

rlns
INSTITUTE

PRESENTS

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL

07-09
SEPTEMBER
2023

PROGRAMME

HOST CITY



CITY OF CAPE TOWN



MAKING IT HAPPEN

PART OF



SUPPORTING PARTNER



VENUE PARTNER



BUILT BY



In the business of building businesses

STORYTELLING IS OUR MOST POWERFUL TECHNOLOGY

rlns
INSTITUTE

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2015
REALNESS HAS RECEIVED **1977** SUBMISSIONS FROM
21 AFRICAN COUNTRIES

COUNTRIES

WE HAVE SUPPORTED

48 FEATURE FILMS

6 DOCUMENTARIES &

27 SERIES PROJECTS



152

PROFESSIONALS

HAVE GONE THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMES AND BELONG TO OUR GROWING ALUMNI NETWORK ACROSS AFRICA

REALNESS ALUMNI HAVE RECEIVED RECOGNITION FROM AND PARTNERED WITH:

BUILDING AN AFRICAN AUDIOVISUAL SYSTEM



WELCOME



I am incredibly honoured and excited to serve as the Artistic Director of the inaugural FAME Short Film Festival. This festival is not only a celebration of the vibrant and burgeoning filmmaking community but also a platform through which we hope to connect people and communities through the magic of film.

Together with the selection committee, we've carefully curated a program of 32 exceptional short films that exemplify the richness of African and African Diaspora storytelling. The selected talented filmmakers infuse the world of cinema with fresh perspectives and innovative artistry.

LYSE ISHIMWE NSENGIYUMVA
Programmer at International Film Festival Rotterdam & Founder at Recognition, Artistic Director - FAME Shorts Film Festival



Welcome to the FAME Film Shorts Festival, a celebration of authentic African storytelling. Embark on an exciting journey through compelling narratives that reflect the richness of our continent's cultures, experiences, and voices. This festival is more than an event; it's a platform that amplifies diverse perspectives, nurtures creativity, and fosters connections within our creative community. As we gather to appreciate these captivating stories, we also mark the beginning of a vibrant tradition. Anticipate the start of many more festivals that will continue to showcase the brilliance of African filmmaking. Thank you for joining us in this cinematic exploration, where each film is a testament to the power of storytelling that resonates across borders and touches hearts. Enjoy the FAME Film Shorts Festival!

MARTIN HILLER
Portfolio Director:
FAME Week Africa



Welcome to the FAME Film Shorts Festival, a showcase of vibrant African storytelling curated in collaboration with the Realness Institute. With insights from the Southern Africa-Locarno Industry Academy 2023 participants, we present a selection that transcends singular narratives. Our aim is to illuminate diverse and uncharted stories from Africa and its diaspora, elevating voices often underrepresented. This partnership reflects our commitment to fostering nuanced and multifaceted perspectives. As we embark on this cinematic journey, we celebrate the joint effort of the Realness Institute and Lyse Nsengiyumva in creating a platform that celebrates the rich tapestry of African narratives. Enjoy the festival's tapestry of stories!

ELIAS RIBEIRO
Programme director and Locarno-appointed Southern Africa Manager

SOUTHERN AFRICA-LOCARNO INDUSTRY ACADEMY 2023 PRESENTS

The Realness Institute presents the Southern Africa-Locarno Industry Academy in partnership with the Locarno Film Festival, FAME Week Africa, and with the support of The Story Board Collective. This initiative nurtures emerging film practitioners in areas such as distribution, exhibition, and festival programming. This year's participants curated the FAME Shorts Film Festival programme.



ABULELE NJISANE, a Media and Cultural Studies lecturer at the University of KZN delves into South African cinema's transformation in her doctoral research. Engaged with the Durban Film Festival and leading skill development, she bridges academia and industry advancement.



ANGA MQINGWANA, Production & Distribution Coordinator at Big World Cinema, holds a Motion Picture Medium degree from AFDA. With a background spanning post-production, research, and production, she manages the company's film catalogues.



KHANYISILE ZONDI, Film Marketer and Publicist, founded Sinema Agency, offering film marketing and distribution support. With a background in digital communication and media, she empowers filmmakers with strategic promotion, drawing from her own journey.



LERATO BOKAKO is a Festival Programmer at the New York African Diaspora International Film Festival, passionate about African cinema. With a decade of industry experience, she spotlights emerging trends while contributing her versatile writing to various publications and projects.



LUCINDA VAN DERHEEDE, Programme Manager at Rough Cut Lab Africa, transitioned from database programming to filmmaking. She's produced, directed, and edited various films, and her dedication extends to community building and industry development.



NOZIPHO SWELINDAWO, a Sunshine Cinema Spark Ambassador, actively contributes to her community through film, co-presents a show, and founded Mbudu Arts Centre. She's a Young Creative at Ngquza Hill Community Arts Centre and a Film Facilitation Course student at UCT.



TARYN JOFFE is a skilled film programmer, curator, and writer. She's Festival Programmer and Industry Coordinator at Encounters and Distribution Manager at Electric South. Her roles include Board Member for the DFA, NFVF Advisory Panellist, and SAFTAs Juror.



SEGGEN MIKAEL, with a background in anthropology and cultural studies, contributes to DOK.fest Munich, Africa focus DOK.network Africa, and the EFM Toolbox program. As a curator, she prioritizes inclusive representation and intersectional analysis of media content.



VICTORIA OGAR, Filmone Entertainment's Film Account Manager, has six years' experience in film marketing and distribution. She's led campaigns for 100+ titles, including Black Panther, all while championing Nollywood's presence in markets and festivals.

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

4pm - 5pm CANADIAN SHORTS

- Flying Sailor
- Into the Light
- Snow Warrior
- Nalujuk Night

LONGING & BELONGING #identity #community

- #### 6pm-7.30pm
- Mirror, Mirror
 - I Wonder Why
 - You can't stop Spirit
 - EGÚNGÚN / MASQUERADE
 - Timis

- #### 8pm - 9.30pm
- Civic
 - Baba
 - A Void
 - Losing Joy

FRIDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

LOST IN PLACES

#home #refugee #displacement

4.30pm - 6pm

- Hyperlink
- Mary Monday

6pm - 7.30pm

- For Love
- The Text Allows No Interpretation
- Swimming in a Sea of Trauma
- What the Soil Remembers
- The Weight of Memories on My Feet

8pm - 9.30pm

- Lend a Voice
- I Was Never Really Here
- Here Ends the World We've Known
- Forgotten Paradise

SATURDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER

INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

#labour #climatechange #globalwarming

6pm - 7.30pm

- Kenopsia
- Sumara Maré
- Terra Mater
- Jua Kali
- Bushrider
- Apostles of Cinema

8pm - 9.30pm

- Machini
- My Protector
- Precious Hair & Beauty
- The Reclaimers
- Drummies

CANADA

Do Business with Canada

Are you looking for a business partner you can trust? Canada is home to a dynamic marketplace supported by an innovative economy and welcoming business community. World-renowned for its capabilities in diverse sectors and has 14 free trade agreements in force with 49 countries, Canada is an ideal environment for partnerships and investment.

The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) is a government organization that has facilitated trade with Canada since 1895. With offices in more than 160 cities across Canada and around the world, we are accessible to both Canadian and international companies looking to do business.

With an in-depth knowledge of global markets and insight on Canadian industry sector capabilities, we can connect you with strategic procurement, investment, innovation or education partners in Canada.

Let our team of professionals help you with our free services.

Contact a trade commissioner to start doing business with Canada.

BUY FROM CANADA

We can introduce you to the Canadian organization best suited to meet your needs for high-quality products services or technologies.

INVEST IN CANADA

Establish or expand your business in Canada to benefit from a stable economy with competitive business costs, a safe and inclusive environment and a highly educated and skilled workforce. Our investment professionals can provide the strategic intelligence you need.

