NITEHAWK SHORTS FESTIVAL

MARCH 1 - 5, 2023
It’s our pleasure to share this year’s program of incredible shorts with you! We’ll have to admit - last year as we were all still adjusting to what moviegoing would look like in the pandemic era, we were slightly intimidated by the idea of hosting the festival. Our team was new, and the festival had been so lovingly helmed by Caryn Coleman for seven years. With her guidance, we put together a festival that we were immensely proud of, and were pleased to find all shows at capacity, with warm feedback from both filmmakers and audience members.

This year, we were delighted to find almost 200 more submissions than last year, which made the selection process all the more difficult. Ultimately we created seven programs, one more than last year, so that we could fit our top tier choices. Nearly everything in these programs comes from submissions, with several first time filmmakers among festival alumni, and at least six world premieres. It was a thrill to see the diverse voices coming through, and as with previous festivals, we are honoring our commitment to represent a variety of backgrounds. Afterall, our festival must reflect the city we love.

We look forward to sharing these films with you, as usual with filmmakers in attendance for Q&As, as well as chances to mingle during our Opening Nite and Closing Nite parties. May you discover new ways to be moved with these enthralling, human, and grippingly effective films.

See you there,
CRISTINA CACIOPPO
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING
NITEHAWK CINEMA
Since 2013, the mission of the Nitehawk Shorts Festival has been to highlight exceptional short-form film and videos by artists and filmmakers. The Festival’s main programming features a range of filmmakers, from emerging film school students to Academy Award nominees, in curated screenings that prioritize conversations between the films over categorical listings.

The Nitehawk Shorts Festival provides an inclusive platform for filmmakers to encourage an engagement with new audiences and to establish a dialogue with the New York film community. Programs consist of short films in all forms (animation, documentary, narrative, non-narrative, artist films, music videos, genre) by local, national, and international filmmakers.
The first program of our 2023 festival includes themes of complex family relationships and intense grappling with bodily urges, in the form of wildly inventive animation, playful documentary, lived-in fiction and narrative fantasy. Seniors seeking romance, brothers balancing familial obligations with the need to move forward, and a body builder obsessing over sugar are just a few of the characters that are sure to move you.

Post-Screening Q&A moderated by Cristina Cacioppo, Nitehawk Cinema
THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND \ 6:45PM \ NITEHAWK CINEMA
WILLIAMSBURG

This year’s NSF edition of our monthly series Music Driven continues to push boundaries musically and visually and is a reminder that we're in a music video golden age. Diverse as always with more group and full band efforts. Sincerity is a real common thread with this year’s selection and we’re grateful to be able to share these with you on the big screen.

Post-Screening Q&A moderated by John Woods, Nitehawk Cinema
If spooky, sensual, and surreal is what you seek, look no further than our Midnite shorts program! This fun, weird, and every once in a while, gross variety pack of shorts shows just how unique Midnite films can be. From atmospheric and unnerving work to wild dark comedies and everything in between, you thankfully don’t have to stay up too late to enjoy what these dynamic shorts have to offer.

Post-Screening Q&A moderated by Desmond Thorne, Nitehawk Cinema
SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH \ 11:00AM \ NITEHAWK CINEMA
WILLIAMSBURG

No matter how you slice it, relationships are tough; whether they are familial, romantic, or even neighborly. This collection of shorts from all over the world tells expansive, funny, and sometimes heartbreaking stories about the nuances and subtleties of various relationships and connections, as well as the importance of communication.

Post-Screening Q&A moderated by Shay Filmore
Even in a familiar situation life unpredictable. Situations affect people in unique ways and can dramatically alter perceptions of what you took for granted. The way we react and find a way forward becomes more urgent in these times. While all of this certainly applies to real life some of the filmmakers in this program have taken the same notions and will challenge the way you might think of subject matter and genres in film.

Post-Screening Q&A moderated by Cristina Cacioppo, Nitehawk Cinema
NoBudge is excited to be a part of the Nitehawk Shorts Festival and co-present a program of new work from a group of emerging indie filmmakers. These nine short films are an inventive mix of narrative and experimental filmmaking, lightly funny at times, occasionally challenging, and always intriguing.

Post-Screening Q&A moderated by Kentucker Audley, NoBudge
Rounding out our festival, the Closing Nite program features actors putting on shows in unexpected ways, lonely folks seeking connection, and approaches to intimacy in a variety of forms. With two first time filmmakers among the ranks and one world premiere, these films include cringe comedy, playfully animated storytelling and the fantasy lives of kids.

