



SHORTS

2025

2025 FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

THURSDAY 3 APRIL

04 19:15 Feature Corner: The Commandant's Shadow + Q&A

FRIDAY 4 APRIL

05 09:30 Gifts

06-08 10:20 Experimental, Musical, Microshorts

09 11:20 End of Innocence

12:25 Filmmaker Q&A Panel for Morning Blocks

10 14:00 Lost In The Woods

11 15:00 Moving On

12 16:00 Love Is In The Air

16:45 Filmmaker Q&A Panel for Afternoon Blocks

13-14 19:20 Escapes? Followed by Filmmaker Q&A

SATURDAY 5 APRIL

15 09:45 The Power Of Music

16 11:00 Struggles

12:15 Filmmaker Q&A Panel for Morning Blocks

17 14:00 Trips

18 15:20 Unusual Encounters

16:35 Filmmaker Q&A Panel for Afternoon Blocks

SUNDAY 6 APRIL

19-20 14:00 Documentaries

16:00 Filmmaker Q&A Panel for Documentaries

ONLINE BLOCKS (7-12 APRIL)

21 Animated!

22 Children's Corner

23 International Drama

24 Life and Death

25 Sci-Fi

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Welcome to Oxford Shorts 2025

Welcome to our sixth edition. It's a painful start to the new year for me as I sit here typing this with several broken toes (don't ask!). The show must go on however, but if this year seems a bit quirkier than usual - it may well be down to this! We have returned to our original "Spring roots" during the Easter Vacation at St John's College, although it feels like only yesterday when we held the 2024 festival.

What treats do we have lined up for you this time? We have just under 100 short films. For sure, the animators are coming! Over 20% of this year's selections are animated short films. It's also great to see that we continue to have an almost 50/50 split between UK and International entries this year as well, the international entries coming from over 20 different countries around the world. Aside from supporting local filmmakers, we also continue to promote as many new voices as possible. Just under 40% of our entries this year come from first time or student filmmakers.

In terms of established filmmakers, we are excited to be showcasing the "wonderful" Best Animated short from this year's BAFTAs 'Wander To Wonder', alongside a number of this year's Academy Award Short Film Nominees. We have also gone beyond shorts this year for the first time to include a 'Feature Corner' screening. The feature we will play is the documentary 'The Commandant's Shadow' which will be followed up by a Q&A with the filmmakers.

The other change this year is holding dedicated filmmaker panels for the morning, afternoon or evening screenings. This allows filmmakers an opportunity to talk more about the making of their films and for the audience to ask questions. Being a hybrid festival, the films will also be available to watch online for a short time after the live screenings (there is always something you miss), plus there will be several wonderful and exciting new blocks to watch. If you are a film lover, we hope you will find something you love in our diverse line-up of films.

Andrew Carslaw (Festival Director)



THE COMMANDANT'S SHADOW



103mins / Dir: Daniela Volker

Documentary which follows Hans Jürgen Höss, the son of Rudolf Höss, the Camp Commandant of Auschwitz when he confronts his father's involvement in the murder of over a million Jews during the Holocaust. The film contains thematic content involving the Holocaust, some disturbing images, and smoking. Based on the real events which inspired the film 'The Zone of Interest'.

This special screening will be followed by a Q&A by the Director (Daniela Volker) and Executive Producers (Gloria Abramoff and Wendy Robbins).

Tickets to attend are free (subject to availability), booking prior to the event is required.

PSYCHIC SIMON



UK / 5mins / Dir: Sherice Griffiths

Simon tells his parents about his new career move, but their lack of belief in him causes a few problems...

FORTUNE TELL HER



UK / 10mins / Dir: Robert George Lane

A story about Gertrude, a lady with a remarkable gift to see the future. Starring Janice Connolly and Laurence Saunders.

EVER THERE



USA / 11mins / Dir: Daniel Grace

A grieving widower turns to a medium for solace, leading to an encounter that could unravel them both.

THE HAG STONE



UK / 10mins / Dir: Marie Macneill

A beach café-owner with no customers has a change of luck when she gets to know a local forager who is looking for hag stones. Is it down to magic or friendship that the beach café begins to attract custom?

MARIA CAMILA'S GIFT



COL / 12mins / Dir: Andrés Molano Moncada

In a park, Maria Camila, 9 years old, gives any passerby a piece of paper written by her. Immediately after reading it, people begin to impersonate different animals. What power does Maria Camila have to transform them?

CALL OF INISHMORE



IRE / 4mins / Dir: Luke & Jake Morgan

Musical ode to one of Ireland's most beautiful and beloved islands. The soft autumnal light, soaking the ruggedly timeless landscape, is the perfect accompaniment to Kurt Rosenberg's original music.

A TOI



FRA / 3mins / Dir: Stéphane Berla

We follow the growth of two characters, a red boy symbolizing masculinity and reality, and a blue girl embodying the feminine ideal and dreams. Each builds their own identity and cultivates their differences, only to meet again in adulthood to create a common work and merge their colors into a new one.

LAY ME DOWN (HMLTD)



UK / 5mins / Dirs: Emmanuelle Mohnblatt,

Sébastien Kirszenblatt, Marie Debolssy Henry meanders through Wyrmlands, the remains of England consumed by the giant worm of capitalism. Amidst his despair, he recalls an act of kindness. As a child, innocent and loving, he saved an injured worm. Perhaps salvation is possible if he can reconnect with his inner child. Track by HMLTD.

UH OH



UK / 2mins / Dir: Emily Freda Sharp

Welcome to the wonderful world of Bubble inc, where tomorrow's tech is here today. Take a tour and find out what the future has in store for you! Just don't burst anything.

CRY LIKE A GUY



UK / 4mins / Dir: Anthony Rubinstein

Kieran Bew leads us on an educational, emotional, gruff and goofy adventure through the hidden world of male tears. A feast for the feels.

EXPERIENCE



IUK / 2mins / Dir: Ben Lankester

An actress battles feelings of anxiety and self-doubt while preparing for an audition with a particularly poignant script.

IT'S TIME



USA / 4mins / Dirs: Jason Lindsey, Scott Krahn

A poetic film born from a personal journey of discovery. Set in early spring, in our backyard on the banks of the Sangamon River in Illinois, this cinematic ode gives voice to nature through stunning visuals and lyrical narration.

MEDITERRANEE



FRA / 4mins / Dir: Clément Soulmagnon

Dive into the sunny memories of the French Riviera with "Méditerranée," the new animated music video by the band Juniore. The singer Anna, nostalgic for her carefree days in Nice, takes us to a lively Mediterranean cove.

THE FESTIVAL



POR / 6mins / Dir: Randy Scott Steinlauf

Sitting in a cinema, a young couple excitedly awaits the start of a prestigious film festival, but becomes increasingly concerned while perusing the program's summaries of selected films.

(WONDERFUL) YOU



UK / 4mins / Dir: Valerie Goriaeva

A musical romance about an encounter at a cafe that leads the protagonists to reminisce about their relationship and its breakdown.

