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FESTIVAL 2012



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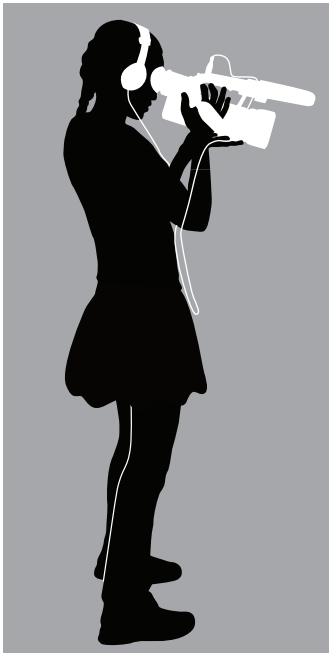
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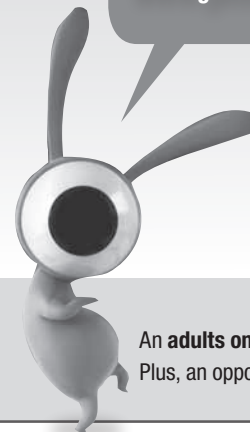
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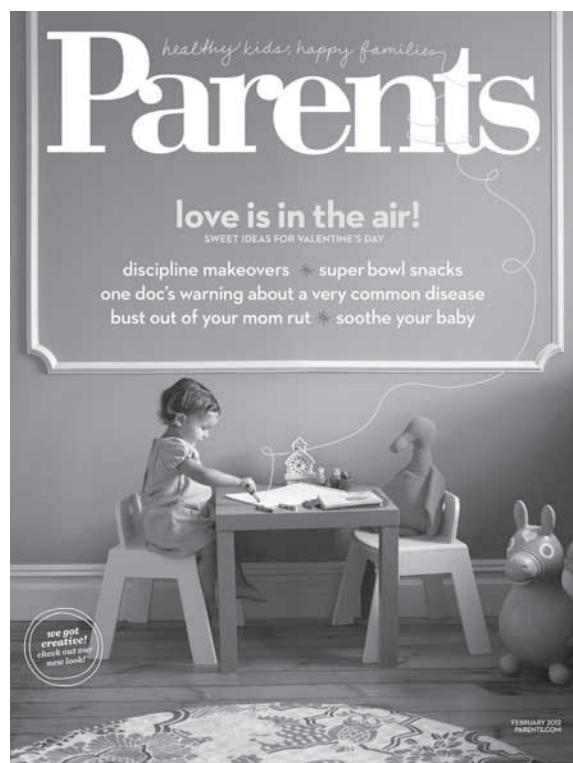
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JURY 2012

The Special Jury Award and other festival prizes will be presented March 25th at the NYICFF Awards, Best of the Fest Closing Night Party.



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Academy Award® winning animator
(*The Moon and the Son*)



ADAM GOPNIK
Author, essayist and *New Yorker* contributor



LYNNE MCVEIGH
Associate Professor of Children's Media at NYU Tisch School of the Arts



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Award-winning actor (*Full Metal Jacket*, *The Dark Knight Rises*)



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(*Pulp Fiction*, *Kill Bill*)



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Award-winning filmmaker (*Boys Don't Cry*, *Mildred Pierce*)



GUS VAN SANT
Academy Award® nominated director (*Good Will Hunting*, *Milk*)



TAIKA WAITITI
Academy Award® nominated director (*Two Cars One Night*, *Boy*)



JEFFREY WRIGHT
Award-winning actor (*Basquiat*, *The Ides of March*)

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Winners of the NYICFF 2012 jury prizes qualify for Academy® consideration in the Live Action Short and Animated Short Film categories.



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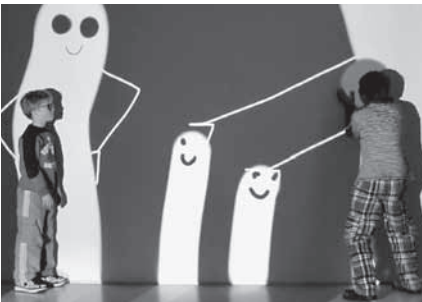
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

March 2, 2012

Dear Friends:

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

As home to hundreds of internationally renowned film festivals, production companies, and exhibition spaces alike, New York City is truly a center of the cinematic world. Since 1997, the New York International Children's Film Festival has encouraged better, higher quality films for kids, and done significant work to improve the cultural lives of families across the five boroughs. The film industry is an important part of our city's economic and cultural vitality, and it's an honor to be the home of an event that engages the next generation of filmgoers with discussions, panels, and screenings of high quality films.

On behalf of the City of New York, please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event and continued success.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK



UNITED STATES SENATOR

March 2, 2012

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to send greetings to each of you attending the New York International Children's Film Festival. I would also like to take this opportunity to send my congratulations to each of the outstanding filmmakers who have contributed to this event.

The arts have always been a unifying force in our world, bringing people together across vast cultural, social, economic and geographic divisions. I laud the New York International Children's Film Festival for their commitment to bringing quality arts to the New York community. By promoting cinematic works for kids, you are affording New Yorkers and kids from around the world the opportunity to gain exposure to the arts. I am grateful for your efforts and it is my hope that your work inspires others across the nation to create opportunities to access and experience the arts.

I send my best wishes for a wonderful event and much future success.

Sincerely,

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

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ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

March 2 - March 25, 2012

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the 2012 New York International Children's Film Festival. Welcome to the great City of New York!

Since 1997, NYICFF has promoted engaging and high-quality cinematic works for youngsters. These efforts are designed to be thought-provoking, educational, inspirational, and entertaining. As the largest event for children and teens in North America, this Festival will give thousands a variety of opportunities to enjoy opening and closing nights, competitions, gala premieres, and retrospectives.

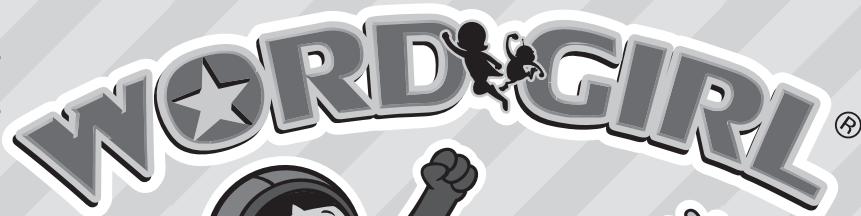
I am certain that children of all ages will be thoroughly enchanted with this city-wide extravaganza, representing the best in new children's films from around the world. I commend everyone affiliated with the New York International Children's Film Festival for this creative and exciting initiative.

