



# SI-FAN

SCOTTISH DEBUT GENRE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

NOV 2023

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC ARTS NETWORK



# A MONSTER IS BORN

Welcome to the first ever SI-FAN. The brand new festival from the BIFA qualifying short comedy film and animation festival Short Com. Naturally at Short Com, we love short films. We also love genre films and we believe that the people of Scotland love genre films too. Films that defy the norm, push boundaries, take viewers to lands afar, get under your skin, dazzle you so daft that it tickles you into submission.

**We use the same policy at Short Com to select films that we think will leave a lasting impression on audiences and we think we've done this amongst the 32 selected films that span across Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Horror, Action, Dystopia, Magical Realism amongst film and animation. Short films are the ideal platform for emerging filmmaking talent to find their voice and announce themselves as the next big thing.**

Our programme consists of films that stretch from South America to Asia. From lucid animations like the enchanting *Ashkashka* to the genre bending doc *Wild Summon* narrated by Marianne Faithful. From B-movie romp *Content-Lo-Fi Man* to romance in a bleak dystopian future found in *Black Mirror's/End of The Fucking World* debut film by Alex Lawther in *For People in Trouble*. *The Last of Us's* Bella Ramsey seeks vengeance against the dragon that destroyed her home in *Villain*. *Extraordinary's* Luke Rollason gets a bloody reception in *Hack* by BAFTA nominated Ben Mallaby. A lone astronaut boards the ISS and loses communication with earth in the stunning *Solus*. and there's the charmingly daft *Write a Song About Heart Ache* in there too.

**Whilst we are very excited to bring to you the best international films that have screened at some of the biggest film festivals across the world. SI-FAN is also about championing our own genre filmmaking talent here in Scotland as well as to inspire new filmmakers who want to break the mould. With four Scottish films in the mix; the unnerving *The Mobius Trip* by Simone Smith, the enchanting *Whale Heart* by Phillip Edge, Scottish 'folklore' in *The Sharkey* and dystopian animation *Tap Runner* by Paolo Chianta. We can't wait to share these films with you.**

We'd like to thank our screening team of Lee Hamilton, Alice Shone, Brian Robinson and Patrick Kondracki. Our festival partners Festival Formula and our friends Edinburgh Short Film Festival and Cinetopia.

**Chris Aitken - SI-FAN Founder and Creative Director**



## ASHKASHA - ARGENTINA/SPAIN 6:17

Ashkasha is a living being guided by curiosity. This causes her to lose her head and get trapped in the depths, where is submerged on a discovery journey.

Dir: Lara Maltz

Writers: Lara Maltz

Prod: Lara Maltz

Animators: Lara Maltz, Laura S. Núñez, Santiago Riquelme

Editor: Lara Maltz, Santiago Riquelme

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: LARA MALTZ

Lara Maltz (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 01/20/1992). Visual artist, stop motion director and animator. Graduated from the Scenography career at the Metropolitan School of Dramatic Art (EMAD) in 2014, in Buenos Aires. Trained in workshops with different artists in disciplines such as engraving, drawing, painting and sculpture. She continued her studies graduating from the Master of Stop Motion Animation at the Barcelona Film School (ECIB), in 2019. «Psychophonic», her master's degree group project, has been selected and awarded in numerous festivals worldwide. «Ashkasha» is her first film as a director, a short piece where her entire artistic universe is set in motion.







## CENSOR OF DREAMS - FRANCE 17:54

Every night, The Censor and his team moderate Yoko's dreams. Tonight nothing happens as planned.

Dir: Leo Berne, Raphaël Rodriguez

Writers: Leo Berne, Raphaël Rodriguez

Prod: Charles-Marie Anthonioz, Mourad Belkeddar, Jean Duhamel, Nicolas Lhermitte

Main Cast: Damien Bonnard, Yoko Higashi, Sylvain Katan, Alexis Rodney

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: LEO BERNE

In 2009 Leo Berne and Raphaël Rodriguez founded the collective Megaforce with Clément Gallet and Charles Brisgand.

They have directed campaigns and music video for Rihanna, Madonna, Tame Impala, Kid Cudi and Yeah Yeah Yeahs among others. In 2013, they were nominated Best Director at the UK Music Video Awards, listed amongst Televisual's Top 10 Directors between 2015 and 2021, AdAge's Top Three Directors over the same period, and crowned Best Directors in Campaign Magazine's of 2018.

In March 2018 their campaign "Nothing Beats a Londoner" for Nike became the most decorated commercial of the last 40 years at D&AD. Two years later, they both wrote and directed Burberry's "Festive" campaign, which, alongside their Lacoste film "Crocodile inside", garnered Gold and the Grand Prix respectively at Cannes Lions in 2021.







## CONTENT LO-FI MAN - USA 14:50

"CONTENT: The Lo-Fi Man" starts as a documentary about a beloved cult film, then turns into a youtube video until it escapes into a dystopian sci-fi adventure, upon which it transforms into a body horror film resulting in a kaiju battle finale.

