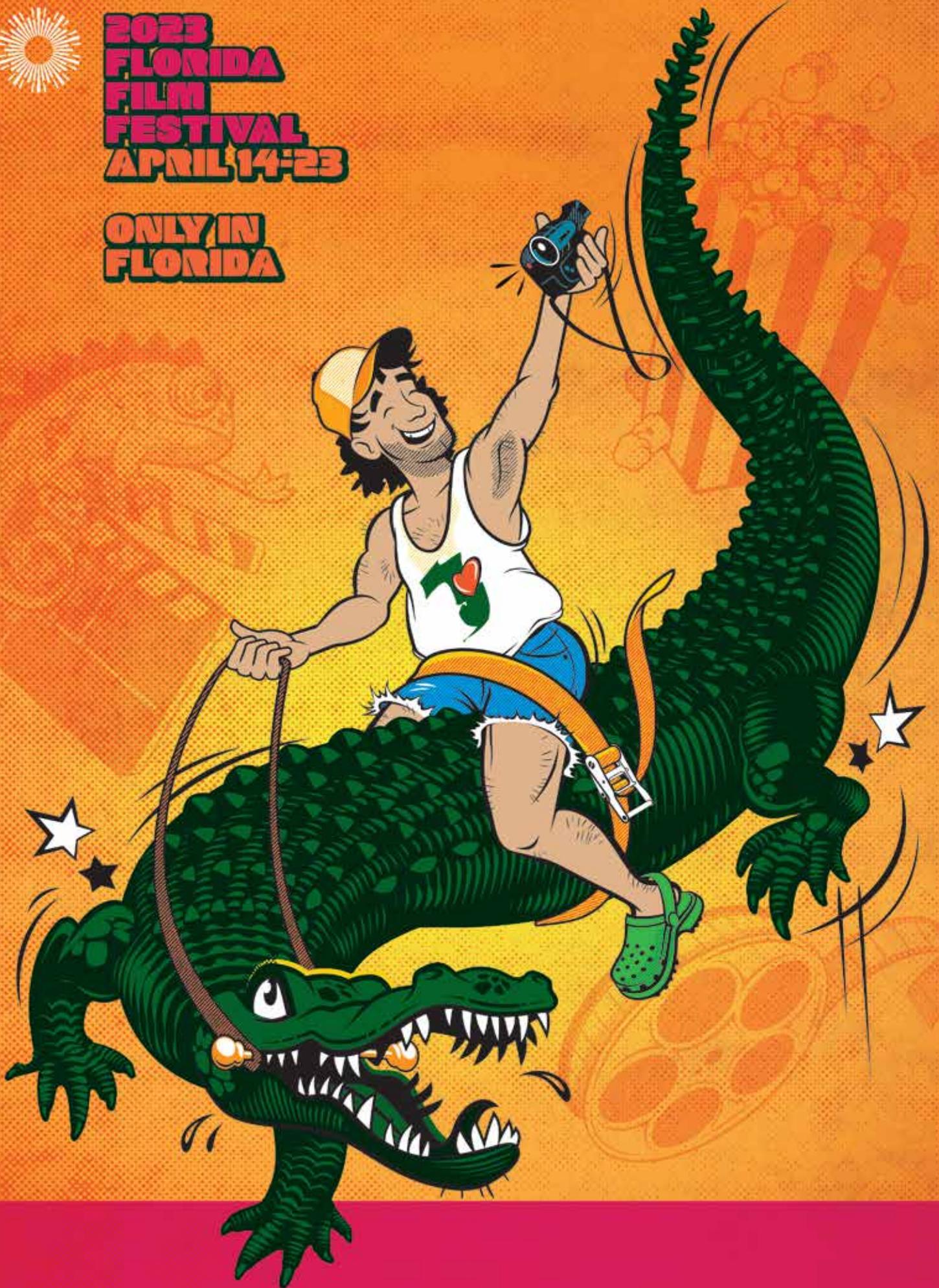




**2023
FLORIDA
FILM
FESTIVAL
APRIL 14-23**

**ONLY IN
FLORIDA**



WELCOME



Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2023 Florida Film Festival. As the director of public relations and development at Enzian, I can speak for the entire festival staff when I say we are thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase the best of independent cinema to audiences in our beautiful state.

Our festival has a long-standing reputation for highlighting the most innovative and thought-provoking films from around the world. We pride ourselves on being a platform for emerging talent as well as for celebrating the work of established filmmakers. This year, our selections team watched 2,802 entries and painstakingly paired them down to the 168 films you can see over the next ten days. These films represent 38 countries, with 19 world premieres, 10 U.S. and North American premieres, 44 East Coast premieres, and 34 Florida premieres. This year, the festival also boasts a record-breaking number of films with Florida ties, with 40 out of our 168 total films listing Florida connections.

Our theming for the festival this year leans heavily on Florida's eclectic

stereotype—the Florida Man—to build a fun, satirical, and playful voice for the festival. Florida is known for its bizarre “Only in Florida” headlines, our chaotic relationship with alligators, and the notorious “Florida Man” trope, eccentricities that make our state wonderfully unique. It’s easy to forget that Florida is also home to a vibrant and growing arts and culture scene that has been gaining recognition both nationally and internationally. The Sunshine State has more than beaches to boast about, such as our world-class museums, theaters, music venues, and festivals that showcase the talent and creativity of our artists and performers.

From the renowned Art Basel Miami Beach to the internationally acclaimed Sarasota Opera to our very own Florida Film Festival, our state is a cultural hub that attracts visitors from all over the world. Our film festivals, literary events, and performances offer an incredible array of artistic experiences for audiences of all ages and interests. As an arthouse non-profit theater and cultural organization, we value all aspects of our state: from its sublime artistic achievements to its occasional

proclivity to play into one of the nation’s favorite jokes.

Over the course of the festival, you will have the chance to explore a diverse range of films and engage in conversations with the talented individuals behind them. From powerful documentaries to groundbreaking narratives, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Most importantly, I would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsors, partners, and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that this year’s festival is a success. Your support is essential to the continued growth of the Florida Film Festival.

Thank you for joining us for what promises to be an unforgettable event. We look forward to sharing this experience with you.

Happy festing!

Deanna Liedtke
Director of Public Relations & Development



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2023 Florida Film Festival April 14-23



An Evening with John Cusack, featuring *Say Anything*



Spotlight film *It's Only Life After All*



International feature *Long Flat Balls* "Broken Promises"



Closing night retro film *Fantastic Voyage*



Midnight movie *Moon Garden*

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Most films have not yet been rated by the MPAA. Please read the descriptions and choose responsibly.



Friends of Motion Picture Art,

I'm honored to share that this year marks Full Sail University's 20th anniversary serving as the primary sponsor of the Florida Film Festival.

As the Festival embarks upon its 32nd year, Full Sail University looks forward to this nationally renowned celebration of talented filmmakers. We anticipate yet another exceptional festival brought to us by the Enzian Theater, where we will be entertained, educated, and emotionally moved through the art of filmmaking.

Home to a vibrant community that embraces entertainment media and emerging technologies, we at Full Sail University both respect and relish the notion that great motion pictures come in many genres and in many lengths. The Florida Film Festival is one of the premier festivals in the world where esteemed filmmakers and actors—as well as novices—showcase their personal art.

Each year the Florida Film Festival provides us with the opportunity to lose ourselves in the stories provided by these

films, only to emerge afterwards knowing a bit more about ourselves after looking through the eyes and lenses of another's creative vision.

For over 40+ years, Full Sail University has been providing a one-of-a-kind, innovative, and award-winning education centered on supporting our students, while helping to propel our graduates into their careers. On behalf of the students, graduates, and faculty of Full Sail University, it is indeed our privilege, and pleasure to serve as the primary sponsor of the Florida Film Festival once again in 2023. I look forward to the unique and meaningful films this year's festival will offer.

Sincerely,

Garry Jones
President
Full Sail University

 **2023 FLORIDA
FILM FESTIVAL**
APRIL 14-23

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FusionFest Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission of celebrating the people and the diverse cultures that make Central Florida awesome by showcasing talents, creating stories, collaborating, educating and breaking down barriers of fears and dislikes. FusionFest is a project of the Orange County Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs.

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Official Letters



Florida Film Festival Producer Passholders

The Florida Film Festival exists to serve the community and only continues to thrive due to the enthusiastic support of our patrons. The individuals on this list are some of our most committed attendees; they have made a significant contribution to the Festival and, by extension, to the culture of the community. To this extraordinary group, we say, “Thank you. We’ll see you at the movies.”

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The Florida Film Festival and the Enzian would like to take a moment to remember Elizabeth “Lissie” Tiralongo, a projectionist for FFF 2022 whom we lost this past year. Lissie was a talented young artist and their loss to our community is heartbreaking. We extend our love to Lissie’s friends and family.

— Zachary Beckler, FFF
Selections Team Member

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The Florida Film Festival acknowledges these terrific volunteers—all of whom deliver an extra-special spark that makes the event memorable, efficient, and friendly. Some of them go back decades with the festival. Thank you all.

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We at the Florida Film Festival and Enzian Theater salute our Alpenrose Circle donors, whose generosity is vital to ensuring a flourishing future for the art house theater and its mission. An Alpenrose is a beautiful alpine flower that inspires and endures—much like this wonderful group of supporters. *(List reflects period of February 2022-February 2023)*

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Forums at the Winter Park Library feature a complimentary coffee break, sponsored by Coterie Coffee Co.

A Peek Behind the Pixels—A Conversation with Industry Leaders in Virtual Production

Sponsored by Full Sail University

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 AT NOON-1PM

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Hear from leading industry experts as they discuss the burgeoning realm of virtual production, and its wide array of functionality in weaving cutting-edge gaming technology with visual storytelling to create some of today's most notable projects. From HBO's *House of the Dragon*, feature films, and commercial projects; to gaming's valuable role in this field and more, learn how these leaders are utilizing virtual production, and where they see it headed in the future. This array of panelists, moderated by Rick Ramsey (Education Director, Visual Arts, Full Sail University), includes Caris Baker (Senior Technical Artist at Unity Technologies), Stephen Beres (Vice President, Media & Production Operations, HBO), Culley

Bunker (Owner, Skulley Effects), and Brody Ramsey (Senior ICFX Supervisor at VU Technologies (tentative)).

Queering the Screen: The Progression of Representation

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 11AM-12:30PM

EDYTH BUSH THEATRE AT
WINTER PARK LIBRARY
1052 W. MORSE BOULEVARD
WINTER PARK, FL 32789

Each year the Florida Film Festival features dozens of films reflecting queer subject matter or made by queer creators. This year, we sit down with a group of these filmmakers to talk about the past, present, and future of representation in media. How far have we come? Where do we go from here? Featuring *Greetings from Queertown: Orlando's* Jess Keller (director), Rick Todd (producer and *Watermark* owner/publisher), *Egghead & Twinkie's* Sarah Kambe Holland, and "Evan Ever After's" Ariel Mahler and Radha Mehta. Moderated by Dr. George A Wallace, CEO, LGBTQ+ Center Orlando, Inc.

Filmmaker Forum

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 11AM-12:30PM

EDYTH BUSH THEATRE AT
WINTER PARK LIBRARY
1052 W. MORSE BOULEVARD
WINTER PARK, FL 32789

The Florida Film Festival hosts some of the most talented new independent filmmakers every year, and always sets aside one day just to pick their brains. This lively and dynamic exchange of ideas and know-how inevitably defines a high point in the festival—peppered with tales of triumph, challenge, and creative methods. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime airing of artistic laundry by the filmmakers who get the job done. Moderated by Enzian/Florida Film Festival Programming Coordinator Tim Anderson.



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Aligned with our global Travel + Leisure Co. culture of inclusion and diversity, we are pleased to support the Florida Film Festival and Enzian's commitment to strengthen respect, wisdom, and creativity within the community through independent film. We are proud to celebrate the diversity of independent cinema in a way that reflects the way we reflect the experiences and perspectives of various cultures and identities in our workplace. — The Travel + Leisure Co. Team

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LOOK FOR THIS ICON IN
THE FESTIVAL PROGRAM
FOR FILMS WITH "REEL
REPRESENTATION."



ASIAN

East Bay (p. 48)

DIRECTED BY **DANIEL YOON**

East Bay slyly and hilariously skewers the notion that everyone is special, as approaching middle-age teaches a group of Bay Area singles otherwise, while never losing sight of the beauty, tragedy, and absurdity of an ordinary life.



WOMEN'S INTEREST

Minnesota Mean (p. 62)

DIRECTED BY **DAWN MIKKELSON**

The Minnesota Roller Girls defy gender stereotypes and advocate positive body images for women. Unlike the customary portrayal of women in sexy attire, vying for male approval, this team of women take pride in their athleticism, while breaking barriers in their sport.



BLACK

Racist Trees (p. 64)

DIRECTED BY **SARA NEWENS AND MINA T. SON**

Don't let the charming weirdness of Palm Springs fool you. Literally just beyond the pristine golf courses, a decades-long fight about trees and segregation is coming to a head, thanks to a local newspaper story. From the team that brought you *Top Spin* (FFF 2015).

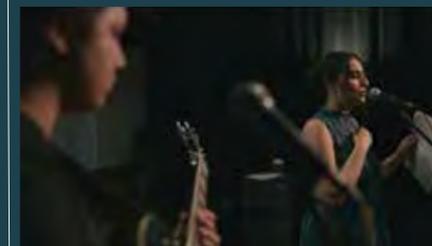


LGBTQIA+

Egghead & Twinkie (p. 49)

DIRECTED BY **SARAH KAMBE HOLLAND**

After coming out to her parents, 17-year-old Twinkie takes off on a road trip to meet her online crush with the help of her best friend, Egghead, who also just happens to be in love with her, in this inventive and delightful queer coming-of-age comedy based on the award-winning short from 2020.



DISABILITY

ORAY! (The ASD Band Film) (p. 27)

DIRECTED BY **MARK BONE**

In this original, feel-good music documentary, the title refers to "autism spectrum disorder." Each band member is on the scale with her/his own distinctiveness: "We're different, but not less." Follow the band from the garage to the stage in this creative collaboration between the filmmaker and his subject. An authentic, sincere, and touching look inside autism, without condescension or pity.

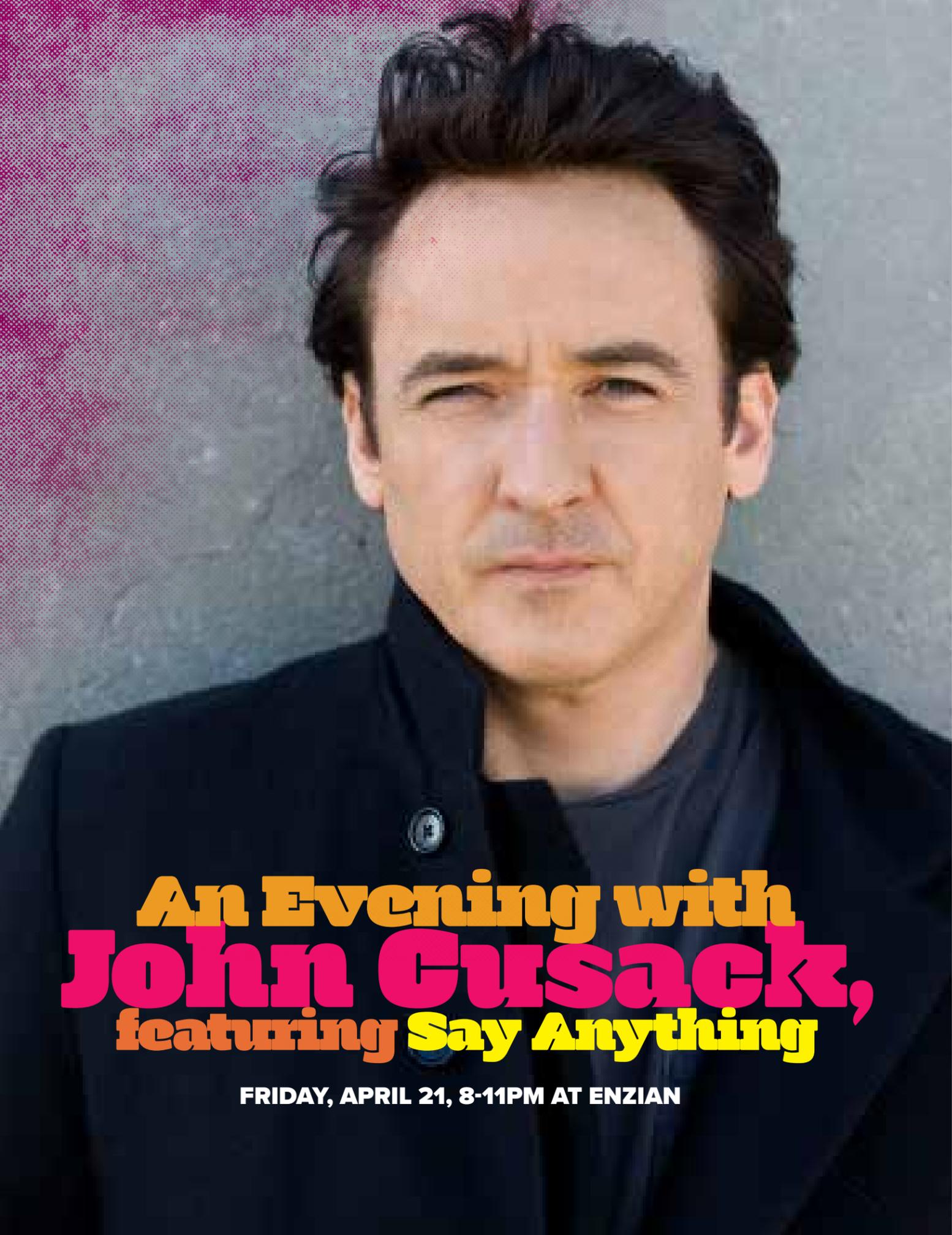


LATINX

Simón (p. 53)

DIRECTED BY **DIEGO VICENTINI**

A powerful and authentic story of young people risking everything to protest Venezuela's descent into tyranny, *Simón* focuses on the choice faced by a student leader tortured in his home country: stay in exile in Miami or return to face almost certain death.



An Evening with John Cusack, featuring *Say Anything*

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 8-11PM AT ENZIAN

With an impressive body of work spanning the course of three decades, John Cusack has evolved into one of Hollywood's most accomplished and respected actors of his generation, garnering both critical acclaim as well as prestigious accolades for his dramatic and comedic roles. Cusack was most recently seen in the Amazon's sci-fi series, *Utopia*, in which he stars as Dr. Kevin Christie, a charismatic, media-savvy, and brilliant biotech mind who wants to change the world through science.

Cusack first gained the attention of audiences by starring in a number of 1980s film classics, such as *The Sure Thing*, *Say Anything*, and *Sixteen Candles*. Following these roles, Cusack successfully shed his teen-heartthrob image by demonstrating his ability to expand his film repertoire by starring in a wide range of dramas, thrillers, and comedies including *The Grifters*, *Eight Men Out*, *Being John Malkovich*, *High Fidelity*, and *Grosse Pointe Blank*. In recent years, Cusack starred in Bill Pohlad's *Love & Mercy*, in which he played iconic Beach Boys songwriter and musician Brian Wilson. Cusack also starred in David Cronenberg's *Maps to the Stars*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. Cusack also appeared in a supporting role in Spike Lee's *Chi-Raq*, Lee Daniels' drama, *The Paperboy*, and in James McTeigue's independent thriller *The Raven*, where he portrayed author Edgar Allen Poe. Additionally, in 2009 he starred in Roland Emmerich's apocalyptic thriller, *2012*.

In 2001, Cusack was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture—Comedy or Musical for his role in the feature version of Nick Hornby's English novel, *High Fidelity*, for Touchstone Pictures. In addition to starring in the film, Cusack also co-produced and co-wrote the script with Steve Pink and D.V. DeVincentis.

In 1999, Cusack starred in the dark comedy *Being John Malkovich* for USA Films. Cusack's performance earned him

an Independent Spirit Award nomination in the category of Best Actor.

Some of his other feature film credits include *The Frozen Ground*, *Hot Tub Time Machine*, *War Inc.*, *Grace Is Gone*, *The Ice Harvest*, *Runaway Jury*, *Identity*, *Max*, *Cradle Will Rock*, *The Thin Red Line*, *Con Air*, *City Hall*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, *The Road to Wellville*, *True Colors*, *Broadcast News*, *Serendipity*, *Better Off Dead*, and *Stand by Me*.

Cusack's production company, New Crime Productions, has been part of many fine films, including *Never Get Outta the Boat*, Audience Award winner for Best Narrative Feature at FFF 2003.

In April 2012, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce presented Cusack with a Hollywood Walk of Fame star, honoring his long, ground-breaking career in film. Cusack resides in Chicago and is represented by APA Agency.



Say Anything
DIRECTED BY CAMERON CROWE
USA, 1989, 100 MIN, RATED PG-13

Following the film screening, Mr. Cusack will be present for a live Q&A with the audience.

"I gave her my heart, and she gave me a pen."

In this charming, critically acclaimed tale of first love, Lloyd (John Cusack), an eternal optimist, seeks to capture the heart of Diane (Lone Skye), an unattainable high school beauty and straight-A student. He surprises just about everyone—including himself—when she returns the sentiment. But Diane's over-possessive dad (John Mahoney) doesn't approve, and it's going to take more than just the power of love to conquer all. In writer Cameron Crowe's (*Almost Famous*) directorial debut, Cusack's Lloyd Dobler is the king of rom-com coolness. Sporting a Fishbone t-shirt, he's a man who knows what he wants, or rather what he doesn't want, like buy, sell, or process anything sold, bought, or processed! And, let's be real here—few scenes are as iconic as Dobler standing in the driveway serenading Diane Court with Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes," a scene so powerful that in 2002 Entertainment Weekly named *Say Anything* the "Greatest Modern Movie Romance."

FRIDAY, APRIL 14
7-9PM AT ENZIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 14
8-10PM AT REGAL A

You Were My First Boyfriend

DIRECTED BY
CECILIA ALDARONDO
AND **SARAH ENID HAGEY**
USA, 2023, 97 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING



Cecilia Aldarondo is a director-producer from the Puerto Rican diaspora who works at the intersection of

poetics and politics. Her feature documentaries, *Memories of a Penitent Heart* (2016) and *Landfall* (2020), both premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and were co-produced by the award-winning PBS series *POV*.



Sarah Enid Hagey is a filmmaker, artist, performer, comedy sketch writer, sound designer, and cat person. She's

edited for over 20 years. Her work has screened at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and MoMA. She has received a cinema award from the National Board of Review, a James Beard Award for visual and technical excellence, and an Emmy.

