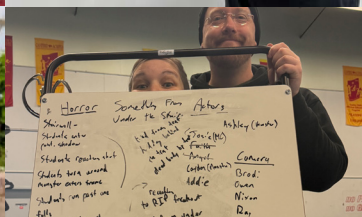


JUNE 22-28, 2026  
NICKELFESTIVAL.COM

**nickel  
independent  
film  
festival** 





# 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@nickefestival.com

**WEB** nickelfestival.com

## NICKEL TEAM

Elling Lien, Executive Director

Nihal Anand, Festival Coordinator

Ed Tanasychuk, Tech Coordinator

Elaine Pond, Sponsorship Coordinator

Isaac Andrews Power, Marketing Coordinator

Etta Cessac-Sinclair, Programming Assistant

Poster design by Noah Bender

Nickel 2026 theme music: "Occlusion" by Medians

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Lewis, Chair and Treasurer

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## 2026 PROG. COMMITTEE

Ane Christensen

Devin Shears

Elling Lien

Krissy Breen

Nihal Anand

Rodney Wall

## 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 invite 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 diverse and vibrant urban Indigenous community. Located on the ancestral, unceded territory of the Beothuk, and the lands and waters in and around St. John's also 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.

The Nickel is committed to reconciliation. As a festival dedicated to the power of storytelling, we recognize our responsibility to support and foster Indigenous voices on screen 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

Canada Summer Jobs

TELEFILM Canada

The City of St. John's

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The Battery Cafe



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# VENUE & TICKET INFO

## EVENT LOCATION

**LSPU HALL ■ 3 VICTORIA ST.**

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

All tickets are pay what you can with a minimum price of \$10. Festival passes, which allow you to reserve a ticket for any screening, are available for \$60. You can order tickets and passes at the LSPU Hall box office, in-person, by phone, or on our website at [nickelfestival.com](http://nickelfestival.com)

Workshops and panels are **free**, no advance registration necessary.

## BOX OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Fri, 12pm-5pm

Phone: 709-753-4531

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

## LSPU ACCESSIBILITY INFO

- Lift to access screenings on second floor, with staff assistance
- Button-activated door
- 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"s
- 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)



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**Film Festival**

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**the nickel**  
for another great fest

**POPE**  
PRODUCTIONS



**On behalf of ArtsNL**, I'm pleased to welcome everyone to this year's Nickel Independent Film Festival.

For 26 years, the Nickel has been a valued part of Newfoundland and Labrador's film community, creating space for local filmmakers, lifting new voices, and bringing people together through independent film. Festivals like this inspire creativity, foster connection, and give artists the opportunity to share their work with engaged audiences.

The Nickel offers many ways to get involved, and its welcoming spirit makes it a cherished part of cultural life in this province. ArtsNL is proud to support the festival and the important role it plays for artists and audiences across Newfoundland and Labrador.

Through this work, the Nickel continues to strengthen a film community that is recognized well beyond our shores. Congratulations and thanks to the organizers, volunteers, filmmakers, and supporters whose dedication makes this event possible year after year. I wish everyone an engaging and inspiring festival.

**Melanie Martin**  
Executive Director, ArtsNL



**MELANIE  
MARTIN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
ARTSNL

**On behalf of the Board and Staff at PictureNL**, I'm thrilled to welcome you to the 26th annual Nickel Independent Film Festival.

For 26 years, the Nickel has been an important home for filmmakers. A place where new voices are encouraged and creative risks are celebrated. The festival has built an incredible reputation as a launchpad for up-and-coming talent and that spirit of discovery is what continues to make the Nickel so special.

The Nickel has always been about championing independent voices and fostering community. Whether it's a filmmaker premiering their very first short film or a local creator screening alongside international work, the festival creates opportunities that have a lasting impact on Newfoundland & Labrador's film and television industry.

At PictureNL, we know that a strong screen industry depends on supporting emerging talent, and the Nickel continues to play an important role in helping grow Newfoundland and Labrador's creative industries. The festival not only showcases exciting new work, but also inspires collaboration, mentorship, and conversation helping to strengthen our industry for the future.

I want to congratulate the entire Nickel team for their continued passion and dedication. Creating a space where filmmakers feel welcomed, supported, and celebrated is no small accomplishment, and the impact this festival has had over the past 26 years is something everyone involved should be incredibly proud of. I hope this year's festival is filled with inspiration, discovery, meaningful connections, and plenty of celebration.

Enjoy the festival!

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



**LAURA  
CHURCHILL**  
CEO & FILM  
COMMISSIONER, PICTURENL



**Festivals such as** the Nickel Independent Film Festival hold a vital place in the global film ecosystem. As spaces for discovery and dialogue, they put films at the heart of the conversation and spark collective reflection, contributing to the vitality and reach of cinema from here and around the world. Canadian and Indigenous films stand out for their ability to connect with diverse audiences through stories that invite reflection, recognition, and emotional engagement.