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

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO

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OPENING NIGHT GALA

A MONSTER IN PARIS-3D



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A MONSTER IN PARIS

3D

France – US PREMIERE

Animation, Bibi Bergeron, 2010, 89 min
In English

Recommended ages 5 to adult

NYICFF 2012 opens with a classic misunderstood-monster tale, a warm-hearted musical about the power of song featuring Django Reinhardt-style gypsy guitar and honey-toned vocals courtesy of Sean Lennon. Paris, 1910. The streets of the city are flooded. A mist-enshrouded Eiffel Tower looms over a temporary lake and the alleyways sport makeshift bridges so Parisians can go about their daily routines. But spirits are high for the citizens of this romantic city, including those of Emile, a lovelorn film projectionist, and his inventor friend Raoul, whose enthusiasm for breaking rules places him and Emile at the center of some unintentional mischief after they sneak into a scientist's laboratory greenhouse and unwittingly let loose a monster onto the soggy streets of Paris. Yet this terrible monster turns out to have a sad and sensitive soul – as well as musical talent – and when cabaret singer Lucille discovers the beast hiding backstage at the music hall, he dons a cape and hat and joins her act, instantly wowing the crowd with his silky smooth voice and hot guitar licks. Yet despite his peaceful demeanor, the City of Lights is in a panic, as the rotten rogue of a mayor plunges his police force headlong into a chaotic monster hunt that uses both the sweeping backdrops of Paris and 3D effects to the fullest.



After the show help us kick off NYICFF 2012 at the Opening Night Gala, an all-ages food and cocktail reception hosted by HSBC.

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Join filmmakers and special guests for the presentation of the NYICFF 2012 Awards. The kid-friendly awards ceremony is followed by a one hour encore screening of the winning films—as determined by the votes of audience members and the NYICFF Jury.

GRAND PRIZE-SHORT FILM 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: John Canemaker, Adam Gopnik, Tomm Moore, Lynne McVeigh, Matthew Modine, Michel Ocelot, Dana Points, Susan Sarandon, James Schamus, Evan Shapiro, Uma Thurman, Christine Vachon, Gus Van Sant, Taika Waititi, and Jeffrey Wright

PARENTS' AWARD

Selected by NYICFF audience members 19 years and older

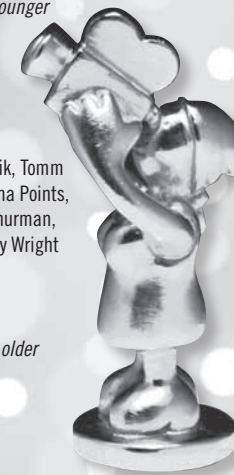
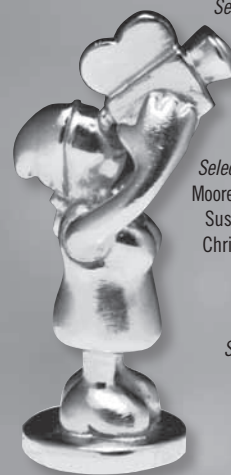
Parents

AUDIENCE AWARDS

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

Recipients of the NYICFF jury prizes are eligible for consideration in the Live Action Short and Animated Short Film categories of the Annual Academy Awards®

The NYICFF Award statuette was created by renowned public sculptor Tom Otteness.



PARTY!

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.



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YELLOW SUBMARINE

UK, Animation, George Dunning, 1968, 90 min
Recommended all ages

FIRST NYC SCREENING IN OVER 10 YEARS!

An icon of psychedelic pop culture, *Yellow Submarine* is a colorful musical spectacle and an exhilaratingly joyful cinematic experience for all ages – filled with visual invention, optical illusions, word play, and glorious, glorious music. Once upon a time...or maybe twice...there was an unearthly paradise called Pepperland, 80,000 leagues under the sea it lay, a place where beauty, happiness, and music reigned supreme. But this peaceful harmony is shattered when the Blue Meanies invade with their army of storm bloopers, apple bonkers, snapping turtle turks, and the menacing flying glove in an attempt to stop the music and drain Pepperland of all color and hope. Now it's The Beatles to the rescue, as our animated heroes team up with Young Fred and the Nowhere Man and journey across seven seas to free Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, make peace with the Meanies, and restore music, color, and love to the world.

But beyond all the music and whimsy, *Yellow Submarine* is a landmark in animation, with Heinz Edelmann's inspired art direction conjuring up a non-stop parade of wildly different styles and techniques. From the paper-doll residents of Pepperland, to the tinted photography of the soot covered roofs and smokestacks of Liverpool, the menagerie of fanciful characters in the Sea of Monsters, the kaleidoscopic color-splashed rotoscoping of *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*, the vertigo inducing op-art of the Sea of Holes, and the triumphant euphony of the *It's All Too Much* finale, the film is simply a joy.



A HARD DAY'S NIGHT

UK, Live Action, Richard Lester, 1964, 88 min

Recommended ages 6 to adult

Sitting at #1 on Rotten Tomatoes' list of the best reviewed movies of all time, *A Hard Day's Night* is "one of the great life-affirming landmarks of the movies" (Roger Ebert) and "pure infectious joy" (Kenneth Turan). Shot at the height of Beatlemania following their triumphant first US visit and Ed Sullivan appearances, and while the group occupied the top five spots on Billboard's Hot 100 chart, the film captures all the exhilaration, excitement, and optimistic energy that defined the early Beatles phenomenon. Shot in black-and-white, mock cinéma vérité style, director Richard Lester follows the foursome as they run from frenzied fans, poke fun at managers, cops, and other establishment types, and generally revel in their own youthful exuberance. Much has been said about the innovative quick-cut edits, the hand-held cameras, the cutting to the beat, and the film's other lasting influences – but whether you care about that kind of stuff or not is besides the point. When else can you spend 88 minutes smiling and feeling so positive about life?



