

MAKE A SCENE



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at Worldfest-Houston
International Film Festival.

April 24 – May 3, 2026
HOUSTON, TX



59th

WORLD FEST HOUSTON



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pense, or comedy
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And the award goes to...

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For 15 years, Lopez Negrete Communications has been more than a creative partner to WorldFest-Houston, they have been visionary storytellers, helping shape how the world sees our festival.

Through bold imagination and artistic excellence, their work has not only elevated our brand, but has also earned national and international recognition, including multiple local and regional ADDY Awards and Best of Show honors for the 58th WorldFest “In Full Character” campaign.

With deep gratitude, we celebrate 15 years of award-winning collaboration and look forward to what we will create together next.





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April 24, 2026

Welcome to WorldFest-Houston 59

Howdy, Filmmakers, Film Lovers and Friends,

Welcome to the 59th annual WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival.

It is an honor to gather with you this year, filmmakers, audiences, students, and storytellers from around the world, to celebrate what has always been at the heart of WorldFest: **discovery**.

Since 1961, this festival has championed bold, independent voices and helped launch the careers of filmmakers who went on to shape the future of cinema. That spirit lives on in every screening, every conversation, and every connection made here.

This year is especially meaningful. As we continue forward in the wake of our founder's passing, we carry both a deep sense of responsibility and an exciting opportunity to honor what has been built, while thoughtfully evolving what comes next.

You'll see that intention reflected throughout the festival:

- A dynamic lineup of films from around the globe with 22 countries represented
- Seminars and conversations designed to support working filmmakers in craft and spirit
- Spaces to gather, connect, and simply be together

WorldFest has always been more than a festival. It is a meeting place, where emerging artists find their footing, where ideas are exchanged, and where creative lives are shaped.

To the filmmakers: thank you for trusting us with your work.

To our audiences: thank you for showing up with curiosity and openness.

To our partners, sponsors, and volunteers: thank you for making this possible.

Whether this is your first time at WorldFest or your fiftieth, I invite you to lean in, watch something unexpected, start a conversation, and be part of this evolving story.

We're so glad you're here.

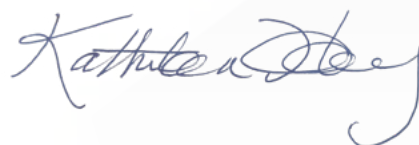
With gratitude,



Katy Lea Cannon

Festival Director

WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival



Kathleen Haney

Artistic and Program Director

WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival



Great stories deserve great digital homes.
We're the ones behind the scenes at **WorldFest.org**
and we build for brands that believe in craft,
independence, and doing things differently.

The digital studio for stories worth telling.

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**Random
People**
Digital Collective

*The late and great founder,
Jon James Hunter Todd,
Katy Lea Cannon and
Kathleen Haney
You live on in our mission
and deep in our hearts.*





Left to right: Robert Jauregui, Tammy "Taz" Diaz, Oscar Voigt, Sean Cannon, Katy Lea Cannon, Saqib Rana, Vanessa Provencio, Nick Nicholson and Jenny Waldo

Not pictured, but very much part of the team.: Alisa Hsu-Young, Laurence Howard, Kathleen Haney, Grant Carr, Maya Clarady, TreyVon Johnson, Christopher Nolan, Ingrid Rincon, J. Hunter Todd

59th ANNUAL WORLDFEST-HOUSTON

CAST AND CREDITS

HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL STAFF:

J. Hunter Todd, Chairman and Founder; Katy Lea Cannon, Executive Director; Kathleen Haney, Artistic & Program Director; Grant Carr, Media Manager; Laurence Howard, Special Operations & Jury Manager, Tammy (Taz) Diaz, Shorts Program Director; Lauren Calderon, Shorts Program Director, Robert Jauregui, Seminar Director, LaMonde Howard, Director of Education, Paul D. Verberne, Special Counsel; Christopher Nolan, Theater Operations; Ingrid Rincon, Communications Director; Oscar Voigt, Technologist; Arturo Colon, Webmaster; Vanessa Provencia, Volunteer Coordinator

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baekua, Floyd Matthew, Anthony Mcgraw, Doriana Pappacena, Natalie Pham, Gerald Pribek, Verlaine Raber, Torriante Richardson, Nathan Segal, Samiyah Sealy, Kelly Swinehart, Emiliano Talavera Pereyra, Falon Taylor-Thomas, Eli Todd, Tommy Tullo, Irene Uribe, Mike Weingart, Christian Webster, Ann Young, Delina Maxine Zawislak, and those who joined us after April 15.

WorldFest Jury Members: Banji Adesanmi, Oyiza Adaba, Darienne Adams, Will Abbott, Sergio E. Avilés, Caroline Baggaley, Sebastian Baz (Sebastian Dadone), Raphael Bittencourt, Cici Blanco, Ward W. Bond, Liz Sowers Buras, Kathi Carey, Laura Carruthers, Catherine Celso, Pedro Coutinho, Marissa Daigle, Edwin De La Rosa, Dhvani Desai, Marek Dojs, Aihui Dong, Jon-Carlos Evans, Abimbola Farinde, Lon Fairchild, Milutin Filipovic, Vinod Ganatra, Gigi M. Green, Jeremy Harrell, Matthew Jasso, Soo Jin Jeong, Oguzhan Kaya, Matt Kowalski, Ashish Kumar, Penny LeLeux, Cindy Mich, Bauddhayan Mukherji, Ingrid Nachstern, Lucio Nieto, Miguel Noguerras Jr, Dogus Ozokutan, Kalli Paakspuu, Arcadi Palerm-Artis, Charvee Pandya, Stephen Payne, Gerald Pribek, Matthew Principe, Rohit Relan, Kristian Salinas, Mahmoud Salim, Ajitesh Sharma, Dipanshu Sharma, Ana Smith (Kalina de Moura), Anita Sokacz, Sean James Spencer, Suzy Stein, Mahesh Sriram, Leon Sunton, Kelly Swinehart, Robert Tartell, Mario Telles, Hakan Ünal, Julia Verdin, Michael Winfield, Raymon Wright, Bettina Yang, Lucas Zoppi.

CINEMARK MEMORIAL CITY THEATERS: Kellen Duplantis, Andrea Sotelo, Christopher Nolan, TreyVon Johnson, Cole Cunningham, Joseph McClelland.

SPECIAL SUPPORT: Daniel McGuire and Associates, Cole Cunningham, Theater Support; TreyVon Johnson, Projectionist ;Norm Kohn Associates; Sora Gazzaneo, Mitchie Productions

BOXER PROPERTIES: Andrew Segal, Chairman & CEO, Justin Segal, President, Michael Pariza President, Boxer Retail & Resorts, Robert Zimmerman, Ashley Thomason, 9898 Bissonnet, Manager.

LÓPEZ NEGRETE COMMUNICATIONS: Alex López Negrete, Cathy López Negrete, Fernando Osuna, Alejandro Garza and the whole team

MEMORIAL CITY MALL, Elizabeth Ricarte, Mike Cummings, AJ Jackson & and their entire wonderful team.

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Another round of our fearless advisors and staffers, cause we are cute!

*Standing Left to right: Christopher Nolan, Elise Nolan, Nick Nicholson, Oscar Voigt, Saqib Rana, Laurence Howard, Sara Koch
Kneeling Left to Right: Jenny Waldom Robert Jauregui, Vanessa Provencio and Katy Lea Cannon*

THE FESTIVAL IS PRODUCED WITH ASSISTANCE FROM: Faith and Lee Majors; Mayor John Whitmire; Boxer Property Group; The Houston Film Society; Dr. Ralph Dittman and Terry Huffington, The Huffco Group; Houston Yacht Club; Memorial City Westin Hotel, Space Center Houston, NASA, Rocket Park, Xtreme Tech, David Greer; Oscar Voigt, The Patron Journey; Norm Kohn Associates; Daniel McGuire and Associates.

SPECIAL THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO: Audio Experts, LLC, DJ Spenser Hsu; Southern Chinese Daily News, Wea Lee, Kate & Kyle Fu, FilmFestivals.com, Bruno Chatelin; Variety / Cowboys & Indians Magazine, Joe Leydon; Michael Bergeron, USA Film Festival, Director Ann Alexander; First Run Delivery, Duane Krus; The Gary Michael Dahl Band

Houston Yacht Club: WorldFest-Houston extends our heartfelt thanks to the Houston Yacht Club for hosting our beloved Day on the Bay tradition. Special thanks to Commodore Jack Cronan, Vice Commodore Murphy Graham, Rear Commodore Richnow, HYC Bay Day Liaison Officer Bill Van Ravenswaay, Club Manager Ernest Brauner, Sara O'Dell, the HYC staff, and the excellent HYC skippers joining the WorldFest BBQ party, including John and Wendy Ardalino, Jim and Allison Orchid, Chris and Madeline Seibert, and Jesse Thompson. Music by Gary Michael Dahl and his Merry Musicians.

The WorldFest-Houston 2026 Commemorative Program Book: Editor, Katy Lea Todd; Program Editor, Kathleen Haney, Typesetting/Layout, Saquib Rana & Asif Mushtaq; Creative Design, López Negrete Communications; Ingrid Rincón; Project Manager.

HOUSTON FILM SOCIETY BENEFACTORS:

Margaret & Garry Schoonover; Nikola & Dorothy Knez; Dr. Ralph & Terry Dittman; Linda Brooks; Ronald Gelner, Jack Lippincott; Sandra Rice; Dr. Janet Schwind; Monica & Charles Powell; Judy & Michael Weingart; Amna & Yousuf Zakaria.

Houston Film Society Members. Dr. Mabelle E. Adams-Mayne, (in Memoriam) David Addicks, Michael Angwin, Amos Avidan, Omar Ardila, Dr. S. Christian Bahm, Mary & Jay Bautch, Frederick C. Baldwin (in Memoriam), Scott Banks, Dr. Samuel Bean, MD, Tracie Bein, Nihita Bhavsar, Walter E. Black, Todor Blagoev, Nana Booker, Jennie Bosby, Bob Boudreaux, Ginger Bowen, Linda Brooks, Rev. David & Kari Browder, Carol & Don Brown, Carlos Brown, Austin & Amanda Bryan, Steve Bryan, Steven C. Bryan, John & Becky Burbage, Lydia (in Memoriam) & Orlando Campos, Helen Cavazos, Gregory Chandler, Billy Chasson, Ernest & Melinda Chou, Geri Christensen, William Coffey III, Chris Colin, Matthew Cook, Dr. Donna R. Copeland, Diane Cox, Tom Crow, Dick Cruse, Linda Cryer, Joe Culotta, David Curtin, Larry Czach, Matthew Darroh, Bill Davis, Geri & Paul Davis, Stacie Davis, Esther de Ipolyi, Caryn De-Santa, Steven Deyo, Tammy & Maya Diaz, Robert & Chrissy Dillon, Dr. Ralph & Terry Dittman, Lyvia & Michael Dowty, Mary Dodd & Jim Dubbert, Ramsay M. Elder, Tom Estus, Abimbola Farinde, Carlos & Sara Fernandez, Charles & Lily Foster, Marc & Patti Foster, Gale & Jeff Friedman, Dr. Jim Frye, Alexa Gabillard, Ashlee Garze, Iraj Ghavidel, Geoff (In Memoriam) & Maureen Goddard, Carlos Gonzalez, Dinorah Gonzalez, Emerson & Rudy Gonzalez, David & Michelle Graves, John Graves, David Greer, Mary & Peter Gryska, Dave & Mary Haglund, James M. Hall, Margaret Hansen, Joel Harmon, Peggy Harrison, Pamela J. Harrison, Jack L. Hinton, Jeffrey M. Hirsch, Michael Hirsch, Maria & Robert Hopkins, Matthew & Ryan Jasso, Dr. Mervyn J. Klein, Jesika Kopriva, Duane Krus, Jan La Rocque, Brad & Chris Larson, Parry Lauzon, Shirley La Fleur,

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Save the Date for 2027 Celebration of
The 60th Annual WORLDFEST-HOUSTON:
APRIL 16 -25, 2027

Entries open August 15, 2026

Entry Deadlines: December 15, 2026
 with final deadline January 15, 2027

World Fest Houston International Film Festival, Inc.
 A non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) Educational, Cultural
 and Arts Organization.

Federal Tax ID # 74-2168997 Founded in April 1961 as an
 International Film Society and in 1968 as a competitive
 International Film Festival.

Executive Offices:
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 Houston, Texas 77036
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Houston Film Commission



Seminar & Panel Series

WorldFest Village – Educational Arm

At the WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival, education and filmmaker support are central to the festival experience. The Seminar & Panel Series brings together industry professionals, educators, and working artists to share practical insight into the craft, business, and future of filmmaking.

Spanning topics from financing and screenwriting to performance, technology, and career pathways, these sessions offer a dynamic forum for learning, connection, and professional growth.

How to Make a Successful Movie...and Pay for it too!

Saturday, April 25 | 11:00 AM

Nick Nicholson

A practical guide to independent film financing and production, this session explores how filmmakers can successfully develop, fund, and complete their projects while navigating the realities of the marketplace.

Muse vs. Machine: Ethical Use of AI in Filmmaking

Saturday, April 25 | 2:00 PM

Taz Diaz

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly integrated into creative workflows, this seminar examines its ethical implications and practical applications, helping filmmakers balance innovation with artistic integrity.

Run Your Creative Career Like a Business

Sunday, April 26 | 2:00 PM

Jalene Mack

Designed for emerging and working creatives alike, this session re-frames artistic practice through an entrepreneurial lens, offering tools for sustainability, growth, and long-term career management.

Careers Beyond the Camera

Monday, April 27 | 2:00 PM

Christopher Nolan, LaMonde Howard, Christian Webster, Keith Houk

This panel highlights the wide range of professional opportunities within the film ecosystem, from education and curation to exhibition and programming, expanding the definition of what a career in film can look like.

Music in Film Panel

Tuesday, April 28 | 11:00 AM

Nathalie Q. Phan-Clifford, Barry Coffing, Emoni Escobar

An inside look at music supervision and sync licensing, this panel explores how music is selected, cleared, and integrated into film and television to shape narrative and emotional impact.

Captiv Presents: The Future of Filmmaking

Tuesday, April 28 | 1:00 PM

Khary Alexcee and team

Exploring emerging technologies and evolving production models, this session examines how innovation is reshaping the filmmaking process and expanding creative possibilities.

Screenwriting for the Independent Filmmaker: From Page to Production

Wednesday, April 29 | 1:00 PM

Michelle Mower

This seminar follows the journey of a screenplay from concept to production, offering insight into writing for independent film and preparing scripts for real-world execution.

Producers Round Table

Wednesday, April 29 | 3:00 PM

Khary Alexcee, Ruth Villatoro

An interactive discussion focused on producing independent film, covering development, collaboration, budgeting, and navigating production challenges.

Producers Round Table

Wednesday, April 29 | 4:00 PM

Michelle Mower, Noel Vega

A continuation of the producers' dialogue, this session offers additional perspectives on the practical and creative demands of bringing a project to life.

SAG-AFTRA Panel: Navigating the Union Landscape

Thursday, April 30 | 1:00 PM

Danielle Bell, Mykle McCoslin

A clear and practical overview of union membership, including eligibility, contracts, and protections, designed to help performers and filmmakers navigate the professional landscape.

The Art of the Unit Still: Capturing the Story Behind the Scenes

Thursday, April 30 | 3:30 PM

Ray Kuglar

This session explores the role of still photography in filmmaking, highlighting how behind-the-scenes imagery supports storytelling, marketing, and the visual legacy of a production.

Fireside Chat with Dave Maldonado: Working Actor to Creative Collaborator

Friday, May 1 | 11:00 AM

Dave Maldonado

In this intimate conversation, Maldonado reflects on a career spanning major studio films and acclaimed television, offering candid insight into the craft and longevity of working as an actor.

Actor's Panel: Craft, Career, and Working in Film Today

Friday, May 1 | 1:00 PM

Dave Maldonado, Jordan Elsass, Larissa Dali, Raquael Torres

Working actors share their experiences navigating auditions, on-set collaboration, and the ongoing process of building a sustainable career in film.

Shorts Director Panel: From Idea to Festival Screen

Friday, May 1 | 3:00 PM

Sara Gaston, Manuel Navarro Jr., Jenny Waldo, Jessica Lee Wrabel

This panel examines the lifecycle of a short film, from concept and production to festival strategy, highlighting how short-form work can launch and sustain a filmmaking career.

Features Director Panel: From Vision to Feature Film

Saturday, May 2 | 12:00 PM

Victoria Trofimenko, Bidyut Kotoky, Gabo Ramos, Noah Currier

Feature directors share insights into developing, financing, and directing long-form projects, offering a comprehensive look at the realities of bringing a feature film to screen.

Seminar & Panel Series

WorldFest Village – Educational Arm

WorldFest Wellness

Rest for Creatives | WorldFest Village – Educational Arm & VIP Lounge

At WorldFest-Houston, we believe that great storytelling doesn't just come from inspiration - it comes from slowing down and creating space to listen to your creative spirit.

WorldFest Wellness is an invitation to pause, reset, and reconnect throughout the festival. Designed for filmmakers, industry professionals, and audiences alike, these offerings create space to care for the nervous system, restore creative energy, and cultivate a sense of balance within the pace of festival life.

From meditation and sound baths to movement, breathwork, and somatic practices, these sessions support both the individual artist and the collective community. In a time that often feels fast, demanding, and fragmented, we see rest not as a luxury, but as a vital part of sustainable creativity.

Saturday, April 25

10:30 AM

Grounding Art Wellness Retreat: Pause. Breathe. Meditate. Sound Bath Experience

with Tiffanie Walker

A guided experience combining meditation and sound healing to support deep relaxation and mental clarity. Participants are invited to slow down, reconnect, and reset through breath and vibration.

7:30 PM

Yoga Therapy: Stories in the Body

with Nancy Martch

Each pose carries a story. In this gentle, guided practice, movement becomes a way of listening—connecting breath, body, and the deeper meaning behind the shapes we take.

Tuesday, April 28

9:30 AM

Yin + Soundbath

with Katy Lea Cannon

A restorative practice combining long-held Yin postures with immersive sound. Designed to release tension, calm the nervous system, and create space for reflection.

2:00 PM

RAPPEL: Break Through to a Better You

with Joni Goodman

An experiential session focused on personal growth, resilience, and mindset. Explore tools for navigating challenges and stepping into greater clarity and purpose.

3:00 PM

The Embodied Creative: Reset Tools for Life On and Off Set

Movement and Ergonomics with Stephanie Greco

A practical session addressing the physical demands of creative work. Learn techniques to improve posture, prevent injury, and support long-term well-being in production environments.

Wednesday, April 29

11:00 AM

Protecting from Burnout with Somatic Practice

with Tamika Caston-Miller

A guided exploration of somatic tools to manage stress and prevent burnout. This session offers accessible practices to support emotional regulation and resilience.

Thursday, April 30

12:00 PM

Meditation: Group Reiki Session

with Lucio Nieto

A group healing experience incorporating Reiki and meditation. Designed to support energetic balance, relaxation, and restoration.

Friday, May 1

9:30 AM

Creating Space: A Journaling and Gentle Movement Experience

with Shakethia Robertson

A reflective session combining guided journaling with soft movement. Participants are invited to slow down, process, and reconnect with their creative voice.

2:30 PM

Traditional Yoga Breath Practices (Pranayama) for Calming and Energizing

with Dr. Lois Ramondetta

An introduction to foundational breathwork techniques that support both relaxation and vitality. Learn practices that can be integrated into daily life and creative work.

Saturday, May 2

10:30 AM

Grounding Art Wellness Retreat: Pause. Breathe. Meditate. Sound Bath Experience

with Tiffanie Walker and Rhonda Radford Adams

A collaborative sound and meditation experience designed to deepen relaxation and support creative renewal.

WorldFest Wellness invites you to take a breath, come back to yourself, and experience the festival from a place of presence.



