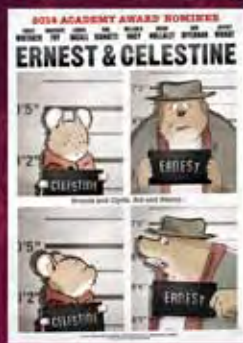


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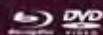
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

March 7, 2014

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2014 New York International Children's Film Festival.

It is vitally important that we provide all of our City's young people with a well-rounded education that inspires their creativity and prepares them for successful careers. Engagement in the arts is a critical part of every school's curriculum, and for nearly two decades, NYICFF has given young New Yorkers the chance to experience intelligent and thought-provoking films at its annual festival. And thanks to its work with our public schools and its scholarship programs, this organization takes this experience even further, offering aspiring filmmakers the chance to go behind the camera through its filmmaking camps and workshops. This month, students from across the five boroughs will gather in theaters to watch the best in children's cinema and play the role of critic as they vote for their favorites. We applaud NYICFF for once again bringing this event to our city, and look forward to these young audience members one day debuting their own films at this exciting festival.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, congratulations to the filmmakers whose work is being featured here this month. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful festival and enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor



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GOVERNOR

March 7 – March 30, 2014

New York International Children's Film Festival
225 Broadway, Suite 2610
New York, NY 10007

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the 2014 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 provocative, 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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2014 OPENING NIGHT



AMAZONIA

France – US PREMIERE
Live Action, Thierry Ragobert, 2013, 82 min
No Dialogue



Recommended ages 5 to adult

Director present on March 7th for post-screening Q&A

Get ready to meet the cutest animal in the entire known universe – a baby capuchin monkey with impossibly huge eyes and impossibly human expressions – on a stunningly photographed 3D adventure into the heart of the Amazon rainforest. Meticulously captured over two years of filming, *Amazonia* reveals the deep mystery and beauty of the Amazon and features more exotic animals per minute of running time than any film we can recall. This is not a documentary, it is an adventure story about a monkey named Sai, born in captivity, who finds himself stranded in the jungle and must fend for himself. As he explores his new world, so do we – and his every step (and tumble, and fall) exposes the immense beauty and danger of his new environment. *Amazonia* follows a long line of French nature films, from Jacques Cousteau to *Winged Migrations* to *March of the Penguins*, but never before has an animal conveyed such incredible human-like expressiveness and emotions on the big screen. It is impossible not to get caught up in the ride as we respond to his curiosity, fear, hope, and affection, his shrinking shyness, or his wide-eyed wonder.

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DANA POINTS
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NYICFF is an Oscar®-qualifying film festival!
Winners of the NYICFF 2014 jury prizes qualify for Academy® consideration in the Live Action Short and Animated Short Film categories.



BEST OF THE FEST: AWARDS & PARTY

Recommended all ages • 75 minutes plus party

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NYICFF 2014 AWARDS CEREMONY

Rub elbows with filmmakers and special guests at the presentation of the 2014 Festival Awards. The kid-friendly awards ceremony is followed by a one-hour screening of the winning films - as determined by the votes of audience members (that's you!) and the Festival Jury.



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

- * **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:
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- * **AUDIENCE AWARDS**
Ages 3-6, ages 5-10, ages 8-14, ages 12-18
- * **PARENTS' AWARD**
Selected by NYICFF audience members 19 years and older
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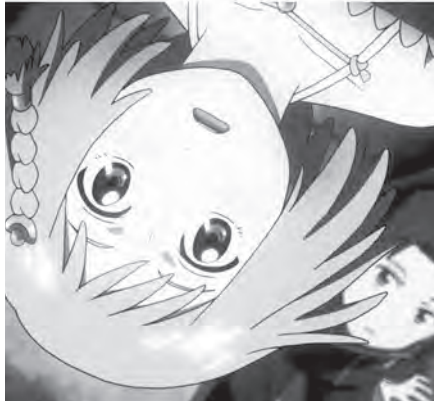


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NEW FEATURES



PATEMA INVERTED

Japan — NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
Animation, Yasuhiro Yoshiura, 2013, 99 min
In Japanese with English subtitles

Recommended ages 9 to adult

The new feature from *Time of Eve* director Yasuhiro Yoshiura is a perspective-twisting sci-fi adventure about two kids separated by opposite gravities. Patema lives in an underground world of tunnels, the long-abandoned ruins of a giant industrial complex. Though she is a princess, she is held back by the rules imposed by the elders of her clan. One day when she is exploring in a forbidden zone, she is startled by a strange bat-like creature and tumbles headlong into a void — and out into the wide open world above the surface, a place with reversed physics, where if she let go she would “fall up” into the sky and be lost forever. Age is a student on this surface world, a totalitarian society whose compliant population has been brainwashed against the “sinners who fell into the sky.” When he spies Patema hanging upside-down from a tree, he pulls her down to safety, struggling with all his might to keep her earthbound as she grips on to him for dear life. Together their weights cancel each other out, and once they master the art of navigating competing gravitational forces, they set out to evade the leaders of Age’s world and discover the secret that keeps their worlds apart.



JACK AND THE CUCKOO CLOCK HEART

France — NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
Animation, Mathieu Malzieu/Stéphane Berla, 2013, 89 min
In English

Recommended ages 8 to adult

Director Stéphane Berla present on March 22nd for post-screening Q&A

Jack is born on a day so cold that his heart freezes. In its place he is given a mechanical wind-up heart, which comes with some very peculiar rules — the gravest of which is that he is forbidden from falling in love. Yet when a chance encounter with an equally unusual girl sends him on a journey from his native Edinburgh to Andalusia, Jack decides to challenge the rules that govern his very existence. Nothing in *Jack and the Cuckoo Clock Heart* is executed on a small scale: sweeping expanses of Andalusian countryside are dotted with extravagant circus towns and snow-covered mountaintop villages; trains get around corners with accordion folding centers; phantasmagoric characters with delicate alabaster skin look like porcelain dolls that would live atop Tim Burton’s desk; and every nook and cranny of the film is filled with ghoulish romantic delights. Produced by Luc Besson, who gave us the 2012 opening night *A Monster in Paris*, this breathtaking gothic musical is the passion project of writer/director/composer Mathias Malzieu, adapted from his best-selling novel and the 2007 concept album from his rock band Dionysos.

Presented with support from **uniFrancefilms**

NEW FEATURES



BOY AND THE WORLD

Brazil — US PREMIERE
Animation, Alê Abreu, 2013, 80 min
No Dialogue

Recommended ages 5 to adult

Director present on March 8th for post-screening Q&A

Brazilian artist Alê Abreu brings to screen a strikingly unique visual style to show the world through the eyes of a young boy. A child, Cuca, lives a life of quiet wonder, exploring all that the countryside has to offer. His cozy life is shattered when his father leaves for the city, prompting him to embark on a quest to reunite his family. The young boy’s journey unfolds like a tapestry, the animation taking on greater complexity and variety as his small world expands. Simple line drawings of the village give way to broad brushstrokes forming giant bushels of cotton lining country roads, and sweeps of pastel churned into roaring waves. Approaching civilization, industrial landscapes are inhabited by animal-machines and strange beings, with barrios of decoupage streets and shop windows, and flashing neon advertisements that illuminate the night like a giant Lite Brite. The story depicts a clash between village and city, indigenous and imperial, hand crafted and mechanized, rich and poor — and throughout the tumult, the heart and soul of the people beats on as a song, a simple plaintive refrain played on recorder. The film’s music is on equal footing with the stunning visuals, a soundscape of pan-flute, samba, and Brazilian hip-hop mixing with the whirling carnival colors and exploding fireworks.



