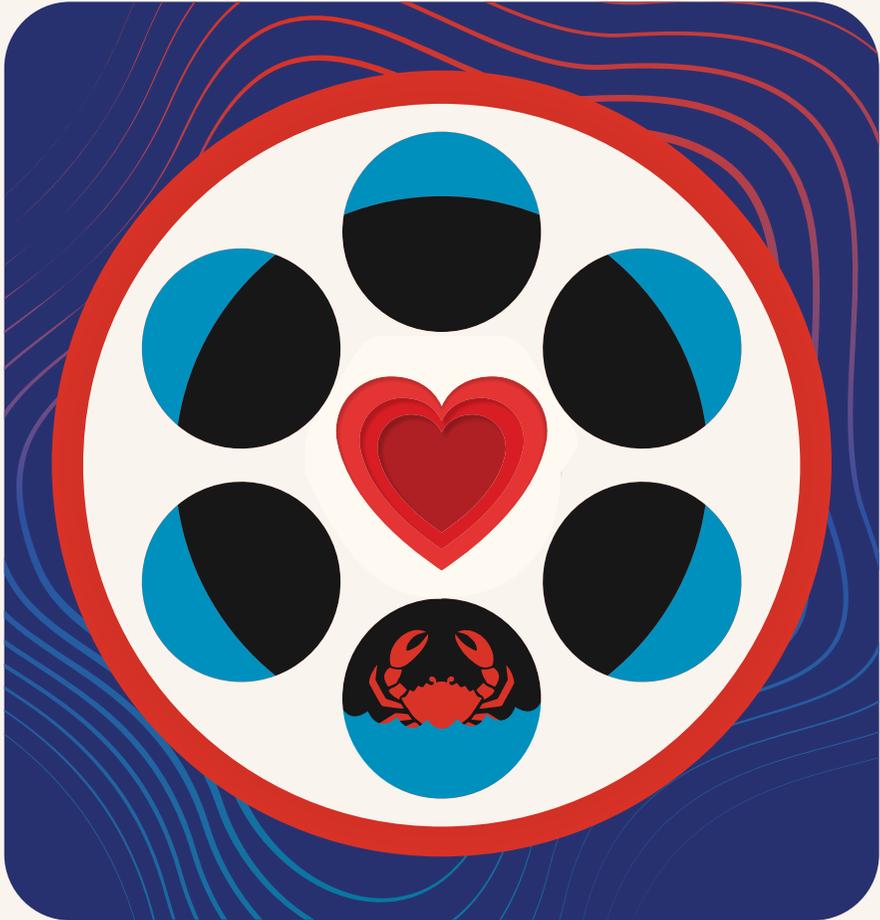




**MARCH 26-29
2026**



ANNAPOLIS FILM FESTIVAL
THE HEARTBEAT OF FILM

FESTIVAL PRESENTER:
BRIAN & PATRICIA
GIESE foundation



BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE *foundation*



TABLE OF CONTENTS



2	WELCOME	—————	
4	HOW-TO GUIDE	—————	
6	SPECIAL EVENTS & PANELS	—————	
10	FEATURE FILMS	—————	
32	SHORTS PROGRAMS	—————	
43	SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE	—————	
47	ADVERTISERS	—————	
64	SUPPORTERS & PATRONS	—————	
66	BOARDS, STAFF & TEAMS	—————	

MISSION STATEMENT | The Mission of the Annapolis Film Festival is to encourage the development of all aspects of the creative arts in and around Annapolis through the cinema experience. We seek independent films, features, documentaries, and shorts from around the globe that will inspire, enlighten, and entertain all audiences on a variety of topics, promoting Annapolis as a cultural arts center.

©2026 Annapolis Film Festival® is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL 2026



DEAR FRIENDS,

On behalf of the residents of Anne Arundel County, I am honored to welcome you to the 14th Annual Annapolis Film Festival.

For the past few years, this festival has done more than just showcase talent. It has shown us how to use our stories to entertain and educate.

Our stories are our greatest assets. They hold the power to bridge divides and inspire communities.

I encourage you to fully immerse yourselves in this year’s diverse slate of films. I want to thank the organizers, volunteers, and sponsors for their tireless work. You have helped us make Anne Arundel County “The Best Place — For All”.

Sincerely,

STUART PITTMAN County Executive

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW FILM LOVERS,

As we celebrate the 14th year of the Annapolis Film Festival, we’re thrilled to welcome you to Annapolis for what promises to be one of our most meaningful festivals yet.

This year’s theme, “The Heartbeat of Film,” says everything we believe about the power of cinema. Our films are on the pulse of cinematic storytelling—bold, relevant, and deeply human. They reflect the world as it is and as it could be, and they remind us why film continues to move, challenge, and connect us.

AFF has always been a labor of love. We are passionate about championing filmmakers, amplifying new voices, and ensuring this festival remains firmly on the industry radar while staying rooted in community and heart. Every year, we work to create a space where meaningful stories matter and where audiences feel something real—long after the credits roll.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us—your curiosity, support, and love of film are the heartbeat that keeps AFF alive.

With gratitude and excitement,

PATTI WHITE & LEE ANDERSON Festival Directors, Annapolis Film Festival

ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS,



I am delighted to welcome filmmakers, storytellers, sponsors, volunteers, and audiences to this year’s festival.

The Annapolis Film Festival is a celebration of creativity, storytelling, and community. Each year, it turns our historic city into a place where ideas are shared, conversations begin, and connections are made. At its heart, the festival brings people together, fostering empathy and reminding us of the power of shared experiences.

Annapolis has long embraced the arts as an important part of community life. From our theaters and galleries to our schools and neighborhood spaces, creative expression helps shape who we are. The Annapolis Film Festival reflects this spirit, supporting our local economy, enriching our cultural life and welcoming visitors from near and far.

I offer my sincere thanks to the Annapolis Film Festival leadership, staff, volunteers, sponsors and partners whose hard work and dedication make this event possible. Because of you, filmmakers have a meaningful platform and audiences can enjoy inspiring and thought provoking films.

I invite everyone to enjoy the films, take part in the conversations, and experience all that Annapolis has to offer during your visit. We are proud to host you and grateful to share this special celebration with you.

Welcome, and enjoy the festival,

JARED LITTMAN Mayor, City of Annapolis



Anne Arundel County is proud to support the 2026 Annapolis Film Festival.



The Maryland State Arts Council is a proud supporter of the Annapolis Film Festival.



The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County is pleased to welcome the Annapolis Film Festival to the Annapolis Arts & Entertainment District. Thank you for bringing a quality film event to our community.



The City of Annapolis is a proud sponsor of the Annapolis Film Festival for the fourteenth year.



Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County welcomes the Annapolis Film Festival. We are delighted that residents and visitors will be able to reap the benefits of the months of hard work that have gone into making this four-day film extravaganza a reality. Thank you for choosing Annapolis and the Chesapeake Bay!

PRESS CONTACTS

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FESTIVAL CO-FOUNDERS

Patti White | Lee Anderson | Debra Fortier

HOW-TO GUIDE 2026

FILMMAKER LOUNGE AT GRADUATE ANNAPOLIS Stevedore Meeting Room

ALL ACCESS | INDUSTRY | FILMMAKER (gold and purple passholders only)

HOURS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26	12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
FRIDAY, MARCH 27 & SATURDAY, MARCH 28	8:30 AM – 8:00 PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 29	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Meeting area with free WIFI, snacks, coffee and tea.

BOX OFFICE AT MARYLAND HALL, ROOM 206

MONDAY	11:00 AM – 5:00 PM	THURSDAY – SUNDAY	9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
TUESDAY – WEDNESDAY	11:00 AM – 7:00 PM		

THEATER BOX OFFICE

Theater Box Office will open 30 minutes before the first screening of the day and close 15 minutes after the last screening of the day.

Tickets may also be purchased online at annapolisfilmfestival.org.

Please note:

- Online ticket sales close at midnight the night before the next day's screening.
- All tickets and passes are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- Purchases are credit card only. NO CASH.
- Tickets can be presented digitally, printed at home or printed from the box office.
- Six Packs must be redeemed before arriving at the venue, day-of. This can be done ahead of time online, or through the through the Box Office at Maryland Hall. All Passes must be picked up at Ticket & Pass Central as noted above.
- On Thursday March 26th, Filmmaker Passes will be available at the Filmmaker Lounge at The Graduate Annapolis until 4pm.
- After 4pm on Thursday March 26, all credentials/passes must be picked up at the box office inside Maryland Hall (room 206).
- Please bring government issued photo ID to pick up tickets and passes. Student passes require active student ID.
- Merchandise will be on sale for the duration of the festival in the Box Office.

PASSES & TICKETS

SILVER PREMIUM PASS \$350, **AFS MEMBERS** \$300. Includes Priority Line admission up to 15 minutes before showtime, unlimited access to all films and panels, Coffee Talks (1), Opening Night Film (RSVP required), Opening Night After Party, Saturday Night BASH and Sunday Best of Fest. Separate ticket purchase (\$20) required for additional Coffee Talks...

BLUE FESTIVAL PASS \$200, **AFS MEMBERS** \$175, *with up to date membership, priority entry.* If you're at the venue 20 minutes prior to the show and the show is sold out, pass holders get priority entry, ticket holders may be refunded based on available capacity.

STUDENT PASS with photo ID \$125. Includes Opening Night Film (RSVP required) and Opening Night After Party, unlimited films & panels, all Coffee Talks, The Shorts Challenge and Sunday Best of Fest. Admission to other private festival parties and events is not included.

SHORTS PASS \$125. Access to all Shorts Programs including Local Shorts and the The Shorts Challenge. Environmental and Sailing Showcases not included. Individual ticket purchases are required for any feature films, panels or conversations.

SIX PACK \$100. Discount on multi-ticket purchases for all regular shows, panels, and screenings. Opening Night, Best of Fest, Coffee Talks and other special programs not included and require an additional ticket.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET screening or panel \$20, Seniors and Students \$18

BEST OF FEST TICKET \$25

OPENING NIGHT TICKET \$50. Includes access to the film and After Party (RSVP required) at Navy Stadium.

COFFEE TALKS sponsored by Harriet E. Cooperman at RamsHead OnStage, \$20. Free to All Access, Filmmaker, and Industry pass holders. Access to one session for Silver PREMIUM pass holders. Enjoy Oscar's Coffee and a light breakfast from Great Harvest.

RUSH LINE TICKET \$20

BEST OF FEST RUSH LINE TICKET \$25

If a film screening is on "standby" (advance ticket sales have ended), a Rush Line will form at the venue. Tickets will be available for purchase 10 minutes prior to showtime if seating becomes available. Discounts not applicable.

FILM GUIDANCE SYSTEM

Please be aware that most films have not yet been rated by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). Some films may include adult situations, strong language, violence, and/or explicit sexual references.

VOTE | AUDIENCE AWARDS

Volunteers will be on hand to help you cast your vote. Paper ballots will be available at all screenings. Rating will be on a 1–5 scale (1 low, 5 high). Please drop off your ballot at the Ballot Collection Station as you leave the theater. Juried and Audience Awards for Best Narrative Feature, Best Narrative Short, Best Documentary Feature, and Best Documentary Short will be announced at the Best of Fest ceremony at 5:30 pm on Sunday, March 29th at Maryland Hall. The winning films will be rescreened at Maryland Hall following the Best of Fest Award Announcements. Follow us on social media for announcements of winning films.

THEATER ETIQUETTE

Please allow adequate time when traveling between different venues or commuting through the Annapolis area. We recommend all attendees arrive at least 20 minutes before each screening begins to ensure adequate seating. Passholders should join the appropriate line for priority admission.

Please practice good festival etiquette out of respect for our venues and filmmakers. Kindly silence or turn off all cell phones while in the theater or within hearing range during an event. No photography or video of the film is permitted at any time. Festival Media and accredited press may be present to capture the moment. No food or drink is permitted in theaters unless otherwise noted.

VENUES

All films, panels and events take place at the following venues in Annapolis:

THE GRADUATE ANNAPOLIS 126 West Street	ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, KEY AUDITORIUM
MARYLAND HALL, MAIN AUDITORIUM	& MELLON LOBBY 60 College Avenue
& BOWEN THEATERS 801 Chase Street	RAMSHEAD ONSTAGE 33 West Street
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 87 West Street	

* Please see the map on the back cover of this program for specific venue locations.

IN CONSIDERATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE KEEP THIS PROGRAM FOR THE DURATION OF THE FESTIVAL. THANK YOU!

SPECIAL EVENTS & PANELS 2026

THURSDAY, 3/26

OPENING NIGHT FILM | POWER BALLAD | MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER | 7:15 PM

DIRECTED BY | JOHN CARNEY

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION

SPONSORED BY | SYNERGICS FILMS | ARTEMIS RISING FOUNDATION

ALL ACCESS | PREMIUM | INDUSTRY | FILMMAKERS | STUDENTS & FESTIVAL PASS HOLDERS | \$50 TICKETS | RUSH LINE

From the maestro behind the music-fueled hit films *Sing Street*, *Begin Again*, *Flora and Son*, and *Once* (winner of the Academy Award® for Best Original Song and later adapted into a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical), John Carney's latest masterpiece *Power Ballad* strikes the perfect Opening Night chord: emotional, uplifting, and full of heart.

