

36TH CONNECTICUT LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL



Out
Film
CT

October 6–15, 2023

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Connecticut
LGBTQ Film
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Art is more than aesthetics

It's also a way to embrace and celebrate the world around us so we can build a more vibrant society.



travelers.com/community

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Welcome!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 36th Annual Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival! This year has been exciting and thrilling for both the festival and me. It is my first year in a position of Co-Director and President, and I am honored and humbled by this opportunity! I am delighted you could join us this year as we celebrate over three and a half decades of showcasing the best in LGBTQ cinema.

This festival provides a unique opportunity for our community to come together through the power of film. This year we decided to highlight Connecticut and feature films from Connecticut filmmakers in two programs. These films will be available for free — virtually and in person!

The stories on screen reflect the diversity of queer experiences - our struggles, joys, dreams, and more. In a time of continued uncertainty, gathering to appreciate these stories is more important now than ever.

I want to thank our dedicated Festival Committee for their hard work curating this year's program. We continue to push boundaries and expand our audience reach through participation in state-wide community events. My hope is that you find your own lives reflected in these films, and leave feeling empowered, entertained, and connected.

The LGBTQ community's journey is one of resilience. For over 35 years, this Festival has honored that legacy by amplifying queer voices past, present, and future. Events like this renew my spirit and remind me that we are not alone. Your support keeps this cherished tradition alive.

Thank you for celebrating with us and being part of our community. I can't wait to see you at the movies!

In Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Yurieva', written in a cursive style.

Marina Yurieva, Co-Director and President

The Trinity College
Queer Resource Center and
Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion are
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year of film, culture, and community with
the CT LGBTQ Film Festival.



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2023 Festival Venues

CINESTUDIO

Primary theater for the film festival. All in-person screenings EXCEPT October 14th.

Events include: Opening Night Party and Centerpiece Reception

**Trinity College,
300 Summit Street,
Hartford, CT**

Tel: 860-297-2463

www.cinestudio.org

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Events: No Place Like Home:

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Glitter & Doom (October 14 at 7 pm),

and Closing Night Party.

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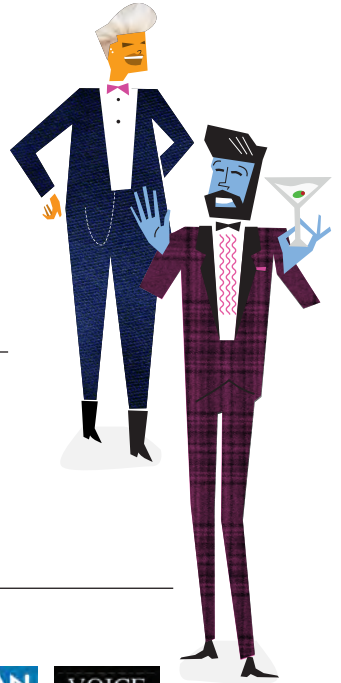


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Egghead & Twinkie



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 7 PM

**OPENING FEATURE
IN-PERSON ONLY @ CINESTUDIO**

Q & A WITH FILMMAKERS + AFTER PARTY

DIR. SARAH KAMBE HOLLAND. 2023. 87 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Forget everything you think you know about road trip and coming of age stories and just enjoy this creative and funny mashup of the two genres as the story unfolds. Twinkie is a young lesbian-in-training who cons her sweet BBF Egghead to accompany her to Dallas for a massive blow-out lesbian party where she hopes to hook up with the object of her desire. As they say, hijinks ensue as the journey becomes an epic adventure filled with hilarious scenarios and moments of self-discovery. Very sweet and full of heart.

PRESENTED BY



OPENING SHORT



Why Not Both

DIR. MANSOOR NOOR. 2022. 6 MIN. AUSTRALIA, IN ENGLISH.

A bisexual man's strict dating criteria backfire when he finds himself dating two people who seem very similar. In fact, too similar.



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Holding Space for Each Other: New London's LGBTQ+ Community



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 • 3 PM



IN-PERSON @ CINESTUDIO
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 8 - 22

Q & A WITH FILMMAKERS

DIR. CONSTANCE KRISTOFIK. 2023. 93 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

WORLD PREMIERE

While many people have fond memories of summer excursions to Ocean Beach Park, this documentary takes a look at another side of New London – the rich history of the LGBTQ community. From early gay bars, to the impact of the AIDS/HIV epidemic, and everything in between and beyond, the film explores the intersectionality of race, gender, sexuality and religion, and other aspects of queer life from 1960 to the present day, with a special focus on notable queer civil rights activist Bayard Rustin.

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OPENING SHORT



Happy BirthGay

DIR. NIV MANZUR. 2023. 16 MIN. ISRAEL, IN HEBREW.

A well-meaning mom throws her son a grandiose surprise birthday party to celebrate one year since he came out of the closet. What could possibly go wrong?



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Go ahead, scan me.

So Damn Easy Going



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 • 7 PM

IN-PERSON ONLY @ CINESTUDIO

DIR. CHRISTOFFER SANDLER. 2022. 91 MIN. SWEDEN, IN SWEDISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Joanna's mind is like a flashing amusement park at peak season. She desperately needs her ADHD meds to keep her buzzy brain in order, but the family's money has run out and she has to get very creative. Amidst all of this chaos, she becomes enthralled with a new classmate, the charming and confident Audrey. Now Joanna has an exploding heart as well as a bursting mind and has to figure it all out. This is not your typical teen drama!

OPENING SHORT



Marimacha

DIR. CAMI CRUZ THOMAS. 2022. 10 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

When a compromising photo outs the daughter of two conservative Black/Afro-Panamanians, they must finally confront the elephant in the room.

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The Lost Boys



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 • 9:30 PM

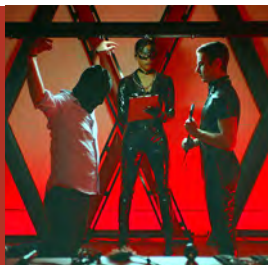


IN-PERSON @ CINESTUDIO
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 8 - 22

DIR. ZENO GRATON. 2023. 88 MIN. BELGIUM/FRANCE, IN FRENCH.

