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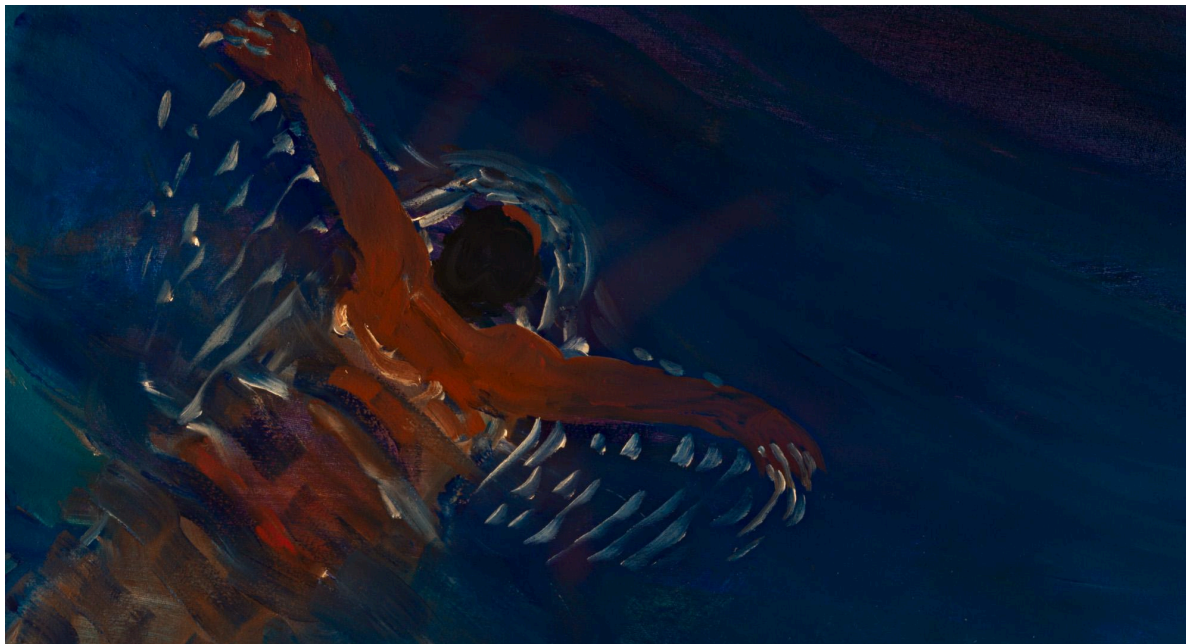
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ANIMATED SHORT FILMS

Some films in this program include some disturbing and mature content and may not be suitable for very young children.

BUTTERFLY



CREDITS

Writer and Director Florence Mialhe

Producers Ron Dyens and Luc Camilli

Production Sacrebleu Productions

Original Music and Sound Pierre Oberkampf

Animation Florence Mialhe, Aurore Peuffier and Chloé Sorin

Editor Nassim Gordji-Tehrani

Country of Origin France

Film Length 15 mins.

Logline

A poignant retelling of Olympic swimmer Alfred Nakache's life, from his rise to fame to surviving Auschwitz, presented as memories flashing back during his final swim.

