



IFFNY

INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKER FESTIVAL OF NEW YORK

8 EDITION

International Filmmaker
Festival of New York Presents:

Cinema Without Borders in NYC

MAY 17/FRIDAY/Dolby Laboratory Theater
(1350 6th Ave # 20, New York, NY 10019)

7:00 pm: Red Carpet/Black Tie Event

8:00 pm: Opening Ceremony

MAY 18,19 & 20/PRODUCERS CLUB THEATRES
(358 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036)

1:00 pm to 10 pm: Festival Program

MAY 21/TUESDAY/Dolby Laboratory Theater
(1350 6th Ave # 20, New York, NY 10019)

& PRODUCERS CLUB THEATRES

(358 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036)

3:00 pm: Special Screening at PC Club Theatres.

7:00 pm: AWARDS CEREMONY at Dolby Laboratory Theater



www.iffny.com
May 2019



THE WINNERS OF INTERNATIONAL SCREENWRITING COMPETITION 2019

CONGRADULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF ISC!

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone for participating! It has been a great pleasure receiving your screenplays, they were all amazing!

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Feature film:

• Dani Stain	Vivienne	\$7,000.00
• Alex Anderson	Santos dream	\$5,000.00
• Margherita Romano	Il grigo	\$4,000.00
• Ann Nilsson	Mäns berg	\$3,000.00
• Kaito Nakamura	This is the end	\$2,000.00

Short film:

• Vanessa Johnson	Surrounded by the Sea	\$5,000.00
• Aloiz Mlakar	Tik Tak Tuk	\$4,000.00
• Etienne Brodeur	The last goodbye	\$3,000.00
• Francisco Sousa	Santos	\$2,000.00
• Arjun Laghari	The Dispute	\$1,000.00

Congratulations to the winners of International Screenwriting Competition!
Thanks to everyone who participated and helped make this competition a success!
Stay tuned. Our next competition starts on 1st June 2019!
In case you missed it, you can check out the competition here:
www.nilproduction.net / www.iffny.com





Mrika
KRASNIQI

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for joining us to enjoy this memorable event at Dolby Laboratory Theater and Producers Club Theaters.

This is my eighth year to organize the International Filmmaker Festival of New York, and it has become a symbol of cultural life, friendship and creativity. Held annually in the iconic art center of the world – New York City – the IFFNY festival is a great example of what happens when you unleash the skills and imagination of outstanding filmmakers and independent artists.

Since 2012, the International Filmmaker Festival of New York has grown in size, content and it has become a global success attracting thousands of cinema lovers. Since its launch, 500 film projects from all around the world have screened at IFFNY that have won international prizes.

Each year, the IFFNY festival brings to New York world premieres of films from around the globe and gives the American audience unique opportunities to discover international cinema. This year we received more than 600 submissions that came from 36 different countries in the world– even came as far as Iraq, New Zealand, Singapore and Israel.

From the objective of promoting and advancing the film culture, IFFNY has been successful in connecting independent filmmakers with the film industry. Films that break down barriers and preconceived notions and examine the bigger meaning that we are all part of humanity, are vital to cultural diversity and understanding our shared values.

Our theme this year is “Cinema Without Borders”. The festival will show films and videos that speak a universal language. Films that have a great meaning and relevance for all peoples, regardless of their national, cultural or social backgrounds. And today, we are proud to honor our 58 official selections, because these aren’t just great films, but they are great examples of how filmmakers and artists are making a difference all over the world.

I would like to thank the team, the supporters and the audience of the IFFNY festival who have been with us the past 8 years.

Mrika Krasniqi, Executive Director and Founder

International Filmmaker Festival of New York IFFNY



The International Filmmaker Festival of New York is a global industry event held annually in the world’s most iconic center of arts, New York City. Each year, the IFFNY festival brings to New York world premieres of films from around the globe, and gives the American audience unique opportunities to discover international cinema. Its popularity and success is due to the hard work and enthusiasm of the festival founder Mrika Krasniqi.

Mrika Krasniqi is a visionary film director, writer, producer and successful entrepreneur, known for her ground-breaking documentary films. As a filmmaker she is considered highly influential in shaping social issues movies, addressing issues of human rights, gender equality, domestic violence, and the treatment of Jews in the Nazi era. She is most famous for writing and directing “Proof” (2018), “Soldier” (2014), “Four Chimneys” (2013), “World’s Noblemen” (2009), and “The Land of Kelmend” (2008).

Mrika Krasniqi is named “Woman of the Year” by U.S. Congress, “Best Director” and “Ambassador for Peace” by the Universal Peace Federation. She won “Best Human Artist” for her film “Soldier” by the European Community of Jewish Artists in Paris and “Certificate of Honor” at the Producers Network at Cannes Film Festival in France. Her other accolades include: “Best Organizer” by One World, Kosovo; “Best Director” by DOCU Independent in Freiburg, Germany; “Best Production” by New Poland Film, Poland; “Best Social Documentary” by NYIFF, USA; “Best Historical Documentary” by Los Angeles Film Festival; Mrika Krasniqi has worked as Associate Director for the National Geographic, building communication capacity to counter infectious disease threats.

In 2002 Mrika Krasniqi founded her company Nil Production Corporate, and in 2014 she opened the New York branch. Since then she has been organizing the International Filmmaker Festival of New York (IFFNY), International Screenwriting Competition (ISC) and the New York Nil Gallery.

