# COLUMBIA FESTIVAL

2021 Film Brochure

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# Columbia Festival Team

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### ...And Then the Darkness

13:30 minutes | United States | 2021

Director: Andrew Huggins

Eric Lochstampfor

Starring:	Jay N. Cohen, John R. Sexton, Celeste Allen Marcone, Jeremy Carr, Thomas Graham, Norina Cammarata, Arika Nash
Tags:	Short film, Thriller
Summary:	A pharmacist seeks revenge as he searches for the man who took everything from him.



A Norm	al Conversation	
7:43 minutes	United States 2020	Director: Gairo Cuevas
Starring:	Sofia Mineghino, Bella Cvengros	
Tags:	Short film, Thriller	
Summary:	Two teenagers debate the issue of g after leaving a memorial service ho a school shooting.	



### All Hail the Champion

6:06 minutes	United States   2020 Director: Eric L
Starring:	Brandon Hopkins, Lauren Lochstampfor
Tags:	Short film, Animation, Health and Wellbeing, Thriller
Summary:	A man goes to the same therapist as a superhero.



### All of This is Somehow True

6:40 minutes	s United States 20	)20
Starring:	Joseph Kraemer	Director: Joseph Kraemer
Tags:	Short film, Maryland Film	s, Pandemic Inspired, Thriller
Summary:	A sick patient enters a wa help never comes.	iting room seeking medical help, but
Description:	COVID-19 pandemic's spi	d dread that defined the early days of the ead. Created in quarantine during the ay 2020. Filmed, performed, and edited ltimore, MD, USA.





### **Beauty**

6:00 minutes | Portugal | 2018 Director: Mónica de Miranda Starring: Cymthia Malenga Adobiya, Titina Saidi Zongwe, Sonoplastia Tags: Short Film, World Cinema, Experimental Summary:

The city of Kinshasa and its liberation architectural spaces are here embodied through a journey of a woman that walks alone through the ghosted spaces of history.

Description: The spaces represented in the film build on heritage built before and after the wars of independence to signal the appropriation and resignification of power dogmas and canons of beauty and Hellenistic aesthetics through the presence and the protagonist of the black woman. Absent from the history books and official narratives, their constant presence in the city here becomes a monument body. She also embodies the representation of duality and otherness in a game of similarities and differences in natural and architectural environments, where ruin and resilience project us into a terrain of social reinvention.



Between the Creag and the Sky 20:20 minutes | United States | 2020 Director: Kurt Gerard Heinlein Starring: Kathyrn Harter, Ed Swidey

Tags:	Short film,	Drama

Summary:

Attempting to find a re-connection, a father takes his estranged teen daughter on a trip into the wilderness.



Beyond	The Bolex	Alyssa Bolsey
-	United States   2020	Director:
Tags:	Documentary Film, Feature Film	
Summary:	Filmmaker Alyssa Bolsey pieces togeth family archive to reveal the epic sto Interviewing family members and re delves into Jacques' personal diary, film	ory of her great-grandfather. enowned filmmakers, Alyssa
Description:	An Immigrant Inventor, His Camera an In the 1920s immigrant inventor Jacque early film industry with a motion pictur iconic Bolex. Over 90 years later, filr together the fragments of a forgotten fa story of her great-grandfather in "Bey family members and renowned fil Switzerland, and delves into Jacques' collected images in order to understar generations of filmmakers.	es Bolsey aimed to disrupt the re camera for the masses: the mmaker Alyssa Bolsey pieces imily archive to reveal the epic vond the Bolex." Interviewing mmakers, Alyssa travels to personal diary, film reels and

Winner of Best Emerging Filmmaker at Newport Beach Film Festival 2019 & Winner of the Best Feature Documentary at Dallas Videofest 2019, Official Selection at Raindance Film Festival 2019





### **BIHAAN-Tune of Faith**

1:15:33 minutes | India | 2020

Director: Saurabh Saha

Tushar Chowdhury, Miranda Das Tags: World Cinema, Feature Film, Drama, Humanity and Inclusion

- Summary: Koyel, an eighteen year old girl, a resident of an interior village of North Bengal prepares to get married while her friend Kanai gets heartbroken at this news.
- Description: Koyel, an eighteen-year-old girl, a resident of an interior village of North Bengal prepares to get married while her friend Kanai gets heartbroken at this news. A naturally affluent player of flute, Kanai stops at his rhythm and asks about this recent development but while she narrates the whole story, he gets jealous of her would-be husband.

Notes: Subtitles

Starring:



### **Brittany Teufel** 4:44 minutes United States 2020 Director: Steph Ferguson

4.44 minute	s Onlied Sidies 2020 Director: Sieph Terguson
Starring:	Brittany Teufel
Tags:	Short Film, Student Film, Documentary, Maryland Film
Summary:	This is a short documentary about the filmmaker's friend Brittany who is a childhood cancer survivor.
Director Statement:	This film follows the story of my best friend Brittany Teufel who is a childhood cancer survivor. She is one of the kindest and bravest people I know and I wanted to hear her story and give her a way to tell it. I have made nearly 10 other short films during my time in film school, my favorite films to make are ones that tackle powerful stories



