



## DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

### OFFICIAL SELECTION UNIQUE SHOWCASES:

#### SHOWCASE 1

##### E-STREET CINEMA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 @ 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 5:00 P.M.

##### **BLESS ME FATHER**

DIRECTOR: PAUL M. HORAN - 16 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - IRELAND - DC PREMIERE

A parish priest is faced with a moral dilemma when a parishioner comes to deliver a confession which directly affects the priest's own life. The priest is torn between his duty to offer forgiveness, and his personal reaction to this revelation.

##### **MAMA**

DIRECTOR: NICHOLAS BRENNAN - 7 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY - USA - DC PREMIERE

The film tells the touching story of one incredible woman who has dedicated her life to delivering children in her village in rural Uganda.

##### **MANSPREADING**

DIRECTOR: ABDELATIF HWIDAR - 8 MIN. - COMEDY - SPAIN - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

One hundred and sixteen seats, a crowded subway, a long distance to travel.

##### **NEGATIVE SPACE**

DIRECTOR: MAX PORTER AND RU KUWAHATA - 6 MIN. - ANIMATION - FRANCE

My dad taught me how to pack.

##### **THE PHARAOHS**

DIRECTOR: DAVID MALOUF - 18 MINS. - COMEDY/LOCAL FILMMAKER/AGING - USA - WORLD PREMIERE

Based on the screenplay that won the 2017 DC Shorts Screenwriting competition, *The Pharaohs* is a fictional dark comedy about a woman in a senior living facility who is rejected by her former friends - a group of "mean girls" - because of her failing health.

##### **FUTBOLISTAS 4 LIFE**

DIRECTOR: JUN STINSON - 40 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/SPORTS - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

The film takes you into the lives of two Oakland high schoolers: One is a college hopeful and DACA applicant who's navigating the reality of his immigration status, and the other is an American citizen who lives in fear that her undocumented parents may be deported. These youth take solace in the game of soccer that lets them, if only for a moment, put their worries on the sidelines.

### **SHOWCASE 2**

#### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 5:30 P.M.**

#### **GUNS FOUND HERE**

**DIRECTOR: DAVID FREID - 10 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/ACTIVISM/LOCAL FILMMAKER - USA - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

When there's a gun crime in America, there's only one place to go to trace the gun back to its owner, Martinsburg, West Virginia. That's where the ATF's National Tracing Center handles roughly 8,000 active traces per day, all while inside a government-mandated technology time-capsule that makes searching a database of gun owners impossible. With more gun stores in the U.S.A. than McDonalds, Starbucks, and supermarkets combined, there's a lot of paperwork to manually sort through. And it's truly a sight to behold.

#### **MAMARTUILE**

**DIRECTOR: ALEJANDRO SAEVICH - 12 MIN. - COMEDY - MEXICO - EAST COAST PREMIERE**

The president of Mexico spends his final days in office making plans for his future. Everything looks in order until an international conflict interrupts his pleasant rest.

#### **MINSTREL VS. PUPPET**

**DIRECTOR: MARCUS AUBIN - 7 MIN. - DRAMA - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE**

An artistic film illustrating the internal conflict many women, particularly women of color, experience surrounding the topics of brains and beauty. It also depicts how this same conflict manifests externally with some women identifying with and relating more to their own internal level of intellect while others identify with and relate more to their external degree of beauty.

#### **THE DRIVER IS RED**

**DIRECTOR: RANDALL CHRISTOPHER - 15 MIN. - ANIMATION/DOCUMENTARY/HISTORICAL - USA**

Set in Argentina 1960, this true crime documentary follows the story of secret agent Zvi Aharoni as he hunted down one of the highest ranking Nazi war criminals on the run.

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### **SACRILEGE**

DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHE M. SABER - 15 MIN. - DRAMA/YOUTH - SWITZERLAND - DC PREMIERE

The money has gone missing in the mosque of Saint-Etienne. Saoud, the gang leader, is suspected.

### **SPARROW**

DIRECTOR: WELBY INGS- 15 MIN. - DRAMA/FANTASY/LGBTQ - NEW ZEALAND - DC PREMIERE

When the truth behind a family myth is exposed, a young boy finds the strength to stand up for himself in an unusual way.

### **KUBRICK BY CANDLELIGHT**

DIRECTOR: DAVID O'REILLY - 18 MIN. - COMEDY/HISTORICAL - IRELAND - EAST COAST PREMIERE

In 1973, Stanley Kubrick went to Ireland and brought the whole goddamn British Army. A light hearted romantic comedy set behind the scenes of the filming of Kubrick's Barry Lyndon. Narrated by Brian Cox.

## **SHOWCASE 3**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 @ 9:00 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 7:30 P.M.**

### **FOR A BETTER LIFE**

DIRECTOR: YASMIN MISTRY - 10 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/ANIMATION - USA - DC PREMIERE

Sold for \$100 at the age of 5, Fekri suffers through years of abuse before his plight is discovered. After almost a year of hospitalization and therapy, Fekri moves into a group home where he finds support, mentorship, and eventual forgiveness towards the family which sold him.

### **A BEAUTIFUL VILLAIN'S GREED**

DIRECTOR: DOMINIQUE WILMORE - 2 MIN. - LOCAL FILMMAKER/ANIMATION - USA - DC PREMIERE

Inspired by Wynton Marsalis' 2007 Jazz release 'Supercapitalism'. The film combines bright visuals and the upbeat music to show someone consumed with the art of consumption, and how this beautiful villain takes her addiction to retail to menacing new heights.

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### **THE OVERCOAT**

DIRECTOR: PATRICK MYLES - 19 MIN. - COMEDY/FANTASY - UK - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A lonely social outcast gets a glimpse of what life is like for someone popular, and cannot let it go, even in death.

### **ABEYANCE**

DIRECTOR: CHARLES BEALE - 4 MIN. - SCI-FI/PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A malfunction in the stasis system leaves a man trapped in a state of sleep paralysis as he travels to colonize a distant planet, a journey destined to take twenty-seven years.

### **MY FIRST TIME**

DIRECTOR: JESS JACKLIN - 3 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A unexpected comedy with an unreliable narrator, *My First Time* tells the tale of the mourning of a first love.

### **THREE PAGES (TROIS PAGES)**

DIRECTOR: ROGER GARIÉPY - 15 MIN. - DRAMA - CANADA - DC PREMIERE

An unassuming middle-aged accountant learns he has only weeks to live. Rather than tell everyone, Martin determines to learn the three pages of a Bach adagio for piano he'd abandoned as a child. That accomplished, he performs the piece for his wife and friends, completing his life and thanking those who brightened it along the way.

### **SIDELINED**

DIRECTOR: GALEN SUMMER - 40 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/SPORTS/WOMEN'S ISSUES - USA - DC PREMIERE

In 1978, several NFL cheerleaders posed in Playboy magazine after receiving approval from team management. But when the issue hit newstands, cheerleaders were fired, the San Diego Chargettes were disbanded, and the story made it to newspaper headlines, talk shows, and TV news around the country.

## **SHOWCASE 4**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 @ 9:30 P.M.**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 8:00 P.M.**

### **HAIR WOLF**

DIRECTOR: MARIAMA DIALLO - 12 MIN. - COMEDY/ACTION - USA - DC PREMIERE

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

In a black hair salon in gentrifying Brooklyn, the local residents fend off a strange new monster, white women intent on sucking the lifeblood from black culture.

### **A TAXI OF COLDNESS**

DIRECTOR: JOONHA KIM - 20 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - SOUTH KOREA - DC PREMIERE

A man rides a taxi late at night. When the taxi driver offers him chewing gum, he remembers his mother's 'Drugged Gum' story. Then the taxi driver says, 'Did you hear about those criminal taxi drivers?' But after repeated offers, the man accepts the gum after all.

### **XAVIER CORBERO: PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST IN WINTER**

DIRECTOR: NATHALIE BIANCHERI - 14 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY - UK - EAST COAST PREMIERE

The first and last glimpse into the universe of iconic Spanish sculptor, Xavier Corbero; a kaleidoscopic life and career that traversed a turbulent moment of Spanish history.

### **THE PICK UP**

DIRECTOR: GIOVANNA CHESLER - 10 MIN. - COMEDY/GLBT/LOCAL FILMMAKER - USA - DC PREMIERE

Melanie, a teen resentful of her divorcing parents and craving independence, doesn't like surprises. When Mom picks her up from swim practice and their trip gets derailed by a flat tire and a stranger, Melanie finds herself choosing a new road.

### **NEVADA**

DIRECTOR: EMILY ANN HOFFMAN - 12 MIN. - ANIMATION/COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

In this stop-motion animated comedy, a young couple's romantic weekend getaway is interrupted by a birth control mishap.

### **EMPIRE ON MAIN STREET**

DIRECTOR: JESSICA CONGDON - 24 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/GLBTQ - DC PREMIERE

A tireless entrepreneur jump-starts the transformation of a neglected vacation town, until her ambition pushes her to the brink.

## **SHOWCASE 5**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 11:00 A.M.**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 5:00 P.M.**

### **EDWARD HOPPER & MARSHALL'S HOUSE**

DIRECTOR: BOB BURNETT - 8 MIN. - LOCAL FILMMAKER/DOCUMENTARY

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

A short visit through five generations of a family's history, focusing on the artist, Edward Hopper, who captured their home one sunny Fall morning in 1932. This meditative short film presents how the concept of family and an artist's work can reach beyond the confines of a period.