IFFNY PRESENTERS

Dr. Ermira Babamusta is the founder of LET Diplomacy and a former *Obama Administration* presidential campaign director. Prior to her leadership position for President Obama, she began her career in foreign affairs at the U.S. Congress with Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman Mark Kennedy in Washington DC, followed by her work at the Peace-keeping department at *United Nations Headquarters* in New York. She is the founder the two-year initiative "*Peace Action Foundation*" in support of U.S. military and veterans. Dr. Babamusta holds a Ph.D. degree in *Political Science & International Relations* and two masters. *She has been honored by the White House, U.S. Congress and named Woman of the Year.*



Amina Zhaman, PhD, Festival Art Director, is a NY-based Circassian filmmaker, singer-songwriter, screenwriter, actress, theatre director, Artistic Director of International Luxurious Theatre - AM/NA THEATRE, Executive Producer of film and theatre production company ORIENTAL PEARL LLC. Amina Zhaman was born in Nalchik, North Caucasus, Russia and is a graduate of the Russian Academy of Theatre Arts (GITIS) in 2007. She is a specialist in American Drama (Eugene O'Neill's work) and a Broadway Reviewer. Author of the original play "Chaliapin/O'Neill". Filmography: "Right to Love" (2012), "Before Breakfast" (2014), "The Movie Man" (2016), "Battle Fields" (2018). Stage productions: "7 days. 7 nights" (2017), "Faithful Wife" (2017), "Till Death Do Us Part" (2018), "Chaliapin/O'Neill" (2019). In 2014 she sang at the United Nations and legendary jazz club Birdland in New York City, in 2017 Amina performed in Southampton, NY. She has released 6 music videos: "My Religion", "Ex-Somebody", "I'm New", "Let Me", "Oriental Pearl" and "You Still Love Me". Amina is the author of 70 songs in English and 5 instrumental compositions. Amina Zhaman is the winner of "Best Script", "Best Actress", "Best Music Video Against War", "Best Soundtrack", "Best Female Producer", "Best Short Film" and "Best Feature Film" just to name a few.



INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKER FESTIVAL OF NEW YORK (IFFNY)

8th Edition, May 17 to 21, 2019

2019 FESTIVAL PROGRAM

MAY 17/FRIDAY/Dolby Laboratories Theatre (1350 6th Ave # 20, New York, NY 10019)

7:00 pm: Red Carpet/Black Tie Event

7:40 pm: Opening Ceremony

COMPETITION PROGRAM

8:00pm: - ACRE

DREAMS by Dani Wachsman/77 min/ Feature/ **ISRAEL**

Synopsis: The film director Daniel who was invited by Azam an Arab theater director arrives at Arce, he was asked

by Azam to shoot evidence of Palestinians who lived through the war in 1948 (the Nakba), the evidences will become a part of a theater play directed by AZAM. Azam's efforts to portray the truth end in tragedy, when he is gunned down by an unknown assailant, and dies of his wounds. The play is destined never to be seen.

Director & Writer: Dani Wachsman, **Producer:** Tony Copti. **Cast:** Haitham Omari, Dani Wachsmann, Liraz Charhi, Simon Zakak, Maisara Masri, Yehuda Lazarovitch, Riyad Sliman.



Followed by Q&A

Afterparty:

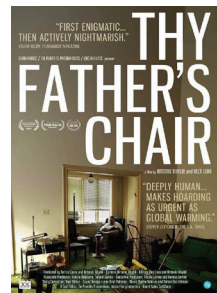
*The Lexington Hotel Autograph Collection
511 Lexington Ave. at 48str. #48
New York, NY 10017*

MAY 18/SATURDAY/PC THEATRE (358 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036)

12:00: Round Table Discussion: Cinema Without Borders

2:00pm: - THE FATHER'S CHAIR by Antonio Tibaldi, Alex Lora /74min/Doc./ **USA**

Synopsis: Abraham and Shraga are Orthodox Jewish aging twins, who live a secluded existence in their inherited home in Brooklyn. Since the death of their parents, they have stopped throwing away anything. Their upstairs tenant threatens to stop paying them rent unless they undertake a radical cleaning. A traumatic invasion of privacy ensues, forcing them to confront their memories in order to find a new beginning.



Director: Antonio Tibaldi, Alex Lora, **Writer,** Antonio Tibaldi, Alex Lora, **Producer:** Enrica Capra, Antonio Tibaldi.

4:00pm: -

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM by Chanelle Eidenbenz /19:30/ Short/ SWITZERLAND

Synopsis: Without understanding why, Irna senses that the relationship with her son Jago is getting more and more hopeless. She seeks refuge in her own world, whose center is Elias, a rubber doll. While Irna holds on to her own reality with all her might, Jago is desperately trying to make his mother understand. **Director, Writer:** Chanelle Eidenbenz, **Producer:** Filippo Bonacci **Cast:** Doris Schefer, Johannes Hegemann.

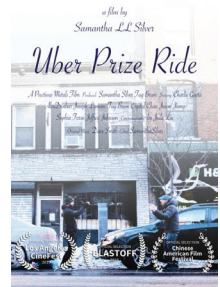


Annick Christiaens, **Producer:** Wim & Julian Coryn / Wild Cherries. **Cast:** Amaryllis Uitterlinden, Toussaint Colombani, Nils Bokanovski, Alain Van Goethem.

- **UBER PRIZE RIDE** by Samantha Silver/12:30/Short/ USA

Synopsis: Game show enthusiast Jeffrey Jepson is determined to turn his side hustle driving Uber into a hit quiz show.

He's enlisted a buddy as videographer, written a series of trivia questions, and is on the streets working his audience. The only problem is, most people just don't want to play. **Director:** Samantha Silver, **Writer:** Samantha Silver & Charlie Gaeta, **Producer:** Samantha Silver, Tag Brum. **Cast:** Charlie Gaeta, Alex Dunbar, Joseph Lymous, Tag Brum, Crystal Chau, Jason Jiang, Sophia Turso, Jeffrey Johnson.



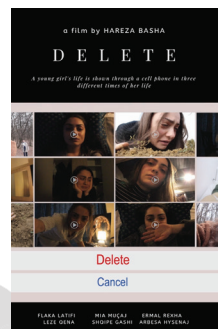
- **MARQUET PLACE** by Annick Christiaens /18:53/ Short/ BELGIUM

Synopsis: Three "same" stories in different shooting formats in a boarding room. A young woman passes a short waiting time by feeding playfully the male attention that surrounds her, with the help of her umbrella. The plot development of the stories changes along with the zeitgeist of each generation. **Director, Writer:**



- **DELETE** by Hareza Basha /20min/ Short/ KOSOVA

Synopsis: A young girl's life is shown through a cell phone in three different times of her life: past, present and future. After a period of depression, her life changes and she deletes her past filmed with her cell phone.



Director, Writer, Producer: Hareza Basha.
Cast: Flaka Latifi, Leze Qena, Ermal Rexha, Shqipe Gashi and Arbesa Hysenaj.

