

 **Reel
Shorts**
Film Festival

FREE

ONLINE

FILMS AHOY!



APRIL 26 TO MAY 9

Find out more and get tickets at: **reelshorts.ca**

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The City of Grande Prairie
is a proud sponsor of the
Reel Shorts Film Festival



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prairie

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How To Fest

From the comfort of your own home anywhere in Canada and beyond, you can enjoy the 2021 Reel Shorts Film Festival.

Register as a Virtual Fest Member on the festival's Membership page – it's FREE – and log in from April 26 to May 9 to view 11 film packages whenever and as often as you would like to.

Watch the films on your TV, laptop or desktop computer, tablet or smartphone

– the choice is yours! For TV watching, you can stream films on Chromecast or Apple TV by screen sharing your smartphone, tablet, or computer on the same Wi-Fi network, or you can connect your laptop to your TV with an HDMI cable. Click on the "How to Fest" link on our Membership page for more information.

Make a party of it! Pop the popcorn and have a virtual viewing party with friends and family!

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Director's Notes

When the Films Ahoy theme was chosen for our 2020 festival, who could have foreseen how stormy the seas would get? As everyone knows, our event and countless others were either cancelled or postponed last year. Since we still could not have an in-person event this year, we focused on making the festival as accessible as possible. With the fest being free and online, we hope to create many more fans of the talented filmmakers whose films we are privileged to share with you.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the programming team members who helped select the films, welcome to the

first virtual edition of the Reel Shorts Film Festival!

We received 5,160 submissions from 134 countries and looked at another 80 films for a total of 5,240 short films. The programming team completed 5,757 evaluations of these films and we selected 74 (1.4%) from 20 countries including 34 award-winning films. We are particularly proud of the 5 Peace Region films in our program!

We hope you enjoy them as you travel the world from the comfort of your own home!

Terry Scerbak
Festival Director



Films & Packages

Advisories

CL - Coarse Language
FS - Frightening Scenes
GS - Gory Scenes
GV - Gory Violence

MSM - Mature Subject Matter
N - Nudity
SC - Sexual Content
V - Violence

FILM PACKAGE

5+

Nature Notes (Gr 1-3)

Online April 26 to May 9

Presented by **ATB** and
Swan City Rotary Club

This delightful package contains films about the nature of friendship, home, and family, and provides unexpected contrasts with many opportunities for lively discussion afterwards.

**This package contains
the following films:**



Little Grey Wolfy – Fall Travelers

5+

Norway, 2020, 6:00

Director Natalia Malykhina

Autumn is here and the birds are flying south. Wolfy and his friends want to fly too. Lacking wings, they must use imagination to fly high in the sky, but can they escape winter like the birds?

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Family Bonds

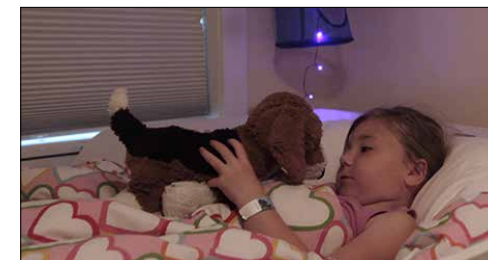
5+

Germany, 2019, 6:34

Director Maria Schmidt

A little fox has a happy family although it's an unusual one. His parents are geese. One day, he observes a grown fox attacking a goose. Confused about who he really is, he runs into the forest. Alone and frightened, he finds the answer just as his parents find him. Won 1st Prize 2D Animation at the 2020 Florida Animation Festival.

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The Switch

5+

Grande Prairie (Canada), 2018, 3:43

Director Monty Simo

A daughter gets her wish and switches places with her dad for a day.



The Green Bird

5+

France, 2017, 6:45

Directors Pierre Perveyrie, Maximilien Bougeois, Marine Goaldard, Irina Nguyen-Duc, Quentin Dubois

When a green, noisy, and caring bird lays its first egg, it faces many challenges as it tries to help the egg to hatch. Won the 2018 Student Academy Award for Best Animated Short.

"I think, at the end of the day, filmmaking is a team, but eventually there's got to be a captain."

-Ridley Scott





Maestro

5+

France, 2019, 1:53

Writer/Director Illogic

The full moon inspires a bird to sing and a group of forest animals to join in. Won the Audience Award for Best Animation Short Film at the 2019 San Sebastian Horror and Fantasy Film Festival.



Eklo

5+

France, 2020, 5:41

Writer/Directors François Dollet, Lucas Mullier, Titouan Bertin, Lucas Dubois, Urvan Taillebuis

Elko lives in an abandoned house with only a potted plant for company until the day a young man arrives with his tools to begin renovations. A war of

The film industry is about saying 'no' to people, and inherently you cannot take 'no' for an answer.

-James Cameron

will begin as the little creature tries to undo everything the young man does.



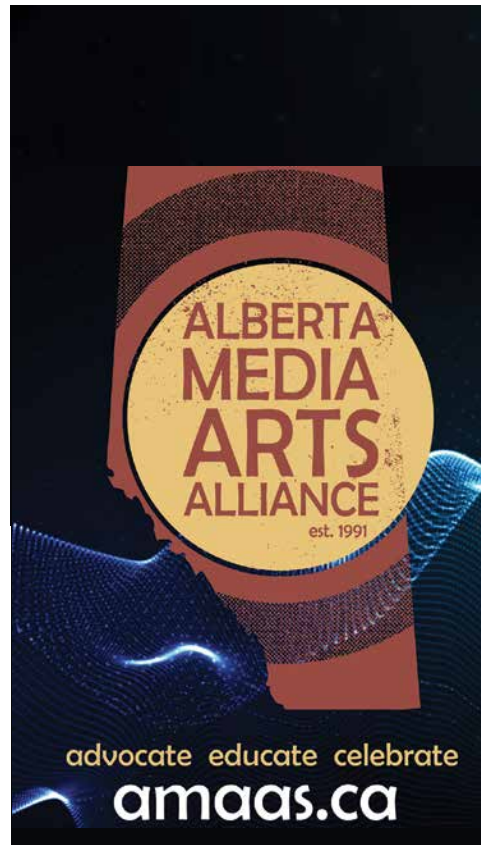
Misguided

5+

USA, 2019, 2:26

Writer/Director Sanghyun Kim

A guide dog's retriever instincts take over as he chases a tennis ball while his blind master searches for him through a dangerous construction site.