MAGIC PIANO

WITH LIVE MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

3D

China/Poland – US PREMIERE
Animation, Martin Clapp, 2011, 80 min
No Dialogue

Recommended ages 7 to adult

NYICFF is proud to present the US Premiere of *Magic Piano*, the virtuosic stop-motion masterpiece from the Academy Award®-winning producer of *Peter and the Wolf*, set to Chopin's etudes in celebration of the 200th anniversary of his birth. *Magic Piano* will be screened in 3D with live concert piano accompaniment by Derek Wang. The film, part of the *Flying Machine* series, is a soaring tale of a girl who takes off into the open skies and travels the globe on a flying piano in search of her father. Other musical animation in the program includes *Metro* and award-winning films *Luminaris* and *The Maker*. *Little Postman*, *pl.ink!*, and *Night Island* – also from the *Flying Machine* series – will be accompanied by Anna Larsen. Derek Wang and Anna Larsen are Young Scholars from the Lang Lang International Music Foundation



LUMINARIS

Argentina – NY PREMIERE

Stop Motion, Juan Pablo Zaramella, 2010, 6.5 min



METRO

USA

Animation, Jake Wyatt, 2011, 5 min



NIGHT ISLAND

Poland – EAST COAST PREMIERE

Animation, Salvador Maldonado, 2011, 6.5 min



LITTLE POSTMAN

Poland – EAST COAST PREMIERE
Animation, Dorota Kobiela, 2011, 3.5 min



PL.INK!

Norway/Poland – US PREMIERE

Animation, Anne Kristin Berge, 2011, 3.5 min



THE MAKER

Australia – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Christopher Kezelos, 2010, 5 min

NEW FEATURES



THE MONKEY KING- UPROAR IN HEAVEN

China – NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Animation, Su Da/Chen Zhihong, 2012, 90 min
In Mandarin with English Subtitles

Recommended ages 8 to adult

3D

This remarkable new film is actually a painstaking frame-for-frame restoration and 3D rendering of the original 1961 Wan Laiming masterpiece, a national treasure and China's most celebrated and accomplished work of animation. Composed of gorgeously flowing animation created by hand from over 130,000 ink drawings and an opulent soundtrack inspired by the Beijing Opera, the film follows the adventures of the magical Monkey King of Flower Fruit Mountain, a mischievous character who creates havoc by refusing to bow down to the authority of the Celestial Jade Emperor. After stealing a powerful cudgel from the Dragon King of the Eastern Sea, the cheeky Monkey King challenges the established order of heaven, freeing horses from the imperial stables, disrupting imperial banquets and entering into epic battles with one colorful god after another – while snubbing his nose at the pompous formality of the heavenly court. Based on the classic Chinese story *Journey to the West*, the original film was made at the height of the country's golden period of animation and was released just months before the entire film industry was shut down by the Cultural Revolution. It is a truly stunning work of animation and mythological storytelling, far surpassing anything China has produced before or since.

NEW FEATURES



CINDERELLA MOON

China/USA – US PREMIERE

Live Action, Richard Bowen, 2011, 96 min
In English

Recommended ages 7 to adult

Based on the earliest known version of *Cinderella*, the Chinese tale "Ye Xian" from 768 A.D., cinematographer Richard Bowen's wonder-filled feature debut is a gorgeous and enchanting fairytale, with exquisitely ornate costumes, dazzling scenery shot in Yunnan Province, and an underlying message that is as timely today as it was thirteen centuries ago. In a mythical kingdom, a girl is born. The village shaman had foretold a boy and Mei Mei's father is sorely disappointed. Years later with her mother gone, Mei Mei is left with nothing but a pair of bejeweled slippers and the hope that one day she will get to dance at the Festival of the Full Moon. Meanwhile, the kingdom has been thrown out of balance – the moon is stuck in the sky – and the handsome young king is commanded by his mother to take a wife to restore the celestial harmony. But the king refuses to have a child with a woman he does not truly love. One day, peering through a telescope from his island home, the king spies Mei Mei floating on air in her magical slippers. Convinced that he's seen an angel, he sets out in search for her – but she runs off, losing one bejeweled slipper along the way.



LE TABLEAU

France – NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Animation, Jean-François Laguionie, 2011, 76 min
In French with English Subtitles

Presented in partnership with *Rendez-Vous with French Cinema*

Recommended ages 7 to adult

NYICFF is absolutely thrilled to present one of the most stunningly beautiful films we have seen in years. With swirls of vibrant color that burst from the screen, and nearly every frame a breathtaking wonder, *Le Tableau* is a captivating, enormously enjoyable animated treat for both children and adults. In this wryly inventive parable, a kingdom is divided into the three castes: the impeccably painted Alldunns who reside in a majestic palace; the Halfies who the Painter has left incomplete; and the untouchable Sketchies, simple charcoal outlines who are banished to the cursed forest. Chastised for her forbidden love for an Alldunn and shamed by her unadorned face, Halfie Claire runs away into the forest. Her beloved Ramo and best friend Lola journey after her, passing between the forbidden Death Flowers that guard the boundaries of the forest (in one of the film's most radiantly gorgeous scenes), and arriving finally at the very edge of the painting – where they tumble through the canvas and into the Painter's studio. The abandoned workspace is strewn with paintings, each containing its own animated world – and in a feast for both the eyes and imagination, they explore first one picture and then another, attempting to discover just what the Painter has in mind for all his creations.

Comment: A painted nude in the studio comes to life and becomes a talking character.

NEW FEATURES



LOTTE AND THE MOONSTONE SECRET

Estonia/Latvia – NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Animation, Janno Poldma/Heiki Ernits, 2011, 72 min
In English

Recommended ages 3 to 8

Lotte is back! The beloved girl-dog returns in this utterly charming follow-up to NYICFF 2008 audience favorite *Lotte from Gadgetville*. The townspeople of Gadgetville are as wacky as ever – still creating kooky contraptions and having cheery adventures. While reminiscing about a past adventure, Lotte's uncle Klaus tells the story of how he and his friends, Fred and Ville, came to find three magical stones in a hidden temple. Now all Lotte wants to do is unlock the secret of their power – so she convinces her uncle to go on a trip to find his old buddies and piece together the mystery. However, what Lotte and Uncle Klaus don't know is that they are being followed by two Moon Rabbits – whose only hope of getting back home is locked up in those very same stones! A gentle and quirky journey filled with a cast of silly characters including a lovesick drummer and a man who sleeps all day in order to dream, *Lotte and the Moonstone Secret* is richly rendered, warm-hearted, good-natured fun for audiences of all ages. Featuring original songs by Latvian pop group Brainstorm! (What, you haven't heard of them?!)



