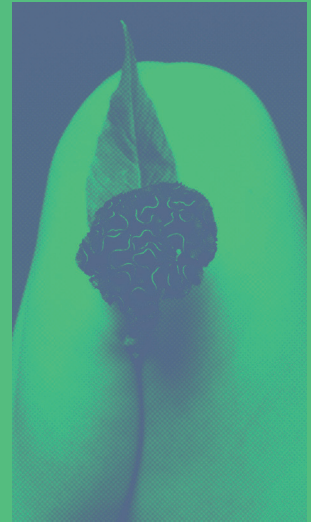


PROGRAM



SPROUTS

FILM FESTIVAL

FOREWORD

Sprouts Film Festival is back! After a successful launch in June of last year we are returning for our 2nd edition May 10-14 with a program that is bigger, greener and more diverse than our inaugural edition; we added a new Ekodis Eco Shorts Program, there is a wider variety of side programming on offer and we managed to bring in a larger amount of Dutch premieres.

Everyday our lives are flooded by crises, not least of all a seemingly ever-growing climate crisis. It is therefore no surprise that Dutch society has seen a proliferation of protests. Sprouts wants to make the cinema a site of protest by addressing these crises at hand through fiction film, because the power of the imagination can help us battle polarization and foresee effective ways of living together harmoniously with one another and the more-than-human world.

French philosopher Gaston Bachelard wrote of our imagination as being botanical. Like a rooted tree that can connect the sky and the earth, the real and the dreamed. At Sprouts we could not agree more. Fiction makes up our festival DNA. That many of our selected eco films are also first works attests to the importance felt by a new generation of filmmakers to better take care of what we have. Sprouts wishes to nurture these brave trailblazers. We hope that you too will give them your full support these coming five days.

Thomas Streekstra
Head of programming



TICKETS VIA [STUDIO-K.NU/SPROUTS](https://studio-k.nu/sprouts)

COMPETITIONS

SproutsFF23 showcases cinema of the future by focusing on two fiction feature film competitions.

Firstly, our Eco Competition consists of works with a strong environmental focus. As young adults we find it hard to accept how slow the fight against climate change is progressing. It is through ecocinema that we hope to strengthen our voices and motivate people to start acting now.

Secondly, our Debut Competition is made up of first works that have a strong socio-political message at their core. As students and aspiring system changers we know how difficult it can be to get your foot in the door. Through presenting fresh and unreleased gems to Amsterdam's international audience we hope to help further kickstart new talent.

The different starting points of these competitions converge at our new Eco Shorts Program. Many of the loudest eco-conscious voices start with limited financial means and exposure. We feel compelled to get their efforts out there.



TICKETS VIA [STUDIO-K.NU/SPROUTS](https://studio-k.nu/sprouts)

DEBUT JURY

The film professionals presenting the Jury Award for the Debut Competition are:

Vincent Tilanus

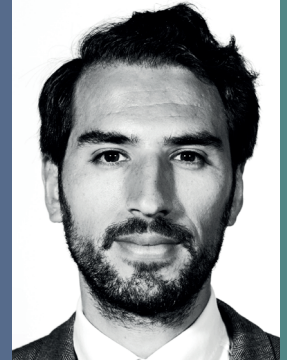
Vincent Tilanus studied Law at the University of Utrecht. He then went on to graduate from both The European Film College and the Dutch Film Academy. In addition to his academic achievements, his own short film Marlon Brando (2020) was selected for the Semaine de la Critique at the Cannes Film Festival.

Claudio Montesano Casillas

Claudio Montesano Casillas, a Mexican-Italian filmmaker in Rotterdam, founded the New Producers Academy (NPA). With a Master's degree in photojournalism and documentary film from London, he produces award-winning documentaries for European TV on social issues. In 2021, he joined IDFA young producers' program and currently produces documentaries for Halal Amsterdam's international team.

