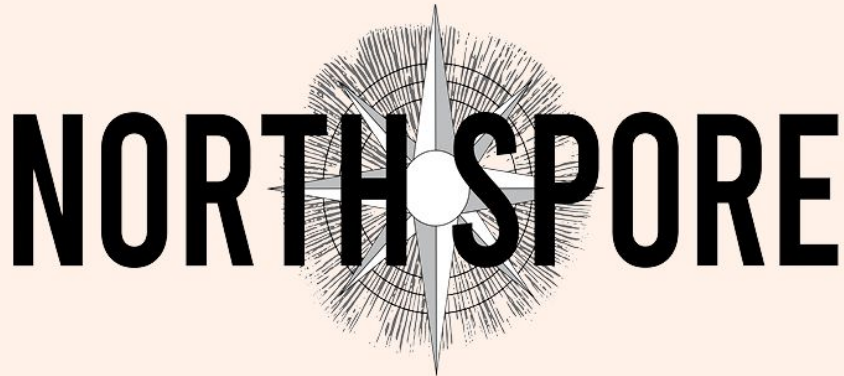
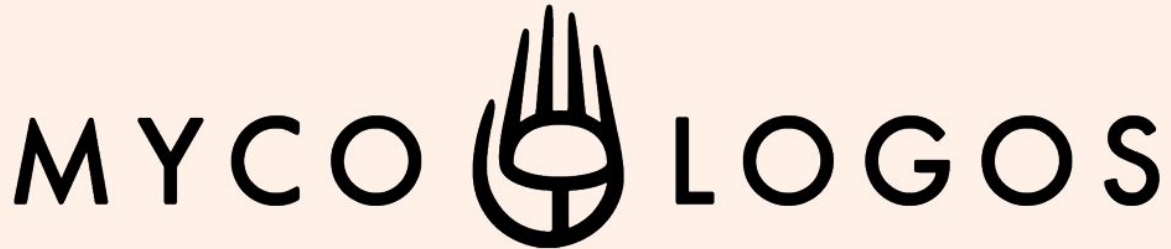


2021 Program

fungi
film
fest



SPONSORS



SESSION 1-A(MANITA)

- Symfaunic (7:37) – UCF School of Visual Arts & Design Class of 2021 (U.S.A.)*
Grateful Dean (8:20) – Gabriel Joncas, Kenzo Suzuki, and Guillaume Dubois (Canada)
Kingdom Fungi (2:14) – Kels Dee (U.S.A.)
MycoMythologies: Infrastructures for Each Other (13:08) – Kaitlin Bryson and Saša Spečal (U.S.A. / Slovenia)
Puffballs & Earthstars (5:45) – David Fenster (U.S.A.)
The Berserker and the Troll (8:36) – Alexander VanStone (U.S.A.)
Mushroom Water (2:35) – Roger Horn (U.S.A.)
Darwin's Balls (5:32) – Erik Nachtrieb (U.S.A.)

SESSION 1-B(OLETUS)

- Planet Fungi - Northeast India (50:00) – Catherine Marciniak and Stephen Axford (Australia / India)*

SESSION 2-A(MANITA)

- The Boat (5:10) – David Robinson & Bryan Michael Mills (U.K.)*
Harmonia (4:54) – Yvonne Mullock (Canada)
Fluxus Fungus (9:00) – Tuane Eggers (Brazil)
A Flower (9:34) – Pascal Gaubert (France)
Aura of a Wonderland (13:47) – John David Levy and Sierra Serban (U.S.A.)
Pink Mushroom Playing Synth (WT) (4:40) – Joke Van den Heuvel (Portugal)
Fungi Sanitatem (6:51) – Hamilton Pevec (U.S.A.)
Foraged (0:43) – Cassandra Ablola, Siena McKim, Matthew Meyer, and Jeff Corrigan (U.S.A.)
Life as a Lobster (2:55) – Emma Rose Browne and Andrea Kathleen Hendrickson (U.S.A.)

SESSION 2-B(OLETUS)

- Terres Amères (30:42) – Axel Cohen (France)*
Between the Trees (22:25) – Christian Lawes (U.K.)

