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**Office Address**
Raindance Film Centre,
10 Craven Street,
WC2N 5PE
Tel.: +44 (0)207 930 3412
E.: info@raindance.co.uk

**Raindance Patrons**
Nick Broomfield, Jonathan Caouette, Henrik Danstrup, Mike Figgis, Terry Gilliam, Ken Loach, Dave McKean, Martin Myers, Alan Parker, Jonathan Pryce, Marky Ramone, Vanessa Redgrave

**Disclaimer**
Opinions expressed in this programme are the sole province of the writer concerned and therefore do not necessarily reflect those of Raindance.
Welcome to the 23rd Edition of the Raindance Film Festival.

For me, while we’re in early stages of production, it’s good to imagine the festival broken up into three key areas: film screenings, industry events and, of course, our unmissable parties (see you there).

When September rolls around it becomes clear that there’s another element that’s far more important than our in-house logistics – our audience. Thousands of indie film lovers from all walks of life descend on Raindance to discover and enjoy the newest, coolest and boldest works by independent artists. At the same time, hundreds of film industry professionals attend as panellists and special guests, or flit in and out of screenings to see what’s new on the cutting edge of indie film.

Without our audience, without you, neither Raindance nor most of the films we screen would exist. Gather around, dim the lights and let’s get this show on the road. And if you see something worth shouting about, let everyone know and join in on the discussion (#RDFF). After all, that’s what Raindance is all about:

Discover. Be discovered.

Elliot Grove – Founder
**Tickets & Passes**

**Tickets**
- £8 weekdays before 5pm / £12 weekdays after 5pm & weekends

**Galas**
- Opening Night, Closing Night & the Shortlist Gala.
  - Film & party: £30 / Party only: £20

**Passes**
- Raindance Pass - £175
- Web Fest Pass - £100
- Forum Pass - £100

**How it works**

- These passes are only valid for the named and registered user, and allow the bearer one ticket per screening.
- Tickets will be released one hour before each screening and will be available at the Vue Piccadilly box office. Passholders must pick up a ticket – your pass alone will not get you in to the screening.
- Tickets will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis and are subject to availability.
- All unallocated passholder tickets may be released for general sale 20 minutes prior to the start of the screening.

For more information and Terms & Conditions, visit [www.raindancefestival.org/festival-passes](http://www.raindancefestival.org/festival-passes)

Discounts are available for the students, Raindance Members and the over-65s.

**Booking**
- [www.raindancefestival.org](http://www.raindancefestival.org) or Call the Vue booking line on [0871 240 242](tel:0871%20240%20242)
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Everything in the festival, A-Z.

The Raindance Trailer

This year’s Raindance Film Festival trailer was shot by filmmaker Douglas Hart on a Super 8 camera, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Super 8mm film.

Douglas Hart is perhaps best known as the bass guitarist and founding member of Scottish band The Jesus and Mary Chain, but has since gone on to become a respected and accomplished music video director. Hart’s distinctive style is recognisable for its minimalism and bold use of colour, and its organic, human touch.

Super 8 lover? Flip over to page 185 to see our special event ‘Celebrating 50 Years of Super 8’.
To recognise the outstanding achievements of the filmmakers showcased at the 23rd Raindance Film Festival in 2015, a number of jury prizes will be awarded. The winner will be announced at the Raindance Awards Ceremony at the Mayfair Hotel on Friday 2nd October at 7pm.

**Best UK Feature**
- Kicking Off
- Love /Me /Do
- Mile End
- The Return
- Swansong
- God’s Acre

**Best International Feature**
- Fires On The Plain
- Alice In Mariiland
- Chorus
- Happy 140
- That’s It
- Echoes of War

**Best Debut Feature**
- Le Dep
- Princess
- Bob And The Trees
- Racket
- Shelter
- Out of My Hand

**Best Documentary**
- Sila And The Gatekeepers Of The Arctic
- Digital Dissidents
- Gored
- The Arms Drop
- Horizontes
- Broken Land

**Best UK Short**
- Into the Surf
- Dating Eliza
- North
- The Earth Belongs to No-One
- Just Desserts
- Strange Weather

**Best International Short**
- Home
- Winter Light
- Chute Fighter
- Shabu Shabu Spirit
- Harry & Judy
- A Hole In My Heart

**Best Documentary Short**
- I Thought I Told You To Shut Up!
- Transmitting Thought: The Maimonides Dream Lab
- The Champion
- Rattle The Hocks
- Rock ‘N’ Roll Island
- Walking Through Havana

**Best Animated Short**
- No-A
- Palm Rot
- The Mechanical Waltz
- The Alchemist’s Letter
- Last Day of Freedom
- Nowhere Line – Notes from Manus Island

**Film of the Festival (Feature)**
Awarded to the fiction or documentary title that best embodies the spirit of Raindance.

**Film of the Festival (Short)**
The winner will qualify for consideration in the Short Films category at the Academy Awards without the standard requirement of a theatrical run.

**Special Jury Prize (Short)**
The winner will be offered the chance to pitch next year’s Raindance Film Festival trailer, with the support of the Independent Film Trust.
Bonnie Wright
Bonnie is a British actress and director. She played Ginny Weasley in all eight films in the Harry Potter series. She conceived, wrote and directed ‘Separate We Come, Separate We Go’ (2012) featuring David Thewlis, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. Her latest film, ‘Know Thyself’, develops Wright’s fascination with landscape and feeling, once more in a script she wrote herself.

Agnieszka Moody
Agnieszka is the Director of Creative Europe Desk UK, a promotion and information office of Creative Europe, led in the UK by the BFI and British Council. Previously the Director of MEDIA Desk UK, Agnieszka has helped hundreds of British companies secure funding for their projects, and also organised a range of industry events and conferences promoting international cooperation.

Alberto Lopez
Alberto oversees all of Variety’s business operations outside of the US as International Director of Sales & Development. Variety is widely recognised as the world’s most influential entertainment business magazine. Alberto has also been writing scripts for over a decade.

Blake Harrison
Blake is best known for his role as Neil in ‘The Inbetweeners’ series and movies. A prolific actor, he has played major roles in comedies and dramas for leading TV channels and starred in a number of West End shows. His film work includes ‘Reuniting the Rubins’ starring Timothy Spall, and ‘Keeping Rosy’ starring Maxine Peake.

Col Needham
Founder and CEO of IMDb, the #1 movie website in the world, Col was born and currently resides in the UK. From a lifelong interest in technology and movies, he created IMDb as personal database of movie information and has been online since October 1990. Col continues in his original role to this day, working from an office in Bristol with IMDb staff members in countries around the world.

Craig Roberts
Craig is best known for his breakout role in ‘Submarine’, for which he won the BAFTA Cymru Award for ‘Best Actor’. Craig’s directorial debut, ‘Just Jim’, premiered at SXSW and is slated for release in the UK on 25th September. Later this year, Craig will appear in ‘Kill Your Friends’, the feature adaptation of John Niven’s cult novel of the same name about the Britpop era in the late 90s.

Don Letts’
Don’s reputation has been firmly established in both the film and music world by a substantial body of work from the late 70’s through the 80’s, 90’s and well into the millennium. He came to notoriety in the late 70’s as the DJ that single handedly turned a whole generation of punks onto reggae.

Douglas Booth
Booth’s screen debut was portraying Boy George in the BBC’s ‘Worried About the Boy’. Since then, he has worked with Darren Aronofsky in ‘Noah’, Andy and Lana Wachowski in ‘Jupiter Ascending’ and Lone Scherfig in ‘The Riot Club’. He recently finished shooting ‘Loving Vincent’ alongside Saoirse Ronan and Chris O’Dowd. Photo credit: Matthew Brooks
THE FESTIVAL JURY

Jenna Coleman
Jenna is a British actress currently portraying the most recent ‘Doctor Who’ companion, Clara, alongside Peter Capaldi. Other notable TV credits include the BBC drama ‘Death Comes To Pemberley’ and ‘Dancing on the Edge’ with Chiwetel Ejiofor. She is also no stranger to theatre and film, appearing at The National Theatre and also in box office smash ‘Captain America: The First Avenger’.

Martin Freeman
Martin is a BAFTA and EMMY award winning actor. He became a familiar face after starring in ‘The Office’, before going on to his role as Dr John Watson in celebrated BBC drama ‘Sherlock’. His extensive film credits include ‘The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy’, ‘Love Actually’ and Peter Jackson’s box office breaking ‘The Hobbit’ series, in which he portrayed Bilbo Baggins.

Martin Robinson
Martin is the Editor of ShortList Magazine, Raindance’s media partner. After graduating in film, he started working in magazines, Maxim and the NME before landing at Shortlist in 2011. The magazine has since become famed for its ground-breaking film specials and covers. In 2015 they launched the ShortList Film Club, a nationwide series of free screenings of new indie films.

Richard Botto
Richard is the Founder and CEO of Stage 32 (www.stage32.com), the world’s largest social media site and educational hub for film, television and theater. Botto is a screenwriter, producer, actor and author. His producing credits include Sundance Best Screenplay winner ‘Another Happy Day’.

Sheridan Smith
A multi-award winning actress, Smith has starred as Cilla Black in ITV’s drama ‘Cilla’. She has been appearing on TV since 1999 in some of the UK’s favourite shows including ‘Holby City’ and ‘The Bill’ and as Janet Keogh in the classic British TV comedy series ‘Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps’. Sheridan is also a talented stage actress, having won two consecutive Olivier awards in 2011-12.

Vicky McClure
Vicky is a BAFTA winning actress known for her performance as ‘Lol’ in Shane Meadow’s ‘This Is England’. Her other credits include leading roles in the much-lauded dramas ‘Line of Duty’, ‘True Love’ and ‘Broadchurch’. In 2014, Vicky appeared in ‘Svegali’ alongside Jonny Owen, Martin Freeman and a host of other well-known faces. Photo credit: Jon Gorrigan

Jenna is a BIFA nominated actress known for her work on both stage and screen. She has appeared in films such as ‘Kill List’, ‘The Descent’ and ‘The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn’. She has also appeared in a number of popular British TV shows including ‘Ripper Street’ and ‘Downton Abbey’. Her theatre work includes ‘Strangers on a Train’, ‘The Vote’ and ‘Wasp’.
SCREENING SCHEDULE

This will be useful: what’s happening at Raindance, day by day.

Get on the inside. Meet and collaborate with filmmakers in our international hubs:
Discover. Be discovered.

www.raindance.org
**SCREENING SCHEDULE 23rd RAINdance FILM FESTIVAL**

**VUE Piccadilly, London**

**WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER**

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<td>The Weight of Chains</td>
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<td>Silent Hours</td>
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<tr>
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<td>The Return</td>
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## Screening Schedule

### 23rd Raindance Film Festival

#### VUE Piccadilly, London

### Wednesday 30 September

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<td>15:50</td>
<td>Little Buddha</td>
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### Thursday 1 October

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<td>Crocodile</td>
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### Screening Schedule

#### 23rd Raindance Film Festival

**VUE Piccadilly, London**

**Saturday, 3rd October**

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<td>Hadrian’s Judgement</td>
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#### Sunday, 4th October

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<td>18:30</td>
<td>Closing Night: Reality</td>
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Wonderful films with a boozy kicker, these are our high-profile events.
OPENING NIGHT: Newcomer

Alex is a determined intelligence operative looking for work in dreary Serbia. On his first mission, something goes terribly wrong and his entire team are killed by a mysterious agent.

The blame is put squarely on Alex’s shoulders and, hunted by his employers, he goes on the run with just an audio recording of that fateful night to help him piece together what happened and clear his name. ‘Newcomer’ effectively plays with themes of memory and revelation as it follows Alex’s journey, replaying the failed mission through flashbacks where characters are played by different actors, or where key events are seen from a different perspective. Kai Barry’s second feature as writer and director is a brutal and engaging spy thriller with great action sequences that culminate in a heart-stopping final act.

After the film, join us at the Café de Paris, to celebrate the opening of the festival in true Raindance style! We will be hosting live music by Little Barrie and a DJ set by Tronik Youth.

SHORTLIST GALA: Kicking Off

‘Kicking off’ starts with the most important game of the season. Loyal fans Wigsy and Cliff watch in trepidation as their football team score the goal that will save them from relegation.

Victory is bliss as a chorus of supporters chant and cry with elation. However, this frenzy of happiness quickly turns ugly as the referee disallows the deciding goal. With their hearts and fists pumping, adrenalin running and fury racing through their bloodstream, the fans take matters into their own hands and Cliff makes the fatal mistake of planning while pissed. Wigsy, a confirmed idiot, follows through with the said plan and in the darkest hours of the night he commits a crime that will cause chaos and catastrophe for him and his best mate Cliff. ‘Kicking Off’ is cleverly filmed with split screen shots and slow motion montages. It closely resembles the stylistic features of British cinema classics such as ‘Shaun of the Dead’ and ‘Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels’ with its insistence in breaking the fourth wall fast-paced panning cuts. The characters are lovable thugs who will leave you laughing and grimacing at their lack of common sense.

The feature will be preceded by the screening of the Shortlist Shorts finalists. The winners will be announced at the afterparty at the Café de Paris!
Raindance Awards
The May Fair Hotel. Friday 2nd October at 7pm

To celebrate the achievements of the filmmakers of the 23rd Raindance Film Festival, this year’s awards will take place on Saturday 3rd October at the glamorous May Fair Hotel. The evening will start with pre-drinks from 6pm, with the awards themselves taking place at 7pm. An after-party in the Crystal Ballroom, including cocktails, canapés and a DJ, will follow the awards ceremony.

We will be giving 12 awards in total, ranging across the entire spectrum of the programme. Previous recipients of Raindance awards include Paolo Sorrentino, Ben Wheatley, Ken Marshall, Paul Andrew Williams and Takashi Shimizu, to name but a few.

We will be joined by members of this year’s illustrious jury, special guests and, of course, the nominated filmmakers themselves.

Please check p. 13 for a full list of the Award Categories and Nominations!

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER AT 18.45
CLOSING NIGHT: Reality

A young girl, Reality, witnesses a videotape fall out of a boar’s carcass – but nobody will believe her.

Jason, a camera operator at a dire local TV station, scores a deal with an old employer to get his terrible movie idea funded – but only if he manages to deliver the producer the most harrowing, ‘Oscar-winning’ groan of pain ever recorded. Dennis, a presenter at the same TV station, suffers from constant itching – but the doctor can’t find anything physically wrong with him. These whimsical, slightly unnerving tales wash in and out of each其他 in the latest feature by musician-turned-filmmaker Quentin Dupieux (‘Rubber’, ‘Wrong’). The strange, disjointed narrative merges dreams with reality in a kaleidoscopic medley, the clever editing and subtle stylised performances adding to the sense of watching a subtly humorous, pacifying and perplexing dream.
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IN COMPETITION

Feature films from around the world, nominated for the Raindance Awards.
We are introduced to embittered investment banker Antonia (Rebecca Calder) and unemployed actor Max (Jack Gordon) as they embark upon their first night together.

Although their professional lives are a world apart, Antonia and Max manage to build a romantic bond that will drive them to do the unthinkable. Antonia’s London home soon becomes their safe space; here secrets are shared which shape and taint the rest of their lives together. Very quickly, the pair’s dependence upon one another grows and their lives become disastrously entangled and dark. The acting throughout this film is spectacular with both Jack Gordon and Rebecca Calder delivering flawless performances. The pair are a screen match made in heaven and carry the story from start to end. Martin Stitt’s writing and direction are both nuanced and bold. Having previously been nominated for a British Independent Film Award, ‘Love Me Do’ once again proves that this British filmmaker is one to watch. Stitt’s fascination with the darker side of human nature makes for a fantastic story and brilliant film.

Xanthe Patterson

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Xanthe Patterson
IN COMPETITION
Mile End
Saturday 3 October 21:00 | Sunday 4 October 12:05

Paul has just lost his job, so he finds himself a new project: he’ll start running.

As chance would have it, he bumps into the same man several times, so they get acquainted and become friends. It seems that John genuinely likes Paul and, since Paul has a lot of spare time on his hands, what’s the harm in meeting new people? The ubiquitous John is at every corner, and his nearly constant physical presence is only surpassed by the growing influence he has on Paul’s mind. Paul is at a turning point in his life, both professionally and personally; he and his girlfriend have been thinking about having a baby. John tries to help, and pushes Paul in what seems to be the right direction – but for who? John brings a highly effective growing unease to this intriguing character-based drama, and the cast do a fantastic job of dissipating this throughout the film: his seeming kindness is never far from also seeming creepy and unhinged.

The actors’ performance is matched by the score, which deftly conveys all that remains unspoken and sets the perfect mood for this twisted tale.

Baptiste Charles

IN COMPETITION
The Return
Sunday 27 September 21:00 | Saturday 3 October 14:10

“Everyone’s got a secret, you know. Something they hide.” The uncanny opening lines of ‘The Return’ set the bleak nature for the rest of the film.

As criminal Jack returns to London after three years to look for his next job, all his contacts have gone off the grid. So he decides to make his own fortune by targeting wealthy city businessmen with the help of his new partner Laura, who introduces him to the ideal target. Claiming to not be a violent person, Jack’s past soon catches up with him. He feels responsible for Laura, though she’s the one that prompts him into this new line of business, while he still owes debts to powerful people. They both find themselves caught up in the crossfire with Laura’s target, a wealthy veteran gangster. From first time writer, director and producer Oliver Nias, ‘The Return’ is a psychological thriller that explores the effects of a troubled past on someone who now wants to start new. The mono-chrome setting reflects a scene that appears early on in the film, where Jack is interrogated by the police. He’s a complex character, kudos to Sam Donnelly who makes a brilliant acting debut as the criminal.

Anjali Mandalia

WORLD PREMIERE
The Adept
Country: Canada  Running Time: 91  Director: Adam Stern  Writer: Adam Stern  Producer: Adam Stern, Simon Barry  Cast: Jennifer Spence, Adam Greydon Reid

A scientist with a passion for magic gets more than he bargains for when he attempts a new card trick.
IN COMPETITION

Swansong
Monday 28 September 21:00 | Sunday 4 October 14:50


God’s Acre
Saturday 26 September 18:30 | Sunday 27 September 10:10


IN COMPETITION

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 21:00 | SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 14:50

Swansong
Billed as a “singer, songwriter and kidnapper” within the first five minutes, washed-out musician Mark is first seen shoving a woman into the boot of his car, driving her to the woods.

She is his wife Karen, and after finding out about her affair with another woman, Jamie, Mark kidnaps them both and holds them hostage. After feeding them — and himself — rat poison, Mark claims to have an antidote that will only save two of them. But can we really trust him? While they take turns to plea for their lives, flashbacks follow the events that lead up to this moment. Mark’s failing efforts as a solo musician leads Karen to resent him and during this time, she meets Jamie, a bar waitress. A conversation later explores the marital strain between Mark and Karen, causing her to find comfort in Jamie, who has secrets of her own. Mark’s hasty decision to kidnap them comes from paranoia over his marriage falling apart. Including a stellar performance by Antonia Campbell-Hughes as Jamie, the dazzling trio brings to life this sombre story, which shows the effect of an affair and how people can self-destruct in the face of deceit. Anjali Mandalia

SHORT BEFORE FEATURE

Woke Up!!!!

Mid-accident, a young woman finds herself in a dark space where she is met with visits from past and present, as she contemplates life and death.

H Positive

If you had a prolonged terminal illness and money was no object, would you manipulate euthanasia so that you could die on your own terms?
**Alice in Marialand**

Jesús Magaña Vásquez has created a film which beautifully encapsulates what it means to fall in and out of love, the difficulties of moving on and the challenge of forgetting an unresolved past.

Playing with the audience’s perceptions of the protagonists’ relationships, Vásquez ingeniously intertwines the power and parallels of love and hate, seamlessly gliding the characters between these emotions. Focusing on the motif of memories, Vásquez spins a surreal tale. The shooting style and sound strategy have dreamlike qualities with the viewer held in an eternal suspense, questioning the difference between reality and imagination, accentuating the madness that true love can bring to even the most straight laced of men. What makes this film so touching to the viewer is that it is not estranged from the average person’s quest to find emotional fulfillment, and the importance of gaining resolution and closure in all aspects of one’s life. After Maria’s death, Tonatiuh never achieves this, consequently his relationship with Alice is doomed from the start. Emulating Vertigo and Rebecca, this unique south American spin on the classic story of love and unresolved loss is certainly one to ponder over. 

_Myles Corley_

**Fires on the Plain**

Based on Shohei Ooka’s homonymous anti-war novel and Kon Ichikawa’s 1959 film, Shinya Tsukamoto stages a gory re-imagining of the final few days of the Japanese army on the island of Leyte in the Philippines.

An anonymous soldier, starving and suffering from tuberculosis, makes his way through the jungle after he loses his unit and learns that orders have been given to evacuate the island. His journey is a tour de force of the horrors and depravities that war bestows on the unfortunate remnants of the Japanese army: attacked from all sides, out of food, out of medical supplies, abandoned to their fate, the men do what they must to survive – most don’t. Tsukamoto’s film vividly embraces the gore of conflict, utilizing special effects and disturbing imagery to great effect. The camera’s hand-held, shaky style during fight scenes helps to envelop the audience in the terror and confusion of combat. Despite the violent visuals and action, at the heart of this film lie human relationships and emotions: the dependence of the soldiers on one another, their need to live to return home to their loved ones and the indelible mark that war makes on men’s minds.

_Orestes Kouzof_

**Q&A with Shinya Tsukamoto**

**SATURDAY 26 SEP., 14.30**
Impact Hub Westminster, 1St Floor New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, SW1Y 4TE

Booking essential. Please email event@jpf.org.uk to book.

**IN COMPETITION**

Alice in Marialand
Monday 28 September 21:15 | Saturday 3 October 12:00

Fires on the Plain
Friday 25 September 18:30 | Sunday 27 September 10:00

**Academy Film Fest 2023**

40-50 years of the Academy Awards. The Academy Film Festival is the world’s largest pre-Academy Awards celebration, held at BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly. It features the latest films, artists, and filmmakers prior to the annual Academy Awards ceremony. 

Booking essential. Please email event@jpf.org.uk to book.
Not Sophie's Choice
Country: UK  Running Time: 76
Director: Gina Lyons
Writer: Tom Cottle
Producer: Gina Lyons
DoP: Stuart Nicholas
Cast: Catherine Tate, Alex Macqueen, Skye Lucia Degruttola

A troubled middle class couple attempt to break some very sad news to their 10 year old daughter, Sophie.

Devil
Country: Turkey  Running Time: 76
Director: Bahadir Arici
Writer: Bahadir Arici
Producer: Gerardo Herrero, Mariela Besuievsky, Carlos Rodríguez
DoP: Juan Carlos Gómez
Cast: Maribel Verdú, Antonio De la Torre, Eduardo Fernández

Murat finds himself gripped by devilish thoughts when he goes to the mosque to pray.

Chorus
Country: Canada  Running Time: 96
Director: François Delisle
Writer: François Delisle
Producer: Maxime Bernard, François Delisle
DoP: François Delisle
Cast: Sébastien Ricard, Fanny Mallette, Geneviève Bujold

A unique soundscape carries the audience with heightening the tensions that shapes the protagonists’ journeys. The contrast of a crime being confessed cut with the breaking of waves, as three lives crash apart. Yet in the end, it is music, the power of sound that sets them free: seeing a concert, getting lost in the crowds and atmosphere, escaping from their reality. Christophe and Irene are the epitome of despair and heartbreak, with the audience feeling every second of their tragic tale and paralleling their same lack of resolution as the credits draw to a close. Love, loss, pain and faith, this film is a multitude of emotions which will leave you exhausted and shocked yet appreciating the fragility of life and how easy its bubble can burst. Delisle’s surreal piece of cinema will draw you in entirely, immerse you in a very real and sorrow filled world—yet deep at the core of their triangle of hurt, offer the audience a barely breathing life-support to the notion of hope.

Happy 140
Country: Spain  Running Time: 98
Director: Gracia Querejeta
Writer: Gracia Querejeta, Antonio Mercero
Producer: Gerardo Herrero, Mariela Besuievsky, Carlos Rodríguez
DoP: Juan Carlos Gómez
Cast: Maribel Verdú, Antonio De la Torre, Eduard Fernández

Elia has a secret. In an extravagant gesture, she rents a luxury villa for the weekend to celebrate her 40th with family and friends. ‘Happy 140’ delights in its range of characters: we meet Elia’s vulnerable sister, Katia, her tough husband, Juan, and their 15 year old son, Bruno, the struggling restaurant owners, Ramon and Martina, Elia’s old flame, Mario and his insufferable fiancée, Claudia, and the easygoing millionaire, Polo. Simmering tensions beautifully underlie the reunion dinner as these big personalities exchange stories and tease each other. They discuss the best, most recent thing that has happened to them. Ramon and Martina are going to have a baby, Mario and Claudia are going to get married but Elia trumps them all: she has won 140 million Euros. And then it all kicks off. Private whisperings, late night plotting and public arguments reign as the players tear each others’ personal lives apart in pursuit of Elia’s fortune. With such an ensemble-driven piece, it would be easy to lose momentum but director Gracia Querejeta masterfully connects these troubled lives into a moving drama about that timeless conundrum: can money buy you happiness?
**That's It**

Samao Daikoku wants to escape his tortured past and move on from crime and homelessness.

Desperately trying to find his ‘Birth Right Certificate’ and break out of the oppressive and dystopian world which surrounds him, he and the girl he loves have to fight their way to freedom and hide from the faceless dangers that surround them. Gakuryu Ishii’s stylised and dramatic narrative is a powerful piece of storytelling, weaving in many traditions and influences from the hall of fame of the movies. From Bruce Lee and traditional Hong Kong martial arts films, to Jean Luc Godard and the French new wave, to a Morricone-mannered shootout at the climax of the movie, ‘That’s It’ can sometimes feel like a practical crash course in cinematic history. That’s not to say that the film doesn’t have it’s own unique voice; it starts off in grainy black and white before flickering into colour, and the pace and style act as a guide, following and supporting the narrative as it evolves. Tapping into themes of identity and personal resolution, Ishii’s ingeniously crafted film will swallow you up and spit you out; fast moving with a lightning soundtrack, this is Japanese cinema at its finest.  

