

LIFF SHORTS

Part of Leeds
International Film
Festival 2024

1-17
November
2024

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Winning films at this festival may be eligible to enter for Oscars® consideration.

Year-round, the Academy celebrates artistry and innovation in filmmaking, inspires new generations to share our love of cinema and storytelling, preserves and creates our global film industry, and connects film fans from around the world.

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Welcome to the LIFF Shorts 2024 programme!

We are thrilled to share the full line-up for LIFF SHORTS 2024, selected by an expanded new team of programmers from over 4000 submissions. The 19 programmes include seven regular competitions: the Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition – named after the Leeds pioneer who filmed the world’s first moving images in 1888 - and World Animation Competition; the British and Yorkshire short film competitions; and competitions for queer shorts, screendance, and music videos. We also present two new competitions, for documentaries and fantastic genre shorts. LIFF is an Academy Award® Qualifying Festival for the Live Action and Animated Short Film categories through our Louis le Prince and World Animation grand prizes, and BAFTA and BIFA qualifying for British shorts.

A huge thank you to our programmers, every filmmaker who submitted their film, and our juries for joining us at LIFF SHORTS 2024. We hope you can join us too for an epic celebration of short film!

Welcome





Stewarts is delighted to sponsor LIFF SHORTS at Leeds International Film Festival 2024

Stewarts is a law firm like no other and our Leeds office is home to some of the best litigation lawyers in the UK.

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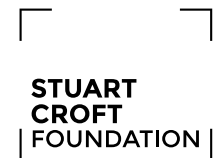
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Leading Partners



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Partner opportunities with Leeds Film

LIFF is organised by the Leeds Film team at Leeds City Council. Based at Leeds Town Hall, Leeds Film also organises Leeds Young Film Festival, Independent Directions Film Festival, and year-round film and education programmes, and operates leedsfilm.com.

All our activities are made possible by our partnerships and if you would like further information about opportunities with Leeds Film, please email leeds.film@leeds.gov.uk or call +44(0)113 378 5999

Jury:

Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition



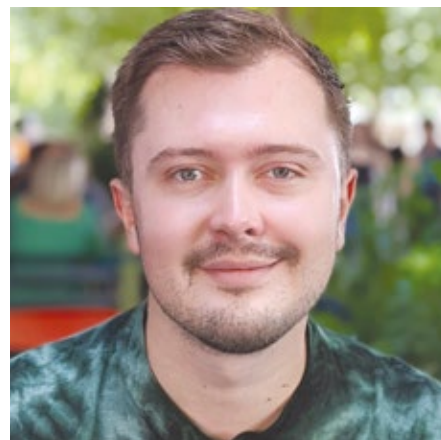
Hollie Bryan

Hollie's debut feature as producer, 'The Ceremony' premiered at this year's Edinburgh International Film Festival in competition winning the Sean Connery prize. Before that Hollie was Associate Producer on 'The Old Oak', directed by Ken Loach with Rebecca O'Brien at Sixteen Films. Through her company Cosmosquare Films she has also produced several short films which have played at top international festivals, including the multiple award winning doc 'Hanging On' and 'Predators' which was nominated for a Critics Circle Award this year. She is currently producing three films for Bradford City of Culture 2025 and developing her slate of features.



Amina Ferley

Born in Patagonia, Argentina, Amina is a film programmer and producer of cultural events. She graduated in MA Film Programming and Curating at Birkbeck University and is co-founder and programmer of Cinema Mentiré, a film club dedicated to promoting Latin American cinema in London (UK). She worked at festivals such as BAFICI, Sheffield Doc Fest, DOXA, Vancouver Intl Film Festival, Vancouver Latin American Film Festival and Aegean Film Festival, among others, and as a Festival Administrator at the London Film School. She also participated in the Locarno Academy at the Bogota Audiovisual Market 2024 (Colombia). She is currently pursuing a MA in Film Preservation at EQZE (Spain).



Patrick Newton

Patrick Newton is a film programmer based in Newcastle. A passionate cinephile, he has spent four years working as part of the programming team at the Tyneside Cinema, one of the UK's flagship independent venues and the last remaining newsreel theatre in the UK that still operates as a cinema. A four-screen venue hosting independent new releases, thematic programmes, special events and retrospectives, Patrick leads on various programme strands at the cinema, alongside hosting Q&As and writing for the cinema's website. He holds an MA in Film Theory and Practice from Newcastle University, and is particularly interested in working class representation, as well as genre and queer cinema. He believes in the transformative power of film, championing filmmaking talent, and connecting the diverse, imaginative wonders of cinema with audiences everywhere.

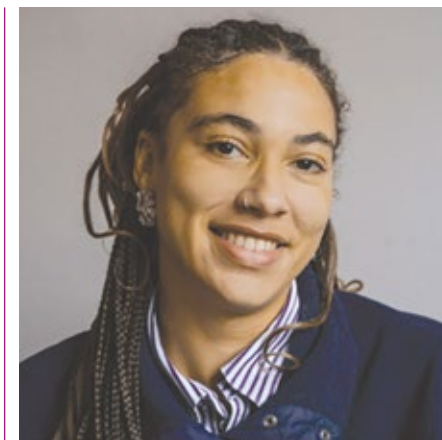
Jury:

World Animation Competition



Jess Cope

Partner, Director, Writer – Owl House Studios Ltd. With over 16 years working in the animation industry, Jess brings an unprecedented level of skill and attention to detail to all her projects. Her emotive storytelling draws in audiences in a way that has seen her win multiple awards for her films in recent years. With her past experience animating on projects such as Tim Burton's feature film, Frankenweenie, TV series including Postman Pat and The Clangers, Jess has an expert and incisive knowledge of the animation industry. Her acclaimed 2010 film, The Astronomer's Sun, won a plethora of awards and cemented her reputation as an incredibly talented animator and director. Jess drives every project through to exceed client expectations and always with an intense passion.



Yasmine Djedje-Fisher-Azoume

Yasmine Djedje-Fisher-Azoume is an Animator and Director, currently serving as a Creative Lead and Studio Manager at Ana Projects. Her animation practice incorporates a blend of digitally drawn 2D animation, traditional paper animation, and analogue techniques, often drawing thematic and aesthetic inspiration from her Ivorian heritage.

In 2024 she had original work commissioned by both Create London's Breaking Waves programme and Film London's Animation Fellowship Programme. Over numerous years of industry experience, she has worked in a wide range of commercial and creative contexts, including on RAFTS (2023), a collaboration with Turner Prize-shortlisted artist Rory Pilgrim, and on the V&A Museum "Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser" exhibition.



Annabeth Robinson

Annabeth Robinson is a Creative Technologist and Filmmaker based in Leeds, predominantly using immersive technologies, screen based virtual worlds and game platforms since 2005, to explore multi-user interactive artworks and education experiences. She is currently Course Leader for MA Animation at University of Salford and has been teaching for 20 years across various institutions – supporting students development in Creative Development, Industry Engagement and Practice Based Research across the Animation discipline. She helps facilitate and host Educating Animators an academic conference at University of Salford in partnership with Manchester Animation Festival, now heading towards its 7th Year in its new incarnation – Animated Connections.

Jury: British and Yorkshire Short Film Competition



Ellie Irwin

Ellie is the lead film programmer at Hull Independent Cinema, a weekly film society screening the indie films missing from Hull's mainstream cinemas. She joined HIC as Film Programme Manager for Hull's City of Culture year in 2017, of which LIFF was a partner. Before her move to Yorkshire, she was Film Programme Manager and then Shorts Programmer for Whistler Film Festival, "Canada's Coolest Film Fest". She was at Sheffield Doc/Fest in various roles, including Operations Producer, between 2018 and 2021. Today, she's Programme Producer at Back to Ours, a charity and National Portfolio Organisation in Hull, engaging Hull's residents by presenting outstanding arts experiences right on their doorsteps.



Malinda Kaur

Malinda has been in the industry for over 15 years. Having worked on many British critically acclaimed films such as GOOD LUCK TO YOU LEO GRANDE, ROCKS, ALI & AVA, TYPIST ARTIST PIRATE KING, as well as TV Drama DREAMING WHILST BLACK, KILLING EVE, PEEP SHOW & WHITE GIRL. She has also made several Bafta/Bifa accredited shorts, including AMISHI which screened internationally and won a Platinum Remi at the World Houston international Film Festival. Her most recent short F.O.G, funded by BBC won best Yorkshire Short at Leeds International Film Festival 2023. A filmmaker from Bradford, Malinda strives on telling diverse stories and supporting working class voices.



Pishdaad Modaressi

Pishdaad Modaressi Chahardehi is a Bradford-based filmmaker with over a decade of experience in creating documentaries and music videos.

Driven by a deep desire to make a positive impact, he continues a family legacy of filmmaking that began with his father in Iran. Pishdaad's work addresses critical global issues such as mental health, migration and poverty, capturing powerful stories of resilience. He has filmed in diverse settings, from Rohingya camps in Bangladesh to Syrian refugee camps in Turkey and Lebanon, and cerebral palsy cases in young children in Somaliland. He is also the director of the Filmmakers for Change Film Festival.

Jury: Leeds Queer Short Film Competition



Ding Frisby

Ding Frisby is an intergalactic, guitar-wielding drag thing writing songs for queer aliens everywhere. Described as "Bowie meets Victoria Wood," they've performed their glam-punk anthems and comedy songs across the nation, from opening for Ginny Lemon, to the grand final of Europe's biggest drag king contest, Man Up. He's loved sharing his DIY music videos at local film festivals and is currently working on a solo gig-theatre show inspired by early space travel films and sci-fi B-movies. Originally crash landed in Huddersfield, Ding's passionate about local queer community and has hosted Out + Loud queer open mic since 2019.

Photograph: Rae Hughes.