FILM PACKAGE

5+

A Step Beyond (Gr 4-6)

Online April 26 to May 9

Presented by **ATB** and
Swan City Rotary Club

This engaging package contains films that contrast fantasy and reality from the perspective of art, sorrow, and satire, with many opportunities for class discussion afterwards.

**This package contains
the following films:**



Manen

5+

France, 2018, 3:48

Directors Thomas Anglade, Maxime Announ, Lucie Dessertine, Estelle Saint-Jours

When a pelican starts snatching his fish, an old fisherman will do anything to stop it.

Film is one of the three universal languages, the other two: mathematics and music.

-Frank Capra



The Beauty

5+

Germany, 2019, 4:14

Director Pascal Schelbli

Within the mysterious depths of the ocean, bizarre creatures and eerily beautiful landscapes can be encountered, but how does this imaginary world compare to the real one? Won the Gold Medal for Animation (International Film Schools) at the 2020 Student Academy Awards among other awards.



Boje

5+

Germany, 2019, 9:43 (German with English subtitles)

Writer/Directors Andreas Cordes & Robert Köhler

Boje and his father live in a remote cottage by the sea - a boy longing for answers and a father struggling for words. When his father looks to the sea for help, answers magically find their way to Boje.

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Evanescent

5+

Ukraine, 2019, 3:00

Writer/Director Vladislav Sergienko

A magical adventure in pursuit of a red balloon leads a little girl to an important decision.



Paris You Got Me

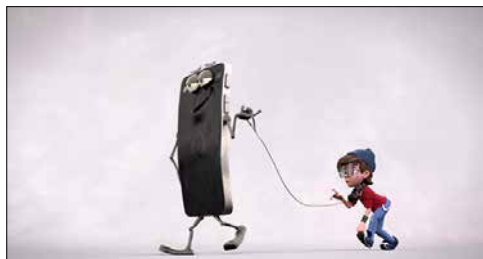
5+

Germany, 2018, 9:02

Writer/Director Julie Boehm

The lure of a street artist and a pair of

red shoes carry a young woman into a magical world of art illusions where their steps turn into dancing taps, gestures into splashes of paint, actions into art, and art into the creation of its own reality. Won Best Short at the 2019 Open World Toronto Film Festival among other awards.



Like and Follow

5+

Japan, 2019, 2:05

Writer/Director/Animators Tobias Schlage & Brent Forrest

When a kid starts spending time in the real world, it's up to his smartphone to bring his attention back to where it belongs. Won Best Animation at the 2019 Open World Toronto Film Festival among other awards.

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FILM PACKAGE

10+ CL, V

New Worlds (Gr 6-9)

Online April 26 to May 9

Presented by **ATB** and
Swan City Rotary Club

This varied package contains films that reveal the pressures of growing up and the consequences of conflict. Some are heartwarming; some are cautionary. All provide great opportunities for further discussion.

**This package contains
the following films:**



Stephanie

5+

Belgium, 2020, 15:07 (Dutch with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Leonardo van Dijn

After winning her first international title, an 11-year-old gymnast experiences both new pressures and a new degree of self-awareness. The more recognition she gets, the more

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she realizes that the game has only begun.



The One You Never Forget

10+ CL

USA, 2019, 8:11

Writer/Director Morgan Jon Fox

A man promises his wife that he'll get a photo of their son and his date before they go to their first high school dance, but his son tries to leave before his dad can keep his promise. Won Audience Choice Award for Best Narrative Short at the 2019 Sidewalk Film Festival among other awards.



Lay Them Straight

10+

Canada, 2018, 10:33

Writer/Director Robert DeLeskie

A teenage girl battling obsessive compulsive disorder has to run the gamut of school bullies every day, until a traumatic event leads her to think she might have supernatural powers. Won the Jury Prize for Best Screenplay - Short Film at the 2019 Molins Film Festival.



Dungeon & Cie 10+ v

France, 2020, 6:40 (French with English subtitles)

Directors Adèle Bichon, Alizée Garnier, Noëllic Lebouvier, Yann Orhon, Léonard Plata, Mattéo Rivière

The Grolls, victimized minions of a dungeon, are relentlessly attacked by knights in search of adventure. Exhausted, they go on strike to demand better working conditions.



The Alien Nightmare 10+ v

France, 2020, 6:05

Writer/Directors Lauriane Balestrat, Marc Antoine Alonzo, Alexis Sabalza, Elie Berhoumieux, Lucas Soupou

Three aliens land on Earth for a routine scientific expedition, but their plans did not include potentially hostile inhabitants.

If it's a good movie, the sound could go off and the audience would still have a pretty clear idea of what was going on.

- Alfred Hitchcock



Celeste and Moulee Till the End of the World 10+

Canada, 2019, 12:54

Writer/Producer/Director Celeste Koon

In the aftermath of an apocalyptic catastrophe, Celeste and her rabbit Moulee must figure out how to survive.



The Tulip King (Le Roi Tulipe) 10+

France, 2020, 6:34 (French with English subtitles)

Directors Chloé Chapart, Agnès Dejean, Dorian Douaud, Flavien Duramé, Audrey Rioux, Alexis Rouseau

Once upon a time in a forgotten kingdom, a humble King lived alone with his housekeeper. One day, while walking in his vast garden, he

discovers a red tulip and decides that he must have more of them.



