

# 2020 AACTA AWARDS

## SHORT FILM HANDBOOK



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## 8 Letter Word

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**Production Company:** Angry Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 04:22

#### Synopsis:

Getting laid shouldn't be this cryptic.

Phil's lonely and decides to call an escort company for some company. Unfortunately the Brothel Madame doesn't make it easy for him.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Melbourne Comedy Festival - Official Selection

Cinefest Oz Selection - 2018

Nundah Film Festival - 2019

Official Selection - Australia's Funniest Short Films 2018

Chihuahua International Film Festival Mexico - 2019

Nundah Film Festival - 2018

Setting Sun Film Festival - 2018

Warrandyte Film Feast - 2019

### Judging Notes:

## A Tea Party for Sad People

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**Production Company:** Wavelength Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 14:00

#### Synopsis:

When Ziva happens upon an invitation to a Tea Party for Sad People, she is drawn into a surreal Purgatory where sadness is sought for all the wrong reasons. Tears are a source of pride, no matter how minor the trigger, and status is about how sad your story is.

The mysterious Joy fetishises sorrow, and eschews all solids. The amiable Lavender isn't particularly sad that's why she carries an onion in her hankie. Jill is the alpha of the pack, policing the etiquette of sadness.

How will the ladies react to Ziva's sob story?

### Judging Notes:

## Abduction

---

**Production Company:** Rush Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 16:00

### Synopsis:

After waking up in a field with no memory of how she got there, Mathilda faces a trail of judgement and cruelty.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Atlanta Film Festival 2020, CinefestOz Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:

## Aftershock

---

**Production Company:** Never Too Late Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 16:00

### Synopsis:

While closing up alone one night at the diner where she works, single mother and student Kate is brutally raped by Paul, a regular customer who mistakes friendly service for a personal connection. When an earthquake traps the two together overnight, their survival becomes dependent and entwined, with the balance of power constantly shifting until only one survives.

### Judging Notes:



## All Good Things

---

**Production Company:** Australian Film, Television & Radio School (AFTRS)

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 13:00

#### Synopsis:

Road-trips usually signify a beginning but for Isaac and his partner Levi, this is their last chance to spend time together before they part ways. As they drive closer to their destination, Isaac finds that maybe he isn't as prepared for this breakup as he'd first thought.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Flickerfest 2020

The Iris Prize Film Festival 2020

Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival 2020

Melbourne Queer Film Festival 2020

Serile Filmului Gay International Film Festival 2020

Brisbane International Film Festival 2019

Chicago Reeling Film Festival 2019

AWARDS:

Emerging Filmmaker Award - My Queer Career, Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival 2020

Best Direction in a Short Film (Nomination) - Australian Directors' Guild Awards 2020

### Judging Notes:

## Among Men

---

**Production Company:** Victorian College of the Arts

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 18:00

### Synopsis:

On a banana plantation in northern Australia a young deer hunter longs to be accepted by the workers around him.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

St Kilda Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:

## An Athlete Wrestling A Python

---

**Production Company:** Independent

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 17:00

#### Synopsis:

An Athlete Wrestling a Python follows Julien Goethe, a frustrated filmmaker yearning to craft an enduring masterpiece. Galvanised by a government grant, she begins work on an Athlete Wrestling a Python, a film following a frustrated filmmaker yearning to craft an enduring masterpiece.

Art and life delicately collide as Julien's feckless boyfriend and dysfunctional family struggle to understand her just as much as the actors portraying them struggle to understand her direction. In a dramatic denouement within a dramatic denouement, Julien's family falls apart on and off screen, leaving her to ponder whether her artistic stoicism and uncompromising vision have ultimately left her unfulfilled. It's lonely at the top!

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Brisbane International Film Festival 2019 - World Premiere

### Judging Notes:

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## And Then Something Changed

---

**Production Company:** Sticky Pictures Pty Ltd

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 20:00

### Synopsis:

What would it feel like to live in a world that isn't built for you? 8 year-old Louis wakes up to what he thinks is going to be just another normal school day, but finds the world around him has become inaccessible. The bed, stairs, car and locker no longer function as Louis expects. But is this world a dream of the past? "And Then Something Changed" is a fun and un-sensationalized look at a 'day in the life' of a child with dwarfism, turning our idea of accessibility on its head.

### Judging Notes:

## At the Edge of Night

---

**Production Company:** Blood Moon Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

#### Synopsis:

Set against the death metal scene in the high desert above that crazy dusty megacity of Los Angeles, At The Edge Of Night is a revenge tragedy about estranged childhood friends, Aaron and Ben who – though neither of them are able to admit it – are soul mates.

On the night Ben returns to visit Aaron, it's clear that the man he loves has moved on. But before he gets the chance to discuss their past, tragedy occurs – leaving Aaron bereft and unable to move on with his life.

The deep connection they have transcends time and space, and ultimately Aaron has to either let Ben go, or join him.

Part ghost story, part love story, At The Edge Of Night is an all-action mystical joyride between life, death and the meaning of it all, which places that 'other' world only a slight head tilt away from the everyday – sometimes glimpsed, sometimes felt, never fully seen but always ever-present.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

St Kilda Film Festival 2020

Swiss International Film Festival 2020

Melbourne International Indie Film Festival 2020

LA Cinefest 2020

Prague International Indie Film Festival 2020

Short Film Factory 2020 (Europe)

We're also shortlisted for Dances With Films (LA) 2020 and the Zeitgeist Film Festival (LA) 2020, with a number of notifications still pending.

#### Judging Notes:

# Atlas

---

**Production Company:** Odyssey Films

## Film Summary

Approx Duration: 22:00

### Synopsis:

In this dystopic Sci-Fi /Thriller, Atlas and his dog Charlie are being held captive on a rural farm under the surveillance of an autonomous drone. In isolation, Atlas is forced to maintain a rigorous farming schedule under terrible living conditions. One day Charlie breaks free from the leash and breaches the perimeter, resulting in tragedy. Atlas is left with nothing to live for, but at the same time is presented with an opportunity to escape. He ventures out into the unknown but quickly discovers even bigger challenges ahead.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

-Flickerfest 2020

-St. Kilda Film Festival 2020:

(Nominated Best Editing)

(Nominated Best Sound Design)

## Judging Notes:

## Attorneys at Love

---

**Production Company:** Time Traveller Entertainment

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 11:00

### Synopsis:

In this comedic short film narrated by Academy Award nominee Angela Bassett, Matt (Mark Elias) and Luisa (Megan West) are going about their day when they are confronted by two "Attorneys at Love" (Peter Krause & Kenneth Choi). Matt & Luisa get a glimpse of their future life together and must decide whether they want to go through with their relationship or live life like they never met.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Premiered in January at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

### Judging Notes:

# Ayaan

**Production Company:** Picture Box Productions

## Film Summary

Approx Duration: 17:00

### Synopsis:

Fugitive AYAAN emerges from the sea at sunrise, carrying a backpack containing her three-month-old daughter, CAWO. She hurries over the sand dunes towards a dirt road, but quickly realizes there's no-one to help her.

Under the shade of a tree, Ayaan feeds Cawo when a DOG runs towards them. Frightened, she hides Cawo in her backpack as FRANK, the dog's owner, bursts into the clearing. Frank stares at Ayaan, but eventually walks away. Aware she has no other option, Ayaan builds up her courage and asks Frank for a lift. Unbeknownst to her, Frank is an off-duty park ranger who's aware that she's an escaped asylum seeker.

Frank takes Ayaan straight to the coast, where the local police have captured a group of escaped asylum seekers. There, Ayaan notices her husband and son in the line-up. ANWAR, her two-year-old son, sees her and yells out her name. As SERGEANT SIMMONS approaches, Ayaan reveals Cawo to Frank. She asks him to take her daughter and only turn her in. In that moment, Frank is faced with a choice. Ayaan watches nervously as Frank lies to the Sergeant and pretends that she's his relative. After a few tense minutes, they're finally let through.

