



SHORTS



2024

2024 FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

FILM SCREENING BLOCKS

THURSDAY 29 AUGUST

10:30	Barriers
12:00	Personal Stories
14:30	Struggles
16:30	Female Voices
18:30	Memories
20:00	Local Connections

FRIDAY 30 AUGUST

10:30	Lucky Dip: Experimental, Music, Robots!
12:00	Growing Pains
14:00	Not All Heroes Wear Capes
16:00	Outside The Comfort Zone
18:00	Intense!
20:00	Dark Treats

SATURDAY 31 AUGUST

10:30	Isolated
14:00	Be Careful What You Wish For
16:00	Romance Is Dead?
20:00	Awards

ONLINE (2-8 September)

Animals
Artistic Struggles
New Voices
Sea Tales

OTHER FESTIVAL INFORMATION

25	About the Festival
26-29	Award Judges and Nominees
30-31	Venue Map and Things To Do



Welcome to Oxford Shorts 2024

Welcome to our fifth edition! Like before, we are back in the beautiful surroundings of St John's College. We have made some minor adjustments from last year. This year, the filmmakers will be the stars! There will be no workshops or talks, but we have allowed time after screenings for filmmaker Q&As. We will be screening films in a single venue to simplify everything for the audience. All screenings begin in the auditorium at 10:30am.

The 2024 line-up features over 120 films showcased across 19 blocks. 15 of these blocks will screen at St John's College with an additional 4 blocks playing exclusively online. We encourage you all to watch the online blocks once they are made available between 2-8 September, and to attend the online Q&A sessions on Saturday 7th September.

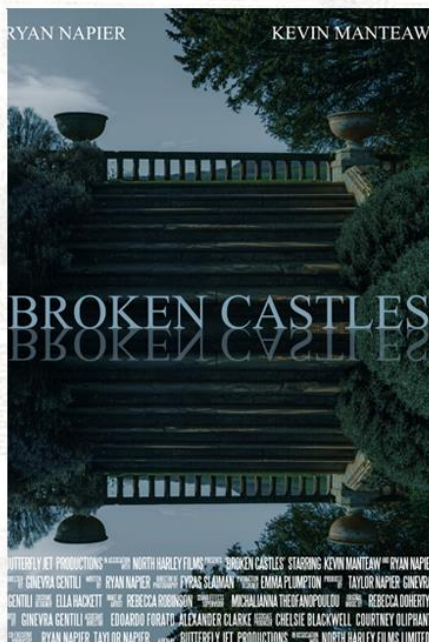
2024 represents our most diverse programme yet. We are especially pleased to say that over half the films this year are international and 46% of this year's entries were directed by women. 37% of our entries come from first-time, student or younger filmmakers. It's also lovely to see so many former alumni in this year's mix. We are also thrilled to be supporting films from emerging local talent. Part of the joy of short films is the variety they represent. Some films will land, some do not, some will make you think beyond the screenings. We hope there is something for everyone this year. Enjoy the line-up!

Andrew Carslaw (Festival Director)



BARRIERS (75mins)

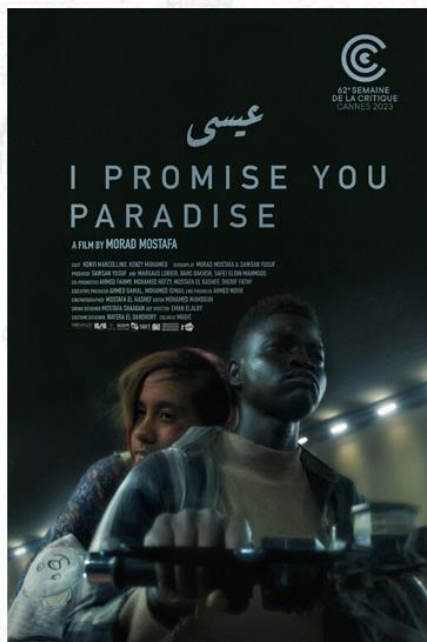
BROKEN CASTLES



USA / 13mins / Dir: Ginevra Gentili

Two siblings wrestle with contrasting perspectives and complexities of leaving the home they have known most of their lives.

I PROMISE YOU PARADISE



EGY / 22mins / Dir: Morad Mostafa

Following a violent incident; Eissa a 17 years old African migrant in Egypt is in a quest against time to save his loved ones whatever it takes.

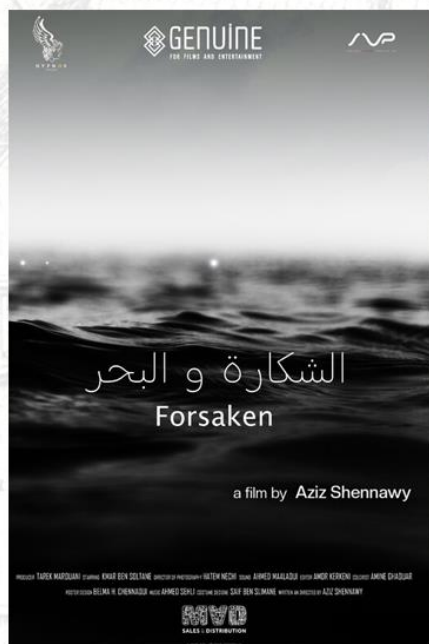
BLOOD SNOW



IRN / 12mins / Dir: Hossein Alijannezhad

Forced into military service rather than being with his pregnant wife, a soldier faces a dilemma with a Kurdish Kolbar whilst policing the border.

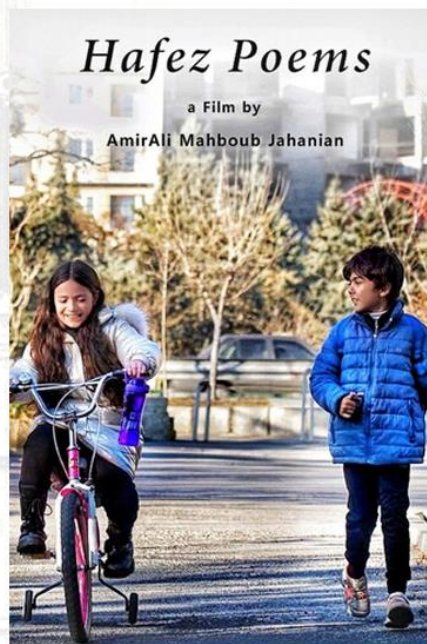
FORSAKEN



TUN / 13mins / Dir: Aziz Shennawy

Meriem, an ethnocentric woman, decides to treat herself to a vacation. She finds the body of a Sub-Saharan African man drowned in front of her balcony. No one bothered to offer him any help. Upon discovering the victim's identity, Meriem has to make a decision.

HAFEZ POEMS



IRN / 13mins / Dir: Amirali Mahboub Jahanian

Hafez poems shows people's destiny and future. Classes collide when a working child selling Hafez poems makes a new friend.

PERSONAL STORIES (120mins)

CURLEW RIVER



UK / 19mins / Dir: Nicola Schafer

A film about the curlew, why numbers of this iconic bird are collapsing, and the work being done to help it recover.

LA LIXEIRA

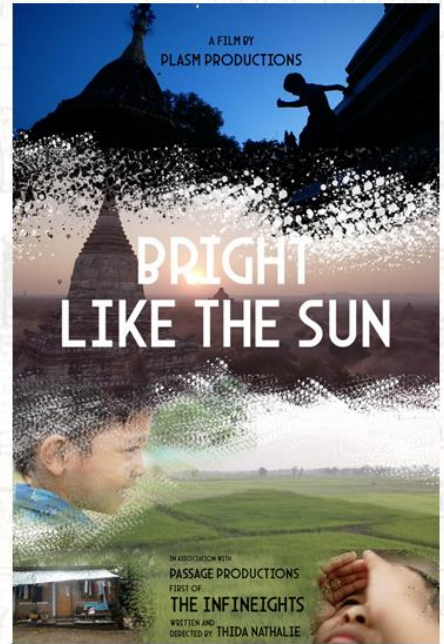


ITA / 12mins

Dir: Guido Galante, Antonio Notarangelo

Maputo is the capital city of Mozambique. Not exactly in the city centre or even on the outskirts, there is an area called the dump district, La Lixeira. The dump is a metaphysical scenario, metaphor of our world, so aseptically modern, a kind of reversed utopia of our fate.

BRIGHT LIKE THE SUN



MYA/UK / 7mins

Dir: Thida Nathalie

Kaung Myat Htun (gong mee-at tuun) is a traditionally obedient Burmese child in a family of tailors. He goes about his day exploring golden pagodas of which Myanmar is famous for, whilst gradually revealing that he is no ordinary child.

UNSTOPPABLE BEAT



UK / 6mins / Dir: Luke Dye-Montefiore, Rufus Dye-Montefiore

The animated film tells the story of a Haitian migrant in Brazil fighting for his rights to work, buy a house and most importantly, reunite with his family from Haiti.

DUCKWORTHY



USA / 6mins
Dir: M.G. Evangelista

Senator Tammy Duckworth candidly shares her journey from growing up in South East Asia as a multiracial America kid to representing the State of Illinois on Capitol Hill.

THIS PRISON I BUILT YOU



UK / 4mins
Dir: Jack Dixon

In 2020, Jack Dixon contracted a viral brain infection. This short documentary depicts what it was like at a time they were unable to speak.

PERSONAL STORIES (120mins)

MEMORY



UK / 3mins / Dir: Riyadh Haque

An experimental documentary reimagining the childhood recollections of a Jersey inhabitant, Margaret, through the intimate lens of the director's British South Asian background by channelling his own family's generational diasporic experience and sisterhood.