### **Blossom**

16:58 minute	es United States 2021	Director: Jerrel Barnes
Starring:	Sara Beebe, Dillon Morris, Kathy Morr	ris
Tags:	Maryland Film, Short Film, Student Film	n, Humanity and Inclusion
Summary:	An 18 year old girl, named Prim, learr	as how to express herself.
Director Statement:	This film has some heavy themes, inclu Everyone working on the film, the cast seriously and we did our best to hand manner while also making an entertai	and crew, all take this issue le the topic in a mature



Calf Rop 28:46 minute	
Starring:	Gorman Ruggiero, Lukas Barnett, Avery Kellington, Jackie Walker
Tags:	Short Films, Drama
Summary:	During the summer of '66, a former rodeo champion and cattle auctioneer from Oklahoma bonds tightly with his young grandson from suburban Pennsylvania while teaching him a few tricks from his previous trades.
Description:	During the summer of '66, a former rodeo champion and cattle auctioneer from Oklahoma bonds tightly with his young grandson from suburban Pennsylvania while teaching him a few tricks from his previous trades. Shot entirely in rural Pennsylvania, Calf Rope captures the intense love that grandparents often share with their

grandchildren and the legacy that lives on long after they have gone.





### Cantata for a More Hopeful Tomorrow

23:30 minutes | United States

Starring: Seth Parker Woods, Kim McKissack, Kyle Greenlaw, Deborah Lee, Michelle Aebersold, Jeremy Nelson, Anthony Williams, Mary Kay Berg, Eugene Rogers

Director: Bob Berg

- Tags: World Cinema, Feature Film, Drama, Humanity and Inclusion
- Summary: Following the story of an African-American couple struggling with COVID-19 and their journey from despair to hope, "Cantata for a More Hopeful Tomorrow" is a short music film that beautifully, powerfully weaves together a new choral work by composer Damien Geter with an emotionally evocative and poignant film created by Emmy award winning filmmaker Bob Berg.
- Director Statement: Cantata for a More Hopeful Tomorrow gave me an opportunity to visually express feelings about what we all went through in 2020. A story that demonstrates that despite a global pandemic, divisive politics, social justice issues, and climate change, there is still good in the world. That good shines best through a narrative of love and music.

The real challenge was filming during the pandemic, knowing that you must provide a safe environment for all the actors and performers. Extraordinary protocol was utilized to make this a reality.



### **Children Of Paris**

33:47 minutes   United States   2020 Director: Brandy Creek	
Starring:	Kotic Couture, DDm, Rovomonty
Tags:	Short Film, Documentary, Maryland, Humanity and Inclusion
Summary:	Follows three Baltimore based black LGBTQ+ performers as they hustle to bridge the gap between the underground scene and mainstream stardom.
Description:	Children of Paris is a vignette style documentary short whose central focus is hip-hop artists Kotic Couture and DDm as well as pop artist Rovo Monty. It follows these three Baltimore-based black LGBTQ+ performers as they hustle to bridge the gap between the underground scene and mainstream stardom. Each artist gets their own narrative space which shows the significance of their individual talents and stories. The segments are composed of personal

interviews and performance moments that create an introduction to



### Climb

57:00 minutes | United States | 2021

these voices.

ing: Neil Myers

Siuring.	Neil Myers
Tags:	Feature Film, Documentary, Health and Wellbeing
Summary:	The story of a Santa Barbara triathlete that was nearly killed in a horrific training accident, survived, healed, rehabilitated, trained, and ultimately made it back to competition, winning the 2019 Santa Barbara Triathlon.
Director Statement:	Climb is a story about a mountain, an accident, the support of a community, and of an unlikely but inspiring outcome.

**Director:** Neil Myers





### **Connect/Disconnect**

1:48:00 minutes United States 2021

Director:	Kandace A McGowan
Tags:	Feature Film, Student Film, Drama, Pandemic Inspired, Humanity and Inclusion
Summary:	Eight teenagers capture their experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures for a school history project.

Description: Eight teenagers capture their experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures for a school history project. The group includes YouTube vlogger Adrian, overachiever Reese, activits Kaelin, high-school power couple Lucas and Bailey, the outcast Mallory and escapist Zack. Each teenager copes with what it means to come of age during a global pandemic, finding moments of hope and connection in their isolation. How do we come together in a world where so much keeps us apart? Connect/Disconnect seeks that answer. Connect/Disconnect is an original devised film, written and created by Sehome Drama high school students about their experiences during the school closures and 2020 pandemic.



### Day 57

1:38 minutes	United States   2020 Director: Heather Ostrove
Starring:	Linda Ostrove, Steven Ostrove
Tags:	Short Film, Maryland Film, Comedy, Pandemic Inspired
Summary:	Set during the COVID 19 pandemic, this short dark comedy asks the question: what day is it?
Director Statement:	Shot during the safer at home order, "Day 57" was filmed with the director in CA and the cast in MD. Shot using 2 phones. One phone

director in CA and the cast in MD. Shot using 2 phones. One phone was used to film while I video conferenced in on the other to set up shots and direct the actors. The footage was then uploaded so I could download and edit. The result is a mixture of comedy and horror that I'm proud to share.



