



Wick Monet's 2nd Annual

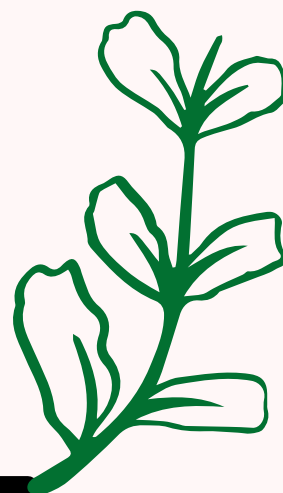
INTERNATIONAL FILM FEST

Saturday, January 13, 2024

Harris Theater

809 Liberty Theater
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

www.wickmo.net





INTRODUCTION

Short film is a remarkable medium, capturing the essence of a filmmaker's humanity in just a few poignant moments. It allows us to glimpse the colors that shape their world, offering insights into their upbringing and current perspectives. This medium unveils the filmmakers' present realities, enveloping us in the melodies that stir their souls and granting us a glimpse into their distinct stylistic choices.

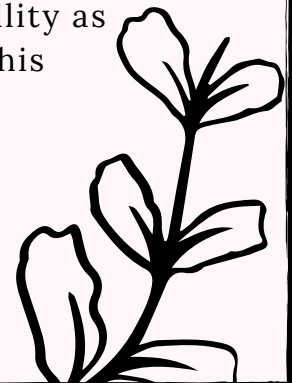
These intimate and vivid portrayals of their experiences is uniquely powerful, distinct from other art forms in its ability to connect us so directly with the artist's vision. It's this potency and depth that make it essential to share with you at the Wick Monet Film Festival.

We welcome you back to the Wick Monet Film Festival. This festival was created with the viewer's experience as the priority. Introducing the art of short film, creating a community environment and bringing quality directly to Pittsburgh are our primary focuses.

This festival gives viewers the opportunity to experience a wide variety of stories from around the world. We are proud to present films that explore the human condition and challenge our understanding of the world. You will discover a celebration of creativity's power. We encourage you to be curious. Laugh. Be sad. Allow yourself to be who you need to be.

At Wick Monet, we consider any exploration of vulnerability as bravery. We are humbled by you choosing to join us on this adventure. Thank you

Cornelius Martin
Founder & Member of Wick Monet



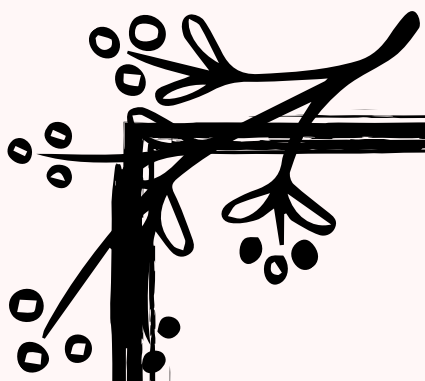


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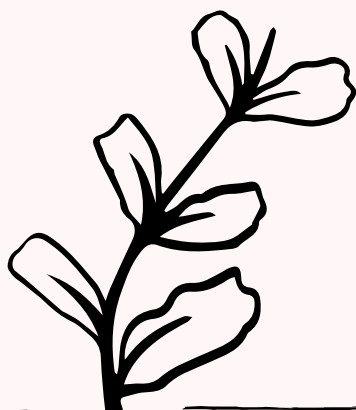


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**WICK
MONET
FILM
FESTIVAL**





Block 1

12:30 - 2:30PM

A SOUL'S WINDOW
22:37

DROPPED
1:59

DON JAVIER
4:10

LETOUR
6:49

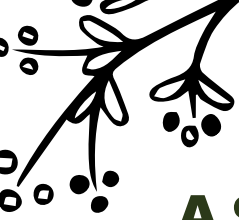
INDIAN SUMMERS
26:00

CYCLE OF WOMEN
9:41

FRONTLINE
25:00

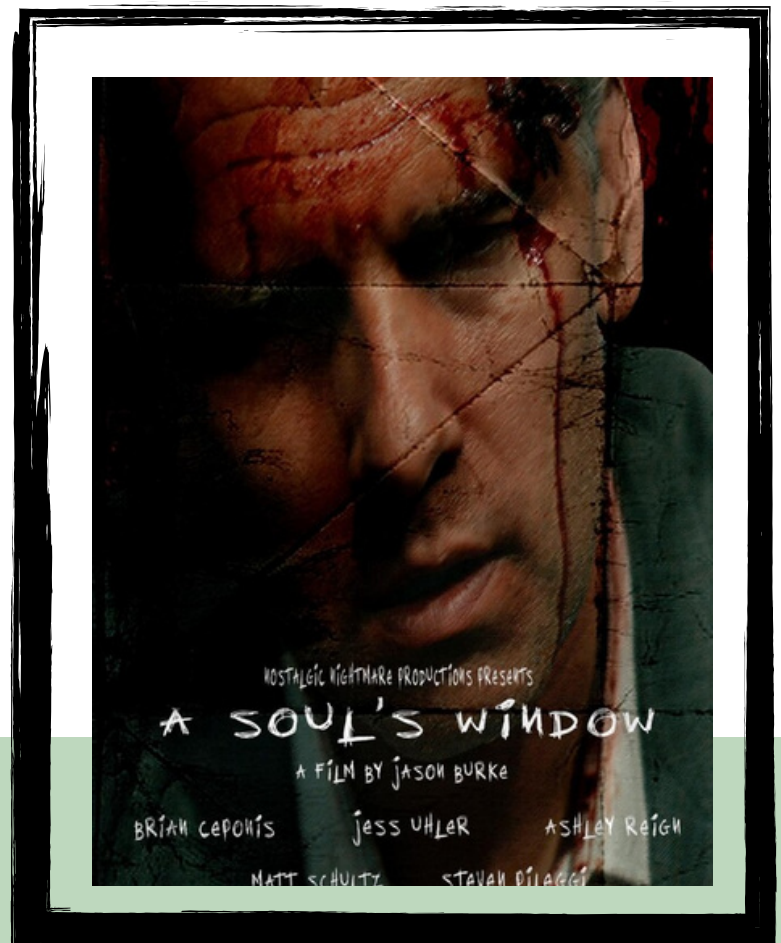
FOOL
17:37





A SOUL'S WINDOW

**DIRECTOR:
JASON BURKE**



Grant Herman was a master businessman, who made his living off of bad deals and fast-talking. But his world was turned upside down when he woke up face-to-face with his accusers. The man who has played judge all of his life, now has to withstand a jury of his peers. What will be left of them by the end of this brutal meeting with deadly consequences? This short psychological body-horror film is the latest offering from Nostalgic Nightmare Productions. Follow this intense thriller as we dare to ask the question: When you gaze deeply into the windows of your soul, what is looking back at you?

