

BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL

2021 PROGRAMME

THE BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL IN THE MIDLANDS

Welcome to the 7th Beeston Film Festival. We are delighted to offer a week-long programme of amazing, entertaining, moving, and stimulating films produced by film makers across the globe under the most trying of conditions.

The programming team have been humbled and grateful for the submissions received this year despite the pandemic. Never before has a selection process been so hard and so challenging because of the volume of high-quality films we had to review. Hats off to those industrious and determined film makers across the world.

Last year, we were forced to close down the in-person festival and this year, once again, the festival will be hosted online. The team worked hard to utilise Facebook Watch parties as a method of screening

the films. We contacted film makers who understood perfectly well the challenges everyone was facing at the time and provided us with the consent necessary to put their films online. The result was a 10-day festival where 95% of the films that we had planned to screen in person were screened online. Moreover, all those efforts were worthwhile as we managed to reach a huge international audience. One of the main drivers behind organising a Film Festival is to provide a platform for films and film makers, and this we managed to achieve spectacularly.

In December 2020 we made the decision that the festival would once again be online only. It was a difficult decision to make but the data before us made it obvious that an in-person festival would not be possible. However, this decision gave us the opportunity to plan a much better online festival than the previous year

This year we are proud to offer for the first time a programme of films from the perspective of the LGBT+ plus community, under the banner title, "Pride". Over recent years we had received sufficient wonderful submissions to make us realise there was a voice to be heard and a platform to be given. The "Pride" programme is one of 19 programmes part of the festival this year, from 22nd -28th March. On Sunday 28th March, 9PM, on our Facebook page you will find our award programme, when the B'Oscar winners for 2021 will be announced. Once again, welcome to the festival and enjoy.

– John Currie,
Festival Director

Our Beeston Oscar, known as the B'Oscar, is designed by talented local artist, Bec Joy.

WEDNESDAY 25TH / 20:00-22:00

GRAND OPENING

Opening night of the 7th Beeston Film Festival



THE APPLE OF MY EYES

FRANÇOIS SZABOWSKI
FRANCE

.....
An eye surgeon has to operate on the man who provoked his daughter's death.



DRY LEAVES

ALI SOHAIL JAURA
INDIA

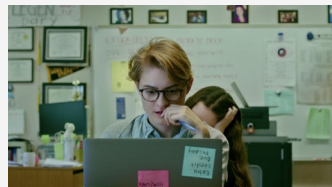
.....
Zahida arrives at a home for the old, believing her son will take her back after a week. Hesitant and apprehensive, she meets Farhat, who is full of hope, but she starts to realise that the future might be different from her expectations.



MR. SAM

ZEUS KONTOYANNIS
USA

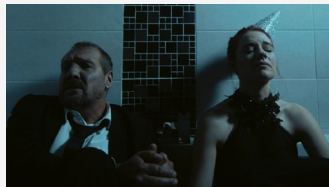
.....
Sam is finally ready to tell his mother he is gay but is he ready to reveal that the love of his life... is a corpse?



WHAT KIND OF DAY HAS IT BEEN?

ELIJAH REYNOLDS
USA

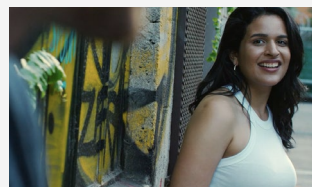
.....
Three High school students go through their stressful, but normal day. Everything is totally ordinary, until its not.



LUTHER, MICHAEL AND HER

PENELOPE YEULET
UK

.....
Two old friends become unintentionally reacquainted as they both hideout from a funeral gathering. The confined space and awkward tension forces them to confront each other and the collapse of their relationship.



BOHEMIA

SAMUEL KAPERSKI
FRANCE

.....
Paul is a young bohemian artist living in Los Angeles. At the end of a modest show he gives, he meets a young woman. He doesn't know it yet but it will lead him from episode to episode.



// *A nicely conceived social situation and some razor-sharp dialogue distinguish this film.* //

- Simon Leyden on Luther, Michael and Her

MONDAY 22ND / 20:00-21:30

STUDENT NIGHT

A collection of stories by student film makers



“ *Wonderful, witty, powerful,
and crafted with a
surgeon’s precision!* ”

– John Currie on
A Small Cut



A SMALL CUT

MARLEEN VALIEN
GERMANY

The uptight Jewish finance director of a lavish Baroque court is forced to convince his hot-headed young ruler to get a circumcision.



MOSHE AND AMIRA

ELIOT GELBERG- WILSON
UK

When a Jewish boyfriend and Muslim girlfriends families meet for the first time, an unexpected incident threatens there relationship.



PUNISHMENT

JALAL VEISI
IRAN

As a punishment, a soldier is relocated from the field to the bureaucratic archive division. He meets and falls in love with a girl outside his garrison.



THE BITTERSWEET BANQUET

MOLLY FENN
UK

The grotesque world of the upper class is represented through a family dinner gone wrong. As the night progresses, the servant, Cat, forces each family member to confront their true self.



THE CURIOSITY OF EDWARD PRATT

THOMAS SANDLER
BELGIUM

A glimpse into the life of adventurer, Edward Pratt and the first circumnavigation of the globe on a unicycle.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BOY

NIKILAS BAUER
GERMANY

When Daan, an autistic boy with a unique perspective on the world, accidentally kills his sister Millie’s pet bird, emotions overflow.



BETWEEN EARTH AND THE MOON

ANNA KARÍN LÁRUSDÓTTIR & HEKLA EGILS, ICELAND

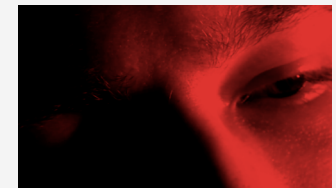
Two years after the mysterious disappearance of their eldest son, an immigrant father, a mother and their youngest son encounter alienation within their broken family.



PERSISTENCE OF THE PAST

JOSEPH CASSIDY
UK

Ruth is an elderly Jewish woman who, after surviving the Nazi regime, knows no accommodation can ever be made to anti-semitism.



HIS REMINDER

DREW SPENNY
USA

‘His Reminder’ was filmed entirely by Drew inside his apartment during the Fall of 2020 quarantine, solely utilizing phone controlled LED lights for lighting.

TUESDAY 23RD / 18:00-19:30

DRAMA – SESSION 1

A collection of films from our Drama submissions



SANDIER

MICHAEL CHEREAU
FRANCE

Night has just fallen. Its time to go to sleep, except for Sandier whose hard work has only just begun. On his bike, with a canvas bag full of sand in the back, he crosses the city to put the children to sleep. But then his bike disappears.



NO PLACE

GABRIEL AMARAL
BRAZIL

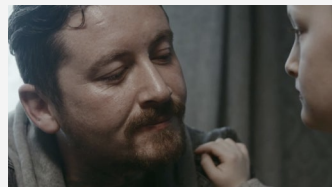
When Nego discovers that the cacao farm he lives and works on is going to be sold, he must face not only the loss of his home and job but also the daily contact he has with the land he cherishes so much.



LIMBO

GHASIDEH GOLMAKANI
IRAN

A former Iraqi sniper, takes refuge in Iran and begins to tattoo the names of all the soldiers he has killed in the conflicts and wars. The last name is tattooed by a young Iranian, who is asked for a strange favour.



LET'S TALK ABOUT GEORGE

NICK NEVERN
UK

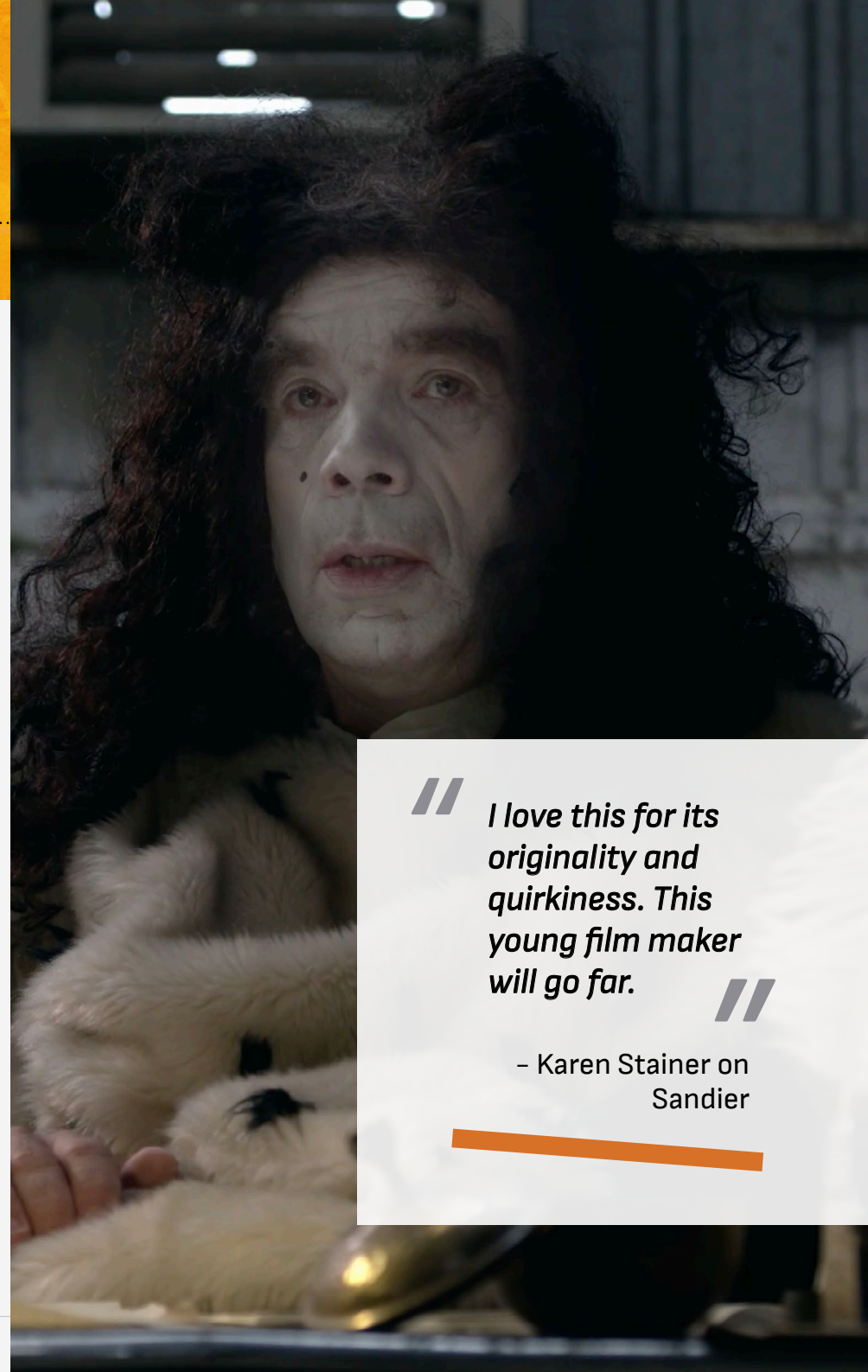
A young man is brought to the brink after his ex-partner refuses to let him see his daughter. Mired in drink and drug abuse, he tries to forget his troubles and struggles to talk to those around him.