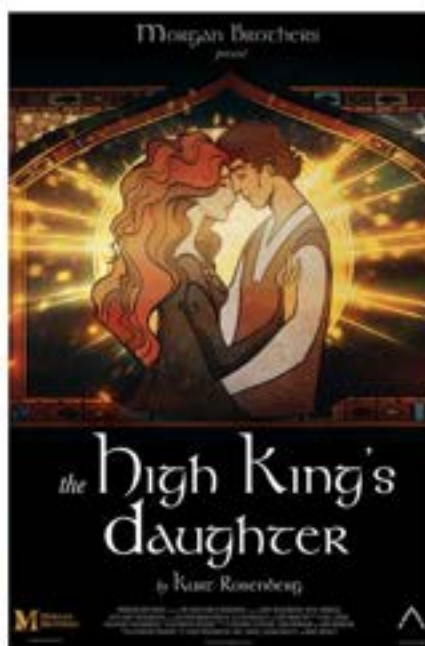
HENRY THE HOUSEPLANT



UK / 4mins / Dir: Amber Lee

An old woman is seen peacefully dusting her houseplant, taking care of its everyday needs when she realises a leaf has dried up. In a state of panic, the old lady goes above and beyond to take care of her beloved and only plant.

THE HIGH KING'S DAUGHTER



IRE / 5mins / Dir: Joël Gibbs

Ireland, 995-1014. A story of forbidden love between a young stable groom, Ruairi Ua Néill, and the youngest of High King Brian Boru's daughters. The two grow up together: one in the High King's court, one in the High King's stables.

HOT MESS



UK / 3mins / Dir: Tortor Smith

A voice message triggers all sorts of anxieties in Andro, but will they be pressured into trying to change their ways? Hot Mess offers an insight into the intrusion of emotional abuse and ADHD in a compact and creative way.

THE LAST GUNFIGHT... YET!



FRA / 3mins / Dir: Pablo Tréhin-Marçot

The Far West, its merciless universe, its heroes from another time... Main Street under a blazing sun. Two creatures face off in a duel under the wide-eyed gaze of bystanders and of the sheriff. It's the last gunfight... yet!

808



USA / 5mins / Dir: Sierra Schnack

A story about unmitigated joy in queer night-life, and the reality of choosing happiness over safety.

DEAR CHILD II



UK / 9mins / Dir: Devin Peters

Written as a letter to a child in Gaza by Pulitzer prize winning author Chris Hedges, the film takes the audience on a haunting and realistic journey through Gaza today from a child's perspective imbued with guilt of a foreign journalist that transcends the screen.

BEHIND THE POSE



USA / 15mins / Dir: Sally Lomidze

Teen Eastern-European model on the brink of losing her contract must redeem herself in one last photoshoot under threat of sexual exploitation and deportation.

TANNER'S FIELD



UK / 20mins / Dir: Jemma Field

In rural England a ten-year old boy is given new information about his mother's death. As his thoughts go into turmoil, his future is irrevocably changed.

WANDER TO WONDER



UK/BEL / 16mins / Dir: Nina Gantz

When the creator of an eighties kids TV show called "Wander to Wonder" dies, the three miniature actors from the series are left in the studio alone. They continue to make increasingly strange episodes for their fans...

THE REMOVED



UK / 8mins / Dir: Rebecca Rose

The Removed examines the life long effects of forced adoption and one woman's search for a lost past.

FOX HOLE



UK / 17mins / Dir: Tom Brittney

After witnessing the death of several of their friends in a bloody skirmish, three battle-worn British soldiers must decide the fate of a lone fifteen-year-old German soldier.

THE OVERLOOK



USA / 18mins / Dir: John Gray

An estranged couple reunite for a mysterious errand in the woods.

THE STROLL



SWE / 10min / Dirs: Lisa Hugoson, Jona Zart

Two ladies are writing a guest list to their soiree as they go on a very long stroll. Or is it more of a hike? Servant Sebastian, with his war injury, struggles to keep up with the ladies as their list of suitable guests is greatly reduced.

HOTLINE



USA / 7mins / Dir: Jeremiah Kipp

A Thanksgiving kitchen crisis gives two lonely strangers a heartfelt connection.

TALKING RUBBISH



UK / 11mins / Dir: Ian Donnelly

Carl's morning kicks off the way every hapless single mans does every week. Forgetting to put the bins out.

ALL I WANT TODAY



POL / 7mins / Dir: Magda Adamowicz

A 60-year-old organist going through a divorce attends a rock concert of her first love to see if the old flame still burns between them.

UNTIL TODAY



UK / 15mins / Dir: Megan Lyons

After her overbearing mother arranges a loveless marriage, a young aristocrat must consider the price of familial duty when it threatens a forbidden romance with her best friend.

YUCK!



FRA / 13mins / Dir: Loïc Espuche

Yuck! Couples kissing on the mouth are gross. And the worst is, you can't miss them: when people are about to kiss, their lips become all pink and shiny.

SHELF



UK / 6mins / Dir: Lawrence Rowe

A heart warming story about some unfortunate changes in Grant's (Don Warrington MBE) life, as he takes on a new challenge, a simple wooden shelf. How hard can it be?

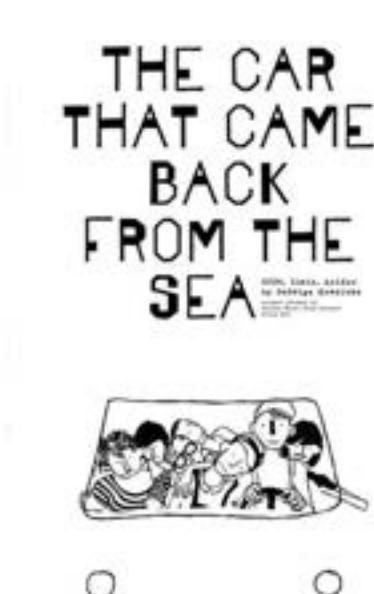
THE BLACK DUNE



PER / 16mins / Dir: Daniel Elkin

Two 14 year old boys find a map for what they believe to be a treasure hidden in the desert near their summer beach house. Against the warnings of the beach's caretaker, they venture out in search of it.

THE CAR THAT CAME BACK FROM THE SEA



POL / 11mins / Dir: Jadwiga Kowalska

Full of exuberance and frivolousness, six friends drive to the Polish Baltic coast and back in a small, dented car. During their trip, their car and their country fall apart. Nevertheless, life goes on.

SKELTER



UK / 11mins / Dir: Max Morgan

Skelter is a coming of age drama that takes place over a day at a fairground. The film follows Nip as she spends her last working at the show, leaving a wealth of memories, friends, and rides behind her.

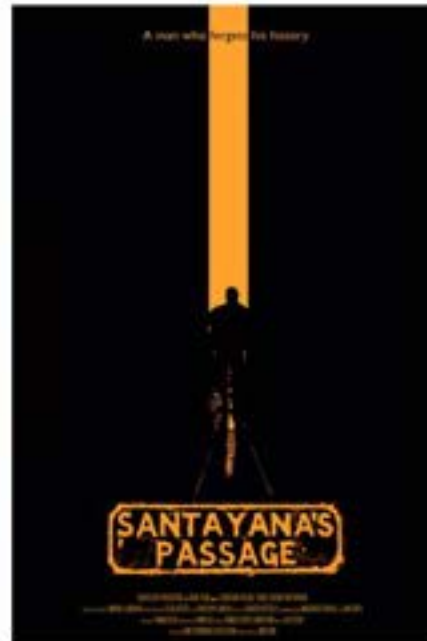
BADGER



UK / 5mins / Dir: Martha Crow

One afternoon whilst on a mission to save an injured Badger, Ella meets Josh. During their meeting, everything hangs in the balance as Ella learns how it feels to become the prey.

