



**Thomas Edison Film Festival 40th Anniversary Season
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Fond du Lac Campus
Virtual Program of Selected Shorts – April 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm
Website: <https://uwosh.edu/fdl/campus/thomas-edison-film-festival/>**

Thomas Edison Film Festival Introduction

A conversation with Vicente Cueto and Emily Packer about “Last Stop for Lost Property”

Last Stop for Lost Property - Documentary

13 min. by Vicente Cueto, Brooklyn, NY, US

Deep underground, as millions rush through the New York City subway system, countless items get left behind. The MTA’s gargantuan *Lost Property Unit* is near impossible to navigate alone. Luckily, Sonny Drayton can point us in the right direction. Through his humor and intimate personal knowledge of the subway, Sonny invites us to consider what it means to lose and be lost underground, often the last stop for those who’ve fallen through the social safety net and have nowhere else to go. “Last Stop for Lost Property” questions how we value the artifacts of our lives: big and small, cherished and dismissed, tangible and existential.

Covid-19: A Portrait of NYC – Documentary

7 min. by Duda Penteadó, Jersey City, NJ

A documentary short that explores NYC through the lens of seasoned photographer and Daily News editor, Luiz C. Ribeiro. In the midst of an unfolding global pandemic, the images captured are often rare and unexpected. Isolation, frustration, and tension spill over into the streets as images move from iconic empty spaces to the Black Lives Matter protest scenes and police confrontations.

Lullaby for a Pandemic - Experimental

1 min. by Gwendolyn Audrey Foster, Lincoln, NE, US

“Lullaby for a Pandemic” is a cineaste’s “pandemantic” lullaby for nodding off to dreamland. A Surrealist dream, filmed and edited under quarantine, made during the pandemic of Spring 2020.

The Chimney Swift - Animation

5 min. by Frédéric Schuld, Hamburg, Germany

Until the end of the 19th century children between four and eight were used as chimney sweepers. In this allegorical film, a child climbs up a chimney while a bird sails down into it to build a nest. An encounter with no way back. We hear a British chimney sweeper describing his everyday routine - forcing young children to become workers. While we observe a child cleaning a chimney, the master's statement gets more personal with every sentence, until we understand that he is speaking about his own past.

Close as Brothers - Documentary

5 min. by Jennifer Hardacker, Forest Grove, OR, US

Two teenage boys, one neurotypical and one not, discuss what it's like to be brothers, and why we shouldn't treat anyone like normal human beings.

JamieSonShine – Experimental

5 min. by Phoebe Jane Hart and Jamison Hart, LA, CA, US

“JamieSonShine” is an experimental documentary that explores the effect of mental illness on the younger sibling of a person with schizophrenia. A collaborative reimagining that uses animation and home videos, the film is a testament to the complex and powerful bond between a brother and sister and the line between fantasy and reality. A diagnosis is never the whole story.

How Can I Forget? - Narrative

8 min. by Natalia Andreadis, London, UK

Joe and Connie's awkward blind date takes an interesting turn when they discover that they share the same magical ability. "How Can I Forget" is a fantastical romance about acceptance - accepting oneself, accepting adventure and accepting the inevitable.

The Ephemeral Orphanage – Animation

15 min. by Lisa Barcy, Chicago, IL, US

A group of tattered paper dolls daydream alternate realities and surreptitiously explore the hidden lives of their strict and secretive caregivers. Hijinks ensue and discoveries are made as the characters live out their childhood fantasies. Created with found paper dolls cut from a 1920's newspaper and found in an attic, the film explores the adults attempt to dictate what girls learn, and the children's talent for discovering forbidden knowledge.

My Body Given for You – Experimental

12 min. by Anna-Clair Ostasenko Bogdanoff, Paris, France

Beautifully shot in lush black and white “My Body Given for You” invokes themes of religion, desolation, and emotional hunger. Enigmatic and stunning.

Metamorphosis – Animation

4 min. by Wang Xi, LA, CA, US

A butterfly is resurrected from a rare specimen collection and explores the ruins of an ancient civilization that leads to a mysterious underground frozen cave. In the cave, the butterfly meets the Butterfly Man, who is an amalgamation of many other butterflies. The film explores philosophical ideas about life forms decomposing and then transforming into new organisms, between dreams and reality, and between humans and non-human creatures.

