

From the Academy Award® Winning
Producers of *Curfew*



Owen Teale Sophie Thompson
Leo Harris and Sule Rimi

SOMETHING POINTLESS

The CANADIAN SHORT SCREENPLAY COMPETITION Presents HIRAETH PRODUCTIONS Picture
In association with SCREEN WIZARDS PICTURES FUN REPUBLIC PICTURES BAILEY STUDIOS FUZZY LOGIC PICTURES
"SOMETHING POINTLESS" Story by OWEN TEALE SOPHIE THOMPSON LEO HARRIS and SULE RIMI
Casting by VICTOR JENKINS CDG CSA Production Designer MARION CHEUNG Original Music by ANDREA BELLUCCI
Costume Designer KAREN TOMKINS Edited by LAURENCE COHEN Cinematographer KEEFA CHAN Executive Producers SHAWN CHRISTENSEN
DAMON RUSSELL BRENDEN HUBBARD ZANE LACKEY DWAYNE HILL Produced by DAVID CORMICAN ASA BAILEY
Story by NEIL GRAHAM Screenplay by NEIL GRAHAM and DAVID CORMICAN Directed by ASA BAILEY



FUZZY LOGIC PICTURES BAILEY



“SOMETHING POINTLESS is indeed,
something quite special.”

— Jeff York, Chicago Indie Critics, The Establishing Shot

Title: Something Pointless

Starring: Owen Teale, Sophie Thompson, Leo Harris, Sule Rimi, Tom Mumford, Jennifer Evans

Director: Asa Bailey

Story: Neil Graham

Screenplay: Neil Graham and David Cormican

Casting Director: Victor Jenkins, CDC, CSA

Cinematographer: Keefa Chan

Production Designer: Marion Cheung

Costume Designer: Karen Tomkins

Editor: Laurence Cohen

Music: Andrea Bellucci

Presented by: The Canadian Short Screenplay Competition

Produced by: Hiraeth Productions (UK), Fun Republic Pictures (CA), BAILEY Studios (UK), Fuzzy Logic Pictures (US)

Producers: David Cormican, Asa Bailey

Executive Producers: Shawn Christensen, Damon Russell, Brenden Hubbard, Zane Lackey, Dwayne Hill

Premiere Date: USA Film Festival (April 23, 2026)

Distributor: Screen Wizards Pictures

Trailer: [Link to View](#)

Production Stills: [Link to Download](#)

FB: [@shortisbetter.cssc](#)

IG: [@shortisbetter.cssc](#)

Project Materials: [FilmFreeway](#)

[ShortFilmDepot](#)

Official Screenings: [Link to View](#)

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Genre: Drama

Year of production: 2025

Running time: 14:21

Country: Wales, UK, Canada

Media: DCP (2K & 4K DCI)

Language: English

Subtitles: English, Welsh, French, Closed Captions

Ages: 12 and up



SOMETHING POINTLESS

In a world burdened by routine and silent struggles, Something Pointless unfolds as a delicate tapestry of interconnected lives seeking meaning beyond the mundane.

An elderly man, ensnared in the twilight of his years, formulates a simple yet profound theory: by engaging in an utterly pointless act each day, one can rekindle an appreciation for life's inherent purpose.

Embracing this belief, he begins to affix painted eggshells onto a long, desolate wall—a quiet rebellion against insignificance.

Parallel to his journey is that of a young boy, overshadowed by loneliness and the harsh realities of bullying. Drawn to the old man's enigmatic ritual, he finds an unspoken connection and a glimmer of hope.

The wall, once a symbol of decay, slowly transforms into a mosaic of colour and silent stories.

When the old man passes away, his understated legacy leaves an indelible mark on the boy.

Stepping into the role of the silent artist, the boy continues to adorn the wall with eggshells, each fragment a testament to resilience and newfound purpose.

Through this simple act, he discovers joy in the unexpected and allows a smile to grace his face for the first time.

Something Pointless is a lyrical exploration of the human spirit, delving into themes of inter-generational connection, the search for meaning in everyday life, and the transformative power of seemingly insignificant actions.

