

Southern African Forum for Independent Animators
PRESENTS 2025

smallanyana animation festival

celebrating independent

African storytelling

MKWANAZI THEATRE
KINGSMEAD COLLEGE
SAT 1 FEB 15H00

TEN SECONDS
ENTRIES

LANDSCAPE
HD 1920x1080
H264 mp4



hand made films



TICKETS@

Quicket

forum@independentanimators.africa

Kingsmead College, 132 Oxford Rd, ROSEBANK, JHB



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SAT 1 FEB 2025
15H00 to 17H00
FESTIVAL PROGRAM

KINGSMEAD COLLEGE
132 OXFORD RD JHB



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Quicket

WELCOME ADDRESS

Smallanyana Animated Festival intro (1 min)
Southern African Forum for Independent Animators (3 mins)

COMPILATION: TEN SECONDS

TEN SECONDS entries (3 mins)

ANIMATIONS PART 01

A Little Bird ABC by Diek Grobler & Piet Grobler (6 mins)
Ruby & Roach by Erentia Bedeker & Dorette Nel (9 mins)
What in the world is that? by Teboho Moreki (4 mins)

DISCUSSION: WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Rat Race by Victor de Oliveira (10 mins)
Tigs by Diek Grobler & Marie-Claire Bonney Verhaeghe (10 mins)

ANIMATIONS PART 02

Little Teaspoon of Sugar by Cabblo Studios (12 mins)
Wildlife Cameraman by Erentia Bedeker (3 mins)
Yellow Daisy Butterfly by Bianca Juliette O'Neill (10 mins)

CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DISCUSSION: Q&A

Producers, directors, scriptwriters, and animators answer audience questions on how they made their animated films (20 mins)

ANIMATIONS PART 03 PARENTAL GUIDANCE

First Kiss by katty vandenbergh, Anni Snyman, & Eugenie Grobler (4 mins)
Flower Of The Partisan by Catherine Sofianos & Charles Badenhorst (11 mins)

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hand made films





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TEN SECONDS ENTRIES
DEADLINE 26 JANUARY
1920X1080 MP4 H264



COMPILATION: TEN SECONDS

The 'TEN SECONDS' animation sketches compilation concept is borrowed from Russian animators Sasha Svirsky and Nadia Svirskai who started the 'Shcha 7 sec Animated Film Festival'. Professional and amateur animators are invited to enter ten second digital and traditional hand-crafted animation clips, inclusive of brief title and credit sequences. The animations are compiled into a single screening session, representing projects in development, experimental animation, and completed ten second projects from amateur, student, and professional animators alike. Audience members are invited to provide feedback and inputs. Entry fees are not applicable.

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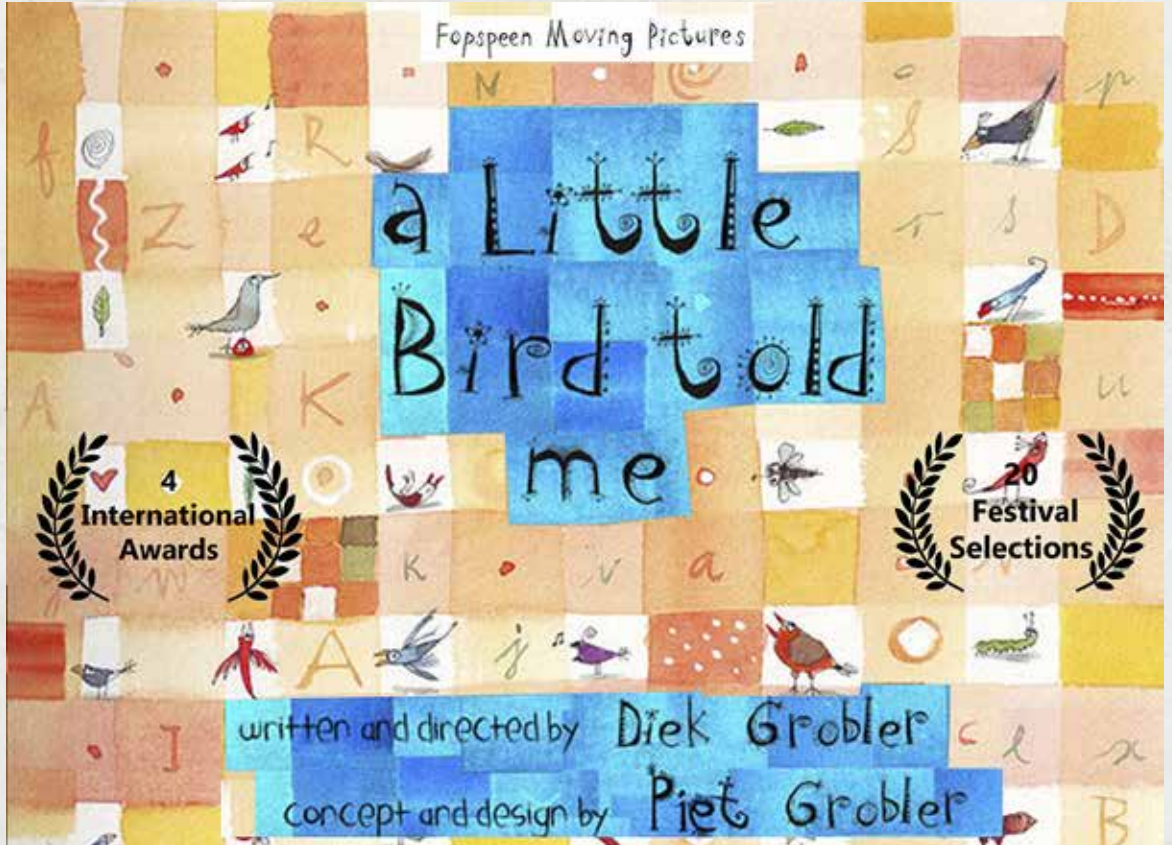
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THE LITTLE BIRD ABC
DIEK GROBLER & PIET GROBLER
3 MINUTES



