

2023  
SAN  
FRANCISCO  
FROZEN  
FILM  
FESTIVAL  
PROGRAM  
GUIDE



SAN FRANCISCO  
FROZEN FILM  
FESTIVAL

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# IN-PERSON PROGRAM

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	July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15
International Short Film	8:40pm–9:55pm			
Bay Area Local Film		7:30pm–9:30pm		
UFO Declassified Footage Documentary (Phoenix Incident)			7:30pm–9:30pm	
Youth Film				1:00pm–1:40pm
Experimental Short Film & Visual Art				1:55pm–3:25pm
LGBTQ+ Themed Short Film				3:40pm–4:41pm
Short Documentary				4:55pm–6:10pm
Animation				6:30pm–8:05pm
Surf & Skate Films				8:20pm–9:59pm
Comedic Short Films				10:10pm–11:55pm

# INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM



## THE GOLD TEETH

Sahra, an Afghan refugee in Canada arrives at Iranian ex-Dentist, Hamed's doorstep for help extracting her late father's gold teeth before they bury him.

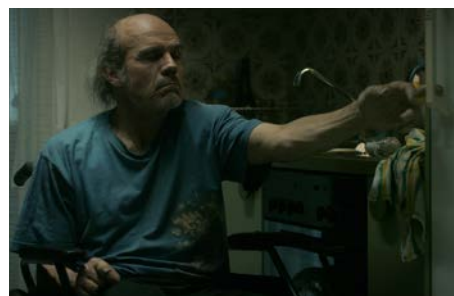
**Director:** Alireza Kazemipour  
*Canada*



## THE PASSION

This award-winning short drama, based on *The Passion* by renowned Irish author Donal Ryan, portrays a young man who accidentally killed his girlfriend in a car crash. Following his release from prison, Steven begins a strange relationship with his deceased girlfriend's mother.

**Director:** Mia Mullarkey  
*Ireland*



## EATING THE SILENCE

Rolf, a hemiplegic, spends his days dozing on a sofa bed in his dusty apartment. On TV, he learns of a deadly pandemic sweeping around the globe. While the world around him falls apart, he bears witness to it on his screen with relish. When his nurse fails to visit him, Rolf realizes that his survival is anything but certain.

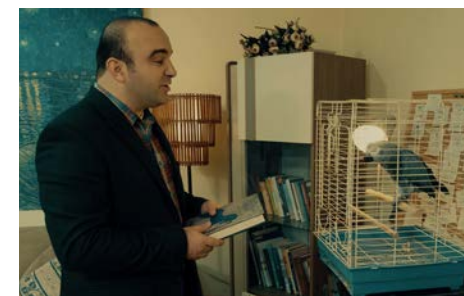
**Directors:** Joël Jent, Ali Al-Fatlawi  
*Switzerland*



## HARVEST

A farmer struggles with his mortality following a near fatal heart attack.

**Director:** Tristan Heanue  
*Ireland*



## THE LIBRARIAN

Mazhar, who works in a library and is so fond of books and languages that he knows the location of all the books in the library by heart, lives alone with his parrot, but cannot be at work on time the next morning because he reads until late. Determined to read even the poet Federico Garcia Lorca in Spanish, Mazhar feels "stuck" by the arabesque culture around him and the discomfort created by the Arabic signs and another language that has entered his life. There is another person who will listen to the character of Mazhar, who cannot tell his troubles to anyone and is alienated, and who is shaken by the tragic news of the refugees he encounters in the media, and that is the other Mazhar who often comes across him. After losing his job, he will not only look for a new job, but will make an inner journey that he will not say 'yes' to the result, but that he must accept involuntarily.

**Director (Student):** Serkan Aktaş  
*Turkey*



### ALEX

Alex is a man in his 40s who lives in a beautiful house with his lovely wife and their two kids. He is funny, friendly and attractive. A 24-hour journey through his life will lead us into the depths and darkness of a man addicted to pleasure, impunity and sex, with complete disregard for consequences or guilt.

**Director:** Pablo Schulkin  
*Uruguay*



### BIG DAY

A wedding is turned upside down after rumors spread that the groom is planning to run away.

**Director:** Ahmed Samir  
*Egypt*



### (IN)CONVENIENCE

Kirby (he/him) is a trans man in his mid-twenties. During his early months on testosterone, he still has his period. He heads to the local convenience store in San Francisco to pick up tampons, which is where he meets Phoebe (she/her), the sociable cashier. She is pleasantly surprised and intrigued at the scene she perceives: A man secure enough to buy tampons for his girlfriend? In the heat of the moment, Kirby doesn't correct her. He does, however, keep coming back to the store. Will he ever tell Phoebe the truth? If he does, how will she react?

**Director:** Alexandra Greenspan  
*United States*



### MY NAME IS..

Confused and unable to hold her tongue, Lizzie confronts her friend, Ahmed, after he Anglicizes his name to order coffee. The ensuing exchange touches on issues around identity, assimilation, and the impact that carrying the names of slave owners has on people like Lizzie. The film follows Ahmed's journey as he reconsiders the significance of his choice and ponders what to do the next time he orders coffee.

**Directors:** Josiah Darwish, Aidan Stone  
*United States*



### IRREVERSIBLE IMPRINTS

Aurora accompanies her parents to the Castello Ursino in Catania, Sicily, but right from the start, her parents are at each other's throats, arguing and making a spectacle of themselves. Traumatized, Aurora finds comfort from her troubles by admiring great works of art with her new friend, NIKE, the kind tour guide, who helps to distract the young girl from her problems. Through Nike's kindness, Aurora comes to cope with her family situation.

**Director:** Carlos Manuel Mora  
*United States*



### THE MERRY WIDOW

The Merry Widow is a radioactive "health spa" located in the heart of an abandoned ore mine in Montana, and the site of the filmmaker's efforts to come to grips with his mother's ovarian cancer diagnosis.

**Director:** Jason Jakaitis  
*United States*



### GLOVEBOX

A teenager slowly gets possessed by the demon inside his first car.

**Directors:** Joseph Matarrese,  
Phillip Matarrese  
*United States*



### LAS MURALISTAS: OUR WALLS, OUR STORIES

Las Muralistas: Our Walls, Our Stories is a 25-minute documentary directed by Javier Briones and edited by Claudia Escobar, in partnership with SFMOMA. The film features women muralists whose works cover the walls of San Francisco's Mission District. The muralism movement that emerged in the 1970s in the Mission District marked the beginning of a tradition of activism, expression, and community building through public art. Hear from artists Juana Alicia, Smokie Arce, Susan Cervantes, Elaine Chu, Priya Handa, Yolanda López, Consuelo Méndez, Irene Pérez, Patricia Rodriguez and more on their experiences, the impact of femmes in the movement and the effort to make space for future muralistas.

**Director:** Javier Briones  
*United States*



### DOUBLE CULTURA

As the only English speaker of the house, twelve year old Marisol takes on the overwhelming responsibility of being her immigrant mothers translator. Much of her own life is disrupted to aid her Spanish-speaking mother, Gloria, navigate an English-speaking world. From fully translating medical terminology and being the bearer of bad news, Marisol is thrown into an anxiety-inducing situation being the sole channel of communication between Gloria and her doctor.

**Director (Student):** Yessenia Sanchez  
*United States*



### SPECIAL DAY

A young woman seeks to travel back in time through nostalgia to connect to her younger self on her birthday.

