



# SHORT FOCUS FILM FESTIVAL 2022

[www.framelight.org](http://www.framelight.org)



Welcome to **Short Focus Film Festival 2022!** We actually can't believe this is the 5th year of our festival! From our humble beginnings hosting films in a small pub and cafe, we've seen our festival travel to Liverpool to exhibit at one of the city's largest art institutions, before settling into our regular home here at Close-Up Cinema in East London. In that time, we have also seen ourselves transform from a strictly live event to a hybrid live and online festival. Needless to say, it has been quite a journey!

We genuinely could not mount this festival every year without the unwavering support from our friends, families, sponsors and, most crucially, the filmmakers who faithfully send us their incredible productions. For their continued contributions and generosity, **Short Focus Film Festival** would like to thank the following: Sally Roberts, Sam Briggs, Will Whitehead, Natalia Brammen, Wendy Brooking, Giulia Carbonaro, Fung Ying Cheng, Natalia Brammen, Shane Farrell, Nikola Harris, Juliette Howard, Matthew Procter, Madeleine Raven, Hope Smith, NxGen Organics, Polaroid, Simba and Sloane, Cinema For All, Visability Film Festival, Eventbrite, FilmFreeway, and Close-Up Cinema.

From **17-25 September 2022**, you will have access to 30 fantastic short films across five programmes, all available from the **FRAME LIGHT** website and **Eventbrite**. Each live cinema screening is £5 and each online programme is just £2. You can also purchase a Full Access ticket for £10, which will provide entry to all live events and online programmes. We recommend screen mirroring from your computer or smart device to your TV for optimum viewing, although any device with WiFi and video capabilities will be suitable.

**Thank you.**

**Festival Directors:** Aya Ishizuka, Dean Archibald-Smith

**Programme Author:** Dean Archibald-Smith

**Programme Design:** Dean Archibald-Smith, Aya Ishizuka

**Festival Jury:** Sally Roberts

# FILMS

## PROGRAMME ONE *c+o*

*pg 7.* Slip Living (4:55)

*pg 8.* Everybody Needs  
Some(dead)body (19:33)

*pg 9.* Throw Your Heart Over First (8:05)

*pg 10.* Back in the Family (11:06)

*pg 11.* I Am Good at Karate (19:55)

*pg 12.* World Cup (17:42)

*pg 13.* So What Did We Learn  
Today, Georgina? (6:00)

## PROGRAMME THREE *o*

*pg 23.* Wildlife with Jayce (11:38)

*pg 24.* Cereal (9:18)

*pg 25.* The Sprayer (10:00)

*pg 26.* Echo (12:00)

*pg 27.* Fish Out of Water (7:14)

## PROGRAMME TWO *c+o*

*pg 15.* Fourteen (14:07)

*pg 16.* bath (1:54)

*pg 17.* Fractures (14:07)

*pg 18.* Khadiga (19:55)

*pg 19.* Alaúde (24:46)

*pg 20.* First Kiss (With a Girl) (3:00)

*pg 21.* Ruthless (13:08)

## PROGRAMME FOUR *o*

*pg 29.* No Entry (12:30)

*pg 30.* Making Gravy  
During Lockdown (7:05)

*pg 31.* Invasion (10:14)

*pg 32.* We Are Here  
But We Are Lost (16:24)

*pg 33.* Point Five (8:10)

## PROGRAMME FIVE *o*

*pg 35.* Pub Quiz (14:28)

*pg 36.* The Story of a Trout (12:00)

*pg 37.* Drummer Warrior Storyteller (14:13)

*pg 38.* Atomic Ghost (3:58)

*pg 39.* Truth Serum (21:08)

*pg 40.* To The Moon (4:41)

# TICKETS

## PROGRAMME ONE

\*Cinema - £5

Online - £2

## PROGRAMME TWO

\*Cinema - £5

Online - £2

## PROGRAMME THREE

Online - £2

## PROGRAMME FOUR

Online - £2

## PROGRAMME FIVE

Online - £2

## FULL ACCESS

All live and online programmes - £10

Online only - £7

*Click item(s) to purchase*

*\* Live programmes run from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Close-Up Cinema*



