



Blackbird
FILM FEST

2016
APRIL 22-24
SUNY CORTLAND

Welcome to the 2016 Blackbird Film Festival,

This year's festival features 97 films from around the world with genres ranging from social justice documentaries, entertaining animations, heartfelt narratives, Upstate New York creations, local student productions and much more.

The 2016 Blackbird Film Festival brings together a selection of engaging films that tell a variety of stories and address important issues in today's ever changing world. Films like Caley MacLennan's *Noon Gun* confronts the bias treatment of African American men in America while documentary filmmaker Yasmin Mistry presents *My Identity* - the story of a young Native American woman who converts to Islam in hopes of finding some structure in a life where she has none. Other films include the comedic tale of a man who travels back in time to figure out where his life went wrong in Josh Hope's *The Life and Death of an Unhappily Married Man*, Chris Foito's environmental documentary, *The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid*, which focuses on the devastating effects of an invasive species and the loss of an ecosystem, and Suez Taylor's documentary, *Food + Water | Earth*, which follows Winona LaDuke as she defends her community from a series of oil pipelines threatening their native food supply. In the narrative short category, Jonathan Chekroune shares *Sasha*, a beautiful film that tells the story of a Russian woman with an expired visa who struggles with deportation while Nada Srjepanovic's film, *Katcha's Unexpectedly Long Journey to the Beach*, presents a similar story of immigration from the opposite perspective. Other films in this category include Don Downie's *Pepper and The Salt Sea*, which reminds us to hold onto our dreams at all costs, Max Machado's *Switch* in which we discover an alternative way to travel through space, Bradly Silvius' *Pride & Poo* in which small problems escalate very quickly for one guy having a seemingly good day. Looking for some laughs, make sure to catch Katie Maguire's webseries, *LI Divas*, Andrew Rein's *The Small Time*, and Elisabeth Ness' *Redheads Anonymous*. Also don't forget about Blackbird's selection of phenomenal local films such as Joe Bellavia's short comedy, *Long John*, Charles Fasano's intriguing animation, *Teddy's Bowling Alley*, Avtandil Chachibaia's *The Bear*, John Hanley's *A Feudal Debate*, and Thunyahnontha Kaewbaidhoon's *Matchless*.

Blackbird's mission is simple – bring great films to good people.
Our only hope is that you enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sam Avery
Festival Director

Blackbird would like to
THANK OUR HOST & SPONSORS

SUNY
Cortland

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2016 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

5pm **Filmmaker Check In**
Sperry Center, Atrium

6pm **Welcome Ceremony**
Sperry Center, RM 106

7pm **BLOCK A - SHORTS**
Sperry Center, RM 106
*Michi, Moments, Ambivalence, Man of God, Another Girl,
Take Me Back, A Beautiful Silence, Magic Berry Crunch,
The Letter, Rien*

9pm **Kick Off Party / Performance by BIG FOOT**
BRU 64 | 64 Main St. Cortland, NY
10% Discount on Food & Drink with Blackbird Ticket!

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

- 9am** **Festival Breakfast Buffet (\$7 per person)**
Community Restaurant | 10 Main St. Cortand, NY
- 11am** **BLOCK B - INTERNATIONAL SHORTS**
Sperry Center, RM 307
The Home, Circles, Colour of Forgiveness, Omessa, Agrinouli, The Little Things, The Groundskeeper, The Story of Gin, One Day in July, White Shoes
- 11am** **BLOCK C - DOCUMENTARY SHORTS / FEATURE**
Sperry Center, RM 308
A Strong Woman, I live in life, Know Your Freedom
- 1pm** **BLOCK D - SHORTS**
Sperry Center, RM 307
Balloon Ride, Fish, Noise & Confusion, Static, Anna's Nova, The Key to Success, Pepper and the Salt Sea, Third
- 1pm** **BLOCK E - DOCUMENTARY SHORTS / FEATURE**
Sperry Center, RM 308
Fisher and the Tarn, Food + Water | Earth, Ageless Friends
- 3pm** **BLOCK F - NOON GUN / WORKSHOP**
Sperry Center, RM 307
*Noon Gun Screening and Workshop by Caley MacLennan
"Using Social Networks to Promote Your Film"*
- 7pm** **BLOCK G - SHORTS**
Sperry Center, RM 308
Imprison, Hotdog, Invenimus in Tenebris, The Blue & The Beyond, Sasha, Morose, Bound for Greatness, Hold Back, Matchless
- 7pm** **BLOCK H - SHORTS**
Sperry Center, RM 307
Katcha's Unexpectedly Long Journey to the Beach, Long John, I ... You, Nocturnal Butterfly, Bitch, Popcorn & Blood, Switch, Point of Separation, Dream Another Life, The Cruelty of Beautiful, Who Was That?, Teddy's Bowling Alley, Our Parent's Lied
- 9pm** **BLOCK I - FEATURE PRESENTATION**
Sperry Center, RM 106
Retribution, The Life and Death of an Unhappily Married Man