INNOVATE WITH CANADA

Canada is a world leader in science and technology with strong capabilities across a wide range of sectors. We can connect you with the right research and developer (R&D) partners in Canada.

STUDY IN CANADA

Canada has some of the world's top research facilities and academic institutions. We can connect you with the right schools, scholarships and potential R&D partners as well as education and training service providers.

LONGING AND BELONGING

A COLLECTION OF SHORT FILMS INTIMATELY PROBE 'LONGING AND BELONGING,' UNRAVELLING HUMAN YEARNINGS AND SELF-DISCOVERY.

CHARACTERS NAVIGATING IDENTITY, ISOLATION AND HOME, EVOKING PERSONAL REFLECTION AND SKILFULLY JUXTAPOSING LONGING'S ACHE AND BELONGING'S SOLACE.

ISOLATE

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023

MIRROR, MIRROR

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LONGING & BELONGING

Brandon's life has begun to feel like a series of misfortunes. Every goal he has set out for himself has led to disappointment and subsequent resentment. When the charismatic yet controversial Logan, presents Brandon with an opportunity to turn it all around, he sees a way to break free from his circumstances. However, there is no way out when you're isolated.

A short film made by determined creatives which showcases each individual talent, ISOLATE is a fresh take on modern masculinity and mental health in the internet age.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 6 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2023
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
LANGUAGE: English



DIRECTOR
Bez August, a self-taught filmmaker from Cape Town, crafts compelling visuals and narratives. His journey from phone filming to production company ownership exemplifies his

passion. Through innovative storytelling, he addresses real-life and controversial themes like "Isolate," confronting toxic masculinity. Bez uplifts emerging artists, advocating inclusivity and pushing norms.



DIRECTOR + WRITER
Kelly-Ann Manuel, immersed in film studies, propelled by storytelling's boundless potential. Her play "Spaza," which she wrote and directed, earned Zabalaza

Theatre Festival's Best Script nod. Enthralled by coming-of-age tales, she aims to craft resonant films, amplifying diverse voices and perspectives.

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

LONGING & BELONGING

Mirror Mirror is a comedic coming of age story that takes place over a video call between adorkable 17-year-old Luthando and her best friend, Jodie as they try to navigate the mechanics of self-pleasure and what it means to be a woman.



DIRECTOR
Sandulela Asanda is a dynamic young filmmaker, blending her Law and Economics background with a passion for storytelling. Holding an Honours degree in film from AFDA

Film School, Cape Town, her student work "Nongqawuse" garnered acclaim as South Africa's entry for the Escolas section of the BRICS film festival 2019. Winner of The Pitch South Africa Short Film competition, her professionally produced debut "Mirror Mirror" premiered at TIFF. Sandulela is scripting her feature debut "Black Burns Fast," a coming-of-age narrative exploring identity at an elite predominantly white high school. An alumna of Locarno Film Festival's Basecamp, Durban Film Mart, and Realness African Screenwriter's Residency.

GENRE: Coming of Age
RUNTIME: 9 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2023
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
LANGUAGE: English, isiXhosa

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

I WONDER WHY

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LONGING & BELONGING

'I Wonder Why' is a haunting electronic soundscape by UK music producer Charles Webster with a spoken-word monologue by South African music legend Sipho "Hotstix" Mabuse. South African director Imran Hamdulay creates arresting imagery, juxtaposing moments which reflect the complex duality of South Africa today and its tortured history.



DIRECTOR

Imran Hamdulay is a dynamic writer and director known for his work in both film and commercials. With accolades including a Berlinale Talents alumni status, a Film Independent

fellowship, and the Robert Bosch Stiftung award, he's a standout in the industry. CNN Inside Africa hailed him as one of Africa's directors to watch, and his scripts have earned recognition at platforms like EAVE and IFFR Cinemart Lab. Imran's recent co-written and produced crime thriller "SONS OF THE SEA" earned him a SAFTA nomination and the Best Feature Film award at Durban International Film Festival.

GENRE: Music Video
RUNTIME: 4 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
LANGUAGE: English

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

YOU CAN'T STOP SPIRIT

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LONGING & BELONGING

The Mardi Gras Baby Dolls' masking tradition fearlessly explore themes of identity, sexual liberation and the freedom that carnival lends in New Orleans amongst Black women. The group pulls a thread throughout time to reclaim culture, tradition and freedom while challenging society's perception on how Black women are to act and exist in the world. They create an alternative social space.



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Vashni Korin is a Caribbean-American Director from New York. She is best known for her dream-like music video direction and documentary work on various aspects of womanhood, tradition

and spirit of the diaspora. Her directorial debut on the Baby Dolls of New Orleans explores themes of identity, sexual liberation and freedom. She's worked alongside Lizzo as a cinematographer for her upcoming documentary.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 13 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA
LANGUAGE: English

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

EGÚNGÚN (MASQUERADE)

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LONGING & BELONGING

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

Salewa must return home for her mother's funeral, to Lagos, a place where she once had to hide herself. At the funeral, she runs into an important person from her past, and is forced to go in search of her own peace. *Egúngún (Masquerade)* is a meditation on home, memory, and identity—on the many versions of ourselves that haunt us.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 11 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2021
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Nigeria, UK
LANGUAGE: English, Yoruba



DIRECTOR
Olive Nwosu, born in Lagos, Nigeria, is a BAFTA Pigott 2020 Scholar, Alex Sichel Fellow at Columbia University School of the Arts, and an 'African Promises' director chosen

by the Institut Français. Her 2019 short film "Troublemaker," set in rural Nigeria with non-actors, is screened worldwide. The film featured at festivals like Clermont Ferrand Film Festival, Raindance, and Aspen ShortsFest. It earned accolades including the NBR Student Award and Best Shorts Director Prize. Commissioned by the British Council and BFI, her second short "*Egúngún (Masquerade)*" explores outsider perspectives, reflecting her diverse life experiences across continents. Olive is collaborating with Deivós and Film4 for her debut feature.

TIMIS

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LONGING & BELONGING

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

Twilight engulfs the Dakar market in shadows, empowering the spirit world. Amidst this enigma, Binta defies norms, aiming to prove girls' leadership prowess in a child-prohibited domain. The mysterious Pa kong-kong fuels rumors with his secretive bag, linked to mischief and child torment. Isolated in Netty Mbar, a desolate suburb, he shares his realm with a fearsome night-guarding monster-dog. Fear doesn't deter Binta's determined confrontation, challenging perceptions of girlhood's potential for leadership. Success could reshape beliefs and elevate Binta's status.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 16 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Senegal
LANGUAGE: French



WRITER + DIRECTOR
Awa Mactar Gueye graduated with a master's degree in arts and culture from the Gaston Berger University in Saint-Louis, Senegal. She has undertaken residencies at

the Summer University of La Fémis in Paris, the Fidacod Residency in Morocco and the Rencontres Internationales du Cinéma du réel in Senegal. Her films have screened at festivals including in Poitiers, Bilbao and Saint-Louis.



LONGING & BELONGING

“CIVIC” is an introspective short film tracing Booker’s return to his South Central, L.A. roots after self-imposed exile. Set predominantly within his car, the film shadows Booker’s encounters throughout his old neighborhood. Reconnecting with childhood friend Tee, they meander through liquor stores and deserted lots, exploring their pasts. Booker’s escapade gradually unveils his avoidance of familial responsibilities. A chance encounter on the verge of departure triggers a perspective shift. “CIVIC” poignantly portrays wordless connections, mundane moments, and the unscripted essence of unburdened Black life.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 20 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA (Los Angeles)
LANGUAGE: English



DIRECTOR
 Los Angeles-based filmmaker **Dwayne LeBlanc**, a first-generation Caribbean-American artist, delves into themes of migration, visibility, and dual identities. His self-taught

approach has yielded notable success, exemplified by his debut short film “Civic” (2022). This introspective narrative, exploring homecoming, garnered a Ghetto Film School and Netflix production grant and earned recognition at festivals like International Film Festival Rotterdam, Clermont-Ferrand, and Indie Memphis. LeBlanc’s rising profile secured a place in the “future of cinema” at the 2023 New Directors / New Films festival, where “Civic” graced Lincoln Center and the Museum of Modern Art. Anticipating his debut feature, he will engage in the MacDowell fellowship’s 2024 residency program.