Courtesy of Magnolia Pictures

WE ARE THE BEST!

Sweden
Live Action, Lukas Moodysson, 2013, 102 min
In Swedish with English subtitles

Recommended ages 13 to adult

Lukas Moodysson’s fantastic new picture about trio of 13-year-old schoolgirls trying to form a punk band is overflowing with energy and youthful exuberance. Set in 1982 Stockholm, the film has a raw authenticity, perfectly capturing the spirited naiveté of the period. There is so much to love: the wonderful terrible music, the punking-out of the straight Christian girl (chopping off of her hair with paper scissors), the pubescent suburban punk boys with their babyfat cheeks and vinyl records, the out of touch adults, the way the girls can’t sing or play but it just doesn’t matter. Absorbing non-stop insults from schoolmates, they go about learning their instruments, thinking up suitably incendiary things to sing about, and preparing for their debut at a community center Christmas show. But plot is not what is important here — mostly it is about these girls growing and experiencing themselves in the world, trying on new attitudes to see if they work, fighting, making up, taking chances, realizing that they are the center of the universe.

Comment: Film contains very strong language and instances of underage drinking.

NEW FEATURES



ERNEST & CELESTINE

France — **NEW YORK THEATRICAL PREMIERE**
Animation, Renner/Patar/Aubier, 2014, 79 min
In English

Recommended ages 5 to adult

Director Benjamin Renner present on March 14th, 15th, and 16th for post-screening Q&As

NYICFF 2013 Grand Prize winner returns as a Best Animated Feature Oscar®-nominee! Director Benjamin Renner is our guest for the theatrical premiere of the new English language version, featuring Forest Whitaker, Mackenzie Foy, Lauren Bacall, Paul Giamatti, William H. Macy, Megan Mullally, Nick Offerman, and Jeffrey Wright. Deep below snowy, cobblestone streets, tucked away in networks of winding subterranean tunnels, lives a civilization of hardworking mice, terrified of the bears who live above ground. Unlike her fellow mice, Celestine is an artist and a dreamer — and when she nearly ends up as breakfast for ursine troubadour Ernest, the two form an unlikely bond. But it isn't long before their friendship is put on trial by their respective bear-fearing and mice-eating communities. *Ernest & Celestine* joyfully leaps across genres and influences to capture the kinetic, limitless possibilities of animated storytelling. Like a gorgeous watercolor painting brought to life, a constantly shifting pastel color palette bursts and drips across the screen, while wonderful storytelling and brilliant comic timing draw up influences as varied as Buster Keaton, Bugs Bunny, and the outlaw romanticism of *Bonnie and Clyde*.



ZIP & ZAP AND THE MARBLE GANG

Spain — **NEW YORK PREMIERE**
Live Action, Óskar Santos, 2013, 92 min
In Spanish with English subtitles

Recommended ages 7 to adult

Director present on March 22nd for post-screening Q&A

Fresh from premieres at Sundance and Toronto, *Zip & Zap* is one of the most talked about family films on the festival circuit — a classic mystery adventure in the vein of *Harry Potter*, *Indiana Jones*, and *The Goonies*. As if school during summer vacation wasn't punishment enough, brothers Zip and Zap find themselves under the watchful eye-patch of Headmaster Falconetti, a toy-loathing, no-nonsense disciplinarian intent on transforming his unruly students into productive members of society. Unwilling to waste their summer following rules, they recruit some fellow students to form the secretive Marble Gang, whose members are committed to making life miserable for their totalitarian headmaster and his staff. What starts out as a series of innocent pranks leads them to a dark discovery — and a cryptic map that promises abundant treasure. With Falconetti's Doberman nipping at their heels, the Marble Gang dashes through secret passageways, dark caverns and trap doors as they solve riddles, uncover secrets and indulge in a few too many bonbons.

Presented with support from



NEW FEATURES



AUNT HILDA!

France — **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**
Animation, Jacques-Rémy Girerd/Benoît Chieux, 2013, 89 min
In French with English subtitles

Recommended ages 7 to adult

Director Jacques-Rémy Girerd present on March 16th for post-screening Q&A

Jacques-Rémy Girerd, creator of *A Cat in Paris* and *Mia and the Migoo*, returns to NYICFF with his latest hand-drawn gem, *Aunt Hilda!*, a glorious throwback to the flower power classics like *Yellow Submarine* and *The Point*. Hilda lives high above the city, happily at home with tens of thousands of rare and luscious plants in her palace of a greenhouse. But down below, a new, genetically modified super-grain threatens to disrupt the delicate natural harmony. Distributed by the diabolical, money-and-honey-hungry Dolores, head of the DOLO Corporation, the bio-engineered monstrosity is promoted as the solution to world hunger — but only Hilda can see the inevitable danger and destruction it will cause. There's a controlled chaos to the loosely-drawn, watercolor-dripped animation style that mirrors the characters' over-the-top personalities. The corpulent Dolores is depicted in all her fleshy glory teetering on high heels, or barely contained in her overflowing hot tub office — while Hilda swooshes across the screen, color trailing behind, Lucy In the Sky-like, as she tends to her flowerpots or does battle with the agents of power and greed. The film's not-so-subtle eco-message (no nuanced arguments here!) builds to a suitably cataclysmic, technology-gone-haywire finale, as the destructive power of the Frankenplant is unleashed and Hilda must help the Earth save itself from a very colorful biological mayhem.



FOOSBALL

Argentina — **US PREMIERE**
Animation, Juan José Campanella, 2013, 106 min
In Spanish with English subtitles

Recommended ages 7 to adult

Oscar®-winner Juan José Campanella's first animated film obliterated box office records in his home country of Argentina and puts Hollywood on notice that high-end CGI is not the exclusive purview of the major US studios. Amadeo spends his time ruling the foosball table in the back room of his parents' café, where he has customized the tiny footballers with little uniforms and hairstyles, and individualized personalities to match. What he lacks in social skills, he more than makes up for in foosball chops — an early gameplay sequence where he humiliates local bully Grosso is a tour-de-force of animation art direction and a teaser for more to come. Flash forward several years, Amadeo is still languishing in his parents' bar while Grosso has gone on to soccer super-stardom — and now returns with bulldozers and wrecking crews to exact his revenge by demolishing the little town that was the scene of his only defeat. With all seemingly lost and his beloved foosball table turned to rubble, Amadeo sheds a single teardrop — rendered in amazing detail — and brings to life the tiny captain, who then sets off to reunite the rest of the team. Voiced by Argentine comedians who improvised much of the dialogue, the players' rapid fire banter provides non-stop amusement as they join together in a showdown match to save the town.

