

the 2023 MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL

SHORT FILMS

Black Lens Shorts: Black Remembrance

BLACK LENS SHORTS: BLACK REMEMBRANCE is a collection of short films that explores, interrogates and engages how cinema can be used as an active archival tool to process grief and loss. Join us as we discover what honor could look like on the silver screen.

By Water Iyabo Kwayana

Eye for an I James Grisom

Port of a Prince JR Aristide

T Keisha Rae Witherspoon

We Were Meant To Tari Wariebi

Cine Sin Fronteras Shorts

When taken individually, the seven films in this year's CSF shorts program represent distinct voices driven to expression through drama, comedy or documentary. When taken as a whole, these voices form a chorus presenting a panoramic view of the complexities and diversity that is the Latinx experience.

Alejandro Jiménez: The Ground I Stand On Raúl Paz-Pastana, Alan Domínguez

Desert Lights Félix Blume

Flores del otro Patio Jorge Cadena

Hoar Jeanette Dilone

I Have No Tears, and I Must Cry Luis Fernando Puente

Paralelos Paula Scalona

The Golden Cage Francisco Lopez, Mitchka Saberi

GenreQueer Shorts

From messy drama at the pool house to sweeping seaside romances, our 2023 GENREQUEER SHORTS have something for everyone over the rainbow. While you'll find an incredible queer film in every corner of this year's Festival, there's no place like a home for just us friends (and friends of friends) of Dorothy.

Auntie Fawzia Mirza

CANS Can't Stand Matt Nadel, Megan Plotka

Christopher at Sea Tom C.J. Brown

Dilating for Maximum Results Nyala Moon

Tell Me Something I Don't Know Neal Mulani

The Dalles Angalis Field

Homegrown: Future Visions

HOMEGROWN: FUTURE VISIONS is a collection of short documentaries produced by Firelight Media in partnership with PBS and the Center for Asian American Media, highlighting filmmakers of color from the American Midwest and narratives that illuminate the living histories, cultures, and prospective futures of the region.

Black Strings Marquise Mays

Detroit We Dey Ozi Uduma

Guaranteed in Gary Darryl Parham

Here, Hopefully Hao Zhou

Language Keepers Ajuawak Kapashesit

Lifetimes Amber Love

Seed Warriors Rebekka Schlichting

Silsilad (Sequence) Tariq Tarey

Kids Shorts: Size Large

Tender, exuberant, and delightfully dystopian, this gorgeous collection of short films reflects and celebrates myriad forms of family love and community care. Whether about fictional tribes of misfit kids rebalancing power, lost loved ones, differently abled sisters, or metaphysics and poetry, KIDS SHORTS: SIZE LARGE tackles weighty subjects without feeling heavy. 10+

A Child's Metaphysics Koji Yamamura

A Journey with my Dad Mor Israeli

FATHEAD C. Craig Patterson

No Key to Poetry Islena Neira

Papa Zaza Géraldine Charpentier-Basille

Papirola Fabián Molinaro

Rachel Toko Shiiki

The Florist Joachim Perino-Pegalajar

The Goose Jan Mika

To Be Sisters Anne-Sophie Gousset, Clément Céard

Kids Shorts: Size Medium

This wondrous array of documentary and fiction shorts explores diverse cultures and generations. Including a filmmaker's animated ancestral tale from Papua New Guinea, an outsider artist in Colombia, and a girl lighting her diya for Diwali, characters seize the day, trace their heritage, and uplift their worlds with creativity. 6+

A Morning with Aroha Nicholas Riini

Chocolat Chaud Evelyne Peter

Diya Aroona Khiani

Evan's Drum Tamara Ivis

Ouléou ? Alice Juan

Slipping Away Gabriel Hénot Lefèvre

The Goose Jan Mika

The Sistine Juan Camilo Fonnegra

Kids Shorts: Size Small

Foster a lifelong cinematic obsession for your youngest with our Size Small program. In this beautifully tender assortment of shorts, animal and human characters take chances, explore their worlds, and discover special and important ways to be in community with others. 3+

Feeling the Flow Cloé Coutel

Lazy Bloom Robin Artero, Aurore Devichi, Juliette Gueydan, Manon Jumel, Elsa Mandelsaft, Benjamin Mourgues, Sophie Nippert, Elodie Tardif