**JULIE ROY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
CEO, TELEFILM CANADA

They reflect the richness of Canadian identity. Beyond serving as an important showcase for films, festivals are essential gathering places for the industry. They are where works find their first audiences, professional relationships are strengthened, and new projects take shape.

At Telefilm Canada, supporting creators throughout their journey and fostering meaningful connections between their works and audiences is central to our mission. That is why we are proud to partner with the Nickel, which plays a key role in the vitality of our sector.

Congratulations to the team, and we wish everyone a wonderful festival!

**Julie Roy**  
Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada

**It is my** pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending this year's Nickel Independent Film Festival at the LSPU Hall.



**DANNY BREEN**  
MAYOR OF ST. JOHN'S

This festival is a valued part of St. John's vibrant arts and culture scene, bringing together filmmakers and audiences to celebrate creativity, storytelling, and diverse perspectives. The Nickel continues to provide an important platform for independent artists, while enriching our community through engaging and thought-provoking programming.

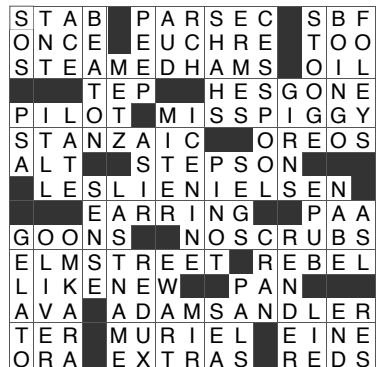
Our city is proud to support initiatives that strengthen the cultural sector and create opportunities for artistic expression. The ongoing success of the festival is a testament to the hard work and dedication of its organizers, volunteers, and partners.

I encourage everyone to take in the screenings and events, and to enjoy the unique energy that the festival brings to our downtown.

On behalf of City Council, best wishes for a successful and inspiring week.

Sincerely,

**Mayor Danny Breen, St. John's**





# PICTURENL

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
NICKEL INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL  
ON ITS **26TH** FESTIVAL.

INFO@PICTURENL.CA  
**WWW.PICTURENL.CA**

**MON 7PM**



# HANGASHORE

FEATURE FILM • Q&A WITH DIRECTOR JUSTIN OAKEY TO FOLLOW

**DIRECTOR: JUSTIN OAKEY • NL • 87 MINUTES**

Haunted by visions of her missing father, an Icelandic artist (Hera Hilmar) travels to a remote Newfoundland island, where she meets a mysterious fisherman (James Frecheville). Director Justin Oakey builds a moody, atmospheric thriller steeped in seafaring folklore and superstition, set against the stunning isolation of the province's coastline. "Hilmar and Frecheville are magnetic. A beautifully haunted experience," says Wonder Watchlist. Winner of Best Feature at Fog Fest and the DGC Ontario Award for Best Director at the Canadian Film Festival.

## HISTORY'S HEADLINES

**DIRECTOR: JEFF LEWIS • NL • 17 MINUTES**

Enigmatic storyteller Arthur Bank befriends a newspaper magnate and reinvents himself as a celebrated war hero, riding the press toward political fame — until the dead premier's daughter threatens to expose him. A sharp local drama about performance, power, and the art of self-invention.

# 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)  
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**TUE 7PM**



# **UIKSARINGITARA WRONG HUSBAND**

FROM ZACHARIAS KUNUK, DIRECTOR OF ATANARJUAT

**DIRECTOR: ZACHARIAS KUNUK • NU • 100 MINUTES**

Igloolik, Nunavut, 2000 BCE. Teenage lovers Kaujak (Theresia Kappianaq) and Sapa (Haiden Angutimarik) were promised to each other at birth. After the sudden death of Kaujak's father, her mother marries a man from another camp, tearing the two apart. The promise of a better life quickly turns to a nightmare, with aggressive suitors backed by an evil shaman vying to win Kaujak's hand. But Kaujak holds onto hope that Sapa will one day make things right. A visually stunning Arctic fairy tale by Zacharias Kunuk, legendary Canadian filmmaker and pioneer of Indigenous cinema. Winner of Best Canadian Film at TIFF 2025.

# Coast 101.1fm classic hits

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FILM FESTIVAL

A decorative graphic of a film strip, partially unspooled, in the bottom left corner. The background features a blue and orange wave-like pattern at the bottom.

# WED 7PM

INTERCAMBIO



## A LITTLE TENDERNESS

SEVEN SHORT FILMS WITH HEART

SCREENING PRESENTED BY COAST 101.1 FM

### BAD NEWS GO TO THERAPY

DIRECTOR: JANA GILLIS • NL  
• 6 MINUTES

After a bad night and a worse almost-romance, Ange (Cheney Emborg), spirals their way to a friend's apartment (MK Morris), where embarrassment and reassurance give way to an unexpected dance lesson. A relatable two-hander about an unstable friendship that steadies you.

### THE DRESS

DIRECTOR: LYNN PANTING • NL  
• 8 MINUTES

In this lyrical short, a dress becomes a vessel for memory, desire, and a romance that never quite arrives. Lynn Panting directs this story about the beauty of

near connections, ships passing in the night, and the joy that can live in the unfulfilled.

