NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S FILM FESTIVAL ANNONCES 2020 SHORT FILM LINEUP & JURY

FESTIVAL RUNS FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 15
TICKETS ON SALE AT www.nyicff.org

NYICFF 2020 SHORT FILM PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- 10 Short Film Collections With 83 Films From 28 Countries
- Ongoing Commitment To Diverse Representation — 53% Women Filmmakers
- Introducing ¡HOLA NYICFF! — a Dynamic New Annual Spanish Language Program
- New And Returning Jury Members Include Peter Ramsey, Taika Waititi, Sofia Coppola, Melissa Cobb, Uma Thurman, and Geena Davis.
- Award-winners Announced at Best of Fest Screening + Awards Party on Saturday, March 14, 2020
NEW YORK (February 4, 2020) – Oscar®-qualifying New York International Children’s Film Festival (NYICFF) announces the complete short film lineup for its 2020 Festival, which runs February 21-March 15 at theaters throughout New York. Established in 1997 and now in its 23rd year, the acclaimed Festival — the nation’s largest for children and teens — presents a month of artistically distinctive, thought-provoking, and engaging new feature and short film programs from more than 30 countries, selected for a new generation of filmgoers aged 3 to 18.

Significant world premieres include the French-Korean animation *Boriya* (SHORT FILMS 1), celebrated animator Koji Yamamura’s *Dreams Into Drawing* (FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS: JAPAN), and the witty new animated music series *The Musifants* from Germany (NYICFF ROCKS). Two live action North American premieres following their Berlinale World Premieres will be presented at NYICFF, *En Route* (Netherlands, SHORT FILMS 2) and *The Size of Things* (Colombia, ¡HOLA NYICFF!), with dozens of additional premieres spread throughout the Festival.

NYICFF’s wildly popular short film strand presents the best short films from around the world, selected from over 1,500 entries. As an Oscar®-qualifying festival, Jury-selected winners are eligible for 2021 Academy Awards consideration in the Live Action and Animated Short Film categories.

This year’s esteemed jury of filmmakers, actors, and academic and industry leaders includes JOHN CANEMAKER, MELISSA COBB, SOFIA CORDOPOLIS, GEENA DAVIS, HOPE DAVIS, ELIZABETH ITO, JORGE R. GUTIÉRREZ, MADELEINE DI NONNO, LYNNE MCVEIGH, MATTHEW MODINE, MARK OSBORNE, PETER RAMSEY, IRA SACHS, UMA THRUMAN, TAIIKA WAITITI, NORA TWOMEY, and KYLE MACLACHLAN. The Festival culminates with a closing night celebration on Saturday, March 14, which includes the announcement of the 2020 award winners and a special program of the Best of the Fest short films.

NYICFF’s signature shorts programs are its most popular screenings, featuring a broad range of new animated, live-action and documentary short films. Ten curated collections are shaped from submissions from filmmakers across the globe — representing artists at all career stages, from emerging filmmakers to veteran auteurs and multiple award-winners.
NYICFF 2020 continues its commitment to diverse and inclusive representation with a selection of short films that provide relatable, age-appropriate, thought-provoking ways to challenge gender and cultural stereotypes to expand crucial conversations for kids. From the artful animation and thought-provoking tone of Géraldine Charpentier’s Self Story, a self-reflection by one young person who, through cinema, realized they need not be bound by a fixed, binary idea of gender; to a warm and charming reflection on black male friendship, fatherhood and affection, in Camrus Johnson’s Grab My Hand: A Letter to My Dad; to the playful yet pointed emphasis on the importance of a girl voicing her needs in Teresa Romo’s Shy & Ketchup — these films reflect a broad landscape of storytellers and themes. Films are shared in their original language wherever possible.

