

LUMINOUS  
FRAMES  
FILM FESTIVAL



SIXTH EDITION

14 - 18 MAY 2024

NPAK

YEREVAN - ARMENIA



LUMINOUS FRAMES

FILMS FESTIVAL

SIXTH EDITION

MAY 2024

# ABOUT

Luminous Frames is an international film and photography festival that is based in Denmark and held annually in one of the three countries of Armenia, Denmark, and Georgia.

The festival officially started in 2019, and after two years of holding the festival with three successful seasons in Denmark, in line with its primary goal of supporting short films around the world by creating more physical screening opportunities, the festival succeeded in expanding the screening of its films in other countries as well.

Armenia and Georgia were home to the fourth and fifth editions of the festival. Now we are proud to announce that the sixth edition of the Luminous Frames Film Festival will be held at NPAK Armenian Center for Contemporary Experimental Art from May 14 to 18, 2024 in Yerevan, Armenia.



# SIXTH EDITION JURY

AN INTERNATIONAL AND MULTICULTURAL TEAM  
WHO SEEKS FOR SPECTACULAR FRAMES



**KIARASH MOTARJEMI**  
Festival Director/Filmmaker



**CLEOLA EAYRS**  
Actress/Lecturer



**ASHRAF SHISHIR**  
Filmmaker/Writer



**REBECCA CHERRY**  
Film Critic/Writer



**HAMIDREZA ZEINALI**  
Festival Manager/Filmmaker



# OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

MAY 2024

# BEST NARRATIVE SHORT

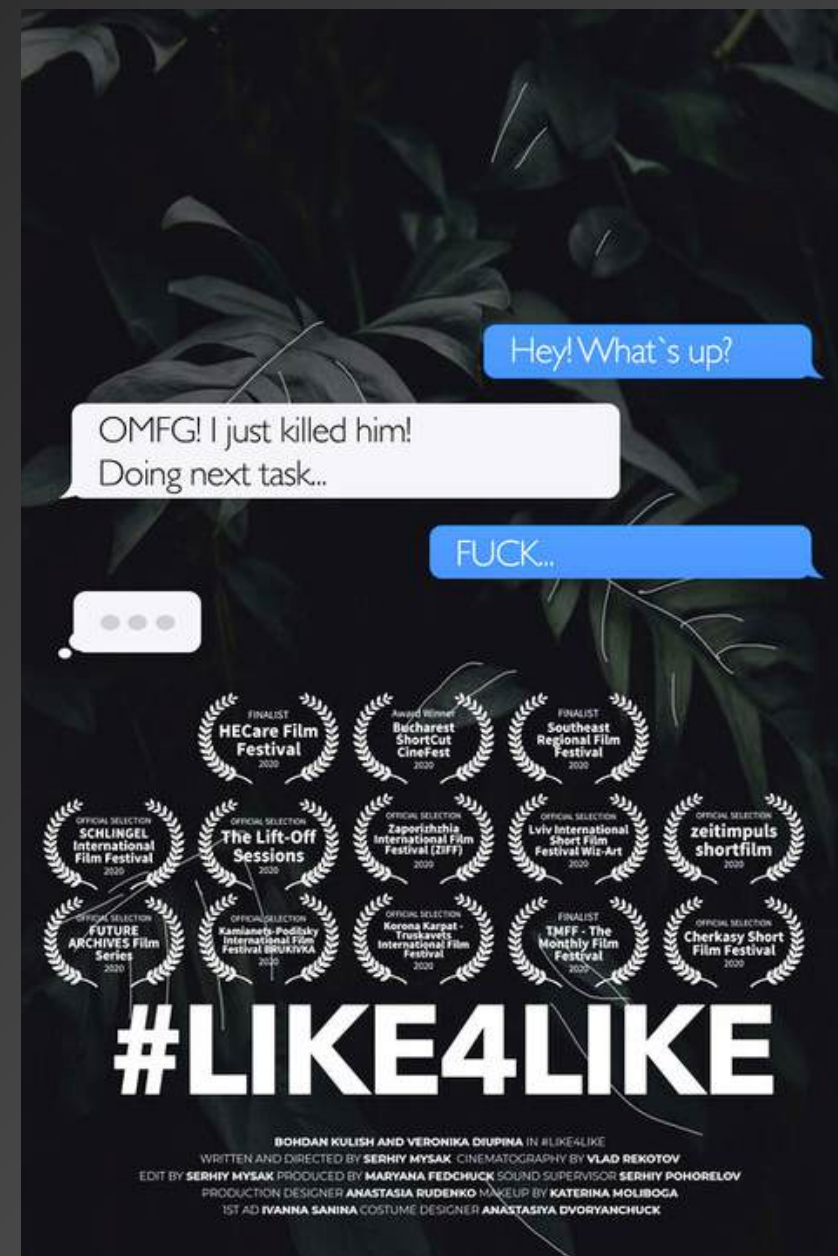
FILMS IN THE COMPETITION



Timur is a blogger obsessed with popularity. To increase the number of his followers, he makes decisions that affect his fate. It's a story about the desire for a better life, loneliness, and obsession with attention.

# #LIKE4LIKE

UKRAINE

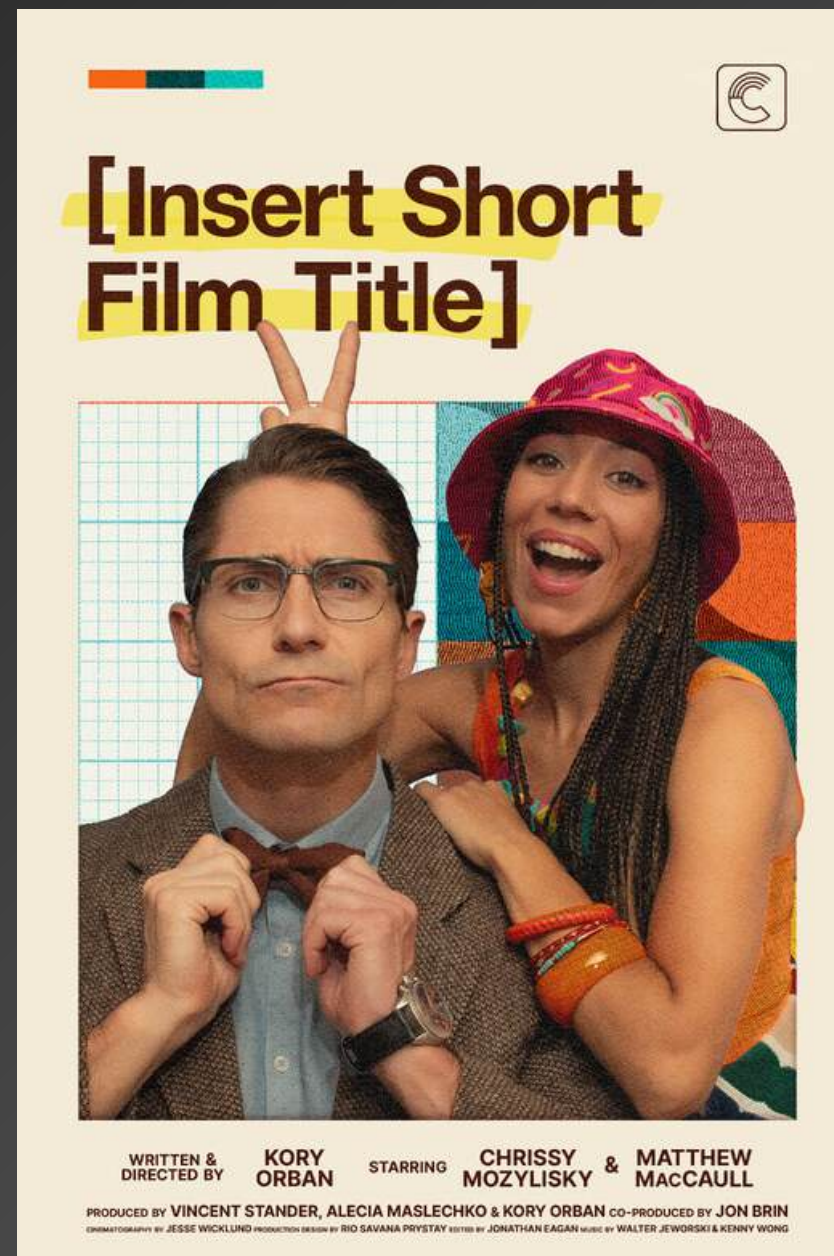


DIRECTED BY  
SERHII MYSAK

In the mind of every filmmaker, there are two wolves locked in an epic, eternal, and fierce battle for control and influence.  
The combatants? The analytical left brain and the whimsical right.

