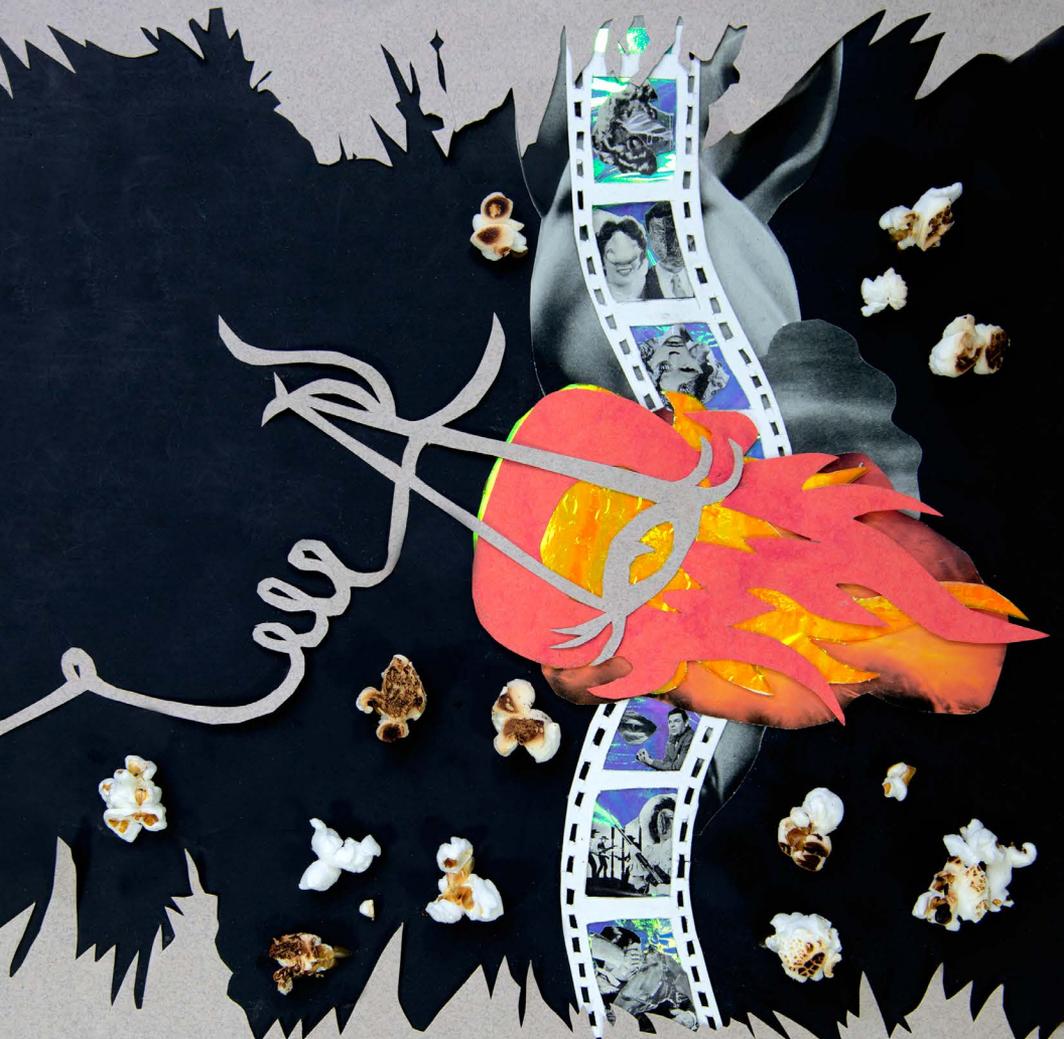


NOVEMBER **SANTA MONICA** 14-17 2019



FIRST ANNUAL

# FILM MAUDIT 2.0

HIGHWAYS PERFORMANCE SPACE & GALLERY

[WWW.FILMMAUDIT.ORG](http://WWW.FILMMAUDIT.ORG)

# film maudit 2.0



Pictured: Jean Cocteau

The term “film maudit” means “cursed films,” and this showcase of genre-driven cinema will blend narrative, documentary and experimental films that in style or subject matter are deliberately bold, extreme, confrontational or unusual.

Film Maudit 2.0 is inspired by the legendary artist Jean Cocteau’s 1949 festival, Festival Du Film Maudit, which celebrated a group of films that were sadly overlooked and neglected in his time.

The program includes 6 features and 60 short films from around the globe including work from Columbia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands and other countries. 50% of selected films are by female-identifying filmmakers. Each film in the program makes its Los Angeles premiere.

Works range in style from live-action narratives to mixed-media animations and encompass a diverse array of dark, funny and bizarre storylines that subvert expectations in their look at issues both micro and macro, from the tricks and elusiveness of memory, to the absurdity of international politics, to misogyny in rock culture to America’s gun culture.

Patrick Kennelly  
Creative/Artistic Director



Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway, 2019, Spain



Caterpillarplasty, 2018, Canada

# event schedule

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:30pm: SURREAL REALITY shorts program

10:30pm: FLESH CITY  
with the short film *L'Auxillaire*

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

6:45pm: HAPPY FACE  
with the short film *Masked*

9:30pm: MOPE  
with the short film *Umwelt*

Midnight: AVANT HORROR shorts program

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

12:15pm: DOLLHOUSE: The Eradication of Female Subjectivity  
from American Popular Culture  
with the short film *Maintain Yourself*

2:00pm: JESUS SHOWS YOU THE WAY TO THE HIGHWAY  
with the short film *Los Homenajadores*

4:00pm: ANIMATED MADNESS shorts program

7:00pm: EXPERIMENTAL shorts program

9:30pm: LAKE MICHIGAN MONSTER  
with the short film *The Video Store Commercial*

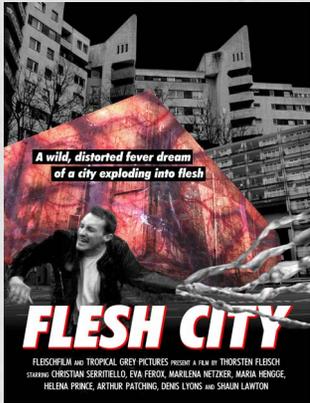
Midnight: Joel Jerome and Jimi Cabeza de Vaca performing  
LIVE SCORES to Eisenstein’s *Que Viva Mexico* &  
Edison’s *Frankenstein*

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:30pm: Special screening: SUSHI GIRL

10:30pm: AT THE MIDNIGHT HOUR shorts program

# features



## FLESH CITY

Thursday, 10:30pm

Writer/Director: Thorsten Fleisch  
 Lead Cast: Christian Serritiello, Eva Ferox, Shaun Lawton  
 Year: 2019  
 Run Time: 1hr 25min  
 Country: Germany (in English)



*Flesh City* is a hostile place but it has great clubs... where not only beats are pulsating. In one of these dance temples, located at an abandoned industrial site, Vyren hooks up with Loquette. They explore the underbelly of the venue and fall into the trap of Prof. Yagov, the resident mad scientist who preys on lost and drugged out fashion victims. As he introduces them to mutation and mayhem the whole city gets infected. Soon everybody in *Flesh City* will be connected... via flesh link.

*Flesh City* is a Trojan horse of a film. It starts as a genre movie but slowly derails into something quite different. You come to realize that you yourself are the real victim of the film's mysterious mad scientist character. After the visually intense finale one can only wonder as to what extent your brain has been altered and for what purpose. It's hard to shake off the feeling of having been brainwashed.

