

CELEBRATING 25  
AMAZING YEARS!



the  
nickel  
independent  
film  
festival 

JUNE 16-22, 2025  
NICKELFESTIVAL.COM



# the nickel independent film festival

Founded in 2001, the Nickel Independent Film Festival is a celebration of independent filmmaking in Newfoundland and Labrador. We are named after the former Nickel theatre, Newfoundland's first cinema.

At our annual summer festival we strive to create an enthusiastic and creative atmosphere that leaves audiences and filmmakers feeling a strong connection to independent film culture in the province.

Throughout the year we offer screenings, educational programs, professional workshops, creative film challenges, and mentorship programs that bring us across the province. We are a charitable not-for-profit organization based in St John's.

**CHARITY #** 856136007 RR0001

**MAIL** PO Box 1644, Stn C, St. John's, NL A1C 5P3

**EMAIL** info@nickfestival.com

**WEB** nickfestival.com

## Nickel Team

### YEAR-ROUND STAFF

Elling Lien, Executive Director

Mike Fardy, Director of

Programming and  
Communications

Sandy May, Outreach  
Coordinator

### FESTIVAL STAFF

Ed Tanasychuk, Tech  
Coordinator

Kate Sheppard, Marketing  
Coordinator

Jessica Ozon, Tech Director

Poster design by Noah  
Bender

Nickel 2025 theme music:  
"faces and flowers" by pami

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ane Christensen, Chair

Jeff Lewis, Treasurer and  
Vice Chair

Timothy Conway, Secretary

Andrea Kean

Cara Powell

Justin Oakey

Matthew Power

Travis Richards

Heidi Atter

## Land Acknowledgement

Throughout the year the Nickel Independent Film Festival hosts events and programming across Newfoundland and Labrador, and online. Wherever you connect with us, we encourage you to take a moment to acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of the land you are on.

This year's festival will be held in St. John's, which is home to a rich, diverse, and vibrant urban Indigenous community. Located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Beothuk, the lands and waters in and around St. John's also traditionally served as a gathering place for the Mi'kmaq.

The broader region of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to be home to diverse Indigenous Peoples, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

As a festival dedicated to the power of storytelling, we recognize our responsibility to support Indigenous voices in film and to ensure Indigenous stories are told with authenticity and respect.

We recognize this is an ongoing dialogue; we are grateful to live and work on this land with all people, those Indigenous to this place and those from all over the world.

## Major Funders

ArtsNL/Newfoundland and  
Labrador Arts Council  
Canada Council for the Arts  
Government of  
Newfoundland and  
Labrador: Department of  
Tourism, Culture, Arts and  
Recreation  
Government of Canada:  
Department of Canadian  
Heritage  
Picture NL (NL film  
development  
corporation)  
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TELEFILM Canada  
The City of St. John's

## Festival Sponsors

College of the North  
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ACTRA Newfoundland  
Pope Productions  
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Bluedrop ISM  
NLDGC  
The Newfoundland Distillery  
Posie Row  
IATSE Local 709  
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# GREETINGS

## WELCOME TO THE 25TH ANNUAL NICKEL INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

The genuine honour of extending this greeting to you has been accorded to me on this milestone occasion, due to an initial invitation to play a supporting role in the very first Nickel. To my continued surprise and honour I have been recast every year since, tasked with sorting through the numerous submissions to the festival, and helping craft the final line-up. In 2005, when it became clear that mine was to be a recurring role, the Board of Directors asked me to join their ranks, usually chairing what is now called the Programming Committee. Frankly, as I reflect on those many years, I still don't know what to make of it all.



**TIM CONWAY**  
NICKEL BOARD MEMBER  
AND PROGRAMMING  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

There's a nagging dissection of the fictional Mr. Gump's box of chocolates analogy that's bouncing around my head, but it's way too lengthy to get into here. Unfortunately, so is the list of people, films and moments deserving of acknowledgement and thanks. What I can say, however, is that if I look back on where I'd be if I hadn't accepted that initial invitation, it leads me to what I think is a more important consideration. I firmly believe that none of my innumerable roads not taken along the way would have made me who I am, right here, right now. To clarify, I was hardly a rogue to begin with, nor did I get anywhere close to the short list for the papacy, either. Still, I think that regularly encountering so many diverse perspectives brought by countless films from people and places around the globe, I've grown into a better human being than I would have otherwise. I feel truly blessed, am endlessly grateful for the opportunity, and I sincerely hope that you find yourself rewarded, in some little way, by your Nickel experience.

If this is your first visit with us, we hope that you find that while we are a regional film festival, devoted to showcasing local productions, our primary concern is that you have a grand night out. And if you're a repeat guest, welcome back. It's great to have you again.

This year is one of many happy returns here at the Nickel, as most of our local films, and a few of those from outside the province, are works from folk who

have screened with us previously. Our three feature films arrive courtesy of festival alumni. Kenneth J. Harvey returns with another engaging documentary film, **The Bear Inside a Whale**; our own Devin Shears, renowned during the pandemic for his on-line Nickel interviews from within his mountain chalet, comes home with his endearing **Cherub**; and Nik Sexton's back with his deadly motion picture, **Skeet**.

After a brief hiatus, longtime contributor, CNA's Animation Program's Graduating Class are once again mining chuckles, this time with **Fistful of Water**. Ian Foster turns his hand to satire this year, with **Hang in There!**, surprisingly shot on a phone, while on the other end of the technical spectrum, Stephen L. Bonnell's 16mm journey brings us his most avant-garde work to date, **Change in Time**. Roger Gallant's time-lapse motion picture, **Abstract Skies**, is an engaging follow-up to his offering last year, and Shan Leigh Pomeroy delivers yet another playful stop-motion creation, **Transmission**.

Elizabeth Hicks further explores the tumult of adolescence in **I Need to Get This off My Chest**, while Stacey Gardner's **73 Seconds**, adapted from one of her poems, offers another take on this critical point in life. Bridgett A. Ricketts and Michelle Clements, on the other hand, present us with the challenge of parents whose adult children refuse to grow up, with their mock documentary, **This Hour Has 5 Minutes**. Prolific Vaida Nairn has also chosen to co-direct, here with Daniel Griffin, an intimate portrait of a local performance artist in **Above Above, Below Below**. Nicola Hawkins, however, wrangles a more populated cast, boatloads of sheep, in her **Ba Baa Shangri La**.

Stephen Cadigan doesn't just give us another incarnation of **Berries for Sale**, but our very first local superhero film, **Northerner**. Arriving as we screen our 20th horror show screening, it gives us the perfect opportunity to expand our after dark line-up with an action/thriller screening, and thanks to Nickel newcomer Alexa Jane Jerrett's otherworldly **Bedlamer**, we've also added a show of mystical/supernatural films. Serendipity indeed.

We have high hopes for other future alumni. Duncan Major's heartfelt animated film, **Imprint**, is sure to leave a lasting impression, and Ryan Patrick McDonald's surreal **Elapse** is a solid component of our horror

*I think that regularly encountering so many diverse perspectives brought by countless films from people and places around the globe, I've grown into a better human being than I would have otherwise.*

*I feel truly blessed, am endlessly grateful for the opportunity, and I sincerely hope that you find yourself rewarded, in some little way, by your Nickel experience.*

show on Thursday. Stephen Coombs, regularly seen on screen in film challenge entries, steps behind the camera to bring us **Kneaded**, and a whole crew of film challenge participants have struck out on their own to produce **Any Mummies 'Lowed In??**.

And before your thoughts go to "what else could I want, jam on it?" we have that too. Not only do we have a big box of cinematic confections from across the country and around the globe, but after all this and our closing night party on Saturday, we've jammed in a science fiction film challenge screening on Sunday.