### **TWEET-TWEET**

DIRECTOR: ZHANNA BEKMAMBETOVA - 11 MIN. - ANIMATION - RUSSIAN FEDERATION - DC PREMIERE

Our life is like walking on a tightrope - in times when we are scared or lost, we lose balance. When we are happy and excited, we forget we walk on a rope - we can even fly! Main characters are girl Luba and her friend Sparrow. Silly Sparrow doesn't know fear. By playing with him Luba forgets her she is on a rope.

### **SHADOW BOXER (SKYGGEBOKSER)**

DIRECTOR: ANDREAS BØGGILD MONIES- 22 MIN. - DRAMA/YOUTH/WOMEN'S ISSUES - DENMARK - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Luna, 8, lives alone with her mother, Isabella, 32, a professional boxer. During an important match Isabella is badly hurt and ends up in a wheelchair. Luna takes on the lonely fight to encourage her mother to once again become the fighter and mother who Luna knows, loves, and needs.

### **DICKY & FLO**

DIRECTOR: TREVOR KRAVITS - 8 MIN. - DRAMA/COMEDY/ROMANCE/AGING - USA - DC PREMIERE

Flo is a sweet old taxidermist living in the Chicago neighborhood of Albany Park. She has a quirky habit of talking to corpses like her stuffed dog, hamster, and her deceased husband, Dicky. As she takes Dicky out on the town, the beautiful day takes her all around the city and closer to accepting Dicky is no longer there.

### **THE AVOCADO (EL AGUACATE)**

DIRECTOR: DARWIN SERINK - 11 MIN. - COMEDY/ROMANCE/TRAGEDY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

After several unsuccessful attempts, Raul finally gets the courage to ask his co-worker, Rosa, out on a date. To his surprise, she says yes, but when the anticipated day arrives, Raul is met with an unforeseen event that changes his life forever.



## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **63 BOYCOTT**

DIRECTOR: GORDON QUINN - 29 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY - USA

In 1963, 250,000 students boycotted the Chicago Public Schools to protest racial segregation. The film connects the forgotten story of one of the largest northern civil rights demonstrations to contemporary issues around race, education, and youth activism.

### **SHOWCASE 6**

#### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 11:30 A.M.**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 5:15 P.M.**

#### **CAROLINE**

DIRECTOR - LOGAN GEORGE AND CELINE HELD - 12 MIN. - DRAMA - USA - DC  
PREMIERE

When plans fall through, a six-year-old is faced with a big responsibility on a hot Texas day.

#### **FENCE (GARDHI)**

DIRECTOR: LENDITA ZEQRARAJ - 15 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - KOSOVO - EAST COAST  
PREMIERE

Little Genti wants a puppy. He expresses his wish at the family gathering, after his friend Xeni shows up at the door with his dog Aja, sparking a fired up discussion among the adults. Ignored by the grown ups and despite his mother's disapproval, Genti joins Xeni and Aja on the street, continuing to enjoy his new puppy-friend.

#### **SIX MILES OUT**

DIRECTOR: HOSAM ABU DAN - 11 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/DEVELOPING NATIONS -  
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Gaza fishermen sail into to the Mediterranean for the night to bring in a catch to eat and sell - and act of bravery, since the Israeli Navy prowls nearby ready to shoot.

#### **LIFE AFTER**

DIRECTOR: RIA TOBACOWALA - 13 MIN. - DRAMA/LGBTQ - USA

Nisha, a single mother and Indian immigrant, travels to New York City to clear out her daughter Zara's apartment. Out of her element in the big city, Nisha discovers surprising new details about Zara. With help from her best friend and a stranger, Nisha uncovers the truth about her daughter's life.



## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **CREATURE FROM THE LAKE**

DIRECTORS: RENATA ANTUNEZ, ALEXIS BÉDUÉ, LÉA BRESCIANI, AMANDINE CANVILLE, MARIA CASTRO RODRIGUEZ, LOGAN CLUBER, NICOLAS GRANGEAUD, CAPUCINE RAHMOUN-SWIERCZYNSKI, VICTOR ROUXEL, ORIANNE SICCARDI, AND MALLAURY SIMOES - 5 MIN. - ANIMATION - FRANCE - DC PREMIERE

In the 80s, a manly and experienced monster hunter hero of a low-budget TV show, followed by his fat, cowardly camerawoman, go to a remote lake on the night of a full moon, when mysterious disappearances tend to occur.

### **SHAD RUN**

DIRECTOR: BEN DORGER AND BECKY HARLAN - 26 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/LOCAL FILMMAKER - USA - WORLD PREMIERE

By the 1970s, shad fish numbers were so low that even the most seasoned anglers went home from a day on the river empty-handed. Overfishing, pollution, and a loss of habitat brought on by the construction of dams, threatened American shad not only in the Potomac but all over the east coast. This short documentary film chronicles the abundance, demise, and triumphant return of a native fish, highlighting the citizens who refused to let them fade away and those who are still united by the quest to fish the Potomac's renowned shad run.

## **SHOWCASE 7**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 1:30 P.M.**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 7:00 P.M.**

### **OPENING NIGHT**

DIRECTOR: MARGARET BIALIS - 5 MIN. - ANIMATION/MUSICAL/COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

A man reflects on formative conflicts from his past with optimism, humor, and gratitude... with a musical twist. Look within, then dance it out!

### **THE LESSON (EL LECCION)**

DIRECTOR: HUGO GÓMEZ - 13 MIN. - DRAMA/THRILLER/FILM NOIR/SOCIAL ISSUES - SPAIN - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Javier is a prestigious executive with a life full of luxury and money. He makes decisions that contribute to the poverty and to the exploitation of families that are just numbers to him. Everything will change when Oscar appears and gives him a lesson he will never forget.



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### **TEETH**

DIRECTOR: THOMAS HOGBEN - 11 MIN. - UK - DOCUMENTARY/COMEDY - US PREMIERE

Every crooked lateral incisor or overzealous premolar tells a story, and *Teeth* is short film exploring the relationship we have with these dental companions and how they impact our lives. Based around the story of the filmmakers troublesome teeth, the film is about more than just his little enamel tormentors. It explores our need to conform and our obsession with appearance in this age of the selfie, and questions how far should we go to look normal.

### **THE RED TREE (L'ALBERO ROSSO)**

DIRECTOR: PAUL ROWLEY - 20 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/GLBT/HISTORICAL - IRELAND/ITALY - DC PREMIERE

Narrated by renowned Italian actor Leo Gullotta, *The Red Tree* is a documentary that tells the little known history of Italian gay men being arrested and exiled to a remote island during Mussolini's Fascist regime. In the film, an elderly man returns to the island of San Domino where 60 years prior, during the Fascist era, he was imprisoned with hundreds of other men for being homosexual.

### **ROUND TRIP (SIVUV)**

DIRECTOR: LOREN TRABELSI - 6 MIN. - DRAMA/WOMEN'S ISSUES - ISRAEL - DC PREMIERE

A young girl becomes compromised after she accepts kindness from a stranger on a bus.

### **THAT WAS AWESOME!**

DIRECTOR: ARLEN KONOPAKI - 18 MIN. - COMEDY/DISABILITY/FAMILY/SPORT - USA - WORLD PREMIERE

When a floor hockey team of adults with special needs gets pushed around one too many times off-the-court, they decide to stand up for themselves on-the-court in the game of a lifetime.

### **BINI**

DIRECTOR: ERBLIN NUSHI - 20 MIN. - LOCAL FILMMAKER/HISTORICAL DRAMA - USA/KOSOVO/ALBANIA/SERBIA - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

At the outbreak of the Kosovo War, six-year-old Bini is only thinking about his most prized possession, a piece of candy. When suddenly he and his family are faced with life threatening obstacles, Bini learns that candy may not be the only thing of value he loses that day. War and family come together in this touching film about love, loss, and sacrifice.



## DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

### SHOWCASE 8

#### E-STREET CINEMA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 2:00 P.M.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 7:15 P.M.

#### **TRUE LOVE IN PUEBLO TEXTIL (AMOR VERDADERO EN PUEBLO TEXTIL)**

DIRECTOR: HORATIO BALTZ - 5 MIN. - YOUTH/ROMANCE/DOCUMENTARY - USA/CUBA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Nine-year-old Maribel explains to us how it feels to be stricken with the world's oldest affliction: love.

#### **TANIEL**

DIRECTOR: GARO BERBERIAN - 20 MIN. - HISTORICAL DRAMA - UK/ARMENIA - UNITED STATES PREMIERE

War permeates the country and mass arrests take place across the city while a poet's home is broken, his name ticked off the list never to return again - a casualty of the Armenian Genocide. A historical drama focusing on the damages of war, both physical and emotional.

#### **THE LIKES AND DISLIKES OF MARJ BAGLEY**

DIRECTOR: TAYLOR STANTON - 14 MIN. - ANIMATION/DOCUMENTARY - USA - DC PREMIERE

In this innovative documentary, a family recreates itself using stop-motion animation. The film tells the lifelong struggle of Marj, the matriarch of the Bagley clan, to find happiness. Marj battles infidelity, broken noses, dysfunctional relationships, giant birds, and a fateful game of cards with her grandchildren. Through a combination of interviews and recreations, her family reflects on the legacy of a woman who they realize they may not understand.

#### **THE SON, THE FATHER**

DIRECTOR: LUKAS HASSEL - 13 MIN. - HORROR/DRAMA - USA - DC PREMIERE

The events on a young boy's birthday have twisted consequences far into his future. The script on which *The Son, The Father* is based was a finalist in the 2016 DC Shorts Film Festival and Screenplay Competition.