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES



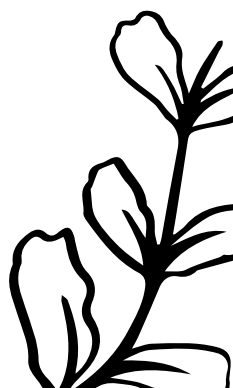
DROPPED

A man is chased into the woods and must fight for his life... but why?



Director Biography: Nathaniel G. Henry

Directing concentration at George Mason University with a passion for cinematography and a budding interest in action filmmaking.



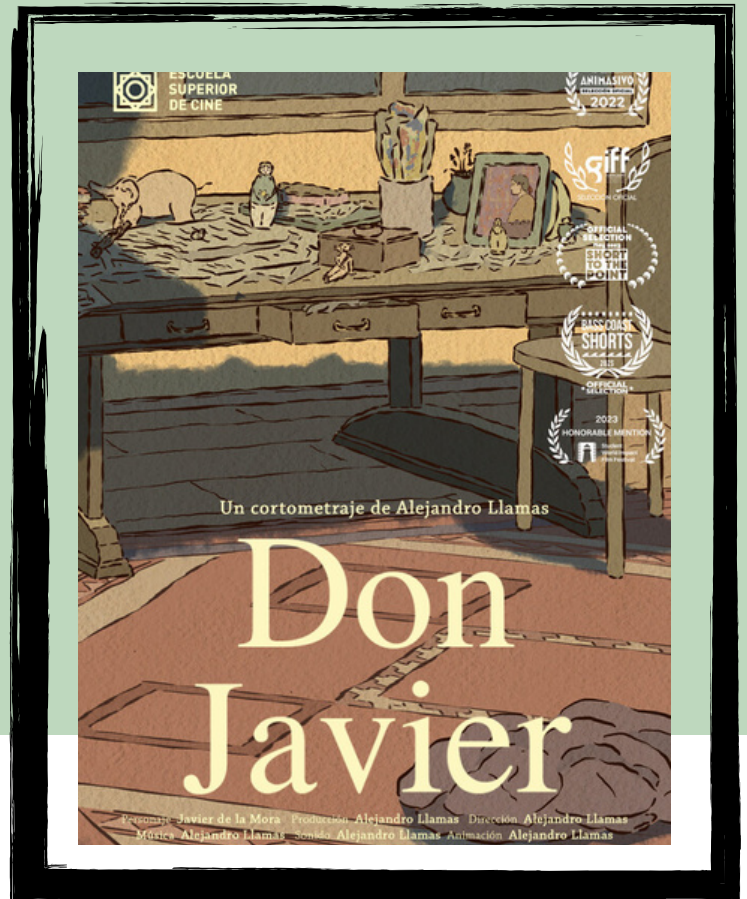
DON JAVIER

The portrait of Javier de la Mora, presented by his daily activities, going from the day to the night and from the superficial to the more intimate part of his life.



Director Biography: Don Javier

I dedicated my whole childhood to having fun surrounded by friends, playing soccer, tennis, making athletism, skating, laughing; and later, going to parties, small reunions, listening to good music, drinking and not concerning about nothing.

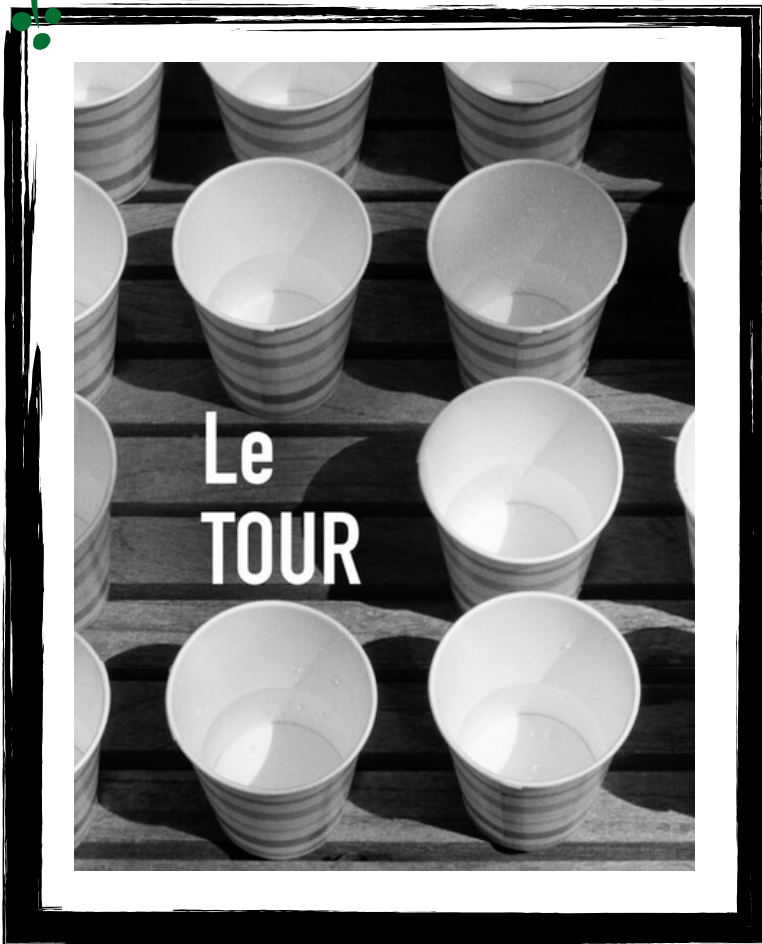


By the age of 18, I start to breathe a beautiful sense of admiration for beauty and life itself; and along this admiration a terrible necessity to change my life.

I studied for almost two years philosophy, but it was too academic for me; by then I had already taken drawing, scriptwriting, photography and piano lessons. I knew I wanted to dedicate my life to writing, drawing and playing music. Animation came to me as the perfect communion. I enjoyed and got deliciously obsessed with the career and most of all with my thesis project, "Don Javier".

I got graduated the 14th of march, 2023 with honorific mention. "Don Javier" has been selected in two festivals, in Mexico and France.

I look forward to work freely in any of the areas of art and live out of it. I feel a special inlination to the movement of human beings, colours, and literature.