Joe is about to be released from a youth detention center and is preparing for the freedom that he so desperately craves. But then William arrives and it's a case of love at first sight. Joe is conflicted, having to choose between a second chance at life on the outside or staying behind bars with William. Will Joe choose freedom or passion? When love blooms in a desperate place, is that enough to make it a paradise? One critic has called this "a surprisingly romantic film in every aspect."

OPENING SHORT



Daddy Issues

DIR. MATT CAMPANELLA & STEPHANIE CHLOÉ HEPNER.
2023. 5 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

A young dominatrix-in-training entertains an unexpected client.

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1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 • 3 PM

IN-PERSON ONLY @ CINESTUDIO

DIR. ROCKY ROGGIO. 2022. 91 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

What if the word “homosexual” was never meant to be in the Bible? That’s the premise of this fascinating documentary that reveals an amazing surprise, discovered by a gay seminary scholar and a straight activist. Modern-day homophobia within the conservative Christian church is largely the result of a mistranslation dating to 1946. Director Rocky Roggio uses her own complicated history as the queer daughter of a minister as a point of departure for this personal investigation.

OPENING SHORT

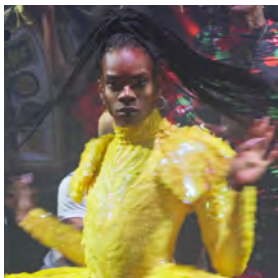


There are Things to Do

DIR. MIKE SYERS. 2023. 18 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Urvashi Vaid was an outspoken immigrant, lesbian and woman of color. She was also an LGBTQ superhero who helped shape the modern day gay rights movement. Her longtime partner Kate Clinton and others reflect on her life and work.

We Are Family: TRANS/NONBINARY SHORTS



MnM

DIR. TWIGGY PUCCI GARÇON. 2023. 15 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

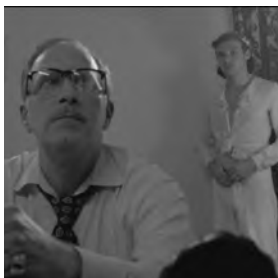
Two chosen sisters in the ballroom community celebrate their siblinghood in this joyful film depicting the power and beauty of being nonbinary.



Apayauq

DIR. ZEPPELIN ZEERIP. 2022. 16 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Apayauq Reitan is on a journey to become the first out transgender woman to complete Alaska's legendary Iditarod sled dog race.

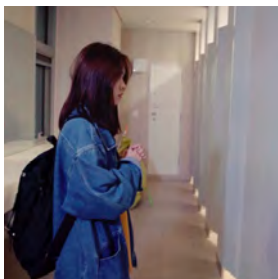


The World Is Lit By Lightning

DIR. GREG RODERICK. 2022. 19 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

A chance barroom meeting between a storied playwright and an ambiguously gendered young person in 1940s New Orleans leads to one of the 20th century's greatest theatrical masterpieces.



The Person Behind the Door

DIR. ANNA ALICIA PAZDERSKI. 2022. 7 MIN.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, IN KOREAN.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

A female college student enters the women's bathroom and hears what she thinks is a man's voice. She calls the police and blocks the door of the bathroom stall, trapping a transgender person inside.

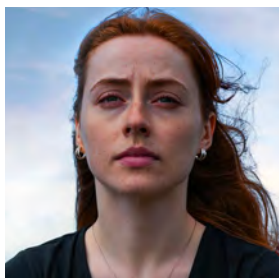
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 • 7 PM



IN-PERSON @ CINESTUDIO
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 6-22

Powerful and affirming stories about the experiences of transgender and non-binary people, told with honesty, integrity and heart.

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Stone

DIR. JAKE GRAF. 2023. 13 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

When Tess learns of her estranged father's death, she travels to the funeral hoping for nothing more than some closure. Then she discovers that her father was a transgender woman and starts to wonder what else has been kept from her.

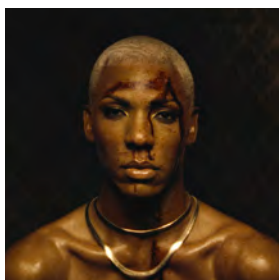


Honey & Milk

DIR. DASH DONATO. 2022. 15 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

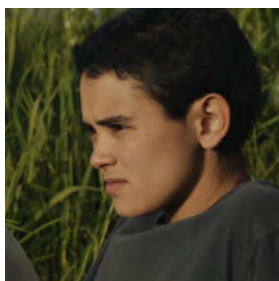
On the last night of their romantic partnership, Grayson and Alice experiment with ways of dismantling Grayson's socialized masculinity and reconciling with their imminent farewell.



Fear of Flying

DIR. MYKHAILO DOLGIN. 2023. 5 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

What is it like to live in the body of a transgender person? This emotional and uplifting exploration of the transgender experience highlights the resilience and strength of individuals who face discrimination and abuse.



The Dalles

DIR. ANGALIS FIELD. 2022. 13 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Cam is used to seeing the same customers while working at his family's cherry stand. After a handsome cyclist passes through and asks for directions to a local cruising site, he takes it as an invitation to follow.



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CT

Boy Oh Boy: GAY SHORTS



Pipes

DIR. KILIAN FEUSI, JESSICA MEIER, SUJANTH RAVICHANDRAN.
2022. 4 MIN. SWITZERLAND, NO DIALOGUE.

Bob the plumber has been hired to fix a broken pipe. Much to his surprise, the job is in a gay fetish club. Just an ordinary day on the job!



TROY

DIR. MIKE DONAHUE. 2022. 16 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Troy has lots of sex. Loud sex, 24-7. And he shares a wall with his lesbian neighbors, Thea and Charlie. Troy is ruining their lives. Or maybe he's saving them?



Fire at the Lake

DIR. PIERRE MENAHEM. 2022. 15 MIN. FRANCE, IN FRENCH.
EAST COAST PREMIERE

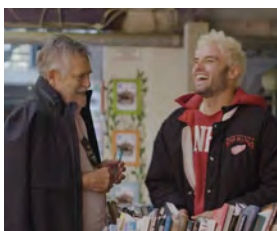
Félix returns from the pastures where he's guarding his cows and finds that his elderly mother has died in her bed. In a moment of confusion and grief, he dashes off to meet a young man who just contacted him on a dating app.



