

RAGTAG FILM SOCIETY



TRUE/FALSE FILM FEST 2024 FEATURE FILMS

1489 | Dir. Shoghakat Vardanyan; 2023; Armenia; 76 min

When Shoghakat's brother disappears during the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, she picks up her camera and doesn't put it down for two years.

23 Mile | Dir. Mitch McCabe; 2024; USA; 78 min

One Michigan filmmaker's quest to give a real political voice to the people of their state during a year of upheaval.

A Band Of Dreamers And A Judge | Dir. Hesam Eslami; 2023; Iran, France; 80 min

Under a starry sky in Iran, a group of men search for treasure in the hopes of becoming rich and finding happiness along the way.

A Photographic Memory | Dir. Rachel Elizabeth Seed; 2024; USA; 87 min

A filmmaker ventures into the archives of her photographer mother to construct a personal story of love, loss, and finding someone in the work they leave behind.

Agent of Happiness | Dirs. Arun Bhattarai & Dorottya Zurbó; 2024; Bhutan, Hungary; 94 min

Across Bhutan, government appointed Happiness Agents go door to door measuring people's happiness, while seeking their own fulfillment.

Alien Island | Dir. Cristóbal Valenzuela Berrios; 2023; Chile, Italy; 87 min

A Twilight Zone-esque investigation into rumors of an island of friendly aliens during the 1980s military dictatorship in Chile.

Allo La France | Dir. Floriane Devigne; 2023; France, Switzerland; 78 min

A mischievous and playful road movie through "peripheral" France in search of the country's remaining photo booths.

As the Tide Comes In | Dirs. Juan Palacios & Sofie Husum Johannesen; 2023; Denmark; 89 min

A Danish island's community of 27 residents face climate change's fury, holding tight to their normal lives despite harsh weather and rising tides.

Background | Dir. Khaled Abdulwahed; 2023; Germany; 64 min

A refugee in Germany attempts to bridge the divide with his father in Syria through reconstructing his journey. *Preceded by short "The Medallion"*

Behind Closed Doors | Dir. João Pedro Bim; 2023; Brazil; 66 min

Unearthing a secret recording of a government meeting, archival images and audio interplay in this exploration of politics and propaganda in 1960s Brazil. *Preceded by short "On the Battlefield"*

Boyz | Dir. Sylvain Cruiziat; 2023; Germany; 73 min

An intimate portrait of three 20-year-olds as they navigate the often complex and confusing passage between teenhood and young adulthood.

Dancing On The Edge Of A Volcano | Dir. Cyril Aris; 2023; Lebanon, Germany; 87 min

After the 2020 explosion in Beirut, a film crew confronts a crucial decision: pursue the production of their film or yield to the devastation surrounding them.

Daughters | Dirs. Angela Patton & Natalie Rae; 2023; USA; 111 min

Four young girls prepare for a Daddy Daughter Dance in a DC jail, a rare opportunity for physical connection with their incarcerated fathers.

Flying Lessons | Dir. Elizabeth Nichols; 2024; USA; 84 min

A tender portrait of an outsider artist fighting for tenants rights on the Lower East Side in New York City.

Girls State | Dirs. Amanda McBaine & Jesse Moss; 2023; USA; 96 min

Missouri teen girls spend a week building a government from the ground up, but as they start to notice differences with their male counterparts, discontent emerges. *Presented by Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy*

Gwetto | Dir. Michaël Andrianaly; 2023; France; 52 min

A group of undocumented men working at a car wash pass the time as they wait for their luck to change. *Preceded by short "Todisoa and the Black Stones"*

I Like It Here | Dir. Ralph Arlyck; 2022; USA; 88 min

At age 78, filmmaker Ralph Arlyck weaves a rumination on mortality, community and the passing of time in this personal essay film.

Ibelin | Dir. Benjamin Ree; 2024; Norway; 104 min

A young man with a degenerative disease finds community and companionship in the online realm of World of Warcraft.

K-Family Affairs | Dir. Arum Nam; 2023; South Korea; 86 min

A filmmaker turns the lens on her family to interrogate the history of democratization in South Korea and their place in it.

Look Into My Eyes | Dir. Lana Wilson; 2023; USA; 107 min

A group of psychics in New York City conduct sessions with their clients while revealing their own personal struggles, setbacks, and desires.

Magic Mountain | Dirs. Mariam Chachia & Nik Voigt; 2023; Georgia, Poland; 74 min

A portrait of the remote Abastumani palace, nestled high in the Georgian mountains, where tuberculosis-stricken patients live in seclusion.

Nofinofy | Dir. Michaël Andrianaly; 2019; France; 83 min

After he loses his barbershop, Romeo sets up shop with varying success in different pockets of Toamasina, Madagascar.