OPENING NIGHT AFTER PARTY | NAVY-MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL STADIUM | 511 TAYLOR AVENUE enter at Gate 5 | 9:30 PM – 12:00 AM

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION

LIVE MUSIC | ALL PASSES & TICKET HOLDERS WELCOME

After-party with food, drinks, music and dancing.

FRIDAY, 3/27 | SATURDAY, 3/28 | SUNDAY, 3/29

COFFEE TALKS | RAMS HEAD ON STAGE | 33 WEST STREET | 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Coffee and pastries courtesy of Oscar's Coffee and Great Harvest Bakery.

SPONSORED BY | HARRIET E. COOPERMAN

ALL ACCESS, STUDENT & INDUSTRY/FILMMAKER PASS HOLDERS | \$20 SPACE PERMITTING

Start your festival mornings the best way we know how — with coffee, conversation, and a little behind-the-scenes magic.

At the Annapolis Film Festival, our Morning Coffee Talks at Rams Head On Stage bring filmmakers together with a smaller, intimate audience for the kind of candid, impromptu chats you won't hear in a traditional Q&A. These are the real stories — the near disasters, the unexpected breakthroughs, the moments that changed the film forever.

Join us Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 9–10am before the day's screenings begin. Grab a cup, enjoy some bites, and lean in. It's relaxed, revealing, and very cool — a perfect way to warm up for a full day of film.



FRIDAY, 3/27

PANELS | GRADUATE ANNAPOLIS, POWERHOUSE, FIRST FLOOR

SPONSORED BY | VISIT ANNAPOLIS

ALL FESTIVAL PASS HOLDERS | INDIVIDUAL TICKETS \$20

PANEL | UNDER THE INFLUENCE | 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where does Influence meet Industry? Producers bring the checks, Influencers bring the clicks — and together they are figuring out who really runs Hollywood. A fast, sometimes funny, and candid conversation about collaboration, creativity, and the new rules of the game.

PANEL | DRAFTED: WHO GETS TO WRITE THE FUTURE | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

From indie breakouts to prestige features to a newly inked deal at Netflix, today's screenwriters join us to share an open conversation about how stories move from first spark to industry greenlight. It's an inside look at craft, career pivots, and what it really takes to get drafted into the future of film and television.

PANEL | DOCUMENTARY 2.0: TRUTH IN THE AGE OF ALGORITHM | 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

In a currently distracted world, how do documentaries cut through the noise? This panel brings together filmmakers and industry insiders who explore how non-fiction storytelling survives and thrives—amid social media feeds, streaming platforms and AI-driven content. Is there still a lane for heart and humanity? Witness a timely conversation about truth, trust and the future of documentary in the digital era.

PANEL | MAKING YOUR MOVIE IN MARYLAND | 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Get some free information in the "Free State" on filmmaking. From tax incentives to union guidelines, Maryland offers filmmakers a wealth of resources—but navigating them can be daunting. This panel brings together Renata Colbert from the Motion Picture Association, Ryan Hasting from SAG-AFTRA, Catherine Batawick from the Maryland Film Office and a Maryland filmmaker to share practical insights, tips, and firsthand experiences for making your movie here. Moderated by Donald Thoms, Maryland Film Industry Coalition.



SATURDAY, 3/28

SHORTS CHALLENGE | MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

SPONSORED BY | MARYLAND FILM OFFICE | MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL | JE GARDNER FUND

PRIZE SPONSORS | HENNINGER MEDIA | MEZZANINE | SERIOUS GRIP & ELECTRIC | FILMSTERS | RED STAR PICTURES

The Shorts Challenge is an exciting and unpredictable aspect of the Annapolis Film Festival. The finalists will pitch their projects that reflect this year's theme ("The Heartbeat of Film") to an audience and a panel of industry judges who will vote on one project. The winner will be announced at the Saturday Night Bash at the Powerhouse at the Graduate Hotel. The winner takes home a production and post-production package that helps them get their idea off the page and onto the screen.

THE FINALIST PROJECTS

Anna Anna | Kate Santos (from Los Angeles, CA)*For the Love of Movies* | Dan Bazan (from Chicago, IL)*Silent Pulse* | Niyayesh Meyamandi Nejad (from Baltimore, MD)*Tooth* | Cinthya Franco (from New York, NY)*The Promotion* | Briana "Mannequin" Norwood (from Prince George's County, MD)

THE JUDGES

Jacqueline Christy | Director *Magic Hour*; Founder of Access TheaterNana Adwoa Frimpong | Producer *The Eyes of Ghana*, VP at Breakwater Studios

Gill Holland | Spirit Award-Nominated Producer of 70+ films.

Adam Carter Rehmeier | Director *Carolina Caroline & Dinner in America*

Donald Thoms | Moderator | Former VP of Programming at PBS

PANEL | DIRECTOR'S ROUNDTABLE | FINDING HEART IN A NOISY WORLD |

MARYLAND HALL | COMMUNITY ROOM 205 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Cinema has never been louder — visually, stylistically, culturally. From daring experimentations to trendy treats, today's directors face a landscape that rewards bold swings and big statements. But in all the noise, does heart still cut through? Join our filmmakers for an honest, unscripted conversation about staying human, telling stories that matter, and whether emotional truth is the ultimate rebellion.

SATURDAY BASH | THE POWERHOUSE AT THE GRADUATE ANNAPOLIS | 9:30 PM – 1:00 AM

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION

SPONSORED BY | JE GARDNER FUND | TEN TO ONE RUM

DJ SYCK TURTLE | GOLD, SILVER & PURPLE PASSHOLDERS ONLY



SUNDAY, 3/29

PANEL | WOMEN'S PANEL | WHEN DOORS CLOSE, WOMEN CREATE |

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE STUDIO THEATER | ROOM 148 | 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

When the industry says "no" women say "watch this". From blazing new creative trails to challenging pay gaps and outdated norms, this panel spotlights the unstoppable women reshaping film today. Get inspired, laugh, and hear how resilience and imagination are turning obstacles into opportunity—all before we celebrate, *She Runs the World*, a documentary about women who lead, compete and conquer.

AWARDS CEREMONY | BEST OF FEST | MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER | 3/29 | 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM

SPONSORED BY | ARTS COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY | MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

ALL PASSES ADMITTED | GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS \$25

Come see the films that you voted for! Don't miss the announcement of the AUDIENCE AWARD winners and JURY PRIZE winners for shorts and features. Following the audience ceremony, there will be a screening of the AUDIENCE AWARD winners for the BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE, BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE, BEST NARRATIVE SHORT, and BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT.

JURY

FEATURE FILMS

JACQUELINE CHRISTY | Director/Producer/Writer of *Magic Hour* (AFF25 Audience Award winner).

VERA J KATZ | Professor Emerita of Acting & Directing at Howard University and Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

DEVIN TURNER | Actor/Director/Producer/Writer of *Underground King* and *The Facility*.

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES

KATHLEEN BLAKE | Former Exec. Producer/Showrunner (developed 20+ first season series at CNBC, A+E, HGTV).

GILL HOLLAND | Spirit Award-nominated Producer of the Year; produced over 70 feature films including *Hurricane Streets* and *Maidentrip*.

AMANDA KARRH | Producer with ABC News for 20/20, Produced for CNN, Discovery, and National Geographic.

SHORT FILMS

SK BAUDHUIN | Coordinator, Office of the Chairman, Focus Features.

HEATHER BRAWLEY | Film Producer; VP Marketing at Archstone Entertainment.

MAX GESCHWIND | Associate at Creative Artists Agency & CAA Media Finance.

RACHEL GOLDBERG | Director, *Agatha All Along*, *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, *The Burbs*.

GREGG PERKINS | Professor and Chair, Dept. of Film, Animation, & New Media at University of Tampa.



OPENING NIGHT FILM

POWER BALLAD JOHN CARNEY

From the maestro behind the music-fueled hit films *Sing Street*, *Begin Again*, *Flora and Son*, and *Once* (winner of the Academy Award® for Best Original Song and later adapted into a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical), John Carney's latest masterpiece *Power Ballad* strikes the perfect Opening Night chord: emotional, uplifting, and full of heart.

This deeply human film about the price of fame, friendship, and artistic integrity stars Paul Rudd as Rick, a washed-up wedding singer whose glory days seem far behind him, and Nick Jonas as Danny, a fading boy band idol searching for something real. When a late-night jam session sparks an unexpected creative connection, Danny transforms one of Rick's original songs into a chart-topping hit—claiming it as his own.

Determined to reclaim both his song and his sense of self-worth, Rick travels to Hollywood to confront Danny and demand the credit he deserves. But as ambition, ego, and loyalty collide, *Power Ballad* becomes more than a story about stolen fame—it's a soulful meditation on second chances, personal integrity, and the songs that carry pieces of our past into the future.

With his signature blend of humor, heart, and irresistible melodies, John Carney reminds us that recognition is fleeting, but authenticity endures—and that it's never too late to rediscover your voice, or to let it be heard. (Ireland, U.S., 2026, 98 min, Comedy)

PRODUCERS | ANTHONY BREGMAN | JOHN CARNEY | PETER CRON | REBECCA O'FLANAGAN | ROBERT WALPOLE
WRITERS | JOHN CARNEY | PETER MCDONALD
CINEMATOGRAPHER | YARON ORBACH
EDITOR | STEPHEN O'CONNELL
PRODUCTION DESIGNER | ANNA CARNEY
COMPOSER | JOHN CARNEY | GARY CLARK
CAST | PAUL RUDD | NICK JONAS | PETER MCDONALD | MARCELLA PLUNKETT | RORY KEENAN | KEITH MCERLEAN | PAUL REID | BETH FALLON | JACK REYNOR | HAVANA ROSE LIU

THURSDAY, 3/26 | 7:15 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION

SPONSORED BY | SYNERGICS FILMS | ARTEMIS RISING FOUNDATION

9:30 PM – 12:00 AM
AFTER-PARTY AT NAVY-MARINE CORPS
MEMORIAL STADIUM



ENVIRONMENTAL SHOWCASE

DOC

THIS IS NOT A DRILL OREN JACOBY

As extreme weather around the world grows deadlier, a new generation of leaders is rising to face the associated challenges. In the American South, hard hit by climate disasters, three unlikely heroes, joined by rebellious Rockefeller heirs who have turned against their family's oil empire to expose ExxonMobil's decades-long coverup, take on one of the most powerful industries in the world: Big Oil. Together, they challenge the outsized power of Big Oil while confronting the realities of environmental racism. At the heart of the story is 25-year-old Justin J. Pearson, who builds a multiracial grassroots coalition to fight a crude oil pipeline in Memphis. A gripping account of courage, betrayal, and hard-won victories, this year's Environmental Showcase selection resonates deeply in Annapolis, as our city joined suit with a group of American cities who bravely took legal action against the fossil fuel industry. (USA, 2025, 80 min, Documentary)

A panel of experts will follow the screening.

PRODUCERS | SAM JINISHIAN | JANET KLEIN | ALEX LOWTHER | MONIKA MCCLURE | BETSY WEST
WRITER | BETSY WEST
CINEMATOGRAPHERS | RACHEL BETH ANDERSON | TOM HURWITZ | JASON LONGO | ROBERT RICHMAN | ANDY SARJAHANI | SAM SHINN | BUDDY SQUIRES | STEFAN WIESEN
EDITOR | ILYA CHAIKEN
COMPOSER | JOEL GOODMAN

FRIDAY, 3/27 | 12:00 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER

SPONSORED BY | CSR COMMUNICATIONS | HASI | NATE & BESSE ROSE



FRIDAY SPOTLIGHT

POETIC LICENSE MAUDE APATOW

In her confident feature directorial debut which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, Maude Apatow steps behind the camera with a voice that feels both fresh and steeped in comedy tradition. *Poetic License* reinvigorates the college comedy, exploring the fleeting intensity of campus relationships with a mature eye and a sophisticated wit.

Leslie Mann stars as Liz, a middle-aged mom and former therapist who relocates to a small college town when her husband accepts a new faculty position. Feeling unmoored and eager for connection, Liz audits a poetry workshop where she forms an unexpected friendship with two inseparable best friends, Ari (Cooper Hoffman) and Sam (Andrew Barth Feldman), whose growing admiration for her sparks a rivalry between them.

