



OFF GIFF:

**A SEVEN
DISCOURSE
MEAL**

HDK-VALAND MFA IN FILM GRADUATION
SCREENINGS 2024 PROGRAM

HDK-VALAND MFA IN FILM GRADUATION SCREENINGS 2024 EXAM FILMS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE 2024 GRADUATES IN MFA FILM AT HDK-VALAND.

WHEN: 3 FEBRUARY 13:00 - 20:00 / 4 FEBRUARY 10:30 - 18:30

**WHERE: BIO-VALAND & GALLERY MONITOR
CHALMERSGATAN 4 411 35 GÖTEBORG**

A group of seven international graduates from the MFA in Film, will 'serve up' their seven brand new film projects. With their work they daringly challenge traditional filmmaking norms, aiming to kindle meaningful dialogues that traverse both societal concerns as well as new filmmaking practices.

The event comes in two 'servings': On Saturday 3rd February the graduation films are screened, followed by moderated Q&A's with the filmmakers, food and drinks at the end of the day. On Sunday 4th of February the films will be screened again, but this time paired with in-depth discussions with invited guest speakers. Join us for films, snacks, beverages, and discussions!

THE FILM PROJECTS OFFER A RICH PALETTE OF EXPERIENCES:

THE MEDIATION OF WAR:

Tryvoha by **Jacob Sweep** (Canada/The Netherlands): The city you're in is attacked by missiles, prompting you to reconsider visiting your friend closer to the frontline...

ISSUES AROUND HEALTH CARE:

Vem Ropar för Alvar by **Anna Maria Jóakimsdóttir-Hutri** (Iceland, Denmark, Sweden): Two visiting lecturers ask you if you have time to reflect on your well-being when you're burdened with stress trying to care for everyone.

HUMAN-NATURE RELATIONSHIPS:

I Want to Hold onto You by **Leonard Peters** (The Netherlands): You try to hold onto what will pass away by visiting the world's oldest tree, and your grandfather with Alzheimer's.

CHALLENGING IDEALS AND MASCULINITY:

We Need to Talk by **Arnar Gústafsson** (Iceland): Your car decides to break-up with you as it wants to see how things could be different.

Retreat by **Henrik Johansson** (Sweden): At an all-male retreat, a group of men gather to seek solace and self-discovery when the arrival of the reluctant newcomer Dante disrupts their introspective journey.

THE MULTIFACETED TOPIC OF IMMIGRATION:

Songbird by **Robert Melo** (Sweden): You're a young girl, mute and stuck as a refugee in the complete darkness of the container of a moving truck.
From Where to Where - من وين لوين by **Careen Koleilat** (Lebanon, England, Sweden): Interrogated and questioned, you find yourself in a constant loop of never-ending obstacles.

VIMEO SHOWCASE

All student films (Bachelor's and Master's) will be added to a Vimeo Showcase available from 5th of February and can be viewed there for 6 months. People who are interested can request access to this Showcase through [Mirka Duijn \(mirka.duijn@gu.se\)](mailto:mirka.duijn@gu.se).

THE MFA PROGRAMME IN FILM

The Master of Film at HDK-Valand is an education focused on developing one's research skills and creative tools for inquiry in and with moving images. The program defines itself in relation to the world. Students are encouraged to examine social, cultural, and political image-making, and the programme facilitates one's inquiry and exploration of the medium of film — its ethics and aesthetics.

FILMMAKERS & PROJECTS

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SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY

Venue: Bio-Valand & Gallery Monitor, Chalmersgatan 4, 41135 Göteborg
Hosted by Amra Heco.