It invites audiences to reflect on the profound impact that small gestures can have on others, illuminating the beauty that lies hidden within the ordinary.

A close-up, portrait-style shot of an older man with a full, grey beard and mustache. He has light-colored eyes and is looking slightly off-camera with a somber, contemplative expression. He is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, button-down shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

“Packs an emotional punch
almost every second.”

— Jeff York, Chicago Indie Critics, The
Establishing Shot

Something Pointless is a wonderful and sad, award-winning short film script that was selected as the top script out of hundreds of entries from all across the world in the second edition of the **Canadian Short Screenplay Competition (CSSC)**. Written by the talented Neil Graham, Something Pointless, weaves the tale of The Boy Who Never Smiles who is sad, relentlessly bullied and set up for failure by all those who surround him and through him witnessing the pointless act of a dying old man, he is finally able to find a reason to smile.

A medium shot of a young boy with dark, curly hair, looking upwards and to the left with a serious, perhaps sad or thoughtful expression. He is wearing a dark school uniform jacket over a plaid shirt and a striped tie. The background is a dimly lit room with a window showing a grid pattern, possibly a classroom or hallway.

“Both lead actors are subtle, portraying angst
without overplaying the pathos.”



Awards & Accolades As of May 8th, 2026

Winner, Best in Fest — Canadian Short Screenplay Competition (Canada), 2010

Finalist; Official Selection — USA Film Festival (USA), 2026

Winner, Best Short Film — Ideal International Film Festival (India), 2026

Nominee, Best Short Film Made In Wales (John Hefin Award) — Carmarthen Bay Film Festival (UK), 2026

Nominee, Best Short Film — Yorkton Film Festival (Canada), 2026

Nominee, Crystal Pine Award, Best Short Film — International Music & Sound Festival (Croatia), 2026

Official Selection — The Art of Brooklyn (USA), 2026

Official Selection — SilverVox Film & Music Festival (USA), 2026

Official Selection — Prescott Film Festival (USA), 2026

Official Selection — Bitesize Short Film Fest (UK), 2026

Official Selection — Love & Hope International Film Festival (Spain), 2026

Official Selection — Carmel International Film Festival (USA), 2026

Semi Finalist; Official Selection — The Bay International Film Festival (UK), 2026

Official Selection — Chapter Movie Maker (UK), 2026



OWEN TEALE — Aldous Evans

Owen Teale is a BAFTA-winning Welsh actor whose career spans award-winning work on stage and screen. He won a BAFTA Cymru Award for his performance in *Dream Horse* (2020) and a Tony Award for his acclaimed turn as Torvald in the Broadway revival of *A Doll's House* (1997). As Ser Alliser Thorne in HBO's *Game of Thrones*, he received a Screen Actors Guild Award nomination in 2016. Teale first rose to prominence in the beloved BAFTA-winning drama *Ballykissangel* and has since built a diverse body of work, including *Line of Duty*, *A Discovery of Witches*, *Stella*, and stage productions with the RSC and National Theatre. Trained at the Guildford School of Acting, he is recognized as one of Wales's most accomplished and versatile performers.



SOPHIE THOMPSON — Eleri Evans

Sophie Thompson is an Olivier Award–winning actress celebrated for her extensive work across theatre, film, and television. Acclaimed for her 1999 Olivier Award–winning performance in *Into the Woods*, Thompson has built a distinguished stage career alongside memorable screen roles in films such as *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1*, *Gosford Park* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Thompson has also made her mark on British television with performances in *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* and more recently in the BBC’s *Detectorists* and MGM+’s *Belgravia: The Next Chapter*. Her versatility and depth have made her one of the most respected actors of her generation.



LEO HARRIS — The Boy Who Never Smiles

Leo Harris is a rising Welsh young performer with a compelling screen presence and a natural acting ability far beyond his years. Leo's credits include the main role of Jake in the BBC's BAFTA and International Emmy Award winning drama series *Lost Boys and Fairies*, Edward in *The Count of Monte Cristo* for Mediawan and France Télévision and Bobby in *Casualty* for the BBC. Leo has quickly become one of the most exciting young performers to watch.