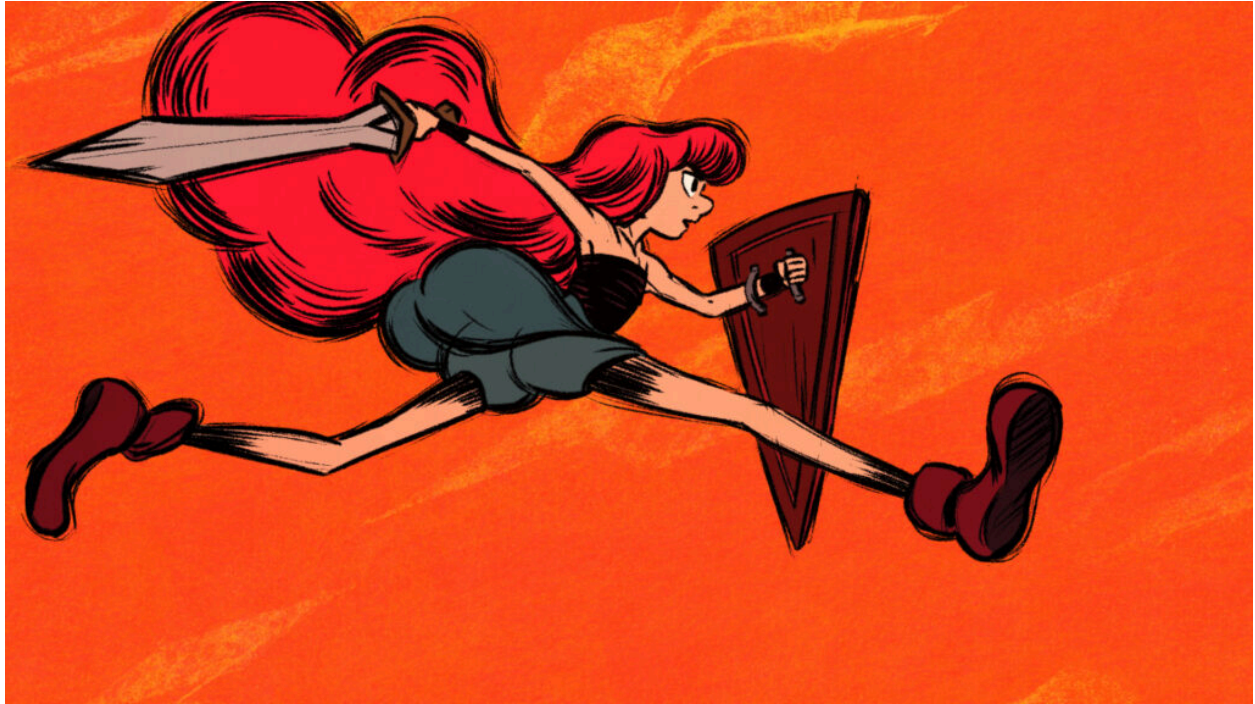
Synopsis

In the sea, a man swims. As he does, memories come to the surface. From his early childhood to his life as a man, all his memories are linked to water. Some are happy, some glorious, some traumatic. This story will be that of his last swim. It will take us from the source to the river - from the waters of childhood pools to those of swimming pools - from a North African country to the shores of the Mediterranean - from Olympic stadiums to water retention basins - from concentration camps to the dream beaches of Reunion.

Stills [HERE](#)

ÉIRU*

**Shortlisted*



CREDITS

Written and Directed by Giovanna Ferrari

Produced by Nora Twomey

Art Direction by Áine Mc Guinness

Edited by Richie Cody ACE BFE and Nora Twomey

Country of Origin Ireland

Film Length 13 mins.

Synopsis

When the water mysteriously disappears from the well in a warrior clan's village, an intrepid child descends into the belly of the earth to retrieve it. *Éiru* is the story of a child in search of a challenge, and a goddess in search of a champion.

Stills [HERE](#)

FOREVERGREEN



CREDITS

Written and Directed by Nathan Engelhardt and Jeremy Spears

Production Designer Jeremy Spears

Producers Jennifer Gandrup Sackheim and Steph Gortz

Composers Josh Garrels and Isaac Wardell

Country of Origin United States

Film Length 13 mins.

Synopsis

A joyful adventure featuring an orphaned bear cub and a fatherly tree turns serious when the cub is tempted by the allure of easy food. Fire and deadly danger ensue as the cub is left bereft of hope and on the verge of a ruinous end, until the sacrificial love of the tree falls into place.

Stills [HERE](#)

THE GIRL WHO CRIED PEARLS



CREDITS

Directed by Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski

Written by Chris Lavis, Maciek Szczerbowski, Isabelle Mandalian

Cast Colm Feore

Original Music Patrick Watson

Sound Design Olivier Calvert

Art Direction Brigitte Henry

Animation Laura Stewart, Laura Venditti, Peggy Are

Producers Julie Roy, Marc Bertrand, Christine Noël

Executive Producer Christine Noël

Country of Origin Canada

Film Length 17 mins.

Logline

A haunting fable about a girl overwhelmed by sorrow, the boy who loves her, and how greed leads good hearts to wicked deeds.

Synopsis

In Montreal, at the dawn of the 20th century, a poor boy falls in love with a girl whose sorrow turns into pearls. He sells them to a ruthless pawnbroker, who hungers for more. Tempted by greed, the boy must choose between love and fortune. The choice could damn his soul. From the Oscar-nominated team of Chris Lavis and Maciek Szczerbowski (*Madame Tutli-Putli*), this meticulously crafted film is a testament to the magic of stop-motion animation. With handmade puppets, mesmerizing narration by Colm Feore and a haunting score by Patrick Watson, *The Girl Who Cried Pearls* is a timeless parable of desire, deception and the price of innocence.

