### SHORT FILM SYNOPSES

**Ni**ewing features Q&A

#### **SHORT BLOCK #1**



Jude isn't the life of the party; he is the party. But this is only after he's forced to spend his days in the hospital fighting cancer. Soon the patients around him look forward to seeing him as much as they don't look forward to their next round of treatment.

22 MINUTES · ENGLISH

#### RING RING DIRECTED BY: LUCAS XAVIER SIMES

The simple mistake of tossing wedding rings into a trash compactor spirals into a fight for survival when the best man dives in after the rings and finds himself about to be crushed.

12 MINUTES · ENGLISH



IMMORTAL ®
DIRECTED BY:
ALAN BLAKE

Dreading aging and death, a man takes severe measures to guarantee his immortality.

7 MINUTES · ENGLISH



★ HITCHHIKING TO MARS 
 ★ DIRECTED BY:
 ★ PAUL L CARR

Two sisters pursue their sublime mission—returning home to a distant galaxy. But getting to the other side is fraught with danger, as these aliens must free themselves from the shackles of earthbound violence and the vigilantes pursuing them. Hitchhiking to Mars is both a throwback to the Silent Film Era and a timeless story of yearning for home, and the quest to reach it. As this surreal drama plays out in the seemingly endless deserts of New Mexico, the film examines the allegorical nature of aliens and borders and the challenge of crossing the threshold.

15 MINUTES · ENGLISH



# REMEMBERING DEPARTURE DIRECTED BY: BERNIE WOODELL

Phil is struggling with dementia. He wants to keep his dignity before he has no way of controlling who he is, and loses a lifetime of special moments.

9 MINUTES · ENGLISH



### HAND JOB DIRECTED BY: MEEZAHN SENBETTA & DAVIS CAMERON CHU

A hand awakens to find his body unconscious. As the hand struggles to revive his owner, he discovers that his body attempted suicide. The hand develops a plan to save his body which sends him parkouring across his apartment. On his journey, the hand overcomes obstacles in this story of isolation, perseverance, and hope.

12 MINUTES · ENGLISH

## **™ TALES OF HARSH GRUDER ™**DIRECTED BY: JOHN OTTERBACHER & J PAUL PRESEAULT

A recovering addict contemplates the point of living, when an unexpected visit by his life-long buddy sets in motion a night of psychedelic absurdity and devastating revelation.

Tales of Harsh Gruder features the incredible work of it's star Bobby Rafferty, celebrated cinematographer Chris Rejano, world-renowned comic book creator Tim Seeley, as well as a soundtrack featuring legendary punk rock bands.

Tales of Harsh Gruder is both a celebration of friendship and creativity, as well as a poignant cautionary tale - a Tragicomedy – funny, sad, cathartic. Written and Directed by J.Paul Preseault, this film is a work of fiction created from a place of deep personal loss, but with a mission to raise awareness.

29 MINUTES · ENGLISH

#### SHORT BLOCK #2





Fiction, reality, the private, and the performed overlap on a routine but emotional day at a medical center.

20 MINUTES · ENGLISH

#### DUCK MEASURING CONTEST DIRECTED BY: LEEANNE LOWRY

Duck farming sisters task their community with putting their money where their mouth is in a duck measuring contest, only to find there's been a grave misunderstanding.

2 MINUTES · ENGLISH



Zara and Andre are both at the end of their ropes of their current relationship. Zara's sister just passed away and Andre is moving. On the day before Andre leaves, and at the wake of Zara's sister, they discuss the next steps in their relationship, but they don't seem to be on the same page.

11 MINUTES · ENGLISH



My Last Martini 
Directed by:

Rob Christopher

One evening at an elegant cocktail lounge, a frustrated writer impulsively breaks a self-imposed rule and decides to have a third martini. Moments later, he is joined by a mysterious woman who drifts over from the next booth, looking for a good listener—played by Wendy Robie, the eyepatchwearing Nadine Hurley from the infamous TV series TWIN PEAKS.

Based on a story by Barry Gifford (David Lynch's WILD AT HEART and LOST HIGHWAY).

14 MINUTES · ENGLISH





A man believes there's a mammoth in his community, and he's determined to find it. The Mammoth in My Community is a lo-fi short film by northern Illinois native and zero budget filmmaker Sean Anderson. Sean made this film over the course of a single day and filmed it with a homemade soda can pinhole lens.

6 MINUTES · ENGLISH



FREAK JOB DIRECTED BY: LANGAN KINGSLEY

LANGAN KINGSLEY

haunted house. Not because of the spooky stuff. Because it's depressing. 11 MINUTES · ENGLISH

An aspiring actress must do the scariest thing she's ever done: audition for a