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NYICFF's Film-Ed Field Trip Program brings the magic of the Festival to NYC students who need it most, developing media literacy and critical thinking skills for students in communities with limited resources.

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Make a **donation** in the theater lobby or online at nyicff.org/donate.

NYICFF 2020

It's been a tremendous year filled with kids taking the lead, both on and off the screen, and making a genuine impact through activism, art, empathy, and action. At NYICFF, we've always respected our audiences and recognized the potential in the young people who make our festival a vibrant annual event.

We're thrilled to challenge and inspire you all with exceptional film programs created by artists the world over. As always, we're excited to welcome these filmmakers, talented voices who—alongside our young visionaries—help us rethink what's possible and see the world with fresh eyes and from different perspectives.

At NYICFF 2020, we invite you to gather before the big screen, be moved and amazed, laugh and cheer, and share opinions big and small. A film festival is a community, and ours is global, inclusive, and made stronger by each and every one of you.

FIND YOUR STORY, EXPAND OUR WORLD.

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MARIA-CHRISTINA VILLASEÑOR

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We couldn't do it without our interns!

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NYICFF VENUES

MANHATTAN

- SCANDINAVIA HOUSE (SH)
 58 PARK AVENUE AT 38TH STREET
- 2 SVA THEATRE (SVA)
 333 WEST 23RD STREET
 BETWEEN 8TH AND 9TH AVENUES
- 3 CINÉPOLIS CHELSEA (CC) 260 WEST 23RD STREET BETWEEN 7TH AND 8TH AVENUES
- 4 IFC CENTER (IFC)
 323 6TH AVENUE AT 3RD STREET

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ANIMATORS ALL AROUND

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 5:00 PM **SVA THEATRE RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 8+**

NYICFF's star-studded animation panel is back with the fourth edition of animation creators sharing the inspiration, artistry, and untold stories behind their acclaimed films. Through sketches, storyboards, and film clips, they'll give you a lively look at their work and process, followed by an audience Q&A where you can pose your burning questions directly!

ANIMATION PANEL











DICE TSUTSUMI Tonko House Founder, co-Director of Academy Award®_nominated short The Dam Keeper, and Director of upcoming Netflix series ONI





CAMRUS JOHNSON Actor and Writer/Director of Grab My Hand: A Letter to My Dad, an official short film selection in NYICFF 2020 competition

NYICFF 2020 **JURY**



JOHN CANEMAKER Academy Award®-winning animator (The Moon and the Son) and NYU professor



MELISSA COBB Vice President, Original Animation, Netflix



SOFIA COPPOLA Academy Award®-winning writer, director, 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 Awardnominated actor (About Schmidt, Captain America: Civil War)



JORGE R. GUTIÉRREZ Award-winning Animator (Book of Life, Son of Jaguar, forthcoming Mava and the Three)



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



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)



MADELEINE DI NONNO CEO, Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media; Board Chair, Television Academy Foundation



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) founder and Executive Director of Queer/Art



NORA TWOMEY Oscar-nominated director of The Breadwinner, co-director The Secret of Kells, co-founder Cartoon Saloon



UMA THURMAN Academy Award®-nominated actor (Pulp Fiction, Kill Bill) Board member, Room to Grow children's foundation



TAIKA WAITITI Academy Award®-winning writer, director, and actor (Jojo Rabbit, Thor: Ragnarok)

NYICFF INDUSTRY FORUM:

TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 + SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

NYICFF is hosting its first-ever Industry Forum for media professionals—welcoming filmmakers, directors, studio heads, writers, animators, and film students. The two-day Forum hosts an impressive group of leaders and creators for discussions, panels and presentations that examine how those who work across the entertainment industry can ensure a future filled with diverse, authentic and inclusive stories—for audiences of all ages.