Obsolete | Dir. Sumira Roy; 2023; India; 64 min

Passing time behind their Mumbai tenement balcony, an elderly couple waits for a response on their appeal for euthanasia. *Preceded by short "The Lady with Lipstick"*

Seeking Mavis Beacon | Dir. Jazmin Jones; 2024; USA; 102 min

Two DIY investigators examine the disappearance and legacy of one of the most influential Black women in technology, Mavis Beacon. *Presented by Show Me Quality Consulting*

Spermworld | Dir. Lance Oppenheim; 2024; USA; 84 min

The desire to procreate, and the complications that arise, inform this incisive look into the online world of private sperm donation. **All review coverage of FX's Spermworld is embargoed until Wednesday, March 20, 2024. Press is welcome to share spoiler-free reactions and sentiment, inclusive of quotes from the Q&A session, in a preview or on social media if they are so inclined.*

sr | Dir. Lea Hartlaub; 2024; Germany; 103 min

Using the giraffe as a starting point, this essay film weaves a tale that goes beyond the anthropomorphic to address the nature of humanity.

The Other Profile | Dir. Armel Hostiou; 2023; France; 82 min

After a French filmmaker discovers a duplicate Facebook profile of someone masquerading as him online, he ends up on a thrilling journey across DR Congo to search for the culprit.

There Was, There Was Not | Dir. Emily Mkrtichian; 2024; USA, Armenia; 90 min

A richly textured tapestry telling the story of Artsakh through the daily lives of four women fighting to save their homeland.

This Is Going To Be Big | Dir. Thomas Charles Hyland; 2023; Australia; 100 min

A neurodiverse teen cast navigates the challenges of adolescence while preparing for their first high school, time-traveling musical. *Presented by Boone Supported Living*

Three Promises | Dir. Yousef Srouji; 2023; Palestine, United States, Lebanon; 61 min

A filmmaker excavates the hidden childhood home movies recorded by his mother during the tumultuous early 2000s in the West Bank.

Tokyo Story | Dir. Yasujirō Ozu; 1953; Japan; 136 min

An elderly couple visits their children in Tokyo, only to find themselves neglected, as familial bonds and generational divides unfold in this quietly tragic film.

Union | Dirs. Stephen Maing and Brett Story; 2024; USA; 104 min

A David vs. Goliath story following the formation of the Amazon Labor Union, as Amazon workers unite to fight for their rights.

Yintah | Dirs. Michael Toledano, Jennifer Wickham, Brenda Michell; 2024; Canada; 125 min

Wet'suwet'en leaders unite in a battle against the Canadian government, corporations, and militarized law enforcement to safeguard their territory from gas and oil pipelines.

TRUE/FALSE FILM FEST 2024 SHORT FILMS

Amma ki Katha | Dir. Nehal Vyas; 2023; India, USA; 21 min

A creative and incisive look at how history is written and rewritten as a filmmaker unpacks the myth-making of her homeland, India. (Plays in Shorts: Impossible Solution)

Ardent Other | Dir. Alice Brygo; 2022; France; 16 min

As a medieval cathedral burns, throngs of people gather to bear witness. As their gazes take center-stage, this 3D animated short highlights the human desire for meaning. (Plays in Shorts: Absent Presence)

Contractions | Dir. Lynne Sachs; 2024; USA; 12 min

Intimate confessions, paired with experimental choreography outside a woman's clinic in Memphis, offer a glimpse into post Roe v. Wade America. (Plays in Shorts: Impossible Solution)

Dreams About Putin | Dir. Nastia Korkia; 2023; Belgium, Hungary, Portugal; 30 min

After Russia's attack on Ukraine, thousands of people began dreaming about Putin. In this visually thrilling film, those dreams come to life through 3D animation. (Plays in Shorts: Absent Presence)

Empty Rooms | Dir. Zhenia Kazankina; 2023; Russia; 6 min

Following a mass emigration from Russia, a poignant love letter emerges in the abandoned home spaces of friends and family. (Plays in Shorts: Random Order)

Familia | Dirs. Picho García & Gabriela Pena; 2024; Chile; 20 min

An innovative, funny, and heartfelt exploration of the weight of expectations told through family Whatsapp messages and instagram stories. (Plays in Shorts: Random Order)

Four Holes | Dir. Daniela Muñoz Barroso; 2023; Cuba, France; 20 min

Filmmaker and subject find common ground in this humorous portrait of Pepe, the mastermind behind a DIY golf course on the outskirts of Madrid. (Plays in Shorts: Impossible Solution)

Friends on the Outside | Dir. Annabel Moodie; 2023; Scotland, UK; 10 min

Through phone calls and footage of nature, this short weaves the story of a man who discovers a love of foraging while incarcerated. (Plays in Shorts: Absent Presence)

