



# Lightning in a Bottle



Grande Prairie Live Theatre

**April 26 - May 1** **Online May 2-9**

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

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# Location



**Grande Prairie Live Theatre & Encores Lounge**

10130 - 98 Ave

## Director's Notes

It's been three years since our last in-person fest! On behalf of the Reel Shorts Film Society Board and all the volunteers who help put on the festival, welcome back!

The challenges that came with the pandemic also revealed a silver lining. Our school program had been the largest in the Prairie Provinces each year from 2017-2019 with 2,000+ Grade 1-12 students attending each year from 15-20 schools in the region. When our venue was closed and no one could attend last year, over 600 people signed up for our Virtual Fest, 123 of them teachers from 36 schools who viewed the school program film packages with their students.

We wanted to provide the advantages of both an in-person fest and a virtual fest this year, so the 2022 Reel Shorts Film Festival is a hybrid fest. Enjoy in-person screenings at Grande Prairie Live Theatre April 26 to May 1, and enjoy on-demand access to the Virtual Fest May 2-8.

We received 7,680 submissions from 137 countries and selected 41 short films from 15 countries. We hope you enjoy them as you travel the world from the comfort of Grande Prairie Live Theatre, your classroom, or your own home!

**Terry Scerbak**  
Festival Director



# 2022 Fest Schedule

**Fest Pass \$49 | Students \$44 | Members \$39**  
**All screenings at Grande Prairie Live Theatre**

## Tuesday, April 26

7:30 PM Extreme Measures  CL \$13 | \$11 Members | \$9 Students

## Wednesday, April 27

1:00 PM New Worlds (Gr 4-6)   
 7:30 PM On the Job  CL \$13 | \$11 Members | \$9 Students  
 (with Frederick Kroetsch Q&A)  
 9:30 PM On the Job After-Party Included with ticket or pass

## Thursday, April 28

10:00 AM New Worlds (Gr 4-6)   
 1:00 PM Flights of Imagination (Gr 1-3)   
 7:30 PM Criminal Intent  CL, SC, MSM \$10 | \$8 Members | \$6 Students  
 \$13 | \$11 Members | \$9 Students

## Friday, April 29

9:30 AM At Risk (Gr 9-12 Social Studies)  CL \$10 | \$8 Members | \$6 Students  
 12:45 PM Real/Surreal  MSM \$10 | \$8 Members | \$6 Students  
 (Gr 9-12 English/Languages)  
 7:30 PM Psycho Shorts & Pizza Party  CL, GV, MSM \$25 | \$23 Members | \$21 Students  
 (pizza @ 7:30 PM; shorts @ 8:15 PM)

## Saturday, April 30

2:00 PM Sprouts for Kids   
 7:30 PM Best of the Fest   
 9:30 PM Best of the Fest After-Party Included with ticket or pass

## Sunday, May 1

7:30 PM The Frantic   
 8:30 PM The Frantic After-Party Included with ticket or pass

## Advisories

CL - Coarse Language

GV - Gory Violence

MSM - Mature Subject Matter

N - Nudity

SC - Sexual Content

V - Violence

# Virtual Fest

**F**From the comfort of your own home or classroom anywhere in Canada, you can enjoy the 2022 Reel Shorts Virtual Fest May 2-8.

Sign up as a Friend of the Fest member for \$25 on the festival's Membership page and enjoy free access to the Virtual Fest as well as discounts on a Fest Pass and tickets to any Reel Shorts event throughout the year. Friend of the Fest members must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of Canada.

Watch the films on your TV, 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 connecting your laptop to your TV with an HDMI cable. Click on the "Virtual Fest May 2-8" link on our Schedule page for more information.

Make a party of it! Pop the popcorn and invite family and friends over for a viewing party!

reelshorts.ca



# Frantic Film Challenge



2019 Frantic48 winning team Eagle Vision Video Team

In Partnership with **PRIMAA**

The Peace Region's annual film challenge is back! PRIMAA (Peace Region Independent Media Arts Association), in partnership with the Reel Shorts Film Festival, presents the Frantic Film Challenge.

Over the course of an adrenaline-filled 9-day span from March 25 – April 3, 2022, filmmaking teams wrote, shot, and edited a 2-7 minute

short film. All teams were required to include preselected, random challenges provided in their starter packages in their films.

The films will screen at The Frantic on Sunday, May 1 at 7:30 and will be viewable online during the Virtual Fest May 2-8.

It's a huge accomplishment to finish a short film in 9 short days. Congratulations to all who accomplished this feat!



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# Jury Members



## 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.

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 two-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 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 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 when the festival became competitive in 2014. He returned as a jury member in 2016, 2019, and 2021, and is a jury member for the 2022 fest.

I don't really wanna think about themes, I wanna just think about the experience of the movie. There's more potential for it to mean something interesting if I'm not forcing it to mean something I've already decided.

**-Wes Anderson**





### Meaghan Brander

**M**eaghan Brander is a cultural programmer and media executive with over 15 years of experience working in the Canadian entertainment industry. Currently serving as Film Industry Growth Specialist with the Government of Prince Edward Island, her storied background includes roles with the Toronto International Film Festival and Cineplex Entertainment, specializing in film festival strategy, distribution, marketing and audience development. Meaghan has collaborated with arts organizations, festivals and media companies globally and helped connect communities across Canada with exceptional entertainment.

Meaghan holds a degree in Film Studies from Queen's University. She was a jury member when the festival became competitive in 2014, and is a jury member for the 2022 fest.



### Gordie Haakstad

Gordie Haakstad is an award-winning feature film writer/director and a managing partner of The Distillery Film Company. Gordie's directorial debut, *ABEL'S FIELD*, was released by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment in January 2013. It won Best Film, Best Feature, Best Actor, and Best Director awards at The Attic Film Festival in 2015.

