

SHORTS - SR Film Festival New York - 2016

(34 short films)

- **Abrazos** - New York Premiere

Luis Argueta | USA/Guatemala | 2014 | 44'

Abrazos tells the transformational journey of a group of U.S. citizen children who travel from Minnesota to Guatemala to meet their grandparents for the first time.

Themes: Immigration, Family Separation, Children and Cultural Identity

- **A Hearth of our Own** - New York Premiere

Gabrielle Ewing | USA/Ireland | 2015 | 24'

Forced out of Ireland after the economic collapse of 2008, Jacob is now one of 50,000 undocumented Irish immigrants living in the United States. He faces the threat of deportation unless he can marry an American girl—for papers instead of love.

Themes: Immigration, Marriage

- **‘ĀINA: That Which Feeds Us** - New York Premiere

Josh Thome and Dave Mossop | USA/Hawaii | 2015 | 23'

‘ĀINA (pronounced "eyenah") means that which feeds us in the Hawaiian language.

The film highlights a way to address some of the most pressing environmental and health crises facing the island of Kauai and of Island Earth.

Themes: Environment, Health

- **A Single Step** - New York Premiere

Beth Mendelson | USA | 28'

Inspired by the pivotal 4th World Conference on Women held in Beijing, *A Single Step* explores women's leadership.

Themes: Activism, Women, Leadership

- **A Social Life** - New York Premiere

Kerith Lemon | USA | 2015 | 9'

Meredith is an ambitious career girl who wants to have it all in this hyper-connected day and age.

Themes: Career Women, Social Media

- **Bodies of Resilience** - North American Premiere

Jill Woodward | USA/ GREECE | 2015 | 9'

A poetic exploration of the ephemeral nature of the immigration experience in Greece through dance.

Themes: Immigration, Dance

- **Border** - New York Premiere

Itshc Mahler | Israel | 2014 | 17'

Daniel is a black man, a refugee from Sudan, and lost in the desert that forms the buffer zone between Egypt and Israel. Anna is a young Eastern European woman. When Daniel and Anna meet in the desert they share no common language, both have a common goal - the border with Israel.

Themes: Borders, Racism, Refugees

- **Cinémétèque** - New York Premiere

Hassan Hamza | France | 2013 | 7'

Djamel has been an actor for about ten years but never had a part in a movie. He is passing an audition.

Theme: Acting, Stereotypes

- **Deconstructing Facebook** - New York Premiere

Meredith Stern | USA | 2015 | 30'

Facebook has become our constant companion and is as often a place to share good news as it is a mirror and amplifier of our insecurities, but we don't ever talk about its impact on our lives.

Themes: Social Media, Social Effects

- **Eclipse** - US Premiere

Ara Yernjakyan | Armenia | 2014 | 14'

Every war crime creates a new one. The heaviest blow and the gravest burden falls on the children who suffer and whose fates are forever changed or destroyed.

Theme: Family, Armenian Genocide, War crimes

- **Gen A** - World Premiere

Napat Tangsanga | Thailand | 2014 | 10'

How can the old generation communicate with the new generation through social media?

Themes: Social Media, Generation gap

- **Girl on the Moon** - North American Premiere

Aren Malakyan | Armenia | 2015 | 30'

This film captures the first steps of disabled people and how they try to change the course of their lives through dance.

Theme: Disability, Dance, Armenia

- **Greg Taylor - Ghost** - New York Premiere

Gregg Jamback and Jamie Huss | USA | 2014 | 30'

Greg Taylor spent 17-years in prison for a crime he did not commit. These interviews were taken just before his release.

Theme: Exoneration

- **How to Cross from Jiliz to Jiliz** - New York Premiere

Marineh Kocharyan and Sona Kocharyan | Armenia/Georgia | 2014 | 15'

They say there is a border, but none of the villagers have ever seen it. Lousine is a little girl who dreams of getting together with her grandmother and her other relatives who live on the other side of the border one hundred meters away.

Theme: Borders, Georgia, Armenia

- **Hungry** - New York Premiere

Jillie Simon and Thomas Simon | USA | 2015 | 23'

Allison, a shy, idealistic grade school teacher, has a fear of speaking up in public (other than in front of her kids). But when she finds out that children in her school are going hungry - thanks to federal cutbacks in the school lunch programs - it compels her to do things she wouldn't have thought she could do, including confronting a Congressman, in order to help the children.

Themes: Activism, Child Hunger, School System

- **Hungry for Love** - North American Premiere

Justin Ambrosino | USA | 2015 | 15'

Two down-and-out foodies meet for the first time and embark on an all night dining adventure through Sapporo, Japan in search of self-acceptance and love.

Themes: Food Addiction, Obesity, Self Image

- **I Say Dust** - New York Premiere

Darine Hotait | USA/Lebanon | 2015 | 15'

I Say Dust explores poetry in cinema through the story of two Arab-American women in New York City who fall in love, argue home and identity, engage in a chess battle, and express themselves through the power of the spoken word.

