

Family Film Festival

Hybrid Edition



January 14-23, 2022
www.BelmontWorldFilm.org



where stories
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and live Q&As
both in-person
(with Covid protocols)
and online!



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Your Guide to Belmont World Film's 19th ^{In-person & Online} Family Festival



Travel the world with your children—either in-person or online—with some of the most exciting international films for children age 3-12 today. You and your children can also engage in hands-on workshops that will turn them into clay model makers and junior film critics!

This year's festival features three in-person screenings: **Laura's Star**, **My Dad Is a Sausage** and **Calamity, a Childhood of Martha Jane Cannary** (**My Dad Is a Sausage** and **Calamity, a Childhood of Martha Jane Cannary** will also be available for screening online). The requirements for in-person screenings and workshops include proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test within 48 hours of the event, wearing masks at all times, and social distancing.

Several programs are based on classic and contemporary children's books, which helps reinforce an interest in reading and literature, while complementing the Massachusetts Public School System's Curriculum Frameworks. For children who can't read yet or have difficulty reading subtitles, there are several programs in English, and subtitles will be read aloud through headphones at in-person screenings.

To help maximize your children's enjoyment of the festival, we've created some age guidelines below. Children mature at different ages, however, and you know your children best.

Recommendations for children age 3-8

These programs are presented in English and are limited to one hour.

What's New from Weston Woods Studios

LOL with Mo Willems Films

Superworm & The Snail & the Whale

Recommendations for children age 5-12

Programs range from 60 to 90 minutes and sometimes require the ability to read subtitles.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shorts program

Jim Button & the Wild 13

Laura's Star

Someone to Watch Over Me shorts program

The Schoolgarden

Gromit & Shaun the Sheep Clay Animation Workshops

Recommendations for children age 7-12

These films contain more mature themes, such as divorce, death, potential danger, bullying, and some cursing. Some children as young as 7 may be interested in these films, but we have indicated the proper age level for each film in parentheses.

Birta (Age 8+)

Calamity Jane: A Childhood of Martha Jane Cannary (Age 7+)

Dreams Are Like Wild Tigers (Age 9+)

Mission Ulja Funk (Age 9+)

My Dad Is a Sausage (Age 9+)

Martin & the Magical Forest (Age 7+)

Nahuel & the Magic Book (Age 8+)

Tarsilinha (Age 7+)


Junior Film Critic Workshop with the Boston Society of Film Critics (Age 9+)

Films & Workshops at a Glance

Schedule is subject to change, so please consult www.belmontworldfilm.org or our Facebook page for the latest information.

The only timed events include the three in-person screenings, the workshops, and the Q&As with filmmakers and film subjects.

Event Key

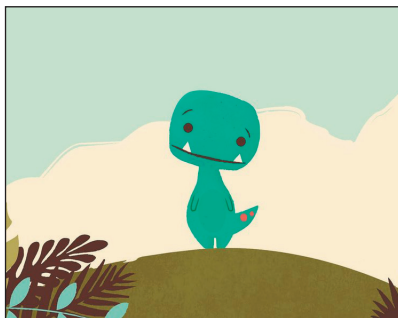
 = in-person.

 = online

[illegible]

TICKETS, PASSES & MEMBERSHIPS Available at www.belmontworldfilm.org

Virtual Screenings: Shorts Programs	\$ 10
Virtual Screenings: Feature Length Films	\$ 14
In-person Screenings	\$ 10
Workshops (does not include materials)	\$ 20
Film Only Pass (access to all online films & filmmaker Q&As, but does not include workshops)	\$ 45
Full Festival Pass (access to all online films, filmmaker Q&As and workshops)	\$ 65
VIP Festival Pass (access to all online films, filmmaker Q&As, workshops, a t-shirt, and recognition in program for one year)	\$ 100
EBT Card & ConnectorCard Holders	half price



This year's festival features never-before seen films from Weston Woods Studios and the festival t-shirt!