Still, we might have forgotten something in our celebratory exuberance while preparing to launch The Nickel's 25th season. The one thing that has remained foremost in our sights, however, is the reason why the festival came to being in the first place: you, the viewer. What's the value of a film, local or otherwise, if no one sees it as it's meant to be, projected onto a big screen? Thank you so much for stepping into this vital role of the process. Whether you're a current or (fingers crossed) future Nickel audience alumnus, we are so very grateful that you've chosen to join us to share in a little bit of movie magic. Enjoy.

**Tim Conway**  
**Board Member and Programming Committee**  
**Chair, Nickel Independent Film Festival**



Innovative Solutions  
for Complex Training  
Requirements



Welcome to the 2025 Nickel Independent Film Festival.

This year marks 25 years of championing emerging, independent voices, so many of which come from Newfoundland and Labrador. As we recognize this outstanding legacy, it's also important to realize what a critical role events like this play in strengthening our country's rich, diverse culture.

The value of unique, original Canadian stories has never been more important to our country's future. These stories help build communities, bring people together and teach us what it means to live here in this beautiful land. Our government is proud to support this landmark celebration.

As Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages, I'd like to congratulate everyone involved in this festival's silver anniversary. Here's to many more years of success!

Enjoy the shows!




**STEVEN GUILBEAULT**

MINISTER OF CANADIAN IDENTITY AND CULTURE AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR OFFICIAL LANGUAGES, GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Festivals like the Nickel Independent Film Festival play a vital role in connecting Canadian cinema with audiences at home and abroad. They showcase our stories, our artists and our creativity, while strengthening the bond between filmmakers and audiences around the world. Canadian cinema plays a key role in shaping and promoting our cultural identity. As audiences seek out stories that resonate with them, festivals bring us together.



**JULIE ROY**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO, TELEFILM CANADA

At Telefilm Canada, our core mission is to invest in and highlight the importance of film. We support productions every step of the way, from development to distribution, so that Canadian stories are seen and celebrated. By working with our industry partners, we contribute to a strong and vibrant film ecosystem.

Beyond their screenings, festivals are places of dialogue, collaboration and exchange. They bring together professionals, emerging and established talent, as well as film lovers and audiences of all kinds. In pursuing our mission to support Canadian cinema, we recognize that festivals are essential to the vitality of our industry.

We're proud to partner with the Nickel to celebrate the unifying power of cinema. Enjoy the festival!

Julie Roy  
Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada




**The Battery Café**

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**Sheilagh O'Leary  
Deputy Mayor**

ART MATTERS  
@islandmaid  
soleary@stjohns.ca

# PICTURENL

Congratulations to the Nickel  
Independent Film Festival  
on its **25<sup>th</sup>** Festival.

[INFO@PICTURENL.CA](mailto:INFO@PICTURENL.CA)  
[WWW.PICTURENL.CA](http://WWW.PICTURENL.CA)

**On behalf of PictureNL**, it is my great pleasure to extend heartfelt congratulations to the Nickel Independent Film Festival on the incredible occasion of its 25th anniversary. A quarter of a century of showcasing independent cinema in Newfoundland and Labrador is a remarkable milestone—one that speaks volumes about the passion, persistence, and creativity of this festival's team and its unwavering community of filmmakers, volunteers, and audiences.



**LAURA CHURCHILL**

CEO & FILM COMMISSIONER, PICTURENL

The Nickel has always been a place where bold storytelling finds its voice.

What began as a small grassroots initiative has grown into one of the province's most vital and enduring celebrations of independent film. Over the past 25 years, this festival has not only highlighted the work of local filmmakers but has also created an inclusive space for national and international voices to be heard—sparking conversations, challenging perspectives, and inspiring both emerging and established artists.

For PictureNL, the Nickel represents more than a film festival—it's a cornerstone of the province's creative ecosystem. It provides a nurturing platform where new talent can take their first steps and where seasoned artists can share their latest work. The festival's commitment to accessibility, diversity, and mentorship has helped build a generation of filmmakers who are telling distinctly Newfoundland and Labrador stories with global resonance.

As CEO of PictureNL (and former employee of the Nickel), I am especially proud of the strong and collaborative relationship between our two organizations. We share the belief that film and television are powerful tools for cultural expression and economic growth. Events like this play a crucial role in developing our industry by offering professional development, celebrating local achievements, and fostering connections among creators, funders, and audiences.

This year's festival promises to be one of its most exciting yet, with a dynamic lineup of screenings, workshops, panels, and events that reflect the innovation and diversity of today's independent film scene. Whether you're a filmmaker, an industry professional, or simply a lover of cinema, the Nickel offers something for everyone.

To the dedicated organizers, programmers, volunteers, and supporters of the Nickel—thank you. Your tireless efforts have helped grow this festival into a cultural institution. And to the filmmakers: congratulations on your work. Your creativity and courage are what make the Nickel such a vital and beloved part of Newfoundland and Labrador's cultural landscape.

*For PictureNL, the Nickel represents more than a film festival—it's a cornerstone of the province's creative ecosystem. It provides a nurturing platform where new talent can take their first steps and where seasoned artists can share their latest work.*

As we celebrate this 25-year milestone, let's also look forward to the next 25 years of bold storytelling, industry connection, and creative growth. PictureNL is proud to support your journey, and we can't wait to see where it leads.

Enjoy the festival!

**Laura Churchill**  
CEO & Film Commissioner, PictureNL



# Canadian films have it all.



Celebrate the richness of Canadian storytelling. Weekly updates deliver fresh releases to inspire, entertain, and immerse you in the vibrant world of Canadian cinema!

[seeitall.telefilm.ca](http://seeitall.telefilm.ca)

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# FESTIVAL INFORMATION

## EVENT LOCATION

### LSPU HALL • 3 VICTORIA STREET

All festival screenings and workshops will take place at the **LSPU Hall** in St. John's.

All tickets are **pay what you wish**, with a minimum price of \$10 for our feature-length films and a minimum of \$0 for our shorts collections. Festival passes, which give you access to all screenings, are available for \$40. Order tickets and passes at the LSPU Hall box office, in-person, by phone, or on our website at [nickelfestival.com](http://nickelfestival.com)

### LSPU HALL BOX OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Fri, 12pm-5pm

Phone: 709-753-4531

Email: [boxoffice@lspuhall.ca](mailto:boxoffice@lspuhall.ca)

## VENUE ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

- Assistive listening systems and an on-site wheelchair available upon request
- Designated accessible viewing areas
- Two gender neutral washrooms on the main floor
- Accepts the Access2 Program's "Attendant Pass"
- A visual guide and seat map available at the website link above.
- Lift to access screenings on second floor, with staff assistance
- Button-activated doors
- Contrast painting for low vision accessibility
- Accessible parking spot at front
- Service animals are welcome, but please advise the box office when booking your seat.

To reserve accessible seating please contact the LSPU Hall by phone at 709-753-4531 or email at [boxoffice@lspuhall.ca](mailto:boxoffice@lspuhall.ca)

For more information visit [lspuhall.ca/accessibility](http://lspuhall.ca/accessibility)

## WORKSHOPS

ALL WORKSHOPS TAKE PLACE AT THE LSPU HALL

MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM PICTUREN

### TUES • WED • FRI • SAT FILM LABS

Drop-in activity sessions with experienced mentors collaborating with attendees on a film project. The **LSPU Hall Cox & Palmer Second Space** will be open on **Tuesday June 17, Wednesday June 18, Friday June 20, and Saturday June 21** during festival week. Free and open to the public.

## DECONSTRUCTING DIRECTORS IN CONVERSATION

Our Deconstructing series at the LSPU Hall will present festival feature film directors discussing how they created their recent work. Free and open to the public. Devin Shears will discuss *Cherub* on **Monday, June 16** from 1-2:30. Kenneth J. Harvey will discuss *The Bear Inside a Whale* on **Thursday, June 19** from 1-2:30. Nik Sexton will discuss *Skeet* on **Saturday, June 21** from 1-2:30.