Just For the Record 10+

Serbia/Canada, 2020, 7:01

Writer/Director Vojin Vasović

In an abandoned attic, a dictaphone robot tries to record the song of a little bird.



Cinema Rats (Kino Ratten) 10+ CL

New Zealand, 2019, 9:36 (German with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Peter McCully

In 1938 Germany, a cinema projectionist is forced to screen Nazi propaganda films before the main features, but there have been technical problems with these films. The projectionist blames the rats, but the SS give him a final warning. No more disruptions, but the rats have other ideas. Won Best Animated Short at the 2019 Palm Springs International Animation Festival and Expo.

FILM PACKAGE

14+ CL

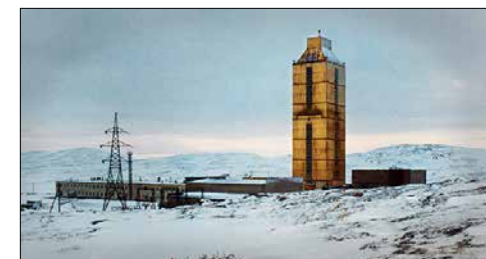
Unseen Consequences (Gr 9-12 Social Studies)

Online April 26 to May 9

Presented by ATB and Swan City Rotary Club

This powerful package contains films that illustrate a disconnect between perception and reality, truth and fiction, past and present, along with the unseen consequences that result.

This package contains the following films:



The Deepest Hole 10+ MSM

USA, 2020, 12:25

Producer/Director Matt McCormick

While the Space Race, the Arms Race, and a myriad of other Cold War competitions are common knowledge, few know that the United States and Soviet Union faced off to see which country could dig the deepest hole. This obscure historical event took a bizarre twist that still impacts people today, decades after the Cold War ended.

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A Little Hornless Goat ¹⁰⁺ CL

(Una Cabrita Sin Cuernos)

Argentina, 2019, 14:00 (Spanish with English subtitles)

Writer/Producer/Director Sebastian Dietsch

Based on a true story that happened during the last Argentine military dictatorship, a local commissioner must investigate a children's book that was confiscated from a 7-year-old girl at school.



Out of Plastic ⁵⁺

Spain, 2018, 19:47 (Catalan/English/Spanish with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Line Hadsbjerg

The profound presence of plastic in our lives and in our natural environment is explored in this documentary set in the sweeping landscapes and ocean depths of the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea.

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Homesick ¹⁰⁺

France, 2019, 27:25 (Japanese with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Koya Kamura

Two years after the Fukushima nuclear disaster, a man searches the no-go zone for his son's baseball.



The Present ¹⁴⁺ CL

Palestine 2019, 24:16 (Arabic/English with English subtitles)

Director Farah Nabulsi

On his wedding anniversary, a man and his young daughter set out in the West Bank to buy his wife a gift, but soldiers, segregated roads, and checkpoints create delays. How difficult can it be to go shopping? Nominated for an Oscar in 2021 for Best Live Action Short and winner of multiple awards.

The enemy of art is the absence of limitations.

-Orson Welles



W ¹⁰⁺

Greece, 2019, 6:00

Writer/Producer/Director Stelios Koupetoris

A teacher begins his daily lecture in the classroom, but there is something missing from today's usual lesson. Won Best Short Shorts Award at the 2020 Harlem International Film Festival among other awards.

When people ask me if I went to film school I tell them, "no, I went to films".

-Quentin Tarantino

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FILM PACKAGE ¹⁴⁺ CL, MSM

Ties That Connect (Gr 9-12 English/ Languages)

Online April 26 to May 9

Presented by **ATB** and
Swan City Rotary Club

This enlightening package contains films that look at the connections and disconnections between people who have just met and family members who have grown distant. With films from the US, Europe, Israel, and Australia, this geographically diverse package includes narrative films, a documentary, and a silent film.

This package contains
the following films:



Call Connect ¹⁴⁺ CL, MSM

Australia, 2019, 16:38

Producer/Directors Josiah Allen & Indiana Bell

A young helpline operator takes her first call and gets more than she expected. Won Best Narrative Short at the 2019 Austin Film Festival.



Crocodile (Cocodrilo) 10+

Spain, 2018, 4:48 (Spanish with English subtitles)

Writer/Producer/Director Jorge Yúdice

A woman watches her favorite YouTuber as he answers questions from his fans during a live chat. Can she find the right words to join the conversation? Won Audience Award for Best Short Film at the 2019 Merlinka Festival among other awards.



Will "The Machine" 10+

USA, 2019, 13:34

Director Kent Lamm

An elite high school football star known as "The Machine" is challenged by an outsider in a series of races. Against the backdrop of wintertime Richmond, Virginia, the former capital of the Confederacy, this opportunity for friendship is a chance to humanize "The Machine."



Voice Over 14+ CL

Germany, 2018, 8:50 (English/German with English subtitles)

Writer/Directors Emily Manthei & Jörn Linnenbröker

A German voice actor has been hired to dub an English actor's voice in a film noir set in 1944 Berlin. It's work as usual until the English actor in the film looks at the camera and revolts against the dubbing process.



The Treatment (El Tratamiento) 10+

Spain, 2019, 8:57 (Spanish with English subtitles)

Writer/Producer/Director Álvaro Carmona

A clinic offers a couple a guaranteed cure for the husband's condition and they are eager to sign the consent form until the doctor explains the side effects. Won Best Screenplay at the 2020 Festival Alto Vicentino.