LE TOUR

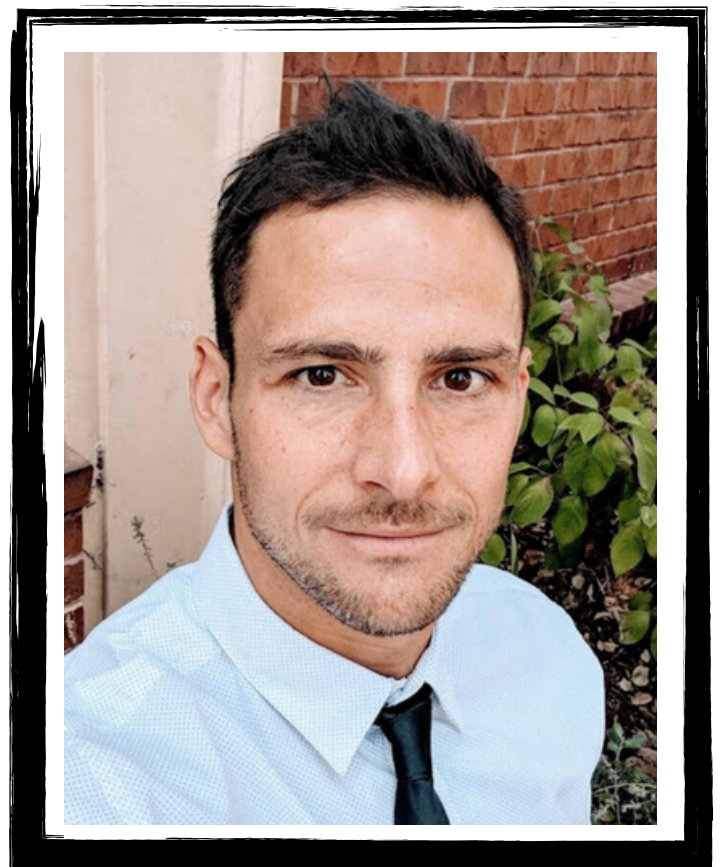
A stubborn and unfriendly cyclist learns to enjoy the moment, after a supernatural encounter in a road race.

Director Biography: Johnny Yager

Johnny is a writer/director from Denver. He specializes in off-beat and fun stories.

Director Statement: Johnny Yager

Enjoy the Voyage



FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES





INDIAN SUMMERS

Vincent, a junior contractor for hydro-electric dam extensions, is on a professional trip to northern Quebec in the fall. Instead of doing this new work, he decides to find this lake, "a great surface of water, which reflects our souls"...

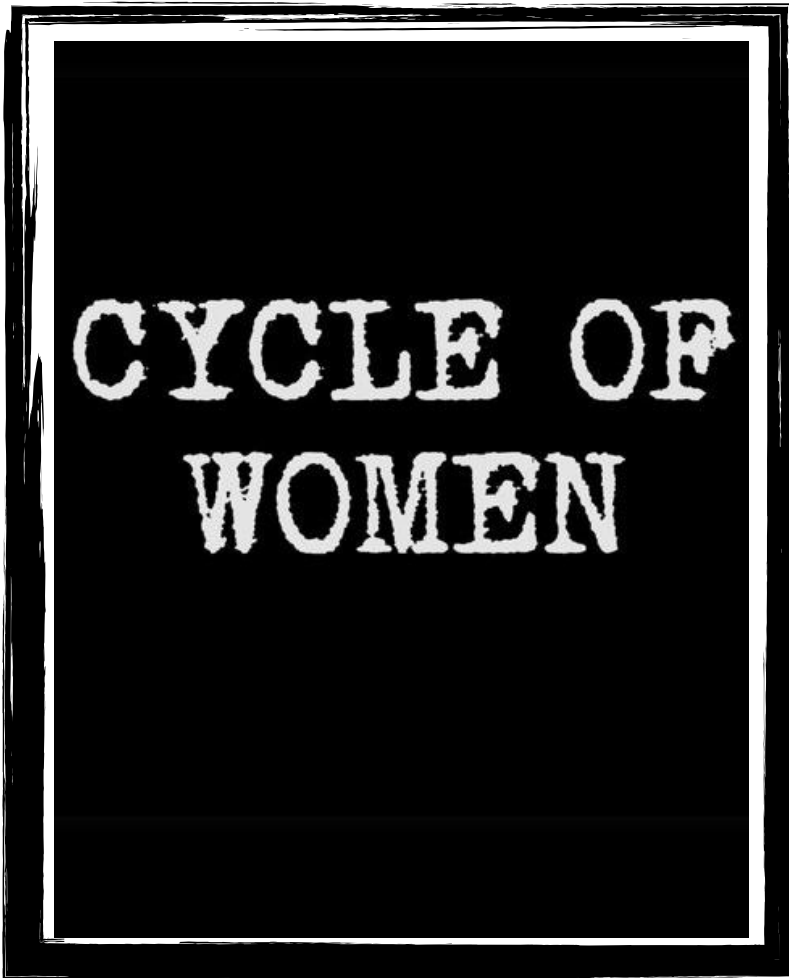
DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: NICOLAS HOVER

Trained as a French editor, Nicolas Houver became a young director & scriptwriter with a first experience of fiction filmed in Quebec. Living in Paris, he edited several award-winning shorts from 2005 to 2021, one of which received The Silver Crane for Best Lithuanian Short Film 2013 (The Swimmer by Gabriele Urbonaite) and another one was part of the La Quinzaine en Action 2019 programme (La Hachouma by Achraf Ajraoui). Nicolas has also been editing feature films since 2009, one of which was selected at ACID 2010 (Flowers of Evil by David Dusa) as well as in many other renowned international festivals.

As a young director Nicolas is inspired by real life situations through his passion for documentaries to transpose them into fictional forms more comfortable to follow a fictional narrative. In 2012 he was part of the Berlnal Talents selection at the Berlin International Film Festival. In 2018 he followed a screenplay training course, and today Nicolas is developing new projects.

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: FRANCE





CYCLE OF WOMEN

When Almena, a black woman in Europe, is desperate to have a child she entrust a doctor and it ends in her demise.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: AMIRA F JACKSON

Amira F Jackson is a Pittsburgh native and is a current senior at Muhlenberg College. She is studying Film and Theatre, with a huge passion for Africana Studies. During her time at Muhlenberg Amira has made a total of 4 short films that highlight underrepresented communities. She hopes to continue shedding light on the stories that go unnoticed.



