


**SPONSORSHIP
2024**

Voices With Impact 2023

In Review

A man with a beard, wearing a wide-brimmed tan cowboy hat and a red long-sleeved shirt, is shown from the chest up. He is looking off to the left. A light green speech bubble with a dark green border is overlaid on the image, containing a quote. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

**"Stories are so important,
hearing the voices of many so
that we can work together for a
better future is so important.
Funding for these sorts of
initiatives is so important. "**

-Audience Member

Voices With Impact: Premiere

June 26 2023

Film Premiere & Filmmaker Q&A

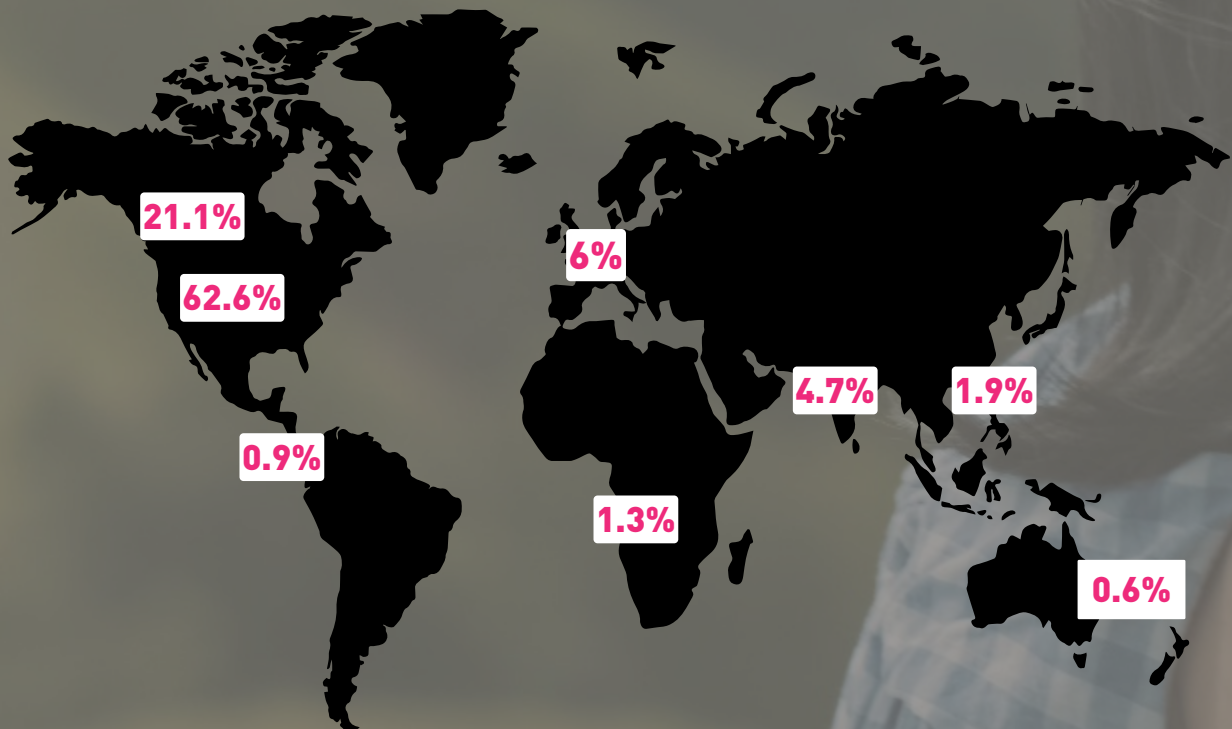
☆☆1.5k Streams☆☆

10 Films Premiered

25 Speakers & Performers

More than 20% of total audience based in California

More than 83% of audience based in North America



22 Countries



41 US States



ARE YOU HUNGRY?

RACHEL ROSE & BELEN GARCIA

Examining the impacts of a relationship between a basketball player and her coach.
Director: Rachel Rose (Canada)



ON BURNT HORIZONS

HAO ZHOU

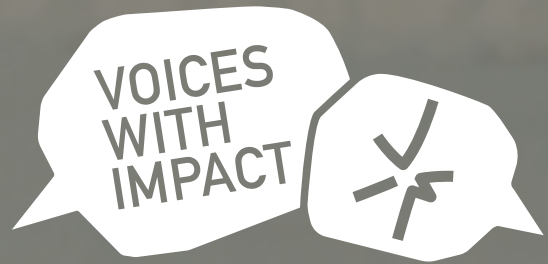
A youth drifts around a rural town as intergenerational voices attempt to define his horizons. Director: Hao Zhou



OUT BEYOND

SALMAN ALAM KHAN

A bathroom witnesses a suppressed teenager manifesting his true self. Director: Salman Alam Khan (Pakistan)



Burnout Stories

5 short films exploring a range of burnout experiences.



