

We Like 'Em Short

Festival Program

Baker City, OR



years

August 21-23, 2025

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We Like ‘Em Short Film Festival

Sweet 16!!! in our little town of Baker City, OR. Also a little bitter Sweet. After 16 years of this award winning little festival we are going to take a little break. While life here at Churchill is always busy beyond reason, this year has been even more so, and it's time to catch our breath. There will be no WLES in 2026. With that said we will announce in August of next year what our plans will be if any for 2027.

What a wild ride it's been with so many amazing filmmakers over the years and dedicated volunteers. I feel very lucky that WLES has grown and continued to be inspiring all these years.

Opening night is a FREE drive-in with the rest of screenings being held in the Dancehall at Churchill School.

182 films were submitted from 28 different countries. 59 student films were included in that, the rest came from established filmmakers. I want to thank the new and returning members of the selection committee that help to curate what you get to see this year. Their input and dedication to picking the best films is what makes this festival so much fun to work on. I couldn't do it without them.

Through out the weekend we will have Q+As with filmmakers that are in attendance and as always we have a wide range of styles and creative approaches to storytelling. This year for the second time we are letting you the audience pick ALL of the Award Winners. That's right at every screening you attend you can vote for your favorite film, favorite directors, actors and student films. In the awards section of the program there will be ballots that you can take out and turn in for us to tally up and the end of WLES. Hopefully you enjoy this change and get out and Vote!

WLES is funded in part by donations, promotional help from Travel Baker County, GO! Magazine and a grants over the years from the Baker County Cultural Coalition. We are so pleased you came to enjoy one of the many great events Baker County has to offer and now it's time to enjoy the shorts!

Sincerely,

Brian Vegter
WLES Festival Director



Thursday, August 21st

Sunset screening 8:00 pm *Family Appropriate*

Opening Night is a first come first parked Drive In screening!!!
(you are also welcome to bring lawn chairs and sit outside your vehicle)



“24” (run time 0:14 seconds - country of origin USA) Director Eva Weitzman-Stangel

The Earth’s rotation in 14 seconds.



“Bubble” (3:39m - China) Director Xin Zeng

In this blend of stop-motion and digital 2D animation, BUBBLE follows a retired swimmer feeling lost after leaving her career. Her life changes when her toy octopus takes her to a magical underwater world filled with amazing sea creatures and landscapes. This adventure helps her find a new direction in life from this dreamy experience..



“The Feast of No Return” (2:40 m - USA) Directed by Sabrina Love

A greedy horse attempts to eat every flower in sight. Will he go too far?



“Foam Memory” (1:27m - China) Director Mingwei Ma, Jiayi Christina Fu

A young boy explores a mysterious, magical world where he encounters an unexpected reunion with his mother.



“Lil' Somthin' in: Clash with the Cube Demon” (3:25m - USA) Director Dan Sollaccio

Lil' Somethin', a cartoony, little blob fellow, finds himself targeted by a planet-sized, cube-shaped demon that wants him dead! He must find a way to defeat the demon and save himself, though he has rather unusual problem-solving strategies.

Thursday, August 21st screening (continued)



“Moms Don’t Cry” (4:30m - USA) Director Ellie Nikoo

Moms Don’t Cry is Takayla Benton’s story of being a parent and wanting to be strong for her kids while showing her vulnerable side to them. Takayla reflects upon various moments in her life when she felt sad and how she showed or didn’t show her sadness, and she wonders how hiding her sadness from her kids might have affected their relationship with her.



“Naan Stop Naan” (1:29m - USA) Director Damian Thorn-Hauswirth

Naan Stop Naan is a somewhat absurd metaphorical audio visual short showing the continual creation and transformation of our existence embodied by the bread of life - Naan.



“Night Crawling” (3:35m - USA) Director Zuben Hook, Riley Miller, Brae Clark, Alex Simpson, Chey, Jannell Parad, Jameson Wright, Trinity Mobley & Fossfeen

A small cryptid becomes separated from their friends deep in the Pacific Northwest woods. However, they soon find that they are not alone. Just when they think all hope is lost, the small cryptid finds help from an equally mysterious source.



“Only Paper” (12:00m. - France) Director Maxime Vouillon

two children wait for their mother to return on the steps of an orphanage

Thursday, August 21st screening (continued)



“Peppermint Sticks” (2:28m - USA) Director Maureen Monaghan

A young girl remembers her great grandmother as she searches through her room.



“Robotany” (4:17m - USA) Director Tyler Wolters

“Drifting on an asteroid through space, Filbert, a robotanist in training, follows the direction of incapacitated botanist Gloria Carlton as they harness magic from mechanical plants to steer their way to Venus for a nectar to cure Gloria’s predicament.”