ANIMATIONS PART 01

The Little Bird ABC is based on the book 'Het Vogeltjes ABC' by international picture book artist, Piet Grobler. The viewer is introduced to many little birds and their take on the alphabet. The letters of the alphabet are introduced phonetically with unexpected noises the little birds make in response to situations they find themselves in. Although aimed at the pre-school audience, the sophisticated charm of the silly birds also entertains adults.

Written and directed by Diek Grobler. STUDIO: FOPSPEEN MOVING PICTURES.

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RUBY & ROACH
ERENTIA BEDEKER & DORETTE NEL
9 MINUTES



ANIMATIONS PART 01

Perceived as being uniquely weird and out of place, two stuffed toys stuck on an airport shop 'for sale' shelf embark on a daring escape. **Ruby & Roach** took two years to complete, and is the animators' first independent short film. With hand-crafted cut-out artwork on layered levels of glass, this stop-frame animation uses traditional animation techniques to great effect. Without dialogue, the animators' challenge is to express emotion and narrative flow through movement, staging, and character design. The soundscape and musical score add vital layers of meaning and mood for each scene. The lack of dialogue contributes to the films' international appeal. Directed and animated by Erentia Bedeker, written and produced by Dorette Nel. STUDIO: ABYSS SOUTH AFRICA

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WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?
TEBOHO MOREKI
4 MINUTES



ANIMATIONS PART 01

In *What in the World Is That?*, a young boy struggles with the looming presence of the Anxiety Monster—a dark, ever-present force that weighs him down with fear and self doubt. As the monster grows larger and more overwhelming, the boy realizes that the only way to defeat it is by confronting his own inner strength. With determination, courage, and self-compassion, he faces his fears head-on, discovering that his own resilience is the key to breaking free. This empowering short film explores the journey of overcoming mental struggles through self-belief and inner strength. A film by Teboho Moreki. STUDIO: BUSYMOON.

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WORK-IN-PROGRESS
VICTOR DE OLIVEIRA & DIEK GROBLER
20 MINUTES



DISCUSSION: WORK-IN-PROGRESS

Rat Race by Victor de Oliveira. In the shadowy Vagabond Streets, every rat racer—known as a vagabond—dreams of catching those elusive, rare, street-racing cars that appear without warning. Their origins are a mystery, but every vagabond lives for the thrill of the chase. On a treacherous mountain track, four rivals face off.

Tigs by Diek Grobler & Marie-Claire Bonny Verhaeghe. Marie-Claire has a very rare syndrome called Blepharophimosis Odho-type, akin to Downs Syndrome. Two years ago her best friend in the whole world died. As a way to console her, Diek Grobler suggested that she draw Tigs, and that he would animate her stories as a way to keep Tigs' memory alive.

