

MSL Festival Strategy

Mar Sin Leat (MSL) is a 15 min drama set in rural Scotland about an estranged trans daughter and her father, their repressed grief and ultimate reconciliation. It encourages healthy discussions on those key issues and it's important to us that it reaches the widest possible audience.

With Berlin boasting one of the most vibrant LGBTQ+ communities in Europe, we'll be aiming for a world premiere at the Berlinale, followed by screenings at other Bafta & Oscar qualifying festivals such as Locarno and Clermont-Ferrand. The gradual unraveling of our characters' emotions lends the film an introspective quality likely to appeal to EU festivals.

We'll also be submitting MSL to A list festivals outside of Europe, like TIFF (Canada) and SXSW (USA), as well as Asian short film festivals, where the questioning of more traditional gender roles will resonate amongst festival programmers.

We're aiming for MSL's UK Premiere to take place at BFI Flare and the Scottish Premiere at SQIFF. There's a lack of trans films even at Queer festivals and we're hoping our short will be a welcome addition to their programming. We can envision MSL screening at Iris Prize (Wales), LGBT Film Festival Dublin (Republic of Ireland), Outburst Queer Arts Festival Belfast (Northern Ireland), as well as Queer Lisboa (Portugal).

Our director's Portuguese heritage, coupled with MSL's rural surroundings, will be a fitting match for Portuguese film festivals such as Avanca, Fest, and Fike. Festivals are already well-acquainted with Mariana's previous works, including her role as a festival organizer.

We'll also be keen to enter festivals such as LA Femme (where Mariana's C.T.R.L won an honourable mention in 2014), GEM Fest (Gender Equity in Media Festival in Vancouver) and Underwire FF (London). Not to mention a few small and medium size festivals both in the UK and abroad such as Short film Festival Cyprus (Cyprus), Motovun (Croatia), Glasgow Film Festival and Aesthetica (York).

We plan to work with short film festival experts Festival Formula, who will no doubt add to the above strategy.

Given MSL's captivating cinematic setting and timely message, we believe it will stand out in the festival circuit and secure prestigious awards.

Key festivals on our list (we have an extended list):

- **A CATEGORY:**
 - Cannes (France)
 - Berlinale (Germany)
 - Rotterdam (Netherlands)
 - Locarno (Switzerland)
 - Venice (Italy)
 - PÖFF Shorts (Estonia)
 - Cairo (Egypt)
 - Tokyo (Japan)
 - Mar de Plata (Argentina)

- **BAFTA & OSCAR** qualifying festivals:
 - Clermont-Ferrand (France)
 - Sundance (USA)
 - SXSW (USA)
 - Palm Springs (USA)
 - Melbourne IFF (Australia)
 - TIFF (Canada)
 - Zinebi (Spain)
 - Interfilm (Germany)
 - Molodist (Ukraine)
 - Durban (South Africa)
 - Rio De Janeiro International Short Film Festival (Brazil)
 - Hong Kong
 - Busan (Korea)
 - Shorts Shorts (Japan)
 - Bengaluru (India)
 - Singapore IFF

- **SCOTTISH:**
 - SQIFF, Scottish Queer International FF
 - Glasgow short film festival
 - Take One Action
 - World of Film International Festival
 - Hebrides International Film Festival (HIFF)

- **OTHER UK:**
 - BFI Flare (England)
 - Cork (Ireland)
 - Leeds (England)
 - Raindance (England)
 - Underwire (England)

- Foyle (England)
 - Gaze (Ireland)
 - Underwire (England)
 - Encounters (England)
 - Queer Vision (England)
 - Fringe, (England)
 - Iris Prize (Wales)
 - Indiecork (Ireland)
 - Outburst (Ireland)
 - Carmarthen Bay (Wales)
 - Galway (Ireland)
- **PORTUGUESE:**
 - Avanca
 - Curtas de Vila do Conde
 - Indie Lisboa
 - Queer Lisboa
 - FIKE
 - Fest - Espinho
 - Porto Femme - International Film Festival (Portugal)
- **QUEER:**
 - Outfest LA (USA)
 - Frameline (USA)
 - Inside Out (Canada)
 - Provincetown (USA)
 - Out On Film (USA)
 - Vancouver Queer (Canada)
 - Mezprata (Czech Republic)
 - MIX:CPH (Denmark)
 - Lesgaicinemad (Spain)
- **WOMEN AND WOMEN IDENTIFYING:**
 - LA Femme (USA)
 - GEM Fest, Gender Equity in Media Festival (Canada)
 - Seol International Women's Film Festival - The Queer Rainbow section (South Korea)
- **SMALL/MEDIUM/FUN**
 - Gent (Belgium)
 - Short film Festival Cyprus (Cyprus)
 - Motovun (Croatia)
 - Regensburg (Germany)
 - Courts d'un soir (Canada)