12:00 Doors open	GALLERY MONITOR
13:00 Introduction to the day	BIO-VALAND
13:10 - 14:40 Screening of Tryvoha by Jacob Sweep (20 min), I Want to Hold onto You by Leonard Peters (20 min) and Vem Ropar för Alvar by Anna Maria Jóakimsdóttir-Hutri (18 min) followed by a Q&A with the makers	BIO-VALAND
14:40 - 14:55 Break	
14:55 - 15:50 Screening of We Need to Talk by Arnar Gústafsson (22 min) and Retreat by Henrik Johansson (14 mins) followed by a Q&A with the makers	BIO-VALAND
15:50 - 16:05 Break	BIO-VALAND
16:05 - 17:00 Screening of Songbird by Robert Melo (14 min) and From Where to Where - من وين لوين by Careen Koleilat (20 min) followed by a Q&A with the makers	BIO-VALAND
17:00 - 20:00 Drinks in the exhibition space	GALLERY MONITOR
18:00 - 20:00 Screening of all the films back-to-back	BIO-VALAND

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

Venue: Bio-Valand & Glashuset, Chalmersgatan 4, 41135 Göteborg
Hosted by Mirka Duijn.

10:30 - 10:45 Introduction to the day	BIO-VALAND
10:45 - 11:45 Screening of Tryvoha by Jacob Sweep (20 min), Vem Ropar för Alvar by Anna Maria Jóakimsdóttir-Hutri (18 min) and I Want to Hold onto You by Leonard Peters (20 min)	BIO-VALAND
12:00 - 13:30 Jacob Sweep In conversation with Mirka Duijn (Filmmaker & Senior Lecturer in film) Anna Maria Jóakimsdóttir-Hutri in conversation with Katarina Hollertz (Researcher & Lecturer in social work at Gothenburg University) Leonard Peters in conversation with Lotta Petronella (Artist, Filmmaker & Curator)	GLASHUSET
14:30 - 13:30 Break	
14:30 - 15:05 Screening of We Need to Talk by Arnar Gústafsson (22 min) and Retreat by Henrik Johansson (14 min)	BIO-VALAND
15:20 - 16:20 Arnar Gústafsson & Henrik Johansson in conversation with Guest	GLASHUSET
16:35 - 17:10 Screening of Songbird by Robert Melo (14 min) and From Where to Where - من وين لوين by Careen Koleilat (20 min)	BIO-VALAND
17:25 - 18:25 Robert Melo & Careen Koleilat in conversation with Petra Bauer (Artist, Filmmaker & Professor of art at the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm)	GLASHUSET



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JACOB SWEEP

Tryvoha - Тривога

How do you care for someone you've never met?

20 min

SYNOPSIS

A filmmaker in Sweden and a firefighter in Ukraine form a strong bond through their interactions online. Bound by the conscription age, the firefighter, despite his aspirations, finds himself unable to leave his country. When the filmmaker is presented with the opportunity to travel to Ukraine, the two resolve to meet in person for the first time.

As the filmmaker embarks on his journey, he listens to the memories and dreams of his friend while grappling with a sense of normalcy despite the inescapable fact of the ongoing war. The title of the film Tryvoha is a Ukrainian word meaning "alarm" or "anxiety," simultaneously referring to the sound of an air raid alarm and the feeling that comes along with it.

ARTIST STATEMENT

After the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, Jacob Sweep became fixated on observing the events unfolding online in near-real time. There, the spectators, perpetrators, and victims come into direct contact with each other. The online space forms a deceptive sense of equality, a leveling of experiences, despite vastly disparate realities and unequal positions.

The filmic work Tryvoha is an outcome of Jacob's attempt to understand his own experience as an observer and close the distance between himself and his friend, a firefighter in a heavily affected region of Ukraine. The aim of the film is to move past the disillusionment Jacob himself felt when consuming war media and reconsider the immediacy and spectacle of the mediated war, moving towards a more reflective, compassionate depiction with hopes of creating a deeper feeling of empathy, instilling a longer lasting impact.

BIO

Jacob Sweep is a trans filmmaker from the Netherlands and Canada. He has developed his practice with the aim of engaging with major questions faced by the world today such as digital privacy, human-nature relationships, and, currently, the mediatization of war. In his films, the environments they're set in and how the people in it relate to it play a key role. Jacob Sweep graduated with a BFA in Design + Change from Linnaeus University with his first short film in 2018. He then worked as a director as well as in the camera and editorial departments for several years before pursuing an MFA in film at HDK-Valand.