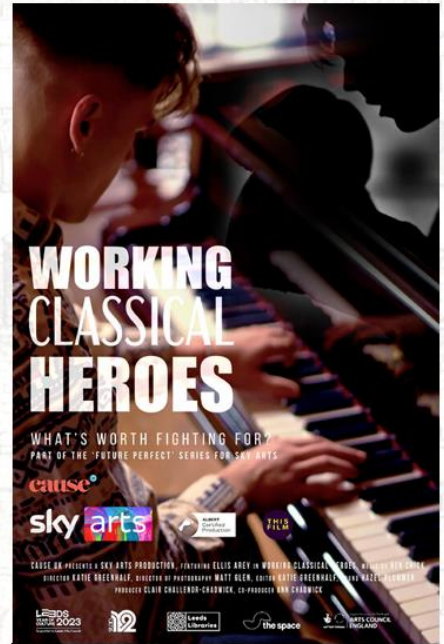
HALLELUJAH FOREVER



NOR / 16mins / Dir: Odveig Klyve

This is a story about what it's like to sing together with others. A young boy, busy with gaming and climbing, makes a new and surprising experience when he starts singing in a choir. He discovers the power of an almost 300-year-old classical oratorio.

WORKING CLASSICAL HEROES



UK / 11mins / Dir: Katie Greenhalf

Classical music is often an exclusive party for the privileged. 23-year-old boxer Ellis grew up on a council estate. Now a student at Leeds Conservatoire, the art form transformed his life mentally, emotionally and intellectually.

CRANES AND SHIPS



**USA / 20mins
Dir: Katya Korableva**

Filed in Saint Petersburg in March 2022 during the first month of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The film takes its name after a children's poem by Daniil Kharms, a repressed Soviet writer.

STUD COUNTRY



**USA / 10mins
Dir: Lina Abascal, Alexandra Kern**

Stud Country, the largest queer country western line dancing event in America, was created to preserve Los Angeles' little known 50+ year queer line dancing tradition.

STRUGGLES (90mins)

ESCAPISM



TUR / 15mins
Dir: Deniz Cengiz

Two childhood friends, who have drifted towards opposite worldviews, reunite after a long time. One has become a mother, while the other has advanced in her career. **UK Premiere**

THE CAGE



IRN / 3mins Dir: Hamideh Motavali Zadeh

In a city, everyone has a cage on their head, until one person realizes this by accident and wants to make others aware.

PATELLIDAE



UK / 17mins / Dir: Elpida Koumpoura

Patellidae is a fantasy drama about a homeless girl -Annie- who collects seashells on Cramond Island. Following her father's disappearance during a sea tide, Annie returns to the island every day in order to find him.

CRASH



UK / 8mins / Dir: Shaun Forsdyke

Charlie is in a fever dream of crashing realities. Charlie lays asleep in bed. Charlie stands over himself as he lays asleep. Charlie is downstairs. The harder he tries to escape the more confused he becomes.

SEEKING THOMAS



UK / 3mins / Dir: Julia Lisa Zlotnick

A visceral dance film about a young man who is struggling with his mental health.

FALLING



UK / 10mins / Dir: Stephen Harris

Two young women who share a love for hip-hop dance are struggling with contrasting pressures.

THE MESSAGE



AUT / 10mins
Dir: Reinhard Koller-Astleithner

In a dull and lonely life, Salem decides to leave a message for the one who needs it most.

ISLA SOLEDAD



MEX / 20mins / Dir: Omar Deneb Juárez

After losing custody of her young son, Angel - single mother Sonia struggles to make amends for her past mistakes and pleads for a chance to bring him back home. To do so, she must overcome her financial straits and the complicated care of her sick grandmother.

FEMALE VOICES (65mins)

SQUARE BREATHING



USA / 11mins
Dir: Kim Cummings

Tony and Nikki meet on the Brooklyn Heights Promenade to see if there is any way back 3 months after Nikki suffers a post-partum psychotic break and nearly does the unthinkable.

SORORITY COURT



USA / 12mins
Dir: Emily Draper

Sorority Court is a comedic courtroom drama that investigates the injustice of university "honor codes", college students' mental health, and the complexities of young women's friendships.

FLEETING



IRE / 14mins
Dir: Louisa Connolly-Burnham

The film follows Saoirse, a young woman who flies home to Ireland to repeal the eighth amendment in May 2018, while there, she meets her Dad, who is firmly pro-life.

DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU

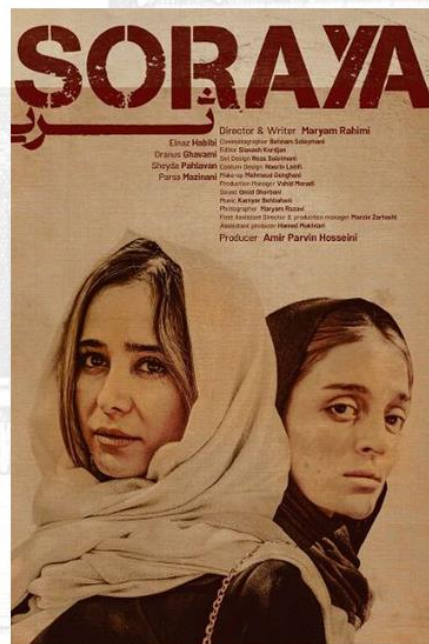


STORY BY ANNA VOLOSNIK, JACK SMITHIES SCREENPLAY BY JACK SMITHIES
CINEMATOGRAPHY JAMIE TOUCHE EDITING OLI BAUER, JACK COTTER
PRODUCED BY DAVID FREEDMAN (NEW INDIE FILM), ANNA VOLOSNIK (PRUDFILM)

UK / 17mins / Dir: Anna Volosnik

An ambitious postgrad student's life is going perfectly according to plan, but something's missing. When a directionless barista with a talent for drawing and bullshit brightens up her day, it may be serendipity or something more.

SORAYA



IRN / 8mins / Dir: Maryam Rahimi

Fearing family prejudices, Soraya an Iranian woman decides to immigrate illegally by smugglers.

MEMORIES (75mins)

MAMA'S LOVE BIRD



UK / 15mins / Dir: Ariana King

Ida, a widowed mother, is afraid of stepping out of her flat. The only things that keep her safe are her birds. Ida's routine is interrupted when her daughter Alex pays a weekend visit.

WISHING TO THE SKY



USA / 3mins Dir: Yiyi Xing

Hopes for a better world live in a magical moment for a young war orphan.

ECHOES



USA / 9mins / Dir: Christina Araujo

Harlan, an elderly man experiencing his life flashing before his eyes as he nears death. Believing he's in a dream, Harlan revisits memories with his wife Winnie, son Martin, and his childhood dog Wilbur, who appears as a spiritual guide.

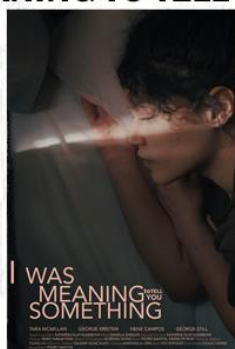
GHOST POST



UK / 4mins / Dir: Rosy Blanks

Bored and irritated postman Godfrey delivers letters to the dead. When pesky birds strike once again, will Godfrey finally understand through a little boy's heartfelt letter the value of his job?

I WAS MEANING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING



UK / 15mins / Dir: Katarína Hlat-Glembova

After events take an unexpected turn with her office mate Alan, Ella's story unfolds in a mixture of reality and fantasy. We are taken on a journey of love, self-healing and the importance of letting go.

GOODBYE, GOODBYE, GOODBYE THE LAST BUTTERFLY



UK / 9mins / Dir: Annie Hammond

A daughter makes a long postponed visit to her mother, set against the north Cornish coastline.

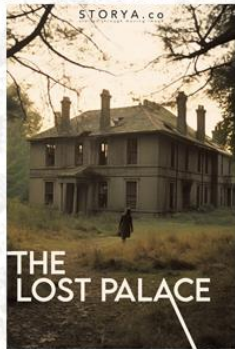


USA / 15mins / Dir: Sizhuo Li

Xiaodie, a novelist, returns to the house where she lost her mother years ago. As her sister is dying, she comforts Lei, her niece, with stories of the Hmong Deity, 'Mother Butterfly', and confronts her fear of the death of her loved ones.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS (90mins)

THE LOST PALACE



UK / 10mins / Dir: Frederick John Philip Shelbourne, Edward Spreull, Lucy Alana Andia

The Lost Palace is a ghost story set in 1943 in the dilapidated manor of Great Ashfield House. When two disparate worlds collide, the boundaries between the living and the dead blur, leading to an exploration of mortality's enigmatic nature.

DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU



UK / 3mins Dir: Victoria Buse

Heading home from a night out, Anna and Leah decide to have one more drink, but don't realise they've got company...

THE DOOR UNDER THE BRIDGE



UK / 19mins / Dir: Rob Hutt

They say some things are better left behind a locked door, never to see the light of day. But against the professional advice of her therapist, Jessica is determined to finally open the old strangely familiar wooden door that has haunted her since childhood.

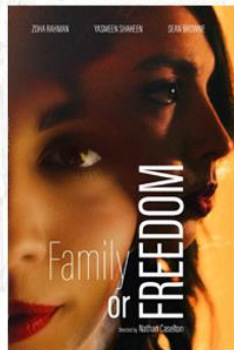
FIGHTING FOR RACHEL



UK / 12mins / Dir: Ciara Robley

A perfectionist tries to make a tight work deadline, but as she struggles to cope, she takes it out on her partner.

FAMILY OR FREEDOM



UK / 18mins / Dir: Nathan Caselton

Family or Freedom follows Farah, a British Pakistani dentist who dares to chase her childhood passion for acting, defying the constraints of her strict upbringing. Her bold decision to marry an Englishman leads her on a journey of self-discovery and rebellion against societal and cultural norms.

