

**SHORT  
FOCUS  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2019**

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

# FILMS

## LONDON | 14TH SEPTEMBER

- 4 | STAND
- 5 | TEDDY MATE
- 6 | GARAGE
- 7 | FREQUENCIES
- 8 | TWO DOWN
- 9 | JOSÉ
- 10 | CRY
- 11 | BINGO LADIES

## LONDON | 15TH SEPTEMBER

- 13 | RUCK IT!
- 14 | THE ISLAND
- 15 | AN ODYSSEY: RUNNING SCARED
- 16 | YOU'RE SO FAR AWAY
- 17 | THE RIDE
- 18 | REAL SHAME
- 19 | UNSPOKEN
- 20 | AUGUST SUN

## LIVERPOOL | 16TH SEPTEMBER

- 22 | WAVE
- 23 | RATH
- 24 | DAMBE
- 25 | BURN BRIDGE
- 26 | TIDE
- 27 | SUNCATCHER
- 28 | NO HEROES
- 29 | DISCO DYNAMITE

**LONDON  
CLOSE-UP  
14 SEPTEMBER  
2019**



**STAND**  
**[CHRIS K. DANIELS, USA, 2019]**

Close-Up // 14 Sep // 9 mins

A MAN FINDS HIMSELF STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF A CAR PARK, FACING OFF AGAINST A CREATURE THAT ONLY MOVES WHEN THE MAN SITS. AN INTELLIGENT HIGH-CONCEPT HORROR, CHRIS K. DANIELS' 'STAND' TAKES INSPIRATION FROM PARANORMAL SPINE-TINGLERS SUCH AS 'IT FOLLOWS', 'A QUIET PLACE' AND 'HUSH'. YOU MIGHT WANT TO WATCH THIS ONE STANDING UP...



## TEDDY MATE

[ROMMEL VILLA, USA, 2018]

Close-Up // 14 Sep // 15 mins



SET IN A WORLD WHERE CHILDREN BOND WITH MAGICAL TEDDY BEARS THAT EVENTUALLY TRANSFORM INTO THEIR PERFECT, HUMAN LIFE PARTNER, AN OPTIMISTIC AND STRONG-WILLED YOUNG WOMAN STRUGGLES WHEN HER “TEDDY MATE” SUBVERTS EXPECTATIONS. ‘TEDDY MATE’ IS A WONDERFULLY CONCEIVED FANTASY DRAMA THAT CHALLENGES CONSERVATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS LIBERAL RELATIONSHIPS.

## **GARAGE**

**[LUBOŠ REZLER, CZECH REPUBLIC, 2018]**

Close-Up // 14 Sep // 6 mins



**'GARAGE' IS THE DARK AND DISTURBING SHORT THRILLER FROM THE MIND OF CZECH FILMMAKER LUBOS REZLER. BASED ON TRUE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2017, REZLER RE-IMAGINES THE STORY OF TWO ABDUCTED TEENAGERS WHO ARE HELD HOSTAGE IN A SMALL GARAGE, KEPT UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND TORMENTED BY THEIR ABUSIVE KIDNAPPER. WITH THEIR OPTIONS LIMITED AND THEIR OUTLOOK INCREASINGLY BLEAK, THEY FORMULATE A PLAN FOR A DESPERATE ESCAPE.**



## FREQUENCIES

[THOMAS R. PEETERS, BELGIUM, 2018]

Close-Up // 14 Sep // 13 mins

IN A GREY, NONDESCRIPT, FACTORY-LIKE WORKPLACE, A TEAM OF GREY-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES DUTIFULLY FULFIL A MONOTONOUS JOB. THEIR REPETITIVE WORK ROUTINE ALLOWS THEM TO ESCAPE THEIR PHYSICAL PRESENCE. THIS EXPERIMENTAL SHORT - HYPNOTIC AND MEDITATIVE IN ITS EXECUTION - AIMS TO TACKLE THE MEANING(LESSNESS) OF OUR SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED NETWORK OF LABOUR BY REDUCING OUR IMPRESSIONS AND THE NOTION OF EMPLOYMENT TO THEIR MOST BASIC ITERATIONS.