TOYS IN THE ATTIC

Czech Republic/Japan/Slovakia – World Premiere English Language Version

Animation, Jiri Barta, 2009/2012, 75 min
In English

Recommended ages 7 to adult

The NYICFF 2010 Grand Prize winner is back, in a new English language version, featuring the voices of Forest Whitaker, Joan Cusack and Cary Elwes. Legendary Czech stop-motion animation master Jiri Barta's first feature in over 20 years is a diabolically inventive tale, four parts *Toy Story* and one part David Lynch, as a group of abandoned toys stage an ambitious rescue of their kidnapped friend. Set behind the doors of a dusty attic, the adorable doll Buttercup plays mom to a motley family of castaways: the station master Teddy Bear, clay-animated Schubert, and the Quixotic marionette knight Sir Handsome. In this enchanted world every day is a birthday, until a mysterious black cat kidnaps the beloved Buttercup and takes her to the Land of Evil ruled by the villainous Head of State, a maniacal Cold War military bust who commands an army of mechanical, mustachioed cockroaches and an all-seeing spying eye. Both a spooky children's fairy tale and Soviet-era allegory, *Toys in the Attic* marks a career highpoint for Barta, who was among the first to raise stop-motion animation to an art form, paving the way for modern hits like *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Coraline*, and *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.

NEW FEATURES



THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS

3D

UK – SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

Animation, Peter Lord, 2012, 90 min
In English

Recommended ages 6 to adult

Aaargh! NYICFF is extremely proud to present the epic new claymation adventure from four-time Academy Award®-winning stop-motion masters, Aardman Animations. Directed by Aardman founder (and former NYICFF jury member) Peter Lord, *Pirates* is the high seas saga of hapless Pirate Captain and his crew of extremely silly and witless pirate fools. With his rag-tag crew at his side, and seemingly blind to the impossible odds stacked against him, the boundlessly enthusiastic Captain embarks on a quest to be named Pirate of the Year – a voyage that takes us from the shores of exotic Blood Island to the foggy streets of Victorian London and encounters with Queen Elizabeth, a young Charles Darwin, and a colorful assortment of ruthless pirate adversaries. But in his increasingly desperate drive for greatness, our gung-ho Captain risks alienating his only true friends and losing what is most dear to him.



CHIMPANZEE

USA – SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

Nature Film, Alastair Fothergill/Mark Linfield, 2012
In English

Recommended all ages

NYICFF is thrilled to present the first New York screening of the new Disney nature film from the award-winning directors of *Earth*. Sumptuously shot in the rain forests of Africa, *Chimpanzee* tells the true-life story of an adorable young chimp named Oscar. Oscar's playful curiosity and zest for discovery showcase the intelligence and ingenuity of some of the most extraordinary personalities in the animal kingdom. The world is a playground for little Oscar and his fellow young chimps, who'd rather make mayhem than join their parents for an afternoon nap. Working together, Oscar's chimpanzee family – including his mom, Isha, and the group's savvy leader, Freddy – navigates the complex territory of the forest. But when Oscar's family is confronted by a rival community of chimps, he is left to fend for himself until a surprising ally steps in and changes his life forever. As with the groundbreaking earlier Disney nature films, *Chimpanzee* boasts unparalleled nature photography and gives us an intimate first-hand look into the life of our closest relatives, while telling a truly remarkable story of family bonds and individual triumph.



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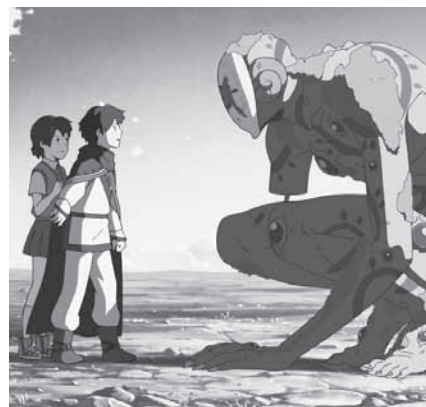


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NEW FEATURES



CHILDREN WHO CHASE LOST VOICES FROM DEEP BELOW

Japan

Animation, Makoto Shinkai, 2011, 116 min
In Japanese with English subtitles

Recommended ages 11 to adult

Makoto Shinkai is perhaps the world's finest animator and his brilliant new feature delivers frame after frame of jaw-dropping photorealistic splendor: skylines of unspeakable majesty, a butterfly on a twig, a blade of grass — all are rendered with such astounding delicacy and precision that you mourn their passing once the image has left the screen. The story is a modern-day Orpheus tale with a sci-fi twist that pays tribute to the great works of Hayao Miyazaki — especially *Princess Mononoke* — with its demonic spirit-gods and magnificent forest creatures. Asuna spends her afternoons alone in the mountains, using her crystal radio to listen to haunting songs from somewhere far away. One afternoon, a wild bear-like creature attacks and Asuna is saved by Shun, a boy with strange powers who comes from a mythical underworld beneath the Earth that is a gateway to the afterlife. When Asuna returns the next day to find him gone, she decides to leave the world of the living behind and follow him.

Comment: Animated violence and bloodshed, ghost-like creatures, and dark themes may be inappropriate for young or sensitive audiences.



A LETTER TO MOMO

Japan — EAST COAST PREMIERE

Animation, Hiroyuki Okiura, 2011, 120 min
In Japanese with English subtitles

Recommended ages 8 to adult

The last time Momo saw her father they had a fight — and now all she has left to remember him by is an incomplete letter that he had started to write her, a blank piece of paper penned with the words "Dear Momo" but nothing more. Moving with her mother from bustling Tokyo to the remote Japanese island of Shio, she soon discovers three goblins living in her attic, a trio of mischievous spirit-creatures who have been assigned to watch over her and that only she can see. The goblins are also perpetually famished and they begin to wreak havoc on the formerly tranquil island, ransacking pantries and ravaging orchards — acts for which Momo often has to take the blame. But these funny monsters also have a serious side, and may hold the key to helping Momo understand what her father had been trying to tell her. *A Letter to Momo* is a wonderfully expressive and beautifully hand drawn tale that combines bursts of whimsy and kinetic humor with deep felt emotion and drama. The animation is superb throughout, from the painstakingly rendered serenity of the island's Shinto shrines to the climactic finale — a frantic chase featuring thousands of squirming, morphing ghosts and goblins that is the best flight of supernatural fancy since *Spirited Away*.

