



LEEDS

INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

3–17
November
2022

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Catalogue

LEEDSARTS
EVENTS&VENUES



A stylized illustration featuring three women. In the upper right, a Black woman with her head tilted back, eyes closed, and a red lip, set against a circular orange and yellow background. In the center, a woman with a yellow headscarf and a blue top, looking upwards with a smile. In the lower right, a Black woman with her hand to her chin, looking thoughtfully to the side, set against a yellow background. The overall style is flat and graphic with bold colors.

FILMS
FEMMES
AFRIQUE
X
LIFF

**WOMEN
CREATORS
OF THE FUTURE**

8-16 NOVEMBER 2022
leedsfilm.com

LIFF X Film Festivals

We love film festivals at LIFF, naturally, and the teams of thousands across the world like us are passionate about celebrating and promoting film culture and dedicated to sharing the work of diverse filmmakers with audiences. This year we are thrilled to collaborate with the team of a film festival in Africa, Films Femmes Afrique in Dakar, who do amazing work supporting films by and about African women and taking them to communities across Senegal.

Our collaboration with Films Femmes Afrique is one of three spotlight programmes at LIFF 2022. We have partnered with the Imagining Technologies for Disability Futures team at the University of Leeds on a programme about disability and new technology, and with Jamaica Society Leeds on a celebration of Jamaican culture on film. LIFF is also part of the UK/Ukraine Season of Culture, presented by the British Council and Ukrainian Institute.

Our regular programme sections – Official Selection, Cinema Versa, Fanomenon, and Leeds Short Film Awards – return for LIFF 2022. As part of Official Selection this year, we are launching the New Directors Competition to expand our support for new filmmakers and for films without distribution yet, with UK Premieres of eight features by first or second-time directors, six of whom are women.

We hope you are inspired by your LIFF 2022 experience to discover more film festivals!

LIFF 2022 Team

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All the Beauty and the Bloodshed
- Cinema Versa

Partners

Presented by



Leading Funder



Leading Partners



Leading Supporting Partners



LIFF 2022 Team

Director

Chris Fell

Development & Production Manager

Jamie Cross

Programme Manager

Alex King

Development & Communications Officer

Lee Bentham

Senior Programmer

Molly Cowderoy

Programme & Production Officer

Alice Duggan

Programme & Production Assistant

Xinyi Ma

Volunteer Coordinator

Ellie Hales

Guest Services Coordinator

Anna Stopford

Programmers

Laura Ager, Sylvia Barber, Robb Barham, Allegra Bell, Ellie Hales, Jenna Isherwood, Nick Jones, Leeds Queer Film Festival, David Maguire, Colm McAuliffe, Alice Miller, Evangeline Spachis, Tom Vincent, Gitta Wigro, Andy Wood

Prints & Projections Manager

Nick Randles

Prints & Projections Assistant

Paisley Boyd

Designer

Lee Goater

Digital Content Producer

Sally Molineaux for Molineaux Productions

LIFF is organised by the Leeds Film Team, part of Leeds Arts, Events & Venues at Leeds City Council. Leeds Film also includes Leeds Young Film which organises Leeds Young Film Festival, the Independent Directions Film Festival, and year-round screening and training programmes.

Leeds Young Film Manager

Debbie Maturi

Youth Programme & Engagement Coordinator

Eleanor Hodson

Venue Supervisors

Sue Barnes, Hannah Booth, Matthew Chambers, Ellie Hales

Venue Coordinators

Sue Barnes, Hannah Booth, Paisley Boyd, Hannah Broadbent, Crystal Carleton, Matthew Chambers, Madeleine Gauci Green, Daniel Jones, Sam Lawrence, Abi Mitchell, Jai Joseph Parakkal, Xiaolian Qiu, Vicki Rolley, Nathan Shipley, Joe Williams

Festival Runners

Daniel Ackroyd, Fatima Ayyoub, Seth Barnard Chodzko, Lucas Burnett, Diana Drozdov, Shorouk Elkobros, Matthew Gowland, Catherine Jablonski, Grace Keenan, Carla Law, Elliot Leach, Sophie Warwick, Taissia Yanishevskaya

Venue Assistants

Fiona Al Hamdan, Tariq Al Zahal, Ni An, Ariana Armenakas, Gracie Ashpole, Bradley Askew, Eve Atkinson, David Baron, Justine Belanger, Diana Bestwish Tetteh, Lucy Bickerton, James Blackie, Scott Booth, Ulla Boutwood, Alison Bright, Harry Burton, Justine Carpenter, Tanvi Susan Cherian, Alice Chipasula, Peter Clarke, Emmelia Clay, Fern Conaghan, Debbie Cook, Conor Corey, Lily Corke, Saskia Damiao, Jahdeya Daniel-Reid, Robert Davis, Reynard d'Avoine, Elizabeth de Barros, Alison Devine, Paul Douglass, Will Dow, Isabelle Eccles, Katerina Elenkova, Saffron Farr-Hoey, Michael Fielding, Jill Fisher, Ella Fitt, Ben Fletcher, Brian Flynn, Hasadri Freeman, Owen Frost, Claire Gibb, Veronika Golubeckaite, John Grieve, Paul Haigh, Bill Hargreaves, Evie Higgins, Lechun Hong, Quinny Huang, Irfan Hussain, Amaaima Hussain, Yasmin Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Victoria Juszkievicz, Sukjit Kaur, Andi Kirk, Ursula Klingel, Anja Koncar, Fanxu Kong, Francis Krupa, Lai Kwan, Yichen Li, Xuanshuo Li, Khara Linton-Salmon, Marnah Lissiley, Weiguang Liu,

Zhendong Liu, James Lord, Ella Manger-Webber, Lingying Mao, Niall Mapplebeck, Marjolaine Marsile, Elisa Martinez Relano, Joseph Maskill, Yaroslav Matveev, John McAndrew, Sharon McConway, Tianna McIntosh, Isla McShane, Olivia Molloy, Sally Morris, Katharine Morse, Melissa Mupariwa, Mirei Muranishi, Teresa Murphy, Dom Murphy, Mia Newton, Artjoms Novickis, Tanaka Nyikavaranda, Xicheng Peng, Joe Pullman, Harriet Purbrick, Courtney Quinn, Ola Radomska, Charley Robertson, Lewis Robinson, Cameron Rolland, Yvan Romé, Pia Roycroft, Calla Rylance, Aliya Salawu, Chuanwen Shao, Chanicia Sharp, Kae Sinclair, Ewan Smirk, Stuart Smith, Steven Smith, Xinyi Song, Molly Sowden, Yuri Spencer, William Steele, Mark Steele, Joseph Steward, Eva Stoddart, Shahzeb Tahir, Jessie Li Si Tan, Audrey Tay, Anna Taylor, Curtis Thompson, James Tolcher, Vivienne Travers, Lisa Vercelli, Abi Welch, Rosie Williams, Pete Williams, Tsz Yan Wong, Jia Xia, Wen Yin, Xiaoyi Yuan, Rani Zhou

Digital Content Assistants

Eleanor Bowler, Fred Brown, McKenzie Burnett, Rick Corbishley, Theodore Daish, Yelyzaveta Didenko, Danny Dodds, Matthew Dudding, Emma Harding, Thomas Lee, Patrycja Maziarz, Nicholas Morley, Oran O'Sullivan, Kat Padmore, Chloé Schneider, John Tomlinson, Long Yat Tse, Yifei Wang, Peiyi Wang, Tom Ward, Kenisha Wardhana, Niamh Webb, Jemma Wilcock, Christopher Williams, Nerea Zambrano

Official Selection



We are delighted to open and close LIFF 2022 with two outstanding new British films. The deeply moving and life-affirming drama *Living* starring Bill Nighy opens LIFF 2022 on 3 November. One of the best British debut features in recent years, *Aftersun* from writer/director Charlotte Wells and starring Paul Mescal and newcomer Frankie Corio closes LIFF 2022 on 17 November.

Official Selection includes some of the top prize-winners and most acclaimed new films of the last year. *Alcarràs* won the Golden Bear at Berlin 2022 and *The Novelist's Film* the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize. From Cannes 2022, highlights include the joint Grand Prix winner *Close*, and *Broker* which took the Best Actor prize. And from Venice 2022, the Special Jury Prize winner *No Bears*, and *Vera* which took Best Director and Best Actress in the Horizons section.

We are launching a New Directors Competition as part of Official Selection, with UK Premieres of feature films from eight first or second-time filmmakers, six of whom are women. LIFF has always supported the work of exciting new filmmaking talent and we wanted to increase our support for features alongside our seven competitions for shorts in Leeds Short Film Awards.

We are also presenting two restorations of two film classics as part of Official Selection. *Casque d'Or* from 1952 is master filmmaker Jacques Becker's tale of small-time gangsters, and *Brief Encounters* from 1967 is the sublime debut of great Ukrainian filmmaker Kira Muratova. As well as *Brief Encounters*, we are also showing two other features at LIFF 2022 in support of Ukraine – *Pamfir*, also in Official Selection, and *The Hamlet Syndrome* in Cinema Versa.

Aftersun

LIFF 2022 Closing Film

Aftersun is what we use to soothe ourselves. It also evokes an aftermath. This beautiful debut feature is set on an elegiac 1990s summer holiday at a Turkish package resort. We see events through the eyes of pre-teen Sophie (newcomer Frankie Corio), who is there with her soulful, doleful dad Calum (Paul Mescal). They share an easy bond, yet Calum may not be as 'OK' as he tries to appear. Aftersun expresses a complex tenderness that many of us feel but seldom can express in words. It's one of the very best British films of 2022.

'My parents were quite young when I was born and growing up my dad would often be mistaken for my brother. It always seemed a fun relationship to explore on film and when I was flipping through old holiday albums toward the end of film school, the idea began to take hold... Sophie and Calum have some ups and downs over the course of the trip, but their relationship itself isn't a huge source of conflict. I wanted Calum to be a good father which felt in a lot of ways working against the absent father type. Calum is struggling in some facets of his life, but being a parent isn't one of them.' Director Charlotte Wells, from an interview with Pauline Mallet

Countries

UK, USA

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 36min

Languages

English

Director

Charlotte Wells

Producer

Lia Buman

Mark Ceryak

Ipek Erden

Amy Jackson

Leading Cast

Paul Mescal

Frankie Corio

Celia Rowson-Hall

Cinematographer

Gregory Oke

Editor

Blair McClendon

Print Source

MUBI



Alcarràs

Winner of the Golden Bear at this year's Berlinale, Alcarràs is a beautifully observed ensemble drama, full of heart. As far as they can remember, the Solé family have spent every summer picking the peaches from their orchard in Alcarràs, a small village in Spain. With the sudden news that they face eviction, the Solés find themselves at odds as to how to go on, risking the very ties that bind them. With a remarkable cast of non-professionals, Carla Simón creates an authentic and moving contemplation of the fragility of family and childhood.

'Alcarràs is a tiny village in deepest Catalonia, where my family grows peaches...We wanted to pay a nostalgic but unsentimental tribute to the last resistant families of farmers still hanging on to their traditions. This is also a film about family relationships, generational tensions and the importance of unity in times of crisis. It was conceived as an ensemble piece due to my desire to express what it means to be part of a huge family... We worked with non-professional actors from the area of Alcarràs who have a real attachment to the land. In order to present themselves as a real family, they spent so much time together that now they call each other by their characters' names.' Director Carla Simón

Countries

Spain, Italy

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr

Languages

Catalan, Spanish
with subtitles

Director

Carla Simón

Screenwriter

Carla Simón

Arnau Vilaró

Producer

Ariadna Dot

Tono Folguera

Emilia Fort

Sergi Moreno

Leading Cast

Jordi Pujol Dolcet

Anna Otín

Xènia Roset

Cinematographer

Daniela Cajías

Editor

Ana Pfaff

Print Source

MUBI



America

The Cakemaker was an audience favourite at LIFF 2017 and writer/director Ofir Raul Graizer's new film America is a sensual and vibrant melodrama and an affectionate tribute to 60s and 70s cinema. Eli works as a swimming coach in Chicago but he returns to his native Israel after news of his father's death. Eli seems to have put the past behind him but he decides to contact Yotam, a childhood friend, who now runs a flower shop with his fiancée Iris. Reigniting an old friendship sets in motion a series of events that have a lasting impact on the lives of everyone involved.

'I had this concept that each of the characters has their own story and each story has a different colour. Blue is the colour of Eli, first of all because it's the water but also it's blue, it's some sadness. And then for Iris it's the green and the brown – these are her colours, the colours of the shop, of the earth. She's coming from a harder home and a harder reality, she's like a very earthy person. And Yotam's colours are the warm colours, the red and the orange and the yellow. I can imagine that he painted the apartment, that's how he's dressed, that's why he's cooking in this kitchen surrounded by yellow, and for him it's about vivid, about life and about sunlight. This was like a clear vision for me, I knew wanted it to be very obvious in the film – in the props, in the clothes, in the colour palette of the shooting.' Director Ofir Raul Graizer

Countries

Israel, Germany,
Czech Republic

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 7min

Languages

Hebrew with subtitles

Director

Ofir Raul Graizer

Screenwriter

Ofir Raul Graizer

Producer

Jiries Copti

Ofir Raul Graizer

Marcos Kantis

Ami Livne

Jan Macola

Itai Tamir

Leading Cast

Oshrat Ingadashet

Michael Moshonov

Ofri Biterman

Cinematographer

Omri Aloni

Editor

Michal Oppenheim

Print Source

Beta Cinema



Baby Pyramid

New Directors Competition

Cecilie McNair, previous recipient of a Young Directors Award for best student short film at Cannes, presents her haunting feature debut, a psychological drama that explores the range of emotions that come with involuntary childlessness. Hannah, a young fertility doctor, longs to carry a baby but is struggling to get pregnant herself. After meeting an older patient who is fertile but above the legal age for treatment, Hannah's ethical and moral boundaries are questioned. Driven by jealousy and powerlessness, how far is she willing to go to make her greatest wish come true?

'With Baby Pyramid, I want to take the audience on a nerve-wracking journey into a fascinating and exotic environment, just as I want to raise a number of complex ethical dilemmas. Baby Pyramid is a story about the basic needs of humans, which Maslow's pyramid of needs defines, and this is where the inspiration for the title comes from. It is about the longing to reproduce and about the powerlessness that arises from not knowing some of the most animalistic and basic - creating new life... With Baby Pyramid, I want to create a more radical and fatal narrative about childlessness, which can hopefully provide an insight into some of the unreasonably difficult and taboo emotions one goes through as an involuntarily childless person.' Director Cecilie McNair

Countries

Denmark

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 27min

Languages

Danish with subtitles

Director

Cecilie McNair

Screenwriter

Cecilie McNair

Sissel Dalsgaard Thomsen

Christina Øster

Producer

Matilda Appelin

Rene Ezra

Katrine Højdhahl

Henrik Zein

Leading Cast

Danica Curcic

Christine Albeck Børge

Anders Mossling

Cinematographer

Sine Vadstrup Brooker

Editor

Esben Grundsøe

Print Source

Nordisk Film Distribution



The Blue Caftan

Films Femmes Afrique

Returning with her second feature - following its FIPRESCI prize-winning premiere at Cannes- writer and director Maryam Touzani (LIFF 2019's Adam) asserts her expertise in capturing the intimacy and tenderness in human relationships. In one of Morocco's oldest medinas, Mina runs a small shop selling traditional caftans created by her husband, master tailor Halim. Struggling to keep up with demand they hire a young male apprentice, but it's not long before Mina notices how much her husband is moved by the presence of this young man.

'I work a lot based on my feelings and inspiration; I don't intellectualise things when I write. While I was scouting for a location for my previous film, Adam, I made a decisive encounter in the medina of Salé with a gentleman who ran a hair salon for women. He greatly inspired the character of Halim. I felt that there was, in his life, the presence of something unsaid, something smothered with respect to who he truly was deep down, and who he tried to be in order to face the world, within a highly conservative environment... I spent a lot of time with him, and he left a deep impression on me.' Director Maryam Touzani

Countries

Morocco, France, Denmark, Belgium

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 48min

Languages

Arabic with subtitles

Director

Maryam Touzani

Screenwriter

Maryam Touzani

Producer

Nabil Ayouch

Amine Benjelloun

Eva Jakobsen

Leading Cast

Lubna Azabal

Saleh Bakri

Ayoub Missioui

Cinematographer

Virginie Surdej

Editor

Nicolas Rumpel

Print Source

New Wave



Blue Jean

In 1988 queer people's lives were upended across Britain when the Conservative government enacted 'Section 28', which aimed to 'prohibit the promotion of homosexuality' in Local Authorities. Writer-Director Georgia Oakley's vividly realised debut feature is set at this turning point in British history. High school teacher Jean hadn't thought her sexuality was of interest to her colleagues. But now with the new law, workplace suspicion gathers, and Jean faces a dilemma when she meets a vulnerable gay new student. An amazingly accurate evocation of late-'80s northern Britain, and a future queer classic.

'I read an article about a group of lesbians who had abseiled, in early 1988, into the House of Lords from the public gallery during a debate on Section 28. And I was struck by this amazing image, and what might have led up to this event, historically. But I was also amazed that I'd never heard about this law, despite the fact that it wasn't repealed till 2003. I started thinking about the impact it would have had on gay teachers, but also the indelible mark it had left on my life, without my knowing of its existence.' Director Georgia Oakley, from an interview with Women and Hollywood

Countries

UK

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 37min

Languages

English

Director

Georgia Oakley

Screenwriter

Georgia Oakley

Producer

Marie-Elena Dyche

Jim Reeve

Hélène Sifre

Eva Yates

Leading Cast

Rosy McEwen

Kerrie Hayes

Lucy Halliday

Cinematographer

Victor Seguin

Editor

Izabella Curry

Print Source

Altitude



Brief Encounters

Restorations – UK/Ukraine Season of Culture

The great Ukrainian director Kira Muratova made her debut with this sublime romantic drama in 1967 though it was banned by Soviet censors for twenty years. Nadia travels to the big city and gets a job in a cafe. There she meets and falls in love with the geologist Maxim (played by Vladimir Vysotsky, a famous Russian singer songwriter). Maxim's wife Valentina hires Nadia as a maid when Maxim is away on a geological expedition, unaware of the connection with her husband. Muratova explores unconventional narrative techniques to create a hypnotic dramatisation of intimacy and longing.

'Acting is a combination of discipline and freedom. For instance, the girl who plays the friend of the heroine in Brief Encounters was a tremendous discovery for me. In *The Long Farewell* she plays the pregnant daughter of a post office employee. She's enormously talented – not because of her education, it's innate. All her lines in Brief Encounters are scripted and she performs them exactly right. She learned the text by heart but performed it as though she had invented it on the spot. That's professionalism. Sudden bright ideas that cannot be repeated mark the amateur. You should be able to say to the actor: repeat this but do it a little more softly and add this movement. She was able to repeat a piece with the same natural quality as the first time, while simultaneously making small alterations.' Director Kira Muratova from an interview by Mart Dominicus and Mark-Paul Meyer, 1988 Translated by Veva Leye

Countries

USSR

Year

1967

Running Time

1hr 36min

Languages

Russian with subtitles

Director

Kira Muratova

Screenwriter

Kira Muratova

Leonid Zhukhovitsky

Leading Cast

Nina Ruslanova

Vladimir Vysotskiy

Kira Muratova

Cinematographer

Gennady Karyuk

Editor

O. Kharakova

Print Source

Dovzhenko Centre



Broker

Sometimes we do get to choose our family. Sang-hyeon (Parasite's Song Kang-ho), runs a humble laundry business but also a more lucrative sideline: he and business partner Dong-soo find adoptive parents for abandoned babies, for a fee. When mother So-young returns to the church where she left her son, she discovers that he's been swiped by the pair and joins them to help screen for his new parents. A typically affecting tale of an irregular family from director Hirokazu Kore-eda (Shoplifters, LIFF 2018), and winner of the Cannes 2022 Best Actor for Song.

'During my scriptwriting and research in Korea, I was able to hear the stories of the children who had been left in a 'baby box'. Watching the children desperately questioning themselves, "Was it really a good thing for me to be born?", I was filled with the urge to make a film that could answer that question. ... With this topic, I did not want to come to an ending where the abandoned children regret being born, or the mother regretting having the child. I wanted the film to be able to directly deliver the message, "It was good to be born." In that sense, Broker is a film about 'life.' Director Hirokazu Kore-eda

Countries

South Korea

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 9min

Languages

Korean with subtitles

Director

Hirokazu Koreeda

Screenwriter

Hirokazu Koreeda

Producer

Miky Lee

Miyuki Fukuma

Eugene Lee

Leading Cast

Ji-eun Lee

Bae Doona

Song Kang-ho

Cinematographer

Hong Kyung-pyo

Editor

Hirokazu Koreeda

Print Source

Picturehouse



Casque d'Or

Restorations

The UK premiere of a new digital restoration of one of the great classics of French cinema. Elegantly directed by Jacques Becker, *Casque d'Or* is both a picturesque depiction of the Belle Epoque era at the turn of the twentieth century and a gritty tale of small-time gangsters. Featuring a magnetic central performance by Simone Signoret as Marie, who is caught between ex-con Manda, who is trying to go straight, and the local crime boss Leca. Manda is drawn into a web of deception and intrigue in a finely wrought crime melodrama. Released by the Independent Cinema Office.

'Signoret's Marie occupies the moral and visual centre of *Casque d'or*, Becker's seventh feature. Like a black hole in deep space, she draws into her dense core a trio of male characters. She exudes an easy sexuality. But she can also reveal her vulnerability, depending on the demands of those around her and on her inbred but finite supply of toughness. Signoret has never shied from roles whose characters embrace startling pairs of opposites: neediness and independence, ferocity and meekness, innocence and dark experience... For all her swaggering, Marie finds herself clutching at a rapturous, fleeting happiness in *Casque d'or*.' John Fidler, *Senses of Cinema*

Countries

France

Year

1952

Running Time

1hr 34min

Languages

French with subtitles

Director

Jacques Becker

Screenwriter

Jacques Becker

Jacques Companéez

Producer

Raymond Hakim

Robert Hakim

André Paulvé

Leading Cast

Simone Signoret

Serge Reggiani

Claude Dauphin

Cinematographer

Robert Lefebvre

Editor

Marguerite Renoir

Print Source

ICO



Close

Léo and Rémi are close. They are thirteen-year-old boys who have grown up in each other's company, completely sharing and trusting. It's a childhood utopia, but one that can be vulnerable. Returning to school after an idyllic summer together, the boys' friendship attracts gossip among their peers. And now with an emerging 'image' to protect, Léo begins to push Rémi away. The second film by Lukas Dhont (*Girl*, LIFF 2018) is another masterpiece of poignant naturalism and sympathy. Winner of the Grand Prix at Cannes 2022.

'[the film] started from a very personal place. Growing up, I had a lot of male friends between 13 and 18 that I lost because of who I am. Because I was so scared of intimacy with another boy, who I was and the label of the sexuality [I had], I started to fear some friendships and let some go ... In a way, I think I made this film for friends I lost. I got a message from one saying they heard this film exists and wanted to reach out. That may be a beautiful thing that happens through releasing this.' Director Lukas Dhont, from an interview with *Variety*

Countries

Belgium,
Netherlands

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 45min

Languages

French with subtitles

Director

Lukas Dhont

Screenwriter

Lukas Dhont
Angelo Tijssens

Producer

Michiel Dhont
Dirk Impens
Jacques-Henri Bronckart

Leading Cast

Eden Dambrine
Gustav De Waele
Émilie Dequenne

Cinematographer

Frank van den Eeden

Editor

Alain Dessauvage

Print Source

MUBI



Corsage

The memory of 'Sissi', Habsburg Empress Elisabeth of Austria, long ago morphed into kitsch memorabilia across Europe. With *Corsage*, actress Vicky Krieps rips up all the tweeness and starts again. Krieps proposed this revisionist film to director Marie Kreutzer, and here Krieps portrays Sissi with 2022-style diffidence, replacing a sappy legend with vibrant nowness. As Sissi moves across Europe, bored and searching, she pines for independence, and Leeds film pioneer Louis Le Prince is a sometime interloper. Winner of the Un Certain Regard Best Performance award at Cannes 2022.

'The idea occurred to me as I'd seen Romy Schneider in the 'Sissi' films at our neighbor's place when I was 15 and read Empress Elisabeth's biography pretty much in parallel. As a teenager, I had all kinds of questions when I finished the book. Why did Empress Elisabeth have fitness equipment built for her? Why did she refuse to be painted after she was 40? I told Marie [Kreutzer, director] all that and she didn't say a word at first. But then something amazing happened ... I opened my mailbox and there was an envelope with the finished script. Marie had just added a note saying something like: "I went back to the archives. You were right". That was so classy.' Actress Vicky Krieps

Countries

Austria, Luxembourg,
Germany, France

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 52min

Languages

German, French, English,
Hungarian with subtitles

Director

Marie Kreutzer

Screenwriter

Marie Kreutzer

Producer

Alexander Glehr

Maren Ade

Alexander Bohr

Leading Cast

Colin Morgan

Vicky Krieps

Finnegan Oldfield

Cinematographer

Judith Kaufmann

Editor

Ulrike Kofler

Print Source

Picturehouse



Everybody Loves Jeanne

New Directors Competition

Jeanne says she is fine but feels like crap. Her business dream is an embarrassing nightmare, she is broke, and worse still, mum just died, Jeanne must now sell mum's apartment in Lisbon, and finds that a weird guy seems determined to tag along. These stresses are the stuff of a thousand lesser rom-coms. But ...Jeanne is several cuts above thanks to a wonderfully bittersweet script and performance, and droll animated inserts that show the gulf between an exterior self that is in control, and an interior that is falling apart. Very funny, very wise.

'I wanted to write a comedy about depression and therefore talk about all the toxic thoughts that go through us when we're not feeling well. I had to find a way to portray them joyfully... [Jeanne's animated alter ego] probably came to me in a dream... It's a hairy creature, neither man nor woman, who pesters Jeanne all day long. A kind of reflection of shame. It is also the memory of all the voices that Jeanne has heard that accumulate in her brain. ...It is also a huge comic element, because we can juggle between what she says and what she really thinks.'

Director Céline Devaux

Original Title

Tout le monde aime Jeanne

Countries

France, Portugal

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 35min

LanguagesFrench and Portuguese
with subtitles**Director**

Céline Devaux

Screenwriter

Céline Devaux

Producer

Genevieve Lemal

Sylvie Pialat

Benoît Quainon

Luís Urbano

Leading Cast

Blanche Gardin

Laurent Lafitte

Maxence Tual

Cinematographer

Olivier Boonjing

Print Source

Elle Driver



Godland

Original Title

Vanskabte land

CountriesDenmark, Iceland,
France, Sweden**Year**

2022

Running Time

2hr 23min

LanguagesDanish, Icelandic
with subtitles**Director**

Hlynur Pálmason

Screenwriter

Hlynur Pálmason

ProducerJohnny Andersen
Birgitta Bjornsdottir
Didar Domehri**Leading Cast**

Ingvar Sigurdsson

Cinematographer

Maria von Hausswolff

Editor

Julius Krebs Damsbo

Print Source

Curzon

Being too pious can land us in all sorts of trouble. In the late 1800s, a Lutheran priest travelled from Denmark to remote coastal Iceland to establish a parish church. The idealist's journey was arduous but filled with extraordinary beauty; the changing seasons indicating God's power, or perhaps his indifference. Epic adventure Godland was inspired by a collection of photographs depicting this journey, which were the last known movements of the photographer on his fateful mission. A haunting film for the biggest of screens, laced with sly humour amidst doctrine-vs-nature hubris.

'The film is written and developed for the area around where I live. The rotting horse was my father's horse and I filmed it for over a year on our neighbor's land. The seasonal images of the glacier are filmed for over two years at a place where we pick mushrooms during late summer. The first camp in the film is where we fish trout through ice during winter. Most of the locations are spaces that I've revisited many times and slowly they begin to reveal themselves in my writing. Some of them were also very hard to reach and it's impossible to drive there. So we had to carry all the equipment ourselves and travel only by horse.' Director Hlynur Pálmason



I Have Electric Dreams

New Directors Competition

Costa Rican director Valentina Maurel's debut is a vivid and emotionally supercharged family drama with lived-in performances by a terrific cast. Eva is a strong-willed, restless 16-year-old girl whose parents are separated. She wants to move in with her estranged father, a poet who is in the throws of a turbulent midlife crisis and is living more like a teenager than his daughter. Here Eva learns important lessons about adult life, responsibility and sexuality, using this newfound experience as a strong foundation for her own independence.

'I grew up in Costa Rica and I felt like doing a film there. I gathered many memories I had of my teenage years there even though it's not an autobiographical film. So I felt the need of going back there and filming the city I grew up in and filming the people I grew up around, which was like fragile, artistic middle class, sometimes I feel like that's disappearing... I didn't want to make a film about a specific subject, I wanted to make a film about characters... I really like how in family relationships things tend to be extremely blurry but when people write scripts, they assume it's like in a guidebook... it's unstable who's the adult and who's the teenager.' Director Valentina Maurel, from an interview for Sarajevo Film Festival

Original Title

Tengo sueños eléctricos

CountriesCosta Rica,
Belgium, France**Year**

2022

Running Time

1hr 42min

Languages

Spanish with subtitles

Director

Valentina Maurel

Screenwriter

Valentina Maurel

ProducerFelipe Cordero
Grégoire Debailly
Benoît Roland**Leading Cast**Reinaldo Amien
José Pablo Segreda
Johanning
Daniela Marín Navarro
Vivian Rodríguez**Editor**

Bertrand Conard

Print Source

Heretic



Joyland

Winner of the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize and Queer Palm at the Cannes Film Festival, Saim Sadiq's dazzling debut feature is a bittersweet tale of repressed desire and the quest for individual freedom. Unassuming Haider Rana, has a seemingly happy arranged marriage and an ordered family life, living under the same roof as the rest of the Rana clan and his strict patriarchal father. When Haider secretly becomes a backing dancer for an erotic dance cabaret and falls for glamorous trans starlet Biba, family ties begin to strain.

'It's not my own story, but it's still a personal film because of its portrayal of the patriarchy, desire and intimacy, all of which I've been struggling with... There are about 10 dance theatres in Lahore, about the same number as movie theatres. They always run to packed houses, with thousands of seats filled every day. But there's a moral judgement about these places, which some people consider vulgar. It's full of contradictions that desire, a taboo in a right-wing conservative society, is no longer a taboo at the dance theatres. But once the audiences leave, they don't talk about it, repressing their desire.' Director Saim Sadiq, from an interview with Screen Daily.

Countries

Pakistan

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 6min

Languages

Urdu with subtitles

Director

Saim Sadiq

Screenwriter

Saim Sadiq

Maggie Briggs

Producer

Owais Ahmed

Ramin Bahrani

Jennifer Goyne Blake

Leading Cast

Rasti Farooq

Sarwat Gilani

Ali Junejo

Cinematographer

Joe Saade

Editor

Saim Sadiq

Jasmin Tenucci

Print Source

Studio Soho



Karaoke

The delightful and poignant first feature from Moshe Rosenthal, with three terrific lead performances, *Karaoke* is an offbeat comedy about a suburban couple in their 60s who are drawn to their charismatic new neighbour. Meir and Tova live a middle-class life in a sleepy suburb, beset with an unspoken sense of disappointment and regret. When bachelor Itzik, a former Miami-based modelling-agent, moves into the top-floor penthouse of their building and starts hosting lively karaoke evenings, their lust for life is reignited and they start to compete for his attention.

'A couple of years ago my parents came back from a wedding, very excited. They told me they met a couple their age and they want me to find them on Facebook. I found it extremely sweet and a little bit embarrassing, but I helped them. When I opened the couple's Facebook page, I was shocked by the way this couple looked. They were my parent's age but had colourful glasses and velvet jackets. They were the most flamboyant 60-year-old people I've ever seen. It made me laugh, but when I looked into my parents' admiring faces, I realized I know that excitement, it reminded me of high school, and how I admired the new cool kid in school, how I wanted to be close to him. I could suddenly see the teenagers that still exist in them. That's when I knew who Meir, Tova and Itzik were.' – Director Moshe Rosenthal

Countries

Israel

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 40min

Languages

Hebrew with subtitles

Director

Moshe Rosenthal

Screenwriter

Moshe Rosenthal

Producer

Efrat Cohen

Ben Giladi

Dubi Rubinstein

Dominique Welinski

Leading Cast

Sasson Gabay

Rita Shukrun

Lior Ashkenazi

Cinematographer

Daniel Miller

Editor

Dafi Farbman

Print Source

Charades



The Kegelstatt Trio

The great French director Éric Rohmer wrote a single theatre play called 'Le Trio en Mi Bémol'. This has been inventively adapted for the screen by the Portuguese director Rita Azevedo Gomes as the poignant and graceful drama *The Kegelstatt Trio*, named after the famous Mozart composition. Former lovers Adélia and Paul meet up again and discuss their memories and shared love of classical music in a series of beautifully staged and acted dialogue scenes, all elegantly filmed on a minimalist set. Often imitated, this is the best tribute to Rohmer since his death.

