

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

SHORTSFEST

April 6-11, 2021

@aspenfilm

#Shortsfest2021

aspenfilm.org

SF 30

THE ASPEN TIMES



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FILMOCRACY

THE ASPEN TIMES

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welcome



hello and welcome to the 30th edition of Aspen Shortsfest! We're proud to be celebrating our third decade of the best in short cinema from around the globe with you. While we are disappointed not to be gathering in our usual Shortsfest home — the historic Wheeler Opera House in downtown Aspen — we are incredibly appreciative that our program is once again, available for viewing nationwide, which is one of the silver linings we have discovered.

Once again our incredible programming team has navigated their way through nearly 3000 submissions to find 80 essential films to share with you over eleven terrific programs. Our hope is that you'll discover new voices, unique locales, and visionary visuals, and run the gamut of emotions as you watch our offerings and experience our events.

This year, we have created "virtual entry" to iconic downtown Aspen Buildings through an interactive map of the town for your to experience festival happenings at the virtual Aspen Art Museum, the virtual Hotel Jerome, the virtual Red Brick Center for the Arts , and the virtual Wheeler Opera House .

No matter what you choose to view or attend, we hope that you are able to appreciate the richness presented off and on screen by this year's roster of renowned and upcoming filmmakers, as well as our knowledgeable Industry Guests. We are so proud of the talent collaborating with us for our milestone anniversary.

Thanks for watching and we hope you enjoy all of our presentations!



Susan Wrubel
Executive + Artistic Director

as we get ready to present the 30th edition (and second virtual incarnation) of Aspen Shortsfest, we're happy to note that our goal has remained the same in spite of the many changes and challenges of recent times. That's to introduce our audiences to an incredible bounty of new films by cinematic talents from all over the world, movies that are as compelling, moving, exciting, hilarious and surprising as anything else you will see this year. We're enormously grateful to be able to celebrate the achievements of so many filmmakers who are following their passions and sharing their stories and visions. And as diverse and different as these films can be, they are all testaments to cinema's power to forge connections and foster empathy; two things that feel especially valuable these days.

Along with my programming team of Angie Driscoll, Anita Tavakol and Inney Prakash as well as our invaluable pre-screener, I want to say how thrilled we are to present the abundance of gripping dramas, delightful comedies, insightful documentaries and ingenious animations that comprise Aspen Shortsfest's 2021 selection. We were all awed by the amount of craft, care and feeling that went into these films, both before and after their creators realized that their works would be entering a far different world than they may have imagined.

We hope that these films get all the attention they so richly deserve and we thank our audience for greeting them with open eyes, hearts and minds.



Jason Anderson
Director of Programming





JASON ANDERSON



ANGIE DRISCOLL



INNEY PRAKASH



ANITA TAVAKOL

JASON ANDERSON

Director of Programming

Jason Anderson is a programmer, writer and lecturer based in Toronto. He's the programmer for Short Cuts, the Toronto International Film Festival's annual program of short-form cinema. He's also the Director of Programming for the Kingston Canadian Film Festival, the country's largest standalone festival of Canadian movies. He has served on juries for festivals such as Hot Docs, Vienna Independent Shorts, the Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival, and Nordisk Panorama. Previously a longtime critic and columnist for Toronto's Eye Weekly and The Grid, he currently writes about film and music for such publications as Uncut, Sight & Sound, and Cinema Scope. He teaches film criticism at the University of Toronto. His first novel Showbiz was published by Toronto's ECW Press in 2004. Raised in Calgary, he lives in Toronto with his wife, daughter and too many records.

ANGIE DRISCOLL

Angie Driscoll brings over 15 years of film programming experience to her work as Programmer at Aspen Shortsfest. She has programmed for a variety of international film festivals including the Toronto International Film Festival, the Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival, the Toronto Urban Film Festival, Hot Docs and Nordisk Panorama. She has curated for Babelgum, consulted for the Sundance Film Festival, Reel Canada, and the Prism Prize, and is currently Senior Shorts and Senior International programmer for Hot Docs, a consultant for the Athena Film Festival and Midtnorsk Filmsenter, and a writer for international sales agent Magnetfilm and online magazine Cinema Scandinavia.

INNEY PRAKASH

Inney Prakash is a film curator based in NYC. He's on the cinema programming team at Maysles Documentary Center in Harlem, and is the Founder/Director of Prismatic Ground, a new festival centered on experimental documentary launching April 2021. He's worked with other festivals including Sundance, Ann Arbor, Freep, Human Rights Watch, DOC NYC, SXSW, and as a judge for the International Documentary Association.

ANITA TAVAKOL

Anita Tavakol began her career as Program Coordinator for the Women in Politics and Government Career Learning Days at Youth in Motion. She has worked at the Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival, was a member of the Programming Committee at the Revue Cinema, assisting in the selection process for the Short Shorts festival, and has served in a variety of roles at the Toronto International Film Festival, where she is currently the Short Cuts Programming Associate, including Jury Coordinator for the first Short Cuts Jury and, most recently, Associate Programmer, Industry.

VOLUNTEER PRE-SCREENERS

Aaron Adelman, Anna Binkley, Penny Brown, Martin Champagne J. Jr, Ziska Childs, Cara Dyksen, Ginny Epsten, Jesse Garcia, Talita Garcia, Lisa Gerstner, Monica Gleberman Rose, Carolyn Golbus, Philip Golden, Siddhanta Goswami, Julia Haugan, Karen Hawkes, Gretchen Hayduk-Wroblewski, Tracy Hritz, Gilbert Houry, Jared Leighton, Pamela Mackey, Jeremy Martin, Olive Nwosu, Lexi Paparo, Aubrey Polliard, Tracey Powell, Gail Sachson, Bonnie Shappell, Natalia Snider, Emily Taylor, Kathy Weiss, Jamie White, Wendle Whiting, Lisa Wolfe, Jane Zinner



MERYAM JOOBEUR



KEYA KHAYATIAN



RACHEL ROSEN

MERYAM JOOBEUR

Meryam is an Academy Award nominated Tunisian director, based in Montréal, Canada. Her work includes both documentary and fiction. Her short films GODS, WEEDS AND REVOLUTIONS (2012) and BORN IN THE MAELSTROM (2017), starring Sasha Lane, screened internationally. Her Academy Award-nominated Short BROTHERHOOD (2018) screened at 150+ festivals and won 75 international prizes. She is co-owner of the Tunisia based production company Instinct Bleu with producer Sarra Ben Hassen and is currently developing her first feature project MOTHERHOOD.

KEYA KHAYATIAN

Keya Khayatian is a Partner in the Motion Picture Literary department of leading talent and literary agency UTA. He began his entertainment career in 1995 as an agent trainee in the UTA mailroom. He was quickly promoted to departmental assistant specializing in film rights for literary properties, and in 1997 he was promoted to agent. He was promoted to Partner in 2017 and became an Associate member of the Academy that same year. He also Co-Heads the Media Rights Group at the agency. With a keen eye for spotting original artistic voices, Khayatian has helped develop the careers of many of the most sought-after writers and directors, as well as representing established talent.

RACHEL ROSEN

Rachel Rosen is a San Francisco Bay Area based independent film programmer and awards consultant. Rosen is currently a member of the selection committee for The New York Film Festival. Previously, she was Director of Programming for SFFILM which presents the annual San Francisco International Film Festival. She was Director of Programming for Film Independent and the Los Angeles Film Festival for eight years. She has worked in various capacities for New York's Film Forum, the New York Film Festival, and Tri-Star Pictures. She is a graduate of Stanford University's Master of Arts program in Documentary Film.