Headshot | Dir. Dominic Yarabe; 2023; USA; 8 min

A meditative essay film ruminating on image-making and the historically fraught relationship that Black Americans have with the camera and the land. (Plays in Shorts: Absent Presence)

I Am The Immaculate Conception | Dir. Frank Eli Martin; 2023; UK; 17 min

In a Rural Irish village, residents grapple with faith and an underlying darkness in the aftermath of a divine event four decades ago. (Plays in Shorts: Static Flow)

I Would've Been Happy | Dir. Jordan Wong; 2023; USA; 9 min

A filmmaker uses glazed ceramic tiles and architectural inspiration to reconstruct his childhood home as a means of processing his parents' divorce. (Plays in Shorts: Random Order)

Junior Tu Papá | Dir. Daniel Díaz; 2024; Colombia, UK, USA; 16 min

Phone calls, fútbol heroes, and Colombian history meld together in this rumination on family ties, cultural memory, and diasporic connection. (Plays in Shorts: Random Order)

L'Esquisse | Dir. Tomas Cali; 2023; France; 9 min

Animated strokes blend with live-action, when an immigrant artist encounters a new muse who helps them make meaning in a new country. (Plays in Shorts: Impossible Solution)

Night Audit | Dir. Ryan Ross; 2024; USA; 15 min

Empty hallways, check-in desks and liminal spaces are the background for hotel employees to reflect on the ups and downs of working the night shift. (Plays in Shorts: Static Flow)

Nortel | Dir. Evan Gareth Hoffman; 2023; Canada; 15 min

A high-energy eye-popping and toe-tapping trip through modern capitalism--featuring inept CEOs, driven social media influencers, the benefits of skin care, and Canadian phones. (Plays in Shorts: Absent Presence)

On the Battlefield | Dirs. Theresa Delsoin, Lisa Marie Malloy, J.P. Sniadecki, Ray Whitaker; 2024; USA; 13 min

While walking through the former site of the housing projects in his hometown of Cairo, Illinois, a sound recordist uncovers an auditory archive. (Plays Before: *Behind Closed Doors*)

Personal Mythologies | Dir. Susan O'Brien; 2024; USA; 4 min

Painter Dominique Castelano reflects on her trans identity through folklore from her native Philippines in this visually rich portrait. (Plays in Shorts: Static Flow)

POV Memory | Dir. Igor Smola; 2023; Azerbaijan, Singapore; 13 min

Shadowing a soldier through a patchwork of archive and surveillance material, this evocative film examines the evolving existentialism around self-imaging and memory. (Plays in Shorts: Static Flow)

Queen's Crochet | Dir. Hanna CHO; 2023; South Korea; 36 min

A filmmaker takes on the biggest crocheting challenge of her life and reaffirms her queer identity in the process. (Plays in Shorts: Static Flow)

Roberto Baggio | Dir. Henrique Cartaxo; 2023; Brazil; 7 min

A filmmaker investigates his childhood memory of Brazil's 1994 World Cup win, reflecting on capitalism and pop culture through a moody 90s aesthetic. (Plays in Shorts: Absent Presence)

Strong Grandma | Dir. Cecilia Brown, Winslow Crane-Murdoch; 2023; USA; 15 min

A 95 yr old weightlifter reflects on love and loss as she prepares for her final competition in this delightful short. (Plays in Shorts: Random Order)

The Lady With Lipstick | Dir. Francesca Coppola; 2023; Italy, Switzerland; 9 min

Archival family footage evolves into a testimony as the director's grandmother reflects on life, womanhood, and the post-war changes in her town's landscape fifty years later. (Plays Before: *Obsolete*)

The Medallion | Dir. Ruth Hunduma; 2023; UK; 19 min

A filmmaker reflects on her family's history, artfully interweaving archival footage with her mother's memories of Ethiopia's Red Terror. (Plays Before: *Background*)

Tilted Arc | Dir. Baxter Stein; 2023; USA; 14 min

An archival excavation of the meaning of public art told through the controversy surrounding Richard Serra's commissioned sculpture for the New York Federal Plaza. (Plays in Shorts: Random Order)

Todisoa and the Black Stones | Dir. Michaël Andrianaly; 2013; France, Madagascar; 26 min

Michaël Andrianaly's first short film tells the story of Vohitrambato, a village whose inhabitants have had their land taken by a mining project. (Plays before: *Gwetto*)

Two Sun | Dir. Blair Barnes; 2024; USA; 5 min

A mood piece with its own rhythm, this evocative film explores the relationship to the self and our ever-evolving understanding of identity. (Plays in Shorts: Impossible Solution)