### Thorsten Fleisch (Director)

**Thorsten Fleisch**, born 1972 in Koblenz/Germany. First film experiments with his dad's super 8 camera when still in school. Studied experimental film with Peter Kubelka at the Städelschule in Frankfurt/Germany. His films received several awards and are shown at festivals worldwide like: New York Film Festival, Ars Electronica, Transmediale, Ottawa International Animation Festival, Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam. He lives and works in Berlin where he is also involved in theatre projects, creating video games and musical excesses with his band Malende. [www.fleischfilm.com](http://www.fleischfilm.com)



## l'auxillaire

2018 | director: **frédéric plasman** | france | 8:42

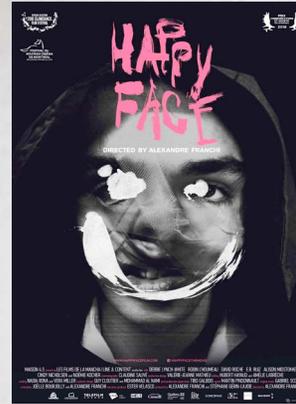


Alone in front of her reflection in a collapsing world, someone desperate, feeling unfairly discredited, is going to end it all. But who is she and why?

**Frederic Plasman** is a director and a motion designer born in Brussels in 1974. He graduated from INRACI, a Belgian film school. He works on projects including commercials, corporate videos, music videos, documentaries, film installations and short feature films. [facebook.com/vuelvofilms](https://www.facebook.com/vuelvofilms)

## HAPPY FACE

Friday, 6:45pm



Director: Alexandre Franchi  
 Lead Cast: Debbie Lynch-White, Robin L'Hommeau, David Roche, E.R. Ruiz, Alison Midstokke, Cindy Nichol森, Noémie Kocher  
 Year: 2018  
 Run Time: 1hr 37min  
 Country: Canada (in English)

Desperate to become less shallow, Stan, a handsome 19-year-old, deforms his face with bandages and attends a support group for people with facial differences after he learns his cancer-ridden mother will undergo invasive facial surgery. But when he's exposed as an impostor, Stan strikes a deal with Vanessa, the obese, domineering workshop leader to let him stay and build up his immunity to ugliness, and in exchange he'll train her disfigured patients on how to use their facial differences as a weapon against our beauty-obsessed culture.

*"There's real heart at its core, and its nakedly empathetic yet unbeatific treatment of its unconventional cast is something rarely seen in cinema."* – *Birth.Movies.Death*

### Alexandre Franchi (Director)

**Alexandre** left a successful banking career in Canada and the Persian Gulf to pursue his passion for film. His short film 'Troll Concerto' screened at TIFF in 2005 and sold internationally. Other award-winning shorts include 'Terminal Venus' (2003) and 'Fata Morgana' (2002). Franchi's first feature *The Wild Hunt* (2009), which he co-wrote, produced and directed, won Best Canadian First Feature at TIFF 2009 and the Slamdance 2010 Audience Award. Franchi's films often feature characters who escape an unbearable reality and take refuge in their imaginary worlds. *Happy Face* is his second feature and the first part of Alexandre's Cancer Trilogy.



## masked

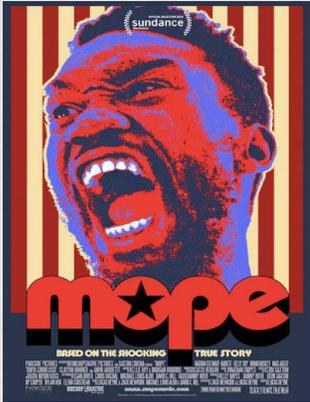
2019 | director: **christoph younes** | usa | 13:02



After being embarrassed after a night out, a confused girl decides to take drastic actions so she doesn't fall victim to her ego and thoughts of fitting in ever again. Will she find herself in time?

**Christoph Younes** describes stop-motion animation as a 'drug, a visceral experience, a performance. it holds an organic, raw innocence to it, but at the same time it can be very surreal and disturbing', 'you can sense the animator/director, you feel his personality, the essence of the artist radiates of the characters, and the audience in turn relates to this. For more info on Christoph, visit [www.christophyounes.com](http://www.christophyounes.com)

# features



## MOPE

Friday, 9:30pm

Director: Lucas Heyne  
 Lead Cast: Nathan Steward-Jarett, Kelly Sry, Brian Huskey, Max Adler, Tonya Cornelisse, Clayton Rohner, Peggy Dunne, David Arquette  
 Year: 2019  
 Run Time: 1hr 45min  
 Country: USA

In the multibillion-dollar world of pornography, the term *mope* refers to a low-level, wannabe porn actor who perhaps isn't quite well endowed or otherwise attractive enough to achieve the success granted to "bigger"-name porn stars. Within the seedy underbelly of the industry, mopes are the lowest of the low, hanging around sets and taking on menial jobs with aspirations of being called upon to participate in a colossal gang-bang scene that could (but most likely won't) lead to their big break.

Stephen Clancy Hill and Herbert Wong, respectively known by their porn alter egos Steve Driver and Tom Dong, were two such mopes—real-life best friends attempting to live the impossible porno dream, but the blurred line between reality and delusion ultimately sent them both tumbling down a path of destruction.

### Lucas Heyne (Director)

First-time feature director **Lucas Heyne** crawls right under the skin of this grimy landscape, crafting a melancholy portrait of two misguided souls seeking love and acceptance, same as the rest of us. This is a true fucking story—you can't make this shit up.

Lucas Heyne is from Humboldt County, California, and attended the USC School of Cinematic Arts. He began directing videos for Switchfoot, Fu Manchu, Lil' Romeo, and Spose. He went on to direct commercials for Burger King and Fox Sports, just to name a few. Heyne has written scripts for Dimension Films and the Walt Becker Company. He is currently working on a biopic of shock rocker Gigi Allin.



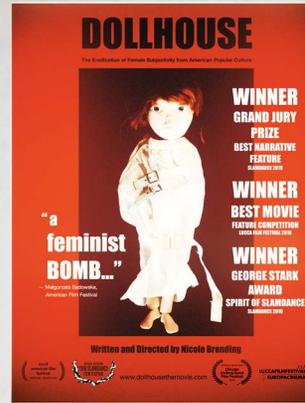
## umwelt

2019 | director: bethany orr | usa | 7:25



UMWELT ("oom-velt") paints the world as it is experienced by a particular organism: the modern white human incel.

**Bethany Orr** is a lover of all things absurd and disturbed. She has studied with Werner Herzog in his Rogue Film School, starred in the SXSW feature *Excess Flesh*, incubated in the Transatlantic Talent Lab in Iceland, and given birth in her living room.



## DOLLHOUSE: The Eradication of Female Subjectivity from American Popular Culture

Saturday, 12:15pm

Writer/Director: Nicole Brending  
 Year: 2019  
 Run Time: 1hr 15min  
 Country: USA



A puppet animation told a la VH1's Behind the Music, *Dollhouse* charts the rise and fall of fictional child star Junie Spoon's career as her life is splashed all over the media and recounted by those who claim to know her until she is inevitably eliminated from her own story. *Dollhouse* will have you in painful laughter as the film blatantly ignores political correctness in a bold, no-holds-barred look at the insidious mechanisms governing misogyny in America.