SANTAYANA'S PASSAGE



UK / 2mins / Dir: Mick Dow

A man who forgets his history ... Inspired by the spirit of a haiku poem.

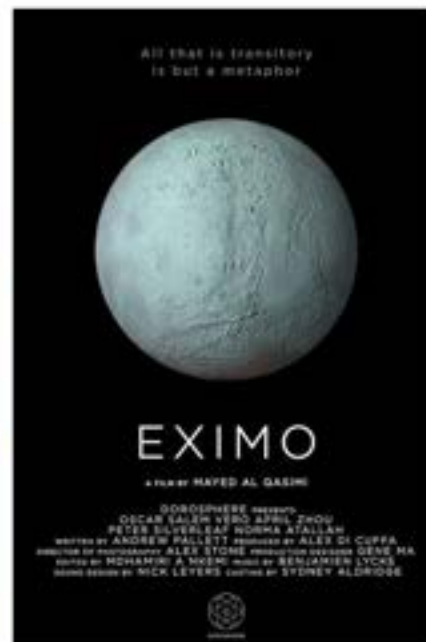
NIBBLING OF THE NIGHT



UK / 12mins / Dir: Gabi Bania

Suzy and Billy are an unhappy middle-aged couple whose affection has long faded away. One night, their depressing fate changes thanks to a visit by two female vampires.

EXIMO



UK / 20mins / Dir: Mayed Al Qasimi

Merald and Shaylyn are engineers working on a spaceship heading for the outer-reaches of Earth's solar system. A faulty relay in the Kepler drive leads to an emergency evacuation.

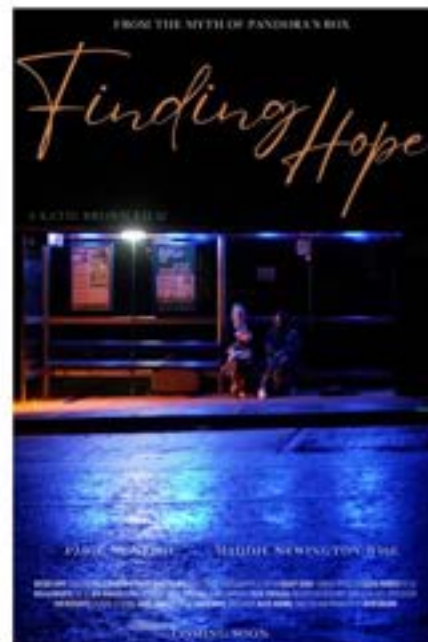
WALL CRIES



UK / 10mins / Dir: James Browning

The sister-like relationship between two childhood neighbours is darkened as they struggle to discuss what's happening behind closed doors.

FINDING HOPE



UK / 3mins / Dir: Katie Brown

Loosely based on the Greek myth of Pandora's box, Finding Hope is a three minute micro short that centres on two teenagers' (Hope and Pandora) forbidden romance. Sometimes in life it's the little moments that matter most.

ROCK-A-BYE



UK / 16mins / Dir: Spencer Anderson

Carla makes a fateful discovery that turns her whole world upside down mere hours before she's tied to a bank robbery lead by her toxic partner Clay.

THE POWER OF MUSIC (70mins)

SATURDAY 9:45 15

MUSIC TO DIE FOR



IRE / 15mins / Dir: Rebecca Doherty

A Northern Irish pianist seeks redemption for an attack on his former band during The Troubles when he unexpectedly encounters one of the bandmates at a gig years later.

LYRICAL



USA / 17mins / Dir: Carter M. Stewart

A privileged, Black law student, trying to escape pressure from his dad, finds himself in a potential police violence situation with a group of adjudicated youth on probation, led by a talented spoken word artist.

DISCORD



UK / 5mins / Dir: Jen Lim

At a young girl's first lesson with her new piano teacher tensions rise to an unexpected climax.

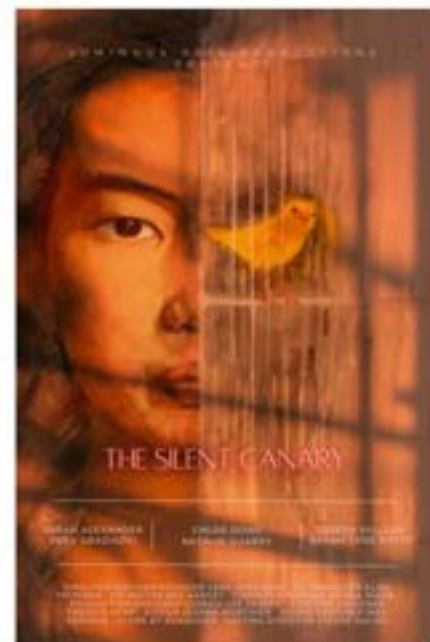
WINTER SONG



UK / 14mins / Dir: Kate Graham

A composer's reality unravels at an isolated Yorkshire house, as she battles the demands of work and early motherhood.

THE SILENT CANARY



FRA / 13mins / Dir: Vera Graziadei

When troubled Joy forms an unlikely bond with rebellious Kat and discovers who her new friend's secret boyfriend is, her own past trauma starts to resurface. She's faced with a difficult choice of either saving her friendship or saving her friend.

175



UK / 22mins / Dir: Kasra Karimi

Rural England, early 2013. Ruth and Juliet are waiting for the British Parliament to legalise same-sex marriage so can get married. But Juliet suffers from a terminal illness and doesn't have long to live. They are racing against time.

FRANCIE



UK / 11mins / Dir: Zoë Ellender

A grieving mother suffers from post-natal psychosis and struggles to be present for her family and the real world around her.

HAMDARDI

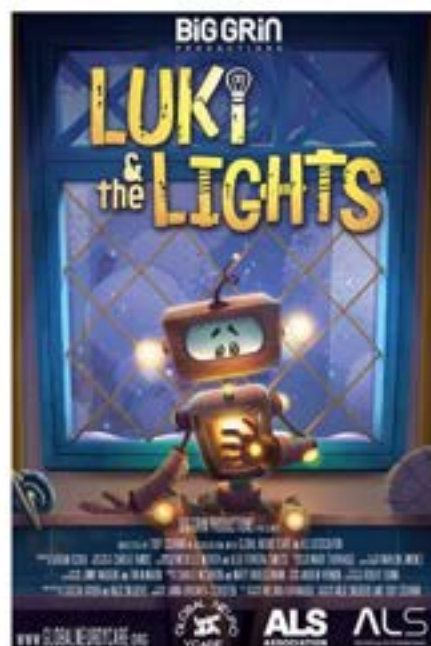


USA / 27mins /

Dirs: Ashley Tabatabai, Stefan Fairlamb

A bereaved immigration officer struggles with his role in the system after meeting a young Iranian brother and sister detained during the travel ban.

LUKi & THE LIGHTS



USA / 14mins / Dir: Toby Cochran

LUKi, a charming and upbeat robot known for living life to the fullest, confronts a life-altering ALS diagnosis.