SESSION 3-A(MANITA)

- A Mushroom Poem (1:33) – Jessica Fraser (Canada)*
Spineless (3:40) – Alison Pouliot (Switzerland)
The Future is Rotten (14:50) – Nancy Dionne (U.S.A.)
Voie Lactée: Le Roquefort, Le Camembert, & Le Valencay (5:40) – Ciprien Nozières (France)
Fungi (3:32) – Folk Music Liberation Front and Staffan Erlandsson (Sweden)
Let Things Rot (7:25) – Mateo Barrenengoa (Chile)
Mushroom Biomusic (8:33) – The Octopus Project (U.S.A.)
Solutions (Tiebreakers) (2:30) – Jennie E. Park (U.S.A.)
The Hat Ballad (5:32) – Nikodem Placzek (Poland)

SESSION 3-B(OLETUS)

- The Mushroom Speaks (89:00) – Marion Neumann (Switzerland)*



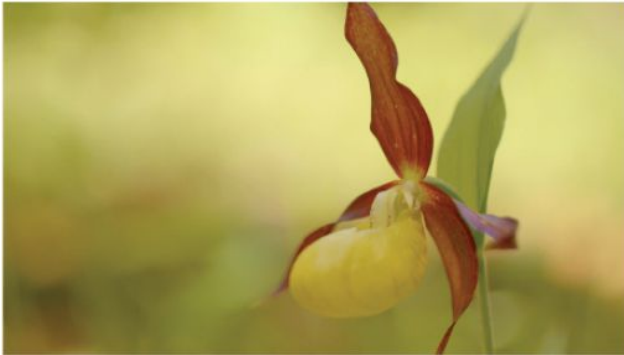
AURA OF A WONDERLAND (13:47)

John David Levy, Sierra Serban (USA)

An experimental short film loosely inspired by the photographic work of Justine Kurland and excerpts from Rebecca Bengal's short story, "The Jeremys". Part trance-state, part dance odyssey - *Aura of a Wonderland* follows a group of girls who after abandoning their vehicle in an act of rebellion set out on an uncharted hallucinogenic journey of discovery into the freedoms of what bonds each other, and the mysteries of nature to the wilderness of self.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

John David Levy is an independent filmmaker with a penchant for working with limited budgets and stolen locations. Leaning toward a bend in genres that intersects between contemplative, experimental, documentary, and dance cinema.



A FLOWER (09:34)

Pascal Gaubert (France)

In the shady slopes of the French Tarn gorge, a flower has just bloomed. She is called *Ladyslipper*.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Pascal Gaubert is a gardener and independent filmmaker specialized in wildlife short films. He is working in a region of Southern France called "Les Cevennes". Its films are used in schools and museums.



A MUSHROOM POEM

(01:33)

Jessica Fraser (Canada)

A mushroom wonders, "What if I could fly?" But it would feel lonely high up in the sky. A mushroom thinks back to its life on the ground. It feels right at home with its friends all around.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Jessica is a film studies student at the University of British Columbia. She is a filmmaker, dance teacher, and a member of the UBC Film Society.



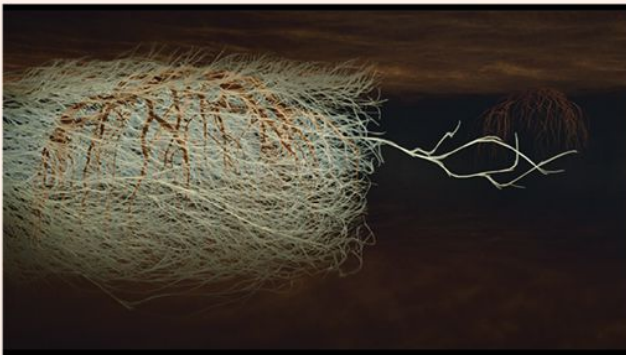
THE BERSERKER AND THE TROLL (08:36)

Alexander VanStone (USA)

Thurbrand, a leader living in exile, takes a small scouting party into a mountain wilderness to investigate the disappearance of 12 men over the past year. He is joined by a mysterious sorceress that gives him council during this deadly trial.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Alexander VanStone studied filmmaking at George Mason University in Virginia, Växjö University in Sweden, and Vancouver Film School in Canada. His major television crewing credits include Oprah's Next Chapter, Whale Wars, and The Ellen Degeneres Show. He is a student and practitioner of several historical martial arts, knowledge and experience he brought to the making of "The Berserker and The Troll."



