

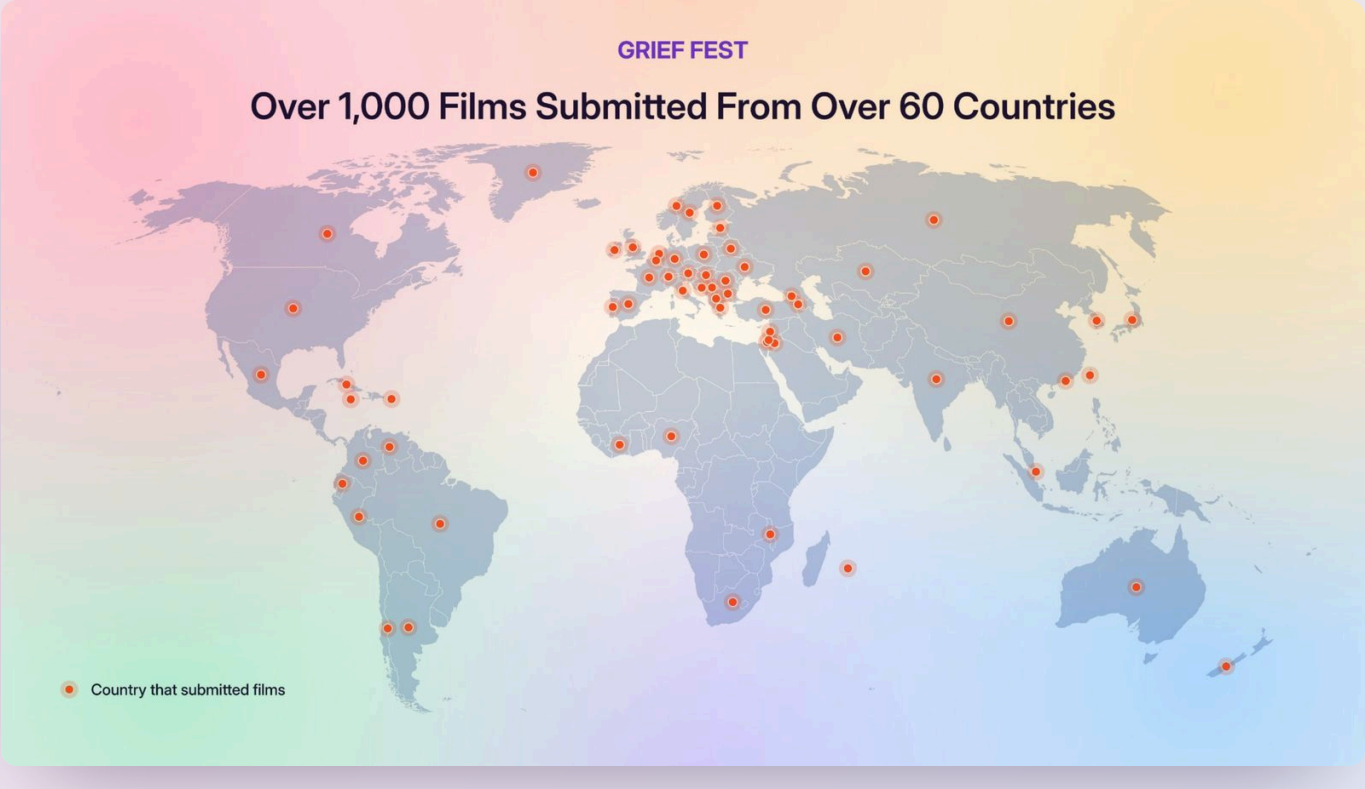
GRIEF FEST

2026 OFFICIAL FILM SELECTIONS

GriefFest.com

GRIEF FEST 2026

Over 1,000 Films Submitted From Over 60 Countries



GRIEF FEST 2026

Official Selection Categories



GRIEF FEST 2026 · OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

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Yesterday & Tomorrows

The Official Selections

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

A BEAUTIFUL DAY



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 9 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024 · ENGLISH

Two Strangers share a park bench and reminisce about their mistakes and losses in life.

CREDITS

Director Ryan Nunes
Writer Ryan Nunes
Producers Ryan Nunes, Alyssa Botelho
Cast Jennifer Drummond, Dhanya Lott, Nancy Gair

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE TREE OF LIFE



EDUCATIONAL / INFORMATIONAL FILM · 21 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

I explore the life-changing resonances of two films: The Tree of Life (2011) and A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (2019). Drawing on the film philosophy of Daniel Frampton, I explain how the films have changed my consciousness, especially as they "speak" to each other within my mind, and especially as they resonate with my memories of my late father.

CREDITS

Director Elsie Walker
Writer Elsie Walker

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

A BEAUTIFUL MESS



NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM, COMEDY OR DRAMEDY FILM, EXPERIMENTAL FILM · 78 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

While giving a “TED” type talk about grief, the speaker gets more than she bargained for when three spirits from her past begin to disrupt the show, causing her to question everything she thought she knew about death.

CREDITS

Directors Angel Davis, Savannah Shoenecker
Writer Angel Davis
Producers Peter Hermes, Angel Davis
Cast Angel Davis, Kelcey Watson, Andre Williams, Sam Alfiler

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

A BEGINNING FOR THE FINAL SONGS OF A RIVER



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 70 MIN · GERMANY, IRAN · 2025 · PERSIAN

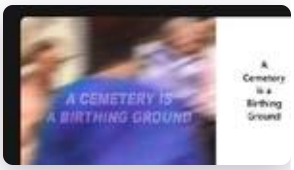
Filmed over six years, this documentary follows the changing fate of the Zayandeh Rood river in Iran. Through the perspectives of local farmers and communities, it portrays the environmental and social challenges linked to water use and policies. With a poetic yet reflective tone, the film illustrates the river's cycle of opening and closing as a metaphor for endurance and hope.

CREDITS

Director Meysam Oghbaei
Writer Meysam Oghbaei
Producer Meysam Oghbaei

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

A CEMETERY IS A BIRTHING GROUND



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 3 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2023 · ENGLISH

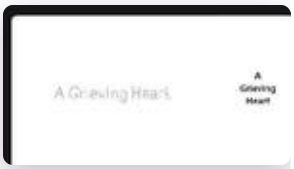
Ona gives some insight into the rhythms and movements of life, including an interesting perspective on cemeteries.

CREDITS

Director Michael Lentz
Writer Ona O Miller
Cast Ona O Miller

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

A GRIEVING HEART



ANIMATED FILM · 12 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025

An immigrant woman examines her past in the wake of her American ex-boyfriend's death. The film explores how love and loss impact the ways she confronts her identity, memories, insecurities, and regrets.

CREDITS

Director Wendy Cong Zhao
Writer Wendy Cong Zhao
Producer Wendy Cong Zhao
Composer Frances Chang

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

A SACRED PAUSE



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 30 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Formerly entitled "Selah", A Sacred Pause was filmed entirely at Selah Carefarm, the world's first carefarm for traumatic grief.

This 30-minute documentary follows the stories of those who come to this sacred place seeking solace, connection, and the strength to keep going. Among them is Erik, a father and farmhand at Selah who is rebuilding his life after the recent murder of his three young children: Joanna, Terry, and Sierra. Now, with his newborn daughter Josie in his arms and his partner Shiloe by his side, Erik walks the fragile path between joy and sorrow, between honoring the dead and loving the living.

At the heart of Selah's vision is Dr. Joanne Cacciatore, who founded the carefarm after the death of her own daughter, Cheyenne, at birth. Guided by her compassionate philosophy, Selah offers no platitudes or quick fixes; simply a space where grief is witnessed, honored, and carried forward with care.

Woven through Erik's story is a four-day grief workshop, where we follow six bereaved individuals as they navigate their own losses with the accompaniment of Selah's team. Their journeys, alongside Erik's and Dr. Jo's, reveal the quiet courage it takes to keep living in the shadow of profound loss.

CREDITS

Director Jonathan Bregel
Writers Jonathan Bregel, Steven Hoover
Producers Jonathan Bregel, Ien Chi, Paige Demarco
Cinematographer Ryan Sanderson; Post-Producer: Steve Hoover; Colorist: Matt Riggieri; Executive Producer: Jonathan Bregel, Danny Yourd; Sound Mix and Design: Tyler Myers; Titles: Ryan Ormsby

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

ANGEL



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 22 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024 · ENGLISH

The two adult kids of an alcoholic retired Navy Officer, maneuver their way through his funeral preparations and grief, by trying to put his unfinished last beer in the coffin, so he won't get sober in the afterlife.

CREDITS

Director Anna Koukouli Born
Writer Anna Koukouli Born
Producers Ann Allsopp, Jonathan Akkawi
Cast Nicole Ansari-Cox, Rachael Hip-Flores, Jarrod Bogan

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

B CELLS: A CHEMOTHERAPY POEM



EXPERIMENTAL FILM · 3 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

A visual and poetic journey through the experience of chemotherapy for Large B Cell Lymphoma. Dedicated to Bonita Doan, 2x cancer survivor.

CREDITS

Director WILLIAM DOAN
Writer WILLIAM DOAN
Producer WILLIAM DOAN
Cast Josephine Wilson

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 93 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Beautifully Broken is a powerful documentary about mental health, PTSD, and suicide awareness, told through the lens of ultra running and endurance sports. This inspiring film follows Jared Buchanan as he takes on the Cocodona 250, a grueling 250-mile ultra marathon through the unforgiving Arizona desert—marking the 10-year anniversary of his father's death by suicide.

Jared's journey began with a heartbreaking mission: to honor his father, a dedicated police officer, who left behind a final note with the words, "Make my death an issue so you can help others like me." Determined to turn his pain into purpose, Jared pushes his body and mind to the limit, using ultra running as a tool for healing and raising awareness for PTSD, trauma, and suicide prevention.

Through raw storytelling, breathtaking cinematography, and intimate interviews with mental health advocates, endurance athletes, and survivors, Beautifully Broken sheds light on the silent battles millions face every day—and the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit.

Beautifully Broken is a movement for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. A testament to the power of physical endurance, mental fortitude, and the will to keep moving forward—one mile at a time.

CREDITS

Director Daniel Herzog
Writer Daniel Herzog
Producer Daniel Herzog

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BEFORE I GET SILLIER



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 41 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Before I Get Sillier is a documentary Alex is making about his mom, Colleen—a woman whose life has been shaped by reinvention, resilience, and an evolving sense of what matters.

After a sudden medical crisis in her fifties left her with memory loss and a rare neurological condition, Colleen was forced to relearn her own life while continuing to live it. The film follows how she makes sense of her world now—through fragments of memory, daily routines, and a determination to remain independent as uncertainty has become part of everyday life.

What begins as a way for Alex to document his mom's story becomes something more: an attempt to understand a life that extends far beyond his perspective, and one that continues to shift in ways neither of them can fully predict.

It's a film about memory, identity, and the persistent ways people hold onto themselves as everything changes.

CREDITS

Director Alexander Edwards
Cast Colleen Combs

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BEGGING ("A DIOS LE PIDO")



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · SPAIN · 2026 · SPANISH

Vera, a 10-year-old girl, spends an afternoon with her grandmother Luna, who is battling cancer. Through small everyday moments, Vera clings to their bond as she faces the idea of loss for the first time.

CREDITS

Director Ester Moyá
Writer Ester Moyá
Producer Ana Fasolato

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BEHIND EVERY DOOR



ANIMATED FILM · 13 MIN · CANADA · 2026 · ENGLISH

Kim Kilpatrick and her guide dog Ginger journey through a palliative care unit, listening to the stories they find there. Told through hand-painted oil animation and incorporating built-in audio description, Behind Every Door is an intimate exploration of listening, connection, and the profound significance stories.

CREDITS

Directors Rachel Gray, Kim Kilpatrick
Writers Rachel Gray, Kim Kilpatrick

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BERRYHILL



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 189 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Stephanie Lewis, director of the film, loses her husband to cancer and ends up unearthing an environmental disaster in his hometown of Berryhill, Oklahoma as the probable cause. During her 5-year investigation culminating in the film, she interviews 11 former and current citizens, a former journalist, and a hydrogeologist, to reconstruct the story about an unincorporated town in Southwest Tulsa involving a Superfund site and the class action lawsuit filed by the citizens.

CREDITS

Director Stephanie M Lewis
Writer Stephanie M Lewis
Producer Stephanie M Lewis
Cast Jeremiah Dubbs, Jan White, Lisa Moon, Maria Welding, Shaun Schafer, Mary (Shosy) Michelle Barton, Sharon Salas, Kevin Befus, Kenneth (Kenny) Cleland, Barry Blair, Elbert (Randy) McCartney, Denice Cleland, Lorri Elizarraras
Editor Eris; Composer/Score: Nocona Ridge; Narrator: Stephanie Lewis; Voice Actor: David Wright

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BETWEEN THEN AND NOW



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 19 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

After a devastating divorce, Chanté returns home with her young son, expecting a fresh start. Instead, she finds her father's dementia has advanced far beyond what she ever feared, thrusting her into the overwhelming realities of caregiving just as she struggles to rebuild her own life.

CREDITS

Director Keena Ferguson
Writer Chante Carmel Frierson
Producers Chante Carmel Frierson, Gwendolyn Osborne, Fredericka Meek, Delece James, Karla Mosley
Cast Dayna Dooley, Ted Lange, Aloma Wright, Kairös Frasier, Tobias Truvillion, Aranaya Frasier, Chante Carmel Frierson

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BIEN JUNTITOS (WELL TOGETHER)

Bien Juntitos



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 28 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH, SPANISH

While filming the Manitos, a group of Spanish-speaking elders in Sacramento, documentary photographer Janine Mapurunga unexpectedly loses her grandmother in Brazil. Unable to return home to grieve with her family, she finds solace among the elders she is documenting, who openly reflect on aging, loss, and the reality of mortality.

This bilingual short documentary weaves together two parallel journeys: Mapurunga's intimate embrace of the Mexican Día de Muertos altar tradition as a way to process her grief, and the elders' candid reflections on loneliness, friendship, and the importance of community in the "third stage of life."

Bien Juntitos (Well Together) shines a light on the often-overlooked experiences of Spanish-speaking immigrant elders in California. At once deeply personal and universally relatable, the film explores grief, remembrance, and the simple, urgent joy of being alive. It is a tender reminder to honor our elders and to cherish time together while we still can.

CREDITS

Directors Janine Mapurunga, Pedro Garcia
Writers Janine Mapurunga, Pedro Garcia
Producers Pedro Garcia, Gelli Pascual

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BLACK BEAR



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 24 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Logline: A rural waitress must find a way to keep her childhood home before she loses both her land and her mind.

Synopsis: STEVIE BODINE, a small town waitress, and her protective older sister BRETT BODINE, hire a city lawyer, ANDREW HSU, who, by fate, stopped in at the diner where Stevie worked while driving through town, to administer the estate of their late father, who left all his property and land to sons that he never had.

Finding themselves almost as trespassers in their own home, and with none of the locals wanting anything to do with them, they turn to Andrew, who, in his soft and gentle demeanor, presents a stark contrast to the harsh and traumatic realities of the sisters' existence and history. But having been literally and figuratively screwed over by abusive men their entire lives, the Bodine sisters are not very trusting of Andrew, believing he has ulterior motives to help them, especially since, as he informs them, he is doing the work pro bono. Brett is particularly antagonistic to Andrew, and is triggered every time she sees her naive younger sister Stevie begin to open up to him.

When Andrew stops acknowledging Brett, we see an explosive confrontation between the three of them that forces Stevie to choose between her sister and her lawyer, both of whom she has now developed conflicting feelings about. In the end, Stevie chooses herself, for once in her life, knowing that only then can she truly learn how to love and survive on her own.

CREDITS

Director Gabrielle Davenport
Writer Dan Chen
Producer Dan Chen
Cast Dan Chen, Emmaline Morris, Lindsay Weisberg

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BLACK PENDULUMS

Les pendules noires



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 15 MIN · FRANCE · 2024 · FRENCH

Shortly after a tragic accident that took the life of her girlfriend, Ambre, a young writer, has a coffee with Jade, her editor and childhood friend. All their lives, the two women were inseparable and full of ambition, but their friendship is now overwhelmed by resentment and guilt. To overcome their grief, they must give up what was once their greatest strength.

CREDITS

Directors Mathilde Algans, Théo Michel

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BLOOD IS NOT DESTINY

A vér nem sors



AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA, EXPERIMENTAL FILM, STUDENT FILM · 4 MIN · HUNGARY · 2026 · NO DIALOGUE

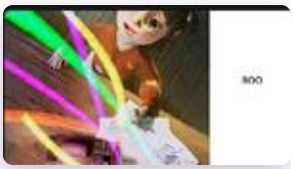
An autobiographical animated short film about transgenerational trauma. Two siblings grow up in the shadow of an alcoholic parent. Although they vow as children never to follow their parents' example, both eventually fall captive to alcohol. Both lose their families, and their children are taken from them. Their paths only diverge when the shadow of death touches them. Ultimately, the brother tragically succumbs to the family curse, while the sister breaks the dark chain, chooses recovery, and reclaims her children to rewrite their destiny.

CREDITS

Director Ildikó Baranyi
Writer Ildikó Baranyi
Producer Ildikó Baranyi
Animator Ildikó Baranyi; Editor: Ildikó Baranyi

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BOO



STUDENT FILM · 3 MIN · JORDAN · 2026 · NO DIALOGUE

Inside the warm, sawdust-filled walls of a traditional carpentry workshop, a young girl named Leen struggles to process the painful reality of losing her father. Clinging to a nostalgic game they once shared, she believes that completing it will bring him back—only to find herself unexpectedly drawn into a fantasy world. Boo is an emotional journey of grief, imagination, and the lasting bonds of love.

CREDITS

Director Sara Farouq Hammouri
Writer Sara Farouq Hammouri
Producer Sara Farouq Hammouri
Cast Sara Farouq Hammouri

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BREATH/ MACHINE 2



POETRY READINGS VIDEOS · 5 MIN · CANADA · 2024 · ENGLISH

An authorial moviepoem (part of a series) about physicality and “the machine” of the somatic self. Filmed while my elderly father in palliative care.

CREDITS

Director finn harvor
Writer finn harvor
Producer finn harvor

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BRIGHT SPARKS



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 23 MIN · JAMAICA · 2025 · ENGLISH

After losing their eldest son in a tragic accident, a fractured Jamaican family must decide whether to leave behind their grief-filled home for the promise of a fresh start, before the weight of guilt and unspoken sorrow tears them apart for good.

