

SHORTS®

20th Anniversary Release

2025

OSCAR® NOMINATED SHORT FILMS

LIVE ACTION | ANIMATION | DOCUMENTARY

ANIMATION

BEAUTIFUL MEN

BELGIUM, FRANCE, THE NETHERLANDS/
18 MIN/2023

Director: Nicolas Keppens

Producers: Brecht Van Elslande, Emmanuel-Alain Raynal, Pierre Baussaron, Joost van den Bosch, Erik Verkerk

Synopsis: Three balding brothers travel to Istanbul to get a hair transplant. Stuck with each other in a hotel far from home, their insecurities grow faster than their hair.

Director's Biography: Nicolas studied film and animation at KASK Ghent and perfected his skills at the film academy of Luca School of Arts Brussels. His credits include the short films **SUPERSTARS** (2012), **WILDEBEEST** (2017) and **EASTER EGGS** (2020), an animated short film about finding extraordinary things in ordinary places.



Awards:

- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Animated Short Subject Nominee, Annie Awards, USA, 2025
- Best Short Nominee - Cristal, Annecy International Animated Film Festival, France, 2024
- Winner - Festivals Connexion Award, Annecy International Animated Film Festival, France, 2024
- Winner - Alexeïeff - Parker Award, Annecy International Animated Film Festival, France, 2024
- Winner - Best Animation, Aspen Shortsfest, USA, 2024
- Winner - The Ellen, Aspen Shortsfest, USA, 2024
- International Competition Grand Prix Nominee, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France 2024
- Narrative Short Nominee, Golden Starfish Award, Hamptons International Film Festival USA, 2024
- Winner - Narrative Short, Golden Starfish Award - Honorable Mention, Hamptons International Film Festival USA, 2024
- Best Animated Short Nominee, Nashville Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Winner - Best Short Film, Philadelphia Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Animated Short Nominee, SXSW Film Festival, Texas, 2024
- International Competition Nominee, Uppsala International Short Film Festival, Sweden, 2024
- Short Films Competition Nominee, Zagreb World Festival of Animated Films, Croatia, 2024
- Winner - Best Narrative Short, Ottawa International Animation Festival, Japan, 2024
- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, Calgary International Film Festival, Canada, 2024
- Best Short Film Nominee, Film Festival Oostende, Belgium, 2024
- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, Guanajuato International Film Festival, Mexico, 2024
- Short Films Competition Nominee, Vilnius International Film Festival, Lithuania, 2024
- Winner - Judges' International Competition Programme Voting, London International Animation Festival, UK, 2024
- Winner - Best Film of the Festival Award, London International Animation Festival, UK, 2024



IN THE SHADOW OF THE CYPRESS

IRAN/20 MINS/2023

Directors: Hossein Molayemi, Shirin Sohani

Producers: Francesco Di Silvio, Hossein Molayemi, Shirin Sohani

Synopsis:

Living in a house by the sea with his daughter, a former captain who has post-traumatic stress disorder leads a tough and secluded life.

Director's Biography:

Shirin Sohani, 09.08.1986, Tehran, Iran

After completing an M.A. in animation directing (Tehran University of Art) she started her professional career in 2012 and has worked as a concept artist, background artist, scriptwriter & production manager. **IN THE SHADOW OF THE CYPRESS** is her first professional film. Her graduation animation, **THE FAN** (2014) won both national & international awards.

Hossein Molayemi, 23.08.1982, Shiraz, Iran

After completing an M.A. in animation directing (Tehran University of Art) he started his professional career in 2004. His work includes Directing, character design, storyboard artist, animator and university lecturer. **IN THE SHADOW OF THE CYPRESS** is his second professional film. His first film, **RUN ROSTAM RUN** (2017) was selected at Annecy, Warsaw and several other Oscar qualifying film festivals and won national & international awards. He is a board member of Asifa Iran & Animation Filmmakers Guild of Iran.