*"Dollhouse puts a very unforgiving funhouse mirror on our society and its commodification of women's bodies. It pulls no punches in its lampooning of American culture... I hope that this film gets a big audience on the festival circuit this year."* – *Film Threat*

### Nicole Brending (Director)

Internationally award-winning writer/director **Nicole Brending's** debut feature, *Dollhouse: The Eradication of Female Subjectivity from American Popular Culture* won the Narrative Feature Grand Jury Prize and the George Stark Spirit of Slamdance Award at the 25th Slamdance Film Festival and Best Movie of the Feature Competition at the 2019 Lucca Film Festival with Rutger Hauer presiding over the jury. Previously, her short film, "Selfied," won the coveted Silver Saint George for Best Film in the Short Film Competition at the 38th Moscow International Film Festival in 2016 with screenings in France, Italy, Cyprus, New York, and Australia.



## maintain yourself

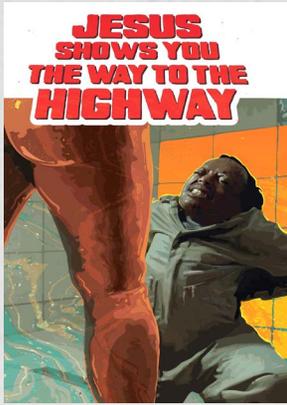
2018 | director: ellie lacourt | usa | 3:51



The animator performs her grooming routine on a puppet of herself.

**Ellie LaCourt** is a Philadelphia-based artist, animator, and filmmaker. She recently received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art from Northeastern University & The School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts. Her work lives at the intersection of animation and documentary, exploring issues of identity with a personal lens. Her short films have screened at film festivals in the U.S. and abroad.

# features



## JESUS SHOWS YOU THE WAY TO THE HIGHWAY

Saturday, 2:00pm

Writer/Director: Miguel Llansó  
 Lead Cast: Daniel Tadesse Gagano, Agustín Mateo, Guillermo Llansó, Gerda-Anette Allikas, Lauri Lagle, Iveta Pole, Solomon Tashe, Carlo Pironti, Rene Köster  
 Year: 2019  
 Run Time: 1hr 22min  
 Countries: Spain, Estonia, Latvia, Ethiopia, Romania and United Kingdom (in English)

CIA Agents Palmer and Gagano are tasked with the mission of destroying a dangerous computer virus called “Soviet Union”. They enter the system using VR but the mission turns into a trap; the virus is far more complex than they ever expected and linked to the darkest spheres of power.

*“A witch’s brew of cheap 1960s European 007 knockoffs, ’70s Filipino exploitation cinema, vintage kung fu pics, retro TV sci-fi cheese and lucha libre-type masked machismo, as well as myriad other elements, filtered through a narrative framework of Cold War anxiety and afro-futurist techno-fantasy.”*

– Dennis Harvey, *Variety*

### Miguel Llansó (Director)

A big fan of experimental-punk-weird music and films, **Miguel Llansó** studied philosophy and cinema before leaving on his many adventures, like Jean Rouch or Werner Herzog. For him, filmmaking is friendship, risk, provocation, subversion and freedom.

Miguel has mainly filmed in Ethiopia, his second home. “Where is my dog?” and “Chigger Ale” - both made in collaboration with his friends Yohannes Feleke and Israel Seoane, premiered at International Film Festival Rotterdam and Locarno and screened at BAFICI, Tampere, Hamburg and more than 50 international film festivals. His feature film debut, the post-apocalyptic afro-futurist adventure, *Crumbs* (2015), set in Ethiopia, premiered at Rotterdam International Film Festival and screened at Fantasia, Los Angeles Film Festival and more than 100 film festivals worldwide. The sci-fi political satire, *Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway*, shot between Ethiopia, Estonia, Latvia and Spain – is Miguel’s second feature film, premiering at Fantasia and NIFFF.



## los homenajeadores

2018 | director: rodrigo orozco | spain | 15:33



In this game of references to fantasy films, a puppet master mixes up the imaginary world with his own reality.

**Rodrigo Orozco** was born in Morelia, Mexico. and has participated in numerous exhibitions of the visual arts and has collaborated in audio-visual works, being selected 3 times by the Morelia Film Festival. He received the acquisition prize in the Caminos de la Libertad contest with the painting “The Game” and was awarded the Youth Merit Award in the Arts category by the State of Michoacán. He belongs to Casa Diana Gallery in San Miguel de Allende and to Hyaena Gallery in Los Angeles.



## LAKE MICHIGAN MONSTER

Saturday, 9:30pm

Writer/Director: Ryland Tews  
 Producer/Editor/VFX: Mike Cheslik  
 Story By: Ryland Tews & Mike Cheslik  
 Lead Cast: Ryland Tews, Erick West, Beulah Peters, Daniel Long, Wayne Tews  
 Year: 2018  
 Run Time: 1hr 18min  
 Country: USA

The eccentric Captain Seafield hires a crew of specialists to help him plot revenge against the creature that killed his father. After several failed attempts, Seafield is forced to take matters into his own drunken hands. What began as a simple case of man versus beast soon plunges down a rabbit hole of mysterious unknowns and Lovecraftian hijinks. *Lake Michigan Monster* – banned in four lakes! *Winner of the Best International Film Award at the 2019 Fantasia Film Festival.*

*“Inspired, psychedelic, dreamlike...if Spongebob Squarepants creator Stephen Hillenburg took all the drugs and decided to create a Halloween episode” – Film Threat*

### Ryland Tews (Writer/Director/Captain Seafield)

Milwaukee native and graduate of UW-Milwaukee’s Peck School of the Arts, **Ryland**’s first feature is the self-funded microbudget *Lake Michigan Monster*.

### Mike Cheslik (Producer/Editor/VFX)

Editor at Fox Sports, lead animator on Baz Luhrman’s *The Get Down*, and former promo editor at Nickelodeon, **Mike** has been making shorts with Ryland since high school.



## the video store commercial

2018 | directors: cody kennedy & tim rutherford | canada | 4:15



A desperate video store owner hires a crew to shoot a commercial in his shop. But when they accidentally destroy a cursed VHS, all their lives are suddenly in danger. Even worse, their commercial may never get finished...

A steady diet of ’80s & ’90s b-movies and a healthy dose of Cronenberg & asian cinema served as the kindling that lit the fire of **Cody Kennedy** & **Tim Rutherford**. They co-directed the AMPIA winning web series *Straight to Video: The B-Movie Odyssey* (2015). During the day, Cody works as a cinematic artist for video game company BioWare. Tim has worked as a production designer for indie films, including *Extremity & Harpoon* and in the art department of the show *Fargo*.

## Live Film Scoring: Que Viva Mexico & Frankenstein

Saturday, Midnight



Pictured: Joel Jerome and Jimi Cabeza de Vaca

**Joel Jerome** and **Jimi Cabeza de Vaca** will be performing live scores to Sergei Eisenstein's unfinished masterpiece *¡Que viva México!*, as well as the first ever filmed adaptation of *Frankenstein*, from 1910 by the Edison Manufacturing Company.

Having revolutionized film editing, Soviet director Sergei Eisenstein emigrated west in hopes of testing the capabilities of the American film industry. Quickly ostracized from Hollywood, Eisenstein (at the urging of author Upton Sinclair) wandered south of the border where they began filming a highly stylized documentary on the people and volatile social climate of Mexico. The film was unfinished until 1979, when it was assembled using Eisenstein's extensive notes and sketches as reference.

