

ANIMA CINEFEST  
2025  
SOUVENIR PROGRAM GUIDE  
October 28



THE ULTIMATE FRAME BY FRAME ANIMATED EXPERIENCE





Welcome!

We are pleased to present the 2025 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS of the Orbital Sound Anima Cinefest International Film Festival at the Historic Hamilton Movie Theater on October 28. This seasons free event will screen fourteen films from nine countries. On behalf of everyone involved, congratulations to the filmmakers whose work is featured, and best wishes for a wonderful festival.



# Anima Cinefest





# Anima Cinefest





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OFFICIAL SELECTION

**Anima  
Cinefest**  
2025





ANIMA CINEFEST  
INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED  
FILM FESTIVAL

*Official Selection*  
2025

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY  
PRESENTED TO THE FILM

*Broken Potato*

Directed By Water

*From*  
Estonia







THE HOLE  
坏掉的土豆  
OR  
BROKEN  
POTATO

DIRECTED  
AND  
WRITTEN  
BY  
WATER  
水儿源



中国美术学院  
China Academy of Art

BACKGROUND INBETWEEN  
陈丹妮 AND 汪霄  
DANNI CHEN XIAOWANG

3D MODEL  
陈丹妮 AND 董家成  
DANNI CHEN JIACHEN DONG

CHARACTER ANIMATION  
ART DIRECTOR  
LAYOUT STORYBOARD  
BY  
WATER  
水儿源

Calligraphy 于默  
MO YU

Composer Arranger Recording & Mix Engineer 嵇柏茗  
FINN BAIRD MCCONNELL

Stage Manager 韩峰  
HUI HAN  
Technical Advisor 魏博  
XIAOLONG  
Advisor 李健  
JIAJIA LI  
Sound Designer 魏航航  
YIHANG BAO





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Shui Yuan (Water), B. A. 1999, is an independent first time student animation film making director and illustrator. She graduated from the animation Department of China Academy of Art in 2021 and now lives in Shanghai. Instagram: AMPisland

### SYNOPSIS

With one after another booms, large holes suddenly appeared in the town. No one knew what the holes were or where they came from. Curiosity seekers were swarming all over the town and everyone tried to take advantage of these holes to do what they wanted all the time.

### DIRECTOR'S INTERPRETATION:

There is a small hole in the potato, each slice of the hole is shaped differently. When you don't know what the hole is, you know what the hole is. This is a film that can be read. Each frame will provide an overload of information by which to catch up with the speed of the modern world. Taking the hole as an excuse, but nothing to do with the hole.

Director Water's testimony, which has been made public for the first time, is that we don't know what it is, but it doesn't affect everyone, because it doesn't matter what it is. What's more important is to see how we can make use of it.

If I were a viewer, I'd be watching.

If I were a consumer, I would buy products related to the hole.

If I were a businessman, I would also take shortcuts.

If I'm a journalist, I'll also make a fuss.

If I were a director, I would make a film out of it



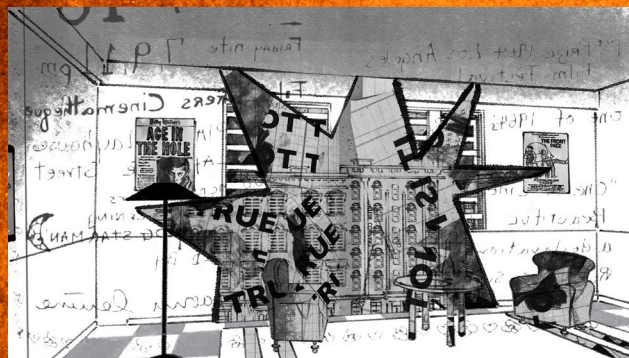








## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

The 17th China International Cartoon & Animation Festival  
Hangzhou  
China

September 29, 2021  
"Golden Monkey King" Awards

The 21st Beijing Film Academy Animation Academy Award  
Beijing

November 12, 2021  
Beijing Premiere  
Experimental Innovation Award

2022 The Short Movie Club Film Festival "NEFILTRAVANAE KINO"  
Minsk

Belarus  
March 25, 2022  
Belarus Premiere  
Honorable Mention

2022 17th Athens Animfest  
Greece

March 17, 2022  
Greece Premiere  
3rd Prize in Student Competition

Anima Cinefest International Animation Film Festival  
Hamilton, New York  
United States

October 28, 2025  
Anima Cinefest 2025 Official Selection





ANIMA CINEFEST  
INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED  
FILM FESTIVAL

*Official Selection*  
2025

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY  
PRESENTED TO THE FILM

*Boom Boom Time*

Directed By Hazen Blackrose, Senga Nerate

*From*  
Canada, United Kingdom, United States











## DIRECTOR'S BIOS

Hazen Blackrose and his writing partner Senga Nerate, much like Daman Albern who created Gorillaz, prefer to keep their real selves anonymous behind noms de plume and in-game avatars.

The Winking Crow is a collective with a mission to promote live performance in rolepla game servers and to help artists achieve their goals both in game and in the wider online world.

The Winking Crow | The Home For Gaming Artists  
[www.thewinkingcrow.com](http://www.thewinkingcrow.com)







THE WINKING CROW  
PRESENTS

The songs of  
**SENGA & HAZEN**  
ON TOUR

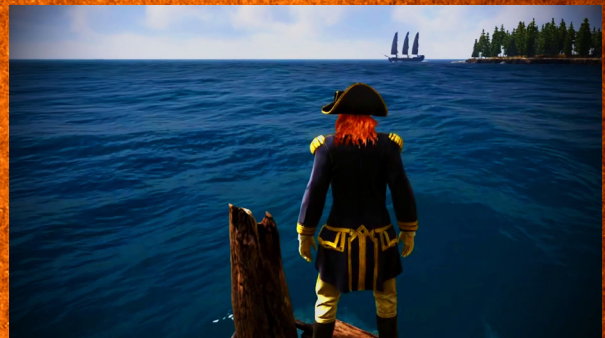


Down the hole  
Bear Bear Bear  
Here's to the bosun  
Our story (The battle song)  
Midnight Ballroom  
New Worlds Call  
Lost together  
Boom Boom Time  
Where is the wind!?  
The Blacksmith  
Cyclone  
You need a win  
Salt of her lips  
Poems in the sand  
The Shimmer





## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

Anima Cinefest International Animation Film Festival  
Hamilton, New York  
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We are so pleased to have miss Lois Dilivio involved with this year's festival. Her talents and accomplishments are truly remarkable. She is a wonderful composer, writer and performer. Her work in the theater and in films includes producing, acting, and numerous awards recognition and inclusion in festivals.

