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UK-based AI creative studio Wonder Studios has released the first episode in its four-part *Black Mirror*-style anthology *Beyond The Loop*, which it is billing as the first series of its kind to be created by an AI-native film studio.

Launched on YouTube today, the sci-fi drama entitled *Memory Maker* is written and directed by Emmy-nominated filmmaker Nik Kleverov, who is also Chief Creative Officer of California-based AI studio Native Foreign.

Set in a post-apocalyptic world where humanity has fallen under the dominion of advanced androids, it follows Dr. Turner, one of the last celebrated "memory makers" – artists who craft vivid, lifelike memories that can be implanted into androids to give them a taste of what it means to feel alive. Turner and all the other characters in the drama are entirely AI generated.

"Creating Memory Maker was a really exciting journey of discovery," said Kleverov. "We could iterate on complex visual sequences in real-time, explore narrative possibilities that would have been impossible with traditional methods, and focus our human creativity on the story and emotional core that makes cinema meaningful."

It is the first of four original short films that will be released on a bi-weekly basis in the coming weeks. Each film is 10 minutes in-length and created by a different creator or creative group, with distinct visual approaches and storytelling techniques enabled by AI technology.

Further episodes include consisting of Ikona (Created by Jovardi), The Hill (Created by Ethereal Moon), The Drift (Created by Noah Miller)

The series features the work of AI companies ElevenLabs, fal, Freepik, and Kling AI, which contributed their specialist technology to a fully integrated creative workflow and also take executive producer credits.

ElevenLabs provided AI voice generation and multilingual capabilities, enabling natural dialogue and global accessibility; fal delivered ultra-fast generative media processing (up to 4× faster than alternatives) with advanced LoRA fine-tuning capabilities.

Freepik offered visual content creation tools with built-in legal safeguards for commercial use, and Kling AI generated cinema-grade video content through state-of-the-art generative methods.

"*Beyond the Loop* represents our mission to unearth the best talent in this space and give them a platform. This isn't just changing how films are made – it's changing who gets to make them." said Wonder Studios co-founder and Chief Creative Director, Justin Hackney.

"We're breaking down traditional barriers to explore challenging themes through an anthology format. This is about finding people who aren't just exploring the art form, but communicating the potential of this technology in creativity. The barrier to entry is now creative vision, not budget size."

Wonder Studios co-founder and CEO Xavier Collins said the series was another step in AI tools become integral to entertainment.

"We're pioneering a revolution where creators can iterate on visual ideas in real-time and access cinema-grade production from their laptop," he said. "Together with our partners, we're making high-quality content creation accessible while honouring the craft traditions that make great storytelling universal."

Wonder Studios officially launched in April, having raised more than \$3M in pre-seed funding with backers including LocalGlobe and Blackbird, Mati Staniszewski (Co-founder, ElevenLabs), Laura Modiano (Head of Startups, OpenAI), Ross Dinerstein (CEO, Campfire Studios), Ammaar Reshi (Design Lead, Google DeepMind), Mika Salmi (Founder, AtomFilms), Andre Haddad (CEO, Turo), and Peter Hepworth (former COO, Activision Blizzard EMEA) among others.

## **Venice-Set Reply AI Film Festival Unveils Finalists & Sets Gabriele Muccino As Jury Chair: "The AI Revolution Is Just Beginning"**



The [Reply AI Film Festival](#) – a competitive event aimed at bridging the gap between cinema and AI, and taking place during the [Venice](#) Film Festival – has unveiled the selection for its second edition.

The 10 works, produced using new technologies and AI tools, have been selected from 2,500 submissions from 67 countries.

[Gabriele Muccino](#) (*The Pursuit of Happiness*) will chair the jury which will reveal the winners on September 4 in a ceremony at the Hotel Excelsior on the Venice Lido. He is joined on the jury by Rob Minkoff, Caleb and Shelby Ward, Denise Negri, Dave Clark, Charlie Fink, Filippo Rizzante, Caroline Ingeborn, Paolo Moroni and Guillem Martinez Rour among others.

They will hand out four prizes for the Best Use of AI in Filmmaking; the Production Excellence Award, the Lexus Visionary Award, for technological and narrative foresight, and the AI for Good Award, developed with the International Telecommunication Union and honoring stories aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

“The Reply AI Film Festival is a pioneering event showcasing technology and art’s exciting intersection. AI is not a replacement for human creativity, but a catalyst for innovation. It will enable filmmakers to explore new styles, genres, and narratives that were previously unimaginable,” said Muccino.

“As President of the Reply AIFF Jury, I’m honoured to be part of this journey, discovering new talents and celebrating the bold experiments that will shape the future of cinema. The AI revolution is just beginning, and I’m thrilled to be at the forefront of this creative explosion,” he added.

The 10 finalist short films were selected for their ability to explore the this year’s theme of “Generation of Emotions” – and demonstrate how AI can generate authentic and emotionally engaging experiences through cinematic language.

The competition is promoted by Reply, an international group specialising in the creation of new business models enabled by AI and Digital Media.

“What stands out in all the short films from this second edition is a significant leap in quality – not only in the use of AI technologies, but in the ability to apply them to craft engaging, original, and emotionally resonant narratives. The finalists’ work demonstrates how artificial intelligence can become a mature creative tool, serving those who are able to imagine new languages and forms of expression” said Filippo Rizzante, CTO of Reply.

