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NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

2011
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2011 Benefit proceeds helped to launch NYICFF’s Public School Access Program, which supports Festival attendance for students and teachers from Title 1 schools!

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(Actually, it doesn’t hurt. In fact, it feels kinda good!)
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March 4, 2011

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the New York International Children’s Film Festival.

New York City is truly a capital of the film industry, which is why we are proud to be home to this exciting annual event. Since 1997, the New York International Children’s Film Festival has captured the imaginations of thousands of young people throughout the five boroughs. And with films from every corner of the globe, traditional narratives, animated features, documentaries, and much more, there is sure to be something to spark the interest of every young discerning film critic.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, I commend everyone associated with the New York International Children’s Film Festival for helping to cultivate a future generation of film aficionados. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable week of screenings and much continued success.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007
March 4 – March 27, 2011

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to send words of welcome to all who have come to enjoy the New York International Children’s Film Festival.

As the cultural capital of the world, the great City of New York is the perfect place to take in an exhibit, a show or a movie, no matter what your age. We are known for discerning and discriminating audiences, even among our youngest residents. Each winter, Manhattan is treated to an amazing collection of animated, live action, and experimental shorts and features from around the globe – the best in new film for ages 3 through 18.

Since 1997, NYICFF has been promoting engaging and high-quality cinematic works for youngsters and youth. These efforts are designed to be thought-provoking, educational, inspirational, and most of all, entertaining. As the largest event for children and teens in North America, this Festival will afford thousands the opportunity to enjoy opening night, a thrilling competition, gala premieres, and retrospectives, as well as filmmaker question-and-answer workshops, receptions, and a concluding awards ceremony.

I am certain that children of all ages will be thoroughly enchanted with this city-wide extravaganza, representing the best in new, international children’s films. I commend all affiliated with the New York International Children’s Film Festival for this remarkably creative and exciting initiative.

With warmest regards, and best wishes for an enjoyable festival.

Sincerely,

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NYICFF FILM PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS

Children ages 6 to 16 work side by side with filmmakers to write, storyboard, animate, perform, shoot, and edit a short film from conception to completion.

Workshops run Monday to Friday, from 10am to 4pm (early drop-off and late pick-up available).

AUGUST 15 – 19, 2011
- Create-a-Cartoon with Small Factory (ages 6-10)
- Claymation with London Squared (ages 8-12)
- Cut-out Animation with London Squared (ages 10-16)

JULY 5 – 15, 2011 (2-week workshops!)
- Rotoscope Animation with London Squared (ages 6-10)
- Stop-Motion Animation with London Squared (ages 8-12)
- Flash Animation with Rauch Bros. Animation (ages 10-16)

For more info and to register: www.gkids.com/workshop
MARS NEEDS MOMS — SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING

USA — SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING — 3D
Animation, Science Fiction, 2011, 88 min
In English — Rated PG
Recommended ages 8 to adult

**Special Event — Mars Needs Moms picture book and other gifts for all families!**

Be the first person on the planet to see Mars Needs Moms, Disney's new 3D space adventure comedy from motion capture pioneers ImageMovers Digital (Polar Express) and producer Robert Zemeckis (Back to the Future, Forrest Gump). Based on the beloved book by Pulitzer Prize-winning Berkeley Breathed, the film centers on sarcastic tween Milo, who is raised under the rules and regs of a nagging mother he doesn't appreciate. But when Mom is kidnapped by Martians in desperate need of Earth moms to raise their unimpressive young, Milo stows away on a spaceship in hot pursuit — and lands in an awe-inspiring, red-hued, futuristic world where the combination of wild technology and zero gravity provides plenty of fun and danger. With the help of slacker hacker earthling Gribble and Martian girl-pal Ki, Milo sets out on a quest to find and save his mother. Featuring the voices of Seth Green, Joan Cusack and Dan Fogler.

**Party!**
After the show, help us kick off NYICFF 2011 at the Opening Night Gala, an all-ages food and cocktail reception.

BEST OF FEST, AWARDS & PARTY

Recommended all ages • 75 minutes plus reception

NYICFF 2011
AWARDS CEREMONY

Join filmmakers and special guests for the presentation of the NYICFF 2011 Awards. The kid-friendly awards ceremony is followed by a one-hour encore screening of the winning short films—as determined by NYICFF audience voting throughout the festival.

