

FILM AND ANIMATION FESTIVAL 2025



The finest curation of the funniest comedy short films from around the world

London 27th - 30th September

Rich Mix - The Arzner - Coldharbour Blue - Picturehouse Crouch End

Welcome

Why, howdy there, and thank you for your curiosity. We already like you. Greetings from the wonderful world of Short Com. (It stands for short comedy if you were wondering. Clever, huh?).

We are a film festival dedicated to finding films that aims to bring laughter and joy. To celebrate the art and healing power of comedy. We look all across the globe for films by exciting talent from all different backgrounds, with films for all comedy palettes. From light-hearted, dark, off-the-wall, experimental, sweet, silly and short to life-affirming narrative pieces. We have got it.

Our 2025 programme is our most expansive and ambitious to date. Featuring 59 short films and animations from as far as Singapore, Iran, New Zealand, the USA, Canada, Australia, and even Wales, complementing home-grown talent.

We are delighted to be returning to Rich Mix in Shoreditch for the opening day of the festival with three back-to-back programmes with a strong focus on domestic talent. We are also delighted to be screening at three new venues in London. The Arzner in Bermondsey, where we have a special programme made exclusively by filmmakers from the LGBTQ+ community. The following evening, we head to Coldharbour Blue with an international-focused programme. Then on the final night, we head to Picturehouse Crouch End with an animation programme. We're super excited to be able to bring a taste of Short Com across London. And we are grateful to these venues for showing faith in new filmmakers, supporting independent film and making tickets affordable.

We'd like to thank the Short Com team and volunteers who have contributed to Short Com over the year. Lee Hamilton; Alice Shone, Chris Francis, Paddy Kondracki, Tom Kiesecoms, Brian Robinson, Meredith Stewart, Katie Bignell, Ian Bignell, Ben Mallaby, Jane Ryan, Katie Orves and Matilda Irving de Andres. To our award judges To all the selected filmmakers, past and present, who make Short Com that little bit different.

For ticket information. Visit the Short Com site for screening details, times and listings. And sign up to the mailing list to keep up to date with all our musings.

*www.shortcom.org
[insta:shortcomfilmfestival](https://www.instagram.com/shortcomfilmfestival)
[bluesky:shortcom.bsky.social](https://www.bluesky.com/shortcom.bsky.social)*

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BAFTA

BIFA



*Festival
of Cinema*
SCREENING NOW!

RICH MIX



Picture
house

A BIRD HIT A WINDOW AND NOW I'M A LESBIAN

After a mysterious girl shows up at Gray's doorstep holding the corpse of a bird that had just cracked her window, an impromptu bird funeral changes the way Gray views herself and her lesbian identity.

Prods: Carmela Murphy, Aj Dubler
Writers: Carmela Murphy, Aj Dubler
Key Cast: Jordan Gantos, Cecile Lopez, Timmothy Sullivan
Country of Origin: USA

A SINGLE SOCK

A heartbroken man finds an unexpected kindred spirit in a lone sock left dangling on the clothes horse.

Prods: Jack Howard, Tim Hautekiet
Writers: Jack Howard, Tim Hautekiet
Key Cast: Tim Hautekiet, Amelia Gething, Jack Howard
Country of Origin: UK

AMEN

A group of pigs are raised peacefully in a monastery when, one day, one of them finds out the truth behind their existence. Thus he decides to free his friends.

Animators: Avril Zundel
Writers: Orphée Coutier, Bettina Demarty, Kimie Maingonnat, Laurène Perego, Louise Poulain, Avril Zundel
Country of Origin: France

AWAITING THE LIGHTNING BOLT

An eccentric Renaissance inventor dares the impossible: capturing a lightning bolt in a jar! Defying the skepticism of his peers, he races against time in a thrilling journey, where each storm offers an extraordinary glimpse into the mysteries of nature and the power of love.

Writer: Marco Russo
Key Cast: Lupo Mirrachi, Lorenzo Ferrero
Country of Origin: Italy/UK



Dirs: Carmela Murphy, AJ Dubler



Dirs: Jack Howard, Tim Hautekiet



Dirs. Orphée Coutier, Bettina Demarty, Kimie Maingonnat, Laurène Perego, Louise Poulain, Avril Zundel



Dir. Marco Russo

BAD ACTORS

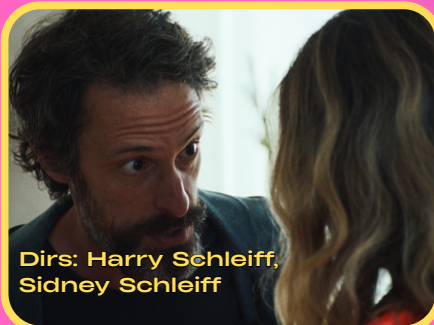
A spirited group of activists inadvertently glue themselves together while preparing for a protest.