SHOAL

TAMMES BERNSTEIN
UK

In an isolated coastal town, Eliza works at the local fish factory while her fisherman dad goes out to sea. When an apparent accident happens, rumours start spreading and Eliza's relationship with her father is put to the test.



"I love this for its originality and quirkiness. This young film maker will go far."

– Karen Stainer on Sandier

TUESDAY 23RD / 20:00-21:30

WOMEN'S VOICES

Are you listening?



BITTEN

HELENA OBORSKA
POLAND

Zofia spends the summer holidays in a holistic centre when a man from her past appears in the hotel. Even though Zofia recognizes his face, he acts like he has seen her for the very first time.



MAUDE

TOBY FROW
UK

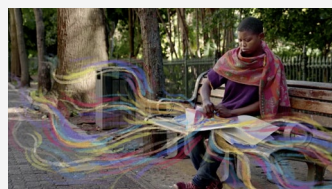
When retired housewife Maude wins a cruise for two, her hope of escape from her state marriage is placed on Henry, her local shop keeper.



PORTRAIT

KEIR SIEWERT
UK

An industrious model sets up a shoot with a predatory photographer, notorious for his aggressive actions. However, little does he realise that this meeting has been orchestrated to expose his behaviour.



I AM CHUMA

WENDY SPINKS &
CLEA MALLINSON
SOUTH AFRICA

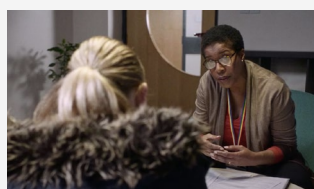
35 year-old Chuma Somdaka is a disabled, lesbian, isiXhosa woman, who unexpectedly finds her calling as an artist and embarks on an empowering journey of awakening.



MODERATELY SATISFIED

HIND ANABTAWI
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

When visiting her terminally ill mother for the first time in months, an estranged daughter finds new answers about their relationship whilst filling out a patient satisfaction survey.



THE RAPE CLAUSE

JARED WATMUFF
UK

In order to claim welfare support for her son, Angela is forced to reveal the harrowing story of how the child was conceived. Inspired by real events and based on current government legislation.

The film is extensively researched, and being based on real life cases, it has a distressingly authentic quality to it.

– Simon Leyden
on Portrait

WEDNESDAY 24TH / 18:00-19:30

VARIETY PACK 1

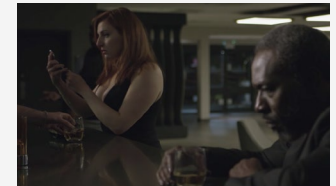
A collection of films from different categories



THE LITTLE BEACH

SONIA BERTOTTI
ARGENTINA

Priscila, a 7 year old girl no one pays any attention to, sets out in pursuit of an elusive toy vendor, getting further away from her family and closer to adventure.



SQUALL

MARK BRENNAN
UK

Ben and Margaret, two strangers at rock bottom in their lives for different reasons, meet in a hotel bar before going on to spend a night putting their respective broken worlds to rights.



GET BACK ASAP

AIDA TEBIANIAN
IRAN

The patriarch of a family is agitated by the late arrival of his eldest daughter, who has been out all evening, and in turn causes tension between the other family members.



BIRTHDAY

MARGARITA MILNE
UK

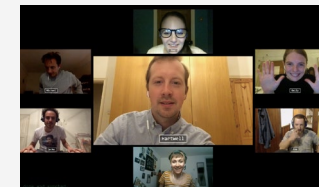
Tyler, a young introverted man who suffers from social anxiety, is blamed for the overdose of his girlfriend during her birthday party.



CHILDREN OF CHRONOS

JAMIE SUNDANCE
UK

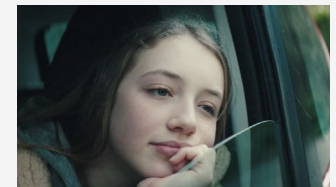
In a world forgotten by time and space, a young woman takes a treacherous journey towards a mystical city in hope of a better life. Will her childhood stories of the great city be true?



SE7EN GREEN BOTTLES

MICK DOW & FRANCOIS ZAIDI
UK

Seven political activists meet secretly online to celebrate their 3 years together... then the doorbell rings.



LOSING GRACE

ATHENA MANDIS
UK

A mother who is forced to flee from her abusive partner with her daughter finds short lived refuge, until she is unwittingly tracked down, with dire consequences.

WEDNESDAY 24TH / 20:00-21:30

SCIENCE FICTION

Taking you to places you have never been



LIFELIKE

KEITH ALLOT
UK

A reclusive sci-fi enthusiast develops an unexpected friendship with a customer service representative. This is a story that looks at how we interact with technology, and in reflection, how technology is used to influence us.



PROXY

SOPHIA BANKS
USA

In a world where people hire 'Proxys' (humans trained in the fine art of 'standing in' for a lost loved one) Victoria tries to navigate the life of being one of the highest proxies in demand whilst also struggling with her own demons.



51 STATES

CASS VIRDEE
UK

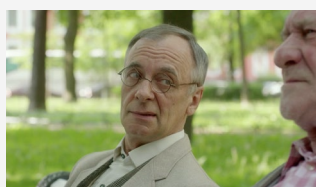
In an all too possible future, a Sikh wife and mother must risk execution in the fight to be reunited with her family. She will face a night of bloody confrontation with the fascist hunter that tore them apart.



SAMARITAN

DUSTIN CURTIS MURPHY
UK

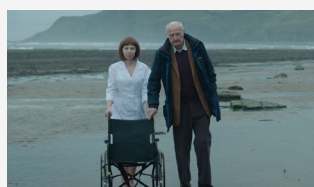
An immigrant doctor, fearing deportation and living off the grid, stumbles upon the unconscious body of a racist politician who has been kidnapped and left for dead.



THOSE BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS

VASILY CHUPRINA
RUSSIA

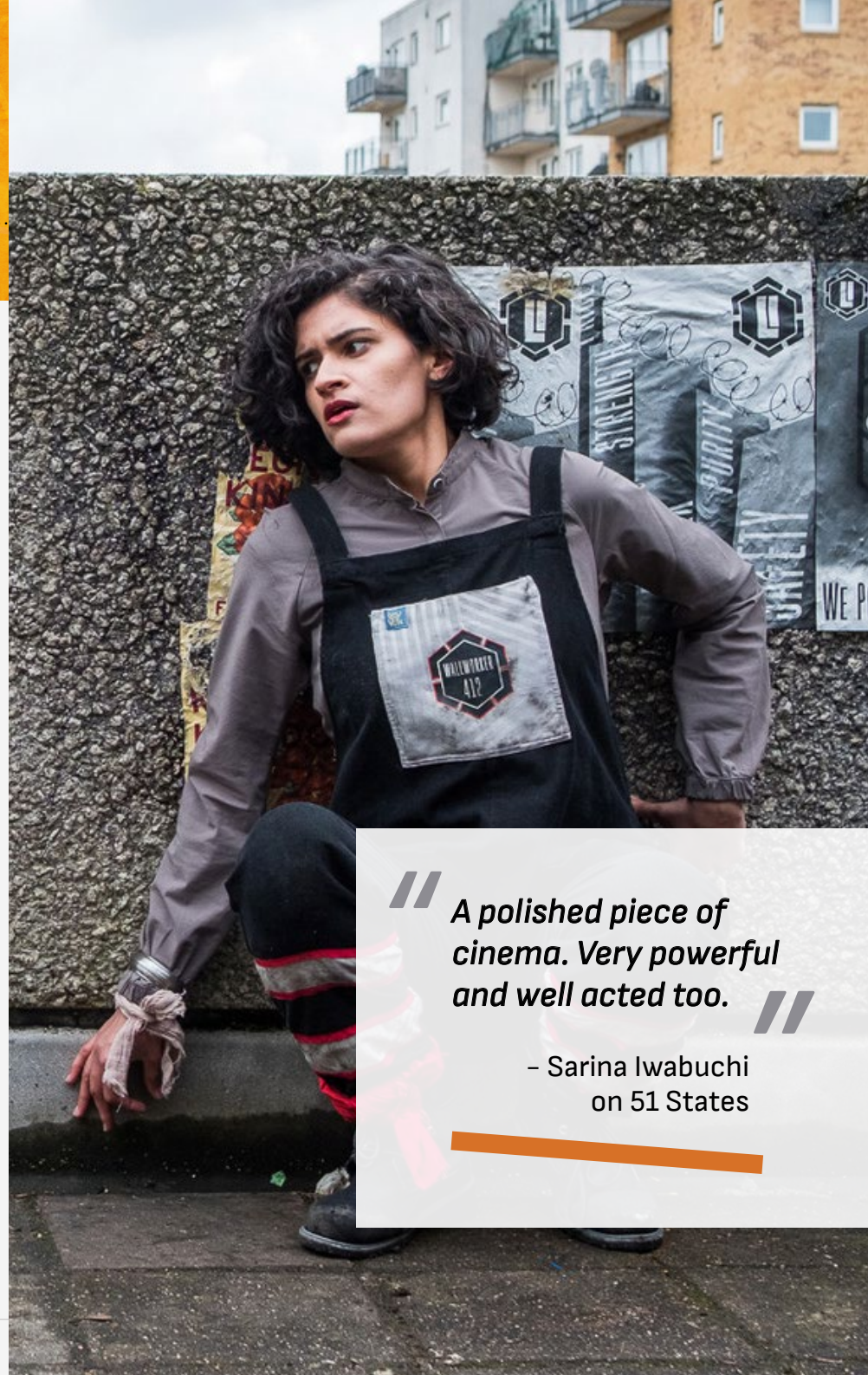
A scientist searches for eternal beauty and meaning in life. This film poses the question of the moral limits of science, and the dilemmas a genius scientist may face.



