

SHORT COM FILM FESTIVAL 2021

OCT 28-NOV 4

GET THE F**K IN

Welcome to the shop of Short Com. Please find on display some of the finest pieces of work by artists from across the globe that will salivate all comedy palettes.

Despite the odds of people making any sort of film in the past 18-months or so, this years programme is something special.

We're delighted to be back to in-person screenings to see audiences enjoy these films in the best way they can in the nations capitals in London and Edinburgh. From super silly; outlandish, absurd, deadpan, and dark to films that also carry a poignant message. Big productions to perfectly executed ideas filmed in a single constrained location. Shorts that have been selected at the most prestigious film festivals. We have a truly world-class line-up of films from really exciting talent from across the globe.

This year's programme features a fine blend of emerging comedy faces with world-class acting talent. It's always been a delight to see filmmakers we've championed for years progress to bigger and more ambitious projects. No more so than Big Red Button who have repeatedly always managed to consistently make great short after great short. And we're super thrilled to be screening Don Vs Lightning, featuring world-class acting talent in Peter Mullan and Joanna Scanlan.

We were delighted to become a BIFA qualifying film festival earlier this year. A lovely badge of honour that marks the progress of Short Com over the years for recognising domestic talent. But we are just as proud and excited for programming shorts from across the globe. And this year we have a dedicated programme to our Scandinavian cousins in Our Friends From The North.

As always, Short Com is not possible without the kind help from its volunteers and supporters. Peter Carson; Lee Hamilton and Chris Townsend. As well as our sponsors and partners Festival Formula, Final Draft and Greenlit. And above all, you the audience.

Chris Aitken - Short Com Founder and Creative Director



The Affected - Norway 13.00

Minutes before take-off, a situation occurs, preventing an airplane from departing. In an attempt to prevent the deportation of one passenger, another refuses to sit down, forcing the pilot to take a political stand.

Dir: Rikke Gregersen

Writers: Rikke Gregersen, Trond Arntzen

Prod: Stine Blichfeldt

DOP: Torjus Thesen

Editor: Espen Skjong Knutsen

Main Cast: Anders T Andersen, Alexander De Senger, Renate Reinsve

Director Profile:

Rikke Gregersen was born 1994 in Norway. She has experience from both theatre and literature studies before she started her BA degree in film directing at Westerdals University in 2015. In her filmmaking she works with the combination of humor and tragedy, as she explores human behaviour and relations. Her graduation film “Dog eat dog” won the special jury prize during the BAFTA student film awards and went on to win a Student Academy Award. It was also voted 5th best student film in the CILECT prize 2019. “The Affected” is her second short film.



Screening Oct 28th



Antiques Roadshow 3000 - UK 3.00

It's the year 3000 and humanity has left Earth and moved out into the galaxy but somethings never change and the weekly broadcast of the antiques roadshow is one of them.

Dir: Adam McNicol

Writers: Adam McNicol, Lisa Ronaghan

Prod: Adam McNicol

DOP: Bobby Goulding

Editor: Adam McNicol

Main Cast: Paul F Taylor, Francesca Reid, Lisa Ronaghan, Dana Haqjoo, Tracey Collins, Adam McNicol

Director Profile:

Adam is a London-based video editor, director, and filmmaker. He has also directed and edited short films for some of the biggest up-and-coming comedians including Lazy Susan, Diane Morgan, Alistair Green, Alison Thea-Skot, and Glenn Moore. and has written for BBC's Newsjack, voiced a penguin in a BBC FOUR animation, and was recently shortlisted for the Comedy Crowd's 'Chorts' competition.





Bank - Sweden 6.47

A man needs to withdraw cash in order to buy a birthday present for his daughter but the bank has stopped handling cash. But he's not taking no for an answer.

Dir: Kalle Kenji Fransson

Writers: Kalle Kenji Fransson

Prod: Kalle Kenji Fransson, Hawa Sanneh

DOP: Apri Sahakyan

Main Cast: Davood Tafvisian, Catherine Westling, Börje Lundberg

Director Profile:

Born and raised in the rural southeastern part of Sweden with roots in Tokyo. He holds a screenwriting degree from Biskops Arnö Nordens Folkhögskola and is currently pursuing further in-depth screenwriting studies at Alma Manusutbildning. Kalle has experience from working with various phases of film production, including script consulting, casting, and distribution.





The Bouncer - Finland 11.17

A bouncer who is disgusted about the thuggery on the streets takes the first step into vigilantism. But just getting out the front door is one of the hardships for the path of the hero.