DIRECTOR STATEMENT:

"Cycle of Women" is a fictional horror film, but is inspired by historical events. By combining the world of fiction and the reality of the past, I hope that people will learn something from this film!

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: CZECH REPUBLIC



FRONTLINE

Frontline follows a resilient group of women who use running, friendship, and adventure as their antidote to burnout from working in healthcare. Together, they're training to trail run Mont Blanc, circumnavigating Europe's highest peak over 10 days and 112 miles. Their journey is transformative.

Director Biography - Steep Motion, Nicole Southwell

We are filmmakers who love the STEEP side of life - mountains, oceans, and everything in between.





FOOL

Costa, a daydreamer, stands at a crossroad between the unsatisfying reality he lives in and his fantasies. Choosing which path to follow doesn't come easy for him.




Director Biography: Mateja Kardelis

Mateja Kardelis, born in 2001. in Novi Sad, Serbia made his first important contacts to dramatic arts in various youth theatre collectives, where he engaged as an actor and assistant director. He also has experience of working as a TV actor and playwright.

Currently he's studying in the third year of Theatre Directing at the Academy of Performing Arts Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg where he continues to explore different ways of artistic expression.





Block 2

3:30 - 5:30PM

Lasagna
07:30

《Dusk Bye》
19:03

Keep Moving
17:00

**Carson Bigbee: The Pirate of
America's Pastime**
10:35

**Don't forget to take
medicines on time**
2:27

The Forest of Souls
5:00

Bearing
07:01

I SHALL PROTECT
6:00

Ivory Tulle
8:39

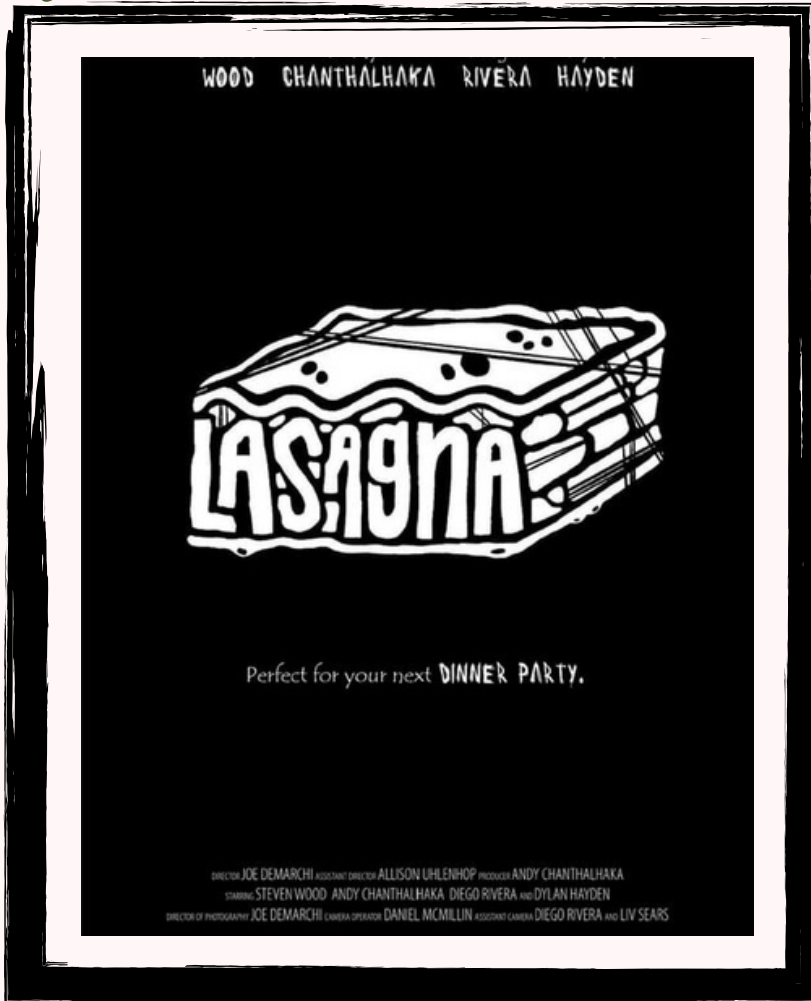
Playback
9:01

Frontline
25:00

Amphibia
14:47

Roadkill Jamboree
5:51





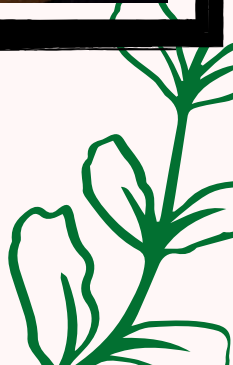
LASAGNA

Join Steven Wood as he prepares his famous 3-layer lasagna, featuring a step by step recipe that's sure to impress at your next dinner party. Just don't plan on leftovers, they'll be fighting for the last bite!



Director Biography - Joe DeMarchi

I am a recent graduate from the film program at KU. I have worked on several student films in different roles. My interest is in camera but I am open to working in any position! I am freelancing as a PA in the KC area and am excited to gain more professional experience!





《DUSK BYE》

Story Summary: A young director who is heartbroken writes a script to bid farewell to the past and doesn't know how to end it. The content of the script reflects his emotions. During the process of trying to let go, he encounters many emotional fluctuations, until he meets a girl who is in the same mood and improves the ending of the script. After the director discovers that the definition of dusk is a diverse choice, he also faces making his own emotional choices



Director Biography: 隆鑫王 (Wang Longxin)

Studied at Wuhan Media College, majoring in film and television photography and production, a member of the Wuhan Film and Television Artists Association, a judge of the 2022 Hengdian Cultural

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: CHINA



S Honor Award, the campus manager of the FBS New Youth Script Festival, a young student director and photographer, started short film creation in high school, participated in multiple short film filming and graduation works, and won many awards. The director group of the preheating program for the 2021 CCTV Winter Olympics promoted director, photography, and promotion planning.