Post-Screening Q&A moderated by Desmond Thorne, Nitehawk Cinema
BACON 'N' LACES
STEPHEN MICHAEL SIMON \ U.S. \ 2021 / 19 MIN \ ENGLISH
A single dad of three boys manages a diner. But, there’s more to John than meets the eye.

SIERRA (NWC PREMIERE)
SANDER JOON \ ESTONIA \ 2022 \ 16 MIN
A boy accidentally turns himself into a car tire. Loosely inspired by the director’s childhood.

ÑAÑOS
EMILIO SUBÍA \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 15 MIN \ ENGLISH, SPANISH
In the heart of Corona, Queens, two Ecuadorian siblings are placed at odds with each other when one reveals a sudden urge to leave their home.

MONSIEUR LE BUTCH
JUDE DRY \ U.S. \ 2020 \ 12 MIN \ ENGLISH
Jude wants top surgery, Mom wants an “old lady pass” on the whole pronouns thing.

NO OTHER GODS BUT ME (WORLD PREMIERE)
ALEX SPOTT \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 7 MIN \ ENGLISH
In the midst of a sexual awakening, a religious teen finally musters up the courage to kiss her crush, but will lust will send her straight to h-e-double-hockey-sticks?

PREP (WORLD PREMIERE)
RAYMOND KNUDSEN \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 14 MIN \ ENGLISH
A bodybuilding fever dream fueled by childhood trauma, food porn and acid techno music.
OPENING\NITE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST 7:00PM

THE SINGLES RETREAT (WORLD PREMIERE)
JO FIRESTONE \ U.S. \ 2023 \ 17 MIN \ ENGLISH
Two old friends try to keep an open mind while attending a seniors-only singles retreat in the Poconos.
MUSIC DRIVEN

THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND 6:45PM

BRIGHT EYES’S “MARIANA TRENCH”
ART CAMP \ U.S \ 2020 \ 4 MIN \ ENGLISH
Composed of 2,200 hand-illustrated ink paintings based on original 3D animation and archival, this is a story about imagining that everything could be new.

MITSKI’S “STAY SOFT”
MAEGAN HOUANG \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 4 MIN \ ENGLISH
Inspired by Romanticism and artwork from the Victorian era, violence lurks beneath the surface in this fabricated world.

RUBBLEBUCKET’S “GEOMETRY”
HAOYAN OF AMERICA \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 5 MIN \ ENGLISH
“Geometry” is the final single from Rubblebucket’s new album, EARTH WORSHIP.

BIG THREE (NYC PREMIERE)
JULIAN TURNER \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 18 MIN \ ENGLISH
In the early 1960s, a budding soul music label brings in a savvy group of local teenage musicians to offer feedback and inspiration to its early signees.

SU LEE’S “SUPER HAPPY”
(INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE)
BETTINA CAMPOMANES \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 3 MIN \ ENGLISH, KOREAN, SPANISH
S dreams of a happiness outside the confines of her mind.

HANG OUT 2DAY (EAST COAST PREMIERE)
SAM GRINBERG \ U.S. \ 2022 \ .5 MIN
Wake, Hang, Repeat / An entire suburban summer experience packed into 30 seconds for your viewing and re-viewing pleasure.
GERRY & THE MANDERS’ “HOW DOES ANYBODY SLEEP?”
JIM LOPEZZO \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 3 MIN \ ENGLISH
A music video for the director’s “band”, HDAS? was shot, performed, and edited entirely by the director in his apartment in Jersey City for a budget of $125.

LUSH’S “BIG OAK TREE” (NYC PREMIERE)
ALLISON RADOMSKI \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 5 MIN \ ENGLISH
The official music video for “Big Oak Tree” by Lush.

FREE NOIR PAPILLON (NY PREMIERE)
LEV OMELCHENKO, PHAEMONAE \ U.S. \ 2020 \ 11 MIN \ ENGLISH
A group of misfits, who have recently fixated on being the first rock band to complete a space expedition, debut a new song…and, more importantly, new identity.

FOREVER HONEY’S “SATELLITE”
LIV PRICE \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 5 MIN \ ENGLISH
A group of misfits, who have recently fixated on being the first rock band to complete a space expedition, debut a new song…and, more importantly, new identity.

SECTIONTOO’S “BLACK THING”
WILLIAM BREEN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 3 MIN \ ENGLISH
The official video for sectiontoo’s “Black Thing” off his new album “Heaven Only Knows”.