Born in Grande Prairie and raised in the United States, Gordie graduated with honors from the University of Southern California's School of Cinema-Television's Production Program. In 2019, his short film, *Aeternitas*, won him the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association's Rosie Award for Best Director in the Short Film category and went on to screen at multiple Oscar-qualifying film festivals, as well as the Reel Shorts Film Festival.

Gordie taught cinematography and editing at the New York Film Academy and developed program curriculum before moving to Grande Prairie to teach at GPRC (Grande Prairie Regional College). Since moving to Edmonton in 2016, he's taught the Introduction to Video Production course at FAVA (Film and Video Arts Society Alberta).

Gordie has been involved with the Reel Shorts Film Festival since judging the Screenwriting Competition and teaching the Editing for Filmmakers workshop in 2013. He judged the 2014 Youth Screenplay Competition and

mentored winners of the 2013 and 2014 Reel Shorts screenplay competitions. He wrote and directed *Cold Decision* which screened in the 2015 fest. Gordie and Chris Beauchamp wrote and directed *The Souvenir* which screened in the 2016 fest.

Gordie served on the Board of Directors of the Reel Shorts Film Society from its founding in 2016 through his final term in 2020. He was a jury member when the festival became competitive in 2014. He returned as a jury member in 2017 and 2018, and is a jury member for the 2022 fest.

## Guest Filmmaker



### Frederick Kroetsch

Frederick Kroetsch is an Edmonton filmmaker who has created dozens of eclectic projects including the TV series *Queen of the Oil Patch* and the documentary *LAST OF THE FUR*

*TRADERS* (which screened at the 2019 Reel Shorts Film Festival). His latest film, *BLIND AMBITION: THE WOP MAY STORY*, won the Audience Choice Award and the Alberta Short Film Award for Best Short Documentary at the 2021 Edmonton International Film Festival. That film is part of the *On the Job* film package, after which Frederick will participate in a Q&A.

In 2021, Frederick directed the new TV series *Dr. Savanna: Wild Rose Vet*. He field-produced on *The Curse of Oak Island*, and, with Neil Grahm, won the Rosie Award for Best Screenwriter (Unscripted Under 30 Minutes) for *Queen of the Oil Patch – "Lost Sisters"*. He also won the Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund.

Frederick is currently an Executive Producer on a documentary TV series for NBC/Universal, and is developing numerous projects.

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



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## 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

14+ CL

### Extreme Measures

Tuesday, April 26 @ 7:30pm

Presented by **Rewind Radio**

This thought-provoking package follows characters who are set on testing limits and going to extremes. It includes a documentary, dramas, and comedies from Europe, Canada, and the United States.

**This package contains  
the following films:**



### Mr. James is Dead

10+ CL, V

Canada, 2020, 15 Minutes

Directors Josh Aries & Daniel Irving

Tom attends his estranged father's funeral only to find out that his father had been a spy all along, and his funeral is filled with spy villains from his past. Won Best Live Action Short Film (Canada) at the 2021 Edmonton International Film Festival among other awards.



### Marko

10+

Croatia, 2021, 17 Minutes (Croatian with English subtitles)

Director Marko Šantić

When a neighbour suggests to an older couple that they rent their son's room to tourists, the old man is against it, but his wife talks him into it. Even though they've never gotten over the death of their only child in the war, they need the money, but Marko is deeply troubled by having an unknown man sleep in his son's bed.



### Trophy (Trophée)

10+ CL, MSM

Canada, 2020, 15 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Co-Writer/Director Sandra Coppola

A teenager wants to become the best hockey player in her league. Her father, acting as her personal trainer,  
*Cont'd on pg. 12*



Cont'd from pg. 11

expects no less. But when she secures a coveted trophy, whose win is it?



## Snowy

USA, 2020, 12 Minutes

Directors Kaitlyn Schwalje & Alexander Lewis

A four-inch-long pet turtle named Snowy has lived an isolated life in the family basement. This documentary is both an investigation into animal happiness and an intervention to improve one turtle's life. Won the Special Jury Award for Best Comedy Short at the 2021 Palm Springs International ShortFest among other awards.



## Let's Throw Mommy Away (Äiti Menee Nyt Roskiin)

Finland, 2021, 9 Minutes (Finnish with English subtitles)

Director Elina Auvinen

Two middle-aged sisters meet at their late mother's apartment to clean it out. One wants to get rid of

everything as quickly as possible while the other lingers over every little thing that once belonged to their mother. How will they get through everything when they can't agree on a coffee mug?



## Don vs Lightning

UK, 2021, 13 Minutes

Director Big Red Button (Johnny Burns & Pier van Tijn)

All Don wants is a quiet life in the Scottish Highlands. Unfortunately, the universe has other plans. Won Best Comedy Short at the 2021 Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival.



## BoxBallet

Russia, 2020, 15 Minutes (Russian with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Anton Dyakov

When a delicate ballerina meets a rough boxer, shy feelings draw them together, but will their contrasting worlds drive them apart? Nominated for an Academy Award in 2022 for Best Animated Short Film.







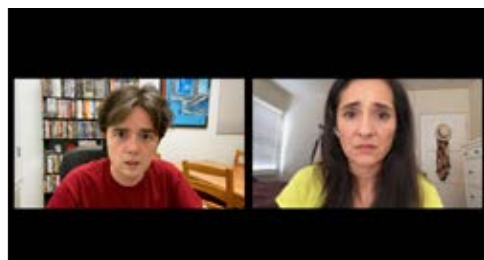
## Fearless Gopher (Marmote Intrépide)

10+

Canada, 2020, 6 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Miguel Lambert

A young boy scout gives himself the mission to liberate his friend from her house since her dad won't let her go to camp.