Mac Liu

Mac Liu, originally from Beijing and previously residing in Hong Kong, is now based in Amsterdam. After studying film production with a keen interest in documentary and multimedia art, she is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Sociology at the University of Amsterdam. Her research focuses on marginalized groups and migration. She collaborates with CinemaAsia, coordinating FilmLab, PitchLab, and handling press releases



ECO JURY

The environmentally oriented students presenting the Jury Award for the Eco Competition and the Ekodis Jury Award for the Eco Shorts Program are:

Lotte Opdam

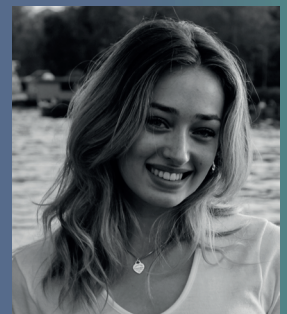
Lotte Opdam combines the studies Philosophy and Organic Agriculture to explore the topics of ecology, politics, philosophy, and society. Besides having an affinity with sustainable agriculture and literature, she is an enthusiastic film fanatic and also works at Studio/K. To her, films are pre-eminently a medium to encourage people to get involved in communal interest, to connect with other places and experiences, and to inspire.

Noor de Ruijter

Noor de Ruijter studies Future Planet Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Her interest in nature and our planet began with David Attenborough's films. She's looking forward to seeing more films that have a strong message at their core, in order to make people think about ecological issues around the globe in a creative manner.

Gaia Zanaboni

Gaia Zanaboni, a sustainability science student, is intrigued by eco-focused films and their innovative approaches. She seeks to explore how films can portray the harmony between humans and nature, beyond just depicting the environment. Gaia is eager to discover non-Western perspectives on nature and filmmaking.



AUDIENCE AWARD

All selected feature films are also competing for the Audience Award, which you are actively involved in through voting ballots.

DOS ESTACIONES [OPENING FILM]

BY JUAN PABLO GONZÁLEZ

Director Juan Pablo González covers a lot of ground in his tranquil and tightly observing debut film about the collapse of a tequila empire due to natural and capitalist forces. He explores themes of LGBTIQ+-representation, globalization and climate change, while having a keen eye for capturing the traditional process of tequila making. Anchored by Teresa Sánchez' brutally honest performance.



DUTCH PREMIERE | 2022 |
MEXICO | 99 MINUTES
opening film // eco competition

WEDNESDAY MAY 10
19.15-21.24 | SK3

+ OPENING CEREMONY

Also screened on

FRIDAY MAY 12
12.15-13.59 | SK3



HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE [CLOSING FILM]

BY DANIEL GOLDHABER

This tightly edited, nail biting eco thriller based on the eponymous bestselling book perfectly bridges the divide between awareness raising arthouse and entertaining blockbuster. A quintessential heist movie of our rapidly changing times that rightfully shows the multitude of faces and motives behind a fast-growing global movement of radical climate activism. Cinemas should be flooded with environmental stories like these.



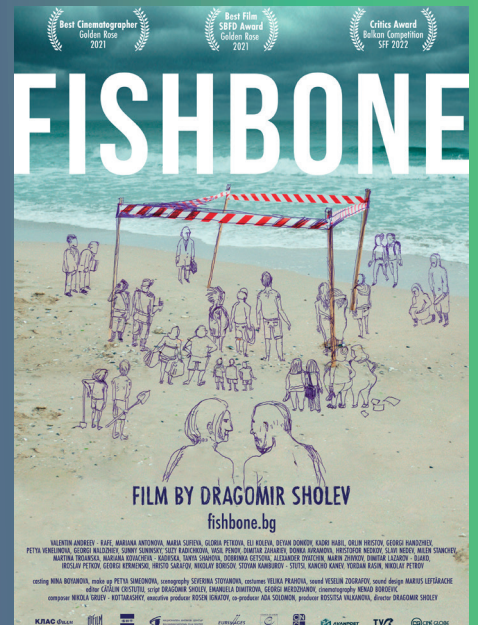
AMSTERDAM PREMIERE | 2022
UNITED STATES | 104 MINUTES |
DUTCH SUBTITLED
*closing film // eco - out of
competition*

SUNDAY MAY 14
19.00-21.19 | SK3

+ CLOSING AND AWARD CEREMONY



ECO COMPETITION



ANATOLIAN LEOPARD / ANADOLU LEOPARI

BY EMRE KAYIS

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2021 | TURKEY, GERMANY, DEN-
MARK, POLAND | 113 MINUTES

eco competition

An Ankara zoo becomes the battleground in this slow-burning fight between real estate investors and a reluctant zoo director clinging onto a more honorable past. The lifeless body of the titular leopard, a protected national symbol of Turkey, becomes the dubious chess piece in a standoff between two opposing ideologies. What value do we attribute to animals in contemporary society?