Prod: Claire Read

Writers: Harry Schleiff, Sidney Schleiff

Key Cast: Betsey Brown, Will Janowitz, Boh Balaban

Country of Origin: USA



**Dirs: Harry Schleiff,
Sidney Schleiff**

BAD BATCH

After botching a routine grave robbery, the twins discover a baby abandoned on their doorstep. Though hesitant to embrace parenthood, they change their minds after the infant's supernatural powers thwart a good Samaritan's attempt to rescue it from the twins' questionable care.

Prods: Alex Sagona, Nick Viglietta

Writers: Alex Sagona, Nick Viglietta

Key Cast: Alex Sagona, Nick Viglietta

Country of Origin: USA



**Dirs: Alex Sagona,
Nick Viglietta**

BAGGAGE

Three girlfriends check in their baggage at the airport, but one is carrying a little more than the others. As they travel along the conveyor belt to security, can she hide what's inside?

Prod: Vanessa Batten

Writer: Lucy Davidson

Country of Origin: Australia



Dir. Lucy Davidson

BUDŌ

On the outskirts of Tokyo lives the lonely Miho, an old widow. On her daily trip to the supermarket she meets a hungry stray cat. The cat follows her home, but soon makes himself more comfortable in her little apartment than she could ever imagine... BUDŌ.

Prods: Alexander Toma, Amanda Aagard

Animator: Mikael Lindbom

Key Cast: Mayuko Lindström

Country of Origin: Sweden



**Dirs. Alexander Toma,
Amanda Aagard**

CHECK PLEASE

Two headstrong Koreans can't agree on who's treating who to dinner, causing their casual restaurant outing to spiral into a martial arts deathmatch.

Prods: Anna Castagnaro, Nick Leahy
Writer: Shane Chung
Key Cast: Richard Yan, Sukwon Jeong
Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Shane Chung

DADDY PLEASE

Monks Father Martin and Brother Thomas lead a devout life in the countryside - until an unexpected disruption threatens to unravel their peaceful monastic existence.

Prod: Benjamin Partridge
Writer: Benjamin Partridge
Key Cast: Milke Wozniak, Chris Cantrill, Sammy Dobson
Country of Origin: UK



Dir. Benjamin Partridge

DARLING, I HOPE YOU WILL NEVER FORGET MY FACE

An isolated old man lives alone in a remote house. When his family discovers his passing, they must design a death announcement, but no photographs of him can be found. They decide to take a natural-looking photo of his corpse and Photoshop his eyes open.

Prod: Saber Abar
Writer: Amir Ali Moftakhari
Key Cast: Majid Jafari, Faranak Kalantar, Ehsan Mansouri
Country of Origin: Iran



Dir. Amir Ali Moftakhari

DATING MARK SILCOX

Unable to get a second date, Mark Silcox attempts to find love by learning to be funny. But could his joking go too far?

Prod: Fleur Bell-Hendriks
Writer: Joe Lycett
Key Cast: Mark Silcox, Katherine Parkinson
Country of Origin: UK



Dir. Joe Lycett

DAWN OF THE ICK

A small town is plagued by an unexplained disease, driving women to abandon their husbands. Sibéal believes she's immune, until her fiancé moves in with a new haircut. Overwhelmed by disgust, she's forced to question herself. Is she just fickle?

Prod: Anne Gately

Writer: Nell Mercier

Key Cast: Nessa Matthews, Colman Hayes, Sharon Mannion

Country of Origin: Ireland



Dir: Nell Mercier

DEAD WEIGHT

Three men, on their way in a descending balloon over icy sea, need to get rid of some weight. After a vote, the two men throw the third man out of the basket, intent on saving their lives.

Prod: Trine Vallevik Håbjørg

Writer: Øyvind Tangseth

Key Cast: Bjarte Hjelmeland, Bjarte Tjøstheim, Morten Svartveit

Country of Origin: Norway



Dir: Øyvind Tangseth

DRAGFOX

Sam's search for identity gets interrupted by a mysterious neighbourhood fox. Together they embark on a magical journey to the attic to discover the surprising things they might have in common, and how to celebrate the ways in which they differ.

