

# Voices With Impact

## 2022





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# 2022 Films



# Blue Garden

Natalie Murao (Mixed Media Documentary, Canada)



Three young Filipinos recollect their experiences during and after the three of the most fatal super typhoons in the Philippines.

Natalie Murao is a yonsei filmmaker and educator from Vancouver. Her work explores generational disconnect, personal memory, and communication in Asian diasporic cinema. Her film, *No More Parties* was featured at TIFF and Clermont-Ferrand. She is also a Sundance Fellow and VAFF programmer.



# Coming Home To Myself

Feyannie Hung and Nicole Kennedy (Experimental, Canada)



A view inside the realities and uniqueness of Substance Use Disorder, a perspective on why people with this disorder often get pushed to the sidelines of society.

Feyannie Hung was born and raised in Taipei, Taiwan, and is based in Vancouver, BC. Fey graduated with a degree in Film Production from the University of British Columbia and currently works in the film industry. Nicole Kennedy (she/her): a filmmaker, published writer, researcher, and recreation therapist who specializes in mental health.



# Once Upon A Time

Athena Russell (Narrative Live Action, Canada)



Through the lens of fairytale, Hannah shares the reality of her life with an alcoholic parent.

Athena Russell is an award-winning actress, writer, director and producer based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Having amassed a resume of over 45 professional film and TV credits both in front, and behind, the camera.



# Save The Queen

Lucie Rachel & 1990s Chris (Poetry Film, United Kingdom)



Save the Queen is a spoken word film exploring the undertones of British drinking culture through the reality of a young man hovering on the edge of addiction.

Lucie Rachel (they/she) explores domesticity, gender, and sexuality through lens-based art, blending artist film and documentary. 1990s Chris (he/him) is a queer, working-class poet from Hereford whose work sparks conversations on queer identity, masculinity, and class.



# Promise

Lane Michael Stanley (Dance Film, USA)



An experimental dance film exploring a person's abuse of their opioid prescription following the death of their husband, and their eventual attempt to find recovery.

Lane Michael Stanley is a filmmaker, playwright, and producer, and the founder of Secretly Famous Productions. Their debut film *Addict Named Hal* won Best U.S. Narrative Feature at Big Bear Film Summit. Lane is a 2021 Playwriting Fellow with Lambda Literary.



# Bloom

Asha Alaji-Sharif (Documentary, USA)



A short documentary that follows the story of Dillon, his experience with alcohol use disorder and his journey to improve his life and his community.

Asha Alaji-Sharif is a Howard University graduate and visual artist from Atlanta, Georgia. She tells stories through film and other mediums, releasing her feature documentary *The New Black* in 2019.



# Six Feet Apart

Monty Cole (Drama, USA)



A queer Latinx man in a Texas border town remembers, and buries, his father within an unbearable reality.

Monty Cole is an award-winning theater and film writer-director from Oak Park, IL. With work at regional theaters, Cole's recent projects include directing films like SIX FEET APART and WHOLE. He is a fellow at the Hermitage Artist Retreat and a Research Scholar at UIC.



# The Sunset Special

David Telles and Marlena Robbins (Drama, USA)



A young Diné woman struggles with the process of burying her recently deceased father on the reservation.

Mr. Telles, a Chicano filmmaker from Oakland, CA. As a writer/director, he creates decolonized, socially conscious stories that challenge the status quo. Marlena Robbins is Diné from Window Rock, AZ, with a master's in American Indian Studies from ASU. She's a cultural consultant, writer, producer, and actor advocating Navajo traditions.



# Until Our Spirits Meet Again

Alexander Nystrom (Experimental, USA)



A young Ojibwe boy walks with the spirit of his late father on a four night journey to the afterlife as they both reckon with their grief along the way.

Alex Nystrom, an Ojibwe writer, director, and producer from Minneapolis, explores identity in contemporary Native stories. A 2021 Native American Media Alliance fellow, his pilot *Between* made the 2022 Indigenous List. He works in Los Angeles as a director's assistant.