Lois served as Assistant Music Director for NBC's 75th Live Anniversary Special in the famous Saturday Night Live studio, and was Special Assistant to Academy Award Winner, Howard Shore, where she worked at the iconic Abby Road Studios on the Lord of the Rings Films.







ANIMA CINEFEST  
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*Official Selection*  
2025

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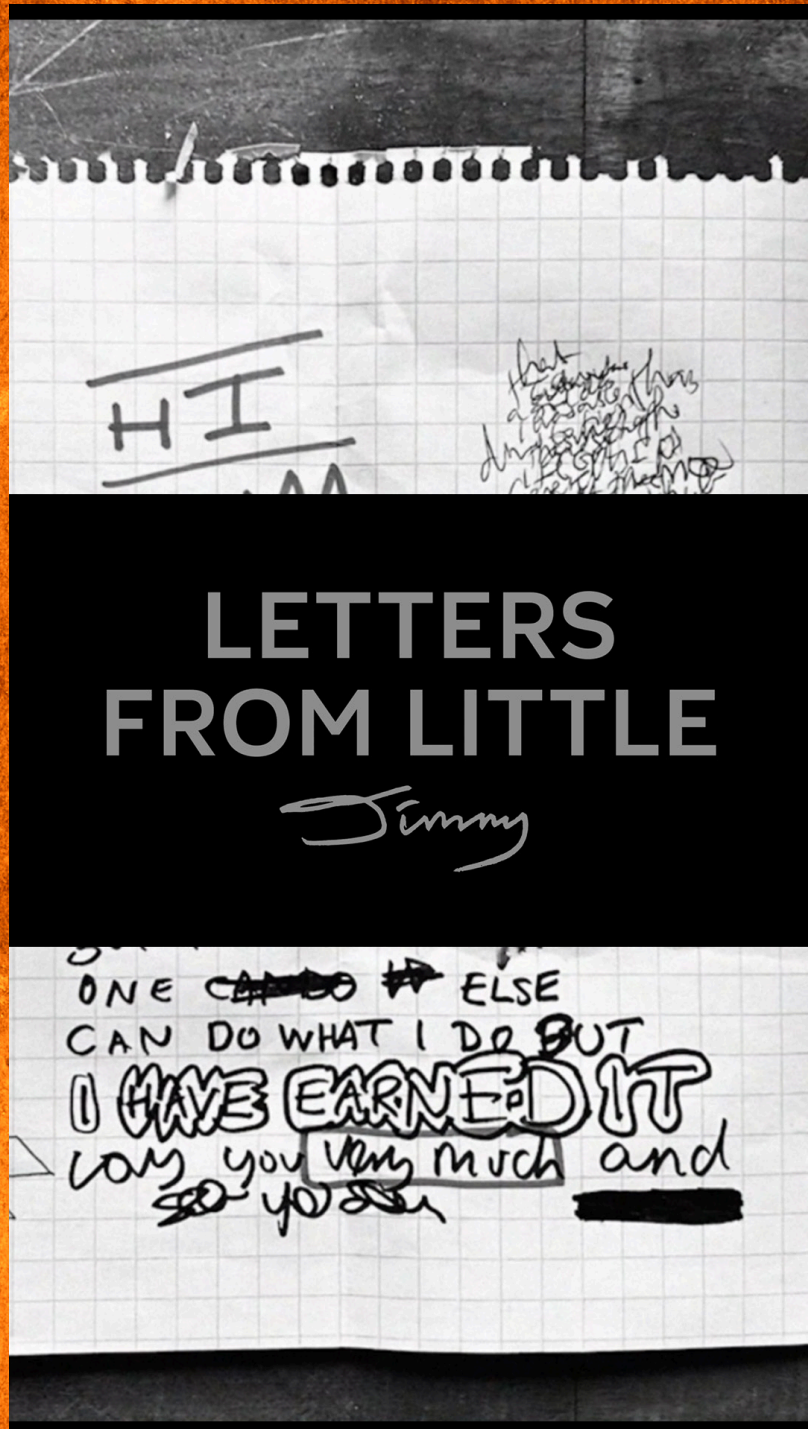
*Letters From Little Jimmy*

Directed By David Graham

*From*  
Finland











## DIRECTOR'S BIO

David Graham is a Scottish animator living and working in Finland.

The absurd nature of life is a loose theme running through my work. I treat serious subject matter in a lighthearted fashion, giving more wight, sympathy and emphasis to mundane issues.

I often respond to societal and political oddities in my work. In short, I am interested in creating a little world that is not to dissimilar to the one we live in, making the viewers laugh and see their everyday life in a new light.

I have an MFA degree from the USA and A BA (Hons ) in Visual Communication from Scotland. I also attended a 3 month animation course at the University of the West of England. My films have been shown at Helsinki's Animatricks International Animation Festival, Linoleum Contemporary Animation and Media Festival in Ukraine, The Honolulu Museum of Art Doris Duke Theater and Spike & Mikes Gauntlet of Animation in the USA.



