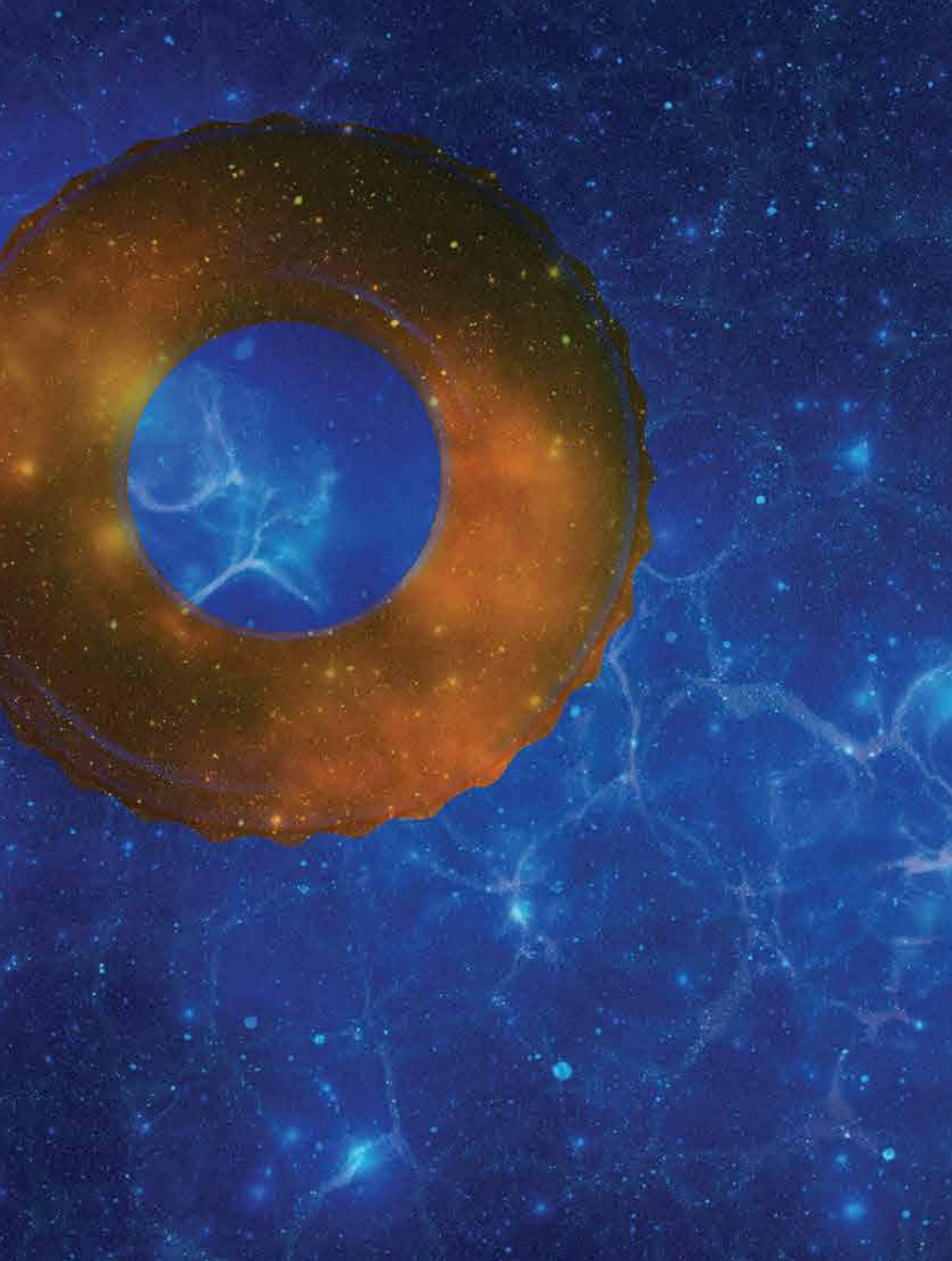


Dive in.



2025
**Florida
Film
Festival**
April 11-20



Dear Festival friends,

Each year, the Florida Film Festival brings together film lovers, filmmakers, and friends like you to celebrate the very best in emerging cinema. Over ten days, we'll immerse ourselves in cinematic masterpieces, enjoy delicious food, and share in a whole lot of fun. This year, we invite you to dive into the spectacular and divergent worlds these filmmakers create and immerse yourself in their heartwarming, heartbreaking, and heart-shaking stories.

