

HAMILTON  
NEW YORK  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL

**2023**

15TH ANNUAL

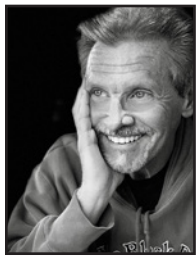


SLATER BROTHERS  
ENTERTAINMENT



**JULY 17 - 23**

[WWW.HNYIFF.COM](http://WWW.HNYIFF.COM)



**John Gray**  
Welcome to Forever

## JULY 17, MONDAY **FREE SCREENING**

7:00 PM SCREENING AT THE HAMILTON THEATER

- » Michael Gaismayr (Italy/Germany) 1:16:00 Dramatic Feature



**Molly Tomecek**  
PicMe

## JULY 18, TUESDAY **FREE SCREENING**

7:00 PM SCREENING AT THE HAMILTON THEATER

- » Earthling (USA) 0:10:00 Documentary Short
- » Solar Wind Alley (Finland) 1:16:00 Dramatic Feature

## JULY 19, WEDNESDAY

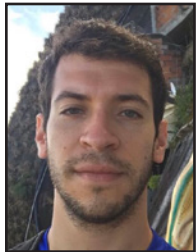
7:00 PM SCREENING AT THE HAMILTON THEATER

- » Extraterrestrial Message, made with AI (Canada) 0:03:23 Experimental Short
- » Your Early (Germany) 0:05:30 Dramatic/Thriller Short
- » The Desecrated (USA) 0:07:48 Horror/Thriller Short
- » La Nueva (The Newcomer) (Spain) 0:15:00 Horror/Thriller Short
- » Script (Italy) 0:08:10 Horror/Thriller Short
- » Welcome to Forever (USA) 0:09:22 Horror/Thriller Short
- » The Third Defector (USA) 0:16:53 Dramatic/Thriller Short

### AFTER SCREENING

### **Q&A WITH SPECIAL GUEST JOHN GRAY**

The Creator of Ghost Whisperers (CBS)

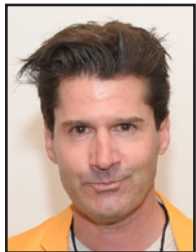


**Brian Herrera**  
Gladstone  
Tennis Friend

## JULY 20, THURSDAY **FREE EVENT**

5:30 PM - FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

- » 7:00pm - Live Music on the Village Green  
Music by **Mark Shiner & The National Endowment**



**Loring Murtha**  
Pearly Gates

## JULY 21, FRIDAY

8:00 PM SCREENING AT THE HAMILTON THEATER

- » Ms Rossi 2: Ms Rossi Takes the Cake (USA/Italy) 0:17:58 Comedy Short
- » One Day Without Him (Ukraine) 0:14:00 Dramatic Short  
Student Film
- » Hear My Voice (United Kingdom) 0:12:29 Dramatic/Thriller Short
- » Follow Her (USA) 0:11:00 Thriller Short  
Student Film
- » The Old Young Crows (Japan) 0:12:00 Dramatic/Thriller Short
- » Pearly Gates (USA) 0:14:51 Comedy Short
- » Danavan (Canada) 0:12:37 Comedy Short
- » PicMe (USA) 0:08:34 Dramatic/Thriller Short
- » The Cookbook (USA) 0:21:57 Dramatic/Thriller Short



**Carly Turro**  
Grams of our Lives



**Paul Schwartz**  
The Seasons, Four  
Love Stories

**COLGATE INN**



**MARKET 32**  
BY PRICE CHOPPER

# JULY 22, SATURDAY **FREE EVENT**

12:00 PM FILMMAKERS PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE HAMILTON THEATER

## JULY 22, SATURDAY

1:15 PM SCREENING AT THE HAMILTON THEATER

- |  |         |                         |
|--|---------|-------------------------|
| » Love, Aaron (USA)                    | 0:07:30 | Dramatic - Student Film |
| » Cookie Don't Crumble (USA)           | 0:13:13 | Comedy Short            |
| » The Seasons, Four Love Stories (USA) | 1:21:43 | Dramatic Feature        |

