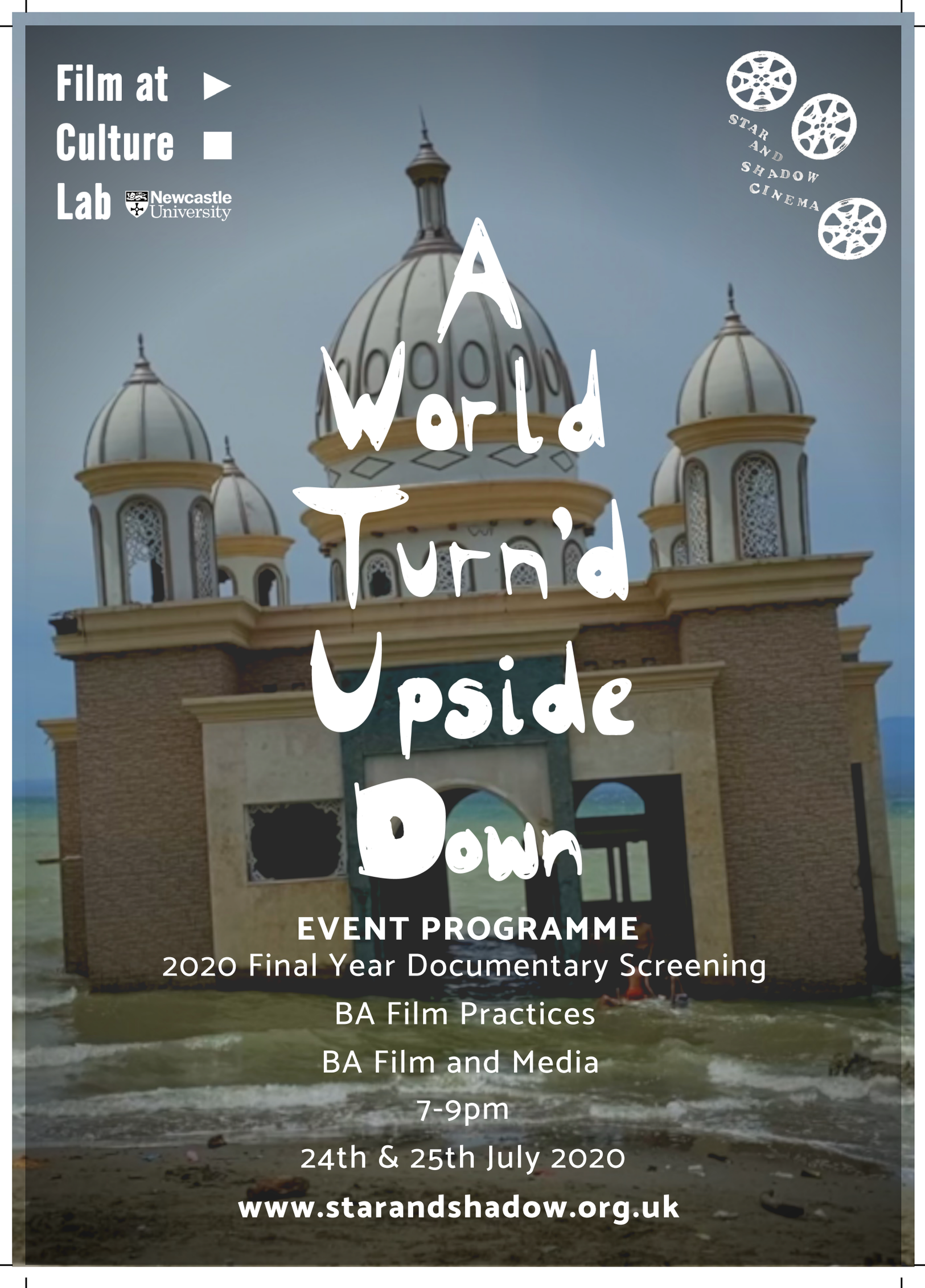
