



Other-  
Grounds  
Film  
Festival

## Ealát

**Director:** Elle Márja Eira

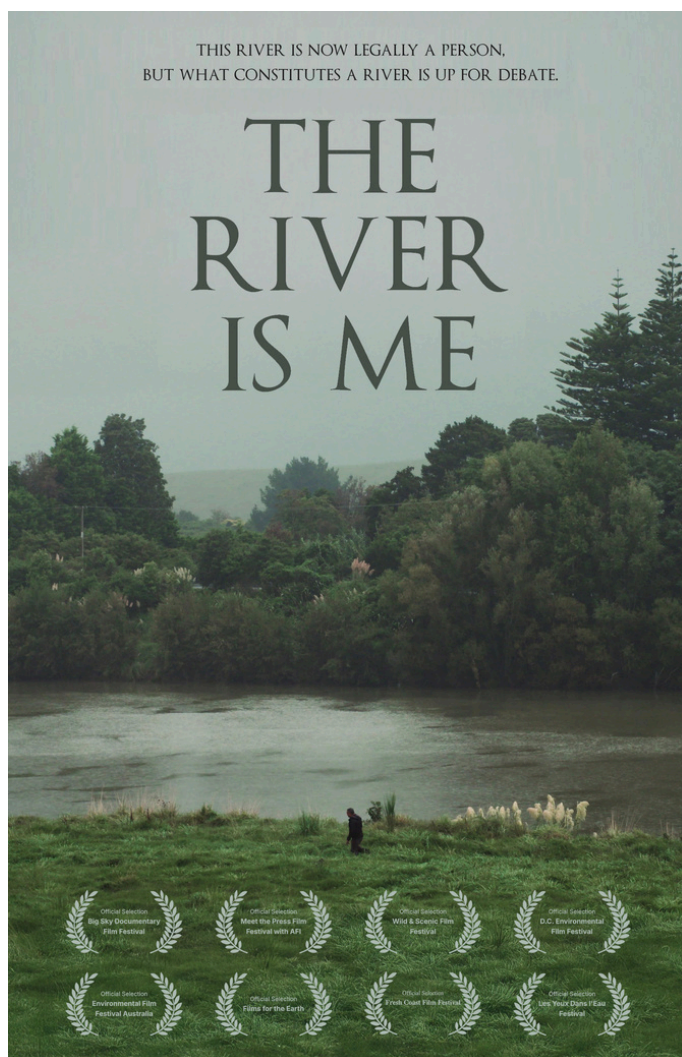
**Country:** Sápmi,(Norway) | **Year:** 2021 | **Runtime:** 32 minutes

**Synopsis:** "As long as the reindeer exist here, so do we". Through Elle Márja Eira`s eyes we follow her family in different seasons with their reindeer herd. A story about living and surviving in Sámi reindeer husbandry in strange times.

**Screening Times:**

Friday, 2nd of May - 18:10-19:00

**About Director:** Elle Márja Eira is director, artist and composer from Guovdageaidnu (Sápmi). Eira has been a strong and uncompromising voice in Sápmi for several years across genres and forms of expression. She has directed and produced several short films and has also collaborated with composer Christophe Beck in making soundtracks to the feature film The 12th Man. She belongs to reindeer herding district D-26 Lákkonjárga.



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## The River Is Me

**Director:** David Freid

**Country:** United States, Aotearoa (New Zealand) | **Year:** 2018 | **Runtime:** 17 minutes

**Synopsis:** For many years, this river's ownership was under dispute. Now, it owns itself. In what's believed to be a world's first, the Whanganui River's been granted legal personhood, with the same rights and responsibilities as you and me. But determining where a river ends and the rest of nature begins — that may be up for some debate.

### Screening Times:

Friday, 2nd of May - 18:10-19:00

**About Director:** David Freid is an executive producer, director, and journalist who has contributed to The Atlantic, The New York Times, National Geographic, NBC and Vanity Fair, among others. He was the lead creative of MEL Films, filming in over 30 countries. Those films went on to win the International Documentary Association (IDA) award for Best Documentary Series, an Edward R. Murrow Award for journalism, and he was nominated for an Emmy for "Guns Found Here". With The River Is Me, David dives deep into our relationship with nature, a subject that's more important to him than anything.



## The Church Forests of Ethiopia

**Director:** Jeremy Seifert

**Country:** Ethiopia, United States | **Year:** 2020 | **Runtime:** 9 minutes

**Synopsis:** Over the past century, farming and the needs of a growing population have replaced nearly all of Ethiopia's old-growth forests with agricultural fields. This film tells the story of the country's church forests—pockets of lush biodiversity, protected by hundreds of churches, that are scattered like emerald pearls across a brown sea of farm fields.

