



MANHATTAN SHORT



SMALL TALK

Director: Eduardo Moral
Country: USA
Running Time: 8:40
Synopsis: In a neon-drenched future where A.I. has consumed nearly every profession, a weary cab driver preserves the last traces of humanity the only way he can... through small talk.



HAI DAVAI

Director: Vlad Gradescu
Country: Moldova
Running Time: 16:00
Synopsis: On the cusp of leaving her rural Moldovan village for a new life abroad, Nina is stopped, quite literally, by an old superstition.



MARY IS MISSING

Director: Aisling Byrne
Country: Ireland
Running Time: 22:00
Synopsis: When care worker Mary vanishes without a trace, Detective Foley arrives at the Yellow Tree Day Service, and investigations begin.



PICKUP

Director: Viktoriia Lapushkina
Country: Russia
Running Time: 3:00
Synopsis: At a pickup workshop, every girl gets a mission — flirt, charm, and win. For Di, the shyest one in the room, the task is simple: ask a guy to buy her coffee.



CANDY BAR

Director: Nash Edgerton
Country: Australia
Running Time: 6:19
Synopsis: A young girl thinks a man in the candy bar line looks like her dad.



NORHEIMSUND

Director: Ana. A. Alpizar
Country: Cuba
Running Time: 12:00
Synopsis: A girl's long-distance romance with an older Norwegian man promises to pull her from her austere life in Cuba, but is he as idyllic as he seems?



VULTURES

Director: Dian Weys
Country: South Africa
Running Time: 15:00
Synopsis: In the volatile moments after a car crash, before the authorities arrive, a hot-headed yet desperate tow truck driver fiercely protects his tow.



WHEN THE SEA WAS CALM

Director: Vladimer Katcharava
Country: Georgia
Running Time: 17:00
Synopsis: A hand-crafted animation that transforms the memory of Sokhumi before the war into a poetic story of childhood, first love, exile, and the dream of return.



LIFE GOES ON

Director: K. Butterfield & D. Audritt
Country: United Kingdom
Running Time: 20:00
Synopsis: Bill is ready for the end. The end isn't ready for him. At 83, he finds himself caught in an absurd glitch: every time he dies, the day begins again.



NEVER GIVE UP

Director: Tamás Yvan Topolánszky
Country: Mexico
Running Time: 19:00
Synopsis: An unexpected source of hope guides a boy as he attempts to cross the US- Mexico border.



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ONE WORLD | ONE WEEK | ONE FESTIVAL



MANHATTAN SHORT



September 24 - October 4, 2026

On behalf of the team at MANHATTAN SHORT, I would like to welcome you to our 29th Annual Film Festival. You are joining a worldwide audience that includes over 500 venues! This year, for the first time in the festival's history, we have selected ten short films from ten countries, a Filmic Olympiad that creates a riveting 120-minute film experience. While most of you know how it works, if this is your first MANHATTAN SHORT experience – here is the drill.

You Be the Judge!



On entry to each venue, audiences are handed a voting card. At the conclusion of the show, each audience member will be asked to vote for the ONE film and ONE actor/actress they think is best. Votes will be sent to MANHATTAN SHORT Headquarters and the winner will be announced at ManhattanShort.com on Monday, October 5th, at 10am EST. The directors and actors await your decision!

All films are qualified to enter the Oscars of 2027!

MANHATTAN SHORT 2026 is screened in venues all around the world. One of those venues is the New Parkway Theater, Oakland, CA. This specific screening qualifies each of our selected short films for consideration for the 2027 Academy Awards. If you are viewing the show at one of the 500+ venues worldwide and you're a voting member of the Academy, please keep these films in mind as they push towards the Oscars of 2027.

MANHATTAN SHORT 2026, Sponsored by Past Finalists Vol 10 DVD and Blu-ray



Keeping it totally independent, MANHATTAN SHORT 2026 is sponsored by its Past Finalists DVD & Blu-ray collection. We recently released Past Finalists Vol 10, a selection of Gold, Silver, Bronze & Oscar Winning titles from our 2024 and 2025 season. Limited copies of these DVDs & Blu-rays are now available exclusively at ManhattanShort.com.

Enjoy this Year's Show!

And, finally a big thank you to all the venues and wonderful people that are forever supporting them. Year in year out, we come together for this event. The films and the event bring a much-needed positive energy to the world and it is a privilege to be part of it!

Enjoy MANHATTAN SHORT 2026!

Nicholas Mason

THE WORLD'S FIRST GLOBAL FILM FESTIVAL