As the trio's platonic dynamic begins to blur, misunderstandings and jealousies ripple through their orbit. With crackling banter courtesy of screenwriter Raffi Donatich and magnetic chemistry between Hoffman, Feldman, and Mann, *Poetic License* is smart, funny, and full of vibrant energy—making it the perfect Friday night delight. (USA, 2025, 117 min, Comedy)

PRODUCERS | JUDD APATOW | MAUDE APATOW | JOSH CHURCH | THALIA DANIEL | WILL GREENFIELD | BENJAMIN HUNG | OLIVIA ROSENBLUM
WRITER | RAFFI DONATICH
CINEMATOGRAPHER | JEFFREY WALDRON
EDITOR | JAY CASSIDY
PRODUCTION DESIGNER | JASON BALDWIN STEWART
COMPOSER | JEFF MORROW
CAST | LESLIE MANN | COOPER HOFFMAN | ANDREW BARTH FELDMAN | NICO PARKER | METHOD MAN | MAISY STELLA | WILL PRICE | MARTHA KELLY | JOANNE BARON | MATT RIEDY | GRACE JUNOT | STEVE COULTER

FRIDAY, 3/27 | 7:00 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER

SPONSORED BY | SHEREE & ROSS DIERDORFF



SAILING SHOWCASE

DOC

EXPEDITION ANTARCTICA: A JOURNEY WITH GARY JOBSON JAMIE REYNOLDS

The frozen continent of Antarctica has fascinated and frightened mariners for the past 150 years. Experience this frigid sail in this year's Sailing Showcase. Come aboard an extraordinary six-week voyage led by America's Cup—winning tactician Gary Jobson. He and a crew of nine set their course across the legendary Drake Passage, where the wind whips around the globe unimpeded by land. Among the crew was the late Alex Lowe, who was one of the most famous mountain climbers in the world. At its core, the film is built on a striking juxtaposition between land and sea, the stillness of climbing, and the fluid uncertainty of sailing. The film chronicles the expedition, as well as the partnership between Jobson and Lowe, masters of their respective crafts, who step outside their comfort zones to learn from one another to explore the Arctic. This incredible archival piece has only screened publicly once, 30 years ago. (USA, 1996, 78 min, Documentary)

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Jamie Reynolds, Kenneth Murphy and Durier Ryan. Moderated by Gary Jobson.

PRODUCER | GARY JOBSON
WRITER | ROGER VAUGHAN
AUDIO | VICTOR GIORDANO

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 12:00 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION

SPONSORED BY | MARY ELLEN IWATA | DICK FRANYO | BOATYARD BAR & GRILL

PRECEDED BY
CIRRUS: A WOODEN BOAT STORY
KENNETH MURPHY | DURIER RYAN

Across nearly a century, the legendary wooden yawl CIRRUS has carried generations of sailors throughout the waters of New England. Designed by renowned naval architect Sidney Herreshoff and built in 1930, her story unfolds through newly unearthed 16mm color footage and vivid present-day imagery of her revival and triumphant return to her traditional home harbor in Brooklin, Maine. (USA, 2026, 16 min, Documentary)



FAITH EXPERIENCE SHOWCASE

ELIJAH PEEL

NATHAN ROSS MURPHY | KEVIN D. SEPE

World Premiere. This year's Faith Experience is a raw and emotional exploration of the fragility of life and the power of human connection. It is a story about falling from grace and the difficult, but ultimately rewarding, journey of finding one's way back to the light. Rockstar Elijah Peel lives in a whirlwind of drugs, alcohol and fame. These self-destructive tendencies culminate in a heart attack that forces him to confront his hedonistic lifestyle. Despite initial resistance, Elijah begins a journey of recovery and redemption, influenced by a terminally ill nine-year old girl named Jessica who embodies innocence, courage and faith. (USA, 2026, 107 min, Drama)

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Actors Robert Malcom Cumming, Evelyn Grace Kite, Kevin Sorbo, and Director Kevin D. Sepe.

PRODUCERS | JORDAN DANIELZ | KEVIN D. SEPE

WRITER | KEVIN D. SEPE

CINEMATOGRAPHER | JORDAN DANIELZ

EDITOR | GRACIE STRAUS

CAST | ROBERT MALCOLM CUMMING | EVELYN GRACE

KITE | KEVIN SORBO | APRIL BILLINGSLEY | PRINCESS

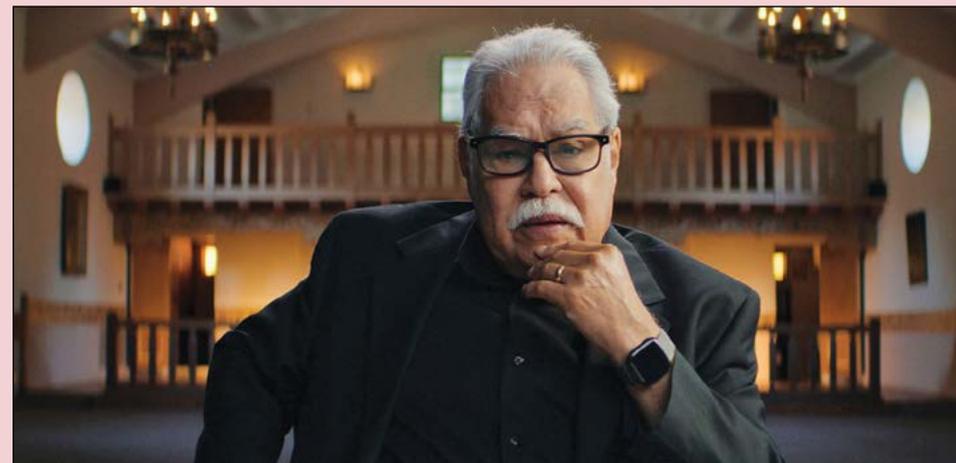
ELMORE | JASON LOUDER | MARK MCCLAIN WILSON |

PAULINA SOFIA | KALYN WOOD | TERESA CESARIO

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 2:30 PM

MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION



LATIN EXPERIENCE SHOWCASE

DOC

AMERICAN PACHUCO: THE LEGEND OF LUIS VALDEZ DAVID ALVARADO

From migrant farmworker to revolutionary artist, Luis Valdez changed American culture. In the 1960s, his El Teatro Campesino performed on flatbed trucks and helped mobilize workers to win the first farmworker union contract. His *Zoot Suit* was the first Chicano play on Broadway. Despite critical rejection that killed the show, he persevered, creating *La Bamba*—a breakout blockbuster that authentically depicted Mexican American life to the world. Now in its 60th year, El Teatro continues to be a beacon for Latino/a creators. Winner of the Audience Award for U.S. Documentary at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival, this is the story of an artist who gave voice to the overlooked and opened pathways for generations. (USA, 2026, 92 min, Documentary, English and Spanish with English subtitles)

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Producer Everett Katigbak.

PRODUCERS | DAVID ALVARADO | LAUREN DEFILIPPO |

EVERETT KATIGBAK | AMANDA POLLAK

WRITER | DAVID ALVARADO

CINEMATOGRAPHER | ZACHARY FINK

EDITOR | DANIEL CHÁVEZ ONTIVEROS

COMPOSER | KRIS BOWERS

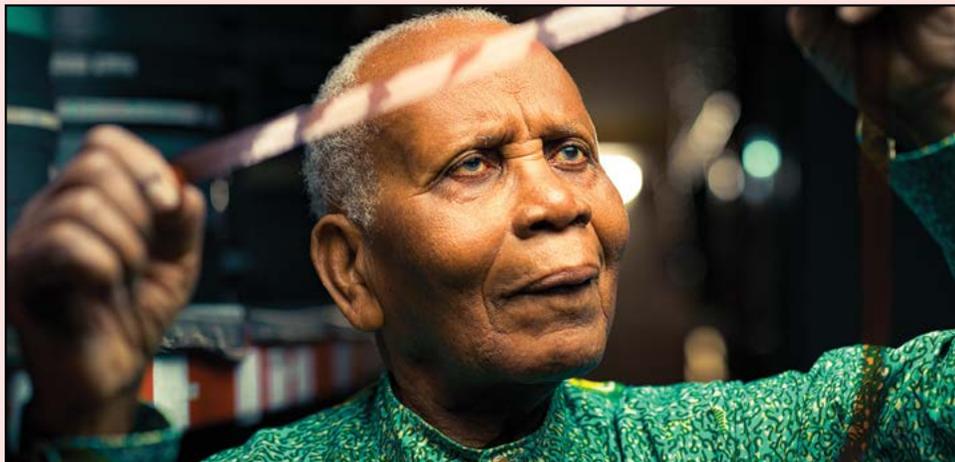
SATURDAY, 3/28 | 12:30 PM

ASBURY

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION

SPONSORED BY | SANDY LIOTTA & CARL OSTERMAN |

FOX AUTO SERVICES | DAY 2 LLC | PATRICIA G. RAIN



BLACK EXPERIENCE SHOWCASE

DOC

THE EYES OF GHANA BEN PROUDFOOT

From Oscar®-winning director Ben Proudfoot and Executive Producers Barack and Michelle Obama, this stunning feature documentary follows 93-year-old documentarian Chris Hesse—personal cinematographer to forgotten African icon Kwame Nkrumah—as he races against blindness and time to rescue and repatriate a secret trove of over 1,000 films that captured the birth of African independence in the fifties and sixties. Yet unseen by the public, these films may not only rewrite Ghanaian and African history—but world history itself. (Ghana/U.K., 2025, 90 min, Documentary)

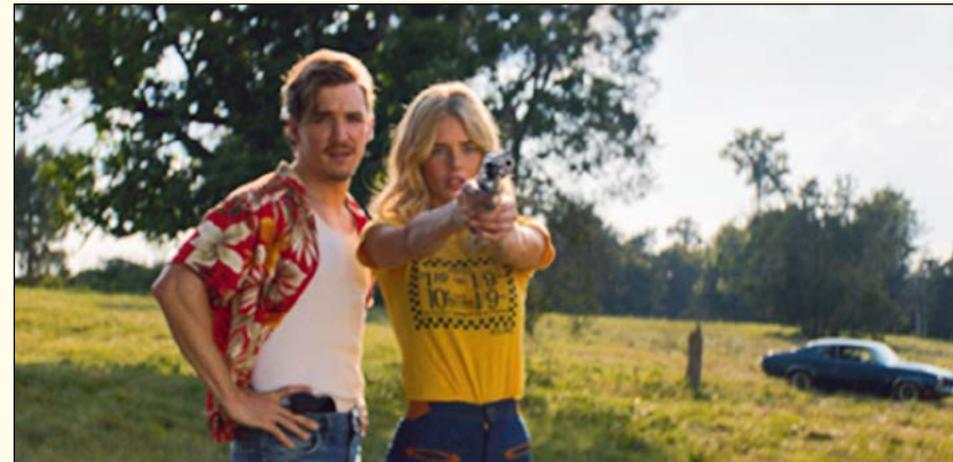
Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Producer Nana Adwoa Frimpong.

PRODUCERS | NANA ADWOA FRIMPONG |
BEN PROUDFOOT | ANITA ANFONU | MOSES BWAYO |
BRANDON SOMERHALDER | ETHAN LEWIS |
VINNIE MALHOTRA
CINEMATOGRAPHERS | BRANDON SOMERHALDER |
DAVID FEENEY-MOSIER
EDITOR | MÓNICA SALAZAR
COMPOSER | KRIS BOWERS

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 5:00 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION
SPONSORED BY | DR. ALYSON HALL |
THE GLAUCOMA CENTER | KURT & PATRICIA SCHMOKE



SATURDAY SPOTLIGHT

CAROLINA CAROLINE ADAM CARTER REHMEIER

Love is a dangerous game in Adam Rehmeier's smoldering Southern outlaw romance *Carolina Caroline*. Samara Weaving delivers a sultry and emotionally charged performance as Caroline Daniels, a small-town Texas clerk whose life takes a sharp turn when she falls for the charismatic con man Oliver, played by Kyle Gallner, with a dangerously seductive swagger. What begins as fascination soon becomes partnership as the pair head east on a feverish road trip—chasing stolen cash, borrowed dreams, and the hope of finding Caroline's estranged mother in South Carolina.

A modern-day *Bonnie and Clyde* for a new generation, this gritty yet lyrical film explores reckless devotion, moral compromise, and the intoxicating pull of escape. Building on the rebellious outsider spirit of his previous Sundance breakout film *Dinner in America*, Rehmeier once again traces volatile love on the run.

Weaving and Gallner light up the screen with electric chemistry, while Kyra Sedgwick delivers a commanding performance as Caroline's manipulative mother. Having premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival to strong acclaim, *Carolina Caroline* is a fresh take on a crime drama pulsing with danger, desire and heart. (USA, 2025, 105 min, Romance/Thriller)

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Director Adam Carter Rehmeier.