**Screening Time:**

Saturday, 3rd May – 13:00-13:30

**About Director:** Jeremy Seifert is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. His feature films include *The Devil We Know*, *GMO OMG*, and *DIVE! Living Off America's Waste*. His films for *Emergence Magazine* include *The Church Forests of Ethiopia* and *On the Road with Thomas Merton*.





## **Honoring Darkness**

**Director:** Juan Camilo

**Country:** Iceland, Colombia | **Year:** 2018 | **Runtime:** 18 minutes

### **Synopsis:**

A poetic exploration on the process of facing the 'shadow', which is the darkness that inhabits each one of us. By listening to the personal perspective of a psychiatrist and Sri Vidya practitioner, we will discover a way for humans to integrate themselves, by accepting and honouring darkness while renovating a sense of the sacred in the socio-natural world.

### **Screening Time:**

Saturday, 3rd May – 13:00-13:30





## Mamu

**Director:** Aephie Chen

**Country:** Taiwan, United Kingdom | **Year:** 2024 | **Runtime:** 15 minutes

### Synopsis:

Mayaw's indigenous Taiwanese roots and his daughter's biracial identity are at the heart of their transcendent dreams. As Mayaw's mind fades, the call of his homeland grows stronger, leading to a magical reconnection with the help of lullabies and mystical guardians.

### Screening Time:

Saturday, 3rd May – 14:0-14:15

**About Director:** Aephie is a Taiwanese-born British filmmaker and an interdisciplinary artist-curator based in Reykjavík and London. She describes herself as a fictional Taiwanese, having lived in numerous countries and grown up in a migrant household, where remote homeschooling greatly influenced her practice. Her work spans festivals, films, live art performances, set designs, and art fabrication. Premiered at Sundance Film Festival London, Aephie's short film "Mamu" depicts a journey tracing identity, bonds of family and sense of belonging. MAMU is nominated as Best Short in Hawai'i International Film Festival 2024.



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## ICE \* In Case of Emergency

**Director:** Christoph Matt, Bernhard Poscher, Sympoietic Society art collective

**Country:** Austria | **Year:** 2023 | **Runtime:** 6 minutes

### Synopsis:

In Austria's UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Großes Walsertal, an intercultural group of artists unites for a final event. Centered on a disappearing alpine glacier, they climb the Rote Wand mountain to pay respects to the local glacier's remnants. Their art highlights the need for empathy and care practices towards nature and explores the bond between humans and the natural world in an interdisciplinary realm.

### Screening Time:

Saturday, 3rd May – 16:00-16:30

**About Directors:** Bernhard Poscher takes photos and occasionally shoots videos currently based in Innsbruck, Austria. Whether it be analog, moving images, screenshots, collaging ... Bernhard enjoys exploring the visual medium. It's like a translation tool between himself and the surrounding world.

Christoph Matt is an eco-social designer and explorer, currently living between Vienna and Reykjavik and founder of Studio Matt, an award-winning nomadic bureau for environmentally and socially conscious design.



## Qulleq

**Director:** Aka Hansen

**Country:** Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland) | **Year:** 2023 | **Runtime:** 3 minutes

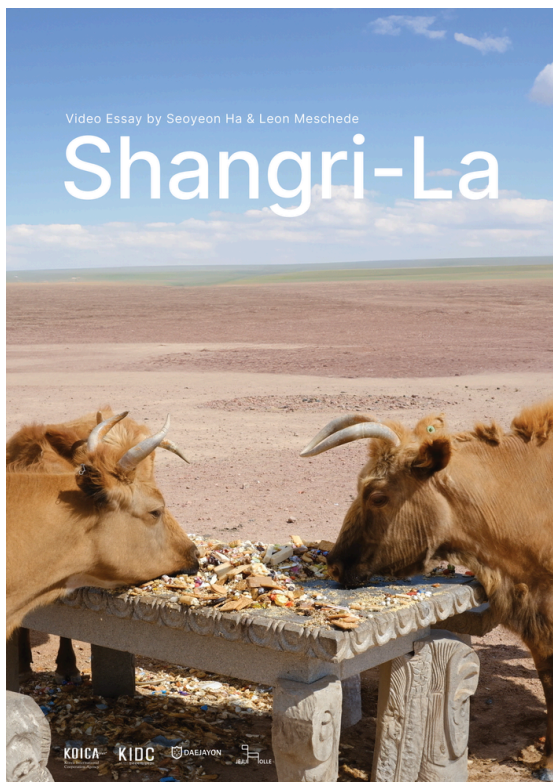
**Synopsis:** Qulleq is an invitation to be present for a short time while a Qulleq is lit. Qulleq is a traditional oil lamp, that made it possible for our ancestors to keep fire inside a house made of snow. The qulleq made it possible to have light, heat and a place to cook and was essential for Inuit.

