

# SHORT COM

## COMEDY FILM AND ANIMATION FESTIVAL



LONDON  
GLASGOW  
EDINBURGH  
SEPTEMBER 2023

SCREENING THE FUNNIEST FILMS SINCE 2011



# FABLE

WHISKY

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Ghost Piper of Canyon Bay?



Gone, when they're gone,

it'll be the next fable is told



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# The Future is Short

Short film that is. Welcome reader. We are Short Com. A BIFA qualifying film festival that specialises in probably the hardest genre to get right; comedy. Since starting as an ad-hoc film night in Manchester in 2011, we've been finding the funniest films kicking around and uncovering multiple gems along the way. We've seen some of our regular contributors over the years go on to great things making both TV programmes and even features. We were also delighted to see our 2022 select 'An Irish Goodbye' knock it out the park winning both a BAFTA and Oscar for best live-action short. An utter triumph and a testament to the power of comedy.

And it has been another stellar year of finding brilliant comedy shorts and animations from the world film festival circuit. We have over 50 films in the 2023 programme with multiple premiers. Scouting festivals such as Tribeca, SXSW, Sundance, Flickers, Annecy and more, we're delighted to be bringing so many films from overseas to be seen by British audiences for the first time, particularly films from further reaching nations for the first time too.

Another first this year will be a focus on Asian performing and filmmaking talent.



We are delighted to be screening in London's newest independent and classy cinema in Covent Garden; the Garden Cinema. As well as for the first time screening at the super hip Glad Cafe in Glasgow and Glasgow's home of cinema the Glasgow Film Theatre. And we're also chuffed to be returning to Everyman and the iconic Cameo Picturehouse since the pandemic.

We are also really happy to be supporting the important work that See Me Scotland do to end the stigma of mental health. Mental health and suicide prevention is something close to our hearts at Short Com.

A big thank you to the Short Com team who have been and will be working behind the scenes in putting all our programmes and screenings together. Alice Shone; Jo Reid, Lee Hamilton, Declan Hill, Patrick Kondracki and Paul Dance. Also a big thanks to our partners and supporters, Festival Formula, Fable Whisky, Cinetopia, The British Comedy Guide, Young Scot, BIFA, Film Hub Scotland and Screen Scotland.

And another thank you to our judges this year Tom Kiesecombs; Amy O'Hara Tim Molloy, Eva O'Flynn, Adrian Barber, Jim Archer, Liam Tate, Steven Hendry, Ana Stefaniak, Dan Clark and Vedran Rupic.

Our biggest thanks goes to the filmmakers for their endeavours and granting us their blessing to screen their art for comedy loving audiences.



Chris Aitken - Short Com founder and creative director.

# SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



## VENUE PARTNERS





While hurrying to catch a ferry from Toronto Island, a bald man in a fancy white scarf falls off his bicycle and spends a day contemplating why we rush and where it is we're trying to get.

**Dir:** Txesco Montalt  
**Prod:** Benjamin Hackman  
**Writer:** Benjamin Hackman  
**Key Cast:** Benjamin Hackman  
**Country of Origin:** Canada



### European Premier

Meg, professional teacher's pet and amateur harpist, decides to stage a full, musical reenactment of the shooting that took place at her high school in honor of the 10 year anniversary.

**Dir:** Nitzan Mager  
**Prod:** Lela Meadow-Conner  
**Writer:** Nitzan Mager  
**Key Cast:** Alyssa Emily Marvin, Geneva Carr, Zoe Wilson  
**Country of Origin:** United States



After finding out that his father was admitted into hospital and refuses medical treatment in Indonesia, Budi has to convince his father to take medical treatment while trying to clean up his wild party in The Netherlands.

**Dir:** Arif Abdillah  
**Prod:** Arif Abdillah, Marijn van der Ploeg  
**Writers:** Arif Abdillah, Tommaso Genovesi  
**Key Cast:** Arif Abdillah, Aris Julian, Banyu Bening  
**Country of Origin:** Netherlands



Ginny, a grim reaper, embarks on her first holiday in one hundred years only to be haunted by the actual ghosts of her past.

**Dir:** Niamh McKeown  
**Prod:** Chloé Berger  
**Writer:** Niamh McKeown  
**Key Cast:** Tanya Reynolds, Lewis Gribben  
**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom



## LOLLYGAG

Set in the leisured suburbs of East Hampton, a woman recalls a sensual yet macabre childhood memory that occurred during the summer of her parent's divorce.