Zee Younus

Zee Y is a West Yorkshire based poet turned comedian who uses their own experience as a queer Muslim to find light in places that may otherwise be dark. Their performance work explores the building blocks of identity while their workshops encourage others to share joy through self-expression using art therapy techniques. They form one half of the queer arts collective Out + Loud that platforms queer voices through performance. Zee has worked with Kirklees Pride, York Anti-Racist Collective, The Brontë Festival of Womens' Writing and many other grassroots organisations around the region and beyond. They are passionate about representing minoritised communities and often weave this into their projects.



Gage Oxley

Gage Oxley(They/He) aged 17, founded a production company from their home on an East Leeds council estate. Since then they've found remarkable success in film and television centered on LGBTQ+ narratives. These works have screened internationally, won awards, sparked protests, and provided countless queer kids with the ability and opportunity to come out to their families. In July 2020, their six-part queer anthology series, "A Series of Light", premiered on Amazon Prime and reached over 51.8 million UK and US households. The series' extension, "Firelight", became part of the KS4 Sex Education curriculum, representing queer intimacy across the UK.

In the last two years, Gage has written, directed, and produced for Netflix, Channel 4, and Disney, while continuing to guest lecture at various UK universities. Gage is preparing to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their company, Oxygen Films, with an exciting new slate of projects.

Jury: Leeds Music Video Competition



David Garratt

After working as an artist for several years, from Yorkshire Artspace studios in Sheffield, David went on to work in the theatre and cinema sector at Chesterfield Venues and latterly Square Chapel Arts Centre in Halifax. Completing the Cultural Cinema Exhibition programme with the Independent Cinema Office led to implementing and curating the cinema programme at Square Chapel after their £6.6 million pound redevelopment. Since leaving Square Chapel Arts Centre David has been the Head of Operations at The Hepworth Wakefield and has also lectured on the MA Film Curation and Exhibition course at Leeds Beckett University.



Nick Jones

Nick has worked in a leading communications and development capacity for almost 15 years, with roles at organisations including Leeds International Film Festival, Screen Yorkshire and the Brontë Parsonage Museum. He has also been ingrained in Leeds' DIY and underground music culture as a musician, writer, promoter and programmer of screen events. He has recently written for the Leeds DIY cinema zine Cinema Soda and plays guitar and sings in the post-punk band Small Gauge.



Anna Peaker

Anna Peaker is a multimedia artist and designer based in Leeds. Their practice encompasses visual design for music including graphic design and moving image. They infrequently organise and promote experimental music events in Leeds, hosting a range of international artists and performers. Their sound work centers around experimentation with electronics and processed acoustic instruments, utilising tape machines, sampling techniques, and sound collage. They have released music with Longform Editions, Alter, Infant Tree, and Lime Lodge, and have received commissions from Reduced Listening, Café Oto Projects, and FACT Gallery.

Jury: Leeds Screendance Competition



Claudia Kappenberg

Claudia Kappenberg is an artist, writer and curator, Honorary Fellow of the University of Brighton and co-founder of The International Journal of Screendance. Drawing on a background in dance she works with the gestures and rhythms of the everyday to interrogate that which makes us human. Recent writing has been published in LO: TECH: POP: CULT Screendance Remixed (2024), Rethinking Roland Barthes Through Performance (2023), MIRAJ (2021), Performing Process: Sharing Dance and Choreographic Practice (2018), Syncope in Performing and Visual Arts (2017), The Oxford Handbook of Screendance Studies (2016) and Art in Motion (2015). In 2020 she co-curated the online Screendance season grounded with Fontàn Moran, curator Tate Modern.



Loránd János

Director of Choreoscope – Barcelona Dance Film Festival. Born in 1980 in Transylvania, he studied film directing at the Bucharest Film Academy, as well as Photo-Video Art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bucharest. Since 2001 lives in Barcelona, where he finished his studies in Advertising & PR, and has directed several short dance films. His films have been screened in festivals (Dance on Camera, Jumping Frames, Tanzbiennale Heidelberg...) and programmed in television. In 2015, a retrospective of his work was screened at the III Video and Experimental Art exhibition Vortex Medellín, Colombia. Currently he is teaching Audiovisual Resources for dance and choreography students at Institut del Teatre Barcelona. His most recent projects include Moovy Tanzfilmfestival in Cologne, Germany (co-artistic director 2017-2021) and he is currently the online dance film program curator of Dansa Metropolitana Barcelona.



Susana Temperley

Susana Temperley has a PhD in Arts (National University of the Arts, Argentina), she is an Specialist in Critic and Divulcation of the Arts, as well as in Analysis of Choreographic Production. Since 2007 is a Professor in Semiotics of the Arts at the Arts Criticism Area (UNA). For the last twenty years, she is dedicated to study the relationship between dance and technology around contemporary art languages. She has published articles about this topic in Argentinean and international media. Temperley is author of the book Screendance, Complexity And Periphery. Towards a Platform for Analysis of Dance in Interaction with Technology, 2017, RGC, Buenos Aires. She is Co-founder and Director of Loïe. Magazine of dance, performance and new media.

Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition 1

Everyman Screen 4,
Thursday 7 November, 11:15



L'avance

Djiby Kebe | France | 2024 | 18 mins

In a student atelier, Beaux-Arts student Aliou sells one of his works — a painting of his deceased mother — to a persistent collector. As he travels to her residence to deliver the piece, he encounters friends, family, and strangers, who force him to reckon with the value of his art, his mother's memory, and more.



The Witness Tree

Niranjan Raj Bhetwal | Nepal | 2023
15 mins | UK Premiere

As Sridhar prepares for his coming-of-age ritual in a rural Nepalese village, his grandfather unveils a long-held family secret. Torn between honesty and shielding her son from pain, his mother Sabitri is forced to confront the tree that bears the weight of grief and tragedy.



Uroboro

Federico Cappabianca | Italy | 2024
14 mins | World Premiere

Old and tired fisherman Salvatore (Tò) sleeps restlessly since the death of his wife. One morning, by the sea, Tò finds the body of a newborn floating in the water: a haunting discovery that will force him to cope with the mystical circularity of life and death.



Nostalgia

Boyuan Li | China | 2023 | 18 mins
World Premiere

After a quarantine, Xiaoxue returns to her long-lost hometown, where urbanisation starkly contrasts the remnants of her grandmother's old neighbourhood. There each cherished fragment evokes bittersweet nostalgia, guiding her on a poignant journey to rediscover comforting glimpses of her past while confronting the inevitability of letting go.



Vox Humana

Don Josephus Raphael Eblahan
Philippines | 2024 | 22 mins
UK Premiere

In the aftermath of an earthquake, authorities grapple with the notion that a man found in the woods may be the cause of natural disasters devastating a small mountain town. A singular, striking vision blending magical realism, folklore and science-fiction to examine cultural erosion, ecological collapse, and the might of language.

Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition 2

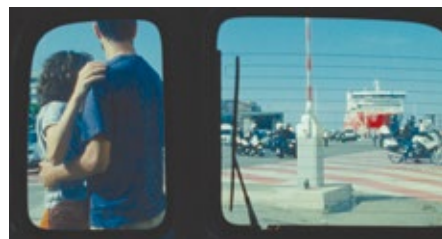
Everyman Screen 4,
Thursday 7 November, 14:00



Happiness is Close

Albi Fouché | Germany | 2024 | 13 mins
World Premiere

In the midst of a celebration, Mr. Rubens's cathartic dance is awkwardly interrupted by his downstairs neighbour, unable to tolerate the noise. Yearning for companionship, he encounters yet another stranger ultimately provides the treatment he craves, unravelling the absurd tragicomedy of his fate.



Aïda Neither

Elisa Gilmour | France, Canada | 2024
15 mins | European Premiere

Leïla returns to her hometown in Corsica to see her brother Amine and to visit the tomb of her stillborn child. Upon discovering the city are emptying abandoned graves, conversations with her family delicately explore ideas around belonging, grief, grave ownership and the bureaucracy of death.



Zanatany, when soulless shrouds whisper

Hachimiya AHAMADA | Belgium
2024 | 27 mins | UK Premiere

One morning in 1976 Majunga, Ali witnesses a seemingly simple neighbourhood quarrel. But, as revolt sweeps through the city, could there be a greater conflict brewing beneath the surface? A bold historical reconstruction and memorialising of a long-forgotten Madagascan tragedy.



Honey Bunny

Gracjana Piechula | Poland | 2024
24 mins | International Premiere

When retired firefighter Staszek notices his wife Alina disappearing in the afternoons, he mistakenly believes she has become a sex worker. But when he learns she has become a professional cuddler in a cuddling salon, he is forced to reexamine his masculinity, methods of communication, and their shared definitions of intimacy outside the bedroom.



On the way

Samir Karahoda | Kosovo | 15 mins
UK Premiere

Kosovo's uncompromising administrative procedures are brought to light when an award-winning filmmaker struggles to access his award. This road journey, shared between a father and son, welcomes reflections on what it means to stay, and what it would mean to leave when defeat feels inevitable.

Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition 3

Everyman Screen 4,
Friday 8 November, 11:15



Amarela

André Hayato Saito | Brazil | 2024
15 mins | UK Premiere

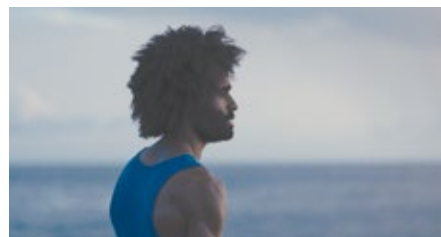
São Paulo, July 1998. The day of the World Cup final between Brazil and France has arrived and 14-year-old Erika Oguihara, a Japanese-Brazilian teenager, is eager to celebrate a world title for her country. As tensions rise, Erika's sense of belonging is violently thrown into question.



