



**SHORT  
FOCUS  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2024**

[www.framelight.org](http://www.framelight.org)

The 7th edition of **Short Focus Film Festival** is somewhat of a miraculous continuation of our annual festival, with various moments throughout the year where we feared we may not be able to bring it to you. But with grit and determination, we have done everything in our power to bring you another round of inspiring, exuberant, colourful, and powerful short films from around the world.

It is never lost on us, the truly generous belief and conviction that the filmmaking community has in us to present their films to a devoted, curious, and intelligent audience. It is with great pride that we have curated these films for you to feast your eyes and minds upon over the next week. For their continued contributions and support, **Short Focus Film Festival** would like to thank: Giulia Carbonaro, Polaroid, Film London, Cinema For All, FilmFreeway, Close-Up Cinema, and all of the filmmakers, producers, and distributors who submitted their work to the festival.

From **14-22 September 2024**, you will have access to 24 exceptional short films across four programmes, all available from the **FRAME LIGHT** website and **Eventbrite**. Each live cinema screening is £10 and each online programme is £5. You can also purchase a Full Access ticket for £20, which will provide entry to all live events and online programmes. We recommend screen mirroring from your computer or smart device to your TV for optimum viewing, although any device with WiFi and video capabilities will be suitable.

Voting and feedback forms can be accessed by scanning the QR Codes at the beginning of each programme chapter.

**Thank you.**

**Festival Curators**

Aya Ishizuka, Dean Archibald-Smith, Giulia Carbonaro

**Programme Design**

Dean Archibald-Smith

**Programme Author**

Giulia Carbonaro

*\*Close-Up Cinema is wheelchair accessible.*

*\*\*The films in this festival are intended for adult viewing and many contain themes that some viewers may find distressing. Please read the film programme carefully.*

# FILMS

## PROGRAMME ONE c+o

*pg 7.* **Safe** (9:53)

*pg 8.* **My Father** (19:37)

*pg 10.* **Fur Fur** (9:57)

*pg 11.* **As Easy As Closing Your Eyes** (21:43)

*pg 12.* **Found** (3:05)

*pg 13.* **Quiet Drive** (4:41)

*pg 11.* **Our Friend, the Robot** (22:06)

## PROGRAMME THREE o

*pg 23.* **Critic** (6:07)

*pg 24.* **A Positive Contribution** (11:55)

*pg 25.* **Inside Outside** (2:50)

*pg 26.* **Red Sky at Night** (19:20)

*pg 27.* **Mr. Biscuit** (5:36)

## PROGRAMME TWO c+o

*pg 15.* **5/3/0** (15:52)

*pg 16.* **Varanus** (14:59)

*pg 17.* **Would You Rather Be Alone?** (21:32)

*pg 18.* **Chip Shop Girl** (6:57)

*pg 19.* **Crease** (19:40)

*pg 20.* **Nuit Bleue** (5:59)

*pg 21.* **Good Boy** (15:59)

## PROGRAMME FOUR o

*pg 29.* **Don't F\*\*k With Me** (19:59)

*pg 30.* **Falling in Love** (2:27)

*pg 31.* **(SLASH) A Woman Bleeds** (7:49)

*pg 32.* **Red Needle** (6:35)

*pg 33.* **Girly Boy** (10:24)

# TICKETS

## PROGRAMME ONE

Cinema\* - €10

Online - €5

## PROGRAMME TWO

Cinema\* - €10

Online - €5

## PROGRAMME THREE

Online - €5

## PROGRAMME FOUR

Online - €5

## FULL ACCESS

All live and online programmes - €20

All Online - €15

*\* Live programmes run from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Close-Up Cinema*