[www.instagram.com/davegrahamart](https://www.instagram.com/davegrahamart)

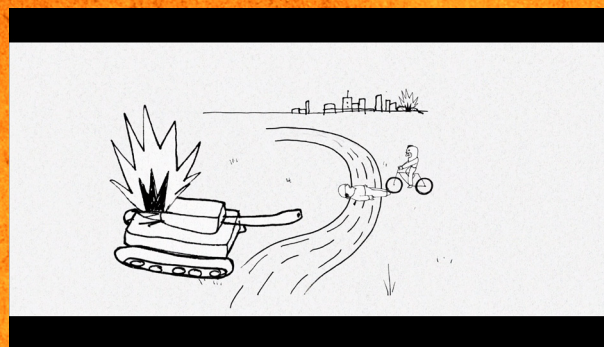
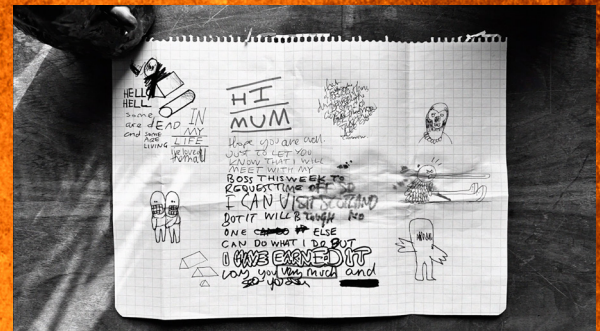
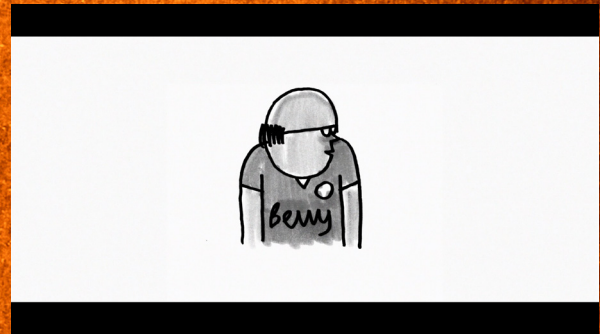








## STILL FRAMES







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*D.S. al Coda*

Directed By Maxime Wattralos, Jérémy Trochet, Louis Cocquet,  
François Mainguet, Emma Feret, Rachel Culliez, Florian Lecoq,

*From*  
France







MAXIME WATTRELOS  
FRANCOIS MAINGUET

JEREMY TROCHET  
EMMA FERET  
FLORIAN LECOCQ

LOUIS COCQUET  
RACHEL CUVILLIEZ

**PIKTURA**

5th year students ■ piktura.fr ■ Roubaix-2024





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Maxime Wattrelos, Jérémy Trochet, Louis Cocquet, François Mainguet, Emma Feret, Rachel Cuvilliez, and Florian Lecocq have graduated from the Piktura school in Roubaix, France. In 2024, they co-directed the short film "D. S. al Coda".

### SYNOPSIS

Consumed by the fear of becoming deaf, Yann draws and memorizes the sounds around him.











## STILL FRAMES







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*In Half*

Directed By Jorge Morais Valle

*From*  
Spain







# IN HALF

A FILM BY  
**JORGE MORAIS**

DIRECTED BY **JORGE MORAIS** EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS **PRISCILA GUTIERREZ & J.M.**  
EDITED BY **J.MORAIS-BEAK ART** PRODUCTION DESIGNER **V.MENOSCAL & J.MORAIS**  
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY **JUAN M.CAMEÁN** SOUND DESIGN **GUIMIL STUDIO** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **JORGE MORAIS**  
WRITTEN BY **SILVIA PAZOS - JORGE M-MANUEL** CAST BY **J.MORAIS, GERI, JORGE, DAVID, JOSE, MARGA**  
JAKE GÁBOR, JAMES DANIEL, JARED WALTERS, BAKONYI GILLIES, LEDO PETERSON SOUND MIX **THRUMAN MORAIS MOREIRA, LORENZO BLUE**  
ANIMATION BY **BEAK ART**





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Jorge Morais Valle is a distinguished independent filmmaker and artist hailing from Vigo, Spain. His artistic journey commenced at a young age, deeply entwined with various disciplines, including drawing, painting, and sculpture. Notably, sculpture emerged as his primary focus early in his creative development.

Morais entered the realm of graffiti and mural painting during his formative years, where he cultivated a unique style of expression that garnered the attention of commercial brands seeking artistic and advertising collaborations. This early exposure facilitated his transition into the fields of decoration and theatrical stage design, where he successfully led teams on projects across Spain and Portugal, even before completing his secondary education.

Throughout his career in Fine Arts, Morais adeptly navigated various professional realms, including scenography, painting, and illustration in both Galicia and Portugal. His multifaceted experiences culminated in a series of collaborative projects, painting exhibitions, and advertising campaigns. He also spearheaded a collective of emerging artists known as New Order Productions, which enriched his artistic repertoire and honed his leadership capabilities - qualities that would later empower him to venture into the field of animation following his graduation from the Faculty of Fine Arts.

In 2010, Morais premiered his inaugural short film, *The Painter of Skies*, as the capstone project for his Master's degree in animation. The film garnered significant national and international acclaim, achieving selection in over 300 festivals and amassing 125 awards globally.











## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

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ANIMA CINEFEST  
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FILM FESTIVAL

*Official Selection*  
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*Gaspar*

Directed By Enrique Gustavo Tapia

*From*  
Chile







TOASTING WITH AN EMPTY GLASS — WHAT PRIDE HAS TORN YOUR MEMORIES APART?



# GASPAR

Directed by ENRIQUE TAPIA Production Design ISIDORA TOBAR - ENRIQUE TAPIA Production and Communication BERNARDA ARAÑA Multimedia Designer SERGIO NUÑEZ  
Original idea & script ENRIQUE TAPIA - ISIDORA TOBAR Script Consultant LISETTE KAMANN Art direction ISIDORA TOBAR Storyboard ISIDORA TOBAR  
Sets and Props Construction ISIDORA TOBAR- ENRIQUE TAPIA Puppets, Acting and animation ENRIQUE TAPIA Post-production Editor PLASTIMOTION  
Dance and body expression SEBA & JESU Sound Design LUIS PUCCIO Voices by ERICO VERA Composer Performer & Music Producer JAIME RAMOS  
Guitar & Percussion VICENTE CEDEÑO - GABRIEL TAPIA Sound Mixing & Mastering JAIME RAMOS Distribution MARKET CHILE



[www.gasparshortfilm.cl](http://www.gasparshortfilm.cl)

@gaspar.shortfilm

[www.gasparshortfilm.cl](http://www.gasparshortfilm.cl)

@gaspar.shortfilm





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Enrique Gustavo Tapia is a graphic designer and university teaching diploma holder with 25 years of experience in the audiovisual field. Specializing in stop-motion animation and prosthetic special effects applied to film, television, and advertising, both in Chile and internationally.