Moon Drops 5+

Israel, 2018, 16:10

Writer/Producer/Director Yoram Ever-Hadani

A factory worker, tired of his dead-end job, assembles an enigmatic machine that produces liquid drops from moonlight. The bottled drops are a hard sell at the town market, but that changes when their surprising effect is revealed. Won Judges' Choice & Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy at the 2019 Comic-Con

San Diego among other awards.



How to Fall in Love in a Pandemic 14+ CL

Ireland, 2020, 10:40

Producer/Director Michael-David McKernan

A capsule romance is tested against the backdrop of the pandemic as two filmmakers are forced to move in together after two weeks of

(CONT'D on p18)



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(CONT'D from p17)

knowing each other. Won Best Short Documentary at the 2020 Kerry Film Festival among other awards. Screened with the kind permission of Network Ireland Television and Michael-David McKernan.



This Time Away

10+

UK, 2019, 14:20

Writer/Director Magali Barbe

An elderly man lives as a recluse until an unexpected visitor arrives and disrupts his lonely routine. Won Best Foreign Film at the 2019 LA Shorts Fest among other awards.

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FILM PACKAGE

14+ CL, MSM

Cinema Francophone (Gr 9-12 French)

Online April 26 to May 9

Presented by **ATB** and
Swan City Rotary Club

This French-dialogue package (with English subtitles) provides a unique blend of films relating to historical events and modern day issues.

This package contains
the following films:



The President and the Crossing Keeper (Le président et le garde-barrière)

10+ CL

France, 2019, 18:19 (French with English subtitles)

Director Jean-Marc Peyrefitte

While making his rounds on the morning of May 24, 1920, a railway crossing keeper encounters a man in his pajamas, alone in the forest, claiming to be the President of the Republic. Based on a true story. Won the Audience Award at the 2019 Austin Film Festival.



Zone Rouge

10+ MSM

Canada, 2018, 15:15 (French with English subtitles)

Co-Writer/Director Dominique van Olm

One hundred years after the guns fell silent, the people of northeastern France are still feeling the lasting effects of war. Guy Momper and his team of minesweepers risk their lives daily by entering highly concentrated areas with buried explosives that are polluting the water system and poisoning farm land. Won the Audience Choice Award for Best Short Documentary at the 2019 Calgary International Film Festival.



Black Forest (Forêt noire)

14+ CL, MSM

Canada/France, 2019, 20:39 (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Directors Jean-Marc E. Roy & Philippe David Gagné

When a judge in France orders the re-enactment of a crime scene in order to shed some light on inconsistencies

in a murder case, a Quebec woman and her daughters are forced to relive what they had hoped to forget. Won Best Screenplay at the 2019 Bašta Fest in Serbia.



Intermission (Entracte)

10+ CL

France, 2019, 16:22 (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Anthony Lemaitre

Yacine doesn't have enough money to see "Fast and Furious 8" at the multiplex so he and his friends try to sneak in. When that doesn't work, he comes up with another plan that has unexpected consequences.



Adam's Skirt

10+ CL

France, 2018, 11:54 (French with English subtitles)

Director Clément Trehin Lalanne

The tensions between a recently separated couple increase when they are called to their children's school to discuss their four-year-old son's skirt.

FILM PACKAGE

14+ CL, V

Family Friction

Online April 26 to May 9

Family ties are stressed in this package of European films. They mend in some of the films and irreparably break in others.

This package contains the following films:



Luger

10+ CL

UK, 2019, 10:43

Director Freddie Waters

Tom's meeting with his elderly grandfather's two caregivers takes an

unexpected turn when he discovers a mysterious object in the kitchen.



Trauma Zero

14+ CL, V

France, 2018, 29:48 (French with English subtitles)

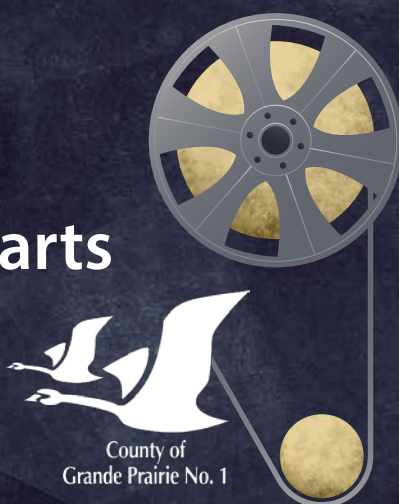
Writer/Director Sarah Hansson

Hoping to overcome his fear of water, a young man tries out a breakthrough treatment that enables doctors to cure phobias, but the process reveals the truth behind his trauma.

I don't want to tell you how to do your job, but somebody has to.

-David Fincher

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Monster Tale (Ungeheuer)

10+

Germany, 2018, 23:16 (German with English subtitles)

Director Pascal Schröder

A young boy's fear of the dark prompts his father to take him on an adventure hike through the forest, but as they make their way back in the fading light, his fear grows even stronger.



Beauty Boys

14+ CL

France, 2019, 17:50 (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Florent Gouelou

On the night of the open stage competition in their small village, 17-year-old Léo plans to perform in drag despite his brother's fierce disapproval. Won Audience Award for Best French Short Film at the 2020 Champs-Élysées Film Festival.

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Grandad Was a Romantic

10+

UK, 2019, 4:38

Writer/Producer/Director Maryam Mohajer

A young girl's grandad was a romantic. He once saw a picture of her granny and realized that she was the love of his life. Won a 2020 BAFTA Award for Best British Short Animation.

Being an artist means not having to avert one's eyes.

Akira Kurosawa

FILM PACKAGE 14+ CL, GS, MSM, N, SC, V

A Day in the Life

Online April 26 to May 9

Presented by **Q99**

Pivotal moments that can change the course of a person's life, or bring it to an untimely end, characterize these dramas, comedies, and documentary.

