



Acton-Boxborough
Cultural Council

The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council presents

Our World Film Series Short Program

2024

“Petra and the Wolf”

Directed by Sylvia Nicol, Middlesex Community College

Running Time 14:43

“Petra and the Wolf” is based on Sergei Prokofiev's “Peter and the Wolf,” a musical tale made to acquaint children with the different instruments in an orchestra.

Sylvia Nicol is 21 years old and working as an actor in the Boston area. She has lived in Acton her whole life and as a child one of her favorite things to do was go out and explore the Great Hill conservation area right behind her house. Sylvia says, “I still have a vivid imagination and a sense of adventure which is why I love this story.”

“Government Cheese”

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

Running time 17:08

After years of overproduction, the Reagan administration unloads over 500 million pounds of surplus cheese on the American public in the 1980s.

Kely, Pete, Sean, Alyssa, and Cam are recent Suffolk University graduates. They 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, and this group’s film “*Hey, Mom,*” screened at last year’s ABCC Our World Film Series.

The film is an Official Selection of The Dance of Cinema Film Fest in 2024, and the New Haven Documentary Film Festival and Newburyport Documentary Film Festival in 2023.

“Fast Food Frenzy”

Created by Brandon Krish, Jackson Murphy, Andrew Foley, and Oliver Ciric, Emerson College

Running time 14:29



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When a mysterious bag of fast food arrives at his door, Calum fights his cravings. But what happens when the cravings fight back?

Brandon Krish and Jackson Murphy are the writers/directors of “Fast Food Frenzy”. They are both currently juniors at Emerson College. Their previous directorial effort, “Figgs’ Very Merry Christmas” (screened at the 2023 ABCC Our World Film Series), was the recipient of many accolades for student filmmaking. They are currently hard at work on their BFA thesis film, “The FBI Wants My Toaster”, and a new animated short inspired by the world and characters of the film that you are about to see today!

Andrew Foley is the producer/editor/stop-motion animator of the film. He is currently a junior at Emerson College. He previously collaborated with Brandon Krish and Jackson Murphy as a writer/producer/director of photography/editor on “Figgs’ Very Merry Christmas”. He’s currently putting the finishing touches on his BFA thesis film, “Message in the Tides”.

Oliver Ciric is the producer of *Fast Food Frenzy*. He previously produced “Figgs’ Very Merry Christmas” and is currently producing “Message in the Tides” (a film he was also the director of photography), and associate producing “The FBI Wants My Toaster”. He is currently finishing his BA thesis film, “The Nobelmen”, a high-concept film inspired by the filmography of the Safdie Brothers.

“Fast Food Frenzy” is in competition at the IndieX Film Fest, based in Los Angeles.

“Frère Jacques”

Directed by Shayna Smith, Boston University

Running time 19:03

After the death of a family’s youngest son, the mother tries to revive him, unknowingly unleashing a sinister entity upon her and her eldest son.

Shayna Smith is a senior at Boston University, majoring in Film and Television and minoring in English. Shayna’s studies are focused on writing and directing, having written and directed at least eight shorts in her time at BU. She says about this film, “Each one of us reacts differently to grief. It may push us to isolate ourselves, to take on guilt, or even to place blame upon one another. In the darkest of scenarios, it leaves us separated from each other, alone and at our most vulnerable. What if there were a being that could sense this vulnerability? That preyed upon it? A manipulative hunter, guiding grievors apart from each other until there’s only one place left to turn? The entity “Jack” of “Frère Jacques” explores this thematic question. With walls of guilt dividing its protagonists, the film aims to explore how human connection can allow us to overcome the challenges of grief. An absence of connection is what leaves us at our most susceptible, and it is up to us to be there for one another.”

“Frère Jacques” is an Official Selection of the 2024 Commonwealth Film Festival. Shayna also has a film in this year’s Boston University Redstone Film Festival, “Pas De Deux”.

“Like Me”

Directed by Elias Stevens, Wheaton College

Running time 16:38

Despite seemingly similar identities, Malik discovers he and college girlfriend Alicia come from different worlds when he is invited to her parents’ home for dinner.



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Elias Stevens is currently a junior 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.

“*Like Me*” was produced by Elias Stevens, Jasper Wygmans, and Jade Shockley. The film was selected for the Independent Film Festival Boston 2024 Student Shorts Showcase, and won Honorable Mention in the College-University-Fiction-Short Form category at the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Boston/New England Chapter 2024 Student Production Awards. Elias’ film “*Cachophony*” screened at last year’s ABCC Our World Film Series, at the Independent Film Festival Boston 2023 Student Shorts Showcase, and also won Honorable Mention in the College-University-Fiction-Short Form category at the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Boston/New England Chapter 2023 Student Production Awards.



Scene from “*Petra and the Wolf*” by Sylvia Nichol



Scene from “*Government Cheese*” by Alyssa Moses, Cam Stefek, Kely Maloney, Pete Sethanant, and Sean McCarthy



Scene from “*Like Me*” by Elias Stevens, Jasper Wygmans, and Jade Shockley



Scene from “*Fast Food Frenzy*” by Brandon Krish, Jackson Murphy, Andrew Foley, and Oliver Ciric



Scene from “*Frère Jacques*” by Shayna Smith



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This program is supported in part by a grant from the Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council (ABCC), a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). The MCC (massculturalcouncil.org) is 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 ABCC (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 MCC Grant funds.

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