

German International School of Boston  
PRESENTS



# Family Film Festival



Robin and the Hoods

## Belmont World Film's 22nd Family Festival

January 18: West Newton Cinema

January 19: Regent Theatre, Arlington

January 20: Brattle Theatre, Cambridge

January 26: Regent Theatre, Arlington

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# Inspired by Books!

## Your guide to this year's festival



Belmont Belmont World Film's 22nd Family Festival is a celebration of some of the world's most imaginative films for and about children, brought to life on the big screen as a shared experience. This year's lineup features mostly North American premieres, with cinematic gems geared to children aged 3-12.

Films inspired by beloved classic and contemporary children's books are a festival hallmark. More than half of this year's selections are adapted or re-imagined from books, in fact. The films ignite a love for books and reading, while also complementing the Massachusetts Public School Curriculum Frameworks; they will be shown on Sunday, January 19 and Monday, January 20. Films devoted to reclaiming green spaces will screen on Sunday, January 26.

Among them is **Teca & Tuti: A Night in the Library**—an enchanting celebration of the magic of books and reading. It combines live-action with stop-motion and traditional animation, drawing inspiration from *Alice in Wonderland* to craft an entirely original story. This is one film you won't want to miss! **Other films inspired by books include:**

**Tiddler:** The latest film based on a Julia Donaldson (*The Gruffalo*) picture book about the magic of storytelling.

**Toopy & Binoo:** Based on the 1996 children's book series about a cat and mouse by Quebec author Dominique Jolin.

**Hitpig!** A pig-for-hire saves an elephant from a cruel circus owner in this animated film based on an original idea by Berkeley Breathed and inspired by his 2008 children's book *Pete & Pickles*.

**Robin and the Hoods:** A new twist on the classic *The Adventures of Robin Hood* in which tenacious 11-year-old Robin and her loyal crew, "The Hoods," defend their beloved "Kingdom," a patch of woods where they engage in fantasy games, from being developed.

**Lars Is LOL:** Based on the best-selling Norwegian book by Iben Akerlie about a girl who befriends a boy with Down Syndrome.

**The Flying Classroom:** Set in a boarding school in the German Alps and based on the 1933 novel by Erich Kästner.

**Tartini's Key:** A sort of *DaVinci Code* for kids based on the novel by Roman Kukovič.

Enhance your child's festival experience with a hands-on animated character workshop led by this year's Artist-in-Residence **David Feiss**, who co-directed the recently released hit film *Hitpig!* and who has worked on all the *Minions* movies, *The Grinch*, *The Secret Life of Pets*, *Open Season*, *Hotel Transylvania* and more.

To help maximize your children's enjoyment of the festival, we've created some age guidelines that you'll find marked on each film program and workshop. Children mature at different ages, however, and you know your children best.

**Age 3-8:** Programs are presented in English and are limited to about one hour.

**Age 5-12:** Programs range from 60-90 minutes and sometimes require the ability to read subtitles, although subtitles will be read aloud through headphones for those who need it.

**Age 8+:** These films offer slightly more mature films with simulated dangerous situations and a curse or two.

**Age 10+:** These films contain more mature themes, such as potential danger, bullying, fighting, & cursing. Some children as young as 9 may be interested in these films.

**Subtitles will be read aloud through headphones by a professional voiceover at screenings that are not in English.**

# Films & Workshops at a Glance

Subtitles will be read aloud through headphones by a professional voiceover at screenings that are not in English. Schedule and films subject to change. Please see our web site or Facebook page for up-to-date information.