2025 marks a special milestone: 34 years of the Florida Film Festival and 40 years of Enzian. These two landmarks are a testament to the enduring spirit of independent cinema. Enzian's four-decade history mirrors the festival's legacy of showcasing groundbreaking films that celebrate diverse voices, bringing new worldviews and experiences to audiences that

might otherwise never have known them. Cinema has the incredible power to foster dialogue, empathy, and connection—and sometimes, it offers a much-needed moment of respite in an ever-changing world.

Thanks to the brilliant work of our master programmers, Matthew Curtis and Tim Anderson, along with their dedicated team, this year's program is nothing short of extraordinary. With a record-breaking 186 films with 162 premieres (including 29 world premieres, 5 North American premieres, and 52 East Coast premieres), you'll experience films from 40 countries and discover works by 111 female and non-binary directors. This diversity in both content and voices makes this year's festival truly special. It's no surprise that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences® continues to honor the Florida Film Festival with Oscar® accreditation in all three

short film categories—meaning that the Grand Jury Award winners in these categories are eligible for consideration at the Oscars®.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to you, our dedicated patrons, sponsors, partners, and volunteers, who ensure Enzian can make a difference in this community. Because of your support, Enzian has been able to entertain, inspire, educate, and connect us all for over four decades. With sincere thanks, we encourage you to plunge into this year's festival and experience it all.

I hope you're ready to Dive In!

See you at the movies,

Elizabeth Mukherjee
Executive Director
Enzian, Eden Bar, &
the Florida Film Festival

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Stolen Kingdom



An Evening with
Christina Ricci,
featuring
Now and Then



The Legend of Ochi



The Surfer



Closing Night Retro Film
Race with the Devil

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

Dive in.



Friends of Motion Picture Art,

I'm honored to share that this year marks Full Sail University's 22nd anniversary serving as the primary sponsor of the Florida Film Festival.

As the Festival embarks upon its 34th year, Full Sail University looks forward to this nationally renowned celebration of talented filmmakers. We anticipate yet another exceptional festival brought to us by 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 displayed 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 45 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 Full Sail University, it is indeed our privilege and pleasure to serve as the primary sponsor of the Florida Film Festival once again in 2025. I look forward to the unique and meaningful experiences this year's festival will offer.

Sincerely,

Garry Jones
President
Full Sail University

**2025 FLORIDA
FILM FESTIVAL
APRIL 11-20**

**ENZIAN IS GRATEFUL TO ITS 2025 FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL
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This project is funded in part by Orange County Government through the Arts & Cultural Affairs Program and by United Arts of Central Florida, your local agency for the arts.

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CALL FOR FILMMAKERS & FILM SUBJECTS

Filmmakers will produce a 3-5 minute MYgration film for a chance to win the \$1,000 cash grand prize. Creatively tell the story of how a Central Floridian came to live here.

LEARN MORE AT [FUSIONFEST.ORG/FILM](https://fusionfest.org/film)



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



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34th Annual Florida Film Festival
 Enzian Theater
 1300 South Orlando Avenue
 Maitland, FL 32751

Dear Guests:

It is with great pride and excitement that we welcome filmmakers, volunteers, and attendees to the 34th Annual Florida Film Festival held April 11- April 20, 2025.

We are proud to be the home of Enzian Theater, Central Florida's only full-time, nonprofit, independent cinema, serving the community for more than two decades. The Enzian Theater provides a community driven atmosphere, Saturday classic matinees, masterclasses and unparalleled opportunities for residents, visitors and businesses alike.

Founded in 1992, The Florida Film Festival has long been an important part of the City of Maitland's cultural fabric. Over the past three decades, it has served as a dynamic platform for diverse voices, emerging talent, and innovative storytelling. Highlighting and celebrating the finest in American Independent and foreign films. This year's Film Festival promises to continue that tradition, featuring an exciting line up of films, including "Stolen Kingdom," which exemplifies the dynamic artistry of filmmaking.

The Florida Film Festival continues to contribute to the cultural enrichment of our community, not only by supporting the local economy, but by providing continuing education and support for our emerging filmmakers and providing a platform for them to connect with audiences.