ShirtTugger

DIR. NOAH HIMMELSTEIN. 2021. 9 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

After another nocturnal eating binge, Max spends the next day dodging "food noise" so that he can continue to hide his dark secret from his boyfriend.



Boyfriend

DIR. ROBERTO NASCIMENTO. 2021. 20 MIN.
NEW ZEALAND, IN ENGLISH.

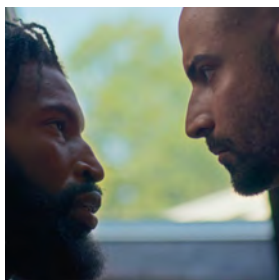
Levi is your perfect boyfriend. Bob is looking for new experiences. Seems like a great match, right?

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 • 7 PM



IN-PERSON @ CINESTUDIO
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 6-22

Dating apps, nocturnal binges, fetish clubs, broken elevators, perfect and not-so-perfect boyfriends, and wartime love. What's up with the boys this year?



Safe Word

DIR. CHRISTOPHER CUNETTO. 2022. 15 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

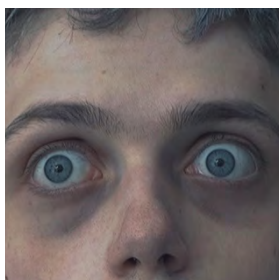
Cesar is an emotionally stunted masochist who must confront his self-loathing after his dom, Bear, reinterprets the rules of their game. Sometimes, love hurts.



The Letter Men

DIR. ANDY VALLENTINE. 2021. 9 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Based on the largest collection of queer love letters from WWII, this is the true story of two gay men desperately in love but torn apart by war.



Rare Disease

DIR. HOANG-VU NGUYEN. 2022. 10 MIN. VIETNAM, IN ENGLISH.

After a life-threatening emergency, Rocky is diagnosed with a rare disease that causes him to choke if he utters more than 280 characters in a day. When he goes on a hot date, he discovers he isn't the only one with issues.



Shafted

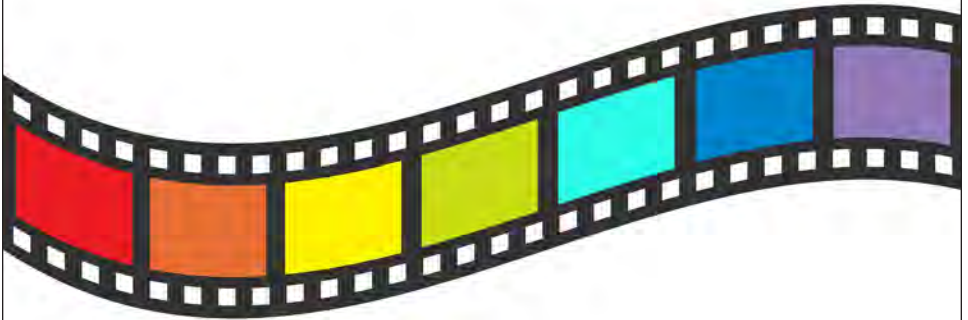
DIR. EMERSON COLLINS, DEL SHORES. 2023. 20 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

What do you do when you're alone in an elevator with your gym crush? Joel's floor is fast approaching, so he throws caution to the wind and asks the guy out. Rafi pauses a second too long. And then the elevator comes to a sudden halt. #Awkward!



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*Counsel and Shipman's
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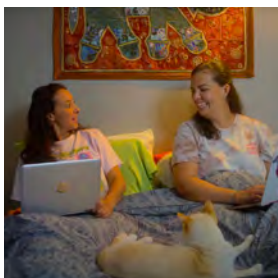
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Six Day Fiancée

DIR. ROLAND WILLIAM BOYDEN, KATRINA GUZMÁN, MALENA GORDO. 2022. 12 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Imagine you have just six days to pull off your own wedding, from the moment it first becomes an idea until the vows and rings are exchanged. And if you fail, you'll be separated forever. What are you waiting for? Get started!



We're Not Who We Used To Be Anymore

DIR. PATRÍCIA SÁ. 2022. 20 MIN. BRAZIL, IN PORTUGUESE.

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

As they empty their apartment where they once lived together, Claudia and Dani expose their pain, feelings and the certainties that led them into the end.



Requiem

DIR. EMMA GILBERTSON. 2021. 25 MIN. UK, IN ENGLISH.

Set in 1605 when witches are being burned alive, young Evelyn engages in a game of cat and mouse with her minister father so that she can be with the woman she loves.



The Birth of a Beautiful Butch

DIR. ANDI OBARSKI. 2021. 3 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

It's high school picture day and Alex feels stuck with an appearance that doesn't quite fit. But then she makes some bold fashion choices that express who she really is.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10 • 7 PM



IN-PERSON @ CINESTUDIO
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 6 - 22

From witches to baby butches, from wedding planning to breaking up, these are the extraordinary stories of famous women or just your average Céline or Mary.



Woman Meets Girl

DIR. MURRY PEETERS. 2022. 17 MIN. CANADA, IN ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Over a vodka-fueled game of *Never Have I Ever*, Annabelle, a 40-something virgin, and Tessie, an 18-year-old homeless sex worker, expose their vulnerabilities. Through the night, an undeniable chemistry emerges between them.



Love, Barbara

DIR. BRYDIE O'CONNOR. 2022. 15 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

The life and legacy of lesbian filmmaker Barbara Hammer is presented here using cinematic imagery and archival materials such as video letters, sketches, and writing. A touching portrait of an artist and the love of her life.



Expecting

DIR. ALICE DOUARD. 2022. 30 MIN. FRANCE, IN FRENCH.

Jeanne and Céline are in the hospital for the birth of their first child. While Céline pushes and pants through labor, Jeanne takes a break in the entrance hall, where she meets men who are waiting and fretting, just like her.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 • 7:30 PM



IN-PERSON @ CINESTUDIO
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 12 - 22

CENTERPIECE: RECEPTION AT 6:30 PM

DIR. VUK LUNGULOV-KLOTZ. 2023. 87 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH/SPANISH.

Over the course of a single hectic day in New York City, Feña experiences an emotional roller coaster as three people from his past are thrust back into his life, including his hot and hunky former boyfriend John, played by Cole Doman (*Henry Gamble's Birthday Party*). While transitioning from female to male, Feña lost touch with these three people and now must navigate the new dynamics of old relationships while tackling the day-to-day challenges of living life in between.