Son

Saman Hosseinpuor | Iran | 2024
18 mins | UK Premiere

In a remote village in Kurdistan, a mother is desperate to see her son who has been away on military service. When it is a daughter that arrives at her doorstep, not a son, she is forced to reassess everything she thought she knew about loving her child.



Sirènes – Mermaids

Sarah Malléon | Martinique | 2024
16 mins | UK Premiere

Bearing a severe economic and social crisis in northern Martinique, a fisherman and a restaurateur struggles to make ends meet. Yearning for feminine companionship, his eight-year-old daughter decides to summon mermaids with a conch shell, triggering her widowed father's volatile outbursts. Evoked turmoils tragically reveal the unforeseen mysticality woven into their lives.

Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition 4

Everyman Screen 4,
Friday 8 November, 13:45



WASHhh

Mickey Lai | Malaysia | 2024 | 23 mins
UK Premiere

Late at night, in the bathroom stalls of the Malaysia National Service Camp, a group of teenagers are ordered to handwash sanitary pads from disposal bins. Mounting pressures ignite fissures in the teenagers' camaraderie, bringing to light the silencing, shame, and misconceptions around menstruation.



A Summer's End Poem

Lam Can-zhao | China | 2024 | 15 mins
Yorkshire Premiere

In the hopes of making a good impression on his last first day at elementary school, a village boy takes his savings and travels to Chaozhou for a cool haircut. But the simple journey reveals more about the distance between rural and urban life, childhood and adolescence, and the joys and sorrows of attaining independence.



The Man Who Could Not Remain Silent

Nebojša Slijepčević | Croatia | 2024
14 mins | England Premiere

The Štrpci massacre (Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1993) is brought to light in this year's gripping Palme d'Or winner. A passenger train is stopped by paramilitary forces in an ethnic cleansing operation. As they haul off innocent civilians, only one man out of five hundred passengers dares to stand up to them.



Takeaway

Darshika Karunahara | Denmark
2023 | 14 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Delivery person Sheena is delivering food in a Tesla-filled cottage neighbourhood, when behind the door she finds her childhood friend Calvin living a new life in the upper class with his girlfriend Pernille. Keen to uncover their hypocrisies, Sheena invites herself in for a caustic and unsettling dinner.



An Orange from Jaffa

Mohammed Almughanni | France
2023 | 27 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Mohammed, a young Palestinian with a temporary Polish identity card, desperately tries to cross a checkpoint to reunite with his mother in Israel, despite having been denied entry. Taxi driver Farouk's attempt to help him leads to escalating tensions at the border, highlighting the heavy absurdity of a wider conflict.



MOTHER

Salomon Ligthelm | Ukraine | 2023
20 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Vitaly Ivanov, a miner on the Ukraine/Russian border, discovers a ringing phone in his backyard belonging to a victim of the MH17 disaster. Mother brings to light the heartbreaking realities faced by civilians when countries are at conflict with each other.



Die Letzte Wette

Meike Wüstenberg | Austria | 2024
15 mins | England Premiere

Elderly couple Ernst and Leni regularly place a bet on the last piece of chocolate. At one point, the ultimate gamble inevitably arises: who will die first? An irreverent and heartfelt comedy which shows us that life can be a thrill until the very end.

World Animation Competition 1



CIRCLE

Yumi Joung | South Korea | 2024
7 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Simple in style and beautifully drawn, this thoughtful animation poses the limits of human imagination. How do we live amongst others, and how far do we endeavour to fit in? An almost meditative short that will absorb and engross even once it's over.



The Car That Came Back from the Sea

Jadwiga Kowalska | Poland | 2023
11 mins

Full of fun and frivolity, yet set against an unstable political backdrop, a group of friends journey to the Polish Baltic coast and back in a damaged car. Whilst on the road, their country fragments and their world changes. The youthfulness and freedom of their present interweaves with past memories.



Butterfly

Suncana Brkulj | Croatia | 2024 | 8 mins
Yorkshire Premiere

A fantastical bunch of garden creatures all contribute to a peaceful harmonious existence, relying on the water from a fountain. After a butterfly gets into trouble, they must face up to the new challenges this brings. Wonderfully surreal and intricate, the creatures adapt to the change in their status quo.

Vue Screen 11, Friday 8 November 18:00
& Monday 11 Nov, 13:45
St Luke's Cares, Wednesday 13 November, 19:30



Flatastic

Alice Saey | France | 2024 | 17 mins

Rising up against Man's dominance of the world, a group of manta rays move to take back some control of Earth. A new age of flatness has arrived. This super cool fable of nature vs. consumerism merges bold colours and stunning visuals to draw viewers into the unfolding action.



Hurikán

Jan Saska | Czech Republic | 2024
13 mins

Hurikán needs a beer, but the last keg at his favourite bar stall is almost finished, so he offers to hunt down another for the bartender he fancies. A slick, action-packed saga ensues, and will have you laughing out loud as Hurikán runs into trouble with all manner of locals.



Extremely Short

Koji Yamamura | Japan | 2024 | 5 mins
England Premiere

A narrator endeavours to find the shortest thing in Tokyo, which turns out to be a single syllable spoken as a dying man's last breath. This punchy short is a feat of technical artistry as the hunt takes us on a journey around the Japanese language through innovative, bold imagery.



Flower Show

Elli Vuorinen | Finland | 2024 | 9 mins

This aesthetically original short explores and subverts the gender roles society expects us to perform. A countess ogles butlers on the croquet lawn. A suffocated young protagonist finds herself imprisoned by society's rules and rigidity, perhaps excitement can be found outside the boundaries of the garden.



Canard

Elie Chapuis | Switzerland | 2023
9 mins

Canard follows the quiet life of a couple who raise ducks in a rural smallholding. They want a child of their own, but the weight of this expectation quickly morphs into a darker reality. Surreal events unfurl, and Director Elie Chapuis artfully presents anxieties real to those wanting a baby.



Bergamot

Yanqi Liang | China | 2023 | 7 mins
UK Premiere

This deeply personal animation expresses the intimacy, as well as the strength and emotional complexity found within the mother daughter relationship. Printed and sewn onto fabric, it presents a uniquely sensory story, which is accentuated by the accompanying soft and delicate sound design.



Wander to Wonder

Nina Gantz | Belgium | 2023 | 13 mins

Three curious characters, Mary, Billybud and Fumbleton are performers in an 80s children's TV show. Yet once the show's creator dies, the three of them are left to fend for themselves, turning to making their own increasingly desperate videos as their world unravels. Wacky and wonderful set-design enchants this tale.

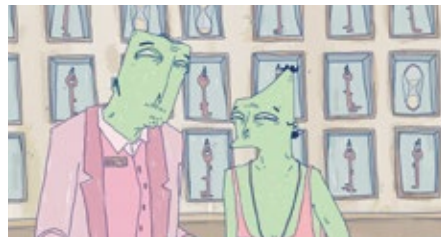
World Animation Competition 2



Papillon

Florence Mialhe | France | 2024
15 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

As a man swims in the sea, memories from his past begin to surface. Each one, from his childhood to recent times, is linked to water. In this story we see his last swim, one that will take him from pools of happiness, to sorrow and emotions beyond retention.



Matta and Matto

Bianca Caderas, Kerstin Zemp
Switzerland | 2023 | 10 mins
Yorkshire Premiere

In the pastel palettes of Matto and Matto's world, touch is prohibited. The pair offer a sanctuary for the lonely inhabitants of their dystopian home at the Hotel Vaip, where cravings are satisfied and surpassed, but only for visitors who pay the price.



Ik Ben Hier

Cheyenne Goudswaard | Netherlands
2023 | 5 mins | UK Premiere

The fear of being forgotten can be foreboding and oppressive. It can also charge us anxiously into action. This delightfully strange short tackles our inherent human need to make our mark on the world, through a series of experimental vignettes.



Crevette

Elina Huber, Noémi Knobil, Jill Vågner,
Sven Bachmann | Switzerland
2023 | 5 mins

Jeanie discovers that her freezer is completely frozen over, after walking straight into the puddle collecting under her fridge. Upon defrosting, she finds a single shrimp-like embryo. Her innate fear of pregnancy triggers a chain reaction, as all the items in her fridge slowly come to life.



Aquatic

Shiva Sadegh Asadi | Iran | 2023
5 mins | UK Premiere

A Dadaist combination of stop-motion, paper and painted techniques, Aquatic shows the commercial misuse of one woman's ability to give birth to marine creatures. This expressive, dark fable tackles feminist ideologies with an animated study of gender exploitation.



Percebes

Alexandra Ramires, Laura Gonçalves
Portugal | 2024 | 12 mins | UK Premiere

With the background of an Algarve seaside town, the complete cycle of a special barnacle called Percebes takes place. From sea to plate, the shellfish in this film cross through different environments that showcase their seasonal home of ambivalent tourists.



Shadows

Rand Beiruty | Jordan | 2024 | 12 mins
UK Premiere

Taking place in an airport swarmed with people, Shadows follows Ahlam; the youngest mother in the world, as she makes her escape from Baghdad. Fleeing the only home she has ever known, Ahlam contemplates the horrific events that have brought her here, in a resonant journey of self reclamation.



The Girl and the Pot

Valentina Homem | Brazil | 2024
12 mins | UK Premiere

When a girl breaks an ancient ceramic pot, its many secrets are released. Navigating a journey through her dystopian home and unfamiliar, parallel universes, the girl enters a moment of vital change, where her troubled world can finally be reborn.



Tako Tsubo

Eva Pedroza & Fanny Sorgo
Austria / Germany | 2024 | 6 mins
England Premiere

To relieve himself of torturous emotions, Mr. Ham has his heart surgically removed. He decides to keep the heart after its expulsion, to better understand its complicated sensations. This surrealist short discusses themes of influence and emotional health, in reflection of Mr. Ham's 'Take Tsubo'; broken heart syndrome.