“The Architect of the Liminal” (3:04m - Canada) Director Deb Ethier

An artist struggles to find her way in this quirky and off-kilter micro short from Deb Ethier. Taking some inspiration from classic silent films, it combines super 8 footage with 2D/3D animation and motion graphics.

Music by Esther Garcia.



“The Escape” (1:53m - Canada) Director Hingman Leung

A creature born of darkness stages a daring escape in a wild bid to change its fate.



“The Plant” (3:03m - USA) Director John Akre

I used to work for The Man. Not anymore. This movie was made primarily by drawing and scratching onto 35mm movie film.

Thursday, August 21st screening (continued)



“What is Lightning?” (0:32 sec - USA) Director Brendan Van Meter

A worm’s eye view of the world. Briefly.



“Who do we Appreciate?” (1:00m - USA) Director Chad Stewart

A quick, 1 minute film about the age-old conflict of numbers: Odd versus Even. Traditionally animated, drawing every character of every frame by hand with actual pencil and paper. My hope is to pay homage (in a very small way) to the great works of the 1930’s and 1940’s.

Friday, August 22nd 7PM Screening



“Tough Love” (9:50m - Ireland) Director Oisin McKeogh

After accidentally killing one of her clients, a recently divorced housewife turned dominatrix must figure out what to do next - all while dealing with her manipulative teenage son.



“Death and the Cowboy” (6:21m - USA) Director Tim Mustoe

Death & The Cowboy Music and Lyrics by James Dean Kindle

Friday, August 22nd (continued)



“Angela” (14:59m - UK) Director Brendan Cleaves

An awkward first date spirals into chaos when a mix-up over a missing leg leads to a series of bizarre misunderstandings. ‘Angela’ is a charming short comedy about love, limbs and lateral incisors.



“Bloody Mess” (9:20m - Canada) Director Megan Wennberg

When my period went nuts, I thought my Uterus was out to get me because I haven’t given it a baby. It turns out I had fibroids. Bloody Mess is a short, personal, animated documentary about my journey through the medical system to try and stop the bleeding.



“Bob Dylan’s Big Dick” (2:50m - UK) Director Chris Lambourne

“Music video for Frank & Beans’ song ‘Bob Dylan’s Big Dick’
A man goes for a drink, but is stalked by the manifestation of his grotesque masculinity.



“Childs Play” (12:34m - Luxembourg) Director Eileen Byrne

When a right-wing party wins the elections in Luxembourg, the lives of three single mothers are fundamentally changed. After all social benefits are cancelled and one of them even loses her flat, the three see no other way out than to rob a bank. And where better to rehearse a heist than at the adventure playground around the corner?



“Do Something” (12:22m - Germany) Director Sofija Zivkovic

A bloodcell has to go on a mission to see the brain and convince him to make their dehydrated body drink some water.

Friday, August 22nd (continued)



“The Fart Genie” (2:43m - USA) Director Murray Alan Cummings

Just when you thought it was safe to fart!

It's the morning after a first date that's gone REALLY well... The only problem is... she needs to fart... but that's ok. It's not like a thousand year old Genie is going to pop out of her butt and announce it to everybody!



“Halmoni's Pot” (Grandma's Pot) (10:10m - USA) Director A. Lauren Lee

Grandma Mee-Yung reluctantly agrees to buy pot for her grandson. But pay full price? Never!



“I Can't” (1:00m - Brazil) Director Renato Klieger

Meet ICan` t, the most useless vacuum cleaner ever invented.



“Ladies Night” (3:30m - Australia) Director Shayla Han Nguyen, Lucy Dianne Bubalo

During a girl's night clubbing with her best friend Fiona, Viv spots her ex, Remy. Determined to keep the night going, Fiona helps score Viv a hot new babe to move on (and shove it in Remy's stupid face).



“Lupe Q and the Galactic Corn Cakes” (4:23m - Canada)

Director Javier Badillo

Lupe doesn't care about her abuela's cooking lessons, she just wants to rock with her badass punk band. But when Lupe finds herself battling an alien monster with her band, her abuela's lessons will remind her that punk rock is more than just loud music, and connecting with her Latin roots may just save their lives.

Friday, August 22nd

(continued)



“Mountain Home” (2:25m - USA) Director Bobby Bellinger

The city light are getting to me, it's finally time that we skip town
And move somewhere where the air is sweet and there's not a single soul around
I wanna get you out to someplace where we can finally be all alone
I'll whisk you away, way up in the trees, up into our mountain home lyrics by James Dean Kindle



“The Mushpit” (7:07m - Canada) Director Thibault Picquoin

Jimmy G. Fungus is a young mushroom stuck in the lowest pit of existence: the Mushpit, a place where everyone he loved met their demise, full of creeps, and where the light never reaches. After another night of heavy drinking in a bar, a stranger calls him out on his cowardice and the dream he gave up on, due to the loss of a dear friend and his grief. This confrontation hits jimmy deeply, triggering a trippy existential crisis where he meet his deceased friend telling him to realize his dream. Once awoken from this mental journey, Jimmy decides to leave the mushpit to pursue his dream of reaching the surface and seeing the flowers there.

