



SI-FAN

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC ARTS NETWORK

FILM FESTIVAL

2026

MAY 1ST – 4TH

EDINBURGH

THE COOLEST NEW GENRE FILMS

WITH THANKS TO OUR
SPONSORS, PARTNERS AND PALS

NO IND DRAMA IND

Fantasia



FILMHOUSE



In aid of



PRODUCED BY



STATEMENT

Welcome to the third official edition of SI-FAN Film Festival. We've travelled to all the corners of the Universe to find the most out there, transportative, thought-provoking and entertaining films for those with curious minds and a penchant for escapist cinema. We are delighted to bring to Scotland and Edinburgh what we feel is truly a world-class programme of short films, amongst live action and animation across horror, action, Sci-Fi, fantasy, magical realism and the utterly bizarre, with our largest short film programme to date.

An area of particular pride for us at SI-FAN is championing domestic talent creating works in the fantastical genre sphere. We're delighted to discover more voices who are unleashing their imagination for the big screen, where we will be screening several Scottish shorts at the festival.

We are also excited to bring two Scottish premieres to Edinburgh in Thai director Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke's debut feature, the wonderfully absurdist fantasy comedy, *A Useful Ghost*. And Latvian directing brother duo Raitis Abele and Lauris Abele's striking dark fantasy romp, *Dog of God*. THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE way to finish off this year's screening of the festival, and that is with a special presentation of the 40th anniversary screening of *Highlander*!

We are proud to continue our support for our chosen charity, Health in Mind and their mission that everyone in Scotland has positive mental health and wellbeing and can access high-quality support if, when and how they need it. Please visit health-in-mind.org.uk to find out more.

Chris Aitken: Festival Director

With thanks to the SI-FAN team

Erik Bamberg, Anna Brehm, Joshua Cho, Eric, Patrick Kondracki, Sean Langdon, Bo Li, Sophia Olefir, Brian Robinson, Lyn Seren, Alice Shone, Euan Tennant, Dee-Anne Herd, Ludwing Perez, Rory Whittle, Hervé Girardin.

SCHEDULE

Please note that festival screenings can be subject to change. Please refer to SI-FAN.ORG to keep abreast of event time and ticket information.

May 1st

May 2nd

**SCOTTISH SHORTS SELECT:
FILMHOUSE**

**ASIAN PANORAMA:
FILMHOUSE**

**THE LYNCHIAN EFFECT:
FILMHOUSE**

**A USEFUL GHOST:
FILMHOUSE**

**LYNCHI PARTY:
THE WEE RED BAR**

May 3rd

May 4TH

RISING VOICES: ECVS

**LAUGHING WITH MONSTER:
BARNTON BUNKER**

DON'T GO THERE: ECVS

**HIGHLANDER:
FILMHOUSE**

FUTURES: ECVS

SI-FANIMATION: FILMHOUSE

DOG OF GOD: FILMHOUSE

FILMHOUSE

THE WEE RED BAR

ECVS

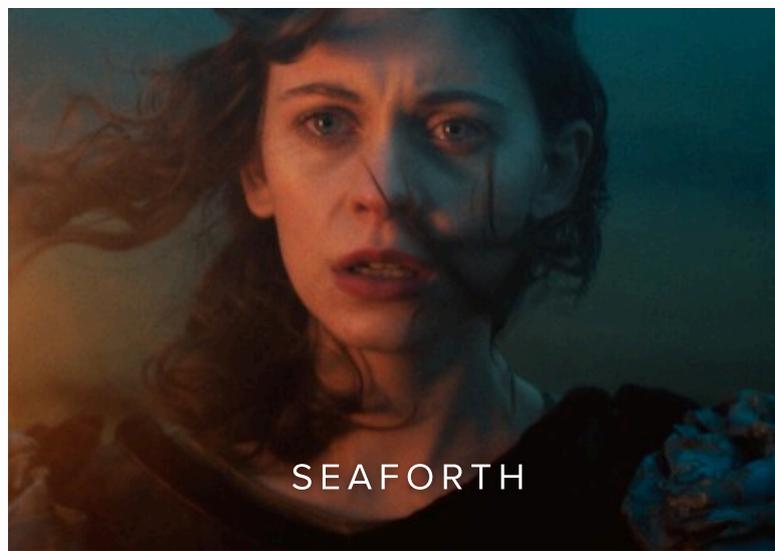
Barnton Bunker

**88 Lothian Road,
Edinburgh,
EH3 9BZ**

**74 Lauriston Place,
Edinburgh,
GB EH3 9DF**

**23a Fettes Row,
Edinburgh,
EH3 6RH.**

**35 Clermiston
Road North,
Edinburgh,
EH4 7BN**



SEAFORTH



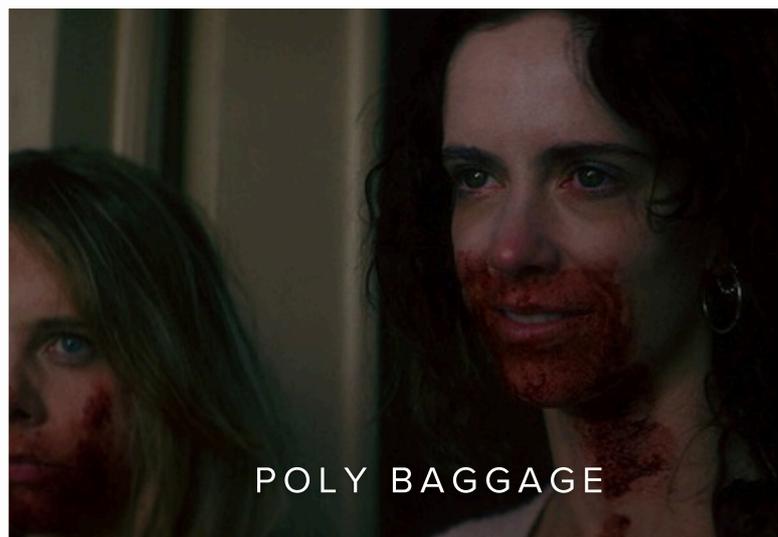
Filmhouse 1st May

SCOTTISH
SHORTS
SELECT

THE FEED



CRÈCHE & BURN



POLY BAGGAGE



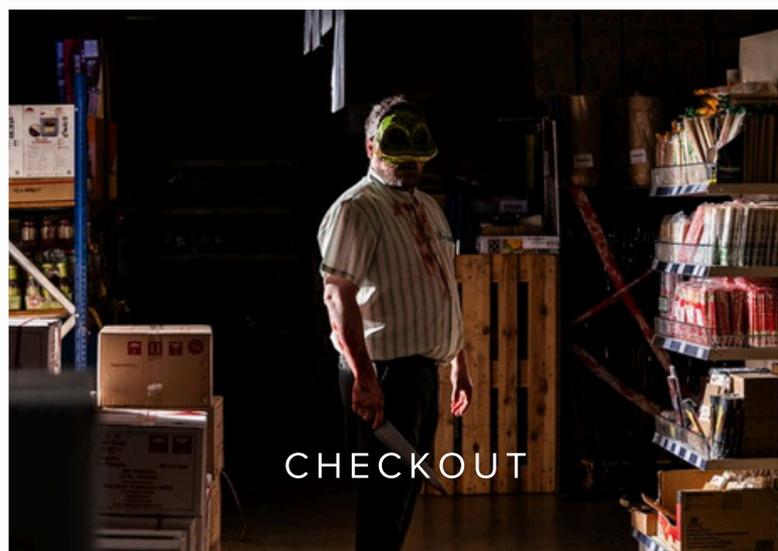
LOCKDOON



OUT OF OFFICE



NORA CAN'T SCORE



CHECKOUT

Filmhouse 1st May

THE
LYNCHIAN
EFFECT



HELL



WINKIE



THE SEEING EYE DOG WHO
SAW TOO MUCH



THE PARISH



THE MAN THAT I WAVE AT



THE FAIRY MOON



FLOCK



COYOTES



BLOB AND WOLF



THE AIR WE BREATHE



Filmhouse 2nd May

ASIAN
PANORAMA

TAGA



MAMIKO'S POOP



A BEAR REMEMBERS



CHECK PLEASE



SAMMI, WHO CAN DETACH HIS
BODY PARTS



INDIAN IN A BOX



FOREIGN BODIES

ECVS 3rd May

RISING VOICES

THE ZONE OF GHOSTS

CERNUNNOS

LENNOX-FRIEDKIN TAPE #004

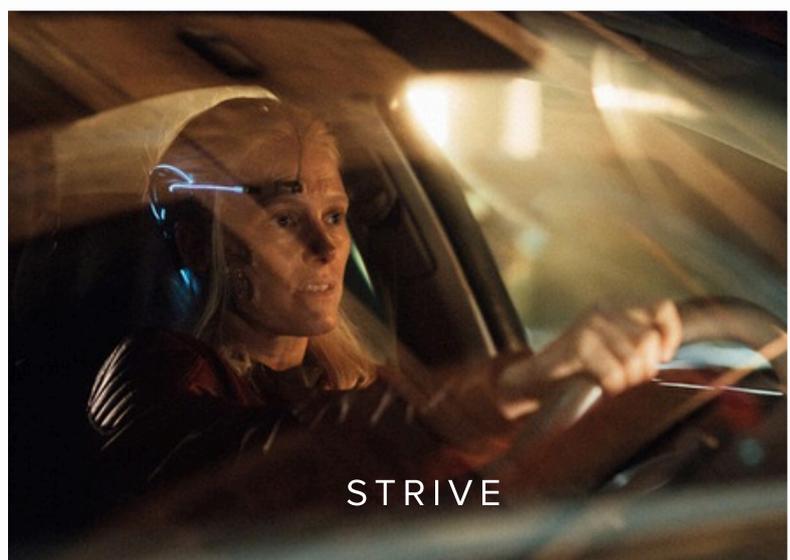
I CARE 9000

ECVS 3rd May

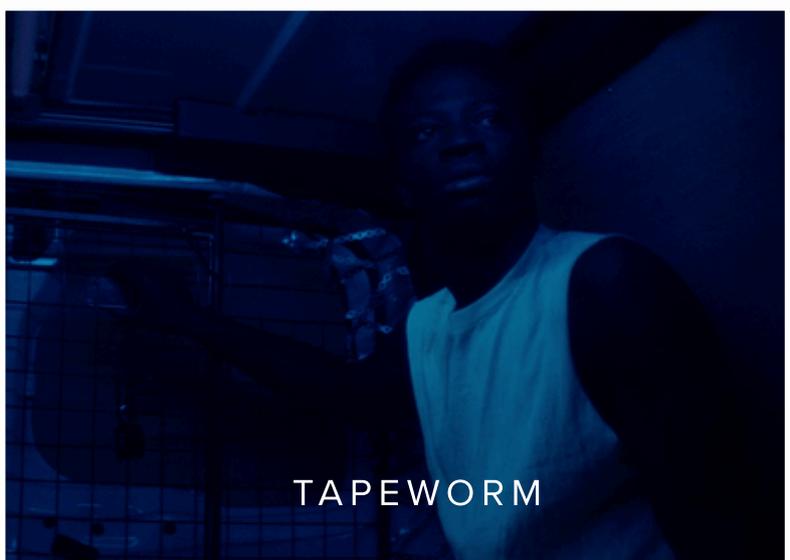
FUTURES



WEIRD TO BE HUMAN



STRIVE



TAPEWORM



SONG OF SILENCE



PLASTIC SURGERY



ANIMALIA



EUROPE AFTER THE RAIN



OSTRICH



ECVS 3rd May

DON'T
GO
THERE

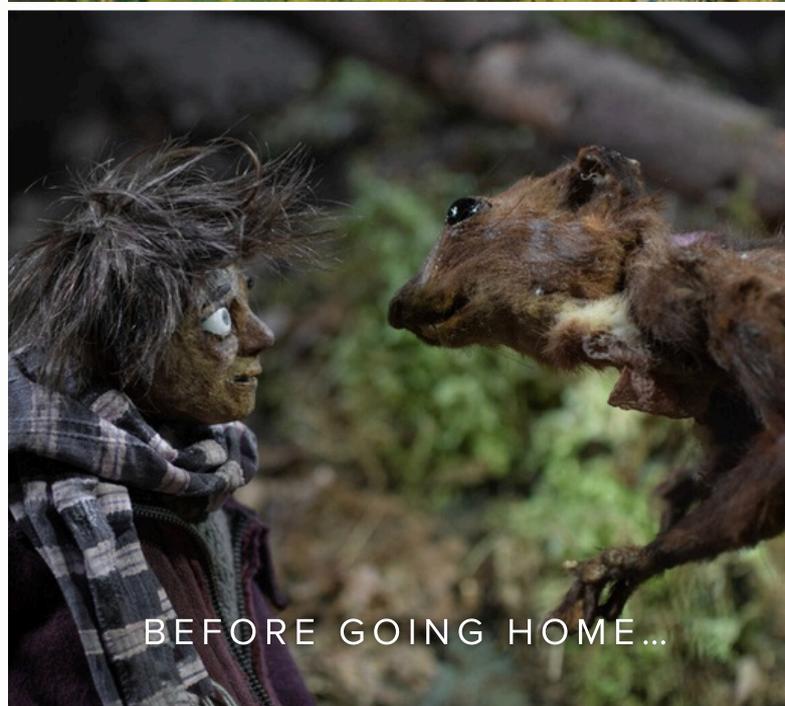
BUTTERFLY KISS



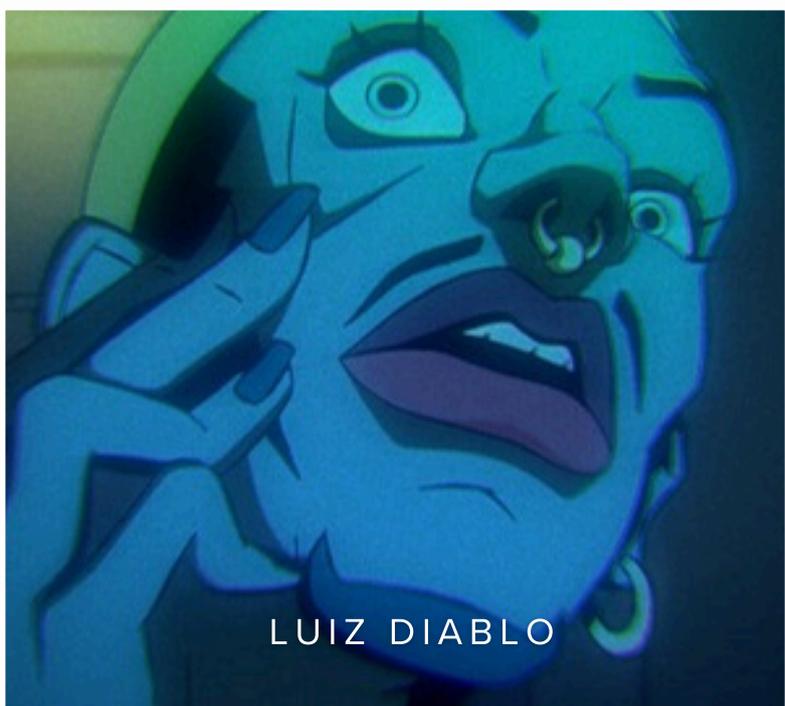
FAČUK



AMARELO BANANA



BEFORE GOING HOME...



