

SOMERVILLE IFF

official selection

**BOSTON
CONTEMPORARY
CINEMA**

The best of
Boston Short Film Festival and Somerville International Film Festival

Free screenings at the Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, MA 02144.
Admission is free of charge.

Screening Schedule - Monday, October 10 (8-10pm)

Rainbow Party (Iceland) by Eva Sigurdardottir (BSFF)

In a tale of twisted innocence, 14-year-old outcast Sofia is offered the chance to join the popular group at school, but doing so requires making serious sacrifices. Whoever said that teenage girls were pure and innocent?

Duration: 15:58

Timescapes (USA, Boston) by Trevor Hewitt (BSFF)

We are at the cusp of one of the greatest moments in the history of man. No longer will history be based on the speculations and political opinions of those who study it, but objective scientific fact. Today is Sunday, July 20th, 2059.

Duration: 3:06

MeTube 2 - August sings Carmina Burana (Austria) by Daniel Moshel (SIFF)

After Elfie and her nerdy son August successfully proved themselves on their home webcam in MeTube 1, the odd pair venture onto the street to present the biggest, boldest, and sexiest operatic flash mob the internet has ever witnessed!

Duration: 5:00

CopyCat Club - Ganz Berlin (Italy) by Riccardo Torresi (SIFF)

A two minute journey in a dystopic reality where Berlin is seen in the light of its constant changing. Oniric beasts and tentacles run through the city leaving no trace of what's left behind, melting things in an undistinguished pink blob. Conceived as a music video for Copycat Club's "Ganz Berlin", this animation pushed the lyrics to the limit, giving shape to a disturbing and gloomy scenario.

Duration: 2:35

Figurine (Canada) by Hans Olson (SIFF)



Karin leads a quiet life working at a truck wash and ushering part-time at the hockey arena. Her solitary routine is broken when she meets James, a truck driver seeking work closer to his children. As autumn approaches winter, Karin opens herself to the possibility of romance.

Duration: 01:19:00

Screening Schedule - Tuesday, October 11 (8-10pm)

Inexorable (USA, Somerville) by Jonathan Case (BSFF)

Desperate to preserve their funding, a group of researchers concoct a bogus predictive analytics study that has unexpected results.

Duration: 24:33

Dryad (France) by Thomas Vernay (SIFF)



The wind blows, noises of armor resound. A knight escorts a young woman athwart plains. The thunder begins to scold, clouds invade the landscape. The knight, worried, stares the castle on the horizon. The end is close.

Duration: 11:26

Zero-G (Austria) by Jannis Lenz (SIFF)

Originating in the Parisian suburbs, Parkour is a 'kinetic' art form that involves jumping walls and other obstacles in urban environments. It also evokes the feeling of weightlessness inherent to big cities but which is gradually disappearing. Schwerelos follows a group of Parkour 'tracers' from Vienna and slam artist Fatima Moumouni, who pens a poem on the city and young people's attitude to life.

Duration: 9:00

Sixteen (USA) by Vashti Harrison (BSFF)

Sixteen is my mother's coming of age story. In a family with a history of Alzheimer's, it is an exploration in memory and what time can change. The sound and image form a marriage between the past and the present in three layers: the story of a difficult childhood, the photos of a beautiful adulthood and the fragile cracking audio of a voice recounting these fading memories. These juxtapositions work simultaneously to tell the story of a coming of age that happened over the course of many years, but many years too late. A camera-less film composed with family photos and text.

Duration: 6:35

Schirkoa (India) by Ishan Shukla (SIFF)

In the city of bag-heads, a senate member faces a tough choice between political career, brothels and love for a mysterious woman. A choice that will transform his life and the city in unimaginable ways.

Duration: 13:31

War Scarred Berlin (Germany) by Roland Fuhrmann (BSFF)

The bullet holes of war are omnipresent. Especially now, when Germany become a magnet for war refugees, it is important to remind of these scars. The dumb stones are suddenly loud and burst into an apparently peaceful daily life in Berlin, late summer of the year 2015. Still existing Second World War scars in the streets of Berlin were filmed. Then the bullet holes were digitally repaired and prefixed to the video. An adjusted war sound of explosions and machine guns let the scene become realistic. Now the astonished looks of tourists and pedestrians have the dimension of a short flashback. History and presence happened simultaneously.

Duration: 4:32

Dichterliebe: POETLOVE (USA) by David Paul (BSFF)



'Dichterliebe: POETLOVE,' is an adaptation of Robert Schumann's 19th century art-song cycle, which tells the story of a young man who experiences his first love and heartbreak, throwing him into deep despair, until he finds his conduit through art.

Duration: 27:45

Asphyxia (Germany) by Pol Ponsarnau (SIFF)

Gloria struggles after the sudden and unexpected loss of her boyfriend with deep pain. Her life is falling apart and she is sinking into depression. It seems impossible to let go of what happened. Gloria is lost in every little memory together, the feel of a touch or personal belongings. The visit of her friend Emma will be the first step to bring Gloria back to life.