59th WORLD FEST HOUSTON PROGRAM GRID

Time	Friday 4/24	Saturday 4/25	Sunday 4/26	Monday 4/27	Tuesday 4/28
9:30 AM			10:30 Tiffanie Walker Sound Bath		Katy Lea Yin + Soundbath
11:00 AM		Nick Nicholson Seminar	Filmmaker Brunch with Alfred Cervantes (11 - 12:30)		Music Panel
12:00 PM					
1:00PM		Deeply Human Docs #1	Life Happens #5		Captiv Seminar
1:30PM		#2 PG Magic (Family Shorts)	Tasty Travels#6		
2:00 PM		Taz Diaz Seminar	Jalene Mack Seminar	Film Adjacent Careers Seminar	Joni Goodman Seminar
3:00 PM			3:30 Texas Cheese Tasting (VIP Lounge)		Stephanie Greco Wellness
3:30 PM		Foreign Frames #3	Rise Above #7		
4:00PM		Film School (students) #4 (95)	Dark & Edgy #8	Feature #9 Dancing on the Elephant	Feature #13 The Fire in Our Hearts
6:00PM		Feature #3 Anorgasmia			HAP Mixer
6:30PM		Feature #2 AMERICAN SPARK	Feature #6 Shambhala Story	Feature #10 PASA FAHO	Feature #14 UNMARRY
7:00PM	Opening Night	Captiv Mixer 6PM	Feature #7 The Family Matter	Feature #11 Crawling Crows, Aankha	Feature #15 The Legend of Juan Jose Mundo
7:30 PM	Star Sailors - Past the Horizon	Feature #4 CLASSMATES 8:00pm	Nancy Martch - Yoga Therapy		Oscar Block #13
9:00PM	Portuguese Mixer	Feature #5 BET	Feature #8 HOUSEKEEPER	Feature #12 The Devil's Handshake	
9:30PM					
10:00PM					



59th WORLD FEST HOUSTON PROGRAM GRID

Wed. 4/29	Thurs 4/30	Friday 5/1	Saturday 5/2	Sunday 5/3	Time 2
		Shakethia Robertson Journaling		9:00AM Full Day Bus Trip Begins at Westin	9:30 AM
Tamika Protecting from Burnout with Somatic Practice		Dave Maldonado Fireside Chat			11:00 AM
	Group Reiki Lucio Nieto		Features Director Panel		12:00 PM
Michelle Mower Screenwriting	SAG AFTRA Panel	Actor's Panel	#9 Winning Women		1:00PM
			#10 FanCon (Anime/SciFi) Shorts	NASA	1:30PM
		2:30 Dr Lois Pranayama MD Anderson			2:00 PM
Producers' Round Table 1		Shorts Director Panel	Tiffanie Walker and Rhonda Radford Adams Sound Bath	Feature #33 Coming in the Morning	3:00 PM
4PM Producers' Round Table 2	Ray Kuglar Seminar		#11 Scene Makers	HYC Excursion	3:30 PM
Feature #16 Turtle Walker	Feature #20 Larissa	Feature #25 Mission: The Birthday Invitation	#12 K-Wow (S. Korea)		4:00PM
4:30 pm - 8pm MIXER LAST WED with IEP (VIP Lounge)		Mexican Mixer/ LA Mixer			6:00PM
Feature #17 Kaleidoscope Child	Feature #21 Digitally You	Feature #26 SUM FUNCTION	Feature #31 BONDING		6:30PM
Feature #18 On Borrowed Time	Feature #22 Forsythian Dwellers Club	Feature #27 DISDAIN	Feature #32 NETWORK	Feature #34 OBRAZ / TOWER OF STRENGTH	7:00PM
#14 Panorama Taiwan		Feature #28 Koduwa The Nightbird	6pm Italy Cocktail Reception		7:30 PM
Feature #19 Love in Separate Beds	Feature #23 The Little Ring	Feature #29 One Stupid Thing	Awards Gala		9:00PM
	Feature #24 Warehouse, One Step Away from a Bad Forever	Feature #30 Curse of Crom 2			9:30PM
		Nightmares #15			10:00PM



59th

WORLD FEST HOUSTON FEATURE FILM ALPHA LIST

Title	Duration	Director	Genre	Country of Origin	Showatime
Opening Film					
Star Sailors - Past the Horizon	01:36:44	Fernando Vendrell	Historical Drama	Portugal	4/24 @ 7:30 PM
Closing Film					
OBRAZ / The TOWER OF STRENGTH	1:37:30	Nikola I. Vukcevic	Historical Drama	Montenegro	5/3 @ 7:00 PM
AMERICAN SPARK	01:32:00	Michael Baumgarte	Romantic Comedy	USA	4/25 @ 6:30PM
ANORGASMIA (All The Things We Do To Survive)	01:32:00	Jon Gustafsson	Quirky Drama	Canada, Czechia, Iceland	4/25 @ 6:00PM
BET	01:45:00	Svetoslav Ovcharov	Historical Drama	Bulgaria	4/25 @ 9:00PM
BONDING	01:35:26	Victoria Trofimenko	Suspense / Thriller	USA	5/2 @ 6:30PM
CLASSMATES	01:36:00	Umberto Carteni	Drama/Coming-of-Age	Italy	4/25 @ 8:00PM
COMING IN THE MORNING!	01:53:34	Biodun Stephen	Family Drama	Nigeria	5/3 @ 3:00PM
CRAWLING CROWS - AANKHA	01:49:14	Zaun Yonzan	Drama	Nepal	4/27 @ 7:00PM
CURSE OF CROM 2	01:42:00	Rob York	Fantasy / Horror	USA/Ireland	5/1 @ 9:30 PM
DANCING ON THE ELEPHANT	01:33:00	Julia Neil, Jacob Z Smith	Drama	Canada	4/27 @ 4:00pm
DIGITALLY YOU	01:20:30	Stefan Fairlamb	Drama	UK	4/30 @ 6:30PM
DISDAIN	01:45:00	Gabo Ramos	Drama	Mexico	5/1 @ 7:00PM
FORSYTHIAN DWELLERS CLUB	01:36:41	Mary Lumley	Experimental	USA	4/30 @ 7:00PM
HOUSEKEEPER	01:28:07	Woosik Jeong	Suspense / Thriller	S.Korea	4/26 @ 9:00PM
KALEIDOSCOPE CHILD	01:52:53	Michael Patrick McKinley	Documentary	USA	4/29 @ 6:30PM
KODUWA THE NIGHTBIRD	01:51:30	Bidyut Kotoky	Dark Comedy	India	5/1 @ 7:30PM
LARISSA	01:35:16	Alireza Shah Hosseini	Drama	Iran	4/30 @ 4:00PM
LOVE IN SEPARATE BEDS	01:47:20	Massimiliano Bruno	Comedy	Italy	4/29 @ 9:00PM
MISSION: The Birthday Invitation	01:12:33	Nakyung Kim	Family Drama	S.Korea	5/1 @ 4:00PM
NETWORK	2:01:00	Sydney Lumet	Dramatic Satire	USA	5/2 @ 7:00PM
ON BORROWED TIME	01:44:00	Paul Andrew Perez	Drama	USA	4/29 @ 7:00PM
ONE STUPID THING	01:29:00	Linda Yellen	Suspense / Thriller	USA	5/1 @ 9:00PM
PASA FAHO	01:25:00	Kalu Oji	Family Drama	Australia	4/27 @ 6:30PM
SHAMBAHLA STORY	01:48:50	Toshio Sekine	Drama	Japan, USA	4/26 @ 6:30PM
SUM FUNCTION	01:30:00	Noah Currier	Documentary	USA	5/1 @ 6:30PM
THE DEVIL'S HANDSHAKE	01:42:00	Andrew F.C. Wall	Documentary	Canada	4/27 @ 9:00PM
THE FAMILY MATTER	1:43:00	Metin Kuru	Family Drama	Turkey	4/26 @ 7:00PM
THE FIRE IN OUR HEARTS	01:24:00	Josias Tschanz	Documentary	Canada	4/28 @ 4:00PM
THE LEGEND OF JUAN JOSE MUNDO	01:32:00	Michael Walker	Coming-of-Age in 1984	USA	4/28 @ 7:00PM
THE LITTLE RING	01:36:33	Chakme Rinpoche	Drama	China	4/30 @ 9:00PM
TURTLE WALKER	01:15:00	Taira Malaney	Documentary	India	4/29 @ 4:00PM
UnMARRY	02:10:00	Jeffrey Jeturian	Romantic Comedy	Philippines	4/28 @ 6:30PM
WAREHOUSE - One Step Away from ..	01:41:33	Darin Wales	Christian Thriller	USA	4/30 @ 9:30PM



59th

WORLD FEST HOUSTON

2026 Feature Film Schedule ~ Day by Day

Title	Duration	Director	Genre	Country of Origin	Showtime
Opening Night, Friday, April 24, 2026 at 7:30 pm ~ Cinemark Memorial City Mall Theatres					
Star Sailors - Past the Horizon	01:36:44	Fernando Vendrell	Historical Drama	Portugal	4/24 @ 7:30PM
ANORGASMIA	01:32:00	Jon Gustafsson	Quirky Drama	Canada, Czechia, Iceland	4/25 @ 6:00PM
AMERICAN SPARK	01:32:00	Michael Baumgarte	Romantic Comedy	USA	4/25 @ 6:30PM
CLASSMATES	01:36:00	Umberto Carteni	Drama/Coming-of-Age	Italy	4/25 @ 8:00PM
BET	01:45:00	Svetoslav Ovcharov	Historical Drama	Bulgaria	4/25 @ 9:00PM
SHAMBAHLA STORY	01:48:50	Toshio Sekine	Drama	Japan, USA	4/26 @ 6:30PM
THE FAMILY MATTER	1:43:00	Metin Kuru	Family Drama	Turkey	4/26 @ 7:00PM
HOUSEKEEPER	01:28:07	Woosik Jeong	Suspense / Thriller	S.Korea	4/26 @ 9:00PM
DANCING ON THE ELEPHANT	01:33:00	Julia Neil, Jacob Z Smith	Drama	Canada	4/27 @ 4:00pm
PASA FAHO	01:25:00	Kalu Oji	Family Drama	Australia	4/27 @ 6:30PM
CRAWLING CROWS - AANKHA	01:49:14	Zaun Yonzan	Drama	Nepal	4/27 @ 7:00PM
THE DEVIL'S HANDSHAKE	01:42:00	Andrew F.C. Wall	Documentary	Canada	4/27 @ 9:00PM
THE FIRE IN OUR HEARTS	01:24:00	Josias Tschanz	Documentary	Canada	4/28 @ 4:00PM
UnMARRY	02:10:00	Jeffrey Jeturian	Romantic Comedy	Philippines	4/28 @ 6:30PM
THE LEGEND OF JUAN JOSE MUNDO	01:32:00	Michael Walker	Coming-of-Age in 1984	USA	4/28 @ 7:00PM
TURTLE WALKER	01:15:00	Taira Malaney	Documentary	India	4/29 @ 4:00PM
KALEIDOSCOPE CHILD	01:52:53	Michael Patrick McKinley	Documentary	USA	4/29 @ 6:30PM
ON BORROWED TIME	01:44:00	Paul Andrew Perez	Drama	USA	4/29 @ 7:00PM
LOVE IN SEPARATE BEDS	01:47:20	Massimiliano Bruno	Comedy	Italy	4/29 @ 9:00PM
LARISSA	01:35:16	Alireza Shah Hosseini	Drama	Iran	4/30 @ 4:00PM
DIGITALLY YOU	01:20:30	Stefan Fairlamb	Drama	UK	4/30 @ 6:30PM
FORSYTHIAN DWELLERS CLUB	01:36:41	Mary Lumley	Experimental	USA	4/30 @ 7:00PM
THE LITTLE RING	01:36:33	Chakme Rinpoche	Drama	China	4/30 @ 9:00PM
WAREHOUSE - One Step Away from a Bad Forever	01:41:33	Darin Wales	Christian Thriller	USA	4/30 @ 9:30PM
MISSION: The Birthday Invitation	01:12:33	Nakyung Kim	Family Drama	S.Korea	5/1 @ 4:00PM
SUM FUNCTION	01:30:00	Noah Currier	Documentary	USA	5/1 @ 6:30PM
DISDAIN	01:45:00	Gabo Ramos	Drama	Mexico	5/1 @ 7:00PM
KODUWA THE NIGHTBIRD	01:51:30	Bidyut Kotoky	Dark Comedy	India	5/1 @ 7:30PM
ONE STUPID THING	01:29:00	Linda Yellen	Suspense / Thriller	USA	5/1 @ 9:00PM
CURSE OF CROM 2	01:42:00	Rob York	Fantasy / Horror	USA/Ireland	5/1 @ 9:30 PM
BONDING	01:35:26	Victoria Trofimenko	Suspense / Thriller	USA	5/2 @ 6:30PM
NETWORK	2:01:00	Sydney Lumet	Dramatic Satire	USA	5/2 @ 7:00PM
COMING IN THE MORNING!	01:53:34	Biodun Stephen	Family Drama	Nigeria	5/3 @ 3:00PM

Closing Night, Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm ~ Cinemark Memorial City

OBRAZ / The TOWER OF STRENGTH	1:37:30	Nikola I. Vukcevic	Historical Drama	Montenegro	5/3 @ 7:00 PM
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59th WORLD FEST HOUSTON

SHORT FILM BLOCKS

Saturday, April 25

Deeply Human

1:00 PM

Total Runtime: 103 minutes

Somerville	13 min
From ER to the Open Road: John's TAVR Journey	4 min
13 Seconds	14 min
Watching Marlene	10 min
In the Shadow of Grace	11 min
We Do Not Part	50 min

PG Magic (Family and Kids)

1:30 PM

Total Runtime: 94 minutes

Claws?Chaos!	2 min
Deep Woods Lost & Found	7 min
Gourded	2 min
BUNGAEMAN: Real Hero	14 min
The High King's Daughter	5 min
Nightmare of MOLOKA	2 min
Following the Line	7 min
The Pit	3 min
Broken Record	12 min
The Banker	6 min
AASMANI	34 min

Foreign Frames

3:30 PM

Total Runtime: 107 minutes

Dandelions Girl	20 min
Dead Man Singing	16 min
Hidden Moon	17 min
Sound of the Somme	13 min
TWO SISTERS	19 min
Dirty Change	23 min

Film School Showcase

4:00 PM

Total Runtime: 101 minutes

Water My Steps, Orchid Color	15 min
Paint Me Invisible	14 min
Tuesday Tuesday	15 min
The Last Supper of GIRL	15 min
Hide and Seek	7 min
Cache Unseen	22 min
The Recipe	13 min

Sunday, April 26

Life Happens

1:00 PM

Total Runtime: 102 minutes

Living With María	10 min
The Missus Downstairs: Groomzilla	12 min
Keeks	14 min
Three Charlies	21 min
The Third Dream	19 min
Backstage	27 min

Tasty Travels

1:30 PM

Total Runtime: 95 minutes

The Rebel Reef	25 min
Tasting Tradition	3 min
AI Gallery: City Scroll	3 min
The Texas Cheese Trail	55 min

Rise Above

3:30 PM

Total Runtime: 104 minutes

Montañeros	18 min
The Last Note	14 min
Hāfu	16 min
Huntsville	11 min
Murmurs of the Balloon	12 min
The Skin I'm In	15 min

Dark and Edgy

4:00 PM

Total Runtime: 100 minutes

Energy Crisis	4 min
Dobrina	5 min
I Am a Pigeon	7 min
The Foley Artist	12 min
The Undying Pain of Existence	5 min
The Perfect Palm	11 min
CTRL Z	6 min
The Liars of Black Mountain Road	13 min
Method Cowboy	13 min
Thank You	8 min
Contrast Therapy	6 min
Makina	9 min

Tuesday, April 28

Oscar Block

7:30 PM

Total Runtime: Approx. 90 to 100 minutes

Featuring Academy Award-winning, nominated, and shortlisted short films:

An Irish Goodbye	
The Silent Child	
The Neighbor's Window	
The Phone Call	
Jellyfish & Lobster	
Clodagh	
Red, White & Blue	
Ado	
The Pearl Comb	

Wednesday, April 29

Panorama Taiwan

7:30 PM

Total Runtime: 87 minutes

Encounters in the Rising Mist	9 min
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A Bridge in the Mist

28 min

The Decision

28 min

Friday, May 1

Nightmares (Thrillers and Horror)

10:00 PM

Total Runtime: 103 minutes

Esther	13 min
SIREN	20 min
Happy People	15 min
Through the Shadows	6 min
The Call of Nishi	14 min
Stew to Eat	25 min

Saturday, May 2

FanCon (Anime and Sci-Fi)

1:30 PM

Total Runtime: 103 minutes

113 Words for You Today	13 min
Free Quincy	14 min
Dual	20 min
The Gun	12 min
Perfect One	15 min
Clean is a Crime	15 min

Winning Women

1:00 PM

Total Runtime: 104 minutes

A Thousand Questions and One Miracle	28 min
Comets	12 min
Coyote	12 min
Down the Hatch	8 min
Once More, Like Rain Man	15 min
Ladies Love Salads	14 min
The Last Snow	15 min

Scene Makers

3:30 PM

Total Runtime: 121 minutes

Grizzly Jim	9 min
A Song	18 min
Being Dead Should Be Easy	14 min
DOKHTAR'AM – My Daughter	17 min
Horseback	12 min
What Remains of Us	10 min
Coupe au Bol	8 min
Pas Vraiment Ordinaire	16 min

K-Wow (South Korea)

4:00 PM

Total Runtime: 93 minutes

Useful Child	9 min
A Flower on Concrete	19 min
Let Me Out	30 min
Kicking Toward Tomorrow!	30 min



ALPHABETICAL LIST OF SHORT FILM

Title	Country	Category	Duration	Shorts Block	Scheduled Time
113 Words for You Today	USA	Anime/SciFi	12:31	FanCon (SciFi/Animation)	1:00 PM FanCon Shorts #09 block on Saturday, May 2nd
13 Seconds	USA	Doc/True	14:3	Deeply Human	1:00 Deeply Human True Shorts #01 block on Saturday, April 25th
A Bridge in the Mist	Taiwan	Drama	27:39	Panorama Taiwan	7:30 PM Panorama Taiwan Shorts #14 block on Wednesday, April 29th
A Flower on Concrete	South Korea	Drama	19:00	K-Wow	4:00 PM K-Wow Shorts #12 block on Saturday, May 2nd
A Song	Ireland	Drama	17:54	Scene Makers	3:30 PM Scene Makers Shorts #11 block on Saturday, May 2nd
A thousand questions and one mirage	Austria	Comedy	28:10	Winning Women / Non-Premier	1:30 PM Winning Women Shorts #10 block on Saturday, May 2nd
A VITAL SUN	USA	Documentary	12:29	Deeply Human	1:00 PM Deeply Human True Shorts #01 block on Saturday, April 25th
AASMANI	India	Family/Children	33:54	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
AI Gallery--City Scroll	Taiwan	Doc/True	3:00	Wander & Wonder	1:30 PM Tasty Travels Shorts #06 block on Sunday, April 26th
Backstage	Luxembourg	Drama	27:00	Life Happens	1:30 PM Life Happens Shorts #5 block on Sunday, April 26th
Being Dead Should Be Easy	USA	Comedy-Dark	13:33	Scene Makers	3:30 PM Scene Makers Shorts #11 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Between Dog And Man	USA	Drama	9:35	Nightmares	10:00 PM Nightmares Shorts #15 block on Friday, May 1st
Broken Record.	Canada	Comedy	12:00	PG Magic (Family/Animated)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
BUNGAEMAN : Real Hero	South Korea	Family/Children	14:20	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
Cache Unseen	UK	Suspense/Thriller	22:20	Film School	4:00 PM Film School Shorts #04 block on Saturday, April 25th
Claws?Chaos!	USA	Anime	1:50	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
Clean is a Crime	South Korea	SciFi	15:23	FanCon (SciFi/Animation)	1:00 PM FanCon Shorts #09 block on Saturday, May 2nd
COLORable	Japan	Drama	18:00	Rise Above	3:30 PM Rise Above Shorts #7 block on Sunday, April 26th
Comets	USA	Drama	11:56	Winning Women	1:30 PM Winning Women Shorts #10 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Contrast Therapy	Australia	Comedy-Dark	6:20	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
Coupe au Bol	France	Family/Children	8:20	Scene Makers	3:30 PM Scene Makers Shorts #11 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Coyote	USA	Drama	11:47	Winning Women	1:30 PM Winning Women Shorts #10 block on Saturday, May 2nd
CTRL Z	USA	Experimental	5:51	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
Dandelions Girl	Iran	Family/Children	19:45	Foreign Frames	3:30 PM Foreign Frames Shorts #03 block on Saturday, April 25th
Dead Man Singing	Japan	Historical	16:6	Foreign Frames	3:30 PM Foreign Frames Shorts #03 block on Saturday, April 25th
Deep Woods Lost & Found	Cyprus	Animation	7:17	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
Dirty Change	Hungary	Drama	22:50	Foreign Frames	3:30 PM Foreign Frames Shorts #03 block on Saturday, April 25th
Dobrina	Germany	Animation	5:00	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
DOKHTAR'AM – My Daughter	Germany	Drama	16:32	Scene Makers	3:30 PM Scene Makers Shorts #11 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Down The Hatch	USA	Animation	7:58	Winning Women	1:30 PM Winning Women Shorts #10 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Dual	USA	SciFi	19:59	SciFi - LC	1:00 PM FanCon Shorts #09 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Encounters in the Rising Mist	Taiwan	Doc/True	9:31	Taiwan	7:30 PM Panorama Taiwan Shorts #14 block on Wednesday, April 29th
Energy Crisis	USA	Animation	4:40	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
Esther	USA	Horror	13:25	Nightmares	10:00 PM Nightmares Shorts #09 block on Friday, May 1st
Following The Line	Taiwan	Animation	7:50	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
Free Quincy	USA	SciFi	14:60	FanCon (SciFi/Animation)	1:00 PM FanCon Shorts #09 block on Saturday, May 2nd
From ER to the Open Road:JTJ	USA	PSA	4:27	Deeply Human	1:00 PM Deeply Human True Shorts #01 block on Saturday, April 25th
Gourded	USA	Animation	1:49	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
Grizzly Jim	UK	Animation	8:41	Scene Makers	3:30 PM Scene Makers Shorts #11 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Hāfu	USA	Drama	15:58	Rise Above	3:30 PM Rise Above Shorts #7 block on Sunday, April 26th
Happy People	Hungary	Horror	14:50	Nightmares	10:00 PM Nightmares Shorts #15 block on Friday, May 1st
Hidden Moon	Iran	Family/Children	16:36	Foreign Frames	3:30 PM Foreign Frames Shorts #03 block on Saturday, April 25th
Hide and Seek	China	Drama	7:21	Film School	4:00 PM Film School Shorts #04 block on Saturday, April 25th
Horseback	Ireland	Drama	12:60	Scene Makers	3:30 PM Scene Makers Shorts #11 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Huntsville	USA	Drama	11:20	Rise Above	3:30 PM Rise Above Shorts #7 block on Sunday, April 26th
I am a pigeon	Taiwan	Animation	7:11	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
Keeks	USA	Comedy	13:49	Life Happens	1:30 PM Life Happens Shorts #5 block on Sunday, April 26th
Kicking Toward Tomorrow!	South Korea	Comedy	30:00	K-Wow	4:00 PM K-Wow Shorts #12 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Ladies Love Salads	USA	Drama	14:70	Winning Women	1:30 PM Winning Women Shorts #10 block on Saturday, May 2nd
let me out	South Korea	Suspense/Thriller	29:59	K-Wow	4:00 PM K-Wow Shorts #12 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Living With María	Canada	Comedy	9:47	Life Happens	1:30 PM Life Happens Shorts #5 block on Sunday, April 26th
Makina	USA	Drama	13:26	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
Method Cowboy	USA	Comedy-Dark	13:11	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
Montañeros	Mexico	Drama	17:37	Rise Above	3:30 PM Rise Above Shorts #7 block on Sunday, April 26th
Murmurs of the Balloon	Iran	Family/Children	12:00	Rise Above	3:30 PM Rise Above Shorts #7 block on Sunday, April 26th
Nightmare of MOLOKA	Taiwan	Animation	1:42	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
Once More, Like Rain Man	USA	Comedy	15:0	Winning Women	1:30 PM Winning Women Shorts #10 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Paint Me Invisible	Canada	Drama	14:0	Film School	4:00 PM Film School Shorts #04 block on Saturday, April 25th
Pas Vraiment Ordinaire	USA	Drama	15:55	Scene Makers	3:30 PM Scene Makers Shorts #11 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Perfect One	China	SciFi	14:53	FanCon (SciFi/Animation)	1:00 PM FanCon Shorts #09 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Save Me From Heaven	Ireland	Drama	14:55	FanCon (SciFi/Animation)	1:00 PM FanCon Shorts #09 block on Saturday, May 2nd
SIREN	USA	Suspense/Thriller	20:00	Nightmares	10:00 PM Nightmares Shorts #09 block on Friday, May 1st
Soaring Hoops	China	Family/Children	14:14	Scene Makers	3:30 PM Scene Makers Shorts #11 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Somerville	USA	Doc/True	13:35	Deeply Human True Stories	1:30 PM Deeply Human True Shorts #01 block on Saturday, April 25th
Sound of the Somme	Belgium	History	12:35	Foreign Frames	3:30 PM Foreign Frames Shorts #03 block on Saturday, April 25th
Stew to Eat	USA	Horror	24:57	Nightmares	10:00 PM Nightmares Shorts #09 block on Friday, May 1st
Tasting Tradition	USA	Doc/True	3:17	Wander & Wonder	1:30 PM Wander & Wonder Shorts #06 block on Sunday, April 26th
Thank You	Canada	Drama	7:47	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
The Banker	USA	Family/Children	5:41	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th