SULE RIMI — The Headmaster

Sule Rimi is a Nigerian-born British actor and 2025 Screen Actors Guild Award nominee for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series for *The Day of the Jackal*. On screen, he is known for his roles in *The Day of the Jackal*, *Andor*, *Foundation*, *The English*, *Doctor Who*, and *Unforgotten*. His film work includes *Ear for Eye*, *Starter for Ten*, *The Machine*, *The Adventurer: Curse of the Midas Box*, and *Francis*. Sule has also built an extensive stage career, with standout performances in *Fat Ham* (RSC), *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (National Theatre), *Force Majeure* (Donmar Warehouse), *Jitney* (Leeds Playhouse/Old Vic), *Sweat* (Donmar/West End), *Barber Shop Chronicles* (National/Australia/New Zealand tour), *Mary Stuart* (Almeida), and *The Rolling Stone* (Royal Exchange/WYP/Orange Tree).



Asa Bailey — Director, Producer

Asa Bailey is a renowned Virtual Production & AI Supervisor and Director with a proven track record of pioneering real-time workflows in the entertainment industry. Over the past decade, Asa has been at the forefront of virtual production, combining cutting-edge technology with traditional filmmaking expertise to create award-winning feature films, high-end series, and commercial campaigns.

Recently, Asa has served as the Virtual Production Supervisor on high-profile projects, including *Silo Season II*, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Hostile Takeover*, and *Shark Attack 360*. His innovative approach to real-time visual effects and on-set VFX visualization has redefined production efficiency, enabling seamless integration of live-action and digital elements. Asa also spent two years as Studio Virtual Production Supervisor at Netflix, where he spearheaded virtual production initiatives for the Latin America content slate, supporting filmmakers in adopting scalable real-time workflows.

As the founder of BAI-LEY, Asa continues to push the boundaries of real-time technology, most recently leading the development of the BAI-LEY VFX System—a state-of-the-art, 8K-capable on-set compositing system leveraging NVIDIA's NVREX technology and Unreal Engine. His leadership bridges the gap between production and post-production, empowering creatives to make informed decisions earlier and deliver stunning visual content efficiently.

Neil Graham — Writer

Neil Graham is an accomplished director and screenwriter whose dedication to innovative storytelling has earned him accolades across the international film landscape. Known for his compelling narratives and diverse skill set, Neil has made his mark in genres ranging from psychological thrillers to stop-motion animation.

His career launched early with *The Insane Route*, a gripping serial-killer short he directed at just 15. Graham went on to hone his craft as a film student at Warwick University, where his talent quickly caught the attention of the British Film Institute. Selected to document cinema's centenary, Neil's diary was featured in the publication *World Cinema: Diary of a Day*, joining contributions from luminaries across the industry. During this period, he directed *A Wonderful World*, a short documentary that was selected for the 1994 Brighton Film Festival, solidifying his emerging status as a filmmaker to watch.

In the years following, Neil directed *The Tree*, a short stop-motion film, and the comedy *Foot in the Door*, funded by the UK Arts Council, both of which received critical praise for their originality and wit. A prolific screenwriter, Neil has penned over 20 screenplays both short and feature-length, including *Hope*, a British Short Screenplay Competition finalist, and *Something Pointless*, which won the Canadian Short Screenplay Competition in 2010. In 2004, he returned to Warwick University to complete an MBA with a focus on International Marketing. His dissertation, exploring competitive advantages within the British film industry, reflects his strategic vision and passion for fostering growth in UK cinema. In 2012, Neil completed his Psychology degree, further deepening his understanding of human behavior, a key element that enriches his creative storytelling.





David Cormican — Producer, Co-Writer

David Cormican is an Emmy®-nominated producer, film and television tastemaker. He is Founder, President and CEO of Fun Republic Pictures (2016), Founder of the Canadian Short Screenplay Competition (2008) and Co-Founder of the distributor Screen Wizards Pictures (2018) and Washington Square Entertainment (2021). He is a member of the prestigious International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (where he serves on the nomination committee), the Canadian Media Production Association (where he served on the board from 2011-17), the Producers Guild of America (p.g.a.), where he serves the international committee, and the Writers Guild of Canada (WGC).

