

PRESENTED BY THE ARTISTS FORUM Oct 12 - Nov 26, 2023

New York City

2023 Theme: The Body Political

PROGRAM I



Resurrection under the Ocean - 2:57m (2021) Writer/Director: Serkan Aktaş (Turkey)

EXPERIMENTAL – The resurrection of a man who was helplessly sinking to the bottom of the ocean, with a symbolic narrative.



Bone Ladies - 3:45m (2023) Writer: Maggie Rose (US) Director: Dan Preston (US)

DOCUMENTARY SHORT – An artist's response to the end of Roe v Wade: Maggie Rose and her sculpture "Bone Ladies." *NY State Premiere*



Salone Love - 5:00m (2023) Director: Tajana B. Williams (UK)

DOCUMENTARY SHORT – A genre defying scrapbook of opinions and advice about love in Sierra Leone. North American Premiere



Mercury - 10:00m (2023) Writer/Director: Clara Dubau (France/Italy) SCI-FI – Elio volunteers for a filmed experiment to help him reconnect with a repressed memory.

Retina In Vitro - 13:13m (2023) Writer/Director: Piotr Bosacki (Poland)

East Coast Premiere

ANIMATION – Quasi-schizophrenic word salad of a European from the beginning of the 21st century. North American Premiere



Seductive Devotion - 7:26m (2023) Writer/Director: Destin Gerek (US)

EXPERIMENTAL – Guided by desire and a hunger for exploration, a lover's vow transforms into an eternal quest to understand and embrace the entirety of his partner's existence. *NY State Premiere*

PROGRAM I



HOW PHACK BIRTH CONTROL

PROGRAM II







DARK THEMES (Student) – A documentary into the lives of college students quickly spirals into alternate realities with outlandish alter-egos and confessions.

WEB SERIES – A satire comedy series told through the sharp wit and perky charm of the narrator Ruth, 'How to Hack Birth Control,' takes on everything that sex-ed never told you. *NY State Premiere*

How to Hack Birth Control - 26:00m (2021)

LGBTQ+ – The film explores human connection through physical touch. These visceral, bodily, mortal bonds remind us we are powerless without them.

A Study in Bodies - 4:21m (2022) Director: Elia Lara (US)

In Our Own Words - 17:47m (2022) Writer/Director: Karenna Blomberg (US)

Writer/Director: Sassy Mohen (US)

Director: Dylan Branshaw (US)

Fast Coast Premiere

EXPERIMENTAL (Student) – An experimental exploration of how people study, analyze, and depict the human body using science and art. *World Premiere*





It's Not Perverse, It's Mothers - 14:29m (2022) Writer/Director: Anouska Samms (UK)

DOCUMENTARY SHORT – A chaotic portrait of mothers and daughters, capturing tender, messy moments. Comically seeking clarity on a 5 generation maternal hair-dying ritual by the director's family. *US Premiere*

Common as Red Hair - 15:00m (2023) Writer/Director: Robbie Robertson (US)

LGBTQ+ – The aftermath of an emotional funeral causes a grieving father and mother to reexamine their early life decision to have gender normalization surgery performed on their intersex infant. *NY State Premiere*



PROGRAM II



Prep - 14:10m (2023) Writer/Director: Raymond Barnett Knudsen (US)

DARK THEMES – A bodybuilding fever dream fueled by childhood trauma, food porn and acid techno music.



The Veil - 17:03m (2022) Writer/Director: Anna Winslow (Germany)

DARK THEMES – Lace is the only thing of beauty left in the kingdom. Seduced by it, a prince decides to make the lace maker his wife. He soon realizes she's not who he thought beneath the veil. *World Premiere*



PROGRAM III



Last Call - 19:09m (2023) Writers: Rebecca L. Hargrove & Kedren Spencer (US) Director: Kedren Spencer (US)

NARRATIVE SHORT – Two singles meet at a bar after being stood up. After commiserating over their misfortunes, there's a spark. Can they make it work?