Dir: Brian Lonano, Blake Myers

Writer: Brian Lonano

Prod: Brian Lonano, Blake Myers, Kevin Daniel Lonano, Victoria Cook

DOP: Tony Reames, Gary Powell

Editor: Kevin Daniel Lonano

Main Cast: Clarke Williams, Soleil St. Louis, Marilyn Chung, Jessica Shipp, Nick Morgan, Chuck Porterfield, Brian Lonano

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: BRIAN LONANO & BLAKE MYERS

Brian Lonano is the director of the infamous short "Gwilliam." He's made several shorts, music videos and commissioned works that embrace a trashy outsider sentiment and utilize DIY practical and visual effects. Brian's been very fortunate to have his work screen at Film Festivals like SXSW, Fantastic Fest, Fantasia and Slamdance, where he was awarded a Special Jury Mention for "Gwilliam."

Blake Myers is a production designer, producer and occasionally a director of off-beat weird short films. He has been making films featuring blue singing gorillas, murderous children, and back alley goblins for 20 years. Operating with the motto, "It doesn't have to look real. It just has to look awesome!" Blake and his amazing crew have created unique films that play at festivals all over the world. When not making his own films, he was the festival director for the Buried Alive Film Festival and also worked in the art department for productions like, The Walking Dead, Creepshow TV series, and Curse of Bridge Hollow.





## DAYLIGHT RULES - UK 14:29

In a world where humans can harness the power of the sun when exposed to sunlight, and the controlling of this power is still being understood, a mother and daughter must figure out where their intentions and loyalties lie.

Dir: Alex Browning

Writers: Alex Browning, Carys Lewis

Prod: Alex Browning, Thomasina Gibson

DOP: Yinka Edward

Editor: Greg Hayes

Main Cast: Ella Dacres, T'Nia Miller, David Ajala

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: ALEX BROWNING

Alex Browning is a director and writer based in the UK.

Alex's genre-bending short film *Daylight Rules*, starring T'Nia Miller and David Ajala, had its international premiere at TIDE Film Festival in Brooklyn, NYC and went on to win 'Best Afrofuturism' and 'Best Actor' at Atlanta Sci-Fi Festival, both festivals sponsored by HBO. The film had its UK broadcast premiere on Sky and is now available on Sky Go and NowTV.

Alex is currently directing on a three-part drama for BBC in Scotland. Previous to this, Alex has directed on episodic TV dramas in the UK, and directed & written a number of short films with commissions from Sky Studios, BFI Network and Channel 4.

As a writer, Alex is in currently in development on projects in the US and UK including; the feature film version of *Daylight Rules*, and a TV drama mini-series that plays with time, memory and perspective.

Alex's stories and visual tapestry are anchored by element and nature, existing as meditations on the intersections of faith, spirituality and power.







## THE DEBUTANTE - UK 8:10

A spirited young woman persuades a hyena from London Zoo to take her place at a dinner dance held in her honour. Their plan requires a surprising amount of artistry and violence. Based on a story by artist Leonora Carrington, Elizabeth Hobbs celebrates her startling tale with paint and collage.

Dir: Elizabeth Hobbs

Prod: Abigail Addison

Editor: Mark Jenkins

Main Cast: Alexa Davies, Naomi Stafford, Joanna David

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: ELIZABETH HOBBS

Elizabeth Hobbs is an animated filmmaker based in East London. Her films are created under a rostrum camera, and are made with many different techniques and materials; ink on bathroom tiles, typewriters, watercolour on paper, butterfly prints and rubber stamps. The films are experimental but with a clear narrative, often based on unusual and overlooked historical stories and figures. In 2019, she received a BAFTA British Short Animation nomination for 'I'm OK', and in 2020, she was invited to become a member of the Short Films and Feature Animation branch of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Elizabeth enjoys sharing her practice through lecturing, workshops, and collaboration.





## DEADLINE - ISRAEL 6:17

A group of irrelevant old ladies meet on a routine day while waiting in line at the health clinic and, make a changing-life discovery. By tampering with the ordained-pre death queue determined up above them, they can delay their own doom.

Dir: Idan Gilboa

Writers: Shahar Fux Idan Gilboa

Prod: Idan Gilboa

Editor: Idan Gilboa

Animators: Renen Adar, Tamir Aharoni, Idan Gilboa, Liron Narunsky, Galia Osmo

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: IDAN GILBOA

Idan is an Art director, Movie Maker, Animator (Stop-Motionist) Illustrator and Designer.

(Not necessarily in this particular order) He is the founder and CEO of WingzOn - Stopmotion studio.







## FOR PEOPLE IN TROUBLE - UK 16:05

Jenny and Paul meet at a pub, quickly falling in love. Their relationship blossoms as civilisation falls to climate change, the escalation of the world being fucked begins to show the strain. Jenny becomes radicalised; Europe has moved further to the Right; martial law is in place.