### Daddydelphia

29:45 minutes | United States | 2021

Director: Harold Eric

- Starring: Evan Maltby, Alex Aldea, Harold Eric, Sakyiwaa Baah, Christopher Morucci, Mijon Zulu, Halle Mastroberardino, Max Levy, Briana Sky Riley, Arlene Gambino
- Tags: Short Film, Animation, Comedy, Humanity and Inclusion
- Summary: Warning: Adult content & language. Five twenty-somethings become lost while on a road trip to a weekend getaway due to their navigator's alcohol-fueled gross negligence. As a result, they are no longer destined for sunshine and pool time. Rather, they are relegated to life in a small, peculiar town filled with inhabitants who hold mysterious beliefs, strange traditions, and a determination to burn them at the stake.



# Don't Make it Awkward 6:31 minutes United States 2020 Director: Nikki Estridge Starring: Nikki Estridge Tags: Short Film, Comedy, Health and Wellbeing

Summary: Like all women, Kate Manopolous just wants to get through her yearly gynecology appointment and out the door, but the new doctor and staff's unorthodox approach to treating their patients makes Kate's entire experience awkward, to say the least.

#### Statement:

As a seasoned actor being comfortable in front of the camera, this first-time writer/director experience challenged me to see the arts through a different lens with an even greater appreciation. Next time, hopefully there will be no global pandemic and I won't have to wear all the hats as writer, director, casting, script supervisor, props, continuity, costume, and hair/makeup while also acting! Hahal Nonetheless, I learned a lot and am grateful for the experience.





### **Double Exposure**

15:56 minutes | United States | 2020

2020 **Director:** Daryl Getman

Starring: Krysta Rodriquez

Tags: Short Film, Drama, Music and Dance

Summary: Photographer Dani struggles professionally and personally as the lines between reality and imagination blur. On the eve of a cornerstone birthday, her well-meaning friends and family bombard her with a series of dating app gift cards, leaving Dani in a state of utter shock and despair. Reluctantly, she sets out on a journey ignited by the events of the infamous dinner party and tries to pull the pieces together as she discovers the tools to develop her unactualized life.



### **Evermore Nevermore**

7:48 minutes	United States 2020 Director: Amber Ray Snyder
Starring:	Sarah Scanlon, Vanessa Webb, Maria Noble-Kloess, Juliana Brecher
Tags:	Short Film, Thriller, Humanity and Inclusion
Summary:	Grief is a cruel but necessary mistress to Poe's psyche as she processes the end of a long-term relationship with Lenore. Living in and with shadows, what was evermore is nevermore.
Director Statement:	I'm here for the underserved voice. Everyone has a story that reveals a new perspective or reflects someone that was feeling unseen. I celebrate representation for all stories. These shared points of view make human connections more possible and I feel that's where our existence gives power toward our necessary evolution.



### Dr. Li

29:50 minutes | China | 2020

Director: Maoyuan Chen

 Starring:
 Maoyuan Chen, Shu Chen, Shupei He

 Tags:
 Short Film, World Cinema, Documentary, Pandemic Inspired

Summary: A doctor born in 1986, a husband and the father of a 5-year-old child, he will soon welcome his second child. In Wuhan, China, 7 cases of SARS were confirmed in the South China Fruit and Seafood Market. In order to remind family members and students to pay attention to protection, Dr. Li has become one of the first people to issue covid-19 prevention and control warnings in China. However, he was warned and admonished by the Wuhan Police Station because of "untrue statements published on the Internet".

Description: Adapted from real people. When covid-19 broke out, Dr. Li was infected by treating patients, and eventually, he died of covid-19 infection. When Dr. Li died, foreign countries questioned whether the Chinese government was open and transparent, and the improper handling of speech raised public opinion. Dr. Li has also been called by public opinion: "Whistleblower" of China's covid-19 epidemic. He said: There should not be only one kind of speech in this world.



	Fellowship           nutes   United States   2021         Director: Jason Green	
Starring:	Gloria Picchadze, Heath Saunders	
Tags:	Feature Film, Documentary, Maryland Film, Humanity and Inclusion	
Summary:	This film goes back in time to 1968, an unmistakably divided time of student protest and racial unrest, to share the remarkable story of three racially segregated churches coming together in the wake of Martin Luther King's assassination.	
Description:	"We haven't been this divided since 1968." Unfortunately, this has become a common refrain. This film goes back in time to 1968, an unmistakably divided time of student protest and racial unrest, to share the remarkable story of three racially segregated churches coming together in the wake of Martin Luther King's assassination. Their decision to merge will surprise you. Their dedication to stay together will inspire you. This is a story of the possible that reminds us that even in dark, divided times, the opportunity and responsibility to	

ofus

come together -- heart to heart and hand to hand -- rests within each





### **Flu Season**

6:40 minutes	United States 2020	Director:	Nicholas Pollard
Starring:	Matthew Crawford, Mallory Granada, Marshall Bailey, A		sady, Michael De
Tags:	Short Films, Maryland Films,	Comedy, Pandemic	Inspired
Summary:	COVID inspired short-come	dy about the Spanish	Flu.
Director Statement:	Uncertain times can lead to	creative distractions.	



