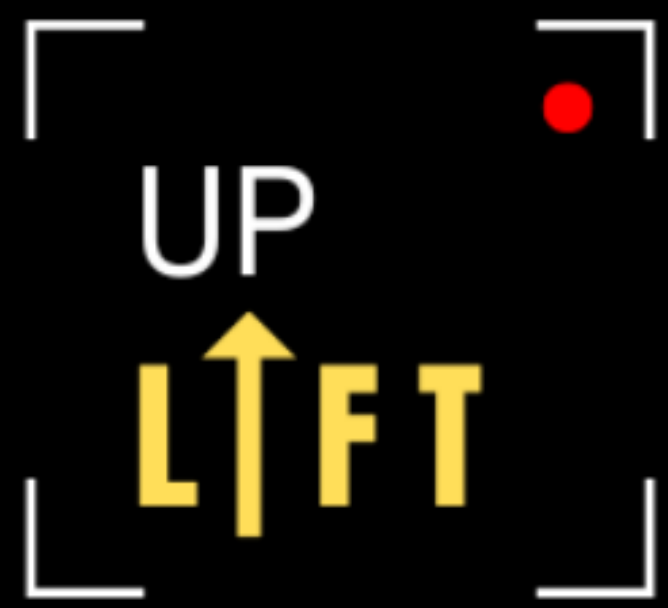


UPLIFT FILM FESTIVAL 2023



**TACKLING THE COST OF
LIVING CRISIS THROUGH THE
POWER OF FILM**

**UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
4TH-5TH MAY**

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WELCOME

01.

Our Manifesto

Uplift aims to be a space of talent, discovery, entertainment and education. We intend on approaching and target a range of audience demographics; varying from young, inspired filmmakers and students, to more established and intrigued older audiences.

An important element of our film festival is the recognition of international film submissions, and how the economy crisis is happening all around the world, as well as right in front of us.

A third of the University's students come from over seas, from more than 140 countries, and so acknowledging talent from outside the UK is imperative for us.

We desire to be eco-friendly and be aware of the sustainability impact that our festival will have. We aim to deliver a sustainable film festival, keeping the event 'green' through minimisation of waste, local sources and materials.

03.

An Introduction

Welcome to Uplift Film Festival! We hope you have a fantastic day and soak up all the activities we have to offer.

Through the power of film, we aim to tackle the cost of living crisis happening around us, across the world, that is affecting everyone.

By putting on a film festival to showcase up and coming talent, and to approach a topic that is so prominent and damaging to individuals' livelihoods, Uplift aims to bring people together and build a community to provide a case of education through a dynamic medium of entertainment.

02.

Why Attend Uplift?

Whether you're interested in films, economy, or simply just want to spend your day attending entertaining activities, our film festival can provide this.

Throughout the day, there will be a range of activities that can appeal to a range of people, workshops, masterclasses, music, food, charity events and more!

You are attending a festival that is addressing a prevalent cause, building a sense of community and allows you to build a rapport with industry professionals.

Film festivals are a great opportunity for anyone who is involved in getting into the film industry, or interested in films. Attendees can connect with other like-minded individuals, and find contacts to strengthen an interesting future within film.

KEEPING FILM FESTIVALS ALIVE

The History of Film Festivals

Film festivals are a very prominent and important part of the film industry. They are useful for the filmmakers, the audience, critics, up-coming talent and inspired young filmmakers. Submissions to the film festivals and those that get in, and shown, is an achievement. It allows people to showcase their talent, and also inspires others. Film festivals not only showcase talent and films, it allows like-minded individuals to talk and brainstorm ideas, building up contacts and a rapport for their reputation. People can talk to others and identify strengths and weaknesses and build a team to work on projects with each other. It builds a sense of community for the industry, where people can project their talent to those interested in the same field. Film festivals also provide entertaining activities such as parties, DJ sets, music concert, film markets and awards ceremonies.

Film Festivals have been a part of the industry for over a century, being discovered and traced back to the 1920s, over a range of countries as a reaction to the dominant Hollywood. Various film festivals over the world were important to the adoption of impressionist and surrealist films, recognising the beauty of the independent and domestically produced film. Once film festivals began to grow in popularity, they became a hot spot for people to share ideas and inspirations between practicing and aspiring filmmakers. The first main and prominent film festival was The Venice Film Festival which began in 1932. This was as a result of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his enthusiasm for motion pictures. The European film festival was to compete with Hollywood and their lavish reputation, and for the purpose and advantage of political public relations and propaganda.

In 1939, the Cannes Film Festival was born as a response, and it made a mark on film festivals, easily surpassing the other low-key film festivals in Venice. It was very glamorous and from here, festivals proliferated across Europe which gained artistic and commercial value for the industry. The three phases of film festivals began in 1932 to the early 1970s, when upheavals started to interfere with Cannes leading to the reorganisation of the festival framework. Between the 1970s-80s there was a lot of independently run film festivals that were facilitators and guardians of the cinematic art. From then to now, the establishment of the film festival circuit exuded professionalism and institutionalisation of the phenomenon.

WHAT IS THE 'COST-OF- LIVING' CRISIS?

Helping you
understand the
essence of our
film festival

The cost of living crisis can be defined as the fall in income due to inflation. This means that prices of things like food and energy are rising much quicker than wages, so people inevitably are struggling to pay for essentials. Although this is extremely prominent in the UK at the moment, it is also affecting the majority of the world with the economy in tatters.

The cost-of-living crisis comes after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the lockdown that many countries adhered to. There was a demand in energy and raw materials, however the supplying companies struggled to meet demand. With the UK leaving the European Union in 2020, this made it harder for companies to get supplies from outside the country, meaning they had to up their prices.

This is not just a problem in the UK, it is something that is prevalent across the world. Places such as Afghanistan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Somalia and more have been affected by severe increases in the cost of living and complete economic collapse. We want to address such matters within our Film Festival that it is not just prevalent in the UK, but very much a worldwide issue.

We have accumulated some ways that you can stay entertained and save money:

- Make a list of free activities, such as family game days, a trip to the park, a bike ride or movie nights.
- Unplugging and switching off electrical items when you don't use them.
- Turn off the tap when you clean your teeth to save water.
- Put on an extra layer to warm up instead of putting the heating on.
- Sell any items of clothing, toys, consoles etc, either for a fee or to charity that help with the cost of living crisis.

ABOUT UPLIFT FILM FESTIVAL

Uplift film festival is a new festival organised by students at University of Essex, supported by lecturer Tasos Giapoutzis. This festival draws focus on a contemporary problem – cost of living crisis. It affects not only the United Kingdom but the entire world, as majority of the population struggle trying to make ends meet.

The festival showcases 33 carefully selected student short films of a range of genres and filmmaking modes that demonstrate young filmmakers' sensibilities and artistic pursuits. To reinforce a sense of internationality, the selected films come from 18 different countries including: Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

In addition to film screenings, the festival welcomes guest speakers, hosting workshops and masterclasses. These activities aim to address and inform attendees on various topics ranging from effective money saving strategies to filmmaking on a budget. The festival culminates with an award ceremony celebrating the most talented filmmakers and the best films. An after party takes place right after the ceremony providing a more relaxed, open space that allows to network, interact, and reflect.