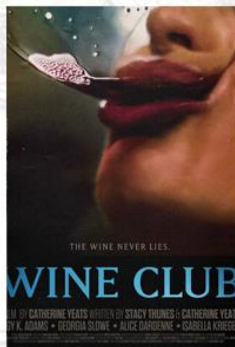
NEW SHOES



UK / 5mins / Dir: Annabella Forbes

When housemates Connie and Hema find a pair of sparkly heels in their corridor, they assume Michael has brought home a date. Hema is desperate to work out who, but Connie is crestfallen— she likes him as more than a friend.

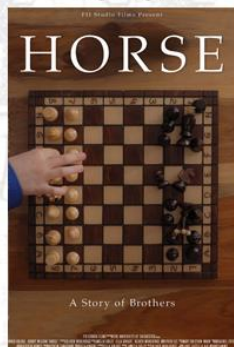
WINE CLUB



UK / 10mins / Dir: Catherine Yeats

The wine never lies. A wine club spirals out of control one fateful night.

HORSE



UK / 13mins / Dir: Oliver Woolridge

At a local chess tournament, estranged brothers Edward and Oliver Abbott reunite after many years apart, harbouring ill will and eagerness to win.

LUCKY DIP: EXPERIMENTAL, MUSIC, ROBOTS! (70mins)

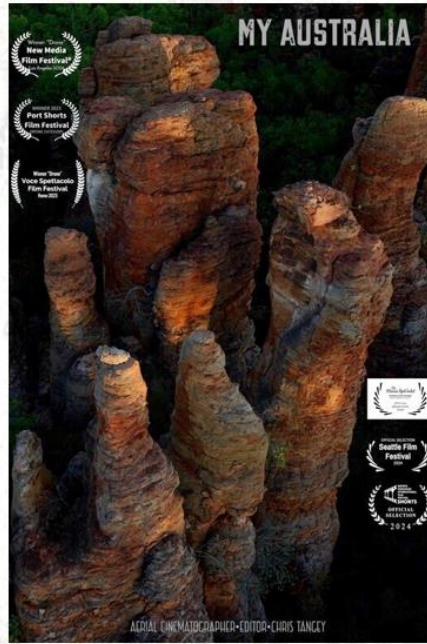
DAWN AT GOUGANE BARRA



USA / 5mins
Dir: Luke Morgan, Jake Morgan

The genesis of the film started 16 years ago when composer Kurt Rosenberg was visiting Ireland. He started to see Gougane Barra's valley and lough (lake) unfold before him and was immediately overcome by its tranquil beauty. The memory of that magical place has never left him.

MY AUSTRALIA



AUS / 5mins
Dir: Chris Tangey

Aerial Cinematographer Chris Tangey left Australia's cities forever over 30 years ago. Here are some of the beautiful places he now lives with every day.

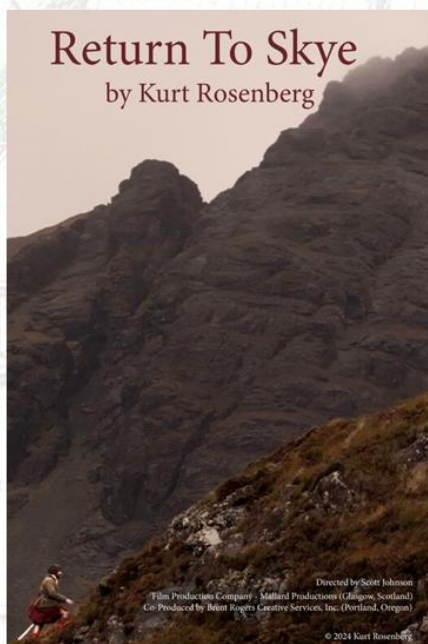
SHIMMER



UK / 4mins
Dir: Marta Świerczyńska, Anna Watkins

SHIMMER is about the power of women and the nature of our bodies, elegant but strong, leaders of the next generation of women from around the world. How we represent as individuals celebrating women and what we are capable of.

RETURN TO SKYE



USA / 5mins / Dir: Scott Johnson

A Scottish clansman survives the Battle of Culloden (1745) and returns home to bid farewell to his wife, and wee child, before fleeing for his life. He and his wife agree that his ancestral home, the Isle of Skye, will provide him refuge from the pursuing British.

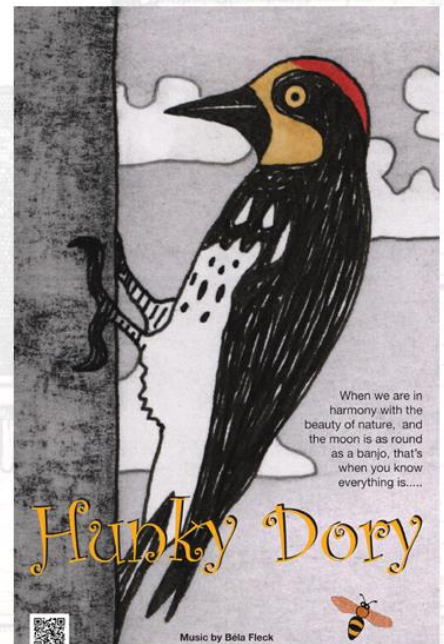
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GREAT?



CAN / 1min / Dir: Kathryn Mockler

Do You Know What's Great is adapted from Kathryn's flash fiction story of the same name from my debut story collection, Anecdotes (2023).

HUNKY DORY



USA / 6mins / Dir: Steven Vander Meer

Hunky Dory juxtaposes scenes of animal life with images of human existence, observing the quirky and unexpected ways in which we are similar. The hand-drawn animation is a visual smorgasbord, moving and morphing in perfect time to the banjo music of Béla Fleck.

LUCKY DIP: EXPERIMENTAL, MUSIC, ROBOTS! (70mins)

TORII



DEU / 12mins / Dir: Martin Gerigk

Torii is a short film in the form of an audiovisual composition about the traditional Shinto gates of the same name in Japan. The film uses these gates which symbolically mark the transition from the mundane to the sacred as representatives of a personal synaesthetic and spiritual journey through five levels of consciousness.

KISERU



CRO / 17mins / Dir: Igor Neljak

In a mysterious world, a synthetic being lives in isolation. While tending to a garden of bonsai trees, it evolves, learns, and strives to fathom its own purpose. With each power cycle, it dutifully continues its routine until a single bonsai tree withers, leaving the synthetic puzzled. places he now lives with every day.

SYDNEY AND SOCKET



USA / 4mins / Dir: Jennifer McKnew

Inspired by the profound loneliness many people feel, this is the tale of two misfits left behind by society. Unexpectedly, their paths cross, leading to an indelible friendship. This non-verbal story transcends cultural and language barriers, illustrating the universal importance of connection through their interactions.

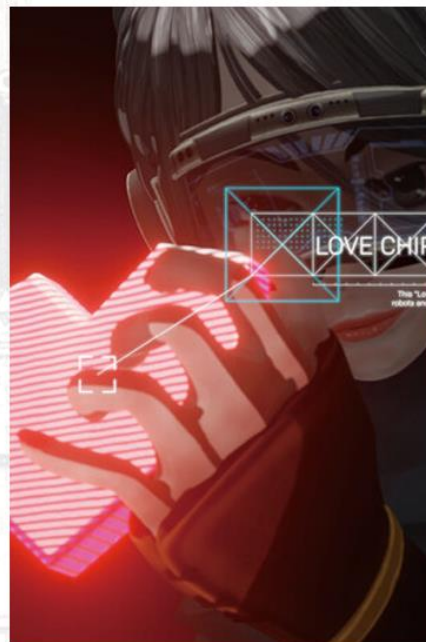
COSMIC TRAVELERS



MAC / 3mins / Dir: Yilin Huang

In 2035, Earth becomes mysteriously cut off from the universe leading to a halt in space exploration and stirring fears and theories among humanity. A group of daring scientists and astronauts, known as the "Cosmic Travelers," refuse to give up the dream of reconnecting with the cosmos.

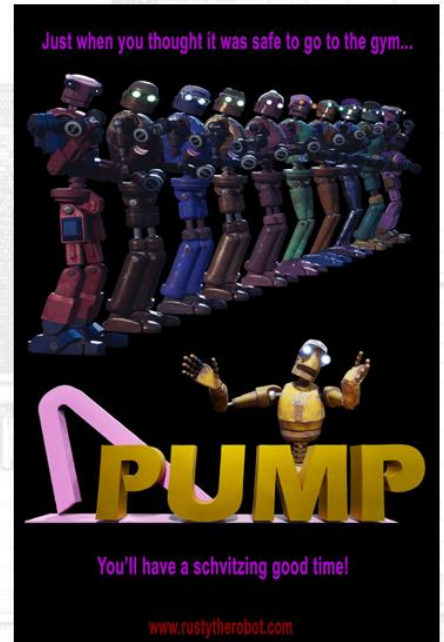
RED ALERT



USA / 3min / Dir: Anqi Li

Red Alert follows a brave girl with a prosthetic eye. In a daring quest for a valuable chip, she ventures into the perilous confines of a factory. Amidst her treacherous journey, she encounters a newfound ally and together they embark on a formidable battle against the odds.

