

SOFIA PRIDE | 20
FILM FEST | 24

THE HERO IS YOU!



4 – 15 JUNE

DOM NA KINOTO

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BULGARIAN NATIONAL FILM CENTER



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IDMI

Identify yourself!

SOFIA PRIDE FILM FEST 2024

THE HERO IS YOU!

4 – 15 JUNE 2024, DOM NA KINOTO

When the world shakes, we need to get together, exchange ideas, watch amazing films and think about the future of our communities!

The 14th edition of Sofia Pride Film Fest, the only LGBTIQ+ film festival in Bulgaria, will take place between June 4th to 15th in Cinema House. It will present exclusive screenings of exceptional films awarded at the biggest forums in the world – Berlin, Venice, Sundance and many more. 10 Feature and 12 Short Films from 4 continents, all depicting the problems and struggles of queer people in an intriguing and unique way, will compete for the Audience Awards.

For a second year in a row the audience will select the best films from the programme. Find your tickets in Cinema House or online at domnakinoto.com.

Scan the QR code to buy your ticket today!

Come and watch some great films!

FEATURE FILMS

Crossing	4
Heartless	5
Housekeeping for Beginners	6
Liuben	14
Mutt	15
Opponent	16
Reas	23
Silver Haze	24
Toll	25
We Are Perfect	26

OUT OF COMPETITION

Think Freedom: The Visible Man	7
--------------------------------	---

SHORT FILMS

Chavo	8
Circle	9
Coffee Grapefruit Cacao	10
Emerald City	11
Excess	12
Fuck this Shit, Love Me!	13
Marriage (In)equality in Ukraine	17
Niloo	18
Sunshower	19
The Pride Liar	20
The Remaining Sundays	21
To Bury a Dragon	22

TEAM

Chairperson: Denitsa Lyubenova
Programmers: Yana Alexieva & Simeon Tsonchev
Coordinator: Anna Doneva
Translators: Angel Hadzhiyski, Zdravko Grigorov,
Lili Babulkova & Darina Babulkova
Designer: Rositsa Kalamova
Social Media: Maria Pushevska
Website: Borimir Totev
Finances: Boriana Krasteva

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www.filmfreeway.com/sofiapridefilmfest
www.imdb.com/event/ev0061085
www.sofiapridefilmfest.org
#SPFF2024
#TheHerolsYou!



HOUSEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS



FEATURE 107' NORTH MACEDONIA, POLAND, CROATIA, SERBIA, KOSOVO, SWEDEN, USA, AUSTRALIA 2023

From acclaimed filmmaker Goran Stolevski comes a story exploring the universal truths of family, both the ones we're born into and the ones we find for ourselves. Dita never wanted to be a mother, but circumstances forced her to raise her girlfriend's two daughters, tiny troublemaker Mia and rebellious teen Vanesa. A battle of wills ensues as the three continue to butt heads and become an unlikely family that has to fight to stay together.

Official submission of North Macedonia for the Academy Awards in 2024.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Goran Stolevski
Starring: Anamaria Marinca, Alina Serban, Samson Selim, Vladimir Tintor
Producers: Blerita Basholli, Marija Dimitrova, Ankica Juric Tilić
Cinematographer: Naum Doksevski
Music: Alen Sinkauz, Nenad Sinkauz

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Venice FF – Queer Lion
Chicago IFF – Silver Q-Hugo
Tromsø IFF – Aurora Award
NewFest – Best Feature
LesGaiCineMad IFF – Jury Prize

LINKS

imdb.com/title/tt24244436
instagram.com/stolevski.goran
#HousekeepingForBeginners

GORAN STOLEVSKI

Goran Stolevski was born and grew up in Macedonia before migrating to Australia in his teens. His debut feature, *You Won't Be Alone*, premiered in official competition at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival, while his second, *Of an Age*, opened the 2022 Melbourne International Film Festival. Both films were distributed internationally by Focus Features and Universal



REVIEWS

Goran Stolevski. Remember that name

– Deadline

In Housekeeping for Beginners, shown in Venice's Orizzonti, Goran Stolevski laughs, cries and shows that the only way to sing along is with a vacuum-cleaner hose. Along the way, he also delivers one of the best films on the Lido this year

– Cineuropa

A phenomenal achievement – an untamed, densely detailed drama that crackles with so much feral energy, you practically get a static shock from the screen

– ScreenDaily



TOLL

FEATURE 102' BRASIL 2023



Suellen, a toll booth attendant, realises she can use her job to raise some extra money illegally. But this is only for a so-called noble cause: to send her son to an expensive gay conversion workshop led by a renowned foreign priest.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Carolina Markowicz
Starring: Maeve Jinkings, Kauan Alvarenga, Thomás Aquino
Producers: Bianca Villar, Fernando Fralha, Karen Castanho
Cinematographer: Luis Armando Arteaga
Music: Filipe Derado

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Rome FF - Best Film
Stockholm FF - Best Actress & Actor
Toronto IFF
San Sebastián IFF
Vancouver IFF

LINKS

[imdb.com/title/tt13846480](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13846480)
[instagram.com/carolmarkowicz_](https://www.instagram.com/carolmarkowicz_)
[#TollPedagio](https://twitter.com/TollPedagio)

CAROLINA MARKOWICZ

Carolina Markowicz is a screenwriter and director based in São Paulo, Brazil. She has written and directed two feature films and six short films selected to around 400 festivals such as Cannes, Locarno, Toronto, SXSW and San Sebastián and has won over 100 awards.



