

MoPOP | SIFF
MUSEUM OF POP CULTURE | eiff
MoPOP + SIFF PROUDLY PRESENT

16th ANNUAL

SIFF

SCIENCE FICTION +
FANTASY
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH \ 20 \ 2021
STREAMED ONLINE ON
VIRTUAL SIFF CINEMA

#SFFSFF



MoPOP

THE MUSEUM OF POP CULTURE'S MISSION IS TO MAKE CREATIVE EXPRESSION A LIFE-CHANGING FORCE BY OFFERING EXPERIENCES THAT INSPIRE AND CONNECT OUR COMMUNITIES.


siff

SIFF IS DEDICATED TO FOSTERING AN INFORMED, AWARE, AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF FILM LOVERS.

SFFSFF \ THE BEST IN SCI-FI + FANTASY SHORTS

LIVESTREAM | MARCH 20, 11:00AM

PRERECORDED ON DEMAND | MARCH 21-26

YOUTH SHOWCASE

11:00AM - 12:00PM

THE QUIET

d. Radheya Jegatheva

AUSTRALIA |

When an astronaut ponders on the quietude of space, he comes upon a startling self-realization. **10 min**

MY HOUSE

d. Alexander Edep

UNITED STATES |

Told from the perspective of AI trapped in a strange futuristic board game, a family is thrust into chaos when a protective mother, desperate to keep her turn in the game a secret, is forced to commit a heinous act to hide a troubling, family-shattering secret — all while her two children grow suspicious of her strange behavior. **10 min**

MY BEST FRIEND

d. Benji Tucker

UNITED STATES |

A delirious young boy who believes he has brought his best friend back from the dead struggles to accept life for how it is. **6 min**

THE ARCHWAY

d. Lyndsie Zimmerman

UNITED STATES |

Ava and her younger sister, Zoey, stumble upon a mysterious structure in an abandoned research facility. Upon further inspection, they find that it still functions, and even more than that, it fixes anything that's broken. Zoey sees this as a miracle that can cure her Cystic Fibrosis, but Ava thinks there's something more sinister going on. **7 min**

SLAYER

d. Christopher Edwards

UNITED STATES |

Zach, an exhausted high schooler, pulls an all-nighter developing his own retro video game, Slayer. The game continually crashes after loading up, and Zach searches through his coding textbook for a solution. After multiple fails, the computer glitches out and begins running a foreign code all on its own. The bewildered Zach hears static begin to rise from downstairs, and finds his TV running the same foreign code. Just as Zach arrives downstairs, a real-life version of the dragon from his video game walks out of the television screen. **7 min**

HOLIDAYS AMONGST THE STARS

d. Benji Tucker

UNITED KINGDOM |

During a time of great technological advancements in space travel, an average mid-century nuclear family takes part in advertising the largest holiday resort ever created; a recently colonized alien planet. Welcome to Holiday Amongst the Stars; put your feet up, grab a complimentary drink and pay no attention to the large group of angry locals marching towards you... **4 min**

YOUTH SHOWCASE

11:00AM - 12:00PM

SUNSHINE ROOM

d. Nick Lopez

UNITED STATES |

Youth Showcase Winner

Nick Lopez is a Colombian-American writer and director who likes to scare, confuse, delight, and inspire through visual storytelling. He graduated from the University of Southern California with a BFA in Film & TV Production, and currently works as a creative executive assistant in feature development at Universal Pictures. **13 min**

FLIM BLOCK 1

1:10PM - 3:00PM

SYSTEM ERROR

d. Matt Vesely

AUSTRALIA |

Every day, George works his job at a dingy convenience store, desperately hoping for a friend — but George is also an immobile robotic service unit, and immobile robotic service units do not have friends. When human customer Sid tries to tell George a joke, the simple robot is baffled. So, he sets about editing his code to learn how to laugh. Meddling with one's code however, can have unexpected consequences — consequences George is going to need Sid's help to deal with. A film about friendship, being okay with being broken, and the inner life of Unit CB-94/X0172AB3982-2. Please do not tamper with the store attendant. Have a nice day. **13 min**

UPDATED

d. Nivi Pedersen

GREENLAND |

Anna's son, Miilu, is discussing with his fiancé if Anna should attend their wedding or not. Anna suffers from hallucinatory dementia, but is already a user of e-Na, a helping equipment for people with dementia and their relatives.