- **FAR** by Arian Dallaku /13min/
Short/ **GERMANY**
Synopsis: The film is about Rron, a young Albanian guy from Kosovo, as he faces his challenges when entering illegally in Germany. **Director & Writer:** Kreis films, **Producer:** Kreis films.
Cast: Floorist Bajgora.



-**CHHI CHHI (dirty)**
by Surabhi Saral Sachdev /11min/
Short/ **INDIA**
Synopsis: The discrimination exhibited towards the house helps in India is deeply entrenched even in the minds of its liberal upper middle class.



Director, Writer: Surabhi Saral Sachdev,
Producer: Rahul Sachdev
Cast: Sai Deodhar Anand, Amrita Chowdhary, Ritu Choudhary.

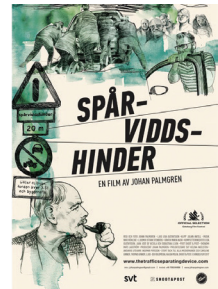
6:00pm: - **KIDS WITH GUNS** by Anthony Faure/ 86 min/Feature/ **FRANCE**
Synopsis: Two nobodies find their ticket to the Parisian Golden Youth parties in the form of a bag filled with drugs,

leading them in the mayhem of a rough police investigation.

Director: Anthony James Faure, **Writer:** Anthony James Faure & Antony Renault, **Producer:** Anthony James Faure, Antony Renault & Florent Larriven. **Cast:** Robin Betchen, Andrew Tisba, Cyril Durel, Éric Chantelauze.



8:00pm: - **THE TRAFFIC SEPARATING DEVICE** by Johan Palmgren /15min/
Doc./ **SWEDEN**
Synopsis: A traffic separating device is installed in the middle of Stockholm.



It is supposed to keep normal cars away and only let buses pass. It turns into a disaster as normal cars continue to go there and hundreds of cars get destroyed every week. Tragic and funny situations occur and we follow the whole mess of human failures. **Director:** Johan Palmgren, **Writer:** Johan Palmgren, Julian Antell & Mattias Grosin, **Producer:** Johan Palmgren
Cast: Georg Tökös, John Wick.

- **WALLMAPU** by Ben Sturgulewski/6min/
Doc./ **USA**
Synopsis: The Pehuenche people of present-day Chile speak Mapudungun: 'the language of the land.' This land, their universe, is known as Wallmapu. Two



skiers enter, into a breathtaking creation of ancient Araucaria trees, looming volcanoes, and windblown snow. **Director:** Ben Sturgulewski, **Writer:** Eunate Saíz, **Producer:** Tomás Gómez and Joaquín Gómez. **Cast:** Piers Solomon & Rodrigo Guzman.

- **SPACE TO EXPLORE** by Katherine DuBois /14min/Doc./ **USA**

Synopsis: On an outdoor adventure to the Mars-like terrain of Moab, Utah Natalie Panek seeks to reconcile life's stumbles, redirections and challenges in her pursuit of space travel. Natalie Panek has spent her life focused on her biggest dream - to be the first to set foot on another planet. **Director:** Katherin Dubois.



- **THE DREAM DELI** by Avner Azulay /14min/Doc./ **ISRAEL**

Synopsis: In a neighborhood deli at the southern part of Tel Aviv, you can buy half bread, take two bags of milk and



pay at the end of the month. Or, you can get inside the back storeroom, sit down, and tell about the dream you had last night.

Director: Avner Azulay, Alon Markovitz, Tomer Lahmy, **Producer:** Tomer Lahmy, Alon Markovitz, Avner Azulay.

- **SKATEBOARD BLUES6** by Carol Gyasi/15 min/doc./ **UK**

Synopsis: Three severely disabled men travel hundreds of miles across Africa to escape poverty and abuse, where they arrive in a large metropolis knowing nobody. This is an endearing story of how they met and formed a friendship which helped and supported them through the hell in which they were forced to live. It is about the power of friendship. **Director, Writer & Producer:** Carol Gyasi. **Cast:** Abubakar, Awa, Mansir.



- **THE COLORADO STREET BRIDGE** by Guy Zhuoqin Yang /17min/Doc./ **CHINA**

Synopsis: Built in 1913, the Colorado Street Bridge in Pasadena, California is known as an example of Beaux Art Architecture. Unfortunately, it has also been known as the Suicide bridge ever

since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The documentary takes the audiences on a journey to find a solution to deter suicide.

Director: Guy Zhuoqin Yang, **Producer:** Guy Zhuoqin Yang, Maty Beth Fielder, Sanora Bartels. **Cast:** Joseph Ma, Alexandra Forman, Joel Drake, Mel Green, Sue Mossmani, Heidi Medak.



- **FEPPS – Pathways after prison** by Greg Westhoff /10min/ Doc./ **USA**
Synopsis: The Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) provides a rigorous college program to incarcerated women in Washington and creates pathways to higher education after women are released from prison. Their goals are to increase women prisoners' economic and personal empowerment, contribute to family stability and reduce recidivism through college education. **Director:** Greg Westhoff, **Producer:** Greg Westhoff & Kailin Mooney.

[Followed by Q&A](#)

MAY 19/SUNDAY/PC THEATRE (358 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036)

12:00pm: - TRAP
 by Paul James /12min/Anime./ **NEW ZEALAND**
Synopsis: A young girl fights for a sense of belonging.
Director: Paul James, **Writer:** Kahra Scott-James, **Producer:** Tony Leslie.



- **DON'T FEED THESE ANIMALS**
 by Guilherme Afonso /10min/ Anime./ **PORTUGAL**
Synopsis: Once upon a time there was a lobotomized bunny who lived in a research



laboratory. He had bi-polar personality disorder, triggered by his huge appetite for carrots. One day the bunny brings a carrot to life by accident but also creates something evil. Now both carrot and bunny must surpass their differences and join forces, so that together they may end this threat. **Director & Writer:** Guilherme Afonso & Miguel Madaíl de Freitas, **Writer:** José Alves da Silva, **Producer:** Nebula Studios, **Composer:** Steve Rucker.



- **DARLING** by Daniel Cohen /7min/
 Anime./ **ISRAEL**
Synopsis: Yaron is a lonely man who doesn't get any appreciation from the outside world. he finds comfort in a plastic doll, which he ordered in the mail.
Director, Writer, Producer: Daniel Cohena.