With sequences devoted to the Eden-like land of Tehuantepec, the savage majesty of the bullfight, the struggles of the noble peasant and the hypnotic imagery of the Day of the Dead, *Qué Viva México!* is a vivid tapestry of Mexican life, blend of the ethnographic, the political, the scenic and the surreal.



Frankenstein (1910)

Shot in three days, the 1910 *Frankenstein*, the first motion picture adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic, was filmed at the Edison Studios in the Bronx, New York City. Some sources credit Thomas Edison as the producer. For many years, this film was believed to be a lost film. In 1963, a plot description and stills were discovered published in the March 15, 1910 issue of an old Edison film catalog, *The Edison Kinetogram*. In the early 1950s, a print of this film was purchased by a Wisconsin film collector, who did not realize its rarity until many years later. Its existence was first revealed in the mid-1970s, and although somewhat deteriorated, the film was in viewable condition, complete with titles and tints as seen in 1910.

## Special Screening

### SUSHI GIRL

Sunday, 7:30pm

Writer/Director: Kern Saxton

Lead Cast: Tony Todd, Mark Hamill, James Duval, Cortney Palm, Andy Mackenzie, Danny Trejo, Jeff Fahey, Michael Biehn, Sonny Chiba

Year: 2012

Run Time: 1hr 38min

Country: USA



After serving a six-year prison sentence on an armed robbery charge, professional criminal Fish (Noah Hathaway) is out on the streets. To his surprise, he gets picked up at the prison gates by a henchman of his old boss Duke (Tony Todd) and is driven immediately to a spectacular underworld rendezvous, ostensibly to celebrate his freedom. Duke has a very special evening planned, one that will be both reunion and interrogation. He and his crew of baddies assemble around a long table to dine on delicacies being served off the body of a naked young woman who has undergone training to be able to lie perfectly still regardless of whatever may be happening around her. Needless to say, that skill is about to be put to the test in utterly lunatic ways as conversations intensify and violent situations erupt all around her. Tonight, questions will be answered. And everyone will bleed.

#### Kern Saxton (Director)

**Kern Saxton** received his BFA in Filmmaking with an emphasis on Directing from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where his junior year effort, *Roadside Convenience*, was selected for competition in the 2004 Tribeca Film Festival, won a Bronze Remi at Worldfest Houston, and screened on UNC-TV as part of the North Carolina Visions program. His short film 'Deader Living Through Chemistry' was personally chosen by master of horror George Romero for inclusion on the DVD and Blu-ray release of *Diary of the Dead*, which was distributed by Dimension Films.



For his feature debut, Kern directed, edited, co-wrote and produced the Tarantino-esque thriller *Sushi Girl*, which was distributed domestically by Magnolia Pictures, and released in theaters and on home video in countries around the world. Recently, his screenplay Stanley Kubrick's *Moonshot Odyssey* was selected as a Top 50 finalist in the Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting and subsequently optioned by *Young Frankenstein* producer Michael Gruskoff. His latest feature-length project as a producer and editor, *Mope*, had its world premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

wakey wakey

2019 | director: mary dauterman | usa | 3:30



Alex had a shitty night.

**Mary Dauterman's** short films have been selected for multiple Vimeo Staff Picks, screened at Fantastic Fest, Maryland Film Festival, and Fantasia, and featured on NoBudge, Vulture and Booooooom. She has written and directed projects for Adult Swim, published two kids books that aren't for kids, written satire for the Hairpin (RIP), and made some decent advertisements. She has been recognized as an ADC Young Gun for her body of work. [www.marydauterman.tv](http://www.marydauterman.tv)

norman

2019 | director: gigi romero | spain | 3:20



Norman has died and meditates about those who are still alive and about the one who betrayed him.

**Gigi Romero** is a Venezuelan director based in Madrid for over two decades. She is a music video director, videographer & video editor, but above all, a horror film lover. Her short films 'Together' (2009) and 'The Party is Over' (2011) have screened in numerous genre film festivals (including Screampfest in LA, and for 'Norman', Sitges Film Festival). [@gigiromero](http://www.vimeo.com/gigiromero)

obliteration of the chickens

2019 | director: izzy lee | usa | 3:19



The universe does not care. The abyss is stupid.

Named by the A.V. Club as one of ten female directors Blumhouse should hire, **Izzy Lee** is a writer and twice-Rondo Award-nominated filmmaker. She has written for Birth.Movies.Death., Rue Morgue, Fangoria, and Diabolique, and is an editor for ScreenAnarchy. [@nihilnoctemfilm](http://www.nihilnoctem.com)

montana, ga

2019 | director: ryan dickie | usa | 9:35



Lyn inherits his late grandfather's mountain home and invites his best buds, Brad and David, for a weekend getaway. What begins as ideal isolation for the middle-aged stoner trio becomes a confrontation with the supernatural that leaves them no assurances besides their eternal friendship.

**Ryan Dickie** is a filmmaker who works in live action, animation, interactive and VR. His accolades include Vimeo Best of the Year Award and 6 Staff Picks, 4 SXSW Grand Jury Nominations, a Webby Awards Nomination, and Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film. [@RyanDickie\\_](http://www.RyanDickie.com)

it's not custard

2018 | director: kate mc coid | uk | 6:24



Louise, a teenager suffering unrelenting acne and continual bullying, is granted a delicious revenge

**Kate McCoid** is a British Writer-Director who has established herself in Post-Production in the last six years, working on Feature Films such as *Detective Pikachu* & *The French Dispatch*. 'It's Not Custard' is Kate's debut short. She also holds a BA (Hons) in Film from the University of Suffolk.

king of the hill part II

2019 | director: jake wolfert | usa | 8:29



A man discovers he can get high from huffing propane.

**Jake Wolfert** is a LA Based Cinematographer currently attending Loyola Marymount University.

platypus

2018 | director: foster wilson | usa | 8:46



Armed with an electric mixer, a Mysterious Woman gives Naked Man the battering of his life, but the sexy interrogation brings up feelings that are hard to swallow. Can she have her cake and eat it too? Or will love turn her batter bitter?

**Foster Wilson** co-founded Detroit Street Films in 2015, an independent film production company intent on building a robust community of filmmakers to collaborate on micro-budget films. The company has produced over a dozen shorts. [www.fosterwilson.com](http://www.fosterwilson.com)

the perfect man

2019 | director: nic collins | usa | 8:50



Set in the very near future, a virtual reality addicted girl must follow a government mandate to remove her VR headset for 3 hours. When her dismal reality sets in, she goes online and orders Perfect Man: a robotic humanoid love companion.

**Nic Collins** is an award-winning writer/director/editor/producer with roots in Guerrilla Filmmaking and directing videos within the Chicago hip hop and punk music scene. He loves 80's comic books, 90's hip hop, action figures, pro wrestling and salmon rolls. [www.niccollins.com](http://www.niccollins.com)

two bodies on a beach

2019 | director: anna paavilainen | finland | 20:00



A woman wakes up on a beach wrapped in plastic, half-naked and in high heels. "Not again", she sighs and decides to find out who is behind this. She persuades an older woman who has been pushed to the margins of society to accompany her on her revenge trip. During their journey through classical cinematic landscapes, the two women have to face their own lusts, conflicts between generations, and their fragile ideologies.