The festival strives to connect the community as well as support it through inclusion of food banks and charities. Other activities include an open mic night, quizzes with prizes, and an environmentally friendly scavenger hunt.

Uplift festival pursues to raise awareness about current issue through the power of films and bringing people together.



Contact us:
Instagram-
@upliftfilmfestival
Facebook-
UpLift Film Festival



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES: Throughout the class, each group was given a responsibility to make this festival a possibility.

These were:

- Industry Events- to contact external guest speakers, confirm activities and where these are located.
- General Audience Activities- To decide on the format and structure of the festival, and identify specific events and activities.
- Marketing and Communications- To promote the festival and create necessary contact points to maintain communication and keep the event relevant.
- Engagement with University Students and Staff- To identify engaging activities for both these demographics and approach appropriate contacts.
- Engagements with local community- To identify how this festival can appeal to the local community of Colchester, and get in contact with charities and branches to support the festival.
- Sustainability- To make sure that the festival remains green and environmentally friendly, through activities and events.

TICKET INFORMATION

While the festival is completely FREE, attendees are required to book a ticket for each session they would like to attend.

Please follow this link to book your FREE tickets for the UPLIFT festival:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014411877>

Attendees are able to book up to 5 tickets.



SCAN ME



TICKET LINKS

THURSDAY 4TH MAY:



TICKETS FOR **14:30-15:30PM** SCREENING:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014411877>

TICKETS FOR **15:30-17:00PM** WORKSHOP:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014441967>

TICKETS FOR **15:30-17:00PM** DISCUSSION:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014441967>

TICKETS FOR **17:00-18:00PM** SCREENING:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014472057>

TICKETS FOR **18:00-19:00PM** SCREENING:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014492117>

FRIDAY 5TH MAY:

TICKETS FOR **14:30-15:30PM** SCREENING:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014502147>

TICKETS FOR **15:30-17:00PM** MASTERCLASS:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014542267>

TICKETS FOR **17:00-18:00PM** SCREENING:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014562327>

TICKETS FOR **18:00-19:00PM** SCREENING:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uplift-film-festival-tickets-623014572357>



WHERE TO FIND US:

UpLift festival will be located in LTB10 on The University of Essex Colchester campus, this room is also the home to CINE10. The room is filled with comfy seats and a large projector screen perfect for watching the films we have to offer.

LTB10 is situated in the centre of the University of Essex campus making it easy to access. The main campus is made up of 5 squares. LTB10 is located on the south side of Square 3 only a 1 minute walk away from the SU Bar. The room itself is in the Lecture Theatre Building on the top floor on the left hand side when approaching from the central stair case.

If you have any difficulty finding the room, you can go online to findyourway.essex.ac.uk for an interactive map.

Accessible access to LTB10 will be available in the building via a lift. Accessible toilets are also available on the floor LTB10 is located.

CAR PARKING

There are 10 car parks on campus so there will be no issue on finding a space for your car.

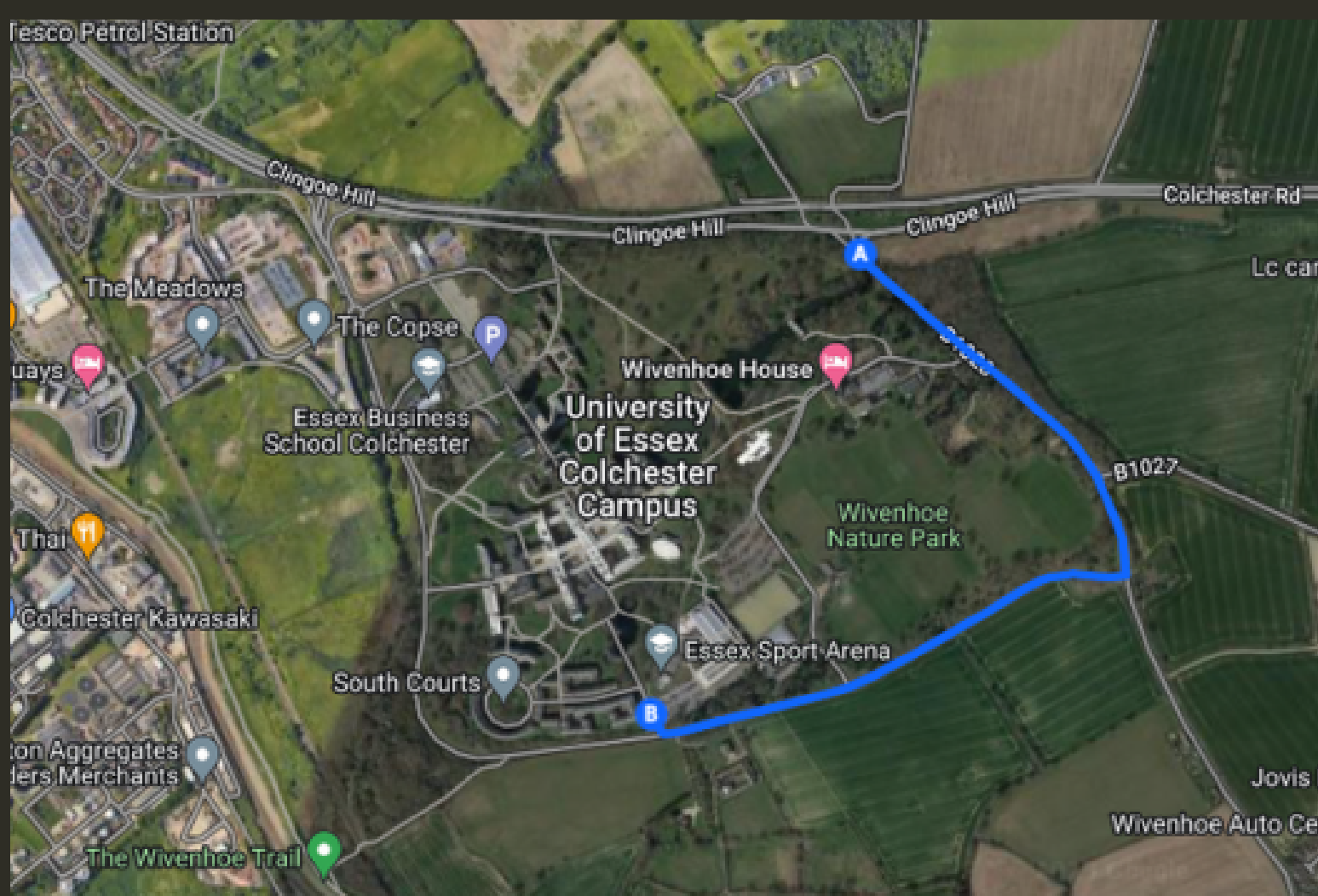
We recommend driving in on the East side of campus off Colchester Road when heading toward Wivenhoe. When entering this entrance, you will be on Boundary Road.

