



# NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

## NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES SHORTS PROGRAMS FOR ITS 30TH EDITION

### Featuring 8 World Premieres & 6 North American Premieres Showcasing the Best Animated and Live Action Films from Around the World for Tots to Teens

Previously Announced Features Include: Opening Night Preview of Disney & Pixar's **HOPPERS**, North American Premiere of **WHOEVER STEALS THIS BOOK**, U.S. Premieres of **MY LIFE IN VERSAILLES**, **GHOST SCHOOL** and **MARY ANNING**, North American Premieres of **MY GRANDFATHER IS A NIHONJIN** and **PAPAYA**, and the East Coast Premieres of **LAMPIE** and **SPACE CADET**

NYICFF runs February 28 – March 15

Full lineup available [HERE](#)



February 18, 2026 – The Oscar-qualifying New York International Children's Film Festival (NYICFF) announces its shorts programs for 2026. This year's short film lineup includes 8 World Premieres, 6 North American Premieres, and 3 U.S. Premieres.

Ring in its 30th year, NYICFF is North America's largest and most prestigious film festival for young audiences. The festival runs Feb 28–March 15. Tickets are available at [nyicff.org/tickets](https://nyicff.org/tickets), and the complete lineup can be viewed at [nyicff.org/2026-films](https://nyicff.org/2026-films).

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## Shorts for Tots

Ages 3-6

*Created for our youngest and first-ever moviegoers, but beloved by grown-ups as well.*

**Sat Feb 28, 11:00am – SVA Theatre**

**Sun March 8, 10:45am – SVA Theatre (sensory friendly!)**

**Sat March 14, 11:30am – IFC Center**

### **Konigiri-Kun: Super machine?**

Japan — North American Premiere

Animation, Mari Miyazawa, 2024, 5 min

*No dialogue*

Everyone's favorite, sesame-sprinkled rice boy returns to NYICFF, this time trying to fix his new egg friend with a crack in his shell.

### **Lena's Farm: A Pain in the Butt**

***Der Stachel im Po***

Germany, Croatia

Animation, Elena Walf, 2025, 5 min

*No dialogue*

Just before he goes into hibernation, a hedgehog discovers he's missing a quill. You'll never believe where he finds it...

### **Lena's Farm: The Motherless Egg**

***Das Mutterlose Ei***

Germany, Croatia

Animation, Elena Walf, 2025, 5 min

*No dialogue*

Lena's dog finds an egg in his bowl. How will it hatch without its mother?

### **Sketches on Ice**

***Esquisses sur glace***

France, Belgium — New York Premiere

Animation, Marion Auvin, 2025, 4 min

*No dialogue*

It snowed! Lou and Marius are building a snowman, but Mom calls them back home. Outside, the snowman has moved.

### **Cloud Fish**

***Poisson Nuage***

Belgium, France — New York Premiere

Animation, Noé Garcia, 2025, 6 min

*No dialogue*

A very tiny fish sails in a vast underwater city. Is he too small to see the world?

### **There Are No Such Things as Ghosts**

***Obake Nante Nai sa*** (おばけなんてないさ)

Japan — New York City Premiere

Animation, Fumiyuki Uehara, 2025, 2 min

*In Japanese with English subtitles*

Reimagining the ubiquitous Japanese children's song.

### **The Scarecrows' Wedding**

United Kingdom — New York Premiere

Animation, Jeroen Jaspaert & Samantha Cutler, 2025, 26 min

*In English*

Two devoted scarecrows are planning a wedding to remember. When the groom insists on leaving to collect one last thing for their big day, a smooth-talking scarecrow swoops in with plans of his own.

### **First Winter**

United States

Animation, Schantelle Alonzo, 2025, 5 min

*In English*

Ángel is a newly arrived immigrant experiencing his first winter in Chicago.

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## **Short Films One**

*Ages 5-10*

*Whether creating a life on the high seas, plotting revenge against urban traffic, or singing about your face that's a little...different, there's light and laughter to be found in Short Films One.*

**Sun March 1, 11:00am – SVA Theatre**

**Sat March 7, 1:00pm – SVA Theatre**

**Sat March 14, 11:00am – SVA Theatre**

**Sun March 15, 11:30am – IFC Center**

### **Ahoy!**

United States — East Coast Premiere

Live Action, Julian Alvarez, 2025, 14 min

*In English*

Generations after a global environmental collapse, a young boy raised at sea discovers a map and begins a journey to a mythical place once known as "land."