LUIZ DIABLO



TV OR THE DISTURBANCE ON
FOREST HILL ROAD



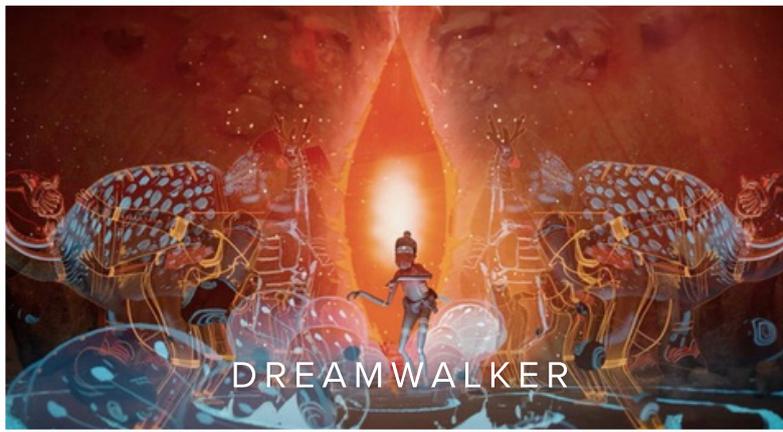
Filmhouse 3rd May

SI-FANIMATED

THE GNAWER OF ROCKS



FRIED



DREAMWALKER



THE 'BUG PRINCESS'S' FUNERAL



9 MILLION COLORS



GOD IS SHY



SORROW DOESN'T
SLEEP AT NIGHT



CHÈRE FIN



ARACHNOPHOBIA

BARNNTON BUNKER 4th May

LAUGHING
WITH
MONSTERS

HOUSTON WE HAVE A CRUSH

PIMPLE

IURIMA – A TALE OF THREE
FISHERMEN

NERVOUS ELLIE

BEAUTY SLEEP

WHITCH

AMIRA

LAST NIGHT STAND

PEARLS

FEATURES

Filmhouse 2nd May

A USEFUL GHOST

Director & Writer
Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke

Producers
Cattleya Paosrieroen
Soros Sukhum

Key Cast
Davika Hoorne
Wisarat Homhuan
Apasiri Nitibhon
Wisarat Himmarat
Wanlop Rungkumjad

Country of Origin: Thailand
Language: Thai

MARCH IS MOURNING HIS WIFE NAT WHO HAS RECENTLY PASSED AWAY DUE TO DUST POLLUTION. HE DISCOVERS HER SPIRIT HAS RETURNED BY POSSESSING A VACUUM CLEANER. DISTURBED BY A GHOST THAT APPEARED AFTER A WORKER'S DEATH SHUT DOWN THEIR FACTORY, HIS FAMILY REJECT THEIR UNCONVENTIONAL HUMAN-GHOST RELATIONSHIP.

TRYING TO CONVINCE THEM OF THEIR LOVE, NAT OFFERS TO CLEANSE THE FACTORY. TO BECOME A USEFUL GHOST, SHE MUST FIRST GET RID OF THE USELESS ONES.

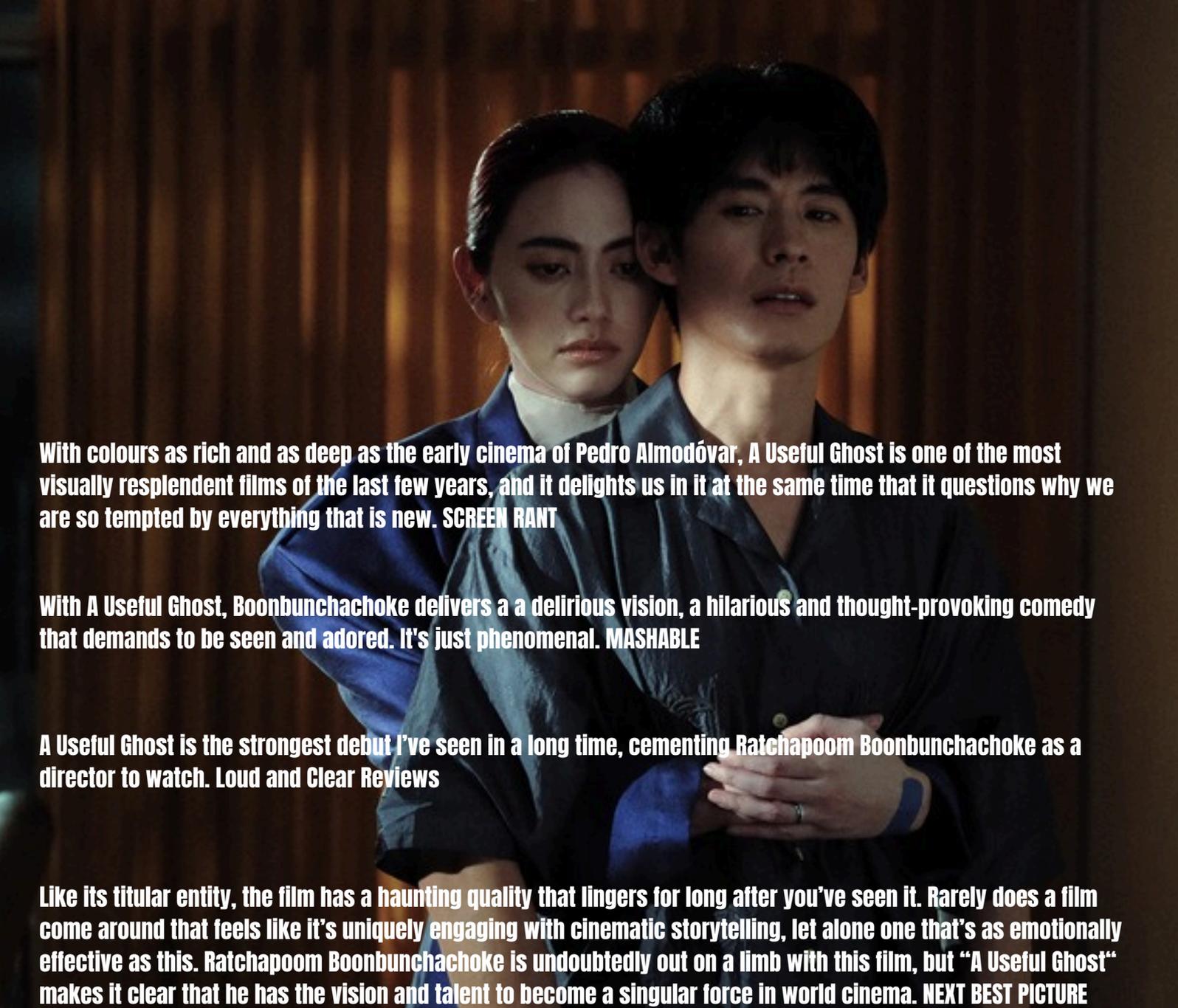
Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke is a filmmaker of Teo-chew-Hainanese descent. Born, brought up and based in Bangkok. He graduated from the film department of Chula-Longkorn University.

Currently he works full-time as a scriptwriter for the studio, writing commercial features and television series.

Apart from writing, he also teaches film theory and scriptwriting in universities and works as a film critic.



My initial inspiration for the story is the legend of Mae Nak which is a forbidden love story between a female ghost and her living husband. This legend has tremendous cultural significance in Thailand and has been adapted numerous times across plays, films, and television series. Throughout my previous short films, I always play with Thai historical events and popular culture. I enjoy taking characters from well-known historical anecdotes, literature, and TV drama, and placing them in new contexts.



With colours as rich and as deep as the early cinema of Pedro Almodóvar, *A Useful Ghost* is one of the most visually resplendent films of the last few years, and it delights us in it at the same time that it questions why we are so tempted by everything that is new. **SCREEN RANT**

With *A Useful Ghost*, Boonbunchachoke delivers a a delirious vision, a hilarious and thought-provoking comedy that demands to be seen and adored. It's just phenomenal. **MASHABLE**

A Useful Ghost is the strongest debut I've seen in a long time, cementing Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke as a director to watch. **Loud and Clear Reviews**

Like its titular entity, the film has a haunting quality that lingers for long after you've seen it. Rarely does a film come around that feels like it's uniquely engaging with cinematic storytelling, let alone one that's as emotionally effective as this. Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke is undoubtedly out on a limb with this film, but "*A Useful Ghost*" makes it clear that he has the vision and talent to become a singular force in world cinema. **NEXT BEST PICTURE**

Boonbunchachoke bounces between comic and tragic registers, deftly interspersing bawdy low comedy with elegiac meditations on politics and history. **THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**





DOG OF GOLD

Filmhouse 3rd May

DOG OF GOD

Directors
Raitis Abele and Lauris Abele

Writer
Ivo Briedis

Producers
Raitis Abele, Kristele Pudane,
Giovanni Labadessa

Lead Animator: Aigars Gercans

Key Cast:
Regnars Vaivars, Jurgis
Spulenieks, Agate Krista

Country of Origin: Latvia
Language: Latvian

IN A MEDIEVAL TOWN DRENCHED IN AUTUMN RAIN, A SACRED RELIC IS STOLEN. PASSION, WITCHCRAFT ACCUSATIONS, SHAMANISM AND A DEAL WITH AN OTHERWORLDLY PLANT THAT POSSESSES APHRODISIAC SUPERPOWERS LEAD TO CHAOS IN THE ACCURSED HAMLET.

Brothers Lauris Abele and Raitis Abele are Latvian filmmakers drawn to genre cinema. Lauris obtained a Master's degree in Audio-Visual Arts (film directing) at the Latvian Academy of Culture. Mostly they work together with their third brother Marcis Abele (director of photography) on films, shorts, music videos, and various surrealistic art projects. Their first international success came with the short film "Castratus the Boar" which was followed by their debut feature "Baltic Tribes" and their sophomore "Troubled Minds".



We aim to unveil the untold events in history of the Baltic lands and its resilient people. This corner of Europe suffered years of neglect and silence under Soviet occupation following World War II. Even as locals, we were forbidden from delving into our own history and expressing our creativity due to oppressive censorship. Today, a new generation of artists can finally speak freely and shed light on this forgotten chapter, hopefully for the better.



Conceptually and aesthetically, “Dog of God” is a mongrel whose myriad disparate elements shouldn’t meld. But they do, with Lauris Abele’s incongruously just-right electronic score capping a grungy flashback that juggles fire, brimstone and a very 21st century gloss of hip irony. **VARIETY**

Uncannily expressive, intensely violent, and perversely funny, Dog of God proves the Abele brothers to be worthy inheritors to the mantle of the fantastically dirty-minded rotoscope visions of Ralph Bakshi, from *Wizards to Cool World*. **SCREENRANT**

A true visual feast and quite extreme. **FANGORIA**

Wearing other influences on its sleeve - such as Monty Python and the Holy Grail and Heavy Metal (the legendary comic magazine and occasional film) - the feature also has a sense of satire, of tongue in cheek (and, in the case of one cat in the film, a tongue somewhere else entirely) and of bawdy celebration. Because while Dog of God laments the hypocrisy at the heart of much of society (and, for all its historic fantasy, there are many things that still feel relevant today), it also celebrates the enduring power of folklore and how humans can resist - and even thrive - when faced with oppression. **CINEUROPA**

It will likely spur the question, “What the hell did I just watch?” **THAT SHELF**



SHORTS



THE AIR WE BREATHE

Director
Chih-Peng Lucas Kao

Writer
Zoe Bullock

Producers
Mark Lacey
Lindsay McGee

Key Cast
Natali McCleary, Ryaan Ali,
Hannah Donaldson, Brian Ferguson

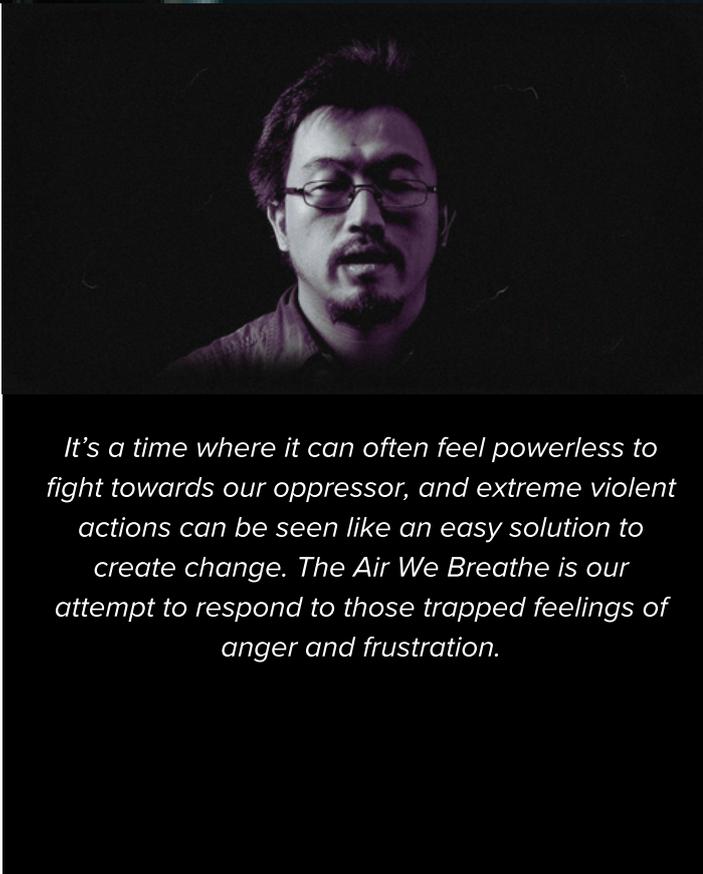
Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

IN A TOXIC WORLD WHERE CLEAN AIR IS SOLD LIKE ELECTRICITY, A
DISILLUSIONED, GRIEVING ACTIVIST IS FORCED TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN HER IDEOLOGY AND HER HUMANITY.

Lucas Chih-Peng Kao is a film director and multidisciplinary artist working across installations, performance, early photography process and video. He was born in Taiwan then settled in Edinburgh, Scotland.

As a director and filmmaker, he had made poetry films, dance films, physical theatre films, documentaries, music videos, hybrid streaming theatre and 360 videos, finding common grounds and exploring borders between different disciplines.

His short films had won awards and screened in local and international festivals, 'V Day' had competed in Glasgow Short Film Festival, "Movement in Progress" won 2nd prize in 2016 Macroview TV Contest and compete in 2017 Perth Screendance festival. He is currently finishing his first short fiction film commission by Short Circuit, The Air We Breathe as director.



It's a time where it can often feel powerless to fight towards our oppressor, and extreme violent actions can be seen like an easy solution to create change. The Air We Breathe is our attempt to respond to those trapped feelings of anger and frustration.