CREDITS

Director Lesley-Ann Wanliss
Writer Lesley-Ann Wanliss
Producers Tashara-Lee Johnson, Saeed Thomas
Cast Darian Reid, Quera South, Sekai Smart-Macaulay, Gabriel Haye, Everaldo Creary
Director of Photography Chris Browne

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BROKEN SHELLS



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 12 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

From surviving a 'varsity level' battle with Crohn’s to reaching the height of academic success, an Indiana educator’s life is upended by a cruel statistical anomaly: a shared cancer diagnosis with his two best friends. Now, he must navigate the debris of survival to discover the profound purpose behind a life of broken shells.

CREDITS

Director Paul Weller
Producer Paul Weller
Cast Jon Acton
Cinematographer Lemmy Saylor, Justin Scott, Paul Weller; Editors: Brian Paul, Paul Weller; Reseacher: Tori Abram-Peterson; Executive Producer: Andrew Melin

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

BURNOUT



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 42 MIN · NIGERIA · 2025 · ENGLISH

A young girl's life unravels after her mother's death, as her father's pain fuels a deadly drug addiction, claiming his life. When her brother follows suit, she vows to save him, battling the streets, his demons, and her own fears. But just as she's gaining ground, a run-in with the police throws everything into chaos, threatening to derail her mission and leave her brother to suffer the same fate as their father . Will her fight be enough?

CREDITS

Director DANIEL OLAS
Writer EZE CHINONSO SHEDRACK
Producer CHIKA FIDELIA BROWN
Cast BETHEL NJOKU, TESSY BOSSET OGBONNA, KAYODE JNR OJUOLAPE, WILLIAMS JAMES

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

CLARITY



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 6 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2023 · ENGLISH

The struggle of addiction. The healing in recovery.

CREDITS

Director Bryce Mackie
Writer Bryce Mackie
Producer Bryce Mackie
Cast Bryce Mackie, Denise Mackie

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Memoria Colectiva



ANIMATED FILM · 15 MIN · PERU · 2025 · SPANISH

In 1983, during the darkest days of Peru's Armed Conflict with the Shining Path, masked soldiers entered Adelina's home and took her husband away. She would never see him again. After facing silence and contempt from the Police and Army, Adelina joins forces with the many other women who have lost their husbands and children to soldiers who were supposed to protect them. Together, they will unite to demand justice.

CREDITS

Director Cristina Colmenares
Writer Carolina Wiegering
Producers Cristina Colmenares, Manuel-Antonio Monteagudo, Etienne Jaxel-Truer, Andrés Cotrina
Cast Adelina García, Renata Flores, Apolo Bautista, Emmanuel Caffo, Godo Lozano
Distribution Company Films on the Road

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

COOKIES



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 22 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Noah, a dashing, distinguished professor, is left with only his dog when his wife unexpectedly dies. After finding a flyer for a yoga studio, he goes on a whim and meets April, who works the front desk with her homemade "healthy" cookies.

April has her own troubles, dealing with her sick father and struggling as an artist, but something clicks for both of them. A book is exchanged, sparks become embers, and embers become flames. What Noah doesn't know is that the yoga flyer that brought him to April has a note on the back…

Shot during New York City's bright and crisp autumn, COOKIES is the charming, poetic, and melodic rom com we all need right now.

CREDITS

Director Stewart Lewis
Writer Stewart Lewis
Producer Lawrence Hwang
Cast Jason Liebman, Jenna Krasowski

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

DAISY



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 30 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2023 · ENGLISH, HUNGARIAN, SPANISH

A Mother’s suicide leads the narrator on a quest to explore her Jewish lineage and her family’s immigration story over multiple generations, with open-water swimming becoming her way to come to terms with the present.

CREDITS

Director Catalina Kulczar

Writers Catalina Kulczar, Sam Green

Producer Catalina Kulczar

Cinematography Catalina Kulczar, Jennifer Cox, Matyas Gyuricza, Elena Sophia Garcia, Brian Wengrofsky; Color: Ayumi Ashley, Stephany Park; Sound Design: Gisela Fullà-Silvestre; Composer: Angélica Negrón; Sound Mixer & Vo Recording: Jeff Seelye; Production Assistant: Thalía Noboa Lamar; Title & Credits: La Moutique

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

DEAD MOM CARD



NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM, COMEDY OR DRAMEDY FILM · 107 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2022 · ENGLISH

Three funeral home employees--a white woman, a Black man, and a bi-racial gay man--must sort out who is in charge, and why, when the sudden death of the owner throws their lives in disarray. Their power struggles encompass misogyny, racism, and implicit bias. Along the way, they encounter the profane, the ridiculous, and many forms of grieving.

CREDITS

Director Steven P Perkins

Writer Steven P Perkins

Producer Steven P Perkins

Cast Lisa Sorenson, Chris Burnett, Lester Neal

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

DEAD PARENTS CLUB



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 77 MIN · AUSTRALIA · 2025 · ENGLISH

An incredible and cathartic film, “Dead Parents Club” shows that our enduring fascination with orphan stories may stem from a simple truth that we are constantly searching for ways to understand loss and to feel less alone within it" - Alison Ficklin, Documentary Drive

Bound by the shared experience of parental loss, an unlikely group comes together to challenge a familiar narrative trope.

Dead Parents Club is a hybrid documentary that blends observational documentary, experimental performance, and cultural analysis to explore the orphan trope in popular culture. From Little Orphan Annie to The Lion King and Frozen, the absence of parents is a recurring theme in children’s films, used to set characters on their journey and emancipate them from parental influence. Yet, the reality of losing a parent is far more complex and nuanced than these fictional narratives suggest.

This documentary follows real individuals who have experienced parental loss as they interrogate the orphan trope by crafting a theater production. Stepping into the shoes of iconic characters like Simba, Frodo, and Nemo, they weave their own stories into the scenes they perform. The result is a poignant, absurd, and unexpectedly funny exploration of grief, identity, and the narratives we inherit.

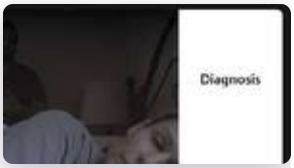
Weaving between the worlds of trauma and trope, lived experience and fantasy, this documentary explores how we navigate grief, find connection, and ultimately learn to parent our parents—and ourselves.

CREDITS

Directors Lara Thoms, Gena Riess
Writer Gena Riess
Producers Gena Riess, Madeleine Martiniello, Madeleine Hawcroft
Cast Amrita Hepi, Josh Glanc, Tony Yap
Editor Patrick McCabe

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

DIAGNOSIS



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024 · ENGLISH

Amy was just diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer. As she awaits finding out how far progressed it is, she begins her cycle of grief and worry about leaving her family behind.

The film is based on a true story of getting misdiagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer and actually going through the stages of grief.

CREDITS

Director Larry Rosen
Writers Lyndsay Smart, Larry Rosen
Producers Lyndsay Smart, Larry Rosen
Cast Lyndsay Smart, Dan Gregory, Larry Rosen, Jason Soliman

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

DISTILLATIONS



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 20 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Grief is universal. Yet living with grief is an individual experience. distillations is an intimate essay film–part poem, part autoethnography, part meditation–on the process of living after loss. Broken into several chapters based on a series of notes written to my eight-year-old sister, distillations reinterprets the platitudes often shared with those in grief, explores grief that come from other forms of loss, and provides space for reflection, for healing, and for growth.

CREDITS

Director Alex H. Rafi
Writer Alex H. Rafi
Producer Alex H. Rafi
Composer Phillip Smith

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

DON'T WORRY SARI!

Szia Sári!



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 82 MIN · HUNGARY · 2025 · HUNGARIAN

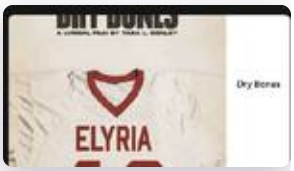
The bittersweet story of Don’t worry Sari! is about a family: a mother who, despite wanting to capture everything, never quite mastered using a video camera over the course of 25 years; a daughter, who, after the loss of her mother, uses the camera as a filmmaker to keep the family together; and about three men who tolerate all this, while, unbeknownst to them, it subtly impacts their lives.

CREDITS

Director Sári Haragonics
Writer Sári Haragonics
Producers Sára László, Marcell Gerő, Boris Despodov, Inez Mátis
Cast László Haragonics, Zalán Haragonics, Bengedúz Cselik, Sári Haragonics

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

DRY BONES



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM, EDUCATIONAL / INFORMATIONAL FILM · 65 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

DRY BONES tells the gripping and emotional tale of Ike Maxwell, a legendary Black football player from the 1970s whose life is upended when his brother is tragically shot and killed by a white police officer in Elyria, Ohio—a city long plagued by racial tension. The incident thrusts Ike into a world of unrelenting hardship, grief, and trauma, compounded by the physical toll of brain injuries sustained over the years.

Sherman Jones, a passionate local community organizer, draws a poignant parallel between Ike's story and the biblical tale of Ezekiel's dry bones. "How are we going to breathe life into those dry bones?" Jones asks in the film. This question resonates not only for Ike but for the entire city of Elyria.

Imbued with religious undertones, the film presents football as a near-sacred experience for Black Elyrians who once revered Ike Maxwell as their hero. A central question then emerges: how do you revive a fallen hero? The answer lies in the power of community. DRY BONES showcases communal strength, offering a moving testament to the enduring omnipotence of a relatively obscure Black community in the heart of a rust belt city in Ohio.

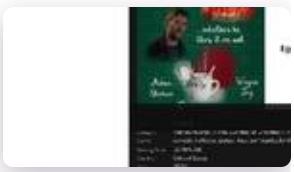
CREDITS

Director Tara Conley

Producers Tara Lynn Conley, Sean Arnold

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

EGGNOG



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

He just wants to spend Christmas alone, but his son's girlfriend is determined to make him some holiday spirit(s). What starts as a recipe for disaster becomes a sweet way for them to bond over a shared loss.

CREDITS

Director Heather Hillstrom

Writer Ashna Sharan

Producer Ashna Sharan

Cast Ashna Sharan, Wayne Jay

1st AD Nazh Dell; DP: Natalie Jones; Gaffer: Vedant Dave; Grip: Akaysha Brunker; HMUA: Danielle Sanfilippo; Art Department: Heather Hillstrom, David Trevino; Camera Assistant: Connor Vincent; Sound Mixer: Scott Solan; BTS: Alicia Marie Agramonte; Editor: Heather Hillstrom; Composer: Henrik Astrom; Sound Designer: Maui Holcomb; Colorist: Parker Healey; Musician: Shakeh Herbekian

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

EMMA



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 14 MIN · UNITED KINGDOM · 2026 · ENGLISH

A rare diagnosis, an unprecedented transplant, and a family's unwavering love—Emma's story shows the hope, anguish, and lasting legacy of a life measured not in years, but in impact.

Emma is the story of a family confronting an unforgiving rare disorder and their extraordinary journey to become among the first in the world to pursue bone marrow transplantation. It is a portrait of hope, anguish, and the profound truth that even short lives can leave an enduring impact.

Description:

This 15-minute documentary follows Emma and her family as they navigate the devastating realities of Hurler Syndrome, a condition affecting fewer than 1,000 people worldwide. Emma's journey becomes even more extraordinary as she becomes only the second patient in the world to undergo a bone marrow transplant for this condition—an act of courage that places her family at the leading edge of medical uncertainty, enriched by rare insights from her bone marrow donor.

Through intimate interviews and observational filmmaking, the story unfolds with raw honesty: the fear of the unknown, the fragile hope that sustains them, and the resilience demanded by a diagnosis that rewrites every expectation of childhood. Themes of hope, endurance, unpredictability, and love rise to the surface, offering a rare window into a world often hidden from public view.

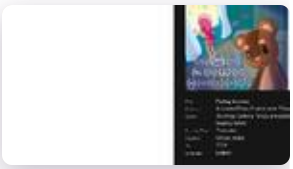
By centering Emma's life and the lived experience of her family, the film brings visibility to a community too often overlooked. It invites viewers to reconsider what it means to fight for a future—and why even the briefest lives matter not only to those who love them, but to the world they quietly transform.

CREDITS

Directors Robert Barker, Christian Johannes Hendriksz
Writers Sandra Lee, Christian Johannes Hendriksz
Producer Robert Barksy
Cast Sandra Lee, Rebecca Jones, Sue Taylor, Christian Johannes Hendriksz

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FADING JOURNEY



STUDENT FILM · 7 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Confined to a sterile hospital room, young Jolie spends her days dreaming of the outside world she cannot be a part of. Each night, she stares out her window, wondering where the stars live and if she will ever reach them.

When her Teddy Bear awakens to make her dreams come true, he takes her to the window and welcomes her to the world that was once beyond her reach. They embark on a gentle, otherworldly adventure filled with magic and discovery. Along the way, Teddy must guide Jolie through their journey as she faces the fragility of her lingering illness.

CREDITS

Director Cooper C. Rogers

Writer Cooper C. Rogers

Cast Seanari D. Vega, Andrew Lacy

Animation Lead Arin V. Vaughn; Environment Lead: Dominic R. Saporiti; Color Design Supervisor: Sterling E. Brookins; Project Management: Cooper C. Rogers, Arin V. Vaughn; Animation and Storyboard Lead: Arin V. Vaughn; Animator: Seanari D. Vega; Music By: Eli Ray, Lige Reasoner; Sound Design: Andreas Lopez, Shane Spurgeon

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FATHER ON FIRE

Quemar al padre



15 MIN · SPAIN · 2026 · SPANISH

If life already feels too big for Javier, let alone death—his father's death, in particular. Even more when, to carry out his father's last wishes, he must face the most atrocious opposition: his mother. Clearing the unfinished business quietly may seem tempting, but the fallout from dodging it will blow up in his face when he least expects it.

CREDITS

Director Rafa Piqueras

Writer María José Miguel

Producer Rafa Piqueras

Cast Víctor Palmero, Empar Ferrer, Mireia Pérez, Juli Cantó, Raül Parede, Jandro

Director Of Photography Carlos Aparicio; Sound Designer: Pedro Aviñó; Film Editor: Rafa Piqueras; Production Manager: Mar Picher; Music Soundtrack: Marina Alcantud; Art Director: Natàlia Bas; Make-Up Artist: Laura Tur; Costume Designer: Raquel Porter; Second Assistant Director: Paula Salañer; Executive Producer: Laura Hueso

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FATHER TREE



ANIMATED FILM · 10 MIN · CANADA, IRAN · 2026 · ENGLISH

"Father Tree" is an animated short film that follows a daughter's compassionate journey as she cares for her ailing father and witnesses his gradual transformation.

CREDITS

Director Atefeh Khademolreza
Writer Atefeh Khademolreza
Producers Sholeh Alemi Fabbri, Samuel Kiehoon Lee, Atefeh Khademolreza
Cast Mahsa Razavi, Nader Taheri
Animator Atefeh Khademolreza; Music composer: NAVID FASHAMI; Sound design & mix : Hassan Shabankareh; Background Artist: SAMUEL KIEHOON LEE

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FEELING THE APOCALYPSE



EDUCATIONAL / INFORMATIONAL FILM · 7 MIN · CANADA · 2022 · ENGLISH

A psychotherapist struggling with climate anxiety explores what it means to live in a dying world.

CREDITS

Director Chen Sing Yap
Producer Nikolai Osborn
Interviewee Anderson Todd; Director of Photography: Tarneem Allati; Transmedia: Sarah Saunders; Composers: Rebecca Foss, Leah Hidalgo; Sound Editor: Dominick De Villon; Editor: Chen Sing Yap; Assistant Producers: Holly De Vaal, Poppi Fella Pellegrino, Laura Johnston; Special Thanks: Victoria McGlynn; Background Art: Ruby Davies; Animation & Art: Rowan Mikolic-O'Rourke; Localization: Jean Carlo Laiton, María del Pino Aínsa, Alexa Thobo-Carlsen

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FEELINGS OF AN OLD LIFE

Sentimentos de uma Velha Vida



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 29 MIN · BRAZIL · 2026 · PORTUGUESE

The story follows João, an elderly man trapped between memories and silences, consumed by guilt and loneliness. Amidst the solitary routine of his final years, an unexpected encounter awakens in him the hope of starting over.

CREDITS

Director Vinícius Di Castro
Writers Christiano Ômega, Vinícius di Castro
Producer Vinícius di castro
Cast Jota Bueno, Beth Grandi

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FILM FOR JEANETTE



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 30 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

A filmmaker's portrait of his late sister, told through family interviews, archival footage, and hand processed black & white 16mm.

CREDITS

Director Brice Goldberg

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FINDING LIGHT IN THE VOID



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM, ANIMATED FILM, AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA, EXPERIMENTAL FILM · 9 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Finding Light in the Void is a cinematic visual narrative about walking with grief rather than being defined by it. Through an oceanic metaphor, the film explores the darkness, isolation, and disorientation of profound loss, as well as the unexpected journey toward self-discovery, faith, resilience, and renewal. As the darkness gives way to light, grief remains a companion, but no longer leads the way.

CREDITS

Directors Dinah Dorvil, Julia Arielle Dorvil
Writer Dinah Dorvil
Producer Dinah Dorvil
Cast Dinah Dorvil
Editor Julia Arielle Dorvil; Sound Design & Music: Yeil Choi

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FIRST CUT



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 12 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

An intimate conversation between a son and his mother as she reflects on her pancreatic cancer diagnosis and impending death.

CREDITS

Director Joseph Muszynski
Writer Arlene Muszynski
Producers Claude dal Farra, Christina Mengert
Cast Arlene Muszynski

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FLYING HERO CLUB: BEHIND THE SMILES



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 45 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

A team of Hollywood stunt performers, masters of cinematic heroism and flight, volunteer their elite skills to give children with special needs the exhilarating experience of soaring like superheroes—only to uncover the profound, hidden struggles and deeper hardships their families endure.

This emotional documentary follows their heartfelt mission of creating magical, hope-filled moments, revealing the raw realities of caregiving, systemic challenges, and unbreakable resilience that transform goodwill into a powerful testament to human connection and quiet heroism.

CREDITS

Directors James M. Churchman, Sheena Duggal
Producer Frank Addelia
Cast Chloe Chase Coleman, David Blaine, Flula Borg, Alex Mallari Jr., Otis Winston, James Churchman

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

49 DOVES: THE FLIGHT 5191 DISASTER



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 95 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026

In the quiet, predawn hours of August 27, 2006, Comair Flight 5191 attempted a routine takeoff from Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky. Instead, the aircraft lined up on the wrong runway — one far too short for departure. Forty-nine people were killed when the plane crashed into a nearby field. The co-pilot survived. What followed was one of the most devastating days in Kentucky's history, and a tragedy whose emotional aftershocks continue to shape the community nearly two decades later.

"49 Doves" is a documentary that tells the human story behind that morning. Through intimate interviews with families, first responders, and journalists, the film reveals how a series of events culminated in tragedy, which rippled outward into countless lives.

