CA' FOSCARI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 9
20-23 MARCH 2019
AUDITORIUM SANTA MARGHERITA, VENEZIA
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INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

30 short films from the most prestigious cinema schools and universities around the world representing 23 countries:

Austria, Brazil, China, Philippines, France, Germany, United Kingdom, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Spain, Unites States, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela

(all films will be screened in the original version with English and Italian subtitles)

AKIF
Director: Harun Baysan
School: Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University
Turkey, 2018, Turkish, 30', *Fiction*
Sometimes life seems to be a dead end, with no chance to escape. This is what Akif thinks. He is a young man from Budapest afflicted by the thought to avoid the military service to stay with his sick father. But the moment he is going to throw in the towel and give in, he meets Ugur, who will help him carry out his wish. A touching short film dedicated to the value of friendship, the willingness to find a solution at any cost, even if sacrifices are needed. A window on the difficulty to break out from a strict society, and on the hope to be near our loved ones.

TOCHKA BIFURKATSII – BIFURCATION POINT
Director: Leonid Gardash
School: VGIK
Russia, 2018, Russian, 23'30", *Fiction*
Innocent actions can often lead to unexpected consequences, sometimes even catastrophic ones. Chaos theory assumes the "bifurcation point" as a state of the system where the smallest fracture in the flow can dramatically impact the whole. This is what twenty-year-old Artem and an expert policemen experience when a silly prank escalates to become their personal "bifurcation point".
The scenes represent a deeper reflection on contemporary Russia, with dialogues depicting the generational gap between the young and the adults, together with the understanding that open discussion is the key to mutual understanding and improvement.

COSÌ IN TERRA – AS IT IS ON EARTH

Director: Pier Lorenzo Pisano
School: Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia
Italy, 2018, Italian, 14', *Fiction*
We're in Acquasanta Terme, in the Marche region, one of the most devastated towns hit by the earthquake of 2016. Here we meet the new vicar and the few citizens who decided to live between the ruins of this town. Among them there is Mrs. Margherita, who is always followed by a goat. She has lost her niece in the natural disaster. This film is a distressing evidence of the devastation that the earthquake of 2016 left not only in the Marche region, but also on its inhabitants and on their own lives.

DHACHKA

Director: Devik Rathod
School: Whistling Woods
India, 2018, Hindi, 15', *Fiction*
A wrong turn during a seemingly everlasting journey is all it takes to put a strain on this family's relationships. An extremely touching and realistic short film that encourages the public to analyse a problem often overlooked: that of women and their role in society. Family life takes the stage here. Devik Rathod tells us about the frustrations and misunderstandings that naturally develop within the family and in which the viewer can easily echo their own. A reflection on family bonds that focuses on the figure of a submissive mother who, with her actions and her tired and rebellious silence, takes control of the situation.

DÉDESTINÈS – DEADESTINY

Director: Quentin Porte, Jean-Baptiste Beltra
School: Satis Marseille
France, 2018, French, 18' 30", *Fiction*
Vincent enters the abandoned mansion he has to sell to find an odd character showing him around. The place seems in fact haunted by the owners themselves who perform a musical to introduce Vincent to the family drama. This spooky and grotesque performance creates an atmosphere swinging between a circus and a musical stage. Alongside the visual appearance goes a strange system of sounds that make us question the contrasting aesthetics of the film. Equally important is the meaning of the whole performance, slowly unveiled over during the narration.

DIRTY LITTLE RASCALS

Director: Ben Bovington-Key
School: UAL - University of the Arts London
Great Britain, 2018, English, 10'36", *Fiction*
Adolescence is a difficult period, we all know that. Especially for 'peculiar' boys living in the '80s. Reg is ostracized because of his leg and Dom because of his shyness. Two different boys bound by an odd friendship that somehow works out to make their dream come true: retrieving a little bin full of pornographic newspapers clippings from Reg's grandmother bedroom.

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Director: Chanelle Eidenbenz
School: Zurich University of the Arts
Switzerland, 2018, German, 19'30", *Fiction*
Even if she doesn't really understand why, Irna senses that the relationship with her son Jago is getting more and more complicated. Disheartened, she seeks refuge in her own world, which revolves around Elias, a rubber doll, "the elephant in the room" described by the title. While Irna keeps holding on to her own reality with all her might, Jago is desperately trying to make his mother understand. This short film investigates the social taboos about denial, its consequences and the difficulties of accepting the

truth. Inner illness materializes itself thought a fictitious being, a rubber doll in this case, ever-present in the life of this young woman.

