



Acton-Boxborough  
Cultural Council

**The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council presents**

**Our World Film Series: A Short Night**

Friday, April 26, 2019

**“Love Thy Neighbor”**

Directed by Aidan Hamell, Belmont High School

Running Time 11:59

*After a drunk high school student passes out on his lawn, a broke man sees an opportunity to make some money.*

Aidan Hamell graduated from Belmont High School in 2017. He took a gap year where he traveled and worked in different parts of the world before beginning college at NYU Tisch School of the Arts in 2018, studying Film/TV production. This film was self-produced with assistance from the Belmont Media Center. “Love Thy Neighbor” recently screened at the *Chelmsford Short Film Festival*.

**“Bug Squad – Snowball Fight”**

Directed by Ali Barker, Endicott College

Running time 2:26

*A family-friendly cartoon minisode about four bug friends having a snowball fight.*

Ali Barker is a recent Studio Art graduate of Endicott College in Beverly MA. Passionate about creating and telling stories through animation, Ali is working toward getting involved in the cartooning industry that has long inspired her work. “Bug Squad – Snowball Fight” previously screened at *MASh Media Animation Showcase* at the Cabot Street Cinema in Beverly, MA in 2017 and 2018, and will play there again May 8th, 2019.

**“Stop-Motion Unscripted”**

Created by Ariel Grubb, Michelle Holt, and Gigi Bennett, Lesley University

Running time 3:00

*“Stop-Motion Unscripted” is a mockumentary investigating a side of stop-motion that the animators don’t see, that is, the lives of the stop-motion “actors” themselves.*

Ariel Grubb, Michelle Holt, and Gigi Bennett are currently undergraduates attending Lesley University in the Animation and Motion Media program. The three all consider themselves experimental and stop-motion animators, and they spent three months crafting this film from start to finish. This film is their first collaborative piece.

### **“Die Hard Fans”**

Directed by Nicholas Girard, Written and Produced by Alexander Rajotte, Fitchburg State University  
Running time 16:06

*“Die Hard Fans” is a ‘dramedy’ that follows the unlikely friendship of devoted baseball fans who attempt to steal a jersey from their idol.*

Nicholas Girard is a senior at Fitchburg State University and currently interning at Giro Studio in Cambridge, MA. His 2017 short documentary, “The Vendors” was shown at multiple venues, including the *Visions Honors Exhibition*, the *Salem Film Fest Mass Reality Check*, and the *New England Online Film Festival*. Nick is currently developing another short documentary entitled “The Absence of Color.”

### **“Late”**

Directed by Anton Saich, Boston University  
Running time 9:24

*A young girl waits to get picked up from soccer practice when someone unexpected arrives.*

Anton Saich is a recent graduate from Boston University. “Late” is the first short film that he wrote and directed. He plans to make many more films exploring themes and characters that are often neglected and overlooked in film. The film was screened at the 2019 *Redstone Film Festival* and was a Student Short Official Selection of the *Short to the Point International Film Festival* for February 2019.

### **“25 Cents”**

Directed by Bryan Boyle, Stonehill College  
Running time 5:51

*A wish is made off of high hopes, and results in falling hard. A realistic view on how fast love can be.*

Bryan Boyle is a 21 year old from Bridgewater, MA. He is a senior at Stonehill College, graduating in May 2019. Bryan is a new filmmaker with interest in telling real stories with raw emotion.

### **“You Could Use That”**

Directed by Dan Harris, Fitchburg State University  
Running time 5:25

*Actress and writer Belle Flint tells her story of becoming a trans woman, and how she found community and empowerment through the art of theater.*

Dan Harris is a Communications Media undergraduate at Fitchburg State University, whose passion for short-form documentary and oral storytelling took off when he started working as an outdoor educator for high school

students in Colorado. After graduating, his goal is to start a career in educational public broadcasting. "You Could Use That" won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the 2019 *Salem Film Festival Mass Reality Check*.

### **"The Day Off"**

Directed by Carter Zhao, Boston University  
Running time 15:00

*Two illegal immigrants try to find their place in America.*

Zhinan (Carter) Zhao is a director, cinematographer and editor. In 2009, Zhinan moved to Canada for his Bachelor's degree in Media Studies and graduated from University of Toronto in 2013. Working as a freelance videographer since 2011, Zhinan has vast experience in shooting commercials, TV series, documentaries, and short films. With a Master's degree in Cinema Production from Boston University, Zhinan is now focusing on visual storytelling. "The Day Off" won First Place and Best Screenplay at the 2019 *Redstone Film Festival*.

### **"The Bartender"**

Directed by Travis Newsad, Boston University  
Running Time 10:44

*The bartender at a swanky hotel lounge fears for the safety of one of her customers.*

Travis Newsad's film work includes the award winning short "It's Her," which has screened at festivals in Toronto, Verona, Amsterdam, and Sydney. Prior to his film career, Travis worked as a nuclear reactor operator, and as an operations manager at the world's largest online travel company. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Literature from MIT, and currently works as a video and story consultant in Boston. "The Bartender" took Second Place at the 2019 *Redstone Film Festival*. The film also won *Redstone* awards for best cinematography, editing, and sound design, and was an official selection of the 2019 *Pasadena International Film Festival*.

The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council ([www.actonboxboroughculturalcouncil.org](http://www.actonboxboroughculturalcouncil.org)) was established in 1982 to promote the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, to help develop cultural programs in the Acton and Boxborough communities and to award and administer Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) Grant funds. We accomplish these goals by:

- Reviewing grant applications from individuals, schools, and arts organizations and awarding MCC grant funds to projects that provide a local public benefit;
- Sponsoring annual cultural programs for the Acton and Boxborough communities using funds generously designated by the towns. These funds have been used by the ABCC to present jazz and classical music concerts, vocal performances, opera, public art installations and more;
- Advocating for the arts through community outreach and publicity.



"Bug Squad – Snowball Fight"  
by Ali Barker



From "You Could Use That"  
by Dan Harris



Production still from "Late"  
by Anton Saich



From "The Bartender"  
by Travis Newsad

The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency that promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.