CREDITS

Director Lanny Brannock
Producers Jennifer Evans Smith, Robert Thomas
Cast Bryan Jared, Nancy Cox, Sam Dick, Kristen Pflum

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

49 TO 51



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 73 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH, HINDI, IRISH, MARATHI

A family’s life is irreversibly changed after losing a loved one to suicide. Rather than focusing on why the tragedy occurred, 49 to 51 asks: How does life continue after such a profound loss? Spanning four years and five cities across the United States and India, the film follows one person’s evolving relationship with grief as they navigate changing homes, relationships, and an uncertain sense of self. When the protagonist's own struggles with mental health emerge, they confront the tension between being a mental health advocate and a suicide loss survivor, questioning the relevance of their work.

Moving fluidly across time, the film interweaves original poetic narration, paintings, and music that introduce an unknown female figure whose experiences guide audiences through grief before her identity is ultimately revealed. Blending observational documentary, poetic storytelling, visual art, and music across languages, cultures, and countries, 49 to 51 is a non-linear meditation on suicide loss, memory, identity, and the enduring process of carrying grief forward.

CREDITS

Director Ambalika Khadria

Producer KathASK Films

Cast Pooja Mehta

Fiscal Sponsor Tasveer; Music Composer: K; Sound Mixer: Ciarán Byrne; Artist: Koshika Yadava; Vocalist: The Ramparts; KathASK Films Crew: Ranga Rajan; Colorist: Hossein Keyhanpour; Special Thanks: Rita Meher, Park Bo Gum, Rashmi Jayashankar; Captions and Subtitles: Antara Khadria; Editor : Ambalika Khadria

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

499 DAYS



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 83 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Kyler, a sweet Kentucky boy is diagnosed with an incredibly rare "orphan" brain cancer, and fights alongside his family with resilience and hope against a backdrop of personal strife, a global pandemic, and the profound power of love and the indomitable human spirit in the face of adversity.

CREDITS

Director Jamie Buckner

Producer David Shaerf

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

FROM CROATIA, WITH LOVE



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 21 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

This documentary chronicles a father's sacrifice that changes the trajectory of their family forever as two small girls journey from Croatia to America to live a new life.

CREDITS

Director Steven Wyble

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

GETTING OVER



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 79 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2017 · ENGLISH

A man discovers a box of interviews with his father, a heroin addict who died of AIDS in 1997. What he finds will uncover generations of family secrets, forcing him to redefine his own past, doubt his present, and question his future.

CREDITS

Director Jason Charnick
Writer Jason Charnick
Producers Jason Charnick, Nathan Oliver
Editor Sharon Rutter

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

GIRL OF THE HOLLER



NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM, DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM, COMEDY OR DRAMEDY FILM · 56 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Girl of the Holler

A one-woman memoir, storytelling show about growing up in small town Appalachia with mental health issues and her relationship with her moonshiner father.

Funny and Poignant, Girl of the Holler runs about 1 hour.

Because of the subject matter and some adult language, Girl of the Holler is for mature audiences only.

Girl of the Holler contains mature themes including mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, incarceration, childhood trauma, and grief. It also includes strong language and references to emotional and physical abuse.

For More Information Contact

girloftheholler@gmail.com

276 952 7190

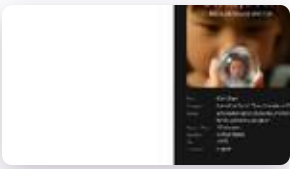
girloftheholler.com

CREDITS

Director Peter Holland
Writer Christina Holland
Producers John Croxton, Carol Newsom, Brian Johnson
Cast Christina Holland
Production by 1130 Media Productions Brian Johnson

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

GIRL | DAD



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 20 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH, MANDARIN CHINESE

Four decades after a single father builds his adopted Chinese daughter a playhouse to shield her from a world that won't accept her, dementia forces her to become the architect of his fading memory.

CREDITS

Director Lianzi Fields

Writer Lianzi Fields

Producers Caitlin Bruner, Rachel Eck

Cast Sherry Cola, Chris Tallman, Stephen MacDonald Howard, Siyu Liang, Trang Vo, Jodi Hou, Ashley Platz, Amy Bury, Bo Deutschman, Wyatt Deutschman

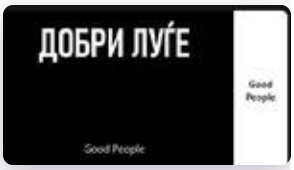
DP Patrick Shahabian; EP: Dominic Musacchio; Editor: Max Goldblatt; Producer: Caitlin Bruner; Composer: Eliot Krimsky

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

GOOD PEOPLE

ДОБРИ ЛУ́ЃЕ

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 85 MIN · NORTH MACEDONIA · 2025 · MACEDONIAN



Before March 16, 2025, the sleepy Macedonian town of Kochani was known for its pastoral rice fields. That changed when a devastating fire turned a popular but illegal nightclub into a burning grave. Sixty-three people — mostly young, some underage — died. Over 200 others were severely injured, with many enduring lasting emotional trauma. In less than an hour, nearly an entire generation in this town of 25,000 was lost, marking the darkest moment in North Macedonia's recent history.

The public prosecutor's office charged 34 individuals and 3 companies, including the owner, former ministers, mayors, public officials, and inspectors. Thirty policemen are under investigation for crimes related to the illegal club.

Less than a month after the tragedy, acclaimed Macedonian filmmaker Milcho Manchevski (Golden Lion winner and Oscar nominee for Before the Rain) traveled to Kochani. More than 30 survivors of the fire and bereaved parents opened their hearts to him, sharing their personal stories.

The resulting documentary remains uncompromisingly ascetic and minimalist, its focus relentlessly trained on faces and lived experience. Unspooling with quiet deliberation—measured, spare — it lays bare moments of quiet devastation: so intimate, so unguarded, they seem to shimmer just beneath the surface, waiting to be felt more than seen. The director made a deliberate literary choice to rely solely on spoken words, allowing the visuals to unfold in the viewer's imagination. This creates an intimate and deeply emotional experience, highlighting the power of the word and inviting personal interpretation — much like the experience of reading a book.

Originally conceived to capture the human side of the disaster, the film instead becomes a testament to heroism, solidarity, resilience—and, improbably—hope within a tightly knit community fractured by unimaginable loss.

CREDITS

Director Milcho Manchevski
Writer Milcho Manchevski
Producer Milcho Manchevski

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

HI, PAPA

EXPERIMENTAL FILM · 4 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH



A daughter revisits past "hello's" in order to learn how to say goodbye to her recently deceased father.

CREDITS

Director Lauren Neal

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

HIKING THROUGH GRIEF



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 47 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Follow six widows and widowers as they navigate grief and rebuild their lives. By forming a strong, supportive community through hiking, they find strength and hope. Experience the transformative power of community and resilience in their inspiring journey.

CREDITS

Director Stephen Burks

Producer Engelina Koberna

Cast Priscilla Kaczuk, Mike McClain, Lori Muller-Zaim, Greg Randall, Shelly Wangler, Ellen Luebbers Weaver, Jennifer Stern

Director of Photography Henry Ortlip; Editor: Stephen Burks; Associate Producer: Sarah Willgrube; Music Composer: Stephen Burks; Production Manager: Jamie Hurley Bullock; Art Direction: Engelina Koberna; Motion Graphics: Alyssa Gardner Trammel; "A" Camera/Steadycam Operator : Henry Ortlip; "B" Camera Operator: Jake Ressler; Drone Operator: Jake Ressler; Lighting : Chad Ressler; Sound: Chad Ressler; Marketing: Molly Bregar

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

HORACIO



18 MIN · SPAIN · 2026 · SPANISH

Francisco inherits the keys to a storage room from his father. Inside, he finds a trunk sealed tight as a drum, alongside a treasure map bearing the word 'HAMLET'. In this way, his father has set up one final, highly theatrical game as a farewell

CREDITS

Director Juan Miguel Botía

Producer Juan Miguel Botía

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

HYPOTYPOSE



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM, EXPERIMENTAL FILM, POETRY READINGS VIDEOS · 4 MIN · BELGIUM · 2025 · FRENCH

In a valley where time stands still, a young soldier sleeps beneath the soft light of nature — serene, untouched.

Inspired by Le Dormeur du Val by Arthur Rimbaud, Hypotypose unfolds like a breath held too long: first faithful to the poet's vision, then slipping into a cyclical dreamscape where memory and war collapse into one.

A visual elegy on stillness, illusion, and the haunting silence of repetition.

CREDITS

Director Lucas Cornette
Writer Lucas Cornette
Producer Fenrir Productions
Cast Maxime Evrard, Trystan Crisostomo, Alexandre Mottart
Props Master Necip Cakar; Camera Operator: Alexandre Mottart, Lucas Cornette; Music and Sound Design: Quentin Deflandre; Costume Designer: Jade Iberti; 1st Assistant Director: Julien Lefèvre; Assistant Camera Operator: Sacha Detrembleur; Make-up and Assistant Props Master: Chloé Arlotti

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

I DON'T CARE



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 11 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

A newlywed couple, who are now caregivers for the husband's dementia riddled mom, seek guidance in a caregiver support group only to find the advice they receive to be the unexpected.

CREDITS

Director Jay Guffey
Writer Mike Nielsen
Producer Brian J. Leitten
Cast Julia Dennis, Mike Nielsen, Laurie Okin, Lawrence A. Mandley, Karen Maruyama, Rob Elk, Shelagh Ratner, Sharron Shayne

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

I NI



STUDENT FILM · 6 MIN · UNITED KINGDOM · 2026 · WELSH

i ni is a 5-minute Welsh-language film poem that serves as a visceral act of sovereignty to the Welsh landscape, its language, and its people. Shot on location at Barafundle Bay, Pembrokeshire, the film is a poetic retelling of a true-life rite of passage: a daughter and her father returning a mother's ashes to the sea.

This project explores the hinterland between documentary drama and art filmmaking, navigating the liminal space where visual and verbal elements actively shape each other. At its core, the film is an exploration of love, loss, and the ocean-deep grief that mirrors the tides of the Pembrokeshire coast. In a profound commitment to authenticity, the lead role of the daughter is performed by Welsh poet Cêt Haf, who also served as the film's translator. As she scatters the ashes, she takes on the mantle of the mother, a movement akin to the cyclical nature of life, death, birth, and rebirth. It was essential that the story be told in the family's mother tongue; the language they speak to one another is the only language in which they could truly speak to the landscape.

Produced as an MA endeavour in Creative Practice on a micro-budget of £2,000, the film honours the ancient tradition of Celtic storytelling. In a shift from me to we, the entire production crew was comprised of neurodivergent young people. i ni is a haunting exploration of hiraeth and the sacred surrender required to navigate the waves of grief.

CREDITS

Director Jessie Currie
Writer Jessie Currie
Producer Jessie Currie
Cast Cêt Haf, Dafydd Emyr

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

I'M STILL HERE, LOVE



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 54 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

I'm Still Here, Love explores the impact of health mis- and disinformation as told by the family and friends of three unvaccinated men who died from COVID-19. Social media platforms and unqualified health professionals inundated desperate people with farcical information about the reality of COVID-19 and the safety of the vaccine, claiming they were exercising their First Amendment right to "Free Speech." This film provides insight into the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 mis- and disinformation on communities of color, as well as how grief can be marginalized, labeling COVID-19 deaths as "preventable."

CREDITS

Director Megan Quinn Daniels
Producer Megan Quinn Daniels
Cast Jessica Dougherty, Lydia Dorsey, Jillian Laslo, Michael Gisondi, Stephen Thomas, Fred Spry, Mike Brown

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

IMAGO



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 17 MIN · ITALY · 2026 · ITALIAN

ENG below

Una madre e un figlio camminano nella stessa direzione, senza saperlo. Luca, venticinque anni, mentre attende un autobus, chiama il padre per lamentarsi della madre. Greta, la madre, avanza decisa tra le strade della città e compone lo stesso numero per parlare del figlio. Divisi dalla distanza, uniti dall'assenza: l'uomo che entrambi cercano non c'è più, ma sopravvive nei ricordi di Greta e nei disegni di Luca. Il dolore li spinge verso lo stesso luogo, ma non riesce a farli incontrare. Fino alla fine, le parole non bastano: il desiderio di condividere un amore rimasto vivo per chi vivo non è più resta sospeso, come il contatto tra loro.

A mother and son walk in the same direction, unaware of it. Luca, twenty-five, while waiting for a bus, calls his father to complain about his mother. Greta, his mother, advances resolutely through the city streets and dials the same number to talk about her son. Divided by distance, united by absence: the man they both seek is no longer there, but lives on in Greta's memories and Luca's drawings. Grief pushes them toward the same place, but fails to bring them together. Until the end, words are not enough: the desire to share a love that remains alive for those who are no longer alive remains suspended, as is the contact between them.

CREDITS

Director Federico Gaetani
Writer Federico Gaetani
Producer Paola Mattucci
Cast Francesca De Martini, Jacopo Dei

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

IN A WORLD FULL OF LONELINESS



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 23 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2023

A story about the universal power of connection to lift up even the most desolate soul. When Mrs. Kenit, relegated to a life of routine and isolation witnesses an act of violence, it causes her to react and her life changes in just one night.

CREDITS

Director Jules Taylor
Writer Jules Taylor
Producer Dan Robinson
Cast Katherine Forbes, Mark Landon Smith, Mike Thomas, Juliette Robinson

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

IN BETWEEN



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 16 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

A young boy leads his mother on a journey to the Navajo Nation, where his arrival unearths deep-seated emotions in the family of a daughter missing the past seven years.

CREDITS

Director Brent Morris
Writer Brent Morris
Producer Goldie Tom
Cast Robert Severn Ayers, Addyson Wolfe, Ryan Begay, DezBaa', Nya Simone Eteeyan

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

IN HALF



ANIMATED FILM · 24 MIN · SPAIN · 2024 · ENGLISH, FRENCH

The film approaches grief as an internal process: the loss of innocence, certainty, and identity, and the fragile but hopeful journey toward emotional integration and healing.

In Half unfolds through the eyes of a child whose imagination becomes the lens through which we witness one man's unraveling. Crushed beneath the weight of his own fears, he finds himself pulled into a world at once enchanting and deeply unsettling, a place that obeys not the logic of the waking world, but the hidden logic of the psyche.

Within this realm, suspended between dream and reality, every creature, every landscape, and every obstacle reflects the wounds, losses, and unresolved conflicts he has spent a lifetime trying to outrun. To move forward, he must turn toward the parts of himself he buried long ago and understand that fear is not an adversary, but a threshold to be crossed.

In Half is a visual fable about human vulnerability and our capacity for transformation, a reminder that even what seems broken still carries the quiet possibility of renewal.

CREDITS

Director Jorge Morais Valle
Writers Jorge Morais Valle, Silvia Pazos, Cuco Fernández
Producer Jorge Morais Valle
Cast Jake Walters, Jared Peterson, Daniel Ledo, Gábor Bakonyi, James Gillies, James Gillies, Jose Lorenzo Valido
Original Music Juan Manuel Cameán; Executive producer:: Priscila Gutiérrez; Animation: Jorge Morais Valle; Characters Design: Jorge Morais Valle; Editing: Jorge Morais Valle; Visual Effects: Jorge Morais Valle; Production Design: Jorge Morais Valle; Cinematography: Jorge Morais Valle

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

INTO THE LIGHT OF A DARK BLACK NIGHT



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 102 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

A film for anyone who has grieved deeply … or knows someone who has. And that, in reality, is most of us.
In an instant, a world has been shattered. No one knows what to say because there are no sufficient words. Walls go up and those in grief are left isolated. And because of the isolation, they don't know that others experience something similar. "Into the Light of a Dark Black Night" is a documentary feature that allows the participants to tell their stories directly, with profound intimacy and candor, without the interjection of narration, commentary, or data. It is not about statistics or studies. It is about survival. It is candid, raw, engaging, and heartbreakingly powerful. It is offered with the hope that, as their stories honor their loved ones, they will also shed light for those who are feeling alone in their grief, and for those who'd like to better support them.

—Poster art by Mary Sellers

CREDITS

Director Dianne Martin

Producer Dianne Martin

Cast Aster Bekele, Berton S. Graves, Charis Kaltenecker, Courtney Storer, David Cook, Dawn L. Holt, Derrick Johnson Sr., Elijah Johnson, Eryn Carter, Ethan Carter, Heather (King) Tallman, Hiba Suleman, Jerry W. Baker, Joy Howard, Kimberly Selgrad, Kurt Kriese, Lisa York, Lou Harry, Marc Szewczyk, Marilyn Walden, Martin Baier, Maryori Duarte-Sheffield, Mike Laird, Mike Riekhof, Paula Goldberg, Seretha Edwards, Tori Ovel

Executive Producers Mark Pellington, Dianne Martin

Director of Photography Jim Timperman

Gaffer & Additional Photography Nathaniel Savidge

Hair & Makeup Artists Kim Conolly, Mindy Kennen, Julie Powers, Chie Sharp

Featuring the Music of Emily Wells

Editor Dianne Martin

Production Assistant Drew Gould

Color and Finish Artist Marc Wellington (CMG, Indianapolis)

Audio Post Production Rick Such (Earshot Audiopost)

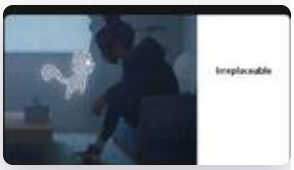
Production Counsel John Hammerle

Fiscal Sponsor From the Heart Productions

Mark Pellington's directing credits include Arlington Road; Going All the Way; Henry Poole Is Here; I Melt with You; The Last Word; The Mothman Prophecies; Nostalgia; The Severing; Survive; U2 3D; United States of Poetry.

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

IRREPLACEABLE



ANIMATED FILM · 4 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025

The spirit of a recently deceased pet must get his owner's attention before she throws away all the memories of the life they had together.

CREDITS

Director Samantha Lauren Reyna
Writer Samantha Lauren Reyna
Producers Samantha Lauren Reyna, Wen Tong Everitt
Art Director Briana Arlene Blanos; Lead Animators: Katia Antablian, Fiji Simon; Lead Compositor: Tsolin Kadian

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

JUST LIKE MAGIC



ANIMATED FILM, AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA · 4 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

In a futuristic world where creativity is fading, a young artist escapes into a breathtaking journey through imagination and self-discovery. As she transforms pain into art, her creations spark a chain reaction that inspires the next generation to dream again.

CREDITS

Directors Derrick Anthony Hall, Jr.
Writers Derrick Anthony Hall, Jr.
Producers Derrick Anthony Hall, Jr.
Composition Derrick Anthony Hall, Jr.