BETWEEN THE TREES

(22:25)

Christian Lawes (UK)

Between the Trees immerses you in the forest as the hidden complexity of trees and the incredible community they create is revealed. We follow Arne's journey in the summer of 2020 as he emerges from a lockdown that deprived him from nature. He ventures deep into the Snowdonian rainforest as he explains the fascinating, slow-grown life of the forest, and tries to recapture a lost connection with nature.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Christian Lawes is a multi award-winning science and wildlife filmmaker, with a masters in Directing and Producing Science and Natural History. He is interested in exploring the fascinating complexity of the natural world and to promote care and conservation of nature and wildlife.



THE BOAT (05:10)

David Robinson, Bryan Michael Mills (UK)

A boat navigates a tumultuous sea of mushrooms whilst searching for her lost sister ship.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

David Robinson is an Irish artist based in London. For the past 10 years his artwork has combined his passion for photography and food, producing magnificent and highly original Fungi Luminograms in his east-end darkroom. His most recent book (and second for children) titled, 'Penny Bun Helps Save the World' was published in September 2018 by GOST. Bryan Mills is former guitarist of The Divine Comedy. His film score credits include Slow West (2015), Pitch black Heist (2012) and The Ice Skater (2020).



DARWIN'S BALLS (05:32)

Erik Nachtrieb (USA)

Re-discovery of an ancient fungus and its strange place in history. Returning from Antarctica Erik discovers a mysterious Beech tree fungus in the mountains of Ushuaia on Tierra del Fuego. Curiosity takes over and he follows the fungus through the history of the indigenous people, Darwin's voyage on the Beagle and into his mouth.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Erik Nachtrieb is an award-winning adventure film and TV producer, specializing in remote environment and expedition content, who's worked on all 7 continents. He's also a plant molecular geneticist and currently CEO of the SetJetters mobile app, which enables people to travel to film locations from their favorite movies.



FLUXUS FUNGI (09:00)

Tuane Eggers (Brazil)

Fluxus Fungus is an experimental personal story involving my relationship with fungi, through images that I made, mainly in 35mm, during the last years. The film is an unfolding of my master's research in Visual Arts, entitled The Poetics of Fungi. From these photographs, I created a narrative based on reflections inspired by readings by authors such as Anna Tsing, Donna Haraway, Paul Stamets and Peter McCoy.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Tuane Eggers is a journalist and a master in Visual Poetics. Her work in visual arts is focused on photography, with themes related to the flows and the impermanence of life. In her current research in the visual field, she investigates co-creation relationships with fungi.



FORAGED! (00:43)

Cassandra Ablola, Siena McKim, Matthew Meyer, Jeff Corrigan (USA)

You think you know foraging? Think again! Consumption is subjective.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

We are the San Diego Mycological Society, bringing fungi knowledge to the people of southern California and beyond! This is our first video for FFF, but we have done other videos for our society members including cooking and educational videos.



FUNGI (03:32)

Folk Music Liberation Front, Staffan Erlandsson (Sweden)

Jamaican singjay star Eek-a-Mouse meets radical electronic folk musician with nyckelharpa in Swedish forest. Song based on Böj-Olles Schottis.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Video produced and directed by FLF + Staffan Erlandsson. Camera and editing: Staffan Erlandsson. Animation: Anna Erlandsson. Crew: Pauli Sudra & Oliver Pasche. Runner: John Voldsta. Fungi footage with kind permission by Steve Axford, Tim Shepherd. Graffiti artists: Marc Alright & Holem.



FUNGOS SANITATEM

(06:51)

Hamilton Pevec (USA)

Fungos Sanitatem (working title) is a teaser for a feature length documentary that follows five people on their healing journeys with medicinal mushrooms. From spinal cord injuries to brain tumors. First hand testimony takes the viewer into the remarkable world of nearly miraculous healing.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Hamilton Pevec is a mycophile, filmmaker and amateur contemporary ethnomycologist with a passion for medicinal and functional mushrooms. His work explores the ecology of mycology making mushrooms fun, accessible and entertaining.



THE FUTURE IS ROTTEN

(14:50)

Nancy Dionne (USA)

Characters from Oregon and Northern California invite us into a forest, a mushroom farm and a kitchen to demonstrate what happens when we collaborate and share the greater value found right under our feet - the mushrooms that help to preserve our ecosystem and are still delicious on our plates.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Nancy Dionne is an award winning documentary filmmaker and photojournalist who likes taking people "to a threshold" by producing stories that create connections not yet considered, honoring the intelligence of nature, the human spirit and music.