# Paper Planes

Sina Sultani (Animation, Canada)



Vellum's confidence erodes after losing his father and as sixth-grade graduation approaches, the bullies try to keep him grounded while his circle of friends do everything they can to lift him up.

Sina Sultani is an 80-time award-winning writer, director, and producer. A member of the PGA and CMPA, he has worked with ILM and Sony on major films. He's in production on his first animated short and developing his first live-action feature.



# Premieres



# World Premiere & Festival

Voices With Impact will premiere the 10 short films made through its mental health production grant in two online premieres. These events will include guest performers and speakers. The premieres will be followed by interactive workshops with the filmmakers exploring the themes of their films.

## June 27: Grief & Resilience Premiere

5 films exploring Grief & Resilience



## June 28: Substance Use Disorder Premiere

5 films exploring Substance Use Disorder & Recovery



# Premiere Appearances



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Norman Lake &  
Eric Chapman!



Lumi López



Chanda Lynn



Ayanna Albertson

# Workshops



## Same Story, New Words

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

10am PDT / 1pm EDT / 6pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring the idea of story and it's connection to self. Featuring three VWI films: Six Feet Apart By Monty Cole, Once Upon A Time by Athena Russell and Blue Garden by Natalie Murao. The filmmakers will be in attendance to discuss their films.

## Children and Grief

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

1pm PDT / 4pm EDT / 9pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring how children experience and manage grief. Featuring three VWI films: Paper Planes by Sina Sultani, Once Upon A Time by Athena Russell and Six Feet Apart by Monty Cole. The filmmakers will be in attendance to discuss their films.

## Keeping Our Fathers Alive

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

4pm PDT / 7pm EDT / 12 am BST (June 30)



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring fatherhood and the emotions attached to the concept. Featuring three VWI films: Until Our Spirits Meet Again by Alex Nystrom, The Sunset Special by Marlena C. Robbins and David Telles and Six Feet Apart by Monty Cole. The filmmakers in attendance.

## Unplanned Futures

Thursday, June 30, 2022

10 am PST / 1 pm EST / 6 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring how we navigate unexpected situations, how we manage moving through the unexpected. Featuring two VWI films: Promise by Lane Michael Stanley and Coming Home To Myself by Feyannie Hung and Nicole Kennedy.

## Paths to Healing

Thursday, June 30, 2022

1 pm PST / 4 pm EST / 9 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring the different ways we can find paths to healing. Featuring two VWI films: The Sunset Special by Marlena C. Robbins and David Telles and Bloom by Asha Alaji-Sharif. The filmmakers will be in attendance to discuss their films.

## Journeys Through...

Thursday, June 30, 2022

4 pm PST / 7 pm EST / 12 am BST (July 1)



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring different cultural approaches to grief and our personal journeys. Featuring three VWI films: The Paper Planes by Sina Sultani, Coming Home To Myself by Feyannie Hung and Nicole Kennedy and Until Our Spirits Meet Again by Alexander Nystrom.

## The Interior World

Friday, July 1, 2022

10 am PST / 1 pm EST / 6 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring our inner thoughts and internal worlds. Featuring three VWI films: *The Save The Queen* by Lucie Rachel and *1990s Chris*, *Coming Home To Myself* by Feyannie Hung and Nicole Kennedy and *Promise* by Lane Michael Stanley.

## It Starts Out Fun, So You Do It Again

Friday, July 1, 2022

1 pm PST / 4 pm EST / 9 pm BST



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring substance use disorder and the slippery slope of dependency. Featuring two VWI films: *The Save The Queen* by Lucie Rachel and *1990s Chris* and *Bloom* by Asha Alaji-Sharif. The Filmmakers will be in attendance.

## The Things We Never Say

Friday, July 1, 2022

4 pm PST / 7 pm EST / 12 am BST (July 2)



An interactive workshop discussion and film screening exploring grief and the power that silence can give to complicated feelings and undiscussed emotion. Featuring two VWI films: *Blue Garden* by Natalie Murao and *Promise* by Lane Michael Stanley. The Filmmakers will be in attendance.

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