



Welcome to the 13th Annual Rochester International Children's Film Festival!

Join us as we honor the *Month of the Young Child* with the work of artistic filmmakers! This Festival collection includes two programs of films for children - one for younger children, one for children 4th grade & up - that creatively illustrate life and imagination.

Many of the films have received significant awards. Several of the films have even been made with children involved in the creative process! There are films from all across the world - including France, Russia, Estonia, Croatia, Germany, Georgia and more! AND... one of the films was made right here in Rochester!

In our effort to link quality film work with literature, the Festival will distribute, free to groups viewing the films, a selection of Scholastic books as well as *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Brown.

The Viewers' Guide is designed to enhance the learning and enjoyment of young viewers. Each program runs ~60 minutes. Use the DVD in a way that works best for your group - one or two films at a time or at one sitting with moments for introductions and discussion. Before viewing each film, pause briefly to introduce it using the vocabulary words and discussion questions as starters. Once the film is over, encourage discussion. *What did the viewers and children notice? What was fun? What was thought-provoking?* Book suggestions offer follow-up ideas; activity and movement suggestions add opportunities to learn and grow. We welcome your creativity and look forward to hearing about your group's experience!

Thank you!

PROGRAM ONE:

For younger kids (and those young at heart!)



JOURNEY

Croatia, 2017, nonverbal, 2:05 minutes

Made by children under the direction of Nikolic & Nika Bozic, Foto Kino Video Club Zaprešić

Awards:

- Best Film, FOCUS Children's Int'l Film Festival, Toronto, Canada
- Best Film, Young Filmmakers, 17th Int'l Short Film Fest, Estonia
- 2nd Prize, Animated Film, Croatian Children's Film Creation, Sisak



A beautiful red bird is released from her cage so she can deliver a very special message.

Vocabulary: flight, journey, message

Related Books:

- *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- *Ellie* by Mike Wu
- *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds

Discussion questions:

- Do you think the red bird flew back?
- Do you think she brought a message back with her? What did it look like?
- What different ways are there to send messages to people?

Activity/Moving with the Movies:

- Finger painting using primary colors
- Paint with your feet on long sheets of white paper!



FUNNY FISH

France/Switzerland, 2018, 2D Computer, 6:21 minutes

Directed by Krishna Nair

In the middle of the ocean, a group of fish and a whale gather to rescue a fish bobbing strangely on the surface of the water.

Vocabulary: floating, curious, ocean

Related Books:

- *The Rainbow Fish*
- *Pout Pout Fish*
- *Finding Nemo*
- For a "teamwork" theme: *How the Crayons Saved the Rainbow* by Monica Sweeney

Discussion questions:

- How deep is the ocean? How do we get there?
- Can we breathe underwater?

Activities:

- Keeping balloons in the air
- Trying balloons in the water table - experiment...is it harder push it under the water filled with air or empty?
- (sidenote: balloons can only be used in UPK rooms due to choking hazard)



MIRIAM'S HEN'S DREAM

Estonia, 2017, Stop Motion, Puppets, nonverbal, 5 minutes
Directed by Andres Tenusaar, Nukufilm Studios

A tale of a plucky chicken looking to join the geese flying south for the winter!



AWARDS:

- Nukufilm projects have won more than 150 awards from international festivals

Vocabulary: migration, seasons, goals, determination

Related Books:

- *The Little Red Hen*

Discussion Questions:

- Why do geese fly south for the winter?
- What are the different ways the hen tried to make his dream come true?
- Why was he happy in the end?

Activities: Pack a play suitcase to go on your dream trip!



MY HAGGAN DREAM

US, 2016, Live Action, 8:16 minutes
Produced and Directed by Laura & Rob Sams, Stephani Gordon

On the island of Saipan, a young girl's mysterious dream about a haggan, or green sea turtle, leads her to investigate the sea turtles that live around her home.



Vocabulary: sea, tortoise, salt water, snorkeling

Related Books:

- *Sea Turtles* by Gail Gibbons

Discussion Questions:

- Do we have sea turtles here in Rochester?
- What's the difference between salt water and fresh water?

Activities:

Make thumb print sea turtles in the ocean



PIONEERS OF THE UNIVERSE

Russia, 2017, nonverbal, 5:21 minutes

Directed by:

An elevator operator dreams of going up in space!