The City of Maitland takes immense pride in the Florida Film Festival and its enduring legacy and role in contributing to the shape of Maitland as a premier destination for the arts.

Best wishes to all for yet another successful event.

Sincerely,


 John P. Lowndes
 Mayor

City of Maitland • 1776 Independence Lane • Maitland, Florida 32751
 (407) 539-6200 • www.itsmymaitland.com



April 11, 2025



Welcome to the 34th annual Florida Film Festival, presented by Enzian. I am so pleased that you are visiting our community and I am proud that one of the nation's premier film festivals is held right here in Central Florida.

One of the things that makes Orlando such a vibrant city is our commitment to creating a community where art in every form is encouraged and celebrated. Hosting the Florida Film Festival is a testament to our community's reputation as a place with a supportive and thriving arts ecosystem where artists and creators have countless opportunities to express and share their talents with others.

I commend the staff at the Enzian Theater for working diligently every year to make this event possible and memorable for all who attend. I have no doubt that the Enzian Theater has a spectacular program planned to welcome you back for the 34th year of the Florida Film Festival.

I invite you to explore our community during your visit, and enjoy the one-of-a-kind hotels, shops, entertainment and restaurants that can only be found here, providing you with an authentic Orlando experience.

I hope you have a wonderful time at the Florida Film Festival.

Sincerely,


 Buddy Dyer
 Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
 Orlando City Hall - 400 South Orange Avenue - Third Floor
 PO Box 4990 - Orlando, FL 32802-4990
 P 407.246.2221 - F 407.246.2942 - orlando.gov



Sheila DeCiccio
Mayor

April 11, 2025

Dear Florida Film Festival Patron,

On behalf of the City of Winter Park, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Florida Film Festival, a premier cultural event that celebrates the best in film, creativity and community. The Enzian Theater has been a cherished partner throughout the years, and we are thrilled to host festival patrons every April.

While you enjoy the rich and diverse lineup of films, I encourage you to take the opportunity to explore the many treasures that make Winter Park so special. From our state-of-the-art Library & Events Center; featuring the stunning outdoor Tiedtke Amphitheater (a gift from the Tiedtke family), to our renowned shopping, dining and internationally acclaimed museums and galleries, there is truly something for everyone.

For more information about our city's many offerings, I invite you to access our official website at cityofwinterpark.org. To discover more about the city's vibrant Arts & Culture Alliance, access wpinspires.org. Additionally, don't miss the chance to browse our recently launched online Public Art Collection at cityofwinterpark.org/public-art on your laptop, tablet or mobile device.

Again, welcome to the 2025 Florida Film Festival. We are delighted to have you here and hope you enjoy a memorable experience.

Warm regards,


 Sheila DeCiccio
 Mayor, City of Winter Park

City of Winter Park • 401 South Park Avenue • Winter Park, Florida 32789

Florida Film Festival Producer Passholders

The Florida Film Festival exists to serve the community and 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.” *List current as of February 24, 2025*

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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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Reel Representation Film Series: A Curated Celebration of Diversity and Inclusion in Independent Cinema

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."



DISABILITY REPRESENTATION

Burt (p. 51)

DIRECTED BY **JOE BURKE**

Joe Burke's brilliant dark comedy *Burt* follows a 69-year-old street musician with Parkinson's who is surprised by a man who shows up claiming to be his son. Burt embraces Sammy, but his paranoid and eccentric landlord suspects something fishy is going on.



BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATION

**King of Them All:
The Story of King Records** (p. 34)

DIRECTED BY **YEMI OYEDIRAN**

Pudgy and myopic Syd Nathan built King Records into a racially integrated, genre-defying musical empire. They released everything from hillbilly country records to modern jazz to Soul Brother Number One, James Brown. This doc makes a strong case that Cincinnati has a rightful claim to being one of America's most important musical meccas.



INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATION

The Lost Wolves of Yellowstone (p. 66)

DIRECTED BY **THOMAS WINSTON**

The connection between Mollie Beattie, the first female director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Alpha Female Wolf #5 proves crucial to reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone National Park in this stunning nature documentary from the team that brought you *Path of the Panther* (FFF 2022 Audience Award Winner).

PRECEDED BY
"This Land"

DIRECTED BY **MIKE BRADLEY**

In 1974, Mohawk Indians fight to reclaim their land from the State of New York in one of the only examples of indigenous people successfully recovering land in the United States.



BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATION

Fatherless No More (p. 64)

DIRECTED BY **KAYLA JOHNSON**

Orlando pastor and former Super Bowl champion defensive lineman Tim Johnson moves into an RV and implements a program at Rikers Island that results in a 67% drop in violence in the prison amongst inmates.



LATINX REPRESENTATION

La Gloria (p. 54)

DIRECTED BY **J.T. WALKER**

With standout performances from its leads, David Morse (*The Green Mile*, *Contact*) and Jaklyn Bejarano, *La Gloria* delivers a potent and timely morality play at the edge of the Mexico-U.S. border.



AN EVENING WITH

CHRISTINA

RICCI

FEATURING NOW AND THEN

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 8-11PM AT ENZIAN

Golden Globe®, SAG®, and Emmy® nominee Christina Ricci is one of Hollywood's most respected actors. She currently stars in the Showtime original series *Yellowjackets* and recently starred in the Amazon original series *Z: The Beginning of Everything*, for which she also served as a producer. Prior to that, Ricci was seen playing the title character in the television series *The Lizzie Borden Chronicles*, for which she earned a SAG Award nomination. Early in her career, she starred in *Mermaids*, *The Addams Family*, and *Casper*. Ricci's film credits include *The Smurfs 2*, *Buffalo 66*, *Speed Racer*, and a critically acclaimed performance in *Monster*. On stage, Ricci made her Broadway debut in *Time Stands Still* and starred off-Broadway in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Ricci serves as the national spokesperson for the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). RAINN is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. Upcoming, Ricci stars in the feature drama *Distorted*, opposite John Cusack. She also stars alongside Tony award winner Andy Karl in the independent feature *Faraway Eyes*.



Now and Then

DIRECTED BY **LESLI LINKA GLATTER**
USA, 1995, 102 MIN, RATED PG-13

In the summer of 1970, four childhood friends cement lifelong bonds while each dealing with their own personal challenges during a season of self-discovery. Roberta (Christina Ricci in a tough and touching performance), a tomboy with a tragic past, is still mourning her mother's death. Samantha (Gaby Hoffmann, *Transparent*), who is shy and insecure, is dealing with her father's constant absence. Teeny (Thora Birch, *American Beauty*) is obsessed with boys and dreams of a future as a

famous actress, while Chrissy (Ashleigh Aston Moore)—the more sensible one—is grappling with body image issues and societal expectations. Together, they form a tight-knit group, supporting each other through their various dilemmas, including the mysterious death of a local boy that impacts them all. In the present day, the women are now adults (Rosie O'Donnell, Demi Moore, Melanie Griffith, and Rita Wilson), each having gone down a different path in life. When they come together to visit their childhood town for the birth of Chrissy's first child, they reminisce about the time that defined their friendship and changed them forever. Often referred to as a teen-

girl *Stand by Me*, and celebrating its 30th anniversary, this heartwarming ensemble piece directed by Academy Award®-nominee and 8-time Emmy-nominee Lesli Linka Glatter (*Mad Men*, *Homeland*) and written by I. Marlene King (*Pretty Little Liars*) is a nostalgic exploration of growing up and the lasting impact of childhood friendships.

The Florida Film Festival is honored to welcome newly minted Hollywood Walk of Fame recipient Christina Ricci in celebration of this wonderful film and her decades-long career. **Following the film screening, Ms. Ricci will be present for a Q&A with the audience.**





AN EVENING WITH

MIA FARROW

FEATURING ROSEMARY'S BABY

This visiting artist event is presented through the kind generosity of Teresa Williams.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 7:30-11PM AT ENZIAN

Mia Farrow has been called an icon of her generation. The first U.S. actress to be accepted as a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, she appeared on the first-ever cover of *People Magazine*. Born to director

John Farrow (*Around the World in 80 Days*) and actress Maureen O'Sullivan (*Tarzan the Ape Man*), over her 60-year career she has been nominated for nine Golden Globes and three BAFTA awards, appeared in culturally-defining projects from TV's *Peyton Place* and *Rosemary's Baby* to *The Great Gatsby*

(opposite Robert Redford), Robert Altman's *A Wedding*, and legendary roles in *Hannah and Her Sisters* and *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, up to her most recent turn as Pearl Winslow on the Netflix series *The Watcher*. In 2024, she returned to Broadway, starring opposite Patti LuPone in *The Roommate*.