FEARFULLY MADE

JAMIE FOREMAN
UK

When Arthur's wife, Maggie, is taken into a nursing home, his daughter buys him a care robot. Frustrated by his lack of independence, Arthur is no fan of his new 'carer'.



"A polished piece of cinema. Very powerful and well acted too."

– Sarina Iwabuchi
on 51 States

THURSDAY 25TH / 18:00-19:30

DRAMA – SESSION 2

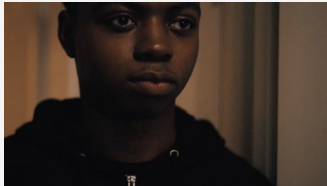
More stories from our Drama submissions



LORA WEARS BLACK

VANJA VASCARAC
CROATIA

As an elderly woman, Lora finds herself in a new era, one she doesn't understand anymore. Her routine is then suddenly interrupted by a man claiming to be a location scout for a new TV show.



HOMEBY 8.30

PERRY WHITE
UK

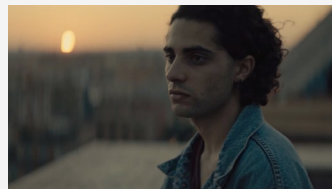
In a tumultuous evening, a teenager is challenged by two contrasting realities that he is determined to never let crossover; his family life inside of his home and a violent encounter outside of his home.



DOGWATCH

ALBIN WILDNER
AUSTRIA

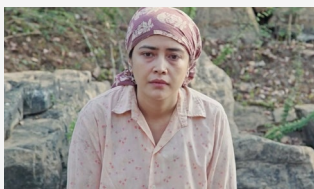
After losing his position at an industrial corporation and moving back in with his bedridden mother, Raphael learns to cope with his new life situation. But a tragic incident is about to break his world apart once more.



L'ORO DI FAMIGLIA (THE FAMILY GOLD)

EMANUELE PISANO
ITALY

A petty thief is involved in a robbery. Among the stolen goods, an object captures his attention: not gold or silver and not ancient memorabilia, but something much more precious...



FRAYED LINES

PRIYA BELLIPPA
INDIA

Amidst the burgeoning crisis of immigration and unemployment, two individuals who don't speak a common language connect while working on the coffee plantations in a remote corner of India.



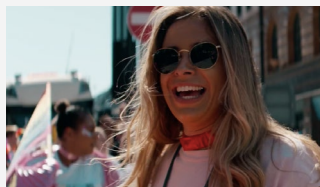
// *A wonderfully thought-provoking and intelligent film. Clever screenplay movingly and insightfully comments on modern day isolation and loneliness.* //

– Simon Leyden on
Lora Wears Black

THURSDAY 25TH / 20:00-21:30

A BETTER PLACE

There are people who dream and ache for a better place



MANCHESTER PRIDE PARADE: THE MOVIE

HARRY MCGILL, UK

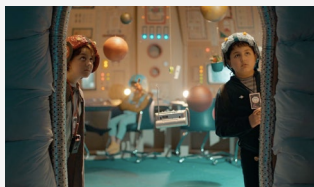
.....
This film explores the darkness the LGBT+ community has fought against over the last 50 years, highlighting how they are strongest when fighting together. (This is also featured in the Pride session on Saturday 27th)



FOOD CHAIN

RAPHAEL MEDEIROS
BRAZIL

.....
How abusive is men's demeanor against nature? 'Food Chain' introduces a visual metaphor for nature's vengeance. Is mankind really destined to become nature's next meal?



BETTER THAN NEIL ARMSTRONG

ALIREZA GHASEMI
IRAN

.....
Four kids start their journey to the moon with the mission of finding a mysterious place called 'The Redland', but the gates are being guarded by a mischievous snake.



ONLY IN TOLEDO

DAN LIOR
USA

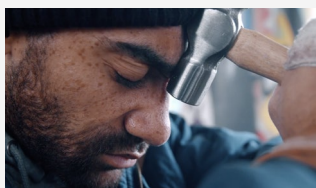
.....
Shortly after his van broke down, So DeShawn, with no financial means to fix his vehicle, came up with a creative way to get around, inspiring people from all around the world.



MELITA

MITOSHKA ALKOVA
UK

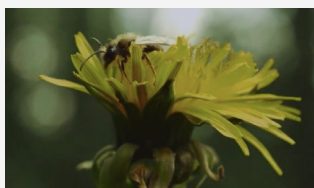
.....
A few beekeepers in Malta act as preservers of history and silenced advocates for change. But still, the native honeybee is starved by an invasive species and a modernised society.



BULLDOG

KIERAN STRINGFELLOW
UK

.....
After spending the night in a cell, a rough sleeper has a score to settle.



WITH...OUT

PIOTR "LATONA" KUSAL
& HUBERT BĄK, POLAND

.....
Filmed during the COVID-19 pandemic, 'With...Out' shows the beauty of nature that is closest to us; around the corner, behind the fence and in the garden.



6, 20 AND 7

JI KIM
SOUTH KOREA

.....
Based on the interviews from 6 homeless people, 2 actresses reenact the interviews for 7 minutes in a surreal setting, which ends with the same sentence.



“ A heart-warming affirmation! A film which shows tenacious ingenuity and defiance in the face of structural racism. ”

– Simon Leyden on
Only In Toledo

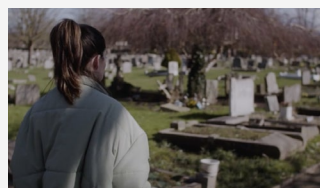
FRIDAY 26TH / 18:00-19:30

VARIETY PACK 2

A collection of films from different categories

// *This is gorgeous. Well shot, sensitively done and well acted.* //

– Caroline Barry
on Bronagh



BRONAGH

JESSICA COURTNEY LEEN &
MEGAN HALY, IRELAND

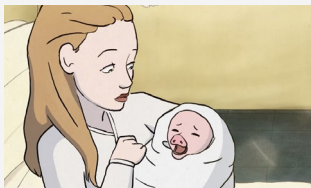
A grown up Bronagh feels guilty for experiencing a delayed grief, having lost a female role model as a child. Unable to move on, she stalks and haunts an estranged family member.



THE EXPLOSION OF A SWIMMING RING

TOMMI SEITAJOKI, FINLAND

A family of three spend their holiday at a water park when tensions arise between the father and the mother and they leave their 7-year-old child unattended.



A PIGLET'S TALE

FABRIZIO GAMMARDELLA
UK

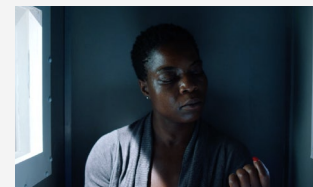
A newly-wed couple struggle to have children. A few years later a very special baby is born, one who can turn himself into a piglet! How will the parents cope with this miracle?



COMING TOLIGHT

HECTOR BELL
UK

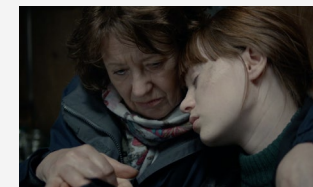
Aaron, a victim of sexual abuse as a child, has lived all his life carrying this dark secret. When a police investigation is launched into his abuser, he is faced with confronting his demons head on.



SWEATBOX

ANNA HERRMANN
UK

For over 40 years, Clean Break Theatre Company has been using theatre to keep the subject of women in prison on the cultural radar, helping to reveal the damage caused by the criminal justice system.



THE BLINDED RIDE

MATTHEW STEGGLES
UK

In a dystopian future, a British 13-year-old girl, now a refugee, struggles within the confinement of the back of a lorry as she longs to reconnect with her father.



