A showcase of juried films from the Department of Cinema and Media Arts, York University.
CineSiege 2021

CineSiege features the winners in three genre and five craft categories of York student films from the 2020/21 school year, chosen by a jury of program alumni and leading practitioners of Toronto’s film and media culture.

All 35 films selected by faculty for competing at CineSiege are honoured for their exceptional achievement in the art and craft of cinema. The nominated films include fiction, documentary and alternative works.

CineSiege is made possible through the generous support of our founding sponsor, Cinespace Film Studios, as well as the Mirkopoulos family for their outstanding contributions to our students, our school and the larger film community.
THE JURORS

Nada El-Omari

A filmmaker and writer of Palestinian and Egyptian origin and raised in Montreal, Nada’s work, practice and research interests centre on the intergenerational transmissions of memories, displacement and the stories of belonging and identity through a poetic, hybrid lens. El-Omari holds a BFA in Film Production and MFA in Film from York University.

Hugh Gibson

A 2004 alumni of the BFA program, Hugh works as a director, producer and writer. His directorial debut feature, The Stairs (‘16), premiered at TIFF and won the TFCA’s Rogers Best Canadian Film Award. Other credits include A Place Called Los Pereyra (‘09, producer), which premiered at IDFA, and the short films A Tomb with a View (‘14, producer) and Hogtown Blues (‘04, director), both of which played at TIFF.

Jared Raab

A director, cinematographer and editor who graduated from York U in 2007, Jared has cut multiple feature length documentaries including the award-winning films Spring and Arnaud (2013), KOOP (2011) and John Greyson’s Fig Trees (2008). As a member of Zapruder Films, his film and television projects have screened around the world to rave reviews at festivals such as TIFF, Sundance, Rotterdam, Locarno and Slamdance. As a director, Jared received the Arthur Lipsett award for innovation in Music Videos.

Avril Jacobson

As an editor specializing in theatrical documentaries and series, Avril’s (BFA 2006) feature film work has screened at festivals including Sundance, TIFF, Hot Docs, DOXA and True/False. Most recently, feature documentary Jaddoland received an Independent Spirit Award. In television, Avril’s work has screened on CBC, CTV and Netflix. In 2011, she received a Gemini Award for Best Picture Editing.
Year 1 & 2
Nominated Films

Film production faculty award the best First Year production award, and the best fiction, documentary and alternative Second Year award.
30 Days
5:10 min
Drama
Director/ Editor: Michael Speciale, Maya Danou
Cast: Alessandro Lunni

My Girl, Skelly
5:30 min
Sci-Fi Documentary
Filmmaker: Abraham David
Visual Effects: Ciaran Federico
Cast: Giovanni Manza, Jules Legal, Abi Arbajio

The Well of Fortune
5 min
Drama
Director, Writer: Daniella Castillo
Cast: Gabriela Castillo
YEAR 2 NOMINEES

DOCUMENTARY

Borkenkäfer
8:05 min
Filmmaker: Nicolas Flood
Sound Recordist: Lorenzo Silvestri

Kadıköy
5:50 min
Filmmaker: Arca Arseven
Editor, Sound: Samuel Forsyth

Sayed Cima
8:15 min
Filmmaker: Yassin Nour
Editor, Sound: Jacob Robert

CineSiege 2021
Anachronism
10 min
Director, Writer: Brayden McQueen
Cinematographer: Ewan McIntyre
Editor: George Abraham
Sound: Adam Hansel
Music: Graham Campbell
Cast: Hasib Rahim, Brayden McQueen, Jordan Humphrey

Standby
9 min
Director, Writer: Adelaide Berardi
Production Manager: Sheida Rafizadeh
Cinematographer: Katrina Peralta
Editor: Connor Hornsby-Webb
Sound: Elijah Baron
Cast: Kyra Smith, Abby Sarney, Sarah Eddenden

Like There’s No Tomorrow
10 min
Director, Writer: Natalia Morales Caceres
Production Manager: Kathleen Newton
Cinematographer: Yassin Nour
Editor: Rhea Saini
Sound: Nick Mokrzewski
Production Designer: Natalia Morales Caceres & Olive Pitschner
Cast: Shelbi Florence, John Wamsley, Ray Cammaert

CineSiege 2021
Unspoken Space
5:09 min
Filmmaker: Jacob Robert
Cast: Clark Burger, Jordon Oattes, Vanessa Ringuette

Sonder
4 min
Filmmaker: Brayden McQueen
Cast: Hasib Rahim, Meg Harethin

DK Ultra
4:15 min
Filmmaker: Samuel Forsyth
Cast: Nathan Jutronich
Year 3 & 4
Nominated Films