GRATEFUL DEAN (08:20) *Gabriel Joncas, Kenzo Suzuki, and Guillaume Dubois (Canada)*

This portrait film follows Dean Robert, an eccentric self-sufficient mushroom cultivator who lives in an RV. It explores the adventurous and carefree van life, while also acknowledging that this reality can sometimes be deceptive.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Gabriel Joncas is a professional videographer from Québec. In the past years, he worked on french canadian TV (Musique-Plus, Vrak, CBC) and with Cirque du Soleil. He is teaming up with old time friends Guillaume Dubois (music composer) and Kenzo Suzuki (writer) for their debut film "Grateful Dean".



HARMONIA (04:54) *Yvonne Mullock (Canada)*

Harmonia is a short dream-like video that centres on a conjoined costume for two siblings. Hand-dyed with foraged fungi, this garment is made for a picnic experience based in togetherness. Functioning as a jacket-cum-picnic-blanket, Harmonia considers loss, materiality and potential of objects that motivates us into action.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Yvonne Mullock is a graduate from Glasgow School of Art and is currently based in Mohkinstsis/ Calgary, Alberta, Treaty 7 Territory. Mullock has received grants and awards from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Canada Council for the Arts and Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers. Her work is featured in private and public collections in Canada and the UK.

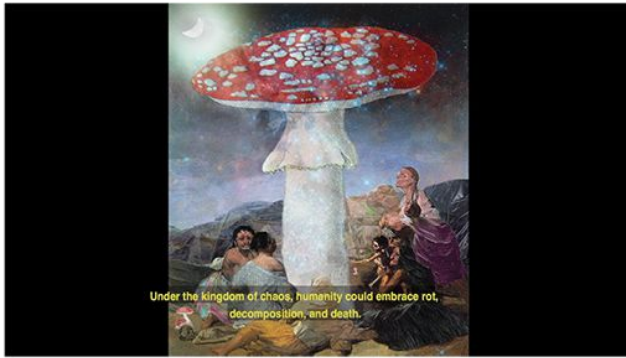


THE HAT BALLAD (08:38) *Nikodem Placzek (Poland)*

Formerly immeasurable and uninhabited space is beginning to be filled with life, which with the passage of time multiply and form its structures. However, not everything is developing at the same pace. A film was manufactured using vintage projector, stain glass paint and pearls among trash.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Nikodem Placzek - a Łódź-Silesian creator born in the 1999. A student of the National Film School in Łódź in the field of Animation. A graduate of the Fine Art School in Katowice. In his films, he uses mixed techniques, textures, light, and recycled elements.



KINGDOM FUNGI (02:14)

Kels Dee (USA)

A long time ago, a bifurcation occurred in human consciousness, when the understanding of power as a responsibility to nurture and regenerate life was replaced with a new idea of power: power is for domination and destruction. The former engendered a partnership based model for human civilization, promoting balance and harmony. The latter is the paradigm that humanity still exists in today, manifesting primarily as patriarchy. To return to partnership, we must bring our awareness to the light side of chaos and to the dark side of order.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Kels Dee loves the woods! Her soul is the wind that flows through the trees. She always looks forward to exploring the woods, too, for the fungi that live and create there help Kels appreciate the ancient mysteries of the universe.



LET THINGS ROT (07:25)

Mateo Barrenengoa (Chile)

This short film is a journey into the forest with Chilean mycologist Giuliana Furci who reflects on how the so called end of a life in fact leads to new beginnings. It features an original soundtrack composed by Enrique Barrenengoa and Elisabetta Monacelli and is narrated by Andy Thorstenson.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

During the last 14 years Mateo has been in nature filming and photographing various aspects of the natural and cultural heritage of Chile and the world. As a son of a photographer, he grew up around photography but focused much of his work around the conservation of nature and indigenous cultures. Through his documentaries he seeks to be a contribution in the important moment that we live as a society on the planet.