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

- 10am** **BLOCK J - DOCUMENTARY SHORTS / FEATURE**
Sperry Center, RM 308
Binny Road, The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, The 2 Week Muzzle Up
- 10am** **BLOCK K - EXPERIMENTAL FEATURE**
Sperry Center, RM 307
Three The Movie
- 12pm** **BLOCK L - SHORTS**
Sperry Center, RM 308
Elijah, Poussiere D'Ange, Backstage Pass, Van Gogh Tosses a Salad, Last Words, Oracle, Case #311, Once Upon A Dream, Boing!, Watch Your Thoughts, 2015 - In A Minute, Karmic, A Feudal Debate
- 12pm** **BLOCK M - SHORTS**
Sperry Center, RM 307
The Great Silence, Pride & Poo, Soul Breaker, Indigo, The Duke, The Talk in the Night, Black and White Dreaming, The Small Time, The Master Key, Redheads Anonymous, Abandoned, Dime Crimes #34,
- 2pm** **BLOCK N - DOCUMENTARY FEATURE**
Sperry Center, RM 307
My Identity, Road to Hope
- 2pm** **BLOCK O - SHORTS**
Sperry Center, RM 308
The Routine, Perspective, Lonely, The Bear, Li Divas, Red, Sty, Plan B, Lost and Found, Racoon Trouble, Edge of the Woods, Resident Assistant Pharmacist, Moustique
- 4pm** **BLOCK P - FEELING WANTED / WORKSHOP**
Sperry Center, RM 307
*Feeling Wanted Screening and Workshop by Yasmin Mistry
"Getting Started With Your First Documentary Film"*
- 6pm** **AWARD CEREMONY**
Sperry Center, RM 106

Blackbird 2016
INTERNATIONAL FILM FEST

2016 BLACKBIRD FILM CATALOG

2015 - In A Minute

Directed by Nikita Deshpande

The major events of 2015 in one purely visual minute. INDIA. (BLOCK L)

A Beautiful Silence

Directed by Adam Renkovich

The story of a young woman as she struggles with faith and doubt. (BLOCK A)

A Feudal Debate

Directed by John Hanley

Workin it out - with swords. (BLOCK L)

Man of God

Directed by Matthew Herbertz

A man of faith seeks refuge with a small family and must choose between faith and life. (BLOCK A)

A Point of Separation

Directed by Siena Pinney

An invisible photographer tries to connect with her subjects through the lens of her camera. (BLOCK H)

A Strong Woman

Directed by Ryan Anderson

A documentary that follows an aging woman and exposes everyday truths about Malaysia. GERMANY. (BLOCK C)

Ageless Friends

Directed by Marijn Poels

After adopting the grave at the Military Cemetery in Margraten, Maarten decides to learn everything he can about this WWII soldier. GERMANY. (BLOCK E)

Agrioui

Directed by Alexis Chaviaras

A young racehorse finds her courage. CYPRUS. (BLOCK B)

Ambivalence

Directed by Maxime Lahousse

Nora doesn't realize that her cheerful nature might have a very dark edge. BELGIUM. (BLOCK A)