'Rohmer wrote a wonderful book, *From Mozart to Beethoven: An Essay on the Notion of Profundity in Music*, in which he talks about what makes the Trio special. It was the first time that these three instruments – the clarinet, viola and piano – were played together. It marked a new line in the evolution of music. Listening carefully to Mozart's trio I felt each instrument corresponds to a character. The viola is the man, the clarinet is the woman and the piano is Mozart. When you hear the piece, you sense the harmony and also the dissonance between the three instruments.' Director Rita Azevedo Gomes, from an interview in *Variety*

Original Title
O trio em mi bemol
Countries
Portugal, Spain
Year
2022
Running Time
2hr 7min
Languages
French, Spanish,
Portuguese with subtitles
Director
Rita Azevedo Gomes
Screenwriter
Rita Azevedo Gomes
Éric Rohmer
Producer
Filipe Bessa Vieira
Leading Cast
Pierre Léon
Rita Durão
Ado Arrieta
Olivia Cabeza
Cinematographer
Jorge Quintela
Editor
Rita Azevedo Gomes
Print Source
Portugal Film



Living

LIFF 2022 Opening Film in partnership with Film4

One of the most acclaimed films of the year, *Living* is a deeply moving and life affirming drama about a man dealing with a terminal diagnosis featuring a pitch perfect central performance by Bill Nighy. The film is scripted by Kazuo Ishiguro and adapted from Akira Kurosawa's 1953 Japanese masterpiece, *Ikiru*. In this remake, the story is transplanted to 1950s London where the narrow minded bureaucrat Mr Williams finds out he has terminal stomach cancer and decides to use his remaining time to ensure a much needed children's playground is built nearby.

'At heart, this is a story about death affirming life. It's about how, in the wake of this man realising that his life is coming to an end, he's pressured into living. I always thought that this was an important story to tell today because we sort of live in distraction. We live looking at our cell phones, looking into the future. It's interesting to take a step back and wonder what it means to be present, actually, in your own life.' Director Oliver Hermanus

'What really appealed to me about *Ikiru* was that it basically says that what's important is that you have a very personal sense of triumph for yourself. It might be something very humble, but excel yourself just a little bit. No one may remember you for it, but it will matter to you.' Screenwriter Kazuo Ishiguro

Countries

UK

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 42min

Languages

English

Director

Oliver Hermanus

Screenwriter

Kazuo Ishiguro

Akira Kurosawa

Producer

Kate Albers

Daniel Battsek

Emma Berkofsky

Leading Cast

Alex Sharp

Adrian Rawlins

Hubert Burton

Cinematographer

Jamie Ramsay

Editor

Chris Wyatt

Print Source

Lionsgate



Love Dog

New Directors Competition

Bianca Lucas's haunting narrative debut follows John, a drifter returning to his Mississippi hometown to deal with recent trauma. Originally intended as a documentary on disillusionments of the American Dream, the narrative of *Love Dog* came naturally as Lucas was forced to lockdown with a local community as the pandemic hit. Featuring non-actors playing fictionalised versions of themselves, *Love Dog* realistically portrays personal loss set within a community that has lost hope in America. Through small but meaningful encounters with strangers online, lost acquaintances and an unwanted dog, John searches for redemption and slowly learns to live again.

'For me the strength of cinema is to create an experience, a sensorial experience, and that was my first goal with the film. I wanted to capture a feeling I was going through myself. I wanted to look closer at the process of grieving and give justice to it in a more realistic way. Moreover, there is a very particular atmosphere in this region of Mississippi we were traveling to at that time that I liked and wanted to show as well. I felt that a lot of things, the fantasies and the illusions about an unrealistic idea of success, were falling apart. I felt that there is a real feeling of grief among the American people.' Director Bianca Lucas, from an interview with Cineuropa

Countries

Poland

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 24min

Languages

English

Director

Bianca Lucas

Screenwriter

John Dicks

Bianca Lucas

Producer

Joaquin del Paso

Bianca Lucas

Leading Cast

Becca Begnaud

Corinne Bordelon

Brooke Keel Bullock

Cinematographer

Jozefina Gocman

Editor

Ernie Schaefferl

An s Vignal

Print Source

Lights On



Love Life

Countries

Japan

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 3min

Languages

Japanese with subtitles

Director

Kôji Fukada

Screenwriter

Kôji Fukada

Producer

Antoine Jouve

Leading Cast

Fumino Kimura

Kento Nagayama

Marika Yamakawa

Atom Sunada

Editor

Sylvie Lager

Print Source

MK2

Love Life is a moving and complex family drama about a young married couple, Taeko and Jiro, whose lives are shaken to the core by a tragic accident involving Taeko's son. The unexpected return of the boy's biological father, a troubled and vulnerable character, creates discord and confusion in the marriage. Director Koji Fukada approaches an emotionally devastating story with understated grace and intelligence, never lapsing into sentimentality. The cast are all superb, especially Fumino Kimura who shines as the gentle but strong-willed Taeko. 'A beautifully wrought story of life after tragedy.' (The Hollywood Reporter)

'When I make a film, I try to imagine how universal it can be. Therefore the main theme of Love Life is not the sadness of a couple who has lost a child, but the loneliness they feel due to their inability to share this pain. Sadness is unique to each person, while loneliness is inherent to mankind. I've been thinking about this film for fifteen years, with the singer Akiko Yano's voice going round in my head: "No matter how far apart we are, I will always love you." Like the isolation each half of the couple feels faced with their tragedy. This song that expresses both love and deep loneliness ended up so entwined with Love Life that I think it is actually the origin of the film.' Director Kôji Fukada



Mediterranean Fever

Countries

Palestine, Germany, France, Cyprus, Qatar

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 48min

Languages

Arabic with subtitles

Director

Maha Haj

Screenwriter

Maha Haj

Producer

Baher Agbariya
Martin Hampel
Thanassis Karathanos

Leading Cast

Amer Hlehel
Ashraf Farah
Anat Hadid

Cinematographer

Antoine Héberlé

Editor

Véronique Lange

Print Source

Luxbox

Palestinian filmmaker Maha Haj won Best Screenplay in Un Certain Regard at Cannes 2022 for her bittersweet and unpredictable comedy-drama about male friendship. Middle-aged, melancholic, and married with two kids, Waleed has abandoned a steady job in banking to pursue his dream of becoming a writer. But his novel and his life in the seaside city of Haifa seem to be going nowhere. That is until he meets Jalal, a fellow Palestinian and the laid-back father of a family that's just moved in next door. An initially tense meeting develops into a friendship that might just help Waleed get his writing and his life back on track.

'I am a filmmaker who has a melancholic state of mind along with a sense of humour. This led me to write a thriller-drama about Waleed, a 40-year-old aspiring writer suffering from chronic depression. Through this fictional male character, I pushed my opinions and daily thoughts to extremes. I know Waleed's character and I am familiar with it. I developed a mockery of my dark side through a person that is similar yet different from me. While playing with life and death themes, I took Waleed to extremes that I never would have dared to reach... I chose to focus on one personality and express the depression of an individual, in contrast to that of an entire society.' Director Maha Haj



Metronom

New Directors Competition

A superbly stylised evocation of life in 1970s Bucharest, *Metronom* is a quietly affecting love story set against the severe backdrop of authoritarian state control. Ana, 17, dreams of love and freedom. One night, while partying with her friends, they decide to send a letter to *Metronom*, the musical programme which Radio Free Europe broadcasts clandestinely in Romania. Little do they know that the Securitate, Ceausescu's secret police, has been informed. An impressive first feature by Romanian director Alexandru Belc who emerges as a distinctive new voice in the vibrant Romanian cinema scene.

'I didn't set out to make a film about communism but rather to tell a story that happens in those times and that cannot function outside that period, even if it has a certain universality. I used the 1970s as a backdrop for the story, without trying to overlay the era... I am a firm believer in cinema's power of change. The documentaries I have seen had palpable results; they generated real, visible change. When I wrote the script for *Metronom*, I felt a deep responsibility towards history and mainly towards cinema. I thought about the necessity of safeguarding the past. I wanted to approach with a certain detachment the story of these teenagers from the 1970s, so thirsty for freedom and influenced by western music, culture and the hippy movement, by [Radio Free Europe anchor] Cornel Chiriac's *Metronom*.' Director Alexandru Belc, from an interview in *Cineuropa*

Countries

Romania, France

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 33min

Languages

Romanian with subtitles

Director

Alexandru Belc

Screenwriter

Alexandru Belc

Producer

Viorel Chesaru

Cătălin Mitulescu

Emmanuel Quillet

Leading Cast

Mara Bugarin

Serban Lazarovici

Vlad Ivanov

Cinematographer

Tudor Vladimir Panduru

Editor

Patricia Chelaru

Print Source

Pyramide



My Small Land

Countries

Japan

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 54min

Languages

Japanese with subtitles

Director

Emma Kawawada

Screenwriter

Emma Kawawada

Producer

Megumi Banse

Makoto Kakurai

Eiji Kitahara

Leading Cast

Lina Arashi

Takashi Fujii

Sei Hiraizumi

Cinematographer

Hidetoshi Shinomiya

Editor

Shin'ichi Fushima

Print Source

GAGA Corporation

Emma Kawawada's first feature is a deeply affecting drama about a young refugee who is searching for her own world while caught between two others. Sarya has lived in Japan since she was five. She pretends to be German to her school friends, which is easier than explaining about her Kurdish parents who travelled from Turkey to Japan as refugees. She cares for her siblings while their father works, and she has a job on the side to bring in extra money. Despite her hardships, she is heading to college, and she develops a tender relationship with a colleague. But her family's predicament threatens to shatter her dream of a normal life.

'I myself have mixed backgrounds. I am always wondering, "Where do I belong? Where is my home?". Especially when I was a teenager, I hesitated to call the place where I live now 'my country' and felt out of place. The Kurds are the largest ethnic group without its own country. They have a history of fighting for their own place in the world. What exactly "my country" means? I feel that the existence of these people strongly questions this. Originally, we thought of having Kurds who live in Japan appear as the main characters. However, we could not find a way to have them appear in a film without worrying about their refugee status. In the process of making this film, we learned with devastation that we live in a country where we could not ask people to perform freely.' Director Emma Kawawada



Neptune Frost

Films Femmes Afrique

Neptune Frost is a genre-defying, Afro-futurist, sci-fi punk musical created and composed by Saul Williams and co-directed with Rwandan actor Anisia Uzeyman. An electrifying connection between intersex runaway Neptune and coltan miner Matalusa creates a virtual offspring with the potential to ignite a revolution against the authoritarian regime. Made with an entirely Rwandan and Burundian cast and crew, Neptune Frost presents an intoxicatingly original way to explore the role of technology as both oppressor and liberator. Followed by a panel discussion on African cinema and cinephilia.

'Saul and I worked side by side on the creation of this project from the beginning. We developed the cinematic language together and he insisted that I would be the DP of Neptune Frost, so I went into deep and long studies and camera tests for two years. I think the freshness of my take and the freedom that goes with it were the key factors. He knew I would dare to push for the so-called impossible. Also, my connection to Rwanda, to music and my feminine gaze are part of the reason it was me... The camera movements were almost choreographed to amplify the ensemble feeling, the dances and the musicality of that universe.' Co-director and Cinematographer Anisia Uzeyman, from an interview with Filmmaker Magazine.

Countries

Rwanda, France, Canada, USA

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 49min

Languages

Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Swahili, French with subtitles & English

Director

Anisia Uzeyman
Saul Williams

Screenwriter

Saul Williams

Producer

Ekaterina Baker
Luke Daniels
Dave Guenette

Leading Cast

Cheryl Isheja
Bertrand Ninteretse
Eliane Umuhire

Cinematographer

Anisia Uzeyman

Editor

Anisha Acharya

Print Source

Anti-Worlds



Next Sohee

Based on a tragic true story, July Jung's *Next Sohee* is a strong indictment of exploitation in the job market in South Korea. Sohee is a cheerful and tenacious high-school student with a passion for dance. She signs a contract through her school to start an internship at a call centre but soon realises she is caught in a toxic work environment where trainees are abused and bonuses are non-existent. When her overworked supervisor is found dead, Sohee begins a psychological descent. The consequences lead to an investigation by Detective Yoo-jin who is determined to search for answers.

'One day I heard about the death of a young girl. She was a stranger to me, but why did my heart hurt so badly to hear of it? Why did I feel so sorry for that child? Three years have passed, but her story has stayed with me like a lump in my throat. I just had to find out more about her. About how it happened. And so I got to know about Sohee. I found Detective Oh Yoo-jin, who had met Sohee. A child who succumbed to death all alone, and an adult who knew better than anyone the horror of being all alone. Their paths crossed, though at different points in time. The child is gone and no more, but from the bottom of my heart I wish that inside this film she shall remain alive, and be a name that many remember for a long time.' Director July Jung

Countries

South Korea

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 14min

Languages

Korean with subtitles

Director

July Jung

Screenwriter

July Jung

Producer

Dong-ha Kim

Ji-yeon Kim

Leading Cast

Kim Si-Eun

Bae Doona

Si-eun Kim

Cinematographer

Il-Yeon Kim

Editor

Young-Im Lee

Print Source

Finecut



No Bears

Dissident Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi has now spent over a decade covertly creating deftly imaginative films despite being banned from filmmaking by the government. Recently imprisoned, that remarkable run will surely be disrupted but his latest, No Bears is now being released and it stands alongside This is Not a Film and Taxi Tehran as resourceful and defiant statements of creative resistance. In two clever, parallel stories, he plays a version of himself, directing a film remotely across the Iranian border about a couple attempting to get fake passports to flee to France.

'We are filmmakers. We are part of Iranian cinema. For us, to live is to create. We create works that are not commissioned. Therefore, those in power see us as criminals. Independent cinema reflects its own times. It draws inspiration from society. And cannot be indifferent to it. The history of Iranian cinema witnesses the constant and active presence of independent directors who have struggled to push back censorship and to ensure the survival of this art. While on this path, some were banned from making films, others were forced into exile or reduced to isolation. And yet, the hope of creating again is a reason for existence. No matter where, when, or under what circumstances, an independent filmmaker is either creating or thinking about creation. We are filmmakers, independent ones.' Director Jafar Panahi, a statement made for New York Film Festival after being sentenced to six years imprisonment

Countries

Iran

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 46min

Languages

Persian with subtitles

Director

Jafar Panahi

Screenwriter

Jafar Panahi

Producer

Jafar Panahi

Nader Saeivar

Sinan Yusufoglu

Leading Cast

Naser Hashemi

Reza Heydari

Mina Kavani

Cinematographer

Amin Jafari

Editor

Amir Etminan

Print Source

Picturehouse



The Novelist's Film

Countries

South Korea

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 32min

Languages

Korean with subtitles

Director

Hong Sang-soo

Screenwriter

Hong Sang-soo

Producer

Hong Sang-soo

Leading Cast

Lee Hye-yeong

Kim Min-hee

Seo Young-hwa

Cinematographer

Hong Sang-soo

Editor

Hong Sang-soo

Print Source

Finecut

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at Berlin 2022, the 27th feature from Hong Sang-soo is a charming, playful, and poignant cinematic treat, receiving its UK Premiere at LIFF 2022. Junhee is a novelist who has grown disenchanted with her own writing. On a trip to see an old friend, she runs into a film director who was set to adapt one of her novels before the project fell through. One chance encounter leads to another and soon she finds herself having lunch with Kilsoo, a well-known actress also questioning her role as an artist. It's then that Junhee has an epiphany: she will make a film starring Kilsoo.

'I had a piece that was shot in a most natural setting. There was no script, no idea to express anything, I wanted to compare this kind of footage with the people acting based on a script I gave. I don't think there is absolute naturalness. Even being alone in our own room, we don't know if we can call it natural. I don't think I'm seeking to be really natural. I just happen to be that kind of director. I like to see small details working on significant elements, so I'm kind of relatively more natural. Many small details happen in a scene. I scan and look through them, and when I feel OK, I let them exist in the scene.' Director Hong Sang-Soo



Pacification

Albert Serra (*The Death of Louis XIV*) shows he is one of the most distinctive and boundary pushing directors working today with his latest epic, *Pacification*, a heady fever dream of post-cold war paranoia with mesmerising cinematography by Artur Tort. Set entirely on the island of Tahiti, the film follows the louche, immaculately white suited French High Commissioner De Roller (superbly played by Benoît Magimel) as he schmoozes local bigwigs and mingles with the locals at shady nightclubs. But rumours of French nuclear testing create discord and he starts to feel his control slipping away.

'The film is pure fantasy – it touches on the political, it touches on the contemporary, and it touches on the human and human relations, but in the end, I like the idea that it's exotic, artificial and unbelievable. All of these relations between these two people – De Roller and Shannah – are almost grotesque... I only made one trip, and I was supposed to shoot immediately, and then COVID-19 happened. I prefer the friction of going there and not knowing anything, and being with the whole crew. The friction, the clashes, the shock. This creates innocence and spontaneity. There are lots of things that aren't under control – it's the total nightmare of industry people. They want to keep everything under control because it's a huge industry and there's time pressure. But with this, you only get one thing or the other – you are economically comfortable, but you are artistically f***ed.'

Director Albert Serra, from an interview for Cineuropa



Countries

France, Spain,
Germany, Portugal

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 45min

Languages

French with subtitles

Director

Albert Serra

Screenwriter

Albert Serra

Producer

Marta Alves
Pierre-Olivier Bardet
Dirk Decker

Leading Cast

Benoît Magimel
Sergi López
Lluís Serrat

Cinematographer

Artur Tort

Editor

Ariadna Ribas
Albert Serra
Artur Tort

Print Source

New Wave

Pamfir

UK/Ukraine Season of Culture

Pamfir is a barnstorming debut from Ukrainian filmmaker Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk with a powerhouse performance from Oleksandr Yatsentyuk as the eponymous hero. Part drama, part thriller, the story follows Pamfir as he returns to his family after a long absence, ready to celebrate the traditional carnival in their home village the following day. But when his son starts a fire in the prayer house, Pamfir has no other choice but to reconnect with his troubled past. He returns to work for a shady crime syndicate operating a risky smuggling venture, with irreversible consequences.

'I believe that during the last 30 years of Ukrainian independence, we acquired the aspirations of previous generations: we want to separate ourselves from imperial Soviet influence... Pamfir is a father who wishes the best to his sibling and does everything possible and impossible to achieve that. He actually sacrifices himself and his beliefs to make his son live a better life. The more we reflect on who we are and why we are on this path of war, the more we will realize that the basics of this fight for freedom were laid not over the last 10 or 30 years, but over centuries. It seems to me that Pamfir is a typical Ukrainian who fights for his future having had a difficult past.'
Director Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk

Countries

Ukraine, France,
Poland, Germany,
Chile

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 46min

Languages

Ukrainian with subtitles

Director

Dmytro Sukholytkyy-
Sobchuk

Screenwriter

Dmytro Sukholytkyy-
Sobchuk

Producer

Laura Briand
Adolf El Assal
Adam Gudell

Leading Cast

Oleksandr Yatsentyuk
Yelena Khokhlatkina
Solomiia Kyrylova

Cinematographer

Nikita Kuzmenko

Editor

Nikodem Chabior

Print Source

Indie Sales



A Piece of Sky

New Directors Competition

Michael Koch's sophomore feature is a moving meditation on the patient nature of enduring love. In a remote Alpine village, Anna, a single mother, falls for quiet newcomer Marco. But soon after their wedding, Marco is diagnosed with a brain tumour and his behaviour grows increasingly erratic. Through the changing seasons Anna fights to preserve a love she believes can outshine even death. Set over three years, a choir, like a Greek chorus framed by the sprawling natural amphitheatre of the Swiss Alps, gives voice to the characters' unspoken grief.

'The film is strongly rooted in documentary through the non-professionals, the chosen locations and scenes.... From the start, I didn't want to make a film "about" the people in the mountains – instead I wanted to create one together with them. I saw the kind of work they did, how they handled their animals, and then integrated these scenes into the story.... The film was shot in three different seasons in 70 days, with a crew of only 12 people on the set. Many of them had dual roles. This was challenging, but it was also great to see crew members thinking outside their box and taking on new responsibility. We were rewarded with scenes that I couldn't have thought up at my desk at home.' Director Michael Koch

Original Title

Drii Winter

CountriesSwitzerland,
Germany**Year**

2022

Running Time

1hr 36min

LanguagesSwiss German
with subtitles**Director**

Michael Koch

ScreenwriterNadja Dumouchel
Michael Koch**Producer**Christoph Friedel
Christof Neracher
Claudia Steffen**Leading Cast**Michèle Brand
Simon Wisler
Elin Zraggen**Cinematographer**

Armin Dierolf

Editor

Florian Riegel

Print Source

New Europe



The Plains

Countries

Australia

Year

2022

Running Time

3hr

Languages

English

Director

David Easteal

Screenwriter

David Easteal

Producer

David Easteal

Isaac Wall

Leading Cast

Andrew Rakowski

David Easteal, Cheri

LeCornu

Cinematographer

Simon J. Walsh

Editor

David Easteal

Print Source

Pascale Ramonda

This off-the-radar contender for Film of 2022 takes place almost entirely within a car, has an unorthodox duration, and characters whom we only half-see. Yet it's extraordinary. Sometimes a car can be an ad-hoc 'honesty booth'; two passengers together yet apart, spared from eye contact. The Plains plays with this 'car-confessional' but leans away from escalating psychodrama, and towards the much greater, subtler pathos that bubbles up around extended chats between a jaded commuting suburban Melbourne lawyer and his occasional younger passenger, plus mysterious disembodied images of the Australian bush. A unique docu-drama hybrid.

'[Lawyer/driver] Andrew and I worked together a number of years ago in the outer suburbs of Melbourne, which is a very sprawling city. ...It was a workplace like any other, there were many employees, and we discovered that we lived near each other closer to the centre of Melbourne. Up until then I had caught the train for the commute, but then Andrew started offering to drive me home. ...When I knew Andrew back then, he would call his mother and his wife during the drive, and I'd hear some of these conversations. ...The genesis for the idea came from that period of time in my life.' Director David Easteal, from an interview with Senses of Cinema



Return to Dust

A tender tale about the transformative nature of love, Return to Dust- the sixth film by acclaimed Chinese director Li Ruijun- expands into a poignant story of resilience against the odds. Humble, unassuming Ma and timid Cao are two middle aged outcasts forced into an arranged marriage by their families. Together they discover the small joys in the changing seasons and the strength to endure the hardship of poverty. In the face of much adversity, an unexpected bond begins to blossom, as both Ma and Cao, uniting with Earth's cycles, create a precious haven for themselves.

'We shot by following the seasonal changes, the life cycle of the crops and even the migratory bird season. We spent almost six months in pre-production to map out a detailed shooting plan and schedule. I used to tend to my family's farm when I was young. With the help of the main actor Wu Renlin, who is my uncle, his son who plays the second nephew, my brother and my father, we were all involved in building the farmhouse and growing the crops until harvest time. We worked like peasants the whole time and dedicated our lives to the land, just like them.' Director Li Ruijun, from an interview with Screen Daily

Countries

China

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 11min

Languages

Mandarin Chinese
with subtitles

Director

Li Ruijun

Screenwriter

Ruijun Li

Producer

Qiong Feng

Xiang He

Yan Li

Leading Cast

Renlin Wu

Hai-Qing

Guangrui Yang

Cinematographer

Weihua Wang

Editor

Ruijun Li

Print Source

Modern Films



Return to Seoul

Everyone who meets Freddie finds her startling yet alluring. She's 25 years old, appears outwardly Korean yet doesn't know the language, and is soon causing exotic chaos among an ad-hoc group of new friends. Freddie's return to Seoul is partly a half-hearted go at finding her biological parents, and partly an attempt to reinvent herself, something that she will try again and again. Return to Seoul made a big splash at Cannes 2022 and the film is much like the central performance by Park Ji-min: striking, distinctive, impossible to forget.

'It's totally fictional. But it's strongly based on the life of a friend of mine, a French adoptee... After two days hanging out at [Busan Film Festival], she texted her Korean biological dad. ...But in Korea they make the system very easy, as long as you have your file number. And I went along with her. So, there I was suddenly having Samgaetang [ginseng and chicken soup that Koreans associate with fertility] with the father and grandmother. I immediately felt that that's a scene that should be in a film. ...What she imagined would be a one-time holiday trip, becomes something in which we follow the character over several years.' Director Davy Chou, from an interview with Variety

Countries

France, Germany, Belgium, South Korea

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 55min

Languages

Korean with subtitles

Director

Davy Chou

Screenwriter

Davy Chou

Producer

Steve Chen

Davy Chou

Min-Ho Ha

Leading Cast

Park Ji-Min

Oh Kwang-rok

Guka Han

Cinematographer

Thomas Favel

Editor

Dounia Sichov

Print Source

MUBI



Rodeo

Hot-tempered and fiercely independent, Julia finds escape in a passion for motorcycles and the high-octane world of urban 'Rodeos' - illicit gatherings where riders show off their bikes and their latest daring stunts. After a chance meeting Julia finds herself drawn into a clandestine biker gang and, striving to prove herself to the ultra-masculine group, she is faced with a series of escalating demands that will make or break her place in the community. With nail biting stunts and a brilliant non-professional cast, Lola Quivoron's ferocious debut has marked her out as an exciting new talent to watch.

'Rodeo was born out of the meeting with the community I had been following for years and my intimate desire to see a young woman rider one day lift her bike. Rodeo is for me an epic and sur-naturalist film. It goes beyond the naturalism of Au Loin Baltimore, in its relationship to colour, narrative and direction. It pushes filmmaking to the very limit. We shot with an Arri Alexa Mini camera, in a cinemaskope format (2:39), with anamorphic Master Prime lenses. Like the classic westerns. This gives a spectacular strength to the documentary look that I also wanted to preserve. I wanted to make people physically feel the bodies carried away by the speed and adrenaline of bike-life. To show the brutal side of it, the relationship to death, to the asphalt.' Director Lola Quivoron

Original Title

Rodéo

Countries

France

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 45min

Languages

French with subtitles

Director

Lola Quivoron

Screenwriter

Antonia Buresi

Lola Quivoron

Producer

Romain Blondeau

Charles Gillibert

Leading Cast

Julie Ledru

Yannis Lafki

Antonia Buresi

Cinematographer

Raphaël Vandebussche

Editor

Arthur Paux

Print Source

Curzon



Thunder

New Directors Competition

Carmen Jaquier's debut feature is a fiercely independent coming of age tale and a transcendent allegory of the power of female sexuality. Set in 1900, in a beautiful Alpine valley in Southern Switzerland, the story follows 17 year old Elisabeth, who is about to take her vows when the sudden death of her older sister forces her to leave the convent and return to the family farm. Stifled by the suffocating and strict rules of the village and obsessed by the mysteries surrounding her sister's disappearance, she fights for her right to experiment.

'Some family archives were a first source of inspiration. The words of my great-grandmother that I discovered in her notebooks. I did not use her words in the film, those belong to her — but her thoughts offered me many questions, such as: What if God was "desire"? Then, as I progressed in my research and I immersed myself in this poor, peasant Switzerland of the late 19th century, I felt the need to give body and voice to certain courageous people who had not been retained by history and who can inspire us today, particularly in our relationship with our sexual behavior... Desire is transformative and one can make links between sexual behavior and social protest.' Director Carmen Jaquier, from an interview for Women and Hollywood

Original Title

Foudre

Countries

Switzerland

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 32min

Languages

French with subtitles

Director

Carmen Jaquier

Screenwriter

Carmen Jaquier

Producer

Joëlle Bertossa

Flavia Zanon

Leading Cast

Lilith Grasmug

Sabine Timoteo

Mermoz Melchior

Cinematographer

Marine Atlan

Editor

Xavier Sirven

Print Source

WTFilms



Tommy Guns

A stunning film from this year's Locarno Film Festival, *Tommy Guns* receives its UK Premiere at LIFF 2022. Angolan-born Portuguese filmmaker Carlos Conceição is a thrilling new talent to watch, with two recent multi-award-winning features to his name – the sci-fi *Serpentarius* and horror comedy *Name Above Title*. His most ambitious film yet, *Tommy Guns* is a dark, powerful, and breathtaking exploration of war, fear, and tyranny, set in 1974 Angola as Portuguese colonists flee and nationalists advance. *Tommy Guns* is full of surprises as its story shifts from the fate of a tribal girl to that of an isolated squad of Portuguese soldiers.

'Portugal, in the final stages of the colonial war, would engage children aged 14 and 15. In the case of these characters, they have been 'preserved' in their child-like state, with few memories of their previous life or their mothers. When describing this particular type of dictatorship in Portugal, some would call it 'watered-down fascism'. I don't think it was this watered-down. There was no freedom of speech, no access to education, no equal rights for women. There was racism – there still is. Are these old ideas really as gone as people would like to think? Obviously not. Some think we need to shine a light on the new and keep other things in the past. But we should question the present instead, because some of them are still happening.' Director Carlos Conceição, from an interview with Cineuropa

Original Title

Nação Valente

Countries

Portugal, France, Angola

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr

Languages

Portuguese, Nyaneka with subtitles

Director

Carlos Conceição

Screenwriter

Carlos Conceição

Producer

Carlos Conceição

Tiago Hespanha

Luisa Homem

Leading Cast

João Arrais

Anabela Moreira

Gustavo Sumpta

Cinematographer

Vasco Viana

Editor

António Gonçalves

Print source

Wide Management



Tori and Lokita

Original Title

Tori et Lokita

Countries

France, Belgium

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 28min

Languages

French with subtitles

Director

Jean-Pierre Dardenne

Luc Dardenne

Screenwriter

Jean-Pierre Dardenne

Luc Dardenne

Producer

Peter Bouckaert

Jean-Pierre Dardenne

Luc Dardenne

Leading Cast

Pablo Schils

Mbundu Joely

Alban Ukaj

Cinematographer

Benoît Dervaux

Editor

Marie-Hélène Dozo

Print Source

Picturehouse

The latest from the multiple Palme d'Or winning Belgian duo the Dardenne Brothers is a tender portrait of two young West African migrants as they try to make it in the European immigration system. Inseparable friends Tori and Lokita are posing as siblings to try and secure permission for the older Lokita to stay on as a refugee. The authorities make it increasingly difficult for them to stay together as they struggle to make it. Never sentimental but heartbreakingly moving, Tori and Lokita is the finest Dardennes film for some time.

'Our film tells the story of a friendship, a beautiful and intense friendship, not a betrayed friendship but an unending friendship. It wasn't until we imagined such a friendship as the core of our film that we felt that our two main characters, Lokita and Tori, were coming to life as unique human beings, that they were moving beyond the media-defined image of those young migrants known as "unaccompanied foreign minors", that they were becoming more than the mere illustration of a case, a situation, a theme or a subject. Not that their situation is unimportant. Far from it. On the contrary, their situation as exiled, solitary, exploited and humiliated adolescents has acquired a new dimension thanks to their friendship, which gained strength through their response to it and, unwittingly, our film has also become a denunciation of the violent and unjust situation experienced by these young people in exile in our country, in Europe.' Directors Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne



Under the Fig Trees

Films Femmes Afrique

Acclaimed French-Tunisian documentarian Erige Sehiri makes her narrative debut with this beautifully observed, deeply intimate look at a day in the lives of workers on a Tunisian orchard during the summer harvest. Under the sun-dappled trees, a deep connection blossoms between the young men and women as they flirt, develop feelings of attraction and denial, and try to understand one another. Premiering in the Directors' Fortnight section of this year's Cannes, *Under the Fig Trees* is rich with images that bring an observational levity to each fleeting and formative encounter.