# [INSERT SHORT FILM TITLE]

CANADA



DIRECTED BY  
KORY ORBAN

The elderly woman Mona, loses her husband in a tragic accident. Not at terms with the situation, she holds on her husband's ashes in an urn. Much to the dismay of Henning, her pedantic neighbor.

# ASHBEARER

DENMARK



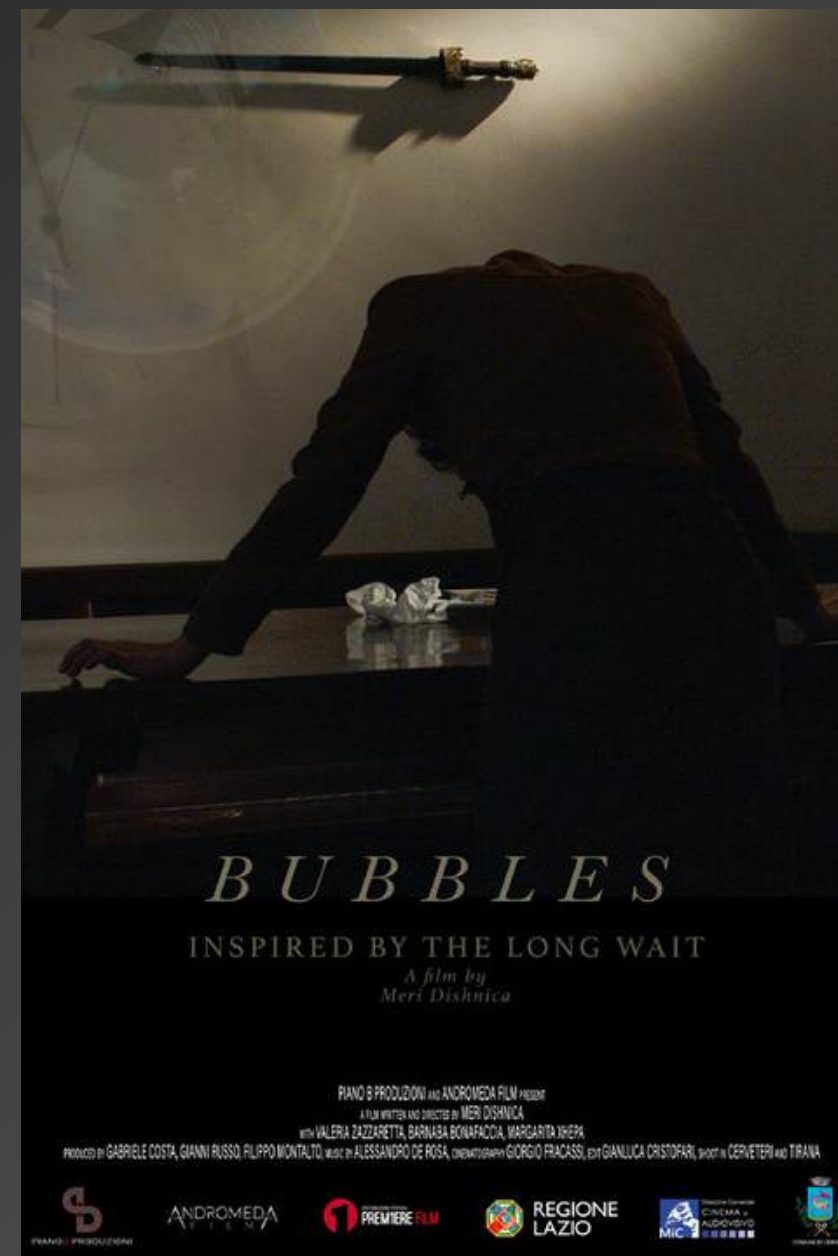
DIRECTED BY  
ALEXANDER RYDING



A forty-year-old woman named SOL, floats in a long-distance relationship bubble. She starts the day waiting for the wake-up call to accurately perform her morning ritual, which seems to be a video call with her longtime boyfriend FRED. He is so far away that the sunrise at Sol's window marks the sunset at his'. They both look weary and on the verge of frustration as they wait to see each other for Christmas— so the story goes, for some bizarre reason, for the two of them to meet requires the crack of Fred's bubble, which never occurs.

# BUBBLES

ITALY

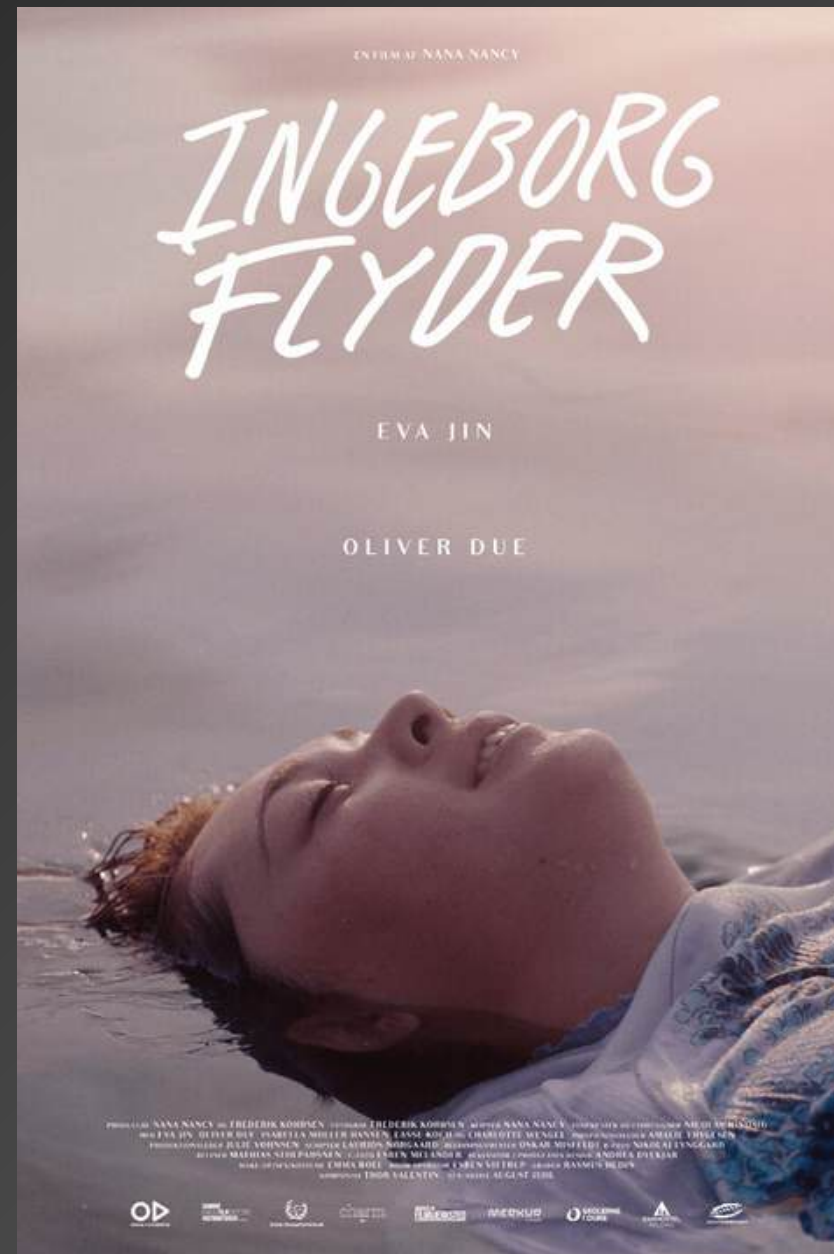


DIRECTED BY  
MERI DISHNICA

Ingeborg(Eva Jin), meets Alfred(Oliver Due), in this magic-realistic story of accepting the loss of a parent.