*Myles Corley*
**Le Dep**

Lydia is a young Innu girl working in her father’s general store (le dep) somewhere off the beaten track in rural Quebec. When her colleague doesn’t show up for a night shift, she’s forced to stay on. Her job: to disperse $50,000 into envelopes for the next day’s welfare recipients - or it would be if it weren’t for the arrival of a robber, high on crack and brandishing a gun. In a clever twist, Lydia recognizes her assailant and, using a maturity and wisdom beyond her years, manages to talk him down from immediate violence; but the night is long and there are many twists to come in this highly compelling drama. Although the action is constricted to a single location, ‘Le Dep’ manages to reach far and wide in its scope, exploring complicated social and systemic issues connected to the native Innu people such as unemployment, substance abuse and the dysfunctional families that arise from them. The film is also blessed with a fantastic score that emphasizes and elevates tension in all the right places and a very talented cast; all told, Sonia Bonspille Boileau has set an impressive standard with her debut feature. Orestes Kouzof

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**Princess**

Meet Adar: constantly playing truant, failing school and on the brink of puberty, she is only 12-years-old. Couple that with a dysfunctional family and a mother in denial, and Adar’s journey is certainly going to be a rough one. Surrounded by her mother, Alma, and her mother’s ever-adoring unemployed boyfriend Michael, Adar is about to undergo the transition into womanhood. She gets her first period. After spending their days together play fighting and role-playing, Adar’s journey to adulthood takes a dark turn when the affections of her mother’s boyfriend start to confuse and blur the boundaries of their parent and child relationship. The introduction of Alan, Adar’s homeless doppelganger, into the house begins a troubled exploration of sexuality that remains untouched by many filmmakers. Adar and Alan are on a journey through puberty, sexuality, psychological trauma, reality and fantasy that is not to be missed. If you are looking for easy viewing, this is not it. Told through both a realistic and fantastical lens, some scenes are hard to watch but their impact could not be greater. The flowing cinematography and able directing create a hauntingly beautiful atmosphere through which we view the heart-breaking events unfold. This is a dark reality with no guaranteed closure. Beth Leonard

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**Devil Makes Work**

‘Devil Makes Work’ is a visually dark and sinister short film illustrating the devil’s twisted view of humanity; our hopes and dreams, life, love and struggle together with the sacrifices we make for success. Mike Stingley

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**Today Is Not the Day**

After the loss of a friend, a young couple’s relationship reaches a crossroads. Adam Ibrahim, Darci McDonald

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**UK PREMIERE**

**BEST DEBUT**

**UK PREMIERE**

**BEST DEBUT**

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**UK PREMIERE**

**BEST DEBUT**

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IN COMPETITION

Bob and The Trees
Saturday 3 October 14:00 | Sunday 4 October 12:00

Title: **Bob and The Trees**  
Country: USA/France  
Running Time: 91 minutes  
Director: Diego Ongaro  
Writer: Courtney Maum, Diego Ongaro, Sasha Starmanski  
Producer: Rob Cristiano, Christie Molia  
DoP: Chris Teague, Daniel Vecchione  
Cast: Bob Tarasuk, Matt Gallagher, Polly MacIntyre

Bob and The Trees
Protagonist Bob Tarasuk plays himself in this verité-drama with a majority cast of local non-professional actors. Bob is a sympathetic character whose charisma and hard work owe him better luck than he receives.

Based on his earlier short of the same title, director Diego Ongaro’s first feature film premiered at Sundance and went on to win the top award at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Protagonist Bob Tarasuk plays himself in this verité-drama with a majority cast of local non-professional actors. Bob is a sympathetic character whose charisma and hard work owe him better luck than he receives. One winter in rural Massachusetts profiles his struggles after he pools his savings into a plot of land for timber, only to discover that the trees are rotten and worthless. His son Matt’s exasperation increases as Bob refuses to face up to the realities of the cards as they’ve been dealt. Bob’s isolation and suspicion of those around him increases as he strategises to conceal and overcome his shortfall. The authenticity of the characters and the cinematography allow you to feel like a fly-on-the-tree, and at times it becomes difficult to remember that this is not documentary film. Shot in a challenging environment during the Polar Vortex of 2014, ‘Bob and the Trees’ is a restrained and insightful character study complimented by a delicate, barely-there score that packs more of a punch than you’d notice. **Katie Baldock**

Racket
When an estranged Amil returns to his native home of Bosnia he is confronted with corruption and chaos.

During a brief seven-day stop over, Amil finds himself in the midst of a nightmare as his father suffers a near fatal heart-attack. Since his departure, Amil’s father has been under constant threat and harassed daily for a protection racket, the effects of which leave him in hospital. Amil takes matters into his own hands and overnight he is embroiled in a battle with some of Sarajevo’s deadliest underground gangsters. Amil quickly abandons his photographer’s lens for the security of a gun. He continually faces the dilemma of staying and fighting this battle or retreating and returning to his life overseas. This story is a heart-warming tale of a man who finds his way home and who finally appreciates the comforts of family, friendship and love. Admir Buljugic’s crime drama champions Bosnia and its spectacular landscape and talent. The film is carried by the actor Adnan Haskovic, who’s portrayal of Amil is superb. Street corruption and danger grip Amil but you will most definitely want to join him on this trail of blackmail and bargaining. **Xanthe Patterson**

Death In Bloom
Country: USA  
Running Time: 11 minutes  
Director: Dael Oates  
Writer: Dael Oates  
Producer: Dael Oates, Jonas McClure  
DoP: Peter Eastgate  
Cast: Robin Nevin, Ewen Leslie

A door-to-door ‘death’ salesman struggles to close a deal with a fabulously picky customer. **BEST DEBUT**
Shelter

Tahir, an illegal immigrant from Lagos, has just been released from prison with nowhere to live while Hannah has lived on the streets of New York since losing her husband.

Hannah, a heroin addict, considers committing suicide until she is stopped by Tahir. As the two begin to depend on each other to escape certain situations, they fall in love, with Hannah giving Tahir the courage to move on from his past crimes and Tahir giving Hannah the strength to face her real life. As they walk through the gum and grey streets of New York, they debate the existence of God (Tahir is a devout Muslim) and drugs (Hannah believes but Tahir doesn’t), building on their connection. They begin to squat in an apartment left unguarded during the summer, putting on the owner’s finest clothing, cracking open their wine and helping themselves to food. Paul Bettany’s first time as a writer and director sees stunning performances by Bettany’s wife, Jennifer Connelly as Hannah and Anthony Mackie as Tahir. ‘Shelter’ sees New York transformed into various hues of murky grey, to romanticise this story about how two people can provide support, even in the worst of times. Anjali Mandalia

Out of My Hand

A simple, down-to-earth and relatable story about Cisco, a Liberian family man and factory worker, who leaves his home country in search of a better life as a taxi driver in the USA.

Takeshi Fukunaga’s film presents Cisco’s journey in a very personal fashion, using non-professional actors and paying close attention to Cisco’s skills and experiences – in the first sequence, for example, we learn step-by-step with Cisco what it takes to extract latex from trees. Indeed, much of the first half of the film feels like a docu-drama, switching to a more narrative style as Cisco battles hardship in the USA. This shift is also reflected in the cinematography, which while warm and colourful in Liberia, switches to cold, drab and dreary tones under the metallic skyline of New York. Interestingly, ‘Out Of My Hand’ is only the second foreign-production narrative feature film ever shot in Liberia and the first to be made in association with the Liberia Movie Union.

Rachel Seymour

George And The Vacuum

George and Lacy walk through the streets of Brooklyn and revisit their memories.
SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 20:40 | TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 18:10

**Sila and the Gatekeepers of the Arctic**

“Sila” in Greenlandic connotes the weather, the universe and all consciousness and ‘Sila’ the documentary concentrates on the disorder of Sila due to global warming.

‘Here on the 25th of October, the Sun sets for the winter. On the 17th of February, the sun rises again... ice and Sun has made us our life’. And that is changing, in this fascinating exploration of the daily lives of the Inuit. ‘Sila’ in Greenlandic connotes the weather, the universe and all consciousness and ‘Sila’ the documentary concentrates on the disorder of Sila due to global warming. It also explores a team of NASA-funded researchers who measure the climate on the ice to aid our understanding of the past and to predict the future. A lone child swings on a rope in the ice, dogs pant as they run, men fish in their frozen desert, birds circle the sky; director Corina Gamma’s images capture Arctic culture in an elegant, humanistic way. Thankfully we are not overwhelmed with scientific jargon, but instead, we are presented with a form of effortless documentary making that invites you to lean in and share in its fascination with the beauty of the natural world. Considering the grim premise of climate change, ‘Sila’ succeeds by advocating the ethereal connection between man and nature.

Matt Howsam

**SHORT BEFORE FEATURE**

**Lux**


Richard on his latest star light extraction meets Lily, marvelled by the premise of stellar lifting.

**IN COMPETITION**

**Digital Dissidents**

Cyril Tuschi has created one of the most relevant and powerful documentaries to be released in recent years.

After the media storm surrounding the international hounding of Edward Snowden, this film goes deep into the core of governmental corruption and the power that can be brought down upon whistleblowers, leaving the audience pondering upon the question: is it worth exposing a truth, to then live your life in hiding? The film makes for uncomfortable but important viewing, and Tuschi has expertly crafted his film to raise more questions than it answers. Drawing parallels between ‘1984’, ‘Brave New World’ and the Orwellian empires that the NSA, Pentagon and US government wish to impose upon civilians to control and monitor their movements all in the name of “public security”, ‘Digital Dissidents’ abounds with shocking revelations about truth behind online secrecy - or the lack of it. Far from being stuck in the here and now, it explores a range of whistleblowers from the 1970’s, the publication of the “Pentagon Files” and the Wiki-Leaks revelation of US war crimes in Iraq. This epic unveiling of confidential governmental secrets challenges the very freedoms which we take for granted.

Myles Corley

**BEST DOCUMENTARY**
IN COMPETITION

Gored
Thursday 1 October 18:45 | Saturday 3 October 12:10

A man steps into the centre of a large sandy pit. He gets down on his knees. In front of him, a pair of doors swing open and a 500-kilo bull charges the kneeling figure.

This is the story of Antonio Barrera, holder of the dubious title of ‘most gored bullfighter in modern history’ with 23 gores under his belt, and that opening scene is footage from his final bullfight in December 2012. Exploring both the life of Barrera and the unbelievably dangerous sport / art form of bullfighting in close detail, ‘Gored’ cuts between edge-of-your-seat footage from the ring and interviews with Barrera’s family, who give insights to his fascinating character and compulsion to face down death itself. The way he sees it the bullfight is the ultimate experience, the most intimate of relationships and a fine dance between man and beast, a perspective shared by many – the film’s poster bears the tagline ‘Gored, a Love Story’. All the while, the film maintains a gut-clenching tension as it cuts back to that final fight: will the man on his knees avoid the charging bull, or will he be gored for the 24th – and maybe final – time?

Orestes Kouzof

The Arms Drop
Sunday 27 September 16:20 | Wednesday 30 September 16:20

Danish Author Niels Holck is appalled by the political atrocities committed to the Indian people as a result of the conflicts between Delhi’s congress central government and Calcutta’s communist interests. As Indian Journalist Udayan Namboodiri comments, the Purulia Arms Drop is “considered one of the biggest intelligence failures in the history of India”. This is quite a feat to document but director Andreas Koefoed triumphs, delivering a tense documentary that mixes masterful, cinematic reconstructions with testimonies from the real life players. This entices throughout, constantly shifting The Arms Drop between a gripping conspiracy thriller and an intimate touching story about two individuals and how much they are willing to pay for justice. Danish Author Niels Holck is appalled by the political atrocities committed to the Indian people as a result of the conflicts between Delhi’s congress central government and Calcutta’s communist interests. He seeks to smuggle weapons into West Bengal to arm their guards. Enter Peter Bleach, British arms dealer who oversees the logistics. The tension mounts as we witness the planning and execution of their mission. And then chaos. The job goes wrong, and Bleach waits for the Indian and British intelligence forces to arrest Holck and liberate him. This does not happen: Holck flees and Bleach is falsely arrested and starved in an Indian prison. What follows must be watched; ‘The Arms Drop’ is a political mystery gem.

Matt Howsam
Broken Land

Casting a fresh eye on a heavily debated topic, Stéphanie Barbey and Luc Peter’s ‘Broken Land’ tells the stories of seven American citizens living in the ‘militarised zone’ on the US side of the fence. In a two-tone landscape dominated by rolling sand dunes and endless blue skies, an ugly black shadow cuts a shape through the desert. This is the iron fence that runs for nearly 2,000 miles across the US - Mexico border, a border that immigrants trying to get to the US cross every day. Casting a fresh eye on a heavily debated topic, Stéphanie Barbey and Luc Peter’s ‘Broken Land’ tells the stories of seven American citizens living in the ‘militarised zone’ on the US side of the fence. Each faces the divisive issue of illegal immigration in their own way and their diverse, sometimes tragic experiences weave a compelling tapestry of life - and politics - on the frontier. There are those who welcome the immigrants, providing shelter and supplies, and denounce the US government for its insular surveillance state. Others live in fear of perceived threats and take it upon themselves to protect their country, patrolling the border with guns and DIY tracking technology. Meanwhile, in a morgue, hundreds of bodies and skeletons picked up from the desert lie in cold storage, waiting to be identified. Orestes Kouzof

Horizons

Eileen Hofer brings us this poignant insight into Cuban dancers striving to emulate the success of former prima ballerina Alicia Alonso.

We follow young Amanda, whose family sacrificed everything for her, as she determinedly trains for her exams with the hope of one day auditioning for the Cuban National Ballet School. At this prestigious school, Viengsay Valdez is a rising star, but that doesn’t stop the school’s steely artistic director, the one and only Alicia, from giving harsh criticism, for she knows more than most the importance of passion, persistence and perfection. You’d never guess that this frail old lady was partially blind at the prime of her career. “I danced in my mind,” she says in a clip from This Is Your Life, using other senses to navigate the stage. She doesn’t think twice before chastising Viengsay for not showing enough passion in her performance, whilst Amanda shyly watches from the sidelines after physiotherapy. Her desire for what Viengsay has no doubt matches that of Alicia’s desire to be free to move once more; she still carries her ballet shoes in her handbag and resolutely insists, despite constant support from staff, that she can stand on her own two feet. Michelle Goode-Smith

All Fight

Craig and his friend have stolen a lot of money from the wrong kind of people. He receives an ultimatum, to either kill his partner and return the money, or to be killed. Craig complies and enters into a battle of wits with a hit-man.

The Night Lives On

A girl puts on a record late one evening and is overcome by the music. With 60’s flare, she starts a dance party throughout her house. Her father and others resist the party at first but quickly succumb to the girl’s charm.
Fresh, organic and home-grown, these are our independent films that call the UK 'home'.
The Healer

Having left his native Columbia, Alberto had high hopes for a life in London.

With the weight of his mother’s illness pressing upon his conscience, he does the best he can to support his family back home. Money is hard to come by and the ongoing worry of being discovered by the police leaves him in a high state of anxiety and distress. Whilst trying to navigate his new life across the sea, Alberto is still struggling with the demons of his past. Religion offers him a consoling hand but, as an abundance of bad omens present themselves, an altogether darker depiction of what life has to offer becomes clear. Fast paced and chaotic shots take us through the multicultural streets of London, its refinery and dreaded back alleys. Upbeat music charges each scene as we move with the protagonist amongst the bustling markets, lines of commuters and bedraggled boroughs. An array of characters take us through the many plot twists and turns and emphasise the commotion of a life without stability.

Xanthe Patterson

If It Be Love

Inspired by four of William Shakespeare’s classic texts, ‘If It Be Love’ merges together portraits of love.

The love that is explored contrasts and varies, including the infatuation of Antony and Cleopatra, Hamlet’s rejection of Ophelia, his lady’s manipulation of Macbeth, and Othello’s jealousy. Mixing the old and the new, the film focuses on timeliness, much like Shakespeare’s words. There is no confinement to a specific period of history with the film split into four chapters that vary in tone, though the script keeps to Shakespearian English, an ode to his original writings. Shakespeare’s words are often described as everlasting; the film takes his original meanings to create a fresh interpretation. Moving away from the norms of repetition, it creates a piece of work that is both familiar and new to audiences, still cherishing much-loved characters all the while presenting them in a new light.

With performances by Alice Bird and Vinta Morgan, who play all the roles between them, ‘If It Be Love’ experiences life, love and death, as the actors perfectly capture their characters. Bird’s haunting perception of both Hamlet and Ophelia is uncanny while Morgan’s Othello captures his insane jealousy.

Anjali Mandal
**My Hero**

Following in his dad’s footsteps, Jake takes over the family business of drug dealing and is soon to be top dog on the block.

With no other prospects, Jake is resigned to a life of crime and accepts his vocation as a necessary means to survive. With his best mate as a sidekick, the pair are set to make the kind of money that a small town boy from a rundown town can only dream of. For Jade, Margate town is her playground. With a drunk for a dad and a mum ‘up in heaven’, the nine-year-old spends her days climbing garage roofs as ‘Super Girl’.

Both characters are brave, resilient and damaged by their upbringings but it is here that their similarities end. After an accidental meeting, Jake and Jade find themselves irreversibly linked as a fatal incident forces Jake to have to care for this vulnerable girl. In ‘My Hero’, racing scenes take you from frame to frame as the plot thickens and a spiral of bad luck twists and turns. Within their dire circumstances two complete strangers find friendship and love and for the first time they are cared for by one another.

*Xanthe Patterson*

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**Set the Thames on Fire**

A grotesque and tyrannical impresario rules over a dystopian London. We follow Art, a struggling piano player and Sal, a compulsive liar as they embark on a string of ludicrous escapades. Plagued by unease and discomfort their friendship strengthens their resolve to escape the oppressive regime. On their adventures they encounter a deranged magician, an anarchist witch and the impresario’s twisted right-hand man leading to a final showdown with the despotic ruler himself. The disjointed scenes, unusual camera angles and incredible special effects create a dream-like ambience of the city with its sparkling stars and looming moon reflected in the dark waters of the Thames. With low-key lighting and intricate set designs reminiscent of Ridley Scott’s Blade Runner, the claustrophobic atmosphere reinforces the two protagonists desire to escape. Director Ben Charles Edwards, known for his avant-garde and fearless approach to filmmaking, has crafted a visually dynamic film with an impressive cast including Sally Phillips and Noel Fielding. This darkly comic story is about the power of friendship and the thrill of adventure when you have nothing to lose.

*Dora Ash Sakula*
Silent Hours
If you suspect your spouse is cheating on you, John Duval is the man to seek. This no-nonsense private eye delights in his voyeuristic lifestyle until he starts to realise that the material he watches interferes with his sex life.

Seeking help, he visits Dr Catherine Benson, a psychiatrist, who believes that the nature of his work and his troubled past involvement in the Falklands war are the cause of his violent fantasies. As he starts to gain clarity, Duval is asked to investigate his old naval friend’s wife. As Duval delves into the case, a series of terrifying sexual murders plague his every move as the women he has been associated with are killed off one by one. Detective Inspector Ambrose is out to get Duval but can he prove his innocence? Writer/director Mark Greenstreet delivers an intense, psychological watch; he crafts a daring, unique character out of Duval that plays excellently to James Weber Brown’s versatility. By turns menacing, enigmatic, charismatic, humorous, vulnerable, the ‘Silent Hours’ triumphs on the knowledge that we can’t help but feel compelled to help John, yet we also fear him. Disturbing, gory, intelligent, this thriller will keep you hooked.

Matt Howsam

Social Suicide
Balthazar is taken into custody. Two of his friends have died in the same night, and one is in a coma.

He has a habit of filming everything he and his friend Reese do, which gives the police an enormous amount of material to go through. Not only do they have to piece together an intricate succession of events, they also have to try and understand Balthazar. Reese is the prime suspect, but the police are disturbed by how Balthazar seems to be more interested by the number of clicks that will be generated by his footage than in the actual events around him. For an unknown reason, he feels like he has to protect Reese. This film is an intriguing study of our time and the people who live in it. ‘Social Suicide’ deftly weaves together romance, drama and psychological thriller, ending with a shockingly emotional payoff. It paints a fascinating portrait of an age where people measure their popularity with the number of online views their posts achieve, and how peer pressure will push people beyond the limits of common sense.

Baptiste Charles
**Taking Stock**

On her 30th birthday, Kate, a dabbling actress who works at an independent furniture store, is made redundant and returns home to see her boyfriend driving off with someone else.

At first dismayed, Kate quickly decides to take matters into her own hands, in search of a solution to pay a rising stack of bills. Finding inspiration in the unlikely form of criminal duo Bonnie and Clyde, Kate hatches a plan to rob the store before it closes for good at the end of the week, enlisting her colleagues as partners in crime. But with no Clyde and a series of roadblocks along the way, will Kate manage to see her plan through? With plenty of humour, wit and a dash of self-deprecation, this uplifting comedy, explores the very real issue of redundancy in a post-crisis London. Filmmaker Maeve Murphy, who based Taking Stock on her 2012 short film, Sushi, merges the story with incredible shots of a bustling London. Each character is endearingly stylised and relatable, and charming leading lady Kelly Brook more than proves her abilities on screen. Quirky but thoughtful, Taking Stock is more than a bit of lighthearted fun, and well-worth a watch.

Danai Pagoni

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**The Carrier**

England has been overrun by a pandemic with no apparent cure. As the infection continues to spread, safety - for a lucky few - looms in the form of a damaged 747 set to seek solace abroad.

It’s only once the plane is airborne that the survivors discover the infection made it onto the flight with them. As the survivors begin to take sides and try to impress their desires on one another, it becomes clear they’re in as much danger from each other as they are from the infection. Shot through with an uncomfortably intimate tension, ‘The Carrier’ mixes classic elements of the best apocalyptic movies with its own unique flourishes to create a film that feels both reminiscent of the masters of the genre and fresh enough to be consider a roaring in its own right. Tight direction by Anthony Woodley combines with a strong script to bring character and emotion to the forefront and deliver a very human story amid the spread of infection. As a stellar cast breathes life into their characters, the death toll rises and, with the plane forced to land, a battle against the infected reveals the darkest traits of humankind. Mark Rogers
Wasp

James and Olivier were supposed to spend a perfect holiday in the South of France, in Olivier’s holiday home, which is far from everything and everyone.

That was before Caroline, an old friend of James’s, arrived. She’s just been left by her boyfriend and James kindly offers temporary accommodation. Olivier is not too keen on it at first, yet finds himself more intrigued by Caroline the longer she stays. Caroline is very aware of the growingly tantalising effect she has on him. Olivier’s fascination sends him into the throes of reconsidering all he took for granted about his identity, and even the love he has for his boyfriend. Both of them let this unfold unbeknownst to James, who starts feeling more and more paranoid and isolated, and tries to cling on to the certainty of the love he’s felt for his boyfriend. This debut feature does a deft job at capturing stolen glances and an overwhelming sense of uncertainty. The lush environment quickly turns into a sultry, oppressive setting for the characters to start unravelling in this gripping story of manipulation, where fascination balances between the perverse and the beautiful.

Setting Them Straight

Country: Australia
Running Time: 88
Director: Kaleb McKenna
Writer: Brett Dowson, Kaleb McKenna
Producer: Brett Dowson, DoP: Peter Cheng
Cast: Brett Dowson

Having been nurtured and accepted by his parents as a gay man, Joshua finds the courage to confess, that he’s actually not.

Winter

Grey skies, bare branches: Woods Weston wakes from yet another night spent upon cold concrete. After the murder of his beautiful wife, Woods has found himself seeking comfort in bottles and boxes of fags.

He used to lose track of reality whilst absorbed in his artwork; nowadays he is lost altogether and the world is too cruel a place to confront. With one son in care and the other sacrificing his future to nurse him, this once doting father needs to awake from his cycle of psychosis. ‘Winter’ is a tragic love story about loss, grief and family. When everything seems bleak and the world is unforgiving, the only safety to be found is in the unconditional love of Woods’ sons. Tommy Flanagan (Woods Weston) delivers a hauntingly truthful performance where Woods’ inextricable pain can be felt in every scene. Heidi Greensmith’s writing is honest and is beautifully accompanied by Dominic Greensmith’s soundtrack which recently won Best Score Award at the NYC International Film Festival. ‘Winter’ is unquestionably moving and well crafted. It is a story of unspeakable pain but highlights how unconditional and unfaltering love can bring light back into the darkest of times.

Emma, Change The Locks

Country: UK
Running Time: 44
Director: Juliet Shardlow
Writer: Julia Hart
Producer: Juliet Shardlow, DoP: Di-ana Olifirova
Cast: Olivia Williams, Madeline Tynan

Emma is stepping up to an extreme decision. She is changing the locks. Will she be able to stand by her decision when the knocking begins?
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DOCUMENTARIES
An Open Secret
If you’re familiar with the films of Oscar- and BAFTA-nominated director Amy Berg (West of Memphis, Deliver Us from Evil), then her credit on this film will be all you need to make you put it in your calendar.

If you’re not, then you’re in for a (harrowing, disturbing, shocking) treat. Hollywood has always been an exploitative business – with thousands more hopefuls and wannabes trying to get a job than there are roles, unscrupulous gatekeepers have always been able to take advantage. Usually we picture naïve young actresses and harangued interns in these situations. We don’t picture children. That, unfortunately, is the reality of the situation, as this documentary makes shockingly clear. Frank testimonials, depositions, archive footage and live investigation paint a picture of unchecked exploitation, grooming and molestation that was rampant across the child actor scene, through managers, agents and producers who worked closely with the children and their families. As you may have seen from the news, at least one A-lister is implicated. And the worst part is in the title – this was an open secret. Haunting, enraging and unmissable – this film reveals a darker underbelly to Hollywood than you ever thought possible.