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SVA THEATRE

SPEAKERS + PANELISTS

WELCOME ADDRESS

ANNE DEL CASTILLO

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KEYNOTE

JULIE ANN CROMMETT

Vice President of Multicultural Audience Engagement at THE WALT DISNEY STUDIOS and WOMEN IN ANIMATION (WIA) Secretary and Inclusion Committee Co-Chair

PANEL DISCUSSION

SINGULAR STORIES,
MULTIPLE VIEWPOINTS

KAREN RUPERT TOLIVER

Producer, Academy Award®winning short film Hair Love and Executive Vice President, Creative, SONY PICTURES ANIMATION

PEILIN CHOU

Producer, Abominable and Chief Creative Officer, PEARL STUDIO

DICE TSUTSUMI

Co-Director, Academy Award®-nominated short film *The Dam Keeper*, and Founder, TONKO HOUSE

PANEL DISCUSSION

ANIMATE NYC

KIM DIAZ

Director of Production & Development, SESAME WORKSHOP

SARAH MULLERVY

SVP of Creative, SILVERGATE MEDIA

STEPHANIE SIMPSON

Emmy Award-winning Writer, *Hilda*

GERTA XHELO

Director of Production, TED-ED, professor at Pratt University

PANEL DISCUSSION

ANIMATORS ALL AROUND

JILL CULTON

Writer/Animator and Director of *Abominable* and *Open*Season

DICE TSUTSUMI

Co-Director, Academy Award®-nominated short film The Dam Keeper, and Founder, TONKO HOUSE

CAMRUS JOHNSON

Actor and Writer/Director of short film *Grab My Hand:* A Letter to My Dad

"I will never forget this trip!"

NYICFF FIELD TRIPS

Students throughout NYC are developing media literacy skills and discovering new cultural perspectives with NYICFF's Film-Ed Program. With diverse short film programs, filmmaker Q&As, audience voting, and curriculum guides for in-class lesson support, the NYICFF experience is available all year for grades K–8.

 -4^{th} grader

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP AT NYICFF.ORG/FIELD-TRIPS

Full details at nyicff.org/industry





At The École, we instill in our students the lifetime benefits of a bilingual education, empowering them to create and connect to a world filled with possibilities.



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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 5:30PM SVA THEATRE RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 8+

Celebrate four weekends of extraordinary films and an incredible Festival experience with an all new film program created by **you**: we've collected every ballot and tallied each of your votes. Join us to watch the very best shorts from this year's Festival, then cheer on the 2020 award winners as they're announced. When the screening's over, it's lights up and party down!



FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS: JAPAN

Now in its fourth edition, NYICFF's annual **Friends & Neighbors** program celebrates the cinematic achievements of **Japan**. Broaden your experience of Japanese films with this exciting slate of feature and short films that expand styles, break with conventions, and show the originality, complexity, humor, and spirit of this cultural powerhouse.

Presented with support from







Organized in part with the Kineko International Children's Film Festival

OPENING NIGHT FILM



CHILDREN OF THE SEA

JAPAN—EAST COAST PREMIERE Ayumu Watanabe, 2019, 111 min. Japanese with English subtitles

RECOMMENDED AGES 10+

Adapted from the acclaimed manga comes this visually dazzling, mind-bending aquatic mystery. Ruka's dad is so absorbed in his studies at the aquarium that he hardly notices when she befriends Umi and Sora. Like Ruka, the mysterious duo has the unique ability to hear the call of the sea and its endangered creatures. Together, can they save them?

FESTIVAL FLASHBACK



MAGIC BOY

JAPAN

Akira Daikuhara & Taiji Yabushita, 1961, 83 min.

ECOMMENDED AGES 8+

Anime? Check. Disney-inspired cute critters? Check. Beautiful colors? Do you even have to ask?! Our Festival Flashback is a groundbreaker: the first-ever anime film released in the US (from renowned Toei Studios), and quite possibly the inspiration for the lovably goofy ninjasin-training stories to follow. Step back in time and follow Sasuke's adventures from the very beginning!



BENTO HARASSMENT

JAPAN—EAST COAST PREMIERE Renpei Tsukamoto, 2019, 106 min. Japanese with English subtitles

RECOMMENDED AGES 10+

Can food speak louder than words? With Futaba's mother tired of her teen's icy attitude, she'll try an unusual tactic to get her to talk—by way of her bento lunch box. For an entire school term, Futaba opens box after box, each designed with its own cringe-worthy message. An offbeat story of growing up, **Bento Harassment** will leave audiences laughing...and hungry.