'From the outset, the need to work with non-professional actors and actresses became apparent in this environment. I wanted to work with people from this region, who speak the particular dialect of this originally Berber Village.... I never gave them written dialogue. They were simply given the trajectories of their characters and the various relationships they had with each other throughout the day, as well as what was intended for each scene and how this was structured. Then they improvised with all this and I re-wrote accordingly. They used their own words, their own way of talking, speaking with the accent that I know so well, because this is how my father speaks.' Director Erige Sehiri

Countries

Tunisia, France,
Switzerland,
Germany, Qatar

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 32min

Languages

Arabic with subtitles

Director

Erige Sehiri

Screenwriter

Peggy Hamann
Ghalya Lacroix
Erige Sehiri

Producer

Palmyre Badinier
Roshanak Behesht Nedjad
Didar Domehri
Erige Sehiri

Leading Cast

Fedi Ben Achour
Firas Amri
Ameni Fdhili

Cinematographer

Frida Marzouk

Editor

Hugues Dardart (post-
production assistant)

Print Source

Luxbox



Vera

Vera Gemma won Best Actress in the Horizons section at Venice 2022 for her compelling performance in *Vera*, in a role that partly mirrors her own life as daughter of Italian movie star Giuliano Gemma. In the film, which also won Best Director (Tizza Covi and Rainer Frimmel), Vera lives in the shadow of a famous father and drifts through Roman high society, tired of her superficial life and relationships. After she is involved in a traffic accident in the suburbs, she forms an intense relationship with an eight-year-old boy and his father. But soon she must realise that also in this world she is only an instrument for others.

‘We met Vera Gemma in 2015 while we were shooting our film *Mister Universo*; she was working on a documentary about circus artists, in honor of her late father Giuliano Gemma, a very popular actor in Italy. When she was introduced to us, I found her very strange, and we only exchanged a few words. Two weeks later we sat next to her at a dinner, and we had a wonderful conversation, because she has a very critical and ruthlessly honest way of calling a spade a spade. That was a good lesson, confirming yet again that it’s always necessary to look beyond the surface. I succumbed to her fascination very quickly, visited her quite often in Rome, read her autobiography and watched her father’s films. One day I told her I’d like to write a script about her.’ Co-director Tizza Covi

Countries

Austria

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 55min

Languages

Italian with subtitles

Director

Tizza Covi

Rainer Frimmel

Screenwriter

Tizza Covi

Producer

Tizza Covi

Rainer Frimmel

Leading Cast

Annamaria Ciancamerla

Sebastian Dascalu

Daniel De Palma

Cinematographer

Rainer Frimmel

Editor

Tizza Covi

Print Source

Terratrema Films



We Might as Well Be Dead

New Directors Competition

Natalia Sinelnikova's remarkable graduation film, is a razor-sharp dystopian satire set in a gated tower block. Inside, Anna works as a security officer for the residents who have a deep rooted fear of the outside world. The sudden disappearance of a dog causes panic and paranoia to spread around the community. When a newly formed vigilante group demands stricter security measures and a renewed vetting process, Anna begins to fear for her right to stay. Meanwhile Anna's daughter has locked herself in the bathroom, convinced she is possessed by an ancestral spirit.

'It all started with the high-rise building that we picked for our location. I grew up in a high-rise myself, and those kinds of buildings really fascinate me. People live in close quarters but in total anonymity. It's quite exciting to observe how they behave and how they interact with each other in the lift or the staircase. So we had our location, and when we were developing the script with my co-writer, Viktor Gallandi, a story slowly emerged around the question of fear: fear of the unfamiliar, but also fear of others.' Director Natalia Sinelnikova, from an interview with Cineuropa.

Countries
Germany
Year
2022
Running Time
1hr 33min
Languages
German with subtitles
Director
Natalia Sinelnikova
Screenwriter
Viktor Gallandi
Natalia Sinelnikova
Producer
Charlene Gürkntke
Ioana Iacob
Julia Wagner
Leading Cast
Ioana Iacob
Pola Geiger
Jörg Schüttauf
Cinematographer
Jan Mayntz
Editor
Evelyn Rack
Print Source
Fortissimo

Official Selection



Zuhal

Countries

Germany, Turkey

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 28min

Languages

Turkish with subtitles

Director

Nazlı Elif Durlu

Screenwriter

Ziya Demirel

Nazlı Elif Durlu

Producer

Tanay Abbasoglu

Anna Maria Aslanoglu

Oyku Canli

Leading Cast

Nihal Yalcin

Fatih Al

Sarp Aydinoglu

Cinematographer

Sebastian Weber

Editor

Bugra Dedeoglu

Selda Taskin

Print Source

Film Republic

Nazlı Elif Durlu's striking black comedy follows Zuhal, a successful lawyer in İstanbul, who begins to hear the sound of a cat meowing in her apartment complex. Trouble is, there's no cat in sight. Embarking on a desperate quest to find the source of the sound that keeps her awake at night, Zuhal knocks on the doors of her neighbours whom she previously avoided. As the situation becomes more absurd, Zuhal's search for the elusive cat will bring her the epiphany she never knew she needed. Presented in partnership with Bird's Eye View and Reclaim The Frame x International.

'Once at a friends' gathering I met a woman who told me of a constant meowing she kept hearing in her flat. While searching for the cat she discovered that no one else hears it. Moreover, people started doubting her mental health. Later she found a cat stuck in one of the plumbing pipes. I was also intrigued: Would I keep searching or would I just ignore the meow in fear of being labelled as mad?... Zuhal's 36-hour pursuit is depicted closely, in a tender and humorous narrative. Talkative moments are as important as silences. Throughout the pursuit she faces various encounters, each a performance. The film's tone is based on the absurdity that comes of such human conversations in modern settings.'
Director Nazlı Elif Durlu



Jury

New Directors

Competition



Lauren Baker

Lauren joined MUBI earlier this year as MUBI GO Manager, expanding the scheme across the country and helping launch it abroad. She also works on theatrical bookings bringing some great independent cinema to the big screen, most recently Park Chan-wook's *DECISION TO LEAVE* and soon Charlotte Wells' *AFTERSUN*. She has previously worked in several cinemas in the UK and Australia and was a Film Programmer at ODEON Cinemas for 5 years. When not in the cinema she's usually on Duolingo.



Esther Johnson

Artist and Filmmaker Esther Johnson (MA, Royal College of Art) works at the intersection of artist moving image and documentary. She is a former recipient of the Philip Leverhulme Research Prize, and is Professor of Film and Media Arts at Sheffield Hallam University. Esther's poetic portraits focus on alternative social histories and the relationship between memory, history, archival material and storytelling. Her recent feature film *'DUST & METAL'* (2022) is a cinematic reflection on Vietnam's love affair with motorbikes. *'ASUNDER'* (2016) is a poetic archive film made for the WW1 centenary, narrated by Kate Adie and Alun Armstrong. Her work has been exhibited in galleries, film festivals, and special events in 40+ countries, and broadcast on BBC, Channel 4, ABC Australia, BBC R4, Resonance FM and RTÉ radio.




Hannah Strong

Hannah Strong is the Digital Editor of *Little White Lies* magazine, an independent illustrated film magazine based in London. She has written for publications including *Vulture*, *Gawker*, *GQ* and *The Guardian*, and her first book, a monograph on Sofia Coppola, was released in May 2022 by Abrams New York.



Cinema Versa



Cinema Versa celebrates another great year for documentary cinema with many of the most acclaimed and notable new films. These include Laura Poitras's *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed*, a powerful portrait of the artist and activist Nan Goldin, and the winner of the Golden Lion at Venice 2022. The human body is revealed as it's never been seen before on screen in *De Humani Corporis Fabrica*. *A Bunch of Amateurs* is a warm and funny profile of the Bradford Movie Makers, one of the oldest amateur film clubs in the country.

There are inspirational tales of political resistance in *Myanmar Diaries* and *My Imaginary Country* in Chile. Music documentaries include the story of techno in *God Said Give 'Em Drum Machines* and the life of jazz legend Thelonious Monk in *Rewind and Play*.

We also present a batch of exciting premieres including: the eye-opening environmental documentary *Matter Out of Place*; *Hello, Bookstore*, a lovely and gentle portrait of a long-running bookshop in a small town in Massachusetts; and *The Star Wars Kid*, the fascinating story of the first truly viral video on the internet.

All the Beauty and the Bloodshed

Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras returns with the extraordinary *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed*, recent winner of the Golden Lion at Venice International Film Festival. The film follows the iconoclastic artist and pugnacious activist Nan Goldin, famed for her vital and poignant photographs of artists and hustlers in the Bohemian East Village. The film provides an intimate overview of Goldin's life and career. In recent years she has spearheaded a series of impassioned protests in famous Art Galleries, demonstrating against the Sackler family for their role in the opioid crisis.

'I've never met anyone like Nan. [And] my films tend to follow political issues. They tend to follow individuals who are leading an effort to fight for some notion of justice or accountability. As Nan and I started doing these audio interviews at her house on the weekends usually, it became really emotionally deep really quickly. And that led to the other, more personal layer of the film. Documentary is cinema.' Director Laura Poitras

Countries

USA

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 53min

Languages

English

Director

Laura Poitras

Producer

Shanti Avirgan

Clare Carter

Howard Gertler

Leading Cast

Nan Goldin

David Armstrong

Marina Berio

Cinematographer

Nan Goldin

Editor

Joe Bini

Amy Foote

Brian A. Kates

Print Source

Altitude



A Bunch of Amateurs

A surprising gem of a documentary straight out of Bradford profiles the Bradford Movie Makers, the oldest amateur film club around. Formed in 1932 back when the golden era of Hollywood inspired an equivalent in every Northern town, Bradford is the last determined survivor. With ageing members, dwindling funds and crumbling premises, they have to continually fight for their survival, but their resolution to do so despite some dubious film projects, is an inspiration. This warm, funny and tenderly moving film is the perfect antidote for an uncertain, digital age.

'I have been interested in making a film about a club for years. So, I [was searching] for some time and stumbled over [Bradford Movie Club member] Joe on Facebook. At that time, Joe hadn't met Jeanette and was on his lonesome. He had written this beautiful lament about not having somebody in his life. I thought it was so emotionally honest for a Northern bloke as they usually keep everything held within. I then stumbled on a little film he had made with Phil on the rainy streets of Bradford, which appealed to my sensibilities. So, I thought, who are these guys?' Director Kim Hopkins, from an interview with Cinerama.

Countries

UK

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 35min

Languages

English

Director

Kim Hopkins

Screenwriter

Kim Hopkins

Producer

John Archer

Simon Beaufoy

Caroline Cooper Charles

Leading Cast

Colin Egglesstone

Harry Nicholls

Joe Ogden

Cinematographer

Kim Hopkins

Editor

Leah Marino

Print Source

Republic Film



The Computer Accent

Countries

USA

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 23 min

Languages

English

Director

Sebastian Pardo

Riel Roch Decter

Producer

Sebastian Pardo

Riel Roch Decter

Editor

Alexandra Brown

Matt Hollis

Brandon Winters

Print Source

Memory Productions

The ever forward-thinking electronic pop band YACHT set out to write and record an album using Artificial Intelligence technology, in a documentary that is truly of the moment. Having begun in 2002 as a design studio before progressing through multiple line-ups and musical styles with releases on DFA Records and Downtown Records, YACHT are no strangers to creative challenges. When they feed their back catalogue into a computer for it to assist in composing their seventh album, frustrations increase and a refreshingly honest evaluation of the creative process plays out in realtime.

‘As we went through the process of really understanding AI, I realized how much exists outside the technology and how much it’s shaped by humans. A theme that emerged in the film is AI is mirror. Not only is it trained on everything we’ve made and who we are and what we value, you also see in it what we recognize as useful, so it is a symbiote and to ignore the humans that are engaging with it would be to not tell the complete story, so that’s where we really started to say it’s a two-hander. That technology is human and needs to include the human perspective and work for humans.’ Co-Director Sebastian Pardo, from an interview with The Moveable Fest.



De Humani Corporis Fabrica

Pioneering filmmakers Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Verena Paravel, who work at the Harvard Sensory Ethnography Lab and made *Leviathan*, return with an extraordinary, eye opening new documentary filmed in five Parisian hospitals. Casting an unblinking, anthropological eye over a series of operations and medical procedures, the film reveals the everyday experience of hospital life as it's never been seen on screen before. Not for the faint hearted, the film does show some explicit details of surgical procedures, but the result is a fascinating exposé of the workings of a vital institution which connects every body.

'We were not interested in disorienting the viewer but in trying to install you in some places and reveal later where you were. I don't know if you knew you were in an urethra before the camera pulls you out of it. So, sometimes we play with this to show you an interior space or territory, where you can get your bearings but don't know exactly what it is. We allow you to see things you're not usually used to see, then suddenly the disorientation doesn't come from being inside, it comes from when you get out. You know where you were—in a head, a urethra, an abdominal cavity.' Co-Director Véréna Paravel, from an interview with *Filmmaker* magazine.

Countries

France, Switzerland

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 55min

Languages

French with subtitles

Director

Verena Paravel
Lucien Castaing-Taylor

Screenwriter

Verena Paravel
Lucien Castaing-Taylor

Producer

Pauline Gygax
Max Karli
Valentina Novati

Cinematographer

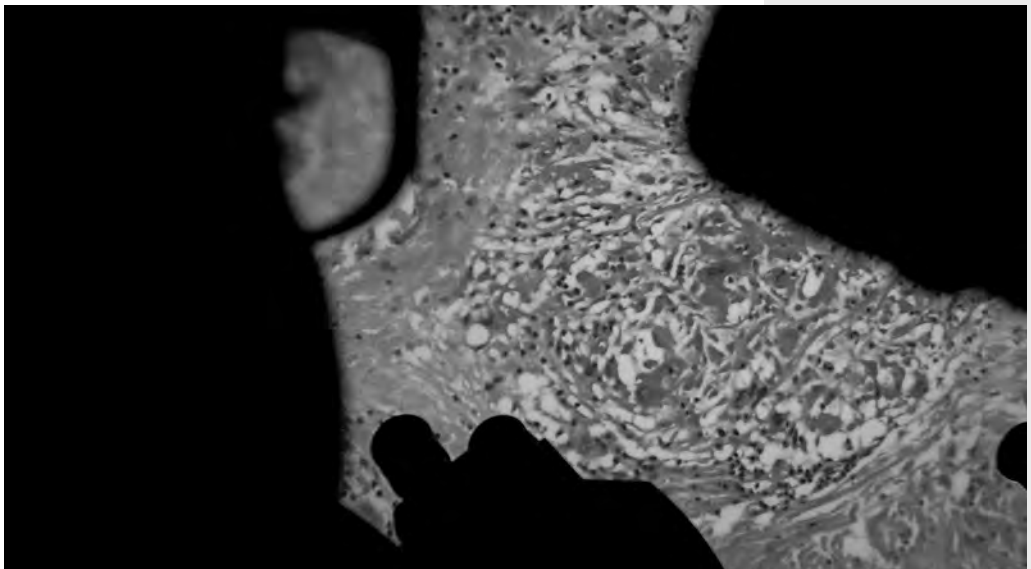
Lucien Castaing-Taylor
Verena Paravel

Editor

Lucien Castaing-Taylor
Verena Paravel

Print Source

Les Films du Losange



Dead Mint

Countries

UK

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 35min

Languages

English

Director

William Peter Bartlett

Screenwriter

William Peter Bartlett

Producer

William Peter Bartlett

Denis Copeland

Leading Cast

Steve Adams

Denis Copeland

Print Source

William Peter Bartlett

A love letter to the seaside town of Scarborough and a celebration of true DIY punk spirit, *Dead Mint* documents the career of the mischievous musical outfit *Grandads Don't Indicate*. Born from the friendship of best friends Denis and Steve, they evolved from a bedroom recording project into a band staging regular absurdist concert performances. Inspired by US underground rock of the 1980s and defined by their playful humour, they penned tributes to the sights of their beloved hometown of Scarborough, through which they guide us in this warming documentary.

'I love music and being with creative people. Combine this with a scything wind off the North Sea and the conditions are perfect for Scarborough band "*Grandads Don't Indicate*". They were never a joke band. They were more authentic than all the spiky haired pretenders. They added their name to other people's posters in biro, blagged their way in, borrowed guitars and unpacked their carrier bags of noise. I wanted to make a film about them to preserve their true punk spirit. I want someone to watch them in 50 years, pick up a kazoo, sticky tape and cardboard and have confidence to build their own world.' Director William Peter Bartlett



Dust and Metal

Countries

UK, Vietnam

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 19min

Languages

Vietnamese with subtitles

Director

Esther Johnson

Screenwriter

Esther Johnson

Producer

Lisa Brook

Esther Johnson

Leading Cast

Nguyen Lan Huong

Cinematographer

Cory Holodnyj

Esther Johnson

Nguyen Trung Kien

Pham Dinh Thien

Bùi Kiên Trung

Editor

Esther Johnson

Print Source

Live Cinema UK

An illuminating and highly creative documentary featuring past and present stories of freedom in Vietnam, *Dust and Metal* combines archive film, contemporary footage, and a stunning soundtrack to highlight an unorthodox history of Vietnam. Showcasing motorbikes at the very core of Vietnam's recent history, this unique film, directed by Esther Johnson, swoops and swoons to the sounds of engines and horns while paying homage to the country's remarkable cinematic history, creating an unparalleled symphony of Vietnamese life.

'I'm thrilled to be invited to screen *Dust & Metal* at LIFF, a festival that has supported many of my short films. I'm fascinated with film heritage so it's additionally fantastic to screen in Leeds, a city where Louis Le Prince shot, arguably, the earliest films in 1888. This film has been a labour of love made through the particularly difficult period of covid lockdowns. The film integrates much unseen footage from the Vietnam Film Institute, and it was incredibly gratifying to be able to contribute to the preservation of such works from Vietnam's film heritage through new 2K scans made of rare films.' Director Esther Johnson



Finite: The Climate of Change

Finite: The Climate of Change is an urgent and inspiring documentary made on the frontline of climate activism. In Germany, concerned citizens step forward to save an ancient forest from one of Europe's largest coal mines. They form an unlikely alliance with a frustrated community in rural England who are forced into action to protect their homes from a new opencast coal mine. Finite is an insider's view of the world of direct action; a raw, authentic and emotional insight into the David and Goliath battle between frontline communities, activists and fossil fuel corporations.

'Finite tackles an issue which impacts us all, the climate crisis and our addiction to fossil fuels which is pushing us to disaster. But crucially, despite the ubiquity of this issue, [the film] is an insight into a world that few of us are truly engaged with - the frontline battle between ordinary people and fossil fuel companies. Importantly, the film gives us hope for how the tide can be turned against climate breakdown; not with naive optimism, but by laying bare what is possible with collective action, because hope is action. If you're anxious about the climate crisis - (let's face it, who isn't?) - then you need to watch this film.' Director Rich Felgate, from an interview with We Are Moving Stories

Countries

UK

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 39min

Languages

English

Director

Rich Felgate

Producer

Rich Felgate

Ryan Keane

Cinematographer

Rich Felgate

Editor

Ariadna Fatjó-Vilas

Print Source

Espresso Media



Geographies of Solitude

Geographies of Solitude is an immersion into the rich ecosystem of Sable Island, guided by naturalist and environmentalist Zoe Lucas who has lived over 40 years on this remote sliver of land in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. Shot on 16mm and created using a scope of innovative eco-friendly filmmaking techniques, this feature-length experimental documentary is a playful and reverent collaboration with the natural world. Zoe leads us among wild horses, seals and bugs, through peaks, valleys, roots, sands, weathers, seasons and stars.

'I grew up in Nova Scotia and Sable Island is really well known here. When I was really young, I remember seeing a news report about this woman—Zoe Lucas—who lives on this mythical island and has dedicated her life to studying and researching the flora and fauna there. I remember as a young girl being totally captivated by that story; it awoke something in me and stayed with me. It was the legend that attracted me to her story but it was everything else—the details, the hidden parts of that place—that really ignited this project and made it what it is.' Director Jacquelyn Mills

Countries

Canada

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 43min

Languages

English

Director

Jacquelyn Mills

Producer

Rosalie Chicoine Perreault

Jacquelyn Mills

Cinematographer

Jacquelyn Mills

Editor

Jacquelyn Mills

Print Source

Pascale Ramonde



God Said Give 'Em Drum Machines

The astonishing story behind one of Detroit's great contributions to world culture: Techno, the electronic-music phenomenon created by black artists in the 1980s that transformed dance music internationally and blossomed into the multibillion-dollar industry of EDM today. Featuring interviews with Jeff Mills, Kevin Saunderson, Juan Atkins, Derrick May, among many more, this is a vast, compelling and highly educative cultural history of techno and musical innovation, of heritage and the people responsible for that heritage, with the city of Detroit at its very core.

'The guiding mission was to tell a story about Detroit, about this music, in a way that people who had no idea about it could come away with [an understanding of it] and want to know more about it. There are so many people that know facets of the history, [but] we couldn't make a film for them. We had to make a film for people who have no idea about Detroit and its techno origins. And that's generally the case: people here in the States have little to no idea about Detroit's role in electronic music.' Director Kristian Hill, from an interview with The Face

Countries

USA

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 36min

Languages

English

Director

Kristian R. Hill

Screenwriter

Kristian R. Hill

Thomas Quarterman

Tim Rodd

Jennifer Washington

Producer

Nyeri Adolphus

Katie Ballaine

Kathryn Everett

Leading Cast

Juan Atkins

Mike Banks

Blake Baxter

Cinematographer

Kristian R. Hill

Moses Mitchell

Editor

Kristian R. Hill

Charles Little

Print Source

Washington Hill Pictures



The Hamlet Syndrome

UK/Ukraine Season of Culture

The Hamlet Syndrome is a life affirming documentary, revealing of a group of young Ukrainians who are finding constructive ways to deal with years of war and upheaval. The film's starting point is the preparation for a play based on Hamlet, and as we get to know the personal lives of the actors, it becomes clear that engaging with Shakespeare's characters creates a therapeutic way of processing trauma. This helps them put their lives back in order despite the Russian invasion of their country escalating the problems and prolonging their struggle.

'We had two intentions. The first one was to draw attention to this ongoing conflict, and the second and more general one was to show what it means to be at war and what havoc war leaves behind, how difficult it is to return to one's life. Our protagonists are examples that it can take years to build a normal life again. Our film plays now an important role in keeping the debate going regarding what impact the war has had on Ukrainian people. The world's engagement in the beginning of the invasion was tremendous, and now they slowly want to go back to normal.' Co-Director Elwira Niewiera, from an interview with Cineuropa

Countries

Ukraine

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 25min

Languages

Ukrainian with subtitles

Director

Elwira Niewiera

Piotr Rosolowski

Screenwriter

Elwira Niewiera

Piotr Rosolowski

Producer

Andreas Banz

Magdalena Kaminska

Matthias Miegel

Leading Cast

Oksana Cherkashyna

Cinematographer

Piotr Rosolowski

Editor

Agata Cierniak

Print Source

Krakowska Fundacja

Filmowa



Hello, Bookstore

In the shadow of the pandemic, a small town rallies to protect a beloved local book shop in its hour of need. A landmark in Lenox, Massachusetts, Hello, Bookstore is a magical, beatnik gem thanks to its owner, Matt Tannenbaum, whose passion for stories runs deep. Presiding at The Bookstore for over forty years, Matt is a true bard of the Berkshires and his shop is the kind of place to get lost in. This intimate portrait of The Bookstore and the family at its heart is like an immersive experience in a book shop: offering warmth, comfort, a journey through good times, hard times and the stories hidden on the shelves.

'I've always loved fly on the wall documentaries. I've never really responded to the talking head style of movies. I don't want to hammer in things, I want there to be a sense of discovery while you're watching it. With the rhythm of [Hello, Bookstore], I took my cue from the store.

I thought that, if we can get the atmosphere right, the contours of the story will figure out where they need to go. I wanted it to be cozy and relaxing, like you're in a bookstore.' Director Adam Zax, from an interview with The Guardian

Countries

USA

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 26min

Languages

English

Director

A.B Zax

Producer

Sydney Flint

Mark Franks

Melissa Nathan

A.B. Zax

Leading Cast

Matthew Tannenbaum

Shawnee Tannenbaum

Sophie Tannenbaum

Editor

Mark Franks

A.B. Zax

Print Source

Greenwich Entertainment



Loving Highsmith

Patricia Highsmith is one of most celebrated authors of the twentieth century with *The Talented Mr Ripley* and *Strangers on a Train* amongst her most celebrated works, but she was always guarded about her personal life. Eva Vitija's illuminating documentary is based on her unpublished diaries and reveals fascinating details of her inner life, particularly as the pioneering queer author who published the first positive lesbian love story, *Carol*, initially published under a pseudonym in the 50s. The film reveals her struggles with identity and turbulent family background and love affairs.

'I think she was so much more emotional than you could imagine from her public face and published work. A lot of people I met thought of her as having a cold, analytical, observational quality. But in the personal text, there was someone emotionally attached and interested in brutality because she was sensitive and affected by everything and everyone she touched. [But] I believe her experience of love was a brutal one, that she experienced love as a form of violence against her, that somehow struck her identity and shook her.' Director Eva Vitija, from an interview with *Filmmaker* magazine

Countries
Switzerland, Germany
Year
2022
Running Time
1hr 23min
Languages
German, French,
English with subtitles
Director
Eva Vitija
Screenwriter
Eva Vitija
Producer
Carl-Ludwig Rettinger
Lino Rettinger
Franziska Sonder
Maurizius Staerkle-Drux
Leading Cast
Patricia Highsmith
Marijane Meaker
Monique Buffet
Cinematographer
Siri Klug
Editor
Rebecca Trösch
Print Source
Republic Film



Matter Out of Place

Countries

Austria

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 45min

LanguagesSwiss German, Albanian,
Nepali with subtitles**Director**

Nikolaus Geyrhalter

Producer

Nikolaus Geyrhalter

Markus Glaser

Michael Kitzberger

Wolfgang Widerhofer

Cinematographer

Nikolaus Geyrhalter

Editor

Samira Ghahremani

Micharl Palm

Print Source

Austrian Film Commission

Matter Out Of Place is an incredibly innovative and strangely beautiful environmental film about rubbish and the way it has spread to the most remote corners of the planet. Acclaimed director Nikolaus Geyrhalter (Our Daily Bread, Homo Sapiens) uses dizzying camerawork and clever sound design to follow the traces of our refuse across the world from ski resorts at the top of Alpine peaks to desert clean ups at the Burning Man Festival. He sheds light on the endless struggle of people to gain control over their ever proliferating quantities of waste.

‘There is an aesthetic of the ugly. In all that is ugly lies beauty. The film plays with this. The places we see are fascinating. But we can’t stop to look at just the surface. We have to go further. Everything we produce or use ends up to be trash at some point. Once we throw it away, it’s not gone. The process starts just then. A big industry is behind it and a huge amount of people are concerned by it. In Europe we have a relatively good way to cope with trash by burning it and by gaining energy out of it. But still it doesn’t disappear completely either.’ Director Nikolaus Geyrhalter, from an interview with Cineuropa



My Imaginary Country

The great filmmaker Patricio Guzman has been using increasingly creative means to document political unrest in his native Chile since the military coup in 1973. In October 2019, he returned to witness an unexpected new revolution. One and a half million people demonstrated in the streets of Santiago for more democracy, a more dignified life, a better education, a better health system and a new Constitution. My Imaginary Country is an inspirational film about hope for real, positive social change in a time when basic rights and liberties are under threat across the globe.

'Chile is a difficult and complicated country. What we mean by an imaginary country is that the future is not written, and these protestors are working towards a society that they would like and hope to see. It's the future country that's imaginary until it comes to pass. We wanted to concentrate on the voices of women because that is the big difference between the 1970s and today: the role of women in public life. Today, women are a central part of public life and their voice is important, and it was particularly essential in this movement.' Director Patricio Guzmán, from an interview with Cineuropa

Original Title

Mi país imaginario

Countries

Chile

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 23min

Languages

Spanish with subtitles

Director

Patricio Guzmán

Screenwriter

Patricio Guzmán

Producer

Alexandra Galvis

Renate Sachse

Cinematographer

Samuel Lahu

Editor

Laurence Manheimer

Print Source

New Wave



Myanmar Diaries

Countries
Netherlands, Myanmar,
Norway
Year
2022
Running Time
1hr 10min
Languages
Burmese with subtitles
Director
Myanmar Film Collective
Screenwriter
Myanmar Film Collective
Producer
Corinne van Egeraat
Editor
Petr Lom
Print Source
ICA

Myanmar Diaries is a truly remarkable document of creative resistance interweaving ten short films by ten young anonymous Burmese filmmakers. The filmmakers combine mobile phone shot footage of protests and civil disobedience with more poetic reflections of life for ordinary people under the brutal military junta. After a military coup, thousands of peaceful protesters are imprisoned and murdered and a popular armed revolt has grown in resistance. The filmmakers are witnesses and participants in an urgent dispatch of citizen journalism as Myanmar is a low priority in the international headlines around the world.

'This regime, I just don't think they have any idea. They are very impulsive, power-hungry and they are basically just clueless how to respond to the crisis. They were very, very short-sighted when they staged the coup [in Myanmar]. [For us, filming] is about being discreet, being alert and just generally being smart about it....Of course, we have to make the [participants] anonymous. How are we going to cleverly hide their faces in a very aesthetic and artful way without resorting to cheap measures like having them wear a mask...we enjoy the challenge, and each piece is made in complete creative freedom, as far as safety allows us!' An anonymous member of the Myanmar Film Collective, from an interview with Business Doc Europe



On the Divide

Countries

USA

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 19min

Languages

Spanish with subtitles
& English

Director

Leah Galant

Maya Cueva

Producer

Diane Becker

Melanie Miller

Amanda Spain

Elizabeth Woodwrd

Cinematographer

Leah Galant

Editor

Berenice Chavez

Print Source

Onthedivide.com

A vital document in a country where women's reproductive rights are under siege, *On The Divide* zeros in on Whole Women's Health, the last abortion clinic on the U.S./Mexican border. Maya Cueva's film follows the story of three Latinx people living in McAllen, Texas. The clinic's security guard, Rey, is a fervent Catholic; Denisse, a young mother of four, volunteers as a clinic escort; and Mercedes, an ex-gang member and mother is now part of the pro-life Church movement. Inspiringly, *On the Divide* shows how opposing views can be reconciled with connection and dialogue.

'I think an important point for us as the filmmakers is that we've always had *Roe v. Wade* intact and don't know what it is like not to have access to abortion, so we want to show what is the reality like for people who have to deal with this first hand. If *Roe v. Wade* is challenged and taken away, this community has to deal with the consequences. That's what we want people to understand. It is not a black and white issue. Talking about this is a personal choice, and everyone can identify with that. What does it mean to forget about this debate and look at letting folks make the decision they want to make?' Co-Director Maya Cueva, from an interview with *Salon*



Rewind and Play

A highly innovative music documentary about the great jazz pianist Thelonious Monk, *Rewind and Play* is edited entirely from a French television programme in 1968, which was never broadcast. French-Senegalese filmmaker Alain Gomis keeps the raw edges and outtakes, zoning in on an astonishingly intimate recording of the great man. He improvises at the piano as the crew attend to lights and cameras, clearly uncomfortable in the heat of the studio but transcending the stereotypical depictions of a shallow media machine as the extraordinary music shines through.

‘The sociology of jazz has barely changed since the 1950s. This is where I understood the industry of small venues. The owners – most of whom are white – squeeze in as many people as possible and kick them out as soon as the set is over. The musicians – most of whom are Black – go from show to show trying to earn a living, without any social safety net. This represents what Black musicians had to go through, with people who were disrespectful yet who also admired their work. The material shows us Thelonious Monk living between takes. We can also see the media machine that helped create so many stereotypes.’ Director Alain Gomis, from an interview with *France-Amérique* magazine

Countries

UK

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 17min

Languages

English

Director

Alain Gomis

Producer

Arnaud Dommerc

Alain Gomis

Anouk Khelifa

Leading Cast

Thelonious Monk

Editor

Alain Gomis

Print Source

Docnroll



Rookies

Original Title

Allons enfants

Countries

France

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 50min

Languages

French with subtitles

Director

Thierry Demaizière

Alban Teurlai

Screenwriter

Thierry Demaizière

Elsa Le Peutrec

Alban Teurlai

Producer

Thierry Demaizière

Romain Icard

Stéphanie Schorter

Alban Teurlai

Leading Cast

Charlotte Saudrais

Erwan Schamaneche

Michelle Kibebe

Cinematographer

Alban Teurlai

Editor

Matthieu Choux

Olivier Ranquet

Print Source

Le Pacte

In the heart of Paris, a prestigious high school takes an audacious challenge: integrate students from working-class districts and make them break the circle of school failure through dance and hip hop. Wonderfully poised between the exciting world of hip hop, the pressure of the academy, and a whole host of small, special moments shared by the pupils, Rookies revels in its authentic portrait of the many virtues of a compassionate, empathetic and socially diverse school environment, bursting with joyous energy and an insatiable passion for dance.

