

BIG KIDS SHORTS

Study Guide

#REGARD29

This guide is designed to prepare students for their cultural field trip and to facilitate class discussion afterwards.

The guide contains information on all the short films:

- Basic information including the film's title, country of origin, duration year, type and the name(s) of the filmmaker(s);
- The film's synopsis and main themes;
- A simple question that can guide students in their viewing;
- A space for students to rate the film on a five-star scale;
- Ideas to help prepare and develop the students' contextual or cinematographic knowledge of the film.

At the beginning of the guide is a **film-vocabulary toolbox** to help with the understanding and meaning of the film.

At the end of the guide there are **complementary activities** to be done after watching the films.

Finally, the last part contains **answers to the questions** posed in the booklet, and maybe in the activities or discussions. Easy to spot, they're there to help, so no cheating!



regard
SCOLAIRE



If you would like to see the films again in class, they will be available online **from March 24 until the end of the school year**. Teachers, watch your inbox for access info!

It's ideal for:

- Allowing students who were absent to see the films;
- Including one or more films in the evaluation of a skill;
- Rewatching the class's favourite films;
- And more!

Audience votes

This year, each vote counts!

You're invited to take advantage of the cultural excursion to encourage your students to express their opinions. After a post-screening discussion, we suggest you ask for a vote by show of hands and make a note of how many students vote for each film. Tabulate the results using this **short form**. The film with the most votes from all the participating schools will be crowned **Young audience's favorite - Kids**.

Here are some themes that can guide your discussion and help the students make their choice:

- Story;
- Characters;
- Images (colours, style, etc.);
- Music;
- Etc.



Preparing for a trip to REGARD



During the school trip, don't forget to...

- Greet the members of the REGARD team, including volunteers, when you meet them;
- Stay seated throughout the screening;
- Go to the washroom BEFORE the activity starts;
- Open your eyes, ears and heart to fully experience the films;
- Save your comments and reactions for the credits.

It is normal to feel all kinds of emotions during the screening, because cinema is art! Some films will make you feel a stronger response than others. You might even want to share your reaction with your friends sitting nearby. However, since the films are very short, please stay silent except during the credits so as not to disturb others.

At the REGARD Festival, values of equity, inclusion and diversity are very important. Please show respect and openness to the many different points of view depicted in the films. There will be no tolerance for hateful behaviour or statements before, during or after the films.

The art of reading subtitles

As you know, this program is 100% in English. To help you understand everything, we've arranged for English subtitles to be included. It isn't always easy to absorb all the visual information on-screen when you're reading the dialogue. Here are some tips for making the most of the screening:

- As in any somewhat stressful situation, it's best to breathe through your nose. It isn't a big deal if you don't understand every word.
- The subtitles are there to help with comprehension. Let the images and characters' body language guide you. If needed, you can choose to scan only a few key words from the subtitles.
- A film is a work of art, which means you aren't required to understand precisely what the filmmaker is trying to say. You're completely free to appreciate the film in your own way.



Toolbox

The world of cinema is full of words you may not know. Don't panic, here's a toolbox that will help you understand all the nuances of cinema!



Keywords

Synopsis

A short, simple summary of a film that helps the reader get an idea of what the film is about without getting into too much detail.

Screenplay

A written guide, template or detailed plan of what's going to happen in the film. Scene by scene, it describes all the action, dialogue and settings.

Soundtrack

The music and sound effects that accompany the images on screen. For example, when you hear birds singing or the Boom! of an explosion, that's part of the soundtrack.

Subtitles

The written text at the bottom of the screen when the spoken dialogue of the film is not your own. The subtitles tell you what the characters are saying in the film, in your language, so even if you don't understand what's being said, you can still enjoy the story.

Review

A text written by someone, usually a film critic, to assess a film's overall quality and determine whether or not they think the film is worth recommending. The critic takes into account the story, the actors and actresses, the music, the special effects, and so on. Critics rate films with stars, just like in your notebook!



Toolbox

Professions

Actor and actress

A person whose profession is to play roles in films, plays or on television. When you see characters on screen, or on stage, actors and actresses play them.

Props person

The person responsible for the props and objects needed in the making of a film. For example, if a character needs a tennis racket, it's up to the props person to find one.

Director

The person who controls a film's artistic and dramatic aspects and visualizes the screenplay (or script). He or she decides everything, from which actors and actresses should be chosen, to where the camera should be placed and what music will make the film more exciting.