ALPHABETICAL LIST OF SHORT FILM

Title	Country	Category	Duration	Shorts Block	Scheduled Time
The Call of Nishi	USA	Suspense/Thriller	14:00	Nightmares	10:00 PM Nightmares Shorts #09 block on Friday, May 1st
The Decision	Taiwan	Drama	28:19	Panorama Taiwan	7:30 PM Panorama Taiwan Shorts #14 block on Wednesday, April 29th
The Foley Artist	USA	Animation	12:15	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
The Gun	USA	SciFi	11:30	FanCon (SciFi/Animation)	1:00 PM FanCon Shorts #09 block on Saturday, May 2nd
The High King's Daughter	Ireland	Animation	4:59	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
The Last Note	USA	Drama	14:70	Rise Above	3:30 PM Rise Above Shorts #7 block on Sunday, April 26th
The Last Snow	Lithuania	Drama	15:80	Winning Women	1:30 PM Winning Women Shorts #10 block on Saturday, May 2nd
The Last Supper of GIRL	USA	Drama	14:59	Film School	4:00 PM Film School Shorts #04 block on Saturday, April 25th
The Liars of Black Mountain Road	USA	Comedy-Dark	12:30	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
The Missus Downstairs SA 66 - Groomzilla	Canada	Comedy	11:50	Life Happens	1:30 PM Life Happens Shorts #5 block on Sunday, April 26th
THE PERFECT PALM	USA	Comedy-Dark	11:15	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
The Pit	China	Animation	3:12	PG Magic (Family/Kids)	1:30 PM PG Magic Shorts #02 block on Saturday, April 25th
The Rebel Reef	USA	Doc/True	24:47	Wander & Wonder	1:30 PM Tasty Travels Shorts #06 block on Sunday, April 26th
The Recipe	Canada	Drama	13:40	Film School	4:00 PM Film School Shorts #04 block on Saturday, April 25th
The Skin I'm In	UK	Drama	14:32	Rise Above	3:30 PM Rise Above Shorts #7 block on Sunday, April 26th
The Texas Cheese Trail	USA	Doc/True	54:49	Wander & Wonder	1:30 PM Tasty Travels Shorts #06 block on Sunday, April 26th
The Third Dream	Iran	Suspense/Thriller	18:42	Life Happens	1:30 PM Life Happens Shorts #5 block on Sunday, April 26th
The Undying Pain of Existence	Germany	Animation	5:20	Dark & Edgy	4:00 PM Dark & Edgy #08 block on Sunday, April 26th
Three Charlies	USA	Drama	21:00	Life Happens	1:30 PM Life Happens Shorts #5 block on Sunday, April 26th
Through the Shadows	USA	Suspense/Thriller	6:20	Nightmares	10:00 PM Nightmares Shorts #15 block on Friday, May 1st
Tuesday Tuesday	Australia	Drama	14:59	Film School	4:00 PM Film School Shorts #04 block on Saturday, April 25th
TWO SISTERS	Italy	Suspense/Thriller	19:16	Foreign Frames	3:30 PM Foreign Frames Shorts #03 block on Saturday, April 25th
USEFUL CHILD	South Korea	Drama	9:90	K-Wow	4:00 PM K-Wow Shorts #12 block on Saturday, May 2nd
Watching Marlene	USA	Doc/True	9:48	Deeply Human True Stories	1:30 PM Deeply Human True Shorts #01 block on Saturday, April 25th
Water my steps orchid color	Mexico	Drama	14:59	Film School	4:00 PM Film School Shorts #04 block on Saturday, April 25th
We Do Not Part	South Korea	Doc/True	50:00	Deeply Human True Stories	1:00 PM Deeply Human True Shorts #01 block on Saturday, April 25th
What Remains of Us	USA	Drama	10:00	Scene Makers	3:30 PM Scene Makers Shorts #11 block on Saturday, May 2nd



TICKET, PASSES AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

Tickets:
Matinee \$10
Evening \$15

Opening Night (Screening, Program Book Plus Reception) \$35
 Opening Night (Screening and Program Book) \$20

Film Buff Pass \$150 – Good for up to 11 admissions
 (for individual or group) (does not include opening night)

VIP Silver Screen Pass \$200 All films, Opening Night film and
 reception for one plus program book

VIP Gold Pass \$350 All Films, Opening Night film and reception for one plus
 programbook, Master/Class Seminars

VIP Platinum Pass \$500 All Films, Opening Night Film and reception for one plus
 program book, Master/Class Seminars, Awards Ceremony and Closing Day NASA tour and Regatta

Awards Ceremony - \$150
 Closing Day NASA Tour and Houston Yacht Club 'Bay Day' - \$50



Showing: Friday, April 24, 2026 7:30 PM

Star Sailors - Past the Horizon (Além do Horizonte - A Travessia)



OPENING NIGHT FILM - NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

DIRECTOR: Fernando Vendrell

PRODUCER: Ana Fi

CAST: Gonçalo Waddington, Miguel Damião, Sarmento Beires, Ortins de Bettencourt, Júlia Palha, Vicente Wallenstein, Tiago Costa, Maya Booth

Year: 2025

Language: English

Country: United States

Synopsis:

Star Sailors – Past the Horizon recounts the epic feats of the modern-day Argonauts in the early 20th century, following Portuguese aviation pioneers, Gago Coutinho and Sacadura Cabral, in their fearless race to cross the South Atlantic. Driven by a strong spirit of adventure, they challenged the limits of human endeavor by flying unknown skies.

Purchase the VIP ticket to join us for red carpet photos prior to the screening and afterwards for a reception in our WorldFest Village in Memorial City Mall with drinks, light bites and live music immediately following the film.



Fernando Vendrell

Fernando graduated in Editing, in 1985 at the Film School of the Conservatório Nacional and started working as Still photographer, Script continuity and Assistant Director with known film makers such as: Manoel de Oliveira, João César Monteiro, José Fonseca e Costa, Raoul Ruiz, João Canijo, Manuel Mozos, Luís Alvarães, among others.

In 1991 he studied Arts Management at INA - National Institute of Administration and founded his independent film production company, DAVID & GOLIATH, the next year, 1992.

OBRAZ / The TOWER OF STRENGTH

Showing: Sun, May 3rd, 7:00 PM



CLOSING FILM

Filmmaker in Attendance

DIRECTOR: Nikola I. Vukcevic

SCREENWRITER: Ana Vujadinović, Melina Pota Koljevic,
(script associate: Nikola Vukcevic)

PRODUCER:

Nikola I Vukcevic, Milorad Radenovic, Ivica Vidanović, Nevena Savic, Dario Domitrović, Christoph Thoke, Boris Raonic
CO-PRODUCER: Milorad Radenovic, Ivica Vidanović, Nevena Savic, Dario Domitrović

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Djordje Stojiljković

CAST: Edon Rizvanolli, Xhejlana Terbunja, Selman Jusufi, Elez Adzovic, Alban Ukaj, Nikola Ristanovski, Aleksandar Radulovic, Vuk Bulajic, Branimir Popović, Igor Bencina, Ana Vuckovic

Year: 2024

Language: Albanian, Montenegrin

Country: Montenegro

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

World War II is underway in Yugoslavia. A child, fleeing from the fascist unit that killed the child's parents and burned their village, finds temporary shelter in the house of a stranger.

Another significant difference between them is that the child is Christian and the host is Muslim. During the war in Yugoslavia, this fact often marked the line between life and death.

Nikola I. Vukcevic



Shawn Welling who began his career as a dance choreographer and theatre performer is now noted for featuring well-known dancers in his documentary, narrative and web series films. The winner of over 90 accredited IMDB Film Festival Awards, he resides in Houston with wife, Michelle and two daughters. Welling is best known for his Dog Shorts, If I Could Talk (2015) which has amassed over 100 million views. Welling has directed over 12 features and 30 shorts films. Directing such well-known actors as: Lee Majors, Michael Biehn, William Forsythe, Tom Sizemore, Robert Lasardo, Les Twins and many others.



AMERICAN SPARK

Showing: Saturday, April 25th, 6:30 PM



Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Michael Baumgarten
Producers: Michael Baumgarten, Karen Kaing
Writers: Baumgarten, James C. Wright
Editor: Paul Hartel
Co-Producers: Joseph Baena, Henry Penzi
Cast: Joseph Baena, Kayley Stallings, James di Giacomo, Don 'The Dragon' Wilson, Lisa Souphone, Tom Rhodes, Natasha Blasick

Year: 2026
Runtime: 92 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Romantic Comedy
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

The story follows Wade, a personal trainer living in Los Angeles, whose girlfriend Chelsea is studying to become a physician assistant. When Chelsea is stressed studying for her finals, Wade borrows her electric car to run errands. At an EV charging station, he meets Diego who invites him to join an exclusive club that hosts VIP events all around Los Angeles. Wade starts attending lavish parties and fashion shoots, meeting models and celebrities. But, can Wade navigate all of this without destroying his relationship?



Michael Baumgarten

Michael Baumgarten is a former MTV segment producer turned award-winning filmmaker with 10 feature credits screenwriter/director/producer including *THE MARTIAL ARTS KID* and *PAYING MR. McGETTY*. Known for collaborating with talent like Billy Zane, Cuba Gooding Jr., Kathryn Newton, Sydney Sweeney, Cynthia Rothrock, and Don Wilson, Baumgarten recently completed the 2026 festival bound *BEYOND THE CRASHING WAVES* and *AMERICAN SPARK*. Currently scaling operations, his future slate moves into high-concept territory with the Montana Western *THE KEY TO THE WEST*, the teen crime drama *SUBURBAN GANGSTAS*, and the inspired-by-a-real Vietnam Marine vet drama *BACK TO THE WORLD*.



Showing: Saturday, April 25th, 6:00 PM

Anorgasmia (a.k.a. All The Things We Do To Survive)



Director: Jon Einarsson Gustafsson
Screenwriter: Jon Einarsson Gustafsson, Karolina Lewicka
Producer: Karolina Lewicka, Jakub Ralek, Jon Einarsson Gustafsson
Cast: Mathilde Warnier, Edward Hayter

Year: 2025
Language: English
Country: Canada, Czechia, Iceland
Genre: Road Movie, Dramedy
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:
After a failed attempt at a hostel luggage room hook up, Sam and Naomi think they will never see each other again. When a volcano erupts, grounding all flights, they suddenly find themselves stranded – together.
In a stolen car, the pair embark on a quest to capture the first images of the eruption. The ensuing road trip into the Icelandic highlands uncovers their vulnerabilities as they navigate their fears of commitment, the weight of their secrets and the thrills of connection in a world where they can no longer swipe left.

Jon Einarsson Gustafsson

Jon was born in Iceland and is a dual citizen of Iceland and Canada. He studied theatre and film directing at California Institute of the Arts. He is a director, photographer and sometimes actor. Among his previous work is the feature documentary WRATH OF GODS with Gerard Butler and Stellan Skarsgard, and Shadowtown with John Rhys-Davies.



BET

Showing: Saturday, April 25, 2026 9:00 PM

**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE****Director & Screenwriter:** Svetoslav Ovcharov**Producer:** Svetla Tsotsorkova**Cast:** Ofelia Popii, Zachary Baharov, Assen Blatechky, Deyan Donkov**Year:** 2025**Language:** Bulgarian**Country:** Bulgaria**Premiere:** North American**Subtitle Language:** English**Synopsis:**

1890. Bulgaria. Russia is trying to destabilize Bulgaria and turns it into its colony. Politics puts two childhood friends against each other, and the bet for one's victory is the other one's death.

**Svetoslav Ovcharov**

Svetoslav Ovcharov was born in 1957 in Bulgaria. He is the author of 3 books, several theatre and TV plays. He has written and directed 26 documentaries and 6 feature films. Most of them participated in various prestigious film festivals like Cairo IFF, Pusan IFF, Warsaw IFF, Moscow IFF, Thessaloniki IFF, Sao Paolo IFF, Haifa IFF etc. Among them is the feature film "Voice over" which won Best Director Award and FIPRESCI Award at Cairo IFF in 2010. He is also the writer of the debut film "Thirst" which won various awards and was presented at over 60 festivals around the world. His last feature is called "Enemies". Currently he is a professor at the National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts.



United States

BONDING

Showing: Saturday, May 2, 2026 6:30 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Victoria Trofimenko

Screenwriter: Michael Colucci

Producer: Barry Nordstrand, Carmen Nordstrand, Luis Sanchez-Cañete, Victoria Trofimenko

Cast: Jefferson White, David Nordstrand, Alexandra Doke, Tate Donovan, Gloria Reuben

Year: 2026

Language: English

Country: United States

Premiere: Texas

Genre: Thriller, Drama

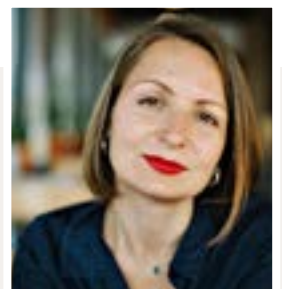
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

Three estranged siblings reunite at a remote Colorado ranch, each hiding a plan that depends on the others. As their agendas collide beneath the influence of a powerful tech billionaire, buried wounds resurface and loyalties fracture. Will family bonds save them—or destroy them?

Victoria Trofimenko

Victoria Trofimenko is a member of the European Film Academy, and a Ukrainian film director, screenwriter, and producer known for emotionally layered, auteur-driven cinema. Her debut feature Brothers. The Final Confession premiered at A-list international festivals and received numerous awards, establishing her voice as one of poetic imagery and psychological depth. She has participated in major European development labs, including the eQuinoxe Europe program and EKRAN+ at Wajda Studio in Poland.





Italy

CLASSMATES (Domani Interrogo)

Showing: Saturday, April 25, 2026 8:00 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Director: Umberto Carteni

Screenwriter: Herbert Simone Paragnani, Gaja Cenciarelli, Umberto Carteni

Producer: Francesco Palazzi, Umberto Carteni

Cast: Anna Ferzetti, Fabio Bizzarro, Zoe Massenti Sofia, Yothin Clavanzani

Year: 2025

Runtime: 96 minutes

Language: Italian

Country: Italy

Subtitle Language: English

VISION DISTRIBUTION

Synopsis:

An English teacher terrified of her students, yet convinced of the fundamental educational value of school, is assigned to a difficult high school.

Her colleagues have given up hope of getting anything out of the last class, the one filled with the most difficult and reluctant students, a hodgepodge of an urban melting pot. Between smoking and broken families, drug dealing and first loves, stories of sex and resignation, the kids throw themselves away day after day, between joints, cell phones, and preconceptions, convinced that life outside of school is only hostile and closed to them. The teacher has three options: run away like her predecessors, ignore them, or enter that unarmed lion's cage.



Consulate General of Italy
Houston



Umberto Carteni

*In 2009, he directed his first feature film, **Diverso da chi?**, which received several David di Donatello and Nastro d'argento nominations and won the Golden Globe for Best First Film. In 2013, he released **Studio legalese**, based on the novel of the same name by Federico Baccom.*



Nigeria

COMING IN THE MORNING

Showing: Sunday, May 3, 2026 3:00 PM



W H E N
F A I T H
M E E T S
L O V E

WORLD PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Biodun Stephen
Screenwriter: BANJI ADESANMI
Producer: BANJI ADESANMI, BIODUN STEPHEN

Year: 2025
Language: English
Country: Nigeria
Premiere: World
Genre: Drama
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:
From the ashes of sorrow to the light of redemption, Coming In The Morning is a stirring tale of love reborn, faith renewed, and miracles that rise when all seems lost.

Biodun Stephen

Biodun Stephen is a Nigerian filmmaker, director, writer, and producer known for emotionally resonant stories across romantic drama and comedy. She studied Philosophy at Obafemi Awolowo University and trained at the London Film Academy. Her debut film The Visit (2015) earned Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards nominations, establishing her as a distinctive Nollywood voice. Her works, including Picture Perfect, Tiwa's Baggage, Sista, and Breaded Life, have received critical acclaim and multiple awards. She is known for crafting authentic, character-driven narratives inspired by real-life experiences and also works as a radio presenter.





CRAWLING CROWS - AANKHA

Showing: Monday, April 27, 2026 7:00 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Director: Zaun Yonzan

Screenwriter: Zaun Yonzan

Cast: RK Mehta, Smita Lamichane, Pashupati Rai

Year: 2024

Runtime: 109 minutes

Language: Nepali

Country: Nepal

Premiere: Texas

Subtitle Language: **English**

Synopsis:

In the slums of Kathmandu, newlyweds Rabindra and Sarita, an inter-caste couple, face a harsh reality. Rabindra, a waste picker with an idealistic outlook on life, struggles to provide for their modest tent home, while Sarita depends on his meager earnings. After an incident where Sarita felt threatened, she soon persuades Rabinda to find a more secure place. So Rabinda and his friend, Sherap, search together while Sarita takes up cleaning to help out. But an accident involving Rabinda's cart changes everything causing him to become gravely ill. With nuanced and a slow-burning narrative, *Crawling Crows* explores, with dignity, the glaring wealth disparity faced by the people at the margins of society of Nepal.

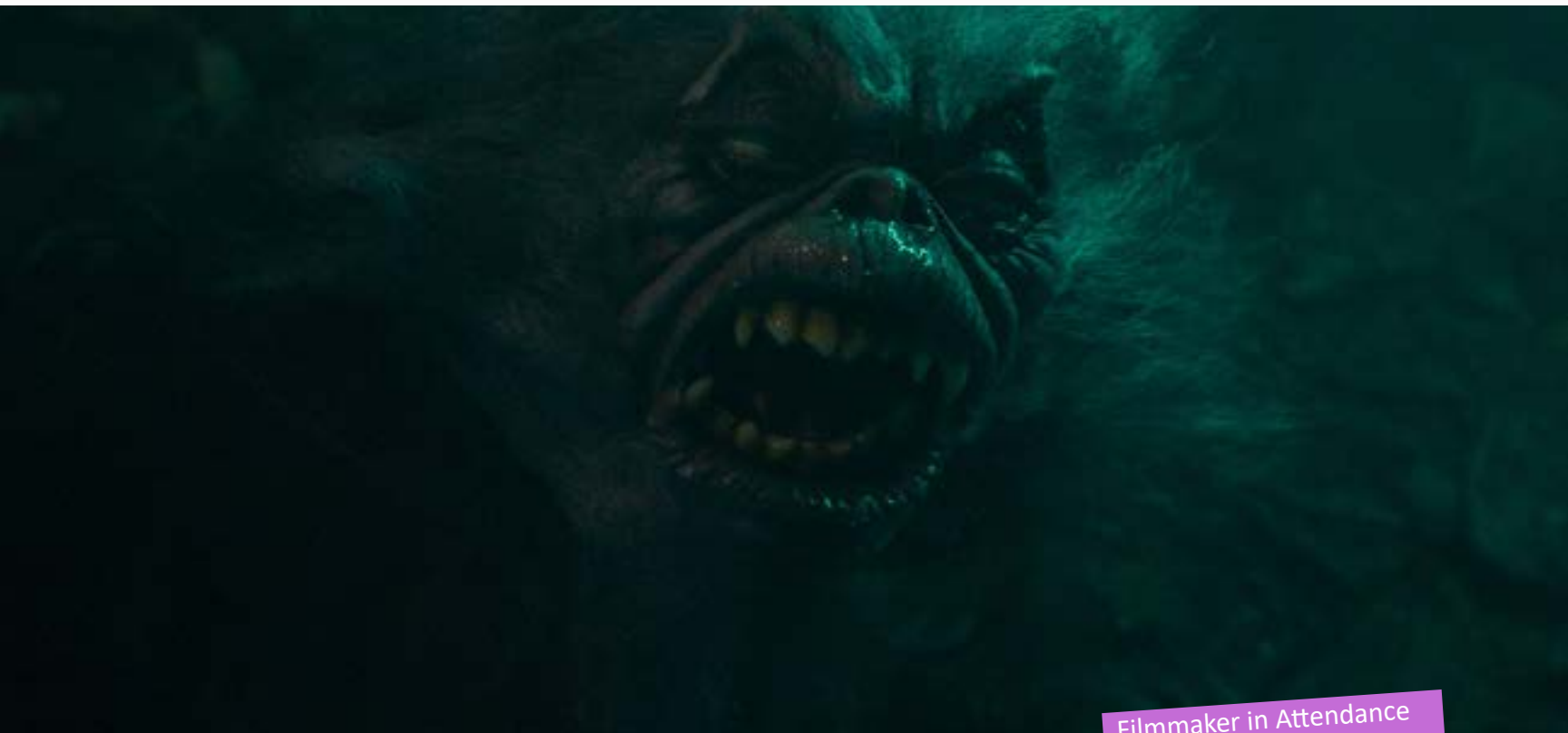


Zaun Yonzan

Zaun Yonzan is a critically acclaimed independent Nepalese filmmaker whose work explores the complexities of Nepalese identity through a deeply personal cinematic lens. His films blend keen observation with emotional depth, evoking themes of regret, catharsis, and human vulnerability while challenging conventional storytelling.