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

JUST US



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 15 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ARABIC, ENGLISH, HINDI

A mother, immersed in a euphoric day with her young daughter, is interrupted by an unsolicited guest.

CREDITS

Director Anna Lauren Tufekci
Writers Anna Lauren Tufekci, Rani Jessica Jain
Producers Carrie Radigan, Kristin Krall, Pallavi Shastry, Keertana Shastry, Maya Post
Cast Rani Jessica Jain, Lyla Laghari, Rotana Tarabzouni

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

KALKI



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 11 MIN · INDIA · 2026 · HINDI

Imagine loving someone your whole life and when they're gone, you're not allowed to say goodbye.

This tender short follows a young girl as she navigates the loss of her grandfather. In trying to make sense of his absence, she must also confront a world that decides how, and if, she gets to grieve.

CREDITS

Director MEGHNA PANDEY
Writer MEGHNA PANDEY
Producer MEGHNA PANDEY
Cast AKSHARA GHUTE, KENNETH DESAI, ATUL JAIN, SHARVARI JAMENIS

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

KOUN SREI



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 4 MIN · FRANCE · 2026 · FRENCH

Kim, 63, raises her daughter Tam alone in a country she does not fully know. Through daily routines, silences, and misunderstandings, Tam's unease and her place in her mother's life slowly emerge. Through prayers and offerings to Kim's late father, Koun Srei celebrates the beauty of everyday rituals and family memory, revealing the quiet love that connects three generations.

CREDITS

Directors Linda Nguon, Sébastien Kong
Writer Linda Nguon
Producers Linda Nguon, Sébastien Kong
Cast Roat Chaya, Édouard Prak, Linda Nguon, Ella Kong Nguon

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LA ESTRELLA



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 22 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

La Estrella is a tender portrait of a tight-knit Mexican-American family grappling with the entrance of fentanyl into their community.

Set across two timelines, the story follows José, a gentle, but withdrawn teenager struggling to gain his momentum, and his older brother Diego, a charismatic and ambitious college student struggling with the stress of family expectations.

CREDITS

Director Gabriela Díaz Arp
Writers Gerardo Coello Escalante, Amandine Thomas
Producer Anna Lyle

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LANGUISH



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Clio is forced to face the woman who abandoned her 9 years ago, just a week after her wife's passing. Her unexpected drop in tests the very thin line between grief and forgiveness. Which will win?

CREDITS

Director Eula Banks
Writers Thomas Rivera, Eula Banks
Producer Khalil Carr
Cast Jasmine Liddell, Carrie Patterson

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LETTING GO



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 4 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

A widowed husband faces his final stage of grief on the night of a new date.

CREDITS

Director Avery Franklin Davis
Writer Avery Franklin Davis
Producer La'Tonda Hardy-Davis
Cast Mark Frey, Doug Vogel

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LIFE AFTER DIAGNOSIS DAY



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 15 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2023 · ENGLISH

11 families discuss their struggles after getting diagnosed with 8 different rare diseases. They face the grief that comes from having the expectations for their child up-ended.

CREDITS

Director Daniel DeFabio

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LIFE IS (A) SHORT



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 15 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

On the ten-year anniversary of her dad's death, Frankie reflects on the absurdity of content creation. She would rather end her life than make a short film about death. But is she serious? A twisted look at why we make art through the lens of grief.

OUR TRAILER IS VIRAL | 128K VIEWS AND 25,00+ SHARES Check it out: @life.is.a.short_Film

NOTE: A CONDENSED TWELVE MINUTE VERSION OF THIS SHORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATION.

CREDITS

Director Brooke Dooley
Writer Chelsea London Lloyd
Producers Hope Rubinkowski, Brooke Dooley, Chelsea London Lloyd, Gina Su
Cast Whitney Rice, Anjelika Washington, Chelsea London Lloyd, Winter Bassett
Cinematographer Ali Arminio; First Assistant Director: Jessica Dho; Gaffer: Joann Wong; Casting Director: Julina Baber, CSA; Editor: Avi Kaye

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LIGHT BUNNY

NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 15 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH



LOGLINE:

Six months after her son’s death, a grieving mother receives a late night phone call from a voice claiming to be him, speaking from an “in between” place. As the conversation grows darker, she is forced to confront the depths of grief, memory, and the fragile line between reality and deception. (Psychological Drama)

BRIEF SYNOPSIS:

Carmen, a grieving mother, struggles to move forward six months after the death of her son, Luke. Her days are consumed by isolation and guilt. One night, she receives a mysterious phone call. On the other end is a voice claiming to be Luke, speaking from an “in between” place.

At first, Carmen is overwhelmed by the bittersweet connection, believing this might be her chance to make amends for the regrets she carries. But as the call continues, Luke’s voice becomes increasingly desperate, asking for her help to "move on" by providing something only she can give: her credit card information.

The voice is eerily accurate, mimicking Luke’s tone, cadence, and familiar phrases. Carmen wrestles with the impossible question: could this really be her son reaching out, or is it something more sinister? As suspicion grows, she realizes the truth, the voice isn’t Luke, but a scammer using AI to replicate his speech and exploit her grief.

Memories flood back, of Luke’s love for art, his restless spirit, and their final moments together. In a moment of clarity, Carmen refuses to give in. Letting go of the fake Luke, she reclaims her real memories and begins to tidy her home, a metaphor for restoring her life. As morning sunlight fills the house, a glimmering reflection dances on the walls, evoking the “light bunny” Luke used to create with his wristwatch. It’s a sign that the real Luke’s love and light will always remain with her, even as she moves forward.

***

With an Original Score by Annie Award Winning Composer Rob Cairns (Love, Death + Robots) and Sound Design by John Warrin at Esho Sound (The team behind the Sean Baker's Palm D'or Winning Anora.) Starring theater legend Karole Foreman (Billie Holiday in Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, Jelly's Last Jam.)

CREDITS

Director Valerian Zamel
Writer Valerian Zamel
Producer Valerian Zamel
Cast Karole Foreman, Eric B. Anthony, Eric Davis, Ethan Smith
Music Rob Cairns; Sound Design: John Warrin; Cinematographer: Steven Carter; Editor: Valerian Zamel

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LORENCITO MIO



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 22 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

When a rare neurological illness devastates the life of young bodybuilder Lorenzo, his strength turns into survival. Lorencito Mío reveals a powerful journey of healing, resilience, and the community that helped him find his way home.

CREDITS

Director Briana Derise Molina
Producer Rosina Guerra
Cast Lorenzo Lunceford

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LOUISE



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 35 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024 · ENGLISH

It’s 1944 and Louise has to undertake the long arduous journey

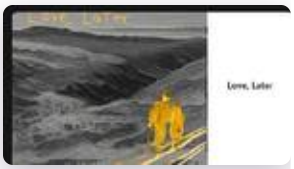
home, overwhelmed by grief, with her baby Bonnie, after her husband Ralph perishes in a B-17 training crash over South Dakota.

CREDITS

Director William Bancroft
Writer William Bancroft
Producer Jennifer Gatts
Cast Aubrey Shimek Davis, Paul Calhoon, Jennifer Simons
Director of Photography Kendra Strahm; Original Story: Laurie Hopkins

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LOVE, LATER



STUDENT FILM, DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 19 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Love, Later is a short documentary film exploring dating relationships in senior communities. It features two couples who found love on their own terms. Through their stories, we hear about the thrill of budding romance, the limitations and workarounds of intimacy in later life, and the determination to be present and hold on to each other to the very end.

CREDITS

Director Katie Stormer
Cinematographers Jo O'Leary, Burak Çolak; Animators: Katie Stormer, Mae Rader; Musicians: Nathan Sturdivant, Tyler Buckser-Schulz

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

LUCIANO'S JOURNEY

El Viaje de Luciano

NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 18 MIN · MEXICO · 2025 · SPANISH



When Luciano’s newborn arrives fighting for life, the celebration he imagined dissolves into fear and uncertainty. In the sterile silence of the hospital, he meets Angélica — a serene, enigmatic presence who seems to know his pain before he speaks it. She pushes him to confront what he fears most: that love requires the courage to stand in the face of loss.

A haunting and intimate encounter where hope, grief, and something unexplainable converge.

CREDITS

Director Edgar Bahena

Writer Edgar Bahena

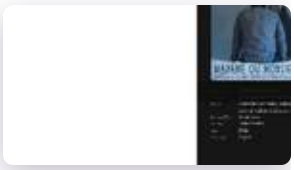
Producer Yair Ponce

Cast José Ángel Bichir, Paulette Hernández, Kate Del Castillo

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MADAME OU MONSIEUR

NARRATIVE SHORT FILM, STUDENT FILM · 17 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH, FRENCH



Vincent lives in quiet isolation, his days marked by routine and numbness. When a letter from Colette, an elderly woman who writes to strangers, unexpectedly arrives, he’s drawn into a correspondence that rekindles his sense of wonder. But when her letters stop, Vincent must decide whether to return to solitude or carry on her legacy of reaching out.

CREDITS

Director Yogi Castor

Writer Yogi Castor

Producer Yogi Castor

Cast Canaan Barbery, K.S. Brooks, Collin Masteller, Tris Ryyan, Star Carnell

Director of Photography Ethan Scheffer; 1st AC: Dominin Faagau; Digital Image Tech: Ethan Scheffer; Music Composer: Tan Onwimon; Lighting & Grip: Keagen Kittilstved, Conor Labar; BTS Photography: Camron Abghari, K.S. Brooks, Hana McDowell; Hair and Makeup: Hana McDowell; Location Manager: Jordan Fischer, Jacob Schultz; Location Producer: Daniel Schaefer; Field Recorder: KD Seiler; Edited by: Yogi Castor; Sound Design by: Yogi Castor; Foley Artist: Yogi Castor

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MAMIE



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 15 MIN · SPAIN · 2024 · SPANISH

Carla receives a disturbing call from her mother, Anne. Her grandmother, Mamie, wants to die. With this news they decide to travel to be together, for the last time, the three of them and say goodbye to Mamie.

The meeting, initially affectionate, turns muddy as old grudges buried under a history of family abandonment come to light.

CREDITS

Director Pedro Tamames

Writers Victoria Cerrada, Pedro Tamames

Producers Marieta Caballero Baeza, Marieta Caballero

Cast Sonia Almarcha, Teresa del Olmo, Victoria Cerrada

Cinematographer Gloria Gutiérrez Asla; Art Direction: Sara Etienne; Sound: Ander García, Ángel Rojas; Film Editor: Hugo Alcaide; Music Soundtrack: Diego Navarro; Costume designer: Berta Grasset; Stylist: Ainhoa Echevarría; Producer: Marieta Caballero Baeza

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MAURICE & MARVIN



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 22 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Maurice and Marvin is a story of love, loss, and the healing power of art. The film is a meditation on how one man, facing inconsolable grief, used photography – and Instagram – to cope, to honor his husband, and to create an online community for others mourning their own loved ones. It is also a tale of how social media, which often alienates and polarizes, can be a platform for forging deep interpersonal connection. The art historian Maurice Berger – best known for writing The New York Times “Race Stories” column – was one of COVID’s earliest U.S. victims in March 2020. Devastated by his death, his husband, curator Marvin Heiferman, turned to his Instagram account (@whywelook) to grapple with his loss. Posting one photo a day as he documented his anguish, Marvin quickly drew thousands of followers who found solace in his pictures – and a common bond.

Maurice and Marvin is directed by David Friend. A longtime Vanity Fair editor, Friend executive-produced the Oscar-shortlisted MLK/FBI, and won best documentary Emmys for 9/11 and Lakota Nation vs. United States. The film features artist/political activist Nan Goldin, historian Sarah Lewis, and writer-director Katherine Dieckmann as well as music by jazz powerhouse Jason Moran.

Producers: David Friend, Meghna Rao, Katie Schiller. Editor: Alex Keipper. DP: Sebastiano Tomada. Graphics: Mighty Oak. Executive Producers: Oscar-nominee Amy Berg, A. Cary Brown, Clare Butler Rooney, Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo. Friend is represented by Cinetic Media.

CREDITS

Director David Friend

Producers Meghna Rao, Katie Schiller

Executive Producer Amy Berg, A. Cary Brown, Clare Rooney Butler, Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo; Director of Photography: Sebastiano Tomada; Editor: Alex Keipper; Sound: Jesse Peterson

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MEMORIES OF MY FATHER



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 52 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

After the sudden death of his father, filmmaker Jack Frye turns to decades of home videos and photographs to make sense of his father's life. Anchored by a mountain climb they shared in Colorado, Memories of My Father moves between archival footage and present-day reflection to revisit a family history shaped by faith, fatherhood, and a love of the outdoors. In looking back, Frye considers what it means to preserve memory and how to carry it forward.

CREDITS

Director Jack Frye
Writer Jack Frye
Additional Footage Jamie Frye, Jeremy Frye

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MENDED



STUDENT FILM, ANIMATED FILM · 5 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

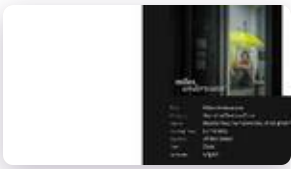
Mended is a stop motion animated short film utalizing traditional materials and stop motion technoques. The film follows Beetle trying to manage the stress of unexpected guests in his home.

CREDITS

Directors Megan Blades, Ava Ciaramitaro, Cady Stalvey
Music Sammy Blades

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MILES UNDERWATER



NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM · 63 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

On the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, an ordinary day becomes extraordinary when unseen forces guide a grieving boy toward truth, healing and the courage to let go.

CREDITS

Director Jen Prince
Writers Colette Freedman, Brooke Purdy
Producers Jhennifer Webberley, Will Underwood, Jen Prince
Cast Troy Hogan, Wynn Reichert, Max Purdy, Doug Purdy, Scout Purdy, Brooke Purdy

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MIND U



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM, EDUCATIONAL / INFORMATIONAL FILM · 30 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

MIND U is a 36-minute documentary short film that examines the mental health issue facing today's college athletes. Told from four distinct perspectives, the film weaves together multiple narratives in an effort to help reduce the stigma of asking for help.

CREDITS

Director Glenn Østen Anderson

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MOM



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 30 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2021 · ENGLISH

William Grace is a twelve year old boy, who lives with his mother Emily and his two younger siblings Alex 8 and Aurora 6. William arrives home on the last day of school, to find his mother dead of a drug overdose in her bedroom. Fearing that the border patrol will come and take him and his siblings away, like he saw happening on the news to immigrant families. He decides to hide her death and take on the role of “Mom” to keep his family together. But the tables are quickly turned when he finds out that being the adult isn’t all it is cutout to be. With juggling book club, shopping, cooking, bills and two younger kids it’s more than one boy can handle!

CREDITS

Director Austin Foxx
Writer Austin Foxx
Producers Roy Thomasson, Jessica Hernandez Wynn
Cast Austin Foxx, Kinley Moody, Tristan Riggs, Amanda Joy Erickson, Monica Perez, Tyrone Betters
Production Company LifeLine Entertainment

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MOMENT OF SILENCE

침묵의 사선



ANIMATED FILM · 12 MIN · SOUTH KOREA · 2025 · AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

An elderly man who lost his family in the Korean War defected to find his family's remains for the first time in 75 years, and a U.S. military veteran who heard the news decides to go to Korea

An elderly North Korean defector who was a refugee during the Korean War loses his family and becomes a prisoner of the People's Army alone and spends 75 long years. He will defect to South Korea to recover his family's remains after 75 years as an elderly man. A U.S. military veteran who was a record soldier during the Korean War accidentally heard the news of an elderly North Korean defector

When he encounters it, he decides to help him recover the remains of the elderly family of North Korean defectors and decides to go to Korea in a hurry

CREDITS

Writer JUNG JAE HOON JAE HOON JUNG
Producer 노은정 은정 노

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MR. FLEISCHMANN



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 24 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

In present-day Los Angeles, a reclusive Holocaust survivor is forced to confront the unthinkable when the Nazi officer who executed his parents suddenly reappears as his new neighbor. Days later, the man is dead. As two detectives investigate, they uncover buried secrets, shifting loyalties, and a lifetime of trauma that blurs the line between victim and suspect—and justice and vengeance.

CREDITS

Director Frank Crim
Writer Frank Crim
Producer Zachary Wright
Cast Walter Koenig, Frank Crim, Ralf Nieder

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MY BEST NUT



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 22 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024 · ENGLISH

Jude isn't the life of the party; he is the party. But this is only after he's forced to spend his days in the hospital fighting cancer. Soon the patients around him look forward to seeing him as much as they don't look forward to their next round of treatment.

CREDITS

Director David L Bradburn
Writer David L Bradburn
Producers Lisa Roti, David L Bradburn
Cast Jude Roche, Frederick Todd, Taylor Friend, Casey Kramer

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

MY MESSAGES TO SELF



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 21 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

My Messages to Self is a poetic portrait of David Kilburn, a Joshua Tree tradesman navigating profound loss. Through theatrical and emotionally charged imagery, Gordon Clark traces David’s transformation after the deaths of his son and wife. Inspired by her final words, “Metamorphosis,” he turns grief into a testament of resilience and renewal.

CREDITS

Directors Gordon J Clark, David Kilburn
Writer Gordon J Clark
Producers Gordon J Clark, David Kilburn
Cast David Kilburn
Original Music Jarrod Radnich; Director of Photography: Gordon J Clark; Film Editor: Gordon J Clark; Music Editing & Mixing: Jarrod Radnich; Colorist: Robert Curreri; Sound Mixer: Scott A Jennings; Photo Tableauxs: Gordon J Clark; Visual Effects: Jarrod Radnich; Aerial Photography: Jorge Davies; Executive Producer: Melissa Sabol

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

NANA



20 MIN · FRANCE · 2025 · FRENCH

In the French countryside, Armando, a slightly macho old man, loses his bearings when his wife, Gina, becomes seriously ill. He will learn to accept help from his son and his granddaughter despite the latent tensions.

CREDITS

Director Katia Crivellari
Writer Katia Crivellari
Producer Quentin Daniel
Cast Geneviève Emanuelle, Emile Salvador, Katia Crivellari, Benoit Di Marco
Director Of Photography Theofanis Kavvadas; Film Editor: Damien Femy; Music Soundtrack: Arielle Krebs; Sound Editing: Arthur Meyer; Production Sound Mixer: Arthur Meyer; Set Decorator: Teresa Bartolomeo; Continuity Script: Mathilde Chevrier; First Assistant Director: Arthur Jalta; Location Manager: Faustine Daigremont

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

NASTY



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 40 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Nasty tells the story of Lt. Col. Daniel Nash, an F-15 pilot who was scrambled from Otis Air National Guard Base at supersonic speed on the morning of September 11, 2001, to intercept what was believed to be a hijacked commercial airliner. Although the attacks ended that day, their effects on Dan did not.

