deep love for dancing. He gains so much joy just from copying Martha Graham's hand gestures in a dance magazine. A kid with a precocious nature, he sometimes paints his pinky nail red just for that glimpse of beauty. Yet all these passionate pursuits are misunderstood and questioned by his single, deaf mother. Given the opportunity to audition for his favorite dance company once in a blue moon, he has no choice but to return to his body--He seeks his mother's approval and longs to overcome this obscure self-identity crisis, through the silent language on his fingertips.



## Snake Oil

UNITED KINGDOM (13min)

Dir: Remy Archer

A wily street vendor flees London in search of the American dream promised by his late father, but he can't find it anywhere. A whimsical no-dialogue adventure spanning 2 continents, greatly inspired by the films of Buster Keaton.



# Romantic Encounters? (75mins)

**SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 1.30pm**

These tales record the rush of initial intimacy and the hard conversations that follow. We move from pre-teen crushes and the pangs of coming-out, to an acerbic back-and-forth on the difficulties of dating with a disability. In this way, the block sees individuals find common ground – even if that ground is shared suffering and rage.

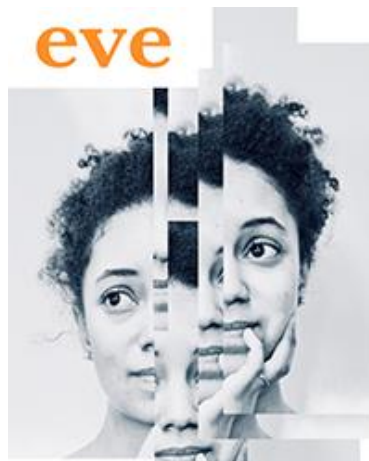


## Manasanamaha

INDIA (16min)

*Dir: Deepak Reddy*

A young man muses on the nature of love, recounting three relationships from his past. The girls in his life resemble three different seasons, namely Chaitra (Spring), Varsha (Monsoon) & Seeta (Winter).

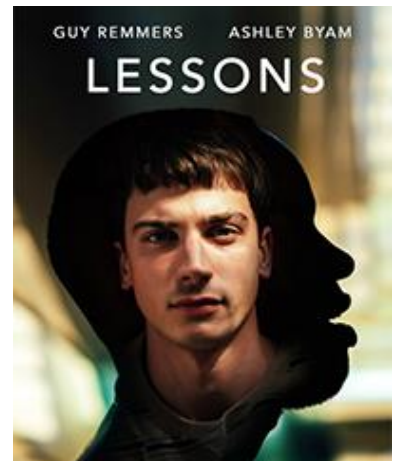


## Eve

UNITED KINGDOM (13min)

*Dir: Joe Solomon*

This is a comedy drama of a young woman who has just got married to her long term boyfriend and now has doubts. She acknowledges she has been repressing her sexual attraction for women for some time, but that these feelings are genuine. Especially relevant at this moment, after kissing the groom's sister, Olivia, an out and confident lesbian, at the hen party the night before.



## Lessons

UNITED KINGDOM (15min)

*Dir: Sam Seccombe*

The morning after a one night stand, Dan and Tommy engage in an interesting and unexpected conversation about relationships, sexuality and themselves.

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## So Be It And So It Is

UNITED STATES (9min)

*Dir: Gianna Badiali*

An impressionistic film about girlhood longing and ritual: two ten-year-old girls prepare for a meeting with their mutual fantasy, a majestic-nosed older boy.



## The Hit

UNITED STATES (7min)

*Dir: Jason A. White*

Comedy. When a hardened hit woman falls for her suicidal mark, she learns that having it all may come with collateral damage.



## Single

UNITED STATES (14min)

*Dir: Ashley Eakin*

A film that confronts the complexities of being disabled and dating. Kim gets set-up to go on a blind date. When she finally meets Jake, she quickly realizes he also has a physical disability, and she is pissed.

# Lost and Found

(62mins)

**SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 4pm**

Have you ever lost something? Maybe something material, something from days gone by – or maybe simply a piece of your soul. Each of us places different value on what is important in life: more often than not, it is not until we have lost this precious something that we can truly understand ourselves.



## How to Get \$100 Million

UNITED STATES (9min)

*Dir: Ilya Polyakov*

A disenchanted young woman ascribes to the get-rich-quick advice of self-help guru - only to learn the cost of getting exactly what you want.



## Bulldog

UNITED KINGDOM (6min)

*Dir: Kieran Stringfellow*

After spending the night in a cell, a rough sleeper has a score to settle.



## My Other Suit Is Human

IRELAND (17min)

*Dir: Andrew Paul Montague*

Zoe, grieving for her deceased son, has become distant from her emotionally unavailable husband, who buries himself in work. Forced to deal with her grief alone, she seeks refuge in the form of a homemade robot suit.

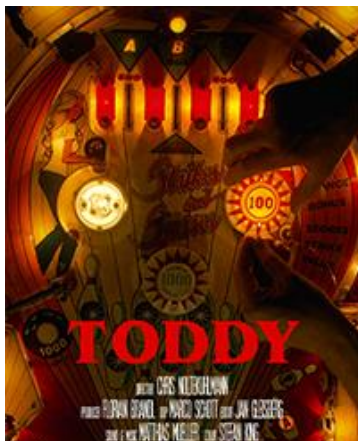


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## Toddy

GERMANY (4min)

*Dir: Chris Noltekuhlmann*

Toddy, loves pinball machines. In the early 90s, when the golden age of pinball comes to an end and everybody wants to get rid of their old machines, he just says: "Hand it over, I've got a big trash can."



## Highland Home

UNITED STATES (5min)

*Dir: Dan Schaefer*

A poignant music video tale of longing and loss is revealed when a timeworn journal transports a young girl to a place of enchanting wonders.



## Inabitável (Unliveable)

BRAZIL (20min)

*Dir: Matheus Farias, Enoch Carvalho*

In Brazil, where a trans person is murdered every three days, Marilene searches for her daughter Roberta, a trans woman who went missing. While running out of time, she discovers a hope for the future.

# The Future Is Bright

(58mins)

SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 8pm

The line between utopia and dystopia is volatile in this block, in which six filmmakers imagine the disorientating future worlds into which humanity might be driven. Our relationship to aliens, machines, mindfulness, and emotion itself are tested and traversed in this thrilling – sometimes shimmering, sometimes apocalyptic-feeling – block.



Betaville

UNITED STATES (5min)

Dir: Dustin Donovan

A young woman alters herself cybernetically in order to exact revenge on the man who had her lover killed.