### KID ME NOT

DIRECTOR: NATHALIE JAVAVULT  
• CANADA • 6 MINUTES

Jenny can't stand kids. So when her pregnant boss sticks her with a children's art class, she knows it's not going to be fun. But in the middle of the chaos, mess, and noise, something starts wearing down her defenses. A sweet comedy about the people who crack through your armour when you least expect it.

### CANDLES

DIRECTOR: KWAME LESTRADE  
• UK • 13 MINUTES

At the restaurant she once ran with her

late husband, Benita prepares a candlelit table for one last conversation — hoping the past can let her move on. An intimate portrait of love, loss, and starting over.

### LAST LOVE LETTER

DIRECTOR: RHONDA BUCKLEY • NL  
• 6 MINUTES

When a love-letter contest comes to her small-town post office, lonely postal worker Lily Belle (Renée Hackett) can't resist reading the entries — and soon she's quietly meddling in other people's romances. Featuring a charming turn by Andy Jones as a fellow postal worker with a romantic streak, this comedy is as warm as it is funny.

### JAZZ INFERNAL

DIRECTOR: WILL NIAVA • CANADA • 16 MINUTES

Newly arrived in Montreal from Côte d'Ivoire, a young trumpeter tries to build a life and a sound beyond the shadow of his famous father. Jazz Infernal is a warm, character-driven drama about inheritance, identity, and finding your own voice in a new city.

### INTERCAMBIO THE EXCHANGE

DIRECTOR: AMAIA YOLDI • SPAIN • 14 MINUTES

Two strangers arrange to meet through a classifieds app — she wants to sell something, he wants to try it. When he runs into trouble, she debates whether he's worth saving or not.

# NICKEL 2026

JUNE 22  
**MON**



**7PM LSPU HALL  
HANGASHORE**

W/ SHORT FILM **HISTORY'S HEADLINES**

Haunted by visions of her missing father, an Icelandic artist (Hera Hilmar) travels to a remote Newfoundland island, where she meets a mysterious fisherman (James Frecheville).

FOLLOWED BY Q&A WITH DIRECTOR **JUSTIN OAKEY** AND RECEPTION WITH **DJ COREY CLOCKS**

JUNE 23  
**TUE**

ALL EVENTS BUT THE LABRADOR SCREENING TAKE PLACE AT LSPU HALL • 3 VICTORIA ST. ST. JOHN'S

VISIT [NICKELFESTIVAL.COM](http://NICKELFESTIVAL.COM) FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO

**5:30-6:30PM LSPU HALL  
IN CONVERSATION**

**JUSTIN OAKEY** WITH **CHRISTIAN SPARKES**



**7PM LSPU HALL  
UIKSARINGITARA  
(WRONG HUSBAND)**

A visually stunning Arctic fairy tale by Zacharias Kunuk, legendary Canadian filmmaker and pioneer of Indigenous cinema. Winner of Best Canadian Film at TIFF 2025.

JUNE 24  
**WED**

**5:30-6:30PM LSPU HALL  
IN CONVERSATION**

**MARY WALSH & S. GUZMAN** WITH **RUTH LAWRENCE**



**7PM LSPU HALL  
A LITTLE  
TENDERNESS**

PRESENTED BY **COAST 101.1**

**BAD NEWS GO TO THERAPY (NL)**  
**THE DRESS (NL)**  
**KID ME NOT (CANADA)**  
**CANDLES (UK)**  
**LAST LOVE LETTER (NL)**  
**JAZZ INFERNAL (CANADA)**  
**INTERCAMBIO (SPAIN)**

**JUNE 25**  
**THU**

**JUNE 26**  
**FRI**

**JUNE 27**  
**SAT**

**JUNE 28**  
**SUN**

**1-4PM LSPU HALL**  
**PAGE TO PERFORMANCE**  
FREE FILM LAB SESSION W/  
RUTH LAWRENCE

A hands-on workshop designed to bring screenwriters, directors, and actors of all experience levels together to experiment, and bring short script scenes to life.

**1PM-2PM LSPU HALL**  
**MAKING YOUR FIRST REAL MONEY SHORT**  
FREE WORKSHOP W/ M. PEERS & Y. MAJCHRZAK



**2:30PM LSPU HALL**  
**PEOPLE'S HISTORY**  
SIX DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT LIFE AT THE HUMAN SCALE

**IF THEY'RE NOT DEAD, THEY'RE STILL ALIVE (NL)**  
THE LINES SHE CARRIES (CANADA)  
NO MATTER THE WEATHER (CANADA)  
FREE FISH (PALESTINE)  
MOTEL GRAND-PRÉ (CANADA)  
LORRAINE (NL)

