

A large, dark silhouette of an elephant's head and trunk, set against a light, textured background. The elephant is facing right. A small human silhouette is visible in the distance to the right of the elephant's trunk.

NFB FILM CLUB 2021-2022 PROGRAM

SPECIAL EDITION OF 100 TITLES

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NFB FILM CLUB PROGRAMMING

MORE THAN 100 TITLES AVAILABLE

The 2021–2022 NFB Film Club program offers public libraries across Canada a selection of more than 100 titles, grouped into seven categories: documentaries, award-winning animation, Indigenous stories, pride, love, titles for young audiences, and interactive projects.

All Canadian public libraries can register free of charge.

FILM SCREENINGS: IN PERSON AND ONLINE

All titles, whether feature-length or short, may be screened for live audiences at your library, shown online to viewers at home, or simply shared on platforms such as Facebook using the link provided. Please note that several works are only available on either Vimeo or NFB.ca. In such cases, the title of the work is followed by the note “**for online screenings, available only on Vimeo**” or “**for online screenings, available only on NFB.ca**.” Please remember to notify Florence François (f.francois@nfb.ca) about which films your institution has chosen to screen or share. We will issue a licence for the dates of your event or posting.

NEW: INTERACTIVE PROJECTS

The NFB’s interactive projects are available online using smart phones or computers, and they offer exciting new storytelling possibilities. Please don’t hesitate to explore these works in your programming!

For more information about NFB Film Club, click [here](#).

KEY

- ▶ For online screenings, available only on Vimeo
- For online screenings, available only on NFB.ca
- F.V.** French version
- E.V.** English version
- O.F.V.** Original French version
- O.E.V.** Original English version
- E.ST.** English subtitles
- L.S.** Languages Spoken

DOCUMENTARIES



BOREALIS

KEVIN MCMAHON | 2020 | 1 HR 30 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

In his new feature documentary *Borealis*, acclaimed director Kevin McMahon (*Waterlife*) travels deep into the heart of the boreal forest to explore the chorus of life in Canada's iconic wilderness.

Borealis offers an immersive portrait of the forest from the perspective of the plants and animals that live there. Humans are only beginning to understand the complex networks that nurture and sustain this unique ecosystem, as well as the things that destroy it. Natural threats such as insects, drought, and fire have joined with

extractive industries like oil development and logging to tip the delicate balance. In a rapidly warming climate, many of the survival strategies adopted by different organisms no longer work, and massive change is underway. As herbalist Isabelle Desrochers-Stein explains, "What happens to the forest is going to be a reflection of what happens to us."



THE END OF CERTAINTIES

JEAN-DANIEL LAFOND | 2020 | 45 MIN | L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

More than a decade after the worldwide financial crisis of 2007-08, what does globalization mean today? Filmmaker-philosopher Jean-Daniel Lafond takes us behind the scenes of the International Economic Forum of the Americas, a massive annual gathering at which economists, financiers and politicians hold forth on the key issues of the day.

Featuring first-hand testimonials by nearly two dozen influential men and women, *The End of Certainties* unfolds as a multi-voice

meditation on the state of the world. This observational documentary offers a cogent assessment of globalization—and its ideals, disillusionment, fears and hopes—and the quest for a new humanism, characterized by greater inclusiveness and fairness.

DOCUMENTARIES



FAR FROM BASHAR

PASCAL SANCHEZ | 2020 | 1 HR 13 MIN | O.F.V. | L.S.: FRENCH, ENGLISH, ARABIC

Several years ago, after taking part in the mass uprisings against Bashar al-Assad, Adnan al-Mahamid had to flee Syria with his wife, Basmah, and their four children.

Now settled in Montreal, the family opens their door to filmmaker Pascal Sanchez. They've adjusted to life in a peaceful city, but Adnan and Basmah still fear for loved ones back in Syria whose status and whereabouts remain unknown. The war that's thousands of kilometres away continues to haunt them, surging suddenly to

the fore in a conversation, Skype call or Facebook feed. *Far from Bashar* chronicles an endearing family as they go about their lives, tormented by a distant and seemingly interminable conflict.



JOHN WARE RECLAIMED

CHERYL FOGGO | 2020 | 1 HR 12 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Is it possible to love someone who died before you were born? Cheryl Foggo believes so. *John Ware Reclaimed* follows filmmaker Foggo on her quest to uncover the complex story of John Ware, a Black cowboy and rancher who settled in Alberta prior to the turn of the 20th century.

As she endeavours to dig past the racist myths and mistellings surrounding Ware, she recalls her childhood in Calgary, Alberta, her own experiences of racism, and her family's history as part of the

1910 migration to western Canada to escape violence in the United States. She also evokes the suppressed history of a thriving Black presence in the Prairies: the Black pioneers who lived, worked and raised families in the west. Foggo's creative reimagining of John Ware's life reveals who this iconic figure might have been, and what his legacy means.

DOCUMENTARIES



HIGHER THAN FLAMES WILL GO

MONIQUE LEBLANC | 2020 | 1 HR 43 MIN | O.F.V. | L.S.: FRENCH, ENGLISH, SPANISH, POLISH, UKRAINIAN

In this cinematic tour de force, Monique LeBlanc brings to the screen Louise Dupré's 2011 Governor General's Award-winning book of poetry, *Plus haut que les flammes*, recited in its entirety in the film by actress Violette Chauveau.

Devastated by a visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau, a woman, a grandmother, tries to go on living and caring for a child. Because beyond the worst man-made horrors there is childhood, through which all roads to the future must pass. Weaving different stories, different

experiences and different landscapes together, from Auschwitz to Canada via the United States, Nicaragua and the Ukraine, the filmmaker offers a moving meditation on how we might elevate the youth that will inherit this world "higher than flames will go."



INTO THE LIGHT

GENTILE M. ASSIH | 2020 | 1 HR 20 MIN | O.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH

Into the Light brings us the liberating life stories and powerful words of inspiring Quebec women, originally from West Africa, who've regained control of their lives after being subjected to domestic violence. The documentary compassionately explores the challenges of immigration while looking past cultural differences to tackle an issue that exists in every corner of the globe. It is a luminous dive into the quest for personal healing, a quest that's sustained by sharing and friendship.

The film follows Christiane, a high school French teacher, and her friend Aïssata, who works in finance. They had no clue that the process of immigrating to Canada and integrating into a new culture would contribute to the breakup of their families, which fractured as a result of domestic violence.

DOCUMENTARIES



KENBE LA, UNTIL WE WIN

WILL PROSPER | 2019 | 1 HR 20 MIN | O.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH, CREOLE

Some dreamers have the power to inspire us, bring us together and help us reconnect with our humanity. Alain Philoctète, a Haitian artist and activist who settled in Quebec, returns to the country of his birth to develop a permaculture project with local farmers. There, he has an emotional reunion with family members and his former comrades in arms, whose ideals remain unshaken despite the lingering aftermath of the 2010 earthquake and political instability. However, Alain, who is suffering from cancer, has to undergo treatment in Montreal, where his loved ones provide the same

degree of affection and solidarity as he receives in Haiti. Director Will Prosper films this inspiring dreamer on his hopeful quest, chronicling the challenges of exile and illness with the personal, knowing touch of a longtime friend.



SOVEREIGN SOIL

DAVID CURTIS | 2019 | 1 HR 31 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

At the far-flung edge of Canada's boreal forest, outside the tiny sub-Arctic town of Dawson City, Yukon, a handful of unlikely farmers are growing everything from snow-covered Brussels sprouts to apples. These modern-day agrarians have carved out small patches of fertile soil in an otherwise unforgiving expanse of isolated wilderness to make a living and a life.

Over the course of a year, Dawson filmmaker David Curtis follows these resilient, unassuming farmers—including a German

immigrant, a young family that taps birch trees for syrup, a First Nations youth, and a matriarch who can shoot and quarter a moose—exploring life, death and time through the simple, rich day-to-day of people deeply tied to the wilds.

Sovereign Soil is an ode to the beauty of this ferocious, remote land and the wisdom of those who've chosen to call it home.

DOCUMENTARIES



THE WHALE AND THE RAVEN

MIRJAM LEUZE | 2019 | 1 HR 41 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH | ●

On the otherwise uninhabited Gil Island, just off the northwest coast of British Columbia, the sound of waves lapping and ravens cawing is punctuated by the haunting whale calls emanating from a network of loudspeakers. Drawn to the rich food sources and quiet waters, humpback whales, pods of orca, fin whales and porpoises eat, play and raise their young here, in the Kitimat fjord system.

Whale researchers Hermann Meuter and Janie Wray founded the Cetacea Lab on Gil Island to study this unique marine environ-

ment. But the imminent construction of a new liquefied natural gas exporting plant in the nearby community of Kitimat promises to bring increasing tanker traffic and noise, with unknown consequences.

The Whale and the Raven illuminates the many issues that have drawn scientists, the Gitga'at First Nation and the Government of British Columbia into a complex conflict.



BECOMING LABRADOR

ROHAN FERNANDO, TAMARA SEGURA & JUSTIN SIMMS | 2018 | 1 HR 10 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, FILIPINO

In the stark Labrador interior, a growing number of Filipino workers have recently landed in the small regional hub of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, travelling halfway around the world for jobs they hope will offer their families new opportunities and a better life. *Becoming Labrador* follows a handful of those women and men as they make a place for themselves in Labrador's profoundly foreign climate and culture, and deal with the unexpected costs of living far from parents, partners and children.

Combining documentary footage with interpretive animation, and bringing together the vision of three of Canada's best young directors, *Becoming Labrador* is a remarkable feat of collaborative authorship. It offers an intimate account of the radical mobility and displacement of the modern world, and of how tenaciously people hold to their roots in the midst of fundamental change.