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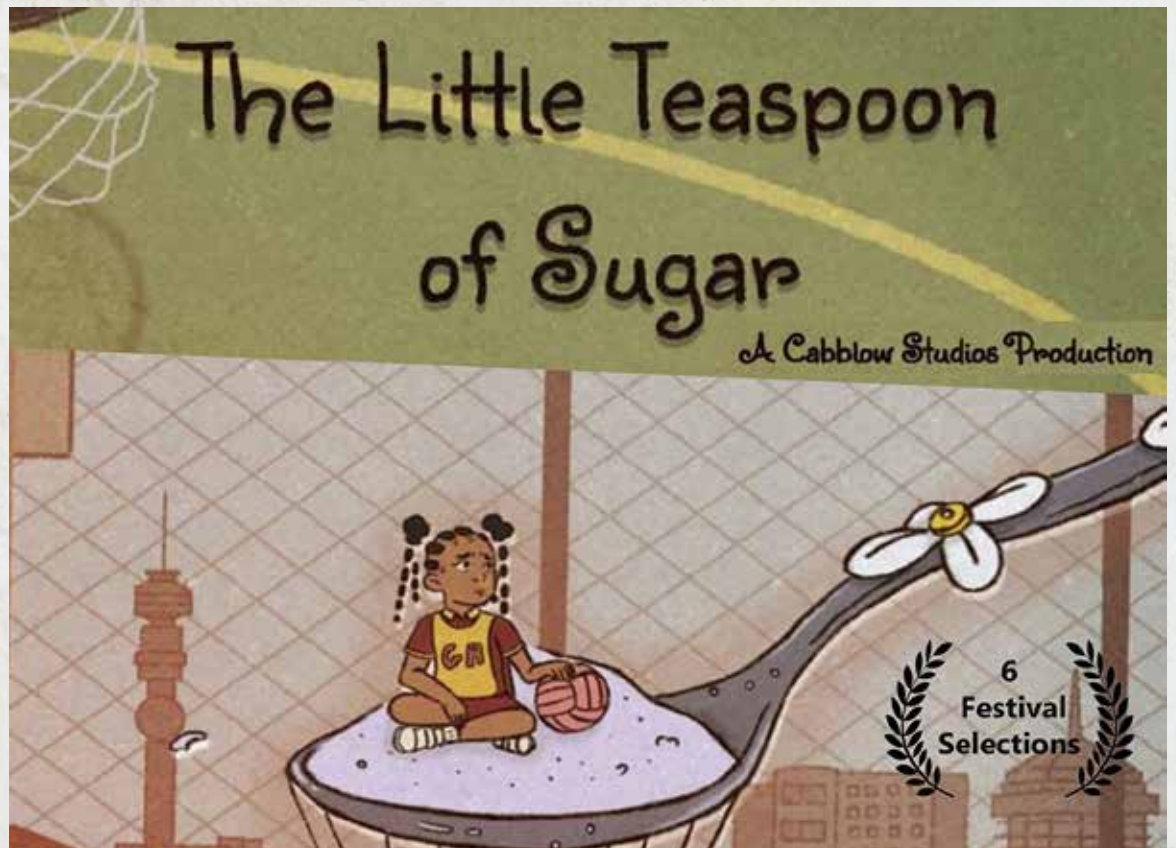
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LITTLE TEASPOON OF SUGAR
CABBLOW STUDIOS
12 MINUTES



ANIMATIONS PART 02

The Little Teaspoons of Sugar is a short animated film about a young girl whose life is changed when she is diagnosed with type 1 Diabetes. The film is inspired by real-life experiences when a friend's daughter felt very unwell with an undiagnosed condition. The producer, a medical doctor, tested the daughter's blood sugar level and discovered it was four times higher than normal, a potentially lethal condition. The daughter was rushed to an intensive care unit where she was stabilised. She is now a young woman about to start her university career.

The Little Teaspoon of Sugar was directed by Kabelo Maaka and produced by her mother, Dr Tshepo P. Maaka, as part of the animation company they founded together: STUDIO: CABBLOW STUDIOS.

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WILDLIFE CAMERAMAN
ERENTIA BEDEKER
3 MINUTES



ANIMATIONS PART 02

Wildlife Cameraman (Summer Farm) (2023) is a music video and poetry film based on the poem “Summer Farm” by Scottish poet Norman MacCaig, with music and lyrics by Scott William Urquhart and Constant Follower. McCaig’s poem looks outward to nature, noticing the simplistic details that become a metaphysical web connecting all living things. The expansiveness of nature often triggers an inward journey when we feel disconnected from ourselves and the world around us. The true self manifests as the inner child who is always true and pure, no matter what hardships we might face. ‘Wildlife Cameraman (Summer Farm)’ is taken from the album ‘Even Days Dissolve’. Directed and animated by Erentia Bedeker of South Africa. STUDIO: WRECKLESS CREATIVE.