Dir: Alex Lawther

Writer: Alex Lawther

Prod: Sam Brain, Giannina Rodriguez Rico

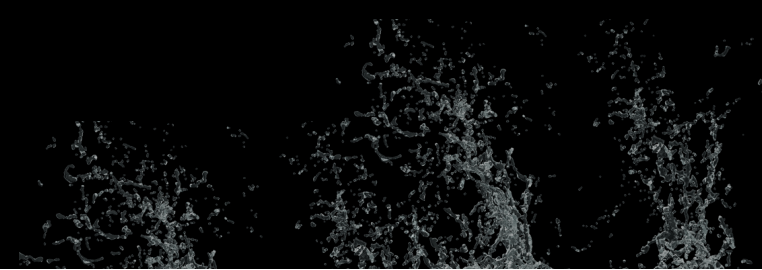
DOP: David Pimm

Editor: Mdhamiri Á Nkemi

Main Cast: Emma D'Arcy, Archie Madekwe

### DIRECTOR PROFILE: ALEX LAWThER

Alex began working as an actor in THE IMITATION GAME, then leading BLACK MIRROR, SHUT UP AND DANCE and Netflix series THE END OF THE F\*\*\*ING WORLD. Recent film work includes THE LAST DUEL, Hadžihalilović's EARWIG and Star Wars' ANDOR.





## FROM.BEYOND – NORWAY 13:45

«FROM.BEYOND» is an experimental short film consisting of different perspectives, referencing genres like science fiction, horror and found footage.

A kaleidoscopic vision portraying mankind's first meeting with alien life, told through faux archival footage combined with practical FX, miniatures and old school in-camera trickery.

Dir: Fredrik S. Hana

Writers: Fredrik S. Hana, Jamie Turville

Prod: Cathrine Wespestad

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: FREDRIK S. HANA

Fredrik's work as a filmmaker began in 2010, after two years of film school in Stavanger. After school ended, he created a collective together with other aspiring film workers and started making short films and music videos as director, writer and editor.

His films have traveled the world ever since "Angst, Piss & Drid" premiered at Fantastic Fest in Austin, Texas. During the course of 8 years, from 2012 to 2020, Fredrik's work has screened on 100+ film festivals.

Hana has since made the short films "Autumn Harvest", "Sister Hell" and "Rosalina".

In February 2021, "CODE NAME: Nagasaki", his first ever documentary feature, was awarded with the Grand Jury Award for 'Best Documentary' during the Slamdance Film Festival.







## HACK - UK 4:05

Witness the Ultimate Life Hack

Dir: Ben Mallaby

Writers: Toby Williams

Prod: Katie Cooper

DOP: Rhys Warren

Editor: Ben Mallaby

Main Cast: Toby Williams; Gemma Ahmet, Luke Rollason, Alice Etches

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: BEN MALLABY

Ben Mallaby is a two time BAFTA nominated director, Ben Mallaby's *Please Help*, produced by Tiger Aspect and written by/ starring Lucy Pearman was nominated for a BAFTA for Best Short Form Programme in 2022

He also directed two seasons of *Climaxed* for BBC3 with Tiger Aspect and has directed shows for ITV2 and Comedy Central.

He has well over a million views on Vimeo for his shorts including three Staff Picks and a number of Short of the Week premieres. He was nominated for a Best Short Film BAFTA in 2014 with his film *Island Queen*.





## IN THE FLESH - USA 12:44

Tracey is just trying to jerk off with her bathtub faucet like normal when some old memories dredge themselves up, the pipes explode with dirty water, and she starts leaking black goo.

Dir: Daphne Gardner

Writer: Daphne Gardner

Prod: Zach Fleming, Rachel Wolther, Lexi Tannenholtz, Graham Mason, Joshua Adam Fu

Main Cast: Edy Modica, Mo Stark, Robert Malone

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: DAPHNE GARDNER

Daphne Gardner is a writer/director from Baltimore, MD living in Brooklyn, NY.

Her short film, the horror/dark comedy, *In The Flesh* debuted in 2022 at the Fantasia Film Festival in Montreal, and has played across the US and internationally, including at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2023.

She has worked at Oscilloscope Laboratories in film distribution and as a director, producer and editor for Comedy Central. She directed the short documentary *Abbi and Ilana's Broad City*, and edited two Emmy nominated seasons of *Hack Into Broad City*.

She created the documentary series *Her Room* and is the co-host of the podcast *Ladies Horror Night* with Kate McEdwards, covering female centric horror films and video store culture.







## IN YOUR HANDS - UK 11:37

Late evening in a London barbershop, an awkward stranger becomes enamoured with a charming barber. An unlikely attraction sparks between them and after a life-changing shave for The Stranger, the two go for a drink. As alcohol lowers The Stranger's inhibitions, his fascination for shaving starts to reveal a dark desire. After an uncomfortable walk home, The Barber politely cuts the evening short. Things take a turn when The Stranger sees The Barber shaving another customer, sending him into a deadly rage and hurtles them both to a grim and unpredictable climax.

Dir: Luigi Sibona

Writer: Luigi Sibona

Prod: Jack Filtness, Archie Sinclair, Chuckie McEwan, Anneka Vestey

Main Cast: Darryl Foster, Frankie Wilson

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: LUIGI SIBONA

Luigi Sibona is a neurodivergent writer and director focusing on genre narrative with a strong social backbone. His work aims to provoke and subvert through progressive and unexpected stories while never forgetting the joy of a ripping yarn.

Cutting his teeth directing music videos and editing in advertising, he developed a distinctive visual style with his long-standing DOP Jordan Stephens, going on to found the production company Hollow Films. Luigi's BAFTA-qualifying first short film 'Mantis' propelled him into multiple BAFTA and Academy Award-qualifying festivals across the UK and abroad, winning numerous awards including Best Horror at The British Short Film Awards.