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
 8PM - 9:30PM



LONGING & BELONGING

Baba has a magical superpower - teleportation. His unique gift not only helps him navigate through daily life situations, but enables him to protect childhood and innocence.

In the outskirts of Nairobi, Baba, a six-year-old boy with the unique gift of teleportation struggles to understand people and the world around him - including his cousin Kevin, who is frequently tasked with looking after him, and even shares a room with him. Buoyed by childish optimism and an extraordinary imagination, he bounces between his harsh reality and the peaceful solitude that his magical gift brings, as he learns to protect childhood and innocence.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 15 minutes
COMPLETION DATE:
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Kenya
LANGUAGE: English, Swahili

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
 8PM - 9:30PM



DIRECTOR
Mbithi Masya is a versatile filmmaker, music video director, and commercial creator. His debut feature “Kati Kati,” produced by renowned German director Tom Tykwer, garnered

worldwide acclaim, securing the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) award at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival. Hailed as an innovative new voice in cinema by FIPRESCI, the film went on to win multiple accolades at global festivals, including the Palm Springs International Festival and Africa Movie Viewers Choice Awards. Masya is also a member of the esteemed experimental art collective, JUST A BAND.

LEEMTES & LEEGHEID (A VOID)

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LONGING & BELONGING

Ingrid Jonker's heart-breaking poem "Jy het my gesterf...", is the pivot around which this short film revolves. This moving short film tells the story of Magdaleen, a lonely widow trapped in the waves of loss. Magdaleen creates an imaginary version of her deceased husband to process the end of a lifetime's love, but it also prevents her from entering the outside world and seeing the sea again, which she longs for. Lida Botha delivers a tour de force as Magdaleen alongside her husband of more than fifty years, Johan Botha. Another veteran, Ivan Abrahams, plays the role of Magdaleen's new neighbour who shares her love for Ingrid Jonker's poetry and in his own way becomes a mirror image of her longing to find closure.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 26 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
LANGUAGE: Afrikaans



DIRECTOR
Jordy Sank, a two-time SAFTA-winning South African Director, Screenwriter, and Producer, is celebrated for the documentaries "I Am Here" (2021) and Afrikaans short film "Leemtes en Leegheid (A Void)" (2022). Recognized with the Emerging Filmmaker Award at SAFTA, he's a Durban Talents alumnus, a Silver Screen Award recipient at Young Director Awards Cannes, and a Jozi Film Festival and Africa Human Rights Film Festival Best Director awardee.



PRODUCER
Gabriella Blumberg, a renowned South African producer, director, and writer, crafts impactful stories. Her award-winning documentary "I Am Here" gained global recognition, while her advocacy work breaks stigma through compelling narratives.

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
8PM - 9:30PM

LOSING JOY

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LONGING & BELONGING

A young woman struggling to acknowledge the first anniversary of her sister's death is lost in her grief. Will close friend and past lover be able to guide her into acceptance?

Official Selection of BFI FLARE, Blackstar Film Festival and Edinburgh International Film Festival.



DIRECTOR
Juliana Oluwatosin Kasumu, a Nigerian-British artist and filmmaker, thrives across London, Lagos, and New Orleans. With fragmented, non-linear narratives, her practice

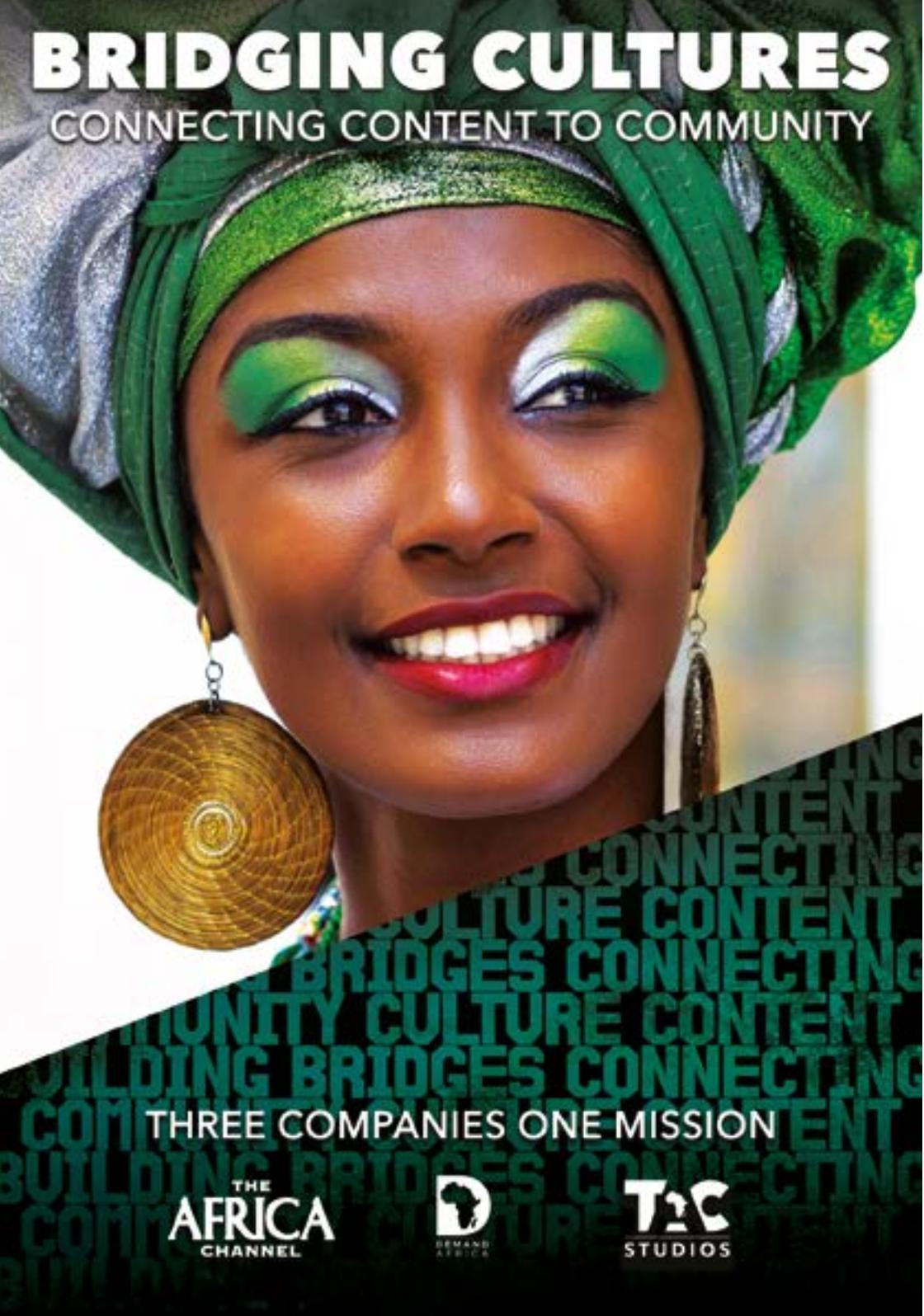
dives into identity amidst transculturalism. "What Does The Water Taste Like?" is a recent walk-through installation, exploring Black spaces like hair salons and churches that evoke security. Memory-work fuels her work, delving into neocolonialism, language, and belonging across Africa, Europe, and The Americas, forging inventive connections.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 15 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United Kingdom
LANGUAGE: English

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
8PM - 9:30PM

BRIDGING CULTURES

CONNECTING CONTENT TO COMMUNITY



THREE COMPANIES ONE MISSION



LOST IN PLACES

IMAGINE A LEAF TORN FROM ITS BRANCH BEFORE LANDING ON FOREIGN SOIL. EXPERIENCE A JOURNEY OF DISPLACEMENT, WHERE OUR PROTAGONIST NAVIGATE ALONG UNCHARTED PATHWAYS, EACH STEP A TENTATIVE EXPLORATION OF NEW LANDSCAPES, NEW FACES, AND NEW TRUTHS.