**Director (Student):** Trinity Dominguez  
*United States*



### CHERRY BLOSSOM'S ELEGY

A young woman receives a dying bouquet of flowers which leaves her grappling with the inevitability of death.

**Director (Student):** Madeleine Delore  
*United States*



### MY HOUSE IS MINE

A young girl reflects on her past while looking into a dollhouse. Pairing childhood nostalgia with the fear of growing up and time passing too quickly, My House is Mine is an encapsulation of family dynamics and their impact on the young mind.

**Director (Student):** Kaiya Ming Jordan  
*United States*



### POP

As they prepare for a surprise birthday party, a heterosexual couple engage in a passive-aggressive and toxic dialogue that escalates into a violent and disturbing ending. THE LIGHTHOUSE INITIATIVE INC will publish this film on Amazon Prime Video.

**Director (Student):** Brandon Victoriano  
*United States*



**THE JERK**

A mockumentary about a high schooler running for student council who no one wants to vote for and his bizarre campaign.

**Student:** Otto Danielson



**EARTH DAY**

A documentary film that explores the effect of climate change on the world.

**Students:** Brian Giron Flores, Noah Foster, Damian Calmo Pablo



**RUMAH KE RUMAH**

A narrative short about a teen finding community in her new home.

**Student:** Natasha Putra



**DESPERATE**

A young girl living in rural America is in need of an abortion.

**Student:** VJ Spenser



**SHARDS.**

"shards." is an exploration of the ins and outs of family life and divorce, where ignorant stereotypes are explored and broken.

**Student:** Madeleine Sophia Wilson



**HOW TO CATCH THE WIND**

A multimedia film about capturing the spirit of the wind.

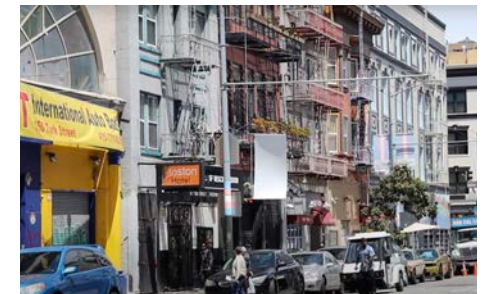
**Student:** Vanessa Smith



**REVERIE**

A young woman living in a corporate dystopia escapes through lucid dreaming to find agency in her life.

**Students:** Giuliana Gentile, Siavash Ford, James Keil, Citlalli Coria, Paola Mora



**THE TENDERLOIN THROUGH MY EYES**

A personal narrative about the Tenderloin neighborhood in San Francisco.

**Student:** Humera Shaikh

# EXPERIMENTAL SHORT FILM



## THE SANCTUARY

A child of abuse finds solitude in his bathroom as he descends into a downward spiral.

**Director:** Caden Norton  
*United States*



## CHOICE

Choice is a film that I made to honor and protect women's reproductive rights so that women can regain and retain the legal right to make our own choices about our own bodies.

The subject matter is violence against women. The actual act of violence may be very short, as is the film. It may seem like a fleeting experience to those not involved — but to the victim, it's a devastating trauma.

**Director:** Betsy Stern  
*United States*



## FRAGMENTED

I was inspired by my novel "The smudge" (Taxideftis-2021), seizing the opportunity to recreate on my story and characters and thus experimenting to enrich and deepen the already given material, in order to expand it to different levels. In a nutshell, the elements played with were the fragments of thoughts, feelings and body, lost in the chaos of the human condition, trying to find their way out of the labyrinth, in purpose of equilibration and restabilization. The body is used as an allegory, the house of psyche, where words, consciousness, unconsciousness, memory, experience are scattered and rediscovered in their wholeness. In this process, the connotated symbolism of death is conceived as restart and metamorphosis.

**Director:** Ioulia Lympelopoulou  
*Greece*



## THE FIVE LEGGED ANT

A product of depression, art and longing. This is a short story about the struggle of an ant presented in a uniquely dramatic, cinematic language. With compelling visuals and moving music, THE FIVE LEGGED ANT expresses a story that embodies the feeling of loneliness, dread, and existentialism—intercut with atmospheric live action and striking animatics.

**Director:** Lawrence Ramirez  
*United States*





## MONSTER

Something seems wrong. Something unnerving that could be rooted in crime, mental illness or plain dark fantasy. Monster explores non-linear storytelling through association, gut feeling and an unsettling sound track.

**Director:** Henk Loorbach  
*Netherlands*



## TENDER PARTS

"I didn't know which way home was, nor anything about it."

**Director:** Steven Subotnick  
*United States*



## NIGHT RIDE FROM LA

'Night Ride from LA' is based on a real car ride at night from downtown LA to the desert near Palm Springs a few years ago. The footage was taken from the car by continually shooting single long exposure photos to document the ride of about two hours without any break. This technique condensed the whole trip to a flickering twirl of time-stretched movements and night light graffiti causing a kind of psychedelic trance. A love letter to the energy and vibe of the Californian way of life.

**Director:** Martin Gerigk  
*Germany*



## POPPIES WILL PUT THEM TO SLEEP

An experimental re-imagining of the iconic poppy scene from the Wizard of Oz. The Oz planetoid's topography is derived from pixel brightness as a z-coordinate.

**Director:** Jeffrey Steven Moser  
*United States*



## SAFE PASSAGE (FOR SHEILA)

On the surface, Safe Passage (for Sheila) is a look at living alone during the pandemic in a 2 1/2 minute story about a spider. In a deeper sense, it challenges the femme fatale stereotype. Based on a true story.

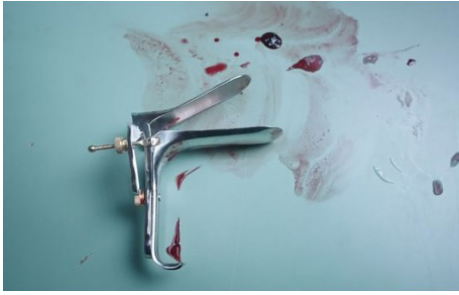
**Director:** Erin Fussell  
*United States*



## CABECEO

A passionate Argentine Tango dance fantasy featuring a woman exploring the sensual and dangerous possibilities presented by a potential new lover.

**Director:** Brian James Crewe  
*United States*



### GRACE

The menstrual cycle has four phases, and abcde Flash has mastered them all. She's learned to recognise each phase by their needs, weaknesses, and strengths. From the oh-so-draining ovulation (a period of rest), to the absolute mind-fuckery of the luteal phase (social interactions can wait), she arrives at the follicular and menstruation phases, where creativity easily flows (and anything goes!). 'Grace.' is an ode to abcde Flash's understanding of her cycle and herself. By accepting each phase for what it is, she's transformed this never-ending experience of highs and lows into a most reliable routine: a cycle that, like clockwork, she knows she can count on.

**CW: blood, needles**

**Director:** abcde Flash  
*Switzerland*



### A BUTTERFLY IS KNOCKING ON THE WINDOW

Injuries do not always manifest themselves as visible scars.

**Director (Student):**  
Mohammad Hasani  
*Iran*



### I'M PREGNANT WITH TIME HERE

When the whole world is a cage. The thought of freedom is only sacred.

**Director (Student):**  
Mohammad Hasani  
*Iran*



### ILLIGITIMATE AUTHORITY

Herein is an experimental microshort giving the Artist themselves permission to rise above the critics.

