

Red Poppy Film Festival

FILM PROGRAM DETAILS



Lee



Lee | 117 min | Docudrama | 2023 | UK | Director: Ellen Kurras

War correspondent Lee Miller travels to the front lines of World War II to embark on a mission to uncover the hidden truths of the Third Reich. But in the wake of betrayal, a reckoning will come over the truths of her own past.

[Trailer](#)

[Media Kit](#)

Bringing His Spirit Home



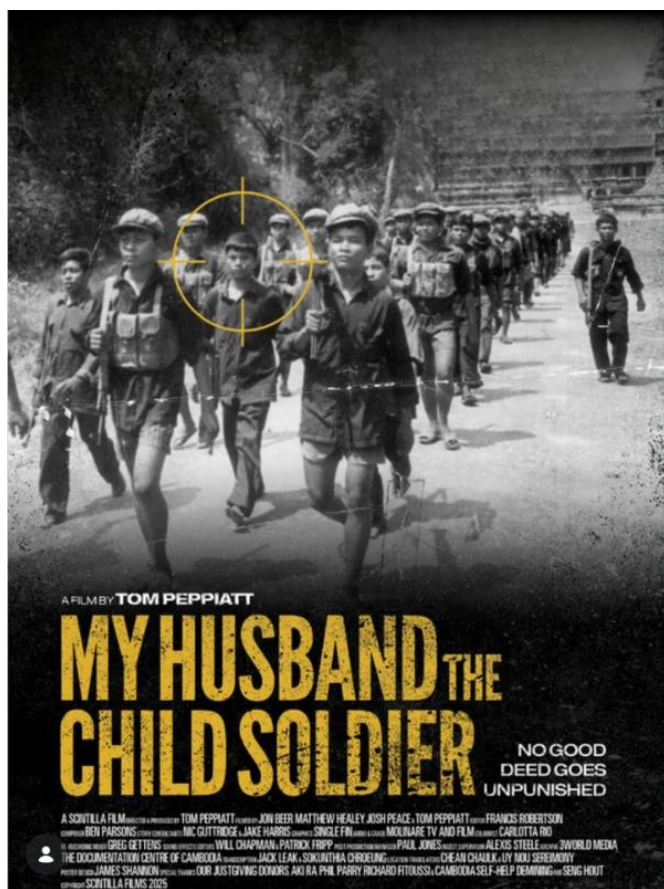
Bringing His Spirit Home | 14 min | Documentary Short | 2025 | Australia
| Director/Writer: Dylan Nicholls

Gomeri man, Peter Milliken, travels to France to visit the grave of his great-uncle, an Aboriginal WWI soldier. He performs a traditional ceremony to bring his spirit back home to his family and Country.

[Trailer](#)

[Media Kit](#)

My Husband the Child Soldier



My Husband the Child Soldier | 54 min | Documentary Feature | 2025 | United Kingdom | Director/Producer: Tom Peppiatt

In Cambodia, former Khmer Rouge child soldier Aki Ra and his wife Hout help communities reclaim their land by undertaking the potentially lethal task of clearing unexploded landmines left over from years of war. Along the way they adopt unwanted kids whose childhoods and limbs have been destroyed by landmines and open a war museum that soon becomes world famous. Aki Ra fights to break free of shadows cast by his role in the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime and rebuild his shattered family. But in a country grappling to come to terms with its history, the past always has a way of catching up.

Decoding Jean: Secrets of WWII



Decoding Jean: Secrets of WWII | 20 min | Documentary | 2023 | USA | Director/Writer: Hannah Anderson

In the midst of the turmoil of World War II, the quaint British town of Bury St Edmonds becomes a focal point where lives intersect and secrets unravel. An 18-year-old woman finds herself caught in the throes of a great wartime secret – the breaking of the German Enigma code. Her recruitment into the Ultra program brings her to the heart of Bletchley Park’s most clandestine operations, where Alan Turing and his team forge the world’s first computer in a bid to crack the ever-changing German codes.

Every day, she grapples with the weight of the secret. Even her family is oblivious to her covert role. Meanwhile, amidst the dances and interactions in the town, she captures the heart of an American soldier. Their whirlwind wartime romance culminates in a heartwarming union, facing the challenges of the Official Secrets Act that surrounds her duty. The soldier, persistent and deeply in love, goes to great lengths, even penning letters to officials, in order to secure her release from the program and to solidify their commitment to one another.

[Trailer](#)

[Images](#)

The Gift of a Second Wind



The Gift of a Second Wind | 52 min | Documentary | 2024 | France | Director: Laurent Etchamendy

The film addresses a topic of great human and social impact through the lens of sport: the physical and psychological rehabilitation of soldiers wounded in operations abroad once they return home.

The narrative centres on the resilience of the soldiers who, after being hospitalised and treated at the Percy Military Hospital, are faced with the need to rebuild their identity and regain personal balance. In this context, sport becomes a key tool for rehabilitation: adapted physical activities, targeted training, and individual and group sports disciplines become fundamental steps in the journey of recovery.

The film's protagonists are former soldiers who play themselves, recounting their experiences and showing, through images, the daily struggle to overcome physical and psychological trauma.

[Trailer](#)

[Images](#)

The Sessions: I'm Good



The Sessions: I'm Good | 32 min | Documentary | 2026 | USA | Director/Producer: Debra Weeks

A combat veteran songwriter and the father of a fallen soldier sit down to write a song together. This is the first episode of *The Sessions*, a documentary series from Memories of Honor. The father is Dennis Leftrick. His son was SPC Benjamin Leftrick. The song they write is called "I'm Good." In honour and in memory of SPC Benjamin Leftrick.