33 Floors

UNITED STATES (8min)

Dir: Chris Austen

A woman's journey to work takes a horrifying turn as she finds herself trapped alone inside an elevator. Impatient and scared she will soon discover that all her actions have consequences as she begins to wonder whether this state of the art technology has a mind of its own.



I am not Alice

IRAN (6min)

Dir: Mahdieh sadat Ahmadi soleimani

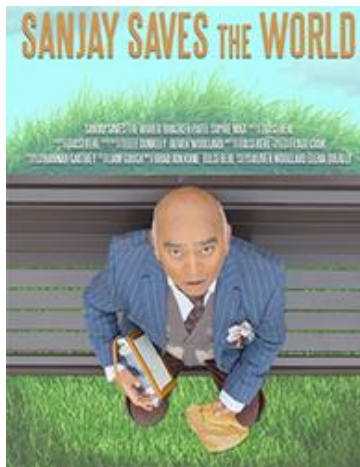
We cross the galaxies, cross different planets, and get to Earth. Alice lives with her family happily and she has friends such as the tree and the birds which has drawn. She has a happy family. She figures out that the people on the other side of the window are different. They are like wild animals in her sight. Watching people is her habit till war starts and the city is bombed. She lose her family and the city is destroyed and Alice tries to save the only living leaves of the tree but she falls in the space and her painted birds save her and finally, she finds herself on the "little prince" planet.

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## Sanjay Saves the World

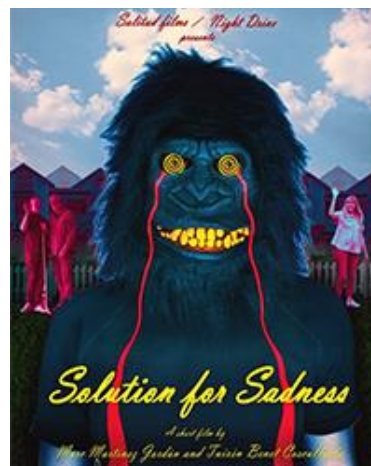
UNITED KINGDOM (10min)

Dir: *Tulsi Behl*

Sanjay, a bilious, elderly man blind to his own loneliness finds comfort in living a humdrum, unvaried life.

On a day like any other, Sanjay walks to his local park, sits on a bench and tunes his rusty old radio to the cricket channel, his favourite station, while munching on a plain cheese sandwich.

Suddenly his radio distorts and accidentally tunes in to an extra-terrestrial transmission.



## Solution for Sadness

SPAIN (15min)

Dir: *Marc Martínez Jordán, Tuixén Benet*

A mysterious package offers a woman a reprieve from her melancholy, only its results are more permanent and pervasive than she realizes.



## Venus

UNITED KINGDOM (14min)

Dir: *Andrew McGee*

Iris, torn out of her idyllic digital world and uploaded into a stolen synthetic body by her grieving mother, must face her body's objectification and violent potential in a dark future.



# Children's Corner

(70mins)

SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 10.30am

Sunday is known as the day of rest – a fact oblivious to these excitable children! Here we have nine boisterous, animated tales for the whole family, tackling themes such as generational disconnect, environmentalism, overcoming adversity, and inspirational learning.

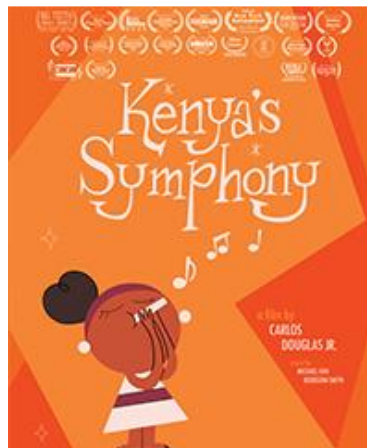


Gen Tree

ISRAEL (3min)

Dir: Ronni Shalev, Alon Sharabi, Hod Adler

In a town where the adults live on ground level and children refuse to come down from the treetops, a series of interviews sets out to discover - what is it exactly that the generations misunderstand about each other? This animated documentary highlights the absurdity of childhood, adult-ness, the internet, and generational gaps.



Kenya's Symphony

UNITED STATES (5min)

Dir: Carlos Douglas Jr

Kenya, a bold five-year old girl, is reluctantly dragged to a symphony by her mother. Through the power of the orchestra, the young girl's passion for music blossoms before her own eyes.



RenaiDance

UNITED STATES (4min)

Dir: Zhike Yang, Wenjie Wu, Han Chen Chang

“RenaiDance” is a 3D narrative emotional animation.

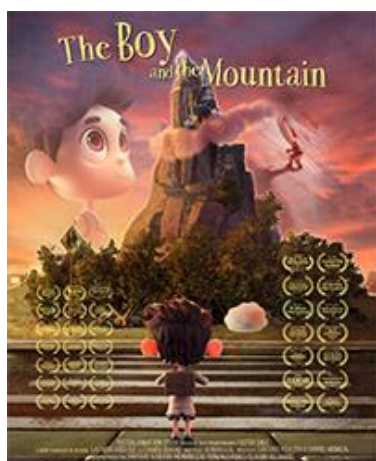
The theme invigorates cultural inheritance and the integration of dreams, courage, and culture as transformation. By artistically interpreting a motif of inheritance and family support, integrating different cultures “inheritance” through the inspiring story, this film braces strong family love and elder culture in a never-ending chain.

# Children's Corner

(70mins)

SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 10.30am

Sunday is known as the day of rest – a fact oblivious to these excitable children! Here we have nine boisterous, animated tales for the whole family, tackling themes such as generational disconnect, environmentalism, overcoming adversity, and inspirational learning.

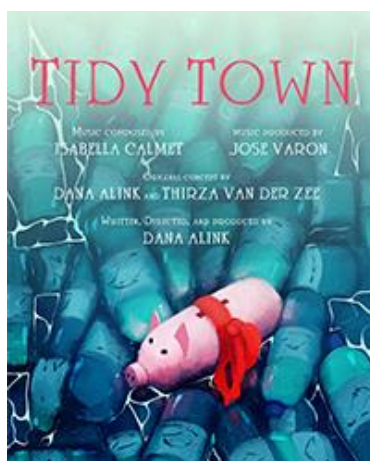


## The Boy and The Mountain

CHILE (11min)

Dir: Santiago Aguilera, Gabriel Monreal

Hernán likes daydreaming, but in his studies he is not doing well. His father constantly urges him to improve, advising him that he must reach very high to succeed in life. Hernán dispenses with his dream, gradually forgetting it to devote himself to his studies. Over time, and already become a successful entrepreneur, Hernán achieves the dream that his father instilled in him, reach high, until one day he will realize that he has not really achieved something he always longed for. Then he will make the crucial decision to fulfill his dream, but fate will play tricks on him.