“Our shorts programs offer the opportunity to bring together so many extraordinary voices from around the world. We’re thrilled that female filmmakers continue to figure prominently, that our offerings circumnavigate the globe with films from Mexico to Iran, Korea to Qatar; that exceptional films from cultures throughout the US historically underrepresented on screen get the spotlight they deserve, and that our next generation young audiences get to be inspired by an inclusive and diverse mix of stories, vision, and languages.” — Maria-Christina Villaseñor, Programming Director

The short film programs include SHORTS FOR TOTS for ages 3-6; SHORT FILMS 1 for ages 5-10; SHORT FILMS 2 for ages 8-14; and SHORT FILMS 3 for ages 12 to adult. In addition to these general interest programs, NYICFF presents thematically organized shorts collections, including longtime favorite GIRLS’ POV, presented with support from the Sony USA Foundation, in which viewpoints from girls and women around the world are front and center; BOYS BEYOND BOUNDARIES, now in its third edition which expands how boys and young men are typically portrayed on screen, while also challenging the possibilities for gender representation; and HEEBIE JEEBIES, a much-anticipated collection that rewards quirky-minded tween, teen and curious adult audiences with unique tales that go beyond the expected.

NYICFF 2020 returns with its fourth edition of FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS, which annually highlights country and international Festival partners through its short and feature selections. This year’s FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS: JAPAN shorts program showcases a contemporary collection of short films, highlighting the region’s rich cinema and cultural history in a breathtaking range of styles. Japanese films at the Festival are supported by the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, Sony Pictures, and the Japan Foundation New York, and organized in part with the Kineko International Children’s Film Festival.

NYICFF 2020 sees two additions to its shorts collection lineup. New annual offering ¡HOLA NYICFF! SHORTS IN SPANISH, offers an exciting panorama of live action, documentary, and animated shorts for audiences hungry for more Spanish-language content, with stories from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the US highlighted in the program and throughout the wider Festival slate. NYICFF ROCKS: MUSICAL SHORTS is a special collection, bringing together an eclectic and innovative mix of inventive music videos, clever animated musical stories for kids, and plenty of upbeat surprises for all.
Through its Spotlight on Canada, NYICFF is thrilled to highlight exceptional Canadian film across multiple Festival programs. From award-winning animation produced by the legendary National Film Board of Canada *(Uncle Thomas: Accounting for the Days; HEEBIE JEEBIES, Jury Award at Annecy 2020, Best Animated Short Subject Annie Awards 2020)*, to producing initiatives supporting the creative vision of female directors *(The Butterfly Affect; GIRLS' POV)* to innovative works by recent graduates of the country's top animation schools *(Wash Day, GIRLS' POV; In Passing, SHORT FILMS 3)*, the strength of Canada's stylistically and culturally diverse animation culture is brilliantly showcased at NYICFF. Canadian films at NYICFF are supported in part by the Consulate General of Canada and Telefilm Canada.

NYICFF invites audiences and industry alike to dive into our shorts programs, where exciting new voices mix with experienced filmmakers in a broad array of stories, curated by age and thematics to ensure maximum accessibility and engagement.

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DATES: February 21–March 15 – Full schedule available at [www.nyicff.org](http://www.nyicff.org)
LOCATIONS: SVA Theatre, Cinépolis Chelsea, IFC Center, Scandinavia House, Alamo Drafthouse, and Museum of the Moving Image

2020 SHORT FILM PROGRAMS

- **SHORTS FOR TOTS** (Ages 3 to 6)
- **SHORT FILMS 1** (Ages 5 to 10)
- **SHORT FILMS 2** (Ages 8 to 14)
- **SHORT FILMS 3** (Ages 12 to adult)
- **HEEBIE JEEBIES** (Ages 10 to adult)
- **GIRLS’ POV** (Ages 10 to adult) - Each film in the Girls' POV program features a strong female lead, or reflects on issues faced by girls with stories from around the world.
- **BOYS BEYOND BOUNDARIES** (Ages 10 to adult) — Boys is back in town for the third edition of films redefining how boys can feel, think, and be, and offering expanded perspectives on gender.
- **NYICFF ROCKS** (All Ages)
- **FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS: JAPAN** (Ages 9+)
- **¡HOLA NYICFF!** (Short films in Spanish for ages 8+)
2020 FESTIVAL JURY