Comment: A character in the film has some moments of cultural insensitivity.

NEW FEATURES



ANINA

Uruguay
Animation, Alfredo Soderguit, 2013, 80 min
In Spanish with English subtitles

Recommended ages 7 to adult
Spanish speakers ages 5 to adult

There is an oddly comforting charm about *Anina*, a quirky, warm, simply-but-beautifully animated picture with a look that seems hand crafted from materials gently worn and loved. The title character is endearing, with her bright ruddy red hair, striped leggings, and big head. Her name is a palindrome – meaning it reads the same both backwards and forwards – and it causes her grief from taunting classmates. She in turn takes it out on another girl, Yisel, and an ensuing tussle lands the two of them in the principal's office. There, they are each handed a black wax-sealed envelope and told they must carry it around for a full week, seal unbroken, before returning to discover the punishment inside. The curiosity and temptation become too much for Anina, and she begins having "Heffalumps and Woozles" type nightmare fantasies about the unknown punishment, complete with flying headmistresses and cackling teachers. Itching for an answer, she follows Yisel in hopes of sneaking a look at her envelope – only to discover that they have more in common than an uncommon punishment.



MOTHER, I LOVE YOU

Latvia – **NEW YORK PREMIERE**
Live Action, Janis Nords, 2013, 83 min
In Latvian with English subtitles

Recommended ages 9 to adult

Don't let the sappy title scare you off. Winner of top prizes at the Berlin and Los Angeles Film Festivals, Janis Nords' instantly engaging second feature combines coming-of-age drama with slow-burn thriller to tell the story of a boy who is unable to extricate himself from a growing web of lies. Raimonds lives with his single mother, Sylvia, an overextended doctor who struggles to split her time between patients and son. Left more or less on his own, the 12-year-old spends his time riding through town on his scooter and getting into mild mischief with his friend Peteris, whose mother works cleaning the houses of wealthy neighbors. The boys occasionally hang out in these luxurious digs while the owners are away, and though they know it is wrong, the thrill of trespassing has its attractions. Meanwhile, when an incident at school lands Raimonds in trouble, fear of his mother's reaction leads him to hide the truth – setting in motion a cycle of increasingly bad choices, each one digging him deeper into a hole. The film's portrait of preteen rebelliousness has been compared to Truffaut's iconic *The 400 Blows* and the Dardennes' *The Kid with a Bike*. But no degree in cinema studies is required to enjoy this captivating and emotionally profound film.

Comment: Film contains some mature subject matter.

NEW FEATURES



ANNIE: IT'S THE HARD KNOCK LIFE

USA
Documentary, Joshua Seftel, 2013, 55 min
In English

Recommended ages 6 to adult

Q&A with the cast members of *Annie*

In 2012, over 5,000 young girls traveled to New York City to vie for a part in the Broadway revival of *Annie* and a bed in Miss Hannigan's infamous orphanage. Only eight got a part. Director Joshua Seftel takes us backstage for a behind-the-scenes look at the creative chaos that is putting on a Broadway show – from the first auditions and early choreography, to dress rehearsal calamities and opening night jitters. You don't need to love musicals to be fascinated by the process – and thoroughly charmed by the young performers who are the focus of the film. We first meet the girls as they are finding out they got the part (to much gleeful shrieking and involuntary jumping up and down) and we follow them as they move to New York and begin to navigate the difficult divide between middle-schooler and Broadway star. Along the way there are inevitable bumps in the road, triumphs, and set-backs, as they learn to trust one another, work together, and become friends.



HOUSE OF MAGIC

France/Belgium – **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**
Animation, Ben Stassen/Jeremy Degruon, 2013, 85 min
In English

Recommended ages 6 to adult



3D maestro Ben Stassen (NYICFF 2011's *Sammy's Adventures*) returns with a rollercoaster-ride of a film filled with jack-in-the-box surprises, inventive robotic contraptions, and plenty of swooping and swooshing z-axis movement to keep you gripping your seat. Seeking shelter from a storm, abandoned orange tabby Thunder sneaks into a mysterious mansion owned by retired magician Lawrence, formerly known as "The Illustrious Lorenzo." The eccentric Lawrence shares his fairy-tale world with his pets as well as a dazzling array of automatons and gizmos of his own invention. He welcomes Thunder into this odd-ball family, but Jack, the curmudgeonly old jack-rabbit, and his fiercely loyal sidekick mouse, Maggie, are determined to kick him out. Meanwhile, bigger trouble is brewing when Lawrence ends up in the hospital and his greedy nephew decides to follow through on plans to sell the house and get rid of the animals. Using their combined ingenuity – and Thunder as a secret weapon – they craft a strategy to ward off potential buyers by turning the house into a haunted mansion.

SPECIAL EVENTS



© Zachary Scott Photography

MUPPETS SING-A-LONG

USA – SPECIAL EVENT

Live Action, James Bobin, 2011, 103 min
In English

Rated PG

Live Sing-a-Long Event led by songwriter Bret McKenzie and Muppet pal Walter!

Join award-winning composer and producer Bret McKenzie in an interactive sing-a-long screening of the 2011 Disney hit *The Muppets*, suitable for Muppet lovers of all ages. The film features Bret's Oscar®-winning *Man or Muppet*, plus *Pictures in My Head* and lots of other toe-tapping classics. **Come sing along!**

While on vacation in Los Angeles, Walter, the world's biggest Muppet fan, his brother Gary, and friend Mary, uncover a diabolical plot to raze Muppet Studios. So the Muppet-loving trio decide to reunite the long-disbanded Muppets and stage a telethon. But the gang have all gone their separate ways: Kermit is living a life of seclusion in his Bel Air mansion, Fozzie now performs with a casino tribute band, Miss Piggy is a plus-size fashion editor at Vogue Paris, and Animal has just been released from a clinic for anger management. But soon enough, the former felt colleagues are back together, and up to their old Muppet antics – and a whole load of terrific music. The film stars the beloved Muppet gang, plus Jason Segel (who co-wrote), Amy Adams, and a host of celebrity cameos.



© Disney

MUPPETS MOST WANTED

USA – SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING

Live Action, James Bobin, 2014, 107 min
In English

Rated PG

NYICFF is thrilled to present a special sneak preview screening of Disney's *Muppets Most Wanted*. The latest adventure from the beloved Muppet gang takes them across the globe as they embark on an international tour, selling out grand theaters in some of Europe's most exciting destinations including Berlin, Madrid, Dublin, and London. But, as always, mayhem follows the Muppets overseas, and they find themselves unwittingly entangled in an international crime caper headed by Constantine – the World's Number One Criminal and a dead ringer for Kermit – and his dastardly sidekick Dominic, aka Number Two. Adding to the action is Nadya (Tina Fey), a no-nonsense prison guard and Interpol agent Jean Pierre Napoleon (Ty Burrell). And, in the grand tradition of the Muppets, be on the lookout for blink-and-you'll-miss-it appearances by a slew of famous faces. James Bobin, who (like us) can't seem to get enough of the Muppets, returns to the directing chair after the 2011 hit *The Muppets*. Also returning is Oscar®-winning songwriter Bret McKenzie, who is a star in his own right as half of the musical comedy duo *Flight of the Conchords*.