“ Driven by passion and a sense of mission, we overcame sanctions, budget limits, and illness during a journey of over 6 years to complete our film about the human spirit and PTSD veterans. ”

Awards:

- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Short Nominee - Cristal, Annecy International Animated Film Festival, France, 2024
- Best Animated Short Subject Nominee, Annie Awards, USA, 2025
- Young Audience Competition Nominee, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France, 2024
- Winner - Best International Animation Film, Drama Short Film Festival, Greece, 2024
- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, Guadalajara International Film Festival, Mexico, 2024
- Winner - Best Animation, Mediawave, Hungary, 2024
- Best Short Film Nominee, Melbourne International Film Festival, Australia, 2024
- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, RiverRun International Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Best Animated Short Award Nominee, Santa Barbara International Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Best Animated Short Nominee, St. Louis International Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Winner - Best Animated Short, Tribeca Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Best Animated Short, Nominee, BendFilm Festival, USA, 2024
- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, Calgary International Film Festival, Canada, 2024
- Winner - International Competition, Best Animation, Tehran International Short Film Festival, Iran, 2024
- Winner - National Competition, Best Animation, Tehran International Short Film Festival, Iran, 2024



MAGIC CANDIES

JAPAN/21 MINS/2024

Director: Daisuke Nishio

Producers: Takashi Washio, Kazuhiro Nishikawa

Synopsis:

The other kids at the park never ask Dong-Dong to play. But he's fine just playing marbles on his own. One day he goes out in search of new marbles, but ends up buying a bag of colorful, marble-shaped candies instead. But the first time he pops one of them into his mouth, he's astonished to hear his old sofa start talking to him! For the next few minutes, until the candy melts away, he has the most unexpected and amazing conversation of his life. Realizing that these are no ordinary candies, Dong-Dong looks at the rest of colorful sweets. Who else will he be able to talk to, and what else will he learn, through these magic candies?

Director's Biography: Born in Hiroshima, Japan in 1959, Daisuke Nishio joined *Toei Animation* in 1981 and debuted with the TV series **DR. SLUMP -ARALE-**. His representative works as a series director include **DRAGON BALL Z**, **GE-GE-GE NO KITARO 4**, and **YOUNG KINDAICHI'S CASE BOOK**. In 2004, he launched **PRETTY CURE**, a long-running series that has continued for over 20 years. He is highly regarded for his remarkable talent in capturing dynamic actions grounded in martial arts. He has also showcased his versatile talent by directing a variety of genres such as **AIRMASTER**, **INTERSTELLA 5555**, and **HALO LEGENDS - ODD ONE OUT**.



Awards:

- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Short Film Nominee, London Film Festival, UK, 2024
- Animated Short Film Nominee, AFI Fest, USA, 2024
- Jury Award, Animated Short, New York International Children's Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Golden Slipper for Best Short, International Jury For Short Animation for Children, Zlin Film Festival, Czech Republic, 2024
- Japan Premiere Award, Sapporo International Short Film Festival, Japan, 2024
- Best International Short Film, CineKid Festival, Amsterdam, 2024
- Audience Award, Cambridge Film Festival, UK, 2024
- Short Competition Winner of Japanese Film Award, Kineko International Film Festival, Japan, 2024



WANDER TO WONDER

NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, FRANCE, UK/
13 MINS/2023

Director: Nina Gantz

Producers: Stienette Bosklopper, Nina Gantz, Maarten Swart

Synopsis:

Mary, Billybud, and Fumbleton are three tiny humans who star in a kids' TV Series called **WANDER TO WONDER**. After the creator dies, they are left alone in the studio. Struggling to find enough to eat, they continue to make increasingly strange episodes for their fans.

Director's Biography: Nina Gantz is a Dutch London-based Animation Director. After graduating at the St. Joost Art School in Breda, Gantz began a Masters in directing animation at the National Film and Television School where she completed her student film **EDMOND** in 2015. **EDMOND** has received 38 awards including the BIFA for best short film, the Best Short Animation award at Sundance and a BAFTA for Best Animated Short. Gantz has been freelancing on a variety of projects and she is signed to London production company Blink Ink. **WANDER TO WONDER** is her first independent stop-motion animation. Currently she is developing two feature length films.