JERRY



PUPPY

LOST IN PLACES

In four short films, young South African makers reflect on the seductive, and at times treacherous, illusory reality of the internet. Using humour, suspense and social criticism, this collective production sketches a society dominated by idealised projections of the dreamt self.

A Christian convert is preparing for his rebirth as a man of god – unaware that his teenage daughter, who hasn't heard from him in three months, has declared him dead on social media. A school girl sees her private life made public when she invites a classmate, who is an online influencer, to her home. A divorced man with financial troubles so much wants to show his young daughter he can be a good father, that he fails to see the precarious position he is manoeuvring himself into. And a poet and commentator risks losing herself and those she loves in her desire to use her fame to achieve social change.

JERRY



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Mzonke Maloney, a Cape Town-based filmmaker, pioneers character-driven narratives within the context of new South African storytelling. He's part of the emerging wave of

filmmakers, crafting authentic and compelling narratives. Mzonke's portfolio includes commercials and festival-screened short films.

NSFW

(NOT SAFE FOR WATCHING / WORK)



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Noliitha Refilwe Mkulisi, a Berlin and Johannesburg-based South African filmmaker, founded Brown Flamingo Productions. Her work, showcased globally, widens perspectives and

explores innovative distribution models. Oscars Gold Fellowship nominee.

IRL



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Julie Nxadi, a multidisciplinary South African artist and writer hailing from Ngqushwa and Makhanda, crafts stories through fragments, tension, and surrealism. Her mediums

include flash fiction, short films, and archive exploration. As Creative Director of The Mutha_Ship Landing, she empowers emerging Black artists. With a Master's in Creative Writing, Julie has been published in prominent publications, collaborated with notable artists, and showcased her work internationally.

PUPPY



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Evan Wigdorowitz, a Johannesburg-born Director/Writer, crafts dynamic work across forms and genres. His short films and music videos have earned festival recognition worldwide.

'Puppy,' part of 'Hyperlink,' screened at IFFR, Festival cinémas d'Afrique, and AFRIFF. With a decade in film, Evan's extensive experience spans roles in commercials, television, and long-form narrative. A Sundance Writer's Lab second-round selection, he holds a BAFA from the University of Cape Town. He's currently developing his debut feature.

GENRES: Surreal Drama, Satire, Comedy

RUNTIME: 63 minutes

COMPLETION DATE: 2022

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa, Norway

LANGUAGE: isiXhosa, isiZulu, French, English

FOR LOVE

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

“For Love” captures the relentless pursuit of hope and love in the lives of immigrants, particularly asylum seekers and undocumented individuals. It refrains from dissecting the immigration journey, focusing instead on humanizing their experiences. Nkechi’s affection for Martha fuels her yearning for a normal life despite the shadows of their existence. Love and hope become their lifelines. Symbolized by a ceremonial gesture, their affection transcends their challenging circumstances. Through the lens of their love story, the film subtly unveils the complex realities of immigrants, encompassing pain, loss, and love, ultimately highlighting our shared human connection.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 12 minutes 33 seconds
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United Kingdom
LANGUAGE: English



WRITER + DIRECTOR

With a background in theatre and a degree in Creative Writing, **Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor** started producing shorts and music videos as a way to learn, as the cost of

Film School was too high. Her work focuses primarily on Queer, black and female work. She formed her own way of training, by making content outside of the industry, including two no-budget feature films, M.L.E and White Colour Black. In 2016, she was selected for the BFI Flare Mentorship scheme with Ben Roberts, CEO of BFI, as her mentor. In 2019, she produced the hit Blue Story, which became the top grossing film of its genre. In 2020, she was named a Screen International Star of Tomorrow and a BAFTA Breakthrough.

FRIDAY, 8 SEP
4:30PM - 6PM

MARY MONDAY

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

In the setting of a refugee camp, radio journalist Mary Monday faces the task of bringing stories to her audience. Armed only with a phone and a palm-sized solar charger, she records, edits, and transmits content directly to her editor. Balancing work and motherhood, Mary strives to craft stories amidst her four-year-old daughter’s reluctance to see her leave. Negotiating the camp’s distrust of media, she embarks on lengthy treks, seeking interviews while contending with signal difficulties on her phone. With a 65-km journey, she commutes between the camp and her radio station, delivering the evening news, all while managing household duties.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 14 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Uganda, South Africa
LANGUAGE: Kakwa

FRIDAY, 8 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM



DIRECTOR

After working as producer, journalist and journalism trainer for international news agencies as well as international media development organizations such as DW Akademie,

Ochan Hannington also worked in print, radio networks and for radio news agencies such as the Voice of America. Ochan is a journalist by training, and attended both the Africa University in Zimbabwe and the Cavendish University in Uganda. He holds a BA in Arts Media, Communications and Public Relations. His recent work of coordinating, producing and editing podcasts, a project by Media Cooperation and Transition International (MiCT), has given disenfranchised individuals in both South Sudan and Uganda a voice. Ochan envisions continuing doing so using cinema. At 37 years, Ochan’s aim of using films has led him into telling stories that are close to his heart, stories that could hardly be identified by a foreign eye.

THE TEXT ALLOWS NO INTERPRETATION

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

The Text Allows No Interpretation is a personal essay documentary displaying the director's conversation with his trauma in a stream of consciousness. The moments in photographs and videos are set in temporal disarray, meeting the superimposed phone calls speaking to and around the trauma from the past. The ever-present noise of repetition is created through jumps between memories of fear and death during the decade-old Arab Spring to insomnia and anxiety emerging through the footage of NATO military exercises on the border of Russia.



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Ahmed Fouad Ragab is an Egyptian filmmaker. Born and raised in Alexandria, Ragab has been active in the art scene since 2009, working with photography and cinema, then shifting

to audio. In 2012, he studied conceptual art at Mass Alexandria. After working for several years within the local film industry circles and co-founding several local initiatives (ZAWYA Alexandria and Cinedelta), Ragab has decided to move to Estonia, to study audiovisual media at the Baltic Film and Media Institute, where he graduated, and currently finishing his MFA in Creative Documentary at Open City Docs (University College London).

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 10 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UK, Estonia, Egypt
LANGUAGE: Arabic, English

FRIDAY, 8 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

SWIMMING IN A SEA OF TRAUMA

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

In a poignant ghost story, memories of the Biafra War come alive. Chisom encounters Nkechi in a dreamscape, discovering an ethereal girl with an uncanny presence. This enigmatic encounter reveals Nkechi as a wandering spirit, once a living soul during the Biafra War/Nigerian Civil War. The film explores the resonance of memories, both personal and political, delving into the haunting legacy of war and genocide against the Igbos in Nigeria. This short film resonates with spiritual, ancestral, and contemporary reflections on the nation's history and the fragile current political landscape.