SPECIAL EVENTS



© Blue Sky Studios

RIO 2

USA – SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING

Animation, Carlos Saldanha, 2014, 100 min
In English



Recommended all ages

Director present on March 30th

Fly to Brazil ahead of the flock, with this special pre-release screening of *Rio 2*, the latest from Oscar®-winning Blue Sky Animation Studio. It's a jungle out there for Blu, Jewel, and their three kids, after they're hurtled from the magical city of Rio de Janeiro to the wilds of the Amazon. As Blu tries to fit in, he goes beak-to-beak with the vengeful Nigel and meets the most fearsome adversary of all – his long-lost father-in-law, who has been hiding out with a group of other Macaws. The Rio characters are joined by Oscar® nominee Andy Garcia, Grammy® winner Bruno Mars, Tony® winner Kristin Chenoweth, and Oscar®/Emmy®/Tony® winner Rita Moreno – plus new Brazilian artists and original music by Janelle Monae and Wondaland.



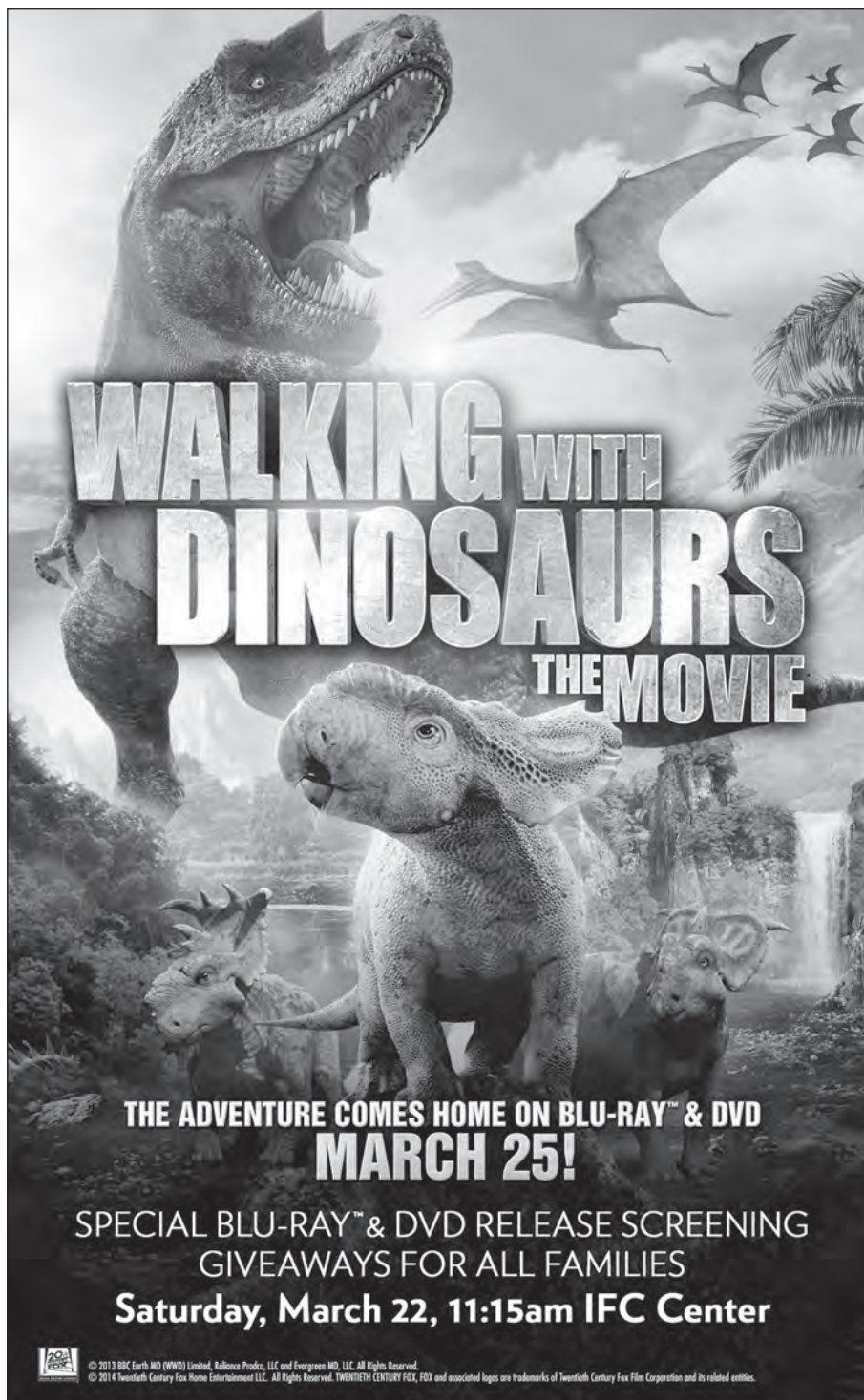
LAIKA: BEHIND THE MAGIC WORKSHOP AND FILM SCREENING OF CORALINE

30 min workshop, 100 min screening
In English

Recommended ages 9 to adult

Experience the magic of stop-motion through a rare behind-the-scenes presentation from Laika studios – creators of the Academy Award®-nominated *Coraline* and *ParaNorman*. Laika's Mark Shapiro will give insights into the intricate stop-motion animation process, using footage of time-lapse production, exclusive clips of Laika animators at work, and a demonstration using the actual character models from the movies. Then put your newfound stop-motion knowledge to work during a complete screening of the film *Coraline* and a sneak peek at footage from the upcoming Laika feature *The Boxtrolls*. After the films there will be an audience Q&A.

Directed by NYICFF jury member Henry Selick (*The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *James and the Giant Peach*) and based on the best-selling novella by Neil Gaiman, *Coraline* is an enchantingly spooky tale about a young girl who discovers a secret passage to an alternate world where her normal family has been replaced with creepy button-eyed imposters.