Dawn of Death - 12:00m (2023) Writer/Director: Armin Rajaei (Iran)

EXPERIMENTAL – The separation of man from nature occurs because of his creation of meanings around his own axis. Death is the link between the two - in general and in partial forms. *World Premiere*



Don't Eat Dead Fish - 8:15m (2023) Director: Adam Seccafico (US) DARK THEMES – A dead fish haunts a fisherman.



Pregnant - 12:03m (2023) Director: Golnaz Jamsheed (Iran)

NARRATIVE SHORT – A window into a woman living her internal life as delicately as her external. Becoming a mother again, she prepares for the unknown. Based on a story by Anna Gavalda. *NYC Premiere*

PROGRAM III



Knife, Chocolate - 15:00m (2022) Writer/Director: Hooshmand Varaei (Iran)

DARK THEMES – The story of a happy family in a patriarchal society!



Osarenogae - 12:05m (2023) Dir: Oluwafunmilayo Jupiter-Rose Ogunbodede (US)

DOCUMENTARY SHORT- A documentary music short centered around emotional disparity in African families with an emphasis on physical closeness. Love is literally in our hands. *East Coast Premiere*



Bear Hugs - 2:21m (2023) Writer/Director: Maggie May Brummer (US)

ANIMATION (Student) – A teddy bear goes through a small city in pursuit of giving a hug to a lonely girl during the holiday hustle-bustle. *NYC Premiere*



Fallout - 20:09m (2023) Director: Madison Hill (US)

DOCUMENTARY SHORT – Examing how the military & private industry perpetuate the cycle of exploitation & environmental contamination that's inundated the Appalachian region for years. *World Premiere*





A Little Alone Time - 15:00m (2023) Writer: Mark Holzum (US) Director: Phillip Asaad Chbeeb (US)

DARK THEMES – A man's wife visits him from the dead to help him grieve her passing. *World Premiere*

A Year to Life - 10:29m (2023) Writers: Nikki Hevesy (US) & Jahmal J. Holland (US) Director: Nikki Hevesy (US)

NARRATIVE SHORT – A neighborhood influencer makes a life-changing choice for a pre-teen boy on the anniversary of his mother's death. *East Coast Premiere*

PROGRAM III



Us in Octaves - 7:44m (2023) Writer/Director: Alex Mastoon (US)

MUSIC VIDEO – In a hyper color summer nightmare, two lovers are haunted by their last act of love: saying goodbye. Music video for Caural told through a Womxn & Non-Binary cast. *East Coast Premiere*

Ava - 4:00m (2022) Writer/Director: Nicolle Marquez (US)

EXPERIMENTAL – Ava taps into a parallel reality as they strip down their masquerade.



PROGRAM IV

The Silence of Kore - 7:00m (2023) Writer: André Magalhães (Brazil) Director: Paulo Mendel (Brazil)

LGBTQ+ – A queer short film about the mystery of life and death. *North American Premiere*



A Few Strands of Hair - 7:59m (2022) Writer/Director: Shahin Jabbarzadeh (Iran)

NARRATIVE SHORT – A woman's changing worldview and her tendency towards feminism leads to behavioral and personality changes. This is confusing to her husband and is impacting their marriage.



Wounded Psyche - 10:00m (2023) Writer/Director: Meysam Jafarinejadsedehi (Iran)

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE – A personal documentation of the director's life, made over the course of 21 years. *North American Premiere*

PROGRAM V



Artist Unknown - 1hr 22m (2022) Writer/Director: Cinder Chou (US)

NARRATIVE FEATURE – Juniper, an insecure martial artist, must find out the origins of a painting after two thieves try to steal it from her.