PRODUCERS | CHRIS ABERNATHY | STEPHEN BRAUN,
ERIC B. FLEISCHMAN | CHRIS WARD | TIM WHITE |
TREVOR WHITE
WRITER | TOM DEAN
CINEMATOGRAPHER | JEAN-PHILIPPE BERNIER
EDITOR | JUSTIN KROHN
PRODUCTION DESIGNER | FRANCESCA PALOMBO
COMPOSER | CHRISTOPHER BEAR
CAST | SAMARA WEAVING | KYRA SEDGWICK |
KYLE GALLNER | JON GRIES

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 7:00 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

SPONSORED BY | ANGELA PETERMAN &
LTC ED PONATOSKI | ALLISON & DREW BREITTHOLZ



JEWISH EXPERIENCE SHOWCASE

DOC

TOVAH
DAVID SERERO

Join us in celebrating the life and legacy of the subject of this year's Jewish Experience, Tovah Feldshuh. Her fearless artistry and commanding intellect have shaped American theater for more than five decades. The documentary traces Feldshuh's rise from daring newcomer to a Broadway legend renowned for her transformative portrayals of complex historical women, most notably Golda Meir. She continues to be an icon of both stage and screen, currently appearing in Netflix's hit series *Nobody Wants This*. Through a blend of rare archival footage and intimate interviews with Tovah herself, as well as artists such as Oscar Issac, Kristen Bell, Patti Lupone, and Stephen Schwartz, among others, this film is both a celebration and cultural chronicle, capturing an enduring icon whose impact continues to inspire generations.

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Tovah Feldshuh and David Serero.

PRECEDED BY BREAKFAST OF BAGELS & LOX

SUNDAY, 3/29 |
8:00 AM BREAKFAST | 10:00 AM SCREENING
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

SPONSORED BY | THE NORMAN J. FISHER & DORIS FISHER FOUNDATION | FAITH GOLDSTEIN & JESSE CUNITZ | DAVID & CAROL STERN | LUCY SPIEGEL | MARTHA BLAXALL & JOE DICKEY | TEMPLE BETH SHALOM | ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMISSION

BREAKFAST COURTESY OF
Bagels And..., Oscar's Coffee, Whole Foods, Grauls' Market.



CLOSING DAY FILM

RUN AMOK
NB MAGER

Fresh off premiering at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival, writer-director NB Mager's brave and audacious debut feature navigates the unthinkable with startling originality and emotional precision. Meg (Alyssa Marvin), is a quirky, harp-playing high school senior who decides to stage a full-scale musical reenactment of the mass shooting that took place at her school a decade earlier—the tragedy that claimed the life of her mother. Encouraged by a supportive teacher (Patrick Wilson), challenged by a risk-averse principal (Margaret Cho), and questioned by her over-protective Aunt (Molly Ringwald), Meg insists on confronting the past in the only way she knows how: through art.

Balancing dark humor and sincerity with astonishing dexterity, Mager crafts a film that never trivializes violence, but instead illuminates the surreal absurdities of growing up in its shadow—from routine active-shooter drills to the condescending platitudes from adults. At its center is a breakout performance from Marvin, whose Meg is defiant, vulnerable, and fiercely committed to making meaning where none exists.

A daring testament to the power of theater—and music—*Run Amok* closes our festival with a story that is both provocative and profoundly human, reminding us that while art may not offer easy answers, it can create space for reflection, reckoning, and catharsis. (USA, 2026, 96 min, Comedy/Drama/Musical)

PRODUCERS | JULIE CHRISTEAS | FRANK HALL GREEN
WRITER | NB MAGER
CINEMATOGRAPHER | SHACHAR LANGLEY
EDITOR | MAX BERGER
PRODUCTION DESIGNER | DANIELLE WEBB
COMPOSER | MANDY HOFFMAN
CAST | ALYSSA MARVIN | SOPHIA TORRES | PATRICK WILSON | MARGARET CHO | MOLLY RINGWALD | ELIZABETH MARVEL | NUHA JES IZMAN | JESUS DEL ORDEN | PILOT BUNCH | GRACE REITER | ALLAN LOPEZ | JIM KAPLAN | YUL VAZQUEZ | BILL CAMP

SUNDAY, 3/29 | 3:00 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER
SPONSORED BY | ARTS COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Q&A TO FOLLOW
With Director NB Mager.

FEATURE FILMS



SATURDAY, 3/28 | 4:45 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION
SPONSORED BY | DEBRA & DWIGHT FORTIER |
THE PHIL & MERI GIBBS FAMILY TRUST

Q&A TO FOLLOW
With Writer & Producer Emily Dillard.

A MOSQUITO IN THE EAR

NICOLA RINCIARI

Based on the autobiographical graphic novel *Una Zanzara nell'Orecchio* by Andrea Ferraris, this film adaptation follows an American couple's journey to India to meet their newly adopted 4-year-old daughter, Sarvari, and bring her back to the US. However, their world begins to crumble when the little girl refuses to leave the orphanage that she calls home. The couple's attempts to welcome their child into her new family and travel back with her prove to be a chaotic challenge that not only tests their patience but also reshapes their ideas of family, parenthood, and their relationship as a couple. (USA, 2026, 90 min, Drama)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 4:45 PM
ASBURY

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 2:45 PM
ASBURY

SPONSORED BY | BRIDGET BELL MCMAHON

Q&A TO FOLLOW
With Director Wendy Lobel.

ANXIETY CLUB

WENDY LOBEL

Some of today's top comedic voices, including Tiffany Jenkins, Joe List, Marc Maron, Aparna Nancharla, Mark Normand, Baron Vaughn, and Eva Victor, explore the space where humor and anxiety collide. Blending stand-up, sketches, and behind-the-scenes access, they candidly share their personal struggles with anxiety, the world's most prevalent mental health condition—affecting more than 350 million people globally. These comedians reveal how vulnerability and humor can coexist, turning their mental health battles into powerful narratives that resonate with audiences everywhere (while having some laughs along the way). (USA, 2025, 86 min, Documentary)

PRECEDED BY

DIES IRAE
VICTORIA BASADRE

A young woman experiences her first therapy session with a therapist who is interesting...but not at all interested. (USA, 2025, 6 min. Animation)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 10:00 AM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM
SPONSORED BY | ARTS COUNCIL OF
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

BEGINNINGS

JEANETTE NORDAHL

Discover this deeply moving Danish romantic drama about rediscovering love when you least expect it. On the verge of divorce and quietly concealing the truth from their children, Thomas prepares to leave his longtime marriage — until a sudden stroke leaves his wife Ane fighting to regain her independence. What begins as an act of obligation becomes something far more complicated, and unexpectedly tender. With exquisite performances and a refreshingly honest lens on long-term partnership, *Beginnings* explores the fragile space between resentment and devotion. Wryly observed and emotionally fulfilling, it's a rare love story not about falling apart — but about finding your way back. This film premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival. (Denmark, 2025, 96 min, Drama, Danish with English subtitles.)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 4:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER
SATURDAY, 3/28 | 4:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

BOOKENDS

MIKE DOYLE

When Nate (Noam Ash) is forced to leave his fabulous city life behind and move in with his grandparents after a bad breakup with his boyfriend, he is determined to escape the confines of retirement community life and his meddlesome grandparents' relentless attempts to 'improve' him. But when his Holocaust-surviving grandfather, Saul (Oscar®-winner F. Murray Abraham), shows signs of cognitive decline and his grandmother, Miriam (the marvelous Caroline Aaron), refuses to acknowledge her husband's early dementia, Nate finds himself torn between his desire to flee, family responsibilities, and an unexpected romance with his grandparents' handsome doctor. Writer/Actor Noam Ash plays the lead role of Nate with an eccentric charm and infuses the original script with wise dialogue, witty banter and memorable one-liners. (USA, 2026, 99 min, Comedy/Drama)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 9:30 PM
 MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER
SATURDAY, 3/28 | 9:15 PM
 ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

SPONSORED BY | GINA DESTEFANO & STEVE TILLER

Q&A TO FOLLOW
 With Directors Edd Benda & Stephen Helstad.

CHILI FINGER
 EDD BENDA | STEPHEN HELSTAD

Chaos is served piping hot in this wickedly dark comedy-thriller starring the ever-versatile Judy Greer as a small-town lawyer who discovers a human finger in her bowl of chili — and sees an opportunity to escape her mundane life. What begins as a calculated attempt to blackmail a fast-food chain for hush money quickly spirals into a twisted game of greed and revenge that gives new meaning to “an eye for an eye”. Sean Astin co-stars as her hopelessly devoted husband, John Goodman plays the larger-than-life owner of the beloved burger empire, and the chameleon-like Bryan Cranston is barely recognizable as the leather-clad enforcer determined to uncover the truth. Directors Edd Benda and Stephen Helstad subvert all expectations as they play with tension and ironic twists and populate the town with quirky characters to rival Fargo and Twin Peaks. (USA, 2026, 100 min, Comedy/Thriller)



SATURDAY, 3/28 | 10:00 AM
 ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM
 PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION

COOKIE QUEENS
 ALYSA NAHMIAS

DOC

Executive produced by Meghan Markle & Prince Harry, this film follows four girls (ages five to twelve) and their families as they navigate the annual whirlwind of Girl Scout Cookie Season. Selling cookies isn't just about Thin Mints and sisterhood - it's a crash course in commercialism. Behind the smiles and cookie boxes lie real pressure: long hours, ambitious sales goals, and the weight of high expectations. Captivating, candid, and full of heart, this year's Family Day film selection is sure to make you laugh, fill you with inspiration, and maybe even leave you with a craving for Girl Scout cookies. (USA, 2026, 91 min, Documentary)

PRECEDED BY
KID PRESIDENT
 YADID HIRSCHTRITT LICHT

No more lettuce, no more artichokes... no more broccoli! This is the future that Kid President envisions as he rolls out his most daring policy yet: a ban on all vegetables. (USA, 2025, 5 min, Animation)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 2:00 PM
 ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

DEEPFAKING SAM ALTMAN
 ADAM BHALA LOUGH

DOC

When Los Angeles filmmaker Adam Bhala Lough fails to land an interview with the elusive Sam Altman, he travels to India to deepfake the tech CEO, only to create a glitchy LLM “Sam Bot” that moves into his home, befriends his son and begins co-directing the movie. As Sam Bot grows more lifelike, Adam is forced to decide whether to delete the AI he accidentally brought to life, and the film becomes a sharp, surprisingly moving exploration of how humans navigate the chaotic new world of artificial intelligence. (USA, 2025, 90 min, Documentary)

PRECEDED BY
CHARDAK
 MILETA POSTIC | PREDRAG JOLDIC
 There is romance, action, humor and meta-storytelling. (Serbia, 2025, 9 min, Animation)



SUNDAY, 3/29 | 12:00 PM
 MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER
 PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION
 SPONSORED BY | THE G&J D FOUNDATION | JE GARDNER FUND

DOC

EVERYWHERE MAN:
THE LIVES AND TIMES OF PETER ASHER
 DANIEL GELLER | DAYNA GOLDFINE

Peter Asher is a pop star, producer, manager, and confidant to legends from Paul McCartney and James Taylor to Linda Ronstadt and Carole King, and many more. He has lived life at the center of modern music history and is considered to be one of music's most influential behind-the-scenes forces of the 1970s and '80s. In the present day, he remains a vital creative force, still performing, producing, and most recently collaborating with Barbra Streisand on her acclaimed *The Secret of Life* duets album. The documentary is inspired by Asher's cabaret show *A Musical Memoir of the '60s and Beyond*, and features interviews and a soundtrack of some of the world's most famous artists and cultural icons. (USA/UK, 2025, 118 min, Documentary)

Q&A TO FOLLOW
 With Executive Producers Robin Sagon & Mike Drews.



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 2:30 PM

ASBURY

SPONSORED BY | MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

HOLD ONTO ME
MYRSINI ARISTIDOU

11-year-old Iris learns that her estranged father, Aris, is back in town for his own father's funeral. Determined to know him, Iris tracks him down to a dilapidated shipyard, where he's been keeping to himself. What begins as a stubborn attempt to reconnect slowly unfolds into a fragile bond. Anchored by a remarkably nuanced performance from young Maria Petrova, this Audience Award winner from the 2026 Sundance Film Festival is a tender portrait of reconciliation, resilience, and the complexities of familial relationships. (Cyprus/Greece, 2026, 102 min, Drama, Greek with English subtitles)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 10:00 AM

MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 10:00 AM

MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Director Stan Bush.

LAST CALL IN THE NORTH

STAN BUSH

DOC

Tucked between towering 8,000-foot peaks and the icy waters of the Inside Passage, the town of Skagway, Alaska is a wilderness utopia of 1,000 residents whose economy depends almost entirely on cruise ship tourism. When the COVID-19 pandemic shuts down global travel—and Canada closes its border—this once-thriving gateway to the Klondike finds itself cut off from its lifeblood for 30 months. With exclusive and intimate access, Director Stan Bush chronicles the uncertainty, resilience, and reckoning that follow. More than a pandemic story, *Last Call in the North* is a cautionary tale about the fragility of any single-source economy—and a compelling sociological portrait of what happens when an entire community must rethink its future in order to survive. (USA, 2025, 95 min, Documentary)



SATURDAY, 3/28 | 2:15 PM

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

SPONSORED BY | JENNIFER & BRIAN KLEPPER

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Writer Samy Burch.