## JEFF - CANADA 6:13

A delivery drone named JEFF muses on the monotony of life, before finishing one last delivery.

Dir: Walter Joesph Woodman

Writers: Walter Joesph Woodman, Patrick Cederberg

Prod: Sidney Leeder, Trey Terpeluk, Drake Pierre

Main Cast: Mia Burke, Kiera Burke

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: WALTER JOESPH WOODMAN

Walter Woodman is the director of the short film NOAH that won the best short film at TIFF, Clermont Ferrand, AFI and invented the screen life genre. He works with a creative collective called shy kids.

We created JEFF during the heart of the pandemic. We wanted to make a film where we could travel to the most beautiful places in the world while we were stuck at home. As we began editing and animating, our intention was to tell a story that encapsulates the consumerism and technology that defines this era of humanity. By bringing to life the struggle of the lowly Amazon worker...drone, we hoped to showcase the humanity of those who allow us to have our packages arrive the next day.







## LA PURSE – BRAZIL 9:25

In a quiet suburban neighborhood, lives Mr. Badú, an octogenarian taxidermist of questionable taste. He's madly in love with his neighbor, Mrs. Aurelia, a short-sighted wrinkly old lady. She's the owner of an ill-fated cat on the verge of starvation. Is this a love story? A comedy? Or, maybe, just an unusual horror story in disguise?

Dir: Gabriel Nóbrega, Lucas René

Writers: Rubia Sproesser, Pedro Paulo De Andrade

DOP: Lucas René

Editor: Jeff Ferreira, Herbert Gondo

### DIRECTOR PROFILE:

Gabriel Nóbrega went to Music college and learned animation all by himself. Starting at 11 years old, for more than a decade he accompanied his father, musician and performer Antonio Nóbrega, playing the drums in concerts around the world. At the same time, he applied himself to his other passion, visual arts, using an improvised studio in his backyard where he could experiment with various techniques and create his first animations.

Lucas René is a Brazilian director skilled in various visual languages and techniques – such as animation, stop motion, live action and post-production – using them to tell his stories.





## OLDMEN RULE – RUSSIA 12:50

In the near future, where old people are subjected to a test for society, an investigator encounters a couple who are in no hurry to die

Dir: Alexander Gavrilov

Writer: Irina Kozlovskaya

Prod: Alexander Gavrilov, Irina Kozlovskaya

Main Cast: Kirill Batishta Petrov, Denis Vlasenko, Alexander Sokolovskiy, Vasiliy Kortukov, Tayiana Kuznecova, Natalia Kislicina

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: ALEXANDER GAVRILOV

In 2011, he graduated from the RSSU with a degree in Cultural Studies and the Film School at the Faculty of Art History.

For more than 15 years I have been engaged in videography, editing, writing scripts, directing, organizing filming of various complexity.

From 2019 to the present, I have been working exclusively in feature films and advertising: as a director, screenwriter and editor







## REAL LOVE BABY - NETHERLANDS 2:10

In this short film, a couple is going through the miraculous process of giving birth, but what they bring into the world is not what they expected. This slightly dark comedy uses an unexpected metaphor to comment on materialism.

Dir: Tim Gersen

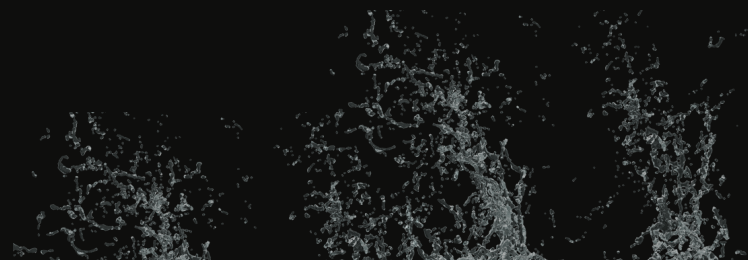
Prod: Jeffrey de Angst, Geertje Hadderingh, Jeffrey de Angst

DOP: Simon Meesters

Editor: Jeffrey de Angst

Main Cast: Jill Tjin, Tim Oortman, Jeroen Kamphorst, Debbie Korte-Hensing, Geerten Harmens

---





## SCALE - UK/France 14:53

Driving along the motorway, Will loses his sense of scale. As his crippling drug addiction deepens, he struggles to unpick the sequence of events that led to his predicament, before he's lost forever.

Dir: Joseph Pierce

Writers: Joseph Pierce, Nicolas Pleskof

Prod: Hélène Mitjavile, Chris Hees, Christophe Beaujean, Jérémie Mazurek, Jiří Konečný

Main Cast: Sam Spruell, Zahra Ahmadi, Evelyn Neghabian Pierce, Minou Neghabian Pierce

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: JOSEPH PIERCE

Joseph is an award-winning filmmaker and animator based in London. Upon graduating from the National Film and Television School he was featured in Screen International's "Stars of Tomorrow". His short animated films have toured international festivals, garnering over 40 prizes. He's worked extensively in theatre and live events, including collaborations with the Met Opera NYC, Royal Opera House and the National Theatre. His latest short film Scale has screened in over 100 international film festivals, winning a number of awards including the Prix du Public at Clermont Ferrand, the Jury Prize at Bucheon Animation Festival, Best Animation at Holyshorts, Los Angeles and the Meilleur court-métrage at Les Arcs Film Festival.