### Free The Vote: The Past and Present of Restoring Voting Rights in Maryland

39:58 minutes United States 2021

Director: Amber Taylor

Starring:	Nicole Hanson Mundell, Qiana Johnson, Monica Cooper, Earl
	Young, Warren Rymes, Adrian Muldrow, Pippa Holloway, Carl O.
	Snowden, Dana Vickers Shelley, Joanne Antoine, Nick Mosby,
	Nicole Porter, Jeffery Robinson, Renee Burgan
Taas	Short Film Maryland Film Documentary Humanity and Inclusion

 Tags:
 Short Film, Maryland Film, Documentary, Humanity and Inclusion

Summary: Free the Vote is a documentary that depicts the past and present of just how unjust and racist it is to deny the right to vote to millions of people who are incarcerated.

Description: Dating back to the racist Jim Crow Era, felony disenfranchisement laws were created in the states after the Civil War as an intentional effort to weaken the political power of Black people who had been enslaved. That time was also when the abominable effort began to incarcerate Black people who were newly freed. Black Marylanders account for over 13,000 of the nearly 18,000 Marylanders who are disenfranchised in Maryland. That means Black people make up 72% of those impacted by felony disenfranchisement laws in Maryland. This did not happen by accident. Listen to people who were formerly incarcerated, who are currently incarcerated, politicians, and advocates who share their experience and dreams of a Maryland and country where the right to vote is restored for every citizen who is currently incarcerated.



### He's a Good Kid

6:20 minutes	United States	2020	Director:	Mylissa Fitzsimmons
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Starring:	Elizabeth Austin, Matthew Cameron Clark	
Tags:	Short Film, Drama, Humanity and Inclusion	
Summary:	A mother searches for her son in the aftermath of a school shooting.	
Director Statement:	He's a Good Kid tells the story about a mother searching for her son in the aftermath of a school shooting. I wanted to make a film	

He's a Good Kid tells the story about a mother searching for her son in the aftermath of a school shooting. I wanted to make a film through a mother's eyes and the emotional rollercoaster she would go through when not only knowing if her son was alive but suddenly faced with the thoughts of, what if he was involved.



### Hit or Miss 25:17 minutes | United States | 2020

Direc	tor:	Liam	Gillin	

Starring:	Caroline Carrano, Lidija Slokenbergs, Logan Monaco, Jay Silver, John Blaisdell, Jackie Elmsley
Tags:	Short Films, Documentary, Humanity and Inclusion
Summary:	Hit or Miss is a documentary film produced by Liam Gillin that falls deep into the topic of mass shootings in the United States and how this is particularly affecting college students.
Description:	Liam Gillin travels around Marist College and the Hudson Valley to gather opinions from both sides of the gun argument, to reflect on his own experiences witnessing shootings in the media to valuing the importance of striating the conversation to end gun violence.





### How Can I Dream?

11:26 minutes United States 2020

2020 Director: Logan Bilbrough

#### Starring:

Jeffrey Boggess, Tim R. Worley, Joey Sullivan

Summary:

Short Film, Maryland Film, Student Film, Thriller A man has insomnia and is in a rut in his life. He goes for walks around 3 am and discovers a mysterious door.



# 'In The Age of Covid: When Molly goes to Korea'

32:32 minutes United States 2020

Director: Rick Kain

- Starring:
   Rick Kain, William L. Thomas, Connie Bowman, Chris Perillo, Kathryn Klavana, Towanda Underdue, Julie Mun, Vickie Warehime, Sean Kain, Wyatt Unger

   Tags:
   Short Film, Maryland Film, Comedy, Pandemic Inspired
- Summary: Actor Nick Pain is booked on a film and when he shows up for work, he is the only one on set. Hell, he is the only one at the studio. The crew is working from home.
- Director Statement: The script for "In The Age of Covid" was born from a five-month quarantine. With the film industry shut down I began to think about ways we could get back to work in a safe manner and this short is an exploration of possibilities. It was a lot of fun to think about and it was a lot of fun to shoot. No actors came to set. All shooting was done remotely. The objective was to shoot the film with conventional shots so it would have the feel and look of a typical narrative too short.



### Joyful.

25:00 minute	s Australia 2020
Directors:	Cooper Lindsay, Caleb Rodda
Starring:	Emily David, Joanna Gorton
Tags:	Short Films, World Cinema, Student Film, Drama
Summary:	Joy is trying to begin a new chapter in her life after breaking from her comfort zone and moving to a new city for University. The effort is stifled by her commitment as a beauty influencer and the self esteem she feeds off her fans.
Description	The new chapter finally looks set to begin when she encounters a

The new chapter finally looks set to begin when she encounters a friendly peer named Cleo, who quickly makes a connection with Joy. When the far more outgoing Cleo invites herself to Joy's home, Joy finds herself more uncomfortable/unsure with the increasingly neurotic Cleo.



# Killing Me Softly With Her Love 16:30 minutes United Kingdom 2020 Director: Colin Ross Smith Starring: Katie Dickie, Kevin Guthrie, Briony Monroe, Natalie Simpson, Joe Cassidy Tags: Short Film, World Cinema, Drama, Health and Wellbeing Summary: A unique, poignant film about a terminally ill girl wanting to finally have control of her body and illness, after years of poor health. Description: Angela plans to assist her daughter Jessica to take her own life on her 18th birthday. This film contains drama, comedy, complex human

relationships, and ultimately family sacrifice.