Ayaan stares out the window, clutching Cawo, as she and Frank drive away from her husband and son, up the long highway.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Australian Directors Guild Award Nomination, Best Direction in a Student Film (Pending)

Dendy Award Nomination Best Live Action Film

Dendy Award Finalist Best Direction in a Short Film

National Board of Review U.S.A. Student Award Winner

Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP) Audience Award Winner

Adrienne Shelly Best Female Director Award Winner

Leone Family Film Production Award Winner

3Pas Best Producing Award Winner

Best Actor Nomination for Trevor Jamieson, St Kilda Film Festival

ScreenCraft Film Fund Semifinalist

**\*\*Film Festivals:\*\***

Sydney Film Festival, Official Selection

St Kilda Film Festival, Official Selection

Palm Springs ShortsFest, Official Selection

Social World Film Festival, Official Selection

LA Diversity Film Festival, Official Selection

### Judging Notes:



## Back Burn

---

**Production Company:** Victorian College of the Arts

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 13:00

### Synopsis:

After the loss of her parents, a teenage girl in the Australian Outback tries to cope with looking after her elderly grandfather.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

St. Kilda Film Festival

Perth Revelations Film Festival

### Judging Notes:

## Blood Sisters

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**Production Company:** Mad Dan Productions Pty Ltd & In Cahoots Creations Pty Ltd

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 14:00

### Synopsis:

Three very different 17-year-old girls: headstrong Tahlia, smart and sweet, Jade, and new girl desperate to fit in, Shanti, go to school together in Townsville, Far North Queensland, Australia. Despite moving in different circles, their lives collide when ex-footy legend now PE teacher, Eddie Russo (40s), tries to sexually assault Shanti at an illicit after-hours celebration. In the struggle that follows between Eddie and the three girls, Eddie falls fatally hitting his head. Panicked, the girls run – who'd believe their allegation against the local hero? But how long can Tahlia, Jade and Shanti survive as Blood Sisters on the run?

### Judging Notes:

## Broken Boat

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**Production Company:** G Luck Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 11:00

#### Synopsis:

When Jina, a Kurdish poet, escapes her homeland in Western Iran, she takes her beloved's birthday gift – "Girl with the Pearl Earring" translated into Farsi – with her on a journey to seek political asylum in Australia. Chancing upon a community library, the invitation to 'take a book, leave a book' forges a poignant connection between her new landscape and the home she has left behind. 'Broken Boat' is based on a true story.

### Judging Notes:

## Brolga

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**Production Company:** Adrian Powers

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 16:00

#### Synopsis:

"In a ravaged future-Australia, a solitary hermit guarding a priceless treasure is forced to offer sanctuary to a young girl who is fleeing murderous scavengers. With danger around every corner, can they learn to survive together?"

'Brolga' is a science-fiction short film set in a future Australia which has collapsed, yet still possesses a few determined souls intent on preserving what remains. Elements of the film are thematically and narratively founded on the Brolga Dreaming story of the Murriwarri clan of New South Wales, and the film's development was supported by Indigenous artist Michael Connolly (Munda-gutta Kulliwari), who also kindly provided the Aboriginal paintings which are featured in the story. Michael's hope is that the film "opens the eyes of those who wish to learn."

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

##### AWARDS

- 2019 Sci-Fi Film Festival - George Pal Award for Best Director (Short Film)
- 2019 Canberra Short Film Festival - Best Cinematography (National)
- 2019 Canberra Short Film Festival - Best First Nations Film
- 2019 Sydney Indie Film Festival - Best Director (Short Film)
- 2019 Sherman Oaks Film Festival - Programmer's Award Outstanding Short Film
- 2019 Best Shorts Competition - Award of Excellence (Aboriginal Peoples)
- 2019 Canada Shorts Film Festival - Award of Distinction
- 2019 Changing Face International Film Festival - Annual Winner Best Actor in a Sci-Fi (James Saunders)
- 2019 Changing Face International Film Festival - August Winner (Best Sci-Fi)
- 2020 Oz International Film Festival - Best Australian Sci-Fi Film
- 2020 Miami International Science Fiction Film Festival - Russell Bates Indigenous Peoples Award
- 2020 Toronto Fantasy/Sci-Fi Film & Screenplay Festival - Best Performers Award

##### SELECTIONS

- 2019 Sci-Fi Film Festival
- 2019 Canberra Short Film Festival
- 2019 Changing Face International Film Festival
- 2019 Best Shorts Competition
- 2019 Great Lakes International Film Festival
- 2019 The Next Level International Film Festival
- 2019 AFIN International Film Festival
- 2019 Sydney Indie Film Festival
- 2019 Northern Light Film Festival
- 2019 Australian Independent Film Festival
- 2019 Canada Shorts Film Festival
- 2019 Sherman Oaks Film Festival
- 2019 Melbourne Lift-Off Online Film Festival
- 2019 International Shorts Film Festival
- 2019 Los Angeles Independent Film Festival Awards
- 2020 Fantasy/Sci-Fi Film & Screenplay Festival
- 2020 Oz International Film Festival
- 2020 Miami International Science Fiction Film Festival

- 2020 International Horror & Sci-Fi Film Festival/Phoenix Film Festival
- 2020 Wairoa Māori Film Festival
- 2020 Melbourne Indie Film Festival
- 2020 Deep Focus Film Festival
- 2020 End of Days Film Festival
- 2020 Toronto Film Festival of Time - Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Horror and History
- 2020 ASTRA Science Fiction & Fantasy Film Festival
- 2020 Tokyo Lift-Off Film Festival
- 2020 Australasia's Film Festival of Time - Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Horror and History
- 2020 New York Lift-Off Film Festival

**Judging Notes:**



## Call History

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**Production Company:** Lillian Paterson

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 10:00

#### Synopsis:

Torn between past and present, Claudia reaches out to an old flame, Zora. But when she calls Zora's phone no one answers. Call History unfolds in the blistering heat of Sydney summer as Claudia leaves messages on Zora's voicemail, searching for answers. She's falling in love again, but this time with their friend, Eli.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

- \* Selected for 2020 Melbourne International Film Festival
- \* Selected for 2020 Brisbane International Film Festival (not yet announced)
- \* Finalist for 2019 Queer Screen Pitch Off Event in Sydney, Australia
- \* Quarterfinalist for 2018 Blue Cat Screenplay Competition

### Judging Notes:

## Carmentis

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**Production Company:** Lonely Astronaut

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

### Synopsis:

A grief stricken miner finds himself injured on the desolate planet Carmentis and must overcome his personal demons in order to survive, but can he get there before the planet freezes?

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Tribeca Film Festival 2020

Fantasia Film Festival 2020

Cinefest Oz Short Film Prize Nomination 2020

### Judging Notes:

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## Chicken

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**Production Company:** Sleena Wilson - Producer

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 09:00

#### Synopsis:

It's 1992, and all Barbara wants to do is watch the Simpsons. Too bad her recently migrated Papua New Guinean mother has just been ripped off at the local shops, and needs her help to fix it. The much older, cooler teen shop assistant has no interest in helping the mother and daughter, and wants them to go away - preferably back to where they came from.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Flickerfest International Short Film Festival (January 2020) - Awarded Best Direction in a Australian Short Film

Santa Barbara International Film Festival (April 2020)

Cleveland International Film Festival (April 2020)

St Kilda Film Festival (June 2020)

Pasifika Film Festival (September 2020)

BFI London Film Festival (October 2020)

### Judging Notes:

## Chlorine

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**Production Company:** Dollhouse Pictures

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 18:00

#### **Synopsis:**

In a desperate bid for attention, 11-year-old Keira compulsively steals from pregnant women at her local aquatic centre. But her actions put her at risk of losing the only family she has.

#### **Other Awards or Festival Invitations:**

BFI London Film Festival

Nashville

Athens

St Kilda

Cinefest Oz

### Judging Notes:

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## Closed Doors

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**Production Company:** No Coincidence Media

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

#### Synopsis:

Regaining consciousness in a car wreck, a young father finds that his daughter is missing. Terrified and grief stricken, the father sets out with his wife through the forest to try and find her. In order to reconcile what has happened to his child, he must overcome his own fears and past destructive actions that haunt him to the point of contemplating suicide. Closed Doors is a genre/thriller which at its heart speaks to the process of grief and forgiveness during a time of loss.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Opening Night Flickerfest 2020

CinefestOZ 2020

\*Rhimi Johnson has been nominated as a finalist for the CinefestOZ 2020 Best Actor Award.

The film is also part of Sydney Film Festival's Travelling Film Festival, with locations being added monthly – it will be playing in Huskisson later this month.

Under embargo:

\*Invited to Adelaide Film Festival 2020 - the announcement will be in September.

\*Upcoming ABC Television broadcast - second half of 2020

### Judging Notes:

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## Closer

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**Production Company:** Transmissions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 02:00

### Synopsis:

'Closer' is a touching commentary on the world as we have seen it and as might wish it to be. Before, during and after the impact of Covid 19 and the ensuing isolation felt by us all, 'Closer' comments on the hope and fragility of human connection.