- **Little Father** - US Premiere

Ioana Tucan | USA/ Iran | 2015 | 8'

An illegal immigrant has to decide if he goes home to deal with a family crisis without being able to come back or remain in US investing in the new life he's trying to build.

Theme: Immigration

- **Moving Stories** - New York Premiere

Nora Armani | USA | 2012 | 18'

The story of two women linked by an apartment from which one is moving out and the other in. For the first one this is a definitive move and the closing chapter after 40 years in this apartment, while for the second it is just a stage, one more move along many, and the start of a new life.

Themes: Moving House, Changes in Lifestyle, Women

- **My Beautiful White Skin** - New York Premiere

Stuart Gatt | UK | 2015 | 19'

Parita, a talented British-Indian girl, desperately tries to lighten her skin in time for a Bollywood Audition.

Themes: Racial Pressures, Acting, Stereotypes, Women

- **Now I Know** - International Premiere

Anna Bayatyan | Armenia | 2015 | 19'

Everything is possible when you believe.

Theme: Hope

- **Oil Palm Free Islands - Indonesia** - New York Premiere

Sophia Cheng | UK/Indonesia | 2015 | 7'

From outsiders to political representatives, the indigenous struggle in the Mentawai Islands is a 20 year struggle to be heard. We learn this through the eyes of Gugen, a future Indigenous leader, as he meets the villagers, shamans, newspaper and radio stations that unify these threatened islands.

Theme: Environment, Indigenous people, Shamanism

- **One, if by land** - New York Premiere

Nandini Sikand | US/Mexico/UK | 2015 | 14'

An experimental short film that explores the politics of undocumented immigration to the global North via land, sea and air.

Themes: Immigration

- **Plus!** - World Premiere

Sandra Chuma and Kalisha Whitman | USA | 2015 | 25'

In the fashion industry, the majority are the minority. 'Plus-size' is virtually invisible in mainstream fashion, despite the fact that 65 percent of American women are size 14 or larger. PLUS! tells the story of five women trying to change that.

Theme: Plus Size Models, Women

- **Reclaiming Pakistan** - New York Premiere

Lisa Donato | USA/Pakistan | 2015 | 8'

A civil rights activist, Mohammad Jibrán Nasir, sparks a social revolution after almost 140 children were killed in the Peshawar Army School tragedy.

Themes: Activism, Revolution, Pakistan

- **Shattered** - New York Premiere

David Hovan | Canada/Armenia | 2015 | 10'

Memories of war and chaos forged in a man's psyche, haunt him during a church service.

Themes: War, PTSD

- **Streamline Your Care™** - New York Premiere

Sarah Bullion | USA | 2014 | 5'

Congress has found a way to make women's healthcare affordable, efficient and convenient for everyone... except the patient.

Themes: Health Care, Women, US Congress

- **The Milk Man** - New York Premiere

Amitabh Joshi | USA/ Nepal | 2015 | 10'

Kedar Phuyal's entire house collapsed during the earthquake on April 25th, 2015. He was forced to move his entire family into a small shed only a few hundred feet away from the remnants of his old home.

Themes: Natural Disaster, Family, Survival

- **The Tent** - US Premiere

Stratos Gabrielidis | France | 2014 | 8'

Marc, picks up his five years old daughter Lula at his ex wife's place for the holidays. Despite the economic crisis, his unemployment, and the fact that he is totally broke, he wants to keep his promise to Lula; to take her to the sea...

Themes: Single parents, Economic hardship, Self determination

- **The Wheel** - North American Premiere

Daniele Esposito | Italy | 2015 | 15'

It is early morning and Andrea is driving his car half asleep. For a split second he does not notice a cyclist and runs him over. Andrea gets out to help the victim, but as no one witnessed the accident...

Themes: Medical assistance, Ethics, Karma

- **Three** - World Premiere

Jane Wells | USA/Syria | 2015 | 15'

A solemn documentation of the true cost of war. The word refugee anonymizes the Syrians who have fled the violent civil war, making it easy to stay detached from the human price of the conflict.

Themes: Middle East, Refugees, Syria

- **Two and Twenty Troubles** - New York Premiere

Victor Ilyukhin | USA/Russia | 2015 | 21'

Anthony Lopez and Rachel Handler, two disabled actors (both amputees), intend to restart their career after a long hiatus. Both meet each other at the Nicu's Spoon Theater - a company whose mission is to give an opportunity to both disabled and non-disabled actors of various ages, gender, races and cultural backgrounds alike.

Themes: Disability, Overcoming Fears, Acting

- **Vision: Healing the Blind in Ethiopia** - New York Premiere

Eric Perlman | USA/Ethiopia | 2014 | 16'

Five blind Ethiopian villagers sit in their earthen huts, trapped in the darkness and waiting for death, and then their world changes.

Themes: Blindness, Disability, Recovery

- **Where is the Euphrates, Son?** - New York Premiere

Rouben Pashinyan | Armenia | 2015 | 15'

The film is based on R. Pashinyan's story "Where is the Euphrates, Son?" about the Armenian tourist grandfather from the USA who comes to Armenia in search of the river that became a cemetery for many.

Themes: Genocide, Memory