

Family Film Festival



Belmont World Film's 21st Family Festival

January 13: **Apple Cinemas, Cambridge**

January 14: **West Newton Cinema**

January 15: **Brattle Theatre, Cambridge**

January 21: **Regent Theatre, Arlington**

www.BelmontWorldFilm.org | 617.484.3980



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Your Guide to Belmont World Film's 21st Family Festival



Embark on an enchanting adventure at Belmont World Film's 21st Family Festival, a four-day celebration of international culture for children age 3-12 and their families. A diverse selection of films from around the world—with many making their US or New England premieres—ensure an immersive and culturally rich experience for young audiences.

Children will have the opportunity to enjoy films in English and multiple languages, including Chinese, Czech, French, Dutch, Norwegian—even sign language—that in most cases can't be seen anywhere else. Subtitles for films in languages other than English will be read aloud through headphones, guaranteeing an inclusive experience for children with difficulty reading.

As always, most films are based on classic and contemporary children's books—from both the US and abroad—which help reinforce an interest in reading and literature, while complementing the Massachusetts Public School System's Curriculum Frameworks.

To help maximize your children's enjoyment of the festival, we've created some age guidelines that you'll also find marked on each film program or workshop. Children mature at different ages, however, and you know your children best.

Age 3-8: Programs are presented in English and are limited to about one hour.

Celebrating 70 Years of Weston Woods Films

LOL with Mo Willems Films

Tabby McTat/The Snail and the Whale

Age 5-12: Programs range from 60-90 minutes that sometimes require reading subtitles, although they will be read aloud through headphones at most screenings.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

International Tales for Young Hearts

Titina

Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light

Yuku and the Himalayan Flower

Age 8+: Films offer slightly more mature subjects with simulated dangerous situations, cursing, or adult drinking.

Adventures in the Land of Asha

Coco Farm

Dancing Queen

Age 10+: Films contain more mature themes, such as death, potential danger, bullying, fighting, and cursing. Some children as young as 9 may be interested.

Kung Fu Lion

Okthanksbye

Sea Sparkle

Totem

TICKETS – Available at www.belmontworldfilm.org

EBT, WIC & ConnectorCare cardholders: ½ price

In-person Screenings

Shorts Programs

\$ 8

Feature Length Films

\$ 12

Films Only Pass

\$ 40

VIP Festival Pass

\$ 120

(provides access to all films, workshops, two t-shirts, & recognition in the program for a year)

Introduction to Film Camera Techniques Workshop

\$ 20

Virtual Screenings

Shorts Programs (January 20-21)

\$ 15

Films & Workshop at a Glance

All films will be shown in person with a limited number of short film programs also available online (films with asterisks will be available virtually January 20-21).

Schedule and films subject to change. Please check our web site or our Facebook page for up-to-date information.

Subtitles will be read aloud through headphones for most films in other languages.

* = Also available online from January 20-21 S = Shorts program F = Feature length film

When	Program	Language	Type	Age
Saturday, January 13 — Apple Cinemas, 168 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge				
10:30 AM	* Celebrating 70 Years of Weston Woods (60 min.)	English	S	3-8
11:45 AM	Yuku and the Himalayan Flower (62 min.)	French	F	5-12
1:15 PM	Adventures in the Land of Asha (89 min.)	French	F	8+
3:00 PM	Sea Sparkle (98 min.)	Dutch	F	10+
Sunday, January 14 — West Newton Cinema, 1296 Washington Street				
10:30 AM	* Tabby McTat shown with The Snail and the Whale (54 min.)	English	S	3-8
11:45 AM	Toby, Shelly and the Magic Light (80 min.)	Czech	F	5-12
1:15 PM	Coco Farm (87 min.)	French	F	8+
3:00 PM	Okthanksbye (93 min) followed by a discussion	Dutch, Dutch Sign Language French	F	10+
Monday, January 15 — Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge				
10:30 AM	* Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Shorts (60 min.)	English	S	5-12
11:45 AM	Titina (91 min.)	Norwegian	F	5-12
1:30 PM	Dancing Queen (92 min.)	Norwegian	F	8+
3:30 PM	Kung Fu Lion (85 min.)	Dutch/Chinese	F	10+
Sunday, January 21 — Regent Theatre, 7 Medford Street, Arlington				
1:00 PM	* LOL with Based on Mo Willems Books Shorts (62 min.)	English	S	3-8
2:15 PM	International Tales for Young Hearts Shorts (52 min.)	Multiple	S	5-12
3:30 PM	Totem (90 min.) followed by a discussion	Dutch	F	10+
Sunday, January 21 — Belmont Media Center, 8 Lexington Street, Belmont				
10:00 AM	Introduction to Film Camera Techniques Workshop			