Camera operator

The person who physically carries and operates the camera during the shooting of a film. They are usually responsible for making the technical decisions related to the image so that everything is properly captured on screen.

Scriptwriter

The person who writes the story of the film! They write the script, or screenplay.





Toolbox



Genres

Documentary

Non-fiction films telling true stories about real people, places or events. In these types of films, you'll see images that show the reality of what's happening in the world, and there's often a person narrating to help explain what you're seeing.

Animation

The creation of characters and entire worlds using drawings, computers or even objects.

Fiction

Unlike documentaries, fiction films are based on an invented story with imaginary characters portrayed by actors and actresses.

Experimental

Experimental films use cinema to create a work of art that does not necessarily tell a story. They often highlight other art forms.

Sit Still



Directing

Vincent René-Lortie

Origin

Quebec, United States

Year

2021

Genre

Experimentation

Duration

4 m 26 s

Themes

Dance, School, Emotions

Synopsis

Alone in a vacant school, we follow seven-year-old Adeline on an intimate and exhaustive journey of self-expression as she navigates her emotions through Krump.

Question

Why is the title of the film Sit Still ?



APPRÉCIATION



Preparation

Adeline Kerry Cruz is a young Montreal dancer who was 7 years old during the filming. Now 11, she is known worldwide for her talent in krumping – she even danced in the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics! You can learn more about her by looking at her [instagram profile](#).

Did you know that krump stands for *Kingdom Radically Uplifted Mighty Praise*? This dance was popularized in the United States during the early 2000s by African-American dancers, and is known for expressing a lot of emotions through energetic movements.



Post-viewing

Krump is a dance whose abrupt, harsh movements convey a rich range of emotions. What emotions did you feel as you watched Adeline dance? If you want, you can watch the film again online [here](#).



Travelling Past

**Directing**

Rory Power-Gibb

Origin

Spain, United Kingdom, United States

Year

2024

Genre

Fiction

Duration

14 m 59 s

Themes

Friendship, Memories, Moving

Synopsis

On her way to a new home in a new country, young Arabella fears that her childhood will be forgotten... but after finding a carefree friend in Inge, she comes to learn that maybe moving on doesn't always mean forgetting.

Question

What does Arabella do with the terrarium Inge made for her?



APPRÉCIATION

**Preparation**

The film's main character, Arabella, has a special object that she always keeps with her. Have you ever had an object like that? What was it, and why was it precious? Draw your object and write a short text about it for the class. If you don't have one, you can imagine one instead.

**Post-viewing**

Inge and her family travel in a van year round – it's how they live. Would you like to try living that way?

If you could go on a year-long road trip with your family, which countries or territories would you like to visit?
What would you take with you?

Los Carpinchos

**Directing**

Soderguit Alfredo

Origin

France, Chile, Uruguay

Year

2024

Genre

Animation

Duration

10 m 30 s

Themes

Welcoming, Helping, Family

Synopsis

Hunting season has begun. A family of capybaras seek refuge in a chicken coop, but the hens don't trust them. The curiosity of the youngest members of the families will create a union with unexpected consequences...

Question

Why do the residents of the chicken coop eventually let the capybaras sleep there?



APPRÉCIATION



Preparation

In the film, you'll meet a family of capybaras. Are you familiar with capybaras? Let's learn about these giant rodents! Here are five statements about them. Can you guess which ones are true?

- Capybaras are solitary animals.
- There are wild capybaras in North America.
- As adults, they are twice as big as beavers.
- They are semi-aquatic, dividing their time between dry land and water.
- They eat their own excrement.

Now, with all this information you're officially a capybara expert! You know about their habits, size and even their secrets. You're ready to watch the film and see them in action!