### **We're Kinda Different**

Canada — New York Premiere

Animation, Ben Meinhardt, 2025, 3 min

*In English*

Our hero is, well, different, and he'll tell you in song.

### **Duet**

France — World Premiere

Animation, Léo Brunel, 2025, 1 min

*No dialogue*

Two movers. One grand piano. One very uncooperative staircase and a passion they never saw coming.

### **Prout**

Belgium — New York Premiere

Animation, Marc-Henri Wajnberg, 2025, 8 min

*No dialogue*

Obsolete appliances and waste of all kinds are sent to the planet Prout, Earth's dumping ground.

### **Cardboard**

United Kingdom — New York City Premiere

Animation, Sam Thornton, 2025, 8 min

*No dialogue*

When a single dad pig moves his piglets into a rundown trailer park, a simple cardboard box takes them out of this world.

### **Lena's Farm: Full Nest**

***Volles Nest***

Germany, Croatia

Animation, Elena Walf, 2025, 5 min

*No dialogue*

The squirrel has warmly padded his nest with all kinds of stolen treasure when a flood breaks and the forest animals flee to Lena's farm.

### **Shanley**

United States — World Premiere

Animation, Beau McCombs, 2025, 4 min

*No dialogue*

A mischievous little egg relishes on bringing chaotic energy into the dining room.

### **Bats & Bugs**

Switzerland — North American Premiere

Animation, Lena von Döhren, 2026, 11 min

*No dialogue*

When a streetlamp is lit in the night, deep in the jungle, countless numbers of insects are magically drawn into a trance.

### **Experiences and learning. And parenting.**

Poland — North American Premiere

Animation, Malgorzata Rybak, 2025, 5 min

*No dialogue*

O is very curious and busy discovering the world.

### **The Big Bad Wolf**

United Kingdom — New York Premiere

Animation, Leo Wright, 2025, 5 min

*In English*

This is the story about a little piggie who befriends a not-so-big bad wolf, much to the outrage of his father.

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## **Short Films Two**

*Ages 8-14*

*Learning the ropes on the apricot farm. Getting everyone to pose for a picture. There are all sorts of ways to grow up in Short Films Two.*

**Sat Feb 28, 3:00pm – SVA Theatre**

**Sat March 7, 3:00pm – SVA Theatre**

**Sun March 15, 11:00am – IFC Center**

### **Leili's Photo**

*عكس لیلی*

Canada — International Premiere

Live Action, Maral Mostafavi, 2025, 7 min

*In Persian and English with English subtitles*

Eight-year-old Leili needs to take a pinhole picture of her family for school the next day, but her family won't cooperate.

### **The Apricot**

United States, Mexico — New York Premiere

Animation, Alex Z. Zavila, 2025, 9 min

*In English and Spanish with English subtitles*

A ten-year-old boy spends his first summer working on the family apricot farm.

### **Something Greater Than You**

United States — World Premiere

Animation, Gordon LePage, 2025, 9 min

*In English*

A pair of feuding raccoons, having found shelter from a winter storm, receive an unexpected guest.

### **Helping Hands**

United Kingdom — North American Premiere

Live Action, James Skinner, 2025, 9 min

*In English*

After being humiliated while preparing for the school play, a shy teen discovers her little act of kindness has triggered a series of good deeds.

### **Lola and the Sound Piano**

***Lola et le piano à bruits***

France, Poland, Switzerland — New York Premiere

Animation, Augusto Zanollo, 2024, 28 min

*In French with English subtitles*

Lola's little brother, Simon, is sensitive to hidden sounds. She builds a noise machine to speak to him.

### **The Day I Licked a Pebble**

***Le Jour Où J'ai Léch  Un Caillou***

France — North American Premiere

Animation, Flavie Eli zer, Chlo  Bernuchon, Goli Atefi, Maud Kolasa, Nathan Jauze, Marie Pijollet, 2025, 7 min

*In French with English subtitles*

On an ordinary summer afternoon in the countryside, three bored siblings decide to go get snacks.