LATE FAME
KENT JONES

In this elegant and quietly piercing meditation on art, ego, and the ache of unrealized ambition, four-time Academy Award® nominee Willem Dafoe delivers a masterful performance as Ed Saxberger, a once-published New York poet who long ago abandoned literary dreams for the steady anonymity of a postal job. When an ambitious circle of young, well-heeled intellectuals rediscovers his early work and invites him into their salon, Saxberger is drawn back into a world of readings, philosophical debates, and renewed possibility. At the center of the group is the enigmatic Gloria (Greta Lee), an actress with bohemian flair whose presence sparks both inspiration and illusion. As admiration blurs into opportunism and performance shades into pretense, *Late Fame* becomes a sharply observed introspective portrait of artistic longing and generational disconnect. This film premiered at the Venice International Film Festival. (USA, 2025, 96 min, Drama)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 9:15 PM

ASBURY

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 5:00 PM

ASBURY

SPONSORED BY | INTERIM HEALTHCARE OF ANNAPOLIS | ANN & ART DANDRIDGE

LATE SHIFT
PETRA BIONDINA VOLPE

Dedicated nurse Floria navigates the relentless pace of her Swiss hospital's understaffed surgical ward with humanity and warmth. This is no easy task, as on this particular night she and just one other nurse are responsible for more than two dozen patients, each requiring urgent and attentive care. As the overnight shift unfolds in real time, small crises compound into mounting pressure, and Floria is pushed to the brink in a race against time. Unflinchingly realistic in its portrayal of modern medical working conditions, the film is a must-see for fans of HBO's *The Pitt*. Both a gripping drama and a deeply moving tribute, the film pays homage to nurses and sounds a rousing call to address the global staffing shortage in the industry. This film premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival. (Switzerland/Germany, 2025, 92 min, Drama/Thriller, German/French/Turkish with English subtitles)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 12:30 PM
ASBURY
 SPONSORED BY | **SHED ANNAPOLIS**

LOVING KARMA

JOHNNY BURKE | ANDREW HINTON

DOC

In the remote foothills of the Himalayas, former monk Lobsang Phuntsok has built Jhamtse Gatsal—"The Garden of Love and Compassion"—a community for children who have endured abandonment, neglect, and profound trauma. Once a spiritual teacher in the United States, Lobsang returned to India to create the kind of refuge he never had as a troubled orphan himself. *Loving Karma* revisits Jhamtse Gatsal twelve years after the Emmy-winning short *Tashi and the Monk*, following Lobsang and a new generation of children who are learning to care for one another. (India, 2025, 80 min, Documentary, Hindi with English subtitles)

PRECEDED BY

PARAVAN

GLÓRIA HALÁSZ

Two puppeteers arrive at a mysterious underground place aiming to bring light into the darkness. (Hungary, 2025, 11 min, Drama)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 2:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER
SUNDAY, 3/29 | 9:30 AM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER
 SPONSORED BY | **LYNN MCREYNOLDS & BERT CARP**

MR. BURTON

MARC EVANS

From the coal-mining valleys of South Wales to the grand stages of Shakespearean theater, *Mr. Burton* traces the extraordinary early life of one of the most celebrated Welsh actors. Born Rich Jenkins, a wild schoolboy and son of an alcoholic miner, he is rescued from obscurity by his devoted teacher Philip Burton, who recognizes the young man's talent and becomes both mentor and father figure. As Rich transforms into Richard Burton, tensions, rumors, and personal demons threaten to unravel the bond that shaped him. Produced by the BBC with impeccable craft and period detail, and featuring superb performances by Toby Jones, Lesley Manville, and Harry Lawtey as the young, baritone-voiced Richard, this stirring biopic captures the passion, volatility, and perseverance that defined the beginning of Burton's legendary career. (U.K., 2025, 124 min, Drama)



SATURDAY, 3/28 | 7:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER
SUNDAY, 3/29 | 4:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER
 SPONSORED BY | **MCNAMEE HOSEA, PA**

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Director/Actress Uttera Singh.

PINCH

UTTERA SINGH

Set in India during Navratri, the vibrant nine-night Hindu festival, aspiring travel blogger Maitri Singh finds the life she carefully curated for social media unraveling. She clashes with her mother, fends off a predatory landlord, and—through a seemingly trivial pinch that carries unexpected legal and cultural consequences—accidentally ignites a shocking public incident. What follows is a whirlwind of guilt, buried truths, and mounting social backlash that forces Maitri to confront the cost of staying silent. Director and star Uttera Singh delivers a fearless, magnetic performance in this dark comedy that is as thought provoking as it is entertaining. (India, 2025, 83 min, Comedy/Drama)

PRECEDED BY

MONSTER SLAYER

CATIE SKIPP

After Monty is assaulted at the strip club where she works, she weaponizes public art to exact justice against a system's refusal to act. (USA, 2025, 21 min, Documentary)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 4:00 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM
SATURDAY, 3/28 | 7:00 PM
ASBURY
 SPONSORED BY | **COLDWELL BANKER REALTY**

SEIZED

SHARON LIESE

DOC

What begins as a shocking small-town incident at a local newspaper quickly spirals into a national story, exposing how corruption, politics, and decades-long tensions turned a quaint Kansas community into a battleground over the First and Fourth Amendments. The film unfolds in real time through police body-cam and surveillance footage, revealing the raid's chaos, the bombshells that followed, and the devastating personal toll on the newsroom, including the tragic death of its 98-year-old co-owner. This stranger-than-fiction documentary is an exploration of power, politics, and the fragility of a free press that is a must-see for fans of true-crime and investigative journalism. (USA, 2026, 90 min, Documentary)



SUNDAY, 3/29 | 1:45 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION
SPONSORED BY | PATRICIA BAUM | RBC WEALTH
MANAGEMENT | PAMELA & NEWTON GENTRY |

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Director Matthew O'Neill and
Co-Producer Julia Rosenheim.

SHE RUNS THE WORLD

MATTHEW O'NEILL | PERRI PELTZ

DOC

Allyson Felix is the most decorated track and field athlete of all time. At the height of her career, Felix discovers she is pregnant with her first child. But the pinnacle of Allyson's personal and professional life turns into a public flashpoint when she takes on Nike's stance on maternal protections. She never intended to become another Norma Rae or Erin Brokovich; nonetheless she had to do what she knew was right regardless of the personal risk. Allyson Felix is an inspiration, turning adversity into action, redefining what it means to be a champion and sparking a movement far beyond the track. (USA, 2025, 85 min, Documentary)



SATURDAY, 3/28 | 11:30 AM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION
SPONSORED BY | ARTS COUNCIL OF
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Directors Noah Currier and
Nick Cavalier.

SUM FUNCTION

NOAH CURRIER | NICK CAVALIER

DOC

World Premiere. A group of friends, each impaired in all four limbs, confront battles more personal than war itself on and off the wheelchair-rugby court. Struggling to find purpose in the aftermath of tragedy, unexpected turns entrench them in fights for survival, connection, and access in a world not built for them. This story unravels into something far less predictable than the scoreboard — and proves that the human spirit never takes a seat. (USA, 2025, 90 min, Documentary)

PRECEDED BY

BETWEEN THE VARIABLES

YALIAN LI

Benjamin Lou, a gifted math genius student at MIT who is living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), reflects on how his disability has shaped his identity, his relationship with his parents, and his hopes for the future. (USA, 2026, 15 min, Documentary)



SUNDAY, 3/29 | 12:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

SPONSORED BY | ARTS COUNCIL OF
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Director Sara Joe Wolansky.

THE BIG CHEESE

SARA JOE WOLANSKY

DOC

In France, cheesemongering is a revered profession — more sommelier than supermarket clerk. In America, it's often an underappreciated hustle. Enter Adam "Mr. Moo" Moskowitz, who rallies a scrappy U.S. team to compete at the prestigious Mondial du Fromage — the "Olympics of cheese." Facing seasoned European masters, this underdog squad sets out to prove they belong on the world stage. Unexpectedly moving and irresistibly entertaining, *The Big Cheese* pairs fierce international competition with touching personal stories, celebrating passion, craftsmanship, and the joy of pursuing greatness — one perfectly aged wheel at a time. (USA, 2025, 86 min, Documentary/Comedy)

PRECEDED BY

AMPED

VINCENT SALVANO

During a late night at the office, two competitive co-workers stumble upon a mysterious energy drink that gives them supernatural abilities beyond their control. (USA, 2025, 5 min, Animation)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 7:00 PM
ASBURY

Q&A TO FOLLOW

With Director Zoey Martinson.

THE FISHERMAN

ZOXY MARTINSON

Atta Oko is a retired traditional fisherman from Ghana. His life takes a whimsical, fantastical turn when he is forced into retirement and partners with a hysterical, bougie talking fish that leads him on an adventure to Accra. Joined by his three quirky "associates," the newfound friends pursue their dream of owning a boat. Filled with laughter, magic, and the vibrant culture of Ghana, Ghana's first official selection at the Venice International Film Festival is a delightful tale of family, dreams, and the enduring spirit of a true fisherman. (Ghana, 2024, 105min, Comedy/Fantasy)



SUNDAY, 3/29 | 12:00 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM
 SPONSORED BY | **NORMAN J. FISHER & DORIS FISHER FOUNDATION**

Q&A TO FOLLOW
 With Director Matthew O'Neill.

THE LAST TWINS

MATTHEW O'NEILL | PERRI PELTZ

DOC

This powerful documentary reveals the never-before-told story of an unsung Holocaust hero, Erno "Zvi" Spiegel, who risked his life to save dozens of young twins from near-certain death at Auschwitz. Under the shadow of Dr. Josef Mengele's horrific experiments, Spiegel was placed in charge of the boys targeted for inhumane medical testing. Quietly and courageously, he used that position to protect, comfort, and sustain children who had been torn from their families and subjected to unimaginable cruelty. Featuring firsthand testimony from the surviving twins, the film stands as a moving testament to resilience, sacrifice, and the power of one person to make a difference, even in humanity's darkest hour. (USA, 2025, 80min, Documentary)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 5:00 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER
SUNDAY, 3/29 | 4:00 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM
 SPONSORED BY | **SHEREE & ROSS DIERDORFF**

THE PARTY'S OVER! (CLASSE MOYENNE — MIDDLE CLASS)

ANTONY CORDIER

Fans of *The White Lotus* will savor this sleek and stylish French satire that turns a sun-soaked holiday in the south of France into a simmering battleground of class resentment. When tensions flare between a wealthy family and the caretakers of their luxury villa, polite discomfort curdles into calculated social warfare. Seasoned with spicy performances, salty dialogue, and juicy plot twists, *The Party's Over!* proves that revenge, in France, is best served chilled. Fittingly this film had its World Premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. (France, 2025, 95 min, Comedy/Thriller, French with English subtitles)



FRIDAY, 3/27 | 12:00 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM
SATURDAY, 3/28 | 9:00 PM
ASBURY

THE PRICE TO PAY (LA GUERRE DES PRIX — PRICE WAR)

ANTHONY DÉCHAUX

This gripping and timely drama follows the character of Audrey Dumont, a fierce advocate for her family's dairy farm who champions independent producers in a retail world dominated by corporate giants. When her passionate defense of organic farming catches the attention of a powerful grocery conglomerate CEO, Audrey is offered a seat at the table — and a chance to influence the system from within. But ambition comes at a cost. Drawn into the ruthless mechanics of price wars, backroom deals, and corporate manipulation, Audrey finds herself caught between her ideals and the very forces threatening her family's livelihood. Smart and urgent, *The Price to Pay* transforms the global debate over industrial agriculture into a tense, personal story about loyalty, power, and the true cost of compromise. (France, 2026, 96 min, Drama/Thriller, French with English subtitles)

SHORTS PROGRAMS

SHORTS PRECEDING FEATURES

Select feature presentations are accompanied by a short film — a carefully curated amuse-bouche to begin the cinematic feast.