7:00 PM SCREENING AT THE HAMILTON THEATER

- |                                |         |                         |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| » Anxiety Says (USA)           | 0:02:47 | Comedy - Student Film   |
| » Hidden (USA)                 | 0:10:00 | Dramatic/Thriller Short |
| » Major (USA)                  | 0:17:14 | Dramatic/Thriller Short |
| » From Dust (USA)              | 0:09:37 | Horror/Thriller Short   |
| » Offline (Canada)             | 0:09:00 | Dramatic/Thriller Short |
| » Trip Upstate (USA)           | 0:11:43 | Comedy Short            |
| » The Grams of Our Lives (USA) | 0:05:59 | Comedy Short            |
| » Mrs Lovely (France)          | 0:16:30 | Documentary Short       |
| » Greg (USA)                   | 0:12:34 | Comedy Short            |
| » A Tennis Friend (USA)        | 0:22:58 | Dramatic/Thriller Short |

## JULY 23, SUNDAY

12:00 PM SCREENING AT THE HAMILTON THEATER

- |                               |         |                                   |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| » Acclimating to Change (USA) | 0:20:12 | Documentary Short<br>Student Film |
| » Return to Life (USA)        | 0:58:04 | Documentary Feature               |

**VISIT [WWW.HNYIFF.COM](http://WWW.HNYIFF.COM)**  
**FOR TICKETING INFORMATION**

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hnyiff.com](http://www.hnyiff.com) or at the Hamilton Movie Theater

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$8.00**

**FESTIVAL PASSES: \$30.00**



**John Licata**  
The Cookbook



**Doug Dearth**  
Return to Life



**Justin Garascia**  
Trip Upstate



**Mathilde Suissa**  
Hidden



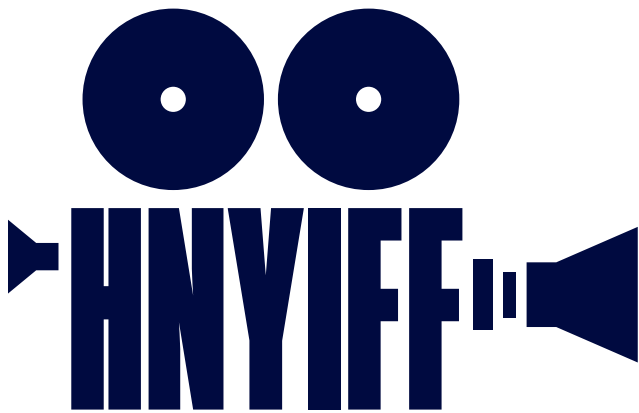
**Jean-David Rodrigue**  
Danavan



**Luke Pilgram & Brad Kennedy**  
Greg

**PARENTAL DISCRETION ADVISED**

Some material submitted to the Festival may be inappropriate for children under the age 18



# ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Hamilton New York International Film Festival is located in the beautiful Chenango Valley region of Central New York. Long known as a weekend retreat for city dwellers from New York, Boston, Ottawa, and Toronto, the Chenango Valley boasts some of the most beautiful vistas in North America and has gained an international reputation for its cultural events, outdoor activities and academic institutions.

The Hamilton New York International Film Festival is a registered 501 c 3 corporation.

**DKC is Proud to  
Support the  
15th Annual  
Hamilton New York  
International  
Film Festival**

The DKC logo is a watermark in the bottom right corner, consisting of the letters 'DKC' in a bold, sans-serif font, centered within a circular border. The logo is semi-transparent and matches the dark blue background color.

**DKC**

# COLGATE INN



## THE HEARTH OF HAMILTON



The Colgate Inn's steps-from-campus location brings you the best that Hamilton has to offer. With cozy rooms, historic charm, and full service dining, the Colgate Inn is the smartest place to stay.

## GOOD EATS & GREAT TIMES

Hungry for more? Indulge in creative cocktails, local drafts, and classic favorites featuring the finest local ingredients at The Tavern. Stop in for lunch, dinner or drinks at the bar.