### **Mom's Prank**

China

Live Action, Yu Zihao, 2024, 8 min

*In Chinese with English subtitles*

A cunning mother uses a vacuum to get her son to keep her company.

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## **Short Films Three**

*Ages 12+*

*Shorts for our older crowd: teens and grown-ups only.*

**Sat Feb 28, 2:30pm – Scandinavia House**

**Sun March 8, 11:30am – IFC Center**

**No Room**

***Nema mjesto***

Croatia — New York City Premiere

Animation, Jelena Oroz, 2024, 6 min

*In Croatian*

These cars have legs. Maybe that's why they feel so entitled to use the pavement as they please.

### **The Girl Who Cried Pearls [Oscar nominee!]**

*La jeune fille qui pleurait des perles*

Canada

Animation, Chris Lavis & Maciek Szczerbowski, 2025, 17 min

*In English*

A girl overwhelmed by sorrow, the boy who loves her, and how greed leads good hearts to wicked deeds.

### **The Almost Adults**

*Os Quase Adultos*

Brazil

Live Action, Rafaella Buzzi, 2025, 23 min

*In Portuguese with English subtitles*

Sofia, a nine-year-old child, is mysteriously replaced by a twenty-something version of herself.

### **Beast of the Seine**

United States — East Coast Premiere

Animation, Jon Portman, 2025, 13 min

*In English*

When the children of a quaint Parisian village are terrorized by a sinister threat, a remarkable dog emerges as the unlikely hero.

### **Autokar**

Belgium, France

Animation, Sylwia Szkiładź, 2025, 17 min

*In French and Polish with English subtitles*

In the 1990s, 8-year-old Agata leaves Poland for Belgium.

### **Whereabouts**

United States — New York Premiere

Animation, Suejee Lee, 2025, 2 min

*In English*

A journey through NYC, unfolding through small, intimate moments. The quiet magic of simply moving through the world.

### **Butterfly**

*Papillon*

France — New York City Premiere

Animation, Florence Mialhe, 2024, 15 min

*In French, Arabic, and German with English subtitles*

In the sea, a man swims. As he does, memories come to the surface.

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## **Heebie Jeebies Shorts**

*Ages 9+*

*Wild, spooky, freaky, and bizarre...prepare to have your mind blown.*

**Sat Feb 28, 11:30am – IFC Center**

**Sun March 15, 1:30pm – DCTV**

### **9 Million Colors**

***9 milionů barev***

Czech Republic, Norway, Germany — New York Premiere

Animation, Bára Anna Stejskalová, 2025, 15 min

*No dialogue*

The ocean is paradise for Fran the shrimp. Her deadly claws take whatever they desire.

### **Inkwo for When the Starving Return**

Canada

Animation, Amanda Strong, 2024, 18 min

*In English*

Dove, a gender-shifting warrior, uses their Inkwo, Indigenous medicine, to protect their community from an unburied swarm of terrifying creatures.

### **Turbulence**

Denmark, United States — New York Premiere

Animation, Christopher Rutledge & Magnus Igland Møller, 2025, 4 min

*In English*

First flight. No parents. Total panic. Trapped at 30,000 feet in an airborne freak show, one boy must hold on for dear life... or completely lose it.

### **Rest**

Japan — East Coast Premiere

Animation, Ryotaro Miyajima, 2025, 5 min

*No dialogue*

In the swelling and waning in the forest of needles, the mundane world drifts away, and we only live to breathe.

### **MINE!**

United States — New York Premiere

Animation, Louis Morton, 2025, 8 min

*No dialogue*

In early 20th century midwest USA, deep underground, a group of coal miners make an incredible discovery.

### **Murmuration**

#### ***Zwermen***

Netherlands, Belgium — New York Premiere

Animation, Janneke Swinkels & Tim Frijsinger, 2025, 13 min

*No dialogue*

An elderly man realizes he's suddenly turning into a bird.

### **Bread Will Walk**

Canada

Animation, Alex Boya, 2025, 11 min

*In English*

Can love defy appetite?