NEW FEATURES



FIRST POSITION

USA — FILMMAKER EVENT

Documentary, Bess Kargman, 2011, 90 min
In English and with English Subtitles

Recommended ages 8 to adult

One of the most talked about films at this year's Toronto International Film Festival, *First Position* follows six astoundingly gifted, unbelievably disciplined young dancers vying for a spot in the Youth America Grand Prix. Considered one of the most prestigious ballet competitions in the world, the NYC showcase provides students the opportunity to dance for scholarships to the world's top dance schools and land contracts with renowned companies. Joan Sebastian, 16, from Cali, Colombia dances to create a better life for himself and his family. Miko, 12, from Palo Alto, pursues her love of ballet with the help of (or perhaps in spite of) her perfectionist Tiger Mom. Michaela, 14, was adopted as a toddler from war-torn Sierra Leone and fights through injury to overcome stereotypes that keep many black dancers out of the spotlight. And then there's Gaya from Israel, who at only 11 years old dances with a poise, control and maturity that is simply astonishing to behold. With tensions building as we progress to the make-or-break finals, the film supplies all the drama you would expect — but even more than a dance movie, *First Position* captures the universal trials and triumphs of childhood across all walks of life.



SALAAM DUNK

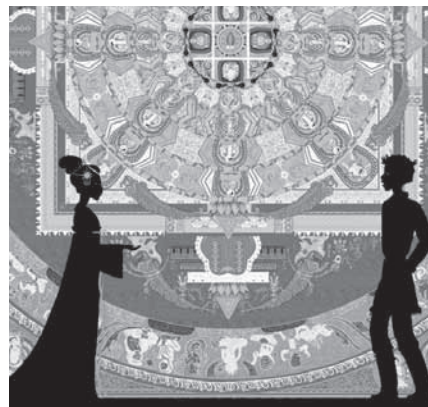
USA/Iraq — SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

Documentary, David Fine, 2011, 83 min
In English and Farsi with English Subtitles

Recommended ages 9 to adult

One part *More than a Game*, two parts *Bad News Bears*, this thoroughly charming and eye-opening sports doc offers a glimpse of hope and possibility for life in Iraq through the vantage point of a girls college basketball team. In its second year of existence, the American University of Iraq women's team has never won a single game — not surprising in a culture where team sports are strictly for men and when most of the players have never touched a basketball (some even show up to tryouts in high heels!). Yet what they lack in talent they make up for in spunk, executing every drill and taking every direction from Connecticut English teacher-turned coach Ryan, whose earnestness sometimes plays like parody as he rallies his motley but endearing group into game shape. Through interviews and homemade video diaries, team members share their experiences before leaving war-torn homes and finding refuge at the university, where Kurds, Sunnis, Christians and Shiites are all welcome. Though the basketball is laughable (they lose one game 68 to 2), filmmaker David Fine captures every pass and nail-biting free throw as if he was filming for ESPN, and provides an overcoming-the-odds spirit so strong that the viewer can't help but cheer for the rag-tag team. But the true heroes are the girls off court. Though a world apart from the lives led by most New York girls, what comes through in the film are not the differences but the similarities.

NEW FEATURES



TALES OF THE NIGHT 3D

France — FILMMAKER EVENT

Animation, Michel Ocelot, 2011, 84 min
In French with English subtitles

Recommended ages 7 to adult

NYICFF welcomes renowned animator Michel Ocelot (*Kirikou and the Sorceress*, *Azur & Asmar*) to present his newest film. *Tales of the Night* is Ocelot's first foray into 3D animation and extends the shadow puppet style of his *Princes and Princesses* into the third dimension, with silhouetted characters set off against exquisitely detailed backgrounds bursting with color and kaleidoscopic patterns like a Day-Glo diorama. The film weaves together six exotic fables each unfolding in a unique locale, from Tibet, to medieval Europe, an Aztec kingdom, the African plains, and even the Caribbean Land of the Dead. In Ocelot's storytelling, history blends with fairytale as viewers are whisked off to enchanted lands full of dragons, sorcerers, werewolves, captive princesses, and enormous talking bees — and each fable ends with its own ironic twist.



NINJA KIDS!!!

JAPAN

Live Action, Takashi Miike, 2011, 100 min
In Japanese with English subtitles

Recommended ages 8 to adult

From the twisted mind of Takashi Miike (whose *The Great Yokai War* will make a great NYICFF "Midnight Madness" screening if we ever get around to it) comes an insane new kids' flick about a feuding ninja school — a riotous action-packed kung-fu comedy that easily earns all three exclamation points in its title. Little Rantaro comes from a long line of low-ranking ninjas, so when the time comes to leave the family farm to enter ninja school himself he is determined to study hard. Yet despite their dedication in star-throwing, explosives, and rock-climbing, Rantaro's first year class is so inept that the headmaster declares an early summer vacation and sends them all home. But the youngsters will get to earn their stars yet — after being challenged by a rival clan, the first-years must race to ring the bell at a mountaintop temple to save the school. Brilliant in its excess and bursting with joyous energy from the infectious young cast, the film is loaded with non-stop visual gags, dopey villains, adorable ninja trainees, and one very informative "friendly ninja trivia commentator" (as well as a musical back-story about a ninja-turned-hairdresser, sung mock operatic under a shower of falling flower petals). To quote one reviewer: Your jaw will drop like an elevator with a snapped cable. Be sure to stay for the end credits!

Comment: Stylized cartoon violence is jarring at first, until you realize that no one really gets hurt.

SHORTFILMS

SHORTS FOR TOTS

Recommended ages 3 to 6 • 65 minutes

KEENAN AT SEA

USA

Animation, David Cowles/Jeremy Galante, 2010, 2 min

This adorable, hummable tune from NY acoustic pop group The Girls is the theme song for the 2012 festival! "A salty sea and a boat for three as we sail past the coral reef... we wave goodbye to the sandy beach far away... la la la la!"



Keenan at Sea

BEHIND

Canada – US PREMIERE

Animation, Ga Young Back, 2011, 3 min

After a trying and scary day, a little girl feels all alone – until she realizes that her best friend has been with her and taking care of her the whole time.