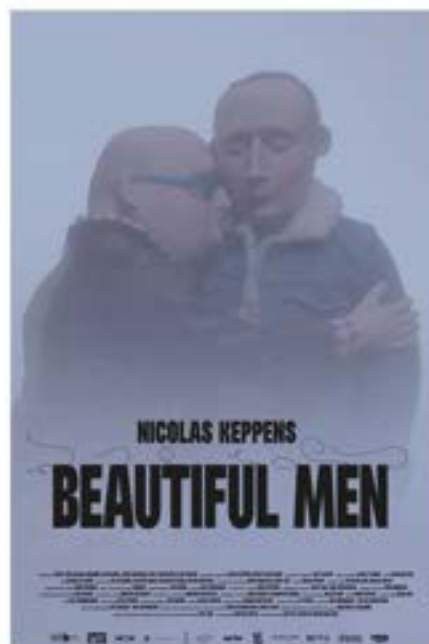
OCD & CHIPS



UK / 5mins / Dir: Joe Borg

Polly, who has Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD), navigates through her mundane routine until a customer's arrival triggers a series of intrusive thoughts and compulsions.

BEAUTIFUL MEN



BEL / 18mins / Dir: Nicolas Keppens

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

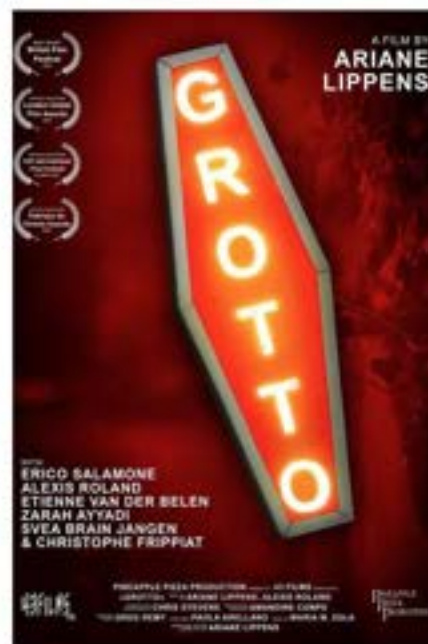
THE MIRACLE



BEL / 15mins / Dir: Nienke Deutz

40-year old Irma goes on a vacation to an all-inclusive resort. Soon after her arrival she realizes the place is meant for young families. Irma has to find her own place in this holiday paradise

GROTTO



BEL / 18mins / Dir: Ariane Lippens

A guided tour of a Belgian grotto takes an unexpected turn when a group of tourists stumble upon a clandestine cheese-maker who has concocted a recipe for a psychedelic delicacy that will transform their mere existence.

AU COEUR DU SON



FRA / 4mins /
Dirs: Marie Larrivé, Lucas Malbrun

"Au cœur du son" is a journey of initiation, an artistic wandering, a kind of daydream that Marie and Lucas try to embody with visual codes.

ELSEWHERE



SWI / 19mins / Dir: Anne Thorens

Isabelle is a young woman suffering from cystic fibrosis. At the age of 19, she tries to leave her family environment, which she shares with her mother and sister, to become independent through a solitary trip to Asia. But her family is not ready to let her take such risks.

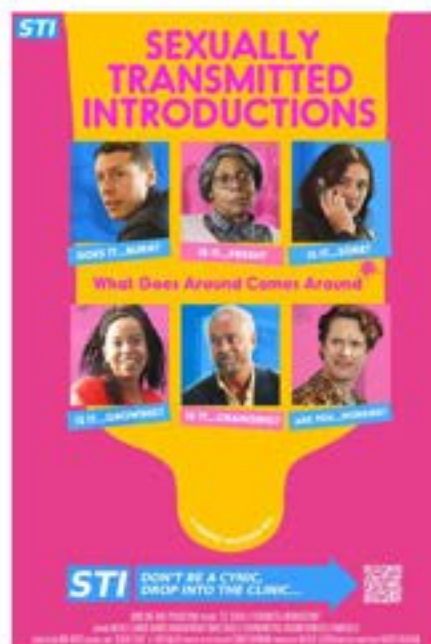
BOOK CLUB



UK / 5mins / Dir: Barbara Wiltshire

The first meeting of a new community book club is thrown off-track when an overly-zealous attendee tries to convince the group to read his favourite book: the sci-fi epic 'Lady Dalmide and the Crusade of the Cosmos'.

STI: SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INTRODUCTIONS



UK / 15mins / Dir: Harris Vaughan

A motley crew of promiscuous individuals find themselves forced together in their very worst nightmare: the local STI clinic. Opening up farcical truths and mind-altering revelations, they're catapulted towards a climax of excruciating consequences...

STUDS



UK / 15mins / Dir: Edward Russell

In a near-future world facing a population crisis, Harry Muckeridge and Mia Finch find themselves unwillingly paired in a bid to avert societal collapse. There's just one problem, they absolutely despise each other.

NERVOUS ELLIE



UK / 7mins / Dir: David Yorke

Ellie, new to dating and painfully shy, struggles to control her nerves during a date with Danni, resulting in some unexpected and shocking results.

PRETTY BONNETS



UK / 15mins / Dir: Mick Dow

Once upon a nowadays, a babywear designer turns vigilante when burglars break-in and the police won't come.

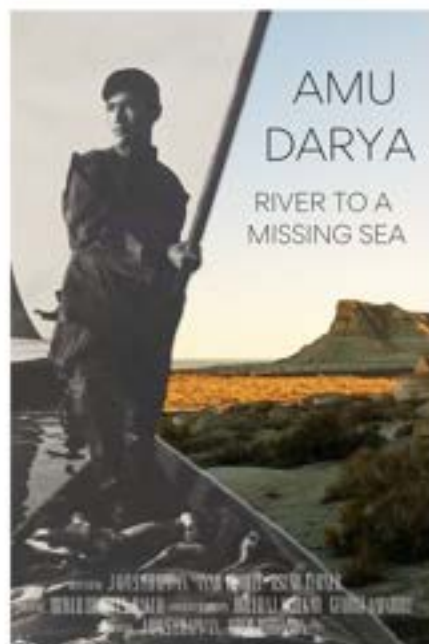
THE CARROT



UK / 15mins / Dir: Joakim Benum

A man travels back to his smalltown home to tell his parents about the disturbing discovery he made in his brothers freezer.

AMU DARYA: RIVER TO A MISSING SEA



UK / 28mins / Dirs: James Chapman, Oscar Fraser Turner, Annie Liddell

Amu Darya: River to a Missing Sea explores the memories of the Amu Darya - the Central Asian river that no longer reaches its original destination, the Aral Sea. Through tales of loss, adaptation, and hope, the film offers the human story of an environmental disaster.

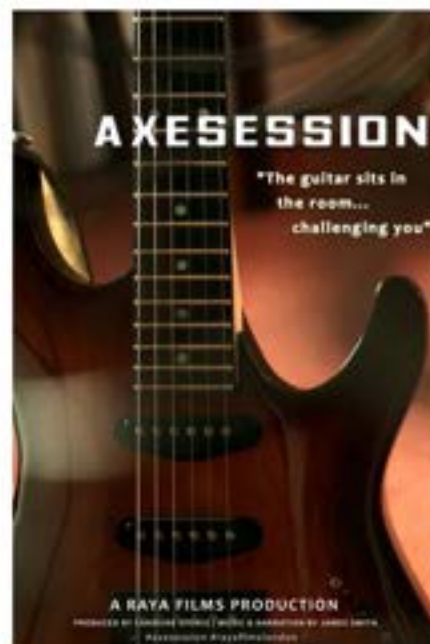
CAN YOU FIGHT FIRES AND DIABETES AT THE SAME TIME?