#### **THE EDGE OF DAYBREAK**

DIRECTOR: ALIX LAMBERT - 10 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/MUSIC - USA - DC PREMIERE

It doesn't take a seasoned musician, engineer, or producer to marvel at The Edge of Daybreak and their sole record, *Eyes of Love*. Though rightly acclaimed for soulful melodies and passionate vocals, said record is ultimately infamous for having been recorded in one take at the Powhatan Correctional Center's recreational area by a six-inmate group, each member,

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then serving sentences ranging between six and 60 years, whisked back to their cells as soon as they'd hit the last note on the final track.

### **TRANSMITTER RECEIVER (ÉMETTEUR RECEPTEUR)**

DIRECTOR: VINCENT WILSON - 9 MIN. - SCI-FI/YOUTH - CANADA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

In order to escape the monotony and boredom of the end of the school year, a young boy fabricates a transceiver-receiver to communicate with strangers in the sky. The bright imagination of a child is brought to life in this touching and beautiful film.

### **THE UNDERTAKER'S SON**

Dir: The AFFOLTER BROS. - 14 MIN - DRAMA/WESTERN - CANADA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Despite his desire to do anything but, Christopher Redding is attending work with his father for the first time to learn the macabre family business. When the duo is faced with a tragic death, Christopher is pushed to his breaking point revealing a deeper conflict that simmers just below the surface. Set in a small frontier town circa 1867, this short Western examines the lives that are affected after the infamous gunfights, shootouts, and robberies so often depicted in the beloved genre.

### **SUN SHINE**

DIRECTOR: WALKER HARE - 9 MIN. - DRAMA/COMEDY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

When an African American teenager gets a seemingly depressed white guy to open up, she discovers he's on his way to commit a horrible act.

## **SHOWCASE 9**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 4:00 P.M.**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 9:00 P.M.**

### **A LIFE LIKE THIS**

DIRECTOR: ISIAH TOUR - 12 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/ANIMATION/HISTORICAL - NEW ZEALAND - DC PREMIERE

A young New Zealander doesn't know much about his father even though they have lived together for almost twenty-five years. Isaiah decides to make a film about his dad, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge regime in the hope that it will bring them together. Using animation the two work together to explore Huat's untold refugee story.

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### **BEFORE PRISON**

DIRECTORS: EMILY HARGER AND OLIVIA MERRION - 8 MIN. -

DOCUMENTARY/WOMEN'S ISSUES - USA

Robyn Allen's 20-year prison sentence for trafficking drugs is far more complicated than it appears. Abuse has plagued her family, and Robyn's painful memories are just the tip of the iceberg.

### **MARGUERITE**

DIRECTOR: MARIANNE FARLEY - 19 MIN. - DRAMA/GLBT - CANADA - DC PREMIERE

For several years now Marguerite, a diabetic woman in her seventies, has been getting daily visits from Rachel, her home health nurse. In spite of her declining condition, Marguerite has been gradually emerging from her loneliness as she experiences moments of tenderness and sensuality under Rachel's care.

### **PUSHING SKILLS**

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL A KREHAN - 17 MIN. - DRAMA/SCI-FI - USA - DC PREMIERE

A street-smart hustler uses his invention to give people extraordinary skills for a few hours but finds himself in trouble when the wrong people hear about it.

### **JAB JAB**

DIRECTOR: THOMAS HARRAD - 5 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY - UNITED KINGDOM - UNITED STATES PREMIERE

*Jab Jab* is a portrait of Grenada's annual J'ouvert festival. Every year, thousands of Grenadians congregate in the middle of the night to 'play Jab,' covered head-to-toe in motor oil as a powerful symbol of remembrance, celebration, and defiance.

### **WHAM**

DIRECTOR: ROBERT BRUCE CARTER - 3 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Two people fall violently in love on the sidewalk...and a ripple effect ensues.

### **FACING MECCA**

DIRECTOR: JAN-ERIC MACK - 25 MIN. - DRAMA - SWITZERLAND - DC PREMIERE

Pensioner Roli comes to Fared's assistance when the Syrian refugee is faced with the burial of his Muslim wife. Together they stumble into a bewildering forest of Swiss bureaucracy to which Roli finds a beautifully simple answer. A touching story of how one man helps a refugee during one of the largest refugee crisis in recent history. One small act of kindness can change the world.

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **SHOWCASE 10**

#### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 4:30 P.M.**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 9:15 P.M.**

#### **LITTLE FIEL**

**DIRECTOR:** IRINA PATKANIAN - 16 MIN. - ANIMATION/DOCUMENTARY/BIOGRAPHY - USA/MOZAMBIQUE

Guns are not killers. They are pieces of metal that can be reassembled into anything, including a little boy, a bird or a rose. Just as they make them, we can unmake them, one by one.

#### **LET ME DANCE (LAISSEZ-MOI DANSER)**

**DIRECTOR:** VALÉRIE LEROY - 17 MIN. - DRAMA/LGBTQ - FRANCE - DC PREMIERE

Mylène, 45, is a maid on a ferry boat. Tonight her colleagues are organizing a surprise party for her birthday. But on the gift voucher, Mylène reads her old name, a name that she doesn't want to see anymore, her male name.

#### **MOVING VIOLATION**

**DIRECTOR:** LAURA HINSON - 12 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA/ROMANCE - USA - NONE

A jilted bride finally faces the truth about her ex-fiancé after a newly-installed speed camera on her street pushes her to the edge.

#### **OPEN YOUR EYES**

**DIRECTOR:** ILAY MEVORAH - 14 MIN. - DRAMA - ISRAEL

Ilana arrives for her monthly treatment at the eye clinic. Her doctor is absent and is replaced by Dr Khoury. Ilana precepts herself as a liberal woman but there is no chance that an Arab doctor will give her a shot in the eye. Yohai, who understands that his mother is losing her eyesight, won't let her leave.

#### **MY GRANDFATHER'S MEMORY BOOK**

**DIRECTOR:** COLIN LEVY - 4 MIN. - ANIMATION/DOCUMENTARY - USA - DC PREMIERE

A personal reflection about an unusual sketchbook that captures a lifetime of memories, connecting three generations through drawings, writings, and dialogue.

#### **THE PECULIAR ABILITIES OF MR. MAHLER (DIE BESONDEREN FÄHIGKEITEN DES HERRN MAHLER)**

**DIRECTOR:** PAUL PHILIPP - 29 MIN. - DRAMA - GERMANY - DC PREMIERE

East Germany, 1987: The special investigator Mahler is said to have paranormal abilities. The police assigns him to solve the case of the 6-year-old Henry Kiefer, who is missing for weeks. Schedules subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please go to [www.dcsHORTS.com/festival](http://www.dcsHORTS.com/festival) for the most up-to-date schedule. For press screeners and hi res stills, please email [media@dcsHORTS.com](mailto:media@dcsHORTS.com).



## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

now, before this issue leads to political tensions with the West. But then he brings something to light that makes this family tragedy especially political.

### **SHOWCASE 11**

#### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 6:30 P.M.**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 5:00 P.M.**

#### **REMEMBERING PORT CHICAGO**

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER IRWIN - 9 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/HISTORICAL/AFRICAN AMERICAN - USA - WORLD PREMIERE

In California's Bay Area, a painful memory lingers of the Port Chicago disaster of WWII, when hundreds of the Navy's first black sailors perished.

#### **DIAPERS FROM MELQUIADES (PANALE PARA MELQUIADES)**

DIRECTOR: GANDHI RAMOS - 20 MIN. - DRAMA - MEXICO - DC PREMIERE

Domingo, goes to the market's town to sell hats. Along the way, he takes the opportunity to visit his brother Melquiades, who is terminally ill.

#### **OUR SONG TO WAR (NUESTRO CANTO A LA GUERRA)**

DIRECTOR: JUANITA ONZAGA - 14 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/HUMAN RIGHTS/MYTHS/YOUTH - BELGIUM - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Crocodile-men, a mystic river, some kids that like fishing, and a war that ends all share the same Colombian land; Bojaya. In this place, villagers have strange beliefs and celebrate the "Novenario" death ritual.

#### **WANDERING EYES**

DIRECTOR: MAKAN TALAYEH - 15 MIN. - DRAMA/THRILLER - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

The lives of two seemingly disconnected couples, each with an unapologetic cheating spouse, come together in a twisted tale of betrayal and revenge as all four cross paths in an unexpected way.

#### **THE MUD**

DIRECTOR: BRANDON LAKE - 6 MIN. - ANIMATION - USA

A self reflection on the relationship between race, heritage, and stereotype, *The Mud* tells the story of a clay figure who struggles against outside forces that seek to overtake and disfigure his very essence. Through dance and movement, he strives to understand and find himself.

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **OSTRICH**

DIRECTOR: PATRICK WALSH - 14 MIN. - DRAMA - UK - WORLD PREMIERE

Late at night in a Westminster bar, principled junior broadsheet journalist Will Hewitt meets with no-nonsense Deputy Finance Minister, Pippa Thomas, for a routine interview on recent government fines imposed on the world's largest banks. Their early exchanges spark fireworks as liberal idealist grills conservative elite, but Will's true intentions are soon revealed as he ambushes Thomas with accusations of financial and political corruption.

### **SEND US SMOKES**

DIRECTOR: MICHELLE KEE - 10 MIN - DRAMA/MUSICAL/YOUTH - CANADA - DC PREMIERE

When 7-year-old Adelaide finds the care package of cigarettes she prepared for her father won't be delivered to him as he serves on the front lines of World War I, she decides to embark on a fantastical adventure to take it to him herself.

## **SHOWCASE 12**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 5:15 P.M.**

### **THE WORLD IS ROUND SO THAT NOBODY CAN HIDE IN THE CORNERS – PART I : REFUGE**

DIRECTOR: LEANDRO GODDINHO - 13 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/LGBTQ - GERMANY - DC PREMIERE

The journey of an African gay refugee seeking asylum in Germany.