## Tidy Town

NETHERLANDS (7min)

Dir: Dana Alink

A raccoon cub is determined to get rid of the plastic trash overwhelming her island. She explains her plan to fix the problem once and for all to the woolly and whiskered villagers of Tidy Town. A big city wolf responsible for the production of said plastic comes to help, but not in a way our little cub would like.



## Justin and the Werloobee

UNITED STATES (11min)

Dir: Ken Yoffe, Ellen Weisberg, John Vo

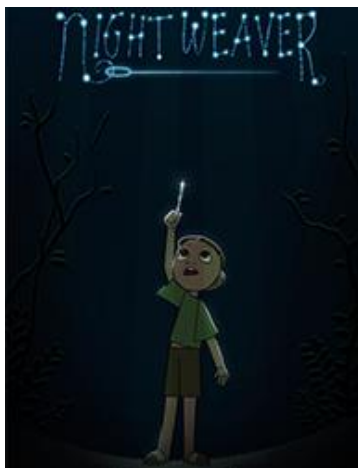
Justin is a sensitive, introspective boy whose physical features and personality make him a convenient target for many of his cruel peers. One night, he wakes to find himself on a mysterious island, which is inhabited by a horde of bizarre creatures. Despite his desperation to find out where he is and, more importantly, how to get home, he becomes involved in the plight of Irvino, a beast who is ostracized on this island much in the way that Justin is in his own world.

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## The Night Weaver

UNITED STATES (7min)

*Dir: Katelyn Rogers*

Celeste, the Night Weaver of a small village, is tasked with putting up and taking down the night sky. While playing with the night sky her son, Fin, greatly damages the it. In the end his mother assures him that he has created something even more beautiful.



## Technology for Talking

UNITED KINGDOM (5min)

*Dir: Jemima Hughes*

Technology for Talking is a bright cut out animation which introduces voice output communication aids and explains how and why some people talk using assistive technology. Using the electronic voice and perspective of its disabled filmmaker, it challenges stereotypes about what non-speaking disabled people can do and raises awareness of their contribution to society.



## Shaking a Singapore Spear

UNITED KINGDOM/SINGAPORE (17min)

*Dir: Hannes Rall*

An animated documentary about the relevance of Shakespeare's classical works for digital natives in Singapore: Live action and animation combined.

The film was created in close collaboration with the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon.

# Work Cultures

(80mins)

SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 1.30pm

The dramas in this block tackle the different work ethics held by different cultures, and the complex relationships people have with work – from its link to toxic masculinity to the generational inheritances types of work bear. In these milieus of labour and toil, larger aspirations beyond these work cultures are quickly felled.



Sister

CHINA (13min)

Dir: Janine Bujie Zhang

A pair of left-behind sisters welcome their parents who haven't been home for two years. Sisters look forward to the reunion, but only to find awkwardness and estrangement. The naive and outgoing younger sister is excited for the gifts her parents have brought from the city, while the quiet and introverted elder sister becomes even more gloomy. Within only their parents' stay of four days, the family grows closer and comes to an unspoken understanding of affections to each other. Soon it's time for the family to say farewell again.



Ashmina

UNITED KINGDOM/NEPAL (16min)

Dir: Dekel Berenson

Nestled between a beautiful lake and the Himalayas, Ashmina, 13, lives with her family at the outskirts of Pokhara Nepal, paragliding capital of the world. The remote and traditional town is also a busy tourist destination where the locals are profoundly affected by the swarms of tourists who visit it daily. Forced to skip school, Ashmina helps her family make ends meet by working at the landing field, packing the parachutes of foreign pilots in return of small change.



Inhale

IRAN (19min)

Dir: Nasser Zamiri

Ebrahim's chronic insomnia has caused tension between him and his wife, Marziyeh.

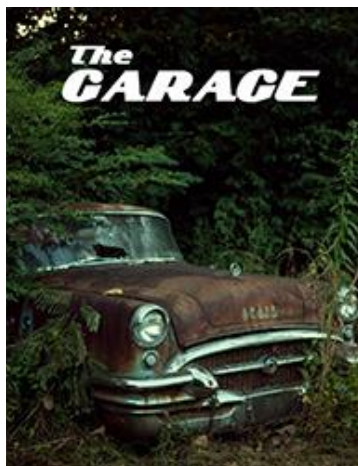


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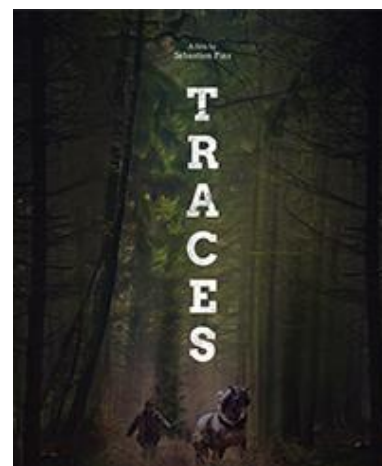
## The Garage

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UNITED STATES (19min)

*Dir: Daniel McMellen*

A summer job changes everything for a young man in Indiana.




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## Traces

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BELGIUM (12min)

*Dir: Sébastien Pins*

A horse logger and his horse take us deep into a forest in the Ardennes as the seasons go by, living his passion under the gaze of a strange young girl... The man will teach her his passion of draft horse logging: this is a film about the idea of passing down, and how some encounters can lead to a life's calling.

The short film "Traces" shows today's youth as the main force of the preservation of our forests. It also highlights of the emotional symbiosis between man, the animal and the forest.

# Miscommunication

(76mins)

SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 4pm

The films in this block reveal an inability to connect, whether as a result of mistranslation, deception, or simply a figure of speech taken a bit too literally. Swerving between worlds of estrangement and eruptions of comedy, this block sees languages, perspectives, and even time periods collide in clashes of cultures and beliefs. It asks us: what is lost in the crossfires of speech?



Anna

UKRAINE (15min)

Dir: Dekel Berenson

Living in war-torn Eastern Ukraine, Anna is an aging single mother who is desperate for a change. Lured by a radio advertisement, she goes to party with a group of American men who are touring the country, searching for love.



Konusma (Don't Talk)

TURKEY (8min)

Dir: Volkan Girgin

Throughout the movie, we will watch a life of a character whose face will never be seen. We will look on the world from his eyes and will witness the oppression he has experienced. He's only two years old. His excited parents force him to communicate by saying 'Talk'. When he's six, he becomes chatterbox. But this time her parents are pressing him for 'Don't talk'.