James Burbidge

Bounce: How the Ball Taught the World to Play
From Brazilian favelas to dusty Congolese villages, from neolithic Scottish isles to modern soccer pitches; the world over there is one particular thing we all know, a shared heritage and common play-thing we recognise: the ball.

A bouncing ball offers us a metaphor for our lives in its uncertainty and an important opportunity to play. As it turns out, playing may be one of the most important things we do with each other, fostering social bonds and strengthening communities in both human and animal populations. This fascinating documentary sheds a light into our relationship with the sphere and how balls have been used throughout history in different games that both shaped and reflected the societies in which they were invented. Along the way, we’re introduced to some brilliant rare, traditional and defunct ball games and get an in-depth lesson in anthropology, history and sociology. Jerome Thelia’s debut documentary film is a must-watch not just for sports fans, but for those interested in humanity itself – as is stated in the film, “more people watch football today than have ever belonged to any religion.”

Orestes Kouzof

The Question
Why are we here? What is it all for? In the infinity of time and space - how should we spend our single shot at life?
SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 20:40 | SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 10:05

Cavanna, He Was Charlie
François Cavanna was one of the two founders of Charlie Hebdo and Hara Kiri. His books, articles and essays inspired, entertained and amused thousands.

Whilst reading Cavanna’s work many felt as though they had found a kindred spirit who dared to say what they would not. His work was at times controversial and was frequently banned, but Cavanna always sought a way to fight back and did so with satire. Censorship spurred him on to criticize those in power in an attempt to ‘shake up society’ and provoke change. ‘Cavanna’ makes use of a conventional documentary format whereby a series of interviews give us great insight into the life and work of the artist. Montages of past publications saunter across sections and grab you with their shocking headlines and colourful caricatures. Moments of archived footage presents Cavanna is his hay day, impassioned, charismatic and championing his cause his freedom of speech. After the events of January 2015, this documentary makes an important assertion that free speech can spark controversy but also conversation. ‘Je Suis Charlie’ took the world by storm and as this documentary explains, we have Cavanna to thank for that.

Xanthe Patterson

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 21:00 | FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 16:00

Cosmic Whistleblowers
What do you think happened in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947? The U.S. government has put out four different explanations in the last 50 years.

Fuelled by this obfuscation is one of the earliest and most well-known conspiracy theories: the Roswell UFO incident. ‘Cosmic Whistleblowers’ follows filmmaker Simon Sharman’s personal journey into the world of UFOs and government cover-ups. A self-confessed believer, Sharman gains access to the esoteric group of UFO hunters in the U.S., headed by Don Schmitt, and films interviews with a wide array of witnesses, ex-military personnel and others connected to the Roswell case. Truth and evidence are twisted by both sides of the debate in this intrepid documentary. On the one hand, the ‘ufologist’ conjectures and years of scouring the New Mexico desert for metal fragments (without much success) come across as well-meaning, but misguided. On the other, Sharman presents damning evidence of government cover-ups and misdeeds that is not hard to believe in the light of more recent scandals. Perhaps the wisest line in the film is spoken by NASA historian and astrophysicist Steven J. Dick, paraphrasing Carl Sagan: “Keep an open mind, as long as your brains don’t fall out”.

Orestes Kouzof

In an effort to parody the constantly evolving group of residents occupying the San Francisco Bay Area, “Universal Gentrification” is a film that combines satire with social justice.
Datuna: Portrait of America

In this remarkable documentary, we are introduced into the life of David Datuna, a Georgia-born artist who creates very distinctive pieces on national identity.

Whilst following Datuna’s journey, we learn a lot about his background and past experiences that make him who he is today. Through innovative practices such as being the first contemporary artist to combine wearable technology into his work, and using different mediums in his creativity, he became a key figure in the industry, being compared to artists such as Andy Warhol. Much of the film revolves around his piece ‘Portrait of America’, which debuted at the National Portrait Gallery on President’s day. During this time, we see how passionate and dedicated Datuna is to his work, even when he gets diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer; he continues working in the studio day in, day out, with his team who know nothing of his personal situation. The documentary also places emphasis on how hard to crack the arts industry is, as well as how much every piece of art means to its creator – its takeaway message: no matter what happens, never give up on your aspirations. Dilek Osman

Good Wolf, Beautiful Witch

Poetry, music, painting, photography and cinematography intermingle in this paradoxical tale of love stories that can be both possible and impossible at the same time.

Baptiste Charles
Deep Web: The Hunt for Dread Pirate Roberts

‘Deep Web’ documents the arrest and trial of Ross Ulbricht, the 30-year-old American believed to have created the Silk Road, an online black marketplace.

It explores via interviews with anarchist cryptographers and online privacy advocates how the deep web works, and the implications for the individuals who use it in terms of the law and personal freedom. The Silk Road was launched in February 2011 using software that enabled its users to carry out transactions anonymously. Its administrator, possibly a team of several people, worked under the pseudonym Dread Pirate Roberts (taken from the novel and cult film ’The Princess Bride’). As the site grew, it caught the interest of the FBI. In 2013 the FBI shut down the site, and tracked down and arrested Ross Ulbricht as its mastermind.

Considering that the subject of the film is virtual, it feels action-packed. It includes interviews with drug vendors who dealt using the Silk Road, law enforcement personnel, and Ulbricht’s family, who are still campaigning for his release. It discusses the deep web and its operation, the nature of darknets and Bitcoin trading in a well-illustrated way, striking a good balance with the sensational nature of the court case. 

Shey Hargreaves

Driving with Selvi

Forced into marriage as a child to an abusive husband, Selvi escapes and becomes one of the first female taxi drivers in South India. Over ten years, Canadian filmmaker Elisa Paloschi follows her as she pursues her dreams - starting a taxi company, working for a medical outreach programme, getting her licence to drive a bus, getting remarried and becoming a mother. She is still determined to keep her job while she provides for her family. For her, driving is not just a profession, but a means of empowerment. Through Selvi, Paloschi presents the harsh reality that face Indian women in an unflinching and honest way. ‘Driving with Selvi’ explores the dichotomy between a traditional, patriarchal Indian society and the encroachment of the modern world. She laughs when she describes how her husband-to-be presents her with two saris: “I drive, I wear pants”. Selvi refuses to be victim and is determined that her daughter shall be her legacy and not go through the torment that she endured. This is a documentary that will no doubt spark a dialogue about child marriage and female agency; Selvi herself is a driving force and, in Paloschi’s own words, a “survivor that will inspire others.” 

Dora Ash Sakula

Rita Mahtoubian Is Not A Terrorist

When Iranian-born Rita Mahtoubian sets out to change her life from ordinary to extraordinary she accidentally captures the attention of a homeland security agent in this satirical comedy about romance, terrorism and trying to be a better person.
**Hadwin’s Judgement**

Thomas Grant Hadwin was a logger working in British Columbia, in some of the oldest and most incredible forest systems on planet Earth.

His job was to find the biggest, oldest, most valuable trees and figure out ways of getting them into a sawmill, and he was one of the best: fast, fit and owner of an encyclopaedic knowledge of the forest. Hadwin was also blessed with an appreciation for and connection to nature that is seldom seen in our today’s world. The destructive strategies of his employers led him to start writing letters to his manager; letters turned into heated arguments, and arguments into an obsessive one-man campaign that culminated in a sacrilegious act of vandalism that would turn Hadwin into a hate figure. Sasha Snow’s documentary tells this incredible story with a mix of interviews and well-directed fictional footage that helps bring the events, and Grant Hadwin’s character, to life. The film feels solidly rooted in its natural background, showcasing spectacular shots of the British Columbian wilderness. Whatever his actions, Hadwin’s message of respect for nature and sustainable living echoes loudly through ‘Hadwin’s Judgement’. We would be wise to heed it.

*Orestes Kouzof*

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**Happy Purim**

Purim is the happiest day in the Jewish calendar. It commemorates the day when, back in the ancient Persian Empire, the Jewish people were saved from slaughter.

It is a time for celebration, sharing joy and giving back to those less fortunate. Ultra-Orthodox Jews are famously as strict about observing the rules of their faith as they are defiant to modernity, yet for this film they let the cameras explore their celebration with enthusiasm. The film follows a diverse cross-section of society - from the charity workers helping the poor, to the rabbis preparing to read the Book of Esther and the women preparing the food and drinks – giving us a deep insight into what makes Purim so special to the Jewish community. This documentary is a fascinating exploration of a key moment in Jewish life, both spiritually and socially. Director Ori Gruder, an ultra-Orthodox Jew himself, shows how deference towards the rites blends with daily secular life, and his insider’s voice makes us feel like we’re invited at the table with everyone else.

*Baptiste Charles*
**Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things**

How much stuff have you got in your life? Most people can number the things they own in the thousands and are constantly on the search for the next consumer fix – a better phone, a shinier car, a bigger house.

But how much stuff do you actually need? Consumerism and the industries that it feeds are making us miserable and driving us to a hamster-wheel of work, paycheck, advertising and spending. Minimalism is no longer an art style, for many people it’s become a lifestyle and credo. Meet the people who get by on the bare necessities, from those who live in 100-square-foot ‘tiny homes’ to those who have gotten rid of anything they can’t physically carry. It might seem that the by-line ‘a documentary about the important things’ is a cheeky joke, but the practice of minimalism proves that it’s much more than that; by cutting down on superfluous physical and mental needs, we can put more focus and energy on what truly matters in life: our mental wellbeing and our loved ones. Matt D’Avella’s eye-opening documentary will give you a new perspective on life.

**Roma Termini**

Bartolomeo Pampaloni’s debut documentary film is masterfully written and directed. The film follows the lives of those whom we often disregard and disrespect; the forgotten, the downtrodden and the desperate.

People like us, who breathe, love, hate and who are broken by vices and misfortune. ‘Roma Termini’ is shot amongst the luminous spinning adverts and echoing travel updates that roll around Rome’s bustling train station. The film follows four homeless protagonists as they share their tales of suffering and struggle. Their pain is authentic, their situations sorrowfully commonplace and cutting. On a hand held camera, close-up shots are beautifully executed and woven into a montage of haunting scenes. Dark ringing chimes and heavy piano keys underscore harrowing proclamations that will strike at your heart. The journeys that surround the station are constant; yet for these four men, life beyond the terminal walls and streets is unattainable. In Bartolomeo Pampaloni’s film these forgotten men are brought to the forefront of the crowds and their stories will stay with you throughout life’s travels.

**Jasmin and the Macaroons**

A woman invites two girlfriends for a perfect afternoon tea, but loses control of the situation when the topic of international relations comes up and reveals the unsavory truth of their friendship.
**Shih**

We follow Paola Shih as she embarks upon a life changing journey. After twenty years of living as a westerner, Paola wishes to reconnect with her Taiwanese father and learn about her forgotten family.

After the break down of their marriage, Paola’s mother left her father and Taiwan. No note was written or contact details given and the pair simply vanished. For Venezuelan Paola, Taiwan may be the missing puzzle piece in her life. After summoning the courage and making many a long distance phone call, Paola has arranged to take a long term trip to meet her father and experience Taiwan for what feels like the very first time.

As time passes and Paola’s confidence grows, a relationship unfolds in front of the cameras that is honest and beautiful. The raw emotions captured on camera are captivating and at times brutal. Each scene is lovingly shot with Paola’s boyfriend and best friend behind the cameras. Exchanges are made in her native Spanish in the confidence that her father cannot understand. This is a film that is brave, authentic and bold. It is a sensitive exposition of a relationship rediscovered and never to be lost again.

Xanthe Patterson

***A Reasonable Request***

A desperate son reconnects with his estranged father to ask an unspeakable favor that will change their lives forever.

**The Birth Of Saké**

Stormy, snowy Ishikawa, Japan. Inside the white walls of the 150-year-old Tedorikawa brewery, a massive vat of rice steams away.

Soon, it will be taken away by the workers of the brewery, sprinkled with Koji mold and yeast and go through a complicated series of massages, baths and fermentation cycles. This is the process of making sake, Japan’s staple rice wine, and Tedorikawa is one of the last remaining breweries that still makes sake the traditional way, placing human intuition and touch before machines’ reliability and performance. ‘The Birth of Sake’ places the viewer inside the brewery, introducing us not only to the dizzying process of making sake but also to the people who undertake this challenge. The brewery’s culture is fascinating: deeply hierarchical and organised, new staff can only enter at an apprentice level and those at the top have been working there for decades. Erik Shirai’s debut documentary as writer, director and cinematographer is a beautifully immersive piece of filmmaking, largely forgoing narration and interviews to allow the beautifully shot and presented images of the rice, the workers and the brewery do the talking.

Orestes Kouzof
INDIE AMERICAS

Hop, skip and jump across the pond to take in the views from North & South America.
Barbarous Mexico
Jorge Michel Grau has created a film which is a tour de force of the horror genre, picking a range of directors to each present their own take on defining the cinema of nightmares and cruelty.

Horror writer Clive Baker once wrote; “horror shows us that the control we believe we have is purely illusory, and that every moment we teeter on chaos and oblivion.” This encapsulates the very essence of Grau’s anthology of horror, in that in every scenario the set up seems innocent, safe, regular to the viewer – yet through a series of poor decisions, or a seconds’ lack of judgment, the reality that the protagonists believe is washed away before them, sending them deep into every distinctive and different realm of hell. The range of directors, hailing from all over Mexico, allow for an impressive variety of dangerous characters and terrifying events; this collection of horror gives the audience a guide through cinemas’ darkest villains and acts as an ambassador to the genre, showing the world a microcosm of what horror, and Mexican cinema, has to offer.

Pink Grapefruit
A young married couple brings two of their single friends out to Palm Springs for a long weekend. It does not go as planned.

Burning, Burning
Trapped in a life of her own making, an unnamed woman in the depths of despair seeks answers and reconciliation with her life choices as she wanders toward the outskirts of the city she calls home.

The questions she poses for herself, and the answers she seeks, are visited upon her in the form of surreal encounters with both very real and very imaginary people. Balancing drama and fantasy to great effect, Hrant Alianak here shows real skill as both a writer and director. As a writer he allows the script to be as much about what isn’t said as what is. As a director he explores and lays bare the inner turmoil of a distraught woman in powerfully visual fashion, making startling use of black and white cinematography. ‘Burning, Burning’ is anchored by a nuanced and affecting lead turn by the wonderful Karyn Dwyer, who shows how the very best actors can say more with a look than most can with dialogue. Meanwhile, memorable performances by an eccentric collection of supporting characters help to explore what it means to live with the choices we make every day of our lives: an emotional reflection we’ll all one day experience.

Circadian Rhythms
A mysterious condition compels a young man to run at night in a transcendent trance, creating a rift between him and his family.
Cash Only

Elvis Martini is no saint. During the first few moments of ‘Cash Only’, he’s deliberately setting fire to a house.

Flash forward two years later, Elvis is being sentenced at a court case; it turns out he tried to commit insurance fraud on his own house for quick cash, only to realise that his wife was inside. Torn by the ‘accident’, the death of his wife still hangs over his head; this Albanian-American film explores the consequences of his loss. Now a single father barely making ends meet, Elvis owes money to a local bookie. As a landlord, he’s desperate for his tenants to pay what they owe, despite letting a renter grow pot and another live without paying a dime. But things take a turn for the worse after his daughter is abducted and held for ransom.

Can the anti-hero turn things around for the sake of his family? The gritty setting sets a bleak tone for the crime thriller, written by and starring Nikola Shreli as Elvis. Ultimately, the story is about a man who does everything in his power to save the only person he cares about, showing a shred of humanity to his macho exterior.

Anjali Mandalia

Ditches

In Patagonia, South America, there is a solitary, broken bridge that swings over the rapids. There is a pair of wrinkled hands that roll a cigarette.

There is the face of a weather-beaten, crying woman as the surrounding congregation utter the Lord’s prayer. These broken fragments are the defining strength of ‘Ditches’, a type of cinema that refuses to spoon-feed its viewers and draws its power from what we personally discover. What is certain is that a girl is missing. Days later her body is discovered in a ditch. Yet there is no call for action. A silence pervades. As the film progresses, we become acutely aware that something is hidden and that this could be a routine occurrence. One man who does seem to be affected is Zamora, a lowly rural worker. Abandoning his post, he wanders aimlessly through the countryside and contemplates his past. With no sidekick to confess to, director Francisco J Paparella cleverly externalises Zamora’s internal struggles through his actions – repairing the bridge – and through some stunning, bleak cinematography. A unique exploration of femicide, ‘Zanjas’ will appeal to anyone who loves their cinema quiet, understated and eerie.

Matt Howsam

Asha

In an era when violence is met increasingly by violence by State and non-State actors alike, and where ordinary people are most often the casualties, ‘Asha’ is the story of a woman who offers a path out of this cycle. At the heart of ‘Asha’ is an invitation to conciliation.

Matt Howsam
Elvira I Will Give You My Life But I'm Using It

Title: Elvira I Will Give You My Life But I'm Using It  
Country: Mexico  
Running Time: 90  
Director: Manolo Caro  
Writer: Manolo Caro  
Producer: Alex García, Rafael Ley, Carla Pérez, Gerardo Martín  
DoP: Mateo Londono  
Cast: Cecilia Suárez, Carlos Bardem, Luis Gerardo

Elvira raises her two beautiful children in Mexico City whilst her husband Gustavo works for an insurance firm. The pair live comfortably until Gustavo fails to return home after leaving to buy cigarettes. The reason for his disappearance is unknown, but Elvira soon establishes that 'a woman never really gets to know her husband'. Abandoned with two children she secretly pursues the love of her life in the knowledge that he has most probably betrayed her for the love of a young man. The secrecy with which Elvira conducts this mission leads to a plethora of fabricated tell-tales and forgery. Those who surround her are baffled by her behaviour, but somehow Elvira discloses nothing. At times this serves to create fantastic moments of comedy in what is essentially a tragic story. The entire cast deliver impeccable performances, however, Cecilia Suárez as Elvira is utterly captivating throughout. The film is aesthetically beautiful and firmly roots you within this intimate community in Mexico. With hints of Jean Pierre Jeunet’s ‘Amelie’, Manolo Caro’s Elvira is equally as entertaining, heart wrenching and honest. It is as humorous as it is bitter which will leave you both entertained and thoroughly moved.

Xanthe Patterson

Magallanes

Title: Magallanes  
Country: Peru, Argentinia, Colombia, Spain  
Running Time: 109  
Director: Salvador del Solar  
Writer: Salvador del Solar  
Producer: Péndulo Films, Tondero Films, CEPA Audiovisual  
DoP: Diego Jiménez  
Cast: Damian Alcázar, Magaly Solier, Federica Luppi

A taxi cruises around the city. The driver, Magallanes, beeps for customers. Nothing. Finally, a woman enters. He glances casually in the mirror. A sudden recognition. His eyes dart back and forth to her, confused and pained. She has a troubled expression but is oblivious to his gaze. He sweats and breathes heavily. They reach her destination, she exits and he breaks down. Immediately we are seized by exciting story opportunities. And so begins Salvador del Solar’s mesmerising, redemptive thriller. The woman is Celina, a vulnerable hairdresser who needs to pay off her shop in order to live. But this is not how Magallanes knows her. He just knows that he has to save her. What fuels Magallanes’s pursuit? Is it regret, compassion or desire? All is revealed in the beautifully staged final scenes in which Magallanes’s and Celina’s brooding pasts are discussed. ‘Magallanes’ triumphs on the sensitivity of Damián Alcázar’s and Magaly Solier’s lead performances; particularly memorable, they express one of the most emotional haircutting scenes in film history without dialogue. Blackmail, torture, military corruption, misogyny and repressed memories, ‘Magallanes’ is a thoroughly absorbing watch that will stay with you.

Matt Howsam
Tierra Caliente

Tierra Caliente is the story of an ordinary family in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. As they go about their normal lives, they are caught in the crossfire between the Narco drug cartels and the military.

Following the kidnapping of her husband by a cartel, a woman named only as ‘Daughter 2’ grieves and tries to keep her family together. Her community bands around her, with over 100 local taxi drivers going on a search to find the missing husband – to little avail, as they find him murdered the next day. Violence has a way of being contagious and Daughter 2’s son, on a misguided search for justice, joins a defence militia, while Daughter 2 herself suffers from anxiety and depression as she tries to keep her fractured family together. Narrated as a poetic hybrid of documentary and fiction, the screenplay is a transcript of conversations of the family recorded over a period of two years. Actors play the members of the family to protect their identity, but we are able to hear the actual recordings throughout the film, reminding the audience that these people are real.

That’s Not Us

Following the stories of three couples – one lesbian, one gay and one straight – ‘That’s Not Us’ explores love, sex and relationships as they take an end-of-September break on the beach.

The couples, who are at various stages of their relationships, plan to reconnect and enjoy their time off, but are soon forced to deal with the problems that boil to the surface. Alex and Jackie have been together for seven years, but realise that they are drifting apart as communications break down. James and Spencer are in love but Spencer has received an offer he can’t resist and now doesn’t know what to do. Dougie and Liz have been together for years but are questioning if they really know each other as well as they thought. As the weekend continues, each character is forced to deal with their emotions, often through unavoidable arguments. The film’s dialogue is entirely improvised; the cast were given a brief outline, allowing scenes to unfold naturally, creating a raw connection between each couple. Between the minimalistic design and the complex characters, director William Sullivan creates a story that is both inspiring and relatable, giving contemporary relationships their spot in the limelight.
**The Demons**

‘The Demons’ centres around the inquisitive and contemplative Felix. At nine years old, he is curious and observant. In many respects, Felix is a normal child. Like all nine year olds, he is scared of certain things. He is incredibly sensitive and is beginning to question how the world works. As events unfold, Felix finds himself worrying, investigating and watching the adults that surround him. He has anxieties about his parents’ marriage, his no good neighbours, kidnapping and AIDS. As he and his friends play in a picturesque neighbourhood, disturbing and dangerous events are taking place that would horrify and harm their innocence. ‘The Demons’ examines how humans can be governed by hideous, hurtful and horrific thoughts. It highlights how we can be hateful, selfish and heinous creatures who act upon impulse, adrenaline and perverse desires. Scenes are accompanied by rich classical music that makes for heightened atmospheric moments. The careful construction of shots make you shudder as children play in places that have previously been plagued by horrific acts. As two worlds merge, we see how innocence is so short lived and how we are always only one wrong turn away from danger. Xanthe Patterson

**The Incident**

In the universe of writer / director Isaac Ezban if you ever find yourself in the company of a dying person and hear an explosion, you are not in for a pleasant next thirty-five years. This Mexican thriller follows two separate narrative strands: in the first, a detective hunts down two brothers, killing one. In the other, a family heads off on a trip and the young daughter suffers an asthma attack on the road. In both cases the characters hear an explosion, and thenceforth find themselves trapped in their respective environments: the detective runs down to the ground floor only to find himself on the ninth floor again; the family drive on an infinite road, never reaching their destination. Even elements within the environments recur each day, such as ready meals and soft drinks. This deeply disturbing film touches upon themes such as consumerism, family bonds and parallel universes, and makes us question how different our lives really are to the lives of these people, bound to the same places and daily routines. If you are looking for a film that will drive you to introspection, ‘The Incident’ is definitely worth watching. Chloe Karnezis

**The Cycle Starts And Stops With You**

Our mission was to create a PSA that captures the experience children have when their parents are fighting, and how powerless the child feels during these interactions. Xanthe Patterson

**Infinite Horizon**

Infinite Horizon is a visualisation of a single moment in time, the cognitive shift experienced by an astronaut when viewing the world from a cosmic perspective. Xanthe Patterson
Meet Dorothy, a stripper in a red hoodie. She's waiting for a friend. By the time her friend has arrived, she's encountered two drug dealers, a man who presents himself as a park ranger, and has been killed.

Her friend happens to be a private investigator, and decides to take the case. Throughout his inquiry, he meets a number of souls who are probably as much in need of saving as he his. These characters all seem to be in search of something more, something they can’t seem to grab hold of in their life. So we meet crooked strip-join owners and their trophy wives, fellow strippers and follow Samson, the private detective, on his inquiry which seems to be more and more personal to him as the film unfolds. Dennis Hauck directs John Hawkes in a beautiful performance as a man who faces his inner brokenness as he searches for fulfillment. This movie entangles several vignettes, all made of virtuoso single twenty-minute takes, that lead up to a shockingly emotional ending. It is a gripping tale of grace and redemption that just tries to find the sense behind the apparent mess of existence.

Baptiste Charles
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DAVIES IN EUROPA

**Chrieg**
Sunday 27 September 20:35 | Wednesday 30 September 13:30

Matteo is a lonely teenager who can’t connect with his mother and oppressive father. In a desperate move, he runs into the woods with his baby brother.

His father retaliates: Matteo is sent to a remote farm to work for three months. Once there however, it’s clear that the adults have lost control of the teenage inmates. To make it through the summer, Matteo will have to earn his colleagues’ respect, entering a world where provoking chaos is the main activity and physical violence the only currency there is. Matteo joins the other teenagers on a mission to wreak havoc in the nearby city and to wage a war against the grownups. Channeling anger into this mission, he quickly finds his place within the group. Director Simon Jaquemet, making his feature debut, gives a gripping account of how teenage angst and the need to belong, pushed to their paroxysm, can lead a boy to resort to animal brutality. Yet behind the violence, we feel the greater aspirations of Matteo. The war he’s waging against himself and its shocking, inevitable conclusion give the film amazing emotional impact.