W O R K S H O P

Sunday, January 21, 10:00 AM-noon

Introduction to Film Camera Techniques

Belmont Media Center | 9 Lexington Street, Belmont

Calling all budding filmmakers age 10 and above! In this exciting hands-on workshop, young enthusiasts can start their creative journey in film by learning the basics of film cameras. Your child will gain insights into both fundamental camera techniques, as well as rarely-used ones that define the unique style of foreign films. **Geared toward children age 10+**

The class includes:

Learn the essentials of camera operation, framing, and composition. Dive into the world of foreign films and uncover techniques that set them apart, such as unconventional angles to innovative storytelling methods. Interactive exercises and experimentation with different shots and angles. Learn how cameras are used to convey stories.

For this workshop your child will need either an iPhone or an Android phone. For Android phones, you will need to purchase and download camera software for \$12.

Cost: \$20 (not including the software for Android phones)

About the instructor, Menefesi Kudumu-Clavell

Born in the U.S. but raised in Ghana, Menefesi Kudumu-Clavell is a filmmaker and co-founder of Ineffable Films, a nonprofit film company that illuminates cultural stories through cinema. The organization's youth division, Poly-Nation, uses foreign films for its curriculum, with a focus on exploring multicultural identities.



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SATURDAY • JANUARY • 13

Apple Cinemas | 168 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge

10:30 AM Celebrating 70 Years of Weston Woods Studios

60 min. | English | USA

Weston Woods Studios, the filmmaking arm of Scholastic, is renowned for turning some of the best loved children's picture books, including numerous Caldecott and Newbury Award winners, into high quality films. In celebration of their 70th year, we are pleased to present a compilation of both their newest, never-before-seen films, as well as some classics that should be part of every child's upbringing. New films include: **Chez Bob** by Bob Shea, a hilarious tale narrated by John Lithgow about an alligator who opens a restaurant on his nose for birds with plans to eat them one day; and **How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodbye?**, which teaches young readers how to say goodbye with poise and grace, with laugh-out-loud antics along the way, written and narrated by Jane Yolen. Classics include: **Chrysanthemum** by Kevin Henkes and narrated by Meryl Streep; **Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type** by Doreen Cronin and narrated by Randy Travis; Caldecott Honor book **In the Night Kitchen** by Maurice Sendak; and Caldecott Medal winner **Sylvester and the Magic Pebble** by William Steig. **Age 3-9**



11:45 AM Yuku and the Himalayan Flower

Directed by Rémi Durin & Arnaud Demuynck

US premiere | 62 min. | French with subtitles

Belgium, France | 2022

At the top of the highest mountains on earth lives a plant that radiates eternal light – the Himalayan Flower. In this spectacularly animated and adorable musical film, the little mouse Yuku goes in search of it to restore her grandmother back to health. With her ukulele and her original catchy songs she makes friends along the way during her sometimes perilous journey. **Age 5-12**



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1:15 PM Adventures in the Land of Asha

Directed by Sophie Farkas Bolla

East Coast premiere | 89 min.

French with subtitles Canada | 2023

A heartwarming tale about difference and acceptance. When his dog runs away into the wild forest in 1940's Northern Quebec, a 9 year-old boy with a rare skin condition meets Asha, a mysterious young indigenous girl. Together they search for a cure for his disease, venturing to the other side of the forest where nature reveals itself full of life and secrets. **Age 8+**
Sponsored by the Quebec Delegation of Boston



3:00 PM Sea Sparkle

Directed by Domien Huyghe

East Coast premiere | 98 min. | Dutch with Subtitles

Belgium/Netherlands | 2023

Twelve-year-old Lena loves the ocean, but when her North Sea fisherman father goes missing with his crew, she starts looking for a cause, convinced that some sort of sea creature is to blame. With the help of some friends she starts a high-stakes search to find it to absolve her father of any wrongdoing. The opening film and the winner of two awards at the 2023 Berlin Film Festival! **Age 10+**
Sponsored by Dutch Culture USA
Content advisory: Some mature language.



The Quebec Delegation of Boston is pleased to support the screenings of two films from Quebec:

Adventure in the Land of Asha Coco Farm

as part of
Belmont World Film's
21st Family Festival

Québec 
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SUNDAY • JANUARY • 14

West Newton Cinema | 1296 Washington Street

10:30 AM Tabby McTat

Directed by Jac Hamman & Sarah Scrimgeour

North American premiere | 26 min. | UK | English | 2023

Shown with

The Snail and the Whale

Directed by Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon

English | UK | 2019 | 27 min.