REVIEWS

Carolina Markowicz returns to the Toronto Festival with Toll, a film about a Brazilian mother who falls in with a gang of thieves in an attempt to keep her family afloat

– Diana Cadavid, TIFF



WE ARE PERFECT

DOCUMENTARY 61' POLAND 2023



More than 300 youngsters apply for a first ever casting call in Poland targeted to non-binary and trans people. They are auditioning for the role of a trans boy in one of Netflix's feature films. Their biggest dream is to become a movie superstar, but it soon turns out that much more serious challenges await them.

In a mosaic film form, we accompany them in their daily struggle. *We Are Perfect* is a universal, tender story about people who are tired of being excluded and invisible. It's a story about a new generation of self-aware Poles who refuse to live in a simplistic scheme where there is only what is feminine and masculine.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Marek Kozakiewicz
With: Alin Szewczyk, Gosia, Kajetan Pawlikowski
Producers: Jerzy Dziegielewski, Paweł Heba
Cinematographer: Wojciech Urbański
Music: Wojtek Urbański

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Thessaloniki IDF
BFI Flare LGBTQ+ FF

LINKS

[imdb.com/title/tt27997102](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27997102)
[instagram.com/kozakiewiczmarek](https://www.instagram.com/kozakiewiczmarek)
[#WeArePerfectDocumentary](https://www.instagram.com/WeArePerfectDocumentary)

MAREK KOZAKIEWICZ

Marek Kozakiewicz is a member of the European and Polish Film Academy. Graduated from the National Film School in Lodz. In 2023 his feature-length documentary debut *Silent Love* was screened and awarded at Visions du Réel, HotDocs, DOK Leipzig, IDFA and awarded at Docs Against Gravity. He was nominated twice by the Polish Society of Cinematographers for Best Cinematography.



REVIEWS

*Refusing to accept that all queer experiences are the same, *We Are Perfect* is an affecting and timely insight into the lives, challenges and future of Poland's queer youth*

– Steven Ryder



THINK FREEDOM: THE VISIBLE MAN

SHORT DOCUMENTARY 10' BULGARIA 2024



Tbilisi was once hailed as „Paris of the East“ for its multiculturalism and eclectic energy. Yet since its founding, Tbilisi Pride has never been a pure joyous celebration of diversity. Repeatedly cancelled by authorities, ambushed, attacked; radical groups, covertly supported by the state and police, have beaten up journalists and participants, and regularly pursue and assault the Pride organisers. Co-founder of Tbilisi Pride Giorgi Tabagari contemplates what it means to be locked between East and West, between home and safety, navigating the perilous path between choosing to remain invisible and choosing to be true to yourself.

CAST & CREW

Director: Anna Stoeva
With: Giorgi Tabagari
Producers: David Djambazov, Anna Stoeva
Cinematographer: Ivan Nikolov

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Sofia Pride FF

LINKS

[instagram.com/annastoeva.is.me](https://www.instagram.com/annastoeva.is.me)
#ThinkFreedom

ANNA STOEVA

Anna Stoeva started her career as a development producer. In 2011 Anna co-founded tanuki films. Since then she has been the recipient of the Nipkow Emerging Producers Grant, and worked on projects in Moscow, Berlin and Sofia. She was co-creator and head writer of the Sky Germany mystery horror show Hausen.





EMERALD CITY

SHORT FICTION 22' USA 2024



Emerald City is an LGBTQIA+ story of two young men: one who has aged out of foster care where he was placed after his parents were deported and the other on his way to join the border patrol. Each isolated in their own way, both seek a sense of community, of belonging, and meet on the back roads of the American Southwest, where they develop a tentative friendship that gradually becomes more.

CAST & CREW

Director: Josef Steiff

Writer: David Bobrow

Starring: Alan Vasquez, Havon Baraka, Arasha Lalani

Producers: David Bobrow, Josef Steiff

Cinematographer: Matthew Hayward

Music: Dylan Love, Catherine Nguyen

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Nashville – Best Short

Phuket Film Festival – Best Film

Mont. Blanc – Best Film

Perth Queer FF

Long Story Shorts

LINKS

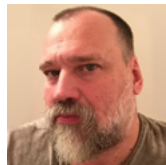
[imdb.com/title/tt27800480](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27800480)

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

#EmeraldCity

JOSEF STEIFF

Josef Steiff is an independent filmmaker and writer whose work has been exhibited worldwide. Growing up in rural Appalachia, he doesn't talk with much of a drawl unless he's really tired. As a former social worker, he creates work that reflects his interest in the ways that people struggle to make personal sense out of random, impersonal events.