Dir: Aleksi Salmenperä

Writers: Jani Volanen

Prod: Mikko Tenhunen, Yrjö Nieminen

DOP: Heikki Färm F.S.C.

Editor: Samu Heikkilä

Main Cast: Jani Volanen, Elina Knihtilä, Kari Hietalahti, Tommi Korpela

Director Profile:

Alexi Salmenperä is one of the most acclaimed and distinctive Finnish filmmakers whose films have premiered in major film festivals such as Berlinale, Toronto, Hot Docs, Cannes, and San Sebastian. His film Void (2018) was awarded with four Jussi Awards, including Best Film and Best Direction, at Finnish National Film Awards.



Screening Oct 28th & Nov 2nd



Bound - UK 13.26

The ultimate walk of shame. After a night out, two strangers wake up to find themselves handcuffed together in bed, forcing them to be stuck in each other's lives until they figure a way out.

Dir: Joe Carter

Writers: Joe Carter

Prod: Olivia Gifford

DOP: Steve Cardno

Editor: Edd Maggs

Main Cast: Laura Ferries, Cristian Ortega, Cameron Jack

Director Profile:

Joe Carter is an Edinburgh based writer/director who has made several short films over recent years. In 2018 his Creative Scotland funded short 'I was Here' was nominated for a Scottish BAFTA as well as being nominated for Best Short Film at the Edinburgh International Film Festival.





The Break In - USA 16.01

After accidentally sending an erotic text to a work colleague, Nousha recruits her best friend Oliver to break in to her colleague's home before she can read the text.

Dir: Alyssa Lerner

Writers: Alyssa Lerner

Prod: Alyssa Lerner, Cat McCabe

DOP: Lucas D. Miller

Editor: Cullan Bruce

Main Cast: Kimia Behpoornia, Riley Westling, Sara Young Chandler, Cat Davis, Vas Provakatis

Director Profile:

Alyssa Lerner is a queer comedy writer and director heralding from Poway, CA. She has written on shows for Disney+ and Amazon Studios and is in development on her feature film directorial debut, a high school comedy titled JESSE IS A FRIEND that was featured on the 2020 GLAAD List, a curated list of the most promising unmade LGBTQ-inclusive scripts in Hollywood. She is resident in the 2019 Black List x Women in Film Feature Lab.



Screening Oct 28th



Brunch - UK 5.30

The generational disputes between millennials and baby boomers unfolds at a cafe.

Dir: Marnik Loysen

Writers: Marnik Loysen

Prod: Simon Marriott

DOP: Daniel Morgan

Main Cast: David Schaal, Maddie Rice, Joe Bolland, Phillipa Flynn

Director Profile:

Marnik Loysen is a British stop-motion animator and filmmaker based in Bristol, UK. He studied animation at the Bristol School of Animation for one year before beginning his job at Aardman features. He has been a senior assistant animator on many of their recent features and series.





Censor of Dreams - France 17.55

Every night, The Censor and his team moderate Yoko's dreams. Every night, they do their best to mask the painful thoughts that arise from her subconscious. Tonight, nothing happens as planned.

Dirs: Leo Berne, Raphaël Rodriguez

Writers: Leo Berne, Raphaël Rodriguez Adapted from Paprika by Yasutaka Tsutsui

Prod: Charles-Marie Anthonioz, Mourad Belkeddar, Jean Duhamel, Nicolas Lhermitte

DOP: Khalib Mohtaseb

Editor: Laure Saint-Marc

Main Cast: Damien Bonnard, Yoko Higashi, Sylvain Katan, Alexis Rodney

Director Profile:

Leo Berne and Raphaël Rodriguez are two quarters of the French directing quartet Megaforce. Megaforce have directed music videos for artists such as Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Metronomy, Two Door Cinema Club as well as commercials for brands such as Burberry and Nike.





Defund - Canada 14.08

Trapped in their apartment and trying to stay sane at the height of the 2020 pandemic. Millennial twins Brother and Sister watch the BLM uprisings unfold on their phones. Brother tries to maintain a cool head, while Sister is ready to burn it all down. Fed up with sitting on the side-lines, they head out under the cover of night.