Duration: 10:00

Screening Schedule - Wednesday, October 12 (8-10pm)

Gorilla (France) by Tibo Pinsard (BSFF)



Hollywood, 1952. Henry Corso performs a costumed gorilla on horror movies and adventure movies. For Jungle Jenna, he must terrorize the leading actress lost in a fake jungle. But scaring the woman he desires is going to be particularly tricky for the gorilla man.

Duration: 14:05

Love Lust (USA, Boston) by Noah Canavan (BSFF)

A minimalist story about the aftermath of a couple's fight. Love Lust is based on how individuals deal with pain, stress, and how they comfort themselves after a dramatic endeavor.

Duration: 4:59

Runaway (USA) by Noemi Schneider (SIFF)



A child is chased through the streets by a policeman after committing a robbery in an attempt to make ends meet for themselves and their mother. But what is the child really running from?

Duration: 4:00

Pink Dust (USA) by Cameron Stetz (BSFF)

An experimental animated short involving a mixture of live-action and Polaroid manipulations.

Duration: 1:22

Batfish Soup (USA, Pasadena) by Amanda Bonaiuto (BSFF)



Wacky relatives give way to mounting tensions with broken dolls, boiling stew and a bang.

Duration: 4:30

Free (Croatia) by Tomislav Zaja (SIFF)

Free follows the path to freedom of a group of people with intellectual disabilities that are locked away in Croatian institutions. The only things that Ivan, Enes, Tina, Kruno, Mirko, Tomo have in common is that they are outcasts of society and they dream of freedom: we see them institutionalised and we watch what it's like to be isolated, deprived of privacy and of one's rights to make decisions regarding their own life. One day they are informed that they will be released. After decades spent in institutions, a new beginning awaits them: Ivan has always wanted to be a police officer, Enes buys a video camera and starts to document his everyday life, Tina and Kruno want to get married, Mirko and Tomo dream of becoming football coaches at their favourite local club, Silvia starts singing in the church choir, Andjelko is trying to find a girl and a job... The camera observes them, capturing their perspective on the biggest change of their lives while they try to fulfil their long-postponed dreams. It is a good opportunity for all of us, those who never had anything to do with these institutions, to start reflecting on our own lives, our freedoms, and the things we take for granted in our societies.

Duration: 01:12:34

Screening Schedule - Thursday, October 13 (8-10pm)

The Sign (USA, Burlington) by James Lantz (BSFF)

After their homemade "Trump 4 President" sign is run over twice, a Vermont filmmaker travels to Virginia to interview his parents' to understand their support for presidential candidate, Donald Trump.

Duration: 14:00

Tunisia 2045 (France) by Ted Hardy-Carnac (BSFF)



Tunisia, 2045. A father and his daughter are waiting, worried and tired. A simple gesture could decide their future...

Duration: 3:33

Yuri on the Phone (The Netherlands) by Rene Nuijens (BSFF)

'Yuri on the Phone' is a dry tragic short comedy featuring Serbian film diva Rada Duricin (1934) as a woman whose passion for Yuri Gagarin (1934-68) is still as strong as when it was first set aflame in 1961.

Duration: 6:06

Promenade (Argentina) by Cirila Luz Ferron (SIFF)

They are time, Silence and space. They are angles, Darkness and light. And also colours. They are vertices. Doors and windows. Floors and ceilings. They are their home. Their bodies, the architecture of their being and their lives. Our film brings together dance, video and architecture in order to find new readings of space, making connections that design a virtual journey between functional and symbolic dimensions of architecture and poetic and geometric dimensions of space. Articulated by the choreography, our bodies and the camera's eye look for new associations and senses.

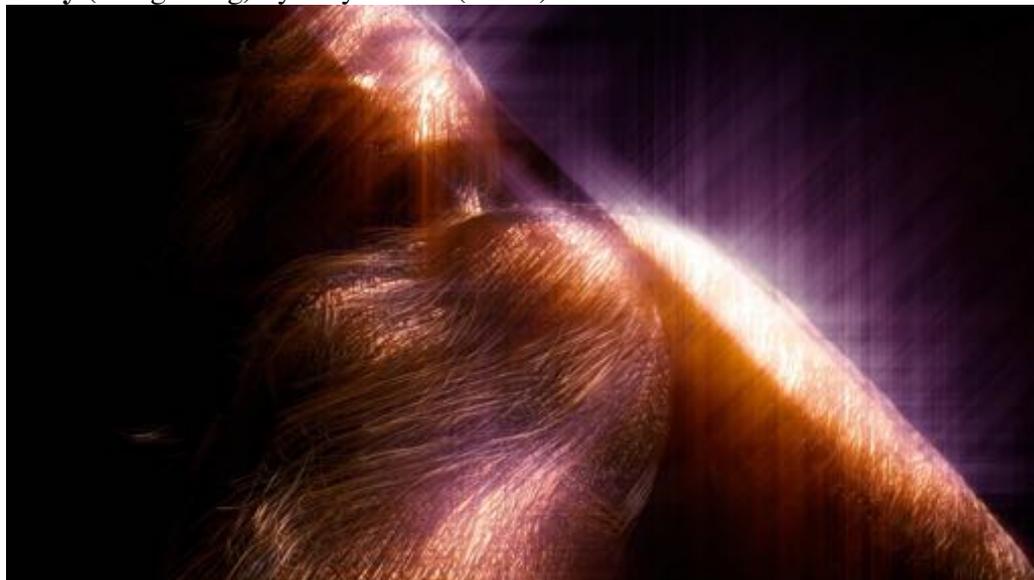
Duration: 8:50

postpartum (USA, Boston) by Emily Shapiro (BSFF)

A material and spatial exploration of the immediate relationship between a mother and newborn.