Christopher Angus
Cast: Rhonda Kennedy-Rogers, Scott Moat.

- **HUDSON RIVER MIRACLE** by Vlash Droboniku /7min/
 Anima./ **USA**
Synopsis: This film is dedicated to the plane crash on the Hudson River which the pilot was able to recover the plane.
Director, Writer, Producer: Vlash Droboniku.



- **THE CALL** by Anca Damian /10min/
 Anime./ **ROMANIA**
Synopsis: A phone call, a bathroom and a woman are at the intersection of the worlds.
Director, Writer, Producer: Anca Damian. **Cast:** Vlad Ivanov, Jean Marc Barr.



- **CHRONOSYNC** / Zsófia Laszlovsky /7:34/
 Anime./ **HUNGARY**
Synopsis: Chronosync is a short animation, with 2d computer animation technique. The film is an



observation on the changing worldview of mankind and shows the weird connection between humanity and their worldview. The eternal urge to explain where we came from and how the universe works. There are many questions and answers, and more over there are connections.
Director, Writer: Zsófia Laszlovsky,
Producer: Zsombor Benyovszky,
Composer: Zoltan Sostai.

- **FUTUREWORLD** by Christopher Angus /7min/
 Anime./ **CANADA**
Synopsis: A quirky journey through recent time to an ethos of futurity, which explores the potential ramifications of technology on human beings while leaving us with choices.
Director, Writer, Producer:

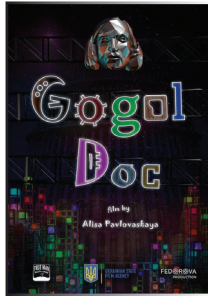


1:30pm: - **GOGOL DOC** by Alise Pavlovskaya /60 min/
 Doc./ **UKRAINE**

Synopsis: 'GogolDoc'

tells how an art is created, it shows the backstage and theatre's daily life. It also shows the crisis of creativity and raises the matters... Every person takes a part at creation.

The goal of this film is to inspire people for self-realization in art. **Director:** Alise Pavlovskaya, **Producer:** Valeriy Kalmykov & Alona Fedorova.



- EMOTIONAL DISEASE by Marieta Caballero /11:35/ Short/ **SPAIN**

Synopsis: In a near future, emotions are considered to be a disease by society. The government and the media are running an informative campaign against the pandemic. In this context, Atlas is struggling to keep his secret.

Director, Writer: Marieta Vaballero, **Producer:** Marieta Vaballero & Daniel Villaseñor. **Cast:** Cai Peña, Simone Gonzalez, Director Biography.



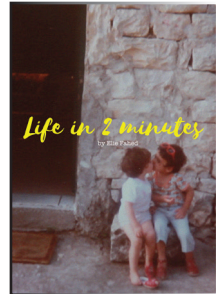
3:00pm: - WHOSE REALITY 2.0? by Nico Falcone Georgiadis/ 14min/ Short/ **SWEDEN**

Synopsis: Elias lost all motivation of living when he lost his daughter and going to a therapist. He is also self-rehabilitating by driving an unlicensed taxi and meeting strangers that share their different stories in life. Whose reality counts and how much can you listen without getting involved, and is it safe?

Director, Writer: Nico Falcone Georgiadis, **Producer:** Nico Falcone Georgiadis, Anton Bårström, John Lönngren. **Cast:** Nico Falcone Georgiadis, Agneta Westman, Björn Kruse, Costa Stafaz, Kajsa Palm, Mats Olsson.

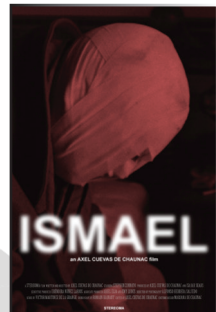
- LIFE IN TWO MINUTES by Elie Fahed /2min / Short/ **LEBANON**

Synopsis: This is how I see life, in 2 minutes. **Director, Writer & Producer:** Elie Fahed.



- ISMAEL by Axel Cuevas de Chaunca /14min/ Short/ **MEXICO**

Synopsis: After mutilating his face in a machine accident, Ismael, a lonely factory worker, struggles with his identity, his dreams, and his memories. Isolated in his room, he remembers Eva, a young woman he met in



his youth, buffaloes and gold miners living up in the mountains, and the accident that left him without a face. **Director, Writer:** Axel Cuevas de Chaunca, **Producer:** Axel Cuevas de Chaunca, Isaiah Sears. **Cast:** Stephen Zinanto, Charles Keirnes, Eva Keirnes, Spencer Keirnes.

- **ANA** by Manuela Berlanga /13:37/
Short/ **BRAZIL**

Synopsis: Ana works in the pharmaceutical industry and with each passing day she is more dissatisfied with her lonely life. Ana loses her lucidity due to a growing depression and in this constant struggle for sanity, she relies on her friends Lúcia and Denise - who do not always bring out the best in her.

Director & Writer: Manuela Berlanga, **Producer:** Manuela Berlanga & Leonardo Granado. **Cast:** Renata Jesion, Vitoria Ferraz, Jayne Stakflett, Juliana Pina, Murilo Cezar.



- **COMING TO TERMS** by Atdhe Trepca /5:40/Short/ **USA**

Synopsis: After her husband passes away, Beauty recreates his presence using the belongings he left behind. **Director: Atdhe Trepca, Writer:** Theo Trepca, **Producer:** Gregory M. Schroeder & Anthony Rubino. **Cast:** Jennifer Ashe, Tim Molyneux, Chris Markle.

- **OFUKU** by Sayoko Akutsu/14min/
Short/**JAPAN**

Synopsis: Since 360 years ago, back in Edo era in Japan, OFUKU has been searching for her mother. Ayuko was a woman who just noticed her mother's illness and couldn't help self-blaming. Over time, the feelings for her mother have made OFUKU grow herself, to a funny, laughable, and entertaining person. This helped Ayuko a lot to get over her sorrow. **Director, Writer:** Sayoko Akutsu. **Cast:** Takashi Hasegawa.



