### **Day 1**

**SHORT FILM PROGRAMME: Modern Life Maladies**

20.15 - 21.50

Through a short film selection, this day's programme explores the complexities and disconnections of modern-day life. Characters struggling with class and social status anxieties, the consequences of war and technology's impact, unfold through a series of thought-provoking shorts.

**Seminal Animals, Karim Souissi, 30' • Morocco • 2022, Category: Best Drama**

In the near future, after a number of extremely violent sexual assaults, a new law is passed installing a curfew for women. One night, because she misses the last shuttle back home, Latifa, a single mother, ends up having to survive the harassment of gangs of ruthless teenagers roaming the desolate streets.

**Lurker, Sebastian Sørensen 8' • Denmark • 2023, Category: Best Danish Film**

A livestreamer ends up in a life-threatening situation when he realises that the creepy user in the chat, is now inside of his apartment.

**Medicine, William Amos McKegg, 15' • New Zealand • 2023, Category: Best Drama**

When Marjorie and Jack offer their help to a passenger and things take an unexpected turn, one wonders who is actually helping who.

**We Are Strange, Han Hoezen, 15' • Netherlands • 2023, Best Experimental**

A playful, sometimes wry and in the end dramatic sketch of us, humans (and other animals) seen ‘through the eyes’ of a newly made human in the womb: what kind of world will I live in and what will be my part? And what stage of evolution are we actually in?

**In Between, Ilja Kislitsyn, 15' • Germany • 2024, Category: Best Drama, Best Student Film**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has been ongoing for over a year. The 21-year-old Ira, along with her mother, finds herself in a foreign Germany, cut off from her home, family, and friends, seeking solace. After many doubts, she resolves to breathe new life into her neglected passion for swimming. That leads to an encounter with an old friend with whom she openly discusses her struggles and thoughts for the first time. "In Between" explores the sentiments and the emotional state of refugees, providing an intimate glimpse into their lives.

**The Ballad, Christofer Nilsson, 13' • France • 2023, Category: Best Short Film**

A fed-up delivery worker chooses a split-second act of rebellion - one that results in an awkward, spiralling dance between the classes of the 21st century.

### **DAY 2**

### **SHORT FILM PROGRAMME: Unhinged Much**

18.30 - 20.00

'Unhinged Much?' is a wild ride of a short film programme that dives headfirst into the absurd, the chaotic, and the hilariously unpredictable side of life. From bizarre mishaps to characters teetering on the edge of sanity, these shorts celebrate the offbeat moments when life goes completely off the rails.

**Lucienne in a World without Solitude, Geordy Couturiau, 31' • France • 2022, Best Short Film**

In a world without solitude, where everyone shares their life with their double, Lucienne has a relationship with Paul, a former lover who has lost his twin. While she desires his love, Paul only wants to find his brother. Individualism and exclusive relationships are not tolerated in this world which increasingly inspires Lucienne's disgust. Her desire takes her away from her sister and probably from this man.

**Flutz, Ryan McCown 8' • United States • 2023, Best Animated Film**

A rivalry between two figure skaters and their coaches. And a witch.

**Off-Pudding, Tjelle Vejrup, 18' • Denmark • 2023, Best Danish Film**

Over an office Christmas party, Christian, a gentleman with modern values gets into competition with his alpha male colleague Oliver trying to impress Line who recently became single. When the traditional contest of finding the almond in the rice pudding is revealed to have an extravagant prize, the two men see an opportunity to impress Line.

**Deep Tish, Dave Paige, 13' • United States • 2023, Best Comedy**

A.J.'s massage could have been better.

**Half-witted Gnus Are A Myth, Marie-Anne Hafner, 12' • Switzerland • 2023, Best Student Film**

A bizarre protest film about the daily diversity of opinion in a world full of paradoxes. Dystopian messages are coming from the smoke-filled radio studio. On the street, resistance takes its course. Advertisers discuss ways of spelling prosperity and equality. Men experience freedom under the hijab. The livestream from the desert broadcasts endlessly and the giraffe is silent at the end.

**Redundant, David Hubbard 5' • United Kingdom • 2023, Category: Best Animated Film, Best Comedy**

An unemployed animated character stars in his very own documentary interview.

**\*\*Break: 20.00-20.15**

#### **SHORT FILM PROGRAMME: Desire Will Set You Free**

20.15 - 21.30

From wild adventures and risky choices to irresistible temptations and explorations of one’s sexuality, this Shorts programme lets our desires take the wheel leading viewers into freedom through the chaos.

**Aquari, Leo Clara Mendes, 24' • Denmark • 2023, Category: Best Danish Film**

Nanna (20s) and Marta (20s) have been best friends since high school and for just as long, Nanna has been secretly in love with Marta. One night as they visit Marta’s childhood home, an opportunity arises as Marta comes on to Nanna and wants to be with her. But will Nanna dare to seize the chance and potentially put their friendship and her heart on the line?