FRIDAY MAY 12 16.30-18.28 SK3
SUNDAY MAY 14 13.30-15.28 SK2



FISHBONE

BY DRAGOMIR SHOLEV

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2021 | BULGARIA, ROMANIA |
106 MINUTES

eco competition

A deadpan collage about our failing human species and apparent inability to care for our environment, with a dead dolphin washed ashore on a Bulgarian beach working as a catalyst for a number of unhinged interactions. Director Dragomir Sholev refuses to give easy answers to the film's existential questions, but a feeling of melancholy dominates when the end credits roll.

FRIDAY MAY 12 14.15-16.07 SK3
SUNDAY MAY 14 11.45-13.37 SK3



UNTIL BRANCHES BEND

BY SOPHIE JARVIS

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2022 | CANADA | 99 MINUTES
eco competition

Regulations in the agricultural sector are on everyone's mind nowadays. Director Sophie Jarvis gives voice to the ones affected by them. After finding a potentially harmful insect cannery worker Robin follows protocol to protect her community of peach growing farmers, but finds herself battling sexism and a hostile corporation that is dead set on making sure the machine never stops.

By showing your ticket for this film you can join our party on Friday May 12 for free!

FRIDAY MAY 12 21.15-22.58 SK3
+ SPROUTS X LA BANCARELLA - CLUB NIGHT
SUNDAY MAY 14 11.30-13.13 SK3

LA BANCARELLA

We will close the eco competition in style by joining forces with La Bancarella for a closing party on Friday on the 12th of May from 23:00-05:00. Receive free entrance with a ticket for Until Branches Bend. Expect a stellar local lineup, top notch underground tunes and quality fruits.

Lineup:

23.00-00.30: Something Rudy
00.30-01.30: The Darling
01.30-03.00: Ollie B2B The Shredder
03.00-04.00: Tho Sauvage
04.00-05.00: E.T.



LA BANCARELLA
STUDIO/K 12 MEI



SOMETHING RUDY THE DARLING
OLLIE B2B THE SHREDDER E.T.
THO SAUVAGE



FRUTTA & VERDURA



SPROUTS
FILM FESTIVAL
DEBUT & ECOLOGICAL



DE GEZONDE STAD

UTAMA

BY ALEJANDRO LOAYZA GRISI

2022 | BOLIVIA, URUGUAY, FRANCE | 87 MINUTES

eco competition

A generational divide plays out on the Bolivian highlands that are getting weighed down by a severe drought. Shots of bright colours and llamas penetrate the skilful compositions that show a nomadic community weathering the storm and the ravages of time. The central elderly Quechua couple gets under the skin and makes tangible the unequally distributed consequences of climate change.

THURSDAY MAY 11 16.45-17.47 SK3

SUNDAY MAY 14 14.00-15.32 SK3



VESPER

BY KRISTINA
BUOZYTE & BRUNO SAMPER

2022 | FRANCE, LITHUANIA, BELGIUM | 114 MINUTES

| DUTCH SUBTITLED

eco competition

Sci-fi *Vesper* explores the class struggle within a domed, post-apocalyptic society short on raw materials. The film reflects on bio-hacking as a tool for fighting global food scarcity, and is an impressive feat of practical world building, considering its modest budget. A dystopian fairy tale for grown-ups, guided by an inspiring young heroine maneuvering her way towards a memorable ending.

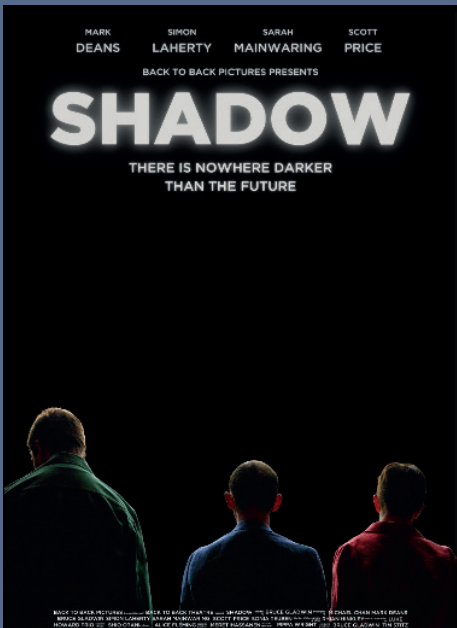
FRIDAY MAY 12 21.40-23.39 SK3

SUNDAY MAY 14 21.40-23.39 SK3



DE GEZONDE STAD

DEBUT COMPETITION



ALL THE COLOURS OF THE WORLD ARE BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE

BY BABATUNDE APALOWO

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2023 | NIGERIA | 93 MINUTES
debut competition

This queer Nigerian story about two gay men unable to resist each other's piercing gazes is an equally brave and sweet piece about finding happiness in a country in which homosexuality is still illegal. The tender and sensual images suck you right into their romance. It won the prestigious Teddy Award for Best Queer Feature Film at this year's Berlinale.