Past productions include the International Emmy®-nominated *Tokyo Trial* for NHK, *Between*, the Emmy®-nominated *The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe*, *ShadowHunters* and the Venice TV Award nominee *Northern Rescue* which bowed worldwide at #1 for Netflix. *Tulipani*, *Love, Honour & A Bicycle*, from two-time Academy Award® winning director, Mike van Diem, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Selected by The Hollywood Reporter as Next Generation Canada: Class of 2014, Cormican was also recognized by Playback in 2012 as a Top 10 to Watch and again in 2015 as Playback's New Establishment. He received the National Screen Institute's Producer Drama Prize in 2010 and is a graduate of the Erich Pommer Institute's Trans Atlantic Partners programme. In 2016, Cormican received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, MacEwan University's highest honour, where he was recognized for his outstanding achievements in business, arts and culture, lifelong learning and community service. Cormican was recently picked up for representation as a producer, screenwriter and showrunner by Paradigm Talent Agency out of Los Angeles.



Keefa Chan — Cinematographer

Keefa Chan is a BAFTA Cymru Award-winning cinematographer whose work is anchored in a deep observation of human nature. His filmography, ranging from intimate Welsh narratives like *Fog of Sex* directed by BAFTA award-winning documentary filmmaker Christopher Morris, to international features, is connected by a consistent pursuit of emotionally authentic human experiences. He frames stories with a quiet but raw intensity, whether capturing the resilient, fiery spirit of a Welsh community in the documentary *Bannau Brycheiniog* featuring Michael Sheen, or exploring the profound weight of everyday existence in *Something Pointless* (dir. Asa Bailey). In the latter, his camera observes the formidable Owen Teale with a visual language of quiet introspection, achieved through a naturalistic lighting approach and deliberate compositions.

Marion Cheung — Production Designer

Marion Cheung is a fine artist whose work explores imaginary landscapes and the use of creativity as a tool for personal development. She brought her painter's eye to the short film *Something Pointless* as art director, designing the visual identity, sourcing props, and developing analogue effects that shaped the film's look and feel. Inspired by the story's message that small, seemingly futile actions can create meaning and connection, she contributed her creative vision to this moving narrative.

Marion's art is held in the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales Celf Ar Y Cyd, and is also part of the University of South Wales public collection. She has exhibited at Found Gallery (Brecon), Barnabas Arts House (Newport) and M.A.D.E Gallery, (Cardiff). She studied Fine Art Printmaking at Central Saint Martins, London, and is part of the artist collective Das Clarks.





Laurence Cohen — Editor

Laurence Cohen is an award-winning Writer/Director/Editor whose work blends emotion, humor, and relentless tension. His films have screened at Festival du Cannes and Dances With Films, with *Rusted Pyre* recognized among the Top 100 Films of 2011 and winning the National Screen Institute's prestigious Drama Prize. His two films *The Rocket Man* and *Killing Off Connor* are both currently on the festival circuit and have so far earned 20 nominations and 5 wins. Cohen edited Netflix's *Blackout* (starring Josh Duhamel and Nick Nolte), which debuted at #2 on Netflix's Global Top 10 with 15 million viewers in its first week, and *Guest House* (starring Pauly Shore and Steve-O) which topped Amazon's charts for 37 days, and contributed editing on Apple TV+'s premium sci-fi epic *Invasion*.

Andrea Bellucci — Composer

Andrea Bellucci is an award-winning music composer based in Los Angeles specializing in film and video game scoring, with over ten years of experience as a composer and producer for movies, TV shows, and games.

Born in Rome, he began his musical journey as a teenager with classical piano before graduating from the prestigious Santa Cecilia Conservatory. He holds honors degrees in Musicology and Cinematography (2010) and Music Composition for Visual Media (2012).

With over a decade of experience, Andrea has collaborated with major studios and indie productions worldwide. His credits include work for Skydance, notably on *League of Legends* (Riot Games), *Warhammer 40K (Relic)*, *Smite* and *Paladins* (Hi-Rez Studios), Amazon Studios, Netflix, Sky, Sony Publishing, Hollywood Scoring, and Lionsgate.