DOCUMENTARIES



UNMOTHERED

MARIE-FRANCE GUERRETTE | 2018 | 1 HR 15 MIN | O.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH

On August 31, 1995, tragedy struck the Guerrette family when Mona, a mother of two, died from breast cancer, leaving behind a husband and their daughters, Mylène and Marie-France. But she also left behind a stirring farewell message that would serve as a testament to her life.

In putting her life and that of her family up on the big screen, Marie-France Guerrette shares her own private experience of grief with viewers. Interspersed throughout the story, grainy video footage

reconstructs the family mythology. The director points the camera at her loved ones and records heartfelt interviews. Gently opening the door to the grieving process, this touching documentary about the filmmaker's family is a call to action—and a possible roadmap back to the land of the living for anyone who's ever experienced the devastation of losing a loved one.



WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

ASTRA TAYLOR | 2018 | 1 HR 47 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Coming at a moment of profound political and social crisis, *What Is Democracy?* reflects on a word we too often take for granted.

Director Astra Taylor's idiosyncratic, philosophical journey spans millennia and continents: from ancient Athens' groundbreaking experiment in self-government to capitalism's roots in medieval Italy; from modern-day Greece grappling with financial collapse and a mounting refugee crisis to the United States reckoning with its racist past and the growing gap between rich and poor.

Featuring a diverse cast—including celebrated theorists, trauma surgeons, activists, factory workers, asylum seekers and former prime ministers—this urgent film connects the past and the present, the emotional and the intellectual, the personal and the political, in order to provoke and inspire. If we want to live in democracy, we must first ask what the word even means.

DOCUMENTARIES



TRUE NORTH (FEATURE)

RYAN SIDHOO | 2019 | 1 HR 29 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

On the heels of the Toronto Raptors' historic NBA Championship and the record-setting number of Canadian draft picks, the Toronto hoop dream is more alive than ever.

In this feature-length doc, director Ryan Sidhoo shines the spotlight on 12-year-old Elijah Fisher, 15-year-old Keone Davis and 18-year-old Cordell Veira as they navigate today's youth basketball machine in pursuit of their own NBA dreams.



STANDING ON THE LINE

PAUL ÉMILE D'ENTREMONT | 2018 | 1 HR 20 MIN | O.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

In both amateur and professional sports, being gay remains taboo. For some athletes, the pressure to perform is compounded by the further strain of deciding whether or not to come out of the closet. They set out to overcome prejudice in the hopes of changing things for the athletes of tomorrow.



WHAT WALAA WANTS

CHRISTY GARLAND | 2018 | 1 HR 23 MIN | O.E.V. L.S.: ARABIC

Raised in a refugee camp in the West Bank while her mother was in an Israeli prison, Walaa is determined to become one of the few women in the Palestinian Security Forces. Following Walaa from the ages of 15 to 21, *What Walaa Wants* tells the story of a defiant young girl who navigates formidable obstacles, thwarting the expectations of those around her and the world at large.



LUBEN AND ELENA

ELLIE YONOVA | 2017 | 1 HR 15 MIN | O.E.V. L.S.: BULGARIAN, RUSSIAN, ITALIAN, ENGLISH

Luben and Elena is a modern-day love story about renowned artists Luben Boykov and Elena Popova, who escape repressive communist Bulgaria and find refuge on the island of Newfoundland. Embracing the love of art and the art of love, they remind us that the greatest risk of all is to take either for granted.

DOCUMENTARIES



MARTHA

DANIEL SCHUBERT | 2020 | 21 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Even at a frail 90, Martha Katz has an impish energy that remains undiminished. She chides grandson-filmmaker Daniel over his choice of shirt during a visit to her home, but there's trauma beneath the humour. At 14, Martha and her family were torn from their village and shipped to Auschwitz. A visit to a Holocaust museum ignites painful memories, including a personal encounter with one of Nazi Germany's most notorious figures.



OPEN SKY: PORTRAIT OF A PAVILION IN VENICE

KATERINE GIGUÈRE | 2020 | 26 MIN | O.F.V., E.ST.
L.S.: FRENCH, ENGLISH

Since 1958, the Canada Pavilion at the Venice Biennale has welcomed contemporary Canadian artists and architects and their works. Katerine Giguère directs an intimate portrait of this architectural gem, designed by Milan's famous Studio BBPR. Giguère showcases the building's history and architecture, which recently underwent a major restoration.



THE TOURNAMENT

SAM VINT | 2020 | 22 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Over the course of a weekend tournament, youth sledge hockey teams from the U.S. and Canada battle for supremacy. Designed for players who have a physical challenge, the fundamentals of the sport—passing, shooting, trash talking your opponents—remain the same. Director Sam Vint captures the end-to-end action as the Manitoba Sledgehammers do it all.

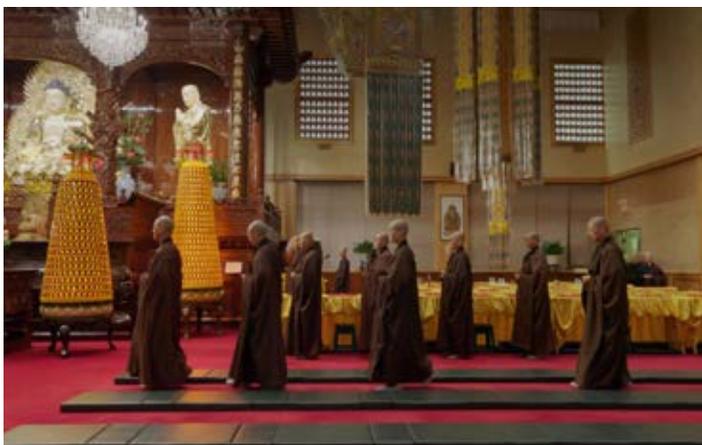


ANGEL PEACOCK

PETER SVATEK | 2019 | 24 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH, ARABIC

In 2014, ISIS launched a genocidal campaign that targeted the Yazidi community of northern Iraq, resulting in the imprisonment of thousands of women and children. Twelve-year-old Dawod and his mother managed to escape, and have been resettled in London, Ontario, where Angel Peacock follows his first year in Canada.

DOCUMENTARIES



HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN

SANDRA IGNAGNI | 2019 | 16 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, MANDARIN, TIBETAN, ARABIC, HEBREW

This short documentary offers a glimpse into the unique religious co-existence found along No. 5 Road in Richmond, British Columbia. In a world struggling with religious violence and intolerance, Sandra Ignagni has crafted a portrait of a rare landscape using attentive imagery and an acoustic tapestry of prayer.



ICE BREAKERS

SANDAMINI RANKADUWA | 2019 | 15 MIN | O.E.V. L.S.: ENGLISH

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



TRUE NORTH (SERIES)

RYAN SIDHOO'S 9-PART DOCUSERIES | 2018
9 EPISODES; 15–23 MIN EACH | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

True North provides an intimate look at the rise of the Toronto hoop dream through the stories of five young athletes, inspired by the wave of NBA talent coming from their city. In this nine-part docu-series, director Ryan Sidhoo captures the raw emotion of navigating today's youth basketball machine through the eyes of the city's players, coaches and families at the centre of it.



WAY OF THE HUNTER

ROBERT MOBERG | 2018 | 16 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Deep in the Great Bear Rainforest, against the backdrop of British Columbia's breathtaking wilderness, a former hunter comes to terms with his past and looks with hope towards the future. Exploring one man's evolving relationship with the natural world, *Way of the Hunter* tells the compelling story of Robert Moberg, a hunter who ultimately traded his gun for a camera.

SOME FILMS FROM *THE CURVE*: DISCOVER THIS COLLECTION OF SOCIAL DISTANCING STORIES THAT BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER

THE CURVE

The Curve is the pulse of our nation, beating in its own time during this unprecedented time. Our creators, with their talent and creativity, are bringing to life the voice of Canadians touched by COVID-19, both near and far.

The Curve is an online destination where these experiences will be expressed in animation, documentary and digital storytelling formats.



WORLDVIEWS

MALCOLM SUTHERLAND | 2020 | 3 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

Geneticist and environmentalist David Suzuki celebrates the pleasure of knowing we humans are squishy organic material in an inter-related web of life—and we'd better not forget that! An invitation to go out and play and learn from the real world.



HOW TO BE AT HOME

ANDREA DORFMAN | 2020 | 4 MIN | O.E.V. |
L.S.: ENGLISH

Lean into loneliness—and know you're not alone in it. Filmmaker Andrea Dorfman reunites with poet Tanya Davis to craft tender and profound animation on the theme of isolation, providing a wise and soaringly lyrical sequel to their viral hit *How to Be Alone*.



I AM GAY

AJAHNIS CHARLEY | 2020 | 10 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

After working abroad for five years, filmmaker Ajahnis Charley returns home to Oshawa, Ontario, in the age of quarantine. In addition to reuniting with his family, he returns with a mission to share some deep personal truths. Surprising conversations ensue with his mother and three siblings, in this humorous and heart-wrenching story about our need to seek love and acceptance within our own families.

SOME FILMS FROM *THE CURVE*: DISCOVER THIS COLLECTION OF SOCIAL DISTANCING STORIES THAT BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER



K'I TAH AMONGST THE BIRCH

MELAW NAKEHK'O | 2020 | 10 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

Filmmaker/activist Melaw Nakehk'o has spent the pandemic with her family at a remote land camp in the Northwest Territories, "getting wood, listening to the wind, staying warm and dry, and watching the sun move across the sky." In documenting camp life—activities like making fish leather and scraping moose hide—she anchors the COVID experience in a specific time and place.



LOVE IN QUARANTINE

MILLEFIORE CLARKES | 2020 | 10 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

When COVID protocols impose restrictions on human interaction, Millefiore Clarkes seizes the opportunity to reflect on the nature of love itself, juxtaposing her own existential quest with those of a teenager grappling with identity and self-worth in a time of social distancing, and a woman who finds surprising new romance despite pandemic isolation.