**5:30-6:30PM LSPU HALL**  
**IN CONVERSATION**  
DANA PUDDICOMBE & MIKE FARDY WITH MATT WRIGHT

**5:30-6:30PM LSPU HALL**  
**IN CONVERSATION**  
ALLISON WHITE & MELANIE OATES WITH JAMIE MILLER

**5:30-7PM LSPU HALL**  
**FILMMAKER SOCIAL**  
MEET FILMMAKERS FROM THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL



**7PM LSPU HALL**  
**LOVE, ALMOST**

**SAWDUST (NL)**  
MY PLASTIC MOTHER (INDONESIA)  
JULIAN AND THE WIND (ON)  
**SECOND PLACE (NL)**  
CASI SEPTIEMBRE (SPAIN)

**7PM LSPU HALL**  
**DIY SCI-FI SCREENING**

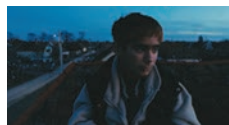
SEE ALL OF THE FILMS CREATED IN JUST TEN DAYS FOR **DIY SCI-FI FILM CHALLENGE 2026**

**7PM LSPU HALL**  
**HOPE AFTER ALL**  
SHORT FILMS ABOUT FINDING HUMAN CONNECTION IN SURPRISING PLACES • **PRESENTED BY CBC NL**

BALCONADA (BULGARIA)  
**SYDNEY (NL)**  
WE WERE THE SCENERY (CANADA/USA)  
**THE MUSE (NL)**  
SULAIMANI (FRANCE)  
PIQUE-NIQUE (CANADA)

**7PM LSPU HALL**  
**STRIKING OUT THE BOYS**  
W/ SHORT FILMS **ME AND THE SPACEMAN (NL)** & **LE TOUR DE CANADA**

Striking Out The Boys follows Newfoundlander, Jaida Lee, over a four-year period where she helps elevate female baseball in a male-dominated sport.



**10PM LSPU HALL**  
**THE DARKEST TIMELINE**

(FOR ONCE I DREAMED OF YOU) (NS)  
**BLACK HOLE (NL)**  
AND I WOULD BE BEAUTIFUL (FRANCE)  
VOLCELEST (FRANCE)  
**FLICKERS (NL)**  
COYOTES (FRANCE/JORDAN/PALESTINE/UK)  
THE SPECTACLE (FRANCE/HUNGARY)

**10PM LSPU HALL**  
**THINGS GET WEIRD**  
**PRESENTED BY CNA**

**RADIO HELL (NL)**  
**TECHNOPHOBIC (NL)**  
**FINGER GUNS (NL)**  
**AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DEVIL (NL)**  
LUZ DIABLA (ARGENTINA)  
**OLIVER (NL)**  
PIMPLE (PORTUGAL)

**9PM LSPU HALL**  
**RECEPTION & KARAOKE**  
WITH DJ COREY CLOCKS & JAMIE MILLER

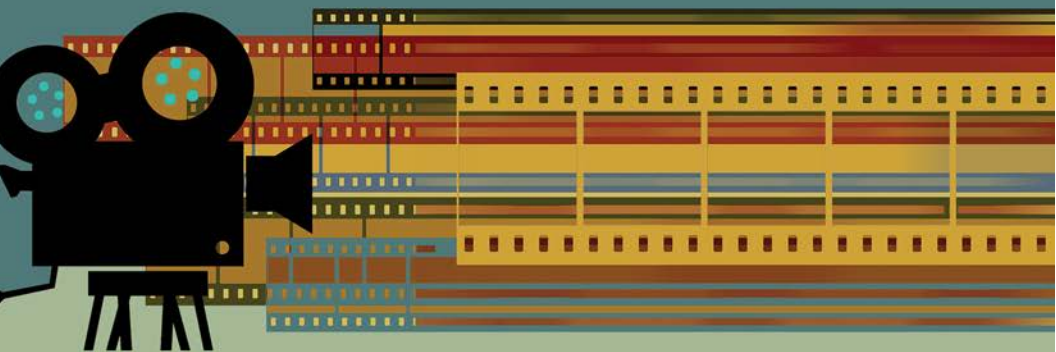
FOLLOWED BY Q&A WITH DIRECTOR **KELLY MEADUS** & CO-PRODUCER **KENNETH J. HARVEY**

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# LOVE, ALMOST

SHORT FILMS EXPLORING THE SPACE BETWEEN WHAT THE HEART WANTS AND WHAT THE HEART GETS

## SAWDUST

**DIRECTOR: ASHLEY NEARY • NL • 9 MINUTES**

After a wrong turn strands them in an empty industrial lot, two friends turn on each other before admitting what has been building between them. A locally-made coming-of-age drama that finds its emotional core in the pressure of miscommunication, fear, and unspoken care.

## MY PLASTIC MOTHER

**DIRECTOR: AMAR HAIKAL • INDONESIA • 19 MINUTES**

At a landfill threatened by rain and heavy machinery, a boy named Eki searches

the waste for something to connect him to his dead mother. A powerful Indonesian drama about grief, memory, and the determination of a child clinging to what remains. Grand Jury Prize winner at Flickerfest and qualified for the 2027 Oscars race.