[Trailer](#)

[Images](#)

Peace Wilderness Man



Peace Wilderness Man | 35 min | Documentary | 2024 | Australia | Director/Producer: Tim Millard

Following highly traumatic experiences serving in Afghanistan, Australian war veteran Lex Reilly slowly rebuilds his life, and himself, deep in Norway's remote Arctic Circle aided by a near-spiritual connection to nature.

[Trailer](#)

[Media Kit](#)

Cassino Then and Now



Cassino Then and Now | 65 min | Documentary | 2023 | Italy | Director/Producer/Writer: Paolo Ameli

Describing the four WWII battles of Cassino, Italy through the narratives of five soldiers from America, New Zealand, Germany, France and Poland and one Italian refugee. Each story, told in an original language voice over, is based on an accurate historical documentation about real soldiers who died during that battle and there is rare stock footage of those specific acts of war. The film also shows some views of the Cassino area, of the Abbey and of the Gustav Line front, as they appear today compared to the same place photographed during the World War II.

The Comfort Dogs of Uganda



**The Comfort Dogs of Uganda | 30 min | Documentary | 2025 | Australia |
Director/Producer/Cinematographer: Richard Wainwright**

In the shadow of the brutal 20-year conflict in Northern Uganda, The Comfort Dog Project pairs survivors of the Lord's Resistance Army who are suffering severe PTSD with rescued and abandoned dogs. The film highlights their transformative bond as both the survivors of the conflict and their dogs heal together.

We meet Lucy and her dog Sadik, one of the program's first graduates; Francis and his rescued guard dog Tommy; and Jennifer who credits her dog Ogen with saving her life. Interwoven with expert insight from human-animal bond researcher Meg Daley Olmert, the film explores how oxytocin, the "trust hormone," plays a key role in this unique path to healing.

A deeply moving exploration of trauma, recovery and the power of connection, The Comfort Dogs of Uganda is a visual testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the extraordinary role dogs can play in helping us find our way back to life.

[Trailer](#)

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SHORT FILM PROGRAM

Wet Soil



Wet Soil | 9 min | Animated Short | 2026 | USA | Director/Writer: Jon Brovina

Set in the final years of World War II, the story follows a young soldier whose fate hangs in the balance after a battlefield incident. As a grieving mother sets out to confront him, their meeting exposes the raw and complicated truths left behind by war.

[Trailer](#)

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Sound of the Somme



Sound of the Somme | 12min | Short Drama | 2025 | Belgium | Director: Michaël Vermaercke

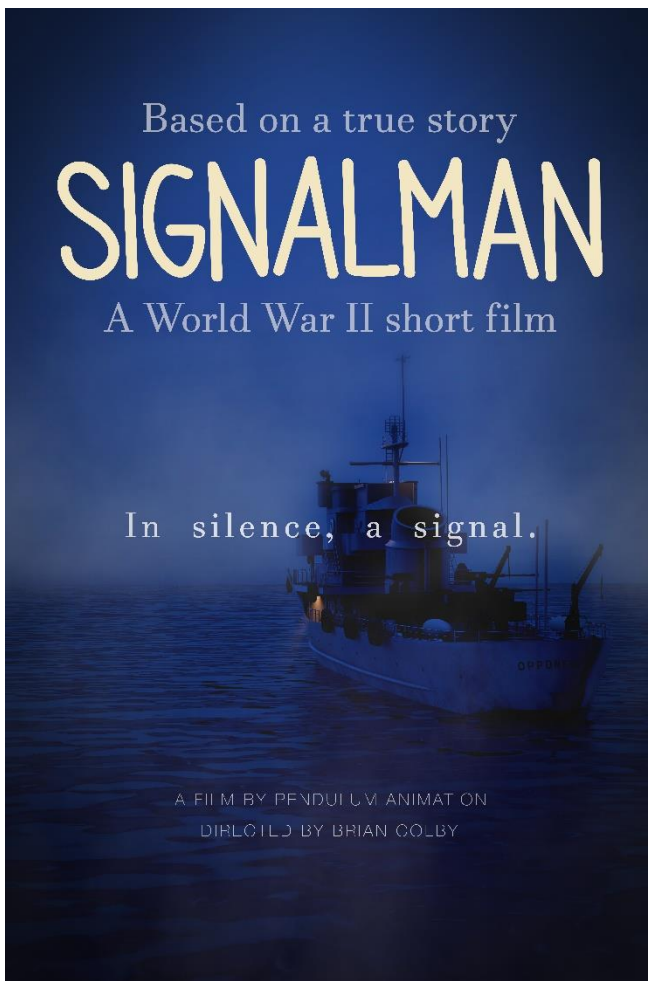
Sound of the Somme tells the true story of the last day in the journal of 20-year-old bagpiper James C Richardson that awarded him the Victoria Cross, for his bravery and action during the Battle of the Somme in WWI.

The script was written as close to reality as possible to show how horrific the situation in the trenches was, how unstable the weather conditions were and how the young piper and the music from his bagpipes inspired many soldiers into an attack that was doomed.

[Trailer](#)

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Signalman



Based on a true story, a World War 2 short film. Directed by Brian Colby. A film by Pendulum Animation

[Trailer](#)

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NEW LIFE

BY MARK BERNARD



“New Life” follows a young person navigating the hardships of war and personal adversity. Having experienced more hurt than love, the protagonist learns to cope by looking away rather than confronting pain. The story explores their struggle for healing and the hope that a new beginning can transform their perspective and open a path toward renewal. Director Mark Bernard.

[Trailer](#)

[Media Kit](#)