ON-GAKU: OUR SOUND

JAPAN—US PREMIERE Kenji Iwaisawa, 2019, 71 min. Japanese with English subtitles

RECOMMENDED AGES 12+

From grunge to genius, *On-Gaku* turns it up to eleven musically *and* visually! Kenji and his two buddies are considered the toughs in their high school. Only clever Aya knows their too-cool-for-school attitude is a total act, until a bass guitar unexpectedly ends up in Kenji's hands. With its deadpan humor, fresh animation style, and upending of the high school musical genre, there's no wonder this film won the Ottawa Int'l Animation Festival's top prize.



FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS: JAPAN SHORT FILM PROGRAM

75 min.

RECOMMENDED AGES 9+

Say konichiwa (hello!) to our 2020 Friends & Neighbors. Celebrate Japan's rich film and cultural history in a breathtaking range of styles: the hand-drawn artistry of master animator and NYICFF alum Koji Yamamura's world premiere, Dreams into Drawing, the stop-motion nod to traditional Japanese puppetry in Gon, the Little Fox, and the manga-style zaps, zings, and pows of Onomatopoeia Rap. See page 36 for full film program details.

FEATURE FILMS

TRUE TO LIFE

These films are inspired by a true story or are set in a real time in history.



GIRLS' POV

Not just for girls!
These films feature empowered girls breaking the mold.

SPOTLIGHT

COUNTRY



These films are based on a book or graphic novel.



These films showcase the great art of Canadian animation!



HILDA

UK/US/CANADA—WORLD PREMIERE Andy Coyle, 2020, 44 min.

RECOMMENDED AGES 5+

She's clever, kind, witty—and rocks a pair of red boots like nobody's business. Hilda is back rescuing elves, dodging trolls, and exploring Trolberg's strange history and stranger personalities. The BAFTA award-winning Netflix Original series inspired by Luke Pearson's hugely popular graphic novels returns to NYICFF with the world premiere of Season Two. Join us for sneak peeks of "Troll Circle" and "The Witch," two truly enchanting adventures!

Presented with support from

Canada TELEFILM



CELEBRATE AARDMAN! A SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE: FARMAGEDDON

UK—EAST COAST THEATRICAL PREMIERE Will Becher & Richard Phelan, 2019, 86 min.

RECOMMENDED AGES 5+

Go all-out for Aardman's big screen excitement with a NYICFF exclusive *theatrical* presentation of Shaun the Sheep's latest feature adventure, alongside new and classic Aardman shorts! In *Farmageddon*, an alien named LU-LA crash-lands near Mossy Bottom Farm. Her magical powers, irrepressible mischief and galactic-sized burps soon have Shaun the Sheep and his flock enchanted. But when Shaun takes his new extraterrestrial friend on the road to find her lost spaceship, little does he know that a sinister alien-hunting agency is on their trail. Now Shaun and the flock must avert Farmageddon before it's too late.

2020 SCHEDULE

TICKET PRICES

\$14.50 General Admission **\$17.50** Special Events **\$475** All Access VIP Pass

VENUES

SVA THEATRE (SVA)

333 West 23rd Street btwn 8th and 9th Avenues

CINÉPOLIS CHELSEA (CC)

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10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM
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SAMSAM

FRANCE/BELGIUM—WORLD PREMIERE Tanguy de Kermel, 2020, 80 min.

RECOMMENDED FOR ALL AGES

It's never too early to find your superpower in SamSam's fantastical world, and he can't wait to discover his. Thanks to Mega, the mysterious new kid, SamSam finally uncovers an "anti-monster" power! Let's hope it's the real thing: SamSam is about to find himself in a whopper of a showdown, battling to keep the planet laughing-and happy.



MOOMINVALLEY

FINLAND/UK—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE Steve Box, 2019, 66 min.