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OPENING SHORT



Required Reading

DIR. INIYAVAN ELUMALAI. 2022. 16 MIN.
NETHERLANDS. IN ENGLISH/SPANISH.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

A cis, straight-identifying man and a non-binary person meet in the library and fall in love. Will they find the courage to be honest with themselves and the world?

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All the Colours of the World Are Between Black and White



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 7 PM

IN-PERSON ONLY @ CINESTUDIO

DIR. BABATUNDE APALOWO. 2023. 92 MIN. NIGERIA, IN ENGLISH/IBO/YORUBA.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Bambino and Bawa met during a photography competition in Lagos and hit it off immediately. During many long photography trips around the city they develop a deep affection for each other. But in a society where homosexuality is strictly taboo, they feel the pressure of social norms. Beautifully acted and well crafted, the film creates a persistent tension around the question of "will they, or won't they?" Winner of the Teddy Award for best LGBTQ-themed feature film at the 73rd Berlin International Film Festival.

The Edward C. & Ann T.

PRESENTED BY

ROBERTS
FOUNDATION

OPENING SHORT



Patricia in the Dark

DIR. LAURA HARTLEY. 2023. 12 MIN. UK, IN ENGLISH

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

Born at a time where the word "transgender" didn't exist, 95-year-old Patricia spent most of her life longing for love and acceptance but too afraid to reveal her true self.

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DECEMBER 14 @ 8:00PM



FEBRUARY 13 @ 7:30PM

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Paloma



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 • 7 PM



IN-PERSON @ CINESTUDIO
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 14 - 22

DIR. MARCELO GOMES. 2022. 104 MIN. BRAZIL/PORTUGAL, IN PORTUGUESE.

Paloma is a transgender woman whose most cherished dream is to marry her boyfriend Zé in a traditional church wedding. She is a devoted mother, a hard-working farmhand on a papaya plantation, and has been saving to afford the celebration. But the local priest refuses to marry them, forcing Paloma to confront her rural society. She suffers violence, betrayal, prejudice and injustice, but nothing shakes her faith and determination.



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The Judgment

FRIDAY THE 13TH
SCREENING



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13 • 9:30 PM



IN-PERSON @ CINESTUDIO
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 14 - 22

DIR. MARWAN MOKBEL. 2023. 111 MIN. EGYPT/LEBANON/USA, IN ENGLISH.

What better way is there to spend Friday the 13th than watching a queer horror late show? Get ready to scream as a gay couple returns to Egypt for a family emergency, forcing them back into the closet and trying to pass as just friends. As the pervasive tension of dangerous homophobia rises around them, they begin to fear that they have fallen prey to witchcraft as punishment for their homosexual "sins," causing a religious terror and exposing an unhealed past. Hold onto your seat, or the person next to you!

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No Place Like Home: CONNECTICUT SHORTS



Aikāne

DIR. DANIEL SOUSA, DEAN HAMER, JOE WILSON. 2022.
14 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

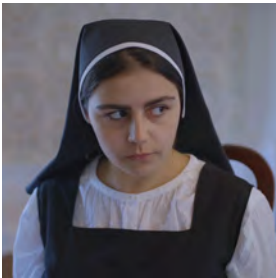
An island warrior is wounded in battle against a foreign invader and falls into a mysterious underwater world. When the octopus who rescues him transforms into a handsome young man, they fall in love and begin an epic adventure.



Lux Freer

DIR. CYNTHIA GIBB. 2022. 21 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Lux Freer is a middle-class, non-binary teen who has recently moved to ritzy Westport where they have a humiliating after-school job delivering pizzas. OMG, now they have to make a delivery to the aspiring Prom Queen's mansion. What could be worse?



To Somewhere, With Me

DIR. SARAH SEWELL. 2022. 16 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

WORLD PREMIERE

It's the 1950s. Lena and Greta are living in a convent. Lena isn't interested in becoming a nun, but for Greta, becoming a nun is her calling. Their lives take different paths as they strive to find themselves and follow their dreams.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 • 3 PM

Q & A WITH FILMMAKERS



**IN-PERSON @ WADSWORTH ATHENEUM
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 6 - 22**

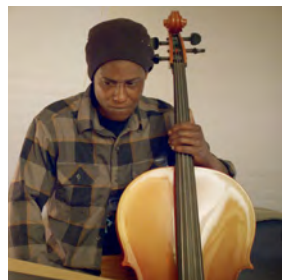
We're proud to showcase this special collection of films made in Connecticut or by creative people with a Connecticut connection.



The Other Peloton

DIR. SARAH SEWELL. 2022. 14 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Molly Cameron is a professional cyclist who has been navigating the sport as a trans athlete for over two decades. When she races at the 2022 Belgian Waffle Ride, it highlights the implications of organizing sports in a two gender system.



Wolf Tone

**DIR. LAUREN COOK, NATHAN PANCIONE. 2021.
17 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.**

Lisa reaches out to Jae hoping to get it right this time, but Jae doesn't want to just forgive and forget. Now that Lisa has become more accepting of Jae's gender identity, can they move on together?



Bay Creek Tennis Camp

DIR. MICHELE MEEK. 2023. 9 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Coach Charlie has been doing things his way for decades. But the kids who join his camp this year won't tolerate being divided by gender, so they decide to teach him a lesson in a charming and amusing way.



Rooted Out

DIR. JULIE CASPER ROTH. 2022. 27 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

When two men are denied a marriage license, the town attempts to erase the incident from the public record. The couple's supporters fight for justice and an accurate account of events.



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Glitter & Doom



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 • 7 PM

CLOSING FEATURE
IN-PERSON @ WADSWORTH ATHENEUM

Q & A WITH FILMMAKERS + AFTER PARTY

DIR. TOM GUSTAFSON. 2023. 111 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

There's fun for the guys and the gals in this fantastical summer romance featuring the iconic music of the Indigo Girls. With a "love at first sight" story focused on a charismatic musician and a carefree kid who wants to join the circus, it's fun, romantic, and sexy. And it's packed with great music and dance numbers, not to mention loads of fun cameos, including the Indigo Girls themselves and Lea DeLaria. Another inventive opus from the creator of festival faves *Were the World Mine* and *The Go Doc Project*.