• JOHN CANEMAKER
  Academy Award®-winning animator (*The Moon and the Son*) and Professor at NYU

• MELISSA COBB
  Vice President, Original Animation, Netflix

• SOFIA COPPOLA
  Academy Award®-winning, director, writer, and producer (*The Beguiled, Lost in Translation*)

• GEENA DAVIS
  Academy Award®-winning actor and Founder, the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media

• HOPE DAVIS
  Tony and Emmy Award-nominated actor (*About Schmidt, Captain America: Civil War*)

• MADELEINE DI NONNO
  CEO, Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media and Chair of the Board of Directors for the Television Academy Foundation

• ELIZABETH ITO
  Award-Winning animator (*Welcome to My Life, Adventure Time*, forthcoming *City of Ghosts*)

• JORGE R. GUTIÉRREZ
  Award-winning animator (*Book of Life, Son of Jaguar*, forthcoming *Maya and the Three*)

• KYLE MACLACHLAN
  Award-winning actor (*Twin Peaks, Portlandia*, Forthcoming *Tesla*)

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

• MATTHEW MODINE
  Award-winning actor (*Stranger Things, Full Metal Jacket*)

• MARK OSBORNE
  Academy Award®-nominated director, writer, producer, and animator (*Kung Fu Panda, The Little Prince*)

• PETER RAMSEY
  Academy Award®-winning director (*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, Rise of the Guardians*)

• IRA SACHS
  Award-winning filmmaker (*Little Men, Frankie*) and founder and Executive Director of Queer/Art

• UMA THURMAN
  Academy Award®-nominated actor (*Pulp Fiction, Kill Bill vol. 1 & 2*) and Board member, Room to Grow children’s foundation
• NORA TWOMEY
  Academy Award®-nominated director of *The Breadwinner*, co-director *The Secret of Kells*, co-Founder Cartoon Saloon

• TAIKA WAITITI
  Academy Award®-nominated writer, director, and actor (*Jojo Rabbit*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, *Hunt For The Wilderpeople*)

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ABOUT NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S FILM FESTIVAL

Distinguished by its unique mission and high-caliber programming, New York International Children’s Film Festival was founded in 1997 to support the creation and dissemination of thoughtful, provocative, and intelligent film for children and teens aged 3-18. NYICFF is an Academy Award® qualifying festival, one of only four film festivals in New York State – and only two children’s film festivals in the country – to hold that honor, with the Festival’s esteemed jury of filmmakers, actors, and academic and industry leaders selecting qualifying films. The Festival, the largest film event for children and teens in North America, cultivates an appreciation for the arts, encourages active, discerning viewing, and stimulates lively discussion among peers, families, and the film community.

2020’s flagship annual month-long event takes place February 21-March 15. Presenting consistently sold-out screenings for the general public and weekday screenings for school groups at venues throughout New York City, the Festival’s rich and dynamic film program — drawn from over 1,500 international submissions – boasts over 100 short and feature films, exclusive filmmaker Q&As, retrospective programs, parties, premieres, audience voting, and a awards celebration.

The Festival will host its inaugural *NYICFF Industry Forum* on February 28 & 29, 2020, the second weekend of the Festival, bringing leaders and creators together for dialogue around inclusion and representation in the creation and dissemination of media content for young audiences. In addition to presenting the annual month-long Festival, NYICFF is a multifaceted arts organization that offers year-round engagement including its city-wide media arts and literacy program, *NYICFF Film-Ed*; and its national screening program serving major and regional cultural institutions, cinemas, and museums, *NYICFF Kid Flicks*.

NYICFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.
NYICFF 2020 information:
www.nyicff.org

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pw: 2020Pre$

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NYICFF 2020 SHORT FILM DESCRIPTIONS

SHORTS FOR TOTS

CAT LAKE CITY
GERMANY—EAST COAST PREMIERE
*Animation, Antje Heyn, 2019, 7 min.*
Percy Cat is looking forward to a relaxing day in every kitty’s vacation paradise, but will his cat nap turn into a tangle instead?