## Hold For Applause

14+ CL

Spain, 2020, 6 Minutes

Writer/Producer/Actor/Director Gerald B. Fillmore

During the lockdown, everyone in Spain shows their gratitude to the health care workers by applauding from their windows at 8pm. Greg would like to join them but he's too busy dealing with an international online relationship crisis. Won Best Short Film at the 2021 Huetor Vega Short Film Festival among other awards.

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## FILM PACKAGE

5+

## New Worlds (Gr 4-6)

Wednesday, April 27 @ 1:00pm

Thursday, April 28 @ 10:00am

This engaging package contains films that explore unexpected new frontiers. Some are heartwarming; some are cautionary. All provide great opportunities for further discussion.

**This package contains  
the following films:**



## Sea Dragon

5+

UK, 2020, 16 Minutes

Director James Morgan

When young fossil hunter Mary Anning finds something truly remarkable in the Jurassic cliffs of Dorset, she finds herself locked in an ideological battle with a devious auctioneer and the soon-to-crumble worldviews of 19th century England.

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## From Above

5+

France, 2021, 7 Minutes

Directors Julien Jousse, Arthur Damiano, Vincent Hébrard, Léonard Haug, Antoine Thiaucourt, Hector Dao, Nathan Baussois

A French soldier is sent to scout for an unknown object that fell from the sky in no man's land on the Vosges frontline on Christmas Eve, 1916. As he encounters a German soldier sent on the same mission, they raise their rifles, ready to shoot, until they realize who has crashed and needs their help.



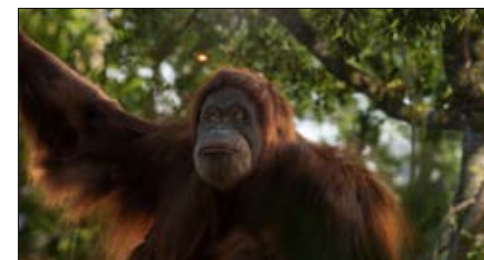
## Earth<sup>3</sup>

5+

France, 2021, 5 Minutes

Producer/Director Antoine Morineau

With the goal of proving that the earth is flat, a man travels to space in his homemade rocket. Will he find the truth out there?



## Green

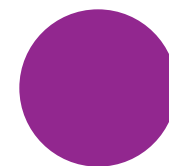
5+

France, 2021, 4 Minutes

Directors Arielle Cohen, Louis Florian, Theo Fratissier, Camille Poiriez, Eloïse Thibaut

An orangutan in Borneo catches sight of something bright floating down through the forest canopy. She follows it, not realizing it has the power to change her world.

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I like unformed characters.  
This may be because, no  
matter how old I get, I am  
still unformed myself.

**-Akira Kurosawa**





## Tiger (Shark) King

5+

USA, 2021, 7 Minutes

Director Clayton Conn

Jim Abernethy is a conservationist and ecotourism operator who discovered the "affectionate" side of large predatory sharks more than 20 years ago after removing a fishing hook from the jaws of a tiger shark. Since then, he has removed thousands of hooks from sharks in the warm, clear waters off the Bahamas, and has brought divers to safely encounter these apex predators.



## The Dog Who Lost His Bark

5+

UK, 2021, 21 Minutes

Director Viko Nikci

A ten-year-old girl is thrilled when her mother finally agrees to let her have a dog, but she begins to suspect that her mother isn't telling her what's really going on. A short film adaptation of Eoin Colfer's bestselling book. Screened with the kind permission of Network Ireland Television and Welcome Home Pictures.



## Umbrellas

5+

Spain, 2020, 12 Minutes

Directors Jose Prats & Alvaro Robles

In a land where the rain never stops, a young girl plays under the protective "umbrella-beard" of her father. When her dog disappears, she must face her great fear, the rain.

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## Helicopter Mom

5+

USA, 2021, 2 Minutes

Director Heewon Jeong

A preteen girl tries to escape the constant hovering of her overly protective helicopter mom.

Casting is 65 percent of directing.

**-John Frankenheimer**

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## FILM PACKAGE

14+ CL

## On the Job

Wednesday, April 27 @ 7:30pm

This insightful package explores characters dealing with the responsibilities of their work and the impact of their dedication. There will be a Q&A after the screening with Edmonton filmmaker Frederick Kroetsch (BLIND AMBITION: THE WOP MAY STORY) and an after-party upstairs in Encores Lounge after that.

**This package contains the following films:**



## Tiger (Shark) King

5+

USA, 2021, 7 Minutes

Director Clayton Conn

Jim Abernethy is a conservationist and ecotourism operator who discovered the "affectionate" side of large predatory sharks more than 20 years ago after removing a fishing hook from the jaws of a tiger shark. Since then, he has removed thousands of hooks from sharks in the warm, clear waters off the Bahamas, and has brought divers to safely encounter these apex predators.

**reelshorts.ca**



## The Hairdresser (La coiffeuse)

10+

Canada, 2021, 14 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Lorraine Price

Kathleen is a hairdresser. Always has been. Always will be. Even at 83, she's still doing hair. But not in the way one would expect. Her work is special.



## The Train Driver

10+ MSM

Germany, 2021, 6 Minutes (German with English subtitles)

Writer/Directors Christian Wittmoser & Zuniel Kim

Bernd Ziegler's childhood dream of becoming a train driver came true, but the nightmare of unintentionally killing people who jump in front of his train was something he had to learn to live with.

Let me just pause a minute and drink in this moment. And if you film it, I'll be able to get free refills for life.