AMARELO BANANA

Director & Writer
Alexandre Sousa

Producers
Natália Andrade
Tiago Ribeiro
Jonas César
Bella Szederkényi
Bálint Gelley

Country of Origin: Portugal

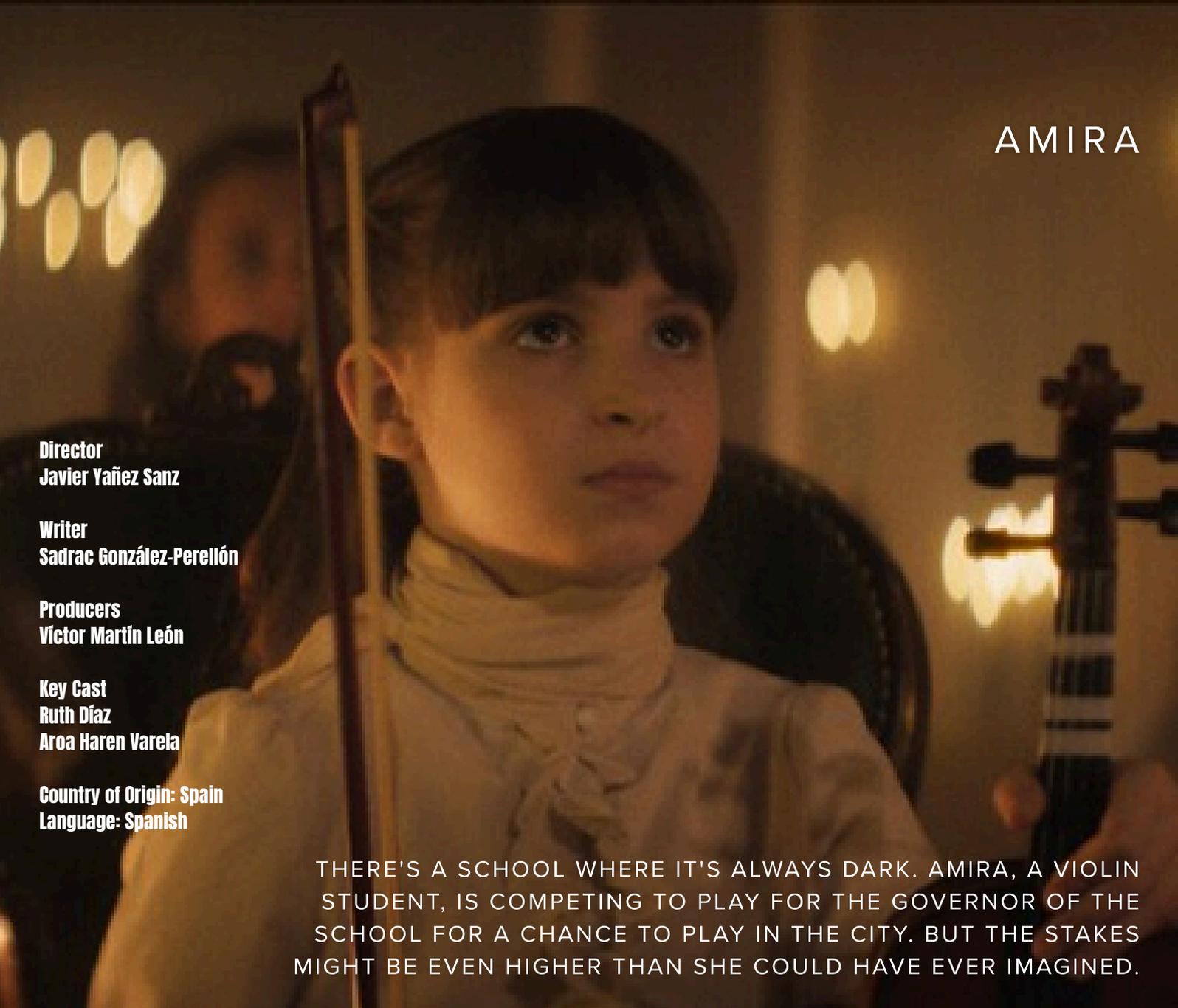
AFTER ANOTHER NIGHT OF INSOMNIA, A MAN COMES ACROSS A STRANGE COMMUNITY LIVING IN HIS BUILDING AND DISCOVERS THE ELABORATE ILLUSION THEY HAVE CREATED.

Alexandre Sousa is a film director and animation director. His work includes animation projects for international clients and institutions, music videos and documentaries.

ALEXANDRE-SOUSA.COM



This film blends a serious theme with absurdism and comedy, aiming to entertain while exploring a psychological topic. It revolves around human nature, particularly consciousness. Characters create illusions to escape reality. They are trapped within a vast city surrounded by concrete and artificial light, which they attempt to block out in order to immerse themselves in their fabricated environment. Most importantly, all characters are trapped within their own minds.



AMIRA

Director
Javier Yañez Sanz

Writer
Sadrac González-Perellón

Producers
Víctor Martín León

Key Cast
Ruth Díaz
Aroa Haren Varela

Country of Origin: Spain
Language: Spanish

THERE'S A SCHOOL WHERE IT'S ALWAYS DARK. AMIRA, A VIOLIN STUDENT, IS COMPETING TO PLAY FOR THE GOVERNOR OF THE SCHOOL FOR A CHANCE TO PLAY IN THE CITY. BUT THE STAKES MIGHT BE EVEN HIGHER THAN SHE COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED.

Javier Yañez (1982 Madrid, Spain) is a film director with a wide experience in well-known advertising campaigns and fiction short movies. He has also directed music videos and other personal pieces as inspirational works.

He is the CEO and founder of Wewotion, a production Company with clients like Fanta, Coca Cola, Desperados and Ikea.

In 2013 he did the VFX of the short film “That wasn’t me”, winner of the Spanish Film Awards “The Goyas”, for Best Short Fiction and nominated for “The Oscars” that same year.

CARGOCOLLECTIVE.COM/JYANEZ



Although primarily a comedy writer, I enjoy mixing genres and subverting audience expectations. This short combines comedy with mystery, horror and sci-fi. The intent was to lead the audience down a path and then pull the rug out from under them. I'm excited to see how audiences react to this film.



ANIMALIA

Director
Marius Rolfsvåg

Writers
Øystein Stene
Marius Rolfsvåg

Producers
Rose Aker
Sindre Austad

Key Cast
Ines Høyseter Asserson,
Agnes Born, Anders Hove,
Randin Kummeneje

Country of Origin: Norway
Language: Norwegian

ANIMALIA IS A FABLE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND ANIMALS. SET IN A FUTURE WHERE NATURE HAS RECLAIMED THE WORLD, CITIES ARE OVERGROWN, AND HUMANS HAVE TURNED INTO ANIMALS – EXCEPT FOR A FEW, SEALED INSIDE AN AIRTIGHT CITY. WHEN ALM IS SENT TO RESCUE NEWBORNS FROM THE ANIMAL-LIKE HUMANS, SHE DISCOVERS THE HUMANITY IN ANIMALS – AND THE ANIMAL WITHIN HERSELF.

Director Marius Rolfsvåg began making short films at an early age and worked as an assistant director and editor on numerous commercials, short films, and a feature film in his early twenties. He graduated from the Norwegian Film School in Lillehammer in 2016 with the short film Finite. Film school sparked his fascination with human fundamentals, world-building, post-apocalypse, and sci-fi. Since then, he has mainly worked in commercials across various genres and as an episode director on the TV series *Ambassadøren*. *Animalia* is his first major independent artistic project after film school.



For me, this film is about truly observing – noticing the details in ourselves, in others, in our surroundings. Often, when we look closer, we realize that what we've been told doesn't necessarily align with reality. But freeing ourselves from inherited perspectives can be difficult, and sometimes it costs to discover that those we meet are not as they first appear.

ARACHNOPHOBIA

Director & Writer
Melita Sandrin

Producer
University of Nova Gorica School of Arts

Country of Origin: Croatia

A SEEMINGLY HARMLESS PRANK TURNS INTO A DELIRIOUS NIGHTMARE REVOLVING AROUND SPIDERS.

Melita Sandrin is an animation student at the University of Nova Gorica in Slovenia. She received the Vesna Award for Best Student Film at the 28th Slovenian Film Festival in Portorož, for Arachnophobia

In their statement, the jury wrote that “Arachnophobia presents a humorous take on overcoming fear. Through inventive use of animation, the author skillfully weaves tension, entertainment, and warmth, creating a sincere creative expression that captivates with masterful and technically accomplished execution.”



A BEAR REMEMBERS

Directors & Writers
Zhang + Knight

Producers
Lexi Kiddo
Medb Riordan
Anna Calder Marshall

Key Cast
Anna Calder Marshall
Lewis Cornay

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

LOCAL BOY, PETER, IS TRYING TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THE METALLIC SOUND THAT HAUNTS THE VILLAGE. WHEN HE SHARES HIS FOOTAGE WITH AN OLD WOMAN IT SPARKS MEMORIES OF A BEAR THAT ROAMED THE HILLS DURING HER CHILDHOOD.

Zhang + Knight are a LGBTQ+ London-based directing duo whose soulful films explore themes of cultural identity through folklore. They began their career in music videos and are now making narrative work. Promos for London Grammar, Meryem Aboulouafa and Eden have been awarded at D&AD, Creative Circle and Kinsale, and Zhang + Knight also won Best New Director at the UKMVA's.

Their 2019 short film 'Sweep Away Hungry Ghosts' gained Official Selection at Slamdance and won them a place on the BFI Flare X BAFTA Mentorship Program where they were mentored by Luca Guadagnino.

ZHANGANDKNIGHT.COM



Our interest in the film is anchored in cultural loss: in the spaces where something once existed but no longer does. About the sad truth that, for many communities, erasure is permanent. What is lost cannot always be brought back.

BEAUTY SLEEP

Director & Writer
Jasmine Emma De Silva

Producer
Tuli Litvak

Key Cast
Emma James
Jes Hynes
Abi McLoughlin

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

IN THE BEAUTY SLEEP WORLD, COSMETIC ENHANCEMENT IS MORE EXTREME THAN OUR OWN. NEW BOOBS, BUTTS AND FACES CAN BE PURCHASED, SEWN ON AND BEDAZZLED TO YOUR CHOOSING.

Combining retro-futurism, hyperreal aesthetics, pop-art style colours and diamond studded female bodies, Jasmine De Silva playfully satirises the desire for physical perfection, holding up a mirror to our dehumanising obsession with appearances, aiming to expose society's unrealistic beauty standards. Jasmine studied at the London College of Fashion, completing a BA and MA in Fashion Photography.

Jasmine has won awards for emerging talent in Photography and Directing. She works in London as a freelance photographer and director for music videos, commercials and narrative and is currently developing her debut feature film.

JASMINEDESILVA.COM/ABOUT



Beauty Sleep is a portrait of the overwhelming and absurd human desire to achieve perfection. This universal struggle is often dismissed as a superficial issue. The discomfort in our own skin leads to body anxieties and dysmorphia, depression, eating disorders and suicide, or dangerous and fatal body modification.



BEFORE GOING HOME...

Director & Writer
Arthur Bonneau

Producer
Karine Paoli

Key Cast
Gabriel Laborde Léonhardt
Margot Segreto
Philippe Spader

Country of Origin: France

LOST ALONG THE ROAD, SOMEONE ENTERS THE FOREST...

Arthur Bonneau first experimented stop-motion animation by making the music video Houseboat (2020) from recovered materials, then trained in animated cinema near Clermont-Ferrand. In 2023 he co-directed the music video Saint-Étienne for the band La Heimlich with Gabriel Laborde Léonhardt and the singer Mika Pusse.

[ARTHUR-BONNEAU.TUMBLR.COM](https://www.tumblr.com/arthurbonneau)



BLOB AND THE WOLF

Directors and Producers

Georg Kästle
Valentin Bolte

Writer

Georg Kästle

Key Cast

Laura Bein
Sibylle Kuhne
Lale Andrä

Country of Origin: Germany

Language: German

WHEN BLOB DOZES OFF DURING HIS SHIFT AS A PRISON GUARD, SHE ACCIDENTALLY SETS CHAOS IN MOTION – ALLOWING THE BIG BAD WOLF TO ESCAPE FROM THE JAIL OF GUILT. NOW BURDENED WITH BLAME, POOR BLOB IS SENT ON A SURREAL QUEST TO RECAPTURE THE FUGITIVE. STUMBLING THROUGH A FEVER-DRENCHED LANDSCAPE OF REGRET AND DELIRIUM, BLOB MUST FACE DISTORTED VISIONS AND INNER DEMONS. WILL SHE CATCH THE WOLF – OR LOSE HERSELF IN THIS NIGHTMARE?

Valentin Bolte and Georg Kästle met as flatmates in Weimar, where they studied media art and began creating short films together.



Blob and the Wolf is a religious fever dream fairytale. Please, Goddess, deliver us from our suffering — and let our hearts dance in eternal bliss.

THE BUG PRINCESS'S FUNERAL

Director & Writer
Hippolyte Thomas

Animators
Baptiste Rocchia
Camille Hostein
Martha Moulin

Country of Origin: France

THE JOURNEY OF A SOLITARY PILGRIM, TRANSPORTING A MYSTERIOUS YOUNG GIRL TO HER FINAL RESTING PLACE. IT IS THE STORY OF A FUNERAL PROCESSION THROUGH THE RUINS OF A LOST CIVILIZATION, VAST CEMETERY OF ROBOTS POPULATED BY LUMINOUS CREATURES WHO SEEM INTRIGUED BY THEIR PRESENCE.

I grew up in France, particularly on the Atlantic coast, it is there that I learned to draw in my younger years. I think that this period still influences me in my work and in the subjects I deal with (nature without man, or almost, birds and large landscapes blown by the wind). I did my studies in Paris, a high school of design and applied art, and a master's degree in animation cinema at the ENSAD. I also had the pleasure of working with Sandra Desmazieres in an internship on her short film 'La fille de l'eau'. Now I create small works of illustrations and very short films for exhibitions made by friends



I wanted, with this graduation film, to draw a love letter to the little things that swarm and fly. I wanted the character to be both small in very detailed settings, but without being completely crushed. I wanted us to feel light and want to fly away with one of two characters



