



NEXT GENERATION SHORT  TIGER



photo © monströös

BALCONIES BALKONE

CATEGORY Animation Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTOR/SCREENPLAY/EDITOR** Xenia Smirnov **ROUGH ANIMATION** Noah Erni, Felix Reijmers, Ana Maria Angel, Rike Rothe, Anna Levinson, Olga Bankova, Xenia Smirnov **CUT-OUT ANIMATION** Anna Dekker, Mareike Graf, Xenia Smirnov **OIL-ON-GLASS ANIMATION** Xenia Smirnov, Miranda Peyton-Jones **MUSIC** Matija Strniša **PRODUCTION COMPANY** monströös Studio für Animation **RUNTIME** 5 min 20 sec **LANGUAGE** no dialogue

BALCONIES showcases the peculiarities and endearing quirks of everyday life in a high-rise building by offering a glimpse into the balconies of its residents. Set to the rhythm of the sounds of the inhabitants, we experience a day in their lives. The music drives the narrative forward until the sun sets. The tale of coexistence among diverse individuals in the microcosm of the building is simultaneously a poetic commentary on societal interaction. Within the vast structure of the world, everyone has the freedom to shape their lives uniquely.

XENIA SMIRNOV was born in 1987 in Kazakhstan and grew up in Georgia und Russia. She studied Animation in St. Petersburg and from 2011-2016 at the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF in Potsdam. She lives and works in Berlin.



FILMOGRAPHY

BALCONIES (BALKONE, 2024, animation short)

RUBIK (2016, animation short)

SUMMER TIDE (2015, animation short)

SALES

interfilm Berlin Short Film Sales, sales@interfilm.de, www.interfilm.de



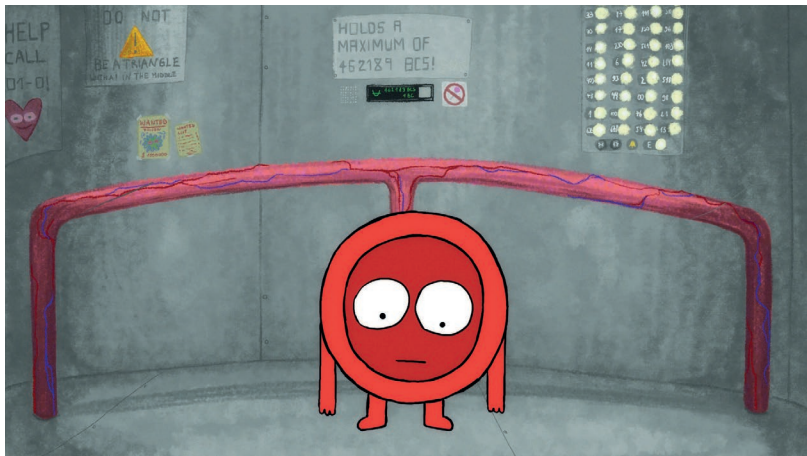


photo © Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg

DO SOMETHING

CATEGORY Animation Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTOR/SCREENPLAY/EDITOR** Sofija Živković **ANIMATION** Sofija Živković, Anh Tú Nguyen, Paul Kley, Marius Lübke, Iris Maier, Louis Hartmann **MUSIC** Jurij Espenschied **SOUND** Florian Heidecker **PRODUCER** Cosima Gerrish **VOICE CAST** Rosa Paylar, Ilya Barrett, Eve Lamell, Kosta Papazoglu, Diana Westphal, Edi Delić, Ed Cantú **PRODUCTION COMPANY** Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg **RUNTIME** 12 min 17 sec **LANGUAGE** English/Bosnian OV with English subtitles

A blood cell has to go on a mission to see the brain and convince it to make their dehydrated body drink some water.

SOFIJA ŽIVKOVIĆ, was born in Stuttgart, Germany, where she grew up and went to school. She has always felt love towards animation, drawings and films, so she interned at the agency Kemnitzmares and at the animation studio Studio FILM BILDER for half a year each. Currently she is studying Animation Directing at the Animationsinstitut of the Filmakademie Baden Württemberg. In the fall semester 2024, she was a visiting scholar at the MFA Computer Arts, School of Visual Arts in New York.



FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

DO SOMETHING (2024, animation short)
KETCHUP (2023, animation short)
SANDWICH REVOLUTION (2023, animation short)
MADRUGADA (2023, fiction short)
A NEW BEGINNING (2023, animation short)
METAMOR(E)PHOSIS (2022, animation short)
TV STATIC (2022, animation short)

UPCOMING PROJECT

BLARGH (animation short)

www.sofija.info

CONTACT Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, Eva Steegmayer & Katharina Schreiner, festivals@filmakademie.de, www.filmakademie.de



photo © Jacob Kohl

FUTURE IS PANORAMA

CATEGORY Fiction Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTOR/EDITOR** Muschirf Shekh Zeyn **SCREENPLAY** Seren Sahin, Muschirf Shekh Zeyn **CINEMATOGRAPHY** Jacob Kohl **MUSIC** Arezou Rezaei, Ege Ateslioglu, Hans Könnecke, Sharyhan Osman **CAST** Amal Omran, Lynne Azzam, Soy Spantidakes, Moana Spantidakes, Julia Gräfner, Marie Scholz **PRODUCER** Seren Sahin **PRODUCTION COMPANY** University of Television and Film Munich (HFF) **RUNTIME** 15 min 00 sec **LANGUAGE** Arabic/German with English subtitles

Siham learns on her way home at night that her daughter is hiding in a bar from the gunfire of a far-right terrorist group. Desperation, fear, and hopelessness lead her further and further into a downward spiral: can Siham save her daughter despite the police's failure?

MUSCHIRF SHEKH ZEYN was born in 1988 to a Kurdish family and grew up in Kamishli (Syria). He studied Architecture in Syria, specializing in Urban Sociology. He graduated in the middle of the Syrian war and had to flee Syria. After two years of searching for a new home, he arrived in Bremen (Germany) and started making films. He has been studying Directing at the University of Television and Film Munich (HFF) since 2019 and is a scholarship holder of the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation. His short film KILLING BAGHEERA (2022) screened and won awards at many international festivals.



FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

FUTURE IS PANORAMA (2024, fiction short)

KILLING BAGHEERA (2022, fiction short)

EXTRA TIME (VERLÄNGERUNG, 2021, fiction short)

A SPECIAL DAY (EIN BESONDERER TAG, 2020, fiction short)

THE PROMOTION (DIE BEFÖRDERUNG, 2018, fiction short)

SALES

interfilm Berlin Short Film Sales, sales@interfilm.de, www.interfilm.de



photo © DFFB/Julien Mayer/Tillmann Betz

LAST CALL BLUE

CATEGORY Fiction Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2025 **DIRECTOR/SCREENPLAY** Tillmann Betz **CINEMATOGRAPHY** Julien Mayer **EDITOR** Lydia Leerstelle **PRODUCER** Lisa-Marie Lutz **PRODUCTION COMPANY** DFFB **CAST** Zero Pilnik, Jos Nyreen **RUNTIME** 12 min 12 sec **LANGUAGE** English OV

Two airport employees. One checks x-ray images, the other works on the airfield. After one slips a note to the other, they meet up in their break. Throughout the night, they search for ways to show affection for each other.

TILLMANN BETZ, born in 1994 in Dortmund, studied Photography at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen. Since 2021, he has been studying Directing at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB).



photo © Nils Limberg

FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

LAST CALL BLUE (2025, fiction short)

513 (2022, fiction short)

NIGHT SHIFTS (2021, documentary short)

EINE GLATTE STIRN DEUTET AUF UNEMPFINDLICHKEIT HIN (2019, fiction short)

UPCOMING PROJECT

TUNNEL (fiction short)

www.tillmannbetz.de

SALES

DFFB, Anna Laura Wenzel, a.wenzel@dffb.de, www.dffb.de



photo ©Olaf Held

LATE SUMMER 91 SPÄTSOMMER 91

CATEGORY Experimental Documentary **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTOR/
SCREENPLAY/EDITOR/PRODUCER** Olaf Held **CINEMATOGRAPHY** Kollektiv Krautfilm
RUNTIME 2 min 59 sec **LANGUAGE** German with English subtitles

Found Footage. When the salt ran out at a birthday party in 1991.