SHORTSFEST 2021 AWARDS





OPAL H. BENNETT



INGA DIEV



REINALDO MARCUS GREEN



GLENN KISER

OPAL H. BENNETT

Opal H. Bennett has been a curator since 2014, when she joined the Programming team at Montclair Film Festival as Shorts Programmer. She is currently on the programming teams for Athena Film Festival and DOC NYC, and is a Programming Consultant for The March on Washington Film Festival. In January 2020, Opal became the Shorts Producer for POV, and in July, she was tapped to become the Director of Filmmaker Development, a newly-created position at DOCNYC. Opal is on the selection committees for shorts at Cinema Eye Honors and the International Documentary Association. Opal has served on juries for SxSW, IndieMemphis, NewFest, Leuven ShortsFest, New Orleans, Cleveland and Seattle International Film Festivals among others. She has also participated on selection committees for documentary programming and grants. A Columbia Law grad, Opal holds a Masters in Media Studies from the London School of Economics, and received her B.A. from New York University.

INGA DIEV

Inga Diev serves as the General Manager of Quat Media, a Toronto-based international sales and distribution company specializing in short films. To date, Quat Media has represented eleven Academy Award® nominated short films including three winners. In her role, Inga is responsible for the company's business operations and oversees all the film sales and acquisitions. Prior to joining Quat Media, Inga spent over a decade working in film production and broadcast programming, most recently at Sundance Channel Canada.

REINALDO MARCUS GREEN

Reinaldo Marcus Green is a writer, director, and producer. He was one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film (2015). His first feature, MONSTERS AND MEN had its world premiere at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. The film received a Special Jury Prize for Outstanding First Feature. Reinaldo directed the first three episodes of the NETFLIX series, TOP BOY executive produced by Drake and SpringHill Entertainment. Since, he has completed his sophomore feature JOE BELL written by BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN scribes Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana, starring Mark Wahlberg and Connie Britton. The film premiered at TIFF 2020 and sold to Solstice Studios for \$20M. Reinaldo is currently in post-production with Warner Brothers film KING RICHARD starring Will Smith, set to be released Thanksgiving 2021.

GLENN KISER

Glenn Kiser is the Director of the Dolby Institute, Dolby's initiative to bring education and inspiration to filmmakers and artists about the creative use of sound and image in storytelling. He is the host of the Dolby Institute Podcast, now in its seventh season, featuring in-depth conversations with artists about how they use technology. He created the Dolby Institute Fellowships, supporting exciting new films from directors including Rebecca Hall, Alma Har'el, Benh Zeitlin, Taika Waititi, Dee Rees, and Reed Morano. Previously, Kiser was the VP & General Manager of Lucasfilm's Skywalker Sound, where he oversaw sound teams on numerous films including AVATAR, THE INCREDIBLES, WALL-E, and the STAR WARS prequels. Before joining Skywalker, Kiser was a post-production executive at Propaganda Films, where he worked with directors including David Fincher, Spike Jonze, and Jane Campion.



JAMES LUCARELLI



IDDO PATT



SUDEEP SHARMA



DIANA WILLIAMS

JAMES LUCARELLI

James Lucarelli knows RED cameras well, but he also knows a whole lot about the industry. With over 15+ years of cinema sales and professional on-set experience, James has evolved into a technical and creative go-to in the “high-end digital film” revolution and continues to push the bar through traditional filmmaking and advanced technologies.

IDDO PATT

As co-founder of Eventive, Iddo Patt has been on a mission to provide more and more people access to a better and better independent film experience. With the launch of Eventive Virtual in 2020, the platform now serves over 850 festivals and organizations around the world creating virtual and in person cinema experiences, and Iddo has had a unique vantage point on the rapid transition to digital exhibition. Iddo’s prior experiences as an independent filmmaker and film producer, a founding board member of Indie Memphis, and work as a commercial director and producer have all informed the work that he and the Eventive team are doing to connect audiences, organizers, and filmmakers in meaningful new ways.

SUDEEP SHARMA

Sudeep Sharma is a Programmer for the Sundance Film Festival with a focus on documentary feature films. He is also Co-Director of Programming for the Palm Springs International ShortFest. He has worked in programming for many eclectic and recognizable festivals and was Director of Public Programming for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Science. He holds a PhD in Cinema and Media Studies from UCLA and has taught film and television courses at universities throughout Southern California.

DIANA WILLIAMS

Diana Williams is an award-winning producer and co-founder of Kinetic Energy Entertainment. She develops IP and produces creative content for distribution across all storytelling media. Throughout her career she has been at the forefront of working with emerging and established talent to ensure that all voices are included in the entertainment industry. Kinetic Energy’s project slate includes the sci-fi cross-platform storyworld of The Gatecrashers, The Takeover podcast based on Ureeka/1863 Ventures focus on entrepreneurs of color, and recipe-memoir ADVENTURES IN STARRY KITCHEN. Previously she produced the critically acclaimed feature film OUR SONG (directed by Jim McKay, starring Kerry Washington), and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award, among other credits. A graduate of Georgetown University, Diana is the Chairperson of a newly-formed Interactive board for the Peabody Awards, and is a member of the DGA and the Academy.

SHORTSFEST 2021

at-a-glance

ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN TIME



TUE APR 6

7AM MT
All Shorts Programs Unlocked: Watch Windows Begin
Eventive

6PM MT
Shorts Program 01 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

7:30PM MT
Shorts Program 02 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

SAT APR 17

6-7PM MT
Shortsfest Awards Presentation
Eventive

7PM MT
Award Winners Screening
Eventive

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WED APR 7

4:30-6PM MT
Sip & Chat Session w/ Inga Diev
Aspen Art Museum
Filmocracy Space

6PM MT
Shorts Program 03 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

7:30PM MT
Shorts Program 04 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

THU APR 8

4:30-6PM MT
Sip & Chat Session w/ Sudeep Sharma
Aspen Art Museum
Filmocracy Space

6PM MT
Shorts Program 05 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

7:30PM MT
Shorts Program 06 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

FRI APR 9

3PM MT
Eventive Workshop: From Programmers to Curators
Red Brick Center For the Arts
Filmocracy Space

4:30-6PM MT
Sip & Chat Session w/ Opal H. Bennett
Aspen Art Museum
Filmocracy Space

6PM MT
Shorts Program 07 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

7:30PM MT
Shorts Program 08 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

SAT APR 10

1PM MT
Dolby Workshop: The Role of Sound Design
Red Brick Center For the Arts
Filmocracy Space

3PM MT
Shorts Program 09 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

4:30-6PM MT
Sip & Chat Session w/ Diana Williams
Aspen Art Museum
Filmocracy Space

6PM MT
In Conversation with Filmmaker Reinaldo Marcus Green
Eventive Livestream

7:30PM MT
Shorts Program 10 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

SUN APR 11

12PM MT
RED Workshop: Intro to the RED Arsenal
Red Brick Center For the Arts
Filmocracy Space

2PM MT
Shorts Program 11 Filmmaker Q&A
Eventive Livestream

11:59PM MT
Shorts Programs Unlock Windows Close
Eventive

Membership has its benefits.

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Aspen Film seeks to enlighten, enrich, educate and entertain through film.

Join now to enjoy all the benefits an Aspen Film membership has to offer!

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[aspenfilm.org/membership](https://www.aspenfilm.org/membership) | 970.925.6882

VIRTUAL PASSES

Passes are the best way for you to virtually attend Aspen Shortsfest. As a passholder, you can pre-order and reserve the Programs you plan to view on screen. Passes are linked to each passholder's Eventive account, where all Shorts Programs + Q&A Sessions are hosted.