RECOMMENDED AGES 5+

Whether you're already mad for Moomins or you've yet to meet these hilarious and cuddly creatures, you can catch their newest capers as NYICFF once again offers an exclusive look at the latest goings-on in Moominvalley. Tove Jansson's beloved books come to glorious life with a new take and season of their fairy-world tales and some of the biggest British stars voicing our favorite Moominfamily.



ROCCA CHANGES THE WORLD

GERMANY—NEW YORK PREMIERE Katja Benrath, 2019, 101 min. German with English subtitles

RECOMMENDED AGES 8+

A modern-day, punk rock Pippi Longstocking, Rocca comes from a family of astronauts—but she's no space cadet. Smart, intrepid, and ready to save the world-from protecting the littlest squirrel to challenging the biggest bully—there's virtually nothing she can't handle. Well, except maybe missing her dad while he's on a space mission. Somehow, we think she'll even ace earthly matters.

Presented with support from





DOLPHIN REEF

US—SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING Keith Scholey, 2020, 77 min.

RECOMMENDED FOR ALL AGES

Narrated by Natalie Portman, Disneynature's Dolphin Reef features Echo, a young Pacific bottlenose dolphin who's more interested in exploring his coral reef home, and its intriguing inhabitants, than learning to survive in it. But lessons from family—and close encounters with some of the ocean's greatest predators—may encourage Echo to master his vital role in the marine community after all. Catch the majesty of this ocean story exclusively on the big screen before its highly anticipated debut on Disney+.



THE PRINCE'S VOYAGE

FRANCE/LUXEMBOURG/CANADA Jean-François Laguionie and Xavier Picard, 2019, 77 min. French with English subtitles

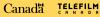
RECOMMENDED AGES 7+

Celebrated filmmaker Jean-François Laguionie (The Painting, NYICFF 2012) returns to the Festival with yet another beautifully animated, mesmerizing film. When a monkey prince washes ashore, Tom and his scientist parents take him in. It turns out everyone has a lot to learn, and it's not all scientific, in a tale of intrigue and understanding, with plenty of echoes of classic primate films.

Presented with support from









FORWARD: TOMORROW BELONGS TO US

FRANCE—EAST COAST PREMIERE Gilles de Maistre, 2019, 84 min.

French, Spanish, and other languages with English subtitles

RECOMMENDED AGES 8+

Meet seven incredible young activists from around the world with unwavering courage to transform our future in this new documentary. While vying for an international prize for his innovative recycling program, José guides us from his native Peru to introduce pioneering kids from France, Bangladesh, Africa, the US, and beyond, demonstrating that you don't need all the answers to fix a problem—just a brave first step.

Presented with support from





ELEPHANT

US—SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING Mark Linfield, 2020, 86 min.

RECOMMENDED FOR ALL AGES

Disneynature's *Elephant* follows African elephant Shani and her spirited son Jomo as their herd makes an epic journey hundreds of miles across the vast Kalahari Desert. Led by their great matriarch, Gaia, the family faces brutal heat, dwindling resources and persistent predators, as they follow in their ancestors' footsteps on a quest to reach a lush, green paradise. Be the first to see the story of these great and gentle creatures in the theater before it's premiere on Disney+.



TOO FAR AWAY

GERMANY—NEW YORK PREMIERE Sarah Winkenstette, 2019, 89 min. German with English subtitles

RECOMMENDED AGES 8+

Eleven-year-old Ben loves his hometown, especially his soccer club, where he practices for hours each day. When he and his neighbors are forced to move, he struggles to fit in at a new school. Another newcomer, Tariq, an ace soccer player from Syria, adds to Ben's challenges, but the two competitors might discover there's more to be gained together in this thoughtful reflection on friendship, teamwork, and belonging.

Presented with support from





FRITZI: A REVOLUTIONARY TALE

GERMANY/BELGIUM/LUXEMBOURG/CZECH REPUBLIC— EAST COAST PREMIERE

Ralf Kukula & Matthias Bruhn, 2019, 80 min.