NBISIING

COLE FORREST | 2020 | 5 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Afraid he would not see his community again, Cole Forrest returns to North Bay from his current residence in Toronto. During his stay he confronts his fears and reconnects with his ancestors. *Nbi* means water, and in the time of this pandemic, it is the lake, medicine, berries and the land that he looks to for guidance.



VERY PRESENT

CONOR MCNALLY | 2020 | 5 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

How does prolonged confinement shape our experience of time? Filmmaker Conor McNally explores the question in the company of his brother Riley, a young man who's learning to cope with a new—yet strangely familiar—reality.

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



THE PHYSICS OF SORROW

THEODORE USHEV | 2019 | 26 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

We are all immigrants. Some leave cities or countries, all of us leave our childhood. Like the Minotaur of mythology, we roam through personal labyrinths, carrying nothing but a suitcase of memories, a portable time capsule filled with assorted mementoes from a past we can no longer reach.

The first fully animated film made using the encaustic-painting technique, *The Physics of Sorrow*, inspired by the novel by Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov, tracks the outlines of an unknown man's

life as he sifts through memories of circuses, first crushes, army service from his youth and an increasingly rootless adulthood in Canada—all the while struggling to find home, family and self.

Superbly drawn and animated by Academy Award® nominee Theodore Ushev, each image in *The Physics of Sorrow* is a work of art, aptly evoking the mesmerizing existence of its nostalgic protagonist.



SHANNON AMEN

CHRIS DAINTY | 2019 | 15 MIN | O.E.V. | MOSTLY WITHOUT WORDS

Based on the art of Shannon Jamieson, *Shannon Amen* unearths the passionate and pained expressions of a young woman overwhelmed by guilt and anxiety as she struggles to reconcile her sexual identity with her religious faith.

Written and directed by Jamieson's friend, Chris Dainty, the film is a multi-layered memoir that fuses archival footage and an array of animation techniques (including icemation) to reconstruct the instability and sorrow that Shannon struggled with—issues that

torment other LGBTQIA+ youth like her who face discrimination.

Shannon Amen is both elegy and therapy, as Dainty, like Jamieson, uses his art to come to terms with his own grief over the suicide of his friend. What emerges is not a tale of sorrow or a critique of a rigid faith, but an empowering story of great love, compassion and the importance of unharnessed self-expression.

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



A CHANGE OF SCENERY

ANITA LEBEAU | 2019 | 3 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Meet Annie, a woman who, despite being caught up in the circus of everyday life, finds her balance. Using live-action footage and traditional animation, filmmaker Anita Lebeau takes us on a whirlwind tour through Annie's busy world and shows us the power that lies in the small choices we make every day.



THE GREAT MALAISE

CATHERINE LEPAGE | 2019 | 5 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

In the voiceover for this animated short, a young woman attempts to describe herself, casting her life in the ideal light that society expects. The film's imagery, however, tells a different story, poignantly illustrating the intense anxiety that comes with the quest for perfection and the pursuit of happiness. A film that's both funny and moving, and above all, profoundly human.



NO OBJECTS

MOÏA JOBIN-PARÉ | 2019 | 9 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

Combining hands-on techniques with digital and analogue technologies, *No Objects* transfigures forms of expression, turning photographs into etchings and sound into motion. An ode to touch in which every gesture is magnified and the image can be heard, the film offers both a bracing and contemplative meditation on the tactile world.



THE PROCESSION

PASCAL BLANCHET & RODOLPHE SAINT-GELAIS | 2019
11 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

After Catherine's fatal car accident, she speaks from the beyond to her grieving husband, Philip, who must endure the family ritual of the funeral. *The Procession* is an elegant poem in black, white and pink that shows us how, despite the pressure to keep up appearances, love finds a way.

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



COLLECTOR – HOTHOUSE

KASSIA WARD | 2019 | 1 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

A pair of unlikely travellers encounter a young man on the highway who seems to have forgotten that he can be seen. *Collector* explores the concept of semi-private spaces and how we act when we forget that we might be being watched.

The National Film Board of Canada's Hothouse program for emerging animators has helped kick-start the careers of a new generation of acclaimed Canadian animators. For its 12th edition, the NFB has teamed up with imagineNATIVE and associate producers Amanda

Strong and Amanda Roy to help address underrepresentation of Indigenous creators in film animation. Three emerging filmmakers from across Turtle Island—Kassia Ward, Meky Ottawa and Christopher Grant—participated in the 22-week paid apprenticeship, an intensive program that combines training with the opportunity to create their own auteur-driven project.



THE FAKE CALENDAR – HOTHOUSE

MEKY OTTAWA | 2019 | 1 MIN | O.E.V.. | L.S.: ENGLISH

A neon glimpse into a personal world within an urban landscape. From FOMO to JOMO, *The Fake Calendar* is an artist's expression of how people come up with interesting and creative ways to avoid social functions in favour of their own private space.



XO RAD MAGICAL – HOTHOUSE

CHRISTOPHER GILBERT GRANT | 2019 | 1 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS

XO Rad Magical is a personal lyrical poem about the daily struggle of living with schizophrenia. This psychedelic and hypnotic film shows that there is beauty in the brains of those who are at war with themselves.

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

ALISON SNOWDEN & DAVID FINE | 2018 | 14 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

Dealing with what comes naturally isn't easy, especially for animals.

In *Animal Behaviour*, the latest animated short from the Oscar®-winning team of Alison Snowden and David Fine (*Bob's Birthday*), five animals meet regularly to discuss their inner angst in a group therapy session led by Dr. Clement, a canine psychotherapist.



SHOP CLASS

HART SNIDER | 2018 | 8 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Head back to junior high with young Hart Snider as he finds himself lost amongst his peers, unable to ask out his dream girl, and forced to take shop with the dreaded Mr. P. A darkly funny look at growing up, through the filtered lens of a boy on the cusp of manhood.



EMBRACED

JUSTINE VUYLSTEKER | 2018 | 5 MIN
MOSTLY WITHOUT WORDS

Standing before an open window, a woman gazes at black clouds darkening the horizon. She loves two men—the one who shares her present, and the one who marked her past. Frozen, she struggles against surging memories evoked by objects, the sky—everything. In the clouds, a passionately intertwined couple appears.



THE CANNONBALL WOMAN

ALBERTINE ZULLO & DAVID TOUTEVOIX | 2017 | 14 MIN
O.F.V., E.ST. | L.S.: FRENCH

Madeleine the human cannonball puts on a spectacular travelling show with her husband. But at home, every day seems to unfold just like the one before it. *The Cannonball Woman* is a bittersweet stop-motion animated film about love standing the test of time.

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



THANADOULA

ROBIN MCKENNA | 2020 | 6 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH (AVAILABLE STARTING OCTOBER 25, 2021)

“I could have been there with her...”

Two sisters entwined by love. When Annie disappears, her younger sister, Natalie, seeks her out in an unconventional way: as a thanadoula, accompanying the dying in their final stages. Between their slow and final breaths, Natalie finds a bridge between life and death and, ultimately, a pathway to her sister.

Featuring the exquisite art direction of Elise Simard (*My Little*

Underground, Beautiful Like Elsewhere), *Thanadoula* was written and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Robin McKenna (*GIFT*), who takes a “magic realist” approach to documentary, infusing it with surreal, dreamlike elements. Blending archival footage and animation in ethereal spaces that blur the boundaries between past and present, between the spirit world and the material, the film explores our complicated relationship to dying and the process of letting go.



BALAKRISHNA

COLIN MACKENZIE & APARNA KAPUR | 2019 | 15 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

An extraordinary new resident brought attention to the small town of East River, Nova Scotia, in the summer of 1967: Balakrishna, an Indian elephant. In Hindu and Buddhist culture, the elephant is a sacred symbol of good luck and prosperity, so when an Indian businessman opened a new factory, he brought Balakrishna as one of the guests—alongside the President of India—to attend the auspicious occasion. No one was more in awe of the exotic creature than 13 year-old local boy Winton Cook. His fascination led him to hang around Balakrishna's trainer, and over that splendid

summer he learned all about elephants and helped to look after his mammoth new friend. Using painterly animation, photographs and home-movie treasures, *Balakrishna* transmits the wistfulness of childhood memories, while evoking themes of friendship and loss, and issues of immigration and elephant conservation.

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



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OLD DOG

ANN MARIE FLEMING | 2020 | 3 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Henry's getting older. His eyesight isn't what it used to be, his joints ache when he goes for a walk, and sometimes he pees on the carpet.

Writer/director Ann Marie Fleming makes visible the tender work of caretaking in her new animated short, *Old Dog*. After losing his best friend, Henry the elderly pug must depend on his owner for help. Love isn't always the stuff of hearts and flowers: sometimes it's brushing matted fur, non-slip socks to keep out the cold, and a purple diaper.

Inspired by the experience of caregivers everywhere, *Old Dog* brings this relationship to life in a series of poignant animated vignettes. Small things—meals, bath time, and head scratches—offer warmth and support. The longstanding bond of these two souls is about more than comfort and companionship; it is a love story. Pure and simple.

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



DEYZANGEROO

EHSAN GHARIB | 2017 | 4 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

“Deyzangeroo” is a ritual performed in the Iranian port city of Bushehr. Influenced by the city’s colonial rule by the British and Portuguese, and the African slaves that followed, it is imbued with the terror and magic of the lunar eclipse. The ritual is believed to ward off evil spirits and take back the moon. It works every time. This animated short features hand-painted animation, time-lapse photography and trick photography using mirrors.



