



2021 Universe Multicultural Film Festival

October 29 ~ 31, 2021



UMFILMS.ORG

**info@umfilms.org
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**Promenade on the Peninsula
Peninsula Center Library
Malaga Cove Library
CSVLY Theater**

Maeya Culture Exchange Group



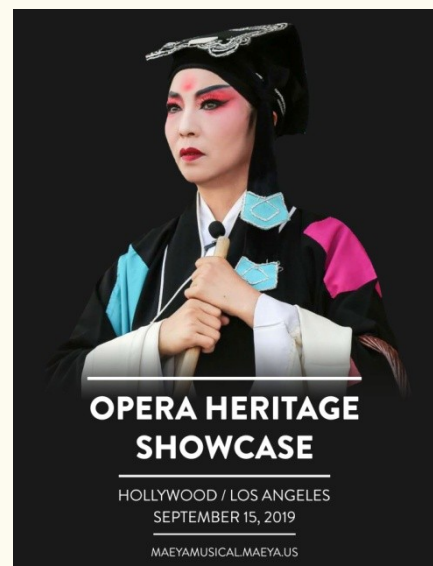
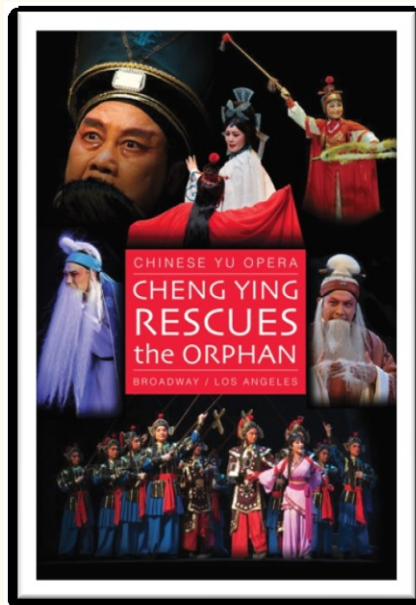
The **Maeya Culture Exchange Group LLC** provides a platform for different cultures to explore, share, and communicate with one another. Our purpose is to increase mutual understanding and appreciation between people from different cultures through education and culture exchange. The Economic globalization brings financial benefit; **Maeya Culture Exchange Group LLC** brings harmony through culture and art environment.

www.maeya.org

As a cultural project management firm, Maeya Culture Exchange Group LLC produces and manages three international film festivals every year in the United States. One is the Universe Multicultural Film Festival that is held in Los Angeles every April, and the other is San Diego International Kids' Film Festival that is held in San Diego every September. Maeya's brand-new annual production is Epic ACG Fest that is held in Silicon Valley every November.



Maeya has many years of experience in the promotion and distribution of family-friendly films, Both in the U.S. and in China. As of to date, Maeya has the distribution rights of 63 films imported from China. All of the films have been promoted through participation in various film festivals.



In February 2013, Maeya proudly presented Cheng Ying Rescues the Orphan, Maeya's first theater production at Studio 54 Theater in New York's Broadway as well as at the Warner Grand Theater in Los Angeles. On October 18, 2016, Maeya present this Chinese Yu Opera, for the first time, at Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, the home of Academy Awards.



*Welcome Letter from
Executive Director
Lynn Tang*

Dear UMFF attendees,

Welcome to the very special 2021 Universe Multicultural Film Festival (UMFF) online.

The UMFF celebrates cultural diversity, creativity, tolerance, and global unity in its exhibition of excellent films and screenplays. We showcase films and scripts that are rich in storytelling, strong in character development, and hold deep roots in diverse cultures.

This year, the UMFF have selected 60 official selections from 19 countries, including the USA, Canada, China, Turkey, Germany, Chile, Ethiopia, Iceland, Japan, Malaysia, United Kingdom, India, Belgium, Taiwan, Brazil, Australia, France, Panama and Greece. Attendees may choose to view from a wide variety of features, shorts, documentaries, and animations. This special event will also be a place where international film delegations share the screen with young and soon-to-be-known talents. Other than film screenings, attendees may participate in the film market, industry panels, cultural events, film Q&As, film receptions, and Galas. Filmmakers are welcomed to meet here with potential partners and share their deal-making tips and insights.

On behalf of the entire UMFF committee, we thank you for being a part of our festival and participating in the cultural exchange. We thank the sponsors, supporters, and volunteers who make this event possible. With your generous support, new friendships and lasting memories have formed.