The Greatest Poem

DIRECTED BY **ELYSE KELLY**
USA, 2022, 3 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



You Were My First Boyfriend

“Every finger in the room is pointing at me.” –Tori Amos, “Crucify”

The landscape of teen cinema is about to get a total rewrite as veteran Florida Film Festival alumna Cecilia Aldarondo (*Landfall*, Grand Jury Award, FFF 2020) returns to Winter Park, Florida, to confront her demons and exorcise her past life. Using a hybrid of intimate personal-essay footage and surreal reenactments, Aldarondo and co-director Sarah Enid Hagey dissect teen angst through the lens of fantasy in an effort not to just confront trauma, but to determine if the psychological significance was real or imagined. As a Puerto Rican girl in a predominantly white, upper-middle class, Catholic school, Aldarondo spent her days trying to fit in to the cool clique and her nights drifting off in dreams of Merchant/Ivory romance often leaving even her closest friends adrift in the wake of her obsessions. If there is one universal life truth, it's that no one gets out without some scars. One of the great thought experiments asks if you would go back to high school, knowing what you know now. The answer typically depends on how good or bad your experience was the first time around. But, really, if you could, would you? With *You Were My First Boyfriend*, Aldarondo and Hagey bravely confront these possibilities with rawness, open honesty, and depth. In Aldarondo's own words: “I face my teen ghosts on behalf of every weirdo that ever lived. I go home so you don't have to.”

PRECEDED BY **The Greatest Poem**

What does it truly mean to be American? Elyse Kelly (“Fired Up,” FFF 2018) and a team of world-class artists answer that question, resulting in a tapestry of styles and interpretations from people with a multitude of experiences from all over the United States and beyond.



Opening Night Film & Party

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

FILM
You Were My First Boyfriend

PRECEDED BY
The Greatest Poem
7-9PM AT ENZIAN
1300 SOUTH ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Party

8:30PM-MIDNIGHT

TIEDTKE AMPHITHEATER AND BELVEDERE
WINTER PARK EVENTS CENTER
1050 W. MORSE BOULEVARD
WINTER PARK, FL 32789

Celebrate opening night of the 2023 Florida Film Festival with the premiere of an exciting new movie that is sure to set the world on fire: *You Were My First Boyfriend*, made by Winter Park's own Cecilia Aldarondo (2020 Grand Jury Award winner for *Landfall*) and co-director Sarah Enid Hagey. Following the film, head over to the Winter Park Events Center's Tiedtke Amphitheater and Belvedere for the legendary annual Opening Night Party. Kick off the ten days of motion picture madness with cocktails and cuisine provided by your favorite local spots. Revel in the anticipation of all the exciting new films brought to the Florida Film Festival. This is just the beginning!

Sunday Brunch

SPONSORED BY **COTERIE COFFEE CO.**

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 11AM-2PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 11AM-2PM

ENZIAN & EDEN BAR
1300 SOUTH ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Sip some coffee and spill some tea with your friends on all things Florida Film Festival. Relax and enjoy a deliciously prepared brunch with endless roasted coffee all morning. No movie ticket necessary.

Tuesday Tasting

SPONSORED BY **IVANHOE PARK BREWING CO.**

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 6-8PM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

EDEN BAR
1300 SOUTH ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Join us on Tuesday for a sampling of some of Orlando's best beer, provided by Ivanhoe Park Brewing. Get a taste of their locally produced offerings; then order a pint before kicking back at a table or heading into your next film.

Filmmaker Welcome Party

SPONSORED BY **FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY**

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 8-11PM

BY INVITATION ONLY

SANFORD BREWING COMPANY
160 INDEPENDENCE LANE, SUITE B
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Any night is a good night if it's brought to you by Full Sail University, and this yearly event is especially anticipated as we welcome visiting filmmakers and share a little of the festival's legendary hospitality. Get ready to bring home the closing weekend of the Florida Film Festival and add some fun to your Thursday night with complimentary light bites and your first drink free at Sanford Brewing Company.

Industry Happy Hour

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 8PM-MIDNIGHT

BY INVITATION ONLY

COPPER ROCKET
106 LAKE AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Filmmakers and passholders, join us at Copper Rocket for an Industry Happy Hour. Show your festival pass at the bar to receive happy hour pricing all night long. Challenge your new friends in friendly trivia competition, and cheer them on as they battle over who has the best go-to karaoke song.

Awards Celebration

SPONSORED BY **HANNIBAL'S ON THE SQUARE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 10AM-12:30PM

\$25 ADVANCE/\$30 DAY-OF

HANNIBAL'S ON THE SQUARE
511 W. NEW ENGLAND AVENUE
WINTER PARK, FL 32789

Enjoy a delicious light brunch and mimosas as Florida Film Festival jury and audience awards are celebrated, culminating ten days of film, food, and friends. Congratulate winning filmmakers and raise a glass with festival pals—old and new. With music provided by Soul Reply, this festive brunch is one you don't want to miss.

Live Music at Eden Bar

SPONSORED BY

DORMAN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

PERFORMING ARTS MATTER

SEE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE (pages 97-101)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

EDEN BAR
1300 SOUTH ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Eden Bar's lush Old Florida atmosphere provides the perfect backdrop to relax, indulge, and discuss your favorite festival films, with daily live music at Eden Bar.

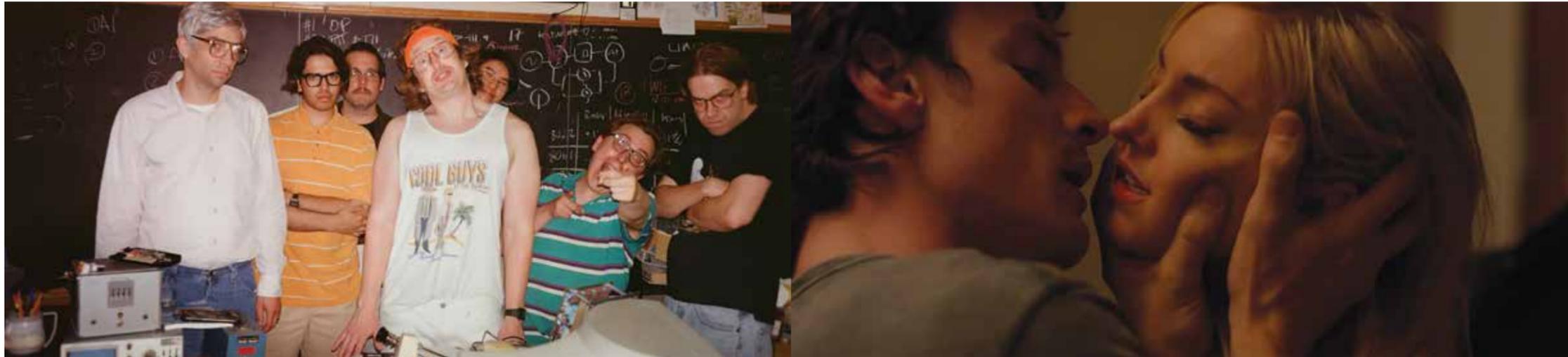


BlackBerry

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
6:30-8:35PM AT REGAL A

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
7:30-9:35PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **MATT JOHNSON**
CANADA, 2023, 121 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Hamilton, Ontario, 1996. Two mismatched entrepreneurs—quiet, nerdy genius Mike Lazaridis (Jay Baruchel, *This Is the End*) and brash, cut-throat businessman Jim Balsillie (Glenn Howerton, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*)—joined forces in an endeavor that was to become a worldwide hit in little more than a decade. The device that one of them invented and the other sold was the BlackBerry, an addictive mobile phone that changed the way the world worked and communicated. But just as BlackBerry was rising to new peaks, it also started losing its way through the fog of Smartphone wars, management indecision, and outside

distractions, eventually leading to the breakdown of one of the most successful ventures in the history of the tech and business worlds. Distinguished by his own brand of savage humor, triple-threat Matt Johnson amazes us with this rollicking, surprisingly gripping nostalgia-fueled biopic that recalls both *The Social Network* and HBO's *Silicon Valley* as it delivers a hubristic lesson about greed and ego. Stellar performances and an outstanding supporting cast, including Cary Elwes, Saul Rubinek, Michael Ironside, and Rich Sommer, help make this endearingly scrappy tech-world satire a story for the ages.

Jess Peters (writer/producer Dani Barker) is a struggling actress and live-streamer who has finally found her hook: secretly filming creepy interactions she encounters via online job listings, and using the kinks of others to fuel her streaming success. For her latest episode, she's been hired to write the ending of a screenplay in a remote cabin. Once there, the alluring self-proclaimed screenwriter (Luke Cook, *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*) hands her a script in which the two of them are the main characters. This client isn't what he seems, and even though the money is great... the real payment here

could cost her life. FFF alumna documentary director Sylvia Caminer (*An Affair of the Heart*, 2012) makes her narrative feature debut with this arresting psychosexual thriller which has garnered a barrage of both jury and audience awards at genre festivals around the world. Anchored by a compelling performance from Barker and a playfully dangerous turn by Cook—that fans of his Lucifer Morningstar character on *Sabrina* have come to love—*Follow Her* is a dark and twisted look at the dangers of a life lived fully on social media.

Follow Her

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
9-11PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **SYLVIA CAMINER**
USA, 2022, 94 MIN

Flamin' Hot

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
6:30-8:15PM AT ENZIAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
NOON-1:40PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **EVA LONGORIA**
USA, 2023, 99 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Richard Montañez was born into a Mexican-American family in California. Raised in a migrant labor camp outside of Los Angeles, he dropped out of high school before joining Frito-Lay as a janitor. *Flamin' Hot* is the story of how Montañez (Jesse Garcia) channeled his Mexican-American heritage and upbringing to turn Flamin' Hot Cheetos into a snack that disrupted the food industry and became a global phenomenon. Making her directorial debut, Eva Longoria (*Desperate Housewives*), along with writers Linda Yvette Chávez and Lewis Colick,

have crafted an inspiring and oft-hilarious look at one man's pursuit of the "American dream." With brilliant supporting turns from Emmy®-winner Tony Shaloub (*Monk*), Dennis Haysbert (*24*), and Matt Walsh (*Veep*), Longoria's film sings with a kind of kinetic energy as Montañez hustles to make ends meet, all while trying to convince the corporate suits that Latinos are an untapped market desperate for someone to reach across the aisle, bring them to the table, and deliver a spicy product to back it up!



Amy Ray and Emily Saliers met in elementary school outside of Decatur, Georgia. They began performing together in high school and started calling themselves Indigo Girls after reuniting in college. From inauspicious beginnings was born a fiercely independent passion project that has lasted for almost 35 years, earning Grammy awards and nominations, platinum albums, and most recently, induction into the Women Songwriters Hall of Fame. In addition to touring, they have continually

spoken out, supporting many causes including the plight of Native Americans as well as women's and LGBTQ rights. Alexandria Bombach's incredible and heartfelt film blends 40 years of home movies, raw film archive, and an intimate present-day reflection from the iconic folk rock duo. A timely look into the obstacles, activism, and life lessons of two queer friends who never expected to make it big, but truly have learned how to multiply life by the power of two.

It's Only Life After All

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
NOON-2:30PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **ALEXANDRIA BOMBACH**
USA, 2023, 123 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

THIS SPECIAL SCREENING WILL INCLUDE A LIVE IN-PERSON Q&A WITH DIRECTOR ALEXANDRIA BOMBACH AND THE INDIGO GIRLS.

Judy Blume Forever

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
7-9PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY DAVINA PARDO
AND LEAH WOLCHOK
USA, 2023, 97 MIN



Generations of readers have found themselves in a Judy Blume book. Her name alone launches a flood of memories for anyone who's gripped one of her many paperbacks. For decades, Blume's radical honesty has comforted and captivated readers—and landed her at the center of controversy for her frankness about puberty and sex. Now the beloved American author candidly shares her own coming-of-age story. FFF Grand Jury Award winner Davina Pardo ("Minka," FFF 2011 and "116 Cameras," FFF 2017) and Leah Wolchok trace Blume's

journey from fearful, imaginative child, to storytelling pioneer who elevated the physical and emotional lives of kids and teens, to banned writer who continues to fight back against censorship today. With humor, sensitivity, and a healthy dose of adolescent cringe, *Judy Blume Forever* tells the story of the woman whose trail-blazing books changed the way millions of readers (including film participants Molly Ringwald and Samantha Bee) understand themselves, their sexuality, and what it means to grow up.

Kokomo City

MONDAY, APRIL 17
9-10:15PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY D. SMITH
USA, 2023, 73 MIN



Winner of the Next Innovator and Audience Awards at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival and directed by Grammy award-winning record producer D. Smith, *Kokomo City* takes up a seemingly simple mantle—to present the stories of Black transgender sex workers in New York, Georgia, and South Florida. Shot in striking black and white—by Smith herself—the boldness of the facts of these women's lives and the earthshaking frankness they share complicate this enterprise. Colliding the everyday with cutting social commentary and the excavation of long-dormant truths is anything but black

and white. Unfiltered, unabashed, and unapologetic, Smith and her subjects smash the trendy standard for authenticity, offering a refreshing rawness unconcerned with purity or politeness. The film itself is a revelation of intense vulnerability, striking agency, and often unexpected uproarious laughter. In the last few years, the rights of the transgender community and that of sex workers (especially in light of the pandemic) have been at the forefront of the cultural zeitgeist, and with *Kokomo City*, Smith is about to blow the doors off the conversation.



Narvel Roth (Joel Edgerton) takes great care and pride in his work as the meticulous longtime head horticulturist at Gracewood Gardens, the historic estate of the demanding, imperious dowager, Norma Haverhill (Sigourney Weaver). An enclosed, scrupulously run world of its own, Gracewood has been in the Haverhill family for generations, and Norma trusts no one other than Narvel to continue its traditions. However, a threat of change is harkened by the arrival of Norma's troubled grand-niece, Maya (Quintessa Swindell), whose presence

sets off a chain reaction of events that unlock dark secrets and catalyzes Narvel into coming to terms with his own buried, violent past. With this culmination of a triptych of films about lonely men tormented by their past deeds that also includes *First Reformed* and *The Card Counter*, Paul Schrader (writer of *Taxi Driver*) continues his dramatic renaissance with an equally effective, potent, and startling tale about dormant violence and the possibility of redemption.

Master Gardener

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
3:30-5:30PM AT ENZIAN

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
5-7PM AT REGAL A

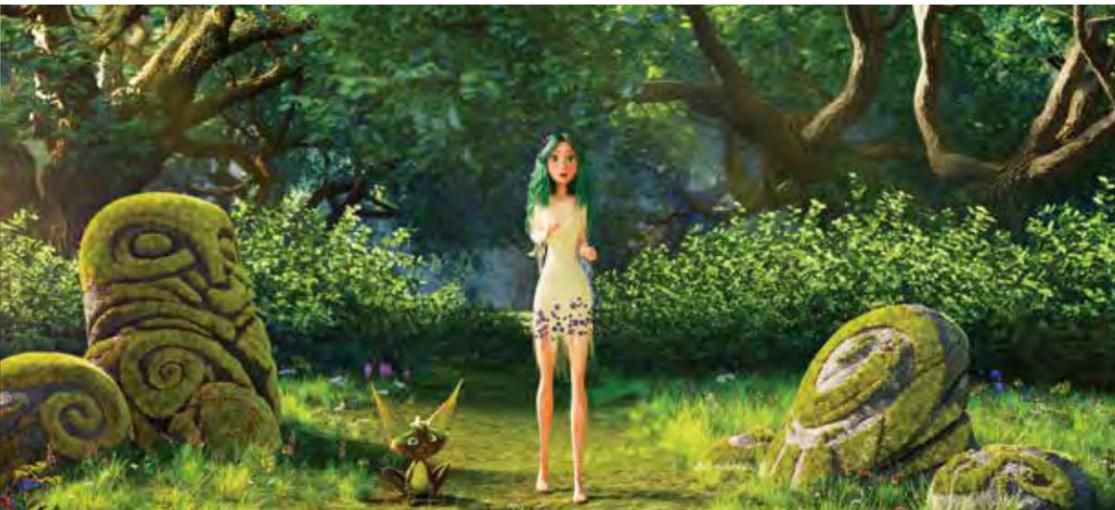
DIRECTED BY PAUL SCHRADER
USA, 2022, 110 MIN, RATED R

Mavka: The Forest Song

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
10-11:30AM AT ENZIAN

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
10:15-11:45AM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY OLEG MALAMUZH
AND OLEKSANDRA RUBAN
UKRAINE, 2023, 90 MIN
IN ENGLISH
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Mavka, a magical spirit that protects the forest from the outside world, faces her greatest challenge when she falls for one she cannot love: Luckash, a human. As the two struggle to keep their worlds separate, the humans and forest creatures increasingly clash, leaving it up to the two of them to keep the peace. Drawn from traditional Ukrainian literature, this enchanting film celebrates the country's folklore, culture, and music. However, its beautiful and vibrant animation and lively

tunes were completed under unusual circumstances. When Animagrad Studio became a refugee shelter after Russia's attacks, *Mavka: The Forest Song* was remarkably finished in bomb shelters or other remote locations, keeping Ukraine's spirit alive with its universal story and humor despite what felt like impossible circumstances. Lush and whimsical, this film—though mostly targeted at children—is a heartfelt story of love and the sacrifices one must make for peace.

My Love Affair with Marriage

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
1:30-3:30PM AT REGAL A

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
3:15-5:30PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **SIGNE BAUMANE**
USA/LATVIA/LUXEMBOURG, 2022,
108 MIN



Hungry for love and acceptance, Zelma feels incomplete. Through the filter of unrealistic fairytales and contrived songs, she is positive that love will solve her problems, so long as she behaves like a woman should, per her upbringing. Zelma's Biology emerges as a character herself, cast as a professor that narrates the trials and tribulations of the young Latvian girl's physical and emotional maturation. She provides scholarly, lively, and amusing breakdowns of the internal emotional roller coaster that Zelma endures from puberty, to her awkward first sexual encounter, to her marriages. Along

this journey, she navigates cold parents, a Greek chorus of Eastern European sirens that attempt to thwart her emotional progress, and pompous, selfish male partners. Seventeen-time FFF alumni (and Grand Jury Award winner for "Teat Beat of Sex," FFF 2008), Signe Baumane's latest film is an audacious presentation, juxtaposing traditional hand-drawn and stop-motion animation, layered upon 3D backgrounds and sets. A tale as old as time, this film is bolstered by engaging vocal performances, lifted by an inventive and informative screenplay, and soars due to its unique and stunning visual flair.

Polite Society

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
9:15-11PM AT ENZIAN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
6-7:45PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **NIDA MANZOOR**
UK, 2023, 103 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE



Ria Khan believes she's no ordinary British-Pakistani teenager. A London schoolgirl and tireless martial-artist-in-training, she is determined to become a world-renowned stuntwoman. But she feels betrayed when her big sister, Lena, drops out of art school, starts dating Salim—the charming, wealthy son of the prominent Shah family—and announces, after barely a month, that they plan to marry and move to Singapore. How could Lena abandon her artistic dreams to become some trophy wife? But Ria soon realizes that something isn't quite right, leaving her no choice but to enlist her two

best mates in a daring and outrageous plot to wreck the wedding. The wickedly funny, endlessly exuberant feature debut of Nida Manzoor (*We Are Lady Parts*), *Polite Society* is an irresistible tale of sisterhood and an anarchic mashup of genres, including action-comedy, heist thriller, kung-fu flick, Bollywood musical, social horror, and coming-of-age. Bursting with playful energy and set to a killer soundtrack, it is a guaranteed crowd-pleaser that attacks adolescent fears in the most fun and riotous way possible.



In this surprisingly intense and stunningly acted two-hander, Margaret Qualley (*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*) plays Rebecca, a ravishing and skilled dominatrix who has established a relationship with Hal (Christopher Abbott, *Possessor*). Hal is about to inherit his family's company and a large endowment, and he wants to thank Rebecca for having taught him things, such as coping mechanisms that have given him the strength to take on his new responsibilities. But he also wants to sever the relationship, calculating that it would put him in jeopardy now that he is about to assume such a public

office. In Rebecca's mind though, the new CEO is going to need her life-counselling more than ever before. So instead of going quietly into the night, she engages in a wildly entertaining, often disturbing battle of wits and wills with her client over one emotionally fraught night in their luxury hotel suite. The balance of power swings continuously during these negotiations, and the blistering cat-and-mouse game with money and reputations on the line proves to be a perversely fun psychosexual thriller for the ages.



Leo Russo (Ray Romano) lives a simple life in Queens, New York, with his wife Angela (Laurie Metcalf), their sensitive but talented teenage son "Sticks," and Leo's close-knit network of Italian-American relatives and neighborhood friends. Happy enough working in the family construction business alongside his father (Tony Lo Bianco) and younger brother (Sebastian Maniscalco), Leo lives each week for Sticks' high-school basketball games, never missing a chance to cheer on his only child as he excels on the court. When the shy high-school senior gets a surprising shot at an athletic scholarship

to play hoops in college, Leo jumps at the chance to provide a plan for his future, away from the family construction business. But when sudden heartbreak threatens to derail Sticks, Leo goes to unexpected and questionable lengths to keep his son on this new path. A love letter to the biggest borough in NYC and to flawed parents everywhere trying their best, Romano's poignant and hilarious directorial debut brings his idiosyncratic comedic voice to the big screen with plenty of heart and humor, not to mention a killer ensemble cast.

Sanctuary

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
9:15-11PM AT ENZIAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
5-6:40PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **ZACHARY WIGON**
USA, 2022, 96 MIN

Somewhere in Queens

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
4:45-6:30PM AT REGAL A

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
9-10:45PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **RAY ROMANO**
USA, 2022, 106 MIN

Joyland

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
3:15-5:30PM AT REGAL A

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
7-9:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **SAIM SADIQ**
PAKISTAN, 2022, 126 MIN
IN PUNJABI AND URDU
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Set in the heart of Lahore, Pakistan, *Joyland* is a compelling family saga of lies, secrets, and self-discoveries. First-time director Saim Sadiq masterfully tells this complex story of transgender desire with brilliant colors and nuanced visuals, accurately depicting both the beauty and tragedy of the characters that inhabit these frames. Currently banned from release in the Punjab province where the film takes place, the story revolves around Haider, the unemployed, younger son of the Rana family, who tries to find his purpose in life while supporting his working wife and being a caretaker

to the young and old of the family. But after increased pressure to find a job, Haider lands employment in an unexpected place—a Bollywood-style burlesque. He secretly starts working there as a backup dancer to Biba, the transgender lead dancer, who challenges Haider's perceptions about himself and his life. Nothing remains the same as Haider starts a journey of self-discovery that is about to unravel the entire Rana household. Winner of the Independent Spirit Award for Best International Film, as well as 13 other major festival awards worldwide, including Cannes, London, Sao Paulo, and Palm Springs.

Long Flat Balls "Broken Promises"

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
8:45-10:30PM AT REGAL B

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
11:30AM-1:30PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY
HARALD JOHAN ZWART
NORWAY/LITHUANIA, 2022, 103 MIN
IN NORWEGIAN WITH
ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Send in the balls, even though they are now long(er) and flatt(er)! And strap in for a hilarious multi-national road trip among the company of men of a certain age. Forty-ish Petter, in a 14-year relationship with Laila and father to their teenage daughter, still balks at marriage. Seems he'd much rather hang out, drinking with his soccer-mad buds from Ed's Garage. When Laila tells him, "You've done nothing," he readily admits, "That's what I do best."

