



**50th
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM**

**01 – 07 February 2021
02 – 06 June 2021**

**Feature Films Distributor
Letter
June 16, 2021**

**Log lines and links have been
supplied by the current rights
holder**

In order of country

Argentina

María Luisa Bemberg: El eco de mi voz

World premiere

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Alejandro Maci

Prod. Countries: Argentina

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 90

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Patagonik Film Group

Contact: Julian Setton

Email: julian.setton@patagonik.com.ar

Logline: A portrait of an exceptional artist.

María Luisa Bemberg was a woman of independent means and spirit. A pivotal figure of the nation's intellectual life as well as a feminist activist since the 1950s, she became an internationally celebrated filmmaker in the 1970s.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/5c2w6lCR9Q8>

There Are Not Thirty-Six Ways of Showing a Man Getting on a Horse

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Nicolás Zukerfeld

Prod. Countries: Argentina

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 63

Genre: Experimental

Company: 36 caballos

Contact: Juan Segundo Alamos

Email: juansealamos@gmail.com

Logline: **An investigation into the reality of classical Hollywood grammar and the myths Hollywood created about itself based on the films of Raoul Walsh. What starts out as a rigorous exercise in**

montage suddenly turns into a well-told and ultimately funny anecdote.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/fOAx7qldTIQ>

Australia

Lone Wolf

World premiere

Programme section: Big Screen Competition

Director(s): Jonathan Ogilvie

Prod. Countries: Australia

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 100

Genre: Fiction

Company: LevelK

Contact: Niklas Teng

Email: niklas@levelk.dk

Logline: **Australia in the near future. The government uses cameras and extensive bugging technology to spy on its citizens – especially a group of environmental activists. Using little more than surveillance footage, director Jonathan Ogilvie keeps up a relentless pace. An edge-of-the-seat thriller that works on both political and emotional levels.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/AzcFESKGxnU>

Sold territories: All available except for Australia and New Zealand.

Austria

Davos

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Daniel Hoesl, Julia Niemann

Prod. Countries: Austria

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 99

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: A European Film Conspiracy

Contact: Florian Kecht

Email: florian.kecht@afc.at

Logline: **A documentary portrait of the Swiss town of Davos, where each year the World Economic Forum takes place in pursuit of its stated aim to improve the state of the world. The filmmakers contrast local farmers and café proprietors with the global financial and political elite, who visit and then move on.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/VnNd00QuDao>

Belgium

Phoenix

World premiere

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Bram Droulers

Prod. Countries: Belgium, UK

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 65

Genre: Fiction

Contact: Bram Droulers

Email: bramwaveshop@gmail.com

Logline: **A medical student who rents out a room is visited by a young woman he was romantically involved with. But he shows little interest – mainly because he's in love with Harry. In Phoenix, fluidity is the norm, both in terms of sexual orientation and film style.**

Trailer: https://youtu.be/r60ta_nqpc

Brazil

Lutar, lutar, lutar

European premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Sérgio Borges, Helvécio Marins Jr.

Prod. Countries: Brazil

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 110

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Canabrava Films

Contact: Helvécio Marins Jr.

Email: helveciomarins@gmail.com

Logline: **Atlético Mineiro may not have the most trophies, but few clubs have such a dedicated army of supporters. After a century of bad luck on the field and injustice off it, in 2013 this people's club from Belo Horizonte finally won the Copa Libertadores. Now it also has the film it deserves.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/VIXde4pmLRk>

Capitu and the Chapter

World premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Júlio Bressane

Prod. Countries: Brazil

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 75

Genre: Fiction

Company: TB Produções

Contact: Rodrigo Lima

Email: rodrigolz@yahoo.com.br

Logline: **Seldom has the unreliable narrator device been used to talk about love and infidelity as lucidly as by Machado de Assis in his masterpiece Dom Casmurro. The ideal starting point for avant-garde maestro Bressane's surprising depiction of emotional strife, in which even hats can speak volumes.**

A felicidade das coisas

World premiere

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Thais Fujinaga

Prod. Countries: Brazil

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 87

Genre: Fiction

Company: Filmes de Plástico

Contact: Thiago Macêdo Correia

Email: thiagomcorreia@gmail.com

Logline: **In a Brazilian coastal town, Paula strives to build a swimming pool in her humble beach house. While Paula has to deal with financial issues, her young teenage son gradually drifts away from her. This resourceful debut subtly raises bigger questions of materialism, male-female relations and motherhood.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/OvvXfpjJeJc>

