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Explore New Worlds at this Year's Providence Children's Film Festival, February 6-21, 2016

Features, Shorts, Workshops, and Presentations

Full film schedule announced!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Providence, RI (January 7, 2016) – The Providence Children's Film Festival (PCFF) returns this February for its seventh exciting year, February 6 to 21, showcasing 16 feature films (including 10 Rhode Island premieres), over 75 shorts from around the world and the 3rd Annual Youth Filmmaker Showcase. The Festival presents the highest quality independent and international films for ages 3-18, but is sure to appeal to all audiences with compelling stories and worldwide adventures along with a variety of workshops and film talks and presentations to deepen the movie-watching experience. In addition, PCFF's popular hands-on youth filmmaking workshops at RISD including claymation and live-action take place the weekend of February 13 & 14th.

Kickoff Celebration Saturday, February 6

The 7th annual Festival kicks off at the Providence Children's Museum (100 South Street, Providence, RI) on Saturday, February 6 from 11am to 2pm with a "Build a City, Make a Movie" workshop and animation screening. Join artists Ricky Katowicz and Hayley Morris to build a city using simple materials like cardboard boxes, paper tubes, bottles, glue, tape, and paint while the process is recorded to create a time-lapse video! For ages: 6+. Event is free with museum admission.

The kickoff continues at 4pm with a free screening of short films at Providence Athenaeum, 251 Benefit Street. The "Between the Stacks" shorts program spans the narrative world, from myths to stories to personal tales and more. This all-ages, multi-national show will be a "reel" book lovers' delight.

Opening Night Reception & Screening Friday, February 12

PCFF's Opening Night Reception and Screening takes place Friday, February 12 at the RISD Museum. The special ticketed event features a reception starting at 5:30pm with light snacks provided by Fire Works Catering and beverages provided by Campus Fine Wines and Munroe Dairy followed by a screening of the inspiring documentary *Landfill Harmonic* (ages 10+) at 6:45pm about a group of children from Cateura, Paraguay born into poverty, who find hope by learning how to make music from trash with the help of a music teacher and local trash picking craftsmen.

Festival Continues Community Outreach & Partnerships

The Festival continues its community outreach this year, by partnering with the Providence Community Library and the Providence Athenaeum to host free movie screenings and workshops. The Festival also partners this year with Providence's popular arts venue AS220 to host a free screening of *The Year We Thought about Love*, an LBGQT documentary produced in Boston, followed by a discussion with cast members on Friday, February 19 at 5:30pm.

The Festival's ongoing partnership with RISD Museum provides free screenings of select films on February 14, 18 and 21. The RISD Museum provides FREE museum admission to Festival attendees on February 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21 upon presentation of a Festival ticket stub.

Bringing the world to Rhode Island and fostering film literacy

In partnership with the Media Smart Library Project, PCFF presents "Be a Cinema Detective: Discover, Explore and Inspire through Film" on Sunday, February 14 from 10:30am-12:30pm at the RISD Museum Metcalf Auditorium. This special, free event led by Eric Bilodeau, PCFF Director of Programming and educator Sarah Yahm, includes short films and conversation. Learn how to be a film sleuth and how to encourage kids to think more deeply about what they watch. Afterward, learn about the new PCFF Film Hub and how families, teachers, and librarians can use this new resource to find quality films and resources that can inspire programming, spark conversation and make community connections.

In just seven years, PCFF has become one of the top multi-day film festivals in the country dedicated to programming for young audiences, now rivaling children's film festivals in New York, Chicago, Seattle, and Los Angeles.

This year's programming is as international as ever and brings to area youth a wide range of storytelling and experiences from around the globe, including India, Paraguay, Netherlands, Brazil, India, Germany and more. The program will also include a wide variety of genres and forms—classic cinema, live action, animation, and documentary—paired with an expanded offering of "Film Talks," PCFF's own brand of post-screening discussions that aim to deepen understanding of subject matter and foster critical watching skills.

Kids are Part of the Jury!