The real reason for hesitation? Secretly, he's already married. Hence, the road trip to seek an annulment. Watch out for mobsters and illegal liquor transport! Great soundtrack by Zach Robinson and cameo by British popstar Samantha Fox. If you're a *Klown* (FFF 2012) fan, you'll want to take this ride. As mother and daughter illustrate, women know better, but women and men together know best. All in good fun!



REEL
REPRESENTATION

PRESENTED BY
TRAVEL + LEISURE CO.

In this original, feel-good music documentary, the title refers to "autism spectrum disorder." Each band member is on the spectrum with her/his own distinctiveness: "We're different, but not less." Meet the young adults: Jackson (guitar/singer); Spencer (drums); Ron (keyboards); and Rawan (singer). Spencer's an Elvis fan; savant Ron knows the day of the week of any date. Watch the bandmates shatter the stigma of autism as they come together to express themselves through song. "All of us are kindred spirits," says Jackson. Get to know

their families intimately as they share their experiences and hopes. Ron's mother reveals, "It's very challenging when you raise a child with autism, but it's very rewarding." Follow the band from the garage to the stage in this creative collaboration between the filmmaker and his subject. An authentic, sincere, and touching look inside autism, without condescension or pity. You'll root for them and join in their musical journey, and instantly add their album to your Spotify playlist the moment the film ends!

OKAY! (The ASD Band Film)

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
1-2:30PM AT ENZIAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
4:15-5:45PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **MARK BONE**
CANADA, 2022, 86 MINUTES
FLORIDA PREMIERE

The Worst Ones

MONDAY, APRIL 17
3:30-5:15PM AT REGAL B

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
2-3:45PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **LISE AKOKA**
AND **ROMANE GUERET**
FRANCE, 2022, 99 MIN
IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Set in the suburbs of Boulogne-Sur-Mer in northern France, *The Worst Ones* captures a film within a film as it follows the production of a feature whose director turns to the local Cité Picasso housing project for casting. Eager to capture performances of gritty authenticity, the director selects four working-class teenagers to act in the film, to the surprise and consternation of the local community, who question the director's choice of "the worst ones." As the director and crew audition, rehearse, film, and interact with their hand-picked cast, jealousies are stoked, lines are crossed, and ethical questions

arise, with thought-provoking and, at times, darkly funny results. Utilizing an open casting process, first-time directors Lise Akoka and Romane Gueret scoured the country for fresh talent to bring these intensely human characters to life. Winner of the top prize in the *Un Certain Regard* section of the 2022 Cannes Film Festival and channeling the early work of Catherine Breillat (*36 fillette*, *Fat Girl*) and Larry Clark (*Kids*), *The Worst Ones* announces Akoka and Gueret as two of the most exciting new voices in French cinema.

International Shorts #1

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 104 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
11:30AM-1:30PM AT REGAL B

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
3-5PM AT ENZIAN

International films exist because of borders; a film is only “foreign” when the viewer is foreign to the film. Although each film in this diverse program from seven countries is informed in part by the region in which it was produced, they all challenge the efficacy of borders themselves.



She is Oh Oh

DIRECTED BY **LÉA REGUILLOT**
 FRANCE, 2023, 9 MIN
 IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH
 WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 WORLD PREMIERE

Sophia is a stylish and quirky Down syndrome carrier whose bitcoins are going to make her rich one day. Then she can make the world a smashing place for everyone.



Will You Look at Me

DIRECTED BY **SHULI HUANG**
 CHINA/ITALY, 2022, 20 MIN
 IN MANDARIN WITH
 ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 FLORIDA PREMIERE

A gay filmmaker returns to his hometown for a long overdue conversation with his unaccepting mother in this vulnerably lyrical document of their harrowing conversation.



Phlegm

DIRECTED BY **JAN-DAVID BOLT**
 SWITZERLAND, 2021, 6 MIN
 EAST COAST PREMIERE

A businessman crushes a snail. With each step, another snail squishes beneath his shoe. Where are they coming from? Who are these snails? Another sticky provocation from the director of “Nero” (FFF 2020).



Nice to See Your Face

DIRECTED BY **SUN NAMKOONG**
 SOUTH KOREA, 2022, 12 MIN
 IN KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

A portrait of a woman seeking forgiveness, told in one stationary shot through the window of her broken-down car on the way to see her ex one last time.



Killing Ourselves

DIRECTED BY **MAYA YADLIN**
 ISRAEL, 2022, 15 MIN
 IN HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

The director of “Fine” (FFF 2020) is back with the whole gang to shoot one more scene for her short film. An autobiographical cautionary tale about making movies with your family.



45th Parallel

DIRECTED BY **LAWRENCE ABU HAMDAN**
 UK, 2022, 15 MIN
 SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

An illuminating fourth-wall-breaking monologue about border lines and the hypocrisy of enforcement between Canada and Mexico.



Island of Freedom

DIRECTED BY **PETR JANUSCHKA**
 CZECH REPUBLIC, 2022, 27 MIN
 IN CZECH AND SLOVAK
 WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 EAST COAST PREMIERE/
 2ND US SCREENING

A man from communist Czechoslovakia unexpectedly meets his childhood love on a flight to Cuba. When they stop over in Canada, he has a plan... but can he trust her?

International Shorts #2

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 103 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
2-4PM AT REGAL B

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
6-8PM AT ENZIAN

Showcasing seven stories from seven countries, International Shorts 2 prioritizes the experience of the individual—those forced into solitude, those who have finally found their place, and those whose sacrifices for others may come at the expense of their own identity. These films take an unflinching look at what it means to be seen, and ultimately prove that while the desire for connection is a global (and interspecies) one, what we must endure to find it will always be unique.



Mika/2300

DIRECTED BY **BOAZ FRANKEL**
 AND **OMRI VAN-ESSEN**
 ISRAEL, 2022, 18 MIN
 IN HEBREW AND THAI
 WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 US PREMIERE

In the heart of the desert lives calf no. 2300, whose dreams of becoming a princess lead her on a journey of discovery and self-actualization in the human world.



Call Me Mommy

DIRECTED BY **TARA ISIDORA O'CALLAGHAN**
 IRELAND, 2022, 15 MIN
 EAST COAST PREMIERE

Uncover the multifaceted life of Sinead—a 40-year-old woman—as she balances motherhood and online sex work in this unflinching portrait of personal and public intimacy.



Thursday

DIRECTED BY **BREN CUKIER**
 POLAND, 2023, 15 MIN
 IN POLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 EAST COAST PREMIERE/
 2ND US SCREENING

Maria has secret plans for Thursday.



Our Males and Females

DIRECTED BY **AHMAD ALYASEER**
 JORDAN, 2023, 11 MIN
 IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 EAST COAST PREMIERE

A father and mother face a painful reality when their community refuses to wash and shroud their deceased transgender daughter.



It's Raining Frogs Outside

DIRECTED BY **MARIA ESTELA PAISO**
 PHILIPPINES, 2021, 14 MIN
 IN ENGLISH, SAMBAL, AND TAGALOG
 WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 FLORIDA PREMIERE

Alone at the end of the world, Maya's mind and body deteriorate in a surrealist horror show of memory and identity.



The Diamond

DIRECTED BY **VEDRAN RUPIC**
 SWEDEN, 2022, 14 MIN
 SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Stefan stumbles across a diamond in a tiny hole and, in a foolproof plan to make friends, recruits a small claustrophobic man to retrieve the riches.



It Turns Blue

DIRECTED BY **SHADI KARAMROUDI**
 IRAN/GREECE, 2023, 15 MIN
 IN PERSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 EAST COAST PREMIERE/
 2ND US SCREENING

Pari's dedication to her family overwhelms her morality, as she chooses to disguise the abuse of her three-year-old niece.

International Animated Shorts Program

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 92 MIN

MONDAY, APRIL 17
9:15-11PM AT ENZIAN

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
7:30-9:15PM AT REGAL A

This global showcase is a wild ride of animated short works that illustrate the human experience in its many forms. The audience is invited to take a look through an alternate point of view and explore the connections between the internal and external self.



Roped (Amarradas)

DIRECTED BY **CARMEN CÓRDOBA GONZÁLEZ**
SPAIN, 2022, 10 MIN
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Mother and daughter are roped together for life by an eternal bond that heals and hurts, and that is perpetuated when daughter becomes a mother.



Ecce

DIRECTED BY **MARGHERITA PREMURSO**
ITALY, 2022, 7 MIN
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

A claustrophobic journey through the ordinary day of a woman who lives every day performing the same task from which she cannot extricate herself.



La Bride (The Dog's Leash)

DIRECTED BY **NICOLAS PIRET**
BELGIUM, 2022, 4 MIN
US PREMIERE

In the countryside, a dog tied to a very long rope watches birds disappear in the horizon. How far will his rope allow him to go?



Persona

DIRECTED BY **SUJIN MOON**
SOUTH KOREA, 2022, 7 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

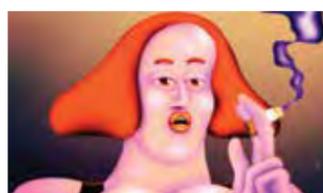
A young woman is being encroached upon by the persona she dons. Can she dismantle it without destroying the very fibers of her being?



Scale

DIRECTED BY **JOSEPH PIERCE**
FRANCE/UK/BELGIUM/CZECH REPUBLIC, 2022, 15 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Driving, Will loses his sense of scale. As his crippling drug addiction deepens, he struggles to untangle the sequence of events that led to his predicament.



Hotel Kalura

DIRECTED BY **SOPHIE KOKO GATE**
UK, 2022, 5 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

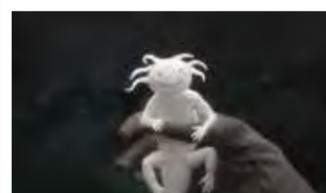
In an enigmatic metaphor for the consumption of pleasure, a woman walks into a hotel bar on the romantic island of Sicily, waiting to be lit. From the director of "Slug Life," FFF 2020.



Well Wishes My Love, Your Love

DIRECTED BY **GABRIEL GABRIEL GARBLE**
SWEDEN/MALAYSIA, 2022, 9 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Newly orphaned and freshly wounded from an immense loss, a boy lends his companion a prosthetic arm for the day.



Zoon

DIRECTED BY **JONATAN SCHWENK**
GERMANY, 2022, 4 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A two-legged forest dweller encounters a lustful group of shimmering animals in heat. He and his companions snack on the little creatures and soon a flighty feast begins.



In the Big Yard Inside the Teeny-Weeny Pocket

DIRECTED BY **YOKO YUKI**
JAPAN, 2022, 7 MIN
IN JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Here I am again, trapped in my sanity. When it shrinks, it expands. It floats, and it sinks. It separates but connects.



Regular Rabbit

DIRECTED BY **EOIN DUFFY**
IRELAND/CANADA, 2022, 8 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

The good name of a seemingly regular rabbit is sullied by disinformation. His grip on reality fading, he descends into the darkest recesses of society. Featuring the voice talents of Rory McCann (*Game of Thrones*' "The Hound").



Sierra

DIRECTED BY **SANDER JOON**
ESTONIA, 2022, 16 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

In a surreal world, a father and his son are losing the race. In order to win, the boy turns himself into a tire.

CAPTURE YOUR MOMENTS

LaLuca
PROSECCO

#LALUCAMOMENTS

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The Elephant 6 Recording Co.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
9:45-11:30PM AT REGAL B

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
4:30-6:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY C.B. STOCKFLETH
USA, 2022, 93 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE



In the 1990s, cheap rent and big houses in Athens, GA, and Denver, CO, drew together a group of musicians who collectively launched the most important underground music movement of the decade. In a perfect DIY pop universe, the confluence of Neutral Milk Hotel, The Apples in Stereo, The Olivia Tremor Control, Elf Power, and many more reset the game of indie rock. This incredible documentary somehow manages to both embrace the chaos of the time as well as make sense of it all. The nature of how these artists worked and overlapped could be misconstrued as convoluted, but

The Elephant 6 Recording Co. finds the emotional core of these talented and visionary artists. This psychedelic rock music, often created by non-musicians and recorded on creaky 4-tracks, developed a loyal following who shared cassette tapes and 45s, and packed into raucous live shows. Featuring interviews with the band members, performances, and video clips, this fast-paced, monumental rock-doc charts the genesis of an uber-creative, DIY music scene and captures its electricity, joy, and wonder.

Squaring the Circle (The Story of Hipgnosis)

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
4:15-6PM AT REGAL A

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
6:45-8:45PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY ANTON CORBIJN
UK, 2023, 96 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



When art students Storm Thorgerson and Aubrey "Po" Powell began producing their legendary album covers in the '70s under the Hipgnosis banner for their innovative design studio, there was no Photoshop. When they wanted a picture, say, of a giant pink pig floating over London, they had to take a huge helium balloon of a pig and tether it to a smokestack high above the city. What could possibly go wrong? Because Hipgnosis was far ahead of its time, and famously intertwined with rock excess, things went wrong a lot—sometimes spectacularly. Celebrated photographer and filmmaker

Anton Corbijn (*Control*) fills this remarkable tale of challenging friendships, passion, and vision with case studies of album art from Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*, to Led Zeppelin's mind-altering *Houses of the Holy*. This charming, witty, and beautifully crafted slice of rock history is packed full of anecdotes about the often-hilarious dealings with Hipgnosis by folks like Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, Roger Waters, David Gilmour, Paul McCartney, Peter Dinklage, and Noel Gallagher—great stories and incredible music from one of the most hedonistic and fascinating eras in music history!



Trivia question: What was the first British band after The Beatles to hit number one in the U.S.? Nope, not the Stones, Herman's Hermits, or The Dave Clark Five. It was The Zombies with "She's Not There," a title which nearly captures the trajectory of The Zombies' career after their debut. Not yet out of their teens, the band—anchored by vocalist Colin Blunstone and keyboardist Rod Argent—followed their initial hit with another ("Tell Her No"), and then began to fade amid the crush of British Invasion bands. They pushed all their chips onto the table with the audaciously baroque *Odessey and Oracle* [sic] album, recorded at Abbey Road Studios just after the Beatles finished laying down *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club*

Band. (They even borrow John Lennon's mellotron keyboard.) After the first single died, The Zombies split in December 1967, before the album was released. Luckily, the very last song on *Odessey and Oracle* was a moody little number called "Time of the Season" (you've heard it, right?). It percolated on radio for over a year until it became a global hit in 1969. *Odessey and Oracle* would eventually be crowned one of the greatest rock albums of all time, and The Zombies would join the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2019. Still playing and recording together after more than 60 years, The Zombies have an amazing story to tell about some teenage friends who got lucky, rose to the top, and then nearly vanished in the music industry.



Nothing else has ever looked or felt like director René Laloux's animated marvel *Fantastic Planet*, a politically minded and visually inventive work of science fiction. The film is set on a distant planet called Ygam, where enslaved humans (Oms) are the playthings of giant blue native inhabitants (Draags). After Terr, kept as a pet since infancy, escapes from his gigantic child captor, he is swept up by a band of radical fellow Oms who are resisting the Draags' oppression and violence. With its eerie, coolly surreal,

cutout animation by Roland Topor; brilliant psychedelic jazz score by Alain Goraguer; and wondrous creatures and landscapes, this Cannes-awarded 1973 classic is a perennially compelling statement against conformity and violence and is an often-cited work in the fight against racism and the struggle for human rights. This year, the Florida Film Festival celebrates the 50th anniversary of this counterculture landmark with a special closing night screening.

The Zombies: Hung Up on a Dream

MONDAY, APRIL 17
4-6PM AT REGAL A

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
2:30-4:30PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY ROBERT SCHWARTZMAN
USA, 2023, 116 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Fantastic Planet

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
9-10:15PM AT ENZIAN

CLOSING NIGHT RETRO FILM

DIRECTED BY RENÉ LALOUX
FRANCE/CZECHOSLOVAKIA,
1973, 72 MIN
IN FRENCH AND CZECH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunshine & Swampland: NEW FLORIDA SHORTS, VOLUME 1

SPONSORED BY
ORLANDO FILM COMMISSION

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 92 MIN

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22
NOON-2PM AT REGAL A**

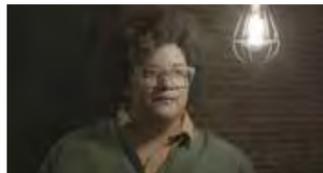
Sunshine & Swampland was born to celebrate all the things that filmmakers find unique about life here amongst the heat and humidity. This year, we had so much incredible content we created two diverse programs to showcase filmmakers we believe best exemplify the future of filmmaking in Florida. From invasive species in the Everglades and celebrating the beauty of the human body's various shapes and sizes amongst the springs, to the need for prison reform; struggles with mental health, overbearing mothers, artists and muses; and maybe even a werewolf, there are a lot of stories in the Sunshine State, and we're thrilled to bring you these.



Python Huntress

DIRECTED BY **NICHOLAS ORRIS**
AND **MATT DEBLINGER**
USA, 2023, 19 MIN
2ND US SCREENING

Donna Kalil is a South Florida environmentalist who spends her nights patrolling the Everglades in search of the Burmese Python—an invasive apex predator that has devastated local wildlife. Donna too is a hunter, but fulfilling her job responsibilities does not always come easy.



Like the Girls Who Wear Pink

DIRECTED BY **JENNIFER MSUMBA**
USA, 2022, 6 MIN

A time-traveling video finds its way to 1981. A plea from the future, it serves as a warning woven together with hope and encouragement for a young autistic girl, and perhaps for us all, in this personal essay from FFF alumna Jennifer Msumba ("The Fish Don't Care When It Rains," FFF 2021).



Make Up Your Mind

DIRECTED BY **HAYLEY NASH**
USA, 2022, 14 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

In this winner of the 2022 Central Florida Film Slam, a young woman struggling with her mental health must decide whether or not to buy a new brain.



Un-Portable!

DIRECTED BY **IRA KLAGES**
USA, 2023, 5 MIN

Ira Klages' UCF master's thesis follows Enya, a reserved young man preparing to meet up with a new friend. He wants to make a good impression, but his buddy Jonesy complicates things in a major way in this 2D and experimental mixed-media animated short.



Tomb of the Sea

Directed by **ANDREW GARCIA**
USA, 2023, 17 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
2ND US SCREENING

This rich and layered portrait of grief, love, and the constant struggle to achieve the American Dream follows Rosa, a Cuban woman in Miami, who is forced into confronting the trauma of her past in the wake of Fidel Castro's death in 2016.



1402 Pork n' Bean Blue

DIRECTED BY **JUAN LUIS MATOS**
USA, 2023, 7 MIN

At the intersection of his grandmother's death and the redevelopment of the public housing project his family has lived in for generations, artist/community advocate/father of three Roscoe B. Thicke III reflects on his childhood in the Pork n' Beans projects and the influences behind his work.



Nash

DIRECTED BY **TIM WARREN**
USA, 2022, 12 MIN
US PREMIERE

Nine-year-old Nash is determined to find the monster that killed his mother; his father George is equally determined to stop him.



Made by God

DIRECTED BY **WYATT WEYMOUTH**
USA, 2022, 12 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING

Dylan is a directionless young man living in rural Florida, alienated from the few people around him by his mental illness. When Dylan's brother sends him away to stay with his friend for a few days, and they go into the woods to shoot guns, things take a violent turn.

SPONSORED BY
ORLANDO FILM COMMISSION

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 89 MIN

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22
2:30-4:30PM AT REGAL A**



Carmen

DIRECTED BY **CRISTINE BRACHE**
USA/CANADA, 2023, 14 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
2ND US SCREENING

Cristine Brache ("Morning Sickness in the USA," FFF 2021) returns with the tale of Lazara, a dominatrix working on the outskirts of Miami whose day is upended when her unstable mother, Carmen, arrives at the dungeon with two large bags of teddy bears and demands a ride.



Alexandra McGee

DIRECTED BY **NICOLE CONE**
USA, 2023, 12 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A hardworking South Florida teen is pushed to her moral limits when she realizes her geometry grade could jeopardize her GPA.



Goodbye Tallahassee, I Hope You Understand...

DIRECTED BY **BRETTON A. MILLER**
USA, 2023, 9 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

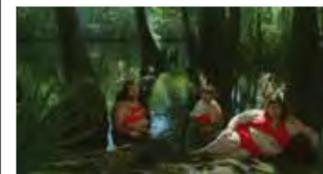
Goodbye [good-bahy] interjection: a concluding remark used at parting. Tallahassee [tal-uh-has-ee] noun: A vortex of a city that never lets you go. Winner of the Grand Jury Award at the 2022 Brouhaha Film and Video Showcase.



From Fish to Moon

DIRECTED BY **KEVIN CONTENTO**
USA, 2022, 13 MIN

In Pahokee, Florida, there is a grocery store, and those who work at the Thriftway arrive early and stay all day roaming the aisles. One of these employees is Jean Voltaire. Alumni director Kevin Contento ("Hierophany," FFF 2019) trains his observant lens on another unique corner of Florida.



How to Carry Water

DIRECTED BY **SASHA WORTZEL**
USA, 2023, 15 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Shoog McDaniel is a fat, queer, and disabled photographer working in and around northern Florida's vast network of freshwater springs. For over a decade, Shoog's photographs have transformed the way fat people view themselves and how a fat-phobic society views their bodies. Bringing Shoog's photography to life, director Sasha Wortzel immerses audiences in a world of fat beauty and liberation, one in which marginalized bodies—including bodies of water—are sacred.



U.S.A. Vacation

DIRECTED BY
XAVIER FRANCISCO SERRANO
USA, 2023, 6 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
WORLD PREMIERE

This FSU student short follows a French couple on a southern road trip. When they make a quick stop to clean out their car in a Northern Florida industrial office park, they quickly come to regret the decision. A tense and timely look at what happens when communication breaks down.



Two Strikes

DIRECTED BY **URSULA LIANG**
USA, 2023, 20 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

Mark Jones wanted to serve his country and possibly become an FBI agent like his father, but his life took a turn. In 2011, Jones grabbed the arm of a woman sitting in her car at a Publix grocery store parking lot in Altamonte Springs, Florida, and demanded her keys. At age 39, Jones was sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole. "Two Strikes" explores Jones' case and the state law that put him behind bars likely for the remainder of his days.

DID I?

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
9:30-11:30PM AT REGAL A

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
6:15-8:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY SARAH TICE
USA, 2023, 100 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE



Genevieve (Alexandra Pica) attempts to navigate her life with dissociative identity disorder but begins to see flashbacks of memories she had no part in creating. Nervous about how dangerous she may be becoming, she descends further into psychological hallucinations as she approaches the origin of her trauma. Created as part of the University of Central Florida's Master of Fine Arts program, and utilizing a predominantly female cast and crew, Brouhaha Film and Video Showcase

alumna writer/director/cinematographer Sarah Tice ("Oh Woman") has crafted a tense and visually arresting debut feature that deconstructs how the mind actively deals with trauma. Anchored by Alexandra Pica's captivating central performance, *DID I?* succeeds in exploring the forged realities that the mind creates in order to protect the individual from facing the most damaging events in their lives.