Car Parks are available at either the first or second righthand turn. We would recommend the second entrance. This leads to the South Courts car park and the Multistory car park.

From here you will have the shortest walk to get to LTB10.

If you choose to take the first entrance it will follow round to the Valley Car Park and the Visitors car park. Please avoid the first car parks on the left hand side of entrance 1, this is for coaches only.

NOTE: IF YOU ARE TRAVELLING BY CAR AND ARE PARKING ON CAMPUS, THIS REQUIRES YOU TO PAY A FEE. PARKING CHARGES APPLY FROM 9:30AM TO 4:30PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY. VISITORS TO CAMPUS MUST PARK IN ONE OF THE VISITOR BAYS, WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN ALL OUR CAR PARKS.



Schedule

4th May

14:30-15:30
Screening in LTB10

15:30-17:00 Discussion
with Christian Against
Poverty In Hex

15:30-17:00 Workshop
with Ryan Bogle in
LTB10

17:00-18:00
Screening in LTB10

18:00-19:00
Screening in LTB10

19:00
Open mic /networking
in LTB2

5th May

14:30-15:30
Screening in LTB10

15:30-17:00
Masterclass with Jane
Gull in LTB10

17:00-18:00
Screening in LTB10

18:00-19:00
Screening in LTB10

19:00
Awards/party
at the Inbetween

GUEST SPEAKERS AND WHO THEY ARE

Jane Gull



Director / writer/ actress. Jane is currently in post on her second feature film, LOVE WITHOUT WALLS which she wrote and directed. She grew up in Southend-On-Sea watching musicals and competing on the national Ballroom dance circuit. Her debut feature film MY FERAL HEART, 2016, became the UK's most successful 'cinema-on-demand' film of all time, in partnership with OurScreen. It earned Jane a BIFA nomination and won best director at the Lift-Off Awards. Jane will talk about her latest feature film Love Without Walls (2023) and discuss social realist film aesthetics.

Christians Against Poverty

They provide free professional debt help, job clubs, life skills groups and money education in the heart of communities.

Their services are delivered face to face through working with local churches, providing practical and emotional support.

They can help you get out of debt, find a job or gain vital life skills.



Ryan Bogle

Research Assistant for Department of Literature Film and Theatre Studies, Senior IT Student Assistant for Digital Innovation and Technology Services. Filmmaker who resides locally in Colchester, specialises in social realism filmmaking techniques.

This shall be a practical workshop.

WORKSHOPS AND MASTERCLASSES

Filmmaking on a Budget with Ryan Bogle

01.

15:30 - 17:00

Thursday / 4th May

LTB10

Discussion with Christian

Against Poverty

15:30 - 17:00

Thursday / 4th May

The Hex

02.

Masterclass with Jane Gull

03.

15:30 - 17:00

Friday / 5th May

LTB10

SCREENINGS

4th May

14:30–15:30pm Screening

Includes films of the
Animation Genre:

- Lake Kabula
- These Aren't People
- Pixi
- Traps on Ironbound
- Nightnoises
- The Enlightener

And the **Comedy Genre:**

- The Last Shift
- Landed Interest
- Turtles and Tortugas

17:00–18:00pm Screening

Includes films of the
Documentary Genre:

- Hayatın Anlamı
- Lanugae Cosplay
- Kanrach
- Katalina

18:00–19:00pm Screening

Includes films of the **Drama
Film Genre:**

- Suitcase
- Way Between
- Contention
- Baco

5th May

14:30–15:30pm Screening

Includes films of the
Experimental/Drama Genre:

- The Unveiled Woman
- Identibye
- To Love
- Selection

17:00–18:00pm Screening

Includes films of the
Documentary Genre:

- Group Solitude
- Further and Further
- Unseen
- Nocturnal Varmints
- Amemory
- The Wasted Effort
- Last Item on the Agenda

And the **Drama/Mystery
Genre:**

- Venule
- Eldritch

18:00–19:00pm Screening

Includes films of the
Community Struggle Genre:

- Solpor
- Oro
- Fragile

SELECTED FILMS

1. LAKE KABULA

Director: Okeremute Ovuorho– An animator, a cinematographer and a script writer. Also the winner of the Nigeria film Corporation competition in script writing for the animation film project for the Nigerian child, 2014.

Country: Nigeria

Runtime: 2 minutes 44 seconds

Genre: Animation, Documentary, Student

Synopsis: This is a story about the animals in Australia, they had so much in common. They celebrated their rich culture and shared their natural resources. Tragedy struck and they lost so much.



2. THESE AREN'T PEOPLE

Director: Ben Rosales– Ben was graduated from the Department of Computer Animation at Ringling College of Art + Design and more recently from the Master of Fine Arts in Digital Arts program at Bowling Green State University. For 9 years, he has taught students the animation production pipeline. Prior to teaching, he was a character animator/clean-up artist/render wrangler at Reel FX Creative Studios.

Country: United States

Runtime: 7 minutes 2 seconds

Genre: Drama, Social Justice, 3D Animation

Synopsis: The story follows a little girl's journey after being tear gassed, torn from her mother's arms, and caged like an animal by ICE agents simply for seeking asylum at the US/Mexico border. A bigfoot comes to her aid and transforms symbols of hatred and fear into symbols of compassion and love.



3. HAYATIN ANLAMI

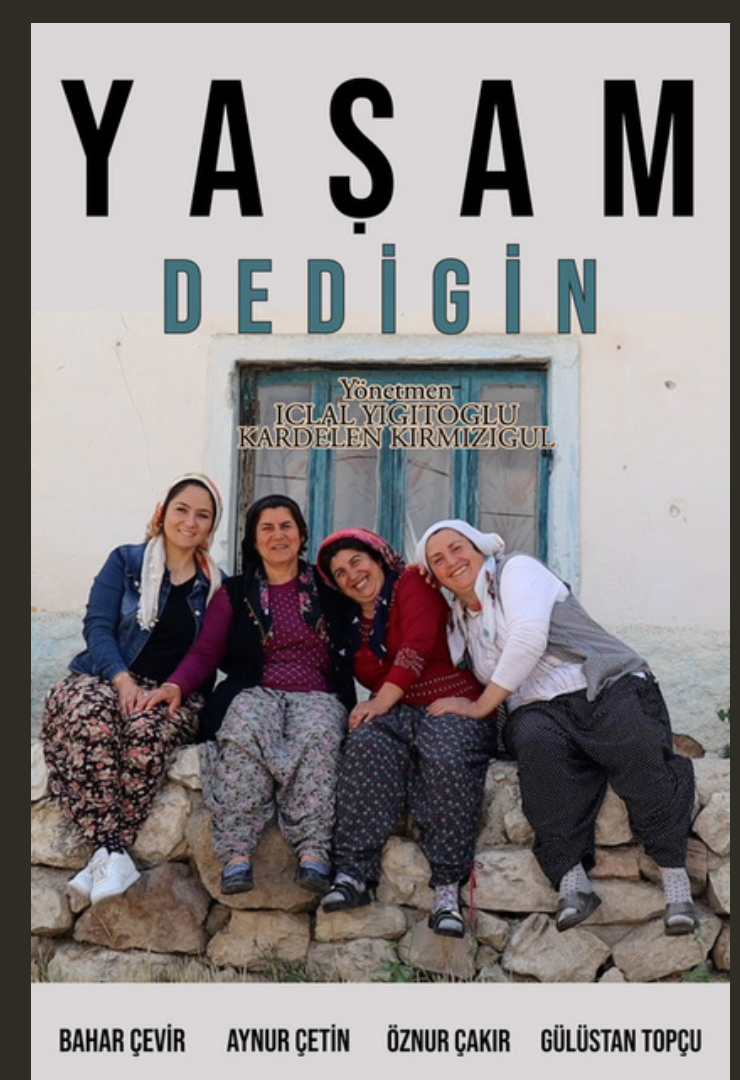
Directors: İclal Yiğitoğlu, Kardelen Kırmızıgül– They received Radio and Television Programming training at Istanbul Şişli Vocational School in 2018-2020. They have been studying Cinema and Television at Anadolu University since 2020.