VIP PASS | \$250 GA | \$200 MEMBER

Includes access to all 11 Short Film Programs, filmmaker Q&As, virtual Sip & Chat Sessions, industry panels & workshops, conversation with filmmaker Reinaldo Marcus Green, virtual Awards Presentation, and the 2021 Award Winners Program.

FULL VIRTUAL PASS \$150 GA | \$120 MEMBER

Includes access to all 11 Short Film Programs, filmmaker Q&As, virtual Sip & Chat sessions, and conversation with filmmaker Reinaldo Marcus Green.

5 FILM PASS | \$60 GA | \$48 MEMBER

Includes access to 5 Short Film Programs of your choosing and filmmaker Q&As.

STUDENT + TEACHER PASS | \$45

Available to students, teachers, and young professionals (35 & under). For more information, email hpike@aspenfilm.org.

INDIVIDUAL SHORTS PROGRAM TICKETS

\$15 General Admission

\$12 Aspen Film Members

\$5 Student + Teachers

ON SALE MARCH 22

*All Aspen Film Members get 20% off tickets + passes. Please note that the exclusive member discount will be available through a private online code that Members will need to enter during their transaction. To learn more about becoming an Aspen Film Member, visit aspenfilm.org /membership.

IN CONVERSATION WITH FILMMAKER REINALDO MARCUS GREEN

\$5 on Eventive

ON SALE MARCH 22

TICKETS FOR 2021 SHORTSFEST AWARDS PRESENTATION + WINNERS PROGRAM

\$30 GA | \$24 MEMBER

ON SALE APRIL 11

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ALL TICKET & PASS PURCHASES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

FILMOCRACY EVENT SPACE

Aspen Film is partnering with Filmocracy to provide an engaging and interactive experience for filmmakers and festival-goers alike. VIP and Full Virtual Passholders will be able to enter iconic downtown Aspen Buildings to engage in daily Sip & Chat industry conversations and mingling sessions. A virtual map of Aspen will feature the following events spaces: The virtual Aspen Art Museum will be the social space for the nightly Sip & Chat sessions; the virtual Hotel Jerome will serve as the Filmmaker Lounge; the virtual Red Brick Center for the Arts hosting the Education Hub, and the virtual Wheeler Opera House that will be the portal to enter the festival's Eventive screening platform.

For more information about how to access the virtual downtown map, visit aspenfilm.org/aspen-shortsfest-2021



CODE OF CONDUCT

Aspen Film is committed to providing our audiences, guests, and partners with a safe experience that is free of discrimination and inappropriate behavior. Any form of written, verbal, physical abuse or threats, the use of derogatory or discriminatory language, gestures or actions, any form of harassment, racism, sexism, or any other targeted comments which may violate any local, state or federal laws or cause personal offense to another Aspen Shortsfest participant will not be tolerated. You can reach out directly to info@aspenfilm.org if you believe you've observed or experienced a violation of this policy, and Aspen Shortsfest will work to assess the situation and to respond as soon as possible.

SOCIAL

For up-to-date information visit aspenfilm.org



@ASPENFILM

#Shortsfest2021

the shortsfest experience



Special Events are all part of the Shortsfest experience. Celebrate great film with great conversations!

IN CONVERSATION WITH FILMMAKER REINALDO MARCUS GREEN

Saturday, April 10 | 6-7PM MT

Eventive Livestream

Access to this conversation is limited to VIP, Full Virtual passholders & Event Ticketholders

Shortsfest Programming Director Jason Anderson will host an in-depth conversation with award-winning filmmaker Reinaldo Marcus Green on the evening of Saturday, April 10. Green is a Shortsfest alum whose first feature, *MONSTERS & MEN*, won the Special Dramatic Jury Prize at Sundance in 2018. His second feature *JOE BELL* was written by Oscar®-winning screenwriters Diana Ossana and Larry McMurtry and stars Mark Wahlberg, Reid Miller, Connie Britton, Maxwell Jenkins, and Gary Sinise. The film is scheduled for release later this year, as is his recently wrapped third feature *KING RICHARD*, a biographical drama for Warner Brothers starring Will Smith as Richard Williams, father and coach to Venus and Serena Williams. Green's next project will be the highly anticipated untitled Bob Marley biopic for Paramount Pictures.

SIP & CHAT SESSIONS

Wednesday - Saturday | April 7 - 10 | 4:30-6PM MT

Virtual Aspen Art Museum Filmocracy Space

First Floor

Access is limited to VIP & Full Virtual passholders, filmmakers and Industry Guests

Join us each evening for our virtual Sip & Chat industry conversations and mingling sessions. These exploratory sessions will each feature a 20-minute dialogue with one of our phenomenal and knowledgeable Industry Guests followed by a 10-minute Q&A. The rest of the session is dedicated to mingling and networking with filmmakers, programmers, Industry Guests, and other film enthusiasts. Move freely between tables to join different conversations throughout the event.

Wednesday, April 7 | 4:30-6PM MT

Virtual Aspen Art Museum Filmocracy Space

Inga Diev, General Manager of Ouat Media, the Toronto-based international sales and distribution company specializing in short films, will be walking us through possibilities for sales and distribution of short films both here and abroad.

Thursday, April 8 | 4:30-6PM MT

Virtual Aspen Art Museum Filmocracy Space

Sudeep Sharma, a programmer for the Sundance Film Festival with a focus on documentary feature films and Co-Director of Programming for the Palm Springs International ShortFest, will discuss the strategy programming and how different festivals approach film selection based on each one's mission and personality.

Friday, April 9 | 4:30-6PM MT

Virtual Aspen Art Museum Filmocracy Space

Join curator **Opal Hope Bennett**, who recently became the Shorts Producer for POV as well as the Director of Filmmaker Development for DOCNYC, as she leads a conversation on the acquisition of short films and best practices for mounting award campaigns.

Saturday, April 10 | 4:30-6PM MT

Virtual Aspen Art Museum Filmocracy Space

Diana Williams, an award-winning producer and co-founder of Kinetic Energy Entertainment, will talk about the importance of knowing and understanding your audiences - B2B and B2C (Business-to-Business + Business-to-Consumer).



VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

Friday - Sunday | April 9 - 11

Access to these workshops is limited to VIP & Member Full Virtual passholders, filmmakers and Industry Guests.

**VIRTUAL CINEMA:
FROM PROGRAMMERS TO CURATORS**

Friday, April 9 | 3PM MT

Virtual Red Brick Center for the Arts
Filmocracy Space

PRESENTED BY | Iddo Patt, Eventive

Join Eventive co-founder **Iddo Patt** and special guests to learn about the dramatic growth of virtual cinema, and the emergence and role of powerful curatorial brands in the virtual cinema landscape.



THE ROLE OF SOUND DESIGN

Saturday, April 10 | 1PM MT

Virtual Red Brick Center for the Arts
Filmocracy Space

PRESENTED BY | Glenn Kiser, Dolby Institute

Great sound design is not exclusive to big-budget studio films. It is something that can be employed by filmmakers with any size budget. Learn the role sound design can play at the conceptual stage of your independent project and how sound can help you tell your story. Join filmmakers and sound designers from three films in our official selection as they present scenes from their films, discuss how sound design helped or even became part of their narrative, and share how sound connects with music as a creative element.



INTRO TO THE RED ARSENAL

Sunday, April 11 | 12PM MT

Virtual Red Brick Center for the Arts
Filmocracy Space

PRESENTED BY | James Lucarelli, RED Digital Cinema

Are you new to RED or interested about learning more about the various RED cameras and sensors? Please join **James Lucarelli** for a virtual presentation as he highlights the key features & benefits of shooting on a RED camera system. Learn more about the RED camera's technological achievements and see why a RED camera is the perfect addition to your arsenal for both motion and stills.