EXCESS

SHORT FICTION 15' IRAN 2022



According to Islamic Republic of Iran's laws a son inherits twice as much as a daughter from the father's property. And what if a girl has changed gender?

Excess is based on a true story

CAST & CREW

Directors & Writers: Mehdi Koushki, Melina Kian
Starring: Pantea Ahmadkhan, Pouya Ansari, Sasan Arbabi
Producer: Hengameh Rahmani
Cinematographer: Mohammad Daraii
Music: Behrang Abaspour

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Oslo/Fusion IFF
Norwegian SFF
Out Film Connecticut FF
Riverside IFF
Reeling Chicago FF

LINKS

[instagram.com/mehdi_koushki](https://www.instagram.com/mehdi_koushki)
#Excess

MEHDI KUSHKI

Mehdi Koushki is an Iranian playwright and director who was born in 1980 Tehran and graduated from drama majoring in dramatic literature. He started his career as a playwright and director with *Winds Which Shakes Windows* in 2006. He also starred as an actor in the film *Lantouri* by Reza Dormishian and *Salesman* by Asghar Farhadi.





MARRIAGE (IN)EQUALITY IN UKRAINE

SHORT DOCUMENTARY/FICTION 15' UKRAINE 2023



Real-life couples – both LGBT and heterosexual, celebrity and not – come together to take part in a campaign for marriage equality in Ukraine. We see the short film they have created playing with reversed reality, as well as hold real-life conversations with the couples in this documentary.

CAST & CREW

Director: Yuriy Dvizhon
Writers: Anastasiia Alekisieieva, Ljoshka Chashchyn
With: Volodymyr Dantes, Dasha Katsurina
Producer: Valeria Otchenash
Cinematographer: Borya Borisov
Music: Ivan Haladuik

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

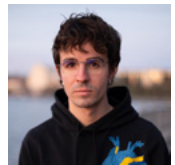
Bendigo Queer FF – Honorable Mention
Sunny Bunny LGBTQIA+ FF
14 Awards
Korea Queer FF

LINKS

[instagram.com/dvizhon](https://www.instagram.com/dvizhon)
[#MarriageInequalityInUkraine](https://www.instagram.com/Hashtag/MarriageInequalityInUkraine)

YURIY DVIZHON

Yuriy Dvizhon was born in Ternopil in 1993 and graduated in film and television arts. He began his career as an AD in 2011. He created music videos for over five years and wrote and directed LGBTQ+ themed documentaries. In 2022 he created *Pride is Not Available in Your Region*, a social-awareness campaign video awarded at many film festivals worldwide.





TO BURY A DRAGON

SHORT FICTION 28' BULGARIA 2023



The 60-year-old homophobe Marco receives a call that his son Stefan has died in London. He accepts the news with indifference and forbids his wife Maria to bury him in his family's plot. Marco continues his day in his workshop, where he makes wooden dragon figures. His disregard confuses his friends in the small town. Meanwhile, Maria meets Stefan's partner Ben and their adopted child Ethan, who have come for the funeral. Their arrival awakens his demons of shame and fury.

CAST & CREW

Director: Martin Markov

Writers: Martin Markov, Teodora Markova

Starring: Hristo Shopov, Paraskeva Djukelova, Paul Wright

Producers: Orlin Ruevski, Martin Markov

Cinematographer: Orlin Ruevski

Music: P. I. Tchaikovsky, Nikolay Kedrov

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

In the Palace ISFF – Silver Princess

Golden Rose FF

Izmir ISFF

LINKS

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

#ДаЗаробувамДракон

MARTIN MARKOV

Martin Markov graduated in Illustration and later Film Directing. Meanwhile he entered the fields of advertising, where he played creative director for the last 20 years. His love for cinema dates many years back. In 2016 he directed his first live action short (Un)conscious. To Bury a Dragon is his second and his debut feature is in pre-production.





FUCK THIS SHIT, LOVE ME!

SHORT FICTION 7' CZECHIA 2024



This is a romantic comedy that tells the story of a teenage girl navigating the modern dating world. Emma pours out her frustrations into her diary about the challenges of finding true love in a world where bad dates follow worse ones, and dating apps bring more despair than hope. But what if what Emma really needs is not what she's been so desperately searching for? The film reveals that love can come unexpectedly.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Daniel Path
Starring: Ema Verecká, Bety Tyblová, Maisie Chalk
Producer: Pablo Maldonado
Cinematographer: Daniel Path
Music: Lucy Tonight

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

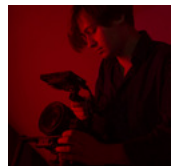
České Vize FF - Best Film
Reale Film Festival - Best Film
Krosno Movie Days - Second Best Film
Fishnets and Film Queer FF

LINKS

[instagram.com/daniel.path](https://www.instagram.com/daniel.path)
[#FuckThisShitLoveMe](https://www.instagram.com/FuckThisShitLoveMe)

DANIEL PATH

Daniel Path is an indie director and cinematographer focused on emotional storytelling in a short storytelling form.