**Director (Student):**  
Jeffrey Erin Shea  
*United States*



### RESURRECTION UNDER THE OCEAN

"Resurrection under the Ocean" is about the resurrection of a man who was helplessly sinking to the bottom of the ocean, after falling to the bottom of the ocean, with a symbolic narrative.

**Director (Student):** Serkan Aktaş  
*Turkey*



### FORGOTTEN FOUNTAINS

Forgotten Fountains is an experimental documentary that harnesses Super 8mm and found 16mm footage to explore drinking fountains as a lens on the broader infrastructure crisis in the United States.

**Director (Student):** Martin Gerigk  
*Germany*

# LGBTQ+ THEMED SHORT FILM



## BOIFRIEND

A gay cis woman's father is surprisingly happy when she brings her transmasculine boyfriend home - but she soon realizes he's only happy because she's in a straight-passing relationship.

**Directors:** Rebecca Marquardt,  
Lane Michael Stanley  
*United States*



## THE AQUARIUM

Two trans people fall in love with each other and because of the taboo of this love, they hide it in their workplace, and make a date in a hotel.

**Directors:** Josiah Darwish, Aidan Stone  
*Iran*



## HE WON'T BELONG

In the midst of a storm on a desolate strip of California's lost coast, Theo spots a young shivering stranger named Connor on the side of the road and brings him back to his home for shelter. While they wait for the storm to pass, they begin to uncover each other's past wounds.

**Director:** Dominic Mercurio  
*United States*



## LOOK LIKE YOU

While visiting the adoptive family of her eight-year-old biological son, Tara overcomes the hesitation of his parents to relay advice she gathered from growing up as a queer outcast. Longer synopsis: Tara visits the adoptive family of her eight-year-old biological son, who is experiencing othering for being 'different' than his white parents. After the initial hesitation of the adoptive family, she realizes that by relaying her experiences as a brown and queer outcast, she can help him navigate his own identity.

**Director:** Snigdha Kapoor  
*United States*



## HAPPY BIRTHGAY

Sad Farce. Mom throws her son a grandiose surprise BirthGay party, celebrating a year of his coming out of the closet.

**Director:** Niv Manzur  
*Israel*

# SURF & SKATE FILM

# SHORT DOCUMENTARY



## HUMANITY STOKED

A documentary about the beauty in overcoming fear and other challenges facing humanity as seen by icons of pro skating, science, art, music, activism, and education, all of whom share experiences and perspectives shaped by their love of skateboarding.

**Director:** Michael Ien Cohen  
*United States*

## OCEAN THERAPY

This short documentary highlights the experience of an 8th grade boy and the impacts of online school during the pandemic. The film tells a story about how surfing and the ocean helped him through the pandemic. They travel to San Pancho, Mexico and capture the amazing beauty of the ocean.

**Director (Student):** Levi Charles Mulder  
*United States*

## DOWN THE LINE

Wiley Miller, a pro skier of legend, and his captivation by an unattempted ski line help him reach terms with his mother's daunting search for an experimental treatment for ALS. The journey leads him from the mountains of Montana to the deserts of Mexico and back again, all while he grapples with the mounting evidence these may be the first mountains he can't conquer.

**Director:** Oliver Hamilton  
*United States*

## RICHARD

"Richard" is a film about health, memory, and the power of choosing your own family. When I asked my grandfather about his own life he instead chose to tell me about his wife and all of her many health ailments. After he disowned my family when I was 11 I tried to erase him from my memory – and yet the image of him and that rocking chair in the front porch persisted. History seems to repeat itself as I have now become estranged from my parents and my mother suffers from many health issues, most notably her memories disappearing from early-onset Alzheimer's Disease.

**Director:** Mike Godlewski  
*United States*



### PINHEIRO | EPO2 - REFRESH

Presenting Pinheiro, a portrait of the modern skier and part of Atomic's vision for the future of ski racing. In episode 2, follow Lucas Pinheiro Braathen as he prepares for an intense alpine skiing World Cup season. The strive to improve and to perfection provides the main plot for this series, showcasing what it takes to become a complete skier - besides training and racing. This project is about opening the world of skiing to new people. A whole new generation of fans and people.

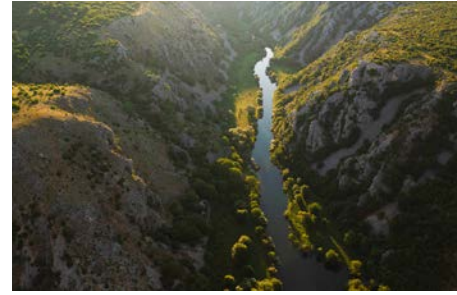
**Director:** Ben Élie  
*Austria*



### ANTI-RACIST COLLECTION SHORTS: "URBANIZATION LIKE APARTHEID"

In 1897, temporary installations of soldiers who fought in the War of the Canudos became the first favela in Brazil, marking the beginning of the social apartheid that still persists today. Is it possible to break down the invisible wall that divides whites and blacks in Brazilian cities?

**Director:** Val Gomes  
*Brazil*



### PROTECTING THE RIVER KRUPA

With Western Europe's waterways clogged by thousands of dams, Balkan countries are rallying to protect the continent's last free-flowing rivers—before it's too late. In Croatia's popular tourist region of Dalmatia, The Nature Conservancy and its partners helped protect the Krupa River in perpetuity, one of the first conservation wins of its kind in the region.

**Director:** Ciril Jazbec  
*Slovenia*



### STOKER MACHINE

Stoker Machine is an award winning animated surf documentary. Chad Campbell, an expert surfer discovers a mysterious surfboard on the big island of Hawaii. The retro board provides only a phone number and an email address as clues to its origin, leading Chad to accidentally uncover a central-coast California surf legend. The man they call, "Stoker". Stoker Machine puts you in the ocean and shares a folklore, capturing the spirit of Stoke through surf cinematography and unique, colorful hand-drawn animation. Stoker Machine goes beyond the surface-level thrills of surfing. It attempts to capture the essence of Stoke. Discover the magical and sometimes funny relationship between surfer and surfboard. This short animated surf documentary is sure to warm your heart and leave you Stoked.

**Director:** Darius Legg  
*United States*



### SPORTS FANATICS

A short documentary that explores the physical, mental, and social effects of being a sports fanatic, and their impact on sports. Interviews were conducted in the San Francisco Bay Area. Produced by Ohlone College students.

**Director (Student):** Luis Rico  
*United States*



### LAST CALL

A magical realist 16mm short focusing on the caretakers of three historic queer bars in San Francisco as they close their establishments, temporarily and permanently, amidst the 2020 pandemic lockdown.

**Director (Student):** Drew de Pinto  
*United States*



### SWAP FILM .CO: BEHIND THE SHUTTER

Emmanuel Blackwell III establishes SwapFilm.Co, a small film processing company that also creates a tightly knit community of San Francisco photographers that create their own art and support each other through tough times.

**Director (Student):** Naomi Garcia Pasmanick  
*United States*



### NOT FOR ME

A young man is going to the country to gather mushrooms. On his way he meets a young girl. The impression of this fleeting meeting changes both his inner world and the reality around him.