**THE 10 FINALIST SHORT FILMS** (Synopses provided by Reply AI)

**A Million Trillion Pathway**

**Authors:** ROHKI, art collective (US/Japan)

A broken swordsman, a grieving immortal, and a cosmic being entwine across timelines to stop an empire built on blood and memory. To save the only family he has left, Hachi must survive his past—and master the demon within.

### **Carousel**

**Author:** Andes Aloï, director (Argentina)

On a subway, a man and woman envision a relationship, blending memory and fantasy. A visual poem exploring their romance and its collapse, made possible through AI and featuring underwater scenes and extensive locations.

### **Clown**

**Author:** Shanshan Jiang, artist and film-maker (UK)

In a surreal mix of live-action and AI imagery, the film follows a talented clown who loses her sense of self while seeking audience approval. As she alters her routines, appearance, and personality to cater to the crowd's demands, the lines between performance and reality become blurred.

### **Corrupt Data Clan**

**Author:** Eric Kervern, artist (France)

In 1993, Brooklyn gave rise to a revolutionary hip-hop collective, pushing the boundaries of sound and creativity. This captivating documentary celebrates the untold journey of a truly visionary group, which was ahead of its time by thirty years.

### **Instinct**

**Author:** Marcello Costa Jr., film-maker (Portugal)

A short film that explores what happens when primal survival instincts collide with the demands of modern life. It asks a simple but unsettling question: is becoming “civilised” really an upgrade, or does it strip away something essential to who we are?

### **Love at First Sight**

**Author:** Jacopo Reale, director (Italy)

The short movie, entirely created through AI tools, tells the story of a young shepherd meeting a girl who silently observes him from a hill, and captures their unspoken connection and the beauty of shyness.

### **Meme, Myself and AI**

**Author:** Private Island, production studio (UK)

The short movie is a mixed-media film that combines live-action with synthetic visuals and audio, highlighting the exploration of AI's

personification and emphasizing that AI is a tool created by humans. The film shows that authenticity comes from both the creators and the audience.

### **Not Chosen**

**Author:** Javier Marro, film-maker (Chile)

An animated short film that follows a small blue stuffed toy with beige horns, rejected from a prize machine and left unclaimed. As he wanders through the outside world seeking belonging, he faces only indifference and abandonment. Through intimate and silent visuals, the film explores the quiet resilience of those who are overlooked.

### **The Cinema That Never Was**

**Author:** Mark Wachholz, director (Germany)

A film imagining unmade films – those abandoned or never conceived – and exploring how they might have altered the course of cinematic history. AI tools enable the creation and discovery of these lost ideas, allowing creators to produce visuals, music, and narratives that reflect classic cinema aesthetics.

### **UN RÊVE LIQUIDE**

**Author:** Andrea Lommatzsch, artist (Italy)

A short movie where AI played a crucial role in transforming an idea into a visual narrative, enabling the creation of images, scenes, and animations. This resulted in a short film with a visual impact that wouldn't have been possible without AI or a substantial budget.

# Imax Teams With Runway On Commercial Screenings Of AI Film Festival Selections



[Imax](#) is teaming with tech firm [Runway](#) to present commercial screenings of selections from the company's [AI Film Festival](#).

The third annual edition of the one-day fest [was held last spring at New York's Alice Tully Hall](#) and L.A.'s Broad Theatre.

Under the partnership, the 10 films selected as finalists in the festival will be screened at 10 Imax locations across the U.S. from August 17 to 20. The Imax sites showing the program are in New York, L.A., San Francisco, Chicago, Seattle, Dallas, Boston, Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C.

The partnership is the latest milestone for Runway, which has set team-ups with Lionsgate, AMC Networks and other film and TV entities. Started by a group of former NYU film students as a tool for animators, the company has gone on to reach a valuation of more than \$3 billion.

While plenty of anxiety remains in Hollywood about the implications of AI for the creative community, an increasing number of players are looking to

develop AI projects and systems. Funding for a wide range of AI firms is continuing apace.

Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos didn't shy away from the topic during the streaming giant's quarterly earnings call last week, calling AI "an incredible opportunity to help creators make films and series better, not just cheaper." He cited Argentine sci-fi series *El Eternauta* (*The Eternaut*) as an example of a production using AI for visual effects and other production elements.

The Runway festival's jury included Gaspar Noé, Harmony Korine and Jane Rosenthal. It chose the 10 finalists, whose running times are between two and 10 minutes, from 6,000 submissions.

"The quality, variety and storytelling of these films deserves a premium viewing experience," Runway co-founder and CEO Cristóbal Valenzuela said. "This partnership will bring AIFF to thousands of moviegoers across America, at the highest possible quality."

Imax Chief Content Officer Jonathan Fischer said the company's large-format venues and equipment have "typically been reserved for the world's most accomplished and visionary filmmakers." By linking up with Runway, the company will "open our aperture and use our platform to experiment with a new kind of creator, as storytelling and technology converge in an entirely new way. How these tools will shape filmmaking is an area for us to continue to explore while honoring the intent of our creative partners."

As it continues to benefit from the bounce-back in mainstream theatrical moviegoing, Imax is also increasingly programming non-traditional fare like concerts, sporting events and other alternatives.