

PROGRAM GUIDE

APRIL 18 & 19,
2026

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

MOROP

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SCIENCE FICTION

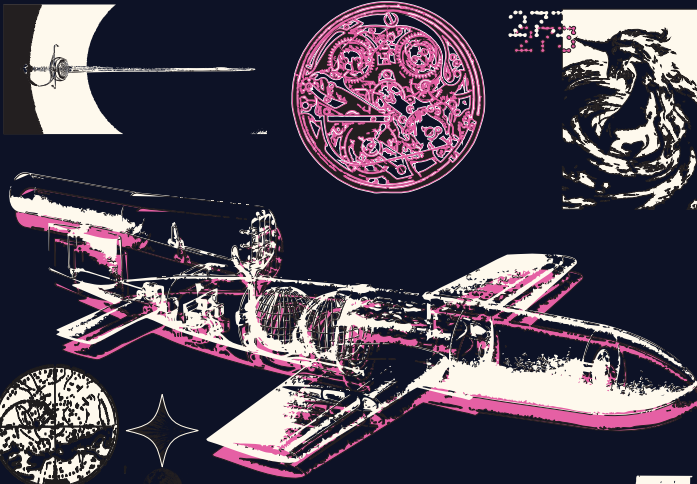
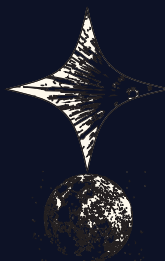
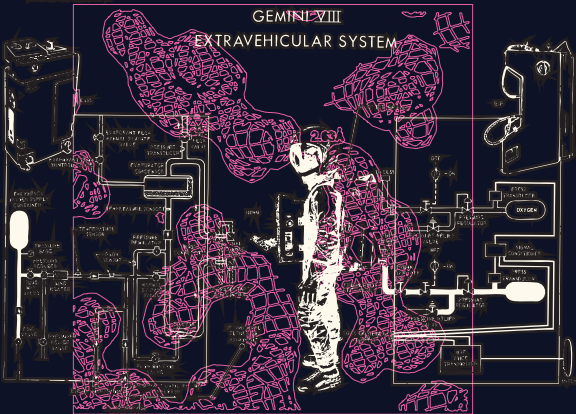


Figure 2. - Idealized drawing of German rocket propelled by a simple explosion
Figure 2. - Jet-propulsion engine-German rocket propelled by a simple explosion
Jet-propulsion engine.

NASA-SCIENCE



FANTASY

'26



**SCIENCE FICTION &
FANTASY SHORT
FILM FESTIVAL**

Welcome to the 2026 Science Fiction and Fantasy Short Film Festival!

First off, *THANK YOU* for attending our festival and for supporting independent sci-fi and fantasy creators.

We can't wait to share this slate of expansive, creative, out-of-this-world short films with you, our audience! Here in the cinema we create our own kind of magic, bringing fans of the fantastic together in person to all be transported to new realms.

While things here on Earth continue to become more dystopian, arts and culture creators show us alternate timelines, fantastic depictions of real-world issues, and hopeful visions of possible futures. Science fiction and fantasy genres are imperative to our collective imagination and dreaming of humanity's future. Whether you're looking for the next sci-fi masterpiece or a silly fantasy ride, we've got it all here at SFFSFF!

Set your phasers to FUN and get ready for a program chock-full of incredible work by filmmakers from across our little green planet!

Sincerely,

The SFFSFF Team

MOPOP

The Museum of Pop Culture's mission is to activate the world-shaping power of pop culture through participative experiences, discovery, and play.

SIFF

SIFF's mission is to create experiences that bring people together to discover extraordinary films from around the world. It is through the art of cinema that we foster a community that is more informed, aware, and alive.

DAY 1 SCHEDULE

**2:30 PM - Doors Open
at SIFF Uptown**

3:00 PM - Block 1 Begins

**CONTENT WARNINGS: DISCUSSION
OF RACIAL VIOLENCE, RACIAL SLURS,
LANGUAGE, ANIMATED GORE**

***MY ONLY FRIEND IS A
ROBOT NAMED BEANS*** |
Anika Kan Grevstad | USA
| 13 min.

Ruby finds her lonesome routines disrupted when she makes an unlikely new friend: a mail-order robot.

PLAY AGAIN? | Rita (Rui)
Chen | USA | 4 min.

Faced with the end of their world, two time travelers say their last goodbyes.

THE BURDEN | Tish Arana |
USA | 15 min.

When culture vultures apply for citizenship on a new planet founded by Black Earthlings, three judges must decide how to deal with folks who want everything but the burden.

EN MEMORIA | Roberto
Fatal | USA | 11 min.

In a dystopian future, a mother struggles to finish making her daughter's quinceañera dress.

REDMAN | Edith Morris |
United Kingdom | 1 min.

I went to Lofoten, Norway and captured a giant red man on Super 8.

DETLEV | Ferdinand
Ehrhardt | Germany | 13 min.

A constantly freezing man in his forties drives to a lonely petrol station every evening to perform a bizarre warming ritual. When he is observed by a stranger one night, his world begins to crumble into shameful pieces.