**Screening Time:**

Saturday, 3rd May – 16:00-16:30

**About Director:** Aka Hansen (1987), film director, advocate and activist. She is active in the decolonization debate in Kalaallit Nunaat, and works with the subject in her films, art and in writing. Aka is mostly known for fighting for Inuit's the rights to tell their own stories. But her interest and activist practice also revolves around gender, queerness and matriarchal ways of life among Inuit





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## Shangri-La

**Directors:** Seoyeon Ha and Leon Meschede

**Country:** Mongolia, South Korea, Germany | **Year:** 2023 | **Runtime:** 23 minutes

### Synopsis:

Shangri-La is a videoessay that takes us through Mongolia from an intercultural perspective. The film explores the contrast between tradition and modernity in current day Mongolia, reflecting on the fact that the filmmakers come from the industrialized countries of Germany and South Korea. By combining their own film material with archive footage and "time images" and through two narrative voices, a multi-perspective view of the country in transformation, of the changing paradigms of time and space and of the gap between Western and indigenous belief systems is created.

### Screening Time:

Saturday, 3rd May – 16:00-16:30

**About Directors:** Seoyeon Ha (\*2000, South Korea) is a political enthusiast focusing on climate justice and sustainability. She obtained her BA in Mongolian Studies and International Studies from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in 2024 and is currently pursuing a Master of International Affairs at the Hertie School in Berlin. At the same time, she works in a renewable energy think tank as student assistant while researching feasible and just transition policy.

Leon Meschede (\*1999, Halle) is a German video artist and essayist working at the intersection of history, technology, and social change. His films explore the legacy of East Germany's post-socialist identity and ecological crises, using the essay film as a tool to examine speculative cultures of remembrance. He studied at Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design Halle and Seoul National University.



## Time and the Seashell

LISTA CALISTA FILMS PRESENTS A FILM BY ITANDEHUI JANSEN, WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY ARMANDO BAUTISTA GARCIA,  
STARRING NU KAHNU, ARMANDO AND ERASMO BAUTISTA, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ITANDEHUI JANSEN, SOUND DESIGN BY  
ALI MURRAY, ORIGINAL MUSIC BY ENRICA SCIANDRONE



**Director:** Itandehui Jansen

**Country:** Mexico | **Year:** 2020 | **Runtime:** 13 minutes

### Synopsis:

A young Indigenous boy imagines his future while listening to the sounds of a seashell. An Indigenous man recalls his past listening to the same shell. The man remembers birds and fireflies in his childhood, that are no longer there. The short film invites an audience to consider past, present and future of a changing landscape and vanishing biodiversity.

### Screening Time:

Saturday, 4th May – 13:30-14:30

**About Director:** Itandehui Jansen was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and studied film directing at the Netherlands Film Academy in Amsterdam. She participated in different international film programs, such as TorinoFilm Lab and Berlinale Talents. Her documentaries and short films screened at international festivals such as the IDFA (International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam) and the Morelia International Film Festival. Her short film *The Last Council* won several international awards and was nominated for the Mexican Film Critics Award Diosa de Plata. At present she is Associate Professor in the Film Programme of the University of Edinburgh.



## **Baigal Nuur – Lake Baikal**

**Director:** Alisi Telengut

**Country:** Buryad-Mongolia, Germany, Canada | **Year:** 2024 | **Runtime:** 10 minutes

### **Synopsis:**

The formation of Lake Baikal in Siberia is reimagined with hand-painted animation and found objects, featuring the voice of an Indigenous woman who can still recall some words in her endangered Buryat language (a Mongolian dialect).

### **Screening Time:**

Saturday, 4th May – 13:30-14:30

**About Director:** Alisi Telengut is a Canadian artist and filmmaker of Mongolian roots. Her work has been screened and exhibited internationally, such as at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures (USA), Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art (USA), Sundance Film Festival (USA), TIFF and TIFF Canada's Top Ten, Annecy International Animation Festival (France), Biennial VIDEONALE at Kunstmuseum Bonn - Museum of Painting and Contemporary Art Bonn (Germany), OSTRAL Biennale (Germany), Anthology Film Archives (USA), CICA Museum (South Korea), UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein (Germany), Images Festival (Canada), Image Forum (Japan), among others. Telengut is currently an assistant professor in Film Animation at Concordia University in Montreal (Canada).