The dramatic moments that follow us throughout the film continues in the form of 'talk or don't talk'. Our hero can't stand this pressure any longer and he's detached from life.



Outside The Glasshouse

UNITED KINGDOM (16min)

Dir: Paul Brooking

Can anything halt the downward spiral of a middle-aged man facing divorce, redundancy and rejection?

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## Dinah

UNITED KINGDOM (6min)

*Dir: Pierre Niyongira*

Dinah Black, a runaway slave from 1687, and Michael, an African exchange Uni student, collide in present-day Bristol, a city being forced to re-address its historical legacy post the pulling down of the Colston statue removal.



## Faleminderit

LUXEMBOURG (13min)

*Dir: Nicolas Neuhold*

In 1921, a Luxembourgish cartographer visited Albania, preparing the border for the newly independent country. He went on to take part in the chaotic Paris conference of Ambassadors, where an observation he made would change the outcome of the diplomatic gathering.



## Fargate

UNITED KINGDOM (18min)

*Dir: Sally Canello*

Comedy. Fargate is a story about two women on a mission. One is Kelsey, a single mother to a baby boy, who needs to deal with her overdraft payments at the bank. The other is Maureen, Kelsey's mother, who believes her daughter is about to carry out a bank robbery. Maureen enlists the help of family members to track down Kelsey and the adventure begins.

# Real Stories

(85mins)

SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 8pm

This documentary block looks at 'miracle' people – those who are often overlooked in mainstream society, but are the pillars of our complicated and multifaceted world. We travel from Vietnamese farmlands to the suburbs of the West Country to see how these remarkable individuals deal with difference and redefine the word 'normal'.



## Fraser Syndrome & Me

UNITED STATES (20min)

Dir: Kyle Anne Grendys

Filmmaker Kyle Anne Grendys, is only the 75th person to be born with the rare, recessive gene disorder called Fraser Syndrome.

Having always felt alone in the world, she sets out on a journey to find her community and finally meets others just like her.



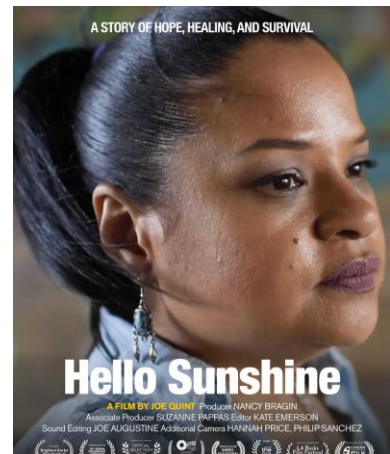
## I am Chuma

SOUTH AFRICA (7min)

Dir: Wendy Spinks, Clea Mallinson

I am Chuma explores the story of how a young black woman, (having experienced numerous gender-based violence incidents) studying at a business college in Cape Town found herself homeless and living rough on a park bench for 3 years.

Chuma Soudaka is a disabled, lesbian, isiXhosa woman, who unexpectedly finds her calling as an artist when to survive, she responds to an inner voice and embarks on an empowering journey of awakening and healing, but meets new societal challenges in her yearning to be truly seen and remain connected to her inspired state.



## Hello Sunshine

UNITED STATES (13min)

Dir: Joe Quint

Roz Pichardo is more than a domestic violence and gun violence survivor, she's a warrior. Despite of - or because of - being thrown off a bridge by an abusive ex-boyfriend, the unsolved murder of her brother, and the suicide of her identical twin sister, she's able to channel her trauma into service by helping the often-forgotten people of North Philadelphia.

From giving comfort to families of murder victims to saving the lives of over 500 men and women in active opioid addiction, Roz knows that her healing and her survival depends upon healing others.



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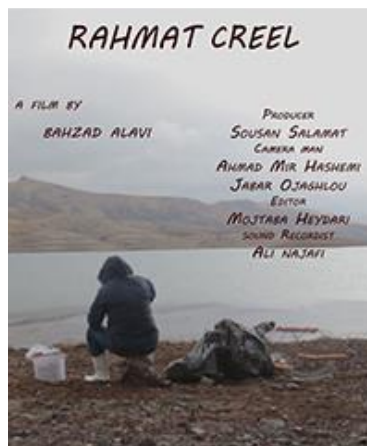


## My Family Trees

UNITED STATES (18min)

Dir: Roshni Givechi

My Family Trees is a bittersweet tale about a man from Iran who took unconventional measures to stitch his family back together in Kansas...one single tree at a time. It's a short documentary that spotlights the ways love, duty, and inexplicable hope make us uniquely human, and beautifully resilient.



## Rahmat Creel

IRAN (2min)

Dir: Behzad Alavi

Rahmat Bagheri is a retired man that other people called him RAHMAT CREEL... every week he is going near a lake around the ZANJAN city to fish out as other hunters but his hunt is different with others...



## Fluffypunk

UNITED KINGDOM (10min)

Dir: Thomas Harman

Fluffypunk documents the insecurities, instabilities, and conflicts that plague the life of a performer. Trying to balance the responsibilities of parenthood, artistic integrity, and personal happiness is anything but fluffy!

Starring Jonny Fluffypunk aka Jon Seagrave a comedy performance poet based in Stroud Gloucester UK.

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## The Fell Runner

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UNITED KINGDOM (4min)

*Dir: Alex Simpson, Phillip Suddick*

A portrait of fell runner Calum from Cumbria by London-based directors Alex Simpson and Phillip Suddick. Fell-running is a sport that involves running over mountains, with grueling marathons of more than 20 miles. While considered a new school fell runner, Calum shares his relatively old fashioned reasons for doing what he does.




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## The Girl With Blue Eyes

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UNITED KINGDOM/VIETNAM (15min)

*Dir: Alireza Mirasadollah*

An phouc is an 11 years old girl from Vietnam. Her pair of big bright blue eyes attracted many photographers from all around the world to visit her.

She is one of the Vietnam tourist attractions icons but despite all that, An Phouc and her family are suffering from poverty and struggling with racism. She also has some bad memory of modeling for some dodgy photographers.

# Lure of the Sea

(61mins)

MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 10.30am

There is an indefinable quality to the sea that keeps drawing us back to it – something mesmerising, possibly other-worldly. For these five filmmakers, this compulsive wonder and awed attachment to the sea comes to signify a myriad of cinematic moments: a fascination with trying to conquer the highest waves, a space for a coming-of-age narrative, a backdrop for a story of doomed love.

