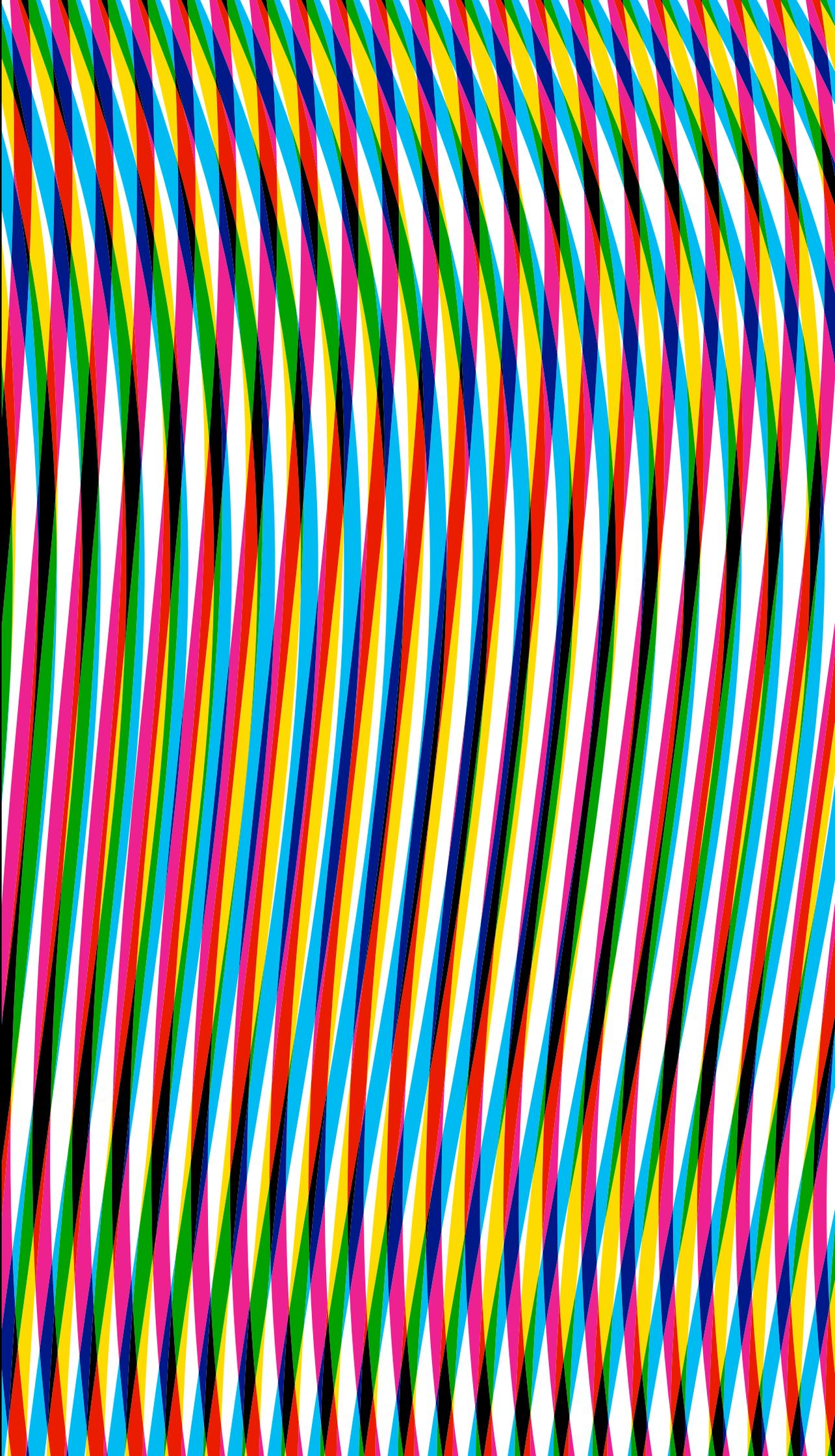


TOP SCREEN 2022

Thursday 10 March - Tuesday 10 May
ACMI, Fed Square



THE VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY IS PROUD TO PRESENT TOP SCREEN 2022 AT ACMI, AS PART OF THE VCE SEASON OF EXCELLENCE.

Top Screen 2022 is an incredible platform that displays the creativity, originality and imagination of VCE Media students across the state of Victoria.