WEDNESDAY MAY 10 21.40-23.18 SK3
THURSDAY MAY 11 21.15-22.53 SK2

ELAHA

BY MILENA ABOYAN

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2023 | GERMANY | 110 MINUTES
debut competition

With her wedding day approaching no longer virgin Elaha finds herself split between Kurdish culture and sexual liberation. Her quest to surgically reconstruct her hymen lays bare a questionable practice that is still an everyday occurrence. Elaha is a self-determined woman setting her own rules to sexuality in this vivid, authentic film that rightfully stays close to its multilayered protagonist.

THURSDAY MAY 11 12.15-14.10 SK3
SATURDAY MAY 13 19.00-21.15 SK3
+ Q&A WITH DIRECTOR MILENA ABOYAN



LA JAURÍA

BY ANDRÉS RAMÍREZ PULIDO

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2022 | COLOMBIA, FRANCE |

86 MINUTES

debut competition

A dark, brooding tale about an experimental youth detention center in the Colombian jungle. By means of an eerie score, penetrating gazes and a deep, earthy colour palette director Andrés Ramírez Pulido has created a transgressive world of shadows. He slowly reveals a corrupt, broken system messing up the lives of tormented boys. A menacing debut reminiscent of *Monos* (2019).

THURSDAY MAY 11 22.00-23.31 SK3

SATURDAY MAY 13 17.00-18.31 SK3



SHADOW

BY BRUCE GLADWIN

AMSTERDAM PREMIERE | 2022 | AUSTRALIA |

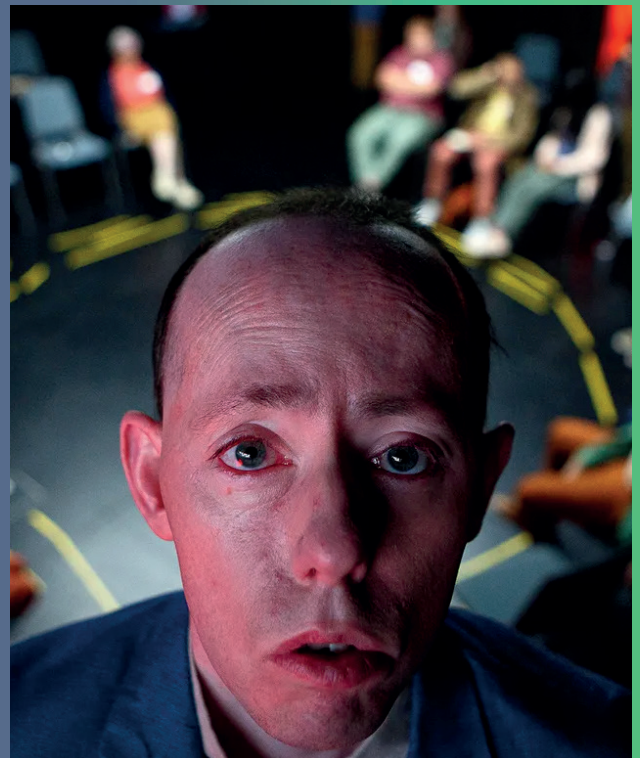
56 MINUTES

debut competition

Why make a film about people with intellectual disabilities when they can make a film themselves? Australian theater company Back to Back Theatre confidently ventures into cinema with this loudly articulated exploration of day to day obstacles experienced by the cast members themselves. *Shadow* is a quirky genre mix that advocates for a more compassionate society with less artificial intelligence.