CURSE OF CROM 2

Showing: Friday, May 1, 2026 9:30 PM



Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Rob York

Executive Producer: Jason Faller, Kynan Griffin

Cast: Colin Cunningham, Tanner Gillman, Monica Moore Smith

Year: 2025

Language: English

Country: United States

Genre: Horror, Comedy, Fantasy

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

When an ancient Irish entity abducts Mary Eldritch, her step-dad Greg is forced to team up with the one person that may be able to save his adopted daughter: her deadbeat boyfriend Harvey. As hundreds of slimy monsters run amok, Greg and Harvey have to learn to work together as a monster fighting team before it's too late for everyone.



Rob York

Rob York is a regional Emmy® award-winning editor, who has turned his attention to writing and directing. His 2017 sci-fi feature "Magellan" was called an "impressive debut" by the British Film Institute's "Sight and Sound" magazine. His 2018 short film "Rustlers" received a Special Jury Award at the 51st Worldfest-Houston International festival. "Curse of Crom 1" won several awards including 1st Place Feature at the 23rd Zion's Indie Film Fest and was an official selection at both FilmQuest and HorrorFest International. Rob currently resides near Park City, Utah.



Canada

DANCING ON THE ELEPHANT

Showing: Monday, April 27, 2026 4:00 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Director: Julia Neill, Jacob Z. Smith

Screenwriter: Lisa Hagen

Producer: Tanya Preyde, Walter Forsyth

Cast: Sheila McCarthy, Mary Walsh, Jordan Poole

Cinematographer: Kevin A. Fraser

Editor: Angela Baker

Year: 2025

Language: English

Country: Canada

Premiere: Texas

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

Faced with a future of chair-xercise and spoon-fed pudding, nursing home friends Nora and Edna attempt to break out of the 'fox farm' and find a life worth sticking around for.



Julia Neill, Jacob Z. Smith

Julia Neill is an award-winning director with a wide range of film credits to her name, including Union (Official Selection, 2021 Slamdance Film Festival). Julia has been a longtime editor and post-producer for clients including Discovery, PBS, and Smithsonian.

Jacob Smith is an award-winning filmmaker, former mayor, and former U.S. Senate staffer. His films include Chasing Rabbits and Waking the Sleeping Giant: The Making of a Political Revolution, which is currently in North American and international distribution.





THE DEVIL'S HANDSHAKE

Showing: Monday, April 27, 2026 9:00 PM



NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Andrew F.C. Wall

Screenwriter: Andrew F.C. Wall

Producer: Andrew F.C. Wall, Kathleen Easton

Cast: William A. Wall

Year: 2024

Country: Canada

Premiere: North American

Genre: World War, Nazism, Communism, family secrets, Archives

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

Filmmaker Andrew Wall, who grew up obsessed with the Second World War, confronts a shocking family secret after stumbling upon a local newspaper article from 1938.

Andrew F.C. Wall

Andrew Wall is a Winnipeg director and co-founder of Refuge 31 Films, carving out a reputation for raw, ambitious documentary storytelling. His work blends archival depth, powerful interviews, and cinematic flair across subjects ranging from the Second World War to cultural migrations and modern belief systems. His films — including The Devil's Handshake and Nazis: Threads of Evil — are known for uncovering uncomfortable truths, elevating overlooked histories, and delivering history with emotional punch.

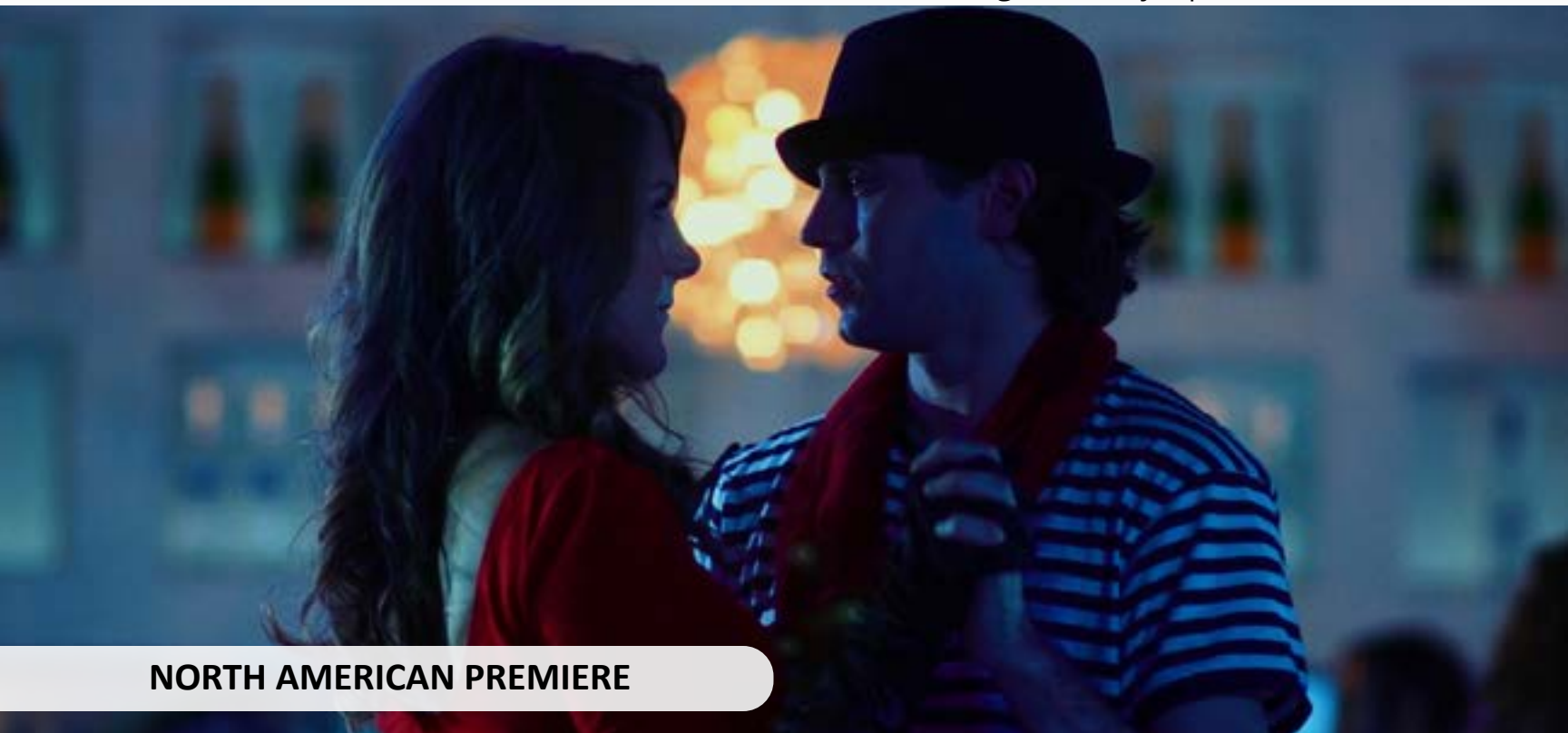




United Kingdom

DIGITALLY YOU

Showing: Thursday, April 30, 2026 6:30 PM



NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Director: Stefan Fairlamb

Screenwriter: Stefan Fairlamb

Producer: Stefan Fairlamb

Cast: Ashley Tabatabai, Danielle Bjelic

Year: 2025

Language: English

Country: United Kingdom

Premiere: North American

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

Jean dreamed of being an actress but things have not gone to plan, she is not exactly where she thought she would be by this point. When her isolation increases as her long term relationship with James stalls, she spends more and more time online. One evening when a pop-up invites her to discover 'The Digital You' Jean is led to a virtual social network world. When she meets Charlie, an artist, she realises she can be who she wants to be, she can be Scarlett, the talented actress she knew she always should have been. Charles may present himself as an artist but really he has retreated into a digital fantasy long ago. In the real world he has sabotaged his relationships while his digital self can be who he wants to be and explore new relationships without commitments or consequences.

As they form a connection through their digital avatars they retreat more into these digital identities. When Jean, as her avatar Scarlett, asks to contact Charlie in the real world a chain of events is set in motion where the two of them must face the boundaries of their real and digital selves. They must find out for themselves who they really are, who they actually want to be and just exactly who and what the digital you really is...



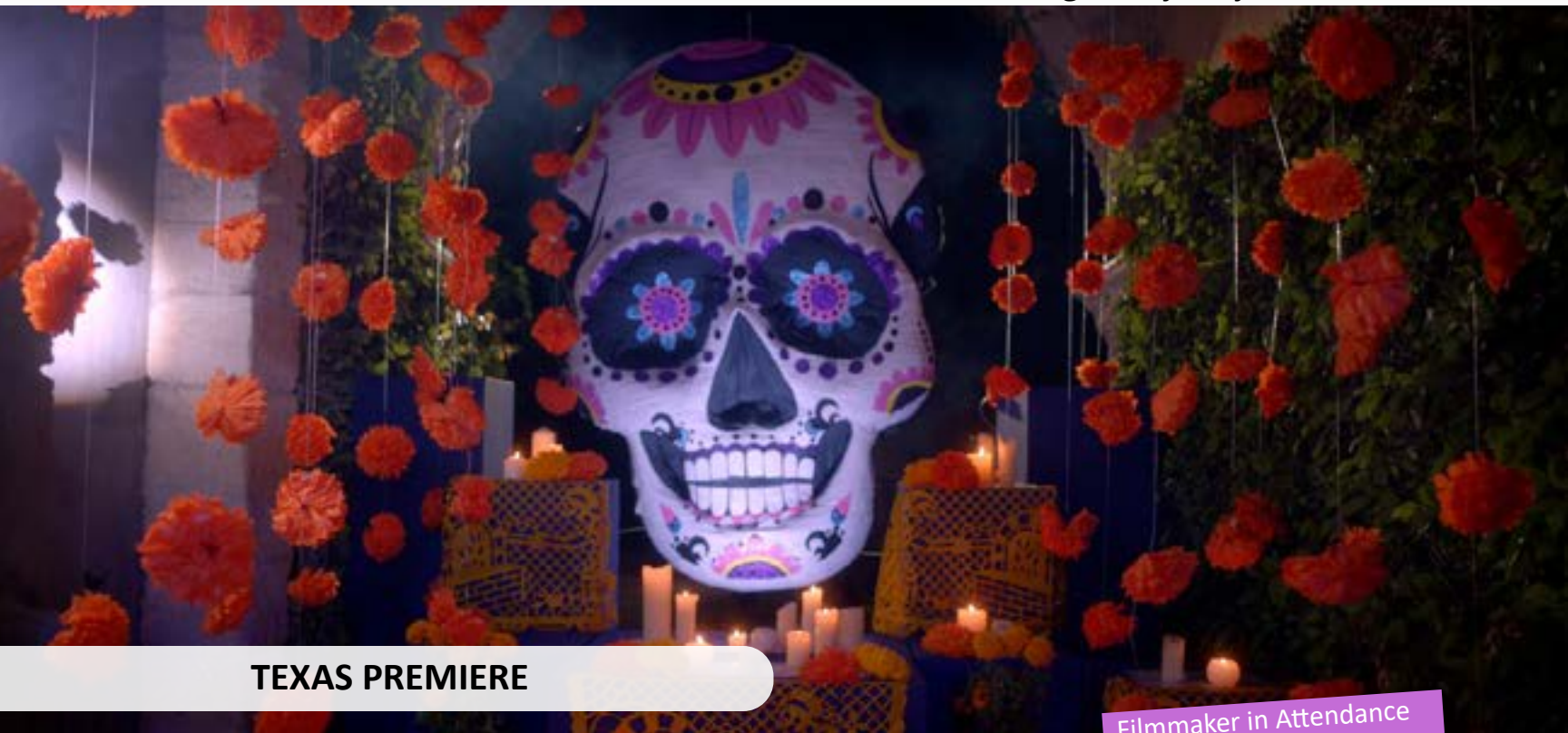
Stefan Fairlamb

Stefan Fairlamb is a British filmmaker based in Yorkshire & the North East of England. Stefan began his career editing numerous short films and working as assistant editor on the feature film 'Son of Babylon' (2009), which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and received awards at Berlinale. Stefan then moved onto working as an editor (and sometimes documentary cinematographer) on award-winning short films, features and documentary series. Most recently he has continued with his editing work on projects such as the Amazon Exclusive Series 'Take Us Home: Leeds United' (2019-20).



DISDAIN (EL DESAIRE)

Showing: Friday, May 1, 2026 7:00 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Gabo Ramos
Screenwriter: Gabo Ramos
Producer: Gabo Ramos
Cast: Vico Escorcia, Joshua Okamoto

Year: 2025
Language: Spanish
Country: Mexico
Premiere: Texas
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:
A beautiful college student supports her family by selling flowers, but her looks attract unwanted attention. Between her jealous boyfriend and a persistent customer's advances, her life takes a dark turn.

Gabo Ramos

With more than 25 years of experience in the film industry, Gabo Ramos is one of the most recognized directors in northeastern Mexico. He has directed and edited films, television series and music videos with excellent results.



THE FAMILY MATTER

Showing: Sunday, April 26, 2026 7:00 PM



Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Metin Kuru

Screenwriter: Metin Kuru

Producer: Metin Kuru

Cast: Halil Ergün, Ayşen İnci, Hilmi Özçelik, Ufuk Kaplan, Burak Sarımola, Demet Erdem

Year: 2025

Language: Turkish

Country: Turkey

Genre: Family, Drama

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

The movie 'Family Matter' focuses on the communication problems between two white-collar brothers and their parents. It deals with the consequences of the preference of video calls to face-to-face meetings brought to our daily lives by technological possibilities, and the process of this preference leading to the disinformation of family structure, internal communication of family members and social values.



Metin Kuru

Metin Kuru, born in 1987, started his cinema career as an editor and continues as a producer and director. Metin Kuru completed his first feature film in 2019. Since then, he has produced five films, co-produced four, directed six, worked as a cinematographer on five, and written the screenplay for four. Additionally, he is the author of the novels 'We'll Meet in Heaven', 'The Instinct of Happiness', 'Flowers of the Heaven' and 'Day the Man Ended'. With his own style, Metin Kuru continues to direct and produced many projects.



THE FIRE IN OUR HEARTS

Showing: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 4:00 PM



INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Josias Tschanz
Screenwriter: Josias Tschanz
Producer: Josias Tschanz
Executive Producer: Guido Baechler, Marcel Baechler, Angelika Posselt, Klaus Posselt
Co-Producer: Cindy Shelford
Cast: Stewart Alcock, Cole Bender, Brad Blackwel
Cinematographer: Josias Tschanz
Animator: Joseph Schweers
Sound Design: Humberto Corte

Runtime: 93 minutes
Country: Canada
Premiere: International
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

On British Columbia's remote Southside, wildfire is not an abstract threat—it is a lived reality. As flames close in on a frontier community, the Cheslatta Carrier Nation and their neighbours face an impossible choice: evacuate, or stay to protect the land that defines them. With limited access and little outside support, the community responds collectively, drawing on Indigenous leadership, cooperation, and generations of knowledge to confront the fire in near isolation. In the aftermath, the burn reveals a long-erased Cheslatta village site, resurfacing a suppressed history just as their response gains wider attention as a model for resilience. But when the flames recede, new constraints emerge—raising questions about the limits of community-led action, and the fragile balance between survival, autonomy, and authority.

Josias Tschanz

*Josias Tschanz is a Swiss-Canadian director and producer based in Vancouver. A graduate of the University of British Columbia with a degree in Film & Theatre, he has built an international career spanning feature films, television series, and documentaries shot across Japan, Argentina, India, Europe, and North America. His work has been broadcast on CBC, IFC, WDR, Netflix, and SKY, and screened at festivals internationally. His debut feature *Neutral Territory* received critical attention and was presented in New York as part of the New York Film Festival. His international breakthrough came with a television series produced for WDR (Westdeutscher Rundfunk).*





United States

FORSYTHIAN DWELLERS CLUB

Showing: Thursday, April 30, 2026 7:00 PM



WORLD PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Mary Lumley

Screenwriter: Alex Fortune

Cast: Beck Nolan, Hope Orange, David Stobbe, Emilie Rose Danno, Henry Weisel, Danny Tramontana, Lacieanne Carriere

Year: 2025

Language: English

Country: United States

Premiere: World

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

Forsythian Dwellers Club is a surreal, genre-blurring indie film following four young creatives who run a DIY magazine. When they consult an enigmatic brand expert to help stay afloat, their hopes and visions of the future are tested. Forced to confront their differing beliefs and shared ethos during the meeting, egos clash sending them down an unexpected expedition of self, belonging, and expansion. As the founders of FDC find themselves spiraling through phases of potential — from artists to content creators, to moguls, to cult leaders — they struggle for control... eventually transforming into something beyond their wildest imagination. Blending theatrical absurdism with digital-age satire, FDC examines what it means to make something genuine in a world that blurs authenticity and spectacle. It's a story about what happens when friendship, ambition, and individuality collide in a culture obsessed with conquest.

Adapted from a stage play first produced in 2018, this film was shot on an ultra-low budget in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by a team of emerging artists committed to building something innovative and thoughtful.



Mary Lumley

Mary Elizabeth Lumley is an independent filmmaker, producer, and director known for her upcoming feature film, *Forsythian Dwellers Club*. Lumley's work often blends witty and surrealist elements with social commentary. Her debut feature, *Forsythian Dwellers Club*, is a narrative exploration of the pressures on young artists and how modern society links personal self-worth with commercial success.

HOUSEKEEPER

Showing: Sunday, April 26, 2026 9:00 PM



INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Woosik Jeong
Screenwriter: Seol Han
Producer: Gyuone Park
Cast: Sangjeong Yun, Naeon Kang, Youngnam Jang

Year: 2025
Language: Korean
Country: South Korea
Premiere: International
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:
Sangmi and Mijin, who grew up together like family in the same orphanage, now live together as nurses—thanks largely to Mijin, who was always more self-reliant and helped guide Sangmi through life. When their alternating shifts make it hard to keep the house tidy, they decide to hire Hyeonnam, a housekeeper old enough to be their mother. Soon, their perfect housekeeper starts to become a wedge between the two young women and a series of events leads to the revelations of great secrets.



Woosik Jeong

*B.A in Industrial Engineering, Korea University
2017-2018 Assistant Director, MBC
2019-2025 Producer, Studio Dragon*



United States

KALEIDOSCOPE CHILD

Showing: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 6:30 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Michael Patrick McKinley
Screenwriter: Michael Patrick McKinley, Denton Adkinson
Producer: Michael Patrick McKinley
Cast: David Ault

Year: 2025
Language: English
Country: United States
Premiere: Texas
Genre: Documentary
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

From Soap Operas to Siem Reap...
Kaleidoscope Child follows David Ault, a former actor and singer turned spiritual teacher and global humanitarian, as he cultivates schools and communities in Cambodia, India, and Guatemala. A longtime friend and collaborator of the late Louise Hay, David carries forward the essence of her teachings — demonstrating how love in action can transform lives and communities.

Directed by Michael Patrick McKinley, David’s personal journey unfolds and then weaves with intimate portraits of the students, teachers, and volunteers into a tapestry of resilience and hope. As David begins the delicate process of succession, the film becomes more than a chronicle of impact — it becomes a love letter to legacy, and an invitation to all who dare to say, “I’m available” on the path of building a better world.



Michael Patrick McKinley

An Artist by birth, an Interior Designer by education, and a Filmmaker by desire, Michael Patrick McKinley wants to tell the kind of stories that uplift and inspire. His first film, 2017’s HAPPY, enjoyed a celebrated festival run, touching hearts wherever it went, earning a clutch of lovely awards along the way, including the Sydney K. Shapiro Humanitarian award at Phoenix Film Festival.

A native of California’s Central Coast, Mckinley has called Wisconsin home for the last 35 years. Kaleidoscope Child is his 2nd documentary feature.



India

KODUWA THE NIGHTBIRD

Showing: Friday, May 1, 2026 7:30 PM



WORLD PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Bidyut Kotoky
Producer: NFDC, India, red river & blue hills pvt ltd
Cast: Gunomoni Boruah, Pranjali Saikia

Year: 2025
Language: Assamese
Country: India
Premiere: World
Genre: Drama, comedy, social commentary
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:
"Koduwa the Nightbird" is a captivating tale of morality and salvation, based on a true story and produced by India's NFDC and Director Bidyut Kotoky. Koduwa is the village thief known for his cunning and wit, and the film tells his story with humor and poignancy, elements of magical realism and traditional Assamese folk wisdom, delighting viewers with its moral ambiguities and candid contradictions.