COFFEE GRAPEFRUIT CACAO

SHORT FICTION 24' FRANCE 2023



Samuel used to form a couple with Laetitia before she left him for Gaëlle. Today he's been invited to their home. Together, they will try to perform an act of love.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Dominique Preusse
Starring: Adrian Lestrat, Laura Dat-Sénac,
Nanou Harry, Esther Wahl
Producers: Annie Barnabet, Dominique Preusse,
Adrian Lestrat
Cinematographer: Axel Jobin
Music: Oihan Oltarj-Ines

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Perth Queer FF – Special Jury Prize
Positively Different SFF
Soria IFF
La Boca Erótica FF
Korea Queer FF

LINKS

[instagram.com/dominique_preusse](https://www.instagram.com/dominique_preusse)
[#CoffeeGrapefruitCacao](https://twitter.com/CoffeeGrapefruitCacao)

DOMINIQUE PREUSSE

Dominique Preusse (1988) studied filmmaking at Panthéon-Sorbonne and ENSAV in Toulouse. Since then Dominique has been making reports and documentaries for ARD, TV5 Monde and ARTE. He also runs film workshops for young filmmakers. His fiction short films A Proper Man and Coffee Grapefruit Cacao have been selected at various international festivals.





REAS



DOCUMENTARY 82' ARGENTINA, SWITZERLAND, GERMANY 2024

Yoseli has a tattoo of the Eiffel Tower on her back and has always wanted to travel, but she was arrested at the airport for drug trafficking. Nacho is a trans man who was arrested for swindling and started a rock band in jail. Gentle or rough, blonde or shaved, cis or trans, long-term inmates or newly admitted: in this hybrid musical, they all re-enact their lives in a Buenos Aires prison.

Reas is a collective work that reinvents the musical genre: the performers dance and sing about their past in prison, relive their life as fiction, and invent, through fantasy and imagination, a possible future for themselves.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Lola Arias

With: Yoseli Arias, Ignacio Rodriguez, Estefy Harcastle

Producers: Gema Juarez Allen, Clarisa Oliveri

Cinematographer: Martín Benchimol

Music: Ulises Conti

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Berlinale IFF

Thessaloniki IDF – Golden Alexander

Luxembourg – Best Documentary

CPH:DOX

BFI Flare

LINKS

imdb.com/title/tt29102354

instagram.com/lola_arias_works

#ReasTheFilm

LOLA ARIAS

Lola Arias is a writer, theatre and film director and performer. She collaborates with people from different backgrounds – war veterans, former communists, Bulgarian children – in theatre, literature, music, film and art projects. Her productions play with the overlap zones between reality and fiction.



REVIEWS

Reas is a masterpiece of possibilities, a documentary which shows the resilience of our human spirit and how hope, art and just a little imagination can change the walls built around us into open air spaces

– International Cinephile Society

Reas is an incredibly moving and audacious film

– Dog and Wolf



SILVER HAZE

FEATURE 102' NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM 2023



23-year-old Franky is a nurse who lives with her large family in an East London borough. Obsessed with a thirst for revenge and a need to assign guilt for a traumatic event that happened 15 years before, she is unable to build any meaningful relationship until she falls in love with one of her patients – Florence. They escape to the coast where Florence lives with her more open-minded patchwork family. There, Franky finds the emotional shelter to deal with the grudges of the past.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Sacha Polak
Starring: Vicky Knight, Esmé Creed-Miles, Angela Bruce
Producer: Marleen Slot
Cinematographer: Tibor Dingelstad
Music: Ella van der Woude, Joris Oonk

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Berlinale IFF – Teddy Award
Tribeca FF
Dinard British FF – Golden Hitchcock
FilmOut San Diego FF – Best Actress
Crossing Europe FF

LINKS

imdb.com/title/tt16311464
instagram.com/vickyknight
instagram.com/polaksacha
[#SilverHazeTheFilm](https://twitter.com/SilverHazeTheFilm)

SACHA POLAK

Sacha Polak is an award-winning director and writer born in Amsterdam. Her feature *Hemel* won the FIPRESCI award at the Berlinale Forum. Her feature *Dirty God*, about a young mother who is the victim of an acid attack, premiered in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition of Sundance 2019 and was the opening film of the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2019.