“ Although the film carries a tone of dark absurdity, its roots lie in a deeply personal experience. As I was working on the final version of the script, I encountered the death of a loved one and discovered that everyone copes very differently with grief, which ultimately found its way into the film. After the death of their father figure, Fumbleton finds freedom, whereas Mary clings onto the only thing that gives her purpose, which is to keep filming the show. ”

Awards:

- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Animated Short Subject Nominee, Annie Awards, USA, 2025
- Best British Short Animation Nominee, BAFTA Awards, UK, 2025
- Winner: Best Short, Kaboom Animation Film Festival, Amsterdam, 2025
- Winner - Best British Short, British Independent Film Awards, UK, 2024
- Winner - Special Mention, Best Animated Short, Chicago International Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Gold Hugo, Best Animated Short Nominee, Chicago International Film Festival, USA, 2024
- International Competition Nominee, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France, 2024
- Best Short Film Nominee, Denver Film Festival, USA, 2024
- European Short Film Nominee, European Film Awards, 2024
- Orizzonti Award Nominee, Venice Film Festival, Italy, 2024
- Golden Spike, Valladolid SFF, 2024
- Press Award, Anima Brussels SFF Grand Prix, 2024
- Grand Prix, Tampere SFF
- Grand Jury Award, SXSW, Texas, 2024
- International Audience Award, Glasgow SFF, UK, 2024
- Gran Premio, BAFICI, Argentina, 2024
- Best Midnight Short | Special Mention for Best Animated Short, Palm Springs International ShortFest, USA, 2024



YUCK!

FRANCE/13 MINS/2024

Original Title: Beurk !

Director: Loïc Espuche

Producers: Juliette Marquet, Manon Messiant

Synopsis:

YUCK! Adults kiss each other on the mouth, and children find it disgusting! What's more, you can see it from afar: when people are about to kiss, their lips become all pink and shiny. Little Léo makes jokes about it, as do the other kids at the summer camp. But he has a secret he won't tell his friends: his own mouth has actually begun glistening. And, in reality, Léo desperately wants to give kissing a try.

Director's Biography: Loïc Espuche is a French animation filmmaker born in 1989 in Villeurbanne. He graduated from La Martinière, in Lyon in Visual Communication. He then pursued training in animation and directing at EMCA and l'École de la Poudrière. During his studies, he created funny and sensitive films that resonated well in festivals, including **JE REPASSERAI DANS LA SEMAINE** (2013) which was selected, among others, at Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, International Animation Film Festival of Annecy, as well as at the Sommets de l'animation (Montreal), Anima mundi (Rio), and Bruz. In 2015, he won the Prix des Espoirs de l'animation from the french TV channel Canal J with **LES CHOCOTTES**. His graduation film, **TOMBÉS DU NID** («Fallen from the nest»), was pre-purchased by ARTE and, in addition to numerous selections, won the Audience Award at Premiers plans d'Angers, the Best Student Film Award at Meknès, and the SACD Prize at the national animation film festival in Bruz. In 2016, Loïc participated in the third season of En sortant de l'école, dedicated to Guillaume Apollinaire, and adapted **MUTATION**.

In 2018, he directed seasons 2 and 3 of **LA PETITE MORT** based on Davy Mourier's comic book for France TV Slash. He is currently developing two animated series projects: **WHAT'S UP EESHA** with TeamTo for France télévisions and **LES INTRADUISIBLES** with Vents Contraires.

“I really like the idea that cinema is something we share together in a theater, and I like when we can share it between generations.”

Awards:

- Best Animated Short Film Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Outstanding Achievement for Writing in an Animated Television/Media Production Nominee, Annie Awards, USA, 2025
- Best Animated Special Production Nominee, Annie Awards, USA, 2025
- Generation Kplus - Best Short Film Nominee, Berlin International Film Festival, Germany, 2024
- Teddy Best Short Film Nominee, Berlin International Film Festival, Germany, 2024
- Best Animated Short Nominee, Chicago International Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Best Short Film Nominee, Miami Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Winner - Audience Award, International Competition, Vila do Conde International Short Film Festival, Portugal, 2024
- Great Prize Cidade Vila do Conde Nominee, International Competition, Portugal, 2024
- Winner - Audience Award, Playing with Emotion, London International Animation Festival, UK, 2024
- Jury Prize for Best Animated Short Austin Film Festival, USA, 2024

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A LIEN

USA/14 MINS/2023

Directors: David Cutler-Kreutz, Sam Cutler-Kreutz

Producers: Rebecca Eskreis, Sam Cutler-Kreutz, David Cutler-Kreutz, Tara Sheffer

Synopsis: On the day of their green card interview, a young couple confronts a dangerous immigration process.

