

VORTEX

Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Film Festival

A DOLL DISTORTED | Directed by: Niall Shukla | 16 min. United Kingdom, 2018
Jane suffers from haphophobia (the pathological fear of touch), tormented by years of loneliness and isolation she orders a synthetic love doll online to nightmarish consequences.

An Alien Walks Into A Bar | Directed by: Eli Bildner | 5 min. USA, 2017
An Alien Walks Into A Bar and ruminates about his place in the world.

Ascension | Directed by: Ross Wachsmann | 87 min. USA, 2018
When a troubled teenage girl notices a sudden shift in her older sister's personality, she fears that the same dark and terrifying force that caused her mother's suicide is now inspiring her older sister to do something unspeakable. A tense, atmospheric and slow-burning horror/sci-fi/thriller that parallels our slowly loosening grip on reality.

ASIAN GIRLS

Directed by: Hyun Lee | 7 min. Australia, 2017
CHAN is a Chinese factory worker who lives alone. Every night, she suffers from horrific nightmares involving the woman in the apartment next door, a Japanese office lady. Apart from greeting each other in the hallway, they keep to themselves as they don't seem to have much in common. The distance between them is somewhat maintained by the fact that every single night, YAMADA appears in CHAN's horrific nightmares

Beast | Directed by: Leonora Lonsdale | 18 min. United Kingdom, 2017
When 7 year old Alice's mother, Grace, tells her that her father's become a Beast, Alice begins to question who or what she really is.

Be Uncertain | Directed by: Jack Carrivick | 15 min. United Kingdom, 2018
A John Doe who abandons his daily routine, is now trapped in an endless loop of horror and uncertainty.

Bite Size Horror | Directed by: Anthony Melton, Ben Franklin, Toby Meakins, John Ross, Andrew Laurich, Michael Thelin, Jerome Sable, Chris Leone, Jack Bishop, Justin Nijm, Rob Savage | 21 min. USA, United Kingdom, 2017
An innovative cinematic collaboration presented in 10 genre bending 2-minute shorts, BITE SIZE HORROR is a festival of fright and delight that explores every facet of the unknown. These slices of scare range from the psychological thriller to the horror comedy, and everything in between.

Chose mentale | Directed by: William LABOURY | 20 min. France, 2017
The meeting of Ema, an isolated electrosensitive girl and her burglars ...

Control | Directed by: Carroll Brown | 14 min. USA, 2017
A scientist trapped by herself on an outpost near Jupiter after the death of her companion begins to imagine, or realize, that she is not alone after all.

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Death of Albine | Directed by: Mike Sharpe | 8 min. United Kingdom, 2018
"Death of Albine" is a collaborative film project between award-winning film director Mike Sharpe and British Installation Artist Rebecca Louise Law, inspired by elements of the French novel 'The Sinful Priest', by Emile Zola.

FACE | Directed by: Luke Tierney | 13 min. Australia, 2017
James needs to get to the pharmacy by midnight. It's 11:35. Unfortunately, the only person who can drive him there is his weird neighbor, Steve.

Funeral | Directed by: Leah Shore | 8 min. USA, 2018
A dramedy where the surreal meets the real by a water cooler.

Gadhedo (Donkey) | Directed by: Jai Sharma | 15 min. India, 2018
This film is based on a folk story from Rajasthan, India; set in a small village that is stuck in time. The story unfolds the satirical journey of GORU (a naïve washer man) who believes that MAATSA (the only teacher in the village) will be able to turn his donkey into a 'Man'.

Good Morning | Directed by: Elaine Mongeon | 12 min. USA, 2017
A young woman and her father adapt to terrifying challenges they never expected.

Hotel, Europe | Directed by: Quentin Daniel & Sylvain Coisne | 19 min. France, 2016
Sofia, a Greek woman, left her a 6 years old son to her father and has recently arrived in Paris, looking for a job. She starts working as a night watchman on a building site that used to be a luxury hotel. As she feels that she does not belong to this place, she finds out that she is not the only one as she encounters unusual strangers.

HUNTING SEASON | Directed by: Shannon Kohli | 12 min. Canada, 2018
Callie, (Hannah Levien) a small town gas station attendant, has an unexpected encounter which will change the course of her life forever.

I Am the Doorway | Directed by: Simon Pearce | 20 min. United Kingdom, 2018
A former astronaut believes himself the doorway to a terrifying alien invasion.

In Her Image | Directed by: Nikoloz Kevkhashvili | 20 min. Georgia, 2018
A desperate mother descends deeper into the labyrinth of virtual reality, willing to sacrifice everything to rescue her son from a familiar kidnapper.

Into the Dark | Directed by: Benjamin Berger | 14 min. USA, 2017
In the wake of a widespread viral epidemic, two U.S. soldiers stranded during their mission must fight to survive while an old man and his ailing daughter, running low on food, wait to be rescued.