**SHORT  
FOCUS  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2024**

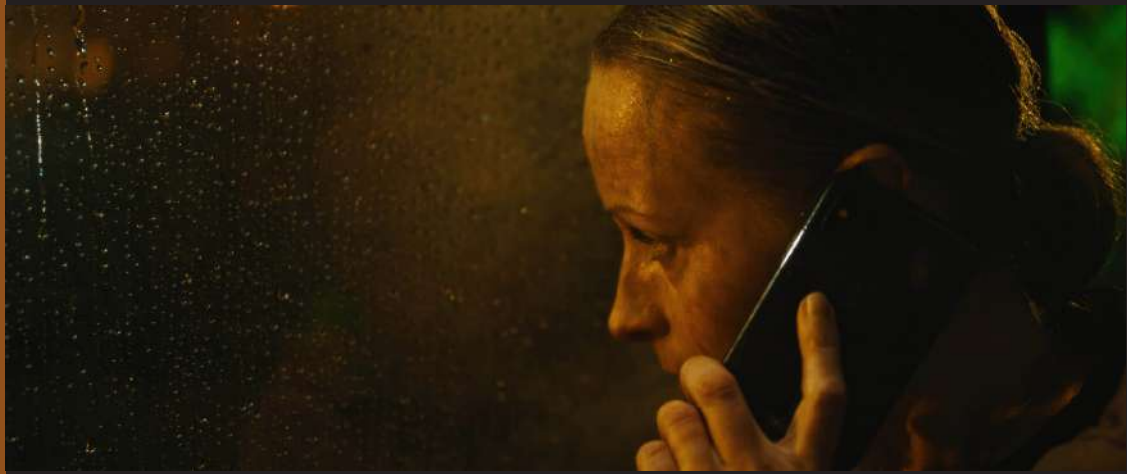
[www.framelight.org](http://www.framelight.org)

# PROGRAMME ONE

Vote



Cinema | 14 September  
Online | 14-22 September



## SAFE

[DEBBIE HOWARD, UNITED KINGDOM, 2023]

Programme One | 9 mins 53 secs

*Safe* is an urgent film of our times. The film examines the danger women face in public spaces, even when no specific crime is committed, looking at small, daily adaptations we make to our behaviour. What route home we take, spending money we can't afford on taxis, holding our keys as weapons, making fake phone calls and, most importantly, the continuous worry about our day-to-day safety.

A man with a dark beard and mustache, wearing a tan military-style jacket, stands in a mountainous landscape. The background shows rolling green hills under a bright sky. The image has a slightly grainy, vintage aesthetic.


## MY FATHER

[PEGAH AHANGARANI, CZECH REPUBLIC, 2023]

Programme One | 19 mins 37 secs


In this personal essay, Ahangarani talks about how the Iranian Revolution, and the turbulent times that ensued, affected her and her family. Illustrated with archive footage, news excerpts, and family photos, she narrates her personal story, first from the point of view of a girl living in a world of fairy-tale heroes, then gradually shifting to the perspective of an adult who can interpret these complex events.





**FUR FUR**  
**[KARDO SHIWAN, FINLAND, 2023]**  
Programme One | 9 mins 57 secs

In a dreamlike forest, a man conjures up the memory of his late parents, chasing joyful moments now permanently out of reach, as he copes with his grief. Without leaning into the tragedy, *Fur Fur* gives a pastel tint to the melancholy of trying to reach a long-gone happiness, while the image remains as sharp as his main character's pain. The brilliance of Kardo Shiwan's writing and directing is as beautiful and reassuring as it is heartbreaking.



**AS EASY AS CLOSING YOUR EYES**  
**[PARKER CROFT, UNITED STATES, 2024]**

Programme One | 21 mins 43 secs

What if we could actually spend time with that piece of our loved ones that lives within us? What if death was no longer the end of our relationships? What if we could grow old with a lover that was lost, visit our parents in our eighties, or raise a child that passed away? *As Easy As Closing Your Eyes* imaginatively attempts to address these questions in this story of a grieving mother who battles her addiction to a black-market drug that gives her life-like dreams about the son she lost.



**FOUND**

**[LOTTE CASSIDY, UK, 2023]**

Programme One | 3 mins 5 secs

A short animated film that explores the history of the Foundling Hospital, built in 1739 as a home to London's abandoned children. Magpies gather, watch and chatter. Their feathers ruffle in the wind. Inherited memories of the past are handed down into the present, as both voices are entangled in their calls and the nests they occupy.