S = Shorts program

F = Feature length film

When	Program	Language	Type	Age
<b>Saturday, January 18</b> — West Newton Cinema, 1296 Washington Street				
10:30 AM	<b>Shorts Program: Pet Projects</b> (60 min.)	English	S	3-8
11:45 AM	<b>Elli and the Ghostly Ghost Train</b> (86 min.)	English	F	5-12+
1:30 PM	<b>Dounia: The Great White North</b> (52 min.) <i>shown with Skipping Rope</i> (20 min.)	French Chinese	F	5-12+
3:00 PM	<b>Winners</b> (119 min.)	German	F	10+
<b>Sunday, January 19</b> — Regent Theatre, 7 Medford Street, Arlington				
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	<b>Learn to Draw Minions and Hotel Transylvania Characters with David Feiss</b>		W	5+
10:30 AM	<b>Tiddler</b> (23 min.) <i>shown with The Snail &amp; The Whale</i> (27 min.)	English	S	3-8
11:45 AM	<b>Robin and the Hoods</b> (100 min.)	English	F	8+
1:45 PM	<b>Hitpig!</b> (86 min.) with a director Q&A	English	F	5-12+
4:00 PM	<b>Tartini's Key</b> (115 min.)	Slovenian	F	10+
<b>Monday, January 20</b> — Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge				
10:30 AM	<b>Toopy &amp; Binoo</b> (84 min.)	English	F	3-8
12:15 PM	<b>Teca &amp; Tuti: A Night in the Library</b> (74 min.)	Portuguese	F	5-12+
1:45 PM	<b>The Flying Classroom</b> (89 min.)	Germany	F	8+
3:30 PM	<b>Lars Is LOL</b> (90 min.) followed by a discussion	Norwegian	F	10+
<b>Sunday, January 26</b> — Regent Theatre, 7 Medford Street, Arlington				
12:15 PM	<b>Sauvages</b> (87 min.)	French	F	5-12+
2:00 PM	<b>Curious Tobi and the Treasure Hunt to the Three Rivers</b> (92 min.)	German	F	8+
3:45 PM	<b>Block 5</b> (79 min.)	Slovenian	F	10+

## TICKETS – Available at [www.belmontworldfilm.org](http://www.belmontworldfilm.org)

EBT, WIC & ConnectorCare card holders: ½ price

**Shorts Programs** \$ 8

**Feature Length Films** \$ 12

**Films Only Pass** (admission to all 15 programs) \$ 35

**VIP All-access Pass** \$100  
(access to all films, workshop, a t-shirt & recognition in all Belmont World Film programs for a year)

**Learn to Draw Minions & Hotel Transylvania Characters Workshop** \$ 20

# W O R K S H O P

Sunday, January 19, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Regent Theatre Underground | 7 Medford Street, Arlington

## Learn to Draw Minions & Hotel Transylvania Characters with Expert Animator David Feiss

Unleash your child's creativity in this exciting workshop with this year's Artist-in-Residence David Feiss! Known for his work as a story artist on the *Minions* and *Hotel Transylvania* films, David brings his expertise from a legendary career in animation. Learn how to draw your favorite characters, discover behind-the-scenes secrets of blockbuster films, and get tips from one of the industry's top animators and directors. Perfect for kids who love to draw and dream of animation!. **Cost: \$20; Includes all materials. Age 5+**

### About Artist-in-Residence David Feiss

David Feiss is co-director of the recent hit film *Hitpig!* and creator of Cartoon Network classics *Cow and Chicken* and *I Am Weasel*. Feiss has had a prolific career in animation, starting as an animator on *Heavy Metal*, as well as being a story artist on such films as *Open Season*, *Hotel Transylvania*, *Despicable Me*, and *The Secret Life of Pets*. He directed the Annie-nominated *Open Season: Scared Silly* and theatrical shorts for the *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* franchise, *Minions*, and *Sing 2*.

An Emmy nominee and 1997's National Cartoonist Society

"Cartoonist of the Year," Feiss is now directing the live-action/CG series *Armorsaurs*, set for a 2026 release.



The **Quebec Delegation of Boston** is pleased to support the screenings of three films from Quebec:

**Dounia**

**Elli and the Ghostly Ghost Train**

**Toopy & Binoo**



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# SATURDAY • JANUARY • 18

West Newton Cinema | 1296 Washington Street

## 10:30 AM Shorts Program: Pet Projects

Wordless | Various countries | various years | 60 min.