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# 15TH ANNUAL

Hamilton New York International Film Festival

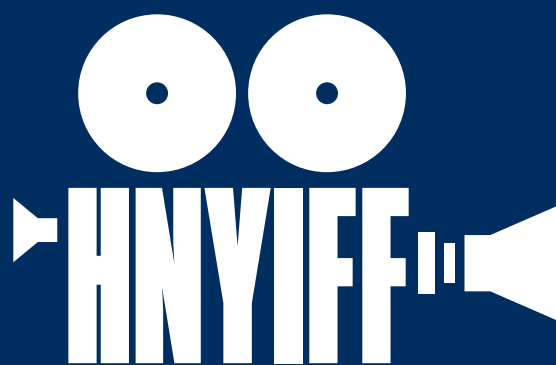
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**15TH ANNUAL**  
Hamilton New York  
International Film Festival

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# SELECTED FEATURE FILMS







**MICHAEL GAISMAYR**  
**GERMANY**  
**1:16:00**  
**DRAMATIC FEATURE**



Michael Gaismayr is generally known as the leader of the oppressed people in the Tyrolean peasant uprisings in the 16th century. Yet he was far more than a simple rebel. Michael Gaismayr had extraordinary foresight and he dared to fundamentally question the church and the supremacy of the nobles - which of course did not please the authorities at all. Betrayal and imprisonment only fueled his passion for the concerns of the peasants and ensured that he was no longer content with reforms. His demands were far ahead of its time and already included points such as the separation of the church from the state, or the reduction of privileges.





**RETURN TO LIFE**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:58:04**  
**DOCUMENTARY FEATURE**



Two Chinese-American doctors living in New Mexico, use their cutting-edge style of neuro-acupuncture to give new hope to patients suffering from severe neurological conditions.



zakatak productions presents  
**The Seasons**  
four love stories



Mike Keller    Analeigh Weller Hayes    Katya Penzel    Margo Sappington    Anna Holbrook  
Brian Hurling    Kathleen Simmonds    Juan Porter    Ed Strickland    Amelia Rose Allen  
Bryan Edwards    Nina Lopez    Anthony Cipolla    Judy Jerome    Jordan Park    Shari Winner  
sound recording    Jeremy Stone    audio post    Alar Douches    visual effects    Aldo Romero  
produced, written and directed by Paul Schwartz

**THE SEASONS, FOUR LOVE STORIES**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**1:21:43**  
**DOCUMENTARY FEATURE**



Over the course of a year, four sets of intertwined characters are faced with turning points in their romantic lives. Each chapter takes place in a different season, with the central characters in each season being age-appropriate, thus: Summer, young adults, Autumn, middle aged, Winter, elderly, and Spring, a ten-year-old girl.





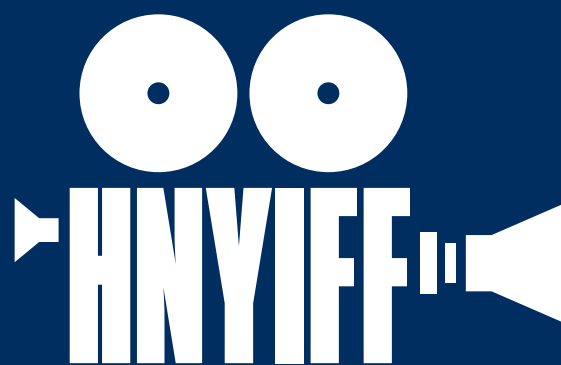
**SOLAR WIND ALLEY**  
**FINLAND**  
**1:16:00**  
**DRAMATIC FEATURE**



Alice lives with her younger sisters in the rural Finnish village, in the house their mother built before she passed away. Alice has taken mother's place as the head of the family. She wants to protect her younger sisters and shelter them from the world. When the solar storm hits the village, it leaves everyone without electricity and puts the community in crisis.



# SELECTED SHORT FILMS





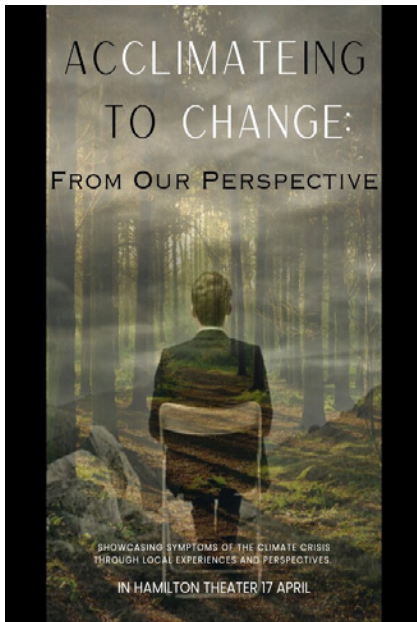
**A TENNIS FRIEND**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:22:58**  
**DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

Phillip & Marshall - 2 former college tennis teammates - have a reunion over a friendly, yet competitive set of tennis...