WORKSHOPS

Junior Film Critic's Workshop

Two parts: Saturday, January 15, 1:30-4:00 PM & Sunday, January 16, 1:00-3:00 PM | Belmont Media Center, 9 Lexington Street, Belmont

Geared toward age 9+

Calling all aspiring film critics! Former Boston Society of Film Critics President **Tom Meek** will be one of your guides during this two day virtual workshop on the finer points of film criticism.



During **Day 1** you will learn how to watch a film critically, provide insight into the language of film, and offer tips on how to organize your thoughts for a review. Participants will watch a film, together as a group. For **Day 2**, participants will be asked to present a review of the film, which they will share for comments and advice from the film critic and fellow participants.



belmont media center

Covid protocols: Masks and social distancing will be required, as will either proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test within 48 hours of the workshop.

Learn to Model Gromit or Shaun the Sheep with Aardman Animation!

Saturday, January 22, via Zoom

Geared to age 5-Adult

Choose one, two, or all three sessions!

10:30-11:30 AM: Gromit

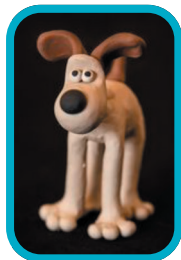
12:00-1:00 PM Shaun the Sheep

1:30-2:30 PM Gromit

Aardman, the creative people behind such ground-breaking clay animated films as the Oscar-winning *Wallace & Gromit* films, *Chicken Run*, and *Shaun the Sheep*, is offering a unique opportunity to learn how to make your very own Gromit or Shaun the Sheep character at these fun, hands-on clay modelling workshops, led by Senior Model Maker Jim Parkyn.

Besides having fun working with clay, you'll also get the opportunity to ask any burning questions you have and learn some insider Aardman tips, too.

Cost: \$20 per workshop. Reserve online by January 7. You'll receive additional information on what materials you need to purchase and how to prepare for the workshop once you register.



About the Presenter

Jim Parkyn is the senior model maker and team leader in Aardman's Art Department, as well as an ambassador for its workshops program. He has worked with Aardman since 2000, starting with *Chicken Run*, and has played a part in most productions since then. His other credits include *Rex the Runt*, the *Wallace and Gromit* films, *Shaun the Sheep*, *Creature Comforts*, *The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!*, *Timmy Time*, and many other short films & commercials.

FEATURE LENGTH FILMS

IN-PERSON ONLY

Laura's Star — Sunday, January 16, 1pm. Majestic 7, 81 Arsenal Yards Blvd., Watertown

Directed by Joya Thome

USt premiere | 79 min. | German with subtitles | Germany | 2021

A magical, heartwarming story based on the hugely popular books of Klaus Baumgart. When her family moves to a house in the city, 7-year old Laura dreams of returning to the country where she can see the stars and imagine traveling through space in her homemade rocket ship. One night, when feeling particularly lonely, a shooting star lands on her roof, equipped with the power to make people fly. The star provides Laura with some spectacular entertainment and comfort, until she learns about the sacrifices one makes in the name of friendship. **Age 5-12** | [Q&A via Zoom with the director immediately following the screening.](#)
Sponsored by the German International School of Boston



IN-PERSON & ONLINE

My Dad Is a Sausage — Saturday, January 15, 1pm.

Regent Theatre, 5 Medford Street, Arlington

Directed by Anouk Fortunier

East Coast premiere | 90 min. | Dutch with subtitles | Belgium, Germany | 2021

Zoe is her dad's best friend. When on a whim he decides to give up his job as a banker to follow his dream of being an actor, it upsets the family dynamic. But the 12 year-old believes in her dad, even if nobody else does, and vows to help him in every way she can. Based on the novel *Mon père est une saucisse* by Agnès de Lestrade. **Age 8+**
Sponsored by the Delegation of Flanders to the USA