Director's Biography: SAM & DAVID CUTLER-KREUTZ are an award winning writing, directing & producing team based in NYC and LA. As brothers, they grew up making films together. Their first short film **FLOUNDER** premiered in the Clermont-Ferrand International Competition 2022. Their second **A LIEN** is Nominated for the 97th Academy Awards. Their third short **TRAPPED** premiered at SXSW 2024 Narrative Shorts Competition, where it won the Special Jury Prize and Palm Springs ShortsFest Best US Short.

Their work together has been shown at - SXSW, Palm Springs ShortsFest, Clermont-Ferrand, SIFF, Austin, Vancouver, Hamptons, Rhode Island, Oldenburg, Brooklyn Film Festival, Flickerfest and Festival Regard, among others. Their work has premiered online with Vimeo Staff Picks, Short Of The Week, Director's Notes & Director's Library features.

They are Vimeo Breakout Creators 2024.

“ **A LIEN** is a story about Americans and their desire for family, unity, and identity, but also a story about wrinkled shirts, braided hair, and the desire to just feel at home. ”

Awards:

- Best Live Action Short Film Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Narrative Short Nominee, Austin Film Festival, USA, 2023
- Seattle International Film Festival, USA, 2023
- Vancouver International Film Festival, Canada, 2023
- Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA, 2023
- Flickerfest International Short Film Festival, Australia, 2023



ANUJA

INDIA, USA/22 MINS/2024

Director: Adam J. Graves

Producers: Suchitra Mattai, Mindy Kaling, Guneet Monga Kapoor, Krushan Naik, Michael Graves, Aaron Kopp, Ksheetij Saini, Alexandra Blaney

Synopsis: **ANUJA** tells the story of a gifted nine-year-old girl who, alongside her sister Palak, faces a life-changing opportunity that tests their bond and mirrors the struggles of girls worldwide.

Director's Biography: ADAM J. GRAVES (Writer/Director) is a philosopher-turned-filmmaker, who holds a B.A. in South Asian studies and a Ph.D. in the Philosophy of Religion from the University of Pennsylvania. Adam is author of **THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF REVELATION** and a professor of philosophy at MSU Denver, where he teaches film & philosophy. He has lectured in over a dozen countries on the nature of freedom, agency and narrative identity, themes which figure prominently in his films and screenplays. Adam wrote, directed, and produced the award-winning short film **CYCLE VÉRITÉ** (2021) and produced and edited the documentary short **THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SUN** (2024). He is married to the acclaimed visual artist Suchitra Mattai (producer of **ANUJA**).

“I wanted to capture that wondrous combination of magic and emotion, of innocence and mischief, which is part of childhood itself—these are kids after all, not statistics.”



Awards:

- Best Live Action Short Film Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Live Action Short Film Winner, Gold List (Gold House), USA, 2025
- Winner - Best Live Action, HollyShorts Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Audience Award - Best Short Film, Montclair Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Winner - Best Film, New York Shorts International Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Special Mention Jury, Foyle Film Festival, UK, 2024
- Best Cinematography, HollyShorts London Film Festival, UK, 2024



I'M NOT A ROBOT

NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM/22 MINS/2023

Original Title: Ik ben geen robot

Director: Victoria Warmerdam

Producer: Trent

Synopsis: After repeatedly failing CAPTCHA tests, music producer Lara becomes obsessed with a disturbing question: could she be a robot?

Director's Biography: Victoria Warmerdam, born in 1991, graduated as a director and writer from the Art School in Utrecht in 2015. In the same year, she earned the Burny Bos Talent Award at the Cinekid Festival for her sci-fi feature concept, **SPACEKEES**. In 2019, she wrote and directed her short film, **SHORT CALF MUSCLE**, which has been showcased at over 150 festivals, including Oscar-qualifying ones such as Leuven, St. Louis, Winterthur, Edmonton, Gijon, Foyle, Show Me Shorts, Aesthetica, and Asiana ISFFF. This short film has garnered more than 50 international awards, with the IRIS Prize of £30,000 being the pinnacle.

In 2021, her short film **SNORRIE (MUSTACHIO)** premiered at the Oscar-qualifying LA Shorts and was featured in over 150 festivals, including Oscar-qualifying events like Leuven, Flickers, Uppsala, Go Short, Foyle, and Gijon. This short film also earned over 50 international awards.

I'M NOT A ROBOT marks her third film and had its international premiere at Sitges IFF, where it won the prestigious Best Short Film award. The film has been nominated for the 2025 Oscars in the Best Live Action Short Film category.