Sincerely,

Lynn Tang



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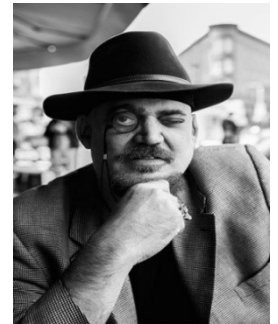
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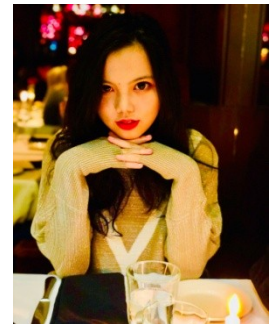
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Natalie Wermers



Sherwood Jones



Siyuan Liu



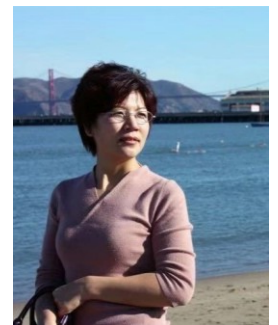
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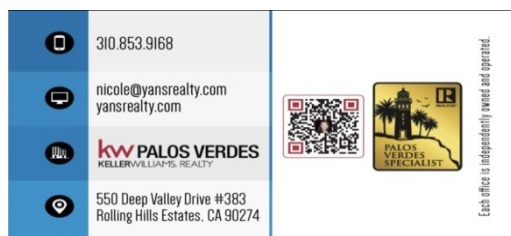
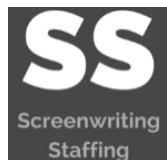
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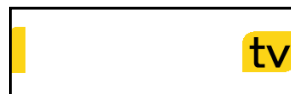
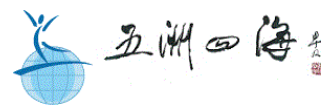


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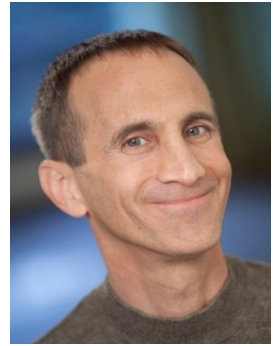
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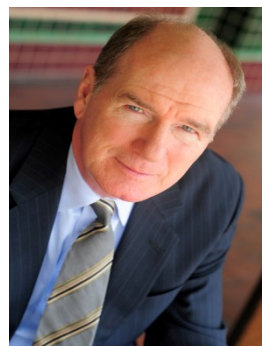
Jackeline Cacho