SHORTSFEST AWARDS PRESENTATION

Saturday, April 17 | 6-7PM MT

Eventive

Come celebrate with us as we wrap up Shortsfest 2021 with our virtual Awards Presentation! Awards determined by our esteemed Shortsfest Jury will be presented to filmmakers in a host of categories. Our **Jury Awards** for **Animation, Comedy, Documentary, Drama,** and **Short Short** are all Oscar®-qualifiers. The **Youth Jury Award** is a coveted filmmaker honor bestowed by a jury comprised of local middle and high school students.

Our **Ellen Award** is given in honor of Aspen Film founder Ellen Hunt, who passed away at the end of January 2021. The award originated in 2000 after Ellen retired, and honors the memory of our founder and first Executive Director. Given to a film that embodies the spirit of Aspen Film's programming during Ellen's tenure from 1979 to 1995, the Ellen Award is presented by a veteran Aspen Film jury. This year, Ellen's twin granddaughters, Charlotte and Daisy Kohner, have joined the jury to carry on their grandmother's legacy.

For the fourth year, we are also proud to be able to present the **Vimeo Staff Pick Award**, a prestigious honor from the creator-first platform. The winning film will be available for viewing worldwide on the Vimeo Staff Picks channel on April 12.

FILMMAKER Q&AS

Tuesday - Sunday | April 6-11

Eventive Livestream

Join Shortsfest's programmers for live and interactive sessions with directors in each of our 11 exciting programs.

Shorts Program 01
Tuesday, April 6
6PM MT

Shorts Program 05
Thursday, April 8
6PM MT

Shorts Program 09
Saturday, April 10
3PM MT

Shorts Program 02
Tuesday, April 6
7:30PM MT

Shorts Program 06
Thursday, April 8
7:30PM MT

Shorts Program 10
Saturday, April 10
7:30PM MT

Shorts Program 03
Wednesday, April 7
6PM MT

Shorts Program 07
Friday, April 9
6PM MT

**Shorts Program 11:
Family Fun**
Sunday, April 11
2PM MT

Shorts Program 04
Wednesday, April 7
7:30PM MT

Shorts Program 08
Friday, April 9
7:30PM MT



LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A TUESDAY, APRIL 6 | 6PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 91 MIN

PRESENTED BY

THE ASPEN TIMES

WEARABLE TRACY

In 2017, Lee Kim found herself on the subway wearing a small hat she made from pipe cleaners, an oddity that could easily pass unnoticed in New York. Instead, Lee was overwhelmed and quite uncomfortable with the number of strangers who commented on it. Rather than put that day behind her, she decided to lean into the uncomfortable and create a new pipe cleaner hat each day, inviting this engagement. More than 1,000 days later and in the midst of the pandemic, Lee's experiment in human connection continues to evolve.

(EMILY MCALLISTER, USA, 12MIN)



seething resentment and intense jealousy soon take hold, and a murderous side of little Roborovski is released.

(TILDA COBHAM-HERVEY, DEV PATEL, AUSTRALIA, 15MIN)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

CHUJ BOYS OF SUMMER

CHUJ BOYS OF SUMMER is the story of a close knit group of Guatemalans living and working in a small Rocky Mountain town. It centers on two boys--one a new arrival, the other preparing to leave--and details the handoff of place and purpose between the two. It is a story of hope, home, and friendship in a strange place. (MAX WALKER-SILVERMAN, USA/GUATEMALA, 16MIN)



ISOLE CICLOPI

A woman returns to a familiar harbor in a struggle to reclaim her lost memories.

(RYAN DE FRANCO, MATTHEW MENDELSON, ITALY/USA, 5MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



THE NAME OF THE SON (EL NOMBRE DEL HIJO)

Lucho, a 13-year-old trans boy, doesn't usually share much time with his father Daniel. When he goes on holiday with him and his younger sister to the beach, to a house in which they haven't been for some time, the memories this environment brings, and the new closeness between them, put their already tense relationship to the test. This is a portrait of the challenge of dealing with fears while trying to rebuild a bond with love.

(MARTINA MATZKIN, ARGENTINA, 13MIN)



WHITE WEDDING

Amidst a racially tense wedding, a biracial bride has the chance to confront her estranged Black father after accidentally hiring his wedding band to perform.

(MELODY C. ROSCHER, USA, 10MIN)



PLAISIR

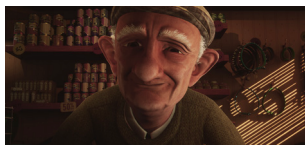
A naive American woman journeys to an artist farm commune in the south of France seeking solace from her loneliness. But without the ability to speak French, Eleanore struggles to connect with her new community. She is taken under the wing of Sophie, a choreographer and lead gardener at the chateau. Eleanore grows romantic feelings for Sophie, whose confidence and charisma are what Eleanore longs for. When those feelings aren't reciprocated, Eleanore must face the ultimate purpose of her trip and come to terms with being alone. PLAISIR (French word for pleasure) is a tender comedy of errors and a queer story of unrequited love. Through Eleanore's journey, we learn that wherever you go, there you are.

(MOLLY GILLIS, FRANCE, 19MIN)



ROBOROVSKI

ROBOROVSKI follows the eponymous thimble sized hamster who spends his days in Marvin's Pet Shop, hoping to find a family. However, when he is constantly overlooked by the people and animals around him, his



LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A TUESDAY, APRIL 6 | 7:30PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 93 MIN

DAVID

David Needs Help. So Does David.

(ZACH WOODS, USA, 11MIN)



LONELY BLUE NIGHT

An awkward family reunion at a business/karaoke dinner leads a Chinese mother to realize the consequences of leaving her daughter in the care of an American homestay family. **(JOHNSON CHENG, USA, 15MIN)**



IN SUDDEN DARKNESS

A slice of life film set in the Bronx, New York—IN SUDDEN DARKNESS

follows the life of the Moores, a working-class Black family trying to stay afloat in the midst of the city-wide blackout. Searching for solutions to cope, the family descends directly into the darkness and chaos. With the heat causing frustrations to run high, how do the Moores and their community come together in the face of the unknown?

(TAYLER MONTAGUE, USA, 13MIN)



LIZARD

After 8-year-old Juwon gets removed from Bible class by her Sunday school teacher, she follows an Agama Lizard into the bowels of the “Heaven’s Gate” Mega Church. Her journey into the labyrinth exposes the financial inner workings and the hidden activities behind the scenes. Plunging her deeper until she is confronted by a spellbinding sermon and a congregation worshipping in a hypnotized frenzy. Magical interactions with an alarmingly larger Lizard and a sturdy gateman serve as metaphors for the preceding incidents. As her family proceeds to leave the Church, they are intercepted by the dramatic confrontation with a gang of holy armed robbers.

(AKINOLA DAVIES JR., NIGERIA/UK, 18MIN)



SUMMER SHADE

(צלביץ)

Exploring true events of discrimination against women in Israel, SUMMER SHADE

offers a slice-of-life insight into an Israeli hot summer day. Gal, a 13-year-old adventurous girl wanders alone towards her favorite relaxing summer spot, the magical refreshing pond nearby her house. Shortly after her arrival, a group of ultra-Orthodox Hasidic teenagers violently try to kick her out, threatened by her femininity.

(SHIRA HAIMOVICI, UK/ISRAEL, 15MIN) US PREMIERE



WE HAVE ONE HEART

After his mother dies, Adam comes across some letters exchanged years ago between his Polish mother and his father, a Kurd living in Iraq. This is an opportunity for him to find out more about his father, whom he never knew. The juxtaposition of animated drawings and archival material takes us back forty years into the past and enables us not only to feel the emotions linking the lovers living in different parts of the world, but also to uncover an extraordinary family secret.