Calamity Jane, a Childhood of Martha Jane Cannary

Monday, January 17, 1pm, West Newton Cinema, 1296 Washington Street, Newton

Directed by Rémi Chayé

New England premiere | 82 min. | French with subtitles | France, Denmark | 2020

An exquisite hand-drawn biopic about 12 year-old Martha (Calamity) Jane's perilous, but empowering journey along the Oregon Trail to the West with her family in 1863. When her mother dies along the way, she has to help care for her younger siblings, and when her father is critically injured by their horse, she has to manage with the reluctant help of other members of the wagon train, learning to defy female stereotypes by secretly teaching herself to lasso, ride, and drive the wagon, trading in her skirt for a pair of pants, and cutting her hair short. When accused of stealing the settlers' possessions, she runs away in pursuit of the real thief, disguised as a boy. The film should be required viewing by all gradeschoolers, regardless of gender. Winner of the Cristal Award at the Annecy Animation Festival in 2020. **Age 8+** | *Sponsored by Villa Albertine*



ONLINE ONLY

Birta

Directed by Bragi Thor Hinriksson

East Coast premiere | 85 min. | Icelandic & Vietnamese
with subtitles | Iceland | 2021



After overhearing her single mother worry about financial problems and not being able to afford the family Christmas, charming and persuasive Birta decides to take on the responsibility, transforming herself into a young entrepreneur with amazing problem-solving skills. Helped by her younger sister and best friend who lives upstairs she sells everything from cookies to frozen fish. Things aren't so easy when you are only 11 years old and trying to keep it all a secret! A great family film about the true meaning of giving and the importance of honesty. **Age 8+**

Dreams Are Like Wild Tigers

Directed by Lars Montag

US premiere | 107 min. | German with subtitles | Germany, India | 2021



For 12-year-old Ranji from Mumbai, Bollywood is the greatest: he wants nothing more than to stand in front of the camera with his declared hero, the Indian superstar Amir Roshan. When his parents decide to follow their dream and emigrate to Germany, however, the hope of attending a casting call for his idol's new film is the only thing that keeps him going—even if it takes place in India. With courage and combined forces, he and his new neighbor Toni set out to make their dreams come true, learning the true meaning of friendship—and a lot about Bollywood dancing! **Age 9+**

Content advisory: Some mature language, instances of bullying



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The **Delegation of Flanders to the USA**
is pleased to support the screening of
the Belgian film MY DAD IS A SAUSAGE

Jim Button & the Wild 13

Directed by Dennis Gansel

New England premiere | 110 min. | German with subtitles |
Germany | 2020



A year has gone by since Jim Button and his best friend, Luke the engine driver, have returned to their home on the island of Morrowland after their perilous adventure in Dragon City. Dark clouds begin to gather over their tranquil island one day, marking the return of the notorious pirate gang “The Wild 13” to take revenge on Jim and Luke for conquering Mrs. Grindtooth the dragon. To protect Morrowland from another threat, the two set off with their steam engines Emma and Molly on a journey where they meet their old friends Princess Li Si, Mr. Tur Tur, and Nepomuk, and make new friends with Sursulapichi, a real mermaid. On their adventure, Jim’s most fervent wish might also come true: to find out the truth about his mysterious origins. Based on the book by Michael Ende (The Neverending Story) **Age 5–12** | *Sponsored by the German International School of Boston*

Martin & the Magical Forest

Directed by Petr Oukropec

New England premiere | 80 min. | Czech with subtitles |
Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany | 2021



Martin prefers spending time online, so when his parents send him to a summer camp in the woods, he does everything he can to avoid enjoying it. When the forest literally appears to have come to life, he finds himself an unlikely hero, in this magical adventure and upbeat tale with an environmental twist.