# SHORT FOCUS FILM FESTIVAL 2022

[www.framelight.org](http://www.framelight.org)

# PROGRAMME ONE

[cinema](#) | [online](#)



## SLIP LIVING [ASHLEY DEFOE, UK, 2021]

Programme One | 4 mins 55 secs

Shot during the global pandemic, *Slip Living* questions the internal world we create for ourselves in isolation versus the reality of life lived in imposed lockdowns. Expressed through sound, dance, visual art, and spoken word, each performer we interact with is completely isolated but free to act creatively in an abandoned city, reaching their own conclusions through unique journeys captured on digital and 16mm film.



**EVERYBODY NEEDS SOME(DEAD)BODY**  
**[GEORGE MILLS/HANNAH SELIGMAN, UK, 2021]**  
Programme One | 19 mins 33 secs

After a lonely housewife's dead husband returns from the grave unexpectedly, she finds herself in a love triangle with her deceased spouse and her new boyfriend. From the imagination of English-born George Mills and California-bred Hannah Seligman, *Everybody Needs Some(dead)body* is a wicked slice of black comedy that will have you dying with laughter.



**THROW YOUR HEART OVER FIRST**  
**[MARK MCAULEY, IRELAND, 2021]**  
Programme One | 8 mins 05 secs

An actor has a life-changing audition on the day of his father's funeral. *Throw Your Heart Over First* is a black-and-white short filmed in one continuous 8-minute shot, showcasing a breathtaking performance from actor/director, Mark McAuley.



**BACK IN THE FAMILY**  
**[CALUM MCCREADY, UK, 2021]**

Programme One | 11 mins 06 secs

*Back in the Family* is a short documentary that explores the influence that Gary Warren's uncle had on him and his passion for motor sports, and how he managed to get his uncle's old race car back in the family. This is an interesting, honest, and down-to-earth true story of one man following through his childhood dream.



**I AM GOOD AT KARATE**  
**[JESS DADDS, UK, 2021]**

Programme One | 14 mins 28 secs

*I Am Good at Karate* follows a young teenager with mental health issues who is passionate about karate, wandering around a housing estate in East Kent locked in verbal and physical battles with a hallucinatory demon made of football shirts. Jess Dadds is a filmmaker, from Canterbury, Kent, writing and directing films largely focused on youth culture and social issues that affect young people.



## WORLD CUP

[MARYAM KHODABAKHSH, IRAN, 2021]

Programme One | 17 mins 42 secs

On the night of a couple's emigration, the child of their friend who has been entrusted to them gets lost, and a secret is revealed... *World Cup* is an acutely observed social drama from female Iranian writer/director, Maryam Khodabakhsh. Full of tension, humour, and mystery in equal measure, the film manages to provide incisive commentary on domestic and national issues.



**SO WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY, GEORGINA?**  
**[FRANCO VOLPI, UK, 2022]**

Programme One | 6 mins

Georgina, a curious and energetic 10-year-old girl, is back home and anxious to tell her mum all about her day at school. But something is on Georgina's mind: a strange word she overheard and of which she doesn't know the meaning. Short Focus 2019 Gold Frame winner, Franco Volpi, is back this year with a sharp and snappy British comedy. Pay attention in the back!

# PROGRAMME TWO

cinema | online



## FOURTEEN

[RICHARD MELKONIAN, UK, 2022]

Programme Two | 14 mins 07 secs

*Fourteen* is a short film about an estranged brother and sister who learn to love each other. It was shot on Location in Hackney during 2020 and 2021, and completed in 2022. Richard Melkonian is an award-winning, London-based, Armenian-British composer and director who works across concert music, opera, theatre, film, and performance art.