5:00pm: - **MOON HOTEL KABUL**
by Anca Damian /89 min/Feature/
ROMANIA

Synopsis: Ivan Semciuc is a charismatic and cynic journalist. At the end of a mission in Kabul, he has a seemingly meaningless one-night sex with Ioana, a translator. The next day, back in Bucharest, he learns that she has been found dead, with her wrists cut. Ivan's unshakeable process of living starts a vital revolution as Ioana becomes more vivid in death than in life. **Director & Producer:** Anca Damian, **Writer:** Lia Bugnar & Anca Damian. **Cast:** Florin Piersic Jr., Ofelia Popii, Adrian Titieni



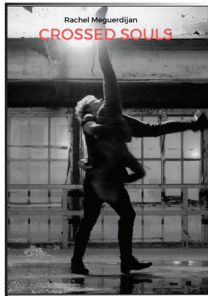
7:00pm - DROWNING by Karina Hilmer & Felix Backhaus/3min/Music video/
GERMANY

Director: Karina Hilmer & Felix Backhaus,
Producer: Karina Hilmer, Felix Backhaus.
Camera: Felix Backhaus. **Cast:**
 Karina Hilmer.



- **CROSSED SOULS** by Rachel Meguerdijian /3:36/ Music video/
CANADA

Director: Rachel Meguerdijian, **Producer:** Alexandre Paskanoi.



- **GO LOUIE GO** by Aaron Mak /4:12/ Music video/
AUSTRALIA

Synopsis: This is the official music video for Cynation's song - Go Louie Go. The band, Cynation, chases Louie all across the city but he constantly evades them at every point. Eventually, they corner him in a music store and utilize the power of music and rock 'n' roll to take a stand to Louie.

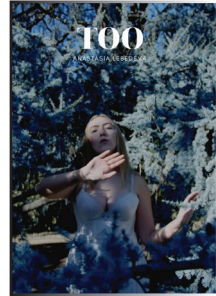
Director: Aaron Mak, **Writer:** Josh Mak & Aaron Mak, **Producer:** Melbourne Film Studio.



Cast: Sam Carter, Josh Mak, Simon Lai, Andrew Teo.

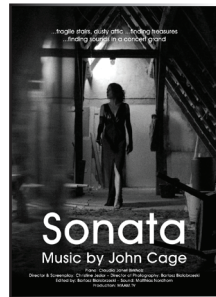
- **TOO** by Anastasia Lebedeva/4:57/ Music video / **USA**

Synopsis: A celebration of femininity from singer-songwriter Lindsay Kay.
Director: Anastasia Lebedeva, **Writer:** Lindsay Kay. **Cast:** Lindsay Kay.



- **SONATA** by Christine Jezior 3:22/ Music video / **GERMANY**

Synopsis: "Like shells on the beach" John Cage has found his sounds. For his work "Sonatas and Interludes" he fixed bolts, screws and rubber between the strings of his grand piano. This is how he created the tender, gamelan-like sounds he used to compose this piece of music.
Director, Writer & Producer: Christine Jezior. **Cast:** Claudia Janet Birkholz.



- **LEADING ME STRAIGHT** by Burke Heffner/7:52 min/music video/ **USA**

Synopsis: In a dystopian and colorless universe nobody dreams, and nobody wins. Emotions are useless, as are abundant thoughts. A hive with marked paths to serve an unnamed queen. She was the only one to break him from years of mechanic and automatic routine, if only for a flash.



Where will that lead him? **Director:** Burke Heffner, **Writer:** Burke Heffner, Olgierd Minkiewicz, **Producer:** Blake Sitney, Jess Vogel, Olgierd Minkiewicz. **Cast:** Olgierd Minkiewicz, Emma Coulter, Sean Stolzen, Jeffrey Kozel, Olesya Galko, Sam Kun.

- **RUN HERMES** by Kevin Short/7 min/
 music video/ **UK & USA**

Synopsis: The Doomsday Clock is one minute to midnight, the nearest it has been to disaster for decades, when Hermes begins his run for freedom and survival. As the countdown begins, the hands of the nuclear ‘powers that be’ begin to hover over that nuclear button. Hermes has just one minute to save himself, and the world around him, from catastrophe.
Director, Writer, Producer: Kevin Short.
Cast: Kevin Short, Susan O’Leary.



-**THIRSTY EYES “838”** by Ioan Gavriel/5:48/ Music video/ **AUSTRIA & POLAND**

Synopsis: 838 is a music-video taking place in its own dark & obscure Eastern European world, a constant escape from oneself in a schizophrenic nightmare.
Director: Ioan Gavriel, **Writer:** Ioan Gavriel/Samuel Ebner
Cast: Samuel Ebner, Marcin Morga.



TIME TO GO TO SLEEP by Jagraj Singh Wasan/8min/ music video / **SINGAPORE & USA**

Synopsis: Time to Go to Sleep is my first single, and a film exploring themes of social ostracism, and acts of terrorism. Are they linked? Are they preventable? And is there something we as a people can do to help?
Director: Jagraj Singh Wasan, **Producer:** Jagraj Singh Wasan, Sarah May Scotti, Patrick Ivison, Aaron Leong. **Cast:** Jagraj Singh Wasan, Jyoti Verma, Shalmalee Vaidya, Lucie Galinon Max Tkachenko, Quentin Roy.

8:00pm: - LET’S TALK ABOUT SEX by Lisa Burd /75 min/Doc./ **NEW ZEALAND**

Synopsis: “Let’s talk about sex” is an independent documentary directed by Lisa Burd and hosted by Julia Sloane. Together, they hope “Let’s talk about sex” will encourage conversation about sexuality and an increasing acceptance around gender and sexual diversity. **Director:** Lisa Burd, **Writer:** Lisa Burd, Julia Sloane & John Davies, **Producer:** John Davies & Lisa Burd **Cast:** Julia Sloane.

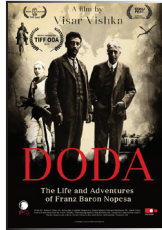


Followed by Q&A

MAY 20/MONDAY/PC THEATRE (358 W
 44th St, New York, NY 10036)

12:00pm: - **DODA/** by
 Visar Vishka/ 107min/
 Doc/ **MACEDONIA**

Synopsis: The Viennese
 scholar who almost
 became King of Albania!
 A politician, a spy,
 a military man, he
 was doing diplomatic
 work in Romania, Macedonia, Albania.
 This documentary is about his life and
 adventures of Franz Baron Nopcsa,
 together with his partner and secretary,
 Bayazid Elmas Doda. **Director, Writer &
 Producer:** Visar Vishka.