This package contains the following films:



The Vasectomy Doctor

14+ MSM

Ireland, 2019, 10:47

Writer/Director Paul Webster

After graduating from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dr. Andrew Rynn interned in Canada where he was introduced to vasectomy after starting a general practice in Mitchell, Ontario. Upon his return in 1974, he challenged laws imposed by the Church and State by becoming the first doctor to perform vasectomies in Ireland. In 1990, a man with a grudge and a rifle entered his surgery. Won Audience Choice Award for Best Short Film at the 2019 Dingle International Film Festival among

other awards. Screened with the kind permission of Network Ireland Television and Carbonated Comet Productions.



The Audition (Das Probespiel)

10+

Austria, 2019, 22:25 (German/French with English subtitles)

Director Guy Lichtenstein

A gifted cellist, who once vowed that she would never perform at weddings, has been doing so on a regular basis. Worse still, today's groom is her ex-boyfriend. Memories of their time

together begin to intrude on the day's festivities.



Hold On (Hou Vast)

10+ CL, GS

Netherlands, 2018, 6:45 (Dutch with English subtitles)

Writer/Producer/Director Bart Schrijver

A window cleaner falls from the top floor of a high-rise building, but manages to catch himself outside a woman's window. While he tries to get her attention so she can call for help, she gets ready for a date.

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Peggy

14+ CL

USA, 2017, 12:04

Writer/Director Justin O'Neal Miller

Everything always seems to work out perfectly for Peggy, but her social graces are put to the test when she throws a birthday party for her eight-year-old son. Won Best Short Film at the 2019 Fort Myers Film Festival among other awards.



Hearth (Foyer)

14+ v

Canada, 2018, 10:08 (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Sophie B. Jacques

When Emillie returns home after renting her house to strangers, she finds everything in order and a thoughtful letter, but what really happened during her absence?

If you compromise what you're trying to do a little bit, you'll end up compromising a little more the next day or the next week, and when you lift your head you're suddenly really far away from where you're trying to go.

-Spike Jonze



On the Other Side

14+ V, N, MSM

France, 2018, 12:00 (French with English subtitles)

Director Zulma Rouge

A man is so busy leading a double life that he can only spare a few moments to phone his worried grandparents before he returns to what he was doing.



Pool

14+ CL, SC

France, 2019, 7:50 (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Francis Magnin

A ride-sharing driver with a friendly manner and meticulously clean car learns that providing great customer service can have unforeseen consequences.



FILM PACKAGE

14+ CL, N, V

Criminal Intent

Online April 26 to May 9

Presented by **Big Country**

The films in this package bring a unique perspective to the genre and present a deadly serious or darkly comical view of crime and its perpetrators.

This package contains the following films:



Marketing

14+ CL, V

Argentina, 2019, 15:06 (Spanish with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Gabriel Sagel

A businessman hires an ex-convict to murder the man who cheated him out of a lot of money, but is it really about the money?



The Cocaine Famine

14+ CL, V

Ireland, 2018, 13:09

Director Sam McMullen

Two Irish drug dealers drag a captured cockney rival into an abandoned shed in the depths of rural Ireland. A stash of cocaine has gone missing, supplies are running low, and things don't look good for the prisoner from London. Won Best Short Film at the 2019 Greenwich Village Film Festival.



Demand Curve

14+ CL

USA, 2019, 11:00

Writer/Directors The Bragg Brothers

Offended by his kidnappers' low demands, a college professor uses basic economics to increase his ransom and get in on the action. Won Best of the Fest at the 2019 San Francisco Independent Short Film Festival among other awards.

As a director/writer/producer, all you ever want is to work with actors who make you look better, who make the work you do seem as good as it can be and even better than it is.

-J.J. Abrams



The Devil's Harmony

14+ CL, N

UK, 2019, 14:23

Director Dylan Holmes Williams

A bullied teenage girl leads an a cappella club on a trail of destruction against her high school enemies. Won the Short Film Jury Prize (International Fiction) at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival among other awards.

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Whatever It Takes (Tout se mérite)

14+ CL, V

France, 2019, 15:33 (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Pierre Amstutz Roch

When a middle-aged man loses his job, he desperately wants the new job he's heard about. There is only one thing standing in his way - a rival who is better qualified. Won Best Short Film at the 2019 Short to the Point International Film Festival.

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The Legacy (L'Héritage)

14+ CL, V

France, 2019, 19:37 (French with English subtitles)

Director Pierre-Alexandre Chauvat

When a trapper arrives in a small town to accept the job of Sheriff, the current Sheriff has something to say about it. Won Best Short Film at the 2019 Almeria Western Film Festival among other awards.



A Typical Heart

10+

Grande Prairie, 2019, 22:10

Directors Chris Beauchamp & Laura Beauchamp

Through the lens of healthcare professionals, researchers, patients, and their families, the deadly disparity between male and female heart disease is explored in this compelling documentary.



With the Land

5+

Alberta, 2020, 13:31

Director Dominique Keller

Kristeva Dowling strives to have a close relationship with the land and a degree of food sovereignty few of us can imagine – especially when living in the unforgiving landscape outside of Grande Prairie, Alberta.

I always want the audience to outguess me, and then I doublecross them.

-Buster Keaton



The Switch

5+

Grande Prairie, 2018, 3:43

Director Monty Simo

A daughter gets her wish and switches places with her dad for a day.



Undeclared: Journey to the Death Race

10+

Grande Prairie, 2020, 27:36

Director Rew Jones

In a small town in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, four athletes join hundreds of other racers to compete in the Canadian Death Race in Grande Cache, Alberta. What drives them to endure a grueling 125-kilometer ultramarathon that spans three mountain summits and 17,000 feet of elevation change?

A film is never really good unless the camera is an eye in the head of a poet.