Post-viewing

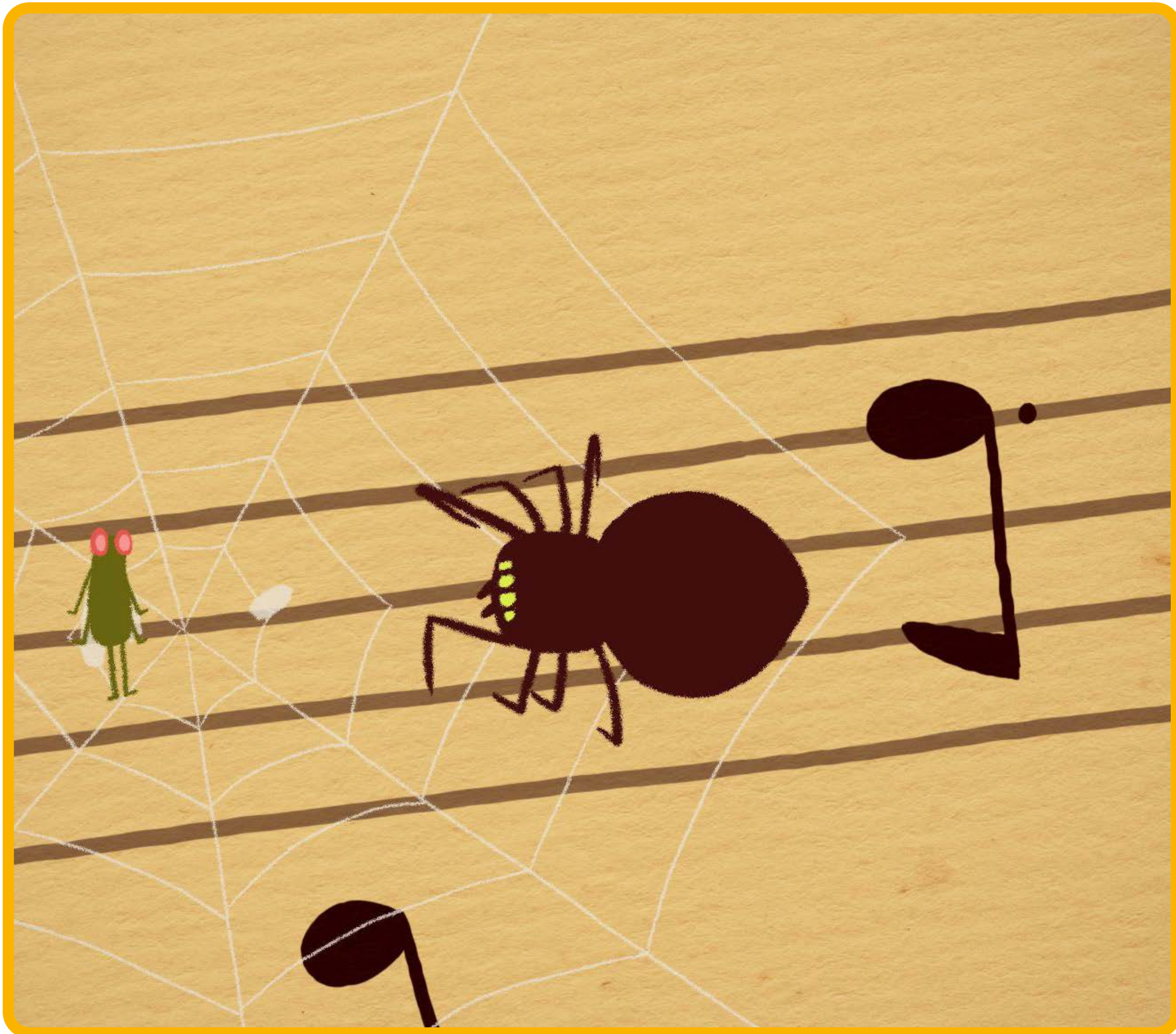
In the film, the capybaras and the chickens have a difficult start but wind up helping each other. Together, they leave for a better place, united like one big family even though they aren't the same species.

In your opinion, why do they say that friends are the family you choose? Do you think that you need to be related by blood to be a true family?





Zizanizz

**Directing**

Nicolas Bianco-Levrin

Origin

France

Year

2024

Genre

Animation

Duration

1 m 36 s

Themes

Music, Bugs, Duels

Synopsis

A sheet of music was left on a composer's work desk. A music-loving fly comes and places its leg there. She twirls and begins to sow discord. On the other side of the sheet, a spider does not intend to miss such a great opportunity for a feast.

Question

What happens to the sheet of music at the end of the film?



APPRÉCIATION

Preparation

The film is set to music by Maxence Camelin, who has composed original scores for the films of Nicolas Bianco-Levrin since 2011.