Canada

Fat Chance

World premiere

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Stephen Broomer

Prod. Countries: Canada

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 64

Contact: Stephen Broomer

Email: stephen.broomer@gmail.com

Logline: **Hollywood character actor Laird Cregar, known for his roles as a sinister heavy, died aged 31 from a crash diet. In this avant-garde essay, Broomer transformed Cregar's inner turmoil into a black-on-grey delirium of shadows and spectres. A truly unusual yet poignant example of writing film history.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/iu4iq1fBiSk>

Damascus Dreams

World premiere

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Émilie Serri

Prod. Countries: Canada

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 83

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Portage Films inc.

Contact: Émilie Serri

Email: emilie.serri@gmail.com

Logline: **Filmmaker Émilie Serri's father is from Syria, but he doesn't talk much about his home country. Serri's desire to build a connection to this war-ravaged country results in an exceptional, poetic documentary in which she links the reminiscences of refugees to her family history.**

Archipel

World premiere

Programme section: Big Screen Competition

Director(s): Félix Dufour-Laperrière

Prod. Countries: Canada

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 72

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: La Distributrice de Films

Contact: Serge Abiaad

Email: serge@ladistributrice.ca

Logline: **Creative animation, imagination and documentary combine with unparalleled candour in this odyssey along the Saint Lawrence, the Canadian river bisecting the region where Félix Dufour-Laperrière was born. Does a community only really exist in our dreams and stories? An exploration as pugnacious as it is poetic.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/DBxw-Pzy2wM>

Sold territories: All available

China

A Song for You

European premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Dukar Tserang

Prod. Countries: China

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 93

Genre: Fiction

Company: Xstream Pictures

Contact: Josie Chou

Email: josiechou@fabulaentertainment.com

Logline: **Young Ngawang has a dream. He wants to record an album. But how does a Tibetan nomad thrive in the big city? Everything changes when he meets a woman who looks just like his talisman. A light-hearted film, both road movie and folk-pop music insider story, with a fascinating lead.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/FEnxJVrgVo>

The Day Is Over

European premiere

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Qi Rui

Prod. Countries: China

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 108

Genre: Fiction

Company: The Hong Kong International Film Festival Collection/ Good Move Media

Contact: Pearl Chan

Email: chan@goodmovemedia.com

Logline: **Many adults, including 12-year-old Zhang Jiaying's parents, have left their remote mountain village in southern China for the metropolis Shenzhen. An anonymous note from a classmate kicks off a series of dramatic events in this heart-**

rending, unsentimental, meticulously observed feature debut.

Colombia

Como el cielo después de llover

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Mercedes Gaviria

Prod. Countries: Colombia, Argentina

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 73

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Invasion Cine

Contact: Carlos Jeronimo Atehortua Arteaga

Email: jeronimo@invasioncine.com

Logline: **When Colombian master Víctor Gaviria started production on his latest film, he invited his daughter Mercedes along for the ride. She filmed proceedings, on and off set. What she managed to document is the core of a tense relationship – a generational divide as well as a gender abyss.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/BOUaSLRrpU>

Croatia

Accidental Luxuriance of the Translucent Watery Rebus

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Dalibor Barić

Prod. Countries: Croatia

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 80

Genre: Animation

Company: K A O S

Contact: Petra Fabro

Email: petra@kaos.hr

Logline: **This ‘silence fiction’ is a whirlwind collage of film noir memes which – in the**

mind of an unknown woman – tell an adventure story, helping her escape her ennui. Or maybe not. If a story only exists in someone’s head, does it really exist at all?