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LEONARD PETERS

I Want to Hold onto You - Ik wil je vasthouden

Through his encounters with the world's oldest tree, Old Tjikko, and his partner's grandfather Harri, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, filmmaker Leonard Peters explores the themes of grief, care, and loss in this poetic essayistic documentary. Concerned about his generation's future, the filmmaker tries to hold onto what might soon pass away.

20 min

SYNOPSIS

Filmmaker Leonard Peters explores grief, care, and loss in a poetic essayistic documentary through his encounters with world's oldest tree, Old Tjikko, and his partner's grandfather Harri, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. By immersing himself in the daily rituals of walks, shared meals and afternoon coffees, Leonard tries to hold onto Harri's and Old Tjikko's memories before they pass away.

Concerned about his generation's future due to climate change, the filmmaker reflects on how to let go. The narrative unfolds through a mosaic of interviews with loved ones, everyday interactions, explorations in Harri's 8mm recordings, and an introspective exploration of the landscape, as an archive of Old Tjikko's memories. 'I Want to Hold onto You' invites viewers to join the filmmaker's thought-voyage, where the threads of generations, care and love converge in an exploration of existence.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Filmmaker Leonard Peters is interested in exploring the relationship between humans and nature, connecting this interest to themes of decay and the poetry of everyday. In his work, Leonard tries to seek knowledge, and evoke inward reflections on perceptions of loss. He spends extensive time with his subjects over everyday rituals to learn from their memories. Reflecting on letting go, the filmmaker perceives this poetic essay film as an archive of his own thought-process. By walking barefoot, interviewing loved ones, and interacting with Harri and Old Tjikko over daily rituals, Leonard searches for the beauty of everyday life.

BIO

Leonard Peters is an interdisciplinary artist, musician, and filmmaker from The Netherlands. He holds a BA in interdisciplinary arts from the Maastricht Institute of Arts (The Netherlands), and he is currently pursuing an MFA in Film at HDK-Valand art academy (Sweden). Leonard started his career as an actor, and he has a strong passion for piano and singing. He also studied theatre and vocal performance at ArtEZ University of the Arts (The Netherlands) and the Maastricht Institute of Performative Arts.

Leonard is interested in exploring the relationship between humans and nature, connecting this interest to themes of decay and the poetry of everyday life. His practice consists of short films, mixed media performances and music compositions.

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OFF GIFF: A SEVEN DISCOURSE MEAL

ANNA MARIA JÓAKIMSDÓTTIR-HUTRI

Who stands up for Alvar

A film about a nurse rescuing her old neighbour from his apartment fire and what follows.

18 min

SYNOPSIS

Minna a single mother to a fifteen year old daughter, an artist who's only possibility for an employment is within the social service as an assistant nurse, performs her duties with empathy and dedication for the ones she is helping but pressured by unit managers that needs to keep the budget and the more she tries to be helpful the more her benevolence is used until one day when she realises she's had enough. An assistant nurse at the home service is driven into an ever-increasing work spiral and is faced with the dilemma of also dealing with the terminally ill and lonely but grumpy neighbor who refuses all forms of municipal help even though he clearly cannot take care of himself.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Through the collaboration with me as director and screenwriter, the idea is that an interesting synergy of artistically reflecting on the research material will result in a new understanding of the situation for those working in the elderly care and the elderly in the field, through cinematic storytelling. The goal is to reach new target groups for elderly care through dramedy and to highlight the values that are the foundation of our society in a new way through dramatic storytelling. It is a collaboration between scientific research and artistic research - a synergy that can give a much deeper picture of the people in the field than the media coverage that is done

and which often covers only a small part or only focuses on the problems or the poor conditions. The film will create identification and insight into the complex network of moral decisions that must be made daily by staff in elderly care. With an increasing need for elderly care, there is also a greater perspective of our shared values in society where we take care of the people who built the welfare state. Both the elderly and staff in the field see their work and their existence as something valuable. Therefore, one can sometimes feel that the one-sided description of the scarce working conditions and the disparaging image we have of the elderly as a burden on society needs to be given a different angle - a new story. In memory of Carin Mannheimer as one of the artists who also worked with these subjects, this project floats in her spirit of the desire to depict the human noble values found in the field.

