



Acton-Boxborough  
Cultural Council

## The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council presents

### Our World Film Series Short Program 2023

#### **“In Cod We Trust”**

Directed by Raphaël Edwards and Seonghoon Eric Park, Boston University  
Running Time 18:15

*The fishers of Gloucester, MA, struggle to keep their dying industry alive during a time of rising concern for environmental changes.*

Raphaël Edwards grew up in Paris, France where he developed his interest in the visual aspect of film. Now a Boston-based filmmaker, he has directed and shot a variety of documentaries, short films, corporate and music videos, and more. Raphaël believes that passion is his main drive in filmmaking, and he looks forward to more projects that pique his curiosity.

Seonghoon Eric Park is a New York-based director and cinematographer from South Korea. He has directed and shot various short films, documentaries, music videos, and commercials. Seonghoon's goal as a filmmaker is to precisely capture the essence of human interactions and conflicts using the visual language. A recent graduate of Boston University, he hopes to continue exploring documentary filmmaking while carving out his career as a narrative director/cinematographer.

*“In Cod We Trust”* won the Best Picture in the Student Non-Fiction Category at the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards, Best Picture Second Place - Mass Reality Check Category at the 2023 Salem Film Fest, and Best Picture Third Place and Best Editing at the 2023 Redstone Film Festival.

#### **“Guided by the Moon”**

Co-created by Ali Houraibi and Michael Mitchell, Lesley University  
Running time 3:07

*“Guided by the Moon”* is a non-narrative film showcasing the Algonquin-speaking peoples' various names for full moons through creative transitions, honoring the memory of indigenous communities' traditions.

Michael Mitchell is a Senior at Lesley University. He typically works in 2D and Stop Motion and is also a Graphic Designer. Michael finds inspiration for his art in his queerness as well as myths and legends.

Ali Houraibi is an animation graduate from Lesley University with a passion for design and studying motion principles. As a war refugee, he finds solace in traditional painting. Today, he applies his artistic background to bring engaging stories to life through animation.

### **“Cacophony”**

Directed by Elias Stevens, Wheaton College

Running time 8:59

*Julien is late to band practice, and Tyler has had enough. In spite of a disastrous practice, they are able to find a common ground.*

Elias Stevens is currently a sophomore at Wheaton College MA, majoring in Film & New Media Studies with a minor in Education. He hails from Newark, New Jersey, and is pursuing a career in directing and cinematography. This film was produced by Elias, Jasper Wigmans, and Jade Shockley.

“Cacophony” also screened at the Independent Film Festival Boston 2023 Student Shorts Showcase.

### **“Hey Mom,”**

Directed by Alyssa Moses, Cam Stefek, Kely Maloney, Pete Sethanant, and Sean McCarthy, Suffolk University

Running time 3:02

*Turner lost his mom when he was young, and he writes a letter to let her know what is currently happening in his life.*

Kely, Pete, Sean, Alyssa, and Cam created this short film as an assignment for the Production 3 class at Suffolk University. Kely Maloney’s film “*A Thousand Words*” was selected for the 2022 ABCC Our World Film Series.

### **“Time is a loop’, I wish”**

Directed by Yue Hua, Emerson College

Running time 3:28

*A personal poetic film about the grief of time and loss. “When I was little, I thought I could catch time...Now I made a wish.”*

Yue Hua/华越 is an emerging artist and filmmaker based in Boston, focusing on visual storytelling and intermedia artwork. The film has also shown at the 2022 Millennium Film Workshop Channel, New York, NY, the 2022 MicroActs Artist Film Screening, London, UK, the 2022 International Art Film Festival, Birmingham, UK, the 2022 Harkat 16mm Film Festival, Mumbai, India, the 2022 Shanghai International Short Week, Shanghai, China, and the 2023 Good Symptom, Seattle, WA.

### **“Pink Spacesuit”**

Directed by Emma Hillebrecht, Boston University

Running time 1:45

*A mother confronts her transgender daughter about her love of pink while her toys come to life.*

Emma Hillebrecht (she/her) is a young filmmaker currently attending Boston University. Originally from New Jersey, she has been making films for over a decade - many of which involve relationships or queerness in some capacity.

### **“Saved by Love”**

Created by Valentyn Arden and Zack Furnari, Boston University

Running time 23:55

*To create a family, an American couple must navigate the process of adopting a child from Ukraine while also overcoming societal pressures surrounding their sexuality.*

Valentyn Arden: From an early age, I have had a camera in my hand. My familiarity with this device has allowed me to express myself through visual storytelling and filmmaking. My education honed my skills in editing, cinematography, and leadership while strengthening my commitment to film production. After graduation I hope to bring my talents to the right company in need of a highly motivated and skillful filmmaker.