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/gsX2hV06h9c>

Denmark

Persona Non Grata

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Lisa Jespersen

Prod. Countries: Denmark

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 91

Genre: Fiction

Company: Picture Tree International

Contact: Hans Kok

Email: hans@artifilm.nl

Logline: **A city-dwelling author reluctantly returns to rural Denmark for her brother’s wedding to the bully from her childhood. Drama-comedy about the family’s black sheep trying to reject her roots, whilst aching for love and recognition.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/uPJzxLYRqvl>

Ethiopia

Faya Dayi

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Jessica Beshir

Prod. Countries: Ethiopia, USA, Qatar

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 120

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Cinetic Media

Contact: Jessica Beshir

Email: jessybeshir@gmail.com

Logline: **The leaves of the stimulant khat**

plant have become Ethiopia's biggest agricultural crop. Against the backdrop of this industry, an enchanting, layered impression of Ethiopian life unfolds, shot in poetic black and white. About an old myth, repression and the young, who dream of a better life elsewhere.

Finland

Fucking with Nobody

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Hannaleena Hauru

Prod. Countries: Finland

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 103

Genre: Fiction

Company: Totem Films

Contact: Núria Palenzuela Camon

Email: festivals@totem-films.com

Logline: **While at film school, Hannaleena Hauru started her series of films about the mad, miserable and merry life of filmmaker Hanna. In this latest chapter – no need to know any of the others! – she's engaged in an experiment in social media, reaping unexpected results. A screwball comedy of manners.**

The Dinosaur

International premiere

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Veikko Aaltonen

Prod. Countries: Finland

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 89

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Bufo

Contact: Suvi Railo

Email: suvi.railo@ses.fi

Logline: **Rauni Mollberg is one of Finland's**

greatest filmmakers, whose artistic genius came with often brutally sociopathic behaviour – fodder for the 1970s/80s tabloids. Veikko Aaltonen explores his mentor's troublesome legacy. A masterpiece of political cinema.

Trailer: https://youtu.be/5wyzvZ5_1uY

France

Au jour d'aujourd'hui

World premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Maxence Stamatiadis

Prod. Countries: France

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 67

Genre: Fiction

Company: Oyster Films

Contact: Christina Demetriou

Email: christina.demetriou@hotmail.co.uk

Logline: **Partially set in 2024, this debut sees Suzanne decide to bring her husband Edouard back using deep-fake technology after his death. But he proves to no longer be the man she fondly remembers. She is dissatisfied with his rebirth, but "it's better than nothing".**

Trailer: https://youtu.be/hkUjReZu_JE

Amos Gitai, la violence et l'histoire

World premiere

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Laurent Roth

Prod. Countries: France

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 76

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: INA - Institut National de

l'Audiovisuel

Contact: Laurent Roth

Email: laurent.roth@gmail.com

Logline: **A portrait of Amos Gitaï focusing on two clusters in his oeuvre: the three films about a house in West Jerusalem visited and revisited over the course of 25 years, and his works investigating and remembering the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. A forceful tribute to a political fighter and public intellectual.**

Trailer: https://youtu.be/1yTlj_lccDU

Birds of America

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Jacques Loeuille

Prod. Countries: France

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 80

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: mk2 Films

Contact: Anne-Laure Barbarit

Email: anne-laure.barbarit@mk2.com

Logline: **He stepped into a veritable natural paradise in the early 1800s. John James Audubon wanted to immortalise all the birds in America before humans wrought irreparable devastation. A documentary that is a love letter to the founding father of nature conservation and his stunning paintings.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/EFXmgwKPupE>

Germany

Death on the Streets

International premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Johan Carlsen

Prod. Countries: Germany, Denmark, Greece

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 87

Genre: Fiction

Company: Makrorama

Contact: Micah Magee

Email: micahmagee@gmail.com

Logline: **How do people become homeless? Filmmakers Johan Carlson and Micah Magee were inspired by the stories of homeless people in Atlantic City. To unemployed Kurt, the American Dream in the rural heartland becomes a claustrophobic nightmare. He flees from his neighbours' pity.**

Fabian oder Der Gang vor die Hunde

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Dominik Graf

Prod. Countries: Germany

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 176

Genre: Art Film

Company: Les Films du Losange

Contact: stella@cinemien.nl

Email: Stella Tümmeler

Logline: **Dominik Graf confirms his reputation as the ultimate chronicler of Germany's past and present in this unique, compelling filmic take on Erich Kästner's autobiographical classic. Berlin, 1931: Fabian is fired from his job as a copywriter just as he falls in love with the emancipated Cornelia.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/EpmYiurnrzc>