Saturday, August 23rd

1:00 pm screening *Family Appropriate*



“Afternoon Snack” (5:16m - USA) Director JP Georgia Powell

On what seems to be a beautiful, sunny afternoon, Haco's journey to find the most delectably delicious snack is quickly thwarted by a conniving caterpillar and unending obstacles.

Saturday, August 23rd

1:00 pm (continued) *Family Appropriate*



“Catch and Exterminate” (3:18m - USA) Director Summer Purks

On a job gone wrong, spunky pest control employee Elliot finds herself in a chase with a paranormal being with a nasty bite



“Choo, choo, choo, choose” (2:06m - China) Director Xiaohan Sun

There was a little girl who was shopping with her mom. Unfortunately, they met a neighbor, and her mother kept chatting with the neighbor for a long long time. No matter how hard the little girl pulled or shouted, her mother would not respond.

At that time, she thought, if I died at the present, would they stop?



“Birds of a Feather” (4:44m - USA) Director Katie Cobos

A talkative parrot attempts to befriend a boy with Tourette’s syndrome



“In Your Eyes” (3:00m - France) Director Helia Gillon

An explorer, is meeting the life of a woman through her eyes.



“Decommissioned” (13:57m - Australia)
Director Casey Golden, Beau Golden, Adam Barnard

When Unit 76411 is decommissioned and his ship destroyed, he finds himself on the run in an interplanetary pursuit with no one but himself to help him to safety.

Saturday, August 23rd

1:00 pm (continued)



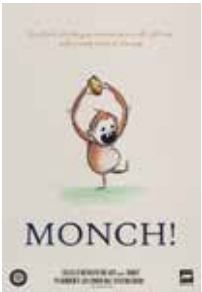
“Ghariba and AJeeb” (7:17m - United Arab Emirates) Director Boubaker Boukhari

In this story, the girl Ghariba embarks on a journey to find her friend AJeeb and to find a way to cross a river guarded by a crocodile.



“The Lonely Life of Lint” (3:34m - USA) Director Sarah Sklar

In the dryer vent of the corner laundromat, a solitary lint creature makes its home. One night, while cleaning the lint trap, the creature makes an unexpected discovery. Filled with a newfound awareness of its own isolation, the creature embarks on a quest for companionship.



“MONCH!” (2:24m - USA) Director Mia Rae Sunday

A teeny tiny orangutan has his heart (and stomach) set on a mango dangling high up in a tree.



“Sock’s Manifesto” (3:30m - Greece) Director Angeliki Pardalidou

Socks go in pairs. They cannot exist on their own, only as a pair! Why?
I am in favor of the self-existence of socks!



“Switcheroo” (0:37 sec - USA) Director Kacey Morrow

Do you ever look in the mirror and wonder who you are?



“The Places You Go” (4:07m - USA) Director Shannon Ferguson

The bed as a place for comfort and sleep becomes a portal that consumes and transports away from reality, but not to safety. What happens when your escape turns on you, and your brain feeds off its own fears? This animated short created using 2D drawing and hand-carved felt prints swirl in a dreamland that questions the validity of a restful sleep in an anxiety filled mind.

Saturday, August 23rd 7 PM screening



“A Pleasure” (4:05m - Spain) Director Sonia Estevez

What is truly pleasurable is in the simple. Plazer bat is a succession of ordinary actions and situations that are a source of pleasure.
How little is needed to feel good!



“Body of a Shadow” (12:00m - Colombia) Director Andrea Muñoz

While still asleep a woman is dragged from her house by a huge black mass. She is taken to a meadow where she finds a group of different women and girls existing with the stillness and sporadic impulsiveness of a clan of cows that were never tamed. The woman spends the night imitating the bovine behavior of the group until dawn, when the group merges?also absorbing the woman?into a homogeneous body that is revealed to the viewer as the enormous black mass at the beginning. THE MASS moves back to town to take a new woman at nightfall.

Saturday, August 23rd

7 PM screening (continued)



“Mother’s Child” (9:20m - Netherlands) Director Naomi Noir

Mary can’t catch a break. Fusing motherhood with being a full-time carer for her disabled son has her up to her ears in red tape, barely keeping afloat. A surreal situation is looming.



“Extremely Short” (5:18m - Japan) Director Koji Yamamura

A man sets out in search of the shortest thing in Tokyo, which turns out to be a single syllable uttered by a dying man. . . .