Through the voices of family members, close friends, and a fellow pilot, the film traces the quiet turbulence that followed. Disciplined, steady, and driven, Dan struggled with the aftermath of that morning—a weight he would carry for the rest of his life.

Shortly after his passing, his hometown of La Grange, Illinois, became the setting for a small act of remembrance. At the town's 75th annual pet parade—a tradition Dan had loved since childhood—his 1984 high school classmates proudly built a scrappy float in his honor. What began as a simple tribute became a moment of reflection for a community beginning to understand the unseen cost of that day.

Woven from personal stories and a hometown's remembrance, Nasty examines how the events of a single day can ripple through an entire life—and how understanding sometimes arrives years later.

Sometimes heroes answer the call.

Sometimes they need saving, too.

CREDITS

Director John Gerald Scaletta
Writer John Gerald Scaletta
Producer John Gerald Scaletta

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

NO HOME, JUST LANDSCAPES



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 71 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

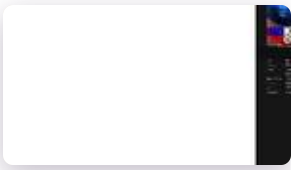
No Home, Just Landscapes is a poetic essay film in which the filmmaker narrates a letter to a deceased friend over shots of their hometown and surreal fantasy scenes.

CREDITS

Director Gabriel Xavier
Writer Gabriel Xavier
Producer Gabriel Xavier

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

NO KNOCK - NO CHARGE? THE AMIR LOCKE STORY



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 101 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

NO KNOCK – NO CHARGE? THE AMIR LOCKE STORY

Executive Producers Andrew & Linda Kay Tyler

Referred to as the “Blueprint for justice”, this riveting gut-wrenching film exposes dual police departments, St. Paul and Minneapolis' unmistakable 'culture of coverup' and execution. This documentary features Dr. Eric Michael Dyson, Congresswoman IIhan Omar, Attorney Ben Crump, Roland Martin, Rev. Al Sharpton, Jeff Storms, Debra Watts (cousin of Emmet Till), Activist/Attorney Nekima Levy Armstrong, Activist Marques Armstrong, and is Narrated by Attorney Cannon Lambert who represented Sandra Bland.

The story of Amir Locke continues to reverberate across the na.on. Congresswoman Ilhan Omar’s Amir Locke End Deadly No-Knock Warrants Act was directly inspired by this tragedy. Even more troubling, former Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman publicly acknowledged that in 24 years he had “never reviewed body-cam footage” and relied solely on officer testimony — a practice that contributed to the decision by Freeman and Attorney General Keith Ellison not to bring charges against the officers involved.

Our pursuit of justice has not stopped. Most recently, we achieved a major milestone and won our case at the Supreme Court level. Minneapolis decided to allow the courts to determine what the family would be allowed, and we now enter the discovery phase of the lawsuit. This development further affirms the importance and urgency of this film. In July 2025, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals issued a pivotal ruling stating that, “based on uncontradicted allegations, Amir Locke lowered the barrel of his firearm, began raising his left hand, attempted to comply with commands, and never acted in a threatening manner” (NO. 24-2612).

No Knock – No Charge? is enriched by music from Grammy Award winners Dr. Walt Whitman & The Soul Children of Chicago, The Sounds of Blackness (NAACP IMAGE AWARD NOMINEE), Pastor Darius Brooks, and Kendall Nesbitt, with sound mixing and mastering by Tom Trafalski. The film has earned heartfelt endorsements from Actress Cynda Williams, Actor Hawthorne James, Producer/Actor Ken Sagoes, and Civil Rights Daughter Ruby Shuttlesworth-Bester. Their words speak to the film’s impact:

Ken Sagoes: “It brought me back to Emmett Till all over again. Every person on earth should see this film and charges should have been brought.”

Ruby Shuttlesworth-Bester: “An excellent feature documentary that is a historical, graphic, and accurate account of man’s inhumanity to man provided by police body cams.”

CREDITS

Director Andrew Niccademous Tyler

Writer Andrew Niccademous Tyler

Producers Andrew Niccademous Tyler, Linda kay Tyler

Cast Michael Eric Dyson, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, Benjamin Crump, Karen Wells, Andre Buddy Locke, Nekima Levy Armstrong, Linda Kay Tyler, Andrew N Tyler, Jeff Storm, Antonio Romanucci, Marlon Speed, Marques Armstrong, Jonathan McClellan, Monique Cullars-Doty, Skyler Preet Gulati, Cheryl Locke, Neka Gray, Rep. Brion Curran, VP Rob Doar, Andre Evans-Clemons Phoenix

Editor Andrew Niccademous Tyler; Appearances: Reverend Al Sharpton, Attorney Cannon Lambert, Deborah Watts, Toshira Garraway, Toussaint Morrison, Neka Constantino, Sherman Wells, Jamecia Bennett, Chris Hush, Jerome Tredwell, Minnesota House/Senate Representatives, Minnesota Human Rights Department; Sound Engineer: Thomas Trafalski

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

NO TIME

Keine Zeit

NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 24 MIN · GERMANY · 2025 · GERMAN



A lonely elderly woman and an overwhelmed young caregiver slowly grow closer despite early challenges – until a life-altering decision calls everything into question.

The script to "No Time" has won the Schleswig-Holstein Screenplay Award. The film project was supported by the MOIN Filmfund Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein and had its world premiere at the Nordic Filmdays, Germany. It has since been screened at several festivals, receiving awards and nominations.

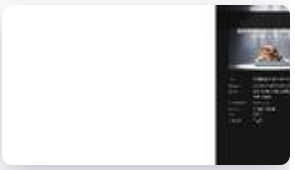
CREDITS

Director Jackie Gillies
Writer Jens-Uwe Bahr
Producer Jackie Gillies
Cast Friederike Frerichs, Marius Borghoff
Dop Konstantin Tanner; Editing: Konstantin Tanner; Music composer: Max Berghaus

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

NOTHING TO SEE HERE: WATTS

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 91 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH



Everything was at stake: Bloods sat with Crips, police with victims, clergy with a mother beaten by the gangs.

Within a year, homicides declined 90%

And gang-related homicides fell to ZERO

What happened in that room is our story.

Sixty years after the 1965 Watts uprising, the neighborhood America wrote off has shown us what is still possible.

After a late-night police ride-along in Watts, an outsider witnesses a version of Watts that never makes the news.

Searching for a way to understand what he had seen, he poses a simple question: what would happen if the people living the story told it themselves?

Twenty residents (rival gang members, police officers, students, parents, and victims of violence) are given iPhones and full control over their own footage. Seventeen of them are the film's credited filmmakers, and more than 300 members of the community contribute to its making.

There is no script.

No outside director.

No outsider shaping the story.

Instead, the participants film their lives: raw, unfiltered, and on their own terms.

But the process takes an unexpected turn in the editing room, where one rule governs the cut: nothing stays in unless everyone agrees.

Forced to sit together and watch each other's lives, people with every reason to distrust one another must decide how their community will be seen.

As personal histories collide, long-held assumptions begin to break down. What emerges is not forgiveness, but recognition.

Then the filmmakers screen the film in a warehouse for the leaders of Watts' four largest gangs, men with more than 200 years of prison time between them. The gangs ask for more screenings. Out of those rooms comes a peace agreement, written by the people who would have to live under it.

According to the LAPD, in the twelve months that followed, homicides in Watts fell 90 percent, gang-related homicides fell to zero, and all forms of violent crime fell by more than half.

Nothing to See Here: Watts is a film created by Watts, not about it, revealing what becomes possible when people see their enemies differently.

CREDITS

Directors Emily Avalos, John Coughlin, Celeste Garnica, Meryland Gonzalez, Jaime Gregory, LaWanda Hawkins, Jose Hernandez, Erik Loomis, Neci McKinney, Timothy A. Pearce, Sean Reynolds, Tyrone Riley Jr., Tyrone Riley Sr., Kristina Ripatti, Iris Romero, Qiuana Williams, Cornelius Wills

Producers Michael Soenen, Todd Lieberman, Suzanne Malveaux, Sherine Ebadi, Brandon Salaam-Bailey

Cast LaWanda Hawkins, Sean Reynolds, Timothy A. Pearce, Kristina Ripatti, Meryland Gonzalez, Erik Loomis, Cornelius Wills, Neci McKinney, Emily Avalos, Tyrone Riley Sr., Celeste Garnica, Iris Romero, Jaime Gregory, Pastor Jose Hernandez, Tyrone Riley Jr., John Coughlin, Qiuana Williams

Executive Producers Dr. Bernice A. King; Music Producers - Score and Soundtrack: Stix Salaam-Bailey, Savalas Holloway; Soundtrack Artists: Kenyon Dixon, Jay Rock; Co-Producers: Tony Curotto, Savalas Holloway; Associate Producers: David Glickman, Paul Nemeti, Amanda Worley

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

NURIT

נורית

ANIMATED FILM · 11 MIN · ISRAEL · 2022 · HEBREW



Nurit walks us through her fascinating journey to motherhood, which begins in a silent birth, continues on to tens of fertility treatments and ends up in fixing the Eilat cemetery. There she finds closure.

CREDITS

Director Sohini Tal

Producer Chen Heifetz

Cast Hanna Azoulay Hasfari

Lead Animator Tom Danieli

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO - FOR CAREGIVERS



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM, ANIMATED FILM, EDUCATIONAL / INFORMATIONAL FILM, POETRY READINGS VIDEOS · 4 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Art with heart. An authentic and soulful exploration of the challenges and joys of caregiving -- via an original poem set to animation.

Purpose is to cultivate and strengthen understanding, support and community for the millions of often invisible yet valiant caregivers, and those who know a caregiver.

BEST U.S. SOCIAL SHORT FILM - Stockbridge Film Festival 2026

FIRST TIME WRITER, DIRECTOR, SUBMITTER

Under-represented Writer, Director

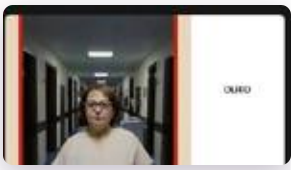
DCP in progress

CREDITS

Director Sandi Montour
Writer Sandi Montour
Producers Michael Cabral, David Bacdayan
Animator Joe Petrucci

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

OLIKO



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 12 MIN · GEORGIA · 2025 · GEORGIAN

“Oliko" is a meditative, observational short documentary set within the intimate space of a palliative care clinic. The film follows Oliko, a nurse who has been caring for terminally ill patients for over 12 years and continues her work to this day, offering a rare and restrained glimpse into the ongoing, invisible labor of end-of-life care. Merging static interviews with minimalist long takes and ambient corridor soundscapes, the film captures the fragile rituals of presence, touch, and waiting.

Through a deeply personal lens, “Oliko” contemplates the quiet threshold between life and death, where time dilates and human connection becomes its own form of grace.

CREDITS

Director Irina Barkalaia
Writer Irina Barkalaia
Producer Maia Skhirtladze
Cast Irina Barkalaia, Oliko Nadirashvili

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

ON DYING OF DEMENTIA IN A CAPITALIST SYSTEM



ANIMATED FILM, DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 15 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025

After a violent episode on Memorial Day, we placed my partner in memory care. 11 weeks later he died. This short film, made in partnership with Chilean animators Sebastián Bisbal and Natalie Johns, explores the contradiction between for-profit institutions and the deep humanity of care workers and residents. The piece ends in healing. The truth of observation is seared into my heart.

CREDITS

Director Anne Lewis
Writer Anne Lewis
Producer Anne Lewis
animators Sebastián Bisbal, Natalie Johns; Audio: Andrew Garrison

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

ORANGE SUNSET



COMEDY OR DRAMEDY FILM · 6 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026

A man goes on a romantic date with an orange balloon. Is there more to this than meets the eye?

CREDITS

Directors Nickolas Main, Patrick Forest
Writers Nickolas Main, Patrick Forest
Producers Nickolas Main, Patrick Forest
Cast Nickolas Main, Miesha Harris
Key Grip Mark Nickoloff; G&E: Whitney Wenzel, Danielle Main, Miesha Harris, Betty Nickoloff, Alma Lyson; Transportation: Danielle Main, Whitney Wenzel, Patrick Forest; Editor: Nickolas Main, Patrick Forest; Make up: Whitney Wenzel

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

ORDINARY GREATNESS



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 48 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Ordinary Greatness is a raw and confessional autobiographical documentary from debut filmmaker Michael J Gillette. Through personal narration, archival material, and intimate present-day reflection, the film examines what happens when the dream that once defined your identity never fully arrives, and the emotional reckoning that follows.

After spending years chasing success, recognition, and the belief that fulfillment existed somewhere “up ahead,” Gillette confronts the collapse of his lifelong dreams of becoming a rockstar. What begins as a story about ambition, disappointment, and unmet expectations gradually transforms into something more universal: a search for meaning beyond status, achievement, and external validation.

At its core, Ordinary Greatness explores themes of self-worth, fatherhood, family, reinvention, and the quiet dignity of everyday life. It asks whether a meaningful life is found at the top of the mountain we imagine, or in the ordinary moments, relationships, and acts of love that were with us all along.

The tone of the film is honest, vulnerable, and ultimately hopeful. While deeply personal in origin, its message is broadly relatable to anyone who has questioned their path, measured themselves against unreachable ideals, or wondered if they are enough as they are.

CREDITS

Director Michael J Gillette
Writer Michael J Gillette
Score Michael J Gillette

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

PAPA SHOES

風不息



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM, STUDENT FILM · 26 MIN · HONG KONG · 2025 · CHINESE

Papa Shoes follows Pearl, a young woman who inherits her late father’s traditional shoemaking shop. When an old customer returns to collect an unfinished pair of custom shoes, it triggers memories and unresolved emotions. Struggling with craftsmanship and self-doubt, Pearl revisits the skills her father once taught her. As she attempts to complete the shoes herself, she rediscovers her father's spirit and her own purpose. Through quiet perseverance and heartfelt reflection, Pearl transforms grief into growth. A poignant story about legacy, love, and finding strength in what’s left behind.

CREDITS

Director Ivana Lam
Writers Ivana Lam, Chun Man Suen
Producer Ting Ting TT Huang
Cast Wing Yam Tsang, Kwai Fun Brenda Chan

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

PAPER AIRPLANES



STUDENT FILM · 13 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

After a devastating loss, a young man is forced to confront his grief through memories and a quiet conversation with his mother.

CREDITS

Director Alyssa Thurman
Writer Alyssa Thurman
Producer Harlee Hollibaugh
Cast Aidin Fairbanks, Conor Smith, Shelley Paulson

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

PARAMPAD

परमपद



NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM · 80 MIN · INDIA · 2024 · HINDI

Parampad is a Hindi feature film that explores the profound relationship between life, death, and spiritual awakening. Rooted in Indian philosophy, the story follows an emotional journey where grief, faith, and human relationships intertwine, leading its characters toward self-realization. Blending drama with timeless spiritual traditions, the film invites audiences to reflect on the deeper meaning of existence and the path to ultimate liberation.

CREDITS

Director Raman Rishi Dwivedi
Writers Raman Rishi Dwivedi, Kamini Dwivedi
Producers Raman Rishi Dwivedi, Rajan Sharma, Kamini Dwivedi, Suruchi Sharma
Cast Dev Chauhan, Sapna Chauhan
Composer Jaanya

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

PASSENGER SEAT

助手席



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 22 MIN · JAPAN · 2025 · JAPANESE

On the day of his daughter’s wedding, Tamotsu is knitting a scarf entrusted to him by his late wife, Setsuko. As he recalls the days they spent together as a family, he faces the empty passenger seat beside him. With the ceremony approaching, he tries to step forward into the days ahead, carrying both her absence and their memories.

CREDITS

Director Masaru Iwao
Writer Masaru Iwao
Cast こういち コッセ, 絵里 町本, 珠李 南沢

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

PASSING THE LEASH: A SERVICE DOG'S TRIBUTE



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 30 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Logline- From beyond the Rainbow Bridge, a devoted service dog offers heartfelt advice to his successor on love, loyalty, and how to care for the disabled veteran they both cherish.

In "Passing the Leash", a late service dog named Dixon watches from above as a new pup, Lucas, steps into his paws to serve a disabled Air Force veteran healing from cancer and PTSD. Narrated from Dixon’s perspective, the film blends humor, tenderness, and wisdom as he offers celestial guidance on how to love, protect, and understand the human they both cherish. This deeply personal short explores resilience, legacy, and the sacred bond between a service dog and their person.

CREDITS

Director Jamie Hoyt
Writer Jamie Hoyt
Producer Jamie Hoyt
Cast Larry Goodman

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

PICKLES



STUDENT FILM · 7 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024 · ENGLISH

Tobias, a recluse, wakes up one morning to the sounds of an intruder in his home.

CREDITS

Director Ben Vasion
Writer Ben Vasion
Producers Carlos Eduardo Plummer, Sarah Cordner, Joseph C.H. Rigdon
Cast Brian Grob, Richard Hill, Charlie Stover, Zeke Weir
Executive Producer Ben Vasion; Score: Brook Munro

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

PLEASE HOLD



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 70 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024 · ENGLISH

Please Hold is an experimental documentary engaging with decades of activist media, two death bed videos, and the wisdom of many living AIDS workers, as we all sit together in one (changing) format, video—VHS, hi-8, digital, Zoom—to address these and other questions: How do neighborhoods, sweaters and scarves of loved one now lost, and queer bars hold ghosts? How do we let them go?

CREDITS

Director Alexandra Juhasz
Producer Alexandra Juhasz
Cast James Robert Lamb, Juanita Mohammed Szczepanski, Theodore Kerr, Pato Hebert, Jih-Fei Cheng, Marty Fink

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

PROGRESS WITHOUT MEMORY

Progresso Sem Memória

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · PORTUGAL · 2026 · PORTUGUESE



"Progress Without Memory", follows the final journey of the centenary BA-61 locomotive, on the margins of the Beira Alta line, evoking time, abandonment, and what endures. Between steam, rust, and silence, the film reveals a tribute to a machine that resists oblivion and the erosion of promises.

Through the voices of the inhabitants of Pampilhosa, the narrative unfolds as a sensory reflection on identity and transformation. In this final passage, the locomotive asserts itself as a living presence, a mirror of the ties between past and present, and a symbol of hope for a possible renewal and return.

To activate English subtitles, simply press play and click on CC in the bottom right corner of the screen.