PROGRAM V



PROGRAM VI

Transformation - 52:00m (2022) Writer/Director: Saeed Mayahy (Iran)

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE – Malika – a transgender woman and partner Mohamed have fled their families honor killing plan and Taliban punishments for a new life in Turkey. *NY State Premiere*





PROGRAM VII

Gabriel's Daughter - 55:35m (2022) Writers: S. Shepard-Levine & Lori Brown Mirabal (US) Director: Sharon Shepard-Levine (US)

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE – Real life former slave Clara Brown was a wealthy and beloved 19th Century pioneer woman. We see her search for a child sold at auction via modern opera. *World Premiere*

Scheherazade's Eastern Dream - 28:43m (2023) Writer/Director: Katayoun Afrooz (Iran/US)

EXPERIMENTAL – Scheherazade was a storyteller in ancient Persian tales. Through dream-like symbolism, a woman tells her own and that of other middle eastern women fighting for modernity. *World Premiere*



A Piece of You - 25:30m (2022) Writer/Director: Hadi Nouri (Iran)

NARRATIVE SHORT – A old man desperately seeks a heart for his wife's transplant surgery. A young doctor in the midst of separating from her husband, accompanies him. *North American Premiere*



Correction Fluid - 15:35m (2023) Writer/Director: Danial Abroushan (Iran)

NARRATIVE SHORT – Parsa is in love with his student's sister. He finds out that Sara's family is having lunch with someone who might be a serious rival for him. *NY State Premiere*

Like A Dog - 19:52m (2022) Writer/Director: Hamid Naseri Moghadam (Iran)

NARRATIVE SHORT – A man helps stray and injured dogs on the outskirts of Tehran. He meets a woman with a secret that alters the course of their romance.

PROGRAM VII





The Hard Shoulder - 25:00m (2023) Writer: Sajedeh Shams (Iran) Director: Bardia Qasemali (Iran)

NARRATIVE SHORT – Two couples go to a villa on vacation. An incident that happens there changes the course of their lives. *World Premiere*

Fatih the Conqueror - 15:00m (2023) Writer/Director: Onur Yagiz (France)

NARRATIVE SHORT – At a Saturday evening Turkish wedding in Espace Venise, France, 21 year old Fatih tells his best friend Murat that he wants to get married to Ipek, Recep's sister. But, Ipek hasn't a clue.

SPECIAL THANKS

2023 FESTIVAL JURY:

C.J. Arellano, Ashley Gerst, Martha Gorzycki, Stephen Hilyard, Henry Kanegsberg, Lee Milby, Djordje Radovanovich, David Ranghelli, Jonathan Taub, Jonathan Ullman, Vitkor Witkowski, Amos White V

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR:

Amos White V

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Amos White V, Henry S. Kanegsberg, Glynette Bowers Brown

FESTIVAL AMBASSADOR: Michael Inge



FESTIVAL INTERNS:

Rupa Samyukta Tumuluri, Rohit Tulasi, Saumya Christian, Melisa Sharkly, Dipikakumari Valvi

2023 FESTIVAL PARTNERS:

Beverley Prentice - Thomas, Rebecca Schmitt, Darin Hallinan, and Bernie Anderson at Dolby, Christina Sobel at DoubleTree NY Downtown, Cary Guzman at Tempo Times Square, Andrea Dabu at 1 Hotel, Susan Saunders at NYPG

MEDIA SPONSOR:

Frances Bates and Alba Cuellar at LinkNYC

BEVERAGE SPONSOR: Zarrette Rogers at Martingale Cognac

BEVERAGE SPONSOR

MARTINGALE COGNAC

FESTIVAL PARTNER

DOLBY CINEMA[®]

ADA Compliant

THE ARTISTS FORUM's mission is to empower innovative artists by providing accessible platforms to showcase their work and interact with diverse audiences. Please support our mission by pledging your tax-deductible donations today: <u>theartistsforum.org/donate</u>



THE ARTISTS FORUM is a New York City based non-profit organization specializing in events, juried competitions, and media for artists.