## **A Tree is Like a Man**

**Director:** Thorbjörg Jónsdóttir

**Country:** Iceland, Colombia | **Year:** 2019 | **Runtime:** 29 minutes

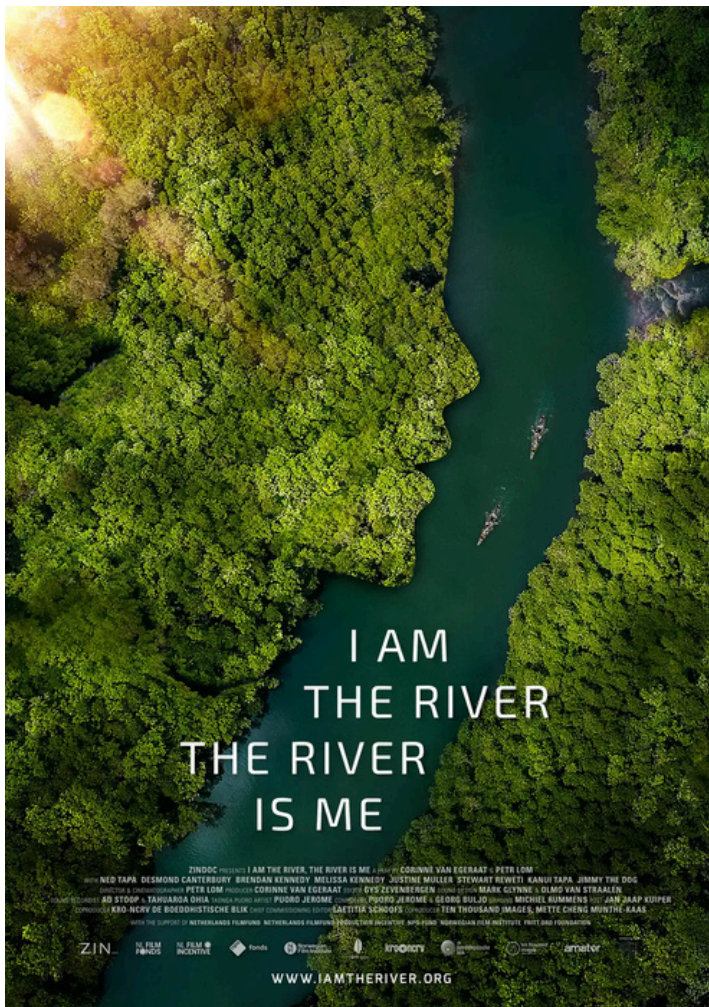
### **Synopsis:**

A Tree is Like a Man - En la maloca de Don William" is an attempt to touch the otherworld through its edges. Filmmaker Thorbjorg Jonsdottir met Ayahuasquero Don William back in the year 2000 by chance while traveling in the Colombian Amazon. This encounter led to a collaboration that developed over a decade between the filmmaker and the shaman. Shot on 16mm, the film serves as a personal witness to Don William's lifelong relationship to ayahuasca and other plant medicines that are native to the jungle. With the rainforest a rich labyrinthine background, this portrait is at once intimate and spare, opening up to alternate realities as dense as the jungle itself, with kaleidoscopic multiplicities in both the natural and the spiritual realms. Part ethnographic travelogue, part poetic formalism, the film never fully relies on genre tropes in its attempts to communicate the parallel histories and narratives of the Amazon and its cultural figure heads.

### **Screening Time:**

**Saturday, 4th May – 13:30-14:30**

**About Director:** Thorbjorg Jonsdottir is an experimental filmmaker from Iceland who holds an MFA degree in filmmaking from CalArts and a BA degree in visual arts from the Iceland University of the Arts. Her films navigate between ethnography and abstract formalism, exploring preternatural states where oral-mythology and landscape collide.



## I Am River, River is Me

**Director:** Petr Lom

**Country:** Aotearoa (New Zealand) | **Year:** 2024 | **Runtime:** 86 minutes

### Synopsis:

The Whanganui River in Aotearoa/New Zealand is the first river in the world to be recognized as a legal person, as a living and indivisible being.

Māori river guardian Ned Tapa invites a First Nations Elder from Australia and his daughter, who are activists dedicated to saving their own dying river back home, on a five-day canoe trip down this sacred river. Joining them are Ned's friends, his family, an international film crew and Ned's dog Jimmy.

For the Māori, the Whanganui is a living being – their ancestor. This belief has been institutionalized by New Zealand law as of 2017. Granting the river legal personhood is a way of environmental protection for the river, and as a way of legally validating the Māori worldview.

The film is an invitation to experience these values: of thinking about our relationship to the world around us – to above all the natural world – as one of intergenerational care and guardianship rather than just ownership/use/extraction.

### Screening Time:

Saturday, 4th May – 17:00-18:30