# FLOATER

DENMARK

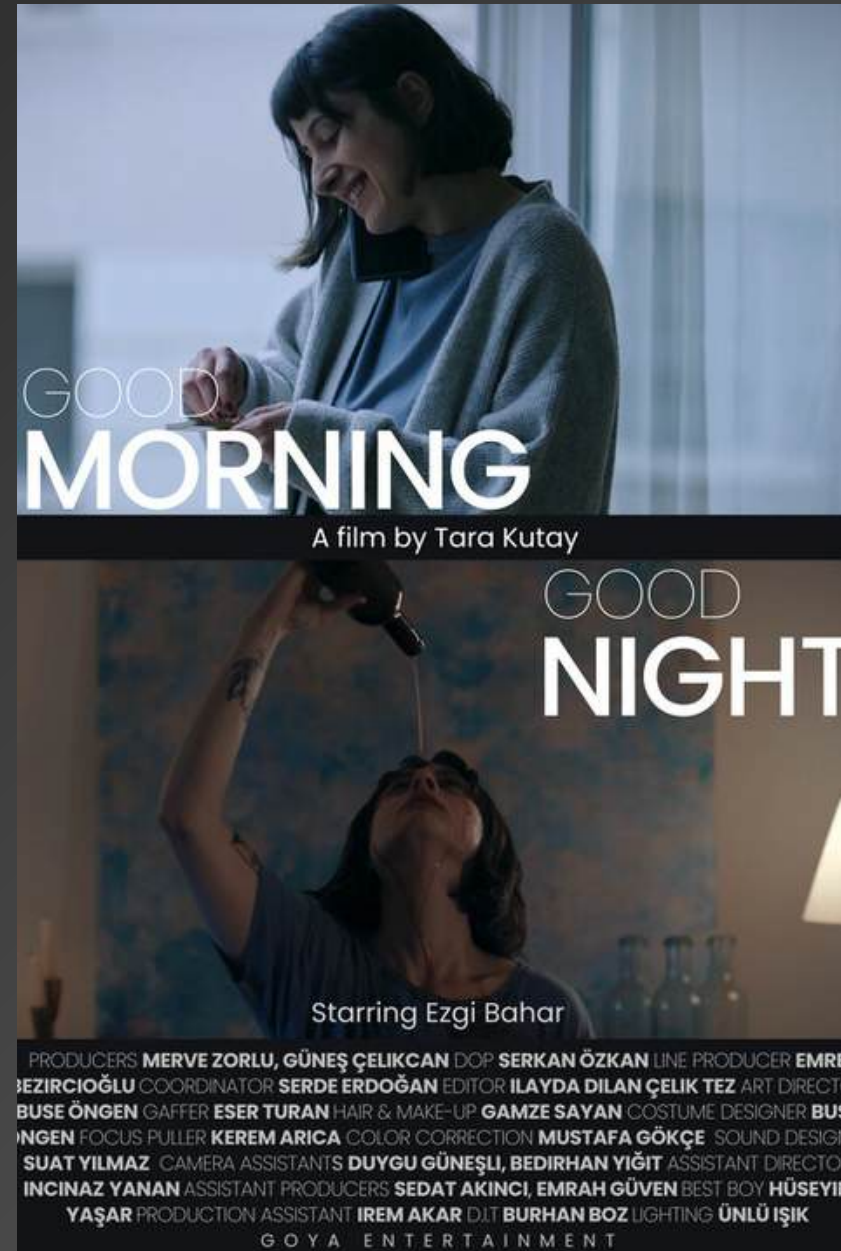


DIRECTED BY  
NANA NANCY

Good Morning, Good Night tells the story of Vera, a young woman who works remotely. Trapped in a battle between her questioning inner thoughts and her non-cooperative behaviours, she finds herself in an unsatisfactory looping routine. While receiving disturbing information from the outside world on a daily basis, she stands on a state of paralysis disabling her to put her reflections upon the events into actions. Following her throughout one of her ordinary days, we are allowed to question how we can break free from repetitive actions while realising that it is okay to have those critical thoughts yet no being able to solve issues as an individual.

# GOOD MORNING, GOOD NIGHT

TURKEY



DIRECTED BY  
TARA KUTAY

"Monday Mourning" delves into the enigmatic journey of Daniel, a man returning home after a long absence under mysterious circumstances. The story begins with a sense of intrigue, as Daniel prepares for a significant day, the nature of which is unknown. This deliberate ambiguity creates a compelling tapestry of unspoken emotions and complex family dynamics.

Throughout the film, the narrative invites exploration into the puzzle of Daniel's life. His interactions with his sister are laden with tension, nostalgia, and unspoken truths. The film captures the essence of a family reuniting, leaving viewers to ponder the reasons behind Daniel's prolonged absence and the nature of the gathering that has brought them together.

# MONDAY MOURNING

USA

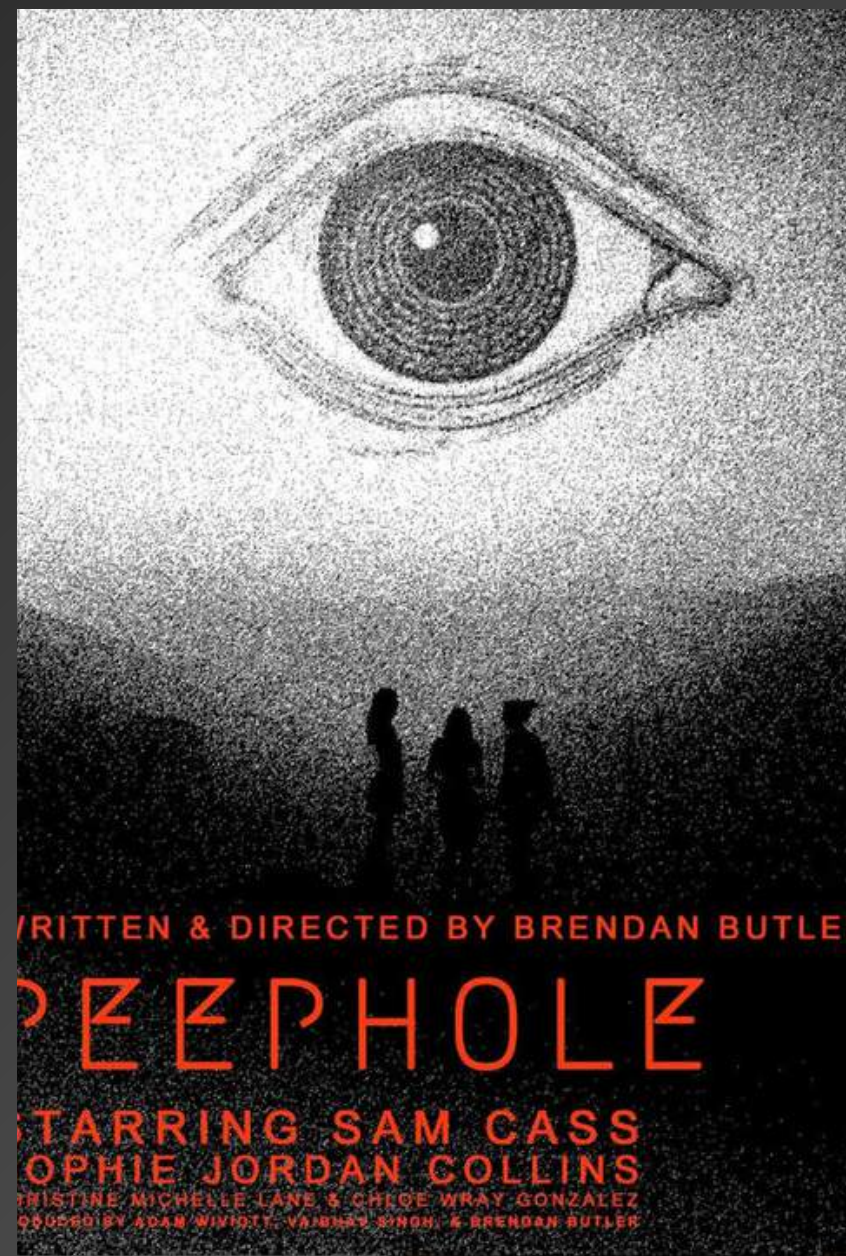


DIRECTED BY  
DUSTIN KAHIA

Stetson, a recovering addict trying to escape his past life, moves into a new apartment where he discovers a hole in his wall allowing him to watch in on his neighbors... who may or may not be watching him...

# PEEPHOLE

USA



DIRECTED BY  
BRENDAN BUTLER

With the help of the slavegirl Gudrun, Sigurd flees from his violent father with her to a distant settlement in hopes of betterment. The years go by and the comfort and serenity of their newfound life now seems threatened by a looming past.

# SAGA

DENMARK



DIRECTED BY  
OLIVER JACOBY

During the massive "Bronze Night" protests in 2007, AIVAR, an Estonian bar owner, stay this property to protect it from looters , when knock on the door changes everything.

A suspicious looking Russian couple , MAKSIM and MARIA, ask Aivar to be let inside. While hesitant at first, Aivar invites the supposedly innocent couple inside, when he sees that Maria has been injured.

Maksim, trying desperately to get on the good side of a cautious Aivar, helps out with securing the bar from the looters while the health of Maria rapidly deteriorates.

# THE BRONZE NIGHT

ESTONIA



DIRECTED BY  
SERGEI BATRAK

A door-to-door pet insurance salesman with a phobia of talking with strangers must make a sale by 5 pm or get fired.