KEEP MOVING

a journey through grief

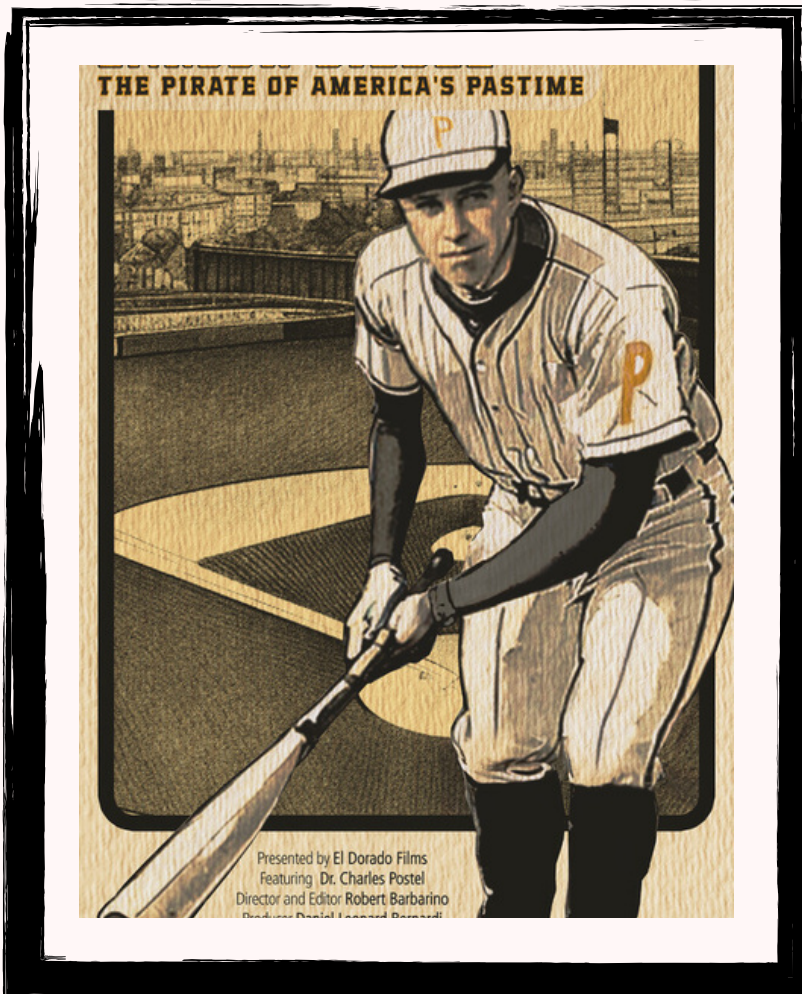


Director Biography: Colin Harabedian

Colin Harabedian is a dancer, choreographer, and filmmaker from Carlsbad, California. He has been a professional dancer since 2018 years and has been working as a professional photographer and videographer since 2021. It is his love of movement that inspires his work, using movement as the language of communication for his films. He believes that movement is for everyone, and can be understood as a universal way of communication. It is this that drives the types of ways he develops his narrative processes and stories that he aims to tell.

Director Statement

“Keep Moving”, is a dance film expressing the five stages of grief, and how we cope in those different stages. The film tracks five different people, each going through a different stage, and explores how people can be more connected through times of great hardship than they may realize



CARSON BIGBEE: THE PIRATE OF AMERICA'S PASTIME

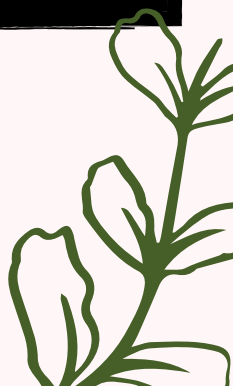
In the whirlwind of early 20th Century America, from the Progressive Era to the Great Depression, Carson "Skeeter" Bigbee's rise from rural Oregon to World Series hero with the Pittsburgh Pirates embodies the ambition, resilience, and transformation of a nation on the brink of modernity.



Director Biography: Robert Barbarino

Robert is an independent filmmaker with experience in nonfiction and fiction filmmaking. He has edited both feature length and short documentaries. He directed *Con Moto: The Alexander String Quartet*, which was a winner for "Best Short Doc," 2018 Classical Arts Film Festival and was programmed with KQED's *TrulyCA* 12th season. He earned a Masters of Fine Arts in Filmmaking at San Francisco State University and Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies at California State University Sacramento.

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES

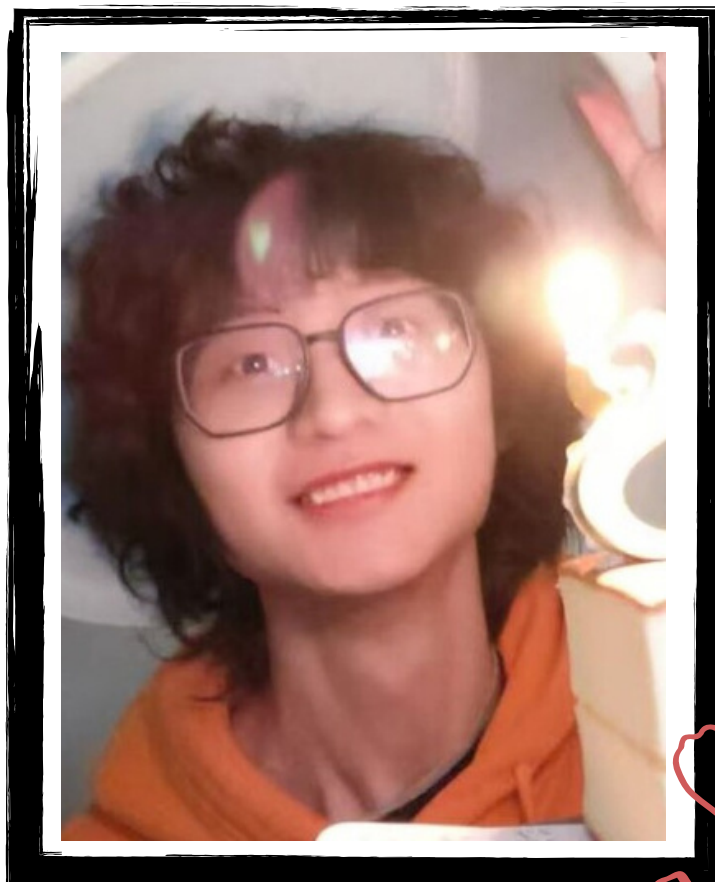




DON'T FORGET TO TAKE MEDICINES ON TIME

All the collage materials are made from collected waste paper. Due to the severe air pollution in our area, whenever it rains in summer, my rhinitis becomes very serious, bad mood keeps popping up like mushrooms after the rain. I hope this film can remind me not to forget to take rhinitis medication every night before going to bed, and I also hope this animation can raise people's attention to the environment.