PRESENTED BY The Edward C. & Ann T.
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OPENING SHORT



Masaru 勝

DIR. RUBEN NAVARRO. 2022. 13 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH/JAPANESE.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

A Major League Baseball player discovers his passion for Japanese traditional dance and faces a choice between embracing his true identity or succumbing to the pressures of family, loyalty and honor.

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The Venus Effect



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 3 PM



IN-PERSON @ CINESTUDIO
VIRTUAL VIEWING: OCTOBER 16 - 22

DIR. ANNA EMMA HAUDAL. 2021. 105 MIN. DENMARK, IN DANISH.

In this charming romantic comedy, Liv is a young woman who is close to her parents and works in the family greengrocer business. Against all expectation, she falls in love with the spirited and somewhat older Andrea, who claims to be suffering from stress. But in reality, Andrea is heartbroken and has sought refuge at her uncle's apple plantation. Liv's relationship with Andrea is the catalyst for divorce, lost friendship and crisis, but she comes to see that love is mutable, and families come in many forms.

OPENING SHORT



Keep/Delete

DIR. RUBEN NAVARRO. 2022. 19 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

In a future world where memories are managed like computer files, two lovers decide to undergo a procedure that will erase their entire relationship from their brains.



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Solo



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 • 7 PM

IN-PERSON ONLY @ CINESTUDIO

DIR. SOPHIE DUPUIS. 2023. 110 MIN. CANADA, IN FRENCH.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

Simon is a rising star of the Montreal drag scene who simultaneously faces disappointment from two impossible loves. First, there's his passionate but destructive relationship with the sexy but manipulative Oliver. And then, a strained relationship with his cold and distant mother Claire, who has returned after a 15-year absence and still makes everything about her. Pulsing with great energy, and loaded with fabulous costumes and amazing drag numbers, the film teems with characters you want to spank until they come to their senses.

PRESENTED BY **ROBERTS**
FOUNDATION

The Edward C. & Ann T.

OPENING SHORT



It's a Gray, Gray World

DIR. SEYED MOHSEN POURMOHSENI SHAKIB. 2022.
6 MIN. REPUBLIC OF IRAN, NO DIALOGUE.

In a completely gray world, a playful boy accidentally reveals the colorful identity of a conservative young man. People are terrified and call the police, but the colorful young man manages to escape. Can he remain free?

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Esther Newton Made Me Gay



VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

DIR. JEAN CARLO MUSTO. 2022. 92 MIN. USA. IN ENGLISH.

A feature documentary about a pathbreaking cultural anthropologist, dog agility enthusiast, and iconic butch lesbian. Now entering her seventh decade writing about queer communities, Esther Newton's life's work has influenced generations of activists and scholars.



OPENING SHORT

Marimacha

DIR. CAMI CRUZ THOMAS. 2022. 10 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

When an illicit picture outs the daughter of two conservative Black/Afro-Panamanians on their way to a family wedding, they must finally confront the elephant in the room and decide who gets to dictate the terms of love in and outside the family.



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A Big, Gay, Hairy Hit! Where The Bears Are: The Documentary



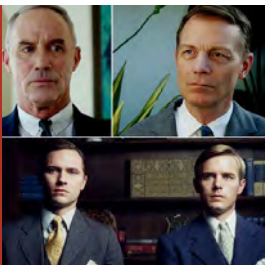
VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

DIR. EDUARDO AQUINO. 2023. 90 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

A hilarious and touching documentary about three older gay bears working in Hollywood who tire of having their gay-themed ideas rejected by the mainstream and decide to produce their own web series. Against all odds, the campy comedy with three bear roommates (think *The Golden Girls*) who solve crimes (think *Murder, She Wrote*) became one of the most successful web shows of all time. An examination of ageism, body shaming, sex positivity, the creative process, and the power of friendship and community.

OPENING SHORT



The Last Take

DIR. BRIAN FOYSTER. 2023. 14 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Near the end of his life, a movie star from Hollywood's Golden Age must reconcile with the only man he ever loved.



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Photo by Jason Leung on Unsplash



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VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

DIR. POPPY STOCKWELL. 2023. 45 MIN. (TV/WEB SERIES). AUSTRALIA, IN ENGLISH.

U.S. PREMIERE

In this dark comedy-drama, a mismatched duo of lesbian ambulance drivers sometimes save lives, and sometimes not so much. Sassy, street-smart Taylor (Tayls) and her newbie, by-the-book partner Cate are constantly at odds with each other as they face the absurdity of life and death head on. But in their clash of wits, sparks fly, and they quickly cross a line by having sex whenever a patient dies (it's like eating a bucketload of delicious greasy chicken to balance out a bad salad). Inspired by real people and events!



Worst Date, Best Date

DIR. CAMERON THROWER. 2023. 17 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Amy and Charlie are set up on a blind date by their grandmothers. Right from the start, it seems to be going horribly wrong. But as they continue to talk, they discover that they share something in common.



Cardiff EAST COAST PREMIERE

DIR. SARAH SMITH. 2022. 25 MIN. UK, IN ENGLISH.

Perpetually single, Frederick envies his fabulous gay friend Joe, who seems to have a never-ending supply of paramours, despite being happily married. When Frederick's meddling mother thrusts him into a forbidden romance, it triggers betrayals that hilariously expose some carefully held secrets.

OPENING SHORTS

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Fireworks



VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

DIR. GIUSEPPE FIORELLO. 2023. 138 MIN. ITALY, IN ITALIAN.

A sunbaked Sicilian town in the summer of 1982 provides a vivid backdrop for this tender and romantic drama about two teenagers who are dangerously drawn to each other in a deeply homophobic society. Gianni is a handsome but shy teen who works at his stepfather's garage and is mercilessly taunted for being gay. One day he meets Nino, a handsome curly-haired boy from a wealthy family. As the two fall in love, the moral rumblings from their families and neighbors erupt. Based on a real-life incident that jump-started the Italian Gay Rights movement.

OPENING SHORT



A Night

DIR. SØREN GREEN. 2020. 7 MIN. DENMARK, IN DANISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Mathias and Frederik had a fight and now Frederik won't reply to Mathias' texts. Although it's the middle of the night, Mathias wants to become friends again before it's too late.