Blutsauger

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Julian Radlmaier

Prod. Countries: Germany

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 128

Genre: Fiction

Company: The Playmaker

Contact: Ramona Sehr

Email: rsehr@playmaker.de

Logline: **In Marxist vampire comedy Blutsauger, actor Lyovoshka has fled Russia and is impersonating Baron Koberski. Octavia, a wealthy industrialist's daughter, soon unmask him. As he awaits a visa to go to Hollywood, they make a vampire movie with an Asiatic Dracula. But who are the real vampires?**

Bottled Songs 1-4

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Chloé Galibert-Laîné, Kevin B. Lee

Prod. Countries: Germany, France, USA

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 77

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Square Eyes

Contact: Wouter Jansen

Email: wouter@squareeyesfilm.com

Logline: **For its propaganda, terror organisation ISIS makes use of Hollywood film techniques and the mechanisms of Western journalism. This desktop documentary, consisting of video letters, decodes ISIS videos and also analyses the role of the viewer in these – because watching has consequences.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/FoB2BfYYJtw>

Thomas der Hochspringer

International premiere

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Leri Matehha

Prod. Countries: Germany

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 92

Genre: Fiction

Company: Academy of Media Arts Cologne

Contact: Leri Matehha

Email: lerimatehha@gmail.com

Logline: **A young athlete will do anything to get into a high-jumping team. At the same time, he tries to break away from his all-controlling mother. The unpleasantness is almost palpable in this beautifully stylised film that creates an alienating universe all of its own.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/ORpeieLiCCs>

Hong Kong

Decameron

World premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Rita Hui Nga Shu

Prod. Countries: Hong Kong

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 107

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Mirror Stage Films

Contact: Han T. Sun

Email: tsunghansun@gmail.com

Logline: **Critical visual essay on the present, past and future of Hong Kong. Using fiction, archival material and contemporary images, Rita Hui Nga Shu sketches a damaged Hong Kong, which perseveres in spite of repressed mass protests and a pandemic.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/AdlQL2y8kXM>

Time

European premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Ricky Ko

Prod. Countries: Hong Kong

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 99

Genre: Fiction

Contact: Rainbow Fong

Email: fong.rainbow@gmail.com

Logline: **Former matinee idol Patrick Tse (84) still rules the screen in this darkly comic film about hired killer Chau, now operating with an elderly clientele until he becomes entangled with a suicidal teenager. Funny, poignant drama from Hong Kong that celebrates a nostalgic love for a city slipping away.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/Zf6clixmq70>

Hungary

The Philosophy of Horror – A Symphony of Film Theory

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Péter Lichter, Bori Máté

Prod. Countries: Hungary

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 62

Genre: Experimental

Company: Mindwax Ltd.

Contact: Dóra Nedeczky

Email: dora@mindwax.eu

Logline: **Adaptation of Noël Carroll's 1990 treatise The Philosophy of Horror Or, Paradoxes of the Heart. Each chapters opens with a Carroll quote on one aspect of horror's functioning, followed by brutally treated appropriated footage from classics of the genre that highlight this observation.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/mYw7lQAfVUA>

India

Everything Is Cinema

World premiere

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Don Palathara

Prod. Countries: India

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 70

Genre: Fiction

Contact: Don Palathara

Email: donreplies@gmail.com

Logline: **Chris comes to Kolkata to shoot his version of Louis Malle's 1969 Calcutta.**

Then Covid-19 hits. An essay on relationships: cinema vs. reality, the world vs. home, 1960s giddiness vs. the sombre seriousness of our age. What can we see when we look at our time through the prism of film history?

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/2X7MwB8yrVE>

OK Computer

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Pooja Shetty, Neil Pagedar

Prod. Countries: India

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 240

Genre: Fiction

Company: Memesys Culture Lab

Contact: Bhavyaraj Nigam

Email: bhavya2023@gmail.com

Logline: **In near-future India, robots are an integral part of everyday life. So it comes as a huge shock when a robot turns out to be a murderer. This six-part science-fiction comedy combines lots of jokes and wordplay with over-the-top design, but also raises serious questions about artificial intelligence.**

Glossary of Non-Human Love

World premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Ashish Avikunthak

Prod. Countries: India

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 96

Genre: Fiction

Contact: Ashish Avikunthak

Email: avikunthak@gmail.com

Logline: **Artificial intelligence has overrun mankind, but has trouble with one aspect of human life: love. A 64-part guidebook provides no help whatsoever. This impossible-to-understand love is probably what our species will be remembered for in the imminent posthuman era.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/KXrWlVW0aZl>