SHAMAN

ECHO HENOCHÉ | 2017 | 5 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

Shaman is a first collaboration between the National Film Board of Canada and Labrador Inuk artist—and first-time animator—Echo Henoche. The short brings to life Henoche’s favourite legend, told to her by her grandfather in her home community of Nain, Nunatsiavut, on Labrador’s North Coast. Hand-drawn and painted by Henoche in a style all her own, *Shaman* shares with the world her perspective on this Inuit legend.



THREADS

TORILL KOVE | 2017 | 8 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

Oscar®-winning animator Torill Kove tells a story of the beauty and complexity of parental love, taking us on a journey that’s intimate in its telling and expansive in its scope. The film speaks volumes about the attachments we crave, form and sometimes grieve, as they evolve in ways that can leave us feeling lonely or left behind—as any parent of an adopted or biological child knows only too well.



BLIND VAYSHA

THEODORE USHEV | 2016 | 8 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Vaysha is not like other little girls: she was born with a left eye that sees only the past and a right eye that sees only the future, and she cannot live in the present. Should she poke out one of her eyes so that she can live in the other’s temporal reality? Or is she doomed to perceive the world from this perplexing perspective?

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING ANYMORE

NOÉMIE MARSILY & CARL ROOSENS | 2016 | 9 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS

He's a magician. She's a firefighter. Isolating themselves from the chaos of a world in turmoil, the two lovers live in a crane basket in the sky. Their challenge is to keep their heads, up here above it all, while everything's falling apart down below. But when reality calls—when fires need quenching and people need entertaining—how can they best make themselves useful in a world gone off the rails?



THE HEAD VANISHES

FRANCK DION | 2016 | 9 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH | ●

Jacqueline isn't quite in her right mind anymore, but she's determined to take the train to the seaside, as she does every summer. Only this year, she's being followed by some woman who claims to be her daughter, and the trip takes some unexpected turns.

Franck Dion's poetic film invites us to share the journey of an elderly woman living with degenerative dementia, as her confused mind leaves her open to danger.



I LIKE GIRLS

DIANE OBOMSAWIN | 2016 | 8 MIN | E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH | ▶

In this animated short from Diane Obomsawin, four women reveal the nitty-gritty about their first loves, sharing funny and intimate tales of one-sided infatuation, mutual attraction, erotic moments, and fumbling attempts at sexual expression. For them, discovering that they're attracted to other women comes hand-in-hand with a deeper understanding of their personal identity and a joyful new self-awareness.



MAMIE

JANICE NADEAU | 2016 | 6 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Mamie lives in Gaspésie in a house that faces away from the sea. Her granddaughter wonders: "Why isn't Mamie interested in me or her other grandchildren? Why won't she give me any affection? What happened that made Mamie so indifferent?" In this wonderful animation of hand-painted watercolours, the filmmaker reaches back into her own childhood memories to share a personal and touching story about her and her grandmother.

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



BAM

HOWIE SHIA | 2015 | 6 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

BAM is a story of rage. In a dense inner city haunted by primordial gods, an unassuming young boxer struggles to understand the disturbing consequences of his explosive temper. A dark, urban soundtrack and gritty, hand-drawn animation paint a brutal portrait of a classical hero floundering in a contemporary world.



BLOOD MANIFESTO

THEODORE USHEV | 2015 | 2 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

In this short animation, Theodore Ushev signs a violent, brutal and troubling political statement in his own blood and narrates it in his own gravelly voice. All over the world, idealist revolutionaries shed their blood to denounce injustices. Why fight for ideals, noble though they may be, if you must die for them in the end? Are rebellion and insurrection egotistical deeds, or are they lessons in pure altruism?



CARFACE

CLAUDE CLOUTIER | 2015 | 4 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

A 1957 Chevy Bel Air performs an ironic take on the American ballad "Que Sera, Sera." The radiator grille morphs into a pair of lips, crooning the reassuring rhymes, while a spectacularly choreographed choir of cars sings backup. A scathing satire of the power of Big Oil, *Carface* is musical comedy on a grand scale, with filmmaker Claude Cloutier skewering carefree contemporary attitudes toward the threats to our planet.



MY HEART ATTACK

SHELDON COHEN | 2015 | 13 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

The true story of a "nice Jewish boy with Buddhist inclinations" who suffers a heart attack. At the crossroads of documentary and animation, Sheldon Cohen's film combines wry humour and philosophical musings to show that, sometimes, what feels like the end is really only just the beginning.

AWARD-WINNING ANIMATION



CODA

**DENIS POULIN & MARTINE ÉPOQUE | 2014 | 10 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS**

In this balletic and hypnotic film, dynamic traces carry the motion of the real dancers behind the on-screen movements. Addressing environmental themes by way of metaphor, *CODA* is a fused universe where space and time collide, deploy and dissolve. In this technically and formally innovative film, luminous bodies in the infinite space of the cosmos transform and evolve to the rhythms of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*.



MONSIEUR PUG

JANET PERLMAN | 2014 | 9 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Who is Monsieur Pug? Why, a dog with bad cholesterol and high blood pressure! A dog who loves pie, ice cream and making origami. Definitely not your everyday pooch. Because he's also paranoid, convinced he's the target of a vast conspiracy, and pretending to be a pet—the better to hide from his pursuers. Schizoid, perhaps? Hmm... but is Monsieur Pug even a real dog to begin with?



NO FISH WHERE TO GO

**NICOLA LEMAY & JANICE NADEAU | 2014 | 12 MIN
E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH**

In this short animation based on Marie-Francine Hébert's 2003 book of the same name, a friendship unites two little girls from opposing clans in a village where tensions are mounting. The citizens with the red shoes clearly despise those without, and one fateful morning, one of the girls and her family are accosted at gunpoint by their oppressors. This modern tale compassionately and poetically addresses intolerance and the consequences of war.



BLACK SOUL

**MARTINE CHARTRAND | 2000 | 9 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS**

Martine Chartrand's animated short dives into the heart of Black culture with an exhilarating trip through history. Watch as a young boy traces his roots through the stories his grandmother shares with him about the events that shaped their cultural heritage.

INDIGENOUS STORIES



JORDAN RIVER ANDERSON, THE MESSENGER

ALANIS OBOMSAWIN | 2019 | 1 HR 5 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH, CREE

Celebrated Abenaki director Alanis Obomsawin tells the story of Jordan River Anderson, and how as a result of his short life, thousands of First Nations and Inuit children today receive the same standard of social, health and education services as the rest of the Canadian population.

Because of Jordan's Indian status, a dispute arose between the governments of Canada and Manitoba over who was responsible for his care, and Jordan did not receive the appropriate home-based

assistance that would have allowed him to end his life in his own community.

Jordan's Principle was passed into law by the House of Commons, and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal issued a ruling guaranteeing the same standard of service, yet many First Nations and Inuit children were still denied access. It took sustained commitment and the issuance of several mandatory orders for justice to be done.



NÎPAWISTAMASOWIN: WE WILL STAND UP

TASHA HUBBARD | 2019 | 1 HR 38 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, CREE

On a summer day in 2016, a young Indigenous man named Colten Boushie died from a gunshot to the head after entering Gerald Stanley's rural property with his friends. The emotionally charged trial and acquittal of Stanley caused shock and outrage across Canada, capturing international attention and raising questions about prejudice within the judicial system and anti-Indigenous racism in the nation.

Award-winning filmmaker Tasha Hubbard follows the journey of

Colten's family as they search for justice, taking their fight to the highest echelons of power and, ultimately, to the United Nations. Hubbard deftly illustrates how the long history of violence against Indigenous people continues to define life in parts of Canada. At once urgent and intimate, *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* is a profound portrait of a family standing up for a more just and fair society for future generations.

INDIGENOUS STORIES



THE WHALE AND THE RAVEN

MIRJAM LEUZE | 2019 | 1 HR 41 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

On the otherwise uninhabited Gil Island, just off the northwest coast of British Columbia, the sound of waves lapping and ravens cawing is punctuated by the haunting whale calls emanating from a network of loudspeakers. Drawn to the rich food sources and quiet waters, humpback whales, pods of orca and porpoises eat, play and raise their young here, in the Kitimat fjord system.

Whale researchers Hermann Meuter and Janie Wray founded the Cetacea Lab on Gil Island to study this unique marine environment. But

the imminent construction of a new liquefied natural gas exporting plant in the nearby community of Kitimat promises to bring increasing tanker traffic and noise, with unknown consequences.

Mirjam Leuze's *The Whale and the Raven* illuminates the many issues that have drawn scientists, the Gitga'at First Nation, and the BC government into a complex conflict.



THE ROAD FORWARD

MARIE CLEMENTS | 2017 | 1 HR 41 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

The Road Forward, a musical documentary by Marie Clements, connects a pivotal moment in Canada's civil rights history—the beginnings of Indian Nationalism in the 1930s—with the powerful momentum of First Nations activism today.

Clements paints an electrifying picture of how a tiny movement, the Native Brotherhood and Native Sisterhood, became a powerful voice for social, political and legal advocacy, eventually effecting profound change at the national level. *The Road Forward*'s stun-

ningly shot musical sequences, performed by an ensemble of some of Canada's finest vocalists and musicians, seamlessly connect past and present with soaring vocals, blues, rock and traditional beats.

The Road Forward is a rousing tribute to the fighters for First Nations rights, a soul-resounding historical experience and a visceral call to action.

INDIGENOUS STORIES



MARY TWO AXE EARLEY: I AM INDIAN AGAIN

COURTNEY MONTOUR | 2021 | 34 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH (AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER 2021)

Mary Two-Axe Earley: I Am Indian Again shares the powerful story of Mary Two-Axe Earley, who fought for more than two decades to challenge sex discrimination against First Nations women embedded in Canada's Indian Act, and became a key figure in Canada's women's rights movement.



