



Animation



Daughter

Directed by Daria Kashcheeva

Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU), Czech Republic

Synopsis: In a hospital room, the Daughter recalls a childhood moment when as a little girl she tried to share her experience with an injured bird with her Father. A moment of misunderstanding and a lost embrace has stretched into many years all the way to this hospital room, until the moment when a window pane breaks under the impact of a little bird.

Filmmaker bio: Daria studies animated film at FAMU in Prague. Her student films featured at many international festivals. Her Bachelor's puppet animation Daughter has a premiere at Annecy Animation Film Festival and got Cristal for the best Student film. Daughter has won the Student Academy Award in the category Animation and was nominated to the 92th Oscar Academy Award.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/317839276>



Sous La Glace

WINNER BAFTA STUDENT FILM AWARD FOR ANIMATION

Directed by Milan Baulard, Ismail Berrahma, Flore Dupont, Laurie Estampes, Quentin Nory, Hugo Potin -
Ecole des nouvelles images, France

Synopsis: A hungry heron is trying to catch a fish on a lake. But winter won't make things easy for him... Will he get the chance to taste one?

Filmmakers bio: We are a team of 6 students from ENSI, France. We studied during 5 years and the creation of the movie took us one year. I was personally in charge of the art direction and staging.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/342460298>



The Sugarcane Man

Directed by Tina Obo and Leroy Le Roux

The Animation School, South Africa

Synopsis: A village boy, Akello, plays his precious kalimba on a dirt road next to a sugarcane field. A strange dog slyly approaches and snatches his kalimba, running towards the field. Akello follows after it through the field and into a hollow beneath a large twisted tree. He is shown a beautiful kalimba and finds that he has been tricked into an agreement with the Sugarcane Man.

Filmmakers bio: South African's Leroy Le Roux and Tina Obo of Ugandan heritage are both young CG artists. Both having grown up with similar dreams to one day tell African stories to the rest of the world, their paths lead both of them to the birthplace of the dreams realization - The Animation School, where The Sugarcane Man was born. Both Tina and Leroy believe that animation is a powerful medium that tells stories and reaches audiences regardless of race, gender creed and age. They are invested in telling stories that need to be heard and creating content that is authentically African, one that is true to its form so that in turn viewers can soak in the rich culture that African animation can provide. They both hope to one day be at the leading edge of Africa's storytelling through film and share stories that will shock, inspire and change perspectives.

Available online to the public:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUoHRdxIMwY>

Documentary



Making Waves

WINNER SPECIAL JURY PRIZE

Directed by Laura Zephirin
New York University, USA

Synopsis: For Lamya Essemlali, there is a race against time: "If the ocean dies, we die." For the last decade, this French conservationist is the only woman who has led various Sea Shepherd campaigns all over the world. The international non-profit marine wildlife conservation organization is famous for its direct-action tactics. This documentary will travel with the activist from her home in Paris to the island of Mayotte and, finally, to the Faroe Islands. Forced to leave her daughter behind, the mother will be ready to directly confront poachers.

Filmmaker bio: Laura Zéphirin is a French Filmmaker based in New York. She grew up in Paris where she worked as a producer, editor and videographer across the main national TV channels. She then relocated to the Big Apple in 2017 to further explore and investigate the profound injustices that underlie our world's social and environmental issues. Laura's purpose behind "Making Waves" is to both inform the worldwide audience of the robust impact we, as humans, have on our natural environment, as well as stimulate a shift in our overall understanding of our oceans.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/386884214>



Scratching The Surface

Directed by Bethany Staley

University of the West of England, UK

Synopsis: Although decades have passed since conflict ended in Cambodia, the country remains one of the most heavily mined places in the world. Landmines and unexploded ordnance still affect Cambodians daily, and the number of fatalities and injuries is on the rise. However, an unlikely partnership has formed to tackle this issue.

Filmmaker bio: Graduate Beth Staley completed her Masters earlier this year producing her short film *Scratching the Surface*, an inspiring story showing the way human and animal landmine clearance teams work together. Beth filmed the extraordinary teamwork as the rats detect TNT and alert their human co-operatives. She now hopes this prestigious nomination can bring the film a wider audience, raising awareness about the threat landmines in Cambodia and the fantastic work APOPO is doing to combat the threat faced by rural communities.