From afar, both characters have much to envy: Marshall is a successful corporate attorney and newly engaged; Phillip is beginning a new career coaching tennis after retiring from the professional tennis circuit.

Yet these two can't help but romanticize what the other has, while dwelling on what they believe is missing in their own lives.

Phillip's stint as a touring pro tennis player fires up Marshall's competitiveness & nostalgia. Marshall's material security & stability touches Phillip's career insecurities. Both characters bring this emotional baggage to the tennis court.



**ACCLIMATEING TO CHANGE**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:20:12**  
**DOCUMENTARY SHORT - STUDENT FILM**

Climate change is real, it's happening now, and we are seeing its effects locally.

AcCLIMATEing To Change: From Our Perspective, produced by the Hamilton Climate Leadership Club at Hamilton Central School delves into the unique perspectives and viewpoints of local Hamilton residents, who have experienced the symptoms of climate change first-hand.



**ANXIETY SAYS**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:02:47**  
**COMEDY - STUDENT FILM**

Stephens enters a gameshow after he's called on in class for a question that he wasn't prepared for.

**THE COOKBOOK**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:21:57**  
**DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

After his father's debilitating stroke, an estranged son returns home to Central New York where he's torn between taking over his father's Lebanese restaurant and carrying on family tradition or pursuing his own dream.



**COOKIE DON'T CRUMBLE**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:13:13**  
**COMEDY SHORT**

When a young man gets in trouble yet again, his last chance at redemption is with a no nonsense octogenarian



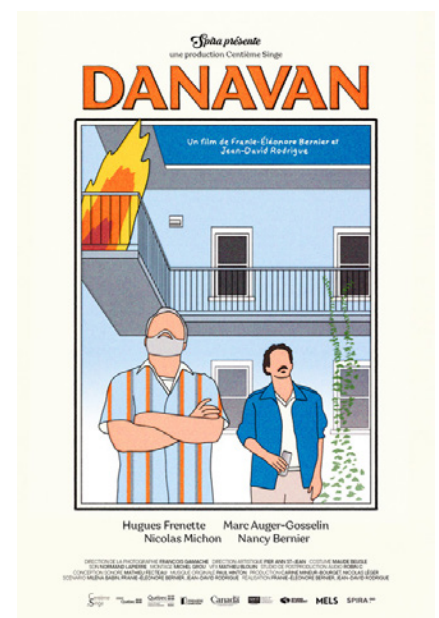
**Cookie Don't Crumble**

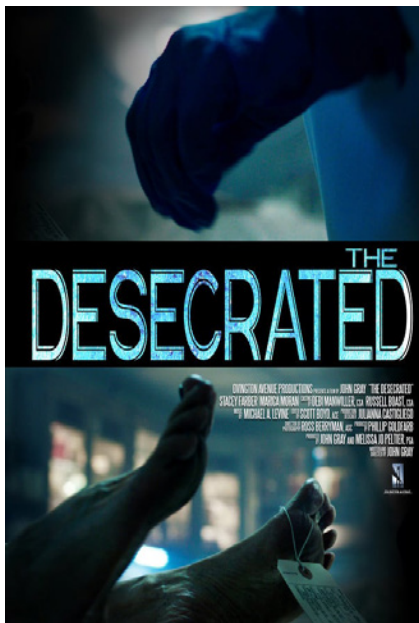


Siblings & Biblings Productions, Jamsbors Films presents  
**Cookie Don't Crumble**, a short film  
 with Ruth Sherman, Owen Sherman, Larry Sherman  
 Sophia Renee Sherman, Kimberly Anne Dean  
 director of photography Bennett Propp  
 original music by Suzanne Sherman Propp  
 written & directed by Caroline Sherman  
 (c) 2023

**DANAVAN**  
**CANADA**  
**0:12:37**  
**COMEDY SHORT**

In the Limoilou neighbourhood of Quebec City, René and Polo are apprehensive about the arrival of the new next-door neighbour. Though he doesn't know it, the young man is moving into the apartment previously occupied by Robert, their late friend who passed away two weeks prior. Spotting Robert's barbecue left on the balcony, René begins to spiral as he refuses to leave it in the hands of the new next-door neighbour.





