



Real to Reel International Film Festival – 2024 Film Synopses and Trailers

Wednesday, July 24 (7pm)

Dear Daughter: A mother's tribute to her daughter and a reflection on how the love for her evolved throughout the years. [Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional short, NC

Directed by: Rob Underhill and Vanessa Neff

Written by: Vanessa Neff

G 7min.

The Overlook: An estranged couple reunite for a mysterious errand in the woods. [Learn More on IMDB](#)

Professional short, NY

Written and directed by: John Gray

Starring: Eric Ladin, Chris Parnell, and Mouzam Makkar

PG 18:37 min.

Tahnaanookú: An artistic celebration of the environmental activism of Darline Deegan and her efforts to protect the land of her Indigenous community. [Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional documentary, ND

Directed by: Justin Deegan

G 6:44

Just Beneath the Surface: On a fishing trip, a man struggles with a strange and menacing ocean. Will he fight against nature's forces, or submit to its power?

Professional Short, Australia, Written and directed by: Jimmy John Thaiday

G 5:20

Varanus: A drama about a hearing-impaired teenage boy who is forced to participate in secret and illegal competitions.

Professional short, Iran

Written and directed by: Kiarash Bokaeyan

R 14:59

In the Matchbox: Uncle Wendell shares a centuries old family secret with his great nephews. If the secret gets out, it can affect and infect the entire world. Literally.

Professional short, NC

Directed by: Mike Rae Anderson

Written by: Jermi Little

R 10:43

Intermission 10 min.

Why Dogs Howl: After meeting online, a BOY and GIRL are out on their first date. It rapidly devolves into the BOY vomiting out his life in a Howl that ultimately encompasses the entire universe. [Film Website](#)

Student Short, California

Directed by: Sandi Johnson

Written by: Gary Teitelbaum

R 4:51

Wednesday, July 24 (7pm) - Continued

Keep: Gordon, the former keeper of a lighthouse now turned into a museum, is desperate for someone to help him maintain the site. When Musa, an Afghan refugee, comes knocking on his door, Gordon finally finds the helper he has been waiting for.

The two men become friends, confronting their respective cultures and pasts with humor and kindness. But when Gordon discovers the true intentions of Musa's visit, he is faced with a moral dilemma that upsets all his certainties... [Filmmaker Website](#)

Professional short, UK

Written and directed by: Lewis Rose

R 20 min

An Open Door – Temple Grandin: An Open Door is a documentary that reflects on the influential life and work of Dr. Temple Grandin as a champion of the humane treatment of livestock, autism rights, and inclusive neurodiversity by employing her gifted insights from her personal experience with autism and visual thinking. The film speaks with Dr. Grandin, her colleagues, industry professionals and those she has influenced to celebrate her groundbreaking life, lessons learned and lasting legacy. An Open Door is directed by award-winning filmmaker John Barnhardt and presented by Colorado State University. Professional doc, CO. Written and directed by John Alexander Barnhardt. [Watch Trailer Here.](#)

PG 1 hour

Thursday, July 25 (7pm)

Your Dad's Cosplay: An ambitious monster makeup nerd is overwhelmed by the competition at a 1984 sci-fi/fantasy/horror costume parade.

Amateur short, NC

Written and directed by: Stephen Bydal

G 4:53

Numbers: The poignant story of migrants who are forced to leave their countries due to wars, conflicts, occupation, or chronic poverty, embarking on a journey towards unfamiliar lands in pursuit of a safer and more beautiful life. The animated film "Numbers" reminds us that humans are not mere statistics, but living beings.

Student animation, Turkey

Directed by: Deniz Türker

Written by: Tülay Gökçimen

PG 9:05

It's For You: Ephemeral Art & The Death of the Public Phone: Utilizing such varied materials as concrete, papier-mâché, and blown-out tires, disparate Los Angeles street artists give new life to the dwindling remnants of the city's public payphones by repurposing them as canvases for unique expressions of a moment in time. With the streets as their gallery, our heroes defy vandalism laws, maintenance crews, haters, and history itself to deliver a moment's levity to the right kind of passerby. By keeping its focus on the artists, the phones, and the ephemeral nature of both art and technology, this short documentary thoughtfully invites its audience to appreciate what's being lost as the world moves on. [Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional documentary, CA ,Written and directed by: Ryan Steven Green

R 28:50

INTERMISSION – 10 min.