CREDITS

Director Paulo Fajardo

Writer Paulo Fajardo

Producer Paulo Fajardo

Cast Ana C. Soares, Carolina Galvão, Eduardo Mota, Elisabete Paredes, Gonçalo Pereira, Guilherme Carapeto, Joaquim Galvão, José Dias, José Pereira, La Salete Dias, Maria da Conceição Tomé, Sérgio Galvão, Solange Pereira, Suzy Galvão

Camera Operator Paulo Fajardo; Original Music: Rui Costa; Editor: Paulo Fajardo; Photo Editor: Daniel Louro; Thanks: Ana C. Soares, Ben Martin, Fernando Santos, Mário Rui Cunha, Marta Pires, Mónica Sofia Lopes, Ricardo Venâncio, Suzy Galvão, Vítor Simões; Archive Footage: Abel Pinto Cabral

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

RECONSTRUCTED

AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA · 5 MIN · NEW ZEALAND · 2026 · ENGLISH



Reconstructed is an animated short built from real family images, reshaped through AI into moving fragments of memory, inheritance, and ordinary life. It looks back at the people, places, and moments that made a family.

CREDITS

Director Emme McCormick

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

RETURNING TO WORK



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 25 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Returning to Work is a deeply compassionate short documentary about navigating the return to work after the death of a loved one. Through intimate, first-hand accounts, the film follows individuals who have lost a child, a spouse, a parent, a sibling, or someone close to them, as they share how grief reshaped their relationship to work, purpose, and daily life. Created as a gift for anyone grieving and facing the daunting question of how—or whether—to return to work, the film offers na simple answers and no promises of ease. Instead, it holds saace Tor honesty. Whether returning to an in-person workplace, working remotely, running a business, attending school, or finding a new rhythm altogether, participants reflect on the quiet, unseen challenges of continuing an while carrying loss. Returning to Work is a collective portrait of shared griefjourneys—an offering of connection, validation, and presence for those learning how to show up again in the world after profound loss.

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

ROBIN CECILIA WHEAT



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 24 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026

Robin Cecilia Wheat is a portrait of an unbreakable spirit. From a childhood marked by hardship to the devastating loss of her brother, niece, and a partner lost to addiction, Robin spent her life navigating the heavy waters of grief. This documentary explores how she managed to stay "spunky and free" through it all, ultimately facing her own battle with pancreatic cancer with the same resilience that defined her life. It is a story of choosing happiness when the world offers every reason not to.

CREDITS

Director Carson Crow

Producers Carson Crow, Courtney Sanchez

Crew Levi Kirby, Jake Huber, Adam Huber, Justin Hugge; Color: Lillian Molitor; Director of photography : Seth Cianfoni; Editor: Carson Crow

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OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

ROXY & THE MAN



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 28 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

A terminally ill Vietnam veteran finds solace and purpose in rescuing an abused dog no one else wanted, rediscovering the meaning of life and the profound power of companionship.

At its core, this film is about two wounded souls: a Vietnam veteran carrying the invisible scars of war, and the loss of his wife and an abused dog who has lost her trust in the world. Alone, each is broken. Together, they become whole.

CREDITS

Director Joey Medina

Writer jon@ukcomedy.com Medina

Producers Joey Medina, Michael Marchi, Silva Mirzoian-Marchi

Cast Paul Rodriguez, Roxy Medina

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SECOND RESPONDERS



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 18 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Second Responders is a short documentary that explores the emotional aftermath of the 2023 Lewiston, Maine, mass shooting from the perspective of public school teachers. Often overlooked in conversations surrounding tragedy and recovery, educators were forced to become emotional anchors for grieving students while navigating their own fear, trauma, and uncertainty. Through intimate interviews and observational storytelling, the film examines the invisible burden teachers carry in the wake of violence and the quiet resilience required to return to the classroom after a community is forever changed.

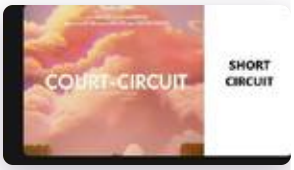
CREDITS

Director Jon Cavallero
Writer Jon Cavallero
Producers Jon Cavallero, Cian Magner, Kyle Woodworth, Hiroya Miura

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SHORT CIRCUIT

Court-circuit



AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA · 4 MIN · FRANCE · 2025 · ENGLISH, FRENCH

A mother speaks to Lili, her five-year-old daughter who suffers from epilepsy. She lovingly and poetically imagines the play-space her daughter creates in her mind during the seizures in which she loses consciousness.

CREDITS

Director Adrien Lhoste
Producer Manon Colin
Scénariste Manon Colin; Mixage: Sully Abba

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SILENCED



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 14 MIN · SPAIN · 2026 · ENGLISH

Muchos son los silenciados, por muchos motivos, pero la música puede devolverles la voz, para que sean escuchados

CREDITS

Director Publio César de la Vega García
Writer Publio César de la Vega García
Producer Publio César de la Vega García

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SINCERELY, SAGE JO



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 20 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

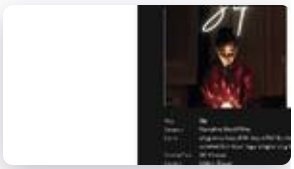
After life takes a tragic turn, middle school sweethearts Megan and Mitchell Shelton find a new purpose through creating keepsakes for others' important life moments.

CREDITS

Director Jacob Wilkins
Writer Jacob Wilkins
Producers Jacob Wilkins, Samira Sharifi
Cast Megan Shelton, Mitchell Shelton

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SIP



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 16 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

After finding herself living in a reality far different than the one she once imagined, a young woman reflects on her journey to motherhood and grieves the life she lost along the way

CREDITS

Director Rachel Chelsea Foster
Writer Rachel Chelsea Foster
Producers Rachel Chelsea Foster, Lorenzo Olson, Ellice McCoy
Cast Janae Palmer Cruz, Andrew Agner-Nichols, Liz Christmas Taylor, Kevin Leigh, Ian Ampoyo
Director of Photography Connor Drake; Editor: Erica Rowe; Production Design: Ian Michael Wilson; Production Sound: Andrew Stainer; Music by: Josh King; Gaffer: Skylar Carr; Key Grip: Andrew Alfonso; 1st AC: Samantha Giordano; Colorist : Jake Simpson

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SLIDING TO 70



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 79 MIN · ISRAEL · 2024 · ENGLISH

A year ahead of his 70th birthday, a man begins filming himself to show how he will enter a new decade of life in style. His goal is to moonwalk with as many friends and family members that he can talk into participating in the final scene of his documentary. The Israel-Hamas War, illness, and self-doubt threaten to derail his project, but he gamely slides on.

CREDITS

Director Marc Bowen Kornblatt
Writer Marc Bowen Kornblatt
Producer Marc Bowen Kornblatt
Cast Marc Bowen Kornblatt, Daniel Kleinman, Judith Deutsch Kornblatt

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SOMEWHERE VERY NEAR



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 7 MIN · UNITED KINGDOM · 2025 · ENGLISH

In this tender story of connection between the dead and their loved ones, Jace and Bryan welcome newly passed Lina to the cemetery. Can they help her find a way to connect to her sister?

CREDITS

Director Rachel Fowler
Writer Rachel Fowler
Producer Rebecca del Tufo
Cast Gray Lansky, Leon Ung, Chizuko Baynard-Smith, Bella Glanville, Lanna Joffrey

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SORROW TAMERS

Surunkesyttäjät



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 66 MIN · FINLAND · 2021 · FINNISH

Sorrow Tamers is an art-house-documentary film about individuals, who have decided to face the sorrow as it exists to them. Sorrow always shakes up the life we used to know, and everything is changed. Changed how? – You do not know, unless you fearlessly step into the world of grief and, without fearing the change, step out in due course as a new, transformed version of yourself. Life is learning how to let go before death, the ultimate momentum of letting go.

Shot on film, the short episodes of individual stories form a larger story of the finite nature of life and the intrinsic need of human beings to reach out to each other, even when it is not possible.

CREDITS

Director Mina Laamo
Writer Mina Laamo
Producer Mina Laamo
Director of Cinematography Päivi Kettunen; Editor: Tuuli Kuittinen; Sound Designer: Janne Laine

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SPHERES



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 4 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

A filmmaker documents the creation of memorial sculptures made from cremated remains. As swirling inks collide and expand like distant galaxies, a meditation emerges on grief, memory, and the strange human desire to transform loss into something beautiful.

CREDITS

Director Stephen Reedy
Writer Stephen Reedy
Producers Stephen Reedy, Chris Saul
Cast Stephen Reedy
Cinematographer Chris Saul; Composer: Michael Kim-Sheng

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

STOP TIME



NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM · 78 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

Logline:

Over the course of a single day in New York City, two creative professionals struggling with different forms of loss find themselves moving toward an unexpected encounter that challenges each to reconsider the future.

Synopsis:

Peter de Vries, a photographer struggling to move forward after the death of his wife, and Adrianna Maier, a theatrical lighting designer grappling with the discovery of a long-lost brother she never truly knew, are strangers connected by lives that have quietly come to a standstill.

Over the course of a single day in New York City, each confronts the questions, memories, and regrets that have shaped them. As mutual friends attempt to bring them together, their separate journeys unfold in parallel, revealing two people searching for a way beyond loss, uncertainty, and the stories they have told themselves about the past.

When they finally meet at the opening of Peter's gallery exhibition, an unexpected connection challenges both to imagine a different future.

STOP TIME is a moving portrait of grief, identity, and the possibility that healing can begin when life starts moving again.

CREDITS

Director paul schwartz
Writer paul schwartz
Producer paul schwartz
Cast Nelson Avidon, Tara Westwood, Patty McCormack, Catherine Quirico, Kelly Deadmon

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SUN IN MY EYES



EXPERIMENTAL FILM · 3 MIN · UNITED KINGDOM · 2024

The film conveys grief through the way sunlight becomes a trigger for layered memories, blending moments of past joy, illness, and imagined continuation so that the mother’s presence persists in everyday sensations despite her absence.

‘Wonderful, vivid imagery and emotions here. Your narration is heartfelt and evocative-- I felt the sun while listening. Thank you for this piece!’

‘Emotive and powerful piece’

‘So dear, Lee! There's nothing quite like the bond between a mother & her gay son. So hypnotic...I lost my dear Mum to cancer over 25 years ago...I'm crying.’ R

‘Gorgeous Lee. Sun in her face basking in its rays’

'Love that “every time I get sun in my eyes I think of Mum”

‘Beautiful imagery at a challenging time’

‘Heartbreaking and cathartic’

CREDITS

Director LEE CAMPBELL

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

SURPRISE TEST

Examen sorpresa



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 11 MIN · SPAIN · 2025 · SPANISH

Natalia, a devoted teacher, unexpectedly faces a lesson that will test not only her teaching, but her humanity.

CREDITS

Director NACHO ROS BERNAL
Writer NACHO ROS BERNAL
Producer IMAGINACCIÓN FILMS
Cast SONIA Valero, SANDRA GÓMEZ, SUSANA MERINO, LUNA FULGENCIO

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

TAKEN WITHOUT A TRACE: WOMEN AND ILLEGAL ADOPTIONS IN LA ARAUCANÍA



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 48 MIN · CHILE · 2025 · SPANISH

"Taken without a Trace: Women and illegal adoptions in La Araucanía, Chile" is a documentary that explores the tragedy of illegal adoptions in Chile, focusing on the testimonies of women from Temuco. Through an intimate lens and a gender-based perspective, the film reveals the emotional and social impact of these practices that occurred between the 1960s and 1990s, highlighting the pain of mothers who were separated from their children and their ongoing search for truth, justice, and reparation.

CREDITS

Director Julián Jeldres
Writer Santiago Rodriguez

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

TERMINAL



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 11 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Attending a regular support group for the terminally ill is difficult enough, but when one member goes above and beyond for another, it shows how selfless humans can be.

CREDITS

Director Diane M. Dresback
Writer Diane M. Dresback
Producers Diane M. Dresback, Bernie Tarin
Cast Jennifer Pfalzgraff, Hila Cohen, Mary A. Bordeaux, Patrick Giglio, Logan Guzmán

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THANK YOU



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 3 MIN · SPAIN · 2026 · SPANISH

Some people leaves, and leave much more than an emptiness.

CREDITS

Director Daniel Chamorro
Writer Daniel Chamorro
Producer Daniel Chamorro
Cast Daniel Chamorro

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE BAG



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 25 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2010

A women visits her elderly parents to discovered her mother is hoarding pills for her eventual suicide attempt and her father is accepting of this.

CREDITS

Director Ray Nomoto Robison
Writer Marlyn Mason
Producers Ray Nomoto Robison, Marlyn Mason
Cast Peggy Stewart, Richard Erdman, Marlyn Mason

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE BEST PART



STUDENT FILM · 5 MIN · UNITED KINGDOM · 2026 · ENGLISH

After the loss of her mother, Mei fondly relives the past when she rediscovers an old cooking pot. Through a myriad of memories, Mei has to learn how to pack up the past and move forward in her life. A story about grief, nostalgia, and food in Asian cultures as a vessel for love.

CREDITS

Director Lilian Han Morze
Writer Lilian Han Morze
Producer Lily Burgess
Cast Yulin Ng, Diana Ch, Kimberley Kemp

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE CASSEROLE BRIGADE



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 12 MIN · UNITED STATES · ENGLISH

Two brothers try to navigate the loss of their mother and the distance that has grown between them; meanwhile, neighbors and nearby loved ones duke it out in a who-cares-most competition using their main weapons—casseroles.

CREDITS

Director B. Rain Bennett
Writer B. Rain Bennett
Producers B. Rain Bennett, John F. Roberts

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE COAT



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 1 MIN · IRELAND · 2024

On a frozen tundra, a coat gives more than heat to a grief stricken girl.

CREDITS

Director Donal O'Dea
Writer Donal O'Dea
Producer Donal O'Dea
Cast Aly O'Dea

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE COLOR LEFT BEHIND



AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA · 10 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

After the death of his wife, a grieving father struggles to raise his three children while abandoning the art they once shared as a family. When the children unknowingly transform a blank canvas with their own colorful handprints, they inspire him to paint again. As grief slowly gives way to healing, one final masterpiece reveals that the love we leave behind never truly disappears—it simply changes shape.

CREDITS

Director Rob Gore
Writer Rob Gore
Producers Rob Gore, John Demakas

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE CRITIC



AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA, EXPERIMENTAL FILM · 2 MIN · CANADA · 2026 · ENGLISH

The Critic is a psychological thriller exploring the haunting power of judgment, the energy of our words, and the silent battles within ourselves. As perception and reality blur, one question remains: Who is your toughest critic?

CREDITS

Director KP Singh
Writer KP Singh

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE DAD



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 14 MIN · UNITED KINGDOM · 2025

A larger than life 'Cancer Relief' charity fundraiser, 'The Big Pink Dress' struggles through grief and personal health issues to race in memory of his beloved father.

Quirky , at times sad and at other times funny - a poignant film.

CREDITS

Director David Taylor

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE FATHER'S DAY



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM, AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA · 10 MIN · SPAIN · 2026 · SPANISH

El día del padre es un día especial, pero no todos los niños y los adultos lo viven igual.

CREDITS

Director Publio César de la Vega García
Writer Publio César García
Producer Publio César de la Vega García

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE FIRST HOLIDAYS



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

The First Holidays - TheFirstHolidays.com "This flim is mot about darkness: it's about truth. And within that truth, there is connection, compassion, and ultimatelhy— community The holidays are often portrayed as 3 time of joy, celebration, and togetherness. But for those who have lost a loved one, the first holiday season without them can be one of the most challenging periods of grief. This short documentary film is dedicated ta them. The First Holidays is an intimate documentary that follows individuals and families as they navigate their first Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, or New Year without someone they deeply loved. Through honest conversations and raw emotions, the film reveals the complex reality of grief during what society tells us should be "the most wondertul time of the year" From empty chairs at the dinner table to cherished traditions that feel impossible to continue, this short documentary film explores how people find ways to honor their loved ores while creating new meanings for the holidays. It's a story of resilience, remembrance, and the courage it takes to face joy and sorrow simultaneously.

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE GARDENER



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 75 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024

A whimsical immigrant forges a deep-rooted bond with nature when life gives him a bitter one.

CREDITS

Director Derek Shimoda
Writer Derek Shimoda
Producer Derek Shimoda
Cast Ryuso Shimoda

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE IMPOSSIBLE VOICE



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 64 MIN · VENEZUELA · 2026 · SPANISH

Livia Montes, a Venezuelan social worker and film-club activist, turned Yare prison into a space where cinema, words and imagination could affirm humanity and hope in one of Venezuela's most forgotten places.

Years after her death, a filmmaker returns, from afar, to the film archives of Yare, where he worked as a volunteer alongside her, to poems written by prisoners, to experiences shared with mutual friends, and to the personal recordings they both kept.

Through these fragments, he continues an impossible conversation with Livia and discovers, once again, the mark she left on those she encountered along the way - and on his own life.

CREDITS

Director Pablo Domingo Zapata
Writer Pablo Domingo Zapata
Producer Pablo Domingo Zapata

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE LAST OUTING

El Último Paseo

15 MIN · SPAIN · 2025 · SPANISH



CARMEN and PAQUI, two childhood friends, have met up for one of their usual 'outings' around the city. Carmen has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and although Paqui tries to encourage her to live life to the fullest, she has been giving up everything she loves and shutting herself away at home until she dies. In fact, that same day Carmen announces to Paqui that it will be her last 'outing', so they decide to enjoy it to the fullest. But these outings aren't what we expect, as they involve robbing stores and ATMs. That's right, Carmen and Paqui are elderly, but they are also robbers... and good ones.

CREDITS

Director Marcos Igual Moscardó

Writer Marcos Igual

Producers Ainoa Carmona, Marcos Igual Moscardó, Javier N.pérez

Cast Resu Morales, Charo Zapardiel, Elena López, Alfredo Carbajo, Alejandra Morón, Jesús Gómez, Sara Montero

First Assistant Director Ginés De Murcia; First Assistant Director: César Garrido; Continuity Script: Ismael López; Production Manager: Ainoa Carmona; Location Manager: Sara Montero; Production Assistant: César Garrido; Production Assistant: Raquel Muñoz; Location Scout: Roberto Hernández; Production Assistant: Miguel Escribano; Director Of Photography: David Serón; First Camera Assistant: Antonio Domínguez; Second Camera Assistant: Carmen Fernández; Second Camera Assistant: Pablo Baquedano; Gaffer: Javier Almazán; Grip: Bautista .; Grip: Ana Múgica; Sound: Alberto Montalvo; Sound: Lara Díaz; Art Director: Salomé Guerrero; Art Director Assistant: Esteban Braganza; Art Director Assistant: Majo Ramos; Make-Up Artist: Cristina Muñoz; Make-Up Artist: Claudia García; Costume Designer: Mónica M. Martin; Costume Assistant: Dolores Martin; Costume Assistant: Blanca Ortuño; Stills Photographer: Nerea Jiménez; Film Editor: Marcos Pedrón; Film Editor: Iván Crisenti; Sound Editing: Marco Igual; Music Soundtrack: Jorge Gómez; Poster Creator: Paula Merino; Drawing Artist: Antonio Manuel Igual

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE LAST TAKE

NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 14 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH



Facing the end, a movie star from the golden age of Hollywood must reconcile with the only man he ever loved.