Naked Gardens

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
NOON-2PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY IVETE RAQUEL LUCAS
AND PATRICK XAVIER BRESNAN
USA, 2022, 90 MIN



FFF Grand Jury award winners Ivete Raquel Lucas and Patrick Xavier Bresnan ("The Rabbit Hunt," FFF 2017 and *Pahoakee*, FFF 2019) return with this beautifully shot, nuanced story of Florida's Sunsport Gardens Family Nudist Resort, an isolated nudist camp in the Everglades. Residents there face the daily challenges of any locality: misunderstandings; concerns about the wellbeing of their children; and how to maintain the quality of life that they want, including a community of shared values, love, and respect; and how to live a life without judgement. All the while, aging camp owner Morley prepares for the Mid-Winter Festival, the largest gathering of naturists

in the United States, and growing friction between the nudists and the naturists. Utilizing the *cinéma vérité* style that Lucas and Bresnan brought to their previous films, and a profound intimacy (that may have been assisted by the decision of the filmmakers to shed their own clothes as well), the audience is quickly immersed in the daily lives of these residents, forgetting almost immediately that everyone on screen is nude. Nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival, *Naked Gardens* is a very human story that explores what is a frequently avoided subject of films—people who are happy.



The dichotomy of Orlando is defined by "BD" and "AD," before and after Disney. And although "Gay Days" became a fixture of the scene at the happiest place on earth, for queer historians, the transitional juncture might be described as before or after "P House." A project of the Watermark Publishing Group, this incredible historical document gathers together a who's who of local representation. From activist/playwright/performer Michael Wanzie and Headdress Ball founder Sam Ewing, to first openly gay city commissioner Patty Sheehan and Watermark founder Tom Dyer, their testimony

serves as an important document in chronicling the joy and sadness, the pain and the progress that has been made over the past 50 years in Central Florida. It also lays out what work still needs to be done, including the protection of trans-persons and youth. Tracing the rich history of Central Florida's LGBTQIA+ community from the mid-1970s to today, *Greetings from Queertown: Orlando* highlights the pioneers who fought for equality, battled the AIDS crisis, built pride, created The Center, founded the Metropolitan Business Alliance, and laid the foundation to make Orlando strong and the city beautiful.

Evan Ever After

This short documentary explores the journey of Florida's first transgender homecoming queen, Evan Bialosuknia, and her confidence and impact on youth faced with discrimination resulting from Florida's newly signed "Don't Say Gay" bill.



Greetings from Queertown: Orlando

MONDAY, APRIL 17
6:30-8PM AT REGAL A

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
12:45-2:15PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY JESS KELLER
USA, 2023, 49 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

PRECEDED BY Evan Ever After

DIRECTED BY ARIEL MAHLER
AND RADHA MEHTA
USA, 2023, 15 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

SUNSPOTS:

NEW VISIONS OF THE AVANT-GARDE

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 82 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
9:15-11PM AT REGAL B

The latest treasures of the experimental film and video world are here to cleanse your cinematic palette! Journey into the warped minds of award-winning artists, who are pushing the boundaries of film language and technique as they explore the mysteries of memory, identity, and the body. Film portraits and video essays will reframe your perspective, while abstract, sensory adventures delight any viewer brave enough to venture this close to the sun.



Grillz & Mixxers

DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL U. OLOWU**
USA, 2023, 4 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

A moment of attraction awaits in this fragmented portrait of teeth grillz and the energy they imbue their wearer.



Bigger on the Inside

DIRECTED BY **ANGELO MADSEN MINAX**
USA, 2022, 12 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

From an isolated wooded cabin, a trans man stargazes, scruff chats with guys, and watches YouTube tutorials, feeling his way through a cosmology of embodiment.



A Perfect Storm

DIRECTED BY **KAREL DOING**
NETHERLANDS/UK, 2022, 3 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

The artist used seeds, flowers, and plants gathered nearby to craft an ethereal landscape, imprinted on film emulsion.



Jill, Uncredited

DIRECTED BY **ANTHONY ING**
CANADA/UK, 2022, 18 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

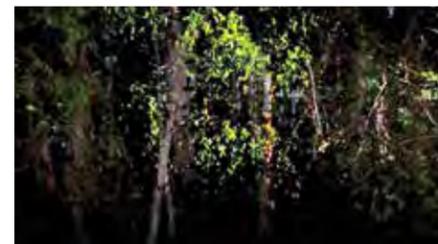
One of the world's most prolific background actors takes center stage in this unique portrait of Jill Goldston, a fifty-year veteran of UK film and television.



Forward Fast

DIRECTED BY **LORRAINE SOVERN**
USA, 2023, 3 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

A filmmaker dives into a stark exploration of self as she discovers the seeds of misogyny already planted in the imagery of her childhood home movies.



Picture a Forest

DIRECTED BY **DAVE RODRIGUEZ**
USA, 2023, 4 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

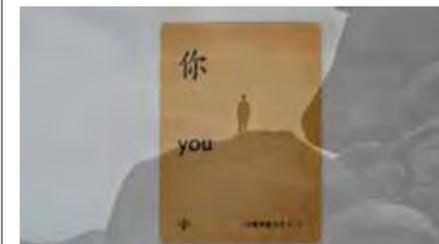
An anti-landscape of north Florida woodlands, performing its own impossible, inevitable annihilation.



Continental Drifts

DIRECTED BY **GEORG KOSZULINSKI**
USA, 2022, 11 MIN

A point-and-shoot, epistolary, fever-dream, collage film made in times of multiple crises. A metaphysical road trip movie through time.



Empire of My Melodious Mind

DIRECTED BY **JEANNETTE LOUIE**
USA, 2022, 9 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND CANTONESE
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

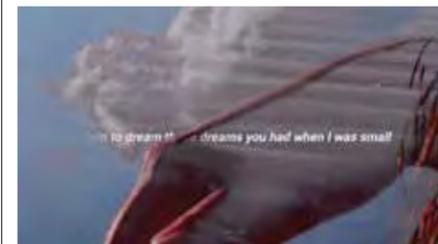
Perception embarks on an epic journey through the terrain of memories that form the identity of an American-born Asian.



Phase II

DIRECTED BY **KELLY L. SEARS**
USA, 2022, 6 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

In the near future, real estate developers deploy sonic weapons to clear neighborhoods for high-end high rises. On the front lines, a sound medic documents the incidents for future sonic activists.



Sunflower Siege Engine

DIRECTED BY **SKY HOPINKA**
USA, 2023, 12 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Movements of resistance are woven together: from reflections of one's own body in the world today, to documentation of Alcatraz, to the reclamation of Cahokia, and the repatriation of the ancestors.

The Angry Black Girl and Her Monster

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
11:30PM-1AM AT REGAL A

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
MIDNIGHT-1:30AM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **BOMANI J. STORY**
USA, 2023, 91 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING



Vicaria is a brilliant teenager who believes death is a disease that can be cured. After the brutal murder of her brother, she embarks on a desperate journey to bring him back to life, while dealing with friendship, school pressure, and navigating the dangers of life right outside of her doorstep. Inspired by Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, this directorial debut from screenwriter Bomani J. Story (*Rock Steady Row*) thematically challenges our ideas of life and death. Grounded by a compelling and intensely

passionate performance from Laya DeLeon Hayes (TV's *The Equalizer*) and spectacular supporting turns from Chad L. Coleman (*The Wire* and *The Walking Dead*) as Vicaria's father, and Denzel Whitacre (*Black Panther*) as her drug-dealing nemesis Kango, *The Angry Black Girl and Her Monster* is both a blood-soaked modern-day horror film and a thrilling tale about a family that, despite the terrors of systemic pressure, will survive and be reborn again.



When a five-year-old little girl (Haven Lee Harris) has a terrible accident and slips into a coma, she finds herself thrust into a dark industrial purgatory. Haunted by a nightmarish spectre that feeds off her tears, she must follow her mother's radio-static voice to find her way back to consciousness. Blending the twisted stop-motion dreamscapes of Jan Švankmajer's *Alice* into an eerie amalgamation of Neil Gaiman's *MirrorMask* and Nobuo Nakagawa's *Jigkou*, Ryan Stevens Harris's exquisitely crafted film is a childhood nightmare of illusion

bombarding with traumatic and unsettling visuals that will virtually guarantee you a bad night's sleep. Shot on expired 35mm film stock with vintage rehoused lenses and featuring jaw-dropping practical effects by Harris, Jeffrey Olney (*Mirrors*, *Spiderman: Homecoming*), and Michael A. Martinez (*Stranger Things*), *Moon Garden* is a phantasmagorical odyssey and a visionary work of art that shows how a child can shine light even in the darkest places.

Brooklyn 45

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
MIDNIGHT-1:35AM
AT REGAL B

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
9:45-11:20PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **TED GEOGHEGAN**
USA, 2023, 92 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING



Set on a freezing evening in December 1945, five military veterans gather in the ornate parlor of a Brooklyn brownstone. Best friends since childhood, they have reunited to support their troubled host (genre stalwart Larry Fessenden)—but when his invitation for cocktails turns into an impromptu séance, the metaphoric ghosts of their past become all-too-literal. This supernatural chamber drama evokes the spooky vibe of early television shows like *Lights Out* and *Armchair Theater*,

and features a group of incredible performers, including Anne Ramsay (*A League of Their Own*), Ezra Buzzington (*The Hills Have Eyes*), and Kristina Kelbe (*Rob Zombie's Halloween*) working at the top of their game and trapped in a cat-and-mouse thriller with—perhaps—no way out! Like Geoghegan's past work (*Mohawk* and *We Are Still Here*), this masterful screenplay is crackling with snappy dialogue, all in service of pushing this twisting and turning film towards its epic conclusion.



During the last desperate days of World War II, a solitary prospector (Jorma Tommila, the dad in *Rare Exports*) crosses paths with Nazi soldiers led by a brutal SS officer on a scorched-earth retreat in northern Finland. When the Nazis steal his gold, they quickly discover they have just tangled with no ordinary miner. While there is no direct translation for the Finnish word "sisu," this legendary ex-commando and badass will embody what "sisu" means: a white-knuckled form of courage and unimaginable determination in the face of overwhelming odds. And no

matter what the Nazis throw at him, the mythic one-man death squad will go to outrageous lengths to get his gold back—even if it means killing every last Nazi in his path. Recalling action classics such as *Rambo: First Blood* and *Mad Max: Fury Road* in its glorious carnage and comic book-pitched mayhem, this thrilling new work from Jalmari Helander (*Rare Exports*, *Big Game*) is a wild ride and outrageous spectacle of gory set pieces that will have rabid midnight audiences hurling incredulous expletives back at the screen.

Moon Garden

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
11:30PM-1:05AM AT REGAL B

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
11:30PM-1:05AM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **RYAN STEVENS HARRIS**
USA, 2022, 93 MIN

Sisu

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
MIDNIGHT-1:30AM AT ENZIAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
8:45-10:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **JALMARI HELANDER**
FINLAND, 2022, 91 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND FINNISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
US PREMIERE

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 95 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
MIDNIGHT-2AM AT ENZIAN

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
MIDNIGHT-1:45AM
AT REGAL A

Midnight Shorts has always been a party at ground zero! A homecoming to unleash the freaks. This year, three Midnight Shorts legends return. Combined, these filmmakers have screened 16 films at the Florida Film Festival, but lest you think we rest on well-earned laurels, a group of new deviants, featuring some fierce ladies, are showing up to give these veterans a run for their blood and bodily fluid-soaked money! Who will survive and what will be left of them? Only one way to find out...



The Blood of the Dinosaurs

DIRECTED BY **JOSEPH BADON**
USA, 2021, 18 MIN

Uncle Bobbo teaches children where oil comes from.



Hairsucker

DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL JONES**
AND **PADDY JESSOP**
AUSTRALIA, 2022, 4 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

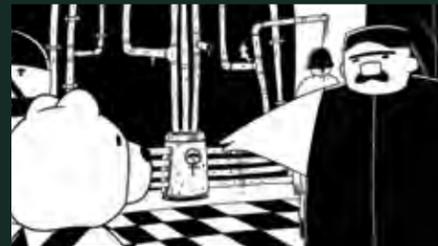
At night when you sleep, it comes to eat.



In the Flesh

DIRECTED BY **DAPHNE GARDNER**
USA, 2023, 13 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Tracey is addicted to masturbating with her bathtub faucet. When the pipes start shooting out dirty water and she starts leaking black goo, she descends into the basement to find the cause of her suffering and confront it, so she can jerk off in peace.



Pipes

DIRECTED BY **KILIAN FEUSI, JESSICA MEIER,**
AND **SUJANTH RAVICHANDRAN**
SWITZERLAND, 2022, 4 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Bob the plumber is hired to fix a broken pipe and lands—to his surprise—in a gay fetish club.



Nurture

DIRECTED BY **SASHA ARGIROV**
CANADA, 2022, 14 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

An emotionally stunted man reckons with the deep-rooted resentment he harbors for his ailing mother.



Jelqing for Gains

DIRECTED BY **T. ARTHUR COTTAM**
USA, 2023, 6 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

This is how you get big. A gender-bending exploration of penile enhancement rituals from Midnight Shorts legend T. Arthur Cottam (“Beer Goggles,” FFF 2002; “Pornographic Apathetic,” FFF 2003; and “52 Takes of the Same Thing, Then Boobs,” FFF 2010).



Juice

DIRECTED BY **MONA KEIL**
GERMANY, 2022, 5 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Meaty creatures must learn to share their juicy world with the pesky little bugs before they run dry.



We Forgot About the Zombies

DIRECTED BY **CHRIS MCINROY**
USA, 2022, 4 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Two clueless dudes think they found the cure for zombie bites. If they sharpen their Wordle skills, they just might survive in this new horror comedy from Chris McInroy (“Death Metal,” FFF 2017; “We Summoned a Demon,” FFF 2018; and “Guts,” FFF 2022).



Hell Gig

DIRECTED BY **ELLA GALE**
USA, 2022, 9 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

After a comedian is infected by a demon who eats anyone she envies, her relationship with her best friend is threatened.



Don't Die on Me

DIRECTED BY **ORI GOLDBERG**
ISRAEL, 2022, 3 MIN
IN HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Asthmatic Matti is coughing again, and again he hears the irritating sentence, “Don’t die on me.” Only this time, he’s going to. A revolting portrayal of the noisy life inside a malfunctioning body, and the sweet, deadly silence that stops it.



Content: The Lo-Fi Man

DIRECTED BY **BRIAN LONANO** AND **BLAKE MYERS**
USA, 2023, 15 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Seven-time FFF alumni filmmaker Brian Lonano (“Gwilliam,” “BFF Girls,” and “Crow Hand”) tries to talk about a beloved cult film. What happens next will shock you!

Narrative Feature Films Jury



Let's All Go To The Brewery



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Robert Daniels is a Chicago-based film critic. He is the founder of 812filmReviews, with freelance bylines in the *New York Times*, in the *Los Angeles Times*, at RogerEbert.com, at *IndieWire*, and at The Playlist. He has written widely about Black American pop culture and issues of representation, and has contributed to the book *Rotten Tomatoes: The Ultimate Binge Guide: 296 Must-See Shows That Changed the Way We Watch TV*. He has also appeared on PBS' WTTW, WBEZ, NPR's 1A, WNYC's *The Takeout*, and Sky News, and serves as a programmer for the Chicago Critics Film Festival.



Enthusiastic about functioning as a bridge between creators, industry, and audiences — **Alexandra Fredricks** handles non-theatrical and international sales at Oscilloscope Laboratories, a Brooklyn-based independent film distribution company founded in 2008 by Adam Yauch. Previously, she held the positions of programming + operations senior manager at Metrograph and film screening operations manager at the Doha Film Institute. She has been on screening committees for DOC NYC and the Hamptons International Film Festival as well as served as a talent liaison for New York Film Festival and a service team volunteer at the International Film Festival Rotterdam.



Clay Liford is a graduate of the University of Texas film program, where he currently teaches production. He has written and directed four features to date, including *Wuss* (SXSW 2011, FFF 2011, AFI 2011 Audience Award winner), *Earthling* (SXSW 2010), and *Slash* (SXSW 2016, FFF 2016). All are available on VOD. His award-winning comedy short, "My Mom Smokes Weed" (FFF 2010), has played over forty festivals, including the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. As a director of photography, Clay has shot over twenty features, including the award-winning films *St. Nick* (SXSW 2009) and *Gayby* (SXSW 2012). Recently, he's adapted several high-profile books for the screen and is editing his first novel.



SATURDAY, APRIL 15
4-6PM AT REGAL B

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
9:15-11PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **FRANKLIN RITCH**
USA, 2023, 93 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Franklin Ritch is a story-driven filmmaker, recently named one of the “25 New Faces of Independent Film” by *Filmmaker Magazine*. His debut feature, *The Artifice Girl*, won the Audience Award for Best International Feature at Fantasia and took the top prize at Italy’s Trieste Festival before a stateside SXSW premiere.

The Artifice Girl

Shot in Jacksonville, Florida, Franklin Ritch’s remarkably poignant debut feature, *The Artifice Girl*, is a masterful exercise in “what if,” as a rogue tech wizard suffers a punishing interrogation about an elaborate AI program he created to lure online child predators and stop human trafficking. This profound science-fiction film raises ethical questions as to the use of artificial intelligence, autonomy, and the parallels between technology and childhood. What are the rights and wrongs of how AI can be used? Could it ever develop

emotions? Would it someday have the capacity to grant or withhold consent? What happens when it survives the humans who first devised it, or even the human race itself? Produced by Aaron Koontz (*Camera Obscura*, FFF 2017) and co-starring Lance Henriksen (*Aliens*), *The Artifice Girl* makes us question ourselves and our sense of morality by pushing the horizons of our mind beyond the limits of society. Guilt and hidden longings emerge as the film explores the applications of science and the price of good intentions.

The Duel

Actors-turned-directors Luke Roberts and Justin Matthews’ debut film, *The Duel*, is a zany and hilarious exercise in revenge and toxic masculinity. It tells the story of Colin and Woody, who are best friends in Venice, CA, until Colin (Dylan Sprouse, *The Suite Life of Zach & Cody*) sleeps with Woody’s girlfriend, Abby. Woody’s reaction is to burn the surfboard that Colin’s late dad made for him and then challenge Colin to a duel to defend his honor. So off they go to San Diego to a collectable weapons emporium run by the

eccentric Christof, brilliantly played by Patrick Warburton (*The Civilization of Maxwell Bright*, FFF 2005). As their friends look for a place for the duel, they party with a hilariously over-the-top cokehead butler/fixer, terrifically played by Christian McGaffney (*Simón*, FFF 2023), who volunteers the estate of his employer, a Mexican drug lord. As each attempt at reconciliation between the two friends fails, this funny and drug-fueled revenge story touches on the lines that blur between heroism, friendship, and the male ego.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
6:30-8:15PM AT ENZIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
2-4PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **JUSTIN MATTHEWS**
AND **LUKE SPENCER ROBERTS**
USA, 2023, 98 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Justin Matthews and **Luke Spencer Roberts** met acting on a Ridley

Scott-produced feature ten years ago. Luke went on to star in *The Package* and *Banana Split*, Justin went on to write for Apple TV’s *The Morning Show*. They started writing together during the lockdown.



REEL REPRESENTATION



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REEL REPRESENTATION



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SATURDAY, APRIL 15
11AM-12:45PM AT REGAL B

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
6:30-8:15PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **DANIEL YOON**
USA/CANADA, 2022, 94 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND KOREAN WITH
ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



East Bay is **DANIEL YOON'S** second feature. His first, *Post Concussion* (1999), won the Taos Land Grant Award. Daniel has worked as an Outward Bound instructor, and as a management consultant with McKinsey & Co. He attended Cornell (BS engineering physics, BA history) and Princeton (MPA).

East Bay

Is success the most important thing, even if it's phony? *East Bay*, a "feel-bad comedy" from Daniel Yoon—who wrote, directed, edited, produced and stars—explores what that means to Bay Area singles hamstrung by their expectations. Yoon plays Jack, a Korean-American failed filmmaker tackling a documentary on the meaning of life. Sarah (Constance Wu, *Crazy Rich Asians*) programs an Asian-American film fest and struggles with her feelings for Jack, who has his

own romantic problems: a white girlfriend pregnant by someone else and a crazy South Asian self-help guru who takes him for a ride. His solace is hockey, played with roommates facing up to their own limitations. Told with searing honesty, *East Bay* slyly and hilariously skewers the notion that everyone is special. Approaching middle-age teaches these characters otherwise, yet never loses sight of the beauty, tragedy, and absurdity of an ordinary life.

Egghead & Twinkie

Exploding out of the gate with lively animation, soothing voiceover narration, and Air Traffic Controller's delightful song "Hurry Hurry" blaring over the soundtrack, *Egghead & Twinkie* announces itself as not-your-average teen comedy. This vibrant film is an expansion of the award-winning short (FFF 2020) of the same name. After coming out to her parents, 17-year-old Twinkie takes off on a road trip to meet her online crush with the help of her best friend, Egghead, who also just happens to be in love with her. Bubbling over with a fast and zippy flow, the film

is reminiscent of a queer version of *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*. This truly unique coming-of-age film is filled with awkward crushes that don't pan out, road trips to meet your "true love," an up-tempo collection of indie music to coast along with, and two wonderfully cast leads in Sabrina Jie-A-Fa and Louis Tomeo who make you yearn for your high school besties. It transports you back to that awkward yet euphoric feeling of being a teenager in love before the cynicism of the real world kicked in. You know, the "good old days."