Director: Xiaoxuan Han



FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: CHINA

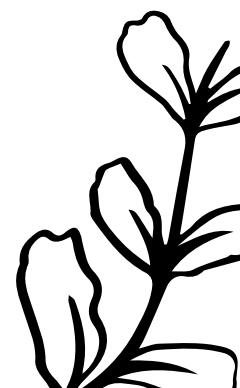
THE FOREST OF SOULS

Mathilde is a young accoustician. Fascinated by the power of sounds, she wants to invent a new way of travelling through time and find the souls of the departed...



Director Biography: Pierre Gaffié

After some years in front of the camera, as a film reviewer for French TV channel "Canal plus", Pierre decided it was time for images to replace words and that the bravest move should be to stay behind the camera. He has directed shorts like "The dolphin skin city" or "Apocalypse notes" which try to portray human beings confronted to unexpected challenges. He teaches cinema at the Efab school in Paris and currently works on his first feature film.





BEARING

An expecting mother asks her friend to cancel the gender reveal party, but she refuses to explain why.



Director: Veronika Hanzenko



FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES



I SHALL PROTECT

Distant from their son and fraught with emotional conflict, a traditional father takes his son on a fateful hunting trip.



Director Biography: Angelo Pitsillis

Angelo Pitsillis is a South African-Cypriot writer and director from Larnaca Cyprus, currently based in Los Angeles. Angelo is a Junior pursuing .



his B.F.A. In Film and Television Production at USC. Coming from an international background he is passionate about making films influenced by different backgrounds, cultures and languages. With a background in STEM and pursuing a minor in Astronomy, Angelo has a deep interest for research and history.





IVORY TULLE

It's Teresa's wedding day and everything is as beautiful as can be: the outdoor garden is in full bloom on a bright, sunny day in the summer, the decorations are tastefully designed and composed, and the bride and groom look the best they've ever been, the mother and father of the bride are present and happy to witness this event.

Things are unfortunately not what they seem: months before Teresa's wedding, she had decided to uninvite her estranged father, much to the dismay of her wedding planner. Despite his warning, Teresa decides to push through with her

decision. In a bridal gown fitting she has with her friends and mother, Myra, present, the truth is revealed. This lights a fuse in Myra and an argument ensues, which ends with her slapping Teresa. Shocked by what had just unfolded, Teresa relents and reconsiders her decision to uninvite her father. Teresa's wedding is shown once more, but after learning of the history behind it, one must question if the wedding was a happy one after all.



DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: JAX GUILLEN

Prior to entering Toronto Film School (TFS), I worked as an Art Director in a creative agency for four (4) years back home in the Philippines, making me no stranger to conceptualizing and executing work that is both visually appealing and effective to viewers. This experience has been instrumental to all the work I've done throughout my time at TFS.

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: CANADA



I've worked as a Production Designer on Jennifer Bendle's film, Runners; Nico LaFramboise's film, Pass or Fail; Fernanda Molina's film, Lonely Love; Steven Higgs' film, Static; Alec Stephen's film, Hyperactivity; as a Production Manager and Hair & Makeup on Thevin Gamage's film, Invited Guest; and an Art Assistant on Babak, a Canadian Film Centre-backed short film, and on Brian Quintero's film, Leave Us Alone. Safe to say, I've maximized my time at TFS gaining set experience and I'm more than ready to pursue my goal of being a film director who aspires to tell Filipino stories.

PLAYBACK



With hope lingering by a thread, a fragile old man suffers alone in a post-apocalyptic world. He is guided by the expectation that he will one day reunite with the only person in his life that's still family, until things take a turn for the worse.

Director: Matt Herzog



FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES



GOING DOWN

Two guys can't keep their cool on elevator, and it starts going down.



Director Biography: Nathaniel G. Henry

Directing concentration at George Mason University with a passion for cinematography and a budding interest in action filmmaking.





Director: Ian Odermatt

AMPHIBIA

“Amphibia follows a young man who just moved into a new apartment during a series of nearby disappearances. And he starts to suspect his new roommate is up to something sinister. As good thrillers are known for, the short remains terrifying as the tension builds and builds. The ominous elements make the space between the action - the standard daily moments - feel like a death sentence. The payoff is explosive, but it’s how you get there - how Amphibia never lets you be comfortable - that’s the magic.”

- Louisville Film Society



FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES



ROADKILL JAMBOREE

When a teenage girl faces a deadline for a drawing contest, she must find inspiration in a blank white page.



Director Biography: Meghan G. Graham

Meghan Graham is a stop-motion fabricator graduating from San Jose State University. She believes that life is better with a good sense of humor and hopes that shows through her work.





Ratsel and Gretel
3:22

A Little Glass of Rum
19:53

Aside
18:00

PIVOT
8:39

Block 3

6:30 – 8:30PM

The Forest Drum
1:54

Letter to Simone
14:57

**An American Cowboy
in London**
6:48

Oorworm
5:32

My Life in Six Pieces
10:51

After the Storm
17:57





RATSEL AND GRETEL

A naive, hungry rat finds a cottage in the woods and decides to investigate it. However, a clumsy old witch discovers him after he accidentally frees her caged child who she was going to eat. The witch becomes enraged by him and is determined to get revenge on the rat.



Director: Nathan Miller



FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES



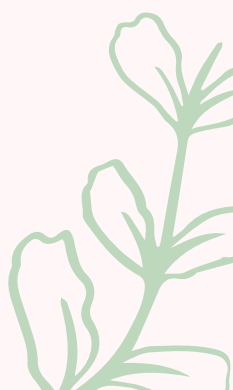
A LITTLE GLASS OF RUM

“Don’t We Look Pretty?” is an experimental short film and photography project centered around the relationship between unnaturally colored afros and blackface in clowning history.



Director: Lauren Keller

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES





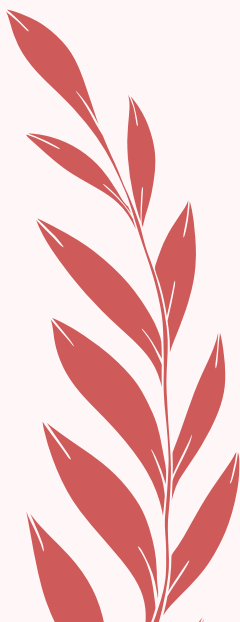
ASIDE

A young woman studies at a theater school. She is finally achieving her dream, but at what cost? At the cost of losing herself..?



**Director: Sara-Maude
Catellier**

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: CANADA



PIVOT

Upon receiving admission to a prestigious graduate dance program in New York City, a passionate and overworked Anjani is a train ticket away from the life of her dreams. After she breaks the news to her boyfriend Laksh, his impulsive willingness to move for her causes Anjani to question the future of their relationship. The collision between his aimless nature and her unwavering goals drives this codependent couple into psychological warfare.