'Paris is historically a city where hip-hop has been well established since the 1980s. France has hip-hop dancers and choreographers who perform all over the world who have danced for Michael Jackson, Madonna and Beyoncé. These dancers almost all come from the suburbs of Paris. Paris is a very dense and concentrated city and has a strong urban culture. Hip-hop is the perfect way to portray a generation of young French people and enter the halls and classrooms of a Parisian high school - this educational project in France immediately appealed to us because it spoke of diversity.'
– Co-Director Alban Teurlai, from an interview with Cineuropa



Shove It: The Xero Slingsby Story

A larger-than-life character, Leeds saxophonist Matthew Coe AKA Xero Slingsby was an inspirational force in 1980s jazz with a fiery punk performance style. Shove It - the Xero Slingsby story celebrates his short but stellar life and career, lovingly chronicled by his bandmates, friends and family. From his start busking on the streets of West Yorkshire (for which he was arrested over 40 times) to his trio The Works' success on the live circuit across Europe, we witness his tirelessly passionate spirit first hand through high energy concert footage and interviews.

'Matthew Coe's genius deserves to be celebrated. The film is the story of his music, his musicianship, his influences and those he has influenced. It's a story about creativity in the face of adversity, about living to make music, and making music to live. And it's also a very touching story about love and friendship and memory: one of the most striking things I found when making the film was just how much love for Matthew, for the man not just his music, is still out there - nearly 40 years after his death. It's testament to him and his energy that here we are all these years later still talking about him, still listening to his music and still finding it fresh and exciting.' Director Robert Stanley Crampton

Countries

UK

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 40min

Languages

English

Director

Robert Stanley Crampton

Producer

Sally Coe

Leading Cast

Matthew Coe

Louis Colan

Gene Velocette

Cinematographer

Robert Stanley Crampton

Editor

Robert Stanley Crampton

Print Source

The Stanley Studio



The Star Wars Kid

As a fourteen-year-old boy, Ghyslain Raza's world was turned upside down when he found himself at the centre of the first viral phenomenon of the digital age. Twenty years after his schoolmates uploaded a video without his knowledge, the 'Star Wars Kid' breaks his silence in an attempt to make peace with his digital shadow. In reflecting on his story for the first time, Raza thoughtfully explores our collective experience living in an online world in which questions of consent, consequences and the right to be forgotten still swirl uneasily.

'Ghyslain's openness, and his ability to develop ties with so many different people, revealed to me the importance of personal encounters. That became the most important aspect to put forward. The human connection, the encounters with others, became much more critical than trying to teach some kind of lesson. The same goes for the decision to not show the perpetrators. This documentary revolves around a man who rebuilt his life, took control of his story, and wants to help others. That's where it becomes a shining light, and gets us away from a conversation about pity.' Director Mathieu Fournier

Countries

Canada

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 20mn

Languages

English

Director

Mathieu Fournier

Screenwriter

Mathieu Fournier

Jonathan Trudel

Producer

Annie Bourdeau

Pierre-Mathieu Fortin

Leading Cast

Ghyslain Raza

Andy Baio

Jean-Michel Berthiaume

Christian Bouchard

Amanda Brennan

Cinematographer

Maxime Pilon-Lalande

Editor

Carmen Mélanie Pépin

Print Source

National Film Board

of Canada



Can We Say This Out Loud?

Documentary Shorts Panorama

Belle River

Print Source projets@spira.quebec



In Pierre-Part, Louisiana, residents prepare for the worst. Local authorities may be forced to open the floodgates of the Morganza Spillway in order to save the cities of New-Orleans and Bâton-Rouge from uncontrolled flooding. The consequences for Pierre-Part remain unspoken, leaving only faith and resilience in the face of uncertainty.

Running Time 11min **Year** 2022 **Country** Canada
Language English **Director** Guillaume Fournier, Samuel Matteau, Yannick Nolin **Screenwriter** Guillaume Fournier, Samuel Matteau, Yannick Nolin **Producer** Jean-Pierre Vézina

Blind Spot

Print Source festival@lunaprod.pr



Under the Tunisian dictatorship of Ben Ali, a man is kidnapped, tortured and killed by the state. His body vanishes without ever being found. Thirty years later, he comes back to seek justice.

Original Title Angle Mort **Running Time** 13min **Year** 2021 **Country** Tunisia **Language** Arabic **Director** Lotfi Achour **Producer** Anissa Daoud, Olfa Ben Achour, Lotfi Achour, Sébastien Hussenot **Key Cast** Ghassen Rguigui

The Capacity for Adequate Anger

Print Source like.rats.leaving@gmail.com



'How can shame be communicated when all it demands is to hide?' In this self-exposing video essay, contemporary artist Vika Kirchenbauer offers a critique of artistic identity, work and social mobility, where finding a voice seems to create distance from her past life.

Premiere Status English **Running Time** 15min **Year** 2021 **Country** Germany **Language** English **Director** Vika Kirchenbauer **Screenwriter** Vika Kirchenbauer **Producer** Vika Kirchenbauer **Editor** Vika Kirchenbauer

Can We Say This Out Loud? Documentary Shorts Panorama

Light Years

Print Source marta.swiatek@kff.com.pl



After graduating from an Orthodox seminary, tradition dictates Vitali should marry or become a monk. Instead, he moves in with his best friend, building a life where dreams and abstractions co-exist in delicate harmony. But change is on the horizon and Vitali's family wants to know: will he fulfil his destiny?

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 28min **Year** 2021
Country Poland **Language** Polish, Russian **Director**
Monika Proba **Screenwriter** Monika Proba **Producer**
Ewa Jastrzebska

The Song of the Silenced

Print Source c.yuqi.lancaster@gmail.com



Beijing performance artist Brother Nut attempts to organise a heavy metal show in a small town in southern China to raise awareness of industrial pollution and government inaction. What happens when art confronts political power? Will the band be allowed to sing, and will they bring change for the villagers of Yangchun?

Running Time 26min **Year** 2022 **Country** China
Language English, Cantonese Chinese **Director** Li Gu,
Yuqi Cai **Producer** Yuqi Cai, Li Gu

Shorts with Features

Let's

Print Source cmaugis@lavieestbellefilms.fr



Filmmaker and long-time Bowie-fan Annabelle Gangneux delves into her personal archives in search of lost time. The resulting assemblage of photos, posters, curiosities and memorabilia playfully explores how we make connections, meaning and memories.

Running Time 12min **Year** 2021 **Country** France
Language French **Director** Annabelle Gangneux
Producer Céline Maugis **Sound** Herdís Stefánsdóttir



Rookies

Fanomenon



Fanomenon has been a popular part of LIFF since 1999 and it was created to focus on film genres frequently categorised as 'fantastic', including fantasy, horror, and sci-fi, but also to encompass comedies, thrillers, anime, cross-genre films, and the unclassifiable.

This year we present two acclaimed new independent horror films, *The Harbinger* and *Huesera*, and *Project Wolf Zero* is a wild survival-horror action movie from South Korea. We also present digital restorations of two vampire horror films, *Daughters of Darkness* (1971) and *Ganja & Hess* (1973).

Anime has always been part of Fanomenon and we present one of this year's highlights, *Goodbye, Don Glees!*, and the live action *Anime Supremacy!* about competing TV studios. We have more animation with the unique *Unicorn Wars*, an action comedy from Spain about teddy bear soldiers.

Our selection of films from South Korea includes brilliant murder mystery thriller *Confession*, dark comedy drama *The New Normal*, and 'weird wave' sci-fi *The Fifth Thoracic Vertebra*. From Thailand, we present action comedy *Fast & Feel Love* about the world of competitive cup stacking.

We have more comedy – of darker kinds – with *Sick of Myself* from Norway and *Incredible but True* from France. We have more thrillers too with serial killer drama *Holy Spider* from Denmark, chilling Haneke-inspired *The Uncle* from Croatia, and one-take murder mystery *Medusa Deluxe* from the UK.

Anime Supremacy!

Japanese anime draws avid attention from around the world and it has a \$22 billion market size. Over 200 new TV series are launched every year and they vie for the title of “supremacy” in the ratings and sales charts. Anime Supremacy! is a live action drama about the rivalry between two ambitious artists at different studios to make the number one series. For seven years, soft-spoken yet strong-willed Hitomi Saito has climbed the ranks, and she is set to direct her first series. At the same time, difficult but brilliant director Chiharu Oji is set to make his big comeback after a decade.

‘A heartfelt and hilarious comedy-drama about making it to the top without compromising one’s vision, Anime Supremacy! is the second feature film from director Kohei Yoshino, who worked in the CG department of Makoto Shinkai’s Your Name. That experience likely helped him match original novelist Mizuki Tsujimura’s detailed and convincing examination of just how anime gets made - the pressures from the producers, the deadlines and difficulties, the myriad technical tasks that each contribute to the success or failure of the final product. There’s a similar verisimilitude in the performances of the cast, led by Riho Yoshioka of Louder!: Can’t Here What You’re Singin’, Wimp, and Tomoya Nakamura, co-star of the forthcoming Kamen Rider Black Sun TV series.’ Fantasia Festival

Original Title

Haken Anime!

Countries

Japan

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 8min

Languages

Japanese with subtitles

Director

Kohei Yoshino

Screenwriter

Yōsuke Masaïke

Mizuki Tsujimura

Leading Cast

Riho Yoshioka

Tomoya Nakamura

Tasuku Emoto

Cinematographer

Motonobu Kiyoku

Editor

Soichi Satake

Print Source

Toei



Confession

A superb remake of hit 2016 Spanish film *Contratiempo* (The Invisible Guest), *Confession* is a gripping murder mystery thriller full of wild surprises. When a high-powered executive is found in a hotel with the body of his ex, he claims he is innocent and hires the best defence lawyer money can buy. Flashbacks within flashbacks weave a labyrinthine tale of betrayal and literal backstabbing, building to a nail-biting climax. Featuring note-perfect performances, writer-director Yoon Jong-seok's remake seamlessly blends the sleek intensity of the original with the Korean style of perverse plot twists and shocking reveals.

'It really made no sense to make the film exactly as it was in *The Invisible Guest* since the original is already a great film. That was one of our key questions: what can we do to make this a different experience and a different film from the original? So, the ending in particular was a way to show a bit more of what the characters are feeling while providing a new experience for the audience... From the very beginning, it was our intent to create a theatrical feel to the scenes, but there was a risk to this because the acting had to be really tough to match this theatrical atmosphere – if it was not, then it simply wouldn't work. But thankfully, both actors gave really strong performances... We were very happy with how it all came together.' Director Yoon Jong-seok



Original Title

Jabaek

Countries

South Korea

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 45min

Languages

Korean with subtitles

Director

Yoon Jong-seok

Leading Cast

So Ji-seob

Yunjin Kim

Jin-Ah Im

Print Source

Lotte

Daughters of Darkness

LIFF X Queer Fear

Returning once again to LIFF is *Queer Fear*, which aims to chart queer communities' lasting association with the horror genre. Screening in a 4K restoration, *Daughters of Darkness* follows a newlywed couple who encounter a mysterious Dietrich-styled countess in furs (Delphine Seyrig) while on holiday at a remote resort. Along with her secretary 'companion', the ageless countess unleashes a frenzy of violence and sensuality. We are delighted to welcome its director and co-writer Harry Kümel to discuss its enduring impact and legacy of LGBTQIA+ representation and female empowerment within horror, as well as its iconic brand of European erotica.

'My favourite vampire films? *Dark Shadows* by Tim Burton. *Bram Stoker's Dracula* by Francis Ford Coppola. I don't understand why Coppola himself doesn't like that film. What else? *Et mourir de plaisir* by Roger Vadim and starring Annette Stroyberg, Mel Ferrer, and Elsa Martinelli as lesbian vampires. Claude Renoir's cinematography is especially magnificent... More than anything, you need to trust the director's ambition to make a film that stands the test of time. That is a normal human ambition: you give birth to a child, you create an artwork and you hope that it lives and thrives. But the only way to fulfil that ambition is to approach reality in a different way, to say this is true and this is not true simultaneously.' Director Harry Kümel, from an interview with BRUZZ Magazine

Original Title

Les lèvres rouges

Countries

Belgium, France, West Germany, USA, Canada

Year

1971

Running Time

1hr 27min

Languages

German, French, Dutch, English with subtitles

Director

Harry Kümel

Screenwriter

Pierre Drouot

Jean Ferry

Harry Kümel

Producer

Paul Collet

Pierre Drouot

John Dunning

Leading Cast

Delphine Seyrig

John Karlen

Danielle Ouimet

Cinematographer

Eduard van der Enden

Editor

Denis Bonan

August Verschueren

Hans Zeiler

Print Source

CINEMATEK



Fast & Feel Love

Countries

Thailand

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 12min

Languages

Thai with subtitles
& English

Director

Nawapol
Thamrongrattanarit

Screenwriter

Nawapol
Thamrongrattanarit

Producer

Yosita Charoensit
Paiboon Damrongchaitam
Boosaba Daorueng

Leading Cast

Nat Kitcharit
Urassaya Sperbund
Anusara Korsamphan

Cinematographer

Natdanai Naksuwan

Editor

Panayu Kunvanlee

Print Source

GDH

'30-year-old Kao is the world's fastest sport stacker, thanks in large part to his self-sacrificing girlfriend Jay, who allows him to practice nonstop. When she comes to her senses and leaves, he must face reality, grow up and build a new support system to reach his goal - as well as win her back. Director Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit has crafted a thrill-a-minute romcom/stacking-action tale that is as fast moving and quirky as the oddball sport at the centre of its plot. Throbbing with energy, ingenuity and originality, this spirited send-up of young adulthood is a mesmerizing showstopper.' (New York Asian Film Festival)

'My main concern with the film was to explore the daily life of the superhero who is growing up or needs to grow up. The meaning of the superhero to me is an ordinary person who is very good at doing something. So I have to find the occupation of the main character, what is the superpower in their life. I started with an athlete, someone who's running fastest. I explored more and more until I found sports stacking. I watched video clips of the sport stackers and they were very fast: they finished stacking within four seconds! And to me it's kind of like a special ability, like, How can you do that? It's so amazing. I thought, It's the right thing for the film. So I chose cup stacking or sports stacking.' Director Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit, from an interview with New York Asian Film Festival



The Fifth Thoracic Vertebra

The first feature from exciting new Korean filmmaker Park Syeyoung, *The Fifth Thoracic Vertebra* is an urban ghost story about the human encounters of an abandoned mattress and the strange mould growing on it. As the mattress is moved around Seoul and deteriorates, it becomes host to a mysterious creature who feasts on the vertebrae of its victims. Before his feature, Park Syeyoung was already known as a prolific maker of original short films, and in this programme we also present his first short *Cashbag*, a nocturnal tale of a young man on a desperate search for money.

'The title stemmed from my time with an ace mattress. It was a good mattress and I paid some good money for it but it was so comfortable that whenever I woke up, my spine would hurt. Because this pain kept on repeating itself, I wanted to pinpoint the exact vertebra that was hurting and found out it was the fifth thoracic vertebra... Why was it always my fifth vertebra that hurt? Why not the third or the fourth? I think there was a creature in the bed, laughing at me, pricking at my spine every night. I threw the bed away but it disappeared overnight before the garbage-disposing people came over to pick it up. I wonder who took it and if their fifth thoracic vertebra hurt as well.' Director Park Syeyoung, from an interview with Asian Movie Pulse

Countries

South Korea

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 2min

Languages

Korean with subtitles

Director

Park Syeyoung

Screenwriter

Park Syeyoung

Producer

Sanhee Jeong

Leading Cast

Jung Sumin

Haam Seokyoung

Moon Hyein

Cinematographer

Syeyoung Park

Editor

Syeyoung Park

Print Source

Indiastory



Ganja & Hess

Countries

USA

Year

1973

Running Time

1hr 50min

Languages

English

Director

Bill Gunn

Lawrence Jordan

Screenwriter

Bill Gunn

Producer

Jack Jordan

Allan Kelly

Quentin Kelly

Leading Cast

Duane Jones

Marlene Clark

Bill Gunn

Cinematographer

James E. Hinton

Print Source

ICO

Ganja & Hess is a unique and radically black take on the vampire genre. Director Bill Gunn paved a path for black filmmakers to use genre to say what is unsayable without it. Black anthropologist Dr Hess Green (Duane Jones) is researching the Mythrians, an ancient African nation who ritually drank blood. When he is stabbed with one of their artefacts, it awakens an unquenchable thirst. Ganja & Hess gave its star Duane Jones another classic horror film to his name, alongside his lead in Night of the Living Dead. Screening in a restored version as part of the BFI's In Dreams Are Monsters Tour.

'Originally intended to ride the coattails of William Crane's delightful Blacula (1972), Bill Gunn's 1973 film Ganja & Hess is a far more complicated and experimental creation. While Blacula is arguably a reinterpretation of Count Yorga, Vampire (1970) — itself intended by AIP to breathe some new life into a dusty subgenre — Ganja & Hess is its own animal and, like George Romero's somewhat later Martin (1978), is one that refuses to play by any conventional rules of cinematic vampirism. Part dreamy Gothic romance, part vampire film, and part commentary on African-American life, there is really nothing else like it. Director Gunn worked as a playwright and stage director — though he also made other films, including the controversial, X-rated Stop (1970), which focused on gay relationships — but Ganja & Hess is his masterpiece...' — From an article by Samm Deighan, Diabolique Magazine



Goodbye, Don Gleees!

Original Title
Gubbai, Don Gurizu!
Countries
Japan
Year
2021
Running Time
1hr 50min
Languages
Japanese with subtitles
Director
Atsuko Ishizuka
Screenwriter
Atsuko Ishizuka
Producer
Anjali Kunapaneni
Leading Cast
Natsuki Hanae
Yūki Kaji
Ayumu Murase
Print Source
Anime Ltd.

Teen misfits Roma, Toto, and Drop call themselves the “Don Gleees”, an informal name for their backyard adventures. One day, when the trio gets blamed for a nearby forest fire, they set off into the woods to prove their innocence. As disaster strikes their expedition, tensions flare between the friends. Director Atsuko Ishizuka follows up her critically acclaimed series *A Place Further Than the Universe* with her first original feature film. With luminescent animation and lush backdrops, *Goodbye, Don Gleees!* is a tender coming-of-age story about the fearlessness of being young and the bittersweet journey of self-discovery.

‘When you buy a world map from Japan, it’s Japan and the Pacific Ocean that are in the middle. So I saw Iceland on the far left-hand side. So it really is like the end of the world, especially for these kids. I wanted to emphasize the fact that they are actually going somewhere that they have no idea about, that being the end of the world. And I think that is important for these characters because they are both living in the countryside. That’s their entire world, but the world is so much bigger, and Iceland is the symbol of that... So they physically learn what the world is like and how different the world they see is. That’s what I wanted to say with this story.’ Director Atsuko Ishizuka, from an interview on Crunchyroll



The Harbinger

Countries

USA

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 27min

Languages

English

Director

Andy Mitton

Screenwriter

Will Klipstine

Amy Mills

Producer

Katherina Anderson

Keith Anderson

Irene Bedard

Leading Cast

Madeleine McGraw

Teal Redmann

Irene Bedard

Cinematographer

Jose Zambrano Cassella

Print Source

Signature

Writer/director Andy Mitton follows up his Vermont-set first feature *The Witch in the Window* with another atmospheric and chilling horror film. Filmed under difficult circumstances during the pandemic, *The Harbinger* is set in New York and follows Monique as she ventures out of quarantine to visit an old friend who is plagued by nightmares she can't wake up from. But the nightmares, and the dark force behind them which takes the form of a plague doctor, prove as contagious as any deadly virus. Monique finds herself drawn into a hellish dreamscape where she must face her greatest fears - or risk never having existed at all.

'My touchstone for this tonally – because obviously there's *Elm Street* and *Freddy Krueger*, people are automatically going to think of anyone working in dreams is like standing on the shoulders of *Freddy Krueger* to some degree, and I do love that - but *Jacob's Ladder* was the film that I was really reaching for and studying, because it's one of the first films to really scare me. And it does involve dreams and, you know, surreal layers of consciousness and transitions that you aren't expecting, but also, it's just more human. The camera is more relaxed and handheld like it is in *The Harbinger*, and it feels more down and dirty, and less just stylized and surreal and there to mess with you for the sake of it. I tried to mess with people with intention, or purpose.'

Director Andy Mitton, from an interview with Eye For Film



Holy Spider

Countries

Germany, Denmark,
Sweden, France

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 56min

Languages

Persian with subtitles

Director

Ali Abbasi

Screenwriter

Ali Abbasi
Afshin Kamran Bahrami

Producer

Sol Bondy
Fred Burle
Birsin Colakoglu

Leading Cast

Zar Amir-Ebrahimi
Mehdi Bajestani
Arash Ashtiani

Cinematographer

Nadim Carlsen

Editor

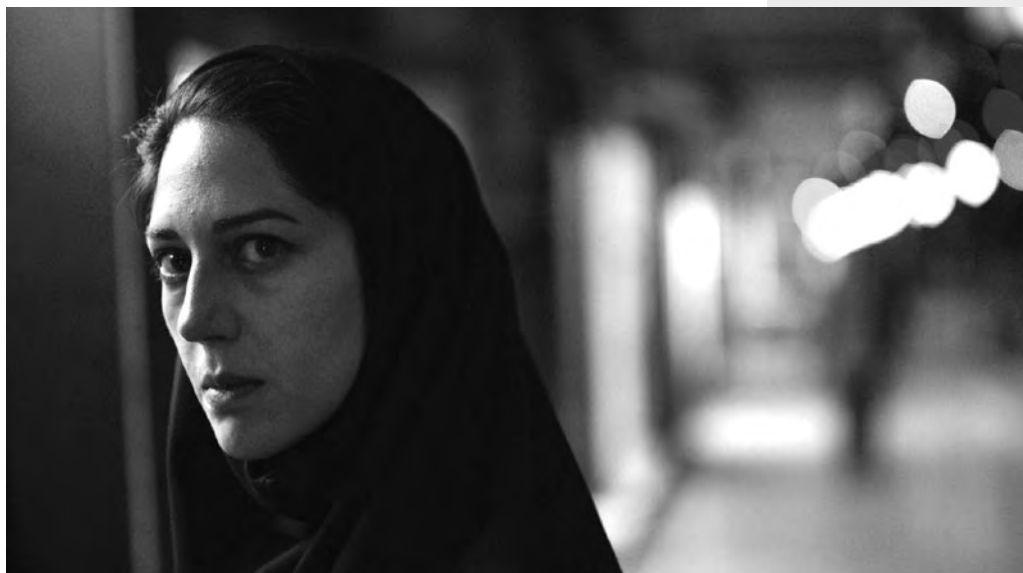
Olivia Neergaard-Holm

Print Source

MUBI

Holy Spider begins as an investigation of an alarming crime, then zooms out to implicate a very troubled society. In Mashhad's red light district, sex workers are alert to a dangerous client. He kills brutally, but at home he plays the attentive family man. Dogged journalist Rahimi (Cannes 2022 Best Actress winner Zar Amir Ebrahimi) is determined against widespread apathy, and worse, to stop him. This troubling and very effective film is based on true events, and was filmed outside Iran to circumvent censorship. Directed by Ali Abbasi (Border, LIFF 2018).

'The story goes back all the way to 2000, 2001. I was still living in Iran. There was this actual guy who murdered 16 women in a year and was labeled the "spider killer" because he would lure women into his house and strangle them, sort of trapping them in his own web... How can a man kill so many people and get away with it, while still having a functioning life with a wife and three kids, neighbors and all that, and how can people react the way they did?' Director Ali Abbasi, from an interview with The Hollywood Reporter



Huesera

Countries

Peru, Mexico

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 33min

Languages

Spanish with subtitles

Director

Michelle Garza Cervera

Screenwriter

Michelle Garza Cervera

Abia Castillo

Producer

David Bond

Edher Campos

Roberto Carrera

Leading Cast

Alfonso Dosal

Enoc Leño

Sonia Couh

Cinematographer

Nur Rubio Sherwell

Editor

Adriana Martínez

Print Source

The Festival Agency

The fears and anxieties that come from being a first-time mother power this poignant, creepy, and often nerve-rattling feature debut from Mexican filmmaker Michelle Garza Cervera. Valeria and her husband, Raul, have finally seen one of their dreams come true: Valeria is pregnant. At first, everything seems perfect. Gradually, though, her mood darkens. With motherhood upon her, Valeria can't shake off heavy self-doubt and a pervasive dread, the latter stemming from visions of spider-like presences and other possibly supernatural threats, all of which may be the work of an entity known as "La Huesera".

'The diverse sociocultural lifestyles that are portrayed in the film are inspired by my own experience growing up in Mexico City. Huesera is a film that features this city as a place full of contrasts and contradictions, just like the complex conflict the protagonist undergoes throughout the film... Huesera explore the idea that what appears to be the ideal of happiness, that which is so familiar, pastel-coloured, luminous, and musically harmonious, can become horrific for certain people. In contrast what appears to be subterranean, discrepant, noisy, and sombre, for some can mean freedom. The arrival of La Huesera in Valeria's life causes her perception of familiarity to be progressively altered, confronting her with atmospheres that go through the uncomfortable and reach the sinister.' Director Michelle Garza Cervera



Incredible But True

Quirky, deadpan humour, an absurdist eye for French social etiquette and a keen sense of the folly of existence are among the hallmarks of the oddball comedies of director Quentin Dupieux (*Rubber*, *Deerskin*), and *Incredible But True* is no different. Alain and Marie, a middle-aged couple, move to the quiet suburb of their dreams. But the real estate agent warns them that what they find in the basement may well change their lives forever. Meanwhile, Alain's work buddy arrives with his all-new electronic phallus.

'[*Incredible But True* is] probably deeper than usual, even though I still see it as a comedy. Maybe because the subject itself is more serious, as is what these two are going through as a couple. But even in my giant-fly movie [*Mandibles*], there were some pretty complex aspects at play, at least once you looked at it from a certain perspective....' When asked why he doesn't explain his films: "When I did *Rubber*, about this living tyre, the only question I had in my mind when I wrote it was: 'Should I explain it? Should I try to explain why the tyre is alive?' But if you do, if you explain too much, suddenly it turns into a terrible movie. You lose all the magic because no matter what you do, it will always sound stupid.' Director Quentin Dupieux, from an interview with Cineuropa

Original Title

Incroyable mais vrai

Countries

France, Belgium

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 14min

LanguagesFrench, Japanese
with subtitles**Director**

Quentin Dupieux

Screenwriter

Quentin Dupieux

Producer

Jacques-Henri Bronckart

Philippe Logie

Olivier Père

Thomas Verhaeghe

Leading Cast

Alain Chabat

Léa Drucker

Benoît Magimel

Print Source

Arrow



La Pietà

Mateo lives under the overprotective and omnipresent watch of his mother Libertad, locked in a house of pastel pink hues, and trapped in a manufactured co-dependency. After a devastating health diagnosis, Libertad's loss of control leads to chaos as Mateo searches for his own autonomy. Set against daily news reports of the North Korea regime, *La Pietà* examines the relationship of dictators and their people; submission and control. This vulgar and intriguing sophomore feature from Eduardo Casanova is sure to shock, disgust and entertain with its mix of psychological torment and brilliant black comedy.

'It is a totally unconventional horror movie, which deals with the most toxic relationship possible between a mother and her son, drawing a parallel between a dictator and the people, more specifically the dictatorship in North Korea. We have all been in a toxic relationship, it doesn't matter whether it is a partner, a friend or a family member. Personal relationships are deeply complicated; I am sure that anyone reading this is, or has been in a relationship like this, but... how can you get out of it? And if you manage to get out, how, and for how long will you stay out?'
Director Eduardo Casanova, from an interview with Cineuropa

Countries

Spain, Argentina

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 20min

Languages

Spanish with subtitles

Director

Eduardo Casanova

Screenwriter

Eduardo Casanova

Producer

Carolina Bang

Álex de la Iglesia

Florencia Franco

Leading Cast

Ángela Molina

Macarena Gómez

María León

Cinematographer

Luis Ángel Pérez

Editor

Ángel Pazos

Print Source

Film Factory



Medusa Deluxe

British writer-director Thomas Hardiman makes his feature debut with this experimental, one-shot dark comedy set in the world of competitive hairdressing. After the murder of one of the competition's top stylists, everyone is a suspect in this lavish, flashy, and downright outlandish whodunnit. As the story weaves its way through the competition venue, we are introduced to an ensemble of suspects, all more ridiculous than the last. With a gripping script from Hardiman and impressive snaking cinematography from Robbie Ryan, this is a head-turning debut from a bold new director to watch.

'Basically the things that interest me have a high and low – hair's about how you present yourself to the world, it's culturally important, and then you've got the background gossip, and I love that. I'm always looking for that thing where you can dart between those two poles. I'm interested in comedy and I want to set things on an edge where there's a sense of fun the whole time. It's a great conceit to take a genre film idea and go beyond the genre and make that subservient to what the film is really about. It's a great pitch – a murder mystery set in a regional hairdressing competition. What's not to love?!'
Thomas Hardiman, Director

Countries

UK

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 41min

Languages

English

Director

Thomas Hardiman

Screenwriter

Thomas Hardiman

Producer

Michael Elliott

Lizzie Francke

Nell Green

Leading Cast

Clare Perkins

Kayla Meikle

Lilit Lesser

Cinematographer

Robbie Ryan

Editor

Fouad Gaber

Print Source

MUBI



New Normal

Fanorama

Director Jeong Beom-sik's *Gonjiam: Haunted Asylum* (2018) launched a new chapter in Korean horror and told the story of a web series crew filming a live broadcast from an abandoned mansion. His latest film *New Normal* closed the prestigious Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival in July and we're presenting one of the first screenings outside of South Korea. Set over four days in Seoul, *New Normal* follows the fates of different characters who are lonely - 'hon-bab' (eating alone) - whose lives come to interconnect in funny, mysterious, and sometimes disturbing ways.

'I became a director after being a cinephile. I make horror films and thankfully, people find them scary, but I'm not necessarily a horror fan. I really like 50s and 60s Japanese and European films, arthouse films. Films are visual language so depending on how you make your cuts and edit them together and design the sound, you should be grasping and letting go of your viewers' psychology. I think that is the same whether it's for horror, suspense thrillers or comedies... I wouldn't necessarily call *New Normal* a horror film. It's more a suspense drama and comedy. And every time we do another film like this, we will label it as one of the "Unpa Suspense Collection". *New Normal* is the first in this collection.' Director Jeong Beom-sik, from an interview with Screen Daily

Countries

South Korea

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 52min

Languages

Korean with subtitles

Director

Jeong Beom-sik

Screenwriter

Jeong Beom-sik

Producer

Choi Jin

Leading Cast

Choi Ji-woo

Choi Minho

Ji-Hoon Pyo

Lee Yoo-mi

Print Source

UNPA Studio



Project Wolf Hunting

Countries

South Korea

Year

2022

Running Time

2hr 2min

Languages

Korean with subtitles

Director

Kim Hong-sun

Screenwriter

Kim Hong-sun

Producer

Gu Seong-mok

Leading Cast

Seo In-Guk

Dong-Yoon Jang

Dong-il Sung

Print Source

Finecut

When efforts to extradite notorious convicts from the Philippines to South Korea are stymied by a deadly airport bombing, the Korean authorities commandeer the cargo freighter *Frontier Wolf* for their next transfer. As a rogues' gallery of lowlifes, including a callous heir to a criminal empire (Seo In-guk), board the titanic vessel, they are escorted by two dozen hardened detectives, and the vigilant oversight of a hot-headed Coast Guard captain (Sung Dong-il). Despite the heavy security, a plot to seize control of the ship percolates among the prisoners and soon boils over, but what neither cop nor crook appear to be privy to is that they are not the freighter's only cargo...

'In Korea, showing blood or violence is not that easy. It's rather limited by the audience reaction, and shy away from excessive use of either. You can almost call it a taboo. I knew that, so I discussed it with the investors and production companies, and they said they approved of the level of violence I wanted to express in my film. We created new blood pumps, and my intention was to do something as real or even more real than what Tarantino does. As you know, blood does not just seep out. If you cut an artery, it might pump out. That's what I wanted, so I'm happy. I understand that some of my audience is not so happy, but fortunately, I am happy.' Director Kim Hong-sun, from an interview with Screenrant



Sadako DX

Countries

Japan

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 40min

Languages

Japanese with subtitles

Director

Hisashi Kimura

Screenwriter

Kôji Suzuki

Yuya Takahashi

Leading Cast

Hiroyuki Ikeuchi

Kazuma Kawamura

Fuka Koshiba

Print Source

Kadokawa

The latest in the Ring series of films, *Sadako DX* is a surprising horror comedy that isn't afraid to make fun of the legendary series and its J-horror icon, right to the very end of the credits... Several people are found dead all over Japan. A rumour goes around that they died 24 hours after watching a mysterious videotape. Of course, it doesn't take long before Sadako's name is dropped, and everyone is destroying their old VHS player. Ayaka, a young TV journalist, doesn't believe in the curse, but after her sister stumbles across the videotape she is in a race to debunk it.

