

L'Union européenne et les ambassades et consulats des États membres au Canada, en partenariat  
avec Vision Méditerranéenne et l'Institut canadien du film, présentent

The European Union and Member States' embassies and consulates in Canada, in partnership  
with Vision Méditerranéenne and the Canadian Film Institute, present

# EUROPEAN UNION SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

## DU COURT-MÉTRAGE DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE

APRIL <sup>TO</sup> JUNE 2026

OTTAWA | MONTRÉAL | WINNIPEG | QUÉBEC  
ENTRÉE GRATUITE | FREE ADMISSION



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
EU Delegation  
to Canada



CANADIAN FILM  
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# THE 2026 EUROPEAN UNION SHORT FILM FESTIVAL: A NATIONAL EDITION ACROSS CANADA

After more than a decade of success in Ottawa and a well-received first edition in Montréal, the European Union Short Film Festival enters a new phase in 2026 with a multi-city edition across Canada, taking place in Ottawa (ON), Montréal (QC), Winnipeg (MB), and Québec (QC). This expansion reflects a commitment to reaching new audiences and strengthening cultural exchange between Canada and the European Union nationwide, while anchoring the Festival in the local realities of each host city.

The Festival presents an outstanding selection of 27 short films from a wide range of EU Member States. The programme offers a unique window into the richness of European cultures, featuring a diversity of genres and distinctive artistic perspectives.

Delivered through close collaboration between the Delegation of the European Union to Canada, participating EU Member States, Vision Méditerranéenne, the Canadian Film Institute, and local partner cinemas, this edition fully embodies the Team Europe approach, highlighting the shared commitment of European partners to culture, creativity, and intercultural dialogue in Canada.

The Festival stands as a flagship cultural initiative of the European Union in Canada, offering audiences a unique opportunity to engage with contemporary European perspectives and to strengthen connections between societies through cinema.

This edition also takes place in a particularly meaningful context, marking the 50th anniversary of the Delegation of the European Union to Canada, as well as the celebrations of Europe Month. It highlights the strength and continuity of the EU–Canada partnership, grounded in shared values.

Beyond the screenings, the Festival serves as a space for encounter, dialogue, and reflection on contemporary issues through the lens of emerging and established European filmmakers.

## Long live cinema, and enjoy the Festival!



# PROGRAM 1



## ON MY MIND



2021 | 18 MIN. | DENMARK

DIR. | Martin Strange-Hansen

A man at a karaoke machine in a sleepy bar tries to sing the country western pop standard "Always on My Mind" for his wife. This moving, Oscar-nominated drama is inspired by the filmmaker's own experience of profound loss.



## BROWN MORNING / MATIN BRUN



2025 | 9 MIN. | LUXEMBOURG

DIR. | Carlo Voegle

In this animated short based upon the fable by Franck Pavloff, brown animals start invading homes and taking control. Charly complies with the rules of this colorless world, soon discovering the horrors of everyday fascism.



## LEFT-HANDED PEN / TUŠINUKAS



2024 | 18 MIN. | LITHUANIA

DIR. | Adas Burksaitis

A schoolteacher finds out that her son's poorly written exam may jeopardize his dream of attending a prestigious university abroad. How many sacrifices is a mother willing to make to secure her child's success?

# PROGRAM 1 CONT.



## 2054 SEELE



2025 | 12 MIN. | ITALY

DIRS. | Edoardo Maione, Alice Gnech

Set in the future, 2054 Seele explores a world in which artificial intelligence and social control become human rights threats.



## HURIKÁN



2024 | 13 MIN. | CZECH REPUBLIC

DIR. | Jan Saska

Hurikán rushes out to save his favourite beer stand from closure by fetching a new keg to impress the bartender he has a crush on. In a wild Prague district, he faces robbers, cops, and his own thirst.



## WITH THELMA / AVEC THELMA



2017 | 14 MIN. | BELGIUM

DIRS. | Ann Sirot, Raphaël Balboni

An Icelandic volcanic eruption has closed the airspace. Thelma's parents are stranded abroad. While they wait for flights to resume, Jean, Vincent, and Thelma are living under the same roof.



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# PROGRAM 2



## HAPPY PEOPLE / BOLDOG EMBEREK



2024 | 15 MIN. | HUNGARY

DIR. | Balázs Budavári

In a world where a number on the neck shows how happy people are, Kristóf waits for the Annual Happiness Measurement. His examiner is shocked when she realizes he barely exceeds the minimum and may have to be reported.



## FRAGMENTS / ESTILHAÇOS



2016 | 18 MIN. | PORTUGAL

DIR. | José Miguel Ribeiro

An old woman, diagnosed in her youth with borderline personality disorder, believes that she is not capable of dying. She uncovers the origin of this belief when she meets herself.



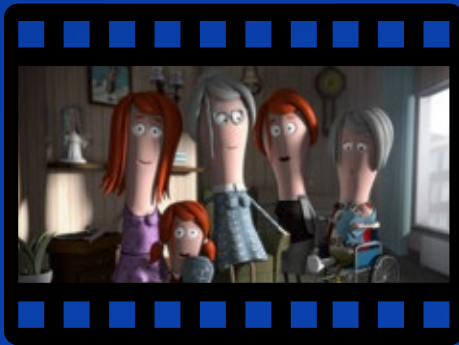
## THIS IS (FOR) THE SEA / OVO JE (ZA) MORE



2024 | 15 MIN. | CROATIA

DIR. | Renata Poljak

The idea for this inventive documentary film arises from a question: Can we heal the sea, help it, or at least play music for it—to make it feel better



## A SINGLE LIFE



2024 | 2 MIN. | NETHERLANDS

DIRS. | Job, Joris, and Marieke

In this Oscar-nominated animated short, a mysterious vinyl record suddenly allows Pia to travel through time.