Vocabulary: astronaut, cosmonaut, spacesuit, training

Related Books:

- *I Am Enough* by Grace Byers and *Rosie Revere Engineer* by Andrea Beaty, for a mighty women theme
- *The Full Moon at the Napping House* by Audrey Wood and Don Wood, for a space theme
- *Papa, Please Get the Moon for Me* by Eric Carle, for a space

theme

- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown

Discussion Questions:

- Can an elevator go into space?
- Have women gone into space before? Have senior citizens?

Activities:

- Build rockets out of foil; design rocket ships out of hollow blocks; create space pictures with white chalk on black paper; make capes



POCKET MAN

France/Switzerland/Georgia, 2017, Non-Verbal, 7:30 minutes

Directed by Ana Chubinidze

Being little in a world full of big people has its challenges!

Vocabulary: possessions, blind, neighbors

Related Books:

- *There's a Wocket in My Pocket* by Dr. Seuss
- *A Pocket for Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt De La Pena - for helping one another theme
- *Stick and Stone* by Beth Ferry and Tom Lichtenheld
- *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller

Discussion Questions:

- Why was it so hard for the Pocket Man to live in his box? What would have made it easier?

Activities:

- Make paper pockets and determine what size items will fit inside - sorting big and little
- Sing "There's Something in my Pocket"
- Sing "We Are Friends - (Peacekeeping Skills)," adapted by Denise Ondishko and M'Lou Speranza on the RCSD website: <http://www.handspeak.com>



SESAME: TOTEMS Family Song

US, 1:50 minutes

Directed by Mark Taylor, Sesame Studios

The Totems celebrate all different kinds of families!

Vocabulary: diversity, relatives

Related Books:

- *We are All Alike, We Are All Different* by Cheltenham Elementary Kindergartners and Laura Dwight
- *Families Families Families* by Suzanne Lang and Max Lang
- *Shades of People* by Sheila M. Kelly

Discussion Questions:

- What's your favorite memory about one of your grandparents?

Activities:

- Draw/paint pictures of your family
- Use wood pieces to create totem families
- Sing "We Are a Family Under One Sky"



THE SNOWFLAKE

Russia, nonverbal, 5:43 minutes

Directed by Natalia Chernysheva

An African boy and his animal friends wake up to find a winter wonderland thanks to a mysterious gift.

Vocabulary: hut, village, snowfall

Related Books:

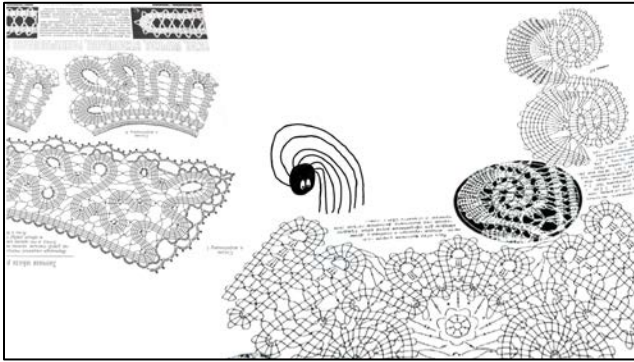
- *The African Rain Song*
- *The Snowy Day*
- *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Brown

Discussion question:

- Why did the boy put the snowflake in the fire?
- What did the boy put in the envelope to send back, and why?

Activities:

- Make sticks out of paper towel holders
- Make shakers out of paper plates folded in half
- make coffee can drums
- create the African plain and play with elephants, zebras, giraffes, ostriches, hippos
- Eat a treat of Tangarines; try to balance baskets of fruit on your head during large group



SPIDERWEB

Russia, 2017, nonverbal, 4:05 minutes
Directed by Natalia Chernysheva

A spider becomes inspired by the intricate lace patterns he finds in a book.

AWARDS:

- Winner, RTS Kids Prize, Black Movie Film Festival
- Winner, Audience Award Short Films, NY Int'l Children's Film Festival

Vocabulary: web, lace, pattern

Related Books:

- *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle
- *The Itsy Bitsy Spider* by Iza Trapani
- *The Itsy Bitsy Spider* by Constanza Basaluzzo

Discussion questions:

- Why do you think the woman was afraid of the spider?
- Why did the spider undo his web?