Stills [HERE](#)

RETIREMENT PLAN



CREDITS

Directed by John Kelly
Written by John Kelly, Tara Lawall
Cast Domhnall Gleeson
Animation by Marah Curran, Eamonn O'Neill
Produced by Julie Murnaghan
Associate Producer Andrew Freedman at Antidote
Music by John Carroll Kirby
Design by John Kelly

Country of Origin Ireland

Film Length 7 mins.

Logline

Retirement Plan tells the story of Ray (Domhnall Gleeson) as he fantasises about everything he'd love to do in retirement, once he finally has the "time."

Synopsis

Ray (Domhnall Gleeson) lays out a beautiful life for himself in his retirement plan. He will pursue his curiosities, challenge his limiting beliefs, embrace fear, beauty, even the complexities of wine culture. Ray will check off every box on every list for every interest he ever even half-thought about. He will discover what he loves (Italian red wine), what he hates (camping). He will grow and learn and change rapidly. It's beautiful and it's messy and achingly relatable. But Ray is forgetting something. The one thing he treats as flippantly disposable will be the single most rapidly depleting resource of his future self. His healthy-ish, agile enough 40-something-year-old body. Also, actual retirement time is not endless, but guaranteed to be finite.

Stills [HERE](#)

THE THREE SISTERS



CREDITS

Writer and Director Konstantin Bronzit

Producer Robinovich Zalman

Country of Origin Israel, Cyprus

Film Length 14 mins.

Synopsis

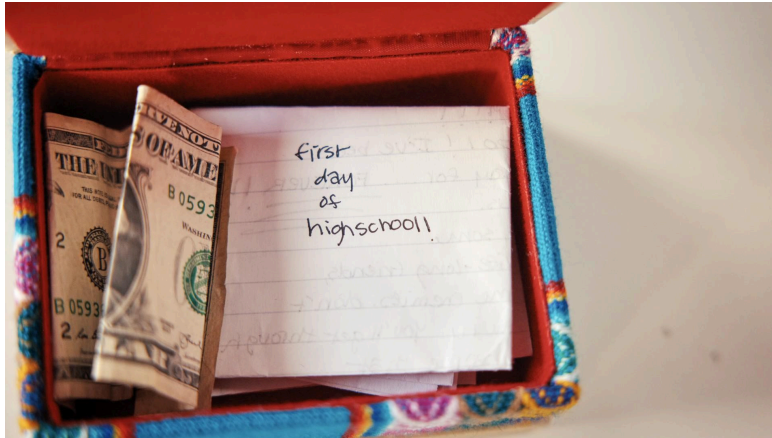
Three sisters live a lonely life on an isolated island, each in their own small house. One day, circumstances develop in such a way that they are forced to rent out one of the houses.

Stills [HERE](#)

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILMS

*Some films in this program contain graphic war imagery, adult themes and language.
Recommended for persons 17 and up.*

ALL THE EMPTY ROOMS



CREDITS

Directed by Joshua Seftel

Producers Joshua Seftel, Conall Jones, James Costa, Trevor Burgess

Executive Producers Adam McKay, Kevin Messick, Steve Kerr, Rev. Dr. Conrad Fischer MD, Roy and Mary Judelson, Phil and Cheryl Milstein, Geralyn Dreyfous, Regina K. Scully, Melony and Adam Lewis, Claire Aguilar, Lisa Cortés, Sigrid Dyekjær, Anna Bick Rowe, Jon Levin, Kim Magnusson, Eric Nichols

Editors Erin Casper, Stephen Maing, Jeremy Medoff

Director of Photography Matt Porwoll

Co-Producers Avi Bond, Michael J. Gray, Sarah McCarthy, Matt Porwoll

Original Music Alex Somers

Country of Origin United States

Film Length 33 mins.

Logline

In this moving short documentary, a journalist and a photographer set out to memorialize the bedrooms left behind by children killed in school shootings.

Synopsis

All the Empty Rooms follows veteran CBS News correspondent Steve Hartman and photographer Lou Bopp as they embark on a seven-year-long project to document the empty bedrooms of children killed in school shootings. Hartman steps away from his heartwarming human interest stories and unbeknownst to his network's bosses, pursues a piece on absence, memory, and the unseen ripples of America's gun violence epidemic. As these senseless incidents claim more young lives than any other cause in America, these quiet bedrooms reveal truths more powerful than statistics ever could.

Stills [HERE](#)

ARMED ONLY WITH A CAMERA: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF BRENT RENAUD



CREDITS

Directed by Craig Renaud and Brent Renaud

Produced by Craig Renaud, Brent Renaud, Juan Arredondo

Executive Producers Jon Alpert, Nancy Abraham, Lisa Heller, and Tina Nguyen

Country of Origin United States

Film Length 38 mins.