Magic Light Pictures regularly brings Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's (*The Gruffalo*) picture books to life. If you love cats, you'll fall in love with their newest production, *Tabby McTat*, a story about the warm and wonderful friendship between a musical cat and a street busker in London, featuring the voice of Jodi Whittaker (*Dr. Who*) and comedian Rob Brydon. In *The Snail and the Whale*, featuring the voices of the late Dame Diana Rigg, Oscar-winner Sally Hawkins, and comedian Rob Brydon, a tiny snail goes on an amazing journey by hitching a ride on the tail of a huge humpback whale. **Age 3-8**



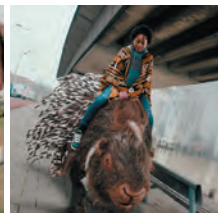
Dutch Culture USA is proud to support Belmont World Film's 21st Family Festival and the screenings of:

Kung Fu Lion

Okthanksbye

Sea Sparkle

Totem



11:45 AM Tony, Shelly and the Magic Light

Directed by Filip Posivac

US premiere | 80 min. | Czech with subtitles

Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia | 2023



A film about being different, about friendship, and first loves...but above all, about light and darkness. Eleven-year-old Tony was born with a unique feature: he glows! His worried parents keep him tethered to the house, where he spends time in his blanket bunker dreaming about having a friend. When a girl named Shelly moves into his house, however, she turns his world upside down. Together they embark on an adventurous search for why the sunshine is being sucked out of their apartment building house. It's no wonder this miraculous stop-motion animated film won the Contretemps Award at the prestigious Annecy International Animation Festival in 2023! **Age 5-12**
Content advisory: Some scenes of thunder and lightning

1:15 PM Coco Farm

Directed by Sébastien Gagné

East Coast premiere | 87 min. | French with subtitles

Canada | 2023



Don't be chicken: give this heartwarming and wild ride of a film a try! When 12-year-old Max moves with his father to the country and discovers free-range chickens in his cousin's abandoned barn, the young, fast-talking entrepreneur comes up with an idea to make money by starting an egg farming business with the help of his cousin and local YouTuber Alice. The animal-friendly Coco Farm becomes a hit with customers coming from miles around, but the three partners soon find themselves facing the realities of an industry controlled by mega-corporations. **Age 8+**
Sponsored by the Quebec Delegation of Boston
Content advisory: mild cursing, adult drinking

3:00 PM Okthanksbye

Directed by Nicole van Kilsdonk

New England premiere | 93 min. | Dutch, Dutch Sign

Language, French with subtitles | Netherlands | 2023



Followed by a discussion with ASL interpretation

When shy, 12-year-old Jamie moves to a boarding school for the deaf, she is reluctant to make new friends. When her grandmother—who is the only other deaf family member—falls sick and her parents take off for Paris to visit her, Jamie and her bold classmate Imane set off on an unexpected road trip from Rotterdam to Paris. Although things do not go as planned and the trip takes an adventurous turn, the obstacles and special encounters turn the experience into a journey to remember. **Age 10+**
Sponsored by Dutch Culture USA
Content advisory: some adult language, depiction of underage drinking

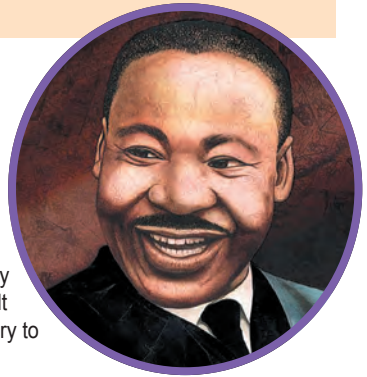
MONDAY • JANUARY • 15

Brattle Theatre | 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge

10:30 AM Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Shorts)

60 min. | English | USA

Stories about Dr. King and his ideals and contemporaries as interpreted by Weston Woods Studios, including: **Martin's Big Words** by Doreen Rappaport and narrated by Michael Clarke Duncan; **Coretta Scott**, Ntozake Shange's tribute to Coretta Scott King's civil rights movement; **Rosa**, about how Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Alabama, by Nikki Giovanni; the **US premiere** of **I Am Ruby Bridges**, written by the civil rights activist who was the first African American child to attend a formerly whites-only elementary school; and Newbery Honor winner **Show Way**, the journey of eight generations of quilt making (a "show way"), which has been passed down from slavery to the present day, by Jacqueline Woodson. **Ages 5-12**



11:45 AM Titina

Directed by Kajsa Næss

New England premiere | 91 min. | Norway | Norwegian with subtitles | 2022

Through the eyes of the four-legged celebrity dog Titina, discover a true story of triumph and defeat! Italian airship engineer Umberto Nobile enjoys a quiet life with his beloved dog Titina, who charmed him into rescuing her from the streets of Rome. When Norwegian explorer superstar Roald Amundsen contacts him and asks him to design and build an airship to conquer the North Pole, Nobile seizes the opportunity to go down in history, bringing Titina along. The unlikely trio sets out on an expedition to the last undiscovered place on Earth. Their quest is successful, but in the aftermath, the two men start to quarrel over the glory. **Age 5-12**



Sponsored by the Norwegian Consulate General in New York

1:30 PM Dancing Queen

Directed by Aurora Gossé

Boston premiere | 92 min. | Norway | Norwegian with subtitles | 2023

When you're 12, it can be hard to have the time of your life! Full of self-doubt, awkward 12 year-old Mina nonetheless challenges herself to take part in a dance competition at school, in part to win the heart of a famous hip hop dancer who moves to her town. With the support of her spirited grandmother, whose candid advice is always an invitation to laugh, she progresses from an awkward initial audition to a final show-stopping number, learning along the way what's important. **Age 8+**



Sponsored by the Norwegian Consulate General in New York

3:30 PM Kung Fu Lion

Directed by Froukje Tan

East Coast premiere | 85 min.

China/Netherlands | Dutch, Chinese,
English with subtitles | 2023

A Chinese lion is made out of two Kung Fu dancers. One moves the head, while the other shakes the tail. But what happens if the back wants to take the lead? Two rivals from different cultural and family backgrounds are paired together to perform the traditional lion dance that requires not only Kung Fu skills but mutual respect and perfect coordination. To earn his place up front with the head one of them must defeat a number of annoying bullies, convince the teacher of his qualities, and especially, overcome himself. **Age 10+**

Sponsored by Dutch Culture USA

Content advisory: some cursing and fighting



Norwegian Consulate General
New York

is pleased to support

Belmont World Film's 21st Family Festival's

screenings of

Titina & Dancing Queen



SUNDAY • JANUARY • 21

Regent Theatre | 7 Medford Street, Arlington

1:00 PM LOL with Films Based on Mo Willems Books

62 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 Weston Woods Studios. This program includes some of our favorite films:

Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale

Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion

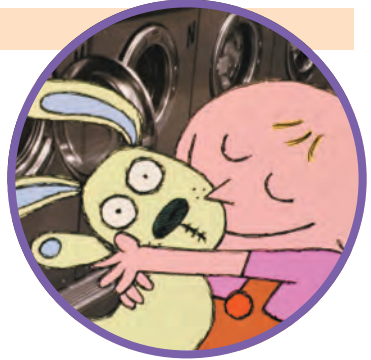
Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs

Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late

Hooray for Amanda and Her Alligator

The Pigeon Finds a Hotdog.

Age 3-8



2:15 PM International Tales for Young Hearts Shorts

52 min. | Switzerland, Czech Republic, France, UK Wordless & English | 2022 & 2023

A collection of exquisitely animated films from Europe about nature, caring, friendship, and more that will warm everyone's hearts. Films include:

Pond by Lena von Doehen about a community of sea animals that support each other in a tidal pool

Suzie in the Garden by Lucie Sunková, about a little girl who meets a black dog that helps her discover a mysterious garden and the woman who owns it.

Cats Are Liquid by Natálie Durchánková, a film full of funny scenes that prove that cats (contrary to general belief) are actually not solid, but liquid.

The Day I Became a Bird by Oscar winner Andrew Ruhemann, about a boy who becomes fascinated by a girl who only has eyes for birds. To get her attention, he comes up with a rather unusual plan.

Rainboy by Barbara Brunner, about a boy who plants rain drops and harvests clouds, until he gets in to a run in with the sun.

To Be Sisters by Anne-Sophie Gousset & Clément Céard, about two sisters who share an extra something (winner of the Young Audience Award at the Annecy Film Festival). Age 5-12



3:30 PM Totem

Directed by Sander Burger

New England premiere | 90 min. | Netherlands | English, Dutch with subtitles | 2022

Followed by a discussion about the film and dual cultural identities, led by Ghanaian-American filmmaker Menefese Kudumu-Clavell.

Ama, the daughter of Senegalese asylum seekers, was born and raised in The Netherlands and feels completely Dutch. When she sees her mother and brother get arrested, she sets off in search of her father through Rotterdam in the middle of winter, hoping to avoid deportation. During this frightening and exciting journey, she discovers her roots, thanks in part to her best friend and an extraordinary totem animal: a gigantic porcupine. **Age 10+**

Sponsored by Dutch Culture USA

Content advisory: mild language, bodily humor, and dangerous situations that are always circumvented



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Karen Virk
Fran Yuan

Thank you

Belmont Media Center: Jeff Hansell
Boston Central: Stacey Sao
Cambridge Public School Department: Deborah Barros

Cambridge Media Arts Studio: Joshua Aravelo
Girls Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts: Jennifer Pham
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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