An external jury of alumni select the winners in the following categories amongst all year III and year IV films – fiction, alternative, and documentary, as well as outstanding screenwriter, cinematographer, editor, sound - and production designer.
Encrucijadas (Crossroads)
10 min
Director: Rosa Solorzano Urias
Production Manager: Carlee Santos
Cinematographer, Editor: Angela Savinon
Sound: Quanah Lawrence

My Girls
12 min
Director: Desiree Falcao
Production Manager: Celina Bradley
Cinematographer: Farhiya Ahmed
Editor: Sheila Rafizadeh
Sound: Al Magyar, Kendra Howden

Metal on Ice
13 min
Filmmaker: Brandon Kenney
Editor: Nicholas Collier

On the Horizon
15 min
Director, Cinematographer: Bailey Johnson
Production Manager: Honor Spencer
Editor: Boyan Demchuk
Sound: David Prato
Perfect Timing
15:15 min
Director: Marissa Wheler
Editor/Sound Designer: Apoorva Chugh

Talks of Faith
13:30 min
Director: Melissa Nicole
Cinematographer: Theo Ahluwalia
Editor, Sound Recordist: Matthew Angell
Sound Design: Marissa Wheler
Music: Alice Kazal

Trial of the Great Forger
18 min
Director, Writer: Yehor Vozniuk
Production Manager: Zeyad Jamal
Cinematographer: Paul Villenave
Editor: Dylan Posgate
An Ephemeral Anywhere
9:38 min
Director, Writer: Cole James
Cinematographer, Editor, Sound: Emily Ishikawa
Music: Sasha Louis Leger

Empty Spaces where you’ve been
10 min
Filmmaker: Kendra Howden
Cinematographer: Farhiya Ahmed

Fellow Travellers
11 min
Writer, Director: Brian Alonso Ojeda
Editor: Oliver Debski-Tran
Cinematographer: Brian Alonso Ojeda, Cole James
Sound: Alex Lo
I’d rather miss out on a Tuesday
5:49 min
Director: Stefano Terrana

Now They’re Just Lines
8 min
Director: Siyao Guo

Meander
9 min
Filmmaker: Dous’R (aka Ferdous S. Rahman)
Editor: Hao Fu
Sound: Sumel Chowdhury
Cast: Zakia Urmee

Pronouns
2:25 min
Director: Rowan Elliot
ALIEN COP
14 min
Writers: Will Sheppard & Hayden Gallagher
Director: Will Sheppard
Cinematographer: Hayden Gallagher
Editor: Bryden Frankish
Production Manager, Sound: Andrew Lai
Sound Editor: Hayden Gallagher & Will Sheppard

Bookie
12 min
Director, Writer: Sebastián Vives
Production Manager, 1st AD: Boyan Demchuk
Cinematographer: Ryan Welsby
Editor: Verona Choi
Location Sound: Kendra Howden
Post Sound: Xavier Allard
Production Designer: Antonia Sinn

Cleanliness Is Next to Godliness
15:46 min
Director, Writer: Nicholas Collier
Production Manager: Natasha Kamkin
1st AD: Sebastian Vives
Cinematographer: Michael Cao
Editor: Brandon Kenney
Sound: Xavier Allard
Production Designer: Andrew Balint
Coming by Honestly
9 min
Director, Writer: Paul Villenave
Production Manager, 1st AD: Vicky Tan
Cinematographer: Josiah Dyck
Editor: Dylan Posgate
Sound: David Prato
Production Designer: Arianna Cancian

Cuckoo
15 min
Director, Writer: Rebecca Fadoju
Cinematographer: Jack Peresin
1st AD: Alise Rosemin
Editor: Justin Imm
Sound: Minsoo Lee
Production Designer: Antonia Sinn

A Date
8 min
Director, Writer: Farhiya Ahmed
Production Manager: Matthew Walker
1st AD: Celina Bradley
Cinematographer: Paul Villenave
Editor: Madeline Atkins
Sound: Kendra Howden
**In Other News**

**10 min**
Director, Writer: Ivan Dossa
Production Manager: John Tan
1st AD: Xavier Allard
Cinematographer: Brandon Kenney
Editor: Jadon J.B. Williams
Sound: Johnny Chau
Production Designer: Wasifa Noshin

Cast: Jephthe Beljour

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**Going Up Standing Still**

15 min
Director/Writer: Carly Balestreri
Director of Photography: Rowan Elliot
Sound Recordist: Rachelle Au
Editor: Frank Varga
Production Manager: Meaghan Cooper
1st AD: Rosa Solorzano
Production Designer: Frances Santiago

Cast: Isabelle Ellis, Mitchell Nader, Couteney Dorrington, Jasmine Toombs, James Hyett

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**Sugar**

9 min
Director, Writer: Dylan Posgate
Production Manager, 1st AD: David Prato
Cinematographer: Will Sheppard
Editor: Paul Villenave
Sound: Alexander Mitro