## FILM SCHOOL IN A DAY

This workshop series on **Sunday June 22 from 1-5pm** is an intensive workshop series aimed at beginning and intermediate filmmakers to develop their filmmaking skills. See [nickelfestival.com](http://nickelfestival.com) for details.

## MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

We recognize that some of the material we screen can be overwhelming.

**You are welcome to come and go from the screenings at any point.**

### HEALTHLINE 811

The province's 811 HealthLine is a good place to start if you're facing a health concern and not sure where to turn. It's confidential and free, and staffed by experienced registered nurses who are there to listen, provide support, and connect you to health services close by.

### WARMLINE 1-855-753-2560

Just need to talk? The Warmline is a non-emergency, non-crisis telephone support

service for people needing mental health or addictions support in Newfoundland and Labrador. Operated by trained and experienced peer supporters, it's available every day from 10am - midnight.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS LINE

**1-800-726-2743**

The NL Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre runs this 24-hour line for anyone with questions or concerns related to sexual violence. It is staffed by empathetic, non-judgmental volunteers who can listen and connect you with support, help with legal system navigation, and other services based on what you need.

# DGC

DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA  
**NEWFOUNDLAND  
& LABRADOR**

Representing key creative and logistical personnel working in the screen-based industries in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Contact us at [nldgc@dgc.ca](mailto:nldgc@dgc.ca)  
or 709-325-3426



**sjiwff**  
st. john's international  
women's film festival

october 21-25, 2025  
st. john's, nl

[WomensFilmFestival.com](http://WomensFilmFestival.com)

**MON 6:30**



# CHERUB

FEATURE FILM • Q&A WITH CHERUB DIRECTOR DEVIN SHEARS TO FOLLOW

DIRECTOR: DEVIN SHEARS • NL/ONTARIO • 75 MINUTES

Told almost entirely without dialogue, this meditative character study follows Benjamin Turnbull as Harvey, a straight, fat man who discovers an opportunity to build new confidence in himself and his body when he learns about the chub subculture in the LGBTQ community and decides to submit a photograph of himself to a magazine's "Cherub of the Month" contest. This is Newfoundland and Labrador director Devin Shears' first feature as his Master's thesis in the Film Studies program at York University. Made with a budget of just \$10,000, the film premiered at the 2024 Vancouver International Film Festival, was screened in the National Competition at the 2024 Festival du nouveau cinéma, and has been garnering glowing reviews at screenings worldwide.

WITH SHORT FILM  
**IN THE SHADOW  
OF THE CYPRESS**

DIRECTORS: HOSSEIN  
MOLAYEMI AND SHIRIN SOHANI  
• IRAN • 20 MINUTES

Living in a house by the sea with his daughter, a former captain haunted by past trauma leads a tough and secluded life. This beautiful Iranian film took home the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film at the 2025 Academy Awards.

# WHY STUDY TV AND FILM?

“Any aspect of film you  
want to go into, College of  
the North Atlantic has it!”

Udochukwu 'UD' Okonkwo  
Student of Television & Film  
Technical Production



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College of the North Atlantic

# TUE 9:00



## ECHOES THROUGH TIME

SHORT FILMS ABOUT LASTING IMPRESSIONS

SCREENING PRESENTED BY COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

### FISTFUL OF WATER

DIRECTORS: DAVID MARTINGALE, AARON HOWELL • NL • 5 MINUTES

In a dried-up lakebed town, a goldfish heads to a local saloon with a powerful thirst. A film created by students in the College of the North Atlantic Digital Animation program, Bay St. George campus.

### ENTROPY

DIRECTOR: INUK JØRGENSEN • GREENLAND • 10 MINUTES

The vast Greenland ice sheet has been created over thousands of years, but today climate change is threatening the close and sacred connection between the land moulded by ice and the Inuit who live there. Told from an Indigenous perspective, this beautiful, wise, and relevant, award-winning documentary celebrates Greenlandic mythology as much as it laments the nature we are all losing.

### LIVING ON THE EDGE

DIRECTOR: JISHNU NANDANAN • UK • 16 MINUTES

A cliffside meeting turns second thoughts into second chances. In this tragicomic short a traffic warden contemplates jumping off a cliff to end it all, where he meets another man with a similar intention — and an ice cream van.

### IMPRINT

DIRECTOR: DUNCAN MAJOR • NL • 5 MINUTES

Like ink on paper, chance encounters can leave a lasting imprint. At 13, Duncan Major met artist Tara Bryan and discovered a shared passion for letterpress printing that continues to shape his life and work as a St. John's artist, poet, and designer. In Tara's memory, Duncan created Imprint, a poetic animated film that serves as a heartfelt tribute to his mentor. Using the letterpress and craft material she passed down to him, Imprint brings hand-printed art to life with vibrant

animation, evocative imagery and a beautifully designed soundscape. A beautifully animated celebration of how the relationships we build echo outward and endure across time.

### DEAR DAD

DIRECTOR: BURTON ROCKS • USA • 10 MINUTES

In this sweet, poignant and tender film, 91 year old Dr. Lawrence Rocks writes a letter to his deceased father as a way of explaining to his own son that memories are more important than objects. A testament to the love between a father and son across generations.

### 73 SECONDS

DIRECTOR: STACY GARDNER • NL • 9 MINUTES

It's 1986 and 7 grade student Shannon Crane means to be bound for a future she cannot know on a day filled with possibility and hope. Shannon reckons with the ordinary calamity of being herself after an incident of being bullied and the extraordinary

catastrophic event of the Space Challenger disaster. A coming of age story by emerging St. John's filmmaker Stacy Gardner.

### PARIS 70

DIRECTOR: DANI FEIXAS • SPAIN • 14 MINUTES

Inexperienced caregiver Jan resorts to white lies in order to ease his mother's suffering, and embarks on an emotional journey through family memories. Paris 70 is a touching family love story between a son and his mother with dementia.

### SNOWBIRD

DIRECTOR: PATRICK CURRAN • USA • 25 MINUTES

A self-taught rocket scientist invites a big city journalist out into the desert to cover a launch that will prove, once and for all, that the Earth is flat. A film about the pitfalls of how we communicate unpopular ideas with each other in an ever-polarizing world.



HAND  
CRAFTED



FOR YOUR

HAND 



 **nickel**  
Independent film festival

# DIY SCIFI

The legendary Nickel DIY SCI-FI returns! A free, open-to-all challenge to create a sci-fi short in nine days and have it shown on the last day of Nickel Independent Film Festival 25.

SIGN UP ANY TIME BEFORE THE  
CHALLENGE ENDS

STARTS: Friday, June 6, 6pm  
DEADLINE: Sunday, June 15, 6pm  
SCREENING: Sunday, June 22, 6:30pm

Get ready to grab those ray guns and  
start shooting!

**TUE 6:30**



# THE BEAR INSIDE A WHALE

FEATURE • Q&A WITH KENNETH J. HARVEY & STAN HILL JR. TO FOLLOW

**DIRECTOR: KENNETH J HARVEY • NL • 80 MINUTES**

Stan Hill Jr. is a Haudenosaunee artist living in Miawpukek First Nation Reserve, Conne River, Newfoundland. In *The Bear Inside a Whale*, he and his family discuss racism, identity, religion, creation and art, along with the cultural extinction of the Beothuk of Newfoundland. Throughout the film, we follow Stan carving a bear out of a whale vertebra. And we visit The Rooms (museum) in St. John's, Newfoundland, where Stan talks about viewing and reclaiming Indigenous artefacts.

**WITH SHORT FILM  
FREEDOM**

**DIRECTOR: SCOTT JONES • ONTARIO • 5 MINUTES**

Where does freedom live? If some assert their right to gather en masse but then block sidewalks and others can't pass, whose freedom is that? Do our freedoms have a meeting place? Does it have to be a battleground? In this poetic animated short, a paraplegic man trapped in his Ottawa apartment during the Freedom Convoy protests reflects on the concept of freedom, querrying ableist underpinnings.