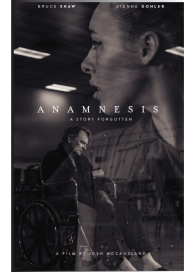
2:00pm: - **A HAPPY
 DIVORCE** by Jamal
 Hodge /24min/
 Short/ **USA**

Synopsis: Intelligent,
 beautiful, defiant,
 Jenny has had the
 courage to follow
 her desires to get
 what she wants, but
 at what price? When
 our deepest desires lead to emptiness,
 and we sacrifice those we love, can hope
 survive? A Happy Divorce deals with the
 growing epidemic of suicide head on,
 while exploring life itself. **Director:** Jamal
 Hodge, **Writer:** Chase Muratore, **Producer:**
 Jamal Hodge, Chase Muratore, Patrick
 Thompson.
Cast: Sita Sarkar, Rory Clarke, Lakshmi
 Devy, Dave Polgar, Clifton King.



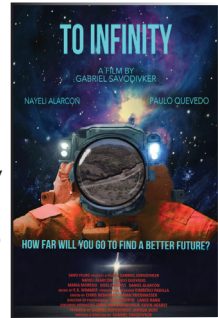
- **ANAMNESIS** by Josh McCausland
 /15min/ Short/ **USA**

Synopsis: Anamnesis
 is a dive into a
 man's conscious and
 unconscious mind as the
 physical and imagined
 world blend in front of
 him through his struggle
 with Alzheimer's
 disease. **Director,
 Writer & Producer:** Josh
 McCausland
Cast: Bruce Shaw, Vienna Dohler, Whitni
 Resides.



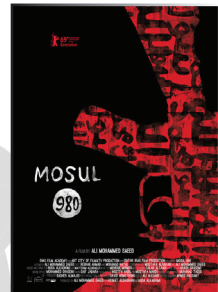
- **TO INFINITY** by
 Gabriel Savodivker/
 12:30/ Short/ **USA**

Synopsis: A dying
 father helps his
 young daughter carry
 an imaginary mission
 into space in order to
 reunite her with her
 mother; which leads
 to an unimaginable
 revelation. **Director & Writer:** Gabriel
 Savodivker, **Producer:** Gabriel Savodivker &
 Jarrod Burt. **Cast:** Paulo Quevedo, Yanelis
 Alarcon, Maria Moreno.



- **MOSUL 980** by Ali Mohammed Saeed
 /10min/Short/ **IRAQ**

Synopsis: A 17
 years old kidnapped
 Yazidi girl disguised
 in ISIS uniform tries
 to escape form ISIS.
 She finds no way
 to break free, but a
 military vehicle set on
 explosives. **Director:**



Ali Mohammed Saeed, **Writer:** Mustafa Sattar Jabbar & Ali Mohammed Saeed, **Producer:** Huda Al Kadhimi & Hikmat Al-Beedhan
Cast: Redhab Ahmad, Mohanad Hayal.

- **ON THE ROAD** by Irdit Kaso/15min/short/ **ALBANIA**

Synopsis: Adi, a 35-year-old man is returning home from work. On his way home he notices an accident and stops to help. Adi recognizes the accidented man as the politician Mr. Mere. On their way to the hospital Mr. Mere realizes the young woman has died so he flees, leaving Adi with the dead young woman in his car.
Director, Writer & Producer: Irdit Kaso.
Cast: Andi Begolli, Gent Kame, Bilma Piranaj.



- **THE DOGS ILLUSION** by Mashroor Parvez /7min/ Short/ **BANGLADESH**

Synopsis: A man without a mustache sits down to discuss the ramifications of the Liberation War with a ghost denied his homeland. The ensuing conversation turns into a conflict of race, identity, human nature and philosophical taboos; whilst another comes to service. **Director, Writer & Producer:** Mashroor Parvez. **Cast:** Sohel Rana, Mashroor Parvez.



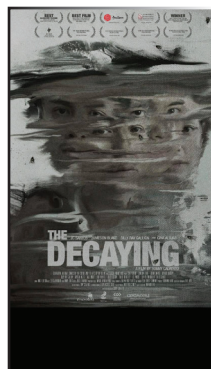
- **THE MIRROR**

by Massimiliano Maureri /2min/ Short/ **ITALY**
Synopsis: A girl looks in the mirror and dreams... but reality is different.
Director, Writer & Producer: Massimiliano Maureri. **Cast:** Carlotta Galmarini.



5:00pm: - THE DECAYING by Sonny Calvento /93 min/feature/ **PHILIPPINES**

Synopsis: When a Filipino woman goes missing, the residents of her small town try to pin murder on her American husband. Part thriller and part social critique, The Decaying asks if the rot is in the house, the marriage, the town or in the Philippine society. **Director & Writer:** Sonny Calvento, **Producer:** Tony Calvento, Arden Rod Condez, Ferdinand Lapuz. **Cast:** Billy Ray Gallion, Gina Alajar, JC Santos, Jameson Blake, Elaine Yu, Angel Dannah Cardoza.



7:00pm: SPECIAL SCREENING PROGRAM

- **NO DEER FOR DINNER** by Yuhang Chen /14min/ short/ **USA (Non-competition)**
Synopsis: In a small town in Nevada Mountains strange things keep happening

in the last 36 years. Each year, one person goes missing and nobody ever found the body or any belongings. A young couple breaks into an old couple's house after they robbed a bank. What is waiting for them is beyond their expectations.



Director: Yuhang Chen, **Writer:** Otoniel Walker, **Producer:** Yuhang Chen & Xiaoran Wu, **Editor:** Yu-Ying Chang, **Cast:** James Mcfarlane.

- **NINA & NANA** by Aulona Selmani /12min/short / **KOSOVA**
Synopsis: After losing her child and the police announcing her dead ,a mother does not stop looking for her missing daughter, assuming she is alive.Following her intuition she never gives up even if it means to be her against the world.