Just after midnight | Directed by: Jean-Raymond Garcia | 20 min. France, 2017
Suzanne is a young blind primary school teacher. With a community of bling people, she keenly studies art history devoted to witches and to Satan's erotology. Transformed, Suzanne tries to steal a man's eyes to recover her eyesight. Her first attempt is a failure.

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Then, she chooses a more approachable and ingenuer prey : her personal reader and bashful lover, Peter.

Kantsaywhere | Directed by: Shay Kuehlmann & Kate Roxburgh | 11 min. United Kingdom, 2018

In 1883, one man envisioned the evolution of a perfect genetic society; a society where only the best could breed. That man was Francis Galton. Two hundred years on his vision is our reality...

Keep the Gaslight Burning | Directed by: Dave and Lou Elsey | 19 min. USA, 2018

Mrs. Maxwell has a problem. She killed her abusive husband, but he won't stay dead. Now he comes to her bedroom door every night for her, but cannot enter as long as she keeps the gaslight burning. She is trapped and her bedroom has become a prison, until the new lady's companion, Maya, proves she is brave enough to help...for a price.

Killer Unicorn | Directed by: Drew Bolton | 76 min. USA, 2018

After a tragic event last year at Brooklyn's Annual Enema Party, a group of gay friends is stalked by a unicorn masked killer out for revenge, taking down one drag queen down at a time.

Adult Themes

THE HEN (Quand Les Poules Ont Eu Des Dents) | Directed by: David Braun | 24 min. France, 2017

Year 2137, animals have so long disappeared that the younger generations do not even have a memory. While the reigning environmentalist dictatorship is trying to reintroduce a hen in the forest, the eco-citizens are formally banned on coming up to it. But Oscar, who illegally kept an ancient cookery book at his place, has a bee in his bonnet: eating it!

The Legend of Rasputin | Directed by: Jamie Shannon | 13 min. Canada, 2017

It is a dark, historical comedy about the first tabloid star Grigori Rasputin, presenting a chapter in his life through puppets.

Lifeline | Directed by: Harry Jackson | 8 min. United Kingdom, 2018

A nervous job candidate is forced to show much more than a positive attitude to save the life of her competitor.

The Light Refracts Into The Shadows | Directed by: Tsung Hsuan Yeh | 16 min. United Kingdom, 2018

When the man's glasses break, so does the clarity with which he has long viewed his world. He finds himself wandering forgotten memories, and discovers the true and terrible meaning of his myopia.

The Lossen | Directed by: Colin Skevington | 26 min. United Kingdom, 2018

In the dead of night an other worldly visitor forces a successful business woman in the final moments of her life to confront her lost dream before its too late.

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Lullaby | Directed by: Randy Valdes | 7 min. USA, 2018

'The Exorcist' meets 'The Conjuring' in this short film about Lana, a single woman, who comes home to find her mother and her young daughter missing. Upon discovering signs of a possible home intrusion and getting a phone call of her daughter singing a creepy lullaby, Lana is led into a gripping final confrontation with the source of these mysterious happenings.

Lunch Ladies | Directed by: J.M. Logan | 19 min. USA, 2017

Two burnt out high school Lunch Ladies do whatever it bloody takes on their quest to become Johnny Depp's personal chefs.

MJ | Directed by: Jamie Delaney | 13 min. United Kingdom, 2017

In an attempt to find acceptance and purpose in an isolated and lonely postmillennial world, Mary Jane turns her peers addiction to social media against them — to deadly effect.

THE MISSING SUN | Directed by: Brennan Vance | 79 min. USA, 2017

After a solar flare powers down her remote community, Alma discovers her husband Terry comatose. Suspecting he is having an out-of-body affair with an ex-lover, Alma attempts to bring him back to reality with help from Terry's estranged, drug-addled son and the leader of a new-age religion that specializes in astral travel.

N | Directed by: Iacopo Di Girolamo | 14 min. Italy, United Kingdom, 2018

An expressionist nightmare in which an inventor and his colleague test the 'Automaton', a machine able to create things from nothing. The machine works perfectly as long as the items it's asked to create start with the letter N...in German. The results of the test will be predictably catastrophic.

NICOLE'S CAGE | Directed by: Josef Brandl | 16 min. Germany, 2017

The big wheel in the most exciting area of the city is the perfect real estate for Jakob and Nicole, a young, ambitious and firmly in the event culture anchored couple. When one of the popular gondolas becomes free, they do not hesitate to move into their first common flat. Unfortunately none of them both has taken the time to get to know his partner before.

Paleonaut

Directed by: Eric McEver | 16 min. China, Japan, Singapore, USA, 2017

A scientist studying the first human time traveller falls in love with her subject. But if her research succeeds they will become separated by eons of history. She must find a way to connect with him across the ages or lose him forever.