-Orson Welles



Small Town Strength

10+ v

Grande Prairie, 2020, 25:03

Producer/Director Darryl Haugen

The development of a mixed martial arts community in Grande Prairie, Alberta is explored in this documentary about the athletes, coaches, promoters, and commission members who have grown the sport in a small northern city.



Zombies and Indians

10+ CL

Alberta, 2019, 12:13

Writer/Producer/Director Keith Lawrence

In a world ravaged by a zombie apocalypse, two men stand watch at the barricades surrounding the Rez. Won the 2020 Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association's Rosie Award for Best Dramatic Short Production and the Rosie Award for Best Screenwriter (Drama Under 30 Minutes).

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FILM PACKAGE

10+ v

Peace Region Shorts

Online April 26 to May 9

Two of the films in this package capture the beauty of the Peace Region landscape. Five reveal the talent of Peace Region filmmakers. All are eligible for the juried Best Peace Region Short Award and a \$300 cash prize presented by PRIMAA (Peace Region Independent Media Arts Association).

This package contains
the following films:

FILM PACKAGE

14+ CL, FS, GV, SC

Psycho Shorts

Online April 26 to May 9

Presented by **2day FM**
and **Pizza Hut**

Mysterious creatures, an eerie house, a vengeful demon, and a homicidal maniac – are you ready for Psycho Shorts?

This package contains
the following films:



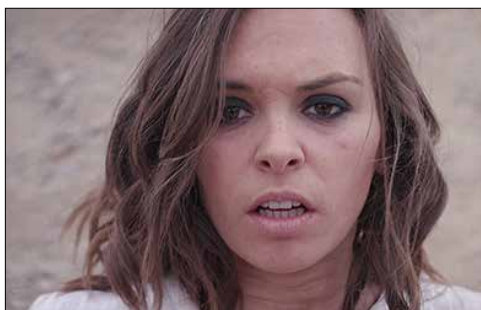
Frank & Mary

10+ GS

UK, 2019, 16:10

Writer/Director Paul Williams

When his beloved wife dies at home, an elderly DIY enthusiast deals with his grief by channeling his inner Dr. Frankenstein to bring his wife back to life... in the garden shed.



The Dead West

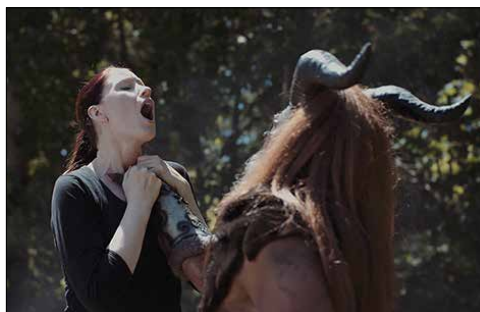
14+ GV

France, 2019, 17:49 (French with English subtitles)

Producer Sandy Blanco

In 1879, a chemical spill from the local tannery contaminated Silvertown's drinking water, turning those who drink it into drooling ravenous monsters. With help from the town's sheriff, a young woman tries to escape. Made by the Métiers du Multimédia et de l'Internet students of the IUT de Béziers in France.

reelshorts.ca



Grave Sight

14+ CL, GS

Canada, 2019, 7:28

Directors Angus Swantee & Walter Forsyth

A desperate couple turns to grave robbing to escape a mountain of debt, only to dig themselves into a hole much worse than they could have imagined.

A director must be a policeman, a midwife, a psycho-analyst, a sycophant and a bastard.

-Billy Wilder



Bad Hair

14+ FS, GS

Estonia, 2019, 14:30

Writer/Director Oskar Lehemaa

A balding man tries a hair growth liquid that he hopes will restore his youthful appearance, but the mysterious potion leads to bodily changes that he could not begin to imagine. Won Best Short at 2019 Screamfest Horror Film Festival.



Yard Sale

14+ V

Alberta, 2019, 10:39

Director Jared Eves

A family on their way to a reunion take a slight detour to check out a yard sale on a remote farm. Who has a yard sale in the dead of winter? Won Audience Choice Award for Best Short Film at the 2019 Festival of Fear International Film Festival.

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Let Me Play

14+ V

USA, 2019, 9:23

Writer/Director Andrew Bell

When Grace and her older brother spend the night at their grandmother's house, Grace sees something in the closet. After her brother laughs at her and her grandmother scolds her for misbehaving, Grace realizes she will have to deal with it alone.



Horrorscope

14+ CL

Spain, 2019, 4:31

Writer/Director Pol Diggler

An ordinary schoolgirl's life unravels after an evil creature takes over her body. Only her mother, with the help of a strange doctor, will be able to save her. Won Best Super-Short at the 2019 Horror Movie Freaks Film Festival.



Save Yourself

14+ CL, V, SC

USA, 2018, 14:17

Writer/Actor/Director Ali Alkhafaji

Peter is a housekeeper with a crippling fear of cats. When a pig-lizard monster threatens his town, Peter enlists the help of his friends to stop the Pizard. Won Best Director and Best Dark Comedy at the 2019 Austin Comedy Short Film Festival among other awards.



Something Doesn't Feel Right

14+ CL, GV

Ireland, 2019, 9:19

Director Fergal Costello

A slasher villain puts in the hours and planning needed to pull off perfect kills, until he encounters victims that don't behave like they should. Screened with the kind permission of Network Ireland Television and Jumper Productions.

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Jury Members



Bonnie Thompson

Bonnie Thompson is a veteran Canadian media producer and owner of Dreaming Bird Productions in Edmonton. She worked with the National Film Board of Canada for many years in marketing and with training programs, followed by 17 years as a producer on over 80 productions with Alberta and Canadian filmmakers and producers, on a slate of documentary, interactive, and animation projects.

