

FILM TITLE: Something Said

SCREENING CONTEXT: *Trans Film Night* programme, Thursday 28th March

PREVIEW LINK: Not available.

DETAILS: UK, 2018, dir. Jay Bernard, starring Jay Bernard

SYNOPSIS: *Something Said* is a short documentary, described in the beginning by its filmmaker as a "letter to Yvonne Ruddock". The core of the narrative is a real-life story of a black teenage girl who died in the fire that burned down the apartment the day she was celebrating her birthday with friends. The film stresses indifference of the press and the police that led to the untimely closure of the investigation. Jay Bernard sees an explanation to such an outcome in racism and anti-immigrant climate in the society that still resonates in the present.

ADVISED CERTIFICATE AND REASON: PG. *Something Said* includes archive photographs, short videotapes and silhouettes, all accompanied by Jay Bernard's narration. No drug use, sex or dangerous behaviour are featured. The pictures used are unlikely to be unsettling (mostly newspaper slips, their head titles and photographs), one video tape exposed what looked like a bloody part of the body, however, this is intentionally left blurry.

The filmmaker's poetic speech is devoid of any swear words /discriminatory expressions, so are the short audio-tracks with comments on police inaction that are used once. Towards the end of the film one shot shows the viewers the exposed breasts of the filmmaker – which they soon intend to make an operation on – there is no sexual context implied.

The film strongly resembles an artistic performance and is generally suitable for everyone, but the decision is better to be left at the discretion of parents who would know if the tragic historical case the film discusses is suitable for their children.

FILM TITLE: *Candy's Crush*

SCREENING CONTEXT: *Trans Film Night* programme, Thursday 28th March

PREVIEW LINK: <https://vimeo.com/298515612>

Pw: CANDY

DETAILS: dir. Roberto Nascimento, New Zealand, 2018, 7.16 mins; starring Leilani Tominiko, Liam Horgan, Corey Marsden

SYNOPSIS: This short film presents a personal talk with viewers delivered by Leilani Tomonoko, a professional samoan/kiwi wrestler known as Candy Lee. Leilani pursued her professional career partly due to her fascination with wrestling that she developed as a child when she used to watch the matches trying to cope with bullying. In her talk, she shares her experience of discrimination and personal thoughts on transition and self-acceptance.

ADVISED CERTIFICATE AND REASON: PG. The film mostly presents footages of Leilani Tominiko in various every-day scenarios – walking, applying make-up, training, etc., accompanied by her narration. Otherwise the film features several scenes where the interviewee faces the camera while sitting in front of a black background, and a quickly shown compilation of personal photographs that reveal the changes in her appearance throughout the years. There are no

scenes that involve nudity, sex or drug use, neither is there any mention of these in the narration. The topic of discrimination is discussed and includes a derogatory usage of the word 'faggot'; however, it is only mentioned as an example of a bullying medium that Leilani had to endure as a victim of intolerance.

There are scenes that show a wrestling match between two women in slow-motion, one scene that passes quickly implies that Leilani was possibly mildly hurt after being pushed to the corner of the ring. These scenes do not appear threatening and none of the participants are injured –after the match is completed the fighters exchange cordial smiles and hug each other.

Overall the documentary does not contain any scenes that would be unsuitable for children. Whether the content would be of interest to the young children should be left for parents to decide.

FILM TITLE: *Something to Cry About*

SCREENING CONTEXT: *Trans Film Night* programme, Thursday 28th March

PREVIWE LINK:

<https://vimeo.com/231157559>

Pw: TransTears

DETAILS: USA, 2018, dir. Jules Roskam, 12.26 mins; Starring Oliver Baez Bendorf, Jules Skloot and Jaimes Mayhew

SYNOPSIS: Three trans masculine identified people watch a scene from a film or a TV-series that brings tears to their eyes. Emotionally vulnerable and touched, the interviewees are prepared to openly talk about their feelings towards the scenes watched and give sincere answers to questions that pertain to ambiguities of masculinity, social attitudes towards crying, intricacies of desire and other thoughts that connect to their personal life experience.

ADVISED CERTIFICATE AND REASON: PG. This documentary features no nudity, sex, drug use, violence or dangerous behaviour.