**THE DESECRATED**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:07:48**  
**HORROR/THRILLER SHORT**

A young morgue attendant working the night shift encounters an unwelcome visitor.



**EARTHLING**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:10:00**  
**DOCUMENTARY SHORT**

Earthling is a ten-minute animated documentary about Jack Weiner, a grown man whose entire life has been shaped by being abducted by aliens when he was young, a life story nobody believes.

In the summer of 1976, Jack Weiner, along with his twin brother Jim, and two friends went camping in Maine's Allagash wilderness, where they were abducted by aliens. It wasn't until ten years later, and massive changes in their personalities, changes brought on by repressed memories, that the four men explored what happened to them on that trip through hypnosis. Despite people not believing Jack about his encounter with aliens, he stands by his story.



**EXTRATERRESTRIAL MESSAGE**  
**CANADA**  
**0:03:23**  
**EXPERIMENTAL SHORT**

In the future, Captain Daria receives a message from an extraterrestrial civilization. An opportunity to discover a people and sumptuous landscapes. Images and music were entirely created with artificial intelligence, only the script being "human". No 3D is involved, just AI.



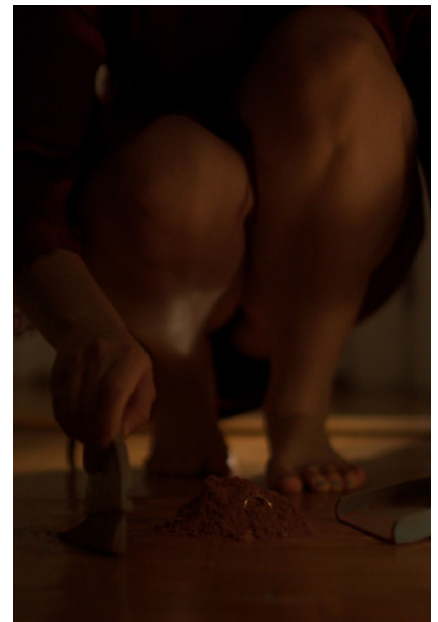
**FOLLOW HER**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:11:00**  
**THRILLER SHORT - STUDENT FILM**

A self-obsessed influencer is experiencing strange visions and being hunted by a creature in her photos that everyone else can see... except for her!



**FROM DUST**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:09:37**  
**HORROR/THRILLER SHORT**

A married college professor believes he is meeting a student for an illicit late-night hookup but is actually being lured into a dangerous trap. Starring Ben Livingston (The Knick, Mr. Robot, Only Murders in the Building) and Helen Laser



**THE GRAMS OF OUR LIVES**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:05:59**  
**COMEDY SHORT**

When a melodramatic millennial finds out a coffee shop is out of oat milk, she's horrified... and drags everyone else around her into an alternate reality: a 1980s soap opera.





**GREG**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:12:34**  
**COMEDY SHORT**

Allen is your no-nonsense father who always disapproves of the “dummies” his daughter Laura dates. This Christmas, when Laura brings home an actual cotton-stuffed dummy as her new boyfriend, Allen must grapple with the fact that he might be getting in the way of her happiness.



**HEAR MY VOICE**  
**UNITED KINGDOM**  
**0:12:29**  
**DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

Mike moved to London hoping to find love and the dream part that would launch his opera career. Four years later, he is stuck – his journal is now his best friend. One night, during yet another hook-up, he sees the apparition of his grandmother, a glamorous, eccentric woman who Mike used to travel the world with – she is not impressed. Her repeat visits push Mike to come to terms with himself and allow him to make an unexpected connection.