'Sadako, the long-haired ghost who first crawled out of a well on the silver screen in the 1998 horror hit *Ringu*, has since become a global pop-culture icon. One reason for this is the sheer number of films in which she has appeared, including four with her name in the title. Another is her deep roots in Japanese culture and folklore, in which vengeful female spooks have haunted imaginations for hundreds of years. She is also something of a cliché, though, a problem Hisashi Kimura's *Sadako DX* entertainingly addresses by mixing in sharp meta comedy with the scares. One reference point is Wes Craven's 1996 classic *Scream*, which comically turned tired horror tropes on their heads. This has rarely been done in the J-horror genre, whose makers tend to take their material, however banal, with deadly seriousness.' From a review by Mark Schilling in *The Japan Times*



Sick Of Myself

In this pitch black satirical comedy, director Kristoffer Borgli portrays a toxic relationship that rapidly escalates to frightening new levels of narcissistic one-upmanship. Signe and Thomas are a young couple with an unhealthy competitive streak which takes a vicious turn when Thomas suddenly breaks through as a contemporary artist. In response, Signe makes a desperate and shockingly self destructive attempt to regain her status by deliberately making herself ill to attract attention and sympathy. Borgli brilliantly satirises the self promotional tendencies of contemporary media and the attention seeking impulse in all of us.

‘It was a wish that I should start the film as a romantic drama, start there and thus plant certain expectations in the audience. The fact that one has started in a completely different genre makes it very surprising where the film eventually goes. I want to control the expectations of the audience. This is also the case with Former Cult Member Hears Music For The First Time, about a woman who has escaped from her sect family. The idea is also to start a film as Sick of Myself in a world you recognize, not in a twisted universe. With film, you can set the premises exactly as you want, and the moment of surprise comes out of expectations. If the expectation is that “anything can happen”, then nothing is surprising. The universe we encounter at the beginning of Sick of Myself is more recognizable than where we end up.’ Director Kristoffer Borgli

Original Title

Syk pike

Countries

Norway, Sweden

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 35mn

Languages

Norwegian with subtitles

Director

Kristoffer Borgli

Screenwriter

Kristoffer Borgli

Producer

Kristina Börjeson

Michael Fleischer

Dyveke Bjørkly Graver

Leading Cast

Kristine Kujath Thorp

Eirik Sæther

Fanny Vaager

Cinematographer

Benjamin Loeb

Editor

Kristoffer Borgli

Print Source

Modern



The Uncle

Countries

Croatia, Serbia

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 44min

Languages

Croatian with subtitles

Director

David Kapac

Andrija Mardesic

Screenwriter

David Kapac

Andrija Mardesic

Producer

Ivan Kelava

Rea Rajcic

Milan Stojanovic

Leading Cast

Goran Bogdan

Predrag 'Miki' Manojlovic

Ivana Roscic

Cinematographer

Milos Jacimovic

Editor

Tomislav Stojanovic

Print Source

Ecelectica

Yugoslavia, late 1980s. Parents and son are hastily making the final preparations for Christmas Eve dinner. Their beloved uncle from Germany will be parking his Mercedes in front of the house any moment now and everything must be ready. But are things really as they seem? Croatian directors Andrija Mardesić and David Kapac cleverly balance on the edge of farce and oppressive thriller while ingeniously toying with narrative structure. The atmosphere of the film, set almost entirely in a single location, is unsettling in a way reminiscent of Haneke, heightened by a chilling performance from popular Serbian actor Miki Manojlović as the uncle.

The filmmakers discuss their Christmas experiences that inform the story and mood of *The Uncle*: 'Family celebrations are always stressful. From preparing the food for days, to getting the tree that never seems to be right, to decorating it in a different way every year, only for it to turn up always the same freaky kitsch... Christmas is actually a holiday for which everybody, from the media and marketing, to the Church and the tradition, forces us to do something in order to feel better. Instead, everybody ends up fat, angry, frustrated and in conflict with the others, so everybody cannot wait for the whole thing to be over. Christmas actually represents the greatest subliminal attack to the subconsciousness where form takes over substance.' Directors Andrija Mardesić and David Kapac, from an interview with *Cineuropa*



Unicorn Wars

Countries

France, Spain

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 30min

Languages

Spanish with subtitles

Director

Alberto Vázquez

Screenwriter

Alberto Vázquez

Producer

Chelo Loureiro

Iván Miñambres

Editor

Estanis Bañuelos

Print Source

Charades

It's "Bambi meets Apocalypse Now" in this provocative and strangely beautiful horror comedy from acclaimed filmmaker and illustrator Alberto Vázquez. For ages, teddy bears have been locked in an ancestral war against their sworn enemy, the unicorns, with the promise that victory will complete the prophecy and usher in a new era. Aggressive, confident teddy bear Bluet and his sensitive, withdrawn brother Tubby could not be more different. As the rigours and humiliation of teddy bear bootcamp turn to the psychedelic horrors of a combat tour in the Magic Forest, the two brothers come to determine the fate of the entire war.

'I wanted to combine my own directorial universe with the iconography of the war-movie genre. Unicorn Wars is a homage to certain films I love, such as Apocalypse Now and Platoon. That is combined with the enchanting world of the magical forest and unicorns, which reminds me a little of Bambi. The story also references the Bible several times, which is one of my favorite works of fiction. In fact, the bears have their own religion and their own moral conflicts. I tried to show how fanaticism can generate a story about war, and how it can shape public opinion. These ideas weren't really conscious decisions: they came to me gradually, as I wrote the script. I have always wanted to do a story about war and surviving in nature, and this concept meshed with my other storytelling obsessions.' Director Alberto Vázquez



Viking

Countries

Canada

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 44min

Languages

French with subtitles
& English

Director

Stéphane Lafleur

Screenwriter

Eric K. Boulianne
Stéphane Lafleur

Producer

Luc Déry
Kim McCraw

Leading Cast

Steve Laplante
Larissa Corriveau
Fabiola N. Aladin

Cinematographer

Sara Mishara

Editor

Sophie Leblond

Print Source

Sphere Films

The Viking Society is recruiting volunteers for the first crewed mission to Mars. The goal is to form a B-team that will mirror the mission here on Earth to find solutions to the interpersonal problems that the Mars-bound crew is experiencing. David is a high school gym teacher who seizes this opportunity to revive his dream of becoming an astronaut and making a difference. Viking balances deadpan humour with profound poignancy in its story about a longing for a sense of purpose. It's that rare kind of science fiction where gadgets and fantasy are overshadowed by the mysteries of the human psyche.

'It's been a long process to get to Viking. The first spark of the movie was an exhibit I saw in New York by photographer Vincent Laforet. He did these really large format pictures of astronauts lost in the desert. I think the pictures were taken in the Utah desert. These pictures struck me. I kept thinking about them for several years. I wanted to do a sci-fi movie after my last film, Tu dors, Nicole. These images kept coming back. Around 2014 or 2015, I heard about the Mars One project, where anyone could apply for a one-way trip to Mars. I was wondering who would apply for that kind of thing. At first, I wanted to tell the story of someone applying for this project. Then, the script became something else.' Director Stéphane Lafleur, from an interview with Seventh Row



Fanomenon Shorts 1: Sci-fi Selection

Aves

Print Source esnyder@afi.edu



After a sudden encounter with a mysterious student, a tenured ornithologist and war veteran is forced to remember the dark realities of his past.

Running Time 19min **Year** 2022 **Country** United States
Language English **Director** Eli Snyder **Screenwriter** Eli Snyder, Kevin Sweeney, Hayley Tibbenham **Producer** Shunchao Xu, Tara Austin **Key Cast** James Morrison, Soma Chhaya

Daylight Rules

Print Source submissions@festivalformula.com



In a world where humans can harness the power of the sun when exposed to sunlight, and the controlling of this power is still being understood, a mother and daughter must figure out where their intentions and loyalties lie.

Premiere Status World **Running Time** 14min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English
Director Alex Browning **Screenwriter** Alex Browning, Carys Lewis **Producer** Alex Browning **Key Cast** Ella Dacres, T'Nia Miller, David Ajala

Heartless

Print Source hawk@directorhawk.com



Young couple Anna and Gunnar are deeply in love but they live in a society where people are assigned a new spouse by lottery every seven years. As their final day together approaches, they grapple with the nightmare of being torn apart and facing life with another partner.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 15min **Year** 2021 **Country** Iceland **Language** Icelandic **Director** Haukur Björgvinsson **Screenwriter** Haukur Björgvinsson **Producer** Tinna Proppé, Haukur Björgvinsson **Key Cast** Bríet Ísis Elfar, Jóhann Kristófer Stefánsson, Nanna Kristín Magnúsdóttir, Ólafur Egilsson, Guðrún Gísladóttir, Þrastur Leó Gunnarsson, Ísar Máni Birkisson

Theatre

Print Source fsp-sales@freestone.jp



Just after the Meguro Cinema in Tokyo flips the closing sign for what might be the last time due to COVID, a young director bursts in, begging them to show his film. The cinema agrees to show it, placing their hope in an old superstition as the last chance to keep open.

Premiere Status World **Running Time** 29min
Year 2022 **Country** Japan **Language** Japanese with subtitles
Director Yu Sakudo **Screenwriter** Yu Sakudo
Producer Yu Sakudo **Key Cast** Kanji Tsuda, Hiromasa Taguchi, Shinji Matsubayashi, Ryo Shinoda

Time Tourists

Print Source submissions@festivalformula.com



Two strangers stumble upon a beautiful natural sight, and each other. As they hit it off it's clear that neither of them have experienced nature before. When Fred eventually asks Sally to meet up again, we learn their surroundings are far from permanent.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 6min **Year** 2022
Country New Zealand **Language** English **Director** Ian Sweeney
Screenwriter Ian Sweeney **Producer** Arthur Machado **Key Cast** Thomas Eason, Genevieve Kent

Fanomenon Shorts 2: Horror Selection

Cut

Print Source kirak19@gmail.com

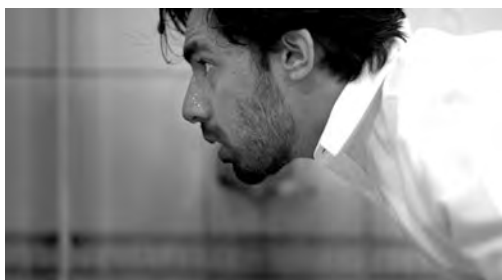


An actor playing a serial killer on a B-movie set begins to question his reality after hearing rain that he cannot see.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 17min **Year** 2022 **Country** South Korea **Language** South Korean
Director Min-Zun Son **Screenwriter** Min-Zun Son, Kirak Kim **Producer** Jayil Park, Kirak Kim **Key Cast** Min-Zun Son

Deadline

Print Source shihan@lensmanexpress.com



A disturbed 811 operator navigates through connecting grieving callers amid another troubling day of disclosures – and realizations.

Running Time 10min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Arab Emirates **Language** English **Director** Shihan Shoukath
Screenwriter Shihan Shoukath **Producer** Shihan Shoukath **Key Cast** Ishan Shoukath

Listen to Mother

Print Source archiejohnstonstewart@gmail.com

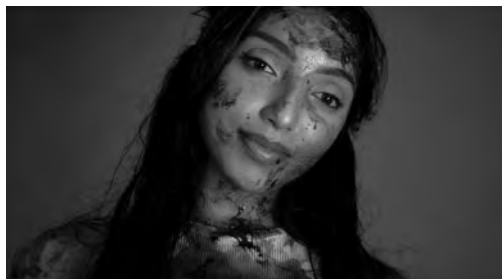


A grieving social worker is sent out on a call to a remote farmhouse. When she finds a young boy living there, seemingly alone, she begins to suspect something awful has happened.

Running Time 18min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English **Director** Jamie Gyngell
Screenwriter Jamie Gyngell **Producer** Archie Johnston Stewart **Key Cast** Pippa Nixon, Tom Sweet

Mantis

Print Source luigisib93@gmail.com



An uninvited meeting in a dusty London laundrette escalates from tone-deaf flirtations to something more sinister but when the knives are out, who is the prey and who is the victim becomes less clear.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 8min
Year 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English
Director Luigi Sibona **Screenwriter** Luigi Sibona
Producer Luigi Sibona **Key Cast** Ann Samuel, Adam Sanderson

Rise & Shine

Print Source nitrium.films@gmail.com



Nancy works in a small gas station shop. Disillusioned, not even the news of an apocalypse seems to worry her. But the sudden arrival of a mysterious customer could change all that. Will Nancy finally find meaning in her life? Or in her death?

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 11min
Year 2021 **Country** Switzerland **Language** French
Director Arnaud Pierre Baur **Screenwriter** Damien Mazza
Producer Arnaud S. Gantenbein, Pascal Forney
Key Cast Capucine Lhemanne, Noémie Baudet, Jason Grangier, Arnaud Huguenin, Yann Schmidhalter

The Rock of Ages

Print Source contact@blacktool.studio



A soldier, which army, which era, unclear. What's clear is the evil he's done. Faced with his impending mortality, he fears being judged in the afterlife. Only immortality will do. He meets a talking rock who promises just that – but he'll first have to face his fiendish deeds...

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 16min **Year** 2021
Country France, Iceland **Language** English **Director** Eron Sheean
Screenwriter Eron Sheean **Producer** Xavier Gens, Hlin Johannesdottir, Eron Sheean, Tómas Lemarquis, Brieuc Dupont, Géraldine Michelot, Clément Langlais, Olivier Guerbois
Key Cast Tómas Lemarquis, Ólafur Darri Ólafsson

South

Print Source contact@carlshanahan.com



In the frozen expanse of the South, a weary scavenger discovers someone in need of aid.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 6min **Year** 2022 **Country** Norway **Language** English **Director** Carl Shanahan **Producer** Rune Antonsen **Key Cast** Sjur Marius Tomter

Shorts with Features

Cashbag

Print Source centralpark.co@gmail.com



In need of money, GoWoo navigates his way through the city's night landscape until it leads him into a totally foreign yet mysteriously predestined location.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 24min **Year** 2019 **Country** South Korea **Language** South Korean with subtitles **Director** Park Syeyoung **Screenwriter** Park Syeyoung **Producer** Park Syeyoung



Leeds Short Film Awards



We love short films at LIFF! We show more shorts than features – with 110 from 50 countries this year. They are a vital opportunity for new filmmakers to reach audiences and the film industry.

A qualifying festival for short films for the Academy Awards, BAFTAs, and British Independent Film Awards, LIFF presents seven competitions, each judged by different juries.

The Leeds International Short Film Competition is our largest selection, with four programmes of outstanding new shorts from across the world. The British Short Film Competition celebrates homegrown filmmaking and the Yorkshire Short Film Competition champions shorts from new creative talent in the region. The World Animation Competition brings together brilliant British and International animated gems in two bumper programmes.

We also present short film competitions dedicated to dance films and music videos and to the work of queer filmmakers in two programmes curated for LIFF by Leeds Queer Film Festival.

All the competitions except for Music Videos are available on our streaming platform Leeds Film Player during LIFF 2022 – see the schedule in this guide to find out from when they can be viewed.

Jury

International Short Film Competition



Amayel Ndiaye

Amayel Ndiaye grew up in Dakar, Senegal. In 2012, she moved to Paris to take acting and writing classes. In 2015 she discovered the international film movement Kino which brings together amateur and professional filmmakers from around the world. Since then, she has undergone intensive directorial training and directed 20 self-produced short films. She created the first Kino cell in Senegal in 2018: KinoTeranga. She's also been co-organising the Films Femmes Afrique Festival in Senegal every other year since 2016. She is now working on writing her first feature film.



Natalia Sinelnikova

Natalia Sinelnikova is a Russian writer and director based in Berlin. She has written and directed numerous short films that were invited to national & international festivals, and she is part of the Jewish Artist network Dagesh. In 2016 she was a member of the debut film jury of the Festival for Eastern European Film in Cottbus and in 2021 she was selected for the ZFF Academy of the Zurich Film Festival. Her award-winning and critically acclaimed graduation film and first feature *We Might As Well Be Dead* celebrated its world premiere at the Berlinale 2022 and went on to screen at numerous international film festivals including the Tribeca International Film Festival and in this year's New Director's Competition at LIFF.



Carmen Thompson

Carmen is a freelance programmer, curator and creative producer based in Edinburgh, working for nearly 10 years in film exhibition and distribution. She currently works as cultural curator and programmer for *We Are Parable*, as programming consultant for Red Sea International Film Festival and as producer for international sales & distribution company *Aya Films*, where she is working on the UK release of award-winning film *'The Gravedigger's Wife'* (Khadar Ayderus Ahmed, 2021). Carmen also sits on the boards of British Independent Film Awards (BIFA) and Glasgow Film, and is chair of the board of Document Film Festival.

Jury

World Animation Competition



Phoebe Boswell

Phoebe Boswell is known for her figurative and multi-form practice which centres drawing but spans media from film and animation to writing and performance, to explore modalities of freedom, care, contested histories and imagined futures through a black feminist and diasporic lens. Boswell's drawings, installations and film & video works have been exhibited widely both in the UK and abroad and her practice has received accolades including the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists (2020), Future Generation Art Prize's Special Prize (2017), she was a Ford Foundation Africa No Filter Fellow (2018) and the Bridget Riley Drawing Fellow at the British School at Rome (2019). Boswell received the Lumière Award for major achievements in Film & Video from the Royal Photographic Society in 2021 and is Whitechapel Gallery's Writer-In-Residence for 2022.



Dominica Harrison

Dominica is an award winning artist from Moscow currently based in the UK. She specialises in animation direction and illustration, with a particular focus on printmaking. Dominica's work is focused on the themes of nostalgia, memory and ritual. She also works as an educator, teaching in universities in the UK and China. Her latest short film *Chado* made with the support of BFI Network, screened at Leeds International Film Festival in 2020. It was longlisted for BAFTA 2021 and released online in November 2021.

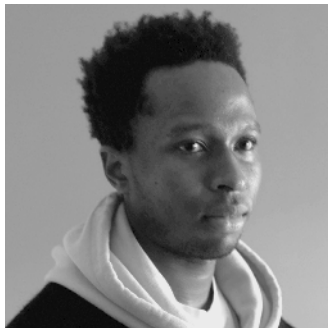


Lauren Orme

Lauren Orme is an award-winning animator, and Festival Director of Cardiff Animation Festival. In 2014 she founded Cardiff Animation Nights, regular short animation screenings in Cardiff City Centre, before co-founding Cardiff Animation Festival in 2018. Lauren is also Creative Director of Picl Animation, an animation studio and production company in Cardiff making short films alongside work for charities, brands and broadcast. Lauren's work has been screened at over 100 festivals around the world. Her animated dark comedy short *Creepy Pasta Salad* was shortlisted for a BAFTA and nominated for a BAFTA Cymru in 2020.

Jury

British and Yorkshire Short Film Competition



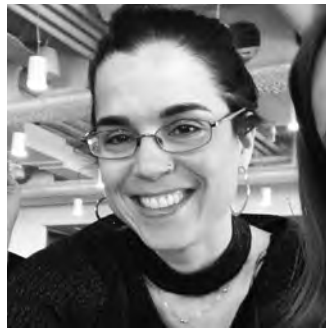
Mitch Kalisa

Originally from Rwanda, Mitch arrived in the UK as a child via Uganda. Mitch first explored his passion for film through acting and later moving into painting and sculpture before landing on directing as his primary creative output. *Play it Safe*, his debut short film, won the grand jury prize at SXSW and the British Short Film Competition at LIFF in 2021. Mitch uses his own experiences to underpin his cinematic pursuit: to break convention and boundaries and tell rich stories from diverse unheard voices. Focusing on complex and often challenging tales, and giving them a visceral character and performance driven platform.



Isra Al Kassi

Isra (she/her) has a background in events management and community spaces and cinemas. She is the co-founder of T A P E Collective and has curated for London Short Film Festival, BFI Southbank and Aesthetica Short Film Festival. Isra has more recently worked with BIFA, Inclusive Cinema, Independent Film Trust and London Film Festival, Habibi Collective and Shasha with a focus on audience development and outreach. In addition to her work with T A P E she is currently the Head Of Programmes and Audience Development with Birds' Eye View.



Erifili Missiou

Erifili is an award-winning Director and Writer with a rich academic and professional background in Filmmaking and Fine Arts. She is the Artistic Director and Founder of EFN Short Film Festival and is a Programmer at The Garden Cinema in London and the Dublin International Short Film Festival. She has a track record producing cultural events such as Doc'n Roll Festival in London, ResidencySHOT in Berlin, Undefined Arts in Athens, and Heygate Estate in London. Her passion is to identify raw talent and champion work by emerging directors, particularly that of underrepresented groups and made under difficult conditions.

Jury

Leeds Queer Short Film Competition



Pete Cann

Pete Cann is a lifelong film fanatic and experimental musician based in Leeds. He runs a DIY film club called Scour Cinema (@scourcinema on Instagram and Twitter), screening deep cuts and oddities at Wharf Chambers most months. His tastes run the gamut, from the classiest of arthouse fare to the most microbudget ramshackle schlock in existence. He recently bridged his interests in abstract audio/music and cinema via a sound collage LP called Lens Deficiency made entirely from incidental/foley film sounds and drawing from a huge range of genres and eras. He can be found on Letterboxd under the username Thalamic."



Tobi Kyeremateng

Tobi Kyeremateng is a producer from South London. Working across narrative, documentary, art docu-films and branded content, Tobi has produced work for BBC, British Vogue, Channel 4, E4, Film & Video Umbrella, Netflix, NOWNESS, Sky Arts and more. In 2020 she was invited to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts and in 2022 was featured on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe list in Arts & Culture. She is currently part of the 2022 BAFTA Elevate cohort for producers.



Philippa Walusimbi

Philippa has been working alongside musicians, artists whilst programming in various arts organisations such as B:Music, Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust and Sheffield DocFest. Her main passion and role whilst working at such organisations has always been cultural democracy, making sure that all feel welcome, heard and seen from entrance to stage. Philippa recently returned to her home county of South Yorkshire after spending eight months in the Democratic Republic of Congo where she had the pleasure of working alongside and collaborating with the artists of the city of Goma. Most recently co-curated the short film programme for Africa In Motion. as part of art exhibitions.

Jury

Leeds Screendance Competition



Ariadne Mikou

Ariadne Mikou (PhD) is a Greek-born dance artist-researcher residing in Italy. Her artistic practice, often in the form of choreographic environments and events as well as works created for the screen, has been presented worldwide. From 2020 to 2022, she has been supported by Creative Europe's Migrating Artists Project-Challenging Dance and Cinema across Europe (mAPs) for co-creating a dance film on the theme of Power. She is co-founder of futuremellon/NOT YET ART, a collective that enables her to expand her choreographic practice as well as to experiment with the curation of screendance. In 2021, she was awarded a Research Grant for the Creative Europe project Dancing Museums-The Democracy of Beings from Ca' Foscari University of Venice where she is also a research assistant for the SPIN project Memory in Motion: Re-Membering Dance History.



Kyra Norman

Kyra Norman lives in Cornwall and is a dance-trained artist and researcher working with movement, connection and place, on screen and in live contexts. Alongside this work, they edit the International Journal of Screendance, where they work with the Editorial Board to hold a space for discourse at the intersection of dance and screen media practices.



Ada Solomon

Ada Solomon is a Romanian producer, founder of Hi Film Productions and Micro Film. She has produced or co-produced over 80 films such as: Bad Luck Banging Or Loony Porn (Radu Jude, 2021, Golden Bear Berlin), Aferim! (Radu Jude, 2015, Silver Bear Berlin) and Child's Pose (Calin Netzer, 2013, Golden Bear Berlin). She was executive producer for Maren Ade's Toni Erdmann (2016). Solomon is Executive President of EWA Network, Deputy Chairwoman of the European Film Academy, EAVE national coordinator, founding member of the Alliance of Romanian Producers, and winner of EFA European Co-production Award – Prix Eurimages 2013, Central European Initiative Award 2018 in Trieste IFF, as well as Underground Spirit of Europe Award 2021 in Palic IFF.

Jury

Leeds Music Video Competition



Hannah Broadbent

Hannah is an independent film programmer and has programmed music films at Jumbo Records since 2017 as part of Scalarama Leeds Film Festival. She programmes under the name of 'Feel Good Film Club Experience' showing films that have feel good elements and are either screened in a unique space or with a film related activity to create an immersive screening. At Jumbo it is a DIY screening as the record shop is transformed into a pop-up cinema so the DIY nature has influenced the types of music documentaries that have been screened.



Theo Gowans

Theo Gowans is a Leeds based experimental musician and promoter. He's a member of noise-rock band Thank, creates solo dadist collaged noise as Territorial Gobbing and has released over a hundred albums over the last decade either solo or in a variety of one-off collaborations. He's also been putting on regular DIY gigs in Leeds for years, currently under the name Heinous Whining, showcasing both local and international acts skulking on the fringes of music and performance. He is currently part of the Wharf Chambers co-operative helping run the non-profit members club in Leeds city centre as well as formally a member of CHUNK, another non-profit practice space and venue based in Meanwood.



DjNikNak

DJ NikNak is a woman with a highly impressive array of talents and skills. Her debut album Bashi received acclaim from Resident Advisor, listed as one of their Best Albums in January 2021 as well as airplay on BBC Radio 3, Worldwide FM and Threads Radio. Becoming the first Black Turntablist in history to win the illustrious Oram Award in 2020, has been featured in renowned publications such as Mixmag, Resident Advisor, Yorkshire Evening Post, Clash Magazine, Electronic Sound Mag, The Wire, and DJ Mag. NikNak has also played with/supported iconic artists/DJs such as Mr Scruff, Madlib, Awesome Tapes From Africa, Akala, Grandmaster Flash, Bradley Zero, Dan Kye, Princess Nokia, Commodo, MJ Cole, Chynna, Jon1st, Om Unit, CocoMarie and more. Well-versed as both a presenter and producer with her monthly show "Melanin" on Worldwide FM, showcasing many interpretations of Black music.

International Short Film Competition

Are You Still There?

Print Source raykazehtabchi@gmail.com



Safa's been through a lot. Now she's stranded in a parking lot with a dead car battery on a hot summer night waiting for help.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 16min
Year 2022 **Country** United States **Language** Arabic, English **Director** Rayka Zehtabchi, Sam Davis
Screenwriter Rayka Zehtabchi, Sam Davis
Producer Reef Oldberg **Key Cast** Safa Tarifi, Rima Haddad, Mardy Ma

Blue Note

Print Source andonovpavel@gmail.com



Leena is faced with a heartbreaking commitment after spending a beautiful day with her terminally ill husband Boris in their summer cottage.

Running Time 22min **Year** 2022 **Country** Finland
Language Finnish **Director** Pavel Andonov
Screenwriter Pavel Andonov **Producer** Pavel Andonov, Mete Sasioglu, Sonja Huttunen **Key Cast** Alma Pöysti, David Kozma

Cherries

Print Source flavio.armone@lightsonfilm.org



A recently retired father invites his son to help him with the cherry picking in the garden. The father is in no hurry to finish the cherry job though, as he tries to catch up with his son. The cherries remain in the background.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Uogos
Running Time 15min **Year** 2022 **Country** Lithuania
Language Lithuanian **Director** Vytautas Katkus
Screenwriter Vytautas Katkus **Producer** Marija Razgutė
Key Cast Vytautas Katkus, Viktoras Vytautas

Fairplay

Print Source festival@salaudmorisset.com



A teenager in search of recognition, a worker ready to do anything to hit the jackpot, a senior executive at the end of his career who wants to prove to himself that he is still alive. Three characters who are losing speed on the competition highway...

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 18min
Year 2022 **Country** France **Language** French
Director Zoel Aeschbacher **Producer** Elena Tatti,
Nelson Ghrenassia

Fire at the Lake

Print Source festival@shortcuts.pro



Felix comes down from the pastures where he's guarding his cows and finds his old mother lying unconscious on her bed. Shaken, he runs off. He drives a few miles in the valley to the house of a young man who just contacted him on a dating app.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Le Feu au lac
Running Time 16min **Year** 2022 **Country** France
Language French **Director** Pierre Menahem
Screenwriter Pierre Menahem **Producer** Mathilde
Delaunay **Key Cast** Hervé Lassince, Pierre Moure

The Headhunter's Daughter

Print Source schierbeekhannah@gmail.com



Leaving her family behind, Lynn traverses the harrowing roads traversing the Cordilleran highlands of the Philippines to try her luck in the city as a country singer.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 25min
Year 2021 **Country** Philippines **Language** Filipino
Director Don Josephus Raphael Eblahan
Screenwriter Don Josephus Raphael Eblahan
Producer Hannah Schierbeek **Key Cast** Ammin Acha-ur

The Invisible Border

Print Source info@refreshingfilms.com



A deportation in Vienna in the middle of the night. Police officer Nancy and her colleague Albert have the task of evicting a family. The events of the night leave everyone involved traumatized.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Die unsichtbare Grenze **Running Time** 28min **Year** 2022 **Country** Austria **Language** German **Director** Mark Gerstorfer **Screenwriter** Mark Gerstorfer **Producer** Lukas Rosatti, Mark Gerstorfer, Marie-Thérèse Zumtobel **Key Cast** Temiloluwa Obiyemi, Tommy Leonardelli, Vjosa Breiteneder-Lubeniqi

Islands in the City

Print Source kontakt@ohnefalschfilm.de



Like ghosts, the temporarily shut down cruise ships lie in the port of Hamburg. A young man comes into town and is stranded on the riverbank, waiting for a message. He watches couples strolling along in the sunset and gets himself some sweets.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Die geheimnisvollen Inseln **Running Time** 23min **Year** 2021 **Country** Germany **Language** German **Director** Marian Freistühler **Screenwriter** Marian Freistühler **Producer** David Alonso García, Patrick Wallochny, Marian Freistühler **Key Cast** Marian Freistühler, Nils Timm, Pavlo Dalakishvili

Joutel

Print Source leamarie@h264distribution.com



Oddly affected by the discovery of a dead racoon in their yard, an elderly couple decides to return to Joutel, a now-deserted town where they once spent the best years of their lives, to bury the animal.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 15min **Year** 2021 **Country** Canada **Language** French **Director** Alexa-Jeanne Dubé **Screenwriter** Alexa-Jeanne Dubé **Producer** Geneviève Gosselin-G. **Key Cast** Marie Tifo, Pierre Curzi, Peter James

Khadiga

Print Source flavio.armone@lightsonfilm.org



Khadiga, a young mother of 18 lives alone with her baby after her husband left for work in a remote city; in an ordinary day she makes her way through the hustle of Cairo streets to do some visits where she feels uncomfortable with the surroundings.

Running Time 20min **Year** 2021 **Country** Egypt **Language** Arabic **Director** Morad Mostafa
Screenwriter Morad Mostafa, Mohamed Mamdouh
Producer Sawsan Yusuf, Safei Eldin Mahmoud
Key Cast Malak Tarek, Fatima Fawzi, Zizi Moustafa, Ayman Abdelaziz

Live

Print Source jhan@wajdaschool.pl



Two female journalists from independent Belarusian TV are broadcasting live from peaceful protests in Minsk. When the police start firing on the protesters, and the women are targeted by a drone, they are faced with a choice: continue the broadcast or take shelter? A film inspired by true events.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Na żywo
Running Time 13min **Year** 2022
Country Poland **Language** Belarusian, Russian **Director** Mara Tamkovich **Screenwriter** Mara Tamkovich **Producer** Filip Marczewski, Katarzyna Madaj Kozłowska **Key Cast** Aliaksandra Vaitsekhovich, Palina Chabatarova, Andrei Novik

Nest

Print Source koordinator@snowglobefilm.com



A story of siblings building a tree house together over the course of a year. We experience the beauty and brutality of the seasons, as we follow them through their struggles and moments of joy.

Running Time 22min **Year** 2022 **Country** Denmark
Language Icelandic **Director** Hlynur Pálmason
Screenwriter Hlynur Pálmason **Producer** Eva Jakobsen, Mikkel Jersin, Katrin Pors, Anton Máni Svansson **Key Cast** Ída Mekkín Hlynisdóttir, Grímur Hlynsson, Þorgils Hlynsson

Not Today

Print Source ninovafilms@gmail.com



Responsible for caring for two homes, three kids and her mother with dementia; Meryem, a single mother and nanny, gets hooked on self-help books. Following those new teachings, Meryem chooses the worst day possible to change her life.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 14min **Year** 2022
Country Turkey, Brazil **Language** Turkish **Director**
Yagmur Misirlioglu **Screenwriter** Can Pekdemir, Yagmur
Misirlioglu **Producer** Nefes Polat **Key Cast** Cinar
Yukceker, Nurcan Sirin, Omer Gokay Sanlier

The Patient and the Undersigned

Print Source hanna@nordantill.se



Psychologist Theo has to end his treatment with patient Laura after two years of therapy, due to cutbacks. But neither wants this last session to end. Entirely improvised and shot on 16mm film, this story examines power plays in a highly charged relationship.

