

14th ANNUAL REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL SCHOOL PROGRAM

GRADES 1-3: Feeling out of place is something many of us experience, but sometimes we find friends in unlikely places or at unexpected times! This program teaches us how to embrace difference and creativity, while not forgetting the people, places and things that are important to us.

Five Dollars

Reza Dahya

Drama | Canada | 2013 | 6 min | English

Anthony a curious five-year-old wonders how he can spend more time with his mom, who is working all the time. He compels us to ask: what's the true value of money?

Mia'

Bracken Hanuse Corlett & Amanda Strong

Animation | Canada | 2015 | 8 min | No dialogue

With an unspoken connection to nature and her culture, Mia' Salmon, wanders the alleyways of her city, decorating the walls with supernatural street art. Eventually her innate gift takes her on a journey that parallels the late Chief Simon Walkus Senior's story, *Xa'Pkvas Wisem Mia'x'it – the Boy Who Turned into a Salmon*. By joining Mia', we learn lessons about colonialism, ecology, and the environment.

Assini

Gail Maurice

Drama | Canada | 2015 | 13 | English

Assini, a young Indigenous girl, comes to terms with what it means to be an "Indian". Beautifully shot and scored, *Assini* will leave audiences feeling nostalgic for long summer days, and acutely aware of the complex challenges faced by First Nations then and now.

Little Thing

Or Kan-Tor

Animation | Israel | 2016 | 5 min | No dialogue

Not fitting in, being left out – no one wants that. In four minutes and fifty-six seconds you will fall for, feel for, and maybe love this odd creature with a long stout. This little thing is only searching for friendship in a big, empty, cruel city. Will he find friends?

Looks

Susann Hoffmann

Animation | Germany | 2014 | 3 min | No dialogue

Looks tells the story of a grey lynx that is out of place in a world of colourful animals. Excluded and bullied, he searches for acceptance and belonging. Somehow, he finds himself resorting to drastic measures...

Sound Collector

Lynn Smith

Animation | Denmark | 1982 | 11 min | English

Leonard is a six-year-old boy with the unusual hobby of collecting sounds. We watch Leo as he turns noises around him into spine-tingling fantasies. He even draws his skeptical older brother into an adventure story in which knights go after scary creatures and perform other daring deeds.

GRADES 4-6: Through heroic journeys, altered realities and supernatural powers, these films help us challenge negative stereotypes about our identities, cultures and communities.

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If I Was a God

Cordell Barker

Animation | Canada | 2015 | 8 min | English

This whimsical tale is inspired by the director's own memories. A boy's imagination takes off while dissecting a frog in Biology class. Suddenly he finds himself with God-like powers and doesn't know what to do with them. Should he play with life and death? Create monsters who fight his bullies? Or even better, make his crush Lily fall in love with him?

I'm Human

Razan Haikal

Experimental | Jordan | 2014 | 6 min | Arabic with English subtitles

Elegant in its simplicity, *I'm Human* is the story of a Syrian refugee character's psychological and physical journey. With a marvelous soundscape and unassuming use of camerawork, it effectively tackles themes of war, displacement, and coping with the aftermath of trauma.

Crash Site

Sonya Ballantyne

Fiction | Canada | 2015 | 13 min | English

Part comic and part film, this powerful story centres a young Cree girl named Kaley. After her parents' death, Kaley moves from the reserve to live with her older sister in the city. As she struggles with this new life, a superhero called Thunderbird gives her the chance to see herself, and her sister, as the heroines that they are.

Handsome and Majestic

Nathan Drillot & Jeff Petry

Documentary | Canada | 2015 | 12 min | English

"I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you." *Handsome and Majestic* follows the story of transgender teen, Milan, and his quest for acceptance in his rural community of Prince George. Milan shines as a hero and a role model to other transgender and gender nonconforming youth, as he stands up to those who bully him.

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GRADES 7-8: The brave characters of these films come up against power and authority in various ways, whether it be institutional, societal or psychological. Let's engage in conversations about boundaries, colonialism, policing and mental wellness.

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Roots and Chains (De Racines et de Chaines)

Francis Lacelle

Animation | Canada | 2015 | 3 min | No Dialogue

Lightbulb heads in black suits serve as figures of authority, chasing three Senegalese characters on a mission to get back to their home country. Inspired by the 2001 Algerian film *Little Senegal*, *Roots and Chains* is a stop-motion animation that highlights the beauty in the darkest corners of the migrant experiences.

Just a Place

Amir George

Experimental | USA | 2015 | 2 min | English

Welcome to Hoodoe, the land of the Hoodonians. This nomadic civilization exiled from one planet to the next based on their physical appearance. In this vibrant experimental sci-fi, The Hoodonians main goals are survival, and to protect their home.

Pronouns

Michael Paulucci

Drama | USA | 2015 | 9 min | English

A teen attends a senior poetry slam showcase with the hopes to recite a personal poem. However, an uninvited guest arrives and causes some tension. *Pronouns* is a powerful exploration of identity, family dynamics, gender norms, and intersectionality.