### **Dormilón**

United States — New York Premiere

Animation, Olivia Maria Valdez, 2025, 9 min

*In English*

In a quest to become the performer of his dreams, a starry-eyed janitor must confront his nightmares face-to-face.

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## **Girls' POV**

*Ages 9+*

*Not just for girls! These shorts feature stories of girls breaking the mold.*

**Sat Feb 28, 12:30pm – Scandinavia House + Q&A with FIREWALL director Bitá Ghassemi**

**Sun March 8, 11:00am – DCTV**

### **Firewall**

United States — East Coast Premiere

Live Action, Bitá Ghassemi, 15 min.

*In English and Persian with English subtitles*

Ani misses her father, who can't access the internet because of a firewall in Iran. She becomes immersed in a vivid retelling of the Persian legend of Zahhak, the Serpent King.

### **polliwog**

#### ***kaulquappe***

Germany

Animation, Julia Skala, 2024, 10 min

*In English*

Marlene identifies with an oddly developed tadpole. She decides to set it free.

### **Clara Takes the Wheel**

#### ***En voiture Clara***

Belgium — North American Premiere

Live Action, Sara Dufossé, 2025, 15 min

*In French with English subtitles*

Today is Clara's birthday. Her father decides to give her driving lessons. Things don't turn out the way he had hoped.

### **Juana Pelos**

United States

Live Action, Maria Mealla, 2024, 7 min

*In English and Spanish with English subtitles*

Relentlessly picked on and finding no support in shedding her hairy shame, Juana sees no other option but to take her body hair-related matters into her own hands.

### **Emergency Contact**

United States — East Coast Premiere

Live Action, Tyler Young, 2025, 12 min

*In English*

Nervous about their family's fate, Auntie Troy and her fourth grader niece, Scottie, use their imagination to pass the time during a major storm.

### **Akababuru: Expression of Astonishment**

Colombia — East Coast Premiere

Live Action, Irati Dojura Landa Yagarí (Emberá Chamí), 2025, 14 min

*In Emberá Chamí with English subtitles*

Kari is afraid to laugh until she meets Kera, who shares with her the myth of Kiraparamia, a woman punished by the gods for laughing at her husband.

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## **Celebrating Black Stories**

*Ages 8+*

*Shorts from around the world that embrace the joy, resilience, and complexity of being young and Black.*

**Sat Mar 14, 11:00am – DCTV + Q&A with FORT BUKU director Loelle Monsanto**

### **Emergency Contact**

United States — East Coast Premiere

Live Action, Tyler Young, 2025, 12 min

*In English*

Nervous about their family's fate, Auntie Troy and her fourth grader niece, Scottie, use their imagination to pass the time during a major storm.

### **Fort Buku**

Netherlands, Suriname — New York Premiere

Live Action, Loëlle Monsanto, 2025, 35 min

*In Dutch and Dutch Surinamese with English subtitles*

Captivated by the story of Fort Buku, once the refuge of the Boni freedom fighters who fought back against oppression, three friends head into the Surinamese jungle to uncover its unresolved disappearance.

### **Spooky**

Ireland — International Premiere

Animation, Adeola Lawal, 5 min.

*No dialogue*

A flying, unexpected house guest might be just what Kemi needs to reconnect with her family.

### **Fantas**

Canada — New York Premiere

Live Action, Halima Elkhatabi, 2024, 13 min

*In French with English subtitles*

Tania decides to take her horse, Fantas, to meet her friends.

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## **¡Hola Cine!**

*Ages 8+*

*Shorts from around the world (and not just in Spanish) celebrating the many Latinx cultures, histories, identities, and languages.*

**Sun March 8, 12:45pm – DCTV**

### **Family Harmony**

United States

Animation, Documentary, Natalie Greene, 2023, 3 min

*In English*

When Gilbert Zermeño dreamed of joining his school band, he pictured himself playing a shiny saxophone.

### **Juana Pelos**

United States

Live Action, Maria Mealla, 2024, 7 min

*In English and Spanish with English subtitles*

Relentlessly picked on and finding no support in shedding her hairy shame, Juana sees no other option but to take her body hair-related matters into her own hands.

