



oncinema

IMPACT REPORT

2025

LETTER FROM OUR CEO

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud to share a year that reaffirmed why O Cinema matters so deeply to Miami. This past year was one of momentum, purpose, and belief: momentum in film as a tool for connection, purpose in access as a cultural imperative, and belief in community as the heart of everything we do.

Our programming in 2025 was bold by design. We presented first-run and independent stories that challenged, delighted, and brought people together. From intimate independent films to large-scale communal events, audiences showed up with curiosity and trust. It allows us to take creative risks, center underrepresented voices, and use cinema as a space for civic dialogue and shared experience.

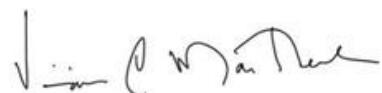
Equally important, this year demonstrated that mission and sustainability can and must coexist. Through thoughtful curation and deep community engagement and partnerships, O Cinema achieved meaningful impact while keeping our doors open and accessible.

None of this would be possible without the support of our funders, partners, donors, and audiences who continue to believe in the power of independent cinema.

As O Cinema looks ahead to an exciting period of growth, including the addition and transformation of our Little River location into a multi-use cultural campus, we remain grounded in our values: equity, access, experimentation, and belonging.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping ensure that Miami continues to have a home for bold, inclusive, and community-centered cinema.

Sincerely,



Vivian Marthell

CEO & CCO of O Cinema

Please consider making a donation to O Cinema at o-cinema.org/donate.

2025 PROGRAMMING REVIEW: CELEBRATING PROGRAMMING WINS

A YEAR OF PURPOSEFUL AND DIVERSE PROGRAMMING

In 2025, O Cinema presented 50+ distinct film runs and special events, underscoring its capacity to sustain year-round cultural programming. This volume speaks to operational strength, while the content itself reflects thoughtful curation grounded in artistic excellence and social relevance.

Audiences were consistently invited into timely conversations through film, reinforcing O Cinema's role as a cultural curator within Miami's arts landscape.

At O Cinema, belonging is the unifying thread. Whether presenting challenging documentaries, foreign-language gems, or large-scale cult classics, O Cinema intentionally creates a safe, welcoming space where difference is celebrated.

The **shared theatrical experience** remains vital. It is where **voices are amplified**, **community is forged**, and **cultural dialogue thrives**.



Lizzie Friedrich and *Life After* director Reid Davenport during a post-screening Q&A during Slamdance's Unstoppable Film Festival. The festival featured films created exclusively by artists with visible and non-visible disabilities.

STANDOUT FILMS & EVENTS

Several titles exemplify the strength and range of the year's programming. *No Other Land* anchored O Cinema's commitment to urgent, globally resonant storytelling, demonstrating the organization's willingness to present challenging work that sparks dialogue and reflection.

Lift showcased contemporary independent cinema with broad audience appeal, while *K-Pop Demon Slayers* highlighted O Cinema's ability to program genre-bending, youth-engaging, and culturally current content.

Post-screening discussions, repeat attendance, and community buzz underscore O Cinema's role as a forum for public discourse and collective experience.

Together, these films illustrate a curatorial philosophy that **embraces both artistic risk and accessibility to cultural moments** in South Florida.



Art Films series with Oolite Arts with Filmmakers Angela Robinson Witherspoon and Abdul Malik Abbot

EMBEDDED COMMITMENT TO REPRESENTATION, EQUITY & ACCESS

A defining programming win in 2025 was the depth of representation across the slate, paired with a clear commitment to equity and access. More than 20 films directed by women were programmed, alongside strong inclusion of BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and international filmmakers.

These works were not siloed into isolated showcases but integrated throughout the calendar, affirming that inclusive storytelling is central not supplemental to O Cinema's mission.

By presenting films at **accessible price points** within a neighborhood venue, O Cinema ensured that a broad cross-section of the community could engage with cultural work.



Tilda Swinton and Julianna Moore in *The Room Next Door*,
Pedro Almodovar's English-language debut

FLEXIBILITY & RESPONSIVENESS

Carefully selected one-off events and limited runs performed especially well, indicating strong audience trust and effective contextualization of ambitious films that invite conversation and community engagement. O Cinema's strategic balance of one-night events and longer theatrical runs allowed the organization to remain responsive to cultural moments and community interests.

This flexible programming model reduced financial risk while increasing reach, enabling O Cinema to **spotlight timely films and emerging voices** without compromising fiscal responsibility.