**Dir:** Tij D'oyen

**Prod:** Cameron Morton, Tij D'oyen

**Writer:** Tij D'oyen

**Key Cast:** Issac Powell, Gaby Slape

**Country of Origin:** United States



## CLAUDIO'S SONG

A young man faces the wrath of a family of criminals that extort internet celebrities and ponders his legacy in the face of death.

**Dir:** Andreas Nilsson

**Prod:** Lee Groombridge, Tanya Sokolova

**Writer:** David Kolbusz

**Key Cast:** Zaza Chantvira, Georgiy Palovotskiy

**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom, Ukraine



## CACTUS TOUCH

A prickly sensory playground tempts one daring young finger to embark on a spiritual journey.

**European Premier**

**Dir:** Micheal Langan

**Prod:** Micheal Langan

**Writer:** Micheal Langan

**Key Cast:** Esau Hamadanyan

**Country of Origin:** United States



## SUCKING DIESEL

After a bungled robbery, a petrol station owner must decide whether to protect her idiot employee or turn him over to the most dangerous man in Ballybeg.

**Dir:** Sam McGrath

**Prod:** Aisling Malone

**Writer:** Freddie O' Donoghue

**Key Cast:** Geraldine McAlinden, Donny Power, Jason Byrne

**Country of Origin:** Ireland



## DISTRACTED BY FOOD



Mere moments before an important meeting where focus is crucial, the company VP becomes incredibly distracted by some food.

**Dir:** Not A Robot (Stevie Martin and Lola-Rose Maxwell)

**Prod:** Cris Mudge

**Writer:**s Stevie Martin and Lola-Rose Maxwell

**Key Cast:** Bruce Lester Johnson, Janis Ahern,

Liz Guterbock, Janice T

**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom

## ROBUTLER



Overworked council worker Cwnt Jones purchases a personalised A.I assistant to help make his life beta.

**Dir:** James Button

**Prod:** Paul Marke

**Writer:** James Button

**Key Cast:** James Button

**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom

## LOLLIPOP



**UK Premier**

A famous rapper meets his obsessed fangirl at a low-budget music video shoot at a point he questions where he is at in his career.

**Dir:** Sameli Muurimäki

**Prod:** Janne Lähtenmäki

**Writer:** Susanna Karttunen

**Key Cast:** Chike Ohanwe, Vilma Sippola

**Country of Origin:** Finland

## PHONORAMA



**UK Premier**

Joe Antonio is about to enjoy a pleasant afternoon reading in his wheelchair when a dark and terrible force turns his world upside down. No one can escape the destructive power of Phonorama.

**Dir:** Alex Rey

**Prod:** Alex Rey

**Writer:** Alex Rey

**Key Cast:** Alex Rey

**Country of Origin:** Spain

## THE SNIP



**World Premier**

Tony and Lindsay are looking for a permanent solution to their family's fertility, but for Tony, the simple procedure threatens his masculinity.

**Dir:** Ben S. Hyland

**Prod:** Adam Gregory Smith, Jade Way

**Writer:** Ben S. Hyland

**Key Cast:** Ciaran Dowd, Sunil Patel

**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom

## POOF



**UK Premier**

Ruby and Paula are ready to be their own bosses through multi-level success magnet FYZZLE Cosmetics. But their business empire is threatened by all of things, a small dog.

**Dir:** Margaret Miller

**Prod:** Natalie Metzger

**Writer:** Margaret Miller, Jeff Roberts

**Key Cast:** Andrea Rosen, Catherine Curtin

**Country of Origin:** United States

## CIRCLE OF TRUST



A man and a woman in their forties try to create a safe space together at a municipal gymnasium. Easier said than done.

**Dir:** Victor Nyåker

**Prod:** Hanna Holmqvist, Victor Nyåker

**Writer:** Victor Nyåker, Hanna Holmqvist, Peter Lorentzon

**Key Cast:** Hanna Holmqvist, Peter Lorentzon

**Country of Origin:** Sweden

## EVERYTHING I LEARNED WHEN MY HOUSE BURNED DOWN



**UK Premier**

Comedian Jacy Catlin's house burned down, along with all his families possessions. After the smoke had cleared, he returned to his former home to shoot one last comedy film.