Shawn Christensen — Executive Producer

Shawn Christensen is an Academy Award-winning American filmmaker, musician, and artist. He first gained widespread recognition for his 2012 short film *Curfew*, for which he won the Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film; he later expanded it into the feature film *Before I Disappear*. His artistic journey began with a BFA in illustration and graphic design from the Pratt Institute, a foundation that continues to influence the strong visual composition of his filmmaking. Prior to his film career, Christensen was the frontman and lead singer of the indie rock band Stellastarr*. His expanding body of work includes writing, directing, and producing films like *The Vanishing of Sidney Hall*, writing scripts for major studios, and more recently, venturing into the world of podcasting.

Damon Russell — Executive Producer

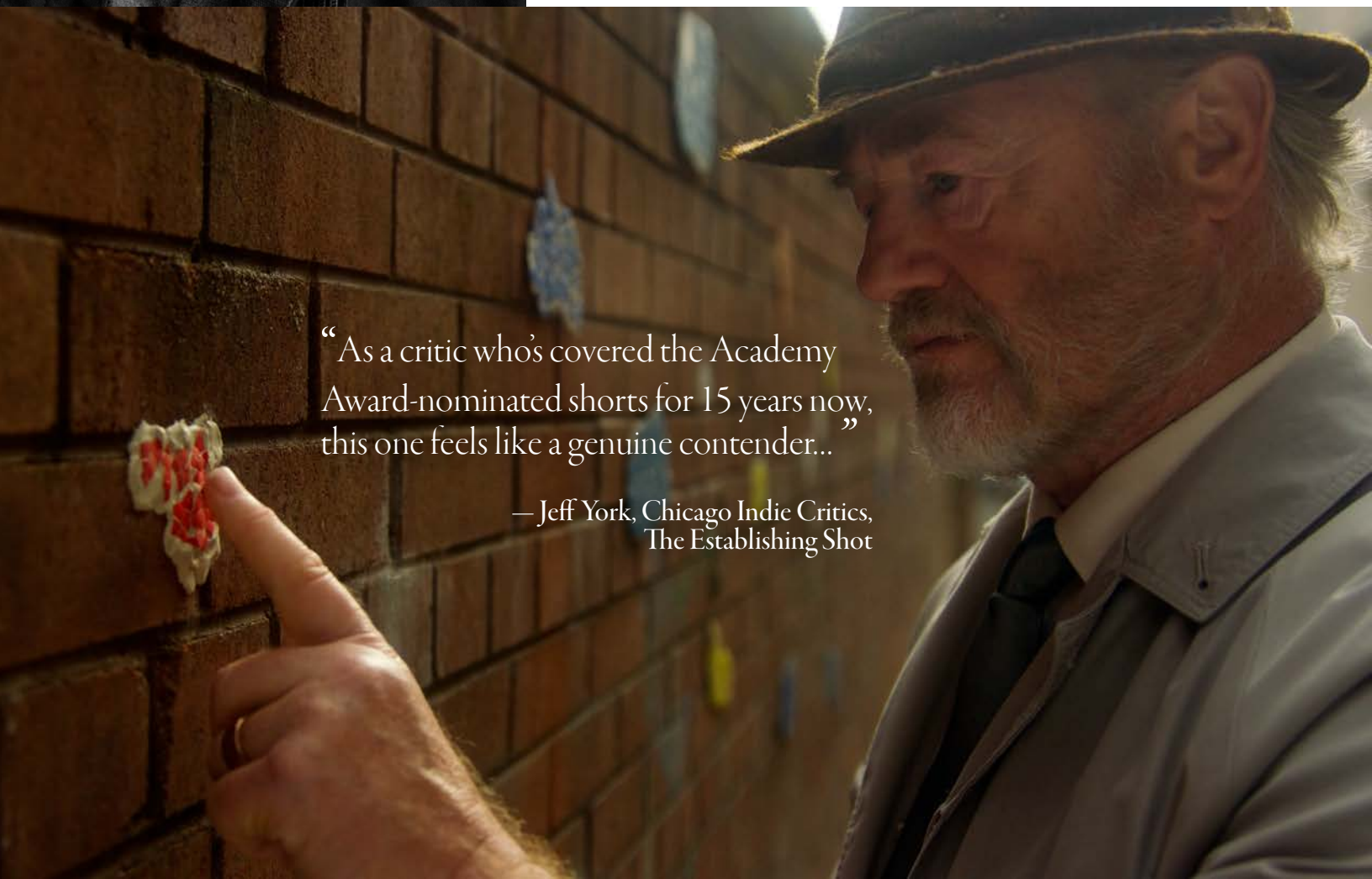
Damon Russell is an Academy Award-winning producer and director whose work spans Netflix, IFC, National Geographic, Discovery, and Adult Swim. He got his start on A&E's *The First 48* and broke out with the cult hit *Snow on tha Bluff* (Netflix), later producing the Oscar-winning short *Curfew* and its feature adaptation *Before I Disappear* (IFC). Damon is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.