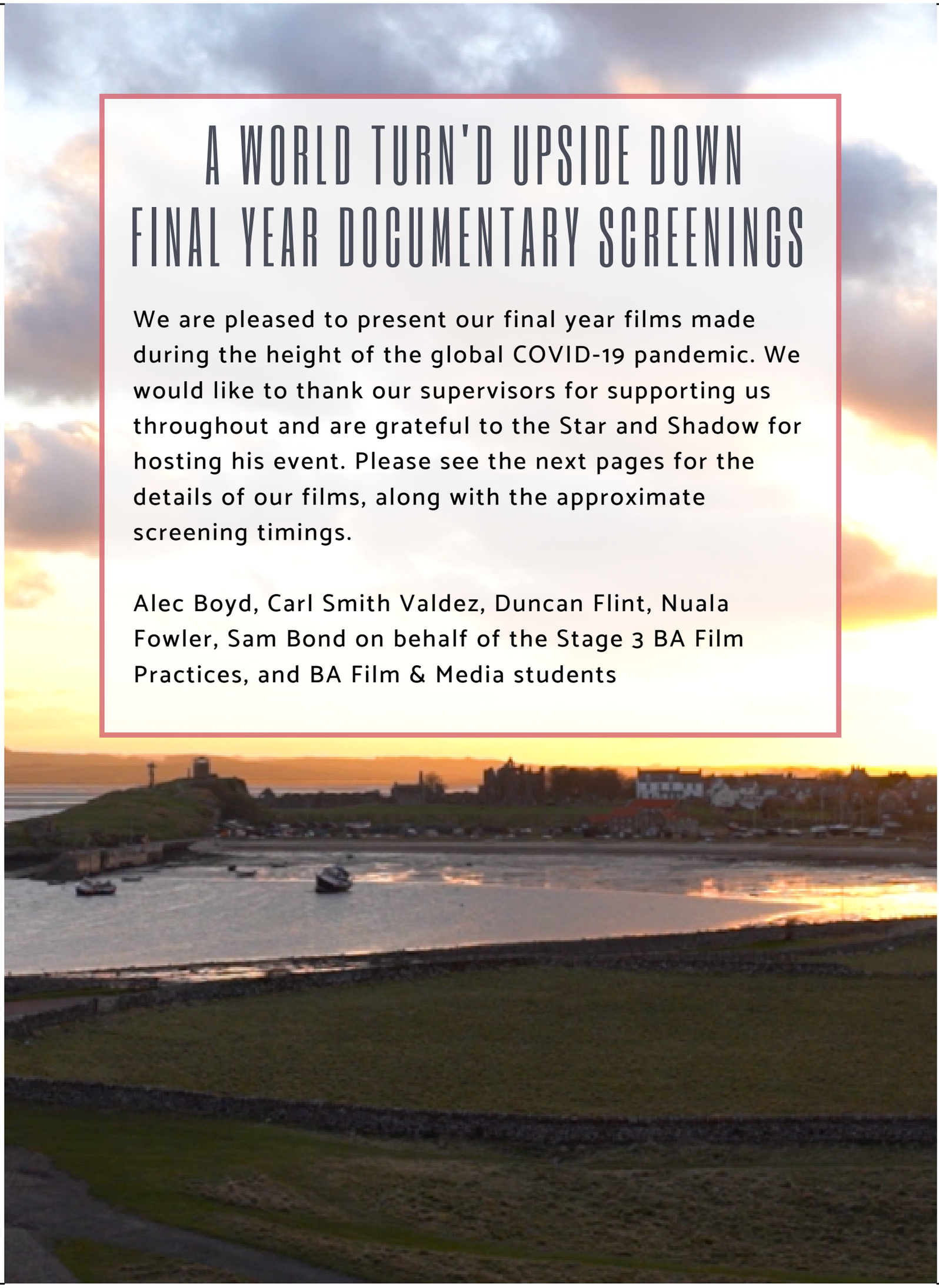