Long-term collaborations between composers and short filmmakers are not unusual. It's a phenomenon also seen in the world of feature films. For example:

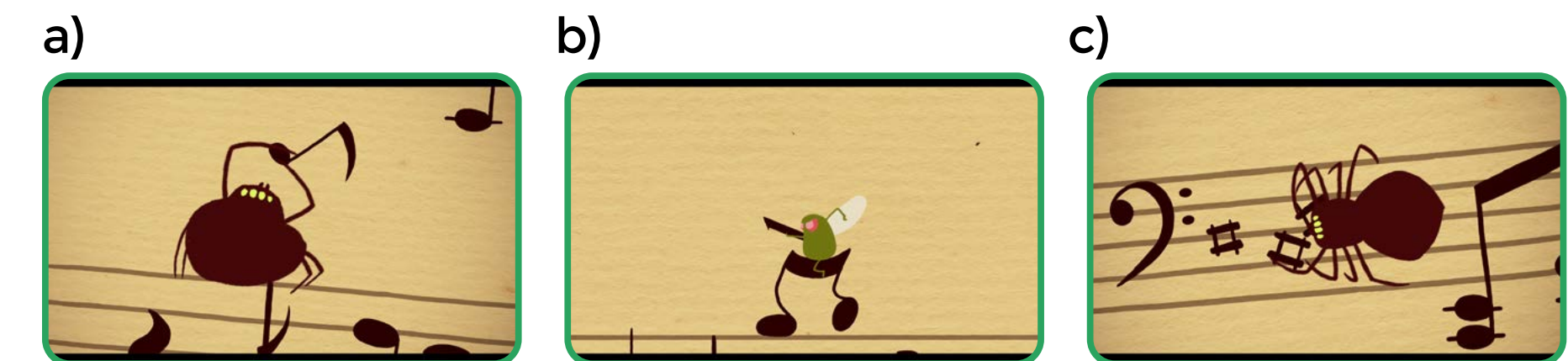
- **Miyazaki and Joe Hisaishi** (*My Neighbor Totoro*, *Princess Mononoke*, *Spirited Away*, etc.).
- **Tim Burton and Danny Elfman** (*Batman*, *Edward Scissorhands*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*)
- **Steven Spielberg and John Williams** (*Jaws*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Indiana Jones*, *Jurassic Park*).

These duos are perfect examples of the importance of music in cinema. The relationship between director and composer often goes beyond simple collaborative work, becoming a true audio signature that shapes the identity of the films.

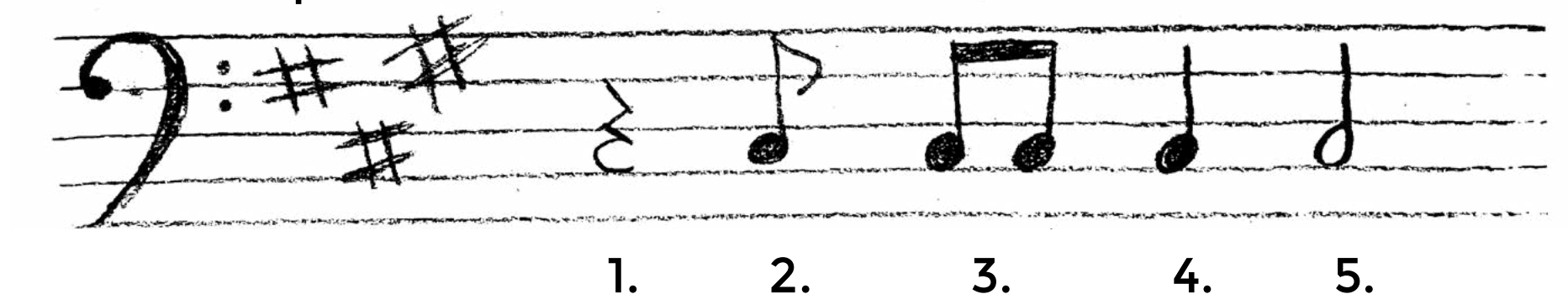
Post-viewing

Here are a few images from the film, depicting the spider and the fly duelling using various elements of musical notation.

Do you know what these elements are?



A little help



Musical notes help us know when to sing or play, and each note has a different duration! Here are a few symbols and what they mean:

1. **Quarter rest** (soupir): A short pause, brief silence.
2. **Eighth note** (croche): A note lasting half as long as a quarter rest.
3. **Beamed eighth notes** (deux croches): Two eighth notes in quick succession!
4. **Quarter note** (noire): A longer note, lasting one beat.
5. **Half note** (blanche): An even longer note, lasting two beats.