From playful pets to wild creatures, this wordless collection of funny and creative international short films—from charming stop-motion to stunning 2D and 3D animation—blends humor, emotion, and creativity. **Films include:**

**Hoofs on Skates** (Lithuania): A pig and a cow have fun ice skating on a frozen lake.

**Filante** (France): Paulette makes a wish to the same shooting star every night to find her missing pet rat.

**Animanamusical** (Germany): A colorful collection of animals put on a musical show.

**Coquille** (France): After losing his shell, a hermit crab must find a new home.

**The Carp and the Child** (Belgium): Catching a carp isn't easy with a puppy, a frog, and a duck around.

**Wing It!** (The Netherlands): A cat is launched into space by an overly enthusiastic dog.

**Sparrows** (Belgium): A young monk follows a sparrow on a wild journey to a monastery.

**Tuu Tuu Til** (Germany): For small children, the world is full of mystery and they need the help of an adult to navigate it. Or maybe it is the adults who, in the company of children, rediscover the magic in everyday life? **Age 3-8 Sponsored by the British International School of Boston**



## 11:45 AM Elli and the Ghostly Ghost Train

Directed by Piet De Rycker, Jesper Møller & Jens Møller

US premiere | 86 min. | English | Germany, Canada | 2024

In a futuristic world where ghosts and the abnormal are no longer allowed, homeless little ghost Elli searches for her missing uncle and ends up hiding in a Ghost Train filled with eccentric residents. While on the lookout for a place to belong, she accidentally attracts the attention from the "outsideworld" and must team up with the Ghost Train's motley crew on a crazy quest to save its future. Along the way she finds friendship and family. **Age 5-12+**

**Sponsored by the Quebec Delegation of Boston & the German International School of Boston**



## 1:30 PM Dounia: The Great White North

Directed by André Kadi & Marya Zarif

New England premiere | 52 min. | French with subtitles | Canada | 2023

Shown with **Skipping Rope**

Directed by Meryl Wu

North American premiere | 20 min. | Chinese with subtitles | Taiwan | 2023

Dounia and her grandparents experience life in Canada after fleeing the war in Syria, leaving her father in Aleppo. She and her new French Canadian and indigenous friends delight in sharing their respective cultures. Missing her father deeply, Dounia follows her indigenous friend's grandmother's advice to call out to him with all her heart. In **Skipping Rope**, a young girl yearns for the life her older sister leads: being part of a rope skipping team, trendy shoes, a close circle of friends, and the affectionate gaze of their parents. **Age 5-12+ Sponsored by the Quebec Delegation of Boston**



# 3:00 PM Winners

Directed by Soleen Yusef

119 min. | German with subtitles | Germany | 2024

Eleven-year-old Mona, a Kurdish girl who fled Syria with her family, lives in a culturally vibrant Berlin neighborhood where most kids are from other countries. Struggling with German but fluent in soccer, Mona longs for the country she left behind, her street soccer matches, and the encouragement of her beloved aunt. When a teacher spots her talent and persuades her to join the school soccer team, Mona faces new challenges as she navigates clashes with her teammates, each grappling with their own



struggles. To claim the school's first-ever city-wide championship, Mona and her team must overcome obstacles on and off the field, discovering the true meaning of teamwork along the way. **Age 10+**

**Content advisory:** *Cursing, bullying a refugee, gunshot sounds, suggested war scene*

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INSPIRED BY BOOKS DAY 1

SUNDAY • JANUARY • 19

Regent Theatre | 7 Medford Street, Arlington

## 10:30 AM Tiddler

Directed by Alex Bain & Andy Martin

North American premiere | 23 min. | UK

English | 2024

Shown with

## The Snail and The Whale

Directed by Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon | 27 min. | English | UK | 2019

Hannah Waddingham (*Ted Lasso*, *Game of Thrones*) narrates *Tiddler*, the newest adaptation of a Julia Donaldson (*The Gruffalo*) picture book that tells the heartwarming story of a little fish with a big imagination who gets lost in the deep wide ocean until he's saved by his own storytelling. In 2019's *The Snail and the Whale*, featuring the voices of the late Dame Diana Rigg, Oscar-winner Sally Hawkins, and comedian Rob Brydon, a tiny snail goes on an amazing journey by hitching a ride on the tail of a huge humpback whale. **Age 3-8**



## 11:45 PM Robin and the Hoods

About Artist-in-Residence David Feiss

North American premiere | 100 min. | English | UK | 2024

Calling all fans of knights, fantasy, and the environment! "The Hoods," a group of neighborhood kids lead by spirited and tenacious 11 year-old Robin, rule over a patch of woods they call the Kingdom, where they dive into imaginative fantasy games.