### Judging Notes:

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## Diving In

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**Production Company:** Jessica Murphy

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 8:57

#### Synopsis:

Set in 2007, a young amputee swimmer Alex has his heart set on one of the coaches at the local pool. After accidentally rejecting her, Alex's friends steal his phone and send her a raunchy text message. Mortified, Alex must get to her phone before she sees the message, or risk losing her forever.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Sydney Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:

## Earl's Town

---

**Production Company:** Metropol Films, Australia

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

### Synopsis:

Earl Thompson forgets things. Even his own son. But no one messes with family.

### Judging Notes:

## Echo Pines

---

**Production Company:** Australian Film Television and Radio School

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

#### Synopsis:

When ten-year-old Olivia goes missing overnight, Detective Fiona Barnes suspects a textbook kidnapping.

A tip-off takes her deep into the mysterious forests surrounding the town, where strange events defy easy explanation. Fiona is called in to defend her report and her actions to the department after Olivia's disappearance does not add up.

### Judging Notes:

## Eye for an Eye

---

**Production Company:** Bond University

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

#### Synopsis:

A young woman journeys into a mysterious and secluded forest, and finds herself disorientated and thoroughly, unnervingly lost. Her safe exit relies solely on Nature itself, and her own willingness to submit to its enigmatic forces.

Eye for an Eye is a story of lost things: how we find our way out of the darkness through unlikely connections, and the trust we dare place in strangers and the strange.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

- Screened at the 2020 Gold Coast Film Festival SIPFEST (May): awarded Best Film by a Gold Coast Resident
- Screened at the 2020 St Kilda Film Festival (June)
- Official Selection for the 2020 Berlin Female Filmmaker Festival (October)

### Judging Notes:



## Fun Times

---

**Production Company:** Bear & Dog Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 07:00

### Synopsis:

Sammy is a teenager with disenfranchised violent men all around him. Kate watches Sammy from across the hall of their commission flats. This is the story of their inevitable demise.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

37th St Kilda Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia (World Premiere)

23rd Revelation Perth International Film Festival - Australia

14th Sydney Underground Film Festival - Australia

36th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival - US

6th Minikino Film Week - Indonesia

9th Toyama Film Festival - Japan

10th Adelaide Film Festival - Australia

### Judging Notes:

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## Furlough

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**Production Company:** Dollhouse Pictures

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 19:00

**Synopsis:**

FURLOUGH follows a day in the life of two sisters, 16 and 17, who embark on an adventure tiptoeing the line between freedom and responsibility. What appears to be a dangerous game of living on the edge is really about making the most of the fleeting, precious moments we have here on this earth.

**Other Awards or Festival Invitations:**

Raindance 2020

### Judging Notes:

## Games

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**Production Company:** Emily Mae Make Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 04:39

### Synopsis:

When boredom strikes, two old friends play a game. What seems to be a fun way to pass the time is ultimately the death of a friendship.

### Judging Notes:

## Girl and Body

---

**Production Company:** Boobook Media

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 18:30

#### Synopsis:

After collapsing during rehearsals, a young dancer struggles to make sense of her mysterious medical condition and her even more enigmatic hospital roommate... A meditation on the relationship between mind, body and identity.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Official Selection:

BERLINALE - International Shorts Competition, 2020

PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL SHORTSFEST - International Competition, 2020

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL - Shorts Competition and Accelerator Lab, 2019

BERLIN FEMINIST FILM WEEK - International Shorts Program 2020

ST KILDA SHORT FILM FESTIVAL - Australian Competition 2020

GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL, CANADA - International Competition 2020

Nomination:

BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT, AUSTRALIAN SCREEN SOUND GUILD, 2019

### Judging Notes:

**Production Company:** University of Technology Sydney

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 04:01

#### Synopsis:

Glenn is a woman on an unwholesome mission, but just how far will she go to conquer the clique – and social media at large?

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Winner - Yoram Gross Best Animation Award at Sydney Film Festival 2020

Honourable Mention - London X4 Shorts

Selected - Anibar Film Festival (Awards not announced yet)

Selected - Prague International Indie Festival (Awards Not announced yet)

Selected - (IMDB qualifying) LA Indie Shorts

### Judging Notes:

## GOD: The Performance Review

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**Production Company:** Scenario Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 10:00

### Synopsis:

It's one millennium since God's last Performance Review Meeting with Senior Management and they're not impressed with what has been happening on that tiny blue planet called Earth. God's needs to act quickly if he wants to avoid redundancy.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Official Selection Flickerfest International Short Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:

## Grevillea

---

**Production Company:** Jordan Giusti

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 13:00

### Synopsis:

An imprisoned Jewish teen risks taboo by marking his skin with a tattoo design. Events take a darker turn after an encounter with a mysterious tattooist, whose true intentions are unclear.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Berlin International Film Festival (Official Selection - Generation 14plus Competition) - February, 2020

Sydney Film Festival (Official Selection - Dendy Short Film Awards) - June, 2020

### Judging Notes:

## Groundhog Night

---

**Production Company:** Bus Stop Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 16:00

### Synopsis:

For carer Gary, moving on and keeping his family together isn't always easy. Tensions run high when his late wife's parents arrive unannounced after he brings home a date.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Sydney Film Festival, 2020

Cinefest Oz 2020

Travelling Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:

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## Hannah & the Friend Zone

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**Production Company:** Swim like a boss productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 03:00

### Synopsis:

Hannah & the Friend Zone follows ex lovers Hannah and Bree as they navigate the delicate ground of their new friend zone.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

\*Calgary International (Academy Accredited film festival)

### Judging Notes:

## Harvey

---

**Production Company:** Aaron Carroll

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

### Synopsis:

Harvey just found out his best friend has passed away. He does what he knows best, runs away.

### Judging Notes:

## Her Own Music

---

**Production Company:** Oddity Entertainment

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 20:00

#### Synopsis:

### Maddie (Alexandra Morgan) is not far off graduating from St Victora's School for Girls and, so far, everything in her life has gone to plan.

When she's asked to tutor another student, Tessa (Zoe Terakes), an unlikely friendship blossoms into an unlikely romance.

This was never part of the plan and Maddie has to make a choice. Will she hold on to the opportunities that come with the institution she was raised in or be honest to her newfound identity and relationship with Tessa?

\*Her Own Music\* paints an intimate picture of a young person discovering their queer identity in an environment that would rather keep it hidden. Follow Maddie as she faces fear and doubt on the precipice of her new life.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Sydney Film Festival - Dendy Awards (2020, Finalist)

OutFest (2020, Official Selection)

### Judging Notes:

## Hook Up

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**Production Company:** Paper Moose

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

#### Synopsis:

Shy Lucy is keen to please her enigmatic best-friend Alice, but when a double Tinder date with two older men turns ugly, she must fight to protect Alice and in the process recognises deeper feelings she has for her.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

HOOK UP was funded by the Melbourne Queer Film Festival, as the winner of their inaugural Pitch, Pleeze program. It was the opening film of MQFF's Opening Night in March 2020, where it won the Film Victora Award for Best Director. The film has since been invited to the Brisbane International Film Festival and Cinefest Oz.

### Judging Notes:

## I Gave Up: A Quarantine Commercial

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**Production Company:** Brody Thiele Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 02:35

### Synopsis:

I Gave Up: A Quarantine Commercial is a tongue in cheek parody commercial exploring the very real feelings, ambitions and goals most people set out for themselves first going into lockdown and isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The film plays on how so, so easily it was to give up on the plans you set out for yourself at the start of self-isolation and give into your inner vices.