FUSE

Director: Shadi Adib
School: Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
Germany/Iran, 2018, English, 7'18", *Animation*
A mouse is caught in a trap and a group of people have to decide what to do with it. The audience will be totally involved in the succession of the frightening events watching them through the little protagonist's eyes. The story evolves as the other characters plan how to get rid of the little lead character, but a surprise ending will lead to a revenge that can only be defined as just.

THE GREAT IMOGENE

Director: Rachel David
School: Azusa Pacific University
USA, 2018, English, 20', Fiction
Madness is the key in this short film, in which everything is nuanced and suspended in between reality and fantasy, illusion and pure magic. Imogene is a grown girl, nearly a woman. She dreams of having one day her own magic show and becoming the greatest magician of all time. When she finds out about a competition for young magicians in Las Vegas she decides to escape from the mental institution she has grown up in. Assisted by a eccentric helper, she'll complete her journey and will find out her real self. The psychedelic ambience and the multiple recall to the world of magic make the short film an intense play of perspective and invite to a deep reflection around the theme of madness and the way each one of us perceive things differently.

SA AMONG AGWAT – IN BETWEEN SPACES

Direction: Don Senoc
School: University of Philippines - Diliman
Philippines, 2018, Philippine, 18'30", *Fiction*
Little Mako lives in conditions of absolute poverty in the boundless and uncontaminated space of the Philippine forest together with his brother and his mother, until one day his aunt comes to take him away. In that moment, the embrace between his mother and Jun reveals their explosive emotions as they burst into tears watching the baby leave. *Sa among Agwat* is the story of a mother who decides to entrust her child to another family to grant him a better future, regardless of her own pain.

RÙQĪN ZHĚ – THE INTRUDER

Director: Zhang Xueying
School: Beijing Film Academy
China (PRC), 2018, Chinese, 26' 21", *Fiction*
Young Tang Yan, a professional thief, decides to break into a house to rob its rich owner, but she becomes an unexpected witness to a premeditated murder. Despite finding an escape from this mortal trap, the sudden cry of a baby makes her turn back. What should have been an easy job becomes a struggle for life, and not just her own. The director presents us with a thriller rich of action that keeps the audience breathless until the end. But most of all it's the main character who seems difficult to empathize with in the beginning, but who gradually unveils her deepest and human aspects throughout the narration.

LALO'S HOUSE

Director: Kelley Kali
School: University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts
U.S.A., 2018, English, 25', *Fiction*
Manou and her little sister are kidnapped from their house in Jacmel, Haiti, and brought to what was supposed to be a catholic orphanage. Instead, they have to escape from a sex trafficking racket. The

film cries out the cause against modern slavery, a sore point potentially involving millions of young boys and girls mostly from underdeveloped countries.

DIE LETZTEN KINDER IM PARADISE – THE LAST CHILDREN IN PARADISE

Director: Anna Roller
School: University of Television and Film München
Germany, 2018, German, 29', *Fiction*
Leah is going through that unique phase which from the childhood paradise propels us into the world of adolescence. The childlike innocence that makes her leave the house where she lives with her little brother Theo and her grandmother to play hide-and-seek becomes the curiosity that will push her to observe, to study people and their naked bodies. Nearly isolated from the real world, the brothers spend their days in this remote paradise taking care of each other; until death comes in to disrupt the quiet of their family. The rush of emotions that upset Leah goes together with the storm outside their house, like a mythological flood which will transform an encounter into an encouragement for the girl to face the outside world, leaving behind everything that still reminded her of her childhood.

NOOH

Director: Edoardo Bramucci
School: Roma Film Academy
Italy, 2018, Italian/French, 11' 47", *Fiction*
Nooh is a Central African child who has reached Italian shores illegally. He finds himself alone in a reception centre for immigrants and refugees, where bureaucracy feels more important than empathy. He decides to escape with his imaginary friend's help. This is for them a new beginning by the sea, made of adventures and friendly everyday life. But the dream ends when Nooh meets Miriam, a curious and sweet young girl. This friendship will call into question the relationship between Nooh and his imaginary friend, but will also push him to overcome the wall of fears he built to shield himself from the adults' world. A story to remind that what seems too difficult can become simple through a child's eyes.

LOS HIJOS DEL SILENCIO – THE SONS OF SILENCE

Direction: Anthony Xavier
School: Universidad de Los Andes
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 2018, Spanish, 11'51", *Documentary*
Nicolas Maduro's dictatorial regime in Venezuela violently suppresses the democratic opposition and whoever stands in the way. This story pays homage to all the young people who fought for freedom, just like the protagonist fights on the ring. He's a young boxer who has seen many of his friends lose their match. But the game is still on for him and he continues to fight to honor all the children who lost their parents, and all the parents who lost their children.