UK / 3mins / Dir: Jonathan Brodie

Andrea is at the crossroads of chemistry and material science, driven by a desire to apply scientific principles to practical solutions. With a deep personal interest in addressing both health and environmental challenges, she's innovating groundbreaking approaches to managing diabetes and combating wildfires.

AXESESSION



UK / 4mins / Dir: James Smith

One man's journey into obsession with a musical instrument he thought he could never play.

MILKING THE DOG



UK / 15mins / Dir: Joe Murphy

Phil Rochester battles to conquer Manchester's toughest standup contest, revealing the relentless drive of an artist to perform—even when he's not thanked by audiences for doing so.

BECOMING FAMILY



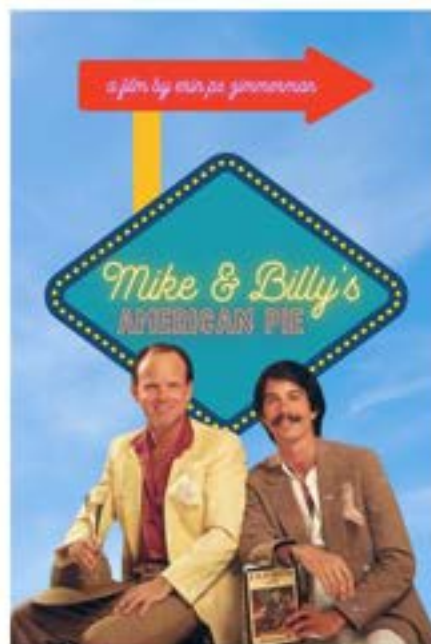
UK / 17mins / Dir: Amy James

An emotive documentary following the life story of Ross Cobbold, who now brings joy and colour to LGBTQ+ communities as he performs on stage as his alter ego, Lucy Caboosi.

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES (95mins)

20

MIKE AND BILLY'S AMERICAN PIE



USA / 20mins / Dir: Erin P.S. Zimmerman

In this heartfelt conversation with Billy Cross, he shares the profound story of his relationship with Michael James, a talented chef whose life was tragically cut short by AIDS.

LASTING TRACE



AUS / 5mins / Dir: Guy Wilkinson

A compelling portrait of a Melbourne tattoo artist, exploring the highs, lows, and untold truths of life in one of Australia's most artistically vibrant cities. Through their journey, the film unpacks the craft, challenges, and misconceptions surrounding the world of top-tier tattoo artistry.

NOSTOS



IRE / 11mins / Dir: Stella Skiadopoulou

Nostos is the return home; nostalgia the pain caused by this return. Following the stories of migrants living in Northern Ireland, present and past, reality and imagination, get blended in a poetic participatory documentary.

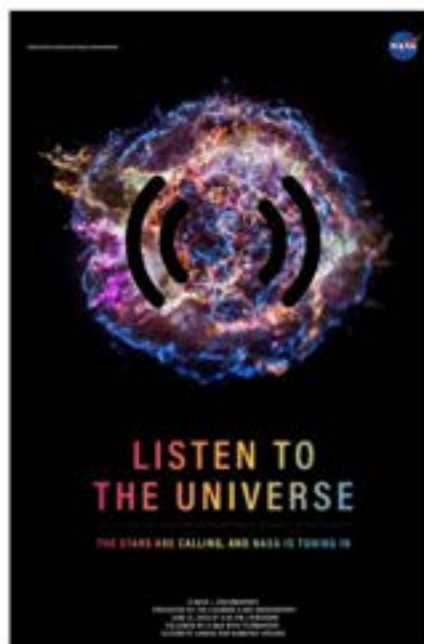
RUNNING AWAY TO THE CIRCUS



USA / 18mins / Dir: Courtney Carl

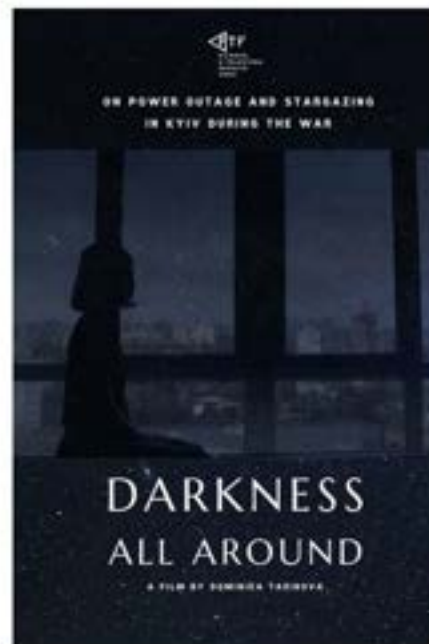
Marina Cherry left her small hometown of Missoula, Montana at age 16, and studied contortion at the prestigious École Nationale de Cirque in Montreal, despite having no formal circus training.

LISTEN TO THE UNIVERSE



USA / 27mins / Dirs: Elizabeth Rosa Landau, Kimberly Arcand
NASA is famous for beautiful space images, but did you know you can listen to them? Sonifications are translations of data into sound. We learn how meaningful they are to people who are blind or low-vision.

DARKNESS ALL AROUND



SVK / 15mins / Dir: Dominika Tarinová

The war in Ukraine goes on. During the winter, its capital Kyiv is turned into a city of shadows and silhouettes. The war has transferred from the trenches to ordinary households, and people are learning to adapt to life in the dark.

SUMMER 96



FRA / 12mins / Dir: Mathilde Bédouet

The eternal "August 15 picnic" on Callot Island. But this year, Paul, his family and their friends find themselves trapped by the tide. Paul, upset, stuck between the world of adults and that of children, becomes aware of his individuality.

MY BELOVED



ITA / 17mins / Dir: Paolo Franzelletti

In a world of pain and sorrow, despite war, two souls are searching for their path: John is a soldier, Janet is a medical doctor; will they find relief and happiness?

JAKE & PETE'S CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



UK / 20mins / Dir: Luke Marley

When the spirit of Christmas seems to have left a small town in Gloucestershire, Jake and Pete must find a way to restore it in time for Christmas. The UK's equivalent to South Park!

TINY TEACHING TALES



USA / 7mins / Dir: Julie Anne Burch

Tiny Teaching Tales bring us a world of wisdom where parents and little ones can learn about love, acceptance, friendship and so much more through the power of wonder and imagination....stories of wisdom...for us all.

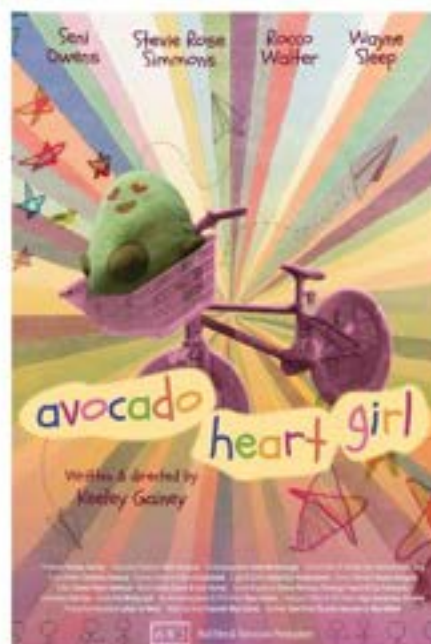
PURRSEVERANCE



USA / 7mins / Dir: Erin Main

A stray cat wanders the streets trying to make the best of a bad situation. This short was made as a thesis film and is digitally drawn from start to finish with no 3D elements.