Prod: Owen Thomas

Writer: Lucy Davidson

Key Cast: Ian McKellen, Aidan Gale, Owen Divina De Campo Farrow

Country of Origin: UK



Dir: Lisa Ott

DUCKS

A perfectly normal day in the park with some perfectly, ordinary... ducks.

Animator: AJ Jefferies

Writer: AJ Jefferies

Country of Origin: UK



Dir: AJ Jefferies

EASY SELL

A frugal Baz gets more than he bargains for at a charity shop when he is cornered by Phil, an odd charity shop worker, who insists he buy a dusty old wedding dress or face explosive consequences.

Prods: Katie Millington, Amanda Davies

Writers: Ash Meshkati, Ken Abalos

Key Cast: Divian Ladwa, Paul Casar

Country of Origin: UK



Dirs. Ken Abalos,
Ash Meshkati

FOREVER

While golfers play on the other side of the fence, peaceful garden gnomes find themselves attacked by stray golf balls.

Writers: Pierre Ferrari, Anissa Terrier, Pauline Philippart
Théo Djekou

Animators: Pauline Philippart, Théo Djekou

Country of Origin: France



Dirs. Théo Djekou, Pierre Ferrari,
Cyrine Jouini, Pauline Philippart,
Anissa Terriere

GIFT

Rosie gives Tess a gift.

Prods: Maryssa Sklaroff, Annika Chavez

Writer: Annika Chavez

Key Cast: Tess Goldwyn, Rosie McDonald

Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Annika Chavez

GONE FOR MILK

After slipping out of their absent father's wake under the pretense of buying milk, two brothers spend the afternoon drifting through the countryside arguing, drinking Ribena and roughing up locals.

Prods: Harry Zundel, Will Farrell

Writer: Will Farrell

Key Cast: David Elms, Jack Barry

Country of Origin: UK



Dir. Will Farrell

GOODBYE FOREVER MAYBE

A stranded astronaut attempts to write his own eulogy.

Prods: Ash Horne, Sammy Paul

Writers: Nazim Isma Benjamin, Sammy Paul

Key Cast: Mike Stoklasa

Country of Origin: UK, Sweden



HOOFS ON SKATES

In a winter wonderland two friends have a blast ice-skating on a frozen lake when suddenly a strange and unfamiliar world cracks open underneath them. Now they must learn how to deal with the other kind, not letting the fear and preconceptions rule.

Prod: Justė Beniušytė, Ignas Meilūnas

Writer: Titas Laucius

Animators: Anni Oja, Matthew Krasucki O'Dowd, Ignas Melunas

Country of Origin: Lithuania



IBEG YOUR PARDON

A man commits a terrible crime and the consequences are not what you'd expect.

Prod: John W. Lustig

Writer: John W. Lustig

Key Cast: John W. Lustig, Anne Hogan, Gary Frank

Country of Origin: USA



I HATE HELEN

FIRST LOVE IS HARD.

The tidal wave of gay lust some girls feel in school and letting those feelings just wash over you. But Emma isn't going without a fight. She hates Helen, and she hates the way she is feeling.

Prods: Martha McGuirk, Rosie Brear

Writer: Katie Lambert

Key Cast: Priyanka Kanan, Helen Edie Allen, Imogen Kelly

Country of Origin: UK



I KILLED THE QUEEN

Menopause, misunderstandings and murder.

Prods: Anna Castagnaro, Nick Leahy
Writer: Abigayle Rayann Schroder
Key Cast: Tammy Zeitler, Alora Lemonds
Country of Origin: USA



I'M THE MOST RACIST PERSON I KNOW

When Lali unexpectedly ends up on a date with another woman of colour for the first time, it unravels prejudices she has long ignored.

Prod: Suriyna Sivashanker
Writer: Leela Varghese
Key Cast: Shabana Azeez, Kavitha Anandasivam
Country of Origin: Australia



IN JEFF WE TRUST

Two mentally ill girls regret joining a cult...but is it too late?

Writers: Sydney Heller, Olivia DeLaurentis
Key Cast: Sydney Heller, Olivia DeLaurentis, Art Roberts
Country of Origin: USA



JAZZ EMU: FUN KITAI FURAI DEI

A singing alien from the planet OEEO comes to earth, seeking happiness after his home was destroyed in a brutal intergalactic war. With the help of a kind little boy, he is able to fulfil his lifelong ambition of experiencing a corporate Casual Friday, and finds some peace in the small joys.