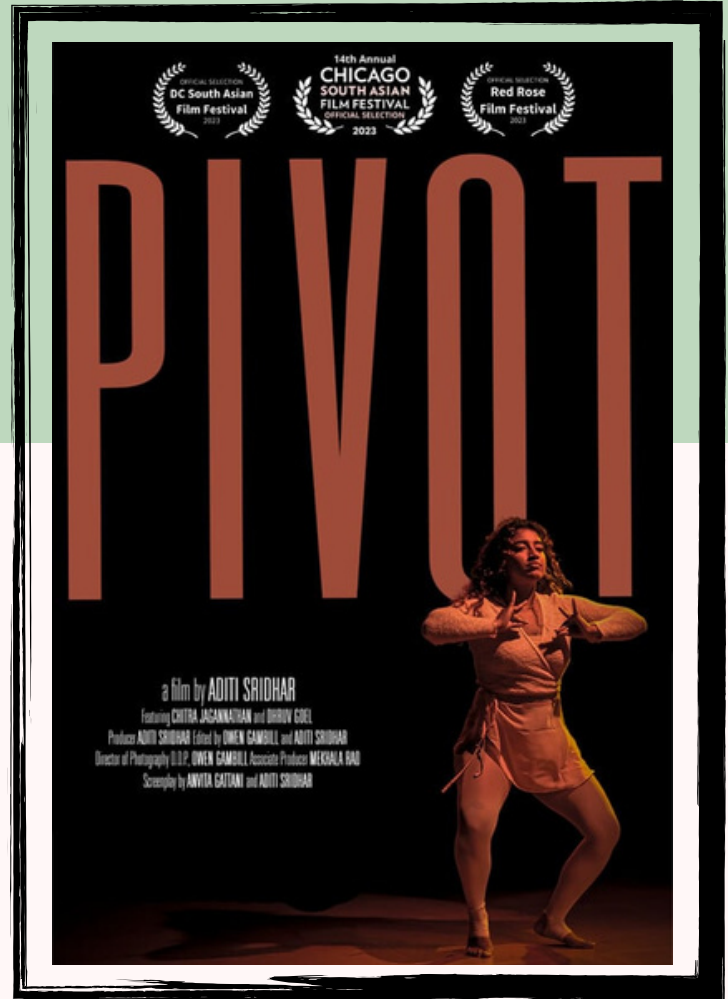


DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: ADITI SRIDHAR

Aditi Sridhar (she/her) is a writer, director, & producer dedicated to telling culturally specific stories that inspire and challenge others to expand their worldview. Her experiences of growing up in the small town of Johnstown, Pennsylvania have inspired her to create opportunities for underrepresented voices through artistic collaboration in film and theatre.

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES

PIVOT blurs the past and the present during Anjani's rehearsal in a dance studio. Her original choreography mirrors the agony from the altercation while she drives herself into mental and physical fatigue. Will she let pure passion dominate over her only pillar of support?



Aditi recently graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and Frederick Honors College with a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production. She also spent a semester at the University of London, Birkbeck in collaboration with the Derek Jarman Lab, studying under Laura Mulvey. She is currently producing a feature documentary about Pulitzer-Prize-winning playwright August Wilson and is in post-production for her second short film, ALOO POORI.

Aditi has worked at Warner Brothers Pictures and graduated from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts Gold Rising Program, where she was selected to be a Trophy Presenter at the 95th Academy Awards.



THE FOREST DRUM

A monster attempts to make friends with a drum he finds in the woods



DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: ASHTON POLZK

Ashton Polak is an animator and filmmaker that loves to experiment with materials and the creative process as a way to create works that are unique in their aesthetic and narrative.

While Polak was born in Cleveland, OH, they moved to Pittsburgh, PA at a young age and has lived there for most of their life. Polak is driven creatively by their deep love of music and films, looking to meld the inspiration gained from both the sonic and the visual. While working in a variety of mediums, Polak's work can often be seen to have a DIY aesthetic that's not afraid to show the hand of the artist.

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UNITED STATES



Ashton Polak is a current student within the Rochester Institute of Technology's School of Film and Animation BFA Program, focusing on Stop Motion Animation





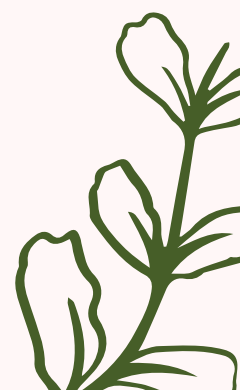
LETTER TO SIMONE

One Saturday in spring, Simone, 17, receives a letter that will be a source of endless anguish. The strong ties with her sick father, André, although she loves him as much as he scares her, sometimes take up too much space in her life and prevent her from imagining a life elsewhere.



Director Biography: Eléna Garcia

I joined La Fémis in the distribution program, after studying communications. *Lettre à Simone* is my first short film, written and directed with the help of students at the school. I'm also a distribution programmer.





AN AMERICAN COWBOY IN LONDON

A naive, hungry rat finds a cottage in the woods and decides to investigate it. However, a clumsy old witch discovers him after he accidentally frees her caged child who she was going to eat. The witch becomes enraged by him and is determined to get revenge on the rat.