The Strangers' Case: In Sir Thomas More, Shakespeare wrote a speech in which More makes a passionate defence for refugees, pleading for empathy from his fellow countrymen and culminating in a poignant description of the plight of refugees - "The Strangers' Case" - which persists today. [Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional feature, Jordan

Written and directed by: Brandt Andersen

Starring: Omar Sy, Jay Abdo, and Fares Al-Helou

R 1:43:15

Friday, July 26 (7pm)

My Dear Aunt Sally: A grade-schooler with crippling anxiety, 8-year-old Luke reluctantly spends time with his free spirited Aunt Sally. In the midst of arcades, ketchup stains and axe throwing, he learns the powerful lessons of taking risks, making mistakes and dealing with adversity.

Amateur short, TX

Directed by: Tom Procida

Written by: Heather Kennedy

G 10 min

Sister: On the day of her older sister's burial, a bereaved woman meets an amicable bartender who helps her find the courage to continue on. A story about sisterly love and the bonds that will always remain. [Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional short, SC

Directed by: Shane Andries. Written by: Meg Jenkins Locke. Starring: Billy Magnussen, Jayne Brook, and Meg Jenkins Locke

PG 15:22

Fall Towards the Heavens: An unsuspecting young girl is marked as a sacrifice to a slumbering cosmic deity in an attempt to preserve the city it is bound to. Upon meeting, she finds it craves something other than her blood.

Student animation, NC. Written and directed by Paris Arthur.

PG 5:20

Heart of the City: A cinematic portrait of 5 Winston-Salem locals on the street, as they share a lifetime of wisdom from struggle.

Student documentary, NC

Directed by: Will Harvest

Produced by: Paula Rofrio

R 22:20

INTERMISSION 10 MIN.

May the Lord Watch: The Little Brother Story: May the Lord Watch is the definitive story of Little Brother, the North Carolina rap group composed of rappers Phonte, Big Pooh, and (formerly) producer 9th Wonder, the underground legends that bridged the gap between The Roots and Kendrick, Tribe and Cole, De La and Drake. The film follows the rise, breakup, and reunion of the preeminent 2000s rap group, but the heart of the documentary lies in the unfolding relationship between members Phonte and Big Pooh, which begins at the Durham HBCU North Carolina Central, strains while coming of age together in the music industry, and resolves with an enduring friendship as the two men reunite and make their 2020 album May the Lord Watch. [Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional documentary, NY

Directed by: Holland Randolph Gallagher

Written by: Holland Randolph Gallagher and Yoh Phillips

R 1:39:45

Saturday, July 27 (1pm matinee)

Bog: Oisín embarks on a poignant journey through the mysterious layers of the Bog, where he discovers the buried memories of his Father. With the help of his guide, the Great Irish Elk, Oisín confronts his Father's pain and suffering head on. As he delves deeper into the earth, Oisín gains a newfound understanding of his own emotions and learns how to express them more clearly.

Professional animation, Ireland. Written and directed by: Éabha Bortolozzo and Jacob Kirwan

PG 10:23

Clocked Out: Stuck in a dead-end job, Charlie imagines whatever it takes to win the girl of his dreams.

Student short, NC. Directed by Marco Grego. Written by Jacob Israel and Ezra Toney.

PG 14:32

Flag of Bone: The daring tale of "Black Sam" Bellamy unfolds as he pursues love and fortune, leading a crew of pirates on high-seas adventures. But as promises are made and storms brew, his destiny takes a tragic turn off the treacherous shores of Cape Cod.

Student animation, NC

Written and directed by: Elizabeth Coley

PG 6:11

Cow: A cargo-ship-piloting alien is on his usual livestock abduction route when an angry farmer sneaks aboard the ship disguised as a cow, with a burning desire for vengeance.