9 GRAND PRIZE — SHORT FILM
9 GRAND PRIZE — FEATURE FILM
Selected by NYICFF audience members 18 years and younger

★ SPECIAL JURY AWARD
BEST ANIMATED SHORT
BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT
Selected by the NYICFF Jury Adam Gopnik, Lynne McVeigh, Matthew Modine, Michel Ocelot, Dana Poole, Susan Sarandon, James Schamus, Evan Shapiro, Uma Thurman, John Tortorella, Christine Vachon, and Gus Van Sant

★ AUDIENCE AWARDS
Ages 3-6, ages 5-10, ages 8-14, ages 12-18

★ HSBC ENVIRONMENTAL FILM AWARD
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★ PARENTS' AWARD
Selected by NYICFF audience members 19 years and older

★ Parents

*After the movies, it's party time with complimentary hors d'oeuvres, tasty treats for kids of all ages, and an open wine and beverage bar.*
MIA & THE MIGOO
France – WORLD PREMIERE
(ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION)
Animation: Jacques-Rémy Girard, 2008/2011, 92 min
in English

Recommended ages 7 to adult

NYICFF presents the world premiere of the new English language version of Mia & the Migoo, which was NYICFF opening night film in 2009 and went on to win Best Animated Feature at the European Film Awards. Created from an astounding 500,000 hand-painted frames of animation, the film is a breathtakingly beautiful and thrilling adventure that pits wild-haired young heroine Mia against profit-hungry developers, with the future of life on Earth in the balance. One night Mia has a premonition. So after saying a few words of parting at her mother’s grave, she sets out on a cross-continent journey across mountains and jungles to search for her father, who has been trapped in a landscape at a disaster-plagued construction site on a remote tropical lake. In the middle of the lake stands the ancient and guarded Tree of Life, watched over by innocent, bumbling forest spirits called the Migoo, who grow and change shape as they please, morphing from small childlike beings to petulant giants. It is the Migoo who have been sabotaging the construction to protect this sacred site and – new together with Mia – they join in a fight to find Mia’s father and save the Tree.

WELCOME TO THE SPACE SHOW
Japan – US PREMIERE
Animation: Kyoko Masumura, 2010, 134 min
in English with English subtitles

Recommended ages 7 to adult

WELCOME TO THE SPACE SHOW

With an intergalactic cast of thousands, Koji Masumura’s colorfully explosive debut feature sets a new high for visual spectacle and sheer inventiveness of character design – in what has to be one of the most gleefully surreal depictions of alien life forms ever portrayed in cinema. It seems like just another lazy summer in the store for Amane and her older cousin Natsuki. Lolling about the countryside, the days are bitchy and boundless. But boredom quickly vanishes when they find an injured dog in the woods and bring him back to the cabin – only to discover that he is not a dog at all, but Puchi, an alien botanist sent to Earth to track down a rare and powerful plant called Zughan (better known as wasabi root). Before long, Puchi has whisked the kids away to a space colony on the dark side of the moon, an interstellar melting pot where we experience a non-stop parade of humorous alien creatures, jellyfish spaceships, dragon trains, and – if that weren’t enough – a theme song from British pop anomaly Susan Boyle. (Really? Yes, really.) The plot twists come fast and furious, and with such a glorious barrage of color and invention washing across the screen, you just want to hit pause and gawk at the wonder of what you are seeing.

A CAT IN PARIS
France – US PREMIERE
Animation: Cagena/Kokkilo, 2010, 83 min
in English

Recommended ages 6 to adult

NYICFF is thrilled to present the US Premiere of the brilliant new feature from Foulage, the animation studio behind Mia & the Migoo and Raining Cats and Frogs. A Cat in Paris is a beautifully hand-drawn caper set in the shadow-drenched alleys of Paris. Dino is a pet cat that leads a double life. By day he lives with Zoe, a little mute girl whose mother, Joanna, is a detective in the Parisian police force. But at night he sneaks out the window to work with Nico – a slinky cat-burglar with a big heart, whose fluid movements are poetry in motion – as he evades captors and slips and swishes from rooftop to rooftop across the Paris skyline. The cat’s two worlds collide when young Zoe decides to follow Dino on his nocturnal adventures and falls into the hands of Victor Coste, a blustery gangster planning the theft of a rare statue. Now cat and cat burglar must team up to save Zoe from the bumbling thieves, leading to a thrilling acrobatic finale on top of Notre Dame. A Cat in Paris is a warm and richly humorous love letter to classic noir films and the stylized wit of the Pink Panther cartoons – and Dino, the literal cat burglar, manages to steal the show with little more than a subtle swirl of the tail and quiet meow.
THE STORYTELLING SHOW

Francois/Luxembourg – NY PREMIERE

Directed by Jean-Claude Nappe, 2010, 27 min

In French with English subtitles

Recommended ages 7 to adult

Don’t miss the hilarious new comedy from the producers of Niniku and the Sorceress, The Inflations of Belleville and The Secret of Kells. Laurent is so good at telling bedtime stories to his kids that he decides to enter him in a reality show TV contest, where the competing dads are given cues and have to invent a bedtime story on the spot. Who will tell the best story? Will it be the music loving dad? The know-it-all professor? The dad with severe anger management issues? Or will it be Eric, Laurent’s manipulative, lying, cheating co-worker, who will stop at nothing to see Laurent fail? The deceptively simple animation clears space for rapid fire joke and visual humor – as the scene shifts back and forth between the studio sound stage and the fathers’ imagined stories, where princesses ride dolphins and prehistoric cavemen sing operettas – riffing on everything from Harry Potter to Mick Jagger along the way. Inspired by the director’s own childhood memories, The Storytelling Show is a raucous tribute to the joys of imagination and the limitless possibilities of a good story.