DRINNEN WIRD NICHT GERAUCHT – NO SMOKING INDOOR

Director: Philipp Westerfeld
School: Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg
Germany, 2018, German, 11', *Fiction*
A retired wife can do nothing but follow her husband's rules. Absolute imperative: no smoking indoor. Alone all day long, she likes to spend her time looking outside her apartment window, where life seems to flow so fast. She watches other people living their lives : a child playing, a romantic couple, husband and wife arguing. This is how she allows herself the only pleasure that lets her escape from that cold, slow, dead place. Smoking makes it easier for her. One day her husband comes home early and discovers her secret. Angry, he throws her cigarettes and ashtray out of the window. Silence falls on the apartment, underlining the distance between the spouses and the anger of the woman, forced to live under the same roof with a grouch who doesn't show the least bit of affection. Reached her last straw, the woman will go all in to outsmart her husband and find her lost serenity.

WE WSI GADAJĄ – PEOPLE TALK

Director: Grzegorz Paprzycki
School: Krzysztof Kieślowski Faculty of Radio and Television University of Silesia in Katowice
Poland, 2018, Polish, 12'57", *Fiction*
People talk about a man living alone in the forest. They say he made a fortune in Africa. Maybe these are just rumors, but they're worth checking out. That's how our protagonists set out to the forest, with the feeling that their adventure may not end well. This film presents as a social metaphor of the world today, focusing on the theme of immigration and suggesting an immediate correlation with contemporary Europe, full of discrimination and xenophobia.

PRIMAVERA DE FERNANDA – FERNANDA'S SPRING

Director: Débora Zanatta, Estevan de la Fuente
School: Universidade Estadual do Paraná/Faculdade de Artes do Paraná
Brazil, 2018, Portuguese, 19'22", *Fiction*
Fernanda is a transsexual girl who is forced to sell her body to survive. She would change her life and find an honest job any time but because of her condition she is constantly rejected. After knocking on many doors, she is finally hired in a supermarket's bakery. At last Fernanda has the chance to start a new life: she finds her spring, her rebirth season. This story is about the sad and common situation of people who are excluded just because they are themselves.

RAHEEL

Director: Ayay Asadi Rahbar
School: University of Applied Sciences, Culture and Art
Iran, 2018, Persian, 30', *Fiction*
A girl on the edge. This is the beginning of *Raheel*, story of the homonymous Afghan woman who decides to move to Iran by land. Her husband had previously gone there for work and she plans to follow him. On the road she meets new people and collects experiences that change her way of seeing the world. It is a story about the dynamics and the psychology of migration, highlighting how sometimes the journey itself can change one's goals completely along the way, even before they are achieved.

REVIVER

Directors: Shalev Ben Elya, Renen Adar
School: Bezalel Academy
Israel, 2018, 2' 04", *Animation*
In this short stop-motion animation film, a stuffed baby mouse discovers the ability to revive old, rusty metal pieces by spraying them with lubricating oil. An ironic and brief adventure, a metaphor on the circle of life and on how appearances can deceive, all on the notes of Brahms' Lullaby.

ROSSO: LA VERA STORIA FALSA DEL PESCATORE CLEMENTE – ROSSO: A TRUE LIE ABOUT A FISHERMAN

Director: Antonio Messana
School: La Femis
France/Italy, 2018, Italian, 28', *Fiction*
In Favignana, Sicily, the daily life of an old fisherman and his son is turned upside-down by an unexpected event: one ordinary morning, instead of a fish, they catch an immigrant's dead body. The old fisherman wants to bring the body back to shore and bury it, like every man deserves. His son, however, is worried about the consequences and wants to throw it back in the sea. But the old fisherman won't change his mind. The director gives us an important chance to reflect on the immigration problem with the story of a normal fisherman who listens to his own feelings.

SAN MIGUEL

Director: Cris Gris

School: New York University Tisch School of Arts Maurice Kanbar Institute
USA/Mexico, 2018, Spanish, 18', *Fiction*
Ana, a devout young girl, tries everything she can to heal her mother, grieving for her little brother. Desperately trusting in her faith, she keeps praying until she finds herself doing things she wouldn't expect, pushing her faith to its limits in hopes of divine intervention. *San Miguel* is a deep reflection about faith and how sometimes it can drive us to do something against faith itself.