The Life of Lester Wink is about a man who has a phobia of talking to strangers. Clearly not suited for working in sales, it's precisely the job Lester lands because of a family connection. As one would expect of someone with this type of phobia, Lester is failing at work and his boss feels bamboozled. In order to not get fired, he must go door to door selling pet insurance and bring in a sale by 5 pm. Lester fails miserably, that is until his last door, when he meets Sammy the Cat Lady, a widower who is afraid to leave her house. With some encouragement and mutual interest, sparks fly.

# THE LIFE OF LESTER WINK

USA



SONG & PRODUCED BY  
CASSIDY C HARRISON



A couple's daily routine is interrupted by an unexpected threat.

# THE WHITE HORSE

ROMANIA



DIRECTED BY  
GORAN MIHAILOV

# BEST EXPERIMENTAL SHORT

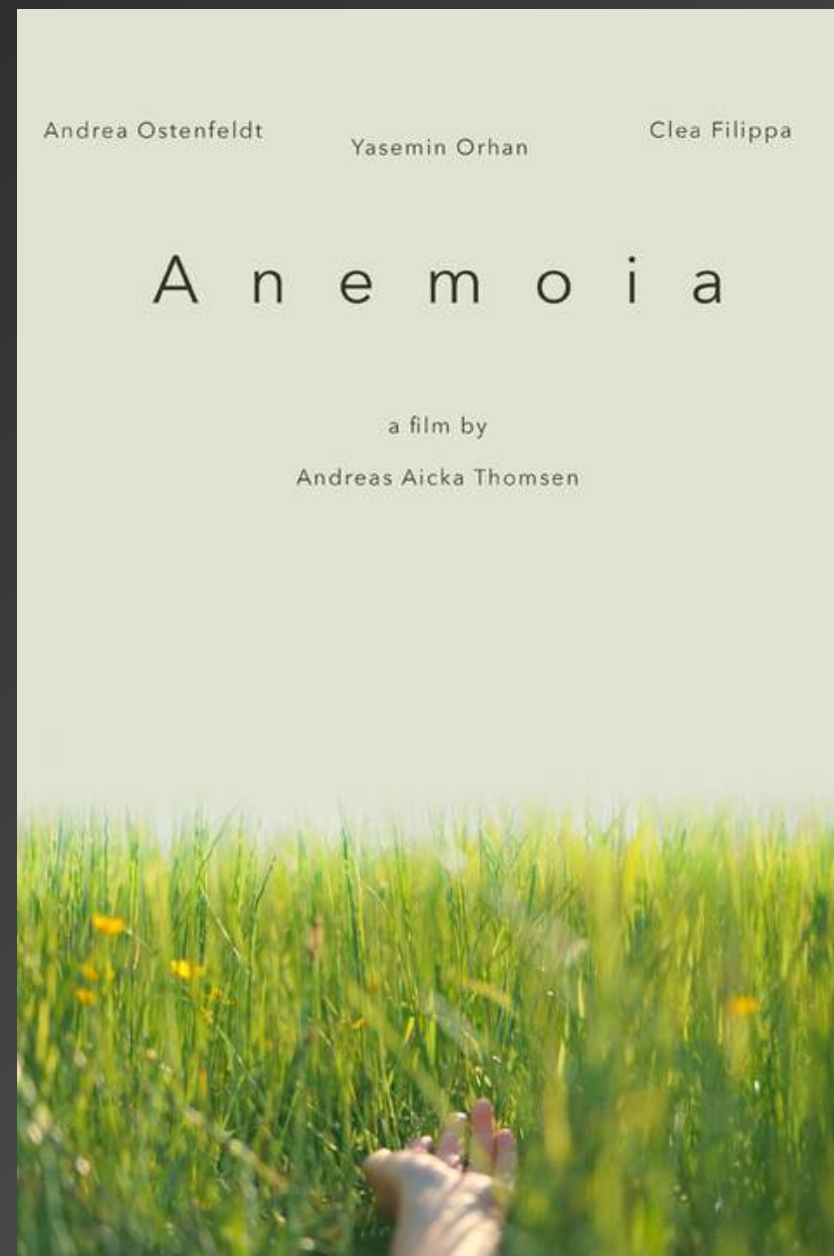
FILMS IN THE COMPETITION



Referring to nostalgia for something one has never experienced, Anemoia follows three characters while they fall in and out of synchronicity, unclear of what lies within reach and what is non-tangible.

# ANEMOIA

DENMARK

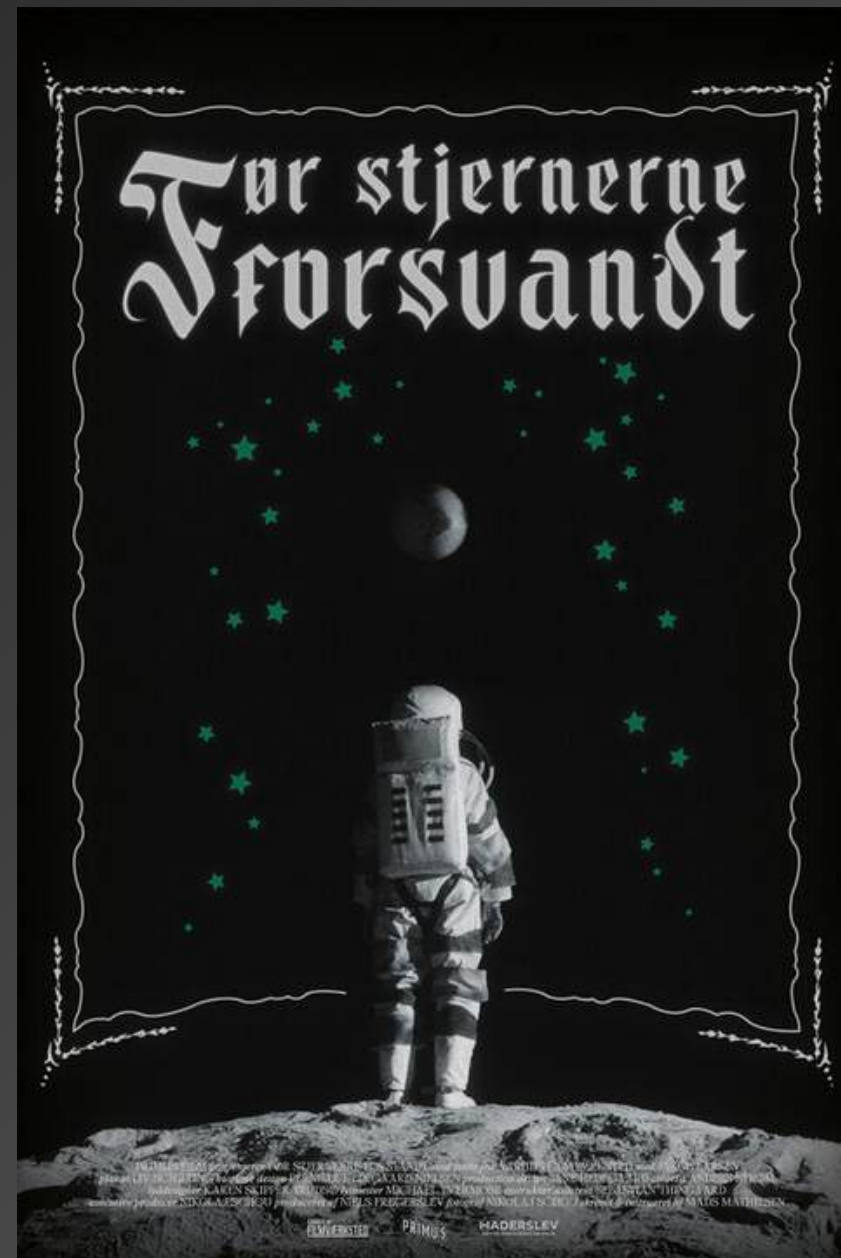


DIRECTED BY  
ANDREAS AICKA THOMSEN

An astronaut must return home to his provincial hometown, having grown tired of the noise of the big city. The astronaut's journey home sends him through a series of nostalgic memories from his childhood, which sharply contrasts his perception of the province - and his origins.