**Anna Paavilainen** is a Finnish director, writer and actor. Her breakthrough performance was in Zaida Bergroth's *The Good Son* (2011), for which she was nominated for The Jussi Prize ("The

Finnish Oscar"). After several prestigious theatre, film and TV roles, Paavilainen moved to Sweden to study at Stockholms Filmakademi. Her monologue play *Play Rape*, about the problematics and normalization of rape scenes in the theatre of 21st century Finland, was received with generous reviews and extensive attention in the media. The play has been translated into several languages.



Two Bodies on a Beach, 2019, Finland



Montana, Ga, 2019, USA

id of the perverse

2018 | director: chloe renee hayes | usa | 4:00



The intrusive gorey thoughts of a young woman manifests in a sinister form.

**Chloe Renee Hayes** is a freelance animator and digital artist, now completing a Masters at Rochester Institute of Technology's School of Film and Animation. She practices digital styles such as digital painting/drawing, motion graphics, and animation (including 2D, 3D, and animation for video games), as well as painting and drawing with traditional media. She enjoys character/performance based art and always seeks to challenge and improve her skills. [www.ChloeReneeHayes.com](http://www.ChloeReneeHayes.com)

valerio's day out

2019 | director: michael arcos | colombia (jaguar) | 8:30



A young jaguar (Valerio) goes on a killing spree when he escapes from his enclosure at a zoo. After he's caught, sedated, and relocated, he makes a video diary for his significant other. Their name is Lula.

**Michael Arcos** is a Miami-raised, Ecuadorian-American filmmaker currently based in New Orleans, where he creates new work through film, sound design, and animation. 'Valerio's Day Out' won the jury prize for best short film at both Fantastic Fest & Overlook Film Festival. [www.michaelarcos.com](http://www.michaelarcos.com)

sin ultra

2019 | director: amanda kramer | usa | 8:25



The deadpan employees of an industrial environment that perpetually manufactures dead women are momentarily perturbed when a corpse suddenly springs into a dance. Sublime surrealism courtesy of *Ladyworld's* Amanda Kramer.

**Amanda Kramer's** short films have played at Fantastic Fest, Monster Fest, Final Frame, Court Metrange Festival, Chicago Underground Film Festival and the Boston Underground Film Festival. Her music videos have premiered on Vogue, LA Record, Flaunt Magazine, and Complex. Her new feature film *Ladyworld* premiered at London BFI Film Festival, is distributed by Cleopatra Entertainment & is available for streaming. [www.afilmbyamandakramer.com](http://www.afilmbyamandakramer.com)

the film machine

2019 | directors: miriam & sonia albert-sobrino | usa | 6:00



A female professor tries to escape the vicious circle of the horror genre. An assault to the horror genre and the conceited traditional narrative.

Twin sisters **Sonia and Miriam Albert-Sobrino** are far from being the traditional filmmakers. With years of Nursing practice under their belts, and two current appointments as Film Professors at the University of Utah, the Also Sisters bring to the art of moviemaking their distinct and innovative eye...Or should we say eyes? [www.alsosisters.com](http://www.alsosisters.com) / @alsosisters

## midnight

2019 | director: katie bonham | uk | 7:45



When strange manifestations begin to haunt Eddie, he is forced to uncover the dark and disturbing history of his home in this unsettling tale of regret and abandonment.

**Katie Bonham** is an award-winning writer & director known for her love of social realism & the horror genre, which she combines to create original and thought-provoking films. Bonham's second film, *'The Porcelain Ground'* (2014), made it through to the semi-finals for the Shortcuts to Hell Vol.2 competition, which is available on iTunes. *'Midnight'* had its World Premiere at FrightFest, where her previous films have also played. [www.katiebonham.com](http://www.katiebonham.com)

## juliette

2016 | director: lora d'addazio | belgium (in french) | 6:00



Juliette is a shy girl terrified to catch a ride with two horny bitches that aren't paying any attention to the road...

From a plastic art background, **Lora D'Addazio** started making animation shorts at the school of La Cambre in Brussels. After graduation in 2016, and while being freelance animator to survive, she created I Do What I Want Prod with her friends, a no budget production house that makes mature audience animated shorts for the sake of art. [www.vimeo.com/loradaddazio](http://www.vimeo.com/loradaddazio)

## asian girls

2017 | director: hyun lee | australia | 6:00



Chan is a Chinese factory worker who lives alone. Every night, she suffers from horrific nightmares involving the woman in the apartment next door, a Japanese office lady.

**Hyun Lee** is a writer /director/photographer based in Sydney. Her essays and photographic work have appeared in art and fashion publications such as Ruins Magazine (London), the FdeC Reader (Tokyo) and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art's 4A Papers (Sydney). *ASIAN GIRLS* was a recipient of the Screen NSW: Emerging Filmmakers' Fund, and premiered at SXSW in 2018.

## muil (maw)

2018 | director: jasper vrancken | belgium | 19:54



Richard has an unusual fantasy: he gets sexually aroused by the idea of being devoured by an animal. In a contact ad, he gets to know Max and with that encounter the chance of making his fantasy real. But does he dare?

**Jasper Vrancken** is an Antwerp, Belgium-based filmmaker, lecturer and researcher, specializing in the horror genre. He teaches film and video production at the Luca School of Arts, and is currently pursuing a PhD in the Arts about horror film production. [www.jaspervrancken.com](http://www.jaspervrancken.com)

## ira

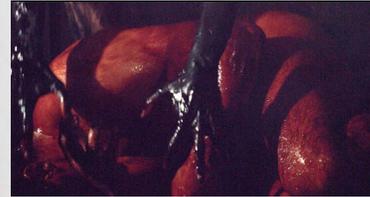
2018 | director: nikki bohms | usa/croatia/argentina (in english) | 10:00



After discovering two dead bodies in a motel room, a panicked Man strikes a deal with the Devil to find out the truth. Through a horrifying ritual, the Man learns this truth and ends up paying more than he bargained for.

**Nikki Bohm** is a Filmmaker born in Zagreb, Croatia and currently based in Los Angeles. Her passion for filmmaking came with her debut script "Nothing Happened", a short experimental film about domestic abuse, which premiered at the Muestra Audio Visual Cine Sinu in Monteria, Colombia.

She wrote and directed several short experimental films including "Masho's Descent", "Grief" and "Ira" an Official Selection in the Noves Visions Petit Format at the 51st Sitges Festival Internacional De Cinema Fantastic De Catalunya, 2018. Nikki also served as a Judge on the Jury of the prestigious Montgomery International Film Festival, 2019 and as an Official Jury Member for the prestigious 12th Los Angeles Brazilian Film Festival.



*"A cine camera is the most indiscreet eye in the world, so the film-maker's art is a keyhole art. We have to surprise life through a keyhole."*

## pride (from 7 sins)

2019 | director: michael epstein | usa | 10:00



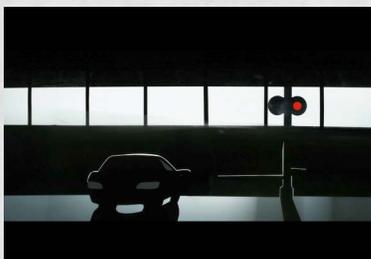
Inspired by a fundamentalist radio broadcast about how God demands you forgive your neighbor for raping your children, *Pride* avenges religion's use of repression and shame to protect perpetrators of sexual violence.