Tennis, Oranges

Sean Pecknold | United States | 2024
11 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

The lives of a burnt-out robot vacuum and two aging rabbits interlink, as they search for purpose in the quiet streets of LA Chinatown. The rhythm of life, tennis and oranges reverberate through anthropomorphic stop-motion characters, in a film about letting go of the past and embracing your present.

Vue Screen 11, Friday 8 November, 20:30
& Monday 11 November, 16:00
Keighley Creative, Saturday 16 November, 12:30

Jury: Documentary Short Film Competition



Ben G Brown

Ben is an award-winning freelance Director & Filmmaker from West Yorkshire and is based in Leeds. His work spans across numerous platforms, from music videos, fiction films and commercials, but his main passion lies in documentaries. His short documentaries have been screened at film festivals worldwide, and he is currently in post-production on his debut feature documentary. With a spirit of honesty and humour, and a relentless curiosity about people and filmmaking, he strives to create powerful stories that can engage and enlighten universal audiences.



Audery Lam

Audrey Lam is an Australian filmmaker working in fiction and documentary. Her films have been screened at film festivals in Melbourne, Rotterdam, London, Nyon and Oberhausen. She has co-curated several film programs in Australia. Her first feature film, *Us and the Night*, premiered at Prismatic Ground in New York this year.



Toni Lee

Toni Lee (They/Them) is a programmer and film person based in Leeds. They were part of the organising team at the annual Leeds Queer Film Festival and have previously programmed at Sheffield DocFest and Journey's Festival International. Their film work is concerned with the idea of Queer identity and expression, as well as forming a dedicated Film Unit on organising and social liberation in West Yorkshire. Toni previously worked as an Impact Producer at Reclaim the Frame supporting the work of filmmakers from marginalised genders and their fullest expression through meaningful community engagement.

Documentary Short Film Competition: Vantage Points

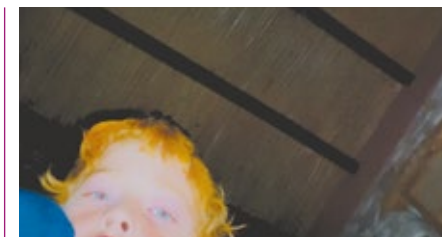
Everyman Screen 4, Thursday 7 November, 18:30



Bacata

Fanny Liatard & Jérémy Trouilh | France
2024 | 24 mins | England Premiere

From the 28th floor of Colombia's tallest building—a long-awaited, still-unfinished tower block in the centre of Bogota—Laura observes the city below, its secrets and its struggles, as a colourful cast of gardeners, activists, and human statues go about their daily lives in the shadow of the country's history.



At that very moment

Federico Luis Tachella, Rita Pauls
Argentina | 2023 | 12 mins

Life, death, and all the rest, as seen through the chaotic, obsessive, surprisingly philosophical eyes of a child in the mountains of Argentina. First-person filmmaking at its finest.



Fluid Lagos

Fluid Lagos Collective | Nigeria | 2024
12 mins | UK Premiere

Ebbing, fluvial, dripping... we are all bodies of water. The eponymous filmmaking collective presents a triptych of experimental portraits capturing life in the Nigerian capital in all its slippery, spectacular glory.



Very Gentle Work

Nate Lavey | United States | 2024
24 mins | UK Premiere

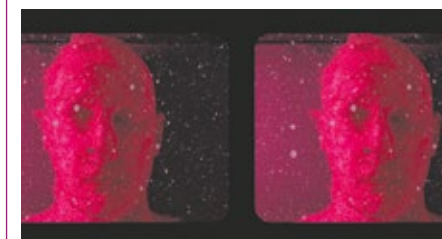
A fictional flaneur strolls through the streets of Manhattan opining on the histories and mysteries of various left-wing revolutionary movements. But what do all these buildings have in common? And what exactly does a proposed police training centre near Atlanta have to do with a 100-year-old Parisian murder case?



Is this now the time I should let you go?

TSAI Yi-Chin | Taiwan | 2023 | 9 mins
UK Premiere

Thirteen years after losing her father, a filmmaker combines old home movies with abstract animation to create an immersive, diary-like reflection on her otherwise unspeakable feelings of grief, love and loss.



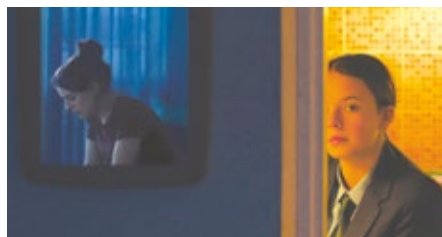
for here am i sitting in a tin can far above the world

Gala Hernández López | France | 2023
19 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

A woman recounts an unsettling dream: when an economic crisis threatens the cryptocurrency market, investors follow cryptographer Hal Finney by cryogenically freezing themselves. Will they wake to a better world or fall further into the void? A speculative essay about our uneasy relationship with the future.

British Short Film Competition 1

Everyman Screen 4, Saturday 9 November, 11:00
& Sunday 10 November, 12:00



Homework

Jamie Di Spirito | United Kingdom | 2023
12 mins | England Premiere

Emma has a lot on her plate: her homework, looking after her annoying young sister, and wondering why her mum was taken in to see the manager at the supermarket? But the 11-year-old is determined to make sure that they all get what they need to survive.



Sleepyhead

Milly Garnier | United Kingdom | 2023
10 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

17-year-old Rae is "chronically ill and chronically awesome." She loves her mum, her friends, and Timothee Chalamet. But when Rae's symptoms get worse with no diagnosis, we see the mental and physical impact chronic illness has on her life and what little things can make every day a bit easier.



Dragfox

Lisa Ott | United Kingdom | 2024 | 8 mins

A mysterious neighbourhood fox takes young Sam on a journey to the attic where they discover the magical joys of playing with gender. Divina De Campo and Ian McKellen lend their voices to this wonderfully animated musical.



Run Like We

Rhys Aaron Lewis | United Kingdom
2024 | 13 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

This coming-of-age comedy stars Alvin, a 14-year-old boy who hates sports (a sin in a Jamaican household). When he's forced to run for his school's sports day, Alvin must leap over and dash past the stereotypes and complexities of being a Black British boy.



My Exploding House

Liberty Nam-Do Smith | United Kingdom
2024 | 17 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

An investigative documentary seeking the truth behind a thirty-year-old memory: a once-watched film in which a house may or may not have featured being exploded. It's a quest to understand the concept of home, urban regeneration and begins to question the absurdity of searching for what is real in memories.



Memory

Riyadh Haque | United Kingdom
2024 | 3 mins

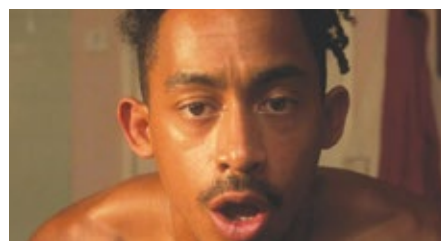
Director Riyadh Haque casts his own family in this almost-documentary that reimagines the childhood recollections of a Jersey inhabitant, Margaret, through the intimate lens of the director's British South Asian background. The film reconstructs and, crucially, threads together seemingly disparate memories and stories, finding a satisfying kinship of experience.



Bathsheba

Myah Asha Jeffers | United Kingdom
2024 | 14 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Living precariously and facing eviction, Angel, grieving for a love lost, is forced to live alongside Bathsheba, a younger woman who just may be the support and inspiration she needs. This stunningly shot debut drama was born out of our increasing housing insecurity and the rise of property guardianship.



Talking Heads

Dario & Dom | United Kingdom | 2023
7 mins | UK Premiere

Everyone's been there, the complicated sexual and emotional intricacies of getting back with your ex. Is this right? Am I doing this for the ego or passion? Using explicit puppetry and silly puns, talking heads puts to screen what goes through your head(s) when you're making a potentially bad decision.



OK/NOTOK

Pardeep Sahota | United Kingdom
2024 | 13 mins | World Premiere

Britain. The near future. Loretta attempts to find love with a new stranger whilst navigating the perils of subscriptions, customer services and unskippable adverts. A darkly comic sci-fi on the loneliness and isolation of modern city life.

British Short Film Competition 2

Everyman Screen 4, Saturday 9 November, 13:30
& Sunday 10 November, 14:00



Masterpiece Mommy

Dorothy Sing Zhang | United Kingdom
2024 | 15 mins | UK Premiere

This musical short follows mother and daughter Tess and Justine, as they both express their worries, regrets, and fears following a cancer screening. The strain of their relationship soon becomes apparent as we listen to them navigate their sometimes harrowing feelings through original music and distinctive cinematography.



Midnight Rising

Aileen Ye | United Kingdom | 2023
8 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

An intimate portrait of London's East and South East Asian queer clubbing community. Stepping onto the dance floor, we are invited to move and witness a space that extends beyond raving, extravagance and hyperpop to offer a necessary platform for love, acceptance and most importantly, joy.



Karavidhe

Eoin Doran | United Kingdom | 2024
17 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Undocumented migrants Dee and Adrian pick up some cash in hand work for the day. But when things don't go as planned Dee must get creative to make dinner for them, whilst teaching the hot-headed Adrian to appreciate the simple beauty of a good meal and good company.



SPACE PLUG

Marcus Anthony Thomas
United Kingdom | 2023 | 14 mins
Yorkshire Premiere

Writer-Director Marcus Anthony Thomas brings us this experimental drama on parenthood. Set in outer space, we observe a helpless human baby grow into an adult and experience love, anger, desperation, fear, and glee, leading us to confront nature vs nurture in a weird, abstract, but completely innovative way.