Elvira

**Directing**

Sarah Segal-Lazar

Origin

Prince Edward Island

Year

2024

Genre

Fiction

Duration

10 m 10 s

Themes

Investigation, Crime, Comedy

Synopsis

In a sleepy seaside community, a woman obsessed with mystery novels becomes convinced that her chicken can solve crimes. But when it suddenly goes missing, things go a-fowl. Miss Marple meets Doctor Doolittle, Elvira is a strange, dark, and comedic ride—not your average chick flick. Feathers are going to be ruffled.

Question

Why did the woman think Elvira was dead?



APPRÉCIATION



Preparation

Elvira is a detective film. This is a long-running genre that has a very specific set of elements (known as *tropes*). Do you know some of them? Here are some examples:

- Anxious music;
- Suspense;
- A detective, a criminal and a victim;
- A misdeed or a crime;
- A precise investigation;
- Tight shots that don't let us see the whole room;
- A twist ending.

Now that you know some detective-movie tropes, think about them and identify as many as you can while watching the film.



Post-viewing

If you wanted to write a short detective film, what would it be? Take on the writer's role and write three sentences about a detective movie that you'd like to make.

Phase 1:

Introducing the mystery

Phase 2:

The investigation (include a few clues leading to phase 3)

Phase 3:

Resolution



Acrobats

**Directing**

Eloïse Alluyn, Hugo Danet,
Anna Despinoy, Antonin Guerçi,
Alexandre Marzin
and Shali Reddy

Origin

France

Year

2024

Genre

Animation

Duration

7 m 35 s

Themes

Self-assertion, Family,
Gender and sexual diversity

Synopsis

A girl comes back home to an oppressive living room and throws up acrobats in front of her family.

Question

What do the acrobats represent?



APPRÉCIATION



Preparation

The team of directors behind this film are members of the graduating class of one of the world's top animation schools: **GOBELINS Paris**. They trained for two years to design and direct animated films, and have gone on to work for major studios like Disney, Pixar or DreamWorks. The most important personal qualities the program requires: an open mind and a passion for teamwork!

By clicking **this link**, you can learn all about their creative process.



Post-viewing

Did you notice that the image format changes between **a)** the first scene, **b)** the scenes in the house and **c)** the scenes in the acrobats' world? In your opinion, why did the filmmaking team make that choice? What do you think it means?

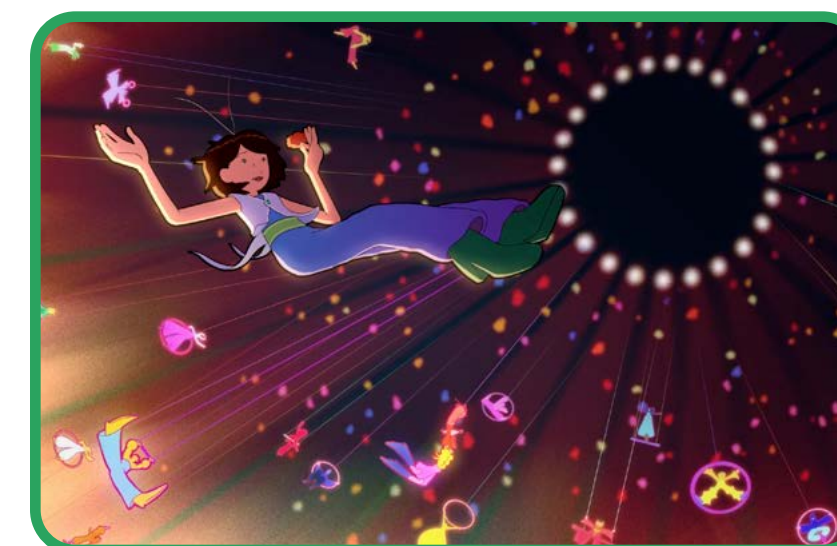
a)



b)



c)



Tule



Directing
Jocelyn Garcia

Origin
United States

Year
2024

Genre
Animation

Duration
4 m 06 s

Themes
Environmental protection,
Ancestral traditions,
Transmission, Cultural
reappropriation

Synopsis
A modern-day Pomo girl is empowered through poetic reflection on conversations with her Indigenous community about the culturally vital, but now suffering Tule plant at Clear Lake.

Question
According to the film, in what ways was Tule used by the elders?

APPRÉCIATION

Préparation

In the film, the character shares traditional knowledge learned from their elders. Have people close to you shared knowledge and passions that are important to you? What would you like to pass on?

**Retour**

In the movie, we see that the Tule has had trouble surviving in recent years due to pollution. In order to curb the harmful effects of pollution, it is important to integrate sustainable development strategies into our daily lives.