NEW FEATURES



MINUSCULE: VALLEY OF THE LOST ANTS

France – NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Animation, Thomas Szabo/Hélène Giraud, 2013, 89 min
No Dialogue



Recommended ages 5 to adult

Humorously bug-eyed animated insects battle it out within lush live action backgrounds in this enormously inventive comic adventure from award-winning animators Thomas Szabo and Hélène Giraud. The unique combination of real life landscapes – a micro-world shot in extreme and stunning close-up – and wonderfully animated creepy-crawlies engaging in playful antics, will leave the viewer both dazzled and amused. As the film opens, a montage of breathtaking forest landscapes zooms in on an abandoned picnic just as a gang of black ants is moving in to steal a coveted treasure: a tin box filled with sugar cubes. But before they can get away with the loot, a newly-born ladybug gets trapped inside the box, and is soon spirited away as the ants try to transport their prize across the woods toward their colony. When a rival clan of powerful red warrior ants appears on the scene, the resourceful ladybug comes to the aid of the black ants, and a furious chase ensues where everyday objects become creative tools in the battle. The audience is treated to Q-tips javelins, dollar bill paper airplanes, and a high-speed river race on an old soda can ... along with humorous references to *Star Wars*, *Close Encounters* and even a shot-for-shot recreation of a scene from Hitchcock's *Psycho* (not scary, we promise!). Based on the popular short animated series, *Minuscule* opened #1 at the French box office and is making its North American premiere at NYICFF.



GIOVANNI'S ISLAND

Japan – NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Animation, Mizuho Nishikubo, 2014, 102 min
Japanese with English Subtitles

Recommended ages 12 to adult

Screening for the first time outside of Japan, *Giovanni's Island* is the latest grand opus from famed anime studio Production I.G. (*A Letter to Momo*, *Jin-Roh: The Wolf Brigade*). Spanning multiple generations and locations, the film delicately weaves the true story of two young brothers whose life on the small, remote island of Shikotan becomes forever changed in the aftermath of WWII. Giovanni and Campanella, nicknamed after characters in the beloved Japanese novel *Night on the Galactic Railroad*, live a free-spirited island life, chasing each other along beach-side cliffs and dreaming about adventures on the Galactic Railroad. But when the Red Army occupies their tiny island following Japan's surrender, they are suddenly confronted with new foreigners – including a peculiar and enticing new neighbor, the golden-haired Tanya, daughter of the Soviet commander. Learning about each other's exotic and strange cuisines, music and language creates a quick bond for the children – even while the occupation brings on heavier implications for their families. An elegance and beauty permeates the hand-drawn animation and symphonic score of the film, creating a timeless drama where moments of emotional impact are tempered by animated flights of whimsy and fantasy, as the brothers prove much larger in spirit and strength than their rosy-cheeked, small frames would suggest.

Comment: While there is no overt violence on screen, the film deals with the hardships of war including a true-to-life sense of loss.

SHORTS FOR TOTS

Recommended ages 3 to 6 • 60 minutes

HELLO WORLD

France – US PREMIERE

Animation, Eric Serre, 2012, 5.5 min

In a collage forest crafted out of newspaper, plants, and paper mâché, a newborn owl wakes up and explores the complicated world around him.



Hello World

WHAT IS MUSIC?

USA – WORLD PREMIERE

Animation, Christian Robinson, 2013, 3.5 min

Given a brief quiz on music, these kids provide some of the best – if not most accurate – answers possible.



What Is Music?

ON THE WING

Russia – WORLD PREMIERE (English Version)

Animation, Vera Myakisheva, 2012, 6 min

A young chicken wonders how she can learn to fly, just like all the other birds.



On the Wing

MONSTERSYMPONIE

Germany – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Kiana Nagshineh, 2012, 4 min

Meet the band: four monsters, one girl, and some very silly instruments. And they're definitely playing past their bedtime.



Monstersymponie

MY MOM IS AN AIRPLANE

Russia/USA – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Yulia Aronova, 2013, 6.5 min

There are all different kinds of mothers in this world. But can your mom fly?



My Mom is an Airplane

SNOWFLAKE

Russia – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Natalia Chernysheva, 2012, 5 min

A boy receives a paper snowflake in the mail and sticks it under his pillow. In the morning he finds that his world has been transformed.



Snowflake



The Lovely Letter L



The Smortlybacks



I Want My Hat Back

THE LOVELY LETTER L

USA

Animation, Evan Spiridellis, 2012, 1.5 min

An infectious song about lemons, light bulbs, laundry and lots more.

THE SMORTLYBACKS

China / Switzerland – US PREMIERE

Animation, Ted Sieger / Wouter Dierckx, 2013, 5 min

A mahout and his herd of peculiar pachyderms live on a mountain plateau. Together they embark on an amazing and never-ending journey.

I WANT MY HAT BACK

USA – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Galen Fott, 2013, 9 min

Bear's hat is gone and none of the animals have seen it. He is starting to become despondent, until his memory is sparked by a deer who asks just the right question.

SKY COLOR

USA

Animation, Peter H. Reynolds, 2012, 7 min

When Marisol sets out to create a sky for the class mural, she discovers the blue is missing from her paints. This story celebrates the creative process and what it means to look at the world through the eyes of an artist.

HOPFROG

Russia – EAST COAST PREMIERE

Animation, Leonid Shmelkov, 2012, 3.5 min

A series of non-scientific observations of the jumping fellows' life.



Hopfrog



Sky Color

SHORT FILMS ONE

Recommended ages 5 to 10 • 70 minutes

THE NEW SPECIES

Czech Republic — US PREMIERE

Animation, Kateřina Karhánková, 2013, 6 min

Three friends discover a mysterious bone. With their imaginations running wild, they set out to discover the creature it belonged to.



The New Species

DINGI

Bangladesh / Germany — NY PREMIERE

Live Action, Veit Helmer, 2012, 6 min

A group of rebellious children play a clever trick on the old boatmen who do not allow them to swim in the river Dhaka.



Dingi

SEA LEGS

France — US PREMIERE

Animation, Olesya Shchukina, 2012, 4 min

A Russian sailor comes back to the city after a very long time away at sea and finds that solid land can be difficult to navigate.



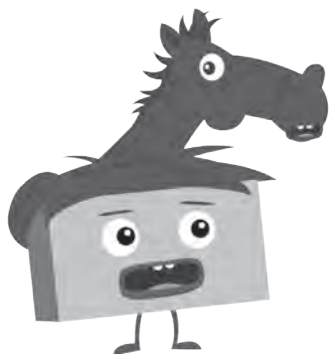
Sea Legs

BIG BLOCK SING-SONG: HAIR

Canada — US PREMIERE

Animation, Warren Brown, 2012, 2 min

From the people who brought us *John the Leprechaun*, a Kraftwerk-style electronic pop tune about the stuff that grows out of your head (and sometimes other places).



Big Block Sing-Song: Hair

POHYPER

Taiwan — NY PREMIERE

Live Action/Animation, Hui-ching Tseng, 2012, 3 min

In this inventive stop-motion film, the individual frames of animation are printed on t-shirts and an amusing variety of materials, for a music video that blends and blurs imagination and reality.



Pohyper

A TOWN CALLED PANIC: THE CHRISTMAS LOG

Belgium/France — NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Animation, Stéphane Aubier/Vincent Patar, 2014, 26 min

Prepare for more zany, stop-motion mayhem as Stéphane Aubier and Vincent Patar follow-up their award-winning 2009 feature debut with this Yuletide sequel, detailing the misadventures of Indian and Cowboy, who become overexcited in anticipation of their Christmas gifts and have difficulty not being naughty.