CREDITS

Director Brian Foyster

Writer Brian Foyster

Producers Michael McCartney, Pam Foyster, Melissa Sullivan, Yvette Brooks, Atman, Matthew DeGannon, Robert Clohessy, Robert John Burke, Russel Platoff

Cast Robert John Burke, Richard Fancy, Austin Basis, Brian Foyster

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE LOST BOYS



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 9 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024 · ENGLISH

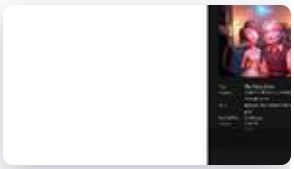
The Lost Boys is a 2024 short film written, directed, and produced by Bryan Young. It tells the story of a young man haunted by the events of his past who embarks on a fateful visit to a familiar grave.

CREDITS

Director Bryan Young
Writer Bryan Young
Producers Bryan Young, Huston Evans, Ryan Call
Cast Vahl Pate, Kingston Young

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE MAGIC SHOW



STUDENT FILM · 5 MIN · CANADA · 2026

In a quiet town long forgotten, an old magician and his wife have prepared for a special evening with their friends. As the night unfolds with fine wine and soft music, a series of magical illusions has quietly begun in no time. The magician, with his years of experience, brings origami animals into life, transforming the quiet evening into moments of wonder. Getting late into the night, the house is filled with warmth, laughter and applause, and no one is ready to leave.

CREDITS

Director Teresa Kei Kei Ng
Production Manager Astralle Molina; Art Director: Chaei Baek; Animation and Compositing Lead: Maria Yao; Animation Lead: Baitong Violet Yue; Modelling Lead: Jean Ching-Jung Huang; FX Lead: Wesley Macpherson; Rigging Lead: Tony Chong; CG Supervisor and Look Development Lead: Sergio Romero; Technical Director: Pranav Cheravulath; Crew: Hyunjin Do, Chaelin Im, Marley Smith, Dean Shoval, Brandon Ignacio, Jayden Pyke, Lingjie Zhao, Minseo Choi, Nathaly Blanco-Vallejo, Shirley Li, Olivia Lue Sang, Zini Zheng, Minji Kim, Misha Maharajh, Michael Li, Glebs Skrils, Nic Oliveira, Valentina Prado, Ekaterina Kuznetsova

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE NAME OF THE SUN



NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM · 100 MIN · NOT SPECIFIED · 2022 · ENGLISH

A social media influencer charters a plane to headline a conference in Seattle, but when his plane goes down over Montana he must fight to preserve more than just his life.

CREDITS

Director Adam Ashton Scott
Writers Nathan Weidner, Adam Ashton Scott, Javier Vallejo
Producers Nathan Weidner, Adam Ashton Scott
Cast Adam Ashton Scott, Skyler Scott, Bryce Millikin, Michael Armstrong, Julie Cecutti, Jennifer Boswell

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE NEXT WRONG THING

NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM · 87 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026



After finding out her father Ian has died, Sam is left with his beat up truck, an old motorcycle, and VHS tapes detailing a quest with her godfather Rob to find the treasure that Ian has hidden for her.

Director Statement

I did not come to this story from the outside.

I know addiction from the inside. I know what it means to be imprisoned — physically, and in the longer, quieter way that depression and substances can lock a person inside themselves for years. I know the specific shame of having hurt people who didn't deserve it, and the harder, slower work of asking whether repair is still possible. The question at the center of this film — is it ever too late to make things right? — is not rhetorical for me. It is a question I have lived.

What I wanted to make was a film that tells the truth about that experience without flinching, and without the false comfort of a clean resolution. Rob and Sam are not heading toward an answer. They are heading toward each other — imperfectly, sideways, and constantly on the verge of the next wrong thing. That felt true to me. That is how people actually move through grief and guilt and the wreckage of unfinished relationships.

I have spent 15 years making other people's stories. I have directed commercials, campaigns, and branded content for some of the biggest names in the world. That work taught me craft, precision, and how to protect a vision under pressure. But this is the first time I have pointed the camera at something that kept me up at night.

What makes me the right person to tell this story is not just the personal connection — it is that I have built the skills to tell it properly. I understand how to create a set environment that is both safe and creatively alive, where actors can go to real places because the foundation underneath them is solid. I speak both languages — the creative and the practical — and on a film this intimate, that fluency is everything.

The Next Wrong Thing is a culmination of everything I have learned: how to hold space, how to lead with clarity, and how to tell a story with honesty. It is personal. It is vulnerable. And it is exactly the kind of work I intend to keep making — grounded, collaborative, and deeply human.

CREDITS

Director Ian Moore
Writers Ian Moore, Isabella Petrosian
Producers Ian Moore, Gustavo Padron, Spencer Davies, John Lynch
Cast Heaven Devera, Tarkan Dospil, Ian Moore

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE OFFERING

La Ofrenda

POETRY READINGS VIDEOS · 2 MIN · MEXICO · 2026 · SPANISH



In an old colonial hotel in downtown Mérida, a young girl leaves an offering and pauses to observe what others ignore. Through an intimate voice-over and a contemplative atmosphere, The Offering invites the audience to experience an encounter between the visible and the unseen.

CREDITS

Director Beto Garza
Writer Beto Garza
Producer Beto Garza
Cast Helena Ovalle, Anailé Garza
Editor Beto Garza

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE OTHER HALF

NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 8 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH



On a business trip to a small rural town, Reese wanders into a local dive bar and is stunned to find her recently deceased sister, Tori, alive and happily bartending. As Reese tries to approach her, a mysterious man warns her not to disrupt this eerie parallel world where the dead still live.

CREDITS

Director Brianna Lee
Writer Brianna Lee
Producer Brianna Lee
Cast Brianna Lee, Katy Frame

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE OWLS



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 16 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Each week, a group of Old Widowed Ladies, known as the OWLS, gathers for dinner, finding friendship, laughter, and a way forward through their shared grief.

After her husband of 64 years passed away, my grandmother suddenly found herself alone for the first time. A simple dinner invitation from a neighbor who was also widowed sparked the beginning of a group they call The Owls, Old Widowed Ladies. Together they share meals, laughter, and conversations about living after loss. This short documentary is an intimate portrait of grief, resilience, and the power of friendship to carry us forward.

CREDITS

Director Taylor McNulty
Producer Taylor McNulty
Composer Pearl Rhein; Dialogue Editor & Re-recording Mixer: Jacquelyn Chin

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE PLAYTHING

玩具



STUDENT FILM · 29 MIN · CHINA · 2025 · CHINESE

For Li Xinhui, a KTV hostess, life revolves around two things: making quick money and caring for her nonverbal autistic younger brother. When her brother is found clutching a mysterious toy gun—the final straw that breaks her resilience—a hysterical family storm erupts in the dead of night. Shadows of her mother's death, relentless debt-collectors' calls, and the temptation of a wealthy client's promise to "take her away" close in on her. She screams that her brother is the burden ruining her life and nearly abandons him—until a phone call reveals that her anger stems from a heartbreaking misunderstanding…

This is a story about misjudgment and forgiveness, despair and bonds. It tears apart the shattered surface of life to ask those of us struggling in the mud: What truly is "home"—the one thing that can neither be bargained with nor escaped?

CREDITS

Director 栖萱 徐
Writer 栖萱 徐
Producers 栖萱 徐, 剑 张
Cast 芷锐 张, 深龙 粟

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE RED MOON ECLIPSE



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 75 MIN · BELGIUM · 2025 · FRENCH

My mother, Natalie, has only 2 years to live. My son will be born in 9 months.

The past is tangled and so little time remains to understand.

There is a spiral of violence and precarity we didn’t know how to make sense of — but also the certainty of a strength.

By filming my mother, I learn to embrace her relationship with the world, to bridge suffering and beauty.

In the face of death, she find a path to heal her life.

CREDITS

Director Caroline Guimbal
Producer Anne-Laure Guégan

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE REMNANT

KALAN



POETRY READINGS VIDEOS · 5 MIN · TÜRKIYE · 2024 · TURKISH

the Remnant, a poetry film based on a poem written in the wake of the devastating earthquake that struck Türkiye in 2023, claiming the lives of approximately 60,000 people, pays tribute to resilience and the struggle for survival. Blending the ancient will of King Antiochus I of Commagene (69–34 BC), found on Mount Nemrut, which lies within the 2023 earthquake zone and has withstood hundreds of natural disasters to this day, with Anatolia's deep-rooted healing traditions, the film offers a meditation on continuity amidst loss.

CREDITS

Director ARDA GÜL
Writer CAGLA MEKNUZE KIRANT
Producers CAGLA MEKNUZE KIRANT, MERT KAMİLLER, ARDA GÜL
Cast CAGLA MEKNUZE KIRANT, MERT KAMİLLER, DEMET ÖZDEMİR, RÜYA SOYLO

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE ROOM ACROSS



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 23 MIN · NIGERIA · 2026 · ENGLISH

After the loss of their child, (Dami and Janey) find themselves trapped in different stages of mourning. While Dami buries himself in work and emotional restraint, believing strength lies in moving forward, Janey remains broken, unable to leave behind the world her daughter once occupied.

As unresolved emotions build, both parents are forced to confront a painful truth: healing cannot begin until grief is shared.

This is a story about absence, love, emotional isolation, pain and the different ways people grief and survive loss.

CREDITS

Director Israel Audu
Writer Terrence Warebebe
Producer Temitayo Damilola Abass
Cast Chiediozie Alex ChukwuNonso

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE ROOM WHERE PEOPLE DIE: DANCE PARTY!



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 0 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

To get past the unexpected death of his brother, Brian embarks on a real-life emotional journey to grieve and to cleanse bad memories from the room where his brother and others have died, finding a positive way forward. Through five-stages of cleaning, spiritual cleansing, a last conversation with his brother, a room redecoration and a 60's dance party he transforms a place of deep sorrow into a room with a new purpose as his spirit overcomes darkness and raises him into a new light.

CREDITS

Director Melissa Tracy
Writer Brian R Goss
Producer Brian R Goss
Cast Brian R Goss

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE SHROWDINGER



COMEDY OR DRAMEDY FILM · 84 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Joseph Irwin has a problem. His daughter doesn't seem to be enjoying their camping trip. She won't eat the breakfast he made. Or go hiking with him. Also, she died three days ago.

Kathy Irwin can't figure out what's going on with her dad. He won't discuss their last big fight. Her ukulele playing only annoys him. And she's struggling with the fact that she's imaginary.

Over the next 24 hours, Joseph and Kathy will untangle fishing line. They'll do some stargazing. They'll get takeout. And they'll try to confront their shared past - all while sitting outside an RV called . . . The Shrowdinger.

CREDITS

Director Amanda Keith
Writer Ben Eden
Producer Chelsea Delz
Cast Holly Bentea, Ben Eden

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE SILO



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

In 1965, a welder accidentally severed a hydraulic line in an Arkansas missile silo, and 53 of the 55 men inside died. The government’s response compounded their families’ trauma for the next 60 years. Joy DeSpain, whose father was among the dead, and Jason Ulsperger, a grandson of one of the silo workers and the sociologist who wrote a book on the disaster, describe the efforts and the costs to keep the 53 men from disappearing from public’s memory.

CREDITS

Director Jason Warnick
Producer Jason Warnick
Cast Joy DeSpain, Jason Ulsperger
Editor Jason Warnick; Camera and Sound: Annalee Drain, Nathan Willis, Michael Ferrara; Assistant Editor: Eli Warnick

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE SPARROW



AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA · 6 MIN · NEW ZEALAND · 2026 · ENGLISH

At sixty, Delwyn’s life changes abruptly when her husband leaves her.

The Sparrow follows Delwyn's true story during the uncertain period that comes after, when the future she assumed she knew is suddenly gone. Through fragments of daily life, humour, memory and imagined possibilities, the film considers what it means to have no clear idea what comes next.

Rather than offering a neat story of reinvention, The Sparrow stays with that uncertainty. Delwyn may become many things, or none of the things she imagines. For the first time in years, her future is open.

CREDITS

Director Emme McCormick
Writers Emme McCormick, Delwyn Harrison
Producer Kate Wykes
Cast Delwyn Harrison

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE STARS LEAVE US



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · MEXICO · 2025 · SPANISH

Tona finds himself in deep grief due to his mother´s passing. This feeling worsens when, out of the blue, his favorite constellation disappears from the night sky. This event gives way to surreal events who follow him throughout the night.

CREDITS

Director Alejandro Martínez Hubard

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE SUITCASE

La Valija

ANIMATED FILM · 3 MIN · ARGENTINA · 2026 · NO DIALOGUE



An elderly man is left adrift in a boat after a shipwreck, with neither food nor water. Alone and unable to control the situation, he decides to give up and await the inevitable.

But the sea has one final test in store, bringing him something valuable that forces him to make a choice.

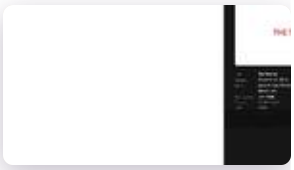
CREDITS

Director Nano Bor
Writer Nano Bor
Producer Nano Bor
Edición Nano Bor; Prop and Pippet Maker: Nano Bor; Escenografía: Nano Bor

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE THREAD

EXPERIMENTAL FILM · 6 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2023 · ENGLISH



In which we discover, detangle, and hopefully destroy the intergenerational threads that keep us from fully expressing our creativity. It's not as pretentious as it sounds. Promise.

CREDITS

Director Claire Rose Kennedy
Writer Claire Rose Kennedy
Cast Ben Donnovan, Chase Polan, Sam Child, David Kalloway, Alexandra Newell-Taylor, Marisa Murphy, Cecilia Royal-Jacobson, Christopher Callahan, Emilie Dupont, Liz Tylander, Shanna Bowie, Liesl Beecher-Flad, Davyd Field, Loredo Ginn, Chris Coates, Scott Wilson, Alex Gyrfas
Directors of Photography John Albrecht, Jon Peter, Dennis Noack; Wardrobe: Alexis Tracy; Make Up/Body Paint: Alexis Swain; Hair: Nikole Jackson; Production Design: Jenn Landis; 1st AD: Greg Kimble; Gaffer: Bobby Lam; Key Grip: Tom Howard; Producer (Eliot Short Portion): Oren Kaplan; G & E: Emile Hanton, Eddie Baraza

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THE VOLITION OF THALMUS DOQUI



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 21 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2023 · ENGLISH

"The Volition of Thalmus DoQui" follows Thalmus, a man shattered by the violent loss of his wife. Plunged into despair, his life takes an unexpected turn when visited by two mysterious strangers with life-altering intentions. As their motives unravel, Thalmus must confront his past traumas and navigate a path toward redemption before time runs out. A gripping journey through loss, fate, and the profound choices that define us.

CREDITS

Director Will Scott
Writer Will Scott
Producer Will Scott
Cast Edward Jackson, Bryant Ramsey, Al Nouri

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

35 MILLION MOTHERS MOTHER'S DAY | A MOTHER'S DAY SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT BEREAVED MOMS



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

35 Million Mothers Mother's Day - https://35millionmothers.com' & 1 in4 mothers has lost a child. Mother's Day doesn't acknowledge them. This film does. 35 MILLION MOTHERS is a short documentary produced by My Grief Angels Inc. — a public non-profit created by mothers who have also experienced the loss of a child. This film features real testimonials from bereaved mothers who have last children of every age. Every mother's voice is honored here. m ABOUT THIS FILM Mother's Day and Father's Day are celebrated each year by millions of families — but for an estimated 35 million mothers in the United States alone, these holidays carry a different weight They are days of absence, of silence, of a grief that the world around them rarely acknowledges. This film is our answer to that silence. We asked bereaved mothers one simple question: What does Mother's Day feel like when your child is gone? Their answers will stay with you. » WHO THIS FILM 1S FOR." [tis for the mother whose son died by suicide and who sits alone every second Sunday of May. it is for the mother who lost her 50-year-old daughter and is told her grief doesn't count because her child "lived a full life" ttis for the father who stands beside his partner in a grief that has no public space. it is for the friend, the family member, the colleague who never knew what to say. If you love someone who is bereaved — this film will help you understand what they carry, @ OUR ADVOCACY MESSAGE We believe Mother's Day and Father's Day should be inclusive holidays — celebrations that hold space for joy AND for grief, for living children AND for those we have lost. 35 million mothers in the U.S. have experienced pregnancy loss, stillbirth, or the death of a child at any age. That is 1 in4 women. They are in your family. They are in your church. They are in your workplace. They are in every room you walk into. They are still mothers. They always will be

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

THIS LAND IS



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 23 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2024

After the sudden death of his protective grandmother, a neglected teenage boy is forced back into the care of his addicted mother, ultimately choosing the uncertainty of the streets with a loyal friend over the heartbreak of trying to fix her.

CREDITS

Director Bunnie Rivera
Writer Bunnie Rivera
Producers Bunnie Rivera, Amy Hamilton, Robert Amico
Cast Gloria Laino, Hunter Rocha, Edward Padilla, Tricia Castañeda-Guevara

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

TILL DEATH



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 20 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

When a kind young couple is offered the chance of a lifetime to purchase their dream house from an ailing octogenarian at a fraction of its asking price, they eagerly accept. However, the deal comes with a significant catch: the older woman must live with them until her death, at which point the house will become theirs.

CREDITS

Director Yana Bille-Chung
Writer Yana Bille-Chung
Producers Martina Mossell Lee, Constance Ejuma
Cast Kieran Roberts, Nancy Ma, Rosie Lee Hooks, Hanalei Joi Roberts, Audrey B. Drake
Executive Producer Kamron Shahriaree, Abbie Chung, Yana Bille-Chung

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

TIME WILL TELL

Tiempo al tiempo



11 MIN · SPAIN · 2026 · SPANISH

Following the recent death of her mother and the unexpected return of her brother NICO (Sergio Romero), VAL (Hada Nieto) will have to confront the wounds of her past, which continue to haunt her present and prevent her from moving forward.