NYC.LIVE’S “ROMEO + JULIET” (NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE)
JOSEPH ROBERT REDL \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 3 MIN \ ENGLISH
5:29AM - somewhere in nyc.
THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND 6:45PM

RECORD SHOP
MARIO RUBÉN CARRIÓN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 14 MIN \ ENGLISH
Two NYC DJs at a record shop search for a rare salsa record, where a clerk shares their love of Caribbean music. Dynamics begin to surface.

JABOUKIE’S “BBC” (WORLD PREMIERE)
JABOUKIE YOUNG-WHITE \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 3 MIN \ ENGLISH
Jaboukie’s debut single, BBC.

RARE: THE BOY WHO CRIED SWAG
KING SHE \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 5 MIN \ ENGLISH
Our film takes place in the aftermath of BLM and the self-reflective, depressive state of Raphael Briscoe’s brother, Rico Sanche, as he contemplates the tragedy death and summons the will to live.

TOVE LO’S “GRAPEFRUIT”
LISETTE DONKERSLOOT \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 4 MIN \ ENGLISH
In the powerfully personal ‘Grapefruit’, Tove Lo confronts the eating disorder she suffered as a teenager for the first time.

THE SILICON
RICARDO VILLAVICENCIO \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 5 MIN \ ENGLISH
Humans decided to upload their brains to the cloud and leave their bodies behind; a generation of headless ones must learn to live without the mind to begin a new world.
BUZZKILL
PETER AHERN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 5 MIN \ ENGLISH
Tune in to the blind date woes of Rick and Becky.

GUSSY (NY PREMIERE)
CHRISS OSBORN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 18 MIN \ ENGLISH
Aida and her daughter struggle to survive the ravages of a hurricane in Puerto Rico, when they find a strange creature living in their backyard.

LOLLYGAG
TIJ D’OYEN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 10 MIN \ GREEK
A woman recounts her sensual yet macabre childhood memory about the boy next door.

CROW GOD
KATIA KOZIARA \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 16 MIN \ ENGLISH
Kay is surprised when a crow she feeds begins delivering her $100 bills. But what are the crow’s intentions and where is the money coming from?

BELLY OF THE BEAST (WORLD PREMIERE)
STEPHEN SUES \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 2 MIN
A small, ambitious creature in a strange world goes to dangerous lengths to steal a precious item.

IN THE FLESH
DAPHNE GARDNER \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 13 MIN \ ENGLISH
Tracey is just trying to jerk off with her bathtub faucet like normal when some old memories dredge themselves up, the pipes explode with dirty water, and she starts leaking black goo.
MIDNITE
THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND 9:30PM

CANAL (EAST COAST PREMIERE)
WILL RAHILLY \ CANADA \ 2022 \ 16 MIN
On a walk home, a young woman finds herself falling into the dusk of her unconscious through a rift in a river. There she is pursued by masked ghosts who aim to unravel her life.

BETTE
MARY DAUTERMAN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 2 MIN \ ENGLISH
Bette gets a new job.

MICKEY DOGFACE
ZACH FLEMING \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 10 MIN \ ENGLISH
Halloween night, three friends high in a van, and an urban legend surrounding a cult singer’s mysterious death in a fire - what could go wrong?
WOODPECKER (NYC PREMIERE)
KEVIN T. LANDRY \ CANADA \ 2021 \ 20 MIN \ FRENCH
More than a decade after she abandoned him, Émile accepts his mother Fanny’s invitation to come work with her on an isolated logging camp.

HEARTLAND (NYC PREMIERE)
JAHMIL EADY \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 11 MIN \ ENGLISH
A woman attempts to immortalize her dying grandfather using virtual reality technology, but her obsession with documenting drives a wedge between them.

LOST BEYOND THE STARS (EAST COAST PREMIERE)
KAYLA AREND \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 11 MIN \ ENGLISH
On a deep space exploration, Captain Lorena is betrayed by the one person she thought she could trust.

MY DEAR GOD (NYC PREMIERE)
TARA SHEFFER \ U.S. \ 2020 \ 13 MIN \ ENGLISH
June Bell unearths the painful truth of her sister’s overdose and finds the closure she didn’t know she needed.

FOR AN HOUR OF LOVE (PER UN’ORA D’AMORE) (U.S. PREMIERE)
ANDREE LUCINI \ ITALY \ 2023 \ 15 MIN \ ITALIAN
Maria is obsessed with the television industry, but lives a provincial life with her son. A contest provides an opportunity to shine.