THURSDAY MAY 11 18.15-19.16 SK3

SATURDAY MAY 13 11.30-12.31 SK1



SAFE PLACE / SIGURNO MJESTO

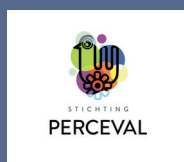
BY JURAJ LEROTIC

A highly personal fictionalization of director Juraj Leroti's own journey to save his suicidal brother, while being bogged down by failing institutions. Decaying buildings, a clever breaking of the fourth wall and a sensitive sound design help channel the attention to three stellar performances. A sobering, heartfelt look at mental health problems and their crushing effects on aiding family members.

After the screening, we are going to talk with Marlou Ruijter and other t.b.a. speakers from Stichting Perceval about the failing mental health care system and what can be changed. Stichting Perceval is founded by "the mad" (Gekken) for "the mad". The term "the mad" is used as a reclaimed nickname, because they don't want to use medical diagnoses to label themselves. Stichting Perceval is an inclusive community, open to all individuals. Currently, the foundation offers three types of programs. The first is the madstudies reading groups. The second is a bi-monthly film program with a focus on the theme of madness. Lastly, Peerbuntu is a peer counseling group program.

AMSTERDAM PREMIERE | 2022 |
CROATIA | 102 MINUTES
debut competition

THURSDAY MAY 11
19.30-21.43 | SK3
+ AFTERTALK



Also screened on SATURDAY MAY 13
21.30-23.18 | SK3



SEMRET

BY CATERINA MONA

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2022 | SWITZERLAND |

85 MINUTES

debut competition

Eritrean asylum seekers are often being questioned about the sincerity of their refugee status. In a polarized political climate in which migration seems merely a plaything, the story of midwife Semret who tries to overcome trauma and formations of gender to assimilate in Swiss society, shows us to fight for a just system that helps all in need of protection.



THURSDAY MAY 11 14.30-16.00 SK3
SATURDAY MAY 13 15.00-16.30 SK3

TORTOISE UNDER THE EARTH / DHARTI LATAR RE HOR

BY SHISHIR JHA

EUROPEAN PREMIERE | 2022 | INDIA | 95 MINUTES

debut and eco - out of competition

Slow, poetic docufiction *Tortoise Under the Earth* looks at a tribal couple in India on the brink of losing their traditional way of life and close connection to the land due to uranium mining and fast approaching excavators. By documenting local celebrations and folklore director Shishir Jha has made a profoundly humanist testament centered around memory and two steadfast individuals.



SATURDAY MAY 13 12.40-14.41 SK3
+ Q&A WITH DIRECTOR SHISHIR JHA

THE CORD OF LIFE / QI DAI

BY SIXUE QIAO

AMSTERDAM PREMIERE | 2022 | CHINA |

96 MINUTES

debut - out of competition

When his mother is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease electronic music artist ALUS returns from the big city to the rural area of his upbringing to spend her last days together and spare his caretaking brother. A love letter to cultural roots and a nomadic way of life ensues through striking vistas of Inner Mongolia and traditional music, songs and dresses.

As a component of the Eco Shorts program, the Water Murmurs will be screened prior to the screening of The Cord of Life.

SATURDAY MAY 13 13.00-14.56 SK1
+ SCREENING OF SHORT 'THE WATER MURMURS'

SUNDAY MAY 14 13.45-15.41 SK1
+ SCREENING OF SHORT 'THE WATER MURMURS'

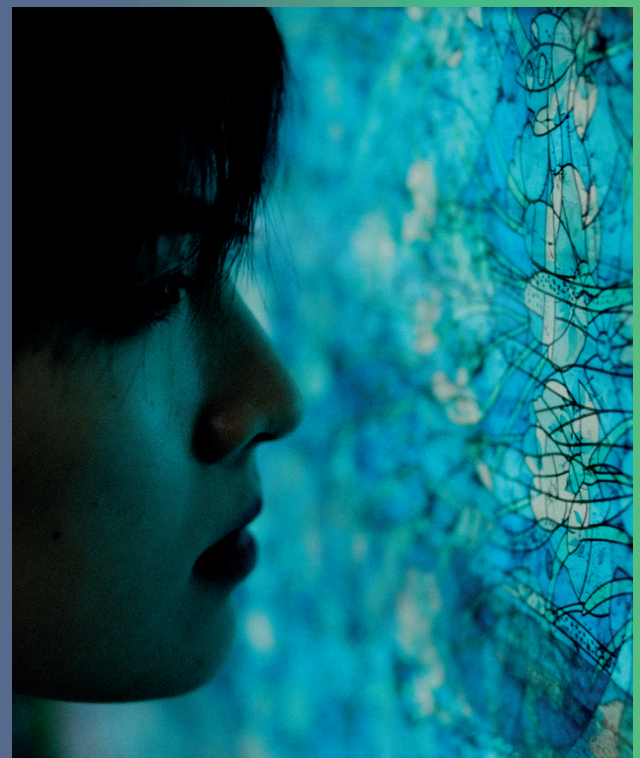
THE WATER MURMURS / HAI BIAN SHENG QI YI ZUO XUAN YA