Phase One | Directed by: Chris Costa | 15 min. USA, 2018

A man wakes up in the woods with no recollection of how he got there. Forced to survive off of the little resources he has, will he be able to find his way out?

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Phototaxis | Directed by: Melissa Ferrari | 7 min. USA, 2017

"Phototaxis" draws parallels between Mothman, a prophetic and demonized creature in West Virginia lore, and Narcotics Anonymous, the main treatment program in West Virginia's addiction epidemic. Rooted in nonfiction, this film contemplates synchronicity and the role of belief systems in perception; the tendency to assign supernatural meaning to tragedy and the unknowable; anonymous and apocryphal oral histories; and the moth to the flame. To visualize these narratives, natural materials and pastel-on-paper palimpsest animation are woven together using a multiplane and analog overhead projection.

Pie | Directed by: Adria Tennor | 11 min. USA, 2018

Carol invites Annette over for homemade pie and after much prodding divulges her special secret and scandalous ingredient.

Proxy | Directed by: Haidi Marburger | 6 min. Switzerland, 2017

A grieving mother uses left behind data to create a replica of her dead son. Her wish to have him back seems fulfilled, but soon the child must realize the limits of his artificial existence.

Pulsar | Directed by: Aurora Fearnley | 18 min. United Kingdom, 2017

A Peacemaker, who rejects his final mission to save an endangered planet, is believed to be cursed when a solar storm hits his spaceship. |

Reruns | Directed by: Rosto ---- | 14 min. Belgium, France, Netherlands, 2017

Everything's different but nothing has changed. The film is a trip through a sunken maze of memories and dreams.

Revelation - the City of Haze | Directed by: Qichao Mao | 14 min. China, 2017

Music Video

After witnessed his mother's death in a riot, the boy named Mai broke down and could not remember his own name since. One day, a girl named Yi, who's a scavenger, found Mai in a garbage can and brought him back to the City of Haze. From then on, they lived together and depended on each other for survival. Mai, though suffered from mental disorder, grew up together with Yi in the City of Haze. A decade later, riot reoccurred in the city and reminded Mai the death of his mother. So he stood out and fought with the robot police. At last, Yi died in the chaos; Mai lost a leg and was arrested. During his years in prison, old Mai felt he owed Yi too much and could not stop thinking about her. He created a robot with recycled iron that looks exactly like Yi. One day, he decided to escape from the prison together with robot Yi, but his attempt failed...

The Seditonist | Directed by: Kaine Levy | 16 min. United Kingdom, 2018

In a future-dystopian world known as Starkam, Eloy, a young survivor of the notorious 'black-bagging', plans to rescue his mother from a government medical facility.

Seeing Green | Directed by: Chelsea Peters | 9 min. USA < 2018

A cake shop owner turns unsuspecting women into Bridezillas.

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The Son, the Father... | Directed by: Lukas Hassel | 13 min. USA, 2017

The events on a young boy's birthday have unexpected consequences far into his future.

The Spectacular Summer of Weredog and Amy | Directed by: Sylvia Batey Alcalá | 12 min. USA, 2017

A recently divorced woman discovers that her newly-adopted dog is a reverse werewolf: every full moon, the dog turns into a man.

Strange Clowns | Directed by: Michael Paul | 11 min. USA, 2018

A lonely killer clown turns to online dating when ax murder just isn't enough anymore.

Space Between Stars | Directed by: Samuel W. Bradley | 10 min. Canada, 2018

SPACE BETWEEN STARS is a science fiction fable that follows a group of ethereal creatures exploring a derelict space station. As they're drawn out into the vast, unsettling environment and their fate begins to crystallize, questions are raised about the nature and ambiguity of conflict.

They Wait For Us

Directed by: George Thomson & Lukas Schrank | 20 min. United Kingdom, 2017

In a near-future end-of-life care facility, a reclusive hospital worker starts to believe a coma patient is attempting to communicate with him.

Time Traveller | Directed by: Stephen Kenny | 12 min. Ireland, 2017

A 'Back To The Future'-obsessed traveller boy strives to finish building his own DeLorean replica before his family are evicted from their halting site.

TRANSMISSION | Directed by: Varun Raman & Tom Hancock | 18 min. United Kingdom, 2017

Welcome To Britannia. Together We Stand Alone.

We Summoned A Demon | Directed by: Chris McInroy | 6 min. USA, 2017

They just wanted to be cool. Instead, they got a demon.

The Whistler

Directed by: Jennifer Nicole Stang | 11 min. Canada, 2018

Lindsey is forced to babysit her sister, Becky, one night, when, after innocently falling asleep, wakes up to find her sister gone. Someone may have taken Becky and could be after her as well...

Zombied | Directed by: Matthew Van Vorst | 16 min. USA, 2018

A normal night shift at Priced Less Supermarket--restocking, fighting social injustice, and transitioning into a zombie.