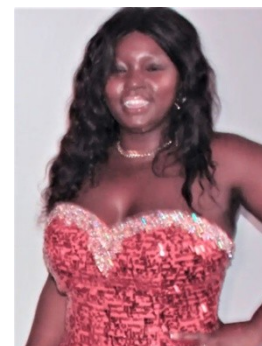
Jon Allen



Reem Kadem



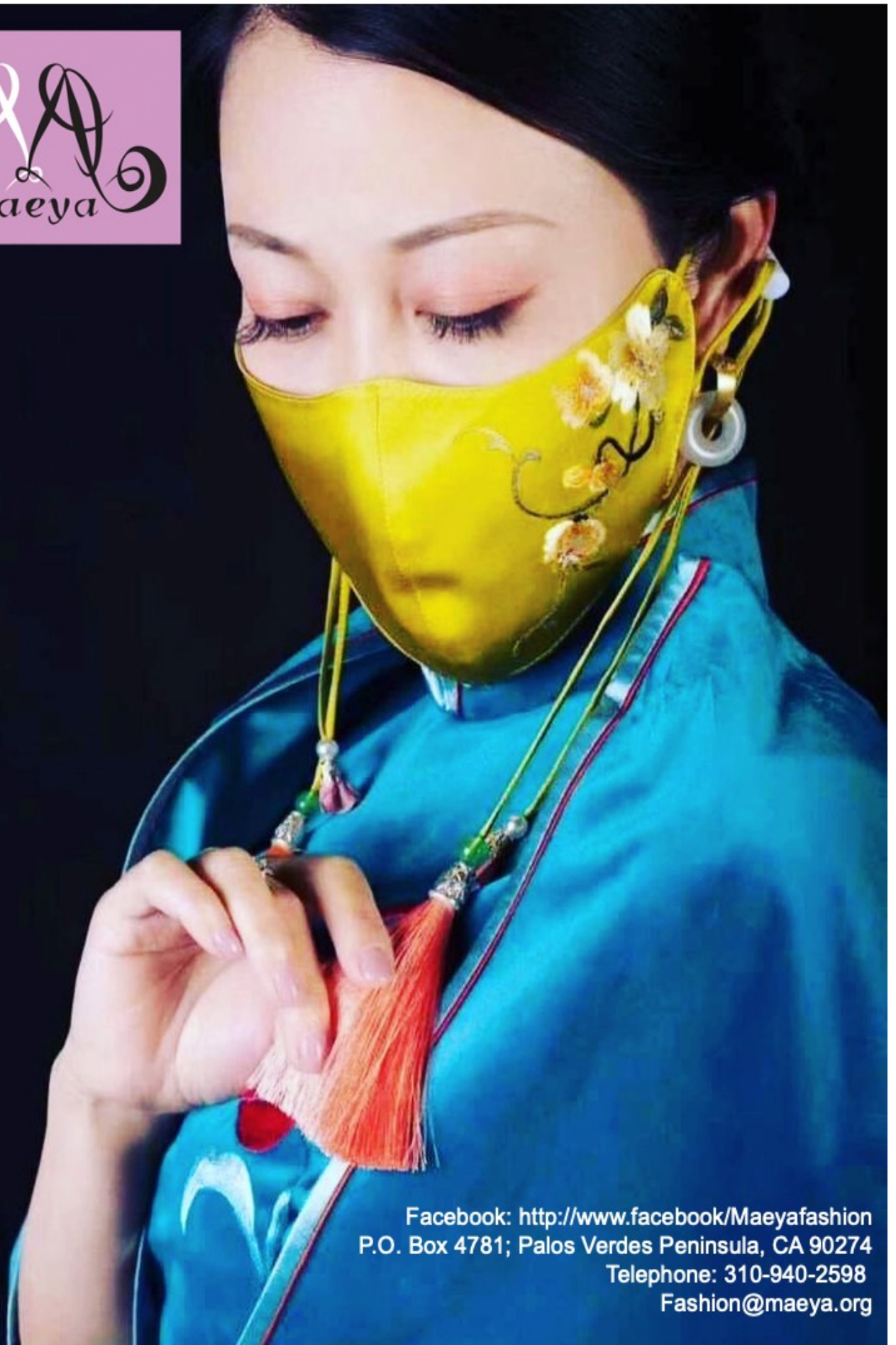
Brian Connors



Marjorie Le Thiec

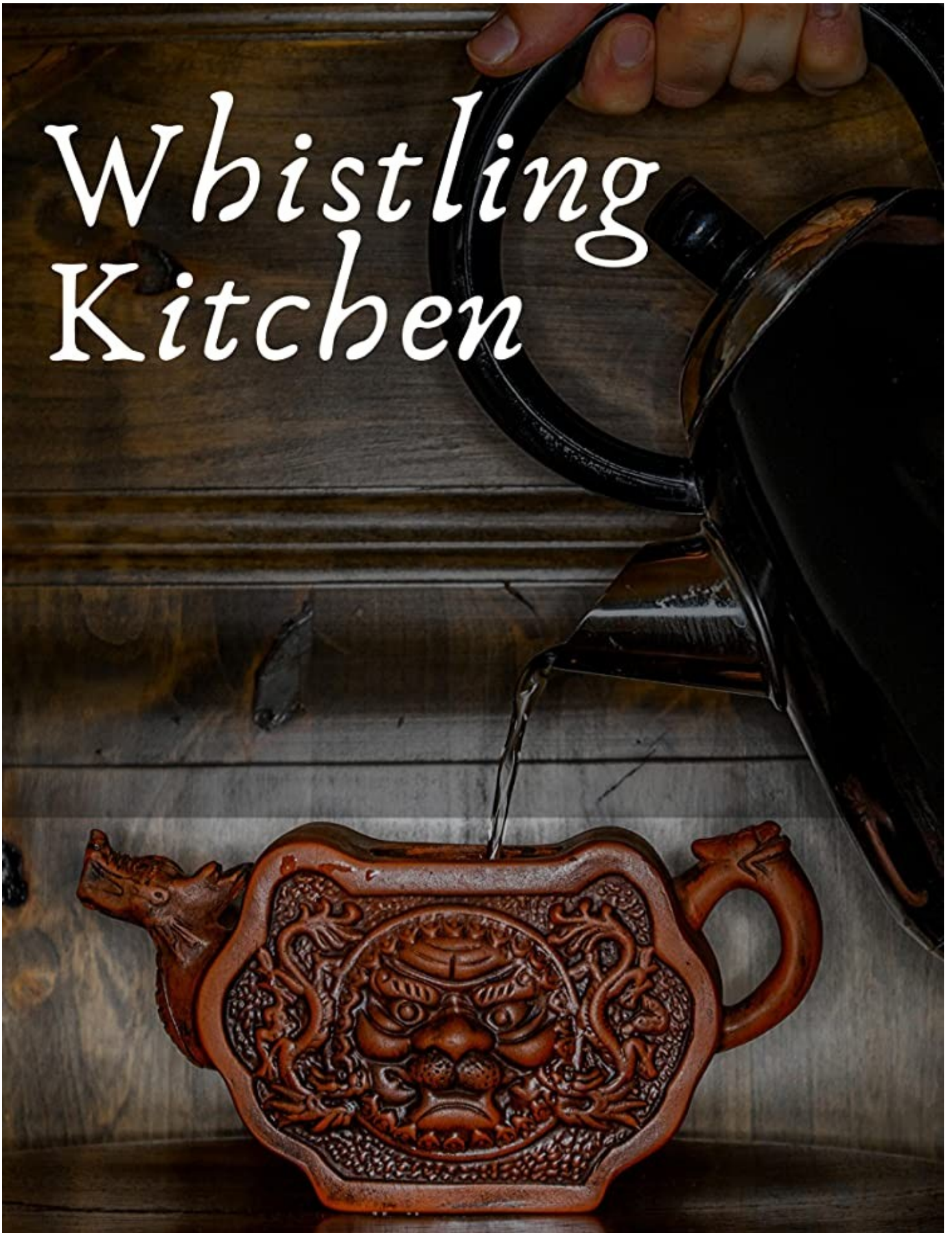


Ewart Chin



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Whistling Kitchen





OFFICIAL SELECTIONS-Feature



A Lone Watcher

China | 101min Feature | Drama

Director: Fuping Luo

In a rural area of Gansu Province in Northwest China, villagers' life is extremely difficult due to endless drought. At the beginning of the 20th century, the government issued a policy to move the whole village to the city. However, a middle-aged villager named Xiaonanfang insisted on staying. What will be waiting for him to face?