Dir: Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah, Araya Mengesha

Writers: Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah, Araya Mengesha

Prod: Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah, Araya Mengesha, J Stevens

DOP: J Stevens

Editor: J Stevens

Main Cast: Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah, Araya Mengesha

Director Profile:

Khadijah Roberts-Abdullah is an actor, filmmaker, and co-owner of 2Skins Entertainment - home to Black femme horror review podcast, Ghouls n Gyaldem and the short film, Rooted Imagination, which debuted as part of the National Arts Centre's Transformations Project. Her work aims to challenge standards of visibility and inclusivity.



Araya Mengesha is a Toronto born, Ethiopian-Eritrean, with over two-decades of experience as an actor and more recently as a filmmaker; adding the hyphenates writer-director-producer to his arsenal. Araya's work is motivated by the intersectional narratives of first-generation peoples of the diaspora and the myriad of vantage points they hold.



Screening Oct 28th & Nov 2nd



Don Vs Lightning - UK 12.45

All Don wants is a quiet life in the Scottish Highlands. Unfortunately, the locals and the universe have other plans.

Dir: Big Red Button

Prod: Sonya Sier

Writers: Johnny Burns

DOP: John Lynch ISC

Editor: Sam Sneade

Main Cast: Peter Mullen, Joanna Scanlan, Stephen McCole

Director Profile:

Big Red Button is the name Johnny Burns and Pier van Tijn adopt when they team up to fight crime or make films. There's no real story behind it so don't bother to ask. They are currently making commercials and comedy bits and bobs for TV but will pretty much do anything for a laugh.





Günter Falls In Love - UK 2.06

One Christmas day, Günter, a pudgy family pug, falls madly in love with an inanimate object.

Dir: Josephine Lohoar Self

Prod: Carla Mooney, Delwyn Mooney, Joseph Wallace

Writers: Josephine Lohoar Self

DOP: Vincent Engel

Editor: AnneMarie Wieser

Director Profile:

Josephine Lohoar Self is a British writer and director working across live action and animation. Her short stop motion animated film 'The Fabric of You', was longlisted for Best Animated Short at the OSCARS (2021) as well as being nominated for a Scottish BAFTA.





Hubbards - USA 4.47

An intense dive into the world of one man and his quest.

Dir: Kevin Ralston

Prod: Kevin Ralston

Writer: Kevin Ralston

Editor: Kevin Ralston

DOP: Kevin Ralston, Daniel Fridlich

Main Cast: Kevin Ralston, Steven Cohen

Director Profile:

Writer/Performer/Director/Filmmaker based out of Long Island City, NY. Former writer and performer for PIT house sketch team Road Pizza. Kevin has performed comedy at the PIT, UCBNY, BCC and with Clown guru Ed Malone's Freak Show. Wrote, directed and performed "Art/Comedy: Art as(s) Comedy, Comedy as(s) (f)Art" Summer 2019-Winter 2020.





Lighting Tests - UK 9.58

A struggling actor agrees to help a director with some lighting tests for his new project. He thinks that it'll be a good opportunity to show the director what he's capable of, but comes to suspect that maybe he's just being exploited...

Dir: Tom Nicoll

Prod: Tom Nicoll

Writers: Tom Nicoll

DOP: Ben Westaway

Main Cast: Liam Harkins

Director Profile:

Tom Nicoll is a writer-director from Fife, in Scotland. His shorts have screened around the world, as has his micro-budget feature film Retreat.

In 2018 he completed the Shorts2Features development scheme with Creative Scotland and was shortlisted for participation in the inaugural Young Films Foundation residency. He attended the 2018 EIFF Talent Lab to develop his next feature, the 2018 Stowe Story Lab, and the 2019 GoShort Talent Campus.





Man Or Tree - UK 4.00

In the wilderness, a tree begins to question whether it may actually be a man tripping on hallucinogens.

Dir: Varun Raman, Tom Hancock

Prod: Varun Raman, Tom Hancock

Writers: Varun Raman, Tom Hancock

Editor: Darrin Brading

DOP: Jamie Harding

Main Cast: Daniel Campbell, Michael Shon

Director Profile:

Varun & Tom's previous short, TRANSMISSION, premiered at Fantasia, played at 90+ festivals including Flickers' Rhode Island, and won 13 awards, including The Film Empire's Diversity Mentorship Contest. Their one-hour mystery-thriller pilot, RUBBERNECKER, was Runner-Up in Roadmap Writers' 2020 Jumpstart Writing Competition, and a Top 3 Finalist in Nantucket Film Festival's Tony Cox Episodic Screenplay Competition.





Neville Is Dead - UK 14.48

Neville is Magnus's best friend. And he can't die. This is going to be AMAZING.