PUMP

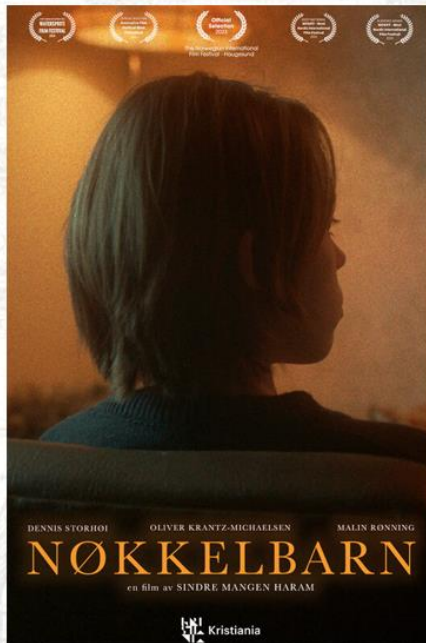


USA / 3mins / Dir: Alan Rosenfeld

Rusty the Robot finds himself working at the local sleepy gym. While the manager steps out, Rusty takes charge of the music and turns up the tempo with thrilling results!

GROWING PAINS (70mins)

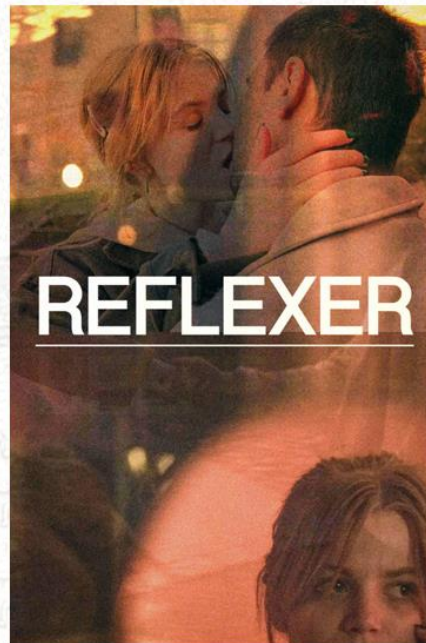
NØKKELBARN



NOR / 21mins / Dir: Sindre Mangen Haram

When twelve-year-old Erik is forced to choose which parent should have to move out during an ugly divorce, he struggles in the aftermath of his decision and how it ends up altering his relationships not only with his parents, but his two younger brothers as well.

REFLEXES



SWE / 15mins / Dir: Noah Lederman Greis

Coming home one night, a girl discovers a strange growth inside her mouth and struggles to ask friends and family for help as it grows at an alarming rate.

MOON MOUNTAIN



UK / 18min / Dir: Inti Rowland

Moon Mountain is a place created in the mind of 7 year old Eva. It's on Moon Mountain that her dad lives, where it's his job to lift the moon into the sky every night.

THE GOLDEN BOY

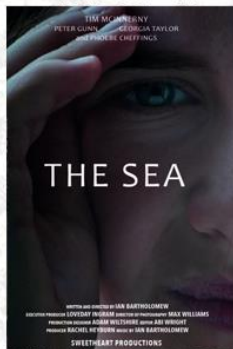


UK / 16mins / Dir: Elizabeth Peace

A family drama, about a non-verbal autistic six-year-old boy who with the help of his older sister, proves that his high support needs can't stop his potential.

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES (75mins)

THE SEA



UK / 7mins / Dir: Ian Bartholomew

In a small English village, circa 1952, a young farm girl sees a painting of the sea in a shop window, and falls in love with it. Her efforts to buy it lead to an unforeseen and heart-warming encounter with a famous artist.

DEATH WARMED UP



UK / 14mins Dir: Paul Moxon

Pathologist Catherine Stevens is about to conduct a post-mortem on the body of recently deceased Sally Edwards. Sally has other ideas.

NERD



ARG / 3mins / Dir: Gustavo Andres Menese

Conceptual animation about realizing what we truly are. It tells the story of Gus, a kid following his path to understanding reality through science. In his journey, he has to leave his demons behind to find the truth: we are all part of the same thing, and the fact that you are you and I am me is just random.

BIG GEORGE



USA / 16mins / Dir: Jamie Effros

When a middle-aged actor gains too much pandemic weight to pull off his survival gig as a George Clooney impersonator, he finds himself trying to justify to his nine-year-old daughter—and to himself—why he's still chasing his dream.

SOFT TOYS



UK / 3mins / Dir: Amber Lee

Ellie and Theo, two soft toys entertain themselves, leading to a serious conversation when Theo struggles to come to terms with a situation their owner is struggling with.

HELP IS... ON THE WAY?



USA / 8mins / Dir: Jason A. White

A cynical patient finds himself at a crossroads with his therapist. The advice she gives may save him, but could have far reaching consequences.

OVERPOWERED



UK / 15mins / Dir: Michael Bicarregui

Six would-be superheroes confront the realities of adult life. Juggling rent, failing friendships and the gig economy, will our heroes finally "make it big", or will their powers go to waste?

LADY BRENTLY'S END



UK / 6mins / Dir: Sam Baron

A comedy about a liberated woman in Victorian England who must convince her newly widowed sister that life is worth living.

OUTSIDE THE COMFORT ZONE (75mins)

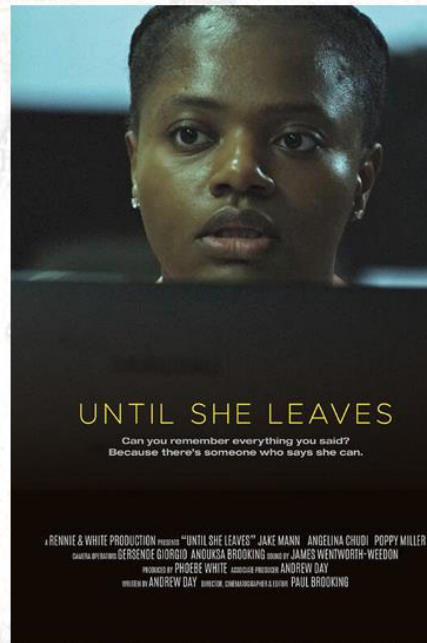
SAFE



UK / 10mins / Dir: Debbie Howard

Anne an office cleaner, finishes work late one evening to be pursued and harassed by a man at the bus stop.

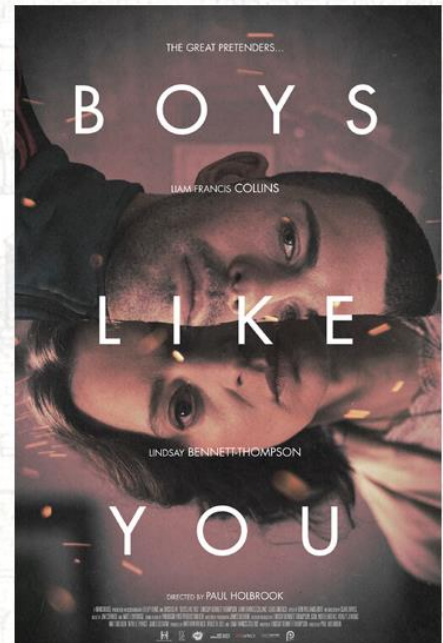
UNTIL SHE LEAVES



UK / 5mins / Dir: Paul Brooking

A 5-minute film that explores two sides of a life-changing conversation.

BOYS LIKE YOU



UK / 17mins / Dir: Paul Holbrook

A depressed housewife seeks out a troubled young man from her past, with disastrous consequences.

THE RED ROOM



UK / 9mins
Dir: Sophie Cohen, Michael Lindsay

A bloodied, handsome well-to-do man staggers out of a strip club in East London. Is he a victim, a perpetrator or did something else happen?

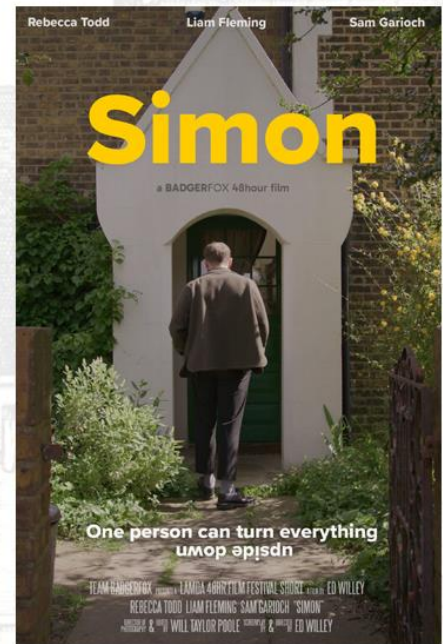
SIT WITH IT



CAN / 12mins
Dir: Manav Shah

A middle-aged man on the brink of divorce gets stalked by a blue chair that refuses to go away.

SIMON

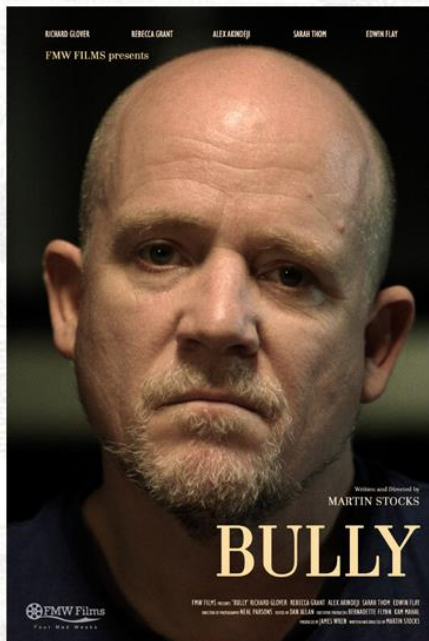


UK / 5mins
Dir: Ed Willey

When Simon knocks on a couples door, he brings news that will turn their world upside down.