VCE Media is a terrific subject, where students are able to create a media product of their own while mastering their craft using industry processes that reflect their artistry, dedication and passion for their work.

This year's Top Screen program represents only a small segment of the wonderful films created by VCE Media students in 2021. Throughout another challenging year, these stories were local, honest, humorous and fun, representing the vast range of interests, skills and narratives that VCE Media students want to tell.

We are so proud of the work that has been created in VCE Media and thank the teachers, schools, families and friends who have inspired and supported our students to produce such engaging products. Be sure to visit Top Designs at Melbourne Museum to see other VCE Media works on display, including print and digital products.

Congratulations to all the filmmakers, their schools, families and teachers on being a part of Top Screen 2022.

Renee Paxton, State Reviewer for VCE Media



MACKENZIE BLISS

Sandringham College, Sandringham
Bunurong Country

Good-Guy

Comedy, 5 min

In an attempt to escape his own weakness and break free from average teenage life, Henry takes on the hero persona of the Blue Guardian. As his vigilante attempt unfolds with increasing hilarity, it becomes clear that Henry may not live up to the superhero archetype.

In making *Good-Guy*, I wanted to create a comedy that would explore and mock the idea of comic-inspired vigilantes in real life. I hoped to achieve this by subverting the superhero genre with a bleak and naturalistic comedic style, inspired by films such as *The Art of Self-Defence* and *Thunder Road*.

ALICE HUXTABLE

Fitzroy High School, Fitzroy North
Wurundjeri Country

Space

Animation, Drama, 5 min

A child's passion to become an astronaut leads to play and bonding with his mum. As he grows up, the child loses his passion and curiosity, and he drifts apart from the parent. He gets caught up in the stress and fast pace of adult life, ending up isolated in a dull office job.

When making this film, I hoped to create an emotive story that can connect with a wide range of audiences and challenge the decisions we make and who we leave behind because of them. Inspired by Christmas adverts and Pixar short films, I wanted to instil a sense of nostalgia and emotion in the audience.

KYLE PATOCS

Kilvington Grammar School, Ormond
Bunurong Country

Laneways

Documentary, 6 min

A group of volunteers in Carnegie, Melbourne transform dark, gloomy laneways into vibrant outdoor art walkways. One of the founding members, Kirsten, details the journey from just wanting to clean up an alleyway to becoming a widespread community-based phenomenon.

In making this film, I hoped to create a documentary that highlights how one small idea can have a huge, positive impact on a community. By documenting the past, present and future of these laneways, I wanted to instil a sense of positivity in the audience.

KOKO CROZIER

Methodist Ladies' College, Kew
Wurundjeri Country

Hereafter

Horror, 6 min

A young girl awakes to find that her family is missing. As she navigates her secluded farmhouse in their pursuit, she is confronted by a series of supernatural events. The manifestations escalate in disturbing fashion as a macabre reality unfolds.

In making this film, I hoped to create a cinematic experience that both satisfies and challenges the audience's expectations. Inspired by the directorial work of James Wan and Ari Aster, I aimed to instil a sense of hope and beauty into the notion of death.



BAILEY ZERVAAS

Berwick College, Berwick
Wurundjeri Country

Been Here Before

Animation, Thriller, 4 min

A man's life is threatened as the clock approaches midnight and an unknown figure is out for his blood. When meeting his grim fate, the man is given a second chance to relive the day and attempt to survive with the foresight he is given.

In making this film, I intended to create a thrilling narrative and visually impressive experience. I wanted to get the audience invested by incorporating action and mystery elements. I was inspired by sci-fi and thriller narratives, and anime series like *Steins;Gate*.

BEATRICE LANE-SMAILES

Wesley College, Melbourne
Bunurong Country

Candle

Music Video, Action, 6 min

After a night out, a woman leaves her friend and walks home alone. She is stalked by a man lurking in the dark, who does not know the woman is actually a witch. With her powers, she is able to stay one step ahead.

In creating this music video, I intended to empower young women to live their lives without the fear of a male figure lurking in the background. Inspired by the auteurship of Edgar Wright, I created a fast-paced film to reflect the rapidly changing ideology of women's rights and the growing strength behind the movement.

ALISSA MOHAMED

Narre Warren South P-12 College, Narre Warren South
Bunurong Country

Strings

Fantasy, Thriller, 6 min

One night, a random puppet-show ticket is thrown into a young girl's room. After going to sleep, the girl is awoken by her imaginary friend and guided to the puppet show. Her friend then performs a dance routine and 'welcomes' the young girl onto the stage.