Dir: Louis Paxton

Prod: Louis Paxton, Grant O'Rourke

Writers: Louis Paxton, Grant O'Rourke,

Editor: Louis Paxton

DOP: David Liddell

Main Cast: Louis O'Rourke, Grant O'Rourke, Isobel McArthur

Director Profile:

Louis Paxton is a writer and Director from Edinburgh, Scotland. After studying at the Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow, Louis embarked on an MA in Directing at the National Film and Television School in London. His award-winning short films range from comedy drama to mockumentary to musical comedy. They've screened at Flickerfest, Glasgow Short Film Fest, LOCO film fest, and London Short Film Fest.





Night Of the Living Dicks - Finland 19.05

A woman fed up with getting dick pics, finds a pair of glasses that reveal which men are actual dicks - and the dicks are not happy about it.

Dir: Ilja Rautsi

Prod: Misha Jaari , Mark Lwoff

Writers: Ilja Rautsi

Editor: Jussi Rautaniemi

DOP: Kerttu Hakkarainen

Main Cast: Sonja Kuittinen, Roosa Söderholm

Director Profile:

Ilja Rautsi is a writer and actor, known for Helsinki Mansplaining Massacre (2018), Night of the Living Dicks (2021) and Spandex Sapiens (2015).

He is the screenwriter for forthcoming horror feature film Hatching set for release in 2022.





None of the Above - UK 5.59

You are on a sandwich break during a driving lesson. Do you:

a) practice for your theory test, b) get embroiled in a bizarre multiple-choice world of fantasy and gore, c) break suddenly and dangerously and sound your horn, d) none of the above...

Dir: Yaz Al-Shaater

Prod: Brother Brother

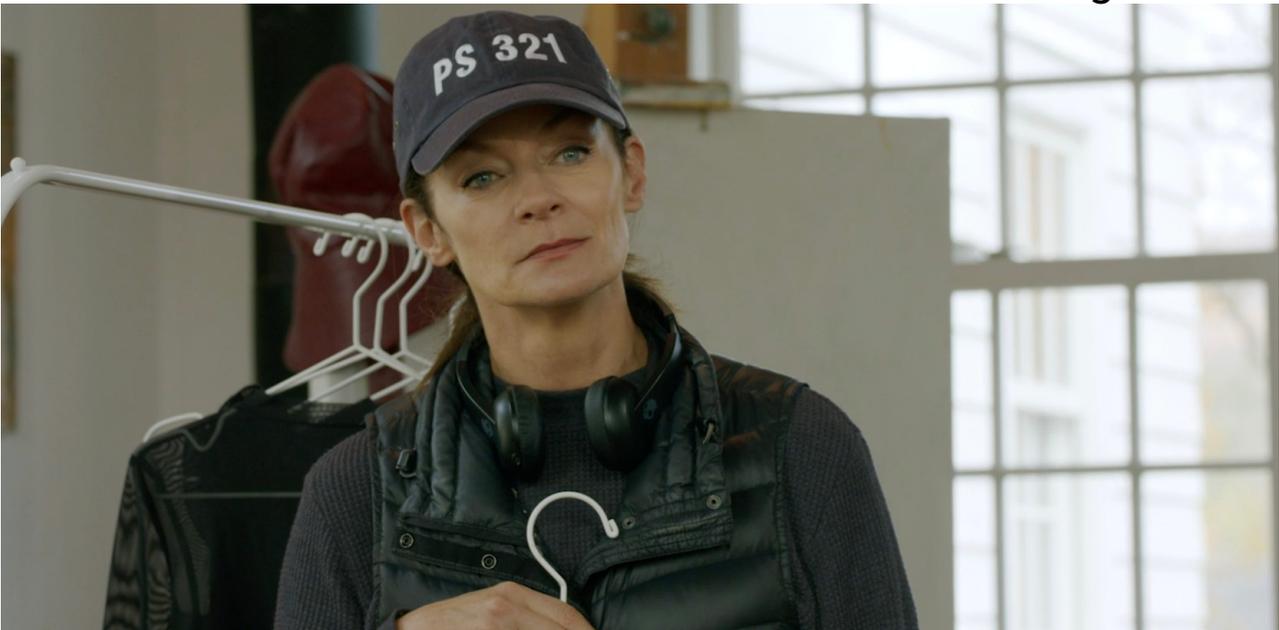
Writers: Tom Crawshaw

Main Cast: Tom Clegg, Rob Vernon

Director Profile:

Yaz Al-Shaater is a film and theatre director from the North West, based in London. He also writes and produces, and works as a script/story consultant. His passion for telling stories has led him to make commercials, web-series, music videos, and radio shows, as well as numerous films and plays, with work appearing at festivals across the world and at London's West End. As half of sibling-duo Brother Brother, he directs and produces commercials and music videos for clients across Europe.