Film at
Culture
Lab
Newcastle University
STAR AND SHADOW CINEMA
A World Turn'd Upside Down
EVENT PROGRAMME
2020 Final Year Documentary Screening
BA Film Practices
BA Film and Media
7-9pm
24th & 25th July 2020
www.starandshadow.org.uk

A WORLD TURN'D UPSIDE DOWN
FINAL YEAR DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

The documentary films presented here represent the culmination of an intense and hopefully rewarding three years of study in the art and practice of documentary filmmaking for our students. Our aim as a film team in Film@CultureLab is to nurture students so that they thrive as independently-minded documentary filmmakers who are able to respond with confidence and creativity to whatever challenges that are put their way. This philosophy was certainly put to the test this year! With their lives 'Turn'd Upside Down' by the sudden switch to online learning in March 2020, and reeling from the instruction to put crew-based film projects on hold and come up with new solo films under conditions of lockdown, our students have displayed amazing levels of resourcefulness, resilience and innovation to produce their final year films. The film team are proud of what the students have achieved. Not only do the films showcase their talent as emerging filmmakers, but collectively, the students offer us a moving, compelling and provocative take on a 'A World Turn'd Upside Down'.

Dr Ian McDonald
Degree Programme Director



A WORLD TURN'D UPSIDE DOWN
FINAL YEAR DOCUMENTARY SCREENINGS

We are pleased to present our final year films made during the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to thank our supervisors for supporting us throughout and are grateful to the Star and Shadow for hosting his event. Please see the next pages for the details of our films, along with the approximate screening timings.

Alec Boyd, Carl Smith Valdez, Duncan Flint, Nuala Fowler, Sam Bond on behalf of the Stage 3 BA Film Practices, and BA Film & Media students

SCHEDULE OF FILM SCREENINGS

24TH JULY 2020

BLOCK I - 7:00 - 7:25

Home - Ziyue Ma
Holy Island in Lockdown - Anya Pashaeva
A Work in Progress - Charlie Henry Hall

BLOCK II - 7:25 – 7:55

Behind the Mask - Sylvia Wang
Carl - Carl Smith Valdez
Glass Houses - Rhys Marks

BLOCK III - 8:00 - 8:30

The Invisible Victim - Celine Chen
Done - Duncan Flint
Quarantine Commentary - Sam Jagger

BLOCK IV - 8:30 - 9:00

Keep Safe - Xander Kynoch
Covid-Blues - Daria Chojnacka
When I Am By Your Side - Xuejin Liu
AB by AB - Alec Boyd

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH THE FILMMAKERS - 9:00 - 10:00

25TH JULY 2020

BLOCK I - 7:00 - 7:30

Anything - Libby Murphy
The World Stands Still - Louis Clayton
Mortality - Victor Slynn

BLOCK II - 7:30 – 8:00

Touching Distance - Lotte Philip
The Goodwin Root - Tasia Goodwin
Ordinary Heroes - Ruyue Gan

BLOCK III - 8:05 - 8:30

The Song - George Lee
The Site - Eve Johnston
Breath of Oxygen - Chems Deaibes

BLOCK IV - 8:30 - 9:00

A Cradle to Hold Me - Nuala Fowler
This Must be the Verse - Sam Bond
Gone with Nature - Melynda Juni Kesuma

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH THE FILMMAKERS - 9:00 - 10:00

FINAL YEAR DOCUMENTARY SCREENING PROGRAMME

24TH JULY 2020

BLOCK 1 - 7:00 - 7:25

Home
by Ziyue Ma



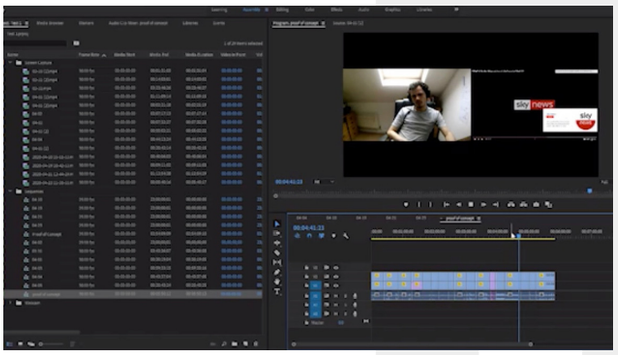
This documentary portrays the daily life of Chinese students in different countries, who stay in a state of isolation due to a worldwide pandemic. Self-shot footage of their lives are collected during this period to create a complete film. The film aims to express the idea of “home” for Chinese students, which is not just the space they live in (houses and rooms), but the home where their parents are around, their hometown and country. So, in addition to showing people isolated in one space, this film also expresses their desire to return home and return to normal.

Holy Island in Lockdown
by Anya Pashaeva



Holy Island in Lockdown is an observational documentary that explores the adverse effects of coronavirus in the travel and tourism industry, specifically in Lindisfarne. Through excellent cinematography, Pashaeva reveals the immense beauty of the physical location. She also evokes an eerie feeling of isolation, in a village normally visited by thousands of tourists every year.