Duration: 3:50

Sway (Hong Kong) by Faiyaz Jafri (BSFF)



Sway is a non-narrative computer generated film that celebrates body hair and rock gods.

Duration: 8:10

pearl & werther (USA, Brooklyn) by Stefan M Pavlovic (BSFF)

Through the eye of nostalgia the cleaning and washing of a car named Pearl is shown as the camera allows us a glimpse into the birth of a first love and a long lasting relationship.

Duration: 9:43

Maniacs (Sweden) by Isabella Carbonell (SIFF)

A girl goes to visit her sister who has been impossible to reach since being released from a psychiatric ward. She had been admitted for undressing in front of her colleagues, losing her job in the process. When the girl arrives at her sister's apartment she realizes that things are much worse than she could have imagined. The sister has not eaten for several days, has killed her pets, covered all the windows with dark plastic bags and has let two strangers into her home. The healthy sister, paralyzed by anxiety, tries to understand what is going on and how this could have happened. But to her surprise, her sister claims to be anything but in bad shape. On the contrary, she says that she has never been happier since she turned her back on the outside world.

Duration: 10:54

The spiritual journey (Norway) by Gjert Rognli (BSFF)

Nature's resurrection, the fragile lives, withdrawal and our allotted time we will be together with nature in life. Pain, alienation and sorrow in our era, and longing for meaning and the spiritual quest through the human mind and our longing for eternal life.

Duration: 1:23

Tak Chung Wu (USA, San Luis Obispo) by Tyler Russo (BSFF)

Tak Chung Wu, 96, recalls details of his life.

Duration: 4:38

East (USA, Somerville) by JB Palmer (BSFF)

Music video for the San Diego alt/rock band ABANDON THE RAFT.

Duration: 3:45

Operator (United Kingdom) by Caroline Bartleet (BSFF)

Gemma wakes to find her house on fire. Trapped with her son, she dials 999. The operator who answers holds Gemma's life in her hands.

Duration: 6:00

A Circle of Diamonds (USA, Philadelphia) by Michael Biello, Dan Martin, B. Proud (BSFF)

An original song inspired by and featuring marriage activist Edie Windsor. Edie witnesses a musical scene where two young women reenact Thea's proposal to her in the 1960's - when marriage between 2 women was not an option. A celebration of the enduring power of love!

Duration: 4:24

This Ain't Disneyland (Hong Kong) by Faiyaz Jafri (SIFF)



A juxtaposition of the collapse of the Twin Towers and Disney.

Duration: 6:25

Snapped (Ireland) by Phillip Connolly (BSFF)

A photograph tells the story of man emotions. Through the eyes of darkness lays a lens full of evil desires, twists and turns laying Jordan's heart murmur on the line. Through the snapping of photographs we come to understand Jordan's emotional drained soul. Her sanity is tested as Seth's presence dooms her to hell. The world of sound to the ear drums, the swiping of red across the mind. Two becomes one, death becomes fear, tension driven and ruled with emotion Jordan's eventually comes face to face with her biggest challenge, herself. Intertwined with audio, Snapped lives on the brain, creating a world of unique choices.

Duration: 4:30

A-10 (USA, Boston) by Kristen Currier (BSFF)

A-10 is a flight experience through hand drawn animation.

Duration: 0:57

Missing One Player (China) by Lei Lei (BSFF)

During a majong game a bad situation occurs. Everyone waits for the last player to show up. The three have no choice but to wait and sit there silently in tears. However, they do believe that the fourth player will come. They look up to they sky waiting for this miracle to happen.

Duration: 4:20

Long Departure (USA, Plymouth) by David Ellis (BSFF)

Another fascinating film by award winning filmmaker David Ellis exploring the relationship between moving image and sound. Long Departure is a visual poem about passage, time, aging and the blur between departure and destination. It is a brief moment from life's ceaseless motion, with all its temporal fragility yet determined in spite of constant buffeting. In this non-traditional storytelling portrayal, the interplay of image, sound and atmosphere leaves the viewer to create their own narrative, in a cinema created as pure visual poetry without the burden of narrative, agenda or the limitation of language intended to be responded to as pure art of moving image and sound.

Duration: 4:46

MOLK (Canada) by Terence Chotard (BSFF)



Alone in the depths of a concrete labyrinth, a man patrols the empty alleys of an abandoned underground parking.

Duration: 12:15