Country: Turkey

Runtime: 8 minutes 24 seconds

Genre: Documentary, Student

Synopsis: The film is about the life stories of four women living in the Yörükçirka village of Eskişehir. We get involved in the lives of these women through conversations about their childhoods, jobs, and marriages, and snippets of their daily lives.



SELECTED FILMS

4. VENULE

Director: Ana Moreira– a graduate of the Soares dos Reis Art School, having completed her Audiovisual Communication Course in the Cinema and Video Specialty. She is the director of the short film VENULE (2022), which was produced as her Proof of Artistic Aptitude.

Country: Portugal

Runtime: 5 minutes 31 seconds

Genre: Drama, Family Drama

Synopsis: After the death of her mother, Clara takes refuge in writing to express her longing, leaving this pain eternal in her words. Long years later, her daughter Clarinha expects the same suffering.



5. LANGUAGE OF COSPLAY

Director: Norah Alheraiz

Country: United Arab Emirates

Runtime: 19 minutes 40 seconds

Genre: Documentary

Synopsis: "Language of Cosplay" is a short documentary that explores the cosplay community within the United Arab Emirates, diving into the harsh misconceptions cosplayers face, the true meaning of cosplay, and the heart and soul behind the craft.



6. LANDED INTEREST

Director: Ruchi Vaya

Country: United Arab Emirates

Runtime: 17 minutes 21 seconds

Genre: Comedy, Mockumentary

Synopsis: After being kicked to the curb, a failed college student joins his eccentric uncle's bizarre real estate business in order to prove his father wrong.



SELECTED FILMS

7. ELDRITCH

Director: Duke Moosbrugger

Country: United States

Runtime: 10 minutes 8 seconds

Genre: Horror, Neo-Noire, Psychological Thriller, Mystery

Synopsis: Eldritch chronicles a paranormal investigator's journey through a seemingly abandoned home—he soon learns that there is something much more sinister at play. Throughout his journey he uncovers the darker secrets that lie within this home. My film blends neo-noir and psychological horror aesthetics to deliver a story that relies on atmosphere and emotion to achieve a sense of terror that is both intimate and surreal.



8. TURTLES AND TORTUGAS

Director: Maxwell Park

Country: United States

Runtime: 4 minutes

Genre: Comedy, Musical, Dance, Funny, Sketch

Synopsis: Join us on the musical journey to find him! The turtle. La Tortuga.



9. SUITCASE

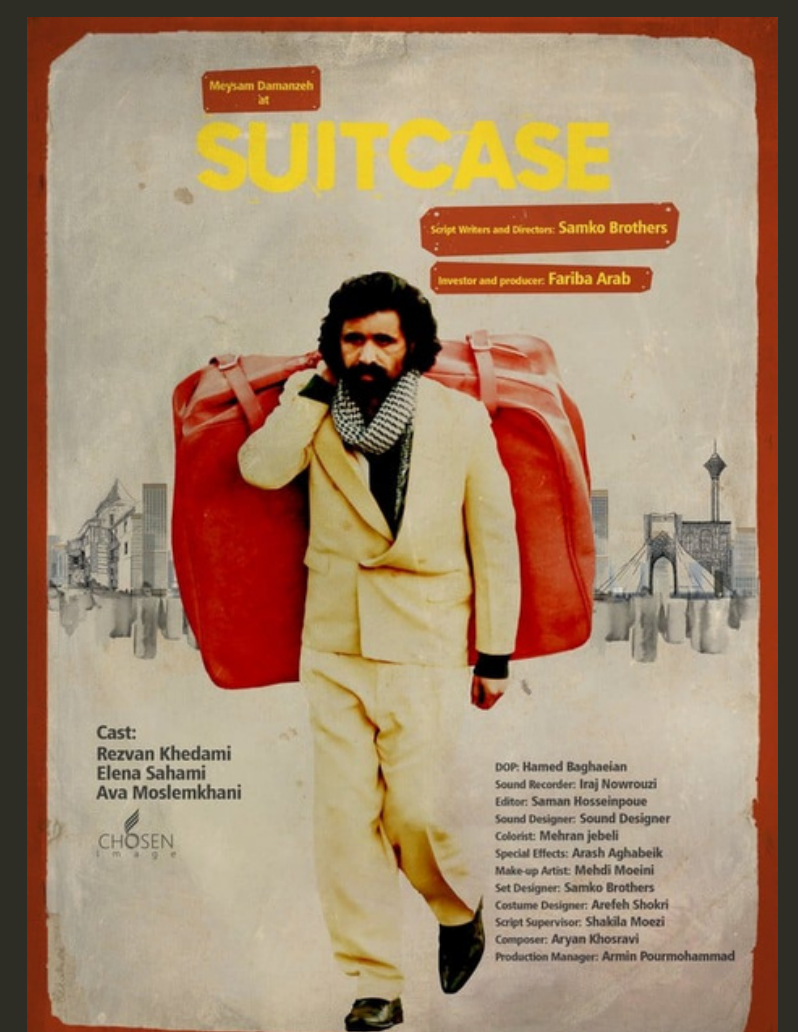
Directors: Saman Hosseinpour, Ako Zandkarimi- Saman Hosseinpour was born in Saqez/Kurdestan/Iran at 1993. He started acting in Theater and he was just 14 years old, He started filmmaking at 2008. Ako was born in Sanandaj/Kurdistan/Iran at 1993. He started Filmmaking when he was just 15 years old and he was just a student in high school and that was the start of his passion to Cinema.

Country: Iran, Islamic Republic of

Runtime: 15 minutes

Genre: Short

Synopsis: Far from his own homeland, a Kurdish refugee lives in his suitcase. In it he carries memories of his family. When someone steals the suitcase in the tumult of the foreign city center, he loses his home a second time.



SELECTED FILMS

10. WAY BETWEEN

Director: Amber Shen

Country: Taiwan

Runtime: 12 minutes 29 seconds

Genre: Student, Short

Synopsis: Two boys meet after one tries to steal the other's bike. They bond over their different aspirations and communities.



