

For immediate release:
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SCETV presents inaugural NextLens Online Film Festival, showcasing South Carolina's brightest young filmmakers

COLUMBIA, S.C. – South Carolina ETV (SCETV) is proud to present this year's featured films in the inaugural [NextLens Online Film Festival](#). NextLens showcases the talent, creativity and vision of emerging filmmakers age 16 and up. Designed to highlight the voices of the next generation, NextLens gives aspiring filmmakers from across South Carolina a chance to be seen, celebrated and recognized in the ever-evolving world of media.

Featured films and filmmakers in the NextLens Online Film Festival include:

Gene Meree': The Sea Dog of Folly Beach

Filmmaker: Leah Pedersen, Trident Technical College

Gene Meree is a legendary figure from Folly Beach, South Carolina. Learn about his love for kiteboarding and his deep respect for the waves.

Beyond the Web: Banana Spiders

Filmmaker: Ethan Jones, Trident Technical College

Peer into the tiny world of the Golden Orb Weavers of South Carolina. Uncover their lifestyles as one's hunting and eating schedule is captured, undisturbed and unwavering.

Too Close to the Sun

Filmmaker: Ally Lashay, Savannah College of Art and Design

Follow an eldest daughter grappling with the effects of losing her wings young and deciding if she will allow that trauma to be passed down to her little sister.

The Wonders of Space

Filmmaker: Micah Rhoades, University of South Carolina

Doc Lightning Bug discusses space phenomena, the life of a bug and the things that bring people together using stop-motion animation.

DAREDEVIL: The Video Game

Filmmaker: Collin Grant Nettles, University of South Carolina

Explore the conventions of a third-person, story-driven video game in a film format.

Guilt Cake

Filmmaker: Audrey Buffington, Wofford College

Things are already tense for siblings Cypress and Peter following their aunt's funeral. As Cypress works to surprise their grieving mother with a family recipe, she butts heads with Peter, who wants their mother to sign a document helping him secure a new place to live. Explore grief, sibling relationships, familial duty and the beautiful and tragic nature of moving on.

Fitness Fibbage

Filmmaker: Jonathan Yi, University of South Carolina

After being mistaken for a fitness instructor, Zoe Trentwell, an extreme people-pleaser, goes through a ridiculous improvisational yoga class in the park.

First of the Month



Filmmaker: Fiona Schrier, University of South Carolina

After a series of terrible shifts and impulse purchases leave her broke, struggling waitress Eve decides to throw a house party to make rent, but the chaos of a good party might be more than she can handle.

All eight films will be available to view starting March 3 across SCETV's digital platforms, including scetv.org, [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), the [PBS app](https://www.pbs.org) and the [SCETV app](https://www.scetv.org), sharing the films with audiences in South Carolina and around the world. In addition to being showcased online, filmmakers will receive certificates recognizing their achievement.

With the growing importance of digital content, NextLens creates a space where the filmmakers of tomorrow can shine today. This festival not only highlights the unique perspectives of South Carolina's young storytellers but also nurtures the future of media, showcasing talent that will shape the narrative of the digital era.

To view the films and find more information on NextLens, visit scetv.org/nextlens.

QUOTES

"The creativity and vision these emerging filmmakers bring to the screen is nothing short of inspiring. NextLens Film Festival is a powerful platform for young storytellers to share their voices, connect with new audiences, and make their mark. SCETV is honored to champion the next generation of filmmakers and help shine a light on their incredible work." -**Senior Director of Audio and Digital Operations Tabitha Safdi**

"NextLens embodies the spirit of innovation and creativity, giving young filmmakers a chance to shine in the digital space. With the festival launching this Monday, we're not only showcasing their amazing short films but also fostering a community of emerging artists who will shape the future of media. I'm looking forward to sharing the powerful and inspiring work from this year's honorees." -**SCETV Director of Digital Ty Moody**

FAST FACTS

- SCETV is proud to present this year's featured films in the inaugural [NextLens Online Film Festival](http://scetv.org/nextlens).
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About South Carolina ETV and Public Radio

South Carolina ETV and Public Radio (SCETV) is the state's public educational broadcasting network. SCETV amplifies South Carolina voices, provides educational experiences and strengthens communities, while working toward creating a stronger, more connected and informed South Carolina. In addition to airing local programs, such as *The Know Show*, *Making It Grow*, and *This Week in South Carolina*, SCETV also presents multiple programs to regional and national audiences, including *Books By The River*, *After Action*, *Reconnecting Roots*, *Reel South*, *Somewhere South*, *Yoga in Practice*, *Downing of a Flag* and *Southern Songwriters with Patrick Davis*.

Media Contact

Landon Masters
media@scetv.org
803-737-3337