As Koduwa encounters love, betrayal, and prejudice in an era of social unrest, viewers enter a world where the line between right and wrong is blurred. As his village grows, and Koduwa faces mounting challenges, from the rejection of his family to the threat of losing his ancestral land, the film confronts themes of identity, legacy, and the enduring power of honor. "Koduwa the Nightbird" is a poignant exploration of the human spirit, a timeless tale of resilience and redemption.

Bidyut Kotoky



Bidyut Kotoky, Writer/Director/Dreamer, who makes films to live those dreams... Born in Assam, Bidyut decided early in life to become a filmmaker. For stories he never had to look further than his magical homeland, making over 100 short films to bring the sights, smells and tastes of the Northeast of India to the world.



Islamic Republic of Iran

LARISSA

Showing: Thursday, April 30, 2026 4:00 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Alireza Shah Hosseini
Screenwriter: Alireza Shah Hosseini
Producer: Nazanin Nematollahi

Year: 2025
Language: Persian
Country: Iran, Islamic Republic of
Premiere: Texas
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

LARISSA tells the story of a young Afghan refugee girl sold—along with her family—to a powerful landowner, Davood Kan, in Iran. Forced into backbreaking work alongside dozens of undocumented migrants, Larissa’s intelligence and beauty draw the landowner’s attention. Pulled from the fields, she is promised protection and privilege — but at a devastating cost. When she resists his escalating abuse, the illusion of safety shatters. What begins as a quiet attempt to endure becomes a perilous struggle for dignity. Told through a raw and intimate lens, LARISSA is not just the story of one girl but a reflection of countless hidden lives. It confronts the exploitation, silence, and systemic violence faced by Afghan refugees in Iran and other countries, while honoring the resilience of those who refuse to be erased.



Alireza Shah Hosseini

Alireza Shah Hosseini is an Iranian filmmaker, screenwriter, and director based in Iran. His filmmaking journey began at the age of 15 through documentary and docu-fiction works. With over a decade of professional experience in film and television, he founded Shah Hosseini Film Company, which has emerged as one of the distinctive voices of the new wave of Iranian cinema.



Italy

Showing: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 9:00 PM

LOVE IN SEPARATE BEDS (2 Cuori E 2 Capanne)

A MOVIE BY
MASSIMILIANO BRUNO



BENEDICTA TRIBI FRANCISCA ALATI MARCO BRUNO
FEDERICA LUCISANO ALESSIA PANDOLFI FRANCISCA FIGIS
GIULIA MEL JENESA ALEPH WOLA BETTI PEDRATI
CLAUDIA CRESCENTINI VALERIO LONDINO GABRIELE SIVESTRI
MILIO TO PANDOLFI GIAN MARCO TOGNAZZI ANDRÈ GIORGIO COLANICCI
STORY AND SCREENPLAY BY MASSIMILIANO BRUNO ANDREA BASSI
DAMIANO BRUÈ LISA RICCARDI
CINEMATOGRAFIA MARCO BASSANO EDITOR LUCIANA PANDOLFELLI
PRODUCTION DESIGN SONIA PENG COMPOSER ROBERTO PROCACCINI

TEXAS PREMIERE

Director: Massimiliano Bruno
Screenwriter: Massimiliano Bruno, Andrea Bassi, Damiano Bruè, Lisa Riccardi
Producer: Fulvio Lucisano, Federica Lucisano
Cast: Edoardo Leo, Claudia Pandolfi, Gianmarco Tognazzi
Cinematographer: Marco Bassano
Editor: Luciana Pandolfelli
Production Design: Sonia Peng
Composer: Roberto Procaccini

Year: 2026
Language: Italian
Country: Italy
Premiere: Texas
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:
She hates men, he hates complications - but after one passionate night ties them together, these two irreconcilable opposites are forced to coexist... working at the same school, with a baby on the way! Can a staunch feminist and an oblivious chauvinist find common ground?



Massimiliano Bruno

Massimiliano Bruno is an acclaimed Italian director, screenwriter, and actor known for his sharp social comedies. He rose to prominence as a screenwriter with the 2006 hit *Notte prima degli esami* before making a successful directorial debut with *Nessuno mi può giudicare* (2011), winning the Nastro d'Argento for Best Comedy. His filmography includes popular titles like *Viva l'Italia* and the *Non ci resta che il crimine* trilogy. A versatile artist, Bruno frequently appears in television series like *Boris* and remains deeply active in the Roman theatre scene as a playwright and performer.





South Korea

MISSION: THE BIRTHDAY INVITATION Showing: Friday, May 1, 2026 4:00 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Director: Nakyung Kim
Screenwriter: Yoojeong Shin
Producer: Minji Youn
Cast: Seongwoo Jeon, Jin Joo Park

Year: 2025
Language: Korean
Country: South Korea
Premiere: Texas
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

They say fate always finds a way to bring old enemies together — not on a battlefield, but outside a kindergarten.

Five years ago, Ki-jun was a demanding boss who blamed Hee-jin — a single mother juggling work and parenting — for not meeting his impossible standards. Five years later, fate reunites them — not at the office, but at the kindergarten gate, as the mother of the boy whose birthday invitation his daughter is desperate to earn.

Once the intimidating superior, Ki-jun is now a humbled single dad, finding himself at the mercy of Hee-jin’s parenting world. His clumsy attempts to balance work, pride, and fatherhood turn every encounter into a mix of comedy and quiet heartbreak.

Hee-jin, once terrified of him, now helps him out of genuine empathy. Though she once swore to get even, she slowly learns to forgive — and Ki-jun, in turn, finally understands the life she once struggled to survive, the one he never cared to see back at the office.



Nakyung Kim

Education & Career

Studied Broadcasting & Visual Communication at Ewha Womans University (Seoul).
Currently working at Studio Dragon as a Drama Producer since 2017

Filmography

2023 Netflix · Song of the Bandits — Main Producer
2024 tvN · Captivating the King — Main Producer
2024 tvN · My Trouble-Maker Mom — Director
— Gold Award, 58th WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival
2025 tvN · Mission: The Birthday Invitation — Director

NETWORK (Retrospective)

Showing: Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 7:00 PM



RETROSPECTIVE

Director: Sidney Lumet
Producer: Howard Gottfried
Writer: Paddy Chayefsky
Cinematographer: Owen Roizman
Cast: Faye Dunaway, William Holden, Peter Finch, Robert Duvall, Beatrice Straight, Ned Beatty

Runtime: 121minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Dark Comedy

Synopsis:

A television network cynically exploits a deranged former anchor's ravings and revelations about mass media for its own profit, but finds that his message may be difficult to control.

Post-screening Talk Back with Film Critic Joe Leydon of Variety and Cowboys & Indians Magazine for the 50th anniversary of NETWORK

Sidney Lumet

Sidney Lumet was a prolific American director, producer, and screenwriter, renowned for his mastery of the "actor's medium" and his gritty, socially conscious storytelling. With a career of five decades, he earned five Academy Award nominations for directing classics such as Angry Men, Dog Day Afternoon, Network, & The Verdict. Lumet was known for his incisive filmmaking and deep New York City roots, which often explored themes of justice, corruption, and the human condition. In 2005, he received an Honorary Academy Award for his brilliant services to screenwriters, performers, and the art of the motion picture.





United States

ON BORROWED TIME

Showing: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 7:00 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Paul Andrew Perez
Screenwriter: Paul Andrew Perez
Producer: Paul Andrew Perez
Cast: Paul Andrew Perez

Year: 2025
Language: English
Country: United States
Premiere: Texas
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

Marty Becker is an overweight medical student from Louisville, KY who travels to San Francisco to research hospitals to intern after medical school. While there, he meets another medical student from Louisville, Emily, in a twist of fate. Thinking the confrontation was “meant to be”, Marty is heartbroken because of, he thinks, his appearance. Three years later and morphed into a different person, Marty runs into Emily again. This time she doesn’t recognize him at all. Using this to his advantage and not revealing who he is, Marty embarks on a journey of revenge to win back his confidence, only to find he’s on a journey to self discovery



Paul Andrew Perez

Paul Perez is a Steadicam, Ronin operator and editor in Louisville, KY. Growing up in an all medical field family, Paul struck interest in Steadicam as a kid after watching a 1983 PBS special on the inventor of the Steadicam, Garrett Brown and the making of THE SHINING and Garrett shooting footage of Redwood Forest for THE RETURN OF THE JEDI high speeder scooter chase scene. After pursuing filmmaking at Trinity High School, WKU and Full Sail University, where he wrote ON BORROWED TIME as a short film and was encouraged by his screenwriting professor to make it into a feature and gain and lose the weight himself.

ONE STUPID THING

Showing: Friday, May 1, 2026 9:00 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Director: Linda Yellen

Screenwriter: Linda Yellen, Michael Leeds

Producer: Todd Traina

Cast: Corey Fogelmanis, Sky Katz, Shelby Simmons, Jack Wright, Alfredo Narciso, Siobahn Fallon

Year: 2025

Language: English

Country: United States

Premiere: Texas

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

Winter on Nantucket Island. Three teenage best friends drink champagne on a rooftop. Everything's chill until a harmless game takes a fatal turn, and the course of their lives changes forever. They keep what they did a secret until the following winter break when they meet a girl with her own dark past who helps them uncover what really happened that night. In this psychological drama/murder mystery, their relationship is tested amidst their guilt and shame.

Linda Yellen

Linda Yellen is a director, writer, and producer best known for her work in television and independent film. She created her first film at 17, a 10-minute short entitled "Prospera", during her sophomore year at Barnard College, which won third prize in the New York Film Festival (after George Lucas and Martin Scorsese). She has been going strong ever since.





Australia

PASA FAHO

Showing: Monday, April 27, 2026 6:30 PM



Director: Kalu Oji
Screenwriter: Kalu Oji
Producer: Ivy Mutuku, Mimo Mukii
Cast: Okey Bakassi, Tyson Palmer

Year: 2024
Language: English
Country: Australia
Genre: Comedy-Drama
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

When Azubuike’s 12-year-old son moves in with him, the struggling shoe salesman finds himself balancing fatherhood and the slow collapse of his small shop. As the pair navigate their estrangement, the unspoken becomes a language of its own; one shaped by pride, duty, and the quiet weight of expectation. With the future of both the shop and their relationship hanging in the balance, father and son must find a way to bridge the distance between one another.



Kalu Oji

Kalu Oji is a filmmaker, writer, and visual artist, firmly established as one of Australia’s new generation of filmmakers.

Graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2018 with a BFA in in Film and TV, his graduate film, ‘Blackwood’, received international acclaim; screening at festivals such as Palm Springs Short-fest and the BFI London Film Festival, and picking up awards such as the Filmmaker To Watch Award (Atlanta Film Festival), Luggi Waldleitner Award for Best Screenplay (Filmschoolfest Munich), and Best Cinematography (Flickerfest).

SHAMBHALA STORY

Showing: Sunday, April 26, 2026 6:30 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Director: Toshio Sekine

Screenwriter: Tamaki Fujiwara, Toshio Sekine

Producer: Tamaki Fujiwara, Hitoshi Yoshikawa

Executive Producer: Hirai Hideki, Hideko Takeshima, Junko Fukazawa, Mamoru Hara, Tsuna Kazami, Toshio Sekine

Cast: Mo Tzu-Yi, Rina Takeda, Shōhei Hino

Cinematographer: Hiroyuki Fukuda

Editor: Ayaka Yamamoto, Keichiro Niwano

Year: 2025

Runtime: 108 minutes

Language: English, Japanese, Tibetan

Country: Japan, United States

Premiere: Texas

Genre: drama

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

In the Himalayan foothills town of Darjeeling, India, a devout Tibetan Buddhist monk named Tashi is sent to Japan to continue his spiritual training. There, he meets a cantankerous elderly man and his parolee granddaughter, Emi. As Tashi grows closer to them, the distance between the lonely Emi and Tashi begins to shrink, and forbidden feelings start to emerge between them.

Toshio Sekine



Born in Misawa, Aomori, and currently residing in Tokyo, my passion for filmmaking began in my teens after being inspired by the works of Godard and Truffaut. I started my career as an assistant to a fashion photographer and later studied screenwriting under Yoji Yamada. Following that, I worked as an assistant director on numerous films while also writing scripts for many TV dramas and films.



United States

SUM FUNCTION

Showing: Friday, May 1, 2026 6:30 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Noah Currier
Producer: Noah Currier

Year: 2025
Language: English
Country: United States
Premiere: Texas
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

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 hard-hitting story unravels into something far less predictable than the scoreboard — and proves that the human spirit never takes a seat.



Noah Currier

Noah Currier is a Marine Corps veteran, quadriplegic, and first-time filmmaker whose life and work have been defined by an unrelenting refusal to quit. Just three days after returning home from combat, and at only 21 years of age, a car accident left him paralyzed from the neck down. Refusing to accept a life on the sidelines, Noah founded the Oscar Mike Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to keeping injured veterans on the move through adaptive sports and community. Under his leadership, Oscar Mike has grown into a national movement that has — and will continue to — change lives for veterans and others living with disabilities.

THE LEGEND OF JUAN JOSE MUNDO

Showing: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 7:00 PM



Director: Michael Walker
Screenwriter: Susan Gomes, Michael Walker
Producer: Alfred Sapse, Michael Goodin
Executive Producer: Jeremy Garelick, Will Phelps, Axelle Azoulay
Cast: Alexandro Byrd, Anna Mirodin, Hannah Kepple
Editor: David Leonard
Music: Peter Davis

Year: 2025

Language: English, Spanish

Country: United States

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Coming of Age

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

Set in suburban NY in 1984. Julie Gornick hosts a charismatic, larger than life Spanish exchange student. As he starts hooking up with the girls in her class, Julie falls in love with him. Or what she thinks is love.



Michael Walker

Michael Walker is an independent filmmaker living in New York City. He has directed several award winning films including *PRICE CHECK*, with Parker Posey (Sundance) and *CHASING SLEEP* with Jeff Daniels (Toronto). His film, *PAINT*, starring Olivia Luccardi and Josh Caras, won Best Film at *Dances with Films* in 2022.

Michael Walker graduated from NYU, Tisch School of the Arts, and Stella Adler Conservatory for Acting in Los Angeles. He lives in New York City.



China

THE LITTLE RING

Showing: Thursday, April 30, 2026 9:00 PM



NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: Chakme Rinpoche
Screenwriter: JianQiang Liu
Producer: QianYa Xu
Cast: QiWei Lu, Zhen Li

Year: 2025
Language: Chinese
Country: China
Premiere: North American
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

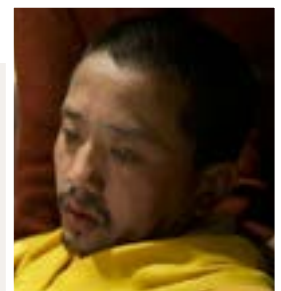
“The Little Ring” is inspired by the true story of a young Tibetan girl and two city-dwelling youths. In the film, the protagonists are portrayed as professionals in Shanghai’s contemporary art world, making The Little Ring a cinematic showcase of more than a dozen remarkable contemporary artworks. This approach elevates the film itself into a form of contemporary art exploration. In a way, the curatorial process parallels the male protagonist’s personal growth—the methodology of selecting, recontextualizing, and presenting artworks mirrors his own journey of self-reflection, inner integration, and spiritual evolution.

The film not only highlights works by celebrated contemporary artists but also presents centuries-old Tibetan devotional art, deeply woven into the fabric of everyday life. Both the contemporary pieces and traditional intangible cultural heritage works encapsulate their creators’ philosophical insights and acute observations on life and society. It is worth noting that the Sanskrit title of the film, “ādarśa,” resonates with its deeper themes—interrogating the dynamics between reality and reflection, self and other. By delving into such dualities as “truth and falsehood,” “good and evil,” and “self and others”—while also transcending these very oppositions—the film invites viewers to engage with the world through a broader, more discerning wisdom.

Chakme Rinpoche

Chakme Rinpoche is a Chinese Tibetan director. Rinpoche is a Tibetan language honorific bestowed upon a reincarnated lama to honour his achievement.

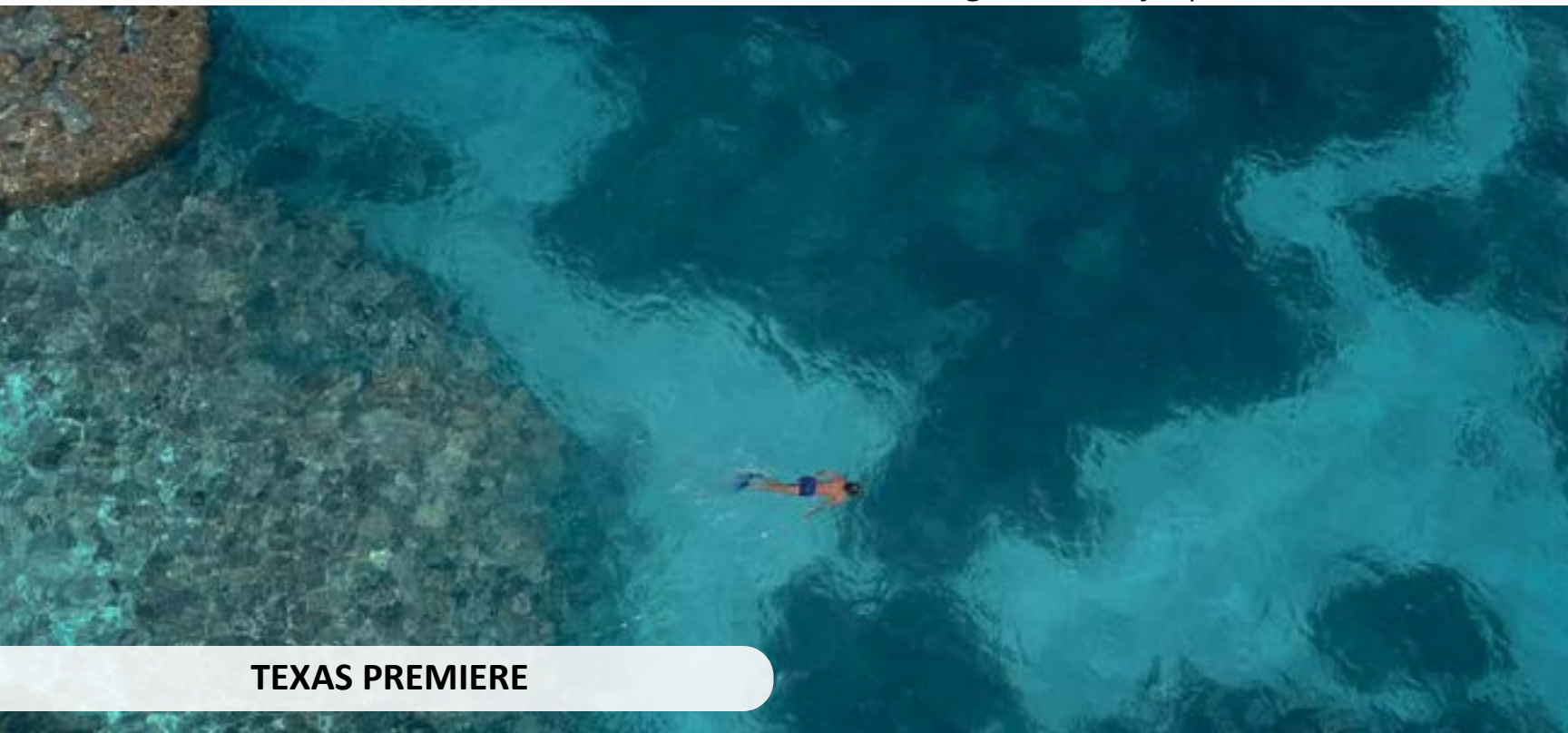
Chakme Rinpoche was born in the Tibetan countryside in 1975. When he was a child, he was a herdsman, riding horses and raising dogs in order to herd cattle and sheep on the pastures. After he was certified as the ninth generation reincarnation of Chakme Rinpoche at the age of nine, he studied Buddhism, Tibetan culture, Buddhist King Kong dance, and Tibetan painting in Tibetan Buddhist temples.





TURTLE WALKER

Showing: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 4:00 PM



TEXAS PREMIERE

Director: Taira Malaney

Year: 2024

Runtime: 75 minutes

Language: English

Country: India

Premiere: Texas

Genre: Environment, Human Interest, Conservation

Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:

In the 1970s, Satish Bhaskar became a turtle walker: He walked nearly the entire coastline of India and the spectacular Andaman and Nicobar Islands in search of sea turtles. Carrying a camera and a notepad, he documented turtles' nesting areas and tried to save them from extinction. Then the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami struck, putting all his work and the creatures he loved in peril.

Taira Malaney

Taira is a writer, director, and producer from Goa, India. An Explorers Club 50 2023 honoree, she tells deeply moving, character-driven stories that explore the relationships between people and the natural world. Her films are developed alongside impact campaigns to address the social justice and environmental issues central to the films she creates. Taira received her B.A. in Psychology in 2013 from Occidental College, where her focus was on fostering empathy in youth. Since graduating, she has incorporated what she's learned into the several award-winning short films that she has written and directed. Her directorial debut, Turtle Walker, just had its World Premiere at DOC NYC in November 2024.





Philippines

UNMARRY

Showing: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 6:30 PM



Director: Jeffrey Jeturian
Screenwriter: Chris Martinez, Therese Cayaba
Producer: Patricia Sumagui
Executive Producer: Joji Alonso, Luzviminda Bernardo, Gilmer Roque
Cast: Angelica Panganiban, Zanjoe Marudo, Eugene Domingo
Cinematographer: Kara Moreno
Editor: Benjo Ferrer
Production Design: Angel Diesta

Year: 2025
Runtime: 130 minutes
Language: Tagalog
Country: Philippines
Subtitle Language: English

Synopsis:
 In the middle of annulment cases and custody battles, Celine and Ivan meet at the law office of a lawyer and YouTube host of “Walang Butas Ang Batas”. What begins as a chance encounter grows into a friendship that helps them navigate heartbreak, family, and the possibility of starting over.