11. LAST ITEM ON THE AGENDA

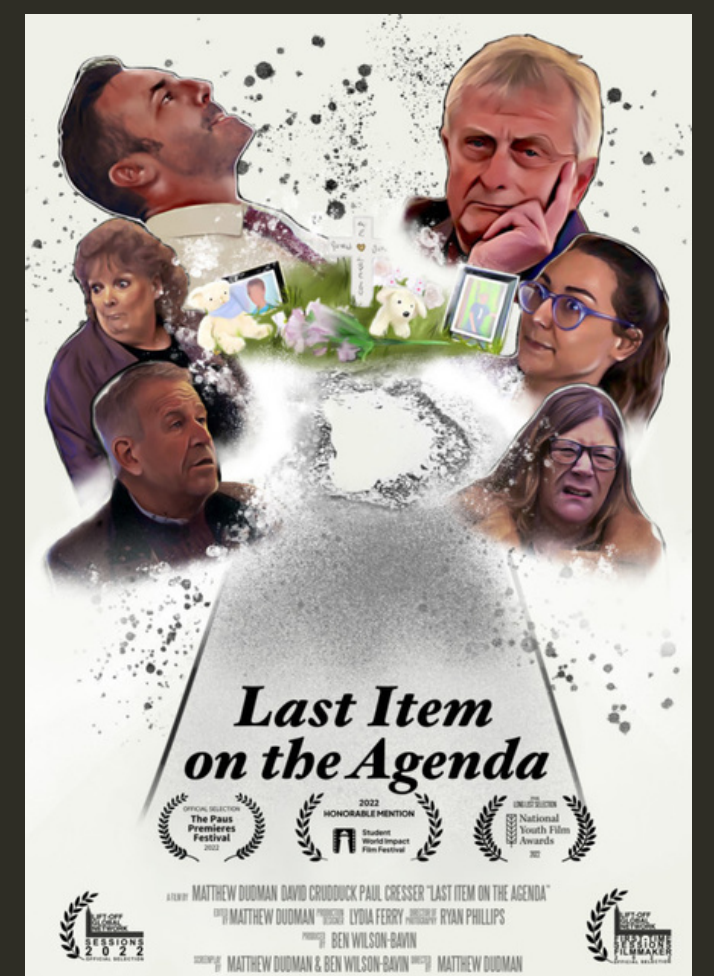
Director: Matthew Dudman

Country: United Kingdom

Runtime: 11 minutes 2 seconds

Genre: Any, Student

Synopsis: A budget meeting between egotistical councillors descends into chaos.



12. GROUP SOLITUDE

Director: Dylan Hunter Fuimo

Country: United States

Runtime: 1 minute 52 seconds

Genre: Experimental, Documentary, Postrealist

Synopsis: Everyone experiences loneliness to at some point in their lives. The most extreme loneliness often comes when we're surrounded by others. This experimental film explores the haunting and isolating feeling of loneliness despite being surrounded by others. We often find ourselves falling into despair, believing we are alone in this world, when all we need to do is raise our heads and look around.



SELECTED FILMS

13. FURTHER AND FURTHER

Director: Tilley Aga Thom, Elizabeth Wei Yun Albrecht- Elizabeth, a student filmmaker from Toronto, Canada. They make films to understand the hidden narratives in our lives that play out when we're simply existing in our own space. Tilley, a student filmmaker and multi-medium artist based in Toronto, Canada. At the moment, realism and narrative film bordering on documentary holds their focus. Their recent work has oriented around themes of family dynamics and narratives, thresholds, and embracement of the journey as opposed to the destination.

Country: Canada

Runtime: 2 minutes

Genre: Experimental

Synopsis: The film focuses on a younger brother and older sister whose love is so intense but simultaneously paralyzing and the need for the relationship to evolve beyond it's current state. The brother's need to cross that threshold prevails over the pain of leaving something so precious behind. It is about the strength, bravery and innovation to step beyond the safe and preestablished into a new, unknown reality.



14. UNSEEN

Director: Afreen Zehra Rizvi

Country: Pakistan

Runtime: 3 minutes 5 seconds

Genre: Documentary

Synopsis: Documentary film on the job of manual scavenging, portrayed with rhythmic visuals that will provide abstract and subjective interpretation of reality.

With this film, the intention is to create the feeling rather than expressing the truth. It will show a manual scavenger doing the job inside the gutter that will bring discomfort among the audience to a point where it makes them realize the plight of a manual scavenger's job especially after knowing that it is a bare minimum earning in comparison to the complex work they do.



15. PIXI

Directors: Miguel Martínez, Anna Alcalá- Miguel Martínez is an Animation and Digital Effects student from The University of Monterrey (UDEM) in Mexico. They have directed two short films, the first one being Brûlée, a 3D animated film, and the second being PIXI alongside Anna Alcalá. They are very proud of what they have accomplished and hope in the future to keep creating projects that bring people joy.

Country: Mexico

Runtime: 6 minutes 52 seconds

Genre: Animation

Synopsis: Sam needs to write an essay for the university she wants to go to, but by procrastinating, she creates a clay monster that comes to life.



SELECTED FILMS

16. NOCTURNAL VARMINTS

Director: Aleksei Manson– Cinematographer and Director based in Poland. Born in Russia and moved to Poland in 2017 to study at Lodz film school, since then he has directed several short feature films and documentaries, and taken part in the shooting of feature films and TV series. Currently he is working on several new projects in Europe and beyond.

Country: Poland

Runtime: 7 minutes 12 seconds

Genre: Observational Documentary, Indie

Synopsis: The story of one man, the story of one night, the story of one event. This night we join Chris, member of the Warsaw Vandals group to take part in their nocturnal adventure and understand the philosophy behind it.



17. AMEMORY

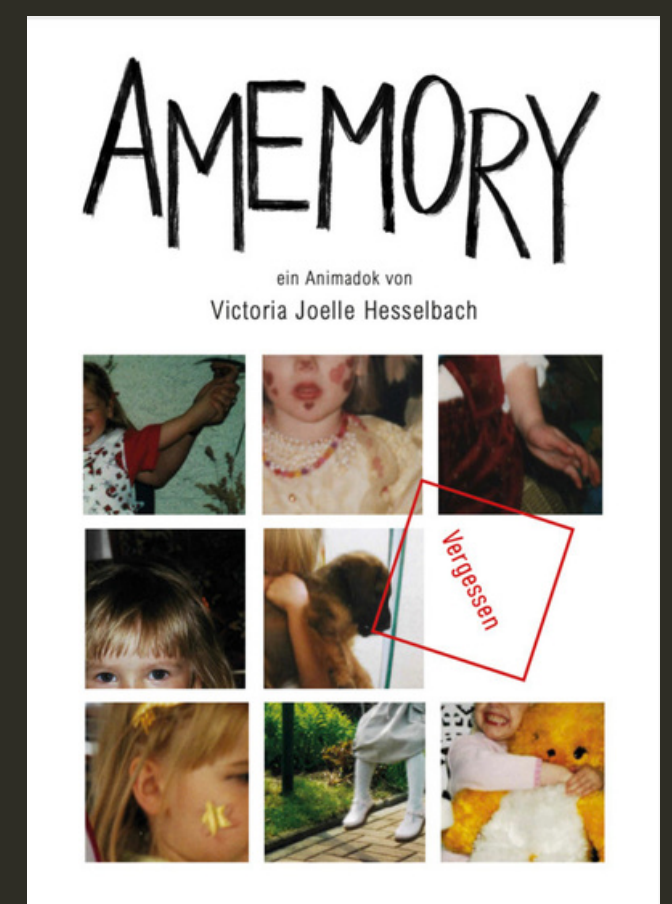
Director: Victoria Joelle Hesselbach– Bachelor of Fine Arts in Media Arts and Design (graduated in 2022 at Bauhaus–University Weimar) currently studying Master of Arts in Film and Tv Production at Filmuniversity Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF

Country: Germany

Runtime: 10 minutes

Genre: Ani-doc, Animadoc, Autobiographical

Synopsis: Influenced by aphantasy, the phenomenon of a lack of visual imagination, the protagonist embarks on a personal journey. It's about accepting condition where you lose your autobiographical memories and how to live a fulfilled life when you don't have any memories of your life. What it means to always live in the here and now and always forget. It is a search for answers to one's own identity and the acceptance that goes with it.



18. KANRACH

Directors: Uzair Surhio, Afreen Zehra– Uzair Surhio is an independent filmmaker with a Master's Degree in Film Productions. Taking dramatic inspirations from socio-cultural scenarios of Pakistan, he works within emotionally charged humanistic themes. He has written and directed multiple short fiction and documentary films.

Country: Pakistan

Runtime: 10 minutes 24 seconds

Genre: Documentary

Synopsis: Kanrach is one of the villages in Balochistan, Pakistan where inhabitants are living life in stone age with no electricity, medical facilities, infrastructure, education and most importantly access to clean water. This documentary depicts the beauty of natural mountains, caves and rivers contrasted with the plight of people to give hope in the end.



SELECTED FILMS

19. CONTENTION

Director: Alireza Abbasi– Acting in theater from 2012 to 2018 in Tehran's famous theaters, writing and directing short fiction films from 2019 to 2022.

Country: Iran, Islamic Republic of

Runtime: 19 minutes 41 seconds

Genre: Short, Student

Synopsis: In the middle of the night, two playful boys, who are guests at a wedding step onto the roof of a nearby, abandoned and dark house where people are secretly living.



20. THE LAST SHIFT

Director: Nathan Silva– Nathan Silva had the opportunity to co-write, co-produce, act, and direct his first narrative short film. Prior to this, he produced numerous other videos, including a Superbowl Commercial that aired during the 2021 Superbowl.

Country: United States

Runtime: 4 minutes 30 seconds

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Student

Synopsis:

Two high school students have one final, crazy shift at their workplace corner store before leaving for college.



21. TRAPS ON IRONBOUND

Director: Colleen MacIsaac

Country: Canada

Runtime: 1 minute 35 seconds

Genre: Animation, pixellation, experimental

Synopsis: 'Traps on Ironbound' is a loopable, animated exploration of bits of disintegrating lobster traps in their found habitat – marine detritus washed up on the shores of West Ironbound Island in Mi'kma'ki.



SELECTED FILMS

22. NIGHT NOISES

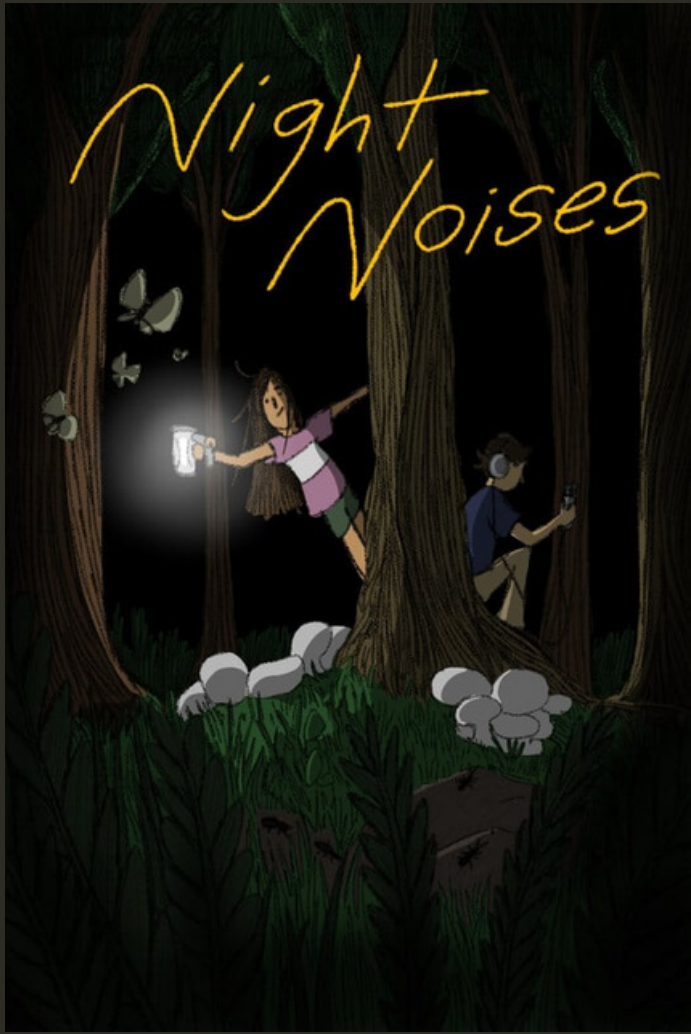
Director: Max Shoham

Country: Canada

Runtime: 2 minutes 44 seconds

Genre: Adventure, animation, childhood, nature, nostalgic, memory

Synopsis: Night Noises tells the story of two children searching for the voice of a "midnight spirit" in the dark of the woods. My film explores the childhood sensory wonder of exploring local biomes, coming to gain familiarity with insects, rocks, plants and the constant sound of the wild. Inspired by the time I spent in Southern Ontario, crossing freezing rivers, catching frogs, and marvelling at strange insects as a child.



23. THE ENLIGHTENER

Directors: Vincent Gougelet, Valentin Baude, Marie Baerenzung, Félix Lecocq- Four students of ECV Lille decided to challenge themselves. Together, they crafted an ambitious short film which allowed them to increase their technical knowledge.