# Festival Schedule

JUNE 16  
**MON**

**1PM-2:30PM** LSPU HALL  
MASTERCLASS  
**DECONSTRUCTING  
CHERUB**  
WITH DIRECTOR **DEVIN SHEARS**



**6:30PM**  
**CHERUB**  
W/ SHORT FILM IN THE SHADOW  
OF THE CYPRESS

FOLLOWED BY Q&A WITH  
DIRECTOR DEVIN SHEARS  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



**9PM**  
**ECHOES IN TIME**  
SHORT FILMS ABOUT  
LASTING IMPRESSIONS  
**PRESENTED BY COLLEGE OF  
THE NORTH ATLANTIC**

**FISTFUL OF WATER**  
ENTROPY  
LIVING ON THE EDGE  
**IMPRINT**  
DEAR DAD  
**73 SECONDS**  
PARIS 70  
SNOWBIRD

JUNE 17  
**TUE**

**3-6PM** LSPU HALL  
DROP-IN ACTIVITY  
**SCREENWRITING**  
FREE FILM LAB SESSION W/  
RUTH LAWRENCE



**6:30PM**  
**THE BEAR INSIDE  
A WHALE**  
W/ SHORT FILM FREEDOM

FOLLOWED BY Q&A WITH  
DIRECTOR KENNETH J. HARVEY  
& STAN HILL JR.



**9PM**  
**ART OF COMBAT**  
SHORT ACTION & DRAMA

NOT ENOUGH WOMB FOR THE  
TWO OF US  
WRACU  
DANCE WITH THE REAPER  
**NORTHERNER**  
HAMMER, WRENCH &  
SCREWDRIVER  
NO NAME BLADE  
ROQUE  
THE INCONVENIENCE STORE  
20 EUROS

JUNE 18  
**WED**

**3-6PM** LSPU HALL  
DROP-IN ACTIVITY  
**FILM EDITING**  
FREE FILM LAB SESSION W/  
JUSTIN OAKLEY



**6:30PM**  
**HOMeward BOUND**  
MOVING SHORTS ON PERSONAL  
RECONCILIATION  
**PRESENTED BY COAST 101.1 FM**

WHISPERS OF COLORS  
**KNEADED**  
THE FIRE TRIANGLE OF LOVE  
THEORY  
FATHER'S MOUNTAINS  
EPILOGUE  
DESYNC  
ADOPTATION  
AND THAT'S FOR THIS  
CHRISTMAS  
MAWTINI



**9:00PM**  
**WILD THINGS**  
SHORT FILMS WHERE FANTASY  
MEETS REALITY  
**PRESENTED BY NIFCO**

OBLIVION  
**BEDLAMER**  
THE WEDDING VEIL OF THE  
PROUD PRINCESS  
INTO THE REDS TALE  
VOX HUMANA  
RETURN TO HAIRY HILL  
FLORASPIRA: SARRA

FOLLOWED BY **SISTERS OF THE  
SILVER SCALPEL**

JUNE 19  
**THU**

**1PM-2:30PM** LSPU HALL  
MASTERCLASS  
**DECONSTRUCTING  
THE BEAR INSIDE A  
WHALE**  
WITH DIRECTOR  
**KENNETH J. HARVEY**



**6:30PM**  
**CYCLES OF CHANGE**  
VISUALLY STRIKING SHORTS  
ABOUT LOVE AND RENEWAL

ANOTHER DAY  
TENNIS, ORANGES  
**TRANSMISSION**  
PAN & SYRINX  
SECRET HANDSHAKES  
SOMBER TIDES  
**BA BAA SHANGRI LA**  
ROMCHYK  
THE BEAT OF TWO CULTURES

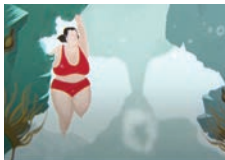


**9:00PM**  
**INTO THE DARK**  
DARK FANTASY & HORROR  
SHORTS

LOOKING FOR DEATH  
**ANY MUMMERS 'LOWED IN??**  
CLEM  
\*666  
NAP  
**ELAPSE**  
IZZY  
RODENT  
CANNIVERSARY  
THIS LAND  
OLGA'S EYES

JUNE 20  
**FRI**

**3-6PM** LSPU HALL  
DROP-IN ACTIVITY  
**CAMERA MOVEMENT**  
FREE FILM LAB SESSION W/  
**HEATHER RUMANCIK**



**6:30PM**  
**SECOND CHANCES**  
SHORT COMEDIES & DRAMAS  
ABOUT BEGINNING AGAIN

MISSED CONNECTIONS  
**BERRIES FOR SALE: PICKING  
BERRIES**  
**THIS HOUR HAS 5 MINUTES**  
AS WE FALL SILENT  
OPERATION PABLO  
PLUNGE  
THE UGLY CHICKENS



**9:00PM**  
**SKEET**  
W/ SHORT FILM THE LAST  
TANGO  
**PRESENTED BY CBC NL**

FOLLOWED BY Q&A WITH  
DIRECTOR NIK SEXTON

JUNE 21  
**SAT**

**1PM-2:30PM** LSPU HALL  
MASTERCLASS  
**DECONSTRUCTING  
SKEET**  
WITH DIRECTOR **NIK SEXTON**

**3-6PM** LSPU HALL  
DROP-IN ACTIVITY  
**STOP MOTION  
ANIMATION**  
FREE FILM LAB SESSION W/  
**DUNCAN MAJOR**



**6:30PM**  
**PASSION & PURPOSE**  
SHORT DRAMAS & DOCS ABOUT  
FINDING YOUR THING

**PRESENTED BY CELTX**

CHANGE IN TIME  
IRIS  
HOUSTON'S WHITEBEAM  
**HANG IN THERE!**  
ECHOES OF THE ICE  
**ABOVE ABOVE, BELOW BELOW**  
AQUAPONIK  
PEGASUS



**9:00PM**  
**ROLLING THE DICE**  
SHORTS ABOUT FATE &  
COINCIDENCE

**ABSTRACT SKIES**  
FOLLOW THE DOGS  
**I NEED TO GET THIS OFF MY  
CHEST**  
PUNTER  
MOON ALONE  
KEEP  
ADIÓS  
LAST RESORT  
47

RECEPTION & PARTY TO  
FOLLOW AT **THE SHIP PUB**

JUNE 22  
**SUN**

**1PM-5PM** LSPU HALL  
**FILM SCHOOL  
IN A DAY**  
FREE AFTERNOON WORKSHOP  
SERIES FOR BEGINNING &  
INTERMEDIATE FILMMAKERS

FOR DETAILS OR TO REGISTER  
VISIT **NICKELFESTIVAL.COM**



**6:30PM**  
**DIY SCI-FI  
SCREENING**

SEE ALL OF THE FILMS CREATED  
IN JUST NINE DAYS AS PART OF  
THE NICKEL'S DIY SCI-FI FILM  
CHALLENGE!

the  
**nickel  
independent  
film  
festival**

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# QUADRANGLE

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Quadrangle NL is the only charitable organization built to bring together 2SLGBTQIA+ people and organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador into a dedicated, shared space where resources, ideas, and support can be exchanged.

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*Posie Row*

210-214 DUCKWORTH ST.  
ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND  
EST. 1995



# TUE 9:00

WRACU



## THE ART OF COMBAT

ACTION AND DRAMA SHORT FILM COLLECTION

### NORTHERNER

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN CADIGAN  
• NL • 13 MINUTES

Shane's a thief who embraces his evolution into a super-villain; Kate's bound to her past by Shane and her reputation as a dirty cop, and Northerner, the catalyst who confronts Shane and Kate with an opportunity to change the course of their lives. Created through NIFCO's Picture Start program.