## JULIAN AND THE WIND

**DIRECTOR: CONNOR JESSUP • CANADA • 15 MINUTES**

At a boys' boarding school, a night of sleepwalking and gale-force wind draws two roommates into a more intimate reckoning with fear, shame, and desire. Actor-turned-director

Connor Jessup crafts a delicate queer drama that finds romance in vulnerability.

## SECOND PLACE

**DIRECTOR: ANDREA DUNNE • NL • 15 MINUTES**

During a stormy game night, a lonely romantic (Percy Hynes White) mistakes closeness for possibility — until his friend's boyfriend arrives and breaks the mood open. A bittersweet local comedy about polyamory, self-deception, and the painful gap between wanting love and understanding it.

## CASI SEPTIEMBRE

ALMOST SEPTEMBER

**DIRECTOR: LUCÍA G. ROMERO • SPAIN • 30 MINUTES**

At a camping resort where summer routines repeat year-round, a young woman's crush on a tourist from Madrid forces her to confront her fear of abandonment. Selected for the 2025 Berlinale Shorts competition, this Spanish drama captures longing with warmth, patience, and a keen eye for the boredom and beauty of coastal life.



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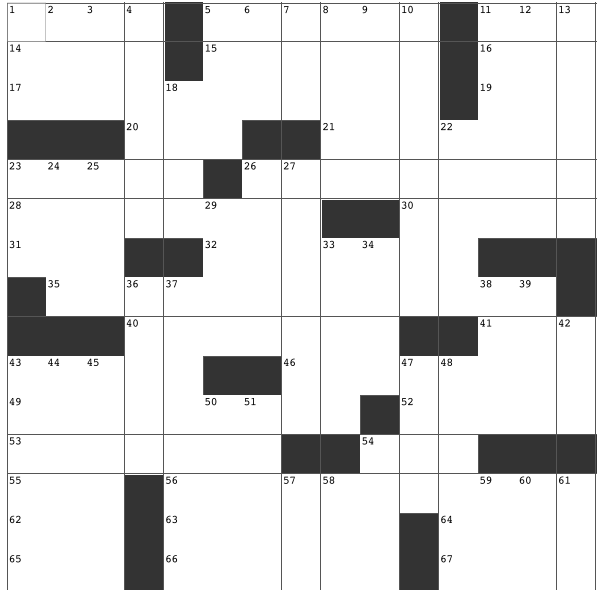
## ACROSS

- 1 Knife
- 5 3.26 light-years
- 11 Crypto 'poster boy'
- 14 Carney musical
- 15 Card game
- 16 Bad sequel indicator?
- 17 Skinner's burgers
- 19 CODCO chest ointment
- 20 Ondaatje movie, for short
- 21 Like a Grateful Dead locomotive?
- 23 Trial show
- 26 Muppet diva
- 28 Having a verse structure
- 30 Sans trans fat since 2006
- 31 PC key
- 32 Hamlet, to Claudius
- 35 Frank Drebin actor
- 40 Stud, e.g
- 41 Polyacryl Amide
- 43 Thugs
- 46 TLC rule?
- 49 Nightmarish thoroughfare
- 52 Hoth inhabitant
- 53 Barely used
- 54 Bad review
- 55 Director DuVernay
- 56 Happy Madison founder
- 62 Three: Prefix
- 63 ABBA-loving bride
- 64 Article in Der Spiegel

- 65 60 minuti
- 66 Crowd on a set
- 67 Some wines

## DOWN

- 1 "Help!"
- 2 Explosive stuff
- 3 Crackerjack
- 4 NS Pinecone & Pony producer
- 5 Tiny sound
- 6 CRA review: Abbr
- 7 Riohacha airport code
- 8 Persian kings
- 9 Messenger god's alt spelling
- 10 Underground waste pit
- 11 Curly or Moe
- 12 Oingo \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 Post-production sounds
- 18 Chrissy of "This Is Us"
- 22 Sneers
- 23 Pro bono ad
- 24 "\_\_\_ never work!"
- 25 Like the White Rabbit
- 26 Carpenter's joint
- 27 'Cat's Cradle' H2O variant
- 29 Southern Saudi Arabian province
- 33 'Sideways' beverage
- 34 Pts. of a line
- 36 Osment had a sixth one?
- 37 Gilligan and Spock



- 38 Book file extension
- 39 Vicinity, informally
- 42 Language in A Quiet Place
- 43 The Parlour ice cream
- 44 Thursday short film by Strickland
- 45 Bollywood Othello
- 47 Ocean Spray prefix
- 48 Deliver final video output
- 50 Reissued edition
- 51 Canadian golfer AJ
- 54 Buds
- 57 Former Russian space station
- 58 Where the buoys are
- 59 Tell it like it isn't
- 60 Conclusion
- 61 In medias \_\_\_

BY ELLING LIEN  
SOLUTION P.7



# THE DARKEST TIMELINE

STUNNING SHORTS, FROM THE SURREAL TO THE ALL TOO REAL

## (FOR ONCE I DREAMED OF YOU)

**DIRECTOR:** KATE SOLAR • CANADA • 6 MINUTES

As night settles over a field, this 16mm pastoral drifts through poetry, landscape, and the fragile space where an image seems to breathe, fade, and begin to disappear. Shot at Film Farm in Ontario and re-photographed with flashlight contact-printing, it's a meditative work that treats film itself as a living, decaying thing.