Luce and the Rock Britt Raes

Mel Fell Galen Fott

My Dog Ate the Moon Adrien Anastasy, Cassandra Calvo, Nina Clavel, Maya Dumond, Shane Lambert, Florian Pardanaud

Squirrel Julia Ocker

Swing to the Moon Marie Bordessoule, Adriana Bouissie, Nadine De Boer, Elisa Drique, Chloé Lauzu, Vincent Levrero, Solenne Moreau

To Be Sisters Anne-Sophie Gousset, Clément Céard

Shorts: Date Night

Update your location to a cinema near you for our annual heartwarming, heartbreaking, and heart-mending romantic shorts program. Bring a date (or find a date) at this beloved Festival tradition. Take advantage of these hilarious meet-cutes, adventurous morning afters, and one heck of a local love story.

Bear With Me Daphna Awadish

Lucky Fish Emily May Jampel

My Eyes Are Up Here Nathan Morris

Susan & Leslie Claire Barnett

The Breakthrough Daniel Sinclair

The Ladies Jill Gutowitz

The One Who Never Watched Friends Charlotte Gabris

Troy Mike Donahue

Walnut Street Richard O'Connor

Shorts: Grab Bag 2023

For those who thrive on new experiences, explore without a map, go to restaurants without studying the online menu first, or love great films, this program is for you. Bring your appetite for outstanding cinema, and we'll treat you to six incredible shorts - all of which happen to be directed by women and non-binary filmmakers.

Margie Soudek's Salt and Pepper Shakers Meredith Moore

Requiem Emma J. Gilbertson

Somebody Take the Wheel Kenzie Sutton

Sweatshop Girl Selma Cervantes

When You Left Me on that Boulevard Kayla Abuda Galang

Written By Callie Bloem, Christopher J. Ewing

Shorts: Let's Get Animated

Guillermo del Toro said at the Oscars: "Animation is cinema ... and is ready to be taken to the next step." Follow the path and explore these eight moving stories from an exciting crop of inventive animators. Filled with everything from nail-biting tension to tear-jerking moments, you (and Guillermo, if you're reading this!) won't want to miss it.

Anxious Body Yoriko Mizushiri

Garrano David Doutel, Vasco Sá

Inglorious Liaisons Chloé Alliez, Violette Delvoye

Love, Dad Diana Cam Van Nguyen

Night of the Living Dread Ida Melum

Passenger Juan Pablo Zaramella

Sierra Sander Joon

Steakhouse Špela Čadež

Shorts: Stories We Tell

Can we tell you a story? No, really, we promise it'll be short. This program is just 79 minutes! Settle in to enjoy seven terrific tales from expert storytellers like MFF alum Bi Gan (LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT, MFF2019), Oscar-winner Ben Proudfoot, and a flock of future filmmaking icons.

A Short Story Bi Gan

Dear Max Alex Kahn

Everything I Learned When My House Burned Down Joe Pickett

Mink! Ben Proudfoot

Small Congratulations Jessie Posthumus

Trying Emily Alfren

Where the Sun Always Shines Rosie Baldwin

Shorts: Stranger Than Fiction

Squirrel friends, UFO trends, and septuagenarian girlfriends star in this year's program of unforgettable documentary shorts. In this program, you'll find nothing but great films proving that the truth is stranger than fiction.

Ball People Scott Lazer

Groundhog Town David P. Zucker

Mother of the Dawn Janell Shirtcliff

My Duduś Tom Krawczyk

Nuisance Bear Jack Weisman, Gabriela Osio Vanden

Senior Prom Luisa Conlon

The Unchosen One Ben Proudfoot

Shorts: Surprise, Surprise!

You wouldn't even believe us if we told you the twists and turns of this year's Surprise, Surprise Shorts! But we wouldn't be surprised if this Festival favorite was full of laughs, gasps, and "My gosh, what IS in that bag?!" sold out fast.

A Simple F*cking Gesture Jesse Shamata

AirHostess-737 Thanasis Neofotistos

Best Friends on a Summer Hike Mario Furloni

Knowing Me, Knowing You Fernando Andrés, Jacob Roberts, Tyler Rugh

Lollygag Tij D'oyen

Mahogany Drive Jerah Milligan

The Paranormal Communicator Tyler Miguel Mercer

Voices Abbie Lucas

Shorts: The Best Damn F*#@ing Midnight Program Ever. Shit.