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Ugochukwu Azuya (Ugo for short), is a filmmaker (writer-director) working and living in Lagos, Nigeria. Through the manner of his entry into his practice, film and film history have always

been a real fascination for him and one of his main aspirations as filmmaker is to be able to contribute to film history and the cinematic canon. In his work, he deals with memory, sexuality, socio-political situations, history and the family structure and dynamics within the Nigerian and African Context. Ugochukwu's artistic motivations are driven by always trying to experiment with film form and story as well being radical in theme, subject and the images he creates. Ugo's other practices also lie within photography, video art and experimental film.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 6 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2023
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Nigeria
LANGUAGE: Igbo

FRIDAY, 8 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

WHAT THE SOIL REMEMBERS

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

What the Soil Remembers, examines the trauma of a community uprooted during the Apartheid regime, making way for an educational institution that would become synonymous with the foundation of white supremacist ideologies. The film follows a group of elders who illuminate the screen with their approach to the problem. The collective wisdom and patience embedded in their actions is what a nationalist regime tried to violently take away from them years earlier.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 29 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2023
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa, Ecuador
LANGUAGE: English, Afrikaans, Xhosa



WRITER + DIRECTOR
José Cardoso, a multifaceted artist encompassing filmmaking, illustration, and graphic design, intricately weaves surrealism, consciousness, and anti-colonialism

into his creations. His film "What the Soil Remembers" garnered acclaim, receiving the IFFR Ammodo Tiger Short Film Award at IFFR Rotterdam 2023, while also earning recognition at esteemed festivals including IDFA Doc for Sale, Oberhausen, and Sheffield Documentary Film Festival. Notably, his directorial prowess has shone at RAI Cartoons On The Bay, Sitges Cinema Fantàstic, and other renowned events, accruing accolades like the Tom Berman Award. José's influence also extends to impactful work for the BBC, exemplified by directing an episode for "The Femicide Detectives" series.

FRIDAY, 8 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

THE WEIGHT OF MEMORIES ON MY FOOT

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

As living in the family home becomes increasingly heavy, writer and director, Tariq Abdalla searches for refuge in his family archive but discovers that memories are even heavier.



WRITER + DIRECTOR
Tariq Abdalla is a filmmaker based in Cairo, Egypt. With a background in English language and literature, he is now pursuing his passion towards cinema and filmmaking. He has worked

as a director and editor for independent film projects. His latest short "The Weight of Memories on My Feet" was selected to participate in multiple film festivals around the world. He edited "Three Disappearances And A Song" short film which premiered in the 43rd Cairo International Film Festival and received Best Short Film awards at both Gabes Cinema Fen (Tunisia) and Manassat Film Festival (Egypt). Tariq was selected recently to be part of Talents Beirut. Currently, he is developing his personal short "Attempting to Remember My Father's Face" which received a production grant from Manassat Film Festival and a post-production services prize from the Short Film Lab by Medrar and Between Women Filmmakers Caravan.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 6 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Egypt
LANGUAGE: Arabic

FRIDAY, 8 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

LEND ME YOUR VOICE

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

"Lend Me Your Voice" is an experimental short documentary delving into empathy by capturing human responses to adversity through the narrative of refugee and abuse survivor, Akili. Motivated by her need to heal, she shares her life story in an unconventional manner. As readers engage with her experiences, they step into her shoes, realizing this journey is no ordinary tale. From a Burundian prison cell where she was tortured, nearly executed, to her escape to Rwanda, Akili's journey unfolds. A victim of her homeland's civil wars, she found solace in boxing, only to face sabotage. Undeterred, Akili stands ready to rise and triumph once more.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 20 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Rwanda, South Africa
LANGUAGE: Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, French



WRITER + DIRECTOR
Claudine (Shenge) Ndimbira is a Rwandan filmmaker who resides in Kigali, Rwanda. After her secondary studies, she took a three-month short course in digital filmmaking

at the Kwetu Film Institute. Since then, she has been to several workshops in different filmmaking departments. Claudine directed her first short film in 2013 and since then she has worked as a scriptwriter, director and producer. Her films made it into different festivals: the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles, Afrikamera Film Festival in Berlin, the Vancouver Queer Film Festival in Canada, and Afrika Filmfestival in Leuven. In 2018, she was part of the international class at Filmakademie Baden- Württemberg in Germany. Claudine is courageous, ambitious and open to new experiences.

FRIDAY, 8 SEP
8PM - 9:30PM

I WAS NEVER REALLY HERE

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

The blossoming love between two Ghanaian boys living in Germany comes under threat when one is faced with residency issues.



DIRECTOR
Born in Cameroon, **Gabriel B. Arrahnio** immigrated to Germany with his family at the age of thirteen. Later on, he discovered the power of filmmaking and taught himself the art of writing,

creating and visualising film. After moving to Berlin and doing internships at small film production companies, the agency Jung von Matt hired Gabriel where he worked for almost three years as the first in-house director of the agency. Today, on the free market, Gabriel has a mission to tell stories that leave an impact on the viewer, he says he is not good at much but that is ok, because he has always wanted to do just one thing all his life – to make films. Gabriel also won silver at the YDA in 2017 for his film SHAME.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 23 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Germany
LANGUAGE: English

FRIDAY, 8 SEP
8PM - 9:30PM

HERE ENDS THE WORLD WE'VE KNOWN

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

1645. Guadeloupe, French West Indies. At the beginning of the European conquest of the Americas, French-Native wars are raging. Ibátali, a Native young woman meets Olaudah, a Maroon fugitive African Yoruba. She begins her journey from alienation to the colonial society to emancipation and experiences the price it costs.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 25 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Guadeloupe
LANGUAGE: Sranan Tongo, Aluku Tongo, French



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Anne-Sophie Nanki, an accomplished Afro-Caribbean director and screenwriter from Guadeloupe, is an alumni of La Sorbonne Nouvelle University. She co-wrote

impactful works such as "Sextape" (Cannes Film Festival 2018) and collaborated with Raoul Peck on "Exterminate all the Brutes" (HBO 2021). Her debut short, "Here Ends The World We've Known," reimagines history through a Native young woman's lens and has garnered 15 awards worldwide. Selected for Berlinale 2023 - EFM Fiction Toolbox Program, she's developing the feature adaptation "Here the New World Begins." Active in Collectif 50/50, she mentors in Netflix-sponsored programs and serves on advisory boards at Carnegie Mellon University.

FORGOTTEN PARADISE

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



LOST IN PLACES

Energy cannot be destroyed - it can only be transformed. The legacy of enslavement strips the fullness of life from those caught in its suffocating nightmare. In moving and static images, Director Charlotte Brathwaite in collaboration with Photographer Malick Welli imagine the dreams and nightmares of forcibly enslaved Muslim scholar Omar ibn Said. In shifting projections and large form photographs – the work unfolds as a cinematic ghost song that connects Said's stolen spirit back to the living presence of his ancestors across the oceans, across time and space. *Forgotten Paradise* transforms the darkness of captivity into the light of knowing freedom, and loving family.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 13 minutes 18 seconds
COMPLETION DATE: 2021
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Senegal
LANGUAGE: Pular, Tamil



PHOTO BARBARA ANASTASIO

WRITER + DIRECTOR

Charlotte Braithwaite, a Doris Duke, Art Matters, and Creative Capital Award recipient, also holds Pew Center for Arts & Heritage Fellowship, United States Artist Fellowship,

and Map Fund Awards. With an MFA from Yale School of Drama and a BA from the Amsterdam School for the Arts, she's taught at MIT, NYU, and Stanford. Bridging classical texts, multimedia, dance, opera, film, and installations, her trans-disciplinary work confronts silenced narratives, illuminates social justice, and explores human complexities. Her boundary-pushing creations, globally showcased, merge past and future, inviting immersive exploration and reshaping artistic perspectives.

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INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

EMBARK ON A JOURNEY THROUGH 'INDUSTRIAL DREAMS,' WHERE LABOR, CLIMATE, AND EARTH'S BALANCE ARE WEAVED TOGETHER IN CINEMATIC THREADS.



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

An old man drives back to the now abandoned city of Cairo in order to reach his old home that he remembers from his childhood. Longing for his home, he takes us through a small journey through our protagonist which is the decayed city of Cairo. Through his eyes and the scars on the old city we piece together what happened to it and what is the reason behind him having to leave it along with the rest of the population in this far but not so fictional future.

This student short animated film was made to explore the dangers of uncontrolled over population, pollution and climate change.