**Dir:** Joe Pickett

**Prod:** Joe Pickett

**Writer:** Jacy Catlin, Joe Pickett

**Key Cast:** Jacy Catlin

**Country of Origin:** United States



### UK Premier

There's a promotion on offer at a corporate firm. But how far would you go to climb the corporate ladder?

**Dir:** Sam Baron  
**Prod:** Nathan Craig, Gareth Tempest  
**Writer:** Harry Kershaw, Chris Leask  
**Key Cast:** Adrian Lukis, Ellora Torchia  
**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom



### European Premier

Got dirty clothes? Join two stylish llamas as they dance and sing through the steps of doing laundry at the laundromat.

**Dir:** Martha Grant  
**Writer:** Martha Grant  
**Country of Origin:** Canada



### European Premier

Jane and Teddy are on the brink of divorce but when their marital problems come to a head, they have an unexpected... breakthrough.


**Dir:** Daniel Sinclair  
**Prod:** Kate Chamuris, Valerie Steinberg, Bridget Moloney  
**Writer:** Daniel Sinclair  
**Key Cast:** Greta Lee, Ben Sinclair  
**Country of Origin:** United States



### UK Premier

A florist with a stutter is faced with his ultimate nightmare. To cooperate with a voice activated car on the way to an important delivery that could make or break his business.

**Dir:** Steve Anthopoulos  
**Prod:** Liam Heyen, Yingna Lu  
**Writer:** Steve Anthopoulos  
**Key Cast:** Aleks Mikic, Sam Neill  
**Country of Origin:** Australia



**TRUNDLE  
AND THE  
LOST  
BORSCHT OF  
ATLANTIS**

**European Premier**

Trundle is a goblin-like creature so delicious that it has made the Atlantis Delicatessen world famous. So he must be confined to the basement by the deli's owner. But he is itching to get out.

**Dir:** Laura Lee

**Prod:** Laura Lee, Zachary Smolar, Ariel Dreicer, Sarel Friedman

**Writer:** Zachary Smolar

**Key Cast:** Daniel Simonsen, Patrick Breen

**Country of Origin:** United States



**IT'S DOG TO MAKE A SANDWICH  
IF YOU'RE HOUSEPLANT**

In the near future, a middle-aged dad becomes increasingly perplexed after his neighbour's dog vanishes, his wife and child disappear and his favourite gadget goes haywire.

**Dir:** Olivia Waring

**Prod:** Jesse Romain

**Writer:** Olivia Waring, Rosy Levine, Olivia Poulet

**Key Cast:** Justin Edwards

**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom



**ROOM FOR ONE MORE**

**European Premier**

When his entire house collapses on him, Alex is close to death. Will he use his final moments to reconnect with loved ones? Or to pitch his brilliant short film to his old friend Bruno?

**Dir:** Jesse Vogelaar

**Prod:** Jesse Vogelaar

**Writer:** Mario Hannah

**Key Cast:** Josh Glanc, Borni Lisle, Mario Hannah

**Country of Origin:** Australia



**SORRY I AM LATE  
I WAS MASTURBATING**

Hanna is nervous before a date with a really coool guy. A friend advises that she needs to relax and masturbate. Hanna follows her advice.

**Dir:** Alena Shevchenko

**Prod:**

**Writer:** Alena Shevchenko

**Key Cast:** Linda Rohrer

**Country of Origin:** Germany

## DONKEY



After receiving an emergency call, a struggling actor has to face his family during his lowest moment

**Dir:** Matt Kazman  
**Prod:** Pamela Robinson  
**Writer:** Matt Kazman  
**Key Cast:** Dru Johnston, Sarah Hagan  
**Country of Origin:** United States

## HELEN OF TROY'(S)



While everyone is off to uni having all the sex, Helen is stuck still working at her Dad's fish 'n' chip shop, dreaming of escape

**Dir:** Nick Flügge  
**Prod:** Nick Flügge  
**Writer:** Nick Flügge, Lia Hatzakis  
**Key Cast:** Lia Hatzakis  
**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom

## HUMAN RESOURCES



Shy Andy takes himself to the recycling unit at Human Resources where he makes a connection. But it might be all too late.