Awarded nationally and internationally for his work in animation, particularly in TV series, children's content, and advertising campaigns. Also recognized as a university lecturer and for his contributions to anti-bullying campaigns.

Throughout his career, he has worked with major clients such as Chilevisión, TVN, Canal 13, Discovery Kids, Coca-Cola, Movistar, Disney, Walmart, and HBO Latam (Game of Thrones). He contributed as a sculptor and character fabricator in the short film Bestia, nominated for the 2022 Academy Award, and in the Casa Lobo exhibition. Additionally, he worked on the Chilean film Los Hiperbóreos and recently directed and animated the stop-motion short Gaspar.



"Gaspar" is inspired by a true story, rooted in a Chile where the scars of a past dictatorship still remain. In a society where many deny the truths they carry within themselves, "Gaspar" reflects that hidden pain, the denial of a past that is never shown to the world. The film is a visual poetry, with a theatrical language and a strong emphasis on physical expressions, where the character celebrates with an empty cup, and his pride is symbolized through the varying sizes of the frames surrounding him.

The character, who has no mouth, embodies the struggle to express the unspoken.

The characters are designed with paper textures, and dance without words, conveying their emotions through the body and sounds. "Gaspar" is a personal reflection on the marks of the past, denial, and the struggle to find a voice amidst silence.

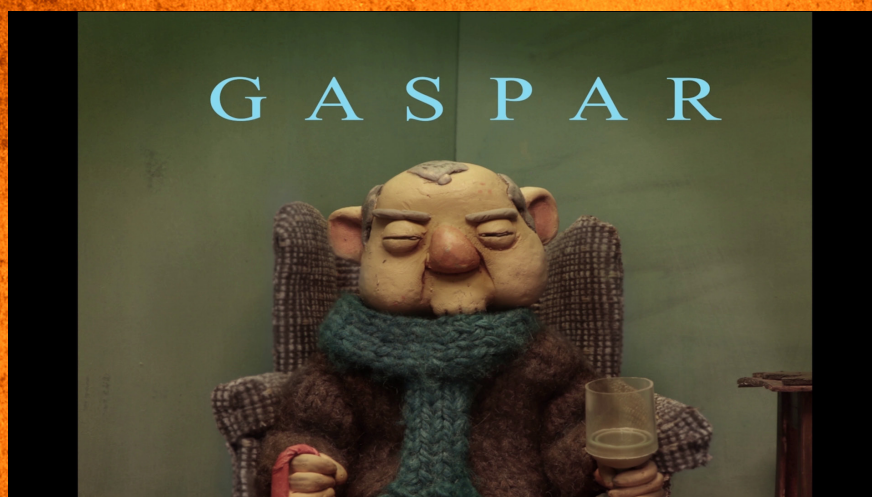
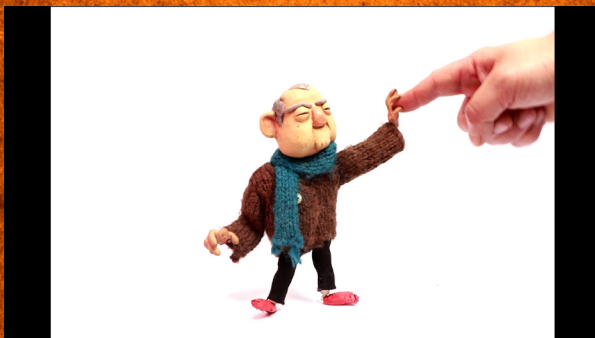








## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

Festival Chilemonos (Academy Award ® Qualifying)  
Chile

May 25, 2025

Latin American Premiere  
Official Selection

Anima Latina - Latin American Animation Film Festival  
Argentina

June 22, 2025

Argentina Premiere  
Official Selection

Our Fest - International Stop Motion Festival  
Argentina

July 10, 2025

Official Selection

Anima Cinefest International Animation Film Festival  
Hamilton, New York

North American Premiere

October 28, 2025

Anima Cinefest 2025 Official Selection

Festival Desanimados  
Chile

March 2025

Official Selection





ANIMA CINEFEST  
INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED  
FILM FESTIVAL

*Official Selection*  
2025

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY  
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*Sublime*