Once Upon A Beast (Était Une Bête)

Elisabeth Desbiens

Drama | Canada | 2015 | 12 min | French with English subtitles

Surrounded by wolves in sheepskin, a young girl is confined to living in a convent. At first glance, our heroine appears to be simply like the other children, but under further inspection she is wise to the trick that is being played on her innocence. No longer numb to the opiates casted by her oppressors, she now must face the realities of what life truly is.

Imagining time

Jelena Sinik

Animation | Australia | 2015 | 2 min | English

Adapted from T. S. Eliot's "the Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," this surreal animation contains all the tender tones, delicate melodies, and intricate symbolism of a love song. In this way, Sinik captures the isolation, introversion, and passivity introduced in the lines "Let us go then, you and I," as Eliot might say.

Pyazz (Onions)

Shant Joshi

Drama | Canada | 2016 | 9 min | English & Hindi

With laughter, heartbreak, antics and spice, Pyazz is a tale of unfolding layers and the circumstances of a new immigrant family in Canada. Teenage Aryan misses the friends he left behind in India. His brother is getting ready for a new beginning and furthering his education. On their drive to the grocery store, a crucial family secret is revealed.

Love Stinks

Alicia Harris

Drama | Canada | 2016 | 12 min | English

Three thirteen-year old girls and a copy of *Playgirl* magazine: have they found the key to womanhood? In this ode to *Degrassi Junior High* and the coming-of-age films of the 80s, *Love Stinks* addresses childhood curiosity, inappropriate crushes, body image, and friendship

in all of their beautiful awkwardness. This rare gem, shot on 16mm film, will draw you into a world of bedroom gossip and closet fun!

GRADES 9-12: Follow the stories of individuals who face adversity with resilience and strength. This program invites us to consider how urbanization, technology, institutional racism and trauma impact the experiences of young people across various cultures and identities.

The Grandfather Drum

Michelle Derosier

Animation | Canada | 2015 | 13 min | Anishinaabemowin (Ojibway) with English subtitles

When Naamowin's grandson falls sick, he is gifted a healing drum in a dream which restores his grandson's life and continues to be used for healing by the Anishinabek people of the upper Berens River. However colonial and Christian rule shatter the balance of their world, dispossessing children from the village and forbidding traditional practices. Years later, Naamowin's grandson faces the darkness of this disruption and dreams of how to bring the beat of his grandfather's drum back home.

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Twerk

Stephanie Badoe

Documentary | Canada | 2015 | 4 min | English

Though white mainstream media sources might report that "twerking" is a new phenomenon started by Miley Cyrus, the reality is that similar dance movements have been a central part of many African and African diasporic cultures for generations. *Twerk's* message adds to ongoing broader conversations about cultural appropriation, and as Shani Haynes says, "the style of dance has always been here and I think it's going to remain."

Human

Anwar Floyd-Pruitt

Experimental | United States | 2015 | 2 min | English

A powerful performance piece, *Human* explores the harmful impact of hateful and oppressive language. Paint, paper, and the body replace spoken words and work to emphasize the visceral and physical experience of such violence, ultimately speaking back to its dehumanizing effects.

Failing Lungs

Cinzia Kajeguhakwa

Drama | Canada | 2016 | 11 min | English

Phoenix is a high school student who has a disapproving internal monologue, to the point where she even struggles to breathe. In *Failing Lungs* we are confronted with the effects of stigmatization. Will Phoenix find relief?

Muna

Lekeeya Kinghorn

Drama | Canada | 2015 | 13 min | Krio with English subtitles

Following Sierra Leone's Civil War in 1991, Muna aims to put herself, and her community, back together by working at a rehabilitation centre for former soldiers. When a new patient arrives, the young nurse is faced with an unexpected choice. Muna is a powerful story about the long-lasting reverberations of war, and what it means to confront our oppressors.

Sleeping with Family

Nicole Bazuin & Darren O'Donnell

Documentary | Canada | 2015 | 10 min | English

Fifteen teenagers residing in Parkdale describe sleeping arrangements with their family members. Through anonymous interviews, we learn about their apartment spaces, family dynamics, and the ways they negotiate privacy. With a mix of humour and gravity, *Sleeping with Family* comments on the rarely discussed experience of sharing close quarters that is specific to many immigrant families in Toronto's aging highrises.

How to Funny

Rahel Elias

Documentary | Canada | 2016 | 6 min | English

It is more than just about getting the laugh in this conversation style documentary, *How To Funny*. Director Rahel Elias introduces us to Nigerian born stand-up comedian Ify Chiwetelu. Fuelled by the dogma that women aren't funny, Ify challenges the structures established in the stand up world and seeks to dismantle them while exploring her identity and the lack of representation of Black female comedians.

Static

Christian Anderson & Martin Czachor

Drama | Canada | 2016 | 4 min | English

A long shot of a back alleyway with chain link fences, garbage bins and walls of graffiti. Julian is seated on a fire escape and meets his friend on what seems like an ordinary day. *Static* conveys the intensity and urgency of being impacted too closely by violence.