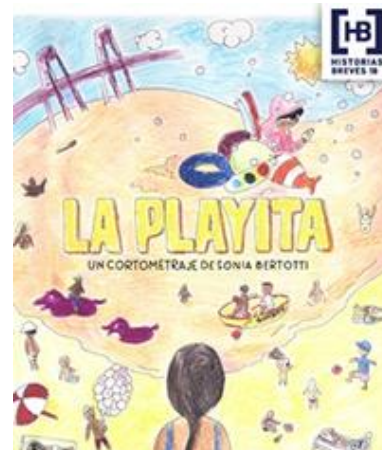


## Going Deeper: Love letter to Nazare

JAPAN/PORTUGAL (15min)

Dir: Luke Huxham

"Going Deeper - Love letter to Nazare" is a passion project filmed in Nazare, Portugal, directed by Luke Huxham. This isn't an action sports film, it's not even a surf film; it's a human story set amongst the most powerful waves known to man. And a tribute to Praia do Norte. One of the most beautiful and dangerous beaches in the world, where feats once thought impossible, have been achieved by the brave.



## La Playita (The Little Beach)

ARGENTINA (13min)

Dir: Sonia Bertotti

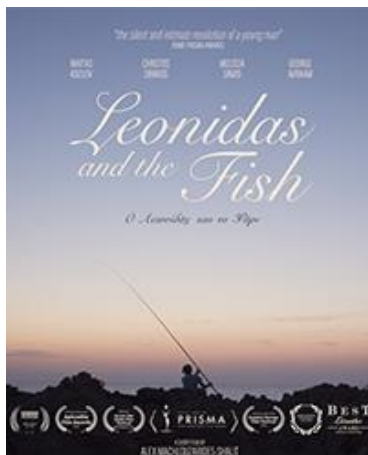
The City of Corrientes in summer. On the shores of Paraná, in the shadow under General Belgrano Bridge, thousands of families compete for space for their umbrella and chaise lounge. Priscila, a 7 year old girl no one pays any attention to, sets out in pursuit of an elusive toy vendor, getting further away from her family and closer to adventure.

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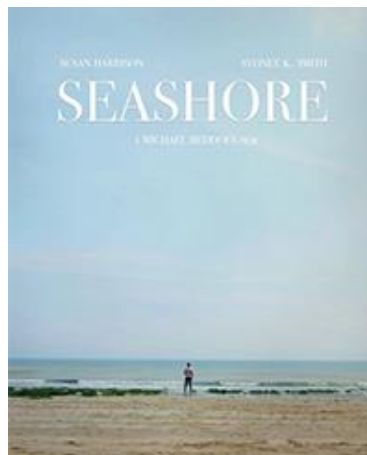


## Leonidas and the Fish

CYPRUS (12min)

Dir: Alexander Machlouzarides-Shalit

One ordinary day in Leonidas's life, a seemingly minor event has a major impact on him. Leonidas's favourite pastime is fishing, his usual catch providing him with pocket money for personal spending. Unexpectedly, and in view of significant onlookers, he catches a big fish. It signifies success, acceptance and appreciation by others. How does he deal with it?



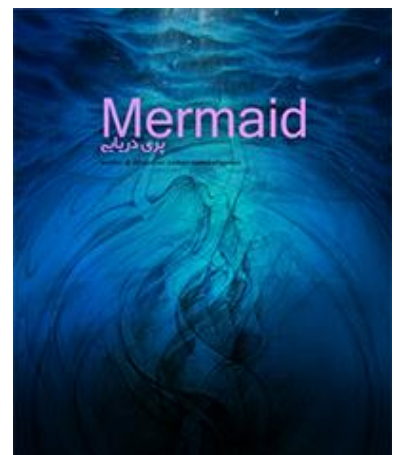
## Seashore

UNITED KINGDOM (5min)

Dir: Michael Beddoes

A comedy-drama break up movie with a difference.

Jack and Arie are a 30 something year old couple in a long distance relationship. Jack wants to make it work but Arie is having doubts. So far, so normal, but is there a twist in the tail?



## Mermaid

IRAN (14min)

Dir: Saber Mostafapour

Milad (Boy's name) abandons home and school to preserve her identity and having nowhere to go, she lives in ruins. Three rapist class-mates who are tired of her absence, chase after her in secret and find her in a feminine appearance.



# War Is Hell

(65mins)

MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 1.30pm

War is what happens when language fails. Its first casualty is innocence itself: whether soldier or civilian, surviving it leaves an indelible mark, and there is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing the innocent. Despite the pain and trauma of war, this block also asks us: is bad peace worse than war?



Dying Of The Light

UNITED KINGDOM (6min)

*Dir: David Newton*

When Monty, a 15 year old boy find himself the last man standing in the middle of the battle field during World War One.



Twenty Marks

UNITED KINGDOM (19min)

*Dir: Savas Alpaltun*

In 1940 Nazi occupied France, Maximilian's church is cursed by the aftermath of a great nearby revolt. The turmoil has left his church devastated, and thereby his priesthood. In these trying times, in fraternising and trading with the anti-Semitic regime, he can either replenish his career or his virtue, but not both.



Mousie

UNITED KINGDOM (17min)

*Dir: David Bartlett*

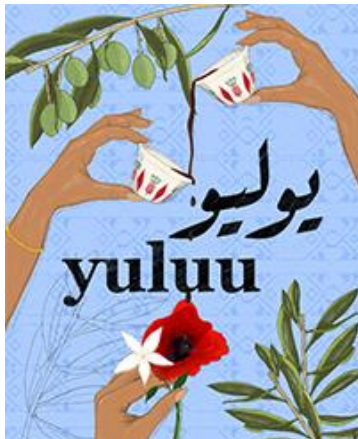
Berlin 1936. Hitler will soon host the Olympics, and the streets are being "cleansed" of Jews and Romani "Gypsies". A seven-year-old Roma child hides in a decaying old Weimar Club, concealed by dancer Katharina who plans to escape Nazism and take Hélène to America – where, she says, everyone is welcome, no matter the colour of their skin. But Hélène won't rest... Sneaking about the club, the little mouse sees everything.

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## Yuluu

UNITED KINGDOM (3min)

*Dir: Fatima Kried*

Through a beautifully stripped back animation style, Yuluu looks back at the story of a young woman stranded in Beirut during the abrupt start of the 2006 war.