Visually toggling between the kids' vivid perspective—complete with real armored knights, magical battles, and thunderbolts—with the reality of cardboard armor and toy arrows, they must face off against a rival gang determined to claim their domain and ruthless property developer unveils plans to turn their beloved play area into a concrete leisure facility. Inspired by the Robin Hood legend, Robin and her friends band together to save their cherished "Kingdom." **Age 8+**



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## 1:45 PM **Hitpig!**

Directed by David Feiss & Cinzia Angelini  
86 min. | English | UK, Canada, USA | 2024

### Followed by a Q&A with co-director David Feiss

Based on an original idea by Berkeley Breathed and inspired by his 2008 children's book *Pete & Pickles!* A star-studded cast—including Jason Sudeikis, Lilly Singh, Rainn Wilson, RuPaul, and Hannah Gadsby—voice the characters in this hilarious story about a pig turned "hitpig," capturing pets that have escaped their owners. Hijinks ensue when he must capture his biggest bounty yet: Pickles the Elephant. **Age 5-12+**  
**Content advisory:** gun shots, animals hitting one another



## 4:00 PM **Tartini's Key**

North American premiere | 115 min.  
Slovenian with subtitles | Slovenia | 2024

In the picturesque seaside town of Piran, Slovenia, three children embark on an exhilarating treasure hunt tied to the medieval town's mysteries to uncover a collection of letters exchanged between the legendary violinist Tartini and iconic violin maker Stradivarius. Their journey is filled with clever puzzles and daring escapes as they race to outwit two bumbling, comical art thieves determined to sell the priceless find on the black market. **Age 10+**



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INSPIRED BY BOOKS Day 2

# MONDAY • JANUARY • 20

Brattle Theater | 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge

## 10:30 AM Toopy & Binoo

Directed by Dominique Jolin & Raymond Lebrun

US premiere | 84 min. | English | Canada | 2023

When a comical genie accidentally make Toopy and Binoo's beloved stuffed animal Patchy-Patch disappear, the three of them set out for the land of "Lost and Found." Along the way, the little group meets twin seagulls looking for their father and a magnificent princess who has lost her dance partner. Given Toopy's overconfidence and goofiness, they fall into a lot of misadventures along the way! Based on the 1996 children's book series *Toopy and Binoo* by Dominique Jolin. **Age 3-8**

Sponsored by the Quebec Delegation of Boston



## 12:15 PM Teca & Tuti: A Night in the Library

Directed by Diego M. Doimo, Tiago Mal & Eduardo Perdido

North American premiere | 74 min. | Brazil | Portuguese with subtitles 2024

This enchanting film celebrates the magic of reading through a captivating blend of live-action film and stop-motion and traditional animation. Teca the paper moth lives with her adopted family and her pet dust mite, Tuti, in five-year-old Zico's grandmother's sewing box. While the moths' favorite treat is paper, its scarcity forces them to settle for eating spaghetti-like threads. One day Teca discovers that books, though tempting to eat, hold mesmerizing stories that shouldn't be devoured. Eager to solve a great mystery, Teca and Tuti sneak into a book that Zico returns to the library, where an unforgettable adventure unfolds as Teca searches for the most important story of her life. **Age 5-12+**



## 1:45 PM The Flying Classroom

Directed by Caroline Hellsgård

North American premiere | 89 min.