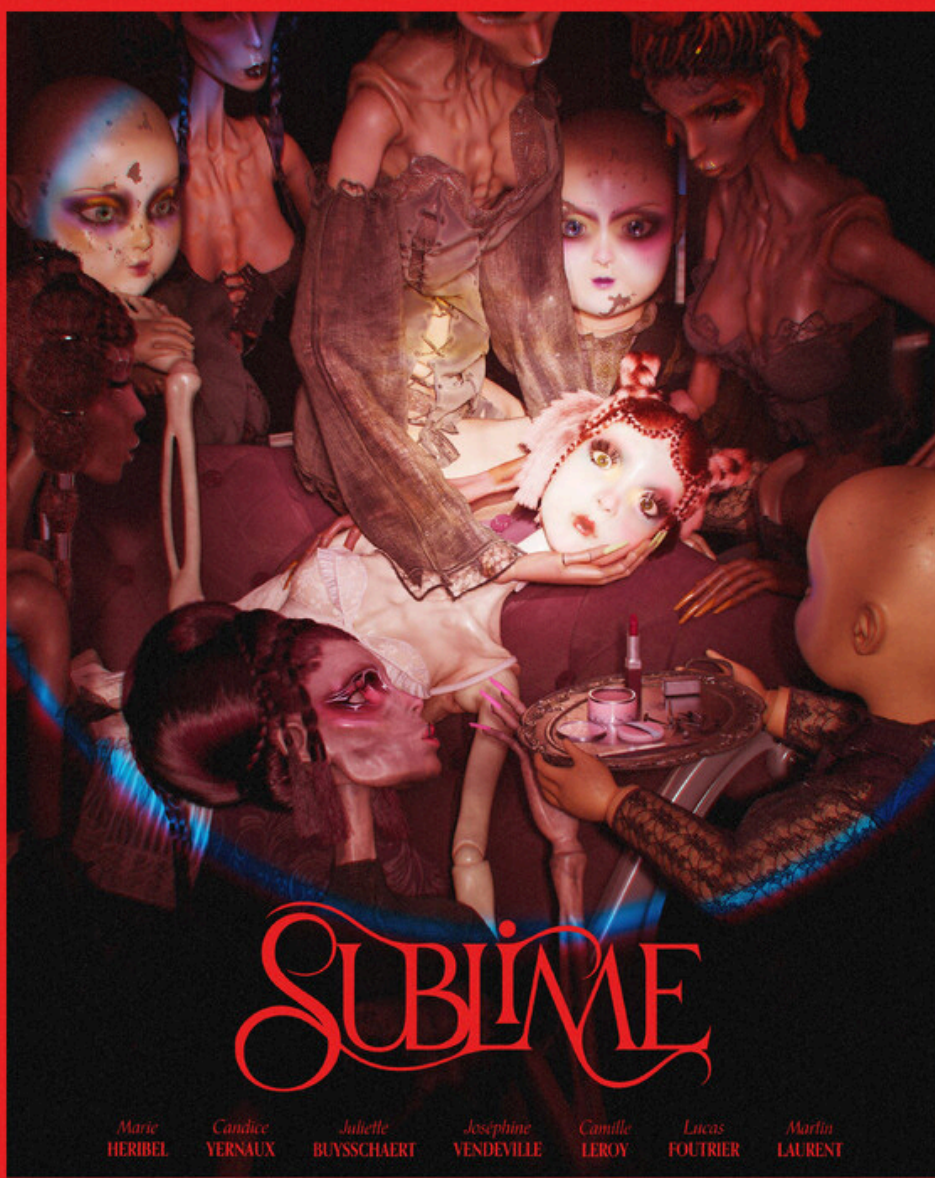
Directed By Marie Heribel, Candice Yernaux, Juliette Buysschaert,  
Camille Leyroy, Joséphine Venderville, Martin Laurent, Lucas Foutrier

*From*

France







# SUBLIME

Marie  
HERIBEL

Candice  
VERNAUX

Juliette  
BUNSSCHAERT

Joséphine  
VENDEVILLE

Camille  
LEROY

Lucas  
FOUTRIER

Marlin  
LAURENT

**PIKTURA**

5th year students ■ piktura.fr ■ Roubaix-2024





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Marie Heribel, Candice Yernaux, Juliette Buysschaert, Camille Leroy, Joséphine Vendeville, Martin Laurent and Lucas Fourtrier are graduates from the Piktura school in Roubaix, France. In 2024, they co-directed the short film "Sublime".

## SYNOPSIS

In a society where beauty is revered like a deity, a doll seeks to find her place.











## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

Anima Cinefest International Animation Film Festival  
Hamilton, New York  
United States  
October 28, 2025  
Anima Cinefest 2025 Official Selection



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# Anima Cinefest





Hamilton Movie Theater  
Hamilton, New York





ANIMA CINEFEST  
INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED  
FILM FESTIVAL

*Official Selection*  
2025

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY  
PRESENTED TO THE FILM

*Love & Gold*

Directed By Connor Van Dyke, Jaysen Duckworth

*From*  
United States







BYU CENTER FOR ANIMATION  
PRESENTS







## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Connor Van Dyke is from Burbank, California. He moved to Utah to study animation at Brigham Young University. He loves fantasy books and tabletop role playing games, and enjoys crafting fantastical stories in his writing and drawings. He lived in Albania for two years and draws on his experience there to influence his personal and professional work. He speaks fluent Albanian and wishes he had more people to practice with.

## SYNOPSIS

Two thieves enter the same dungeon searching for a gem worth incredible wealth, but what they find along the way is worth more than all the treasure in the dungeon combined.



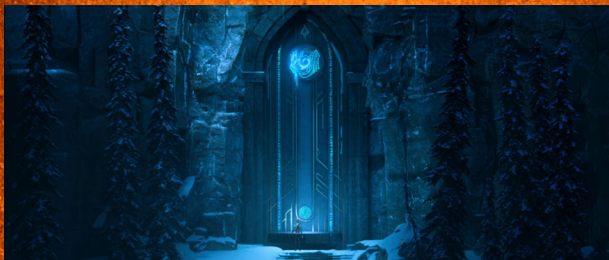








## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

Anima Cinefest International Animation Film Festival  
Hamilton, New York  
United States  
October 28, 2025  
Anima Cinefest 2025 Official Selection





ANIMA CINEFEST  
INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED  
FILM FESTIVAL

*Official Selection*  
2025

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PRESENTED TO THE FILM

*Children of Earth*

Directed By Chih Hao Shen

*From*  
Taiwan







## CHILDREN OF EARTH



A SHORT FILM BY **CHIH HAO SHEN**

A Film by **Chih Hao Shen** | Written, Directed, Produced, and Designed by **Chih Hao Shen**  
Original Story, Concept, Production, VFX Supervision, Art Direction, Production Design, and Animation Direction by **Chih Hao Shen**  
Produced by **MFX FILMS** | Directed by **Chih Hao Shen** | VFX & Music by **AIVISION** | Co-production: **YONDER** | Visual Effects by **Gemini Films**  
Executive Produced by **Gemini Films**

**GEMINI** STUDIO

HAO.M142.COM





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Chih Hao Shen is an internationally awarded writer, director, and multidisciplinary creator, recognized with honors including Best Animated Short, Best Short Film, and Best Visual Effects.

His work blends animation, documentary, and experimental film, focusing on global themes such as environmental protection, human rights, animal welfare, and education.

His films have been featured at the International Red Cross Film Festival in Bulgaria, SUNCINE Environmental Film Festival in Spain, and Clearmont-Ferrand Short Film Market in France.