Gagauzes - In the Sign of Cross and Wolf

Turkey | 55min Feature | Documentary

Director: Ali Kerem Gulermen

Gagauz people are explained to the audience with different Gagauz generations, Oguzsport Football Team, wolf (monster) symbol, ethnography museum, cinema, women's monastery and many more. Gagauz people tried to protect themselves under the pressure of the repressive Soviet regime and atheism in the past, speak of themselves.

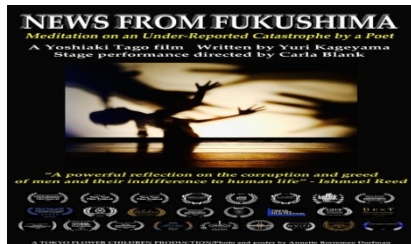


MADE IN CHINA

USA | 76 min Feature | Drama

Director: Brendan Merrill

While working for a shady real-estate company in Shanghai, Bryan Zellerman is framed by his corrupt employers. Faced with a choice between escape or finding out the truth behind his betrayal, his path veers terribly out of control.



NEWS FROM FUKUSHIMA

Japan | 75 min Feature | Art

Director: Yoshiaki Tago

After throwing a job, an ex-Marine seeks refuge in a safe house where he is swarmed by mercenaries sent to kill him



The Handler

USA | 76 min Feature | Drama

Director: Michael Matteo Rossi

While working for a shady real-estate company in Shanghai, Bryan Zellerman is framed by his corrupt employers. Faced with a choice between escape or finding out the truth behind his betrayal, his path veers terribly out of control.



The Pursuit of Life

China | 90min Feature | Drama

Director: Xiaoyan Shang

The film tells the story of Shang Yu, a female teacher at Yueliangwan Middle School in the impoverished mountainous area of Sichuan Province, China, and her two generations of students who dropped out of school because of poverty and returned to school.



The Way Home

Taiwan | 78 min Feature | Documentary

Director: Feng Yang

Dremedrema is the tribal chief heir of her tribe.

She is the eldest daughter; therefore, she must accept her inheritance of the position and status according to tradition. But her mother and children hope that she disavows the obligation. Even Dremedrema herself has run away from her tribe once.

And there are many other families' members who have their eyes on the position.



OFFICIAL SELECTIONS-Feature



The Witch Princess

Germany | 90 min | Feature | Drama

Director: Ngo The Chau

Two royal daughters couldn't be more different. Amalindis, the firstborn of the two twins, tries to live up to her father's demands: she dutifully wants to agree to marry Prince Tanka. Zottel, on the other hand, the second-born, feels connected not to her nobility, but to the great outdoors and a full-grown wolf - a wild girl who sleeps in the forest and who has long since fallen out with her father.



Toprak

Turkey | 106min | Feature | Drama

Director: Sevgi Hirschhäuser

TOPRAK is the dramatic story of a simple family in rural Turkey dealing with poverty, family traditions, and religious heritage. Since the death of his parents, the teenage Burak has lived with his uncle Cemil and grandmother in a remote Turkish village. The small family unit has been trying to make a living by selling fruits.



Vision Quest

United States | 90min | Feature | Documentary

Director: Tamara Bell

This epic documentary examines the long and winding path that Canada's Indigenous people travelled to achieve independence. Relying on discussion and detailed examination, the film establishes a "then and now" style narrative approach that considers historical events and their significance through the prism of contemporary, early 21st-century conditions.



Who are We

Australia | 105min | Feature | Drama

Director: A.Hassan Keivan

The story of the film is about a man who is looking for his real identity and his constant question is, who am I?. And this can be the question of each of us, Who are we?. He misses the chance to live with a girl because of the Islamic revolution in Iran. After his mother's death, he discovers that his real parents are not those that have raised him.

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS-Short



AstroLOology - Libra - The_Pied-Piping

Malaysia | 7 min | Short | Animation

Director: Ken Foong

AstroLOology is our original comedy web-series of short skits based on the members of the Greek Zodiac and their wacky personalities and relationships. Gaze with wonder in this simple, dialogue-free, colorful, children's series featuring universal characters and plenty of physical comedy for people all over the world.



Cou

Taiwan | 21min | Short | Drama

Director: Rong-Hua Chuang

Pasuya is an indigenous child of the Cou people in Taiwan, living in the city. His grandfather led him to the traditional Cou house in Alishan, from where he shared stories from his childhood memories, hoping to acquaint Pasuya with his own culture.



De Brume Et De Sang

France | 24min | Short | Horror

Director: Roland Collin

A famous novelist, winner of a prestigious prize, meets a journalist. Wanting to find out more about his personality, the journalist asks him about his latest books and where he gets his inspiration. As the time passes, the author starts to doubt the real intentions of the interviewer. The meeting quickly goes downhill, revealing the scars of a tragedy that happened four years ago...