**-Jarod Kintz**



## The Chimney Swift

10+ MSM

Germany, 2020, 5 Minutes  
Director Frédéric Schuld

A British chimney sweeper in 1840 describes his everyday routine of forcing young children to work as a "climbing boy". Won Special Jury Prize for Animation at the 2022 Big Muddy Film Festival among other awards.



## Sculpting Vibration (Sculpter la vibration)

10+

Canada, 2021, 9 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Producer/Director Felipe Martin

Bernard Bosa has been offering vibration sessions in Quebec for more than 10 years. As he makes a didgeridoo, he talks about the process of transforming a dead tree into an instrument and how vibration can heal emotional pain.

A Film is a Petrified  
Fountain of Thought.

**-Jean Cocteau**



## Rosa

10+ CL

Canada, 2021, 19 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Directors Jean-Michel Gervais & Gabriel J. Lemay

A psychiatrist asks his patient to once again relate the story of how he came to attempt suicide so that the doctor can assess whether he can safely release the young man from the psychiatric ward.



## The Affected

14+ CL

Norway, 2020, 13 Minutes (Norwegian with English subtitles)

Co-Writer/Director Rikke Gregersen

Minutes before takeoff, a passenger on a commercial flight refuses to sit down in an attempt to prevent the deportation of a man on board. Won Best Nordic Short Film at the 2020 Nordisk Panorama among other awards.

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## Blind Ambition: The Wop May Story

10+

Canada, 2021, 22 Minutes

Directors Frederick Kroetsch & Tom Robinson

He survived a dogfight with The Red Baron. He was one of the first barnstormers. He connected the world to the Arctic. He helped invent search and rescue in WW2. Wilfrid "Wop" May was an Edmonton hero who had sight in only one eye when he became a legendary bush pilot after the war. Won Best Documentary Short (Alberta) at the 2021 Edmonton International Film Festival.

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## FILM PACKAGE

5+

### Flights of Imagination (Gr 1-3)

Thursday, April 28 @ 1:00pm

This fun and inventive package contains films about the wilds of imagination and the places it can take us.

**This package contains the following films:**



### Umbrellas

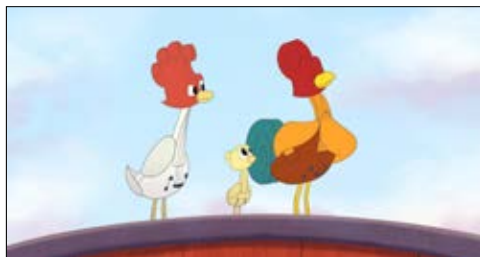
5+

Spain, 2020, 12 Minutes

Directors Jose Prats & Alvaro Robles

In a land where the rain never stops, a

young girl plays under the protective "umbrella-beard" of her father. When her dog disappears, she must face her great fear, the rain.



### Tacet

5+

USA, 2021, 6 Minutes

Director Zachary Simon

A farm of instrument animals welcomes a new member who must find a different way to fit in.

But having a really good understanding of history, literature, psychology, sciences – is very, very important to actually being able to make movies.

**-George Lucas**



### A Crow to Pluck (Prise de bec)

5+

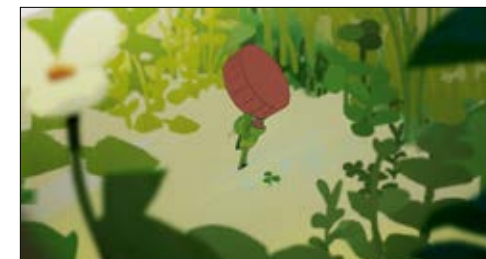
France, 2021, 7 Minutes

Directors Tristan Caillet, Thomas Cebadero, Fanny Garcia, Emma Hernandez-Senat, Billel Kellali, Chloé Lenarduzzi, Lucas Tarquini

A scarecrow's easy life is turned upside down by the arrival of a hardworking new neighbour who's eager to keep the crows off his property.

A documentary filmmaker can't help but use poetry to tell the story. I bring truth to my fiction. These things go hand in hand.

**-Chloe Zhao**



### Hopper's Day

5+

USA, 2021, 5 Minutes

Writer/Director Jingqi Zhang

A cricket faces many challenges on his quest for water on a hot sunny day.



### Gruf and Me

5+

Israel, 2021, 9 Minutes

Writer/Producer/Director Dovi Keich

Gruf is a graffiti character who comes to life and falls in love with the street

*Cont'd on pg. 22*



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artist who created him. He desperately tries to find her in the shabby streets of Tel Aviv and discovers that interdimensional love is not easy. Won Best Animation (over 5 minutes) at the 2021 Bristol International Short Film Festival among other awards



## Earth<sup>3</sup>

5+

France, 2021, 5 Minutes

Producer/Director Antoine Morineau

With the goal of proving that the earth is flat, a man travels to space in his homemade rocket. Will he find the truth out there?

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## FILM PACKAGE

14+ CL, SC, MSM

## Criminal Intent

Thursday, April 28 @ 7:30pm

Criminal intent is a defining trait of criminal acts in this diverse package of documentaries, dramas, and black comedy ... but who are the "criminals"?

This package contains the following films:



## Miss Ronaldo

10+

Iran, 2020, 4 Minutes (Arabic with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Kioumars Mohammad Chenari

Amidst the ruins of the Syrian girls' school she used to attend, Ayeh (nicknamed "Ayeh Ronaldo" for her magnificent playing skills) talks about her love of football and the last game she played there.

I started making films for myself and embracing the craft of filmmaking again. Consequently, my work got so much better.