He has published over ten books and led the Chinese-language merchandise design for The Lord of the Rings trilogy.

Through cinematic storytelling, he seeks to foster a deeper awareness toward Earth, life, and our shared future.



## SYNOPSIS

Aboard a miniature vessel, the children drift between memory and imagination. Across a scaled-down Earth, they sail like messengers of time, gathering the dreams and fragments humanity left behind - and rediscovering the quiet language we once shared with the planet: tenderness and hope.

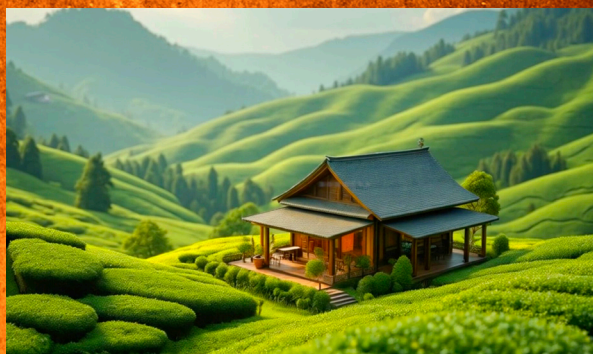








## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

XVI Festival de Cine-Infancia y Adolescencia  
Bogata  
Columbia  
Official Selection

Anima Cinefest International Animation Film Festival  
Hamilton, New York  
United States  
October 28, 2025  
Anima Cinefest 2025 Official Selection





ANIMA CINEFEST  
INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED  
FILM FESTIVAL

*Official Selection*  
2025

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY  
PRESENTED TO THE FILM

*Dream Rift*

Directed By Chih Hao Shen

*From*  
Taiwan







A SHORT FILM BY CHIH HAO SHEN

# DREAMRIFT

WHERE DREAMS AND REALITY COLLIDE

A Film by CHIH HAO SHEN | Written, Directed, Produced, and Designed by CHIH HAO SHEN  
Original Story, Concept, Production, VFX Supervision, Art Direction, Production Design, and Animation Direction by CHIH HAO SHEN  
Produced by MFX FILMS | Directed by CHIH HAO SHEN | VFX & Music by AIVISION | Co-production: YONDER FILMS | Visual Effects by FX53 VFX STUDIO  
Executive Produced by YONDER FILMS





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Chih Hao Shen is an internationally awarded writer, director, and multidisciplinary creator, recognized with honors including Best Animated Short, Best Short Film, and Best Visual Effects.

### DIRECTOR STATEMENT:

Dreams often vanish at sunrise, yet some linger - too vivid, too familiar. One night, i experienced seven of them. Different lives. Different times. Each complete, each unfinished. I awoke with the sense that they were not stories I imagined, but something I remembered.

This film is a quiet attempt to hold onto the ungraspable. To resist meaning, and instead, surrender to sensation. There is no plot, no resolution - only moments that drift, and dissolve.

In making it, I found myself questioning the solidity of identity, the line between memory and dream, between what is lost and what was never real.

Perhaps we don't dream of who we are, but of who we've been elsewhere.

If these images feel familiar, maybe we've dreamt them together.

### PRODUCTION NOTE:

This film was fully directed and crafted by the artist, using digital animation and contemporary visual tools to render each frame as a translation of memory and emotion.











## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

First-Time Filmmaker  
England  
United Kingdom  
Official Selection

Lift-off Filmmaker  
England  
United Kingdom  
Official Selection

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*Matriphagy*

Directed By Heidi Ryu Ying Yau, Athira Hanita Shaumi

*From*  
Malaysia











## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Heidi Ryu Ying Yau and Athira Hanita Shaumi are two students from the One Academy, both sharing love for animation and film making, equally passionate when it comes to creating work that moves audiences.

### SYNOPSIS

Set during the 1940's, in a remote remote town of France where war ravages the lands and famine plagues the people, two nuns are trapped within a church completely deprived of food, pushing one of them to make a decision.

### DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Matrphagy was created to explore the fragility of humanity and dignity in the face of extreme circumstances. War destroys not only cities and lives, but also the very foundations of civilization, reducing people to their most primitive instincts. The element of cannibalism was not intended to portray horror or body gore, but rather to serve as a powerful lens to examine desperation, sacrifice, and survival. It becomes a metaphor - one that questions the limits of morality when pushed to the brink of starvation and impossible choices.











## STILL FRAMES







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*Sine Anima*

Directed By Antanas Skucas, Julius Zubavičius

*From*  
Lithuania











## DIRECTOR'S BIOS

Antanas Skucas is a film director and data artist, lectureer at the Vilnius Academy of Arts. Since 2005, he has been working in animation. His debut animation short "Childhood Diary" (2009) was awarded by the Lithuanian Silver Crane Award. In 2015, he established the film production company "Tylus Kinas". He also works in new media, including XR, VR, AR, AI.

Julius Zubavičius obtained a multimedia Director BA degree. In 2011, Julius moved to London to further his film sound career, where he continues to live and work. Julius has been working on more than thirty film projects as a sound designer, recordist, and composer.

### SYNOPSIS

This is an AI generated film. Sine Anima means soulless. The film explores an undefined form of life that is neither animal nor human. These are moments of artificial life created by artificial intelligence, a flurry of deformed shapes and odd instances. Everything appears so real and unreal at the same time. Does a world created by artificial intelligence lack a soul?











## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

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OCTOBER 28, 2025



The Anima Cinefest International Animation Film Festival Prestige  
Event at the Historic and Independent Hamilton Movie Theater.





## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Anima Cinefest takes place in the woodland valley of Madison County in Central New York at the Historic Hamilton Movie Theater in the beautiful village of Hamilton. Known for academic and community cultural events, the HMT has hosted the best film festivals in North America including the Banff Center Mountain Film Festival World Tour, the Flaherty and the Slater Brothers Entertainment's Hamilton New York International Film Festival.