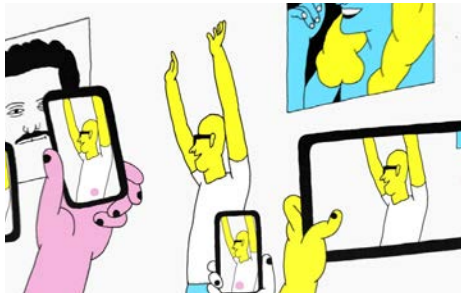
**Director:** Ivan Bondarenko  
*Russian Federation*



### THE PAST

A writer who is threatened by government officials to stop writing for political reasons. For this reason, he is in constant fear in reality and fantasy and is no longer able to write. In the end, he ignores his fears and starts writing.

**Director:** Hamid Mohammadi  
*Iran*



### CUCUMBERS

Simon is a successful popular photographer. Once something inside him, in his life and work breaks down. Now he sees only cucumbers in everything. He cannot exist as before and is trying to cope with his problems...

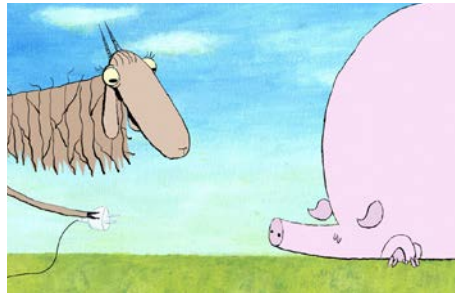
**Director:** Leonid Shmelkov  
*Russian Federation*



### THE CROW

A crow that is bored of living among other crows decides to leave them, when sees an eagle flies high in the sky. It starts following the eagle to learn how to fly higher...

**Director:** Ahura Shahbazi  
*Iran*



### PIG

A big group of animals makes itself dependent on a power grid, hooked onto the socket-shaped snout of a single sleeping pig... How long will that last?

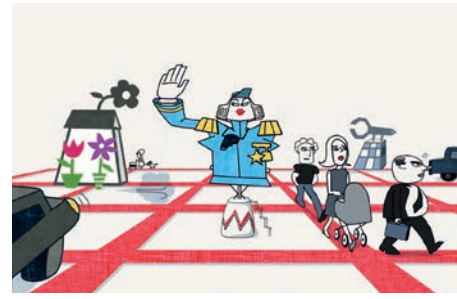
**Director:** Jorn Leeuwerink  
*Netherlands*



### THE ENCOUNTER

A young woman returns to her empty childhood home and is confronted with memories in which her late mum was always there for her. She manages to bat the memories away, but only up to a point.

**Director:** Aleksandra Krivolutskaia  
*Russian Federation*



### LOVELY RITA

The strict traffic policewoman Rita loves control and order in her workplace. That's why she has drawn up a rigid, rectangular road network, through which she directs the drivers with precise instructions. But as more and more cars find their way into her narrow network and it soon threatens to burst, Rita loses control in the traffic. A short story about stress, traffic jams and how to make the best of it.

**Director:** Elena Madrid  
*Switzerland*



### LITTLE OX

A young muskox migrates with a small herd through the cold barren tundra. For the hungry young ox the rules of conduct are difficult to fathom. His mother does her best to take care of him. During their journey the herd gets attacked by a pack of wolves, who are after Little Ox.

**Directors:** Raf Wathion,  
Patrick Vandebroek  
*Belgium*



### SPUFFIES

Spuffies have a serious thing for jubees. When they've eaten the very last delicious fruit and hunger is about to strike, they head to the jubees grove, through the murky forest.

**Director:** Jaka Ivanc  
*Slovenia*



### THE BRAVE LOCOMOTIVE

An Old West musical tale with 1940s flair about a mighty little train facing harrowing disaster.

**Directors:** Andrew Pierce Chesworth  
*United States*



### OREN'S WAY

A clever princess must capture a magical Golden Fox in order to save her kingdom from eternal sadness but on her journey, she conquers obstacles - the last of which reveals a hidden truth about herself.

**Director:** Keika Lee  
*United States*



### THE SPRAYER

In the land occupied with the sprayers army, no one has the right to grow any kind of plants either in public or private. So many of the people and soldiers do not even know how dose a plant grows or look like, until one day one of the soldiers finds a seed buried deep down in the dust and his curiosity is just the beginning of something extraordinary, something big, something revolutionary.

**Director (Student):** Farnoosh Abedi  
*Iran*



# COMEDIC SHORT FILM



## HATING BECKETT

A couple's post-theater dinner date turns confrontational as the pair discuss the merits of Samuel Beckett's *Rough for Theatre II*. Things escalate to the point of disclosed trauma, bitter recriminations and hurled bread rolls — and it becomes clear they have a few issues to work out.

**Director:** Matthew Gossin  
*United States*



## WHAT'A'BUCKET

A young couple watches an old TV show where the detective reveals clues about the husband's cheating. Will they stay together or follow the detective's bits of advice and destroy their relationships?

**Director:** Sergiy Pudich  
*Ukraine*



## ANACONDA

Single and new to LA, Annie agrees to tag along with a group of new friends to Burning Man. When they all have to share ONE hotel room in Reno unexpectedly, she finds herself in an embarrassing situation that could ruin her newfound love interest. After a comedy of errors, Annie is forced to make a decision that could define her forever.

**Director:** Chelsea Gonzalez  
*Sweden*



## LUCKY COIN !

"Lucky Coin!" is about a college student who believes he's constantly failing a course because of "bad luck" and tries to break "bad luck" by an extraordinary way to pass the course.

**Director:** Serkan Aktaş  
*Turkey*



## OCTOBEAGLE

Two spies play a game of cat and mouse with a mysterious man in the park.

**Director:** Kurt Weitzmann  
*United States*



### SPELL IT OUT

A comedy about two girls raising the dead.

**Director:** Omar Najam  
*United States*



### COMMUNITY WATCH

A young Neighbourhood Watch officer must keep her community together amidst a series of grizzly local murders while flirting with the police officer assigned to the case.

**Director:** Paudie Baggott  
*Ireland*



### BAD VINTAGE: A RANDY TALE

A magical realist comedy about romance in our times, family baggage, and a mischievous talking car. San Francisco Bay Area millennials Lenny and Quinn have a hot date; Randy the vintage love-bug steers them way off-course, and Trent is very upset about not being invited. It's a "check yourself before you wreck yourself" trip where everybody learns a little something about how to get along.

**Director:** Ben Élie  
*United States*



### CUCKOO!

Absurd comedy about a lonely man who lives inside a cuckoo clock. Every hour he straps himself into his ejection seat and shoots through the doors of the clock. "Cuckoo!" He yells, "Cuckoo!" His work is of vital importance. The old lady who sits under the clock needs to take her medication exactly at the top of every hour. One day the man has the opportunity to win a substantial sum of money in a radio quiz. He loves gadgets and wants to buy a new computer. The only problem is that he can only dial in at the exact time he's supposed to sit in his seat.

**Director:** Jörgen Scholtens  
*Netherlands*



### DATE WITH SELF

Herein is an experimental microshort giving the Artist themselves permission to rise above the critics.

**Director:** Jason McRuer  
*United States*

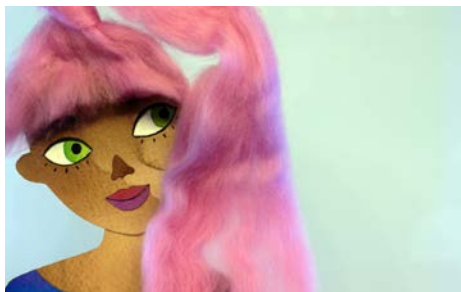
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# ONLINE PROGRAM

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Wednesday July 12 — Sunday July 16 online/streaming at [frozenfilmfestival.com](http://frozenfilmfestival.com)

# ANIMATION



## NUBECITA

A journey between the magical pink clouds, which cannot be missed when we fall in love.