(KATARZYNA WARZECHA, POLAND, 11MIN)



SQUIRREL WARS

A New York artist’s obsession makes her the leader of a squirrel war on Facebook. The pressure cooker of quarantine mixed with the polarization of politics intensifies the ire of squirrel lovers everywhere.

(JILL MORLEY, USA, 9MIN) WORLD PREMIERE

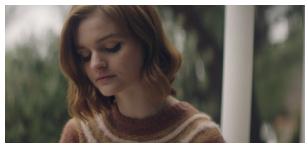


LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 | 6PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 93 MIN

SILVERTONE

Anna and Daniel are members of a successful band, Silvertone, making the follow-up to their hit debut record. They (with a little help from their label) set up at a house in the Hills to try and write the perfect song. But the pressure of a sophomore album and their own complicated history cast a big shadow. Soon, Anna and Daniel's competing creative processes lead to a disconnect that threatens their relationship and art.



(KERRIS DORSEY, USA, 10MIN) WORLD PREMIERE

A BROKEN HOUSE

When Syrian architect Mohamad Hafez got trapped in the United States, he realized if he couldn't return home, he could make home. A skilled architectural model-maker, he spent his years in exile sculpting life-like renditions of his Damascus neighborhood. When the civil war broke out and his parents fled to the United States as refugees, Mohamad's bottled-up frustration erupted on his models. In a fit of mania, he broke his artworks, leaving them shattered, bombed-out replicas of the Syrian buildings he saw on the news.



(JIMMY GOLDBLUM, USA/LEBANON, 20MIN)

SINKING SHIP (LE NAUFRAGE)

While out for drinks, a couple finds themselves in an intellectual discussion of how they feel about each other. Their clinical honesty is contrasted by the restaurant's massive mural of open waters behind them that begins to sway and build to crashing waves that start to reflect their emotional reality.



(SASHA LEIGH HENRY, CANADA, 13MIN) US PREMIERE

THANADOULA

"I could have been there with her..."

Two sisters entwined by love. When Annie



disappears, her younger sister, Natalie, seeks her out in an unconventional way: as a thanadoula, accompanying the dying in their final stages. Between their slow and final breaths, Natalie finds a bridge between life and death and ultimately, a pathway to her sister.

(ROBIN MCKENNA, CANADA, 6MIN) US PREMIERE

WIRUN

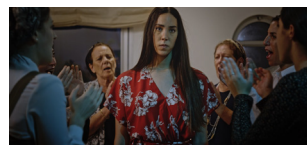
WIRUN is a beautiful short about a Noongar high school student who affirms her ancestral knowledge while navigating growing up in anglo-Australia. As Erin dedicates herself to learning Shakespeare's sonnet 127 she struggles to remember the lines and make sense of the antique language. She feels ostracized by her peers for her cultural differences despite her commitment to learning her part. After struggling with memorization into the night Erin reaches a significant turning point. At school the next day she blows her class away with her performance.



(CHAD O'BRIEN, AUSTRALIA, 9MIN)

HER DANCE (RIKUD HASSIDI)

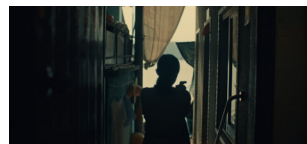
After she had not been invited to her sister's wedding, Aya, a trans woman, shows up by surprise on a Shabbat night at the Orthodox Jewish community, where her family lives. She enters through the window, interrupting the wedding feast and threatening to reveal family lies and secrets.



(BAR COHEN, ISRAEL, 22MIN) INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

THE LAST FERRY FROM GRASS ISLAND (島嶼故事)

A retired Hong Kong hitman, A Hoi, and his senile Mother live a mundane life on the rustic Grass Island near the Hong Kong/China border. One day, A Hoi's Chinese apprentice, Xiaoma, arrives in disguise, tasked to kill A Hoi for his unresolved feud with her triad boss. Rather than engaging in violence with his apprentice, A Hoi invites her to have dinner with him and Mother.



(LINHAN ZHANG, USA/HONG KONG, 13MIN)

LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 | 7:30PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 92 MIN

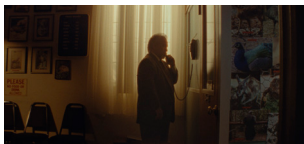
ALE LIBRE

Alejandra is a criminalized organizer and unapologetic immigrant. While she prepares for one of the biggest moments of her life — her deportation case — Alejandra is forced to reckon with a past mistake and a system that threatens to deport her and give her life an unexpected direction. She is up against an unjust system that threatens to tear her apart from her family and displace her from the only home she has ever known. This is her fight to be free. **(MAYA CUEVA, USA, 17MIN)**



YORUGA

A lonely old man pays a visit to Yoruga, one of the last animals on Earth. **(FEDERICO TORRADO TOBÓN, USA/COLOMBIA, 6MIN)**



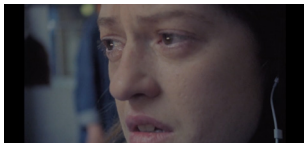
SILENCE

Nine year-old Bahar recently lost her ability to hear. Due to lack of resources in the village, she is omitted from school. This feeling of alienation is the beginning of a series of desperate acts culminating in an attempt to cure herself. **(BRWA VAHABPOUR, NORWAY, 15MIN) US PREMIERE**



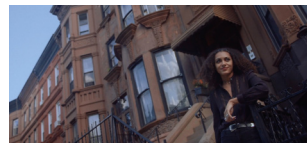
THE END OF SUFFERING (A PROPOSAL)

Sofia is panicky, again. The Universe decides to contact her. An other-worldly dialogue. A planet symphony for Mars, where people dream awake and fight for love. **(JACQUELINE LENTZOU, GREECE, 15MIN)**



THE PRICE OF CHEAP RENT

An NYC transplant and aspiring artist speaks to a documentary crew about her struggles finding an affordable home in her dream city, while being true to herself as an artist. Now that she's finally found what seemed like the perfect studio apartment, she's dealing with the supernatural price of cheap rent. Blending the styles of documentary filmmaking and internet profile pieces, this mini mockumentary pokes fun at aspirational living, using humor to reflect on the economic and ethical challenges for Black millennials in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods. **(AMINA SUTTON, MAYA TANAKA, USA, 7MIN)**



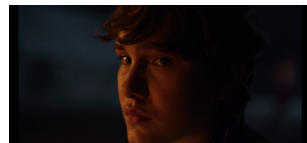
AFFAIRS OF THE ART

How many obsessions can one family have? In Joanna Quinn and Les Mills' AFFAIRS OF THE ART, we reconnect with Beryl, the working-class heroine who not only reveals her own obsession with drawing but exposes the addictions of her eccentric family, which include pickling, screw threads, and pet taxidermy. **(JOANNA QUINN, UK/CANADA, 16MIN) US PREMIERE**



GIRLS SHOULDN'T WALK ALONE AT NIGHT (LES FILLES NE MARCHENT PAS SEULES LA NUIT)

After a late-night high-school graduation party, Chantal and Delphine find themselves walking home alone in the dark. Lost in the forest, their long night walk is punctuated by carelessness and an irrepressible desire to exist. **(KATERINE MARTINEAU, CANADA, 17MIN) US PREMIERE**



LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A THURSDAY, APRIL 8 | 6PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 95 MIN

ANIKSHA

Aniksha is a young woman from the Indo-Mauritian diaspora. After her arranged marriage, she finds a job at a call centre, a booming industry in Mauritius. There she encounters her enigmatic supervisor and discovers a world of possibilities. This new world view places Aniksha between the choice of tradition or of a modern lifestyle.