**Pussy Chronicles**
Short before feature

Jenny meets her girlfriend Miri in a restaurant. When the two sit together, Jenny receives the image of a penis from one of her chat admirers on her smartphone. The girls wonder: what they would do if they had a penis?

**Fire**
Wednesday 30 September 18:10

Following a terrorist attack several years earlier, Carlos and daughter Alba have been unable to recover from their losses.

The phrase “time heals all wounds” exists in another universe to the Barcelona home of Carlos Martinez. Following a terrorist attack several years earlier, Carlos and daughter Alba have been unable to recover from their losses. Having been robbed of her legs and her mother, Alba must now suffer the loss of her father. He’s still alive but distinctly unwell. Carlos has become obsessed with seeking revenge upon those who have wronged him. He travels back to the Basque Country and introduces himself into the lives of the perpetrator’s unsuspecting family. Guilty by association, they are victims-in-waiting. Only later do we discover the true extent to which Carlos has been crippled by his enduring grief and suffering. Human contact leaves Carlos shuddering, reminding him only of his wife clinging on for her life as she lay dying. Even his daughter becomes little more than an obstruction to ultimate closure as his destructive plan builds towards its violent conclusion. Filmmaker Luis Marías has created strong characters that are both sympathetic and objectionable. This tense drama benefits from an atmospheric score, a talented cast, and a harrowing opening scene that lends emotional context and empathy to what follows next.

**Playing Away from Home**
Short before feature

A strange kind of thriller about a man living a double life in fear but doesn’t know what to do about it.
History of Now

‘The History of Now’ is a huge achievement for Nadiv Molcho, who has managed to write, direct, produce and star in this tale of falling in and out of love.

Having such control over the arc of the film, Molcho has managed to create a piece of cinema which is incredibly real, honest, touching and powerful to the viewer – encapsulating all aspects of loves highs and crushing lows. The film is constructed from the moment Maya and Eli meet a year following their separation. As they stroll through Vienna, down the same cobbled roads they would have fallen for each other in - the pair reflect upon their turbulent relationship. Flashbacks take us through the crucial moments of the blossoming of their love. The first time they meet, an early awkward kiss, moving in together, the first argument – until we reach the downfall, a drunken mistake in the Moroccan haze.

A beautifully constructed soundtrack which gently floats and guides the protagonists through their journey, combined with two flawless performances from Molcho and Aya Beldi in her debut film - this is a love story not to miss.

Myles Corley

Next Year

Belgian writer-director Vania Leturcq makes her feature debut with this coming-of-age drama that puts a fresh twist on the familiar story of teenage friends embarking on different paths into adulthood.

They may have grown up in a small provincial Belgian village as inseparable friends, but outgoing Aude (Jenna Thiam – TV’s The Returned) and the more serious, introverted Clotilde (Constance Rosseau – Simon Killer) have different ideas about what they want to do once they finish school. Clotilde, desperate to follow her late mother’s path and study in Paris, drags a reluctant Aude along with her. Over the course of a year, as the excitement of Parisian life subsides, the pair must confront the very nature of their lives, loves and friendship. Underscoring the emotions of this strained friendship is a score from Manuel Roland (of Belgian rock group Applause), as well as a clutch of breezy Anglo-Gallic indie pop tunes, with vocalists including Applause bandmate Nicholas Ly, Belgian comedienne (and long-time Leturcq collaborator) Edwige Baily, and French songstress Jeanne Added.

Stephen Morgan

An inverted coming of age tale questioning innocence, mistakes and their consequences.
One Night in Oslo

It’s Constitution Day Eve, and all over Norway people are stocking up for a night of drunken disorder. Teenage best buddies Sam and Amir see no reason why they should miss out on all the fun.

Amir has a plan to get back together with his ex-girlfriend Thea - but what he doesn’t know is that Sam and Thea are secretly dating. When Sam finally manages to confess, he realizes he severely underestimated Amir’s jealousy. This isn’t an unusual setup for a ‘teens behaving badly’ movie, and the plot does stick closely to the familiar beats of the genre. However, ‘One Night in Oslo’ distinguishes itself from other teen rite-of-passage movies thanks to its excellent cast, who consistently stand out against the film’s backdrop of frenetic excess. Samakab Omar’s performance as Sam, which earned him a nomination for Best Actor at the Amanda Awards, is a particular highlight. The improvised nature of the teenagers’ performances is deeply affective. These are real teens on screen, acting as teens often do when left to their own devices. But rather than a contrived cautionary tale, ‘One Night in Oslo’ ultimately delivers a sincere, even tender exploration of adolescence and its hurdles. Nathan Protopapas
SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER
Long Live the Bride
Nicola lives out his days amongst the crime, corruption and depravity of Rome’s forgotten ghetto. He is a drunk who hides behind the comfort of alcohol and the company of the bar’s television.

Whilst driving sober in his beloved van, Nicola hits Sabatino, a well-known con man who stages crashes to claim insurance money. Shaken with guilt, Nicola finds himself helping Sabatino’s son, who deals in the darker side of crime. His job as a children’s party performer barely keeps pace with his alcohol habit, so Nicola is persuaded to commit petty crimes for cash. With the companionship of immigrants, a prostitute and her illegitimate son (who may or may not be Nicola’s) this kind-hearted drunk remains safe and unscathed. For Sabatino’s son, however, the consequences of his crimes catch up with him and a corrupt police force take matters into their own hands. In a cruel and unforgiving world, Nicola and his friends must find distraction and comfort in what they can. For Nicola it is drink, for others it is crime, makeup or misplaced dreams. These distractions will not cure them of their poverty but they might save them from their reality. Xanthe Patterson

SHORT BEFORE FEATURE
Damage Control
Director Samuel Bartlett Writer Samuel Bartlett Producer Samuel Bartlett, Dean Ginsburg, James Carr DoP Ashley Barron Cast Matt Doran, Anni Finsterer, Millie Spencer-Brown

A battered and suspicious man tries to obtain medical supplies from a late-night pharmacy and finds his life in jeopardy when things escalate out of his control.
BALKAN SHOTS

A mainstay at Raindance, this is our strand for films from the Balkans.
Amsterdam Express
The frustration at the lack of progress in the construction of his house has finally gotten the best of Bekim, and he decides to move to Amsterdam to earn the money he needs to complete his dream home.

As an illegal immigrant, all opportunities are closed to him, apart from the chance to work for Van Doom, the Albanian face to the Amsterdam criminal underworld. Bekim is torn between three women and the three lives they represent. Martha, his Albanian girlfriend, who he has left behind and who draws him back to his traditional life. Anna, the exploited prostitute he on his arrival to Amsterdam, his tie to the city’s dark side. Suzanna, his link to a legitimate working life in Amsterdam. Beautifully shot and tightly edited the locations of Tirana and Amsterdam are used to superb effect. A familiar premise has new life breathed into it through rounded and believable characters that brought to life with some stellar performances, particularly James Biberi as the terrifyingly charismatic crime lord Van Doom. ‘Amsterdam Express’ is a film that will stay with you and is a perfect introduction to contemporary Albanian cinema.

Mark Moynihan

Little Buddho
Budo is young, rich, and incurably egotistical. When his father fails to save the son of a gangster during surgery, the gangster swears to take Budo’s life in revenge.

Budo is packed off to Belgrade, where a double-deal leads him straight into the arms of the gangster’s heavies. One of them takes pity on Budo, and they form an unlikely alliance in an attempt to save themselves. This darkly funny gangster film had cinema audiences roaring with laughter across the Balkans. Budo is such a certifiable prat, he should be easy to kill; yet he successfully evades increasingly bizarre situations as the film progresses, with the help of his long-suffering assassin-turned-ally Mišo. The acting is great, the delivery so beautifully timed that the punchlines bridge the language barrier with ease. The camera prowls the cityscape with an expert eye for symmetry; there are some entrancing shots of what appears to be a major ring road. There is a hilarious run-in between an elderly ex-gulag warden and one of his former prisoners, which should serve as an indication of the film’s willingness to mock its archetypal characters. It blends brutal cynicism with fearless silliness, and does so with style.

Shey Hargreaves
Next to Me
Olja, a high school history teacher at a public school in Belgrade, is married to a painter whose latest exhibition has caused a stir of negative sentiment amongst Serbian nationalists.

One night, Olja is attacked by a group of hooligans who film and upload the incident online. The next day, she discovers that some of her students are behind the attack. In a moment of anger, she confiscates their mobile phones and leaves the school, locking the students inside and cutting them off from the outside world. In an attempt to make the most of an unfortunate situation, the students, who struggle to get along, begin to communicate with each other. Through its effective use of stock high school characters, the film explores how real communication, undisrupted by technology or outside influence, can bridge gaps and encourage change. As the night progresses, the eerie setting of the run-down school becomes a stage for self-reflection, where stereotypes are challenged and secrets revealed. Moving, probing and revealing, Next To Me is both entertaining and at times brutally honest in its depiction of the realities that young people face in an attempt to define their identity.

Michelle Goode-Smith

It's Perfect Here
A brother and sister spend a beautiful day on a lake together, getting to know each other in the spaces between childhood and adulthood.

UK PREMIERE

Our Everyday Life
Ines Tanovic brings us this gloomy insight into Bosnian life for a post-war family which transpires to be a universal tale of the importance of family that any audience member will be able to relate to.

Marija’s dedication to her wayward daughter and lethargic ex-soldier son Saša is recognizably sickly sweet, contrasting well with moody father Muhamed’s constant moaning and chastising. To him, war is an “excuse” for the young former soldiers and he doesn’t waste any opportunity to tell his son how he is fed up of providing for him. When Marija is diagnosed with cancer, she at first only confides in Saša, placing much-needed responsibility on his shoulders that allows him to step out of his depressive routine and show a blossoming maturity. With the secret brutally exposed during an argument with his father, Saša finds himself in a role reversal; preparing his mother’s recipe, and finally uniting with his father to get the job done. A story which gently unfolds, expressing the pressures of modern life with subtle tension. Romance and a “fuck money” revelation sees this family come out of their ordeal with heads held high.

Michelle Goode-Smith

Tempus
A man runs to his ailing wife. He feels her pain as she begins to slip further and further away. On his run, he reverse ages, from 80 years old to 30. In this cinematic poem, he summons his youth to make it to his wife.

Michelle Goode-Smith
Sailing to Paradise

Zak is grief stricken after the sudden and tragic loss of his parents. He is about to finish his physics diploma but with his world crashing down around him he yearns for solitude and space.

Before their death, his parents were set to sail the family boat. With this in mind, Zak fills his rucksack with beans and broth and sets out on foot to reach the sea. Unwillingly Zak finds himself accompanying a stranger who is lost and in need of a companion. Lucka is eccentric, erratic and talkative. She is insistent that Zak is in need of a crew member and follows his every move. The two strangers board the boat and begin what will be a journey of discovery, acceptance and appreciation of what may be. ‘Paradise’ is a bitter sweet love story about sorrow, companionship and self-discovery. There are sweeping shots of the ocean, moonlit waves and setting sunsets. The whole film is visually arresting and beautifully poignant and will leave you yearning for an adventure.

Klemen Janezic and Ajda Smrekar co-wrote and star in this two hander, and as a duo they have produced impeccable work both in their writing and in their performances. Xanthe Patterson

0300 Hours

Country USA
Running Time 3
Director Danielle Gremillion-Cousard, Hamlet Sarkissian

Not giving up on love makes a young couple overcome their traumatic real life nightmare.

The Judgement

Mist crawls over the hills and figures are dwarfed by landscapes in a poor Bulgarian village where loneliness resides. As does Mityo, a distraught shell of a man who we learn from the opening scene has lost his job, is resented by his son, Vasko, and cannot afford to keep his property.

Out of desperation, Mityo is lured into easy money by smuggling illegal immigrants across the border. Assen Blatechki commands the role of Mityo, his sombre face depicts the vulnerability of a man drowning in problems yet a glint persists in his eyes; they seek the opportunity of a secure family life. What resounds in this beautifully low-key drama is the issue of morality. Slowly we are presented with an interesting character dilemma. Mityo used to work for the border police and now he drives immigrants past their controls, thus the criminal hunter becomes the hunted criminal. Furthermore, the titular ‘Judgement’ is the local mountain that is closely associated with Mityo’s past. What happened up there? And why will no one discuss it? Miscommunication permeates the film’s riveting father-son relationship as Vasko attempts to uncover Mityo’s secrets. ‘The Judgement’ is an absorbing mediation on masculine identity and haunted pasts. Matt Howsam
The Kids from the Marx and Engels Street

Everyone thinks Stanko is living the idyllic life of a musician in London. His little brother Vojo believes he’s a hero. But what Vojo doesn’t know is that fifteen years ago, Stanko fled Montenegro after a failed attempt to kill the man who murdered their father.

A chance glimpse of his nemesis on TV is all it takes to drive Stanko onto the first flight back to Podgorica, hell-bent on finishing what he started. Meanwhile, Vojo’s biggest problem is being peer-pressured into having sex with his girlfriend. Knowing he isn’t remotely prepared, Vojo turns to his brother for help. Stanko decides to postpone his revenge - but a sordid trip into the underbelly of Podgorica soon brings him face to face with the friends and promises he betrayed on that fateful night, fifteen years ago. Momčilo Otasevic delivers an understated but affecting performance as Stanko, a man torn between his dreams, his desire to be a good brother, and his obsession with vengeance. Steeped in the miasma of the Yugoslav War, ‘The Kids from Marx and Engels Street’ spins a tense, melancholy, and yet startlingly hopeful tale of revenge and brotherhood.

Nathan Protopapas

The Reaper

Exterior, barren landscape. Night. The continuous hum of insects. A distant figure walking across the horizon. The clomp of a woman’s heels... ‘The Reaper’ grabs you from this first shot and never lets you go.

Set in rural Slovenia, we follow Mirjana as she attempts to find someone who can help her with her broken down car. She stumbles across Ivo, a farm labourer who mysteriously works nights. He drives Mirjana to a petrol station. The conversation is awkward. The tension rises when the station attendant, Josip, informs Mirjana that Ivo went to prison twenty years ago for raping a woman. What follows is a contemplative multi-narrative study of isolation which asks whether your past defines your present and, more interestingly, whether it should. A bleak portrait of one individual manifests itself throughout the film as we witness a whole community that is ravaged by loneliness. A tragic stillness permeates every scene: Mirjana’s glances convey a fountain of unspoken truths, judgements and possibly compassion, and Julij Zornik’s haunting sounds – the squeak of machinery, the fumbling of keys, a dripping tap – punctuate the stellar performances. Juric orchestrates a chilling ambience that will haunt your mind long after the final credits.

Matt Howsam

Pigs

A young boy attempts to care for a dying piglet in the farm he lives on. His tries to understand his mother who doesn’t quite accept him and grieves a lost child. The death of the pig on the bed of the lost child leads mother and son to a quiet conflict.
The Serbian Lawyer

Recognising the prestige attached to the case, reinforced by his professional ethics and belief that everyone deserves a fair trial, Marko decides to be Radovan Karadzic’s defense counsel, a man also known as the “Butcher of Bosnia”.

“Human nature is very strange” states Marko in response to the question that has burdened him for the majority of his career. Recognising the prestige attached to the case, reinforced by his professional ethics and belief that everyone deserves a fair trial, Marko continues to act as defense counsel to “Butcher of Bosnia”, Radovan Karadzic. This follows his legal defense of Slobodan Miloševic’s regime that led Marko to flee Serbia to begin a new life in Holland where people would recoil when they learned of his native background. The resulting impact on Marko's personal life is inescapable and relationships become strained, particularly with that of his Slovenian wife. Recent shots of Sarajevo’s beautiful cityscape are interspersed with distressing footage of the atrocities committed in the former Republic of Yugoslavia, bringing into focus the lives that were shattered. The outcome of Karadzic’s trial will do nothing to bring back the 32 members of one woman’s family that were lost during the atrocities, including her husband and three sons. Marko is left to reconcile the past with the present in his exhaustive pursuit of the truth, in whatever form it may come. Katie Babcock

The Weight Of Chains 2

Following on from his homonymous first film about the West’s role in the breakup of Yugoslavia, Serbian-Canadian filmmaker Boris Malagurski brings us a new documentary on what happened after Miloševic lost power.

The end of a horrific war and overthrow of a dictator should have signalled new hope for the former countries of the Yugoslav Republic; conversely, with ‘help’ from the United States and the shiny new ideals of neoliberalism, economies shrank, income inequality skyrocketed and war criminals were effectively pardoned. Malagurski’s film explores the economic, political and social crimes and misdeeds committed by profiteers in the aftermath of the Yugoslav wars. Not content with this corner of Europe, the film also widens its scope to examine the damage that neoliberal policies have done the world over. The Weight Of Chains 2 is masterfully edited, fast-paced and full of mind-boggling information, intercut with titbits from Serbian comedy films and a wealth of fascinating archive footage. Malagurski’s presentation and narration are passionate, wry and full of humour; anyone looking for a whirlwind education on Eastern Europe, neoliberalism and the influence of the U.S. on the world economy, this is your stop. Orestes Kouzof
We Will Be The World Champions

The uplifting story of how a group of young and ambitious Yugoslavians lead their country to victory in the world of basketball.

This historical drama moves between the 1940’s and 1970’s where those who founded the team watch with delight as their successors play for gold in Ljubljana. We see scenes from past and present and are taken on a journey filled with humour and sorrow as the team strive to be world champions. The film gives us an interesting insight into the political climate of post war Yugoslavia. The decades are beautifully captured and credit must go to Dragica Laušević, Jelena Sopic and Milan Tvrđasic for the brilliant costumes, art direction and cinematography. The script for ‘We Will Be The World Champions’ is witty and heartwarming and captures the warmth shared between friends and comrades. The protagonist is Nebojša Popović who is brilliantly played by Strahinja Blazic. His character is full of enthusiasm, hunger and ambition. The tale is a true testament to friendship and belief and ensures that those who fought so hard for their dreams are recognised in history. Xanthe Patterson
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Asleep

Entangled in her white covers, Terako spends her days sleeping and waiting for Iwanaga, her older lover, to call. With his wife in a coma, their relationship is fraught with complications and uncertainty. Terako is also mourning the recent suicide of her best friend, Shiori. Her lethargic depression drags her into deeper and longer sleeps that she finds harder to wake from each time they take her. An adaptation of Banana Yoshimoto’s eponymous book, Shingo Wakagi’s film is a series of dream-like sequences with soft, pale colours and slow-paced action. Dramatic tension builds slowly as lethargy engulfs Terrako and she constantly struggles with the impulse to crawl back into bed. The flashbacks to her friendship with Shiori and her gradual understanding of what led her friend to take her life adds a deeper, darker dimension to the film. Wakagi, equipped with a simple DSLR, impeccably captures the changing emotions of the protagonist as she meanders between her dream world and the real one. With very little dialogue, Ando Sakura captivates the audience with her touching performance as Terako.

Crocodile

Based on true events, ‘Crocodile’ follows an impoverished family living in the Agusan Marsh in the southern Philippines. When Divina learns that her thirteen year old daughter, Rowena, has been killed by a crocodile, her life is turned upside down. While the father goes out with the other villagers to look for a body, Divina struggles between her extreme anguish and her desperation to find someone to blame. Filipino Director Francis Xavier Pasion opens a window into the lives of those living in the marshlands. The illiteracy of the older generation and the family’s inability to pay for their daughter’s graduation, and later burial, all show the struggle and abject poverty that they are up against. Toeing the line between fact and fiction, the film cuts between the dramatic narrative and footage of the real family talking about their daughter. The beautiful cinematography captures the eerie stillness of the marshes, with sweeping aerial shots and long takes of the characters as they navigate on narrow wooden boats through the vast fields of water lilies. Shot entirely on location, ‘Bwayu’ powerfully illustrates the hard life of these people faced with danger of living in such remote wilderness.

Bubbles

Two brothers deal with the death of their pet one summer afternoon in Brooklyn.

Good Hands

A young couple makes the unfortunate mistake of leaving their baby in the hands of a teenager.


Title: Good Hands  Country: Argentina  Running Time: 6  Director: Francisco Bendamir  Writer: Francisco Bendamir  Producer: Luis Montoya  Cast: Tamara Casas, Pablo Greco, Juana Greco
**I Am Sun Mu**

With the Chinese government chasing his trail and the threat of execution looming over his head, a talented artist is forced to conceal his face and name out of fear for those he left behind.

'I am Sun Mu' is a documentary film about the life and work of a North Korean defector. Sun Mu means 'no lines' or 'no boundaries' and is the pseudonym under which this political pop artist works. With the Chinese government chasing his trail and the threat of execution looming over his head, the talented artist is forced to conceal his face and name out of fear for those he left behind. If his identity were to be discovered, his entire family would be murdered by Kim Jong-un's repressive regime. In North Korea, Sun Mu was a talented propaganda artist. After swimming to safety and finding sanctuary in South Korea, Sun Mu utilised his skills in order to satirise those who he once worshiped. His artwork is brightly coloured, beautiful and bold, but the price for painting them could be fatal. During an exhibition in China's capital Beijing, Sun Mu and his friends and family find themselves in real danger. Chinese and North Korean authorities surround the exhibition banning anybody from entering the space. Artists are interrogated and Sun Mu is forced to once again flee for safety in South Korea. **Xanthe Patterson**

**Kid Kulafu**

Boxing-crazy Emmanuel Pacquiao, or as his mother calls him 'Uel', sets out on a brutal journey, risking everything, to become a champion in the sport he has been passionate about since childhood.

Pacquiao grew up with very little before his success, trying to survive in the slums from one day to the next. After his father disappears to live with another woman, the boy grows up fast: he has to learn to help and provide for his family and unwell mother. With so many obstructions to his dream, humbled Uel seizes the opportunity to reach his goals without telling his loved ones, who he thinks would only hold him back. His strongly religious family are left praying for his wellness and safety, receiving letters and money from him at every chance as his career progresses. This picturesque, well-structured, superbly shot film perfectly depicts Pacquiao’s courageous childhood. Unlike any other film based on the boxer’s life events, this one dates back to where his dreams began, narrating the initial stages of a true hero. **Dilek Osman**

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**SHORT BEFORE FEATURE**

**Intermission**

*Country* USA  *Running Time* 7  *Director* Mark Tiedemann  *Writer* Adrien Fulle  *Producer* Mark Tiedemann  *DoP* Matt Wise  *Cast* Alyson de Guigné, Bil Dwyer, Billy Merritt, David Damiani

A trivial conversation between two fathers during an intermission of a children’s dance recital soon reveals hidden truths of their recent past in this dark comedy short. Love can be a real kick in the balls.
**Obon Brothers**

Akira Osaki’s latest film is a story which focuses on the average man, desperately trying to achieve the fundamentals which so many of us are striving for.

Success in his emotional endeavours with peace of mind for him and his family, with a secure loving relationship and also a break through in his career, a spark of luck to take his dreams and ambitions off the ground and reach fulfilment within his chosen industry. Yet he is flawed, held back in both of these areas, losing his wife, his daughter and not achieving the breakthrough he so desperately needs. Dialogue which flows seamlessly between characters, with long silent takes of great performances, allow the viewer to truly see and not just hear the heartbreak and struggle the protagonist is going through. This black and white tale of personal growth is a masterclass in using cinema as a tool to show a simple but powerful, honest and relatable narrative. A character whom the audience can truly empathise with allows a connection to the journey and consequently a cathartic sense of relief when Takeshi’s quest is resolved. Brilliantly shot, with incredible performances all round, this is film at its finest. Myles Corley

**Rolling**

Gondo’s teaching career died a hard death when he was caught recording his own students with a hidden camera. Ten years on, he’s a complete washout, and when his girlfriend Mihari ditches him for Kanichi, Gondo hits rock bottom.

But when some of his former students realize that one of the girls in the perverse video is now a successful idol, Gondo realizes he may have just hit the jackpot. Gondo’s voyeurism, his obsession with watching and recording, pervades the sordid twists and turns of this film. Even when he insists that nobody’s watching, there’s no guarantee that there isn’t a camera somewhere, rolling, especially during the steamier scenes. One thing’s for sure: comedy doesn’t get much blacker - or raunchier - than this. Poisonous and maladjusted to the last, the cast of Rolling are fully in tune with the cringe-inducing beats of this dark comedy, yet even among this parcel of cutthroats, Yota Kawase stands out. As Gondo, he is completely convincing in the role of a morally bankrupt man, capable of sinking to the most disgusting depths in pursuit of a life of lazy luxury, yet still always fumbling clumsily for some kind of redemption. Nathan Protopapas
Slum-Polis

Violence has soared so much on the island of Slum-Polis, it’s been cut off from the rest of Japan. It has since become an anarchic city, where violence is not so much a way of life as a key to survival.

The death of a local drugs kingpin stirs a change in the power balance, and in this tense and dangerous atmosphere a group of friends try to make the most of their chances as they hope for a better future. The group have been brought together by unfortunate circumstances more than by affinity. They know that their lives could have turned out better had they lived somewhere else - anywhere else. They’re all too familiar with violence, even though their reluctance to use it, even as a last resort, is obvious. They are artists, which offers them a chance to dream of something better. For a while, that shared experience of escapism is the best they allow themselves – until the dream is no longer a fitting substitute for their horrible reality. Ken Ninomiya’s film is as gritty and raw in its exploration of the intricacies of violence as it is poetic and full of hope in the most unlikely places. Baptiste Charles
RAINDANCE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Our signature strand: films about sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll and all things weird and wonderful.
**RAINDANCE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**1 World 100 Lonely**

**Monday 28 September 20:30 | Friday 2 October 14:10**

With ‘1 World 100 Lonely’ filmmaker and Raindance alumnus Brian McGuire presents a deeply intimate portrait of human relationships and love through the stories of four people as they’re drawn together and pulled apart.