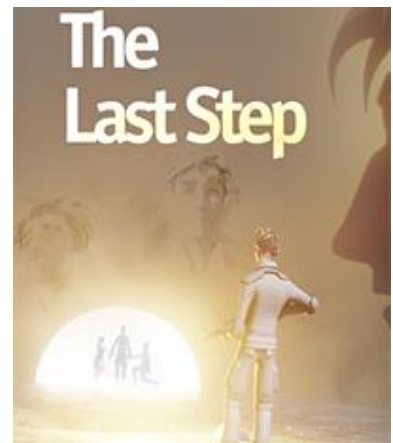


## Guide On

UNITED STATES (16min)

*Dir: Paige Compton*

On her first day of basic training, Halle Varro, a young Army recruit, stands out among her peers as she competes to be the guidon bearer. Halle's attitude of defiance and winning at all costs puts her in Drill Sergeant Mallett's crosshairs. Can Halle rise to the challenge and become the first female guidon bearer?



## The Last Step

AUSTRIA (4min)

*Dir: Stanislav Matveev*

Animation. They say your life can flash before you when faced with moments of death. A young soldier walks through his memories.

# Love In The Time Of Covid (67mins)

MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 4pm

Lockdowns, distancing, Zoom dates: it might seem as if the social estrangement of the past year has stultified romance. Maintaining relationships and finding love is difficult enough without these barriers, but this block proves – as the old saying goes – that romance isn't dead!



## Love, Post-lockdown

UNITED KINGDOM (16min)

*Dir: Ben Mourra, Lucas Boetsch*

Isolating alone, anxious James finds himself clinging on to his social distance rituals, even though restrictions have been lifted. But after locking eyes with the sparky Samira, James must decide whether to finally step outside of his bubble or remain within it forever.



## Happy Together

UNITED KINGDOM (16min)

*Dir: Oscar Hewitt*

Happy Together follows the heart-rending but uplifting story of an elderly couple, Harold and Dot. Due to Dot showing early symptoms of Covid-19, they have to celebrate their anniversary on a video call.

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## Now Time With David Crawford: Online Dating

UNITED KINGDOM (16min)

Dir: Dave Christie-miller, Arthur Studholme

Comedy. Investigative reporter David Crawford takes a look at the world of online dating during a pandemic.



## The Lennox Report

UNITED KINGDOM (34min)

Dir: Steve Bright

When a global pandemic threatens to jeopardise an impending deal, and their manager goes off sick, work colleagues Kayla and Mark are tasked with completing the Lennox Report. Spending time together online, their friendship deepens and Kayla begins to question some of the other relationships in her life. Stars Amanda Bright, Amit Shah, Adjoa Andoh and Pearl Mackie.



# Isolation

(69mins)

MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 8pm

In a post-lockdown world, the stifling sensations of isolation have been felt almost universally, as we have been compelled to 'live in a bubble which isn't necessarily reflective of reality'. Most of the films in this block were made during the first wave of the pandemic, feature this period heavily, or reflect upon the simple desire to be seen and heard that separation provokes.



## Covered

UNITED STATES (6min)

Dir: Cherrye J. Davis

In a COVID impacted New York City, X, a black woman jogger, has a few things to consider before going outside for a run.



## A Loco Vivid Dream

POLAND (10min)

Dir: Marek Ścibior

An unusual reality, seen through the eyes of a regular 18 year old high school teenager.



## The Hat

UNITED KINGDOM (5min)

Dir: Darren Stowger

A young man wanders into the middle of a barren field, and just as he's enjoying the peace of it all, a mystery assailant comes running out of the trees towards him. But some things you can't outrun.

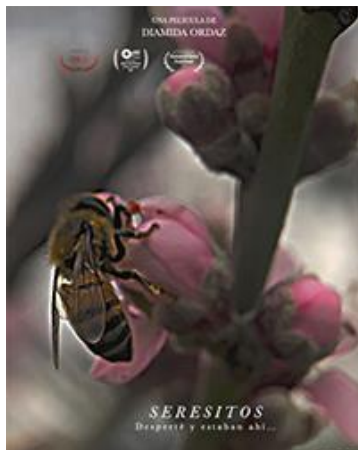
The Hat is the first in a planned series of shorts that will form the foundation for a new filmmaking model created by Darren Stowger and will be supporting Teen Cancer America.

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## Seresitos (Little Beings)

MEXICO (7min)

Dir: Diamida Ordaz

I tended my senses and they were there,  
I stopped to contemplate and they were there,  
I opened my eyes and they were there,  
I woke up and they were there,  
I paid attention and they were there.  
So I wanted to take off my sandals,  
as not to hurt them with my walk.

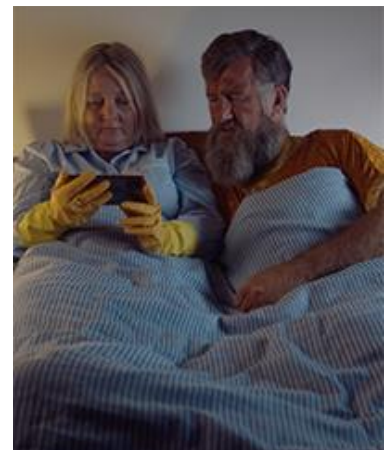


## Fabulous Phoebe

UNITED KINGDOM (11min)

Dir: Cassius Rayner

Fabulous Phoebe is a short film telling the story of a shielded cancer survivor locked in with her abusive husband during Covid. She eventually goes outside and makes a decision to leave him. Greek myth references turn Phoebe's story into plea for Mother Earth. Being a piece of original poetry, it is entirely written in verse. Phoebe was shot on location on an iPhone and under social distancing guidelines during recent pandemic restrictions in London.



## Gone Viral

UNITED KINGDOM/N. IRELAND (17min)

Dir: Nicky Larkin

Comedy. Locked-down and desperate to go viral, a middle-aged man takes to social media during a global pandemic.

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## Music for the End of the World

UNITED KINGDOM (7min)

Dir: Emmanuel Li

Would the apocalypse really be all that bad? Teenage Freddie certainly doesn't think so, as he boogies his troubles away on a gorgeous sunny hill. But he can only outrun his troubles for so long.



## Friends Online

UNITED KINGDOM (5min)

Dir: Samantha White

'Stacey' an anxiety ridden, lonely, keyboard-warrior recluse hopelessly tries to convince his favourite young friend Ellie, that he too is a teenage girl, with the desperate hope that she'll send him the pictures he craves.

# Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 5pm (GMT+1)

**OXFORD**  
INTERNATIONAL  
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

**WEDNESDAY 1 SEPT, 17:00 (GMT+1)**

**The Secrets Behind Creating  
A Successful Film Festival  
Strategy**

**with Dr Rebekah Louisa Smith  
(The Film Festival Doctor)**

THE FILM  
FESTIVAL  
DOCTOR

Are you a filmmaker who is struggling to navigate the world of film festivals? Come and join our online talk 'The Secrets Behind Creating A Successful Film Festival Strategy' on 1 September.

This FREE Masterclass focuses upon how to plan and create a successful festival strategy for your film.

The Film Festival Doctor; Dr. Rebekah Louisa Smith, will be giving you the key tools you will need to ensure that you avoid wasting money and experiencing constant disappointment by submitting your film to the right type of film festivals so you can get the best results and value from the film.

## Friends and Sponsors

A big shout-out to this year's festival partners, friends and sponsors:





# LIVE SCREENINGS (Thursday 2 September)



- All film screenings will take place in the St John's College Auditorium.
- You will need a valid Live Screening ticket or invite to attend.
- There will be space to sit in a social distanced manner.
- We strongly recommend the use of facemasks where possible.
- No food or drink is permitted in the actual auditorium. Water refilling is available.

Start Time	Block Title	Film Titles
09:45	Festival Introduction	
10:00	Father Figures	Summer of Snakes (page 4) Traces (page 26) Dad Joke (page 5)
11:00	Family Dynamics	Letter to my mother (page 6) Making of Making Nothing (page 6) My Family Trees (page 30)
12:00	Real Stories	Hello Sunshine (page 29) Fraser Syndrome & Me (page 29) I am Chuma (page 29) Fluffy Punk (page 30) The Girl With The Blue Eyes (page 31)
14:00	Drama 1: Tough Love	Sister (page 25) Bulldog (page 18) Ashmina (page 25) Guide On (page 35)
15:00	Drama 2: Growing Not Knowing	Songbird (page 14) My Other Suit Is Human (page 18) Mousie (page 34)

# LIVE SCREENINGS (Thursday 2 September)



Start Time	Block Title	Film Titles
16:00	Isolation	Covered (page 38) Body (page 10) Happy Together (page 36) Music For The End Of The World (page 40) Friend's Online (page 40)
17:00	Oh, The Horror!	Alone (page 11) Malakout (page 12) Argon (page 12) A Piglet's Tale (page 13) Hungry Joe (page 13)

- We urge any live attendees to take a Lateral Flow the day before attending the festival. If you test positive, please let us know and do not attend the event.
- We **strongly** recommend the use of facemasks in the auditorium complex. We also encourage you to take breaks between screenings. The College Gardens will be open.
- There will be plenty of seating space in the venue and we encourage social distancing in small groups where possible.



# LIVE SCREENINGS (Friday 3 September)



Friday is devoted to playing some of the films we were unable to screen live from 2020 festival due to the pandemic. We have entitled this day as 'Class of 2020'. You can find out a more about these films on our [festival blog site](#).

Start Time	Block Title	Film Titles
09:00	Class of 2020: Documentaries	Bayandalai - Lord of the Tiaga Waves Snow Warrior If I Get Like That Just Shoot Me Becoming Cherrie
10:00	Class of 2020: HighDrama	I'm Listening Tattoo Fortem Starboy Bad Mother Office Song Conte Anglais
12:00	Class of 2020: Loss	Brave Little Army Kaleidoscope The Cunning Man Dorris 85 Featherweight I Just Want You To Know Sylvia

# LIVE SCREENINGS (Friday 3 September)



Start Time	Block Title	Film Titles
14:00	Class of 2020: Thrills 'n Spills	Choker Acide Cassandra Running Man Your Last Day On Earth Sui Cadre Miracle Desert
16:00	Class of 2020: All Fun And Games	Maestro Catastrophy Tomatic Ouija Sex Quiet Carriage Huntington Gardens
18:00	Class of 2020: Local Talent  (followed by drinks in the College Bar from 8pm)	Unknown Ravens Boat Life Mortelle Time To Leave Elara The Tip The Voodoo Man Stakeout 2Colours The Audition On Wenlock Edge



# LIVE SCREENINGS (Saturday 4 September)



Start Time	Block Title	Film Titles
10:00	They Grow So Fast!	RenaiDance (page 22) The Boy And The Mountain (page 23) Tidy Town (page 23) Shaking A Singapore Spear (page 24) Shiney (page 10)
11:00	Mothers	Fitting (page 6) Handscape (page 15) Inabitavel (Unlivable) (page 19)
12:00	Other Worlds and Sci-Fi	Mermaid (page 33) Highland Home (page 19) Sanjay Saves The World (page 21) Solution For Sadness (page 21) 33 Floors (page 20) Venus (page 21)
14:00	Romance Is Dead?	The Hit (page 17) Manasanamaha (page 16) Seashore (page 33) Lessons (page 16) Anna (page 27) Single (page 17)
16:00	A Funny Thing Happened...	Gone Viral (page 39) Fargate (page 28) Now Time with David Crawford (page 37) Snake Oil (page 15)
19:30	Awards Ceremony followed by drinks and networking in the College Bar	

# 2021 Award Nominees

## Best Film

- Anna
- Mousie
- Single
- Snake Oil
- Unliveable (Inabitável)

## Best Director

- Ashley Eakin (Single)
- Dekel Berenson (Anna)
- Kieran Stringfellow (Bulldog)
- Paige Compton (Guide On)
- Remy Archer (Snake Oil)

## Best Actress

- Deborah Leiser-Moore (Fitting)
- Delaney Feener (Single)
- Laura Bayston (Hungry Joe)
- Shawntelle Lee Cuevas (Guide On)
- Svetlana Barandich (Anna)

## Best Actor

- Bhasker Patel (Sanjay Saves the World)
- Dave Christie-Miller (Now Time with David Crawford)
- Guy Remmers (Lessons)
- Joshua Robertson (Dad Joke)
- Tom Gaskin (Snake Oil)

## Best Young Performer

- Dikshya Karki (Ashmina)
- Isabella Crovetti (The Summer of Snakes)
- Katie Francis (Shiney)
- Sasha Watson-Lobo (Mousie)
- Yilin Fang (Sister)

## Best Debut

- Andrew Paul Montague (My Other Suit is Human)
- Cherrye J. Davis (Covered)
- Samantha White (Friends Online)
- Roshi Givechi (My Family Trees)
- Yiru Chen (Handscape)





### Best Screenplay

- Ashley Eakin (Single)
- David Bartlett (Mousie)
- Emily Avila (Fitting)
- Sarah Surh (Songbird)
- Susan Harrison (Seashore)