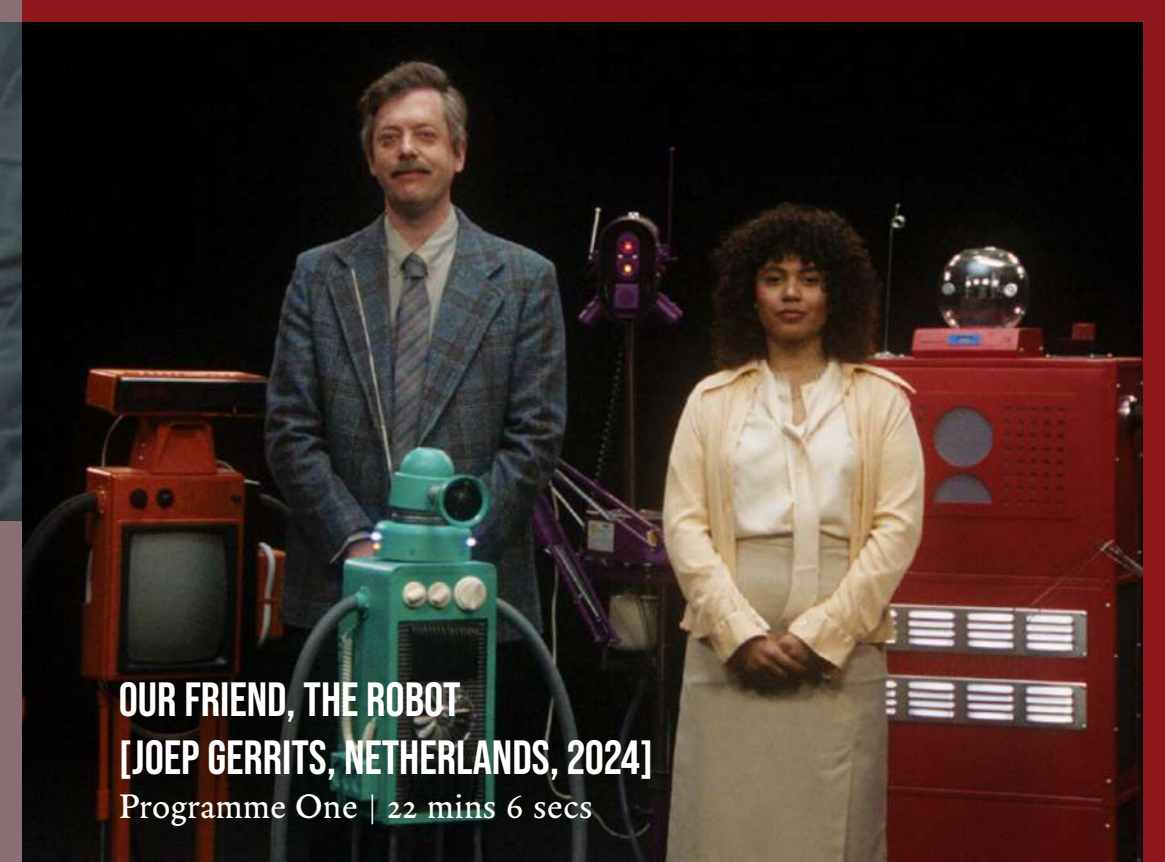


## QUIET DRIVE

[SAVVA DOLOMANOV, CZECH REPUBLIC, 2023]

Programme One | 4 mins 41 secs

After a dramatic car crash, a man wakes up in a hospital bed, unable to move and haunted by the memories of the moments before the incident. Without a line of dialogue and with a paralysed main character, *Quiet Drive* plunges the viewer into the depth of a kind of trauma that has no voice. Disturbing, uncomfortable, and masterfully shot, it is a film that will stay with you and keep you guessing.



**OUR FRIEND, THE ROBOT**  
**[JOEP GERRITS, NETHERLANDS, 2024]**

Programme One | 22 mins 6 secs


*Our Friend, the Robot* is a short comedy film, parodying educational videos from the 1970s and '80s. An enthusiastic, yet unwittingly condescending, short-sighted, and chauvinistic presenter (Bert Hana) takes us into a world full of erroneous information, absurd statistics, and bold assumptions. All of this stems from the absolute belief that the 'extremely rational' robot, in all its progress, is the superhuman-machine of tomorrow.

# PROGRAMME TWO

Vote



Cinema | 15 September  
Online | 14-22 September




**5/3/0**

**[DANILO STANIMIROVIĆ, SERBIA, 2023]**

Programme One | 15 mins 52 secs

Teenager, Saška, is trying to catch a ride to a friend's birthday party in a neighbouring town. After a disturbing taxi ride and an even worse encounter at her friend's place, she is forced to return home with the same creepy taxi driver trying to take advantage of her vulnerability. Based on a true story, *5/3/0* is a film that doesn't shy away from showing how horribly bleak life can be for a young woman navigating a patriarchal world that wants to use her and harm her.



**VARANUS**  
**[KIARASH BOKAEYAN, IRAN, 2023]**  
Programme Two | 14 mins 59 secs

Amir, a hearing-impaired teenage boy in rural Iran, is forced to fight in secret and illegal boxing matches by a man who sees him as a money-making machine to be branded like cattle. A striking film that's committed to being impeccable in every scene, *Varanus* is as tough as a punch and an incredible feat for first-time director, Kiaresh Bekaian.