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YELLOW DAISY BUTTERFLY
BIANCA JULIETTE O'NEILL
10 MINUTES



ANIMATIONS PART 02

Seven-year-old Cheri-Lee has a close bond with her sixty-nine-year-old grandmother, Daisy. Together they explore gardening and discover a butterfly laying her eggs on a leaf nearby a daisy flower. And so begins an important life journey of sorrow and discovery. Inspired by real-life events by the author and her students. The journey of making *Yellow Daisy Butterfly* was challenging and mirrored the authors' own grieving process, teaching her how important empathy is in the process of healing. After watching the film, children around the world have expressed relatability in their own experiences of loss and grief. Written and produced by Bianca Juliette O'Neill. Directed by Diek Grobler. STUDIO: PURPLE TULIP.

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THE FIRST KISS
KATTY VANDENBERGHE, ANNI SNYMAN
& EUGENIE GROBLER 4 MINUTES



ANIMATIONS PART 03 PARENTAL GUIDANCE

katty vandenberghé, Eugenie Grobler, and Anni Snyman often work as a creative team when they participate in their first poetry animation film. Intimidated by the illustrious company, poetic audience, and implied labour, Anni selects the shortest poem in the anthology. As it turned out, 'Die Eerste Soen' (The First Kiss) by Danie Marais took months of exploration in order to capture the emotions and experiences of longing, love, and belonging. Finally, Anni was able to find her rhythm in the poetic meaning of her Buddha board drawings, which katty choreographed, framed, and sequenced into an animated film. In turn, Eugenie responds to the creative conversation with her music. All three creative voices play their collaborative role in honouring and supporting this poetic project.

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FLOWER OF THE PARTISAN
CATHERINE SOFIANOS & CHARLES BADENHORST
11 MINUTES

Directed by Charles Badenhorst

Written by Catherine Sofianos

THE FLOWER OF THE PARTISAN



ANIMATIONS PART 03 PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Flower of the Partisan is based on Greek-Mozambican Dimitri Tsafendas' political motivations and sacrifice. His life story is about finding courage in the face of futility, hopelessness, loss, and disappointment. Despite it all, Tsafendas still manages to find joy.

With a big dream and a small budget, first-time film-maker Catherine Sofianos collaborated closely with experienced animator, Charles Badenhorst, producing an award-winning film she is really proud of.

Catherine Sofianos wrote, produced, and assisted as director, while Charles Badenhorst directed and animated. STUDIO: SOFIWORX.

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CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
SOUTHERN AFRICAN FORUM FOR INDEPENDENT ANIMATION
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Independent animation is an exciting medium that offers creators greater artistic freedom, pouring a little bit of their creative soul into each project. With small budgets and even smaller teams, independent animators present a unique opportunity in telling stories and using techniques inspired by regional narratives and crafts.

The Southern African Forum for Independent Animators is focused on encouraging collaborative projects and relationships between practitioners from a wide range of specialisations and crafts. By building a support system, a network of skills, and a platform for new voices in this growing art form, animators and storytellers can build a uniquely Southern African artform and voice.

This festival would not be possible without Diek Grobler who founded the Southern African Forum for Independent Animators, curated the animations, and compiled the programme. Equally we extend our thanks to katty vandenberghé for designing the festival brand, marketing materials, and managing our website. To Pieter Lombaard we say thanks for bringing his technical guru skills and can-do problem-solving approach in screening the festival. Dorette Nel was tasked with keeping everything and everyone on track as we launch our first Smallanyana Animation Festival. Thanks goes to Catherine Sofianos for helping to name and launch the festival in Johannesburg. We also extend our thanks to Kailin Pillay, head of department of Arts at Kingsmead College in Johannesburg, for hosting us in their beautiful theatre venue.

Most importantly of all, a very big thank you to all the independent film makers who allowed us to showcase their internationally honoured animations. And finally, thanks goes to you, the audience who come to support our animators and the launch of this festival. We also extend our thanks to the National Film and Video Foundation and the Gauteng Film Fund for their continued support of the animation sector. Many of these films were made possible thanks to their support.

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