### Best Editing

- Andrew McGee (Venus)
- Augustine So (Guide On)
- Chris Austen (33 Floors)
- Michael Stathopoulos (The Hit)
- Remy Archer (Snake Oil)

### Best Cinematography

- Lei Guo (Sister)
- Remy Archer (Snake Oil)
- Sébastien Pins (Traces)
- Stephen Otosio (Bulldog)
- Vasco Viana (Ashmina)

### Best Music/Soundtrack

- David Reyes (Traces)
- Jack Arnold (Mousie)
- Kamran (Manasanamaha)
- Sarah Playford (My Other Suit is Human)
- Zak McNeil (RenaiDance)

### Best Sound

- 33 Floors
- Anna
- Body
- Bulldog
- Hungry Joe

### Best Production Design

- Mousie
- Sanjay Saves the World
- Snake Oil
- Solution for Sadness
- Unliveable (Inabitável)

### Best Effects

- 33 Floors
- Argon
- Hungry Joe
- Malakout
- Venus



**Best Animation/Experimental**

- A Piglet's Tale
- RenaiDance
- Shaking A Singapore Spear
- The Boy and the Mountain
- Tidy Town

**Best Comedy**

- Fargate
- Friend's Online
- Gone Viral
- Now Time With David Crawford
- Snake Oil

**Best Documentary**

- Fluffypunk
- Fraser Syndrome & Me
- Hello Sunshine
- Making of Making Nothing
- The Girl with Blue Eyes

**Best Drama**

- Dad Joke
- Fitting
- Guide On
- My Other Suit is Human
- Songbird

**Best LGBTQIA+ Film+**

- Handscape
- I am Chuma
- Letter to my mother
- Mermaid
- Unliveable (Inabitável)

**Best Lockdown Short**

- Alone
- Covered
- Gone Viral
- Happy Together
- Music for the End of the World

**Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror**

- 33 Floors
- A Piglet's Tale
- Hungry Joe
- Sanjay Saves the World
- Venus





## MEET THE FESTIVAL JUDGES

### James Webber

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Writer / Director / Producer

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James Webber has worked professionally as a filmmaker for over 10 years, making numerous music videos, promos, and commercials. He has also written and directed several award-winning shorts including the highly acclaimed Driftwood, which has won over 25 awards at international festivals; including a prestigious 'Coup de Coeur' at Cannes and was long-listed for both a BAFTA and a BIFA for 'Best Short Film'. James also produced The Halloween Kid, alongside Neil Marshall (The Descent, Game of Thrones) which premiered at Frightfest in 2012.

### Monika Radwanska

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Editor

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Monika Radwanska is a London based editor with a master's degree in Post Production Editing at Bournemouth University. After receiving her degree with honours, she took a position at the BBC until 2015, when she joined the editorial team on the critically acclaimed and award winning feature film Lady Macbeth. From there, she established herself as an assistant editor while primarily working on studio films such as Star Wars: The Last Jedi, Angel Has Fallen, Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again! and The Commuter.

### Lorenzo Levrini

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Cinematographer

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Lorenzo is a Director of Photography based in London, UK. He currently has feature film Sorority in festivals, starring Kate Dickie (Game of Thrones, Peaky Blinders, Red Road, The Witch, Star Wars: The Last Jedi) and Sophie Kennedy Clark (Philomena, Nymphomaniac, The Danish Girl). He recently shot the drama portions of BAFTA-winning Gun No. 6, as well as feature film Redcon-1 starring Carlos Gallardo (El Mariachi).



## MEET THE FESTIVAL JUDGES

### Lucy Mitchell

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Sound Engineer/Owner of JL Studios

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Lucy has worked in the post production industry for over 10 years and has a vast amount experience and skills spanning many areas of post production for TV, Film, Animation and Computer Games. Lucy is a writer for renowned audio industry website Pro Tools Expert, has both chaired and been part of panel discussions at BVE and The Media Production Show, and is a guest lecturer and workshop leader at multiple Universities and 6th Form Colleges. Her credits include Eastenders, Death in Paradise, Top Gear, David Attenborough's Rise of the



### Laura Jones

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Production Manager at Disney

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Laura is a Production Manager with over 12 years of experience in the UK Television industry working on award-winning productions across factual, live sports and documentary production. She is originally from Argentina so uses her language skills to work on international co-productions. She is currently works on productions for Disney. Laura is also part of the Oxford International Short Film Festival team.

WWW.OXISFF.CO.UK



# About The Festival

The Oxford International Short Film Festival (OXISFF) celebrates the diversity and creativity of short films. We believe shorts films are an art form in themselves, ideally one which should be experienced together. We look for great stories with strong characters, unique voices, or evocative worlds that are designed to stir emotions.

Our inaugural festival ran on Saturday 23rd March 2019 at St John's College, Oxford.

Tickets to the event sold out extremely

quickly. The day attracted over 200 audience members across three onsite venues, with over 90 films being played. Our line-up included the 2019 BAFTA-award winning animation *Roughhouse* by Jonathan Hodgson and a special interview with Academy Award-winning visual effects supervisor Paul J. Franklin (Oscar wins for *Inception* and *Interstellar*).

The pandemic forced the festival online

for 2020. We played 135 entries over eleven weeks from 8 May to 23 July. Each week, we held live Q&A chats with filmmakers, and ran a number of talks and masterclasses with our friends and sponsors at the SAE Institute and The Film Festival Doctor.

For 2021, we aim to build upon both of these very different festival experiences by hosting online and in-person screenings.





# The Festival Team

Below are some of the key hard working people who make it all happen! We are a friendly bunch – so feel free to get in touch with us at [info@oxisff.co.uk](mailto:info@oxisff.co.uk) if you have any questions!



Andrew Carslaw

Festival Director



Laura Jones

Children's Festival



Stanley Mackrell

Co-Founder and Head of Media



Olivia Chappell

Director of Awards



Emma Faraone

Live Event Coordinator



Toby Fitzpatrick

Media Content Producer



Annabel Jackson

PR and Content Production



Stephanie Overington

Head of Social Media



# MAP OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

Please enter the venue via the FRONT LODGE on St Giles Street (post code: OX1 3JP)

For additional information please visit the following page: <https://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/discover/visit-us>



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
OXFORD



The registration desk will 30 minutes before screenings begin in the Auditorium, please make sure you collect your wrist band before you enter the screening venue. If anyone has mobility considerations please let us know in advance so we can advise/help.

**No food or drink can be taken into the screening venues**

For more information, please visit our website at: <http://www.oxisff.co.uk>