**Michael J. Epstein** is a Los Angeles filmmaker known primarily for horror and sci-fi feature films layered with modern sociopolitical commentary, including the social-satire-horror *Clickbait*, 70s-Euro-vampire *Blood of the Tribades*, psychotronic-sci-fi *Magnetic*, and the avant-mystery *TEN*. He often co-writes, co-directs, and co-produces with his wife, Sophia Cacciola, with their production company Launch Over. [www.michaeljepstein.com](http://www.michaeljepstein.com) / @MichaelJEpstein



night train

2018 | director: deirdre beck | usa | 2:35



Two people go out in their car at night and are faced with an experience personal to themselves.

**Deirdre Beck** is an artist and filmmaker with a BFA in Animation from the Savannah College of Art and Design. <http://dbeck.art/>



the motorcyclist

2019 | director: ben bruhmuller | canada | 10:40



A nearly lost motorcyclist rides between worlds in this stop-motion, animated, mixed-media film.

**Ben Bruhmuller** is a filmmaker who specializes in animated / mixed-media films of the surreal variety. Originally from Sudbury, Ontario, he now lives in Owen Sound. [www.telegraphsaddle.com](http://www.telegraphsaddle.com)



deep love (kohannia)

2019 | director: mykyta lyskov | ukraine | 13:57



Deep love has finally happened in Ukraine.

**Mykyta Lyskov** was born in 1983, Dnipro (Ukraine). From 1997 - 2002 studied painting at the art college(Dnipro). 2012 - graduate Kyev cinema and television University (director of animated film). Lives and creates animation in Dnipro (Ukraine).



[www.facebook.com/nikita.liskov](http://www.facebook.com/nikita.liskov)

intersectional biopolitics of sizzurp

2018 | usa | 1:41



Silicon and carbon unite.

director: eli ayres [vimeo.com/eliayres](http://vimeo.com/eliayres)

standard operating procedure

2019 | usa | 5:00



High tensions on a cloudy day.

farse (farce)

2019 | director: robin jensen | norway | 11:00



A man, a woman and a meat grinder. Love is messy.

**Robin Jensen** studied animation and documentary filmmaking at Volda University College, and Visual Communication at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts. He works as a director, writer, designer and animator. [www.robinjensen.no](http://www.robinjensen.no)



chicken of the dead

2019 | director: julien david | france | 9:56

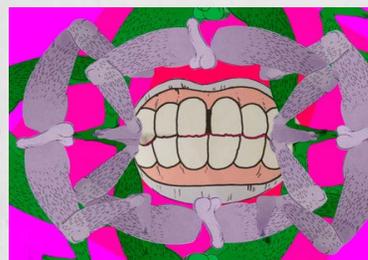


Bernard Lepique is the CEO of "Quasi", a company specializing in the production of half-bio, half-antibiotic chickens. Today Bernard is launching his new kind of chicken, but everything does not go as planned...

After graduating from EnsAD in 2002, **Julien David** wrote and directed several shorts films and series for the French TV: 'Les Multiples' for Canal Plus, 'Dr Cac' for France 5, 'The Raving Rabbits' for France 3, 'Cut-Up,' 'Le Python,' 'Buddy Joe' for Arte. He's also the coordinator of ASA (Atelier Supérieur d'Animation) in Paris.

hunks

2018 | director: katie kapuza | usa | 2:48



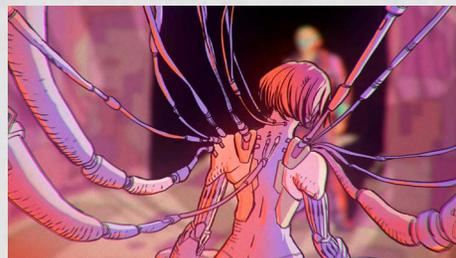
An animated reaction to bullish male stereotypes in rock culture. When asked to create a short for a rock group, the filmmakers thought about the grueling institution of male posturing in the rock world and how difficult and demeaning it can be to insist that men live up to the macho scumbag ideal of rock music culture. The animation is hand drawn, scanned and printed as puppets, then captured and animated under the camera, then finished and edited digitally.

By applying abstraction & a dark sense of humor, **Katie Kapuza** creates short films and music videos that defy convention and embark on the unusual via both a tried-and-true approach as well as trial and error. Katie veers toward the non-narrative, the bizarre and the misunderstood to tell stories of inanimate objects in surprising situations. She lives and works in Chicago, IL. [www.katiekapuza.com](http://www.katiekapuza.com).



### digisexdreams

2018 | brazil/belgium | 3:31



In a future where sexbots are a sentient and enslaved race when you mess with something too much, it can consume you.



### caterpillarplasty



Set in a state-of-the-art clinic, in a world where advanced technologies have given rise to new standards of beauty and prestige, 'Caterpillarplasty' offers its sardonic take on a social obsession with beauty that's spiraled out of control.

**David Barlow-Kreina's** films are a unique blend of aesthetics, fusing elements from science fiction, fine arts, music videos, video games, slapstick comedy and other trippy things. He enjoys exploring themes that deal with inner experience: dreams, fantasy, hallucination. Capturing those moments where we momentarily break from reality. He likes the idea of using caricature to convey certain states of mind. Doing with images what language alone cannot do.

### the scuzzies



"The Scuzzies" is a 15 minute short film that's like a Saturday Morning Cartoon made for misanthropic hippy kids that like to mix tidepod colored mushrooms and goats' blood into their sugary breakfast cereals.

**Jimmy ScreamerClauz** is primarily known for his claims of having been hired in the late 1980s to reverse-engineer purported extraterrestrial technology at a secret site called "S-4", allegedly located several kilometers south of the United States Air Force facility popularly known as Area 5. He also claims to have read US government briefing documents that described alien involvement in human affairs over the past 10,000 years. [www.screamclauz.com](http://www.screamclauz.com)

### sparkblade

2019 | brazil (in english) | 3:57

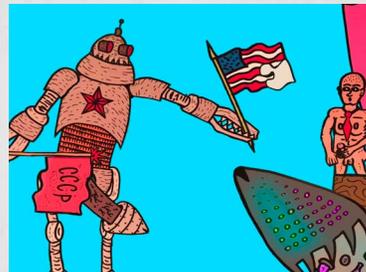


A golden cyber ninja that goes throughout a test and ends finding her biggest challenge, in a futuristic, cyberpunk world. Made almost entirely with frame-by-frame animation, as in the style of classic animes of the 80s and 90s.

**João Antunes Jr.** is a Brazilian Illustrator and animator focusing on sci-fi, cyberpunk, and horror. [www.antunesketch.net](http://www.antunesketch.net) / @antunesketch

### g.o.p.(gag on penis)

2018 | director: nouri zander | usa | 3:00



An animated music video for trio T.F.G. (Totally Fucking Gay) utilizing original artwork by the esteemed underground cartoonist Mike Diana. All the stops were pulled out on this, which resulted in it being banned by YouTube, twice!