Prod: Alex Cartlidge
Writer: Archie Henderson
Key Cast: Alastair Roberts
Country of Origin: UK



JOEY EARNS REWARDS USING THE MCDONALD'S MOBILE APP & MEGH AND CLEV DISCUSS THEIR FUTURE TOGETHER

Captured in a single aerial shot, Clev's proposal to Megh at a McDonald's drive-thru is interrupted by an eager customer offering help with their order.

Prods: Anna Castagnaro, Nick Leahy

Writer: Brad Roelandt

Key Cast: Cleveen Dominguez, Meghan Sullivan, Joey Gallimore

Country of Origin: USA

MY FIRST KIDNEY STONE

In the style of TikTok come with me videos and starring the digital grandson of Antoine Doinel (400 Blows), my first kidney stone is about how riding the roller coaster Big Thunder Mountain can sometimes be a cheaper and more effective way to pass a kidney stone than going through the US healthcare system. Inspired by a true story.

Prod: Charles Dillon Ward

Writer: Charles Dillon Ward

Country of Origin: USA

MY WONDERFUL LIFE

A working mother named Grace Lee is hospitalised after collapsing at her workplace, where she unexpectedly discovers a sense of liberation during her stay.

Prod: Si En Tan

Writer: Calleen Koh

Key Cast: Zheng Ge Ping, Genevieve Tan, Matthias Teh

Country of Origin: Singapore

ODD SOCKS

In a world where humans live alongside sock-monsters. Maverick human detective McGuin must battle lies, deception, and every movie cliché in his hunt for the truth when a sock monster is murdered.

Prod: Amy Lotherington

Writer: Theo Toksvig-Stewart

Key Cast: Paterson Joseph, Sandi Toksvig, Ewen Bremner

Country of Origin: UK



Dir: Brad Roelandt



Dir: Charles Dillon Ward



Dir: Calleen Koh



Dir: David Ledger

1 IN 5 SHEEP

An artist in sheep's clothing.

Prod: James Button

Writer: James Button

Key Cast: James Button

Country of Origin: UK



Dir. James Button

OUT FOR DELIVERY

When terminally ill Joanna makes the difficult decision to pursue end of life options through the Death With Dignity law, the systems set up to make her death peaceful and dignified become the opposite.

Prods: Clinton Trucks, Alexa Rocero

Writer: Chelsea Christer

Key Cast: Deanna Rooney, Martin Starr, DeMorge Brown

Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Chelsea Christer

A harried thirty-something woman is forced to decide whether she wants to be a mother after unexpectedly giving birth to her reproductive organs at her sister's baby shower.

Prods: Michelle Brøndum, Kjersti Greger, Johann Edström

Writer: Laura Jayne Tunbridge

Key Cast: Synnøve Karlsen, Sofie Oxenham

Country of Origin: UK



Dir. Ida Melum

OVER

A father must confront his apathy towards the world's big issues when his disabled son, who is terrified of open water, steals his boat and refuses to come back to shore until his Dad has saved the world.

Prod: Elisabella Debbage

Writers: Duncan Ragg, Anna Phillips

Key Cast: Adam Dunn, James Carey, Nick Boshier

Country of Origin: Australia



Dirs. Duncan Ragg,
Anna Phillips

POOR MARCIANO

The name you are given at birth can mark your destiny. Marciano knows a lot about that, who only wants a friend to sing with... But the universe always conspires to make your dreams come true.

Prods: Alex Rey

Writer: Alex Rey

Country of Origin: Spain



Dir: Alex Rey

PORELESS

A fabulous, queer, Muslim beauty entrepreneur competes in a Shark Tank-like contest after suffering an untimely allergic reaction.

Prods: Akbar Hamid, Rabia Sultana,

Writer: Fawzia Mirza, Harris Doran, Fawzia Mirza

Key Cast: Diane Guerrero, Parvesh Cheena, Akbar Hamid

Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Harris Doran

QUOTA

When every global citizen is required to have their CO2 emissions tracked, it makes little impact...that is, until they discover the consequences of reaching their designated QUOTA.

