

## **Onwards, Upwards**

**a global vertical video, crowdsourced on May Day, during Covid-19.**

*For immediate release*

April 22, 2020. Katoomba (Australia) and Prague (Czech Republic).

May Day. Life goes onwards, upwards!

**A coalition of vertical (tall-screen) film festivals is calling for filmmakers around the globe to submit a vertical video of up to 15 seconds to express their present situation or hopes for the future while social distancing on 1 May. Edited together under Creative Commons license they will form a vertical video capturing one (extra)ordinary day in human history.**

It's a call-out for visual creatives who are unable to work collaboratively under various degrees of lockdown. [Vertifilms Prague](#) in Czech Republic, the [Vertical Film Festival](#) in Australia and [VerticalMovie Festival](#) in Italy have united to coordinate production of a crowdsourced vertical short, ***Onwards, Upwards***.

"It will be a moving image snapshot of a planetary pandemic," says Adam Sébire, co-founder of the Vertical Film Festival in Katoomba, Australia, who is himself presently marooned in an isolated North Sea lighthouse due to border closures and filmed the project teaser there. "The title *Onwards, Upwards* opens up the question of what we can gain from this experience as we head into the future, visualised with vertical framing. Filmmakers who can't work collaboratively due to social distancing restrictions here have an opportunity to express themselves creatively, collectively."

"We picked the date of May 1st because it is a symbol of hope," adds founder of Vertifilms Prague (Czech Republic) Krystof Safer. "The pandemic is global and so we want film makers and creators from whole world to unite *virtually* — they will be social distancing of course — to send a message about their feelings and hopes for the future. The lockdown, however long it has been for each of us, has taught us a thing or two. It will be great to share these thoughts and build a better future."

Guidelines for submission of a vertical video shot or sequence up to 15 seconds are on the [project's website](#) along with [a teaser video](#) which may be freely distributed. Videos created on 1 May 2020 and submitted by 3 May will be curated by the festival directors, with the chosen shots then edited into a short vertical movie released freely across the web, again under Creative Commons, soon afterwards.

### **More information:**

**Asia-Oceania:** Natasha Sebire (Australia): [verticalfilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:verticalfilmfestival@gmail.com)

**Europe & Middle East:** Krystof Safer (Czech Republic): [krystof@vertifilms.com](mailto:krystof@vertifilms.com)

**Rest of the World:** Adam Sébire (Utsira lighthouse): [adamsebire@gmail.com](mailto:adamsebire@gmail.com)

**Photos:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3pxpn5asjff80j3/AAAB-d67TChRxoegGfrSniNea?dl=0>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/onwardsupwardsverticalmovie/>

**Project Website:** [www.vertical.video](http://www.vertical.video) **Teaser video** (may be embedded): <https://vimeo.com/409580156/63b6f77e1b>