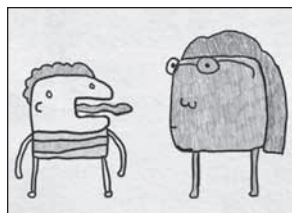
Behind

DIVERSITY

USA – US PREMIERE

Animation, Anthony Dusko, 2010, 1 min

This instructive cartoon teaches important lessons of life, like how to do the happy dance.



Diversity

BALLOON MOON

Portugal – EAST COAST PREMIERE

Animation, Jose Miguel Ribeiro, 2010, 5 min

With sumptuous colors and artful stop motion animation, a cardboard boy and his ladybug friend set sail into a deep blue moonlit sea and have a dream adventure.



Balloon Moon

GULP

UK – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Sumo Science, 2011, 2 min

Aardman Animations and Sumo Science follow up last year's wonderful diminutive *Dot* (which set the world record for smallest animated character) by notching it up a few orders of magnitude. Shot on an expansive seaside location, they set a new record for the world's largest stop motion set, in this story of a fisherman who gets swallowed by a whale.



Gulp

TWIST & SHOUT

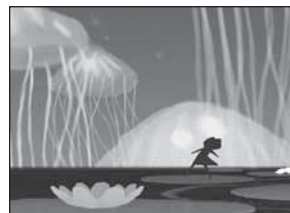
Japan – EAST COAST PREMIERE

Animation, Yosuke Kihara, 2010, 3 min

Two cute-as-buttons Japanese puppets travel to Abbey Road to find inspiration and shoot the video for their ukulele cover version of "Twist and Shout."



Twist & Shout



Metro



Who Is Not Sleeping?



The Gruffalo's Child

METRO

USA

Animation, Jake Wyatt, 2011, 5 min

A young girl chases a mysterious fox through a secret door and into a subterranean wonderland to retrieve her stolen train ticket.

PLINK!

Norway/Poland – US PREMIERE

Animation, Anne Kristin Berge, 2011, 3.5 min

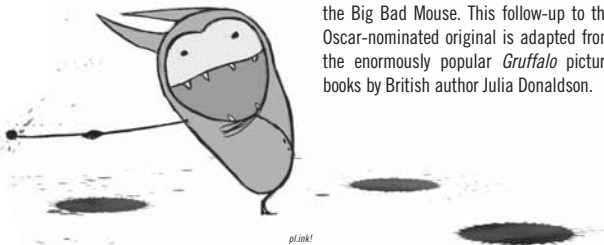
A hyper-imaginative little toddler forces his artist father to lighten up as he takes him on a color-splattered roller-coaster ride inside his own paintings.

WHO IS NOT SLEEPING?

Sweden – US PREMIERE

Animation, Jessica Lauren, 2010, 4 min

Rabbit is sleeping over at Teddy Pig's house. It's going to be lots of fun! They are playing and drinking hot chocolate, but when the lights go out something doesn't feel quite right.



plink!

THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD

UK – EAST COAST PREMIERE

Animation, Johannes Weiland/Uwe Heidschotter, 2011, 26 min

One wild and windy night, the Gruffalo's child ignores her father's warning and tiptoes out into the snow in search of the Big Bad Mouse. This follow-up to the Oscar-nominated original is adapted from the enormously popular *Gruffalo* picture books by British author Julia Donaldson.

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SHORT FILMS

SHORT FILMS ONE

Recommended ages 5 to 10 • 70 minutes

ERNESTO

UK – US PREMIERE

Animation, Corinne Ladeinde, 2011, 7 min

Seven-year-old Ernesto feels left out when he realizes he's the only kid in school who hasn't lost any baby teeth. Ernesto resorts to drastic measures to get rid of them; his teeth however, have other plans...



Ernesto

HELLO, I LIKE YOU

USA – NY PREMIERE

Experimental, Mixtape Club, 2011, 2 min

Created by Brooklyn's Mixtape Club, this quick-cut musical montage plays with texture, shape, pattern, and movement – with rope, leaves, nuts and bolts, and eye hooks twisting, dancing and popping to a soothing electronica beat.



Hello, I Like You

B/W RACES

Italy – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Jacopo Martinoni, 2010, 2.5 min

A quirky, black and white paper cut-out animation about a car race – in which a rogue black driver who runs others off the track gets his comeuppance. Home-made sound-effects add to the lo-fi fun. Vrooom.



B/W Races

EXTINCTION OF THE SABERTOOTH HOUSE CAT

USA

Animation, Damon Wong, 2010, 3.5 min

Though scientists have conjectured, none could truly say what caused the demise of the Sabertooth House Cat. But now this hard-hitting documentary reveals startling new evidence to detail the dramatic last moments of one of Earth's littllest known creatures.



Extinction of the Sabertooth House Cat

SHADOW OF A MIDSUMMER NIGHT

Norway – NY PREMIERE

Live Action, Stian Einar Forgaard, 2011, 16 min

It's Midsummer's Eve in Norway, the brightest night of the year. During the celebrations, Jon and Line escape to their secret hideout in the forest. However, the idyll passes as Line has to leave, and this is the last time Jon sees her. A gentle and beautifully made story about grief and acceptance, and finding a way back.



Shadow of a Midsummer Night

SHOP TALES

Hungary – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Eszter Szoboszlay, 2010, 7 min

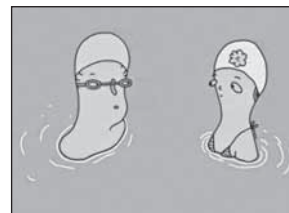
The streets and squares of a small town are lined with shops, each with its own specialty. There's the word-sprinkling shop, the shop of memories, the shop of angels, and even the shop of secrets, filled with things that cannot be discovered. With lovely decoupage sets and the poetic insight of *The Little Prince* tucked neatly into a folk-tale formula, this film is wise beyond its years.



Shop Tales



Maximum Boost



Swimming Pool



The Storyteller

MAXIMUM BOOST

Switzerland – US PREMIERE

Live Action, Rolf Hellat, 2010, 5 min

With inventive use of sound, including crackly original audio from the Apollo 13 space mission, Remo and his grandmother blast off from a rainy playground in Switzerland on a journey to the moon.

SWIMMING POOL

Czech Republic

Animation, Alexandra Hetmerova, 2010, 7 min

In a closed swimming pool in the middle of a big city, two outcasts share a night-time swim. But will they be willing to reveal their secrets?