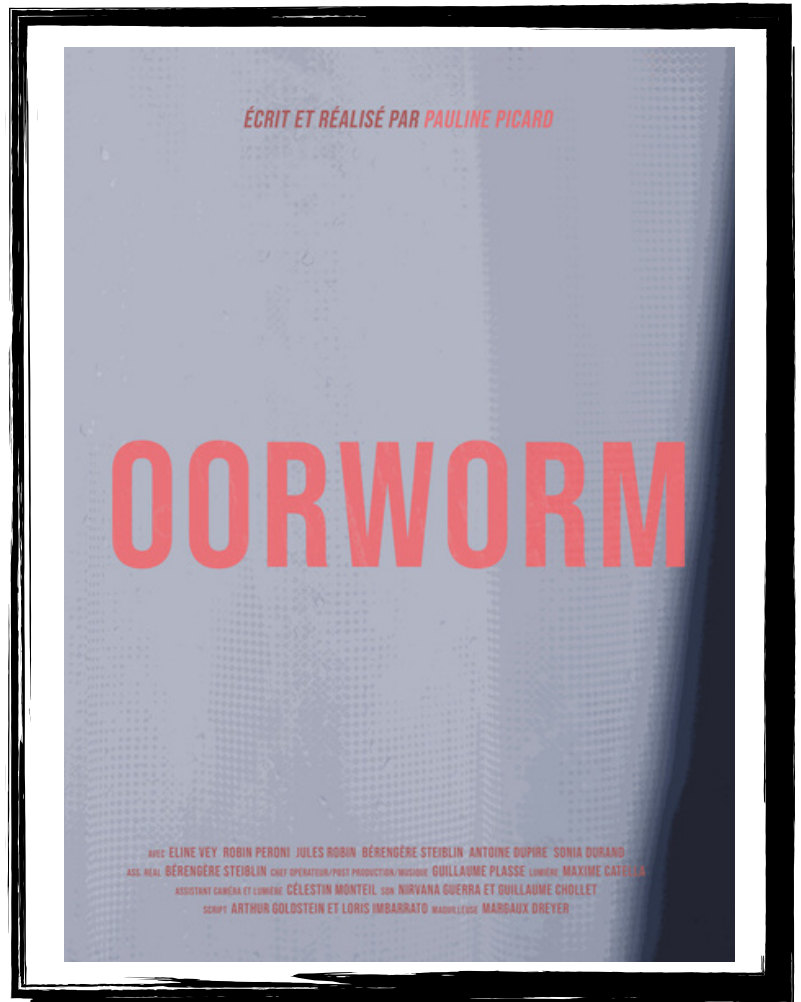
Director: Zoe Fuller





OORWORM

Edith has had a song stuck in her head for several days. How will she get it out?



Director: Pauline Picard

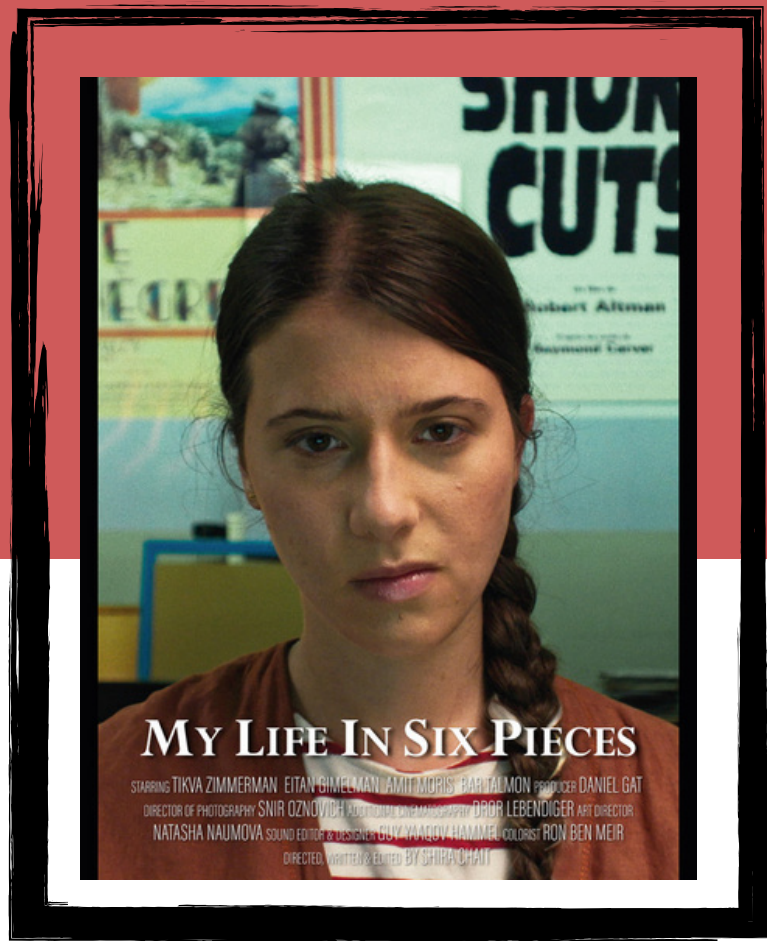


FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: FRANCE



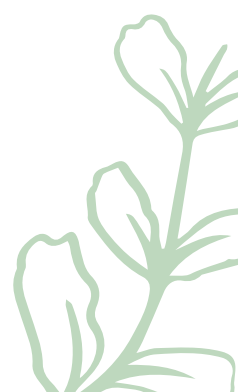
MY LIFE IN SIX PIECES

Six portraits of the life and love of an Israeli American girl growing up in Israel.



Director Biography - Shira Chait

Shira Chait is an American-Israeli director and colorist. She is a graduate of Tel Aviv University's dual-degree in Film Studies and American Studies and a current MFA film student at the University of Texas at Austin. Shira's films focus on the liminality of national and personal identity, and especially on the experience of those in the seams between cultures.





AFTER THE STORM

After another argument with his father Marco, Enzo, 14, leaves the house and goes aiming at car with a soccer ball, with his friend Arthur. The ball finally hits a car and its passengers violently attack Arthur. This event will provoke an unprecedented confrontation between Enzo and Marco.



Director Biography - Brice Veneziano

French filmmaker & screenwriter, Brice Veneziano studied screenwriting at University, while training in photography, film editing and directing actors, then he works on postproduction of documentaries. His desire to become a director started very early and he made his first amateur film at 15 and won a prize at Très Courts Film Festival.

FILM COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: ISRAEL

Since, he has directed about ten independent short films, including Silence is deadly (2018), about the hunt for homosexuals in Chechnya, twenty festival selections and 8 prizes around the world ; and The Runaway (La Fugue - 2016), awareness short film produced voluntarily for the French Child Protection Center, broadcast on french TV channels.

Currently, Brice has just finished his first produced film, After the storm (Après l'orage), a eighty minutes short film about a conflicting father-son relationship and the emancipation of a teenager. The screenplay was finalist for the Scenario Label of the Maison du Film in 2017.





Special thanks to...

Wick Monet Team

Rachel An
KB Breedlove
William Hollis
Kiyomi Knox
Katie Larrimer
Claire Lindsey
Morgan Ward
Lucy Wydeven

Family

Cornelius Martin

Music

Soul Raydio

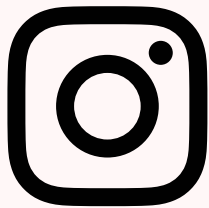
Harris

Theater

Thank You
Very Much

WICK MONET · 2024

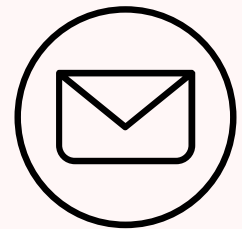
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