Bonnie's productions have been broadcast on national television (including CBC, History, Doc Channel, SuperChannel, Discovery, and APTN) as well as international television (including NHK, PBS, CCT). Her productions have also screened on the web (including Netflix, nfb.ca, and iTunes) and at festivals in Canada and around the world,

garnering many prestigious awards including AMPIA, Webby, Gemini, Genie, and Canadian Screen Academy nominations and awards, as well as a nomination for an Academy Award.

A recent highlight is the feature documentary *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* (Tasha Hubbard, director) which was selected as the opening film at Hot Docs 2019. It won the Best Canadian feature documentary at the Canadian Screen Awards in 2020 among many festival screenings and awards. It has been versioned for television for CBC and APTN.



Scott Belyea

Scott Belyea is a Vancouver filmmaker who grew up in Grande Prairie. In 2016, he directed *HE LOVES YOU NOT*, a feature-length thriller for Reel One

Entertainment. He currently runs Post Premium Media where he oversees production on various commercial works for major brands.

The short films Scott wrote, directed, and edited have played at festivals around the world, winning various awards. He won Best Peace Region Short at the 2015 Reel Shorts Film Festival for *OUTSIDE THE LINES*.

Scott has developed and led a progression of training initiatives for the Reel Shorts Film Festival that began with the first 2-hour workshop for school groups in 2007 and grew into the 2½-day Youth Filmmaking Challenge workshops from 2009-2012.

In 2012, Scott directed *THE HORIZON PROJECT* in and around Grande Prairie as part of Shoot for Reel, a two-week internship program which led to the formation of PRIMAA (Peace Region Independent Media Arts Association). He led the Youth Film Mentorship Project in 2013 during which four Grande Prairie high school students created *HB*, a short film that won the Best Overall Youth Short Film at the 2013 Calgary International Film Festival. It was also the first international film to win the Young Filmmakers Program Competition Grand Prize at the 2013 Austin Film Festival in Texas.

Scott was a jury member for the festival in 2014 when the festival became competitive, and in 2016 and 2019.

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Scooter Corkle

Scooter Corkle is a Vancouver filmmaker who has worked in film for over 15 years in various departments including grip, lighting and camera. His feature film, *HOLLOW IN THE LAND* (2016), was set in his hometown of Castlegar in the mountains of British Columbia. It was released by Vertical Entertainment in the United States, Elevation Pictures in Canada, and West End Films internationally.

Scooter helped Scott Belyea develop the Youth Filmmaking Challenge workshop for the 2009 festival and helped lead it for the four years that it was offered. During that time, 11 short films were created, and Scooter acted in most of them. The popular workshop was retired after the 2012 festival and replaced with more ambitious training programs.

Scooter was the Cinematographer on *THE HORIZON PROJECT* and a mentor...

(CONT'D on p36)

(CONT'D from p35)

...during the two-week internship program that took place during the production of that film in and around Grande Prairie in 2012. Scooter was also a mentor during the production of the Youth Film Mentorship Project in 2013

that resulted in HB, an award-winning youth film.

In 2018, Scooter was named one of 25 Screenwriters to Watch by the Austin Film Festival and MovieMaker Magazine.

Peace Region Filmmakers



Chris Beauchamp

Chris Beauchamp is a photographer, writer, and filmmaker based in Grande Prairie, Alberta. His background includes journalism, communications, and marketing. His photography work has included gallery exhibitions, commercial and industrial clients, as well as leading Canadian editorial publications. His film work includes narrative films, documentaries, and branded content.

Since 2012, Chris has written, directed, and produced several short films and

commercial projects. His work has screened at festivals across the United States and Canada.

In 2019, Chris won an Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association's Rosie Award for Best Cinematographer in the Short Film category for AETERNITAS, which he also co-produced. During the production of that film in 2018, he and Director Gordie Haakstad mentored a dozen interns as part of the Reel Shorts Film Festival's second Shoot for Reel. They own and operate The Distillery Film Company.

Chris is an active member of the Alberta media arts community, having served on the boards of AMAAS (Alberta Media Arts Alliance) and the Reel Shorts Film Society. He currently serves as President of PRIMAA (Peace Region Independent Media Arts Association).

Chris co-produced and co-directed the short documentary, A TYPICAL HEART, which explores the deadly disparity between male and female heart disease, its diagnosis, and treatment. It has screened throughout North America and the UK. It is in the Peace Region Shorts package.



Laura Beauchamp

Since 2013, Laura Beauchamp has had many roles on set including Producer, Director, DP, Sound, Line Producer, Photographer, and Production Designer, in short films and documentary projects made in Alberta, Canada.

In April 2016, Laura produced, co-wrote, co-directed and DP'd the short film FRIDAY SPECIAL which won the Best 1st Time Team Award at the Frantic48 Film Challenge and went on to screen at both the 2017 Calgary and Edmonton ComicCon Expos.

In 2018, Laura was the Production Designer for the short sci-fi film AETERNITAS which was nominated for several 2019 AMPA Rosie Awards, including production design, and went on to win two awards in the short film category.

In 2016 and 2017, Laura was the Volunteer Manager and one of the

founders of the Bear Creek Folk Music Festival in Grande Prairie. She is the co-owner of Beauchamp Photography and enjoys performing in acting and musical theatre as well as belly dancing. She has been the Fundraising and Hospitality Coordinator for the Reel Shorts Film Festival since 2014. Since April 2019, she has primarily been a full-time Mom.

In 2019, she co-directed the short documentary A TYPICAL HEART which explores the deadly sex differences in heart disease and cardiac care. It is in the Peace Region Shorts package.



Darryl Haugen

Darryl Haugen was born and raised in the Peace Country area and moved to Grande Prairie when she was 13 years old. Darryl knew from a young age that she wanted to work in film.