A Work in Progress
by Charlie Henry Hall



Charlie Henry Hall's *A Work in Progress* is an examination of the filmmaking process with the story of both film and film-making being one. By employing a split-screen perspective Charlie is concerned with the filmmaker as both subject and observer and the inevitable consequences that come with such an approach.

BLOCK II - 7:25 - 7:55

Behind the Mask
by Sylvia Wang



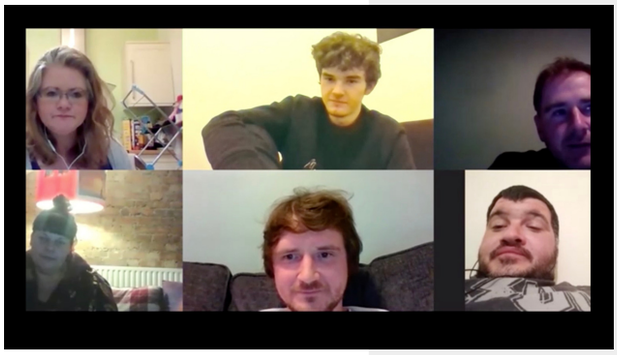
Behind the Mask is an expositional and interview-based documentary by Sylvia Wang, which does not just describe the process of a mask production but offers diverse perspectives of different working classes in the same mask factory — how they put up with misunderstandings and the crisis of high demand for masks. It reveals the emotions behind the global crisis as well as the sense of national pride, the attitudes to work and family from the grass level as well as the wider corporate context of government directives and quality control ethnographically.

Carl
by Carl Smith Valdez



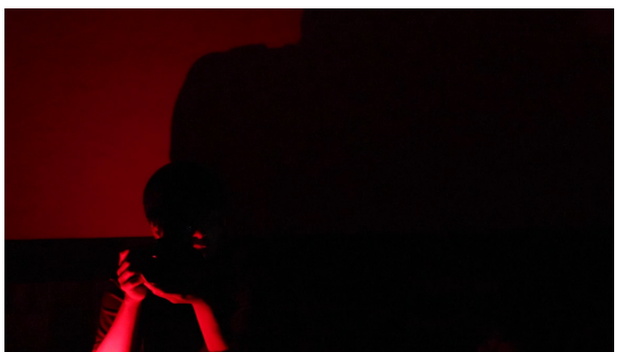
Carl is a short autobiographical film by Carl Smith Valdez, which explores his self-identity from the perspective of his mother. The filmmaker highlights commonalities between him and his mother by focusing on themes of maternal bond and memory, emphasising the strong influence of family histories into the shaping of the self. Through extensive and experimental use of archival footage, Valdez creates personal spaces for reflection; it welcomes a broader range of meanings beyond what might otherwise be possible. The documentary demonstrates how archives can be a very powerful tool to create unique and engaging stories outside simply re-telling past events.

Glass Houses
by Rhys Marks



Glass Houses centralises around concerns everyone faces every day. In recent times, aspects of life such as mortality and death, happiness, and wellbeing, among others have been heavily put under the spotlight. Through experiences of the filmmaker under lockdown confinement, Marks emphasises the importance of the personal relationships with one another. Although strained at times, such relationships found within friends and family enable us to get through difficulties we have faced and continue to face. Shot on a phone for four weeks, this is a personal and honest portrayal of various characters and events that took place during that time.

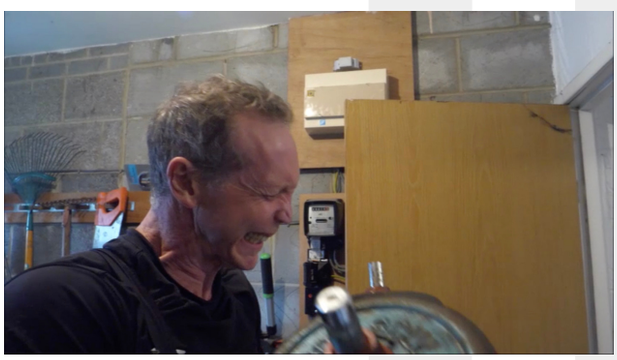
BLOCK III - 8:00 - 8:30



The Invisible Victim
by Celine Chen

The Invisible Victim by Celine Chen explores the issue of male sexual assault victims and extends its ethical discussion on the support victims receive. The documentary addresses the unfair treatment of men who come forward about their experiences as victims of sexual assault. In the documentary, the helplessness and hopelessness of the main character is depicted experimentally through an interview in a repressed composition and abstract shots.