German with subtitles | Germany | 2023

Martine receives a scholarship to attend a boarding school in the picturesque German Alps. Her excitement about the opportunity turns to dismay when she gets involved in the long-standing feud between the "day pupils" and the "boarders." Based on the 1933 novel of the same name. **Age 8+**

**Content advisory:** bullying, adult smoking

Sponsored by the German International School of Boston



## 3:30 PM Lars Is LOL

Directed by Eirik Sæter Stordahl

North American premiere | 90 min. | Norway

Norwegian with subtitles | 2023

Based on the best-selling Norwegian book by Iben Akerlie, this poignant story follows eleven-year-old Amanda, who is reluctantly assigned to mentor Lars, a new student with Down Syndrome. Despite her initial hesitation, Amanda and Lars form a deep and unexpected friendship based on their shared love of magic and the Harry Potter books. While struggling to keep their connection a secret to fit in with her classmates, however, her peers pressure her to betray Lars. Ultimately, Amanda must find the courage to stand up for what is right and reclaim both his trust and her sense of self. **Age 10+**

**Content advisory:** Use of the word 'retarded,' peer pressure, and bullying involving ridiculing a boy with Down Syndrome.

*Sponsored by the Norwegian Consulate of New York.*



### The Norwegian Consulate

is pleased to support the screening and promotion of the Norwegian film *LARS IS LOL*.



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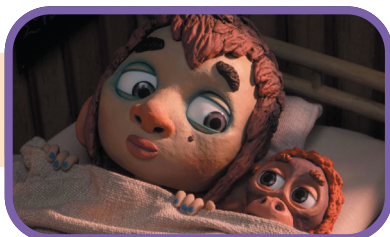
Regent Theatre | 7 Medford Street, Arlington

## 12:15 PM Sauvages

Directed by Claude Barras

New England premiere | 87 min. | Switzerland, France, Belgium | French with subtitles | 2024

Oscar-winning director Claude Barras (*My Life as a Zucchini*) presents another remarkable stop-motion tale about Kéria, a young girl living in Borneo, who cares for a rescued baby orangutan. At the same time, her cousin Selaï arrives to live with them, seeking refuge from the conflict between his nomadic family and the logging companies. Together, they will work to protect their ancestral forest, now under greater threat than ever. For Kéria, it will also lead her to uncover the truth about her own origins. **Age 5-12+**  
**Content advisory:** *suggestion of danger*



## 2:00 PM Curious Tobi and the Treasure Hunt to the Three Rivers

Directed by Johannes Honsell

North American premiere | 92 min. | Germany | German, English with subtitles | 2023

Part fiction, part travel documentary, follow Tobi as he sets off on a scavenger hunt around the world to Vietnam, Mongolia, and the Amazon rainforest, connecting the dots amongst the clues left by a former caretaker in a mysterious wooden treasure chest. **Age 8+**  
**Sponsored by the German International School of Boston**



## 3:45 PM Block 5

Directed by Klemen Dvornik

North American premiere | 79 min.

Slovenia | Slovenian with subtitles | 2024

Twelve-year-old Alma is determined to honor her late mother's legacy of protecting the environment and preserving nature. When the kids in her neighborhood start bullying her, Alma faces a new challenge: can she convince the skateboarding crew to put aside their differences and join her cause to save their playground? Set to an energetic soundtrack, the film is a heartfelt story of kids discovering the power of standing up for their values. **Age 10+**  
**Content advisory:** *Cursing, bullying, illegal activities*



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# About Belmont World Film

Belmont World Film is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that enriches the Greater Boston community with some of the world's top films—films that otherwise might never be shown here—followed by discussions with expert speakers on pressing world issues, as well as cultural performances and international food experiences. Our mission is to inspire understanding of other cultures through the universal language of film.

Each year we work with local and international organizations to present a Family Festival in January, an international film series in the spring, and other events throughout the year. Films come from countries from far away as Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Iraq, Latvia, Mongolia and Uganda, and as close as Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Romania, and the United Kingdom.

Since 2002, Belmont World Film's Family Film Festival has been a must-attend event for families in the Greater Boston area with children ages 3-12, offering the opportunity to view some of the world's most significant films for children as they were meant to be seen—on a big screen as a shared experience with others—as well as opening a window into the lives of children in other countries.

## Board of Directors

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This program is supported by generous grants from **Newton Community Pride** and the **Belmont Cultural Council**.



This program has applied for funding from the **Arlington Commission on Arts & Culture**, the **Cambridge Arts Council**, and the **Newton Cultural Council**.



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