Apart from a few moderately blurry film scenes that are used as an addition to the discussion on male intimacy (shots that are focused on holding hands, one scene where a man is carrying another man in his arms, etc.), *Something to Cry About* is solely composed of three short interviews with the camera focused on interviewees' faces. In the interviews the trans men mostly discuss such topics as how a chosen movie/series scene affects them, emotional connection to men before/after transition and benefits of crying.

In their answers the participants do not resort to bad language, but there are several swear words that can be heard coming from the scene in *6 Feet Under* (incl. "fuck you"), the series that one of the interviewees chose to watch prior to the interview.

The film does not have any unsettling scenes that could be unsuitable for children but is unlikely to interest the very young.

Hyde Park Picture House

FILM TITLE: *Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin*

SCREENING CONTEXT: showing as part of Leeds Young Film Festival, Sunday 14th April 2019

PREVIEW LINK:

<https://vimeo.com/290642473>

Pw: JavaUKLG18

DETAILS: dir. Arwen Curry, US, 2018, 68 mins

SYNOPSIS: This documentary closely examines Ursula Le Guin's (*A Wizard of Earthsea*, *The Left Hand of Darkness*, *The Dispossessed*) great contributions to sci-fi genre in literature. It presents a mixture of magnificently drawn animation alongside narration of stories written by the author, archival photographs and interviews with Le Guin, as well as other prominent writers (Margaret Atwood, Neil Gaiman, David Mitchell, Michael Chabon, etc.) and literature workers or enthusiasts, who knowledgeably share their views on her legacy.

RATING: PG.

Discrimination of indigenous peoples was mentioned in the documentary as a shameful part of American history.

There were no mentions or depictions of drug use. Author's smoking of a pipe at public conferences was once complimented as one of her quirky habits.

Neither violent, nor sex scenes were depicted or discussed.

One instance that referred to domestic abuse was presented through animation and narration, as one of the author's books was analysed (a child was abused for the sake of happiness of other people). The imagery was not scary – its intention was to creatively pose a moral question to the viewers.

Sexualized depictions of women were only shortly shown on screen (comic-book drawings) – simultaneously criticised.

The documentary contained a single instance when mild bad language was used (sh*t).

Thematically the film presents authorial development of feminist themes in her books (first no-existent women protagonists who hold power, later creation of genderless city in her work) and importance of reflecting on life through imagination. It further invites the audience to ponder about difficult moral/philosophical questions extracted from the author's oeuvre. The topics could be too complex for young viewers – parents should decide if their children are ready to apprehend certain ideas.

Hyde Park Picture House

FILM TITLE: Charanga del Norte and Guillermo Davis

SCREENING CONTEXT: Short animations to play accompanying a Cuban band as part of Leeds International Festival, Sunday 5th May 2019

PREVIEW LINK:

Grandad go and buy the bread: https://youtu.be/ZBwvHRs6_6s

Travelling Around The World: <https://youtu.be/B5EvfPP2pPY>

Charanga Time!: <https://youtu.be/RScn7dM6iwg>

Cuban Countryside: <https://youtu.be/s8Kkn-NC9hY>

The Little Rose Shoes: <https://youtu.be/HPIaol4EbXk>

Mambo/Danzon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPEglbKdOJs>

Tunas Oriente, Changui: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WufWKpPZniE>

!Hay Que Frio! (It's So Cold!), Cha-cha-cha:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKXdetzx57o>

Isora, Danzon: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOslQclftSU>

DETAILS: Dir. Guillermo Davis, UK, 2019, runtime TBC

SYNOPSIS: To celebrate their twentieth year, Cuban dancer- turned-animator Guillermo Davis, flautist and Musical Director of Charanga del Norte, Reader in Music at Leeds Beckett University, Dr Sue Miller discuss and present their collaborative projects in music, dance and animation film with screenings of animation shorts featuring music by Charanga del Norte and a live semi-acoustic performance from the band.

Expect to see animation shorts such as 'Charanga Time', made to celebrate the band's 20th anniversary in 2019; additionally Guillermo presents his animations 'The Little Rose Shoes' based on a Cuban poem for children by Jose Marti and 'Grandad Go and Get the Bread!', an animation short about an old man who shuffles out to dance on Carnival day.

RATING: U

The animations are all suitable for audiences of all ages.