Liyah, Eve and Bex, performers for the K-Pop Demon Hunters screening

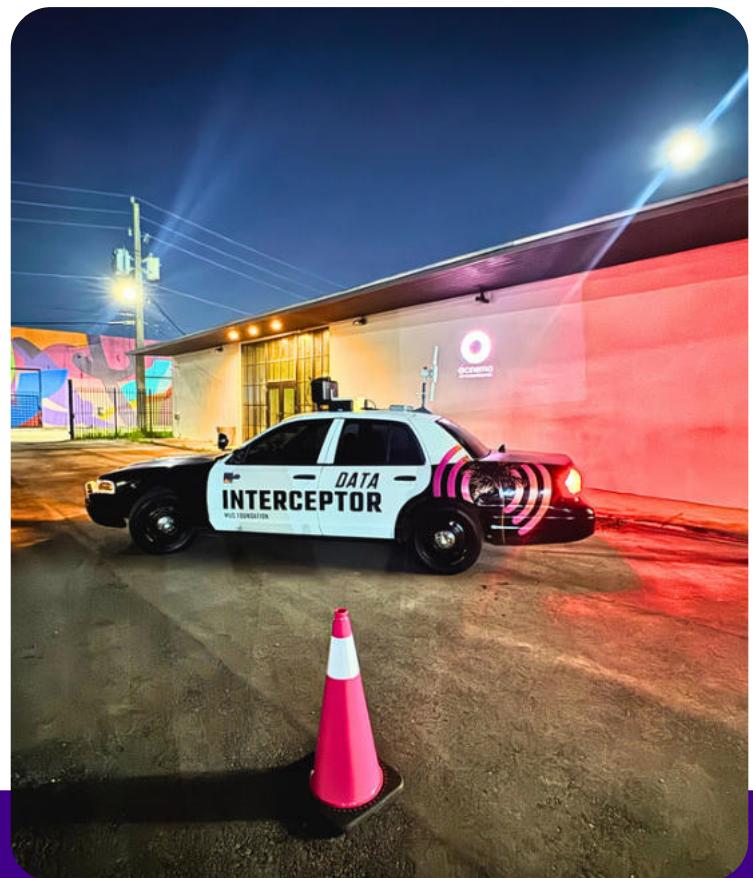
MUD FOUNDATION × O CINEMA AT O CINEMA LITTLE RIVER

During Art Basel week, MUD Foundation transformed O Cinema Little River into a multi-faceted art and technology hub, offering a preview of what our future multiplex campus will enable. Ahead of renovations beginning later this year, the activation demonstrated how cinema can intersect with visual art, data, and emerging technologies.

The exhibition, Looking at Models, explored how artificial intelligence, data, and computational systems shape the realities we live in. Through photography, new media, and generative art, participating artists questioned the structures behind the images we trust and the systems that produce them.

Public programming featured curator talks, artist presentations including Michael Mandiberg's Taking Stock and the electrifying Night of the Living Code. Guerrilla Hotspot projections extended the experience beyond the building, bringing digital art to unexpected corners of the city and engaging new audiences in public space.

This collaboration offered just a glimpse of what O Cinema's new campus will make possible. MUD Foundation will have an XRHub Lab at the O Cinema: Art Film Experiences in support O Verse, a new infrastructure for immersive cinema and community storytelling. More than a cinema, the Little River site will become a vibrant cultural hub with multi-use screening rooms, gallery space, flexible event areas, and a café and lounge designed to foster community connection, experimentation, and year-round cultural exchange.



Guerilla Hotspot's Data Interceptor, by MUD Foundation, WISPer Program Public Art. The Data Interceptor security-like car is a public art platform that provides free WiFi to the community and enables video interventions in public spaces. The data collected in the hotspot is used as raw material for art creation.

O CINEMA IN LIBRARIES & MUSEUMS



O Cinema is proud to have launched its digital OCVR library initiative, extending access to its films and educational resources beyond the theater with virtual reality headsets.

Continuing into 2025, this program aimed to bring an O Cinema experience to Miami-Dade County library branches touching residents from 7 to 70 years old – **reinforcing the organization's commitment to **equity, access, and lifelong cultural impact.****



50TH ANNIVERSARY

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



O Cinema was elated to once again return to the Miami Beach Bandshell for the annual Rocky Horror Picture Show screening, a beloved tradition attracting nearly 500 patrons each year. This immersive outdoor event brings the iconic cult classic to life through costumes, participation, and communal celebration from the Time Warp dance to the shared joy of ritual and performance.

Now in O Cinema's 14th year of presenting Rocky Horror as a live show experience and marking the film's 50th anniversary, the phenomenon of participation, identity, and belonging remains vibrantly alive in Miami.

The event exemplifies what independent cinema can be: **inclusive, community-centered, joyful and trendsetting.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



O Cinema gratefully acknowledges the support of its institutional partners, including the Knight Foundation, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council, Jorge Perez Family Foundation, Arison Arts Foundation, The Miami Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Longstanding partnerships with Bistouri Physical Theater & Film, FilmGate, Popcorn Frights, and national and international film festivals continue to expand O Cinema's reach and cultural impact.

SPECIAL THANKS

Traci Ardren	Liza Nugent	Elizabeth Haddad
Trey Mahoney	Timoni West	Gaby Abdelnour
Timothy Bossidy	Elias Aractingi	Mahmud Shihadeh
Adrienne Hall	Jane Toll	Maria N. Hernandez
Robert Warren	Mario Nicosia	Namek Zubi
Ellen Kirsh	Elan Nissenboim	Arison Arts Foundation
Pinar Bora	Kathleen Sanders	Thomas Rothman
Jennifer Attonito	Kareem Tabsch	

FESTIVAL & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Miami Jewish Film Festival
Miami Film Festival
Italian Film Festival
Brazilian Film Festival
American Black Film Festival

Miami Shorts Film Festival
Irish Film Festival
Polish Film Festival

Together, these collaborations broaden the horizons of Miami's creative scene and ensure that O Cinema remains a vital, inclusive home for independent film.

Equally vital is the continued support of donors and community members who help keep O Cinema accessible, innovative, and community-driven.

O Cinema thanks its donors, supporters, and members whose generosity keeps the screens lit and the projectors rolling.





WE THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING O CINEMA

& a new generation of film lovers in South Florida

O CINEMA
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