**Anima  
Cinefest**





ANIMA CINEFEST  
INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED  
FILM FESTIVAL

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PRESENTED TO THE FILM

*The Boat*

Directed By Rodolpho Pinotti

*From*  
Brazil







CENTOPEIA PIÁ, CIA DAS ARTES E GOVERNO DO ESTADO DE SÃO PAULO, POR MEIO DA SECRETARIA DA CULTURA, ECONOMIA E INDÚSTRIA CRIATIVAS APRESENTAM O BARCO DIREÇÃO RODOLPHO PINOTTI ROTEIRO LUIS ALBERTO DE ABREU DIREÇÃO DE ARTE DIANA GERBELLI DIREÇÃO DE FOTOGRAFIA MARCELO MAGANO ANIMAÇÃO, BONECOS E CENOGRAFIA PRIMO AUGUSTO GERBELLI TRILHA SONORA CHARLES RASZL MONTAGEM TOM BUTCHER CURY FIGURINOS NATÁLIA VAZ PREPARAÇÃO VOCAL LIA AROEIRA STORYBOARD THOMÁS ABREU VOZES MARA NOVELLO, CHIARA GERBELLI E DIANA GERBELLI VIOLONCELO E VIOLINO DUO GIARDINI - ADRIANA HOLTZ E LUIZ AMATO PRODUÇÃO EXECUTIVA DIANA GERBELLI E RODOLPHO PINOTTI

CENTOPEIA PIÁ

# O barco



**PROAC**  
SP

*Atua*  
*Bom Ventos*

**CULT**  
**SP**



**SÃO PAULO**  
GOVERNO DO ESTADO  
SÃO PAULO 040-0000  
Secretaria de Cultura, Economia e Indústria Criativas





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Rodolpho Pinotti is an award winning director of stop-motion animations, with over 80 selections in national and international showcases and festivals. In 2024, he directed the short film, "O Barco" ("The Boat"), which won Best Animation at the IX Cuzco Underground Cinema Festival and The I Inland Independent Film Festival in Portugal. That same year, he directed the short film, "Bicicleta Vermelha" ("Red Bicycle"), awarded Best Film and Best Direction at the X Oscar Junior Festival in Jundiai, Best National Animation at the Paraty International Film Festival and at the Canoinhas International Film Festival, and Best International Animation at the XIII International Tour Film Festival in Italy. Currently, he has initiated two projects with the collective Centopeia Pia: a stop-motion animated short film and the development of a feature-length screenplay, both inspired by the life of the clown, Benjamim de Oliveira.



## SYNOPSIS

The Boat is a story about the inevitability of change, the beauty of memory, and the cyclical nature of life. Set on an isolated island, the film explores the universal theme of rites of passage - those moments in life when we are called to leave behind the familiar and venture into the unknown. Through the journey of a young girl who defies her mother's fears to explore the world, the film reflects on the tension between holding on and letting go, between the safety of the known and the allure of the new.









## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

Anima Cinefest International Animation Film Festival  
Hamilton, New York  
United States  
October 28, 2025  
Anima Cinefest 2025 Official Selection





ANIMA CINEFEST  
INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED  
FILM FESTIVAL

*Official Selection*  
2025

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY  
PRESENTED TO THE FILM

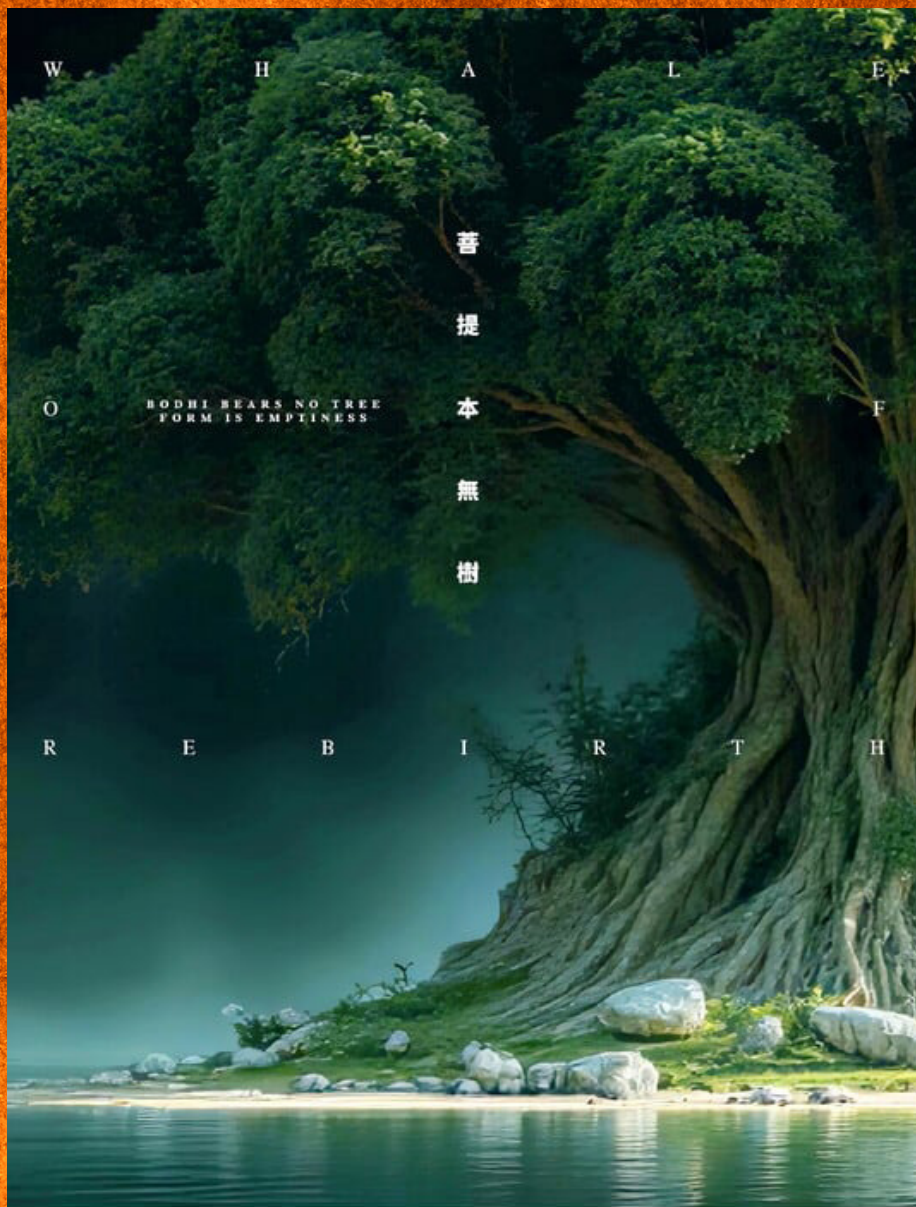
*Whale of Rebirth*

Directed By Chih Hao Shen

*From*  
Taiwan







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A SHORT FILM BY CHIH HAO SHEN