SANJAY SAVES THE WORLD

TULSI BEHL
UK

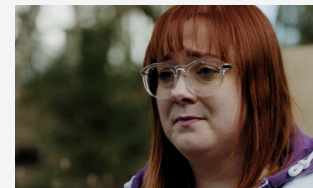
Sanjay, an elderly man blind to his own loneliness, walks to his local park to listen to the cricket channel on his radio. Suddenly, his radio distorts and tunes in to an alien transmission...



SCRIPT

PIERO CANNATA
ITALY

Two competitive screenwriters try to one-up each other in creating the ultimate horror story.



LEPIDOPTERIST

SOPHIE BLACK
UK

A scientist drives away from a lab with a mysterious box in the back of her van. What follows is a tense adventure story about the lengths we can go to to protect the things we love.

FRIDAY 26TH / 20:00-21:30

HORROR

In your mind, in the shadows, in the streets, terror can be anywhere...



LOCULUS

AMIR ROOINI
IRAN

.....
A young boy in need of his mother's love finds his way to a mortuary, where the power is out and there's a horrible smell...



BULLETS OF BAPTISM

ZIVAR HOJATI
IRAN

.....
Trying to eliminate the sins in his life, a fat man kills himself several times so that he can change into another individual.



GUEST

FINN CALLAN
UK

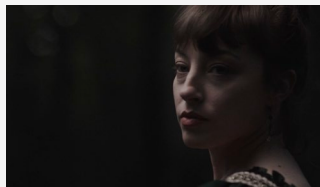
.....
A young woman takes drastic measures to rid herself of a mysterious otherworldly creature known as 'the guest'.



THE KILLER IN CURSED WATER

LAURENT ARDOINT &
STEPHANE DUPRAT, FRANCE

.....
Cindy and Quentin are spending a romantic weekend by a lake. But little do they know that a killer is on the prowl...



EURYDICE

DOMENICO DE ORSI
ITALY

.....
A child is branded by the devil then begins his struggle through knowledge. Later, he finds a way to trick the devil, but who is the real deceiver?



MAKE A WISH

DINH THAI
USA

.....
A light-hearted comedy about a sweet fiancé giving her boyfriend the best birthday present ever.



FATHER TIME

THOMAS PICKERING
UK

.....
When Anna and Tony visit Vincent, a mysterious old man with the ability to tell people the day they will die, they set out to prove his prediction wrong.

“ That creature is the creepiest thing I’ve seen in ages, that’s me not sleeping tonight! ”

– Sam Kurd on Guest

SATURDAY 27TH / 12:00-12:30

ANIMATION: SESSION 1

From the sublime to the surreal. Session continued on the next page...



THE END

WIEBE BONNEMA
NETHERLANDS

We follow a cowboy on his path into the empty nothingness of the desert after he rides out of the town he just saved.



THE PEAK

SATOSHI TAKAHASHI
JAPAN

In the middle of the night, Sarah wakes up as she wants to go to the bathroom. As she leaves her room, she finds herself alone in the dark hallway, and it is really creepy...



AALY

ABDELRAHMAN M. DAOUD
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

In the vast, barren expanse of the desert, a mysterious robot called Aaly finds something special; a sole plant. But what Aaly does with that plant creates even more questions for the viewer.



DRAWN TO LIGHT

KITTY TURNER
UK

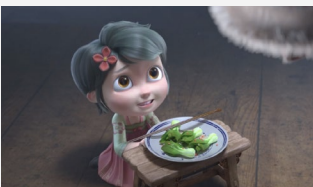
A small moth is unhappy with the chaotic and dangerous life of being addicted to artificial light. After an intriguing discovery, the moth sets off on a journey to break away from the crowd.



IVET AND MICHUCO

JUAN IGNACIO MENEU OSET
SPAIN

Ivet is a 6 year old girl with an extraordinary imagination. Since she has no siblings, she always plays alone and fantasizes uncontrollably, which leads to some complicated situations.



RENAIDANCE

ZHIKE YANG, WENJIE WU &
HAN CHEN CHANG, USA

This beautifully animated tale about a young ballet student and her grandfather explores the themes of cultural inheritance, the integration of dreams, and transformation.



THE MANDRAKE

QUINCY WILLIAM BALTES
USA

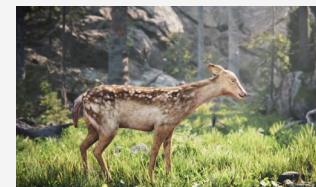
Herman lives a simple and routine life. But when a witch approaches his cottage one day, asking for a special ingredient and supplying a spell, his life takes an incredible turn.



BABBLE BUBBLE

RICHAN LI
USA

This film aims to portray the personal mindset of not being conscientious of daily life and splitting one's identities and behaviors on different social media platforms.



ECHO

BARZAN ROSTAMI
IRAN

A doe witnesses her baby being shot down by a hunter. Later, the man finds out that sometimes mother nature comes to collect the debt when his son goes out to play in the woods.



OUT WITH THE OLD

GEORGE SUMMERS
UK

A wooden doll is left behind when a family moves house. He starts the journey to get back to his dollhouse, but then he encounters a clingy stuffed elephant.

SATURDAY 27TH / 12:00-13:30

ANIMATION: SESSION 1

From the sublime to the surreal...



THE PEACH SCARF

DEL SEGO
USA

While browsing in the market, Daisy is distracted by a bird who has stolen a scarf from a pretty stranger, Camille. She hops to action to help reclaim the scarf for Camille, but runs into trouble along the way.



PICNIC IN THE PARK

EMILY HOWELLS
UK

'Ice Cream' is a Tyrannosaurus Rex who, quite coincidentally, loves ice cream. Together with his best friend, Mickey Mouse, also a Tyrannosaurus Rex, they go for a picnic in the park and get up to all sorts of mischief!



THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF AWESOME

ALLISON BROWNMOORE
UK

This beautiful, hand illustrated animated film is about a young autistic girl at the heart of a quiet revolution.



SKINNY & FLUFFY

JONATHAN KLUG &
MAX GREGORIOU, UK

Fluffy the cat hates dogs, and Skinny the dog is no exception. But Skinny hasn't got the message and chases Fluffy everywhere until Fluffy comes up with an ingenious plan that is guaranteed to stop Skinny...



DE BERDE

STAR BAZANCIR
SWEDEN

A poignant, and moving vignette about people torn apart by illusory borders, nations, restrictive migration policies and race.



THE BOY AND THE MOUNTAIN

SANTIAGO AGUILERA &
GABRIEL MONREAL, CHILE

Hernán, an imaginative child who is failing at his studies, is advised by his father that he must try harder. Galvanized by this advice, Hernán goes on to become a successful entrepreneur... but is this what he wants?



*“ Funny and inventive
with a lovely
intermingling of
sound and vision. ”*

– Simon Leyden
on The Peak

SATURDAY 27TH / 14:00-15:30

COMEDY – SESSION 1

Make them laugh!



MANASANAMAHA

DEEPAK REDDY
INDIA

A young man muses on the nature of love, recounting three relationships from his past. The girls in his life resemble three different seasons, namely Chaitra (Spring), Varsha (Monsoon) & Seeta (Winter).



AT HOME WITH... NICK MULLINS

PAUL LONGLEY &
JAMES LONGLEY, UK

We follow Nick as he copes with life in lockdown during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has kept him away from his beloved job. Nick opens up and gives us an insight into his life, his passions and dreams.



WHERE THE MOUNTAINS GROW

GINO RICARDO GREEN, UK

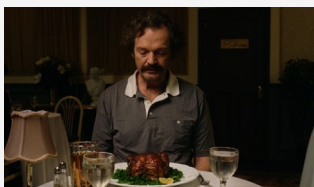
Tommy is sick; sick of waiting rooms, of tests and of being asked how he's doing. But the arrival of an unexpected visitor presents the chance to undertake what is meant to be a once in a lifetime journey.