Director & Writer: Aulona Selmani.
Cast: Arta Selimi,Ismail Kasumi,Olta Selmani, Kreshnik Malushaj

- **PATRIK** by Evgenya Radilova / 10min/ short/ **USA (Non-competition)**
Synopsis: PATRIK is a story about an accomplished elderly actor who grew too

old for our modern fast paced life and on his way to receiving his final and ultimate life time recognition, he gets swallowed up by it mercilessly. It is a human story about trying to age gracefully while being pushed aside by the next generation. **Director:** Evgenya Radilova, **Producer:** Evgeniya Radilova, Darja Schabad, **Writer:** Evgeniya Radilova & Ella Mishe. **Cast:** Patrik Baldauff, Jamal Hodge and Dena Tyler.



- **RELIEF** by Vladislav Pavlov / 15min/ short / **USA-RUSSIA (Non-competition)**
Synopsis: Cat is madly in love with her sister`s husband. Cat left her hometown, moved to a big city but it didn `t work



out. She encounters a gestalt psychologist who promised her help. Cat invites an escort from Craigslist to work her story out. It looks like a date in the beginning but the game gradually goes the wrong way. **Director:** Vlad Pavlov, **Writer:** Natalie Berman, Vlad Pavlov, **Producer:** Ekaterina Terekhovich, Vlad Pavlov, Anna Dudina. **Cast:** Lovie Underwood, Sebastien Faure, Neil Wade.

- FORGOTTEN

by Hosseyn Nayernia / 6 min/short/UK

Synopsis: A glimpse into what life with dementia feels like.

Director, Writer & Producer: Hosseyn Nayernia.

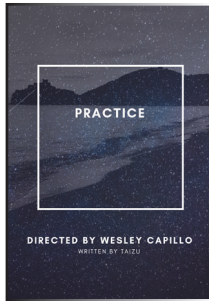


- PRACTICE by Taizu

/Wesley Caspillo / 2:38 min / music video / USA (Non-competition)

Synopsis: Practice makes perfect is an adage that has held its weight in water since the days of the Tao Te Ching. Repetition is the father of learning. Luck is the outcome of an action. But you have to buy a lottery ticket first to win. Entitlement is the opposite of Practice. Nothing is owed to you in this world. We all breathe the same air. When Rishi Rex was producing the beat and I started writing out the first verse, a lot of these elements begin to connect.

Director: Wesley Caspillo, **Writer:** Taizu, **Produced:** Rishi Rex. **Cast:** Taizu, Wesley Caspillo, Bobby Stevenson, Ambika Sanjana, Zack Yassin, & Jay Soni.



9:00pm: SPECIAL SCREENING PROGRAM

- LITTLE MISS WESTIE by Dan Hunt and Joy E. Reed / 75 min/Doc/ USA (Non-competition)

Synopsis: If Ren could go back in time before she was four, she would tell her

parents that she wasn't happy living as a boy. Now, Ren is about to compete as the first out transgirl in the Little Miss Westie Pageant. Gender dynamics evolve in front of the viewer's eyes while two transgender siblings explore who they are in this intimate portrait. **Director:** Dan Hunt and Joy E. Reed **Cast:** Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy, Luca McCarthy, Ren McCarthy, Chris. McCarthy, Tony Ferraiolo.



Followed by Q&A

MAY 21/TUESDAY/PC THEATRE (358 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036)

3:00pm: SPECIAL SCREENING PROGRAM

- RISE: FROM INDEPENDENCE TO IMMORTALITY by Aaron Mak / 75min/doc / AUSTRALIA (Non-competition)

Synopsis: This is the story of how the Australian rock band, Cynation, had a dream to gather other local artists together to make their very first, incredibly ambitious, music video. Despite facing doubt and constant adversity, they endured, remained humorously positive, and made the impossible happen. There comes a time in our lives, where we can't just stay down - we must rise.

Director: Aaron Mak, **Writer & Producer:** Aaron Mak & Josh Mak

Cast: Aaron Mak, Josh Mak, Simon Lai, Andrew Teo, Klaire Auden, Aurora Flair, Sham, Izzy Bellissima, Paris Rowe.

Followed by Q&A

7:00 PM / AWARDS CEREMONY/ Dolby Laboratories Theatre
(1350 6th Ave # 20, New York, NY 10019)

AWARDS 2019

- Best Feature Film
- Best Short Film
- Best feature Doc. Film
- Best short Doc. Film
- Best Animation
- Best Music Video
- Best Actor Award
- Best Actress Awards
- Best Production Award
- Best Cinematography

Closing Night

After party:

The Lexington Hotel Autograph Collection
511 Lexington Ave. at 48str. #48
New York, NY 10017

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the overwhelming support received in making our 8th Edition of 2019 IFFNY a Great Success.

Giorgio Kolaj, Zikri Meta, Samy Ramushi, Elmi Berisha, Sabije Dervishi, Jon Dauti, Alfred Tolaj, Mirsad Abazi

Thank you to Olsi Beci&Ivan Morales - Official Photographers.

To our incredible organizers:

Executive Director & Founder Mrika Krasniqi, International Liaison Director Ermira Babamusta, Festival Selector Iber Deari, Art Director Amina Zhman, Editor Ardian Deari, Festival Coordinator Itta Ram, Program Adviser Anil Zogjani, Web Developer Egzon Bunjaku, Designer Hekuran Rexhepi, Asha Graphic.

IFFNY JURY OF 2019

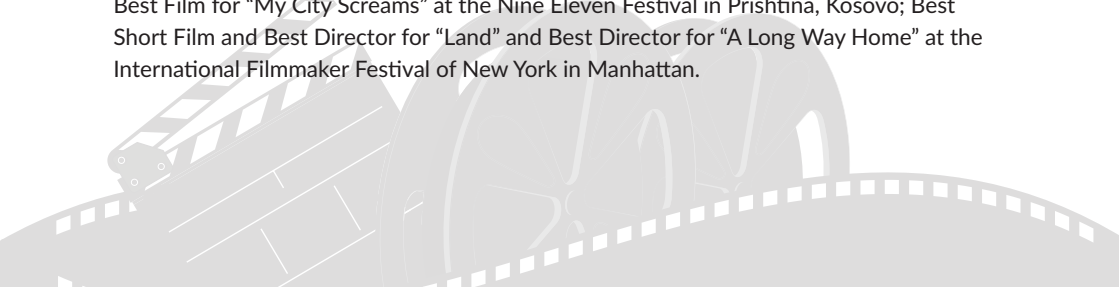
JON RUSSELL CRING (Writer, Director, Producer) – President of the Jury

Born in Columbus, Ohio in 1971 to creative powerhouse parents, Jon grew up around the arts. Traveling and performing with his family, presenting music and drama on stages criss-crossing the USA. His interest in film, besides rabid fandom, began when he met his future wife and muse Tracy Nichole. Writing a variety show together, STREETWALKING, Tracy started editing and contributing her own unique and sometimes demented ideas. An unstoppable team was born. After purchasing one of the earliest Digital Video Cameras (Sony TRV 950,) Jon and Tracy spent a resident time in the wilderness of Indy Horror Filmmaking with a collaborator before making their first short film, HANK'S PLACE, which was immediately accepted into regional film fests (Southern Appalachian Film Fest 2006). After completing a string of fifteen experimental short films, Jon decided to do the same with feature-length films and the idea for the ExtraOrdinary Film Project was born.