CREDITS

Director Andrés López
Writer Andrés López
Producer Andrés López
Cast Hada Nieto, Sergio Romero, Alex Spikjsma
Director Of Photography Borja López; Continuity Script: Amanda Ramos; First Assistant Director: Daniel Muñoz; Original Material Author: Hada Nieto; Film Editor: Andrés López; Assistant Editor: Fernando Corta; Story: Hada Nieto

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

TIMOSHA



ANIMATED FILM · 11 MIN · GERMANY · 2025

In the happy and peaceful world of the hedgehog Timosha, trouble suddenly comes. His life will never be the same again, and he will have to leave his cozy home. Will Timosha be able to understand and accept this? This story is about those who have been forced to leave their homes and start a new life.

CREDITS

Director Elena Malenkina
Writer Ksenia Mchedlidze
Producer Elena Malenkina

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

TINY THINGS



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 6 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

A woman finds solace, connection and fleeting joy in a recorded message from her astronaut wife.

CREDITS

Director Christina Hulen
Writer Christina Hulen
Producers Christina L Hulen, Nacia Schreiner
Cast Vico Ortiz, Lauren Neal

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

TRACES OF GRIEF

TRAUERSPUREN



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · GERMANY · 2024 · GERMAN

Shell-shocked Barbara must face up to the loss of a dear companion after a tragic accident. Her best friend Klara and husband Torsten devise a plan to thaw Barbara's heart, after she reminisces about the incident, the funeral, and happier times. Will she agree to the suggestions of her nearest and dearest? Can grief turn into hope?

CREDITS

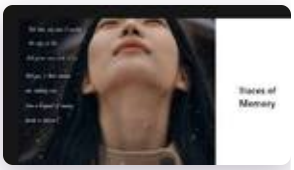
Director Dave Lojek
Writer John Alexander Fraser
Producer Dave Lojek
Cast Rachel Sidiropoulou, Andrea Dietrich, Carsten Behnert
Cinematographer Odysseas Johannes Hlepas; Composer: Mirko Rizzello

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

TRACES OF MEMORY

몽환의 파편

AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA · 8 MIN · SOUTH KOREA · 2026



Format: 7 minutes 30 seconds. Utilizing Generative AI

Genre: Romance, Drama

Concept:

A lifelong yearning for a single unforgettable, unfulfilled moment.

CREDITS

Director Wansoo Kim

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

TUCKER'S LAW

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 87 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH



After losing her son to a fentanyl overdose, a grieving Texas mother passes a law aimed at ending the crisis through education only to find that the very system she’s trying to work with is failing her and the families she’s trying to save.

CREDITS

Director Ryan Dowling
Producer Chase Honaker
Cast Stefanie Roe, Jennifer Stevens, Shane Stevens, Greg Abbott, Derek Maltz, Jena Ehlinger, Mike Gleason
Composer Chris Campbell

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

ULLA LULLA

STUDENT FILM · 6 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH



Amidst her father’s grief, a young girl is pulled towards a forgotten song.

CREDITS

Director Amelia Dickson
Composer Theo Sarris

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

UNTIL SUNSET



AI, VIRTUAL REALITY & IMMERSIVE MEDIA · 3 MIN · ROMANIA · 2026 · ENGLISH

Until the Sunset is an emotional reflection on the fragility of life and the moments we take for granted. Faced with the passage of time, one simple truth becomes impossible to ignore: we often understand the beauty of being alive only when we begin to fear losing it.

A poetic journey through love, memory, fear, hope, and the quiet miracle of an ordinary day.

CREDITS

Director Mihai Vulpe
Writer mihai Vulpe vulpe
Producer Mihai Vulpe

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

VANISHING - A LOVE STORY



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 107 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

Vanishing: A Love Story is a documentary about award-winning novelist Cai Emmons and her loving, open-hearted journey towards death. In 2021, at the age of 70, Cai was diagnosed with ALS. Taking place in 2022, during the last six-months Cai's life, the film is, first and foremost, a story about the agency of expression —having a voice to create a legacy in the world.

"Sandra Luckow's 'Vanishing' offers an almost shockingly close-up view of a life well lived and arguably well ended. Focused raptly on the late author Cai Emmons, the film is documented from so deep within her home and intimate circle that at times it also seems to have been shot from inside her head. Emmons is the intellectual driver of Vanishing—but it's Luckow's principled humility before her subject, and before the inescapable realities of illness and death, that enable this film to begin in voicelessness and dissolution and end in eloquent affirmation.

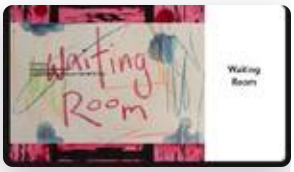
--Stuart Klawans, Film Critic, National Magazine Award winner for Reviews and Criticism

CREDITS

Director Sandra Luckow
Writers Sandra Luckow, Cai Emmons
Producers Sandra Luckow, Kat Vecchio
Cast Cai Emmons

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WAITING ROOM



ANIMATED FILM, EXPERIMENTAL FILM, STUDENT FILM · 3 MIN · IRELAND · 2025 · ENGLISH

Waiting Room is a semi autobiographical, experimental animated short about growing up with a sick parent and the complex feelings surrounding the experience

CREDITS

Director AmberAmelia Kelly

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WAR NOON



ANIMATED FILM · 1 MIN · SERBIA · 2026 · SERBIAN

Based on a powerful anti-war poem by Živojin Rakočević, this animated short draws on the stark visual language of traditional woodcut engraving. Through detailed, handcrafted imagery, the film blends realism and surrealism to portray war not as spectacle, but as an inner fracture.

Cities tilt, skies destabilize, bodies seem suspended between gravity and absence. Rather than depicting battle itself, the film explores psychological rupture and moral vertigo.

In a world repeatedly shaken by violence, the film does not shout. It insists quietly — revealing the fragile human core beneath destruction.

CREDITS

Director Rastko Šejić
Writer Rastko Šejić
Producer Rastko Šejić

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WE'LL MAKE IT HOME TOGETHER: SUZANNE AND SIMONE, A FRIENDSHIP AT RAVENSBRÜCK CAMP

"Nous rentrerons ensemble" : Suzanne et Simone, une amitié à Ravensbrück



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM · 6 MIN · FRANCE · 2025 · ENGLISH

Eighty years ago, on April 29, 1945, the last SS troops fled the German camp of Ravensbrück, the largest Nazi concentration camp for women. Among those held there was Suzanne Bouvard, a young woman from Brittany. During her deportation, she became friends with Simone Séailles, a Parisian resistance member. In life and in death, the two women bound their destinies together. After the war, Suzanne decided to rebuild her life by planting orchards. Rooting herself in the land was her way of healing and forgetting the hell of the camps.

CREDITS

Directors Stéphanie Trouillard, Claire Paccalin
Writer Stéphanie Trouillard
Producer Stéphane Bernstein

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WHAT YOU DIDN'T SAY

Lo que no dijiste



14 MIN · SPAIN · 2026 · SPANISH

After her father's death, Noa and her mother, Vera, return to the arid and infinite landscapes of Fuerteventura to scatter his ashes. During a roadside stop in the middle of nowhere, while sharing a hamburger on the hood of the car, Vera notices that her daughter is wearing old, worn-out shoes that she refuses to get rid of. Seeing that Noa shares her father's habit of clinging to and hoarding everything, Vera decides to hand her an unexpected object: a mundane notebook that belonged to her late father, which he wanted his daughter to have. Upon opening it, Noa discovers an intriguing poem titled "The Tree" ("El árbol"), whose metaphors about ignorance and hidden roots trigger an intense disconnect from reality within her. Intrigued by the secrets of a man whom her own mother confesses she never fully knew even after more than thirty years of marriage, Noa submerges herself in reading the pages from the solitude of her bedroom. The notebook turns out to be a fragmented diary that began in the year 1982. Through the entries, Noa travels imaginatively through her father's memories: from his arrival in a spectacularly empty Fuerteventura, to comical anecdotes like a pen melted by the island's heat, and onto more complex obsessions, such as notes with mathematical formulas where he attempted to decipher a hidden geometric pattern in the sun. However, the most shocking revelation comes with a 1998 entry titled "Lemon Ice Cream" ("Helado de Limón"). In it, her father captured his poetic and silent infatuation with a mysterious redhead he saw at a gas station—a woman he seemingly never actually spoke to. This discovery plunges Noa into a state of frustration and chaotic dreams, where she tries to chase the ghosts of her father's past to no avail. Seeking answers, Noa confronts her mother both verbally and mentally, attempting to piece together the diary's fragments with the family reality she grew up with. The journey through this journal not only reawakens Noa's grief over the physical loss of her father, but also a deep, melancholic nostalgia for the mysterious and inaccessible person who lived inside him—a man full of secrets whom she will now never have the chance to truly know.

CREDITS

Director Adrián Tejero
Producer Miquel Jaume
Cast Naima Ferram, Tatiana Álamo, Sarah De Herde

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WHEN NO ONE CALLS

CUANDO NADIE LLAMA

10 MIN · SPAIN · 2026 · SPANISH



At 83, Amelia lives alone… and she's not prepared for what's about to happen. Everything changes when her son gives her a completely unexpected Mother's Day gift, which sets off a chain of events as chaotic as they are hilarious. Amelia will be swept away on a journey that will force her to confront a forgotten memory… one that could change everything.

CREDITS

Director Julio García

Writer Julio Garcia

Producer Julio García

Cast Teresa Naranjo, Clara Ramos

Director Of Photography Julio Garcia; Sound Designer: Julio Garcia; Production Assistant: David Garcia; Production Assistant: Emilio López; Production Assistant: Mamen Valero; Production Assistant: María García

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WILL & TESS

NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 15 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2023 · ENGLISH



At 90 years of age, Tess must accept that it is time for roles to reverse. For decades she and her husband Will have been supportive and caring parents and now they need to allow their children to care for them.

Will & Tess stars Marlyn Mason (Elvis Presley's leading lady in The Trouble with Girls) and Mark Schneider (Babylon 5, Son of the Pink Panther).

Director Statement

"Will & Tess" is the most personal film I've ever made. I wrote it in frustration with my elderly parents (90 & 96 years of age), especially my Dad after trying to have them sign a Power of Attorney (POA) to allow me or any of their other children to take over responsibility in the event something were to happen to one or both of them. My Dad would have nothing to do with a POA whether it be for finances or medical decisions and implied that as soon as he signed it we, his children, would put him in an "old folks home".

As I wrote the screenplay it did evolve into a more loving and understanding story. I don't plan to ever have my parents see the film. I have made it because for me it is cathartic and I hope my siblings can also find some peace in its story.

That said it now may be obvious to you that "Will & Tess" is not a film made for audiences. It was made for me and my siblings. So why show it at a film festival? Imagine someone writes a poem for their lover. It is very personal. It was not written for others just for that one person. But nonetheless that poem can be very moving for others. They know the words aren't directed at them but they still find it to be worthwhile because they realize why and to whom it was written. This can be the same for film audiences who see "Will & Tess" who can appreciate this film as being a film between siblings. Even though the film wasn't made for you to watch, I hope you enjoy it.

CREDITS

Director Ray Nomoto Robison
Writer Ray Nomoto Robison
Producer Ray Nomoto Robison
Cast Marlyn Mason, Mark Schneider

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WILL I DANCE AGAIN?



ANIMATED FILM · 16 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

“Will I Dance Again?" centers the story of Oklahoma City Bombing survivor Daina (day nuh) Bradley, who lost her mother, son, daughter, and right leg in the tragedy. When the bomb sends her crashing into a tomb-like crater in the earth, Daina wonders if she will ever dance again.

Our protagonist draws on the strength of her murdered mother's wisdom for survival.

Director Statement

When I began documenting OKC Bombing survivor stories in 2016, I learned that the most difficult truths are often the hardest to visualize. Daina Bradley's journey through trauma, resilience, and the reclamation of self demands a medium that honors the internal landscape of her experience. I chose animation to capture these memories as they happened and as they were felt.

This project is a profound homecoming. Bringing a story of an Oklahoma survivor to the screen requires a cast who understands the weight of the task. I am honored to collaborate with Tulsa, Oklahoma, native Alfre Woodard, whose connection to the region lends the project a soulful gravity. Alongside her, we are joined by cultural icon and trailblazer Misty Copeland, the first Black woman principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre. Misty's participation is monumental, bridging the technicalities of dance with the raw inspiration Daina drew from her own training to survive and navigate her life.

At its core, "Will I Dance Again?" is about humans showing compassion for humans. Daina's story features the moment that doctors and first responders who were complete strangers to her raced into the rubble, risking their own lives to save her because they saw her humanity.

It is a beautiful, unifying image that reminds us that when tragedy strikes, labels dissolve and we are left with our primitive, shared humanity.

As we navigate an increasingly hyper-divided culture, this film serves as an urgent reminder of who we are as Americans and as people. Because this is the story of the largest act of domestic terrorism in U.S. history, it mirrors our own national struggle. Just as those first responders saw the humanity in Daina, we are called to see the humanity in each other. It shouldn't take tragedy to reveal our common ground, but I hope this film serves as a catalyst to bring us back to one another.

CREDITS

Director Princella Smith
Writer Princella Smith
Producers Princella Smith, Gabriel Castro
Cast Alfre Woodard, Misty Copeland, Shea Smith, Venus DeMilo Thomas, John Wilkins, Buddy Campbell, John Zacchino
Animation Compny Castro Animation

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WILL YOU COME FIND ME?

消失了的勞麗斯

NARRATIVE SHORT FILM, STUDENT FILM · 21 MIN · TAIWAN · 2026 · MANDARIN CHINESE



"Grief is not the moment of loss itself, but the slow collapse of denial—where childhood games, misunderstandings, and imagined innocence gradually give way to the unbearable truth of absence, and healing begins only when it is finally allowed to be felt and shared."

"10, 9, 8… Time Freeze!"

Xiao-yu and his younger sister used to play this countdown game with their Grandpa, who could always find the hidden watch before time ran out.

But after Grandpa suddenly passes away, the watch disappears during the funeral, and Xiao-yu becomes the center of the adults' growing suspicion.

Determined to prove his innocence, Xiao-yu drags his little sister into a desperate search through the house — clinging to the game that once made him feel safe.

Yet inside Grandpa's empty study, Xiao-yu finally confronts the truth he has been avoiding:

Grandpa is not coming back.

In the quiet embrace of his mother, Xiao-yu allows himself to grieve for the first time.

A heartfelt story about childhood, loss, and the courage to say goodbye.

CREDITS

Director Jaakob Lio
Writer Jaakob Lio
Cast Yu-Chen Ho, Yu-Fei Ho

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WILL YOU GIVE HIM MY PRAYERS?

NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 10 MIN · UNITED KINGDOM · 2026 · ENGLISH, PERSIAN



Dara is a gay Iranian immigrant in exile, and he is not allowed to go back to Iran to participate in his late father's funeral, so he shapes a spiritual relationship with a stranger's grave in the UK and uses that as a proxy to grieve for his father.

My film is about the immigrant grief, to mourn from a distance, when you are not allowed to go back home, its about father wounds and how we carry it through continents.

Director Statement

"Will You Give Him My Prayers?" is a story born from grief, grief in exile, when you are not allowed to touch your loved one's grave. Two years ago, I lost my uncle from suicide, and I could not go back to Iran to grieve for him. And I asked myself: how does an immigrant grieve when they can't go back to their home? And why no one is talking about that? Hopefully, Will You Give Him My Prayers will be like a warm hug for anyone who is grieving from a distance.

CREDITS

Director Vafa Bagheri
Writer Vafa Bagheri
Producer Aston Walker
Cast Andrew Malik

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WISH YOU WERE THERE



NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM · 43 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

"Wish You Were There" is a story about estranged family members and their struggles who find themselves coming to grips with decisions made in the past that haunt them today and learning how to cope and grow and struggle with the desire to connect even as that terrifies them.

Emily (played by Ali Dusinberre) is the granddaughter of Richard Vargas (played by Joe White), a grandfather she has never interacted with in her 24 years.

Then a family tragedy reconnects them and sparks ignite as they interact and struggle with the present, while dealing with the past.

Richard, a functioning alcoholic, spends his days drinking and taking care of his 15-year-old best friend, his black lab Robbie, when his life is interrupted by Emily who is struggling with a recent loss and dealing with her own battle with the bottle.

And the message of this film is that if something or someone is important to you don't wait until it is too late to say you're sorry or forgive someone.

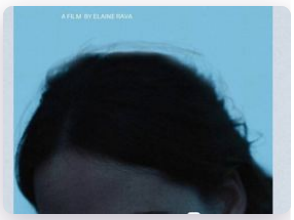
Warning! This film may contain strong language that some viewers may find offensive or disturbing. Viewer discretion Advised.

CREDITS

Director Janet Tyndall
Writer Joe White
Producer Joe White
Cast Ali Dusinberre, Joe White, Robert Gilbert, Betty Kristan, Ben Gawlik, Jackie Mccoy

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WOULD YOU KNOW ME IF YOU SAW ME NOW



STUDENT FILM · 13 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

This film explores the complex grief that comes with mourning an estranged family member.

When Kay returns to her childhood home following her estranged mother's death, she's forced to confront the memories that still reside there. Over the next few days, Kay prepares to deliver her mother's eulogy and close the door on their relationship for good.

CREDITS

Director Elaine Rava
Writer Elaine Rava
Producers Caroline Dean, Patricia Colmenero
Cast Claire Jamison, Melissa Roth

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

WOWZER!



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM · 63 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2026 · ENGLISH

After the passing of her wife, lover and life partner Carol Tierheimer, Joanie found a notebook they had written of their lives together, and it became NUN BETTER: An Amazing Love Story and made Joanie a Best-Selling Author. On her book tours, people spontaneously shared stories inspired by the book. Those stories came in two categories, Sexual Identity and Religious Hurts which led to the Trilogy of NUN BETTER, and written with co-author Elizabeth Ann Atkins, JOYOUSLY FREE! and HEALING RELIGIOUS HURTS. And to this film in which Joanie shares her WHYS and HOWS in living Joyously Free!

Best Selling LGTBQ+ Author Joanie Lindenmeyer shares her story of Grief losing her wife Carol from a Brain Bleed stroke, launching 3 books in two years.

CREDITS

Director Michael Edward Gorse
Writer Joanie Lindenmeyer
Producer Michael Edward Gorse
Cast Joanie Lindenmeyer
Editor Miranda L Plagge

OFFICIAL SELECTION · GRIEF FEST 2026

YESTERDAY & TOMORROWS



NARRATIVE SHORT FILM · 7 MIN · UNITED STATES · 2025 · ENGLISH

As a mother and daughter sit together on a quiet morning, their candid exchange unveils the depth of their love, the weight of their expectations, and the enduring strength of their relationship.

This film explores parents' emotions after loss of daughter

CREDITS

Director Zach Jansen
Writers Zach Jansen, Karen Voels
Producer Karen Voels
Cast Karen Voels, Calli Argent, C.J. DeVaan