Original Title Patient och undertecknad **Running Time**
17min **Year** 2021 **Country** Sweden **Language** Swedish
Director Elin Övergaard **Screenwriter** Filippa Holm
Producer Hanna Hannerz Simå, Tove Myrne Widfors
Key Cast Léonie Vincent, Armand Mirpour

Please Hold the Line

Print Source tanceding91@gmail.com



A young scam call operator is thrust into a moral dilemma as she frantically hustles for money to afford an abortion.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 19min **Year** 2022
Country Malaysia **Language** Chinese **Director** Tan Ce
Ding **Screenwriter** Tan Ce Ding **Producer** Edward Lim,
Yap Khai Soon, Tan Ce Ding **Key Cast** Kendra Sow, Puie
Heng Chen, Ruby Faye, Billy Ng

Saboteur

Print Source andy@rainafilms.com



An ex-saboteur gets back in the game and every trick will be exposed! A short action film about the joint adventure of indie filmmaking – with all the special effects.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Original Title** Le Saboteur
Running Time 12min **Year** 2022 **Country** Finland
Language English, Finnish, French **Director** Anssi Kasitonni **Screenwriter** Anssi Kasitonni **Producer** Anssi Kasitonni **Key Cast** Tomi Sinisalo, Tytti Rantanen, Jutta Luhtinen

Swan in the Centre

Print Source festival@lunaprod.fr



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...

Original Title Swan dans le centre **Running Time** 25min **Year** 2022 **Country** France **Language** French
Director Iris Chassaigne **Screenwriter** Iris Chassaigne, Anna Cohen-Yanay **Producer** François-Olivier Lespagnol, Sébastien Hussenot **Key Cast** Asja Nadjar, Maxence Tual, Louise Orry-Diquero, Andrea Romano

The Voice Actress

Print Source joeskinner@gmail.com



Kingyo, a veteran voice actress working in Tokyo, possesses a unique ability to see the soul in all things, living and inanimate. The voice acting world is changing and Kingyo must find a way to reconcile her way of living with the modern industry.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 15min **Year** 2022 **Country** Japan **Language** Japanese **Director** Anna J. Takayama **Screenwriter** Anna J. Takayama **Producer** Joe Skinner **Key Cast** Urara Takano

The Water Murmurs

Print Source rong_zhangxin@foxmail.com



When an asteroid hits the Earth, underwater volcanic eruptions risk submerging a riverside town and the inhabitants start to flee inland. The day before leaving, Nian says goodbye to a childhood friend but on her way she crosses paths with some of the town's residents. Gradually, her memories of the town start to become clearer and clearer in her mind.

Running Time 15min **Year** 2022 **Country** China
Language Mandarin Chinese **Director** Story Chen
Screenwriter Zimuhua Xiao **Producer** Xiaoyuan Li
Key Cast Annabel Yao

Tremor

Print Source rudolf.fitzgerald.leonard@gmail.com



During water therapy for his chronic spasms, Leon is involved in an incident that gradually disrupts all aspects of his life.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Beben
Running Time 16min **Year** 2022 **Country** Germany
Language German **Director** Rudolf Fitzgerald Leonard
Screenwriter Rudolf Fitzgerald Leonard, Luis Brandt,
Annika Birgel **Producer** Annika Birgel **Key Cast** Luis
Brandt, Lilian Mazbouh, Gisela Aderhold

Tsutsué

Print Source festival@lunaprod.fr



Set in a small Ghanaian town at the edge of a large landfill site that spills into the ocean, the sons of a fisherman, Sowah and Okai, struggle to cope with loss of their eldest brother who drowned during a fishing expedition. Haunted by his demise, Okai believes their brother is still out there...

Original Title Tsutsu **Running Time** 16min **Year** 2022
Country France **Language** Ghanaian **Director** Amartei
Armar **Screenwriter** Amartei Armar **Producer** Ike
Yemoh **Key Cast** Kirston-Acquah Elisha, Idrissu Tontie JR.,
Victor Incoom, Gabriel Narh Addo

What Remains

Print Source pf@portugalfilm.org



Emilio, an aging farmer living alone in the mountains has come to a daunting realization: the world has moved on from him. With only his ram left, he is forced to go on a trip, through the rural landscape, to secure the sale.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** O Que Resta
Running Time 20min **Year** 2022 **Country** Portugal
Language Portuguese **Director** Daniel Soares
Producer Daniel Soares, Vasco Costa **Editor** Lucas
Moesch **Key Cast** Carlos Cairrão, "Maluquinho", Hélia
Pinto, João Patrício

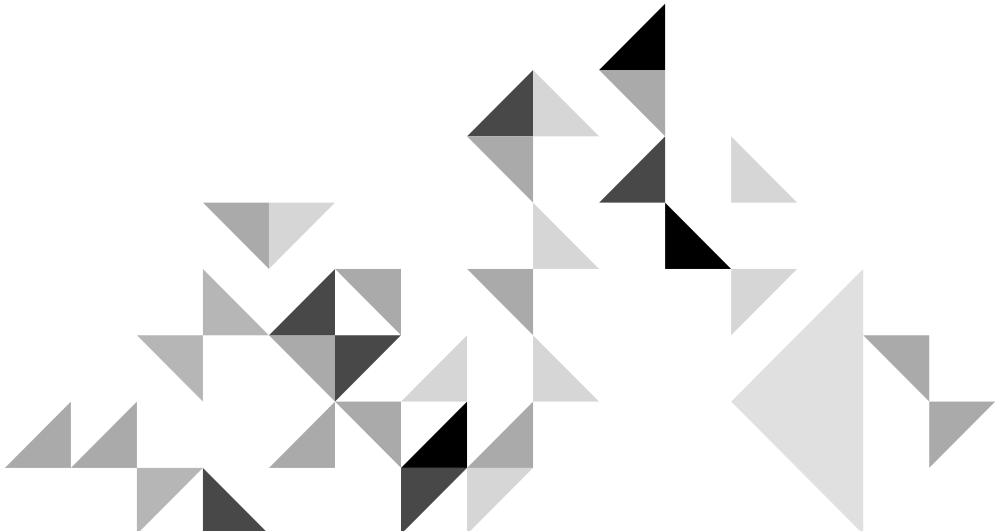
Why Does Helen Koch Commit Serious Vehicle Theft?

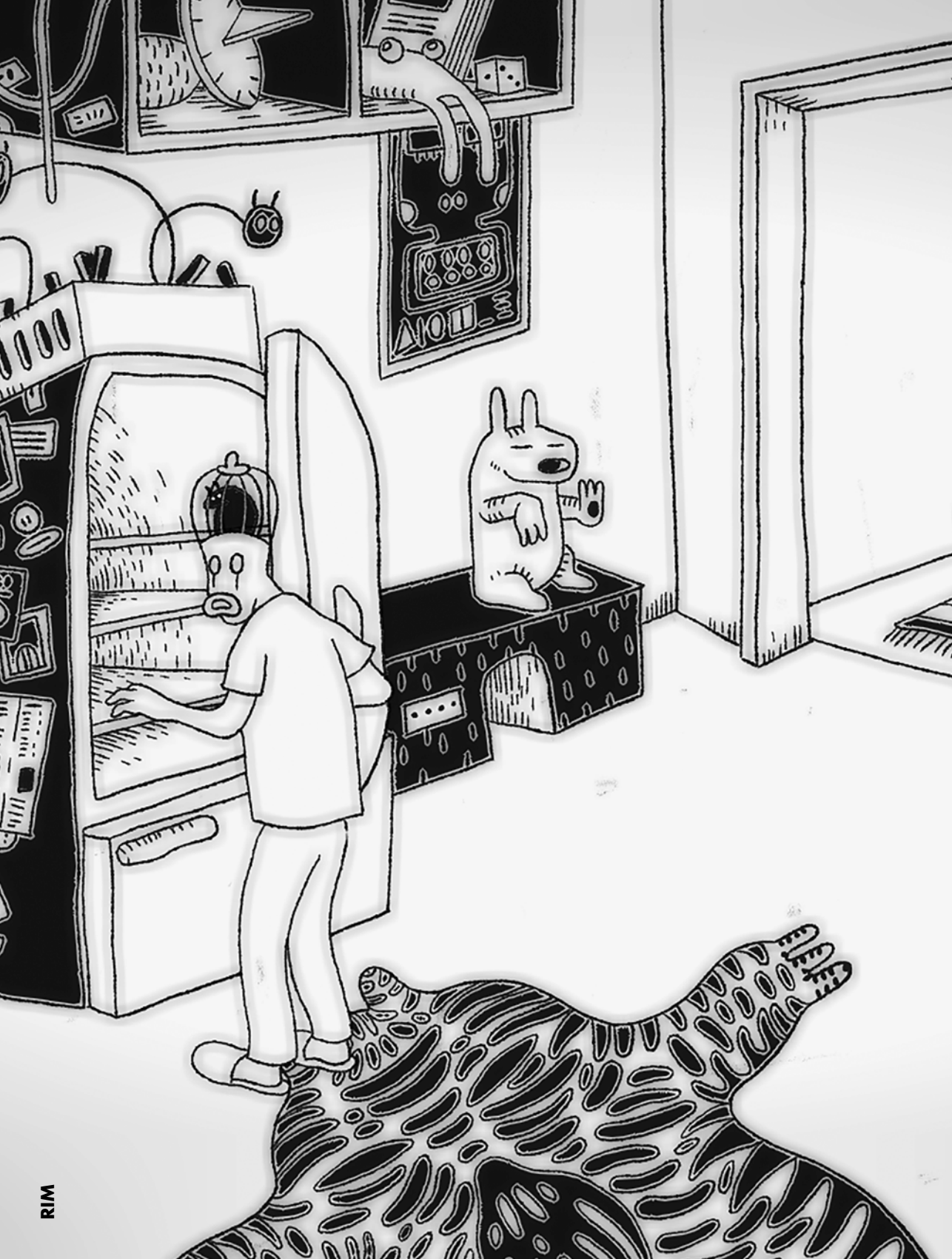
Print Source moritzgeiser@hotmail.de



Cranky teacher Helen and notorious problem student Mia hate the social roles they were assigned by the institution of highschool. When a seemingly harmless conflict between them escalates, the boundaries of their identity constructs and those of the cinematic narrative are blown

Original Title Warum Begeht Helen Koch Schweren
Kraftwagendiebstahl? **Running Time** 22min **Year** 2022
Country Germany **Language** German **Director** Moritz
Geiser **Screenwriter** Moritz Geiser **Producer** Moritz
Geiser, Milena Michalek **Key Cast** Anne Kulbatzki,
Aurelia Schäfer, Rahel Ohm, Wolfgang Michalek





World Animation Competition

Above the Clouds

Print Source harshegyivivi@gmail.com



There is a fluid kind of storytelling that can only be realised with animation. As we flip from reality to imagination, and back again, we feel our heroine's palpitations, her heart in her mouth. The subject? Love of course. Hungarian filmmaker Vivien Hárshgyi brilliantly captures its contradictory nature.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Felhők felett
Running Time 14min **Year** 2022 **Country** Hungary
Language Hungarian **Director** Vivien Hárshgyi
Screenwriter Vivien Hárshgyi **Producer** József Fülöp
 Sound Rahel Zimmermann

Bear Hug

Print Source production@jplfilms.com



At first glance, a sweet little film, in which the smallest bear in the forest has a party and wants someone to share his birthday cake. When the other bears ignore him, things soon take a darker turn. The best fairy tales have a sting in the tail, after all.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 11min **Year** 2021
Country Norway, France **Language** No Dialogue
Director Margrethe Danielsen **Screenwriter** Margrethe Danielsen
Producer Camille Raulo, Jean-François Bigot, Lise Fearnley, Tonje Skar Reiersen **Sound** Marcus Sander

The Bones

Print Source lucasengel@gmail.com



This incredible new multi-award winning film from The Wolf House (2018) directors Cristóbal León & Joaquín Cociña, is an account of the world's first stop-motion animated film. It documents a ritual performed by a girl who appears to use human corpses, resurrecting central figures in the construction of authoritarian and oligarchic Chile.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Los Huesos
Running Time 14min **Year** 2021 **Country** Chile
Language Spanish **Director** Cristóbal León, Joaquín Cociña
Screenwriter Cristóbal León, Joaquín Cociña
Producer Lucas Engel

Carnivorous Bean Sprout

Print Source kaniseed@kiafa.org



Reminiscent of Karel Čapek's classic novel *War with the Newts*, director Seo Sae-Rom has let loose a satirical comedy of biological splicing gone terribly wrong. But at the same time as fearing the creatures, we also have an excited fascination with them. Although nothing is quite as it first seems...

Running Time 5min **Year** 2021 **Country** South Korea **Language** Japanese **Director** Seo Sae-Rom **Screenwriter** Seo Sae-Rom **Producer** Seo Sae-Rom

Christopher at Sea

Print Source festival@miyu.fr



A queer melodrama set on a cargo ship, a transatlantic fantasy, an operatic labour of love that premiered this year in Venice. Each luminous frame is a piece of art, not to mention "the most beautiful mohair jumper ever seen on the silver screen", according to director Tom CJ Brown.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 15min **Year** 2022 **Country** France, USA, UK **Language** French, English **Director** Tom CJ Brown **Screenwriter** Tom CJ Brown, Laure Desmazières **Editor** David Cohen **Sound** Ant Food

A Coconut Tree

Print Source joshybenedictart@gmail.com



From seedling to shoot, from shoot to sturdy tree, animator Joshy Benedict parallels the lifespan of a coconut tree with that of the family who care for it. Suffused with light and music, there's a perfect simplicity to this touching film of how unexpected natural forces can affect our lives.

Premiere Status European **Running Time** 8min **Year** 2022 **Country** India **Language** No Dialogue **Director** Joshy Benedict **Screenwriter** Joshy Benedict **Producer** Joshy Benedict, Robinson Thomas

Ice Merchants

Print Source emanuel@curtas.pt



In a house perched high on a cliff, a man lives with his son, their lives a daily pattern of little routines. Each day sell the pair descend to sell ice in the village below. With colours and 'camera' angles that will delight, this film also has great metaphorical depth.

Premiere Status English **Running Time** 14min
Year 2022 **Country** Portugal **Language** No Dialogue
Director João Gonzalez **Screenwriter** João Gonzalez
Producer Bruno Caetano, Michaël Proença **Editor**
João Gonzalez

IDODO

Print Source ursula.ulmi@gmx.ch



A colourful, indigenous folk tale, set amid the coral reefs of the Pacific Islands. Director Ursula Ulmi has drawn on her own cultural heritage and those of her many artistic collaborators from the region to create a film that is rich in symbolism, combining song, costume, pattern, dance and music.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 10min
Year 2022 **Country** Switzerland, Papua New Guinea
Language English, Tok Pisin **Director** Ursula Ulmi
Screenwriter Ursula Ulmi **Producer** Ursula Ulmi **Key**
Cast David Miad, James and Eleanore Winfrey, Russel Bez

lizuna Fair

Print Source info@sumitosakakibara.com



Hovering somewhere between a painting and a film, lizuna Fair is a balm for the eyes. A piece originally commissioned by Nagano Art Museum, its central subject is a carnivalesque scene, an ever-changing profusion of faces and bodies, but with an eerie and beguiling quality of a James Ensor painting.

Running Time 12min **Year** 2021 **Country** Japan
Language No Dialogue **Director** Sumito Sakakibara

It's Nice in Here

Print Source hiddewdevries@gmail.com



Two teenagers with a tender friendship experience a tragic evening. What follows is a fractured retelling of that night, a single, fateful moment in time, seen from two perspectives. A disturbing study of implicit bias, beautifully animated by Robert-Jonathan Koeyers, recent graduate of Rotterdam's Willem de Kooning Academy.

Running Time 15min **Year** 2022 **Country** Netherlands
Language English **Director** Robert-Jonathan Koeyers
Sound Tim Fain

Once More With Feeling

Print Source pallavi.agarwala.works@gmail.com



Pallavi Agarwala is an animator from New Delhi. She started this film while studying in London, inspired by her many encounters with military statues around the capitol. Archive materials meet scything humour with a brilliantly original technique, which has echoes of an artistic tradition that includes Peter Kennard and Banksy.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 4min **Year** 2021
Country India, United Kingdom **Language** No Dialogue
Director Pallavi Agarwala **Screenwriter** Pallavi Agarwala **Producer** Pallavi Agarwala

The Queen of the Foxes

Print Source marina.rosset@gmail.com



The Queen of the Foxes is sad. The saddest fox of all. To assuage her yearning, the pack of foxes skulk around the moonlit town, collecting discarded love letters the inhabitants never sent. But their plans have unexpected consequences, in an incredibly fluffy and cute fairytale of love and solidarity.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Original Title** La Reine des Renards **Running Time** 9min **Year** 2022 **Country** Switzerland **Language** French **Director** Marina Rosset **Screenwriter** Marina Rosset **Producer** Marina Rosset

RIM

Print Source

Cristina Marx cristina.marx@filmuniversitaet.de



Animator Hagar Faibish's distinctively outlandish style is the perfect accompaniment to this humorously melancholic tale, set in a dystopian existence of televisual, media-saturated ennui. It's a surreal film, yet grounded in our modern world - which is the correct key to free your mind from relentless consumerism, religion and social conformity?

Running Time 7min **Year** 2022 **Country** Germany
Language No Dialogue **Director** Hagar Faibish
Screenwriter Hagar Faibish **Producer** Hagar Faibish

Sisters

Print Source kristina.skodova@famucz



One of the best graduation films you're likely to see, Andrea Szelesová's affecting animation has a gentle simplicity that allows for a variety of allegorical readings. In a film about dependency and the difficulty of letting go, a little girl takes care of her gigantic sister, trapped in the middle of a deserted land.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Original Title** Sestry
Running Time 11min **Year** 2021 **Country** Czechia
Language No Dialogue **Director** Andrea Szelesová
Screenwriter Andrea Szelesová **Producer** Ondřej Šejnoha

Steakhouse

Print Source kristina.skodova@famucz



Špela Čadež has been described as Slovenia's master of piñty psychological dramas and this new film is no exception. In a world that seems a little blurry around the edges, Franc is making preparations for his partner's birthday meal, but Lisa's co-workers have surprised her with a birthday party.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 10min
Year 2021 **Country** Slovenia, France, Germany
Language Slovenian **Director** Špela Čadež
Screenwriter Gregor Zorc

A Story for 2 Trumpets

Print Source festival@miyu.fr



It's no surprise this charming animation has been snapped up by the ever-reliable Miyu Distribution. It's a spectacular, watery watercolour tale of surreal beauty. A childhood fantasy where we meet a pipe-playing goose, strange sea-creatures, and cheeky babies, on a colourful journey of a girl becoming a woman and artist.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Original Title** Histoire pour 2 Trompettes **Running Time** 5min **Year** 2022 **Country** France **Language** French **Director** Amandine Meyer **Producer** Emmanuel-Alain Raynal, Pierre Baussaron

A Tiny Man

Print Source jerome@labelleaffaire.net



With a delicately pencilled animation style that recalls English animator Joanna Quinn, directors Aude David and Mikaël Gaudin tell a moral tale of nefarious schemes gone awry. As a husband faces the consequences of his actions, he perhaps begins to realise that maybe size does in fact matter.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Un Petit Homme **Running Time** 10min **Year** 2022 **Country** France **Language** No Dialogue **Director** Aude David, Mikaël Gaudin **Producer** Jérôme Blesson

Til We Meet Again

Print Source nukufilm@nukufilm.ee



A delicately realised tale of people who return to an island sixty years after their displacement. Hours of painstaking work have brought to life sand, feathers and other natural materials that were collected on that island in an attempt to describe the feeling of losing one's home.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 14min **Year** 2022 **Country** Estonia **Language** No Dialogue **Director** Ülo Pikkov **Screenwriter** Ülo Pikkov **Producer** Kerdi Oengo

Vitality

Print Source mikhal.bak@gmail.com



Joie de vivre is the perfect expression for this marvellously tactile story. It's the second in our programme to feature a fairground, which is emblematic of the freedom and fun sought by the young woman who is attracted to emerge from her safe, but cramped environment, by music and light.

Premiere Status UK **Original Title** Vitalité **Running Time** 3min **Year** 2021 **Country** France **Language** French **Director** Emilie Mereghetti **Screenwriter** Andree Chedid (poem) **Producer** Delphine Maury

Zoon

Print Source festival@miyu.fr



In an animated lesson of the indifference of nature, a species of frisky axolotl-creatures are unaware that they've become a tasty and transformative delicacy for a group of much larger forest dwellers. As their feast begins, these insatiable epicureans give no mind to the consequences their actions may result in.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 4min **Year** 2022 **Country** Germany **Language** No Dialogue **Director** Jonatan Schwenk **Screenwriter** Jonatan Schwenk, Merlin Flügel **Producer** Jonatan Schwenk **Sound** David Kamp

British Short Film Competition

The Barber

Print Source office@alysiamaciejowska.co.uk



Director Dhivya Kate Chetty's first narrative fiction film follows Leyla, a Kurdish refugee, as she waits for her asylum claim to be assessed in Glasgow, her infatuation with a charismatic Turkish barber forces her to confront her past trauma in order to face the future in hope.

Running Time 15min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English, Kurdish **Director** Dhivya Kate Chetty **Producer** Alysia Maciejowska **Key Cast** Dilek Rose, Umit Ulgen, Stephen McCole, Tavish McRorie, Rejoice Ogunyemi, Ula Chetty **Editor** Mark Fraser

The Bayview

Print Source festivals@scotdoc.com



A once derelict hotel on the North East Coast of Scotland has become an unlikely refuge for the many international fishermen who pass through a small harbour town. They find the warmest of welcomes, and an inspiringly open, non-judgemental kindness, in another typically excellent short presented by The Scottish Documentary Institute.

Running Time 18min **Year** 2021 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English **Director** Daniel Cook **Producer** Marcy Paterson **Editor** Jack Lang **Sound** Allan Whyte

Canvas 5

Print Source gjmgoggin@gmail.com



The directorial debut of actress and writer Karla Crome is a creepy and unnerving short. When a curator of a struggling art gallery is challenged by a journalist for putting on a controversial exhibition, she begins to question her ethical choices, and her sanity, as canvas no. 5 begins to exert its own vengeful influence.

Running Time 13min **Year** 2021 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English **Director** Karla Crome **Screenwriter** Karla Crome **Producer** Georgia Goggin, Amy Wells, Martha Hood **Key Cast** Ruth Madeley, Angela Wynter

The Electricity in Me

Print Source mat@aesthetik.film



Centred around a riveting, one-take monologue from Ellora Torchia (Ali & Ava, In The Earth), this composed and compelling portrait is based on the diaries and letters of the director's mother. After giving up her newborn for adoption, she confronts her trauma and memories of the man she calls 'my monster'.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 10min
Year 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English
Director Mat Sheldon **Screenwriter** Mat Sheldon
Producer Mat Sheldon, Nileema Yesmin
Editor Lucy Berry **Key Cast** Ellora Torchia

Let's Not Do This Tonight

Print Source marcie@frankandlively.com



A rural petrol station run by long married, loving couple, Mara and Tony, is the isolated setting for this tense thriller. On the night of their wedding anniversary, events that neither of the couple expected change their lives forever, and Mara is forced to confront her own prejudices and moral choices.

Running Time 17min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom
Language English **Director** John Jencks
Screenwriter Alex Reid **Producer** Marcie MacLellan
Key Cast Ellie Haddington, Clive Russell, Claudius Peters, Abe Katz

Listen to Mother

Print Source archiejohnstonstewart@gmail.com



A very effective horror short film, which manages to maintain emotional realism alongside great suspense, depicts a grieving social worker who is sent out on a call to a remote farmhouse. When she finds a young boy living there, seemingly alone, she begins to suspect something awful has happened.

Running Time 18min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom
Language English **Director** Jamie Gyngell
Screenwriter Jamie Gyngell **Producer** Archie Johnston Stewart
Key Cast Pippa Nixon, Tom Sweet

London's Forgotten

Print Source liamrogers00@hotmail.com



In the misty streets of our capital, a wanderer drifts through an other-worldly narrative of the depressing and seemingly endless cycle of knife crime. The film is a poetic indictment of a system that allows the increasing and insidious effects of urban violence, on the forgotten victims, and those left to mourn.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 10min
Year 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English
Director Liam Pinheiro-Rogers **Screenwriter** Liam Pinheiro-Rogers **Producer** Levon Gharibian, Reiss Kersh, Cyrus Mirzashafa **Editor** Ellis Evans **Key Cast** Jonathan Jules, Richard Robb-Semple, Paul Low-Hang, Lisa Spencer, Alan Hall

Look for the Diamonds

Print Source jamesgoodtimes@hotmail.com



Bradford born, director James Slater documents Joel who has four kidneys, but none of them work. He has to go on dialysis every day in order to survive but refuses to let his condition define him. Through a uniquely positive outlook on life, Joel is not just surviving, but living.

Running Time 13min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English **Director** James Slater
Producer James Slater, Lou Gallagher **Key Cast** Joel Goldberg

Love Languages

Print Source jason@projectmust.com



A nuanced and intimate view into an Afro-Caribbean barbershop, with the barber's chair acting as a makeshift therapist's couch, six black men share their personal experiences of love and loss through emotive introspection from boisterous hilarity to touching honesty, whilst challenging perceptions of their identity and black masculinity.

Running Time 13min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English **Director** Jason Osborne
Producer Precious Mahaga **Editor** Mdharnari á Nkemi

A Moral Man

Print Source sarah@island-pictures.co.uk



Sibling writers and directors, Paul and Simon Wade present a complex moral dilemma with honesty and compassion enhanced by an extraordinary performance from actor Toby Jones, a right-to-die evangelist wrestling with his faith when he is asked to assist in the death of a woman who is not terminally ill.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 19min
Country United Kingdom **Language** English **Director**
Paul Wade, Simon Wade **Screenwriter** Paul Wade,
Simon Wade **Producer** Sarah Beardsall, Elliot Barker
Key Cast Toby Jones, Claudie Blakley

Photo Booth

Print Source rezvany.films@gmail.com



Roxy Rezvany, an independent British artist filmmaker of Iranian-Malaysian-Chinese descent celebrates marginalised narratives whilst exploring themes of family, home and belonging through a refreshing and insightful romantic comedy drama about an immigrant couple in 1970s London, and their relationship navigating both Britain's immigration laws and each other.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 8min
Country United Kingdom **Language** English **Director**
Roxy Rezvany **Screenwriter** Roxy Rezvany **Producer**
Elly Camisa **Key Cast** Lorraine Tai, Elham Ehsas

Prosopagnosia

Print Source festivals@scotdoc.com



Prosopagnosia is a colourful and personal exploration of face-blindness - a form of neurodiversity that renders someone incapable of recognizing faces. The film opens up an animated memory box of diaries, photographs and sketchbooks, combining themes of memory, masks and social interactions, to understand a life of seeing things differently.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 10min
Country United Kingdom **Language** English
Director Steven Fraser **Producer** Reece Cargan
Sound Leif Kaner-Lidstrom

Shelf Life

Print Source lukeroulstone42@gmail.com



A wicked comedic horror with arresting visuals introduces Philippa Dunne as Dorothy, who spends her days glued to her computer, sometimes literally with her lips, worshipping a pizza delivery boy she meets on-line. But as life treats her like a mouldy peach, she soon starts to feel like one.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 19min
Year 2021 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English
Director Luke Roulstone **Screenwriter** Luke Roulstone
Producer Jessica Turner **Key Cast** Philippa Dunne, Nuala Walsh, Alexandros Fragkos, Grant Gillespie, Ellis Kerkhoven, Chris Lane, Sarah Woodruff, Darren Lawrence, Louise Green, Gintare Smigelskyte

Your Mountain Is Waiting

Print Source niyat@passion-pictures.com



Numbed by her inner-city life, Martha has become ambivalent to her surroundings, until a strange drink and a chance encounter lead her, and a new companion to discover surreal and beautiful inner worlds. Director and designer Hannah Jacobs has created a delightful and playful film about the possibilities of transcendence.

Running Time 8min **Year** 2021 **Country** United Kingdom
Language No Dialogue **Director** Hannah Jacobs
Screenwriter Harriet Gillian **Producer** Zoe Muslim, Kitty Turley
Animator Harriet Gillian



Love Languages

Yorkshire Competition

Apron or Hairdryer?

Print Source bengbrownfilm@gmail.com



Matthew is a talented artist, musician, and an attendee of Pyramid of Arts, who help people with learning disabilities to discover and develop their talents by disrupting social and institutional barriers. This film delves into Matthew's artistic process, revealing his heart-warming personality, talent, vision, curiosity, and charming sense of humour.

Premiere Status World **Running Time** 14min
Year 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language**
English **Director** Ben G. Brown **Producer**
Ben G. Brown **Editor** Lia Hayes

Hope You Fail

Print Source alison.grasso@gmail.com



You may remember Rich Myers' brief global fame when his social media response to Trading Standards banning his use of imported American sprinkles, went viral. Andy uses this fame to boost his Headingley-based dessert shop, in a documentary highlighting the perilous existence of small businesses in an increasingly online world.

Running Time 19min **Year** 2022 **Country** United
Kingdom **Language** English **Director** Alison Grasso
Editor Alison Grasso

Incompatible

Print Source me@shakyradowlingcasting.com



A heart-breaking yet vital short from Maxine Peake, which provides insight into a woman in turmoil struggling with the diagnosis of her unborn child, which highlights the importance of choice, understanding and support, in a world where women are still fighting for autonomy over their own lives and bodies.

Running Time 15min **Year** 2022 **Country** United
Kingdom **Language** English **Director** Maxine Peake
Screenwriter Hayley Jayne Standing **Producer**
Shakyrá Dowling, Jessica Levick **Key Cast** Shobna Gulati,
Carla Henry, Hayley Jayne Standing

Robin

Print Source miketstevenson@outlook.com



Based on a real story, recovering addict Joseph starts a job in a Care Home and an unlikely friendship develops with Robin, a selectively mute, autistic resident. After witnessing the vulnerability of Robin, Joseph sets out to encourage him back into a world beyond the confines of his solitary existence.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 19min
Year 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English **Director** Tristan Shepherd **Screenwriter** James Wallwork, Salvatore D'Aquila **Producer** Michael Stevenson, Luke Carroll **Key Cast** Salvatore D'Aquila, James Wallwork, Suzanne Packer

Views from Sunk Island

Print Source michaelcoldwell@outlook.com



Michael C Coldwell's photographic exploration of the East Riding coast is a fascinating investigation of a haunted margin between shore and sea, and of obsolescent concrete monuments to war, swept away by the erosion of both memory and land. Can we divine our future in this ruin of our collective amnesia?

Running Time 15min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English **Director** Michael C. Coldwell **Screenwriter** Michael C. Coldwell

Warm

Print Source hollie@cosmosquarefilms.co.uk



Following Alfie Barker's acclaimed short *Hanging On* (LIFF35), this touching drama was created with associate director and Leeds-based artist, Masego Lynia. Inspired by a true story, Malaika and her two children take shelter in a swimming pool, and try to overcome their recent trauma, in the after-hours of their impermanent home.

Premiere Status World **Running Time** 12min
Year 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English, French, Swahili **Director** Alfie Barker, Masego Lynia **Screenwriter** Alfie Barker **Producer** Hollie Bryan **Key Cast** Kashindi Amadi, Asheq Akhtar, Omari Asumani, Safi Asumani

Leeds Queer Short Film Competition

100% USDA Certified Organic Homemade Tofu

Print Source mireiavilanova95@gmail.com



Nikki spices things up at her mom's struggling tofu restaurant while working to afford her breast augmentation surgery. Equal-parts loveable and bratty, you can't help but root for her as she pursues her goal, helping out both her mother's business and their fraught relationship in the process.

Premiere Status European **Running Time** 14min
Year 2022 **Country** United States **Language** English, Korean **Director** Gbenga Komolafe **Screenwriter** Tee Jaehyung Park **Producer** Mireia Vilanova, Molly Hallam **Editor** Minjae Kang **Key Cast** Minju Kim Pascual, Twon Pope, Austria Wang

Borderline

Print Source film_dabin@daum.net



Yoonsung, a radical feminist, works as a waitress for a part-time job. One day, she's suddenly demoted, and the newcomer Jihee unintentionally replaces her. A complicated story of workplace politics, gender policing, and maybe being not quite as progressive as you thought you were.