## TWO DOWN

[ROLFIN NYHUS, UK, 2019]

Close-Up // 14 Sep // 6 mins



TWO FECKLESS MEN ATTEMPT TO COMPLETE A TABLOID CROSSWORD IN AN OLD-SCHOOL GREASY SPOON CAFE IN NORTH-EAST LONDON. 'TWO DOWN' IS A SHARP AND WITTY SLICE-OF-LIFE (AND BREAD!) COMEDY THAT CHARMINGLY SATIRIZES THE VERY RECOGNISABLE REALITIES OF WORKING-CLASS LIFE IN LONDON.



**JOSÉ**  
**[JOÃO MONTEIRO, PORTUGAL, 2019]**

Close-Up // 14 Sep // 14 mins

IN A PORTUGUESE SUBURB, JOSÉ CELEBRATES HIS 18TH BIRTHDAY. A SILVER NECKLACE FALLS INTO HIS HANDS, OFFERED TO HIM BY HIS OLDER BROTHER. FOLLOWING THE BESTOWMENT OF THIS GIFT, THE NARRATIVE ENGAGES IN NOSTALGIC AND POETIC REFLECTIONS CONCERNING THE IDENTITY OF JOSÉ'S FRAGMENTED FAMILY. 'JOSÉ' IS A CHALLENGING AND HEARTBREAKING STUDY OF THE GROWING PAINS OF ADOLESCENCE AND FAMILIAL DYSFUNCTIONALITY.





**CRY**

**[GUY WILSON, UK, 2018]**

Close-Up // 14 Sep // 13 mins

WHEN TRAGEDY HITS HIS FAMILY, A YOUNG FATHER BEGINS TO LOSE TOUCH WITH HIS WIFE AND WITH REALITY IN GENERAL. 'CRY' IS AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL AND SENSITIVE PORTRAYAL OF A YOUNG FAMILY DEALING WITH BEREAVEMENT AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS, IMAGINING WHAT IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE WHEN DESPERATION AND DENIAL SPILL OVER INTO FULL-SCALE DELUSION.

## BINGO LADIES

[IRINA ALEXIU, UK, 2019]

Close-Up // 14 Sep // 7 mins



THREE LADIES MEET IN A WALTHAMSTOW BINGO PARLOUR AND TALK LIFE. THIS DOCUMENTARY VIDEO PORTRAIT CAPTURES THEIR CONVERSATIONS, GIVING US AN ACUTE GLIMPSE INTO ONE OF THEIR AUTUMN AFTERNOONS. WITH RAW PERSONALITIES, THEY SPEAK THEIR MINDS REGARDING LOVE, ALIENS, DEATH AND PARROTS! THIS OBSERVATIONAL VIDEO DOCUMENT ADOPTS AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH IN CONVEYING AN OFT-FORGOTTEN SECTION OF THE LONDON SUBURB AND BINGO HALL SUBCULTURE.

**LONDON  
CLOSE-UP  
15 SEPTEMBER  
2019**





**RUCK IT!**  
**[KELVIN DESENA, UK, 2019]**  
Close-Up // 15 Sep // 10 mins

**‘RUCK IT!’ IS A WONDERFULLY UPLIFTING SPORTS DOCUMENTARY ABOUT MENCAP’S FIRST EVER LEARNING DISABILITY RUGBY TEAM. THE FILM CHARTS THE TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES THAT THE SPORT HAS HAD FOR VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE TEAM, GIVING US A RARE INSIGHT INTO DIFFERENT TYPES OF LEARNING DISABILITIES AND THE EFFECTS THEY HAVE ON THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE EXPERIENCES.**

# THE ISLAND

MARTIN VAN HASSEL, SPAIN, 2018

Close-Up // 15 Sep // 13 mins



FOUR STRANGERS – A YOUNG WOMAN DRAPED IN A SILK GOWN, A NANNY, A MUSICIAN AND AN OLD MAN – MEET AT A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING WHERE THEY PAINSTAKINGLY WAIT FOR A NEWLY INSTALLED TRAFFIC SIGNAL TO AID THEM SAFELY TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD. THIS IS NOT THE SET-UP TO AN OVERWROUGHT PARTY JOKE, BUT INSTEAD IS THE PREMISE FOR MARTIN VAN HASSEL'S 'THE ISLAND', A WONDERFULLY EXECUTED BLACK-COMEDY COME PARANORMAL DRAMA THAT SKILFULLY WRESTLES WITH THEMES OF MORTALITY, REVENGE, REGRET AND FORGIVENESS.