**-Chinonye Chukwu**



## Voices From the Sit In

10+ MSM

USA, 2021, 27 Minutes

Producer/Director Ted Fisher

Filed by current Delta State students, this documentary brings to life an important story about the first black students admitted to the university in 1966. Their struggle for recognition, inclusion, and fair treatment culminated in the quickly-escalating events of March 10, 1969 when they held a sit-in on campus. The original students involved relive the tense experience of a significant moment in the Civil Rights movement.



## The Cookie Cutter

14+ MSM

USA, 2020, 8 Minutes

Director David Rocco Facchini

With bathing suit season just around the corner, Steve decides he can no longer indulge his sweet tooth for cookies, but he'll need more than willpower when an ambitious Cookie Scout darkens his doorway, dead set on the sale. Won Best Animation at the 2021 SF IndieFest.

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## The Criminals (Les Criminels)

14+ CL, SC, N

France/Romania/Turkey, 2021, 24 Minutes (Turkish with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Serhat Karaaslan

In a town in Turkey, a young couple wants to spend the night together,

but they are rejected from hotels because they do not have a marriage certificate. When they think they have found a way, the situation gets out of hand. Won Audience Choice Award at the 2021 San Diego International ShortsFest among other awards.

Storytelling was a way to see the world bigger than the one you were looking at, and that had great appeal for me.

**-Robert Redford**



## Frimas

14+ CL, MSM

Canada, 2021, 20 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Marianne Farley

In the near future, a desperate woman seeks the services of an illegal abortion clinic following the adoption of an anti-abortion law.



## Please Hold

14+ CL

USA, 2020, 19 Minutes

Director K.D. Dávila

A young man's life is suddenly derailed as he finds himself at the mercy of automated "justice." Nominated for an Academy Award in 2022 for Best Live Action Short Film.

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## FILM PACKAGE

14+ CL

## At Risk (Gr 9-12 Social Studies)

Friday, April 29 @ 9:30am

Spanning subjects from the 19th century (child labour), 20th century (aviation in Alberta and the civil rights movement in the United States), and the 21st century (citizen activism and automated justice), this powerful package examines injustice and how individuals have the power (or not) to change things.

**This package contains  
the following films:**



### The Chimney Swift 10+ MSM

Germany, 2020, 5 Minutes  
Director Frédéric Schuld

A British chimney sweeper in 1840 describes his everyday routine of forcing young children to work as a "climbing boy". Won Special Jury Prize for Animation at the 2022 Big Muddy Film Festival among other awards.

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### Voices From the Sit In 10+ MSM

USA, 2021, 27 Minutes

Producer/Director Ted Fisher

Filmed by current Delta State students, this documentary brings to life an important story about the first black students admitted to the university in 1966. Their struggle for recognition, inclusion, and fair treatment culminated in the quickly-escalating events of March 10, 1969 when they held a sit-in on campus. The original students involved relive the tense experience of a significant moment in the Civil Rights movement.

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### Blind Ambition: The Wop May Story 10+

Canada, 2021, 22 Minutes

Directors Frederick Kroetsch & Tom Robinson

He survived a dogfight with The Red Baron. He was one of the first barnstormers. He connected the world to the Arctic. He helped invent search and rescue in WW2. Wilfrid "Wop" May was an Edmonton hero who had sight in only one eye when he became a legendary bush pilot after the war. Won Best Documentary Short (Alberta) at the 2021 Edmonton International Film Festival.

Cinema is the most beautiful  
fraud in the world.

**-Jean-Luc Godard**



### The Affected 14+ CL

Norway, 2020, 13 Minutes (Norwegian with English subtitles)

Co-Writer/Director Rikke Gregersen

Minutes before takeoff, a passenger on a commercial flight refuses to sit down in an attempt to prevent the deportation of a man on board. Won Best Nordic Short Film at the 2020 Nordisk Panorama among other awards.

You hear it said time and  
time again by successful  
directors: You have to  
make a movie for yourself.  
Don't make it for anyone  
else.

**-Jordan Peele**



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## Please Hold

14+ CL

USA, 2020, 19 Minutes  
Director K.D. Dávila

A young man's life is suddenly derailed as he finds himself at the mercy of automated "justice." Nominated for an Academy Award in 2022 for Best Live Action Short Film.

Screenwriting is like ironing. You move forward a little bit and go back and smooth things out.

**-Paul Thomas Anderson**

## GRANDE PRAIRIE LIVE THEATRE



gplt.ca

## FILM PACKAGE

14+ MSM

### Real/Surreal (Gr 9-12 English/ Languages)

Friday, April 29 @ 12:45pm

This varied package contains films that are "real" (documentaries or based on real events) and films that are surreal in some aspect. Where is that boundary when reality becomes surreal?

**This package contains  
the following films:**



## Don vs Lightning

10+ CL

UK, 2021, 13 Minutes  
Director Big Red Button (Johnny Burns & Pier van Tijn)

All Don wants is a quiet life in the Scottish Highlands. Unfortunately, the universe has other plans. Won Best Comedy Short at the 2021 Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival. Screened with the kind permission of Network Ireland Television and Sonya Sier.

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## The Cookie Cutter

14+ MSM

USA, 2020, 8 Minutes  
Director David Rocco Facchini

With bathing suit season just around the corner, Steve decides he can no longer indulge his sweet tooth for cookies, but he'll need more than willpower when an ambitious Cookie Scout darkens his doorway, dead set on the sale. Won Best Animation at the 2021 SF IndieFest.

If you wanna do a film where you have a big scope, you've got to make your characters relatable and genuine.

**-Jennifer Lee**



## BoxBallet

10+ CL, V, N

Russia, 2020, 15 Minutes (Russian with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Anton Dyakov

When a delicate ballerina meets a rough boxer, shy feelings draw them together, but will their contrasting worlds drive them apart? Nominated for an Academy Award in 2022 for Best Animated Short Film.