SASZKA - SASHKA

Director: Katarzyna Lesisz
School: National Film School in Lodz
Poland/Ukraine, 2018, polish, 24' 55", *Fiction*
This fiction about immigration puts a spotlight on the life of Sashka, a young Ukrainian woman who chooses marriage to obtain a Polish visa. One day, she is called out of her workplace: her husband has died. The funeral, though, only turns out to be an opportunity to meet her beloved Piotr, who is yet to give her an explanation for his behavior over the years.

STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

Directors: Denis Fleurion, Etienne Bonafini, Romain Marchetti, Cécile Minaud, Julien Adoum, Léo Nezot
School: Supinfocom Rubika School
France, 2018, French, 5'50", *Animation*
A group of French friends on holiday are making a road trip though the United States when, in the middle of the American desert, they meet a strange hitchhiker and decide to give him a ride. *Stuck in the middle*, through an exceptional animation technique, offers a reflection on the theme of travel, essentially connecting it to that of violence. A car, four criminals and a hitchhiker are the ingredients of a story with unusual implications that leaves to the audience the task of deciphering the meaning hidden by a gloomy and suspended atmosphere that makes the sequence particularly mysterious.

TAHRIB – CLANDESTINE

Director: Gerard Vidal-Cortes
School: ESCAC
Spain, 2018, Arab, 9'55", *Fiction*
On the beach, a group of immigrant traffickers is ready to redeem their money and board some migrants towards Spain. But the helmsman knows that neither the boat nor the fuel will be enough to reach their destination. A new, tragic point of view to the migrants' matter from the prospective of who is behind the curtain of these illegal trades. The prospective of who ends up sharing the same fear of the people inside the boat, except they chose this way only for a better future.

THE SUNDAY NIGHT DRINKERS CLUB

Director: Ollie Gardner
School: University of Exeter
U.K., 2018, English, 20', *Experiemental*
Four childhood friends are shocked when one is diagnosed with a severe form of cancer. Yet, this is not a bleak outlook on the traumas of cancer treatment. *Sunday Night Drinkers Club* is a visually striking film, designed to capture the relentless positivity and optimism of patients' and patients' friends alike. The imperishable bond of friendship and love, ultimately, prevails over the hardship that the friends will endure.

TNT – BOXERSTORY

Director: Mark Gerstorfer
School: Filmakademie Wien
Austria, 2018, German, 19' 59", *Fiction*

TNT is a middle-aged man who has devoted his entire life to boxing and now can't accept that his career will end. He still feels himself strong but he decides to sell his body and his pride, for both love and money. He gives up against a challenger who's clearly weaker than him, falling down on the fourth round. However, he can't accept with the defeat, with his paranoia. This short film is structured and divided in three chapters, just like the rounds of one of TNT's boxing matches. But there's no fourth round to redeem himself: TNT stands tall between personal victory and athletic defeat.

VÝLET– THE TRIP

Director: Daniel Rihák
School: FTF VŠMU
Slovakia, 2018, Slovak, 17' 40", *Fiction*
Veronika, a young student of medicine, joins Roman, her lover as well as her professor at the university, on a short trip to the mountains. Their relationship seems fine, so much that they undertake a romantic excursion to the lake by boat. Until all of a sudden Roman reveals that he has discovered Veronika's secret and a fight for life begins. In this thriller, the tension develops slowly from the beginning, when we can already feel a rift in the romantic atmosphere of the film, to a sudden turning point whence it's clear there is no return.

SHOU ESMAK – WHAT'S YOUR NAME

Director: Nour Al-Moujabber
School: Lebanese University Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture
Lebanon, 2018, Arabic, 14'54", *Fiction*
A video-project to remember. Lucas decides to face his mother's Alzheimer putting together a number of tapes recording her life episodes and other important people. This is a romantic short movie which nicety portrays the development of an unstoppable illness. Lucas wants to record everything to slow his mother's decline. Even if he understands that he can never stop it, he still wants his mother to remember who she was, her name.

NIǍO ÉR WÈI NǏ LÁI – WEEPING BIRDS

Director: Chan Teik Quan
School: Multimedia University Johor Campus
Malaysia, 2018, Malaysian, 19'56", *Fiction*
In the house where she has spent her whole life, an old lady decides to suspend treatment and prepare herself to die. Her husband wants to make her happy to the very last and tries to grant all her wishes. The old couple plan the end trying to enjoy every moment together.
The director presents death in a sensitive and playful way, reminding us that we should cherish every moment of our life because death always catches us off guard, no matter how much we can prepare ourselves.