**Dir:** Trinidad Plass Caussade, Titouan Tillier, Issac Wenzek  
**Prod:** EMCA Angoulême  
**Country of Origin:** France

## BOOM



A couple of dumb birds try their best to protect their eggs from a volcanic eruption

**Dir:** Gabriel Augerai, Romain Augier, Laurie Pereira de Figueiredo, Yannick Jacquin, Charles Di Cicco, Julien Deparis  
**Country of Origin:** France



## GOLD AND MUD

A woman's life, observed through tiny pieces of a larger whole. From love to loss. And maybe love again.

**Dir:** Conor Dooley  
**Prod:** Lexi Tannenholtz, Sarah Wilson  
**Writer:** Conor Dooley  
**Key Cast:** Ana Fabrega, Jo Firestone, Ike Ufomadu  
**Country of Origin:** United States

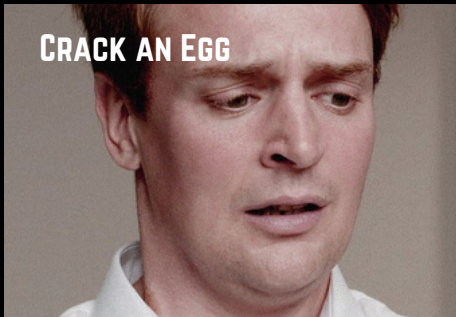


## THE BITTER EARTH

**World Premier**

A special agent Angel is tasked with convincing a disgruntled guardian angel to give up Earthly delights and return to his duties.

**Dir:** Diana Ali Chire  
**Prod:** Jason Lew, Renold Rose  
**Writer:** Diana Ali Chire  
**Key Cast:** Brett Gelman, Ari Dayan  
**Country of Origin:** United States



## CRACK AN EGG

A jittery groom receives an unusual ritual from his best man to calm his nerves before he stands at the altar.

**Dir:** Sam Bailey  
**Prod:** Eve Fehilly  
**Writer:** Sam Bailey  
**Key Cast:** Joe Barnes, Henry Perryment  
**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SOMEONE WHO IS BEING HAUNTED

The trials and tribulations of someone living with a ghost.

**Dir:** Nikola McMurtrie  
**Prod:** Ali Lightfoot  
**Writer:** Nikola McMurtrie  
**Key Cast:** Nikola McMurtrie, Kristine Berget  
**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom



A recent ghost tries to make peace with his wife, but must rely on his neglected apprentice with psychic abilities to pass on the message.

**Dir:** Kevin Haefelin

**Prod:** Satoshi Nagashima

**Writer:** Hikari Onodera

**Key Cast:** Yoshihiko Bito, Amane Kimura, Keigo Mitsutani

**Country of Origin:** Switzerland



Ben's dream is to be a getaway driver. He's got his first opportunity but his awkward manner might be the real stumbling block

**Dir:** Lucy Velik, Jesse Velik

**Prod:** On Rye Productions

**Writer:** Lucy Velik, Jesse Velik

**Key Cast:** Lucy Velik, Jesse Velik

**Country of Origin:** Australia



A plumber is hired to fix a broken pipe. But this is far beyond the regular establishment he is accustomed to.

**Dir:** Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier, Sujanth Ravichandran

**Prod:** Jürgen Haas

**Writer:**

**Key Cast:** Tom Von Arx, Dave Striegel

**Country of Origin:** Switzerland



**World Premier**

A doctor on a marathon training run is derailed by an anxious and persistent patient with an intimate problem

**Dir:** Tia Salisbury

**Prod:** Georgina Strawson

**Writer:** Georgina Strawson, Tia Salisbury, Oli Kendall

**Key Cast:** Georgina Strawson, Marc Danbury, Adiza Shardow

**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom

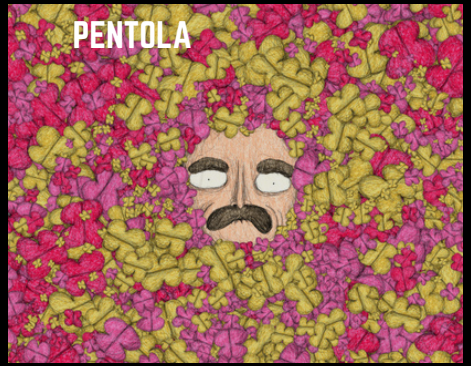
## MEETING MR SAMUEL



A man finds himself in purgatory and confronted by his ex teacher. Where they must find common ground to escape.

**Dir:** Rob Legatt  
**Prod:** Rob Legatt, Tim Katz  
**Writer:** Rob Legatt  
**Key Cast:** Samuel Anderson, Charlie Creed-Miles  
**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom

## PENTOLA



A repressed husband must find the hero in himself to find true love.