REVIEWS

Knight is a compelling and fiercely persuasive performer. Handsomely shot
– ScreenDaily

Knight is a natural born actress and the camera adores her. Silver Haze is a great little gem and the first great discovery of 2023

– Screen Anarchy

Silver Haze makes a powerful statement in favour of celebrating individuality and acknowledging that beauty is far more than just what we can see at the surface level. Polak tells the powerful and heartbreaking story

– International Cinephile Society



HEARTLESS

FEATURE 91' BRAZIL, FRANCE, ITALY 2023



Summer 1996, north-east coast of Brazil. Tamara is enjoying her last weeks at the fishing village she lives in before departing to Brasilia for her studies. One day, she hears about a teenager nicknamed Heartless after a scar she has on her chest. Over the course of the summer, Tamara feels a growing attraction for this mysterious girl.

CAST & CREW

Directors & Writers: Nara Normande & Tião
Starring: Maya de Vico, Eduarda Samara, Maeve Jinkings
Producers: Kleber Mendonça Filho, Emílio Lesclaux
Cinematographer: Evgenia Alexandrova
Music: Tratenwald

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Venice IFF
Rio de Janeiro IFF – Best Cinematography
São Paulo IFF – Best Brazilian Film
Havana IFF – Coral Award
Göteborg FF

LINKS

[imdb.com/title/tt2624578](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2624578)
[instagram.com/haranormande](https://www.instagram.com/haranormande)
#SemCoracao

NARA NORMANDE & TIÃO

Nara Normande was born in 1986 in Alagoas. She directed the short *Heartless* together with Tião, which was awarded at Cannes. Her animated short *Guaxuma* was selected for Toronto and SXSW. *Heartless*, the homonymous film based on the short, is her first feature film.

Tião was born in Recife. His film *Muro* was awarded at Cannes. His film *Animal Político* premiered at Rotterdam.



REVIEWS

This debut feature film is distinguished by an incredibly harmonious style, blending authenticity and sensitivity, realism and oneirism, and individual and group portraits, all set against dreamlike, seaside landscapes

– Cineuropa

Heartless is an Intimate and Striking Exploration of Adolescence, Class, and Relationships

– Flip Screen

Heartless then leaves us with the mysteries of the natural and the supernatural, where suspended in between, is a human being who is loving, living, dying, but always hoping.

– A Good Movie to Watch



CHAVO

SHORT FICTION 15' SWEDEN 2023



Tommy's grill is a meeting point for the Roma community. Here a tightly-knit but motley crew of people gather to eat and talk. When a lone young guy visits the restaurant one evening, rumours begin to spread and Tommy is forced to revisit traumatic memories.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Alecio Araci

Starring: Michell Tatter Alfredsson, Ado Mehić Džafić

Producers: Alicia Hansen, Bitte Andersson

Cinematographer: Arpi Sahakyan

Music: Trent Hedayati, Anders Peev

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Next Generation Indie FA - Best Short

Ake Dikhea IFRF - Best Short

Sardinia Queer FF - Students Award

Perth Queer FF - Best Short

Chauri Chaura IFF - Best Director

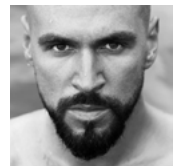
LINKS

[imdb.com/title/tt26494120](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt26494120)

#Chavo

ALECIO ARACI

Alecio Araci has a bachelor's degree in film direction from Valand Academy in Gothenburg, Sweden. Before that, he has worked in various positions on many film projects both nationally and internationally.





THE REMAINING SUNDAYS

SHORT FICTION 18' SPAIN 2024



August 1993. Dani has just turned 13. His family moves to a house in the suburbs. The discovery of an abandoned box in his new closet takes Dani to Miguel, a much-needed example missing in his life.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Manolo Pavón
Starring: Miguel Rivera, Luz Valdenebro, María Rivera
Producers: Beatriz Bodegas, Isabel Delclaux
Cinematographer: Ernesto Reguera
Music: Antonio Garamendi

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

European Short Awards - Best Director
Manuel Trujillo Durán ISFF - Best Script
Cinhomo IFF - Jury Mention
Cinema Father IFF - Jury Mention

LINKS

[instagram.com/losdomingosquequedan](https://www.instagram.com/losdomingosquequedan)
[instagram.com/manolopavon](https://www.instagram.com/manolopavon)
[#LosDomingosQueQuedan](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/LosDomingosQueQuedan)

MANOLO PAVÓN

Manolo Pavón received his first camera at the age of 9 and discovered the slides that he spent hours projecting. He played with his brother to make short films with friends and there was not a birthday or trip in which they did not make their own version of TV shows or music videos. They went on to work with directors Wim Wenders and Pedro Almodóvar among others.





NILOO

SHORT FICTION 11' IRAN 2023



Niloo tells the story of a girl who wants to keep her child after she has been abused by her father. And the child is of his abuse.

Niloo is a sequence plan film.