Comment: Film contains mild language and some naked artwork (scene 1).

THE DREAMS OF JINSHA

China – EAST COAST PREMIERE

Animated, Chen Fengming, 2010, 85 min

In Mandarin with English subtitles

Recommended ages 8 to adult

Five years in the making, Chen Fengming’s Oscar-shortlisted animated feature blends Chinese history and mythology in a time-travel, fantasy adventure – as a young boy from Beijing hurtles back in time 3,000 years to the Jinsha Kingdom and finds himself at the center of an ancient prophecy. Entering a world of sweeping hand-drawn landscapes filled with serene rivers, spirit-filled forests, and seas of lotus blossoms, the boy Xiao Long meets a young princess riding a white lion, who escorts him to the palace of the Jinsha king. There he discovers that his arrival has been pre-ordained, and that the pendant that hangs around his neck is a gift from his father – has the power to either bring peace or unleash untold devastation upon the Kingdom and its people. Longing to return home, but also enchanted by his surroundings and newfound friends, Xiao Long faces a difficult choice between leaving the past behind, or staying and risking his life to save Jinsha. The animators clearly drew inspiration from the work of Hayao Miyazaki (Studio Ghibli fans will note references to Castle in the Sky, Nausicaa, and The Cat Returns) to create this epic and child-friendly tale about friendship, power, and self-sacrifice.

ECHOES OF THE RAINBOW

Hong Kong

Live Action, John Kao, 2010, 92 min

In Mandarin with English subtitles

Recommended ages 10 to adult

Winner of the Crystal Bear (youth audience award) at the Berlin Film Festival and Hong Kong’s official entry for this year’s Oscars, Echoes of the Rainbow is a graceful and emotionally powerful tale based on the filmmaker’s real-life childhood. It’s the spring of 1969 and the world will have to wait another six months before Neil Armstrong sets foot on the moon – but our young hero ‘Big Ears’ is running through the streets of Hong Kong with a goldfish bowl on his head. Big brother Desmond (played wonderfully by Cantopop heartthrob, Anif Lee) is a gold-medal track star and ace student who plays guitar and nurtures a nascent romance with soft-spoken cute pie Flera. Meanwhile, their parents work their fingers to the bone running a tiny neighborhood shoe store. Their dream is simple; all they want is for their children to have a better life than they did – and this mood of nostalgic optimism and yearning is reflected perfectly by the sappy 60s pop ballads waiting from big brother’s transistor radio. But the sunny time soon darkens as the family is beset by a crumbling economy, social unrest, and the onset of Hong Kong’s annual typhoons – presaging an even more wrenching family tragedy. This wonderful, bittersweet saga is almost epic in scale, evoking good times and bad times, love and loss, with sincerity, humor, and tenderness.

Comment: Contains emotionally charged situations and brief but strong images.

BOY

New Zealand – NY PREMIERE

Live Action, Taiyo Watanabe, 2003, 87 min

In English

Recommended ages 12 to adult

Using his own childhood hometown as a luscious backdrop, Oscar-nominated director Taika Waititi delivers a delightfully playful, delicately poignant film that gracefully scales comedy and drama and is simply a joy to watch. It is 1984. Michael Jackson rules the airwaves, and eleven-year-old “Boy” lives with his kid brother and a slew of cousins in a small, dirt-poor community tucked away amongst the lazy beaches of rural New Zealand. Boy spends his days trying to impress crush Chardonnay with his “Thriller” dance moves and fantasizing about the day his father will come home from jail to take him on amazing adventures. When his father finally does return, it is not for familial bonding, but to dig up the bag of money he hid while running from the police and to set up in the garage with his gang of hopeless hoodlums. It isn’t long before Boy realizes that his father is not the combination war hero/deep sea diver/rugby captain that he imagined him to be – but a lustful, selfish buffoon whose opulent delusions are even more childish than his own. It is a coming of age story for both father and son.

Comment: Film includes plentiful drinking and pot smoking, sexual references, and violence.
Cupcakes, cakes for all occasions, cakes by the slice, cookies, and sweet potato pies.

