

CREATIVE WOLLONGONG

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2026

Short films
about birds
by local
film makers



Program

Presented by



Our line-up of short films inspired by birds includes:

The 'best of' Creative Wollongong Short Film Competition entries.



Pitched films created in partnership with Screen Illawarra and supported by Moonlander Media, Relativity Films, Sketchbook TV, Eye Candy Productions, Who & Why Media and TEN ALPHAS.



Commissioned films created by Bus Stop Films, Coequal and TEN ALPHAS who were supported by Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.



We're announcing the winners with **\$4,600 worth of prizes** tonight!

Plus...

A musical performance by Rare Birdz [facebook.com/rarebirdz](https://www.facebook.com/rarebirdz)

Our judges



Vincent
Sheehan



Ian
Collie



Yael
Stone



Skye
Netting

Screening

8.20pm - 10.50pm

Nhandi (15:00)

Produced by **The Tides Project** and the **Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program**.

A poetic story told through young voices, Nhandi imagines the first encounters between Aboriginal people of the Illawarra coast and newcomers arriving by sea.

BIN DAY (13:41)

Written and directed by **Jane Fullerton-Smith**. Produced by **India Goss Maher** and **Jane Fullerton-Smith**.

Household CEO, Janet, goes head-to-head with her octogenarian neighbour and serial city council complainer, Alice, over rubbish in the wrong bin.

The Exotic Birds of the Illawarra (4:32)

Written, directed and produced by **Butterfly Panther** (**Lisa Hughes** and **Christian Power**).

Immerse yourself in the natural sounds of the Illawarra as we fly past some of the area's fabulous 'human birds'.

The Day (4:16)

Written and directed by the students of **Five Islands Secondary College**.

A student schedules a day to be brave about who they really are even though it's scary.

Faye (14:11)

Written by **Rose Newland** and **Naomi Bird** and directed by **Rose Newland**. Produced by **Adriana Mazevski, Rose Newland** and **TEN ALPHAS (Nick Bolton and Jess Milne)**.

A burnt-out PR executive for a fossil fuel company escapes a toxic waste scandal, only to be confronted by fey forest guardians and forced to reckon with the damage her work has caused.

Early Bird Gets the Noise Complaint (12:22)

Written and directed by **Hugo Parrish** and **Max Cadzow-Smith**.

Merv's comfortable office job begins to unravel when his peace and quiet is ravaged by an incessant chirping noise. Could it be a Machiavellian plot at his expense - or just some bird?

MiMic (11:11)

Written and directed by **Glenn Hanns** and produced by **Sketchbook Media**.

When a lyrebird's song carries echoes of his lost father, a young sound recordist is lured deep into the rainforest, chasing voices that blur the line between memory and madness. Seeing her son's slow demise, his mother makes a stand to save him before he brings down the whole family.

Firebird (12:31)

Directed by **Elkie Chadwick** and written by **Milly James, Michael Theo** and **Elkie Chadwick**. Produced by **Eye Candy Productions**.

A creative son clashes with his dyed-in-the-wool father's rigid idea of masculinity.

Bogan Bird (5:11)

Written by **Holly Trenaman**. Directed by **Holly Trenaman** and **Tyrone McCrystal**. Produced by **Holly Trenaman (Holly Would)**.

A guy has a date at his house, only for her to be attacked by his resident bogan bird. Noisy miner birds are one of Australia's least favourite birds, but you've never seen one like this.

The Things We Bury (8:42)

Directed by **Nuno Dias**. Written by **Nicole Stojanovska**. Produced by **Nicole Stojanovska** and **Nuno Dias (Parthenope Pictures)** and **Adriana Mazevski. (Sensitive Content – mentions of baby loss)**

A poignant Macedonian-Australian short film about resilience, heritage and the unspoken truths binding a granddaughter and her grandmother.

River of Destiny (14:59)

Written by **Fenn Idle, Jack Tickner** and **Corey McCrossin**. Directed by **Jack Tickner** and **Fenn Idle**. Produced by **Jack Tickner, Fenn Idle, Corey McCrossin** and **Yanni Cvetanovic**.

Bumbling Corey heads forest ward in search of rare birds with free-spirit Jack in tow. The trail takes its toll on our intrepid travellers as they traverse... the River of Destiny.

A Failed Attempt at Murder (0:29)

Written and animated by **Kaylee Wachs Robb**.

A greedy crow gets more than he bargains for when he attempts to murder a snack.

Groundwalker (3:21)

Written and directed by **Alana Maclean-Dowling**. Produced by **Alana Maclean-Dowling** and **Jesse Peak**.

An ancient creature wanders through the forest, tracing memory as it comes to accept a choiceless fate.

Mama Bird (12:17)

Directed by **Kean Murrell-Snape** and written by **Ruth Lerner**. Produced by **Relativity Films. (Sensitive Content – mentions of baby loss)**

Devastated by the loss of her baby, Brontë discovers a bird's nest in her backyard, and with it, an unconventional way to process her grief.

We Rise Together (12:20)

Written by **Angela Blake** with **James Carey, Mackenzie Costar, Brandon Fairley, Ricky Gamble, Rowena Jenner, Zachary Parker, Dylan Poole, Heather Ridge, Savannah Simpson, Bella Witcher** and **Steve Wilson-Alexander**. Directed by **Angela Blake**. An inclusively made co-production by **Ironbark Films (Julian Neuhaus), Bus Stop Films (Tracey Corbin-Matchett and Dianna La Grassa)** and **SF3**.

1 ball, 8 players and a common goal; to be a champion, in life and in basketball. We Rise Together was made inclusively with the Wollongong Bus Stop Films class.

Birdwatcher (07:25)

Written and directed by **Vladimir Zokitch (Zokitch Creative Studio)** in association with **Who and Why Media**. Produced by **Adriana Mazevski**.
“Follow your heart, it may lead you to the most unexpected places.”

Awards

Best Film & Second place (12-18 years): category 1

Best Film & Second place (19+): category 2

Best Film & Second place (commissioned films): category 3

Best performance: category 1

Best performance: category 2

Best performance: category 3

Emerging actor award



Thank you to our partners and supporters



Produced by Wollongong City Council in partnership with Screen Illawarra, the Creative Wollongong Short Film Competition and Festival have been supported by:

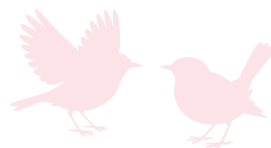
Sunset Cinema, Coequal, Bus Stop Films, Guardians of the Grassy Woodlands project (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water), The Lake Illawarra Coastal Management Program, ITeC Academy, TAFE NSW, TEN ALPHAS, Yours & Owls, Illawarra Film Society, Moonlander Media, Relativity Films, Sketchbook TV, Eye Candy Film Productions, Who & Why Media, Geoff Platts from BIG WORD VIDEO, Five Islands Secondary College, Ironbark Films and Shellharbour Council.

A huge thank you also to:

Nick Bolton and Anna Churven, Ashleigh Murray, Lucy Loft, Beth Mott, Phillip Crawford, Chantel Pickett, Trudy Costa, Greg Fickers, Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation, Aunty Jodi Edwards, Rare Birdz and all the film makers.

Our judges: **Vincent Sheehan, Ian Collie, Yael Stone** and **Skye Netting**.

Find out more at: www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/short-film



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Settle in and enjoy our jam-packed program
of short films which have all been locally
created here in the Illawarra.