THE FOX & THE PIGEON
CANADA—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animation, OOV Studios, 2019, 6 min.*
A fox must save his ice cream from a pigeon with a sweet tooth and a narrator with a wild imagination.

KIRI AND LOU: FUNNY FEELING
CANADA/NEW ZEALAND—US PREMIERE
*Animation, Harry Sinclair, 2019, 5 min.*
Lou’s drumming makes Kiri feel funny and wobbly all over. What is this crazy urge?

OM NOM NOM...
JAPAN—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
*Animation, Minato Matsuda, Haruna Ueno, Tomoko Taiga, 2019, 3 min.*
After a hungry dinosaur discovers a wiggly egg in the forest and devours it, strange rumblings in his tummy quickly follow!

OVERBOARD!
CZECH REPUBLIC—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
*Animation, Filip Pošivač & Barbora Valecká, 2019, 12 min.*
Kooky Chameleon and cross-eyed Kiwi won’t let a little judgement stop them from making it onto the rescue ark.

THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE
UK—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animation, Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon, 2019, 27 min.*
The latest from NYICFF alum Magic Light Pictures (*Zog*) rolls out gigantic waves of big-screen beauty and charming voicing by Sally Hawkins.
ATHLETICUS (Series of 5 Shorts)
FRANCE—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animation, Nicolas Deveaux, 2018, 2 min. each*
A rather wild menagerie of animals competes for the gold and puts a super funny twist on classic competition fables.

BORIYA
FRANCE, KOREA—WORLD PREMIERE
*Animation, Min Sung Ah, 2020, 17 min.*
French with English subtitles
Dreamer, dawdler, adventurer, Bori tries her best on a day in the countryside, but with everyone occupied during farming season, she just may get off track.

FOR ESTEFANI, THIRD GRADE, WHO MADE ME A CARD
US—WORLD PREMIERE
*Animation, Jordan Bruner, 2019, 3 min.*
A very lovely card with a very cryptic message inspires a teacher to decipher it.

HOME AWAY 3000
FRANCE
*Animation, Héloïse Pétel & Philippe Baranzini, 2018, 11 min.*
After crashing on an unknown planet, a space traveller begins to repair his spaceship. Little does he know the surprises that await him.

THE KITE
CZECH REPUBLIC, POLAND, SLOVAKIA—EAST COAST PREMIERE
*Animation, Martin Smatana, 2019, 13 min.*
The sky’s the limit for one boy’s connection to his grandfather in the lofty, lovely spirit of The Kite.

KONIGIRI-KUN: THE BOAT
JAPAN—INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE
*Animation, Mari Miyazawa, 2019, 5 min.*
Everyone’s favorite riceball, Konigiri-Kun, is back and trying to stay in the game at these edible Olympics, which is no easy feat with fried-out Shrimp Tempura and uptight Yakitori Stick refereeing!

THE LAST DAY OF AUTUMN
SWITZERLAND, FRANCE—EAST COAST PREMIERE
*Animation, Marjolaine Perreten, 2019, 7 min.*
There’s a mad dash to wrap the season, and these creatures devise some clever ways to race to the finish.

THE MAGIC OF CHESS
US—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Live Action Documentary, Jenny Schweitzer Bell, 2019, 5 min.*
Plot your next move along with these clever, funny kids from around the country as they ponder chess, and life, at the 2019 Elementary Chess Championships.
AND YET WE ARE NOT SUPERHEROES
FRANCE, BELGIUM—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
*Animated Documentary, Lia Bertels, 2020, 12 min.*
French with English subtitles
Pocket-sized philosophers share their thoughts as they map the path to growing up in this gorgeously animated reflection.

EN ROUTE
NETHERLANDS—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
*Live Action, Marit Weerheijm, 2019, 10 min.*
Dutch with English subtitles
When nine-year-old Inay and her little brother have to join their father on a special trip through the city, she innocently tries everything to cause a delay.