“It's absolutely surreal!
We never thought that struggling with a
CAPTCHA test would somehow lead us to
the Oscars. It still feels a bit unreal.”

Awards:

- Academy Award Nominee Best Live Action Short Film, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Short Film, Sitges Film Festival, Spain, 2024
- Audience Award, Best Short Film, Leuven International Film Festival, Netherlands, 2024
- Best EU Short Film, Flickerfest international, Australia, 2024
- Best Short Film (Melies D'argent), Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival, Belgium, 2024
- Best Short Film, Bilbao Fantasy Film Festival, Spain, 2024
- Best Short Film, Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival, South Korea, 2024
- Best Short Film, Bengaluru International Short Film Festival, India, 2024
- Grand Prize Best Short Film, FilmQuest, USA, 2024
- Best of Fest, San Jose International Short Film Festival, USA, 2024
- Best Comedy, Aesthetica Film Festival, UK, 2024
- Best Short | Best Script, Maniac Film Festival, Spain, 2024
- Best Foreign Short | Best Female Director, Cannes Indie Shorts Awards, France, 2024
- Best Actress, Sulmona Film Festival, Italy, 2024
- Best Short | Best Director | Best Actor, Madeira Fantastic Film Festival, Portugal, 2024
- Special Jury Award, Young Director Awards Cannes, France, 2024



THE LAST RANGER

SOUTH AFRICA/28 MINS/2024

Director: Cindy Lee

Producers: Darwin Shaw, Will Hawkes

Produced by: Six Feet Films

Synopsis: When young Litha is introduced to the magic of a game reserve by the last remaining ranger, they are ambushed by poachers. In the ensuing battle to save the rhinos, Litha discovers a terrible secret.

Director's Biography: South African director, Cindy Lee, was inspired to tell the story of **THE LAST RANGER** - a film about women game rangers protecting rhinos during the pandemic - because it highlights the vital role women play in wildlife conservation within their communities.

THE LAST RANGER is part of an anthology series exploring human resilience amid the cultural and social upheaval of the pandemic, called **WHEN THE WORLD STOPPED**. This powerful drama weaves together 24 perspectives from 24 communities, reflecting the shared challenges of that unprecedented time. These interconnected stories form a cohesive, cinematic journey around the world.

Through our nonprofit, *Kindred Films*, we collaborate with charities aligned with our films' themes to raise awareness and support their causes. We also work with educators to screen these films in classrooms, inspiring young people to advocate for the causes they care about.

THE LAST RANGER is currently being used by the ARCC, Global Conservation Force, and WESSA to support anti-poaching, wildlife conservation, and education in South Africa.

To donate or learn more about Kindreds' mission, visit kindredfilms.org.

“Having watched many shorts in my life I think this is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen. It's profound, deeply emotional, and exquisitely performed. I do believe this film must be seen by everyone.”
- Patricia Clarkson

“It's a story about a female vision of the world...The Thanda choir's voices are perfect [to support this vision], because they flood all of your senses...It connects to every human experience I've ever had.” - John Powell, Composer

Awards:

- Best Live Action Short Film Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Narrative Dramatic Short, The Pan-African Film Festival 2024
- Best Narrative Dramatic Short, American Conservation Film Festival, 2024
- Best Narrative Dramatic Short, LA Independent Film Awards 2024
- Best Narrative Dramatic Short, Cordillera International Film Festival, 2024
- Best Narrative Dramatic Short, Hell's Half Mile Film Festival, 2024
- Best Narrative Dramatic Short, Toronto International Women's Film Festival
- Best Narrative Dramatic Short, Black Star International Film Festival, 2024
- Best Narrative Dramatic Short, International Images Film Festival, 2024
- Audience Award, Indy Shorts, 2024
- Audience Award, Hell's Half Mile Film Festival, 2024
- Audience Award, American Conservation Film Festival, 2024



THE MAN WHO COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT

CROATIA, BULGARIA, FRANCE, SLOVENIA/
13 MINS/2024

Original Title: Covjek koji nije mogao sutjeti

Director: Nebojša Slijepčević

Producers: Antitalent, Norfolk films, Contrast Films & Studio Virc

Synopsis: In the middle of winter, a passenger train is stopped by paramilitary forces. As they arrest innocent civilians, only one man out of 500 dares to stand up to them. This is the true story of a man who could not remain silent.