In making this film, I wanted to depict how people can be controlled by their own fantasies or imaginations. Through the imaginary friend, I hoped to portray the nature in which these fantasies take hold of a child. Inspired by Tim Burton and the aesthetic of *Coraline*, I aspired to twist the audience's mind and show how 'curiosity kills the cat'.

ARIEL REYES

Swinburne Senior Secondary College, Hawthorn
Wurundjeri Country

Awakening

Drama, 10 min

Awakening is a journey of self-discovery and acceptance through the eyes of Beau, an 18-year-old male struggling to overcome his romantic desires for his ex-girlfriend Eli. Only Marco, a childhood best friend, is able to comfort and lead Beau in the right direction.

In creating this film, I aimed to create a realistic drama about the importance of supportive relationships, particularly among males. I wanted to create a narrative that adolescents can relate to, and was inspired by *Beautiful Boy* and *Babyteeth* for their drama-based narratives and supportive relationships.



EVA DE CARVALHO KOCH

Bialik College, Hawthorn
Wurundjeri Country

The Abandoned Tour

Animation, 2 min

This cautionary film follows a perishing cable car along its melancholy route. It explores a crumbling city ravaged by the devastating effects of human overpopulation, consumption and greed. There is a vast wasteland that resides beyond the fenced perimeter.

In creating and modelling this 3D animation using Blender, I hoped to explore a dystopian city where the remains of humanity are hemmed into an overpopulated city-like hub. I aimed to show the overwhelming effects of materialism and consequent pollution, ultimately presenting a cautionary tale.

ELIZABETH IVES

Loreto Mandeville Hall, Toorak
Wurundjeri Country

These Walls

Music Video, 7 min

These Walls is an indie music video that juxtaposes flashbacks to the warmth, hope and joy of youth with depictions of the unfulfilled and loss-tainted present of the young protagonist. It highlights the demoralising fears of individuals on the precipice of adulthood.

Having also written and produced the song, I sought to create a visual and aural representation of the fear of regret and failed potential of my generation, hesitating on the precipice of the 'freedom' of adulthood. Inspired by Xavier Dolan, I wanted to achieve this in an intimate and highly symbolic way.

ERIN KIM

Templestowe College, Templestowe Lower
Wurundjeri Country

The Flower in Me

Animation, 3 min

Insecure about the flower buds on her antlers not having bloomed like her other peers, Bom struggles with self-acceptance. Her self-doubt transforms into the physical form of a shadow creature that consumes Bom, until her friend Pangie rescues her.

For my animation, I was inspired to create a story of self-acceptance and celebration from the song *Outro : Ego* by j-hope of BTS. To represent this in a story without dialogue, I decided to use the character's physical form to develop the character.

LAZAR FELDMAN

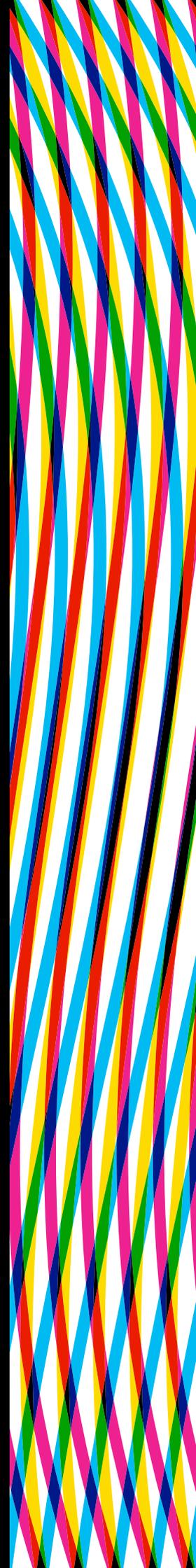
Wesley College, Melbourne
Bunurong Country

Pet Problems

Coming-of-age, 5 min

Mira is a five-year-old prep student faced with the impossible challenge of having to bring a non-existent pet to school for the upcoming 'Bring your Pet to School Day'. After discussing with her siblings why she does not have a pet, she investigates how to find one.