### **THE WORLD IS ROUND SO THAT NOBODY CAN HIDE IN THE CORNERS – Part II : THE KISS**

DIRECTOR: LEANDRO GODDINHO - 5 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/LGBTQ - GERMANY - DC PREMIERE

An African refugee visits the Gay Holocaust Memorial in Berlin.

### **FUNERAL**

DIRECTOR: LEAH SHORE - 8 MIN. - FANTASY/DRAMA/COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

When a pregnant woman delivers a convoluted speech to a gathering of family and close friends, she must face the consequences. She then retreats to a waiting room where the surreal meets the real by a water cooler.

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **CAMILLE (QUAND J'AI REMPLACE CAMILLE)**

DIRECTOR: RÉMY CLARKE, LEÏLA COURTILLON, NATHAN OTAÑO - 7 MIN. - ANIMATION - FRANCE - DC PREMIERE

Laure must replace a deceased swimmer in the relay swim team. The qualifiers are near and the team worries about their chances at winning; the grief and stress pushes Laura to obsess over the one she replaces, Camille.

### **FAUVE**

DIRECTOR: JEREMY COMTE - 16 MIN. - DRAMA - CANADA - DC PREMIERE

Set in a surface mine, two boys sink into a seemingly innocent power game with Mother Nature as the sole observer.

### **RED VELVET**

DIRECTOR: MAHMOUD SAMIR AND YOUSSEF MAHMOUD - 15 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - EGYPT - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

When Nancy suffers from a sudden cardiac arrest in a morning, her only chance of survival lies in the hands of her oblivious five years old son Asser.

### **PAINTED CITY**

DIRECTOR: CAITLIN CARROLL - 26 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/LOCAL FILMMAKER - USA

*Painted City* explores the history of Washington, D.C.'s community murals and the preservation issues they face in rapidly changing neighborhoods by following one local woman's efforts to study and save them.

## **SHOWCASE 13**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 9:00 P.M.**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 7:00 P.M.**

### **CUBEMAN (KOCKAEMBER)**

DIRECTOR: LINDA DOMBROVSZKY - 19 MIN. - DRAMA - HUNGARY - DC PREMIERE

An elderly man is unable to accept that he must retire, and his life takes a dramatic turn when he realises that he cannot finish the work of his life.

### **QUEENS IN TRAINING**

DIRECTOR: DEANNA DEL CIELLO AND ANNA MOLINARO - 15 MIN. -

DOCUMENTARY/LOCAL FILMMAKER/YOUTH - USA

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

Two young African-American girls learn to play chess competitively and apply those skills to obstacles of race and gender, as they prepare for a citywide co-educational tournament in Washington, D.C.

### **REVERIE**

DIRECTOR: EMILY DEWOOLFSON - 5 MIN. - ANIMATION/FANTASY/FAMILY/LOCAL  
FILMMAKER - USA - WORLD PREMIERE

A girl dreams of the way she wishes the world could be, or perhaps the way the world already is.

### **DEJA VU**

DIRECTOR: OLIVIER LABONTE LEMOYNE - 9 MIN. - DRAMA/THRILLER/HORROR -  
CANADA - US PREMIERE

A young woman meets with her best friend in a local diner to tell him about the fantasy she recently accomplished. But when a mysterious man enters, she is struck by a feeling of déjà vu. Everything around her starts to resemble a nightmare she has had.

### **HOLLY GOES TO THERAPY**

DIRECTOR: CAT VENTURA - 15 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE  
A troubled woman participates in an unconventional therapy session.

### **PERIOD. END OF SENTENCE**

DIRECTOR: RAYKA ZEHTABCHI - 25 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/WOMEN'S ISSUES - INDIA  
The story of a quiet, profound revolution taking place for women in Northern India, where the stigma of menstruation limits their potential. Without sanitary products or proper education about their bodies, millions of girls end up missing school or dropping out entirely once they begin their periods. But in a modest room in a rural Indian village, locals start to produce and sell thousands of pads in an effort to improve feminine hygiene.

## **SHOWCASE 14**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 9:30 P.M.**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 7:15 P.M.**

### **SPACE BUTTHOLE**

DIRECTOR: DAVID CHAI - 8 MIN. - ANIMATION/COMEDY/SCI-FI - USA - DC PREMIERE

In the annals of mankind, we will realize that humans have been mistreating Mother Nature for far too long. It was only a matter of time before the universe blasted back, and experience a

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

warning from the deepest bowels of the galaxy. Can humanity squeeze out a solution before it goes to pot? Don't stall to find out!

### **END OF THE LINE**

DIRECTOR: JESSICA SANDERS - 15 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - DC PREMIERE

A lonely man goes to the pet store and buys a tiny man in a cage and the two must learn to get along, or at least co-exist, which will not be easy!

### **THE LAST DANCE**

DIRECTOR: CHRIS KELLER - 8 MIN. - DRAMA/ROMANCE/SCI-FI - UK - EAST COAST PREMIERE

In the not-too-distant future, an old man works alone in his garage, click-click-clicking the hours away on an old desktop computer. His name is Hugo and he's making something... something great. Today, the not-too-distant future will become the not-too-distant past.

### **POKER NIGHT**

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL THOMAS TAYLOR - 9 MIN. - COMEDY/THRILLER - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Bill always hosts poker night. It's just kind of his thing. This time, though, things get considerably out of hand. In a sick turn of events, friends are pitted against one another to survive.

### **EMERGENCY**

DIRECTOR: CAREY WILLIAMS - 12 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

Faced with an emergency situation, a group of young Black and Latino friends carefully weigh the pros and cons of calling the police. People of color have the internal conflict of desiring to move freely in this country but fearing they are not able to do so. Emergency is a timely commentary on an issue that plagues many people of color in our country today - fear of police.

### **THE LAST GREAT AMERICAN WHALE**

DIRECTOR: ALEX HUEBSCH - 15 MIN. - DRAMA/MYSTERY - USA - WORLD PREMIERE

John's just lost his child. His marriage is falling apart. His career is being taken over by younger, faster, smarter people. So what is he to do? He flees his life for the freedom and adventure of the ocean and a dying American Dream, but a vicious circle always seems to bring him right back to where he started.

### **VIEW**

DIRECTOR: GABRIEL GALLINDO - 15 MIN. - DRAMA/THRILLER - BRAZIL - EAST COAST PREMIERE

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

The most famous Brazilian Youtuber is kidnapped and forced to continue posting videos in captivity, asking her fans to donate her ransom via a crowdfunding campaign.

### **LABORATORY CONDITIONS**

DIRECTOR: JOCELYN STAMAT - 17 MIN. - DRAMA/SCI-FI - USA - DC PREMIERE

A physician investigating a missing body disrupts an unlawful experiment. Starring Marisa Tomei and Minnie Driver.

## **SHOWCASE 15**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 12:00 P.M.**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 9:00 P.M.**

### **THE JOURNEY TO ICELAND (EL VIAJE A ISLANDIA)**

DIRECTOR: CÉSAR VALLEJO DE CASTRO- 13 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/DISABILITY - SPAIN  
- UNITED STATES PREMIERE

“Maybe all this happened to me, the meaning of my life, is to help all people coming from behind me to be able to do something as human as dying, but to die without suffering.”

### **OCULUS MALUS**

DIRECTOR: FÉLIX BENICOURT, MAXIME BLIN, MATHIEU BOUZARD, CAMILLE BULLET,  
VALENTIN CHOTEL, ADRIEN KOTTELAT, QUENTIN MASINGARBE AND DORIAN MOUTY -  
5 MIN. - ANIMATION - FRANCE - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A crazy scientist creates special glasses in order to examine some little creatures that are invisible to human eyes. These creatures may just explain a good proportion of our little daily annoyances.

### **WHO DECIDES**

DIRECTOR: MYLISSA FITZSIMMONS - 8 MIN. - DRAMA/HORROR - USA - DC PREMIERE

Death can no longer be denied. A sick woman and a young girl engage in a discussion about who decides when it's your time to die.

### **HIATUS**

DIRECTOR: KEVIN HAEFELIN - 12 MIN. - COMEDY - SWITZERLAND - DC PREMIERE

A philosophy teacher discusses religion in class. In the street, he is confronted with his subject matter in an unexpected way.

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **LABOR**

DIRECTOR: CECILIA ALBERTINI - 13 MIN. - DRAMA/PSYCHOLOGICAL - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A surrogate mother faces a harrowing dilemma when she's asked to abort the baby she is carrying for another woman.

### **MARCH FOOL (POISSON DE MARS)**

DIRECTORS: PIERRE-MARC DROUIN AND SIMON LAMARRE-LEDOUX - 14 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - CANADA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Struggling with depression, Louis is dragging himself out to his despicable brother's birthday party with his despicable sister. When he finds out that they're planning an April Fools' day prank on him even though it's only still March, Louis takes it a little too much on a personal level.

### **PIETAS**

DIRECTOR: ROB WATERS - 4 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

Sometimes the toughest part of your day is explaining it to a loved one.

### **POT OF GOLD: THE ORIGIN OF THE JAPANESE BIDET**

DIRECTOR: DAIEI ONOGUCHI - 20 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/LOCAL FILMMAKER/COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

Why are Japanese so obsessed with bidet toilet? Are they weird? A curious filmmaker goes on a journey to answer these questions.

## **SHOWCASE 16**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 12:30 P.M.**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 9:15 P.M.**

### **THE ROAD BETWEEN US**

DIRECTOR: JOANNE FEINBERG AND KATHERINE ROSELLI - 14 MIN. -

DOCUMENTARY/AGING/SPORTS/FAMILY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A father and son bicycle 2,701 miles across America, on Route 66, and discover that the road between them is the life path that connects.