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TIME OF EVE
Japan - US PREMIERE
Animation, Yasuhiro Nosaka, 2010, 106 min
in Japanese with English subtitles

Recommended ages 11 to adult

Crowning territory explored by Blade Runner and I, Robot (the film makes frequent allusions to Asimov’s Three Laws of Robotics), Time of Eve is an exquisite drawn, sci-fi allegory that explores questions of artificial intelligence while flirting with the moral and personal implications of human-robot romance. It is the future and household androids are becoming common. Completely lifelike and indistinguishable from humans, androids are programmed to serve with devotion – so it is no wonder that highschooler Rikuo begins to have unsettling feelings towards his android Sammy. feelings heightened when he discovers a curious phrase recorded in her activity log. “Are you enjoying the Time of Eve?” Investigating with his buddy Masa, they discover an enigmatic underground café, a robot safe-zone, where androids and humans interact as equals – in apparent violation of guidelines set by the all-powerful Robot Ethics Committee. Inside the café distinctions between human and android are blurred and both seem to reveal layers of emotional complexity not apparent in the outside world.

Comment: Film contains mild sexuality suggestive situations.

SAMMY’S ADVENTURES: THE SECRET PASSAGE
Belgium – US PREMIERE – 3D Animation, Ben Stassen, 2010, 85 min
in English

Recommended ages

This delightful, kid-friendly eco-adventure utilizes the immersive 3D experience to the fullest: you will feel like you are snorkeling in a fabulously colorful, animated underwater world. When Sammy and his fellow turtle hatchlings are born, they face a dangerous journey from shore to sea, a trek that can seem like a marathon to a newborn sea turtle. Before they reach the surf, Sammy and a young female turtle named Shelly are scooped up by seagulls, and Sammy must act fast to save them both. Only hours old and already a hero, Sammy is almost too exhausted to continue on his path to the ocean, and the two part ways as Shelly begins her new life at sea. But at a lifetime of adventure is in store for Sammy as he begins a 50-year odyssey, inspired by the real experience of a sea turtle. Along the way he gets washed ashore and adopted by a commune of hippies who draw a peace sign on his shell – carrying this proud symbol on his back, he crosses the globe making friends and facing obstacles from oil spills to natural predators as he tries to reunite with his long lost Shelly. Film features stunning, vibrant 3D visuals and a soundtrack peppered with pop songs from Bruno Mars and Michael Jackson.
Sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Girls’ POV presents an eye-opening selection of short and feature films celebrating the trials and triumphs of girls from different cultures and backgrounds — while honoring and supporting current and future women filmmakers!

BREAKING INTO THE BOYS CLUB: GIRLS BEHIND THE CAMERA
FILMMAKER PANEL EVENT
75 mins
Recommended ages 10 and up

What is it like to be a woman working in Hollywood?

Sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, this NYCCF panel event will give audiences the chance to hear from, speak with, and ask advice of award-winning women directors, producers, composers, cinematographers — and more — to better understand the unique experience of the female filmmaker.

As this program goes to print the panel includes:
- Lisa Cortes
  Producer, Precious — six Oscar nominations including Best Picture
- Christine Vachon
  Miller Films — Boys Don’t Cry, I’m Not There
- Claudia Raschke
  Cinematographer, Mad Hot Ballroom
- Lizeth Scott
  Composer, The Chronicles of Narnia
- Kori Rae
  Pixa—The Incredibles, Monsters, Inc.
- Additional panelists to be added!

Filmmakers will share their experiences, discuss gender-based roadblocks they’ve faced in the industry, and offer advice for aspiring young filmmakers.

CHANDANI: THE DAUGHTER OF THE ELEPHANT WHISPERER
Germany/Sri Lanka — NY PREMIERE
Documentary, Anne-Charlotte, 2003, 72 mins in Sinhala and English with English subtitles
Recommended ages 8 and up

From the producers of last year's Turtle: The Incredible Journey comes a stunning true-life story set in the magnificent Sri Lankan tropics. Chandani dreams of following in the footsteps of her father and becoming the first female mahout — a guardian of wild elephants. When Chandani is given a baby elephant, she works with him every day, memorizing the guiding techniques and mastering the herbal remedies that have been passed down from generation to generation. Inscribed by her great-great grandfather in a book of dried palm leaves. But despite her obvious skill, she is chastised for performing a job considered suited only for men. Chandani is a moving story of ambition, strained traditions, and familial bonds — with astounding footage of Sri Lankan wildlife and close-ups of elephants being trained and cared for (including an adorable sequence of an elephant playing soccer). When she is given permission to participate in the Perahera — a ceremonial procession of fire-dancers, acrobats, and elaborately costumed elephants — Chandani will get the chance to prove whether a girl can, indeed, learn the artistry and patience of a great mahout.