To the Brink

Hugo Docking | United Kingdom
2023 | 4 mins

Screening at many festivals around the world, including in this year's Annecy Official Selection, this depraved and violent stop motion musical positively revels in its bleak nihilism. So why not laugh in the face of the inevitable? Do we orchestrate our own demise? It doesn't really matter, does it?



We Beg to Differ

Ruairi Bradley | Ireland | 2024 | 13 mins

In the underground and illegal world of diffing, young drivers find solace in their passion, as they navigate societal challenges and personal struggles. Based firmly within this community, the documentary cleverly spirals outwards, towards the rise of suicide and the dire state of our mental health care provision.



Dangerous Romance

Daisy Jacobs | United Kingdom | 2023
12 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

We've always loved the singular style Daisy Jacobs brings to her animation and live action films, and this one is no different. Trapped in a submissive existence and lost in dreams of wild sex and rescue, PG's days fly by, unseized, un-lived. Who will save her from this dangerous romance?



A Good Start

Sarah Blok | United Kingdom
2023 | 12 mins

At a petrol station in the early hours, two guys need to charge their phone and a stressed mum needs to change her baby. Sarah Blok directs this profound drama about the wonder of random late night encounters.

Yorkshire Short Film Competition



Predators

Jack King | United Kingdom | 2023
18 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

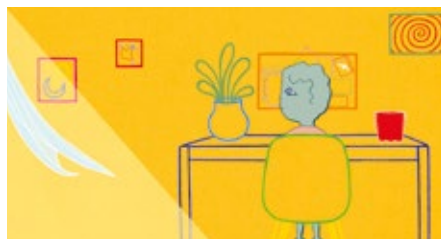
Tegan, a troubled young girl who walks the line of mean and misunderstood, has to face other people's perceptions of good and bad head on, as well as her own. Predators asks the important questions: who are the real monsters? Who are the predators?



House Phone

James McGlade | Ireland
2024 | 3 mins

First-time filmmaker James McGlade offers the short, but perfectly formed story of Anne, making a call she's put off for a long time. House Phone cleverly eschews actors on screen in place of an empty, but intimate domestic environment in which a life lived has left personal traces in the objects and furnishings.



Sandcastles

Meredith Stewart | United Kingdom
2023 | 6 mins

Small memories can be the most important and poignant. Sandcastles began as a response to filmmaker Meredith Stewart's father's unexpected death, and is a delicate, wistful animation of a child reliving a memory close to their heart. It's a film that's as colourful and playful, as it is touching.



From Lagos to Leeds

Ben G. Brown | United Kingdom
2023 | 15 mins

This inspiring documentary follows Leeds musician David Ntandu and Nigerian rising star Brownny Pondis, as they work together in the studio and explore their creative and personal collaboration. Director Ben G. Brown observes the two artists and their intimate personal journeys whilst rightly positioning Leeds as a global city.



Paula Says Hi

James C Thompson | United Kingdom
2023 | 14 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

A personal and intimate portrait of disabled, gender fluid cosplayer Paula. Inviting us into her world, Paula lives life to the full, embracing her passion for cosplay and sci-fi conventions, and offers her intimate thoughts on accepting her disability and the joy of gender euphoria.

Howard Assembly Room, Friday 8 November, 20:15
Chapel FM, Tuesday 12 November, 19:30
The Old Fire Station, Friday 15 November, 20:00
Keighley Creative, Saturday 16 November, 10:30



Loser Like Larkin

James Coyle | United Kingdom | 2024
16 mins | World Premiere

Teen Larkin's life is uprooted when she moves to rural 1970s Yorkshire with her mum. But there's still fun to be had up North, as long as she can deal with the local gang of girls and a boy who may not be all he first seems.



Who We Were, Who We Became

Darshan Gajjar | United Kingdom | 2023
11 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

A documentary paired with a stunning poem written by Danaé Wellington, this short voices the experience of the Windrush generation. From their lives in the Caribbean, the journey over the water, to their experiences acclimatising to British culture, importing new foundations to it with music, food, fashion and faith.

Leeds Queer Short Film Competition 1

Hyde Park Screen One, Wednesday 6 November, 18:30



Conditional Desire

Houcem Slouli | Tunisia | 2023 | 15 mins
UK Premiere

Ahmed and Salma, two queer people living in heteronormative Tunisian society struggle with their sense of self as they work together to live the life they both need, and desire.



¡Salsa!

Antonina Kerguelén Román | Colombia
2024 | 14 mins | European Premiere

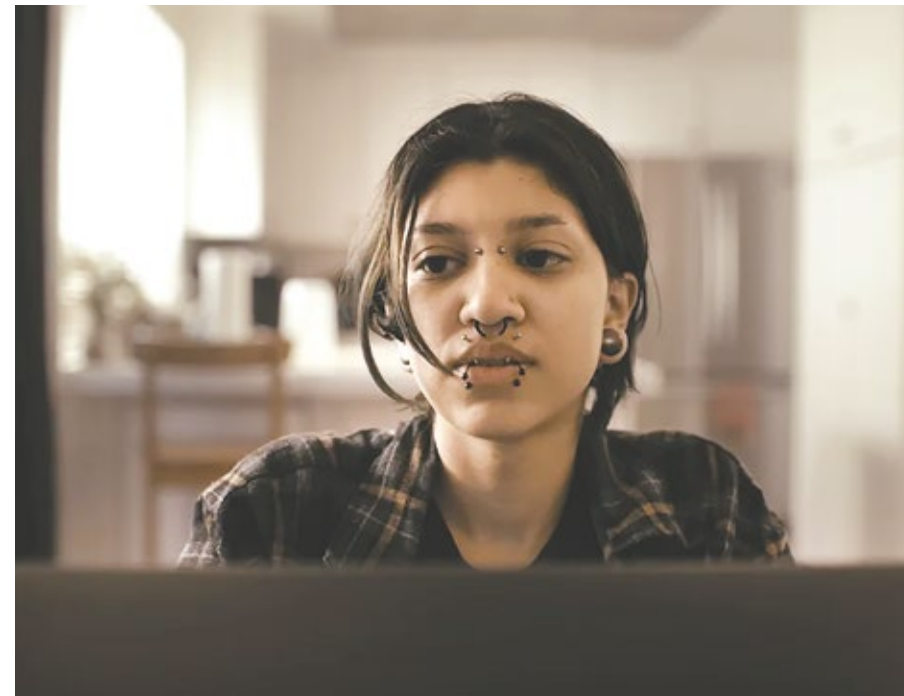
In rural Colombia Margarita's love of Salsa is spoilt by the leering men at the local bar. The oppressive atmosphere is shaken when Liana, a deaf tourist, shows up in the village. Forming an instant connection Liana helps Margarita be her true self, regardless of what the neighbours think.



You can't get what you want but you can get me

Samira Elagoz & Z Walsh | Netherlands
2024 | 13 mins | England Premiere

Samira Elagoz and Z Walsh chronicle a year of their relationship through hundreds of gathered photographs and text messages. From their first kiss, through thirst traps, to meeting the parents and a beach wedding this is a sweet and steamy celebration of two long-haired trans men's T4T love affair.



Pretend I'm Not Here

Noah Amir Arjomand | United States
2024 | 10 mins | International Premiere

A lonely Latine non-binary person works from home as a Spanish-English phone interpreter. One day their regular routine is interrupted when they hear the voice of their estranged mother on the other end of a call from a migrant detention facility.



Manting

Shuyao Chen | China | 2023 | 16 mins
UK Premiere

Following the death of an old school mate Manting, a Chinese woman in her early 60s, reconnects with a lover from her adolescence. After the classmates' reunion event in a karaoke bar, they end up spending a night together roaming the city.



Shade in the Sunshine State

Olivia Bendis, Ben Nakhuda, Julio Rocha
United States | 2024 | 14 mins
Yorkshire Premiere

A portrait of the ballroom community in Miami, Florida where black trans and queer people use performance as political activism in a state that is currently passing legislation to deny their rights.



¡Beso de lengua!

José Luis Zorrero | Mexico | 2024
15 mins | UK Premiere

Itzcóatl and Moisés are on their first date at the ice cream parlour. After getting to know each other a bit, they begin to play an unusual game that takes a twist into the surreal and the unsettling.



BELLY BELLY

Gabriel Carnick | United States | 2024
12 mins | European Premiere

Two body obsessed femmes on a date decide to mutually relax the harsh restrictions they've placed on their bodies – a decision that has spectacularly gruesome consequences.

Leeds Queer Short Film Competition 2

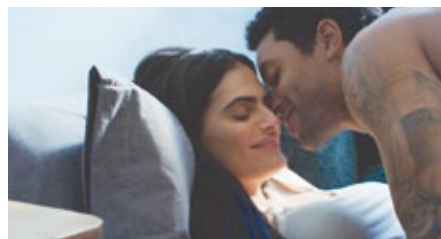
Hyde Park Screen One, Thursday 7 November, 18:30



I Know a Place

Theresa Varga | United Kingdom | 2023
15 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Jade and Kayla are two teenage friends who are struggling with their mutual attraction to each other. Can they be honest with themselves and admit their feelings, while still keeping the traumatic events of last summer secret?



all the words but the one

Nava Mau | United States | 2024
18 mins | England Premiere

Maya and Santiago haven't seen each other since their explosive relationship ended years ago, so neither is expecting to be across from each other at a professional dinner with their new partners. Maya must navigate a minefield of delicate dynamics and trauma to support her partner and find catharsis.



Sultana's Reign

Hadi Moussally | France | 2023
10 mins | England Premiere

New York based Palestinian drag queen Sultana lives her childhood dream replicating the glamour of Egyptian movie stars of old. Sultana's infectious personality is sure to inspire as she narrates her refugee journey through Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and the USA.



