

THE
ARTISTS
FORUM | FESTIVAL OF THE
MOVING
IMAGE



October 11-13, 2018

Experience a new movement in filmmaking.

Welcome and thank you for coming to **THE ARTISTS FORUM FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE: 2018!** (#affestnyc)

THE ARTISTS FORUM established its **FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE** to provide an intimate, artist-focused opportunity for independent filmmakers to compete in NYC's formidable arts and media market.

We're thrilled to be presenting our third annual program at the **Greenwich House Music School** (46 Barrow St.) inside the **Renee Weiler Concert Hall** in Manhattan's Greenwich Village.

This year, the festival will showcase 40 short films, created by emerging and mid-career filmmakers originating from 16 countries: *Argentina, Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Mexico, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, United Kingdom, and the United States.*

In addition to its traditional genres, this year's festival will also feature a special themed category: **Women's Empowerment.**

Enjoy the show! We thank you for your support.

OCTOBER 11, 2018

Light's Memory – 8:22 mins (2017)

Director: Julian Olariu (France)

EXPERIMENTAL - A light bar is floating in space. Were the recorded images and fragments of life playing inside sent from Earth or are they just the product of the energy particles all around? Is this Earth's memory card?

[NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Yellow - 6:12 (2017)

Director: Jennifer Atalla (US)

EXPERIMENTAL (Student) - Made with found footage, found sound, and collaged text, the film essay *Yellow* posits the alternative coping mechanisms society develops in the search for the good life.

Moonchild - 5:23 (2017)

Writer/Director: Bruno Mazzochi (France)

NARRATIVE - The melancholic space odyssey of a daydreamer.

[NYC PREMIERE]

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Make America Black Again - 13:00 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Leon Robinson & Joel Kipnis (US)

COMEDY - Candidate Lamar Johnson, played by Leon Robinson (Cool Runnings, Ali Cliffhanger), is running for President on the campaign slogan: "Make America Black Again" with an all white campaign staff! [NYC PREMIERE]

Freezer - 16:15 mins (2017)

Writer/Director: Dimitris Nakos (Greece)

NARRATIVE - A man working in corporate marketing has been unemployed for three years. Just over 50, he's too old for a new beginning, but too young to resign.

Relationships tested, mental state marginal, his goal is one: to get out of the "freezer" [NYC PREMIERE]

Gray - 29:52 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Preet Singh (India)

NARRATIVE - "Gray" is a film about a woman married to a gay man. Her respect for him goes beyond gender, which makes him feel so accepted that he doesn't want to leave her. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

America - 9:51 mins (2017)

Director: Mary Lou Belli (US), Writer: Jana Sue Memel (US)

NARRATIVE - In tribute to his brother's military service in Iraq, Tim takes his brother's ashes to NYC's 9/11 Memorial. The journey ends in a lesson in racial profiling when he shares the evening with his Middle-Eastern Air-BnB host, Abdul.

[NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Living - 13:35 mins (2017)

Writer/Director: Marcellus Cox (US)

NARRATIVE - An award winning drama about an angel's descent from heaven to Brooklyn who seeks to bridge the gap between law enforcement and minorities.

The Black Mallow - 16:46 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Uki Pavlovic (Serbia)

NARRATIVE (Student) – Borko, a young immigrant in New York, must deal with the loss of his grandfather. Nostalgia and the inability to go back home to grieve with his family create a life-changing test. [WORLD PREMIERE]

Eh Girl - 3:00 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Cassandre Émanuel (Canada), Music: Mauves (Canada)

MUSIC VIDEO - A mesmerizing journey through the re-enactment of 9 famous paintings featuring women. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Reindeer Games - 3:55 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Mike Suchmann (US), Director: Matt Lamourt (US), Music: Oso Oso

MUSIC VIDEO - Reindeer Games gives us a glimpse into the small, beachside town of Yunahon and all its colorful, strange inhabitants. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Q&A

June Fourth Elegies – 7:06 (2018)

Writer/Director: Ina Chen (Germany)

EXPERIMENTAL (Student) - As new technologies foreshadow the future of State surveillance, Liu Xiaobo's poems reflect the powerlessness of the individual against a State empowered to control past and present with Orwellian finality. Written on successive anniversaries of the Tiananmen Massacre, the "June Fourth Elegies" express a deeply human love and despair.