**AN ODYSSEY: RUNNING SCARED**  
**[MASON HUBBARD, AUSTRALIA, 2019]**  
Close-Up // 15 Sep // 9 mins

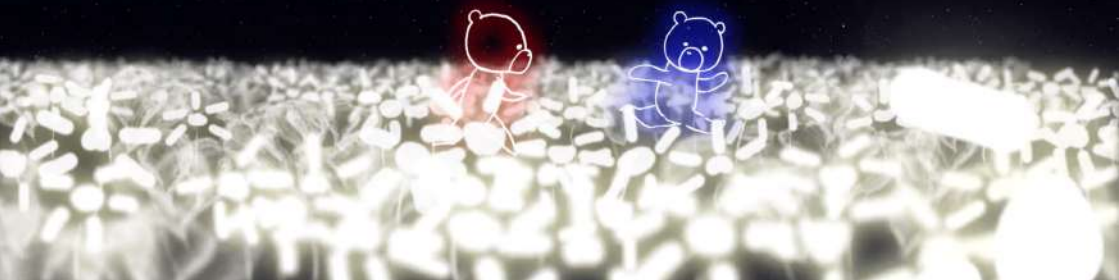


**'AN ODYSSEY: RUNNING SCARED' IS A CHALLENGING AND EQUALLY UNSETTLING SHORT THAT FOLLOWS THE AMBIGUOUS NARRATIVE OF AN UNSTABLE YOUNG BOY, AS HE IS CONFRONTED BY HIS FUTURE SELF. THIS PROPHETIC ENCOUNTER EXPOSES HIM TO THE SUFFERING OF FAMILY TRAGEDY, MENTAL ILLNESS AND DRUG ABUSE. HIS INSTINCT TO RUN IS PREVENTED BY HIS ABSURDIST DREAMS, INTENSE FEAR AND THE CLOSING IN OF TIME ITSELF.**

# YOU'RE SO FAR AWAY

[JEONGKI KIM, USA, 2019]

Close-Up // 15 Sep // 4 mins



AN OMINOUS FORCE VIOLENTLY SEPARATES TWO BEARS IN SPACE. JEONGKI KIM'S 'YOU'RE SO FAR AWAY' IS A SIMPLE AND BEAUTIFULLY IMAGINED ANIMATION, WHICH CAPTURES THE MAGICAL FEELINGS OF LOVE, THE DEVASTATION OF LOSS AND THE SOBERING UNCERTAINTY OF HOPE. IN JUST UNDER FOUR MINUTES, THIS SHORT MANAGES TO SPAN THE SPECTRUM OF LIFE'S DEEPEST AND MOST DIFFICULT EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES.



**THE RIDE**  
**[KACPER ANUSZEWSKI, POLAND, 2017]**

Close-Up // 15 Sep // 19 mins

WARSAW AIRPORT ON A STILL, GREY DAY. A TAXI PULLS INTO A DESIGNATED PICK-UP POINT WHERE THE PASSENGER WALKS OUT TO MEET HIS DRIVER. THE TWO SET OFF TOWARDS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL REQUESTED DESTINATIONS. ALONG THE WAY, THE MEN STRIKE UP FRIENDLY CONVERSATION, WITH THE DRIVER SOON REALISING THAT THEY HAVE MET BEFORE. IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT WE SUSPECT, PERHAPS, THINGS ARE NOT AS INNOCENT AS THEY SEEM...



**REAL SHAME**

**[IGWEN O'TOOLE, UK, 2019]**

Close-Up // 15 Sep // 8 mins

'REAL SHAME' IS A FATHER-SON DRAMA THAT CENTRES AROUND A PIVOTAL CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PAIR ON A-LEVEL RESULTS DAY. THE FATHER, A SUCCESSFUL SURGEON, BELIEVES THAT HIS SON INTENDS TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL. WHEN THE TEENAGER RETURNS WITH HIS RESULTS, HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO TELL HIS FATHER HIS REAL PLANS, INCITING A REACTION OF SHAME FROM HIS FATHER.