# BEFORE THE STARS FADED

DENMARK

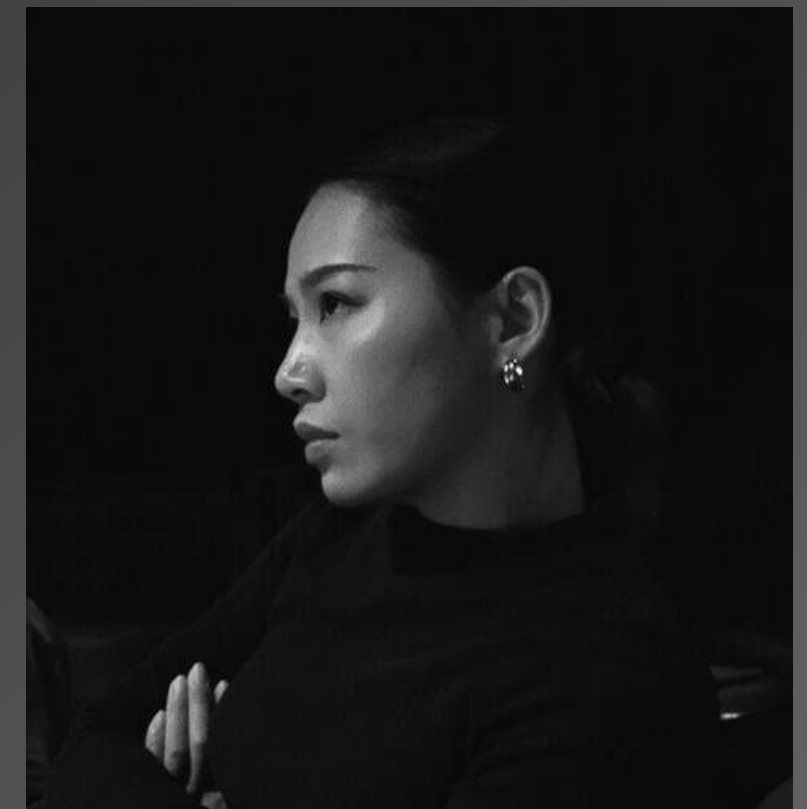


DIRECTED BY  
MADS MATHIESEN

The male protagonist's hallucinated soul tells the story of his violent process as a victim. The goldfish is hidden under the pillow by the little boy, and in the name of love, she cries silently inside the tightly closed door.

# CIRCULATION

CHINA



DIRECTED BY  
YUN YAN ZENG

In the surreal world of First Refusal, we follow the emotional journey of a young girl who grapples with grief, forced to confront the pain of loss head-on.

Burdened by the recent passing of her beloved brother, she is haunted by the memories of their shared past, all within a unique sanctuary of her own design– a memory palace where she has trapped her brother's spirit. Within this ethereal realm, the boundaries of reality blur as she relives cherished moments they once shared.

However, cracks soon appear in her creation, and the line between reality and her memories start to blur. Is she reliving cherished moments or keeping her brother against his will?

# FIRST REFUSAL

USA



DIRECTED BY  
COURTNEY SANELLO

Filmed in various locations throughout New Jersey, Garden State explores the diverse landscapes in which wildlife, development, farming, and industry coexist in the most densely packed state in the union. Thematically concerned with utopian/dystopian ideas about modernist 'progress', the static camera lens observes New Jersey without judgement in order to allow the viewer to draw connections between the visual poetics of the landscape and the overwhelming legacy of human intervention.

# GARDEN STATE

USA



DIRECTED BY  
JULIE LANGSAM

# BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

FILMS IN THE COMPETITION





Dutch textile designer and artist Claudy Jongstra has a passion for the earth and her art. Starting at the source on her sustainable farm in the Netherlands, she uses ancient techniques to create extraordinary woolen textiles in colors you can't imagine.

# ART FELT- CLAUDY JONGSTRA'S WOOLEN WORKS

USA

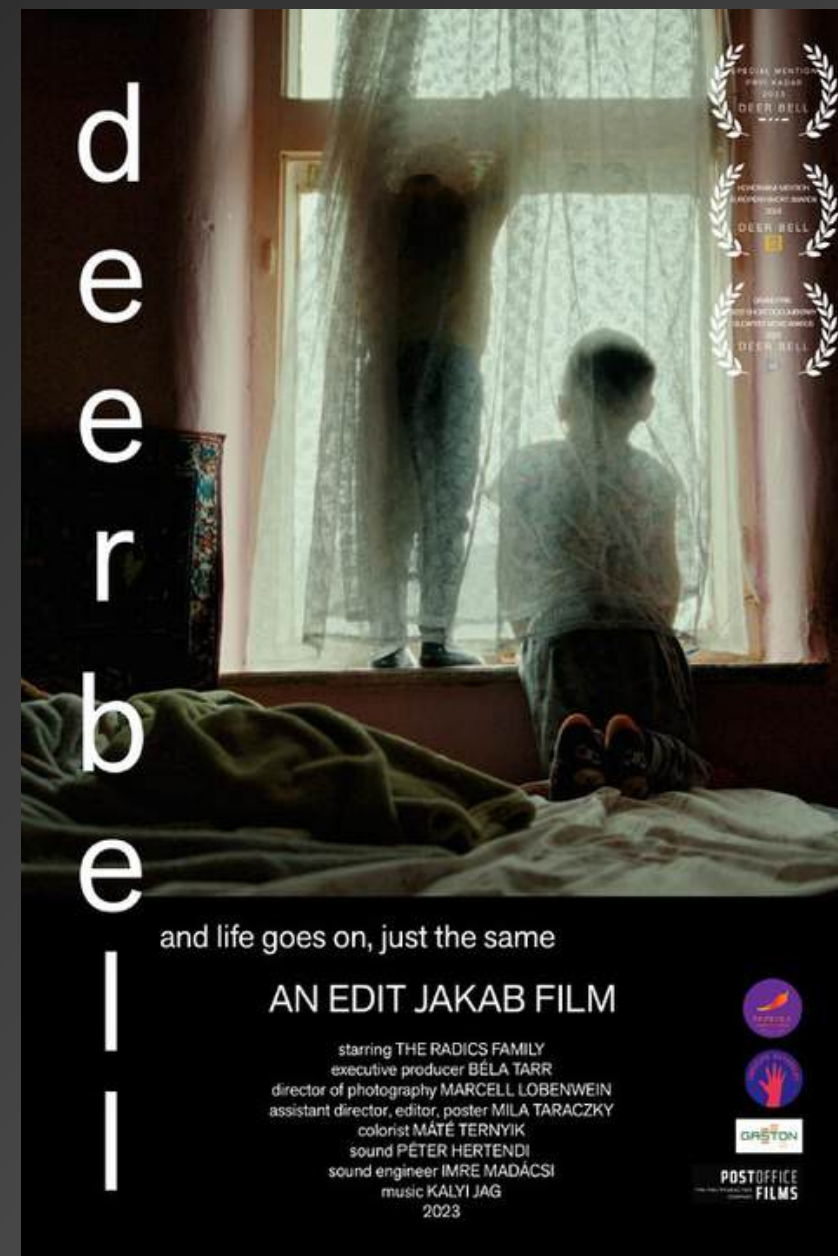


DIRECTED BY  
JILLIAN BUCKLEY

This short doc was made during Béla Tarr's Masterclass under his mentorship. The film follows a day in the life of a Roma family in rural Hungary. It focuses on the children, who are raised by their grandparents. From morning until the sun goes down, and a new day begins. And life goes on, just the same.

# DEER BELL

HUNGARY



DIRECTED BY  
EDIT JAKAB

"Rival" delves into the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on the world of photography. Through candid interviews with global photographers, the documentary unveils the profound shifts in the creative landscape. As AI blurs the lines between human and machine-generated images, "Rival" invites viewers to contemplate on the brave new world of image generation.

# RIVAL

AUSTRALIA



DIRECTED BY  
FRANK OLY

Asifa Bano was only eight years old when she went missing. Abducted from her village, she was drugged, starved, raped, and brutally tortured before eventually being murdered, all in the hopes of chasing her people away from their homeland.