## SOLUS - UK 12:45

A lone astronaut aboard the ISS suddenly loses communication with Earth. He soon begins to experience a series of strange events that put him and the entire station at risk...

Dir: Jonathan Brooks

Writers: Jonathan Brooks, Andrew McGee

Prod: Jonathan Brooks

Main Cast: "CDR. Matthew Connor"

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: JONATHAN BROOKS

Jonathan Brooks is a multi-award winning British filmmaker accruing countless awards both nationally and internationally. Brooks has worked within the film industry for over 10 years and has had his work broadcast and screened worldwide as well as featured on Amazon Prime. He works as head director at United Magic Studios, a UK based production company which works with international brands. Brooks' main focus is genre film and animation. Currently, he and his team are developing several new film projects to produce through 2023.





## TABLE 8 - NETHERLANDS 10:50

An anxiety-ridden man meets his friend for dinner in a shadowy restaurant to share a dark suspicion. At first, his friend doesn't believe him, tries to convince the man there's nothing going on. But the further they get into their midnight conversation, the more they both begin to fear: something about this evening isn't quite right...

Dir: Sander van Dijk

Writer: Sander van Dijk

Prod: Olya van Poppel

Main Cast: Sieger Sloot, Viktor Griffioen

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: SANDER VAN DIJK

Lara Maltz (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 01/20/1992). Visual artist, stop motion director and animator. Graduated from the Scenography career at the Metropolitan School of Dramatic Art (EMAD) in 2014, in Buenos Aires. Trained in workshops with different artists in disciplines such as engraving, drawing, painting and sculpture. She continued her studies graduating from the Master of Stop Motion Animation at the Barcelona Film School (ECIB), in 2019. «Psychophonic», her master's degree group project, has been selected and awarded in numerous festivals worldwide. «Ashkasha» is her first film as a director, a short piece where her entire artistic universe is set in motion.







## THE BUSINESSMAN - USA 8:40

On the way home from school, a young girl runs into a mysterious salesman who looks to instill the fear of financial insecurity and coerce her into selling fashion magazines for him.

Dir: Nathan Ginter

Writer: Nathan Ginter

Cast: Steve Gamble, Jeremy Koch, Liviya Meyers

DOP: Shane Bagwell

---

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: NATHAN GINTER

Nathan Ginter is a writer/director/editor from Kalamazoo, Michigan, with a passion for embracing and subverting genre. Nathan was a 2018 Presidential Scholar in the Arts, and graduated from Pratt Institute's BFA Film Program in 2023. His thesis film, the Third Ear, is currently in the festival circuit as he works to bring his feature screenplays to life.





## THE MÖBIUS TRIP – SCOTLAND 17:06

A road trip to a wedding pushes a dysfunctional family to the brink after their journey descends into a claustrophobic hallucinatory nightmare.

THE MÖBIUS TRIP is a darkly intimate and surreal portrayal of a chaotic family unit, confined in their car and fated in their familial roles.

Dir: Simone Smith

Writer: Simone Smith

Prod: David Neilson, Lewis Wardrop

Main Cast: Fiona O'Shaughnessy, Mirren Mack, Stephen McMillan, Andrew Flanagan

### DIRECTOR PROFILE: SIMONE SMITH

Simone Smith is a self-taught BAFTA New Talent award-winning filmmaker and visual artist from Glasgow, Scotland. In her work, she combines pure cinema with authentic experience. Translating her experience of living in the world into form.

Raised in the east-end of Glasgow, Simone gained a BA Honours in Computer Animation & Digital Art, an HND in Digital Art & Design, and an Advanced Diploma in Physical Theatre Practice. She is an EIFF Talent Lab participant for 2019, a BFI Network@LFF participant for 2023 - selected from over 400 applicants and the only filmmaker selected from Scotland, and her debut feature film IT'S TOO LATE YOU CAN'T SAVE ME is in development with BFI Network / Short Circuit First Features scheme.







## THE NOLBERTO METHOD - UK 10:26

A suicidal man has a bizarre and life changing decision to make when his therapist brings out an extremely disgusting slug that she claims will solve all his problems if he just licks it...

Dir: David Winstone

Writer: David Winstone

Prod: David Winstone

Main Cast: Sarah Beck Mather, Adam Loxley

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: DAVID WINSTONE

David is a Writer/ Director who's short film FOR ELSIE won a Student Academy Award. This led to a David Lean scholarship to study at the National Film & Television School, where he made more award winning shorts. Recently he has been working in television as a Second Unit Director of shows such as GANGS OF LONDON, HANNA and HARD SUN He is represented by United Agents in the UK and WME in the US.





## THE SHARKEY – SCOTLAND 6:40

Scottish folklore has it that if any group of lads stand for long enough anywhere on these historic lands eventually a storyteller will appear as if from the mists of imagination themselves. For one trio of friends this storyteller takes the form of The Sharkey.