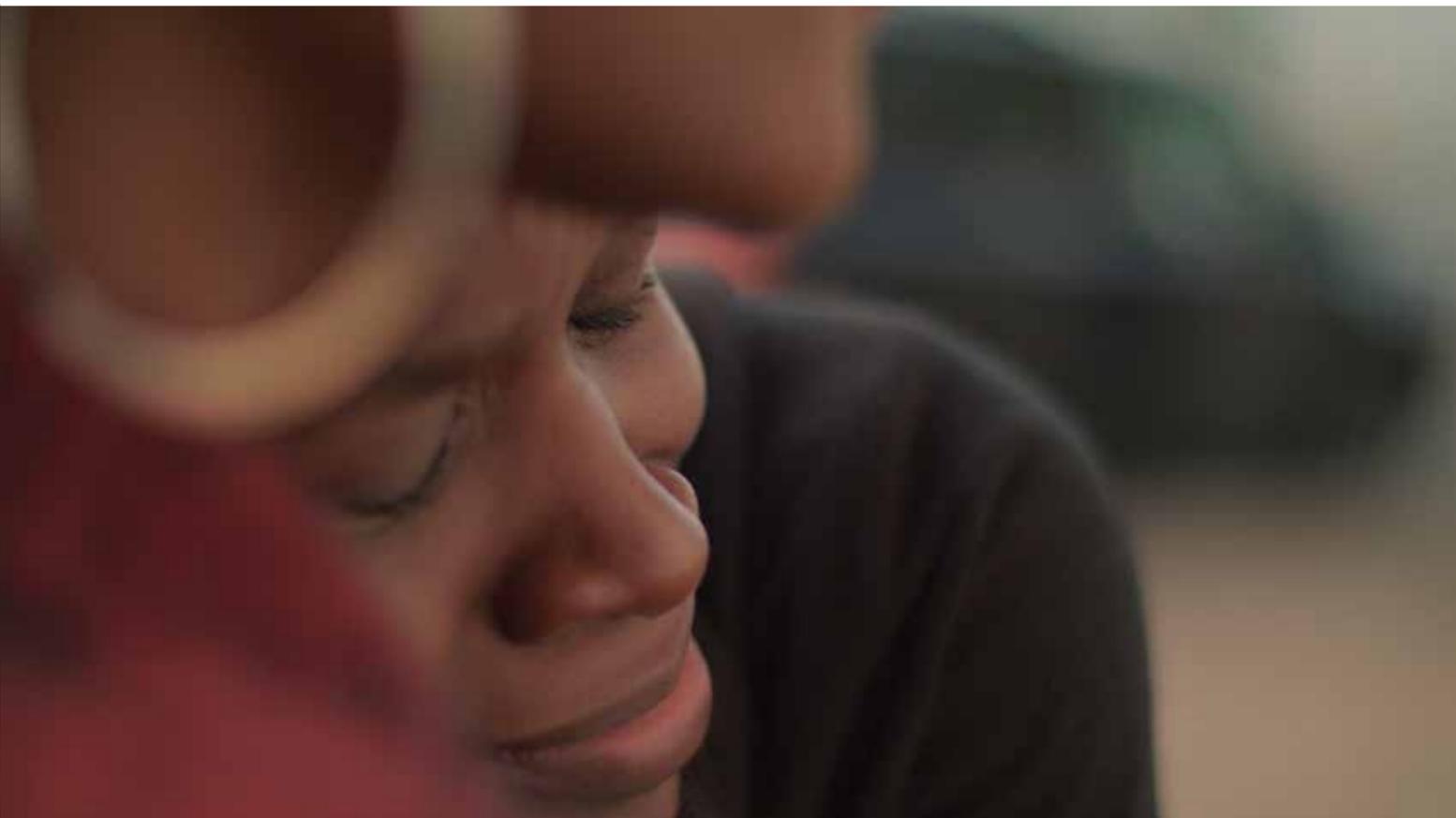
SUNDAY, APRIL 16
7-8:45PM AT REGAL A

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
9:15-11PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **SARAH KAMBE HOLLAND**
USA, 2023, 87 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Sarah Kambe Holland is based in Orlando, FL. Her 2019 short film, "Egghead & Twinkie," won Best Film and Best Director from Women Making a Scene, along with a grant to produce the concept as a feature. She is passionate about positive representation and exploring issues through a comedic lens.



MONDAY, APRIL 17
5:45-8PM AT REGAL B

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
9-11:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **ZIA MOHAJERJASBI**
USA, 2022, 125 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND TIGRINYA WITH
ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Zia Mohajerjasbi is an Iranian-American filmmaker hailing from Seattle, a city that has served as the primary focus

of his work. *Know Your Place*, which he wrote and directed, is Zia's debut feature film.

Know Your Place

Robel, a 15-year-old Eritrean American, and his best friend, Fahmi, a 15-year-old Ethiopian American, embark on a journey across the neighborhoods of Seattle to drop off a suitcase with medicine and cash to a family friend travelling back to Eritrea due to a family member's sudden illness. Quiet and contemplative, the film plunges us into the unique world of these two friends and the ever-growing gentrification around them. With a dash of Barry Jenkins and shades of Joe Swanberg indie sensibilities, this coming-of-age odyssey is an intimately elegiac portrait of a disappearing community. Along the way these young men attempt to navigate obstacles, ranging

from self-inflicted ones, such as leaving a cell phone on a city bus, to the unavoidable casual and not-so-casual racism that almost derails their entire mission. Grounded by two breakout performances from Joseph Smith and Natnael Mebrahtu, elevated with gorgeous cinematography, and steered by the sure-handed direction of Zia Mohajerjasbi, *Know Your Place* offers a glimpse into South Seattle and some residents that rarely get represented on screen. It breathes fresh life into familiar observations on the universal themes of overlooked immigrant communities in the United States.

Me Little Me

Navigating the early stages of recovery from an eating disorder, Mya has isolated herself from family, colleagues, and friends. Despite her daily dedication to her own healing, she successfully excels at her job, managing a high-volume car rental company, which ultimately leads to a promotion. As if the pressure from moving up in her company weren't enough, Mya must manage gender discrimination and sexual advances from a co-worker, along with having to face old demons that disrupted her life in the first place. While director Elizabeth Ayiku does not shy away from

showing the flawed aspects of the characters, she doesn't present them as victims to pity. She allows her protagonist to struggle and have setbacks, but also holds her accountable for her actions. It's the rare disorder film that acutely details the daily work required for rehabilitation. Along with pitch-perfect direction, an insightful script, and naturalistic cinematography, the glue that holds everything in place is the simmering, blistering performance by A'keyah Desia Williams as Mya. Captivating and believable, she demands your attention, and you will find yourself pleading that she comes out okay.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
3:30-5:15PM AT ENZIAN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
4:15-6PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **ELIZABETH AYIKU**
USA, 2022, 84 MIN



Elizabeth Ayiku, a Canadian-born filmmaker and editor, currently residing in Los Angeles. As an editor she

has worked on numerous narrative films, documentaries, commercials, and branded digital content. Elizabeth's goal is to make character-driven films that will spark important conversations. This is her first feature film.



REEL REPRESENTATION



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SUNDAY, APRIL 16
11AM-12:45PM AT REGAL B

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
6:30-8:15PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **JEFF RUTHERFORD**
USA, 2022, 95 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING



JEFF RUTHERFORD was born and raised in Kansas, where he grew up on Alfred Hitchcock movies. He studied writing at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. He's an alum of New York University's graduate film program. He's most often inspired by the solemn beauty and the rhythm of life in rural America.

A Perfect Day for Caribou

Jeb Berrier and Charlie Plummer (*Lean on Pete*, FFF 2018) are an estranged father and son who spend a day together trying to overcome a lifetime apart, as the older man contemplates his own end. The revelations they haltingly share are sometimes banal, sometimes hilarious, and often heart-wrenching, in scenes rendered starkly beautiful by the black-and-white landscape photography—shot in classic 4:3 aspect ratio—of award-winning

cinematographer Alfonso Herrera Salcedo. The deliberate pacing in this debut feature from Jeff Rutherford gives space to appreciate both the story's eccentricities—including an anxious search for a lost grandchild and flashbacks to things that might have been—and the majesty and loneliness of its high-desert Oregon setting. A reminder that, while we can never go back, the path forward often is not clear either.

Simón

Few Americans know much about the terrible human cost of the political upheaval in Venezuela over the last dozen years. *Simón*, the debut feature from director Diego Vicentini—forced to flee the country as a teenager—gives us a powerful and authentic view of young people risking everything to protest Venezuela's descent into tyranny. Christian McGaffney (also featured in FFF 2023's *The Duel*) shines as a student leader jailed and

tortured for his views. Exiled to Miami, he copes not only with trauma, but also deep guilt over a choice he must make: stay in Miami and do what he can for his fellow students, or return to join them in almost certain death. Engaging, intense, and often brutal, with a smart script and sharp direction, *Simón* is also a beautifully shot love letter to Miami—a remarkable film, unlikely to be seen in its home country.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
12:30-2:30PM AT ENZIAN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
6:30-8:30PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **DIEGO VICENTINI**
USA/VENEZUELA, 2023, 99 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH
ENGLISH SUBTITLES
WORLD PREMIERE



DIEGO VICENTINI left his home in Venezuela when he was 15-years old due to the progressive deterioration of his country. After half his life away from home, he is now a writer, director, and editor based in Los Angeles.



SATURDAY, APRIL 15
9-11PM AT REGAL B

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
4:30-6:30PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **JAMIE SISLEY**
USA, 2022, 94 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE



JAMIE SISLEY is an Emmy® award-winning filmmaker. His directorial debut, *Stay Awake*, had its world premiere

at Berlinale, where it won two awards. Sisley's work has been supported by the Sundance Institute, SFFILM, Tribeca Film Institute, Film Independent, ITVS, and The Smithsonian Institute.

Stay Awake

Adapted from the superb short film of the same name (FFF 2015) and winner of two awards at the 2022 Berlin International Film Festival, *Stay Awake* thrusts us into the world of Ethan and Derek, two brothers who are juggling teenage life while tending to their mother's debilitating prescription drug addiction. This compact but powerful slice-of-life drama, bolstered by bleakly beautiful cinematography, manages to avoid the usual clichés that bog down a stereotypical addiction narrative. Rarely do films in this genre come from the perspective of the caregivers, nor

do they typically provide a sympathetic portrayal of an addict. Treating addiction as a disease, the screenplay never hits a false note as it focuses on the human side of an afflicted Virginia family of three. Anchored by a superb performance from Chrissy Metz (TV's *This Is Us*) as the mother and subtly agonized turns by Wyatt Olef and Finn Argus, writer-director Jamie Sisley has crafted a melancholic, moving, and ultimately hopeful tribute to the emotional casualties suffered by the loved ones of addicts.



Unicorn Boy

Matt Kiel's pastel-drenched coming-of-age animated feature, *Unicorn Boy*, explores the complexity of first heartbreak and gender identity through this magical portrait of their former self as it follows Matty, a struggling artist in Los Angeles, as they overcome the loss of love. In a coffee shop bathroom, Matty gets sucked into an alternate unicorn dimension and must now work with a unicorn friend, a prince who barfs rainbows, to conquer a dark force and bring peace to their equine kingdom and emotional stability

to their bleak Silver Lake lives. This gorgeous, oddball, queer fantasy features a brilliant cast of voice actors that includes Patton Oswalt (*Tully*, FFF 2018), Harold Perrineau, and Michelle Trachtenberg. Recalling everything from *Yellow Submarine* to *My Little Pony* to the works of Hayao Miyazaki, Kiel's trippy and whimsical odyssey explores how their past life has led to the person they have become. Bizarre, bonkers, and beautiful, *Unicorn Boy* is feast for the eyes that was meant for the big screen.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
9:15-11PM AT REGAL A

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
3:45-5:30PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **MATT KIEL**
USA, 2023, 91 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



MATT KIEL (they/them) is an animator, director, and actor who most recently served as lead animator on the

SyFy Original Series *Hell Den*. They were featured on Comedy Central's *Saturday Morning(ish) Cartoons* and have worked with Shout! Factory, Mondo Media, Six Point Harness, Bento Box Entertainment, HBO, Mattel, and Fusion Network.

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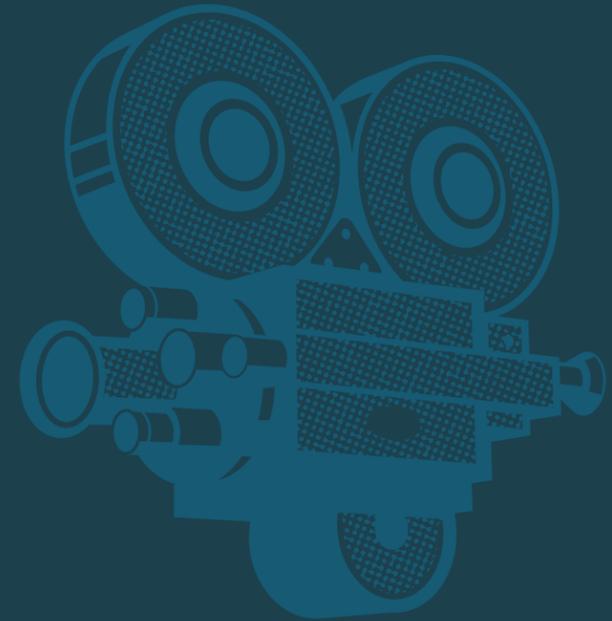


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Documentary Films Jury



Tatiana Faris currently works as the exhibitor relations coordinator at IFC Films. She first broke into distribution at Greenwich Entertainment while a student at NYU and has been fostering her love for independent film ever since. While at IFC, she's supported releases such as *Werewolves Within*, *Benedetta*, and *Watcher*. She's currently working on the Owen Wilson comedy *Paint*, indie darling Christian Mungiu's *R.M.N.*, and the SXSW breakout hit *BlackBerry*, among others. While she's not at her desk, Tatiana can be found training her corgi puppy or training herself for the Paris marathon.



Kimberly Reed's *Dark Money* (FFF 2018) was an award-winning selection at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, named one of *Vogue's* "66 Best Documentaries of All Time," shortlisted for an Oscar®, nominated for best documentary of the year by IDA and for four Critics' Choice awards, and won the duPont-Columbia prize. Her *Prodigal Sons* (FFF 2019) won 14 international awards and was the first documentary by a transgender filmmaker to be theatrically released in the U.S. She recently directed an episode of *Equal* (HBO Max) and served as executive producer of *Transhood*. She also produced/edited/wrote *Paul Goodman Changed My Life* and produced *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson*. She co-wrote the libretti for four operas, including *As One*, the most frequently produced American opera in the 21st century.



Stephen Reilly is a video editor, content producer, and film distribution consultant with 15+ years of experience in the entertainment industry. His current role is head of content operations at Utopia. Prior to Utopia, he held the position of director of content ops at Gunpowder & Sky, and manager of content ops at FilmBuff. Besides his passion for film, Stephen is also a web3 enthusiast, loves to travel, and enjoys riding motorcycles.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
11:30AM-1:30PM AT REGAL A

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
9:30-11:30PM AT ENZIAN

Bottle Conditioned

DIRECTED BY **JERRY FRANCK**
USA, 2023, 82 MIN
IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND FLEMISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE



JERRY FRANCK
(*Bottle Conditioned*)
is an American-Luxembourgish producer and director who frequently collaborates with fellow filmmaker Courtney Marsh. Their previous film "Chau, Beyond the Lines" (FFF 2015) was nominated for an Academy Award® in 2016. *Bottle Conditioned* is Jerry's directorial debut.

Taste of the Indigenous

DIRECTED BY **JOSEPHINE BONO**
USA, 2022, 20 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE



JOSEPHINE BONO
(*"Taste of the Indigenous"*) is a NYC-based photographer and filmmaker. Her strong sense of space has been credited to studying large-format photography. She received a BFA in visual arts from Fordham University on a full scholarship. Her films reveal an intimate visual style of watching people unfold naturally within their environment.



Bottle Conditioned

Normally in the brewing process, the brewer leads the beer, but with Lambic, the beer leads the brewer. Director/producer/writer Jerry Franck and co-writer/co-producer Courtney Marsh (Oscar®-nominated documentary short "Chau, Beyond the Lines," FFF 2015) return to the Florida Film Festival with an intimate and compelling story of the history and future of Lambic beer. Brewed near Brussels, and only in the winter months since the 13th century, it spontaneously ferments from wild yeast strains. While Lambic is enjoying

a current resurgence, that was not always the case. This highly entertaining and celebratory film explores the lives of three of the most revered families in Lambic brewing (representing Cantillon, 3 Fonteinen, and Bokke), who have devoted themselves to producing beer in a way that doesn't necessarily follow trends. In a world where it seems the newest thing must be a variation on easy-drinking beer, Lambic is rooted in patient tradition. To these brewers, tradition matters. But is there a personal cost to such devotion?

PRECEDED BY

Taste of the Indigenous

Two Native-American chefs take turns hosting a culinary experience allowing us to rediscover the tradition and culture behind their tribe's ancestral food.



Dusty & Stones

Art and genres transcend territorial lines. This beautiful crowd pleaser chronicles the remarkable ride of cousins Gazi "Dusty" Simelane and Linda "Stones" Msibi, a determined duo of struggling country singers from the tiny African kingdom of eSwatini (known as Swaziland at the time of filming), who long for their big break. After receiving word that a record producer in Nashville has seen them perform on YouTube, they are invited to the United States to record and then perform at an international battle of the bands in Jefferson, Texas. But Dusty

& Stones soon realize that dreams are not always fulfilled so easily. Setbacks with scheduling and dealing with less than cooperative organizers reveal to them that nothing in life is as simple as it seems. Will Dusty and Stones return home after the competition local heroes, or will they come back with their tails between their legs? Even if you're not a country music fan, this wonderful film is so engaging and heartfelt that you will leave the theater big fans of *Dusty & Stones*. Their optimism and love of music is that infectious!

PRECEDED BY

Ampe: Leap into the Sky, Black Girl

Set in the sister cities of Accra, Ghana, and Columbus, Ohio, through the lens of the Ghanaian traditional jumping and clapping game "Ampe," this sweet film takes us on a journey of sisterhood, friendship, loyalty, and nostalgia.



MONDAY, APRIL 17
8:30-10:30PM AT REGAL B

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
3:45-5:45PM AT ENZIAN

Dusty & Stones

DIRECTED BY **JESSE RUDOY**
USA, 2022, 83 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SISWATI
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



JESSE RUDOY
(*Dusty & Stones*)
is a New York-based director and editor interested in character-driven, intimate verité

documentary filmmaking. His work has been supported by HBO, The Gotham Film & Media Lab, Film Independent, Durban FilmMart, and DOC NYC. *Dusty & Stones* is his first film.

Ampe: Leap into the Sky, Black Girl

DIRECTED BY **CLAUDIA OWUSU**
AND **IFE OLUWAMUYIDE**
USA/GHANA, 2022, 18 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND TWI
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



IFE OLUWAMUYIDE (*"Ampe: Leap into the Sky, Black Girl!"*) is a Nigerian visual artist/filmmaker, whose work explores the complexities of Black womanhood.

CLAUDIA OWUSU is a Ghanaian writer/filmmaker whose work interrogates identity and community. Through their work, they hope to provide access to otherwise exclusive art mediums and encourage Black women to tell their stories.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
11:30AM-1:45PM AT REGAL A

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
5:45-8PM AT REGAL B

Immediate Family

DIRECTED BY **DENNY TEDESCO**
USA, 2022, 101 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE



Denny Tedesco (*Immediate Family*) started his film career as a set decorator on feature films such as *Eating Raoul*.

His directorial debut was the award-winning documentary *The Wrecking Crew!* (FFF 2009), a film about the great session musicians who worked with everyone from The Beach Boys and Elvis, to Sinatra and The Monkees.

Really Good Friends

DIRECTED BY **ADAM SEKULER**
USA, 2022, 10 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Adam Sekuler (*Really Good Friends*) is a filmmaker, curator, educator, and editor. Screening in forums and film

festivals throughout the U.S. and internationally, his films strike a delicate balance between stylization and naturalism, creating a poetic and lyrical form of visual storytelling. He lives in Detroit, where he teaches at University of Michigan—Dearborn.



Immediate Family

Those classic singer/songwriter hits of James Taylor, Jackson Brown, Linda Ronstadt, and Carol King all featured a handful of L.A. studio musicians who played on virtually everything round, plastic, and successful in the 1970s. Their names are etched into the memories of anyone who stared at album liner notes—Danny “Kootch” Kortchmar, Leland Sklar, Russ Kunkel, and Waddy Wachtel. Their bluesy, rock-friendly sound literally defined American radio of the era, so why didn’t they become stars in their own right? This doc, helmed by Denny Tedesco (*The Wrecking Crew!* FFF 2009), offers one possibility: they were too damn successful and having too much fun as

studio players to care about solo careers! Tedesco packs this elegant musical with tall tales, big riffs, and interviews with the countless stars who hired them over and over. The personal history of each player is recounted, as well as their recent formation into an actual band called The Immediate Family (with the addition of guitarist Steve Posner). Getting to know the personalities of studio and stage players can be jarring fun. Kortchmar is surprisingly cool and elegant, while Waddy Wachtel chatters on like Larry David in a curly wig. They all have great stories and songs, which makes this flick an easy crowd pleaser.

PRECEDED BY

Really Good Friends

Mary is a woman in her sixties who cultivates an unusual relationship with a mysterious man she meets online. Eight year later, Mary and Don have grown to have a “very close, bonded friendship” in this intimate portrait from director Adam Sekuler.



Liquor Store Dreams

When director So Yun Um turns the cameras on herself, her father, and all the other “liquor store babies,” we are gifted with an intimate depiction of an underseen immigrant story. Part of a generation of Koreans who owned 75% of the liquor stores in Los Angeles in the late ‘80s, Um always recognized that it takes hard work and long hours, which may have led to her own filmmaking dreams. But to understand her father’s story, and

by extension her own, she will have to address evolving perspectives on social justice caused by bruising life experiences during the 1992 LA riots and the Black Lives Matter protests of 2021. This touching, captivating, and extremely relevant intergenerational story attempts to reconcile Um’s feelings about being a second-generation Korean immigrant and liquor store baby against the choices and sacrifices her father made.

PRECEDED BY

When the LAPD Blows Up Your Neighborhood

What happens when you detonate 42 pounds of fireworks in a truck designed to safely detonate 20 pounds of explosives live on television? A catastrophe and a coverup that exposes the systemic racism of policing in Los Angeles.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
6:15-8:15PM AT REGAL B

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
2-4PM AT ENZIAN

Liquor Store Dreams

DIRECTED BY **SO YUN UM**
USA, 2022, 85 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND KOREAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
FLORIDA PREMIERE



So Yun Um (*Liquor Store Dreams*) is a Korean-American filmmaker, born and based in LA. So is a CAAM 2021 fellow, Armed

with a Camera Fellowship by Visual Communication alumnus, Sundance Uprise grant recipient, Sundance Institute documentary film program grantee, and proud Brown Girls Doc Mafia and Asian American Documentary Network member.

When the LAPD Blows Up Your Neighborhood

DIRECTED BY **NATHAN TRUESDELL**
USA, 2022, 19 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Nathan Truesdell (*When the LAPD Blows Up Your Neighborhood*) is an Academy Award®-nominated independent

filmmaker. He is best known for his work on the documentary films “Balloonfest,” *Ascension*, and “The Water Slide.”

MONDAY, APRIL 17
6:15-8:15PM AT ENZIAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
8:30-10:30PM AT REGAL B

Minnesota Mean

DIRECTED BY **DAWN MIKKELSON**
USA, 2023, 81 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING



Dawn Mikkelson (*Minnesota Mean*) is an Emmy®-winning producer and McKnight fellow, whose work has been broadcast

and screened internationally, including at DOXA, Mill Valley Film Festival, Heartland Film Festival, DOC NYC, and CUCALORUS. Mikkelson has recently premiered two films about powerful women: *Finding Her Beat* (2022) with taiko drummers and *Minnesota Mean* (2023) with roller derby skaters.

