



## AMAAS ON-THE-BUS PROGRAMMING

AGM & SYMPOSIUM

June 10, 2023

### I. MAGNETIC RECONNECTION

13 min, 2012, Filmmaker: Kyle Armstrong

#### SYNOPSIS

A short documentary film contrasting the Northern Lights with decaying man made debris surrounding the Arctic Canadian town of Churchill, Manitoba. The film touches on the regenerative power of nature and the futility of mankind's struggle against the processes of decay. The film features an original score by Jim O'Rourke, a voice-over by Will Oldham and exceptional footage of the aurora borealis.

#### FILMMAKER'S BIO:

Kyle Armstrong is a filmmaker who focuses on engaging non-narrative short film. Often working with super8 and 16mm, as well as various video formats, Armstrong frequently uses hand-altering film techniques, employing bleaches, dyes, scratches, and paint to alter both his own footage and found films. His works have been screened at various galleries, during live performances and in traditional cinemas worldwide. His films are influenced by filmmakers as diverse as Stan Brakhage, Hollis Frampton, Bela Tarr, Alexander Sokurov, Guy Maddin and Andrei Tarkovsky.

### II. SOPHIA

11 min, 2017, Filmmaker: Zsafia Opra-Szabo

#### SYNOPSIS

In the fantastical animated short-film Sophia, a naïve young woman lives in her own frame of mind but she needs to break free of her illusions and leave her past behind - like old, faded pictures on the wall. Sophia is drawn to the city and charmed by a stranger who showers her with affection and promises. But things are not always what they seem to be.

#### FILMMAKER'S BIO

Zsafia Opra-Szabo is a theatre designer originally from Hungary, Budapest. She completed her second master in Theatre Design at the University of Alberta in 2015. During her degree, she also began working on her own art project which is an experiment to explore the borders between theatre, fine art, film and puppetry. Her stop-motion animation shorts Sophia and Tango Through Life garnered awards at numerous film festivals. Currently she creates installations and different fine art, theatre, film, and video projects.

### **III. LIFETIMES OF SNOW**

10 min, 2016, Filmmaker: Dylan Rhys Howard

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Set against the wintery backdrop of Alberta's capital city, Lifetimes of Snow is a short documentary about Edmonton-based musician Jim Cuming — aka Jom Comyn — that explores the way the artist's work is inspired and influenced by the power of place. An aesthetic smorgasbord featuring Super8, Super16, and multiple digital formats — not to mention Comyn's hauntingly beautiful music -- it was named the most outstanding Albertan documentary at NorthWest Fest in 2016.

#### **FILMMAKER'S BIO**

Born in Wellington, New Zealand and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Dylan Rhys Howard is an independent filmmaker whose work has been described by the National Screen Institute as "fresh, nuanced storytelling and imagery that is evocative in its simplicity and intimacy." In 2018, his short film Peak Oil was selected to be a part of Telefilm Canada's Canada: Not Short On Talent program and screened at the Marché Du Film Court at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival in France. Peak Oil also received an Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association award for Best Narrative Short and the A&E Short Filmmakers Award for Best Film at the National Screen Institute. His debut broadcast effort, Digging In The Dirt, a one-hour documentary about depression and suicide in Alberta's oil and gas sector, co-directed with Omar Mouallem, premiered on CBC Television in September 2019 and was featured in Hot Docs' Spotlight Alberta series in early 2021. His latest documentary as writer/producer/director, Boys Will Be...Themselves, premiered on CBC Gem in October 2022. His debut feature film Eudaimonia, co-written and co-produced with Alexandra Dawkins, is set to make its festival debut in fall, 2023. He continues to live and work in Edmonton.

### **IV. 2.57K**

**13 min, 2016, Filmmaker: Eva Colmers**

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Far away, inexplicable forces shape matter into form. And so life begins: from dust they arise, drawn to each other by the magical frequency of 2,750 Hz. Captivating, beautiful and stirring, the short film 2.57k allows us to see and hear the extraordinary.

#### **FILMMAKER'S BIO**

Eva is the founder of No Problem Productions and has written, directed and/or produced a wide variety of award-winning films in the fiction, documentary, animation and experimental genre including QUINN, The Suburnight, Happy Birthday, Mango!, We Regret to Inform You, 2.57k, and The Weightless Traveller. She has also written and directed for the NFB, Bell Media, telus Original, Mosaic Entertainment/atpn and CBC.

## **V. IIKAAKIIMAAT**

9 min, 2019, Filmmaker: Conor McNally

### SYNOPSIS

IIKAAKIIMAAT is a short documentary focusing on the life and work of Blackfoot and Dene artist, Lauren Crazybull. The film provides viewers with a personal story of resiliency.

### FILMMAKER'S BIO

Conor McNally is a filmmaker based in amiskwaciy (Edmonton, Treaty 6). Conor has produced and directed numerous documentaries, music videos, and experimental films. He is a proud father and citizen of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

## **VI. LUX**

6 min, 2021, Filmmaker: aAron Munson

### SYNOPSIS

Freeze & Thaw

### FILMMAKER'S BIO

aAron Munson is a Canadian filmmaker, cinematographer and multimedia artist. Their work has taken them from their personal studio to war zones, high-Arctic weather stations, reindeer nomad camps in Siberia, and the Arabian Desert. aAron's projects tackle extreme human experiences, both far from and close to home, utilising film, video, photography and sound to create explorations relating to mental illness, memory, and the nature of consciousness.

## **VII. BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND**

1 hr 29 min, 2022, Filmmaker: Trevor Anderson

### SYNOPSIS

While the other students wonder if new kid Robin is a boy or a girl, Robin forges a complicated bond with the school bully, making increasingly dangerous choices to fit in.

### FILMMAKER'S BIO

Born in Alberta and based in Montreal, Trevor Anderson is a writer-director and former video store clerk whose short films have been presented at many international festivals. His work has screened three times at Sundance, three times at SXSW, and twice at the Berlinale, where his musical *The Man That Got Away* (2012) won the D.A.A.D. Short Film Prize. His western *The Little Deputy* (2015) and his science fiction horror *Docking* (2019) both premiered at Sundance, and were named to Canada's Top Ten by the Toronto International Film Festival. Trevor's feature film *Before I Change My Mind* (2022) had its world premiere in competition at the Locarno Film Festival, where lead actor Vaughan Murrae won the Golden Jug Award for Best Acting Performance.