An update will enable them to help when frightening hallucinations occur and make it possible to have her at their wedding.

So why shouldn't Miilu update Anna's e-Na equipment **17 min**

CABIN FOR TWO

d. Sam Hoiland

UNITED STATES |

Harold, a hermit living in a remote cabin, uses a self-made dating tape to talk about his search for love. As he bares his soul to the camera, we see a montage of his daily activities, and it becomes clear that all is not right in the world. A lurking threat is just out of sight, but not even the apocalypse can dampen Harold's spirit. **13 min**

IT'S NOT SAFE OUTSIDE

d. Stephan Bookas

UNITED KINGDOM |

Since the air has become unbreathable, humanity has learned to adapt and reorganize itself by living in isolation. Carla rarely leaves her apartment just like anyone else. The unbroken cycle of sleep, eat, work is taking its toll. One day, a young couple moves into the apartment in the building opposite Carla's. Her life is about to change. **15 min**

PROBLEMLESS ANONYMOUS

d. Gary David Roberts

UNITED KINGDOM |

Ivan has tested positive for perfection, but sadly in this world it's illegal — and the law states he must attend a private clinic to be made imperfect. **14 MIN**

PEW! PEW! PEW!

d. Loren Dunn

UNITED STATES |

Reunions can be tough. In an unsuccessful attempt to save his marriage, Miles (Matthew DeCapua) gave up his fandom — Infinite Voyage — and his convention-going, cosplaying, super-fan friends: Bradford (Brian McCarthy), Delilah (Criena House), and Anita (Shannon DeVido). Now, reeling from his divorce, Miles arrives unannounced at the annual Sci-Fi Con and attempts to win back his old friends with VIP tickets to the sold-out Infinite Voyage Bridge Experience. While Bradford and Delilah are willing to forgive and forget, Anita is having none of it. After all, you can't buy friendship. But before they can go their separate ways, cosplayer Lord Moro (Mackenzie Astin) "ambushes" the crew, forcing them to reunite in an epic cosplay "blaster" battle that takes over the hotel bar and restaurant. Fun and fantasy win the day as Bradford, Delilah, Anita, and Miles come together again in their shared love of cosplay, conventions, and "the greatest science-fiction franchise of all time," Infinite Voyage. **13 min**

OXYGEN

d. Rocky Grispen + Violette Belzer

BELGIUM |

When Doctor Fox crashes into an oxygen-free and hostile planet, she has to survive with one oxygen tank. On this planet live Bobtors, small creatures with an organic and luminous bubble around their bodies. Will Fox steal the oxygen and life of the Bobtors in order to survive, or will she sacrifice herself? **11 min**

FLIM BLOCK 1

1:10PM - 3:00PM

**YOU WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND**

d. Trish Harnetiaux

UNITED STATES |

An idyllic picnic of one is upended after the arrival of a stranger. *10min*

**LOGAN LEE &
THE RISE OF THE
PURPLE DAWN**

d. Raymond C. Lai

UNITED STATES |

Turntablist Logan Lee is in love with his best friend, Beatrice Pan, and tonight, she's throwing a party! That means DJ Logan's Fun is in the HOUSE! Now if only he wasn't so nervous. But not to fear, Auntie Bobbie is here with some of the rarest weed she's ever laid lungs on. Unfortunately, Logan soon discovers there's much more to this strain than its soothing effects. *9 min*

SESSION 1 Q+A

Following the first session of films, filmmakers from some of the selections hold a question and answer session with the audience.