**BATH**

**[ROMA GLOVA, RUSSIA, 2021]**

Programme Two | 1 mins 54 secs

From the mind of Short Focus alumni, Roma Glova, comes his second horror short film, *bath*. A young woman steps into her bath to take a relaxing shower, but it quickly becomes clear that she might not be alone... Following in the footsteps of his debut short, *deleve*, Glova is proving to be a formidable filmmaker with a distinctive visual style and narrative voice.



## FRACTURES

[VALA ÓMARSÐÓTTIR, MARÍA KJARTANS, ICELAND, 2021]

Programme Two | 14 mins 07 secs

*Fractures* is a poetic short film about a young woman dealing with mental illness, shame, and broken self-esteem, and her struggle to reconnect with society. Vala Ómarsdóttir and María Kjartans have been working together in London since 2010, producing interdisciplinary projects both in film and immersive performance, of which *Fractures* is a fine example.



**KHADIGA**

**[MORAD MOSTAFA, EGYPT/FRANCE, 2021]**

Programme Two | 19 mins 55 secs

Khadiga, a young mother of 16, lives alone with her baby after her husband left for work in a remote city. On what appears to be an ordinary day, she makes her way through the hustle of Cairo's streets to make visits to friends and family. *Khadiga* is a quietly powerful story about a woman in crisis, written and directed by Egyptian filmmaker, Morad Mostafa.



**ALAÚDE**

**[JOÃO MAGALHÃES, PORTUGAL, 2021]**

Programme Two | 24 mins 46 secs

*Alaúde* is a Portuguese short film with music at its heart; a story about responsibility and personal growth through the eyes of a twelve-year-old boy. António, son of country folk in the village of Sobrosa, is captivated by the possibility of seeing live music for the first time. However, he must go and work for his father, Vitor, during the afternoon the concert takes place.

**FIRST KISS (WITH A GIRL)**  
**[CLODAGH CHAPMAN, UK, 2021]**

Programme Two | 3 mins



Exploring that special sort of 11pm, tipsy nightclub magic of late adolescence, *First Kiss (With a Girl)* is a kitsch, low-fi, bubblegum-sweet glance at queer intimacy. Clodagh Chapman is a Manchester-based writer, filmmaker, and playwright.



## RUTHLESS

[MATTHEW MCGUIGAN, IRELAND/UK, 2021]

Programme Two | 13 mins 08 secs

In 1970s Northern Ireland, a young boy, bereft of his mother, defies his father to get the glam rock album he so desperately wants. As British soldiers patrol the streets, kids are glued to Top of the Pops, entranced by Marc Bolan, the androgynous, satin-clad, glitter-god. *Ruthless* is a humorous, heart-warming story of how a prosthetic leg and a T. Rex album become the conduit for overcoming grief.

# PROGRAMME THREE

online



**WILDLIFE WITH JAYCE**  
**[ED BIRCH, UK, 2020]**

Programme Three | 11 mins 38 sec

Urban wildlife enthusiast, Jayce Meaddows, presents his top tips for creating the perfect wildlife garden. Or tries to at least. *Wildlife with Jayce* is a hilariously tongue-in-cheek, low-budget mockumentary written, directed by, and starring Ed Birch. Fun for the whole family, this is a delightful British indie comedy.



## CEREAL

[RADFORD NICHOLLS, UK, 2022]

Programme Three | 9 mins 18 secs

Cassie is a young carer who has sacrificed her childhood to look after her bed-bound father. Taking care of him from dawn until dusk, she's never had the freedom to be a normal teenager and live her own life. But when she's offered a sports scholarship that could provide the chance to escape from her bleak existence, she has to choose between family duty and her own dreams.



## THE SPRAYER

[FARNOOSH ABEDI, IRAN, 2022]

Programme Three | 10 mins

*The Sprayer* is a brilliantly original computer animation from Iranian filmmaker, Farnoosh Abedi. In a land occupied by the Sprayers Army, no one has the right to grow any kind of plants either in public or private. Many of the country's people and soldiers do not even know what a plant looks like or how it grows until, one day, one of the soldiers finds a seed buried deep down in the dust. His curiosity is just the beginning of something extraordinary, something big, something revolutionary...