K'I TAH AMONGST THE BIRCH

MELAW NAKEHK'O | 2020 | 10 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Filmmaker/activist Melaw Nakehk'o has spent the pandemic with her family at a remote land camp in the Northwest Territories, "getting wood, listening to the wind, staying warm and dry, and watching the sun move across the sky." In documenting camp life—activities like making fish leather and scraping moose hide—she anchors the COVID experience in a specific time and place.



NBISIING

COLE FORREST | 2020 | 5 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Afraid he would not see his community again, Cole Forrest returns to North Bay from his current residence in Toronto. During his stay he confronts his fears and reconnects with his ancestors. *Nbi* means water, and in the time of this pandemic, it is the lake, medicine, berries and the land that he looks to for guidance.



VERY PRESENT

CONOR MCNALLY | 2020 | 5 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

How does prolonged confinement shape our experience of time? Filmmaker Conor McNally explores the question in the company of his brother Riley, a young man who's learning to cope with a new—yet strangely familiar—reality.

INDIGENOUS STORIES



COLLECTOR – HOTHOUSE

KASSIA WARD | 2019 | 1 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

A pair of unlikely travellers encounter a young man on the highway who seems to have forgotten that he can be seen. *Collector* explores the concept of semi-private spaces and how we act when we forget that we might be being watched.

The National Film Board of Canada's Hothouse program for emerging animators has helped kick-start the careers of a new generation of acclaimed Canadian animators. For its 12th edition, the NFB has teamed up with imagineNATIVE and associate producers Amanda

Strong and Amanda Roy to help address underrepresentation of Indigenous creators in film animation. Three emerging filmmakers from across Turtle Island—Kassia Ward, Meky Ottawa and Christopher Grant—participated in the 22-week paid apprenticeship, an intensive program that combines training with the opportunity to create their own auteur-driven project.



THE FAKE CALENDAR – HOTHOUSE

MEKY OTTAWA | 2019 | 1 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

A neon glimpse into a personal world within an urban landscape. From FOMO to JOMO, *The Fake Calendar* is an artist's expression of how people come up with interesting and creative ways to avoid social functions in favour of their own private space.



XO RAD MAGICAL – HOTHOUSE

CHRISTOPHER GILBERT GRANT | 2019 | 1 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS

XO Rad Magical is a personal lyrical poem about the daily struggle of living with schizophrenia. This psychedelic and hypnotic film shows that there is beauty in the brains of those who are at war with themselves.

INDIGENOUS STORIES



NOW IS THE TIME

CHRISTOPHER AUCHTER | 2019 | 16 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

When renowned Haida carver Robert Davidson was only 22 years old, he carved the first new totem pole on British Columbia's Haida Gwaii in almost a century. On the 50th anniversary of the pole's raising, Haida filmmaker Christopher Auchter steps easily through history to revisit that day in August 1969, when the entire village of Old Massett gathered to celebrate the event that would signal the rebirth of the Haida spirit.



DÉLIA 9 TO 5

DELIA GUNN | 2018 | 5 MIN | O.F.V., E.ST.
MOSTLY WITHOUT WORDS

At Réservoir-Dozois in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, director Délia Gunn, eight months pregnant, goes about her daily tasks: caring for children, fetching water, giving baths and stacking wood. *Délia 9 to 5* is a direct, unvarnished, yet tender and humorous portrait of a typical day, from morning to night.



URBAN.INDIGENOUS.PROUD.SERIES

2018 | 5 EPISODES; 7-10 MINUTES EACH | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Urban.Indigenous.Proud is a film project partnership between the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres and the National Film Board of Canada. Taking a community-driven approach, the OFIFC and the NFB produced five short documentaries by Indigenous filmmakers who set out to explore urban Indigenous culture and lived experiences in five Friendship Centre communities.

The five episodes are: *Full Circle* by Kristi Lane Sinclair (8 min), *Places to Gather and Learn* by Darlene Naponse (10 min), *Some Stories* by Clayton Windatt (8 min), *That Old Game La Crosse* by JL Whitecrow (7 min) and *Zaagi'idiwin* by Tracie Lottit (9 min).

INDIGENOUS STORIES



THE MOUNTAIN OF SGAANA

CHRISTOPHER AUCHTER | 2017 | 10 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS

The Mountain of Sgaana spins a magical tale of a young man who is stolen away to the spirit world, and the young woman who rescues him. Haida filmmaker Christopher Auchter's dream-like gem brilliantly entwines traditional animation with formal elements of Haida art, which are brought to life by a rich, evocative palette and stylized effects.



SHAMAN

ECHO HENOCHÉ | 2017 | 5 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

Shaman is a first collaboration between the National Film Board of Canada and Labrador Inuk artist—and first-time animator—Echo Henoche. The short brings to life Henoche's favourite legend, told to her by her grandfather in her home community of Nain, Nunatsiavut, on Labrador's North Coast. Hand-drawn and painted by Henoche in a style all her own, *Shaman* shares with the world her perspective on this Inuit legend.



THREE THOUSAND

ASINNAJAQ | 2017 | 14 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH, INUKTITUT

"My father was born in a spring igloo—half snow, half skin. I was born in a hospital, with jaundice and two teeth."

Inuk artist Asinnajaq plunges us into a sublime imaginary universe—14 minutes of luminescent, archive-inspired cinema that recast the past, present and future of Inuit in a radiant new light.



I LIKE GIRLS

DIANE OBOMSAWIN | 2016 | 8 MIN | E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH | ▶

In this animated short from Diane Obomsawin, four women reveal the nitty-gritty about their first loves, sharing funny and intimate tales of one-sided infatuation, mutual attraction, erotic moments, and fumbling attempts at sexual expression. For them, discovering that they're attracted to other women comes hand-in-hand with a deeper understanding of their personal identity and a joyful new self-awareness.

PRIDE



OTHERLY

GRACE AN, TRISTAN ANGIERI, JOANNE LAM, JESS MURWIN, MIRUSHA YOGARAJAH, EM YUE, JACKIE! ZHOU | 2021
O.E.V.

Premiering on Instagram Stories, *Otherly* is a series of seven short documentaries about finding one's place in the 21st century. Using universal themes like love, inclusion and loss as entry points, seven female, non-binary and genderqueer creators have crafted films that are at once timeless and yet by definition of their form, ephemeral.

The stories range from family relationships to exploring LGBTQIA+ identities to a search for freedom and independence. During this time of enforced social distancing, it's especially poignant that the films were created for Instagram, one of the few spaces in which we're able to stay connected. Short documentaries on Instagram.



UN/TIED SHOES

EVIE RUDDY | 2019 | O.E.V

Growing up, Evie Ruddy didn't quite feel like a girl, or a boy, and resisted gendered expectations. Only recently, with the growing awareness of non-binary identities, did Evie move toward a more androgynous gender performance and begin using they/them pronouns. *Untied Shoes* tells the story of how gender conventions have impacted Evie's life, with footwear as markers along the way.

Untied is presented as an online shoe company, but visitors expecting to browse the latest styles will instead find a first-person

account of self-actualization and contesting categorization. Thanks to gendered fashion industry conventions, buying shoes and clothes that reflect their identity has been a lifelong challenge for Evie. Framing their story as an online shopping experience underscores the hardship many non-binary and transgender people face trying to reflect their gender identity in their outward appearance. Interactive website.

PRIDE



LOVE, SCOTT

LAURA MARIE WAYNE | 2018 | 1 HR 16 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

While walking on the street one night in a small town in Canada, Scott Jones, a gay musician, is attacked and becomes paralyzed from the waist down; what follows is a brave and fragile journey of healing, and the transformation of a young man's life.

From the first raw moments in the hospital to a disquieting trip back to the place he was attacked, Scott is constantly faced with the choice of losing himself in waves of grief or embracing love

over fear. Filmed over three years by Scott's close friend, *Love, Scott* is an intimate and visually evocative window into queer experience, set against a stunning score by Sigur Rós.



STANDING ON THE LINE

PAUL ÉMILE D'ENTREMONT | 2018 | 1 HR 20 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Behind every sporting feat, there's an athlete. And behind the athlete can be someone who has seen or experienced discrimination based on sexual orientation. While a handful of athletes in the sports hall of fame are openly and proudly gay, in a culture that prizes virility, toughness and heterosexuality, the pressure to perform can be compounded by the further strain of deciding whether or not to come out of the closet.

Standing on the Line sets out to break the code of silence that reigns in amateur and professional sports. To the backdrop of a New Brunswick varsity football team in training, filmmaker Paul Émile d'Entremont takes a fresh look at some of our top athletes, who've joined their voices in support of the LGBTQ cause.

PRIDE



MY PRAIRIE HOME

**CHELSEA MCMULLAN | 2013 | 1 HR 16 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH**

Award-winning filmmaker Chelsea McMullan takes audiences on a poetic journey through landscapes both real and emotional in *My Prairie Home*, an intimate portrait of transgender singer Rae Spoon.

I AM GAY

**AJAHNIS CHARLEY | 2020 | 10 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH**

After working abroad for five years, filmmaker Ajahnis Charley returns home to Oshawa, Ontario, in the age of quarantine. In addition to reuniting with his family, he returns with a mission to share some deep personal truths. Surprising conversations ensue with his mother and three siblings, in this humorous and heart-wrenching story about our need to seek love and acceptance within our own families.



INTO LIGHT

SHEONA MCDONALD | 2020 | 19 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH (AVAILABLE STARTING NOVEMBER 2021)

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

Set against the crystalline Northern landscape of Yellowknife, Sheona McDonald's new documentary captures a season of change, as a mother and child navigate the complexities of gender identity together.

The film offers one family's unique perspective on learning how to accept and support one another during a time of intimate personal growth and transition. Seemingly simple items lead to a more complex navigation of name and gender markers.