Ready To Wear - USA 7.40

A woman enters a boutique shop staffed by two snooty employees who challenge her nervous disposition.

A

Dir: Michelle Gomez

Writers: Michelle Gomez

Prod: Michelle Gomez, Mike O'Shea

Editor: Shira Ankori

DOP: Mike O'Shea

Main Cast: Michelle Gomez, Emma Jaeger, Clea Alsip

Director Profile:

Michelle Gomez has been acting for the better part of three decades, appearing in leading roles on Broadway, in London's West End and at the world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company. She's given us iconic galactic super-villainy, and has starred in multi-award-winning film, TV and theatre productions on five continents.





Seeds Of Love - UK 3.45

Love grows in unexpected places.

Dir: Behnam Taheri, Gideon Beresford

Writers: Behnam Taheri, Gideon Beresford

Prod: Behnam Taheri, Gideon Beresford

Editor: Behnam Taheri, Gideon Beresford

Main Cast: Behnam Taheri, Gideon Beresford

Director Profile:

Rosco 5 Gideon Beresford and Behnam Taheri and Rosco 5 is a non-violent writing and directing gang. Their short films Insecurity Questions, Mondeo and Open Wide have amassed multiple festival selections and awards.





Shark- Australia 14.07

Follows the continuing adventures of Jack, who loves to prank. But in his latest relationship he may have finally met his match.

Dir: Nash Edgerton

Writers: Nash Edgerton & David Michôd

Prod: Michele Bennett

DOP: Aaron McLisky

Editor: David Whittaker

Main Cast: Nash Edgerton, Rose Byrne

Director Profile:

Nash Edgerton is a writer, director, producer, stuntman, actor and editor. He has directed nine multi-award winning short films, including Spider and Bear that have wowed audiences and entered cult status worldwide, and music videos for artists such as Bob Dylan, Brandon Flowers, Empire Of The Sun, Ben Lee and Eskimo Joe. His feature films include The Square, an Australian film noir and the US action caper Gringo, starring David Oyelowo, Charlize Theron, Joel Edgerton, Amanda Seyfried, Thandie Newton and Sharlto Copley.





Sisters - USA 16.33

Two estranged sisters come head to head when deciding what to do with their childhood home as their mother lies on her deathbed.

Dir: Jess Brunetto

Writers: Jess Brunetto

Prod: Jorma Taccone, Ryan Cunningham, Michael Sagol, Christian Baker

DOP: Wes Cardino

Editor: Jess Brunetto, Kate Itzkowitz

Main Cast: Sarah Burns, Mary Holland, Rob Huebel

Director Profile:

Jess Brunetto is a director, writer, producer and editor. Her film work has screened at Cannes, Venice and Sundance. Her directorial debut SISTERS premiered at SXSW 2021 and she was nominated for the Grand Jury Award. Recently, she was also nominated for a Primetime Emmy for her work as the pilot editor on the HBO Max series "Hacks." Her other television editor credits include "Broad City", "Awkwafina is Nora From Queens", "Miracle Workers", "American Vandal", and Jordan Peele's "The Last O.G," which she served as an associate producer.





The Struggle is Real 365 - Denmark 15.00

Daniel tries to impress his new boss in an attempt to get his life back in order.

Dir: Flook Nielsen

Writers: Daniel Mierz, Flook Nielsen

Prod: Daniel Mierz, Flook Nielsen

DOP: Jonah Pinny

Editor: Jasmin Falk Jensen

Main Cast: Daniel Mierz, Rudi Køhnke

Director Profile:

Born in the outskirts of Thailand, Flook quickly learnt to be creative with what he had. He was enrolled in several art schools throughout his youth. By the age of 10 he moved to Copenhagen, with his mother.

In 2018, together with Leonard Rääf and Mathias Skaarup the three created Holocene Studios with the goal of producing and bringing new wave Danish cinema to the international screen.



Screening Oct 28th



Thank You For Your Teeth - Romania 2.30

A 6 y.o. kid living with his mother and sister, discovers that for each tooth lost he receives five dollars. He makes a quick calculation and understands that an entire bike is sitting in his mouth.