Krush the Wrestler

DIRECTED BY **ALEX MEGARO**
USA, 2023, 14 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE



Alex Megaro ("Krush the Wrestler") is a filmmaker best known for producing/editing *Driftwood*, winner

of the Slamdance Grand Jury Prize for Narrative Feature. He produced the Sheffield Doc Fest official selection "8:08 How We Respond" and produced/edited the VICE documentary series *Source Material*. "Krush The Wrestler" is his first documentary as director.



Minnesota Mean

The Minnesota Roller Girls defy gender stereotypes and advocate for body positivity. Unlike the customary portrayal of "Derby Girls" in sexy attire, vying for the cheers and approval of male fans, this team of mighty women take pride in their athleticism and are breaking barriers in the rough-and-tumble sport of roller derby. *Minnesota Mean* follows these women for a year, looking at the challenges they face and the relationships they forge as they endeavor to win the top prize in Women's Flat Track Roller Derby, the Hydra. Sprinkled throughout the film are interviews with

many of the key players that offer substance, commentary, and perspective on a lesser-known sport. "Smoka Hontas," "Diamond Rough," "Shiver Me Kimbers," and "Hurtrude Stein" are a few of the many colorful and talented characters that show what dedication, team spirit, and camaraderie really mean. When a key player gets injured, the girls prove their commitment to the team and each other. This compelling, inspirational, and highly entertaining film is a proud display of the power of women, united in sport.

PRECEDED BY

Krush the Wrestler

Exploring the innate intimacy of submission wrestling, a lifelong wrestler turns his talents into an on-demand fetish video service.



Out There: A National Parks Story

A young filmmaker sets out on a 10,000-mile exploration of the national parks with his childhood best friend during the centennial year of the formation of the National Park Service. Along the way, the two record stories of the people that work in the parks and those that come to enjoy them, as part of the rich tapestry of the history of the park system emerges. Far from any clichéd narrative, they hear profound stories of people from all

ages, walks of life, and cultures that come to the parks seeking tranquility, healing, motivation, and connection to the natural world. Between the spectacular shots of the parks and compelling interviews are colorful bits of old maps, posters, and travelogues. This stunning road trip is a tribute to the national parks and their history, and is also a recognition of the people that appreciate them and work to maintain their beauty.

PRECEDED BY

From Dreams to Dust

As Pola's idyllic South Pacific island transforms from a paradise to a mining wasteland, he faces existential dangers at every turn, and we learn the human cost of the nickel batteries in our Teslas.



SUNDAY, APRIL 16
6:15-8PM AT ENZIAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
3:30-5:15PM AT REGAL B

Out There: A National Parks Story

DIRECTED BY **BRENDAN HALL**
USA, 2023, 73 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE



Brendan Hall (*Out There: A National Parks Story*) is a documentary filmmaker telling stories in the natural world and

beyond. He is also a crew member of the dearMoon civilian lunar mission. In his work, Brendan is committed to sharing the wonders of our planet in hopes that we may be inspired to care for it.

From Dreams to Dust

DIRECTED BY **STEPHANIE TANGKILISAN** AND **MUHAMMAD FADLI**
USA/INDONESIA, 2022, 10 MIN
IN INDONESIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
FLORIDA PREMIERE



Stephanie Tangkilisan ("From Dreams to Dust") is an Indonesian-born, NY-based award-winning journalist and filmmaker.



Daughter of a journalist, she is motivated in scrutinizing the role of power and race in creating

conflict and injustice. She is the head of production at EST Media. **Muhammad Fadli** is a documentary photographer and producer based in Jakarta, Indonesia. His affection for themes such as history, culture, and social issues are reflected in his projects.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
1:30-3:30PM AT REGAL B

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
5-7PM AT ENZIAN

Racist Trees

DIRECTED BY **SARA NEWENS**
AND **MINA T. SON**
USA, 2022, 85 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Sara Newens
(*Racist Trees*) is a Los Angeles-based documentary filmmaker and Emmy®-award winning editor.



Mina T. Son is a Korean-American documentary filmmaker based in Los Angeles. Together they founded Wild

Pair Films.

Parker

DIRECTED BY **CATHERINE HOFFMAN** AND **SHARON LIESE**
USA, 2023, 13 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

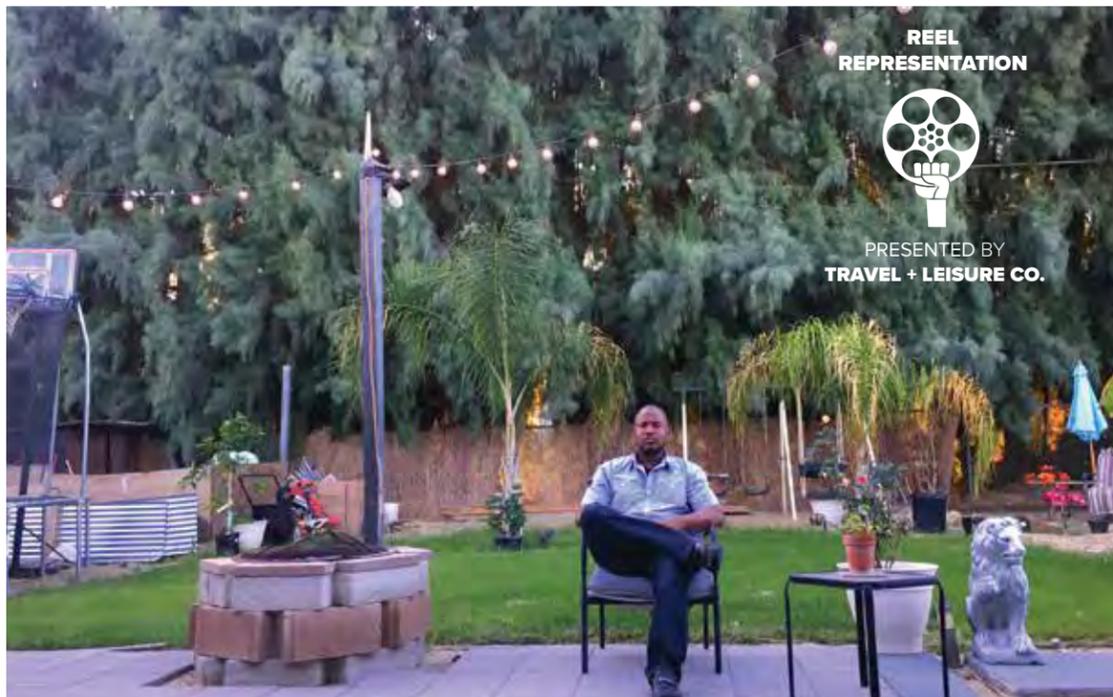


Catherine Hoffman (“Parker”) is an award-winning emerging filmmaker. Her latest film, “Preserving Our

Past: Kansas City Stories of Black History,” is streaming on PBS.



Sharon Liese is an acclaimed director and producer. Her films include “The Flagmakers” (Oscar® shortlisted), *Transhood* (HBO), “The Gnomist” (CNN Films). She is currently directing a series for Starz.



Racist Trees

Don't let the charming weirdness of Palm Springs fool you. Literally just beyond the pristine golf courses, a fight about trees has been brewing for decades. Years of complaints about a wall of dubious deciduous tamarisk trees planted in the late '50s that physically separate the black neighborhood of Crossley Tract from the more affluent rest of the town, go nowhere with their city council until a story in the local news ignites an international firestorm of attention. *Top Spin* (FFF 2015) directors Sara Newens

(“Footprint,” FFF 2018) and Mina T. Son pull off an amazing balancing act by peeling back an onion of institutional racism and showing how these dividing lines help define a community's inability to partake in the rest of the town's economic progress, while addressing both visible and invisible divisions in “liberal” Palm Springs. Topical and highly entertaining, *Racist Trees* is a fascinating history lesson exposing race relations in one of the wealthiest communities in the country.

PRECEDED BY

Parker

What's in a name? For the Parkers of Kansas City, everything. Three generations of a family come together to do something countless African Americans before them could not—choose their own last name.



Space Happy: Phil Thomas Katt and the Uncharted Zone

Florida has its own music-video producing version of *Anvil*: a group of ragtag artists making “so bad, it's good” music and videos in Pensacola, under the direction of the musician, videographer, and radio/TV host Phil Thomas Katt. Gloriously entertaining, *Space Happy* frames these eccentric artists in an incredibly endearing light. While it would be easy to poke fun at Phil's life's work, based on his outlook, he perhaps has the secrets to happiness figured out far more than the rest

of us. Undeterred by not “making it” under the traditional metrics for success, Phil does what he loves simply because he loves it. In this testament to positivity in art, Phil and his friends champion local talent, and in turn, his devoted fanbase see him as talented, committed, kind, creative, and, above all, a unique individual. Spanning over five decades of footage, *Space Happy* is a portrayal of creative minds pursuing art against all odds and never giving up on their dreams.

PRECEDED BY

Pony Boys

Summer 1967. Two young Massachusetts brothers—ages 9 and 11—are desperate to visit Expo '67 in Montreal, Canada. When their parents can't take them, they set off on an improbable journey, hitching their Shetland pony to a cart to travel 350 miles on their own to the World's Fair.



SATURDAY, APRIL 15
6:30-8:15PM AT REGAL B

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
8:30-10:15PM AT REGAL B

Space Happy: Phil Thomas Katt and the Uncharted Zone

DIRECTED BY **LOUIS CRISTELLO**
USA, 2023, 56 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE



Louis Cristello
(*Space Happy: Phil Thomas Katt and The Uncharted Zone*) grew up in the suburbs of New Jersey. At 16,

he began working at Blockbuster Video and later moved on to manage a local VHS store. He's directed music videos for notable indie musicians. *Space Happy: Phil Thomas Katt and The Uncharted Zone* is his feature directorial debut.

Pony Boys

DIRECTED BY **ERIC STANGE**
USA, 2022, 25 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Eric Stange
(“Pony Boys”) is an independent documentary director and producer of films about issues of

social justice, health and equity, social activism, and political and cultural history. Broadcast venues for his films include PBS, the BBC, and The Discovery Channel.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
3:30-5:30PM AT ENZIAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
6-8PM AT REGAL B

They Called Him Mostly Harmless

DIRECTED BY **PATRICIA E. GILLESPIE**
USA, 2023, 89 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE



Patricia E. Gillespie's (*They Call Him Mostly Harmless*) character-driven documentaries aim to celebrate underdogs, expand our understanding of the working class, and center the voices of women we don't often get to hear from. She directed MTV Doc's *The Fire that Took Her* and *Viceland's* first foray into serialized true crime, *The Devil You Know*.



They Called Him Mostly Harmless

A mysterious stranger is found dead in a tent in an Everglades campground. Identified as a male and weighing only 83 pounds, he had \$3,500 on him, but no ID. Even more perplexing are the handwritten pages of detailed code that were found nearby. When the police cannot identify the body nor a cause of death, internet sleuths and chat groups take the search for his identity online. Soon people are recognizing him as a hiker they met on a trail

somewhere in Appalachia or Florida. Known as "Mostly Harmless," no one caught his real name or where exactly he was from. The enigma of it all effectuates an obsessive search for answers that builds to the surprising unveiling of one man's human condition. This fascinating, non-fiction puzzle-box of a story takes you on a journey from the natural world, to the digital age of social media and modern science, and back again.

PRECEDED BY

Creating Things

Using interview fragments, art, and family mementos, two brothers explore who their father was and what he left behind.



Creating Things

DIRECTED BY **BRYAN SIMPSON** AND **TAYLOR SIMPSON**
USA, 2022, 11 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Bryan Simpson and **Taylor Simpson** ("Creating Things") are brothers and creatives. Bryan is a video editor/filmmaker, and Taylor is a Florida-based graphic designer/creative director/musician.



With Peter Bradley

"If I've got the paint, I'm going to win the battle." At 80, renowned abstract expressionist artist Peter Bradley lives and works out of his rural home in upstate New York. It is an old stone house with a shipping container outside where he demonstrates his unique process. Listening to jazz, he "paints the music" he hears, and reflects on his remarkable life. Back in his twenties, he wore tailored suits and was at the top of the art world as a dealer for

the Perls Galleries, selling Calder and Picassos to the rich and famous. He also curated the first interracial exhibition in American art and was the first Black person to ever have a one-man show at the Emmerich Gallery in Manhattan. But racism in the art world was blatant, and Bradley is frank, amusing, and unapologetic about leaving it behind to just paint, in this intimate and extraordinary portrait of the artist and his creative process.

PRECEDED BY

The Promise of Spring

FFF Audience Award winner ("No Man's Land," FFF 2021) Anna Andersen returns with this intimate portrait of the most prolific backdrop artist in the world, Sarah Oliphant, who wants her daughter to follow in her footsteps. But legacy is complicated, and Violet has her own dreams.



SUNDAY, APRIL 16
2:15-4:15PM AT REGAL A

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
12:45-2:45PM AT ENZIAN

With Peter Bradley

DIRECTED BY **ALEX RAPPOPORT**
USA, 2023, 86 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Alex Rappoport (*With Peter Bradley*), primarily working on documentaries, has been a producer, cinematographer, and editor for 30 years. His camera credits include many programs for HBO and other television networks, and he has been a producer/cinematographer/editor for PBS and other clients. *With Peter Bradley* is his first feature film.

The Promise of Spring

DIRECTED BY **ANNA ANDERSEN**
USA, 2023, 14 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE



Anna Andersen ("The Promise of Spring") is an award-winning filmmaker whose work focuses on the dynamism of

the female identity. Anna's work has been screened at DOC NYC, Florida Film Festival, Sidewalk Film Festival, and has been awarded grand jury and audience awards at Florida Film Festival and Tampa Bay International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

6X Real

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 103 MIN

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
4-6PM AT REGAL A

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
4-6PM AT REGAL A



Barefoot Empress

DIRECTED BY **VIKAS KHANNA**
USA/INDIA, 2022, 15 MIN
IN MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A 96-year-old woman in Kerala defies tradition and becomes the oldest person to attend first grade in her village, despite the jeers of other students. Produced by Doug Roland ("Feeling Through," FFF 2020).



Vikas Khanna ("Barefoot Empress") is an internationally acclaimed Indian chef, a James Beard nominee, and one of the first Indian chefs to be awarded a Michelin Star in the U.S. Having developed a love for storytelling, his "Barefoot Empress" is a follow up to his debut feature film *The Last Color*.



Breaking Silence

DIRECTED BY **AMY BENCH** AND **ANNIE SILVERSTEIN**
USA, 2023, 18 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND ASL WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A deaf man and his daughter find common ground after her incarceration, as he begins to advocate for deaf inmates, and she for imprisoned women. From co-directors Annie Silverstein ("Skunk," FFF 2015) and Amy Bench ("Bad at Dancing," FFF 2016).



Amy Bench ("Breaking Silence") is a Texas-based filmmaker and visual artist who is drawn to the immediacy of film and photography to tell stories of community and resilience. **Annie Silverstein** is also a Texas-based filmmaker. Her films have screened at international festivals, including Cannes, SXSW, Silverdocs, and on PBS *Independent Lens*.



Fleshwork

DIRECTED BY **LYDIA CORNETT**
USA, 2023, 7 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Butchering is hard work; there is also an art to it. Four meat processors in Jeromesville, Ohio, demonstrate how it's done.



Lydia Cornett ("Fleshwork") is a filmmaker based between New York, NY, and Columbus, OH. As a former musician turned filmmaker and composer, she makes work that unites the restraint of observational storytelling with the physicality and connective qualities she associates with music-making.



CANS: Can't Stand

DIRECTED BY **MATT NADEL** AND **MEGAN PLOTKA**
USA, 2022, 19 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Black trans women in New Orleans fight to repeal Louisiana's Crimes Against Nature by Solicitation (CANS) law which forces those convicted to register as sex offenders.



Matt Nadel ("CANS: Can't Stand") is a queer filmmaker and journalist from Florida. Much of his work focuses on criminal justice, gender, sexuality, and law. **Megan Plotka** (she/they) is a filmmaker and watchdog journalist focused on injustice and government accountability in the South.



Margie Soudek's Salt and Pepper Shakers

DIRECTED BY **MEREDITH MOORE**
USA, 2023, 12 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A film editing teacher makes a video of her grandmother's obsession with salt and pepper shakers, then edits in interviews and clever special effects in a tutorial.



Meredith Moore ("Margie Soudek's Salt and Pepper Shakers") is a Baltimore-based artist and filmmaker. Her films have screened at Sundance, SXSW, Anthology Film Archives, Rotterdam, and the BMA, among others. Meredith has worked in audiovisual archives and taught college video and animation. Her VFX work can be found in numerous documentaries and music videos.



Imelda Is Not Alone

DIRECTED BY **PAULA HEREDIA**
USA/EL SALVADOR, 2023, 32 MIN
IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
WORLD PREMIERE

An advocacy group helps a young El Salvadorian woman who faces 20 years in prison after giving birth to a child in an outhouse latrine.



Paula Heredia ("Imelda Is Not Alone") is a Salvadoran filmmaker who has been making documentary films for over 20 years. Her work has received numerous awards, including the Eddie and the Emmy®. She is a promoter of the regional film industry in Central America and co-founder of the International Film Festival in Suchitoto, El Salvador.

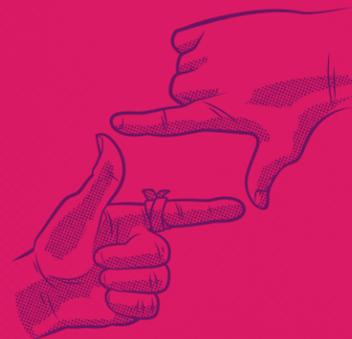


FilmFreeway

SHORTS

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT COMPETITION

Short Films Jury



Abbey Bender is a New York-based writer on film and fashion. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *Sight and Sound*, *Filmmaker Magazine*, *Nylon*, and many other publications. She has done social media work for companies like the Criterion Collection and Netflix, and currently works as a digital staff writer for *Woman's World* and *First for Women*. She has also contributed booklet essays to the Blu-ray releases of *Camille Claudel* and *The Bells of St. Mary's*, and has an essay forthcoming in Matt Zoller Seitz's book on Wes Anderson's *The French Dispatch*. Her interests as a film writer include the femme fatale archetype, nostalgia, color and production design, and costume design.



Lucie Boulet works in theatrical distribution at NEON, the independent distributor known for its eclectic and boundary-pushing films. Most recently, she worked on the releases of Palme d'Or winner *Triangle of Sadness* and Oscar-nominated documentaries *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed* and *Fire of Love*. Upcoming releases include *How to Blow Up a Pipeline*, an adaptation of Andreas Malm's radical climate manifesto. Lucie received a BA in media studies from Scripps College and has published work on the evolving landscape of American independent film distribution. She lives in Brooklyn and can typically be found frequenting one of New York's arthouse theaters.



Jim Cummings is an actor and filmmaker, originally from Louisiana. He is known for writing, directing, and starring in the 2016 short film "Thunder Road" (Sundance Grand Jury Prize, FFF 2016 official selection), which he subsequently extended into a 2018 feature film of the same name (SXSW Grand Jury prize). He also wrote, directed, and starred in the 2020 film *The Wolf of Snow Hollow* for MGM. His latest feature, *The Beta Test*, premiered at the Berlinale and Tribeca Film Festival and was released by IFC Films. He founded the Short to Feature Lab and is dedicated to emerging filmmaker education and sending the ladder back down however possible. He currently lives in Los Angeles.

SHORTS 1: **Hopelessly Devoted to You**

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 95 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
2-4PM AT REGAL A

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
6:30-8:30PM AT REGAL A

There is a plethora of ways to show devotion. A lifetime shown only through the expressions on a woman's face. Two sisters healing together after a loss. A woman's appointment with America. A teen friendship tested by a dark secret. Cousins helping each other after years of absence. A woman's quest to get her chair. A man rushing to aid his family without changing out of costume. All our stories have a type of devotion: sometimes material, sometimes emotional.



Gold and Mud

DIRECTED BY **CONOR DOOLEY**
USA, 2023, 9 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

Starring Ana Fabrega (*Los Espookys*), we're presented with a sprawling story of love and loss, as reflected on a single face. You know, a comedy.



I Have No Tears, and I Must Cry

DIRECTED BY **LUIS FERNANDO PUENTE**
USA, 2022, 13 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Maria Luisa has all her paperwork in order. She just needs her green card interview to go well.



Cousins

DIRECTED BY **KARINA DANDASHI**
USA, 2023, 13 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

From the director of "Short Shorts" (FFF 2020), two cousins born in separate countries reunite in Brooklyn when a run-in with an ex turns the night into a mission of revenge.



Donkey

DIRECTED BY **MATT KAZMAN**
USA, 2023, 16 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

After receiving an emergency call, a struggling actor must face his family without removing his character makeup from a birthday party gig. From the director of "Father Figurine" (FFF 2019).



Take Me Home

DIRECTED BY **LIZ SARGENT**
USA, 2023, 16 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

After their mother's death in Central Florida, a cognitively disabled woman and her estranged sister must learn to communicate in order to move forward.



A Real One

DIRECTED BY **MCKENZIE CHINN**
USA, 2023, 16 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Lauren and Keisha are 17 and live in a working-class neighborhood in Chicago. Their friendship is tested when Lauren reveals a tightly held secret.



Two Chairs, Not One

DIRECTED BY **AUSTIN KOLODNEY**
USA, 2022, 12 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A disgruntled customer (Caitlin Reilly, *Barry*) confronts a furniture drop-shipper (George Basil, "Training Wheels," FFF 2022) whom she believes should have shipped her two chairs, not one.

Shorts Program 1 Directors



Conor Dooley ("Gold and Mud") is a writer/director best known for not too much yet. He did co-write/direct "Observatory Blues" (NoBudge Best Short 2018), starring Amy Sedaris, Michael McKean, and SNL legend Tom

Schiller. He pays his bills as creative director for Orchard Creative and, in a past life, was in the Marines.



Liz Sargent ("Take Me Home") is a Korean-American adoptee, whose award-winning work explores themes of adoption, disability, and family. As a writer/director, she incorporates her background as a choreographer

into visual storytelling that channels complex human emotions that are an extension of her experience as the middle child of eleven.



Born in Monterrey, Mexico, **Luis Fernando Puente** ("I Have No Tears, and I Must Cry") emigrated to Texas during his childhood. He studied media arts at Brigham Young University, where he

learned to develop his voice as a filmmaker. His work currently focuses on the experience of immigrants living in the United States.



McKenzie Chinn ("A Real One") is a writer, director, and actor based in Chicago. "A Real One" is the proof-of-concept for the feature-length project, which McKenzie developed within the Sundance Screenwriters Lab and

Directors Lab. Her feature *Olympia* (writer, actor) won the audience award at the 2019 Bentonville Film Festival.



Karina Dandashi ("Cousins") is a Syrian-American Muslim filmmaker, born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. Her films explore nuances in identity, family, religion, and culture in Arab-American and Muslim

communities. Karina is a Creative Culture and Sundance Ignite fellow. Her work has been featured in numerous Oscar®-qualifying festivals.