DIRT

GARY NURSE
UK

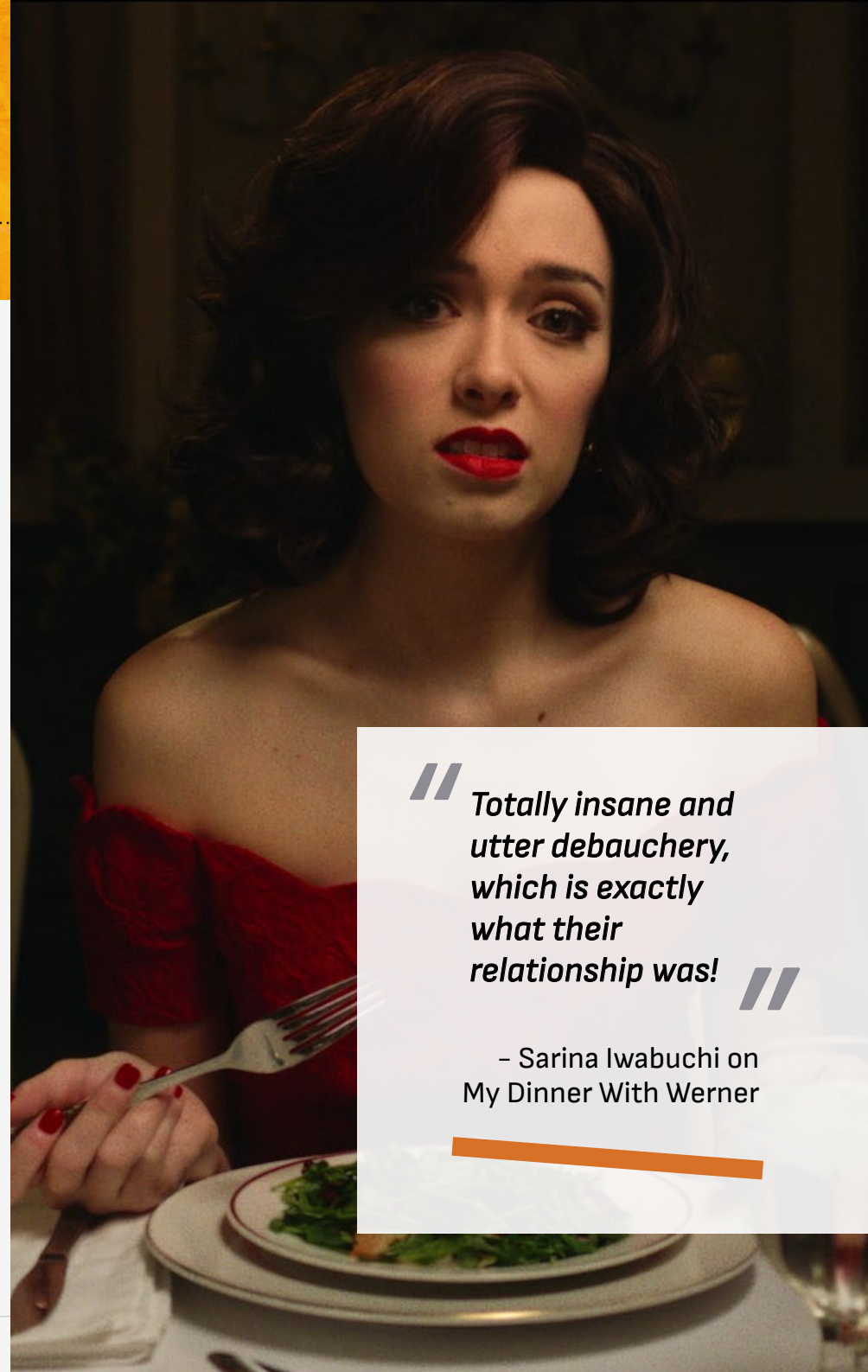
Dumped by his girlfriend and saddened by the sudden loss of his mother, Eli calls upon enigmatic uncle Cassius, an eccentric art dealer and shaman healer, as a last resort to purge his pain.



MY DINNER WITH WERNER

MAVERICK MOORE
USA

Based on real events, real people, and real things they actually said, 'My Dinner With Werner' is a wildly bizarre and wacky farce about a 1987 dinner date with a murder plot as the main dish.



“Totally insane and utter debauchery, which is exactly what their relationship was!”

– Sarina Iwabuchi on
My Dinner With Werner

SATURDAY 27TH / 16:00-17:30

CRIME

The darkest criminal minds come out to play



HOLD

JONATHAN BLAGROVE
UK

When a series of phone calls expose a lie that spirals out of control, Tommy, an out of work building contractor, must make the toughest decision of his life.



PELICAN MILKSHAKE

MARCUS NEWMAN
CANADA

Fresh in the act of burying her victim, a killer is caught red handed by a hovering drone. Covering up her crime just became a whole lot more complicated.



OFFICER DOWN

SIMON PEARCE
UK

A young British police officer, trapped during civil unrest, must overcome his fears and bias, to save an enemy that could be his only hope.



UNDER

VAGELIS BEKAS
GREECE

A ragman meets a mysterious young woman living under a bridge. His attempt to save her could be a chance to escape from the underworld of the dark side of Athens.



BELIEVE

ROYSTON FERNANDES
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

A detective interrogates a magician after he makes a woman disappear in his magic show; she hasn't been seen since. To solve the case the detective tries to uncover the truth about the magic trick.



ONE ACTOR SHORT - 1

YUVAL DAVID
USA

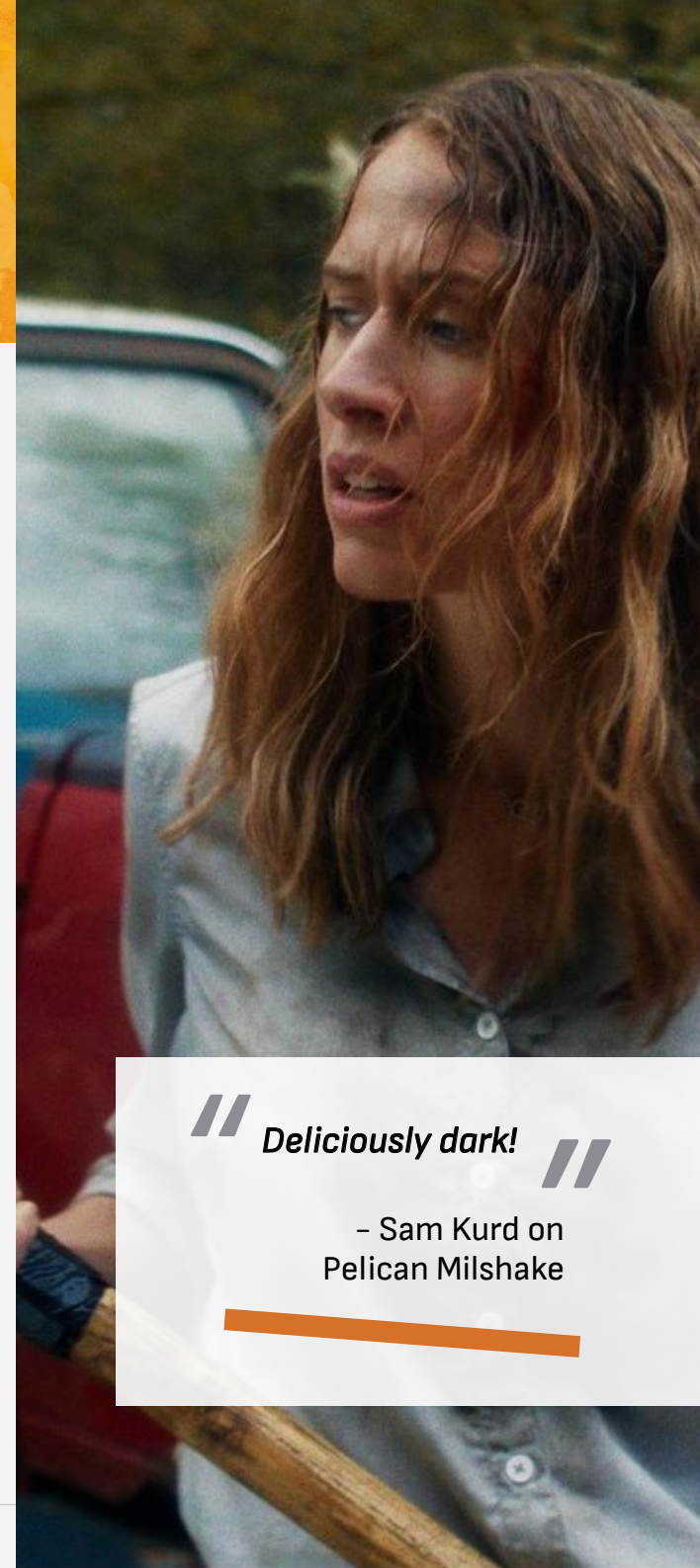
In an innovative and daring approach to filmmaking, Yuval takes his film crew onto the streets of New York, where he handpicks and assembles a cast from people he randomly meets out there.



GABRIEL

PIERFRANCESCO ARTINI
SPAIN

Agatha is struck by her husband's death. She feels old and lonely, but brief encounters with her neighbour, Gabriel, re-awaken her desires. Then, the arrival of a special guest changes everything...



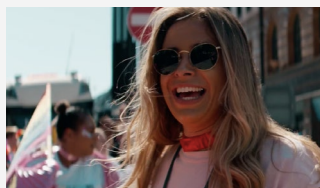
“ Deliciously dark! ”

– Sam Kurd on
Pelican Milkshake

SATURDAY 27TH / 18:00-19:30

PRIDE

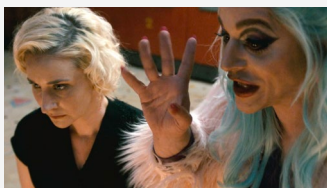
Celebrating diverse stories about the LGBT+ community



MANCHESTER PRIDE PARADE: THE MOVIE

HARRY MCGILL, UK

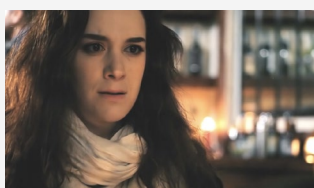
.....
This film explores the darkness the LGBT+ community has fought against over the last 50 years, highlighting how they are strongest when fighting together. *(This is also featured in the 'A Better Place' session)*



MOURNING RITES

ALEJANDRO MATHÉ
GERMANY

.....
Filmed in one long take, a mourning woman in her twenties prepares to summon the ghost of her grandmother using a Ouija board at the laundrette where she died. But then she is disturbed by a loud-mouthed drag queen...



DEAR AUNT NOA

DANA ALIYA LEVINSON
USA

.....
Childhood best friends Noa, a transgender environmental activist from Los Angeles, and Jerry, a struggling family-man mechanic from Ohio, reunite over cocktails. But can their bond survive the weight of a violently divisive society?