INTENSE (70mins)

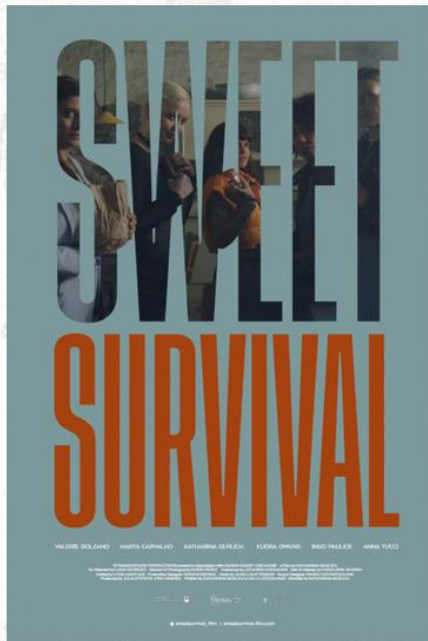
BULLY



UK / 9mins
Dir: Martin Stocks

A dinner party goes off the rails when the host suspects a surprise guest is his childhood bully.

SWEET SURVIVAL



AUT / 14mins
Dir: Katharina Gerlich, Luna Herruzo

On a cold afternoon in a dystopian future, a group of women go about their daily business at an abandoned compound when a hungry young man tries to rob them. They overpower him and to his surprise invite him to dinner. As they sit together at the table it slowly dawns on the loner that these women are not just after his company.

BLACK DRAGON (Rồng đen)



USA / 15mins
Dir: Alexander Thompson

Vietnam, 1968. A feared American colonel nicknamed "the Black Dragon" by Vietnamese locals must face his inner shadow when his platoon presents him with a captured Vietcong girl who harbors some very unusual powers.

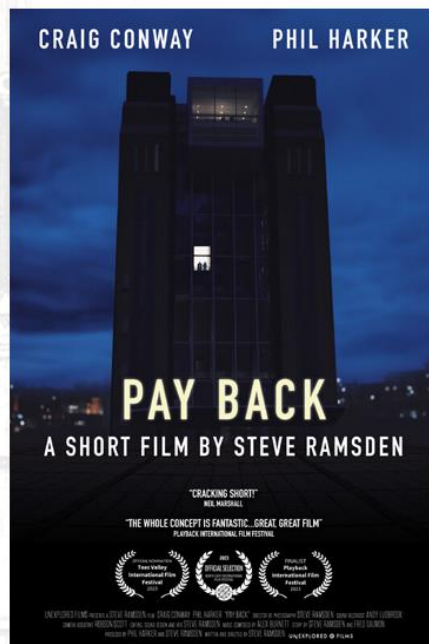
SHADOW FABLE



IRE / 3mins / Dir: Margaret Kane-Rowe

Not all who wander are lost, some are damned. A young woman wanders into a supernatural realm where evil feeds on fear.

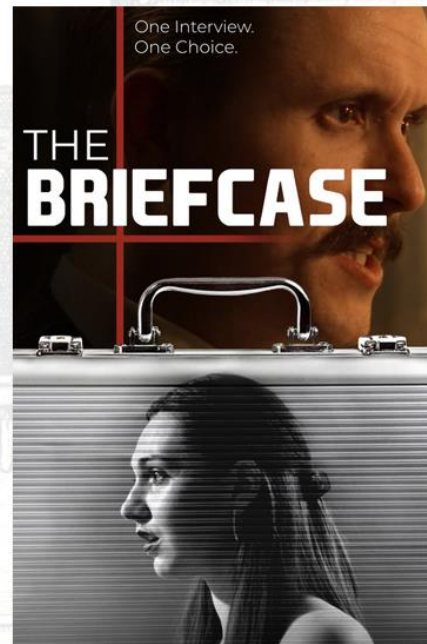
PAY BACK



UK / 18min / Dir: Steve Ramsden

A wealthy property developer visits the top floor of an art gallery to pay the ransom for his kidnapped son. Plans change when the lift mysteriously stops halfway up the building and time is quickly running out.

THE BRIEFCASE



UK / 9mins / Dir: Vijay Varman

On the brink of securing a lucrative job and chance to restart her life, a young woman faces a deadly moral dilemma which could ruin everything she's worked for.

DARK TREATS (70mins)

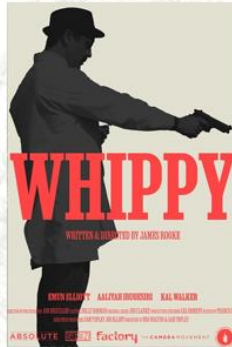
LEMONADE BATTLE



USA / 9mins / Dir: Zahra Sophia Layland

A group of young lemonade entrepreneurs set up a corner stand every weekend, taking pride in their fresh squeezed lemonade and pristine decor. When they find their location has been stolen by a competitor, they hash a plan for revenge.

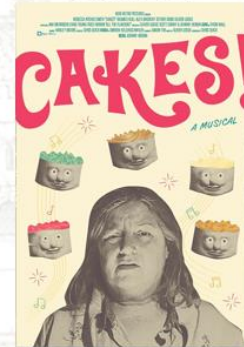
WHIPPY



UK / 5mins / Dir: James Rooke

Rivalry, greed... and calippos. A messy turf war has erupted between warring ice cream firms in 1980s Glasgow after one rogue vendor is caught crossing county lines.

CAKES!



UK / 2mins / Dir: Johnny Herbin

A grieving woman follows a singing cake into a magical world within her oven.

CHUTE



USA / 4mins / Dir: West Webb

A woman hears a child's cries down a trash chute, leading her into unexpected terror.

CATACOMBS



USA / 8mins / Dir: Chad Cunningham

During a raging thunderstorm, a correctional officer must face the horrors that haunt the maximum security prison where he works.

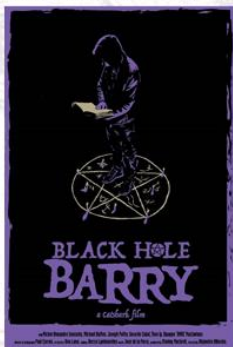
SUNDAY ROAST



SWE / 14mins / Dir: Olof Berghe

Holger lives alone in his apartment. When Anna moves into the same stairwell, he invites her to a Sunday dinner. What first appears to be a nice dinner is gradually changing into something else.

BLACK HOLE BARRY



UK / 10mins / Dir: Alejandro Alberola

Right before Scott's boyfriend moves in with him, he decides to go on a series of hookups to get the most out of his last week living alone, a decision he's going to regret forever.

BADGER



UK / 15mins / Dir: Barry Wilkinson

In a small town in England, chaos ensues when a mischievous killer badger goes on a rampage, terrorizing the unsuspecting locals. Filled with humour, mayhem, and gore, this horror comedy promises a wild ride through the absurd and the macabre.

DELIVERY FOR MR FROGULA



DEU / 2mins / Dir: Vanessa Stachel

Stella the moth is delivering electronics. The job sucks. Especially because of the weird ass clients. And this last client of the day seems to be especially weird...

ISOLATED (75mins)

BARTON TURF



UK / 11mins / Dir: Alice Harding

When a woman at a crossroads in life moves into a caravan in remote rural Norfolk, she begins to fear that she is being stalked. Alone in uncharted territory, she decides to take matters into her own hands.

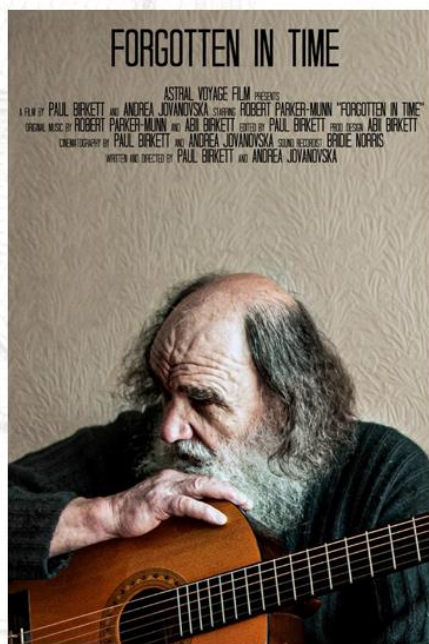
SISTER WIVES



UK / 28mins / Dir: Louisa Connolly-Burnham

Sister Wives tells the tale of young women living in a strict, fundamentalist, polygamous society in 2003 Utah, USA. Kaidence and Galilee find themselves bound to one another, under the same roof, in the same marriage, as they develop scary, new, exciting feelings for each other.

FORGOTTEN IN TIME



UK / 13mins
Dir: Paul Birkett, Andrea Jovanovska

An old man, alone in his flat, experiences the daily struggles of living with dementia. Despite attempting to occupy himself with familiar routine, very soon reality starts to fall away and he finds himself in a state of confusion.

TRAVEL SOCKS

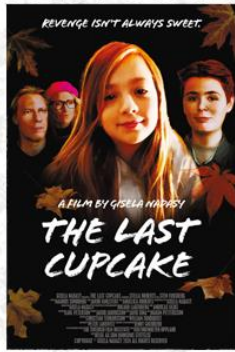


UK / 19min
Dir: Tess Annan, Joseph Madden

As the world shuts down due to COVID, Orla ('Socks') decides to leave Belfast and travel across the Irish Sea for access to a safe abortion.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR (80mins)

THE LAST CUPCAKE



SWE / 13mins / Dir: Gisela Nadasy

A 10-year-old girl wants revenge on the bike salesman who ran over her mum. When her dad announces they are moving out of town she knows it's now or never.

A CHRISTMAS TALE



UK / 7mins / Dir: Natalie A. Evans

A young child wishes for all the toys in the world, but soon realises what's truly important in life.

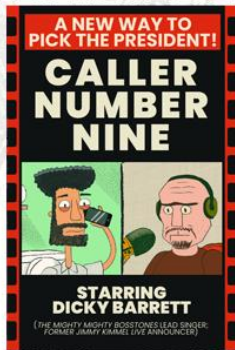
HEART'S DESIRE



UK / 4mins / Dir: Loren Alleyne

A worker is pulling a late shift, feeling the strain of life, when his computer surprises him with three wishes.