2020

Maeya Cultural Ambassador

May 29-31, 2020

Rolling Hills and Hollywood, Ca

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STCA is honored to be the co-host of
the Maeya Culture Ambassador with Universe
Multicultural Film Festival
Get involved with us! <http://stculture.org>



UNIVERSE MULTICULTURAL FILM MARKET



The Multicultural Film Market is open to all members of the film industry. We are building to reach the capability of fulfilling all film business needs - film sales, investments, production, location, post-production etc. at one location



OFFICIAL SELECTIONS-Short



Dignity

United States | 25min Short | Drama

Director: Pat Battistini

"Dignity" is a love story between a woman and her family. However, the family's strength is tested when a moral decision must be made.



Kanda Bode (Don't Get Whipped)

Ethiopia | 25min Short | Drama

Director: Fekad Kiros, Cheryl Halpern

This documentary focuses on the Hamar Tribe, a semi nomadic and rural people who live along the Omo River in Southwestern Ethiopia. Preserving the traditions of their ancestors is essential to defining Hamar life

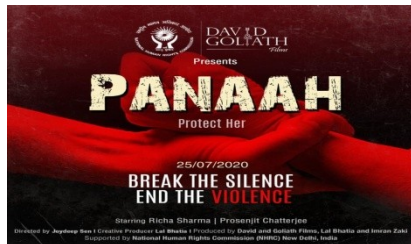


Ke Baba Hahalaba

United States | 26min Short | Drama

Director: Sudipta Chatterjee

Sri Nrisingha Roychowdhury is the scion of an erstwhile Zamindar house of Bengal, currently settled in San Francisco. On the midnight of December 31, 2019, he consults a vagabond shaman and turns to the supernatural for get-rich-quick schemes. Come laugh with us as we conjure magic on screen, invite beings from other worlds, and peek into the future of the world with the short film, "Ke Baba, Hahalaba?". As the famous saying goes, "Be careful what you wish for, because it might just come true".



Panaah

India | 7min Short | Drama

Director: Joydeep Sen



Pedacito de la Tierra

United States | 10min Short | Documentary

Director: Lina Lyte Plioplyte

The Pedacito de la Tierra (A Little Piece of Home) documentary series weaves together humanitarian, migrant & refugee, food, and sustainability issues from around the world. The series shares stories of hope, growth and community to raise awareness and support for the efforts of global humanitarian organization, Alight, and Burners Without Borders.

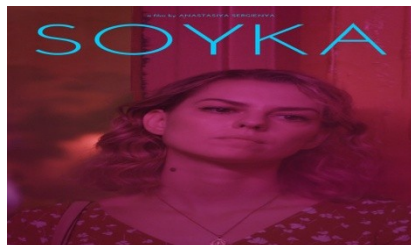


Rejoice Abyssinia

United States | 7min Short | Theatre

Director: Gail Simpson (Music), Bichu Tesfamariam (Film)

Opera Frontier went to Ethiopia in January 2019 to collaborate with Circus Abyssinia. Featuring circus arts fused with traditional Ethiopian instruments and dance, Opera Frontier repurposed an aria from Handel's Messiah (Rejoice Greatly) with lyrics that place four young Ethiopian circus artists at the center of an empowering scene. Rejoice Abyssinia celebrates young women and the leaders who inspire them.



Soyka

United States | 16min Short | Drama

Director: Anastasiya Sergienya

Anna, a young woman from Belarus, tries to survive in New York City while dreaming of a better life. This intimate portrait of an individual showcases the experience of the American immigrant: loneliness, fear, happiness, self-realization, and ultimately hope..



OFFICIAL SELECTIONS-Short



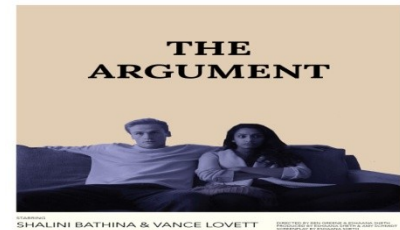
The American Dream

United States | 6min Short | Drama

Director: Baldev Sandhu

Three immigrants about to cross the border sit around a fire and discuss what "The American Dream" means to them.

*Contains adult language.



The Argument

United States | 18min Short | Drama

Director: Ben Greene, Eshaana Sheth

In November of 2012, a young interracial couple deals with the aftermath of a tragedy during a time of national panic before the impending Mayan Apocalypse.



The Light Dares to Desert Me

United States | 30min Short | Drama

Director: Miranda Bowden-Parker

The sins of a man's past make it difficult for his family to adapt to their new life.



Together in Tomorrowland

United States | 10min Short | Drama

Director: Rob Schmidt

A 1960s couple meet their son in a strange place they call "Tomorrowland."

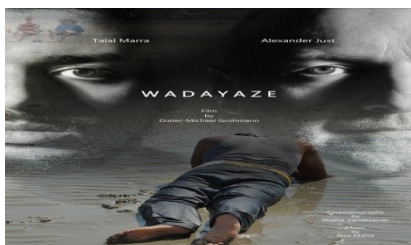


Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

China | 12min Short | Drama

Director: Shiyue Xu

Throughout Tommy's life, the song "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" has undergone many changes that mirror his journey through the different stages of his life.



Wadayaze

Belgium | 7min Short | Drama

Director: Grohmann, Dieter Michael

Two men meet by accident at the beach and have a vision of past and future life.