**Dir:** Leo Černić  
**Prod:** Chiara Magri  
**Writer:** Leo Černić  
**Key Cast:** Miro Černić  
**Country of Origin:** Italy

## PISKO THE CRAB CHILD IS IN LOVE



**UK Premier**

Pisko's father is a crab while her mother is human. Pisko falls in love with her teacher, but gets her heart broken when he leaves her because she is a crab child. Her friend Kubokayo encourages Pisko to go on a trip, where she then confesses her feelings. This is a love story about Pisko.

**Dir:** Makoto Nagahisa  
**Prod:** Sandra Berghianu  
**Writer:** Makoto Nagahisa  
**Cast:** Kano (A Masso), Saaya (Lalande), Maki Fukuda, Kanta Sato  
**Country of Origin:** Japan



Father and his son are losing the folk race. In order to win, a boy turns himself into a car tire. Loosely inspired by the director's childhood, Sierra pulls us into the surreal car racing world.

**Dir:** Sander Joon  
**Prod:** Erik Heinsalu, Aurelia Aasa  
**Writer:** Sander Joon  
**Animator:** Henri Veermäe, Valya Paneva, Teresa Baroet, Sander Joon  
**Country of Origin:** Estonia





## SUCKS TO BE THE MOON

**UK Premier**

Jealous of the Sun's stardom, the Moon journeys into space, searching for a planet that actually cares about him. Will he find his place in the universe, or is he destined to be a lonely loser forever?

**Directors:** Tyler March, Eric Papwerth.

**Prod:** Tyler March, Eric Papwerth, Rob Tanchum

**Writer:** Tyler March, Eric Papwerth, Rob Tanchum

**Key Cast:** Rob Tanchum, Stephanie Hsu, Jack Quaid

**Country of Origin:** United States



## SIGHSCAPES

Fatigue expressed in an endless sea of content.

**Dir:** Duncan Cowles

**Prod:** Duncan Cowles

**Writer:** Duncan Cowles

**Key Cast:** Duncan Cowles

**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom



## SMOKING DOLPHINS

Surely you've heard of Smoking Dolphins?

**Dir:** Sean Lyons

**Prod:** Sophie Finnigan

**Writer:** James Powdrill

**Key Cast:** Tom Follows, Reuben Johnson, Tom Hardman, Sean Criscole

**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom



## GUILTY PLEASURES

On the eve of their anniversary, Alice and Cam are having difficulty finding chemistry, causing them to look for new ways to spice things up in the bedroom. They are both shocked to discover they have been hiding embarrassing kinks from each other.

**Dir:** George Oliver

**Prod:** George Oliver

**Writer:** Mattan Hamou

**Key Cast:** Julia Best Warner, Alec Gaylord

**Country of Origin:** United States



## MAHOGANY DRIVE

**European Premier**

Three Black friends wake up to a nightmare – a dead white woman on the floor of their Airbnb. Tensions rise, sweat beads, and accusations fly, but they slowly come to a terrifying truth: this house is killing white women!

**Dir:** Jerah Milligan

**Prod:** Jerah Milligan, Blaine Morris, James Carr, Andrew Carlberg

**Writers:** James III, Jonathan Braylock, James Carr, Jerah Milligan

**Key Cast:** James III, Jonathan Braylock, Jerah Milligan

**Country of Origin:** United States



## CHOKED UP

A tickly cough derails the career-defining live tv interview of MP Fiona Lacey Minister for the Environment. Trying to deliver a serious and important message about the Climate Crisis, her career takes a nosedive, perpetuated by political pundits, keyboard warriors and social media influencers.

**Dir:** Jill Worsley

**Prod:** Adam Shakinovsky, Stephanie Hazel

**Writer:** Jill Worsley

**Key Cast:** Maxine Peake, Adam James

**Country of Origin:** UK



## THEY GROW UP SO FAST

**European Premier**

When Brian meets Amy after a night out on the town, things move a little faster than he'd anticipated.