Logline

An intimate chronicle about documentary filmmaker Brent Renaud, the first American journalist killed while reporting on the Russo-Ukrainian War.

Synopsis

On March 13, 2022, filmmaker Brent Renaud was killed by Russian soldiers – the first American journalist to die while reporting on the war in Ukraine. His younger brother and collaborator, Craig Renaud, recovered Brent's body and his final recordings from Ukraine and brought them back to their childhood home in Arkansas. As Brent's journey to his final resting place unfolds, the film chronicles the years he and his brother spent covering some of the world's most dangerous conflicts.

As journalism becomes one of the most dangerous professions in the world, *Armed Only With a Camera: The Life and Death of Brent Renaud* is dedicated to Brent and all the devoted journalists who use their cameras to work for truth and understanding.

Stills [HERE](#)

CHILDREN NO MORE: "WERE AND ARE GONE"



CREDITS

Directed by Hilla Medalia

Produced by Hilla Medalia, Sheila Nevins, Yael Melamede

Executive Producers Libby Lenkinski, Avner Shahaf, Siobhan Sinnerton, Vesna Cudic, Hayley Reynolds

Director of Photography Avner Shahaf

Editor Erez Laufer

Composer Daniel Markovich

Country of Origin Israel

Film Length 36 mins.

Logline

In Tel Aviv, activists gather weekly to demonstrate their opposition to the war in Gaza with a silent vigil for the children killed in Israeli attacks.

Synopsis

Children No More: "Were and are Gone" is an observational documentary short about a vigil that began in March 2025, when a handful of women stood silently in a public square in Tel Aviv, each holding a photograph of a child killed in Gaza. On every image: the child's name, age, date of death, and the words "WAS AND IS NO MORE." Their stillness is heavy, pressing against the rhythm of ordinary life. Some passersby look away; others respond with denial, sorrow, or rage. Yet week after week, new names are added, new photographs are printed and lifted high. And each week, more people step forward to join this quiet act of protest.

Stills [HERE](#)

THE DEVIL IS BUSY



CREDITS

Directed by Christalyn Hampton and Geeta Gandbhir
Producers Christalyn Hampton, Rose Arce, Amber Fares, and Soledad O'Brien
Executive Producers Soledad O'Brien and Rose Arce
Edited by Tristan Nash

Country of Origin United States

Film Length 31 mins.

Logline

The film chronicles a day on the frontlines in the battle for reproductive rights at a women's healthcare clinic.

Synopsis

The Devil is Busy takes viewers on a daylong journey with Tracii, the determined head of security at a women's healthcare clinic in Atlanta, Georgia as she works to ensure the safety of women seeking abortions in the face of new restrictions and persistent protests.

The film is a clear-eyed portrayal of the shifting landscape for patients and abortion providers in America today, and depicts the complex, day-to-day realities facing those working to provide safe reproductive healthcare to women. The film captures a unique snapshot of reproductive healthcare in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, a shift that has led to abortion bans and significant restrictions in many states.

Stills [HERE](#)

PERFECTLY A STRANGENESS



CREDITS

Directed, Written and Produced by Alison McAlpine

Editor Carolina Siraqyan

Director of Photography Nicolas Canniccioni

Music Ben Grossman

Sound Samuel Gagnon-Thibodeau

Mix Stéphane Bergeron

Visual Effects Charles Marchand

Colour Marc Boucrot

Country of Origin Canada

Film Length 15 mins.

Synopsis

In the dazzling incandescence of an unknown desert, three donkeys discover an abandoned astronomical observatory and the universe. A sensorial, cinematic exploration of what a story can be.

Stills [HERE](#)

LIVE ACTION SHORT FILMS

*Some films in this program contain adult language, adult themes and sensual images.
Recommended for persons 17 and up.*

BUTCHER'S STAIN



CREDITS

Written and Directed by Meyer Levinson-Blount

Produced by Oron Caspi

Cast Omar Sameer, Meyer Levinson-Blount, Rona Toledano, Sara Raed

Cinematographer Sefi Elisha Nahmani

Editor Meyer Levinson-Blount

Sound Dana Maimon, DB Studios

Music Shani Shavit

Producers Oron Caspi

Executive Producers Maya Dreifuss, Yaron Bloch

Country of Origin Israel

Film Length 26 mins.

Synopsis

Samir, a Palestinian butcher working at an Israeli supermarket, is accused of tearing down the Israeli hostage posters in the break room. Samir sets out to prove his innocence in order to keep his job he desperately needs.