Activities:

- Make spiders out of pipe cleaners
- Make marshmallow pretzel stick spiders and eat them
- Sing "There's a Spider on the Floor" by Raffi
- Finger play *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*



THE WORLD'S TINIEST MAN

France/Argentina, 2017, Stop Motion/Live Action, nonverbal, 1:10 min.
Directed by Juan Pablo Zaramella

When you are 15 cm tall, it's hard to find a sweater that fits just right!

AWARDS:

- Winner, IASS Golden Kukur
- Best Animation, Festival International Chilemonos

Vocabulary: tiny, salesperson, frustrated, laundromat

Related Books:

- *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle

Discussion questions:

- Why did the tiny man buy the sweater that was too big?
- Why did the sweater fit just right in the end?

Activities: Plant tiny seeds and watch them grow!



TROMPETISIMO

Belgium, 2017, 1:51 minutes

Made by children aged 7-9 at the mobile animation film studio Kidscam, with the help of audiovisual artists

A variety of musical instruments celebrate with vibrant music!

Vocabulary: instrument, xylophone, orchestra

Related Books:

- *The Shape of Things* by Dayle Ann Dodds
- *Mouse Shapes* by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Discussion question: What is your favorite instrument?

Activities:

- Make shape creations out of circles, rectangles and triangles
- Make guitars with rubber bands or elastic and cereal boxes



THE TEACHER & THE KIDS FUN SONG

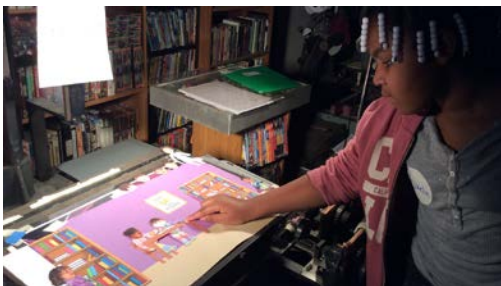
+ ["The Making of"](#)

US, 2018, Animation, 4 minutes

Directed by Dave Puls, Animatus Studios, with students from the School #8 YMCA Afterschool Program.

Produced by the Rochester International Children's Film Festival.

Kids from Rochester sing and share about their school life, having fun and working with teachers, and what subjects they like best.



Vocabulary: report card, volcano, animation

Related Books:

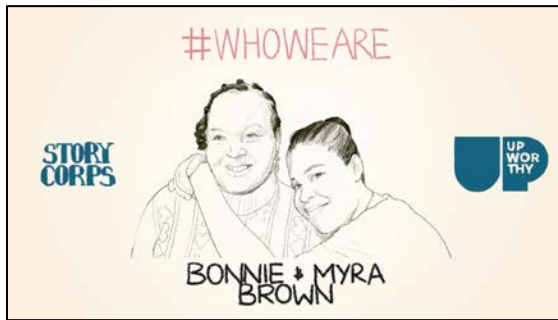
- *The Wheels on the Bus*

Discussion questions:

- How does the music make you feel?
- What's a fun thing you like to do with your teacher?
- What's the best part of your school day?

PROGRAM TWO:

For children 4th grade and up



STORY CORPS: #WHO WE ARE: BONNIE & MYRA BROWN

US, 2017, 2:39 minutes
Directed by Richard O'Connor

A teen interviews her intellectually disabled mother.

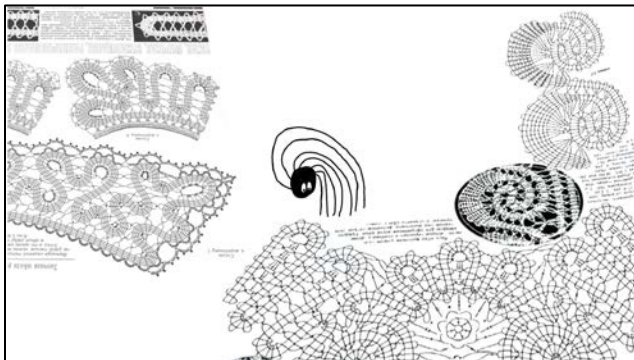


HELLO PAPA

Germany, 2016, nonverbal, 4:54 minutes
Directed by Dan Franke

A young girl uses the power of art to enlighten her dark world and reconnect with her grieving father.