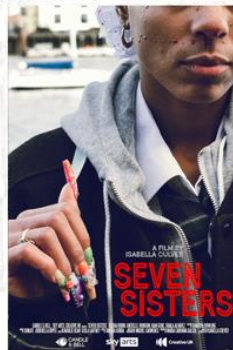
CALLER NUMBER NINE



USA / 4mins / Dir: Mike Salva

Animated comedy about the next US president being selected in a non-traditional manner: a radio call-in contest.

SEVEN SISTERS



UK / 14mins / Dir: Isabella Culver

This story follows Juliet on a journey of self-healing after a traumatic event that takes her on a voyage to the darkest parts of the psyche.

MONITOR



UK / 16mins / Dir: Margot Roe

Jenna and Fi have decided to start a family, and are undertaking the fitness-to-parent trial required by the state: three months under observation with a robot 'baby'.

AS EASY AS CLOSING YOUR EYES



USA / 22mins / Dir: Parker Croft

The story of a grieving mother who battles her addiction to a black-market drug that gives her life-like dreams about the son she lost.

ROMANCE IS DEAD? (90mins)

HOWL IF YOU LOVE ME



USA / 8mins / Dir: John R. Dilworth

Boy has girl.
Boy loses girl.
Boy wins girl back, but girl is a werewolf.

THE FUTURE SOON



USA / 5mins Dir: Douglas DeVore

A young boy tries to win over his crush with a robot army and disastrous results.

CLOSE TO YOU



CHN / 9mins / Dir: Zejing Liu

An introverted high school boy is disheartened after being framed for cheating by his teacher in an exam. After the hit, he is comforted and attracted by a gentle girl. In order to get close to her, he takes a brave step for the first time...

RICE, RIBS, AND TEA



USA / 6mins / Dir: Lenti Liang

A Chinese couple's wedding anniversary takes an unexpected turn when the husband forgets the special day. As disappointment looms, the wife discovers that love isn't about grand celebrations, but the small gestures of caring in everyday life.

DON'T PICK UP



USA / 14mins / Dir: Jeremiah Kipp

Louisa enters a Children's Bookshop to escape a humiliating day. When Chris, the sweet and lonely store manager, attempts an awkward flirt, it both excites and terrifies her, awakening old compulsions. Which is stronger? Love?...or the wild need to escape with the book in her purse?

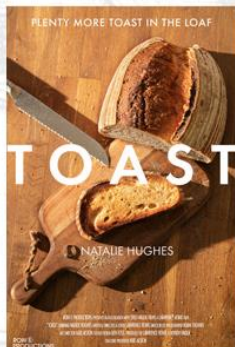
GEORGE



UK / 11mins / Dir: Gregg Chilingirian

Momentarily distracted from his existential crisis by the enigmatic Kiyoni, 30-year-old George is suddenly forced to confront his past in an attempt to process a life-altering event.

TOAST



UK / 3mins / Dir: Lawrence Rowe

Following a difficult break up, a despondent woman finds solace in the simple joys of a slice of toast.

RAW CHEMISTRY



UK / 16mins / Dir: Sarah Sawyer McCarthy

In this zombie rom-com, AJ risks it all to go on one last first date. A zombie virus has spread around the world, slowly turning all the men into zombies, but AJ is still hopeful that she can find love when Duncan asks her out to dinner.

HOW TO BREAK UP

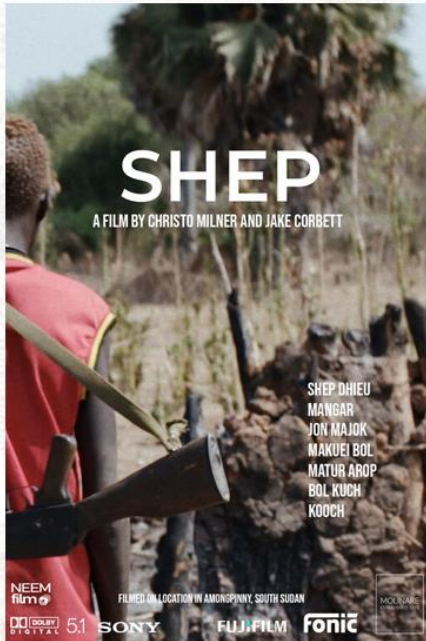


UK / 15mins / Dir: Adam Grant

A young couple at the end of their tether plan the most spectacular public break-up of all time.

ANIMALS (50mins)

SHEP



USA/SSD / 6mins

Dir: Christo John Shanahan Milner

In a remote part of South Sudan, the time honoured routine of a young cattle herder is taken from him. He is then forced to face his new reality.

THE VOICE OF DOGS

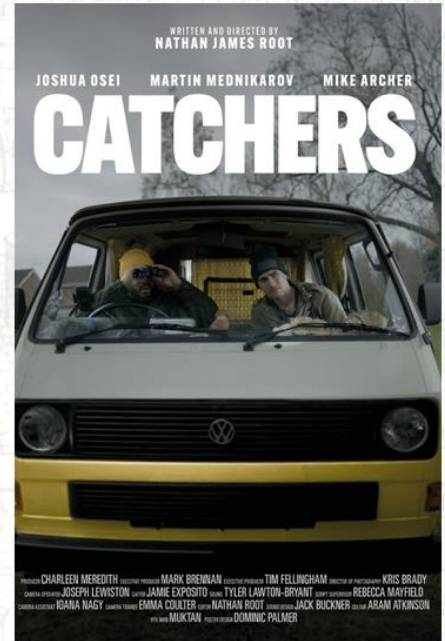


IRN / 15mins

Dir: Mohammad Reza Nazi

A female dog escaped from her owner to save her puppies, but her owner decided to kill her puppies....

CATCHERS



UK / 6mins

Dir: Nathan James Root

Two men in a van stalk a park full of dogs, a master and an apprentice. Tensions start to mount as time runs out but they are after a particular breed of animal and failure will have consequences.

CAT & FISH



IRN / 2mins / Dir: Nilram Ranjbar

A goldfish in a small container goes to a bigger pond with the help of a cat and the sun.

LETTER FROM BOO

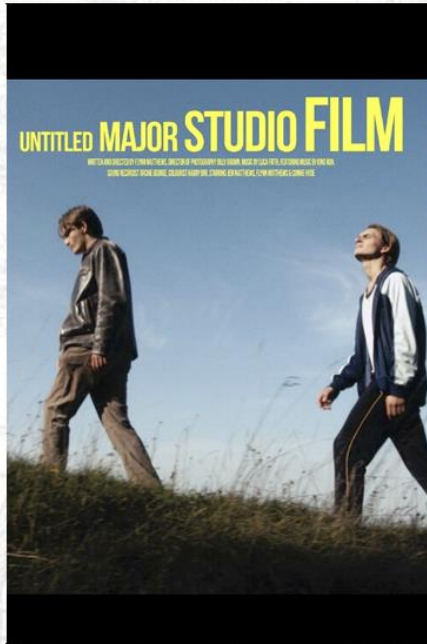


USA / 22mins / Dir: Peter Melaragno

Our protagonist - Boo - recalls his summers on Sutton Island, Maine. He ruminates on his life-long friendship there with Charles, his best friend, but also, on the very nature of friendship.

ARTIST STRUGGLES (52mins)

UNTITLED MAJOR STUDIO FILM MIDNIGHT WHISPERS



UK / 14mins / Dir: Flynn Matthews

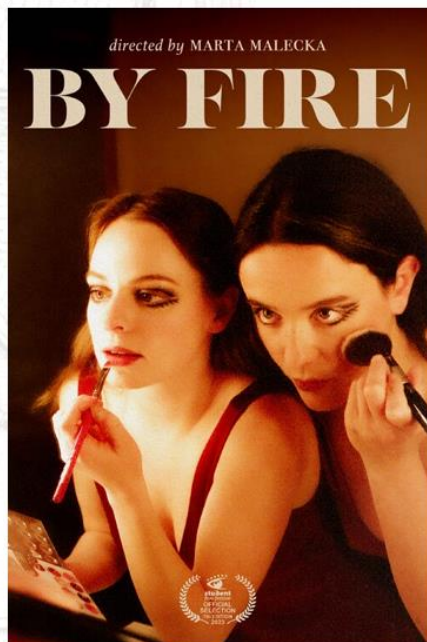
After years of neglecting his family, Henry gets back in contact with his brother to help him with a self tape in the Sussex countryside.



UK / 10mins / Dir: Baldwin Li

In a world where poetry is an illegal substance, a dealer roams around an estate receiving cash in exchange for whispering lines of illicit verse into her customers' ears. When she runs out of material, she must find some fresh lines for her favourite customer before they meet again at midnight - or risk losing him forever.

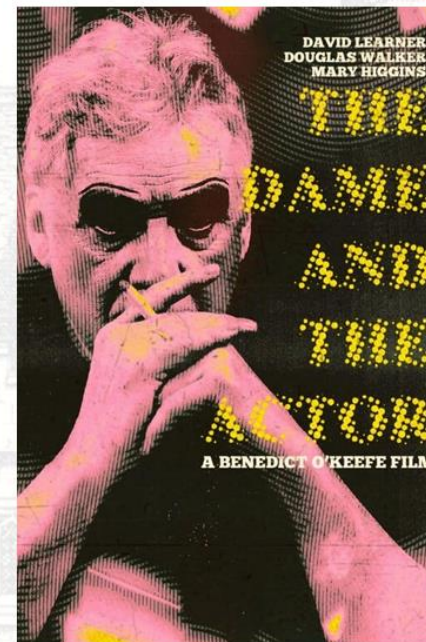
BY FIRE



UK / 13mins / Dir: Marta Malecka

Anya is a wide-eyed uncorrupted understudy who has to replace the actress she idealises in the role of Medea, as she navigates within a morally distorted theatre company.