Student short, NC

Directed by: Joe Appel and Tristan Alkemper

Written by: Thomas Getsey

PG 6:11

The Collector: The offbeat, fairytale story of Wizard of Oz fanatic and obsessive pop culture collector Willard Carroll. From dining with Munchkins to owning the world's largest private collection of Oz memorabilia, Willard is proof that one story can change the entire trajectory of your life.

[Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional documentary, WA

Directed by: Jim Picariello and Carrie Wachob

G 15 min.

Afungus Amongus: When garbage pollutes its natural habitat, a tiny mushroom and friends set off to the big city to stop the problem at its source.

Student animation, TX

Animated by: Brandon Gaesser, Sidney Beeman, and Bridget Fitzgerald

G 4:01

Zoetrope: Zoetrope is a love story about the one who got away. Anna, usually a loyal fiancée, supports her lonely friend on her night of speed dating. After a wild night out with an unexpected date, Anna questions if her pending marriage is all it's cracked up to be. [Learn More on IMDB](#)

Amateur short, NC

Written and directed by: Montante Thompson

PG 12:27

Saturday, July 27 (1pm matinee) - Continued

The Jukebox: Memories of the past swirl in the mind of a young man who must watch as his father succumbs to a terminal illness. After working to put the past behind him, the young man, now a father himself, must finally confront his grief by finding peace through a jukebox once owned by his late father. The surprise discovery of an audio recording from his youth reminds him of his father's love and gives him the peace he has been searching for.

[Learn More on IMDB](#)

Professional short, NC

Written and directed by: Jon Housholder and Jeff Schafer

PG 18 min.

INTERMISSION

Wrong Number: When the wrong number gets printed on flyers for a local musician, an unlikely clown gets his chance to shine. Only, in this comedy of errors, Silly Billy ends up walking into the wrong kind of celebration.

[Learn More](#)

Student short, NC

Written and directed by: Aedyn Concepcion and Carson Willoughby

G 4:47

Spiral: While on a first date in a cozy Italian restaurant, Kevin and Ava discover something unusual under their table. Where did it come from? And who put it there? [Learn More](#)

Student short, NC

Directed by: Easton Freeman

Written by: Jessica Bandy Maloney and Chris Nelson

PG 5:11

348 Songs: Ninety-one-year-old Fred and his daughter look back at his impressive career as a hit-song writer in Nashville in the 60's, and hint at the question, why isn't he a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame? Fred is one of the last songwriters alive today from that magical era on Music Row, that we can still hear his personal stories from, firsthand. He is a true Nashville treasure and a handful for his daughter to keep on track.

[Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional documentary, TN

Written and directed by: Irish Johnston

G 43:21

Saturday, July 27 (7pm)

The Third Defector: What seems like a simple assignment for a spy to keep tabs on an Iranian defector becomes a more complicated game of cat and mouse in the streets of Paris.

Professional short, NY

Written and directed by: John Gray

PG13 16:53

AUXILIAIRE: During a night of doubt, Marc, a carer dreaming of becoming a chef, has to admit to Quentin, his friend with a motor disability whom he has been taking care of on a daily basis for years, that he will surely not return to work on the following day. [Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional short, France

Directed by: Lucas Bacle

Written by: Lucas Bacle and Laurent Target

R 24:14

Macula: Hanna is searching for a painting dedicated to her by her late grandfather, Pavel, who was a painter. But an 11-year-old boy appears unexpectedly at her grandfather's studio... [Film Website](#)

Professional short, Switzerland

Directed by: Julietta Korbelt

Written by: Julietta Korbelt and Colombe Rubini

G 16:45

Sendero: Sol and Gina had big dreams of travel and adventure in their vintage RV over their summer break from teaching elementary. But when Gina's life is cut short by a school shooter, Sol desperately tries to hold onto her memory by taking to the open road with their little dog, Rosie. Lost and in search for answers along his own personal odyssey, Sol realizes through helping others and rediscovering lessons from his Mestizo heritage that his true path has been laid before him all along.

[Watch Trailer Here](#)

Professional feature, NY

Written and directed by: Michael Flores

R 1:40