AVOCADO HEART GIRL



UK / 19mins / Dir: Keeley Gaine

When David turns 11, he imagines having the best birthday but like every year of Davids life his sister, Leanne takes all the attention due to her disability. The kids at school are scared of Leanne and make fun of her and David so he cannot escape the world that revolves around Leanne.

I MADE THE TIME MACHINE



UK / 22mins / Dir: Luke Walters

When a burned-out university professor discovers a wild-eyed man claiming to be the legendary H.G. Wells, he's dragged into the adventure of a lifetime.

MINDY'S NIGHTMARE



USA / 10mins / Dir: Jeff Blyth

A young girl's first experience babysitting turns out to be more of an adventure than she expected and her mother's trust issues don't help!

BALLAD OF THE MOUNTAIN



IND / 17mins / Dir: Tarun Jain

An outcast must fight the class bullies to overcome her fears and pursue her ambition to fly to the other side of the mountain.

ROGER



GRE / 19mins / Dir: Thanos Mitsios

Kostis comes back from the grocery store when he gets attacked by a bunch of local kids who rule the area. Following his father's indifferent stance about him having troubles and not standing up for himself, Kostis attempts to approach the local gang in search of a new family where he will feel accepted and strong.

CHICKEN BROTH SOUP



TUR / 18mins / Dir: Deniz Büyükkırılı

A doctor comes across unusual symptoms from a man said to have died of a heart attack. When he examined the corpse, a big surprise awaits the doctor, who has to make a vital decision for the dead man's wife.

SHIFTING TIDES



BUL / 20mins / Dir: Yoan Petrov

After his mother dies, a distraught young man visits his estranged uncle in a lonely seaside village to determine what to do with the fortune she left behind.

MOTHER UP



USA / 9mins / Dir: Jake Thornton

A family argument over hay and donuts ignites a sagebrush rebellion in this dark comedy about our troubled times.

THE END WAS JUST THE BEGINNING



POR / 17mins / Dir: Antonio Aleixo

When Catarina finds out that she is pregnant, she questions the responsibility and consequences of bringing a child into this world and age.

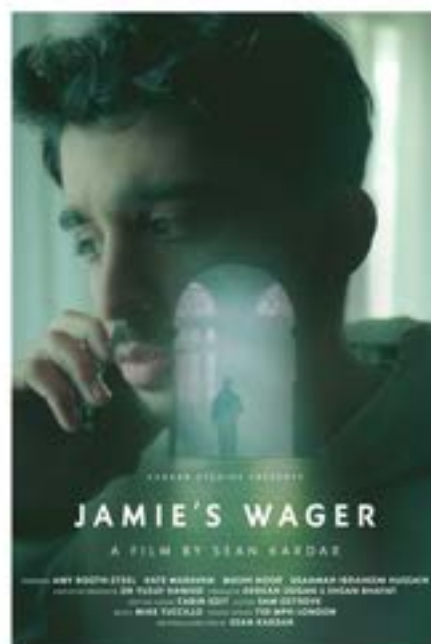
CAFE DIEM



KOR / 19mins / Dir: Yonggi Kim

Dora visits Cafe Diem to collect a signature for a redevelopment project, but soon realizes the cafe is more than it appears—it's a place that offers unconventional forms of mental therapy.

JAMIE'S WAGER



UK / 16mins / Dir: Sean Kardar

With the unexpected death of his father, Jamie finds himself in the middle of his Muslim uncle, Hafiz, and his father's New-Age girlfriend, Alicia, at the office of William's Funeral Directors.

DEAR MR WILLIAMS



UK / 21mins / Dir: Stefania Aronica

Anthony has recently lost his wife and has become withdrawn from life, resigned to his grief and loneliness. Concerned for her father's well-being, but unable to provide proper care, Anthony's daughter, take action and hires Isabella to be his caregiver.

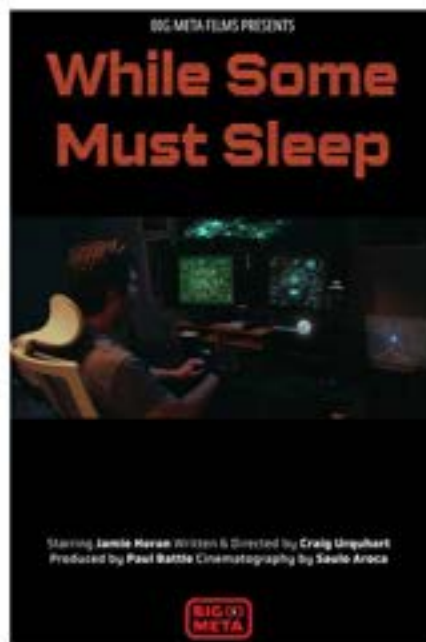
FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH



UK / 18mins / Dir: Ajitpal Babbra

Wealthy CEO Julian Murphy receives a mixed response when he reveals his new technology to the public.

WHILE SOME MUST SLEEP



CAN / 20mins / Dir: Craig Urquhart

Elliot decides to erase his past, but changes his mind when it's going to cost him his best friend.

COMPLIANCE



UK / 14mins / Dir: Anna-Maria Brehm

An estranged couple is forced to live together in an endless, dystopian lockdown.

LAPSO



ESP / 15mins / Dir: Cándido Pérez de Armas

An incomplete AI awakens in a dystopian world where the route marked in its synapse will give it the answer it seeks. Who are you?

About The Festival

Oxford Shorts celebrates the diversity and creativity of short films. We believe short films are an art form in themselves, ideally one which should be experienced together. We look for great stories with strong characters, unique voices, or evocative worlds that are designed to stir emotions.

Our inaugural festival ran on Saturday 23rd March 2019 at St John's College, Oxford. Tickets to the event sold out extremely quickly. The day attracted over 200 audience members across

three onsite venues, with over 90 films being played. Our line-up included the 2019 BAFTA-award winning animation *Roughhouse* by Jonathan Hodgson and a special interview with Academy Award-winning visual effects supervisor Paul J. Franklin (Oscar wins for *Inception* and *Interstellar*).

The pandemic forced the festival online for 2020. We played 135 entries over eleven weeks from 8 May to 23 July. Each week, we held live Q&A chats with filmmakers, and ran a number

of talks and masterclasses with our friends and sponsors. Since 2021 we have become a hybrid festival running both live screenings and online. In 2023, we rebranded from 'Oxford International Short Film Festival' to 'Oxford Shorts'.

2025 marks our sixth edition where we will play 97 new short films and for the first time, also include one full length feature film.



The Judges

OLIVIA CHAPPELL

A founder of Oxford Shorts, Olivia is an actor and voice artist. She has built a varied career across film, tv, theatre, commercials, musicals, comedy and more. Recent credits include: Liaison for Apple TV and understudying Lily James in *Lyonese* in the West End.