Shown with short film The Way to Heaven

AURELIE LAFLAMME’S DIARY
Canada — US PREMIERE
Recommended ages 8 and up

Aurelie Laflamme suspects she is an alien. That would explain why she feels different from everyone else, why she can’t string two words together without making a fool of herself, and why boys really get on her nerves. Aurelie’s endearing clumsiness positions her as a pitch-perfect, French-Canadian version of a Judy Blume character as she navigates her way around the strange conventions of planet Earth. With her school days a complete waste of time and her cleaning-obsessed mother too uptight, Aurelie finds solace in the bright lights of the video arcade, playing Dance Dance Revolution and drinking slushies with her best friend, Kat. Whenever her situation becomes too unbearable, her imagination trails off into elaborate fantasy sequences that provide temporary escape — and much amusement for the viewer — but only seem to land her in more trouble. The whims of Aurelie’s imagined world grow more absurd as she is thrown deeper into the clutches of adolescence, facing teachers, tantrums, fake ties, and first crushes. Aurelie Laflamme’s Diary juxtaposes these ridiculously silly situations with moments of genuine tenderness, reminding us that Aurelie’s calamitous journey to adulthood is anything but alien.
SHORTS FOR TOTS
Recommended ages 3 to 6 • 65 minutes

SAARI
Spain — US PREMIERE
Animation, Pericle Ismo, 2008, 3 min x 2
Stunning colors, character design, and art direction show influences of Miró in this Spanish series about the creative adventures of a group of friends living together on the animated island of Saari.

PRECISE PETER
Germany
Animation, Martin Schmidt, 2010, 5 min
An obsessed compulsive dad is excited about introducing his little boy to the joys of al fresco dining. The fish is ready, the table is set, the sun is shining, all seems perfect—but junior can’t quite get with the program.

MI’AU, MYAU
UK — US PREMIERE
Animation, Valesa Vega, 2009, 1 min
In this lovely hand-drawn short animation, a group of birds sit together on a branch, chirping away each in their own native tongue. But when an unexpected visitor comes along, his words are universally understood.

JOHNNY
Germany — WORLD PREMIERE
Animation, Melitta Meckr, 2011, 4 min
Colorful stop motion, goofy live action, surreal homemade sets, and a ridiculous pigeon costume come together to humorous effect in this story of Johnny—a hilariously narrated, tongue-in-cheek fable about what happens to little boys who don’t drink their milk!

WHISTLELESS
Denmark — EAST COAST PREMIERE
Animation, Siri Melchior, 2010, 5 min
In this fun, sweet, musical cartoon, a little bird struggles to find his voice in a world full of different noises. A colorful, hand-drawn gem from NYIFF alum Siri Melchior (Dog Who Was a Cat Inside, Mamba) makes its first East Coast appearance following a run of major tests including Berlin, Toronto, Annecy, Seoul, and many more.

ALL THAT CATS
Hungary — NY PREMIERE
Animation, Négyi László, 2010, 1 min x 1
In this series of short animations, a duo of hip hop cats perform beatbox rhythms to transform everyday situations into musical experiences.

WHO’S THERE?
Slovakia — US PREMIERE
Animation, Tiina Kajander, 2009, 5 min
Two boys hatch out of eggs and have an imaginative adventure. Sometimes as friends, sometimes as rivals, they build a house to protect themselves from the wolf.

MOBILE
Germany — NY PREMIERE
Animation, Verena Fiedl, 2010, 6 min
Isolated on the edge of society, a cow tips the balance of destiny when she attempts to make a friend.

SNOWFLAKES AND CARROTS
Canada — US PREMIERE
Animation, Sammette Lesche-Geert, 2010, 4 min
A little girl steals the carrot noses from all the snowmen she can find. But why?

THE YELLOW BALLOON
USA — NY PREMIERE
Animation, Ben Thome/Rob Castell, 2010, 3 min
The true story of a dramatic event that takes place on a New York City subway, featuring a little girl and her yellow balloon.

ORMIE
Canada
Animation, Rob Silverstein, 2009, 4 min
Fig see cookie. Fig want cookie. But the cookies are frustratingly out of reach in glass jar on top of the fridge, just beyond his grasp... or are they? With inventiveness and relentless determination, Ormie employs Wile E. Coyote-type contraptions and half-baked plans in a series of increasingly desperate attempts to attain the sweet objects of his obsession.

MURPHY’S SHORTS
USA
Animation, Todd Heuber, 2009, 2 min
A chubby kid on a diving board keeps bouncing higher and higher, as sister, dad, and baby watch from below with growing anticipation and concern.

HOW THE SHAMMIES BATHED
Latvia — NY PREMIERE
Mixed Media, Edgars Janieris, 2010, 7 min
Collage and mixed media animation create a textural feast, with adorable animated characters designed in patterned fabrics, burlap, and buttons. A foreboding “drop-drop” coming from a dark room turns out to be only water in the tub—it’s bath time for the Shammies!