Jeffrey Jeturian

Jeffrey Jeturian is an acclaimed Filipino filmmaker and television director who recently won Best Director at the 51st Metro Manila Film Festival (2025) for his work on Unmarry. He is widely regarded for his mastery of social realism and his ability to infuse grounded dramas with sharp cultural commentary. Jeturian's career spans over three decades, during which he has become known for his "low-key" but powerful storytelling style. His films often focus on the struggles of the working class and the complexities of Filipino societal structures.



Showing: Thursday, April 30, 2026 9:30 PM

WAREHOUSE...ONE STEP AWAY FROM A BAD FOREVER



WORLD PREMIERE

Filmmaker in Attendance

Director: J Darin Wales
Producers: Stuart Lachlan Bennett, J Darin Wales
Screenwriters: J Darin Wales
Cinematographer: Micah Johnson
Editor: Jonathan C. Hout
Cast: ARTIE--Travlyn Pantana, BOO--Reina Ozbay, BELL--Audrey Deitz, PAUL--Jamie Day, DAX--Thomas Scott, MALLORY--Erica Jo Cartrett
Production Design: Emily Beaulieu,
Costume Design: Beth Passburg

Synopsis:
A young man's first night at a warehouse job spirals into a supernatural test of character, as the building reveals itself to be a place where no one escapes the pain their deepest flaws

Year: 2026
Runtime: 101minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Mystery, Adventure, Thriller

J Darin Wales

J Darin Wales is an award-winning editor, director, and screenwriter whose work includes episodic television for Discovery Channel and Nat Geo. He writes comedy, romantic comedy, and historical drama, often centered on strong female characters. His script The Witch of Pungo has been recognized by the Nashville, Richmond, Austin, and Final Draft Big Break competitions. He won the 2010 Virginia Filmmaker Award for his short PLiNK and holds an MFA from Queens University of Charlotte. Darin teaches film production, directing, and screenwriting at Liberty University and lives in Lynchburg, Virginia—though he proudly misses his homeland of Texas.





SHORT FILMS PROGRAM

Short films have long been the first calling card of new filmmakers, learning tools for students and an outlet for artists staying creative between larger projects. Short films like Steven Spielberg’s “Amblin” and George Lucas’s “THX 1138” garnered first awards (handed to them by our founder, Hunter Todd, at WorldFest Houston!) and launched legendary careers. Today, short films have evolved beyond rarely seen videos that populate filmmaker’s demo reels and unreleased proofs of concept for feature films and TV pilots. Thanks to the rapid growth in streaming platforms and changes in how today’s generations consume entertainment, shorts are a huge part of a blossoming market that finally truly recognizes the value of this unique art form.

While features have plenty of time for their stories and characters to develop and breathe, short films must manage to create compelling stories and characters that unfold in under an hour, often under ten minutes. This takes incredible story-telling talent, as evidenced by this year’s slate of amazing selections. From heart-pounding thrillers to heart-string-tugging, bring the tissues dramas and laugh out loud comedies, we’re willing to bet the next great filmmakers can be found among those we’ve selected for the 2025 WorldFest Shorts Program.

Taz Diaz and Lauren Calderson, Shorts Co-programmers

113 Words for You Today

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:30 PM

China, Taiwan, United States

Director: Bo Qing Tang, Lan Zeng
Screenwriter: Bo Qing Tang
Producer: Bo Qing Tang

Year: 2025
Runtime: 13 minutes
Language: English
Country: China, Taiwan, United States
Genre: Sci-Fi, Drama, romance

SYNOPSIS:

A team of workers is sent to planet Gliese 12b to build a gravitational portal. To conserve energy for survival on the frozen planet, each worker is allowed to speak only 113 words per day.



13 Seconds

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Matthew Ferraro
Screenwriter: Matthew Ferraro
Producer: John Osborne, Ramy Katrib

waiters, stockbrokers, lawyers, office workers, husbands and wives, the documentary follows their harrowing experiences and shows how they survived the trauma of such a tragic event. It is the collective voice of hundreds of New Yorkers, a very real, emotional and powerful exploration into the resiliency of the human spirit.

SYNOPSIS:

“13 Seconds” is a short documentary film that uses animation, live action, and a vocal mosaic of literally hundreds of recorded testimonials never heard before from people who were in and around Ground Zero that fateful day of 9/11. From Police and Firemen to family members of the victims,

Year: 2026
Runtime: 14 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Documentary



A Bridge in the Mist

Showing: Wed, Apr 29 at 7:30 PM

Taiwan

Director: Hsueh-Bin Chieh
Cast: Gaki Baunay, Ting-Li Lin

unwilling to see her brother taken as a pawn, his adopted daughter Loba Watan stepped forward. She volunteered to go to the Japanese forces herself, offering her life as the price for reconciliation.

SYNOPSIS:

In 1907, after eight years of conflict with the Japanese army, Watan Syat, the leader of the Tayal Topa community, decided to send his son as a hostage in exchange for peace and the hope that his people could return to their homeland. Moved by compassion and

Year: 2025
Runtime: 28 minutes
Country: Taiwan



A Flower on Concrete

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 4:00 PM

South Korea

Director: Jeongho Kim
Producer: Jeongho Kim

the cracks in the concrete. She feels an odd connection to it.

SYNOPSIS:

Under the blazing sun, a lone flower dares to bloom between the cracks in the concrete. Yoobin (38) has just wrapped up her red carpet event at the Evergreen International Film Festival. Wandering the city streets alone, she notices the delicate flower pushing through

Year: 2025
Runtime: 19 minutes
Language: Korean
Country: South Korea



A Song

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 3:30 PM

Ireland

Director: Eilius Grace
Screenwriter: Shaun Dunne, Colm Tóibín
Producer: Louise Byrne
Executive Producer: Ross Killeen
Cast: Darragh Shannon, Desmond Eastwood, Maria Doyle Kennedy
Cinematographer: Narayan Van Maele
Editor: Stephen Staunton
Sound Design: Kieran Sheridan

SYNOPSIS: Music teacher Noel is reunited briefly with his estranged mother during a local trad session. He must navigate his complicated past alongside his connection with new-found love, James.
Year: 2025
Runtime: 17 minutes
Language: English, Irish
Country: Ireland
Genre: Drama



A Thousand Questions and One Miracle

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:00 PM

Austria

Director: Esther Wenger
Cast: Regina Fritsch

Year: 2025
Runtime: 28 minutes
Language: English, German
Country: Austria
Genre: Drama, Art, Comedy, Female, Women

SYNOPSIS:

In the 1950s, young Eva is raised in a society where traditional gender roles define a woman's worth. Struggling to fit into the mold expected of her and wishing to escape the pressure, little Eva longs to be invisible. As a young woman, she embraces life, enjoying love and newfound freedoms.



A Vital Sun

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 1:30 PM

United States

Director: Alison Bartlett
Screenwriter: Alison Bartlett
Producer: Michael Pirson, Alison Bartlett
Cast: Ben Stiller

SYNOPSIS:

Winner of the “Environmental Impact Award” at the 2025 Tribeca X Film Festival “A Vital Sun” tells the story of one man’s vision brought to reality by patience, perseverance, failure and flourishing. Most said it was impossible, that no life could grow in a barren desert. Ibrahim Abouleish deeply believed

otherwise. Here is how possibility proved reality. This is the story of Sekem, a thriving bio diverse community and an Egyptian company that transforms desert land into fertile farmland using biodynamic farming methods. Narrated by Ben Stiller. Shot entirely on Location in Cairo Egypt.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 12 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States



Aasmani

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

India

Director: Sayani Gupta
Screenwriter: Sayani Gupta
Producer: Sayani Gupta, Nikkhil Advani, Dia Mirza
Cast: Revathi, Daria Bedi, Abhay Kaul

SYNOPSIS:

In Hindi (an Indian language) Aasmani means that shade of light blue which is the colour of the sky. To Smita, a spunky woman in her sixties, her steadfast companion of over five decades, a powder blue vintage FIAT called Aasmani is the very sky that shaped her life. They had journeyed through all the hues of life.

Seasons, landscapes and relationships changed but Smita and Aasmani stayed together. In the winter of their lives, Smita and Aasmani’s precious bond turns increasingly precarious. They find themselves struggling with dwindling funds to maintain functionality and questions of relevance. There is growing pressure to replace Aasmani with a more modern cost effective alternative. Desperate to hold on to Aasmani, Smita partners with her precocious, razor sharp 10 year old granddaughter Tiya to find a way to save her. Will they be able to save Aasmani? Or will Aasmani do her own saving?
Year: 2026 - **Runtime:** 34 minutes
Language: English, Hindi, - **Country:** India



AI Gallery--City Scroll: Unfolding Timeless Landscapes

Showing: Wed, Apr 29 at 7:30 PM

Taiwan

Director: Tsung-Huang Hsiao
Screenwriter: National Palace Museum
Producer: National Palace Museum

SYNOPSIS:

The National Palace Museum’s AI Gallery, themed “Co-creating a Better Future with Technology,” utilizes Generative AI and 8K ultra-realistic displays to transform Taiwan’s urban landscapes into an immersive narrative. Through a five-channel panoramic display, visitors embark on a journey across five themes: Sky, Earth, People, Culture, and Technology. This experience seamlessly integrates classic masterpieces—ranging from Fu Chuan-fu’s rhythmic ink washes to Lin Chih-hsin’s vibrant

woodblock prints—into a dynamic digital format. By layering AI-driven animation onto historical art, the exhibition vividly depicts the evolution of the island’s modernization and cultural identity. A central highlight of the gallery is the use of Generative AI to foster a dialogue between disparate eras of art. This is best exemplified by the reinterpretation of Li Shih-chiao’s Market Entrance, where AI replaces a common cabbage with the museum’s famous Jadeite Cabbage.

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 3 minutes
Language: Chinese, English - **Country:** Taiwan



Backstage

Showing: Sun, Apr 26t at 1:00 PM

Luxembourg

Director: Émile V. Schlessler
Screenwriter: Émile V. Schlessler, Jonas Brand
Producer: Emile V. Schlessler, Fabien Colas, Govinda van Maele
Cast: Jonathan Joël Albrecht, Sascha Ley, Tommy Schlessler, Jil Devresse

SYNOPSIS:

A theater production becomes a dangerous dance of power and attraction when a young actor discovers that the demanding director

who holds his career in her hands may also be the one who will tear him apart – both on and off the stage.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 27 minutes
Language: German, Luxembourgish
Country: Luxembourg
Genre: Drama



Being Dead Should Be Easy

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 3:30 PM

United States

Director: Claire Harris Matson, Drew Brandon Jones

Screenwriter: Claire Harris Matson

Producer: Drew Brandon Jones, Claire Harris Matson

Cast: Maggie Wheeler, Olivia Macklin, Kevin Dorff, Alan Barinholtz, Cassandra Bodzak, Maggie Dewan-Smith, Caroline Brauner, Grant Rivers

SYNOPSIS:

A Jewish Millennial woman has a breakdown at her great-aunt's shiva when she learns

that there's no room left for her in the family mausoleum and what's worse is that everyone else has their afterlives planned, making her feel behind in life and in death.

Year: 2025

Runtime: 14 minutes

Language: English

Country: United States

Genre: Comedy



Between Dog And Man

Showing: Fri, May 1 at 10:00 PM

United States

Director: Fabian Martin

Screenwriter: Fabian Martin

Producer: Fabian Martin, Victor Martin, Austin LaCroix, Eddy Martin

Cast: Eddy Martin

SYNOPSIS:

A man traveling along an empty road at night hits a dog. What ensues is a testimony to the centuries old bond between man and dog.

Year: 2025

Runtime: 10 minutes

Country: United States



Broken Record.

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

Canada

Director: Arielle Legault

Screenwriter: Arielle Legault

Producer: Arielle Legault, Jean-Nicolas Bertouille-Blais

Cast: Jasmine Lemée, Matai Stevens, Léopold Lafontaine

SYNOPSIS:

This comedic coming-of-age centers around perfectionist Juliette, who manages her expectations of growing up through 'interviewing' her date, Henri. However, they are continuously interrupted by Juliette's younger sibling, Raph and by a strange

noise playing on repeat. Will they be able to identify the source of the noise, and stop it before it ruins Juliette's perfectly planned moment?

Year: 2025

Runtime: 12 minutes

Language: French

Country: Canada

Genre: Comedy, Coming of age, Romance



BUNGAEMAN : Real Hero

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

South Korea

Director: Jaeyoung Park, Seunghyun Kim, jweabin Im, Saerim Kim, Jihye Chae

Screenwriter: MYEONG CHOUNG, Yoojeong Kil, Ah-yeong Cha

Producer: Sunhee Lee

Cast: Man Heo

SYNOPSIS:

Bungae Man disguises himself as a kindergarten teacher to protect children who hold the lost power gems of his sword, while a

villain turns their hurt feelings into emotional monsters. A family-friendly fantasy about emotional growth and empathy.

Year: 2025

Runtime: 14 minutes

Language: Korean

Country: South Korea

Genre: Children, Family, Drama, Comedy, Fantasy



Cache Unseen

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 4:00 PM

United Kingdom

Director: Lihang Tang
Screenwriter: Lihang Tang
Producer: Lihang Tang
Cast: Owen Damsell, Claire Bowman, Emily White, Christopher Morley

SYNOPSIS:
 A grieving brother discovers unsettling secrets in his late sister's laptop—what begins as grief turns into a chilling descent into AI manipulation, trust, and betrayal.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 22 minutes
Language: English
Country: United Kingdom
Genre: Drama, Mystery, Thriller

**Claws?Chaos!**

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

United States

Director: Yimin Sun
Producer: Linhan Chen

SYNOPSIS:
 The story is about the chaos that erupts when a person's attempt to trim a cat's nails turns into a full-on chase.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 2 minutes
Language: No Dialogue
Country: United States

**Clean is a Crime**

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:30 PM

South Korea

Director: Eunkyung Lee
Screenwriter: Eunkyung Lee
Producer: Dongkyu Lee
Cast: Hyunsang Choi, Chaeyoung Leem

the illicit act of hand-washing. While he clings to the regime's ideology, she fights for the right to be clean as a mark of dignity. Together, they plot an escape from a society that forbids the most basic of human instincts.

SYNOPSIS:
 In a world where hygiene is a crime, 'Filth is Health' is the law. Shin-i, a loyal government official, is tasked with interrogating his own lover, Se-jeong, for

Year: 2026
Runtime: 16 minutes
Language: English
Country: South Korea

**COLORable**

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 3:30 PM

Japan

Director: Arata SONODA
Screenwriter: Arata SONODA
Producer: Arata SONODA
Cast: Yua TSUTSUI, Shun KOUTOKU, Takaki UDA

signment to take a picture that will convince him by a certain date. Ayaka wonders what kind of picture she should take, and sees a picture of fireworks taken by her mother in a gallery. There, Ayaka discovers that the photo, which she had been led to believe was a vividly colored one, is in black and white. From that moment on, the colors of the world Ayaka sees begin to change...

SYNOPSIS:
 Ayaka is a color-blind high school senior. Although the world she sees is all in black and white, she hopes to pursue a career in photography in the future, just like her late mother. Her father is opposed to his daughter's daring to take a difficult path. He gives Ayaka an as-

Year: 2026
Runtime: 18 minutes
Language: Japanese
Country: Japan



Comets

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Amy Roy
Screenwriter: Amy Roy
Producer: Andrew Bergamo
Executive Producer: Kristin Couture
Co-Producer: Emily Brough
Cast: Guerrin Gardner, Bart McCarthy, Robert Craighead
Editor: Stephen Erdmann
Production Design: Alanna Dempe-wolff-Barrett

SYNOPSIS:
Nan's life changes abruptly when she's diagnosed with Alzheimer's. But a new resident at the nursing home brings her hope.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 12 minutes
Country: United States
Genre: Drama



Contrast Therapy

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

Australia

Director: Ben Stephen Gageler
Screenwriter: Ben Stephen Gageler
Producer: Lenard Cassimatis, Michael Angelis
Cast: Matt Castley, Nicholas Burton

SYNOPSIS:
Failing to accept a breakup, Jim seeks relief at his local sauna. Guided by his well-meaning friend Gary, he's pulled through a series of rituals: saunas, ice plunges, and deep-tissue massage, all while being haunted by the ghosts of his past. What begins as comic endurance therapy

soon twists into something existential. Each act of discomfort drags Jim closer to confronting the true pain he's tried to suppress — guilt, loss, helplessness. In the blur of steam and hallucination, he learns that the real torment isn't in the body, but in a life cushioned from struggle.

Year: 2026
Runtime: 6 minutes
Country: Australia
Genre: Comedy, Drama, Thriller



Coupe au bol

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 3:30 PM

France

Director: Tamara Vittoz
Cast: Baya Rehas, Matthias Girbig, Am-brine Trigo Ouaked

SYNOPSIS:
It's summer. Seven-year-old Suzie hates her new haircut. As tensions between her separated parents slowly rise, she decides to take matters into her own hands.

Year: 2026
Runtime: 8 minutes
Country: France



Coyote

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Sara Gaston
Screenwriter: Dana Olita-Ogden
Producer: Joe Grisaffi
Cast: Denise Williamson, Joe Grisaffi

SYNOPSIS:
Three women make a desperate attempt find the medical care that's being denied to them. With unknown enemies in close pursuit, they have to decide if they can trust the one person who promises them deliverance.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 12 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Drama



CTRL Z

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

Director: Grace Xie

SYNOPSIS:

CTRL Z explores the gradual erasure of identity through repetition, digital distortion, and the collapse of domestic rituals. Moving between intimate black-and-white close-ups, fragmented body imagery, frantic stop-motion sequences, and surreal interruptions, the film traces a self who is slowly “undone” by the very world she inhabits. Everyday gestures—opening the fridge, brushing teeth, eating breakfast—begin to loop, accelerate, and lose their objects, until routine becomes hollow and the body itself starts to vanish. The film reflects on loneliness, gendered

identity, and the quiet annihilation that occurs inside repetitive, material life. As each element is Ctrl-Z'd out of existence—objects, spaces, gestures, and the labels that define us as daughter, student, woman—the film asks what remains when every external role and symbol is stripped away. Positioned between the real and the absurd, the mundane and the surreal, CTRL Z becomes a self-portrait that unravels even as it tries to understand what a person is when nothing around her confirms who she is.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 6 minutes



Dandelions Girl

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 3:30 PM

Iran

Director: Azadeh Masihzadeh
Screenwriter: Azadeh Masihzadeh
Producer: Azadeh Masihzadeh, Razieh Gholami
Cast: Tara Soroush, Benyam Afrangeh
Cinematographer: Abolfazl Nabati

SYNOPSIS:

In green landscape of northern Iran, 11-year Roja convinces the boys to let her play soccer. Playing well as a goalkeeper, Roja makes Kubar frustrated. Tragedy strikes when Kubar

pushes Roja and her head Hits the goalposts. Panicked, the boys believe she's lifeless. Now Kubar's father comes to force everyone retells the story to save his son.

Year: 2024
Runtime: 20 minutes
Language: Persian
Country: Islamic Republic of Iran
Genre: Drama, Children



Dead Man Singing

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 3:30 PM

Japan

Director: Shinsuke Kurimoto
Screenwriter: Ryu Shimamura
Cast: Shinichiro Matsuura, Goro Sato

SYNOPSIS:

Set in the Edo period, this film is a human historical drama that depicts the strange fates of four men with different positions, circumstances, and lifestyles: a townsman with a past who commits the crime of murdering his master, a strict

official who escorts him to the execution grounds, the official's younger samurai brother who is searching for his older brother, and a gambler who knows the clues to the series of incidents.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 16 minutes
Language: Japanese
Country: Japan



Deep Woods Lost & Found

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

Cyprus

Director: Jim Miller
Producer: Lucy Tsoy

SYNOPSIS:

Welcome to the Deep Woods – a mysterious place on the border of reality and dream, where getting lost may be the key to finding your true self.

Year: 2026
Runtime: 7 minutes
Language: English
Country: Cyprus
Genre: Fantasy Detective, Comic Adventure



Dirty Change

Showing: Sat, Apr 25t at 3:30 PM

Hungary

Director: Tibor Tasi
Screenwriter: Tibor Tasi
Producer: Attila Csáky
Cast: Ádám Németh, Szonja Brigitta Nagy, Róbert Kardos, Roland Rába, Péter Horkay, Barnabás Drobni

stands between him and closing the past once and for all to start a new life with his girlfriend. But when he finds himself in the crosshairs of rival gangs, Richie is forced to make life-altering decisions.

SYNOPSIS:

Richie must repay a crippling loan shark debt, inherited from his father, by fighting in illegal bouts. Just one final match

Year: 2025
Runtime: 23 minutes
Language: Hungarian, Russian
Country: Hungary
Genre: Drama, Action, Sport



Dobrina

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

Germany

Director: Hannes Rall

Year: 2025
Runtime: 5 minutes
Country: Germany
Genre: Western, Drama, Stylized, Love, War

SYNOPSIS:

A troubadour pursues his object of affection in this animated tale.



DOKHTAR'AM – My Daughter

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 3:30 PM

Germany

Director: Pedram Sadough
Screenwriter: Pedram Sadough
Producer: Sonja Gillert, Pedram Sadough
Cast: Massud Rahnama, Jasmin-Nevin Varul

forever. A film about the enduring power of repressive regimes—even beyond their borders.

SYNOPSIS:

An Iranian taxi driver and his daughter, both long settled in Germany, clash over her work as a journalist. He fears for her safety. To protect her, he risks losing her

Year: 2025
Runtime: 17 minutes
Language: Persian
Country: Germany



Down The Hatch

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Alexandra Lukina
Screenwriter: Alexandra Lukina
Producer: Dmitry Mosyagin

Year: 2025
Runtime: 8 minutes
Country: United States

SYNOPSIS:

Down the Hatch is a 8-minute hand-drawn animated short about a young girl who discovers her mother trapped inside a wine bottle. Told from the child's perspective, the film explores addiction, isolation, and the hope of recovery. How do you rescue someone who doesn't want to be saved?