THE STORYTELLER

India/UK – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Nandita Jain, 2011, 10 min

Nirmala lives in a seaside village with her grandpa, who recites her favorite story about a fisher boy. Yet lately he's been forgetting some of the details.



The Girl and the Fox

FLOYD THE ANDROID

USA

Animation, Jonathan Lyons, 2011, 2 min

An inquisitive android can't seem to keep his head on straight in this playful short on teleportation.

THE GIRL AND THE FOX

USA

Animation, Tyler J. Kupferer, 2011, 5.5 min

An enemy becomes a friend as a young girl has a life-and-death encounter with a snow fox at dusk in the frozen forest.



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SHORT FILMS

SHORT FILMS TWO

Recommended ages 8 to 14 • 75 minutes

BUNCE

UK

Live Action, Peter Cattaneo, 2010, 12 min

Celebrated actor, playwright, journalist and funnyman Stephen Fry writes and stars in this semi-autobiographical tale – a droll British boarding school comedy about a boy, Fry, with an out-sized vocabulary and taste for sweets, who befriends a small, shy, blond newbie.



Bunce

CHUTE

France – US PREMIERE

Animation, Mathias Lachal, 2010, 2 min

Experience the whoosh of the wind in your ears with two animated skydivers as they freefall at terminal velocity through a field of clouds.



Chute

CAPTURING SANTA

Ireland – NY PREMIERE

Live Action, Peter Cattaneo, 2011, 12 min

Chris O'Dowd (*Bridesmaids*) narrates this riotous comedy based on his own childhood aversion to Santa Claus. Parents: No nasty emails! The word is “feck” and it’s all in good fun!



Capturing Santa

LUMINARIS

Argentina – NY PREMIERE

Stop Motion, Juan Pablo Zaramella, 2010, 6.5 min

From the director of past NYICFF favorites *Lapsus* and *Journey to Mars* comes a brilliantly executed, visually unique and immensely amusing stop motion short that took home the audience award at the prestigious Annecy Animation Festival. In a world controlled and timed by light, one man has a plan that could change destiny.



Luminaris

THE SANDPIT

USA – NY PREMIERE

Experimental, Sam O'Hare, 2010, 5.5 min

Intricately “re-animated” with over 35,000 individual photos, the filmmaker presents a day in the life of New York City as you’ve never seen it before. The city seems shrunk down to the size of a Playmobile set, with water taxi’s bobbing, toy-like steam shovels moving jerkily on miniature construction sites and car taillights streaming together in streaks of red and white as they head up the FDR.



The Sandpit

THE DANCER

USA

Documentary, Seth Stark, 2011, 11 min

This uplifting true story about orphan Satish shows shades of *Slumdog Millionaire*. Beautiful village and pastoral scenery and quick-cut montages revel in the bustling colors, sounds, tastes, and textures of India, while Satish’s indomitable spirit and joyfulness prevail against all odds.



The Dancer



Grandma Grasshopper



Dawn



Dripped

GRANDMA GRASSHOPPER

Bolivia/Denmark – US PREMIERE

Animation, Denis Chapon, 2010, 13 min

When Abuela Grillo sings, rain falls and the crops grow. But when flooding brings hardship to the farmers, she decides to leave and only then do the villagers realize how much they needed her. Meanwhile in the big city, industrious minds have put her talents to a more profitable use – precipitating a clash between the water haves and have-nots. ¡Viva la Revolución!

DAWN

Canada – US PREMIERE

Animation, Jean-François Proulx, 2010, 1.5 min

When a bump in the road causes an unexpected chain of events, a truck-driver’s life flashes before his eyes.

PAINT SHOWERS

USA – EAST COAST PREMIERE

Experimental, Miguel Jiron, 2010, 3 min

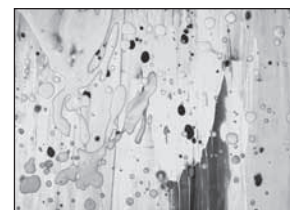
Out of a swirling cosmos of paint, comes a downpour of color and texture washing over all.

DRIPPED

France

Animation, Leo Verrier, 2010, 9 min

A fantastic imagining of how Jackson Pollack came upon his “drip” and action-painting style: through devouring (literally) all the styles of the modern past.



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SHORTFILMS

FLICKER LOUNGE: FOR TEENS AND ADULTS ONLY

Recommended ages 12 to Adult • 80 minutes

CHILD'S PLAY

Germany – NY PREMIERE

Live Action, Lars Kornhoff, 2010, 18 min

Leon is lurking in the bushes of a lush upperclass neighborhood. At just the right moment, he silently sneaks into one of the houses, and lifting a sleeping child out of bed, he leaves behind only a hand-written note telling the parents how they can retrieve their stolen son.



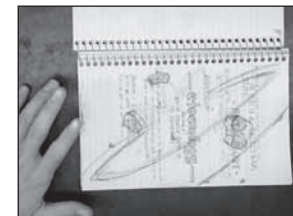
Child's Play

(NOTES ON) BIOLOGY

USA

Animation, Danny Madden, 2010, 5.5 min

Probably the most exciting lesson on etoecology you'll ever receive combines rotoscoping and stop-motion animation to literally illustrate what really goes on during biology class (parents, look away).



(Notes On) Biology

I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK ALONE

Brazil

Live Action, Daniel Ribeiro, 2010, 17 min

The arrival of a new student in school changes everything in Leonardo's life. This 15-year-old has to deal with the jealousy of his long-time friend Giovana while trying to sort out the feelings he has for a new friend.



I Don't Want to Go Back Alone

JEANNINE M.

France – US PREMIERE

Animation, Gregoire Lemoine, 2010, 4 min

In 2097, as an overcrowded, unbearably hot earth swelters, the elderly are sent out into the cooler climes of space.

POLO'S ROBOT

Australia – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Peter Lowey, 2011, 9 min

In a strange land, an inventor builds a robot that will bring his nightmares to life.



Polo's Robot

DR. BREAKFAST

USA – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Stephen Neary, 2011, 7 min

The newest film from NYICFF alum Stephen Neary (*Let's Make Out, Chicken Cowboy*) manages to exceed both his previous entries in its twisted lovability. One day at breakfast, a man's soul bursts out of his eyeball. While the soul roams the Earth in search of delicious things to eat, two neighborly deer care for the man's catatonic body, showing him the meaning of friendship.