BUTTERFLY KISS

Director & Writer
Zohar Dvir

Producers
Amit Russel Gicelter
Fabian Driehorst

Key Cast
Michal Porat
Carolina Lehan

Animators
Zohar Dvir
Amit Cohen
Harry Bhalerao
Valya Paneva

Countries of Origin: Germany, Israel
Language: Hebrew

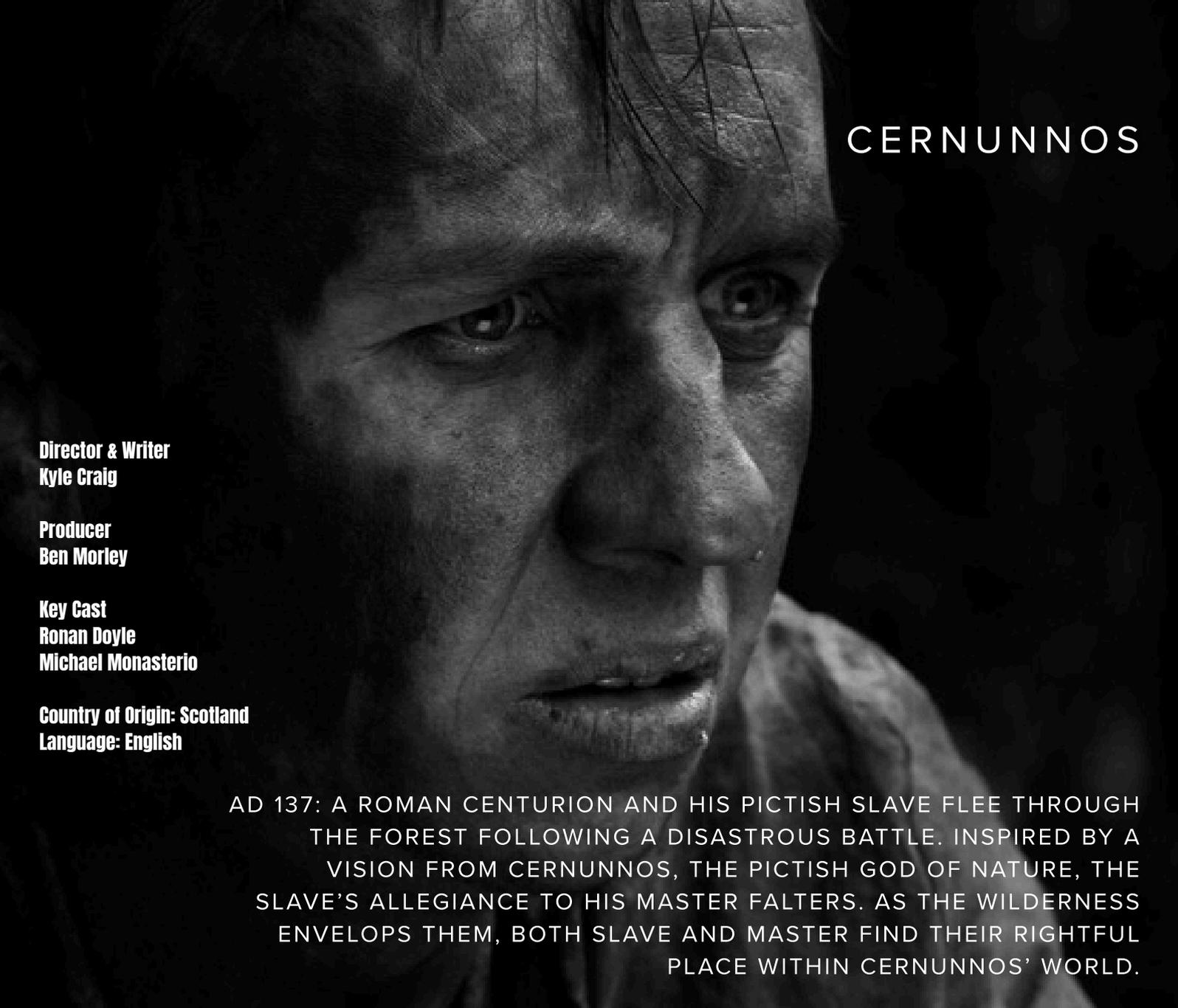
CAROL PANICS AND ARGUES WITH HER GIRLFRIEND RAY AFTER AN UNEXPECTED PROPOSAL. THE SITUATION GETS WORSE WHEN SHE WAKES UP IN AN APOCALYPTIC REALITY AND TERRIBLY DISCOVERS THAT RAY HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A BUTTERFLY.

Zohar Dvir is an animation director and lecturer, creating animated work inspired by some of the bigger questions of philosophy and psychology. Her distinctive animation style is self-taught, and blends two and three-dimensional elements as well as a healthy dose of surrealism. It's mixed together with a sense of off-kilter humour, which adds a unique kind of playfulness to her work.

ZOHARDVIR.COM



Butterfly Kiss is a film close to my heart, born out of a personal fear of change and the uncertainty that can come with it. As a queer woman, I've experienced firsthand the fear and anxiety of being in a relationship and facing the prospect of taking it to the next level. These emotions inspired me to create a film that explores the theme of change, both in a personal and a broader sense.



CERNUNNOS

Director & Writer
Kyle Craig

Producer
Ben Morley

Key Cast
Ronan Doyle
Michael Monasterio

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

AD 137: A ROMAN CENTURION AND HIS PICTISH SLAVE FLEE THROUGH THE FOREST FOLLOWING A DISASTROUS BATTLE. INSPIRED BY A VISION FROM CERNUNNOS, THE PICTISH GOD OF NATURE, THE SLAVE'S ALLEGIANCE TO HIS MASTER FALTERS. AS THE WILDERNESS ENVELOPS THEM, BOTH SLAVE AND MASTER FIND THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE WITHIN CERNUNNOS' WORLD.

Kyle Craig grew up in the Scottish Borders and moved to study film at Edinburgh Napier University. In 2023, Kyle wrote the award-winning 'The Deeper She Sinks', which premiered at the AVIFF Film Festival in Cannes and won 'Best Sound Design'. Kyle is dedicated to creating dark, atmospheric stories that blend the genres of thriller and horror.



I wanted the film to be entirely unique - a folk-horror film set in Roman times. The stylistic choice of black and white creates an immersive, tense atmosphere, whilst also aiding our crew to fully realise this ambitious story with our limited student budget.

CHECK OUT

Director & Writer
Mairead Hamilton

Producers
Steven Jeram

Key Cast
Grant O'Rourke
Anne Lacey
Ashley Storrie
Zara Janjua

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

A CANTANKEROUS ELDERLY HERMIT, ON HER DAILY PILGRIMAGE TO THE SUPERMARKET TO SCOUR THE "REDUCED-TO-CLEAR" SECTION, GETS MORE THAN SHE BARGAINED FOR WHEN SHE FINDS HERSELF TRAPPED INSIDE WITH A MASKED KILLER.

Mairead Hamilton is a Glasgow based writer-director with over a decade's worth of experience in the industry having started as a runner on the set of BBC ALBA's former flagship show, Bannan, back in 2013. The years that followed proved an invaluable training ground for Mairead, who steadily rose through the ranks throughout Bannan's eight series span (2013–2021), ultimately making lead director and thereafter lead writer on the show. During this period, she also directed RTS award nominated kids short film, Rùn: Private Pet (2019).



Mairead aspires to create stories that possess an authentic sense of place and character; stories that are uniquely Scottish, that reflect the cultural richness of this nation, as well as its peculiarities and absurdities. Furthermore, she wants to create work that is not only proudly Scottish but proudly feminist, by placing messy, fierce and funny women centre stage.

CHECK PLEASE

Director & Writer
Shane Chung

Producers
Anna Castagnaro
Nick Leahy

Key Cast
Richard Yan
Sukwon Jeong

Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

TWO HEADSTRONG KOREANS CAN'T AGREE ON WHO'S TREATING WHO TO DINNER, CAUSING THEIR CASUAL RESTAURANT OUTING TO SPIRAL INTO A MARTIAL ARTS DEATHMATCH.

SHANE CHUNG is a Korean-American filmmaker who enjoys challenging mainstream narratives around Asians and Trojan-Horsing thorny emotions and complex topics into genre films.

SHANECHUNG.XYZ



CHECK PLEASE is heavily influenced by schlocky, zany, stunt-filled action comedy and martial arts films (Jackie Chan, Stephen Chow) because first and foremost I wanted to make a crowdpleaser. I think the best movies are like magic tricks in that you walk away after seeing them asking "how did they do that?!"

CHÈRE FIN

Directors
Khéma Cousin
Lien Franckel
Laora Le Boursicot
Alissende Masson
Joséphine Mounier
Clément Saden

Producer
Cécile Blondel

Country of Origin: France

AN OLD POSTMAN GOES THROUGH HIS LAST TOUR OF DELIVERIES IN THE ARCHIPELAGO THAT HE WORKED IN HIS WHOLE LIFE, GLIDING ON WATER WITH HIS OLD BIKE. HE FINDS HIMSELF CONFRONTED TO THE REALITY OF HIS COMING RETIREMENT.

Six Gobelins graduating students, united by a common passion for foosball, came together around the original pitch to co-direct this film, all wanting to create a poetic, sensitive and visually striking film with a subtle narrative, each bringing something different to the team so that the whole is more than the sum of its parts.



Touched by the stories of old people met in hospitals, and by the departure of our beloved teacher Fred Nagorny, we wanted to tell a gentle tale about retirement, that would ease the hearts of those going through this difficult stage of life.

COYOTES

Director & Writer
Said Zagha

Producers
Myriam Sassine
Laura Jumel

Key Cast
Maria Zreik
Ali Suliman

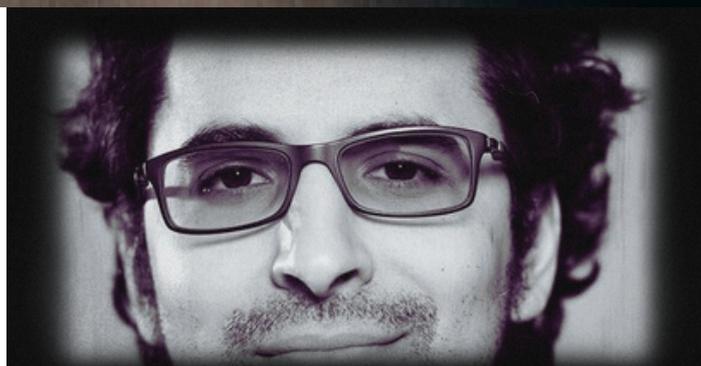
Countries of Origin: France, Jordan,
Palestine, United Kingdom

Language: Arabic, English, Hebrew

A PALESTINIAN SURGEON DRIVES HOME AFTER A LONG NIGHT SHIFT, BUT LITTLE DOES SHE KNOW THAT A COMMUTE THROUGH A DESOLATE WEST BANK ROAD WILL CHANGE HER FOREVER.

Said Zagha is a UK-based Palestinian-British screenwriter and director whose work fuses genre storytelling with a political edge. His 2025 short film COYOTES premiered in the Orizzonti section of the 82nd Venice International Film Festival and went on to win the Best Short Film Award at the BFI London Film Festival, where it became BAFTA-qualified (2027). It also won awards at the Red Sea International Film Festival, Calgary International Film Festival, Carthage Film Festival, and received special mentions at AFI Fest and Foyle Film Festival.

Born in Jerusalem and raised in Ramallah, Zagha holds a BA in English from Kenyon College and an MA in Screenwriting from the London Film School. He is also a Berlinale Talents alumnus.



What happens when one's humanity is pushed into a proverbial iron cage, an impossible corner? I grew up in Palestine, under a brutal Israeli occupation designed to weaponize our vulnerabilities and erode our will – through violence, surveillance, coercion, and fear. As I struggle to cope with an unrelenting campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide directed at my people and my homeland, I felt compelled to create a cinematic response to a system built on layers of injustice and double standards.

CRÈCHE & BURN

Director & Writer
Frank O'Neil

Producer
Lauren Ward

Key Cast
Jacob Cunningham
Libby Dyer Douglas

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

STAFF AT AN OFFICE CRÈCHE FIGHT TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN
DURING A ZOMBIE OUTBREAK.

Frank O'Neil is a graduate of DJCAD's Animation Course, where he directed Crèche & Burn (2025).

FRANKOSTEIN.NEOCITIES.ORG



Since reading Frankenstein in my youth, I've been very interested in what the undead represent in relation to our fears – fear of others, of pushing beyond societal expectations, of the afterlife – and in Crèche & Burn, playing on the fear of monotony and routine. Inspired by hustle culture and the Japanese phenomenon of "black companies" which work their staff to death.

DREAMWALKER

Directors, Writers, Producers & Animators

Luca Schenato

Sinem Vardarli

Country of Origin: UK

Language: English

A SHAMAN WHO EMBARKS ON A QUEST TO SAVE HIS VILLAGE FROM CERTAIN EXTINCTION. THROUGH AN ALTERED STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS, HE CONNECTS WITH THE MIND OF A SCIENTIST FROM ANOTHER TIME WHO IS CONDUCTING RESEARCH TO SAVE HER CIVILISATION.

Luca Schenato, born in Italy, is an award-winning writer/director and multi-disciplinary artist based in London. During his journey, Luca assumed the position of Director for commercial films, and short-format films represented by esteemed UK productions. Additionally, he also worked on Cartoon Network's original series The Amazing World Of Gumball.

Sinem Vardarli is an award-winning writer/director and animator, born in Istanbul and based in London. For the past 19 years, she has dedicated her creative talents to directing and animating captivating commercials and short films.

LUCAANDSINEM.COM



The film delves into the structure of reality, exploring how time and space can be traversed, ultimately intertwining the destinies of the two protagonists.

EUROPE AFTER THE RAIN

Directors & Writers
Filip Klas Aladdin
Ossian Bo Melin
Anton Vincent Hellström

Producer
Albin Stöpp

Key Cast
Asta Kamma August
Elin Skarin

Country of Origin: Sweden
Language: English

IN A POST-APOCALYPTIC WORLD, SAGA MEETS A STRANGER AND IS POISONED. AFTER CLEANSING HER BLOOD SHE FINDS COORDINATES WHERE THEY MET. AT HOME, SHE ENTERS THEM INTO A MYSTERIOUS MACHINE AND HEADS INTO THE UNKNOWN.

Filip, Ossian and Anton are directors and artists based in Gothenburg and are part of the collective KonstAB.

KONSTAB.SE



The core of Europe After the Rain is a psychological transformation: the main character undergoes a dissolution of the self, confronts her darkness – her ‘shadow’ in the form of the woman in the reed field – and becomes united with it. Our approach is image-driven rather than dialogue-based. Through associative editing, match cuts, and spatial transformations, we aim to shift between worlds and states.

An illustration of a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a simple, light-colored dress, holding a baby in her arms. They are standing in a lush green field with various plants, including tall grasses and small white flowers. The scene is set outdoors, with a soft, natural light. The word 'FAČUK' is written in the top right corner.

FAČUK

Director, Writer & Producer
Maida Srabovic

Animators
Givana Pipal
Lucija Oroz
Laura Martinovic
Lea Vucko
Damir Grbanovic
Maida Srabovic

Countries of Origin: Croatia, Slovenia

IN A GOD-FEARING VILLAGE LYING BETWEEN TWO RIVERS, GIVING BIRTH TO A FACHUK – AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD – IS A MORTAL SIN. EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE RECOILS FROM THE YOUNG PREGNANT WOMAN WHO IS ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH AT ANY MOMENT. IN THIS NARROW-MINDED AND HARSH RURAL ENVIRONMENT, FEAR GROWS INSIDE HER.

Maida Srabovic (1986, Koprivnica) completed her studies in film and TV editing at the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb. After graduating, she worked as a freelance editor for several years, editing numerous films and TV formats. In 2018, she co-founded the animation and post-production studio TETRABOT in Zagreb. In 2020, she transitioned away from editing to fully focus on animation and illustration. Facuk is her first film, which she wrote, directed, and produced.

BONOBOSTUDIO.HR



The word "fačuk" (a derogatory Kajkavian term for an illegitimate child) caused similar feelings. It always felt somehow rough, prickly, harsh and heavy. I never understood how an innocent newborn could carry such a burden, nor how my great-grandmother could abandon her own child. Through this film, I tried to understand the perspective of a woman stigmatised for being pregnant out-of-wedlock.