Iran

Careless Crime

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Shahram Mokri

Prod. Countries: Iran

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 134

Genre: Fiction

Company: DreamLab Films

Contact: Nasrine Médard de Chardon

Email: nasrine@dreamlabfilms.com

Logline: **The Iranian Revolution began with the burning of a cinema. Careless Crime investigates the legacy of this event in a mix of quirky fiction feature and playful historical film essay. Rarely were the deeper social and political meanings of cinema explored in a more engaging and surprising fashion.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/sEQAAFcMmts>

The Rain Falls Where It Will

World premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Majid Barzegar

Prod. Countries: Iran, Canada

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 86

Genre: Fiction

Company: Media Luna New Films, Media Luna New Films

Contact: Cinthya Calderon

Email: cinthya@medialuna.biz

Logline: **Nurse Sara likes to end her patients' suffering, even if their families don't know. However, doubt arises during her latest assignment: is this comatose man truly destined to die? Director Majid Barzegar creates an riveting, intimate atmosphere in this sensitive drama with supernatural elements.**

Trailer: https://youtu.be/_4PZq8QyzJk

The Son

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Noushin Meraji

Prod. Countries: Iran

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 85

Genre: Fiction

Company: Persia Film Distribution

Contact: Ali Ghasemi

Email: ghasemi@persiafilmdistribution.com

Logline: **Farid is a naïve forty-something who has done just about nothing in life. He vegetates, living with his mother. When she dies, he suddenly feels extremely lonely and is confronted by his own incompetence. A by turns funny, irritating and moving portrait of a helpless man.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/Q8M3-xJhr8o>

Italy

Mi chiamo Francesco Totti

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Alex Infascelli

Prod. Countries: Italy

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 106

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Vision Distribution International

Contact: Catia Rossi

Email: catia.rossi@visiondistribution.it

Logline: **This documentary about Francesco Totti, AS Roma's footballing icon, exudes passion. Before his final game, he looks back on the crazy heights and perilous depths of being a star athlete and family man. A well over 25-year rollercoaster, compiled from an overwhelming wealth of archival footage.**

Lumina

World premiere

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Samuele Sestieri

Prod. Countries: Italy

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 105

Genre: Fiction

Contact: Samuele Sestieri

Email: sammy314@libero.it

Logline: **After washing ashore on the beach, a mysterious woman moves into the ruins of a house in a deserted town. There, on an old phone, she finds a young Italian couple's photos and videos. This poetic, fairy-tale-like drama explores the value of love and closeness.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/4giOg8-JybE>

Japan

Ayako Tachibana Wants to Go Viral

International premiere

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Sato Amane

Prod. Countries: Japan

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 72

Company: Okura Pictures

Contact: Hidekazu Saito

Email: kazusaito@okurapictures.com

Logline: **Tachibana Ayako and Keisuke became darlings of the YouTubeverse due to their cute videos, which mainly she makes but he gets all the credit for. A quirky pink eiga (erotic film) satire on YouTuber mores and gender clichés that turns into a stylish horror film.**

The 12 Day Tale of the Monster That Died in 8

International premiere

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Iwai Shunji

Prod. Countries: Japan

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 88

Company: Rockwell Eyes

Contact: Mizuno Aki

Email: aki@rockwelleyes.com

Logline: **As Japanese monsters like Godzilla have so often saved the world, could they now help us fight Covid-19? Actor Saitō Takumi grows three tiny monsters: Avigan, Remdesivir and Ivermectin. A moving tribute to film history's often-forgotten magic powers: remembrance and play as forces of healing.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/kepNHCWToUM>

Cinephilia Now: Part 1 – Secrets Within Walls

International premiere

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Sasaki Yusuke

Prod. Countries: Japan

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 103

Genre: Creative Documentary

Contact: Sasaki Yusuke

Email: qspds996@gmail.com

Logline: **When Yusuke moves to a city new to him, he discovers a wonderful world of privately organised film screening initiatives in community centres, galleries, museums but also living rooms. This is a paean to those creating such events to make their communities better and more beautiful places.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/wknUULVRM14>

MINAMATA Mandala

European premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Hara Kazuo

Prod. Countries: Japan

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 372

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Media Space Inc.