### **DO NO HARM**

DIRECTOR: MARIELLE WOODS - 8 MIN. - DRAMA/ACTION/WAR - USA - DC PREMIERE

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

A short film about a combat medic attempting to hold on to his humanity in the midst of a war much bigger than himself. A medic's job is to fix people up, but how does that obligation reconcile with someone who is trained to fight and may be asked to kill?

### **WEEDS**

**DIRECTOR:** KEVIN HUDSON - 3 MIN - ANIMATION/COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE  
*Weeds* tells the story of a dandelion, rooted on the wrong side of the driveway in a barren yard surrounded by dry dirt and dead grass. Just across the concrete lies another yard, where the sprinklers spray water endlessly, and the greener grass holds the promise of a better life. While watching helplessly as its fellow weeds wither away and die, the dandelion faces a decision - take action or suffer the same fate.

### **EVIE'S CHRISTMAS GIFT**

**DIRECTOR:** DAWN FIELDS - 9 MIN. - DRAMA/HORROR - USA - DC PREMIERE  
After the loss of her mother, Evie rebels against her father and his over-the-top Christmas spirit. Evie learns a scary lesson, however, when she opens her Christmas presents before Christmas morning.

### **MAGIC ALPS**

**DIRECTOR:** ANDREA BRUSA AND MARCO SCOTUZZI - 15 MIN. - DRAMA - ITALY - DC PREMIERE  
An Afghan refugee arrives in Italy with his goat and seeks political asylum for both of them.

### **GYPSY'S KISS**

**DIRECTOR:** PAUL MURPHY - 9 MIN. - COMEDY/AGING - UNITED KINGDOM - DC PREMIERE  
Judith is alone. A widow with a distant son, she takes life as she finds it. Though devoting her life to her late husband Fred and her son wasn't easy, she never sought thanks and never complained. So every year she marks the anniversary with a pilgrimage to Fred's grave, and every year she's reminded just how much Fred meant to her.

### **SABER ROCK**

**DIRECTOR:** THOMAS LOCASTRO AND MATTHEW LOCASTRO - 30 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/WAR/LOCAL FILMMAKER - USA  
A flamboyant, fiercely loyal interpreter named Saber Rock helps turn the tide of Helmand Province, Afghanistan against the Taliban and towards the support of coalition forces. As his successes mount, so do the threats against him.

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## DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

### SHOWCASE 17

#### E-STREET CINEMA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 2:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ 5:00 P.M.

#### CASEY

DIRECTOR: SHANRICA EVANS - 6 MIN. - DRAMA/LGBTQ - USA - DC PREMIERE

A teenager with gender dysphoria witnesses the physical assault of a transgender woman.

#### ZERO GRAVITY

DIRECTOR: THOMAS VERRETTE - 17 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/FAMILY/YOUTH - USA-  
WORLD PREMIERE

An 11-year-old Mexican-American girl competes in a middle-school program to control robotic satellites aboard the International Space Station as part of a nation-wide competition to inspire marginalized youth.

#### BLOOM

DIRECTOR: KIERAN WHEELER - 7 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - AUSTRALIA - UNITED  
STATES PREMIERE

When Andrew comes home from a weekend away and finds a single rose petal in his bed, he becomes convinced that his girlfriend has cheated on him.

#### WEEKENDS

DIRECTOR: TREVOR JIMENEZ - 15 MIN. - ANIMATION/YOUTH/FAMILY - USA - DC  
PREMIERE

*Weekends* is the story of a young boy shuffling between the homes of his recently divorced parents. Surreal dream-like moments mix with the domestic realities of a broken family in this hand-animated film set in 1980's Toronto.

#### WE KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE

DIRECTOR: HONORA TALBOTT - 13 MIN. - COMEDY/LGBTQ - USA - DC PREMIERE

When a Mexican American couple moves into a trendy, gentrifying LA neighborhood, two hipsters invite themselves over to offer a 'warm welcome.' But as the night goes on, it's clear these neighbors are not what they seem: cold pressed, cold brewed, and cold blooded.

#### CELLS

DIRECTOR: RAYMOND WOOD - 12 MIN. - THRILLER/DRAMA - USA - DC PREMIERE

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

When a reputable doctor finds himself being held captive by a group of masked intruders, he struggles to understand their motives while being forced to answer why billions of dollars are wasted each year in the name of medical research.

### **HOW TOMMY LEMENCHICK BECAME A GRADE 7 LEGEND**

DIRECTOR: BASTIEN ALEXANDRE - 10 MIN. - COMEDY/YOUTH - CANADA - DC PREMIERE

Ophelia is an 11-year-old girl who lives with a complex - she's never been kissed. First, find a suitable candidate; Tommy Lemenchick. Second, orchestrate a situation that leads to her first kiss. At school the following day, we discover how Tommy Lemenchick became a Grade 7 legend.

### **BENEATH THE INK**

DIRECTOR: CY DODSON - 13 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY - USA - DC PREMIERE

In a time when society's belief systems are seemingly changing, or even reverting in time, one Ohio tattoo artist, Billy Joe White, is challenging his community by saying, "Bring me your mistakes." *Beneath the Ink* is a timely look at hate and racism in the western foothills of the Appalachian region that reveals heartfelt stories of change and redemption.

## **SHOWCASE 18**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 3:00 P.M.**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ 5:15 P.M.**

### **BLACK, I AM (NEGRA SOY)**

DIRECTOR: LAURA BERMÚDEZ - 13 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY - HONDURAS - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

A beautiful and touching story of the Afro-Caribbean Garífuna people in Honduras, focusing on three women and a girl who tell of their aspirations, happiness, and being there for each other.

### **DOUBLE TAP**

DIRECTOR: WAKA BROWN AND STAN KANG - 10 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - WORLD PREMIERE

Buffy has a secret. She's in love with her boss, Dan, but can't admit it, choosing instead to stalk him on Instagram. That is, until she accidentally "double taps" on one of his posts which leads to wildly unsuccessful attempts to cover her tracks. The script on which *Double Tap* is based was a finalist in the 2017 DC Shorts Film Festival and Screenplay Competition.

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **IT'S THE DYSTOPIAN FUTURE!**

DIRECTOR: BENJAMIN FOLSTEIN - 2 MIN. - ANIMATION/SCI-FI/MUSIC - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A giddy jaunt through the future that may come to pass.

### **NIGHT CALL**

DIRECTOR: AMANDA RENEE KNOX - 18 MIN - DRAMA/SOCIAL ISSUES/AFRICAN AMERICAN - USA - DC PREMIERE

When on a routine patrol, a Black female cop living in and also patrolling Inglewood gets called to a disturbance and is forced to make an unprecedented life altering decision.

### **STATE OF EMERGENCY**

DIRECTOR: TAREK ROEHLINGER - 12 MIN. - DRAMA/ACTION - GERMANY - DC PREMIERE

A movie about a society in fear, it tells the story of two soldiers and their everyday life in Paris guarding an official building. An abandoned bag, curious onlookers, and a crazy tramp move the situation to its climax. The lines between normalcy and real danger disappear.

### **THE HOBBYIST**

DIRECTOR: GEORGE VATISTAS - 9 MIN. - DRAMA/THRILLER/FILM NOIR - USA - DC PREMIERE

A short neo-noir thriller centered around a mysterious druggist visited by Sangstrom, a seemingly ordinary man in search of an undetectable poison. Yet, Sangstrom winds up getting more than he bargained for from the sagacious alchemist. Based on the 1961 short story by Fredric Brown.

### **TO BREATHE FREE**

DIRECTOR: DAVID BARNHART - 16 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/HUMAN RIGHTS/LOCAL FILM - USA - DC PREMIERE

*To Breathe Free* follows the 5-year journey of a Syrian family fleeing the war in Homs to the refugee camps in Jordan and starting a new life in Washington, D.C. Using home movies, phone video, family photos and interviews with family members and former refugees, this short documentary gives an intimate and unique perspective not seen in current media reporting on the refugee crisis.

### **CIVIL**

DIRECTOR: STEPHEN TAKASHIMA - 17 MIN. - DRAMA - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A black door-to-door salesman struggles to make his first sale when he spots a Confederate flag hanging on the wall of his potential client.

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## DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

### **SPECIAL SHOWCASES:**

#### **YOUR NOT FROM AROUND HERE (INTERNATIONAL SHORTS)**

##### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ 7:00 P.M.**

##### **MAMARTUILE**

**DIRECTOR: ALEJANDRO SAEVICH - 12 MIN. - COMEDY - MEXICO - EAST COAST PREMIERE**

The president of Mexico spends his final days in office making plans for his future. Everything looks in order until an international conflict interrupts his pleasant rest.

##### **SACRILEGE**

**DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHE M. SABER - 15 MIN. - DRAMA/YOUTH - SWITZERLAND - DC PREMIERE**

The money has gone missing in the mosque of Saint-Etienne. Saoud, the gang leader is suspected.

##### **OPEN YOUR EYES**

**DIRECTOR: ILAY MEVORAH - 14 MIN. - DRAMA - ISRAEL**

Ilana arrives for her monthly treatment at the eye clinic. Her doctor is absent and is replaced by Dr Khoury. Ilana precepts herself as a liberal woman but there is no chance that an Arab doctor will give her a shot in the eye. Yohai, who understands that his mother is losing her eyesight, won't let her leave.

##### **FENCE (GARDHI)**

**DIRECTOR: LENDITA ZEQRARAJ - 15 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - KOSOVO - EAST COAST PREMIERE**

Little Genti wants a puppy. He expresses his wish at the family gathering, after his friend Xeni shows up at the door with his dog Aja, sparking a fired up discussion among the adults. Ignored by the grownups and despite his mother's disapproval, Genti joins Xeni and Aja on the street, continuing to enjoy his new puppy-friend.