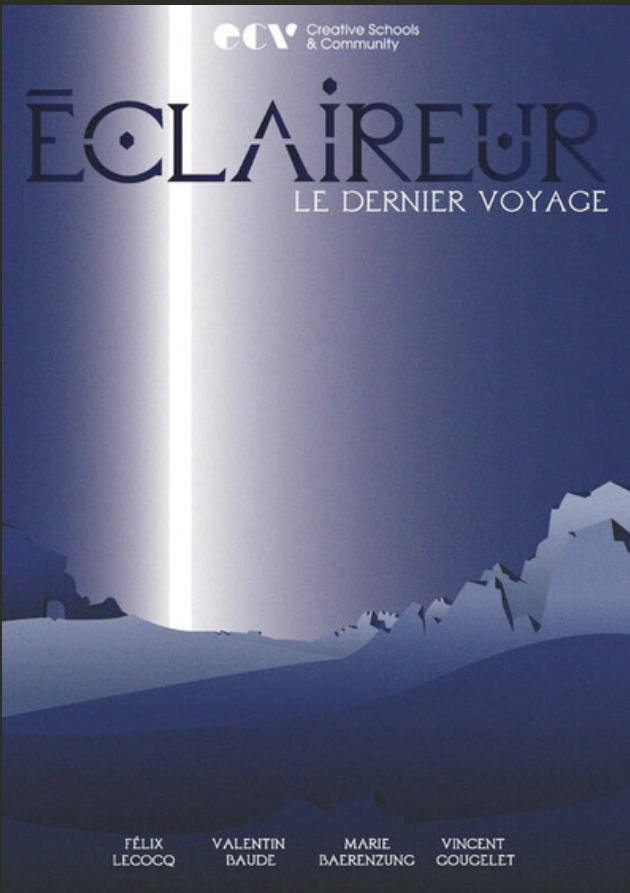
They put all their talent and devotion in this project, and their work was rewarded as the Jury's favourite at their final master exam.

Country: France

Runtime: 4 minutes 39 seconds

Genre: Animation, Short, Student

Synopsis: After years of wandering in the desert, a scout finally finds the city once abandoned by his own.



24. THE UNVEILED WOMAN

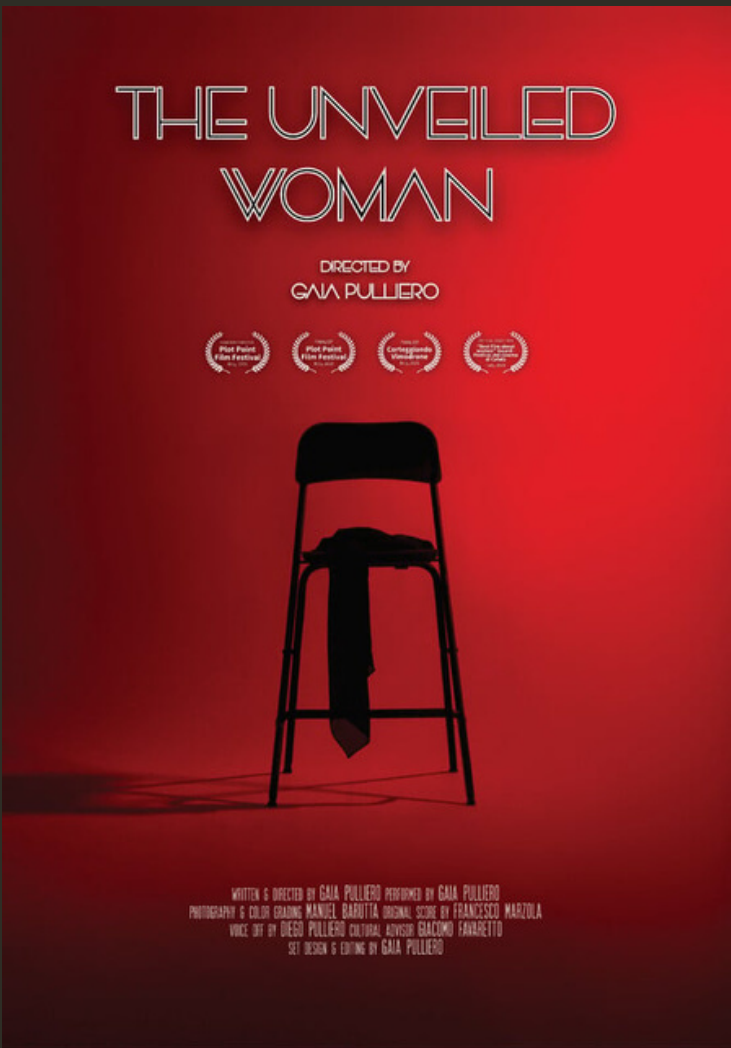
Director: Gaia- My first work as a director coincides with the short film "Touch me Softly" that I realized independently in 2021 for an university laboratory curated by Prof. Marina Zangirolami Mazzacurati. My last work experience coincides with the "Life Match" film project made in collaboration with the Clinic of Pediatric Oncology of Padua and the Onlus Team for Children in which I held the role of producer, assistant director and set designer.

Country: Italy

Runtime: 2 minute 55 seconds

Genre: Experimental, Short, Student, Web / New Media

Synopsis: During an interview, a young woman tells her interlocutor the meanings she attributes to the concept of freedom. But what seems to be simple statements, at the end of the short will turn out to be a desperate cry for help.



SELECTED FILMS

25. IDENTIBYE

Director: Sajjad Shahhatami– Born in 1994, Tehran, Iran. Student of acting Theater and Directed in Azad University Tehran.

Country: Iran, Islamic Republic of

Runtime: 15 minutes

Genre: Experimental, Student, Short

Synopsis: The protagonist of the story faces a dilemma of choosing between sense and sensibility regarding one's innermost feelings. He has been judged from the very beginning by the ones closest to him. The fear of these never-ending judgments fills him with doubt and he has to work against the clock to achieve his goal as he knows that one's true identity is what matters most to them.



26. TO LOVE

Director: Reabetswe Tshepo Lesoalo

Country: South Africa

Runtime: 15 minutes

Genre: Short, Student

Synopsis: A couple about to get married reach a bump in their relationship when a job opportunity arises to further her career but her fiancé has second thoughts on wanting to leave and starting a new life, overseas.



27. BACO

Director: Fiorella Coto Segnini, Arara Films– Filmmaker for Arara Films born in Costa Rica, living in Madrid, Spain.

Country: Spain

Runtime: 10 minutes

Genre: Short

Synopsis: Juan is a nine-year-old boy who lives with his father and older brother in rural Spain 1964. When his father is passed out, drunk. A stranger arrives to buy wine; Juan is forced to attend him without knowing how to deal with the situation being forced to act as a man while he's still a child.



SELECTED FILMS

28. SOLPOR

Director: Susana Alba

Country: Spain

Runtime: 15 minutes

Genre: Short

Synopsis: A middle-aged man lives in his car after becoming unemployed and moving away from his family. After some time living in this situation, the same man begins to run out of resources to be able to buy the food he needs to live and the car starts to break down and won't start no matter how hard he tries. After these incidents, he begins to reconsider returning home and taking control of his life.



29. FRAGILE

Director: Ersin Sel

Country: Turkey

Runtime: 13 minutes 1 second

Genre: Short,

Synopsis: Niyazi, a café owner, has to shut his café down due to coronavirus pandemic. He feels lonely as he loses his social environment. Along the restrictions and economic problems, his concerns transform into depression. That situation causes him to come across with Murat more frequent.