THE OTTER

RANDY KELLY

Freddie in the midst of burnout struggles to find the road to recovery.
Director: Randy Kelly (Canada)



FORTUNE COOKIE

FU YANG

Piece by piece, Cookie tries to make their way out of a draining situation.
Director: Fu Yang (USA/Taiwan)

"This Burnout discussion is so relatable. Like there are so many aspects among the films that are so relatable in my personal life. Thank you guys for sharing your stories!" - Audience Member

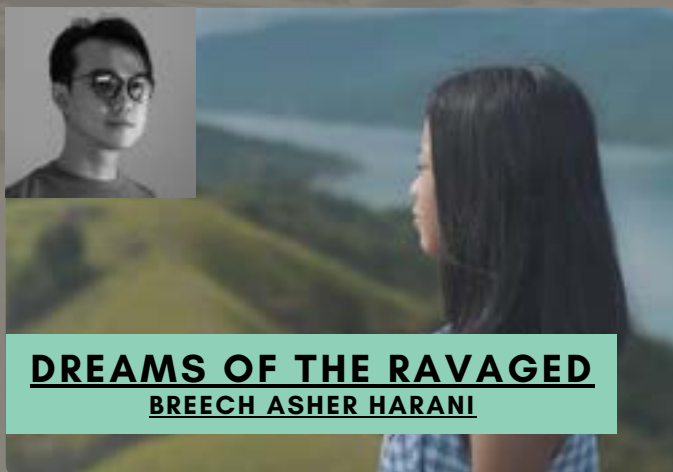


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Climate Change

5 short films exploring the mental health impacts of climate change.



DREAMS OF THE RAVAGED BREECH ASHER HARANI

Three young Filipinos recollect their experiences of the most fatal super typhoons.
Director: Breech Asher Harani (Philippines)



THE PLASTIC HORROR SHENUKA COREA

Plastic containers and what they mean for the environment plunge a child into panic.
Director: Shenuka Corea (Sri Lanka)



ETHICAL CONSUMPTION CASSIDY CIVIERO

A woman tries to get rid of her trash...
Director: Cassidy Civiero (Canada)



CARBON TRACES STEFIE GAN

As humans grow more disconnected from the earth they face crisis and strive to restore the balance. Director: Stefie Gan (USA)



BEYOND THE SOIL JAIME JACOBSEN & ERIC FORBES

Exploring the emotional impact of climate change on the frontlines of Colorado's megadrought. Director: Jaime Jacobsen (USA)

"Films like this become more and more relevant every single day. I'm taking a deep breath in order to absorb this beautiful imagery accompanying the hard truth!"

- Audience Member



Film & MH Mentoring

We connect our filmmakers with film industry and mental health professionals to ensure our films are of the highest quality. Higher quality films are distributed more widely through multiple channels ensuring the maximum reach for VWI films. Our festival is just the beginning of the journey.

Industry Mentors



**INDIA
BARNARDO**



**HUSE
MONFARADI**



**VICKY
DU**



**ALIZA
BRUGER**

Our industry mentors focused on working with the filmmakers to push their films to the next level. India Barnardo, Disney Animator, gave feedback to our animators, whilst Huse Monfaradi, director for Samsung, Coca Cola, and Youtube worked with documentary makers. Aliza Bruger, who has had particular success with distribution through film festivals, spoke to Narrative filmmakers whilst Vicky Du, PBS director, spoke to experimental filmmakers.

Past VWI Mentors



**ROSIE CHOO
PIDCOCK**



**ATHENA
RUSSELL**



**FAN
SISSOKO**

Past VWI filmmakers returned to offer advice on the filmmaking process. Specifically on timeline and delivery high quality work.

Mental Health Mentors



**DR. ASHLEY
RADTKE**



**DR. EMILY
DIAMOND**

Our Mental Health Professionals feedback on rough cuts of the films to ensure that MH portrayals were accurate and safe.

"So humbled by the work. Every film I saw I thought, I'm so glad this person's story was funded, this is so important!" - Audience Member



Outcomes

100%

100% of participants said the festival gave them space to explore perspectives they hadn't been introduced to before on the topic of how [climate change](#) can effect mental health.