##### **THREE PAGES (TROIS PAGES)**

**DIRECTOR: ROGER GARIÉPY - 15 MIN. - DRAMA - CANADA - DC PREMIERE**

An unassuming middle-aged accountant learns he has only weeks to live. Rather than tell everyone, Martin determines to learn the three pages of a Bach adagio for piano he'd

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

abandoned as a child. That accomplished, he performs the piece for his wife and friends, completing his life and thanking those who brightened it along the way.

### **SHADOW BOXER (SKYGGEBOKSER)**

DIRECTOR: ANDREAS BØGGILD MONIES- 22 MIN. - DRAMA/YOUTH/WOMEN'S ISSUES - DENMARK - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Luna, 8, lives alone with her mother, Isabella, 32, a professional boxer. During an important match Isabella is badly hurt and ends up in a wheelchair. Luna takes on the lonely fight to encourage her mother to once again become the fighter and mother who Luna knows, loves, and needs.

## **CINEMA 10% (LGBTQ SHORTS)**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ 7:15 P.M.**

### **THE WORLD IS ROUND SO THAT NOBODY CAN HIDE IN THE CORNERS – PART I : REFUGE**

DIRECTOR: LEANDRO GODDINHO - 13 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/LGBTQ - GERMANY - DC PREMIERE

The journey of an African gay refugee seeking for asylum in Germany.

### **THE PICK UP**

DIRECTOR: GIOVANNA CHESLER - 10 MIN. - COMEDY/LGBTQ/LOCAL FILMMAKER - USA - DC PREMIERE

Melanie, a teen resentful of her divorcing parents and craving independence, doesn't like surprises. When Mom picks her up from swim practice and their trip gets derailed by a flat tire and a stranger, Melanie finds herself choosing a new road.

### **LET ME DANCE (LAISSEZ-MOI DANSER)**

DIRECTOR: VALÉRIE LEROY - 17 MIN. - DRAMA/LGBTQ - FRANCE - DC PREMIERE

Mylène, 45, is a maid on a ferry boat. Tonight her colleagues are organizing a surprise party for her birthday. But on the gift voucher, Mylène reads her old name, a name that she doesn't want to see anymore, her male name.



## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **THE WORLD IS ROUND SO THAT NOBODY CAN HIDE IN THE CORNERS – Part II : THE KISS**

DIRECTOR: LEANDRO GODDINHO - 5 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/LGBTQ - GERMANY - DC PREMIERE

An African refugee visits the Gay Holocaust Memorial in Berlin.

### **THE RED TREE (L'ALBERO ROSSO)**

DIRECTOR: PAUL ROWLEY - 20 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/LGBTQ/HISTORICAL - IRELAND/ITALY - DC PREMIERE

Narrated by renowned Italian actor Leo Gullotta, *The Red Tree* is a documentary that tells the little known history of Italian gay men being arrested and exiled to a remote island during Mussolini's Fascist regime. In the film, an elderly man returns to the island of San Domino where 60 years prior, during the Fascist era, he was imprisoned with hundreds of other men for being homosexual.

### **LIFE AFTER**

DIRECTOR: RIA TOBACOWALA - 13 MIN. - DRAMA/LGBTQ - USA

Nisha, a single mother and Indian immigrant, travels to New York City to clear out her daughter Zara's apartment. Out of her element in the big city, Nisha discovers surprising new details about Zara. With help from her best friend and a stranger, Nisha uncovers the truth about her daughter's life.

### **SPARROW**

DIRECTOR: WELBY INGS- 15 MIN. - DRAMA/FANTASY/LGBTQ - NEW ZEALAND - DC PREMIERE

When the truth behind a family myth is exposed, a young boy finds the strength to stand up for himself in an unusual way.

## **HISTORY LESSONS or do you like ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ 9:00 P.M.**

### **TANIEL**

DIRECTOR: GARO BERBERIAN - 20 MIN. - HISTORICAL DRAMA - UK/ARMENIA - UNITED STATES PREMIERE

War permeates the country and mass arrests take place across the city while a poet's home is broken, his name ticked off the list never to return again - a casualty of the Armenian Genocide. A historical drama focusing on the damages of war, both physical and emotional.

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **KUBRICK BY CANDLELIGHT**

DIRECTOR: DAVID O'REILLY - 18 MIN. - COMEDY/HISTORICAL - IRELAND - EAST COAST PREMIERE

In 1973, Stanley Kubrick went to Ireland and brought the whole goddamn British Army. A light hearted romantic comedy set behind the scenes of the filming of Kubrick's Barry Lyndon.

Narrated by Brian Cox.

### **THE DRIVER IS RED**

DIRECTOR: RANDALL CHRISTOPHER - 15 MIN. - ANIMATION/DOCUMENTARY/HISTORICAL - USA

Set in Argentina 1960, this true crime documentary follows the story of secret agent Zvi Aharoni as he hunted down one of the highest ranking Nazi war criminals on the run.

### **SEND US SMOKES**

DIRECTOR: MICHELLE KEE - 10 MIN - DRAMA/MUSICAL/YOUTH - CANADA - DC PREMIERE

When 7-year-old Adelaide finds the care package of cigarettes she prepared for her father won't be delivered to him as he serves on the front lines of World War I, she decides to embark on a fantastical adventure to take it to him herself.

### **THE PECULIAR ABILITIES OF MR. MAHLER (DIE BESONDEREN FÄHIGKEITEN DES HERRN MAHLER)**

DIRECTOR: PAUL PHILIPP - 29 MIN. - DRAMA - GERMANY - DC PREMIERE

East Germany, 1987: The special investigator Mahler is said to have paranormal abilities. The police assigns him to solve the case of the 6-year-old Henry Kiefer, who is missing for weeks now, before this issue leads to political tensions with the West. But then he brings something to light that makes this family tragedy especially political.

## **THE REAL REEL (DOCUMENTARY SHORTS)**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 @ 9:15 P.M.**

### **THE ROAD BETWEEN US**

DIRECTOR: JOANNE FEINBERG AND KATHERINE ROSELLI - 14 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/AGING/SPORTS/FAMILY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A father and son bicycle 2,701 miles across America, on Route 66, and discover that the road between them is the life path that connects.

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **OUR SONG TO WAR (NUESTRO CANTO A LA GUERRA)**

DIRECTOR: JUANITA ONZAGA - 14 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/HUMAN RIGHTS/MYTHS/YOUTH - BELGIUM - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Crocodile-men, a mystic river, some kids that like fishing, and a war that ends all, share the same Colombian land; Bojaya. In this place, villagers have strange beliefs and celebrate the “Novenario” death ritual.

### **TEETH**

DIRECTOR: THOMAS HOGBEN - 11 MIN. - UK - DOCUMENTARY/COMEDY - US PREMIERE

Every crooked lateral incisor or overzealous premolar tells a story, and *Teeth* is short film exploring the relationship we have with these dental companions and how they impact our lives. Based around the story of the filmmakers troublesome teeth, the film is about more than just his little enamel tormentors. It explores our need to conform and our obsession with appearance in this age of the selfie, and questions how far should we go to look normal.

### **LITTLE FIEL**

DIRECTOR: IRINA PATKANIAN - 16 MIN. - ANIMATION/DOCUMENTARY/BIOGRAPHY - USA/MOZAMBIQUE

Guns are not killers. They are pieces of metal that can be reassembled into anything, including a little boy, a bird or a rose. Just as they make them, we can unmake them, one by one.

### **THE EDGE OF DAYBREAK**

DIRECTOR: ALIX LAMBERT - 10 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/MUSIC - USA - DC PREMIERE

It doesn't take a seasoned musician, engineer, or producer to marvel at The Edge of Daybreak and their sole record, Eyes of Love. Though rightly acclaimed for soulful melodies and passionate vocals, said record is ultimately infamous for having been recorded in one take at the Powhatan Correctional Center's recreational area by a six-inmate group, each member, then serving sentences ranging between six and 60 years, whisked back to their cells as soon as they'd hit the last note on the final track.

### **EDWARD HOPPER & MARSHALL'S HOUSE**

DIRECTOR: BOB BURNETT - 8 MIN. - LOCAL FILMMAKER/DOCUMENTARY

A short visit through five generations of a family's history, focusing on the artist, Edward Hopper, who captured their home one sunny Fall morning in 1932. This meditative short film, presents how the concept of family and an artist's work can reach beyond the confines of a period.



## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **EMPIRE ON MAIN STREET**

DIRECTOR: JESSICA CONGDON - 24 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/GLBT - DC PREMIERE

A tireless entrepreneur jump-starts the transformation of a neglected vacation town, until her ambition pushes her to the brink.

### **ANIMATION DOMINATION**

#### **E-STREET CINEMA**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 5:00 P.M.

#### **NEGATIVE SPACE**

DIRECTOR: MAX PORTER AND RU KUWAHATA - 6 MIN. - ANIMATION - FRANCE

My dad taught me how to pack.

#### **REVERIE**

DIRECTOR: EMILY DEWOOLFSON - 5 MIN. - ANIMATION/FANTASY/FAMILY/LOCAL FILMMAKER - USA - WORLD PREMIERE

A girl dreams of the way she wishes the world could be, or perhaps the way the world already is.

#### **WEEDS**

DIRECTOR: KEVIN HUDSON - 3 MIN - ANIMATION/COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

Weeds tells the story of a dandelion, rooted on the wrong side of the driveway in a barren yard surrounded by dry dirt and dead grass. Just across the concrete lies another yard, where the sprinklers spray water endlessly, and the greener grass holds the promise of a better life. While watching helplessly as its fellow weeds wither away and die, the dandelion faces a decision: take action or suffer the same fate.