THE FAIRY MOON

Director & Writer
Craig Williams

Producers
Julien Allen
Evrin Ersoy

Key Cast
James Swanton
Johnny Vivash
Julia Davis

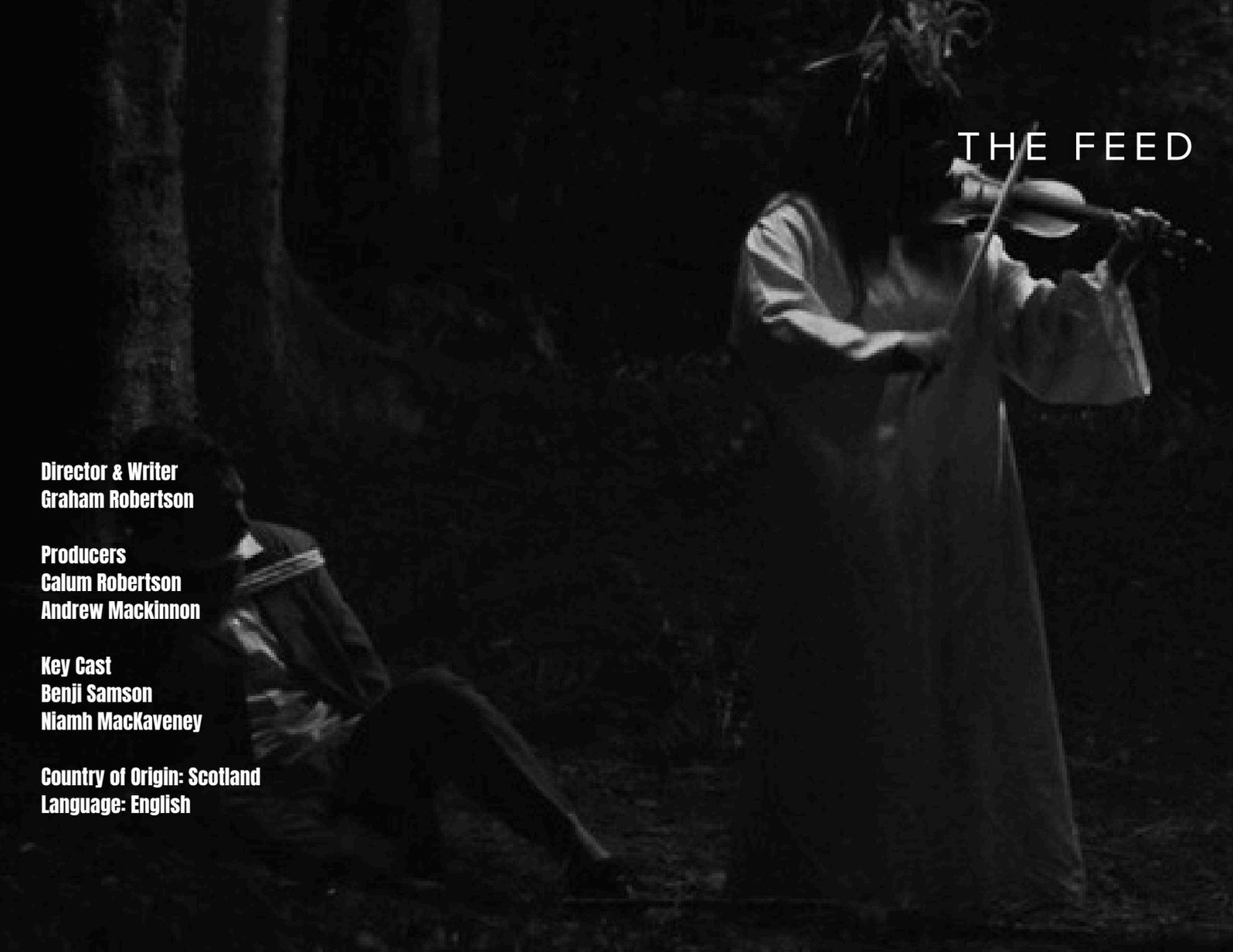
Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

IN A SMALL ENGLISH TOWN, A MAN'S LIFE UNRAVELS
AFTER A TROUBLING ROADSIDE ENCOUNTER WITH A
SINISTER STRANGER.

Craig Williams is a Welsh writer and director. His previous film, the Welsh language folk horror short *The Wurm of Bwlch Pen Barras*, screened at some of the biggest genre festivals in the world, including Beyond Fest in LA, Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, Brooklyn Horror Film Festival, Motel X in Lisbon, Imagine in Amsterdam and L'Etrange in Paris, as well as several Oscar and BAFTA qualifying festivals. It was nominated four times for the Melies d'Argent award for Best European Short Film.



The Fairy Moon unfolds as a pitch black comedy of manners, with the sense of horror escalating due to the protagonist's politeness, reserve and unwillingness to break everyday social conventions, which results in fatal impotence in the face of Pan's antisocial provocations.



THE FEED

Director & Writer
Graham Robertson

Producers
Calum Robertson
Andrew Mackinnon

Key Cast
Benji Samson
Niamh MacKaveney

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

A MAN IS DRAGGED DEEP INTO A BLACK FOREST, WHERE THE SOUND OF A FIDDLE STIRS SOMETHING IN THE DARKNESS.

Graham is a director, cinematographer, and editor with 10+ years' industry experience bringing ambitious/sometimes silly ideas to life across commercial, documentary, and narrative filmmaking.

Graham has worked with major brands and independent creatives alike, directing and crafting visually striking, emotionally grounded films that connect with real humans.

Alongside commercial work, he's written, directed, and edited short films and a feature-length documentary, driven by a passion for storytelling and social impact.

He is particularly interested in projects that blend strong visual identity with purpose and progressive values... and loves it when we can make 'em laugh.

LOSTCLOCKPRODUCTIONS.COM



I wrote The Feed with the intention of dragging viewers into a world of panic and fear in as short a time as possible – relying on atmosphere and tone over dialogue to explore the subject of reckoning.

FLOCK

Director
Mac Nixon

Writers
Mac Nixon
Daley Nixon

Producer
Matt Ashwell

Key Cast
Kenton Lloyd-Morgan
Eiry Thomas
Fflyn Edwards

Country of Origin: Wales
Language: Welsh, English

WHEN THE SHEEP POPULATION OF A TIGHT-KNIT FARMING COMMUNITY MYSTERIOUSLY VANISH, AN ELDERLY SHEPHERD BECOMES THE TARGET OF SUSPICION AND ANGER WHEN HIS MEAGRE FLOCK ARE MIRACULOUSLY UNTOUCHED BY THIS FREAK EVENT

Mac Nixon is a BAFTA-nominated and BBC-credited writer/director whose work blends striking visual storytelling with grounded, emotionally resonant themes. His films have screened at festivals around the world, including Cannes, and reflect a strong sense of atmosphere, craft, and character.

COUPTHEDUKE.COM



FLOCK is a story I've been wanting to explore for many years. A stark and visceral portrait of a Welsh rural community pushed to the brink – a modern folktale that interrogates civility, greed, and the dangerous pull of mob mentality. Set against the haunting beauty of Wales' countryside, the film explores the fine line between unity and division, kindness and cruelty.



FOREIGN BODIES

Director & Writer
Lysander Wong

Country of Origin: UK

A SIMPLE ITCH DESCENDS INTO AN OUTBREAK WITH MANY LEGS.
CERTAIN THINGS WILL ALWAYS FIND THEIR WAY TO THE SURFACE.

Lysander Wong is an animator from Hong Kong, currently based in London. His films explore texture and tangibility by experimenting with materials and mixed mediums.



An exploration of the horror of having a body, of existing in a space that you don't connect to, of unbelonging.

The film draws upon my personal experience of being transgender.

FRIED

Director
Lizzie Watts

Writers
Lizzie Watts, Sofia Wills
Liadán Roche

Producer
Sanjana Pathania

Key Cast
Tommy Howlett
Linda Marlowe
Louise Fitzpatrick

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

AS DEV DRIVES HOME FROM A MYSTERIOUS, AGEING NUCLEAR FACILITY, HE BECOMES STRANDED AT AN ISOLATED EMU FARM RUN BY OLD MYSTIC LESBIANS. SUSPICIOUS OF THEIR INTENTIONS, DEV FEARS THEY WILL SACRIFICE HIM AT THE LOCAL STONE CIRCLE.

Lizzie Watts is a director and artist. She studied Fine Art at Goldsmiths College and Directing Animation at the National Film and Television School. Lizzie's work embraces a unique and expressive style which combines an experimental approach to 3D software and 2D animation. Her films often intersect the mundane with the supernatural and she uses dark comedy as a tool to explore social power dynamics and political themes.



FRIED! is a folk-horror comedy which explores themes of hope and community. The story draws inspiration from new-age spiritualism, Greenham Common and the proximity of ancient and industrial ruins in the British landscape. Created almost entirely in Blender, *FRIED!* combines mixed-media techniques, 3D and 2D animation, hand-drawn charcoal, and 3D-scanned props.

GOD IS SHY

Director & Writer
Jocelyn Charles

Producers
Ugo Bienvenu
Félix de Givry
Anthony Bajon

Key Cast
Danièle Evenou
Alba Gaïa Bellugi
Joséphine Mancini

Country of Origin: France
Language: French

DURING A TRAIN RIDE, ARIEL AND PAUL PASS THE TIME SKETCHING THEIR DEEPEST FEARS. THEIR GAME TAKES AN UNEXPECTED TURN WHEN GILDA, A MYSTERIOUS PASSENGER, INTRUDES ON THEIR EXCHANGE. YET, HER RELATIONSHIP WITH FEAR SEEMS FAR LESS INNOCENT THAN THEIR PLAYFUL DRAWINGS.



Jocelyn Charles studied applied arts at École Boulle, Estienne, and later Gobelins, where he honed his drawing skills and deepened his expertise in animation. As a director of music videos (The Weeknd, L'Impératrice), short films, and an illustrator, he crafts a unique visual universe. Since 2020, he has been working with Remembers, a studio founded by Félix de Givry and Ugo Bienvenu, a creative space where animation, illustration, and cinema intersect.

[JOCELYNCHARLESBLR.TUMBLR.COM](https://www.jocelyncharlesblr.tumblr.com)



God Is Shy is my first short film and also the opportunity to firmly establish my artistic universe. While directing the music video Hématome for the band L'Impératrice, with my co-director Roxane Lumeret, I explored the topic of monstrosity, which has become a recurrent theme in my work. In the video Do I Make You Love Me by The Weeknd, I emphasised humour, sometimes even ventured into gore. All of this gave me keys and ideas for scenes that I wanted to put into an original, more personal story.

THE GNAWER OF ROCKS

Director
Louise Flaherty

Writers
Louise Flaherty
Neil Christopher

Producers
Louise Flaherty

Key Cast
Nellie Enuaraq
Joan Joanas
Andrea Flaherty

Country of Origin: Canada
Language: Inuktitut

TWO YOUNG WOMEN, OUT FOR A WALK ON THE TUNDRA, FOLLOW A TRAIL OF COLOURFUL STONES LEFT ON THE GROUND – BUT IT LEADS THEM TO DANGER. THEY BECOME TRAPPED IN THE LAIR OF THE MANGITTATUARJUK, THE GNAWER OF ROCKS.

Louise grew up in Clyde River, Nunavut. Early on, Louise was fortunate to be surrounded by great storytellers. Her grandparents instilled in her a passion for Inuktitut and an understanding that speaking Inuktitut is a fundamental part of Inuit identity. In 2005, Louise co-founded Inhabit Media Inc., an independent publishing house dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Inuit knowledge and values and the Inuktitut language.

Inhabit Media has since published dozens of books and Inuktitut resources that are used in classrooms throughout Nunavut.



I first heard Mangittatuarjuk as a child from one of our elders in school. I regret not being born in the generation before mine where our parents had access to authentic stories in an intimate setting of their homes. I heard mine in school or when we went to visit elders in their homes. Mangittatuarjuk piqued my interest as it was a horror story. I also heard stories about Ogres and witches eating children so it was comparable to them. Since I come from an oral tradition, I loved listening to our own stories, and we do have many creation stories and other stories that can entertain us.

HELL

Director
Parker Croft

Writers
Parker Croft
Spike Milliken

Producers
Nolan Gould
Erika Totoro
Parker Croft

Key Cast
Sean Marquette
Bill Welden
Sharon Powers

Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

A PLACE WHERE DREAMS ARE REAL, WISHES COME TRUE, AND EVERYTHING IS ALWAYS AWFUL FOR EVERYONE.

Parker Croft is an American director and screenwriter known for his portrayal of flawed, conflicted characters and his exploration of themes like mortality and love through a bold, voyeuristic visual style. His most recent short film, *As Easy As Closing Your Eyes* (2024), has earned 144 awards across more than 200 film festivals, including 16 for Best Director. His debut short, *Suncatcher* (2019), was similarly acclaimed, screening at 62 festivals and earning 13 awards.

PAPERHORSEPICTURES.COM



Hell is a surreal, sci-fi meditation on despair. Set on a dying farm in a fictional place called Ash Harbor, it unfolds in a landscape ravaged by man-made ecological collapse. It carries echoes of the 1930s Dust Bowl, but darker still. Towering engines roam barren fields, shedding toxic debris as they go. Known as the Bathers, these enigmatic machines are the remnants of a great lie, the promised cure for a meager life that ultimately cost us everything.

HOUSTON WE HAVE A CRUSH

Director
Omer Ben Shachar

Writers
Omer Ben Shachar
Jen Kim

Producers
Jason Eisner
Bara Kim

Key Cast
Sam Humphrey
Ben Rigby

Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

AFTER FINDING A PHONE ACCIDENTALLY LEFT BEHIND BY AN ASTRONAUT, A LONELY ALIEN DEVELOPS AN ALL-CONSUMING CRUSH THAT TESTS HIS HOLD ON REALITY.

Omer Ben-Shachar is a writer/director and 2026 Young Guns winner from The One Club for Creativity. His debut short, *Tree #3*, won a Student Academy Award and was nominated for a Student Emmy. His follow-up, *Single Residence Occupancy*, won the Jury Award for Best Narrative Short at the Atlanta Film Festival. His latest film, *Houston, We Have a Crush*, won the Fanomenon Short Film Award at the Leeds International Film Festival and the Art Directors Guild Production Design Award at the Guadalajara Film Festival. A graduate of AFI's Directing Program and fellow of Film Independent's Project Involve & Screenwriting Lab, the Warner Bros. Television Directors Workshop, and Paramount's Directing Program.

OMERBENSHACHAR.COM



We were very interested in the concepts of loneliness and connection in the modern age, especially with technology being so integrated in the way we experience both of those feelings. We were also inspired by our experiences with app dating. The ease with which, through a screen, we are able to project our ideals, beliefs, and desires onto someone was a fascinating experience we wanted to explore.

I CARE 9000

Director, Writer & Producer
Robert Duncan

Key Cast
Kirsten Maguire
Bethany KC
Jason Harvey

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

A VULNERABLE OLD LADY IS LOOKED AFTER BY THE ICARE 9000,
A HIGH-TECH ROBOT CARER, BUT NOT EVERYTHING IS AS IT APPEARS.

Robbie has written, produced, directed and edited several short films since graduating with an MA in Film direction from Napier Screen Academy. These films have won several awards and been shown in numerous film festivals across the UK and Europe. Robbie's films range from ear-slicing horror stories, awkward portraits of familial relationships and supernatural mockumentary but all share an absurdist streak of humour and a playful eye on the human condition.

BENSHYLAND.COM



In recent years, headlines have proselytised AI's emergence as the next big thing. The thing that will change everything from our work life to our personal relationships. At the same time AI companies such as Builder.ai turn out to be really powered by exploited Indian workers and Elon Musk's AI Tesla Bots are revealed to be remote controlled by Tesla employees. AI often seems like just another "innovation" touted by the rich and powerful designed to exploit the people rather than uplift them.

INDIAN IN A BOX

Director
Nishanth R.

