



ACTON-BOXBOROUGH  
CULTURAL COUNCIL

**The Acton-Boxborough Cultural Council presents**

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

Friday, April 28, 2017

**“What Gets Us Through: The Unique Condition of Sarah Carr”**

Directed by Mel Powsner

Running time 5:56

*Carol Amore is the mother of Sarah Carr, a disabled woman whom Carol has dedicated her life to taking care of. We are let into their world full of the most sincere form love.*

Mel Powsner will receive her BFA in Photography from Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA, in 2017. She is the co-founder of MASH (Media Animation Showcase), a time-based media showcase featuring the works of students and alumni from North Shore colleges, for which she received the Studio XL Merit Award in 2016. For her senior thesis, she documented the stories of homeless people in audio and video. The documentary *Dignity & Connection* will be premiering on May 10th, 2017 at The Cabot Cinema in Beverly, MA. Mel’s interests lie in documenting people’s stories through photography and video media.

**“Borderline”**

Directed by Emily Sheehan

Running time 15:32

*Borderline is a short, realistic drama about a paramedic trapped by a debilitating secret. Haunted by an abusive relationship with her mother, Esme struggles to keep her walls up around her new, perceptive partner Aaron, even as her world spins out of control.*

Originally from Seattle, WA, Emily Sheehan is a freelance filmmaker based in Boston. She recently graduated from Boston University's Cinema & Media MFA Program and is now a lecturer. Emily has won a number of awards for her work including the 2014 New England College Emmy and 2013 New England Associated Press Award. *Borderline* will be screening with The Creative Mind Group at the Short Film Corner at Festival de Cannes, and at the Independent Film Festival Boston. The film won Best Film, Best Cinematography, Best Editing and Best Sound Design at both the Boston and Los Angeles Redstone Film Festivals. Her short films, *Adaptation* and *After*, won third place at the 2016 and 2015 Redstone Film Festivals. *After* has screened at festivals in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Boston, Florida, and Montreal. *Adaptation* screened at last year’s ABCC Short Night. To see more of Emily’s work, visit her at [emilychristinesheehan.com](http://emilychristinesheehan.com).

### **“Instincts”**

Directed by Derin Kiyak

Running time 11:46

*A man wakes up in a research facility suffering from memory loss. He will soon discover that he can't trust anyone.*

Derin Kiyak is a Boston University Senior studying Film and Television. He's written and directed many short films featured in film festivals all around the world. He has also directed seven episodes of the longest running college soap opera, “Bay State.” He freelances for many advertising projects and is a camera operator for Patriot League Basketball broadcasts. *Instincts* was a finalist in the Boston Redstone Film Festival and won the 3rd Place Award at the Los Angeles Redstone Film Festival.

### **“Knock Knock”**

Directed by Shaun Downey

Running time 6:05

*After a game night with their newly engaged friends, Hayley and Harry get into a fight, but Harry's skewed sense of humor gets in the way.*

Shaun Downey is a senior at Fitchburg State University in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. As both a director and actor, Shaun works on screen as well as on stage. *Knock Knock* was a semi-finalist at the Los Angeles CineFest. He has directed several short films, and is currently in post-production on his newest short, *Sleeping Together*.

### **“Halcyon Summer”**

Directed by David Fu

Running time 8:29

*Wallace reflects back on his childhood and the sequence of events that culminated in the untimely suicide of the neighborhood recluse, Ms. Waite. Inspired by David Foster Wallace's “Infinite Jest.”*

David Fu, from North Andover, is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. *Halcyon Summer* won the Craft Award in Adaptation at the “New Visions and Voices” Film Festival at NYU. David is currently in pre-production for his next film.

### **“Pick Your Own”**

Directed by Wes Palmer

Running time 11:43

*A film about a young girl, her widowed father, and inflatable tube people*

Wes Palmer is a graduate of Boston University and was selected by Variety as one of 110 students who represent the future of film, media, and entertainment. *Pick Your Own* won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Film, Best Editing, and Best Screenplay at the Boston Redstone Film Festival. The film is a nominee for the 2017 Television Academy Foundation's 38th College Television Awards in the Children's Programming category. He created and directed the Web series “Paper Trail,” which takes a look at academic cheating, and was a top-three nominee for the Emmy Foundation's 2015 College Television Award for scripted series. Palmer's professional credits include work on “Top Chef” and “NBC Sports.” His short film *You Are Here* won Best Film, Best Editing, and Best Screenplay at the 2016 Redstone Film Festival, and screened at last year's ABCC Short Night.

### **“Over His Dead Body”**

Directed by Ramón Torres

Running time 11:30

*A dramedy about Carla, an aspiring singer estranged from her family, who hopes to find solace by attending her father's funeral.*

Ramón Torres received a bachelor's degree in Audiovisual Communications from the University of Puerto Rico and has a Masters degree from Boston University in Cinema & Media Production. He also founded the Puerto Rican rock band *La otra media*, embracing his other love, music. Currently he's working as a Photographer and Content Creator in the Greater Boston Area. The projects he's worked in include public service announcements for the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, short commercials and television spots, acting and corporate videos. *Over His Dead Body* was a finalist at the Redstone Film Festival, and an official selection of the Rincón International Film Festival – Puerto Rico. Ramón also wrote and directed the short film *Panorama* (2015).

### **“Honk: A Festival of Activist Street Bands”**

Directed by Patrick Johnson

Running time 6:40

*Honk! is a festival of activist street bands who reclaim public spaces with their brash sound, political messages, and outrageous community oriented performances.*

Patrick Johnson is a documentary filmmaker and Assistant Professor of Filmmaking at Wheaton College, Norton MA. He also plays saxophone with the School of Honk, an open community brass band in Somerville MA.





Director Derin Kiyak on the set of "Instincts"



Director Ramón Torres on the set of "Over His Dead Body"



Cast of "Borderline" by Emily Sheehan



Shooting "Halcyon Summer" by David Fu

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.