Available online to the public: <https://vimeo.com/372354444>



What Happened to Dajuan Armstrong?

WINNER BAFTA STUDENT FILM AWARD FOR DOCUMENTARY

Directed by Lucas Guilkey
University of California, Berkeley, USA

Synopsis: This intimate, fast-paced documentary follows Barbara Doss' search to discover the details of her son's mysterious death in Santa Rita jail. In the summer of 2018, 23-year-old Dajuan Armstrong was serving weekends for a burglary conviction, but one weekend he never came home. Thus began Barbara's journey for truth and justice. Through her grief and increasing activism, the audience travels with her to the county board of supervisors, the jail, the cemetery, rallies, and one climatic confrontation with the sheriff himself. What will it take for her to get the truth?

Filmmaker bio: Lucas Guilkey is a documentary filmmaker in Oakland, California. He recently directed *What Happened to Dajuan Armstrong?*, a short documentary about deaths in Santa Rita county jail, which was nominated for a SIMA award, shortlisted for a BAFTA, and screened in film festivals across the country. He is currently directing a feature documentary about the 2013 California prisoner hunger strikes against indefinite solitary confinement.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/356300544>

Live Action



Da Yie

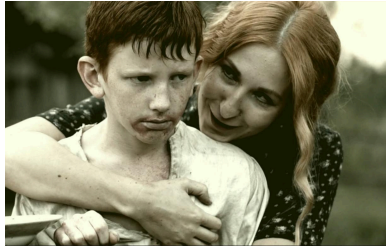
Directed by Anthony Nti

Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema and Sound, Belgium

Synopsis: A foreigner in Ghana gets an assignment from his gang to find kids for a risky job that will take place later that evening. While spending the day with two energetic children, Prince and Matilda, he starts to question his decision and how it will effect their lives.

Filmmaker bio: Anthony Nti was born in Ghana. He studied film at the RITCS in Brussels and became part of a colorful artistic scene. His short film, Da Yie, won the Grand Prix at the 42nd ISFF Clermont Ferrand. His first feature screenplay, Postcard, won second prize at Sam Spiegel Film Lab.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/396701147>



Mum's Hairpins

WINNER BAFTA STUDENT FILM AWARD FOR LIVE ACTION

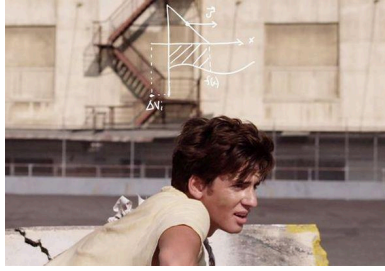
Directed by Tatiana Fedorovskaya

Higher Courses for Screenwriters and Film Directors, Russia

Synopsis: Jewish shtetl, Ukraine, 1941. Mother's hairpins are not only a tool to pit cherries for strudel. For little Yasha, who miraculously escaped being shot by SS soldiers, they also serve as surgical tools to remove a bullet from a wounded goatling's neck, and as a boat lock key, and as a "piece of art" that saves his life.

Filmmaker bio: Six short films made by Tatiana Fedorovskaya during her study at the Higher Courses for Scriptwriters and Film Directors, Moscow won various prestigious international grand-prix and awards including „Best International“ by Academy Qualifying festivals. Twice (2018 and 2019) nominated as Best Short of the Year by Russian Film Academy. Berlinale Talents Alumna (2019). Currently shooting her debut feature "White Whale"

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/330731635>



Variables

Directed by Sabina Vajrača

University of Southern California, USA

Synopsis: In the middle of the Bosnian War, a teenage math-wiz is given a way out of the bloodshed when his math club gets an invitation to compete at the 1995 International Math Olympiad in Canada. Inspired by true events.

Filmmaker bio: Sabina Vajrača is a Bosnian-American director and screenwriter whose work includes theatre, commercials, shorts, and features, which collectively screened at over 50 festivals worldwide. A winner of numerous awards, including the DGA Award, Alfred P. Sloan Grant, and nominations for the HUMANITAS Prize and Student Academy Awards, Sabina received her M.F.A. from USC School of Cinematic Arts and is repped by Industry Entertainment.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SMj67MK4pU>