Writers
Nishanth R.
Nathan Xia

Producers
Nathan Xia
Jacob Staudenmaier

Key Cast
Anish Chandak
Luis Ochoa

Country of Origin: USA
Language: English, Hindi

AN INDIAN IMMIGRANT AWAKENS INSIDE A CONFINED METAL BOX, WITH THE WALLS SLOWLY CLOSING IN... UNLESS HE CAN DO THE WORK ASSIGNED TO HIM.

Nishanth R. was born in Coimbatore, India, and raised in the nearby metropolis of Chennai. After attending a high school in Chennai (during which time he authored and published a book, 'The Fated Sunset'), he went on to become an undergraduate studying Film & TV Production and Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Now, he balances an MFA Screenwriting degree at CSUN with his work as a director for the independent production company Media RED. His feature directorial debut, 'Bharata', is in pre-production.



My work as a writer and director is an exploration of this dichotomy – of being Indian, of crossing and comparing cultures. This often involves biting satire and critique of the ways these cultures intersect.

IURIMA – A TALE OF THREE FISHERMEN

Director, Writer & Producer
PV Lehtinen

Key Cast
Lauri Tilkanen
Petri Manninen
Rami Rusinen

Country of Origin: Finland
Language: Finnish

THREE STARVING FISHERMEN ENCOUNTER SOMETHING UNEXPECTED
ON A REMOTE ISLAND IN THE 1890S.

PV Lehtinen was born in Helsinki, Finland. He is an internationally acclaimed short film director, writer and producer. His international breakthrough was the short film *The Diver* (2000), which made history at the Tampere International Short Film Festival by winning the Grand Prix and four other prizes. One way or another, many of his films involve the element of water, which he feels is an extremely interesting visual element. Lehtinen is an avid snorkeler and tea enthusiast. Currently, he is writing his first feature.

CINEPARADISO.FI



The sea is a great mystery and a treasure trove of stories. I have read numerous stories of sailors and fishermen related to the sea, the most captivating ones involve mythologies and beliefs. When I started to write the script about the encounter with a human fish, I wanted to bring into my Scandinavian story elements from the mythologies, where the Kalevala poetry meets the sirens of the Odyssey and the Japanese folklore. After all, I found that these worlds have a lot in common.



LAST NIGHT STAND

Directors & Writers
Pierre-Luc Gosselin,
Béatrice Blais

Producers
Pierre-Luc Gosselin

Key Cast
Béatrice Blais
Benjamin Déziel

Country of Origin: Canada
Language: French

A MAN HAS AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS TRYING TO WORK OUT WHO THE MYSTERIOUS MAN IS THAT HE WAVES AT.

Pierre-Luc Gosselin is a Canadian filmmaker, screenwriter and visual effects artist based in Montreal. For over 15 years, he has worked across television, digital media, and film, establishing a reputation for creating visually ambitious productions with limited resources.

Béatrice Blais began her career in comedy, performing stand-up, improv, and humorous radio segments, even creating her own comedy night. When the pandemic hit, she reinvented herself and discovered a true passion for writing. This new path led her to a professional screenwriting program in Montreal, where she refined her craft and developed her voice. Since then, Béatrice has been working on several television projects, both independently and in collaboration with others, exploring the space between lighthearted comedy and dark humour.



Last-Night Stand is a feminist science fiction short film, conceived as a distorted – yet clear-eyed – reflection of power dynamics, consent, and male fantasies in an era where justice can sometimes feel powerless. We co-wrote this film with the intention of creating a visceral narrative, where the body becomes a weapon of denunciation. Sexuality is portrayed head-on – at times disturbing, always meaningful. This is not a film that aims to reassure. It provokes, unsettles, and asks necessary questions.

LENNOX-FRIEDKIN TAPE #004

Director
Matt Benson

Writers
Matt Benson
Ryan Dishon

Producer
Ryan Dishon

Key Cast
Michael Daviot
Euan Munro

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

IN THE 1980S, A SCIENTIST DOCUMENTED A TRIAL OF HIS INVENTION:
A DEVICE THAT REVEALS WHAT YOU SEE WHEN YOU DIE.
THIS IS THE FOOTAGE.

Matt Benson is a writer and filmmaker hailing from Manchester. After graduating from the University of Glasgow with the highest honours, he has since bolstered his skills with a Master's degree in Creative Writing. His passion for storytelling led him to be selected for The Network 2024, making him one of the top 50 new entrants to the UK screen industry.



Lennox-Friedkin Tape #004 confronts the viewer with nature's biggest mystery – what happens when we die? Taking the form of period-accurate found footage, the film follows an ambitious scientist as he conducts an experiment to find out the answer. However, what begins as an intellectual pursuit soon descends into a visceral unease as the unflappable man of science becomes almost feral in his quest for answers.

LOCKDOON

Director & Writer
Ruaridh Lever-Hogg

Producers
Louis Neethling
Phillip Dodds

Key Cast
Amy Helena
Amy Murray
Craig McCulloch
Connor Bryson

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: British Sign Language

FOUR SOCIAL MISFITS ARE THRUST INTO AN ESCAPE ROOM CHALLENGE, WHERE SOLVING PUZZLES IS THE ONLY WAY OUT. BUT AS TENSIONS RISE, HIDDEN SECRETS COME TO LIGHT, TURNING THE GAME INTO A DEADLY FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL.

An innovative and detail-oriented media professional with a strong passion for research and storytelling. Ruaridh brings a proven ability to investigate diverse subjects, craft engaging narratives, and manage all stages of production. With experience spanning roles as a researcher, assistant producer, self-shooting director, cameraperson, and editor, Ruaridh excels in both creative and technical aspects of media production



My career is dedicated to creating compelling, research-driven content that informs and inspires audiences.

LUZ DIABLA

Directors & Writers

Patricio Gabriel Plaza

Paula Boffo

Gervasio Canda

Producers

Iouri Stepanov

Courtney Wolfson

Patricio Gabriel Plaza

Paula Boffo

Gervasio Canda

Key Cast

Gianluca Zonzini

Mario Alarcon

Countries of Origin: Argentina, Canada

Language: Spanish

MARTIN, A FLAMBOYANT URBAN RAVER, IS INVOLVED IN A STRANGE ACCIDENT ON HIS WAY TO A PARTY IN THE ARGENTINE PAMPAS. FINDING REFUGE IN A MYSTERIOUS GROCERY STORE, MARTÍN'S PARANOIA BEGINS TO UNLEASH DISTURBING VISIONS THAT WILL LEAD HIM TO CONFRONT THE SUPERNATURAL FORCES THAT HIDE IN THE NIGHT.

Paula Boffo, filmmaker and cartoonist, was born in 1994 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She studied animation at the Institute of Cinema of Avellaneda and illustration in the Professional Illustration PostGraduate Program at Buenos Aires University (UBA).

Patricio Plaza is a queer animation filmmaker based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. After studying visual arts and audiovisual communication at the National University of La Plata, he has worked in animation filmmaking for over 20 years.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Gervasio's artistic journey began at an early age, under the guidance of his grandfather, a painter and sculptor, who introduced him to the world of form and colour.

OJORARO.COM.AR



What connected with us was the collision of two worlds that rarely coexist onscreen: the rural gaucho imaginary and the urban queer raving experience. The myth of La Luz Mala, rooted in our regional memory, was central to what we wanted to explore.

THE MAN THAT I WAVE AT

Director & Writer
Ben S Hyland

Producers
Guy William Sime Lindley
Jade Nicole Way
Lydia Kay

Key Cast
Sam Pamphilon
Marek Larwood
Rebecca Shorrocks

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

A MAN HAS AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS TRYING TO WORK OUT WHO THE MYSTERIOUS MAN IS THAT HE WAVES AT.

Ben S. Hyland won the 2023 BAFTA Rocliffe Comedy feature competition with his script, JUMPERS. In the same year he won the British Comedy Guide Spring Sitcom writing competition with his pilot script, THE TWINS. He was also selected to become a member of BAFTA CONNECT.

Ben has written and directed a cluster of successful comedy short films. His most recent, THE SNIP, stars Edinburgh Fringe winner Ciaran Dowd, alongside Sunil Patel and Rebecca Shorrocks. The film has already been selected for Bolton, Aesthetica, The Shortest Nights and Edmonton.

BENSHYLAND.COM



Although primarily a comedy writer, I enjoy mixing genres and subverting audience expectations. This short combines comedy with mystery, horror and sci-fi. The intent was to lead the audience down a path and then pull the rug out from under them. I'm excited to see how audiences react to this film.

MAMIKO'S POOP

Director & Writer
Yasuteru Ohno

Country of Origin: Japan

MAMIKO WITNESSES HER BOYFRIEND CHEATING ON HER. THAT NIGHT, SHE DOES STRESS EATING AND GETS A STOMACH ACHES. HER POOP IN THE TOILET GOES ON TO KILL HER CHEATING BOYFRIEND INSTEAD OF MAMIKO.

Yasuteru Ohno is a filmmaker born in 2003.

In 2025, he made the short animated film "Mamiko's Poop," which was officially selected for the WTF Competition at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival 2025 and the Student Competition at the Ottawa International Animation Festival 2025.



This film explores a kind of absurd, silly humour that makes you laugh without thinking. It attempts to express this feeling without relying on dialogue. Rather than searching for deep meaning or intention, I hope the audience can empty their minds and simply enjoy the experience.

NERVOUS ELLIE

Director & Writer
David Yorke

Producers
Phil Beastall

Key Cast
Kelsey Cooke
Sophia Capasso

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

ELLIE, NEW TO DATING AND PAINFULLY SHY, STRUGGLES TO CONTROL HER NERVES DURING A DATE WITH DANNI, RESULTING IN SOME UNEXPECTED AND SHOCKING RESULTS.

David is a multi-award-winning writer/director specialising in dark drama, comedy and horror. With over 15 years of experience in short films, music videos and broadcast television and a Directors UK and BAFTA Connects member.

His films have gained great success and have been selected at many festivals from around the world, including BIFA, Bafta and Oscar-qualifying festivals. He has also won many awards including 'Best Film' and 'Best Director' for my films WE, SAFEKEEPING, EJECT, CLOUDS and ERIC. My work has also been featured on David Reviews, Shots, 1.4, Directors Notes, Omeleto and Film Shortage.



Nervous Ellie comes from my own experience with anxiety and the universal feeling of nervousness. I wanted to explore how something so common can become overwhelming and surreal. By blending comedy and horror, I aimed to create something both beautiful and unsettling, capturing the absurdity and intensity of anxiety in a way that feels honest, relatable, and visually striking.

9 MILLION COLORS

Director & Writer
Bára Anna

Producers
Jakub Košťál, Lillian Lovsteth,
Mária Môtovská, Georg Neubert,
Katharina Weser

Animators
Jiří Krupička, Vojtěch Kiss,
Tomáš Červený, Matouš Valchář

Countries of Origin: Germany, Norway

THE OCEAN IS PARADISE FOR FRAN THE SHRIMP. HER DEADLY CLAWS TAKE WHATEVER THEY DESIRE. FOR THE BLIND FISH MILVA, IT'S A DAILY FIGHT TO SURVIVE. FRAN SEES MILVA AS BEAUTIFUL AND WANTS HER TO SEE THE OCEAN IN THE SAME WAY.

Bára Anna is a director, writer, and artist focused on puppet animation. She studied at the Arts University Bournemouth and FAMU in Prague. Her short films *Fishermen* (2017) and *Love Is Just a Death Away* (2020) were both shortlisted for a BAFTA; the latter was also nominated for two Czech Lions, premiered at SXSW, and screened at over 90 international festivals. She was art director of the VR film *Darkening* (Venice Biennale, 2022) and co-created the Burning Man–honored installation HEARDT. In 2021, she co founded the Prague-based animation studio Divize.

BARAANNA.COM



9 Million Colors is about acceptance. We should try different ways of seeing the world to truly understand that we don't need to see things the same way in order to love each other. It is a classical love story: how we fall in love, how we begin to fall out of love, and how we try to survive despite the differences we may have.

NORA CAN'T SCORE

Director & Writer
Josefa Celestin

Producer
Isabella Bassett

Key Cast
Catriona Stirling
Madeline Grieve
Tyler Collins

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

DURING AN AMATEUR TOURNAMENT, A GIFTED BUT STRUGGLING BASKETBALL PLAYER, AT ODDS WITH HER PEERS' OBSESSION WITH DATING, FINDS HERSELF PRESSURED TO "SCORE" BY AN EERIE BASKETBALL-FACED FIGURE HAUNTING HER.

Joséfa is a French writer-director who has called Scotland home for a decade. Her Screen Academy Scotland graduation short, "Event Horizon" has been screened in French cinemas by L'Agence du Court Métrage since 2017.

In 2018, she directed "Tomorrow Might Be The Day", commissioned by the Scottish Film Talent Network, which later supported the early development of her debut feature, "Aurora's Skies". She was also selected for the Edinburgh International Film Festival Talent Lab (2018), Talent Lab Connects (2019), and the European development program Less Is More (2020). Her latest short, "Kings of the Court", premiered at Aesthetica in 2024. That same year, she joined the inaugural Sean Connery Talent Lab, with her latest project "Nora Can't Score" produced with the support from NFTS and BBC Film. Passionate about coming-of-age and grounded genre films, she strives to bring more female leads to Genre films.



"Nora Can't Score is about something quieter and harder to name than sexual awakening. How do you dramatise something someone doesn't desire? Basketball - the one thing that keeps Nora connected to her peers - becomes a physical manifestation of internalised pressure as her need to belong clashes with who she is. This is the story I needed to see as a teen but didn't exist."



OSTRICH

Director & Writer
Marie Kenov

Producer
Joder von Rotz

Country of Origin: Switzerland
Language: English

IN AWE OF OSTRICHES, WITH THEIR LONG NECKS, DAZZLING EYES AND MUSCULAR LEGS, A SPARROW WANTS TO BE JUST LIKE THEM. BY HITTING THE GYM, FOLLOWING MAKE-UP TUTORIALS, AND PAYING SEVERAL VISITS TO THE NECK STRETCHING STUDIO, THE LITTLE BIRD COMES VERY CLOSE TO ACHIEVING ITS GOAL. BUT WHEN A REAL OSTRICH COMES TO TOWN, ONE THING BECOMES CRYSTAL CLEAR: A SPARROW CAN NEVER TRULY BE AN OSTRICH.

Born in Basel in 1990, Marie Kenov now lives in Lucerne, where she works in the fields of graphic design, illustration and animation. She completed her bachelor's degree in poster design and visual communication at the National Academy of Art in Sofia in 2016. During a second bachelor's degree, this time in animation, which she completed in 2020 at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, she was able to deepen her knowledge of the moving image and film. Her graduation film, "Sweet Nothing", which she co-directed with Joana Fischer, was shown at numerous festivals around the world, including the Annecy International Animation Film Festival (2021), the Palm Springs International ShortFest (2022) and the Sundance Film Festival (2022). "Ostrich" is Marie's first short film post-graduation.



Ostrich is a movie about unrealistic ideals, the power of media, and the tunnel vision created by apps, but also a story about the search for one-self, for freedom and for redemption.

OUT OF OFFICE

Director & Writer
Kialy Tihngang

Producers
Josefin Bagge
Ciara Dunne

Key Cast
Laura Lovemore
Kirsty Punton
Buom Tihngang

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

A PERCEPTIVE BUT PERPETUALLY SILENCED OFFICE GIRL STUMBLES UPON A SINISTER LIQUIDATION SCHEME. AT VILCORP, A VILLAINOUS CORPORATION STEEPED IN THE OUTDATED RACISM AND SEXISM OF THE 80S, HER WARNINGS FALL ON DEAF EARS.