PRIDE



I AM SKYLAR

RACHEL BOWER | 2019 | 15 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

I Am Skylar is the emotionally compelling story of an articulate 14-year-old girl who is thoughtfully defining her future and the woman she is to become. Surrounded by a family and a community who show her unconditional love as she follows her personal path, Skylar faces the complexities of being a transgender girl on the cusp of puberty with refreshing honesty and unshakeable dignity.



THE BASSINET

TIFFANY HSIUNG | 2019 | 6 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

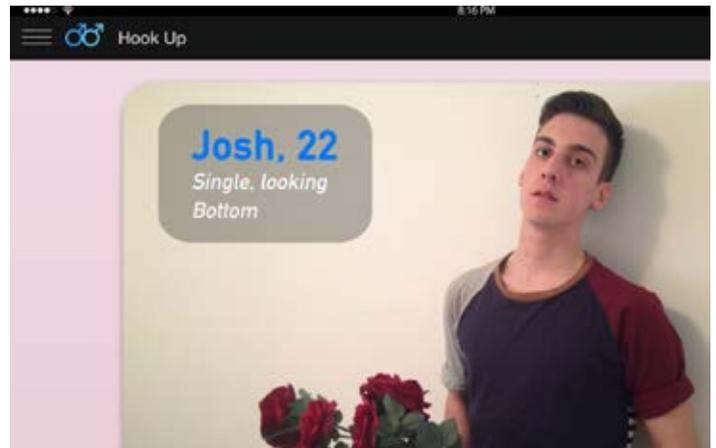
When a vintage bassinet appears at filmmaker Tiffany Hsiung and long-time fiancée Victoria Mata's home, it sets off a chain reaction of emotions. *The Bassinet* is a gentle and affecting story about Tiffany's personal struggle with the intersection of her sexual orientation and cultural identity, and the cross-generational burden of having a baby in the context of rigid social constructs of marriage and family.



HANDMADE MOUNTAIN

MICHÈLE PEARSON CLARKE | 2019 | 6 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

In *Handmade Mountain*, Michèle Pearson Clarke explores the emotional fallout of being both early to gay marriage and early to gay divorce. Fifteen years after same-sex marriage became legal, she and friends reflect on its personal and political meaning in this experimental film.



THE HOOK UP

MICHAEL V. SMITH | 2019 | 6 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

The Hook Up is an experimental doc featuring four gay men from two different generations: two nearing age 70 and two 20-somethings. Striking close-up visuals create a powerful sense of intimacy and connection as the men discuss how hooking up has (and has not) evolved for gay men.

PRIDE



REVIVING THE ROOST

VIVEK SHRAYA | 2019 | 6 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

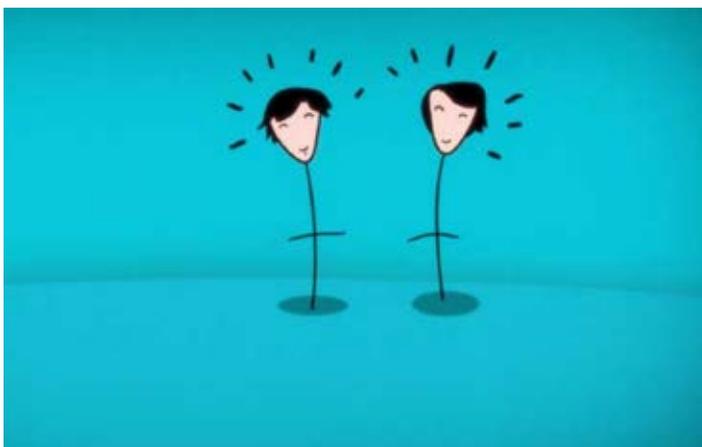
Filmmaker and bestselling author Vivek Shraya's ode to a popular Edmonton gay bar that closed in 2007. With pulsating neon-light animation, *Reviving the Roost* is a story about community complexity and longing, and an elegy to a lost space.



WOMAN DRESS

THIRZA CUTHAND | 2019 | 6 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Pre-contact, a Two Spirit person named Woman Dress travels the Plains, gathering and sharing stories. Featuring archival images and dramatized re-enactments, this film shares a Cuthand family oral story, honouring and respecting Woman Dress without imposing colonial binaries on them.



A SHORT FILM ABOUT TEGAN AND SARA

ANN MARIE FLEMING | 2018 | 4 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

In this joyful portrait, filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming animates the formative days and musical career of Calgary-born identical twins Tegan and Sara Quin. Their remarkable journey over the past 20 years has often intersected with notions of identity—as artists, as individuals, as sisters, as queer women, and as leading activists in the LGBTQ community. Their musical progression parallels and amplifies their commitment to bringing the marginal to the mainstream.



I LIKE GIRLS

DIANE OBOMSAWIN | 2016 | 8 MIN | E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH | ▶

In this animated short from Diane Obomsawin, four women reveal the nitty-gritty about their first loves, sharing funny and intimate tales of one-sided infatuation, mutual attraction, erotic moments, and fumbling attempts at sexual expression. For them, discovering that they're attracted to other women comes hand-in-hand with a deeper understanding of their personal identity and a joyful new self-awareness.

PRIDE



BEAUTY

CHRISTINA WILLINGS | 2017 | 23 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

In a world of fixed positions and prescribed roles, expanding the definition of gender requires the courage to dive deep into understanding and acceptance. *Beauty* explores the lives of five gender-creative kids, each uniquely engaged in shaping their ideas of what it means to be fully human. Claiming your own sense of gender when everything around you insists that you comply and conform can be challenging, and sometimes scary. But luckily, family and friends are there to help.

Free-flowing animated elements, ranging from images of octopuses to astronauts, draw together the kids' shared experiences in beautifully rendered fantasias that celebrate the power of imagination and the force of self-determination. Playful, goofy, loving and brave—each of these remarkable kids has found their own way to break free and show the world what it really means to be your true self.

LOVE



LOVE, SCOTT

LAURA MARIE WAYNE | 2018 | 1 HR 16 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

While walking on the street one night in a small town in Canada, Scott Jones, a gay musician, is attacked and becomes paralyzed from the waist down; what follows is a brave and fragile journey of healing, and the transformation of a young man's life.

Scott is an intimate and visually evocative window into queer experience, set against a stunning score by Sigur Rós.

From the first raw moments in the hospital to a disquieting trip back to the place he was attacked, Scott is constantly faced with the choice of losing himself in waves of grief or embracing love over fear. Filmed over three years by Scott's close friend, *Love*,



THE SONG AND THE SORROW

MILLEFIORE CLARKES | 2018 | 42 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

Musician Catherine MacLellan—the daughter of Canadian singer/songwriting legend Gene MacLellan—grew up surrounded by her father's music. He died by suicide when she was 14. Two decades after his loss, Catherine is finally ready to confront the hurtful mystery of her absent parent and embrace his musical legacy.

friends, family members, and musicians who knew and played with Gene, the film reveals a troubled and loving man who was never at ease with fame or money.

The Song and the Sorrow follows Catherine as she journeys to understand her father and face her own struggles with mental illness. Through archival footage and intimate interviews with

Catherine is determined to lift the oppressive burden of silence that accompanies the stigma of mental illness and hopes that others can take strength and solace from her story.

LOVE



LUBEN AND ELENA

ELLIE YONOVA | 2017 | 1 HR 15 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: BULGARIAN, ENGLISH

Luben and Elena is a modern-day love story about renowned artists Luben Boykov and Elena Popova, who escape repressive communist Bulgaria and find refuge on the island of Newfoundland. Embracing the love of art and the art of love, they remind us that the greatest risk of all is to take either for granted.



LOVE IN QUARANTINE

MILLEFIORE CLARKES | 2020 | 10 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

When COVID protocols impose restrictions on human interaction, Millefiore Clarkes seizes the opportunity to reflect on the nature of love itself, juxtaposing her own existential quest with those of a teenager grappling with identity and self-worth in a time of social distancing, and a woman who finds surprising new romance despite pandemic isolation.



DÉLIA 9 TO 5

DELIA GUNN | 2018 | 5 MIN | O.F.V., E.ST.
MOSTLY WITHOUT WORDS

At Réservoir-Dozois in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, director Délia Gunn, eight months pregnant, goes about her daily tasks: caring for children, fetching water, giving baths and stacking wood. *Délia 9 to 5* is a direct, unvarnished, yet tender and humorous portrait of a typical day, from morning to night.



EMBRACED

JUSTINE VUYLSTEKER | 2018 | 5 MIN
MOSTLY WITHOUT WORDS

Standing before an open window, a woman gazes at black clouds darkening the horizon. She loves two men—the one who shares her present, and the one who marked her past. Frozen, she struggles against surging memories evoked by objects, the sky—everything. In the clouds, a passionately intertwined couple appears.

LOVE



FREE LOVE

AUDE PICAULT | 2017 | 3 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

This animated short presents two friends who meet in a Paris café—one single, the other in an open relationship. As they catch up on each other's lives, it becomes clear that the real story is playing out in what's not said. The result is a penetrating look at female friendships, and the sometimes-complex amorous relationships of modern times.



THREADS

TORILL KOVE | 2017 | 8 MIN | WITHOUT WORDS

Oscar®-winning animator Torill Kove tells a story of the beauty and complexity of parental love, taking us on a journey that's intimate in its telling and expansive in its scope. The film speaks volumes about the attachments we crave, form and sometimes grieve, as they evolve in ways that can leave us feeling lonely or left behind—as any parent of an adopted or biological child knows only too well.



I LIKE GIRLS

DIANE OBOMSAWIN | 2016 | 8 MIN | E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH | ▶

In this animated short from Diane Obomsawin, four women reveal the nitty-gritty about their first loves, sharing funny and intimate tales of one-sided infatuation, mutual attraction, erotic moments, and fumbling attempts at sexual expression. For them, discovering that they're attracted to other women comes hand-in-hand with a deeper understanding of their personal identity and a joyful new self-awareness.