My topic is about elderly care. It's not immediately a subject you think dramedy is suitable for, but that's precisely why I'd like to work with it to see how this synergy can create a completely new engagement for a wider audience. In the same way that the crime genre has created a lift and interest in the police's activities, I want to test whether this synergy can create a lift for elderly care in public opinion.

BIO

"Since 2003 Anna Maria works as a film and theatre director and scriptwriter in film, TV and stages in Finland. She's directed commercials for Also Starring, movies for Helsinki-filmi Oy, children's drama for the Finnish National eBroadcasting Company YLE and both classical and non-traditional plays for the stage.

Her films have been founded by national Nordic funds such as the Finnish Film Foundation, Swedish Cultural Foundation and the Swedish Film Institute. Her TV dramas have been co-produced by YLE and the Swedish Broadcasting Company SVT.

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ARNAR GÚSTAFSSON

WE NEED TO TALK

You only love your ideal of me

22 min

SYNOPSIS

Arnar, an anti-car-use urban planner who secretly loves cars, travels to buy his dream car: A '93 Mazda 323F. The Mazda watches the negotiation dance between Arnar and his desire and its current owner, who grapples with his emotional attachment to the car. After having bought the car, as Arnar lives out his idealized fantasy with the Mazda, the car finally breaks down, and initiates an open dialogue about the state of their relationship.

Through autobiographical fiction, filmmaker Arnar Gústafsson explores the complex relationships of the West with the ideals of Modernity, romantic relationships, and cars. He asks what happens when we take seriously authentic emotions born within these ideals.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Arnar's artistic research delves into the social construction of reality, exploring prevailing Western ideologies—Modernity, Rationalization, Individualism, and Technology—and their impact on perceptions. Through a playful methodology of devised content creation and genre-blending, he aims to shed light on the complexities of human emotion within contemporary societal frameworks.

Arnar questions the myth of control, examining its pervasive influence in Western society, from romantic relationships to modernist urban planning. His work illuminates the persuasive safety and comfort, and the order of the ideal—a privilege that often shields individuals from the necessity to question or challenge.

Arnar's exploration invites viewers to consider the implications of relinquishing the myth of control, encouraging nuanced understanding of emotions within the interplay of societal constructs and individual experiences. Playfully examining the ideal, he embraces the transformative potential inherent in the chaotic complexity of lived reality.

BIO

Arnar Gústafsson (he/him) is an artist and filmmaker from Reykjavík, Iceland, with a diverse educational background including a BA in Sociology and an MSc. in Urbanism studies, complemented by a foundation in Visual arts. Since 2015, he has been actively involved in collaborative devised stage performances with his art collective CGFC.

His recent focus is the Human-Car relationship, examining it from sociological, spatial and emotional lenses. This inquiry initially took shape as a docu-fiction radio series aired on The National Broadcasting Station of Iceland and is now being explored through the medium of film.

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OFF GIFF: A SEVEN DISCOURSE MEAL

HENRIK JOHANSSON

Retreat

At an all-male retreat, a group of men gather to seek solace and self-discovery when the arrival of the reluctant newcomer Dante disrupts their introspective journey.

14 min

BIO

Born 1999 in Stockholm, Sweden, Henrik spent his youth creating short films and sketches with friends which led to his interest in directing film. He attended Stockholm's Filmskola from 2018-2020, studying directing, screenwriting and cinematography. Henrik made his debut short film Demonstration (2021) shortly thereafter, which made its way to compete in 1KM film at Stockholms Filmfestival. Before applying to Valand, Henrik worked in the film industry as a third assistant director, second assistant director and director's assistant.

SYNOPSIS

At an all-male retreat in the countryside of Sweden, Dante, a man in his 20's attends in the hope to deal with the complexities of his relationship with men. In the midst of the therapeutic exercises and social interactions with the other attendees, Dante realizes that the retreat may not be the right solution for his problems.