In 2016, Darryl saw a poster at the library about the Frantic48 Filmmaking
(CONT'D on p38)

(CONT'D from p37)

Challenge put on by PRIMAA (Peace Region Independent Media Arts Association). She signed up to write, shoot, and edit a short film in two days. She and her family rented a camcorder from the college and the result was GAME DAY which screened as part of the Frantic48 film package at the Reel Shorts Film Festival.

Darryl has been attending events and workshops held by the Reel Shorts Film Festival and PRIMAA ever since to continue networking and gaining more skills. Over the years, her son Jakem has developed an interest in filmmaking as well. They have attended workshops together and have made more short films through events such as Noirfoot Productions and Reel Youth.

Darryl is now the Vice President of the Reel Shorts Film Society and has completed the video production courses at GPRC (Grande Prairie Regional College). She recently completed her first funded documentary, SMALL TOWN STRENGTH, which has its world premiere in the Peace Region Shorts package. She is happy that her film can have its world premiere within the community that has supported and grown artistic opportunities for aspiring filmmakers.



Rew Jones

Rew Jones is a Producer/Director/Writer who was born and raised in Grande Prairie. He has produced and/or directed several documentaries for TV and digital distribution, as well as music videos, commercials, and scripted projects for families. He has also participated in the Frantic48 Film Challenges put on by PRIMAA (Peace Region Independent Media Arts Association).

Along with their film work, Rew and his wife Sarah have six children and have recently begun their journey as children's authors. "Evalina's Egg" was released in 2019 and a second picture book will be released this summer.

Rew directed UNDEFEATED: JOURNEY TO THE DEATH RACE, a short documentary that followed four athletes as they joined hundreds of other racers to compete in the Canadian Death Race in Grande Cache, Alberta. The

film provided an opportunity to bring together a diverse group of filmmakers from the region and to highlight some of the top local athletes. It is in the Peace Region Shorts package.



Monty Simo

Monty Simo is a substitute teacher in Grande Prairie. He has had a passion for filmmaking since 1999. His first dozen films were produced with friends Jason Peterson and Tavis Lindquist under the name Undone Films.

In 2012, Monty was introduced to his first 48-hour film challenge and was hooked. In 2014, after participating in several other challenges, he helped shepherd the creation of the first Frantic48 Film Challenge, an initiative of PRIMAA (Peace Region Media Arts Association) in collaboration with the Reel Shorts Film Festival.

THE SWITCH was a family project with his two daughters, Adele and Juliet, and

his niece Laura who was visiting and wanted to see what it was like to make a short film. Together they crafted the story, shot it over the following 3 days, and then completed the edit in Studio G (the garage), all in just under one week.

THE SWITCH is Monty's favourite film to talk about with his students because it is a great example of how accessible filmmaking can be. It is in the Nature Notes (Gr 1-3) package as well as the Peace Region Shorts package.



Keith Lawrence

Keith Lawrence is a Peace Region filmmaker who has written, directed, and worked on many short films. He wrote, produced, and directed COME TRUE which screened at the 2015 Reel Shorts Film Festival.

Keith is a National Screen Institute alumnus who participated in the NSI Storytellers Writers program. From this, (CONT'D on p40)

GRANT BERG GALLERY

(CONT'D from p39)

he and six other selected Indigenous Canadian writers developed the original APTN series CASHING IN (2009).

In 2020, Keith won an Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association's Rosie Award for Best Screenwriter (Drama Under 30 Minutes) for ZOMBIES AND

INDIANS which also won the Rosie for Best Dramatic Short Production. Grande Prairie composer Chris McIntyre was nominated for a Rosie for Best Original Musical Score. Filmed on location near Calgary, Alberta, the film has played at a variety of film festivals. It is in the Peace Region Shorts package.

Virtual Class Visits - \$150

Three filmmakers are available to do virtual class visits (via Zoom) during the festival. Teachers can arrange to watch the filmmaker's film in class and have a virtual Q&A with the filmmaker afterwards – a unique opportunity for students to find out more about the film and the filmmaker(s) who made it. Email Terry at terry@reelshorts.ca to book.

Grade 1-5 - May 3-5



Monty Simo (p. 39) is a Grande Prairie substitute teacher and Director of THE SWITCH (p. 7) in the Nature Notes (Gr 1-3) package. The film was a family

project with his two daughters and niece. In addition to a Q&A about his film, Monty can answer questions about how filmmakers create illusions and how accessible filmmaking can be for anyone who wants to try.

Grade 6-12 – Documentary May 6



Darryl Haugen (p. 37) is a Grande Prairie resident and Producer/Director of SMALL TOWN STRENGTH (p. 29) in the Peace Region Shorts package. The film was a recipient of \$50,000 in funding from Storyhive and has its world premiere at the Reel Shorts Film Festival. In addition to a Q&A about her

film, Darryl can answer questions about how she became a filmmaker in Grande Prairie without ever leaving the city.

Grade 6-12 – Narrative May 3-6



Robert DeLeskie is the Writer/Director of LAY THEM STRAIGHT (p. 11) in the

New Worlds (Gr 6-9) package. It has played at festivals worldwide and won 22 awards. His previous short, JACK IN THE BOX (2015), won multiple international awards, playing at over 150 festivals and on international TV. Robert's debut feature film, NIGHT LIFE, is in development.

Robert is a graduate of the Film Production Program at York University and the Graduate Program in Communication at Concordia University.

Robert has experience directing TV commercials, brand images spots, and promos for major brands. He also teaches directing, editing, and cinematography at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario.

In addition to a Q&A about his film, Robert can answer questions about filmmaking in Canada and can share advice for aspiring filmmakers.

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Special Thanks:

Kate Foote (program graphic design), Gordie Haakstad (technical assistance), Monty Simo (fest trailer), Marcus Vanstone (Image Design)

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