### NOT ENOUGH WOMB FOR THE TWO OF US

DIRECTOR: CAMERON KLETKE  
• BC • 1 MINUTE

Sibling rivalry starts early. In this spacious hand-drawn animation, watercolours and pastels depict an in utero skirmish between twins, plunging viewers into an intimate watery universe where the umbilical cord becomes a prop in a comic battle of wills. Those little elbows can be sharp!

### WRACU

DIRECTOR: CHASE MCGILL  
• USA • 7 MINUTES

A knight awakens in a carriage driven by Death, tormented by the memory of his execution. Consumed by a thirst for vengeance, nothing will stand in between his iron will and retribution.

### DANCE WITH THE REAPER

FILMMAKERS: ALSINET, ANGLAS, ARANDA, BERNEY, CORTIT, DOMENE, MARTIN, MASSO, MENTA, MOYA, TORRAS • SPAIN • 4 MINUTES

Sooner or later you'll dance with the reaper. Sofia, the most wanted criminal in the state, can't avoid meeting her fate after a manhunt ends. In a face-to-face encounter with Death, the dance begins, driven by love at first sight. Death has a job to do: to reap Sofia's soul, but in this moment, must make a crucial decision.

### HAMMER, WRENCH & SCREWDRIVER

DIRECTOR: GABRIEL VILANDRÉ  
• QUEBEC • 13 MINUTES

Wracked with guilt, Jonathan Cammuso, aged 16, goes to a hardware store to return some tools he stole — but things don't turn out exactly as he planned.

### NO NAME BLADE

DIRECTOR: XIANG-PU ZHU  
• TAIWAN • 15 MINUTES

In the heart of the White Shirt, there lies a sword technique representing the desires he's yet to overcome. Set against a backdrop of war, No Name Blade uses traditional martial arts puppetry to explore conflict resolution beyond violence.

### ROQUE

DIRECTOR: BANNI LECLERC  
• SPAIN • 17 MINUTES

One year after breaking the 100-meter freestyle record at the Paris 2024 Olympics, Roque, now retired from competition,

realizes that he must settle accounts with his past and the man who abused him. Giving free rein to his criminal instincts is the only way to free himself from the feeling of shame that all of life's pleasures provoke in him, even swimming.

### THE INCONVENIENCE STORE

DIRECTOR: IFEANYI EZIEME  
• USA • 12 MINUTES

In this sci-fi comedy, five strangers get stuck in a gas station during an alien invasion. Realizing their survival depends on one another, they try to put their differences aside and work together before time runs out.

### 20 EUROS

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER MACHLOUZARIDES-SHALIT  
• CYPRUS • 14 MINUTES

A couple's night out is interrupted by an unexpected encounter with a man in a parking lot.

**Coast**  
**101.1 fm**  
**classic hits**



**coast1011.com**



## HOMEWARD BOUND

MOVING SHORT FILMS ABOUT PERSONAL RECONCILIATION

SCREENING PRESENTED BY **COAST 101.1FM CLASSIC HITS**

### WHISPERS OF COLORS

DIRECTOR: SUJIN KIM • USA • 3 MINUTES

A short, colourful animation which poetically translates Joonhho Kim's experience as a mixed-race child in the aftermath of the Korean War into visual form.

### KNEADED

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN COOMBS • NL • 14 MINUTES

A woman struggles to hold herself together as her family's anchor after several tragic losses. Based on a script created for the Nickel's Script Writing Challenge and produced through NIFCO's First Time Filmmaker program, Kneaded showcases local talent at all levels of its creation.

### THE FIRE TRIANGLE OF LOVE THEORY

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRE SPIESER • FRANCE • 2 MINUTES

This short comedy gives a simple three point theory to help keep the flame alive.

### FATHER'S MOUNTAINS

DIRECTOR: XIAOJUN TAN • CHINA • 11 MINUTES

A poignant animated tale of a son's journey beyond the life he knows to understand his father's advice that, "beyond each mountain is another mountain."

### EPILOGUE

DIRECTOR: JOSEPH ROSSI • CANADA • 14 MINUTES

A bitter empty nester has a heart to heart with her deceased sister. This film boasts charismatic characters and an emotionally resonant story, showing one woman's methods for coping with loss.

### DESYNC

DIRECTOR: MINERVA MARIE NAVASCA • ONTARIO • 12 MINUTES

Desync follows a young Filipina filmmaker who attempts to overwrite a painful memory of her mother with a perfect narrative. The film explores themes that include multigenerational dynamics between immigrant parents and their Canadian-raised children, overwork in Asian culture and repression of one's feelings.

### ADOPTION

DIRECTOR: LIZ WHITMER • CANADA • 5 MINUTES

A grounded comedy playing decisions around family planning as an awkward party conversation, featuring Newfoundland actor Nicole Power (Kim's Convenience)

### AND THAT'S FOR THIS CHRISTMAS

DIRECTOR: PETER VULCHEV • BULGARIA • 15 MINUTES

While preparing the details for his own funeral, an elderly man realises that he will be celebrating Christmas alone. Unable to fall asleep, he decides to spend the holiday visiting the grave of his deceased wife.

### MAWTINI

DIRECTOR: FATEEMA AL-HAMAYDEH MILLER • ONTARIO • 19 MINUTES

A young Palestinian woman and her older Indigenous friend start a guerrilla garden on the lawn of their apartment building and battle management to keep it alive long enough to make it to harvest.

# NIFCO



nifco.org



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25<sup>TH</sup> NICKEL INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL**



# WED 9:00

BEDLAMER



## WILD THINGS

SHORT FILMS WHERE FANTASY MEETS REALITY

PRESENTED BY NIFCO • NEWFOUNDLAND INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS CO-OP

### OBLIVION

DIRECTOR: ALANA NASTOLD • GERMANY • 4 MINUTES

In this coming-of-age story, a young woman, afraid of growing up but unable to remain a child, sets out to confront her inner fears. Oblivion transitions from analogue charcoal drawings, to monotypes, and then to digital illustrations.

### BEDLAMER

DIRECTOR: ALEXA JANE JERRETT • NL • 15 MINUTES

On the shores of a small fishing village lives a lonely settlement of men — capturing and domesticating otherworldly creatures that were never meant to be tamed. Winner of Best Atlantic Canadian Short at the 2024 Silver Wave Film Festival.

### THE WEDDING VEIL OF THE PROUD PRINCESS

DIRECTOR: ANNA-ESTER VOLOZH • UK • 7 MINUTES

This short animated film based on a short story by L.M. Montgomery follows a princess who sparks an endless war, until a mysterious suitor emerges, claiming to be the one to satisfy her pride. Featuring narration by Malaysian-British actor Pik-Sen Lim (Dark Souls).

### INTO THE REDS TALE

DIRECTOR: ALISDAIR ZHANG • USA • 4 MINUTES

The hunter becomes the hunted as an abomination mimic creature enters the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood,' disguising itself as Little Red, and luring the Big Bad Wolf into a trap.

### VOX HUMANA

DIRECTOR: DON JOSEPHUS RAPHAEL EBLAHAN • PHILIPPINES/USA • 22 MINUTES

An eco-futurist film which takes place in the aftermath of an earthquake. After the police find a man in the woods, a zoologist, a sound recordist, and a news team attempt to determine the cause of the natural disasters that have devastated this little mountain town.

### RETURN TO HAIRY HILL

DIRECTOR: DANIEL GIES • QUEBEC • 17 MINUTES

A young girl shoulders the burden of caring for her three siblings and navigating a dysfunctional relationship with their mother who has abandoned her family.

### FLORASPIRA: SARRA

DIRECTOR: ZEMING SUN • CHINA • 4 MINUTES

A lost boy is unknowingly stalked by the Mystica pitcher plant, a predator that can smell the desires of its potential prey.