Director's Biography: Nebojša Slijepčević was born in 1973 in Zagreb, Croatia. He graduated in Film Directing from the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb. His documentary feature **SRBENKA** (2018) was shortlisted for European Film Awards and won numerous awards at international film festivals, among them the Heart of Sarajevo Award as well as the Audience Award at the Sarajevo Film Festival, and a special mention of the Buyens-Chagoll jury at Visions du Réel 2018. His feature documentary **GANGSTER OF LOVE** (2013) won the Audience Award at Zagreb Dox and premiered internationally at Hot Docs and Karlovy Vary. It was one of the biggest box office hits in Croatia. Nebojša directed numerous TV documentaries, series, and short films.

He teaches at the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb.

“ ..each of us is faced with the question posed by the film's protagonist: should we stand up to violence even if we are not its immediate target? ”

Awards:

- Best Live Action Short Film Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Palme d'Or, Cannes Film Festival, France, 2024
- Best European short film - Vimeo Awards, European Awards, 2024
- City of Melbourne Grand Prix for Best Short Film, Melbourne international film festival, Australia, 2024
- Best Director Award "Aco Aleksev", AsterFest International Film Festival, North Macedonia, 2024
- Jury Special Mention Award, FeKK - Ljubljana Short Film Festival, Slovenia, 2024
- Best short film, Across the lake, North Macedonia, 2024
- Public's Prize, Sao Paulo Short Film Festival, Brazil, 2024
- Audience Award for the Best Short Fiction Film, CinEast (Central and Eastern European Film Festival), Luxemburg, 2024
- Best actor for Goran Bogdan, Un festival c'est trop court, France, 2024
- Best actor for Goran Bogdan, Sulmona film festival, Italy, 2024
- Audience award, Winterthur International Film Festival, Switzerland, 2024
- Best short film, Euro-Balkan Film Festival, Italy, 2024
- Best Short film - Senior, Giffoni Macedonia Youth Film Festival, North Macedonia, 2024
- Best Cinematography, Bucharest Short Film Festival, Romania, 2024
- First Prize for Best Film, Bosnia Herzegovina Looks Around Film Festival, Germany, 2024
- Best Cinematography, Bucharest Short Film Festival, Romania, 2024
- Gold cookie for best short film, Aguilar Film Festival, Spain, 2024

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DEATH BY NUMBERS

USA/33 MINS/2024

Director: Kim A. Snyder

Producer: Kim A. Snyder, Janique L Robillard, and Maria Cuomo Cole

Written by: Sam Fuentes

Synopsis: **DEATH BY NUMBERS** turns an intimate lens on school shooting survivor Sam Fuentes's journey to reclaim her power, processing trauma through journaling. To prepare for a confrontation with her assailant in his harrowing sentencing trial, she examines complex questions of collective hatred and justice.

Director's Biography: Peabody Award-winning Kim A. Snyder's latest feature documentary, **THE LIBRARIANS** (ITVS/Independent Lens) made its World Premiere at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival. Her short documentary, **DEATH BY NUMBERS** has been nominated in the Best Documentary Short Film category for the 2025 Academy Awards® after premiering at the 2024 Hamptons International Film Festival, followed by the Woodstock Film Festival, Montclair Film Festival (Best Documentary Short), and received Honorable Mention at Doc NYC.

Her documentary, **US KIDS** premiered in the U.S. Documentary Competition at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, followed by SXSW, Sheffield, and Full Frame, where it received the Kathleen Edwards Bryan Human Rights Award and 14 subsequent festival awards. Prior she directed the Peabody award-winning documentary **NEWTOWN**, which also premiered in the US Competition at Sundance 2016. Newtown screened at premiere festivals worldwide and was theatrically released followed by a national broadcast on PBS's Independent Lens and Netflix. Her short film, **LESSONS FROM A SCHOOL SHOOTING: NOTES FROM DUNBLANE** (Netflix Original), premiered at the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival and was awarded Best Documentary Short followed by the DocDispatch Award at the 2018 Sheffield DocFest and a Grierson Award nomination.