**ECHO**

**[YOKA VAN ZUIJLEN/NANKO GOETING, NETHERLANDS, 2021]**

Programme Three | 12 mins

Iconic locations are taken over by circus artists who blend the various spaces through their movements; gliding, climbing, falling into the camera shots as we experience these cityscapes like never before. Yoka Van Zuijlen is a filmmaker with a background in documentary, theatre, and advertising, and Nanko Goeting is an accomplished and prolific cinematographer.



**FISH OUT OF WATER**  
**[JACOB MELLING, UK, 2022]**

Programme Three | 7 mins 14 secs

'Fish' feels like she's drowning, and her usual life jacket of cheap wine and flapjacks isn't working. But it's her best friend's birthday party... She's picked up the cake, all she has to do now is get ready and go... *Fish Out of Water* is a spoken word short film about friendship, anxiety, and the ocean.

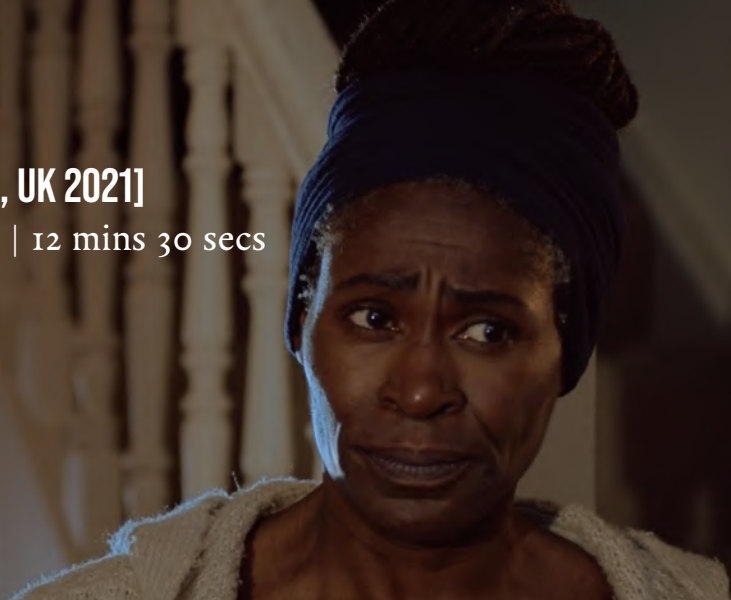
# PROGRAMME FOUR

online

## NO ENTRY

[KALEB D'AGUILAR, UK 2021]

Programme Four | 12 mins 30 secs



Against the backdrop of the Windrush scandal, a Jamaican mother, Valerie Powell, struggles to keep her relationship with her son, Eli, intact. She suffers in silence as she battles with the government's hostile treatment. As she keeps the threat of deportation a secret, her psychological state begins to deteriorate whilst she grapples with the fear of losing her son and the country she calls home.



**MAKING GRAVY DURING LOCKDOWN**  
**[CHRISTIAN BUXTON, AUSTRALIA, 2022]**

Programme Four | 7 mins 05 secs

During the Covid pandemic of 2020 and 2021, Melbourne would have 262 days of hard lockdown, more than any other city in the world. *Making Gravy During Lockdown* is a cool and stylish Australian documentary that follows Tom Gerrard, a Melbourne-based contemporary artist known for his paintings and murals of urban landscapes and used objects, as he tries to make sense of his art and its impact in a rapidly changing culture.



## INVASION

[PIP WOOLLEY, UK, 2022]

Programme Four | 10 mins 14 secs

Alone in a strange flat, no one is watching. One woman takes advantage of the silence and the privacy to transgress societal boundaries we all take for granted, escalating further as the day wears on. *Invasion* is a strange and discomfoting exploration of social and domestic rules, written and directed by Pip Woolley, a 26-year-old filmmaker from London.