**AMPED** | VINCENT SALVANO

During a late night at the office, two competitive co-workers stumble upon a mysterious energy drink that gives them supernatural abilities beyond their control. (USA, 2025, 5 min, Animation)

PRECEDING THE BIG CHEESE

SUNDAY, 3/29 | 12:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

BETWEEN THE VARIABLES | YALIAN LI

Benjamin Lou, a gifted math genius student at MIT who is living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), reflects on how his disability has shaped his identity, his relationship with his parents, and his hopes for the future. (USA, 2026, 15 min, Documentary)

PRECEDING SUM FUNCTION

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 11:30 AM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER

CHARDAK | MILETA POSTIC | PREDRAG JOLDIC

There is romance, action, humor and meta-storytelling. (Serbia, 2025, 9 min, Animation)

PRECEDING DEEPFAKING SAM ALTMAN

FRIDAY, 3/27 | 2:00 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

CIRRUS: A WOODEN BOAT STORY | KENNETH MURPHY | DURIER RYAN

Across nearly a century, the legendary wooden yawl CIRRUS has carried generations of sailors throughout the waters of New England. Her story unfolds through newly unearthed 16mm color footage and vivid present-day imagery of her revival and triumphant return to her traditional home harbor in Brooklin, Maine. (USA, 2026, 16 min, Documentary)

PRECEDING EXPEDITION ANTARCTICA

SATURDAY, 3/29 | 12:00 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

**DIES IRAE** | VICTORIA BASADRE

A young woman experiences her first therapy session with a therapist who is interesting...but not at all interested. (USA, 2025, 6 min, Animation)

PRECEDING ANXIETY CLUB

FRIDAY, 3/27 | 4:45 PM
ASBURY

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 2:45 PM
ASBURY

KID PRESIDENT | YADID HIRSCHTRITZ LICHT

No more lettuce, no more artichokes... no more broccoli! This is the future that Kid President envisions as he rolls out his most daring policy yet: a ban on all vegetables. (USA, 2025, 5 min, Animation)

PRECEDING COOKIE QUEENS

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 10:00 AM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

MONSTER SLAYER | CATIE SKIPP

After Monty is assaulted at the strip club where she works, she weaponizes public art to exact justice against a system's refusal to act. (USA, 2025, 21 min, Documentary/Animation)

PRECEDING PINCH

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 7:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER

SUNDAY, 3/29 | 4:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

PARAVAN | GLÓRIA HALÁSZ

Two puppeteers arrive at a mysterious underground place aiming to bring light into the darkness. (Hungary, 2025, 11 min, Drama)

PRECEDING LOVING KARMA

FRIDAY, 3/27 | 12:30 PM
ASBURY

SKIP INTRO | HUNTER HOPEWELL

An outsider must navigate a watch party for a popular show he's never seen. (USA, 2025, 11 min, Comedy)

PRECEDING CHILI FINGER

FRIDAY, 3/27 | 9:30 PM
MARYLAND HALL | MAIN THEATER

SATURDAY, 3/28 | 9:15 PM
ST. JOHNS COLLEGE | KEY AUDITORIUM

**SHORTS PROGRAM 1 |
EVOLUTION**FRIDAY, 3/27 | 12:00 PM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATERSATURDAY, 3/28 | 12:00 PM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATERSPONSORED BY | MERRILL LYNCH |
MURRAY MCGEHRIN SHIERY & ASSOCIATES

Growing up is hard to do in a world ruled by the law of the jungle and the law of supply and demand. But as Darwin suggests, survival of the fittest is not merely about strength or domination, but adaptability. At a moral crossroads forged by competition, the characters in these modern fables confront the crucible that defines who they become.

**AN ARTIST'S SOUL | JOHAN STAVSJÖ**

A young actress in the final rounds of her dream drama school audition is willing to risk and sacrifice everything (and everyone) to get what she desires. (Sweden, 2025, 14 min, Drama)

JUS D'ORANGE | ALEXANDRE ATHANÉ

After caring for his orchard since childhood, an orange farmer experiences the encroachment of industrialization when strange freighters arrive loaded with green oranges. (France, 2024, 13 min, Animation)

LAS HIJAS DE ROSALIA | MARIA MEALLA

Two bickering sisters navigate their core memories across four decades, discovering the magic of their bond and the enduring legacy of their mother's love. (USA, 2025, 20 min, Drama)

SPONSORED BY | DAY 2 LLC | PATRICIA G. RAIN

MOTOS | JESUS BELTRAN

Two cousins scraping by as loggers in the post wildfire Santa Cruz mountains find something deep in the redwood forest that can bring them together or tear them apart. (USA, 2025, 19 min, Drama)

ONE NOTE | JAMIE TING

A driven but neurotic 17-year-old Chinese-American violinist goes on a madcap mission to get admitted to Harvard at any cost. (USA, 2024, 13 min, Comedy)

SENIORS | ADAM CURLEY

A high school senior attends his first college campus tour on the exact day his parents' marriage begins to fracture. (USA, 2026, 12 min, Comedy)

WE DO OUR BEST | HANNAH ROSE AMMON

On a school night in New York City, a mother helps her daughter appear older to spend time together at a cocktail lounge. (USA, 2025, 14 min, Drama)

**SHORTS PROGRAM 2 |
CONNECTION**FRIDAY, 3/27 | 2:15 PM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATERSATURDAY, 3/28 | 2:15 PM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATERSPONSORED BY | MERRILL LYNCH |
MURRAY MCGEHRIN SHIERY & ASSOCIATES

No one gets through this life alone. For better or for worse, every encounter carries consequences. A single gesture, of cruelty or compassion, can alter a stranger's fate and set a ripple effect in motion. In this collection of profound stories, characters emerge as catalysts, at times guardian angels, at times troublemakers, changing one another's lives in lasting ways.

**A GUEST IN MY COUNTRY | JOHN GRAY**

An immigrant Uber driver in New York City takes an upscale couple across town, and the drama that unfolds among them reveals truths they all would have preferred stayed hidden. (USA, 2024, 15 min, Drama)

ADO | SAM HENDERSON

Ms. Hopkins is rehearsing *Much Ado About Nothing* with her middle school theatre class when they are interrupted by a school shooter. (USA, 2025, 16 min, Drama)

BIRD DRONE | RADHEYA JEGATHEVA

A lonely seagull struggles to accept that his newfound object of affection is a human-operated drone with a limited battery life. (Australia, 2024, 9 min, Animation)

HEARTBREAKER | DANIEL ARDURA

When Jacob and his new girlfriend move to a remote desert home, his over-protective sister Catherine crashes their weekend getaway. (USA, 2025, 16 min, Comedy)

KIKI | NAOMI SHERIDAN

When Adamma and her father seek refuge in an asylum centre in Ireland they are greeted by angry protestors. One day Adamma ventures out into the neighborhood in search of her missing cuddly toy, Kiki. (Ireland, 2024, 14 min, Drama)

SPONSORED BY | VALERIE YANCEY | THE WRITER'S HAVEN

NIGHTFACES | MARTIN WINTER | STEFAN LANGTHALER

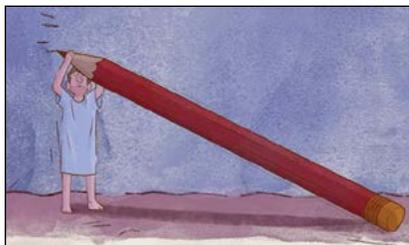
In the rain-soaked streets of Vienna, a disillusioned taxi driver and a determined homeless woman embark on an unexpected nocturnal journey to break free from the past and win back their families. (Austria, 2025, 23 min, Drama)

THE MEDIATOR | DEAN LEON ANDERSON

Struggling with his new life after an accident leaves him bedridden and paralyzed, Chris is visited by Mary, a relations mediator, who will make three conference calls on his behalf. (UK, 2024, 16 min, Drama)

**SHORTS PROGRAM 3 |
TRANSFORMATION**FRIDAY, 3/27 | 6:30 PM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATERSATURDAY, 3/28 | 6:30 PM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.” Gandhi believed deep inner work is essential, but metamorphosis can be messy. These cinematic gems illuminate facets of transformation in all their glory — from reinvention and regression to reincarnation and resurrection. They remind us that change is the only constant.

**BEYOND MEASURE | DAVID FERRIER**

A man discovers he is physically shrinking, forcing him and his wife to navigate life's ups and downs with increasing creativity and adaptability. (Australia, 2025, 7 min, Animation)

SPONSORED BY | FABIAN MILBURN

DISCO BEATS | KEN ARQUELIO

Set in Detroit in 1979, an elderly man tries to convince a jaded disco dance instructor to teach him how to dance so he can surprise his wife on their 60th wedding anniversary...in one week. (USA, 2025, 19 min, Drama)

FROM JAZZ TO JACKBOOTS | JUSTIN STEPHENSON

Referencing the Nazi regime's methodical restriction of jazz through their “10 Rules for Dance Bands,” this film demonstrates progressively censored variations of *Minnie the Moocher*. (Canada, 2025, 15 min, Experimental)

MY KIND OF PEOPLE | JOE PICOZZI

After a DNA test uncovers his father's adoption, a proud paesano from Providence, Rhode Island grapples with the revelation that he's not actually Italian American and never has been. (USA, 2025, 14 min, Comedy)

SPONSORED BY | ELLIE TORRES-DECESARIS & JOHN COLLINS |
JOHN COLLINS GROUP REALTY, LONG & FOSTER**SHELLY'S LEG | WES HURLEY**

In 1970, an eccentric young stripper named Shelly Baumann loses her leg in a freak parade canon accident, then uses her settlement money to open ‘Shelly's Leg’ disco in Seattle — one of the nation's first and most consequential openly gay spaces. (USA, 2025, 17 min, Documentary)

SOMETHING REAL | TAMARA SHOGAOLU

A perfectionist tries to engineer the perfect breakup, but when her carefully laid plans spin wildly out of control, she's forced to confront the beautifully messy reality of love and connection. (USA, 2025, 14 min, Comedy)

THE BIG EVERYTHING | SALVADOR PASKOWITZ

A man finds himself in heaven's bar, where he encounters his dog, God and his greatest loss, all in human form. (USA, 2025, 16 min, Drama)

SPONSORED BY | ELLIE TORRES-DECESARIS & JOHN COLLINS |
JOHN COLLINS GROUP REALTY, LONG & FOSTER**SHORTS PROGRAM 4 |
A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH**FRIDAY, 3/27 | 8:45 PM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATERSATURDAY, 3/28 | 8:45 PM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

Birth, death, and everything in between are rarely tidy affairs. In this irreverent and thought-provoking collection, apocalyptic scenarios, ghostly partnerships, assisted endings, reproductive urgencies, spiritual identity, and sacred origin stories are reimagined with audacity and wit. By turns satirical, surreal, and surprisingly tender, these films dare to question the boundaries of mortality and meaning.

**DEAD WEIGHT | VIRGINIA ROOT**

After surviving an apocalyptic event in the wilderness, a solo female backpacker resolves to live out the rest of her numbered days in peace until she encounters a fellow survivor with a very different philosophical take on the end of the world. (USA, 2025, 15 min, Drama/Sci-Fi)

HALFWAY HAUNTED | SAM RUDYKOFF

A tenant in a haunted house teams up with a ghost to stop a real estate developer from demolishing the home they share. (Canada, 2025, 15 min, Comedy/Horror)

LAST RESORT | DAVID R. KRAMER

Terminally ill Paul Siegert travels from Germany to a secluded Swiss mountain resort specifically designed for assisted suicide where he unexpectedly finds a new reason to live. (Switzerland, 2025, 22 min, Drama/Romance)

OVARY-ACTING | IDA MELUM

A harried thirty-something woman is forced to decide whether she wants to be a mother after unexpectedly giving birth to her reproductive organs at her sister's baby shower. (UK, 2025, 12 min, Animation)

SINAI | YURI BARANOVSKY

After centuries of trauma, a Jewish man decides he no longer wants to be Jewish anymore and goes on a fantastical pilgrimage to get his wish. (USA, 2025, 17 min, Comedy)

TEEN MARY | ALI ROSENTHAL

In Ancient Nazareth in the year Zero, a pregnant teenage girl and her gay best friend hatch a plan to save their lives when they discover they might get stoned to death for their sexual “sins”. (USA, 2025, 20 min, Comedy)

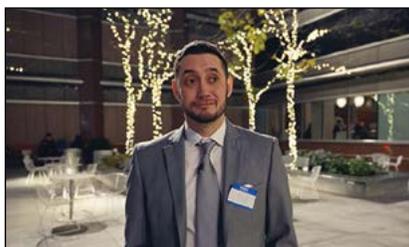
** (Viewer discretion is advised, as some content may challenge personal or religious sensibilities.)*

**DOCUMENTARY SHORTS |
THE JOY OF TRUE STORIES**

DOC

FRIDAY, 3/27 | 10:00 AM |
ASBURYSATURDAY, 3/28 | 10:00 AM |
ASBURY

You can't make this stuff up! From aspiring impersonators and unlikely historians to small-town doctors and pioneering scientists, these films capture the tipping point when real life turns extraordinary. Imagination in storytelling is not just about "pretend", it's discovering the unimaginable in things that actually happen.