92% of participants said the festival gave them space to explore perspectives they hadn't been introduced to before on the topic of [burnout](#).

92%

100%

100% of participants reported learning:

- New strategies for connecting with other people
- The role art can play a role in expressing and coping with complex ideas on the topic of mental health.

92% of participants reported exploring in new ways their own relationships with Mental Health, Climate Change and Burnout and how those topics can impact other people.

92%

67%

Events promoted with a strategic partner had a 67% increase on turnout in contrast to events without a strategic partner.

The highest participation was through a strategic partnership with SuperBetter app, with 81% of registrants attending at least one event.

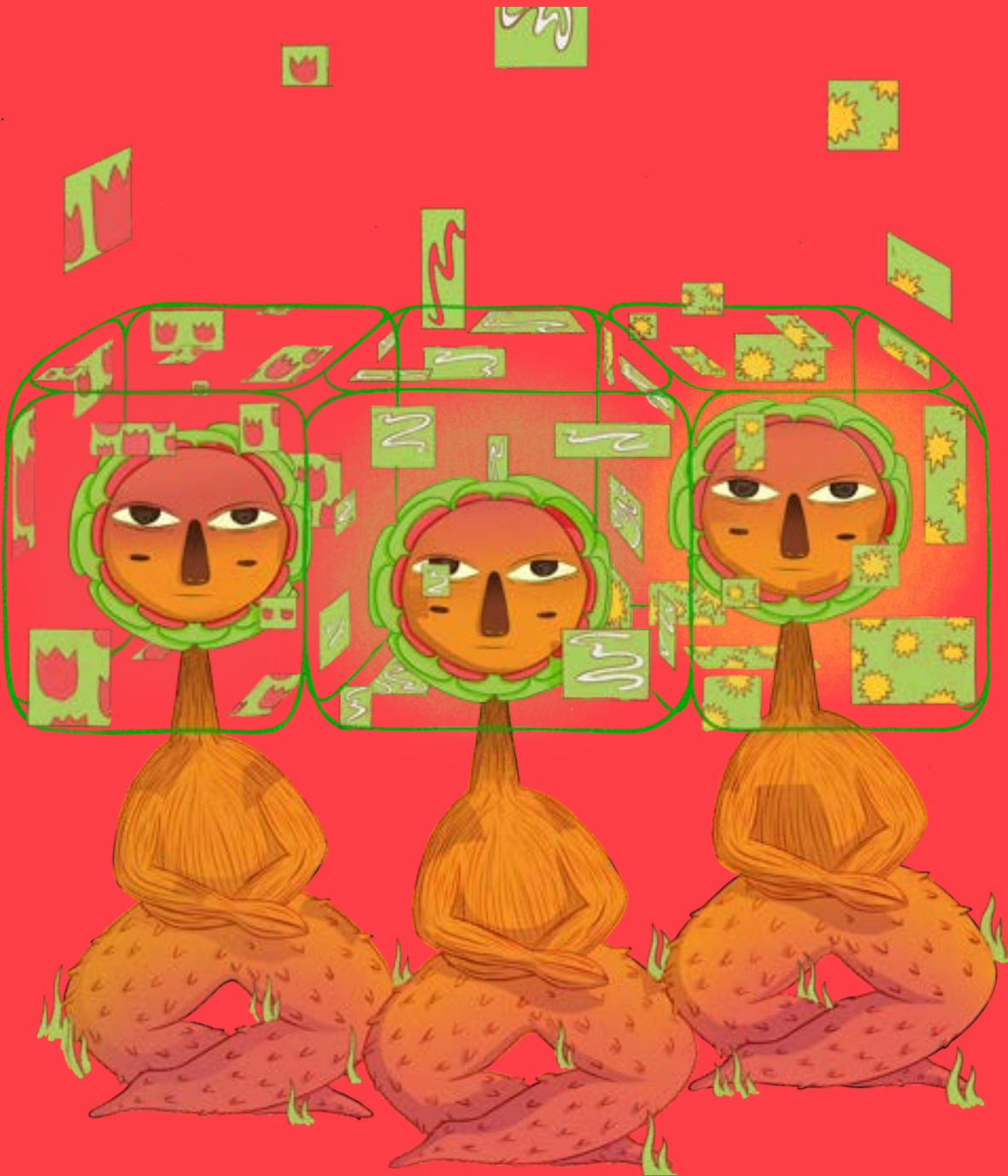
81%

"Climate anxiety and burnout are common but telling stories brings people together and gives ways to manage and inspire"