# WE ARE HERE BUT WE ARE LOST

[SALLY PATTERSON/JOE BAXTER, UK, 2022]

Programme Four | 16 mins 24 secs



Jayne Toulson-Burke gets a cremation tattoo, where her son's ashes are permanently inscribed into her skin, as she prepares to complete his journey across South East Asia. With filmmakers, Sally Patterson and Joe Baxter, based in Hackney and Weston-Super-Mare respectively, this film was researched, produced, and edited almost exclusively on video calls during the pandemic. *We Are Here But We Are Lost* is an emotional true story about loss, grief, and recovery.



## POINT FIVE

[SAM TURNER, UK, 2021]

Programme Four | 8 mins 10 secs

A nervous, upper-class banker reluctantly gets dragged into a hostile transaction with an extremely unorthodox drug dealer. *Point Five* is an amusing and thought-provoking comedy, simultaneously realistic and absurdist in its delivery.

# PROGRAMME FIVE

online



PUB QUIZ

[PADDY WILSON, UK, 2022]

Programme Five | 14 mins 28 secs

TRANSPORT  
LONDON  
GOV. JOURNEY MATTER

*Pub Quiz* is a self-funded student short film produced by a small crew about a homeless man and competitive businesswoman battling their wits to win a pub quiz cash prize. The film presents its characters with moral dilemmas and asks its audience to evaluate their own attitude to very real social dilemmas in a society that thrives on individuality, competition, and ruthless capitalism.



## THE STORY OF A TROUT

[GARETH LEAH, UK, 2022]

Programme Five | 12 mins

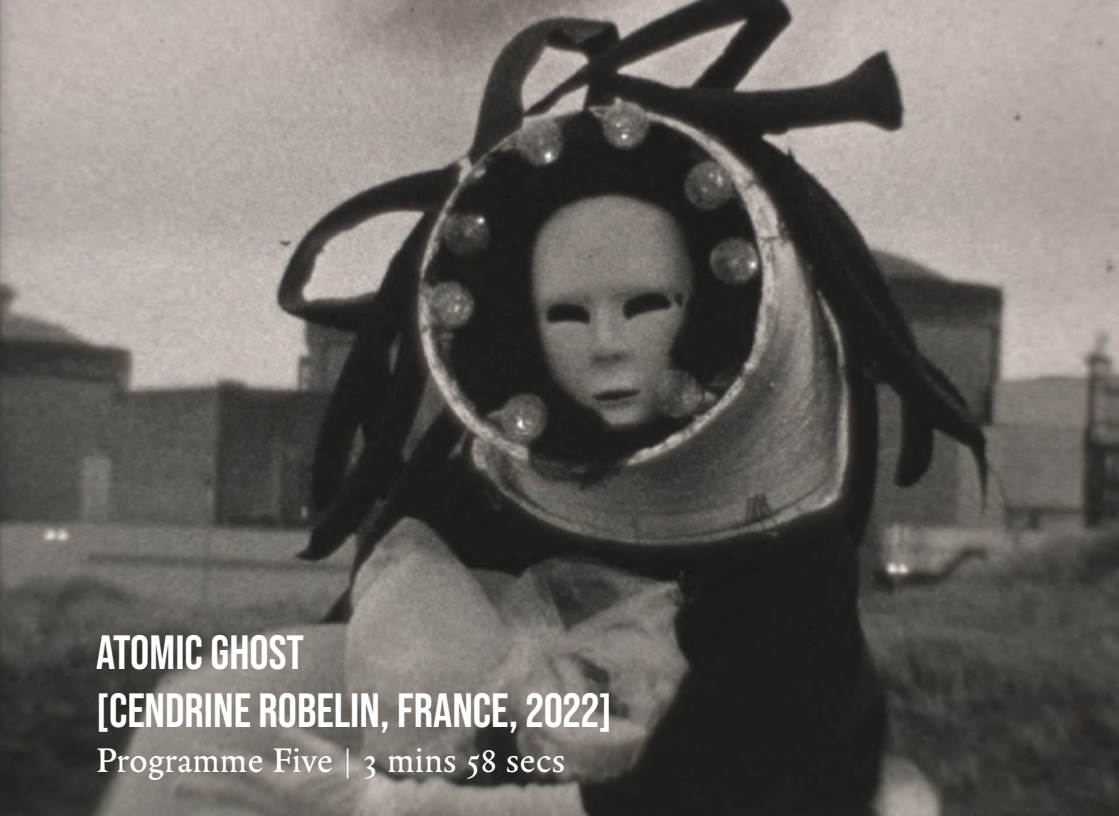
How do you measure the success of one's life? Though often hard to swallow, the reality for most people is that material wealth is the yardstick to which they justify their existence - a belief that excess equals success. But to the lucky ones, they understand that a life well lived is measured by the positivity of their impact on those around them. Curt Trout was one of those lucky few. The Story of a Trout explores the life of a fishing legend and how one person's passion can have a profound effect on a community, a sport, and a river.