# THE ASIFA BANO STORY

USA

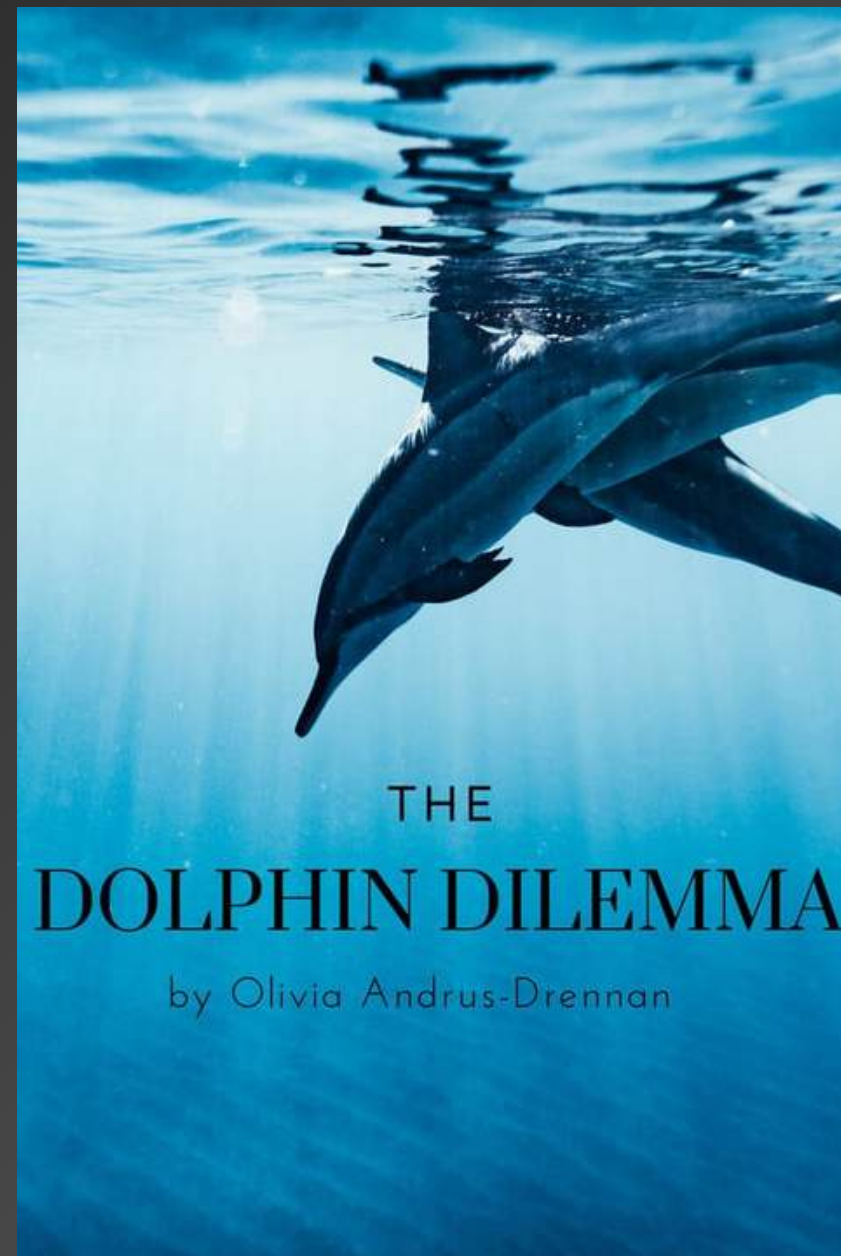


DIRECTED BY  
MINA ISABELLA JAFRIMALIK

Imagine, waking up being covered in third-degree burns, that's what it's like for the Burrunan dolphins in Australia. But why is this happening? That's what Dr. Duignan, Director of Pathology at The Marine Mammal Center, Dr. Stephen's from Murdoch University, and Dr. Robb from the Marine Mammal Foundation had to find out. This film explores this international collaboration that proves for the first time that these lesions being found on cetaceans around the world are only caused by climate change.

# THE DOLPHIN DILEMMA

USA



DIRECTED BY  
OLIVIA ANDRUS-DRENNAN

# BEST ANIMATED SHORT

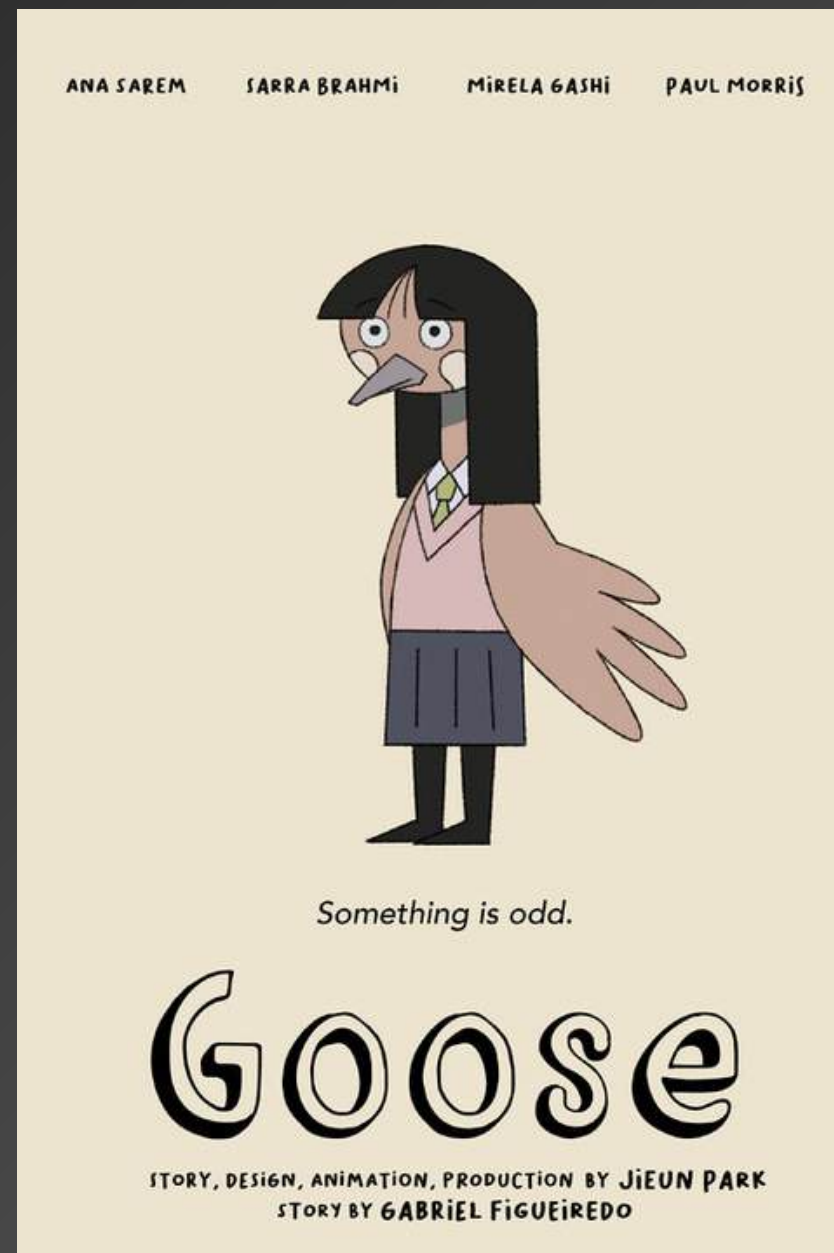
FILMS IN THE COMPETITION



Suzie believed that returning to her community will make herself a true being. This is a story mesmerized by commercial-look visual and satire script motif of The Ugly Duckling and gireogi family.

# GOOSE

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF



DIRECTED BY  
JIEUN PARK

The "NEW IDEA" is a short animated movie about the inner struggle of a creative mind. Pensilio, Loopito, and Lensio are the characters who represent creativity, research, and production, and they are on a journey to find a new idea. Every scene describes a particular obstacle in the developing process stage of the mind. In the final scene, it will be revealed that everything was happening in the head of a teenage girl.