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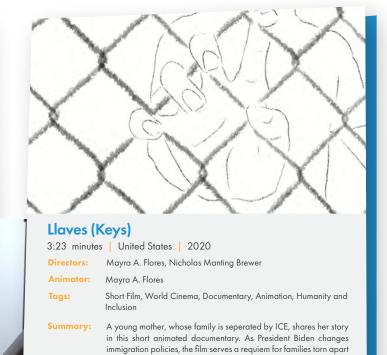
### Lamentation: Iconic

7:03 minutes | United States | 2020

Starring: Glenn Roderiguez

Tags: Short Films, Music and Dance, Humanity and Inclusion, Experimental

Summary: Drawing on inspiration from Martha Graham and longtime Graham drag performer Richard Move, this work picks up where Graham's famed Lamentation leaves off, asking what can we become if we survive our grief? Part modern, part vogue, part ballet, all transformation.



by America's immigration crackdown.

Subtitles



### Leave A Message

10.14 minutes Office Stutes 202	16:14 minutes	United States	202
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alouf

Director: Rachael Servello

- Starring: Laura Poe, Rick Kain, Susan Scher, Bari Hyman, Michael Gabel, Arthur Laupus
- Short Film, Maryland Film, Comedy, Humanity and Inclusion Tags:
- Herb suddenly dies, and his family learns about a secret romance Summary: with a mysterious woman.
- Description: The family tries to protect his poor widow, a woman of advanced age who suffered a stroke, but their efforts fail spectacularly. With some surprising revelations and hopefully a few laughs, the film reflects on victimhood, helplessness, personal agency, and the importance of acceptance and love.



### Lucky Day 9:07 minutes United States 2019

Notes:

### Director: Kelly McAdams

Starring:	Autumn Breaud, Liz Christmas, Adam Cooley	
Tags:	Short Film, Maryland, Comedy	
Summary:	Believing their luck has procured the win of presidential hopeful, and heart-throb, Jamie Andrews, best friends Jax and LeAnne test just how lucky they are when they stumble upon a neighborhood plumber who looks oddly familiar.	

### FESTIVA



### Mr. & Mrs. Ellis

19:25 minute	es   United States   2020 Director: Alan M. Brooks
Starring:	Tanner Ellis, Alfred Lewis III, James Elwood Muller, Crystal Jasmin
Tags:	Short Film, Drama, Humanity and Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing
Summary:	It's the big wedding day for Xavior Ellis; but a dark secret from his past has found its way to his special day. On what's supposed to be the happiest day of his life, Xavior is faced with the reality of the scars from his past.
Director Statement:	We live in a society of men, women, boys, and girls who are hurting because of the effects of molestation. My film "Mr. & Mrs. Ellis" brings to light those dark issues. Oftentimes individuals grow up and remain silent because of fear, judgment, and embarrassment; but it's important to know that there is more pain in remaining silent. This film is for all ages, and my hope is that it creates conversations between parents and children, colleagues, churches, husbands, and wives, etc. This is a universal film addressing a universal problem.



### Opponent

1:26 minutes | United States | 2020

Director: Steph Ferguson

with his ghost

Starring:	Shellie Ferguson	
Tags:	Short Film, Maryland Film, Student Film, Drama	
Summary:	A Wife who mourns the loss of her husband plays chess every dayHe is pretty good.	



### Natyam

Summary:

12:16:10 minutes | India | 2020

Director: Revanth Korukonda

Starring: Sandhya Raju Tags:

Feature Film, World Cinema, Music and Dance

Natyam' is to tell a story through Dance. Set in a fictional town called 'Natyam', a century ago the Britishers destroyed our art, culture and dance to weaken the power that binds all Indians culturally together. After India's freedom In a southern temple, the Lost Sacred Dance Texts are rediscovered and the town became the epicenter for dance and art revival and the town was named Natyam.

Description: This is the story of a passionate classical dancer Sitara. Set in the year 2020 in the ancient Village of Natyam. At the tender age of 6, Sitara's Guruji promises to teach her the mysterious 'S tory of Kadhambari' provided she becomes a qualified dancer. But twenty years later to her shock, he refuses to teach her the choreography. Sitara is determined to achieve her dream of performing ' Kadhambari's story and win her Dance Guru's heart. In this quest, she unknowingly crosses paths with the corrupt Natyam Temple trustee and his henchmen. She also befriends a western Dancer and together they have an adventurous connection as artists. He helps Sitara achieve her dreams and together they discover the true power of NATYAM!





### Palette

21:58 minutes | Japan | 2020

Director: Yurugu Matsumoto

Takeyasu Motoyama, Yoko Akita, Eigo Tanaka, MIYATANI, Ryosuke

Starring:

inoura, Yusuke Wada, Aki Shimizu, Yuka Mukae, Daichi Akiyama, Riku Tamura, Reina Sugitani, Yuya Konishi

Tags: Short Film, World Cinema, Thriller, Pandemic Inspired

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, actors everywhere have been Summary: forced to suspend their careers. In the spirit of us all one-day enjoying movies in cinemas again, I collaborated with twelve actors and a crew to shoot a film using appropriate viral transmission prevention measures immediately following the Japanese government's lifting of its state of emergency. To prevent infection, actors did not speak their lines during the shoot. Instead, we recorded dialogue in-studio and added it later to the film, treating the actors' lines as if they were voice-over monologues. In this way, the film is truly experimental in its expression. When COVID-19 was declared a pandemic in 2020, people at first thought the virus would be easy to eradicate, but it mutated in ways that magnified the contagion, becoming resistant to all vaccines and drugs. Now, this terrifying, toxic virus has infiltrated every corner of Tokyo's city center and is spreading. Having put the city on lockdown, the Japanese government uses the telecom industry to surveil its citizens. People are prohibited from going out, a crime punishable by fine or imprisonment. Rumor says the new virus travels as easily as pollen, entering the body through membranes of the nose, mouth, or eyes. The authorities force the population to wear gas masks even at home. Against this dystopian background, a small group of people has gathered to create a utopian return to their normal, everyday lives. This film is a touching, yet fleeting memory of the small resistance they mount.