## DRUMMER WARRIOR STORYTELLER (PART ONE) [APEX ZERO, UK, 2021]

Programme Five | 14 mins 13 secs

*Drummer Warrior Storyteller* is a multi-layered visual album that aspires to encapsulate Nigerian author Chinua Achebe's perception of storytelling. This film is the first of two halves, that aim to explore and express personal and shared experiences of African-Caribbean people in London and beyond. Written, choreographed, performed, and filmed with an individual and collective methodology, the first film focuses on violence, trauma, and the relentless need for self-defence, whilst the second will explore our joy, growth and revolutionary act of living life.



## ATOMIC GHOST

[CENDRINE ROBELIN, FRANCE, 2022]

Programme Five | 3 mins 58 secs

*Atomic Ghost* portrays the birth of a creature made of plastic and litter on the beach of a nuclear power plant. Poetic-surrealist in its style, the film is a provocative meditation on the burden and weight of the past, and the desire to free oneself from it.

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue bathrobe and a brown knitted hat, looks directly at the camera with a surprised expression. The background is a simple interior with a wooden door and a yellow vertical strip.

## TRUTH SERUM

[VIKA EVDOKIMENKO, UK, 2022]

Programme Five | 21 mins 08 secs

When guests at a party are spiked with a mysterious drug, unpleasant truths and painful secrets emerge as the night spirals into a chaotic and unforgettable affair. *Truth Serum* is a rip-roaring comedy of errors from Vika Evdokimenko, a British filmmaker with Jewish-Ukrainian roots. Her commercial work has been nominated for the AICP and Porsche Advertising Awards and her shorts have been screened at over 50 film festivals worldwide.



## TO THE MOON

[ADIL LADHA, UK, 2021]

Programme Five | 4 mins 41 secs

Sunday 20th July 1969. We follow seven-year-old, Nish, as he watches the Apollo 11 mission take place. As he gears up to see Neil Armstrong *et al.* walk the lunar surface, a conflict at home threatens to bring him and his family crashing back down to earth... Adil Ladha was accepted into the National Youth Film Academy as a director in 2018, and has since then directed multiple shorts, promos, and music videos, with a focus on colour and telling stories with a sense of hyperreality. *To the Moon* is his first funded film.



# SHORT FOCUS FILM FESTIVAL 2022

[www.framelight.org](http://www.framelight.org)

An aerial photograph of a scenic landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees is visible, with some trees showing autumnal colors. A small cluster of buildings with red roofs is nestled among the trees. A body of water, likely a lake or a wide river, stretches across the middle ground, reflecting the warm light of the setting sun. A bridge crosses the water on the left side. In the background, majestic mountains rise, their peaks partially covered in snow and bathed in the golden light of the sunset. The sky is a soft, pale orange.

# SHORT FOCUS FILM FESTIVAL 2022

[www.framelight.org](http://www.framelight.org)