# UNSPOKEN

[SAMIA BADIH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 2017]

Close-Up // 15 Sep // 10 mins



**'UNSPOKEN' IS ABOUT SPOKEN WORD POET FARAH CHAMMA WHO, AT THE AGE OF 17, BECAME AN ONLINE SENSATION AFTER HER POEMS WENT VIRAL. A WELL-KNOWN POET TODAY, FARAH FINDS HER POETRY AT ODDS WITH THE WORLD SHE LIVES IN. THE FILM SHOWS HER CONFLICT AS SHE STRUGGLES WITH SELF-CENSORSHIP AND KEEPING HER POETRY AUTHENTIC AND REAL.**



**AUGUST SUN**  
**[FRANCO VOLPI, ARGENTINA, 2019]**

Close-Up // 15 Sep // 20 mins

JAVIER, AN ARGENTINE EXPAT LIVING IN EUROPE, IS BACK IN HIS HOMETOWN OF BUENOS AIRES FOLLOWING HIS FATHER'S DEATH TO HELP HIS MOTHER, MIRIAM, WHO SUFFERS FROM MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. AT THE CORE OF 'AUGUST SUN' IS A HEARTBREAKING MOTHER-AND-SON STORY, WHICH TOUCHES ON NOTIONS OF MORAL OBLIGATION, GRIEF, MEMORY AND ONE'S PLACE IN THE GRANDER SCHEME OF THINGS.



**LIVERPOOL**

**FACT**

**16 SEPTEMBER**

**2019**



WAVE

[BENJAMIN CLEARY & T. J. O'GRADY PEYTON, IRELAND, 2017]

FACT // 16 Sep // 14 mins

GASPAR RUBICON WAKES FROM A COMA SPEAKING A FULLY FORMED BUT UNRECOGNISABLE LANGUAGE, BAFFLING LINGUISTIC EXPERTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE. USING AN ONLINE VIDEO, HE ATTEMPTS TO REACH OUT TO ANYONE THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THIS NEW AND STRANGE LANGUAGE. 'WAVE' DEFTLY AND CASUALLY BALANCES FANTASY AND REALITY, RESULTING IN A FEEL-GOOD DRAMA WITH UNIVERSAL APPEAL.

**RATH**

**[KEVIN HU, USA, 2019]**

FACT // 16 Sep // 19 mins



AN OUTLAW ON THE RUN IS CAPTURED BY A FERAL MAN WITH AN EREMITIC MORAL CODE. 'RATH' IS A SPRAWLING WESTERN-THRILLER, WHICH BREATHES WITH AUTHENTICITY DUE TO BRILLIANT CENTRAL PERFORMANCES AND THE FANTASTIC USE OF LOCATION, CONVEYING WITH IT AN UNDERLYING MESSAGE THAT BEARS JUST AS MUCH RELEVANCE TODAY AS IT DID DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE FILM IS SET.



**DAMBE**

**ALEX SIMPSON & SEBASTIAN BARROS, NIGERIA, 2018**

FACT // 16 Sep // 9 mins

**THIS IS A FILM ABOUT TAYE, THE REIGNING  
DAMBE BOXING CHAMPION OF HIS LOCAL  
COMMUNITY IN LAGOS, NIGERIA.  
OFTEN CALLED 'FIGHT CLUB - NIGERIAN  
STYLE', FIGHTERS WRAP THEIR ARMS  
TIGHTLY IN ROPE WITH THE AIM OF  
KNOCKING DOWN AN OPPONENT IN ONE  
STRIKE. IT IS A FIERCELY COMPETITIVE  
SPORT AND LARGELY UNDOCUMENTED,  
UNTIL NOW...**



**BURN BRIDGE**  
**[RHYS MARC JONES, UK, 2017]**  
FACT // 16 Sep // 15 mins


CLOSETED TEENAGER HARRY HAS  
FALLEN FOR JAMIE, HIS CLOSEST FRIEND  
IN THEIR HETEROCENTRIC FRIENDSHIP  
GROUP. WHEN LUCY ARRIVES ON  
THE SCENE, HARRY MUST CONTEND  
FOR JAMIE'S ATTENTION, BRINGING  
HIS TRUE FEELINGS CLOSER TO LIGHT.  
'BURN BRIDGE' IS A DELICATE AND  
HONEST DRAMA, LOOSELY BASED ON  
THE DIRECTOR'S OWN ADOLESCENT  
EXPERIENCES AND DELIVERED WITH  
A TOUCH OF 'KITCHEN-SINK' NEOREALISM.