Ibër Deari (Director, Producer, Writer) – IFFNY Festival Selector

Director, writer, producer, DOP Ibër Deari is born in 1990, in Macedonia. He is a talented director and writer, known for his award-winning movies: My City Screams (2015), Toka (2016), A long way Home (2017). Filming is his biggest passion and he has been making films since high school. He has also written and directed a number of short fictional and documentary videos. Ibër Deari studied Film School at the University of Audiovisual Arts “ESRA” in Skopje. He graduated in 2013 with the film “Last Confession”. Deari earned his Master of Arts in the Department of Film Direction with the film “Toka” (Land) and thesis “To Film or Not to Film”. Ibër Deari is the winner of numerous prestigious international awards, including: Best Artist in Macedonia from Milingona e Artë; Best Film for “Between Paradise and Hell” from Gässli Film Festival in Basel, Switzerland; the Audience Award for Best Film for “Last Confession” at New York Albanian Film Week in Manhattan; Best Director and Best Film for “My City Screams” at the Nine Eleven Festival in Prishtina, Kosovo; Best Short Film and Best Director for “Land” and Best Director for “A Long Way Home” at the International Filmmaker Festival of New York in Manhattan.



Maja Wampuszyc (Actor, Director)

Maja Wampuszyc is known for: *The Immigrant* by James Gray (Cannes and New York Film Festival 2013) opposite Oscar Winner Marion Cotillard. Produced by Oscar Winners Anthony Katagus (*Twelve Years a Slave*) & Greg Shapiro (*The Hurt Locker*); *Mrs. Zygmund* on *The Knick*, directed by Oscar Winner Steven Soderbergh; *Magda Nagy* on *Madam Secretary* directed by Robert Greenlea.

Most recently she produced the award-winning documentary *Where are we now? The Italian American Today* by Richard Vetere. Her film works include *Mona Lisa Smile* by Mike Newell and *Shopping* by Henry Jaglom. As a director, she is a Member of the Playwright Directors Workshop at The Actors Studio developing two plays by Richard Vetere *Aleppo* and *Zagłada*. Member of Third Wing Media Ensemble currently in rehearsals for the *Genius Project* in the role of Ayn Rand. Maja Wampuszyc is represented by Bret Adams Artists Ltd.



Miranda Jean Larson (Actor, Producer)

Miranda Jean Larson is an Actor, Writer, and Producer living in NYC. As an actress she has performed in several theatrical productions around the city, her favorites having been by Shakespeare or Oscar Wilde or anything wonderfully weird. She has also acted in several short films which includes her first professional writing, directing, and producing credit: "Innocence" which won several awards at film festivals including Best Short Film (IFFNY 2018) and Best Indie Film (Top Shorts: March 2018). Miranda is currently producing a new short film with writer Veneta Callpani called "Inward" which is in script development. She is also hard at work writing her first feature film which she hopes to bring to life in 2020. She is so excited to be back with IFFNY this year as a juror! www.mirandajeanelson.com @mirandajeanelson777.



Carlos Freire (Director, Producer)

Carlos Freire is an Ecuadorian-born award-winning documentary filmmaker. Carlos graduated with an AA degree in Media Studies, a BA degree in Film Production and a MFA in Media Communication Arts focused in Documentary Production. As a communicator, Carlos has produced media for more than fifteen years. He is known for producing *Terraza 7* and *My Dream At The Other Side* and *Queen Amor*. Carlos was given recognition from the President of the Borough of the Bronx for his commitment to the art community of New York City. As an international content creator Carlos covered the visits of the president of Ecuador to China and Saudi Arabia. In these trips he had the opportunity to work closely with presidents of other countries as well. This work was aired in Ecuadorian news channels and presented as documentaries. He also produced two television shows, *Business in Queens* hosted by the Queens Chamber of Commerce at Queens Public Television (QPTV), and *Guerrilla Mosh TV*, a rock music television show aired in Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN).



Official IFFNY Photographers

Olsi Beçi is an award-winning celebrity photographer and cinematographer whose work has taken him around the world shooting tv commercials, fashion shows, film festivals, documentaries and feature films. His beautiful images and films tell great stories. Olsi continues to make consistently outstanding work, taking home several awards and accolades including: World Cinema Screenwriting Award for the film “The Other Face” , Outstanding Artistic Achievement and Excellence in Arts by Congressman Eliot Engel, Award for Arts Achievement by NATO, Artist of the Year 2019, Best Cinematographer, Excellence in Albanian Cinema and Television and Excellence in Film for Eco Film 2019. With extensive experience both nationally and internationally, Olsi Beçi continues to work on a diverse range of projects including Google, NATO, UNICEF, IFFNY, MTV, Ecovolis, Jonathan Center, Miss Universe Albania, etc.



Ivan Morales is a Systems Engineer. He worked in several multinationals such as McGraw-Hill Companies, Corona and GNC as manager for several years.

Currently he work as a Photo Director for several magazines in New York, Boston, Miami and he is General Manager at the INNOVATION MEDIA PRODUCTIONS.

A dynamic 27-year sales and marketing career reflecting pioneering experience in the computer and marketing industries.

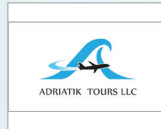
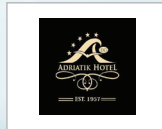
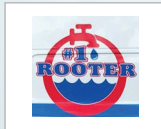
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