THE DAME AND THE ACTOR



UK / 15mins / Benedict O'Keefe

Sir Michael Stewart has been playing the role of the Dame for for too long. With the 20th anniversary coming up he decides he has to change to be respected as a legitimate actor. So he hangs his career on the shoulders of a new play, one he writes himself.

NEW VOICES (75mins)

FLY-TIPPING



UK / 11mins / Dir: Gareth Malone

Margo contemplates her future after losing her baby.

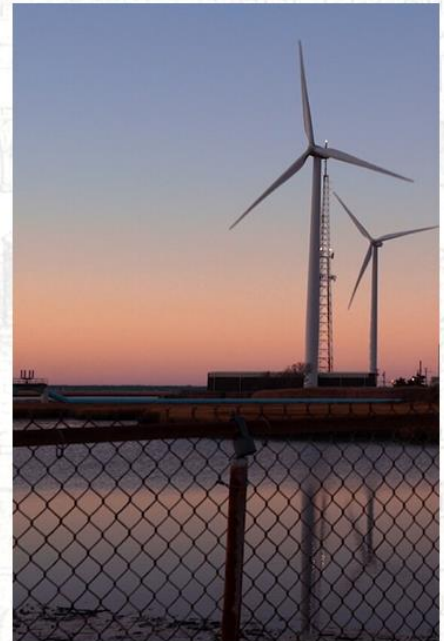
YES DARLING, OF COURSE I'M DOING O.K.



GRE / 5mins / Dir: Daniel Bushgjokai

Join the happy app and everything will be fine. places he now lives with every day.

GARDEN STATE



USA / 11mins / Dir: Julie Langsam

Garden State explores utopian/dystopian ideas about modernist 'progress', the static camera lens observes New Jersey without judgement in order to allow the viewer to draw connections between the visual poetics of the landscape and the overwhelming legacy of human intervention.

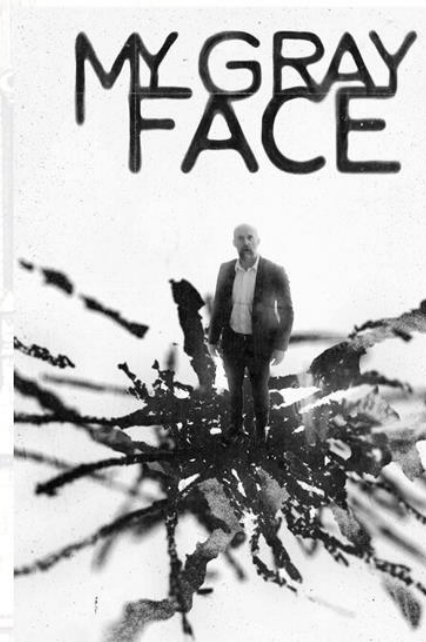
SIX METAMORPHOSES AFTER OVID



UK / 17mins
Dir: Bronwen Pailthorpe, Emily Pailthorpe

Benjamin Britten's seminal work for solo oboe becomes the score for this groundbreaking short film - a powerful portrayal of the emotions behind the myths: grief, anger, loss, distraction, re-connection and the

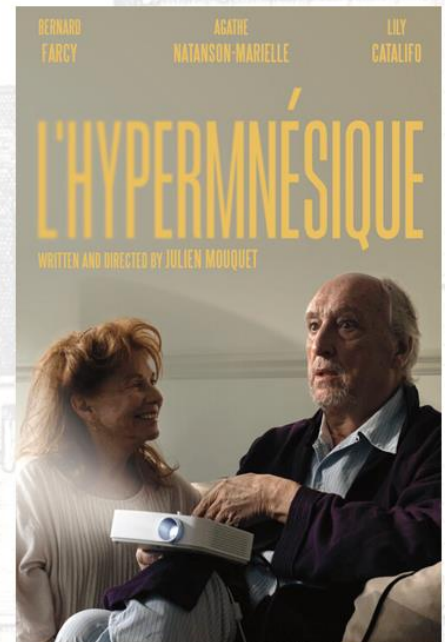
MY GRAY FACE



UK / 10mins
Dir: Gustav Arthur Simon

A failed writer fights his fading memories in a surreal, parallel world while his neglected family comes back to haunt him.

L'HYPERMnésIQUE



UK / 20mins
Dir: Julien Mouquet

Gaby and Jo are an elderly couple without children, living alone in their flat. Throughout their lifetime, they each had life plans and yet never managed to live out their dreams and Gaby felt a deep sense of guilt and trauma due to her inability to conceive children.

SEA TALES (55mins)

A FISH STORY



CAN / 6mins

Dir: Yasmine Majchrzak, Michael Peers

An eccentric old man in a local pub tells tales too tall to be true.

LOCALS ONLY

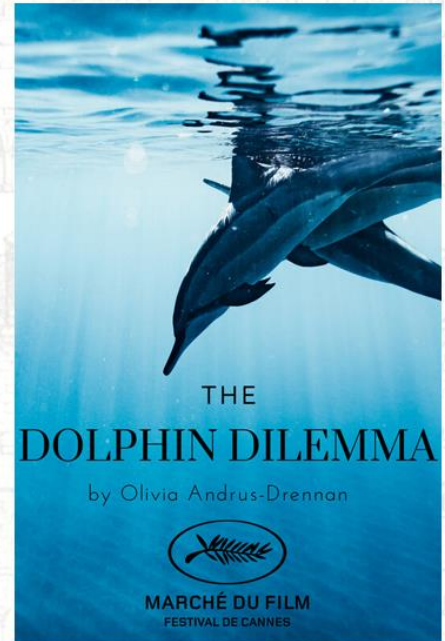


USA / 5mins

Dir: Taryn O'Connor

When the body of a missing girl washes ashore, a lifeguard must act fast to hide the truth about what real predators are

THE DOLPHIN DILEMMA



USA / 18mins

Dir: Olivia Andrus-Drennan

Imagine, waking up being covered in third-degree burns, that's what it's like for the Burrunan dolphins in Australia. But why is this happening? That's what Dr. Duignan, Director of Pathology at The Marine Mammal Center, Dr. Stephen's from Murdoch University, and Dr. Robb from the Marine Mammal Foundation had to find out.

IN WAVES



UK / 10mins / Dir: Simon Sofowora

A teenage girl, Eden, dreams of her father washing up dead on a rocky beach. Fearing her own premonition and driven by tensions between her and her mother, she flees home to visit her paternal grandmother, Ingrid.

WILD SEA



UK / 14mins / Dir: Tom Vetterl

"Wild Sea" is a captivating short documentary that delves into the life of Jeff Allen, a trailblazing figure in the world of Sea Kayaking. The film traces Jeff's journey from his formative years to his role as one of the foremost Sea Kayak guides and coaches of our time.

About The Festival

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

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

Tickets to the event sold out extremely quickly. The day attracted over 200 audience

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

The pandemic forced the festival online for 2020. We played 135 entries over eleven weeks from 8 May to 23 July. Each week, we held live Q&A chats with filmmakers, and ran a number of talks

and masterclasses with our friends and sponsors.

For 2021, we built upon these different festival experiences by running online and in-person screenings.

In 2023, we rebranded from Oxford International Short Film Festival to Oxford shorts and hosted over 100 short film entries, talks and workshops.

2024 marks our fifth edition where we will screen over 100 films live and online.



The Judges

OLIVIA CHAPPELL

A founder of Oxford Shorts, Olivia is an actor and voice artist. She has built a varied career across film, tv, theatre, commercials, musicals, comedy and more. Recent credits include: Liaison for Apple TV and understudying Lily James in *Lyonese in the West End*.

A skilled voice artist, Olivia voiced numerous characters in the highly acclaimed computer game, *Baldur's Gate 3*. She's also voiced campaigns for brands such as British Airways, Pearl Vision, and animations for Netflix and Nickelodeon.

Behind the camera, Olivia has produced a number of music videos and the BAFTA long-listed short film, *Driftwood*.

HARRY MACQUEEN

Harry is an actor and filmmaker from Leicester. In 2015 he wrote, directed, produced and starred in the micro-budget *Hinterland*, released by Curzon Cinemas. It was nominated for several awards including 'Best Debut Film' at the Beijing International Film Festival.

His second feature as a writer/director, *Supernova*, starred Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci. It was produced by Emily Morgan and Tristan Goligher with backing from BBC, BFI and Studio Canal. It was shortlisted for two BAFTA Awards including 'Outstanding British Film' and 'Best Film' at the European Film Awards.

He was the 2018 recipient of the Wellcome Trust Broadcast Award and a 2024 recipient of the Derek Jarman Residency as chosen by Tilda Swinton and Tacita Dean.

LAURA COQUEREAU

Fluent in four languages, Laura works in television production, spending her time between documentaries (both observational and retrospective) and current affairs. She specialises in content that requires working with sensitive contributors, being embedded within institutions and/or gaining access to high profile figures. Recently, Laura was Story Producer on a series for Falwell 73 Productions.

Documentaries include: *The Boys from Brazil: Rise of the Bolsonaros* (BBC); *Julia Bradbury: Breast Cancer and Me* (ITV); and *Current Affairs* BAFTA Winner, *Fearless: The Women Fighting Putin*.

LORENZO LEVRINI

Lorenzo is a Director of Photography based in London. He shot 'Amanda' for director Carolina Cavalli, which premiered at Venice Film Festival & Toronto International Film Festival to rave reviews.

Lorenzo also shot BIFA-longlisted feature *Sorority* starring Kate Dickie. Other credits include the drama portions of BAFTA-winning documentary, *Gun No.6*, as well as feature films *Redcon-1*, *An Enemy Within* and *Forever Now*.