At PCFF, youth have a voice from beginning to end in the selection of films. PCFF's Junior Jury is composed of young film enthusiasts from age 5 to 17. At most children's film festivals children only serve on award juries. But PCFF's Junior Jury gives children a unique opportunity and responsibility: working alongside an adult committee to select the final festival program from among hundreds of films that are submitted each year for consideration.

PCFF offers clear parental guidance

Children's films are not always appropriate for all ages. PCFF film listings include recommended ages, notes on thematic elements, and descriptions of potentially challenging content to help parents make informed decisions about what their children see as well providing interesting discussion topics.

3rd ANNUAL YOUTH FILMMAKER SHOWCASE

PCFF is committed to nurturing the work of young "amateur" filmmakers and so is proud to present a juried program of films all made by youth—from here in Rhode Island and around the world. This year's Youth Showcase was curated in partnership with the RISD Museum teen program, the RISD Art Circle. This collection of youth-produced films presents inspiring stories from near and far about the fun and challenges in young people's lives today. Two exciting screenings include a Q&A and discussion with some of the RISD Art Circle students and some of the filmmakers who are able to attend.

2016 FESTIVAL FILM SELECTIONS:

ALL AGES

(FEATURE FILMS)

Fiddlesticks Germany, 2014/German w/English subtitles/Live Action/86 min

Paper Planes Australia, 2014/Live Action/96 min

The General USA, 1926/Classic/84 min

(SHORT FILM COLLECTIONS)

CINEMA CIRCUS: Best of 2015 Martha's Vineyard Film Fest

All Ages / Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or no dialogue / 65 min

KID FLIX MIX: Best of 2015 New York International Children's Film Fest

All Ages / Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or no dialogue / 60 min

Between the Stacks Multi-national 2015 / In English or with subtitles / 65 min

Magic Carpet Ride Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or no dialogue / 60 min

FOR AGES 8 +

(FEATURE FILMS)

Birds of Passage Belgium-France, 2015 / French (w/English subtitles)/Live Action/84 min

Dummie the Mummy Netherlands, 2014/Dutch (w/English subtitles)/Live Action/77 min

Let's Get the Rhythm: The Life and Times of Miss Mary Mack USA, 2014/Documentary/60 min

The Boy in the Mirror Brazil, 2015/Portuguese (w/English subtitles)/Live Action/90 min

(SHORT FILM COLLECTIONS)

PARTY MIX: Best of 2015 New York International Children's Film Fest

Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or with subtitles / 62 min

TRY-umph! Ages 8+ / Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or no dialogue / 63 min

More than a Selfie! Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or with subtitles / 70 min

FOR AGES 10 +

(FEATURE FILMS)

Almost Friends Israel, 2014/Hebrew and Arabic (w/English subtitles)/Documentary/60 min

Landfill Harmonic USA-Paraguay, 2015/Spanish (w/English subtitles)/Documentary/84 min

Rainbow India, 2015/Hindi (w/English subtitles)/Live Action/106 min

T.I.M. Netherlands, 2014/Dutch (w/English subtitles)/Live Action/82 min

(SHORT FILM COLLECTIONS)

BETWIXT & BETWEEN Eleven and Thirteen USA & Israel, 2015 / English, Hebrew (w/English subtitles) / 60 min

Undeniably INDIA! India, 2015 / English, Hindi (w/English subtitles) 96 min

Superheroes and Villains Germany, England, USA 2015 / English, German (w/English subtitles) / 82 min

FOR AGES 13 +

(FEATURE FILMS)

HÖRDUR: Between Worlds Germany, 2015/German (w/English subtitles)/Live Action/84 min

Speed Sisters USA, 2015/English and Arabic (w/English subtitles)/Documentary/79 min

T-REX USA, 2015/Documentary/89 min

The Student Body USA, 2015 /Documentary/86 min

The Year We Thought About Love USA, 2015/Documentary/68 min

NOTE: for access to high-resolution photos, please click here: <http://providencechildrensfilmfestival.org/press/>

See below for full film descriptions and parental guidance.

Please visit www.pcffri.org for video trailers and complete screening schedule.

