

### BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Live-action

*It's Christmas Eve in Japan. A Filipina college student searching for her Japanese father meets a young man who is waiting for the nighttime movers to help him evaporate.*



#### **Phyllis Grae Grande, writer/director**

Phyllis Grae Grande has worked in film since 2011 with directors like Samantha Lee (Billie and Emma 2018), Mikhail Red (Neomanila 2017) and John Torres (Vietnam Rose 2016). She started directing in 2017 with the short, "If Not" (Audience Choice at QCinema) and documentary, "Haunted: A Last Visit to the Red House" (DMZ International Documentary Film Festival). After joining the Southeast Asian Film Lab, she's now developing her first narrative feature at the Pustnik Scriptwriting Residency in Romania.

### THE BUSH-MAN

Animation

*A lonely, self-doubting middle-aged man faces an upheaval in life, as thorns start growing from his beard, slowly turning him into a bush-man. Rejected by society and losing faith in himself, he finds an unlikely welcoming shelter where he must accept who he became in order to find peace again.*

#### **Rania Majed, writer/director**

Rania Majed is a Lebanese producer and director with 16 years of international experience in film and TV production. She has produced and directed a variety of short films and documentaries and created video art "Truth or Dare" and "Point Mort". She has worked as executive producer for a leading documentary production house, overseeing production across the Arab world for Al Jazeera. She has won the "Best Producer" award in 2013 by Creative Lab, twofour54 in Abu Dhabi. She holds a BA in Dramatic Arts from the Lebanese University.



## Finalists Script Pitch 2019

INTER  
FILM

### CHLORINE

Live-action

*A beautiful house that doesn't feel like home. A 13-year-old girl that is putting pressure on herself, training to stay as long as possible at the bottom of the swimming pool. Why does she want to hide underwater?*



#### **Thanos Psychogios, writer/director**

Thanos Psychogios studied Political Science at the University of Athens and Filmmaking at the London Film School. His short films, "Something will turn up" and "Carols", are adaptations of celebrated contemporary Greek literature, selected and awarded at film festivals. His short film "Chlorine" has been selected by the ERT-Microfilm and the MFI script workshop programs. "Souvenir", his first feature, received the Pack and Pitch award (Sarajevo Talents) and a Greek Film Center screenwriting fund. The project was selected for

the TIFF Pitch Stop and Cinemed-Montpellier development program.

### HELMA

Live-action

*An Iranian fisherman sees his existence threatened by Chinese fishing vessels. In order to make a living he is forced to sell his daughter Helma into marriage. But Helma seems to be possessed by an evil mythological creature.*

#### **Reza Emamian, writer/director**

Amir Reza Emamian is 31 years old and was born in Ahvaz, Iran. During a short film shooting where he acted he discovered his fascination for cinema. After that, he dropped his Engineering-Mechanics studies in order to follow his intuition: being a filmmaker. After some studies at the Hilaj cinema School in Tehran, he filmed his first short "Alter Ego" in winter 2018. Currently, he is working on his second short "Helma".



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INTER  
FILM

### INAPPROPRIATE

Live-action

*After a breakup, a man continues to spend time with his ex's 11 year-old daughter.*



#### **James McNally, writer**

James McNally is the founder and lead programmer of *Shorts That Are Not Pants*, a short film screening series turned festival in Toronto, Canada. His other film festival work includes TIFF, Sundance, Hot Docs, Hamptons International Film Festival, and the Audi Dublin International Film Festival. "Inappropriate" is his first screenplay.

### SIXTEEN

Live-action

*Adam (16) hides behind a bourqa and goes out into the streets of Cairo for a reason only he knows.*

#### **Sameh Alaa, writer/director**

Sameh Alaa is an Egyptian filmmaker based between Cairo & Brussels. He has a bachelor's degree in German Literature and also worked as an AD on various commercials and feature films before moving to Europe. In 2012, Sameh moved to Prague, to study Film Directing at FAMU. He is also an alumnus of the Locarno Academy, Nisi Masa (ESP), and the Berlinale Talent Campus (Durban). His latest short film „Fifteen“ premiered at Toronto film festival, and went on to win several awards around the world.



### SUNGURA

Live-action

*A young woman, living with a disability, is determined to buy a vibrator during an eventful bridal shower, but she must confront guests who see her as asexual because she uses a wheelchair.*



#### **Lydia Matata, writer/director**

Lydia Matata is a multi talented film maker from Kenya. Her directorial debut “Millet” won the production funding at the Kenyan script writing competition Shorts, Shots & Shots. Furthermore she is one of ten writers and creators of the German and Kenyan co-produced TV series, “Country Queen”. Her short documentary “The Grieving Circle” which follows to Kenyan women determined to help parents in their community struggling through grief after Pregnancy or Infant Child Loss (PAIL) is currently in post-production. The project was awarded a grant and fellowship by One World Media. Her other project is a feature documentary, “Better Sundays” which follows a Ugandan atheist as he tries to run a secular school in his religious community. The film which is in production has received lab support and funding from Docubox (EADFF) and Hot Docs Blue Ice Group.

### TRAITORS OF THE EYES

Animation

*During a ceremonial prayer for the dead, the ghost of a mother escapes its coffin. Chased by her identical twin sons, the three discover a history of shame and forbidden sexual encounters that resembles their present-day guilt and unresolved mother-son relationship.*



#### **Saad Dnewar, co-writer/ co-director**

A graduate of Applied Arts and Sciences in the German University in Cairo Saad Dnewar started his career as a storyboard artist, working on commercials, before he landed a short career as a 2D lead animator and sequence designer for digital commercials. His first short live-action film “Hady” earned him the Masr Dot Bokra Film Festival 2016 production grant. His recent short script for the film „Traitors of The Eyes“ earned him and his brother a nomination to the Robert Bosch Stiftung Prize of 2020.



### **Abdelrahman Dnewar, co-writer/ co-director**

Born in 1993, Abdelrahman and Saad in 2012 co-authored and directed the short student film "The Super Twins", which then was selected by the Ghetto Film School to screen in their section in Sundance Film Festival. Abdelrahman was the youngest director to win the Best Director Award in the Cairo 48 Hours Short Film Festival and the first to earn it for 2 consecutive years (2016-2017). His next short films were selected at various film festivals. During the past 6 years he worked in television and digital advertising as a creative director, cinematographer and editor.