# NEW IDEA

SERBIA



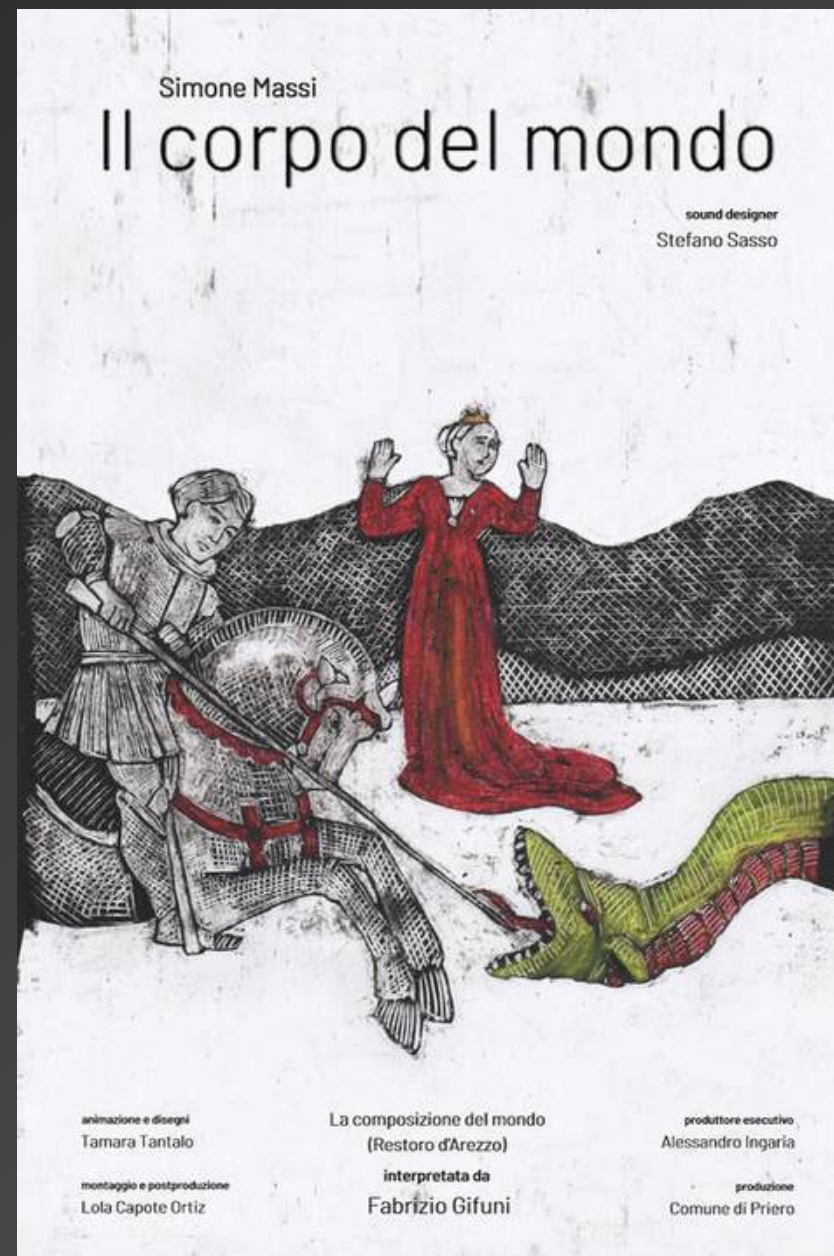
DIRECTED BY  
MARKO BOSANAC



The intellectual soul of man extends from the earth and ascends, in order to comprehend the body of the world, the wondrous substance of the sky.

# THE BODY OF THE WORLD

ITALY



DIRECTED BY  
TONY PHAM

# BEST MUSIC VIDEO

FILMS IN THE COMPETITION



Farvæl is a Faroese song about grief.

We have all felt grief and most of us have lost someone we care about. When it hits, we often get paralyzed and have a hard time functioning. The song "Farvæl" translates the words and the mood of grief into song and with that it communicates what can be so hard to say, when we are faced with a loss. The music video compliments the song and tells the tale of a person going on the journey from the paralyzed state to slowly returning to her everyday life, despite having lost a loved one.

# FARVÆL- GOODBYE

FAROE ISLANDS



DIRECTED BY  
DAWN FLORINDA WALL

Spread across continents like a sonic wildfire, "Funky Grooves THE REMiX" is a global collaboration of epic proportions. Picture this: a dance team tearing up the floor in Asia, while a vocalist with soulful pipes serenades from the charming streets of Portugal. But wait, there's more—enter the dynamic realm of graffiti art in Indonesia, where vibrant colors and bold strokes leap off the walls in a riot of creativity.

# FUNKY GROOVES

USA



DIRECTED BY  
BRIAN BILLIONAIRE

"Slow Down" teleports us to a faraway place.  
The song is a visual experience depicting resilience while on the journey of re-discovering one's self. A battle between light and dark through stunning imagery and dance.  
Slow down, a new day is coming.

# SLOW DOWN

USA



DIRECTED BY  
VANESSA MARZAROLI

# VARIOUS SUB-CATEGORIES

FILMS IN THE COMPETITION



This film is dedicated as a gift to all the children around the world who are about to start school. As you grow, you may encounter dangers, you may come across people or things that harm you, and you may face pivotal decisions on your path in life. To transcend yourself, to overcome yourself. One must move forward with courage, remain calm and composed in the face of difficulties and dangers. Difficulties and dangers are real, but fear is not.

# GLIMMER

CHINA



DIRECTED BY  
BO ZHANG

"In Between", a short film by Anabella Lenzu, exposes the inner dialogue of a woman in her roles as mother and artist. Lenzu shows the struggles, the desires, and the internal contradictions that make visible the vulnerability of the performer.

# IN BETWEEN

USA



DIRECTED BY  
ANABELLA LENZU



A contemporary girl who sees her Dream die with a Victorian ghost...Only to find herself become Truly alive.

# PER ASPERA...

UK



DIRECTED BY  
YUE ZHU

The thirst for money drives a broke man to kidnap a rich young girl in order to get the reward offered by her parents to the rescuers.

# RESCUERS

USA



DIRECTED BY  
ALEXANDRA SAVU

A soon-to-be-dad investigates his father's disappearance.

# THE GATE

DENMARK



DIRECTED BY  
ISTVAN BOVAN

LUMINOUS  
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BEST FRAMES

WINNERS OF THE 5TH EDITION

Roberto and Tommaso, father and son, share a long night road trip, hoping to recover their now-faded relationship.

What they face on the journey itself is, for them, more important than their destination.

# 7 HOURS

ITALY



DIRECTED BY  
VITTORIO AMODEO, GAIA  
CASCELLA

Can a soul come alive without being both haunted and carried by a primal rip that keeps it torn between the irrepressible quest for a certain form of completeness and the equally incoercible feeling of being deprived of it forever?

# DEAD DREAMS FALLING

FRANCE



DIRECTED BY  
CRAIG MURRAY

Erik finds himself in a school and immediately gets a crush on a girl named Ela .

# ERIK

ALBANIA



DIRECTED BY  
DAVID KODHELI

The steel industry once put Luxembourg's economy on its feet. After the industry died out, what remained of it was deserted, colossal buildings and lives scarred by unsafe working conditions. However, for many, these hazardous jobs still represented a daily beacon of hope and financial security. This monumental film stands in the memory of the labor that went on behind four factory walls, documenting in "memento mori" fashion the vanishing world of industrial workers.

# GLIMMER

LUXEMBOURG



DIRECTED BY  
KEN RISCHARD



Mist. Dust. A bowling alley in the crosshair of a thunderstorm. A pregnant woman, a businessman and a widower find shelter in its midst. Pins are knocked down until gloomy moths kindle an outage.

# GUTTER

CANADA

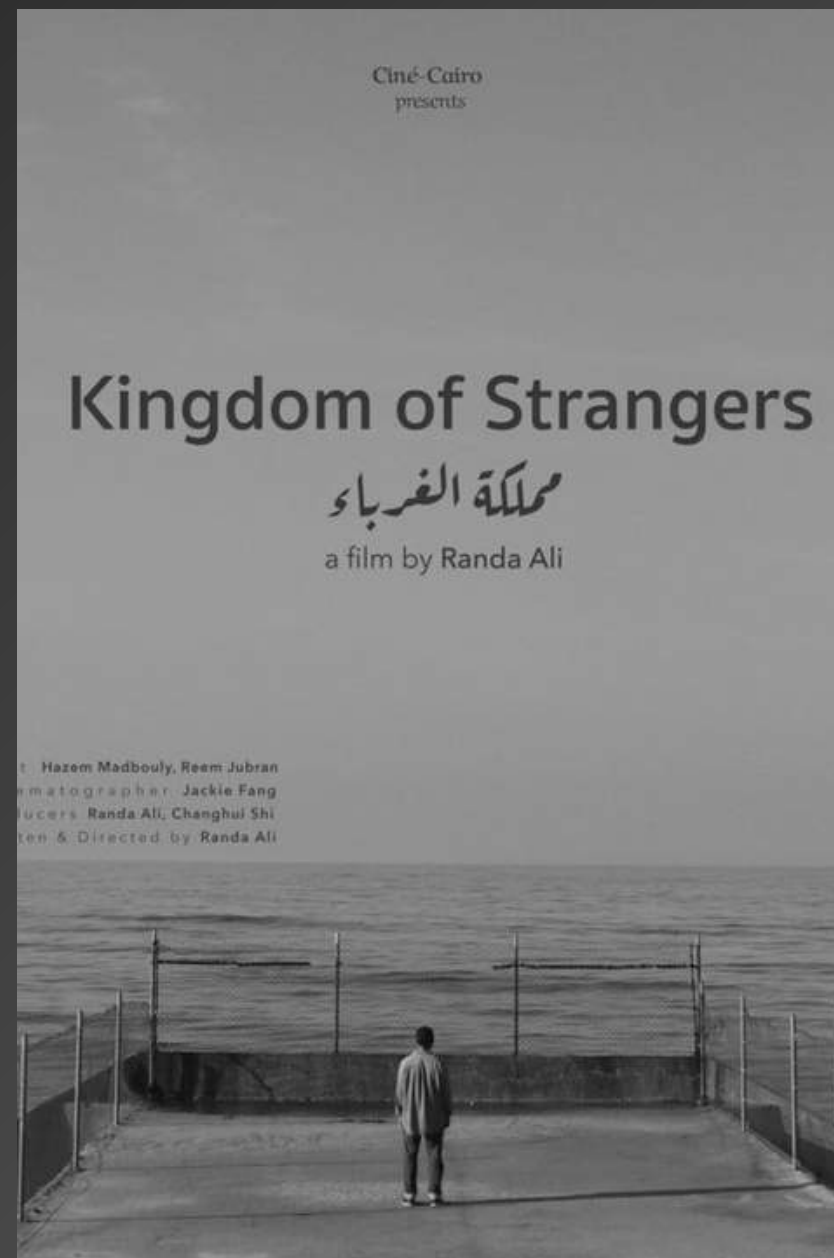


DIRECTED BY  
THEODORE DRUSBA

Ali, a young Egyptian living in self-exile in Los Angeles is visited by a memory of an old friend. Together they try to make sense of a past haunted by trauma and a present that makes no sense.