**WOULD YOU RATHER BE ALONE?**  
**[VICTOR RIDLEY, BELGIUM, 2023]**  
Programme Two | 21 mins 32 secs

Ahmad, overwhelmed by psychological problems following his exile, lives in a psychiatric hospital where he has befriended Alice. Deeply wounded, Alice and Ahmad help each other survive until Alice leaves for a few days with her father. This separation drags Ahmad back into the meanders of his past, drifting between hallucinations and reality.



## CHIP SHOP GIRL

[EMMA KAYANI, UK, 2023]

Programme Two | 6 mins 57 secs

In Northern England, 1995, a teenage mum with a mixed-race daughter works a shift at her local chippy and faces a racist customer. Written during lockdown and inspired by her own upbringing, Emma Kayani's *Chip Shop Girl* is a heartfelt snapshot of a family resolving to find joy and kinship even in the most challenging of social circumstances.



## CREASE

[DEMITRI ZUJEW, RUSSIA, 2023]

Programme Two | 19 mins 40 secs

In a neat classroom, a distinguished principal dazzles the local TV crew with achievements that make her school the best in the entire district. Meanwhile, outside the camera's frame, her students are executing their own take on 'proper socialization'. In a society permeated by a cult of strength and neglect towards the weak, such school hall lessons are absorbed much faster than those printed in textbooks, shaping adults that continue to propagate this philosophy to the world around them.



**NUIT BLEUE**

**[KAREN FAURIE, FRANCE, 2023]**

Programme Two | 5 mins 59 secs

In the warm embrace of a late summer day, a couple enjoys the last rays of the sun. In the middle of this tranquility, a tear escapes from the woman's eye. Without a word, they hit the road. Where are they going?



**GOOD BOY**

**[TOM STUART, UK, 2023]**

Programme Two | 15 mins 59 secs

Danny's (played by BAFTA winner, Ben Whishaw) attempt to rob a bank with his overbearing mum (played by SAG award winner, Marion Bailey) is scuppered by the appearance of their family doctor. With his mum in the back of his van, and a dead pigeon on the passenger seat, Danny feels a growing sense of desperation. But as more and more figures arrive to disrupt his day, we begin to suspect that everything is not as it seems...

# PROGRAMME THREE

Vote



Online | 14-22 September

A woman with curly hair, wearing a patterned shirt, is seated at a dinner table. The table is set with several wine glasses, some containing red wine, and plates of food. The background is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor dining setting.

**CRITIC**

**[RICHARD PERRYMAN, UK, 2023]**

Programme Three | 6 mins 7 secs

*Critic* is a sharp short film from award-winning writer and director, Richard Perryman. At a dinner party, sparks fly between Nick and Laura, but their growing connection is tested when a professional clash causes an uncomfortable confrontation.



**A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION**  
**[NURI MOSEINCO, UK, 2023]**

Programme Three | 11 mins 55 secs

In the near future, criminals are given a choice - go to prison or get their memories wiped and replaced with fictional ones so they can make a positive contribution to society. Charlotte (Charlotte Coleman), a doctor at the Memory Replacement Institute begins to question her own reality when a patient claiming to be her wife (Eve Carson) begs her to save their daughter.





**INSIDE OUTSIDE**

**[BENJI HUMAN, UK, 2024]**

Programme Three | 2 mins 50 sec

*Inside Outside* is an experimental documentary exploring how the people's right to home has been lost and won throughout time. Home has always been something to fight for. As squatting in empty buildings and trespassing on empty land becomes increasingly criminalised, a timeline of unseen voices recalls why we must fight for the right for home, wherever that may be.



**RED SKY AT NIGHT**  
**[KIERAN STRINGFELLOW, UK, 2024]**  
Programme Three | 19 mins 20 secs

Val is a century-old vampire, but in human terms, she can barely pass for twenty. After what feels like an eternity spent at her family home in the northern reaches of the UK, she's now ready to embark on a new chapter at university. However, the long trip down south soon turns frosty as grieving mother Vera struggles to come to terms with her little girl flying the nest.



## MR. BISCUIT

[DOUG REDFERN/JOE ROBERTS, UK, 2023]

Programme Three | 5 mins 36 secs


*Mr. Biscuit* revolves around Mark, who is on a journey of grief after the death of his dad. While throwing out some of his dad's old stuff, he is approached by a dishevelled taxidermy dog called Mr. Biscuit. Mr. Biscuit ends up being the friend Mark needs to fill the hole his father left.