Dive Deep

Veerle Ackerstaff | Netherlands | 2024
14 mins | World Premiere

Storm, a skater with cerebral palsy, is angry and isolated after losing his mother. His destructive behaviours only serve to push his loved ones further away. Can he face his demons, or will he lose those closest to him?



The Blurring of Trees

Fanny Perreault | Canada | 2024
11 mins | UK Premiere

Two incarcerated women serving time doing hard labour deep in the Quebecois forest are given the opportunity to have a moment of peace amongst nature. Here they find a long-sought after sense of compassion and understanding in each other.



Lady Parts

Ariel McCleese | United States | 2023
15 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

When Iris thinks of Ellie, she gets excited. Very excited. She's heard it's normal, but this seems different. And when you're in high school, different is dangerous.



INSIDE

Mahtab Pishghadam | Iran | 2024
10 mins | World Premiere

10 year old Mahtab is the star of the boys soccer team. When they are recognised at the big match their eligibility to play for the team is questioned. Director Mahtab Pishghadam draws on her own childhood experiences in this tender portrayal of gender policing in sport.



Azul Pandora

Alan González | Cuba | 2024
12 mins | UK Premiere

A day in the life of Pandora, a 40 year old black trans woman living in Havana. As she helps out her friends and neighbours she must reject the advances of a young man who has become infatuated with her.

Leeds Screendance Competition

Everyman Screen 4, Friday 8 November, 20:30
& Monday 11 November, 12:15



Coney Island Dances

Bettine Josties | United States | 3 mins
World Premiere

Each year the Coney Island Polar Bear Club organizes a well-attended New Year's Day Plunge. When the filmmaker arrives at the scene, the plungers have already left. What remains are Coney Island Dances.



YES!

Madli Lääne | Estonia | 2024 | 3 mins
International Premiere

The corners, slopes, dead ends, and curves of Tallinn Cruise Terminal nudges us to ponder the dilemmas of the achievement society. YES! questions whether we should, we push ourselves into a box or dare to be wrong.



Bakelite

Julie Gautier | France | 2024 | 6 mins
UK Premiere

Shot entirely underwater, Bakelite is a live-action short depicting the paradoxical relationship with plastic in our throwaway society. This aquatic ballet is an ecological tale of a perilous battle against marine pollution with a hopeful conclusion.



This Madness of Loving

Rola Shamas | Lebanon | 2024 | 6 mins
World Premiere

Intriguing and mesmerising This Madness of Loving employs effective animation techniques and engaging sound design to take us on an existential excursion from matter to light.



Cut

Jesper Tønnes | Denmark | 2023 | 5 mins
UK Premiere

A breathtaking flamenco dancer tries to navigate a world of constant gazes, trying to adjust, and live up to the way the world sees her. Cut is a unique dance film simultaneously shot on Super 8, Super 16, 35mm and 65mm analog film.



Corpus and the Wandering

Jo Roy | Canada | 2024 | 7 mins
UK Premiere

One dancer, one body, one phone. In a time of collective alienation and technological mass control, Corpus and the Wandering transcends the walls of a fragmented grid system to uncover the shared humanity in each of us, and our place in the cosmos.



to bend & not break

Dan Canham | United Kingdom
2024 | 11 mins

Filmed at inner city locations in Leeds including Holbeck and Chapeltown, to bend and not break uses movement as an excavation, flowing between states of grief and joy to celebrate the role of dance as a communal healing force.



LOCA

Véronique Paquette | Canada | 2024
5 mins | UK Premiere

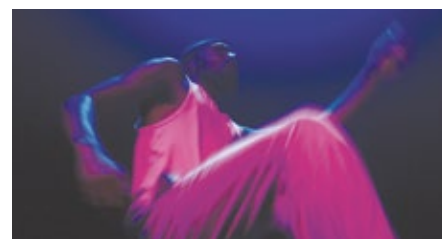
A woman loses herself in an exhilarating tango that transforms her. The dancing ink of Loca is both an homage to the tango of Argentina and an invitation to heed our intuition, our natural movement.



Devouring Stones Up Close

Cat Rider and zap mcconnell | United States | 2023 | 9 mins | UK Premiere

Channelling the spirit of those whose land we walk, create and dance on Devouring Stones Up Close is a non-linear dance film that offers us a visually poetic, abstract expression of personal and shared rage.



Restless

Ned Champain | United Kingdom | 2023
3 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

A sleeping man's restless legs pull him away from his bed and into a high energy, dance-driven dream, much to his tired girlfriend's despair. Restless is a creative response to restless leg syndrome which has plagued the director for years.



Aeterna

Hannah Goodman | United Kingdom
2024 | 6 mins | World Premiere

By combining choreography and cinematography, Aeterna plays with distorting the human form, offering a visual representation of the existential complexity of human existence.



Where We Learn Our Worth

Paula Romy | United Kingdom | 2024
4 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

A solo-male dancer negotiates his brutalist urban location. Where We Learn Our Worth is a visual poem about the connection between human architecture and nature.

Leeds Music Video Competition

Headrow House, Saturday 9th November, 13:00

Chapel FM, Thursday 14 November, 19:30



alice the g00n – CYA: Chapter One

alice the g00n | United States | 2024
6 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

CYA is the first chapter in Alice's violent katabasis... With clear inspirations from big-budget action franchises (there's a pinch of John Wick in there), Alice takes on corporate America – resulting in this high-octane Barbie bloodbath.

Please note the CYA film will not be shown at Chapel FM because of Licensing restrictions.



Matthew Herbert & London Contemporary Orchestra – The Rider

Sebastián Lelio | Chile | 2023 | 6 mins

From an ambitious album - performed using a horse skeleton - The Horse sees Herbert team up with long-time collaborator and Academy Award-winning director, Sebastián Lelio, for The Rider video, which features the Doma India technique for bonding with a horse.



Okay Kaya – The Groke

Julia Patey | Germany | 2024 | 3 mins
International Premiere

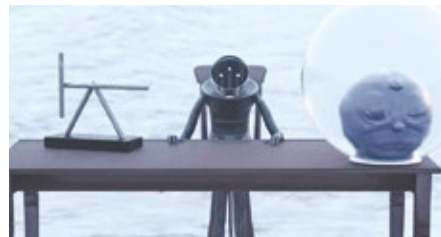
Okay Kaya shimmies through a dusty, cacti-ridden desert universe (somewhere in Finland...), intertwined with quirky stop-motion animation, groping trees and sweaty saunas, The Groke video is the perfect calibration of darkness and light, completely rhythmic and deliciously weird.



Sasha Goes Music – Six Roasted Chickens

Jeremias Nussbaum | France | 2023
4 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Originally titled Six Poulets Rôtis, Sasha sings about the sadness of roasted chickens, but is he really talking about our feathered friends? His melancholic comedy stylings play out in a muddy chicken coop, in a stunning pair of silver cowboy boots.



Lyndsay Stone – November

Timothy David Orme | UK | 2023
4 mins | International Premiere

Following a character exploring the boundaries of their world, this animation, with beautiful simplicity, evokes the boredom of plugging in, the drive to break out of a mundane, the different worlds people inhabit and that perfect moment of freedom.



Kimmortal – Blue & Orange

Aya Garcia | Canada | 2023 | 5 mins
European Premiere

Part documentary, part love story, Blue & Orange is the real life experience of a Filipina lesbian couple, Darla and Cecilia, in a long distance relationship before video calls or the legal recognition of same-sex partnerships. A collection of tender moments between the two before saying goodbye again.



FAZI – Delingha

Lu Li | China | 2024 | 6 mins
Yorkshire Premiere

This intense greyscale animation splashed with acidic yellows, swells with the post-punk stylings of FAZI's Delingha. As the masses are pulled towards one driving ideology, we follow the outlier, on the run in a moon-soaked forest.



Steak Blake – Wonderbread

Alistair Brown | United Kingdom | 2023
3 mins | European Premiere

Art-punk Minneapolis/London artist Steak Blake stalks through a perilous back alley as a vulnerable piece of bread in a world of hungry pigeons. This lo-fi 90s video, with its tongue and its sprinkle of humour, are the perfect visuals for this DIY track.



Lloren – Like This

Ricardo Bonisoli | United States | 2023
4 mins | International Premiere

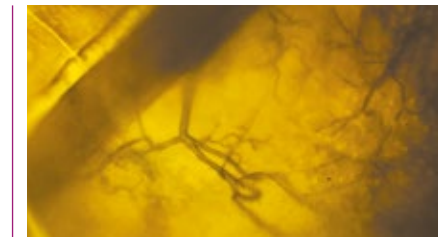
Against an apocalyptic backdrop, a hopeless romantic woman decides to spend the rest of her days with a mannequin. This glossy video for a bonafide pop-bop is a blend of darkness and light, bringing a little bit of mischief to the mainstream.



Steven Wilson – Beautiful Scarecrow

Jess Cope, Venkatram Viswanathan
United Kingdom | 2023 | 6 mins
Yorkshire Premiere

In a world where society is severed by a mysterious disease, a victim of the separation lives underground with only a precious memento from his youth for company. A midnight foraging run to the surface brings a chance encounter with an unlikely figure from his past.



slowshift – EndUp

Andreas Børsting Røe, Ole Jørgen Larssen
Norway | 2024 | 4 mins
England Premiere

From a band who only uses acoustic instruments, EndUp takes their analogue ethos through to their visual output. Shot entirely on a Besser Researcher Bino 400-100x Microscope, the analogue process draws parallels from the minuscule cells of the micro world to the vastness of stars and galaxies.