Lao Yang's Summer

China | 19min Short | Drama

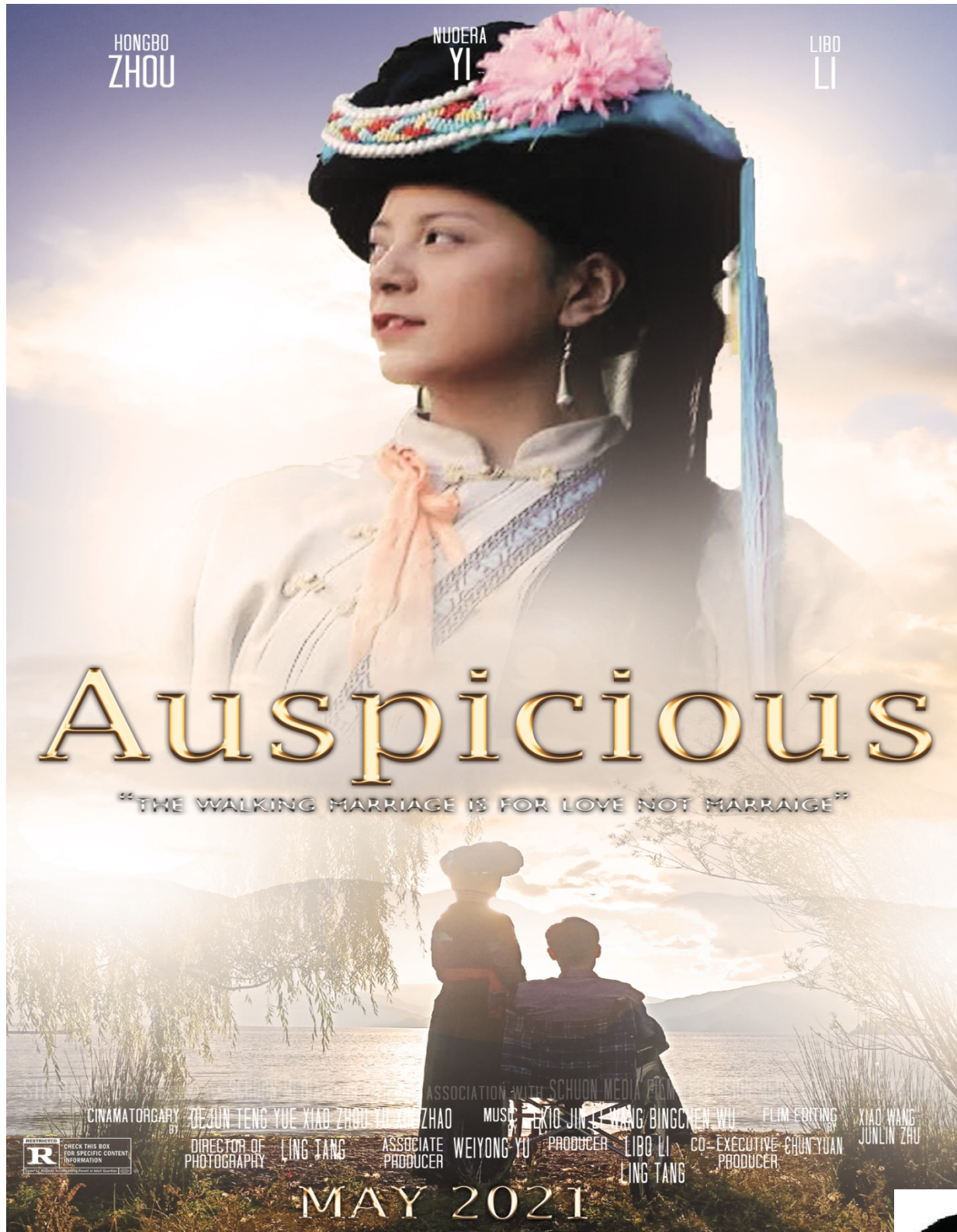
Director: Quanlin Li

Lao Yang, a melon farmer, made a living by planting melons. An accident got him into trouble. Fortunately, with the help of a loan company, he got out of the predicament. Lao Yang was honest and trustworthy, and made a fortune through hard work.



**WIRELESS
INNOVATION**

**Wireless Innovation gloriously acquired
the Auspicious into our film catalog.**
<http://www.w-innovation.com>



MAEYA ACADEMY

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MAEYA ACADEMY



OFFICIAL SELECTIONS-Youth & Student



Bane of the Beasts

United States | 5 min Student-made | Animation

Director: Alexis Wong

A young creature unlike any other is shunned by all the herds of the land. But little do they know, that the pup is meant for a far greater destiny.

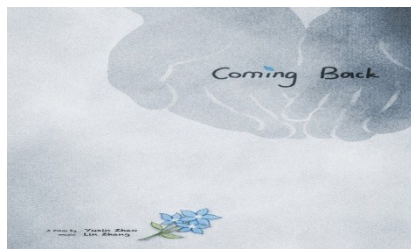


Carnival

United States | 3 min Student-made | Drama

Director: Lia Wang

A young, visually impaired woman — accompanied only by her guide dog — sits in a café, reading a novel as she waits for the next bus. Suddenly, a pay phone begins to ring loudly outside. Led by her trusty friend, the young woman then experiences something that can only be described as magical.