INTERMISSION

3:30PM - 4:00PM

30 MINUTE BREAK

SESSION 2

4:00PM - 5:40PM

uTRANSFER

d. Giorgio Mirafior

UNITED STATES |

uTransfer is a new device that allows for certain United States citizens to transfer their consciousness into a utopia called the New World. Though it is unknown to us as to why, Dean Flores is wildly determined to get to the other side. *10 min*

IT'S OKAY

d. Justin Giddings & Ryan Welsh

UNITED STATES |

In this Black Mirror-esque tale, a couple revisit key moments of their past, only for their memories to take an unexpected turn. *9 min*

**SOLUTION FOR
SADNESS**

d. Marc Martínez Jordán

+ Tuixén Benet

SPAIN |

A mysterious package offers a woman a reprieve from her melancholy, but its results are more permanent and pervasive than she realizes. *15 min*

**A CURE FOR
ALL THINGS***d. Katherine Chou***UNITED STATES I**

Jiawei finds a vial while cleaning out her late mother's fridge, transforming her into their ancestors and descendants. Ma worries she made a mistake uprooting their lives and leaving everything behind. Mother and daughter cross paths through time to find answers in each other. *A Cure for All Things* is a story of what we leave out and what we leave behind. **7 min**

SUNSHINE ROOM*d. Nick Lopez***UNITED STATES I****Youth Showcase Winner**

Cutting-edge technology allows a young woman to grow up alongside her beloved abuela. But on the verge of leaving for college, her financial realities threaten to erase their relationship for good. **13 MIN**

PLAY NICE*d. Samuel Dawes***UNITED KINGDOM I**

Mel makes the most of her free house by getting down to some serious gaming, but she's interrupted by her children's toys when they decide they aren't getting enough attention. However, she quickly realizes they're not quite so fun to play with... **11 MIN**

**THE THIRD
BEDROOM***d. Frank Roberts***UNITED STATES I**

While visiting from out of town, Brooklyn learns before settling down for the night that she has been condemned to the sleepless agony that is crashing on a friend's couch for a week. Pressing the issue, her friend Sadie explains that the couch is the only available option, as the spare bedroom is haunted by the spirit of a cannibalistic pioneer girl who will surely kill and eat Brooklyn if she dares to spend a single night in the third bedroom. **11 MIN**

**PIPO AND
BLIND LOVE***d. Hugo Le Gourrierec***UNITED STATES I**

In a dehumanized world where emotions are rationed and measured by a gauge, Pipo, a factory worker, falls in love with a woman sitting on a bench. He will try anything to attract her attention and seduce her with his own language. **12 MIN**

FLIM BLOCK 2

4:00PM - 5:40PM

THE OTHER WAYNE

d. John-Paul Nickel

UNITED STATES |

The Other Wayne is a short comedy about two brothers grappling with a serious subject: Grief. Years ago, Bruce Wayne had a brother who helped him create his iconic crime fighting suit. But why has no one ever heard of this brother? What happened to the other Wayne?

7MIN

THE ADVENTURES OF NEBULON LAZERBEAM

d. Andrew Boyd

UNITED STATES |

In the space epic, The Adventures of Nebulon Lazerbeam, a mustache-twirling villain wreaks havoc and steals an object of extreme power, threatening the galaxy as we know it. Nebulon Lazerbeam and his mentor are called into action to stop this sinister nemesis from taking over the solar system. But at what cost? **7MIN**

SESSION 2 Q+A

Following the second session of films, filmmakers from some of the selections hold a question and answer session with the audience.

A vibrant, pixelated Minecraft landscape featuring a river, trees, and various mobs like a Creeper and a Pig. In the foreground, several Minecraft characters are shown: a girl with orange hair holding a pickaxe, a white dog, and a boy with a beard holding a sword. The background shows a large, colorful Minecraft city built on a hillside.

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CALL FOR ENTIRES COMING JULY 2021

MORE INFO AT [MOPOP.ORG/SFFSFF](https://mopop.org/sffsff)

2021 JURY MEMBERS

AARON DOUGLAS

Aaron Douglas is best known for his portrayal of Chief Galen Tyrol on Syfy's *Battlestar Galactica*. With over 100 other film, TV, and video game credits on his impressive resume — including *X-Men 2*, *iRobot*, *Stargate SG-1*, *The Bridge*, *Hellcats*, *Hemlock Grove*, *The Killing*, *The Returned*, *Falling Skies*, *The Strain*, *iZombie*, *The X-Files*, *Supernatural*, *The Flash*, *Once Upon A Time*, *Dirk Gently Holistic Detective Agency*, *Imposters*, *Jordi Chin* in Ubisoft's *WatchDogs*, and more — Aaron is now creating and writing comic books for AfterShock Comics. His writing can be found in the first two volumes of *Shock*, available in comic stores everywhere!