Contact: Kuroiwa Hisami

Email: hkuroiwa1900@gmail.com

Logline: **Shot over 15 years, this film documents the arduous legal and medical battle endured by the residents of Minamata, a city whose name has become synonymous with the infamous neurological disease caused by**

mishandling of chemical wastewater. An epic tale of struggle and commitment.

Poupelle of Chimney Town

European premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Hirota Yusuke

Prod. Countries: Japan

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 100

Genre: Animation

Company: Kiyuki Inc.

Contact: Geoffrey Wexler

Email: jeff@kiyuki.jp

Logline: **A cheery garbage monster helps a boy and the townspeople explore the truth behind their oppressive, grey, isolated existence. This gentle, imaginative film from Japanese anime studio 4°C (Children of the Sea) combines a pacy, eclectic and philosophical storyline with stunning animation.**

The Blue Danube

International premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Ikeda Akira

Prod. Countries: Japan

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 105

Genre: Fiction

Company: Bitters End

Contact: Sadai Yuji

Email: international@bitters.co.jp

Logline: **A group of Japanese soldiers has been shooting at the village across the river from 9 to 5 for decades. But they no longer know why they're at war. Framed as tightly as their discipline, The Blue Danube wryly highlights the absurdity of overbearing bureaucracy that Japan and many other countries suffer from.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/jE9XldVWtT8>

Lebanon

Only the Winds

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Karim Kassem

Prod. Countries: Lebanon, USA

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 131

Genre: Fiction

Company: Changing Film Productions

Contact: Karim Kassem

Email: kasseem.karim6@gmail.com

Logline: **Hybrid drama interweaves fiction with documentary to create a poetic, meditative whole. A filmmaker who emigrated to New York returns to Lebanon for eye surgery, to visit his family and research a new film. While visiting an institute for the blind, he learns to again appreciate the art of listening.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/fgOjcEaeelj>

Malaysia

The Story of Southern Islet

European premiere

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Chong Keat Aun

Prod. Countries: Malaysia

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 105

Genre: Fiction

Company: Asteri Production Sdn Bhd

Contact: Lim Hui Bee

Email: huibee.apsb@asterimedia.com

Logline: **A Malaysian fishmonger falls ill after he upset a local god, or so he believes. His wife initially dismisses it as**

superstition, but undergoes an exceptional spiritual awakening whilst searching for her husband's cure. Atmospheric, mysterious drama based on the filmmaker's childhood memories.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/d8sPiWBMLk0>

Mexico

Nudo Mixteco

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Ángeles Cruz

Prod. Countries: Mexico

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 91

Genre: Fiction

Company: FiGa Films

Contact: Lidia Damatto

Email: lidia@figafilms.com

Logline: **Three migrant workers return to their native village in the Mexican highlands during San Mateo's festivities. Confrontation with family members who stayed behind forces them to make a choice. This story paints an exceptional picture of the local Mixtec culture, in which director Cruz herself grew up.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/z1Aq8v51LOc>

Netherlands

A man and a camera

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Guido Hendrikx

Prod. Countries: Netherlands

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 64

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Square Eyes

Contact: Wouter Jansen

Email: wouter@squareeyesfilm.com

Logline: An unconventional tour of Dutch front doors, calming and disquieting in equal measure. The silent man with the camera doesn't seem to have any plan after ringing the bell. So his intentions are filled in for him by the residents, whose assumptions make for great stories and awkward situations.

BERG

World premiere

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Joke Olthaar

Prod. Countries: Netherlands

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 79

Genre: Experimental

Company: seriousFilm

Contact: Marc Thelosen

Email: marc@seriousfilm.nl

Logline: Nowhere is man as insignificant as in wild mountain regions. The three climbers ascending to a peak in Slovenia are just dots; the mountain constantly fills the frame in highly aesthetic black and white. A spiritual oneness with nature is made palpable, thanks also to the minimalist soundscape.