### SISTERS OF THE SILVER SCALPEL

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL JONES (1981) • NL • 11 MINUTES

A nature mockumentary about the wild Nuns of Newfoundland. Originally created in 1981 to accompany a live performance by comedy troupe CODCO and eventually overdubbed with audio and released as a short film.



# CYCLES OF CHANGE

VISUALLY STRIKING SHORT FILMS ABOUT LOVE AND RENEWAL

## ANOTHER DAY

DIRECTOR: AMERY SANDFORD, JING XIA • NL • 4 MINUTES

Another Day is composed of stunning, otherworldly 3D visuals by Montreal-based animator and illustrator Amery Sandford, in concert with an original instrumental work by St. John's, NL-based XIA-3.

## TENNIS, ORANGES

DIRECTOR: SEAN PECKNOLD • USA • 11 MINUTES

A robotic vacuum suffering from burnout quits its job at a hospital and sets out to find community and a greater purpose on a quiet street where two lonely rabbits are stuck in a perpetual loop. A delightfully strange film.

## TRANSMISSION

Director: Shan Leigh Pomeroy • NL • 2 minutes  
Made for Nickel's DIY SCIFI challenge, Transmission uses year-old scraps and cutouts from abandoned school projects to

explore interdimensional (mis)communication, paranoia, xenophobia, and love.

## PAN & SYRINX

DIRECTOR: A. LAUREL LAWRENCE • NOVA SCOTIA • 16 MINUTES

Two lovers are told the tale of the great god Pan's violent pursuit of the forest nymph Syrinx in a film that refracts the myth through layers of song, identity, and performance: at once a ballet, trans fantasy, and exploration of love and power.

## SOMBER TIDES

DIRECTOR: CHANTAL CARON • QUEBEC • 12 MINUTES

A dance portraying a cry from the species, startled into survival against the elements. One last breath before being trampled by the Earth or waging a battle against winds and tides before extinction.

## SECRET HANDSHAKES

DIRECTOR: JENNA MARKS • NOVA SCOTIA • 3 MINUTES

A beautifully animated short about finding a love that lets you truly feel free to play; to be kids together, no matter how old you are. Brought to life through claymation/stop motion, this video by Nova Scotian musicians Moira & Claire and directed by animator Jenna Marks blends heartfelt storytelling with nostalgic charm.

## BA BAA SHANGRI LA

DIRECTOR: NICOLA HAWKINS • NL • 8 MINUTES

Each spring on the southern shore of Newfoundland, farmers take their sheep by open boat to a predator-free island to graze on lush grass, drink from freshwater springs, and thrive without human intervention in a joyful and sustainable tradition that has been practiced for generations.

## ROMCHYK

DIRECTOR: ALEXIS BICÂT • UK • 12 MINUTES

Following a deadly missile attack, Romchyk pursues his dream of ballroom dancing despite severe burns and having to wear a medical mask. Romchyk embodies resilience, hope, and the enduring human spirit amidst tragedy.

## THE BEAT OF TWO CULTURES

DIRECTOR: MATT LEMAY • ONTARIO • 24 MINUTES

Ten talented Métis fiddlers from across Canada converge at The Tragically Hip's renowned recording studio, The Bathhouse, in Kingston, Ontario to record a timeless album of traditional Métis fiddle music, bridging generations and preserving their rich cultural heritage.



## INTO THE DARK

DARK FANTASY & HORROR SHORT FILMS

### LOOKING FOR DEATH

DIRECTOR: PATRICIO GABRIEL SALGADO TREJO • USA • 2 MINUTES

In this ode to the influential style of German Impressionism, a lone adventurer charts the dark woods, hoping to find a treasure that will allow him to control death itself.

### ANY MUMMERS 'LOWED IN??

DIRECTORS: SEAN MICHAEL ALEXANDER JESSOME, ANNALISE JOSEFINE SMITH, CULLAM JAMES BRUCE-LOCKHART • NL • 5 MINUTES

A Christmas party is visited by a group of mummies, who turn it into a night of singing, dancing, and drinking. But when Anna wakes the next morning, she finds an awful mess, a wicked hangover, and one unwelcome mummer that just keeps coming back.

### CLEM

DIRECTOR: JOHN BARNARD • MANITOBA • 11 MINUTES

Hannah is in trouble and takes to an ad from a stranger who offers help to people with nowhere else to turn.

### \*666

DIRECTOR: ABBY ELIZABETH FALVO • MANITOBA • 3 MINUTES

Shot on 8mm film, this horror comedy follows two curious women as they perform a ritual, making a call beyond the veil and discovering that some calls are better unanswered.

### IZZY

DIRECTOR: YFKE VAN BERCKELAER • NETHERLANDS • 5 MINUTES

Izzy is constantly stuck in the same cycle: mocked, dismissed, ignored, forgotten. She'll find a way to make herself heard, with that and a bit of red glitter, perhaps she can escape this loop.

### NAP

DIRECTOR: JAVIER CHAVANEL • SPAIN • 14 MINUTES

Four people are recruited to undergo a dangerous experiment. The rules are simple, if they sleep they receive a substantial reward, if they don't they die.

### ELAPSE

DIRECTOR: RYAN PATRICK MCDONALD • NL • 8 MINUTES

A young man is filled with dread while trying to identify his calling in life and seeks the advice of an older man, unaware that the two of them are connected by an insidious tragedy in the claustrophobic space they share.

### RODENT

DIRECTOR: JOE FEREDAY • UK • 8 MINUTES

A rat transports us through the last vestiges of humanity as it forages for food for its family while avoiding a colossal threat and revealing the true magnitude of recent global events.

### CANNIVERSARY

DIRECTOR: ROSS OZARKA • NEW ZEALAND • 4 MINUTES

In this hilarious animation made in just 48 hours, a character's sobriety is tested when his office crush invites him to a Cannabis-themed party.

### THIS LAND

DIRECTOR: NICHOLAS JONES • UK • 18 MINUTES

Roisin is a guardian of the mystical Irish land that has been in her family for generations. As a greedy relative seeks to exploit the earth beneath her feet, Roisin's deep-rooted connection to the land propel her to fight back and defend the magic that lies at the heart of the landscape.

### OLGA'S EYES

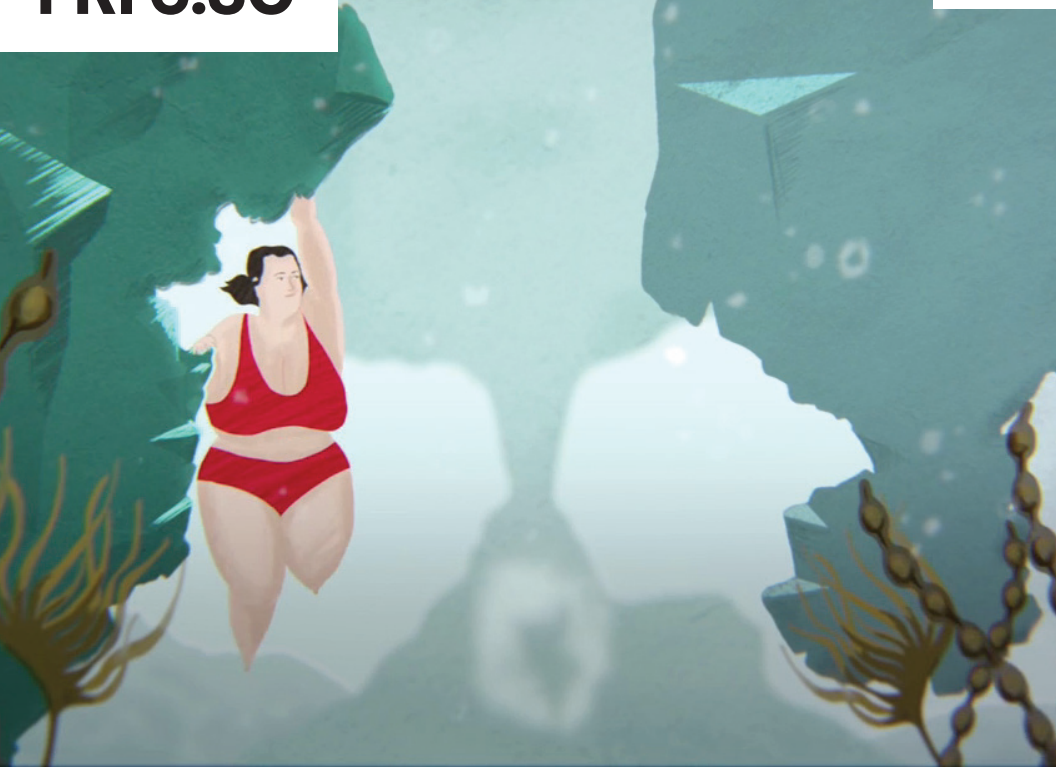
DIRECTOR: SARAH CARLOT JABER • BELGIUM • 22 MINUTES