A skilled voice artist, Olivia voiced numerous characters in the highly acclaimed computer game, *Baldur's Gate 3*. She's also voiced campaigns for brands such as British Airways, Pearl Vision, and animations for Netflix and Nickelodeon.

Behind the camera, Olivia has produced a number of music videos and the BAFTA long-listed short film, *Driftwood*.

HARRY MACQUEEN

Harry is an actor and filmmaker from Leicester. In 2015 he wrote, directed, produced and starred in the micro-budget *Hinterland*, released by Curzon Cinemas. It was nominated for several awards including 'Best Debut Film' at the Beijing International Film Festival.

His second feature as a writer/director, *Supernova*, starred Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci. It was produced by Emily Morgan and Tristan Goligher with backing from BBC, BFI and Studio Canal. It was shortlisted for two BAFTA Awards including 'Outstanding British Film' and 'Best Film' at the European Film Awards.

He was the 2018 recipient of the Wellcome Trust Broadcast Award and a 2024 recipient of the Derek Jarman Residency as chosen by Tilda Swinton and Tacita Dean.

LAURA COQUEREAU

Fluent in four languages, Laura works in television production, spending her time between documentaries (both observational and retrospective) and current affairs. She specialises in content that requires working with sensitive contributors, being embedded within institutions and/or gaining access to high profile figures. Recently, Laura was Story Producer on a series for Falwell 73 Productions.

Documentaries include: *The Boys from Brazil: Rise of the Bolsonaros* (BBC); *Julia Bradbury: Breast Cancer and Me* (ITV); and *Current Affairs* BAFTA Winner, *Fearless: The Women Fighting Putin*.

LORENZO LEVRINI

Lorenzo is a Director of Photography based in London. He shot 'Amanda' for director Carolina Cavalli, which premiered at Venice Film Festival & Toronto International Film Festival to rave reviews.

Lorenzo also shot BIFA-longlisted feature *Sorority* starring Kate Dickie. Other credits include the drama portions of BAFTA-winning documentary, *Gun No.6*, as well as feature films *Redcon-1*, *An Enemy Within* and *Forever Now*.

LUCY MITCHELL

Lucy began her career as a runner at Envy Post Production, learnt on the job, working her way up to Senior Sound Editor. Now freelance, she covers all areas of audio post, specialising in Dialogue and ADR editing.

Credits include: *The Jetty*, *Boiling Point*, *Death in Paradise*, *Eastenders*, *The First Lady* and *Derry Girls*. Recently, her dialogue work was nominated on BBC's *Dodger* for "Excellence in Audio Post Production (Scripted)" at the Broadcast Tech Awards. Lucy writes for *Protocols Expert*, is a panellist for *The Media Production Show*, and has judged awards for RTS, Broadcast Tech and BAFTA TV.

Lucy runs LJ Studios, from her purpose-built, full-service audio post facility in her garden.



2025 Award Nominees

Best Film

- Elsewhere
- Francie
- Hamdardi
- LUKi & The Lights
- Wander To Wonder

Best Director

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Anne Thorens | Elsewhere |
| • Ashley Tabatabai,
Stefan Fairlamb | Hamdardi |
| • Carter M. Stewart | Lyrical |
| • Rebecca Rose | The Removed |
| • Zoë Ellender | Francie |

Best Actor

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| • Aaron Carnahan | Ever There |
| • AJ Dyer | Lyrical |
| • Edwin Flay | The Carrot |
| • James Doran | Music To Die For |
| • Tom Glenister | Foxhole |

Best Actress

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Aimée Cassettari | Francie |
| • Estelle Bridet | Elsewhere |
| • Georgie Glen | The Removed |
| • Name Önal | Chicken Broth Soup |
| • Suzanna Hamilton | 175 |

Best Young Performer

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| • Alejandro Carrillo | The Black Dune |
| • Cassandre Helfer | Elsewhere |
| • Chloe Dong | The Silent Canary |
| • Diya Bisht | Ballad Of The Mountain |
| • Rory Galvin | Tanner's Field |

Best Early Career Filmmaker

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Barbara Wiltshire | Book Club |
| • Dominika Tarinová | Darkness All Around |
| • Magda Adamowicz | All I Want Today |
| • Martha Crow | Badger |
| • Megan Lyons | Until Today |



Best Cinematography

- Elsewhere
- Francie
- Hamdardi
- The Black Dune
- Winter Song

Best Editing

- Badger
- Foxhole
- Nervous Ellie
- OCD & Chips
- Skelter

Best Music/Score

- Ever There
- Hamdardi
- Lay Me Down (HMLTD)
- LUKi & The Lights
- Winter Song

Best Script

- All I Want Today
- Lyrical
- OCD & Chips
- Roger
- The Overlook

Best Sound

- Elsewhere
- Foxhole
- Francie
- Hamdardi
- The Car that came back from the Sea

Best Animation

- Beautiful Men
- Hot Mess
- LUKi & the Lights
- Wander To Wonder
- Yuck!

Best Comedy

- Book Club
- STI: Sexually Transmitted Introductions
- Studs
- The Carrot
- The Stroll



Best Documentary

- Amu Darya: River To A Missing Sea
- Darkness All Around
- Milking The Dog
- Nostos
- Running Away To The Circus

Best Drama

- Ballad Of The Mountain
- Chicken Broth Soup
- Foxhole
- The Silent Canary
- Until Today

Best Experimental/Microshort

- Cry Like A Guy
- Dear Child II
- Finding Hope
- OCD & Chips
- Uh Oh

Best Horror/Thriller

- Badger
- Ever There
- Grotto
- Nibbling Of The Night
- Pretty Bonnets

Best Local Film

- Amu Darya: River to a Missing Sea
- Can You Fight Fires and Diabetes At The Same Time?
- Rock-a-Bye
- Skelter
- Wall Cries