OLAF HELD was born in 1970 in Chemnitz. He co-organized the Kulturfabrik Voxxx from 1994-2004 and has worked at the Chemnitzer Filmwerkstatt film workshop since 2001. From 2006-2011, he studied Scriptwriting and Dramaturgy at the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF. Since 2011 he has been a freelance director, dramaturge, and scriptwriter. His award-winning short and feature films screened at many international film festivals.



photo © Juliana Klengel

FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

LATE SUMMER 91 (SPÄTSOMMER 91, 2024, experimental documentary short)

APOLLO 11 1/2 (2016, fake documentary short)

SHORT FILM (2013, fiction short)

ROADCREW (2011, documentary feature)

HOME (DAHEIM, 2011, fiction short)

PETZOLD'S WHISTLES (PETZOLDS PFEIFEN, 2008, fiction short)

DUEL IN GRIESBACH (DUELL IN GRIESBACH, 2005, fiction short)

UPCOMING PROJECT

untitled VOXXX project (documentary feature)

SALES

Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg, sales@shortfilm.com, www.shortfilm.com





photo © Maksim Avdeev

MONUMENT

CATEGORY Documentary Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTOR/SCREEPLAY/EDITORS** Maksim Avdeev, Amir Naumann **CINEMATOGRAPHY** Vitaly Zaytsev **MUSIC** Teo Tao **PRODUCERS** Maksim Avdeev, Ksenia Gapchenko **RUNTIME** 14 min 45 sec **LANGUAGE** Russian with English subtitles

Maksim had always argued with their father, but February 2022 brought a lingering silence between them due to the lack of contact points, rigid rejection of each other's positions and radically opposite senses of reality. One and a half years after fleeing Russia for being queer, Maksim breaks the silence with their nationalist father over the phone.

MAKSIM AVDEEV was born in Agryz, Russia. Living in Saint Petersburg, Maksim graduated from acting school. After moving to Berlin due to the increasing danger for queer people remaining in their motherland, Maksim began their filmmaking career as a writer and director. **MONUMENT** is Maksim Avdeev's debut.



FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

NEXT STOP (2024, documentary short)
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING (2024, short)
MONUMENT (2024, documentary short)

UPCOMING PROJECTS

MY GRANDFATHER, A LADYBUG (2025, animated documentary short)
BLUEMAN (2025, documentary short)
MONUMENTS (2026, documentary feature)

SALES

Maksim Avdeev, directormaksimavdeev@gmail.com



photo © DFFB/Maayane Bouhnik

OBEY, OBEY

CATEGORY Animated Documentary Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTOR/SCREENPLAY/EDITOR/MUSIC/PRODUCER** Akira Kawasaki **CINEMATOGRAPHY** Maayane Bouhnik **PRODUCTION COMPANY** DFFB **RUNTIME** 3 min 56 sec **LANGUAGE** English/Japanese OV

A tutorial on how to flawlessly achieve the obedient Japanese student look.

AKIRA KAWASAKI, born in 1996 in Fukuoka, Japan, is a filmmaker, audio-visual artist and musician who is based in Berlin since 2019. Currently she is studying Film Directing at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB)



photo © misako misako

FILMOGRAPHY

OBEY, OBEY (2024, animated documentary short)
LADIDA (2023, fiction short)
DON'T GET ME WRONG (2021, fiction short)
OYASHIRAZU (2019, fiction short)
BIG TOE, LITTLE TOE (2019, fiction short)

UPCOMING PROJECT

UNI-FORM (working title, mid-length documentary) investigates school rules, uniforms and uniformity of the Japanese educational system, drawing connections to the conformist manner of Japanese society

SALES

DFFB, Anna Laura Wenzel, a.wenzel@dffb.de, www.dffb.de





photo © Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg

PEAR GARDEN

CATEGORY Animation Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTOR/SCREENPLAY/PRODUCER** Shadab Shayegan **ANIMATION** Gülce Besen Dilek, Valeriia Dyadyuh, Mikael Jacobsen, Yerkezhan Sabitbekova, Shadab Shayegan **EDITOR** Revan Sarikaya **MUSIC** Periklis Liakakis **VOICE CAST** Cheshme Ebrahimzadeh, Nava Hemyari, Shahin Taslimi **PRODUCTION COMPANY** Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg **RUNTIME** 7 min 00 sec **LANGUAGE** Farsi with English subtitles

Six-year-old Lily is visiting her grandmother who after a mastectomy does not have breasts anymore. At night Lily finds out that the shadow of her grandma has breasts. Lily follows the shadow and tries to get the breasts back for her grandmother.