Olga, a music-loving octogenarian, is tired of killing humans. Could it be the vampire blues or is she just being picky? She'll have to find out when she is placed in a care home, surrounded by those who have "one foot in the grave."

# POPE PRODUCTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NICKEL  
FOR 25 AMAZING YEARS





## SECOND CHANCES

SHORT COMEDIES & DRAMAS ABOUT STARTING FRESH

### MISSED CONNECTIONS

DIRECTOR: JACK GRAY • USA • 5 MINUTES

Animated vignettes from the Missed Connections classifieds, exploring the humorous pursuit of romance in modern urban life.

### BERRIES FOR SALE: PICKING BERRIES

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN CADIGAN • NL • 12 MINUTES

During an afternoon of berry picking, a group in Rum Cove consider a vote to resettle their community.

### THIS HOUR HAS 5 MINUTES

DIRECTOR: BRIDGET A. RICKETTS, MICHELLE T. CLEMENS • NL • 7 MINUTES

A mockumentary about frustrated parents and their adult children still living at home.

### AS WE FALL SILENT

DIRECTOR: BRIAN QUINTERO • ONTARIO • 20 MINUTES

When one of two childhood friends battles a devastating illness, their relationship is tested, leading to events that will redefine their lives forever.

### OPERATION PABLO

DIRECTOR: KAREN QUINN • IRELAND • 15 MINUTES

A young girl and struggling ice-cream vendor team up to save a stray dog from the pound.

### PLUNGE

DIRECTOR: ELLIE LAND • UK • 6 MINUTES

This animated documentary reveals how cold-water swimming helped Katie overcome decades of physical and mental struggles, finding empowerment, community, and healing in frigid ocean waters.

### THE UGLY CHICKENS

DIRECTOR: MARK RASO • USA • 28 MINUTES

When ornithology professor Paula Linberl learns the supposedly extinct dodo bird might still exist, she embarks on a cross-country expedition to solve the mystery.

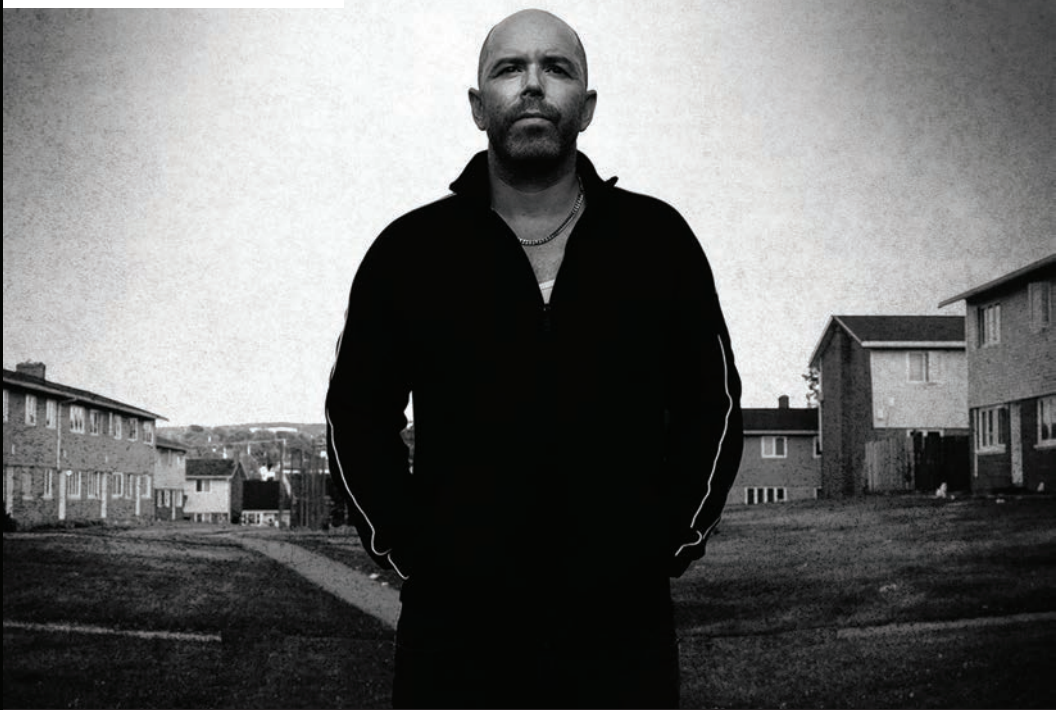


# **We all have stories worth telling**

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Film Festival**



**FRI 9:00**



# **SKEET**

FEATURE • Q&A WITH DIRECTOR NIK SEXTON TO FOLLOW

PRESENTED BY **CBC NL**

**DIRECTOR: NIK SEXTON • NL • 102 MINUTES**

After his release from prison, Billy Skinner returns to his St. John's neighbourhood to discover a transformed community—what was once a predominantly white working-class area is now home to Syrian refugee families. As Billy navigates his reintegration into society, he must confront not only his own demons and addiction struggles but also the evolving cultural landscape of his hometown. He forms an unlikely friendship with Mohamed, a Syrian refugee who is also learning to rebuild his life in unfamiliar surroundings.

Director Nik Sexton delivers unflinching social realism in this feature, exploring themes of displacement, belonging, and redemption against St. John's stark and beautiful backdrop. Shot in black and white, Skeet examines the universal experience of feeling like an outsider—whether you're an ex-convict trying to rebuild your life or a refugee family starting over in an unfamiliar place.

Raw and authentic in its portrayal of contemporary life in the city, the film tackles the province's ongoing addiction crisis while weaving a story about human connection that transcends cultural boundaries.