Dual

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:30 PM

United States

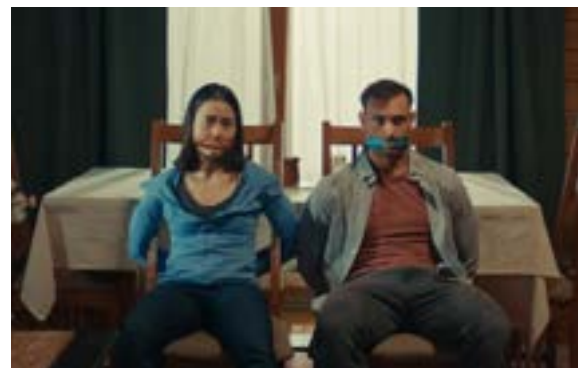
Director: Nitasha Bhambree, Declan Mulvey
Screenwriter: Nitasha Bhambree, Declan Mulvey
Producer: Nitasha Bhambree, Declan Mulvey, Floor 1 Productions
Cast: Kiera O'Connor, Robbie Dema

cabin in the woods during a global crisis, they discover the real threat to their security is more familiar than foreign.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 20 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Sci-Fi, Thriller, Action, Drama, Horror

SYNOPSIS:

When an expecting couple retreats to their



Encounters in the Rising Mist

Showing: Wed, Apr 29 at 7:30 PM

Taiwan

Director: Cheng-Hsiang LIU, I-Wei CHEN

life, the film presents a poetic journey through the spirit and heritage of Wutai.

SYNOPSIS:

This promotional film captures the beauty of Wutai across four seasons, blending breathtaking landscapes with the depth of Rukai culture. From the vibrant Harvest Festival to cherry blossoms in bloom, from hidden river-tracing paradises to the traditions of daily tribal

Year: 2025
Runtime: 10 minutes
Language: Mandarin Chinese
Country: Taiwan



Energy Crisis

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

Director: Jackson Mielnicki

power of animation as a storytelling medium, Jackson views the art form as one of the most impactful in the 21st century and is driven to contribute to its evolving landscape.

SYNOPSIS:

Synopsis: A robot custodian finds a pet amidst an abandoned post-apocalyptic mall. Director: Jackson Mielnicki is a 3D animator and a member of Daemen University's Class of 2025. His work focuses on bringing characters to life through a thoughtful balance of bold, expressive movement and grounded, authentic emotion. Passionate about the



Esther

Showing: Fri, May 1 at 10:00 PM

United States

Director: Joey Hunt
Screenwriter: Fatima Wardy
Producer: Fatima Wardy
Cast: Linda Browne, Kris D'Sha

the house itself becomes a malevolent force, revealing a dark secret tied to the grandmother's refusal to let go. As reality and the supernatural blur, they must confront the true horror: the fear of moving on.

SYNOPSIS:

As a hardened grandmother's health deteriorates, her once-lively home falls into disrepair, mirroring her descent into death. Her increasingly frantic daughter struggles to care for her while

Year: 2024
Runtime: 13 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Drama, Fantasy



Following The Line

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

Taiwan

Director: JIA-YEE ONG
Screenwriter: JIA-XIN CHUA, JIA-YEE ONG, SHIN CHUNG
Producer: JIA-XIN CHUA
Editor: ZHENG LIM
Animator: IA-XIN CHUA,, JIA-YEE ONG, ZHENG LIM, SHIN CHUNG

SYNOPSIS:

In 1960-1970's Taiwan, when Taiwan Economic Miracle happens, a lot of females sacrifice their future under the pressure of supporting their families. Our story protagonist "Grandmother," was a reflection of countless young

females from that era. By using scissor and threads as element of this story, the thread symbolizes the constraints imposed on Grandmother by her past by qualities of entanglement and continuity, while the scissor represents her awoken willing, which cuts off the attachments and regrets she struggles to let go of.

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 7 minutes
Language: No Language
Country: Taiwan
Genre: Gender equality, Music, History, Humanity, Education, Human rights, Women



Free Quincy

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:30 PM

United States

Director: Cheyann Montiel Reagan
Screenwriter: Cheyann Montiel Reagan
Producer: Vannessa Vasquez, Ivan Garcia Gzz
Cast: Vannessa Vasquez, Alberto Zeni, Mateo Valentino

SYNOPSIS:

When a young filmmaker, Quincy, mourns the missed premiere of her debut film at a now-closing theater, she encounters Louis, a mysterious stranger who challenges her understanding of time, failure, and creativity. As their otherworldly exchange unfolds, Quincy is reminded of the limitless power of

storytelling—and the infinite possibilities that still await her. Theme: The power of storytelling to transcend time, failure, and personal limitation. This theme explores how creativity—especially filmmaking—can connect us to something greater than ourselves. Even when dreams feel lost or mistimed, the act of storytelling holds the ability to reshape reality, inspire hope, and reawaken purpose.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 14 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States



From ER to the Open Road: John's TAVR Journey

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Ben Myrick
Screenwriter: Beryt Nisenson, Ben Myrick
Producer: Robin Lewin, Beryt Nisenson

SYNOPSIS:

Many patients with heart valve failure don't recognize the seriousness of their condition until symptoms escalate rapidly—sometimes with life-threatening consequences. This film was created to communicate that urgency

clearly and honestly, helping patients understand that waiting can be far more dangerous than acting early.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 4 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States



Gourded

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

United States

Director: Symone A Johnson
Screenwriter: Symone A Johnson
Cast: Kiana Webber, Julia Birmingham, Abigail Lewin, Jackson Mielnicki

Runtime: 2 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: comedy



Grizzly Jim

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 3:30 PM

United Kingdom

Director: Richard Guthrie
Screenwriter: Richard Guthrie
Producer: Lucy Pepper

SYNOPSIS:

When it comes down to ruthless, bare backed bold cunning, there's really very little to touch Grizzly Jim. An irrepressible hunter all his life, hardly a single wild species hasn't lined up through his cross hairs or been placed within his cooking pot. But there's an old saying- What the wild wants, the wild gets!...And for

perhaps the first time in Grizzly's life, he finds himself asking- has 'The Hunter' become 'The Hunted'?

Year: 2025
Runtime: 9 minutes
Language: English
Country: United Kingdom
Genre: Action, adventure, fiction



Hāfu

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 3:30 PM

United States

Director: Josh Wolff
Screenwriter: Josh Wolff, Luka Oida
Producer: Lauren Sowa, Yuki Sakamoto Solomon, Josh Wolff, Luka Oida
Cast: Luka Oida, Mariko Takai, Miyuki Matsunaga, Keizo Kaji, Chandra Michaels, Kelli Harrington, Brent Toyomitsu

SYNOPSIS:

When an American bride-to-be spends the day reuniting with her Japanese

grandmother, she discovers through the dance of communication that she is more connected to her heritage than she realized.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 16 minutes
Language: English, Japanese
Country: United States



Happy People

Showing: Fri, May 1 at 10:00 PM

Hungary

Director: Balázs Budavári
Cast: Bence Szalay, Angéla Eke, Enikő Eszenyi

SYNOPSIS:

In a world, where a number on the neck shows how happy people are, Kristóf (hiding his number with a turtle-neck) waits for the mandatory Annual Happiness Measurement. In the checking room, first, the contrast material is injected into his body, as every year. But this time, the examiner is shocked, when she realizes, Kristóf is a problematic 21. This happiness level barely exceeds the

critical minimum limit. If he goes below 20, he has to be reported to the authorities. On his way out, he bumps into his ex-girlfriend, who surprisingly doesn't hide the number on the neck. She is a proud 80. Seeing her happy, Kristóf starts to realize, maybe he was wrong to break up with her. Maybe, they could be happy again... together.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 15 minutes
Country: Hungary
Genre: Drama, Sci Fi



Hidden Moon

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 3:30 PM

Iran

Director: Mahsa Ahmadzadeh

SYNOPSIS: A Film By Mahsa Ahmadzadeh

Year: 2026
Runtime: 17 minutes
Language: Persian
Country: Islamic Republic of Iran



Hide and Seek

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 4:00 PM

China

Director: Xiyuan Qiao
Screenwriter: Xiyuan Qiao
Producer: Xiwen Huang
Cast: Yushan Han, Wenyue Liang, Jiahui Lu, Mengtian Xi

SYNOPSIS:

"Hide and Seek" explores the complex emotions between two sisters. The teenage sister longs for freedom and space, while the younger one clings to

her. When the younger sister suddenly goes missing, the older sister is forced to confront the weight of their bond.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 7 minutes
Language: Chinese
Country: China



Horseback

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 3:30 PM

Ireland

Director: Emer Durcan

SYNOPSIS:

Horseback tells the story of Ali, a 10-year-old refugee boy, seeking asylum with his father and older brother in the west of Ireland. Haunted by the loss of his mother, Ali struggles to find peace in this strange new world. His grief runs so deep that even seeing a photograph of his mother is unbearable. Retreating inward, Ali shuts himself off from those who try to help him, trapped in silence he is unable to speak. Everything changes when Ali is introduced to

a gentle piebald pony and its owner Kitty, a traveller woman. Befriending them both, Ali discovers a wordless connection, built on trust and calm, mirroring the warmth and safety he once felt when in his mother's presence. But when the time comes for the pony and Kitty to leave, Ali faces heartbreak once again. This second loss, however, stirs something powerful inside him. Through his pain, he finds the courage to speak, finally sharing his grief and longing with his father.

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 12 minutes
Language: Arabic, English
Country: Ireland **Genre:** Drama



Huntsville

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 3:30 PM

United States

Director: Johnny McAllister
Screenwriter: Johnny McAllister, Annie Silverstein
Producer: Johnny McAllister, Annie Silverstein, Monique Walton
Cast: Carter Burch, Atticus Banks, JW Rogers

SYNOPSIS:

J.W. drives across Texas to pick up his old friend, Will, on the day of his release from a three year stint at the State Peni-

tentiary. He brings along Will's son, nine year old Cole, perhaps unwisely. Huntsville is about that first day of freedom for Will

Year: 2025
Runtime: 12 minutes
Country: United States



I am a pigeon

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

Taiwan

Director: KUAN-YING CHEN, HUI-YU HSIEH, PEI-CHI YEh
Producer: HUI-YU HSIEH

SYNOPSIS:

The protagonist, influenced by her father's deep admiration and love for pigeons, longs to be cherished by him just like his prized racing birds. However, setbacks in her academic life leave her feeling disappointed in herself, and she begins to fear that her father, like he does with injured pigeons, will no longer take pride in her. In response, she starts to distance herself from anything that reminds her

of pigeons, avoiding the connection altogether. One day, a chance encounter allows her to once again see herself through the eyes of a pigeon. Through overcoming numerous inner obstacles, she begins to reinterpret her father's expectations. In the end, she comes to terms with herself, finding peace and acceptance.

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 7 minutes
Language: Chinese, Chinese - Min Nan, English
Country: Taiwan
Genre: teenagers, birds, identity, family, countryside, children, family affection



Keeks

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Paris Brown
Screenwriter: Todd Anderton
Producer: Heather McKinney
Cast: Andrew Plock, Debra McIlhany, Gabriel Vasquez, Kim Wadsworth, Todd Anderton, Heather McKinney

SYNOPSIS:

Keeks, a mailman and rec-league umpire who relies on strict rules to keep his world in order, spirals through a weekend of family grief, absurd interruptions, and

emotional misfires after his father's death. As casseroles arrive and chaos mounts, Keeks must reconcile the logic that keeps him afloat with the messy reality of loss. A heartfelt, character-driven comedy about love, grief, and the strange rituals we lean into when life comes undone.

Year: 2025

Runtime: 14 minutes

Language: English

Country: United States

Genre: Dramedy



Kicking Toward Tomorrow!

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 4:00 PM

South Korea

Director: Yunbin AN
Screenwriter: Woojin YANG, Yunbin AN
Producer: Kanghwan SHIN
Cast: Hanjung LEE, Woojin YANG, Jungyull LEE, Chanyong PARK

SYNOPSIS:

Produced as the Grand Prize Winner of the 2025 Busan International Short Film Festival (BISFF) Short Project

A recreational soccer team run by a small Christian church — David and Goliath FC. For the team's star player, Dongchan, soccer isn't just a hobby — it's his entire life. Fueled

by an unrelenting desire to win, Dongchan throws himself into rough challenges and risky tackles without hesitation. Each time he charges across the field, the referee's whistle pierces the air again and again, and the opposing team rarely escapes without injuries. Unable to stand by any longer, team captain Jeonghwan decides it's time to take action.

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 30 minutes

Language: Korean - **Country:** South Korea

Genre: Drama, Comedy, Coming-of-age, Youth, sports



Ladies Love Salads

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Ireland Robinson
Screenwriter: Ireland Robinson
Producer: Michael Smith, Selah Major
Cast: Grace Haydn, Ireland Robinson, Jim Major
Cinematographer: Michael Smith

SYNOPSIS:

Before separating for college, Ellie, an independent and outspoken best friend,

and anxious, well-balanced Jude drive through their hometown to a nearby farmer's market. The long-standing contrasts between them are finally called into question.

Year: 2025

Runtime: 14 minutes

Language: English

Country: United States

Genre: Comedy



Let me out

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 4:00 PM

South Korea

Director: San Kim
Screenwriter: San Kim
Producer: Soong-jin Hong, Dae-jin Kim, Jaehun Lee
Cast: Ho-young Lee, Dae-jong Kim, Ha-yan Park

SYNOPSIS:

'The Man' is a twin brother of a serial killer whose face has been plastered all over the country. It has become impossible for him to live a normal social life, so he spends his life meaninglessly like a corpse tucked away in the corner of a house. The only solace for him is quietly observing the young 'Woman' who

goes around sticking flyers every day from a distance, through the window. One day, as the woman was diligently sticking flyers as usual, she unintentionally dropped her scarf on the ground. This small incident creates a crack in the monotonous daily life of The Man who had been observing her from behind the window. Eventually, The Man reluctantly extends his foot outside the door to return the scarf that the woman had dropped, however...

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 30 minutes

Language: Korean

Country: South Korea

Genre: Drama, Suspense, Mystery



Living With María

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 1:00 PM

Canada

Director: John Barnard
Screenwriter: Derek Kun
Producer: Carolina Campos
Cast: Derek Kun, Carolina Campos

she manages to transport him into an alternate dimension, wherein they both inhabit a 1950s film from the Mexican golden age of cinema.



SYNOPSIS:

A newly emigrated Latina woman struggles with her loss of culture, her inability to work in a new country and her husband's lack of empathy. Cleverly,

Year: 2025
Runtime: 10 minutes
Language: English, Spanish
Country: Canada

Makina

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

United States

Director: Onur Erdurak
Screenwriter: Onur Erdurak
Producer: Cem Tekin, Matteo Leva, Onur Erdurak, Melis Caner
Cast: Kennedy Taylor, Danielle Aldrich, Kourosh Parsapour, Melis Caner

as his new underling, she does not try to wake him up. She just exists. She folds paper, whistles, and does math in her head. And without meaning to, she makes him feel something he has no word for. When the system asks him to choose, he chooses the system. He just never knew he was choosing until now.



SYNOPSIS:

In an underground facility where imagination is contraband, Tim has never questioned the rules. They are the only world he has ever known. When Paige arrives

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 10 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Sci-Fi, Drama

Method Cowboy

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

United States

Director: Carlos Valdivia
Screenwriter: Carlos Valdivia
Producer: Julia Kennelly, Karine Benzaria, Lucy Rennick
Cast: Johnathon Holdforth, Zachary Booth

car-bait Cowboy Western, he decides to transform himself for the role, blurring the lines between reality and performance.



SYNOPSIS:

When a struggling actor feigns being gay to land the role of a lifetime in an Os-

Year: 2025
Runtime: 13 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Drama, Comedy

Montañeros

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 3:30 PM

Mexico

Director: Ivan Garcia
Screenwriter: Ivan Garcia, Vanessa Vasquez
Producer: Vanessa Vasquez, Ivan Garcia Gzz
Cast: Roberto Cazares, Oliver Cantu Lozano

way to a mountain climbing adventure. An internal search that confronts them with their personal limits, their past, and at the same time, their future. They learn that it's more important to enjoy the journey than to reach the peak.



SYNOPSIS:

The reunion of two old friends, separated by time and personal ambitions, gives

Year: 2025
Runtime: 17 minutes
Language: Spanish
Country: Mexico

Murmurs of the Balloon

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 3:30 PM

Iran

Director: Hera Khanmirzei
Screenwriter: Hera Khanmirzei
Producer: Amirhosein Saqafi
Cast: Artin Teymouri

she once filled with love, he releases its last breath into her mouth, hoping to call her back from the death.

SYNOPSIS:

One morning, a young boy awakens to strangers filling his home mourning. Later he finds his grandmother lying breathless. Grasping his yellow balloon

Year: 2025
Runtime: 12 minutes
Language: Persian
Country: Islamic Republic of Iran
Genre: Drama



Nightmare of MOLOKA

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

Taiwan

Director: Hsun-Chun Chuang
Screenwriter: Hsun-Chun Chuang

him into the unknown abyss. Will he be able to break free from this endless nightmare?

SYNOPSIS:

Tommy is suddenly pursued by all kinds of monsters for no reason. He runs desperately, yet cannot escape this nightmarish assault. Fear shadows him at every turn, and each step could plunge

Year: 2025
Runtime: 2 minutes
Country: Taiwan



Once More, Like Rain Man

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Sue Ann Pien
Screenwriter: Bella Zoe Martinez
Producer: Melissa Martinez Areffi, Suzann Ellis, Darren Dean, Andrew Areffi
Cast: Bella Zoe Martinez, Matt Jones, Joe Mantegna
Cinematographer: Kristy Tully

ry in a 'day in the life' of an autistic actress running the gambit of stereotypes she has to deal with - and her dad's battle in supporting her forging that path for herself - in a funny, frustrating, painful and sometimes triumphantly sarcastic kind of way.

SYNOPSIS:

'It's up to you to make a future that has you in it...' We follow Zoe and her dad, Ger-

Year: 2024
Runtime: 15 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States, United States



Paint Me Invisible

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 4:00 PM

Canada

Director: Amanda Xiao
Screenwriter: Amanda Xiao
Producer: YiFei Lin, Yinxian Wang
Cast: Kelly Hof, EboSetale Abor Gabriel, Ronan Hayes, Nikki Carter, Arshiya Tariq, Lennox Campbell Berzins, Amanda Xiao, Christa Marie Waugh, Gabriel Gherutchi, Mila Mabres, Jonash Belgrade Tabanda, Ayla Tse, Tom Pawlak, Chris Sellors, Albert Kay

recognition. Torn between vanishing and self-discovery, she learns that only by erasing herself can she become visible—yet fame ultimately consumes the very identity she sought to affirm. Blurring the line between life and performance, grief and spectacle, Paint Me Invisible is a haunting meditation on the price of visibility, the seduction of fame, and the quiet tragedy of self-erasure.

SYNOPSIS:

A narrative short film about an artist who stages her own disappearance in search of

Year: 2025
Runtime: 14 minutes
Language: English
Country: Canada



Pas Vraiment Ordinaire (Not Really Ordinary)

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 3:30 PM

United States

Director: Gil Henry
Screenwriter: Gil Henry
Producer: Gil Henry
Cast: Jordan Belfi, Floriane Andersen

and the police have failed to do so. As turmoil unfolds around them, he tries to protect his little sister from the painful truth while realizing he may be the only one who can truly help his mother.

SYNOPSIS:

After his mother suffers a schizophrenic episode, a young boy is faced with an inconceivable task – persuade his mother to go to the hospital after his father

Year: 2025
Runtime: 16 minutes
Language: English, French
Country: United States



Perfect One

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:30 PM

China

Director: Lingyan Yang
Screenwriter: Lingyan Yang
Producer: Lingyan Yang
Cast: Lingyan

closeted father and her past life through new eyes, and in this shift of perspective, slowly reclaims her own capacity to love.

SYNOPSIS:

In a future where robots can replicate the human body, a disillusioned engineer creates a “perfect version” of herself to save her family, only to be thrust into an unexpected inward journey of self-awareness: she begins to see her

Year: 2025
Runtime: 15 minutes
Language: Chinese
Country: China
Genre: Sci-fi, musical, healing, Trauma healing, Mental Health, Conscious, spiritual



Save Me From Heaven

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:30 PM

Ireland

Director: Seán Treacy
Screenwriter: Seán Treacy
Producer: Seán Treacy, Tom Hopkins
Executive Producer: Cormac Thompson
Cast: Abby Fitz, Diarmuid Noyes, Cal O’Driscoll
Cinematographer: Fionnuala McCormack
Editor: Seán Treacy
Sound Design: Pablo Pérez

SYNOPSIS:
With the help of a software engineer, a brave young woman must remember who she is to save herself from being deleted by a virtual version of heaven.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 14 minutes
Language: English
Country: Ireland



Siren

Showing: Fri, May 1 at 10:00 PM

United States

Director: Giulia Mucciarelli
Screenwriter: Giulia Mucciarelli
Producer: Darkside Productions, Ocu Films, Tuffany Waxler
Cast: Donte Paris

reverie about music, pain, and the cost of making art that cuts too deep—a fever dream wrapped in distortion and drenched in blood—SIREN doesn’t offer redemption. It dares you to stay.