A Town Called Panic: The Christmas Log



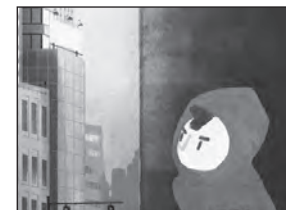
The Mole at the Sea

THE MOLE AT THE SEA

Russia — NY PREMIERE

Animation, Anna Kadykova, 2012, 5 min

Everyone's off to the seaside — by car, truck and train. Not wanting to miss out, the mole starts digging.



Borrowed Light

BORROWED LIGHT

USA

Animation, Olivia Huynh, 2013, 4 min

A boy in an abandoned observatory tries to show the city something incredible.



Centipede and the Toad

THE CENTIPEDE AND THE TOAD

France — WORLD PREMIERE (English Version)

Animation, Anna Khmelevskaya, 2012, 10 min

In a faraway forest, the gracious, lissome Centipede is admired by all the other creatures. Except for the old Toad, haughty and jealous, who hates him. Based on the 19th century poem "The Centipede's Dilemma," this deliciously devious animated fable illustrates how our unconscious actions can be disrupted by conscious reflection.

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SHORT FILMS TWO

Recommended ages 8 to 14 • 75 minutes

MR. HUBLOT

Luxembourg
Animation, Laurent Witz, 2013, 12 min

This 2014 Oscar®-nominated short tells the story of Mr. Hublot, a withdrawn and idiosyncratic character whose neat and tidy world is changed forever when he adopts a robotic pet.



Mr. Hublot

THE BIG HOUSE

Yemen – NY PREMIERE
Live Action, Musa Sayeed, 2013, 5 min

When a poor Yemeni boy finds the keys to an empty mansion down the street, he lets himself – and his imagination – run wild in the big house. This official Sundance selection intercuts TV images of rebellion and unrest to create a powerful allegory.



The Big House

RABBIT AND DEER

Hungary – NY PREMIERE
Animation, Péter Vác, 2013, 16 min

Best friends Rabbit and Deer share everything, including a love of hot chocolate with marshmallows, but their friendship is challenged by the discovery of a third dimension.



Rabbit and Deer



Tome of the Unknown

TOME OF THE UNKNOWN

USA – EAST COAST PREMIERE
Animation, Patrick McHale, 2013, 8 min

A slightly twisted tale from *Adventure Time* creative director Patrick McHale, featuring the vocal talents of Elijah Wood. Two brothers and their smart-mouthed bird find themselves lost in a mysterious place called the Unknown. Tired of walking, they decide to borrow a car from a rustic country singer made of vegetables, and head off to the big city.



Carpark



The Dam Keeper

THE DAM KEEPER

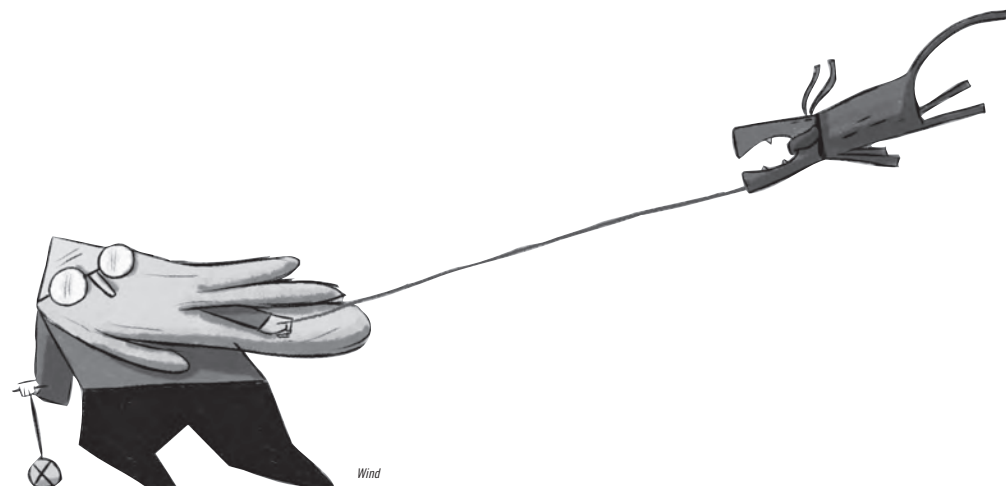
USA – NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
Animation, Dice Tsutsumi/Robert Kondo, 2013, 18 min

Set in a desolate future, a small town's survival depends on a large windmill dam that acts as a fan to keep out poisonous clouds. Despite bullying from classmates, the dam's young operator, Pig, works tirelessly to keep the sails spinning in order to protect the town. But when a new student joins Pig's class, everything begins to change.

CARPARK

United Kingdom – WORLD PREMIERE
Animation, Ant Blades, 2013, 1.5 min

A simple shopping trip goes horribly wrong.



Wind



Unlocking the Truth

UNLOCKING THE TRUTH

USA
Live Action, Luke Meyer, 2013, 3.5 min

Watch out, America: these sixth-grade metalheads from Flatbush, Brooklyn are on a mission to rock your socks off.

WIND

Germany – EAST COAST PREMIERE
Animation, Robert Löbel, 2013, 3.5 min

A film about how people adapt to even the most extreme environments, *Wind* depicts the daily routines of settlers in an exceptionally windswept world. Created as his graduation project, Robert Löbel's clever and breezy animated short has won more than 20 international festival awards.

LIVE BAIT

Italy
Animation, Susanna Nicchiarelli, 2012, 6.5 min

A humorous contemplation of truth and mortality as fast-talking fish tries to talk his way out of being eaten by a bigger fish.



Live Bait

LEAVING

France – NY PREMIERE
Animation / Live Action, Joanna Lurie, 2012, 2.5 min

The life of two characters unfold, on and beyond city walls



Leaving

THE SUN

United Kingdom – US PREMIERE
Animation, Paul Hill, 2013, 1.5 min

The Sun has come out to play. Run for your lives!



The Sun

FLICKER LOUNGE

SHORT FILMS FOR TEENS & ADULTS ONLY

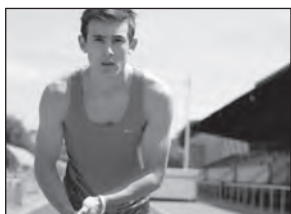
Recommended ages 12 to Adult • 80 minutes

9 METER

Denmark

Live Action, Anders Walter, 2013, 16.5 min

Daniel's mother is comatose in the hospital, hanging on to life by a thread. But he is convinced that she can hear him. To what lengths will he go to try to save her?



9 Meter

I LOVE YOUR FACE

Estonia — US PREMIERE

Animation, Chintis Lundgren, 2012, 3 min

Chintis Lundgren, creator of last year's *Dangerous Migration Routes*, is back with more animated birds in her music video for "I Love Your Face" by Estonian alternative act Kali Briis.



I Love Your Face

DON'T HUG ME I'M SCARED

United Kingdom

Animation/Live Action — Becky and Joe, 2012, 3 min

Creativity has never been easier. Or scarier! (Kids, don't try this at home.)