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## The Train Driver

10+ MSM

Germany, 2021, 6 Minutes (German with English subtitles)

Writer/Directors Christian Wittmoser & Zuniel Kim

Bernd Ziegler's childhood dream of becoming a train driver came true, but the nightmare of unintentionally killing people who jump in front of his train was something he had to learn to live with.



## The Hairdresser (La coiffeuse)

10+

Canada, 2021, 14 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Lorraine Price

Kathleen is a hairdresser. Always has been. Always will be. Even at 83, she's still doing hair. But not in the way one would expect. Her work is special.

The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder.

**-Alfred Hitchcock**



## Marko

10+

Croatia, 2021, 17 Minutes (Croatian with English subtitles)

Director Marko Šantić

When a neighbour suggests to an older couple that they rent their son's room to tourists, the old man is against it, but his wife talks him into it. Even though they've never gotten over the death of their only child in the war, they need the money, but Marko is deeply troubled by having an unknown man sleep in his son's bed.

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## Mr. James is Dead

10+ CL, V

Canada, 2020, 15 Minutes

Directors Josh Aries & Daniel Irving

Tom attends his estranged father's funeral only to find out that his father had been a spy all along, and his funeral is filled with spy villains from his past. Won Best Live Action Short Film (Canada) at the 2021 Edmonton International Film Festival among other awards.

A film is, or should be, more like music than like fiction.

**-Stanley Kubrick**

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## FILM PACKAGE

14+ CL, GV, MSM

## Psycho Shorts & Pizza Party

Friday, April 29 @ 7:30pm  
(pizza party @ 7:30 PM;  
Horror shorts @ 8:15 PM)

Presented by **Pizza Hut**

Zombies, ghosts, demons, psychopaths, and a twisted Christmas nightmare – are you ready for Psycho Shorts?

This package contains the following films:



## The Last Marriage

14+ CL, GV

Sweden, 2021, 16 Minutes (Swedish with English subtitles)

Directors Johan Tappert & Gustav Egerstedt

Marie and Janne have learned how to cope with the zombie apocalypse, but can their marriage survive the petty quarrels and boring sex life? Won the Jury Award for Best Short Film at the 2021 Mile High Horror Film Festival.

I would travel down to hell and wrestle a film away from the devil if it was necessary.

**-Werner Herzog**





## Cutter

14+ CL, GS, MSM

USA, 2021, 16 Minutes

Writer/Directors Dan Repp & Lindsay Young

A teenage cutter in recovery and her controlling mother are haunted by a ghost who seeks revenge. Won Best Screenplay at the 2022 Romfort Film Festival.

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## Abracitos

10+ FS

Spain, 2020, 11 Minutes (Spanish with English subtitles)

Producer/Co-Writer/Director Tony Morales

A terrible phone call from her father shakes Laura's world, but her younger sister's behavior disturbs her even more. Won the Syfy Award for Best Spanish Short Film at the 2020 San Sebastian Horror and Fantasy Film Festival.



## Shiny New World

14+ GS

Netherlands, 2021, 9 Minutes (Dutch with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Jan van Gorkum

While making a corporate film for new employees, middle-aged Barry's normal day gets out of hand as he demonstrates the standard working procedures used while cleaning crime scenes where demons have wreaked havoc. Won Best International Short Film at the 2021 Toronto After Dark Festival among other awards.



## Huldra

10+ CL, FS

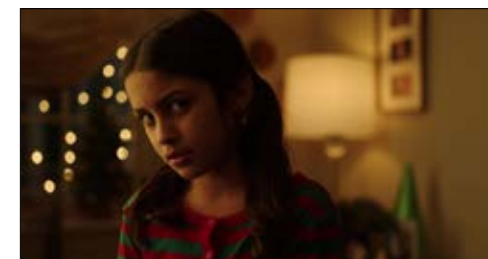
Sweden, 2021, 15 Minutes (Swedish with English subtitles)

Directors John Boisen & Björn Fävremark

In this modern interpretation of a classic Scandinavian folk tale, a man and his little daughter spend a couple of extra days at their lake cottage in hopes that their missing cat will return. As strange events begin to occur, he wonders if something else is trying to find a way in.

A wide screen just makes a bad film twice as bad.

-Samuel Goldwyn



## The Last Christmas

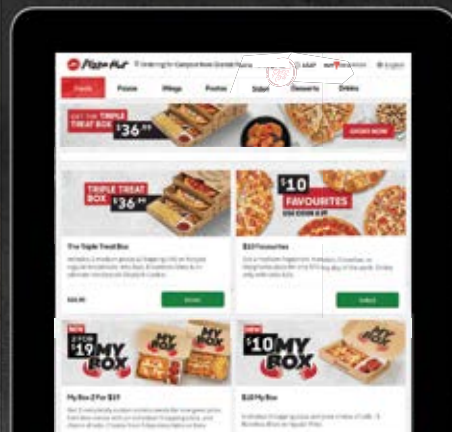
14+ CL, GV

Canada, 2021, 12 Minutes

Writer/Director Ryan Port

A mischievous 8-year-old girl unleashes a twisted Christmas nightmare when her plans to capture Santa Claus go horribly wrong. Won Best Horror Comedy Short at the 2022 Nevermore Film Festival among other awards.

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## Call

10+ CL, FS

Germany, 2020, 8 Minutes (German with English subtitles)

Director Deniz Arora

As a woman takes an old elevator up to the apartment that she has just moved into, the phone in the elevator rings which begins a chain of events that terrify her.