Rosemary's Baby

DIRECTED BY ROMAN POLANSKI
USA, 1968, 136 MIN, RATED R

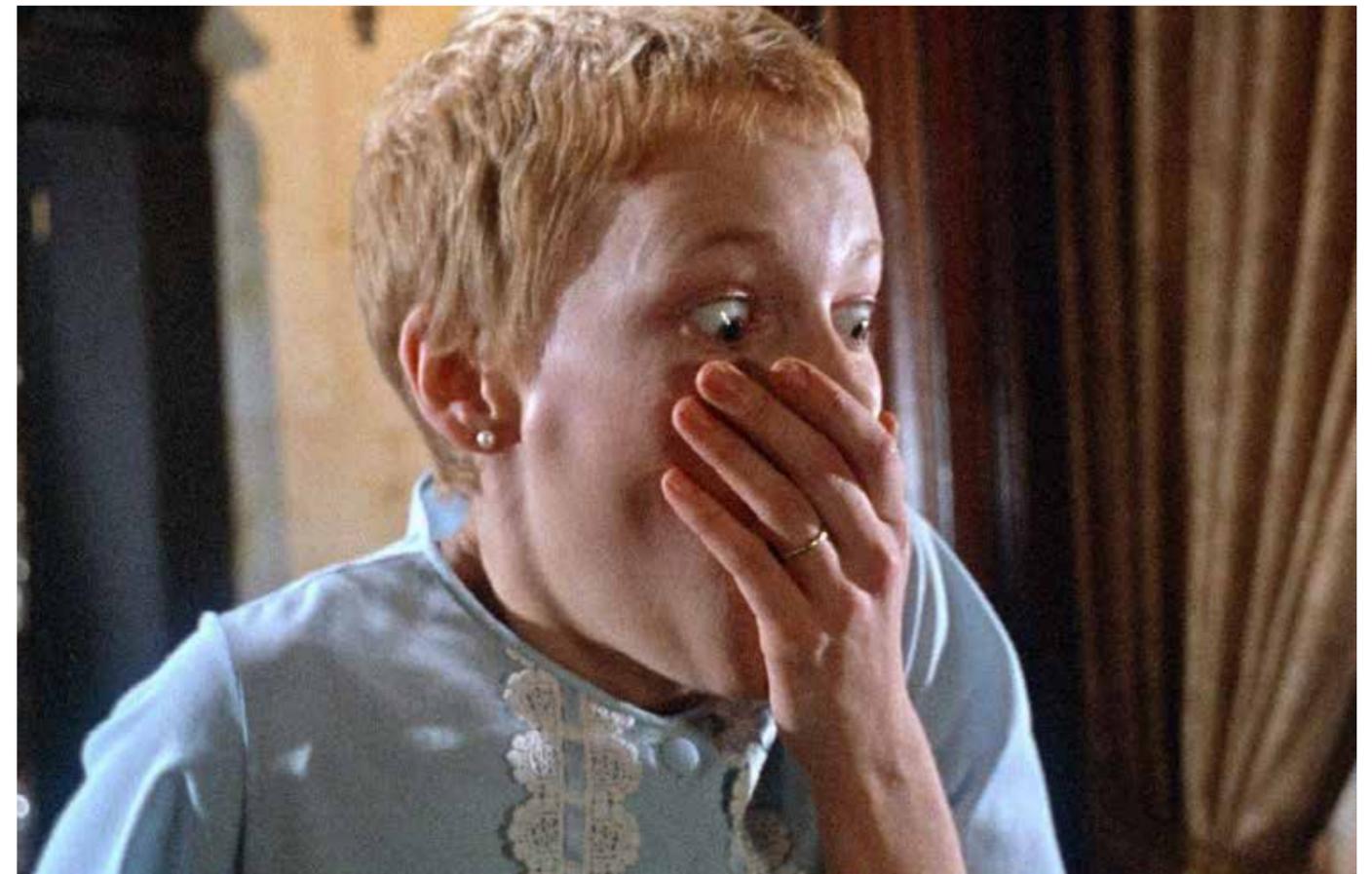
Rosemary Woodhouse (Mia Farrow in one of her most memorable roles), a young Catholic homemaker dreaming of starting a family, and Guy (John Cassavetes), her struggling actor husband, move into an imposing New York City building with a dark past. Surrounded by unsettling stories