**Nouri Zander** is an animator, artist and filmmaker with a diverse background in children's programming, creating many interstitials and short films for Nickelodeon, Nick Jr., PBS Kids, Disney Education, Hearst, Weston Woods, Marvel and MTV. Nouri was the lead animator on *Marvel Knights - Astonishing X-Men: Gifted* and has recently done a number of projects with underground rock luminaries Royal Trux. [www.kholaris.com](http://www.kholaris.com)

### the ballad of george takei

2018 | director: kenneth filmer | usa | 3:36



Music video for trio T.F.G.'s "The Ballad of George Takei," a vulgar, yet loving paean to the Star Trek actor. Filled with as much profane and/or suggestive imagery as could be squeezed into the music video format, including some vintage Star Trek dolls hand-place and hand-debased by underground comic legend Mike Diana.

**Kenneth Filmer** is a filmmaker and film programmer in New York City, who's recently been involved as producer on projects with underground film maven Nick Zedd, the feature *Ghost Team*, recent festival favorite *Bushwick Beats*, and the latest opus from Troma Entertainment, *Shakespeare's Shitstorm*. [www.kholaris.com](http://www.kholaris.com)

### savage death valley

2019 | director: waldemar schuur | netherlands | 23:09



Two cavewomen try and survive in a perilous wasteland, where gargantuan beasts rule. Will they fight their way through in this prehistoric fantasy adventure?

**Waldemar Schuur** is a Dutch animator from Rotterdam. His passion lies in mixed media animation and experimenting with unconventional materials and techniques. [www.nekrotherium.com](http://www.nekrotherium.com)

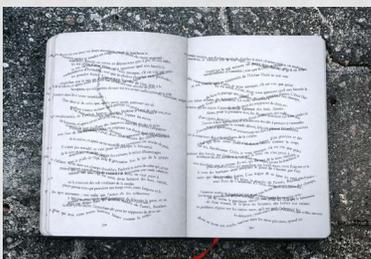
*"A cinema studio is a factory for making ghosts."*



Le sang d'un poète (The Blood of a Poet) (1930, Jean Cocteau)

**hurlevant/windshriek**

2019 | director: **frédéric doazan** | france | 6:25



The wind blows into a forgotten book.

**Frederic Doazan** is a French experimental filmmaker and animator. He learned animation by himself and has self-produced films for 15 years. In 2012, he created with 2 French animators a periodical animated challenge: [www.12fps.net](http://www.12fps.net)

**hanoïed**

2018 | director: **olivia lagacé** | canada (french) | 2:26



Hanoïed is an endless train ride in the heat of Vietnam.

**Olivia Lagacé** is a multidisciplinary artist living in Montréal. Through her work, she looks into the themes of intimacy and desire. She works mainly with photography, video and writing. [www.oliviala.ca](http://www.oliviala.ca)

**the house with no corners**

2019 | director: **caitlin ryan** | usa | 8:00



Known as the Devil's House, the Town hall, and the Bull Valley Police Department. "The House with No Corners" observes the uncanny past and present of those who haunt a mid-western landscape.

**Caitlin Ryan** is a Chicago-based interdisciplinary artist filmmaker whose work explores the nuances between comedy and humor, specifically using the vernacular of the uncanny to investigate systems of anthropology. She is interested in small underground (and sometimes temporary) communities to observe perspectives that push the boundaries of what it means to have radical empathy.

**consolar**

2019 | director: **susan deleo** | usa | 4:35



A short poetic piece shot on Super 8mm film inspired from a line of a traditional Spanish folksong "Asturiana." - "To see if it would console me, I drew near."

**Susan DeLeo** is a multi-media artist using experimental film/video, installation and photography to explore issues of memory, loss and the elemental/natural world. She exhibits and screens nationally and internationally and is a member of the Boston based Agx Film Collective. [www.susandeleo.com](http://www.susandeleo.com)

**do it again**

2018 | director: **curtis miller** | usa | 8:43



'Do It Again' combines three moments of shared looking at Chicago's Marina City; the climactic scene from Buzz Kulik's The Hunter, a re-enactment for an All-State Commercial, and the tight-rope walk of Nik Wallenda.

**Curtis Miller** is an artist based out of Chicago, IL. He received his MFA from the University of Illinois- Chicago and dual BAs in English Literature and Film Studies from Indiana University. He is the co-founder of Flatland Chicago with Chris Reeves. [www.curtis-miller.com](http://www.curtis-miller.com)

**what i'm looking for**

2018 | director: **jillian musielak** | usa | 6:48



The value of pop music lies not on the surface, but in how it scratches through that surface, where music becomes non-music.

**Jillian Musielak** is currently the Technology Coordinator for Loyola University's School of Communication, managing the school's Owl Lab. Aiming to create a safe space for students to make mistakes and to become more in control of the media in their lives. She frequently dives into the Intellectual Dark Web and does not use social media, on principle. It is one way that she is in control of the media in her own life.

**i touched her legs remix**

2019 | canada (english) | 7:30

director: **mike hoolboom**



Eva Marie Rodbro's embedded ethnographic maestro short, originally made in Brownsville, Texas in 2010, is given a fan remake. Night vision animal life and teen hangouts conjure a temporary and fragile collective, while conversation fragments, alternately performed and raw collide.

**Mike Hoolboom.** Born: Korean War, the pill, hydrogen bomb, playboy mansion. 1980s: Film emulsion fetish and diary salvos. Schooling at the Funnel: collective avant-geek cine utopia. 1990s: failed features, transgressive psychodramas, questions of nationalism. 2000s: Seroconversion cyborg (life after death), video conversion: feature-length, found footage bios. Fringe media archaeologist: author/editor/co-editor 29 books. Curator: 30 programs + Pleasure Dome co-founder. Copyleft yes. Occasional employments: artistic director Images Fest, fringe distribution Canadian Filmmakers. 100+ film/vids, many redacted. 13 features. 80 awards, 18 international retrospectives. 4 lifetime achievement awards. [www.mikehoolboom.com](http://www.mikehoolboom.com)

**3 dreams of horses**

2018 | canada (english) | 6:20



Film is made out of gelatin that comes from horses. They're waiting to be slaughtered, so that pictures can be made.

the eddies

2018 | director: angelo madsen minax | usa | 16:00



www.madsenminax.com

From below ground, Eddie describes flood lines, levees and trivial histories of the crumbling infrastructure of Memphis, TN. In this same city, the filmmaker, a recent transsexual transplant, watches war films & contemplates masculine connectivity as he attempts to integrate into the American South. He posts a Craigslist ad asking men to masturbate on-camera with their firearms receiving a single response from a man whose name is also Eddie.

**Angelo Madsen Minax** is a filmmaker, performer & visual artist. Madsen draws on his history of participation in justice-oriented communities to create projects that explore queer & trans desire, chosen & biological kinships, & the relationships between landscape & embodiment.

a collection of attempts in astral travel 2018 | director: ryan-rachel betschart-nakawatase | usa | 7:00



In 1990 parapsychologist D. Scott Rogo, an expert in the study of astral projection and an accomplished oboe player, was murdered in his Northridge home. The crime remains unsolved. A fleeting glimpse into a world of vibrant colors and luscious curves. Images glide, swell, and envelop one another to a tempestuous original score of looped and delayed oboe and sonar pings.