SHADAB SHAYEGAN was born in 1993 in Tehran, Iran. She studied Composition at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, and Painting and Animated Film at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. From 2021-2024 she studied Animation at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.



photo © Ebrahim Alfidhala

FILMOGRAPHY

PEAR GARDEN (2024, animation short)
THE GOOSE AND THE COMMON (2020, animated music video)
CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS (2020, cut-out animation series)
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? (2019, animation short)
AUTUMN (2019, animation short)

UPCOMING PROJECT

INBETWEENERS (2026)

www.shadabshayegan.com

CONTACT

Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, Eva Steegmayer & Katharina Schreiner,
festivals@filmakademie.de, www.filmakademie.de





photo © Carolina Cruz/Film University Babelsberg/KONRAD WOLF

RECORDARI

CATEGORY Animation Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTOR/SCREENPLAY** Carolina Cruz **ANIMATION** Carolina Cruz, Stefanie Bokeloh, Cecilia Lepratti, Florencia Toro **EDITOR** Martin Herold **CINEMATOGRAPHY** Eli Börnike, Jana Pape **PRODUCTION DESIGN** Maher Abdo **MUSIC** Bertolt Pohl, Jana Irmert, Lucien Kemper **CREATIVE PRODUCER** Max Kerkhoff **PRODUCERS** Nicolai C.J. Otteni, Paul Lux von Mikulicz **PRODUCTION COMPANY** Film University Babelsberg **KONRAD WOLF** **RUNTIME** 9 min 31 sec **LANGUAGE** Spanish with English subtitles

Santiago de Chile, the 1980s: Camila and Paula are seven years old, neighbors and best friends. Outside their own four walls, the everyday life of children and adults is determined by Pinochet's military dictatorship - with strict discipline, curfews, harassment, and protests.

CAROLINA CRUZ is a Chilean animation director and character designer based in Berlin. Her interdisciplinary art includes animations, illustrations and installations. She works with analog animation techniques, particularly with cutout, stop motion and puppet animation. She studied Animation at the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF, graduating with RECORDARI (2024).



FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

RECORDARI (2024, animation short)
MAKE HER DANCE (2021, animation short)
WAYS TO MAKE LOVE (2018, animation short)
DAS IST, DIE ZEIT IST EIN EGOIST - BALBINA (2015, music video)
INSIDE OF ME (2013, animation short)

UPCOMING PROJECT

WISH (working title)

www.lucilux.de

SALES

Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF,
festivals@filmuniversitaet.de, www.filmuniversitaet.de



photo © Philipp Schaeffer

SILENT NIGHT

CATEGORY Documentary Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS** Jonathan Schaller, Philipp Schaeffer **SCREENPLAY** Philipp Schaeffer, Jonathan Schaller **CINEMATOGRAPHY** Philipp Schaeffer **EDITORS** Jouri David Hoepfner, Jonathan Schaller **PRODUCTION COMPANY** Schaeffer/Schaller Filmproduktion **RUNTIME** 13 min 40 sec **LANGUAGE** Arabic/English with English subtitles

A group of international tourists travel to Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank to visit and see religious sites. But what they do not see is even more striking.

JONATHAN SCHALLER, born in 1996 in Cologne, studied Philosophy, History, and Media Culture and made numerous short films that screened at national and international film festivals. Since 2019 he has studied Directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.

FILMOGRAPHY

SILENT NIGHT (2024, documentary short)
UNFINISHED GROUND (UNFERTIGES LAND, 2022, fiction short)
JONA (2019, fiction short)
STELLA (2019, fiction short)
SONNTAG (2017, fiction short)

UPCOMING PROJECT

YEARLINGS (JÄHRLINGE, 2025, fiction short)

After graduating in Philosophy from King's College London, **PHILIPP SCHAEFFER** spent two years working between Los Angeles, the Canadian Arctic, and Berlin. He is currently studying Documentary Directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.