Locations

The majority of the films screen at three main venues conveniently located near downtown Providence:

Metcalf Auditorium in the RISD Museum Chace Center, 20 North Main Street

Gilder Center for the Arts at the Wheeler School, 216 Hope Street

Avon Cinema - 260 Thayer Street

For additional venues and scheduling information, visit the website www.pcffri.org.

Tickets

Tickets go on sale in mid-January. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adult and \$7.50 for youth (under 18) and seniors (65 and older). Enjoy a Film Fanatic discount when you purchase multiple tickets in a single transaction (online purchases only): 15% off for 10+ tickets or 20% off for 20+ tickets.

2016 Festival Grant Funders, Sponsors, and Community Partners: Avon Cinema, Bank RI, Bottle Rocket Design, Campus Fine Wines, Carter Family Charitable Trust, Cox Media, Cricket Cinema, Embee Studio, Entelco Foundation, Fire Works Catering, Flatbread Company, Hasbro, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Jake and Company, June Rockwell Levy, KidolInfo, Media Smart Libraries, New Economy CPA, Piper Brown Photography, Providence Athenaeum, Providence Children's Museum, Providence Community Library, Providence Media, Providence Warwick CVB, Residential Property, Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS), RISCA, RISD Film/Animation/Video Department, RISD Museum of Art, Seven Stars Bakery, Thayer Street District Management Authority, The Providence Tourism Council, Three Group, Whole Foods Market-University, YELP

School Partners: Bishop Hendricken School, French-American School of Rhode Island, Gordon School, Lincoln School, Moses Brown, Wheeler School

More about PCFF

Mission: *PCFF presents the best of independent and international children's cinema to inspire, delight, educate, and connect a diverse community of children and families from Rhode Island and throughout New England.*

The Providence Children's Film Festival (PCFF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 2009 to bring high-quality, independent and international children's films, animation and documentaries to New England, and to present them as shared theatrical experiences for the community. The festival organizers include artists, educators, librarians, and nonprofit administrators who see value in introducing children to film and animation as a way to help them make connections to both their own and other cultures.

2016 Film Synopsis

FEATURE FILMS

ALL AGES

FIDDLESTICKS

Quatsch und die Nasenbär-Bande

In this lighthearted German farce, the citizens of Bollersdorf take great pride in being perfectly average in everything: weight, age, household members and more. Bollersdorf is so average, in fact, that a market research company uses the town as a testing ground. Fortunately, a ragtag group of kindergarteners known as the Coati Gang, doesn't fall for it. With the help of their grandparents, the gang sets out to make its town "extra" ordinary using creativity, pluck and ingenuity. A hilarious and heartwarming live-action adventure. All ages / Germany, 2014 / German w/English subtitles / Dir. Veit Helmer / 86 min

PAPER PLANES

Dylan, age 12, copes pretty much on his own in small Western Australian town while his father is in a state of oblivion following the death of Dylan's mother. One day at school he discovers an odd gift: the ability to craft a paper plane that flies longer and faster than any of those of his peers. So begins this charming and near-irresistible crowd-pleaser that follows Dylan as he folds his way toward the World Paper Plane Championships in Japan (and more importantly, emotionally closer to his father).

All ages / Australia, 2014 / Dir. Robert Connolly / 96 min

THE GENERAL

Consistently ranked among the greatest films ever made, Buster Keaton's THE GENERAL continues to inspire awe and laughter with every viewing. Rejected by the Confederate army and taken for a coward by his beloved Annabelle Lee (Marion Mack), young Johnny Gray (Keaton) is given a chance to redeem himself when Yankee spies steal his cherished locomotive ("The General"). Johnny wages a one-man war against hijackers, an errant cannon and the unpredictable hand of fate while roaring along the iron rails. All ages / USA, 1926 / Dir. Buster Keaton & Clyde Bruckman / 84 min

AGES 8 +

BIRDS OF PASSAGE

Cathy's tenth birthday is tough enough without her eccentric father giving her an egg as a gift along with a warning: "Be there when it is born so the bird recognizes YOU as its mother." After a game of hide-and-seek goes awry, Cathy's friend Margaux unknowingly becomes the "mother." Unfortunately for the bird and Margaux, her parents believe Margaux is unable to care for this pet from her wheelchair. It takes a duckling, a great friend and a temporary flight from home to alter everyone's impressions of life's limitations.