Anna's Nova

Directed by Tyler Michael James

A girl's life flashes before her eyes as solar flares crash into the Earth. (BLOCK D)

Another Girl

Directed by Gagandeep Kalirai

A glimpse at how tradition, marriage and expectations affect a community, from dowry deaths to female infanticide. (BLOCK A)

Backstage Pass

Directed by Adam Watts

10 minutes before going on stage, Rockstar Harvey Diamond must choose between his family and his career. UK (BLOCK L)

Balloon Ride

Directed by Evan Hughes

A boy dreams of escaping with his mother, only to wake up to a tragic reality. AUSTRALIA. (BLOCK D)

Binny Road

Directed by Miles Kredich

A fast-paced documentary showcasing how Indo Jax Surf Charities impacts orphaned girls. (BLOCK J)

Bitch, Popcorn & Blood

Directed by Fabio Soares

A bored waitress decides to turn her life around when two fishy strangers show up in the bar. FRANCE (BLOCK H)

Black and White Dreaming

Directed by Giulia Gandini

A young girl is captured in a short but intense moment of reflection about the caducity of life. UK. (BLOCK M)

Boing!

Directed by Emma Brett-Phare

An animated short about the joy of bouncing. UK. (BLOCK L)

Bound for Greatness

Directed by James Gadd

Darren, who lives with Aspergers, has gone throughout his life not truly connecting with anyone - until now.

(BLOCK G)

Case #311

Directed by Jennifer Nangle

Often times the people around us don't really see what our inner demons do.

(BLOCK L)

Circles

Directed by Leon Lopez

Relationship hopping Simon is forced to face his commitment issues head on. UK.

(BLOCK B)

Colour of Forgiveness

Directed by Dawid Gral

The story of couple on life turns.

IRELAND. (BLOCK B)

Dime Crimes #34

Directed by Ed Hellman

A homebody with a stash of pulp fiction sees a gun hidden in the waistband of her charming new tenant and debates joining him in a life of adventure. (BLOCK M)

Dreams of Another Life

Directed by Luiz Malaman

Two lives that dramatically cross other paths repeatedly. (BLOCK H)

Edge of the Woods

Directed by Jo Chiang

Four friends try to make it out of the city and past the edge of the woods.

(BLOCK O)

Elijah

Directed by Dillard Brown

A young slave is subjected to the cruel world around him. (BLOCK L)

Feeling Wanted

Directed by Yasmin Mistry

With a dad incarcerated for murder, a mom on drugs & a childhood in foster care, Charell knew it was time to break the cycle. (BLOCK P)

Fish

Directed by Andrew Ruiz

A young boy tries to smuggle his pet Betta fish past airport security.

(BLOCK D)

Fisher of the Tarn

Directed by Pascal Gaubert

Fly fishing is an art and it is difficult.

FRANCE. (BLOCK E)

Food + Water | Earth

Directed by Suez Taylor

Winona LaDuke defends her community from a series of oil pipelines threatening their native food supply. (BLOCK E)

Hold Back

Directed by Steffen Geypens

Never fall in love with your best friend's girlfriend... BELGIUM. (BLOCK G)

Hot Dog

Directed by Anaëlle Morf

Tanja tries to get unconditional love from her old landlady, who only has eyes for her dog. SWITZERLAND. (BLOCK G)

I ... You

Directed by Matt Harris-Freeth

A very short film about turning points in a relationship. UK. (BLOCK H)

I live in life

Directed by Lars Fuchs

Lars gets a last chance to understand his mother before Alzheimers takes hold. (BLOCK C)

Imprison

Directed by Emma Brett-Phare

Whales should not be kept in fishbowls. UK. (BLOCK G)

Indigo

Directed by Paul Jerndal

Two young, lost souls in New York City share a common struggle. SWEDEN. (BLOCK M)

Invenimus in Tenebris

Directed by Persephonie Rose

Auri must choose between her love of control and the benefits of submission. (BLOCK G)

Karmic

Directed by Scarlet Sheppard

Margot and Josie offer up their couch to an eccentric and newly homeless yoga instructor. (BLOCK L)