FILMOGRAPHY

SILENT NIGHT (2024, documentary short)
THE UNICORN IN SNOWPANTS SUDDENLY RAN OFF (DAS EINHORN MIT DER SCHNEEHOSE RANNT PLÖTZLICH LOS, 2022, documentary short)
EGGS, ROCKS, HUMAN BEINGS (2021, documentary short)
A JESTER'S TALE (2019)

UPCOMING PROJECT

HOUSE 4 (HAUS 4, 2025, documentary feature)

SALES

Philipp Schaeffer, psjschaeffer@gmail.com



Jonathan Schaller (photo © Marie Teigler)



Philipp Schaeffer (photo © Cecilia Bianchini)



photo © pedroza&sorgo, sixpackfilm

TAKO TSUBO

CATEGORY Animation Short **YEAR OF PRODUCTION** 2024 **DIRECTORS** Eva Pedroza, Fanny Sorgo **SCREENPLAY** Fanny Sorgo **ANIMATION/EDITOR/CINEMATOGRAPHY** Eva Pedroza **MUSIC** Mary Ocher **VOICE CAST** Len Jakobsen, Anne Kulbatzki, Benjamin Martin **PRODUCERS** Eva Pedroza, Fanny Sorgo, Maria Trigo Teixeira **RUNTIME** 6 min 00 sec **LANGUAGE** German with English subtitles

Mr. Ham decides to have his heart removed to free himself from his complicated emotions. The doctor assures him that, in this day and age, this procedure presents no problem. Of a pensive disposition, Mr. Ham keeps his heart for a while after the removal in the hope of understanding it better someday. TAKO TSUBO syndrome, also known as broken-heart syndrome, is a rare, acute and often serious dysfunction of the heart muscle that usually arises from extraordinary emotional or physical stress.

EVA PEDROZA, born 1982 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a Berlin-based multidisciplinary artist. She studied at the Universidad Nacional de las Artes in Buenos Aires and at the Berlin University of the Arts. Her works consist of drawings, ceramics, paintings and animations. They deal with the paradoxes of subject and object, the contradictory and symbiotic relationships between humans and non-human beings, culture and nature.

www.evapedroza.com



Eva Pedroza (photo © Yasmin Bassiri)

FANNY SORGO is a multidisciplinary artist based in Vienna, Austria. She studied Scenic Writing and Narrative Film at the University of Arts Berlin and works as a writer, performer, composer and director in the fields of music, film and theater. Her writings and plays have been presented at various theaters around Europe, such as the Deutsche Oper Berlin. In 2023 she released her first two songs and is currently working on more music.

www.fannysorgo.com

UPCOMING PROJECT EVA PEDROZA & FANNY SORGO
INFINITYFISH (working title)

SALES

sixpackfilm, office@sixpackfilm.com,
www.sixpackfilm.com



Fanny Sorgo (photo © Florian Röthel)



NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER

German Films and the **German Federal Film Board (FFA)** are excited to present the 15th edition of their initiative **NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER**. This annual showcase presents the year's most promising young directors and remarkable student shorts to international audiences and the film industry. The program combines new talents - the NEXT GENERATION of German cinema - with the best German short films up to 7 minutes - the winners of the FFA's SHORT TIGER AWARD 2025. We invite you to make your own discoveries!

The 11 short films for NEXT GENERATION SHORT TIGER 2025 were selected by an expert jury: Actress **Thea Ehre** (Silver Bear Berlinale 2023), **Alexandra Gramatke** (Kurzfilm Agentur Hamburg) and **Andreas Heidenreich** (Municipal Cinema Weiterstadt & German Association of Municipal and Cultural Cinemas). They had to choose from 79 submissions from 14 film schools and 16 additional shorts (up to 15 min) by independent producers that were pre-selected by members of the AG Kurzfilm - German Short Film Association.

CONTACT FOR PREVIEW REQUESTS AND SCREENINGS:

German Films Service + Marketing GmbH
nextgeneration@german-films.de
www.german-films.de

TOTAL RUNTIME 103 min

DESIGN Werner Schauer triptychon.design

Partners

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