#### **FOR A BETTER LIFE -**

DIRECTOR: YASMIN MISTRY - 10 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/ANIMATION - USA - DC PREMIERE

Sold for \$100 at the age of 5, Fekri suffers through years of abuse before his plight is discovered. After almost a year of hospitalization and therapy, Fekri moves into a group home where he finds support, mentorship, and eventual forgiveness towards the family which sold him.

#### **CREATURE FROM THE LAKE**

DIRECTORS: RENATA ANTUNEZ, ALEXIS BÉDUÉ, LÉA BRESCIANI, AMANDINE CANVILLE, MARIA CASTRO RODRIGUEZ, LOGAN CLUBER, NICOLAS GRANGEAUD,

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

CAPUCINE RAHMOUN-SWIERCZYNSKI, VICTOR ROUXEL, ORIANNE SICCARDI, AND MALLAURY SIMOES - 5 MIN. - ANIMATION - FRANCE - DC PREMIERE

In the 80s, a manly and experienced monster-hunter hero of a low-budget TV show, followed by his fat, cowardly camerawoman, go to a remote lake on the night of a full moon, when mysterious disappearances tend to occur.

### **TWEET-TWEET**

DIRECTOR: ZHANNA BEKMAMBETOVA - 11 MIN. - ANIMATION - RUSSIAN FEDERATION - DC PREMIERE

Our life is like walking on a tightrope. In times we are scared or lost we lose balance. When we are happy and excited we forget we walk on a rope. We can even fly! Main characters are girl Luba and her friend Sparrow. Silly Sparrow doesn't know fear. By playing with him Luba forgets her she is on a rope.

### **CAMILLE (QUAND J'AI REMPLACE CAMILLE)**

DIRECTOR: RÉMY CLARKE, LEÏLA COURTILLON, NATHAN OTAÑO - 7 MIN. - ANIMATION - FRANCE - DC PREMIERE

Laure must replace a deceased swimmer in the relay swim team. The qualifiers are near and the team worries about their chances at winning; the grief and stress pushes Laura to obsess over the one she replaces, Camille.

### **NEVADA**

DIRECTOR: EMILY ANN HOFFMAN - 12 MIN. - ANIMATION/COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

In this stop-motion animated comedy, a young couple's romantic weekend getaway is interrupted by a birth control mishap.

### **WEEKENDS**

DIRECTOR: TREVOR JIMENEZ - 15 MIN. - ANIMATION/YOUTH/FAMILY - USA - DC PREMIERE

*Weekends* is the story of a young boy shuffling between the homes of his recently divorced parents. Surreal dream-like moments mix with the domestic realities of a broken family in this hand-animated film set in 1980's Toronto.

### **SPACE BUTTHOLE**

DIRECTOR: DAVID CHAI - 8 MIN. - ANIMATION/COMEDY/SCI-FI - USA - DC PREMIERE

In the annals of mankind, we will realize that humans have been mistreating Mother Nature for far too long. It was only a matter of time before the universe blasted back, and experience a warning from the deepest bowels of the galaxy. Can humanity squeeze out a solution before it goes to pot? Don't stall to find out!

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **MY GRANDFATHER'S MEMORY BOOK**

DIRECTOR: COLIN LEVY - 4 MIN. - ANIMATION/DOCUMENTARY - USA - DC PREMIERE

A personal reflection about an unusual sketchbook that captures a lifetime of memories, connecting three generations through drawings, writings, and dialogue.

### **OPENING NIGHT**

DIRECTOR: MARGARET BIALIS - 5 MIN. - ANIMATION/MUSICAL/COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

A man reflects on formative conflicts from his past with optimism, humor, and gratitude, with a musical twist. Look within then dance it out.

## **YOUTH HAS BEEN SERVED or YOUTHFUL INDISCRETIONS**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 5:15 P.M.**

### **BINI**

DIRECTOR: ERBLIN NUSHI - 20 MIN. - LOCAL FILMMAKER/HISTORICAL DRAMA - USA/KOSOVO/ALBANIA/SERBIA - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

At the outbreak of the Kosovo War, six year old Bini is only thinking about his most prized possession, a piece of candy. When suddenly he and his family are faced with life threatening obstacles, Bini learns that candy may not be the only thing of value he loses that day. War and family come together in this touching film about love, loss, and sacrifice.

### **TRUE LOVE IN PUEBLO TEXTIL (AMOR VERDADERO EN PUEBLO TEXTIL)**

DIRECTOR: HORATIO BALTZ - 5 MIN. - YOUTH/ROMANCE/DOCUMENTARY - USA/CUBA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Nine-year-old Maribel explains to us how it feels to be stricken with the world's oldest affliction, love.

### **FAUVE**

DIRECTOR: JEREMY COMTE - 16 MIN. - DRAMA - CANADA - DC PREMIERE

Set in a surface mine, two boys sink into a seemingly innocent power game with Mother Nature as the sole observer.

### **RED VELVET**

DIRECTOR: MAHMOUD SAMIR AND YOUSSEF MAHMOUD - 15 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - EGYPT - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

When Nancy suffers from a sudden cardiac arrest in a morning, her only chance of survival lies in the hands of her oblivious five-year-old son Asser.

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **TRANSMITTER RECEIVER (ÉMETTEUR RECEPTEUR)**

DIRECTOR: VINCENT WILSON - 9 MIN. - SCI-FI/YOUTH - CANADA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

In order to escape the monotony and boredom of the end of the school year, a young boy fabricates a transceiver-receiver to communicate with strangers in the sky. The bright imagination of a child is brought to life in this touching and beautiful film.

### **ZERO GRAVITY**

DIRECTOR: THOMAS VERRETTE - 17 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/FAMILY/YOUTH - USA-WORLD PREMIERE

An 11-year-old Mexican-American girl competes in a middle-school program to control robotic satellites aboard the International Space Station, as part of a nation-wide competition to inspire marginalized youth.

### **HOW TOMMY LEMENCHICK BECAME A GRADE 7 LEGEND**

DIRECTOR: BASTIEN ALEXANDRE - 10 MIN. - COMEDY/YOUTH - CANADA - DC PREMIERE

Ophelia is an 11-year-old girl who lives with a complex, she's never been kissed. First, find a suitable candidate; Tommy Lemenchick. Second, orchestrate a situation that leads to her first kiss. At school the following day, we discover how Tommy Lemenchick became a Grade 7 legend.

## **ROTFLMAO (COMEDY SHORTS)**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 7:00 P.M.**

### **MANSPREADING**

DIRECTOR: ABDELATIF HWIDAR - 8 MIN. - COMEDY - SPAIN - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

One hundred and sixteen seats, a crowded subway, a long distance to travel.

### **FUNERAL**

DIRECTOR: LEAH SHORE - 8 MIN. - FANTASY/DRAMA/COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

When a pregnant woman delivers a convoluted speech to a gathering of family and close friends, she must face the consequences. She then retreats to a waiting room where the surreal meets the real by a water cooler.

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **PIETAS**

DIRECTOR: ROB WATERS - 4 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

Sometimes the toughest part of your day is explaining it to a loved one.

### **HIATUS**

DIRECTOR: KEVIN HAEFELIN - 12 MIN. - COMEDY - SWITZERLAND - DC PREMIERE

A philosophy teacher discusses religion in class. In the street he is confronted with his subject matter in an unexpected way.

### **HOLLY GOES TO THERAPY**

DIRECTOR: CAT VENTURA - 15 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A troubled woman participates in an unconventional therapy session.

### **END OF THE LINE**

DIRECTOR: JESSICA SANDERS - 15 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - DC PREMIERE

A lonely man goes to the pet store and buys a tiny man in a cage, and the two must learn to get along, or at least co-exist, which will not be easy!

### **OCULUS MALUS**

DIRECTOR: FÉLIX BENICOURT, MAXIME BLIN, MATHIEU BOUZARD, CAMILLE BULLET, VALENTIN CHOTEL, ADRIEN KOTTELAT, QUENTIN MASINGARBE AND DORIAN MOUTY - 5 MIN. - ANIMATION - FRANCE - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A crazy scientist creates special glasses in order to examine some little creatures that are invisible to human eyes. These creatures may just explain a good proportion of our little daily annoyances.

### **MY FIRST TIME**

DIRECTOR: JESS JACKLIN - 3 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A unexpected comedy with an unreliable narrator, *My First Time* tells the tale of the mourning of a first love.

### **THAT WAS AWESOME!**

DIRECTOR: ARLEN KONOPAKI - 18 MIN. - COMEDY/DISABILITY/FAMILY/SPORT - USA - WORLD PREMIERE

When a floor hockey team of adults with special needs gets pushed around one too many times off-the-court, they decide to stand up for themselves on-the-court in the game of a lifetime.



## DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

### **EMERGENCY**

DIRECTOR: CAREY WILLIAMS - 12 MIN. - COMEDY - USA - DC PREMIERE

Faced with an emergency situation, a group of young Black and Latino friends carefully weigh the pros and cons of calling the police. People of color have the internal conflict of desiring to move freely in this country but fearing they are not able to do so. *Emergency* is a timely commentary on an issue that plagues many people of color in our country today - fear of police.

### **I AM WOMAN**

#### **E-STREET CINEMA**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 7:15 P.M.

### **MAMA**

DIRECTOR: NICHOLAS BRENNAN - 7 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY - USA - DC PREMIERE

The film tells the touching story of one incredible woman who has dedicated her life to delivering children in her village in rural Uganda.