Dir: Calum Weir

Writers: Neil Bratchpiece

Prod: Calum Weir

DOP: Florence Gilbertson

Editor: Kaljeven Laly

Main Cast: Neil Bratchpiece, Tayram Boyd, Paul Dockl, Euan Ferguson

### DIRECTOR PROFILE: CALUM WEIR

Calum 'Bob' Weir grew up on a small Scottish island community before moving to Glasgow where he got a degree in film from the Royal Conservatory. Bob's experience working in the camera department spans a decade, with credits in TV (Outlander, House of Dragons, Wednesday) and film productions (Trainspotting 2, Bohemian Rhapsody). Bob's early comedy career started in 2010 when he formed the sketch group Endemic who performed during the Edinburgh Festival and were broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland and BBC Radio 4. Bob then went on to write and direct several award winning short comedy films.







## THE SPRAYER - IRAN 8:45

In the land occupied with the sprayers army, no one has the right to grow any kind of plants either in public or private. So many of the people and soldiers do not even know how dose a plant grows or look like, until one day one of the soldiers finds a seed buried deep down in the dust and his curiosity is just the beginning of something extraordinary, something big, something revolutionary

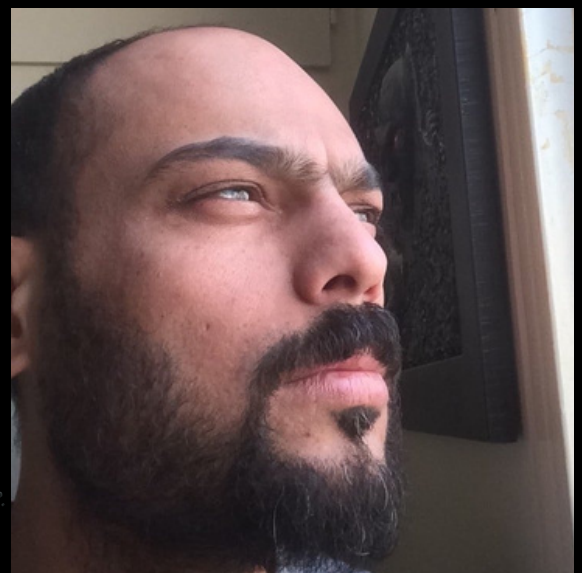
Dir: Farnoosh Abedi

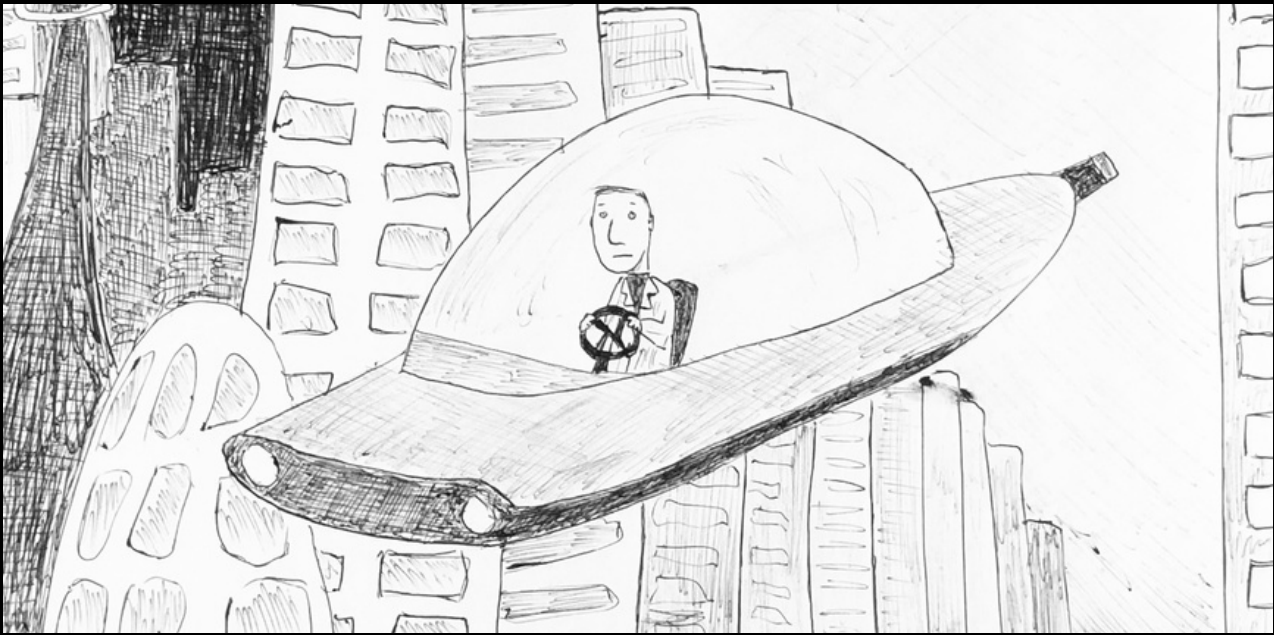
Writers: Farnoosh Abedi, Pegah Fardiar

Prod: M.Reza Karimi Saremi, Negah Khezre Fardiar, Mohammad Ghaffari

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: FARNOOSH ABEDI

Farnoosh Abedi was born in 1985 in Isfahan/ Iran  
He has made more than 20 short animated films and TV series, documentaries and one Feature Animated .  
His films was presented and screened in more than 200 domestic and international film festivals.