Hyde Park Picture House

FILM TITLE: *Drawn by Desire: Women's Animation Programme*

SCREENING CONTEXT: August 2019 (date TBC), a programme initially put together for London Short Film Festival

PREVIEW LINK: <https://vimeo.com/293256124>

Psw. LSFF19

DETAILS: This programme amounts to 75 mins and includes the following animation films:

Pussy (Renata Gąsiorowska, PL, 2016, 8 mins)

Le Clitoris (Lori Malépart-Traversy, CA, 2016, 3 mins)

Teat Beat of Sex 1 & 2 (Signe Baumann, US, 2007, 3 mins)

Drawing My Orgasms 1 & 2 & 3 (Eleanor Sikorski, UK, 2017, 2 mins)

Removed (Naomi Uman, GR, 1999, 7 mins)

Private Parts (Anna Ginsburg, UK, 2015, 4 mins)

Trusts & Estates (Jeanette Bonds, US, 2013, 5 mins)

Hi Stranger (Kirsten Lepore, US, 2016, 3 mins)

Master Blaster (Sawako Kabuki, JP, 2015, 4 mins)

I Like Girls (Diane Obomsawin, CA, 2016, 8 mins)

Ivan's Need (Veronica L. Montaña, Manuela Leuenberger, Lukas Suter, CH, 2015, 6 mins)

Body World (Kitty Faingold, UK, 2017, 7 mins)

III (Marta Pajek, PL, 2018, 10 mins)

SYNOPSIS: *Drawn by desire* is a collection of short animation films created by women. They focus on questions of sex and sexuality from predominantly female perspective. To show how many takes on the issue exist, each animation has a radically different animation and narration style from the others. The selection includes interviews (*Private Parts*), educational content (*Le Clitoris*), absurdist sequences (*Master Blaster*), etc.

Pussy – a woman enjoys her day and takes her time to masturbate, until her vagina transforms into a creature separated from her body.

Le Clitoris – an educational, humorously presented animation, drawn in various shades of pink, that explains the clitoris and how it used to be perceived.

Teat Beat of Sex 1 & 2 – hilarious "explicitly educational" stories. The first part shows narrator's encouragement to masturbate, the second advises to have reciprocal appreciation of the body between intimate partners.

Hyde Park Picture House

Drawing my Orgasms 1 & 2 – minimalist animations that represent drawer's comparisons to orgasms.

Removed – scenes from a 1970s European pornography film with a female character removed.

Private Parts – interviewees, transformed into drawn body parts, answer questions on sexual matters.

Trusts & Estates – four businessmen spend their lunch together. The talk they lead reveals their true nature as they offend each other and make numerous sexual innuendoes.

Hi Stranger – a clay persona talks directly to the viewer, as if to an intimate partner.

Master Blaster – an absurdist colourful interpretation of the song.

I Like Girls – girls share stories about their first lesbian relationships.

Ivan's Need – a vibrant animation on character's craving for female body.

Body World & III – imaginative takes on exploration of self and the intimate partner.

ADVISED CERTIFICATE AND REASON: 15. *Drawn by Desire* is concentrated on questions of sex – sex is depicted in drawings and sexual references are verbally expressed, but these works are not created for sexual arousal – rather for educational purposes.

Two parts of *Teat Beat of Sex* contain obvious drawn depictions of sex and the whole narration explores such topics as enjoying sex and having reciprocal "vagina and penis envy."

For *Removed* a softcore pornography piece is used. There is hardly any nudity left in the film, due to erosion of a female character from each frame. However, loud sexual noises and sex talk remain.

Trust & Estates is the only short film where characters overuse swearing ("shit", multiple uses of "fuck" in its variations, "asshole") and derogatory language ("retard", "idiot", "pussy" (in reference to a man), once non-binary people are cursory offended). The whole conversation is based on offenses and mean sexual jokes. The end of the animation reveals its ironic take on the situation and makes the viewer understand that the talk is not to be taken seriously.

Body World, a gothic-style animation, features such classically chilling theme as being trapped in the castle that could induce mild unease. Furthermore, the last short film in the programme, *III*, due to its animation style and use of suspenseful music, creates the anticipation of something threatening about to happen. Both animations, however, are neither overly horrifying nor violent.

Overall it is an important collection that could be used in an educational context and should be considered acceptable for people of 15 and over.