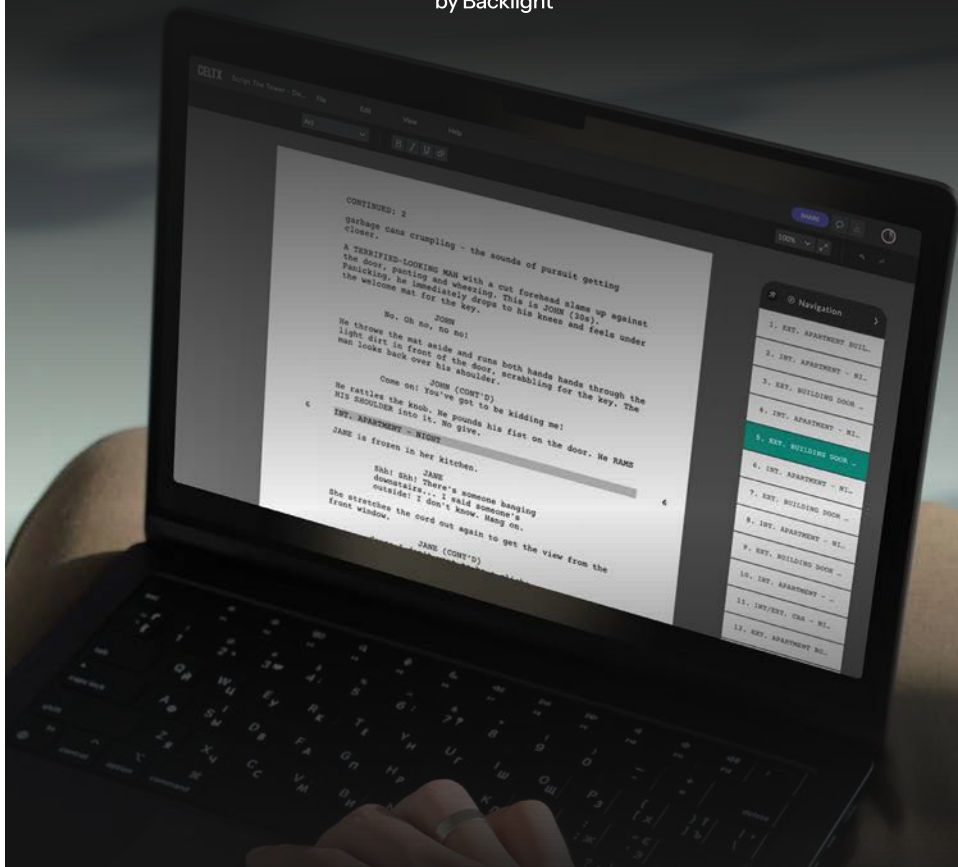
WITH SHORT FILM

## **THE LAST TANGO**

**DIRECTOR: MOCHI LIN • QUEBEC • 2 MINUTES**

Drawn to unorthodox materials and themes, Mochi Lin works with sheer stockings and acetate to depict courtship in the insect world. A stop-motion haiku on the themes of coupledness, confinement and ... decapitation.

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by Backlight



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## PASSION & PURPOSE

SHORT DRAMAS AND DOCS ABOUT FINDING YOUR THING

PRESENTED BY CELTX

### CHANGE IN TIME

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN L BONNELL • NL • 3 MINUTES

A couple goes to the movies but the experience is not what they had imagined. CW nudity

### IRIS

DIRECTOR: JILLIAN ISCARO • USA • 10 MINUTES

A florist is surprised when her AI assistant alters one of her arrangements, leading her to question what it means to create in a world increasingly shaped by machines.

### HOUSTON'S WHITEBEAM

DIRECTOR: JAKE MORRIS, ALEX DARBY • UK • 13 MINUTES

At 80, climber-botanist-poet Libby Houston is still scaling Bristol's cliffs to study rare plants. Her discovery of the endangered Houston's Whitebeam—with only one known specimen remaining—prompts reflection on extinction and legacy.

### HANG IN THERE!

DIRECTOR: IAN FOSTER • NL • 8 MINUTES

A journalist is skeptical when an administrator for a cash-strapped healthcare system suggests moving their services online.

### ECHOES OF THE ICE

DIRECTOR: MATT LEMAY • NUNAVUT • 19 MINUTES

Inuk filmmaker Crystal Martin travels to Iqaluit to document how climate change is affecting contemporary Inuit life in the Nunavut capital.

### ABOVE ABOVE, BELOW BELOW

DIRECTOR: VAIDA NAIRN, DANIEL GRIFFIN • NL • 11 MINUTES

Brazilian performance artist Vanesa Cardoso, now living in Newfoundland, develops her clown persona using Richard Pochinko's method of seven masks and six directions, exploring vulnerability and what makes us human.

### AQUAPONIK

DIRECTOR: VIRGINIE BLUZAT • FRANCE • 16 MINUTES

On her final day of community service at an environmental organization, young offender Romy discovers aquaponics and dreams of bringing her urban housing project to life.

### PEGASUS

DIRECTOR: JEAN-ERASME GIUDICELLI • FRANCE • 12 MINUTES

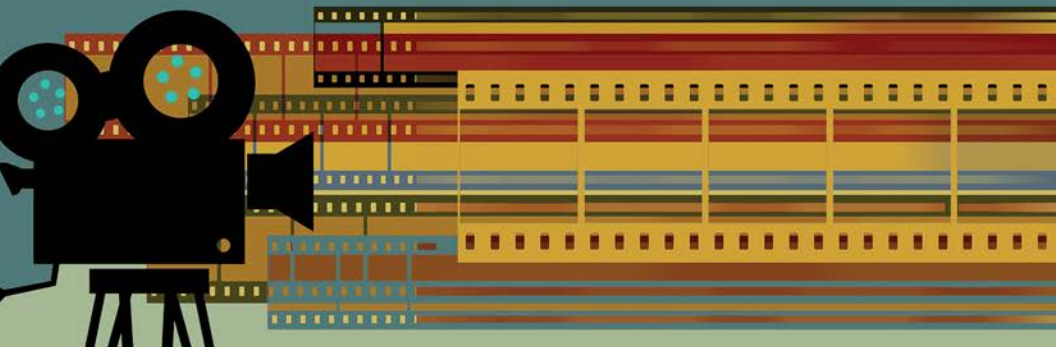
In the middle of a country road Victor, a stressed out business man sees a horse running away from its owner. He decides to get out of the car to approach.

# ACTRA

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# SAT 9:00

I NEED TO GET THIS OFF MY CHEST



## ROLLING THE DICE

SHORT FILMS ABOUT FATE AND COINCIDENCE

### ABSTRACT SKIES

DIRECTOR: ROGER GALLANT • NL • 4 MINUTES

A short film that reimagines the skies as a gallery of abstract shapes captured in time-lapse.

### FOLLOW THE DOGS

DIRECTOR: ISABEL GARRETT • UK • 6 MINUTES

A portrait of the relationship between healthcare and creativity, through the unique lens of cancer patient Warren Hastings as he recovers from treatment.

### I NEED TO GET THIS OFF MY CHEST

DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH HICKS • NL • 10 MINUTES

After shoplifting lingerie from a discount department store, 12-year-old Grace goes to great lengths to cover up the crime.

### PUNTER

DIRECTOR: JASON ADAM MASELLE • USA • 14 MINUTES

Young Brett must navigate the underbelly of the Johannesburg gambling world as a seemingly harmless horse racing bet jeopardizes the surprise he's prepared for his Father's birthday.

### MOON ALONE

DIRECTOR: HEEJIN KANG • ONTARIO • 3 MINUTES

In this animated short, an angel guides departed souls to heaven each night, finding brief companionship before returning to solitude, waiting for the next souls in need.

### KEEP

DIRECTOR: LEWIS ROSE • UK • 20 MINUTES

Gordon, a lighthouse museum keeper, befriends Musa, an Afghan refugee who offers to help maintain the site. But when Gordon discovers Musa's true intentions, he faces a moral dilemma that challenges everything he knows.

### ADIÓS

DIRECTOR: JOSÉ PRATS • UK • 9 MINUTES

During a hunting day in rural Spain, a father struggles to accept that his adult son is moving abroad, and to deal with the feelings of being left alone.

### LAST RESORT

DIRECTOR: DAVID R. KRAMER • SWITZERLAND • 22 MINUTES

Terminally ill Paul travels to a Swiss assisted suicide resort, but unexpectedly discovers a new reason to live.

### 47

DIRECTOR: PAULO GARCIA • CANADA/BRAZIL • 6 MINUTES

Grand prize winner at the Clio Health advertising awards in 2024, this hand-animated stop-motion film from Oscar-winning animator Matias Liebrecht, tells a heartwarming story of resilience, acceptance, and inclusion. It's based on the real story of a Café Joyeux employee with Down syndrome who did not get his first job until he was 47.

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