**BEING BUBLÉ | DAN PERLMAN**

A deeply unqualified man is inexplicably hired as a Michael Bublé impersonator for a rich stranger's party. Despite no resemblance, no singing ability, and just one week to prepare, he gives it everything he's got. (USA, 2025, 21 min, Documentary)

DOC ALBANY | BEN PROUDFOOT

After her two-year NHSC commitment is finished, OB/GYN Dr. Sheena Favors must choose between returning to her life in the big city of Atlanta or staying in the small rural town of Albany, Georgia, to provide vital maternal care. She is following in the footsteps of Dr. James Hotz, the real-life inspiration of Doc Hollywood, who built Albany's first community clinic. (USA, 2025, 19 min, Documentary)

SPONSORED BY | CEDRIC, RICHE & RILEY GRANT

LOVE BIRDS | ELLIOTT KENNERSON | ANGEL MORRIS

In 1972, married biologists George Hunt and Molly Warner make an unprecedented discovery while studying seagulls on one of California's Channel Islands. (USA, 2025, 27 min, Documentary)

SPONSORED BY | KATHLEEN PEARCE & JAMES MCGOWAN

STALIN BOYS | BIANCA GIAEVER | ORA DEKORNFELD

Four Mexican American middle school boys in a Texas border town have developed an unusual obsession: Joseph Stalin. When their teacher tells them about the Texas State History Fair, they write a play about the Soviet dictator - and his efforts to destroy all who opposed him. (USA, 2026, 22 min, Documentary)

**THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL |
BEN PROUDFOOT | STEPHEN CURRY**

Now age 93, Martin Luther King Jr.'s lawyer and speechwriter reflects on the personal cost and surprising truths of making history, offering an intimate insider's view of the Civil Rights Movement. (USA, 2026, 29 min, Documentary)

SPONSORED BY | SONIA & JEROME FELDMAN

**STUDENT SHORTS |
THE NEXT WAVE**SUNDAY, 3/29 | 10:00 AM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS FREE TO THE PUBLIC.
SPONSORED BY | ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMISSION |
THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY |
THE WRITER'S HAVEN | V HELENA

Imagination runs free in this spirited collection of student films. From animated satire to heartfelt drama...from silent-era magic to modern-day science, these stories leap boldly across genre and tone. This program celebrates young artists testing boundaries, taking creative risks, and discovering their unique cinematic voices.

**A MAGICIAN WALKS INTO A BAR | SHAY CAWLEY**

A magician attempts to woo a woman with various magic tricks while outwitting her brutish boyfriend. (USA, 2025, 6 min, Silent Film)

AFTERSHOCK | COLLIN NELSON

A club of undergraduate college students at USC fall into a race against time to send their rocket, Aftershock II, on its mission to become the highest and fastest civilian built rocket in human history. (USA, 2025, 17 min, Documentary)

BLACK SEEDS CONTINUE TO GROW | LAURA COLBERT

When a quiet foster girl is placed in yet another temporary home, she finds unexpected connection with a kind and caring teacher. (USA, 2026, 16 min, Drama)

SPONSORED BY | THE LINKS, INC ANNAPOLIS (MD) CHAPTER

DIES IRAE | VICTORIA BASADRE

A young woman experiences her first therapy session with a therapist who is interesting...but not at all interested. (USA, 2025, 6 min, Animation)

FLUFF & FURIOUS | JOEY CHIEH-CHIH LIAO

A fluffy pup, inspired by its wild relative, sets out to prove it's more than just a soft fur ball. (USA, 2025, 4 min, Animation)

KID PRESIDENT | YADID HIRSCHTRITT LICHT

No more lettuce, no more artichokes...no more broccoli! This is the future that Kid President envisions as he rolls out his most daring policy yet: a ban on all vegetables. (USA, 2025, 5 min, Animation)

PUBLIC FREAKOUT | JULIA BALES

An argument escalates at a gas station. (USA, 2025, 10 min, Drama)

ROYAL FOOT GUARDS | PRANAY MATHUR

Desperate to finally pass the test to become a Royal Foot Guard at Buckingham Palace, Chester Popplestone must surrender his delightfully cheery nature and embrace the world for what it is. (USA, 2025, 14 min, Drama)

WHO KNEW? | CAROLINE PAPPAS

Mary's love life has been a disaster — until Henry, the man of her dreams, comes along. With her parents counting down to empty-nester freedom, everything seems perfect... until they discover Henry's secret. (USA, 2025, 12 min, Comedy)

**LOCAL SHORTS |
HOMEGROWN STORIES**



SUNDAY, 3/29 | 2:30 PM |
MARYLAND HALL | BOWEN THEATER

PRESENTED BY | BRIAN & PATRICIA GIESE FOUNDATION
SPONSORED BY | MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

From the Eastern Shore to the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore's Inner Harbor, these films explore what it means to call Maryland home. Through final goodbyes, historic breakthroughs, and bold new beginnings, this collection captures a state in motion. Intimate, imaginative, and deeply rooted, these stories celebrate the people and places that shape our shared sense of belonging.



A QUIET HOUSE | BEN STRANG

A father and son work together to record the unique sounds of an old family house while preparing to say goodbye to it. (USA, 2026, 13 min, Documentary)

AHOY! | JULIAN ALVAREZ

Generations after a global environmental collapse, a young boy raised at sea discovers a map and begins a journey to a mythical place once known as "land". (USA, 2026, 14 min, Drama)

SPONSORED BY | JAIME HARRIGAN | MEZZANINE

BAY TO BALTIMORE | CAMILA DE ILHÉUS | SAMANTHA MITCHELL

Ultramarathon open water swimmer and painter Katie Pumphrey hopes to become the first person to swim 24 miles from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to Baltimore's newly swimmable Inner Harbor. (USA, 2025, 28 min, Documentary)

GOOD HOME TRAINING | EVOLYN BROOKS | RICHEL HOLMES GRANT

Generations of Black women have redefined the home as a place of cultural inheritance, creativity, and care. One example is Malinda Russell, believed to be the first Black person to self-publish a cookbook. (USA, 2026, 12 min, Documentary)

SPONSORED BY | THE LINKS, INC ANNAPOLIS (MD) CHAPTER

HONEY BARE | JASMINE J. JOHNSON

After years of delighting fans as Honey the Bear, a beloved sports mascot must confront his identity as he prepares to leave the role behind due to being replaced by a digital mascot. (USA, 2025, 14 min, Drama)

SPONSORED BY | ANNAPOLIS KAPPA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

GETTING TO AND FROM SCREENING VENUES

MARYLAND HALL

801 CHASE STREET

This venue is accessible via the side entrance facing Spa Road, with elevator access to all levels. Accessible restrooms are available.

Park at Maryland Hall

Free parking at Maryland Hall (801 Chase Street) daily during the festival, as available. There are two theaters in this venue, Main Auditorium, and the Bowen Theatre in the Goldstein-Cunitz Film and New Media Center downstairs.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

87 WEST STREET

No parking available here. The Gott's Garage on Calvert Street is half a block away. This venue is accessible through the front entrance on West St. with a short ramp to ground level. Accessible restrooms are available.

Park at Maryland Hall

Free parking at Maryland Hall (801 Chase St.) daily during the festival, as available. Asbury Church is within short walking distance of Maryland Hall.

West St. & Nearby Garages

Park anywhere at meters on West St. The closest garage is Gott's Garage (25 Calvert St.). Additional garages at 149 West St., the Noah Hillman Garage (150 Gorman St.), West Garrett Garage (267 West St.), and Park Place Garage (One Park Pl.). SEE the MAP on the festival program back cover.

GENERAL PARKING

Park at Maryland Hall

Free to park at Maryland Hall (801 Chase St.) daily during the festival, as available. Several accessible parking spots are available unless reserved by a cone for festival use.

West St. & Nearby Garages

Park anywhere on West St., at the parking garage at 149 West St., at the Noah Hillman Garage (150 Gorman St.), West Garrett Garage (267 West St.), Park Place Garage (One Park Pl.), Gott's Court Garage (25 Calvert St.).

Park Downtown Annapolis

Park anywhere downtown using metered parking. Be mindful of parking rules and signage! Towing is usually enforced throughout the festival weekend.

PARK AT NAVY STADIUM

NAVY-MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL STADIUM (Opening Night After Party)

511 TAYLOR AVENUE

Please enter through the Gate 5 entrance on Taylor Avenue and park as directed. Accessible parking is available. This venue is accessible via the entrance at Gate N on the Gold Side of the Stadium.

Please take the elevator up to The Clubs at Akerson Tower on the top level. Accessible restrooms are available.

Gold and Silver Passholders and Ticket Holders will receive a virtual parking pass from the Box Office to present at the gate. All others should be prepared to pay the \$11 parking fee per vehicle via the ParkMobile app or at the parking gate.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY AUDITORIUM

60 COLLEGE AVE

This venue is accessible through the Mellon Hall front entrance off the central campus lawn. Accessible restrooms are available.

Calvert St. Garage

The Calvert Street Garage (corner of Calvert & St. John's Sts.), across the street from the auditorium, is closed to the public until 6 pm Monday-Friday but offers free public parking after 6 PM every day and all day on weekends.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURS, 3-26		
TIME SLOT	MD HALL MAIN	SPECIAL EVENTS
5:00		OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION <small>(PRIVATE EVENT) GOLD, SILVER, PURPLE PASSES</small> Maryland Hall - The Bowen Theatre 801 Chase St
5:30		
6:00		
6:30		
7:00	OPENING NIGHT FILM POWER BALLAD 98 min. Q&A to follow	
7:30		
8:00		
8:30		
9:00		
9:30		
10:00		OPENING NIGHT AFTER PARTY <small>ALL PASSHOLDERS and ticket holders</small> Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium 511 Taylor Ave - Enter Gate 5 via Taylor Ave
10:30		
11:00		
11:30		



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FESTIVAL



THE HEARTBEAT OF FILM

AnnapolisFilmFestival

AnnapolisFilmFest

AnnapolisFF

CHART LEGEND

- FEATURE FILM
- FEATURE DOC
- PANELS & TALKS
- BEST OF FEST
- SHORTS PROGRAM
- PARTIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

TIME SLOT	MD HALL MAIN	MD HALL BOWEN	ASBURY	ST. JOHNS	THE POWERHOUSE	SPECIAL EVENTS
9:00						COFFEE TALKS WITH... The Ramshead
9:30						
10:00	COOKIE QUEENS 91 min. High school screening (Private)	LAST CALL IN THE NORTH 94 min. Q&A to follow	DOCUMENTARY SHORTS 96 min. Q&A to follow	BEGINNINGS 96 min.	PANEL #1 Under the Influence	
10:30						
11:00						
11:30						
12:00	ENVIRONMENTAL SHOWCASE: THIS IS NOT A DRILL 80 min. panel to follow	SHORTS 1: EVOLUTION 100 min. Q&A to Follow	LOVING KARMA 80 min. preceded by PARAVAN 11 min.	THE PRICE TO PAY (LA GUERRE DU PRIX) 96 min.	PANEL #2 Screenwriters	
12:30						
1:00						
1:30					PANEL #3 Truth in the Age of Algorithm	
2:00				DEEPFAKING SAM ALTMAN 96 min. preceded by CHARDAK 9 min.		
2:30	MR. BURTON 124 min.	SHORTS 2: CONNECTION 100 min. Q&A to Follow	HOLD ONTO ME 102 min. Q&A to Follow		PANEL #4 Make Your Movie in Maryland	
3:00						
3:30						
4:00				SEIZED 90 min. Q&A to follow		
4:30		BOOKENDS 99 min.	ANXIETY CLUB 86 min. preceded by DIES IRAE 6 min. Q&A to follow			RECEPTION O'Brien's PRIVATE PARTY GOLD & PURPLE PASSHOLDERS
5:00	THE PARTY'S OVER (CLASSE MOYENNE) 95 min.					
5:30						
6:00						
6:30		SHORTS 3: TRANSFORMATION 100 min. Q&A to Follow	THE FISHERMAN 108 min. Q&A to follow			
7:00	POETIC LICENSE 117 min. Q&A to follow					
7:30						
8:00						
8:30						
9:00		SHORTS 4: A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH 100 min. Q&A to Follow	LATE SHIFT 92 min.			
9:30	CHILLI FINGER 100 min. preceded by SKIP INTRO 11 min. Q&A to follow					
10:00						
10:30						