about mysterious residents and eerie occurrences, the new tenants befriend Roman and Minnie Castevet (Ruth Gordon in an Academy Award® winning performance), their amiable next-door neighbors. Shortly after, Rosemary gets pregnant and at last, things are looking up. However, as alarming hints of a sinister conspiracy emerge, suspicion and mental anguish get the best of her. Undoubtedly, the inexperienced mother-to-be is overreacting; no one wants

to cut Rosemary off from her circle of friends. Then again, why is everyone so conveniently eager to help? And above all else, why is Guy allowing it?

The Florida Film Festival is honored to welcome Ms. Farrow to Enzian Theater to celebrate her phenomenal career.

Following the film screening, Ms. Farrow will be present for a Q&A with the audience.



OPENING NIGHT FILM

Stolen Kingdom



**FRIDAY, APRIL 11,
6–8:30PM AT ENZIAN**

**ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS:
FRIDAY, APRIL 11,
7–9PM AT REGAL A AND
7:30–9:30PM AT REGAL B**

DIRECTED BY **JOSHUA BAILEY**
USA, 2025, 74 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Joshua Bailey (he/him) is a Tampa-born filmmaker whose passion for cinema led him to pursue a career in the industry. After attending Valencia College in Orlando for a short time, he chose to leave to carve his own path in filmmaking. *Stolen Kingdom* is his debut feature film.

Rushmore

DIRECTED BY **ORIANE AZZHIRI, SARAH BALANGER, ALEX BRUNEAU, EVA-LUNA DELMAS, EMELINE GUIDÉ, CLARA MAYNARD, TOM PERRYON, AND ELIE PLISSON**
FRANCE, 2025, 6 MIN
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

When people outside Orlando talk about Orlando, the first thing that usually comes up is Disney: an icon on the map, often cited by longtime locals as the thing that built the city, and—to a certain type of mindset—destroyed the city. Visitors of all ages, from near and far, experience a childlike innocence while walking down Main Street USA as the legendary princesses wave hello. But beneath the shine of the “happiest place on earth” emerges a darker side to the magic, and sometimes taking only pictures, making only memories, and buying only mouse ears just isn’t enough. Joshua Bailey’s brilliant, hilarious, and jaw-dropping exposé delves into the history of mischief, scandal, and thievery at Walt Disney World, and reveals the black-market underground that ultimately leads to the theft of an animatronic valued at nearly a half-million dollars. *Stolen Kingdom* features key figures from the park’s urban exploration community, each sharing their unique stories. As the narrative unfolds, early-Disney era pranks and antics are shown to have inspired more recent crimes, culminating in a truly unbelievable mystery. What begins as a tale of friendship and passion ends with one lingering question: Who stole Buzzy?

PRECEDED BY

Rushmore

After an intriguing radio announcement rewarding “the most ridiculous death” with the winner’s head engraved on Mount Rushmore, Kurt and Freddy—two gas station owners—try their luck, to the detriment of a scout camp located not far away.



Opening Night Party

8PM-MIDNIGHT

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

Celebrate Opening Night of the 2025 Florida Film Festival with a hilarious and jaw-dropping cinematic exposé on the history of mischief and thievery at Walt Disney World with the East Coast premiere of *Stolen Kingdom*. Tampa-born director Joshua Bailey and special guests will be in attendance for an in-person Q+A following the screening.

Before the film, join us at Enzian for an Opening Night happy hour, kicking off at 5:15pm. Enjoy the festival atmosphere with live music, complimentary champagne, and an assortment of light bites. Mix and mingle with fellow film lovers and industry insiders before settling into the theater at 6:15PM. Following a festival welcome and an introduction by *Stolen Kingdom* director Joshua Bailey, the film will begin at 6:30PM.

After feeding your film appetites, treat your tastebuds at the legendary Opening Night Party. Enjoy tastings of craft cocktails, great wines, and exceptional bites from local vendors, all while dancing the night away to the tunes of Life on Mars. There’s no better way to celebrate the start of ten incredible days of film, food, and friends than with this extravaganza.