Austin Kolodney ("Two Chairs, Not One")

transferred to USC's School of Cinematic Arts after saving up enough tips slinging waffle cones at Baskin Robbins. At USC, he won the Student Emmy® for "Takanakuy," co-directed a feature adaptation of *Don*

Quixote, and worked at Annapurna Pictures. In addition to directing his own work for SyFy, All Def, Funny or Die, Universal Music Group, VEVO, and Comedy Central, he has produced music videos, commercials, and indie features. He co-founded the sketch comedy channel, Funny Business, with Brooke Palmieri.



Matt Kazman ("Donkey") is a filmmaker

from Toronto who lives and works in LA. He makes weird and emotional comedies that hopefully make you cringe, cry, and laugh at the same time. "Donkey" is his third short to play at the Florida Film Festival.

SHORTS 2: Times Like These

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 97 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 15
4:30-6:30PM AT REGAL A

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
8:15-10:15PM AT REGAL A

Just when we think we have it all figured out, everything changes. Life is a puzzle with no solution. There's no user manual, and if you ever manage to get a handle on how it all works, they change the rules on you. What are you going to do? You learn to live again.



Vertical Valor

DIRECTED BY **ALEX KAVUTSKIY**
USA, 2023, 15 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Three-time FFF alumnus Alex Kavutskiy ("Ear Ache," 2020) returns with this tale of burnt-out skateboarders (including Clay Tatum, *The Civil Dead*, FFF 2022) who are recruited into a casualty notification unit at the outset of World War III.



Kissy and the Shark

DIRECTED BY **LOLA BLANCHE**
USA, 2022, 13 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

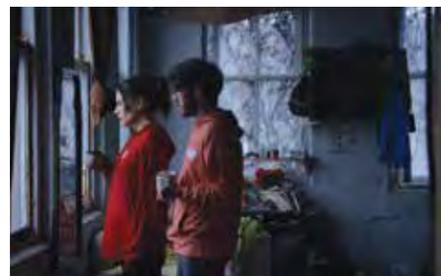
A young girl eking out a grim existence with her ailing mother on Terminal Island stumbles upon a wounded shark—and perhaps a chance for hope—mired in the garbage off the shore.



SAM

DIRECTED BY **JEN STAFFORD** AND **RYAN THIELEN**
USA, 2023, 12 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A ten-year-old "tomboy" exults in roughhousing with her older brother and his friends, but she finds herself in a showdown against society's expectations when the boys take a dip in the lake.



Variations on a Theme

DIRECTED BY **PETER COLLINS CAMPBELL**
USA, 2023, 7 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Mark and Sam are presented with a unique opportunity to examine their own relationship when clones of themselves start popping up around them in this wry science-fiction tale.



Black Santa

DIRECTED BY **TRAVIS WOOD**
USA, 2022, 10 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Henry and his son Otis used to love performing as a mall Santa and his elf, but now that Otis is a teenager, his embarrassment over being seen by some schoolmates drives him to lash out at his father.



Yokelan, 66

DIRECTED BY **TANG YI**
USA, 2022, 10 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND CANTONESE
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
US PREMIERE

From Florida Film Festival alumna Tang Yi ("Black Goat," "All the Crows in the World") comes the story of a widowed ballroom dancer who puts on a nice dress and steels herself to reenter the dating scene.



Day Jobs

DIRECTED BY **STEVIE WAIN** AND **AURI JACKSON**
USA, 2022, 30 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Shortly after coming out as gay, a struggling comedian looks for a job as a nanny to pay rent to her overly understanding ex-boyfriend, but she agonizes when offered an opportunity to work with the married woman she's in love with.

Shorts Program 2 Directors



Born in Ukraine, raised in Los Angeles, **Alex Kavutskiy** ("Vertical Valor") has been making films since his dad came home with a family camcorder. He's made dozens of shorts and web-series, including "Squirrel" (FFF 2019), which won numerous audience and jury awards at a bunch of festivals. He's made one feature, *On the Rocks* (not the Sofia Coppola one; he got that title first) and a TV special, *Cool Dad*, currently streaming on HBO Max (for as long as HBO Max exists).



After years of directing short films and music videos, including work for Noname, Saba, and Chance the Rapper, **Peter Collins Campbell** ("Variations on a Theme") made his feature film directorial debut with the independent film *DimLand* (2021). His work has been featured in film festivals around the world and won awards at Chattanooga Film Festival, Cucalorus, Lighthouse Film Festival, Woods Hole Film Festival, and many others.



Jen Stafford ("SAM") is female director and screenwriter, known for crafting stories that ignite the human spirit.

Her award-winning work reflects her passion for visceral narratives. **Ryan Thielen** is a Minneapolis-based director known for his ability to capture honest and visually powerful stories. His work includes documentaries, short films, and commercials.



Travis Wood ("Black Santa") is a director from Minneapolis, based in Brooklyn. His short films have been selected for multiple Vimeo staff picks, SXSW Film Festival, True/False, Rooftop Films, an NY Emmy® award, and featured on NoBudge, Booooooom, and Directors Notes. He is a current member of the Meerkat Media Artist Collective.



Tang Yi ("Yokelan, 66") is the winner of the 2021 Cannes short film Palme d'Or for "All the Crows in the World." She moved from Hong Kong to the U.S. after being admitted into NYU Tisch School of the Arts where she was an MFA candidate at Graduate Film. Yi likes to tell stories about women, underrepresented groups, and social issues captured through a subversive, darkly comedic film lens.



Lola Blanche ("Kissy and the Shark") is a two-time recipient of the BAFTA LA scholarship and an AFI directing alumni. "Kissy and the Shark" was supported by the BAFTA Commissioning Grant. Her first feature enters production in

2023, and she is currently writing her second feature film for Gracie Films. She is signed with Gersh Agency

Stevie Wain and **Auri Jackson** ("Day Jobs") are



both writer/director/performers living in LA who met while working at BuzzFeed. Stevie's work focuses on dark-comedy TV

pilots, and Auri's work focuses on narrative storytelling as well as environmental justice. This pilot is the first they've co-directed.

SHORTS 3: Too Much Too Young

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 96 MIN

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
1:15-3:15PM AT REGAL B

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
6:30-8:30PM AT REGAL A

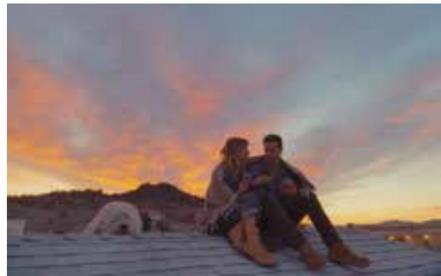
A woman afraid to dance. A man afraid to talk to women. A delivery driver's unusual relationship with a customer. Two sisters battling grief in their own ways. A queer woman's search for love. A mother/daughter battle for a ladder. A bad dad on his death bed. All our films in this program have characters who have lived through something, and perhaps they've seen too much, done too much, too much too young.



Catching Spirits

DIRECTED BY **VANESSA BELETIC**
USA, 2022, 13 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Destiny has been told since childhood she has seizures when she dances, yet she is tormented by voices in her head, calling her to "test the waters."



Starving

DIRECTED BY **BOBBY LOUISE AND BRIG**
USA, 2023, 13 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A food-app delivery driver forges an unusually strong connection with her first delivery of the day.



Jelly Bean

DIRECTED BY **NESSA NORICH**
USA, 2022, 14 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Rezyl is a queer woman earnestly seeking romance on dating apps that she can not hack. Lacking any strategy to vet a perfect match, she decides to date whomever the algorithms choose.



Passing Through

DIRECTED BY **ERICA ALEXANDRIA SILVERMAN**
USA, 2023, 19 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A young woman connects with her hedonist father in the most unlikely of places—a hospice facility in South Florida.



Hold to Dash

DIRECTED BY **JOHN CONNOR HAMMOND**
USA, 2023, 15 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND U.S. SCREENING

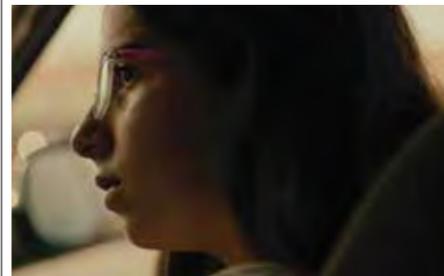
Neil Durst (Jack Dunphy, "Brontosaurus," FFF 2021) makes a living streaming his gaming skills to an audience of undersexed males. When he's asked on a date by a female fan, Neil must leave his bedroom and take a plunge into the real world. From the director of "ASMR for White Liberals" (FFF 2021).



Cold & Sara

DIRECTED BY **BRENNA POWER**
USA, 2023, 11 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

As Sara endlessly searches for the "right" way to deal with her sister's deep mourning over her best friend's death, they both learn how uncomfortable the grieving process can be.



Sulam (Ladder)

DIRECTED BY **NOAM ARGOV**
USA, 2023, 11 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND U.S. SCREENING

When an immigrant teen in Orlando must help her mother buy a ladder before a school exam, tensions of belonging in a new country bubble to the surface.



Shorts Program 3 Directors



Haitian born and raised, **Vanessa Beletic** ("Catching Spirits") is an award-winning writer and director. "Catching Spirits" won the Jury Award Live Action Short 2022 at the New Hampshire Film Festival, making it eligible for Academy Award® consideration. Vanessa is a fellow of the prestigious AFI Director's Workshop for Women '24.



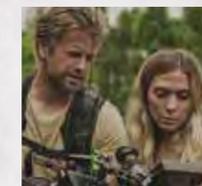
Nessa Norich ("Jelly Bean") (she/they) is the writer, director, co-producer, and lead actor of "Jelly Bean," which has screened at nine international festivals, including NewFest and Rhode Island International Film Festival, where Nessa was awarded Best Actress. "Jelly Bean" is Nessa's first narrative short. She brings 15 years of theater production to filmmaking.



John Connor Hammond ("Hold to Dash") is a two-time Webby-nominated and award-winning writer, director, and producer based out of Brooklyn, NY, and Los Angeles, CA. He found his way into filmmaking through performing comedy and improv at places like The Second City in Toronto and The PIT in New York City.



Noam Argov ("Sulam (Ladder)") is an Israeli-American filmmaker, National Geographic Explorer, and MFA directing student at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, who grew up between the Middle East and Orlando, Florida. In graduate school, she is a Film Futures scholar and a nominee for the BAFTA U.S. Scholars program.



Bobby Louise and **Brig** ("Starving") met at the age of 18 while attending school in Utah. Ever since, they've grown up together as best friends, creative partners, and life partners. It's been an extremely wild ride—raising two kids, now crazy teenagers, moving nine times, and battling three different bouts of cancer. They now live and work as a directing team in Los Angeles and Joshua Tree.



While in Carnegie Mellon University's BFA acting program, **Brenna Power** ("Cold & Sara") began writing and directing alongside acting. After multiple years of creating short films, music videos, and a web series, she is excited to share her "first" film. As an actor, she was most recently in Damien Chazelle's *Babylon*.

SHORTS 4: Got a Hold on Me

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 92 MIN

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
3:45-5:45PM AT REGAL B

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
9-11PM AT REGAL A

Brace yourself. The films in this program are not concerned with comforting you; they're here to grab you by the throat and shake all your preconceptions loose. It's a daunting task, but if you can open your mind and put yourself in a vulnerable space, you might find yourself changed on the other side. Are you ready to see this world in a new way?



She's Clean

DIRECTED BY **JENN HARRIS**
USA, 2023, 15 MIN
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Jenn Harris ("Island Queen," FFF 2020) writes, directs, and stars in this achingly personal story of a woman who chooses to share her most intimate space—her bathroom—with her lovers, exposing herself to a plenitude of reactions.



Tender

DIRECTED BY **SAMM HODGES**
USA, 2023, 17 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND U.S. SCREENING

When his mother's boyfriend flies into an irrational rage, a sensitive teen is presented with an opportunity to decide what kind of man he wants to be.



Edvard Takes a Lover

DIRECTED BY **TOM E. BROWN**
USA, 2022, 4 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Stricken by his isolation, an aging loner is inspired by a famous movie to look for companionship from an improbable partner in this new film from FFF award-winning director Tom E. Brown (*Pushing Dead*, 2017).



Play This at My Funeral

DIRECTED BY **RAY SMILING**
USA, 2022, 8 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

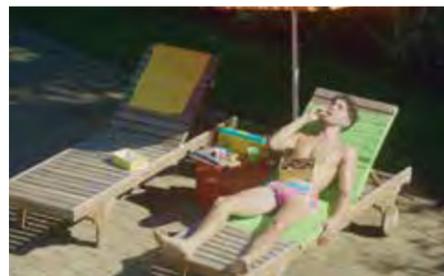
A mixtape of three quick-moving tales from NYC, threaded together by the foundational importance of music in everyone's lives.



Mahogany Drive

DIRECTED BY **JERAH MILLIGAN**
USA, 2023, 13 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Three Black men struggle (with varying degrees of success) to maintain their composure as dead white women begin to mysteriously pile up on the floor of their Airbnb in this outlandish horror-comedy.



Lollygag

DIRECTED BY **TIJ D'OYEN**
USA, 2022, 10 MIN
IN GREEK WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A young woman watches, with a complicated sort of envy, as the sexy bisexual boy next door lounges by his pool, taking lover after lover, and living a sensual life devoid of inhibition.



Write a Song About Heartache

DIRECTED BY **JONNY LOOK**
USA, 2023, 13 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Desperate to get back into the limelight, a has-been country-western singer (Whitmer Thomas, *The Civil Dead*, FFF 2022) browbeats his captive muse to write a new hit song.



Run Amok

DIRECTED BY **NITZAN MAGER**
USA, 2023, 12 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

In the wake of a tragedy, a precocious student composes a musical drama, centered on her harp, to memorialize the fallen, but her school's administrators balk at the content.

Shorts Program 4 Directors



Jenn Harris ("She's Clean") is an award-winning director, writer, producer, actress. Her series *New York Is Dead* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, won Best Comedy at the NY Television Festival and Best Actress at SeriesFest Denver. She co-directed "Island Queen," which starred Jessie Tyler Ferguson and Rachel Dratch.



Tom E. Brown's ("Edvard Takes a Lover") films have screened at the American Museum of Natural History, the Walker Art Center, and the Guggenheim. He is the creator of IFC shorts "Das Clown," "Don't Run Johnny," and "Rubber Gloves." Tom wrote and directed the AIDS-related comedy *Pushing Dead* (FFF 2017), a Sundance Institute/Rockefeller Foundation-supported feature.



Jerah Milligan ("Mahogany Drive") is a Washington D.C.-born actor, comedian, director, and producer. Jerah was recently admitted into the prestigious Viacom's Viewfinder: Emerging Directors program. His directorial credits include *Astronomy Club* for Netflix, Showtime's *Desus & Mero*, and MTV's *Wild 'n Out*, and most recently, sketches for the Yvonne Orji HBO special.



Jonny Look ("Write a Song About Heartache") is a Los Angeles-based director whose playfully surreal style borders between the idiotic and the artfully poetic. He lives on a four-acre ranch with his twelve hungry cats, all named Darla.



Samm Hodges ("Tender") is a writer-director raised on the far edge of the American fringe. He worked as a logger and a wildland firefighter. He wanted to be a missionary or fight in Iraq, but he lost his faith, dropped out of Bible college, and started making experimental short films instead. Samm co-created the episodic television series *Downward Dog*, which premiered at Sundance in 2017.



Ray Smiling ("Play This at My Funeral") is a writer/director whose work focuses on characters discovering themselves in absurdity. A romance sparked by a love of Tilda Swinton, a requiem brought on by a vulgar rap song, a love letter delivered via video game. These are the types of stories he tells.



Tij D'oyen ("Lollygag") was selected for *Filmmaker Magazine's* 25 New Faces of Independent Film '22 and is this year's Slamdance AGBO fellow, awarded by the Russo Brothers (*Everything Everywhere All at Once*). He was raised in North Carolina, where he passed his time making movies and watching reruns of *Desperate Housewives*.



Nitzan Mager ("Run Amok") is a Brooklyn-based multi-national filmmaker making whip-smart, socially conscious comedy. She's written, directed, and produced films that have played at festivals across the country. She is currently developing the feature version of "Run Amok."

ANIMATED SHORTS: Over, Under, Sideways, Down

SPONSORED BY LURE DESIGN INC.
TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 91 MIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
6:45-8:30PM AT ENZIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
9:15-11PM AT REGAL A

One of The Yardbirds' greatest hits is the perfect description for the incredible diversity and breadth of artistry on display in this year's mind-boggling edition of our domestic animated shorts program. West Coast transplants, last meals and regrets, angry balloon gods, the fumbly feelings of desire, a jaw-dropping variation on the Cain and Abel story, life lessons in the kitchen, life's routine, a disturbing dog-walking ritual, survival of the fittest at lunchtime, and food and felonies are at the heart of this wide-ranging celebration of the best and brightest new animated works to cross our paths this year.



Welcome to 8th Street

DIRECTED BY **YOO LEE**
USA, 2023, 7 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Yoo Lee, last year's Grand Jury Award winner for Best Animated Short for "7LBS 8OZ," returns to Jersey City (and FFF!) with another stop-motion charmer set on the block where she lived for a decade. This time, a California couple has just moved in and are shocked by the sights and sounds of their new home.



Ninety-Five Senses

Directed by **JERUSHA HESS** and **JARED HESS**
USA, 2022, 13 MIN
Southeast Premiere

An elderly man on death-row (Tim Blake Nelson) recalls his life in the moments before his execution. Written by Chris Bowman and Hubbel Palmer (*American Fork*, FFF 2007) and directed by Jerusha and Jared Hess (*Napoleon Dynamite*), this extraordinary film utilizes five different animation teams to depict the five senses as they pertain to moments in the condemned man's youth.



Baloney Beacon

DIRECTED BY **MAX LANDMAN**
USA, 2022, 5 MIN
FLORIDA THEATRICAL PREMIERE

You've never seen this before! A godlike alien hungers for exotic delicacies from the deepest reaches of space in this transfixing stop-motion wonder made entirely with balloons.



fur

DIRECTED BY **ZHEN LI**
USA, 2022, 7 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

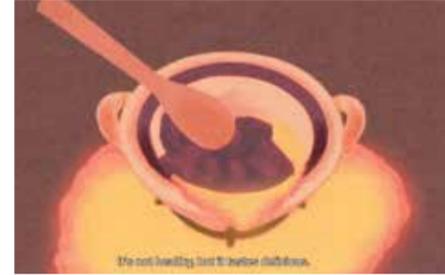
From Cal Arts comes this freaky hand-drawn meditation on a crush gone moldy, distinctively rendered using charcoal on paper and mixed media. Body horror, confused budding sexuality, and a thick layer of misophonia seal the deal.



The Voice in the Hollow

DIRECTED BY **MIGUEL ORTEGA**
USA/COLOMBIA, 2023, 10 MIN
IN SWAHILI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
WORLD PREMIERE

In this visually stunning African fable of sisterhood, envy, and ancient evil, a young girl who's jealous of her sister's hunting skill, accepts an offer from a nefarious force.



Now I'm in the Kitchen

DIRECTED BY **YANA PAN**
USA/CHINA, 2022, 5 MIN
IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
US PREMIERE

A young Chinese woman experiences complicated reflections of her mother while cooking her favorite dish that her mom used to make. Another gem from Cal Arts, and the latest work from the director of "0000E8" (FFF 2021).



Menagerie

DIRECTED BY **JACK GRAY**
USA, 2022, 4 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A study of the daily motions and mundane tasks of city life, this visually inventive and ingenious work features individuals functioning like clockwork, day after day, until the repetition spirals into an endless kaleidoscope of abstraction.



Ex Greta

DIRECTED BY **JON PORTMAN**
USA, 2022, 6 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

With its striking visual style and Modigliani-esque figures, this whimsical look at a group of bored, 20-something roommates in San Francisco trying to cancel a weird dude who walks his Pomeranian by their apartment, will bring a smile to your face.



The Law of the Jungle Gym

DIRECTED BY **YOON HEI CHO**
USA, 2022, 6 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Grade-school kids having lunch outside in the playground start morphing into mutant versions of what they are eating. Yoon Hei Cho, director of last year's "Parked" (and yet another amazing Cal Arts alum), has given us a fantastic, intense, and totally trippy new nightmare to ponder.



Hardboiled

DIRECTED BY **PETER SLUSZKA**
USA, 2022, 28 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

So you say you're looking for a nearly 30-minute, stop-motion buddy/cop, '90s-action throwback with food for characters, production values through the roof, and breakfast puns and cooking references galore? With its raunchy humor, film noir pedigree, and the voice talents of Anne Heche and Judy Greer, "Hardboiled" is the film for you!



Animated Shorts Program Directors



Yoo Lee ("Welcome to 8th Street") is a writer and director specializing in stop-motion animation. She wrote and directed "7LBS 8OZ," which won the Grand Jury Award for Best Animated Short at the 31st annual Florida Film Festival

in 2022, making it an Oscar® qualifier and distributed through the New Yorker Screening Room.



Jerusha Hess and **Jared Hess** ("Ninety-Five Senses") are husband-and-wife American filmmakers best known for their work on *Napoleon*

Dynamite (2004), *Nacho Libre* (2006), and *Gentlemen Broncos* (2009), all of which they co-wrote and Jared directed. Jerusha wrote and directed the film *Austenland* (2013).



Max Landman ("Baloney Beacon") is an artist, animator, and balloon twister, based in San Francisco. He has worked as a party entertainer for twelve years. Recently, he decided to combine his balloon-twisting and animating skills into one project. His work has screened at festivals all over the world and on national television.



Zhen Li ("fur") is a Chinese-American animation artist based in LA. She had years of experience working as an architectural designer and live-action line producer before she started making animation. Her work

centers around expressing the in-between and often reveals an affinity to darkness, misalignment, warping realities, and folded feelings.



Miguel Ortega ("The Voice in the Hollow") is a Colombian director, creature designer, and cinematographer with over 15 years of experience working in some of the industry's top VFX studios including Digital Domain,

Tippett Studios, and Rhythm & Hues. When he is not filming, Miguel is a professor at the Gnomon School of VFX in California.



Yana Pan ("Now I'm in the Kitchen") is an animation director, originally from China, currently living in LA. She uses animation as a means to investigate her own relationship to the world. The intimate relationship between the

animator and single frame gives her the time to think and analyze the puzzle again and again.



Jack Gray ("Menagerie") graduated with a BFA in animation from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2017 and is currently based in Philadelphia. He is an animation artist and filmmaker whose approach fuses traditional

and experimental techniques, often with playful characters and looping sequences.



Jon Portman ("Ex Creta") is an animation filmmaker whose films have played Fantastic Fest, SCAD Savannah Film Festival, London Short Film Festival, GIRAF Calgary, and more. In 2019, Jon founded

Very Big Boy, a San Francisco-based production company specializing in animated content for short films, documentaries, and narrative features.