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

## FILM PACKAGE

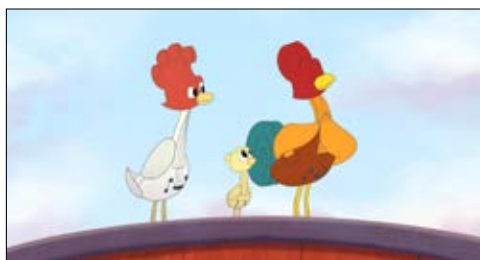
5+

### Sprouts for Kids

Saturday, April 30 @ 2:00pm

This delightful package contains the films selected for the school program (Flights of Imagination for grades 1-3 and New Worlds for grades 4-6) that the whole family can enjoy.

This package contains the following films:



## Tacet

5+

USA, 2021, 6 Minutes

Director Zachary Simon

A farm of instrument animals

welcomes a new member who must find a different way to fit in.



## A Crow to Pluck (Prise de bec)

5+

France, 2021, 7 Minutes

Directors Tristan Caillet, Thomas Cebadero, Fanny Garcia, Emma Hernandez-Senat, Billel Kellali, Chloé Lenarduzzi, Lucas Tarquini

A scarecrow's easy life is turned upside down by the arrival of a hardworking new neighbour who's eager to keep the crows off his property.

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## Hopper's Day

5+

USA, 2021, 5 Minutes

Writer/Director Jingqi Zhang

A cricket faces many challenges on his quest for water on a hot sunny day.



## Gruf and Me

5+

Israel, 2021, 9 Minutes

Writer/Producer/Director Dovi Keich

Gruf is a graffiti character who comes to life and falls in love with the street artist who created him. He desperately tries to find her in the shabby streets of Tel Aviv and discovers that interdimensional love is not easy. Won Best Animation (over 5 minutes) at the 2021 Bristol International Short Film Festival among other awards

Truly creative things happen when one thinks differently, yet nobody wants to think differently.

-Shonda Rhymes

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## Sea Dragon

5+

UK, 2020, 16 Minutes  
Director James Morgan

When young fossil hunter Mary Anning finds something truly remarkable in the Jurassic cliffs of Dorset, she finds herself locked in an ideological battle with a devious auctioneer and the soon-to-crumble worldviews of 19th century England.



## From Above

5+

France, 2021, 7 Minutes  
Directors Julien Jousse, Arthur Damiano, Vincent Hébrard, Léonard Haug, Antoine Thiaucourt, Hector Dao, Nathan Baussois

A French soldier is sent to scout for an unknown object that fell from the sky in no man's land on the Vosges frontline on Christmas Eve, 1916. As he encounters a German soldier sent on the same mission, they raise their rifles, ready to shoot, until they realize who has crashed and needs their help.

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## Earth<sup>3</sup>

5+

France, 2021, 5 Minutes  
Producer/Director Antoine Morineau

With the goal of proving that the earth is flat, a man travels to space in his homemade rocket. Will he find the truth out there?



## Green

5+

France, 2021, 4 Minutes  
Directors Arielle Cohen, Louis Florian, Theo Fratissier, Camille Poiriez, Eloïse Thibaut

An orangutan in Borneo catches sight of something bright floating down through the forest canopy. She follows it, not realizing it has the power to change her world.

Don't show it to somebody until you're ready to show it to somebody. You only have one opportunity to make a first impression.

**-Kasi Lemmons**



## Umbrellas

5+

Spain, 2020, 12 Minutes  
Directors Jose Prats & Alvaro Robles

In a land where the rain never stops, a young girl plays under the protective "umbrella-beard" of her father. When her dog disappears, she must face her great fear, the rain.

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## Helicopter Mom

5+

USA, 2021, 2 Minutes  
Director Heewon Jeong

A preteen girl tries to escape the constant hovering of her overly protective helicopter mom.

In film, we sculpt time, we sculpt behavior and we sculpt light.

**-David Fincher**

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## The Dog Who Lost His Bark

5+

UK, 2021, 21 Minutes  
Director Viko Nikci

A ten-year-old girl is thrilled when her mother agrees to let her have a dog, but she begins to suspect that her mother isn't telling her what's really going on. A short film adaptation of Eoin Colfer's bestselling book. Screened with the kind permission of Network Ireland Television and Welcome Home Pictures.

## FILM PACKAGE

14+

### Best of the Fest

Saturday, April 30 @ 7:30pm

Presented by **Big Country** and  
**North West Crane**

This package includes the winners of the juried awards for Best Animated Short, Best Documentary Short, Best Live Action Short Under 15 Minutes, Best Live Action Short 15+ Minutes, as well as the top audience favourites. These films provide a diverse cross section of the festival's programming. There will be an after-party upstairs in Encores Lounge following the screening.

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## FILM PACKAGE

14+

## The Frantic

Sunday, May 01 @ 7:30pm

Presented in partnership with  
**PRIMAA**

PRIMAA and the festival joined forces once again for the Frantic Filmmaking Challenge. Peace Region teams had just nine days to write, shoot, and edit their short films. Join friends, fans, and family for this exciting screening of the 3 films completed during this challenge. Vote on your favourite! A selection of past Frantic48 winners will also screen in this package. An after-party will take place upstairs in the Encores Lounge following the screening.

This package contains  
the following films:



## The Photographer 10+ FS, MSM

Peace Region, 2022, 4 Minutes  
Team Flickering Lanterns

A mysterious artist seeks to immortalize her subjects with her camera.



## Turkey Dinner 10+

Peace Region, 2022, 6 Minutes  
Team Pareidoliacs

What really goes into making the perfect turkey dinner? For answers, cue The Man.



## Death Cake for Cutie 10+ V

Peace Region, 2022, 7 Minutes  
Team All Nighter Productions

A jilted lover bakes up some revenge for her ex's birthday.