In the first storyline, a man from the US and an Iranian woman living in the UK finally meet after an online relationship. In the second, a man discovers that his girlfriend is cheating on him, leading him to spiral into depression while she leads her own journey of self-discovery. Loneliness and desperation for meaningful human contact are big themes in this film, but so is the sweet, joyful optimism of the beginning of something new and, just maybe, beautiful. Brian McGuire tells his stories with a distinctive lo-fi, handheld style in which the shaky camera sticks close to the characters and the action is presented in a naturalistic way, making the fictional stories feel like documentary footage. These scenes are intercut with sequences of pictures of the characters and text messages they exchange. The result is a film that feels extremely intimate and truthful in its portrayal of the emotional experiences people undergo in the struggle to find that elusive thing called ‘love’. Orestes Kouzof

**Guys With Guns**

**Country** USA **Running Time** 85 **Director** Joel Veach **Writer** Joel Veach **Producer** Joel Veach, Lexi Stellwood, Terry Wayne, Jason Finazzo

A beautiful waitress with a checkered past is about to collide head on with two criminals, Hal and Luke, who sit a bar and discuss the four types of women on Planet Earth...

**Her First Black Guy**

**Director** Sam Auster **Writer** Christopher T. Wood **Producer** Sam Auster, Kris Denton, Macy Hays **DoP** Kris Denton **Cast** Caroline Foggarty, Barry Wiggins, Chris Williams

The story of a man who wanted to be anything but... Her First Black Guy.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 18:30 | SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 10:20**

**A Matter of Time**

‘A Matter of Time’ is a documentary film about Kathryn Calder’s music career and experiences of caring for a parent.

During some her most successful years in music with ‘The New Pornographers’ and ‘Immaculate Machine’, Kathryn was caught up in chaos as her mother was diagnosed with the crippling illness called ALS. Trying to juggle two bands, touring and taking time to visit her mother, Kathryn knew that something had to give. Her mother Lynn had always supported her and was immensely proud of her music. The two of them shared an unbreakable bond and a love of music that had made so many treasured memories. The house that had first nurtured Kathryn’s music now housed her dying mother and Kathryn returned to care for her. During that time, Kathryn used music to confront her despair and made an album that would accompany her mother to her end. This documentary brings awareness about ALS and its debilitating effects. It is a celebration of how humans can overcome immense grief and how music can move, mend and unite us in the worst of times. It is a testimony to Kathryn’s mother and a wonderful story about life and loss. Xanthe Patterson

**SHORT BEFORE FEATURE**

**Title** A Matter of Time  **Country** Canada **Running Time** 85  **Director** Casey Cohen  **Writer** Casey Cohen  **Producer** Casey Cohen, Matthew Stotland, Jonas Prupas  **DoP** Josh Huculak  **Cast** Kathryn Calder, Carl Newman

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**A WORLD PREMIERE**

**Title** 1 World 100 Lonely  **Country** USA  **Running Time** 97  **Director** Brian McGuire  **Writer** Brian McGuire  **DoP** Brian McGuire  **Cast** Robert Murphy, Farah Mokrani, Lara Heller

**SHORT BEFORE FEATURE**

**Title** Guys With Guns  **Country** USA  **Running Time** 85  **Director** Joel Veach  **Writer** Joel Veach  **Producer** Joel Veach, Lexi Stellwood, Terry Wayne, Jason Finazzo

A beautiful waitress with a checkered past is about to collide head on with two criminals, Hal and Luke, who sit a bar and discuss the four types of women on Planet Earth…

**Title** Her First Black Guy  **Director** Sam Auster  **Writer** Christopher T. Wood  **Producer** Sam Auster, Kris Denton, Macy Hays  **DoP** Kris Denton  **Cast** Caroline Foggarty, Barry Wiggins, Chris Williams

The story of a man who wanted to be anything but... Her First Black Guy.
El Ganzo

The humidity of the Baja Peninsula drips from the opening scenes of Lizzy’s approach to Hotel El Ganzo.

There she introduces herself to Guy, who initially seems reluctant to forgo his seclusion to engage with an unconventional stranger. They make conversation and it appears that Lizzy and Guy have a few things in common: if the information disclosed is to be believed. The cast is small, but Susan Traylor (Greenberg) and Anslem Richardson (Black Rock) are beyond capable in carrying the film as Lizzy and Guy. While sometimes discomforting, their relationship is warm and the chemistry between the two is immediate and powerful. Steve Balderson’s experimental direction results in an eccentric, dreamlike film. Yet El Ganzo remains accessible, and above all else is a very natural story of two isolated people who consolidate their struggles and gain strength and self-discovery through companionship.

Katie Baldock

Forever and a Day

“Rock and Roll is not a music, it’s not just a lifestyle, it’s an emotion.” This is the beating heart of ‘Forever and A Day’, a powerful documentary that traces the extraordinary career of the heavy metal band The Scorpions.

We join them as they commence their final world tour and, through interview and archive footage, chart their phenomenal success in Asia, England, Russia and America. Like every band documentary, it starts with a formation: five talented guys who dream of escaping their German roots. Yet, what makes ‘Forever and A Day’ unique is how the editor (kudos to an often unsung hero in film) masterfully weaves the interesting vignettes into an inspirational whole that not only satisfies diehard fans, but appeals to everyone. Particularly enlightening are the comments on the aging rock star: when is it time to leave the arts? Do you leave it or does it leave you? These are interesting predicaments compared to those explored in youth band documentaries. This uplifting film compels us to invest in The Scorpions’ highs and lows – making history in Russia, damaged vocal chords, ‘Wind of Change’ – and rejoice in an ineffable talent.

Matt Howsam

Is It Your Refrigerator?

This weird 1960s educational film shows how to tell if it’s your fridge. Shot on Super 8 film for that classic look, this parody of old homemaker educational films poses a question that nobody would ever ask and provides solutions that make no sense.
Meet Pursuit Delange

You will struggle to find a film as inventive, amusing, honest and musical as ‘Meet Pursuit Delange’ this festival season. Meet Pursuit Delange, a struggling writer hoping to make it as a novelist and journalist.

Meet his friends, the ‘cricket and leg obsessed’ Charles Itchy Forrester and the ‘stoned for 20 years and believes he can actually fly’ Jonty Smith. Together these three chums struggle to maintain a living whilst residing in a dilapidated hut at Kew Cricket Club. With anarchic wit, they engage in a series of oddball events involving making a feature film, having affairs, learning to train dogs and auditioning singing policemen as they delay life’s daily grind. The pure delight of Meet Pursuit Delange is how it unashamedly invests in the eccentricities of everyday people and life. Robert Portal gives a knockout performance as the brutally honest, dryly-funny Itchy and special mention should go to a fantastic array of feel-good, toe-tapping musical numbers. In particular, there is a delightful touch to old Hollywood in a magnificent song and dance sequence in the beautiful Kew Gardens. With its eccentric characters, hilarious script and innate vibrancy, this film is guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

Matt Howsam

Rickie Lee Jones: The Other Side of Desire

In a world where a singer can be as famous for their Instagram account as they are for their musical ability or otherwise, genuine stars are hard to come by.

Enter Rickie Lee Jones, a singer-songwriter who made her name in the 1970s as a contemporary of Bruce Springsteen and Tom Waits. Yet despite Rolling Stone covers and awards to her name, Jones has been largely lost to modern-day audiences - a fact she recounts as we join her during the creation of her first album for 10 years. This is a sensitive portrayal of what it means to be not only a woman in the music industry, but also an older woman in the world at large. As she playfully sums up, ‘so you’re not interested in me because you don’t want to f*ck me anymore?’ Ricky’s indomitable spirit is what drives this documentary, but it also leads to some tense moments in the studio. Whether recounting stories of her family’s Vaudeville heritage or her past loves, Ricky is a star - even without the youthful beauty that once accompanied her voice. The snatches of singing interspersed with her memories and anecdotes show a talent that no amount of selfies could surpass.

Abigail Smith
SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 16:00

The Case of the Three Sided Dream

Take a profound understanding of sound, combine it with a playful and innovative attitude towards composing music, and you will get jazz legend Rahsaan Roland Kirk (1935–1977).

This 2014 documentary film about his life and work speaks of how he went from being a quirky child who produced music with a garden hose to a celebrated multi-instrumentalist. It tells us of how he transformed the simplest sounds, such as of tires screeching or garbage cans rattling, into music. In one particular sequence, Kirk is even shown playing the trumpet through his nose - “The nose knows”, he advises. ‘The Case of the Three Sided Dream’ is a pastiche of interviews with Kirk’s friends and family, original footage from his performances and recorded moments from his everyday life. As a documentary, it is hugely informative and showcases plenty of rare footage, but it also offers viewers an inspiring new take on his life. This blind, and eventually paralysed, man’s passionate, innovative and experimental attitude towards his work is something to live by. Whether you’re a jazz fan or simply looking for inspiration, ‘The Case of the Three Sided Dream’ provides plenty of both.

Chloe Karnezis
SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 18:10 | THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 15:40

The Lives of Hamilton Fish
Who, exactly, is Hamilton Fish? A celebrated politician? A notorious serial killer, with a grisly string of child-murders to his name? The answer is both.

Though born under the same name, these two men have led markedly different lives. Their paths cross for the first time on the pages of the Evening Star newspaper when, ironically enough, they perish within a day of each other. It is left to the Star’s intrepid Editor to unravel the strange twists of fate and implausible coincidences that connect the two. The Editor is, in fact, the breakout performance in this uniquely eerie musical. Rachel Mason, who performs the part, is also the director and writer for this hour-long musical, and single-handedly performs the entire soundtrack. The efforts of Theodore Bouloukos and Bill Weeden, who strive to sync their delivery with Mason’s otherworldly lyrics, are nothing short of heroic. The film is, from start to finish, a celebration of the power of visual storytelling. Its characters resemble Picasso paintings brought to life complemented by an array of surreal imagery that is entirely in tune with the absurd and bizarre narrative Mason explores. Atmospheric, dreamlike, and often nightmarish, this musical is sure to be a memorable experience, even for those who detest musicals.

Nathan Protopapas

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SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 13:50

The Poet of Havana
A depiction of the life and music of Carlos Varela, one of the most influential and well-loved singers in Cuba, as he celebrates his 30th anniversary with a massive concert.

Throughout his career his lyrics have been known to be subversive, voicing the frustrations of the Cuban youth and dissatisfaction with the communist government. Influenced by his country, Varela uses his music to affect change and support individual freedoms, as well as to build bridges between Cuba and the rest of the world. Filmed mostly in Havana, with exclusive footage of the singer through interviews and backstage access, the film conveys his cultural and social significance in Cuban society. At his 30-year anniversary concert, Valera is joined on-stage by other south American music legends such as Diana Fuentes, Eduardo Cabra, Jackson Browne and Juan Formal amongst others, who all are effusive in their praise for the musician. ‘The Poet of Havana’ interweaves striking shots of Havana with archive footage of Varela as a child and his first concerts the 80s. Director Ron Chapman has gathered an impressive set of contributors providing an in depth portrayal of the artist and what makes him tick.

Dora Ash Sakula
SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 18:10

Voice of the Eagle: The Enigma of Robbie Basho

The enigma of Robbie Basho was a question that was yet to be answered – until now. ‘Voice of the Eagle’ explores the guitarist’s life through interviews with close friends and family.

From the outside, Basho seemed to lead a private life, though his friends describe it as ‘vicarious’. Exploring his early childhood, the narrative follows his upbringing in Baltimore, Maryland after he was orphaned and diagnosed with synaesthesia, a condition that allowed him to interpret sounds as colour. The film follows Basho through the release of his first albums, explores his family life and religion and looks at the change in musical style which had been inspired by Indian folk and classical maestro Ravi Shankar. As a man who never married and hardly kept any close relationships, Basho wholly dedicated his life to religion and music. The last portion of this documentary explores Basho’s death in 1986, after an ‘intentional whiplash’ experiment during a visit to the chiropractor caused a fatal stroke, speaking to a colleague who explains what went wrong. This enlightening documentary about the American visionary sees those who knew him remember the virtuoso through their memories.

— Anjali Mandalia

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 20:40 | WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 13:00

Yallah! Underground

From the early days of the Arab Spring that sparked high hopes for change, to the years of instability and political tension that followed, this compelling documentary follows the stories of young prominent underground artists from across the Middle East.

Living within societies fraught with political tension and social paradox, these progressive musicians and artists struggle for change and to promote more liberal attitudes through their often controversial, political art. From young female artists in Egypt overturning the norms by living alone, to the persecution of a famous Lebanese musician for singing against the political leader, director Farid Eslam paints a picture of a new generation of young Arabs challenging both old and new realities with passion and admirable perseverance. Despite their diverse backgrounds and their use of different mediums and genres, they fight for the same core principles: freedom, individuality, independence. Setting up images reminiscent of old photographs, Eslam creates a nostalgic, almost lyrical atmosphere that reels the viewer in to this strange and captivating underground world that plays, and will continue to play, such an important role in challenging and evolving Arab societies.

Danai Pagoni
Youth
You may know Martin Glover (a.k.a. ‘Youth’) as the bassist in the famous rock band Killing Joke, but this documentary focuses on his career as a music producer.

Youth has worked with the likes of Paul McCartney, Pink Floyd, and other big names of the music industry. Through interviews of artists who have collaborated with him as well as of the man himself, we come to understand that two seemingly incongruous personality traits combine in Youth: that of the free-spirited rocker and the hardworking musical genius. On the one hand he and his band mates reminisce about when he acquired the nickname “Pig Youth” for never bothering to wash his suits. On the other hand, the artists speak of his conciseness and productivity in the studio. “We did nineteen tracks in fourteen days”, says Boy George. “And they were good!”. This documentary is certain to convince you of Youth’s sheer talent as a music producer. Apart from being an inspiration, Youth’s adventurous life makes for many entertaining anecdotes, which in turn make for an entertaining documentary. Chloé Karnezis

Big Gold Dream
In 1970’s Scotland, a new wave of talent and entrepreneurial spirit was rising up. Amongst the mundane routines of an economically stagnant country, the youth were craving a creative outlet. From a flat in Edinburgh’s city centre a new generation of musicians and record label producers were born. They would bring us the post-punk and Indie music scene that would put Scotland on the map and would inspire some of our greatest and most loved bands. This was a moment in music history where ordinary people would break conventions in a bid to create something new and provocative. There was a hunger for freshness and a desire to drive the next new wave of sound. Concepts were key and bands brought confidence and charisma to stages around Great Britain that would leave audiences awe struck. ‘Big Gold Dream’ is a documentary full of fun and nostalgia. The faces from a fertile time in music litter scenes and bring back that sense of excitement and discovery that was palpable in 1970’s Scotland. With snippets of iconic sounds and black and white stills of ground-breaking bands, this documentary is a celebration of the making and marketing of a movement within music. Xanthe Patterson

One Night in Hell
Country UK Running Time 7’ Director Jason Jameson, James Hall Writer Jason Jameson, James Hall Producer Paul Larkin DoP Jason Jameson, James Hall Cast Cécile Dumont, Rodrigo Peñalosa, Ludovic Pujol

A devilish and spectacular animation short that tells the story of a skeleton’s journey into a stereoscopic hell.

Amor Y El Mar
Country UK Running Time 8’ Director Diego de Haro

WORLD PREMIERE

SHORT BEFORE FEATURE

SHORT BEFORE FEATURE

UK PREMIERE
Selected short films from around the world, this eclectic collection has a distinct Raindance in them.
Leidi lives with her mom and her baby. Her boyfriend, Alexis, has not shown up in days. Outside, a guy tells her he has seen Alexis with another girl. Leidi will not return home until she finds the father of her child.

**Mouth of Hell**

Country: UK
Running Time: 16
Director: Samir Mehralov
Writer: Samir Mehralov
Bert Graveman
Producer: Michael Wilson
Mark Evans, Allie Smith
DoP: Jesper Wolf
Cast: Suraj Mandal, Ramanjot Kaur, Tanuj Kaur

Jharua, India, one of the most dangerous places on earth. This is the home of Anant, an 8 year old boy who scouts a living picking coal and selling it at the local markets to try and feed himself and his sick mother. One day, a chance encounter changes Anant’s life, forever.

**Mazal and Bracha**

Country: Israel
Running Time: 20
Director: Idan Shohdler
Writer: Idan Shohdler
Producer: Idan Shohdler
Naava Horowitz
DoP: Nadaa Budinovitz
Cast: Benny Shif, Rafi Kalmar

Avner, a 50 years old Israeli diamond merchant and Boris, 40 years old Russian diamond salesman hire an arbitrator to rule regarding a failed diamond transaction.

**Maya**

Country: Nepal/UK
Running Time: 16
Director: Irmena Jaram
Writer: Toyas Odeasaya
Producer: Sam Cullingham
DoP: Aran Green
Cast: Aarmita Tamang, Suraj Tamang, Aakash Mehta

Maya, Bikram and Kancha suddenly find themselves trapped in the heart of Kathmandu, vulnerable, penniless and alone, with only hopes and dreams of happiness.

**Leidi**

Country: UK/Colombia
Running Time: 16
Director: Simon Mesa Soló
Writer: Simon Mesa Soló
Producer: Diana Patino Martínez
DoP: Juan Sammarto
Cast: Alexandra Manoya Villa, Hector Ortega

Leidi, an Aboriginal girl, lost and empty after the death of her mother, discovers her past in an unlikely place.
THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER AT 1:20PM
SHORTS 3: Wild Ventures

Three Kings
Country: Australia Running Time: 12
Director: Mike Schroeder Writer: Mike Schroeder Producer: Mike Schroeder
Sean Corcoran, Stephan Renard DoP: Katie Milwright Cast: Jaosil Be, Chejye Cassidy, Emily Robins

Danneke, a hit man of many faces, has a lot on his mind - a needy girlfriend, a haunting song and a lecture on the importance of internal organs. One night he tries to escape his troubles, but there is no running away.

Wild Ones Run
Country: UK/India Running Time: 13
A struggling actor finds himself in the middle of a dangerous cat and mouse story on the back roads of rural India.

She Stoops To Conquer
Country: Canada Running Time: 16
A struggling performer stumbles upon a reality version of the character she’s created.

Hades
Country: Germany Running Time: 15
Director: Kevin Kopacka Writer: Kevin Kopacka Producer: Kevin Kopacka Cast: Anna Heidegger, C’si Katen, Iman Reza
A woman is caught in a never-ending dream, where she has to cross the five rivers of Hades, each representing different stages of her relationship.

Three Dalmatians
Country: Norway Running Time: 15
In a sleepy village in Norway, three single mothers yearn to find a man in their lives. When the village is visited by a trio of handsome police officers, the women cook up the perfect plan to get their attention.

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER AT 6:40PM
SHORTS 4: Pulp Fictions

Minimum Wage
Country: USA Running Time: 14
Walking home from a rough night at work, Kit (Sarah Ramos) takes a chance when a stranger, Tim (Ian Harding), mistakes her identity.

The House Job
Country: Brazil Running Time: 15
Director: Filippa Capuzzi Lapietra Writer: Filippa Capuzzi Lapietra Producer: Setana Capuzzolapietra DoP: Reni Gobbi Cast: Rato Gobbi Mendes, Arthur Koht, Dias Inocêncio
In debt with a dangerous loan shark, Paula plans an insurance fraud to get money. However, a series of events puts his plan in jeopardy.

Automotive Landscape No. 1
Country: USA Running Time: 23
Audrey is consumed with grief after losing her daughter in the car accident she can’t remember. Audrey’s psychiatrist, Dr. Koenig, pursues an experimental hypnotherapy to help her. Audrey makes a decision that merges her therapy with her real life, with unexpected results.

And It Was Good
Country: USA Running Time: 20
Director: Graham Waterston Writer: Graham Waterston Producer: Graham Waterston, Meghan-Michele German, Katherine Wilson DoP: Greg de Domenico Cast: Daisus Cancecini, Jessica Jaffe, Sam Waterston
A man and a woman reconnect after a long separation, realize they’re still in love and, immediately, get married. Their excitement quickly fades when the eccentric judge marrying them points out that they will, inevitably, be parted by death.

Slave (Esclava)
Country: Mexico Running Time: 13
Director: Anait Escalante Writer: Elena Garcia, Gabriel Reyes Producer: Luis Angel Ramirez DoP: Martin Escalante Cast: Donovan Torres, Natalia Guzman
14-year-old Ana is easily seduced by Sam, a 17-year-old young man who, along with his mother and others, deceive and blackmail Ana into the world of prostitution.

Clones
Country: Switzerland Running Time: 14
Director: Rafael Ballinger Writer: Rafael Ballinger Producer: Stefan Grainger DoP: Eric Lethe Cast: Debra Ficierla, Rutger Hauer, Stephanie Nemeth-Parker
When a man awakes surgery on board of a space station he realizes that he needs to defeat his fear of losing his identity before the neural backup can be completed - or he might die forever.
Page is a 16-year-old who dreams about being beautiful just might enable her to pull off the biggest escape of all, and popular. Luckily for Page, she has a special gift that

to make a suit for the mourning. Fermin’s ghost appears and asks for one last wish to be conceded: to see Mexico City for the last time.


after physically reprimanding his dog for catching and eating a peacock, a man relieves his guilt by hunting down the remaining peacocks with his dog. Adapted from a short story by Sam Shepard.

After a day spent with his adolescent son and an loneliness after a day spent with his adolescent son and an encounter with his wife.


Page prepares for brunch while Harvey tells her about his kidnapping, but Harvey tells her about his loneliness after a day spent with his adolescent son and an encounter with his wife.


After Fermin’s death, his wife calls Nicolas, the family tailor to make a suit for the mourning. Fermin’s ghost appears and asks for one last wish to be conceded: to see Mexico City for the last time.


A recently divorced man confronts the rocky shores of


Two strangers witness a natural phenomenon that reawakens their senses and draws their empty lives together.


Just Desserts Country: UK Running Time: 15 Director: Eddie Sternberg Loosely based on a true story ‘Just Desserts’ is a dark comedy about a compulsive lottery player, Dennis, on a monthly meal out with his wife and friends. The night turns when a practical joke they play on him horribly backfires.


Meet Eliza. A First Date like no other. Well, she says she’s Eliza. But we suspect she’s actually Debbie. But she definitely isn’t Sandra. That’s for sure. And she’s about to meet John. Or so it seems. And then there’s her parents. But let’s not even go there.


Sebastian always lived in the shadow of his older brother until his brother became ill and he had to find his own voice.


After Fermin’s death, his wife calls Nicolas, the family tailor to make a suit for the mourning. Fermin’s ghost appears and asks for one last wish to be conceded: to see Mexico City for the last time.
THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER AT 1:20PM

SHORTS 7: Best International Shorts

**Home**
Country: USA  
Running Time: 18  
Director: Amelie Wen  
Writer: Amelie Wen, Jan Kengtory  
Producer: Keras Yang  
DoP: Jan Kengtory  
Cast: Mashun Cao, Yanlun Liu  
Lao Tian is an elderly migrant caretaker of an abandoned construction site. On his last day of work, he encounters a five-year-old girl who has run away from home. Bie Pu explores the concept of homelessness across the social classes of modern day Beijing.

**Shabu-Shabu Spirit**
Country: Japan  
Running Time: 11  
Director: Aki Isoyama  
Writer: Amelie Wen, Jon Kengtory  
Producer: Keruo Yang  
DoP: Jon Kengtory  
Cast: Maishun Cao, Yanxi Li  
Keita goes to meet his fiance’s family. The father, Shozo, begins his secret appraisal – a test to see whether this fiance is worthy of his daughter. Trying to reduce the tension between them, the mother prepares the shabu-shabu meal.

**Winter Light**
Country: USA  
Running Time: 29  
Director: Julian Higgins  
Writer: Wei-Ning Yu  
Producer: Jan Allen, Julian Higgins, Josh Pence  
DoP: Andrew Wheeler  
Cast: Raymond J. Barry, Vincent Kartheiser, Q’orianka Kilcher

When an aging college professor confronts two hunters trespassing on his property, he begins an escalating battle of wills that will test his faith in everything he holds dear. Adapted from a short story by acclaimed author James Lee Burke.

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER AT 6:40PM

SHORTS 8: Desolation Ventures

**A Warm Spell**
Country: Japan  
Running Time: 25  
Director: Toshimichi Saito  
Writer: Toshimichi Saito  
Producer: Toshimichi Saito, Jason Stefaniak, Kunio Takahashi  
DoP: Michael E. Wood  
Cast: Shinnosuke Fujishima, Makiya Yamaguchi, Masayuki Hanabusa  
In the countryside, people gather to attend a funeral. They recover their sense of connection: between brothers, strangers, the bereaved and the deceased.

**Blue Thunder**
Country: Canada  
Running Time: 21  
Director: Roy & Gagné  
Writer: Philippe David Gagné, Jean-Marc E. Roy  
Producer: Gabrielle Tougas Fretzette, Ménacé Roux  
Cast: Dany Placard, Sandrine Bisson, Isabelle Blass Bruno, in his thirties and in desperate need of a purpose, ends up homeless after a breakup. Without despairing and under the watchful eye of his motherly big sister, this sawmill worker will find the drive to put his beloved blue suit back on and to rekindle an old flame.

**Last Day Of Freedom**
Country: USA  
Running Time: 32  
Director: Nomi Talisman  
Producer: Dee Hibbert-Jones, Nomi Talisman  
When Bill realizes his brother Manny has committed a crime he agonizes over his decision—should he call the police?

**The Jungle Of Jules Levine**
Country: Panama  
Running Time: 37  
Director: Michael Mileham  
Writer: Michael John Edgar Mileham, George Clayton Johnson  
Producer: Nicholas Brooks, Elliott Gould, Michael John Edgar Mileham  
Cast: Peter Cook, Elliott Gould, John Denos

Just as the invasion of Panama is about to happen, an intrepid Smithsonian scientist embarks on a research mission. Filmed entirely in Panama and the Darien Jungle the scientist goes deep into the environment only to find nature “is” the true enemy.
His double warps his reality into a nightmare between his character’s malevolent personality and his own revered by all. In preparing for a new play, the lines...
The Mechanical Waltz
Country: France  Running Time: 6  Director/Writer/Producer: Dorien D’Iymans
On this dark and rainy morning, the puppet people trudge off to work. From day to day the routine never changes, their gazes never meet. Are they aware that their every movement, is being fully controlled and meticulously observed?