CAST & CREW

Directors & Writers: Mehdi Koushki
Starring: Poya Ansari, Atefeh Akbari, Houssein Athami
Producer: Shabnam Sheri
Cinematographer: Mohammad Darail
Music: Farzad Fezaci

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Sofia Pride FF

LINKS

[instagram.com/mehdi_koushki](https://www.instagram.com/mehdi_koushki)
#Niloo

MEHDI KOUSHKI

Mehdi Koushki is an Iranian playwright and director who was born in 1980 Tehran and graduated from drama majoring in dramatic literature. He started his career as a playwright and director with *Winds Which Shakes Windows* in 2006. He also starred as an actor in the film *Lantouri* by Reza Dormishian and *Salesman* by Asghar Farhadi.





CIRCLE

SHORT FICTION 10' TURKEY 2023



The black sheet brought to the tailor's shop will confront Arif with his reality.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Ferhat Ertan
Starring: Ali Kalaycı, Erdağ Yenal, Gamze Yeneş
Producer: Ferhat Ertan
Cinematographer: Hasan Göktaş
Music: Grup Tahterevalli

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

EU Human Rights SFC - Honourable Mention
Luma SFF
Izmir SFF
Nepal Human Rights FF

LINKS

[imdb.com/title/tt32339780](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt32339780)
[instagram.com/cemberfilms](https://www.instagram.com/cemberfilms)
#CircleÇember

FERHAT ERTAN

Ferhat Ertan was born in Turkey in 1998. He studied cinema at various institutions. He took part behind the camera in many films. He shot his first short film Mask in 2021 and his second short film Circle in 2023.





SUNSHOWER

SHORT FICTION 22' BULGARIA 2023



A couple spends a long night of contemplation about the future of their relationship under unusual circumstances and substances.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Georgi Georgiev
Starring: Nikol Zhisheva, Violina Dotseva
Producers: Devina Vasileva, Georgi Georgiev
Cinematographer: Ventsislav Todorov
Music: Maria Ilieva, Nova Generacia

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Sofia Pride FF

LINKS

[instagram.com/d.i.v.a.n.e](https://www.instagram.com/d.i.v.a.n.e)
[instagram.com/violina.dotseva](https://www.instagram.com/violina.dotseva)
#МечкаСеЖенѝ

GEORGI GEORGIEV

Georgi Georgiev graduated from Birkbeck University of London and is currently studying Film and Television MA in NBU. The academic time has led him to have a strong understanding and appreciation of film as a medium. He is confident in his know-how of almost every aspect of low-budget filmmaking, gained from work on several short films and audio-visual projects.





THE PRIDE LIAR

SHORT DOCUMENTARY 19' BELGIUM 2023



Emzo, a courageous queer activist, escaped persecution in Georgia five years ago, finding refuge in Belgium. This short documentary captures his unyielding commitment to the LGBTQ+ cause, showcasing the indomitable spirit of one individual's fight for acceptance and equality.

CAST & CREW

Director: Andrés Lübbert
With: Emzo Kvaratskhelia
Producer: Andrés Lübbert
Cinematographer: Andrés Lübbert
Music: Alejandro Rivas Cottle

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Melbourne Queer FF
Millenium DFF
Wicked Queer Boston FF
Kashish Pride FF
The Divine Queer FF

LINKS

[imdb.com/title/tt32317381](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt32317381)
[instagram.com/andreslubberr](https://www.instagram.com/andreslubberr)
[instagram.com/emzo_kvava](https://www.instagram.com/emzo_kvava)
[#ThePrideLiar](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/ThePrideLiar)

ANDRÉS LÜBBERT

Andrés Lübbert obtained his Master degree in Audiovisual Arts in 2010 at the Royal School of Arts in Brussels. His documentaries participated in more than 200 international film festivals in 20 countries, and won 30 awards. Andrés mainly tells stories about his intercultural environment about migration, human rights and social issues.





OPPONENT

FEATURE 119' SWEDEN, NORWAY 2023



In the aftermath of a devastating rumour, Iman and his family have been forced to flee Iran. As refugees, they end up in a run-down hotel in northern Sweden. Despite feeling powerless, Iman tries to maintain his role as the family patriarch. To increase their chances of asylum, he breaks a promise to his wife and joins the local wrestling club. As the rumours start to resurface, Iman's fear and desperation begin to take a hold.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Milad Alami
Starring: Payman Maadi, Marall Nasiri, Björn Elgerd, Ardalan Esmaili
Producer: Annika Rogell
Cinematographer: Sebastian Winterø
Music: Jon Ekstrand, Carl-Johan Sevedag

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Berlin IFF
Queer Lisboa - Audience Award
Monterrey IFF - Best Film
Seattle IFF - Special Jury Prize
Inside Out Toronto FF - Best Actor

LINKS

[imdb.com/title/tt16311444](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt16311444)
[instagram.com/paymanmaadi](https://www.instagram.com/paymanmaadi)
[instagram.com/miladalami](https://www.instagram.com/miladalami)
#OpponentTheFilm

MILAD ALAMI

Milad Alami is a Swedish film director, based in Denmark. Born in Iran, he and his family went to Sweden as refugees and he grew up in Skellefteå in the north of Sweden. His short film Mommy won the Robert Award for Best Short Fiction at the Robert Awards in 2016. He released his feature-length debut *The Charmer* in 2017, and followed up in 2023 with *Opponent*.