30. THE WASTED EFFORT

Director: Muhammed Bozbey- Award-winning Turkish film director, Producer, Scenarist, Actor and Musician. This short film "The Wasted Effort" met with the audience at many festivals around the world by raising awareness about the value of "labor and laborer" at the world premiere. It was nominated for many awards. This film was the beginning of a long career for projects that benefit humanity.

Country: Turkey

Runtime: 5 minutes

Genre: Drama, Experimental, Documentary, Fiction, Feature, Short

Synopsis: Attila lives alone in a small town and finds a lira while walking on the road. Attila then uses a lira to buy a loaf of bread from the oven and returns to his home. At his house, he starts to prepare lunch. He sits down with the lunch he made and the bread he got from the bakery.



SELECTED FILMS

31. SELECTION

Director: Bianka Farkas- She was born and lives in Hungary. Student.

Country: Hungary

Runtime: 3 minutes 13 seconds

Genre: Experimental, Student, Short

Synopsis: After much deliberation, the committee has reached its decision.



32. KATALINA

Director: Zaeem Asad- Films intend to help us explore, whether it's the world or ourselves; as an explorer myself, I want to make films that make you see the world in a different light. These are the types of films I want to create; I want to tell meaningful, complex stories in which the audience can find a new side of themselves.

Country: United Kingdom

Runtime: 14 minutes 30 seconds

Genre: Documentary, Short

Synopsis: A story of a bohemian woman, breaking the social norms, choosing an alternate way of living life by residing on a narrow boat. Having a spark in her soul that comes from her spiritual and creative family, Amanda came to London in 1989 from America to follow her dream of becoming an actor ended up being an eccentrically distinctive person, after all the set backs and uncertainties in life, she still persuaded living life on her own terms. This film is a portrayal of perseverance, finding joy and a sacred energy which she calls 'The light at the end of the tunnel'.



33. ORO

Director: Lydia Lucena Lucas- Lydia Lucena Lucas has a degree in Audiovisual Communication from the Miguel Hernández University of Elche. She has worked in different audiovisual areas, such as photography or video editing, as well as having been a camera operator on various projects. Her debut as a director is Oro, a short film that delves into the damage that some relationships can do to mental health.

Country: Spain

Runtime: 15 minutes

Genre: Student, Short

Synopsis: Alicia, a university student, establishes a friendship with one of her classmates, Ángel, who is full of mental problems. For Alicia, he will become the most important person in her life, and she will put her mental health aside to save Ángel's.





AWARDS



01.

Best Film Award

02.

Best Cinematography Award

03.

Best Sound Design Award

04.

Best Editing Award

05.

Best Performance Award

06.

Audience Choice Award

JURY MEMBERS



Dan O'Brien

Daniel O'Brien's research considers the relationship between cinema, interactive art and computer gaming. His work focuses upon the interdisciplinary nature of visual media, particularly how audiences have become participants in visual and audible storytelling through a postphenomenological framework. He has taught and had work published across each of these areas at a range of research institutes and academic journals, including the International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media.



Sarah Smyth

Sarah Louise Smyth is a Lecturer in Film at the University of Essex. Sarah completed her PhD in Film at the University of Southampton in 2019. Her thesis examined contemporary British women's cinema, as part of the AHRC-funded project, Calling the Shots: Women and Contemporary UK Film Culture. Sarah is currently working on a monograph based on her doctoral research, which examines genre and women's filmmaking in British cinema. Sarah's research focuses on women's representation and authorship in contemporary film and television. She is interested in feminist theory, especially feminist film theory; women's filmmaking and television production; postfeminism; pregnancy and motherhood; genre filmmaking. Sarah has published in these areas, including her article "Postfeminism, Ambivalence and the Mother in Lynne Ramsay's *We Need to Talk about Kevin* (2011)", and her forthcoming book chapter, "'I do not know that I find myself anywhere': The British Heritage Film and Spaces of Intersectionality in Amma Asante's *Belle* (2014)". Sarah is also a member of Women's Film and Television History Network UK/Ireland (WFTHN) Steering Group.



Rohan Berry. Crickmar

Rohan has over a decade of experience in the film industry. Currently a development Producer at LS Productions in Edinburgh, he has programmed for film festivals such as EdinburghIFF and CorkIFF and has been on juries and industry panels at many more around the world. His work in a variety of production roles brings a wealth of industry experience to his projects including the Canal+ / Bongo Media Polish television series *Europa filmowa* (2018), the award-winning film *These are my Hands* (2018) and *The Tomorrow That'll Come* (2022). He founded the production company *Everything was Decided in Movement Productions* in 2021 in Edinburgh and is currently producing and developing a number of new documentary projects.

ENTERTAINMENT

Throughout the festival, attendees will have a chance to take part in a number of different activities, try a wide selection of food, as well as support a good cause by making donations

Open Mic
Night
Networking
Event
Charities
Kahoot Quiz
Scavenger
Hunts
Food Stalls
Workshops



Afterparty to wrap up a fantastic film festival!



Awards to congratulate and recognise the up and coming talent from all over the world.

Products by the bakery LB Patissiere will be available to festival visitors outside LTB10



Food Banks to help out with charity and the essence of the film festival.

Winners of the quiz get a bottle of wine!

OUR SUSTAINABILITY MANIFESTO

Within Uplift Film Festival, we aim to keep the event running as 'green' as possible. We want to sustain an environmentally friendly festival, and we intend on going to the measures of our activities, uniform, events and marketing as eco friendly as possible.

As a collective, we aim to use second aim T-shirts as our uniform. This is eco-friendly because we are not contributing to the likes of fast fashion due to the damaging lack of environmental awareness that some brands maintain. Alongside this, our marketing is very much remote, and the physical marketing tools that we use will be available on recycled paper, so we are not using a vast quantity of new paper which is damaging to the environment, contributing to the land, water and air pollution of earth.

Particularly our scavenger hunt shall be kept remote, being able to complete via individuals' phones, through QR codes. Keeping the festival in a close vicinity, it decreases the use of petrol and using transport like cars, buses and trains. People are able to walk from location to location. Our food outlets produce plant-based options, which maintains a help on preventing the production of carbon emissions and also be wary of the mass of animal death that meat eating can cause.



OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

We strive to bring the local community together and create enduring relationships with people and businesses of Colchester that would proceed to flourish as the festival continues to grow in the upcoming years.



In order to successfully spread the message of the festival, we are collaborating with local bakery LB Patisserie as well as the Trussell Trust Foodbank. We are also inviting a key religious organisation of Colchester - "Christian Against Poverty."



Since our film festival focuses on one artistic form, we are eager to welcome local artists to share their talent on any medium.

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you very much for attending Uplift Film Festival! We hope you had a fantastic time, and learnt a lot about the film industry and how we can tackle such a pressing matter. Us students would like to thank Tasos for helping us put together this film festival and to share such a creative and resourceful community with other like-minded Individuals about an important topic.

We feel as though a topic as significant as this needs the recognition it deserves, and the film industry is an innovative way of spreading the message, education through entertainment. We hope we were able to build a community that comes together to achieve a stand against a problem that impacts everyone in their day-to-day lives. We hope you felt recognised and united in the fact tha you are not alone in this.