Who Won the War – Documentary

12 min. by Francesca Di Marco, Albany, CA, US

In 1956, orphaned and partially blind, Hiroshima survivor Takashi was invited by the American Government to the United States to “regain his health.” A second grader when the atomic bomb dropped, with six members of his family dead of radiation poisoning, Takashi embarked for the U.S. at 18. As soon as he landed in California, Takashi realized that he had been identified as an eligible subject for experimentation undertaken by the ABCC (Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission) to understand the effects of intense radioactive energy on the human body. Takashi's story is the journey of an angry young man whose misfortunes begin after the Hiroshima bombing. It is a story of revenge, acceptance of the past, and forgiveness.

Metro6 – Animation

8 min. by Geoff Hecht, San Francisco, CA, US

Today is an important day for Zak, but everything is going horribly wrong. During his adventurous bus ride, Zak goes through a deeply personal metamorphosis. Below the comedic surface lies a warning for all of us to not lose the importance of human connections. As Zak becomes more socially aware and appreciative of his diverse community, so do we.



About the Thomas Edison Film Festival:

For 40 years the Thomas Edison Film Festival (formerly known as the Thomas Edison Black Maria Film festival) has been advancing the unique creativity and power of the short form. The Festival was founded in 1981 and was originally named for Thomas Edison's West Orange, NJ, film studio, whose resemblance to black-box shaped police paddy wagons sparked the nickname “black maria.” The Festival's relationship to Thomas Edison's invention of the motion camera and the kinoscope and his experimentation with the short film is at the core of the Festival. Thomas Edison Film Festival is an international juried competition celebrating all genres and independent filmmakers across the globe.

The Festival's touring program reaches out to diverse audiences in diverse settings with screenings of cutting-edge, cross-genre films - narrative, experimental, animation, and documentary. Films in the Festival's collection include issues and struggles within contemporary society such as the environment, public health, race and class, family, sustainability, and much more. These exceptional works range from animation, comedy, and drama to the exploration of pure form in film and video.

Jurors for the Thomas Edison Film Festival:

Henry Baker began his career at the ground-breaking video arts facility: Synapse Video Center. His work as educator, curator and director helped launch video as an art form in America. He co-created the NYS Media Alliance. As premiere video Paintbox artist, his work on award-winning and innovative videos includes the first MTV Video Music Awards: The Cars "You Might Think." Establishing his own company enabled projects with Menudo, Celeste Holm, HBO, SONY, Panasonic and others. You'll find his works in the permanent collections of the NY Public Library and Everson Museum of Art. His award-winning documentary "PISS OFF" has been included in 40+ film festivals around the world. He served as a dedicated juror for the National Endowment for the Arts, WNET-TV Lab, Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Thomas Edison Film Festival. He resides with his husband in Washington DC.

Margaret Parsons founded the film program at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. She serves as curator of film for the Gallery and regularly organizes screenings related to film history, film art, and the role of time-based media in society. She has curated media exhibitions or programs at embassies and cultural organizations including the Corcoran Gallery of Art, American University, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and Smithsonian Museum of American Art. She has served on the boards of film organizations ranging from the Robert Flaherty Film Seminar to the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, and has been on the editorial boards for The Moving Image and the Getty Trust's experimental Art on Film in association with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She has been an international festival juror and in 2012 she founded Glimmerglass Film Days in central New York State. For her work in film preservation Parsons has received awards from the governments of France, Georgia, Italy, and the Czech Republic, and in the U.S. has been the recipient of life achievement awards from the Thomas Edison Black Maria Film Festival, DC Independent Festival, and Women in Film and Video. Her scholarship is in the field of outsider art and her articles have appeared in Raw Vision, Folk Art, The Folk Art Messenger, New York Folklore, Curator, and The Moving Image.

To learn more about the Thomas Edison Film Festival and the Thomas A. Edison Media Arts Consortium, visit www.TEFilmFest.org, Jane Steuerwald, Executive Director, +1 201.856.6565, Jane@TEFilmFestival.org.



For more information contact:
UWO Fond du Lac Ticket Line at: 920-929-1111

Join us on April 27th at 6:30 pm here: <https://vimeo.com/530071311>

This link will be live for 24 hours for your viewing.

Sponsored by the Fine Arts & Lecture Committee