Running Time 17min **Year** 2022 **Country** South Korea **Language** Korean **Director** Eun-sang Ko **Screenwriter** Eun-sang Ko **Producer** Yong-wook Baek **Key Cast** In-kyung Kim, Han-bit Choi **Sound** Celisse Tan, Adam Greenberg

Changement

Print Source knegus@arizona.edu



Ballet has remained a highly traditional art form, with most of its movement and pieces revolving solely around heteronormative, cisgendered practices and labels. This documentary touches on historical elements of ballet while opening up the discussion around more inclusive and welcoming language, stories, and narratives.

Premiere Status International **Running Time** 9min
Year 2021 **Country** United States **Language** English
Director Sasha Reist **Producer** Sasha Reist **Key Cast** Cat Cogliandro, Madelyn Lever

Christian

Print Source lineupshorts@gmail.com



Eager to enter the Catholic seminary, Cristiano finds the interviewer responsible for vocations is the priest of his childhood parish. In this touching and laugh-out-loud tale of identity, Cristiano shares an intimate secret which will determine his future.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Original Title** Cristiano
Running Time 11min **Year** 2021 **Country** Spain
Language Spanish **Director** Adán Pichardo
Screenwriter Adán Pichardo **Producer** Adán Pichardo
Key Cast Nacho Guerreros, Iván Vigara

Eliza

Print Source contact@amypennington.co.uk



Working-class Victorian “poet of the people” Eliza Cook inexplicably finds herself in modern-day Kent, making a visit to the estate where she wrote many of her famous works. She takes the viewers on a journey through her life in this charming mockumentary.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 10min
Year 2021 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English
Director Amy Pennington **Screenwriter** Amy Pennington
Key Cast Amy Pennington

The Magentalman and The Gentlemint

Print Source james.crang1@gmail.com



The Magentalman lives an ordinary life in his empty world. Every day is the same. Life is boringly black and white, until there’s green. Mint green. A sweet animated love story about how it feels to find your soulmate.

Running Time 5min **Year** 2021 **Country** United Kingdom
Language English **Director** James Crang
Screenwriter James Crang, Amy Kettles

Mickey or Minnie

Print Source dykeumentary@gmail.com



Krissy Mahan is a self-taught filmmaker whose work uses humour to explore contemporary issues such as accessibility, gender expression and classism. This silent stop-motion animation re-enacts a true tale of being denied entrance to a loo by an oversized mouse.

Running Time 2min **Year** 2022 **Country** United States **Language** English **Director** Krissy Mahan
Screenwriter Krissy Mahan

Minutes

Print Source alixxeve@gmail.com



A collection of vignettes takes the viewer through Jordan and Harriet's romance, from start to finish. We get to witness the moments that make up a relationship, from the mundane to the definitive. A day, a month, a year, a lifetime— they're all just a collection of minutes.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 14min
Year 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English
Director Alix Eve, Olivia Dowd **Screenwriter** Alix Eve, Olivia Dowd, Ell Potter, Ella Dacres **Producer** Alix Eve, Olivia Dowd **Key Cast** Ella Dacres, Ell Potter

Mom, If I were a Vampire

Print Source chuang.deborah@gmail.com



Wen, a 17-year-old restless and insecure girl dislikes her disapproving mother, and vows to be nothing like her. She becomes infatuated with her schoolmate Jo, following her down a rabbit hole of drugs, sex and dangerous encounters. Wen will discover a part of herself she didn't know existed.

Premiere Status European **Running Time** 17min
Year 2021 **Country** Taiwan **Language** Mandarin Chinese **Director** Deborah Devyn Chuang
Screenwriter Deborah Devyn Chuang **Producer** Deborah Devyn Chuang **Key Cast** Ting Chiu, Yuxuan Wang, Rou-Ming Huang

Octopus

Print Source jessi@figfilms.co.uk



Returning to her seaside hometown for a close friend's funeral, Mini reconnects with old friends and old flames, and finds herself torn between her old life and her new one. An honest, heart-wrenching story about grief, identity, parenthood, and growing up different in a small town.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 13min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English
Director Ella Glendining **Screenwriter** Ella Glendining
Producer Jessi Gutch **Key Cast** Annabelle Davis, Yaz Zadeh

One Like Him

Print Source jessica.palmarozza@gmail.com



Karim must find a way to tell his childhood friend and first love, Ramzi, the truth about what happened twenty years ago. This single moment changed both their lives. When he can't find the words, the conversation repeats, becoming increasingly surreal.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 15min **Year** 2021 **Country** Jordan, United Kingdom **Language** Arabic **Director** Caitlin McLeod **Screenwriter** Tareq Baconi, Caitlin McLeod **Producer** Jessica Palmarozza
Key Cast Kais Nashif, Loai Noufi **Sound** Evan Bode

Puberty

Print Source areyoucrazy88@hotmail.com



An experimental documentary of filmmaker Yuen Hsieh's journey into adulthood, via drag and his chosen family of the Shanghai Ballroom scene. Thanks to a thriving internet and the birth of aesthetics of the new epoch, many Chinese adolescents have broken the wall of dual gender to explore their unknown selves

Running Time 4min **Year** 2021 **Country** Taiwan, China
Language Mandarin Chinese **Director** Yuen Hsieh
Screenwriter Yuen Hsieh **Sound** Megan Phillips

Punch Line

Print Source cheatle@gmail.com



Attacked on the way to her gig, a skateboarding trans comedian processes her feelings and reclaims her agency through standup comedy.

Running Time 10min **Year** 2022 **Country** Ireland **Language** English **Director** Becky Cheatle
Screenwriter Becky Cheatle, Allie O'Rourke **Producer** Ama Addo **Key Cast** Allie O'Rourke

The Rainbow Dung Beetle

Print Source rainbowdungbeetle@gmail.com



Accustomed to camouflaging himself with mud to hide from predators, Desmond the dung beetle learns from his new neighbours that his true colours can be used to his advantage. A heartfelt message of inclusion and being true to oneself.

Running Time 7min **Year** 2022 **Country** United States
Language English **Director** Ellen Mowat, Cole Dupzyk
Screenwriter Brad Davis **Producer** Nikki Spina, Sam Kite **Key Cast** Kevin Chamberlin, Amy Seeley, Jane Simonetti, Lo Lundeen

Supreme

Print Source yd@goldeneggproduction.ch



In the euphoria of the end of one of their shows, seven drag queens are confronted with adversities which put their bonds to the test. The film highlights gestures of tenderness, desire for love, and reconciliation through characters endearing, beautiful, extroverted and fragile all at once.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 20min **Year** 2021 **Country** Switzerland **Language** French **Director** Youssef Youssef **Screenwriter** Youssef Youssef **Producer** Gabriela Bussmann, Yan Decoppet **Key Cast** Hugo Marinoni, Edouard Cabrera, Charley Klein, Sebek Krivaqa, Nina Lebrun, Yannick Geiser, Beatriz Anguita

Tank Fairy

Print Source erichrettstadt@gmail.com

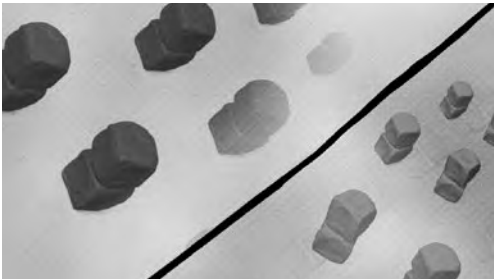


Jojo is a lonely ten-year-old who dreams of dancing and drag. Outcast by classmates and misunderstood by his mum, Jojo's life is upended by a fierce fairy godmother who delivers propane tanks to his apartment building. A surreal, camp, glittery musical extravaganza.

Premiere Status English **Running Time** 10min **Year** 2021 **Country** Taiwan **Language** Mandarin Chinese
Director Erich Rettstadt **Screenwriter** Erich Rettstadt
Producer C.K. Hugo Chung, Anita Tung **Key Cast**
Marian Mesula, Ryan Lin, Danielle Yen

Thine Own Self

Print Source etbode@syr.edu



Torn from their home by a hand in the sky, colorful spirits struggle against a tyrannical binary in this surreal, wordless piece of mixed-media animation about the pursuit of authentic selfhood. Can they become a light in the darkness?

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 6min **Year** 2021 **Country** United States **Language** No Dialogue
Director Evan Bode **Screenwriter** Evan Bode

Leeds Screendance Competition

A Body Is

Print Source jaime@lacostaproduce.com



Antonio José Martínez Palacios was set to be a celebrity musician of the 20th Century. But at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, he was incarcerated and executed without trial at the age of 33.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 4min
Year 2022 **Country** Spain **Director** Jaime Dezcallar
Screenwriter Jaime Dezcallar **Producer** Jaime Dezcallar **Key Cast** Marcos Flores

A Drifting Up

Print Source jacobjohnlee1@gmail.com



An exploration of dance as device for overcoming depression, this charming short is an urban voyage from isolation to connection.

Running Time 10min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Director** Jacob Lee

amser/time

Print Source lightladdemberton@gmail.com



In the intertidal zone, between land and sea, three people move, with arresting visual imagery through three remarkable sites to probe our current climate crisis.

Running Time 6min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Director** Deborah Light **Producer** Deborah Light, Eddie Ladd, Gwyn Emberton **Key Cast** Deborah Light, Eddie Ladd, Jake Nwogu

Fragility of Language

Print Source nefeli_kentoni@hotmail.com



Three women eat their tongue. The tongue is flesh and makes them who they are. An allegory on the fragile memory of languages, you are invited to join this bizarre party.

Running Time 4min **Year** 2022 **Country** Cyprus, United Kingdom **Language** English, Modern Greek
Director Nefeli Kentoni **Screenwriter** Nefeli Kentoni
Producer Nefeli Kentoni **Key Cast** Emmelia Georgiou, Maria Masonou, Melina Koutsofta

Herbarium

Print Source renelisso@wp.pl



Mesmerising choreography composed to a suite by Edward Grieg, performers from the Polish Dance Theatre invite the audience to witness the seasons of a plant from a different perspective.

Running Time 13min **Year** 2022 **Country** Poland
Director Iwona Pasińska **Screenwriter** Iwona Pasińska
Producer Polish Dance Theatre **Key Cast** Evelyn Blue, Kacper Bożek, Julia Halka, Paulina Jaksim, Patryk Jarczok, Jerzy Kaźmierczak, Zbigniew Kocięba, Katarzyna Kulmińska, Dominik Kupka, Daniel Michna, JinWoo Namkung, Pau Perez-Pique, Katarzyna Rzetelska, Zofia Tomczyk, Sandra Szatan, Amily Wong-Andryańczyk

I Fall

Print Source dan@fallenangelsdt.org



Created by Fallen Angels Dance Theatre together with users now in recovery, this visceral short explores the chaos and carnage of heroin addiction. Despite the despair of a twisted love story, we learn that hope and recovery are possible.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 11min
Year 2022 **Country** United Kingdom **Language** English, Welsh
Director Dan Thorburn **Screenwriter** Eve Steele **Producer** Claire Morris **Key Cast** Hannah Rudd, Jonathan Savage

Naari (Opening Student Film)

Print Source

a.kokate7266@student.leedsbeckett.ac.uk



With a specially composed score, this year's student-film opener portrays a woman through classical Kathak dance from India.

Premiere Status World **Running Time** 6min **Year** 2021 **Country** United Kingdom, India **Language** Hindi
Director Arya Kokate **Screenwriter** Arya Kokate
Producer Arya Kokate **Key Cast** Diya Shailya

Porch Light

Print Source nedfarr@mac.com

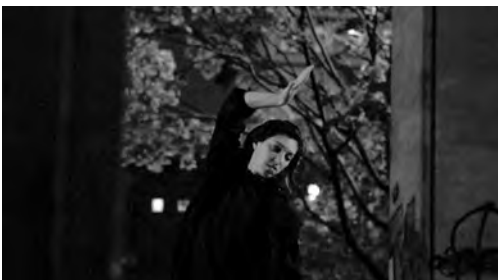


A young woman returns home in search of the childhood she lost. To find it, she must struggle through her own emotional obstacle course. As she bravely sheds her baggage, we are reminded of what it can take to face our past.

Premiere Status International **Running Time** 6min
Year 2022 **Country** United States **Director** Ned Farr
Screenwriter Ned Farr **Producer** Cat Rider **Key Cast**
Mya McClellan, Lauren Raynore, Victor Holley

Slit Drift

Print Source sydneybuchan@gmail.com



An exploration of movement and loss through the urban landscape.

Premiere Status World **Running Time** 5min **Year** 2022
Country Germany **Language** English, German
Director Sydney Buchan **Screenwriter** Sydney Buchan
Producer Joy Joregensen **Key Cast** Sydney Buchan

STAVROPOL

Print Source andymargetson@gmail.com



Shot in a derelict factory on the outskirts of Stavropol, this film features a choreographed 'battle' between two teams of neon clad female dancers, with an intriguing twist.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 4min
Country Russia, United Kingdom **Director** Andrew Margetson
Producer Irina Kononova, Andrew Margetson
Key Cast Irina Kononova, Anna Vishnyakiova, Anna Kozlovskaya, Julia Korobeynikova, Ekaterina Zvyaginiceva

What Are We Doing

Print Source katyabourviski@googlemail.com



An evocative synthesis of digital footage and analogue film, this bittersweet dance film frankly interrogates the challenge of retaining autonomy within a relationship

Running Time 5min **Year** 2022 **Country** United Kingdom
Director Katya Esme Maya Bourvis, Sophie Jane Park
Producer Katya Esme Maya Bourvis
Key Cast Dominic Rocca, Benjamin Knapper

Leeds Music Video Competition



Alexandra Alden

Vagabond

Director Bruce Micallef Eynaud



Alt J

The Actor

Director Saskia Dixie



Backspace

Six Eyed Dragonfly

Director Jingran Damo Yang



Bobby 3lue

Colossus

Director

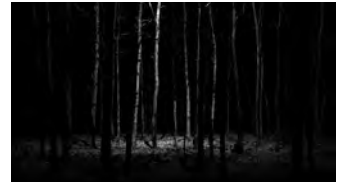
Michelle Angela Sastraatmadja



Brodka

Game Change

Director Michal Hudzikowski



Buen Camino

A New Day

Director Sebastian Juszczyk



Caterina Barbieri

Broken Melody

Director Iacopo Carapell



D'Nomada

The Sky Belongs to No-one

Director Manuel Del Valle



David Heatley

On Your Side

Director David Heatley



Dynoro ft. 24kGoldn
Monsters
Director Taisia Deeva



Far Caspian
Following the Trend
Director Andy Little



Flavien
Indil Malta
Director Flavien Peteul



Gathering Speed
Oliver Earnest
Director Sarah Daisy Ellersdorfer



JNKYRD
JNKYRD ft Ohhyuk
Director Gyuri Cloe Lee



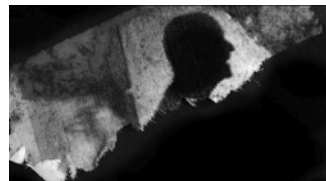
**Leon Bridges
& Khrungbin**
Chocolate Hills
Director Cady Buche, Travis Barron



**Mykki Blanco
ft. Michael Stipe**
Family Ties
Director Krishna Muthurangu,
Kit Monteith



**OVERWERK
x Pilotpriest**
Parallel
Director Olaf Blomerus



Tulipomania
You Had to Be There
Director Cheryl Gelover, Tom Murray

Films Femmes Afrique



LIFF 2022 Spotlights — Films Femmes Afrique: Women Creators of the Future

LIFF 2022 is delighted to be collaborating with the Films Femmes Afrique Festival in Senegal to present a special programme of films by and about women from across Africa and the diaspora, supported by the British Council. Films Femmes Afrique held its 5th edition in March 2022 with the theme 'Women Creators of the Future', and we continue this celebration at LIFF this year with a selection of documentary and fiction titles that tell remarkable stories of African women. Many of the titles are debut features, highlighting the sheer talent of female filmmakers across the continent.

The selection of films includes: Erige Sehiri's acclaimed fiction debut *Under The Fig Trees*; Maryam Touzani returning to LIFF with her latest feature *The Blue Caftan*, in addition to her much loved debut *Adam*; and a special programme of shorts reflecting on what it means to call a place home.

Special events include: the Afro-futurist musical *Neptune Frost* with a panel discussion on African cinema and cinephilia; the spellbinding documentary *Above Water* with a panel discussion on climate change, in partnership with Global Leeds; and *Youth*, the first feature film made in Djibouti, in partnership with Cinema Africa!.

Above Water

Set against a backdrop of spellbinding desert landscapes, with a vibrant musical score, *Above Water* immerses us in the life of a village in Niger, one of the sub-Saharan countries hardest hit by global warming. Over the course of a year we see the effects of climate change and the slow transformation of a formerly nomadic community. Every day, 12-year-old Houlaye and her friends walk several kilometres to fetch water. As the village rallies together to obtain the construction of a well, there is promise of a new life. Followed by a panel discussion on Climate Change, supported by Global Leeds.

'It was very important to be as close as possible to people and their experiences. I couldn't imagine this film being external, with a voice-over for example. I was lucky to have met gracious people who placed their trust in me... It was a way of highlighting how the issue of global warming affects the issue of migration. In the recent past, the rainy season lasted many months, whereas today it lasts three months. Ponds and wells were filled for most of the year, families stayed together and did not need to be separated for months. These were rich ethnic groups with very large herds. These people were not in need one or two generations ago.' Director Aïssa Maïga, from an interview with Cannes Film Festival.

Original Title
Marcher sur l'eau
Countries
Niger, France, Belgium
Year
2020
Running Time
1hr 30min
Languages
French with subtitles
Director
Aïssa Maïga
Screenwriter
Ariane Kirtley
Aïssa Maïga
Guy Lagache
Producer
Jean-François Camilleri
Yves Darondeau
Serge Hayat
Leading Cast
Houlaye Yidimama
Souri Malam
Barka Dari
Cinematographer
Rousslan Dion
Editor
Linda Attab
Isabelle Devinck
Print Source
Orange Studio



Adam

The lives of two vulnerable women in Casablanca - one pregnant, homeless, and shunned, the other a grieving widow - converge and transform in this beautifully intimate directorial debut by Maryam Touzani. Abla runs a modest local bakery from her home, where she looks after her 8 year-old daughter Warda. Their routine of housework and homework is interrupted when Samia, a young woman pregnant out of wedlock, arrives looking for a job and a place to stay. Reluctant at first, gradually Abla's resolve softens and Samia's arrival begins to offer all of them the prospect of a new life.

'The film was born from a real encounter, painful yet inspiring, that forever left an indelible mark on me. I knew a young woman who inspired me for the character of Samia. She landed in Tangier, fleeing her family after becoming pregnant then being left by the man who had promised to marry her...My parents took her in when she showed up on their doorstep, although they didn't even know her...I felt an urgency to write and tell this story upon becoming a mother myself. Her story came together with my own wounds, my experience with loss, the distress one can feel, the denial, the unresolved grief. Yet, there also was my joy to be a mother. This is how Adam began to take shape.'

Director Maryam Touzani

Countries

Morocco, France

Year

2019

Running Time

1hr 38min

Languages

Arabic with subtitles

Director

Maryam Touzani

Screenwriter

Maryam Touzani

Producer

Nabil Ayouch

Amine Benjelloun

Patrick Quinet

Leading Cast

Lubna Azabal

Nisrin Erradi

Douae Belkhaouda

Cinematographer

Virginie Surdej

Editor

Yassine Marchoud

Julie Naas

Print Source

Films Boutique



The Blue Caftan

Countries

Morocco, France,
Denmark, Belgium

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 48min

Languages

Arabic with subtitles

Director

Maryam Touzani

Screenwriter

Maryam Touzani

Producer

Nabil Ayouch
Amine Benjelloun
Eva Jakobsen

Leading Cast

Lubna Azabal
Saleh Bakri
Ayoub Missioui

Cinematographer

Virginie Surdej

Editor

Nicolas Rumpf

Print Source

New Wave

Returning with her second feature - following its FIPRESCI prize-winning premiere at Cannes- writer and director Maryam Touzani (LIFF 2019's Adam) asserts her expertise in capturing the intimacy and tenderness in human relationships. In one of Morocco's oldest medinas, Mina runs a small shop selling traditional caftans created by her husband, master tailor Halim. Struggling to keep up with demand they hire a young male apprentice, but it's not long before Mina notices how much her husband is moved by the presence of this young man.

'I work a lot based on my feelings and inspiration; I don't intellectualise things when I write. While I was scouting for a location for my previous film, Adam, I made a decisive encounter in the medina of Salé with a gentleman who ran a hair salon for women. He greatly inspired the character of Halim. I felt that there was, in his life, the presence of something unsaid, something smothered with respect to who he truly was deep down, and who he tried to be in order to face the world, within a highly conservative environment... I spent a lot of time with him, and he left a deep impression on me.' Director Maryam Touzani



Fig Tree

Aalam-Warqe Davidian's semi-autobiographical first feature is a potent glimpse of adolescence amid civil war. 16 year old Jewish Mina, is trying to navigate between a surreal routine dictated by the civil war in Ethiopia and her last days of youth with her Christian boyfriend Eli. When she discovers that her family is planning to immigrate to Israel and escape the war, she weaves an alternate plan in order to save Eli, who is just the right age to be recruited by the local militias.

'On May 25th 1991, I had to unexpectedly leave my life in Ethiopia. I was 10 years old, only a few days before Mengistu Haile Mariam was overthrown, and despite the rumours about an impending war, my incognizant last days in Ethiopia passed quite normally.... I want to tell the stories of the people that surround my memories and give a face on the lives of immigrants. While they might look happy and revived when they come to a new country, as if they achieved a goal, the truth is that for many of us, as for the Fig Tree's heroine, immigration is not just a new beginning but also the end of an era and a personal tragedy.' Director Aäläm-Wärqe Davidian

Countries

Israel, France, Ethiopia, Germany

Year

2018

Running Time

1hr 33min

Languages

Amharic, Hebrew with subtitles

Director

Aäläm Wärqe Davidian

Screenwriter

Aäläm Wärqe Davidian

Producer

Sandrine Brauer

Felix Eisele

Ran Friedberg

Leading Cast

Yohannes Musa

Betalehem Asmamaw

Weyenshiet Belachew

Cinematographer

Daniel Miller

Editor

Arik Lahav-Leibovich

Print Source

Films Boutique



Freda

Countries

Haiti, Benin, France

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 33min

Languages

Haitian, French with subtitles & English

Director

Gessica Génés

Screenwriter

Gessica Génés

Producer

Francis Ford Coppola

Jean-Marie Gigon

Leading Cast

Nehemie Bastien

Gaëlle Bien-Aimé

Djanaina Francois

Cinematographer

Karine Aulnette

Editor

Rodolphe Molla

Print Source

SaNoSi Productions

A production from the African diaspora, Gessica Geneus' Creole-language debut feature is a celebration of female resilience underpinned by a vivid evocation of life in Haiti. Freda is a determined young university student, living with her family in a poor neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince, where they run a small street shop. Faced with precarious living conditions, colonial legacies and the rise of violence, she must decide whether to stay in her deeply troubled country or seek a future elsewhere. Freda wants to believe in the future of her country.

'Above all I wanted to show Haitian society from a female perspective because this perspective is generally overlooked. Women are underrepresented and the analysis of the situation of our country is monopolised by men. I wanted to do it through fiction because that's how I began my acting career when I was 17. I wanted to portray female characters and try to understand their complexity, the complexity of making human choices, to show what men and women in Haiti face every day. To ask basic, concrete questions such as "How do we get by from day to day, and how do we keep going?"' Director Gessica Génés



Neptune Frost

Countries

Rwanda, France,
Canada, USA

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 49min

Languages

Kinyarwanda, Kirundi,
Swahili, French with
subtitles & English

Director

Anisia Uzeyman
Saul Williams

Screenwriter

Saul Williams

Producer

Ekaterina Baker
Luke Daniels
Dave Guenette

Leading Cast

Cheryl Isheja
Bertrand Ninteretse
Eliane Umuhire

Cinematographer

Anisia Uzeyman

Editor

Anisha Acharya

Print Source

Anti-Worlds

Neptune Frost is a genre-defying, Afro-futurist, sci-fi punk musical created and composed by Saul Williams and co-directed with Rwandan actor Anisia Uzeyman. An electrifying connection between intersex runaway Neptune and coltan miner Matalusa creates a virtual offspring with the potential to ignite a revolution against the authoritarian regime. Made with an entirely Rwandan and Burundian cast and crew, Neptune Frost presents an intoxicatingly original way to explore the role of technology as both oppressor and liberator. Followed by a panel discussion on African cinema and cinephilia.

‘Saul and I worked side by side on the creation of this project from the beginning. We developed the cinematic language together and he insisted that I would be the DP of Neptune Frost, so I went into deep and long studies and camera tests for two years. I think the freshness of my take and the freedom that goes with it were the key factors. He knew I would dare to push for the so-called impossible. Also, my connection to Rwanda, to music and my feminine gaze are part of the reason it was me... The camera movements were almost choreographed to amplify the ensemble feeling, the dances and the musicality of that universe.’ Co-Director and Cinematographer Anisia Uzeyman, from an interview with Filmmaker Magazine



No Simple Way Home

This deeply personal documentary is an intergenerational story of love, loss and belonging. After growing up in exile, director Akuol de Mabior returns home to South Sudan to follow her mother's path to becoming vice president. Her late father led the liberation movement for over twenty years and is revered as the founding father of South Sudan. While her mother becomes central to a new government and a fragile peace agreement, Akuol struggles to come to terms with what it means to call South Sudan home.

'The magnitude of attempting to document even a fraction of what is happening in South Sudan is daunting. I had told myself that I would work up to the point where I believed myself ready to take on this monumental task. I realise that the moment is now. I am making this film because, in my view, an intergenerational conversation is needed in Africa. I am making this film to address the omission of women's contributions in our stories and histories. I am making this film because my country needs documentary filmmakers, and I need my country.'
Director Akuol de Mabior

Countries

South Sudan, Kenya

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 23min

Languages

English, Arabic,
Dinka with subtitles

Director

Akuol de Mabior

Screenwriter

Akuol de Mabior

Producer

Don Edkins
Bérénice Hahn
Bramwel Iro

Leading Cast

Rebecca Nyandeng
de Mabior

Cinematographer

Akuol de Mabior
Emma Nzioka

Editor

Khalid Shamis
Angela Wamai

Print Source

LBXAfrica



One Take Grace

Countries

South Africa

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 30min

Languages

Sotho with subtitles

Director

Lindiwe Matshikiza

Screenwriter

Mothiba Grace Bapela

Lindiwe Matshikiza

Masello Motana

Leading Cast

Mothiba Grace Bapela

Editor

Khalid Shamis

Print Source

Motherbox

In this experimental cinematic portrait, South African mother, full-time domestic worker and part-time actor, Mothiba Grace Bapela, reflects on her extraordinary life, and searches for a way to break out of the societal roles cast for her. Director Lindiwe Matshikiza leads an multidisciplinary creative process in producing this collaboratively-made portrait of the often precarious, sometimes miraculous position of an African female migrant worker. *One Take Grace* is a vibrant and powerful display of a captivating woman and an incredible life story.

The collaboration between artist, Lindiwe Matshikiza (39), and actor and community leader, Mothiba Grace Bapela (58) began with the two women meeting as actors on a local film set in 2010. Lindiwe was struck by Mme Bapela's reflections on her life, and on the conflict of needing steady – if poorly paid – domestic work. That first encounter started a process of collaboration lasting over a decade, with Lindiwe following Mme Bapela around- sometimes with the help of friends with equipment, sometimes alone, with whatever was on hand – recording her day-to-day life and past experiences. Through this deeply intimate project, a portrait of both the woman and the country begins to emerge, with certain questions being asked: How are the roles of our dysfunctional society dished out? Who's doing the casting? What kind of set is this??



Under the Fig Trees

Acclaimed French-Tunisian documentarian Erige Sehiri makes her narrative debut with this beautifully observed, deeply intimate look at a day in the lives of workers on an Tunisian orchard during the summer harvest. Under the sun-dappled trees, a deep connection blossoms between the young men and women as they flirt, develop feelings of attraction and denial, and try to understand one another. Premiering in the Directors' Fortnight section of this year's Cannes, *Under the Fig Trees* is rich with images that bring an observational levity to each fleeting and formative encounter.

'From the outset, the need to work with non-professional actors and actresses became apparent in this environment. I wanted to work with people from this region, who speak the particular dialect of this originally Berber Village.... I never gave them written dialogue. They were simply given the trajectories of their characters and the various relationships they had with each other throughout the day, as well as what was intended for each scene and how this was structured. Then they improvised with all this and I re-wrote accordingly. They used their own words, their own way of talking, speaking with the accent that I know so well, because this is how my father speaks.' Director Erige Sehiri

Countries

Tunisia, France, Switzerland, Germany, Qatar

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 32min

Languages

Arabic with subtitles

Director

Erige Sehiri

Screenwriter

Peggy Hamann

Ghalya Lacroix

Erige Sehiri

Producer

Palmyre Badinier

Roshanak Behesht Nedjad

Didar Domehri

Erige Sehiri

Leading Cast

Fedi Ben Achour

Firas Amri

Ameni Fdhili

Cinematographer

Frida Marzouk

Editor

Hugues Dardart

Print Source

Luxbox



Youth

Original Title

Dhalinyaro

Countries

Djibouti, France

Year

2018

Running Time

1hr 26min

Languages

Somali, French
with subtitles

Director

Lula Ali Ismail

Screenwriter

Lula Ali Ismail
Alexandra Ramniceanu
Marc Wels

Producer

Lula Ali Ismail
Alexandra Ramniceanu
Jean-Frédéric Samie
Gilles Sandoz

Leading Cast

Amina Mohamed Ali
Tousmo Mouhoumed
Mohamed

Bilan Samir Moubus

Cinematographer

Jean-Christophe Beauvallet

Editor

Sylviane Gozin

Print Source

Conti Films

Capturing the spirit of youth, Lula Ali Ismail's vibrant debut feature follows three friends growing up in Djibouti. Coming from different socio-economic backgrounds, the film reveals the pressures that young women face and the choices they have to make. This film is an exuberant portrait of a city blending modernity and tradition. Lula Ali Ismail is part of a small group of talented Djiboutian filmmakers who are growing an emerging film industry, also in its youth. Presented in partnership with Cinema Africa! A new permanent film strand at Hyde Park Picture House, celebrating the rich variety of African lives and cultures, for all Leeds audiences.

'This is a Djiboutian story- an African story- with universal appeal. I wanted to portray as close as possible an image of what it's like to be a 17 or 18 year old in Djibouti, first and foremost for the people of Djibouti. People want their stories told by one of them. When the film was screened in the country, the audience were happy to see streets they recognised; their day-to-day lives on the screen. And that's why I say, this is a film owned by the people of Djibouti- they made it happen. Djibouti has a lot of stories that need to be told. It is my hope to see us have our own film industry.' Director Lula Ali Ismail, from an interview with Mail & Guardian



Films Femmes Afrique Shorts: A Sense of Home

Astel

Print Source mjuvenal@lachauvesouris.eu



It's October, the end of the rainy season in Fouta, an isolated region in the north of Senegal. Astel (13) accompanies her father every day in the bush. Together, they look after their herd of cows. But one day, in the middle of the desert, the meeting between the young girl and a shepherd disrupts the peaceful daily life between Astel and her father.

Running Time 24min **Year** 2021 **Country** Senegal, France **Language** Fula **Director** Ramata-Toulaye Sy **Screenwriter** Ramata-Toulaye Sy **Producer** Margaux Juvénal, Souleymane Kébé **Editor** Nathan Jacquard

Bazigaga

Print Source boris@fulldawaprod.com



1994, Rwanda. As the genocide rages on, a pastor and his young daughter take shelter in the hut of a feared shaman: Bazigaga. Hunted by the militias and trapped with the strange woman sorcerer, Karembé seeks a way out. Inspired by the true story of Zula Karuhimbi, a witch doctor who saved more than two hundred Tutsis from certain death.

Running Time 27min **Year** 2022 **Country** France, United Kingdom, Belgium, Réunion **Language** Kinyarwanda **Director** Jo Ingabire Moys **Screenwriter** Jo Ingabire Moys **Key Cast** Eliane Umuhire, Ery Nzaramba, Roger Noël Ineza, Maëly Mahavande

Ethereality

Print Source festival@sudu.film



Stranded in space for 30 years. How does it feel to finally come home? A reflection about migration and the sense of belonging.