Dir: George ve Gänæaard, Horia Cucută

Writers: Ron Riecki

Prod: Horia Cucută, Ayrton P. Bryan, Andrei Gheorghe

DOP: Boróka Biró

Editor: Horia Cucută

Main Cast: Eli Lester

Director Profile:

George ve Gänæaard is a film director, writer, and producer He first got his degree in Sociology, in Bucharest, and studied Film and Television in United Kingdom, at Aberystwyth University.

Horia Cucută is a DIY filmmaker based in Bucharest, Romania. He has a degree in Marketing and works as a multimedia designer for different advertising companies.





Too Many Buddhas - USA 13:48

Nora has just come for a session with Dr. Stevens after performing a devastatingly bad flute solo at her school winter concert, only to learn that her flute teacher has died.

Dir: C. Fraser Press

Writers: C.Fraser Press, Maeve Press

Prod: Larry Hirschhorn Darren Press

DOP: Riley Hanyue Shen

Editor: Darren Press

Main Cast: Maeve Press, Maria Bamford, Garrett Gallego

Director Profile:

C. Fraser Press is a director and writer, known for Theresa Is a Mother (2012), A Driving Lesson (2007) and Too Many Buddhas.





Two Girls and a Boat - Finland 13:27

Twins Jade and Kaisa are going rowing on a beautiful Finnish summer day. Social media influencer Jade actually has something else in mind, and the trip doesn't end as planned.

Dir: Aleksis Delikouras

Writers: Anna Brotkin

Prod: Julia Elomäki

DOP: Theofanis Kavvadas

Editor: Toni Tikkanen

Main Cast: Anna Airola, Oona Airola

Director Profile:

Aleksis Delikouras studies film directing at the University of Art and Design Helsinki. He became passionate about filming and movies as early as age 12 after receiving a video camera as a birthday present.

He is also known for his numerous YouTube short films. Featuring popular nerd videos, DragonSlayer666 has already received over a million views, and more than 20,000 fans have found their favorites on Facebook.





The Water Sommelier - Germany 7.19

Did you know that water can taste of light? Or that Tasmanian rainwater goes great with a cheese platter? Let the water sommelier be your guide.

Dir: Ryan Wichert, Noémi Dabrowski
Writers: Ryan Wichert, Noémi Dabrowski
Prod: Ryan Wichert, Noémi Dabrowski
Editor: Michael J. Hilli
DOP: Nikita Lünemann
Main Cast: Ryan Wichert, Noémi Dabrowski

Director Profile:

Ryan Wichert is a British-German actor, voice over artist, writer and comedian. Born in Hamburg, he trained as an actor in London at the Drama Centre (Tom Hardy, Colin Firth, Emilia Clarke).



Noémi Dabrowski is a French-German actress, voice over artist, and writer. She has been an ensemble member of the Berlin hit theatre sitcom "Gutes Wedding, Schlechtes Wedding".





Verdict 30.001: The Cookies - Finland 9.13

The average adult makes about 35000 remotely conscious decisions each day. Each decision carries certain consequences - both good and bad. Even if it's just about a box of cookies.

Dir: Henna Valkky, Samuel Hakkinen

Writers: Henna Valkky, Samuel Hakkinen

Prod: Ville Sivonen

DOP: Arsen Sarkisants

Editor: Henna Valkky, Samuel Hakkinen

Main Cast: Olli Riipinen, Arne Nylander, Eija Kyllonen, Panu Mikkola, Tiia Louste, David Kozma

Director Profile:

Silent Paprika Films is a Helsinki, Finland based directing duo & creative production company driven by a passion to create something memorable. Something you want to re-watch, not skip. Something that makes you go: "That's da bomb sauce".





You Wouldn't Understand - USA 9.32

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

Dir: Trish Harnetiaux

Writers: Trish Harnetiaux, Jacob A. Ware

Prod: Trish Harnetiaux, Jacob A. Ware

DOP: John Gebhart

Editor: Anthony Arkin

Main Cast: Anthony Arkin, Jacob A. Ware

Director Profile:

Trish Harnetiaux is a playwright, filmmaker and podcast creator. Harnetiaux has been creating short dark comedies with Steel Drum in Space since 2012, their current short which she directed and co-wrote, You Wouldn't Understand, was presented at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival. She teaches in the Queens University of Charlotte Low Residency M.F.A program.



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