Brenden Hubbard — Executive Producer

Brenden Hubbard, also known as BEAR, is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, and producer whose career spans over a decade and more than 100 films. His credits include the Academy Award–winning *Curfew*, its feature adaptation *Before I Disappear* (IFC Films), the Sundance Jury Award winner *Oh Lucy!*, and the Icelandic festival favorite *Everything in the End*. A Temple University alum and touring production manager with artists such as Paul Anka, Shakey Graves, and Dr. Dog, Hubbard made his directorial debut with *The Helping Hand* (released on Dust) and also produces scripted and unscripted podcasts for Criminal Content, including *American Hostage* (Jon Hamm) and *The Foxes of Hydesville* (Carey Mulligan, McKenna Grace), with *American Hostage* now greenlit for series by MGM+. His latest film, *Hide*, stars Alejandro Rose-Garcia and is slated for a 2026 release.



“As a critic who’s covered the Academy Award-nominated shorts for 15 years now, this one feels like a genuine contender...”

— Jeff York, Chicago Indie Critics,
The Establishing Shot

Fun Republic Pictures

Fun Republic Pictures was founded in 2016 by Emmy-nominated producer David Cormican and specializes in creative and financial solutions, closing complex international financing structures for both scripted feature film and television productions. Selected credits include: *Tulipani, Love, Honour, & A Bicycle, The Tall Man, Lullaby for Pi, Northern Rescue, Between, ShadowHunters*, the Primetime Emmy-nominated *The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe* for Lifetime, and the International Emmy-nominated *Tokyo Trial* for NHK (Japan) & Netflix.

BAI-LEY Studios

BAI-LEY Studios is led by Director and AI Supervisor Asa Bailey, providing studio-scale expertise to major platforms like Netflix, Apple TV+, and Disney. With a specialty in bridging creative, technical and legal domains, BAI-LEY designs and audits secure, ethical and compliant AI-assisted workflows for film and television production. They have pioneered key industry solutions to ensure data provenance and protect intellectual property, including the .DAVE file format for tracking authorship and IP rights, the GODBOX secure on-set and post-production AI platform and the BEHOLDER software for ethics and rights data recording, thereby enabling productions to leverage AI innovation while safeguarding legal protections and creative integrity.

The Canadian Short Screenplay Competition

The Canadian Short Screenplay Competition (CSSC) is Canada's most prestigious and competitive festival dedicated exclusively to the art of short-form screenwriting. Founded in 2008 by International Emmy Award-nominated producer and showrunner David Cormican, the CSSC's mission is to discover, champion and launch the careers of emerging screenwriting talent from across Canada and around the world. A proven launchpad for writers, the competition has a legacy of producing its top-winning scripts into acclaimed short films that have premiered at esteemed venues including the Festival de Cannes, the Yorkton Film Festival (with whom the CSSC holds a strategic partnership), and previously on networks like CBC and BravoFACT. More than just a contest, the CSSC is an active financier and producer of content, providing a crucial bridge from the page to the screen and serving as the definitive starting point for writers embarking on their professional journeys.