Under Tomorrow's Sky

World premiere

Programme section: RTM

Director(s): Jan Louter

Prod. Countries: Netherlands

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 70

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Miroir Film

Contact: Juul Kappelhof

Email: info@miroir-film.com

Logline: Winy Maas, head of MVRDV

architects, always has 100 projects going at once. This documentary provides insight into his professional life. Maas designs, coaches, teaches, travels and engages in diplomacy. He does so with inexhaustible energy, driven by the desire to shape tomorrow's world.

Palestine

An Unusual Summer

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Kamal Aljafari

Prod. Countries: Palestine

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 80

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company:

Contact: Kamal Aljafari

Email: aljafarifilms@gmail.com

Logline: Life in a Palestinian neighbourhood in Israel, as recorded by a security camera the filmmaker's father installed to catch a vandal. Aljafari breathes a poetic soul into this material, editing it as a homage to the everyday. An artistic protest against the dismissive name the Israelis give to the area: 'the ghetto'.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6awzRUVdnU>

Philippines

Fan Girl

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Antoinette Jadaone

Prod. Countries: Philippines

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 100

Company: Epicmedia Inc.

Contact: Bianca Balbuena

Email: bianca.balbuena@yahoo.com

Logline: **Schoolgirl Jane adores movie heart-throb Paulo Avelino. When she finds her way into his home, they start a game of angst and desire during which both discover news facets of themselves. A dazzling mix of meta-movie, fairy-tale and coming-of-age story. Popular cinema at its finest and most intelligent.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/jMf3CjBO--E>

Portugal

Amor fati

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Cláudia Varejão

Prod. Countries: Portugal, Switzerland, France

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 102

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Terratreme Filmes

Contact: Pedro Peralta

Email: pedroperalta@terratreme.pt

Logline: **What makes for a complete human being? Finding a soulmate, according to this documentary. Intimate portraits of very different couples – from older twin sisters who dress identically to a drag queen with a pug puppy – make up a beautifully filmed portmanteau story of completing love.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/oXqm6AapyQ4>

Russia

Scarecrow

International premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Dmitry Davydov

Prod. Countries: Russia

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 72

Genre: Fiction

Company: REASON8 Films

Contact: Valeria Motorueva

Email: valery.motorueva@gmail.com

Logline: **This intriguing, icy drama complete with creepy genre elements proves cinema in the Sakha Republic in Russia is flourishing. The local population are deeply suspicious of a female healer. But when push comes to shove, they know where to find her.**

Singapore

Faraway My Shadow Wandered

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Liao Jiekai, Sudhee Liao

Prod. Countries: Singapore, Taiwan, Japan

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 70

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Potocol

Contact: Jeremy Chua

Email: jeremy@potocol.com

Logline: **An unfulfilled promise to become the heir of his grandfather's Shinto shrine weighs heavily on Junya. Returning to his hometown from which he drifted away, Junya tells his story to a dancer, Sara. Dance, film and photography give voice to repressed feelings in this soul-stirring hybrid documentary.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/H8pHTA7uYvM>

South Africa

Hotele Lerallaneng

World premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Charlie Vundla

Prod. Countries: South Africa

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 76

Genre: Fiction

Contact: Charlie Vundla

Email: charlie@joziewood.com

Logline: **Two young South African artists get stuck at a critical point in their lives as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. This feature film shot during lockdown focuses on the most intimate emotions, which bubble to the surface at a time of relative standstill.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/cBEFBAXjNs0>

South Korea

Self-portrait 2020

European premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Lee Dongwoo

Prod. Countries: South Korea

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 168

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: M-Line Distribution

Contact: Park Jin

Email: jin@m-line-distribution.com

Logline: **A devastating documentary portrait of a man who was once a promising filmmaker. Lee Sang-yeol is homeless, an alcoholic and unpredictable, but finds a kindred spirit in a young filmmaker he encounters on the streets of**

Seoul. A tale of lost dreams and the brutality of life.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/DaoYSGE8cl>

Homeless

International premiere

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Lim Seung-hyeun

Prod. Countries: South Korea

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 83

Genre: Fiction

Company: M-Line Distribution

Contact: Park Jin

Email: sales@m-line-distribution.com

Logline: **An honest, sensitive social drama, with a touch of the supernatural. Delivery driver Han-gyeol and poster sticker Go-woon are trying to find a home in Seoul. Han-gyeol finally succeeds – a stroke of luck, or has he done something illegal? An indictment of an individualistic society.**