The Alchemist’s Letter
A late alchemist exposes his estranged son to the truth surrounding his tumultuous life and the dark magic used to surround his every move. Are they aware that their every move is under surveillance?"
SHORTS
SHORTS 12: New Waves
Thursday 25 September at 6:40pm

The Other Side
Country USA Running Time 20 Director Scott Brown Writer Scott Brown Producer Bryan Brown, Gustav Lindquist, Lesley Lopez DoP Kristopher May Cast Brandon Bales, Ma Darwiche, DeDe Drake
Work is hard, love is tough, and bullets are cheap. At a perilous crossroads in their relationship, Kate and Abby find themselves embroiled in a botched burial job in the desert.

Hugh the Hunter
Country USA Running Time 11 Director Karah Press Writer Zachary Herzlinger, Jesse Sourourian Producer Karah Press, Asher Kelly-Nacht, Mindy Goldberg Cast Hugh Hayden
A surrealist recontextualization of themes present in the work of artist Hugh Hayden through the form of a backstory fable.

We’ll Find Something
Country USA Running Time 12 Director Casey Gooden Writer Casey Gooden Producer Casey Gooden Cast Shane Camuff, Amy Semetz
A couple struggles to choose a restaurant while visiting New York City.

Bad At Dancing
Country USA Running Time 12 Director Joanna Amos Writer Joanna Amos Producer Rachel Wolfer, Caeah Zahedi (exec), DoP Amy Bench Cast Joanna Amos, Eleonore Pierro, Keith Poulson
A perpetual third wheel and awkward outsider, Joanna increasingly inserts herself into the relationship of her more charismatic roommate Isabel.

Sometime The Blues
Country USA Running Time 23 Director Nefesa Hirs Writer Nefesa Hirs Producer Blake Lyons, Jiyari Han, Nicole Quintana DoP Renee Mao
A short film about Harlem, a VHS tape, and a mouldy couch.

Francisville
Country USA Running Time 11 Director Jonathan Pappas Writer Jonathan Pappas Producer Jonathan Pappas, Stavros Stavropoulos
This live-action short film is an offbeat comedy of the dark and slightly-twisted variety. It’s about love, bravado, neighborhoods, underbellys, cynicism, seduction, tour guides, coffin doors, dream girls, milkshakes...and Philadelphia.

Thursday 25 September at 1:20pm

SHORTS 13: Renegade Artist

Emory Douglas: The Art of the Black Panthers
Country USA Running Time 8 Director C. Rose Stromberg DoP Andre Andrews Cast Emory Douglas
Through archival footage and conversations with Emory Douglas we share his story, alongside the rise and fall of The Black Panther Party.

The Edge of Illusion
Country USA Running Time 13 Director Timothy David Orme
Edge of Illusion is a personal essay film that examines the inherent anxiety and apprehension of the filmmaker’s pursuit of image (illusion) making.

Ink - The Lost Art of Handwriting
Country Canada Running Time 7 Director Ryan Couldey Writer Ryan Couldey Producer Ryan Couldey DoP Ryan Couldey
Not long ago, the ability to write by hand - and write well - was taken for granted as a skill anyone could, and should have. Times have changed.
To Catch A Butterfly

V.P.

Skin
Country: UK Running Time: 16 Director: Writer/Producer Phil Sheerin Cast: Jonathan Harder, Nancy F. Clarkson A true story set over a single night. We follow Leo into a world of violence and manipulation as he foolishly tries to make reparations with his father.

South Southwest
Country: USA Running Time: 14 Director: Writer/Producer Madison Hambourg DoP: Ben Joyner Cast: Angela Lewis, Tendal Mann, Denny Zartman An introverted, photo enthusiast, tormented by local bullies, is faced with a test of courage when his ailing grandfather’s camera is stolen and placed at the top of a fire tower.

Citizen Day
Country: France Running Time: 20 Director/Writer/Producer Basile Diagonis Jean-Claude Reynoud A crew of teenagers from a Parisian suburb have to attend their Citizen Day at the military base in Versailles, but one of them, Chris, is turned away for arriving too late and inevitably tests each other’s boundaries.

Prosefi: Greek School Prayer

Getting There

Citizen Day
Country: France Running Time: 20 Director/Writer/Producer Basile Diagonis Jean-Claude Reynoud A crew of teenagers from a Parisian suburb have to attend their Citizen Day at the military base in Versailles, but one of them, Chris, is turned away for arriving too late and inevitably tests each other’s boundaries.

Stanhope
Country: USA Running Time: 18 Director/Writer: Salvan Nasim DoP: Christopher Cannuccian Cast: Jhonne Mae, Nedra McClyde, Rob Morgan A young female Marine war veteran navigates her disintegrating life until there is nothing left but to make a choice.

Stanhope, a teen from a single parent home, gets his first skateboard and his life takes a sudden turn.

Strange Men
Country: USA Running Time: 20 Director: Andrew Fitzgerald, Sean Purlin Writer: Andrew Fitzgerald, Sean Purlin, Jay Rutman, Andrew Fitzgerald DoP: Sing Howe Yam Cast: Hannah Masquera, Thomas Duffy, Jim County Abby, a penniless young drifter, decides to return home. But her plans change when a strange man begins following her.

Three Fingers
Country: USA Running Time: 12 Director/Writer: Paul Hart Producer: Barrett Leigh, Ben Umstead, Virginia Newcomb Cast: Virginia Newcomb, Benjamin Keepers, Aidan Stephenson Following the death of his brother, Jonny - a disillusioned young chain-smoker must re-evaluate reality in order to make reparations with his father.

USA
Running Time: 12 Director: Writer/Producer Paul Hart Producer: Barrett Leigh, Ben Umstead, Virginia Newcomb Cast: Virginia Newcomb, Benjamin Keepers, Aidan Stephenson A young female Marine war veteran navigates her disintegrating life until there is nothing left but to make a choice.

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER AT 6:40PM
SHORTS 14: Dark Waves

Bestial

A true story set over a single night. We follow Leo into a world of violence and manipulation as he foolishly tries to make reparations with his father.

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER AT 1:20PM
SHORTS 15: Youngblood City

Prosefi: Greek School Prayer

Stanhope
Country: USA Running Time: 18 Director/Writer: Salvan Nasim DoP: Christopher Cannuccian Cast: Jhonne Mae, Nedra McClyde, Rob Morgan

A young female Marine war veteran navigates her disintegrating life until there is nothing left but to make a choice.

Stanhope, a teen from a single parent home, gets his first skateboard and his life takes a sudden turn.

Strange Men
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Exit Road
Country USA  Running Time 13  Director Yuri Alves  Writer Yuri Alves  Producer Yuri Alves, Igor Alves, Joe Caradillo, Virgil Daggs  DoP Magda Santos  Cast Dane Santerre, Dana Sarnoever
Dane thought he left his personal demons and his drug addiction behind him, but his first day out of prison challenges both his promise to go clean and his very survival.

Skinner
Country Hungary  Running Time 12  Director Gabor Fabricius  Writer Gabor Fabricius  Producer Ferenc Puzsai
To skin or to be skinned in a financial crisis hit Budapest. Story of a bouncer who becomes an evictor.

Nelly
Country Austria  Running Time 17  Director Chris Raber  Writer Chris Raber  Producer Nikolaus Klinghoffer, Daniel Dalina  DoP/Maria Minchmayr  Cast Ann-Birgit Holler, Fanny Herzog, Gunin Tielich
A car drives through the snow. Behind the wheel is Nelly. She is thirteen years old. Nelly wants to go home. Separating her from her goal are three questions, two keys, a diving tower and a racing heart.

Pinky
Country USA  Running Time 23  Director Dylan Paffe  Writer Adam Borschuk, Michael Yanny  Producer Adam Borschuk  DoP/Oli Schofield  Cast Alex Macqueen, David Schaad, Rebecca Iacov
In a rural town, brash Michelle struggles to protect her teenage brother while her mother battles issues with substance abuse.

Lullaby
Country USA  Running Time 11  Director Stuart Valberg  Producer Stuart Valberg, Jason Booth, Woodrow Travers  DoP/David Kuta  Cast Rick Kinsadl, Joy Booth
A man attempts to cope with the over simulation of contemporary society. Is a mysterious package he purchases the solution?

Introducing Brian
Country UK  Running Time 14  Director Nicholas Keogh  Writer Sami Mehranovic, Bart Gavsgaard  Producer/Michael Wilson, Mark Evans, Aile Smith  DoP/Jasper Wall  Cast/Sanj Mondal, Romanjy Kaur, Tarianjy Kaur
Meet Brian, a storyteller and dreamer, for a trip down memory alley.

Dog Bowl
Country USA  Running Time 19  Director Gordy Hoffman  Writer Gordy Hoffman  Producer James Declan Tobin, Jason Lombardo, Brian Carstane  Cast/Marc Miller, Chadial Thuy
A heartbroken girl spiraling through life stumbles upon the true nature of her existence after stealing the vest off of a service dog.

The Stained Glass Mandolin
Country UK  Running Time 14  Director Andrew Bullas  Producer Alex Tweddle  DoP/Brian Bothun  Cast Dick Levans
Due to the lack of wood on the island, Orkney based musician and instrument maker Dick Levans crafts a mandolin from stained glass to be auctioned off for charity.

The Voice Of Nothingness
Country Germany  Running Time 17  Director Thomas Josef Roth  Writer Thomas Josef Roth  Producer Carola Hosse  Cast Shizuteru Ueda, Eiko Hanasaka, Machi Myohara
Eassytic documentary with 89-year-old philosopher Shizuteru Ueda, the last still living member of a group of Japanese thinkers called Kyoto School which combined Zen traditions with Western philosophy.

Behemoth - or the Game of God
An itinerant preacher proclaims to people that their god is in the very coffin he is dragging along.

Walking Through Havana
Country UK  Running Time 12  Director Melek Erbil
Mental illness is widely stigmatized in Pakistan, where people living with mental disorders are rejected by their families and society in general. These patients struggle to receive proper psychiatric treatment and acceptance.

I Exist
Country Egypt  Running Time 10  Director Ahmed Abdelmaser  Writer Faryal Malik  Producer Faryal Malik
"Pawwaw" documents a central event in Native American culture that allows tribes to gather and reclaim indigenous rites and expresses the sacred and spiritual.

Jus Soli
Country UK  Running Time 16  Director Simon Jenkins  Writer Simon Jenkins, Michael McLeod, Joshua Leveylyn  Producer Simon Jenkins, Michael McLeod, Joshua Leveylyn  DoP/Anika Summerson  Cast Nicholas Pinnock
Jus Soli opens up a discourse on the Black British experience; interrupting the emotional transition between generations and questioning what it means to be British.

Pawwaw
Country USA  Running Time 4  Director Keeley Gould  Writer Keeley Gould  Producer Keeley Gould
"Pawwaw" documents a central event in Native American culture that allows tribes to gather and reclaim indigenous rites and expresses the sacred and spiritual.

SHORTS 16: Interzone City
Thursday 25 September at 6:40pm

SHORTS 17: Radical Agendas
Thursday 25 September at 1:20pm
SHORTS 18: Relative States
Thursday 25 September at 6:40pm

Best Man Wins
When a celebrated New York chef discovers an affair between his super-model wife and his best man—the owner of France's finest vineyard, he devises a plan to deal with each of them.

A Well Designed Plan
Country: USA  Running Time: 14  Director: Gabriel Olson, Sean Barney  Writer: Gabriel Olson  Producer: Gabriel Olson, Sean Barney, Jason Michael Bergman  DoP: Robby Baumgartner  Cast: Beth Grant, Sharon Lawrence, Catherine Carlen
A timid housewife is jolted into a fight for her survival or sanity by her new partner at a weekly bridge game when she thinks she hears a threat.

Research
Sometimes things happen that turn everything to silence.

Brother
The two brothers, Paal and Erik haven't had much contact lately. Paal tells Eric some news that will change their relationship forever.

The Champion
Before there was Hollywood there was Fort Lee, NJ. However, only one would ultimately survive as the undisputed studio town, as the other would fade into history. This is the little known story of the first studio town.

Soldiers’ Stories
Soldiers’ Stories is timeless tale of conflict and the mental and physical toll that battle takes on individuals and society. Told through the eyes and words of real soldiers, Soldiers’ Stories knits together modern soldiers with World War I.
SHORTS 20: Preachin’ the Blues

**Rock ‘N’ Roll Island**
Country: UK  | Running Time: 32  | Director: Cheryl Robson  | Producer: Helen Walker and Cheryl Robson  | DoP: Peter Northall  | Cast: Rod Stewart, Steve Hackett, Phil May

What’s been to Eelpiland? Just about everyone went there in the 60s including The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Yardbirds, David Bowie, Elton John and Rod Stewart. So what was the attraction?

**Rattle the Hocks**
Country: USA  | Running Time: 30  | Director: Cody Dickinson  | Producer: Cody Dickinson  | DoP: Peter Northall

A musical documentary that captures the historical relationship between the railroad and American roots music by following The Grahams, a Nashville based husband and wife duo, as they journey through America navigating the tracks, revisiting the places that inspired their predecessors and searching for the modern echo of older sounds.

**The Alpha Invention**

After creating artificial intelligence on his home computer, a reclusive programmer is contacted one rainy evening by a suspicious dealer looking to buy the technology.

**The Emissary**

An obsession with a young man who resembles her son leads Martindale to a surprise encounter with the stranger when he suddenly shows up at her New York City apartment.

**West**

A documentary-style fashion film based on the idea of ‘waiting’, this short is a dreamy, real-time insight of behind-the-scenes on a photo shoot.

**Girl from God’s Country**

Can a forgotten film pioneer change the future of women in film?

**Research**

‘Research’ is a short film about the tension between two realms. How do we recover our meta-consciousness in order to justify our existence in a postmodern, hyper real society that has strict social requisites?

**Wait**

A documentary-style fashion film based on the idea of ‘waiting’, this short is a dreamy, real-time insight of behind-the-scenes on a photo shoot.

**Share**
Country: France  | Running Time: 8  | Director: Pippa Bianco
Alma
Director: Monica Gonzalez Carter
Country: Mexico

Cielo - Maywa
Director: Franco Del Risco
Country: Peru

Kwacha - Drowning in Non-Satisfaction
Director: Jane Hearst
Country: UK

Eyes Were Young - Little Barrie
Director: Gi De Ray
Country: UK

FVC - Rain
Director: Christina Hardinge
Country: UK

Gaps - I Know It’s You
Director: BISON
Country: UK

Grades - King
Director: Taichi Kimura
Country: Japan

Grimm Grimm - Tell The Truth
Director: Daisy Dickinson
Country: UK

H Hawkline - Spooky Dog
Director: Casey Raymond
Country: UK

Ibeyi - River
Director: Ed Morris
Country: UK

James - All I’m Saying
Director: Peter Wacz
Country: UK

Metropolitan Triangle Garden
Director: Rui Hu
Country: USA

Noel Gallagher - Ballad of the Mighty
Director: John Hardwick
Country: UK

T54 - Return of the Worm
Director: Samuel Galloway
Country: Australia

Royksopp feat Robyn - Monument
Director: Stian Andersen
Country: Norway

Spectres - Mirror
Director: Stephanie ElizabethThird
Country: UK

Spectres - Where Flies Sleep
Director: James Hankins
Country: UK

Stealing Ship - Not Real
Director: James Slater
Country: UK

Tehran
Director: Masoud Moen Eslem
Country: Iran

Throne - Tharsis Sleeps
Director: Nico Livesey
Country: UK

The Oscillation - From Tomorrow
Director: Julian Hand
Country: UK

The Voyeurs - Pete The Pugilist
Director: Peggy-Sue Cranney
Country: UK

Tulipomania - Blinks First
Director: Cheryl Gelover
Country: USA

Yak - Hungry Heart
Director: Ben Cooper
Country: UK
EVENTS

Industry events to open eyes (and doors).
MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

Raindance Forum I

VUE PICCADILLY 10:30-11:30

Lighting & Technology Masterclass
Workshop and demonstrations of the latest in filmmaking and lighting technologies and techniques for filmmakers to enhance your productions. Presented by Rotolight and Beyond HD.

VUE PICCADILLY 12:00-13:15

Crowdsourcing Your Film
Crowdsourcing. What is it? Is it different to crowdfunding? How and why? Join our panel of experts as we discuss the importance of creating and leveraging your audience, using social media and the web to further your film career and build a following (as well as raise money for your next project!)

VUE PICCADILLY 13:30-14:45

Casting and the Greenlight
The catch-22 of producing a film: you need a star talent to secure a budget, but you can’t attach a recognisable face to your film without offering them money in the first place. This panel discussion will focus on this problematic position that many producers find themselves in when financiers ask them to attach a name in order to get a green light for funding.

VUE PICCADILLY 15:00-16:15

Stepping Up: Producers on Producing
Everyone has to start somewhere. Join us and learn how our panel of esteemed producers started by producing low-budget movies, then stepped up the ladder to work with bigger-budget and higher-profile films. Discover where producers can get their breaks, what pitfalls to avoid and how to put your producing career on a trajectory to success. Hosted by Jared Fryer of Cinema Jam.

VUE PICCADILLY 16:30-17:15

BIFA Talks: Achievement in Production
The production stage of making a film can often be the most challenging for filmmakers. How do you make 3 locations look like one? What are the challenges involved with street casting? When every day on set costs thousands of pounds in production costs, how do you make sure you stick to schedule and don’t go over budget? Join producers nominated for the British Independent Film Awards’ ‘Achievement in Production’ award as they give insight into the highs and lows of producing their films.

VENUE UPON REGISTRATION! 18:00-LATE!

Boozin’ & Schoozin’
The mid-festival Boozin’n’ Schmoozin is not one to miss. Join feature filmmakers, short filmmakers, web series creators and all the other cool types that frequent the Raindance Film Festival for the best creators-only party of the whole shebang. There will be filmmakers, there will be booze and there will be prizes to be won. Partners Cinema Jam bring one of their trademark matching games for some fun non-networking mingling.

Entrance is by strict guest list as space is limited. Email party@raindance.co.uk to reserve your place. Raindance Members get priority!
VUE PICCADILLY 10:00-11:30
Monetising Your B-Roll Footage with Pond5
What do you do with your B-roll footage? Dump it on a hard drive and forget about it? Wipe it away to make space for the next one? Well, if you do, did you know that you’re wasting good money? Stock footage organisations like Pond5 can provide an invaluable service for filmmakers by monetising their B-roll as stock footage... for other filmmakers! Join Martin Ellerback of Pond5 to discuss how you can make money from what you leave on the editing suite floor.

VUE PICCADILLY 12:00-13:15
Hacking Hollywood Style VFX
Does “Low-budget” mean “No Special Effects”? Not in 2015 it doesn’t! A panel of experts from indie auteurs to Hollywood effects artists discuss how you can harness the power of VFX in 2015. The landscape has completely changed, and things that Hollywood could barely afford 15 years ago are now accessible to indie filmmakers. From motion captured CGI characters to digital stunt doubles to set extension a la “Game Of Thrones” to practical effects - it’s all possible.

VUE PICCADILLY 13:30-14:45
Music Legalities Every Filmmaker Needs To Know
The grey area where the arts of music and film collide can be a minefield for filmmakers, but a fantastic soundtrack is not always out of reach. Join our panel and learn what the rules and laws of music copyright are, how they apply to film and how you can secure a strong soundtrack for your production without breaking the bank.

VUE PICCADILLY 15:00-16:15
Hacking The Film Marketing Strategy
Independent producers need to be not only filmmakers but amazing marketeers. Even if you get a distributor who pushes your film to the public successfully, you can always do more to help widen your film’s reach and expand your audience and fan base. Learn how to take control of your marketing using all the tools available to today’s filmmakers / businesspeople.

VUE PICCADILLY 16:35-17:35
Accessible Industry
A panel talk hosted by Guadalajara International Film Festival (FICG) Industry on the development of film activities and spaces that include audiences with disabilities and sensitize the rest of society on an inclusive cinematic experience. FICG will talk about the importance of adapting films where people with, and without, sensory impairments could attend and enjoy a screening all at the same time.

VUE PICCADILLY 18:30-20:30
Live!Ammunition!
This is it! Your chance to pitch your movie idea directly to a panel of film executives. These are the people who buy scripts and decide what will be made – and what won’t. To pitch just drop a fiver in the hat, and the floor is yours. You have a limited amount of time to convince the panellists that your script is great. They can [and will] gong you off if you’re boring. Improve your pitching skills and get instant feedback.
**VUE PICCADILLY 10:00-10:30**

**Co-Production Forum Opening Talk: In Conversation with Mexico**
Guillermo Arriaga, Academy and BAFTA nominated screenwriter, will join Guadalajara International Film Festival director Ivan Trujillo and Raindance chief Elliot Grove in an onstage talk about the current state of Mexican cinema, and the opportunities to co-produce with Mexico. Talk supported by Variety, FICG Industry and the Mexican Film Institute.

**VUE PICCADILLY 10:30-11:45**

**Marketing Workshop – The Beat Beneath My Feet case study**
‘The Beat Beneath My Feet’ played at Raindance in 2014 before going on to do extremely well in the UK, garnering articles and reviews in the Evening Standard and Indiewire amongst many other leading publications. Discover how the team of producers behind the film designed their own marketing strategy, from pre-production through to release.

**VUE PICCADILLY 12:15-13:00**

**Hacking The Film Distribution Model**
They used to say that the bottleneck in filmmaking was actually making a film; everyone had an idea, but not everyone could make a film. Now everyone has the opportunity to make their movie idea come true on the lowest of low budgets, the bottleneck has moved up to distribution: there’s a lot of films out there, but not all will get seen by an audience. Discover ways to navigate the ever-changing waters of indie distribution.

**VUE PICCADILLY 13:45-15:00**

**International Film and Co-Production Finance**
Some countries, including the UK, offer very attractive incentives for production companies to work with foreign producers. This international panel discusses how you can set up and start an international co-production, the benefits of co-producing with an international team and effective ways to connect with foreign producers.

**VUE PICCADILLY 10:45-12:00**

**MX-UK Film Funds Workshop**
Join the film funds experts from Mexico and the United Kingdom on a workshop to understand film industries from both countries. Meet the companies and the producers of each country and familiarize with the different funds and incentives granted to the film production in Mexico and the UK and learn about the opportunities on co-productions.

**VUE PICCADILLY 15:15-16:30**

**From VR to AR to TR – A brave new narrative world**
Join us and discover how a vintage invention, hacked up with today’s powerful smartphone technology, can help you look at cognitive storytelling in a brave new way. We will also be discussing other advances in storytelling technology, from Virtual to Augmented to Transmogrified (huh?) reality.

**VUE PICCADILLY 16:15-18:00**

**Film Is Content Pitching**
All filmmakers should understand how their film should be marketed from the start. Present your film poster, tagline and title to a panel of distributors and industry experts to find out how it might play out. Warning: Raindance is not responsible for dashed hopes, shattered dreams or hurt feelings.
Co-Production Forum: Focus on Mexico

**BY APPLICATION ONLY**

As part of the MX – UK dual year celebrations in 2015, the Raindance Film Festival and the Guadalajara International Film Festival (FICG) in partnership with Variety, present the first Co-Production Forum at Raindance, where Mexico will be the guest of honour.

UK independent producers, distribution, production and sales companies are invited to join Raindance on this unique opportunity, to meet and partner with eight of the best Mexican producers and create new co-production business opportunities.

The Forum, part of the Mexican Strand at Raindance, will include a series of panels, conferences, seminars, workshops and events designed to increase the experience of the participants and strengthen the networks between the British and Mexican film industries.

The Forum, supported by the Mexican Film Institute (IMCINE) aims to create a solid platform where both Mexican and British industries can find the right financial, business and investment opportunities to co-produce films between both countries.

Celebrating 50 Years of Super 8

As part of the celebrations of 50 years of Super 8mm Raindance Film Festival will be screening a teaser for the new Don Letts film, ‘Two 77s Clash’, a work-in-progress looking at the myth and reality of the ‘punky-reggae party’, punk’s only untold story. Don will also dip into his extensive Super 8mm archive to give a taste of what’s to come, from what he describes as “a black n’ white story told in glorious colour”. The screening will be followed by a Q & A with Don Letts, hosted by Zoe Howe.

Join us after the screening for an afterparty at The Social! There will be a live performance by Telegram and DJ sets from Don Letts and special guests.
VUE PICCADILLY
10:30-11:30 WEEKDAYS, 9:30-10:30 WEEKENDS
Hangover Brunch
Feeling groggy from last night? Forgotten the name of that lovely producer you met? Cinema Jam has the perfect cure. Join us for a complimentary light hangover brunch to catch up with familiar faces and meet some new ones. Free brunch tokens to be found across the festival. First come, first served!

VUE PICCADILLY
THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 14:00
Hacking the Rules of Genre Screenwriting
You know your script will fail if you don’t know the rules - but do you know when to break them, and how? In this masterclass with award-winning writer-director Charles Harris, we look at why you might need to break the rules, and how to succeed when doing what everyone tells you not to do. From seven act structure and no-scene scenes, to impossible characters and unbelievable plot twists, he’ll show you how the great writers and directors have blown holes through the rule book and got away with it.

VUE PICCADILLY
THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 18:00
Deadly Virtues: Love. Honour. Obey
Just ahead of its release on the DVD market, join us for a large-screen screening of Raindance Raw Talent feature film ‘Deadly Virtues: Love. Honour. Obey’. The film will be followed by a talk & Q&A with film producer & Raindance founder Elliot Grove and director Ate de Jong.