GENRE: Animation
RUNTIME: 8 minutes 45 seconds
COMPLETION DATE: 2023
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Egypt
LANGUAGE: Arabic, English



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Yassin ElDeib is an architecture and urban design student with an innate passion for crafting captivating spaces and atmospheres. Beyond viewing architecture as

merely structures, he perceives it as an art form that holds deeper artistic significance. Graduating from Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona in Spain as part of the German University in Cairo program, Yassin's journey led him to explore diverse projects that resonate with his ardor. His pursuit of this passion took him into realms of 3D art, design, visualization, and filmmaking, all in an effort to delve into the profound impact of spaces on users in various contexts. Guided by self-learning, he mastered tools, theories, and programs to enhance his creativity and design skills. Yassin's adoration for Cairo drives him to envision the city's latent potential through thoughtful design and architecture.

INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

"Si txuba ka bem, morri di fomi, si txuba bem, morri fogadu" (if it doesn't rain, we'll starve, if it rains, we'll drown). This saying reflects Cabo Verde's struggle with rainfall and its consequences. Santiago Island bears scars from environmental damage – eroded mountains, rocky beaches. Illegal sand extraction persists, driven by desperation, particularly among women. "Sumara Maré" is an experimental documentary told through dance by Betty and Ondiana, echoing the voices of sand-gathering women, highlighting nature's toll, health, and economic strain. Santiago's devastation echoes Cabo Verde's issues, with global resonance.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 8 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2023
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Cape Verde
LANGUAGE: Portuguese

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
 6PM - 7:30PM



DIRECTOR

São Vicente native **Samira Vera-Cruz** is a Cape-Verdean film director and producer. Holding a Film Studies degree from the American University of Paris, her company Parallax

Produções operates in Cabo Verde, Angola, and Mozambique. Debuting with "Buska Santu," her films have garnered international recognition, including a documentary from Short Films PALOP-TL UE 25 years Award screened in 14 countries. In 2017, she released the self-financed psychological thriller "Sukuru." Selected for Talents Durban 2019, her project "And Who Will Cook?" won accolades at Ouaga Film Lab.

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
 6PM - 7:30PM



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

There she stands, confidently, like a goddess of technological junk, surrounded by endless mountains of rubbish, plastic, stench and rare earths. An angry appeal to the world to take responsibility for the consequences of capitalism, colonialism and environmental destruction in Africa.



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Kantarama Gahigiri is a Rwandan-Swiss writer/director. Born in Geneva, she's holding a Master's degree in International Relations. Today, Kantarama pursues her passion,

immersed in an exploration of identity, migration, empowerment and on-screen representation, through her recent projects shot sometimes in Switzerland, and most times in East Africa. Kantarama is an alumna of Realness Residency (2018), La Fabrique Cinéma at Cannes FF (2019), Le Moulin d'André (2020), Berlinale Talents (2021), Locarno Filmmakers Academy (2022) and Atelier Grand Nord (2023) with Tanzanite, her latest project, a feature film in development.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 9 minutes 46 seconds
COMPLETION DATE: 2023
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Rwanda, Switzerland
LANGUAGE: English, Swahili

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
 6PM - 7:30PM



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

Diana, a maid in her mid to late twenties, navigates the aftermath of a rainy night and city-wide power outage in Nairobi. Amidst the messes left behind by engaged occupants, she meticulously cleans multiple middle and upper middle-class homes. As she encounters fellow domestic workers while washing laundry on the rooftop, Diana's routine is disrupted when she discovers hidden cash. Her fatigue becomes evident when she struggles to stand, her joints audibly protesting. The doors of the homes she leaves behind symbolically close as she exits, exhausted from her relentless efforts.



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Joash Omondi is a filmmaker, editor, screenwriter and composer living in Nairobi, Kenya. As evidenced by his skillset, Joash has strived to extend his talents beyond just one

singular title. This has made him an indispensable participant wherever his talents have been deployed. Locally, he has directed brand films and commercials for Trust condoms, Telkom Kenya, Copia, APA Insurance, Always and Suave bags as well as a music video for MTV European Music Award winners Sauti Sol. Internationally, he has served as writer, editor and composer for the Social Impact Media Award nominated film: Youth to Youth Fund and winner of the Best International Documentary Award, Owino at the Rome Independent Film Festival. Authenticity is a key factor in all his filmmaking as he believes that the measure of a great piece of art always lies in striking a delicate balance between transcendence and realism.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 18 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Kenya
LANGUAGE: Swahili, English

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
 6PM - 7:30PM

BUSH RIDER

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

This proof of concept for a feature film introduces Jody, a determined young woman working on a Klein Karoo horse farm. Her affection grows for Dino, the attractive stablehand who teaches her horseback riding. However, she learns that Dino is a former addict indebted to Saalie, a local drug lord. To settle his debt, Dino smuggles drugs on horseback under the moonlight. When Dino relapses, Jody takes over the perilous task with a spirited stallion named Damascus. Their journey strengthens their bond, and they barely meet Saalie's deadline. Yet, facing the charismatic psychopath remains unpredictable. One certainty is Jody's value to his future operations as a Bosyer.

GENRES: Thriller, Drama, Neo-western
RUNTIME: 14 minutes 17 seconds
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
LANGUAGE: Afrikaans, English



DIRECTOR

Aadir Dhalech is a writer, director and television commercial director. He has a degree in Clinical Psychology as well as a post-graduate diploma in Copywriting and

Advertising at the AAA School of Advertising in Johannesburg. In 2015 Aadir left life as a comfy agency creative life (steady income, medical aid) and very quickly established himself as one of South Africa's hottest new directing talents. His unique style, slick visual sensibilities and gift for performance have seen him become a firm favourite with agencies and brands in a very short time. In 2018, Aadir joined Patriot Films where he has won several more awards for his work. His itch to produce movies developed and he started making short films with Patriot and Protagonist Studios. Aadir is now devoting the majority of his time to pursuing his passion for feature filmmaking.

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

APOSTLES OF CINEMA

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

"Apostles of Cinema" (or *Tenzi za Sinema*) follows Frank, DJ Black, and Rehema — three devoted film workers in Tanzania — as they reintroduce a classic piece of the country's film history to their audiences of working class cinephiles. We join them, alongside Maangamizi: The Ancient One (2001), on a journey through the labyrinth of informal libraries, studios, and cinemas that exist to keep film and film culture alive. A testament to the profound cultural value of film when made truly accessible



DIRECTOR

Ajabu Ajabu is a collective of audio-visual practitioners based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, who work on the preservation,

production, and presentation of audio-visual art. Our work is centred around collaborative curatorial interrogations related to deconstructing bias across film cultures, platforming underrepresented narratives, and promoting amateur and experimental storytelling practice. Apostles of Cinema was directed and produced by Ajabu Ajabu and friends.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 16 minutes 20 seconds
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Tanzania
LANGUAGE: Swahili

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
6PM - 7:30PM

MACHINI

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

By necessity and especially by the force of the machine we have become sleepwalking beings deprived of God, the damned of the earth and test subjects over the black market of history test subjects of the machine

Machini talks about the influence that mining has on the city. About the pollution and the slow destruction of man by man.

GENRE: Animation
RUNTIME: 9 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2019
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Congo-Kinshasa, Belgium
LANGUAGE: French



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Frank Mukunday is from Lubumbashi, DRC. He is passionate about animation and works with many Congolese animators on various projects. In 2007 he joined Tétshim, Angelo Nzeka and Trésor Makonga, with whom he still works today. **Tétshim** was born in Kinshasa. He has drawn for years. In addition to making animated films, he is also



illustrator and cartoonist of press and comics. Since 2010, Frank and Tétshim have been producing self-taught animated films. Starting from the practice of drawing (Tétshim) and video (Frank), their duo founded the studio "Crayon de cuivre" in Lubumbashi. After two experimental films "Cailloux" and "Kukinga", Machini is their first film made in professional production conditions.