Trailer: https://youtu.be/IRV_LwcRalc

Spain

El ventre del mar

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Agustí Villaronga

Prod. Countries: Spain

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 75

Genre: Fiction

Company: Testamento

Contact: Javier Pérez Santana

Email:

javierperezsantana@testamentopct.com

Logline: **The 1816 La Méduse shipwreck was a dehumanising hellscape. Director Agustí Villaronga filmed the pitch-black event as two survivors' recollections.**

Recent news footage, which sometimes rudely interrupts them, underlines how painfully contemporary the story is.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/Exd5kmjF7Bc>

UK

Poly Styrene: I Am a Cliché

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Celeste Bell, Paul Sng

Prod. Countries: UK, India, USA

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 96

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Utopia Distribution

Contact: Matthew Silverman

Email: matthewsilverman@gmail.com

Logline: **As a woman of colour with braces and futuristic clothing, Poly Styrene stood out in Britain's late-1970's punk scene. Her daughter made this admiring and critical portrait of the somewhat forgotten icon, who psychologically succumbed to the pressure and ended up joining Hare Krishna.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/nbFqD0Uqxo8>

USA

The Village Detective: a song cycle

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Bill Morrison

Prod. Countries: USA

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 81

Genre: Creative Documentary

Contact: Bill Morrison

Email: billmorrison65@gmail.com

Logline: **Four cans of water-damaged film from a popular 1960s crime comedy**

become the starting point for this gallivanting journey through Soviet history, cinema and beyond. Anchored in the life of actor Mihail Žarov – which is as full of holes and smudgy parts as those reels. Object lesson in poetic research.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/BP14eVVFK4Q>

The World to Come

Programme section: Harbour

Director(s): Mona Fastvold

Prod. Countries: USA

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 105

Genre: Fiction

Company: Sony Pictures Entertainment

Contact: Patty Watson

Email: Patty.Watson@nbcuni.com

Logline: **A gorgeous, devastating love story centred around a relationship between two women that challenges male-dominated frontier society. "There is something between us I just can't fathom." The harsh nature of America captured in all its romance and ruthlessness.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/0FH00HcvCbk>

Hopper/Welles

Programme section: Cinema Regained

Director(s): Orson Welles

Prod. Countries: USA

Prod. Year: 2020

Length: 130

Company: Creative Artists Agency (CAA)

Contact: Nick Ogiony

Email: filmsales@caa.com

Logline: **One evening in 1970, young movie rebel Dennis Hopper accepted the invitation of Hollywood's supreme maverick, Orson Welles, to spend an evening drinking and talking together.**

Several cameras filmed the meeting at Welles' behest. A candidly bawdy view of two artists of their time.

Rock Bottom Riser

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Fern Silva

Prod. Countries: USA

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 70

Genre: Creative Documentary

Contact: Fern Silva

Email: fernsilva860@gmail.com

Logline: **Against lava flow and starry skies, Fern Silva explores a vast canvas in this free-associating film on Hawaii: from the island's indigenous culture to extra-terrestrial worlds, Christian preachers and ancient Polynesian navigation by the stars; from documentary to fiction and poetry.**

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/TkBdxZfyyY8>

Woodlands Dark and Days Bewitched: A History of Folk

Horror

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Kier-La Janisse

Prod. Countries: USA

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 193

Company: Severin Films

Contact: Kier-La Janisse

Email: bigsmashproductions@gmail.com

Logline: **Folk horror is a comparatively new concept in genre-cinema discussions, although the films it's anchored in have been venerated for decades. Why do we now feel so threatened by folklore, rural settings and ancient cultures? Janisse**

offers many answers that go far beyond film culture.

All About My Sisters

World premiere

Programme section: Bright Future

Director(s): Wang Qiong

Prod. Countries: USA

Prod. Year: 2021

Length: 174

Genre: Creative Documentary

Company: Asian Shadows

Contact: Li Lya

Email: lya@chineseshadows.com

Logline: **An intimate, deeply felt portrait of Jin and her family filmed by her sister. Jin is an incredibly strong young Chinese woman who is determined to survive her family's decision to abandon her as a baby because of her gender. Jin confronts her family's traumatic history while she brings up her own son.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

IFFR Programme

**International Film Festival
Rotterdam**

programme@IFFR.com

IFFR.com