Coming Back

United States | 5min Youth/Student - made | Drama

Director: Yuxin Zhao

A five-minute 2D animation about how a child's lonely world transforms into a colorful adventure through the friendship of newly awakened friends in a museum. This animation explores the idea that loneliness does not mean that life is full of sorrow. Imagination and one's attitude towards life can help them deal with it.



Meat Soup

China | 6min Student-made | Drama

Director: Donglei Yin

Synopsis: Dragon, who framed by the President of the Herbs club, decides to clarify rumors on her own.



One Touch

Greece | 2min Student-made | Drama

Director: Luca Acito

Touching is the profound way of expressing ourselves. We will be in each other's arms again.



Soul of the Lands

Iceland | 16 min Student-made | Documentary

Director: In Iceland, the indigenous ritual of the sweat lodge, brought there by a Native American more than 25 years ago, has been adopted by the Icelanders, undoubtedly demonstrating the practice's resilience to new cultures.

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS-Music Video



A Moorish Girl with Her Rattle Stick

United States | 3min Music Video

Director: Lara Guedes

"A moura do maracaxá" is a melancholic song that reminds us of a Portuguese fado. With many instrumental layers and dramatic drapery adorned by wind instruments and a string quartet. The duo Benji & Rita based in New York portrays here iconographic aspects of Brazilian culture.



<http://sunbirdman.lbwtech.com/Ehome.html>





OFFICIAL SELECTIONS-Music Video



Brave

United Kingdom | 3min Music Video

Director: Pia Toscano and Jon Altham
Spent my time, trying to begin
Changed my life, changed my sparkle within
Echoing to the sound of my sin
Holding my tears, now I won't give in



Climbing Up The Walls

United States | 7min Music Video

Director: Tom Pressano



George Floyd: Say Their Names

United States | 8min Music Video

Director: Christopher R. Owens, Alyssa Dann (Student)

When will the "last" time be the LAST time? Chris Oledude's single "George Floyd" has now been re-presented in the powerful video, "George Floyd: Say Their Names." America's struggle for equality and fairness throughout law enforcement parallels those struggles faced by minority groups in every society where the majority feels empowered to disregard civil and human rights.

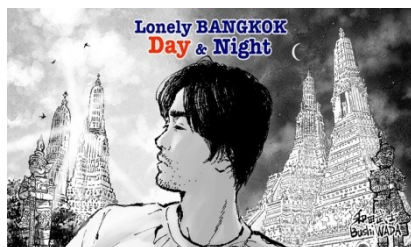


Hide & Stay

Australia | 6min Music Video

Director: Alec Uittenbosch

Seven members of Melbourne based Rock band, "The Brungas," find themselves in a thrilling stalemate, who will survive?

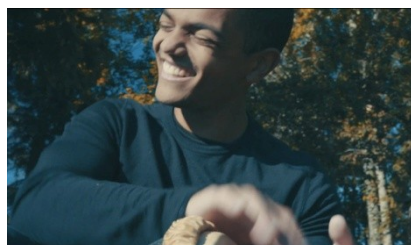


Lonely BANGKOK Day & Night

Japan | 6min Music Video

Director: Bushi WADA

"DAY & NIGHT" of towns around each station in BANGKOK. A Japanese video composer, Bushi WADA, trims around each area with "Lonely", which is his GoPro on its last legs.



Mysterious Pathway

United States | 7min Music Video

Director: Andrew Misle

This music video represents three separate individuals going about their day and their struggles. It resolves as they find a reprieve and peace in nature, music and dance.



Rejoice Abyssinia

United States | 7min Music Video

Director: Gail Simpson (Music), Bichu Tesfamariam (Film)

Opera Frontier went to Ethiopia in January 2019 to collaborate with Circus Abyssinia. Featuring circus arts fused with traditional Ethiopian instruments and dance, Opera Frontier repurposed an aria from Handel's Messiah (Rejoice Greatly) with lyrics that place four young Ethiopian circus artists at the center of an empowering scene. Rejoice Abyssinia celebrates young women and the leaders who inspire them.



OFFICIAL SELECTIONS-Music Video



Roots (Sequoia)

United Kingdom | 4min Music Video

Director: Raphael Fimm
In the middle of the night
There your light can shine the brightest
Help someone to find their way home



Saintfield: "Into the World"

Canada | 20min Music Video
Director: Adrian Smith
A documentary/concert film performed by alt-World, neo-classical duo Saintfield. Features the performance of the 4 songs from their debut EP titled "Into the World"



SAU SAU

Chile | 3min Music Video

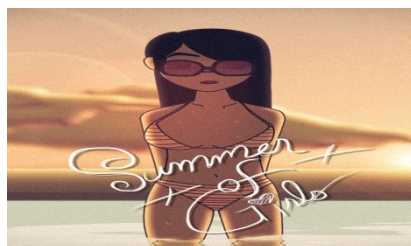
Director: Isabel Custer
A Latin American woman visits Easter Island, learns the traditional courtship dance and falls in love with the island, the culture and its people.



