

## 2018 MPAC FILM FEST - OFFICIAL SELECTION WINNERS

### A SHORT STORY ABOUT LOVE

by Christopher Satola

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 6:21 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

Watching the love of his life dying out of a terminal and painful illness, Mike slowly grows to make a decision to end her suffering.

### A WORK OF HEART

by Christine Bergeron

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 12:47 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

Twelve year-old Amanda defies her mother's rules by fostering a kinship with Bonnie, a middle aged homeless woman. As the tween formulates a plan to get her new friend off the streets, Amanda is unpleasantly surprised at the outcome of her altruistic intentions. This film takes us on an unexpected journey through complex relationships and social awareness. Appropriate for ages 10 and up.

### BEAST FACTOR

by Michael Myles Hayes (via Jennifer Hayes)

Country of Origin: USA (Houston)

Runtime: 5:47 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

\*\* Young Filmmaker Spotlight \*\*

CONNOR MCFARLAND goes in for a flu shot with his parents, but the doctor's poor hygiene causes the standard shot to morph into a strange serum that causes little boys to grow beast-like tendencies when taunted or angered.

### CIERRA, NO!

by Willie Neiswanger

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 14:11 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

When Cierra hatches a plan to woo her crush, she enlists the begrudging help of her skeptical friend.

#### CONNECTED

by Christopher Satola

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 12:05 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

In a near future world humanity has been deprived of closeness of each other through technological communication advancements. A sound of a human voice has become almost forgotten, a touch of a person close to you almost extinct and direct interactions almost forbidden. A small boy, Timmy full of curiosity and need to learn the world that surrounds him goes on a journey to learn the value of interpersonal communication, human emotions and expressing them through discovering the underground art of theater. The boy attempts to adopt a play portraying an early 21st century family into his own relationship with his parents.

#### DAVID

by LaKisha Lemons

Country of Origin: USA (Houston)

Runtime: 17:36 minutes

\*\*Unanimous recommendation\*\*

David a loving father and husband suffers throughout the day battling to keep his addiction under control. In his profession as a trusted tax preparer he is enlightened by a new client seeking excitement. Will she be the solace he needs to keep his addiction under control?

#### DEADPANZE

by Matthew Koffler

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 15:11 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

After being sexually abused by a classmate peer, David grows up being haunted by his past; that is until a new friend comes along.

#### FACING THE TRUTH

by LaToya Okungbowa

Country of Origin: USA (Houston)

Runtime: 30 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

\*\*Unanimous recommendation\*\*

A woman is engaged to her boyfriend but is secretly dealing with her sexual orientation. When an old female friend moves back in town she has to decide whether she will Face The Truth or continue to live a lie.

FIFO (First In First Out)

by Sacha Ferbus

Country of Origin: Belgium

Runtime: 12 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

\*\*Unanimous recommendation\*\*

First in first out (FIFO) is a shelving technique used in supermarkets. Stephan must place the freshest products behind the oldest ones. Products nearing their sell-by date must be destroyed. When going to the bins in the basement, Stephan will have to face those who could still benefit from them, but who are excluded by the system. He will also have to confront who he was before getting a job.

GLOOMY GREEN

by Forouzan Jalali

Country of Origin: IRAN

Runtime: 18:18 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

\*\*Unanimous recommendation\*\*

\* First-Time Female Filmmaker \*

An abused young girl looking for solace on the streets of Tehran.

HIM

by Daniel Montoya

Country of Origin: USA (Dallas)

Runtime: 8:10 minutes

Based on real events

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

A look into the life of a transgender rights activist, Ethan, as he fights for equality in conservative Texas.

JEREMY

by Enrique Rico Diaz

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 9:10 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

A battle scarred Marine Sergeant struggles to balance his devotion to daughter and his commitment to his military combat service.

#### MIXED SIGNALS

by Tracie Laymon

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 7:00 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

A man and a woman misunderstand each other.

#### MUGATHIRAI (MASK)

by Harish Gokul

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 19:03 minutes

Based on real events

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

Mugathirai(Mask) is a non linear narrative pattern story which focuses on a murder mystery happened in year 2005. Based on real life incidents it shows the investigation pattern and truth will be revealed at a particular point of time which will be unexpected to all

#### SPECIAL DELIVERY

by Tonyai Palmer

Country of Origin: USA (Houston)

Runtime: 18:03 minutes

\*\*Unanimous recommendation\*\*

Haunted by guilt and regret, an unyielding Real Estate Mogul reluctantly seeks help from an unconventional therapist whose unorthodox practices teeter somewhere between life and death.