# PROGRAMME FOUR

Vote



Online | 14-22 September



**DON'T F\*\*K WITH ME**  
**[JOE TREMAIN, UK, 2023]**

Programme Four | 19 mins 59 secs

From her unsuspecting and rather posh home, local drug dealer, Lady, spins the lives of all those around her, eliciting both love and fear. A courageous crew decides to meet the local legend after interviewing her dealers and most affectionate clients. Filmed entirely around London and Essex, and featuring a fantastic cast of British actors, *Don't F\*\*K With Me* is a mockumentary that explores the concept of being a benefit to your community, even if what you give to them is... morally questionable. Deranged and brilliant, this is the mockumentary that London deserves.



**FALLING IN LOVE**  
**[CANDIDA MASSIELLE ASENCIO DOÑE, SPAIN, 2020]**

Programme Four | 2 mins 27 secs

Conventions would have it that when you fall in love, your heart skips a beat. For Candida Massielle Asencio Doñe, it is much more than that; falling in love is a self-devouring feeling taking over every organ of her body, reinventing her identity. *Falling in Love* is an unconventional, grainy portrayal of love as a visceral and raw feeling with the power to change our very being, executed with surgical analysis and a touch of morbidity.



**(SLASH) A WOMAN BLEEDS**  
**[ELENA PAUNÉ MARTÍNEZ/EVA PAUNÉ MARTÍNEZ/  
MARINA PAUNÉ MARTÍNEZ, SPAIN, 2023]**

Programme Four | 7 mins 49 secs

*(SLASH) A Woman Bleeds* starts from a simple premise with increasing mysterious questions. Why is this woman retiring? Why all this blood? How did we get here? Halfway between a satire on excess and alienation, the short film serves as a true horror story about loss and a dystopian tinged critique of the pathologization of non-productivity, aging, and programmed obsolescence.



## RED NEEDLE

[DOM BUSH/SIMON SYLVESTER, UK, 2023]

Programme Four | 6 mins 35 secs

Ultra-runner, Sarah Gerrish, lost one ovary to cancer at 15 and the second to surgery at 36, plunging her directly into surgical menopause and a bewildering world of HRT (hormone replacement therapy), brain fog, and loneliness. *Red Needle* explores the stigma, trauma, and lessons learned from Sarah's life-changing experience.



A young boy with dark hair, wearing a striped shirt, is looking down. The background is a clear blue sky with a faint white contrail.

## GIRLY BOY

[COLE J. CRAWFORD, UNITED STATES, 2024]

Programme Four | 10 mins 24 secs

*Girly Boy* is a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age film that draws inspiration from personal experiences and interactions with the director's estranged aunt. Set against the backdrop of a suburban summer day, the story follows 11-year-old, Connor, as he learns the art of self-assertion under the supervision of his abrasive aunt, all the while conquering his fear of the deep end of the pool.

# FILMS

## PROGRAMME ONE c+o

*pg 7.* **Safe** (9:53)

*pg 8.* **My Father** (19:37)

*pg 10.* **Fur Fur** (9:57)

*pg 11.* **As Easy As Closing Your Eyes** (21:43)

*pg 12.* **Found** (3:05)

*pg 13.* **Quiet Drive** (4:41)

*pg 11.* **Our Friend, the Robot** (22:06)

## PROGRAMME THREE o

*pg 23.* **Critic** (6:07)

*pg 24.* **A Positive Contribution** (11:55)

*pg 25.* **Inside Outside** (2:50)

*pg 26.* **Red Sky at Night** (19:20)

*pg 27.* **Mr. Biscuit** (5:36)

## PROGRAMME TWO c+o

*pg 15.* **5/3/0** (15:52)

*pg 16.* **Varanus** (14:59)

*pg 17.* **Would You Rather Be Alone?** (21:32)

*pg 18.* **Chip Shop Girl** (6:57)

*pg 19.* **Crease** (19:40)

*pg 20.* **Nuit Bleue** (5:59)

*pg 21.* **Good Boy** (15:59)

## PROGRAMME FOUR o

*pg 29.* **Don't F\*\*k With Me** (19:59)

*pg 30.* **Falling in Love** (2:27)

*pg 31.* **(SLASH) A Woman Bleeds** (7:49)

*pg 32.* **Red Needle** (6:35)

*pg 33.* **Girly Boy** (10:24)



**SHORT  
FOCUS  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2024**

[www.framelight.org](http://www.framelight.org)



**SHORT  
FOCUS  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2024**

[www.framelight.org](http://www.framelight.org)