# KINGDOM OF STRANGERS

USA

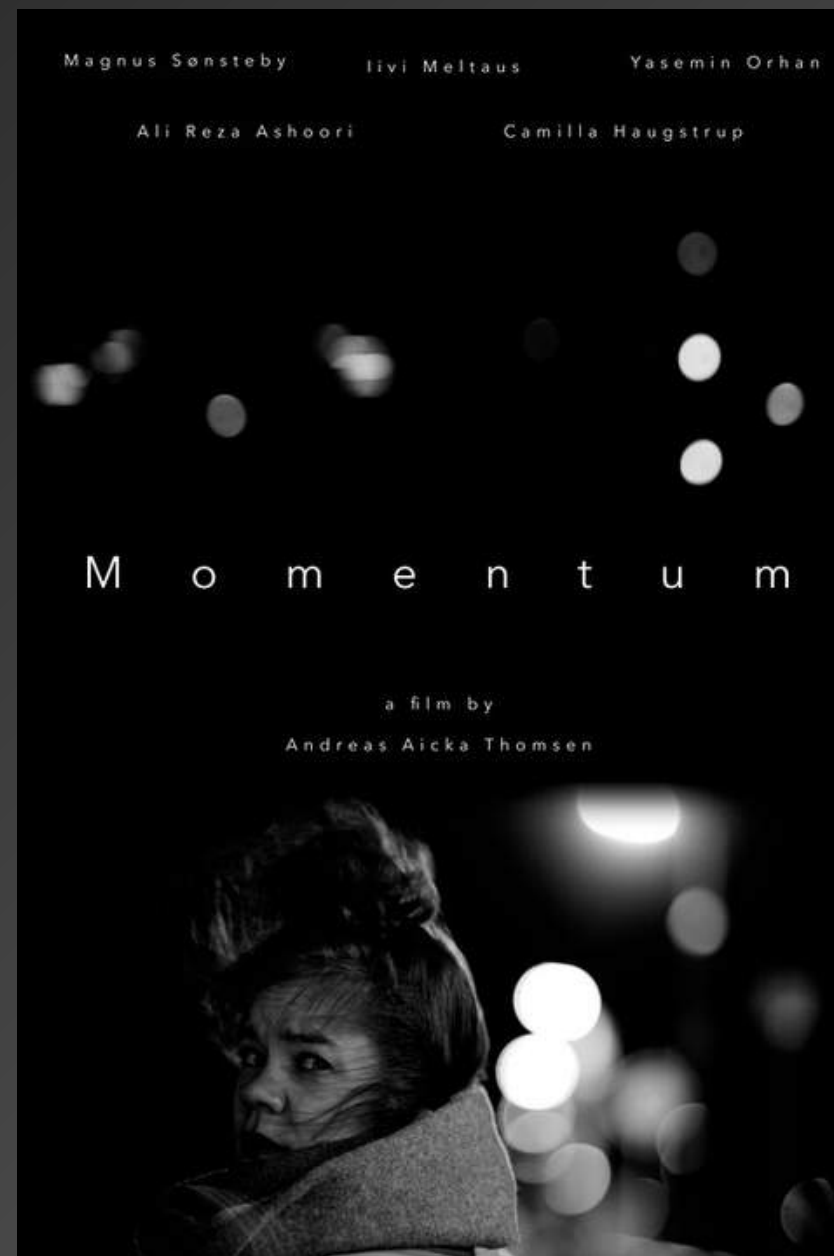


DIRECTED BY  
RANDA ALI

A passenger embarks upon a train to execute a meeting. The wheels are set in motion in a whining, dreamy, circular, uncanny voyage, where illusions are as strong as the contrary, and the difference is erased.

# MOMENTUM

NORWAY



DIRECTED BY  
ANDREAS AICKA  
THOMSEN

Monika meets her daughter Sara for the first time in almost twenty years.

# SAFE HARBOR

SWEDEN

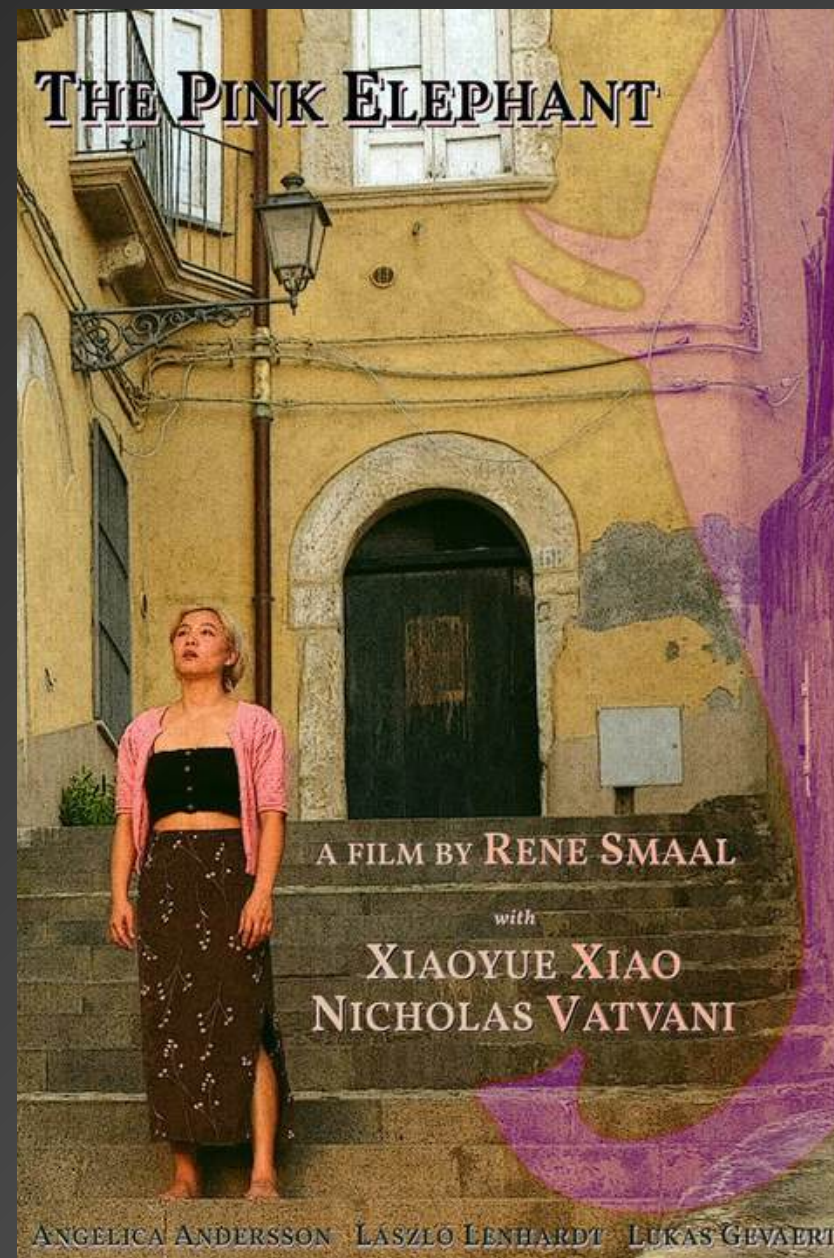


DIRECTED BY  
DANIEL STÅHL

The powers of love are always at work. But when they do so in an ancient southern Italian town at sunset, they seem just a little more magical.

# THE PINK ELEPHANT

NETHERLANDS



DIRECTED BY  
RENÉ SMAAL

A woman doesn't quite want to come into frame. On the verge of invisibility she tiptoes towards herself.

# UNTITLED DAYS

GERMANY



DIRECTED BY  
EVA RINI MAY CRAGG



# LUMINOUS FRAMES FILM FESTIVAL

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