### Judging Notes:

## I Want To Make A Film About Women

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**Production Company:** The Physical TV Company

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

#### Synopsis:

'I want to make a film about women' is a queer, speculative love letter to Russian constructivist women. The new Soviet Union of the 1920s championed equality for women and great innovation in the creative arts. Until it didn't. Looking back at that time, history remembers the men who were celebrated and then shut down. But women were there, too, and they were influential, powerful and brilliant. I want to make a film about women gazes in to a creative communal kitchen and watches these women transform it into a workshop, then a stage set, then a film, all the while juggling noisy men and the wolves of history. It imagines what the revolutionary women artists of the 1920s said, what they did, and what they might have created had it not been for Stalin's suppression.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

\* SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL, 2020

Section: Dendy Awards for Australian Shorts

Winner: Special Mention, 2020 Dendy Award for Live Action Australian Short

Judges comment: "We want to highly commend Karen Pearlman for her ambitious and masterful mix of forms, combining animation, graphics, dance, documentary and drama, to craft - I want to make a film about women". (Dr George Miller, Sophie Hyde, Byran Brown)

Finalist: Best Live Action Short

Finalist: Best Direction in a Short Film

\* ST KILDA FILM FESTIVAL, Melbourne, 2020

Winner: Best Documentary

Festival Director's Comment: "For a film that is both experimental and dramatized to win Best Documentary at St Kilda is both a tribute to the film but also to the subject – Esther (Esfir) Schub – who in herself totally blurred the boundaries." (Richard Sowada)

Finalist: Best Short Film

Finalist: Craft Award

Finalist: Best Original Score

\* CINEFESTOZ FILM FESTIVAL, 2020,

Section: Inaugural CinefestOz Short Film Awards

Finalist: Best Short Film (announcement August 2020)

Finalist: Best Director (announcement August 2020)

\* AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORS' GUILD AWARDS, 2020

Nominated: Best Direction in a Documentary Short Subject (announcement October 2020)

\* BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, 2020

Official Selection (award nominations yet to be announced)

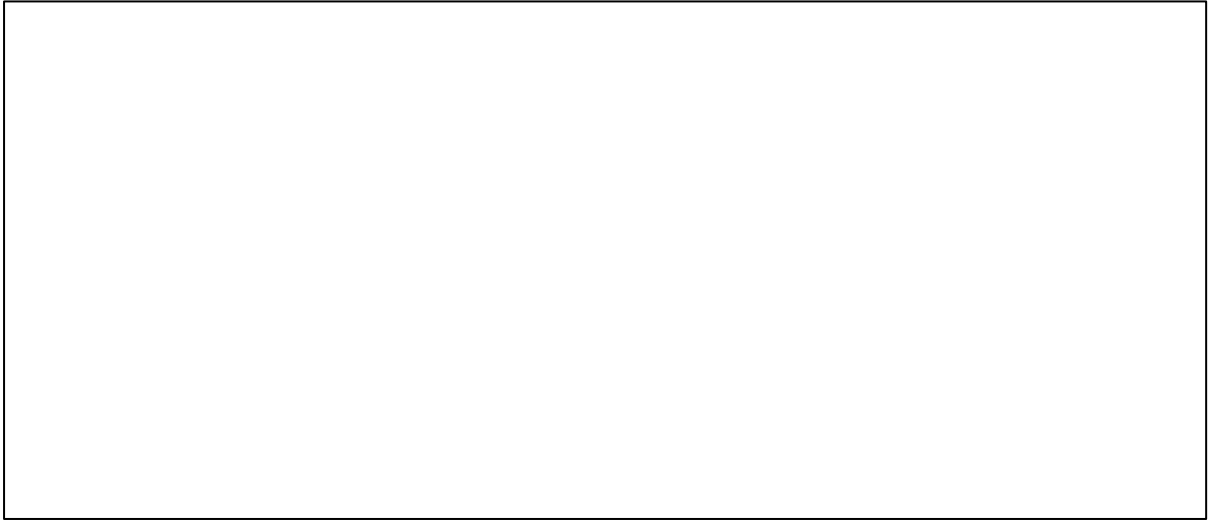
\* VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, 2020

Official Selection (award nominations yet to be announced)

\* JEWISH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, Melbourne and Sydney, 2019

Winner: Production Grant, 2019 JIFF Short Film Fund

**Judging Notes:**

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## Idol

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**Production Company:** Victorian College of the Arts School of Film & Television

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 18:00

### Synopsis:

A young Chinese celebrity is called into an emergency meeting after a fan of his commits suicide.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

2020 BROOKLYN FILM FESTIVAL, U.S.A.

- OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE - BEST MALE ACTOR (KYLE CHEN)

- SPIRIT AWARD IN SHORT NARRATIVE

2020 SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL, AUS

- DENDY AWARD FOR BEST AUSTRALIAN LIVE-ACTION SHORT FILM

2020 REVELATION PERTH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, AUS

2020 AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORS GUILD AWARDS

- BEST DIRECTION IN A STUDENT FILM (NOMINEE - TBA)

### Judging Notes:

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## Isolation Restaurant

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**Production Company:** Cascade Films Pty Ltd

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 06:00

### Synopsis:

During the depths of the Covid-19 quarantine, you're cordially invited to Pascale's Trattoria, a charming Italian restaurant nestled in the heart of a suburban living room. There you'll meet Pascale, a slightly deranged gentleman determined to facilitate the success of his restaurant. While his family barely indulge this isolation induced fantasy, the tipping point might be the clientele of stuffed animals.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Moscow Shorts  
The Lift-Off Sessions  
IndieCork Film Festival

### Judging Notes:

## Jadai: The Broome Brawler

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**Production Company:** BlackRussian

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

#### Synopsis:

In 1970s Australia, local brawlers fought professional boxers for money in travelling boxing circuses. Paddy Jadai, of the Mangala people, was a real-life brawler living in Broome with his wife, Angelina, and their children.

After years on the boxing circuit making money for others, he promises Angelina that he won't fight anymore. But while keeping a low profile and focusing on feeding their family, the hot-headed brawler is taken in by corrupt cops one night and forced to fight Andre The Mad Russian in a long-odds fight that isn't in his favour.

Inspired by the story of the real-life Paddy Jadai, who is Co-Director Curtis Taylor's own grandfather, *Jadai: The Broome Brawler* is a story that takes a fresh look at police brutality and Australian Indigenous incarceration.

Like many Aboriginal men both then and now, Jadai is wrongfully arrested and mistreated in prison. This film, however, takes a highly stylized visual approach to depict an Indigenous man rising above brutality and prejudice to earn the respect of his town.

### Judging Notes:

## Joy

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**Production Company:** Australian Film, Television and Radio School

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

### Synopsis:

When a homeless couple lose their small bag of valuables, they're forced to choose between their relationship or survival as they struggle to reach Queensland for a job too good to be true.

### Judging Notes:

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## Last Goodbye

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**Production Company:** Incandescent Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 08:00

#### Synopsis:

Jogging over a train station bridge, Doug is left behind by vigorous Eva. Doug chases on to find Eva fallen on the ground and unresponsive. He is utterly distraught. Eva wakes up alone in another world. She escapes her imagined hospital care and ventures into a land where she finds no forgiveness from an old friend. Eva walks to find Doug hurting and reminiscing about her death. Eva knows now that she has died. She walks on to meet her dead friends who beckon her to join them in death. Eva is devastated. Soon she accepts her dying and gives into it. In her mind she decides to die in a safe place, at her home, and in the arms of her love, Doug. Eva dies and walks towards a new beginning.

### Judging Notes:

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## Laura

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**Production Company:** Grand Illusions / Good One

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 13:00

### Synopsis:

Several years after experiencing a life-changing event in high school, two young men finally confront their grief. Laura is a powerful meditation on memory, masculinity and moving on.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

MIFF 2020

### Judging Notes:

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## Le Miroir

**Production Company:** Sydney Film School

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 16:30

#### Synopsis:

Mathilde, a mute French orphan, helps to protect Madame B, the most superstitious lady in the world, from all bad luck. Both have developed their own coping mechanisms to deal with extreme loss. When Mathilde breaks Madame B's most prized possession, a magical mirror, she goes on a journey to fix it. Along the way, she meets 12 year old Tobias who is wise beyond his years and changes her life forever.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Official Selection: CinefestOz 2020 - Short Film

Official Selection: Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival 2020 - Best Short Narrative (Student)

Crystal Pine Award Nominee: International Sound & Film Music Festival 2020 - Best Original Score (Short Film)

Winner: Falcon International Film Festival London - Best Fantasy Film

Nominee: International Sound & Film Music Festival 2020 - Best Original Score, Short Film

Finalist/Nominee: AFIN International Film Festival 2020 - Best Student Film

Finalist/Nominee: AFIN International Film Festival 2020 - Best Australian Actress

Semi-Finalist: AFIN International Film Festival 2020 - Best Emerging Female Director

Official Selection: Prague International Indie Film Festival 3rd Quarter 2020 - Best Student Film

Honourable Mention: Prague International Indie Film Festival 3rd Quarter 2020 - Best Young Filmmaker

Winner: Changing Face International Film Festival March 2020 - Best Student Film

Official Selection: International Shorts 2020 - Best Short Film

Winner: SHORT to the Point International Film Festival January 2020 - Best Young Director