- Audience Member



Voices With Impact



2024

"I hope more films give people around the world the opportunity to see different environments." - 2023 Audience Member





Voices With Impact 2024



VWI is a production grant and film festival. Each year we offer grants to 10 filmmaking teams to create a 5 minute short on specific mental health topics. The films are then shared at our festival to inspire transformative mental health conversations. The films go on to be used in our educational programming across the US & Canada. Find our goals for 2024 below:

Increase awareness and decrease stigma of:

- **Serious Mental Illness**
- **Mental health effects of Cliques & Echo Chambers**

Produce 10 films that

- **accurately portray mental health experiences**
- **tell timely yet underrepresented stories**
- **receive international critical acclaim**



VWI 24 Timeline

Aug 15	Submission window opens
Sept 17	Submission window closes
Oct 15	Jury Scores Due
Nov 1	Award grants
Dec 1	Signed off Final Scripts
Dec 1 - Feb 30	VWI Video Club Events
April 1	Films Due
May	Promotional Events with Partners
June Week 1	World Premiere: In-Person & Online
June Week 2	Serious Mental Illness Online Event
June Week 3	Canadian Premiere: In-Person
June Week 4	Cliques & Echo Chambers Online Event

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Serious Mental Illness Films

Meditations Between Us

An experimental animation depicting the experience of a romantic relationship with someone living with Schizophrenia. Directed by Ashleigh Valliancourt (Animation, Vancouver, BC, Canada)

The Four Noble Truths

A documentary following a 20 year old, gay, Cambodian man living with Schizophrenia in the American South. Directed by Asha Alaji-Sharif (Documentary, Atlanta, GA, USA)

Crane

A short drama sharing a child's perspective of growing up with a parent experiencing serious mental illness. Directed by Aiden Keltner (Narrative Live Action, San Diego, CA, USA)

FAT HEN

A short documentary exploring the mental health benefits of gardening for an artist with Schizophrenia. Directed by Leanne Dimant (Documentary, Wales, United Kingdom)

3200 Degrees Fahrenheit

A drama inspired by lived-experience exploring Serious Mental Illness and agency. Nabil must decide whether to save Kareem's life against his will. Directed by Gavin Seal (Narrative Live Action, Montreal, QC, Canada)

Cliques & Echo Chambers Films

Clubbing

A comedy about a student trying to find the right club to join. Clubbing explores the cliques and echo chambers of college life. Directed by Eric Forbes and Zach Myers. (Live Narrative Action, Fort Collins, USA)

Bonfire

A stop motion animation exploring peer pressure, queerness, and sexuality's relationship to technology and depersonalization. Directed by David McShane (Animation, London, UK)

Screenless

An animated comedy highlighting our connection to social media and the mental health impacts this can have on us everyday. Directed by Brendan Hicks (Animation, New Brunswick, Canada)

Plant People

A quirky off-beat drama about loneliness and disconnection in a world where everyone but Phoebe has a plant for a head. Directed by Jason Eksuzian (Narrative Live Action, Berkshire County, MA., USA)

ALL MEAT DIET

A drama examining the effects and consequences of hyper masculine online content on male body image. Directed by Hae Ji Cho & Kevin Alcántar (Narrative Live Action, Los Angeles, CA, USA)



Festival Events

World Premiere: California, June 6 2024

World premiere of all 10 Voices With Impact films with keynote speakers, networking and after party. This event will be live streamed.

Serious Mental Illness: Online, June 13 2024

Online interactive discussion event focused on the 5 films on Serious Mental Illness with filmmakers and mental health professionals.

Cliques & Echo Chambers: Online, June 20 2024

Online interactive discussion event focused on the 5 films on Cliques & Echo Chambers with filmmakers and mental health professionals.

Canadian Premiere: Vancouver, June 27 2024

Canadian premiere of all 10 Voices With Impact films with keynote speakers, networking and after party to close the festival.

"Thought provoking art for sure I'm so glad I could watch all these amazing films" - Audience Member





In-Kind Support

In-kind support is really important to the success of Voices With Impact.

Your support can make a huge difference throughout the project and we love connecting with like-minded organizations.

We find it works best when we meet and put our heads together about how best we can leverage the partnership to benefit all parties.

We'd love to meet with you to discuss how we could work together.



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Current Partners



Mental Health Services
Oversight & Accountability Commission

AMERICAN
PSYCHIATRIC
ASSOCIATION
FOUNDATION



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
for the **ARTS**
 arts.gov

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