## BLACK HOLE

**DIRECTOR:** BRIANNA RUSSELL • NL • 12 MINUTES

In a town no one has ever left, a restless boy named Max discovers something that might finally offer a way out: a black hole that seems to

lead to the outside. A surreal, locally-made drama about the pull between safety and escape.

## AND I WOULD BE BEAUTIFUL

**DIRECTOR:** MATHILDE GEORGE • FRANCE • 10 MINUTES

Convinced an app can transform her body in 30 days, a young woman chases a market-ready version of beauty. This biting French animation takes aim at the cosmetic industry's grip on self-image with wit and a striking visual style.

## VOLCELEST

**DIRECTOR:** ERIC BRICHE • FRANCE • 15 MINUTES

Driven from the winter wilderness by hunger, a young ermine takes refuge at an isolated farm — but her arrival threatens the fragile existence of those

who live there. This beautiful and brutal animated fable tells a wordless story of survival, territory, and the uneasy coexistence between creatures fighting to survive.

## FLICKERS

**DIRECTOR:** ALEXA JANE JERRETT • NL • 6 MINUTES

A woman is swept up in her deteriorating mind — but even in her darkest hours, brief flashes of clarity reveal the person still fighting for the light. Featuring a powerful performance by Bernardine Stapleton, this Newfoundland short walks a thin line between horror and tenderness.

## COYOTES

**DIRECTOR:** SAID ZAGHA • FRANCE/JORDAN/PALESTINE/UK • 20 MINUTES

A Palestinian surgeon drives home after

a long night shift, unaware that a routine commute through a deserted West Bank road is about to pull her into a tightening web of coercion, surveillance, and danger. A tense, politically charged thriller with outstanding performances by Maria Zreik and Ali Suliman. Selected for the 2025 Berlinale Shorts competition.

## THE SPECTACLE

**DIRECTOR:** BÁLINT KENYERES • FRANCE/HUNGARY • 17 MINUTES

A young Roma boy is dressed, handled, and briefly pushed into public view, as the adults around him turn his visibility into something exploitative and fleeting. Screened in competition at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival.



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**FRI 10PM**

**PIMPLE**



# THINGS GET WEIRD

TWISTED TALES ABOUT DARKNESS LURKING UNDERNEATH

PRESENTED BY COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

## RADIO HELL

**DIRECTOR: BART K PIERSON • NL • 13 MINUTES**

In this gritty locally-made noir, Chad finds a vintage CB radio that picks up mysterious signals. Could it reveal a massive government conspiracy?

## TECHNOPHOBIC

**DIRECTOR: MICHAEL PEERS & YASMINE MAJCHRZAK • NL • 8 MINUTES**

A lavish dinner party turns quietly menacing when Jacob realizes his girlfriend's family has an old-fashioned — and deeply unsettling — way of settling arguments. An absurdist dark comedy that plays on our inability to escape the allure of modern technology, despite our fears about it.

## FINGER GUNS

**DIRECTOR: DAVID FEEHAN • NL • 10 MINUTES**

After a finger-gun gesture lands him in trouble at work, a privileged office employee pushes back against an HR spiral that keeps escalating. A comedic satire about workplace culture and entitlement — all taken to ridiculous extremes.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DEVIL

**DIRECTOR: PETER COLLINS • NL • 16 MINUTES**

A rights advocate descends into a shuttered prison to interview a forgotten inmate whose story slides uneasily from true-crime confession into demonic testimony. A suspenseful local horror with strong performances from Rob Monette and Una Hill-McMullin.

## LUZ DIABLA

**DIRECTOR: GERVASIO CANDA, PAULA BOFFO & PATRICIO PLAZA • ARGENTINA • 11 MINUTES**

On the way to a party in the Argentine Pampas, a young raver crashes his car and takes shelter in a roadside tavern, where folk legends and paranoia merge as the chemicals kick in. An animated folk-horror short that builds an unsettling atmosphere steeped in mythology.

## OLIVER

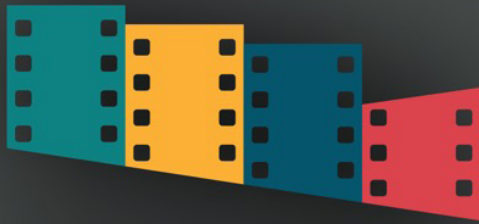
**DIRECTOR: ANDREW STRICKLAND • NL • 13 MINUTES**

After a vampire bite makes garlic intolerable, a chef at his grandmother's restaurant must scramble to reinvent his signature cooking before a make-or-break review. A local horror-comedy that serves up scares and laughs in equal measure.