(VINCENT TOI, CANADA, 20MIN) US PREMIERE



O BLACK HOLE!

A woman who can't stand the passing of time turns herself into a black hole. A thousand unchanging years pass inside her warm and dark embrace until, finally, the Singularity awakens inside. An immovable woman meets an unstoppable girl in this epic 2D/3D space opera about the meaning of transience and letting go.

(RENEE ZHAN, UK, 16MIN)



BRUISER

After his father gets into a fight at a bowling alley, Darius begins to investigate the limitations of his own manhood.

(MILES WARREN, USA, 10MIN)



MARLON BRANDO

In the last weeks of being high school students, Cas and Naomi, both out of the closet, prefer to spend their days together. As "brother and sister" of other parents, they experience a security and love that they cannot find elsewhere. But when their future plans seem to drive them apart, their relationship will be put at risk and the affectionate Cas must dare to be alone.

(VINCENT TILANUS, THE NETHERLANDS, 19MIN) US PREMIERE



BUG FARM

On a thriving insect farm in the small town of LaBelle, Florida, four women from distinctly different backgrounds come together to raise and produce hundreds of thousands of roaches, crickets, and superworms. In this warm, relaxed portrait of womanhood and work, the farm serves as the background to women who've come to insect farming with disparate motivations- including economic opportunity, reimagining the future of food, and the love and caretaking of the bugs themselves.

(LYDIA CORNETT, USA, 14MIN)



DŌLÁPÒ IS FINE

Soon to leave her British boarding school and enter the working world, a young Black woman faces pressure to change her name and natural hairstyle.

(ETHOSHEIA HYLTON, UK, 15MIN)



LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A THURSDAY, APRIL 8 | 7:30PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 94 MIN

BETWEEN YOU AND MILAGROS

At 15, Milagros' world still revolves around her mother's affection. This summer an unexpected encounter with death will make her question their relationship and her own existence.

(MARIANA SAFFON, COLOMBIA/USA, 20MIN)



OLD DOG

After losing his best friend, an elderly pug named Henry must depend on his owner for help and companionship. Writer/director Ann Marie Fleming (WINDOW HORSES) makes visible the tender work of caretaking in her new animated short, OLD DOG. All dogs (and people) should be so lucky and so loved.

(ANN MARIE FLEMING, CANADA, 3MIN)



PAIN

A young girl has an earth-shattering realization that her father is not invincible, after a cricket accident exposes his vulnerability.

(ANNA ROSE DUCKWORTH, NEW ZEALAND, 9MIN)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



ARE YOU STILL THERE?

On a hot day in the valley, Safa's car battery dies, leaving her stranded in a strip mall parking lot. As she waits for help to arrive, she's forced to confront her new reality. When her mom finally comes to her rescue that night, the two struggle to jump-start a car for the first time.

(RAYKA ZEHTABCHI, SAM DAVIS, USA, 15MIN)



death. everything. nothing.

In death. everything. nothing. LeRhonda Manigault-Bryant leans into her newfound role as grieving daughter, and uses maternal loss to capture the heartache, uncertainty, and inevitability of death's grip on human life. In so doing, she reveals the real but unsettling dynamics of confronting parental death when separated by distance, time, and a global pandemic.

(LERHONDA MANIGAULT-BRYANT, USA, 6MIN)



THE GREAT MALAISE (LE MAL DU SIÈCLE)

In the voiceover for this animated short, a young woman attempts to describe herself, casting her life in the ideal light that society expects. The film's imagery, however, tells a different story, poignantly illustrating the intense anxiety that comes with the quest for perfection and the pursuit of happiness. A film that's both funny and moving, and above all, profoundly human.

(CATHERINE LEPAGE, CANADA, 5MIN)



DROUGHT

Carina is a real estate agent in Beirut. Finding it hard to reach out to clients, she spends her time in empty apartments that feed her sexually dissatisfied life. After a long day of waiting without clients showing up, Carina decides to rent intimacy for a night.

(REMI ITANI, LEBANON/UK, 15MIN) **US PREMIERE**



UNLIVEABLE (INABITÁVEL)

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

(MATHEUS FARIAS, ENOCK CARVALHO, BRAZIL, 20MIN)



LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A FRIDAY, APRIL 9 | 6PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 94 MIN

WICHITA

Sara is in bed with her lover when she gets a phone call from her husband, Josh. He is on a business trip in Wichita, and needs a business card from his sock drawer. But Sara is not at their house. So she only has a few minutes to race home before he catches on. To stall for time, she asks a million questions about Wichita, Kansas. "What's Cowtown like? Did you see Kirstie Alley's house? And Pizza Hut? Didn't that start there too?"

(SERGINE DUMAIS, USA, 6MIN)



THEREFORE, SOCRATES IS MORTAL

Facing the climate crisis, Louise, a philosophy teacher, turns words into action.

(ALEXANDRE ISABELLE, CANADA, 13MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



DIVING IN

Set in 2007, Alex is a 20 year-old double above the knee amputee and competitive swimmer. He also has a huge crush on Jen, the swim coach at the local pool who secretly likes him back. When Jen tries to ask Alex out, he falters and causes an awkward encounter. Humiliated, Alex asks his friends for advice, only for them to steal his phone and send her a raunchy text message. Mortified, Alex must get to her phone before she sees the message or risk losing her forever. **(ADAM BOWES, NINA OYAMA, AUSTRALIA, 9MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**



NAVOZANDE, LE MUSICIEN

At the time of the attack of the Mongols, a young musician and the love of his life are separated from each other. Fifty years later, the musician is summoned to perform at the castle of the Mongols where his beloved is being held.

(REZA RIAHI, FRANCE, 15MIN)



AL-SIT

In a cotton-farming village in Sudan, 15-year-old Nafisa has a crush on Babiker, but her parents have arranged her marriage to Nadir, a young Sudanese businessman living abroad. Nafisa's grandmother Al-Sit, the powerful village matriarch, has her own plans for Nafisa's future. But can Nafisa choose for herself?

(SUZANNAH MIRGHANI, SUDAN/QATAR, 20MIN)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



LEARNING TAGALOG WITH KAYLA

Mabuhay! Welcome to Learning Tagalog With Kayla. Kayla is pleased to teach you the basics of Tagalog, the language of her homeland. In this lesson, we'll start with conversational phrases and common expressions. If time permits, we may even get into Kayla's newfound hobby of baking, hatred of exercise, occasional disdain for her cats, and her affinity for Vivi, a black mage with a heart of gold from the popular role-playing game, Final Fantasy IX.

(KAYLA ABUDA GALANG, USA, 4MIN)



THE HEART STILL HUMS

A documentary short, following five women as they fight for their children through the cycle of homelessness, drug addictions, and neglect from their own parents. Unique, yet undoubtedly familiar to many; a story on fear, sacrifice, and the unconditional love between a mother and her children.

(SAVANAH LEAF, TAYLOR RUSSELL, USA, 28MIN)



LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A FRIDAY, APRIL 9 | 7:30PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 92 MIN

MY FATHER THE MOVER

Alatha's father calls himself a 'Mover.' Using African electronic Gqom beats he motivates kids in Khayelitsha, South Africa to jive through their hardship and find their superpowers. But while he's transformed the lives of many kids in his community, his own daughter, Alatha, is still looking for freedom. In an intimate moment together, this is all about to change...