EMPANO GLEASIUM | Joe
Bowden | USA | 10 min.

A couple uses their love for each other and a magical spell to summon a galactic deity, but when they recite the spell's magic words, they learn there's more to magic than love...

BUTTERFLY KISS | Zohar
Dvir | Germany | 10 min.

After an argument over an unexpected marriage proposal, Carol is left horrified to discover that their partner Ray has turned into a butterfly. Will love win?

I METAMAN™ | Chester
Travis | New Zealand | 5
min.

A lonely woman turns to a cutting-edge dating service, hoping technology might succeed where love has failed.

GOD IS SHY | Jocelyn Charles | France | 15 min.

During a train ride, Ariel and Paul pass the time sketching their deepest fears. Their game takes an unexpected turn when Gilda, a mysterious passenger, intrudes on their exchange. Yet, her relationship with fear seems far less innocent than their playful drawings.

4:45 PM – Intermission

5:45 PM – Block 2 Begins

CONTENT WARNINGS: LANGUAGE, GRAPHIC VIOLENCE/GORE, EXPLICIT SEXUAL SITUATIONS, SEXUAL ASSAULT

SKIN | Urvashi Pathania | USA | 12 min.

When an Indian American woman visits a mysterious skin-lightening clinic, she discovers its horrifying true nature.

ÅTERSÅDD | Emanu Garnheim | Sweden | 14 min.

The Traveler tries to create new life on a dead planet, inhabited only by the mysterious dust worms. But life only seems to be possible through sacrifice.

MILKSHAKE | George Tsereteli Ortiz | USA | 4 min.

Flying through outer space in a beat-up pickup truck, a man convinces his younger brother to stop at an asteroid gas station for a milkshake.

ENSEÑAME COMO MORIR (SHOW ME HOW TO DIE) | Gerardo Maravilla | USA | 14 min.

After her grandmother passes away, a grieving Mexican American woman becomes fascinated with learning what it feels like to die, leading her to a mysterious facility and a strange journey.

BREADSONG | Katariina Aule | Estonia | 16 min.

In the 19th century, a rural family hears a pop song from the future. Each replay comes at a cost that eventually threatens to break them apart.

ULTRA JUICE | Carl Conway Maguire | USA | 4 min.

A lonely man finds friendship in an unexpected place: his new vape.

ROUGE | Zoé Arene | Belgium & France | 16 min.

In this adaptation of Little Red Riding Hood, nothing goes as expected: “Hoodie” boldly asserts her desires without fear or shame, the Wolf is far from a predator, and Grandmother is losing her mind. But the Narrator hasn’t had the last word yet...

SPACE DADDY | Stephen Carruthers | United Kingdom | 10 min.

Twenty-something twink Andy has a hookup with a mysterious hunk he meets on the dating app Strangr—with some... out-of-this-world consequences.

7:30 PM – Filmmaker Q&A and Awards Ceremony

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

**12:30 PM – Doors Open
at SIFF Uptown**

**1:00 PM – NEXT GENERATION
FILMMAKERS BLOCK BEGINS**

**CONTENT WARNINGS: LANGUAGE,
GORE, DISCUSSION OF SEXUAL
SITUATIONS, FRIGHTENING IMAGES**

CHECK PLEASE | Shane Chung | USA | 10 min.

Two headstrong Koreans can't agree on who's treating who to dinner, causing their casual restaurant outing to spiral into a martial arts deathmatch.

ALIENATED! | Andrew Erbskorn | USA | 3 min.

After his home is attacked by monsters, Gary, the janitor, is forced outside to fix the damages, but hijinks ensue when the monsters start hunting him!

**TOM'S ALIEN SPACE
ADVENTURE** | Graham Molloy | USA | 11 min.

A young ambitious astronaut makes an emergency landing on an unknown planet. Little does he know that the aliens waiting there are just as crazy as him!

GENESIS AND THE SEEDS
| Rowdy Stephens | USA | 11 min.

Hundreds of thousands of years ago, a suffering humanity lived on Mars. Genesis, a rogue cosmic dreamer, pushes to send two humans to Earth with strong hopes of preserving humanity's grace.

HUNGRY HOLLOW | Sarah Ruyle | USA | 6 min.

A gaggle of forest sprites mingle and cavort at the local watering hole, so to speak.

ANCORA | Rocío Granillo Posse | Argentina | 14 min.

A boy seeks to find himself in a world in the not too distant future where people have forgotten their spiritual dimension until he meets a girl who shows him that there is still hope.

THE PARKING TICKET FAIRY
| Lily Andrews | USA | 12 min.

A hopelessly earnest fairy battles the brutal reality of being assigned the humiliating job of "Parking Ticket Fairy."

MY LAST DAY ON EARTH | Paullina Leskinen | United Kingdom | 4 min.

A lonely astronaut's final day on Earth.

GALE | Sean Kim | Canada | 9 min.