A Korean animator based in LA, **Yoon Hei Cho** ("The Law of the Jungle Gym") recently graduated from the MFA program at CalArts. She finds interest in visually representing emotions through movements of human body figures and a chaotic atmosphere.



Peter Sluszka ("Hardboiled") is an award-winning director with strong roots in stop motion and over 20 years of perfecting his craft.



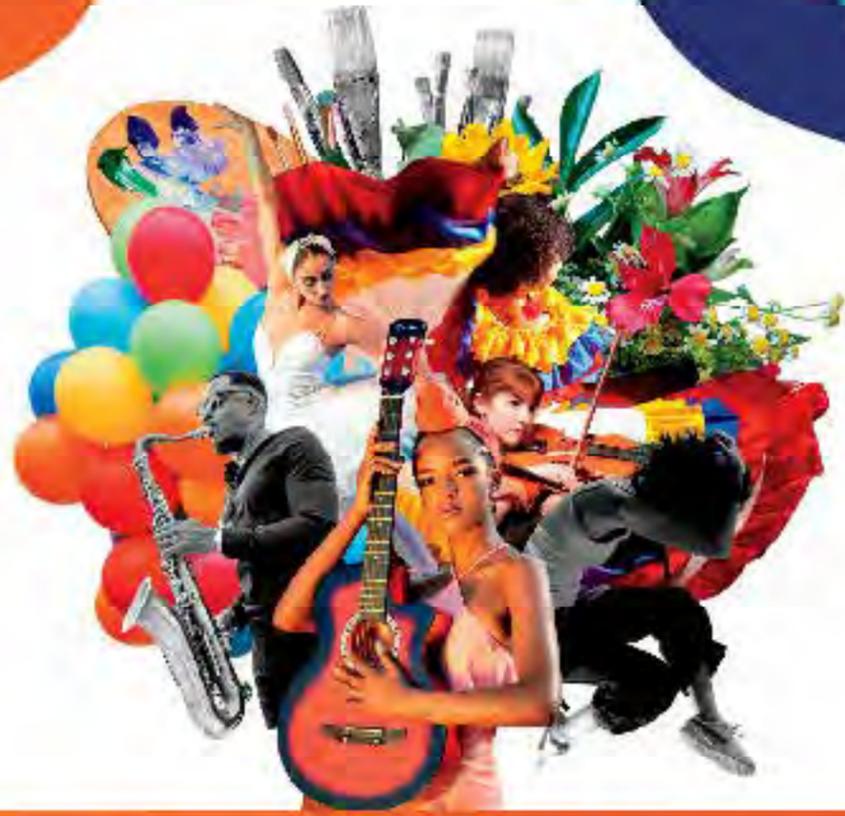
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

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25



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The Best Way to Fuel the Arts is Together.

United Arts
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
**COLLABORATIVE
CAMPAIGN FOR THE ARTS**

The Collaborative Campaign is our moment to shape our community - More art. More culture. More sparks of creativity in our community and in our classrooms.

This is United Arts partnering with 33 local arts, science and history organizations across Central Florida. And it's where your funding goes further.

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I Have No Tears, and I Must Cry (p. 72)
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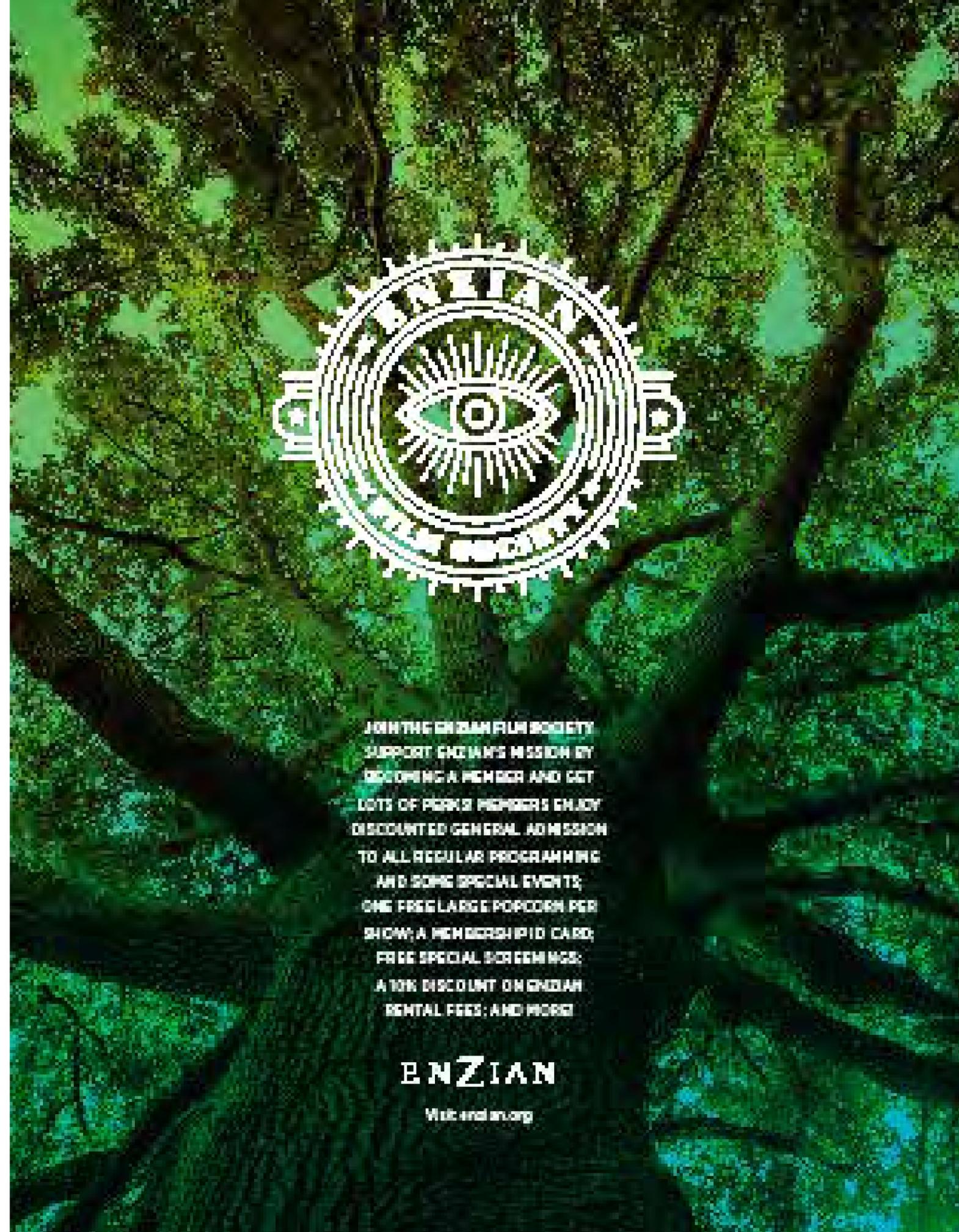
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Write a Song About Heart



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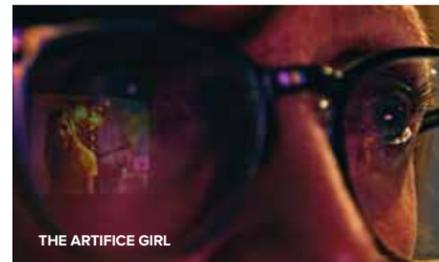
Friday, April 14

ENZIAN THEATER	TIEDTKE AMPHITHEATRE AND BELVEDERE	REGAL A
7-9PM Opening Night Film: <i>You Were My First Boyfriend</i> preceded by "The Greatest Poem" (p. 18)	8:30PM-MIDNIGHT Opening Night Party (p. 19)	8-10PM <i>You Were My First Boyfriend</i> preceded by "The Greatest Poem" (p. 18)
		REGAL B
		8:30-10:30PM TBD



Saturday, April 15

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
10-11:30AM <i>Mavka: The Forest Song</i> (p. 23)	11:30AM-1:30PM <i>Bottle Conditioned</i> preceded by "Taste of the Indigenous" (p. 58)	11AM-12:45PM <i>East Bay</i> (p. 48)
12:30-2:30PM <i>Simón</i> (p. 53)	2-4PM Shorts #1: "Hopelessly Devoted to You" (p. 72)	1:30-3:30PM <i>Racist Trees</i> preceded by "Parker" (p. 64)
3:30-5:30PM <i>They Called Him Mostly Harmless</i> preceded by "Creating Things" (p. 66)	4:30-6:30PM Shorts #2: "Times Like These" (p. 74)	4-6PM <i>The Artifice Girl</i> (p. 46)
6:30-8:15PM <i>The Duel</i> (p. 47)	7-9PM <i>Judy Blume Forever</i> (p. 22)	6:30-8:15PM <i>Space Happy: Phil Thomas Katt and the Uncharted Zone</i> preceded by "Pony Boys" (p. 65)
9:15-11PM <i>Polite Society</i> (p. 24)	9:30-11:30PM <i>DID I?</i> (p. 36)	9-11PM <i>Stay Awake</i> (p. 54)
MIDNIGHT-2AM Midnight Shorts (p. 42)		11:30PM-1:05AM <i>Moon Garden</i> (p. 41)



ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Eden Bar
11AM-2PM
3-6PM, 7-10PM
 Live Music (p. 19)

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SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 16

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
12P NOON-2:30PM <i>It's Only Life After All</i> (p. 21)	12P 11:30AM-1:45PM <i>Immediate Family</i> preceded by "Really Good Friends" (p. 60)	12P 11AM-12:45PM <i>A Perfect Day for Caribou</i> (p. 52)
3P 3:30-5:15PM <i>Me Little Me</i> (p. 51)	2P 2:15-4:15PM <i>With Peter Bradley</i> preceded by "The Promise of Spring" (p. 67)	1P 1:15-3:15PM Shorts #3: "Too Much Too Young" (p. 76)
6P 6:15-8PM <i>Out There: A National Parks Story</i> preceded by "From Dreams to Dust" (p. 63)	4P 4:45-6:30PM <i>Somewhere in Queens</i> (p. 25)	2P 3:45-5:45PM Shorts #4: "Got A Hold on Me" (p. 78)
9P 9-11PM <i>Follow Her</i> (p. 21)	7P 7-8:45PM <i>Egghead & Twinkie</i> (p. 49)	6P 6:15-8:15PM <i>Liquor Store Dreams</i> preceded by "When the LAPD Blows Up Your Neighborhood" (p. 61)
	9P 9:15-11PM <i>Unicorn Boy</i> (p. 55)	8P 8:45-10:30PM <i>Long Flat Balls "Broken Promises"</i> (p. 26)

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Enzian & Eden Bar
11AM-2PM
Sunday Brunch (p. 19)
11AM-2PM, 3-6PM
Live Music (p. 19)



IT'S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL

Wednesday, April 19

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
12P 12:45-2:45PM <i>With Peter Bradley</i> preceded by "The Promise of Spring" (p. 67)	12P 3:15-5:30PM <i>Joyland</i> (p. 26)	12P 4:15-6PM <i>Me Little Me</i> (p. 51)
4P 3:45-5:45PM <i>Dusty & Stones</i> preceded by "Ampe: Leap into the Sky, Black Girl" (p. 59)	6P 6-7:45PM <i>Polite Society</i> (p. 24)	6P 6:30-8:30PM <i>Simón</i> (p. 53)
7P 6:45-8:30PM Animated Shorts: "Over, Under, Sideways, Down" (p. 80)	8P 8-10:15PM Shorts #2: "Times Like These" (p. 74)	9P 9-11:15PM <i>Know Your Place</i> (p. 50)
10P 9:30-11:30PM <i>Bottle Conditioned</i> preceded by "Taste of the Indigenous" (p. 58)		

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Full Sail University, Building 4D
NOON-1PM
Forum: A Peek Behind the Pixels—A
Conversation with Industry Leaders
in Virtual Production (p. 13)

Eden Bar
6-9PM
Live Music (p. 19)



BOTTLE CONDITIONED



JOYLAND

Monday, April 17

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
4P 4-6PM <i>The Zombies: Hung Up on a Dream</i> (p. 33)	4P 6:30-8PM <i>Greetings from Queertown: Orlando</i> preceded by "Evan Ever After" (p. 37)	4P 3:30-5:15PM <i>The Worst Ones</i> (p. 27)
6P 6:15-8:15PM <i>Minnesota Mean</i> preceded by "Krush the Wrestler" (p. 62)	6P 6:30-8PM <i>Greetings from Queertown: Orlando</i> preceded by "Evan Ever After" (p. 37)	6P 5:45-8PM <i>Know Your Place</i> (p. 50)
9P 9-11PM International Animated Shorts (p. 30)	9P 9-10:15PM <i>Kokomo City</i> (p. 22)	8P 8:30-10:30PM <i>Dusty & Stones</i> preceded by "Ampe: Leap into the Sky, Black Girl" (p. 59)

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Eden Bar
6-9PM
Live Music (p. 19)



KOKOMO CITY

Thursday, April 20

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
1P 1-2:30PM <i>OKAY! (The ASD Band Film)</i> (p. 27)	1P 4:15-6PM <i>Squaring the Circle</i> (<i>The Story of Hipgnosis</i>) (p. 32)	1P 3:30-5:15PM <i>Out There: A National Parks Story</i> preceded by "From Dreams to Dust" (p. 63)
4P 3:45-5:30PM <i>Unicorn Boy</i> (p.55)	6P 6:30-8:30PM Shorts #3: "Too Much Too Young" (p. 76)	6P 5:45-8PM <i>Immediate Family</i> preceded by "Really Good Friends" (p. 60)
7P 6:30-8:15PM <i>A Perfect Day for Caribou</i> (p. 52)	9P 9-11PM Shorts #4: "Got a Hold on Me" (p. 78)	8P 8:30-10:30PM <i>Minnesota Mean</i> preceded by "Krush the Wrestler" (p. 62)
10P 9:15-11PM <i>Egghead & Twinkie</i> (p. 49)		
12A MIDNIGHT-TBD Secret Screening		

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

The Edyth Bush Theatre at
Winter Park Library
11AM-12:30PM
Forum: Queering the Screen:
The Progression of Representation
(p. 13)

Eden Bar
6-9PM
Live Music (p. 19)

Sanford Brewing Company
Maitland
8-11PM
Filmmaker Welcome Party (p. 19)



UNICORN BOY



MINNESOTA MEAN

Tuesday, April 18

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
4P 3:30-5:30PM <i>Master Gardener</i> (p. 23)	4P 4-6PM 6 x Real (p. 68)	4P 6-8PM <i>The Called Him Mostly Harmless</i> preceded by "Creating Things" (p. 66)
7P 6:30-8:15PM <i>East Bay</i> (p. 48)	7P 6:30-8:30PM Shorts #1: "Hopelessly Devoted to You" (p. 72)	8P 8:30-10:15PM <i>Space Happy: Phil Thomas Katt and the Uncharted Zone</i> preceded by "Pony Boys" (p. 65)
9P 9:15-11PM <i>The Artifice Girl</i> (p. 46)	9P 9-10:45PM <i>Somewhere in Queens</i> (p. 25)	

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Eden Bar
6-8PM
Tuesday Tasting (p. 19)
6-9PM
Live Music (p. 19)



SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS

SCHEDULE

Friday, April 21

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
1P		
2P	1:30-3:30PM <i>My Love Affair with Marriage</i> (p. 24)	2-4PM <i>The Duel</i> (p. 47)
3P		
4P	4-6PM 6 x Real (p. 68)	4:30-6:30PM <i>Stay Awake</i> (p. 54)
5P		
6P	6:30-8:35PM <i>BlackBerry</i> (p. 20)	7-9:15PM <i>Joyland</i> (p. 26)
7P		
8P	8-11PM An Evening with John Cusack, featuring <i>Say Anything</i> (p. 17)	9:45-11:30PM <i>The Elephant 6 Recording Co.</i> (p. 32)
9P		
10P	9:15-11PM Animated Shorts: "Over, Under, Sideways, Down" (p. 80)	MIDNIGHT-1:35AM <i>Brooklyn 45</i> (p. 40)
11P		
12A	11:30PM-1AM <i>The Angry Black Girl and Her Monster</i> (p. 40)	
1A		

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Edyth Bush Theatre at Winter Park Library
11AM-12:30PM
Forum: Filmmaker Forum (p. 13)

Eden Bar
6-9PM
Live Music (p. 19)

The Copper Rocket
8-MIDNIGHT
Industry Happy Hour (p. 19)



SAY ANYTHING



THE ANGRY BLACK GIRL AND HER MONSTER

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Hannibal's on the Square
10AM-12:30PM
Awards Celebration (p. 19)

Eden Bar
11AM-2PM, 3-6PM
Live Music (p. 19)



FLAMIN' HOT



BROOKLYN 45

Sunday, April 23

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
12P	NOON-1:40PM <i>Flamin' Hot</i> (p. 20)	11:30AM-1:30PM <i>Long Flat Balls "Broken Promises"</i> (p. 26)
1P		
2P		
3P	2:30-4:30PM <i>The Zombies: Hung Up on a Dream</i> (p. 33)	2-3:45PM <i>The Worst Ones</i> (p. 27)
4P	3-5PM International Shorts #1 (p. 28)	4:15-5:45PM <i>OKAY! (The ASD Band Film)</i> (p. 27)
5P		
6P	6-8PM International Shorts #2 (p. 29)	6:15-8:15PM <i>DID I?</i> (p. 36)
7P		
8P	9-10:15PM Closing Night Retro: <i>Fantastic Planet</i> (p. 33)	8:45-10:15PM <i>Sisu</i> (p. 41)
9P		
10P		
11P		
12A		
1A		

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Enzian & Eden Bar
11AM-2PM
Sunday Brunch (p. 19)
11AM-2PM, 3-6PM
Live Music (p. 19)



SANCTUARY

SISU

Saturday, April 22

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
11A		11:30AM-1:30PM International Shorts #1 (p. 28)
12P	NOON-2PM Sunshine & Swampland Volume 1: New Florida Shorts (p. 34)	
1P		
2P	2:30-4:30PM Sunshine & Swampland Volume 2: New Florida Shorts (p. 35)	2-4PM International Shorts #2 (p. 29)
3P		
4P	3:15-5:30PM <i>My Love Affair with Marriage</i> (p. 24)	4:30-6:15PM <i>The Elephant 6 Recording Co.</i> (p. 32)
5P		
6P	5-7PM <i>Master Gardener</i> (p. 23)	6:45-8:45PM <i>Squaring the Circle (The Story of Hipgnosis)</i> (p. 65)
7P		
8P	6:30-8:15PM <i>Flamin' Hot</i> (p. 20)	9:15-11PM Sunspots: New Visions of the Avant Garde (p. 38)
9P		
10P	9:15-11PM <i>Sanctuary</i> (p. 25)	11:30PM-1:05AM <i>Moon Garden</i> (p. 41)
11P		
12A	MIDNIGHT-1:45AM Midnight Shorts (p. 42)	
1A		

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Hannibal's on the Square
10AM-12:30PM
Awards Celebration (p. 19)

Eden Bar
11AM-2PM, 3-6PM
Live Music (p. 19)



FANTASTIC PLANET

Florida Film Festival

APRIL 14-23, 2023

THIS FESTIVAL'S WINNING
SHORTFILMS MAY QUALIFY
FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE

OSCARS

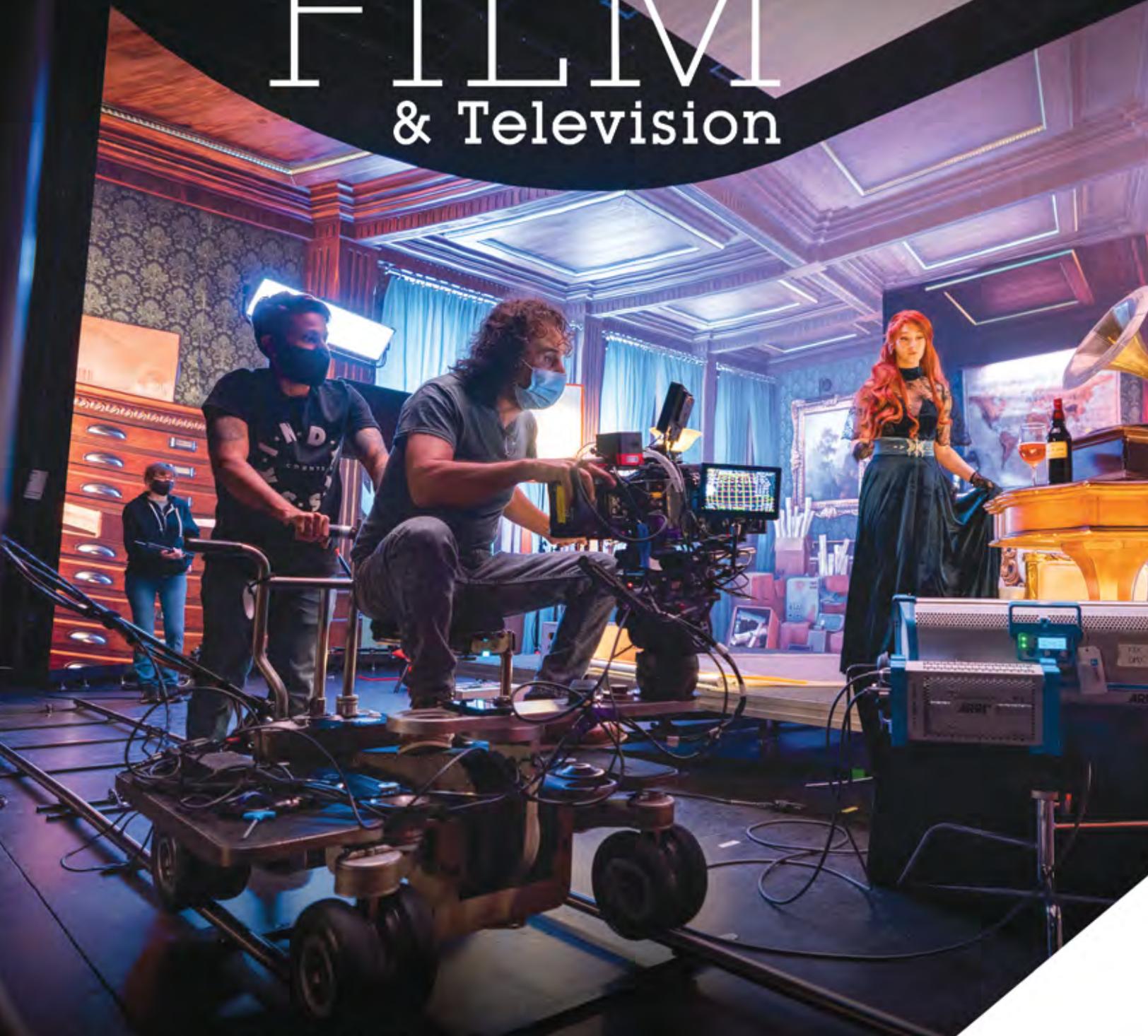
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Check Our Rules

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