8+ / Belgium-France, 2015 / French (w/English subtitles) / Dir. Olivier Ringer / 84 min

Trailer website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jne20yOAxU>

DUMMIE THE MUMMY

Imagine this. Your name is Gus and you live in the most boring village in the Netherlands. You walk into your bedroom one day and there's an actual Egyptian mummy sitting on your bed. What do you do? You could run for Daddy... or... you could name him Dummie, tell your fellow village neighbors that he's a cousin from Egypt (who has suffered bad burns) and of course enroll him in your classroom at school! Problem solved...? Maybe not.

Ages 8+ (bullying) / Netherlands, 2014 / Dutch (w/English subtitles) / Dir. Pim van Hove / 77 min

LET'S GET THE RHYTHM: The Life and Times of Miss Mary Mack

Just reading the title might make you want to turn to your neighbor and start a hand clapping sequence! This wonderful documentary explores this rhythmic rite of passage, usually between young girls, in the US and around the world. Contemporary and historical footage are intertwined creating what some admiringly refer to as "hand graffiti", "jazz of the streets" and "percussive poetry". LET'S GET THE RHYTHM swings between games and interviews bringing a hand-clapping universe to life!

Ages 8+ (slightly mature content mentioned in some hand games, drug references) / USA, 2014 / Dirs. Irene Chagall & Steve Zeitlin / 54 min

THE BOY IN THE MIRROR

o Menino No Espelho

Ten-year-old Fernando is a precocious boy living in a small Brazilian town in the 1930s with faithful friends and a strict yet loving family. His desire to tinker, explore and experiment constantly lands him in trouble. A resolution to this perpetual cycle of penance presents itself when a "twin Fernando" arrives unexpectedly. He willingly serves Fernando's time (detention, grounding in his room, even attending school) while Fernando lives a life of indulgence, fishin' n' forts. All goes well, until it doesn't!

Ages 8+ (flirtatious moment, humorous cursing, tense chase scene) / Brazil, 2015 / Portuguese (w/English subtitles) / Dir. Guilherme Fiúza Zenha / 90 min

Trailer website: <https://vimeo.com/104729686>

AGES 10+

ALMOST FRIENDS

ALMOST FRIENDS is a documentary about two Israeli girls—an Arab and a Jew—who live only 40 miles away but in many ways live worlds apart. Participating in an online program that fosters educational exchange and friendship, the two girls correspond with caution and eventually meet face-to-face. The experience is profoundly moving for them, their families, and the audiences who see this touching film. But when conflict spans generations, change is slow and “almost” anything might be a start...

10+ (religious prejudice, hurtful stereotypes) / Israel, 2014 / Hebrew and Arabic (w/English subtitles) / Dir. Nitzan Ofir / 60 min

LANDFILL HARMONIC

How do children born into poverty find hope? This documentary follows the lives of a garbage picker, a music teacher and a group of children from Cateura, Paraguay. In this slum, they create musical instruments entirely out of garbage: first out of necessity, but the project became so much more. LANDFILL HARMONIC brings us on their journey from local village orchestra to world traveling (internet fueled) troupe whose trajectory of success is enhanced by their trash-into-music message. Ages 10+ / USA-Paraguay, 2015 / Spanish (w/English subtitles) / Dir. Brad Allgood, Graham Townsley / 84 min

Trailer Website: <https://vimeo.com/122542602>

Winner of the 2015 Audience Choice Award SXSW

Winner of the 2015 Audience Choice Award AFI

RAINBOW

Dhanak

Two orphaned siblings (ten-year-old Pari and her brother, eight-year-old Chotu) leave an abusive aunt in search for medical help to bring back Chotu’s eyesight. In a mystical tale they encounter the best and the worst of Indian society on their search for a Bollywood star who offers financial assistance. During their quest you can feel the heat, smell the curries, and enjoy the colors and music from the other side of the world.