Done
by Duncan Flint



How does he do it? Why does he do it? Duncan Flint uses an observational and interactive blend of filmmaking technique to explore Flint's father's gruelling weekly exercises, all of which have seemingly no end goal in sight. Raising more questions than providing answers, the audience acts both as observer to his routine and briefly see Flint's father viewing footage of himself, creating an overall tone of bemusement.

Quarantine Commentary
by Sam Jagger



Submitted to film festivals around the world and the winner of the Golden Cone at the Sandford Village Film Festival, *Quarantine Commentary* is a monumental moment in the history of cinema, perhaps the world. In this film, 3 Oscar-Award watching actors generously give us insight into their ground-breaking work creating the film that would go on to define film forever, *Quarantine Commentary*, creating a vital, intellectual yet deeply emotional dialogue on cinema, society, the COVID-19 situation and even expounding on life and death itself, forever marking humanity. Much like Prometheus gifting us fire, we will never be the same...

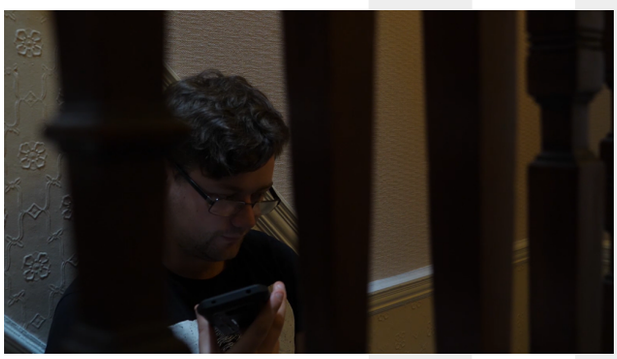
BLOCK IV - 8:30 - 9:00



Keep Safe
by Xander Kynoch

Keep Safe was a lockdown project made from a series of interviews with Kynoch's grandmother, attempting to draw parallels between her experiences of self isolation during the peak of Covid-19 and her experiences as a young girl during the London Blitz eighty years ago. The film uses her voice as one of wisdom and experience during a time of great uncertainty as well as an archival vein back to a time that will soon pass from living memory.

Covid-Blues
by Daria Chojnacka



Covid-Blues is a short film about a young man isolating alone during the coronavirus pandemic lockdown. As time progresses, the mundane activities of life in isolation lead to lack of creativity and motivation. The young man attempts to battle these challenges by reaching out to his dad and trying to remember happier times.

When I Am By Your Side
by Xuejin Liu



When I Am By Your Side by Xuejin Liu is a poetic and abstract personal reflective testimony about depression. This film depicts the impact of depression on patients themselves and the whole family from the perspective of a patient's partner: “I have always been by your side, but I cannot do anything”. The documentary utilises a very emotional and frank narrative depicting a story of love and pain.



AB by AB
by Alec Boyd

AB by AB is a reflexive and heavily personal short documentary by Alec Boyd (AB), depicting the relationship between himself and his own father (also AB). Utilising the contrast between the traditionally masculine activities of his father and the creative practice of documentary filmmaking, Boyd portrays the similarities and differences in both his own and his father’s characters in an exploration of not only family relationship but also of the self.

9:00 - 10:00
Roundtable discussion
with the filmmakers

Meet the filmmakers as they discuss their films, and their filmmaking experiences amidst the global pandemic.
A link to the roundtable discussion will be available after the film screenings at www.starandshadow.org.uk .

25TH JULY 2020

BLOCK 1 - 7:00 - 7:30

Anything
by Libby Murphy



Anything is an abstract documentary by Libby Murphy giving insight into the filmmaker's coping mechanisms throughout lockdown and using various creative distraction techniques to avoid overthinking. This film aims to shed light on those suffering with their mental health during these times.



The World Stands Still
by Louis Clayton

The World Stands Still is an observational documentary exploring the ways in which one family copes with the pandemic, socially isolated from the world. As they find distractions from the frightening issues unfolding around them, nature continues to grow regardless of humanity's standstill.