Kialy Tihngang is a multidisciplinary Glasgow-based visual artist working in moving image, sculpture, textiles, performance, writing, and prints involving elaborate handmade sets, costumes, graphics and props, often in close collaboration with other artists.

As a British-born Cameroonian, Tihngang's research-based practice focuses on the global misrepresentation, extraction, and demonisation of Black, and particularly West African cultural practices, but also on her own misremembering, misreading, and romanticisation of said practices, primarily by designing artefacts from reimagined histories and speculated futures.



Out Of Office is an autoethnographic exploration of misogynoir and neo-capitalism. The film draws on dismal personal experiences from the office jobs of my twenties, and more widely, the structural silencing of Black women in historic and contemporary workplaces.

THE PARISH

Director & Writer
Matt R. Smith

Producer
Rhian Smith

Key Cast
Alexander Cobb
Sam Parks

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

JOE TELLS BLAKE ABOUT A RECURRING NIGHTMARE HE IS HAVING WHICH INVOLVES THEM AND A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE AT THE BACK OF THE VILLAGE HALL CONSUMED BY AN UNCONTROLLABLE HUNGER.

Matt is a filmmaker from South East England with a background in experimental filmmaking. His early short films played at BAFTA-recognised festivals before he branched out into digital media, theatre, and artist filmmaking, with support from Arts Council England, The Arts Council of Wales, and France's Drac Occitanie - Ministère de la Culture.

In 2020, Matt shot *BUGBEAR*, a no-budget short film that kickstarted his move into narrative filmmaking. His stories, often rooted in South East England, explore unsettling realities and imagined histories, blurring the line between what is real and what is fantasy.

Matt's approach to narrative is similar to his artist-films with a hands-on approach which sees him wearing many hats, including DP, sound designer, and composer.



The Parish grew out of a desire to make something stripped-back, atmospheric, and very British - or at least the Britain that I know. The location – a Scout hut – is unmistakably British: proper on the surface, but decaying just underneath. The film was also a personal experiment in restriction: one location, a tiny crew of five, and a focus on performance.

PEARLS

Director & Writer
Alastair Train

Producer
Aybuke Kavas

Key Cast
Rory Murphy
Mark Wingett
Helen Jessica Liggat

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

TONY AND LINDA ARE STRUGGLING TO GROW THEIR FAMILY. WHEN TONY IS FORCED TO FACE HIS FERTILITY ISSUES, HE TURNS TO A MYSTERIOUS OYSTER DEALER, MARVIN. WHOSE OYSTERS DELIVER MORE THAN THEIR PROMISE OF VIRILITY.

Alastair Train is a London based award-winning writer/director. His darkly comic and stylish films have been shown at various festivals around the world, including Cannes, Haapsalu Horror & Fantasy Festival, London Short Film Festival, and London Independent Film Festival.



'Pearls' is a body horror which, on the surface, is a story about Tony, an unfortunate man who is manipulated into ruining his family's life. But at its core it's a story about the lengths people go to, to preserve the illusion of masculinity. Tony and Linda's journey had to be felt physically by the audience so from the start we knew that using practical effects should be our priority.

PIMPLE

Director & Writer
Fernando Alle

Producers
Fernando Alle
Richard Almeida
João Calado

Key Cast
Tiago Rodrigues
António Chaves
João Miranda
Dinis Lima
João Vilas

Country of Origin: Portugal
Language: Portuguese

A YOUNG BOY'S PIMPLE BURSTS, LEADING TO A BLOODY DISASTER.

Fernando Alle is a Portuguese director and screenwriter.

He directed the short films Papá Wrestling in 2009, Banana Motherf****r in 2011, and in 2019, he directed his first feature film: Mutant Blast, which screened at over 30 film festivals worldwide and won multiple awards.

Cumulatively, his films have won more than 30 awards and have been selected to more than 100 festivals around the world, including Sitges, Frightfest, BiFAN, Leeds International Film Festival, and Tallin Black Nights Film Festival, among many others.

Throughout his career, he has also worked in film and TV post-production and special effects.



PLASTIC SURGERY

Director & Writer
Guy Trevellyan

Producers
Sophie Stacey
Caroline McCrystal
Guy Trevellyan

Key Cast
Anna Popplewell
Daniel Ings

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

A DOCTOR ON HER LAST DAY BEFORE MATERNITY LEAVE IS THROWN INTO CHAOS WHEN A HIDDEN THREAT EMERGES.

Since graduating from the MetFilm School, Guy's unique style has been shaped by working alongside directors such as Wes Anderson, Greta Gerwig, Michael Sarnoski, Shawn Levy and more as an Assistant Director. Learning from these creative titans in the industry has given Guy a window into all forms of filmmaking.

He founded Nice Guy Pictures in 2024, and aims to raise awareness about social and human issues. Stories about family, belonging and truth.



'Plastic Surgery' aims to act as a visual metaphor, vividly depicting the effects of consuming our own toxic creation.

Dr Terra's character reflects mother nature. A young pregnant woman who cares for the health of her patients. How does she react to this discovery and will she decide to continue saving others or save herself.



POLY BAGGAGE

Director & Writer
Emma Ramsay

Producer
Michaela Barton

Key Cast
Amy Manson
Dawn Sievewright

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

POLLY'S BEEN DUMPED AND SHE'S DONE SOMETHING DRASTIC
– SHE'S CUT OUT HER OWN HEART. LITERALLY.

Emma is a screenwriter/director represented by Independent Talent. She has worked in television drama development for a number of years before turning to writing and directing full time. She's developing original comedy/horror ideas with Long Boat Pictures & Birdie Pictures. TV writing credits include CBBC sitcom NOVA JONES and BBC's RIVER CITY. Her short work includes micro musical 'DONNA', screened at EIFF '19 and GSFF '23 and she has just completed her directorial debut short film which premiered at the British Shorts festival in Berlin. She was a BBC Scottish Voice of '23 and has just been selected onto the PILOT scheme for 2024. Her horror feature film is currently in development with Short Circuit.



'POLY BAGGAGE' is my response to yet another failed relationship. This story comments on the state of modern romance not only in Scotland, but worldwide. Settling down seems to be getting rarer in favour of an endless conveyor belt of disappointing relationships. Through this film I ask: how can a hopeless romantic cope in this vicious world of impermanence?"

SAMMI, WHO CAN DETACH HIS BODY PARTS

Director
Rein Maychaelson

Writers
Rein Maychaelson
Corenne Ong

Producers
Muhammad Ihsan Ibrahim
Astrid Saerong

Key Cast
Nai Djenar Maisa Ayu
Jefri Nichol
Damita Almira
Klara Virencia

Country of Origin: Indonesia
Language: Indonesian

SAMMI WAS BORN WITH THE PECULIAR ABILITY TO MOVE AND REMOVE HIS BODY PARTS. THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, HE SHARES HIS BODY PARTS TO PEOPLE HE LOVES. UNTIL THE DAY HE DIED, ALL LEFT FROM HIM IS A TORSO WITH A FACELESS HEAD. HIS MOTHER IS TRYING TO RECOLLECT HIS BODY PARTS.

Rein Maychaelson made his early voice through Udin Telekonsel, a film about a boy who can text God with his phone, the film have been screened at Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival. In 2018, his short film, Errorist of Seasons, won the Vidsee Juree Awards. The short film explores a father who tries to pay his son tuition by investing in a rubber boat business relying on the annual flood in Jakarta and finally puts faith on black magic to call the rain. Maychaelson was awarded as Rising Filmmaker in Popcon Asia 2018.

After his mother passed away in 2020, he continued to share his stories through a short film called 'The Rootless Bloom' that explores the theme of lost and separation. The short competed in the Wide Angle section of 28th Busan International Film Festival, 2023. In 2022, his feature debut project with title, 'The Burning Land' also won fellowship prize from South East Asia Film LAB.



This piece is an exploration of the self, a challenge to the idea of identity. What makes us who we are? Is something taken from us—by hardship, pain, trauma? If our body were split in two, which half is "us"? Or are we both halves? And when we die, do we bury the physical self, or is it the idea of who we were that truly defines us?

SEAFORTH

Director & Writer
John Murdo MacAulay

Producers
Sorcha Groundsell
Douglas MacKinnon

Key Cast
Sorcha Groundsell
Dylan Blore
Iain Macrae
Sam Smith

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English, Gaelic

A MAN WITH SECOND SIGHT IS DRAWN INTO A NOBLEWOMAN'S SEARCH FOR HER MISSING HUSBAND, BUT THE TRUTH HE REVEALS SETS A TRAGIC FATE IN MOTION.

JM is an RTS Award-winning director from the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. In 2019, he was selected for the Young Films Foundation residency, where he developed his debut feature with writer Olivia Hatreed.

Over the past 18 months, he has been mentored by Douglas Mackinnon (Good Omens, Sherlock) through the Directors UK Inspire programme. JM's directing credits include BBC ALBA's long-running drama Bannan, the RTS Award-winning children's film Cùm Sùil Orm, and second unit directing on the acclaimed series An t-Eilean.



We wanted to put our own spin on the Scottish folklore character of the Brahan Seer. Shot on the Isle of Lewis, the film explores ideas of truth, language and power, bringing to life a character not seen on screen before. As a crew of Gaelic speakers, we are proud that Seaforth is resonating with audiences around the world.

THE SEEING EYE DOG WHO SAW TOO MUCH

Director & Writer
Eric Jackowitz

Producers
Colton Mastro

Key Cast
Gabrielle Montes De Oca
Ethan Edenburg
Thomas McGovern
Anna Garcia
Mellissa Villasenor
Colton Mastro
Eric Jackowitz

Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

IN 1975, ITALIAN DIRECTOR ENRICO JANUZZI BEGAN FILMING A GIALLO SET IN ROME – A FEVERISH TALE OF A BLIND VIOLINIST WHO RISES TO FIRST CHAIR OF THE SYMPHONY, ONLY TO FIND HERSELF STALKED AS A BLACK-GLOVED KILLER MURDERS HER FELLOW MUSICIANS ONE BY ONE. THE ONLY WITNESS: HER SEEING-EYE DOG.

Eric Jackowitz is a Miami-born musician-turned-filmmaker whose creative journey began behind a drum kit. After drumming through childhood, Berklee College of Music, and performances with artists like George Clinton, Blake Mills,

THESEEINGEYEDOGWHOSAWTOOMUCH.COM



I've always been fascinated by the bold, stylish world of 1970s Italian giallo films. The saturated colors, the loud, pumping scores, the murder mysteries unfolding like ecstatic fever dreams. The Seeing Eye Dog Who Saw Too Much began as a love letter to that genre but quickly evolved into something stranger: a fake cinematic artifact from a film that never existed, "restored" decades later for modern audiences.

SONG OF SILENCE

Director
Vasilisa Kuzmina

Writer
Vasilisa Kuzmina
Daisy Anderson

Producer
Qiuping Han

Key Cast
Deanne Bray
Sophia Morales
Grisha Dobrygin

Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

SET AMIDST POST-THIRD-WORLD-WAR AMERICA; GRETA IS THE MATRIARCH OF A MUTE, FEMALE-LED COMMUNITY. WHEN HER SON RETURNS FROM THE FRONTLINES, GRETA IS FORCED TO CONFRONT AN IMPOSSIBLE CHOICE – ONE THAT CHALLENGES BOTH THE LOVE SHE HAS FOR HIM AND THE PRINCIPLES SHE'S VOWED TO PROTECT.

Vasilisa Kuzmina is a young filmmaker and scriptwriter of Russian-Iranian descent. Vasilisa debuted as a film director with the web series "Alisa," which premiered at the SXSW Film Festival in 2020 in the Pilot Competition Program.

"Nika", her first feature film, premiered at SXSW 2022 in the Narrative Feature Competition and won Special Jury Recognition Award for Breakthrough Performance.

Vasilisa obtained an MFA degree at the American Film Institute (Directing class of 2025).



What can begin with good intentions rooted in equality and justice can turn radical and totalitarian. The central question that interests me the most is: Is it worth killing one person you love for the benefit of an entire community? It is about the individual versus the group and how any regime, no matter its origins, can become radicalized and eventually, morally and ethically bankrupt.

SORROW DOESN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT

Directors
Josefina Montino
Martín André

Writers
Josefina Montino
Martín André
Jacinta Del Real
Jacobi Hadley

Producer
Simón Bucher

Country of Origin: Chile
Language: Spanish

A MAN SECLUDES HIMSELF IN THE FOREST WITH HIS CAT. THE GHOSTS OF HIS PAST BEGIN TO TORMENT HIM, FORCING HIM TO FACE HIS FEARS AND TRY NOT TO BE CONSUMED BY MADNESS.

Martín André (Chile, 2000) is a Chilean filmmaker. They have participated in shortfilms such as *The frase* (2023) and *Quimera* (2024).

Josefina Montino (Chile, 2000) is a Chilean filmmaker. She has worked in areas of direction, production and art.



Losses are everyday situations, almost all people can say that a family member or someone close to them has died. In these situations, they may have also lost themselves. The distance between feelings and what appears on the outside inspired the story and the character of this short film, a man who seems to have everything under control, but slowly his life falls apart in front of him.

STRIVE

Director & Writer
Jussi Rautaniemi

Producers
Mark Lwoff
Misha Jaari

Key Cast
Vilho Rönkkönen
Kuura Rossi
Laura Birn
Pekka Strang

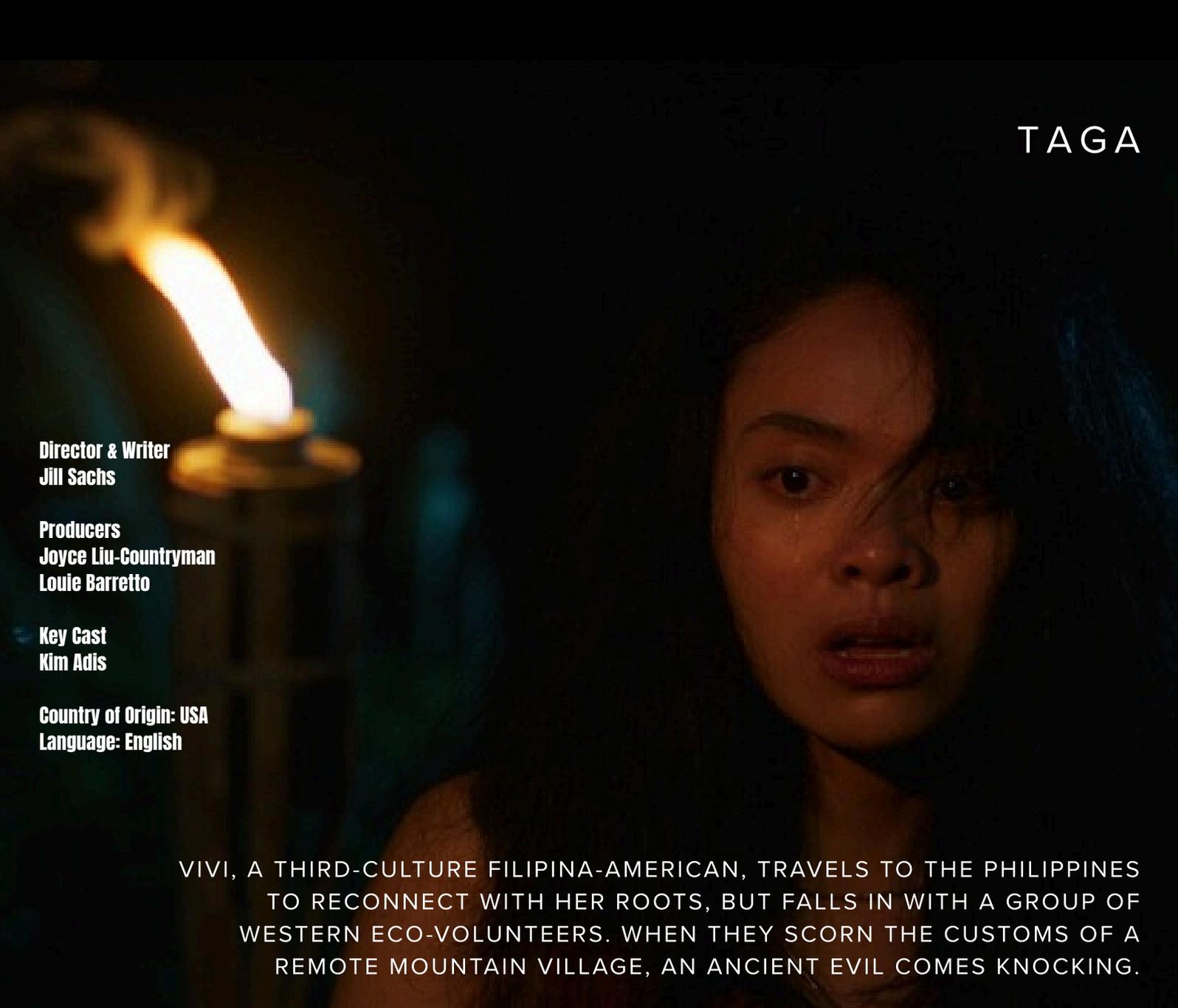
Country of Origin: Finland
Language: Finnish

IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE ESCAPES REALITY, A TEENAGE BOY NAMED TONI LONGS TO EXPERIENCE SOMETHING REAL.