SILENCE

SEAN LÌONADH
UK

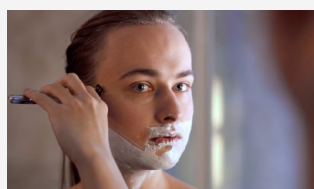
.....
In the isolation of lockdown, a lonely young man stays in contact with the outside world through voice messages. But soon he finds himself inhabited by a multitude of lonely beings.



MERMAID

SABER MOSTAFAPOUR
IRAN

.....
Milad, who identifies as a woman, abandons her home and school in order to preserve her identity. Three classmates, who notice her absence, come to find her...



MY FRIEND ARTEMIS

MADS STERRI NILSEN
NORWAY

.....
This film follows Artemis, a Norwegian trans woman who wants to complete her transition, with the challenges this brings in an early phase of the gender correction process.

“ A sobering insight into the frightening experiences of a young trans individual in a less than accepting society. ”

– Kimlee Wilson-Miller
on Mermaid

SATURDAY 27TH / 20:00-21:30

DRAMA – SESSION 3

More films from our Drama submissions



ANNA

DEKEL BERENSON
UNITED KINGDOM

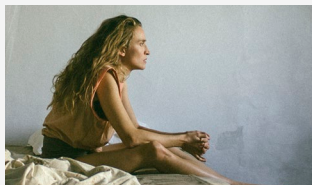
Anna, an aging single mother from Eastern Ukraine, is desperate for a change. Lured by a radio advertisement, she goes to party with a group of American men who are touring the country, searching for love



FAME

GIUSEPPE ALESSIO NUZZO
ITALY

Nuzzo's haunting film explores the contradictions of modern day Naples: its ancient architecture, its glistening seafront popular with tourists, and its unseen lives of impoverished desperation. Can the two peacefully co-exist?



AM HIMMEL

MAGDELENA CHMIELEWSKA
AUSTRIA

It is night in Heaven Meadow, on the outskirts of Vienna. Injured and barefoot, Maya runs back home, to the city centre. The next day she reports the incident of the prior evening.



AVA

SASAN KARIMI
IRAN

After many years, Ava discovers that her terminally ill father suffered a mental breakdown in the eighties when the revolutionary extremists harassed artists and musicians.



THE SNOW MAZE

SAM CADMAN
UK

10-year-old Adam is an isolated boy tormented by the school bully, until the arrival of a new girl and the discovery of an old key changes everything.



“ A beautifully filmed examination of music, gender and politics in a post-revolutionary Iranian society. ”

– Simon Leyden
on Ava

SUNDAY 28TH / 12:00-13:30

ANIMATION: SESSION 2

From the sublime to the surreal. Session continued on the next page...



DELPHINE "NO DOGS"

ANAYIS DER HAKOPIAN
UK

A testimony on the "No Blacks, No Irish, No Dogs" period in UK History, where men, women and children of all ages took a chance at a better life only to receive a harsh welcome from a large number of the locals.



JOURNEY

HOCK WONG
SINGAPORE

Based on the true story of a young Taiwanese painter in the 1930s. We follow Kuo Hsueh-Hu who struggles to become an artist at a time where the profession was less respected and deemed impractical.



DÉJEUNER SUR L'HERBE

JOCELYN CHARLES, JULES BOURGÈS, NATHAN HARBONN-VIAUD & PIERRE ROUGEMONT, FRANCE

A brilliant scientist sees his convictions crumble during a picnic at the lake.



PHOENIX ARIZONA - INEGO

DANIEL CREW
UK

A young girl takes a psychedelic journey through sci-fi dystopias, underground discos, and explosive landscapes to find her own sense of enlightenment.



PEDAL TO THE METAL

BEN ACEVEDO, ANDREW BENSON & SABRINA DEMERS, USA

What if the road to a rock concert was just as exhilarating as the concert itself? Join two super fans, Brock and Roxy, as they race through the desert to see their favorite band.



THE KING & THE MASTER BUILDER

SIDONIE VIDAL
UK

When an evil King insists that his Master Builder construct a wall between the Palace and the poor people, he is taught a lesson he'll never forget.



THE SHUT-IN

ERIC LIEU, MAXINE CURVA & JIRA UDOMSRI, USA

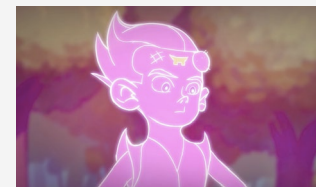
Sherry, a single mother, struggles to connect with her reclusive son but soon finds help from a mysterious nanny who changes everything via some unconventional methods.



BARBELL SNATCH

MATTHEW B. W. SHEEHAN
USA

The Barbell Snatch is a weight lifting move, which many people think of as just 'a big man lifting a big thing in the air' but in reality it is a combination of beauty and explosive power.



MY TAGALONG

JERRY WANG
CANADA

A story about two Gemini brothers' journey on the earth. The Older brother wants to enjoy the trip himself, but his younger brother always follows him and causes trouble.



BRAZEN - MAE JEMISON

PHUONG MAI NGUYEN & CHARLOTTE CAMBON DE LAVALETTE, USA

This episode is part of the series "Brazen", which showcases 30 revolutionary women who wrote their own destinies and changed the world!

SUNDAY 28TH / 12:00-13:30

ANIMATION: SESSION 2

From the sublime to the surreal...



VIADENERI

SEREN MORAN
USA

During a night at a club, an intoxicated young woman encounters a man and wakens the next morning with a foggy memory of the night before.



THANKS, GOODBYE.

DAVID MOHRMANN
NETHERLANDS

'Thanks, Goodbye.' shows an extreme vision of the consequences of a climate apocalypse.



WINDING

SRISHA CHAKRABORTI
INDIA

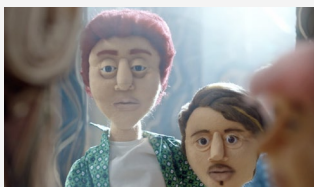
After being awakened by her music box, a little girl is thrust into a nightmare where she is forced to relive a traumatic experience from the past.



VALSE NAÏVE

ANTONELLO TOSTO &
MARIAPIA DI LECCE, ITALY

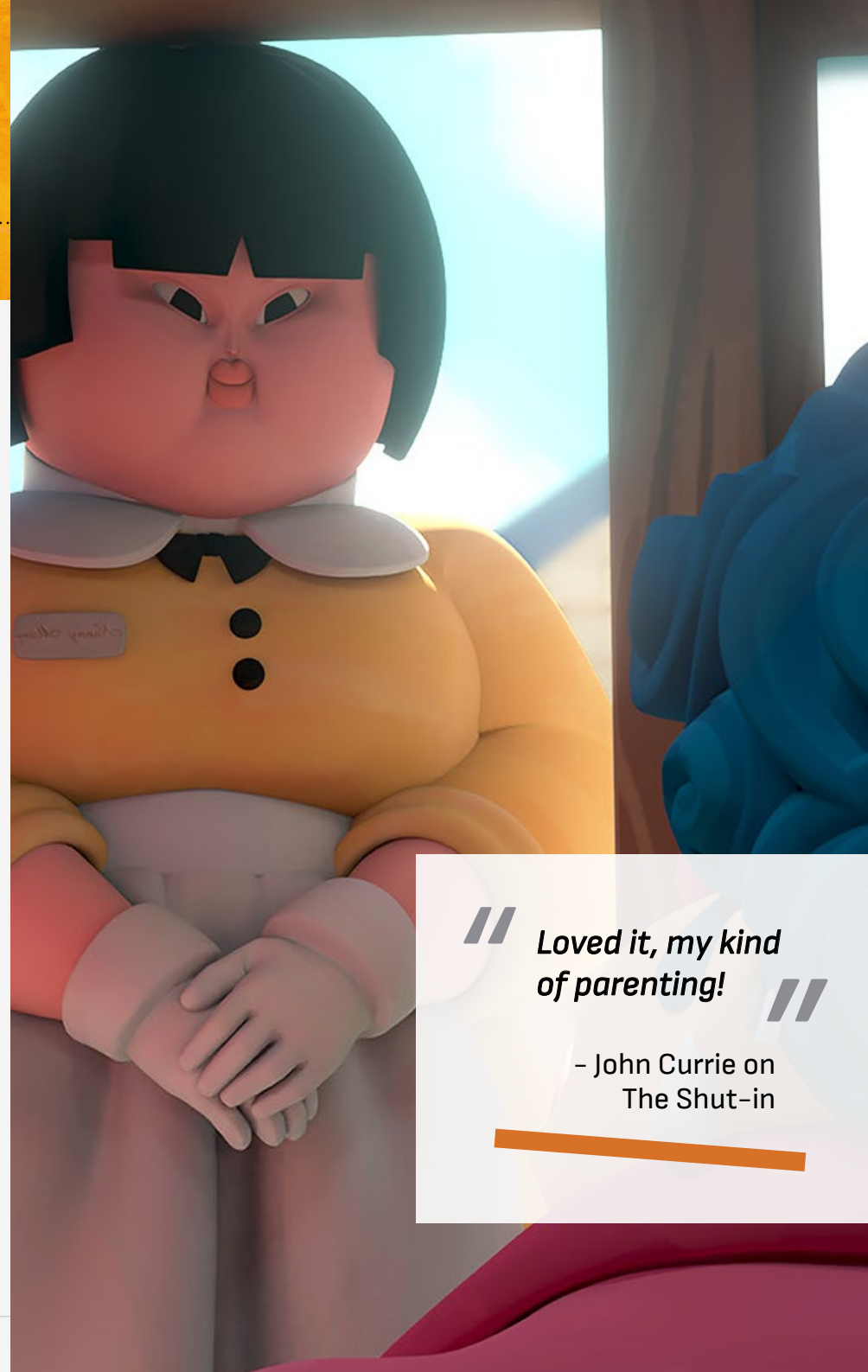
Maridyl is waiting hopefully for her love, whilst every day life goes on around her, in her apartment block and the street below.