ISIS ASARE

Isis is the owner and founder of Sistah SciFi. Sistah SciFi is a cauldron of all things Afrofuturism: afro-myticism, science fiction, voodoo, magical realism, speculative fiction, and horror — casting spells to uplift literature focused on Black women. Sistah SciFi launched an online bookstore in late 2018, and has worked with authors such as Jewelle Gomez, Nisi Shawl, and John Jennings. Isis comments, “That as an African queer woman of color, I am not supposed to exist. However, social media, streaming video, and webcasting are creating amazing possibilities for stories focused on identity politics. My goal is to be a part of a movement to create global demand for independent media that fosters deep, engaging discussions about the difficult and empowering issues of gender, sexuality, race, and class.”

JUSTIN HUERTAS

Justin Huertas is a Seattle-based award-winning playwright, composer-lyricist, actor, and musician, as well as a Filipino-American artist-activist committed to creating original hero stories that center Black, Brown, and Queer joy, empowerment, and love. Justin's first original musical, *Lizard Boy*, had its world premiere at Seattle Rep, toured to San Diego's Diversionary Theatre, and presented at NAMT's Festival of New Musicals this past fall. He also wrote *The Last World Octopus Wrestling Champion* and *A Very Merry Kraken Tea Party* (both co-composed with Steven Tran) for ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery and Lydia & the Troll (co-created by Ameenah Kaplan) for Seattle Rep. Justin is composer-lyricist for *Howl's Moving Castle* (Book-It Repertory Theatre) and *The Lamplighter* (co-written with Kirsten “Kiki” deLoehr Helland and Sara Porkalob). He is currently under commission at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

2021 JURY MEMBERS

EDDIE DEHAIS

Eddie DeHais is a nonbinary director, choreographer, writer, and devised-theater-maker, who creates spaces of rigorous collaboration, abundant empathy, and radical joy to investigate the best and worst of human nature both in new work and traditional scripts. They create epic, transformational, sensorial experiences that empower artists and audiences to engage with difficult and conflicting truths in moments of shared humanity. Eddie believes that active and engaging storytelling can change lives — and the world.

NICOLE POUCHET

A former Broadway assistant director, Nicole Pouchet is a novelist and writer/director for Zombie Orpheus Entertainment's award-winning fantasy TV series, *STROWLERS*. Her horror/social thriller short, *RETCH*, premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) in 2019, won Best Film at the Seattle Black Film Festival in 2020, and has shown on DirecTV, Amazon, PBS, and Alaska Airlines. Her directorial debut, a sci-fi short called *SUCH AN HONOR*, is an official selection at multiple festivals in 2020-2021 including HollyShorts. Nicole continues to write and direct projects that incorporate social commentary into genre film. She is a Board Member for the Northwest Screenwriters Guild, an Advisory Board member for Destiny City Film Festival, and a guest lecturer for the University of Virginia, SIFF, and Women in Film.

PATRICIA "PAT" BOOZE

Pat Booze and her husband Doug are proud Charter Members of MoPOP.

Over the years they have participated in as many of events as they could. One of the most important of these is the Science Fiction Short Film Festival. Pat and Doug have attended every SFSFF (well technically, there was the year the Pat had to study in the lobby for her college final, but she was there). And many of you may have met Pat over the years she been a cotant presence at the Norwescon outreach table at SFSFF and other MoPOP events.

Pat studied acting in college and is a lifelong devotee of film and theater. She is also a fan of all things science fiction, film, TV, books, and art. Pat has been a staff member of Norwescon, the locale Sci-Fi convention, for 36 years, and was awarded a lifetime membership for her work. Pat was also involved in the gaming industry for over fourteen years and has traveled across the country attending gaming and pop culture events for over 20 years.

Her enthusiasm for promoting MoPOP and her other interests have given her the wonderful opportunity to be a judge for this year film festival, and she is very honored to have been asked!

FESTIVAL PRESENTERS

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