**Director:** Katalin Egely  
*Hungary*



## A GUERRA FINITA

A world without war is another utopia that we cannot wait any longer.

**Director:** Simone Massi  
*Italy*



## RULES OF SUCCESS

**Director:** Théophile Gibaud  
*France*



## EARTHLING

Earthling is a ten-minute animated documentary about Jack Weiner, a grown man whose entire life has been shaped by being abducted by aliens when he was young, a life story nobody believes. In the summer of 1976, Jack Weiner, along with his twin brother Jim, and two friends went camping in Maine's Allagash wilderness, where they were abducted by aliens. It wasn't until ten years later, and massive changes in their personalities, changes brought on by repressed memories, that the four men explored what happened to them on that trip through hypnosis. Despite people not believing Jack about his encounter with aliens, he stands by his story.

**Directors:** Keith Lane,  
Molly Graham  
*Germany*



## YULÍ

YULÍ is a journey through the reflections of a young Colombian, who, influenced by the news media, struggles with her fears and prejudices toward a neighbourhood that has a bad reputation.

**Directors:** Patrick Dionne, Miki Gingras  
*Colombia*



## NO FAGS

Our debut-film about nine charming, politically active queer friends.

**Directors:** Mirek Balonis, Jutta Riedel  
*Germany*



### NURSERY CRIMES PART ONE: THE OMINOUS OVERTURE

Classic English nursery crimes are reimagined with macabre flair in the first of this three-part animated short film series.

**Director:** Charles Kline  
*United States*



### MÚSIKA

A delightfully harmonic tale of the origin of music.

**Director:** Alberto Rubio Herrera  
*United States*



### TANGENT 61

A dot becomes a line, which becomes... a triangle! What other eternal shapes may emerge as we travel through zones of color, in this abstract animated short film. Featuring a richly layered soundtrack by composer and multi-instrumentalist Christof Vonderau.

**Director:** Dan McHale  
*United States*



### HOW DEEP IS THE DARK WATER?

How Deep Is the Dark Water? imagines a cross-strait war. In the original version of the experimental game, the player, guided by a fleeing man, slowly wanders through memories and visions constructed by the context of the war and individual experiences. At the same time, the player finds another layer of meaning of war for individuals, cultures and nations by discovering the messages hidden in each scene.

**Director:** Rhett Tsai  
*China*



### BUTTERFLY

"Butterfly" is a music video set to a song by Portland, Oregon songwriter Buzz Holland. The song and video are a love letter to the Monarch Butterfly, currently under threat of extinction due to the rampant misuse of pesticides that are destroying their natural habitats and the milkweed plant found in agricultural fields, where they lay their eggs. The song goes "Butterfly, you crawl before you fly, you're not long for the sky, what if I could see life through the eyes of a butterfly?" Indeed, legions of caterpillars are seen chewing on the leaves of milkweed before they emerge from their chrysalis cocoon with glorious multicolored wings fit to carry them (along with Buzz, flying on his guitar!) in migration to Mexico.

**Director:** Lawrence Johnson  
*United States*



### LOS MUSSI

The Mussi are three protective elves of childhood and nature that with their action repair and monitor the well-being and balance of human beings on the planet.

**Directors:** Daniel Lovecchio,  
Pury Estalayo  
*Spain*



### MRS. ESHELMAN

A young man writes in his journal while recounting memories of the mysterious woman he lived next door to as a child. How much of what she told him was true?

**Director:** Kevin Y  
*United States*



### BEAR SPECULATION

The Idiot and the Cat live together in a complete jazz madness. The Idiot is always busy with his own business: he tries to learn French, and a minute later he plays the contrabass. And the Cat cuts pieces of paper all the time. Unexpected new passion of the Idiot drags characters to the no less crazy jazz journey to another world and another mood.

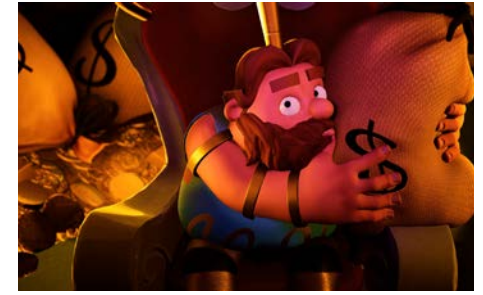
**Director:** Anna Kadykova  
*Russian Federation*



### PARA SABER QUE TE QUIERO

There are many pieces of art about the love between parents and children but there are very few that talk about the relationship between parents and adopted children. Caticuénticos, the Argentine band once again chose a taboo and composed a chakarera to sing about this love full of hope.

**Director:** Katalin Egely  
*Argentina*



### MIDAS

A fresh and hilarious take on the old Greek tale of King Midas. The story follows the King, as his daughter, Marigold, desperately attempts to get him to see past his boundless greed — until Dionysus makes his godly entrance, bestowing upon the old king the ability to turn anything he touches to gold, and to chase his greed evermore.

**Directors (Students):** Ben Meyer,  
Mav Vitale, Lisa Qingyi Liu  
*United States*

# DOCUMENTARY



## ABOVE WATER

On the remote island of Sarichef off the Northwest coast of Alaska, 20 miles below the Arctic Circle, there's a small village they call Shishmaref. Every year, it continues to get smaller as rising water levels erode away at its shores. In the summer of 2021, two artists were invited to the island to paint a mural, but as they learned more about the culture and the impact of the melting permafrost, they began to appreciate the deeper history of the local Inupiaq people and their struggle to maintain their culture in the face of an impending climate disaster.

**Directors:** Ken Honjo, Kentaro Yoshimura  
*United States*



## MALL

A reporting team is taking a video about people's problems and issues in the city that suddenly the on camcorder (while taking the video) was stolen by someone and the thief wants to sell the camcorder and all these things are being recorded unintentionally.

**Director:** Mojtaba Darbandi  
*Iran*



## MAPPING THE REEF: CLOUDBREAK

Over 80% of the world's oceans are unexplored. Pro surfer/scientist Cliff Kapon and the MEGA lab are trying to map the reefs at the best surf breaks on the planet. Using new technology, the spirit of adventure and the desire to engage local community members, the team quickly discovers the beauty of Fiji's reefs.

**Director:** Cliff Kapon  
*United States*



## THEY DON'T KEEP SILENT

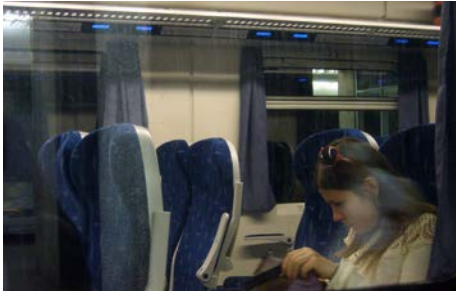
**Director:** Bahram Bahreini  
*Iran*



## N-MEN: THE UNTOLD STORY

N-Men: The Untold Story, is an intimate look at an underground skateboard crew from Sacramento, California, which started in 1975 as a response to Dogtown's Z-Boys and they are still going strong almost 50 years later. The movie features never-before-seen photos and footage of the Northern California skate scene as well as testimonials on the historical importance of this crew from pro skateboarders including Tony Hawk, Tony Alva, Steve Caballero, Christian Hosoi, Tommy Guerrero and more with voice over by Josh Brolin. Brought to you by executive producers Josh Brolin, Lije Sarki and Brian Posehn.