SONG SPARROW

FARZANEH OMIDVARNIA
DENMARK

People of different colour, race, age and culture, embark on journeys, eager to find some place they can call home. This short movie inspires the viewer to ask: "is it worse to stay than to go?"



// *Loved it, my kind of parenting!* //

- John Currie on
The Shut-in

SUNDAY 28TH / 14:00-15:30

NON FICTION

Fun, provocative, challenging, disturbing, haunting... this is real life



PANI DOCTORS

KATALIN AMBRUS
INDIA

The Indian slum Khara Kuua transforms into a colorful theatre stage as Rekha Devi, Zeenat Begum and their neighbours unpack the scientific water test kit.



THE DEATH OF MR. TAMIMI'S FOOT

JOHN HADDAD
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abdul Nasser tells us his story by acting out significant moments in his life with a determination to overcome his past.



WHEN BETTER LETTERS MET BARBARA ENRIGHT

LEWIS EYERS-STOTT
AUSTRALIA

Short Biopic of Australian sign, showcard and ticket writer Barbra Enright.



GUINJATA BAY

ROB MURRAY
UK

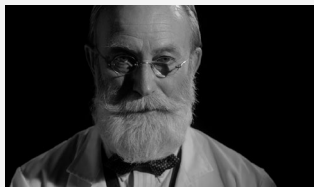
Mozambique has one of the highest rates of childhood drowning in the world. In 2016, a local non-profit organisation, Love the Oceans decided to take action by starting a yearly Swimming Initiative.



SHANGDROK

JARED YEH
TAIWAN

Through this film, we see how Tibetan people cherish their traditions and nomadic lifestyle, despite losing them gradually whilst facing rapid modernization.



I DO NOT WANT TO SMOKE

STEVEN SHEIL
UK

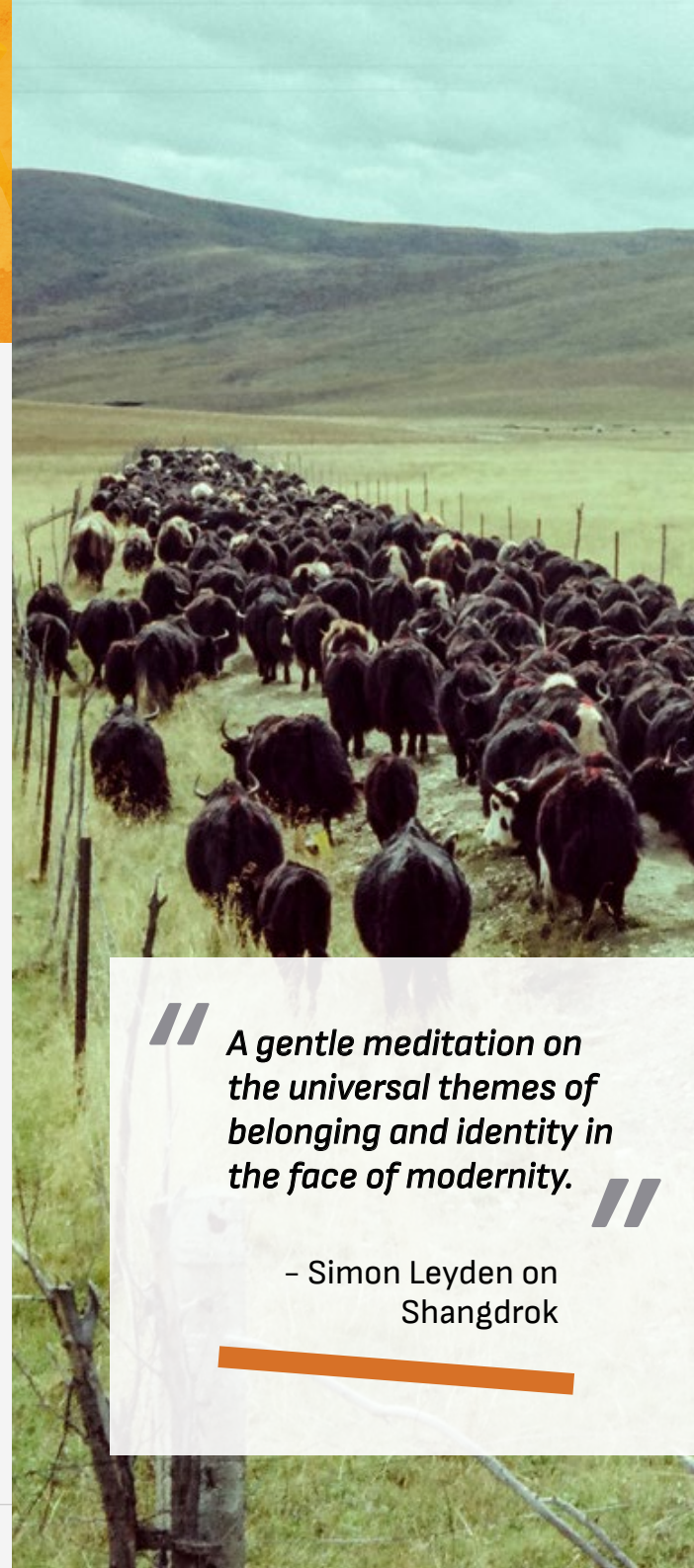
Based on an unproduced script from the Soviet Union written in 1936, this experimental film explores cinema's capacity to aid psychotherapeutic treatment.



IN THE SHADOWS

MILDRED GARCERANT
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

'In The Shadows' is an attempt to recreate the situation where a close family member spent 25 days confined in a detention centre with 30 other people, under miserable conditions.



// *A gentle meditation on the universal themes of belonging and identity in the face of modernity.* //

– Simon Leyden on Shangdrok

SUNDAY 28TH / 16:00-17:30

VARIETY PACK 3

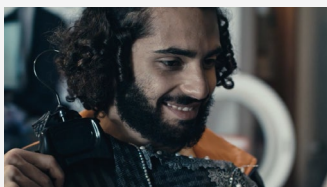
A collection of films from different categories



DINOSAUR

MORI THOMSON
UK

.....
An elderly widower suffering through loneliness, and grappling with a lack of purpose after a career on stage, is prompted into making a major life decision that will take him down a unique path.



IL VESTITO (THE SUIT)

MAURIZIO RAVALLESE
ITALY

.....
An immigrant works in a laundrette to buy a wedding suit. One day he is found stealing a suit from a sick groom who has just been left at the alter. To atone for his sins, he will have to avenge the robbed man.



PERSISTENCE

LEO DE HAAN
UK

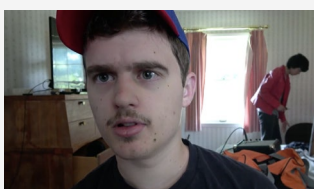
.....
On a marina in France, a father and son prepare to head back to the UK. When an immigrant father and son approach them desperate for passage to the UK, a spiral of events challenge all their morals.



BEFORE I DIE

NAKUL DEV
INDIA

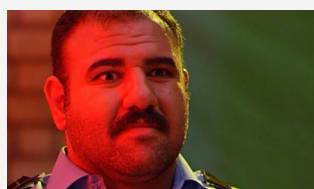
.....
This non fiction piece follows an environmentalist who has been fascinated by the beauty of nature since his childhood, and starts a movement to replace mountains of garbage with seasonal flowers.



NOT CLICKBAIT!!! (GONE WRONG)