## TAP RUNNER – SCOTLAND 2:51

In a dystopian future, it's one man's job to check taps for leakage and wastage. But he is not permitted to fix the taps. Much as he might want to...

Dir: Paolo Chianta

Writer: Paolo Chianta

Prod: Paolo Chianta

Main Cast: Paolo Chianta

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: PAOLO CHIANTA

Paolo Chianta is a Scottish writer and filmmaker based in London. He was selected for the BBC Writersroom Comedy Script Room 2020/21, the London Library Emerging Writers Programme 2021/22 and BAFTA Connect 2023. His short films have screened at festivals including Slamdance, Florida Film Festival and London Short Film Festival.

Paolo's original drama for BBC Radio 4, EAT AND RUN, starring Emma Sidi and Dustin Demri-Burns, aired in January 2023 and was selected as the BBC Drama of the Week podcast. In 2022 he was funded by the Arts Council of Ireland to produce animation for an upcoming feature film.







## TIME TOURISTS - NEW ZEALAND 6:00

Two strangers stumble upon a beautiful natural sight, and each other. As they hit it off it's clear that neither of them have experienced nature before. When Fred eventually asks Sally to meet up again, we learn their surroundings are far from permanent.

Dir: Ian Sweeney

Writer: Ian Sweeney

Prod: Arthur Machado

DOP: Simon Waterhouse

Editor: Liddy Whiteman

Main Cast: Thomas Eason, Genevieve Kent

### DIRECTOR PROFILE: IAN SWEENEY

Ian is a writer and director with a background in advertising. He has won a string of awards for his commercial work. His music videos have been recognised at film festivals all over the world including the Austin Music Video Festival, London Music Video Festival and Berlin Music Video Festival. His first feature *The Waiting Room* is currently in development with FlyingFish in NZ and Arclight in the USA.





## TRUNDLE AND THE LAST BORSCHT OF ATLANTIS - USA 13:30

Even though Trundle makes the best borscht in the city, Mr. Murray says he is too hideous to work the counter. But when a Regular wants to thank the chef, Trundle takes matters into his own hands.

Dir: Laura Lee

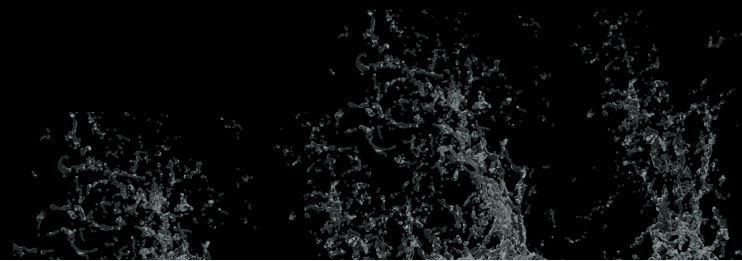
Writer: Zachary Smolar

Prod: Laura Lee, Zachary Smolar, Ariel Dreicer, Sariel Friedman

Main Cast: Daniel Simonsen, Patrick Breen, Marceline Hugot

### DIRECTOR PROFILE: LAURA LEE

Laura Lee is a filmmaker based in Brooklyn. As a producer she has produced films, commercial content, and theater, and loves to will art into existence. She is also the artistic director of Access Theater in Tribeca, and the co-producer of the upcoming feature film *Magic Hour* starring Miriam Shor. *Trundle* is her directorial debut.







## VILLAIN - UK 10:10

After a dragon destroys young Georgia's home, she journeys to its lair to enact violent revenge but instead finds an innocent child in the cave. When the dragon then returns, Georgia must reckon with the price of vengeance.

Dir: Sparky Tehnsuko

Writer: Sparky Tehnsuko

Prod: Sej Davé

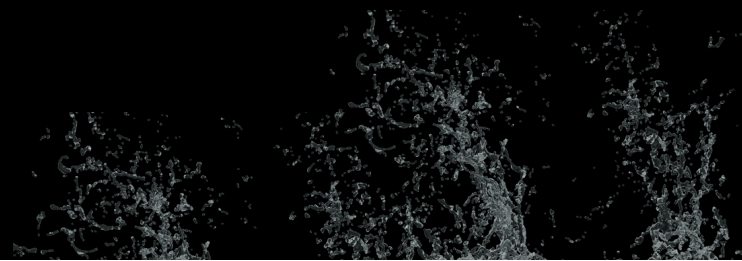
DOP: Andreas Neo

Editor: Sarah Bowden

Main Cast: Bella Ramsey, Isla Gie

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: SPARKY TEHNSUKO

Sparky's love for films began as a child on England's south coast, where he rejected the sea and sunshine for staying indoors and staring at screens. He's put his own stories on those screens for about a decade now.





## UNBORN BIRU – NORWAY 18:53

A pregnant widow steals silver from a dead body, in order to survive and feed her daughter. But the silver is cursed, and it has consequences for all of them, including the unborn.

Dir: Inga Elin Marakatt

Writer: Inga Elin Marakatt

Prod: Per-Josef Idivuoma

Main Cast: Maret Sofia Jannok

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: INGA ELIN MARAKATT

Elin Marakatt is born and raised in a Sámi reindeerherding family in Sweden. She is an author, journalist and reindeerherder. Elin has a Bachelor in Culturalanalysis Umeå university and she has studied film in Sámi university. Unborn Biru is her debut as a director and scriptwriter.