Know Your Freedom

Directed by Supriya Srinivas

UAE sportswomen must negotiate a web of social taboos. UAE. (BLOCK C)

Katcha's Unexpectedly Long Journey to the Beach

Directed by Nada Stjepanovic

Facing deportation, Katcha is forced to marry her janitor. (BLOCK H)

Last Words

Directed by Paul Kelly

Miss Larson tries to reach an understanding / connection by weaving her last words together. (BLOCK L)

Li Divas

Directed by Katie Maguire

A mockumentary that follows the lives of five extraordinary women living and thriving on Long Island. (BLOCK O)

Lonely

Directed by Matthew Monelli

Sometimes, you gotta pretend everything's okay. (BLOCK O)

Long John

Directed by Joe Bellavia

During a frigid winter, John discovers the warmth and beauty of long underwear and the cost of love. (BLOCK H)

Matchless

Directed by T. Kaewbaidhoon

It's easy to trust people by their appearances. (BLOCK G)

Michi

Directed by Kaho Yoshida

Michi journeys into a brightly-coloured world filled with adventure and mysterious creatures. CANADA. (BLOCK A)

Moments

Directed by Jean-Luc Julien

A story of love and loss and the enduring moments left behind. (BLOCK A)

Morose

Directed by Daniel Olivas

A lonely woman becomes embraced by a fantastic garden. (BLOCK G)

Moustique

Directed by Robin Berthier

Against all odds, he will lead his crusade towards eradicating all Mosquitoes! (BLOCK O)

My Identity

Directed by Yasmin Mistry

A young Native-American girl, converts to Islam in hopes of finding structure in a life where it never existed. (BLOCK N)

Nocturnal Butterfly

Directed by Annika Dahlsten

The journey of a butterfly becomes a melancholic metaphor of a human life. FINLAND. (BLOCK H)

Noise & Confusion

Directed by Julian James Leo

A thriller of sound. FRANCE. (BLOCK D)

Noon Gun

Directed by Caley MacLennan

A non-linear story of one dramatic incident experienced by several characters. CANADA. (BLOCK F)

Omessa

Directed by Charlène Favier

For Anna, it's the moment to return in Corsica, to face her history, her inheritance, her father. FRANCE. (BLOCK B)

Once upon a dream

Directed by Anthony Nion

He is convinced she's the girl he has been dreaming of. BELGIUM. (BLOCK L)

One Day In July

Directed by Hermes Mangialardo

One children plays with sand on a beach, but a soldier comes with his gun. ITALY. (BLOCK B)

Oracle

Directed by Christopher Lange

A young woman's reckoning leads to haunting questions of love, death, and animal magic. (BLOCK L)

Our Parents Lied

Directed by Jon Sanhueza

In search of a cure for the zombie epidemic, abused siblings drive cross-country with their undead mother in the trunk. (BLOCK H)

Pepper and The Salt Sea

Directed by Don Downie

A photographer tries to forget that she ever loved the sea. (BLOCK D)

Perspective

Directed by Riyadh Haque

A single viewpoint of a relationship. UK. (BLOCK O)

Plan B

Directed by Bryan Murphy

A not so Romantic Comedy about a young man and a pregnancy scare. (BLOCK O)

Poussiere D'Ange

Directed by Laurent Everaets

When your reality appears to be unacceptable. CANADA. (BLOCK L)

Pride & Poo

Directed by Bradley Silvius

When a lot of little things seem to disrupt your perfect day. (BLOCK M)

Raccoon Trouble

Directed by C.A. MacFinn

A short animation. (BLOCK O)

Red

Directed by Catherine Gubernick

A short film. (BLOCK O)

Redheads Anonymous

Directed by Elisabeth Ness

To win a Redhead Scholarship, Molly and her three ginger pals must find out: what does it mean to be a redhead?
(BLOCK M)

Rien

Directed by Riyadh Haque

A young girl recounts her failings with an ex-lover. UK. (BLOCK A)