VUE PICCADILLY
THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 20:00
Erika Lust: XConfessions
Erika Lust is the creator of Lust Films, a production company who specializes in making erotic films crafted from the personal stories and confessions of women. Join us for a discussion on changing the face of personal erotic filmmaking and a debate about women’s relationship to adult cinema.

VUE PICCADILLY
SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 10:00
Script Surgeries, Raindance Film Centre
Screenwriters! Take your script to the next level with professional guidance. Get tailored feedback to your script from the experts at EurosCipt in 1-on-1 sessions. Check www.raindancefestival.org for information on how to book your personal feedback session.

VUE PICCADILLY
TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 18:00
In Conversation with Simon Boswell
Film composer Simon Boswell has scored soundtracks for some of independent cinema’s incredible mavericks such as Alejandro Jodorowsky (Santa Sangre), Danny Boyle (Shallow Grave), Richard Stanley (Hardware) and Iain Softley (Hackers). Simon will discuss the highlights of 30 years of composing film scores and why a good soundtrack can make or break a film.
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Develop your own voice as an independent filmmaker

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RAINDANCE POSTGRADUATE DEGREE SHOWCASE

VUE PICCADILLY. FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER AT 18:00M

The Raindance Post-Graduate Degree Showcase

Henri

Nearly a year after Henri and Maria broke up, Henri now has a new girlfriend. But Maria is having a hard time letting Henri go.

Rule of One

In a future Britain where every family is restricted to one child, a rebellious teenager must learn to work with his desperate

It Can Wait

Maya finds herself in a surreal situation where her only mode of communication with the outside world is via text messaging.

Death of Kao-Kuk
Country: Canada  Director: Luc Chamberland  Producer: Marcy Page, Moral Mohammad

The famous Canadian astronaut Kao-Kuk is just coming back from a dangerous deep space mission in a transdimensional rift. But back home at the astro station, a deeper, even more deadly mystery awaits, threatening his impending doom.
The Power of Word of Mouth

When was the last time you bought a random book in a bookstore? Or saw a film you knew nothing about, simply walking into a theater? The odds are, you won’t recall a date. Why? Because we usually lack time to do everything we’d like to in a day; so to avoid “wasting” hours, and to raise our chances of finding stories we’ll enjoy, we tend to use filters.

Those filters are the marketers, the critics, the ‘stars’, the people we follow on the social media, our friends and family. They all mention stories we should pay attention to. We need filters to help us find our way in this chaotic world of overabundance. We need them to overcome decision fatigue in the face of the thousands of books, films, videos, music and other entertaining events bombarded to us at all times.

What to do when there is also an overabundance of filters?

Not so long ago, critics were the gatekeepers and their opinion could make or break a project. Today, anyone’s opinion, worded the right way, sent at the right time and through the right channel can make a difference on a local, national or global scale. This means that your opinion can become a game changer. In fact, every story begins its journey with one person talking about it to someone else.

One person.

After being rejected by dozens of publishers, J. K. Rowling owes her first deal for Harry Potter to the 8 year-old daughter of Bloomsbury’s chairman Nigel Newton, who showed tremendous enthusiasm while reading the manuscript. One person.

Four times Oscar winner ‘The King’s Speech’ owes its existence to director’s Tom Hooper’s mother, who went to a reading of the then unproduced play and thought her son would appreciate the story. One person.

Many stories owe their existence to a positive word of mouth from a trusted filter to a creator. Jenji Kohan was sent Piper Kerman’s book by a friend who knew it would pick her curiosity, which led to Kohan pitching ‘Orange Is the New Black’ to Netflix.

And many more stories owe their survival and rise to fame to word of mouth; ‘Fight Club’, ‘The Shawshank Redemption’, ‘Napoleon Dynamite’, ‘Once’, ‘Junos’, ‘Saw’… the list is long.

Our voice can make a difference

As Seth Godin says, in today’s world, we are our own media company. Now the challenge is to do something about it. Critics are no longer the gatekeepers. We too have the power to use positive word of mouth to push the stories we love, and to amplify our word of mouth’s impact.

Using today’s tools to help shape the world we believe in

In February 2014, I emailed a group of friends with a list of cultural recommendations I had come across and thought might interest them. I called it the Monthly Creative Menu. Today, I email hundreds of people each month to tell them about my ‘story crushes’. The Monthly Creative Menu is subjective. It’s my way of amplifying my word of mouth’s power and trying to pay forward to people who have put love, sweat, time and money to try create a difference telling stories.

I am far from being the only one to do this. In 2009, writer and marketing disrupter Ryan Holiday started emailing friends a monthly list of recommended books. The list now reaches over 40,000 people’s inbox.

In 2006, Maria Popova started emailing a weekly list of curated recommendations to 7 friends. 9 years later, the email has become the site Brain Pickings, and receives over 5 millions monthly visitors.

The difference between Holiday, Popova, me and everybody else? Just a willingness to share with others what enthuses us and what we feel deserves people’s attention.

One person.

A load of enthusiasm.

A willingness to share.

That’s the recipe to start a positive change in the world. We often say that content is King and distribution is Queen. I would add that Word of Mouth is the People’s Army.

So if you find yourself watching a film that left a mark this week, use your positive power and start your own butterfly effect. Join the people’s army; use the power of your word of mouth.

Nathalie Sejean

Nathalie Sejean is story fabricator and a French nomad. Passionate about storytelling and democratic access to continuing education, she founded mentorless.com in 2011, a site about filmmaking and creativity read by a global community of storymakers. You can connect with her at @mentorless on the social media.
**FILMMAKER CONTACTS**

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**Alive in Marialand - Mexico**
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**A Matter of Time - Canada**
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**Amsterdam Express - Albania/UK/Netherlands**
Fatmir Koci, Director/Executive Producer
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**An Open Secret - USA**
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hshelman@platformgrp.com

**Asleep - Japan**
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**Big Gold Dream - UK**
Grant McPhee, Director
grant_mcphee@hotmail.com

**Bob and The Trees - USA/France**
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**Bounce: How the Ball Taught the World to Play - USA**
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**Crocodile - Philippines**
Francis Xavier Pasion, Director/Producer
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**Daturna: Portrait of America - U.S.A.**
Michael Huter, Producer
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**David Vaughan: Black on Canvas - Canada**
Dean Brocklehurst, Director
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**Deep Web: The Hunt For Dread Pirate Roberts - USA**
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**Chorus - Canada**
Aurore Augustine, Sales Agent
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**Chirig - Switzerland**
Sandrine Vergne, Sales Agent
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**Chiey - Argentina**
Elisa Pasarotti, Director/Producer
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**Cosmic Whistleblowers - UK**
Simon Sharratt, Writer/Producer/Director
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**Echos of War - USA**
Kane Senes, Director
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**El Ganzo - USA/Mexico**
Steve Balderson, Director
office@dikenga.com

**Elvira I Will Give You My Life But I’m Using It - Mexico**
Daniela Leyva Becerra Acosta, Festivals Coordinator
daniela.leyva@registros.com

**Fire - Spain**
Oscar Alonso, Festival Manager
oa@filmgroup.com

**Fires On The Plain - Japan**
Francois, Festival Coordinator
festivals@coproductionoffice.eu

**Forever and a day - Germany**
Hannah Horner, Sales Agent
h.horner@docandfilm.com

**God’s Acre - UK**
J.P. Davidson, Director/Writer/Producer
jp72@me.com

**Gored - USA**
Ildo Mizrahy, Director
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**Hadwin’s Judgement - UK/Canada**
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festival@nfb.ca

**Happy 140 - Spain**
Oscar Alonso, Festival Manager
oa@filmgroup.com

**Happy Purim - Israel**
Ori Gruber, Director/Producer
oryashar@gmail.com

**Healer - UK**
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james@newblackfilms.com

**History of Now - Austria**
Nadiv Molcho, Director
nadivmv2@gmail.com

**Horizons - Switzerland**
Nevina Miladinovice, Sales Agent
submissions@taskoskfilm.com

**I Am Sun Mu - USA/China/South Korea**
Adam Sjöberg, Director/Producer
adamsjoberg@gmail.com

**If It Be Love - UK**
Filip L. Firlej, Director/Producer
filipfirlej@yahoo.co.uk

**Kicking Off - UK**
Andy Thompson, Producer
andy@tdaudio.com

**Kid Kulafo - Philippines**
Paul Soriano, Director
paulsoriano@att17p.com

**Le Dep - Canada**
Jason Brennan, Producer
jason@mkmedia.tv

**Long Live the Bride - Italy**
Federica Cerasoli, Festival Coordinator
cinema@fandango.it

**Love/Me/Do - UK**
Ian Prior, Producer
ianprior17@yahoo.co.uk

**Magallanes - Peru/Argentina/Colombia/Spain**
Lucia Meik, Sales Agent
lucia@meikincine.com

**Meet Pursuit Delange - UK**
Howard Webster, Director
howard.webster@gmail.com

**Mexico Barbaro - Mexico**
Lex Ortega, Director
lex@tdaudio.com

**Mile End - UK**
Graham Higgins, Director
mileendmovie@gmail.com
Mineralism: A Documentary About the Important Things - Taking Stock

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Israel
Michelle Pose, Producer
michelle@markermovies.com

Shih
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Bruno Zaffora, Director/Producer
info@talkingfilms.eu

That's It
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akiko-uchida@kingrecords.co.jp

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rimda777@yahoo.com

That's Not Us
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William C. Sullivan, Director
wcctesting@gmail.com

Sila and the Gatekeepers of the Arctic
Sweden
Corina Gamma, Director
corina@gammasphere.net

The Arms Drop
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Andreas Køeboe, Director
andkoef@yahoo.dk

Reality
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Martin Gondre, Sales Agent
sales@indiesales.eu

The Birth Of Saké
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lucas.verga@filmsalescorporation.com

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Canada
Gail Harvey, Director
gailharvey13@gmail.com

The Carrier
UK
James Warren, Distributor
jameswarren@altitudefilms.com

Rolling
Japan
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The Incident
Mexico
Isaac Ezban, Director
iezban@gmail.com

Sailing to Paradise
Canada
Nina Jeglic, Producer
nina.jeglic@gmail.com

The Judgement
Bulgaria/Germany/Slovenia
Kasia Karwan, Sales Agent
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Set the Thames on Fire
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Emma Comley, Producer
emma@blondetoblackpictures.com

The Kids from the Marx & Engels Street
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galeev010703@hotmail.com

Shelter
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marc@arrowsfilms.co.uk

The Lives of Hamilton Fish
USA
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laura@lauraplancarte.com

Swansong
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The Poet of Havana
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Taking Stock
UK
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The Reapper
Croatia/Slovenia
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The Case of the Three Sided Dream
USA
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The Return
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oliver@obstaclefilms.com

The Serbian Lawyer
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nikolic1@fastmail.co.uk

The Weight of Chains 2
Canada/Serbia
Boris Malagurski, Director/Producer
boris@malagurski.com

The Poets of Robbie Basho
UK
Paul Elliott, Director
contact@huttwenty9.com

Youth
UK
Paul Elliott, Director
contact@huttwenty9.com

One night in Oslo
Norway
Ewa Bojanowska, Sales Agent
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Voice of the Eagle: The Enigma of Robbie Basho
UK
Liam Barker, Director/Producer
info@robbiebashofilms.com

Our Everyday Life
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ines Tanovic, Producer
inestanovic@icloud.com

We Will Be the World Champions
Serbia
Katarina Radiojkovic, Producers
katarina@intermedianetwork.rs

Oman Brothers
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Adam Torel, Sales Agent
adam@thewindowofwindows.com

Yallah! Underground
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Farid Eslam, Director/Producer
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Next Year
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Bordeaux, Production Assistant
production@hotellcron.com

Youth UK
Pamela Leu, Sales Agent
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Next To Me
Serbia
Stevan Filipovic, Director
stevan.filipovic@arcanemedia.com

Boris Malagurski, Director/Producer
boris@malagurski.com

Out of My Hand
USA/Libya
Takeshi Fukunaga, Director
takeshi.fukunaga@gmail.com

Princess
Serbia
Marko Dacic, Director/Producer
marko.dacic@1stproduction.com

Obon Brothers
Japan
Adam Torel, Sales Agent
adam@thewindowofwindows.com

Voice of the Eagle: The Enigma of Robbie Basho
UK
Liam Barker, Director/Producer
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Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ines Tanovic, Director
inestanovic@icloud.com

Youth
UK
Paul Elliott, Director
contact@huttwenty9.com

194 195
FILM COURSES
AT RAINDANCE

We offer short courses in writing, directing, producing and web series in our centres in London and Toronto and in our other hubs:

Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Budapest, Los Angeles, Montreal, New York, Paris and Vancouver

WE DON’T TEACH FILMMAKING
WE MAKE FILMMAKERS

www.raindance.org
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RAINDANCE PARTNERS

RAINDANCE WEB FEST PARTNERS
The Raindance Web Fest is 3 years old, a giggling, screaming, mischievous toddler that has made its entrance and is here to stay. Its little sister, the Raindance Independent Series Awards, is 2 this year and in equally good health.

When I started the Raindance Web Fest three years ago, it was to shine a spotlight on a niche of online creators that were producing incredible work, but weren’t necessarily reaching the audiences they deserved. Now, with the online series industry burgeoning and audiences tuning out of their TVs and into the web, it feels like the rest of the world is catching up. Many of our creators from the original Web Fest are still around, making successes of their series and themselves. More importantly perhaps, a wealth of new talent has come through our doors, bringing with them fresh content, fresh investment and fresh opportunities for everyone involved in this exciting, exploding industry.

Thank you for stopping by the Raindance Web Fest. Pick a programme, attend an event or join in on the conversation online (#RDWF15): like millions of others around the world, you might just find your new passion.

Elisar Cabrera – Founder
WEB FEST TICKETS & PASSES

Tickets
£8 weekdays before 5pm / £12 weekdays after 5pm & weekends

Passes
Web Fest Pass
Gives the holder access to all Raindance Web Fest screenings & events. Excludes the Raindance Independent Series Awards

Full price: £100
Concessions: £85
Raindance Members: £80

Discounts are available for the students, Raindance Members and the over-60s.

How it works
» These passes are only valid for the named and registered user, and allow the bearer one ticket per screening.
» Tickets will be released one hour before each screening and will be available at the Vue Piccadilly box office. Passholders must pick up a ticket — your pass alone will not get you in to the screening.
» Tickets will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis and are subject to availability.
» All unallocated passholder tickets may be released for general sale 20 minutes prior to the start of the screening.

For more information and Terms & Conditions, visit www.raindancefestival.org/festival-passes

Booking
www.raindancefestival.org or call the Vue booking line on 08712 240 242
RAINDANCE WEB FEST
WEB FEST TICKETS & PASSES

WEB FEST SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Mobile Storytelling</td>
<td>90'</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Writing Episodic Series</td>
<td>90'</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Sitcom Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:30</td>
<td>Web Fest Opening Drinks at Dailymotion UK</td>
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FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Web Fest 1: Sketch It Out</td>
<td>75'</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:45</td>
<td>Developing Your Distribution Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:20</td>
<td>Web Fest 2: Fantastical Tales</td>
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<td>Understanding the Commissioning Process</td>
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<td>Web Fest 3: Modern Life</td>
<td>80'</td>
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<td>20:10</td>
<td>In Conversation with Tom ‘Tomska’ Ridgewell</td>
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SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

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<tr>
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<td>70'</td>
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<td>13:30</td>
<td>Telling Real Stories</td>
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<td>15:15</td>
<td>Keynote &amp; Funding and Monetisation</td>
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<td>Web Fest 5: Independent Spirits</td>
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<td>19:25</td>
<td>Meet the Platforms</td>
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FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

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<td>Web Fest 6: Romantic Intentions</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>Building &amp; Sustaining an Audience</td>
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<td>Web Fest 7: Spirit of Adventure</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:15</td>
<td>Making It ‘On Your Own’</td>
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<td>18:50</td>
<td>Web Fest 8: Let’s Do Funny</td>
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<td>20:30</td>
<td>In Conversation with Tom ‘Tomska’ Ridgewell &amp; Jonathan Davenport</td>
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SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

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RAINDANCE INDEPENDENT SERIES AWARDS

The Critic’s Choice Award, Special Festival Prize and Dailymotion Web Series Pilot Contest winners will also be announced at the Raindance Independent Series Awards.

Best British Series

1000 Londoners
Blowing the Budget
History Bombs
Nikola Tesla and the End of the World
’Til Death
Turn Me Online

Best International Series

The Banks (Canada)
The Impossibilities (USA)
The Katering Show (Australia)
Life’s Work (Canada)
Phoenix Run (USA)
Wildcats (USA)

Best Writing

Amy Hartman & Melissa Martin (‘Dog Bytes’)
Roseanne Liang & Simon Ward (‘Flat3’)
M. Elizabeth Eller (‘Manic Pixie Dream Wife’)
John Luc (‘mysthanny moves in’)
Ric Forster & Louana Marcou (‘Neighbours vs Zombies’)
Daniel Quirke (‘Quirkology’)

Best Directing

Jay Ferguson (‘Guidestones; Sunflower Noir’)
Ben Proudfoot (‘Life’s Work’)
Eron Cauh (‘Stricken’)
Eric Piccoli (‘ProjectM’)
Kieron J. Walsh (‘Rapt’)
Rachel Puchkoff (‘Wildcats’)

Best Lead Actor

Aljin Abella (‘Hunter n Hornet’)
Mickey Blaine (‘I’m Harry Clark’)
Kati Rediger (The Impossibilities)
Cody Smith (‘Manic Pixie Dream Wife’)
Suzie Preece (‘Turn Me Online’)
Linnea Sage (‘Wildcats’)

Best Ensemble Cast

The Banks
Dog Bytes
Dring
The Katering Show
Neighbours vs Zombies
(R)onanism

Best Achievement in Production

Perfect Girl - Editing
History Bombs - Cinematography
Life’s Work - Music
ProjectM - Cinematography
The First Musketeer – Production & costume design
Wildcats – Sound design

Raindance Discovery

John Michael Howard – Writer / Producer, ‘8 Acre’
Adam Kash & Ariane Bessette - Writers, ‘The Banks’
Harriet Sams - Director, ‘The First Musketeer’
Julianne Donelle – Writer / Director, ‘No Pillowfights’
Elisabeth Ness - Writer / Creator ‘Redheads Anonymous’
Rachel Puchkoff – Writer / Director, ‘Wildcats’
Alex Boden
Alex launched Pistachio Pictures in 1999 with a focus on working with the very best directing and writing talent. Recent projects include the groundbreaking Netflix Original series SENSE8 from the Wachowskis, Joe Straczynski and Tom Tykwer, which released in 54 countries on the same day.

Ana Serrano
Ana is the Chief Digital Officer of the CFC and Founder of CFC Media Lab, the world-renowned and award-winning institute for interactive storytelling created in 1997. Most recently, she launched Canada’s first digital entertainment accelerator ideabOOST with founding partners Shaw Media, Corus Entertainment, and Google.

Ashley MacKenzie
Ashley founded Base79, one of the leading MCNs globally, in 2008. With commercial offices around the world, Base79’s technology and network created a generation of new, safe and powerful revenue opportunities for its content partners and creators. Ashley sold Base79 for $85 million in August 2014.

Baby Isako
Baby is a screenwriter whose stories are known for their unique themes, direct dialogue and richly detailed black characters. Among her best known works are ‘The Love is a Losing Game’ plays and ‘Venus Vs Mars’ series, which was commissioned by BSkyB and released on April 9th 2015 on Sky Living.

Daniela Dilorio
Daniela has worked as an onscreen and voice-over actress for over 10 years. Most recently, Daniela was one of the lead actors in a TruTV pilot for the sketch show, ‘Six Degrees of Everything’. Daniela is the host and face of WebVee Guide — an online network dedicated to covering entertainment in the digital space.

Danielle Bennison-Brown
Danielle is Director of Video Content of Condé Nast Britain, heading up a dedicated central video team to create high-quality video content for leading media brands. Formerly rD’s Global Head of Video, Danielle carved a unique and instantly recognisable style for rD’s visual output, and the video platform generated 1.7 million views in under 12 months.

David Ripert
David serves as Head of YouTube Next Lab EMEA, at Google. YouTube Next Lab is a global team focused on super-charging existing partners and creators, identifying new and rising talent, and driving ecosystem innovation and building creator spaces for them to collaborate, learn and grow. David was previously VP Content at Dailymotion in New York.

Hass Mosa
is an Executive producer at Endemol Beyond. He started his career in advertising and quickly advanced to TV, working at major broadcasters including Channel 4 and the BBC, where he was part of a digital BAFTA and Emmy award winning team. His current role exposes him to the fast paced and multi-disciplined modern media environment, where he looks after an ever-expanding creative slate.

Hayley McKenzie
Hayley is an experienced Script Editor in UK television and feature films and the founder of Script Angel (http://www.scriptangel.com). Hayley has provided script and project development support for Story Expo in Los Angeles, Northern Film & Media, the Big Comedy Conference and many others. She writes a regular screenwriting column for Script Magazine and has appeared on numerous panels.

Joanna Rahim
Joanna started out in print publishing, then spent ten years at the BBC producing flagship programmes such as ‘Start the Week’ and ‘All in the Mind’. Since 2001 she has worked as editor of Village, AOL, Yahoo and was head of content for Orange (broadband and mobile). She is now Content Development Director at Time Inc UK, producing commercial content – print, digital and video – across the all the brands.

Kathleen Grace
Kathleen is an LA-based writer / director / producer and Chief Creative Officer of New Form Digital. Prior to New Form, Kathleen was was the head of creative development for the YouTube Space LA, a 41,000 square foot facility where online video makers were free to create and collaborate.

Katie Sakka
Katie is currently Head of Channel Development at Zoomin.TV, the largest MCN in Europe. She has previously held various roles within the media industry, including positions as a Content Scout and as Production Manager in the online content arena. Katie is now spearheading the highly anticipated Nebula project, a creators hub for Zoomin.TV’s 50,000 YouTube content creators.
RAINDANCE WEB FEST
BRITISH INDEPENDENT SERIES AWARDS JURY

RAINDANCE INDEPENDENT SERIES AWARDS JURY

Lilly Ladjevardi
Lilly is at the forefront of digital media at the largest content network on YouTube, Maker Studios. Ladjevardi joined Maker in 2012 to help establish MakerGen, making it possible for up-and-coming talent to join the network. In 2014 she founded the talent team for Maker’s international office, and has since worked with top web artists such as PewDiePie.

Mike Fly
Mike has been producing and directing for the web for over 10 years on a variety of projects: corporate campaigns, branded content, web series and shorts. He has worked across the web and TV on many successful projects, and also produced and directed the feature length documentary “David Shepherd: A Lifetime of Improvisational Theatre”.

Peter Gerard
Peter founded and ran Accidental Media for 10 years, producing and directing a range of documentaries, music videos, and short films. In 2010, Peter founded Distify to pioneer “direct-to-fan” digital film sales. In 2014, Peter moved to New York to join the team at Vimeo as Director of Audience Development and Content Operations.

Richard Davidson-Houston
Richard is responsible for the All 4 “channel” and for the commissioning of digital content at Channel 4. Richard joined Channel 4 in 2007 and was appointed to Head of Channel 4 Online in 2010. Prior to joining Channel 4, Richard was with Microsoft’s Online Group for five years in a variety of creative and commercial roles.

Robert Franke
Robert is a content acquisition & media business executive with over a decade of extensive experience in all facets of media. His expertise includes acquisition strategies, production & marketing and licensing from both sides of the negotiation table. Robert has experience in all forms of digital content as well as of creating, coordinating and distributing fictional and nonfictional programs.

Rose Adkins
Rose has worked in senior executive positions at The Hollywood Reporter, Sundance Institute and Universal Pictures. After Universal Pictures, she oversaw all foreign distribution for Ralph Farquhar. Since 2008, she launched her own production and distribution company, TAG, and most recently ScreenHits. Rose is responsible for the vision, direction, business development and daily management of ScreenHits.

Sam Barcroft
Sam is CEO of hybrid independent TV and digital content producer / distributor Barcroft Media, creating news stories 24/7 and providing the catalyst for Barcroft Productions’ factual programming output for international broadcast channels. The business also comprises world-leading YouTube channels Barcroft TV, Barcroft Cars and Bear Grylls Adventure, which have attracted billions of views and one million YouTube subscribers.

Sam Delaney
Sam is the is a producer, and is formerly the editor in chief of Comedy Central. Sam has been a broadcaster and journalist for the past seventeen years. His writing appears in The Guardian and The Telegraph and he has previously written for everyone from the NME to The Big Issue. He was editor in chief of Heat magazine from 2009 to 2011 and has written two books, with a third on the way.

Steve Turney
Steve has over 15 years of experience in the television distribution industry gained from working for companies such as Goldcrest, Polygram and 20th Century Fox. Since 2011 he has held the position of VP of Sales and Acquisitions at Power Entertainment. He has had the privilege of licensing some of the worlds most renowned TV content including ‘24’, ‘Bones’ and ‘The Simpsons’.

Tina Cesa Ward
Tina jumped into the web world in 2008 and for three seasons was the Executive producer/writer/director of one of the web’s first hit indie drama series, ‘Anyone But Me’. In 2012 Tina (along with Susan Miller) took home an International Academy of Web TV award for Best Writing (Drama), and in 2013 she won it for Best Directing (Drama).

Triona Campbell
Triona is a three-time Emmy nominated producer of numerous transmedia, film and TV projects and a director of beActive. Recent credits include ‘Sofia’s Diary’ (Sony Pictures), ‘Beat Girl’ (for Pinterest) and ‘Girl Heart Boy’ (Penguin Publishing UK). In 2009 she was nominated for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the year awards and was made an Ambassador for female entrepreneurs by the EU.
Accounting for independent film
and proud supporters of the Raindance festival

WEB FEST SCREENINGS

Raindance presents the best of the best from the wonderful world wide web.
**Web Fest 1: Sketch It Out**

Friday 25th September At 12:00

**The Katering Show**

The journey of a food intolerant, and an intolerable foodie.