Don't Hug Me I'm Scared

KNOCK KNOCK

USA

Animation, Chadwick Whitehead, 2013, 1 min

A matador fights a goose, a cougar does motorcycle tricks, and they all tell some jokes.

BEAR ME

Germany

Animation, Kasia Wilk, 2012, 6 min

One day I found a bear. Or he found me. A short treatise on potentially harmful relationships.



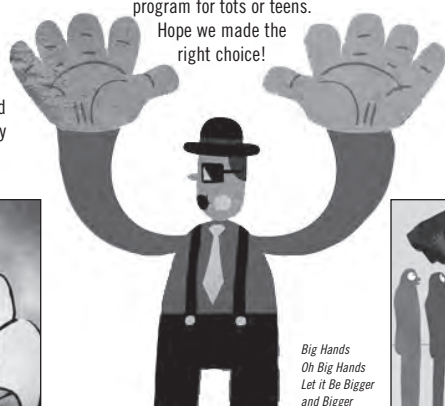
Bear Me

BIG HANDS OH BIG HANDS LET IT BE BIGGER AND BIGGER

China — US PREMIERE

Animation, Lei Lei, 2013, 6 min

Every year there is one film that we can't decide whether to program for tots or teens. Hope we made the right choice!



Big Hands Oh Big Hands Let it Be Bigger and Bigger

US

Belgium / France — EAST COAST PREMIERE

Animation, Ulrich Totier, 2013, 8.5 min

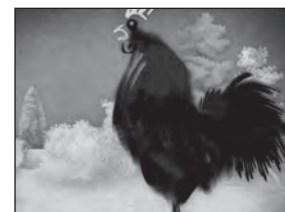
In an empty, timeless space, funny little figures wander around with no apparent purpose... until one day a stone falls from the sky. What they do with it reveals the true nature of these odd creatures.



Us



The Runaway



Marcel, King of Tervuren



Portlandia: Rat's Book

THE RUNAWAY

France

Live Action, Jean-Bernard Marlin, 2013, 22.5 min

In trouble with the juvenile courts and facing serious consequences, Sabrina must make a life-changing decision.



Love Sport: Fencing

MARCEL, KING OF TERVUREN

USA

Animation, Tom Schroeder, 2013, 6 min

In this Greek tragedy — acted out by Belgian roosters — Marcel survives the bird flu, alcohol, sleeping pills and his son, Max. A true story!

LOVE SPORT:FENCING

United Kingdom — NY PREMIERE

Animation, Grant Orchard, 2012, 2.5 min

Minimalist visual style generates maximal humor in this Olympic-style fencing duel, in which the USA and Italy fight for victory using any means necessary.

PORTLANDIA: RAT'S BOOK

USA — US PREMIERE

Animation, Rob Shaw, 2013, 3.5 min

Tired of the way rats are always getting slandered by humans, a trio of hipster rodents decide to write a book telling their side of the story. Featuring the voices of Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein.

LINEAR

Brazil

Animation/Live Action, Amir Admoni, 2012, 6 min

A line is a dot that went for a walk.

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HEEBIE JEEBIE SHORTS

SPOOKY, FREAKY, & BIZARRE...

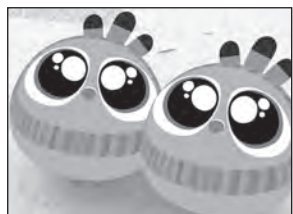
Recommended ages 10 to Adult • 80 minutes

BIRD FOOD

Ireland

Animation, Richard Keane, 2012, 4.5 min

One man. One sandwich. And a park full of pigeons. This isn't going to end well.



Bird Food



The Big Beast

JAMÓN

Spain

Animation, Iria Lopez, 2012, 8 min

As the only pig in a human family, José has trouble fitting in. But after an encounter with the neighbor next door, he begins to come to terms with who he really is.



Jamón

SPELLBREAKER

Netherlands — US PREMIERE

Animation, Janis Joy Epping / Diana van Houten, 2013, 5 min

Two kids are building a sandcastle, seemingly best of friends. But when a beetle gets trapped underneath a bucket, their peaceful harmony gets disturbed.



Spellbreaker

THE BIG BEAST

France — US PREMIERE

Animation, Pierre Luc Granjon, 2013, 6.5 min

A legend says that a huge beast will come to eat you when you least expect it.

FERAL

USA

Animation, Daniel Sousa, 2012, 13 min

A wild boy is found in the woods by a solitary hunter and brought back to civilization. Alienated by a strange new environment, the boy tries to adapt by using the same strategies that kept him alive in the forest. A 2014 Oscar® nominated film.



Feral

COLLECTORS

Switzerland — NY PREMIERE

Animation, Marcel Hobi, 2013, 5 min

Whether it's butterflies, shoes, or friendships - collecting is a passion. One can never collect too much.



Collectors

CORNEA

France — US PREMIERE

Animation, Stéphane Blanquet, 2013, 5.5 min

Blood drips into a bowl of soup... an ophthalmologist auscultates the eye of a patient... a couple walks hand in hand among the flowers... A surreal montage of nightmare images from the masters of creepy, Auteur de Minuit.

THE FAT CAT

United Kingdom — US PREMIERE

Animation, Mole Hill, 2013, 1 min

What the fat cat wants, the fat cat gets and what the fat cat gets is... fatter.



The Fat Cat



Sleight of Hand

SLEIGHT OF HAND

Australia

Animation, Michael Cusack, 2012, 10 min

A man yearns to know his place in the world and how he fits in, when sometimes it's better not to know.



On the Other Side

ON THE OTHER SIDE

France — NY PREMIERE

Animation, Icinori, 2013, 5.5 min

Tracking a doe in the woods, a hunter is stopped by a black wall that blocks his way. Making the choice to cross over, he enters a strange territory from which he may never return.



The Deep End

THE DEEP END

USA — NY PREMIERE

Animation, Jake Fried, 2013, 1 min

Hand-drawn animation using ink, white-out and coffee.



Rootless Heart

ROOTLESS HEART

Japan

Animation, Toshiko Hata, 2013, 10 min

Two high school kids explore an abandoned house. There is something lurking in the dark.

THE DUKE

USA

Animation, Jonathan Campo, 2012, 1.5 min

This film is about a sandwich — a chicken parmesan hero sandwich.



The Duke



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GIRLS' POV SHORTS

Recommended ages 10 to Adult • 80 minutes

CROCODILES WITHOUT SADDLES

Germany – NY PREMIERE

Live Action, Britta Wandaogo, 2012, 10 min

This intimate portrait of 12-year-old Kaddi Wandaogo uses a mix of archive, interview and video diary footage to express her deep feelings and experience growing up between German and African families.



Crocodiles Without Saddles

IVORY COAST: WAX

France – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Bastien Dubois, 2013, 3 min

The printed wraps worn by the girls and women in the Ivory Coast are more than decoration. They are a unique form of communication and expression.



