



## Happy Valley Animation Festival 2026

The Happy Valley Animation Festival (HVAF) will return for its sixth year and is being held March 26 – 28. Additional information below and at: <https://www.happyvalleyanimationfestival.org>

### Event: HVAF 2026 Showcase (Official Selection Screening)

Location: HUB Flex Theatre, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026

Time: 7:30pm – 9:30pm EST

Details: Public screenings of HVAF 2026 award winners and official selections in the international open and international student animation categories. This event is free and open to the public.

### Showcase (Program B)

Project Title	Directors	Country	Recognition
Sweet Tripe <i>[6:30m]</i>	Raquel Desy, Nicolas Barreiro	Argentina	Honorable Mention I Animated Short Films
The Paper Ghost <i>[3:11m]</i>	Fulvio Davide Ricca	Italy	Honorable Mention I Animated Short Films
Cenzor <i>[6:13m]</i>	Arina Kosianenko	Czechia	Honorable Mention I Student Animated Short Films
Disturbia <i>[6:23m]</i>	Mira Yankova	Bulgaria	Honorable Mention I Experimental Animation
I Feel Like a Fish <i>[3:06m]</i>	Joanna Płatek	Poland	Honorable Mention I Student Animated Short Films Under 4 Minutes
Sulaimani <i>[20:00m]</i>	Vinnie Ann Bose	France	Honorable Mention I Animated Short Films
Grandpa is Sleeping <i>[13:00m]</i>	Matei Branea	Romania	Honorable Mention I Animated Short Films
Balconada <i>[8:06m]</i>	Iva Tokmakchieva	Bulgaria	Honorable Mention I Animated Short Films
So Many Different Things <i>[2:45m]</i>	Sakshi Jain	United States	Honorable Mention I Experimental Animation
Behind <i>[3:01m]</i>	Hamide Enise Aytekin	Turkey	Honorable Mention I Student Animated Short Films Under 4 Minutes
Taste of Heaven <i>[9:07m]</i>	Isaac Sverdllov	Israel	Honorable Mention I Animated Short Films
Speeding, of Course <i>[3:37m]</i>	Anni Sairio, Joonatan Turkki	Finland	Honorable Mention I Animated Short Films Under 4 Minutes
The Linden Performer <i>[6:43m]</i>	Jaden Andrews, Ethan Flynn, Kevin Gomez, Nemo Rosas, Georgia Weaver	United States	Honorable Mention I Student Animated Short Films
Beetle Summer <i>[3:21m]</i>	Anyue Chen, Jian Yuan	United States	Honorable Mention I Animated Short Films Under 4 Minutes
Paulinha <i>[2:39m]</i>	Ana Marta Mendes	Portugal	Honorable Mention I Animated Media & Motion Design

## Directors' Statements

### Sweet Tripe

A pig forgets who he is, and runs to change his destiny. Through an adventure full of action, sweet psychedelia, and a lot of black humor, it is Rubén and a group of people, who make it put back in the place for which it was created.

### The Paper Ghost

Edgar Allan Poe is devastated by the loss of his beloved Annabelle. During a sleepless night, the girl's ghost visits him. Desperate at not being able to reach her, he turns his study upside down, injuring his hand, he discovers that he has a particular power that will allow him to write his stories without great effort and that will make him achieve, despite himself, his long-awaited desire.

### Cenzor

Every day, a censor reads through the letters exchanged between a prisoner and his wife. His task is to erase words that violate the rules — but with each letter, he becomes more entangled in their story. The film follows his inner tension between duty and curiosity, between obedience to the system and his own emotions. The censor becomes a silent witness to another person's life — one that slowly begins to change his own.

### Disturbia

Before our very eyes a strange human-bird hybrid undergoes constant transformation to cope with the omnipresent tensions of economical, ideological, military, and climatic threats.

### I Feel Like a Fish

A woman uncertain of her own identity gazes longingly at the simple life of the fish in the aquarium. The lack of a sense of self begins to disturb and transform her world - mirrors are no longer just mirrors, and fish start to swim with human faces.

### Sulaimani

One evening, Alia and Neena, two young Indian women, each come to dinner at Sulaimani, an Indian restaurant in Paris. The meal brings back sometimes buried emotions for them and “releases” certain memories which little by little reveal to us why they left their country. Alia could no longer stand the culture of traditional India and was in conflict with her family. Neena chose to leave to provide for her husband and children back in India. If their reasons are different, they are prey to the same nostalgia during this dinner which brings them a little closer to home.

### Grandpa is Sleeping

Alma is only six and can't accept her Grandpa's endless sleep, so she takes him out to play and enjoy one last day together before she lets him go.

### Balconada

A hot summer day brings several neighbours out on their balconies. As a welcome downpour wakes everyone from their torpor, one of them finds a way to reconnect them all to each other and to the present moment. So Many Different Things A gridded series of over 1500 improvised drawings in a tiny sketchbook, each smaller than a centimeter, compiled digitally into an animation.

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### Behind

After disasters, creatures leave their homes in search of a new life. It is a long and exhausting journey undertaken by all beings together. However, migration is not an option for everyone.

### Taste of Heaven

Baruch dreams of going to heaven after life. For this he marries a woman, he thinks, will make him go through hell during his lifetime and will bring him to Heaven afterlife. That is, until things take a twist.

### Speeding, Of Course

70-year-old Timo makes the most of his short ride to work. Speeding up on a bicycle ends up in a ditch, but the adrenaline rush leaves a feeling of pleasure.

### The Linden Performer

A marionette dreams of becoming a performer. When she gets the chance to live that life, she slowly starts to realize that it's not what she thought it would be.

### Beetle Summer

On a sweltering summer day, a lonely girl named Rika sets out to win acceptance by training a beetle, Rockie, for a local beetle fighting championship. After intense training and heartfelt care, Rockie becomes strong enough to compete—but when Rika sees the cruelty of the sport, she makes the brave choice to walk away. Though rejected by her peers, Rika gains something far more meaningful: a true bond with her beetle companion. A heartwarming tale about empathy, friendship, and staying true to oneself.

### Paulinha

A music video about a woman named Paulinha.