Directors **Ryan-Rachel Betschart-Nakawatase** are a Husband + Wife team, filmmakers, programmers, musicians [www.ryanbetschart.com](http://www.ryanbetschart.com) / [www.rachelnakawatase.com](http://www.rachelnakawatase.com)

the invisible ax

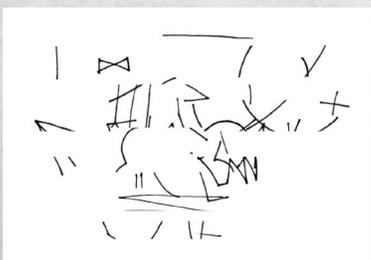
2016 | director: anna kipervaser | usa | 4:45



**Anna Kipervaser** is a Ukrainian-born multimedia artist. Her work spans multiple disciplines including experimental and documentary moving image works in both 16mm film and video. Her moving image work has screened at festivals internationally, as well as in classrooms, galleries, microcinemas, basements, and school houses! She is also painter, printmaker, curator of exhibitions, programmer of screenings. Anna currently lives and works in Sharjah, UAE. [www.annakipervaser.com](http://www.annakipervaser.com)

snow lee leopard

2018 | director: laura heit | usa | 3:00



Oregon Artist Lee Kelly's sculpture forest prompts an animation flurry.

**Laura Heit** is a multidisciplinary artist who engages experimental animation, performance, installation, and writing. Disquieting and evocative, her work seamlessly crosses genres to unfold poetic visual narratives. Heit employs a strong handmade aesthetic, an irreverent sense of humor, using drawing, puppetry, and animation, to bring together ideas and stories about ghosts, catastrophe, and invisibility.

[www.lauraheit.com](http://www.lauraheit.com) / @Laura\_Heit\_Projects

la bruja del fósforo paseante (the wandering witch)

2019 | director: sofia carrillo | mexico | 16:00



A day before her son's wedding, Agustina tries to have the ceremony called off, only to discover that Emilia, the orphan girl betrothed to her son, still has someone ready to come to her defense.

**Sofia Carrillo** has worked in both Classical Animation and Art Direction, and is an Academy member (AMPAS) since 2018 (Shortfilm and Feature Animated). Her films include live action and stop motion works that have premiered and won prizes at Sundance, Fantastic Fest, and more. She has a BA in Media Arts from the University of Guadalajara.

pain noir

2018 | directors: (see below) | france | 8:11



John, a Young Pastor, is promoted to a closed community with a strange practice of worship.

**Adrien Bourcier, Louise Duveau, Charlotte Thiriez, Rémi Fumery, Justin Lauridant, Massimo Partipilo, Clément Sagnier and Mariane Vanhoed** graduated from the Pôle IIID school (Roubaix, France) with Masters in Digital Direction.

danse macabre

2019 | director: matthew t. price | usa | 6:30



A movie about dance, sex, love, and death, *Danse Macabre* stars Shannon Kraemer as a widowed dancer who's looking for a new partner, both on the dance floor and in her bedroom. But does she have other plans...?

USC film school graduate, **Matthew Price** worked in film & TV production for over a decade, including shows such as *24*. At the same time, he wrote & directed short films on the side. He finally made his first feature film & first daughter in the same year. The movie's pretty good, but he's even more proud of his daughter, who already knows all the words to *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*. [www.littletoyboat.com](http://www.littletoyboat.com)

presepte vivente

2018 | director: lorenzo fassina | italy | 20:53



A neo pagan couple is terrorized by a divine presence after Agave, our heroine, accidentally spills some blood on the figurines while building a nativity scene.

**Lorenzo Fassina** was born in Milan, Italy. In 2009 he founded DirtyTape, an independent studio producing horror trash movies inspired by 80's genre films and Italian classics. DirtyTape's motto is "Satana, Sangue e Skate" (Satan, Blood and Skate). [www.vimeo.com/dirtytapeproduction](http://www.vimeo.com/dirtytapeproduction)

# shorts

## nidorina

2019 | director: francisco ovalle | usa/argentina | 15:00



When married couple, Susan and Sebastian, hire a peculiar babysitter, strange occurrences begin to unravel.

**Francisco Ovalle** is an Actor, and Filmmaker from Rosario, Argentina, residing in L.A. In 2012 Francisco formed Crystal Pantera Productions under which he produced and starred in 'Ira,' an Official Selection in the Noves Visiones Petit Format at the 51st Sitges Festival Internacional De Cinema Fantastic De Catalunya. 'Nidorina' is Francisco's directorial debut.

## the congregation

2018 | director: chrzu lindström | finland | 16:00



God's fiercest follower, Carlotta Moore, is commanded to wage war on greedy, sinful capitalists. Nevertheless, Satan has other plans for her. This is the final part of a short film trilogy starring Carlotta Moore.

**CHRZU** is a Finnish genre-oriented writer/ director, best known for the award-winning short 'Nightsatan and the Loops of Doom' (2013), as well as a series of films starring the infamous actress Carlotta Moore. CHRZU's work can be described as pitch black, hilarious and bizarre.

## atomic ed

2018 | director: nicolas hugon | france | 19:00



When a series of gruesome murders takes place, the bullied Ed, who pines after his tormentor's girlfriend, must pull himself together to create the ultimate tool to take on the killer and, perhaps, win the girl in the process.

Born in 1979, **Nicolas Hugon** is a self-taught filmmaker who honed his passion movies with the family camcorder. A few years later, he began to make his passion his job by creating videos for websites, musicians and other artists which led him to found La Casquette Productions in 2012.

### film maudit 2.0 festival

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# jean cocteau

*"It is important to make clear just what we mean by this term maudit when we use it of cinematography.*

*Mallarmé coined the phrase poètes maudit, to refer to those whose work escapes from the normal bounds and who cross the line behind which the writings of mediocre poets are confined. These 'cursed poets' defy analysis and critics prefer to condemn them out of hand. Consequently, they do not enjoy the same advantages as what remains visible, but become in a sense invisible except to those whose eyes can see a long way and who like to examine the soft light emitted by that which is insolent and profound.*

*The invisibility that Mallarmé calls a curse also occurs when a man tries to go counter to fashion, even the very latest. This is when his invisibility becomes complete because it can no longer benefit from the prestige attached to anything enigmatic. It may be that, after a long period of obscurity in art, the most daring artists are those who dedicate themselves to simplicity. There follows a great moment of loneliness, when art achieves recognition neither from simple minds nor from clever ones."*

- Jean Cocteau from *The Art of Cinema*, a collection of his writings on film, translated by Robin Buss



Le Testament d'Orphée (1960, Jean Cocteau)

# film maudit 2.0 sponsors



## SINCE 1989 HIGHWAYS

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**Highways Performance Space** is Southern California's boldest center for new performance, visual and media arts. In its 30th year, Highways continues to be an important alternative cultural center in Los Angeles that encourages fierce new artists from diverse communities to develop and present innovative works.

Highways promotes the development of contemporary socially involved artists and art forms. Our mission is implemented through four programs (the performance space, workshop/university program and two galleries). Annually, we co-present approximately 250 performances by solo dramatic artists, small theater groups, dance companies and spoken word artists; we curate and exhibit approximately 12 contemporary visual art exhibits per year with work that explores the boundaries between performing and visual art forms; we commission and premiere new work by outstanding multi-disciplinary artists; organize special events, curate festivals, offer residency and educational programs that engage community members in the arts while providing access to professionally-directed instruction.

**Executive Director, Leo Garcia:** *"I'm aligned with Highways' commitment to diversity, to the development of new works, to the exploration of new forms of performance, and to our First Amendment Right of free expression. At Highways we contribute to culture and society by affecting progressive change through performance. I will continue to facilitate artistic expression in a supportive, non-elitist, non-dogmatic way. - There's no place I'd rather be."*