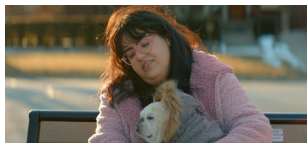
(JULIA JANSCH, SOUTH AFRICA, 13MIN)



CLOSE TIES TO HOME COUNTRY

Akanksha, a young immigrant (originally from India but who grew up in Saudi Arabia) is dog sitting Timothee, the baby Frenchie of Instagram influencers India and Harry, while they're on a trip to India. Akanksha's sister is scheduled to visit her soon—they haven't seen each other in nine years. While she waits, Akanksha bonds with Timothee, enjoys the spoils of white money, engages in judgy hijinks with her friend Sophia, and muses over why she stays away from her home country.

(AKANKSHA CRUCZYNSKI, USA, 14MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



SHINKANSEN

Filmed on a bullet train from Nagoya to Kyoto in Japan while Stubbs was on a school trip, the time lapsed poetry and video work present a look into the thoughts of a young woman on the brink of adulthood. The work was created by the artist while she was mourning the death of her grandmother, confronting her own morality and the speed at which she approaches her future. The viewer is made to long for the comfort and familiarity of youth, while acknowledging the inevitability of growth and moving forward despite fear of the unknown.

(SIENA STUBBS, AUSTRALIA, 3MIN)



PROOF OF LOSS

The devastating effects of climate change are beginning to impact every person on Earth. From wildfires to hurricanes, rising temperatures to landslides, we are learning to adapt to a new normal, one where we must confront what we truly value and how we cope with loss. Through the lens of the recent fires in California, PROOF OF LOSS focuses on how one young woman and her father are forced to come together and examine the complexities of mourning and the connection between grief, relief, and survival.

(KATHERINE FISHER, USA, 13MIN)



KKUM

My mother's dreams have always been strong premonitions for important moments in my life. I rely on her dreams more than any religion.

(KIM KANG-MIN, SOUTH KOREA / USA, 9MIN)



THE RECORDER

A couple, struggling with their relationship, finds their frustrations manifesting in a defective recorder. In an attempt to restore peace in their relationship and replace the faulty recorder, they encounter a woman offering to sell them a new recorder, but the transaction proves more challenging than expected.

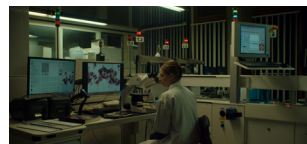
(JUSTINE LUPE, USA, 10MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



LIGIE

From her train window, Sarah watches a man standing on an empty and strange platform. She hopes to see his face to no avail. Then, watching again and again through her microscope, she dives into the purple cells shaking on her hematology strip. These cells bring her to this train, her inner world, where she can hear. Because Sarah is deaf. But Sarah is about to have surgery. For the first time, she will be able to hear what the real world sounds like.

(ALINE MAGREZ, BELGIUM, 25MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

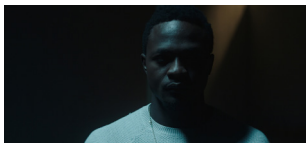


LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A SATURDAY, APRIL 10 | 3PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 99 MIN

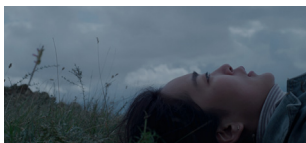
BLACK BODIES

The sequel to the viral short film MARATHON, BLACK BODIES follows a Black man (Komi Olaf) lamenting as he comes face-to-face with the realities of being Black in the 21st century. **(KELLY FYFFE-MARSHALL, CANADA, 5MIN)**



MOUNTAIN CAT (Шилүүс)

A troubled teenage girl is coerced into seeing a local shaman in search of spiritual healing. Trapped by ancient beliefs that serve only to pacify her mother, she finds peace in the physical realm by unleashing her repressed, youthful spirit on the unsuspecting shaman when she realizes his true identity. A coming-of-age tale set in contemporary Mongolia. **(LKHAGVADULAM PUREV-OCHIR, MONGOLIA/UK, 13MIN)**



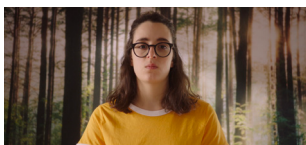
WELCOME STRANGERS

Every night at 6pm, detained immigrants are legally released from a for-profit ICE facility onto unfriendly, industrial streets near Denver, Colorado. The men and women, most of them asylum-seekers, have little idea where they are and have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. WELCOME STRANGERS tells the story of Sarah Jackson, a young woman who searches the streets for these immigrants and invites them into her home. She and a team of volunteers greet them with compassion and provide them with shelter, clothing and help them reunite with their families. **(DIA SOKOL SAVAGE, USA, 21MIN)**



SOFA SO GOOD

Once Abeer, a young woman living in NYC, realizes that her new roommate won't provide a sofa to their empty living room, she becomes obsessed. Abeer embarks on a journey between NYC's quirkiest



characters and would do anything for the desired piece of furniture. SOFA SO GOOD stars two of NYC's finest comedians, Nataly Aukar and Tom Thakkar, alongside Hiam Abbass of SUCCESSION, and is a funny-touching story about holding on and letting go.

(NOA OSHEROFF, USA, 12MIN)

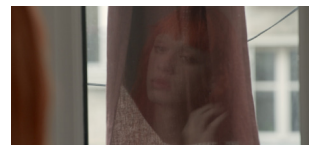
À LA MODE

In a kingdom tormented by fashion crazes, a queen and her court must always keep up with the new trend. If not, an abominable monster will consume them: the Ridicule. **(JEAN LECOINTRE, FRANCE, 9MIN)**



DUSTIN

In an abandoned warehouse, a crowd is dancing as one on 145 BPM techno music. Among them is Dustin, a young transgender individual, and crew: Felix, Raya and Juan. As the night draws on, collective hysteria morphs into sweet melancholy, and euphoria into yearning for tenderness. **(NAÏLA GUGUET, FRANCE, 20MIN)**



LIKE THE ONES I USED TO KNOW (LES GRANDES CLAQUES)

December 24, 1983, 10:50 p.m.; Julie's whole family is gathered once again this year for Christmas Eve. All except Denis, her father, newly excluded by his divorce. Julie, 8 years old, waits for Santa Claus to arrive to unwrap her presents, while Denis, parked in front of the house, waits until the agreed time to come and pick up his children. He's ready to do anything to get his half of Christmas, but he still doesn't know the emotional trenches that a return to his ex-in-law's family will entail. Constrained by her parents' clumsy planning, Julie must choose between the painful reality of her father's life and the magic of the holiday. LIKE THE ONES I USED TO KNOW (LES GRANDES CLAQUES) is a dramatic comedy about a father-daughter relationship; an early coming-of-age that is as squeaky as it is poetic. **(ANNIE ST-PIERRE, CANADA, 18MIN)**



LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A SATURDAY, APRIL 10 | 7:30PM MT

SHORTS PROGRAM | 94 MIN

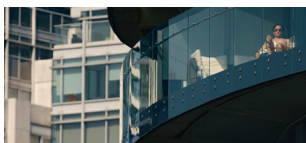
SALEM

A family weekend in the family house. The men of the family are self-satisfied and the women are efficient. There's no reason for changing the order of things. Yet, one of the uncles of the family has a new wife who might stir up trouble. **(SOPHIE BEAULIEU, FRANCE, 15MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**



E14

What did the first lockdown look like from a window in the residential towers of East London in the spring of 2020? E14 shows serious shifts in the everyday coordinate system of a privileged urban population at an immediate level. While exploring the trauma, the film captures the mundane and ironic realities of living in a heavily developed, man-made environment, and questions whether a new virus is about to develop. **(PEIMAN ZEKAVAT, UK, 19MIN)**



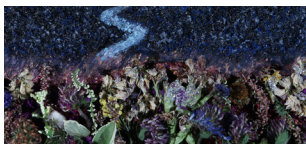
STRONG SON

An endearing portrait of a South Asian father as he attempts to give life and marital advice to his bodybuilding and image-obsessed son. This deeply touching, comedic short film is an autobiographical piece that stars the director's own father. **(IAN BAWA, CANADA, 4MIN) INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**