LIFE AS A LOBSTER (02:55)

Emma Rose Browne, Andrea Kathleen Hendrickson (USA)

“Life as a Lobster” features a mushroom who is amidst an existential identity crisis. She loves her forest home, but has always dreamed of joining her sea-faring family. Join on an adventurous tale of a heroine who finds her true self in this coming-of-age mycological adventure.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Emma Rose Browne is a filmmaker based in Portland, OR who specializes in visual storytelling for climate change solutions. Andrea Kathleen Hendrickson is an artist based in Portland, OR who focuses on painting, music, and multimedia projects.



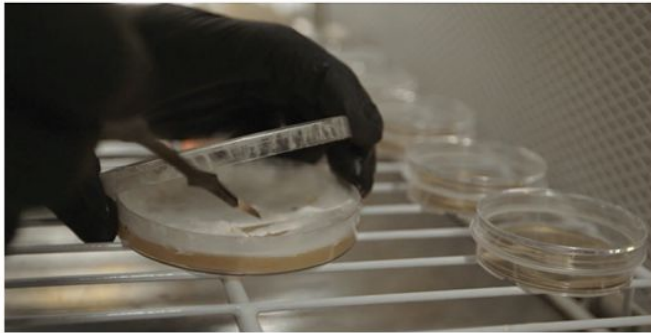
MUSHROOM BIOMUSIC: YELLOW OYSTER (08:33)

The Octopus Project (USA)

The Yellow Oyster video comes from a recent live mushroom audio/visual performance with various mushrooms providing the source material in real time — creating an ambient and meditative experience.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

The Octopus Project has been releasing joyous party music since 2002, following a musical path that veers through blown-out rock'n'roll, vibrant electronics, surreal pop and expansive psych landscapes.



THE MUSHROOM SPEAKS (89:00)

Marion Neumann (Switzerland)

Our era is one of unprecedented change and during this Great Acceleration, it will become increasingly necessary for all of us to move towards the fringes. What will we choose to do at those edges?

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Driven by her love of curious encounters, Marion Neumann is an intuitive filmmaker. Her work is rooted in personal experience, navigating between documentary and experimental approaches, weaving narratives between science, poetry, and contemporary social issues.



MUSHROOM WATER (02:35)

Roger Horn (Germany, Switzerland, Zimbabwe)

For health. for Healing. For Hallucinating. Based on real events.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Roger Horn is an artist and professor in the Visual & Media Anthropology MA program at HMKW Berlin. His films have screened widely at festival such as the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, Stuttgarter Filmwinter, and the 21st, 22nd, & 24th Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festivals.



MYCOMYTHOLOGIES: INFRASTRUCTURES FOR EACH OTHER (13:08)

Kaitlin Bryson, Saša Spačal (USA / Slovenia)

MycoMythologies: Infrastructures for Each Other summons human, mycelial and computer-vision-agencies to join together in a performance of entanglement, providing understanding that the practices of human and other-than-human infrastructures are made with and informed by one another.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Kaitlin Bryson is an ecological artist concerned with environmental and social justice. Saša Spacal is a postmedia artist working at the intersection of living systems research, contemporary and sound art.



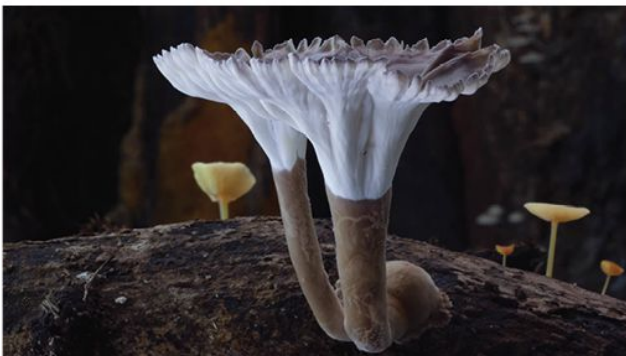
PINK MUSHROOM PLAYING SYNTH (04:40)

Joke Van den Heuvel (Portugal)

Based on the stories of “The Camille Stories: Children of Compost” by Donna Haraway, a new science fiction story is told representing 4 symbionts. The Pink Mushroom symbolizes hope on earth, resisting the apocalyptic thinking of having to flee to another planet.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Joke Van den Heuvel, a visual artist living and working between Belgium and Portugal, engages in nonlinear storytelling through a practice of collecting and registering with a need to ask what else is going on.