When her village is inadvertently destroyed by an ever-earnest gentle giant, Gran, the lonesome town matriarch, will have to let her guard down if she ever hopes to befriend the hulking construct and rebuild what has been lost.

UNWOUND | Keira Grace Schehl | USA | 2 min.

An engineer is obsessed with recreating a wind-up ballerina from his childhood music box. As he struggles to perfect his creation, he finds himself trapped in a deadly dance.

GODDAMN'S GREAT BIG ADVENTURE: THE DATING CRISIS! | Lulu Mckown | USA | 3 min.

Goddamn—an adorably naive sock—ventures out to find love and runs into a few problems along the way.

DYSMORPHIC | Saul Pena | USA | 2 min.

In suburban silence, a boy struggles with the negative perception of himself.

FORBIDDEN FEAST | Hank Swift | USA | 10 min.

Bill and Lewis try out a new dinner spot in this Lunchian horror classic.

SFFHOF VOTING NOW OPEN!

Vote for your favorite science fiction and fantasy creators and creations for MOPOP's **Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame**

CREATORS

Lois McMaster Bujold

Caitlín R. Kiernan

Liu Cixin

David Cronenberg

Dan O'Bannon

Tim Burton

CREATIONS

Fallout Franchise

The Elder Scrolls Series

X-Men Franchise

Metropolis (1927)

The Giver

Final Fantasy Franchise

MOPOP



VOTE HERE!



VIEW OUR CURRENT HALL OF FAME



CALL FOR ENTRIES COMING JUNE 2026

MORE INFO AT [MOPOP.ORG/SFFSFF](https://mopop.org/sffsff) AND
[FILMFREEWAY.COM/SFFSFFSEATTLE](https://filmfreeway.com/sffsffseattle)



AWARDS

Jury Grand Prize

Second Place

Third Place

Jury Douglas Trumbull Award for Best Special Effects

Next Generation Filmmakers Grand Prize
Determined by MOPOP's Youth Advisory Board

Audience Favorite
Determined by audience on site at screening

JURY MEMBERS



Aaron Douglas (he/him), Actor

Aaron Douglas is best known for his portrayal of Chief Galen Tyrol on Syfy's *Battlestar Galactica*. His impressive resume features over 100 other film, TV, and video game credits, including *X2: X-Men United*, *I, Robot*, *Stargate SG-1*, *The Bridge*, *Hellcats*, *Hemlock Grove*, *The Killing*, *The Returned*, *Falling Skies*, *The Strain*, *iZombie*, *The X-Files*, *Supernatural*, *The Flash*, *Once Upon a Time*, *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*, *Imposters*, *Motherland: Fort Salem*, *Van Helsing*, *The Watchful Eye*, *Ubisoft's Watch Dogs*, and more. Aaron is now creating and writing comic books for AfterShock and Dark Horse Comics. His first book in the *Borealis* series—co-created and co-written with his good friend and fellow *Battlestar Galactica* alum Mark Verheiden—was released in 2023.



Jill Busby (she/her), Interim Executive Director of Northwest Film Forum

Jill Louise Busby is the Interim Executive Director at Northwest Film Forum. She is a writer and creative leader known for her wit and sharp perspective. She brings a unique voice to her work, blending humor with insightful commentary on human experiences. In addition to writing, Jill collaborates with artists, filmmakers, and organizations to foster meaningful creative spaces.



Semih Tareen (he/him), Director of Seattle Turkish Film Festival

Semih Tareen is a biotechnology scientist who uses viruses to advance cures for cancer and other diseases. Alongside his scientific work, he remains active in film as the director of STFF, the Seattle Turkish Film Festival, and as a film composer and producer. His latest producer credit is the feature film *The Demonatrix*, starring Doug Bradley (*Hellraiser*), Larry Fessenden (*Habit*), Hannah Fierman (*VH/S*).



Steve Desmond (he/him), Screenwriter

Steve is a Chicago native and a USC Film School alumnus who currently lives in Los Angeles. Along with his writing partner Michael Sherman, he co-wrote the screenplay for *Knock at the Cabin*, which was directed by M. Night Shyamalan. It was released theatrically by Universal Studios and opened at # 1 at the box office.

Over the years, Steve and Michael's feature screenplays have been voted onto the prestigious industry Black List four times, including twice in the top ten. His short film, *Monsters*, which he directed, has amassed over two million views and screened at more than 100 film festivals around the world, winning 45 awards, including Best Short Film at the Comic-Con International Film Festival. He is currently writing new feature films for Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros. Animation, and Netflix, and is attached to direct his first feature for Gold Circle Films.

Steve is represented by CAA and Ziffren-Brittenham LLP. For more information on his projects, visit www.dreamingants.com.

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMERS

'26

Beth Barrett

Maddy Szmidt

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Paula Matthews

Larry Baum

Jessica Lane

Julia Vreeman

Amanda Diaz

Di'onnte Roberson

Emma Neville

NEXT GENERATION FILMMAKER TRACK PROGRAMMERS

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SCI-FI & FANTASY SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 2026

FESTIVAL
PRESENTERS

MOPOP | SIFF