BY STORY CHEN

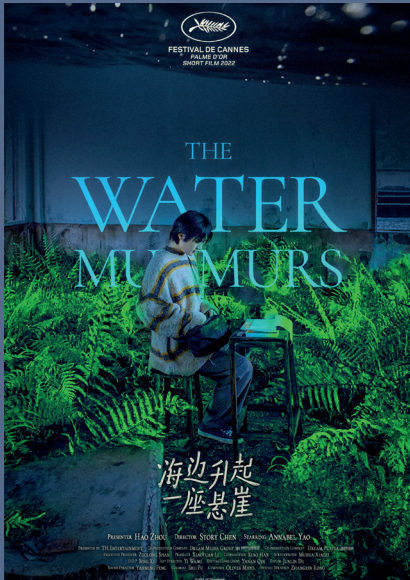
DUTCH PREMIERE | 2022 | CHINA | 15 MINUTES

eco shorts program

With the threat of ecological collapse becoming more and more real by the day, what will remain of our social contracts when faced with unprecedented natural disasters? This beautifully orchestrated and melancholic vision of the future leaves room for hope. Rightfully awarded the Palme d'Or for Best Short Film.



ECO SHORTS PROGRAM



This program is sponsored by



PANEL DISCUSSION: FUELING ACTIVISM

In this panel discussion, we are going to talk with Janna Lenders from WECF International, Pieter Sellies from Fossilvrij NL, and a representative of Extinction Rebellion about the different ways in which climate activist groups enforce their activism.

- WECF International is a nonprofit network dedicated to a gender just and healthy planet for all. Their philosophy has always been to ensure that the voices of women and marginalized groups are heard at the policy table and to combine this with local actions in which they realize their priorities.
- Fossilvrij NL is confronting the urgent challenge of the climate crisis by mobilizing a robust citizens' movement rooted in local communities, aimed at challenging the dominance of coal, oil, and gas corporations.
- Extinction Rebellion is an international activist movement that opposes climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

FRIDAY MAY 12 19.00-21.26 SK3



wecf
International



**FOSSIEL
VRIJ NL**



EXTINCTION REBELLION WORKSHOP

On the path to extinction and what to do about it. This workshop provides a comprehensive introduction to Extinction Rebellion: for many, it's how they've learned more about the ecological crisis, why XR was started, and what we stand for. The recommended duration for the workshop is 90 minutes, including a 45-60 minute presentation followed by group discussion. The presentation will include information from the latest findings in social and environmental sciences, placing them in historical and moral context.

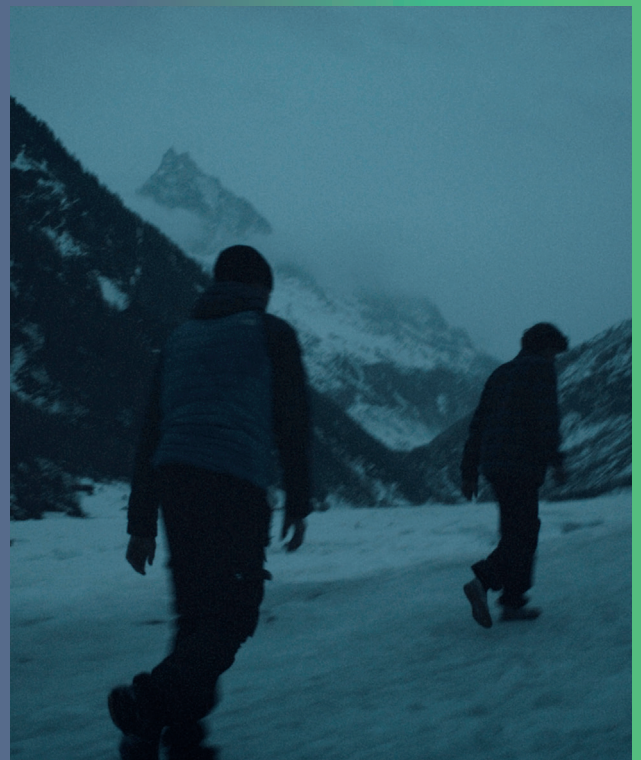


SUNDAY MAY 14 14.00-15.30 SK4

LA CHUTE BY SEBASTIAN SCHAEVERS

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2022 | SWITZERLAND, BELGIUM
| 22 MINUTES
eco shorts program