Do you know what sustainable development is? This short video gives a good explanation.

What actions do you take to ensure a sustainable future for the environment?

(Sample answers: I sort my trash, I turn off the water while I brush my teeth, I avoid over-consumption)



Then Comes The Body

**Directing**

Jacob Krupnick

Origin

United States, Nigeria

Year

2023

Genre

Documentary

Duration

14 m 44 s

Themes

Community, Dance,
Self-education

Synopsis

When a video of kids dancing in the rain goes viral, it brings global attention to an unlikely ballet school outside Lagos, Nigeria. Now, Daniel Ajala - who learned ballet over YouTube - is training students to perform on the world stage.

Question

The film's title references Daniel's motto, which he shares with his students: "First (...) Then comes the body." What's the first part?



APPRÉCIATION



Preparation

Did you know that ballet originated in Italy? That's where this style of dance emerged before being adopted by the French and evolving into the classical ballet that we know today.

Classical ballet is a very complex and technically difficult discipline. Years of practice are needed to master the art, and to become a professional dancer it is necessary to get into a prominent ballet school.

In this film, you will see how ballet can be done in a completely different setting. It shows that when you have a passion and dreams, anything becomes possible. Even outside the usual setting, things can be done not just well but maybe even better!



Post-viewing

Did you notice how important the dance teacher is in his students' lives? Is there someone in your life who's an inspiring mentor?

Write a letter to them to tell them how much you appreciate them.

Context

The films in this program come from a wide range of places. Only *Sit Still* was made in **Quebec!** The other **Canadian** film, *Elvira*, was filmed in **Prince Edward Island**.

The fictional film *Travelling Past* was filmed in two countries: the **United Kingdom** and **Spain**.

The director of *Los Carpinchos*, Alfredo Soderguit, is an illustrator, author and animator living in **Uruguay**, which explains the film’s Spanish title.

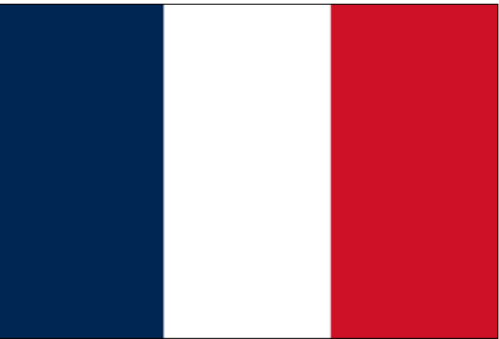
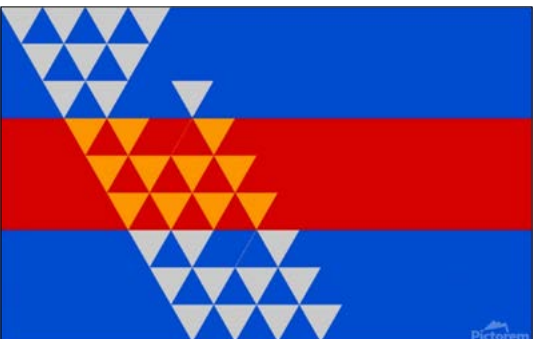
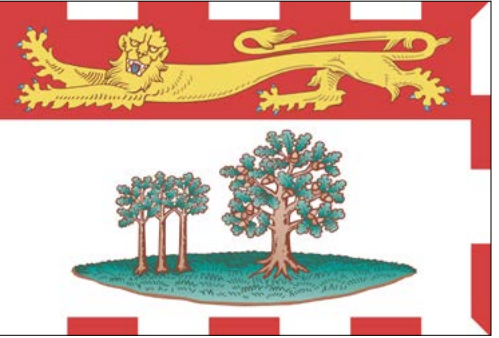
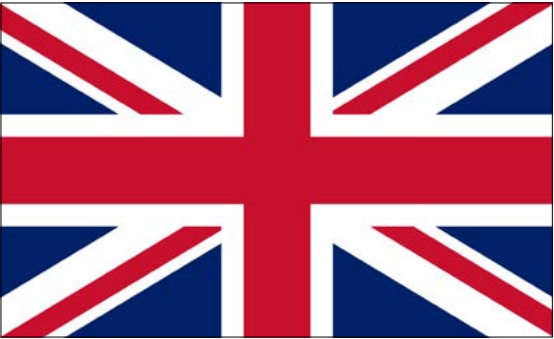
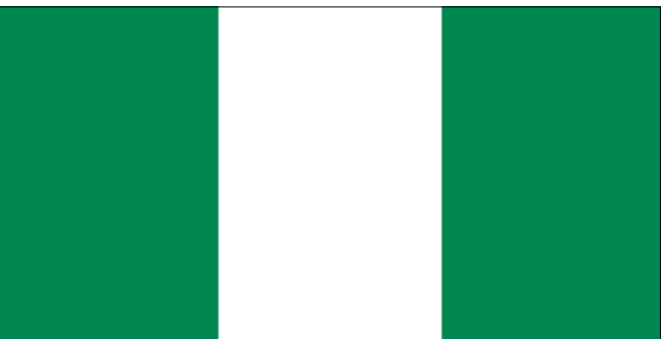
Acrobats and *Zizanizz* are two films whose crews come from **France**.