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VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

DIR. CLARA STERN. 2022. 102 MIN. AUSTRIA, IN GERMAN/ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Twentysomething Mira runs the farm at her family's vineyard with her mother and her adventurous but increasingly demented grandfather. She also lives for the sport of ice hockey and leads her team as captain with a strong determination. A new player, Theresa, completely unsettles her with her nonchalance and openness. When Mira's missing brother Paul turns up, and all three get lost in late-night Vienna, Mira discovers what freedom feels like when you break the rules, reinvent yourself, and let yourself love.

OPENING SHORT



The Script

DIR. BRIT FRYER, NOAH SCHAMUS. 2023. 15 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.


Personal interviews, blended with dramatized genre recreations, reveal the complicated relationship between trans and nonbinary people and medical providers regarding gender-affirming care.


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Lie With Me



VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

DIR. OLIVIER PEYON. 2022. 98 MIN. FRANCE, IN FRENCH/ENGLISH.

This powerful and emotional drama centers on a prominent middle-aged novelist, Stéphane Belcourt, who visits his childhood town after 30 years and is flooded with memories of his first gay love. The film contrasts the wintry present with the sun-splashed summer past, when the shy, bespectacled young Stéphane meets and falls for the rough and tumble young Thomas. Filled with twists and surprises, this is an erotic, tender and heartbreaking film with gorgeous cinematography.

OPENING SHORT



Strange

DIR. KEN OCHIAI. 2023. 15 MIN. JAPAN, IN JAPANESE.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

A shy suburban Tokyo high school student, Odeko, meets a tearful Kuma, who is sitting alone in the park while dressed in drag. A sweet friendship develops that transforms both their lives.

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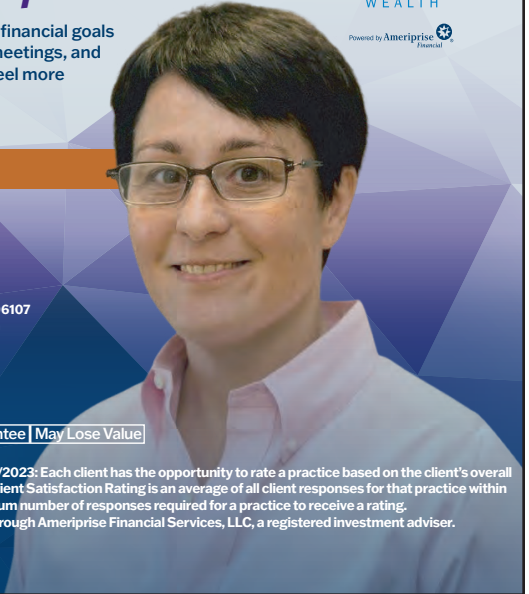
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Polarized



VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

DIR. SHAMIM SARIF. 2023. 104 MIN. CANADA, IN ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Lisa is a blue-collar aspiring songwriter who is forced to work at a local "urban farm" when the bank forecloses on her family's farm. There she meets Dalia, a successful Muslim woman who has a position of responsibility in the family business, despite pushback from her fiancé. Lisa's casual racism leads her to get fired, but the women end up drawn into a passionate affair. In a small, polarized town, being true to themselves means turning their backs on everything they've ever believed.

OPENING SHORT



Samira

DIR. ANNA ANAT GOFMAN BANAI. 2021.
18 MIN. ISRAEL, IN ARABIC/HEBREW.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

A lesbian Arab singer invites her family to see her perform live on stage for the first time. It feels almost like coming out all over again.

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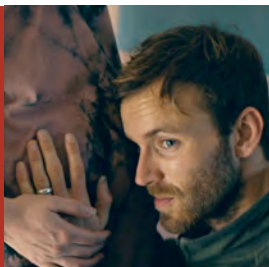
VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

DIR. KARIN HEBERLEIN. 2022. 89 MIN. GERMANY, IN GERMAN.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

Today is Nina's big day. The day when she will no longer hide and will bravely tell everyone she no longer identifies as a boy. But the 8-year-old doesn't realize how this decision will shake up her family, the neighborhood and the neatly trimmed front gardens of their picture-perfect suburbia. Her grandfather supports her, but her parents and brother need time to adjust to the new situation. With old conflicts flaring up, and turmoil in the town, can the family stick together?

OPENING SHORT



Lambing

DIR. KATIE MCNEICE. 2022. 18 MIN. IRELAND, IN ENGLISH.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

A young dad in rural Ireland must face his anxiety around gender and bullying when his baby is born intersex.

We're Coming Out: YOUTH SHORTS



Inglorious Liaisons

DIR. CHLOÉ ALLIEZ, VIOLETTE DELVOYE. 2021.

11 MIN. FRANCE/BELGIUM, IN FRENCH.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

It's a big night at a big party for Lucie, Maya, and their friends. Then the very cool Jimmy shows up. Everyone knows he is there for Maya, but does she have the same feelings for him?



And What If I Am?

DIR. BRYAN POWERS. 2023. 16 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

A bullied and isolated teen who is searching for acceptance takes a risk and spends a day with a mysterious new student at his school.



Adjustment

DIR. MEHRDAD HASANI. 2022. 17 MIN.

REPUBLIC OF IRAN, IN PERSIAN.

Shahrokh is a nine-year-old effeminate boy who has been humiliated and pushed away by his family and friends. One day, fully adjusted to his identity, he shows up at school with a special surprise for his classmates.



I Love Every Atom Of Your Body

DIR. ALEJANDRO LOBO LEÓN. 2022. 13 MIN. SPAIN, IN SPANISH.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

Two friends are having a study session for their Literature class, but it's hard to focus, especially when one of them has such important news.

VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

For younger people seeking stories that reflect their lives and aspirations, or for the young at heart, this program has something for everyone.

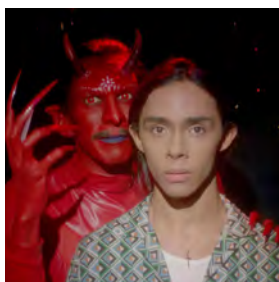


Wendy

DIR. MAREN LAVELLE. 2022. 10 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

A quiet but imaginative eighth grader attempts to find the courage to approach her secret crush while working on a middle school production of *Romeo & Juliet*.