LUCY MITCHELL

Lucy began her career as a runner at Envy Post Production, learnt on the job, working her way up to Senior Sound Editor. Now freelance, she covers all areas of audio post, specialising in Dialogue and ADR editing.

Credits include: *The Jetty*, *Boiling Point*, *Death in Paradise*, *Eastenders*, *The First Lady* and *Derry Girls*. Recently, her dialogue work was nominated on BBC's *Dodger* for "Excellence in Audio Post Production (Scripted)" at the Broadcast Tech Awards. Lucy writes for *Protocols Expert*, is a panellist for *The Media Production Show*, and has judged awards for RTS, Broadcast Tech and BAFTA TV.

Lucy runs LJ Studios, from her purpose-built, full-service audio post facility in her garden.



2024 Award Nominees

Best Film

- George
- I Promise You Paradise
- Isla Soledad
- Sister Wives
- Travel Socks

Best Documentary

- Cranes And Ships
- Duckworthy
- Stud Country
- Unstoppable Beat
- Working Classical Heroes

Best Director

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| • Debbie Howard | Safe |
| • Gregg Chilingirian | George |
| • Louisa Connolly-Burnham | Sister Wives |
| • Margo Roe | Monitor |
| • Omar Deneb Juárez | Isla Soledad |

Best Actor

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • Jake Hart | Big George |
| • Keith David | Don't Pick Up |
| • Meysam Mojaveri | Blood Snow |
| • Richard Glover | Bully |
| • Sten Ljunggren | Sunday Roast |

Best Actress

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| • Alice Mann | Travel Socks |
| • Laura Bayston | Safe |
| • Laura Coover | As Easy As Closing Your Eyes |
| • Leidi Gutiérrez | Isla Soledad |
| • Mia Threapleton | Barton Turf |

Best Young Performer

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| • Ayhan Nikour | Hazef Poems |
| • Beatrix Hart | Big George |
| • Oliver Krantz-Mikaelsen | Nøkkelbarn |
| • Serene Masoud | Moon Mountain |
| • Stella Dickens Cederkvist | The Last Cupcake |



Best Early Career Filmmaker

- Alice Harding Barton Turf
- Annie Hammond Goodbye, Goodbye, Goodbye
- Amirali M. Jahanian Hazef Poems
- Elizabeth Peace The Golden Boy
- Sizhuo Li The Last Butterfly

Best Cinematography

- Crash
- Forsaken
- I Promise You Paradise
- Seven Sisters
- The Last Butterfly

Best Editing

- Catacombs
- George
- Seven Sisters
- The Golden Boy
- Travel Socks

Best Music/Soundtrack

- As Easy As Closing Your Eyes
- Cakes!
- Hunky Dory
- Return To Skye
- The Future Soon

Best Sound

- Black Dragon
- Blood Snow
- Crash
- Pay Back
- Torii

Best Production Design

- Black Dragon
- Nøkkelbarn
- Seven Sisters
- Sister Wives
- The Sea

Best Screenplay

- As Easy As Closing Your Eyes
- Don't Pick Up
- Monitor
- Safe
- Travel Socks



Best Animation

- Delivery For Mr. Frogula
- Howl If You Love Me
- Pump
- Soft Toys
- Unstoppable Beat

Best Comedy

- Big George
- Help...Is On The Way?
- How To Break Up
- Lady Brently's End
- Simon

Best Experimental Film/Microshort

- Cakes!
- Crash
- Forgotten In Time
- Seeking Thomas
- This Prison I Built You

Best Horror/Thriller

- Boys Like You
- Bully
- Catacombs
- Pay Back
- Sunday Roast

Best Science Fiction/Fantasy

- As Easy As Closing Your Eyes
- Black Dragon
- Cosmic Travelers
- Monitor
- The Future Soon

Best Local Film

- Black Hole Barry
- Curlew River
- Horse
- Overpowered
- Wine Club



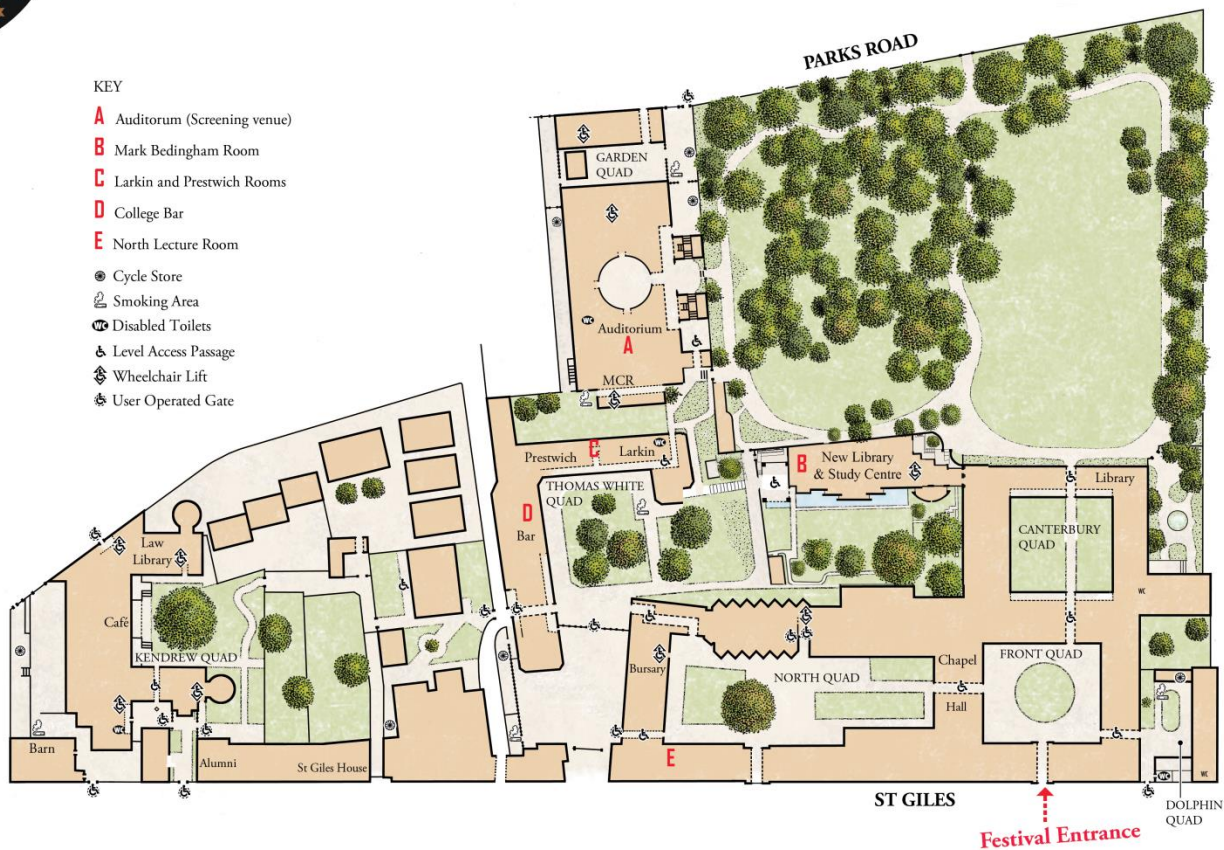
MAP OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

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

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



ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
OXFORD



The festival registration desk is on the Auditorium entrance. It will be open at 10:00am each day. Please make sure you collect your wrist band before you enter the screening venue. If anyone has mobility considerations, please let us know in advance so we can advise/help. Please note the Auditorium can be tricky to find. Please follow the signage on the day and we strongly recommend you look at our online video tour in advance:

<https://youtu.be/DSKYsVeGCRc>

Please note: No food or drink can be taken into the screening venues

THINGS TO DO IN OXFORD

Museums

- **Natural History Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum** – Explore these famous museums and their collection of historical artefacts <https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/> and <https://www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk/>
- **Ashmolean Museum** – Visit the Ashmolean to relish at it's collection of historical pieces spanning hundreds of years and from all over the world <https://www.ashmolean.org/>

Sights of Interest

- **Bodleian Library** – Visit the World-famous Bodleian library which houses over 12 million items and is the 2nd largest library in Britain. <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>
- **Bridge of sighs** – The Bridge of Sighs is one of Oxford's most recognisable landmarks
- **Oxford Castle and Prison** – Explore 1000 years of Oxford within these old buildings <https://www.oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk/>
- **University of Oxford** – The main reason to visit Oxford, take in as many colleges as you like as you visit the city <https://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors/visiting-oxford/visiting-the-colleges?wssl=1>
- **Oxford University Parks** – Take some time and explore the University parks for free and revel in the peace and quiet they hold <https://www.parks.ox.ac.uk/article/1>

Shopping

- **Westgate shopping centre** – If shopping is your thing, check out the latest shopping centre in the heart of Oxford boasting over 100 shops, restaurants and cinema <https://westgateoxford.co.uk/>
- **The Oxford Covered Market** – The Market has been open since 1774 and is the perfect place to explore the various stores <http://oxford-coveredmarket.co.uk/>

Fun Activities

- **Oxford Ghost Tour** – Take a tour around the spooky parts of Oxford in the city's own historical ghost tour <https://www.oxfordghosttours.com/>
- **Thirsty Meeples** – If board games are your thing, you should check out Thirsty Meeples, the board game café in the heart of the city centre, be sure to book though! <https://thirstymeeples.co.uk/>
- **Oxford Ice Rink** – If you fancy a spin in the ice, take a trip to the Ice Rink and glide round the rink <https://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/oxford-ice-rink/>
- **Punting** – Take a trip on the world famous Oxford Punts and take a trip up the River Thames <http://www.oxfordpunting.co.uk/>





XFORD

SHORTS

2024