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**THE LITTLE BOY AND THE BEAST**
Germany – WORLD PREMIERE (English Language)
Animation, Waeland/Heinricher, 2010, 7 min

When your mother turns into a beast, a lot of things change.

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**DON'T GO**
Turkey – EAST COAST PREMIERE
Animation/EuroAction, Yorgos Akondis, 2010, 4 min

Awesome, thumpy, electronic disco music propels this non-stop chase scene of a movie – as a cute, pink-bellied, one-eyed CGI bunny gets chased around an apartment by a live action black cat.

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**GRAVITY**
Canada – US PREMIERE
Experimental, Reinhard Höller, 2010, 2 min

Falling objects are synchronized to produce rhythms and patterns.

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**FLUFFY MCLOUD**
Ireland – NY PREMIERE
Animation, Colin Farquhar, 2010, 3 min

A short film about man’s mixed relationship with Mother Nature. Fluffy McCloud uses his powers of precipitation mostly to annoy. But when one of his pranks causes near calamity, he decides to use his meteorological skills to make people happy.

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**THE DEEP**
USA – WORLD PREMIERE
Animation, PES, 2010, 2 min

Metallic objects come to life in the depths of the sea, in the newest film from New York’s brilliant stop-motion artist PES – whose past NYICFF selections include Western Spaghetti, Dogs of War, and Game Over.

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**MINNIE LOVES JUNIOR**
Australia – US PREMIERE
Live Action, Andy McBean/Matt Mielies, 2010, 13.5 min

A beautifully shot film about a little boy who loves the sea, and a little girl who loves the boy.
LEITMOTIF
Denmark
Animation, Jeanette Norgaard, 2000, 7.5 min
Fluid, expressive animation and a great retro jazz soundtrack bring Troplets of Belflavelle immediately to mind, as a lonely old musician tickles the ivories with his cat on his lap.

MARCEL THE SHELL WITH THE SHOES ON
USA
Animation, Dean Fleischer-Camp, 2009, 3 min
An up-close and personal interview with Internet video star Marcel, a tiny shell with one eyebrow, two shoes, and a really great personality!

THE INCIDENT AT TOWER 37
USA
Animation, Chris Perry, 2009, 11 min
A guard at a futuristic water tower intercepts a covert band of amphibian creatures trying to destroy the tower to rehydrate their planet.

WE ARE BOYS
Netherlands – US PREMIERE
Documentary, Teunis Keu, 2009, 14 min
In this sun-baked ode to boys’ life, two best friends spend the waning days of summer pestering their neighbors, sailing their boat, catching frogs, and savoring the final, fleeting moments of their time together before one goes off to high school.

HAMMERHEAD
UK
Live Action, Sam Brown, 2009, 34 min
When a shark is spotted off a nearby beach, Boris seizes the opportunity to try to reunite his separated parents for a birthday road trip. But when the day arrives, he is disappointed to find that his biggest enemy is along for the ride — his mother’s new girlfriend, Liliah.

THE LOST THING
Australia/UK – OSCAR® NOMINATED
Animation, Andrew Bujalski/Shane Tag, 2009, 15.5 min
A boy encounters a strange creature on a beach and decides to find a home for it in a world where everyone believes there are far more important things to think about. This beautifully animated film comes from Passion Pictures, producers of past NYKFF favorites City of Paradise and Dog Who Was a Cat Inside.

DOT
UK – US PREMIERE
Animation, Sanso Science, 2010, 2 min
Multiple Oscar®-winning studio Aardman Animations (Wallace & Gromit, Creature Comforts) has created the world’s smallest stop-motion character. Dot measures just 9 mm tall and was animated using a microscope and tweezers. In this miniature escape adventure, Dot runs away from unraveling thread, jumps over pins, and hitchs a ride on the back of a bee... all before grabbing a pair of nails and wielding them like swords.

SAVAGE
Canada
Live Action, Lisa Jackson, 2009, 6 min
A woman sings a haunting Cree ballad as we see a young girl preparing to attend a new school. But as we enter the classroom, the film morphs into a thriller-style zombie musical — in this moving short about the plight of Native American children separated from their parents and sent to residential schools to “take the Indian” out of them.

BOTTLE
USA
Animation, Marthe Leprince, 2009, 5 min
This transoceanic love story, animated in stop motion on the beach, forest, and ocean, details a long distance friendship that blossoms between a sandman and a snowwoman who exchange gifts via a bottle in the water. But sand and snow cannot withstand water, so how can the two hope to be together?
FLICKER LOUNGE: FOR TEENS AND ADULTS ONLY
Recommended ages 12 to Adult • 80 minutes

**LOVE & THEFT**
Germany – EAST COAST PREMIERE
Animation, Andreas Hykade, 2009, 7 min
Iconic figures from Betty Boop to Mao Zedong morph into one another in this intensified animated loops in this psychedelic tour-de-force from Andreas Hykade.