DEERWOODS DEATHTRAP
JAMES P. GANNON \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 9 MIN \ ENGLISH
50 years ago Jack and Betty were hit by a train and survived. This is their story.
TROY
MIKE DONAHUE \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 16 MIN \ ENGLISH
Troy has loud sex. Troy has loud sex 24/7. Troy shares a wall with Thea and Charlie. Troy is ruining their lives... Or is he saving them?
D AS IN DO NOT (NY PREMIERE)
RACHEL WOL Ther \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 16 MIN \ ENGLISH
A stand up comedian, Jenny (Joey Ally), deals with her mom’s (Annie Golden) continual hints that she’s planning to end it all.

MOIDA SHE ‘DUNNIT!
TESS PARAS, TYLER DAVIS \ U.S. \ 2021, 2022 \ 3 MIN \ ENGLISH
In this Film Noir spoof, a woman turns herself in for a homicide but has trouble convincing the male detectives that she was, in fact, the murderer.

NIGHT (NY PREMIERE)
AHMAD SALEH \ GERMANY, QATAR, PALESTINE, JORDAN \ 2021 \ 16 MIN \ ARABIC
Night has to trick the mother of a missing child into sleeping in order to save her soul.

BILL & BETTY BUILD A PYRAMID (EAST COAST PREMIERE)
ALEX WRO TEN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 15 MIN \ ENGLISH
Bill and Betty are thrilled to be attending an exclusive work party, but things get weird when their hosts offer them an opportunity to multiply their success.

BALIKBAYAN (WORLD PREMIERE)
REBECCA RAJADNYA \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 18 MIN \ ENGLISH, TAGALOG
A Filipina immigrant grapples with the physical distance from the family she left behind and the cultural disconnect from her daughters in the United States.

REST STOP
CRYSTAL KAYIZA \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 12 MIN \ ENGLISH, LUGANDA
On a bus ride from New York to Oklahoma, Meyi, a young Ugandan American girl, realizes her place in the world through her Mother’s ambitious efforts to reunite their family.
OPÉRATION CARCAJOU (NY PREMIERE)
NICOLAS KRIEF \ CANADA \ 2021 \ 18 MIN \ FRENCH
A police search disturbs the peace and quiet of a suburban family and arouses suspicions in Nicolas about his father Sylvain, a secret man with suspicious activities.
SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH 11:00 AM

SINKING SUN (NY PREMIERE)
KAYO GORDEN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 12 MIN \ ENGLISH
Tamiko goes home to the family farm to deal with the death of her mother and the ghosts of the past.

“I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE WORLD” (NY PREMIERE)
THEODORE SCHAEFER \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 13 MIN \ ENGLISH
A series of surreal vignettes at an American Diner.

CONGRATULATIONS
EMMA HALL-MARTIN \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 10 MIN \ ENGLISH
On the day of her mother’s wedding, 15-year-old Delia grapples with a strange moment that happened the night before with her soon-to-be stepfather.

WITH THE FISHES
LIBE BARER \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 13 MIN \ ENGLISH
Amidst global collapse, a struggling comedian is locked away in her NYC apartment and becomes consumed with paranoid delusions that the mob is trying to kill her.

THE PROMOTION
A.K. ESPADA, PHIL CHENEY \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 4 MIN \ ENGLISH
Two office drones work late into the night, competing for a truly killer promotion.

URIAH PLAYS THE ALIEN (NYC PREMIERE)
STEPHEN WARDELL \ U.S. \ 2018 \ 9 MIN \ ENGLISH
An alien comes to Earth landing in an ordinary American backyard. Or so goes the game of imagination that a group of siblings think up and play out.
SHARLENE’S PROBLEM: (EAST COAST PREMIERE)
YUHAN TSAI \ TAIWAN, U.S. \ 2022 \ 13 MIN \ ENGLISH
Sharlene hopes that moving into an apartment with her boyfriend might restart their exhausting and sexually unsatisfying relationship.

BOWLING 4 EVA
AELFIE OUDGHIRI \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 14 MIN \ ENGLISH
A troubled teen girl spends her time trolling men online and bowling with her grandfather while becoming increasingly medicated by her psychiatrist.

MOULDED (WORLD PREMIERE)
AHMAD BAKRIN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 12 MIN \ ENGLISH
Growing disconnected from friends, family, and the world around her, a young artist finds inspiration in strangers as she slips from reality.
STARFUCKERS
ANTONIO MARZIALE \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 14 MIN \ ENGLISH
An intimate evening between a film director and a companion is disrupted when a familiar face arrives.

