



The

PAVILION

A short film

Pixie Cram

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Pavilion – a short film by Pixie Cram

Premiering at the International Film Festival of Ottawa, March 15, 2026

Set in Ontario at the end of WWII, The Pavilion tells the story of two sisters sent to live with their aunt and uncle while their father serves overseas and their mother is stricken with tuberculosis. Equipped with a magical storybook, the girls embark on a journey through the countryside where the characters and objects from the book come to life, guiding them towards their mother.

Inspired by untold stories of women in wartime, director Pixie Cram blends magic realism with historical reality to create an evocative short film that is part fable and part period drama. The film explores themes of grief, healing, and the magic of mother nature.

Shot largely with natural light in 4K, the cinematography highlights the raw beauty of the Ottawa River Valley waterways and forests. Touches of stop motion animation and naturalistic performances by first-time actors, Yfke and Otsje Schurer-Napiorkowski, establish the world of the film, where childhood wonder meets with feminine instinct.

The 15-minute short features a score by Angela Schleihauf, costumes by Thea Yeatman, stop motion animation by Tina Le Moine, storybook illustrations by Rachel Gray, sound design and foley by Kevin Komaranski, and cinematography by Matthieu Hallé.

Watch the trailer: [The Pavilion](#)

Media inquiries:

Pixie Cram pragmatopia@gmail.com

"An ambitious production full of authentic period details, punctuated by passages of otherworldly stop-motion that remind us of the magic of the natural world and the magic that women have wielded as healers across time that has been feared and suppressed."

- Christopher Rohde, Artistic Director, Mirror Mountain Film Festival

The Filmmaker

Pixie Cram

BIO

Pixie Cram is a filmmaker based in Ottawa-Gatineau. She creates short fiction, animation, and experimental documentaries. Her stop motion films, *Emergency Broadcast* (2017) and *Witch Woman* (2022), screened at the Ottawa International Animation Festival and at numerous festivals across Canada and internationally. *Witch Woman* is currently available to stream on CBC Gem. Delving into themes of childhood, nature, technology, and war, her work has been described by the Canadian Film Institute as a “remarkably diverse, ever-evolving catalogue of cinematic expression.” She teaches a screenwriting course at Carleton University.



"The first image I had for *The Pavilion* was of a woman emerging from the water with a child in her arms."

- Pixie Cram

The Pavilion

15-minute short

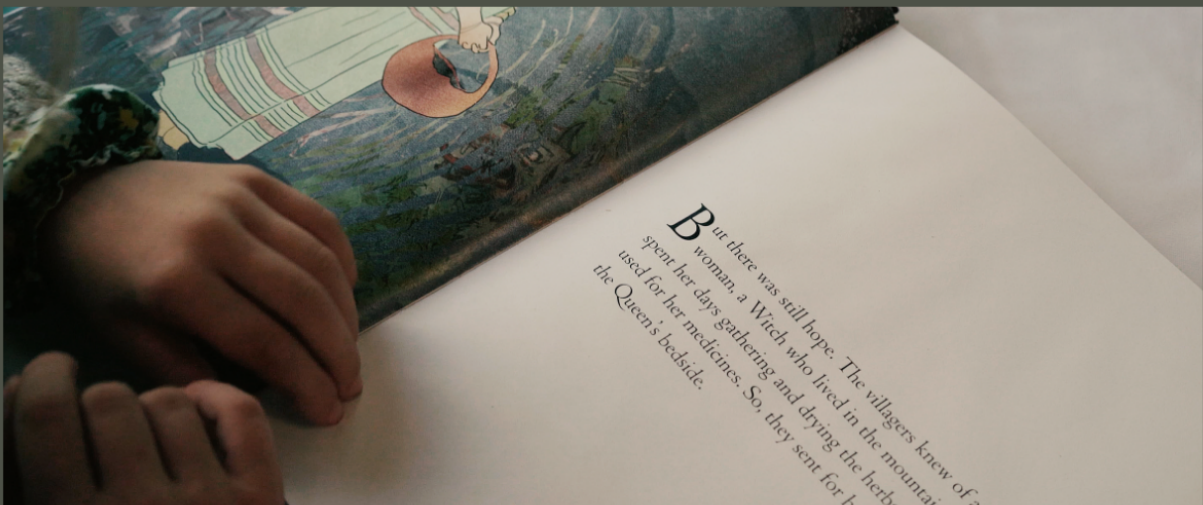
In WWII-era Ontario, two sisters take inspiration from a magical storybook to help their ailing mother.



Loosely based on the story of Hansel and Gretel, the Pavilion blends elements of fairy tale, magic realism, and historical drama.

Authentic WWII radio broadcasts courtesy of the CBC were used in the soundtrack of the film, which contains no dialogue. To evoke the period of the 1940s, Schleihauf's lyrical score was composed for oboe, english horn, and viola. The Pavilion was filmed on location at Oiseau Bay, Pontiac, Quebec; Blakeney Rapids and Almonte, Ontario; and the historic Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario in Smiths Falls.

The Pavilion



The Pavilion



The Pavilion

Trailer



Written & directed by Pixie Cram

Cinematography: Matthieu Hallé

Stop-motion animation: Tina Le Moine, Pixie Cram

Storybook illustrations: Rachel Gray

Costumes: Thea Yeatman

Cast: Yfke Schurer-Napiorkowski, Otsje Schurer-Napiorkowski, Kathleen McCreery, Carole Brown, Roy Van Hooydonk, Myrielle Bernier-Acuna, Tina Le Moine

Production manager: Nicole Bedford

Locations manager: Kathleen Reichelt

Sound design & foley: Kevin Komaranski

Music: Angela Schleihauf

Music performed by Angela Schleihauf and Kathryn Patricia Cobbler

Editing: Kara Blake, Pixie Cram

TECHNICAL INFO

Digital

2K format; 4:3 colour

14:59 minutes

5.1 Surround Sound

No dialogue