## WHALE HEART – SCOTLAND 11:51

Ashkasha is a living being guided by curiosity. This causes her to lose her head and get trapped in the depths, where is submerged on a discovery journey.

Dir: Phillip Edge

Writers: Phillip Edge

Prod: Phillip Edge

DOP: Phillip Edge

Editor: Phillip Edge

Main Cast: Liam J. Barr, Ollie Doherty, Shae McGuigan

### DIRECTOR PROFILE: PHILLIP EDGE

Phillip is independent producer and director of award winning short films, music videos and commercials.

As well as being a motion-graphics designer; creating animated logos and explainer videos for big name brands. And an award winning VFX artist; working on independent shorts and blockbuster films.





## WILD SUMMON - UK 14:40

A natural history fantasy film, following the dramatic life cycle of the wild salmon in human form. Narrated by Marianne Faithfull.

Dir: Karni Arieli, Saul Freed

Writers: Karni Arieli, Saul Freed

Prod: Saul Freed, Jay Woolley

Main Cast: Marianne Faithfull

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: KARNI ARIELI & SAUL FREED

Bafta nominated directing duo Karni and Saul, an Israeli British male female couple, create mixed media films, commercials and music videos. Together they make "casual fantasy" films, a merging of beautiful photography and film with high-end animation and magical elements.

In their art, Visual pleasure and emotional narrative are key. In 2010 Karni & Saul showcased their short film "Turning", for BBC, which was nominated for a BAFTA. Their second short film "Flytopia" was commissioned by Film4 as part of the short-to-feature scheme. It has toured the festival's circuit and been screened worldwide.

Karni and Saul's films have won awards at Annecy, British animation awards, and Clermont Ferrand festivals among many others







## WILDMEN OF THE GREATER TORONTO AREA - CANADA 12:18

In response to the rising cost of living, the citizens of Toronto begin renouncing their personhood en masse to legally become animals, forming a society of "Wildmen" in the city's vast ravine network.

Dir: Solmund McPherson

Writers: Solmund McPherson

Prod: Giran Findlay, Solmund MacPherson Jesse Padveen

DOP: Julian Lomaga Thesen

Editor: Solmund McPherson

Main Cast: Sheridan Irwin, Salma Dharsee, Daniel Christian Jones, Tom Lute, John Phillips

### DIRECTOR PROFILE: SOLMUND MCPHERSON

Solmund MacPherson is a Canadian writer and director whose work has been shown around the world, won awards including Vimeo's Staff Pick, and been dubbed by critics "delightful," "worrying," and "indescribably bizarre," sometimes all at once.





## WRITE A SONG ABOUT HEARTACHE - US 13:00

A musician finds a painful shortcut to writing new hits.

Dir: Jonny Look

Writer: Jonny Look

Prod: Elisha Yaffe, Meg Murnane, Steve Smith

Main Cast: Whitmer Thomas, Steve Hernandez, Mac Demarco

### DIRECTOR PROFILE: JONNY LOOK

Jonny Look is a Los Angeles based director whose playfully surreal style borders between the idiotic and the artfully poetic. He has been awarded multiple Vimeo Staff Picks, included in Pitchfork's Top 25 music videos, and had work screened at festivals worldwide.





# SCREENING LINE UP

## MONSTERS

LA PURSÉ

FROM.BEYOND

IN THE FLESH

ASHKASHA

WILD SUMMON

THE DEBUTANTE

TRUNDLE AND THE LOST  
BORSCHT OF ATLANTIS

IN YOUR HANDS

UNBORN BIRU

WRITE A SONG ABOUT  
HEARTACHE

VILLAIN

WHALE HEART

## FUTURES

FOR PEOPLE IN TROUBLE

DAYLIGHT RULES

TAP RUNNER

SOLUS

CONTENT: THE LO-FI MAN

JEFF

TIME TOURISTS

OLDMEN RULE

THE SPRAYER

THE WILDMEN OF THE  
GREATER TORONTO AREA

## BAD TRIP

DEADLINE

THE BUSINESSMAN

THE SHARKEY

REAL LOVE BABY

THE MÖBIUS TRIP

HACK

SCALE

TABLE 8

THE NOLBERTO METHOD

CENSOR OF DREAMS

**Festival  
Formula**  
SCREENING NOW!

**CINE  
TOPIA**

**RESTLESS  
NATIVE**  
PRODUCTIONS



**ESFF**

**EDINBURGH SHORT FILM FESTIVAL**

**SCARE  
SCOTLAND  
TALENT**

**THE  
EDINBURGH  
B-TEAM**  
EST. 2008

**GIBBET FX**  
[WWW.GIBBETFX.COM](http://WWW.GIBBETFX.COM)





**SI-FAN**

SCOTTISH  
INTERNATIONAL  
FANTASTIC  
ARTS  
NETWORK

**SI-FAN.ORG**

FB/SCOTTISHINTERNATIONALFANTASTICARTSNETWORK  
INSTA/SIFANFESTIVAL