



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

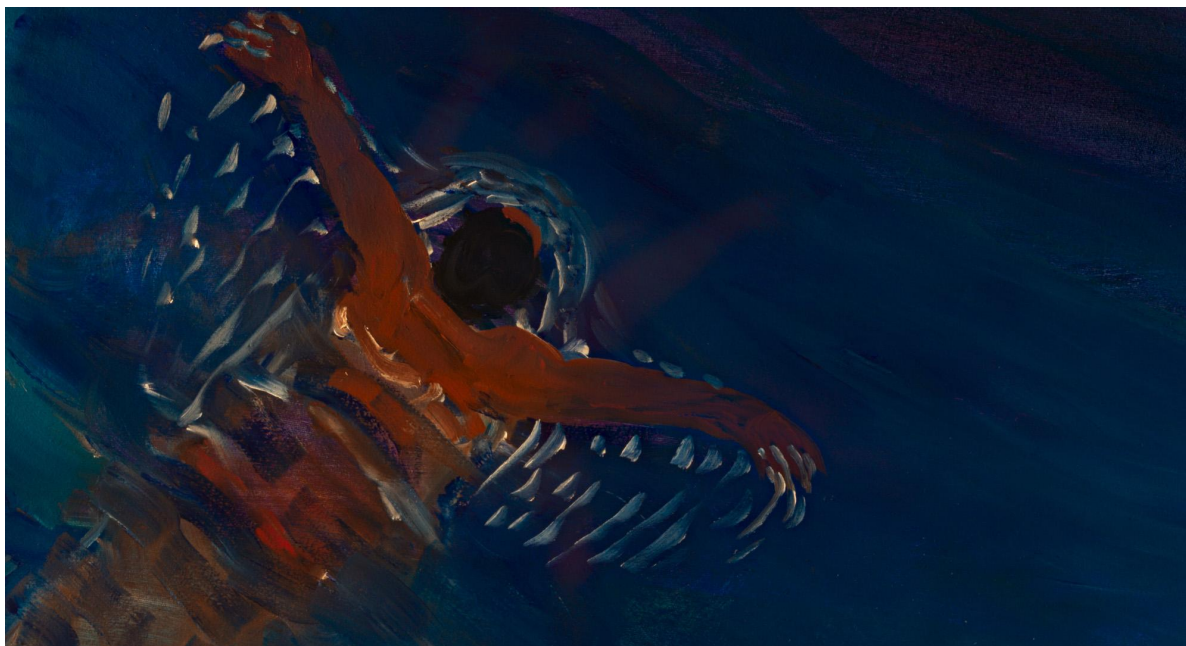
*Listed in alphabetical order*

|                                               |         |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
| <a href="#">ANIMATED SHORT FILMS</a> .....    | Page 3  |
| <a href="#">DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILMS</a> ..... | Page 9  |
| <a href="#">LIVE ACTION SHORT FILMS</a> ..... | Page 14 |

# 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](#)

# 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](#)

# ADDITIONAL ANIMATED SHORT FILM PRESENTATION

ÉIRU\*



## 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.

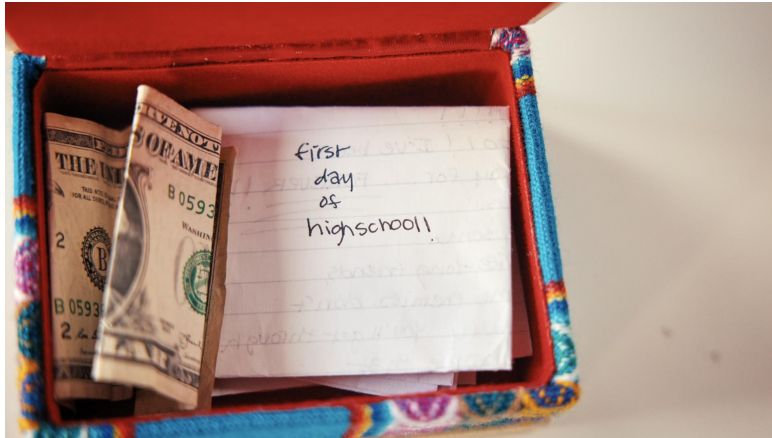
**Stills** [HERE](#)

*\*Shortlisted*

# 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](#)