### **ROUND TRIP (SIVUV)**

DIRECTOR: LOREN TRABELSI - 6 MIN. - DRAMA/WOMEN'S ISSUES - ISRAEL - DC PREMIERE

A young girl becomes compromised after she accepts kindness from a stranger on a bus.

### **BEFORE PRISON**

DIRECTORS: EMILY HARGER AND OLIVIA MERRION - 8 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/WOMEN'S ISSUES - USA

Robyn Allen's 20-year prison sentence for trafficking drugs is far more complicated than it appears. Abuse has plagued her family, and Robyn's painful memories are just the tip of the iceberg.

### **MINSTREL VS. PUPPET**

DIRECTOR: MARCUS AUBIN - 7 MIN. - DRAMA - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

An artistic film illustrating the internal conflict many women, particularly women of color, experience surrounding the topics of brains and beauty. It also depicts how this same conflict manifests externally with some women identifying with and relating more to their own internal level of intellect while others identify with and relate more to their external degree of beauty.

### **MARGUERITE**

DIRECTOR: MARIANNE FARLEY - 19 MIN. - DRAMA/GLBT - CANADA - DC PREMIERE

For several years now Marguerite, a diabetic woman in her seventies, has been getting daily visits from Rachel, her home healthcare nurse. In spite of her declining condition, Marguerite Schedules subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please go to [www.dshorts.com/festival](http://www.dshorts.com/festival) for the most up-to-date schedule. For press screeners and hi res stills, please email [media@dshorts.com](mailto:media@dshorts.com).



## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

has been gradually emerging from her loneliness as she experiences moments of tenderness and sensuality, under Rachel's care.

### **BLACK, I AM (NEGRA SOY)**

DIRECTOR: LAURA BERMÚDEZ - 13 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY - HONDURAS - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

A beautiful and touching story of the Afro-Caribbean Garífuna people in Honduras, focusing on three women and a girl who tell of their aspirations, happiness, and being there for each other.

### **THE LIKES AND DISLIKES OF MARJ BAGLEY**

DIRECTOR: TAYLOR STANTON - 14 MIN. - ANIMATION/DOCUMENTARY - USA - DC PREMIERE

In this innovative documentary, a family recreates itself using stop-motion animation. The film tells the lifelong struggle of Marj, the matriarch of the Bagley clan, to find happiness. Marj battles infidelity, broken noses, dysfunctional relationships, giant birds, and a fateful game of cards with her grandchildren. Through a combination of interviews and recreations, her family reflects on the legacy of a woman who they realize they may not understand.

### **PERIOD. END OF SENTENCE**

DIRECTOR: RAYKA ZEHTABCHI - 25 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/WOMEN'S ISSUES - INDIA

The story of a quiet, profound revolution taking place for women in Northern India, where the stigma of menstruation limits their potential. Without sanitary products or proper education about their bodies, millions of girls end up missing school or dropping out entirely once they begin their periods. But in a modest room in a rural Indian village, local start to produce and sell thousands of pads to local women in an effort to improve feminine hygiene.

## **TIMELY TOPICS or RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 9:00 P.M.**

### **GUNS FOUND HERE**

DIRECTOR: DAVID FREID - 10 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/ACTIVISM/LOCAL FILMMAKER - USA - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

When there's a gun crime in America, there's only one place to go to trace the gun back to its owner, Martinsburg, West Virginia. That's where the ATF's National Tracing Center handles roughly 8,000 active traces per day, all while inside a government-mandated technology time-capsule that makes searching a database of gun owners impossible. With more gun stores in

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

the U.S.A. than McDonalds, Starbucks, and supermarkets combined, there's a lot of paperwork to manually sort through. And it's truly a sight to behold.

### **THE AVOCADO (EL AGUACATE)**

DIRECTOR: DARWIN SERINK - 11 MIN. - COMEDY/ROMANCE/TRAGEDY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

After several unsuccessful attempts, Raul finally gets the courage to ask his co-worker, Rosa, out on a date. To his surprise, she says yes, but when the anticipated day arrives, Raul is met with an unforeseen event that changes his life forever.

### **OSTRICH**

DIRECTOR: PATRICK WALSH - 14 MIN. - DRAMA - UK - WORLD PREMIERE

Late at night in a Westminster bar, principled junior broadsheet journalist Will Hewitt meets with no-nonsense Deputy Finance Minister, Pippa Thomas, for a routine interview on recent government fines imposed on the world's largest banks. Their early exchanges spark fireworks as liberal idealist grills conservative elite, but Will's true intentions are soon revealed as he ambushes Thomas with accusations of financial and political corruption.

### **VIEW**

DIRECTOR: GABRIEL GALLINDO - 15 MIN. - DRAMA/THRILLER - BRAZIL - EAST COAST PREMIERE

The most famous Brazilian Youtuber is kidnapped and forced to continue posting videos in captivity, asking her fans to donate her ransom via a crowdfunding campaign.

### **CASEY**

DIRECTOR: SHANRICA EVANS - 6 MIN. - LGBT/DRAMA - USA - DC PREMIERE

A teenager with gender dysphoria witnesses the physical assault of a transgender woman.

### **STATE OF EMERGENCY**

DIRECTOR: TAREK ROEHLINGER - 12 MIN. - DRAMA/ACTION - GERMANY - DC PREMIERE

A movie about a society in fear, it tells the story of two soldiers and their everyday life in Paris guarding an official building. An abandoned bag, curious onlookers, and a crazy tramp move the situation to its climax. The lines between normalcy and real danger disappear.

### **SIX MILES OUT**

DIRECTOR: HOSAM ABU DAN - 11 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY/DEVELOPING NATIONS - PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

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## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

Gaza fishermen sail into to the Mediterranean for the night to bring in a catch to eat and sell - and act of bravery, since the Israeli Navy prowls nearby ready to shoot.

### **BENEATH THE INK**

DIRECTOR: CY DODSON - 13 MIN. - DOCUMENTARY - USA - DC PREMIERE

In a time when society's belief systems are seemingly changing, or even reverting in time, one Ohio tattoo artist Billy Joe White is challenging his community by saying, "Bring me your mistakes". Beneath the Ink is a timely look at hate and racism in the western foothills of the Appalachian region that reveals heartfelt stories of change and redemption.

### **SUN SHINE**

DIRECTOR: WALKER HARE - 9 MIN. - DRAMA/COMEDY - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

When an African-American teenager gets a seemingly depressed white guy to open up, she discovers he's on his way to commit a horrible act.

## **THRILLS AND CHILLS**

### **E-STREET CINEMA**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 9:15 P.M.**

### **POKER NIGHT**

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL THOMAS TAYLOR - 9 MIN. - COMEDY/THRILLER - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

Bill always hosts poker night. It's just kind of his thing. This time, though, things get considerably out of hand. In a sick turn of events, friends are pitted against one another to survive.

### **ABEYANCE**

DIRECTOR: CHARLES BEALE - 4 MIN. - SCI-FI/PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

A malfunction in the stasis system leaves a man trapped in a state of sleep paralysis as he travels to colonize a distant planet, a journey destined to take twenty-seven years.

### **WANDERING EYES**

DIRECTOR: MAKAN TALAYEH - 15 MIN. - DRAMA/THRILLER - USA - EAST COAST PREMIERE

The lives of two seemingly disconnected couples, each with an unapologetic cheating spouse, come together in a twisted tale of betrayal and revenge as all four cross paths in an unexpected way.

Schedules subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please go to [www.dshorts.com/festival](http://www.dshorts.com/festival) for the most up-to-date schedule. For press screeners and hi res stills, please email [media@dshorts.com](mailto:media@dshorts.com).



## **DC SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & SCREENPLAY COMPETITION**

### **EVIE'S CHRISTMAS GIFT**

DIRECTOR: DAWN FIELDS - 9 MIN. - DRAMA/HORROR - USA - DC PREMIERE

After the loss of her mother, Evie rebels against her father and his over-the-top Christmas spirit. Evie learns a scary lesson, however, when she opens her Christmas presents before Christmas morning.

### **CELLS**

DIRECTOR: RAYMOND WOOD - 12 MIN. - THRILLER/DRAMA - USA - DC PREMIERE

When a reputable doctor finds himself being held captive by a group of masked intruders, he struggles to understand their motives while being forced to answer why billions of dollars are wasted each year in the name of medical research.

### **THE SON, THE FATHER**

DIRECTOR: LUKAS HASSEL - 13 MIN. - HORROR/DRAMA - USA - DC PREMIERE

The events on a young boy's birthday have twisted consequences far into his future. The script on which *The Son, The Father* is based was a finalist in the 2016 DC Shorts Film Festival and Screenplay Competition.

### **DEJA VU**

DIRECTOR: OLIVIER LABONTE LEMOYNE - 9 MIN. - DRAMA/THRILLER/HORROR - CANADA - US PREMIERE

A young woman meets with her best friend in a local diner to tell him about the fantasy she recently accomplished. But when a mysterious man enters, she is struck by a feeling of déjà vu. Everything around her starts to resemble a nightmare she has had.

### **WHO DECIDES**

DIRECTOR: MYLISSA FITZSIMMONS - 8 MIN. - DRAMA/HORROR - USA - DC PREMIERE

Death can no longer be denied. A sick woman and a young girl engage in a discussion about who decides when it's your time to die.

### **A TAXI OF COLDNESS**

DIRECTOR: JOONHA KIM - 20 MIN. - COMEDY/DRAMA - SOUTH KOREA - DC PREMIERE

A man rides a taxi late at night. When the taxi driver offers him chewing gum, he remembers his mother's 'Drugged Gum' story. Then the taxi driver says, 'Did you hear about those criminal taxi drivers?' But after repeated offers, the man accepts the gum after all.