Running Time 14min **Year** 2022 **Country** Switzerland, Rwanda **Language** English **Director** Gahigiri Kantarama **Screenwriter** Gahigiri Kantarama **Editor** Manuel Viktor Troxler

Masquerade

Print Source olivenwosu@gmail.com



A woman returns to her hometown of Lagos in search of healing. What she discovers instead is a path that takes her into her past and toward a new understanding of the people and experiences that shaped her.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Original Title** Egúngún
Running Time 15min **Year** 2021 **Country** Nigeria
Language English **Director** Olive Nwosu
Screenwriter Olive Nwosu **Producer** Alex Polunin
Key Cast Sheila Chukwulozie, Teniola Aladese

My Love, Ethiopia

Print Source tesfayetra@gmail.com



Based on a true story, My Love, Ethiopia is a live-action animated picture that follows the turbulent and mystical journey of a young girl searching for freedom after being separated from her family. Set during Ethiopia's political conflict in the 1970s, the story is unveiled through turbulent migration, visiting spirits from an ancient world, and ancestral magic.

Original Title Ethiopia Yene Fikir **Running Time** 14min
Year 2019 **Country** Ethiopia **Language** Amharic
Director Gabrielle Tesfaye **Screenwriter** Gabrielle Tesfaye
Editor Gabrielle Tesfaye

On the Surface

Print Source festival@sudu.film



A young Black woman goes swimming in the Icelandic sea and reflects on her experience of raising a child in a country that feels nothing like home. As she enters the freezing water, she relives her traumatic pregnancy. Being in the wild and facing her fears is helping her heal.

Premiere Status Yorkshire **Running Time** 4min
Year 2021 **Country** Iceland, Mali **Language** English
Director Fan Sissoko **Screenwriter** Fan Sissoko
Producer Fan Sissoko **Key Cast** Enid Mbabazi

Disability Futures



LIFF 2022 Spotlights — Disability Futures

Disability Futures is a season of films exploring innovative representations of disability on screen.

We celebrate films by disabled filmmakers who make creative use of film technology to share their perspectives, like Reid Davenport's extraordinary debut *I Didn't See You There*.

We also focus on films involving the creative collaboration of disabled participants like Kathryn Arjomand in her son Noah's deeply moving *Eat Your Catfish*. Disabled actor Petri Poikolainen shines in Finnish thriller *The Blind Man Who Did Not Want to See Titanic*, and hearing-impaired filmmaker Daniela Muñoz Barroso uses innovative cinematography and sound design in *Mafifa*.

An exciting VR experience, archive films and talks challenge stereotypical representations of disability, anticipate future developments, and discuss new technologies.

Disability Futures is presented by LIFF 2022 and the University of Leeds and funded by the Wellcome Trust. Disability Futures is also presented in partnership with injury and litigation specialist law firm *Stewarts*.

Stephen Dysskin:
Face of Our Fear

itDf imagining technologies
for Disability futures



STEWARTS
THE LITIGATION SPECIALISTS

Black Sun

Countries

UK

Year

2005

Running Time

1hr 15min

Languages

French with subtitles
& English

Director

Gary Tarn

Screenwriter

Hugues de Montalembert

Producer

John Battsek
Alfonso Cuarón
Nick Fraser

Leading Cast

Hugues de Montalembert

Cinematographer

Gary Tarn

Editor

Gary Tarn

Print Source

Gary Tarn

Black Sun is a highly innovative documentary made by filmmaker Gary Tarn, telling the remarkable story of French artist Hugues de Montalembert, who was blinded during a violent assault in New York in 1978. De Montalembert narrates, explaining the ways he found to cope with a life-changing trauma, working this experience into his artistic practice and developing a unique philosophy on life. Tarn uses extraordinary, expressionistic means to visualise the world from the blind artist's perspective. The result is a life affirming testimony and a fascinating meditation on the nature of perception.

'I had played [Hugues de Montalembert] some music incorporating speech that I had put together, and he liked that; I think that gave him sufficient faith that I had at least some musical ability. [...] I think his attitude was that the book was his work, and the film was mine, and so it was up to me, in a sense, to make it work. After we had recorded the interviews, however, I did feel quite a weight of responsibility to make something of value – I knew he had given me something very special in them, and I wanted to rise to the challenge.' Director Gary Tarn



The Blind Man Who Did Not Want to See Titanic

In this original romantic comedy turned thriller, Jaakko (Petri Poikolainen), who has MS, uses a wheelchair and has sight loss, spends his days talking to Sirpa on the phone about cinema and television. When Sirpa's illness takes a turn for the worse, Jaakko decides to take a spur-of-the-moment trip alone across the city to visit her, encountering obstacles and danger along the way. Shot in shallow focus, with Jaakko the only character we can clearly see, Poikolainen gives a compelling performance in this inventive piece of filmmaking.

'I was thinking that if we are doing this blind person's perspective, it would be easy to make it all black, so that we wouldn't see anything. But then I thought the character also feels and can smell things, and if we want to show his feelings, we have to show his face. I decided to talk with Sari Aaltonen, [the cinematographer] and she was against the idea. She said, "It won't work to have it all in close up throughout the film." And I said, "Trust me, it will work." So we decided to try to find the kind of angles that the audience can sense what is happening, but not see much about what is happening.' Director Teemu Nikki

Original Title

Sokea mies joka ei halunnut
nähdä Titanicia

Countries

Finland

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 22min

Languages

Finnish with subtitles

Director

Teemu Nikki

Screenwriter

Teemu Nikki

Producer

Pasi Hakki

Teemu Nikki

Tuula Nikkola

Leading Cast

Petri Poikolainen

Marjaana Maijala

Samuli Jaskio

Cinematographer

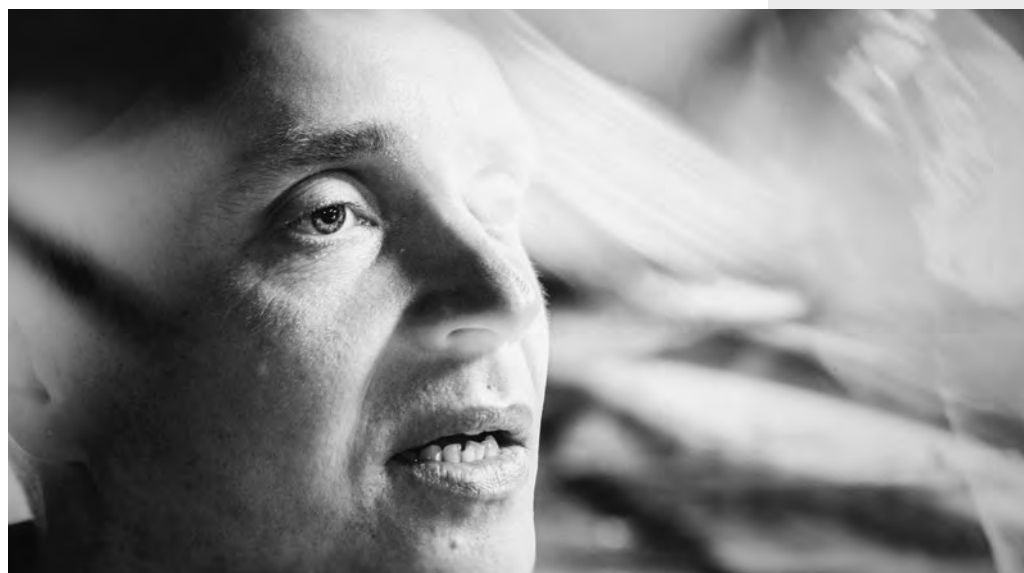
Sari Aaltonen

Editor

Jussi Sandhu

Print Source

Intramovies



Eat Your Catfish

Countries

USA, Spain, Turkey

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 14min

Languages

English

DirectorAdam Isenberg
Noah Amir Arjomand
Senem Tüzen**Producer**Noah Amir Arjomand
Adam Isenberg
Senem Tüzen**Cinematographer**

Noah Amir Arjomand

EditorAdam Isenberg
Senem Tüzen**Print Source**

Deckert Distribution

An intimate documentary portrait of a woman with motor neurone disease, as she navigates the ups and downs of family life. Made in close collaboration with the subject, Kathryn Arjomand, the film draws on 930 hours of footage shot from a camera fixed to her wheelchair, capturing her point of view with a fisheye lens that emphasises Kathryn's limited field of vision as well as the cramped New York apartment in which she lives. Co-directed by Kathryn's son Noah, *Eat Your Catfish* is a deeply moving film imbued with moments of humour, capturing life in all of its messy detail.

'This film is structured as a first-person account of Kathryn's final stage before death. It is, in its totality, her plea for the wider world to understand what she went through, why she persisted, and finally why she gave up. So, rather than turning and looking at Kathryn, or asking others to sit down and tell us about her, we aim to bring the viewer as close as possible to actually being Kathryn and experiencing what she experienced. Through Kathryn's own narration, we enter the inner world of a severely disabled woman and mother facing her own mortality.'
Directors Adam Isenberg, Noah Amir Arjomand & Senem Tüzen



I Didn't See You There

I Didn't See You There is an innovative, expressionistic and deeply personal film, and the debut documentary feature by filmmaker Reid Davenport. Shot entirely from first-person perspective, with a camera affixed to the filmmaker's electric wheelchair, Davenport immerses the viewer in his point of view, narrating his daily journeys, and the indignities of traversing the world in a wheelchair. When a looming circus tent is erected in his Oakland neighbourhood, Reid is compelled to reflect on the damaging legacy of the circus freak show and its framing of disability as spectacle.

'People are usually seeing me but not hearing me, so I wanted to do the opposite. I really just wanted to show how a disabled person does—or does not—fit into society, and how disabled people need to adapt to be “palatable” to society. I wanted to present an approximate version of my vision, without giving viewers the “satisfaction” of looking at me. [...] This isn't an autobiography. This is a film about me in a specific place and time—or, I should say, a version of me that doesn't exist in real life. It's a specific version that you see on-screen.' Director Reid Davenport

Countries

USA

Year

2022

Running Time

1hr 16min

Languages

English

Director

Reid Davenport

Producer

Dawn Bonder
Kathryn Everett
Andy Hsieh

Leading Cast

Reid Davenport

Cinematographer

Reid Davenport

Editor

Todd Chandler

Print Source

The Film Collaborative



Mafifa

In this poetic documentary, filmmaker Daniela Muñoz Barroso sets out to discover the identity of the renowned Cuban musician Gladys Esther Linaresa, known as Mafifa, a bell player with La Conga de Los Hoyos in Santiago de Cuba. Barroso, who has progressive bilateral hearing loss, makes a journey of self-discovery as she searches for the enigmatic Mafifa. Through interviews with those who knew Mafifa, expressive handheld camera work, and creative sound design that aligns us with Barroso's aural experience, the film creates a lyrical evocation of a musical life.

'Interviews are often conducted in extreme close-up via handheld camera, achieving a rare directness and intimacy as the engaging Muñoz Barroso befriends her helpful interlocutors. There is real energy and dynamism here. [...] The real wonder of the film, however, is the sound-design accomplished by Glenda L Martínez Cabrera and her team. As she notes early on in her extensive voice-over, Muñoz Barroso experiences "progressive bilateral hearing loss"; Martínez Cabrera muffles and masks some sounds to convey the sensory perspective of a filmmaker whose work revolves around aural stimulations.' Film Critic Neil Young

Countries

Cuba

Year

2021

Running Time

1hr 17min

Languages

Spanish with subtitles

Director

Daniela Muñoz Barroso

Screenwriter

Joanna Montero

Carlos Melián Moreno

Daniela Muñoz Barroso

Producer

Leila Montero Hernández

Cinematographer

Daniela Muñoz Barroso

Editor

Joanna Montero

Print Source

Habanero Film Sales



Robocop

Classic action thriller set in a near-future world where the Detroit's streets are patrolled by cyborg police. When officer Murphy is killed on duty, tech corporation Omni Consumer Products uses his body to construct a prototype 'RoboCop'. Engineered to be invincible and keep costs down, Murphy's resurrection takes its own path as his memories resurface. Verhoeven's fast-paced thriller balances high octane action and violence with subversive critiques of American culture. Followed by a talk on Technology and Augmented Bodies organised by the University of Leeds.

'In the cultural representation of cyborg bodies and prostheticised selves, there is often a stress on the hyperreal and [...] the hypermasculine. Extraordinary exceptionalism abounds. From the rebuilt police officer Murphy (Peter Weller) in Paul Verhoeven's seminal 1987 film *Robocop*, a text rightly considered foundational to contemporary visual narrative representations of cyborgs, to the multiple narratives surrounding Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) in the *X-Men* franchise, fictional cyborgs frequently combine depictions of masculine strength, violence and a moralising humanism as they wrestle (some sort of struggle is nearly always involved) with the consequences of man meeting machine.' Professor Stuart Murray, School of English at University of Leeds



Countries

USA

Year

1987

Running Time

1hr 42min

Languages

English

Director

Paul Verhoeven

Screenwriter

Edward Neumeier

Michael Miner

Producer

Jon Davison

Stephen Lim

Edward Neumeier

Leading Cast

Peter Weller

Nancy Allen

Dan O'Herlihy

Cinematographer

Jost Vacano

Sol Negrin

Editor

Frank J. Urioste

Print Source

Park Circus

Stephen Dwoskin: Face of Our Fear

Countries

UK

Year

1992

Running Time

1hr

Languages

English

Director

Stephen Dwoskin

Leading Cast

Chris Harrison

Kirsteen Knight

Samena Rana

Print Source

Lux

A polemical and probing essay film on the media representation of disablement. Made by the renowned experimental filmmaker Stephen Dwoskin, *Face of Our Fear* was originally broadcast in 1992 as part of Channel 4's 'Disabling World' season. Rich in archival material and expansive in its scope, the film examines the historical narratives and attitudes that have perpetuated through images of disability, with sources ranging from Classical antiquity, and the Middle Ages, to 19th century literature and Hollywood cinema. This screening will be followed by a panel discussion.

'Face Of Our Fear is a richly conceived essay about the evolving image of disability. Dwoskin, a highly accomplished experimental filmmaker, begins with the declaration that the historically distorted images of people with disabilities constitute a "negation of selfhood". He then traces this concerted effort through two thousand years of Western culture, beginning with the Greek notion of the idealised body and its opposite, the fabulous races. Using contemporary films clips, literary quotations, performance, and pictorial records, *Face Of Our Fear* looks at the Court's infatuation with "monsters" during the Middle Ages, the "charity cripples" of the Enlightenment, the freakshows of the nineteenth century, each a resort to oppressive stigmatisation.'
Film Curator Steve Seid



Art and Neurodiversity with Project Art Works

Illuminating the Wilderness

Print Source info@projectartworks.org



Shot from multiple viewpoints in a remote Scottish glen, this film reveals the pleasures and challenges of neurodiverse responses to nature and shared experience. It reveals the subtle fluidity of roles and interactions between this unique and itinerant community away from the practical, attitudinal and social barriers of everyday life.

Running Time 40min **Year** 2019 **Country** UK
Language English **Directors** Kate Adams, Tim Corrigan
Producer Project Art Works **Cinematographers** Margaret Salmon, Ben Rivers, Kate Adams, Tim Corrigan, Gabby R **Editor** Tim Corrigan **Sound Design** Marley Cole **Key Cast** Ellen Prebble, Gabby R, Sharif Persaud, George Smith, Sam Smith, Paul Colley

The Mask

Print Source info@projectartworks.org



A film about autism and identity featuring writer and director Sharif Persaud. As he journeys along a coastal footpath, Sharif describes what it means to have autism while wearing his favourite celebrity mask. He finally arrives at his destination where he comes face to face with his alter-ego.

Running Time 4min **Year** 2017 **Country** UK
Language English **Directors** Sharif Persaud, Tim Corrigan **Screenwriter** Sharif Persaud
Producer Tim Corrigan **Cinematographer** Tim Corrigan **Editor** Tim Corrigan **Sound Design** Marley Cole **Key Cast** Sharif Persaud, Al Murray

No Church in the Wild

Print Source info@projectartworks.org



A film that tracks four young men with autism (and others who support them) as they travel through the Kent countryside. The protagonists finally arrive at St Thomas à Becket Church in Fairfield, a building that dates back to the 14th century.

Running Time 7min **Year** 2015 **Country** UK
Language English **Director** Tim Corrigan, Kate Adams
Producer Project Art Works **Sound Design** Marley Cole
Key Cast Sara Dare, Rachel Hine, Sharif Persaud, Wendy Routley, George Smith, Sam Smith, Darryl Spencer

Tessellate

Print Source info@projectartworks.org



Tessellate documents the six week production of a new work by the artist Sam Smith. The film reveals Sam's dynamic processes and places the production of his work at the centre of its artistic relevance.

Running Time 2min **Year** 2016 **Country** UK
Language No dialogue **Director** Tim Corrigan
Producer Project Art Works **Sound Design** Marley Cole
Key Cast Sam Smith

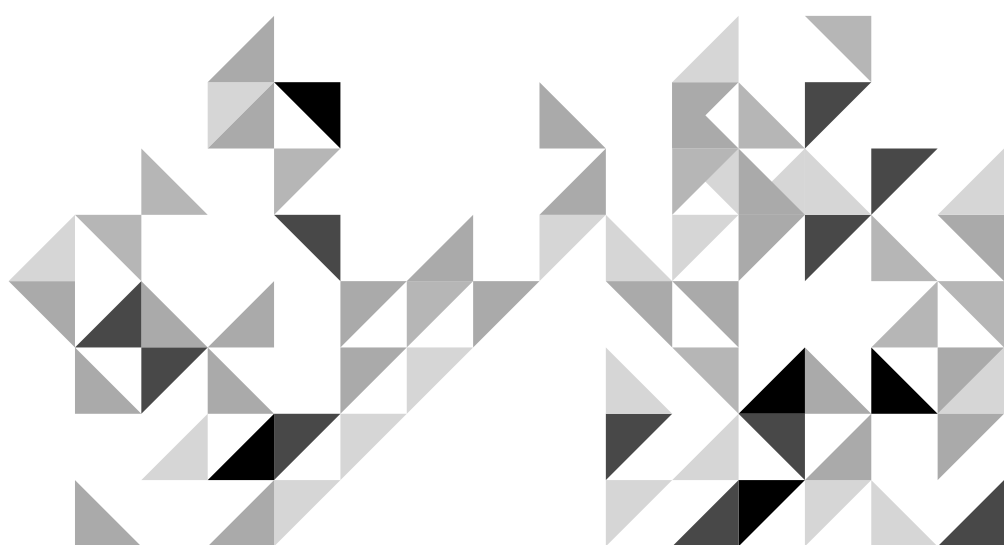
Modus Operandi

Print Source info@projectartworks.org



Modus Operandi focusses on the artist/makers in the Project Art Works' studio base, working with artists who support them. The film reveals some of the processes behind the work they create and provides an insight into the dynamic within the studio.

Running Time 10min **Year** 2015 **Country** UK
Language English **Director** Tim Corrigan
Producer Project Art Works **Sound Design** Marley Cole
Key Cast Project Art Works artists, makers and artist facilitators





Robocop



**One Love
from Jamaica**



Inna de Yard:
The Soul of Jamaica

LIFF 2022 Spotlights — One Love from Jamaica

On 3 April 1962 Jamaica declared 'Out of Many, One People' as the nation's motto, just four months before independence from Britain was ushered in on 6 August. Sixty years on it is more relevant for the whole world today than ever, one which has inspired the Jamaica Society Leeds' Out of Many Festival. We are delighted to be presenting the film programme for Out of Many Festival as part of LIFF 2022.

The cultural impact, beauty and depth of Jamaican film shine through in classics like *Babylon*, *Rockers*, and *The Harder They Come*, presented in its 50th anniversary year and introduced by Justine Henzell. The vibrant sounds of Jamaica reverberate through the music documentaries *Studio 17: The Lost Reggae Tapes*, *The Story of Lovers Rock*, and *Inna de Yard: The Soul of Jamaica*. Some of the features will also screen with impressive short films handpicked by JAFTA, the Jamaica Film & TV Association.

One Love from Jamaica



Babylon

Countries

UK, Italy

Year

1980

Running Time

1hr 35min

Languages

English

Director

Franco Rosso

Screenwriter

Franco Rosso

Martin Stellman

Producer

Gavrik Losey

Martin Stellman

Leading Cast

David N. Haynes

Trevor Laird

Victor Romero Evans

Cinematographer

Chris Menges

Editor

Thomas Schwalm

Print Source

Park Circus

A brilliant and important film that for many years since its 1980 release has languished, little-seen until the last decade. *Babylon* fleshes out the experiences of inner-city black Britons, the joyous release of sound systems, and the deep British racism that landed hard from several sources. Inspired by the great producer Dennis Bovell's wrongful imprisonment, the story sees Brixton dub reggae DJ Blue pursue his art while struggling against the prejudice of neighbours, National Front, police and his employer. Few films were ever this good at depicting black life in Thatcher's Britain. Screening with the UK premiere of the Jamaican short *Flight*.

'...films like this can stand the test of time. They aren't dramatizations. This is how it was and is, and director Franco Rosso understood the experience. But as [he was also] an actor, he most importantly allowed actors and non-actors to be themselves. There was nothing to tell us what and how something should be. We all experienced the issues these characters dealt with as far as covert and overt racism. You could say, we were mostly acting as ourselves. It was just real. I still have people who quote lines to me from the movie, because it's just everyday life. It's our life all the time.' Actor Brinsley Forde, from a 2019 interview with VICE



Better Mus' Come

Jamaica's long-brewing political conflict between left- and right-wing factions boiled over into violence around the 1976 election. *Better Mus Come* is set during these troubling times, the real-world response to which was the famous 1978 One Love Peace Concert, orchestrated by reforming gangsters. *Better Mus Come* connects the dots between Cold War politics and the politics of the street gangs, with hero Ricky attempting to navigate a path between his responsibilities as a father, community leader, poet and gangster. A rare insight into the street soul of a still-young nation. Screening with Nile Saulter's short film *Fever Dream*.

'Honestly, community relations is key in Jamaica. ...We hired a lot of the community to be extras, security and personal assistants and that is one way of avoiding conflict. When you give someone in these communities something to do, they're down because you're giving them pretty cool work and they feel like they're part of the movement. Because of that, a lot of people in the Sandy Park community, where we mostly worked, are looking into film and working as personal assistants in art departments, shooting their own videos because they have been through the whole film with us.' Director Storm Saulter, from an interview with Fader

Countries

Jamaica

Year

2011

Running Time

1hr 44min

Languages

English

Director

Storm Saulter

Screenwriter

Storm Saulter

Paul Bucknor

Joshua Bratter

Storm Saulter

Producer

Sam Bratter

Paul Bucknor

Andre Coutu

Leading Cast

Sheldon Shepherd

Sky Nicole Grey

Ricardo Orgil

Cinematographer

Storm Saulter

Editor

Paul Bucknor

Print Source

Storm Saulter



The Harder They Come

Perry Henzell's daughter Justine has recorded a special introduction to celebrate the film's 50th anniversary. As well as being a golden time for reggae, the early 1970s was the time for classic Jamaican film. The Harder They Come broke out in 1972, riding a wave of optimism a decade after independence. Co-written by Trevor D. Rhone (Smile Orange), this classic cult film fuses a true tale of a country boy turned badman with that of ruthless reggae star-making. Jimmy Cliff plays Ivanhoe, newly arrived in Kingston and searching for work. While Ivanhoe sinks to badman crime, the music, by Cliff, Desmond Dekker and The Maytals' Toots, soars.

'I was in the studio recording You Can Get It If You Really Want when the director Perry Henzell came in and asked if I could write some music for a film he was about to make. The next thing I knew, he was sending me the script and asking me to play the lead. I think he was taken aback by my self-confidence. I'd never acted before, and I was doing well as a singer, but I jumped at the opportunity.' Actor and singer-songwriter Jimmy Cliff, from an interview with The Guardian

Countries

Jamaica

Year

1972

Running Time

1hr 43min

Languages

English

Director

Perry Henzell

Screenwriter

Perry Henzell

Trevor D. Rhone

Producer

Chris Blackwell

Yvonne Brewster

David Garonzik

Leading Cast

Jimmy Cliff

Janet Bartley

Carl Bradshaw

Cinematographer

Peter Jessop

David McDonald

Franklyn St. Juste

Editor

Reicland Anderson

John Victor Smith

Richard White

Print Source

BFI



Inna de Yard: The Soul of Jamaica

Going back to where it all started: Jamaica's lush country interior. This is where Jamaican music began and to where Inna de Yard returns; to capture the music 'in its virgin state'. Re-recording their classic songs in acoustic, roots-y new versions are reggae heroes Cedric Myton, Kiddus I (Rockers), Winston Mcanuff and Ken Boothe. Together they form a kind of reggae soul supergroup, and wax lyrical about how creativity can always be re-charged by returning to country. Climaxing in a joyful Paris concert, this is a document of the essence of Jamaican culture. Screening with Jamaican dance short Hot Gyal.

'[As an] old fan of this music, it was with enthusiasm that I recently traveled to Jamaica to meet some of my idols of the time, in great shape and still active. The excitement of approaching these musicians, of listening to their story of their very beginnings, when the scene was in its infancy, how they survived the lean years that followed, and then their comeback, in recent years, was very inspiring. ...This very personal project filled me with enthusiasm and passion. It took me back to the teenager I once was – a kid who saved his pocket money to go find the latest Jamaican sounds on [London's] All Saints Road.'
Director Peter Webber

Countries

France

Year

2019

Running Time

1hr 39min

Languages

English

Director

Peter Webber

Screenwriter

Peter Webber

Producer

Laurent Baudens

Laurent Flahault

Paul Iserentant

Leading Cast

Ken Boothe

Kiddus I

Winston McAnuff

Cinematographer

Bernard Benant

Editor

Giles Gardner

Print Source

Picturehouse



Rockers

Rockers is a deep delight for anyone keen to explore Jamaican culture. 'Horsemouth' is a man trying to feed his family, buying a motorbike to distribute hot reggae records around town. He runs into strife as he loses his wheels and turns 'Robin Hood'. The roll-call of amazing reggae stars, often playing themselves or simply hanging out, is more than reason enough to see this, but Rockers is uniquely special in its wonderful and unique texture of the actual 1978 Kingston, full of genuine vibes and off-kilter humour. Screening with the World premiere of the new Jamaican short Sink or Swim.

'At Cannes it was screened on the same night with Francis Ford Coppola's Apocalypse Now and there was an incident with thousands of people, mounted police, and riot police. There were people who wanted to get in, the tickets were all sold out, and mayhem broke out. It was all over the front pages next day. I was intrigued by the reviews in France, even by conservative papers. The first sentence in Le Monde was "Rockers is not a film, it is a work of art. So good it is difficult to believe, yet it is real.' Director Theodoros Bafaloukos, from a 2010 interview with VICE

Countries

Jamaica

Year

1978

Running Time

1hr 40min

Languages

English

Director

Theodoros Bafaloukos

Screenwriter

Theodoros Bafaloukos

Producer

Patrick Hulsey

Avrom Robin

David Streit

Leading Cast

Leroy 'Horsemouth'

Wallace

Richard 'Dirty Harry' Hall

Monica Craig

Cinematographer

Peter Sova

Editor

Susan Steinberg

Print Source

Blue Sun Film Co.



The Story of Lovers Rock

Lovers Rock, often dubbed 'romantic reggae', is a uniquely black British sound that developed in the late 70s and 80s against a backdrop of racism, uprisings and sound systems. Shining a light on a forgotten period in British music, social and political history, the recently passed Menelik Shabazz's documentary feature underlines the impact Lovers Rock made in bridging the multi-cultural gap that polarised Thatcher's nation. With a fantastic list of contributors, archive footage and witty reconstruction, this outstanding film gives us one of the great untold tales of Jamaican-UK connection. Screening with Jamaican short film Sugarcake.

'To make it for the cinema I needed to add other elements other than talking heads and music. I added two other elements, the first being humour. Experiencing the reggae party/blues/dance scene, I recognised elements that had the potential for humour – from sneaking out, the styles, dance etc... so I assembled comedians who could bring that aspect. The second element was the dance itself. It had to be reminiscent – it couldn't be just middle-aged people talking about it. With this dance we had to see it, experience it and it had to take you back to that feeling as young people.' Director Menelik Shabazz

Countries

UK

Year

2011

Running Time

1hr 36min

Languages

English

Director

Menelik Shabazz

Producer

Paulette Harris-German

Leading Cast

Dennis Bovell

Paulette Harris-German,

Janet Kay

Cinematographer

Ian Watts

Editor

Julian Sabath

Print Source

Verve Pictures/Sun Ra



Studio 17: The Lost Reggae Tapes

As glimpsed in both *The Harder They Come* and *Rockers*, Kingston's Studio 17 was the beating heart of mento, ska, reggae and dub for decades. Both studio record shop, it was integral to Jamdown sound, and when owners Randy and Patricia Chin moved to NYC in 1979, their new venture hit Queens with the potent sound that would push bass cultures out to the wider world. *Studio 17: The Lost Reggae Tapes* tells those tales vividly, then delves deep into how to best bring an amazing long-lost archive of music up-to-date.

'When you watch *Studio 17: The Lost Reggae Tapes* you hear why Scratch Perry decided to make most of Bob Marley and the Wailers' records there after he left Studio One. He needed that Studio 17 sound... Studios in Jamaica were a whole vibe, it was like being a member of a club. You knew exactly what sound was gonna come out of the studio—not just because of the quality of the equipment, but also because of the people associated with that studio.' Producer Reshma B, from an interview with GQ

Original Title
Gubbai, Don Gurizu!
Countries
Jamaica, USA, UK
Year
2019
Running Time
1hr 25min
Languages
English
Director
Mark James
Producer
Amir Amirani
Reshma B
Mark James
Leading Cast
Ali Campbell
Clive Chin
Patricia Chin
Cinematographer
Mark James
Chris Morphet
Editor
Paul Burgess
Print Source
Kush Films



Shorts with Features

Fever Dream

Print Source info@jaftaonline.org



Plagued by dreams of a beautiful life once lived or yet to come, a scrap metal collector living on the edge of a landfill travels out of town for a job which promises to provide a spark of hope

Running Time 13min **Year** 2018 **Country** Jamaica
Language English, Jamaican Creole **Director**
Nile Saulter **Screenwriter** Nile Saulter **Producer**
Carleene Samuels

Flight

Print Source info@jaftaonline.org



A Jamaican boy sets out on a dream, ten times his size, to fly to the moon, despite his circumstances and opposition from his father.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 13min **Year** 2018
Country Jamaica **Language** English, Jamaican Creole
Director Kia Moses, Adrian McDonald **Screenwriter**
Kia Moses, Adrian McDonald **Producer** Tashara-Lee
Johnson **Sound** Jeremy Osbourne

Hot Gyal

Print Source info@jaftaonline.org



The Hot Gyal Project serves as a platform showcasing the talents of some of Jamaica's most successful street and studio dancers. This project focuses its intention on deserved recognition and respect of women within the Jamaican Cultural-Creative and Entertainment Industry.

Premiere Status UK **Running Time** 5min **Year** 2021
Country Jamaica **Language** English **Director** Shamara
Spencer, Anastazia Chin **Screenwriter** Shamara
Spencer **Producer** Alexandria Chin **Key Cast** Kissy
Mckoy, Kimiko Versatile, Kaytii Insanity, Sara Bendii, Reda
Versatile, Shae-J Osbourne, HappyFeet, Tara 'Tehrebel'
Price, Ashley 'Soleil' Bromfield, Shaneika Gibba. Daneele
'Leadnx' Dixon, Shamara' Inspire' Spencer, Catherine
'CatKingCole' Reid

Sink or Swim

Print Source mjuvenal@lachauesouris.eu



Set on the stunning shore of Jamaica. A quiet young boy is feeling deeply guilty about the death of his fisherman father, but he must find the strength to talk or it will weigh him down.

Premiere Status World **Running Time** 8min **Year** 2019 **Country** Jamaica **Language** English **Director** Tony Hendriks, Natalie Thompson **Screenwriter** Tony Hendriks **Producer** Natalie Thompson **Key Cast** Hawa Mamadou Dia, Cherif Amadou Diallo, Alassane Hamet Ly

Sugarcake

Print Source info@jaftaonline.org



Damian is mourning the recent death of his only child. With a lack of willingness to carry on, he parks at the side of a desolate road, readying to shoot himself in the head. As he is about to pull the trigger, there is a knock on his window - a prostitute named Sugarcake appears mistaking the car as another potential client. She is forced with the unexpected ultimatum of whether or not to save this stranger's life.

Premiere Status European **Running Time** 12min **Year** 2021 **Country** Jamaica **Language** English, Jamaican Creole **Director** Joshua Paul **Screenwriter** Joshua Paul **Producer** Saeed Thomas **Key Cast** Aisha David, John Chambers

Sink or Swim



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