SYNOPSIS:

Set in the echo chamber between artist and audience, SIREN follows a singer whose reality fractures under the weight of sound, grief, and guilt. A surreal

Year: 2025
Runtime: 20 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Psychological horror, Drama, Surreal Horror, Horror, Music



Soaring Hoops

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 3:30 PM

China

Director: Yasheng Tao, Guanzhen Gao, Yi wei
Screenwriter: Yi wei
Producer: Yi wei

SYNOPSIS:

In a high-altitude town in Sichuan's Aba, 14-year-old Zaxi practices daily under a makeshift hoop his father built from an old door. A storm destroys this symbol of his dreams, prompting Zaxi and his 10-year-old brother to journey across the plateau to find a "perfect court." They navigate yak herds, scale ancient structures, and try a hoop hanging from a tree, yet their ideal court remains elusive. Everything changes when Zaxi follows monks

to a pristine concrete court hidden beneath a temple tower. Initially hesitant, Zaxi practices alone until dusk, when a group of maroon-robed monks arrives. A ball arcs toward the solitary boy; meeting the monks' encouraging gaze, Zaxi—who usually keeps his head down—accepts this silent invitation. In a transformative game, sweat-drenched and lifted bodily by the laughing monks, Zaxi experiences his first slam dunk. Lying breathless, he realizes his blueprint for a "perfect court" is unnecessary. The true court is defined by the community willing to lift him skyward.

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 14 minutes
Language: Chinese - **Country:** China



Somerville

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: James Bell
Producer: A. Troy Thomas

SYNOPSIS:

Somerville is the true story of a Virginia farm family's fight to save their land from corporate energy expansion. When development threatens to erase generations of hard-earned legacy, the Grove family must stand together to protect their home — and everything it represents about rural America. Set in the rolling hills of Fauquier County, the film captures the deep emotional and cultural

stakes of a farming family forced to confront power far bigger than themselves. Through moments of quiet beauty and fierce resilience, Somerville reveals the cost of progress and the strength it takes to hold on. Somerville is a moving portrait of courage, community, and the enduring American spirit.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 13 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States



Sound of the Somme

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 3:30 PM

Belgium

Director: Michaël Vermaercke
Screenwriter: Alexander Menu, Michaël Vermaercke, Thomas Besançon
Producer: Elena Reynaert
Cast: Reno Cole, Ali Watt, Tristan Heanue, Michael Barker, Lucas Tavernier

SYNOPSIS:

Sound of the Somme tells the true story of private James C. Richardson, a 20-year-old bagpiper serving in the 16th Canadian Scottish Battalion. Despite being assigned to stay behind as stretcher bearer, James is determined to play his bagpipes in the heat of the

battle. His unwavering resolve to support his comrades and boost morale leads him to defy orders, risking his life to bring a glimmer of hope amidst the horrors of war. This heroic act earned James the Victoria Cross, the highest honor within the British Commonwealth.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 12 minutes
Language: English
Country: Belgium
Genre: War, Drama, History, Biography



Stew to Eat

Showing: Fri, May 1 at 10:00 PM

United States

Director: Nathaniel Jameson, Alex Saltiel
Screenwriter: Alex Saltiel, Nathaniel Jameson
Producer: Briana Bursten
Cast: Olivia Rodrigues, Patches Aloha, Rick Rocha, Joon Baek, Miles Messinger, Zack Handler, Ben Pakman, Alex Beige, Jack Terzi, Abe Jacobs, Clayton Sisson, James Kolsby, Nathaniel Jameson & Alex Saltiel

SYNOPSIS:

The Stew is almost ready, but there is one thing missing... a dark adventure of unrequit-

ed love, societal decay and insatiable hunger. "Pitch-perfect expressionism... cartoonish briskness alternating with poignancy... a world created out of faces and blackness... It's also incredibly funny!" - Guy Maddin on "Stew to Eat"

Year: 2025
Runtime: 25 minutes
Country: United States



Tasting Tradition

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 1:30 PM

United States

Director: Nathan Segal, Michael Akin
Screenwriter: Nathan Segal
Producer: Nathan Segal, Michael Akin
Cast: Sharon Dong, Yingtong Gao, Linyuan Jing

SYNOPSIS:
A short-film documentary on Fungs Kitchen, a dim sum restaurant in Houston, Texas.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 3 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States



Thank You

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

Canada

Director: Alexander Sharp
Screenwriter: Alexander Sharp
Producer: Jeremy Kulyk, Jacob Straat, Jared Selcer, Frederick Ayeroff
Cast: Blake Stadel

SYNOPSIS:
The lives of four strangers are forever changed by an act of kindness.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 8 minutes
Language: English
Country: Canada
Genre: Drama, Thriller



The Banker

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

United States

Director: Andrew Knobbe
Screenwriter: Andrew Knobbe
Producer: Tony Stevens, Andrew Knobbe
Cast: Shannon Hoffman, Adam Gibbs, Amanda Martinez, Solomon Barke

SYNOPSIS:
After a trivial family argument spirals into something larger on Christmas Eve, a teenage girl is forced to choose between confronting her father or keeping the peace in the family.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 6 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Drama



The Call of Nishi

Showing: Fri, May 1 at 10:00 PM

United States

Director: Michelle Danner
Screenwriter: Rishita Mukherjee
Producer: Valerie Debler
Cast: Eva De Dominici, Christine Dunford

Soon after, Eric's real mother calls and discovers his son is being lured into the clutches of a malevolent supernatural entity. Inspired by the Nishi Daak, a spirit of East Indian folklore that calls out to its victims in a familiar voice.

SYNOPSIS:
While waiting to be picked up early from his violin class, 10-year-old Eric receives a strange call from his mother asking him to meet her in the nearby woods.

Year: 2024
Runtime: 14 minutes
Country: United States
Genre: Horror, Thriller, Drama



The Decision

Showing: Wed, Apr 29 at 7:30 PM

Taiwan

Director: Hung-En Su
Cast: Laka Umaw, Shu-Wei Wu

SYNOPSIS:

In 1896, a young Truku boy named Umin witnessed Japanese soldiers assaulting a woman in Xincheng, igniting his people's resistance against Japan. Haunted by guilt and by the memory of his brother's death, he carried the weight of silence. By 1913, now a husband and father, Umin encountered a Japanese expedi-

tion team in the mountains. Determined not to remain passive, he faced a storm of choices shaped by his chief's caution, his brother's words, and the uncertain fate of his people. Through Umin's struggle, the story reflects the Truku people's 18-year fight against Japan—the largest war fought on Taiwan's main island in the 20th century.

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 29 minutes
Country: Taiwan



The Foley Artist

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

United States

Director: Rob Aiello
Screenwriter: Rob Aiello, Josh Saland
Cast: Nick Kanellis

SYNOPSIS:

Will lands his dream job in Hollywood - but to keep it, he'll need a sound plan.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 12 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Horror, Thriller, Genre



The Gun

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:30 PM

United States

Director: Randall Christopher

SYNOPSIS:

Based on the short story by Philip K. Dick. On a distant planet all life has been annihilated through war, but when a group of scientists decide to explore the surface they find a terrifying automatic weapon which still functions.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 12 minutes
Country: United States
Genre: Sci-Fi



The High King's Daughter

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

Ireland

Director: Joël Gibbs
Screenwriter: Kurt Rosenberg
Producer: Jake Morgan, Luke Morgan, Zach Stevens

SYNOPSIS:

Ruairí, a lowly stable-boy working for the Irish royal household, is instantly smitten when he first sees the captivating and spirited High King's Daughter. This romantic drama follows Ruairí and

the Princess, as the playful friendship of their youth blossoms into love. The High King observes the growing attraction between the two and hatches a plan to keep them apart forever.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 4 minutes
Language: English, Irish
Country: Ireland



The Last Note

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 3:30 PM

United States

Director: dan R Bottom, Vihaan Vidur
Screenwriter: Vihaan Vidur
Producer: Vihaan Vidur

SYNOPSIS:
A terminally ill musician leaves behind a lullaby for the daughter he'll never meet — a final song that becomes a bridge between past, present, and memory.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 14 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States
Genre: Drama



The Last Snow

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 1:00 PM

Lithuania

Director: Sotera Kupinaitė
Screenwriter: Sotera Kupinaitė
Producer: Gustė Girdvainytė, Džiuginta Gabrielė Radavičiūtė
Cast: Simas Petrikis, Benas Vorobjovas, Benediktas Kazlauskas
Cinematographer: Aleksandra Vilčinskaitė
Editor: Saugintas Skilinskas
Production Design: Greta Dumbliauskaitė
Sound Design: Mantas Jankus

SYNOPSIS:
A thirteen-year-old boy Marius is an outcast who often feels invisible to the world around him. One day, he becomes intrigued by a mysterious incident at school, where his biology teacher is injured with a snowball thrown by an unknown classmate.

Year: 2026
Runtime: 15 minutes
Language: Lithuanian
Country: Lithuania
Genre: Mystery



The Last Supper of GIRL

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 4:00 PM

United States

Director: Jring Van
Screenwriter: Jring Van, Alexander Lee
Producer: Sabrina Jane
Cast: Peilei Song

to open the blocked study to clean, and she found a dusty family photo of only her nephew, but not her.

SYNOPSIS:
Yanan, the second daughter of a wealthy family, is left behind in China, and today is the day when her father returns home from America again. Yanan was allowed

Year: 2025
Runtime: 15 minutes
Language: Chinese, English
Country: United States
Genre: Family, Drama, Children



The Liars of Black Mountain Road

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

United States

Director: Parker Croft
Screenwriter: Nolan Gould, Parker Croft
Producer: Nolan Gould, Parker Croft
Cast: Nolan Gould, Millie Gibbons, Bill Welden

SYNOPSIS:
When a couple runs over a stranger's dog, they compete for the moral high ground at any cost.

Year: 2026
Runtime: 12 minutes
Country: United States



The Missus Downstairs S4E6 - Groomzilla

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 1:00 PM

Canada

Director: Mary Walsh
Screenwriter: Dave Sullivan, Mary Walsh
Producer: Ruth Lawrence, Mary Walsh
Cast: Mary Walsh, Dave Sullivan, Renée Hackett, Susan Kent

SYNOPSIS:
The Missus continues to try and thwart John's plans, and John is busy preparing for the biggest moment of his life — which he's not handling well at all.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 12 minutes
Language: English
Country: Canada



The Perfect Palm

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

Turkey, United States

Director: Ayse Altinok
Screenwriter: Ayse Altinok
Producer: Philip Berger, Sirin Aysan, Sezay Altinok, Gokay Ali Sarioz
Cast: Jay Paulson, Atticus Jackson

SYNOPSIS:
A young man on the autism spectrum, who possesses a remarkable gift as a visual artist, encounters the corporate world at his first job interview.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 11 minutes
Language: English
Country: Turkey, United States
Genre: Drama, Dark Comedy



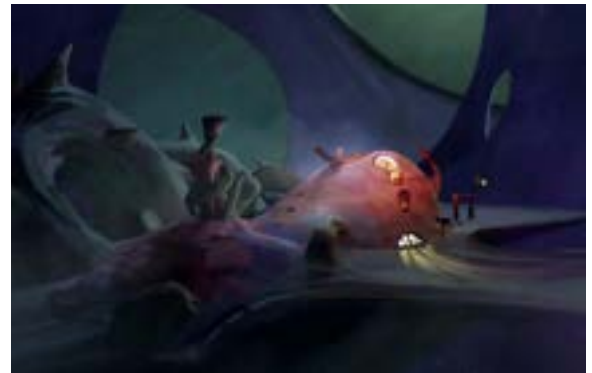
The Pit

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:30 PM

Director: Yizhang Jin

SYNOPSIS:
The Pit is a short 3D animated film that follows an elderly man with Alzheimer's disease who is trapped inside his own memories. He has to make a choice between staying in an imaginary world with his memories forever or returning to reality without his memories.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 3 minutes
Language: English



The Rebel Reef: Seeds of Hope

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 1:30 PM

United States

Director: Brynne Eliza Rardin, Patrick Joseph Krum
Screenwriter: Brynne Eliza Rardin, Tiffany Tuong Vi Duong, Juli Minette Berwald
Producer: Tiffany Tuong Vi Duong, Sivani Babu, Sabine Bergmann, Joseph Aurelio Henry, Brynne Eliza Rardin, Vinh Pham, Juli Minette Berwald
Cast: Christian René Carias Martínez, Quentin "Paco" Caussin, Antal Borcsok

SYNOPSIS:
After surviving a near-death experience, the sole divemaster in a Honduran beach town devotes himself to a mysteriously thriving reef—awakening questions about nature, healing, and the limits of both.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 25 minutes
Language: English, Spanish
Country: United States
Genre: Environmental, Narrative, Shorts, Underwater, Documentary, Latin America, Ocean, LatinX



The Recipe

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 4:00 PM

Canada

Director: Cici Jingwen Xu
Screenwriter: Cici Jingwen Xu
Producer: Yifei Lin
Cast: Ziwei Wang, Grace Gao, Noelle Bowley, Elora Bowley, Tyralyn Nwabuoku, Youran Qian

SYNOPSIS:

Growing up in a North American Chinese household, teenager Niuniu was raised between her grandmother's skilled hands in the kitchen and her mother Jingjing's constant absence. Years after her grandmother's passing, Niuniu still clings to those early memories in the warmth of handmade dumplings

and a kitchen once full of laughter, while the home she shares with her mother feels colder and more distant. When a confrontation brings long-buried grief to the surface, Jingjing uncovers her mother's old recipe letter and decides to cook for the first time in years. That morning, Niuniu finds her in the kitchen, and together they begin to fold dumplings with a quiet understanding that begins to take root.

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 13 minutes
Language: English, Mandarin Chinese
Country: Canada



The Skin I'm In

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 3:30 PM

United Kingdom

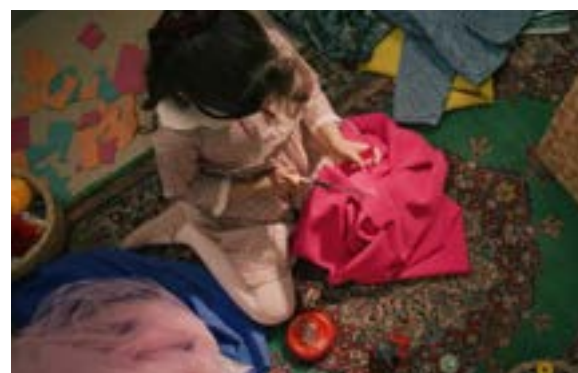
Director: Elena Vialykh
Screenwriter: Elena Vialykh
Producer: Stellakis Miltiadous
Cast: Daria Mazzocchio, Amber Doyle, Abramo Ciullo, Lena Theodi

SYNOPSIS:

The Skin I'm In is a poetic short rooted in magical realism, exploring how women quietly abandon parts of themselves to meet expectations — and what it takes to reclaim them. As a child, Nicole poured her imagination into making a jacket stitched with scraps, dreams, and a tiny watch sewn in place of a button. But when her well-meaning parents

gently guided her toward medical scrubs — like her father, a dermatologist — something quietly shifted. Two decades later, she is now a dermatologist herself, her early creative spark long buried beneath layers of practicality. When Nicole returns to her childhood attic after her father's death, seeking his patient files, she stumbles upon a forgotten photograph — and the jacket she once made. In that moment, something stirs: memory, magic, and a force that begins to awaken the part of herself she once silenced.

Year: 2025 - **Runtime:** 15 minutes
Language: English - **Country:** United Kingdom
Genre: Drama



The Texas Cheese Trail

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 1:30 PM

United States

Producer: TM Studios, Kathy McFarland, Kendall Talbot, Rachel Hudson, Harrison Albrecht
Cast: Bob Pineda, Rachel Pineda

Year: 2025
Runtime: 54 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States, United States
Genre: Texas, Food, Cheese



The Third Dream

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 1:00 PM

Iran

Producer: Alireza Barazandeh
Cast: Salman Salehi, Alireza Sanifar

SYNOPSIS:

A dreamer resists interrogation by a relentless doctor determined to extract the truth about his dream by coercive use of psychoanalysis. As pressure deepens, memories are altered, erased, and rewritten at will. With no escape from the

authority's reach, he realizes the truth was never his to protect, and confession was inevitable from the beginning.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 19 minutes
Language: Persian
Country: Islamic Republic of Iran
Genre: Thriller



The Undying Pain of Existence

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 4:00 PM

Germany

Director: Oscar Jacobson
Screenwriter: Oscar Jacobson
Producer: Franz Rügamer, Nadja Yunatska
Cast: Oscar Jacobson, Theresa Dobersberger
Editor: Revan Sarikaya
Animator: Ilya Barrett, Melanie Schnaidt, Gregor Wittich, Sofija Zivkovic, Benjamin Wahl, Louis Hartmann, Leo Neumann, Yerke-zhan Sabitbekova
Sound Design: Timo Kleinemeier

SYNOPSIS:
A nude model is posing with statuesque stillness for an elite drawing class – until an unfortunate mosquito bite challenges his self-control. Driven to madness by the itch, he’s caught between the ruthless demand for perfection and his most unhinged, animalistic impulses.
Year: 2025
Runtime: 5 minutes
Country: Germany
Content Warning: Nudity



Three Charlies

Showing: Sun, Apr 26 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Maddox Finkel
Screenwriter: Maddox Finkel
Producer: Tyler Rugh, Connor Clift
Cast: Brian Hathorn, Beth Puorro, Zach Attwood
Cinematographer: Fernando Andrés

SYNOPSIS:
After the loss of a young piano student, his girlfriend and his parents each tell a story about Charlie, but the stories don’t quite line up.
Runtime: 21 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States



Through the Shadows

Showing: Fri, May 1 at 10:00 PM

United States

Director: Liam Lui Martin
Screenwriter: Liam Lui Martin
Producer: Liam Lui Martin
Cast: Kayla Jou, Mark Wind

SYNOPSIS:
Written and directed by the award-winning 16 year old filmmaker Liam Lui Martin, ‘Through The Shadows’ is an darkly evocative and enigmatic psychological thriller

that follows a woman and her therapist down a mind-bending and dangerous path into the realm of the unknown. Selected to be shown at USC’s Summer Film Program student screening 2025.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 6 minutes
Language: English
Country: United States, United States
Genre: Psychological thriller, Horror, Suspense, noir



Tuesday Tuesday

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 4:00 PM

Australia

Director: Lianne Mackessy
Screenwriter: Lianne Mackessy, Emily Sheehan
Producer: Catherine Van der Rijt
Cast: Peter Phelps, Jillian Nuguyễn, Di Adams

SYNOPSIS:
A young support worker spends one final shift with her longtime client living with younger-onset dementia and must face the complicated feelings that come with letting go.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 15 minutes
Language: English
Country: Australia



Two Sisters

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 3:30 PM

Italy

Director: Antonio De Palo
Screenwriter: Antonio De Palo, Piero Rossi
Producer: Riccardo Neri, Vincenzo De Marco, Vincenzo Filippo, Antonio De Palo
Cast: Blu Yoshimi, Geno Diana, Lidia Vitale, Melissa Coccaro

SYNOPSIS:
Sara is a teenager with a troubled past. On a cold winter evening, she escapes from the residential juvenile community to save her little sister from the sexual slavery to which her father forces her. The discovery of the ogre will force Sara into a real struggle to win her freedom.

Year: 2024
Runtime: 19 minutes
Language: Italian
Country: Italy



Useful Child

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 4:00 PM

South Korea

Director: Hayeon Park
Screenwriter: Hayeon Park
Producer: Junyoung Lee
Cast: Juni Ko

SYNOPSIS:
During an illegal procedure, a child reacts in strange ways. We should never have left them alone.

Runtime: 9 minutes
Language: Korean
Country: South Korea



Watching Marlene

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:00 PM

United States

Director: Burton Rocks
Producer: Bob Holtzman

SYNOPSIS:
A woman cherishes a timeless gift from a grandmother she never met.

Year: 2026
Runtime: 10 minutes
Country: United States



Water My Steps Orchid Color

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 4:00 PM

Mexico

Director: Emmanuel Saavedra
Screenwriter: Emmanuel Saavedra, Juan Pablo Mejorada Dávila
Producer: Emmanuel Saavedra, Juan Pablo Mejorada Dávila, Lothar Vázquez
Cast: Óscar Ricardo García, María Magdalena Caraballo

SYNOPSIS:
Ciro, a botanist with post-traumatic stress, finds in flowers and plants a way to cope with the constant suffering caused by the army during a time of war.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 15 minutes
Language: Spanish
Country: Mexico



We Do Not Part

Showing: Sat, Apr 25 at 1:00 PM

South Korea

Director: Na Young Cho

SYNOPSIS:

Through the stories of Kim Seong-cheol, who lost his wife and daughter; Park In-uk, a former Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries official who once handled the aftermath of both the MV Seohae and Sewol Ferry sinking disasters, but lost five family members in the Jeju Air crash—this documentary reveals that such tragedies are

not just personal losses but collective ones. It highlights how our recurring disregard for safety remains the root cause of these preventable disasters.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 20 minutes
Language: Korean
Country: South Korea



What Remains of Us

Showing: Sat, May 2 at 3:30 PM

Australia

Director: Solomon Fezer
Screenwriter: Solomon Fezer, Mellony Ledo
Producer: Mellony Ledo
Cast: Solomon Fezer, Mellony Ledo

SYNOPSIS:

What Remains of Us is a poignant exploration of grief, connection, and missed opportunities. Luke, a young man weighed down by personal struggles and family expectations, revisits a close but strained relationship with Cam, a friend who moved away. Through

a series of text messages, flashbacks, and video calls, the film reveals Luke's guilt and regret over losing touch, culminating in the devastating realization of Cam's tragic fate. As Luke grapples with his emotions, he reflects on the impact of their bond and the unspoken struggles both carried, emphasizing the importance of reaching out and cherishing meaningful connections.

Year: 2025
Runtime: 10 minutes
Country: Australia



Beth Yu

Giovanni Silva

Chang Hu

Fabian Cruze

THE THERAPY TRIP

愛有所醫

DIRECTED BY

Wasley Zhang



Vivianna Wang



SCREENPLAYED BY

Vivianna Wang

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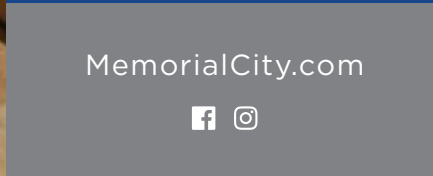
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