Ages 10+ (threat of physical violence, kidnapping, tense moments, smoking, alcohol, parental death) / India, 2015 / Hindi (w/English subtitles) / Dir. Nagesh Kukunoor / 106 min

Trailer Website: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3CmAmPuc_w

Winner BEST FILM Generation KPlus Berlin Crystal Bear 2015

T.I.M.

This futuristic film, with BLADE RUNNER-esque grit, depicts a world where robots are as prolific as cell phones are today. Since his mother passed away, Tibor, age 11, has relied more strongly than ever on his lifelong friend T.I.M. (The Incredible Machine). T.I.M. is in need of a major overhaul, and so Tibor’s father trades T.I.M. in for an upgrade. But how do you upgrade a “friend”? A peril-filled quest, Tibor’s search for T.I.M. puts his friendship to the ultimate test.

Ages 10+ (threat of physical violence, bullying, smoking) / Netherlands, 2014 / Dutch (w/English subtitles) / Dir. Rolf van Eijk / 82 min

Trailer website: <https://vimeo.com/117790663>

AGES 13 +

HÖRDUR: Between Worlds

Aylin, age 17, finds herself caught between worlds: A world of accepting her mother's death or not. A world of struggling to survive as a Turkish family in Germany or returning home. Most importantly, a world of facing her fears at school to succeed or to remain in violent isolation. By developing the courage to challenge her status in the world she develops a bridge to self-discovery, and astride her horse Hördur, she never looks back.

Ages 13+ (brief scenes of cruel bullying, violent outburst, cursing) / Germany, 2015 / German (w/English subtitles) / Dir. Ekrem Ergün / 84 min

SPEED SISTERS

Demolishing stereotypes without wrecking their cars, the Speed Sisters are the Middle East's first all-female car racing team. With high-octane talent and the marketing savvy to draw attention to their camera-friendly lineup, this diverse, engaging, real-life group competes throughout the West Bank in Palestine's makeshift motor sports circuit. They navigate Israeli checkpoints and restrictive societal expectations to evolve into potential role models for a new generation of young Arab women.

Ages 13+ / USA, 2015 / English and Arabic (w/English subtitles) / Dir. Amber Fares / 79 min

Trailer website: <https://vimeo.com/125648413>

T-REX

"T-Rex" is an intimate, true coming-of-age story about a new kind of American heroine. In 2012, women's boxing debuted at the 2012 Olympics. Fighting for gold from the USA: Claressa "T-Rex" Shields, just 17 years old and by far the youngest competitor. From the hard-knock streets of Flint, Mich., Claressa is undefeated and utterly confident. Her fierceness extends beyond the ring as she protects her family at any cost, even when their instability and addictions threaten to derail her dream.

Ages 13+ (VERY coarse language, drug and alcohol use, domestic circumstances) / USA, 2015 / Dir. Drea Cooper, Zackary Canepari / 89 min

THE STUDENT BODY

When something bothers you... don't get mad, get informed! Tenth-grade filmmaker Bailey Webber did this exponentially. When the Ohio legislature required schools to measure students' Body Mass Index (BMI), results were sent home with report cards and nicknamed "fat letters". Bailey documents her mission to first understand the "science" behind the BMI numbers then locate and confront the sponsor of legislation with what she has found out. Her tenacious pursuit gives a civics lesson no schoolbook could ever convey.

Ages 13+ (body type issues discussed) / USA, 2015 / Dir. Michael & Bailey Webber / 86 min

THE YEAR WE THOUGHT ABOUT LOVE

This film goes behind the scenes of one of the oldest queer youth theaters in America, with a camera crew slipping into classrooms, kitchens, subways, and rehearsal rooms. Boston-based True Colors OUT Youth Theater transforms daily struggles into performance for social change. With wit, candor and attitude, the cast of characters captivates audiences surprised to hear such stories in school settings. Brave, inspiring, and funny, these are the LGBTQ youth leading us into the future.