Notes: Subtitles

### Reflection

21:06 minute	s   Italy   2021 Director: Gleb Gorobchenko	
Starring:	Alexandra Florinskaya	
Tags:	Short Film, World Cinema, Student Film, Drama, Health and Wellbeing	
Summary:	Anna comes back to her childhood home, in a nostalgic search of her past, happier self. Subjected to her mental condition, the thin line between reality and her memories becomes progressively thinner.	
Director Statement:	The dreadful idea of solitude and loneliness progressively limiter. The dreadful idea of solitude and loneliness provokes a sentiment of unease in the minds of most people. Yet, it is a part of the human existence that most of us have to go through in one way or another. During the events of the past year it became evident to me that the social nature of our lives is an essential component of our happiness, which shouldn't be taken for granted. The core of Reflection is hidden within the title itself. On one hand, it is a consideration of one's own life, a tendency to search for the happiness in one's past, when there is none left in the present. On the other hand, it is one's act of looking at themselves and realizing that the happiest moments of their life have been lived, yet they haven't done anything which fulfills their existence. While previously there was an eternity in front of them, now everything seems to be left behind. But the scariest part of it all was in a simple question - what was all of this for? All of these factors are a derivative of one's unbearable state of solitude. Reflection is	

also an exploration of how the aforesaid potentially influences the mind of an individual prone to psychological illness. Reflection is about the past and the present, family and loneliness, life and death.

Notes:

Subtitles

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### **Silent Voice**

51 minutes | France | 2020

Director: Reka Valerik

Tags: Feature Film, Documentary, World Film, Humanity and Inclusion

Summary: Khavaj, a young MMA (Mixed martial art) fighter, fled Chechnya when his brother discovered his homosexuality and promised to kill him, under the persecution of Kadyrov's regime.

Description: Khavaj, a young MMA (Mixed martial art) fighter, fled Chechnya when his brother discovered his homosexuality and promised to kill him, under the persecution of Kadyrov's regime. In Brussels, facing the shock of exile, he is struck by mutism. The only link that he keeps with Chechnya are the vocal messages that his

mother sends him. The film traces Khavaj's first months in Belgium. Forced to live in total anonymity to escape the Cheche diaspora, he will try to build a new identity.



### **Stray Dogs**

1:24:00 minutes United States 2020 Director: Adam Gascho

Starring:	Skyler Pinkerton, Tad Davies, Adam Gascho, April Martucci
Tags:	Feature Film, Drama
Summary:	After a man's beloved dog passes, he embarks on a backpacking trip with his brother to bury his dog where he found him ten years earlier. Along the way, they encounter a stranger who turns out to be a killer on the run. The brothers must unite in order to survive and finish their mission to bury the dog.
Director Statement:	My goal is to tell stories with heart with characters from off the beaten path $% \left( {{{\rm{D}}_{\rm{B}}}} \right)$



Takeaway Life           29:50 minutes         China		
Tags:	Short Film, World Cinema, Drama,	Health and Wellbeing
Summary:	Zhou Xiaorong's son had uremia. T do a kidney transplant for his son. a single parent and could not fu takeaways could make money became a takeaway mother.	The cost was 250,000. She was a formal job. He heard that

Description: The freedom of time allowed her to take orders freely after delivering meals to her son, but the takeaway was repeatedly frustrated due to unfamiliar routes and overtime deductions. She always faced difficulties with optimism and met the old rider Wang Ge during the singles. Brother Wang took care of Xiao Rong's mother's situation, and the two began to fall in love. Working day and night, Xiao Rong's mother became the gold medal rider in this area. A year later, the hospital informed Xiaorong's mother that she would have a kidney source in the near future. She was frugal and used the money she saved, plus borrowing it from a friend, and her son's transplant was expected. Brother Wang prepared a surprise for her. They were stopped by the police on their way home. Before being taken away, Brother Wang gave her a 50,000 bank card to Xiaorong's mother. It turns out that Brother Wang has been a habitual criminal in private. Before the testimony, Brother Wang was detained under criminal law. Xiao Rong's mother took the life-saving money and was about to go to the hospital for surgery. It happened to be his son's birthday that day, but because of the customer's bad reviews, the two got into a dispute and were pushed downstairs and seriously injured. In a pool of blood, the birthday cake was all over the floor, no call from the hospital was answered, and the son in the hospital bed looked forward to his mother's arrival...