MATCHES
HUNGARY
*Animated Documentary, Géza M. Tóth, 2019, 11 min.*
Oscar-nominee Géza Tóth’s inventive stop motion short shares the hopes, fears and dreams of seven-year-old L.S. through a dazzling rhythmic visual approach.

MY LIFE IN VERSAILLES
FRANCE—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animation, Clémence Madeleine Perdrillat & Nathaniel H’limi, 2019, 29 min.*
French with English subtitles
Life in a castle sounds like a piece of cake, but not for Violette, who must move into one with her uncle, the caretaker of the Palace of Versailles.

TRUDE’S FLATMATE
GERMANY—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animation, Klaus Morschheuser, 2018, 7 min.*
German with English subtitles
Trude’s Flatmate is a monster. Literally. And chaos is in store when she tries to keep its sugar fix in check.

ACCENTS
AUSTRALIA—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animation, Robertino Zambrano, 2019, 3 min.*
English and Spanish with English subtitles
An ode to her mother’s Puerto Rican accent and a reclaiming of her voice, by poet Denice Frohman.

BEETLE & BEAN
US—WORLD PREMIERE
*Animation, Nick Edwards, 2019, 8 min.*
When small Bean challenges the mighty Naiwag to a duel, her reluctant best friend Beetle must help her train to become a powerful knight, and fast!
EATEN
IRAN—US PREMIERE
*Animation, Mohsen Rezapour, 2019, 7 min.*
On a mysterious, unknown planet, a rabbit-like creature is eaten, but that’s just the beginning of the story.

THE GOLDEN RULE
US
*Animated Documentary, Richard O’Connor, 2019, 3 min.*
Can you always do unto others, even when you strongly disagree with their beliefs?

IN PASSING
CANADA—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animation, Esther Cheung, 2019, 4 min.*
Cantonese with English subtitles
An animator paints a dreamy portrait of kids in 1970s Hong Kong, as remembered by her parents.

NUIT CHERIE
FRANCE, BELGIUM
*Animation, Lia Bertels, 2018, 14 min.*
French with English subtitles
Follow the stories of an insomniac bear and monkey on a mission (did we mention the mini Yeti?) in this vividly animated and wonderfully wacky tale.

THE OPPOSITES GAME
US
*Animation, Anna Samo & Lisa LaBracio, 2019, 5 min.*
A classroom erupts and words become weapons—and new possibilities—as students grapple with a seemingly simple question.

ORBIT
NETHERLANDS
*Animation, Tess Martin, 2019, 7 min.*
Spinning drawings guide us along the flow of energy through our planet and let us ponder our place in the natural cycle.

THE SCHOOL TRIP
ITALY—EAST COAST PREMIERE
*Live Action, Salvatore Allocca, 2018, 15 min.*
Italian with English subtitles
A school trip sparks an exploration of identity and belonging when Megalie is faced with visa troubles because of her family’s Senegalese origins.

SELFISH
CANADA, TAIWAN—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animation, Po Chien Chen, 2019, 2 min.*
A chef notices a group of special guests in the restaurant and decides to serve them some rather unusual signature dishes.
THERMOSTAT 6
FRANCE—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Animation, Maya Av-ron, Marion Coudert, Mylène Cominotti, Sixtine Dano, 2018, 5 min.
French with English subtitles
Diane can no longer ignore the leak from the ceiling above the family dinner table.

GIRLS’ POV

THE BUTTERFLY AFFECT
CANADA—US PREMIERE
Animation, Stephanie Blakey, 2019, 5 min.
Before “the change,” Jesse didn’t think she was any different from her friends Now she’s a young worm trying to find her place in a butterfly’s world.

CHIN UP
UK—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Animated Documentary, JoAnne Salmon, 2019, 5 min.
Follow JoAnne Salmon on her extraordinary journey as she overcomes a facial deformity to live her dreams as an animator.

THE COIN
CHINA, US—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Animation, Siqi Song, 2019, 7 min.
Chinese with English subtitles
On Chinese New Year, finding the coin hidden in a dumpling brings luck. One girl discovers new identities and long-standing connections tucked inside as well.