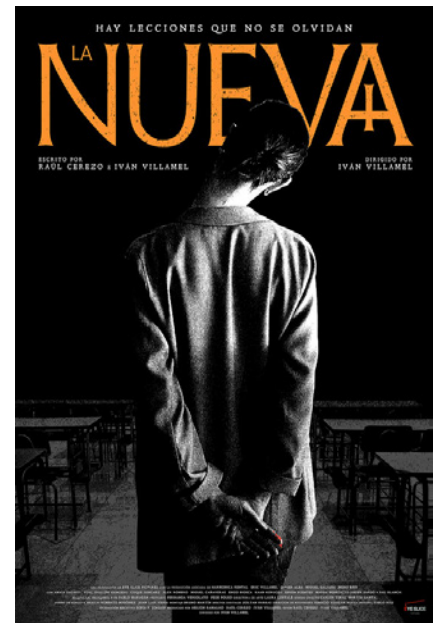
**HIDDEN**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:10:00**  
**DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

Maureen comes home to hear suspicious noises coming from her stepdaughter’s bedroom. Busting in, Maureen catches Penelope, her stepdaughter, suspecting she was with a boy, and he is hiding in the room. Who emerges from hiding is not who Maureen expected and causes a swift and rippling change in their relationships.



**LA NUEVA (THE NEWCOMER)**  
**SPAIN**  
**0:15:00**  
**HORROR/THRILLER SHORT**

Maria is the new teacher who arrives at an old religious school. On her first day, she will have to teach a group of rebellious kids who are part of a punishment class. An unexpected event will turn the classroom into a real hell.



**LOVE, AARON**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:07:30**  
**DRAMATIC - STUDENT FILM**

A young man reflects back on his relationship with his girlfriend and their fight with addiction.



**MAJOR**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:17:14**  
**DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

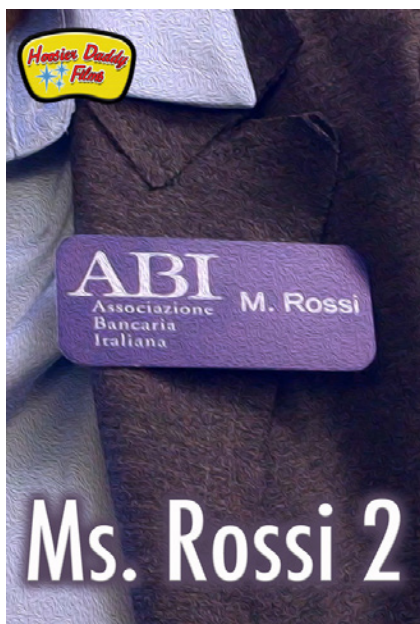
MAJOR is the story of BELINDA, a fire-twirling majorette furthering her family's star-studded sports legacy at an HBCU. After an inspiring conversation with a local journalist, Belinda takes an interest in journalism and secretly applies to transfer to another university. As Belinda grapples with her identity, legacy, and integrity, she is left with the question of which "major" to choose.





**MRS LOVELY**  
**FRANCE**  
**0:16:30**  
**DOCUMENTARY SHORT**

In Paris, Laura starts her career as an artistic director. In her spare time, she devotes herself to an unusual passion: she imitates male transvestites and drag-queens and exaggerates her face makeup. By wanting to become “more woman than a woman” Laura finds herself confronted with the eyes of others and, in particular, that of her parents who did not imagine her taking this path. Now comes the time for her to choose between rediscovering a classic model girl life or breaking free from the norm by diving completely into the Drag-Queen universe.



**MS ROSSI 2: MS ROSSI TAKES THE CAKE**  
**UNITED STATES/ITALY**  
**0:17:58**  
**COMEDY SHORT**

While on her travels as a Loan Officer for the bank, Ms. Rossi encounters some obstacles along the way while just trying to do her job.



**THE OLD YOUNG CROWS**  
**JAPAN**  
**0:12:00**  
**DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

An Iranian boy befriends an old Japanese woman at a graveyard in Tokyo.

**OFFLINE  
CANADA  
0:09:00  
DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

Santiago and his AI grief companion Luna retreat to an isolated cabin. As a blizzard snows them in, they are confronted with a dilemma that will define their final moments.