Winner: SHORT to the Point International Film Festival January 2020 - Best Production Design

Shortlisted: Australian Women's Film Festival 2020 - Best Dramatic Film

Winner: Sydney Film School Festival - Best Director

Winner: Sydney Film School Festival - Audience Award

#### Judging Notes:

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## Leo

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**Production Company:** The Victorian College Of The Arts

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 19:00

#### Synopsis:

Nobody wants to play with Leo. There's something about his that isn't like the other children, and this seems set to continue until a bright eyed young librarian takes him under her wing and offers him a new perspective on the value of being different.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

St Kilda Film Festival 2020 Official Selection

### Judging Notes:

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## Lost Boy

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**Production Company:** AFTRS

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

#### Synopsis:

When a volatile RSL bartender shows up to work with a fresh black eye, he's challenged by his boss to drop his macho persona.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

\* Australian Director's Guild Award Nomination for Best Direction in a Student Film 2020

\* Official Selection to The Brisbane International Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:



## Meanwhile, at the Abandoned Factory...

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**Production Company:** Anifex

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 16:00

### Synopsis:

Meanwhile, at the Abandoned Factory celebrates the heyday of cliff-hanger TV serials. Can our intrepid reporter find her way out of this classic dilemma?

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Flickerfest. Houston International Comedy Festival, Portland International Film Festival. St. Kilda Film Festival. We like 'em short comedy film festival. Lit Laughs Comedy Film Festival :Runner up.

### Judging Notes:

## Mystic Pines

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**Production Company:** Rush Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 11:00

#### Synopsis:

Serena seeks out a mysterious psychological treatment that gives her the courage to stand up for herself. Armed with this new sense of agency Serena and her brother make their annual outing to buy the family Christmas tree. This year, Serena is not content to ride shotgun to her brother's decisions.

### Judging Notes:

## Occupation

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**Production Company:** Baker Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

### Synopsis:

A therapist is unable to leave her workplace where she helps abusive men.

### Judging Notes:

## Ocean Commotion

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**Production Company:** University of Technology, Sydney

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 02:00

### Synopsis:

A lonely deep-sea diver and his inanimate lover are separated by the dastardly Frogodile. To what depths will the diver sink to recover his true love?

### Judging Notes:

## Our Father

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**Production Company:** Brooksy Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

#### Synopsis:

Disowned as a child by her father, a wealthy and infamous composer, a young English woman returns to New York, the glamorous playground of her youth, to help the brother she hasn't seen since childhood. Awaiting trial for murder in New York's notorious Rikers Island jail and fearful for his life, her brother implores her to do the one thing she cannot: beg their father for help.

Based on the true story of the downfall of disgraced composer Joseph Brooks who penned the song, 'You Light Up My Life' and his play-boy son Nicholas Brooks, who currently serves a life sentence in a NY prison, OUR FATHER stars Joseph Brooks' daughter, Amanda, playing herself.

OUR FATHER was written, directed, produced by Australians. It was shot on location in New York and post-produced in Australia.

### Judging Notes:

## Our Greatest Escape

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**Production Company:** Loani Arman

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 08:00

#### Synopsis:

A young woman is losing her mother to dementia, but through an old ritual, she finds a way to bring her back.

Drawn from the filmmaker's personal experience, 'Our Greatest Escape' is a short film about making the little moments last a lifetime.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Script and concept won the AACTA Pitch Forever Unexpeted competition in 2019

### Judging Notes:

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## Out of Range

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**Production Company:** Brown Cabs

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 13:00

#### Synopsis:

One Paragraph:

MAX (Aaron Pedersen) is Indigenous man in his early 40's pursuing his dreams as an actor. When he's visited by his estranged 12 year old son LEVI (Araluen Lee Baxter) he's keen to impress and takes the opportunity to pass on some 'man skills' to prepare his son for manhood by taking him on a fishing trip. However, their relationship is fractured and when the car breaks down on the road, they find themselves out of range, with no mobile reception, drifting in high and dry in a dinghy. But being stranded out of range may just be what their relationship needs.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

2019 Melbourne International Film Festival

2020 Tampere Film Festival (Finland)

2020 Maoriland Film Festival

2020 St Kilda Film Festival (Best Achievement in Indigenous Filmmaking)

### Judging Notes:

## Over The Edge

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**Production Company:** Deadhouse Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 14:00

### Synopsis:

After witnessing what she thinks may very well be a murder, Simone is dragged out of wallowing in her self-obsessed creative funk and into a situation that might just put her own life in danger.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Monsterfest 2020 (Sydney and Melbourne)

### Judging Notes:



## Parked

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**Production Company:** Princess Pictures

### Film Summary

**Approx Duration:** 11:00

#### **Synopsis:**

It's Summer's last day working at the travelling fairground. She can't wait to move on and delete this dead-end job from her memory. Running the 'Duck Duchess' game is a long way from the dream of what she expected to be doing after graduation. She's sick of all the entitled kids, the over-protective parents, and lectures from the Manager.

But what if the park doesn't think she's ready to leave?

An 11-minute dark twisted fantasy for young adults in the vein of Black Mirror & The Twilight Zone, Parked showcases the first major acting role for Wengie, Australia's number one most subscribed YouTuber and massive internet celebrity. The short was released on YouTube on Halloween 2019 and has had an incredible 2.2 million views to date.

### Judging Notes:

## Peach

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**Production Company:** The Story Mill

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 08:00

**Synopsis:**

A socially anxious young woman lands a hot date. There's only one problem, she's not sure if it's actually a date.

**Other Awards or Festival Invitations:**

Flickerfest - Official Selection

St. Kilda Film Festival 2020 - Official Selection

Frameline44 Pride Showcase - Official Selection

DC Shorts - Official Selection

### Judging Notes:

## Peaks

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**Production Company:** Like This Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 30:00

#### Synopsis:

Logline:

Two friends spend a day of boredom in a bizarre and barren landscape. After one friend plays a prank on the other, pent up insecurities are released in peculiar and damaging ways.

Synopsis:

Long-time friends, Mila and Luka, spend a day together entrapped in a windy, sandy, barren landscape that curiously intimates a sense of repetitive familiarity for both of them. Mila's boredom incites her wandering sensibilities, catching her eye on a passer-by. Luka, ever insecure from years of romantic rejection, is overcome with a surge of jealousy from her gaze that is no longer surprising to him...or her. A tired and ever-present coldness lingers between them.

As the day passes on, Mila plays a macabre prank on Luka, faking her death by washing up on the shore of a misplaced lake. Her playful joy counters his horror and her warmth with him after the fact is drowned in his blind desire, leading to a peculiar and momentarily violent confrontation that seems awkwardly mistaken.

The short explores a largely unspoken communication - when one person's fleeting sensibilities meet another person's unrelenting, nagging demons. What "is" between two people who supposedly care for each other isn't always enough when a single party can't let go of what "isn't". PEAKS desires to explore this dynamic and the confusing releases of energy that arise from irreconcilable relationships.

### Judging Notes:

## Perspectives

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**Production Company:** Bird Eggs Films

### Film Summary

**Approx Duration:** 09:00

#### **Synopsis:**

PERSPECTIVES tells the true story of a young, nervous female Israeli soldier who encounters an Arabic man on a bus. The soldier's suspicions about the man's behaviour force her to decide between protecting the lives of the bus passengers or potentially inflaming the cultural conflicts in Israel, while the world watches via social media.

PERSPECTIVES is based on an event that the director experienced first-hand. The questions it left him with drove his need to tell the story but he also needed distance from it so the gender of the soldier was changed; which also encouraged a fresh take on the subject. The narrative avoids alignment with either side of the Israeli-Palestinian divide, and invites the audience to become aware of their own assumptions. This film isn't about politics, religion, or social conflicts; it's about our individual perspectives and how our views are shaped. Blurring the line between fiction and reality, the filmmakers used a combination of cinema and social media to tell this story; an open ending invites the audience to ask whether there was any danger to the characters in this story and in doing so encourages debate. This film is not about the soldier, the man, or the potential of a bomb. Instead, it's about how we form our perception of all three.