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
8PM - 9:30PM

MY PROTECTOR

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

In the haunting post-apocalyptic world of "My Protector," 14-year-old Tink becomes the last hope for her vulnerable family against relentless machines, the "BESKERMERS." Seeking refuge with her sister Kari in an abandoned farmhouse, they work to transform a dormant BESKERMER into their powerful guardian. Tink uncovers her late father's legacy—an implanted connection to machines, facing a thrilling showdown to protect loved ones. This gripping coming-of-age tale delves into courage, family bonds, and the strength emerging when survival hangs in the balance. Tink's journey embodies hope, bravery, and extraordinary potential.

GENRES: Sci-Fi, Drama
RUNTIME: 17 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
LANGUAGE: English

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
8PM - 9:30PM



DIRECTOR + WRITER

A daughter of missionaries, **Diana Mills Smith** thrived in diverse worlds. AFDA Johannesburg graduate, won Best Film and Director. As a Director's Assistant and Storyboard

Artist, worked with top South African directors. Sci-fi short "OASIS" gained 1M views, acquired by DUST. Collaborated with industry giants like Audio Militia, Panavision, Panalux, Black Ginger, and Left Post Productions. "My Beskermer" garnered accolades at Silwerskerm Fees 2022.

PRECIOUS HAIR & BEAUTY

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

An ode to the mundanity and madness of the high street, told through the window of an African hair salon. It's the everyday antics of a bustling high street.

In certain areas the high street is one of the few places that can really transport a person to a whole other planet; a world where anything is possible, from roadman ninjas to tumble weaves - it's all there. The real life prophecy of expecting the unexpected.

Its true beauty lies in the fact that no matter what happens, whether someone has been rescued or a robbery has occurred, as long as it's on the high street everything will always eventually return to normal.

GENRE: Drama
RUNTIME: 11 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2021
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United Kingdom
LANGUAGE: English



DIRECTOR

John Ogunmuyiwa is an award-winning Nigerian-born London-bred filmmaker who works in both documentary and fiction. His work draws upon a constant questioning of what it means

to be normal. Using daily observations as a base, he tends to bring a tinge of surrealism into his work, all with the aim of telling untold stories from a different perspective.

THE RECLAIMERS

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

"The Reclaimers" is a sensitive portrayal of Johannesburg's waste managers who play a crucial role in saving millions for South Africa. As self-employed scavengers, they gather recyclables to earn a living. Amid the pandemic, they were marginalized as non-essential workers, unable to sell due to lockdown restrictions. The film illuminates the intricate relationship between businesses, consumers, and these "reclaimers," tracing the life cycle of recyclables. Despite challenges, they sustain their families and maintain hope for the future through their vital societal contributions.

GENRES: Documentary
RUNTIME: 20 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2022
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
LANGUAGE: English, isiZulu



DIRECTOR + WRITER

Sifiso Khanyile is an award-winning Producer/Director at Anaphora Films and a member of the international Emmys. Starting as a content producer on SABC talk

shows, he directed the acclaimed short documentary "Spiderman and Romeo" about train surfing, featured on BBC and Sechuan TV. Khanyile produced dramas and documentaries, including "Uprise!" which won Best Documentary in multiple festivals. He's a judge for South African Film and Television Awards and has worked on international projects as an archive researcher. He co-founded the Association for Transformation in Film and Television (ATFT).

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
8PM - 9:30PM

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
8PM - 9:30PM



INDUSTRIAL DREAMS

In a meditation on the meaning behind sports in a Post-Apartheid South Africa, three young girls muse on their hopes and dreams as aspiring Drum Majorettes.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 14 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2021
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States, South Africa
LANGUAGE: English



DIRECTOR

Jessie Batya tells intimate stories through a personal lens. Coming from a theatre and documentary background, her hands-on approach to working with people and performers

has informed her ability to adapt to any given environment across different genres. Her films have screened at multiple international film festivals, including Doc NYC, AFI Docs, MoMA Doc Fortnight and Visions Du Reel. Her films have received Vimeo Staff Picks, and have been featured extensively in publications including Red Bull, Bubblegumclub, Between 10 and 5 and the Mail & Guardian. In 2017, she was named a "Marie Claire Future Shaper" and in 2018 she was named a "Mail & Guardian 200 Young South African".

SATURDAY, 9 SEP
8PM - 9:30PM

VOICES OF DIVERSITY: CANADA'S INCLUSIVE STORYTELLING

Step into the enchanting realm of cinema at the FAME Shorts Film Festival, where this year's guest country, Canada, opens the festival. Prepare to be captivated by an array of emotions and experiences, skillfully captured by the remarkable filmmakers of the Great White North. Within this festival's hallowed halls, we honour Canada's film legacy of innovation, diversity, and creativity, paying homage to the unwavering spirit of Canadian storytelling.

As we embark on this cinematic voyage, we are proud to shine a spotlight on the significant contributions of the National Film Board of Canada (NFB). Serving as Canada's public producer and distributor of exceptional documentaries, innovative animation, interactive narratives, and immersive experiences, the NFB has consistently pushed the boundaries of innovation and creativity. Committed to combatting systemic racism and advocating for gender equity, diversity, and inclusion, the NFB empowers talented creators nationwide, producing award-winning content that resonates with audiences across the globe.

Our journey begins with **"Ice Breakers,"** a poignant film written and directed by Sandi Rankaduwa and produced by Rohan Fernando (NFB). The film follows Josh Crooks, a gifted African-Canadian hockey player navigating the predominantly white landscape of his sport. With a deeply personal exploration of transgenerational identity, "Ice Breakers" unveils the hidden history of Black athletes' contributions to the evolution of modern hockey, revealing a heritage intertwined with Crooks' passion.

Moving on to **"The Flying Sailor,"** an animated short by the acclaimed duo of Wendy Tilby and Amanda Forbis, and produced by David Christensen (NFB). Rooted in real events, the film takes us through a collision of ships, an

explosive cityscape, and a sailor propelled into the sky. In a mix of comedy, suspense, and philosophy, "The Flying Sailor" becomes a contemplation of existence's marvels and vulnerabilities.

Sheona McDonald's **"Into Light,"** produced by Terri Snelgrove (NFB), delves into a season of transformation as a mother and child navigate the intricacies of gender identity together. A poignant exploration of parental acceptance, the film questions how a parent can embrace their child's authentic self while setting aside preconceived expectations.

"Snow Warrior," directed by Frederick Kroetsch and Kurt Spennath and produced by Bonnie Thompson (NFB), showcases the tenacity of Mariah, a winter cyclist braving Edmonton's frigid temperatures. Through breathtaking visuals and a touching narrative, the film reveres the resilience and affection for the North's wintry embrace.

Lastly, Inuk filmmaker Jennie Williams presents **"Nalujuk Night,"** produced by Latonia Hartery, Kat Baulu (NFB), and Rohan Fernando (NFB). Through her documentary, Williams invites viewers into the heart of the action, providing an immersive experience of the Nalujuit tradition. After a decade of capturing the event through striking black-and-white photography, Williams brings her still images to life, sharing the unique story of "Nalujuk Night" like never before.

Join us in celebrating the magic of cinema as we journey through the vast tapestry of the human spirit, showcasing its wonder and diversity.



ICE BREAKERS

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



Through the present-day journey of a gifted young hockey player, *Ice Breakers* uncovers the buried history of how Black athletes helped pioneer modern hockey.

Josh Crooks is a young, gifted African-Canadian hockey player in an overwhelmingly white sport. In its intimate story of transgenerational identity, *Ice Breakers* reveals the buried history of how Black athletes helped pioneer modern hockey, as Crooks discovers that his passion is tied to a remarkable heritage.



WRITER + DIRECTOR

Sandi Rankaduwa is a Sri Lankan-Canadian writer, filmmaker, and comedian who splits her time between Brooklyn and Halifax. *Ice Breakers* is her third film. Her cultural criticism has

appeared in *The Believer*, *Rolling Stone*, and *BuzzFeed Reader*, and she was named one of three *BuzzFeed Emerging Writer Fellows* for 2018. As a comedian, Sandi has performed stand-up both in the US and Canada, opening for headliners such as *Aparna Nancherla*, *Todd Barry*, and *Jen Kirkman*. Her featured performances include the *Chicago Women's Funny Fest*, *Halifax Comedy Fest*, *Women In Comedy Festival* (Boston), *Halifax Pop Explosion*, and the *SheDot Festival* (Toronto).