ARTIST STATEMENT

In an age marked by awareness of toxic masculinity, young men are actively reshaping the definition of male identity. Henrik Johansson examines the disintegration of traditional masculine traits and the resulting impact on men's behavior. His research explores the internal struggles faced by modern men, who, while distancing themselves from outdated forms of masculinity, are also uncertain about their evolving roles.

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HENRIK JOHANSSON



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ROBERT MELO

SONGBIRD

Accompanied by a group of refugees, Marco and his mute daughter Paloma are trapped in a truck container. In total darkness, they are struck by hope and despair as they fight for survival and freedom.

14 min

SYNOPSIS

A group of refugees, amongst which Marco and his mute daughter Paloma, are being smuggled out of their homeland in the pitch-black confinement of a truck container. The already perilous journey takes a sinister turn when the driver abandons them at a police checkpoint, leaving them trapped in the suffocating darkness. The group battles to open the sealed doors, while Paloma, in her silent struggle, attempts to reclaim her voice.

Songbird is a film about hope and despair in an inhuman situation that, with the help of darkness, illuminates this world disaster.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Robert Melo aims to bring originality to each film project, challenging the way 'we' make movies (movies are made) through daring filmic experiments. By choosing subjects that reflect the complex reality of contemporary life, he explores new narrative techniques and visual styles. Melo's work is not just film, it is a dialogue with contemporary time, a reflection of the modern human in situations that many people recognize or fear. His ambition is to create films that not only entertain, but also provoke thought, challenge perspectives, and enrich cultural discourse.

BIO

Robert Melo is a Swedish-Chilean director and screenwriter, working in the field for over fifteen years. Among other studies, he has a degree in screenwriting from Alma Film & TV.

Over the years, Robert has had a foot in commercial projects and journalism. With several award-winning films behind him, including Pinnen, nominated for 1Km film, a film that examines the power of space, Robert takes his theme further into an environment an audience has rarely seen.

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CAREEN KOLEILAT (THEY/THEM)

From Where to Where - من وين لوين

Step into the intense world of perpetual immigration loops – where some people face emotional rollercoasters, while others breeze right through the oppressive maze.

20 min

SYNOPSIS

Based on true life experiences of immigrants from the SWANA region, the film takes viewers on a journey, using fictional scenes to depict a single individual's quest to defy the unrelenting cycle of border control, inviting audiences to reconsider the complexities surrounding this colonial gatekeeping practice.

From Where to Where - من وين لوين challenges the notions of border control and its effects on those who go through them. Following The Passenger and The Officer as they navigate diverse situations, the film portrays the gap of unequal power dynamics.

ARTIST STATEMENT

In their research, rooted in decolonial studies, Careen explores the transformative potential of filmmaking to challenge societal norms and systemic oppression, with a focus on marginalised SWANA communities. This investigation delves into how challenging narrative structures, filmmaking workflows and viewing modes impact narrative resonance and viewer's engagement.

Koleilat's latest project 'From Where to Where - من وين لوين' has been developed as both a linear film as well as a modular screening experience where every scene is a standalone file creating numerous variations of viewing order. This approach enhances the individual and collective experience, exploring the interplay of form and story. Over the course of the coming year Careen plans to screen From Where to Where - من وين لوين to border control officers from the EU and SWANA regions followed by in depth interviews about the work of a border control officer. Culminating in a hybrid fiction feature documentary that facilitates a discussion about border control and its effects on humanity.

BIO

Careen Koleilat is a Lebanese Trans/Non-Binary filmmaker that passionately explores themes such as immigration, queerness, patriarchy, family dynamics, and the new world order. Holding a BA in Communication Arts from Beirut and Postgraduate degrees from the London Film Academy and Cambridge School of Art, Careen has enjoyed building a bridge between academia and their practice. In 2011 they co-founded Blue Fox Studios—a queer-led, womxn-oriented post-production company with offices in London and Dubai. Careen continuously integrates their 16 years of global film industry experience, contributing to over 200 projects, in their artistic work. They are currently pursuing an MFA in Film at HDK-Valand in Gothenburg, Sweden.

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