Mortality
by Victor Slynn



Mortality is a self-shot, crowd-sourced film based around the universal experience of reflecting on ones own mortality. A concurrent autobiographical approach also encapsulates the hardships that Slynn and his mother went through twenty years ago. The film looks deeper into the fears of mortality and confronts it head on, aiming to reassure those watching that their fears are shared.

BLOCK II - 7:30 - 8:00

Touching Distance
by Lotte Philip



Touching Distance ventures into the characteristics of a 22 year old male and his differing relationships within his immediate family members. This short film investigates the balance between maintaining his individuality and his family efforts on his Dad's birthday during the global pandemic.



The Goodwin Root
by Tasia Goodwin

The Goodwin Root is an insightful yet humorous home documentary, shot primarily through an iPhone camera, highlighting a unique family dynamic. Accentuated through the intense situation of the COVID-19 lockdown, this film questions the integrity of testimony when discussing feelings and emotion and looks at the past, present and future in representing such aspects.

Ordinary Heroes
by Ruyue Gan



The documentary shows how ordinary but great workers were working at risk during the outbreak of the pandemic. The two protagonists of this film are a disinfector and a security guard, the film shows their daily work during the unique period. As heroes fighting in the front line, what have they suffered?

BLOCK III - 8:05 - 8:30

The Song
by George Lee



George Lee's *The Song* is an elucidatory anthropological piece on the ubiquitous love for sequenced vibrations that is felt, and has been felt, since the beginning of civilisation itself.



The Site
by Eve Johnston

The Site by Eve Johnston follows a husband and wife pottering around the plot of their new house in Northern Ireland. From watering plants to digging a new patio, viewers are taken through three separate days during the lockdown period where the couple can get out of their house and take their mind off the current situation. After all their hard work they are able to put their feet up and relax together at the end of the day and look forward to the potential of their future home.

Breath of Oxygen
by Chems Deaibes



For Françoise, a garden is not only a valuable field for experimenting with different plants and trees, but also serves as a way to escape the grim reality of urban life, as an art form symbolising the soul of its maker. While letting their gaze wander over the various flowers, birds and insects inhabiting her backyard garden, the viewers are introduced to her inner universe, her childhood memories and ideals for a better world.

BLOCK IV - 8:30 - 9:00

A Cradle to Hold Me
by Nuala Fowler



Nuala Fowler's intimate family documentary *A Cradle to Hold Me* explores the nature of the filmmaker's relationship with her mother through linking the past and present. Dealing with concepts of memory and maternal love, she explores the shift in focus over time from viewing her mother as a purely maternal, yet world-encompassing, figure, to a person in her own right. Through the act of filming, Fowler changes the dynamic of the relationship to focus on the parent rather than the child, in an effort to learn more about her mother beyond that of her maternal role.



This Must be the Verse
by Sam Bond

Sam Bond's *This Must Be the Verse* offers a deeply personal and candid perspective on parenthood, using intimate interviews to observe his parents' honest and thoughtful reflections on raising a family. Bond contrasts these interviews with archival family photos to observe the domestic space of the family home and explore the change over time of both people and place. Increasingly introspective, the direction of the interviews shift towards Bond's parents own childhoods, deconstructing the maternal and paternal figures and revealing loss, regret, and vulnerability beneath the parental roles.

Gone with Nature
by Melynda Juni Kesuma



Gone with Nature is a film about the impact of the earthquake and tsunami that hit the Sulawesi Island in Indonesia, Palu, about two years ago. The film expresses how the incident still scars the landscape today, and comments on the lack of support for reconstruction in countries like Indonesia. Through personal testimony, the film explores what exactly happened during the earthquake and tsunami, as well as the emotional trauma that followed afterwards.

9:00 - 10:00

Roundtable discussion

with the filmmakers

Meet the filmmakers as they discuss their films, and their filmmaking experiences amidst the global pandemic.
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EVENT ORGANISERS

Production Managers: Alec Boyd & Duncan Flint
Programme Curation: Nuala Fowler & Sam Bond
Programme Design and Promotion: Carl Smith Valdez
Poster Design: Nuala Fowler

SPECIAL THANKS FOR SUPPORT, COOPERATION AND CONTRIBUTION

Newcastle University, Film@Culture Lab, Erin Weigand and the volunteers at Star and Shadow Cinema, and all the volunteer event organisers for making this Final Year student films showcase possible.