## LEAVE ME BE, DEAR / HALLINI HANINI



2020 | 14 MIN. | MALTA

DIR. | Samira Damato

Malta, 1964. A family is thrown into financial and emotional turmoil as British influence starts to recede. To protect her mother from her father's temper, Mariella, a mischievous little girl, plots to get rid of him.



## BALCONADA



2024 | 8 MIN. | BULGARIA

DIR. | Iva Tokmakchieva

A hot summer day brings several neighbors out on their balconies. During a sudden rainstorm, one of them gets a burst of inspiration, which encourages the rest to live in the moment.



## THE LAST BET / DIE LETZTE WETTE



2023 | 15 MIN. | AUSTRIA

DIR. | Meike Wüstenberg

Elderly couple Ernst and Leni have a tradition: they bet on who will die first, with the last piece of chocolate as the prize. Each hopes to go before the other—but for very different reasons.

# PROGRAM 3



## THE FIGHT



2025 | 8 MIN. | CYPRUS

DIRS. | Dan Pearce, Antony Petrou

An 11-year-old girl navigates the pressures of amateur boxing while carrying an unspoken weight far beyond the ring.



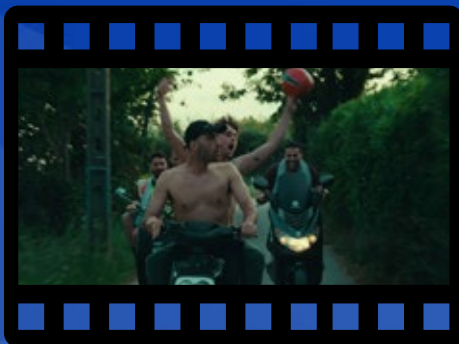
## KAFKA. IN LOVE / LEMILĒJIES KAFKA



2024 | 10 MIN. | LATVIA

DIR. | Zane Oborenko

Based on Franz Kafka's Letters to Milena, this clever animated short explores less known but nonetheless extraordinary and puzzling aspects of Kafka's personality.



## BIG BOYS DON'T CRY / LES GRANDS GARÇONS NE PLEURENT PAS



2025 | 23 MIN. | FRANCE

DIR. | Arnaud Delmarle

A sweltering summer in a small village. After three years, Lucas and his friends welcome back their best friend. This long-awaited return stirs up conflicting emotions.



## JOURNEY OF THE STARS / HVIEZDNA CESTA



2025 | 8 MIN. | SLOVAKIA

DIR. | Klaudia Grancová

Margarétka is a 13-year-old girl, who travels home by train every evening. She gets off at a stop beyond the village. Gathering courage near the last lamp on the train station, she takes a deep breath and heads down the dark road.



## SPOTLESS / VLEKKELOOS



2021 | 16 MIN. | NETHERLANDS

DIR. | Emma Branderhorst

When 15-year-old Ruby gets her period, she doesn't want to ask her mother to buy her feminine hygiene products, knowing their financial situation doesn't really allow for it. She decides to solve the problem herself.



## RETIREMENT PLAN



2024 | 14 MIN. | IRELAND

DIR. | John Kelly

This Oscar-nominated short animation tells the story of Ray as he fantasizes about everything he'd love to do in retirement, once he finally has the "time."



## BAA-BAA! / KINGITUS KOLME O-GA



2025 | 14 MIN. | ESTONIA

DIR. | Teresa Juksaar

New to the city, a family must figure out what to do with a goat that was suddenly gifted to them as part of a charity program.



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# PROGRAM 4



## EARWORM / ÖRONMASK



2025 | 13 MIN. | SWEDEN

DIR. | Patrick Eklund

In this offbeat comedy, Ulph is plagued by a severe case of earworm as Rednex's "Cotton Eye Joe" song takes over his mind. Gradually, he spirals toward madness, with everything he experiences being tainted by the song.



## FISH RIVER ANTHOLOGY / MERENELÄVIÄ



2024 | 9 MIN. | FINLAND

DIR. | Veera Lamminpää

It is just before closing time at the supermarket. The last customers are queuing for their turn at the fish counter, trying their best to pretend the other customers are not there. The agonizing wait offers a chance for existential reflection and a little song.



## THE HOUR OF DEATH / SMRTNA URA



2024 | 19 MIN. | SLOVENIA

DIR. | Tomaž Gorkič

Urban is a man trapped in monotonous daily patterns from birth to death. Years pass as Urban grows up and ages, with tireless repetition. Just before his death, a glimmer of the meaning of life dawns upon him.



# ROBERTO



2020 | 9 MIN. | SPAIN

DIR. | Carmen Cordoba

Roberto is a sensitive artist secretly in love with his neighbor for years, while she hides away, ashamed of her body. Through art and a fragile clothesline as their only means of communication, Roberto plans to help her.



# JOY



2026 | 7 MIN. | GERMANY

DIR. | Emma Branderhorst

Joy attends the 30th birthday party of her best friend Aron. The mood is light and carefree-until Joy grabs the microphone and exposes a buried secret.



# POPLARS



2025 | 11 MIN. | GREECE

DIR. | Alexandros Vounatsos

On a winter morning in 1997, a father unwittingly leads his two children on an unnatural journey into the future while struggling with his addictions.



# PLACE UNDER THE SUN / LOC SUB SOARE



2024 | 20 MIN. | ROMANIA

DIR. | Vlad Bolgarin

In the 2000s, a pianist and his 8-year-old son struggle to secure a spot to sell vegetables at an open-air market. As the father loses hope under the weight of his circumstances, a gesture from his son restores his faith.



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**Lithuanian  
Shorts**



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