**Director:** James Sweigert  
*United States*



### SILENT NIGHT

The travelers met by chance tell where they go for Christmas and why. There is also someone in love who is waiting for his love. Christmas in Poland is a very family holiday, and loneliness or unfulfilled hopes during this period often leads to the biggest personal dramas.

**Director:** Barbara Medajska  
*Poland*



### SAVAGE WATERS

How far would you go searching for something that may not exist? A 19th century treasure-hunter's journal inspires a captivating journey to seek out and surf a mythical, never-ridden wave in some of the most remote and dangerous waters of the Atlantic Ocean. For renowned skipper, Matt Knight, sailing to unpredictable and uncharted regions is impossible to resist. As a lifelong thrill-seeker, he is constantly testing the limits of what's possible, something world-class big wave surfer Andrew Cotton has also built his career on. With family and friends, they board the beautiful catamaran Hecate and follow clues to this 'perfect wave', but not everything goes to plan, with serious injury and life-threatening challenges testing the crew's resilience and attitudes towards risk. SAVAGE WATERS, narrated by the legendary Charles Dance, boasts jaw-dropping cinematography, and follows remarkable protagonists, for whom living life to the full often means putting themselves in harm's way.

**Director:** Mikey Corker  
*France*



### YAMA

Yama follows Australian surfer and activist Lucy Small as she travels to Ghana to meet with a group of pioneering female surfers and skaters. Once a stronghold of the transatlantic slave trade and with a history of Atlantic aquatic surf culture that precedes colonial invasion, this is a story of a reclamation and joy. Aiming to tell a story that challenges the representations that many African nations are commonly subjected to in western media, Yama begins in the bustling city of Accra and travels to the wave rich coastline where there are communities driving the budding Ghanaian modern surf scene. The Fantes are the people who populate the area where female surfers live. Yama is their name for the wooden boats that still cross Ghana's shoreline today. The soundtrack is not an original score, but each of the artists were selected for being either from or linked to West Africa, specially including artists who have advocated for women's rights.

**Directors:** Lucy Small, Maddie Meddings  
*Australia*



### MINIMA AND THE DRAGS

A fresh and hilarious take on the old "Minima and the drags" is the story of a movement exploding on big capital stages, including Paris obviously. What we don't know is that the Drags created the Pride and initiated every important battle for LGBTQIA+ community rights, as for every ostracized and despised communities. To describe this movement, its commitments going through party and disguise, we are going to follow several Drags paths, as the one of Minima Gesté alias Arthur. He/She is on every battlefield, the show, her/his engineer job, her/his relationship, his/her commitment for all lost causes....

**Director:** Antoine Dabin  
*France*





## TOM

A story of one man's journey to complete a paddle board race. His hurdle is that he was born with one arm yet dominates life's challenges. A story of heart & soul.

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**Director:** Douglas Walker  
*United States*



## WANNA CLIMB THE NOSE

With the boom in rock climbing there have been a plethora of new climbing shows, movies and documentaries. One thing that we haven't seen a lot of on most climbing shows is amateur climbers doing amazing things. Ever since I started climbing, I have had the goal of Climbing El Capitan and I am not alone. In the climbing community a vast majority of the everyday climbers talk about wanting to climb El Capitan and many other big wall climbs but very few of them actually understand what that entails. Yes, EVERYONE has watched "Free Solo" but almost no one really understands anything about what it really takes to climb El Capitan. We created this documentary to show people what it's all about, from a few everyday climbers' perspective, that represent 99% of the climbing community. We think it would be really cool to showcase the 99% of amateur climbers not just the 1% of elite professionals at your festival.

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**Director:** Troy Paige  
*United States*



## FAT KATHY

The lives of millions depend on eight small clams working hard to detect contamination in the city's water supply. Clams are the new canaries in the coal mine in this stranger-than-fiction peek at how humans create problems for the planet and then use living organisms to protect themselves... from themselves.

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**Director:** Julia Pelka  
*Poland*



## BIGGER THAN ME

Bigger Than Me is a female coming-of-age film about the complexity of being a girl and the challenges that drive you as a woman to take on the elemental power of big waves. Wrenna is a young woman with a fearless dream - a 6' 2" natural with a body built for the ocean, she wants to be a big wave surfer. But she finds the discipline and sacrifice required to be a professional, extremely challenging. Growing up in New Jersey with hippy parents, her teenage years were spent caring for her younger siblings and schooling herself in the local library. At 19, Wrenna makes her pilgrimage to Hawaii's North Shore risking it all on big waves. She is confronted by the pressures of carving out a professional sporting life as a woman and without a sponsor she works two jobs to support her dream.

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**Director:** Claire Gorman  
*Australia*



### PLAY IT AGAIN - COMING HOME TO MUSIC AND HOW IT CHANGED MY LIFE

When “Sky” (Jim Schuyler) enrolled in the San Francisco Conservatory of Music’s program in Technology and Applied Composition [SFCM TAC], in the first year of its existence, 2015, he knew he would have a story to tell. As a teen-ager he had made a choice between a career as a musician and a career as a computer scientist. He chose computers and software. A full 50 years later, he followed his childhood dream — he applied, auditioned and “came home to music” at the Conservatory. And he became the only white-haired guy in a cohort of far younger students. Filmed on SFCM’s new high-tech campus in 2022, Play It Again tells the stories of four SFCM alumni who, like him, returned to music after pursuing other professions. The film’s original score was written by its four storytellers.

**Director:** Jim Schuyler  
*United States*



### KUMU NIU

The island of O’ahu is covered with coconut palms, but for fear of liability the vast majority of these sacred trees have been stripped of coconuts. The grassroots movement “Niu Now” is on a mission to restore the “niu,” or coconut, as a fundamental food crop in Hawai’i and spread the Indigenous wisdom of “aloha ‘āina:” loving land and serving people.

**Director:** Alex Cantatore  
*United States*



### PUNCH OF LIFE

Former boxer Gregory Canelón gives himself with high commitment and dedication to the demanding task of training a diverse group of boys and girls from the most populous communities of the city of Caracas in the arduous discipline of boxing. The lives, fears and hopes of his young students are woven in a deep and inspiring way in Gregory’s intimate struggle to achieve redemption, to resize the traumas of the past and thus overcome the uncertainty that the future implies for all.

**Directors:** Luís Alejandro Rodríguez,  
Andrés Eduardo Rodríguez  
*Venezuela*



### CARPENTER

An old Kurdish man (Hussein Mahmood) who is a carpenter tries to make artificial legs for people who have lost their legs.

**Director:** Xelil Sehragerd  
*Iran*



### FLASHES OF BEAUTY: LIVIA

With the darkness of night serving as an impromptu studio, award-winning cinematographer/photographer, Steve Gatlin, and polymath, Livia Wolfe use common public places and spaces, mixed with light, shadow, movement, and the bare human form to create a flash of beauty in the world around them. "Flashes of Beauty: Livia," is a short, intimate documentary co-produced by Livia Wolfe and Steve Gatlin. It features a collection of black and white, time-lapse photography captured with retro film cameras. In interview format, it explores the life of LGBTQ+ human rights activist, and transgender woman, Livia Wolfe. She's also a TBI/mental health advocate, fashion week runway model, actress, producer, media/fashion coordinator, speechwriter, photographer, and personal celebrity chef.

