** For immediate release **




# 9th RAINDANCE IMMERSIVE CELEBRATES INDEPENDENT XR CREATORS, GAME DESIGNERS, VIRTUAL WORLD BUILDERS & PERFORMERS THROUGHOUT JUNE

Raindance Immersive: 1 - 30 June, in VRChat
Immersive Summit: 19 June, at Wondereville
Immersive Showcase: 21 – 23 June, at Raindance HQ
www.raindanceimmersive.com

For the ninth consecutive year, Raindance is celebrating all independent XR creators, game designers, virtual world builders and performers with the vanguard **Raindance Immersive programme**. This year's selection is a mix of World Premieres and special first-look previews spanning immersive storytelling, games, filmmaking, immersive world building, live shows, music and dance performances, as well as exclusive guided tours by world builders. For the second year, the programme also acknowledges the fledging filmmaking community that's developing within social VR platform VRChat with a programme of short films and music videos made entirely in VRChat.

Raindance Immersive is curated by **Mária Rakušanová, Joanna Leigh, Mary Lee Desmond** and **Tropi Ginger** with short films and music videos made in VRChat curated by **Joe Hunting** (whose Sundance and CPH:DOX nominated documentary *We Met in Virtual Reality* was filmed entirely in VRChat).

This year the in-person **Raindance Immersive Summit runs in London 19 June,** and the in-person **Raindance Immersive Showcase runs 21 – 23 June**, with highlights including filmmaking and spatial game development for the Apple Vision Pro, discussing how XR creators, filmmakers and game developers utilise this new platform. **The virtual festival will run 1 – 30 June.**

The nominated immersive experiences, games, virtual worlds, live performances, short films, and music videos compete for 8 awards.

## HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

*>> IMMERSIVE NARRATIVES*
**THE ELEPHANT I FOUND UNDER MY SKIN (creator: Shaool Levy**). An animated story told from the perspective of a young woman who feels uncomfortable about her breasts as she takes her first ultrasound. The experience advocates for regular health screenings and prioritises self-care despite discomfort associated with medical procedures.
**HEARTBEAT VR (creator: Dee Harvey).** With funding from BFI Network and Northern Ireland Screen, this animated documentary short brings you inside the delicate world of one woman's miscarriage.
**GIRL, LAMP, RADIO (creator: Minhyuk Che).** A teenage K-Pop idol suffers from depression and panic disorder, heightened by the online bullying she confronts on social media. As a lamp and a radio in her room, two players support her through a comforting combination of light and sound.
**FLY TO ME (creator: Songmoo Lee).** A documentary-style VR film portraying an elderly Korean woman who fled south as a child, but her sister remained in North Korea and the two have had no contact or communication since – it appears that only birds can fly across the border freely.

*>> SPATIAL GAMES*

**LASER DANCE (creator: Thomas Van Bouwel).** A Mixed Reality game that turns your own living room into a laser obstacle course. Players dance, dodge, and crawl their way through laser patterns that adapt dynamically to a room's size and layout.

**THRASHER (creators: Brian Gibson, Mike Mandel**). From the creator behind the cult hit *Thumper* comes this mind-melting cosmic racer and essential audio-visual experience. Use fast-paced gestural controls to evolve your space eel from worm to megabeast in a breakneck race for survival.

*>> IMMERSIVE ART WORLDS*

**SUKU (creator: Durk van der Meer).** This Dutch digital artist living in Curacao has created a 3D world that feels like a landscape painting and a sculpture park, inspired by the topography and architecture of this vibrant Caribbean island.

**LIMINAL (creator: Garfflesnark).** In this immersive art world, structures take on simplistic and dreamlike architecture in the soft quartz sand. Cusped by vast seas of rippling quicksilver, the horizon disappears into a perfect azure sky, illuminated by the celestial blueprints of sacred geometries.

*>> IMMERSIVE DANCE PERFORMANCES*

**SHADOW CANYON: A PUPPETEER'S TALE (creators: DustBunny, Mycana ,NProwler).** This collaboration between a well-known VR dancer, a world builder, and a theatre director combines dance with immersive theatre set in a beautiful desert canyon world.

**SHIRO: FOUR SEASONS (creators: Yoikami & VR Japan Tours).** Influenced by Japanese philosophy, VR dancer Yoikami begins performing the Four Seasons dance in an all-white world – but things soon begin to grow and change colour in this immersive performance rooted in Japanese culture.

*>> IMMERSIVE LIVE SHOWS*

**CONNECTED WAVES: VR JAZZ SESSION (creator: ENM Records).** An improvised jazz session by a collaborative community of virtual musicians based all over Japan, incorporating an impressive 'wave' visualisation of the combined musical and vocal performances.

**ELEMENTE: V (creator: Team Vein).** This collective of musicians and designers combine J-pop and fashion as they present a new album and avatar fashion collection on a runway-esque circular stage.

*>> IMMERSIVE MUSIC EXPERIENCES*

**MOON POOL: A NIGHT UNDER LIGHTS (creator: The Arbitter).** A story of the Earth's yearly cycles and how we experience them, presented by Night Under Light at the Moon Pool. Three DJ/VJ duos will create a transformative audio-visual experience as they explain what the seasons mean to them.

**CHILDREN OF THE SEED (creator: FlowersRite).** A medieval fantasy inspired electronic opera entirely conceived and created by world builder and musician FlowersRite.

*>> SHORT FILMS & MUSIC VIDEOS FILMED IN VRCHAT*

**MONOTONE (creator: Hotel Qadesh).** A silent black & white film noir short, filmed entirely within VRChat by Japanese collective Hotel Qadesh.

**NEW EDEN'S EVERGARDEN (creator: Madame Kana).** A documentary short about virtual cabaret performers New Eden who perform shows in their Evergarden immersive venue in VRChat.

**I STILL LOVE YOU (creator: Starheart).** A jazzy noir music video by this up-and-coming VR musician and VSinger.

**LIKE CRAZY (creator: Ariel Emerald).** A cover of a K-pop song, featuring an incredible performance by YouTuber TFMJonny and guitarist Lydian Melody.


**For more information, images or interview requests:**

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Press accreditations: www.raindance.org/festival/press-accreditations/