Peccadillo

DIR. SOFIA GARZA-BARBA. 2022. 25 MIN. USA, IN SPANISH.

Lorenzo's desire to explore his feminine side is a secret, and in his religious family, secrets belong to the Devil. Now he must choose – either live a lie, or come out to his loved ones by killing his secret and the Devil himself!

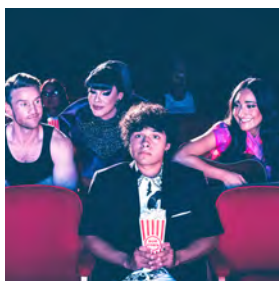


As the Crow Flies

EAST COAST PREMIERE

DIR. MICHAEL SØNDERGAARD. 2021. 18 MIN.
DENMARK, IN DANISH, SWEDISH.

A closeted small-town delinquent is shaken by the arrival of a charismatic Swedish ornithologist who is passing through to study the local birdlife. When his friends catch the two young men in an intimate moment, it leads to a violent confrontation.



Mikey's Army

DIR. ANDREW KEENAN-BOLGER. 2022. 11 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

16-year-old Mikey Alvarez is trying to decide if he's ready to be open and honest about what he is feeling inside when he unwittingly conjures up a trio of confidence boosters – a drag queen, an international pop star and an action film heartthrob.

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10.26.2023



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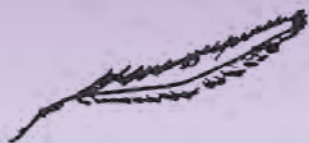
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For questions or detailed event information please contact [Paige Nelson](mailto:paige@cw hf.org) | paige@cw hf.org | 203.392.9009

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Woman's Work

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Saturday
November 18, 2023
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Connecticut Women's Chorus

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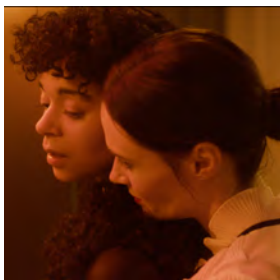
Beyond the Rainbow: BIPOC SHORTS



North Star

DIR. P.J. PALMER. 2021. 30 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

A rural rancher and his ailing husband are struggling against poverty and isolation, and now they must make a heartbreaking decision in order to preserve the dignity of their marriage.



Twofold

DIR. ELLA GREENWOOD. 2023. 19 MIN. UK, IN ENGLISH.

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

As New Year's Eve festivities are underway upstairs, Allie and Erin have a chance encounter down below. But when Allie recognizes Erin from over a decade ago, fireworks explode.



Dawn: A Charleston Legend

DIR. RON DAVIS. 2022. 34 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Dawn Langley Simmons was a pioneer of transgender and interracial marriage. She lived in a grand mansion filled with antiques and a hidden garden but ultimately lost it all to bigotry.



Headdress

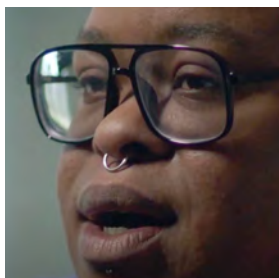
DIR. TAIETSARÓN:SERE 'TAI' LECLAIRE. 2022.
10 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

When a queer Native sees a white woman wearing a ceremonial headdress at a music festival, he retreats into his mind to find the perfect response from various versions of his own identity.

VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

Experience life's joy, passion, love, struggle, loss, triumph and so much more, with this selection of stories from queer communities of color.



My Abortion Saved My Life

DIR. RUBY ROSE COLLINS, TILER WILSON. 2022.

9 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Cazembe Murphy Jackson, a Black trans activist living in Atlanta, explains why his access to abortion was vital to his life.

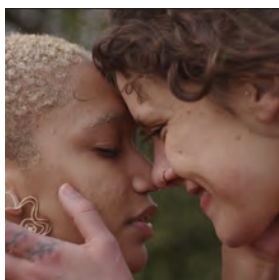


Masaru 勝

DIR. RUBEN NAVARRO. 2022. 13 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH/JAPANESE.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

A Major League Baseball player discovers his passion for Japanese traditional dance and faces a choice between embracing his true identity or succumbing to the pressures of family, loyalty and honor.

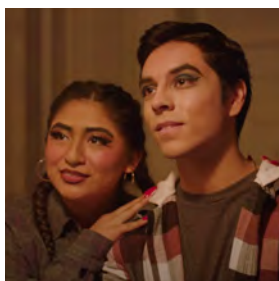


Rebound

DIR. RUBEN NAVARRO. 2023. 15 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

A sunny day in the park, a romantic novel, and a dreamy girl in a tank top shooting hoops collectively inspire a series of homoerotic hallucinations that land Gwen in the middle of a troublesome love triangle.



Bruno

DIR. MICHAEL DEAN WILKINS. 2022. 10 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Now that Bruno has a new boyfriend, he feels ready to come out to his parents, until his older sister tells him that might not be the best idea.



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FILM IS BACK AT THE WADSWORTH

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The Devil's Backbone

Thursday, October 12

Included with admission to Spirited Social, a 21+ costumed event to jumpstart the Halloween season.

The Red Shoes

Sunday, October 15

New England Ballet Theatre performs a contemporary interpretation inspired by the film on October 21 & 22.

Tickets sold separately.

The Wiz

Saturday & Sunday, October 28 & 29

Earth Mama

Saturday & Sunday, November 4 & 5

Moon Garden

Friday–Sunday, November 10–12

World of Wong Kar-wai Film Series

Thursday–Sunday, November 16–19

The Eight Mountains

Friday–Sunday, November 24–26

Love Actually

Wednesday, November 29

Included with admission to Holiday Social, a 21+ preview of our annual Festival of Trees & Traditions.

Tokyo Godfathers

Saturday, December 2

Film tickets \$7–10. Museum admission not included.

600 Main Street | Hartford, CT | Visit thewadsworth.org for details

World View: INTERNATIONAL SHORTS



Tank Fairy

DIR. ERICH RETTSTADT. 2021. 10 MIN.

TAIWAN/USA, IN CHINESE.

Once upon a time, the magical Tank Fairy delivered tanks of gas (with plenty of sass) to the home of young Jojo, a lonely dreamer who desperately needs a glittery godmother.



Eitr

DIR. FATEEMA AL-HAMAYDEH MILLER. 2022. 15 MIN.