**Croissant Man**

A depressed croissant searches for meaning in the superficial world of bourgeois pastries.

**SketchPack**

Country: UK  Creator: Christopher Rithin, Jay Oliver Yip, Rebecca Jade Hammond  Writer: Alex Brammer, Chris Knight, Christopher Rithin  Director: Jay Oliver Yip, Rebecca Jade Hammond, Alex Brammer, Barnaby Hatch  Cast: Barnaby Hatch, Chris Knight, Siusee Hung

Nineteen talented writers, directors and actors have banded together to bring you comedy sketches of everything, from satire to surreal!

**Artistically Challenged**

Country: USA  Creator/Writer/Director: Aleks Arcabascio, Jeremy Boros, Michael Delmara  Cast: Jeremy Boros, Mary McCann, Cayleb Long

Nick Romaine, a flailing painter in NYC, is sent on a wild adventure when a tiny lie launches him into overnight celebrity.

**The Away Mission**

Country: UK  Creator/Writer: Jamie McKeller, James Rotchell  Director: Jamie McKeller  Cast: James Rotchell, Dan Hardy

RedShirt One and Two are stranded when the shuttle craft they were on for a routine Away Mission departs without them...

**BIGSHOT**

Country: France  Writer/Director: Maurice Huvelin

Little actors with caustic humour cross the greatest cinema sets and face tough enemies, absurd monsters and evervictorious animals.

**The Collection of F*cked Up Stories from Around the World**

Country: USA  Creator/Writer/Director: Sammy Wong  Cast: Alex Wilt, Govorg Harutyunyan

A series of really short films with a dash of F*cked up.

**Combs**

Country: Australia  Creator/Writer: Matt Kamen, Tom Noakes, Will Goodfellow  Cast: Justin Smith, Dave Eastgate

Corn Cobs charts the mental and manicural exploits of Terry and Patrick, coworkers and best buds, as they wile away the hours in their lacklustre food truck.

**Life In Your Social Network Presented by Heard**

Country: USA  Creator: Hunter Davis, Ben Goodman  Writer/Director: Hunter Davis  Cast: Gilbert Gottfried, Steve Olson, Alex Hooper

Frustrated social media users are forced to navigate a world where their social networks have become their reality.

**Meet The LadyBugs**

Country: USA  Creator: Dorothy Wallace  Writer: Dorothy Wallace  Director: Dorothy Wallace  Cast: Dorothy Wallace, Lani Minella, Eric Gusky

A cross between South Park and School House Rock, this animated comedy uses music to raise awareness about serious issues affecting kids.

**Vageniuses**

Country: USA  Creator: Raleigh Jackson Jones, Jamie Lou Moniz  Writer: Raleigh Jackson Jones, Jamie Lou Moniz  Director: America Young  Cast: Raleigh Jackson Jones, Jamie Lou Moniz, Rebecca Egender

Barb and Tracy, two thirty-somethings in account management, enjoy a typical day in the Vagenius universe, a magical land of female sexual entitlement and lady douchebaggery.
Friday 25th September At 15:20

**Web Fest 2: Fantastical Tales**

**Morganville**
*Country* USA  
*Creator* Rachel Caine  
*Writer* Rachel Caine  
*Director* Blake Calhoun  
*Cast* Amber Benson, Robert Picardo, Linsday Seidel  
*Website* morganvilletheseries.com

Claire Danvers has no reason to suspect choosing Texas Prairie University, the isolated town's college, will be dangerous until she's forced off campus and stumbles into a secret: Morganville's owned by vampires.

**The Paradox Series**
*Country* UK  
*Creator* James O'Shea, Jonathan Moyies  
*Writer* Jonathan Moyies, James O'Shea  
*Director* James O'Shea  
*Cast* Canice Bannon, Steve Watts, Georgina Blackledge  
*Website* theparadoxseries.com

The Paradox Series is a feature-length online film series. A gripping character drama exploring the creation of time-travel technology in the modern age.

**Phoenix Run**
*Country* USA  
*Creator* TJ Walker  
*Writer* Will Strode  
*Director* TJ Walker, Rick Walters  
*Cast* Connor Marx, Juliane Christie, John Paulsen  
*Website* phoenixrunseries.com

In a dystopian future where everyone is infected with a deadly virus, a street-smart smuggler, Marky, is on the run from a crooked super hero and his infected henchmen.

**Project-M**
*Country* Canada  
*Creator* Julien Deschamps Jolin, Eric Piccoli, Mario J. Ramos  
*Writer* Julien Deschamps, Eric Piccoli, Mario J. Ramos  
*Director* Eric Piccoli  
*Cast* Jean-Nicolas Verreault, Julie Perreault, Julien Deschamps Jolin  
*Website* babelfilms.com

Four astronauts have to stay 1000 days in a space station. The experience goes well until something happens on earth.

**Stricken**
*Country* Canada  
*Creator* Eron Carruth  
*Writer* Elecia Chrunik, Eron Carruth  
*Director* Eron Carruth  
*Cast* David Lloyd, Tirra Dent, Wayne Wiers  
*Website* strickenseries.com

When a deadly contagion begins transforming the population into ravenous monsters, the remaining survivors' humanity is tested.

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**MALICE: Metamorphosis**

*Alice struggles to discern the meaning of her dark dreams of an epic medieval battle and the armored specter of her dead father.*

**Title** MALICE: Metamorphosis  
*Country* USA  
*Creator* Philip Cook  
*Writer* Philip Cook  
*Director* Philip Cook  
*Cast* Brittany Martz, Nora Palka, Mark Hyde  
*Website* eaglefilms.com/Malice/Malice_Meta_Vids.htm

**Nikola Tesla and the End of the World**

*Two brilliant scientists. A slightly unhinged enemy from the future.*

**Title** Nikola Tesla and the End of the World  
*Country* UK  
*Creator* Ian Strang  
*Writer* Ian Strang  
*Director* Ian Strang  
*Cast* Gillian MacGregor, Paul O’Neill, Ben Keenan  
*Website* teslaseries.net
Friday 25th September at 18:30

**Web Fest 3: Modern Life**

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**The Banks**
Country: Canada  
Creator: Adam Kosh  
Writer: Adam Kosh, Ariane Bessette  
Director: Adam Kosh  
Cast: Xavier Huard, Olivier Gervais-Courchesne, Alexandria Cyr  
W: lesberges.tv

Four friends are stranded on a remote, uninhabited island after Jonathan, in a show of bravado, pitches the key of their boat into the river.

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**Flat3**
Country: New Zealand  
Creator: Jessica Fong, Perlina Lau, Ally Xue  
Writer: Roseanne Liang, Simon Ward  
Director: Roseanne Liang, Johnny Barker  
Cast: Jessica Fong, Perlina Lau, Ally Xue  
W: flat3webseries.com

Flat3 follows Kiwi-Asian flatmates Lee, Jessica and Perlina as they try to figure out who they are, what they’re doing in this life, and whose turn it is to buy toilet paper.

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**Jezabel**
Country: France  
Creator: Julien Capron, Julien Bittner, Eric Pellegrin, Rémy Reboulet  
Writer: Julien Capron  
Director: Julien Bittner  
Cast: Héléne Kuhn, Léon Garel, Sophie Broustal  
W: bridges.fr

Jezabel is not your average rock’n’roll musician: she’s mute. Until the day a music label offers her more than a record deal, an opportunity to make her voice heard.

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**Pairings**
Country: USA  
Creator: Ed Robinson, Jodie Younse  
Writer: Ed Robinson  
Director: Rick Robinson  
Cast: Ed Robinson, Nebula Gu, Nathan Mobley, Shannon Nelson  
W: PairingsTheSeries.com


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**Perfect Girl**
Country: Singapore  
Creator: BananaMana Films  
Writer: Jason Chan  
Director: Jason Chan, Christian Lee  
Cast: Jason Chan, Khaleela Hisham, Christian Lee  
W: PerfectGirlSeries.com

A coming of age romance for anyone who’s ever had a crush.

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**Burning Wishes**
Country: Ireland  
Writer: Cian McGarrigle  
Director: Vincent Gallagher  
Cast: Mark Doherty, Colum McDonnell, Barry Murphy  
W: facebook.com/pages/Burning-Wishes/1534390476812238

Burning Wishes is a black comedy about death, friendship and good ol’ fashioned grave-robbing.

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**#Hashtag Series**
Country: USA  
Creator: Laura Zak, Caitlin Berg, Christin Baker  
Writer: Caitlin Bergh, Laura Zak  
Director: Christin Baker, Jessica King  
Cast: Laura Zak, Caitlin Bergh, Marnie Alton  
W: tellofilms.com

Friend. Follow. Like. Fall. Friends Liv & Skylar try to reconcile the impulse to overshare with a chance at true connection.

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**EastSiders**
Country: USA  
Creator: Kit Williamson  
Writer: Kit Williamson  
Director: Kit Williamson  
Cast: Vanilla, Kit Williamson, John Halbach  
W: eastsiderstheseries.com

EastSiders is a dark comedy about a gay couple living in Silver Lake, and the sad and funny messes we make out of our lives.
WEB FEST SCREENINGS
Web Fest 4: Life Stories
Saturday 26th September At 12:00

Life's Work
Life’s Work is a series of short documentaries that follows the stories of six master makers, exploring their craft, their process, and ultimately their lives.

Tales From Tinder
Part documentary, part comedy, part “puppet reality-TV”, Tales From Tinder features a cast of furry, fearless, flamboyant puppets who reenact Tinder dates from around the world.

Saturday 26th September At 12:00

Web Fest 4: Life Stories

1000 Londoners
Country: UK  
Director: Mark Currie, Rachel Wang  
Cast: Hyacinth, John and Victoria  
W 1000londoners.com

1000 Londoners is a unique digital portrait of our city through 3 minute profile documentaries of different Londoners.

Street Cuts
Country: USA  
Creator: Michelle Nash  
Writer: Michelle Nash  
Director: Michelle Nash  
Cast: Marc Bustos  
W fusion.net

Street Cuts follows Mark Bustos, New York City hair stylist to the stars, as he hits the streets of South Beach to meet, explore the lives of, and give a free haircut to the homeless.

History Bombs
Country: UK  
Creator: Chris Hobbs  
Writer: Chris Hobbs  
Director: Chris Hobbs, Ellie Rogers  
Cast: Tom Tokley, Jackson Davies, Peter Ward  
W historybombs.com

History Bombs Series One takes the viewer on an explosive ‘one take’ tour through an ambitious range of topics, from Stonehenge to World War I.

1 Minute Meal
Country: USA  
Director: James Boo  
W oneminutemealfilms.com

1 Minute Meal is an award-winning micro documentary series about the people, places, and communities of New York food.

New York Close Up
Country: USA  
Creator: Wesley Miller & Nick Ravich  
Director: Nick Ravich, Rafael Salazar, Ava Wiland  
Cast: Bryan Zanisnik, Bob Zanisnik, Carol Zanisnik  
W art21.org/newyorkcloseup

New York Close Up is ART21’s documentary film series devoted to artists in the first decade of their professional careers, living and working in New York City.

In The Weeds
Country: Canada  
Creator: Abby Ainsworth  
Writer: Abby Ainsworth, Lindsay Kutner  
Director: Abby Ainsworth  
Cast: Nicholas Stark, Basilio Pesce, Leah Mucci  
W intheweedstv.com

A group of talented Canadian chefs learn from foraging experts how to hunt for a specific ingredient, then cook it in a delicious meal.

The Golden Age of Piracy
Country: Australia  
Creator: Tim Stone  
Director: Tim Stone  
Cast: Derek De Vreught, Cory Doctorow, Beau Willimon  
W abc.net.au/arts/Golden-Age-of-Piracy

An exploration of the evolution, motivation and attitudes behind Australia’s high rates of piracy and the slow demise of the cultural institution that is the local video store.
Til Death
Til Death is both controversial and comedic in telling the story of two neighbours, united over their love for killing members of the local community.

Young Couple
After failed starter marriages, Nic and Chris struggle to connect when Nic's ex-husband, Mike, appears to rekindle their college band.
Ex-Model
The story of a girl who started off under the spotlight, but who ended up under a mountain of problems.

Manic Pixie Dream Wife
A programmer wants a simple marriage, but his bride is turning his life upside down. His story unfolds to a new perspective: the manic pixie's.

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The story of a girl who started off under the spotlight, but who ended up under a mountain of problems.

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WEB FEST SCREENINGS
Web Fest Programme 7
Sunday 27th September at 15:45

WEB FEST SCREENINGS
Web Fest 7: Spirit of Adventure
Sunday 27th September at 15:45

Wireless
A disgraced police officer is partnered with a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence. Together, they navigate a city rife with corruption.

CTRL
Country: Ireland
Creator: Matthew Roche
Writer: Matthew Roche
Director: Brian Deane
Cast: Fionn Walton, Elva Trill, Nick Lee
W: facebook.com/storylandctrl
A brilliant young hacker must prove himself to an elite hacktivist group in order to gain their trust and help secure his freedom.

The First Musketeer
Country: UK
Creator: Harriet Sams
Writer: Harriet Sams
Director: Harriet Sams
Cast: Edward Mitchell, Sean Knopp, Nicole O’Neill
W: youtube.com/TheFirstMusketeerWeb
This prequel to The Three Musketeers follows Athos as he meets the men who will grow to become the heroes we know and love.

Guidestones: Sunflower Noir
Country: Canada
Creator: Jay Ferguson
Writer: Jay Ferguson, Jeremy Diamond
Director: Jay Ferguson
Cast: Supinder Wraich, Arnaud Binard, Fabrizio Filippo
W: guidestones.org
An interactive thriller that follows Sandy Rai as she runs from her past and a global organization intent on culling the human population by whatever means necessary.

Lost & Found
Country: USA
Creator: Brett Register
Writer: Brett Register
Director: Brett Register
Cast: Craig Frank, Katy Stoll, Hayley Mancini
A strange deck of cards leads to a series of compounding mysteries for two roommates and their neighbours.

Year of Spies
Armed and very dangerous, an elite collection of secret agents must track down and eliminate deadly threats over the course of twelve months.

Neighbours VS Zombies
Country: Australia
Creator: Ric Forster, Louna Maroun
Writer: Ric Forster, Louna Maroun
Director: Ric Forster, Louna Maroun
Cast: Alan Fletcher, Stefan Dennis, Louna Maroun
W: youtube.com/neighbours
A 5 part halloween-themed web series exploring what might happen if killed-off ‘Neighbours’ characters returned from the dead and attacked Ramsay Street.

Rapt
Country: Ireland
Creator: Devin John Doyle
Writer: Devin John Doyle
Director: Kieron J. Walsh
Cast: Sarah-Jane Seymour, Marie Ruane, Ciardan McMenamin
W: blindersfilms.com/rapt/
When everyone vanishes in an instant, paramedic Angela is left entirely alone. Then she starts to receive mysterious messages.

Wireless
Title: Wireless
Country: UK
Creator: Andrew Lee Potts, Alex Moss
Writer: Alex Moss
Director: Andrew Lee Potts
Cast: Andrew Lee Potts, Lucy Brown, Joseph Millson
W: wirelessweb.london

Year of Spies
Title: Year of Spies
Country: UK
Creator/Writer: Chris Stone, Stephanie Stone
Director: Chris Stone
Cast: Garry Graham Smith, Charles O’Neill, Alex Harding
W: yearofspies.com
## WEB FEST SCREENINGS

**Web Fest 8: Let’s Do Funny**
Sunday 27th September At 18:50

### 8 Acre
**Country:** UK  
**Creator:** John Michael Howard  
**Writer/Director:** Ed Kear  
**Cast:** Ed Kear, Michael Wagg, Laura Aikman  
**W:** quipstar.tv

**Title:** Blowing the Budget  
**Country:** UK  
**Creator/Director:** Ed Kear  
**Writer:** Ed Kear  
**Cast:** Ed Kear, Michael Wagg, Laura Aikman  
**W:** quipstar.tv

**Title:** De Pontis  
**Country:** Spain  
**Creator/Director:** Juan Rodrigo, Pedro Rodrigo  
**Cast:** Álvaro Márquez, Ricardo Pérez, Maloy Borrego  
**W:** depontis.com

**Title:** BE: Bettina & Elaine  
**Country:** USA  
**Creator:** Kristina Mueller, Calaine Schafer  
**Writer/Director:** Laura Archer, Philip Rossi, Lizzi Albert  
**Cast:** Kristina Mueller, Calaine Schafer  
**W:** betheseries.com

**Title:** Career Boy  
**Country:** UK  
**Creator:** Izzy Tennyson, Scott Hurran  
**Writer/Director:** Scott Hurran  
**Cast:** Izzy Tennyson, Scott Hurran, Ewen MacIntosh  

**Title:** I’m Harry Clark  
**Country:** USA  
**Creator:** Mickey Blaine  
**Writer/Director:** Mickey Blaine  
**Cast:** Mickey Blaine, Lily Rains, Nicole Blaine  
**W:** youtube.com/ImHarryClark

**Title:** My Wife is a Pastor  
**Country:** Switzerland  
**Creator/Director:** Victor Costa  
**Writer:** Victor Costa, Carolina Costa  
**Cast:** Victor Costa, Carolina Costa, Marc Aeschbacher  
**W:** mafemmeestpasteure.ch

**Title:** mychonny moves in  
**Country:** Australia  
**Creator:** John Luc  
**Writer/Director:** Kate Woods  
**Cast:** John Luc, Tien Tran, Millie Samuels  
**W:** suckerthemovie.net/mychonny.php

**Title:** Redheads Anonymous  
**Country:** USA  
**Creator:** Elisabeth Ness  
**Writer/Director:** Daniel Seth  
**Cast:** Elisabeth Ness, Ethan Slater, Juliet Brett, Kathleen Littlefield  
**W:** redheadsanonymous.com

**Title:** Two Guys One Truck  
**Country:** USA  
**Creator:** Danny Herb, Nick Reinhardt, Kenton Remmey  
**Writer:** Danny Herb, Nick Reinhardt, Kenton Remmey  
**Cast:** Nick Reinhardt, Kenton Remmey, Lily Anne Harrison, Rhys McArthur  
**W:** twoguysonetruckshow.com

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Comedian Ed Kear has been approached by comedy channel Quipstar to produce a web series. He’s given total freedom with the budget - something Quipstar will regret.

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Arrogant and amoral Petronio is the new centurion of the “De Pontis” bridge garrison, imposing his personal understanding of the law to anyone within reach.

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WEB FEST EVENTS

Join our panels & workshops with experts from the web’s top creative companies.
Raindance Web Fest 2015 Speakers

Christin Baker - Tello Film
David Ripert - YouTube
Stefano Caccavo - DailyMotion
Alex Morris - Barcroft Media
Emma Smithwick - 40 Partners
Joe McDermottroe - Victorious
Tanya Laird - Digital Jam
Alexander Lewin - Maker Studios
Rose Adkins - Screen Hits
Christopher Bingham - Reboot The People
Carter Mason - Just The Story
Jesse Cleverly - Wild Seed Studios
Kathleen Grace - New Form Digital
Hass Mosa - Endemol Beyond
Jon Aird - BBC Comedy
Murray Grindon - Videojug Networks
KADA Media
Daniels Dilorio - WebVee guide
Thomas 'Tomska' Ridgewell - Creator / Producer
Jared Fryer - Cinema Jam
Brett Snelgrove - BuzzMyVideos
Rochelle Dancel - Bats in Belfries
Lisa Gifford - Screenwriter
Scott Brown - Director

StreaMART

StreaMART is the UK’s new meeting event for up-and-coming online video and web series creators to meet with and learn from invited industry experts.

Our special guests represent video platforms, content distributors, MCNs, commissioners and co-producers. In each StreaMART session, creators will meet with the industry guests for advice, guidance and direction on a different topic. Our intention is to create an industry event for online video creators that doesn’t yet exist in the UK.

Sessions take place at 10:00 until 11:30, from Friday 25th through to Sunday 27th September.

StreaMART is supported by Creative Skillset’s Film Skills Fund, which is funded by the BFI with National Lottery funds, through the Skills Investment Fund.
Mobile Storytelling

With more ways than ever to reach and engage fans, we look at ways that creators can innovatively leverage various platforms and technology to tell their stories, how mobile apps can be used to galvanise individual fans into a global community, and what developments and trends creators and developers alike can expect from each other in future.

Writing Episodic Series

Script editor Hayley McKenzie moderates a panel of television and web series writers on the art of telling stories over the length of a series. What are the key differences between writing for the web and television? What do producers look for in your scripts and pitches?

Sitcom Workshop

‘Friends’, ‘Spaced’, ‘Miranda’: sitcoms are some of our favourite shows, and for writers they can often mean a nice commission and comfortable living. Jared Fryer of Cinema Jam moderates this panel of writers as they discuss the skill of writing comedy: is it enough to be funny?

Web Fest Opening Drinks at Dailymotion UK

Creators in official selection at the 3rd Raindance Web Fest are invited to join us and Dailymotion for drinks to celebrate the opening of Web Fest 2015! The drinks will take place at Dailymotion’s incredibly cool and swanky offices in Shoreditch.
FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

TIME: 10:00-11:30
VENUE: MAYFAIR HOTEL, STRATTON STREET, W1J 8LT

StreamART - Day 1 Industry Guests
Maker Studios, Time Inc., Screen Hits, Victorious, BBC Comedy, Film4 Digital
By application only.

TIME: 13:45-15:00
VENUE: VUE PICCADILLY, 19 REGENT STREET, SW1Y 4LR

Developing Your Distribution Strategy
As more online and mobile platforms appear, your strategy of how, when and where to release your web series now needs more careful planning than ever before. Join us and a panel of distribution experts to discuss what opportunities exist for online creators.

TIME: 16:50-18:05
VENUE: VUE PICCADILLY, 19 REGENT STREET, SW1Y 4LR

Understanding the Commissioning Process
So you’ve made a web series. You’ve managed to clinch a meeting with a big TV exec. They like your idea! But what happens next? Television producer Emma Smithwick (‘Hollyoaks’) moderates this panel discussion on the steps creators need to know after they’ve been commissioned by a TV channel.

TIME: 20:10-21:30
VENUE: VUE PICCADILLY, 19 REGENT STREET, SW1Y 4LR

In Conversation with Tom ‘TomSka’ Ridgewell
With over 4 million subscribers across two channels, TomSka is one of the most well known UK YouTubers. Join us in conversation with him as we try to deconstruct his comedy, his success and his knack for garnering audiences. Moderated by Jamie McKeller of RedShirt Films.
WEB FEST EVENTS
Web Fest Events
saturday 26th september

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

TIME: 10:00-11:30
VENUE: MAYFAIR HOTEL, STRATTON STREET, W1J 8LT
StreaMART - DAY 2
Industry Guests
Film London, YouTube, Door9, ChannelFlip, BuzzMyVideos
By application only.

TIME: 13:45-15:00
VENUE: VUE PICCADILLY, 19 REGENT STREET, SW1Y 4LR
Telling Real Stories
Are you struggling to get money for your narrative web series? That’s because the funding is in factual. The UK has had an explosion in factual online video and series, from VICE to The Guardian to Condé Nast. This panel will inspire you to find and tell true stories through web series and online video.

TIME: 16:50-18:05
VENUE: VUE PICCADILLY, 19 REGENT STREET, SW1Y 4LR
Keynote Address with Kathleen Grace & Funding and Monetisation
Kathleen Grace, Chief Creative Officer at New Form Digital, will give the Raindance Web Fest keynote speech before we dive into a panel on getting funded and getting paid. Who can fund your web series idea? How do you reach them? And, once you’ve made it, how do you make a living off it?

TIME: 20:10-21:30
VENUE: VUE PICCADILLY, 19 REGENT STREET, SW1Y 4LR
Meet the Platforms
There are so many platforms out there to choose from, from passive, upload-and-go ones like YouTube to much more curative, involved organisations. Join us and delegates from platforms such as Dailymotion, JTS.TV and TelloFilms.com to discuss what different platforms look for in web series and how they cultivate relationships with creators.
**WEB FEST EVENTS**

Web Fest Events  
SUNDAY 27th september

### SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

**TIME: 10:00-11:30**  
**VENUE:** MAYFAIR HOTEL, STRATTON STREET, W1J 8LT

**StreaMART - DAY 3**

**Industry Guests**
New Form Digital, JTS TV, Endemol Beyond, WildSeed Studios, Videojug Networks, DailyMotion

By application only.

**TIME: 14:00-15:15**  
**VENUE:** VUE PICCADILLY, 19 REGENT STREET, SW1Y 4LR

**Building and Sustaining an Audience**

Online video lives and dies by its audience. Little-known web series can be catapulted to internet stardom overnight, while popular series can fall out of favour just as easily. Discover how to generate exposure, find your niche and build an audience that will stay with you as you advance your show.

**TIME: 16:50-18:05**  
**VENUE:** VUE PICCADILLY, 19 REGENT STREET, SW1Y 4LR

**Making it on Your Own: Lessons Learned from my First Web Series**

Web series creators discuss how they started off, what they did right and what they did wrong, and what they would change if they had to do it all again. New and prospective web series creators take note! These panellists speak with the wisdom and benefit of hindsight.

**TIME: 20:10-21:30**  
**VENUE:** VUE PICCADILLY, 19 REGENT STREET, SW1Y 4LR

**Raindance Independent Series Awards**

Raindance Web Fest proudly presents the second annual Raindance Independent Series Awards, recognising the very best of online video talent from around the world. Join us on Sunday 27th September to discover the winners and celebrate our dedicated web series creators!

By invitation only.