Road to Hope

Directed by Mike Wargo

No Parents. No Future. No Hope. Stranded in Sub-Saharan Africa - finally there is hope. (BLOCK N)

Sasha

Directed by Jonathan Chekroune

The story of a young Russian woman living in New York City on an expired visa. (BLOCK G)

Soul Breaker

Directed by Judson Vaughan

A strange tale of love, lust, deceit and karmic retribution. UK. (BLOCK M)

Static

Directed by Nicholas Beaubien

When Lara pushes Arthur over the edge the truth is revealed. (BLOCK D)

Sty

Directed by Árpád Hermán

The deadbeat Endre tried to earn money as pig sticker. FRANCE. (BLOCK O)

Switch

Directed by Max Machado

He turns the lamp off, only to turn it back on and find himself in another room. CANADA. (BLOCK H)

Take Me Back

Directed by Kaitclyn Leonard

A mini documentary about a six year old. (BLOCK A)

Teddy's Bowling Alley

Directed by Charles Fasano

Bobby Charles remembers his glory days at a dilapidated bowling alley.
(BLOCK H)

The 2 Week Muzzle Up Challenge

Directed by Freyja Kristinsdottir

A woman struggles to get her dog to behave. DENMARK. (BLOCK J)

The Bear

Directed by Avtandil Chachibaia

A moral fable about a revenge-seeking bear who nobly forgives the humans for their wrongdoings. (BLOCK O)

The Blue & The Beyond

Directed by Youri Dekker

Charlie searches to find someone like him in a world where he is different.
(BLOCK G)

The Cruelty of Beauty

Directed by Simon Fox

The positive and negative ways in which people view models and modelling.
(BLOCK H)

The Duke: Based on the Memoir “I’m

The Duke” by J.P. Duke

Directed by Max Barbakow

Mired in a concussed haze, an ex-NFLer struggles to adjust to life off the field during Super Bowl Sunday. (BLOCK M)

The Great Silence

Directed by Shuren Hao

An animation about the loneliness of being human. (BLOCK M)

The Groundskeeper

A desperately lonely Groundskeeper makes new friends. GERMANY (BLOCK B)

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Directed by Chris Foito

A documentary about the devastating effects of an invasive species and the loss of an ecosystem. (BLOCK J)

The Home

Directed by Anastasia Dyakova

Home is where you make it..But how long will it last? AUSTRALIA. (BLOCK B)

The Letter

Directed by Yifan Xiao

When an American soldier during WW2 is captured by a young German soldier, he is offered a unique chance to escape. (BLOCK A)

The Life and Death of an Unhappily Married Man

Directed by Josh Hope

A man disillusioned with his failing marriage and dead end career abruptly decides to visit his past to figure out where it all went wrong. (BLOCK I)

The Little Things

Directed by Morton Haslerud

He relives the first encounter with the love of his life. NORWAY. (BLOCK B)

The Routine

Directed by Roman Gubin

He is ready for just another workday.... CANADA. (BLOCK O)

The Small Time

Directed by Andrew Rein

Ben Bernstein dredges the bottom-of-the-barrel trying to find an author who can be the next big thing. (BLOCK M)

The Story of Gin

Directed by Ailbhe Cantwell

Animation. IRELAND. (BLOCK B)

The Talk In The Night

Directed by Christian Hanna

After committing a heinous crime, a man has an encounter with the uncanny. (BLOCK M)

Three The Movie

Directed by Elisabetta Minen

The life of three boys and the yearning for happiness. ITALY. (BLOCK K)

Van Gogh Tosses A Salad

Directed by Caitlin Davis

A short film. (BLOCK L)

Watch Your Thoughts

Directed by Marcin Gizycki

Laozi’s saying emerges from a cloud of words. (BLOCK L)

White Shoe

Directed by Victor Amaro

Domestic chores and childhood dreams. BRAZIL. (BLOCK B)

Meet the Crew

Festival Director Sam Avery
Senior Submission Manager Mitchell Ensmann
Festival Outreach Supervisor Julie Ficarra

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Kate Huey

Sponsorship Coordinators Sabrina Johnson
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Blackbird
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