BLACK SOUL

MARTINE CHARTRAND | 2000 | 9 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS

Martine Chartrand's animated short dives into the heart of Black culture with an exhilarating trip through history. Watch as a young boy traces his roots through the stories his grandmother shares with him about the events that shaped their cultural heritage.

LOVE



MOTTO

**VINCENT MORISSET, SEAN MICHAELS, ÉDOUARD LANCTÔT-BENOIT & CAROLINE ROBERT | 2020 | 6 X 15 MIN
E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH**

Motto is a playful, one-of-a-kind adventure—an interactive novella that uses thousands of tiny videos to tell the thousand-year tale of a kindhearted spirit named September. Part ghost story, part scavenger hunt, *Motto* finds a way to be both documentary and fiction—incorporating participants' lo-fi, unstaged footage into its own emotional narrative. It's like a mirror ball that refracts its audience's imaginations, rearranging the way they look at the world.

Conceived for your mobile device, small enough to fit in your pocket, *Motto* combines new technologies with some of our oldest. Text, image, algorithm and computer vision intermingle as a nameless narrator leads the participant from today to yesterday to a possible tomorrow, from the Québécois countryside to the Chilean desert to the chattering banks of the Nile. Interactive novella for smartphones.

YOUTH SELECTION



PARLIAMENT: THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

CREATIVE TEAM: ÉMILIE F. GRENIER, DAVID DRURY, DPT. & STÉPHANE POIRIER | 2020 | 15 MIN | E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

Parliament is the heart of Canada's federal democracy. For more than 100 years, its seat was Centre Block, best recognized by the iconic Peace Tower. Home to the Senate and the House of Commons, the building was the site of debates and decisions that shaped our country. Each year, it welcomed thousands of visitors to discover the significance of the work, people and architecture of the space.

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WORLDVIEWS

MALCOLM SUTHERLAND | 2020 | 3 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

Geneticist and environmentalist David Suzuki celebrates the pleasure of knowing we humans are squishy organic material in an inter-related web of life—and we'd better not forget that! An invitation to go out and play and learn from the real world.

Part of *The Curve*, a collection of social distancing stories that bring us closer together



ICE BREAKERS

SANDAMINI RANKADUWA | 2019 | 15 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH

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

YOUTH SELECTION



HEDGEHOG'S HOME

EVA CVIJANOVIĆ | 2017 | 10 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

In a lush and lively forest lives a hedgehog. He is respected and envied by the other animals. However, Hedgehog's unwavering devotion to his home annoys a quartet of insatiable beasts. Together, they march off towards Hedgehog's home and spark a tense and prickly standoff.

Hedgehog's Home is a warm and universal tale for young and old that reminds us there truly is no place like home.



THE MOUNTAIN OF SGAANA

CHRISTOPHER AUCHTER | 2017 | 10 MIN
WITHOUT WORDS

The Mountain of Sgaana spins a magical tale of a young man who is stolen away to the spirit world, and the young woman who rescues him. Haida filmmaker Christopher Auchter's dream-like gem brilliantly entwines traditional animation with formal elements of Haida art, which are brought to life by a rich, evocative palette and stylized effects.



NADINE

PATRICK PÉRIS | 2017 | 4 MIN | E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

From out of nowhere, the most beautiful girl in the world sits at the table across from me at the library. Is this a stroke of good luck or bad? Her smile paralyzes me. I can't talk to her because I don't know her, but I can't get to know her because I won't talk to her...

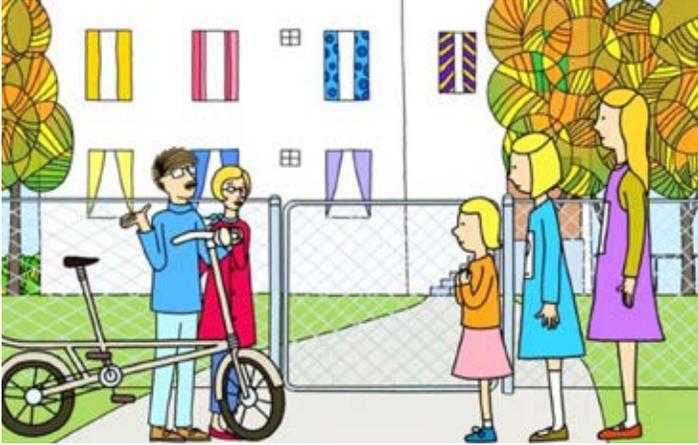


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YOUTH SELECTION



ME AND MY MOULTON

TORILL KOVE | 2014 | 13 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

This animated short by Torill Kove marked the NFB's 73rd Oscar® nomination! With a bright palette and witty dialogue, the film tells the charming story of a seven-year-old girl and her sisters, who ask for a bicycle knowing full well that their loving yet unconventional parents will likely disappoint them.



WASETEG

PHYLLIS GRANT | 2010 | 6 MIN | O.E.V.
L.S.: ENGLISH, MI'KMAQ

This animated short presents the story of a young Mi'kmaq girl whose name means "the light from the dawn." Sadly, her mother dies while giving birth and, though her father works very hard to provide for his family, Waseteg is surrounded by the bitterness and loneliness felt by her sisters.



MAQ AND THE SPIRIT OF THE WOODS

PHYLLIS GRANT | 2006 | 8 MIN | O.E.V. | L.S.: ENGLISH

This animated short tells the story of Maq, a Mi'kmaq boy who realizes his potential with the help of inconspicuous mentors. When an Elder in the community offers him a small piece of pipestone, Maq carves a little person out of it. Proud of his work, the boy wants to impress his grandfather, and journeys through the woods to find him. Along the path Maq meets a curious traveller named Mi'gm-wesu. Together they share stories, medicine, laughter and song.



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YOUTH SELECTION



THE GREAT LIST OF EVERYTHING

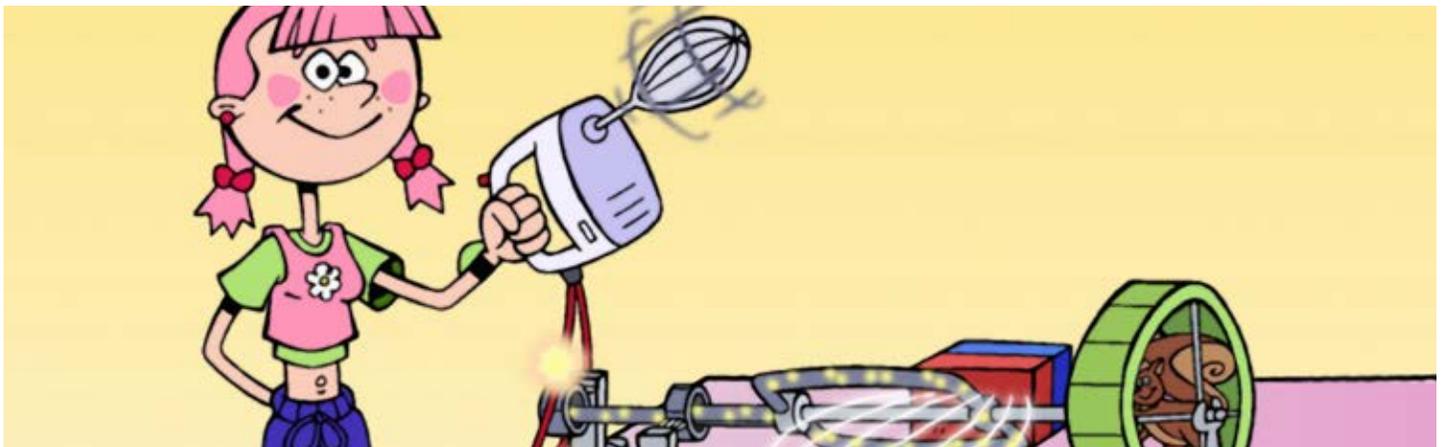
CATHON, IRIS BOUDREAU & FRANCIS PAPILLON | 2019 | WEB SERIES OF 13 EPISODES X 2 MINUTES | E.V.

L.S.: ENGLISH

Cathon and Iris are inseparable. One likes to show off her knowledge, the other enjoys sharing off-the-wall theories. The two friends' quirky humour and wild, free-floating imaginations will make you want to learn more about the objects that surround us. Travel with them through history as they explain the origins of such things as the lightbulb or pants. But don't believe everything you hear.

Directed by Cathon, Iris Boudreau and Francis Papillon, this 13-episode web series takes you into a wacky world that will make you laugh and think in equal measure.

Voiced by Angela Galuppo and Cat Lemieux, *The Great List of Everything* was produced by La Pastèque and the National Film Board of Canada in collaboration with Télé-Québec.



SCIENCE PLEASE! SERIES

MARTIN BARRY, SYLVAIN CHARBONNEAU & CLAUDE CLOUTIER | 1998-2001 | 26 FILMS X 1 MINUTE | E.V.