**Leeds Music
Video Competition
continues on
page 36 >**

Leeds Music Video Competition

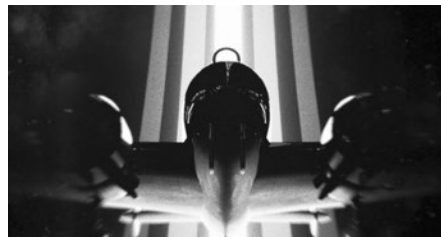
(Continued from pages 34/35)



Terry Blade – Won't Be Around

Terry Blade | United States | 2023
2 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

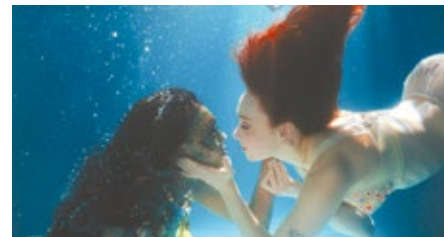
Won't Be Around follows three descendants of African-American sharecroppers. They confront sharecropping's racial history in the American South, showing that black bodies can exist and subsist on land in the South without the exploitation of their labour.



Public Service Broadcasting – Electra

Tom Readdy and Lucy Dawkins –
Yes Please Productions | United Kingdom
2024 | 4 mins

From the recently released PSB concept album *The Last Flight*, which imagines Amelia Earheart's final journey, *Electra* celebrates her incredible story. Capturing her full-of-life force, evoking feelings of adventure, speed and freedom, the beautifully engineered 'Electra 10' represents hopeful aspiration.



Chappell Roan – Casual

Hadley Hillel | United States | 2023
7 mins | UK Premiere

In a sleepy seaside town, Chappell Roan falls in love with a mysterious Siren but soon realises that the creature is more dangerous than she ever could have imagined. With a playful and colourful visual flare, *Casual* shows that the perils of dating go far beyond being ghosted.



Sad Night Dynamite – Wake Up Pass Out

Balázs Simon & Cátia Abreu
United Kingdom | 2024 | 3 mins

Employing filmmaking techniques from a live-action shoot, 3D scanning, motion-capturing, detailed prosthetics, CGI, and photo scanning the streets of London, *Wake Up Pass Out* follows our protagonist, zoned out while scrolling on social media, and his encounter with an attention-seeking monster in a nightclub toilet.

Documentary Short Film Panorama: Movements

Everyman Screen 4, Wed 13 November, 16:45



Mute Utopia

Julio Matos | Brazil | 2023 | 20 mins
UK Premiere

For over 30 years, Radio Muda has broadcast radical messages from inside a 50m-high water tower in the middle of a Sao Paulo university campus. Using the director's own activist footage, *Mute Utopia* traces the history of Brazil's longest-running free radio station, amid changing debates about media and democracy.



A Move

Elahe Esmaili | Iran | 2024 | 27 mins
Yorkshire Premiere

When Elahe returns to her hometown in Mashhad, Iran, to help her parents pack up and move their family home, she is hoping to prompt other changes too. Inspired by the Woman-Life-Freedom protest movement, she sparks conversation and conflict across the generations in this bold, empathetic and thought-provoking film.



Chernobyl: My Promised Land

Mark Dominic Devlin | United Kingdom
2023 | 25 mins | World Premiere

A group of Eastern Ukrainian refugees—led by Vadym Minzyuk—find themselves unwelcome in their new home: a shrinking settlement outside Chernobyl. Locals are sceptical about Vadym's madcap business ventures, but as war arrives on their doorstep, will these colourful characters be able to put aside their differences?



The Tunes

Pablo Guarise | Belgium | 2023
25 mins | UK Premiere

At Cafe La Perle in northern Brussels, the patrons have a lot in common. They have all loved; they have all lost. But most importantly: they all sing, and at all hours to boot. A "strange musical" about the things—and the people—that keep us coming back.

Ukraine, Displaced

Everyman Screen 4, Tuesday 12 November, 16:30



Smoke of the Fire

Daryna Mamaisur | Ukraine, Portugal
2023 | 22 mins

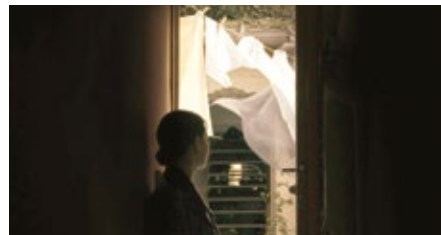
A Ukrainian film-maker who has taken refuge in Portugal is patiently learning Portuguese. Between languages, between images from here and those from a country at war, a voice tries to put into words the state of exile.



Waking Up in Silence

Mila Zhluktenko, Daniel Asadi Faezi
Ukraine, Germany | 2023 | 18 mins

Ukrainian children are confronted with their past as they explore their new home in Germany: a former military barracks. They ride bicycles, make wreaths of wild flowers and explore the empty rooms and corridors. In their games, they discover military symbols from the past and link them to their own experiences and hopes.



In Paris No One Thinks About Tomorrow

Andrii Kokura | Ukraine, France | 2023
14 mins

Alissa is a Ukrainian model who has taken refuge in Paris. Having just lost someone close to her, she finally gets her first contract for a fashion show. Traumatized by war and exile, Alissa seems indifferent to everything around her, and now seeks only one thing: harmony.



Guests from Kharkiv

Halyna Lavrinets | Ukraine | 2023
20 mins

Nelia is the owner of a folk museum in a village in the Poltava region. She and her husband Oleksandr shelter 15 refugees from Kharkiv in the museum and teach their new guests local dialect and traditions, and how to plant a vegetable garden to feed themselves.



As It Was

Damian Kocur, Anastasia Solonevych
Ukraine, Poland | 2023 | 15 mins

Lera has been living in Berlin for almost a year since the outbreak of the war. One day she decides to go back to Kyiv. On her way, she finds out that her family is not in Kyiv and will arrive only the next day. She meets her friend Kyrylo, with whom she spends the day.



One Aloe, One Ficus, One Avocado and Six Dracaenas

Marta Smerechynska | Ukraine, France
2023 | 8 mins

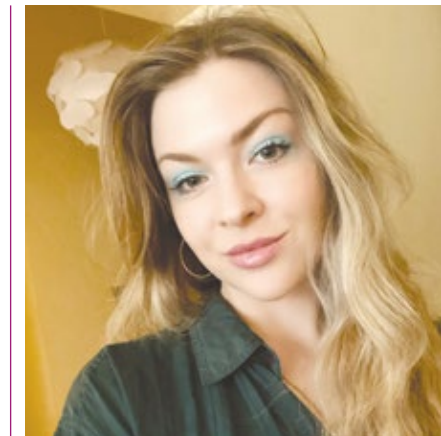
Smerechynska. What to take, what to leave? How important are material possessions when you're trying to save your life? Packages from Ukraine – filled with everything and nothing – wait patiently under a bridge to be found. Each item has a story, a memory that is being left behind.

Jury: Fanomenon Short Film Competition



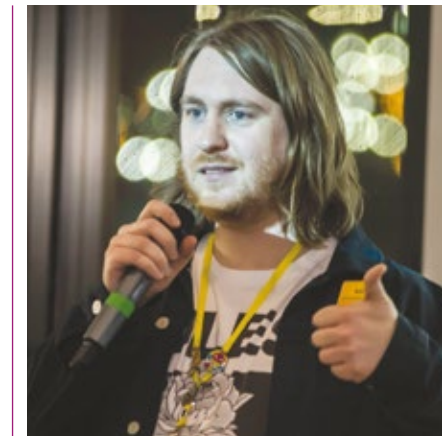
Clelia McElroy

Clelia McElroy is an independent film researcher and the founder/director of Monstrous Flesh, a project dedicated to exploring the representation of women and non-binary people in the horror genre. Since its inception in 2021, Monstrous Flesh has been hosting film courses, events, panel talks, lectures and film seasons in collaboration with other community groups and art institutions in the Midlands and the North of England. Since 2023, Clelia has been collaborating with Dr Megan Kenny on the Monstrous Flesh podcast, and together they have created the Monstrous Flesh Collective to promote their podcast activities. As well as the publication of the Monstrous Flesh Journal. Find out more: www.monstrousflesh.co.uk



Amber T

Amber T is a film journalist, critic and staff writer for FANGORIA, with bylines at Arrow Films, 88 Films, Second Sight, Error 4444 and FilmHounds. Since moving to Leeds in 2021 she has worked with various Northern film festivals including Grimmfest, Celluloid Screams and of course Leeds International Film Festival, for which she has been part of the Fanomenon Night of the Dead hosting team since last year.



Greg Walker

Greg is the Cinema Manager and Programme Lead of CULTPLEX, an indie cinema dedicated to cult films, tv, video games and more in Manchester. Before joining CULTPLEX, Greg split his time between Sheffield DocFest and Manchester Animation Festival in a Production Manager/Producer capacity. Previously Greg has created companies such as Pilot Light TV Festival, RAD Screenings & Mosh Film Fest; and worked with organisations such as Bradford Literature Festival, Grimmfest, Scalarama and Signal Cinema. Outside of cinema his biggest loves are music, video games, food, motorsport and dog videos!

Night of the Dead Shorts

Hyde Park Picture House, Friday 15 November
as part of Night of The Dead



Make Me a Pizza

Talia Shea Levin | United States | 2024
12 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

A woman orders a pizza, but has no money; maybe there's some other way she could pay for it? But after a debate with the delivery guy about the economics of value, the two decide instead to free themselves by making each other into a pizza.



God's Anus

Jan-David Bolt | Switzerland | 2024
12 mins | UK Premiere

Around a gaping hole in an endless desert, four people are buried up to their necks in sand. When one wakes up, he panics, but the other three seem surprisingly calm even when strange devices rise from the sand and tentacles creep from the hole behind them.