- Special Jury Award, Chicago Int'l Children's Film Festival



SPIDERWEB

Russia, 2017, nonverbal, 4:05 minutes
Directed by Natalia Chernysheva

A spider becomes inspired by the intricate lace patterns he finds in a book.



THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL

France/Switzerland, 2016, nonverbal, 10 minutes
Directed by Anne Baillod & Jean Faravel

Hans Christian Anderson's classic tale of a young girl trying to survive on a bitter New Year's Eve.

- Best Art Award, Neum Animated Film Festival
- Over 20 international festivals



TROMPETSIMO

Belgium, 2017, 1:51 minutes

Made by children aged 7-9 at the mobile animation film studio Kidscam, with the help of audiovisual artists

A variety of musical instruments celebrate with vibrant music!

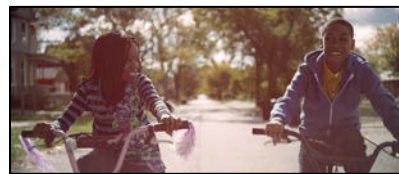


PIONEERS OF THE UNIVERSE

Russia, 2017, nonverbal, 5:21 minutes

Directed by:

An elevator operator dreams of going up in space!



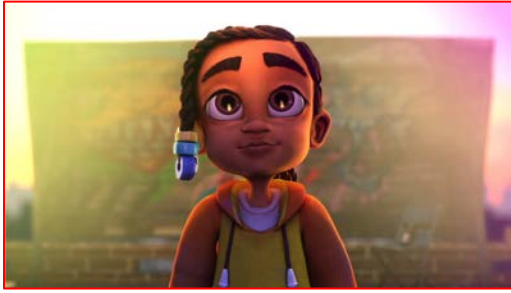
SCRAP DOLLS

US, 2016, Live Action, 13:24 minutes

Written & Directed by Aude Cuenod

On the east side of Detroit, an 11-year-old boy, grieving over the loss of his best friend, encounters an artist who makes art out of abandoned objects.

- Children's Jury Award, Chicago Int'l Children's Film Festival
- Award, Cinetopia Film Festival
- Award, Oberhausen International Short Film Festival



ADIJA

US, 2016, 4:08 minutes

Directed by Street Cred/Apollonia Thomaier, DigiPen Institute of Technology

A young girl from the Bronx turns to graffiti art to cope with her troubled life at home.

AWARDS:

- Winner, CINE Golden Eagle Award, Student & Youth Media
- Best Animation, International Family Film Festival
- Over 30 festival selections and awards



NEGATIVE SPACE

US, 2017, stop-motion, 5 minutes

Directed by Max Porter and Ru Kuwahata

A father and son bond over the shared ritual of suitcase packing for his frequent business trips.

- Nomination, Best Animated Short, **2018 Academy Awards**
- Over 50 awards throughout 137 festivals

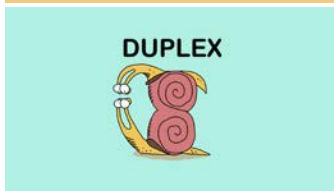


HABITAT

Switzerland, 2016, 2:14 minutes

Directed by Marcel Barelli

A snail demonstrates the many different homes that people live in.



Mr. Barelli's films have received over 55 prizes and appeared in over 500 festivals



THREADS

Canada, 2017, nonverbal, 8:49 minutes

Directed by Torrill Kove, National Film Board of Canada

An exploration of the beauty and complexity of parental love, the bonds that we form over time, and the ways in which they stretch and shape us.

Torrill Kove has won an Academy Award for her animation, as well as a nomination for her previous work.



JOURNEY

Croatia, 2017, nonverbal, 2:05 minutes

Made by children under the direction of Nikolic & Nika Bozic,
Foto Kino Video Club Zaprrešić



Awards:

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- 2nd Prize for Animated Film, Croatian Children's Film Creation, Sisak

A beautiful red bird is released from her cage so she can deliver a very special message.



**GENESEE
VALLEY
ARTS
GRANTS**

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- Rochester City School District/Office of Early Childhood
- Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County
- Children's Institute
- Rochester Rotary
- Early Childhood Education Quality Council
- Family Childcare Satellites of Greater Rochester
- Rochester Childfirst Network
- 292-BABY
- Animatus Studios
- Brighton Connections
- DeBergerac Productions
- WXXI

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!