## PIMPLE

**DIRECTOR: FERNANDO ALLE • PORTUGAL • 4 MINUTES**

A young boy's pimple bursts, leading to a bloody disaster. This Portuguese body-horror comedy packs a lot of mess into a very short runtime. arrangements, leading her to question what it means to create in a world increasingly shaped by machines.



# NIFCO

Newfoundland Independent  
Filmmakers Co-operative



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## PEOPLE'S HISTORY

SIX DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT LIFE AT THE HUMAN SCALE

### IF THEY'RE NOT DEAD, THEY'RE STILL ALIVE

**DIRECTOR: MAÏKA HEARSON • NL • 10 MINUTES**

On Newfoundland's Port au Port Peninsula, storyteller Mark Cormier keeps francophone history alive by telling the stories of his heritage. A documentary portrait of linguistic survival, resilience, and pride on the margins of Newfoundland culture.

### THE LINES SHE CARRIES

**DIRECTOR: CRYSTAL MARTIN • CANADA • 11 MINUTES**

As Inuk filmmaker Crystal Martin prepares to receive her traditional tuniit, she reflects on womanhood, cultural erasure, and the act of carrying Inuit stories on the skin. A deeply personal documentary about

reclaiming what residential schools tried to take away.

### NO MATTER THE WEATHER

**DIRECTOR: FLORENCE LAFOND • CANADA • 15 MINUTES**

When 83-year-old Renée breaks her ankle, her filmmaker granddaughter Florence steps in as caregiver. What begins as a practical arrangement becomes a tender and honest look at aging, dependence, and the short time a family has left.

### FREE FISH

**DIRECTOR: BISAN OWDA • PALESTINE • 23 MINUTES**

In Gaza, two brothers separated by siege and displacement keep returning to the sea, where fishing has become not just a livelihood but a way to endure. Filmed entirely in

Gaza during one of the deadliest years in recent history, *Free Fish* follows Mohammad and Ahmad Kaloob alongside Mohammad's teenage nephew Rami, who lost his twin brother and now fishes alone. A portrait of survival, grief, and quiet defiance from renowned Palestinian journalist, activist, and filmmaker Bisan Owda.

### MOTEL GRAND-PRÉ

**DIRECTOR: CALVIN LIU • CANADA • 15 MINUTES**

At a small motel in Gaspésie, Mr. Liu moves through repairs, cleaning, and routine while his visiting filmmaker son tries to understand him by staying close to the work. A quiet, often funny documentary about the delicate ways

a father and son learn to share time together. Winner of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers Award and Air Canada Best Short Film Award.

### LORRAINE

**DIRECTOR: ALLISON BASHA & DAVID GOSINE • NL • 15 MINUTES**

Lorraine Michael looks back on a life in politics, labour, and public protest while tracing the Lebanese-Newfoundland community that shaped her sense of justice. A locally-made documentary about the extraordinary career of one of Newfoundland and Labrador's most influential political figures.



# **We all have stories worth telling**

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# HOPE AFTER ALL

SHORTS ABOUT FINDING HUMAN CONNECTION IN SURPRISING PLACES

PRESENTED BY CBC NL

## BALCONADA

**DIRECTOR: IVA TOKMAKCHIEVA**  
• BULGARIA • 8 MINUTES

On a sweltering day, a row of neighbours drift through balcony life in a shared lull — until a sudden rainstorm briefly pulls them back into one another's orbit. A surreal and wordless animation about isolation, routine, and the small moments that reconnect us.

## SYDNEY

**DIRECTOR: GRANT EARL MACINTOSH** • NL • 17 MINUTES

Sydney is a drifting 32-year-old living with his overworked mother in a rental home marked for demolition. After a string of small humiliations, he stumbles upon a broken TV left on the curb and decides to sell it

online. A locally-made dramedy about dead-end hustles, unstable ground, and the struggle to find direction.

## WE WERE THE SCENERY

**DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER RADCLIFF** • CANADA/USA • 15 MINUTES

In 1975, after fleeing the Vietnam War by boat and arriving in the Philippines, Hoa Thi Le and Hue Nguyen Che were utilized as background extras in the filming of *Apocalypse Now*. This documentary revisits that strange, painful history through the voices of the people who lived it. Winner of the Short Film Jury Award at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival.

## THE MUSE

**DIRECTOR: WANDA NOLAN** • NL • 18 MINUTES

On a road trip across Newfoundland, photographer Ting Chen makes surreal portraits of 74-year-old Robert Tilley, demonstrating a unique cross-generational friendship. A touching documentary about aging, identity, and the power of creative connection.

## SULAIMANI

**DIRECTOR: VINNIE ANN BOSE** • FRANCE • 20 MINUTES

Over a meal at an Indian restaurant in Paris, two women from Kerala find a fragile sense of home in food, language, and each other's company. This animated short weaves together two different stories of migration and

nostalgia — one fleeing tradition, and one providing for a family left behind — with warmth, colour, and emotional depth.