### Judging Notes:

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## Proxy

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**Production Company:** Banks Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 16:00

#### Synopsis:

Proxy is a sci-fi drama short set in the not-too-distant future. In a world where people hire a 'Proxy' – a human trained in the fine art of 'standing in' for a lost loved one, a family member who has passed, a husband or wife who left, or an estranged daughter. Victoria (Emma Booth) tries to navigate the life of being one of the highest in demand proxies in the city while at the same time struggling with her own demons. This short explores the delicate state that is the human condition and the attempt to find succour in a time where 'rent-a-human' abounds.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Invited to: Beeston Film Festival, in consideration for TIFF, Tribeca

### Judging Notes:

## Recorder Queen

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**Production Company:** Music Films Pty Ltd

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 27:00

#### Synopsis:

In Recorder Queen, a daringly innovative and genre-bending short film, director Sophie Raymond journeys into the inner world of musician Genevieve Lacey. In a unique collaboration, two distinctive Australian artists push the boundaries of their crafts. Filmmaker Raymond and recorder virtuoso Lacey combine animation, dramatic reconstruction, documentary footage and live performance to explore the altered states of a creative mind. At the pinnacle of a dazzling international career, Genevieve steps off the classical concert stage, driven by the need to rediscover her Australian roots, and give voice to the stories of her own time and place.

And then there's the music! Elena Kats-Chernin, Johann Sebastian Bach, Paul Kelly, Antonio Vivaldi, Ntaria Ladies Choir, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Brett Dean and Flinders Quartet are among the stellar lineup of musicians, including Lacey herself as both composer and internationally celebrated recorder virtuoso.

### Judging Notes:

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## Red Dress

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**Production Company:** Loan Boy Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 17:00

### Synopsis:

Before her wedding day, a young bride receives a mysterious gift. A traditional dress to be worn at her tea ceremony. Once she wears it, strange things begin to occur in her life. Also her suspicion that her fiancée has been unfaithful intensifies during this unforgettable week.

### Judging Notes:

## Risen

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**Production Company:** Opening Act Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 19:00

#### Synopsis:

Sean (16) and Lusi (20) exist in a world overrun by the epidemic of a drug called RIZE, which makes your body float off the ground while your mind experiences lucid memories. Coming across each other by accident, Sean (16) and Lusi (20) spot a floating, but untethered, RIZE user (a 'fallen') and wait for him to drop from the sky. Sean is uneasy and unfamiliar with this common pursuit - a way to make quick money using the 'fallen' body for extortion - and with alpha, Lusi. She is sympathetic to learn that soft-natured Sean has recently become parentless due to RIZE, and over the course of a day, they find a connection with one another. Sean soon makes an innocent misstep and loses their newly acquired 'fallen' to an opposing group of teens. Left alone, he is presented with an opportunity for redemption. A floating woman in a tunnel provides Sean the chance to prove his commitment to Lusi, and to belong, but at the expense of his morality.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

- Slamdance Film Festival 2020 - 'Emergence'
- Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:



## Safety Net

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**Production Company:** Mischief Media

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

#### Synopsis:

Thirteen-year-old Terry is in emergency care with guardians after his mother's arrest. Cheeky and living with a disability, he outwits one guardian while finding exactly the connection he needs from the other.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Sydney Film Festival - Official Selection - Screenability Program

New Zealand International Film Festival - Finalist - New Zealand's Best

### Judging Notes:

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## Shepherd's Pie

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**Production Company:** -

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 10:30

### Synopsis:

After finding an injured sheep on the side of the road, a farmer nurses the sheep back to health. However, the farmer's intentions are slowly revealed to have more sinister motives.

### Judging Notes:

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## Shoulda

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**Production Company:** Equilibri Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 10:00

#### Synopsis:

One desperate aspiring teacher meets a struggling alcoholic. Both flawed, both aching to be loved, both making up parts of themselves that they believe would be more attractive to the other on their online dating profiles. When they meet, their true selves are hard to disguise. They try and keep up with their own narratives, but when they both find themselves in a truthful and organic moment that is so simple, it represents so much more.

### Judging Notes:

# Sparkles

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**Production Company:** Rush Films

## Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

### Synopsis:

Courtney is a 30-something-year-old Down syndrome woman who leaves her past behind, running away from her hometown in rural Australia, to head towards the city. Along her journey, in the middle of the Outback, she is forced to make a pitstop. Straight off the bus, Courtney walks into the local town pub, and receives an uninviting welcome from the locals. Without much hesitation she quickly gets out of there. To her surprise, Courtney finds herself sitting on a curb out the back of the pub, with a Drag Queen named Diamond. The pair become fast friends, bonding over their sparkly accessories and karaoke. As the night carries on, Courtney finds herself in trouble with a drunk local, who takes advantage of her while no ones around. In the middle of his attempt, Diamond comes to Courtney's rescue. Afterwards, both a little shell shocked from what just happened, the new friends find themselves turning their frustrations out on each other. The courage it sometimes takes to be ourselves, doesn't always come easy. It isn't long before Diamond and Courtney find their way back to one another, and decide to head towards a bigger, brighter, more sparkly life in the city... together.

### Judging Notes:

## Steven's 40th Birthday

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**Production Company:** Clapstick Pictures

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 08:00

### Synopsis:

Steven writes children's books and reads them to children at school in the district. Books such as "There's a Crocodile in my Head" about being grumpy, or "Nothing to be scared of a Little Monster" to help calm that fear of both monsters and storms, and other books to encourage friendships, or no bullying and more. Steven is now 40 and celebrates his birthday and his uncle John has edited a video for him.

### Judging Notes:

## Sweet Tooth

**Production Company:** Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS)

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 23:00

#### Synopsis:

Set in a fictional European town in 1780, Sweet Tooth is a dark and magical short film inspired by the classic story of Hansel & Gretel by the Brothers Grimm, but it offers a different perspective on the tale we think we know!

Sweet Tooth is the untold story of the wicked witch and her infamous gingerbread house.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

CILECT 2019

International Competition

WINNER - Best Short Film Australasia

CANNES CINEMA DES ANTIPODES 2019

Official Selection

FESTIVAL DES ANTIPODES ST. TROPEZ 2019

Official Selection

WINNER - Nicholas Baudin Award - Best Film

International Premiere

CINEFEST OZ 2019

Official Selection

Australian Premiere

FLICKERFEST 2020

Official Selection

MANCHESTER FILM FESTIVAL 2020

Official Selection

UK Premiere

VAIL FILM FESTIVAL COLORADO 2020

Official Selection

US Premiere

ST KILDA FILM FESTIVAL 2020

Official Selection

NOMINEE - Best Young Actor (Julia Savage)

### Judging Notes:

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## System Error

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**Production Company:** Closer Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 14:00

#### Synopsis:

Every day, George works his job at a dingy convenience store, desperately hoping for a friend – but George is also an immobile robotic service unit, and immobile robotic service units do not have friends. When human customer Sid tries to tell George a joke, the simple robot is baffled. So, he sets about editing his code to learn how to laugh. Meddling with one's code, however, can have unexpected consequences – consequences George is going to need Sid's help to deal with. A film about friendship, being okay with being broken, and the inner life of Unit CB-94/X0172AB3982-2. Please do not tamper with the store attendant. Have a nice day.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Tribeca Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:

**Production Company:** Niasari Films

**Film Summary**

**Approx Duration:** 12:00

**Synopsis:**

A one-shot thriller for the #MeToo era.

Tâm wakes up in a strange hotel room. As she pieces together the night before, she realises she is not alone.

**Other Awards or Festival Invitations:**

World Premiere

2020 Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF 68½)

Australian Shorts - Official Selection

August 7, 2020

Western Australia Premiere

CinéfestOZ 2020

Short Film Competition

Nominee: Best Actor

August 26, 2020

**Judging Notes:**



## Technology Hurts

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**Production Company:** Change It Up Pty Ltd

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 01:10

#### Synopsis:

Jane is preparing for her COVID online date with her boyfriend of 12 months when she receives a text that changes everything.

From the director: This was a passion project that I felt compelled to write. I filmed myself acting in my own bathroom during COVID. So many friends of mine have been heartlessly dumped by text message that I thought it was time to shine a light on it and how this sort of message is really received.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Selected for Indie Short Fest and IndieX Film Fest, both in Los Angeles 2020.