**UKRAINE**

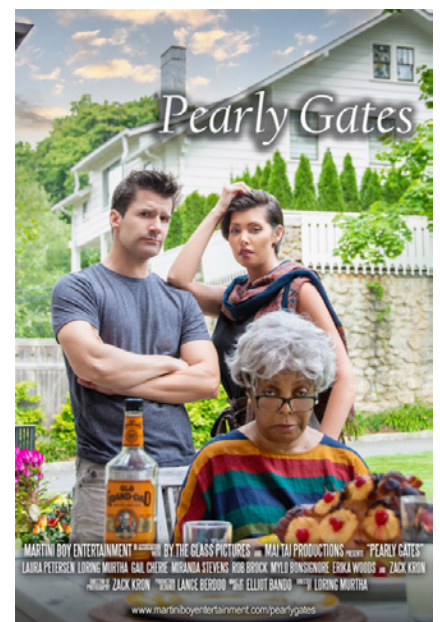
**ONE DAY WITHOUT HIM  
0:14:00  
DRAMATIC SHORT - STUDENT FILM**

A girl addicted to her smartphone is forced to be without her phone on an important day for her. She discovers the world beyond the smartphone screen. Will she be able to get into the office and get a job?



**PEARLY GATES  
UNITED STATES  
0:14:51  
COMEDY SHORT**

Patricia bites off more than she and Todd can chew when she agrees to let Rebecca's aunt stay with them for what turns into an open ended visit.





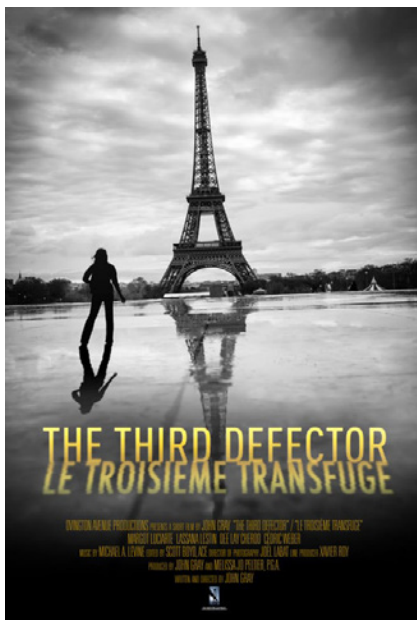
**PICME**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:08:34**  
**DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

Alice is pressured into downloading a new social media app by a friend, but when the app starts to control her will she be able to escape, or will she fall farther down the rabbit hole?



**SCRIPT**  
**ITALY**  
**0:08:10**  
**HORROR/THRILLER SHORT**

Two screenwriters, a ghost story, the night that goes on. Who will put an end to this?



**THE THIRD DEFECTOR**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**0:16:53**  
**DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

What seems like a simple assignment for a spy to keep tabs on an Iranian defector becomes a more complicated game of cat and mouse in the streets of Paris.

**TRIP UPSTATE!  
UNITED STATES  
0:11:43  
COMEDY SHORT**

A group of millennials venture upstate for a [psychedelic] weekend getaway, when they meet an unwelcome guest.



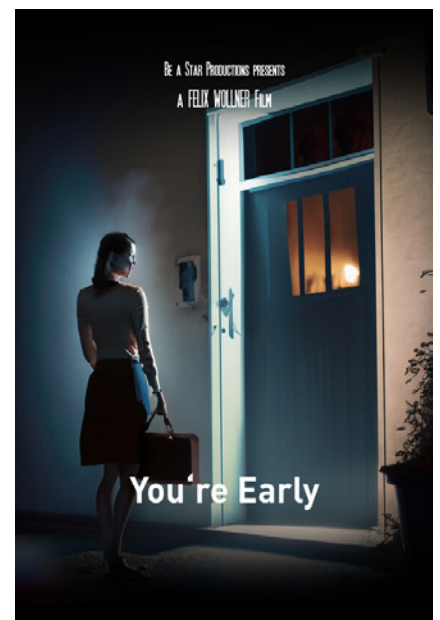
**WELCOME TO FOREVER  
UNITED STATES  
0:09:22  
HORROR/THRILLER SHORT**

The brilliant designer of smart houses leaves a posthumous surprise for his widow.



**YOU'RE EARLY  
GERMANY  
0:05:30  
DRAMATIC/THRILLER SHORT**

Returning home late at night after class, a woman finds her partner at the mercy of a desperate burglar.





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