

35th ANNUAL
Chicago
INTERNATIONAL
Children's
Film Festival

The 35th Chicago International Children's Film Festival

The Chicago International Children's Film Festival: Weekday Programs for High Schools

Please join us at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, the largest film festival for children and youth in North America with 243 films from 44 countries. The Festival is Academy Award qualifying. You are cordially invited to see the best in multicultural films for young audiences – films that will open students' eyes and minds to new worlds, new people, and new ideas!

Included in all weekday programs:

- Media education for pre-and-post screenings is included in the total running time for these programs.
- Film curriculum attendant with Common Core standards

Group Screening Agreement

- Groups must arrive at theater 20 minutes before screening.
- Screenings will not be delayed for late groups regardless of size or circumstance.
- *School or organization is responsible for all transportation arrangements.*

Full festival schedule available at <https://www.facets.org/cicff>

Shorts Programs

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Grades 7+

Themes: Identity with respect to family legacy and culture

90 minutes, includes media education

The characters in this collection of short films have vivid memories of loved ones recently passed.

Honor the Day of the Dead in celebrating the connections these young people make with lost fathers and grandfathers. In one film, a girl must give a speech at an assembly, but can she bring herself to really connect with her feelings or take the safe route with a speech written for her? In the last film, Ari wants to celebrate the life of her departed grandfather in her own way, recreating memories of times shared together with family in Mexico.



Films from: Canada, Israel, Germany

Languages: English, Hebrew, Spanish, and films with no dialogue.

TRUE COLORS

Grades 7+

Themes: Gender lens, identity and learning to be yourself; gender-based bullying; finding support systems

90 minutes, includes media education

Moving from middle school to high school, the subjects of straight, gay, non-binary, and gender nonconforming are important conversations to have. But how do we start them?

In one film, a young man has magic glasses that let him see what society deems as "female roles". In another short, the only thing teen Dario wants is to dance in the local celebration of Carnival. If only his mother would quit hassling him about it. Then in the final short, an award-winning documentary spotlights different gender pioneers who analyze the trans experience.



Films from: USA, India, Colombia/Germany, Canada

Languages: English and Spanish

Chicago International Children's Film Festival 2018
Weekday High School Screenings

NO LABELS, NO LIMITS

Grades 7-9

Themes: *No Bullies, Please! Rejecting stereotypes; empathy and inclusivity; identity; manipulation of perception; maintaining strong sense of self*

90 minutes, includes media education

Just because others try to stereotype the characters in this collection of short films, or exclude them from activities, the heroes find ways to overcome prejudgments other characters try to impose.

In one short, Tis finds his own path when others are just mere look-alike cut-outs. In another film, Wanda overcomes relentless bullying at school and at home by focusing on her new-found passion for sports. With the help of a core group of friends, she can rise above daily setbacks. In the last film, townspeople are either pro-or against the current rulers in Soviet-occupied Estonia. Can Eva make her own judgments on whom to include as a friend?

Films from: *Netherlands, Japan, Germany, France, Norway, Estonia*

Languages: *English, German, French, Estonian, Russian, and films with no dialogue*



GOING THE DISTANCE

Grades 8+

Themes: *Persistence, personal goals, "dare to dream", overcome obstacles, identity*

90 minutes, includes media education

The characters in this collection of short films stop at nothing to achieve their dreams.

In one short, mixed-race Esteban proves that, despite obstacles, he can pursue his goal to be an Olympic swimmer. In another short, Romany girl Miruna is tasked with caring for all her siblings while her parents work. She dreams of leaving home to go to the academy and become a police officer. To do so, she must find a way to excel in school while juggling her hefty family obligations. Will she be able to succeed?

Films from: *China, Colombia/Germany, Brazil, Belgium, Netherlands*

Languages: *Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Romanian*



Chicago International Children's Film Festival 2018
Weekday High School Screenings

MASTERS IN ANIMATION

High School

Themes: Exploration of various animation styles from a global perspective

90 minutes, includes media education

The Festival is Oscar-qualifying for animated shorts, from colorful stop-motion to a Neil Gaiman inspired film to moving oil paint on glass, these films capture the very vanguard and the very best that this year's Official Selection has to offer.



In one short, a Gorey-esque series of monsters identify themselves in vignette fashion. In another short, a woman morphs into versions of her self-imagined mutations as she confronts them in her daily life. In the last film, a Bosch-esque "last day of judgment" allegory melodically unfolds.

Films from: Japan, USA, England, Netherlands, Hungary/Argentina, Croatia/Switzerland, France
Language: English and films with no dialogue

ON THE MOVE

Grades 8-10

Themes: Overcome obstacles, identity; refugee status and transient nature of human connections

90 minutes, include media education

The films in this collection explore important conversations about refugee life and the connected emotional challenges they face.



In one short, 14-year-old Anwar from Syria is just getting used to a new school and new friends in Berlin. Both his family and his friend Ayed support him in learning and overcoming new situations. In another short, Amal and her two sisters make the best of their difficult temporary living circumstances as distrust spreads amongst the neighbors. In the last short, at the immigrant children's shelter in Texas, unaccompanied Esmeralda learns to open up and express herself through art.

Films from: Germany, Australia, Sweden, England
Language: English and films with no dialogue

Feature Film Screening

SING SONG

Grades 6+

Themes: Connection, appreciation of heritage; pursuit of creative career goal; identity; history and culture of Suriname; honesty; friendship; trust

120 minutes, includes media education

How much is Jasmine willing to risk in order to realize her artistic dreams? Or to meet her estranged family? Or to save a precious friendship? What about all three at once?

Jasmine dreams of being a singer-songwriter, but even more, she desires to reconnect with her mother and her South American culture against her Dutch father's wishes. When Jasmine and her duet partner, Stijn, are invited to participate in a singing competition in her birthplace of Suriname, Jasmine takes the opportunity to search for her mother. Her secret search starts to get more complicated, stressing her relationship with her father and Stijn, until ultimately it jeopardizes her place in the competition. Will Jasmine finally find what she has been looking for, her family, home, and a deeper understanding of her identity?

Film from: *Netherlands*

Language: *Dutch w/ English subtitles*