Beth's three o'clock with Dr. Harlow - 2:06 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Emma Penaz Eisner (US)

EXPERIMENTAL - Beth discloses a recent dream to her analyst. A vivid study of casual brutality and failed empathy, this surrealistic film intermixes stop motion animation with live action sequences. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Star Wars - Dresca - 13:27 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Jessica Champneys (US)

SCI-FI - When Dresca – an injured Imperial pilot – is rescued by Rebels after the Battle of Endor, she must choose between her loyalty to the Empire and the kindness of strangers she once thought of as monsters.

Jump - 2:58 mins (2017)

Writer/Director: J. Van Auken (US)

NARRATIVE – "Jump" explores the year before the world ends, and how we each react to the absence of a tomorrow. The story is told through the eyes of a child unaware that her future has been decided, and unwilling to give up hope. [EAST COAST PREMIERE]

Hunger - A Short Film - 9:48 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: CJ Barnes (Australia)

DARK THEMES - When a vegan gets turned into a zombie, she finds herself in a world where her deeply ingrained lifestyle conflicts with the new-found need to eat flesh to survive. Will she remain true to herself, even in un-death, and even if it means her demise? [NYC PREMIERE]

Quiver – 13:41 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Shayna Connelly (US)

DARK THEMES - Horror and desire meld when Suzanne arouses a ghostly presence and begins an unusual courtship across space and time. [NYC PREMIERE]

Little Red - 12:38 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Laura Lechner / David Hanza (US)

NARRATIVE - Little Red is a short film that combines puppets and live actors to re-imagine the classic fairy tale that you thought you knew as a new story about power, transformation and choosing one's own path.

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Clique Bait - 14:46 mins (2017)

Writer/Director: Anna Mikami (Hong Kong)

NARRATIVE - Set in the international school community of Hong Kong, a high school girl spreads a video sexualizing her childhood friend and classmate.

Foren - 9:25 mins (2016)

Writer/Director: Sushma Khadepaun (India/US)

NARRATIVE - On a hot summer afternoon, Tanu and her grandma inquire of a world outside the bounds of their home. [EAST COAST PREMIERE]

Parker & Angel – 24:28 mins (2017)

Writer/Director: Ty Whittington (US)

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT - A lonesome teen girl befriends a homeless woman who reluctantly becomes her vocal coach. [NYC PREMIERE]

Roots – 6:32 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Jo Burrows (UK)

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT – With adolescence and womanhood fast approaching Ella's journey begins in the comfort of her home. We are given a glimpse into Ella's life on one Summer's day. This independent, strong-minded girl is unknowingly encompassing her own story to inspire others. [NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE]

First Feature - 13:58 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Bentley Brown (US/Saudi Arabia)

NARRATIVE - Working underground in the year before the legalization of cinema in Saudi Arabia, a team of mostly women makes its first feature film. Anonymous accounts of their experience are brought together in a melancholic narration. In the spirit of first films, a filmmaker documents the production in Jeddah with his first video camera from childhood. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Her Path - 2:55 mins (2018)

Directors: Ahmad Asaad & Tamara Horton (US)

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT – This film asks 'Has birthplace played a role in your poverty or prosperity?' Challenges are highlighted. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Preserving Beauty – 5:12 mins (2017)

Writer/Director: Diana Guerra (Peru)

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT – "Preserving Beauty" addresses the notion of beauty standards in contemporary Western societies. The use of makeup and its specificities is broken here in order to liberate us. Creating an alien version of femininity aims to highlight the arbitrary way we function as social entities. [WORLD PREMIERE]

Delightful - 4:44 mins (2016)

Director: Anna Haas (US), Music: Katie Garibaldi (US)

MUSIC VIDEO - "Delightful" celebrates self-empowerment and independence, and considers that happiness is a choice. [NYC PREMIERE]

Q&A

Are you holding me or am I holding myself? – 11:47 mins (2017)

Director: César Brodermann (Mexico)

EXPERIMENTAL – “Are you holding me or am I holding myself?” is a self-study examining the relationship between our minds, bodies, thoughts, actions, and the sometimes insurmountable gaps between what we think we want to feel and what we actually experience.

Imagine - 5:15 mins (2017)

Director: Peter Meng (US)

EXPERIMENTAL - Inspired by John Lennon's "Imagine", this experimental film evokes a vision and hope for a world without strife, war, or conflict. All things Central Park are used in this visual narrative, including help from an angel.