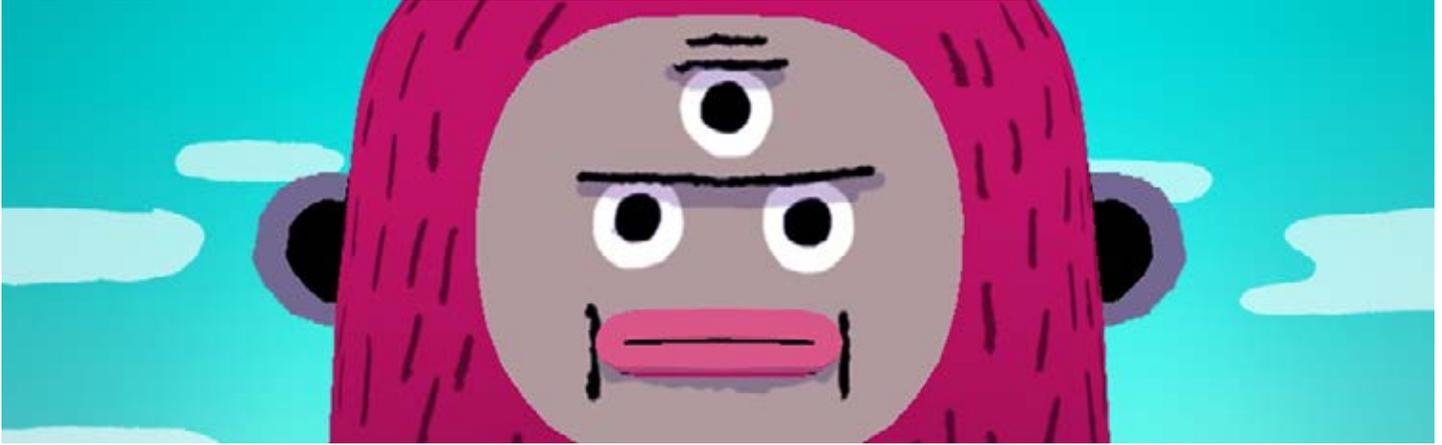
L.S.: ENGLISH

The 26 one-minute video clips in this collection offer humorous but rigorously accurate explanations of scientific phenomena we encounter in our daily lives. Have you ever wondered... why do we see colours? What makes the wind blow? What is sound?

wacky humour will appeal to 9- to 12-year-olds, while encouraging an interest in science.

Each question is carefully researched and clearly explained through animated illustrations, archival footage and amusing narration. The

YOUTH SELECTION



I LOVE POTATOES

VALI FUGULIN | 2015 | E.V.

Everyone loves potatoes in Potatoland, as they are the bounty on which they survive. After his village is struck with misfortune, Chip finds himself sorely lacking in potatoes. Through innovation and human contact, he must learn to survive without them in order to save his community and end the reign of the Potatosaurus.

I Love Potatoes is an adventure game for 7- to 77-year-olds that deals with social innovation and sustainable economy issues in a slightly absurd, funny and quirky manner. Available for the Web,

tablets and mobiles (IOS and Android), this playful journey will teach the steps of social innovation to people of all ages. Download this game whose narrative is designed to plant new ideas and harvest change. [Interactive website for smartphones.](#)

INTERACTIVE PROJECTS



OTHERLY

GRACE AN, TRISTAN ANGIERI, JOANNE LAM, JESS MURWIN, MIRUSHA YOGARAJAH, EM YUE, JACKIE! ZHOU | 2021
O.E.V.

Premiering on Instagram Stories, *Otherly* is a series of seven short documentaries about finding one's place in the 21st century. Using universal themes like love, inclusion, and loss as entry points, seven female, non-binary, and genderqueer creators have crafted films that are at once timeless and yet by definition of their form, ephemeral.

The stories range from family relationships to exploring LGBTQIA+ identities to a search for freedom and independence. During this time of enforced social distancing, it's especially poignant that the films were created for Instagram, one of the few spaces in which we're able to stay connected. Short documentaries on Instagram.



FAR AWAY FROM FAR AWAY

BRUCE ALCOCK & JEREMY MENDES | 2021 | 25 MIN | O.E.V.

Far Away From Far Away is an interactive story inspired by the early life of visionary Zita Cobb. Written by Michael Crummey, it's about a young girl growing up on Fogo Island with her father during the 1960s and '70s. More than a historical retelling, it interprets its time and place, painting a vivid portrait of rural island life.

Designed exclusively for mobile devices, *Far Away From Far Away* uses simple, intuitive navigation to take us into rich, long-form storytelling.

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada, and led by creative directors Bruce Alcock and Jeremy Mendes. Filmed by Justin Simms, with assistance from Fogo Island high school students Bradley Broders, Liam Neil and Jessica Reid. Sound recordist Sacha Ratcliffe and sound designer Shawn Cole round out the key crew. Interactive story for smartphones.

INTERACTIVE PROJECTS



BUBBLE

JEUNES POUSSÉS 2019: GABRIEL TURCOTTE-DUBÉ, CAMILLE FOISY, LOUISE HAMMOUDA, DIANA AZIZ, MARIANNE BOURDAGES, MARIE-BLANCHE ROSSI, JONATHAN GAGNON & ANDRÉA HENRY-ETESSE | 2020 | 5 MIN E.V.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is increasing environmental alerts and urging the world's population to act. Climate model simulations project an increase in average temperatures of about 2°C by 2050 if no action is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to their predictions, we will face severe weather events and intense air pollution on a daily basis.

Bubble takes us to Montreal in 2050, in a world where no action has been taken to curb climate change. The solution humans have found to survive the hostile environmental conditions: put their heads in a bubble. At a time when our actions have an impact on the future of humanity, each person is now responsible for their own fate. [Interactive website for smartphones.](#)



MOTTO

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INTERACTIVE PROJECTS



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UN/TIED SHOES

EVIE RUDDY | 2019 | O.E.V

Growing up, Evie Ruddy didn't quite feel like a girl, or a boy, and resisted gendered expectations. Only recently, with the growing awareness of non-binary identities, did Evie move toward a more androgynous gender performance and begin using they/them pronouns. *Untied Shoes* tells the story of how gender conventions have impacted Evie's life, with footwear as markers along the way.

Untied is presented as an online shoe company, but visitors expecting to browse the latest styles will instead find a first-person

account of self-actualization and contesting categorization. Thanks to gendered fashion industry conventions, buying shoes and clothes that reflect their identity has been a lifelong challenge for Evie. Framing their story as an online shopping experience underscores the hardship many non-binary and transgender people face trying to reflect their gender identity in their outward appearance. Interactive website.

INTERACTIVE PROJECTS



CLIT ME

JEUNES POUSSÉS 2018: STÉPHANIE DUPUIS, MAUDE FRASER, NOÉMIE BEAULAC, AUDREY MALO, LÉA MARTIN, VINCENT PARADIS, CATHERINE SABOURIN & LAURENCE GÉLINAS | E.V.

Users play with their clitoris avatar by trying out different motion “techniques” on their smartphones to figure out what makes it happy. *Clit Me* aims to demystify female pleasure. Interactive website for smartphones.



ROXHAM

MICHEL HUNEALT | 2018 | 15 MIN | O.E.V
L.S.: ENGLISH, FRENCH

This immersive story centres on Roxham Road, a small section of the border where people are arrested and welcomed at the same time. Photographer Michel Huneault documented border interceptions of asylum seekers moving from the United States to Canada and their confusing quest for a safe place. Interactive documentary.



WAY TO GO

VINCENT MORISSET, PHILIPPE LAMBERT, ÉDOUARD LANCTÔT-BENOIT & CAROLINE ROBERT | 2015 | E.V.

Way to Go is a walk in the woods. It is an astonishing interactive experience, a restless panorama, a mixture of hand-made animation, 360°-video capture, music and dreaming and code—but mostly it's just a walk in the woods! Created by Vincent Morisset, Philippe Lambert, Édouard Lanctôt-Benoit & Caroline Robert (AATOAA). Produced by the NFB & France TV. Web experience.

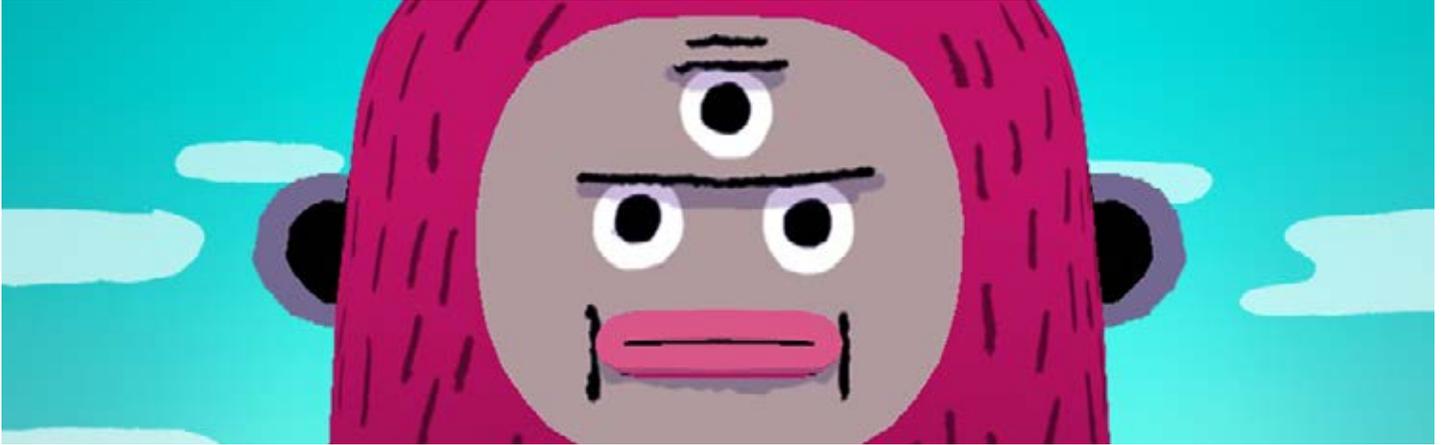


WELCOME TO PINE POINT

PAUL SHOEBRIDGE & MICHAEL SIMONS | 2013 | O.E.V.

An interactive documentary about what happens when you lose your job, when everyone you know loses their job, when your entire town is out of work, is shut down and dismantled, and completely disappears. Part book, part film, part family photo album, *Welcome to Pine Point* uncovers a place frozen in time and explores how our communities do more than define who we are. Interactive documentary.

INTERACTIVE PROJECTS



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