Age 7+ | *Content advisory: Mild cursing and bullying*



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Mission Ulja Funk

Directed by Barbara Kronenberg

East Coast premiere | 91 min. | German with subtitles |
Germany, Luxembourg, Poland | 2021

When a 12 year-old promising astronomer named Ulja is prevented from pursuing her passion, she decides to take matters into her own hands. With one of her classmates driving her family's hearse, they hurry across Eastern Europe to Belarus in order to witness the impact of an asteroid that she's discovered. In doing so, she not only has to shake off her family and friends who are in pursuit, but also her pragmatic view of friendship and family. **Age 9+**

Content advisory: Cursing, mischief



Nahuel and the Magic Book

Directed by German Acuña

East Coast premiere | 98 min. | Spanish with subtitles |
Chile, Brazil | 2020

Ever since his fisherman father was taken away by a wicked sorcerer Nahuel has had a deep fear of the sea. When he finds a mysterious book that grants its reader magical powers, he embarks on a seafaring adventure alongside a healer's apprentice and a talking wolf to rescue his father from the sorcerer who is after the book. An exciting fantasy/coming-of-age film. **Age 8+**



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Dutch Culture USA

DutchCultureUSA.com

The Schoolgarden

Directed by Mark Verkerk

East Coast premiere | 60 min. | Dutch with subtitles |

The Netherlands | 2020

A school garden system has been in place in The Netherlands for over 100 years, in which primary schools take kids age 8-10 to the fields where they learn how to sow, grow and cook vegetables and other foods, as well as learn about the benefits of biodiversity. This film

features the experiences of five diverse classes from all walks of life in Amsterdam. **Age 5-12**

Q&A with Producer Ignas van Schaick on Saturday, January 22, at 4:00 PM via Zoom.

Sponsored by Dutch Culture USA



Tarsilinha

Directed by Celia Catunda & Kiko Mistrorigo

East Coast premiere | 98 min. | Portuguese with subtitles |

Brazil | 2021

Eight year-old Tarsilinha journeys to a fantastic imaginary world, where she must get back the memories that were taken away from her mother, with the help of many magical Brazilian characters inspired by legends and stories passed down by the country's indigenous population, early African inhabitants and Portuguese ancestors. Inspired by the works of Brazilian painter Tarsila do Amaral, the best known painter of the country's "Modernist" movement that's celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. **Age 7+**



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SHORT FILM PROGRAMS

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

New England premieres | 60 min. | English | USA | 2021

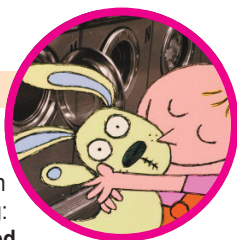
The ideals and people connected to Dr. King as interpreted by Weston Woods Studios: **Martin's Big Words** by Doreen Rappaport and narrated by Michael Clarke Duncan; **Coretta Scott**, Ntozake Shange's poetic tribute to Coretta Scott King's movement for civil rights; **Rosa**, about how Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Alabama, by Nikki Giovanni; **All Because You Matter**, an ode to black and brown children by Tami Charles; and **The Oldest Student**, about Mary Walker, who was born into slavery and freed at age 15, who finally learned to read at age 116, by Rita Lorraine Hubbard. **Age 5-12**



LOL with Films Based on Mo Willems Books

60 min. | English | USA

Children's book author Mo Willems can make children and adults laugh out loud like no one else! He not only writes and illustrates his own books, but also narrates the animated films that are created by Scholastic/Weston Woods Studios. This program includes some of our favorite films including: **Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale**, **Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion**, **Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs**, **Edwina the Dinosaur**, **Leonardo the Terrible Monster**, **Nanette's Baguette**, and **Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed**. **Age 3-8**



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Someone to Watch Over Me

New England Premieres | 55 min. | No dialogue |
Germany, Norway, Spain, USA | 2021

Wordless films about protecting the young, including: **Mila**, a story inspired by true events about a young girl who, with little more than imagination and a touch of humanity, manages to survive war, and find hope, (winner of the Venice Film Festival's Humanity Award); **Family Bonds**, about a little fox whose parents are geese; **Umbrellas**, about a 6-year-old who spends her days playing carelessly with her dog under the protective "umbrella beard" of her father; **Ursa: The Song of the Northern Lights**, about a little polar bear in search of his mother, who is helped by many Arctic animals along the way. **Age 5-12**

Q&A on Zoom with MILA director Cinzia Angelini on Sunday, January 23, at 5:00 PM.

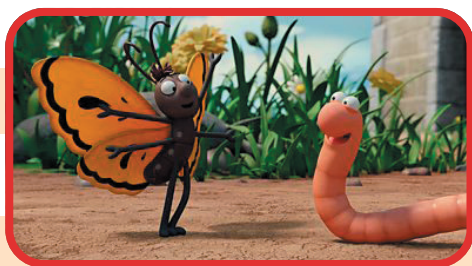


Superworm

Directed by Jac Hamman & Sarah Scrimgeour
US Premiere | 26 min. | English | UK | 2021

Shown with **The Snail and the Whale**

Directed by Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon
27 min. | English | UK | 2019



Magic Light Pictures regularly brings Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's (*The Gruffalo*) picture books to life. Their newest production, **Superworm**, features the voices of Oscar-winner Olivia Colman and Matt Smith of *The Crown* and comedian Rob Brydon in a story about a super-long and super-strong worm and his friend Butterfly. Shown with **The Snail and the Whale**—a beautiful tale of an unlikely friendship, a tour of the world, and a heroic rescue, featuring the voices of the late Dame Diana Rigg, Oscar-winner Sally Hawkins, and comedian Rob Brydon. **Age 3-8**

Sponsored by Belmont Day School

What's New from Weston Woods Studios

New England premieres | 60 min. | English | USA

The newest films from not yet available to the public Weston Woods Studios, Scholastic's filmmaking arm known for turning some of the best loved children's picture books into high quality films: the witty **Tomorrow Most Likely** by Dave Eggers; Caldecott Medal winner **We Are the Water Protectors** by Carol Lindstrom; **The Sun Is Kind of a Big Deal** by Nick Seluk; **Chicken Little: The Real and Totally True Story** by Sam Wedelich; **Tiny T Rex and the Impossible Hug** by Jonathan Stutzman; **Be You** by Peter Reynolds; and **Wishes** by Mượn Thị Văn. **Age 3-8**



Thanks to **Gravestar** for their generous financial support of this project.

This program is supported by grants from the **Mass Cultural Council** and the **Watertown Cultural Council**, and has applied for funding from the **Arlington** and **Newton Cultural Councils** and the **Cambridge Arts Council**.

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*Nina Avergun

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Andrew Levin

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*Don Ross

Rene DeKona & David Holzman

Kelly Dunn

Michael Friedman & Terry Michalski

Bill Greenberg & Arlyn Roffman

Tom & Cori Hannaford

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- Boston Central: Stacey Sao
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- Cambridge Media Arts Studio: Joshua Aravelo
- Jen Fuchel, graphic design
- Project Giving Kids; Leslie Zales
- Scholastic/Weston Woods Studios: Steve Syarto

About Belmont World Film

Belmont World Film is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that enriches the Greater Boston community with some of the world's top films—films that otherwise might never be shown here—followed by discussions with expert speakers on pressing world issues, and accompanied by cultural performances and international food experiences. Our mission is to inspire understanding of other cultures through the universal language of film.

Each year we work with local and international organizations to present a Family Festival in January, an international film series in the spring, and other special events throughout the year. Films come from countries from far away as Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Iraq, Latvia, Mongolia and Uganda, and as close as Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Romania, and the United Kingdom.

Since 2002, Belmont World Film's Family Film Festival has been a must-attend event for families in the Greater Boston area with children ages 3-12, offering the opportunity to view some of the world's most significant films for children as they were meant to be seen—on a big screen as a shared experience with others—as well as opening a window into the lives of children in other countries.

Board of Directors

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This program is supported in part by a generous grant from the **Gravestar Foundation**.

This program is supported in part by grants from the **Mass Cultural Council** and the **Watertown Cultural Council**, and has applied for funding from the **Arlington** and **Newton Cultural Councils**, as well as the **Cambridge Arts Council**, local agencies that are supported by the **Mass Cultural Council**, a state agency



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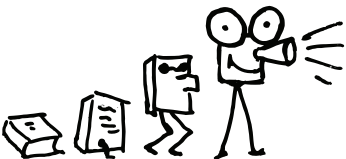
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