**Director:** Steve Gatlin  
*United States*



### OX FIESTA

The tradition of ox fighting in Nepal is one of the country's oldest traditions, which can even be traced back to more than 1500 years. The villagers of Chandani village, in Taruka Region of Nuwakot district, Central Nepal, still passionately organize and follow the ox fights. The Taruka Ox fights 2022 were organized amidst the third wave of Covid-19 in Nepal and was canceled by the authorities touting safety issues. This is a story of how the villagers came together to organize the program without government support and endorsement, showing the role and importance of cultural ties in improving social harmony. This documentary further explores the common history and incidents associated with the Taruka / Chandani ox fights held during the First of Magh Festival. The daily life of ox owners, their sentiments towards their oxen, and the rules of the ox fights are also expounded upon. This documentary is intended as a window into how inherited customs and traditions bind small rural communities.

**Director:** Puru Lamsal  
*Nepal*



### UKRAINE WAR, THE EYES OF REFUGEES

Narrated by renowned journalist, Mark Owen. Short film, documentary, following the lives of the Ukrainian war refugees, from the Russian war on Ukraine. It features the lives of the refugee children and their response to war. Interviews with parents and other adults filmed on location in Ukraine and Siret Romina.

**Director:** Olivia M. Pfaff  
*United States*



### A SPACE FOR US

A Space For Us tells the story of how the Queer and Trans Youth + Allies (QTYA) summer camp provides life-affirming community and self-discovery in nature. Through participatory filmmaking, the youth capture a glimpse of the joy and vibrancy of being their full, magical queer and trans selves in the outdoors. A Space For Us takes place on Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo land in northern California.

**Directors:** Seed Meyer Minkin,  
Emory Rose Harger  
*United States*



### LINEAGE OF MY THROAT

Through the lens of a week-long stay with her sick mother, a filmmaker explores the relationship between the self we inherit and the selves we narrate into existence.

**Director (Student):** Emily Moeck  
*United States*



### CARL RUNS THE PAPER

A 73-year-old newfound newspaper editor navigates grief while saving California's oldest weekly paper.

**Directors (Student):** Joey Horan, Manish Khanal  
*United States*



### VENTANAS

What do we see from our windows? I see images of violence of a country in crisis through the eyes of Venezuelans, images of a social collective memory.

**Director (Student):** Jhon Ciavaldini  
*Nepal*



### GIFT OF FEAR

Mili watched in horror as her mother was murdered 11 years ago, becoming another Missing and Murdered Indigenous statistic. Now 17, Mili's former crew kidnaps her girlfriend after Mili chooses her MMA team over the gang. Tribal cops and an agent from the Federal Missing and Murdered Unit are on the case, but Mili waited for the authorities once...she won't wait this time.

**Directors:** Katy Dore, Jack Kohler  
*United States*



### THE BOYZ

"The Boyz" is a gripping coming-of-age film that follows a group of teenagers as they navigate the challenges of growing up and chasing their dreams in a tough world. Set in a gritty urban environment, the film centers around a diverse group of young men, each with their own unique struggles and aspirations. As they navigate the complexities of adolescence, the boys find themselves confronted with a variety of obstacles, from family problems and peer pressure to poverty and violence. Some turn to music as a means of expression, others are tempted by the allure of fast money and easy thrills, flirting with a life of crime.

**Director:** Abdel Yelyubayev  
*Kazakhstan*

# FEATURE

# SHORT FILM



## ON/OFF

An Afrikaans-speaking man helps his elderly German neighbour in a time of need, despite a language barrier. In the process, he learns volumes about himself.

**Director:** Jurg Slabbert  
*South Africa*



## THE PIPELINE

In a depressed hamlet, a young girl is used by her father to carry a parcel to her grandmother, whom she does not know. The girl's innocence soon wins the old woman's trust, until they both discover that the parcel is a cruel trap. Faced with impending misfortune, the girl has no choice but to try to appeal to her faith.

**Director:** Rosalinda Yáñez  
*Venezuela*



## FARAWAY

Nina Tagaki's dreams of an art-driven future are threatened by her mother's efforts to induct her into medical school. After receiving her acceptance letter in the mail, Nina conspires to hide the truth and fabricate a rejection.

**Director:** Penny Sruta Mongkolsuttee  
*United States*



## JACK & BLUE

A popular blogger Jack lives isolated from the world. Stacks of his unsold books are his only company. Until one day, an enigmatic artist Phoenix perpetrates an artistic and dramatic suicide against a fiery backdrop on Jack's rooftop. Jack saves Phoenix and locks him away for the night where he reads Jack's book and realizes his savior's secret. The next morning Phoenix offers to save Jack.

**Directors:** Katherine Sheyno  
*United States*



## BLACK TEA

A lonely Victorian widow longing for her lost love, conjures a spell to be reunited.

**Director:** Laura Mcquay  
*United States*



### SINIGANG

Bobby, a Filipino-American, realizes that his long time girlfriend, Rachel, isn't feeling herself. As a romantic gesture, he offers to cook for her but just doesn't know what to cook. That is, until a phone call from his mom sparks a nostalgia for a certain Filipino dish, sinigang. "Sinigang" is a short film that highlights the beauty of Filipino food and how cooking from the heart can suddenly change your life for the better.

**Director:** Sean Totanes  
*United States*



### THE UKULELE

Documentary Filmmaker, a heavy A grieving young woman discovers the healing power of music through a chance encounter with a stranger This is the first entry of "The Closure Tetralogy" - 4 standalone short films about how people deal with the weight of memories and their quest for closure.

**Director:** Saurav Mohapatra  
*United States*



### BITSY BITES BACK

Tired of seeing her friends lose their nest eggs to senior scammers, Jin goes "undercover" as Bitsy Davenport and convinces two eclectic members of her retirement community to risk it all in an attempt to beat a con man as his own game.

**Directors:** Richard Mueller  
*United States*



### SWAN IN THE CENTER

In a deserted shopping center destined for redevelopment, Swan, a junior consultant, conducts a survey. As she passes the empty hallways in search of clients and salespeople to interview, desire gets in her way...

**Directors:** Iris Chassaigne  
*France*



### OUT OF STOCK

The tensions of precarity and labour play out in a teenage girl's household. She returns home to take care of her little sister, cooking and running a shop out of the living room, all the while attempting to complete her own project.

**Director:** Simón González  
*Venezuela*



### CIGARETTE

Documentary Filmmaker, a heavy smoker of marijuana cigarettes, Through his camera lens, we see the production of a film about his family, Six of his brothers (The Musician, The Politician, The Athlete, The Pupil, The Disable, The Educated) and one sister that cares about appearances, The Mother, and The Father. They are all gathered in a house that is filled with conflict amongst them and within themselves. To what degree will their differences escalate?! And will the Film complete in the end?

**Director:** Lama Naamneh  
*Palestine*



### THE IMPOSSIBLE WAVE

Surfing made its debut in The Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020. It took one man 27 years to get it there. This is the story of Fernando Aguerre's quest for Olympic Surfing, and the arrival of a sport on the worlds biggest stage.