Ages 13+ (very direct dialogue about birds n' bees and gender identity, intense descriptions of bullying) / USA, 2015 / Dir. Ellen Brodsky / 68 min

SHORTS PROGRAMS

BEST OF THE FESTS!

As part of a national community of prestigious film festivals, PCFF invites short film compilations from other quality fests to be part of our program.

ALL AGES

CINEMA CIRCUS: Best of 2015 Martha's Vineyard Film Fest

The Martha's Vineyard Film Festival has put together an assortment of their favorite shorts that we're sure will float your boat!

All Ages / Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or no dialogue / 65 min

KID FLIX MIX: Best of 2015 New York International Children's Film Fest

The New York International Children's Film Festival's younger oriented KIDS FLIX reel is back and better than ever. This year's highlights include the Oscar-nominated ME AND MY MOULTON and BUNNY NEW GIRL.

All Ages / Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or no dialogue / 60 min

AGES 8 +

PARTY MIX: Best of 2015 New York International Children's Film Fest

The New York International Children's Film Festival's venerated PARTY MIX reel includes a mix of animation and live action shorts that are sure to please! This year's highlights include Oscar-nominated THE SINGLE LIFE and OH MY DOG! Ages 8+ / Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or with subtitles / 62 min

PCFF SHORT COLLECTIONS

Curated by our director of programming, this selection of animation, live action, musicals and documentaries will pique your curiosity, challenge your senses and spark the imagination!

ALL AGES

Between the Stacks

What better place to watch a story than in a world full of stories? PCFF's birthplace, the Providence Athenaeum, is hosting two screenings that span the narrative world, from myths to stories to personal tales and more! This show will be a "reel" book lovers' delight.

All Ages / Multi-national 2015 / In English or with subtitles / 65 min

Magic Carpet Ride

Jump on the PCFF carpet and get ready to ride! This year's reel will transport you to lands from as close as Massachusetts to as far away as Iran, Finland and Italy. Visiting these distant places will make you realize our similarities are far greater than our differences.

All Ages / Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or no dialogue / 60 min

AGES 8 +

TRY-umph!

A large part of growing up has to do with overcoming obstacles. Some obstacles require simply trying, while others demand more UMPH! These short films span the globe, sharing stories about personal fear, crooked teeth, loss of a loved one, tooth fairy woes—and much more. The Oscar-nominated BEAR STORY is included.

Ages 8+ / Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or no dialogue / 63 min

More than a Selfie!

“Who am I?” is a question we ask ourselves as children and adults. This shorts compilation relates stories of developing or accepting one’s own identity. An adult is sent back to kindergarten, a boy makes bow ties, a fire-ravaged forest plant seeks to become green again—and much more!

Ages 8+ / Multi-national, 2014-2015 / In English or with subtitles / 70 min

AGES 10 +

BETWIXT & BETWEEN Eleven and Thirteen

There’s a lot going on between the ages of 11 and 13. This mini double feature involves kids living through these ages. The first film is an engaging documentary from Seattle (BEFORE) interviewing kids on the last day of fifth grade about their thoughts/anxieties upon entering middle school. The second short film is a narrative from Israel (TEHILA). Despite being bullied, Tehila is undaunted by the social barriers her schoolmates try to place on her.

Ages 10+ (BEFORE has frank discussion about kid’s fears) (TEHILA has bullying and a spin-the-bottle game) / USA & Israel, 2015 / English, Hebrew (w/English subtitles) / 60 min

Undeniably INDIA!

Does a country with more than a BILLION people have stories to tell? This compilation reel overwhelmingly confirms such a ridiculous question. From the countryside to the city streets, here are five films with stories portraying the lives of kids in a world as beautiful as it is new to many of us.

Ages 10+ (cultural differences regarding child discipline) / India, 2015 / English, Hindi (w/English subtitles) / 96 min

Superheroes and Villains

Check out who’s saving the world these days from “eeevuh!”...you will be surprised! This international compilation of films is full of characters that have great powers: some with good intentions and others who are simply up to no good.

Ages 10+ (threatening acts of violence, tense moments) / Germany, England, USA 2015 / English, German (w/English subtitles) / 82 min

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