Meat Puppet

Eros Vlahos | United Kingdom
2024 | 12 mins

Oz is a man-child, over reliant on his girlfriend and addicted to playing with toys. But when a mysterious puppet arrives at his house and steals his soul, he's forced to choose between immaturity and growing up.



Pocketman

Ericka Clevenger | United States | 2023
2 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

A spoof trailer for an unmade film, Pocketman is a horror movie antagonist like no other. How can you defeat someone who can take anything you put in your pockets? A wedding party must find out or face the consequences.



We Joined A Cult

Chris McInroy | United States | 2023
4 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Three friends meet up to play kickball, but one of them seems to have joined some kind of cult, and is trying hard to recruit new members. Things quickly get gory as the recruitment drive turns nasty.



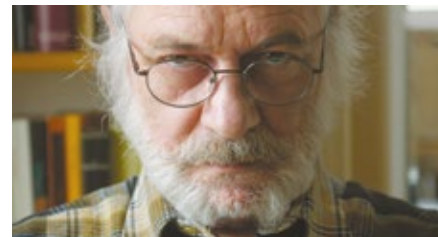
Dream Creep

Carlos A.F. Lopez | United States
2024 | 13 mins

In the middle of the night, David wakes up to a strange noise coming from his wife's ear: her voice, crying for help. She's been trapped inside her dreams by a monster, and the only way to free her is just as likely to kill her. Should David help, or is it all a trick?

LIFF SHORTS X Fanomenon: Short Film Competition 1

Vue Screen 12, Sunday 10 November, 11:30
& Monday 11 November, 13:30



Game Over

Adrian Cacciola | France | 2023
9 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

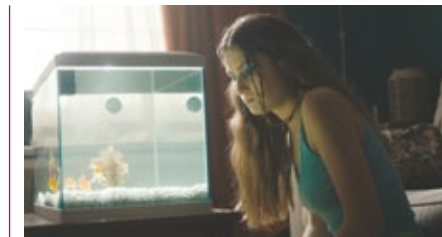
Sunday afternoon is Scrabble day for an elderly couple. Forced to play for the umpteenth time, the man struggles to keep a lid on his contempt. But the game intensifies when he realises the words being played are becoming reality. A smart and delightfully twisted little comedy.



Broken Castles

Ginevra Gentili | United States | 2023
13 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

In a large, empty estate, two siblings wrestle with contrasting perspectives and complexities of leaving their home. Can they confront what is keeping them in to finally break free? Featuring two fantastic central performances, Broken Castles explores generational trauma in a powerful and unique way.



Fish Out of Water

Alexandra Boulton | United Kingdom
2023 | 7 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

In a harsh dystopian future, the government implements a radical programme to save the environment - converting 90% of the population into fish. When an error separates Nip from her family, she must decide how far she will go to correct it. Exploring loneliness, alienation and climate crisis, this is a dark comedy like no other.



Venus

Gonzalo Fernandez Carmona
Netherlands | 2024 | 42 mins

After all men worldwide commit suicide, Joyce desperately tries to get her boyfriend back. She comes into contact with a group trying to manifest 'the male'. But should we want men back? Gonzalo Fernandez mixes sci-fi and body horror to craft an astonishing dystopian psycho-drama.



Marriage Unplugged

Florine & Kim Nüesch | Switzerland
2024 | 15 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Suzanna and Andrew's marriage is crumbling. Tired of the status quo, and much to Andrew's displeasure, Suzanna impulsively buys a sex robot - a decision that will make them confront the very fractures that damaged their relationship in the first place. Sweet, sad, and funny - this is the psychosexual AI drama you didn't know you needed.

LIFF SHORTS X Fanomenon: Short Film Competition 2

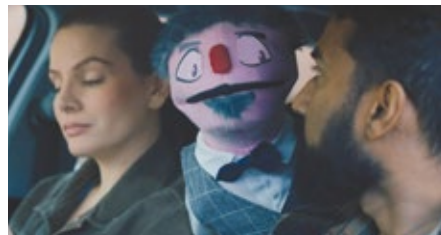
Vue Screen 12, Sunday 10 November, 14:00
& Tuesday 12 November, 13:00



Be Right Back

Lucas Paulino, Gabe Ibáñez | Spain
2023 | 13 mins

Seven-year-old Maria is left at home alone while her mother goes to the shops. But the trip takes longer than expected and when there is finally a knock on the door, Maria isn't convinced the thing on the other side is really her mother.



Don't forget

Jeremy Stuart Thompson | Canada
2024 | 7 mins | UK Premiere

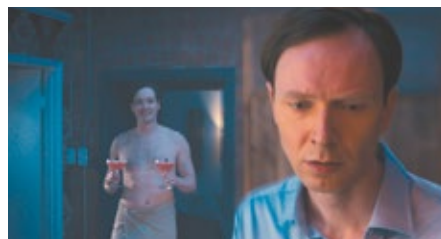
When a couple is just about ready to leave for a trip, they realise they've forgotten to feed the cat. Unfortunately, that's not the only thing they've forgotten, and the steps they have to take before they can leave quickly spiral into absurdity.



Belloe

Jayden Rathsam Hua | Australia | 2024
19 mins | UK Premiere

When an expectant mother takes a solo camping trip into the wilderness to reconnect with nature, she has no idea what nature has in store. Something unseen hears her calling out, and when night falls it comes for her and her unborn child.



Bath Bomb

Colin G Cooper | Canada | 2024
10 mins

A doctor runs his boyfriend a romantic bath - complete with a homemade bath bomb - but all is not as it seems. As the conversation turns to the boyfriend's new, attractive intern, the atmosphere gets a bit more tense, and the true purpose of the bath is revealed.



Outside Noise

Ethan Evans | United Kingdom | 2024
8 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

A woman struggling to sleep turns to the Outside Noise app to play the relaxing sound of a forest. Is it her insomnia, or is the app letting in more than just sound? And is there something strange moving around in the woods?



FISHMONGER

Neil Ferron | United States | 2024
26 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Christie O'Mallaghan needs to get married in less than three days, or his dying mother's soul will burn in hell for all eternity. Running out of options, he turns to a strange sea creature who can grant a wish in an extremely unorthodox way, with strange consequences.



The Cost of Flesh

Tomas Palombi | France | 202
10 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Entirely paralyzed, Alice can only communicate by blinking. When her well-meaning siblings turn to dark magic to cure her, we see the terrifying results shot entirely through the reflections in Alice's eye.

LIFF SHORTS X Fanomenon: Short Film Competition 3

Vue Screen 12, Sunday 10 November, 16:00
& Wednesday 13 November, 14:30



RoButler

James Button | United Kingdom | 2022
6 mins | Yorkshire Premiere

Overworked council worker Cwnt Jones purchases a personalised A.I. assistant to help make his life beta. But before long, Cwnt realises A.I. isn't quite as smart or helpful as it claims to be. Intensely silly and funny, RoButler shows there is still work to be done before fully trusting new technologies.



Off the Face of the Earth

Michael Pantozzi | United States | 2023
18 mins | World Premiere

A reclusive photographer's strange encounter with a long-thought-missing woman threatens to bring him out of his isolation. Unless perhaps this is an opportunity to withdraw himself even more? Michael Pantozzi develops a highly original, and quite terrifying premise and takes "be careful what you wish for" to the next level.



The Mischievous Lucita and her Guide on How to Go to Hell

Ángel Quel | Spain | 2023 | 13 mins
UK Premiere

According to legend, whoever sees the Santa Compañía in procession will die within a year. 65-year-old Lucita saw such a vision last year, and she's now waiting for her opportunity to visit her son Vicente... in hell. All hail our new dark Queen of Mischief, Lucita - heroine of this darkly comic mockumentary.



Skulk

Max Ward | United Kingdom
2024 | 7 mins

In the dead of night, creatures slink through the streets of London. A woman wakes up to the sound of foxes and notices a strange figure outside her home. This one will get under your skin and have you wonder what might or might not be in the background.



They're Coming Tonight

John Bonner | United States | 2024
10 mins | UK Premiere

A man and woman must hide out in a house as a mysterious group slowly approaches, searching for them... Somewhere between B-movie, film noir, and an episode of The Twilight Zone, this is a visually impressive and unexpected little gem.



LEAF

Thom Lunshof | Netherlands | 2023
20 mins | UK Premiere

Nora and her son Sil set out to find one of the last green habitats in a future parched Earth. When Sil undergoes a strange physical change during their journey, Nora's fear grows of what they will find on the other side of the desert. Leaf is a stunning piece of storytelling and filmmaking.



Masks

Andre LeBlanc | United States | 2024
13 mins | International Premiere

A husband draws his wife from a long-standing catatonic state by having her wear a series of increasingly disturbing masks. This is a dark tale on identity and how we often show different 'faces' to different people. Uneasy and unpredictable, Masks asks you to question your relationship between expectation and reality.

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LIFF SHORTS PROGRAMMERS

International Short Film Consultant

Céline Roustan

Louis le Prince International Short Film Competition

Lead Programmer – Liz Chege

Programmers – Allegra Bell, Gurnesha Bola, Jason Liwag, Kristen Harding, Miranda Bentley, Saulė Savanevičiūtė

British and Yorkshire Short Film Competitions

Lead Programmer – Robb Barham

Programmers – Khara Linton-Salmon, Olivia Thomas

World Animation Competition

Programmers – Heather Bradshaw, Georgia Dixon-Lynch

Documentary Shorts

Lead Programmer – Jenna Isherwood

Programmer – Ted Steptoe

Fantastic Shorts

Programmers – Melissa Gueneau, Zoë Wren Boyd

Leeds Queer Short Film Competition

Programmers – Leeds Queer Film Festival

Leeds Music Video Competition

Programmer – Robyn Lawrence

Leeds Screendance Competition

Lead Programmer – Andy Wood

Programmer – Gitta Wigro