Ivory Coast: Wax

THROUGH YOU

Netherlands – US PREMIERE

Animation, Lucette Braune, 2013, 8 min

A young woman struggles through the crowd on her way to the store. As she passes these strangers, some leave a mark – but only one leaves a mark that sticks.



Through You

THE PRINCESS, THE PRINCE AND THE GREEN-EYED DRAGON

Germany – NY PREMIERE

Animation, Bin-Han To/Jakob Schuh, 2011, 7 min

The Prince just wants to read his newspaper. The Princess is looking for some excitement. And a thoughtful dragon is searching for a useful birthday present for his grandmother. In the end, they each get what they deserve.

A MONSTER IN THE RESEVOIR

South Korea – EAST COAST PREMIERE

Animation, Lee Sung-Gang, 2012, 11.5 min

A lonely monster lives in a secluded reservoir surrounded by mountains. He is almost discovered by a young girl, but is too scared to reveal himself. As time goes on, many different people visit the reservoir – but neither the girl nor the monster forget their chance encounter.

WINTER TREES

United Kingdom – US PREMIERE

Animation, Karni and Saul, 2013, 3.5 min

In this music video from Aardman Animations, a Llama-Owl carries his friend to safety, as their world is washed away in a flood.

NEVERLAND

France – NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Live Action, Cecile Decroq, 2012, 18 min

Twelve-year-old Jeanne is spending a weekend with her parents at Disneyland in Paris. In a moment of indiscretion, Jeanne discovers a startling realization about her father.



Neverland

THE RED CARPET

Spain – NY PREMIERE

Live Action, Manuel Fernández-Iso/López, 2012, 12 min

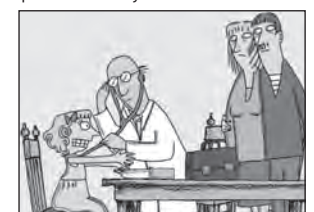
Rubina was born into poverty in the slums of Mumbai – the only world she knew until she landed the role of Latika in the Academy Award®-winning film *Slumdog Millionaire*. Despite that experience, Rubina's life seems remarkably unchanged as she talks about her home and her dream of seeing herself on the screen once again.

PRETTY ANNA-LENA

Germany – US PREMIERE

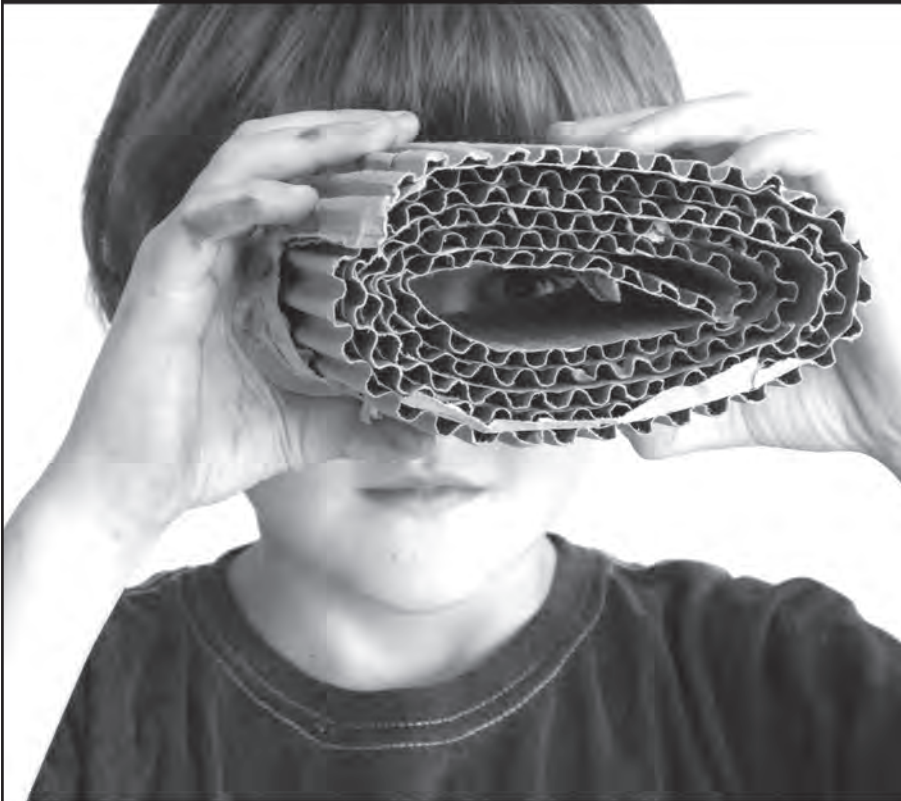
Animation, Ralf Kukula, 2013, 4 min

The calamitous course of a little girl's passion for finery.



Pretty Anna-Lena

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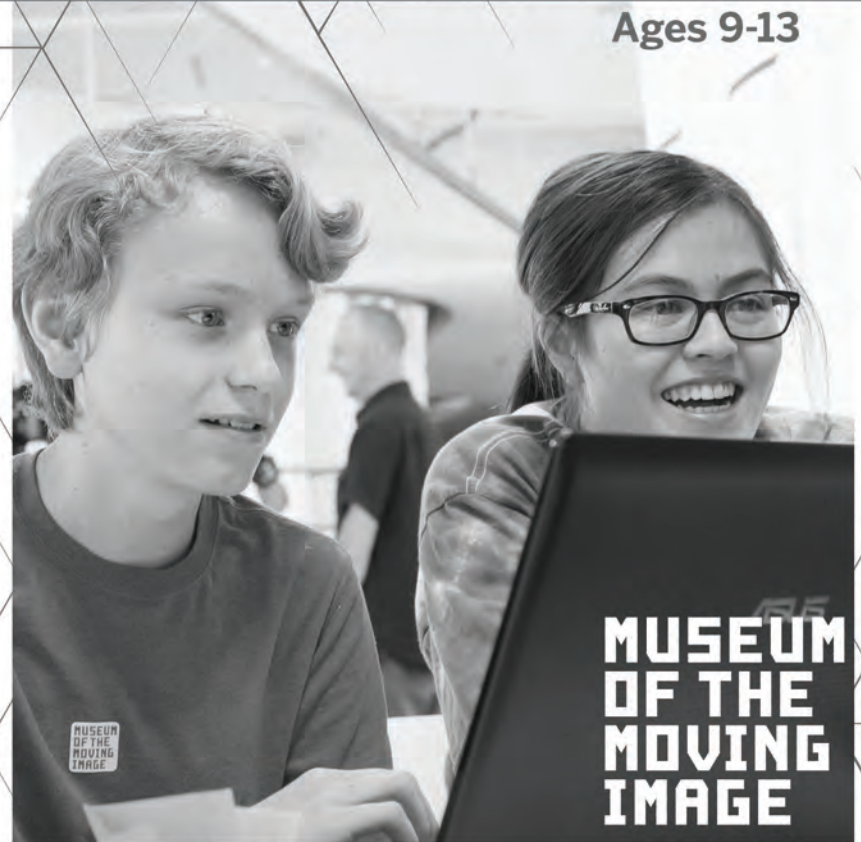
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