RECOMMENDED AGES 9+

Summer 1989, East Germany. While her best friend, Sophie, visits Hungary, twelve-year-old Fritzi lovingly watches her dog, Sputnik. When she discovers the public protests stirring around her, she realizes that Sophie's family may have left for more than a vacation. Fritzi's moved to action in this riveting tale of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the people—like Fritzi—brave enough to change the world.

Presented with support from





FAHIM, THE LITTLE CHESS PRINCE

FRANCE—NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE Pierre-François Martin-Laval, 2019, 107 min. French with English subtitles

RECOMMENDED AGES 9+

In this true-to-life story, Fahim journeys from Bangladesh to France with his father seeking to train with a chess grandmaster. When coach Sylvain (Gerard Depardieu) accepts Fahim into his challenging class, he transforms his fate in more ways than one in this heartwarming testimony to a father's determination, the kindness of strangers, and one boy's courageous will to succeed.



THE CLUB OF UGLY CHILDREN

NETHERLANDS—INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE Jonathan Elbers, 2019, 90 min. Dutch with English subtitles

RECOMMENDED AGES 10+

This action-packed thriller unfolds in a world led by a new president whose motto, "Keep it Clean," means rounding up kids who don't meet his view of ideal citizens. Paul, his big sister, and their band of friends aren't going to simply stand by. They mobilize with energy and ingenuity in this pulse-racing tale that will have you cheering from the edge of your seat!

Presented with support from









DAYS OF THE BAGNOLD SUMMER

UK—EAST COAST PREMIERE Simon Bird, 2019, 86 min.

RECOMMENDED AGES 12+

A warm, deadpan hilarious tale of parenting and heavy metal, **Days of the Bagnold Summer** features Earl Cave (son of legend Nick) and an original soundtrack by Belle and Sebastian. When his vacation plans tank, Ben faces another dull summer in his quiet town. Battling boredom, he auditions for a rock band whose members turn out to be a little, well, *littler* than expected.

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.



FOR AGES 3-6

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.
Catch a gigantic wave of big-screen
beauty with the latest from NYICFF
award-winners Magic Light Pictures
(Zog and The Highway Rat).

SHORT FILMS 1

FOR AGES 5-10

SHORT FILMS 2

FOR AGES 8-14



ATHLETICUS

FRANCE-NEW YORK PREMIERE Animation, Nicolas Deveaux, 2018, 2 min. each

In this series of five shorts, a rather wild menagerie of animals competes for the gold and puts a super funny twist on classic competition fables.



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 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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



KONIGIRI-KUN: THE BOAT

JAPAN—INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE Animation, Mari Miyazawa, 2019,

Everyone's favorite rice ball, 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!



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.

Academy Award®-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.



SHORT FILMS 1 FOR AGES 12+



ACCENTS

AUSTRALIA—NEW YORK PREMIERE Animation, Robertino Zambrano, 2019, 3 min., English & 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 OPPOSITES GAME

HS

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

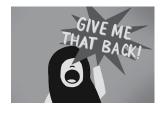
NETHERLANDS

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.



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

wacky tale.

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



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.

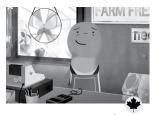


THERMOSTAT 6

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 FOR AGES 10+



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.



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, No

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.



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.



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.



ACCENTS

AUSTRALIA—NEW YORK PREMIERE Animation, Robertino Zambrano, 2019, 3 min., English & Spanish with English subtitles

An ode to her mother's Puerto Rican accent and a reclaiming of her voice, by poet Denice Frohman.

Presented with support from



BOYS BEYOND BOUNDARIES

FOR AGES 10+



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.



THE ONE YOU NEVER FORGET

US

Live Action, Morgan Jon Fox, 2019,

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, 6 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.



GRAB MY HAND: A LETTER TO MY DAD

03

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.



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.



FRIENDS & **NEIGHBORS: JAPAN**

FOR AGES 9+

SHORT FILM PROGRAM

Say konichiwa (hello!) to our 2020 Friends & Neighbors. Celebrate Japan's rich film and cultural history in a breathtaking range of styles: the hand-drawn artistry of master animator and NYICFF alum Koji Yamamura's world premiere, **Dreams into Drawing**, the stop-motion nod to traditional Japanese puppetry in **Gon, the Little Fox**, and the manga-style zaps, zings, and pows of **Onomatopoeia Rap.**



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 stopmotion 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,

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 Animation & Live Action, Hiroki Mitsui & Yuriko Tomita, 2017, 20 min., 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. Rice ball or rice bowl? Engrain the difference in your brain with this catchy tune!