CANADA, IN ENGLISH/ARABIC.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

A closeted Arab wholesale perfume seller, attempting to mask his identity with excessive amounts of Polo Sport-adjacent cologne, is knocked off center when a charming customer sees through his act.



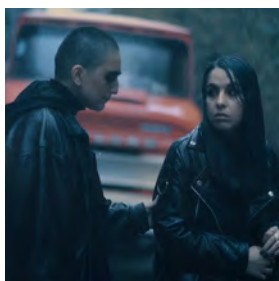
The Learner

DIR. ANGELOU KALANI AXELRODE. 2023. 7 MIN.

FRANCE/USA, IN FRENCH/ENGLISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Is being gay just like studying French? It is, for a young woman who is studying abroad, when she discovers that stepping into her queerness makes her feel as awkward and vulnerable as learning a new language.



Excess

DIR. MEHDI KOUSHKI, MELINA KIAN. 2022. 14 MIN.

REPUBLIC OF IRAN, IN PERSIAN.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

According to Iranian law, a son inherits twice as much as a daughter when a father dies. What if the daughter is now a son?

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From Guyana to Taiwan, and Iran to Spain, we bring the world to you with great stories from all over around the globe.



Soft Sign

DIR. VICTORIA UCHITEL. 2022. 24 MIN. ISRAEL, IN HEBREW/RUSSIAN.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

Natalie is a teenage Russian immigrant, and her friend Amir is a young Palestinian director. As they work on a TV report about the upcoming 1996 elections, two young Russians offer new insight as possibilities arise.



DogFriend

DIR. MAISSA LIHEDHEB. 2022. 18 MIN. GERMANY, IN GERMAN.

A date takes an unexpected turn in this meditation on race, politics and history in Germany.



Eating Papaw on the Seashore

DIR. RAE WILTSHIRE, NICKOSE LAYNE. 2022. 19 MIN. GUYANA, IN ENGLISH.

Two queer Guyanese boys are navigating their feelings in a homophobic society.



Wake Up

DIR. CECILIA GESSA. 2022. 11 MIN. SPAIN, IN SPANISH.

NORTHEAST U.S. PREMIERE

After many years of being married to their husbands, Maria and Ana have discovered bisexuality together. Ana does not dare take the final step, while María suffers from having to share the woman she loves.



Fado Menor

DIR. SALVADOR ALEJANDRO GUTIÉRREZ. 2022. 8 MIN. PORTUGAL, IN PORTUGUESE.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

Two gay immigrant men attempt to reconcile their issues while roaming around the dark streets of Lisbon. While reminiscing, they recall an awkward bar confrontation regarding their sexuality.

In Our Opinion: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED



Lollygag

DIR. TIJ DOYEN. 2022. 10 MIN. USA, IN GREEK.

How can you ignore the boy next door, especially when he's model hot and hangs out by the pool in a skimpy bathing suit? Oddly enough, the lesbian next door obsessively spies as he entertains a parade of young men and women in this sensual yet macabre story.

RECOMMENDED BY SHANE ENGSTROM

↳ "As a tribute to a friend who curated an "out there" program for another festival, I wanted to bring a more unexpected and original story to a shorts program here in CT. And I'm also a big fan of actor Isaac Powell who is featured."



I Am Poem

DIR. MAITE BONILLA. 2022. 15 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH/SPANISH.

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Carlito is a sensitive but courageous young boy who has come to terms with his gender identity. When his heartless mother denies his truth, he needs to find a loving ally who will accept him for who he is.

RECOMMENDED BY JAIME ORTEGA

↳ "A tender and relatable story about learning to be your authentic self amidst familial expectations."



SCRED TBM

DIR. KEVIN LE DORTZ. 2022. 17 MIN. FRANCE, IN FRENCH.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

Gabriel is a young father who is supposedly straight, but he uses a dating app to discreetly hook up with young men in a desolate location. One night, his hookup ends abruptly with a creepy surprise.

RECOMMENDED BY DAVE CASH

↳ "I wholeheartedly recommend this dark, atmospheric, haunting short film about the challenges, risks, and excitement of a closeted sex life. Continually interesting, a bit twisted, and very sexy. In case you're unsure of the ending, let's just say it's too close to home."

VIRTUAL VIEWING • AVAILABLE OCT. 6 - 22

Committee members reveal their personal favorites in this eclectic blend of shorts they curated just for you.



Dig

DIR. G J HEWITT. 2022. 8 MIN. UK, IN ENGLISH.

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

A mother painstakingly digs along a secluded beach, determined to find a long-buried item that will bring her some closure.

RECOMMENDED BY MARINA YURIEVA

↳ **"A stunning depiction of a mother's heartbreak, despair and search for closure."**



Jean Fell in Love

DIR. ROMAIN ROELLET. 2022. 20 MIN. FRANCE, IN FRENCH.

Jean (John) is the prodigy player on his village's rugby club. When he falls for a player from an opposing team, it reveals the fragility of his fraternal relationships with his teammates.

RECOMMENDED BY SLOAN FRIEDMAN

↳ **"I was touched by the positive message the film sends, and I hope it continues to bring about conversations surrounding LGBT representation in sports."**



Live, Laugh, Larp

DIR. MOYNA SODERSTRAND. 2021. 22 MIN. DENMARK, IN DANISH.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

Captain Zenovia and Officer Amadeo must disarm a bomb and win a planetary war before it's too late. In reality, they are just two young people immersed in Live Action Role Play (LARP).

RECOMMENDED BY MARGERY FINE

↳ **"This film is Alternate Reality Live Action Role Playing with a Hint of a Lesbian love story. A good tale with a twist. Attention Sci Fi gamer nerds; you know who you are."**

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

In Our Opinion: CONTINUED



How to Carry Water

DIR. SASHA WORTZEL. 2023. 15 MIN. USA, IN ENGLISH.

Shoog McDaniel is a fat, gay, disabled photographer who lives in and around North Florida's vast freshwater spring system and creates sensual and erotic photographs and underwater videos.

RECOMMENDED BY RAE TATTENBAUM

↳ "A unique short film, remarkable for its sensuality and luscious use of water and color. Large bodies, often shunned in society, become canvasses for intricate art projects on land and celebrations of beauty and freedom in the water."



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