**Directors:** Jessica Frankovelgia  
Johnson, Jay Johnson  
*United States*



### AM I NOT SOMEONE?

In a Brazilian favela, a nine-year-old child tries to understand himself and the universe where he lives. Through adventures with his friends and relatives, Antonio lives the wonders and dangers of the place he was born in..

**Directors:** Gabriel Duarte,  
Daniel Eduardo de Souza  
*Brazil*



### SENTENCE

Only a few tenacious human writers (Brian, Edward, and Alice) remain in the realm of creation while flawlessly beautiful sentences created by Athena (AI writer) bombard human writers every minute. Now, human writers must decide whether to survive until death as writers or leave the realm of creation to live as human beings.

**Director:** Seungmin Cho  
*Republic of Korea*



### THE SOLDIER

Mario, a young soldier in the heart of the forest wait for his destiny. The History will call him.

**Director:** Matteo Faccenda  
*Colombia*



### GENTE SOMBRA

Ali reflects on society and her nightmares.

**Director:** Daniel Durán  
*Spain*



### FADED REQUIEM

A man, isolated to his home, begins to lose his grip on reality while left alone with his grief. His denial of reality begins to distort and misshape the world around and as well as the world within him.

**Director:** Brandon Joseph Ruffin  
*United States*



### THE EXCHANGE

Mateo and Lucas, best friends, go out to party in a hot summer night. Mateo meets Lucia, and Lucia commits an act that will change their lives. From there, Mateo and Lucas will begin a search, both physical and personal. The Exchange exposes sexuality without fear, without labels, without holding back. It is the discovery of something that somehow touches all of us, regardless of our sexual orientation or gender identity. A film that shows the beauty of sex, love, friendship, and innocence.

**Director:** Marco Berger  
*Puerto Rico*





### A FEW STRANDS OF HAIR

Changing a woman's worldview and her tendency towards feminism leads to behavioral and personality changes in her married life which is not understandable for her husband, and not raising this issue leads to seemingly small problems and making excuses following a separation.

**Director (Student):** Shahin Jabbarzadeh  
*Iran*



### JOUISSANCE

Official Selection of BUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
Arash and Rahi are a gay couple from Tehran. They've recently moved into a new house. However, their everyday routine is disrupted by the ghost of Rahi's ex-boyfriend, who died six years ago and is now asking Rahi to continue living with him.

**Director (Student):** Sadeq Es-haqi  
*Iran*



### MIRRORTY

This movie is about the mysterious disappearance of a man who lives alone in a city where people are vanished mysteriously, who is alienated from society and ignorant to social tragedies.

**Director (Student):** Serkan Aktaş  
*Turkey*



### A KING IN YELLOW

A brother attempts to bring his sister's sense of hearing back by performing an occult ritual involving vinyl records.

**Director:** Drew Roderick  
*United States*



### WHISPERS

Shengli flies from China to San Francisco to visit her daughter Lili, while Lili's lesbian partner Elena suddenly becomes unusually friendly with Shengli. However, all this harmonious atmosphere will soon be broken because of Lili's and Elena's daughter Susie.

**Director (Student):** Qi Yang  
*United States*

# VIRTUAL REALITY, GAME, MUSIC VIDEO



## UNFRAMED: PAUL KLEE, HAND PUPPETS

Did you know that the famous painter Paul Klee built handpuppets for his son? This animated VR experience recreates a puppet theatre using the work of Paul Klee, and especially the authentic puppets rendered in 3D. The short experience tells the story of Paul Klee, from the creation of the puppets to his escape from Nazism in Switzerland, where he died later.

**Director:** Martin Charrière  
*Switzerland*



## ALEX HONNOLD : THE SOLOIST VR

Follow Alex as he takes you on a whirlwind tour of his stomping grounds in the US and then teams up with Nicolas Hojak for a month long trip to the European Alps.

**Director:** Jonathan Griffith  
*United Kingdom*



## PLUS ONE

Against all odds, the people of New Orleans have created the very best of America. In a time when we're divided, disconnected, and uninspired, an evening with them can change the way we see the world. PLUS ONE gives you a seat at the table with the culture heroes of the city – from Grammy-winning musicians, James Beard-winning chefs, recording-breaking artists, and Civil Rights leaders – with an Oculus-first virtual dinner party that explores what it means to be inspired by New Orleans.

**Director:** Brendan Vaughan  
*United States*



## MURCHISON FALLS: A WILDLIFE ADVENTURE (VR)

Murchison Falls is a groundbreaking 25-minute 360 VR film that transports the viewer into the heart of Uganda's Murchison Falls National Park. This immersive experience showcases the park's extraordinary beauty and its diverse ecosystem, where the Victoria Nile river flows through lush forests, savanna plains, and powerful waterfalls. Elephants serve as the central focus, with stunning close-up encounters that reveal their complex social behavior and intelligence. The film explores the park's various habitats, from savanna and wetlands to the dramatic Murchison Falls themselves. The film takes the viewer on a breathtaking wildlife adventure, witnessing intimate moments with various species, including bathing warthogs, grazing giraffes, playful young lions, nosy hyenas, and a group of lions feasting on their prey.

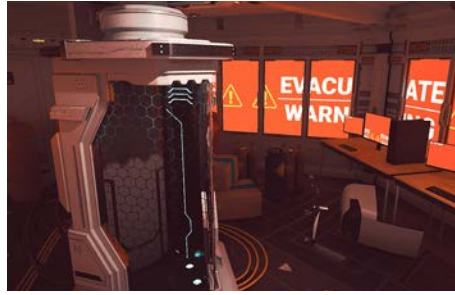
**Directors:** Peter van Apeldoorn,  
Daan Tan  
*Netherlands*



### WARSAW RISING

"Warsaw Rising" CINEMATIC VR EXPERIENCE is the first feature film in Poland executed in the virtual reality technology. It tells a story based on the fate of one of Warsaw insurgents, Capt. Władysław Sieroszewski alias "Sabala", who received a note with a message from his daughter when he was leaving to fight in the Uprising in August 1944. At the time, he did not know yet that the note would influence his future fate.

**Director:** Tomasz Dobosz  
*Poland*



### ONBOARDING VR

"Onboarding" is a short interactive PC-based virtual reality experience where the player takes on the role of a newly minted archivist trying to escape a catastrophe in a cyberpunk dystopian future. I wanted to create an engaging and immersive VR experience that explores the interaction and storytelling in a new medium.

**Director:** Huali Fu  
*United States*



### THINGS TOO UGLY

Things Too Ugly is an interactive narrative puzzle experience set against the Mississippi River watershed in 1986. The viewer embodies a Risk Assessment & Management Data Processor at TEREPRO INC., a fictional natural resource company. The role of the Data Processor is to sift through past incident files and glean clues for input into the proprietary VERI-FI software; doing so models alternative approaches that may yield more favorable outcomes during future incidents. What begins as an uneventful overnight shift, soon turns urgent as The Supervisor, present only through an intercom, leads the viewer through a dark story of unethical practices, environmental abuse, and inhumanity. TEREPRO's most mysterious and devious incident now lays bare on the Data Processor's desk.

**Director:** Kevin Mercer  
*United States*



### DYKE PLUMAGE

Show your feathers.

**Director:** Alexandra Gascón  
*Spain*



### DESTINATION

Official music video for Chinese artist Viigho. A emotional shattering journey of an astronaut searching for his loved one throughout the universe.

**Director:** Chen Lu  
*China*