PLANET FUNGI - NORTHEAST INDIA (50:00)

Catherine Marciniak, Stephen Axford (Australia / India)

In the ultimate armchair travel adventure, the hero of fungi lovers across the globe, photographer Stephen Axford, is on the hunt for the answers we all want to know. What fungi is edible? What fungi is poisonous? And, why do scientists now think fungi is absolutely essential to life on this planet?

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Presenter, photographer and time-lapse videographer Stephen Axford's images of mushrooms have featured in leading science and nature magazines across the globe. Catherine has worked as a Senior Features Reporter at Australia's public broadcaster the ABC.



PUFFBALLS & EARTHSTARS (05:45)

David Fenster (USA)

A sonic, visual, celebration of some of the puffballs and earthstars I've loved and assisted in spore dispersement.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

David Fenster's films link the cultural and historical with the ecological and mystical — celebrating the specificity of a particular place. His work has shown at the Museum of Modern Art, Sundance Film Festival, the New York Times, HBO, the Hammer Museum, and many other museums, festivals and media outlets.



SOLUTIONS (TIE BREAKER) (02:30)

Jennie E. Park (USA)

Here, clouds of lichen anchor and buoy the test and dream of democracy; the color break in the ties indicates not a “winner,” but the deconstruction of the oppositional, violent logic of “other” itself.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Jennie E. Park is an artist, writer and curator interested in interdisciplinarity, integrated approaches to healing and honesty, and structural social change.



SPINELESS (03:40)

Alison Pouliot (Switzerland)

SPINELESS spotlights myriad tiny spineless lives and their intimate alliances with fungi. From gastropod politics to blowfly banquets, fungi provide the stage for endless arthropod antics. The foundation of forest life, fungi offer invertebrates haunts and hideouts, fodder and feasts, albeit with the occasional skirmish and showdown. The forest floor thrums with frenzied enterprise, but when the ruckus gets too much, a forest elder has the final word.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Alison Pouliot is an ecologist and photographer with a special interest in forgotten corners and lifeforms; the fungal, the spineless and those that slip between the cracks.



SYMFAUNIC (07:37)

UCF School of Visual Arts and Design (USA)

A young faun named Clove challenges the harmony of her forest glade when her new taste in music clashes with her brother's teachings. The way her radical new style affects the forest around them goes at odds with everything Cornelius knows of tradition and stability, and he must choose between her happiness and his role in keeping the sanctity of their home.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

The Symfaunic Team is a group of 13 up-and-coming student animators from the University of Central Florida. Led by directors Erin Bergin and Darby Kate Snyder, our team worked for two years to produce and develop this heartfelt story about family, fauns, flowers, and psychedelic fungi.



TERRES AMÈRES (30:42)

Axel Cohen (France)

"Terres Amères" is a film on mushrooms and their abilities to revitalize desolated lands. The film also questions the industrial mindset and its capacity to work with natural elements such as fungi.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Born in France but raised in California until I was 11, I always dreamed of working in the film industry. I started my career as a Paris-based editor working for different French artists. A few years and ideas later, I wanted to have a shot at filmmaking. That's when I've been accepted into Luc Besson's film school and started making films of my own.



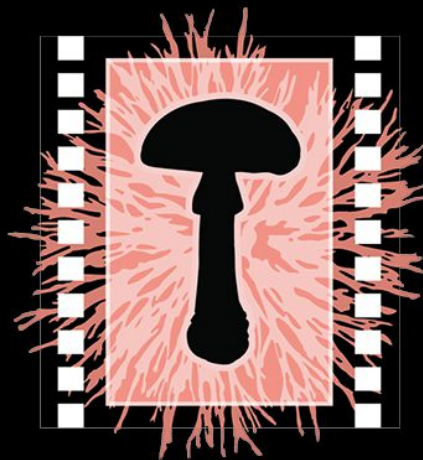
VOIE LACTÉE: LE ROQUEFORT, LE CAM-EMBERT, & LE VALEN-CAY (05:40)

Cyprien Nozières (France)

The series of 10 short films Voie Lactée uses different forms of cheese to showcase the conflicts between human modernity and nature. (3 of these short films will be playing in the FFF).

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

I started my career as a Paris-based editor working for different French artists. A few years and ideas later, I wanted to have a shot at filmmaking. That's when I've been accepted into Luc Besson's film school and started making films of my own.



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