RYAN EDWARDS
USA

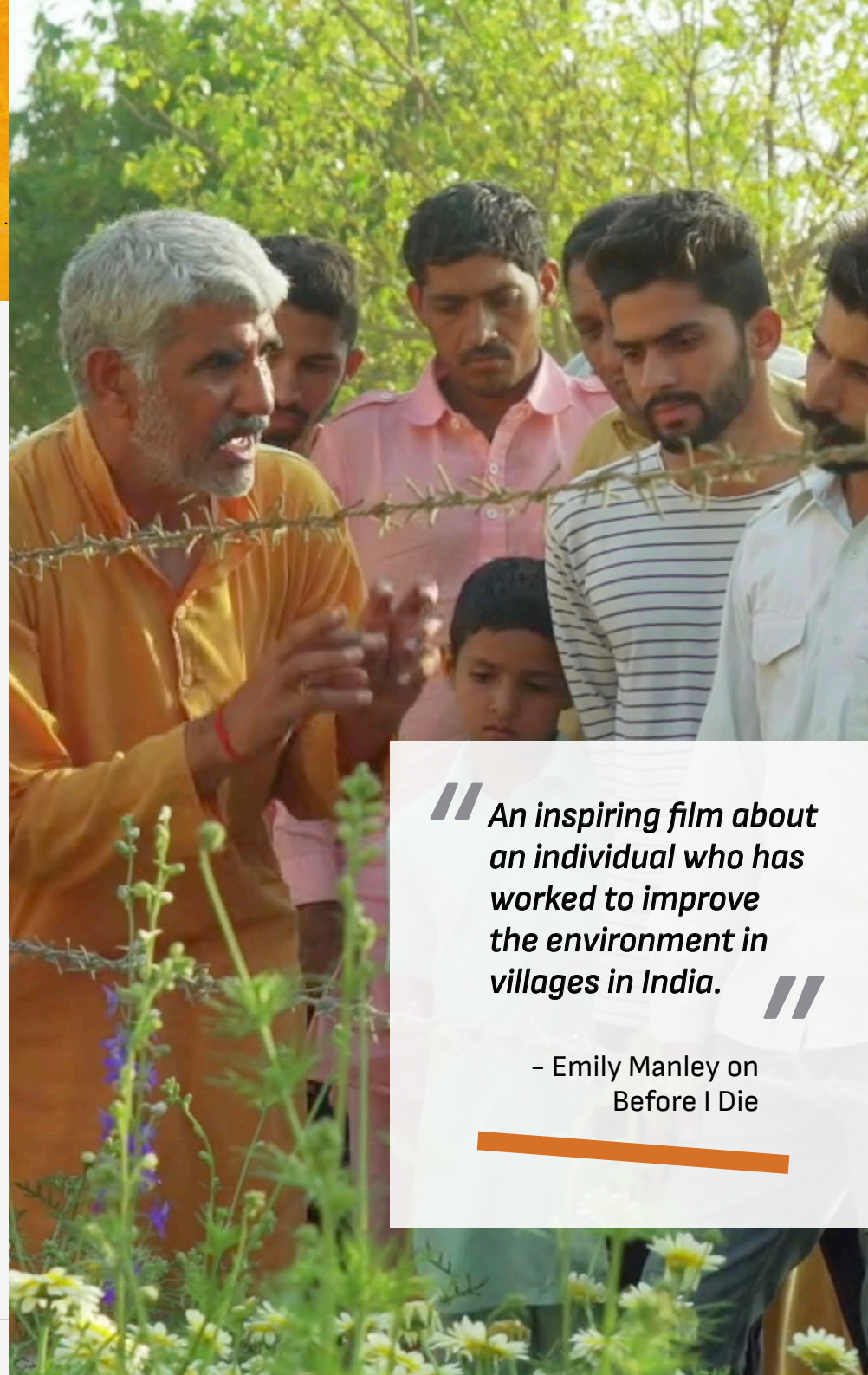
.....
In this horror short, a vlogger takes us on a house tour, only to find the house is not quite what he thought.



EXTRA

KIOUMARS AHMADI
IRAN

.....
An extra in a film has to get slapped but he cant do it. So he goes to find someone to practice the shot and his wife accompanies him through it.



“ An inspiring film about an individual who has worked to improve the environment in villages in India. ”

– Emily Manley on
Before I Die

SUNDAY 28TH / 18:00-19:30

COMEDY – SESSION 2

Make them laugh!



1-800-D-DIRECT

CLARE MACDONALD
UK

Joyce and Frances work at 1-800-D-Direct, the latest and greatest Dishwasher sales company in 1960's Manhattan. But when a customer is given the wrong data, it becomes a life or death situation.



THE PLUNGE

SIMON RYNINKS
UK

After a night of passion, Emily tells Jay that she'd like to use a strap on. Scared of losing a girl he clicks with, Jay reluctantly agrees.



THE SCHNOZ

JUSTINE PRIESTLY
UK

When Lydia's grandma gives her a cheque for a nose job, it feels like a dream come true. That is, until she finds herself face to face with the ghost of her great grandmother, whose nose she has inherited.



OUTSIDE THE BOX

ROSS MACKENZIE
UK

An office worker has an unforgettable day after discovering an intriguing box in the store cupboard.



LOVE, POST-LOCKDOWN

BEN MOURRA &
LUCAS BOETSCH, UK

Anxious James clings on to his social distancing rituals, despite restrictions being lifted. After locking eyes with Samira, he must decide whether to finally step outside of his bubble...



LAZY MONEY

AMANI ZARDOE
UK

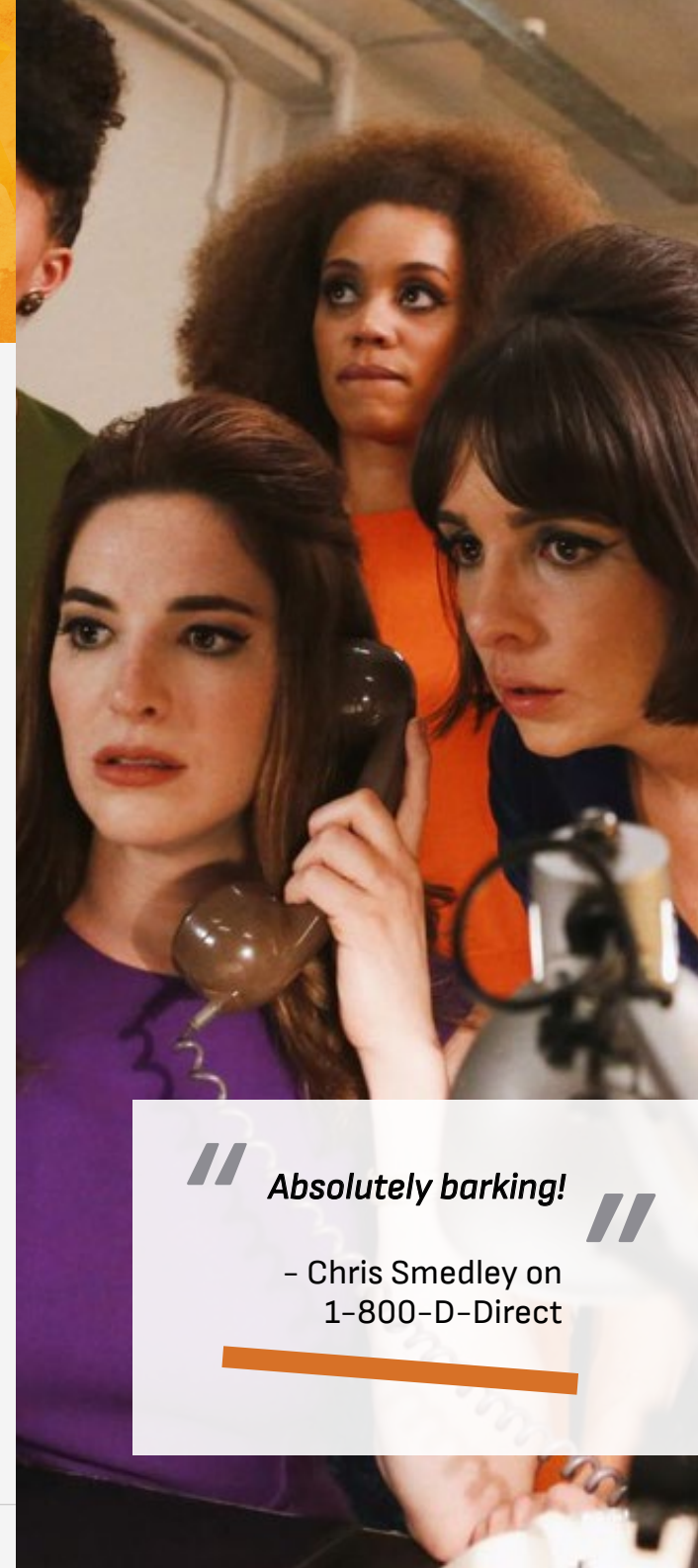
With their parental income cut off and only one spliff left, full-time stoners/part-time aspiring actors Khadija, Alex and Corrie need to make some cash... fast!



THE THIRD PART

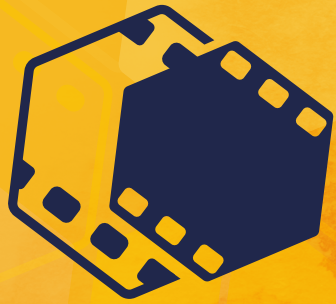
ALICIA ALBARES &
PACO CAVERO, SPAIN

Sergio is dying from cancer and his doctor wants him to achieve his final wish. Helped by the rest of the medical team, they put embarrassment aside to make Sergio's last dream come true.



“ Absolutely barking! ”

– Chris Smedley on
1-800-D-Direct



BEESTON

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THE BERLINER

TRATTORIA L'OLIVA

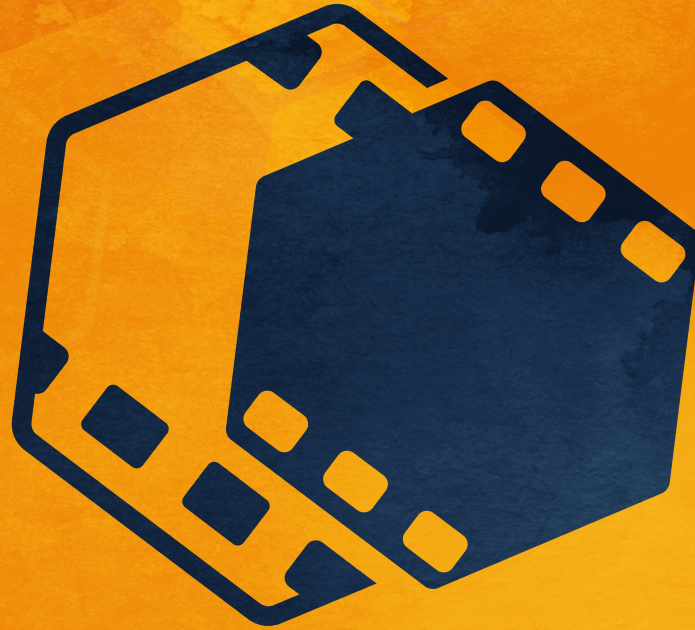
CUTTING EDGE

BUBBLE IT

QUENSUS

CHRISTIE SIETOS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE 7TH BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL!



BEESTON FILM FESTIVAL

DESIGN BY KIMLEE WILSON-MILLER