Notes: Subtitles





### The Black Veil

16:35 minute		Director: A.J. Al-Thani
Starring:	Sana Al Habib, Ahmed Al-Nowfal	Al-Tamimi
Tags:	Short Film, World Cinema, Drama,	
Summary:	Reem, a young Iraqi woman, esco night. She lives in Mosul after beir	pes her home in the middle of the ng forced to marry an ISIS soldier. named Ahmed to help her escape
Director Statement:	I wanted to make The Black Veil be in our region at the time I was con doing my research I found a docu had escaped ISIS from areas they women removing the veil and placi to me. As a Muslim, Arab, and worn believed it was symbolic of how everyone wants us to be instead of people who watch this film will fee women who inspired me to write an	ceptualizing the idea. While I was mentary that showed women who controlled in Iraq. The image of the ng it on the fences was so powerful nan, I felt so empowered because I we are always told to be who who we choose to be. I hope that I as brave to be themselves as the
Notes:	Subtitles	



### The Funny Runner

19:58 minutes United States 2020

the sport she loved.

Starring:	Brittany Charboneau, Justin Charboneau, Brigit Mulcahy, Jenni Nettik
Tags:	Short Film, Documentary, Health and Wellbeing
Summary:	After quitting her job to pursue her dream of running professionally, Brittany Charboneau auickly found herself not having any fun with

Director: Rob Steger

Description: A tough debut at the New York City Marathon and the following training left Brittany broken physically, mentally, and emotionally. Was there really only one path to success in becoming a professional runner or could Brittany throw away everything and do things her own way? This is a documentary film about the path Brittany Charboneau has pursued and what she has discovered about running and herself in the process.



### The Mass Shooting Monologues

1:20:00 mir	nutes   United States   2020 Director: Brian Ronalds
Starring:	Kee Chan, Tom Malloy, Brennan Murray
Tags:	Feature Film, Drama, Humanity and Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing
Summary:	Centers on a high school mass shooting stemming from bullying.
Director Statement:	This is the first narrative feature film I've written & directed and the 8th feature film I've produced. As a Columbine High School alum

8th feature film I've produced. As a Columbine High School alum and a severely bullied victim, I couldn't be more thrilled to bring this very close-to-home film to an audience. Although it's a very low-budget film; the content along with the cast and crew helped me bring some very old demons to light along with tackling a subject that I'm scared-as-hell of. I worked with all "givers" on this film and it's an honor to have the privilege to submit our baby to your festival. "My mother thanks you, My father thanks You, My brothers thank you, and I thank you" for taking a look.



# The Other Side of the Coin: Race, Generations & Reconciliation

1:15:00 mir	utes United States 2020 Director: Frederick Murphy
Tags:	Feature Film, Documentary, Humanity and Inclusion
Summary:	This film is a collection of experiences and thoughts addressing the complexities of race in America. The participants featured in our film

represent a span of different generations, which presents its own unique challenges. Description: The experience working on this film helped restore my faith in

http:// The experience working on mis him heiped restore my rain in humanity. The eclectic perspectives provided from those with various ethnic backgrounds are rooted in the premise of equity for all. We filmed this prior to the racial unrest in 2020 because of the historical divisive nature that's part of our country's moral fabric. I hope that audiences who watch the film will step out of their comfort zone and become more inquisitive about other people's cultural histories and lived experiences.





### The Pollinators

Director: Peter Nelson

Tags: Feature Film, Documentary, Humanity and Inclusion

Summary: Populations of honey bees are dying at levels that are unprecedented. Director Peter Nelson talks to farmers, scientists, chefs, and academics along the way to give a broad perspective about the threats to honey bees, what it means to our food security and how we can improve it. Bees are in serious danger. Populations of honey bees are dying at levels that are unprecedented. Close to half of the bee colonies in the United States die off every single year.

Thousands of semi-trailers crisscross the country in the dead of night delivering goods through the darkness to stores, warehouses and factories nationwide. But some of them carry highly unusual cargo. Honey bees.

Tens of billions of them are transported back and forth from one end of the United States to the other in a unique annual migration that's indispensable to the feeding of America. One out of every three bites we eat, the growth of almost all our fruits, nuts and vegetables, would be impossible without pollination from bees.

Director Peter Nelson talks to farmers, scientists, chefs, and academics along the way to give a broad perspective about the threats to honey bees, what it means to our food security and how we can improve it.

World Premiere at 2019 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival and Winner of 11 Awards Including DOCFest for Best Environmental Filmmaking and VIFF Rob Stewart Eco Warrior Award. Recently won BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE - San Luis Obispo International Film Festival



### **The Race Epidemic**

 1:00:00 minutes
 United States
 2021
 Director: Tony Shyu

 Tags:
 Feature Film, Documentary, Pandemic Inspired, Humanity and Inclusion

 Summary:
 The Race Epidemic is about another outbreak caused by Covid-19 -An epidemic of racism against Asian Americans. With a politicized pandemic sweeping through the country and a president calling it

Americans is not surprising.

the Chinese Virus, the rise of attacks and hate against Asian



### **The Reunion**

10:57 minute	s   United States   2020	Director: Laura Galt
Starring:	Kenneth Wayne Bradley, Joe Bunner, Car	la Nickerson, Amanda Marie
Tags:	Short Film, Drama	
Summary:	At a 10 year High School rounion two	attendeer must face the

Y: At a 40 year High School reunion, two attendees must face the consequences of a painful breakup from long ago.