Snyder's other works include the feature documentary, **WELCOME TO SHELBYVILLE**, nationally broadcast on PBS's Independent Lens in 2011, and over a dozen short documentaries. Kim's award-winning directorial debut feature documentary, **I REMEMBER ME** was theatrically distributed by Zeitgeist Films. In 1994, she Associate Produced the Academy Award-winning short film **TREVOR**, which spawned **THE TREVOR PROJECT**, a leading national not-for-profit addressing LGBTQ teen suicide.

Kim graduated with a Masters in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and resides in New York City.

“Emotional Journey”

- PEOPLE

“**DEATH BY NUMBERS** takes us well beyond statistics around school shootings and reframes a most horrific aspect of American life with complexity and heart.”

- DOC NYC Jury

”

Awards:

- Best Documentary Short Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Special Mention - Documentary Short Film | Jury Award, DOC NYC, USA, 2024
- Best Documentary Short Film | Jury Award, Montclair Film Festival, USA, 2024



I AM READY, WARDEN

USA/37 MINS/2024

Director: Smriti Mundhra

Producers: Smriti Mundhra, Maya Gnyp, Nina Aujla, Keri Blakinger

Synopsis: The latest documentary short film, from *MTV Documentary Films*, **I AM READY, WARDEN**, by acclaimed filmmaker Smriti Mundhra (**INDIAN MATCHMAKING**, **ST. LOUIS SUPERMAN**) tells the harrowing and emotionally charged story of John Henry Ramirez, a man convicted of murder and sentenced to death in Texas. Through his time on death row, the film offers a rare and intimate glimpse into his attempts to seek redemption and reconciliation. To gain access to the Texas prison system, Mundhra collaborated with journalist Keri Blakinger, whose *New York Times Magazine* article **THE DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS PLAYERS OF DEATH ROW** was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

The film was released on November 22, 2024, and can be found on *Paramount+*.

Director's Biography: Smriti Mundhra is a DGA-winning, Academy Award-nominated and three-time Emmy-nominated filmmaker. Recently, Smriti created and directed Netflix's **THE ROMANTICS**, a four-part documentary series about the history of Bollywood, featuring interviews and footage from 35 of its biggest stars. Additionally, her 2019 documentary short **ST. LOUIS SUPERMAN** was nominated for an Oscar and tells the story of a battle rapper-turned-Congressman lobbying for gun rights. It was supported by Judd Apatow, Brad Pitt, and Mark Ruffalo and sold in a multi-studio bidding war to *MTV Documentary Films*. Smriti is also the creator, director, and EP of the Emmy-nominated *Netflix* show, **INDIAN MATCHMAKING**, now in its third season, as well as its spin-off **JEWISH MATCHMAKING**. Her debut feature documentary, **A SUITABLE GIRL**, premiered at Tribeca and won her the Best Debut Director prize. In addition to her extensive non-scripted success, Smriti more recently directed two episodes of Season 3 of Mindy Kaling's **NEVER HAVE I EVER** for *Netflix/UTV* and directed an episode of Amazon/Freevee's **THE PRADEEPS OF PITTSBURGH**, EP'ed by Michael Showalter.

“Rather than argue for or against capital punishment, the film invites viewers to sit with uncomfortable contradictions - to recognize how deeply-held convictions can collide with human complexity.”

Awards:

- Best Documentary Short Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Short Documentary Nominee, Critics Choice Awards, USA, 2024
- Best Short Documentary Nominee, Cinema Eye Awards, USA, 2024
- Best Documentary Short | Audience Award | Jury Prize, Austin Film Festival, Texas, 2024



INCIDENT

USA/30 MINS/2023

Director: Bill Morrison

Producers: Bill Morrison and Jamie Kalven

Synopsis: Through a montage of surveillance and police body-camera footage, a reconstruction of a deadly shooting by a Chicago police officer becomes an investigation into how a narrative begins to take shape in the aftermath.

Director's Biography: Bill Morrison has premiered feature-length documentary films at the New York, Sundance, Telluride and Venice film festivals. He has received the Alpert Award, Creative Capital, and a Guggenheim. His found footage opus **DECASIA** (2002) was the first film of the 21st century to be named to the Library of Congress' National Film Registry. **DAWSON CITY: FROZEN TIME** (2016) was named one of the best films of the decade (2010s) by the Associated Press, Los Angeles Times, and Vanity Fair, among others. His most recent film, *Incident* (2023), was awarded the International Documentary Association's Best Short Documentary Film Award of 2023 and the Best Documentary Award at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.