### Judging Notes:

## The Complex

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**Production Company:** 2C Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

#### Synopsis:

While moving into a new apartment, a young woman must contend with the advances of a neighbour. A taut social drama, 'The Complex' is an exploration of the patriarchal bear-trap that is gender relations in 2019.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Flickerfest 2020

St Kilda Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:

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## The Diver

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**Production Company:** Golden Moss Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

### Synopsis:

Chaos and confusion rage inside Callan. His father, Malcolm, attempts to contain his son's volatile nature, but when his base instincts are left unchecked, the violence he is capable of displays its full potential.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

1. Venice Film Festival | Italy (2019)
2. Flickerfest International Short Film Festival | Australia (2019) (Winner Best Australian Short Film)
3. Beijing International Short Film Festival | China (2019)
4. Florence Short Film Festival | Italy (2019)
5. European Cinema Meetings in Vannes | France (2020)
6. La Nuit Brève | France (2020)
7. Akbank Short Film Festival | Turkey (2020)
8. Melbourne International Film Festival Australia (2020)

### Judging Notes:

## The Dream of the Songstress

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**Production Company:** VCA University of Melbourne

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

### Synopsis:

The Dream of the Songstress is a short, absurd-fantasy film set in a strange coastal community whose members have charge over a dream experience that is being offered to women, and may well be vital to their existence.

### Judging Notes:

## The Fire

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**Production Company:** Second Nature Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 06:00

### Synopsis:

The incredible true story of a fire tornado hitting a kangaroo sanctuary.

### Judging Notes:

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## The Good Deed

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**Production Company:** Space Between the Gaps Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

### Synopsis:

Do Black Lives Matter?

Tyrone, a homeless Aboriginal boy is arrested by the LAW...Again!

But this time - It's going to take his uncle Lucky's traditional LORE to fix the mess.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Silver Remi award from Worldfest Houston

Montreal Independent FF

Covellite International Film Festival

Newlyn FF

Idyllwild Film Festival

AIFF20 Semi-Finalist

### Judging Notes:

## The Legend of Burnout Barry

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**Production Company:** LateNite Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 23:00

#### Synopsis:

Wheely, Brent and Shay are an inseparable trio of teenagers, hell bent on having a good time and pushing the limits of what's possible. When speed demon and record holder Josh "Wheely" Wilson learns that there might be someone in town faster than him, he sets about finding an elusive legend by the name of Burnout Barry - to challenge him to a race. But when his obsession with being the record holder becomes more important than his friends, Wheely risks losing more than just the title.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

This film was produced as part of the ABC & Screen Australia DisRupted Initiative.

### Judging Notes:





## The Moogai

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**Production Company:** Causeway Film, No Coincidence Media

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

### Synopsis:

An Aboriginal psychological horror, THE MOOGAI is the story of a family terrorised by a child-stealing spirit.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Melbourne International Film Festival 2020 Official Selection

Erwin Rado Award for Best Australia Short Film, MIFF 2020

### Judging Notes:

## The Quiet

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**Production Company:** None

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 10:00

#### Synopsis:

When an astronaut ponders on the quietude of space, he comes upon a startling self-realisation. The truth is written in the stars, but what will he uncover?

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Through June 2020, The Quiet has won 48 Awards & has 160 Official Selections, covering 6 continents.

It also has 6 Academy Award Qualifying Festival Selections, including:

- 1) Sydney Film Festival, Sydney, Australia, 10-21 June 2020, (Finalist, Dendy Award for Best Animation)
- 2) St Kilda Film Festival, St Kilda, Victoria, Australia, 12-20 June 2020 (Nominee, Best Animation)
- 3) Festival Internacional de Cine de Cartagena de Indias (FICCI), Cartagena, Colombia, 11-16 Mar 2020
- 4) REGARD – Saguenay International Short Film Festival, Saguenay, Quebec, Canada, 11-15 Mar 2020
- 5) Flickerfest, 29th International Short Film Festival, Bondi Beach, Sydney, 10-19 Jan 2020 (Best Original Music in An Australian Short Film)
- 6) Brussels Short Film Festival, Brussels, Belgium, 2-12 Sept 2020

Other notable wins include:

- \* Best of Fest (Open Award Winner) - Port Shorts Film Festival, Port Douglas, Queensland, Australia, 25-26 Oct 2019
- \* Best of Fest - Capricorn Film Festival, Gladstone, Queensland, 20-23 Nov 2019
- \* Best Director - Peninsula Film Festival, Rosebud, Victoria, Australia, 31 Jan - 2 Feb 2020
- \* Best Film - Bendigo International Short Film Festival & Competition, Bendigo, VIC, Australia, 23 Nov 2019
- \* Best of Fest - New Mexico RT 66 Film Fest, Moriarty, NM, USA, Oct 2019
- \* Best of Fest - Gateway Film Festival, Forest Grove, Oregon, USA, 12 Oct 201
- \* Best Narrative - Waltham Film Factory Shorts Fest, Waltham, MA, USA, 29-30 Nov 2019
- \* Best Animation - Humboldt Int Film Festival, Arcata, California (CA), USA, 24-28 Apr 2020

Full list of awards can be found here:

<https://thequietradheya.blogspot.com/>

### Judging Notes:

## The Seashell

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**Production Company:** -

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 05:58

### Synopsis:

A young girl finds a seashell and holds it to her ear, expecting to hear peaceful ocean waves. Instead, she hears mother nature's disappointed son, Ricky, who's filling in for his busy mom.

The film stars Connie Degan as the young girl, Franceda Waters as the voice of mother nature and the legendary Jack Charles as the voice of Ricky.

### Judging Notes:

## The Silent Song

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**Production Company:** Carolyn Corkindale

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 16:00

### Synopsis:

It is 1970 and families in Australia are torn apart by the Vietnam War and popular resistance to conscription. Jenny, a young woman with a sweet voice, loses her ability to sing after her family rejects her active membership of the protest movement and her brother decides to accept his call-up. Emotions are high as her brother Bobby departs for the army and then is wounded in action. Only her love for him and family reconciliation enables her attempt to sing as he lies unconscious.

### Judging Notes:

## The Talk.

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**Production Company:** A Little Shaw

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 03:00

### Synopsis:

We all have to have the talk at some point, but how soon is too soon?

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Under 5 minute film festival

Hollywood Just 4 Shorts finalist

Palm Springs International comedy festival

Short and Sweet Film Festival Sydney

### Judging Notes:

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## The Wake

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**Production Company:** Baba Yaga Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

#### Synopsis:

Svetlana is having a bad day. Not only does she have to bury her husband today, but nothing seems to be going according to plan. As the wake turns into a drunken blow out, she confides in a stranger and is faced with a choice that will change her life forever.

### Judging Notes:

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## The Winter

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**Production Company:** RMIT

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 05:00

#### Synopsis:

Walking in a snowy forest, a peasant sees an unusual deer and goes to follow it. The deer allures him and the peasant even wants to catch it.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

- L'Age d'Or International Film Festival Best Animated Short Film
- Accolade Global Film Competition Best Animation (student) Best Art Direction (student)
- Best Shorts Competition Best Animated Film (student)
- SICAF International Animation Festival Finalist
- Overmountain Animation Festival
- Indy Shorts International Film Festival
- Flamingo Film Festival
- New York Animation Film Awards Semi-Finalist
- Dumbo Film Festival Semi Finalist
- South Film and Arts Academy Festival
- New Jersey International Film Festival
- NEZ International Film Festival
- Hiroshima International Animation Festival 2020 (Stars of Students)
- Open World Animation Festival
- 26th TRMF Twin River Media Festival Animation Competition

#### Judging Notes:

## This River

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**Production Company:** AFTRS

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 13:00

#### **Synopsis:**

During an Australian 1990's summer, Jacquie celebrates graduating high school with her friends and family. But when a boy she likes breaks her trust at a party it shatters her sense of self. As Jacquie begins her process of healing she connects with loved ones and nature finding the strength to move on.

#### **Other Awards or Festival Invitations:**

ADG nomination 2020 - Best Direction in a Student Film.

### Judging Notes:



## Ties That Bind

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**Production Company:** Kalori Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

#### Synopsis:

Delivered home by police, 17 year-old Thomas has to front his domineering mother Marlene who isn't interested in his side of the story. Forced outside as punishment, Thomas is left with hurt and frustrations but when neighbourly sounds enter his conscious world echoing a connection to the present and the past, Thomas is triggered to make a life changing decision.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Sydney Film Festival Event Ceniema Best Australian Short Screenplay Award 2019  
ImagineNATIVE Indigenous Film, Art + Media Festival, Toronto Canada

### Judging Notes:

## Tomorrow's On Fire

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**Production Company:** Oh Yeah Wow

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 02:00

### Synopsis:

Created in direct response to the Australian Bushfire crisis, 'Tomorrow's On Fire' is a rallying cry for hope, in a country increasingly scarce of it.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Official Selection, Animayo International Film Festival.