Director Statement: As a first time director, I am proud of the female leadership on the semi-autobiographical film (written by Al Julian), the diverse cast and crew (in ethnicity and age - many "second-acters"), and the fact that the film weaves in a storyline that includes a wheelchair user.

In addition to being a filmmaker, I am an educator/speech-language pathologist who has worked with marginalized populations in Los Angeles, Chicago, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, so working on films that include people of diverse color, ethnic, gender, or sexual identity, religion, or abilities is important to me. It was serendipitous that we found actress Amanda Marie as her journey was very similar to the character of Adele.





### The Skin You're In

 1:03:22 minutes
 United States
 2019
 Director: Thomas LaVeist

 Tags:
 Feature Film, Documentary, Humanity and Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing

Summary: THE SKIN YOU'RE IN is a multipart series exposing America's racial health disparities epidemic. In this pilot episode (SOMETHING ABOUT BROWNSVILE), Tulane University research scientist Dr. Thomas LaVeist returns to his roots in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY to investigate why Brownsville has the lowest life expectancy of any community in New York.

Director Statement: African Americans live sicker and die younger than all other American ethnic groups. I decided to make this film because, after nearly 3 decades of research on African American health disparities, there is so little awareness of the problem. Researchers have learned so much about racial disparities in health, but that knowledge is mostly locked away in medical journals. I decided I would partner with filmmakers to create a multi-part series exploring this dire problem to reach a bigger audience.



### Uprooted - The Journey of Jazz Dance

1:34:3 minutes | United States | 2020 DirectoKhadifa Wong

Starring: Debbie Allen, Chita Rivera, Mandy Moore, Jason Samuels Smith, Camille A. Brown, George Faison, Joshua Bergasse, Al Blackstone, Andy Blankenbuehler, Melanie George Feature, Documentary, Music and Dance Tags: The history, lineage, and future progressions of jazz dance. The story Summary: of Jazz Dance is a complex one, it goes to the very heart of humanity. It is a story of triumph over adversity, oppression, and privilege as well as a celebration, because ultimately, what all people have in common is rhythm and a basic human need to get down. As an art form rooted in slavery it has been interesting to chart its Statement: journey and see how it has been modified, what worries me is that because of its roots, the respect from the artistic community is not as reverent as it should be, where is the funding? Where are the world touring companies? Where is the resistance? Right now we are having to show the world Black lives matter, here is one example of why. Jazz, we gave that to the world and I want to create a film to celebrate that fact.





### With New Eyes

25:00 minute	s   Greece   2020 Director: George Leontakianakos	
Starring:	Yannis Sarakatsanis, Kostis Savvidakis, Thomas Demissie	
Tags:	Short film, World Cinema, Student, Drama, Humanity and Inclusion	
Summary:	Pavlos, a cynical, racist Airbnb host, spends a night with his new tenant, Fotis, a romantic, insightful blind man seeking human contact after his wife's death. As the night progresses, however, Fotis begins to shed light on Pavlos' misconceptions.	
Director	Some memories from childhood that have staved with me, are of my	

grandfather gradually being blinded by diabetes. I always Statement: wondered what someone who loses their sight feels. I observed him as someone "different" who had developed special qualities - both physical and spiritual. I never perceived him as a strange creature, triggering curiosity and disgust. He taught me lessons of simplicity, clarity, and wisdom. Through the power of his soul and spirit, I traced the steps to a "hidden" God. Over the years, I wanted to make a film that touched on this subject.

> "With New Eyes" is a short film based on "Cathedral" a short story written by Raymond Carver which revolves around the exact same theme of blindness vs real sight. Pavlos, an Airbnb host, fears that the physical impairment of his new tenant, Fotis, will lead to the destruction of his apartment and decides to spend the night with him. However, as the evening progresses his prejudices are challenged. The blind man's views illuminate his dark perspective, forcing him to reconsider the loneliness of his own life.

Notes: Subtitles



### ZAP!

Director

Statement:

5:47 minutes United States 2020 Director: Philip C. Sedgwick

Starring: Joel Foster

Tags: Short Film, Thriller

Summary:

An astronomer sharing online backyard observations of the center of our galaxy has a run-in with mosquitoes and a not so trusty bug zapper.

One night after reading an article about the brightening of the Galactic Center, it was time to dream. And dream I did. I dreamed the entirety of what would become the screenplay of ZAP! When I woke, I realized there was a movie in that dream.

Then, when the Phoenix Film Festival awarded the script First Place in their Screenplay Search, it was all over but the shouting. This film had to get made... as soon as COVID-19 permitted. And film it we did. With only one actor we were able to work with a minimal crew, social distancing, masks, and other COVID-19 compliance. We had visitors on set... none other than our pack of neighborhood coyotes - this is Arizona after all. Our talent had a blast howling back at the coyotes. Funny how they chimed in at the perfect point in the story. There's a lot of messages packed into the short minutes of this film. More than a summer fraught with an intense population of pesky bugs. There's a theme about absorbing energy from all that exists in one's environment - people, places, things, and situations. There's the urging for people to gaze at the night sky and take it in... to feel the awe and wonder... to sense the permanence of Creation. Such awe and wonder fuels the central core of one's creativity!