DEAR DARKNESS
GERMANY—US PREMIERE
Live Action Documentary, Samuel N. Schwarz, 2019, 16 min.
German with English subtitles
Twelve-year-old Frida may be losing her vision, but she learns to perceive the world in unique ways to discover things that remain hidden to most others.

ESPERANÇA
FRANCE—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Animated Documentary, Cécile Rousset, Jeanne Paturle, Benjamin Serero, 2019, 5 min.
French with English subtitles
Esperança and her mother have just arrived in France from Angola. With no other family or connections, they must learn to navigate life in a new country.

THE HEDGEHOG’S DILEMMA
SWITZERLAND—EAST COAST PREMIERE
Live Action, Francesca Scalis, 2019, 12 min.
French with English subtitles
A father has been training his daughter to become a champion diver until, on the day of an important competition, an unexpected development changes their relationship.
I WANT
GERMANY—EAST COAST PREMIERE
Animation, Anne Isensee, 2019, 2 min.
German with English subtitles
From a whisper to a laugh to a scream, you can say what you want however and whenever it moves you.

PAPER KITE
QATAR—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
Live Action, Nada Bedair, 2019, 7 min.
Arabic with English subtitles
From her sixth grade classroom, Noor sketches a kite she sees outside the school walls. When new student Zayn walks in, a dream starts to take flight.

SELF STORY
BELGIUM—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Animated Documentary, Géraldine Charpentier, 2018, 5 min.
French with English subtitles
Lou’s sense of self has a lot to do with gender. But girl or boy, they choose not to choose for now.

SHY & KETCHUP
CHILE
Animation, Teresa Romo, 2019, 4 min.
Hunger or craving, a shy girl has to push beyond her comfort zone to fulfill her need in this hilarious film.

WASH DAY
CANADA
Animation, Jaida Salmon, 2019, 2 min.
Join Zoey as she goes through her weekly grueling routine of washing and styling her hair.

BOYS BEYOND BOUNDARIES

BLIESCHOW
GERMANY
Animation, Christoph Sarow, 2019, 10 min.
Vivid animation illustrates Tom’s world inside and out, as he tries to make sense of what it means to stick to your ideals during a challenging summer with his aggressive cousin.

THE BLUE CAPE
US—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Live Action, Alejandra López, 2019, 5 min.
Spanish with English subtitles
A young boy faces the challenge of saving his ailing grandfather during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

BOJE
GERMANY—EAST COAST PREMIERE
Live Action, Andreas Cordes & Robert Köhler, 2019, 10 min.
German with English subtitles
As Boje grows up, his questions about life get more complex. His dad looks to the ocean for some pretty unique answers.
GRAB MY HAND: A LETTER TO MY DAD
US
*Animation, Camrus Johnson & Pedro Piccinini, 2019, 5 min.*
This animated love letter from son to father to friend reminds us that there’s no good reason to let affection go unspoken.

LESSONS LEARNT BY THE SEA
CUBA—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Live Action Documentary, Néstor Kim Enríquez, 2018, 5 min.*
Spanish with English subtitles
Eleven-year-old Alejandro surfs off the coast of Havana every afternoon, learning lessons of resilience from the ultimate teacher, the sea.

MY GRANDFATHER’S MEMORY BOOK
US
*Animated Documentary, Colin Levy, 2018, 4 min.*
This true-to-life animated story proves that sometimes images speak volumes.

THE ONE YOU NEVER FORGET
US
*Live Action, Morgan Jon Fox, 2019, 8 min.*
A 14-year-old excitedly prepares for his first dance, but will his date live up to his parents’ expectations?

REPRESENT
US—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Live Action, Chris Heck, 2019, 5 min.*
A school field trip to the art museum has an unexpected impact on one student.

SELF STORY
BELGIUM—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animated Documentary, Géraldine Charpentier, 2018, 5 min.*
French with English subtitles
Lou’s sense of self has a lot to do with gender. But girl or boy, they choose not to choose for now.