In devising this film, I aimed to honour the innocence of childhood and celebrate the stories of Australian suburban landscapes. Inspired by the corpus of Australian content canonised by Glendyn Ivin, I drew on the universality of 'fitting in'. The film straddles a fine line between comedy and tragedy, ultimately presenting a story of hope.



AMELIA WILKINSON

Northcote High School, Northcote
Wurundjeri Country

Leaving Meaning

Documentary, 4 min

This personal documentary centres around my father, Nathan Wilkinson. It explores his day-to-day life, showing a holistic take, including his art, work and family.

In producing this film, I hoped to create a heartfelt and poetic film that embodies what goes on behind-the-scenes and in the mind of my father, Nathan. Influenced by programs such as *Australian Story*, this documentary hopes to inspire appreciation for Nathan and his art.

BAILEY PARRÔT

St Leonard's College, Brighton East
Bunurong Country

Don & Donna

Animation, Coming-of-age, 5 min

Don & Donna explores the concepts of unexpected friendship, cartoon nostalgia and basic human connection. It follows Donna, a young adult, and Don, an old man – two roommates who learn to share their wisdom and experiences with each other.

In making this animation, I endeavoured to promote the value of unexpected friendships. I aimed to encourage open-mindedness and create visual appeal for the audience, and was inspired by the work of Pixar Animation Studios and director Greta Gerwig.

SAM HUYBERS

Scotch College Melbourne, Hawthorn
Wurundjeri Country

Grow Up

Action, Comedy, 7 min

Grow Up aims to tackle the pressures of adulthood on teenagers through the symbolism of video games. The film uses animation to bring these video games to life and represent the typical teenager attempting to grow up and leave behind the things they once enjoyed.

My film represents my adoration for retro video games and how they may not be appreciated as 'regular' adult hobbies. I wanted to visually represent the energetic perspective of children on life, with visuals inspired by Edgar Wright, specifically *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*.

FINN WOODLOCK

Billanook College, Mooroolbark
Wurundjeri Country

Puppet Show

Thriller, 6 min

Bored and locked in her house, GIRL is tired of her life, tired of being dismissed and tired of not being understood. Most importantly, she is tired of being treated like a child. On a day like every other day, IT shows up. Who is IT? Why is IT here? What does IT want?

In making this film, I hoped to showcase the complexities of adulthood and the constant desire of kids wanting to grow up, not realising the bliss of childhood. Through the thriller genre, I wanted this sense of growing up to be portrayed as a horror.



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

How to vote

After the screening, head to bit.ly/topscreen2022 to vote for your favourite film.

Thank you to our generous prize sponsors



SHORT-LISTED FILMS

A Square Peg

Matilda Crowther, Coburg High School

Dawn

Christos Katra, Caulfield Grammar School

Cycle

Isabella Mangano, St Catherine's School

Precursor

Daniel Nickless, Ivanhoe Grammar School

The Whole World in my Hand

Abigail Vidler, Aitken College

Thanks to

The Top Screen 2022 filmmakers, their teachers and families

Credits

Festival and Events Manager: Miranda Picton-Warlow

Festival and Events Coordinator and

Top Screen Coordinator: Jenny Sun

Festival and Events Officer: Jim Thomas

Festival and Events Assistant: Jessica Dunn

State Reviewer for Media / Chair,

Media Selection Panel: Renee Paxton

Media Selection Panel:

Robert Allison, Edward Armstrong, Travis McKenzie

ACMI Festival and Events Coordinator: Diamantino Li

Graphic design and motion graphics: Nuttshell

Trailer production: Bailey Cook

Trailer music: Sami Regague, Top Designs 2022,
VCE VET Music Industry (Sound Production)



Tell your friends!

The works in Top Screen are also presented as part of the Top Designs exhibition, on display from Saturday 2 April to Sunday 10 July at Melbourne Museum.

For more information about other exciting VCE Season of Excellence 2022 events, visit vcaa.vic.edu.au/seasonhub.

TOP CLASS	WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH – TUESDAY 29 MARCH
TOP TALKS	FRIDAY 4 MARCH
TOP SCREEN	THURSDAY 10 MARCH – TUESDAY 10 MAY
TOP ARTS	FRIDAY 18 MARCH – SUNDAY 24 JULY
TOP DESIGNS	SATURDAY 2 APRIL – SUNDAY 10 JULY
TOP ACTS	FRIDAY 20 MAY



acmi

VCE SEASON OF
EXCELLENCE 2022