THE ACTRESS
STEVE COLLINS \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 14 MIN \ ENGLISH
An actress makes a surprise visit to meet her brother’s new girlfriend and destroy his life.

EYES AND HORNS (NY PREMIERE)
CHAERIN IM \ GERMANY, SOUTH KOREA, U.S. \ 2021 \ 6 MIN
Inspired by Picasso’s ‘Vollard Suite’, the transformation of the over masculine Minotaur leads to the destruction of the boundaries between sexes.

NIKO & ELEANOR
SAM SEVERIN \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 12 MIN \ ENGLISH
Niko moves into the attic of an unknowing woman with Alzheimer’s and the two form a surprising symbiotic relationship.

BRIEFLY GORGEOUS
ELIJAH BARRY \ U.S. \ 2021 \ 14 MIN \ ENGLISH
Mistaking attention for love, and deprived of both, Caleb will distort himself to whatever shape will make him worthy. Tonight, he’ll become unrecognizable.

THE WHOLE WORLD & HIS WIFE (NYC PREMIERE)
TARYN WARD \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 6 MIN \ ENGLISH
A blind husband and a deaf wife are always a happy couple.
CLOSING NITE
SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH  6:45PM

INTIMACY WORKSHOP (NYC PREMIERE)
EDDIE PRUNOSKE \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 10 MIN \ ENGLISH
In a stark church basement, a group of dour men gather for a symposium on the elusive art of human connection.

SPIDER (WORLD PREMIERE)
MARCELA BIVEN \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 8 MIN \ ENGLISH
A young mother struggles with her mother’s death as her daughter struggles to share her mother’s love with an incoming baby.

NINETY-FIVE SENSES
JERUSHA HESS, JARED HESS \ U.S. \ 2022 \ 13 MIN \ ENGLISH
An ode to the five senses delivered by a death-row inmate (Tim Blake Nelson) with little time left to enjoy them.
PARTY INFO

OPENING NITE \ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 \ 8:30-11:30PM
NITEHAWK PROSPECT PARK
TREES LOUNGE BAR

CLOSING NITE \ AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS
SUNDAY, MARCH 5 \ 8:30-11:30PM
NITEHAWK PROSPECT PARK
TREES LOUNGE BAR

Featuring drinks from:

CAMPARI

TREES LOUNGE
PRIZES

FESTIVAL JURY WINNER
- Post-production sound services from HEARD CITY ($16k value)
- Post-production coloring services from NICE SHOES ($20k value)
- One year Artist Membership from the VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS, New York ($200 value)

FESTIVAL JURY RUNNER-UP
- Post-production coloring services from IRVING HARVEY ($20k value)
- One year Artist Membership from the VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS, New York ($200 value)

MIDNITE PRIZE
- Boris FX Bundle (featuring Boris FX Sapphire, Boris FX Continuum, Boris FX Mocha Pro) one-year subscription from BORIS FX ($1195 value)
- One year Artist Membership from the VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS, New York ($200 value)

MUSIC DRIVEN PRIZE
- Prize package featuring GS1000x headphones and phono cartridge from GRADO LABS ($1195 value)
- Boris FX Bundle (featuring Boris FX Sapphire, Boris FX Continuum, Boris FX Mocha Pro) one-year subscription from BORIS FX ($1195 value)
- One year Artist Membership from the VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS, New York ($200 value)

FUTURE OF FILM IS FEMALE PRIZE
- $250 + inclusion in the FOFIF screening series

FIRST TIME FILMMAKER AWARD
- Training certificate good towards any in-person educational workshops or classes ($500 value) + rental certificate good towards any equipment rental package ($500 value) from ABELCINE
- $500 awarded to a selected debut short film by a filmmaker screening in NSF22
- One year Artist Membership from the VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS, New York ($200 value)

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS
- Pro-Accounts from VIMEO (eligible during Opening Nite, Midnite, Music Driven, Matinee One, Matinee Two, and Closing Nite screenings – $199 value each).
PRIZE SPONSORS:

JURY:

CRISTINA CACIOPPO
JOHN WOODS
DESMOND THORNE
MONICA CASTILLO
MATT GRADY
AMBER SCHAEFER
JESSICA PIMENTEL
ALEX THREADGOLD

COMMITTED TO GENDER PARITY, WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUT OF THE 65 FILMS IN THIS YEAR’S FESTIVAL, 50% ARE DIRECTED BY WOMEN AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE.

REPRESENTATION MATTERS!