Glaciers are melting at an accelerating rate. It is a paralyzing reality that makes it easy to lose oneself in climate change indifference. Walking a fine line between documentary and fiction director Sebastian Schaevers offers a confrontationally cynical wake-up call.



FRIDAY MAY 12 19.00-21.26 SK3
+ PANEL DISCUSSION: FUELING ACTIVISM

SUNDAY MAY 14 16.00-18.16 SK3
+ Q&A WITH DIRECTOR OF LA CHUTE

7H15 - MERLE NOIR

BY JUDITH AUFFRAY

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2022 | FRANCE | 30 MINUTES

eco shorts program

A fascinating docufiction shining a light on our conflicted relationship with the more-than-human world. Guided by an intriguing soundscape Jean and Mana venture into a dreamlike natural environment in pursuit of a mysterious creature. Bird watching at its most exhilarating.

FRIDAY MAY 12 19.00-21.26 SK3

+ PANEL DISCUSSION: FUELING ACTIVISM

SUNDAY MAY 14 16.00-18.16 SK3

+ Q&A WITH DIRECTOR OF LA CHUTE



CHORDS / CUERDAS

BY ESTIBALIZ URRESOLA SOLAGUREN

AMSTERDAM PREMIERE | 2022 | SPAIN | 31 MINUTES

eco shorts program

Culture and industry clash in this sharp reflection on the lived reality of pollution. Its central dilemma speaks volumes about the hardening debate on corporate responsibility. Greenwashing through the eyes of the elderly that refuse to remain on the sidelines.

FRIDAY MAY 12 19.00-21.26 SK3

+ PANEL DISCUSSION: FUELING ACTIVISM

SUNDAY MAY 14 16.00-18.16 SK3

+ Q&A WITH DIRECTOR OF LA CHUTE



ICE MERCHANTS

BY JOÃO GONZALEZ

2022 | PORTUGAL, UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE |

15 MINUTES

eco shorts program

Few films have made global warming tangible in such profoundly emotional ways than this deafeningly mute animation, made all the more impressive by its short running time. Every minute holds meaning. It was rightfully nominated for an Oscar this year.

FRIDAY MAY 12 19.00-21.26 SK3

+ PANEL DISCUSSION: FUELING ACTIVISM

SUNDAY MAY 14 16.00-18.16 SK3

+ Q&A WITH DIRECTOR OF LA CHUTE



MULIKA

BY MAISHA MAENE

DUTCH PREMIERE | 2022 | THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO | 14 MINUTES

eco shorts program

Afrofuturist protest against the continuing dominance of former colonial powers through the mining of rare-earth minerals by big corporations for the technological benefits of people in the Global North. A self-willed, thought-provoking and eclectic appendix to last edition's Neptune Frost.

FRIDAY MAY 12 19.00-21.26 SK3

+ PANEL DISCUSSION: FUELING ACTIVISM

SUNDAY MAY 14 16.00-18.16 SK3

+ Q&A WITH DIRECTOR OF LA CHUTE



TEAM

Initiator

Studio/K

Thomas Streekstra

Film programming

Thomas Streekstra

Side programming

Pieter de Beaufort

Veerle van Lieshout

Campaign image and design

Ella Gijssels

Sascha Sylbing

Tirza van Os

Wimke Dekker

Trailer

Music by Pieter de Beaufort

Editing by Tirza van Os

Copywriting

Eva Rupert

Thomas Streekstra

Online marketing

Job Stelwagen

PR

Joep Wisse

Print traffic

Fenna van Halsema

Operators

Daria van Duren

Juni Boumeester

Sascha Sylbing



SPROUTS

FILM FESTIVAL



DEBUT & ECOLOGICAL

10 - 14 MAY 2023

STUDIO/K