**THE GOLD BUG**
Japan – US PREMIERE
Live Action, Masahiro Yamasaki, 2010, 4 min
An ultra-low budget kaiju monster movie spoof, the brilliance of which may not be immediately apparent to the untrained viewer. But we assure you, this film is a masterpiece.

**LET’S MAKE OUT**
USA
Animation, Stephen Roney, 2003, 2 min
From the creator of last year’s Chicken Conday, a musical tribute to the innocent joys of smooching and body-shaking.

**PIXELS**
France – EAST COAST PREMIERE
Animation, Patrick Iven, 2010, 2.5 min
Pixelated old-school video game icons take over New York City (and the world) in this video for French techno-pop band Native New Beaters.

**MUSCLES**
Australia – US PREMIERE
Live Action, Edward Hooper, 2009, 14 min
A teen girl pulls the head off a Barbie doll and attaches it to the muscle-bound body of a male action figure. But the heart of the film falls on the girl’s younger brother, a gentle outcast struggling to define his masculinity against the backdrop of violence – with a sister in training to be a competitive body builder and parents who spar in the boxing ring to see who will wash the dishes.

**THE COW WHO WANTED TO BE A HAMBURGER**
USA
Animation, Bill Plympton, 2000, 6 min
The latest film from NYICFF’s favorite hometown hero, Bill Plympton, is a factory farming fable about the power of advertising, the meaning of life, and ultimately the test of a mother’s love.

**CROSSING**
UK – NY PREMIERE
Live Action, Shuhan Agalar Zargar, 2009, 12 min
Boy meets girl in a story about perception.

**VLOG**
Israel – US PREMIERE
Live Action, Yariv Shaul/Kaplan, 2010, 8 min
A teenage runaway documents her pre-dawn escape. Videotaping a tearful goodbye to her sleeping family, she slips out the door, hops on her bike, sticks her ear buds in, and is free.

**PRAYERS FOR PEACE**
USA
Animation, Dustin Grifo, 2003, 8 min
This poignant animated memoir reveals the final thoughts of the artist’s younger brother, who was killed in the current conflict in Iraq. Drawn with pastels on a slate chalkboard, the materials used to create the film are a metaphor for the impermanence of life.

**HOW TO LOSE WEIGHT IN 60 SECONDS**
Australia
Animation, Steve Carter, 2010, 2 min
From fad diets to stomach staples, a whirwind minute road test of 12 approaches to weight loss. Do not try this at home.

**ENRIQUE WRECKS THE WORLD**
USA – NY PREMIERE
Animation, David Chai, 2010, 4.5 min
An unfortunate chain of events is set in motion when a boy shoots at a bird with a sling shot. Tasteless and cross. A hilarious blood bath. Parents, please leave the room.

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HEEBIE JEEBIE SHORTS: SPOOKY, FREAKY & BIZARRE...
Recommended ages 10 to Adult • 80 minutes

THE BELLIES
France
Animation, Philippe Grimbert/Capades, 2009, 17 min
Fat capitalists dine on genetically altered snails in this nightmarish tale of gluttony and greed.

SCARY THERAPY
Australia - US PREMIERE
Animation, Suiran Perfec, 2008, 4.5 min
A vampire with first-date nerves, a zombie struggling with his brain-eating disorder, and a human-fly with parental issues. Everybody needs a little help from time to time.

THE WONDER HOSPITAL
South Korea/USA - NY PREMIERE
Animation, Beomsook Shin/Crew, 2010, 11 min
A boy with a misshapen head looks to improve his appearance through the wonders of plastic surgery and altered reality, in this super creepy hospital/funhouse film.

BENIGNI
Finland
Animation, Vasiliou/Othile/Partavuo, 2009, 7 min
A lonesome xylophone player discovers a fleshy lump growing under his arm. But when he attempts to remove it, the tumor displays some unconventional qualities.

MONSTRE SACRÉ
France - US PREMIERE
Animation, Jean-Claude Ravec, 2009, 9.5 min
In a twist on Hans Christian Andersen, a baby dinosaur is hatched into a family of ducklings and grows into a misunderstood monster and international superstar.

THE PERSISTENT RESISTANCE OF VISION
UK - US PREMIERE
Animation, James Baker, 2009, 2.5 min
This experimental animated film mimics the optical illusion effect of a thaumatrope (look it up) by rapidly alternating still drawings of a bird, a cage, and a Cheshire-like cat to start-and-stop electro-circus music.