Best Science Fiction/Fantasy

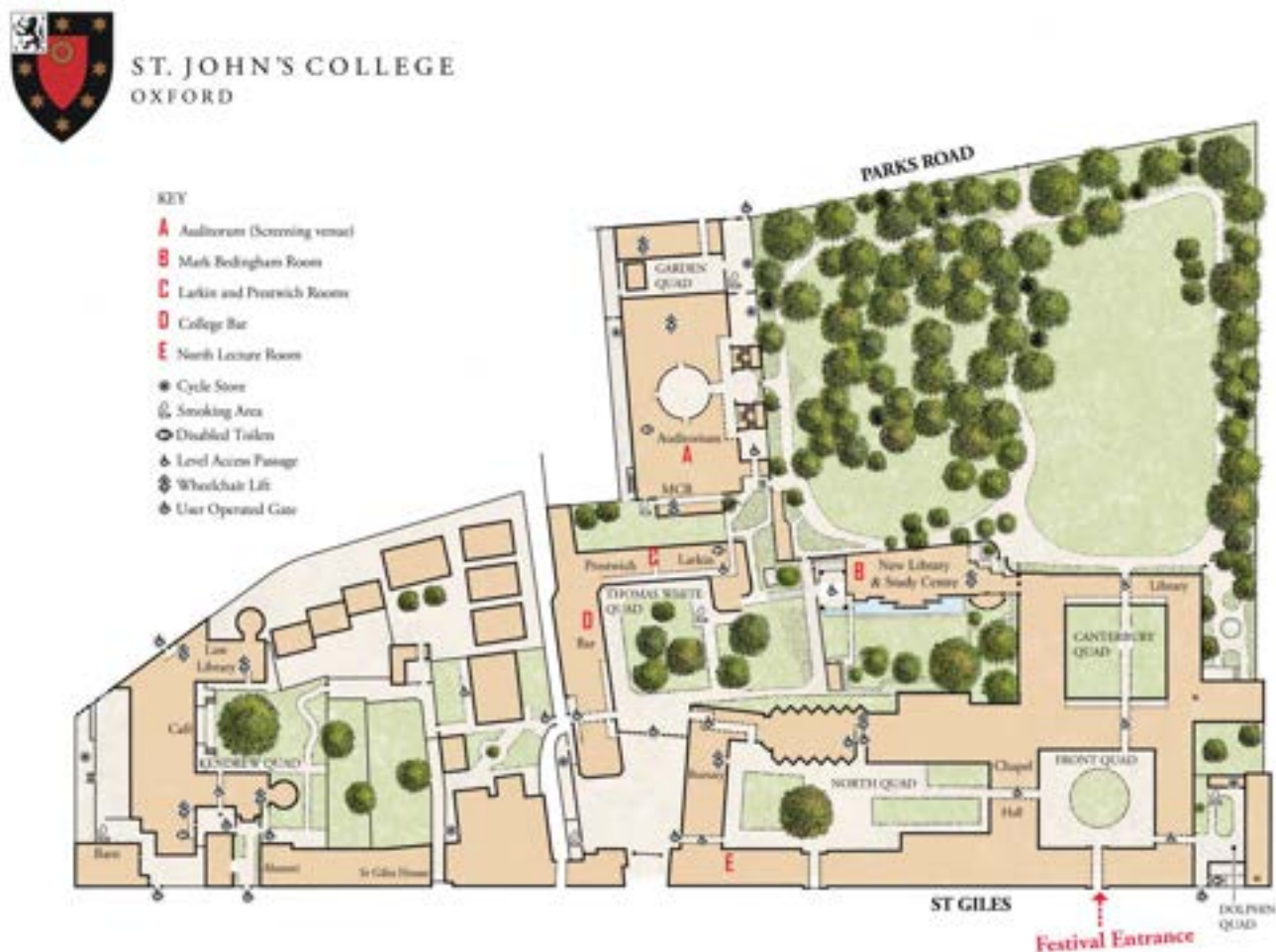
- EXIMO
- I Made The Time Machine
- Lapso
- The End Was Just The Beginning
- While Some Must Sleep

Additional Awards TBC at Awards Night**Best Online Film****Festival Team Award****Green Prize****Honorable Mentions**

MAP OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

Please enter the venue via the FRONT LODGE on St Giles Street (post code: OX1 3JP)

For additional information please visit the following page: <https://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk/discover/visit-us>



The festival registration desk is on the Auditorium entrance. It will be open at 10:00am each day. Please make sure you collect your wrist band before you enter the screening venue. If anyone has mobility considerations, please let us know in advance so we can advise/help. Please note the Auditorium can be tricky to find. Please follow the signage on the day and we strongly recommend you look at our online video tour in advance:

<https://youtu.be/DSKYsVeGCRc>

Please note: No food or drink can be taken into the screening venues

THINGS TO DO IN OXFORD

Museums

- **Natural History Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum** – Explore these famous museums and their collection of historical artefacts <https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/> and <https://www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk/>
- **Ashmolean Museum** – Visit the Ashmolean to relish at it's collection of historical pieces spanning hundreds of years and from all over the world <https://www.ashmolean.org/>

Sights of Interest

- **Bodleian Library** – Visit the World-famous Bodleian library which houses over 12 million items and is the 2nd largest library in Britain. <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>
- **Bridge of sighs** – The Bridge of Sighs is one of Oxford's most recognisable landmarks
- **Oxford Castle and Prison** – Explore 1000 years of Oxford within these old buildings <https://www.oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk/>
- **University of Oxford** – The main reason to visit Oxford, take in as many colleges as you like as you visit the city <https://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors/visiting-oxford/visiting-the-colleges?wssl=1>
- **Oxford University Parks** – Take some time and explore the University parks for free and revel in the peace and quiet they hold <https://www.parks.ox.ac.uk/article/1>

Shopping

- **Westgate shopping centre** – If shopping is your thing, check out the latest shopping centre in the heart of Oxford boasting over 100 shops, restaurants and cinema <https://westgateoxford.co.uk/>
- **The Oxford Covered Market** – The Market has been open since 1774 and is the perfect place to explore the various stores <http://oxford-coveredmarket.co.uk/>

Fun Activities

- **Oxford Ghost Tour** – Take a tour around the spooky parts of Oxford in the city's own historical ghost tour <https://www.oxfordghosttours.com/>
- **Thirsty Meeples** – If board games are your thing, you should check out Thirsty Meeples, the board game café in the heart of the city centre, be sure to book though! <https://thirstymeeples.co.uk/>
- **Oxford Ice Rink** – If you fancy a spin in the ice, take a trip to the Ice Rink and glide round the rink <https://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/oxford-ice-rink/>
- **Punting** – Take a trip on the world famous Oxford Punts and take a trip up the River Thames <http://www.oxfordpunting.co.uk/>



University Rooms (for an authentic ‘Oxford’ experience):

There are over 40 University Colleges in the city. The most cost-effective alternative to staying at St John’s College is to stay at one of the other colleges located nearby. The nearest colleges to the festival are neighbours Balliol, Trinity, Keble or Wadham – all of which are lovely and would offer an authentic Oxford experience. If you don’t mind walking around the city there are also plenty of alternatives also. To book a room at another college visit the University Rooms website at:

<https://www.universityrooms.com/en-GB/city/oxford/home/>

Travelodge (located on the outskirts of the city):

There are two Travelodge hotels either side of Oxford which come with car parking. Both of these options are conveniently located by the regular Park and Ride service which will shuttle you in to the city every 15-20 minutes. We recommend to avoid parking anywhere near the city centre as the city is old and parking is extremely limited and very expensive!

<https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/60/Oxford-Peartree-hotel>

<https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/599/Oxford-Abingdon-Road-hotel>

For those on a budget:

For those looking for a more budget-friendly option, there are not that many options aside from the University Rooms and Travelodge options. One other option to consider is the Easy Hotel (located in a quieter location on the city outskirts – you will probably want to bus down the road to the venue unless you don’t mind taking a 30-40 minute stroll):

<https://www.easyhotel.com/hotels/united-kingdom/oxford/oxford>

Elsewhere in the city – boutique and luxury options:

There are a number of boutique hotels located close to the venue. If money is no object and you would like to treat yourself – here are some hotels to consider: <https://www.booking.com/city/gb/oxford.html>

The nearest is the world famous [Randolph hotel](#) (as featured in many Inspector Morse episodes), but there are also plenty of other lovely alternatives such as The Old Bank or The Old Parsonage (conveniently located just down the road from the festival venue). More recently a new hotel called [The Store](#) has just opened down the road which offers lovely roof-top views – but this is on the luxury side. You can even stay in Oxford’s old prison ([Malmaison](#)).





SHORTS