Mumpsimus and Halcyon Discord – 3:00 mins (2017)

Writer/Director: Rolf Klein (UK)

NARRATIVE - This film explores the connections between mental health and homelessness, challenging common misrepresentations in the media. Using the medium of the spoken word, the film questions whether we can ever view issues such as these in an objective way.

Blows With The Wind - 6:30 mins (2017)

Writer/Director: Hazhir As'adi (Iran)

ANIMATION - After several events occur, the scarecrow becomes human. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Balance - 2:21 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Barzan Rostami (Iran)

ANIMATION - Balance is a story about the soldiers who sacrifice their lives for the city's people and future generations. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Alphabet - 5:57 mins (2017)

Writer/Director: Kianoush Abedi (Iran)

ANIMATION - It has been years since the people of this town forgot the alphabets of life. They have no sight, hearing or speech left... but the words are impatiently waiting to be sung again. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

For Your Safety - 3:17 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Dan Walls (Australia)

NARRATIVE - *For Your Safety* is a quick and clever look at the possible consequences of internet vigilantism. [NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Heavy Rain - 8:30 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Motaz Elbahaey (Egypt/US)

NARRATIVE - A young man holds his father hostage at gunpoint after watching his mother be brutally murdered. He is torn by the choice to get revenge or let justice prevail. [EAST COAST PREMIERE]

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GAB - 10:00 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Gazanfer Birick (France)

NARRATIVE - Ani is a journalist who was charged by her diary to write an article about Ezra dead during an attack. For doing this, she organized an appointment with Lily, the sister of the deceased, in a pub. While she was waiting for her in the bar, she will make an unexpected meeting that will not leave her indifferent.

Tin Can – 20:00 (2018)

Writer/Director: Pat Battistini (US)

NARRATIVE – J.C. came to America as an illegal immigrant child. Now, as an adult, he's still an illegal alien but has managed to persevere and prosper working as a rodeo clown. After a series of unfortunate events, J.C. finds himself down on his luck and in search of happiness. He eventually finds it near the Mexican border but the price he pays could get him kicked out of the only country he knows.

[NEW YORK PREMIERE]

August Sun - 19:57 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Franco Volpi (Argentina)

NARRATIVE - Javier is back in his hometown of Buenos Aires, torn between the needs of his mentally ill mother and the life he's built in Europe.

[NEW YORK PREMIERE]

Sac de Merde - 13:27 mins (2018)

Writer/Director: Greg Chwerchak (US)

Director: Gabrielle Berberich (US)

Story: Arielle Haller-Silverstone (US)

COMEDY - Based on a true story, "Sac de Merde" tells the tale of Mazel Mankewicz, an unlucky-in-love yet irrationally optimistic New Yorker who thinks her luck has changed when she spends the night with the man of her dreams. As it turns out, he might just be full of shit. Literally.

The Emoji Song - 3:27 mins (2017)

Writer: Ben Rauch (US)

Director: Adam Volerich (US)

COMEDY/MUSICAL – Is the modern man overdoing it with emojis?

Ándale - 3:00 mins (2018)

Director: Jason Anthony Lalor (US)

Music: LoVel (US)

MUSIC VIDEO - Rotoscope animated music video for singer/songwriter LoVel.

Each frame of the video was retraced and colored in Photoshop before the final rendering in After Effects. [WORLD PREMIERE]

Q&A

AWARD CEREMONY

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY

SPECIAL THANKS

2018 FESTIVAL JURY:

Alexis Chaviaras, Cinder Chou, Martha Gorzycki, Nona Hendryx, Stephen Hilyard, Henry Kanegsberg, Djordje Radovanovich, David Ranghelli, Amos White V

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Amos White V

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2018 FESTIVAL PROGRAM COVER DESIGN:

Perla Herrera

VERTICAL FESTIVAL BANNER:

Bonita Ng

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Chelsye Burrows PR

2018 FESTIVAL PARTNERS:

Rich Awn at **Mombucha**, Iris Jazxh at **Stewart Hotel**, Courtney Henry at **Crunch Fitness**, Rahti Gorfien PCC, Career Coach & Founder of **Creative Calling Coaching**, John Papas and Van Papas at **Chelsea Florist Inc.**, Rachel Black & Alex Ranson at **Greenwich House Music School**

