



HVAF
HAPPY VALLEY ANIMATION FESTIVAL
2023

Animation	Award	Directors
The Leftovers United Kingdom 2:44m	Finalist Student Animated Short Films Under 4 Minutes	Mansi Maheshwari
Friendly Fire Israel 6:14m	Winner Student Animated Short Films	Tom Koryto Blumen
Spoon France 3:00m	Winner Animated Short Films Under 4 Minutes	Arthur Chays
Hil Netherlands 5:00m	Honorable Mention Student Animated Short Films	Narjes Mohammadi, Hajar Mehrani
Sweet Dreams Italy 4:52m	Honorable Mention Animated Short Films	Maria Zilli, Sara Priorelli
The Thrown Away Book Poland 17:47	Winner Animated Short Films	Agata Gorzqdek
The Little Elevator Lady South Africa 3:40m	Winner Student Animated Short Films Under 4 Minutes	Hugo Meyer
Pobre Antonio Spain 8:06m	Finalist Student Animated Short Films	Mariana Guerreiro Ferreira, Eudald Rojas Lluís
Love Italy 2:05m	Honorable Mention Animated Short Films Under 4 Minutes	Elisa Fabris

Animation	Award	Directors
Unfound Israel 7:47m	Finalist Student Animated Short Films	Shahar Balfour
Death at the Bus Stop Norway 6:24m	Honorable Mention Student Animated Short Films	Maja Kjellstad Aanonsen
Chopping Wood Chips United Kingdom 3:23m	Honorable Mention Student Animated Short Films Under 4 Minutes	Rita Ataide Novais, Alize Sotelo
Tiny Canada 16:21m	Finalist Animted Short Films	Ritchie Hemphill, Ryan Haché
Rose and Blue Germany 5:00m	Winner Animated Motion Graphics and Design	Julie Boehm
The Day I Got My Pockets Picked Spain 2:38m	Finalist Animted Short Films Under 4 Minutes	David Navarro Bravo
Passenger Argentina 10:00m	Finalist Animted Short Films	Juan Pablo Zaramella
Offerlamm United Kingdom 5:44m	Honorable Mention Student Animated Short Films	Tova Persson
I am Machine United States 3:39m	Finalist Animated Motion Graphics and Design	Robbie Shilstone

Directors' Statements

The Leftovers, Mansi Maheshwari

Leftovers is a representation of loneliness in the elderly. The desperation bourn of the trauma of the loss of loved ones or the ones who decided to leave.

The film simply shows how companionship might be a cake to share for some while a corpse to live with forever for the other. It can be dangerous. Trust when mixed with desperation can be venomous. The corruption you see in them but choose to ignore because of the desperation.

This story is special to me because I grew up with my great grandmother and my grand mother, both widowed at a really young age of 30. A woman and her mother in law. Not the ideal relationship. They lived their whole life in the company of each other and sometimes, the "neighbours". Neighbours are a big part of the life of the elderly.

The style of the film is carefully chosen. It creates an environment of nothingness. There's everything but not quite enough. There's a tap, there's a table. There's chair to sit on, a light and a fan. What else do you need? The "minimal need" of things is contrasted with the need to consume a person in order to feel complete.

Friendly Fire, Tom Koryto Blumen

A friendly soccer game between an Israeli soldier and a Palestinian boy that takes place on the West Bank barrier starts to escalate into an uneven battle. The film was painted frame by frame on the wall and became part of the ongoing conflict by staining the wall with over a hundred liters of paint.

Hi!, Narjes Mohammadi and Hajar Mehrani

ADD and ADHD are so common among both children and adults. Each of us may meet at least one ADDer or ADHDer in our life. It's hard to say exactly how common because researchers have used different techniques to answer how common it is. Many reports estimate that anywhere from 5% to 8% of school-age kids have the disorder.

There are a couple of movies about ADHD with a hyperactive boy as the role model of ADHD but how about silent girls?

By making this animation we try to tell how much would be difficult the first day of school, especially for children with ADD. Analyzing new information would be too much difficult for them. Saying Hi, and making friends would be easy for many people but not for ADDers. But it is always good to be encouraged by their parents or friends to not stay in their cave and try new things.

We hope this animation will raise awareness about ADD and help children, especially ADDers have a better experience on the first day of school.