Jocelyn Garcia, the director of *Tule*, has a multicultural heritage: her family is both **Mexican-American** (**United States** citizens with roots in **Mexico**) and members of the Pomo Nation (an Indigenous people from **Northern California**). In this film she chose to honour Pomo traditions.

Finally, the documentary *Then Comes The Body* was filmed in Lagos, the biggest city in **Nigeria**, a country in West Africa. The director, Jacob Krupnick, is an American specializing in films about dance.

Here are the flags of the different territories, cities and countries seen in the films. If you want, get your class to point them out on a globe!

California, Canada, Quebec, France, Mexico, Nigeria, Pomo Nation, Prince Edward Island, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay.



Mix & Match

A film can be classified and described by its genre.

To help you recognize different kinds of films, link each genre to its definition.

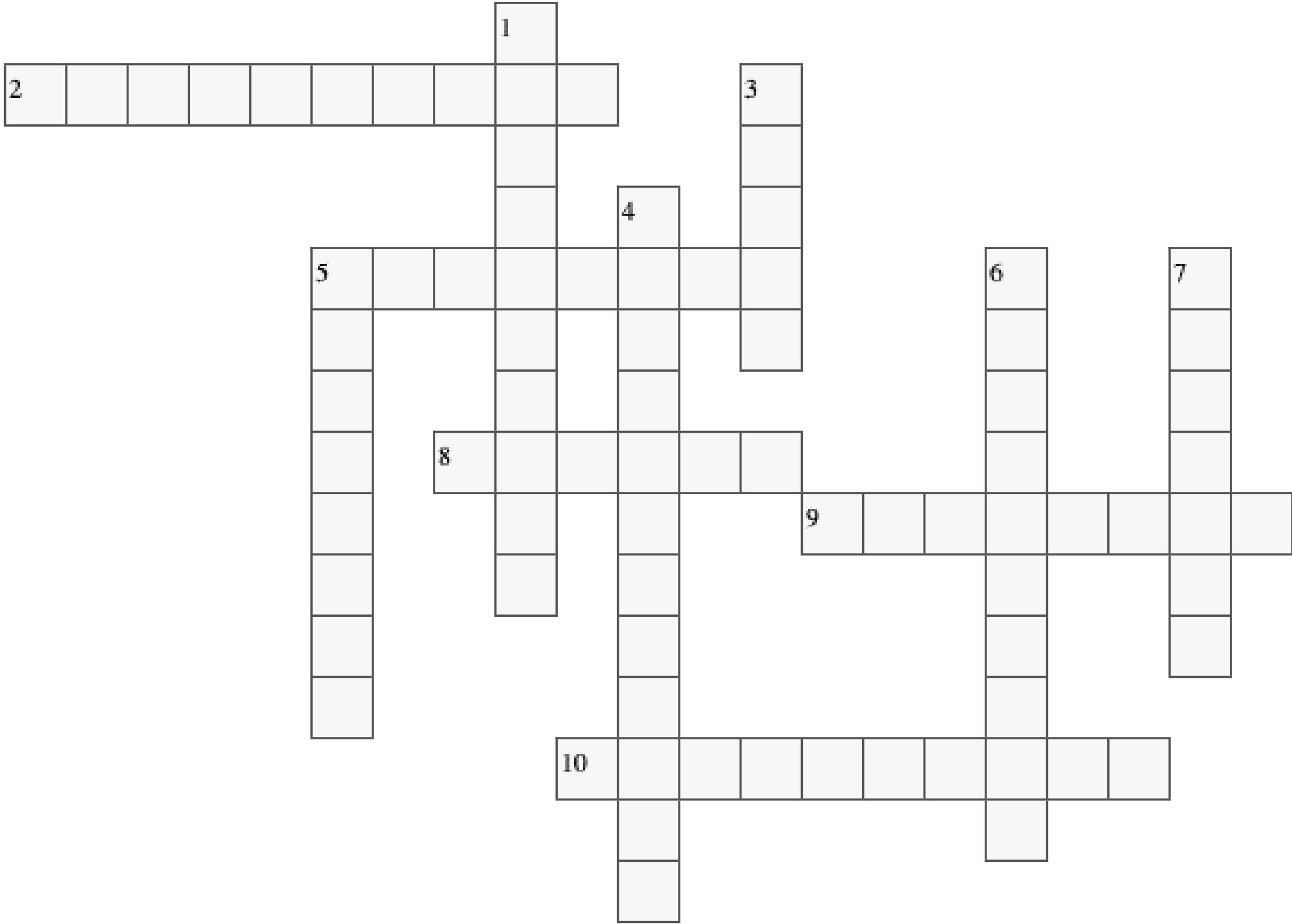
- Science fiction
- Romance
- Comedy
- Action
- Musical
- Drama
- Fantasy
- Horror

