

JFF2018 SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT FILMS (alphabetical)

A Shot At Success – short documentary

Dir: Alex Weiss

Educational inequality was a hallmark of the apartheid system. The government has failed to address this inequality which is spurning South Africa's bountiful human capital by perpetuating an education system that sets up its youth for failure. After 23 years of democratic rule, the poorest citizens are being condemned to a relentless cycle of poverty and unemployment.

Parkfields Primary School in gang-ridden Hannover Park, with committed teachers and effective management is a shining light for the future of the community. By scaling up the successes seen amongst overwhelming odds, South Africa's education system could be a catalyst for a better and more democratic society.

Izilwane – short fiction

Dir: Kyllian Roux

Grace, a struggling homeless woman battles to provide a better life for her 6-year-old brother, Kgosi, as she yearns to one day take him to the beach. But this dream is halted when Kgosi goes missing. Grace must then hunt for the man whom she believes has her brother. Along the way she discovers more than she intended, and must make an impossible choice.

Junior – short fiction

Bert Dijkstra

Junior is a quiet, awkward young man who lives alone with his domineering father. Junior never seems to live up to his father's expectations and struggles to stand up for himself. When he and his father are hijacked, Junior goes on a quest to reclaim the car and to prove himself once and for all.

Ko Ga Cherenyane – short documentary

Dir: Sibonokuhle Myataza

Boizy, a farm worker, describes his definition of what freedom is in the post-apartheid South Africa from his personal journey.

Revolver – short fiction**Dir: Herman Venter**

A woman recalls a poignant recollection from her childhood as she finds herself remembering the moments and events that led up to her father's suicide.

Skin Diver – short fiction**Dir: Katya Abedian**

Skin Diver is a coming-of-age frame narrative which begins with a young, hearing-impaired girl opening a story book she has received for her birthday. The world she opens follows the growth of Saffron, a dreamer-stuck-in-the-suburbs.

The Water Dancers – short documentary**Dir: Robyn Palmer**

Dragonflies are the sentinels of the Earth. Being among the oldest creatures on our planet, they have lived in harmony with the indigenous plants and animals of Earth's bountiful landscapes for 300 million years. We came, we conquered and we evicted them from their habitats. Now, after millennia of human recklessness, we are turning back to nature's messenger, the dragonfly, for promise of a new way forward.

Umnengo – short ficiton**Dir: Siphosethu Ndunge**

A drama that explores issues of patriarchy, gender based violence against women and the misuse of cultures in a modern context.