Prods: Job, Joris & Marieke

Writers: Job, Joris & Marieke

Cast: Carice van Houten, Lucas Tepper, Jonathan Barnett

Country of Origin: Netherlands



Dirs. Job, Joris & Marieke

RANDY AS HIMSELF

A Hollywood production crew comes to West Texas to recreate the grisly murder of a local woman. Using locals to re-enact the crime, Reality TV meets Reality in this bizarre romantic comedy about the (show) business of murder.

Prods: Natalie Metzger, Marin Hinkle, Jocelyn DeBoer

Writer: Margaret Miller

Key Cast: Jeff Perry,

Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Margaret Miller

RETIREMENT PLAN

At apathy with his life, Ray dreams of the beauty and joy he will find in retirement.

Prods: Julie Murnaghan, Andrew Freedman
Writers: Tara Lawall, John Kelly
Key Cast: Domhnall Gleeson
Country of Origin: Ireland



Dir. John Kelly

ROCHELLE

A presumptuous teenage boy signs up for a local demolition derby with a car named Rochelle – the car his best friend took his life in.

Prod: Luke Sharpe
Writer: Tom Annan Furniss
Key Cast: Benjamin Sawyer, Roxie Mohebbi
Country of Origin: New Zealand



Dir. Tom AnnanFurniss

SOMEBODY CARES

A deadbeat brother finally finds compassion from his grumpy sister moments before being catapulted through the air by a 4-wheel drive Bronco.

Prods: Patrick Koitsch, Megan Short
Writer: Brian Groh
Key Cast: Shawn Parsons, Cjon Saulsberry,
Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Julien Lasseur

SPECIAL DELIVERY

A foley artist for pornography falls in love with a porn star during an ADR session.

Prods: Caroline Moore, Kate Costanza
Writer: Emily Everhard
Key Cast: Kate Owen, Rob Kellog
Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Emily Everhard

STRANDED

Two survivors are stranded on a deserted island. Brian is left adrift in a sea of misery, while Kelly thrives. After several unlikely encounters, Brian realises he needs to get his life afloat. Just as it looks like their love might be rescued, an actual ship appears on the horizon. Now, Brian faces his biggest dilemma yet: sail solo or stay marooned for a second shot at love.

Prod: Andre Scholz

Writer: Michael Whyntie

Key Cast: Michelle Brasier, Ben Russell

Country of Origin: Australia



Dirs: Reilly Archer-Whelan,
Michael Whyntie

SUCH GOOD FRIENDS

After ending a toxic friendship, a people-pleaser finds herself falling into old patterns with her ex-best friend's family.

Prods: Rachel Rambaldi, Jon Walkup, Bri Klaproth

Writer: Bri Klaproth

Key Cast: Niamh O'niell Culhane, Mindy Sterling, Jared Lo Nigro

Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Bri Klaproth

SUSPICIOUS WOMEN IN A SMALL TOWN

Why are new friends on TV always so suspicious? An improvised comedy short film that skewers TV show's depictions of female friendships.

Prod: Alison Thea-Skot, Kathryn Bond

Writers: Alison Thea-Skot, Kathryn Bond

Key Cast: Alison Thea-Skot, Kathryn Bond

Country of Origin: UK



Dirs. Alison Thea-Skot,
Kathryn Bond

THE BRIEFING

It's dress down Friday.

Prod: Big Red Button

Writer: Big Red Button

Key Cast: Ali Cook, Toby Williams, Ilky Kabir

Country of Origin: UK



Dir. Big Red Button

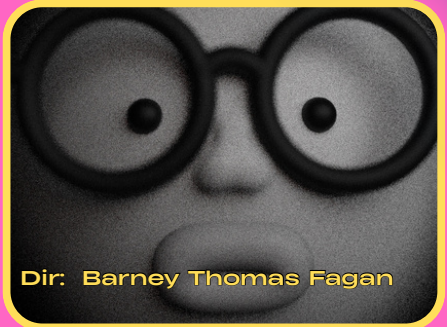
THE JOKE'S BUTT

A young man feels lost in the modern, digital world before finding himself in a piece of clickbait.

Prod: Barney Thomas Fagan

Writer: Barney Thomas Fagan

Country of Origin: Germany, UK



THE MAN THAT I WAVE AT

A man has an existential crisis trying to work out who the mysterious man is that he waves at.

Prods: Guy William Sime Lindley, Jade Nicole Way

Writer: Ben. Hyland

Key Cast: Sam Pamphilon, Marek Larwood, Rebecca Shorrocks

Country of Origin: UK



THE MURDERER

A story written by an eight year old.