## PIQUE-NIQUE

**DIRECTOR: JÉRÉMY GAGNON** • CANADA • 9 MINUTES

Two welders on their lunch break stop to watch something impossible appear in the sky overhead. Faced with the sublime, they do the only thing that makes sense — they lower their masks. A gorgeous experimental short about how wonder can disrupt routine.



# ARTSNL

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ARTS COUNCIL

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# SUN 2:30PM

## SCREENING AT THE ROOMS

THE LABRADOR CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL



# LABRADOR IN FOCUS

NEW FILMS FROM THE BIG LAND

CO-PRESENTED BY THEM DAYS MAGAZINE & ARCTIC MOSS STUDIOS

## ROCKS

**DIRECTOR: STUDENTS OF SHESHATSHIU INNU SCHOOL • NL • 6 MINUTES**

They wear matching black, drink pickle juice collected from a swamp next to a nuclear power plant, and gently kiss rocks goodnight. But are they a cult? They say no. This uninged short mockumentary was made by students from the Sheshatshiu Innu School through a Nickel x Labrador Creative Arts Festival workshop in late 2024 with filmmaking mentors Amanda Bulman, Rodrigo Iniguez, Mike Fardy and Elling Lien, made possible with support from ArtsNL.

## STAGEFRIGHT

**DIRECTOR: ADAM HILL • NL • 14 MINUTES**

A high-school drama club's Romeo and Juliet rehearsals keep stalling — missing

daggers, fraying tempers, a director losing her grip. Fourteen minutes of mounting dread from first-time Nunatsiavut Inuk director Adam Hill, shot in a single week with the Labrador Indie Film Troupe.

## TALENT SHOW

**DIRECTOR: STUDENTS OF MEALY MOUNTAIN COLLEGIATE • NL • 7 MINUTES**

Billy-Bob Lowes is confident a month of juggling practice and a third-place finish in a local talent show will finally make his family love him — but his dream seems at risk once contestants start turning up dead partway through the contest. A mockumentary from Mealy Mountain Collegiate students, made at a Nickel x Labrador Creative Arts Festival workshop in late 2024 with

filmmaking mentors Amanda Bulman, Rodrigo Iniguez, Mike Fardy and Elling Lien.

## PARTRIDGE CLEANING

**DIRECTOR: ARCTIC MOSS STUDIOS • NL • 5 MINUTES**

Innu knowledge holder Rosemarie Pokue passes down what her mother taught her: how to pluck a partridge, how to cut it, how to cook it six different ways. A short documentary filmed and edited by Labrador Innu youth with Arctic Moss Studios.

## LYDIA CAMPBELL

**DIRECTOR: THEM DAYS MAGAZINE • NL • 13 MINUTES**

"I am old Lydia Campbell, formerly Lydia Blake." A hundred and thirty years after she wrote those words by candlelight at Mulligan, her

descendants, including a cabinet minister who grew up hearing her name, gather to dedicate a new headstone at her resting place. A documentary from Them Days Magazine on what it takes to keep a memory above ground.

## THE LABRADOR CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

**DIRECTOR: AMANDA BULMAN & RODRIGO INIGUEZ • NL • 60 MINUTES**

A portrait of the Labrador Creative Arts Festival, where students from communities across the region come together to write, rehearse, and perform their own work. This sweet documentary captures the energy and creative spirit of the festival and of young people finding their voices through the arts.



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**TELEFILM**  
CANADA

SUN 7PM

STRIKING OUT THE BOYS

HOME



# STRIKING OUT THE BOYS

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY • Q&A WITH DIRECTOR TO FOLLOW

DIRECTOR: KELLY MEADUS • NL • 60 MINUTES

Striking Out The Boys follows Newfoundlander, Jaida Lee, over a four-year period where she helps elevate female baseball in a male-dominated sport. At 16 years old, Jaida's 2022 Canada Games accomplishment of playing on the all-male baseball team historically marked her as the first female to play baseball at the Canada Games. This triumph set in motion a wave of admiration, and encouraged more girls to play baseball. The documentary explores the shocking barriers and pushback faced by elite female athletes, the persistent gender divide in sports, and Jaida's astonishing, trail-blazing success in realizing her baseball dream to be one of the top female baseball players in the world. Feature-film directorial debut for local filmmaker Kelly Meadus.

## ME AND THE SPACEMAN

DIRECTOR: ERIC WILLIAM ELLIOTT • NL • 14 MINUTES

A grieving mother follows a mysterious spaceman on a search for a missing rocket ship — a journey that slowly becomes a way of facing the loss of her young son. This Newfoundland sci-fi drama blends family warmth with cosmic imagery to tell a story about letting go.

## LE TOUR DE CANADA

DIRECTOR: JOHN HOLLANDS • CANADA • 6 MINUTES

Two rival cyclists face off in a gruelling, surreal cross-Canada race in this hand-crafted animated short that plays like a mock-epic sporting broadcast. Bright colours, rapid-fire sight gags, and faux-heroic narration make this one pure fun.

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