Presented with support from





SONY

HEEBIE JEEBIES

FOR AGES 10+

iHOLA NYICFF!

FOR AGES 8+



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 fearmongering and plot their dark-ofnight 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.



UNCLE THOMAS: ACCOUNTING FOR THE DAYS

CANADA/PORTUGAL/FRANCE Animation, Regina Pessoa, 2019,

A quirky uncle's unusual tics are a bit unsettling in this portrait of a poet that marches to a different beat.



STORY

Animation, Jola Bańkowska, 2019, 5 min.

As screen time gets out of hand, the bright virtual world turns to a dark reality.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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 decipher it.

message inspires a teacher to

NYICFF ROCKS

ALL AGES

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



C IS FOR CARS

CANADA

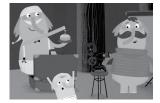
Animation, Warren Brown, 2019, 1 min.
Get revved up and ready to get
carried away with all things "C."



I HAVE A LITTLE CACTUS

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 from *The Musifants*.



MY BROTHER MAKES THE NOISES IN THE MOVIES

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



KIDS FOR KIDS

NETHERLANDS

Animation, Job, Joris and Marieke, 2019, 3 min., Dutch

NYICFF award-winners Job, Joris and Marieke are back with a playful music video about travel by the band *Kinderen voor Kinderen* (Kids for Kids).



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.



ANGEL'S TRUMPET

think I'm going loony!

ESTONIA—EAST COAST PREMIERE Animation, Martinus Klemet, 2019, 3 min.

The next step in the evolution of hummingbirds just may surprise you!



LIKE SUGAR

US

Live Action, Kim Gehrig, 2018, 4 min.
Dig into the sweet beat of Chaka
Khan's latest song with a fabulous
array of dancers.



DADDY

HK

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.



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.







SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA

With a dynamic film and animation industry, a range of cultural perspectives, and distinct independent voices, Canadian cinema has so much to offer. Films throughout the Festival marked with a Canadian maple leaf indicate our showcase of exceptional Canadian films that celebrate "Hollywood North."

NYICFF is thrilled to highlight excellent Canadian animation through the exceptional film selections, listed below.

FEATURES



HILDA

UK/US/CANADA—WORLD PREMIERE *Andy Coyle*, 2020



THE PRINCE'S VOYAGE

FRANCE/LUXEMBOURG/CANADA Jean-François Laguionie and Xavier Picard, 2019

SHORT FILMS

KIRI & LOU

CANADA/NEW ZEALAND
—US PREMIERE
Harry Sinclair, 2019
SHORTS FOR TOTS

THE FOX & THE PIGEON

CANADA—NEW YORK PREMIERE OOV Studios, 2019

SHORTS FOR TOTS

IN PASSING

CANADA—NEW YORK PREMIERE Esther Cheung, 2019

SHORT FILMS THREE

SELFISH

CANADA/TAIWAN—NEW YORK PREMIERE Po Chien Chen, 2019

SHORT FILMS THREE

THE BUTTERFLY AFFECT

CANADA—US PREMIERE Stephanie Blakey, 2019 GIRLS' POV

WASH DAY

CANADA Jaida Salmon, 2019 GIRLS' POV

BIIDAABAN (THE DAWN COMES)

CANADA—NEW YORK PREMIERE Amanda Strong, 2018 HEEBIE JEEBIES

DEADY FREDDY

CANADA

Alicia Eisen, 2019

HEEBIE JEEBIES

UNCLE THOMAS: ACCOUNTING FOR THE DAYS

CANADA/PORTUGAL/FRANCE
Regina Pessoa, 2019
HEEBIE JEEBIES

C IS FOR CARS

CANADA

Warren Brown, 2019

NYICFF ROCKS

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