GENRE: Biographical Documentary
RUNTIME: 15 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2023
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Canada
LANGUAGE: English

THURSDAY, 7 SEP
 6PM - 7:30PM

THE FLYING SAILOR

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



In 1917, two ships collided in the Halifax Harbour, causing the largest accidental explosion in history. Among the tragic stories of the disaster is the remarkable account of a sailor who, blown skyward from the docks, flew a distance of two kilometres before landing uphill, naked and unharmed. *The Flying Sailor* is a contemplation of his journey. Drawing on reports of traumatic shock and near-death experiences, animators *Wendy Tilby* and *Amanda Forbis* consider the kind of cataclysmic moment that pulls us from our path, strips us bare and utterly shifts our perspective. By suspending the *Sailor* in a state of near-death, the film contemplates the stuff of life that is at once fleeting, profound and utterly insignificant.



WRITER, DIRECTOR + ANIMATOR

Wendy Tilby, a distinguished Writer, Director, and Animator, made her mark with "Strings" (1991), acclaimed globally and Oscar® nominated.



Collaborating with **Amanda Forbis**, "When the Day Breaks" (1999) earned the Short Film Palme d'Or at Cannes, an Academy Award® nod, and Grand Prix at top animation festivals.

Their subsequent "Wild Life" (2011) also gained prizes and an Academy Award® nomination. The duo, now with their third NFB short "The Flying Sailor" (2022), consistently crafts compelling animated narratives.

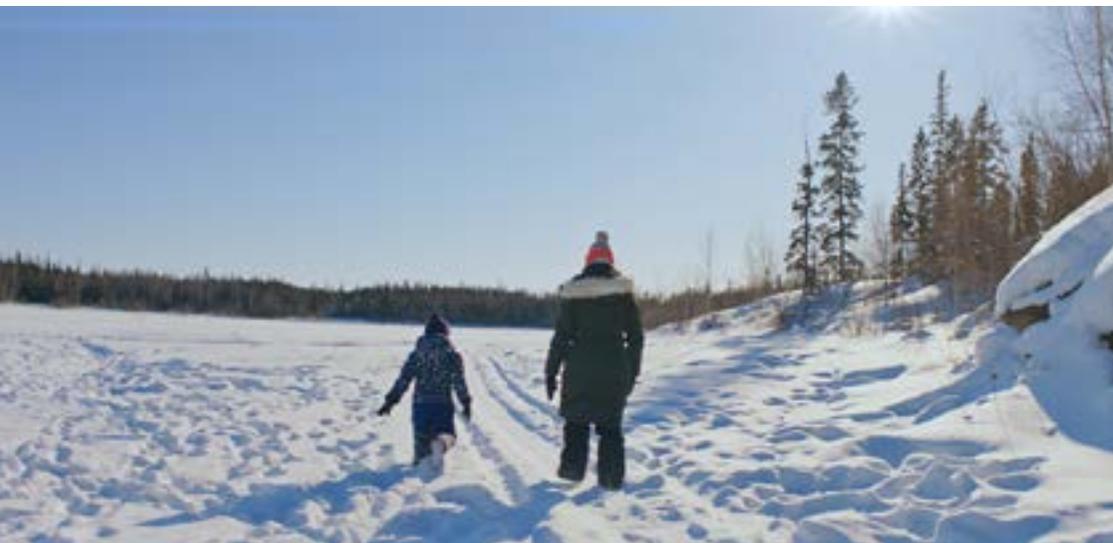
GENRE: Animation
RUNTIME: 7 minutes 45 seconds
COMPLETION DATE: 2023
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Canada
LANGUAGE: English



THURSDAY, 7 SEP
 4PM - 5PM

INTO THE LIGHT

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



SNOW WARRIOR

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



When a child reveals who they truly are on the inside, how does a parent set aside their own expectations to help them become their most authentic self?

Set against the Northern landscape of Yellowknife, Sheona McDonald's new documentary, Into Light, captures a season of change as a mother and child navigate the complexities of gender identity together. As elemental changes parallel this extraordinary journey, the return of brighter days uncovers a confident and social little girl with an encyclopedic knowledge of dinosaurs, a deep love of animals, and a parent who fully embraces this magical person.



DIRECTOR

Sheona McDonald has worked in the film and television industry for two decades, producing, directing and writing documentary features, limited series and narrative shorts. Her most recent projects include the feature-length documentary Dead Man's Switch: A Crypto Mystery, about the death of Gerald Cotten, founder of the QuadrigaCX Cryptocurrency exchange, as well as A Short Essay on Men, Candice, Inside Her Sex, When Dreams Take Flight, Capturing a Short Life and the second season of the Knowledge Network's popular series Emergency Room: Life and Death at VGH.

In the midst of an Edmonton deep-freeze, Mariah heads out. Every day, before dawn, while everyone else is sound asleep, she gets ready for her daily deliveries. Mariah is a bike courier, one of a handful of winter cycling snow warriors on Edmonton's busy downtown streets. Navigating a beautiful yet dangerous landscape, she shares ice-covered roads with cars and trucks. As the weather changes and the chill intensifies, flesh freezes and the challenges multiply. Racing through snow and weaving through traffic, Mariah proves her strength, dedication, and capacity for joy. Extreme temperatures, violent winds, slippery roads and snowstorms do not stop a snow warrior.



FILMMAKER, EDITOR + PRODUCER

Frederick Kroetsch has been a reporter, camera operator, host, director and producer of Alberta TV for the past 18 years. He has produced thousands of

broadcast stories covering everything from Cattle Police to Astronauts. As a documentary filmmaker, he has created numerous documentary projects including: Last of the Fur Traders for AMI-tv, Queen of the Oil Patch for APTN, and Invincible for TELUS. Frederick won Best Drama Under 60 Minutes at the 2008 AMPIA Awards and he graduated with a major in Film Production from Concordia University in Montreal. In 2015 he received the Edmonton Top 40 Under 40 Award.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 19 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2021
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Canada
LANGUAGE: English



GENRE: Biographical Documentary
RUNTIME: 8 minutes 30 seconds
COMPLETION DATE: 2018
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Canada
LANGUAGE: English



NALUJUK NIGHT

FAME SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



Nalujuk Night is an up close look at an exhilarating, and sometimes terrifying, Labrador Inuit tradition. Every January 6th from the dark of the Nunatsiavut night, the Nalujuit appear on the sea ice. They walk on two legs, yet their faces are animalistic, skeletal, and otherworldly. Snow crunches underfoot as they approach their destination: the Inuit community of Nain. Rarely witnessed outside of Nunatsiavut, this annual event is an exciting chance for Inuit, young and old, to prove their courage and come together as a community to celebrate culture and tradition. Inuk filmmaker Jennie Williams brings audiences directly into the action in this bone-chilling black and white short documentary about a winter night like no other.

GENRE: Documentary
RUNTIME: 13 minutes
COMPLETION DATE: 2021
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Canada
LANGUAGE: English



DIRECTOR

Jennie Williams is an Inuk visual artist and throat singer from Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador. As a professional photographer, she creates powerful images that convey the

cultural landscape and lived experience of Inuit. Her stirring photography has received national acclaim, was included in the travelling exhibition Sakkijâjuk, and is curated as part of the Future Possible series at The Rooms Provincial Gallery and the Bonavista Biennale (2021). Jennie's captivating photos have also been featured in established magazines such as Inuit Art Quarterly and Canadian Art. Her work has been recognized through honours such as the Elbow Room Residency and the Hnatyshyn Foundation's REVEAL Indigenous Art Award (2017)..



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