The first installment in a series of animated shorts called “Bungaku Bideo” (Literature Videos), Koji Yamamura’s Extremely Short translates into film a powerful story by Hideo Furukawa, read by the author himself.



“HOLY HEAVÊNESS” (10:00m - Islamic Republic of Iran)

Director Farnoosh Abedi, Negah Khezre Fardyardad, Mohammad Ghaffari

The unbearable lightness of the death of loved ones... There are wounds in life that eat away at you like leprosy...

The weight of the death of loved ones sometimes becomes so overwhelming that to get rid of this weight another birth is inevitable.



“...Is This a Good Time?” (1:28m - UK) Director Florence Poppy Deary

An intrusive thought comes to ruin a woman’s bath.

Saturday, August 23rd

7 PM screening (continued)



“Martingale” (15:59m - France) Director Marthe Verdet

Océane has finally found a job for the summer and with it, the martingale to make the ideal man fall from the sky.



“Midnight at Mickey’s” (4:31m - UK) Director Vin Wolff

Two tough guys face off in a seedy late-night diner.



“Sea Angels” (8:06m - Sweden) Director Cissi Efraimsson.

The polluted ocean forced mermaids to reveal their existence as non- mythological creatures and seek help on land. We follow their daily life in a pool named Sea Angels, a Sea World-like theme park for humans. Sea Angels is a stop motion animation mockumentary by Swedish artist Cissi Efraimsson.



“The Loving Couple” (6:27m - Canada) Director Mhairi Kerr

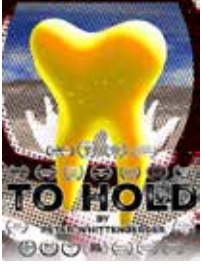
A long-term relationship can seem picture-perfect on the outside, but as this couple celebrates their fortieth anniversary, we see that life isn’t always as rosy as it appears.



“Today I <3 U _ _ _ _ ’’ (1:23m - USA) Director Neely Goniodsky

This short film explores contemporary perspectives on love and romance, challenging traditional societal norms around relationships and sexuality. It embraces non-traditional relationship structures and celebrates diverse expressions of sexuality, rejecting stigma and fostering an open, inclusive dialogue about what intimacy looks like today.

Made from high resolution scans of three intaglio prints of 14 frame animated loop, etched on plexiglass.



“To Hold” (4:58m - USA) Director Peter Whittenberger

To Hold is a metaphorical self-portrait that follows a lone figure searching for normalcy, while navigating the aftermath of loss.

Thursday, August 21st *2025 WLES Awards Ballot*

For the second time, You the audience will pick the winners. On the following pages you will find a ballot for each screening of the festival. Please pick one for each category and turn it into us before you leave. We hope you like helping choose the Winners!

We Like ‘Em Short

Best Picture from Thursday Night

Best Student Film from Thursday Night

Best Actress from Thursday Night

Best Actor from Thursday Night

Best Director from Thursday Night

Best Cinematography from Thursday Night

Friday, August 22nd

2025 WLES Awards Ballot

For the second time, You the audience will pick the winners. On the following pages you will find a ballot for each screening of the festival. Please pick one for each category and turn it into us before you leave. We hope you like helping choose the Winners!

We Like ‘Em Short

Best Picture from Friday Night

Best Student Film from Friday Night

Best Actress from Friday Night

Best Actor from Friday Night

Best Director from Friday Night

Best Cinematography from Friday Night

Saturday, August 23rd Matinee

2025 WLES Awards Ballot

For the second time, You the audience will pick the winners. On the following pages you will find a ballot for each screening of the festival. Please pick one for each category and turn it into us before you leave. We hope you like helping choose the Winners!

We Like ‘Em Short

Best Picture from Saturday Matinee

Best Student Film from Saturday Matinee

Best Actress from Saturday Matinee

Best Actor from Saturday Matinee

Best Director from Saturday Matinee

Best Cinematography from Saturday Matinee

Saturday, August 23rd Night

2025 WLES Awards Ballot

For the second time Ever, You the audience will pick the winners. On the following pages you will find a ballot for each screening of the festival. Please pick one for each category and turn it into us before you leave. We hope you like helping choose the Winners!

We Like ‘Em Short

Best Picture from Saturday Night

Best Student Film from Saturday Night

Best Actress from Saturday Night

Best Actor from Saturday Night

Best Director from Saturday Night

Best Cinematography from Saturday Night



Churchill School is the 2025 home for WLES and we're excited to have you join us. Churchill was an elementary school from 1926 till 2002. In 2018 it was purchased and converted into a place for Arts, Music and Recreation. We're looking forward to the screenings here both outside and inside.

Churchill School
3451 Broadway St.
Baker City, OR