SOMETHING LEFT, SOMETHING TAKEN
USA
Animation, Max Porter/Ilia Kouznetzkov, 2010, 16 min
On their way to a forensics lecture, a young couple hitch a ride with a stranger who they slowly discover is none other than the Zodiac Killer - the infamous serial killer who has never been caught. As he veers off the highway to take a “shortcut” through the woods, they decide to leave evidence for the police. An award-winning dark comedy from the creators of last year’s Electric Car.

GHILD
USA - WORLD PREMIERE
Lives Action, David Yarmovsky, 2010, 13 min
A story about a boy who was born a giant. Featuring Michael Rosenbaum (Smallville) and Harland Williams (Half Baked).

DRY FISH
UK - NY PREMIERE
Animation, Andy Martin, 2009, 2 min
A gently paranoiac musical animation about finding yourself in unfamiliar surroundings.

RUBIKA
France - NY PREMIERE
Animation, Guillaume Plumet, 2010, 4 min
Welcome to Rubika, a planet with a fancy gravity.

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GRAPHIC DESIGN
**LIGHTNESS**

*Spam – US PREMIERE*
Live Action. Lucas Del Rio. 2009. 15 min

Sofia wants to be a movie director and constantly follows her mother and twin sister, Lola, around with a camera. But while capturing her footage she makes the discovery that Lola secretly writes notes to hunger and longs to turn into a butterfly and “be taken by the wind.”

**I-DO-AIR**

*UK - NY PREMIERE*
Live Action. Mariama Ahmed. 2009. 7.5 min

A young girl is afraid to dive into the pool. Retreating to the locker room, she holds her breath and floats to a serene place within her head. Later she sees two unexpected creatures swimming gracefully under the water and takes a plunge into their magical world. This BAFTA winning film has played Berlin, LA and other top fests.

**DAUGHTERS**

*China/USA*
Live Action. Chike Zhai. 2009. 9.5 min

A stunningly shot film, set in rural China, about a girl facing a monumental life decision. When her mother becomes pregnant with a boy, 14-year-old Maple is forced into an arranged marriage. Unwilling to resign herself to this fate, she takes a dangerous path to freedom - but is she willing to pay the price?

**MAKE-DOWN**

*Germany – US PREMIERE*
Experimental. Maurice Hütter. 2009. 4 min

In a fantasy vision of transformation, a woman’s face becomes a canvas.

**LITTLE MISS EYECAP**

*Norway – NY PREMIERE*
Live Action. Irm Haug. 2009. 3 min

A fantastical and magical fable of a young woman caught between two cultures. Little Miss Eyecap is sent to grandma’s house wearing a cap with blinder, so she will not be enticed by distractions along the way. But everything is so beautiful! Magic butterflies, snow capped mountains, flowering meadows, and an earnest young lover in Lederhosen.

**CHALK**

*UK – US PREMIERE*
Live Action. Martina Amati. 2010. 18 min

Quiet emotions simmer on the screen in this beautifully realized film about two thirteen-year-old gymnasts competing for admittance to the national team. The girls’ raw beauty is articulated by subdued tones and visual purity, as filmmaker Martina Amati eloquently captures the unsaid voices between friends who are also rivals.
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WORKSHOP: MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN FOR FILM
75 min
Recommended ages 7 to adult

Learn about creating sound for film as top composers, musicians and producers work with the audience to score a film segment on the fly. What type of instrument is best suited for the tear-jeker, the comedy, or the action thriller? How are music and sound used to set mood, create suspense, trigger relief? Using live instruments and recording equipment, the group will go through the step-by-step process of laying music and effects onto film — taking input and cues from the audience — to create a completed sound design, while explaining the decisions and inspirations that direct their work. The live, interactive workshop will be led by composer, lyricist, and producer Michael Rubin, and composer, sound designer, and producer Nathaniel Reichman — with special guests to be announced.

WORKSHOP: GREEN SCREEN
75 min
Recommended ages 8 to adult

Have you ever wondered how cinema puts ordinary people into extraordinary landscapes? NYICFF invites you and your family to experience the magic of “green screen” special effects, used in films from Tron to Harry Potter to Avatar. Using a live, on-stage studio setup, this interactive workshop explores each stage of the green screen, chroma key production process. You’ll learn how to set up, light, and shoot the scene and how to place characters in different backgrounds with professional compositing software. After that, we’ll look at how some of your favorite films use this process and how the technology has evolved over the years. Finally, everyone will get the chance to participate in a live demonstration. You will emerge with a better understanding of how filmmakers employ green screen to stretch the boundaries of the medium and create their art — and how you can begin to use these effects at home using simple video recording tools and software.

Presented in partnership with Tiny Two Film Academy,
www.tinytwofilmacademy.com

NYICFF FILM PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS
The Workshops offered during the festival are a great introduction to film production. For more in-depth coverage of film production for ages 6 to 16, NYICFF offers week-long workshops throughout the year.
See page 15 or go to gkids.com/workshop to find out more.
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