CHART LEGEND

- FEATURE FILM
- FEATURE DOC
- PANELS & TALKS
- BEST OF FEST
- SHORTS PROGRAM
- PARTIES

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

TIME SLOT	MD HALL MAIN	MD HALL BOWEN	ASBURY	ST. JOHNS	SPECIAL EVENTS
9:00					COFFEE TALKS WITH... The Ramshead
9:30					
10:00		SHORTS CHALLENGE: 90 min.		COOKIE QUEENS 91 min. preceded by KID PRESIDENT 6 min.	
10:30			DOCUMENTARY SHORTS 96 min. Q&A to follow	LAST CALL IN THE NORTH 94 min. Q&A to follow	
11:00					
11:30	SUM FUNCTION 94 min. preceded by BETWEEN THE VARIABLES 15 min. Q&A to follow			SAILING SHOWCASE: EXPEDITION ANTARTICA 78 min. preceded by CIRRUS: A WOODENBOAT STORY Q&A to follow	
12:00		SHORTS 1: EVOLUTION 100 min. Q&A to Follow	LATINEXPERENCE: AMERICAN PACHUCO 92 min. Q&A to follow		
12:30					
1:00					DIRECTORS ROUNDTABLE MD HALL RM 206
1:30					
2:00					
2:30	FAITH EXPERIENCE: ELIJAH PEEL 107 min. Q&A to follow	SHORTS 2: CONNECTION 100 min. Q&A to Follow	ANXIETY CLUB 86 min. preceded by DIES IRAE 6 min. Q&A to follow	LATE FAME 97 min. Q&A to follow	
3:00					
3:30					
4:00					
4:30		BOOKENDS 99 min.	LATE SHIFT 92 min.	A MOSQUITO IN THE EAR 90 min. Q&A to follow	
5:00	BLACK EXPERIENCE: THE EYES OF GHANA 90 min. Q&A to follow				
5:30					
6:00					
6:30		SHORTS 3: TRANSFORMATION 100 min. Q&A to Follow	SEIZED 90 min. Q&A to Follow	CAROLINA CAROLINE 105 min. Q&A to follow	
7:00	PINCH 83 min. preceded by MONSTER SLAYER 21 min. Q&A to follow				
7:30					
8:00					
8:30					
9:00		SHORTS 4: A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH 100 min. Q&A to Follow	THE PRICE TO PAY (LA GUERRE DU PRIX) 96 min.	CHILLI FINGER 100 min. preceded by SKIP INTRO 11 min. Q&A to follow	THE GRADUATE
9:30					
10:00					SATURDAY NIGHT BASH
10:30					GOLD, SILVER & PURPLE PASSES 9:30pm - 1:00am

SUNDAY, MARCH 29					
TIME SLOT	MD HALL MAIN	MD HALL BOWEN	ST. JOHNS COLLEGE		SPECIAL EVENTS
8:30			BAGEL & LOX BREAKFAST (starts at 8:00am)		
9:00					COFFEE TALKS WITH... The Ramshead
9:30					
10:00	MR. BURTON 124 min.	STUDENT SHORTS 90 min. Q&A to Follow (Free to the Public)	JEWISH EXPERIENCE: TOVAH 60 min. Q&A to follow		
10:30					
11:00					
11:30					
12:00					
12:30			THE LAST TWINS 80 min.		WOMEN'S PANEL: St. John's
1:00	EVERYWHERE MAN 118 min.	THE BIG CHEESE 88 min. preceded by AMPED 5 min. Q&A to follow			
1:30					
2:00			SHE RUNS THE WORLD 85 min. Q&A to follow		
2:30					
3:00		LOCAL SHORTS 90 min. Q&A to Follow			
3:30	RUN AMOK 96 min. Q&A to follow				
4:00					
4:30		PINCH 83 min. preceded by MONSTER SLAYER 21 min. Q&A to follow	THE PARTY'S OVER (CLASSE MOYENNE) 95 min.		
5:00					
5:30					
6:00					
6:30		TBA (Jury Prize Winner)	TBA		
7:00					
7:30	AWARDS SHOW 5:30pm - 6:00pm				
8:00	BEST OF FEST 6:00pm - 10:00pm				
8:30		TBA (Jury Prize Winner)			
9:00					
9:30					
10:00					

CHART LEGEND

- FEATURE FILM
- FEATURE DOC
- PANELS & TALKS
- BEST OF FEST
- SHORTS PROGRAM
- PARTIES



Since our very first festival in 2013, the Annapolis Film Festival has been fortunate to enjoy incredible support from our vibrant community. To keep the love for film alive beyond festival season, we began hosting occasional special screenings in 2018. These events gave film lovers a chance to catch highly acclaimed documentaries and feature films—often before their wide release in theaters or on streamers—and experience powerful stories that might not otherwise make it to local screens.

Over the past year, we have been able to bring you films from partners such as Searchlight Pictures, Paramount Pictures, Roadside Attractions, and other notable distributors. We're committed to our mission to celebrate the art of film and harness its magic to spark meaningful conversations. The Film Society will also collaborate with

other artistic organizations and business leaders, creating unique opportunities for dialogue and connection within our diverse community.

This expanded year-round film experience is made possible through the generous support of our 2025 Presenting Partners, The Brian and Patricia Giese Foundation. Their commitment allows us to continue to bring impactful films, engaging discussions, and unforgettable cinematic experiences to our community throughout the year.

We can't wait to share this film society season with you. Stay tuned for upcoming events and let's keep the power of film alive together!



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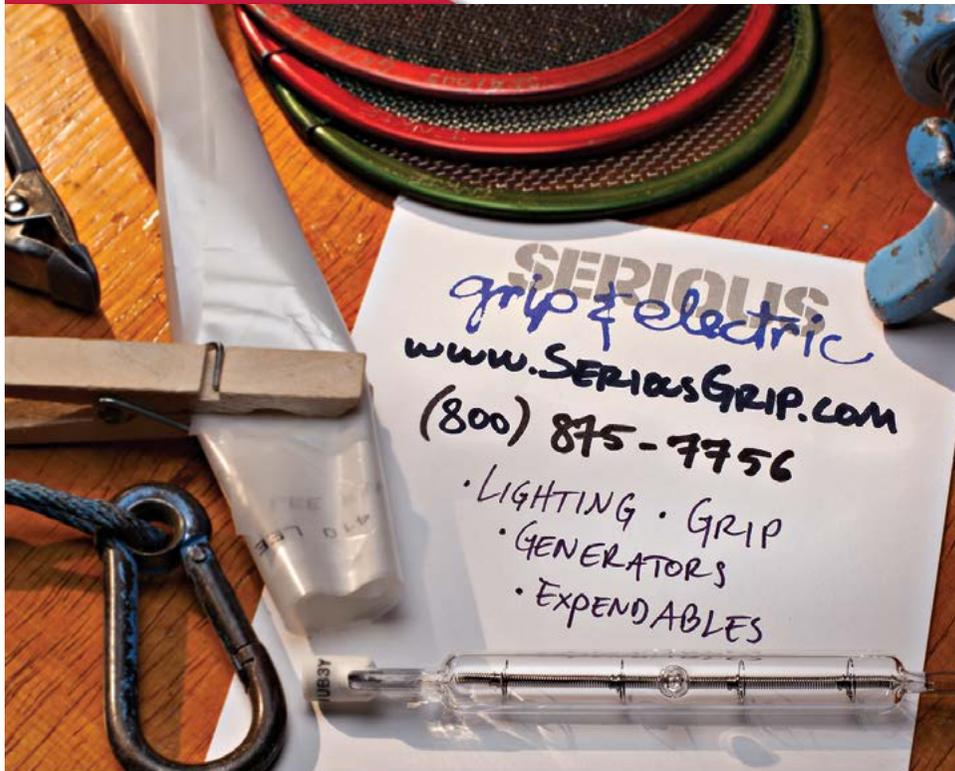


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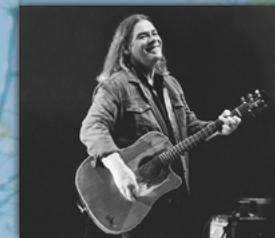
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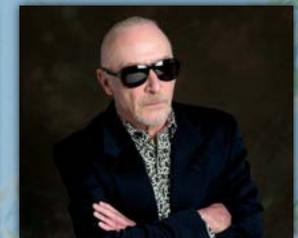
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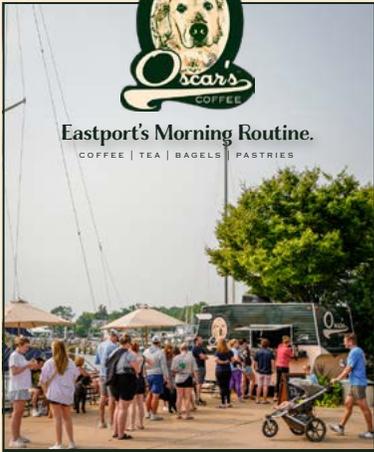
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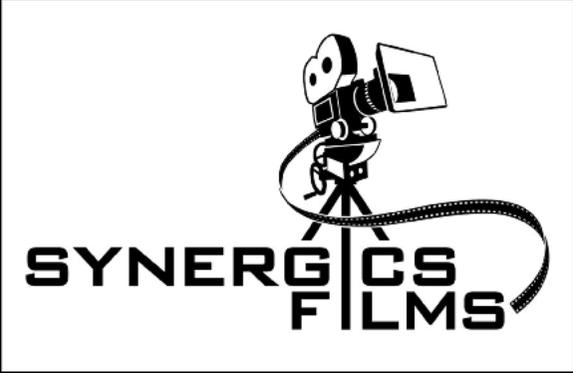
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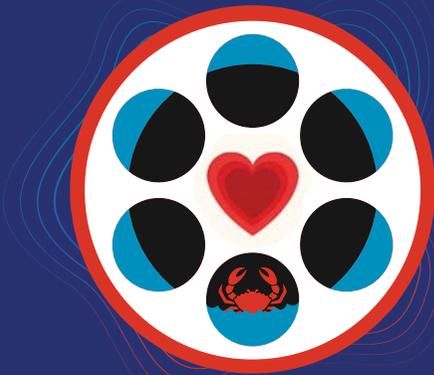
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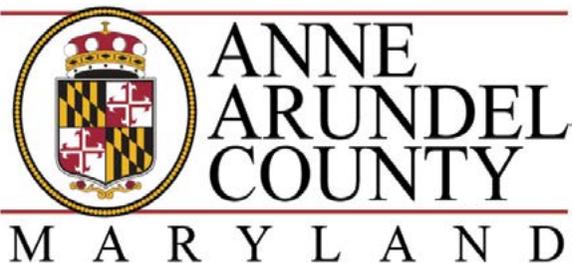


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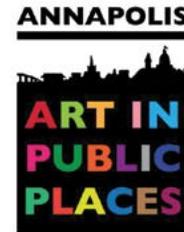
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PABLO ALVARADO Team Leader
JEFF BARLOW Co-Team Leader
BILL REAGAN

BLOGGER
ALEXANDRA RADOVIC

PRESS
ELYSE COLGAN
SUSAN O'BRIEN

RED CARPET
ANDREA SAVVIDAS
ELLIE TORRÉS-DECESARIS

SCREENING COMMITTEE
TRACEY ADLAI
ANNA BLOOMFIELD
JENNY CAWOOD
NANCY CLIFFORD
MIMI EDMUNDS
TONYA FINNEGAN
JOSH JOHNS
MICHAEL KAISER
NICOLE LALOGGIA
LUCIA RICCIARDELLI
LYN SONGY
CHARLOTTE TOUATI

SPECIAL EVENTS
FLORA ANGEL

SPONSOR RELATIONS
STEVE PALMER Team Leader
JULIE BLAMPHIN
STAN BRUDISH
FRANCES CHRISTMON
FRANCESCA COOK
SUZAN LUMPKIN
DIANE SANCILIO
KATHERINE SCHMOKE
DAN BAUM

VENUE MANAGERS
BILL LANG Team Leader
DEL DIZON Co-Team Leader
BARRY BRESS
LAVENIA CALVIN
BARRY COLTON
LATANYA EGGLESTON
ASHELY GREEN
TOM HALL
ANNE ROTHWELL
KELSEY SAUNDERS
ANNE GALLAGHER WOLFE





Welcome to Where Film Festival Adventure Begins

While you're here enjoying the incredible films at the Annapolis Film Festival, explore everything our beautiful destination has to offer. From waterfront dining and charming boutiques to unique attractions, Annapolis and Anne Arundel County is full of places to discover.

Plan your adventure at VisitAnnapolis.org or stop by our **Visitors Center** at 26 West Street.



Anne Arundel County Government

Proud supporter of the 14th Annual Annapolis Film Festival. In Anne Arundel County, we believe every story matters and we celebrate the power of film to connect, inspire, and educate communities.



2026 MAP

 The Graduate - Filmmaker Lounge
Maryland Hall - Box Office

 **FILM VENUES:**
 1. Maryland Hall - Main Auditorium and Bowen Theatre Box Office
 2. Asbury United Methodist Church
 3. St. John's College Francis Scott Key Auditorium

 **PANELS / CONVERSATION VENUES:**
 A. Powerhouse (@ The Graduate) - Panels
 B. RamsHead OnStage - Coffee Talks
 C. Maryland Hall - Panels
 D. St. John's College - Studio Theater - Panels

 **PARTY VENUES**
 1. O'Brien's Oyster Bar (Event is Upstairs)
 2. Powerhouse (@ The Graduate)
 3. Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium

 **HOTEL PARTNERS**
 H1 The Graduate by Hilton
 H2 Hilton Garden Inn
 H3 Crowne Plaza - Jennifer Road
 H4 DoubleTree by Hilton

FOOD AVAILABLE
 Maryland Hall, SJC & Asbury

 **PARKING**
 P1 Bladen St. Garage
 P2 Gott's Court Garage
 P3 Knighton Garage
 P4 Park Place Garage
 P5 Maryland Hall