A Film by CHIH HAO SHEN | Written, Directed, Produced, and Designed by CHIH HAO SHEN

Original Story, Concept, Production, VFX Supervision, Art Direction, Production Design, and Animation Direction by CHIH HAO SHEN

Produced by MFX FILMS | Directed by CHIH HAO SHEN | VFX & Music by AIVISION | Co-production: YONDER FILMS | Visual Effects by FX53 VFX STUDIO

Executive Produced by YONDER FILMS





## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Chih Hao Shen is an internationally awarded writer, director, and multidisciplinary creator from Taiwan.

Through a distinctive blend of animation, documentary, and experimental film, his work contemplates themes of environmental stewardship, human rights, animal welfare, and education.

His films have been showcased at RIFF - Rhode Island International Film Festival (USA), Clearmont-Ferrand Short Film Market (France), Sediciorto Forlì International Film Festival (Italy), SUNCINE (Spain), AVANCA (Portugal), and Red Cross Film Festival (Bulgaria)

An author of over ten books, he also led the Chinese-language merchandise design for the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, using cinematic storytelling to foster a deeper awareness of Earth, life, and our shared future.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For me, this film is a deeply personal -yet wordless- confession. It emerged during a time of profound emotional emptiness, when life felt hollow and questions about existence offered no answers. Words failed me, but images did not.

I chose to build the film with illogical, dreamlike imagery - waterfalls flowing upward, whales suspended like stars, mirrored dimensions folding into themselves.

These are not mere spectacles, but metaphors: for the absurdity of existence, the disorientation of grief, and the elusive nature of meaning. From the moment we're born, the countdown begins. and in the silence that follows, we are left with the most human question: "Who am I?"

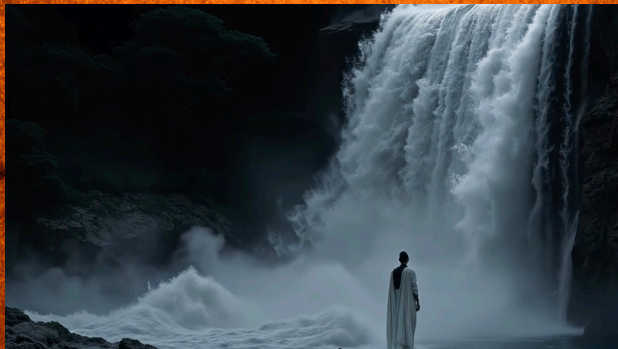








## STILL FRAMES







## AWARDS

Amsterdam New Cinema Film Festival  
Amsterdam  
Netherlands  
Award Winner

Athens International Art Film Festival  
Athens  
Greece  
Award Winner

Indo Dubai International Film Festival  
Dubai  
United Arab Emirates

Earth Day Expo Festival  
Wyoming  
United States  
Official Selection

Anima Cinefest International Animation Film Festival  
Hamilton, New York  
United States  
October 28, 2025  
Anima Cinefest 2025 Official Selection

Young Kinovek International Film Festival  
Krasnodar  
Russian Federation  
Official Selection



Awards Show  
November, 15

**ANIMA D'OR**

2025

Anima Cinefest 2025 Red Carpet Awards Show



**Anima  
Cinefest**



Thank You For Your Support



# Anima Cinefest



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Revital Dream Animation Studio







## Festival Acknowledgments

Anima Cinefest is honored to have the support of our international filmmakers, our community movie theater, and our local and global audience of animated film lovers. This generous support has allowed the festival to offer outstanding and exceptional programming to the public, provide much needed support to our talented filmmakers, make significant contributions to the animated film industry, and attract new talented animation filmmakers to the medium.







# Learn More:

For Festival Audiences  
[www.orbitalsound.biz](http://www.orbitalsound.biz)

For Filmmakers  
[www.filmfreeway.com/AnimaCinefest](http://www.filmfreeway.com/AnimaCinefest)





# Free Festival Event

# Join Us for the Free Animation Festival at the Hamilton  
Movie Theater in Hamilton, New York!

\*\*Event details.\*\*

- \*\*Date.\*\* October 28, 2025

- \*\*Time.\*\* 6:30 PM

- \*\*Location.\*\* The Hamilton Movie Theater, Hamilton, New York

The festival will feature \*\*14 captivating animated films\*\* from \*\*nine different countries,\*\* showcasing a diverse array of styles and narratives. Each film reflects the unique culture and artistic vision of its creators, making this event a truly global experience. Whether you're a fan of heartwarming stories, whimsical adventures, or thought provoking themes, there's something for everyone!

Some material submitted to the festival may be inappropriate for children under the age of 18



# Anima Cinefest



14 ANIMATED FILMS FROM 9 COUNTRIES  
OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**Orbital Sound**  
**Anima Cinefest**



# ANIMA CINEFEST

ORBITAL SOUND PRESENTS THE ANIMA CINEFEST INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL WITH ITS PREMIER SCREENING  
AT THE HISTORIC HAMILTON MOVIE THEATER DOWNTOWN HAMILTON, NEW YORK FEATURING AN INTERNATIONAL LINEUP THAT WILL FEATURE SCREENINGS OF  
ANIMATED FILMS FROM NINE COUNTRIES BY AWARD WINNING FILM DIRECTORS AS WELL AS STUDENT FILMS

OCTOBER 28, 2025

[WWW.HAMILONTHEATER.NET](http://WWW.HAMILONTHEATER.NET)