### Judging Notes:

## Torch Song

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**Production Company:** Apartment 19

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 12:00

### Synopsis:

An XXY adolescent is rejected by his father at a suburban burning man ceremony.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Adelaide Film Festival

### Judging Notes:

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## Tribunal

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**Production Company:** Hannah Ngo

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 15:00

#### Synopsis:

In the face of an antagonistic tribunal, a harried interpreter must decide the fate of an asylum seeker.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Cinefest Oz Gala

Melbourne Lift-Off Film Festival

USA Film Festival

The ReelGood Film Festival

PRIDE Queer Film Festival

### Judging Notes:

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## Two Little People

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**Production Company:** RMIT

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 03:00

### Synopsis:

A hand painted tale about two little people living together in the wheat field. After the man left, the woman missed him very much.

### Judging Notes:

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## Unseen

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**Production Company:** Red Geranium Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 23:00

### Synopsis:

Mentally and emotionally sick and traumatised from drastic events in her past, feeling guilty due to not saving her lover from arrest and when she needed her, in a country which same sex relationship is banned and can cost you your life, Tara desperately is in search of any kind of connection with other human beings.

### Judging Notes:

## Untitled (Saturn Returns)

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**Production Company:** Steven J. Tandy Films/Kewl Studio

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 07:29

### Synopsis:

A man greets an old friend.

### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Premiered Peninsula Film Festival 2020 Official Competition.

**\*\*Winner\*\*** Best Actor Award: Andrew S. Gilbert

### Judging Notes:

## Waiting for Alistair

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**Production Company:** Harvi Chugh

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 14:00

#### Synopsis:

Set in the 1950s Australian Outback, after regaining consciousness, a young woman is desperate to know why she has been imprisoned in a disturbing Asylum. She longs to escape to find her husband and son.

### Judging Notes:

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## Wanderbust

**Production Company:** Cliff House Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 21:00

#### Synopsis:

Wanderbust is a dark comedy of errors about two best mates Jac and Hazel, on an ill-fated backpacking adventure up the east coast of Australia.

When 30-something Jac and Hazel wake up at their hostel to discover all their belongings are on lock down amidst a bed bug fumigation, and they've missed their tour bus, they are forced to get promo jobs to quickly earn enough money to continue their trip. All the while, Jac does her best to conceal the fact that she is quite pregnant from Hazel who keeps offering her vodka shots and talking relentlessly about their upcoming trip to India.

When a fellow backpacker Neil, offers them a ride, they accept without a second thought, only to discover Neil is a bit of a kook who's obsessed with hunting. Unnerved, Jac insists they pull over at a servo, complaining of nausea. Hazel, sleepy from all the Vodka shots, stays in the car. When she emerges from the toilet, Neil's Ute is nowhere to be seen. Jac fears the worst and runs into the nearby sand dunes in search of help.

Meanwhile in the car, Hazel wakes up terrified and alone with Neil who she manages to strangle with the seatbelt. As she tries to struggle free, a steel water bottle hits Neil in the heading, taking him out. Jac is revealed, having arrived just in the nick of time on camelback like a true hero.

The girls load Neil's body into the back of the ute and drive away, only to be pulled over by a cop for doing an illegal u-turn. Just when it seems like their morbid secret will be blown, Jac blurts out about her pregnancy to the cop who lets them go. Relieved, the girls argue over the fact that Jac attempted to conceal the pregnancy for so long.

However, the ice thaws between them and they share a tender moment as they arrange Neil's body in a small dingy, set it alight and watch it drift out to sea, bidding farewell to their assailant, Hazel's dreams of a buddy trip to India and Jac's fears of abandonment by her friend.

Shortly after, back in the car, the girls make a series of alarming discoveries that force them to question their choices.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Official Selection, St Kilda Film Festival 2020

#### Judging Notes:

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## We're Not Here

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**Production Company:** Exit Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 11:00

#### Synopsis:

When tragedy interrupts their secret seaside tryst, the prospect of going public brings two men to a standoff.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Outfest L.A - 2019

Melbourne International Film Festival - 2019

Melbourne Queer Film Festival - 2020

Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival - 2020 (Winner - Best Screenplay)

St Kilda Film Festival - 2020

Brisbane International Film Festival - 2020

Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival - 2020

Dallas International Film Festival - 2020

Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival - 2020

FilmOut San Diego - 2020

Film Rozedagen LGBT Film Fest - 2020

Kashish Mumbai LGBT Film Festival - 2020

#### Judging Notes:

## When Sally Left Steve

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**Production Company:** Australian Film and Television Radio School (AFTRS)

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 07:00

### Synopsis:

“When Sally left Steve”, is a heartfelt drama about loving someone enough to let them go. Steve wakes to find his fiancée in their bedroom and is immediately overwhelmed with joy. Earlier that day Sally was hospitalized with a life-threatening aneurysm. Steve’s joy quickly turns to disbelief and then despair, as he learns the truth behind Sally’s visit. Desperate to hold onto the love of his life, Steve must face the frightening reality that her time to let go has come, and his must too.

### Judging Notes:

## Wine Lake

**Production Company:** Tribus Lingua Media

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 09:32

#### Synopsis:

A homeless Irish alcoholic and an artistic backpacker clash on a Sydney street. The backpacker becomes the focus of her anger over a misunderstanding.

But his innocence catches her off guard and they quickly develop an unlikely connection over his art. Apprehensively she shares one of her poems aloud and is emboldened by his enthusiasm.

The pair discover the power of genuine self expression and creativity.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

**\*\*Awards/Nominations/Selections\*\***

Winner Best Actor - St Kilda Film Festival 2020

Best Screenplay - St Kilda Nominated

Winner Irish Film Festival Australia Diaspora Best Short Film

Winner Audience Choice Award - Byron Bay All Shorts

Winner Audience Choice Award - Chicago Irish Film festival

Selection - Flickerfest International Short Film Festival 2020

Selection - Raindance Film Festival 2019

Selection - Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival - 2020

Selection - Irish London Film Festival 2020

**\*\*Selected to Screen - Coming\*\***

Thessaloniki International Short Film Festival 2020

Los Angeles Women in Film Festival 2020

### Judging Notes:

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## Woven Threads - Olive

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**Production Company:** Woven Threads Productions

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 05:00

#### Synopsis:

This story is about Olive and how she learnt tools and strategies to manage her anxiety, depression and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder).

At the age of nine Olive began to have negative thoughts, she hid them from everyone until it she was eleven, and in her first year of high school. After a long period of school refusal, many psychologists and several schools Olive ended up in hospital for six weeks. This is the story of how she moved forward and what she learnt from that experience and the years that followed.

After making this film Olive had several difficult situations arise one after the other that eventuated in another hospital stay this time much harder and for four months. Olive learnt a lot about herself and I think Olive would say that she is more aware than ever that the thoughts will probably never leave her, but she has found ways of managing them. She has realised that the negative thoughts don't have to stop her from engaging the happy things that are happening around her.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

Impact Doc Awards

### Judging Notes:

## ZEF

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**Production Company:** Circadian Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 14:00

**Synopsis:**

ZEF follows a 21-year-old, genderqueer, skimpy bar worker through a collage of moments, sensations and memories; exploring gender, love and sexuality. An unfiltered snapshot of our desire for intimacy in its oscillating forms.

**Other Awards or Festival Invitations:**

NOWNESS (online premiere)

Aesthetica Short Film Festival

### Judging Notes:

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## ZPR 359

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**Production Company:** Cat & Dog Films

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 11:00

### Synopsis:

Asylum seeker ZPR 359 sews his lips together and begins a hunger strike. As Z weakens he enters into a delirium where he imagines he is in Australia with his doctor.

### Judging Notes:

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## ЩОСЬ В ЛІСІ ЗДОХЛО (Something Has Died In The Forest)

**Production Company:** University of Melbourne (VCA) - Masters of Film and Television Student Production 2019

### Film Summary

Approx Duration: 25:00

#### Synopsis:

'Like lost children we live our unfinished lives' - Guy Debord.

In the wake of World War Two Ukrainian migrant Olesya, living in a migrant camp in the Australian bush with her husband, struggles to come to terms with her pregnancy as she relives the trauma of losing her first child.

#### Other Awards or Festival Invitations:

2020 - ADG Nomination for Best Direction in a Student Film by Eva Justine Torkkola on ЩОСЬ В ЛІСІ ЗДОХЛО (SOMETHING HAS DIED IN THE FOREST).

### Judging Notes: