

This program is supported in part by a generous grant from **Gravestar**. It has also applied for funding from the **Arlington, Cambridge, Somerville & Watertown Cultural Councils**.



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Family Film Festival

www.belmontworldfilm.org



January 15-24, 2021
www.BelmontWorldFilm.org



Family Film Festival Virtual Edition



Films, workshops, and live Q&As viewable in the comfort of your own home!"



Your Guide to Belmont World Film's 18th Annual Family Festival, Virtual Edition



Travel the world with your children—without leaving home—and enjoy some of the most exciting international films for children age 3-12: films that open them up to the lives of children in other countries, enabling them to gain an understanding of and sensitivity towards people of different cultures. You and your children can also engage in virtual hands-on workshops that will turn them into clay model makers and junior film critics!

Since many film programs are based on classic and contemporary children's books—from both the US and abroad—they help 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.

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

Suggested Programs for Children Age 3-8

Best enjoyed by our youngest audience members who may not be able to read subtitles. These programs are presented in English and are limited to one hour.

Animal Magnetism: Shorts about Animals from Magnet Films

Celebrating 100 Years of Scholastic Books

Hungry Bear Tales

LOL with Mo Willems Films

Zog/Zog & the Flying Doctors

Suggested Programs for Children Age 5-10

Programs range from 70 to 90 minutes and may require the ability to read subtitles. Some films contain more mature themes, such as divorce, disabilities, and danger, and are not recommended for younger children, but you know your children best.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Bears Famous Invasion of Sicily

Gromit & Shaun the Sheep Clay Animation Workshops

Made in Portugal: Short Animated Films For and By Kids

Suggested Programs for Children 8+

These films contain more mature themes with realistic scenes that may not be understood by younger children, but some children as young as 7 may be interested in these films, but we advise caution.

Angel

Forward

Jackie & Oopjen

Kusasa

Microplastic Madness

Summer with Rana

Junior Film Critic Workshop with the Boston Society of Film Critics

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Film Programs & Scheduled Events at a Glance

All but three film programs (*Fahim, the Little Chess Prince*, *Forward*, and *Hungry Bear Tales*) are available for streaming for the full 10 days—Friday, January 15 @ 10 AM to Sunday, January 24 at 7 PM. Once you start a film, you will have 48 hours to finish it. The only other timed events are the workshops and the Q&As with filmmakers.

Film Dates	Fri. 1/15	Sat. 1/16	Sun. 1/17	Mon. 1/18	Tues. 1/19	Wed. 1/20	Thurs. 1/21	Fri. 1/22	Sat. 1/23	Sun. 1/24
Feature Length Films										
Angel										
Fahim, the Little Chess Prince (72 h)										
Forward (24 h)										
Jackie & Oopjen										
Kusasa										
Microplastic Madness										
Summer with Rana										
The Bears Famous Invasion (10 days)										
Short Film Programs										
Animal Magnetism: Shorts from Magnet Films										
Celebrating 100 Years of Scholastic Books:										
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.										
Hungry Bear Tales (72 h)										
LOL with Mo Willems Films										
Made in Portugal: Short Animated Films By and For Kids										
Zog / Zog & the Flying Doctors										
Workshops & Filmmaker Q&As										
Junior Film Critic's Workshop with the Boston Society of Film Critics										
Learn to Model Gromit or Shaun the Sheep with Aardman Animation (3 sessions available)										
Microplastic Madness Q&A (4:00 PM)										
Kusasa Q&A										

TICKETS — Tickets & passes are available at www.belmontworldfilm.org

Shorts Programs	\$ 10
Feature Length Films	\$ 14
Workshops (does not include materials)	\$ 20
EBT Card & ConnectorCard Holders	\$ 5 / \$ 7 / \$ 12
Film Only Pass (provides access to all films & filmmaker Q&As, but does not include workshops):	\$ 40
Full Festival Pass (provides access to all films, filmmaker Q&As and workshops):	\$ 60

WORKSHOPS

Junior Film Critic's Workshop with the Boston Society of Film Critics Two parts: Saturday, Jan. 16, 1:00-4:00 PM & Sunday, Jan. 17, 1-3 PM

Geared toward children age 9+

Calling all aspiring film critics! **Joyce Kulhawik** and **Boston Globe film critics Ty Burr and Peter Keough**, members of the Boston Society of Film Critics, will be your guide during this two day virtual workshop on the finer points of film criticism.

During Day 1 the critics will explain 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, possibly 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 critics and fellow participants



Learn to Model Gromit or Shaun the Sheep with Aardman Animation! Saturday, January 23

Geared to age 5-Adult

Choose from one of three sessions, or do all three!

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 groundbreaking 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, you'll also get the opportunity to ask any burning questions you have and learn some insider Aardman tips, too.

This is open to both children and adults. You may attend as many sessions as you'd like.

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.

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*, *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

Angel

Directed by Dennis Bots

New England premiere | 95 min. | Dutch with subtitles | The Netherlands | 2020

On her way home from school, an introverted 11 year-old named Angel, trips and braces herself for a rough landing, but instead finds herself floating in a beautiful bubble. When the bubble bursts and she falls gently to the ground, she finds a beautiful gold watch, which makes all her wishes come true! Suddenly Angel becomes incredibly popular, but will her new life truly make her happy? **Age 8+**
Sponsored by Dutch Culture USA/Never Grow Up!



The Bears Famous Invasion of Sicily

Directed by Lorenzo Mattoti

New England premiere | 82 min. | French, Italian with subtitles | France, Italy | 2019

A charming, hand-drawn, animated fairy tale about when a community of bears and humans clashed, made amends with one another, and then realized they're too different to live together. Based on Dino Buzzati's classic book of the same name and written in 1945 at the end of World War II, the film is sure to please children and adults alike! **Age 5-10**
Content advisory: Bears and humans in battle, including some simulated violence.



Fahim, the Little Chess Prince

Directed by Pierre-François Martin-Laval

New England premiere | 107 min. | French, Bengali with subtitles | France | 2019

Available from Saturday, January 16 @ 10:00 AM to Monday, January 18 @ 10:00 AM

Based on the true story of Fahim Mohammad, who was forced to flee Bangladesh when he was 8 and initially was refused asylum in Paris. Through grit and hard work he was France's Under-12 Chess Champion in 2012. Stars Gerard Depardieu as the real life chess coach who believes in him. **Age 8+**
Content advisory: Some mature language; scenes of political persecution and refugee hardship, including some simulated violence.
Sponsored by the International School of Boston



Forward

Directed by Gilles de Maistre

New England premiere | 84 min. | French, Spanish, English, Hindi, Swedish with subtitles | France | 2019

Available from Saturday, January 16 @ 7:00 PM to Sunday, January 17 @ 7:00 PM

A moving documentary, for kids and about kids, making a difference in the world that focuses on José Adolfo, who founded a ground-breaking eco-bank for poor children and young people in his native Peru when he was just 10 years old. In 2018, he became the winner of the Children's Climate Prize for his efforts. The film also highlights five other remarkable children from different parts of the globe, ranging from age 9-14, whose community efforts also qualified them for the prize. **Age 8+**

Co-presented by Project Giving Kids



Jackie & Oopjen

Directed by Annemarie van de Mond

East Coast premiere | 90 min. | English, Dutch, French with subtitles | The Netherlands | 2020

While wandering around after hours at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, where her mom is a curator, 12 year-old Jackie discovers that Oopjen, one of the subjects of Rembrandt's famous paintings, has suddenly come to life. Oopjen is looking for her long lost sister whose portrait, painted by an unknown painter, is lost. Jackie hides Oopjen in her bedroom and secretly helps search for the portrait so the two sisters can be reunited. For this woman from the 17th century, the modern world is a great adventure; hilarity ensues. And Jackie, who doesn't really have any friends at school, finally gains a true BFF. **Age 8+**
Sponsored by Dutch Culture USA/Never Grow Up!
Co-presented by The Umbrella.



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Kusasa

Directed by Shane Vermooten

Live Q&A with the director on Sunday, January 24, at 1:00 PM. | New England premiere | 54 min. |

English, Xhosa with subtitles | South Africa | 2019

A black experience documentary that follows the Kusasa Stars, a youth soccer team that journeys from their home in Groendal, South Africa to compete in finals of the Gothia Cup—the world's largest international soccer tournament for youths, held each year in Sweden. The boys carry their country's flag with pride and seek to bring positive change to their home, while the turmoil that wracks their local community impacts the members of the team in different ways. **Age 8+**

Content advisory: child mentions how he began drinking at age 10.



Microplastic Madness

Directed by Atsuko Quirk & Debby Lee Cohen

Live Q&A with the directors on Saturday, January 23, at 4:00 PM, moderated

by WBUR reporter Barbara Moran | 90 min. | English | US | 2020

Fifth graders from P.S. 15 in Red Hook, Brooklyn—living on the frontline of the climate crisis—took action on plastic pollution by collecting local data, leading community outreach, and informing policy by testifying and rallying at City Hall. Then they took action in their cafeteria to eliminate all single-use plastic! With heartfelt kid commentary and interviews of experts and renowned scientists who are engaged in the most cutting edge research on the harmful effects of microplastics, this alarming, yet charming narrative, conveys an urgent message in user-friendly terms. **Age 8+**



Shown with **The Power of Our Stories: Paint Something that Matters**

Directed by Harrison Osbourne

Featuring participants in the **Families Creating Together** program in Jamaica Plain who recycled objects into beautiful works of art together.

Summer with Rana

Directed by Sanne Vogel

North American premiere | 69 min. | Dutch with subtitles |

The Netherlands | 2019

When her journalist mother has to cover the war in Syria, a 10 year-old girl spends the summer living at her grandmother's house in the Dutch countryside. There she meets Rana, a fascinating girl living in a nearby refugee camp. It turns out they have much more in common than just their favorite ice cream flavor, as they help each other to get through the summer. **Age 8+**

Sponsored by Dutch Culture USA/Never Grow Up!



SHORT FILM PROGRAMS

Animal Magnetism: Animated Shorts from Magnet Films

New England premieres | 55 min. | No dialogue | Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland | 2020

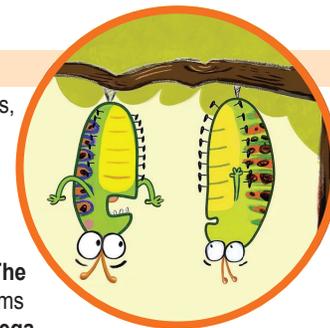
Mostly wordless, short, animated films about animals from Magnet Films, a distributor of award-winning shorts, including many Oscar winners! Films include: **The Little Bird & the Bees**, about a little bird and some bees who look after the first flowers on the maple tree, while being closely watched by a fox; **Black & White**, a "live" animated film about tolerance towards strangers; the **Little Gray Wolfy** series featuring the eponymous wolf experiencing all four seasons; **Fox & Bird**, about a solitary fox who finds himself improvising fatherhood for a freshly hatched baby bird; **Perfect Houseguest**, about a mouse with a penchant for cleaning; **Hedgehog**, about an altruistic hedgehog who runs a soup kitchen for the needy forest community; and **Ink**, a hilarious short about a neat-freak octopus. **Age 3-8**



Celebrating 100 Years of Scholastic Books

60 min. | English | USA

The newest, as well as classic films by Weston Woods Studios, Scholastic Books' filmmaking arm, known for turning some of the best loved children's picture books into high quality films. New films that are not available to the public yet include the hilarious **The Very Impatient Caterpillar** by Ross Burach (shown at right); **Say Something**, the newest film written, directed, and narrated by Peter Reynolds; and **Dog Breath: The Horrible Trouble with Halley Tosis** by Dav Pilkey. Classic films include: **Where the Wild Things Are** by Maurice Sendak; **Strega Nona** by Tomie DePaola; Academy Award nominee **Doctor De Soto** by William Steig; and **Goodnight Gorilla** by Peggy Rathmann and narrated by Anthony Edwards. **Age 3-8**

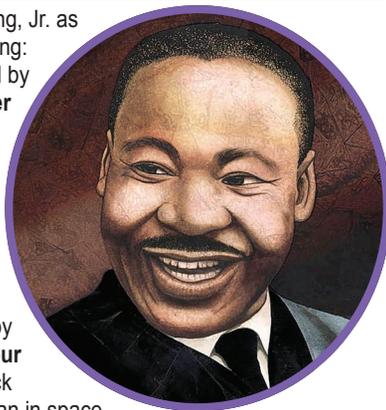


June 28-August 20 | www.belmontday.org/summer

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

75 min. | English | USA

The ideals and people connected to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as interpreted by Scholastic/Weston Woods Studios, including: **Martin's Big Words** by Doreen Rappaport and narrated by Michael Clarke Duncan; **March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World**, a personal, stirring account by Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sister, Christine; **Rosa** by Nikki Giovanni, about how Rosa Parks boarded a Montgomery, Alabama city bus and refused to give up her seat to a white man; **The Case for Loving**, about an interracial couple from Virginia, Mildred and Richard Loving, who fought the state's law banning interracial marriage all the way to the Supreme Court—and won—by Selina Alko; and **Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race**, about the four black women whose mathematical work helped NASA put a man in space, by Margot Lee Shetterly with Winifred Conkling and narrated by Oscar winner Octavia Spencer. **Age 5-10**



Hungry Bear Tales

Directed by Alexandra Májová & Katerina Karhánková

North American Premiere | 45 min. | English | Czech Republic | 2020

Available Saturday, January 16 at 10:00 AM to Tuesday, January 19 @ 10:00 AM

Stories for young children and their parents, full of humor and delicious food! Cuddly bears Ned and Mishka, characters based on the books by Zbyněk Černík, are best friends who share a cozy house in the forest. One of them is big, the other tiny. Together they set off on the merriest—and most hilarious—adventures to fill their rumbling tummies with something really good to eat with as little effort as possible. This series of short stories show how these two funny bears met, how they cook together, taste truffles, hunt for blueberries, celebrate Christmas in summer since they sleep through every winter, and how they make up after a fight. There is even a huge feast to which bears from all over the world have been invited. **Age 3-8**



LOL with Mo Willems Films

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, such as **Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale**, **Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity**, **Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs**, **Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus**, **Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late**, and **Hooray for Amanda and Her Alligator**. **Age 3-8**



Sponsored by Belmont Day School

Made in Portugal: Short Animated Films By and For Kids

North American premiere | 60 minutes | Portuguese with subtitles | Portugal | 2019

A collection of award-winning, short animated films created and narrated by 8-10 year old students from Portugal about Portuguese culture, daily life, and traditions. Films include: **A Grain in a Strange Land**, about the importance of caring for nature; **The Rare Flower**, a story created by the students about seven friends who went to an enchanted forest to look for the rarest flower in the world; **My Mother Was a Fogaceira**, about the woman who created the dresses for the Celebration of the Fogaceiras, the most famous tradition in the town of S. Maria da Feira; **Faraway Cultures**, based on the students' experiences meeting people from various nationalities living in the community of São Cirilo; **The Rose with the Thorns**, about a rose with extra thorns that gets picked on by the other roses; **Violence No More**, a catchy rap tune calling for cooperation instead of violence. Made at the ANILUPA Animation Centre, an educational and cultural center created by Associação de Ludotecas do Porto (ALP), a professional animation studio in Porto. **Age 8+**



Zog and the Flying Doctors

Directed by Sean Mullen

US Premiere | 25 min. | English | UK | 2020

Shown with Zog

Directed by Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon

27 min. | English | UK | 2018

Zog and the Flying Doctors is the follow up to last year's *Zog*, in which a keen but accident-prone dragon learns how to fly, roar, breathe fire, and save a princess during his first year at Dragon School (and which features the voices of *Game of Thrones*' Kit Harrington, *Fleabag*'s Hugh Skinner, and comedian Tracey Ullman). In this sequel, Zog, Pearl and Gadabout are now a flying doctor trio caring for creatures, including a mermaid, a unicorn, and a sneezy lion. Great stories and rich and imaginative animation are the hallmarks of the award-winning Magic Light Pictures, which regularly brings to life the much loved picture books by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler (*The Gruffalo*)—the UK's most successful picture book authors. **Age 3-8**



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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 ethnic cuisine. 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.

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