### **The Great Feat**

#### ***La Gran Hazaña***

Colombia — New York City Premiere

Live Action, Luber Yesid Zúñiga Ordóñez, 2025, 15 min

*In Spanish with English subtitles*

Pablo needs to rescue his friend Pascualina, a laying hen, who ends up kidnapped by the town shopkeeper.

### **¡Que Suene La Banda!**

United States — East Coast Premiere

Live Action, Jorge Parra Jr., 2025, 23 min

*In Spanish with English subtitles*

Javier, a classical musician preparing for his college audition, must finally embrace his Mexican roots.

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## **Centerpiece: Native Stories**

*Ages 8+*

*Stories that blend the past, present, and future to take a look at the varied lives of young Native and Indigenous people as they live them today.*

**Sat March 7, 3:45pm – Scandinavia House + Q&A with POW! director Joey Clift**

### **Akababuru: Expression of astonishment**

Colombia — East Coast Premiere

Live Action, Irati Dojura Landa Yagarí (Emberá Chamí), 2025, 14 min

*In Emberá Chamí with English subtitles*

Kari, is afraid to laugh until she meets Kera, who shares with her the myth of Kiraparamia, a woman punished by the gods for laughing at her husband.

### **Cleaning's a Cakewalk**

United States — New York City Premiere

Live Action, Ryan Begay (Diné), 2024, 20 min

*In Navajo with English subtitles*

Independent and imaginative Albert learns the value of hard work when he has to clean the Chapter House.

### **Pow!**

United States

Animation, Joey Clift (Cowlitz), 2025, 8 min

*In English*

A Native American kid scrambles to charge his dying video game console at a bustling intertribal powwow.

### **Legend of Fry-Roti: Rise of the Dough**

United States — New York Premiere

Live Action, Sabrina Saleha (Navajo, Bengali), 2025, 9 min

*In English and Navajo with English subtitles*

A niece must find harmony when her aunties burst into an epic showdown: frybread vs. roti.

### **Evening Escapades**

Canada — U.S. Premiere

Animation, Darcy Tara McDiarmid & Chantal Rousseau (Hän, Northern Tutchone), 2024, 4 min

*In English*

An adventurous rabbit encounters mischievous animals as he navigates a midnight mushroom garden.

### **Finding the Light in the Dark: A Coming of Age Story**

Canada — World Premiere

Live Action, Documentary, Haylie Jerome (Anishnaabe), 2024, 4 min

*In English*

Sixteen-year-old Kiewanna is caught between childhood nostalgia and the growing responsibilities of adolescence.

### **Freddy**

Canada

Animation, Brad Mesténapéo (Innu), 2023, 3 min

*No dialogue*

Freddy's exciting adventure of magic and friendship.

### **Ni Wapiten**

Canada — New York Premiere

Live Action, Documentary, Noémie Echaquan & Julie Ottawa (Atikamekw), 2023, 3 min

*In Atikamekw with English subtitles*

There's more nature than you'd think at the community garbage dump.

### **Tule**

United States — U.S. Premiere

Animation, Jocelyn Garcia (Pomo/Mexican American), 2024, 4 min

*In English*

A modern Pomo girl reflects on the culturally vital, but now suffering tule plant at Clear Lake in Northern California.

### **Tentsítewahkwe (We Pick It Up Again)**

United States

Live Action, Documentary, Katsitsionni Fox, 2024, 17 min

*In English and Kanienkéha (Mohawk)*

Embodying the Mohawk value of *Tentsitewahkwe*, Jessica Shenandoah goes on a knowledge-gathering journey across all four seasons to reinvigorate the healing, land-based practices of her ancestral grandmothers.

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## **Student Showcase**

*Recommended ages 12+*

*Join us for a showcase highlighting a new generation of talented student filmmakers and animators from universities in NYC and around the world. Take in this collection great short films in different genres and styles, then meet, mix, mingle with fellow students.*

*Presented with support from the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and School of Visual Arts.*

**Sat March 14, 3:15pm - DCTV + Q&A (participants TBC)**

### **The Day I Licked a Pebble**

***Le Jour Où J'ai Léch  Un Caillou***

France — North American Premiere

Animation, Flavie Eli zer, Chlo  Bernuchon, Goli Atefi, Maud Kolasa, Nathan Jauze, Marie Pijollet, 2025, 7 min.