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## FILM PACKAGE

10+ CL, V

Wild & Free  
(Gr 6-9)

Virtual Fest

This package contains surprising explorations of boundaries, freedom, and responsibility.

This package contains  
the following films:

Fearless Gopher  
(Marmote Intrépide) 10+

Canada, 2020, 6 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Miguel Lambert

A young boy scout gives himself the mission to liberate his friend from her house since her dad won't let her go to camp.

I think what you need to search for in films is the integrity of the image. I wanted to make films with solid images that confront the spectator.

-Alice Rohrwacher

Earth<sup>3</sup> 5+

France, 2021, 5 Minutes

Producer/Director Antoine Morineau

With the goal of proving that the earth is flat, a man travels to space in his homemade rocket. Will he find the truth out there?

Blind Ambition:  
The Wop May Story 10+

Canada, 2021, 22 Minutes

Directors Frederick Kroetsch & Tom Robinson

He survived a dogfight with The Red Baron. He was one of the first barnstormers. He connected the world to the Arctic. He helped invent search and rescue in WW2. Wilfrid "Wop" May was an Edmonton hero who had sight in only one eye when he became a legendary bush pilot after the war. Won Best Documentary Short (Alberta) at the 2021 Edmonton International Film Festival.

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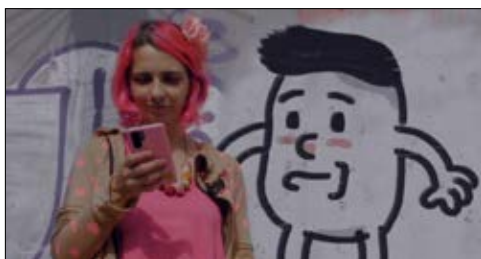
## Miss Ronaldo

10+

Iran, 2020, 4 Minutes (Arabic with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Kioumars Mohammad Chenari

Amidst the ruins of the Syrian girls' school she used to attend, Ayeh (nicknamed "Ayeh Ronaldo" for her magnificent playing skills) talks about her love of football and the last game she played there.



## Gruf and Me

5+

Israel, 2021, 9 Minutes

Writer/Producer/Director Dovi Keich

Gruf is a graffiti character who comes to life and falls in love with the street artist who created him. He desperately tries to find her in the shabby streets of Tel Aviv and discovers that interdimensional love is not easy. Won Best Animation (over 5 minutes) at the 2021 Bristol International Short Film Festival among other awards



## Green

5+

France, 2021, 4 Minutes

Directors Arielle Cohen, Louis Florian, Theo Fratissier, Camille Poiriez, Eloïse Thibaut

An orangutan in Borneo catches sight of something bright floating down through the forest canopy. She follows it, not realizing it has the power to change her world.



## Tiger (Shark) King

5+

USA, 2021, 7 Minutes

Director Clayton Conn

Jim Abernethy is a conservationist and ecotourism operator who discovered the "affectionate" side of large predatory sharks more than 20 years ago after removing a fishing hook from the jaws of a tiger shark. Since then, he has removed thousands of hooks from sharks in the warm, clear waters off the Bahamas, and has brought divers to safely encounter these apex predators.



## Mr. James is Dead

10+ CL, V

Canada, 2020, 15 Minutes

Directors Josh Aries & Daniel Irving

Tom attends his estranged father's funeral only to find out that his father had been a spy all along, and his funeral is filled with spy villains from his past. Won Best Live Action Short Film (Canada) at the 2021 Edmonton International Film Festival among other awards.

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## FILM PACKAGE

10+ CL, MSM

## Cinema Francophone (Gr 9-12 French)

### Virtual Fest

Chosen by teachers, this diverse and entertaining package of Canadian films has one thing in common: French dialogue (with English subtitles).

**This package contains  
the following films:**



## Trophy (Trophée)

10+ CL, MSM

Canada, 2020, 15 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Co-Writer/Director Sandra Coppola

A teenager wants to become the best hockey player in her league. Her father, acting as her personal trainer, expects no less. But when she secures a coveted trophy, whose win is it?

I try to push ideas away,  
and the ones that will not  
leave me alone are the  
ones that ultimately end  
up happening.

**-JJ Abrams**

The enemy of art is the absence of limitations.

**-Orson Welles**





## The Hairdresser (La coiffeuse)

10+

Canada, 2021, 14 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Lorraine Price

Kathleen is a hairdresser. Always has been. Always will be. Even at 83, she's still doing hair. But not in the way one would expect. Her work is special.



## Rosa

10+ CL

Canada, 2021, 19 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Directors Jean-Michel Gervais & Gabriel J. Lemay

A psychiatrist asks his patient to once again relate the story of how he came to attempt suicide so that the doctor can assess whether he can safely release the young man from the psychiatric ward.

All good ideas start out as bad ideas, that's why it takes so long.

**-Steven Spielberg**



## Sculpting Vibration (Sculpter la vibration)

10+

Canada, 2021, 9 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Producer/Director Felipe Martin

Bernard Bosa has been offering vibration sessions in Quebec for more than 10 years. As he makes a didgeridoo, he talks about the process of transforming a dead tree into an instrument and how vibration can heal emotional pain.



## Fearless Gopher (Marmote Intrépide)

10+

Canada, 2020, 6 Minutes (French with English subtitles)

Writer/Director Miguel Lambert

A young boy scout gives himself the mission to liberate his friend from her house since her dad won't let her go to camp.

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## Special Thanks

Wayne Ayling (GPLT Manager), Kate Foote (program graphic design layout), Gordie Haakstad (countdown timer, intro reel, technical assistance), Jacqueline McDonald (graphic design), Monty Simo (fest trailer), Marcus Vanstone (membership system), FOH volunteers

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