REVIEWS

A taut, timely tale... which reflects much wider issues around freedom and tolerance

– Screen Daily

Payman Maadi (A Separation, Silver Bear Berlin 2011) gives a powerhouse performance as Iman, an Iranian refugee in a small town in northern Sweden, waiting with his family for a determination on their petition for asylum

– Justine Barda

Opponent is a film about codes of masculinity and loyalty, in which the "opponent" is your home country, your supposed adoptive country, even your spouse

– The Guardian



MUTT

FEATURE 87' USA 2023



Feña, a young trans guy bustling through life in New York City, is faced with an increasingly challenging day. Over 24 hours, his foreign father, his straight ex-boyfriend, and his 13-year old half-sister are thrust back into his life. Having lost touch since transitioning, Feña must navigate the new dynamics of these old relationships while tackling the day-to-day challenges that come with living a life in-between.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Vuk Lungulov-Klotz
Starring: Lio Mehiel, Cole Doman, Alejandro Goic
Producers: Alexander Stegmaier, Stephen Scott
Cinematographer: Matthew Pothier
Music: James William Blades, Taul Katz

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Berlin IFF – Special Mention
Next Generation IFA – Best Cinematography
Sundance FF – Special Jury Award
Seattle IFF

LINKS

[imdb.com/title/tt2277288](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2277288)
[instagram.com/muttthefilm](https://www.instagram.com/muttthefilm)
#MuttTheFilm

VUK LUNGULOV-KLOTZ

Vuk Lungulov-Klotz has a culturally diverse upbringing. Born in New York to Chilean and Serbian immigrants, he was raised between Chile, USA and Serbia. His feature film debut *Mutt* premiered at Sundance and Berlinale. As a transgender storyteller, he hopes to expand queer narratives. His work focuses on intimate moments we often miss if we're not looking close enough.



REVIEWS

Authentic and emotionally potent

– Variety

Mutt is a sexy, handsome, thoroughly New York film that captures the many messy complexities of being human

– Vogue

An urgent, of-the-moment portrait

– The New York Times



LIUBEN

FEATURE 109' SPAIN, BULGARIA 2023



In a Bulgarian mountain village, where prejudice simmers, a summer romance begins between two boys from different worlds. Victor (27) has a nice life in Madrid with his partner, Jose. He returns to his childhood home in Bulgaria for his grandfather's funeral, and decides to stay for the summer. While reconnecting with his father and the village way of life, he unexpectedly finds love in the form of Liuben, an 18-year-old Roma boy. Despite their differences, and the conflicts around them, Victor and Liuben find refuge in each other.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Venci Kostov
Starring: Dimitar Nikolov, Bozhidar Asenov,
Stefan Denolyubov
Producers: Antonio Hens, Miguel Torente, Vanya Rainova
Cinematographer: Fran Garcia Vera
Music: Sergio de la Puente

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

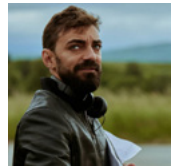
Burgas IFF – Audience Award
Ljubljana FF – Pink Dragon Jury Prize
Cinhomeo IFF – Audience Award
Guadalajara IFF
Sunny Bunny FF

LINKS

[imdb.com/title/tt14734810](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14734810)
[instagram.com/ljubenthemovie](https://www.instagram.com/ljubenthemovie)
[facebook.com/liubenthemovie](https://www.facebook.com/liubenthemovie)
#LiubenTheFilm

VENCI KOSTOV

Venci Kostov's first short film *The Son* received several awards and was screened at more than twenty international and domestic festivals, including Palm Springs, In The Palace etc. He directs TV series, documentaries and theatre plays. He holds a BA in Media Studies from Malaga University and has trained with Anne Bogart in a contemporary theatre group.



REVIEWS

Liuben is a sensitively handled story of two men from very different worlds falling in love

– Entertainment Focus

Gorgeous. Painful. Uneven in places. Lingers in the mind. Crawls under your skin. A tragedy worth experiencing

– Piet-Jan B



CROSSING

FEATURE 105' SW EDEN, DENMARK, FRANCE, TURKEY, GEORGIA 2024



Lia, a retired teacher, has made a promise to find out what happened to her long-lost niece, Tekla. When Lia learns from a neighbour, Achi, that Tekla might have left their Georgian homeland and is living in Turkey, Lia and Achi set off together to find her. Arriving in Istanbul, they discover a beautiful city full of connections and possibilities. But searching for someone who never intended to be found is harder than they expected – until they meet Evrim, a lawyer fighting for trans rights. As Lia and Achi weave their way through the city's backstreets, Tekla starts to feel closer than ever.