THE FOURFOLD

Based on the ancient animistic beliefs and shamanic rituals in Mongolia and Siberia, the film explores the indigenous worldview and wisdom: Nature is the homeland of human being, Tengri is the deity and the father sky, Earth is the mother with rivers nourishing all beings, pagan and pantheist gods co-exist with all mortals. Against the backdrop of the modern existential crisis and the human-induced rapid environmental change, there is a necessity to reclaim the ideas of animism for planetary health and non-human materialities. **(ALISI TELENGUT, CANADA, 8MIN)**



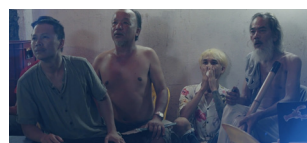
THE NIGHT TRAIN (NATTÅGET)

Oskar is on the night train, heading home after an interview in Stockholm. With a long night ahead of him, he makes eye contact with Ahmad. For the first time he meets the gaze of someone who feels the same desire as he does. **(JERRY CARLSSON, SWEDEN, 15MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**



LIVE IN CLOUD-CUCKOO LAND (MÂY NHƯNG KHÔNG MU' A)

A factotum in a wedding dress shop searches for the love of her life, and a road busker who loses his speaker looks for his lost voice. In their quest for love and the voice that has been lost, the characters appear abruptly between different dimensions. They travel through tragedy, reality, weirdness, and different spaces in the same city. **(VŨ MINH NGHĨA, PHẠM HOÀNG MINH THY, VIETNAM, 20MIN) US PREMIERE**



MOON (LUNE)

Babz Dubreuil, a lonely but endearing ex-convict, works as a cook in a suburban brunch restaurant. Despite her civilized conduct, she struggles to regain her place in society. Under the encouragement of an outrageous colleague, she finds the courage to ask an attractive customer to go on a date with her. It might be the beginning of redemption. **(ZOÉ PELCHAT, CANADA, 15MIN) US PREMIERE**



LIVESTREAM FILMMAKER Q&A SUNDAY, APRIL 11 | 2PM MT

PRESENTED BY **AEF**
ASPEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SHORTS PROGRAM | 76 MIN

TWIN TREES

A brother and sister walk along, each carrying a tree in a small pot. When they come across a parrot and a fallen statue, they each have to choose their own journey.

(EMMANUEL OLLIVIER, FRANCE, 4MIN) **US PREMIERE**



REHAK

A young girl in her age of innocence discovers Rehak, a magical drawing hidden behind her bedroom wall.

(PIERRE B, UK, FRANCE, 7MIN)



BANDIT HILL

Mountain biker and artist Jill Kintner brings her character drawings to life as they race down Bandit Hill to outrun an onslaught of angry clouds and terribly-behaving weather. Full of mud monsters, happy trees, and fluffy clouds oozing personality, the trio of Squirrel, Fox, and Snail look to Jill to save them from the storm! This magical hybrid animation and live-action piece brings together one of the world's top mountain bikers with a far-away land pulled straight out of her imagination.

(SCOTTY CARLSON, USA, 4MIN) **US PREMIERE**



TOBI AND THE TURBOBUS (TOBI UND DER TURBOBUS)

You fly with no seat! That's the rule in the Turbobus. To get one is a hard day job for a young wolf on his turbo-journey to find real friendship.

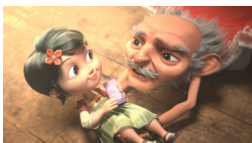
(VERENA FELS, GERMANY, 8MIN)



RENAIDANCE

RENAIDANCE is a 3D narrative emotional animation. The theme invigorates cultural inheritance and the integration of dreams, courage, and culture as transformation. By artistically interpreting a motif of inheritance and family support, integrating different cultures "inheritance" through the inspiring story, this film braces strong family love and elder culture in a never-ending chain.

(ZHIKE YANG, WENJIE WU, HAN CHEN CHANG, CHINA/TAIWAN/USA, 4MIN)



THE TOMTEN AND THE FOX (REVEN OG NISSEN)

A hungry fox hunts for food on a cold winter night. On the edge of the forest he discovers a small farm. He sneaks closer to steal

a some food, unaware of the Tomten who guards the farm, and is caught red-handed in the hen-coop. When the Tomten sees how hungry the fox is, he decides to share his Christmas porridge with him, as long as the fox promises to leave the animals alone. (YAPRAK MORALI, ARE AUSTNES, NORWAY/SWEDEN/DENMARK, 9MIN)



DREAM EATER

A story of a little girl having nightmares and a monster eating only happy dreams.

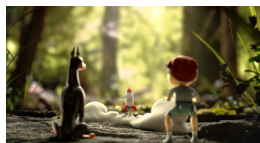
(MIN-JEONG JO, SOUTH KOREA, 11MIN) **US PREMIERE**



A TINY TALE

A dog gets abandoned on the side of the road. Attached to a street light, he stays alone until the day he meets a young astronaut wannabe and a professional cyclist who keeps on trying to beat her highest score. With spring as a backdrop, we wanted to use moments of simple lives to discover little stories that intertwine with each other. A microcosm that settles on a split-screen where the different characters evolve at the same time.

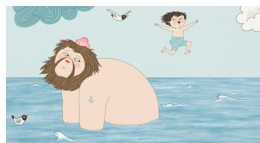
(SYLVAIN CUVILLIER, CHLOE BOURDIC, THEOPHILE COURSIMAULT, NOEMIE HALBERSTAM, MAYLIS MOSNY, ZIJING YE, FRANCE, 8MIN)



MARÉ

Brought by the waves of the sea, a fantastic being of gigantic size discovers a pleasant place of great natural beauty, and makes it his home, becoming the guardian and soul of the place. There, he meets a cheerful little boy with whom he creates a bond of friendship forged in sharing the pleasure that both feel in living in harmony with nature. But one day, peace is threatened by a polluting and noisy tide.

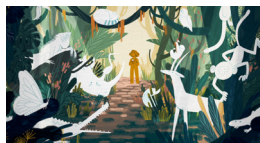
(JOANA ROSA BRAGANÇA, PORTUGAL, 15MIN)



ONLY A CHILD

ONLY A CHILD is a visual poem created by over 20 animation directors under the artistic supervision of Simone Giampaolo, which gives shape and colour to the original words spoken by Severn Suzuki at the UN Summit in Rio in 1992, a child's desperate call to action for the future of our planet. An omnibus film celebrating the environmental youth movement 30 years in the making.

(SIMONE GIAMPAOLO, SWITZERLAND, 6MIN) **US PREMIERE**





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IN MEMORIAM

In January, our hearts were broken when we lost our founder, Ellen Kohner Hunt, following a valiant battle with cancer. She launched Aspen Film in 1979 by creating Filmfest, then made Shortsfest its own festival in 1991. She remained the organization's Executive Director until 1995. In 2000, a group of Ellen's friends decided to surprise her by bestowing the Shortsfest Ellen Award for artistic merit and originality to an achieving filmmaker.

In her honor, Ellen's family generously set up an Ellen Fund at Aspen Film, the purpose of which is to educate, support, and recognize young and upcoming filmmakers.

For further details or to make a contribution, please visit <https://aspenfilm.org/donate-ellen-fund/>

There is a tribute to Ellen being organized for Filmfest this year, which is planned for September 21-26, 2021. Please save the dates.



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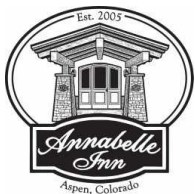
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