Sweet Dreams, Maria Zilli and Sara Priorelli

Sweet dreams is a black comedy set in a remote motel, where a housekeeper is stuck in her monotonous work life. Sick of the repetitive humiliations by the employees and the motel guests, the woman eventually loses control and the feeling of revenge overcomes her.

The Thrown Away Book, Agata Gorzqdek

Levi and Toni are a father and son find a mysterious object - a discarded, damaged book. With their joint efforts they restore it to its former glory and shine. The result they achieve exceeds their expectations. The film is inspired by a short story of the same title by Czech writer Arnost Goldflam.

The Little Elevator Lady, Hugo Meyer

Rosalee Dubois is a short elderly lady who's an expert button thief, be it a passenger's coat, sleeve, or handbag. She's an elevator operator who gains access to her dimly lit apartment through a panel in the wall of her elevator. Her partner in crime is a small fruit bat, who resides with her and is extremely handy with a miniature grinding stone.

Together this dynamic duo pinch and reshape buttons in order to open the only window in the apartment which is tightly shut with an industry-standard steel shutter, connected to a coin operated slot machine with a claw. An obnoxious BEEP-BEEP constantly calls Rosalee back to work as these two hustle to catch the sunset and the cool evening air for a break.

Pobre Antonio, Mariana Guerreiro Ferreira and Eudald Rojas Lluís

Antonio is stuck to his routine. During the night, he works in a recycling plant and during the day stays with his family with whom he doesn't really get along. One day, while working, he discovers that he can begin to make decisions about his life and change it to his will.

Love, Elisa Fabris

Love was born from the collaboration with multi-instrumentalist Bebowingi and it is one of the videoclips I made for her album Mao.

It tells of the loneliness of a young girl who, in order to fill the boredom of her routine, plots and stages spells and transfigurations in a dazed scenario that gives the feeling that it could last forever. Or is it all about a special day?

Unfound, Shahar Balfour

In two parallel timelines, A little girl and an Old lady lose their way, as they wander on a journey between reality and imagination.

Chopping Wood Chips, Rita Ataide Novais and Alize Sotelo

What's an IKEA table breaking point at the weight of a crumbling friendship? A cubist short about two friends, a lost table and its replacement.

Tiny, Ritchie Hemphill and Ryan Haché

Tiny is a contemplative stop motion film which tells the story of 'Nakwaxda'xw elder Colleen Hemphill's childhood. The film portrays modern day Colleen as she reflects on her past, and re-enacts the stories she tells of her youth, as a young girl growing up on a float-house in the wild and unpredictable Pacific Northwest and its waters. As she retells her story, Colleen notices how different her way of life was when she was young, and how much more harmonious her community was with nature. The film aims to celebrate the life and identity of Colleen by sharing the gift of her presence and stories with audiences.

Rose and Blue, Julie Boehm

We will also leave this wonderful world one day – nobody knows what will come, but let's have a nice farewell. Let's dive into the pink blue sky of the galaxy until only the waves are reflected on the ocean

The Day I Got My Pockets Picked, David Navarro Bravo

A small handcrafted story about loss, peace of mind, puppets, memories and kindness. A reminder of what is important and what is not. A pocket-size tale that shall to bring a smile to your face.

Passenger, Juan Pablo Zaramella

A journey through the conflictive relationship between a man, his social environment and codes.

Offerlamm, Tova Persson

A sheep writes a letter to his sister whilst being prepared for a ritual.

I Am Machine, Robbie Shilstone

When struggling with their sense of identify, Red abandons their definition in search of finding a truer sense of self. What starts as freeing and limitless turns unclear and erratic. Reality twists away until they are left alone in complete abstraction. It is here where definition helps lift and guide Red to find a new sense of self.

My more recent works have been exploring ideas surrounding identity and definition. Our urge to define ourselves is meant to simplify a complex world. However, by simplifying ourselves we limit the potential for who we can become. By having a strong sense of self, we can allow our own definition to evolve while still remaining authentic.

HVAF 2023 Special Thanks:

Judges:

Brian Alfred
Michael Collins
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Jian Cui
Keri Griffin
Andrew Hieronymi
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Sierra Brandon, Poster Design
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