Dr. Breakfast

JOURNEY TO CAPE VERDE

Portugal

Animation, José Miguel Ribeiro, 2010, 15 min

An animated "carnet du voyage," or journey diary, the film recounts the artist's sixty-day-long trek through Cape Verde. With no mobile phone, no watch, no plans for what comes next, and only the bare essentials in his backpack, our traveler explores mountains, villages, the sea, a talking tortoise, goats, music, people – and an essential part of himself.



Journey to Cape Verde

THE! Story Pirates

Kids have big ideas.
We show them just how big
they can be.



SHORTFILMS

HEEBIE JEBIE SHORTS: SPOOKY, FREAKY & BIZARRE...

Recommended ages 10 to Adult • 80 minutes

CHERNOKIDS

France — US PREMIERE

Animation, Matthieu Bernadat/Nils Boussuge, 2010, 7 min

In this utterly creepy dystopic nightmare, a family of deformed mutant children leave their orphanage and trek through the ruined landscape of a crumbling nuclear power plant to bring a gift of fish to their "mother."



Chernokids

ROSE & VIOLET

Canada/Luxembourg — NY PREMIERE

Animation, Luc Otter/Claude Grosch, 2011, 26.5 min

Siamese twins joined at the hand, Rose and Violet are star aerialists in a traveling circus. However, their perfect synchronization is thrown into chaos when a masked Strong Man joins the troop, pulling the sisters apart and resulting in a disastrous accident.



Rose & Violet

THE MAKER

Australia — NY PREMIERE

Animation, Christopher Kezelos, 2010, 5 min

In a dark room, a glass-eyed puppet is constructing a look-alike companion, while the sands drain away in an hourglass and violin music plays in a minor key. He completes the puppet but she doesn't come alive. At last her eyes open and they share a few brief moments of togetherness before the sand runs out.



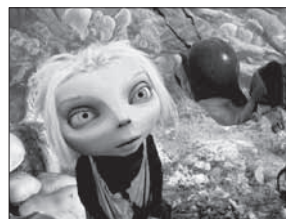
The Maker

THE MONSTER OF NIX

France — NY PREMIERE

Animation, Rosto, 2011, 30 min

From Dutch filmmaker and graphic novelist Rosto comes a *Pan's Labyrinthian* animated opera featuring Terry Gilliam and Tom Waits, a dark fairytale filled with odd creatures and odder songs. Willy awakes one morning to find his village destroyed by an all-devouring creature named Virgil and sets out on a quest to destroy the monster.



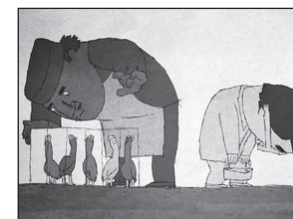
The Monster of Nix

ESCAPE HIS STARE

France — US PREMIERE

Animation, Chen Chen, 2010, 3.5 min

While selecting a chicken at the marketplace, Mr. Wang notices a rooster looking at him. As the hatchet comes down on his dinner, the man cannot escape the bird's reprobachful stare and he becomes overcome by feelings of guilt. At home the scene replays in his mind, haunting his waking and sleeping life — but what can he do? His wife is demanding chicken for dinner again!



Escape His Stare

FAMILYSHIP

South Korea — US PREMIERE

Live Action, Hye-Ryeom Yoon, 2009, 4 min

Korean horror movie spoof stokes real tension while poking not-so-subtle fun at the parental pressures some kids face.

WILIS

France — US PREMIERE

Animation, Emilie Tcherkaschenko, 2010, 5 min

In eerie, Svankmajer-style puppet animation, a boy is lured deep into the forest by a trio of ethereal enchantresses.



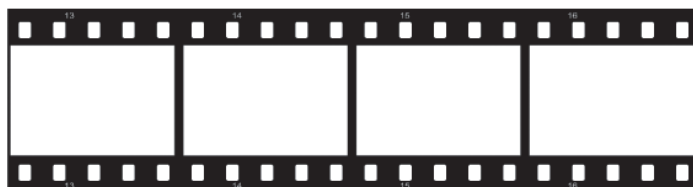
Wilis



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SHORTFILMS

GIRLS' POV SHORTS

Recommended ages 10 to Adult • 80 minutes

JESSI

Germany – US PREMIERE

Live Action, Mariejosephin Schneider, 2010, 31 min

Jessi is having a hard time adjusting to life with her foster family. With her mom in prison, she struggles to maintain a connection to her true family – and so she runs away to stay with her elder sister back in their home town. When she gets there, however, she discovers that she cannot get back the life she once had.



Jessi

HAIRY

USA – US PREMIERE

Live Action, Ana Lily Amirpour, 2010, 17 min

Two teenage girls head to a remote spot to be alone in the sun and listen to music. Farah is visiting from the US, while her cousin Nilou was raised in Iran and is much more inhibited about her body and her sexuality. But Farah is determined to shake up Nilou's conservative ways.



Hairy

FAT

Canada – US PREMIERE

Documentary, Margaret Donahoe/Gillian Good, 2011, 5 min

"Do you think I'm fat?" is a hard question to pose and a harder one to answer. This personal documentary finds power in its simplicity and directness, as the filmmaker explores what it means to be "fat" and the perceptions of those closest to her.



Fat

I AM A GIRL!

Netherlands

Documentary, Susan Koenen, 2010, 15 min

Joppe is just like any average 13-year-old girl: she wears make-up, gets crushes, and loves gossiping with her friends. Well, except for the fact that she was born a boy.



I Am a Girl!

WHALE BIRD

France – US PREMIERE

Animation, Sophie Roze, 2011, 7.5 min

Delicate animation in pale colors with translucent, overlapping layers sets a gentle tone in this story about friendship between a girl and a gargantuan whale bird who lives under the sea.



Whale Bird

SWIMSUIT 46

Belgium – NY PREMIERE

Live Action, Wannes Destoop, 2011, 15 min

Chantal is a chubby 12-year-old who is training vigorously for her upcoming swimming competition. Despite her brother's teasing and her judgemental mother, Chantal will do whatever it takes to win.



Swimsuit 46

Mrs. **MEYER'S**
CLEAN DAY

Home,
CLEAN
home.



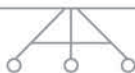
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