



## Mayhem Film Festival: Short Film Showcase 2023

Mayhem is delighted to present the 15 films featuring in this year's Short Film Showcase.

Our 19th edition's showcase includes films from filmmakers making their first appearance at the festival, as well as long-time friends of Mayhem. This year, we worked with The Nottingham Horror Collective's Emily Malone to shortlist our Showcase line-up. The 15 films from this year's line-up, in alphabetical order are:

### ***Absolution, Parsin***

Dir. Jack Nop, UK, 4m55

The imagined perpetrator in a famously unsolved true-crime case, "Who Put Bella Down the Wych Elm", is confronted about his past by an unearthly Bison in this stop-motion animated short film.

### ***Angels* [UK Premiere]**

Dir. Samantha Aldana, US, 7m18

When a farmer caring for her dying mother discovers a creature with strange abilities, she's forced to confront her ideas about right and wrong.

### ***Bleep***

Dir. Ben S. Hyland, UK, 8m20

A couple's relationship is pushed to the brink as they investigate a strange noise that's woken them in the night.

### ***Claudio's Song***

Dir. Andreas Nilsson, UK, 9m41

A young man faces the wrath of criminals that target people who are famous on the internet; when their scheme fails things take an unexpected turn.

### ***Dead Enders***

Dirs. Fidel Ruiz-Healy & Tyler Walker, US, 12m08

Disaffected, young gas-station clerk Maya doesn't care about much besides messing with her manager and getting her beer discount at the end of the midnight shift. But after a sinister race of mind-controlling parasites are set loose by irresponsible oil drillers, Maya realises that there might be more to life than spending all your waking hours stacking shelves for a corporate overlord.

### ***Forgotten Lake* [UK Premiere]**

Dirs. Adam Brooks & Matthew Kennedy, Canada, 7m02

The counsellors at Forgotten Lake Summer Camp are horrified to discover that the legend of the Blueberry Boy is more real than they ever imagined.

### ***Merger***

Dir. Daniel Negret, UK, 7m45

A man's commitment to his job takes a dark and surreal turn for the worst.



### ***Night of the Bride***

Dir. Viral Pal, India, 7m09

A young woman's cry for help falls on deaf ears as a family holds her hostage. Keen on getting their only son married, who has 'chosen' her as the one, the family is willing to go to any lengths to fulfil his wish and unite them forever. As the gagged and bound bride is dragged in for the ceremony, the events take an even more sinister and shocking turn that ends up changing the course of this unholy ritual.

### ***Plaggy Bag***

Dir. Alex Withers, UK, 13m

When working class Zoe meets her best mate's more privileged friends, she tries to ignore the chip on her shoulder and make a good impression. But when a single-use plastic bag comes to life and hunts down the group one by one, Zoe must face her inner rage head-on.

### ***Sandra Gets a New Fringe* [World Premiere]**

Dir. Michael Beddoes & Penelope Yeulet, UK, 9m20

After making the life-changing decision to get a new fringe, a disregarded office-worker attempts to get her dismissive colleague's attention in increasingly bizarre and violent ways.

### ***Stop Dead* [UK Premiere]**

Dir. Emily Greenwood, UK, 7m56

When a workaholic city detective and her laid-back partner try to stop a dishevelled girl staggering down the middle of a country road, they discover she's being stalked by some unseen entity with a horrifying ultimatum: you stop moving, you die.

### ***The Body with No Face***

Dir. Owen Tooth, UK, 5m18

Trapped in her body by life-changing illness and a nightmarish system she can't escape, a woman fights to hold on to her humanity.

### ***The Wild Roots***

Dir. Nicolas Millot, France, 13m59

Adam, a young hunter, is convinced that danger lurks in a forest plagued by strange phenomena. However, when one of his friends is found dead, this fear transforms into certainty. Adam decides to return to the woods, determined to uncover the source of this threat.

### ***Toast***

Dir. Thomas Longstaff, UK, 1m30

A happy little piece of bread is excited to be made into a piece of toast.

### ***We Forgot About the Zombies***

Dir. Chris McInroy, US, 3m43

Two dudes think they found the cure for zombie bites.