Straight Into The Ocean

United States | 6min Music Video

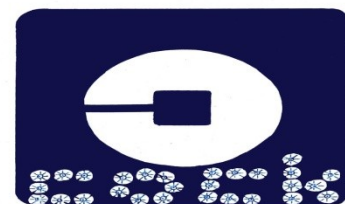
Director: Allen Ling
This visual and audio work is about heartbreak, closure, friendship and tragedy. We follow the journey of lovers, and witness two very different outcomes. Completed in 2020, the original song and visual story is loosely based on real life events.



Summer of Girls

United States | 3min Music Video

Director: Nick Canton
A lifeguard experiences her first real Summer lust from afar..



Ubercock

United States | 8min Music Video

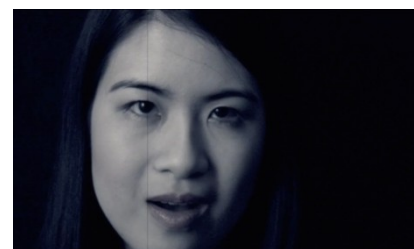
Director: Katya Kan
"Ubercock" is an attempt to create new and original content with an artistic flair whilst fitting into the mainstream hip-hop genre. Female vocals by Los Angeles singer, Dusky Dawn a.k.a. Shawna Cupples and male voice/ track by the rapper, Denis Deft Martinez.



The Silence / That's Life (The Politician Speaks) / The People

United States | 4min Music Video

Director: Malcolm Solomon



A WEI HANG FILM

MURDER ~~MYSELF~~





OFFICIAL SELECTIONS (SCREENPLAYS)

Alejandro

United States - Paul Paseli

He was abandoned by his mother soon after birth, placed in multiple foster homes where he was subjected to abuse and neglect, remanded to the juvenile detention center on three occasions, bullied repeatedly by his peers, and when his quest for a normal life seemed promising, he was driven to commit a serious crime that changed his life forever.

Averting the Last Crunch

United States - Dr. A. Niaz

As war and unrest tear the world apart, the Second Coming of Christ is set to alter the course of humanity. Jesus and his ardent supporters must risk their lives to fight organizations and governments with malevolent intentions set on decimating Earth's savior.

Gu Xiaomi Also Has Spring

China - Gao Gao, May Wang

Gu Xiaomi, a junior high school student, has grown up in a single parent family, lacking her mother's care. Her grades also counted down in school. She was sent to live in the city by her mother when she was in Grade 3 of junior middle school. She was excluded by his classmates. Under the guidance of Grandma Lucy, her landlord in the city, Xiaomi began to use time management to study hard. She has completed the counter attack from study slacker to super scholar. She has realized her dream and also grown up.

Superior Being : She-Who-Knows

UK - Jaroslaw Gogolin

Wrong time and place? entangled like an insect in a cobweb's trap? No matter! Her, their strength and power is the knowledge that surpasses manyfold the whole human intelligence.

This is 5th part of the series "Superior Being"

The Running Clouds

China - Jin Bao Sun, May Wang

Qin Ming, the groom to be, was told that he was in the terminal stage of cancer when he did his premarital physical examination. Unable to face his fiancée, Zhao Tongtong, Qin Ming boarded the hot-air balloon for his honeymoon trip and floated away with the wind. He wanted to give up his life, but he accidentally met Chagan, Na Renhua and other children in the prairie and became their "volunteer teacher". And therefore he regained the meaning of life.

Ancestors From the Stars

United States - Joe McNeal

An unexpected encounter with an otherworldly visitor, leads a narrow-minded widowed native on a path of self-awakening, in order to save not just his ill-fated buddy but also the rest of humanity.

Dofu Banquet

China - Sun Sarula, May Wang

Yan Xue is a picky girl who doesn't eat dofu. Under the education of her father, Mr. Yan, and under the help of her friend, Yufei, Yan Xue learned about the tradition and production process of dofu. She not only loves to eat dofu, but also learned to make dofu meals. Her social practice homework on dofu is praised by her teacher and she is growing up.

Nando

Panama - Luis A. Figueroa

A bicultural man explores his identity as he navigates through all of life's surprises.

The Distance

United States- Pann MuruJaiyan

Jackie Beeman, a young under privileged African American girl eyes for the boxing championship. The only obstacle is not the opponent but a Pastor who hates her guts. Coincidentally, Jackie soon gets a title shot, but at the same time she meets her college crush back in town. Whether she has the true heart of a fighter or lover remains to be seen.

Qingtuan

China - Veronica Liu, May Wang

David, a Chinese-American writer, joined the overseas writer activity to escape from his ex-girlfriend Linda, and stayed in the hostel of Jiang Qi, a girl in Suzhou. While learning about Suzhou cuisine and culture, Qingtuan and Biluochun Tea, David gradually fell in love with Jiang Qi. Love between them was bloomed gently and implicitly, after overcoming the conflict, Chinese and Western cultures...



THE VAULT B

<http://vaultb.lbwtech.com/Ehome.html>



A real version of Hollywood blockbuster "Indiana Jones", with the multicultural and cross-countries team to protect the treasures of ancient civilization

ed asner helen reddy charles robinson marion ross
mark rydell with jamie lee curtis and brian conners

senior ent★urage

Retirement?
Yeah Right!