Zack Furnari: A rising Senior studying Film & TV at Boston University. He made his first videos using the webcam on his mother's laptop, and would spend hours editing movies in his bedroom. Fast-forward almost twenty years later, and he would come to teach himself how to film and edit content without any formal training. Today, he owns a film company, founded in 2017, called Furnari Films, LLC. Through his company, he has been able to create all types of content for brands, influencers, and businesses everywhere from New York to Los Angeles. Outside of his company, he has also always had a passion for documentary filmmaking and hopes to continue creating documentaries in the future following graduation.

*"Saved by Love"* has been shown at the 2023 Redstone Film Festival, winning the Audience Choice, 2nd Place Overall, and Best Audio Awards, the 2023 Salem Film Fest, winning 1st Place Overall, and the Sarasota Film Festival.

### **"Figgs' Very Merry Christmas"**

Created by Brandon Krish, Jackson Murphy, Andrew Foley, Oliver Ciric, and Basil Iacampo, Emerson College  
Running time 16:22

*The young puppet Figgs Newton faces a race against time to save Christmas and maybe discover its true meaning along the way...*

Brandon Krish is currently a sophomore film production student at Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. Brandon's passion for filmmaking began when he was eight years old, and began making animated short films. While in college he has written and directed three short films; this film, *"Flesh & Felt"*, and the upcoming live-action/stop motion animated hybrid, *"Fast Food Frenzy."* He is very excited to be sharing *"Figgs' Very Merry Christmas"* with the Our World Film Series Short Film program.

Jackson Murphy is a sophomore Business of Creative Enterprises student at Emerson College. Jackson's passion for filmmaking began at a young age, when he fell in love with creating stop-motion animated films. While in college he wrote and produced *"Flesh & Felt"*, wrote and directed this film and the upcoming *"Fast Food Frenzy."*

Andrew Foley is a second-year film student at Emerson College pursuing a BFA in Media Arts Production. Andrew got his start with filmmaking at 9 years old, making stop motion animations with LEGO. He's still active in this field on his YouTube channel: AJF Studios. At college, he's worked as a cinematographer on several projects including *"Flesh & Felt"*, and its sequel, *"Figgs' Very Merry Christmas"*. He's currently a producer, editor, and animator on *"Fast Food Frenzy"*, a comedy-horror short film.

Oliver Ciric is a Serbian-American filmmaker from Boston, Massachusetts who has loved movies since the age of eight. He bought his first camera in the seventh grade and co-founded the production company Pretentious Films, where he produces, writes, and directs films. He currently studies film production at Emerson College. He is the producer of *"Figgs' Very Merry Christmas."*

Basil Iacampo is a sophomore film student at Emerson College. *"Figgs' Very Merry Christmas"* marks his second college-level role after years of home movies and local theatre work. At Emerson, he is involved with the EVVYs (the nation's largest student-run award show,) the IT and Housing departments, and will serve as the Vice President to the Class Council this fall. While not at school, you can find him mixing live audio at church, playing musical instruments (the piano in particular!) and driving his beloved BMW, Cosmo. He'd like to thank the entire Figgsmas crew for their hard work, and a special thanks to YOU for seeing *"Figgs' Very Merry Christmas!"*



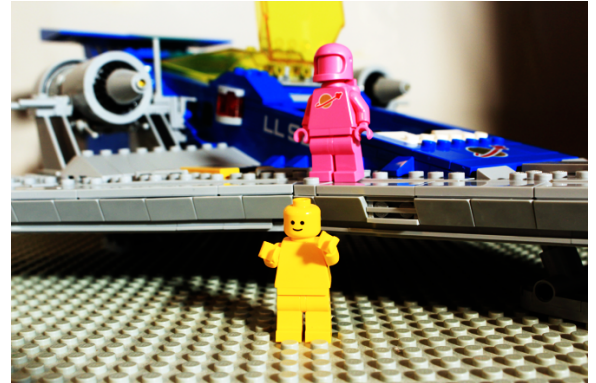
Scene from *"In Cod We Trust"* by Raphaël Edwards and Seonghoon Eric Park



Scene from *"Figgs' Very Merry Christmas"* by Brandon Krish, Jackson Murphy, and Andrew Foley



Scene from *"Cacophony"* by Elias Stevens



Scene from *"Pink Spacesuit"* by Emma Hillebrecht

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.

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.



The Acton Boxborough Cultural Council Our World Film Series is sponsored by:  
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