*In French with English subtitles*

On an ordinary summer afternoon in the countryside, three bored siblings decide to go get snacks.

### **Passing By**

지나가는 것

South Korea — United States Premiere

Animation, Hanna Kang, 2025, 9 min.

*In Korean with English subtitles*

A girl unexpectedly bumps into her childhood best friend and finds herself torn between rekindling their lost connection or letting the moment slip away forever.

### **A Pizza Me!**

United States — World Premiere

Animation, Farrah Shikara, 2025, 3 min.

*In English*

Two employees from rival pizzerias deliver to the same party—and must convince the host to choose.

### **Waves**

United States — East Coast Premiere

Animation, Jason Raymond, 2025, 4 min.

*In English*

A young boy must learn to take pride and find his flow rather than wash himself away.

### **First Winter**

United States

Animation, Schantelle Alonzo, 2025, 5 min.

*In English*

Ángel is a newly arrived immigrant experiencing his first winter in Chicago.

### **Frankie**

United States — New York Premiere

Animation, Madison Helland, 2024, 9 min.

*In English*

Goldfish care comes with a lot of unexpected challenges.

### **Sprout**

United States

Animation, Addison Fujimoto, 2025, 3 min.

*In English*

A young plant girl starts sprouting a mustache. Her hairy situation gets even worse when she has to face her dad.

### **ÜMIT**

United States — New York Premiere

Animation, Amina Ömirjan, 2025, 5 min.

*In Kazakh with English subtitles*

In a village without light, a young astronomer named Ümit, inspired by hope, creates a tool to reunite her people with the Sun.

### **Nanu!**

India

Animation, Ansh Sirohi, 2025, 8 min.

*In English and Hindi with English subtitles*

How do you cancel an online order? Grandfather certainly had no idea.

### **The Big Bad Wolf**

United Kingdom — New York Premiere

Animation, Leo Wright, 2025, 5 min.

*In English*

This is the story about a little piggie who befriends a not-so-big bad wolf, much to the outrage of his father.

### **Chiquito**

United States — World Premiere

Animation, Anna Riva & Lesley Marroquin, 2025, 4 min.

*In English*

When his inventor owner grows too focused on building her teleportation device, armadillo Chiquito must take matters into his own paws.

### **Maus Im Haus**

United States — World Premiere

Animation, Rebecca Van Houten, 2025, 3 min.

*In English*

In the early hours of the morning, curious mice explore the old man's library. They make musical discoveries.

### **Puddle**

United States — World Premiere

Animation, Samuel O'Dair Holovacs, 2025, 5 min.

*In English*

While waiting for the repairman, Mac bears the brunt of a hot day and a broken AC while his cat, Puddles, melts into mischief.

### **Fluff & Furious**

United States — World Premiere

Animation, Joey Chieh-Chih Liao, 2025, 4 min.

*In English*

A fluffy pup, inspired by its wild relative, sets out to prove it's more than just a soft ball of fur.

### **Pear Garden**

Germany — East Coast Premiere

Animation, Shadab Shayegan, 2024, 7 min

*In Farsi with English subtitles*

At nighttime, six-year-old Lily tries to get her grandma's breasts back for her.

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## **ABOUT NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL (NYICFF)**

The Oscar®-qualifying New York International Children's Film Festival is the largest film Festival for kids and families in North America. Every year, we present the best new films from around the world for ages 3-18 (and above!) to an audience of 15,000 in New York City. Our slate of over 100 short and feature films typically represents over 30 countries and features 15+ languages. In addition to screenings, parties, filmmaker Q&As, and special events, the Festival provides an environment where kids are truly taken seriously and encouraged to use their voices. The 2026 Festival will take place February 28 through March 15, and will include even more great films, exciting events, and even some surprises. NYICFF is 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts

with the support Kathy Hochul, and the New York State Legislature, and additional support from the New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment.

**[TICKETS ON SALE NOW](#)**

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