Directed thirty years later.

Writer: Kyla Atlas

Animators: Abbey Collings, Kyla Atlas

Key Cast: Hayes Squires, Bennett Squires, Ramona Atlas

Country of Origin: Canada



THE QUACKENING

A grumpy Welshman reluctantly visits his grandmother, only to discover she has only gone and got herself cursed! So now he needs to bloody save her (and the world) from a demon duck...before midnight.

Prods: Paul Marke, James Button

Writer: James Button

Key Cast: James Button

Country of Origin: UK



THE SECOND TO LAST TIME I POOPED MY PANTS

On a sunny day, enjoying burgers and swimming seemed perfect for young Seb... until a dreadful stomach ache turned everything upside down.

Prod: Sébastien Landry
Writer: Sébastien Landry
Animator: Sébastien Landry
Country of Origin: Canada

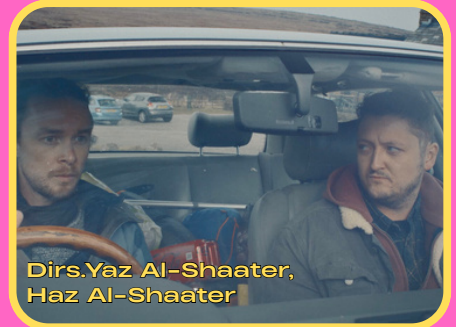


Dir. Sébastien Landry

THE SWING

In a bid to lift Simon's spirits after a suicide attempt, estranged friend Danny plans an awkward road trip around the Peak District. Amid forced banter and multiple setbacks, mounting tension (and a mountain of Coke Zero) reopens old wounds. Can they rediscover shared joy in the hills of their childhood?

Prod: Sean Gonet
Writers: Yaz Al-Shaater, Haz Al-Shaater
Key Cast: Michael Grady-Hall, Tom Clegg, Howie Wilson
Country of Origin: UK



Dirs. Yaz Al-Shaater,
Haz Al-Shaater

THE 12 INCH PIANIST

A bar joke goes awry, unraveling into a surreal tale that explores the acceptance of self, others, and queer identity.

Prod: Saber Abar
Writers: Charlotte Wadsworth, Lucas Ansel
Key Cast: Liam O'Donnell, Grier Montgomery
Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Lucas Ansel

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

T's life spirals out of control after an unexpected visit from two licensing inspectors who threaten to remove all of his possessions.

Prod: Lewis Coates
Writer: Tim Nathan
Key Cast: Jackson Gallagher
Country of Origin: UK, Australia



Dir. Tim Nathan

TORTURED ARTIST

Some artists just never get a break... until they break themselves!

An aspiring creative struggles with negative self-talk and unfair comparisons with his peers. Can his only fan save him from himself?

Prod: Thomas Laurance

Writer: Thomas Laurance

Key Cast: Thomas Laurance

Country of Origin: UK



Dir: Thomas Laurance

WHITCH

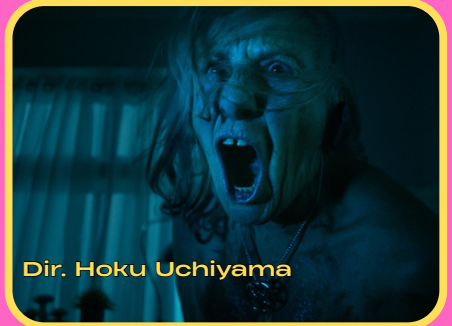
After putting her daughter to bed, Aura discovers an intruder in her house: an elderly lady who acts strangely familiar, and who is hell-bent on performing a bloody ritual before midnight.

Prod: Kelly King

Writer: Hoku Uchiyama

Key Cast: Rosemary Hochschild, Alicia Blasingame, Nora Harriet

Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Hoku Uchiyama

YOUR OWN FLAVOR

After being stood up on a date, Renee is grateful to find solace in an unexpected friendship with one of the good guys: a seemingly harmless puppet named Chompers. As their bond deepens, Chompers takes a chilling turn that forces Renee to wonder if she was ever his friend or if she was his prey.

Prods: Sam Shapiro, Brandon Dermer, Alisha Ketry

Writer: Alisha Ketry

Key Cast: Alyssa Limperis, Swazzle Brothers

Country of Origin: USA



Dir. Alisha Ketry



**COMEDY
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AND
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SCREENING THE FUNNIEST FILMS SINCE 2011