CAST & CREW

Director & Writer: Levan Akin
Starring: Mzia Arabuli, Lucas Kankava, Deniz Dumanli
Producer: Mathilde Dedyé
Cinematographer: Lisabi Fridell
Music Supervisor: Özge Koç

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

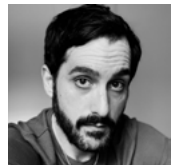
Berlin IFF – Teddy Jury Award
Sunny Bunny FF – Film Critics Prize
goEast FF
Tribeca FF
BFI Flare FF

LINKS

imdb.com/title/tt2741716
instagram.com/levanakin
[#CrossingTheFilm](https://twitter.com/CrossingTheFilm)

LEVAN AKIN

The Swedish filmmaker of Georgian descent was born in Stockholm in 1979. His work explores class, gender and sexuality. His film *And Then We Danced* premiered at Cannes and was Sweden's official entry for the Oscars. He directed on the TV series *Real Humans* and was co-executive producer and director on the series adaptation of *Interview with the Vampire*.



REVIEWS

With Crossing, Levan Akin wants to open our eyes to the easily overlooked... Akin makes a calculated choice to raise awareness of the trans community in Istanbul, but he does so through representation rather than manipulation

– Variety

Observed with granular detail and imbued with a pulsing sense of place, this novelistic drama takes time to connect its central triangle but does so with a suppleness and restraint that amplify the emotional rewards of its lovely open-ended conclusion

– The Hollywood Reporter

WE ARE DEYSTVIE

For us at LGBTI Organization Deystvie, the rights of LGBTIQ+ people have always been a priority. In 2016, we were the pioneers in the fight for legislative changes, and since then, we have achieved enormous success for the equality of LGBTIQ+ families in Bulgaria. Part of this progress is:

Recognition of a same-sex marriage concluded between an EU citizen and a third-country citizen for the purposes of free movement, as a result of which Bulgaria granted the right of residence due to a same-sex marriage concluded in France;

The case of Lilly and Dari before the ECtHR – Koilova and Babulkova v. Bulgaria, which obliges Bulgaria to create a legal framework for the recognition of LGBTIQ+ families;

We have litigated and won cases to change the last name to that of the partner;

The Supreme Administrative Court obliged our Consulate in Albania to issue a D Visa for permanent residence to an Albanian citizen who has a civil marriage with a Bulgarian woman;

In 2022 Deystvie won a case before the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of the EU - V.M.A. v. Stolichna Obsthina, Rayon Pancharevo (Sofia Municipality, Pancharevo District), Bulgaria, better known as the „Baby Sara“ case. The judgment in this case led to a proposal for a Regulation by the European Parliament to harmonise the rules of private international law relating to parentage. Due to Bulgaria's failure to comply with the judgment of the Court of the EU, Deystvie filed a complaint with the European Commission to initiate a sanction procedure against Bulgaria.

With small steps, we broke through the legal barriers in Bulgaria, and by litigating hundreds of cases, we guaranteed the rights of our community.

We thank all the brave people who trusted us in the last 8 years and continue to trust us along the way in advancing policies and legislation in Bulgaria and in defending the rights of all of us.

If you would like to support Deystvie's work so that we can continue to change the world we live in, you can do so in the following ways:

By bank transfer:

Youth LGBT Organization Deystvie

IBAN: BG20UNCR70001523122810

PayPal:

info@deystvie.org

Become a member and donate on a monthly basis:

Email us at info@deystvie.org with a request to become a member of the organization.

PROGRAM

DOM NA KINOTO

4

JUNE
20:00

OPENING

HOUSEKEEPING
FOR BEGINNERS feature, 107'

5

JUNE
20:00

TOLL feature, 102'

6

JUNE
19:00

WE ARE PERFECT doc., 61'
THINK FREEDOM:
THE VISIBLE MAN short, 10'

6

JUNE
20:30

EMERALD CITY short, 22'
EXCESS short, 15'
MARRIAGE (IN)EQUALITY
IN UKRAINE short, 15'
TO BURY
A DRAGON short, 28'
FUCK THIS SHIT,
LOVE ME! short, 7'
COFFEE GRAPEFRUIT
CACAO short, 24'

7

JUNE
19:00

REAS doc., 82'

8

JUNE
20:00

SILVER HAZE feature, 102'

10

JUNE
18:30

HEARTLESS feature, 91'

10

JUNE
20:30

CHAVO short, 15'
THE REMAINING
SUNDAYS short, 18'

NILOO short, 11'

CIRCLE short, 10'

SUNSHOWER short, 22'

THE PRIDE LIAR short, 19'

11

JUNE
20:00

OPPONENT feature, 119'

12

JUNE
20:00

MUTT feature, 87'

14

JUNE
20:00

 GALA
LIUBEN feature, 109'

15

JUNE
20:00

CLOSING
CROSSING feature, 105'