**Cabaret Spectacular, Thomas Meyer, 12' • United States • 2023, Category: Best Short Film**

Praised by The New Yorker as a "secret weapon of independent cinema," Theodore Bouloukos stars in CABARET SPECTACULAR, a buoyant 16mm portrait of daiquiri dreams and Caribbean sunbeams. At a vibrant resort, an endearingly fussy bachelor in the twilight of his life fumbles his way through poker tournaments and eccentric tropical nights in a relentless quest for love.

**Sprout , Florian Maubach, 4' • Germany • 2023, Category: Best Animated Film,**

Emerging excitement, a dancing body, and the sensual awakening of sexuality turn this experimental animation film by Florian Maubach into the nucleus of a transformation process. Sprout is a stimulating short film that pushes boundaries but doesn't solely focus on the pleasure event. It's a metaphorically charged short film that allows an important look behind the curtain of male sexuality and relationships.

**The Struggle for Existence, Jannik Dahl Pedersen, Rasmus Skaarup Johansen, 4' • Denmark • 2023, Category: Best Danish Film**

How do you cope with the struggles of modern-day manhood? Who do you go to when you are in doubt? How do you know if you should choke your girlfriend?

**He's The One, Lewis Simpson, 10' • United Kingdom • 2023, Best Student Film**

Aaron and his best friend Raya head on a night out to their regular queer bar. There, Aaron falls in love with Connor at first sight. Swept away and blinded by his attraction, he ignores all of Connor's red flags, as his romantic attraction transforms into a Hollywood-style dream ballet depicting the spontaneous date night the evening has become. When Connor confronts Aaron with the biggest red flag of all - that he already has a boyfriend - Aaron is forced to face the reality of what his night has been.

**Meetings of Love, Jakob Korsholm Borum 20' • Denmark • 2023, Best Danish Film**

‘Meetings of Love’ is an absurd and tragic story about a young flower delivery guy who cannot find the right owner for a bouquet of flowers.

### **DAY 3**

### **PROGRAMME: Threads of Connection (Feature Film)**

15:00-16:20

Through a feature film and a selection of Shorts, this programme weaves a tapestry of stories celebrating the unexpected ties that bind us. It explores encounters under dire circumstances, meaningful or forced family bonds and enduring friendships. It's all about the powerful connections forged through shared challenges and common causes.

**Itu Ninu, Itandehui Jansen, 72' • Mexico • 2023, Category: Best Feature Film**

In the not-so-distant future of 2084, Ángel finds himself trapped as a climate migrant in an unspecified smart city, under constant surveillance. Amidst a bleak and oppressive existence, Ángel makes a living by cultivating plants, preserving the fading wisdom of seeds. Within this desolate landscape, he crosses paths with Sofia, another climate migrant who works at a recycling facility. Ángel decides to communicate with her through the timeless medium of pen and paper, fostering an intimate, clandestine bond. As their secret correspondence unfolds, a friendship grows between Ángel and Sofia as does their desire for liberation from excessive control.

**Break: 16:20 - 16:35**

#### **SHORT FILM PROGRAMME: Threads of Connection**

16:35 - 18:10

**A Full Life, I Suppose., Alexandros Pissourios, 25' • Cyprus • 2023, Category: Best Short Documentary**

A filmic portrait of the time shared between the filmmaker and his mother, Androulla. Combining new 16mm material shot during his recurring visits to Cyprus with Super 8mm footage shot by his father in the 1970s to chronicle the evolution of bodies and the desires that mark a life. Attempting to balance between observation and construction, the film captures dailiness and domesticity while transfiguring Androulla’s body and inhabited space through close-ups, double exposures and time-lapses. As segments of conversations between filmmaker and mother about her life wander mostly sync-free over the images, encounters with light and darkness in the nooks and furnishings of her otherwise ordinary dwelling arouse a sense of unreality.

**Kevin, Julian Rabus 10' • Germany • 2023, Category: Best Student Film**

Rachel and Kevin meet at a park in Los Angeles where they not only talk about relationships but also try to enact specific couple situations.

**Banned Book Club, Sinead McHugh Keirans, 16' • United States • 2023, Category Best Short Documentary**

A group of high school students fight to return banned books to classroom shelves in central Texas.

**Tennis, Oranges, Sean Pecknold, 11' • United States • 2024, Category: Best Animated Film**

A robotic vacuum suffering from burnout quits its job at a hospital and sets out to find community and a greater purpose on a quiet street where two lonely rabbits are stuck in perpetual loops.

**We're Too Good For This, Missy Malek, 11' • United Kingdom • 2023, Category: Best Short Film**

A group of deaf and disabled friends decide to get into drug dealing as payback against a bully.

**The Livestock At The Manger, Julie Vanlerberghe, Breyten Van Der Donck, 14' • Belgium • 2023, Category: Best Comedy**

A slice of life story about a Christmas Eve, set in the nineties. In the household of a Belgian family. Spoken in their strange dialect. Comical, but tragic if you ask the narrator.

**\*\*Films in English or with English subtitles\*\***