Writer, director, and editor with over 15 years of experience in film editing, Jussi Rautaniemi has now written and directed his debut science fiction action short film. Rautaniemi is an award-winning film editor who has gained a reputation working on several internationally awarded feature films and documentaries, such as *Compartment no. 6* and *The Happiest day in the Life of Olli Mäki* by Juho Kuosmanen, *The Summer Book* by Charlie McDowell, *The Invisible Fight* by Rainer Sarnet, and *Aalto – The Architect of Emotions* by Virpi Suutari.



When you are young you feel immortal. The story is inspired by real tragic events of youth car accidents. I try somehow to explain to myself and simultaneously make visible the feel which leads to that kind of action. My driving force was the need to find something of your own, to break free from the confines of the boundaries set by your surroundings, parents, and society.



TAGA

Director & Writer
Jill Sachs

Producers
Joyce Liu-Countryman
Louie Barretto

Key Cast
Kim Adis

Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

VIVI, A THIRD-CULTURE FILIPINA-AMERICAN, TRAVELS TO THE PHILIPPINES TO RECONNECT WITH HER ROOTS, BUT FALLS IN WITH A GROUP OF WESTERN ECO-VOLUNTEERS. WHEN THEY SCORN THE CUSTOMS OF A REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, AN ANCIENT EVIL COMES KNOCKING.

Jill Marie Sachs is a mixed Filipina-American writer-director who uses genre storytelling to challenge oppressive narratives and amplify voices too often overlooked.

Jill earned her MFA in Directing from the American Film Institute, and her BA from the University of Chicago. Her films and music videos have screened at festivals including HollyShorts, Hawai'i International Film Festival, BendFilm, Cinequest, SLO, and FilmQuest.

When not behind the camera, Jill can often be found backpacking, wandering art museums, or chasing the uncanny – always searching for the strange and the sublime that spark her stories.



TAGA, which means 'From' in Tagalog, was born out of the existential urge that propels people to seek the truth in far-flung places... and the cultural conflict that such journeys can create. The story follows Vivi, a 'third culture' Filipina-American, who travels to the rural mountains of Luzon hoping to understand the essence of her origins. Like Vivi, I've sought out the Motherland on quests to understand my mixed identity.

TAPEWORM

Director
Daniel Rands

Writers
Daniel Rands
Sam Barrow

Producer
Ella Ritchie

Key Cast
Antonia Campbell-Hughes
CJ Beckford
Akim Bangura

Country of Origin: UK
Language: English

TRAPPED IN A CYCLE OF DEBT, YEARS AS WITNESS AND ACCESSORY TO COLD-BLOODED EXPLOITATION HAVE HARDENED WORM. A FINAL GAMBLE FOR FREEDOM ALLOWS HER A CHANCE TO REGAIN HER HUMANITY AND AUTONOMY OVER HER FINAL FATE.

Daniel Rands is a London-raised and based writer/director. His award-winning short films have garnered international acclaim, screening at prestigious BIFA & BAFTA qualifying festivals.

Daniel's work focuses on exploring power dynamics from marginalised perspectives, often drawing on his own life experiences through a heightened lens.

A recent graduate of the National Film and Television School's Directing Fiction MA program, Daniel's talent was recognised with both the BBC and Toledo Scholarships.



TV OR THE DISTURBANCE ON FOREST HILL ROAD

Director & Writer
Frederic Siegel

Producers
Marwan Abdalla Eissa
Fela Bellotto

Country of Origin: Switzerland
Language: English

SIX-YEAR-OLD DIEGO EXCEEDS HIS SCREEN TIME AND ENDS UP WITH SQUARE EYES. THIS TRIGGERS A SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENA, SEEPING THROUGH VARIOUS SCREENS IN THE APARTMENT BUILDING. WHEN POLICE OFFICERS KIM AND MIKE ARRIVE TO INVESTIGATE A NOISE COMPLAINT, THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN A CHAOTIC MIX OF REALITIES AND MUST FACE OFF AGAINST FICTIONAL THREATS COME TO LIFE.

Frederic Siegel born in 1991 in Cham, Switzerland.
2015 Bachelor of Arts in 2D Animation at the
Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts.
Founding member of the Swiss creative collective
“Team Tumult”.

Self-employed animation director, animator and
illustrator since 2016. Visiting lecturer at
Graubünden University of Applied Sciences and
Bern University of Applied Sciences.

FREDERICSIEGEL.CH



Growing up in the digital revolution of the 1990s, I was mesmerised by television screens from an early age. I became addicted to the imaginary worlds that opened up to me in them. That's why I regularly heard a very specific admonition from my parents: Don't watch TV too long, or you'll get square eyes! The threatening undertone of the statement did not let my childish imagination rest; What would happen if you actually got square eyes?

WEIRD TO BE HUMAN

Director & Writer
Jan Grabowski

Producer
Emmanuel Levy

Key Cast
Agnieszka Rajda
Michal Balicki

Country of Origin: Poland
Language: Polish

THE YEAR IS 2194. TRANSFERS BETWEEN THE DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL WORLDS ARE ROUTINE. IN SPECIALIZED FACILITIES, BODIES ARE CULTIVATED FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCES SEEKING HUMAN FORM. AT ONE SUCH FACILITY, AN OFFICER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EMBODIMENTS ARRIVES TO SPEAK WITH A BEING COMPLETING ITS TRANSFORMATION.

JAN GRABOWSKI is A storyteller working in film, visual arts, and video games. He Studied at FAMU in Prague, Czech Republic, and graduated from the Lodz Film School in Poland. Author of numerous short films shown around the world. Currently working as a Writer on “The Witcher Remake” video game.



'Weird to Be Human' ostensibly explores the future, but in truth, it examines the timeless uncertainties of human existence. In a world where digital and physical realms intertwine, artificial intelligence emerges as a symbol of the excluded. In a world saturated with information yet devoid of coherence, the need for compelling stories is perhaps greater than ever. These stories compel us to reflect on our human nature – weird, perhaps, yet the only one we possess.

WHITCH

Director & Writer
Hoku Uchiyama

Producer
Kelly King

Key Cast
Rosemary Hochschild
Alicia Blasingame
Nora Harriet

Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

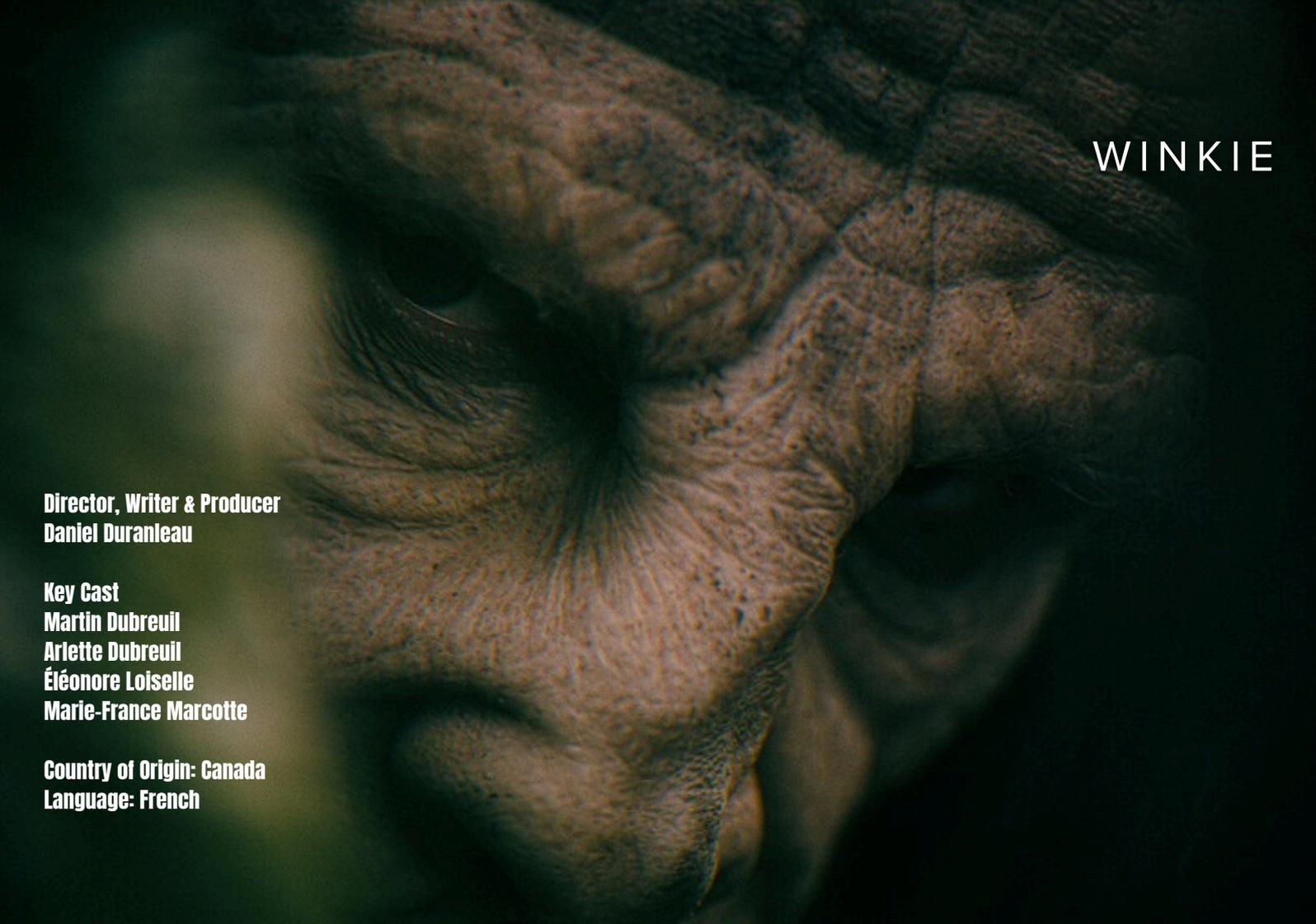
AFTER PUTTING HER DAUGHTER TO BED, AURA DISCOVERS AN INTRUDER IN HER HOUSE: AN ELDERLY LADY WHO ACTS STRANGELY FAMILIAR, AND WHO IS HELL-BENT ON PERFORMING A BLOODY RITUAL BEFORE MIDNIGHT.

Cannes Young Director Award winner Hoku Uchiyama's directing work has garnered tens of millions of online views and has been screened in festivals in the US, Europe and Asia. The work has also been featured at the LA County Museum of Art and in a series produced by the Modern Art museum Centre Pompidou of Paris.

HOKUUCHIYAMA.COM



I always got a kick out of the idea of a mythical witch crossing a person who practiced Wicca. I thought whatever mayhem that interaction produced would be fun to watch. So I decided to create it. My mission here is to frighten and tickle. I've made this movie because I love horror comedy, I think audiences will get some joy out of this, and because it reflects a type of movie that I'd like to make more of.

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a monster's face, showing its textured, scaly skin and a large, dark eye. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of its face.

WINKIE

Director, Writer & Producer
Daniel Duranleau

Key Cast
Martin Dubreuil
Arlette Dubreuil
Éléonore Loiselle
Marie-France Marcotte

Country of Origin: Canada
Language: French

AFTER DISCOVERING A YOUNG ORPHANED GIRL, A CARING MONSTER TAKES IT UPON HIMSELF TO RAISE THE CHILD AND MAKE SURE SHE STAYS OUT OF HARM'S WAY BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

Daniel Duranleau is a Canadian filmmaker who has been active on the Quebec film scene for over fifteen years. Great defender of the poetic value of movies, he shapes his cinema with fantastical imagery in order to tackle themes that are dear to him: the human psyche, family relationships and power dynamics. Following on his short film “Mizbrük” (2015), “Winkie” is the second instalment of an anticipated trilogy of films about monsters.

A portrait of Daniel Duranleau, a man with a beard and long hair, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

Winkie is a love letter to Marcel, my late father, a caring but violent man whom I both loved and feared. This father who, through my childhood eyes, revealed himself as a monster: a giant figure with erratic behaviour. Winkie was conceived to offer an empathetic look at monsters like him, those who are scarred by the human experience. My intention here is not to judge them, but to understand their intentions and traumas.

THE ZONE OF GHOST'S

Director, Writer & Producer
Alistair Frater

Key Cast
Alex McNeill
Rhys Bowen
Dillon MacBain
Malcolm McFadyen
Becca Donald
Thomas Lambert

Country of Origin: Scotland
Language: English

DISCOVERED ON VHS, A LOST EPISODE OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED 90'S TELEVISION HORROR SERIES THE ZONE OF GHOST'S. DISCOVER A NEW TYPE OF FEAR IN THIS REENACTMENT OF A TERRIFYING TRUE TALE BROUGHT TO LIFE WITH CHILLING SPECIAL EFFECTS AND STUNNING PRODUCTION VALUES DESCRIBED BY CRITICS AT THE TIME AS "FUN".

Alastair Frater is an Editor and occasionally does other film stuff too. He has worked on and created a couple short films and hopes to work on bigger projects in the future. He is known for not taking himself very seriously, and being "au chômage" ("a cinematic up-and-comer" in French)



The Zone of Ghost's started out as a serious artistic drama film about the dangers of satanic possession of ironing boards, a real issue I have faced before. Through a comedy of errors, it ended up becoming the homage to "Garth Marengi's Dark Place" that you see today!



ESCAPE TO

SI-FAN