Stills [HERE](#)

A FRIEND OF DOROTHY



CREDITS

Written and Directed by Lee Knight

Produced by James Dean, Scottie Fotr , Max Marlow

Executive Producers Lee Knight, Harry Burnett Rae, Charles Gordon, Nicky Hale, Elliott Linger, Soumia Majumdar, Nichola Martin, Ingrid Tarrant

Cast Stephen Fry, Alistair Nwachukwu, Oscar Lloyd, Miriam Margolyes, David Ijiti, Haochu Wei, Charlie Clemmow, Lee Knight

Country of Origin United Kingdom

Film Length 21 mins.

Logline

A Friend of Dorothy is a tender story of loneliness and unexpected friendships.

Synopsis

Dorothy (BAFTA winner Miriam Margolyes) is a lonely widow whose body is failing, but her mind remains as bright as ever. When 17-year-old JJ (Alistair Nwachukwu) accidentally kicks his football into her garden, he upends Dorothy's daily routine of pills, prunes and crosswords, and an unlikely friendship blossoms. Despite being worlds apart in every way, the two come to find they have more in common than they could ever imagine.

Stills [HERE](#)

JANE AUSTEN'S PERIOD DRAMA



CREDITS

Written and Directed by Steve Pinder and Julia Aks

Producer Elli Legerski

Cast Julia Aks, Ta'imua, Samantha Smart, Nicole Alyse Nelson, Hugo Armstrong, Marilyn Brett, Dustin Ingram

Cinematography Luca Del Puppo

Production Design Dong Lei

Costume Design Paula Higgins and Barrett Hutchinson

Hair Celeste Gonzalez

Makeup Alicia Rodriguez

Music Alex Winkler

Sound Supervisor Darren Augustus

Country of Origin United States

Film Length 12 mins.

Logline

Jane Austen's Period Drama is a 2024 English-language short comedy written and directed by Julia Aks and Steve Pinder. The film is a satire on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Synopsis

England, 1813. Miss Estrogenia "Essy" Talbot gets her period during a long-awaited marriage proposal.

Mr. Dickley mistakes the blood for an injury and rushes off to fetch a doctor. While he's gone, Essy's sisters plead with her not to imperil her engagement by telling Mr. Dickley the truth. But when he returns, Essy barrels ahead, sharing every little bloody detail.

Stills [HERE](#)

THE SINGERS



CREDITS

Directed, Shot & Edited by Sam A. Davis

Produced by Jack Piatt, David Breschel, Charlie Cohen, Sam A. Davis

Executive Producers Rayka Zehtabchi, John Saras, Henry Platt

Co-Producer Dustin Elm

Associate Producer Tim Deters

Production Designer Michelle Patterson

Costume Designer Brianna B. Murphy

Casting Director Natalie Lin

Singers Mike Young, Chris Smither, Will Harrington, Judah Kelly, Matthew Corcoran

Bar Patrons Leroy Griffith, David Scott "Muffin" McMurry, Daniel "Hutch" Hutchinson, David Jenner, Graham Mackie Sr., Brian Coover, Jim Donnelly, Luis "Tio Rigo" Rigoberto Amaya, Jorge "Mr. George" Antonio Linares, Arthur "Roy" Farewell, Michael Keyes, Robert Broski, Reuben L. "Rocket" Gonzales, Steve Corning

Country of Origin United States

Film Length 18 mins.

Synopsis

The Singers is a short film adaptation of a 19th-century short story written by Ivan Turgenev, in which a lowly pub full of downtrodden patrons connect unexpectedly through an impromptu sing-off. With a cast comprised of viral video singing talents and other one-of-a-kind personalities from the unlikely corners of the internet, the film is an experimental docu-musical hybrid crafted like an improvisational play.

Stills [HERE](#)

TWO PEOPLE EXCHANGING SALIVA



CREDITS

Directed by Natalie Musteata and Alexandre Singh

Executive Producers Isabelle Huppert and Julianne Moore

Cast Zar Amir, Luàna Bajrami, Aurélie Boquien, Vicky Krieps, Nicolas Bouchaud

Country of Origin France, United States

Film Length 36 mins.

Logline

Two People Exchanging Saliva explores a dystopian world where kissing is punishable by death.

Synopsis

In a society where kissing is punishable by death, and people pay for things by receiving slaps to the face, Angine, an unhappy woman, shops compulsively in a department store. There, she becomes fascinated by a playful salesgirl. Despite the prohibition of kissing, the two become close, raising the suspicions of a jealous colleague.

Stills [HERE](#)