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS: JAPAN

DREAMS INTO DRAWING
JAPAN—WORLD PREMIERE
*Animation, Koji Yamamura, 2019, 10 min.*
This empathetic reflection on sentient beings is inspired by Ueda Akinari’s short story “A Carp That Appeared in My Dream,” and Japanese painter Kuwagata Keisai’s *Ways to Sketch*.

GON, THE LITTLE FOX
JAPAN—EAST COAST PREMIERE
*Animation, Takeshi Yashiro, 2019, 28 min.*
Japanese with English subtitles
In this stunningly detailed stop-motion version of a classic Japanese fable, sly fox Gon tries to make amends for his mischief. But the flow of give and take is tricky to navigate for human and creature alike.
KONIGIRI-KUN: BUTTERFLY
JAPAN—EAST COAST PREMIERE
*Animation, Mari Miyazawa, 2018, 5 min.*
Konigiri-Kun wants to keep precious things close, but sometimes the most beautiful thing of all is freedom.

OM NOM NOM...
JAPAN—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
*Animation, Minato Matsuda, Haruna Ueno, Tomoko Taiga, 2019, 3 min.*
After a hungry dinosaur discovers a wiggly egg in the forest and devours it, strange rumblings in his tummy quickly follow!

SHALABONBON
JAPAN—WORLD PREMIERE
*Animation, Yoko Yuki, 2019, 2 min.*
Japanese with English subtitles
Bop alongside kitties, flowers, dancing purple guys, and more with groovy lo-fi graphics and a pop-inspired Japanese beat.

JAPANGLE: PUBLIC RESTROOMS
JAPAN—THEATRICAL PREMIERE
Japanese with English subtitles
This Prix Jeunesse award-winning episode of the acclaimed series is narrated by two puppet characters, Professor Arrow and his assistant Vector, who explore Japan through four angles—design, history, technology, and spirit—connected by an exuberant hilarity.

ONOMATOPOEIA RAP (JAPANGLE: Manga)
JAPAN—THEATRICAL PREMIERE
*Live Action, Yuriko Tomita, 2019, 2 min.*
English and Japanese with English subtitles
English comics use zips, zaps, and pows! Learn the Japanese equivalents and show off your manga style.

JAPANESE GESTURES (JAPANGLE: Stylized Movement)
JAPAN—THEATRICAL PREMIERE
*Live Action, Kai Sasaki, 2018, 2 min.*
Language is about more than words, and this playful short proves it.

RICE BALL/BOWL SONG (JAPANGLE: Rice)
JAPAN—THEATRICAL PREMIERE
*Live Action, Yui Kajiura, 2019, 2 min.*
Japanese with English subtitles
Rice ball or rice bowl? Engrain the difference in your brain with this catchy tune!
HEEBIE JEEBIES

BIIDAABAN (THE DAWN COMES)
CANADA—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Animation, Amanda Strong, 2018, 19 min.
Accompanied by a 10,000-year-old shapeshifter, Biidaaban is on a mission to reclaim the power of earth from an overdeveloped suburb in Ontario.

DEADY FREDDY
CANADA
Animation, Alicia Eisen, 2019, 10 min.
Dark hilarity ensues when Freddy learns that reincarnation comes with one very big condition: he must live his life backwards through the eyes of every bug he’s ever killed.

IMBUED LIFE
CROATIA—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Animation, Ivana Bosnjak & Thomas Johnson, 2019, 12 min.
Croatian with English subtitles
A girl’s talent for taxidermy takes a turn when she finds a roll of undeveloped film in each of the animals she treats.

QUARANTINE
UK—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Animation, Astrid Goldsmith, 2018, 13 min.
Badgers have had enough fear-mongering and plot their dark-of-night escape.

SHEEP, WOLF AND A CUP OF TEA...
FRANCE—NEW YORK PREMIERE
Animation, Marion Lacourt, 2019, 12 min.
Bedtime routines turn truly bizarre when a child opens a box hidden under his bed in this fantastically illustrated short.