**TIDE**  
**[BERKANT DURLU, SWITZERLAND, 2019]**  
FACT // 16 Sep // 2 mins

**'TIDE' IS AN EXPERIMENTAL ANIMATION DEPICTING A STRANDED MAN EXPOSED TO THE INCREASING DANGER OF A HIGH TIDE IN A VAST LAND WITH NOWHERE TO GO. INSPIRED BY A PERIOD DURLU SPENT IN WREMEN, GERMANY (A TOWN SITUATED BY THE NORTH SEA), THE FILM EXPLORES EXISTENTIAL THEMES OF LONELINESS, ISOLATION AND THE INSIGNIFICANCE OF HUMANITY WITHIN A VAST AND INDISCRIMINATE NATURE.**





**SUNCATCHER**  
**[PARKER CROFT, USA, 2018]**

FACT // 16 Sep // 12 mins

FOR MONTHS KIRA HAS BEEN LIVING OUT OF HER CAR IN VENICE, CALIFORNIA. STRUGGLING TO KEEP HER HEAD ABOVE WATER, HER WORLD COLLAPSES WHEN SHE RETURNS FROM WORK ONE EVENING TO FIND HER CAR STOLEN. VULNERABLE AND ALONE, KIRA MUST NAVIGATE THE HARROWING UNCERTAINTY OF A NIGHT ON THE STREETS. FEATURING THE WORLD-FAMOUS POETRY OF JALAL AL-DIN RUMI, 'SUNCATCHER' IS AN EXPLORATION OF MINDFULNESS IN THE FACE OF CRISIS, AND CAPTURES BOTH THE STUNNING BEAUTY AND PERILOUS ISOLATION OF LIFE ON THE FRINGES OF LOS ANGELES' COASTAL WESTSIDE.



## **NO HEROES**

**[KAMIL LOUTFI, SWEDEN, 2019]**

**FACT // 16 Sep // 19 mins**

**TAXI DRIVER DANIEL PICKS UP HIS LAST FARE FOR THE NIGHT - A BOY AND HIS FATHER IN A HURRY TO GET TO THE AIRPORT. WHEN THE BOY STARTS ACTING STRANGELY, DANIEL BEGINS TO SUSPECT THAT THE FATHER ISN'T WHO HE CLAIMS TO BE. 'NO HEROES' IS A FILM ABOUT FINDING THE COURAGE TO ACT, KNOWING WHO TO TRUST IN A WORLD OF CONFLICTING TRUTHS AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS STRANGERS.**





**DISCO DYNAMITE**  
**[TOM CLOVER, UK, 2019]**  
FACT // 16 Sep // 10 mins

A WASHED-UP ROLLER DISCO CHAMPION, WHO VOWED TO NEVER PUT HIS SKATES ON AGAIN, MUST OVERCOME HIS FEAR OF THE RINK TO GO ON A ROLLER SKATING DATE WITH THE NEW GIRL AT WORK. 'DISCO DYNAMITE' IS A DELIGHTFUL AND CHARMING ROMANTIC COMEDY WITH ALLUSIONS TO CINEMATIC AND LITERARY GEMS SUCH AS 'SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER', 'NAPOLEON DYNAMITE' AND 'CINDERELLA'.

# VENUES

**LONDON**  
**14-15 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**CLOSE-UP CINEMA**  
**97 SCLATER ST**  
**LONDON E1 6HR**  
[www.closeupfilmcentre.com](http://www.closeupfilmcentre.com)  
020 3784 7970

**LIVERPOOL**  
**16 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**FACT**  
**88 WOOD ST**  
**LIVERPOOL L1 4DQ**  
[www.fact.co.uk](http://www.fact.co.uk)  
0151 707 4444



**SHORT  
FOCUS  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2019**

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

An aerial photograph of a beach at sunset. The sky is a gradient of purple and blue, transitioning to a warm orange glow near the horizon. The beach is dark, with white sand paths leading towards the water. A small figure of a person is visible in the distance, walking along the shore.

**SHORT  
FOCUS  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2019**

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