



Acton-Boxborough  
Cultural Council

**The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council presents**

**Our World Film Series Short Program  
2020**

**“A.L.I.C.E.”**

**Directed by Allison Chaves, Wheaton College**

Running Time 5:27

*A group of high school students encounter a school shooting and undergo a lockdown, motivating them to stand up to gun violence.*

Allison Chaves is a student at Wheaton College (MA) studying Film & New Media Studies, Dance, and Physics. At Wheaton, Allison is the co-director of the school's multicultural and hip-hop dance group, Trybe. She and Pierce Gillim choreographed the "A.L.I.C.E." dance for the annual Trybe Gala in 2019 as a way to display the effects of gun violence in schools. Allison then adapted the concept of the dance to create this film. "A.L.I.C.E" was also selected by the Lift-Off Global Network Sessions, Chelmsford Short Film Festival, and the Boston Student Film Festival.

**“Off Beat”**

**Directed by Derin Kiyak, Boston University**

Running time 20:08

*An overweight pizza delivery man stumbles upon the world of ballroom dancing. He realizes that he will have to overcome his insecurities in order to find intimacy in his life.*

Derin Kiyak, writer/director, and Songxin Xie, producer/editor of the award-winning short film, “Off Beat” are currently based in Los Angeles. They are both interested in telling truthful stories that lead to authentic discoveries about the human condition. Derin has created many short films that have won awards all over the world. He was featured in Avid Media Composer’s website as one of the “Next Generations of Cinematic Talent.” Songxin received “best editing” awards for her work on “Off Beat” from several prestigious festivals. Both Derin and Songxin currently work in Hollywood hoping to get their first feature film funded in the near future. “Off Beat” was selected by the Pasadena International Film Festival, and won awards at the Independent Shorts Awards International Film Festival (Best Student Director, Best Student Film, Best Trailer Editing), the Los Angeles Redstones Film Festival (Best Picture, Best Screenplay, Best Editing, Best Sound Design), and the Boston Redstones Film Festival (Best Picture, Best Screenplay, Best Sound Design). Derin’s film “Instincts” was shown at the 2017 ABCC Our World Film Series Short Night.

### **“Moments in Motherhood”**

Directed by Elizabeth Cautela, Fitchburg State University

Running time 8:03

*“Moments in Motherhood” tells the story of three families and the little moments in their lives. The film explores the changing relationships between mothers and children from youth to adulthood.*

Elizabeth Cautela has always had a passion for television and movies. When she was 8 years old, Buffy received her first camera and made countless videos with her friends and family. Once she entered Hudson High School, Buffy spent her entire four years of high school volunteering and working as a summer intern at Hudson Public Access Television.

Buffy is a junior Communications Media Major with a Double Concentration in Film/Video and Theatre. At Fitchburg State, Buffy is the President of both the Improv Comedy Club and Co-ed Ice Hockey Club. Buffy is also a veteran DJ at the school's radio station WXPL. Academically, Buffy is a member of the National Communications Associations Honors Society Lambda Pi Eta. She won the recipient of the Robert W. Wilson FATV Award at Fitchburg State, and her film was also selected by the Boston Student Film Festival.

When Buffy is not writing/directing for the camera or for the stage, she can be found reading, watching indie films, or playing board games with her friends. She hopes to one day make films in the style of Greta Gerwig, Noah Baumbach, and Mark Duplass.

### **“Yasuni National Park: The Real Power Belongs to the People”**

Directed by Oriana Camara, Wheaton College

Running time 7:14

*A short film detailing the natural and cultural exploitation of one of the world's most biodiverse places.*

Oriana Camara grew up in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire until she moved to Massachusetts to attend Wheaton College. At Wheaton she double majored in Film and New Media Studies and Hispanic Studies. With a traveler, artist, and educator as her mother, Oriana quickly grew to have a fascination in learning about cultures distant to her own New England reality. Her work reflects this. She strives to document people, places, and their stories while promoting dialogue about important social justice issues. Her film won the top prize in the College category at the *One Earth Young Filmmakers Contest* in Chicago.

### **“Pennybrook Rd.”**

Directed by Emad Barakat, Boston University

Running time 12:35

*An accident haunts a soon-to-be mother.*

Since he was a child, Emad Barakat knew he wanted to make movies. Having lived in Abu Dhabi for over a decade, Emad used every opportunity inside and outside school to tell stories through a lens. Upon graduating from Boston University in Film/TV, he worked at a studio in Los Angeles for about two years then returned to his alma mater for his MFA and directed a short film, *Pennybrook Rd.* He hopes his films will leave an impact on audiences, and in turn provide him and his crew a platform to continue making further films. “Pennybrook Rd.” won 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall at the Boston Redstones Film Festival, and also received the Audience Award.

## **“Discipline”**

Directed by Anthony Denham, Fitchburg State University

Running time 16:15

*26 year old addict Alex is confronted and tested by Dennis, the owner of his sober home, after he is caught buying crack.*

Anthony Denham is a film student at Fitchburg State University. Falling in love with film in high school, he hopes to one day bring his personal experiences to the big screen as a lesson for people who might be struggling with life. “Discipline” is based on a true story from someone very close to him, and he hopes to spread positive and motivating messages through film. “Discipline” was an official selection of the Chelmsford Film Festival, and the Fitchburg State’s Honors Exhibition *Visions*.

## **“Tides”**

Directed by Kevin Rogers, Boston University

Running time 17:19

*An odd pair of clam diggers, Chris and Fred, struggle to find common ground as they search for daily bread and meaning. Caught in a cycle of despair, their push and pull relationship is brought to its breaking point.*

Born and raised in Gloucester, Massachusetts, Kevin Rogers grew up with a passion for visual storytelling. A passion that led him to create his own major at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst, for “Film and Media Production” and later further his education at Boston University’s MFA Graduate program for Film. Kevin is still creating and telling unique stories through a shared production company Video Expert LLC with fellow filmmakers and creatives. At the Boston Redstones Film Festival, “Tides” won 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall and Best Cinematography. At the Los Angeles Redstones Film Festival, the film won 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall and Best Cinematography.

## **“Forget Me Not”**

Directed by Brooklyn Murdick, Simmons University

Running time 3:23

*The Girl navigates through the troubles of love and grief on a newly explored colorful wavelength of youth.*

Brooklyn Murdick resides in Burlington, Connecticut, currently studying psychology and film production at Simmons University. She is also the captain of the soccer team. She will be pursuing a career in directing/producing and one day hopes to work with A24 productions.

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.



Poster for "A.L.I.C.E" by Allison Chaves



From "Pennybrook Rd." by Emad Barakat



Production still from "Off Beat" by Derin Kiyak



From "Moments in Motherhood" by Elizabeth Cautela

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.