› *Did you know that genres are combined sometimes? Romantic comedies are a common example...*

1. Pure entertainment that makes you laugh.
2. A film about a more somber or serious theme.
3. A film whose story and images try to frighten the viewer.
4. A love story.
5. A film about an adventure or quest, sometimes including conflicts between the characters.
6. A film with magical, supernatural or invented elements.
7. A film set in space or the distant future.
8. A film in which characters sing and dance in ways that advance the story.

Crossword

Around Cinema



Across

- 2. He is an actor but doesn't appear on the screen.
He brings animated characters to life with his voice.
- 5. The person who helps organize, produce, and fund the making of a movie.
- 8. It's an object used in filmmaking to capture everything happening in front of it.
- 9. He creates and chooses the clothes worn by actors in movies.
- 10. It's a series of pictures that show the story and how each scene will look in a film.

Down

- 1. The music and sound effects that accompany the images on screen.
- 3. Actor whose role is secondary, generally silent.
- 4. The person who writes the script for a movie, including all the dialogue.
- 5. He holds the microphone to capture sound on a movie set.
- 6. She performs dangerous actions and stunts in place of an actor.
- 7. She plays a character and brings a script to life with her voice and actions.

Sit Still

Why is the title of the film *Sit Still* ?

“Sit still” is something children often hear from adults at school. In the film, the young dancer does the opposite: she expresses herself through movement – in a school!

Travelling Past

What does Arabella do with the terrarium Inge made for her?

She leaves it on the roof, and makes it a “Forever-Photograph,” so that it never changes and she can always revisit it when she wants to, in her mind, just like Inge told her.

Los Carpinchos

Why do the residents of the chicken coop eventually let the capybaras sleep there?

Because the capybaras saved the chick.

Zizanizz

What happens to the sheet of music at the end of the film?

The bottle of ink is spilled on it, making it invisible.

Can you recognize these elements?

- a) Eighth note. This is a really fast note! Imagine clapping your hands together quickly.
- b) Beamed eighth notes. Two eighth notes in a row, like clapping your hands fast, twice.
- c) Sharp symbol. When you see this next to a note, it means it needs to be at a slightly higher pitch than usual. You can think of it as a note standing on tiptoes!

Elvira

Why did the woman think Elvira was dead?

Because she found a freezer full of frozen chickens.

Acrobats

What do the acrobats represent?

There are a few possible interpretations, but in general we can say they symbolize everything on the margins of social norms.

Tule

According to the film, in what ways the Tule was used by the elders ?

They ate the roots, wore it in their regalia, slept on it, built homes, made baskets, made boats and made fishing nets with it.

Then Comes The Body

The film’s title references Daniel’s motto, which he shares with his students: “First (...) Then comes the body.” What’s the first part? “First comes the heart.”

Mix & Match

1. Comedy 2. Drama 3. Horror 4. Romance
5. Action 6. Fantasy 7. Science fiction 8. Musical

Crossword

Across

2. Voice Actor 5. Producer 8. Camera
9. Costumer 10. Storyboard

Down

1. Soundtrack 3. Extra 4. Screenwriter
5. Perchman 6. Stuntwoman 7. Actress