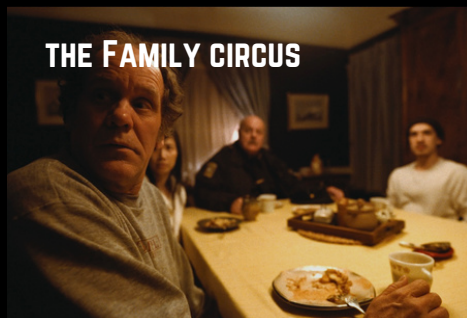
**Dir:** John F. Beach

**Prod:** Martin Spanjers

**Writer:** John F. Beach

**Key Cast:** John F. Beach, Emily Althaus, Martin Spanjers, Madelynn Deason

**Country of Origin:** United States



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

**European Premier**

A Vietnamese-American family as they try to cover up a drunk driving accident, but their plan begins to unravel as their emotional baggage spills out in front of a cop.

**Dir:** Andrew Fitzgerald

**Prod:** Josh Cohen

**Writer:** Andrew Fitzgerald

**Key Cast:** Michael Ironside, Elyse Dinh, Scott Subiono

**Country of Origin:** US



## ALL CHOKED UP

A woman must decide whether to save her husband when he starts choking on a sandwich during lunch.

**Dir:** Allison Volk

**Prod:** Andrea Nordgren

**Writer:** Allison Volk

**Key Cast:** Siobhan Fallon Hogan ,Bodie Newcomb

**Country of Origin:** United States



## THE WARMEST COLOUR IS BLUE

### European Premier

Rebecca comes home from work one day to find her TV is missing. Detective JW Bond arrives on the scene to find out what happened to Rebecca's TV. Together, they find more than what they bargained for.

**Dir:** Kevin Ralston

**Prod:** Kevin Ralston

**Writer:** Kevin Ralston

**Key Cast:** Shan Fahey, Ian Faria

**Country of Origin:** United States



## SUPERHOST

Deacon wants to be an Airbnb Superhost. If only he could leave his guests alone.

**Dir:** Tom Levinge

**Writer:** Freddie Sandilands

**Key Cast:** Freddie Sandilands, Fiona

Anderson, Adam Rojko Vega, Nadege

Nguyen, Katie Davison, Ruairi McInerery,

Alex Holland

**Country of Origin:** UK

# VENUE DETAILS

SEP 2ND AND 3RD

**The Garden Cinema**  
39-41 Parker Street  
London WC2B 5PQ

For our box office, and any other requests:  
[info@thegardencinema.co.uk](mailto:info@thegardencinema.co.uk)  
[www.thegardencinema.co.uk/](http://www.thegardencinema.co.uk/)

SEP 16TH

**The Glad Cafe**  
1006A Pollokshaws Road  
Glasgow  
G41 2HG

0141 636 6119  
[rory@thegladcafe.co.uk](mailto:rory@thegladcafe.co.uk)  
[www.thegladcafe.co.uk](http://www.thegladcafe.co.uk)

SEP 17TH

**Glasgow Film Theatre**  
12 Rose Street, Glasgow, G3 6RB  
(0141) 332 6535  
[BoxOffice@glasgowfilm.org](mailto:BoxOffice@glasgowfilm.org)  
[www.glasgowfilm.org/home](http://www.glasgowfilm.org/home)

SEP 20TH

**Everyman Cinema**  
Edinburgh St James Quarter,  
Edinburgh, EH1 3AD  
01233 555642  
[www.everymancinema.com](http://www.everymancinema.com)

SEP 21ST

**Short Com Comedy Conference**  
Venue TBC

SEP 22ND AND 23RD

**The Cameo**  
38 Home Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 9LZ  
0871 902 5747

[cameo@picturehouses.co.uk](mailto:cameo@picturehouses.co.uk)  
[www.picturehouses.com/cinema/the-cameo](http://www.picturehouses.com/cinema/the-cameo)

For further programme details, screening schedules and tickets please visit.

**INFO@SHORTCOM.ORG**



**See Me is Scotland's national programme to end mental health stigma and discrimination. We are encouraging people to take action to make a difference. You can be part of that change by joining a movement of thousands of people across Scotland.**

**Tackling stigma and discrimination and addressing the barriers they create must be central to any action to improve mental health. Doing so creates the best conditions for mental wellbeing, preventative action and early intervention, for personalised support, care and treatment and for recovery.**

**Find out more here about our strategy, vision, mission and values, our team, ambassador, and the See Us movement.**

**[Seemescotland.org](https://seemescotland.org)**

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SEPTEMBER  
2023**



**SCREENING THE FUNNIEST FILMS  
SINCE 2011**

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