Listen: we found some extra f*cked up shorts for you this year. This year's thrills include cursed cereal boxes, blood-thirsty horses, and the goriest musical number you'll ever see. Meet us at midnight for our annual collection of fun-size spooks, gags, and creeps that will have you gagging. BODY HORROR IS BACK, BAYBEEEE!!

A Folded Ocean Benjamin Brewer

Claudio's Song Andreas Nilsson

Guts Chris McInroy

Horse Brothers Milos Mitrovic, Fabian Velasco

Live Forever Gustav Egerstedt

Pennies from Heaven Sandy Honig

Pipes Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier, Sujanth Ravichandran

Unlucky Charms Kris Theorin

We Forgot about the Zombies Chris McInroy

You've Never Been Completely Honest Joey Izzo

Teen Screen Shorts: A Heightened Reality

The mundane becomes otherworldly in this captivating collection of teen-centered stories from around the world. Whether its characters activate superpowers for escape and self-actualization or are just settling into the surreality of the familiar, TEEN SCREEN SHORTS: A HEIGHTENED REALITY hums with the electricity of being on the precipice of self-discovery. 14+

Baba Mbithi Masya

Golden Margarite Keren Sofi Karasik

Low Tide Juana Castro

We Were Meant To Tari Wariebi

When You Left Me on that Boulevard Kayla Abuda Galang

The Milwaukee Show I

Each year THE MILWAUKEE SHOW is one of the Festival's hottest tickets and a rare chance to see work from our local best and brightest in the gloriously opulent setting of The Oriental Theatre's Abele Cinema. This collection of stunning docs, music videos, and fiction shorts allows you to watch locally yet think globally.

100 Seconds to Midnight Libbey Kirchner

DAKHLA Nick Leffel

Friday Night Blind Scott Krahn, Robb Fischer

Fuzzysurf - "Sheep Shed" Joe Ludwig, Tommy Simms

Patient Lori Felker

Polka Time! Dick Blau

RIP Carol Brandt, Erika Sorenson

Sit Where the Light Corrupts Your Face Gillian Waldo

The Milwaukee Show II

The shorts program so nice, we have to do it twice! THE MILWAUKEE SHOW II brings you EVEN MORE fantastic films courtesy of our thriving local artistic community. There's simply too much quality to be contained by a single screening, so settle in for another collection of shorts with a diversity of styles and perspectives.

Body Legato Sam Drake

Clark's Revival Carl Sturgess

Dinner Set Gang - "Are You Someplace Else?" Kurt Ravenwood

Language Unknown Janelle VanderKelen

Of Wood Owen Klatter

Pet World Sofia Theodore-Pierce, Grace Mitchell

Provenance: A letter to my daughter Li Chiao-Ping

Seen//Unseen T.J. Blanco

Stuck Somewhere Alyssa Sue Borkowski

The Milwaukee Youth Show: Future of Fiction

A glimpse of cinema's future not to be missed, this slate of local-youth-made stop-motion and live-action fiction shorts reflect on gender, identity, genre, family, friendship, and more through a vast array of styles in turns surreal and sweet.

Grapes Sophie Hatton

Hawaiian Pizza Absatou (Touie) Jenneh Sow

mother nature Sabrina Katie Woo

Radium Girls Book Trailer students from Greenfield MS

Split Memories Katya Ravie

The False Prince Book Trailer students from Greenfield MS

The Happening Evelyn Winter

Tim Meets Mat Lucas Lovo

Trash Man 2: Trash Man Goes On Vacation Isabella Switalski

The Milwaukee Youth Show: Recording Reality

So many brilliant, local youth-made docs were selected for THE MILWAUKEE YOUTH SHOW this year that they got their own showcase! These emerging auteurs use journalistic and experimental documentary approaches to examine selfhood and how we shape (and are shaped by) our communities. Insightful and nuanced, we proudly present this diverse array of investigations.

Coming to Small Town America Hasti Ghasemivaghar

Controlling The Change Catcher Stodola

Fadó Quinn Jennings

Pretty Boys Sanaa Thomas

Seventeen Mira Santo Tomas

Zayde Rachel Faye Lubar