Awards:

- Best Documentary Short Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Outstanding Achievement in Nonfiction Short Filmmaking, Cinema Eye Honors, USA, 2025
- Main Award, International Festival Signs of the Night, Germany, 2024
- Short Documentary Nominee, Critics Choice Award, USA, 2024
- True Crime Nominee, Critics Choice Award, USA, 2024
- DOC NYC Shortlist, USA, 2024,
- Truth Seekers Award, Tehran International Short Film Festival, Iran, 2024
- Grand Prix, Lille International Short Film Festival, France, 2024
- Best Documentary, Salute Your Shorts, USA, 2024
- Edward Snowden Award, 10th International Festival Signes de Nuit, Thailand, 2024
- Best Documentary, Walla Walla Movie Crush, USA, 2024
- Grand Jury Prize, Medium-length Film, Champs Élysées Film Festival, France, 2024
- Best Short Film, IFF Art Film Košice, Slovakia, 2024
- Best Use of Footage in a Short Documentary, Focal International Awards, UK, 2024
- Best Short Documentary, Florida Film Festival, USA, 2024 (Academy Award Qualifier)
- Best Documentary, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, France, 2024
- Best Short Documentary, International Documentary Association, USA, 2023
- Best Short Film, UnArchive Found Footage Festival, Rome, Italy, 2023

INSTRUMENTS OF A BEATING HEART

JAPAN/23 MINS/2024

Director: Ema Ryan Yamazaki

Producer: Eric Nyari

Synopsis: *A New York Times Op-Doc.* First graders in a Tokyo public elementary school are presented with a challenge for the final semester: to form an orchestra and perform "Ode to Joy" at a school ceremony.

Director's Biography: Ema Ryan Yamazaki is a Japanese/British documentary filmmaker with a unique perspective as an insider and outsider in Japan. After growing up in Osaka, she moved to New York to attend NYU and became an assistant editor to Sam Pollard. As an editor, she worked on numerous projects with Marc Levin, including **CLASS DIVIDE** (2015). Ema has directed/edited three feature documentaries — **THE MAKING OF A JAPANESE** (2023), **KOSHIEEN: JAPAN'S FIELD OF DREAMS** (2019), and **MONKEY BUSINESS: THE ADVENTURES OF CURIOUS GEORGE'S CREATORS** (2017). She has also recently served as Editor and Co-Producer for Shiori Ito's **BLACK BOX DIARIES**, which premiered to critical acclaim at Sundance 2024.



Awards:

- Best Documentary Short Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Winner: Best Documentary Short, Gold List Film (Gold House), 2025
- Shortlist: Outstanding Achievement in Nonfiction Short Filmmaking, Cinema Eye Honors, USA, 2025
- Winner: Best Documentary Short, IDA Documentary Awards, USA, 2024
- Special Mention, DocEdge, New Zealand, 2024
- Selection: DOC NYC Short List: Shorts, USA, 2024

THE ONLY GIRL IN THE ORCHESTRA

USA/35 MINS/2024

Director: Molly O'Brien

Producers: Molly O'Brien, Lisa Remington

Synopsis: Trailblazing double bassist Orin O'Brien was never one to seek the spotlight, but when Leonard Bernstein hired her in 1966 as the first female musician in the New York Philharmonic, she inevitably became the focus of media attention and, ultimately, one of the most renowned musicians of a generation.

Director's Biography: Molly O'Brien is an Academy Award-shortlisted and Primetime Emmy award-winning documentary producer and director. Her most recent projects with NBC News Studios include **ERROL MORRIS' SEPARATED** (Venice '24 / Telluride '24), **JULIE COHEN'S EVERY BODY** (Tribeca '23), Nicole Newnham's **THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHERE HITE** (Sundance '23)

“As Orin O'Brien, the star of **THE ONLY GIRL IN THE ORCHESTRA** likes to say, the key to a happy life is, “learning to love to play second fiddle.” ”



Awards:

- Best Documentary Short Nominee, Oscar® Academy, USA, 2025
- Best Documentary Short, Critics Choice Documentary, USA, 2024
- Best Documentary Short, Minneapolis St Paul IFF, USA, 2024
- Best Director Documentary, New York City Independent Film Festival, USA, 2024

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