STORY
POLAND
Animation, Jola Bańkowska, 2019, 5 min.
As screen time gets out of hand, the bright virtual world turns to a dark reality.

UNCLE THOMAS: ACCOUNTING FOR THE DAYS
CANADA, PORTUGAL, FRANCE
Animation, Regina Pessoa, 2019, 13 min.
A quirky uncle’s unusual tics are a bit unsettling in this portrait of a poet that marches to a different beat.

NYICFF ROCKS: MUSICAL SHORTS

ANGEL’S TRUMPET
ESTONIA—EAST COAST PREMIERE
Animation, Martinus Klemet, 2019, 3 min.
The next step in the evolution of hummingbirds just may surprise you!
C is for Cars
CANADA
*Animation, Warren Brown, 2019, 1 min.*
Get revved up and ready to get carried away with all things “C.”

DADDY
UK
*Animation, Asa Lucander, 2019, 5 min.*
A girl lost at sea must find her spirit guide in Aardman’s gorgeous puppet animation of the Coldplay song.

I HAVE A LITTLE CACTUS (The Musifants)
GERMANY—EAST COAST PREMIERE
*Animation, Meike Fehre & Sabine Dully, 2019, 4 min.*
German with English subtitles
Even though Grandpa Günter is 200, he’s not too old to swing, especially to the infectious Cabaret-era jazz of this wacky little ditty.

MY BROTHER MAKES THE NOISES IN THE MOVIES (The Musifants)
GERMANY—WORLD PREMIERE
*Animation, Meike Fehre & Sabine Dully, 2020, 4 min.*
German with English subtitles
Sing along to one proud sibling’s croonings: My brother makes the noises in the movies...he’s so good I think I’m going looney; for sound, there is no better man around!

MAESTRO
FRANCE
*Animation, Illogic, 2019, 2 min.*
Deep into a forest, a gathering of wild animals perform a nocturnal opera, led by a rather squirrely conductor.

SHALABONBON
JAPAN—WORLD PREMIERE
*Animation, Yoko Yuki, 2019, 2 min.*
Japanese with English subtitles
Bop alongside kitties, flowers, dancing purple guys, and more with groovy lo-fi graphics and a pop-inspired Japanese beat.

For the complete list of films in NYICFF ROCKS, please visit nyicff.org.

¡HOLA NYICFF! SHORTS IN SPANISH

11:40
ARGENTINA—EAST COAST PREMIERE
*Live Action, Claudia Ruiz, 2018, 12 min.*
Spanish with English subtitles
When Damián gets a watch for his birthday, he and his little brother Matias can’t stop checking it, anxiously waiting for 11:40 to arrive.

3FEET
COLOMBIA—EAST COAST PREMIERE
*Live Action, Giselle Geney, 2018, 14 min.*
Spanish with English subtitles
Get your (soccer) kicks on the way to school with Gonzalo as he hilariously tries his very best to keep things clean and stay in the game.

AILÍN ON THE MOON
ARGENTINA—NEW YORK PREMIERE
*Animation, Claudia Ruiz, 2018, 5 min.*
Spanish with English subtitles
A mother and daughter’s love is orbited by joys and challenges.

DOZE
COLOMBIA—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
*Live Action, Alfonso Acosta, 2019, 7 min.*
Spanish with English subtitles
Growing up is never easy, especially since Daniel must navigate some of it alone—until support turns up in an unexpected form.

MY BROTHER LUCA
MEXICO
*Animation, Carlos Algara & Catalina Serna, 2019, 9 min.*
Spanish with English subtitles
When an imaginative little girl discovers that her brother might have superpowers, she sets out on a quest to make sure everyone else sees him as she does.

THE SIZE OF THINGS
COLOMBIA—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
*Live Action, Carlos Felipe Montoya, 2019, 12 min.*
Spanish with English subtitles
Diego and his dad live a life of simple means in the forest, so when Diego comes across an unexpected find, its magnitude grows curiouser and curiouser.