His dilemma — Can he trust her with the demons of his past? Her challenge — Can she handle the pain fueling his twisted truth? Only time will tell. Nonetheless, there is one thing we know for certain. Once the box is opened everything changes.

#### TAPFERKEIT

by Joseph Quinn/T.M. Armstrong

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 19:17 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

During the WWII North African campaign, a German sniper of the AfrikaKorps and a U.S. Combat engineer find themselves the sole survivors of a battle. They must reluctantly join forces to escape a marauding band of desert nomads and the unforgiving desolation of the Sahara desert. During their odyssey, the German relates the destruction of his country due to following their corrupt politicians. He regrets not stopping them before it was too late. It's a specter from

the past that sadly parallels many aspects of our society today. The German soon realizes his own government is the real enemy of his people and struggles to find the courage (Tapferkeit) to stop them.

#### THAT SMELL

by Kyle Lavore

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 11:29 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

This unusual comedy takes us into the secretive and persecuted world of book sniffing. Nate is an awkward man who is pulled into the world by Trisha, the underground movement's leader. She teaches him the ways of the book sniffer while avoiding the villainous shadow men hell bent on stopping them.

#### THE R WORD

by Angie Comer

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 16:31 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

An edgy and controversial story about two profoundly different women debating the power of choice and their mutual rapist.

#### THE RING

by Brandon Curless/Eric Jones

Country of Origin: USA (Houston)

Runtime: 11:57 minutes

A grieving teenager must make a life altering choice when she receives a multi-dimensional ring from her deceased father..

#### THE SALVATION

by Christopher Satola

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 9:53 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

\*\*Unanimous recommendation\*\*

Under a supervision of a 'Guru' group of people meets to find courage either to die or live again.

#### SNACK LIST

by Alyce Rogers

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 6:34 minutes

\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\*

**\*\* Young Filmmaker Spotlight \*\***

"The Snack List" is a cute short film about a few kids who run a snack business at their summer camp. They soon learn they have competition and set out to take their rivals down.

**THREE KNOWN F**

by Karolina Ford

Country of Origin: POLAND

Runtime: 25:00 minutes

**\*\*\* USA Premiere \*\*\***

Poland, the end of the 1970s. Three friends break into an abandoned mansion. In a difficult reality, they try to recreate a substitute of carefree freedom. The time spent together was supposed to be a triumph of friendship and joy. However, unexpected events will separate them, leaving wounds which cannot be healed.

**TRIGGERED**

by Keith Mullin

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 5:57 minutes

**\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\***

A man, haunted by violence, struggles to find a feeling of security in a seemingly cold and hostile world.

**TWO PRIESTS IN A RESTAURANT**

by Avraham Yehuda

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 9:48 minutes

**\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\***

Two catholic priests walk into a restaurant. What do they talk about? Exorcism, of course.

**WARDS**

by Gabe Brandon

Country of Origin: USA

Runtime: 15:00 minutes

**\*\*\* Houston Premiere \*\*\***

A social worker deals with the most difficult case of her career while trying to maintain a livable home life.

**WHITE PICKETT FENCE**

by Jacqueline King-Howell

Country of Origin: USA (Houston)

Runtime: 20:00 minutes

Miriam Pickett, successful businesswoman, mother of two, wife of beloved Teddy Pickett,

woman of faith, and friend to all.

Miriam believes there's a solution to every problem and wakes up everyday with a smile on her face. She's very proud of her life in every area and has worked very hard to maintain an image of perfection for self and family.

Even in the face of Teddy's unexpected death, Miriam remains the epitome of class and dignity, keeping it all together. Or is she? Is Miriam as perfect as she's led others to believe? Is that reality or self-perception? As the day progresses, we start to see the cracks in Miriam's world, cracks she tries to ignore and cover simultaneously. Miriam, in her quest to be the envy of and measuring stick for others, is willing to do whatever it takes to sustain the façade she has created...with deadly intent.

WHITE/RED

by Alexandre Santos

Country of Origin: FRANCE

Runtime: 5:55 minutes

\*\*\* USA Premiere \*\*\*

\*\*Unanimous recommendation\*\*

Antoine makes YouTube videos to denounce amalgams and racism. But two days after Paris attacks in 2015, he meets somebody in a bar who disrupts his beliefs...