Official Food & Beverage Sponsors of the 2025 FFF Opening Night Party include Eden Bar, 4Rivers Smokehouse, Pizza Bruno, Superica, Forward/Slash, Jeremiah’s Italian Ice, Ivanhoe Park Brewing Co., Ketel One Vodka, and Opici Wine & Spirits.

Festival Forums

ALL FESTIVAL FORUMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

The Birds and the Bears: Exploring Impact Filmmaking in Florida

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 11AM–12:15PM AT ENZIAN

What does it take to share the land with Florida's wildlife? Through the lens of *The Paper Bear* and "The Little Brown Bird," this panel dives into the power of film to inspire action, shape conservation efforts, and bring attention to the delicate balance between people and nature. Filmmakers, directors, and animators will discuss the creative process behind their work, the role of storytelling in protecting Florida's biodiversity, and how the Florida Wildlife Corridor is helping to secure a future where both humans and animals can thrive. Join us for an engaging conversation about using film to move the needle on environmental impact and drive meaningful change.

A Motion Picture Paradise!: A History of Florida's Film and Television Industry

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1–2:30 PM AT ENZIAN

Often overlooked in its contribution to film history, Florida has played a key role in creating the modern entertainment industry. This presentation discusses how Florida became a "third coast" to the American film and television industries over the past one hundred years. Starting with the first film pioneers in Jacksonville during the 1900s and 1910s, to South Florida's television boom during the 2000s and 2010s, Florida has inspired countless exciting stories captured by the camera. David Morton discusses his book, *A Motion Picture Paradise!: A History of Florida's Film and Television Industry*.

Eavesdropping on Echoes—Exploring the Art of Sound for Film

SPONSORED BY FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 10:30AM–NOON AT ENZIAN

Join Full Sail University's film educators as they explain and explore the impact of sound for film. From production to post, dialogue, music, and foley design, learn how these dynamic and immersive sensory elements serve as an artist's palette to enhance the film experience through audio engagement. Moderated by Full Sail University Film Course Director Andrew Garraway. Q&A to follow.

The Art of Hand-Drawn Indie Animation

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 11AM–12:30PM AT ENZIAN

Welcome to the world of hand-drawn animation, where every frame is crafted with precision and passion. This year the Florida Film Festival is showcasing several hand-drawn animation projects. Join former-Disney animator Aaron Blaise (Academy Award® nominee for *Brother Bear*) and other special guests as they discuss their latest films, and the intricate process of bringing characters and stories to life utilizing old-school styles coupled with new technology.

Filmmaker Forum

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 11AM–12:30PM AT ENZIAN

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 Gill Holland, owner/founder of The Group Entertainment, past Independent Spirit Award nominee for Producer of the Year, and one of the most prolific indie film producers of the last three decades.

Festival Celebrations

Opening Night Party

8PM–MIDNIGHT
TIEDTKE AMPHITHEATER AND BELVEDERE
WINTER PARK EVENTS CENTER
1050 WEST MORSE BOULEVARD
WINTER PARK, FL 32789

(see page 19 for details)

Winter Park Village Block Party

SPONSORED BY WINTER PARK VILLAGE
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 3–5PM
FREE AND OPEN TO FESTIVAL TICKET AND PASSHOLDERS

WINTER PARK VILLAGE
510 NORTH ORLANDO AVENUE
WINTER PARK, FL 32789

Join us for our Florida Film Festival Block Party, proudly sponsored by Winter Park Village. Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon filled with fantastic music, delicious food, refreshing drinks, and a vibrant atmosphere. Don't miss out on this delightful community gathering – just show your FFF ticket or pass for entry!

Sunday Brunches

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 10AM–2PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 10AM–2PM

EDEN BAR AT ENZIAN THEATER
1300 SOUTH ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Enjoy a beautiful Sunday morning outside at the idyllic Eden Bar, catching up with fellow film lovers over a deliciously prepared brunch and exclusive cocktail offerings. No movie ticket is necessary.

Tuesday Tasting

SPONSORED BY IVANHOE PARK BREWING CO.
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 6–8PM
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

EDEN BAR AT ENZIAN THEATER
1300 SOUTH ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Savor the flavor of craft beer with samplings of locally produced brews provided by Ivanhoe Park Brewing Co. Enjoy some of the best beer Orlando has to offer; then order a pint to enhance your film festival experience.

Wednesday Night Pitcher Show

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 8PM
FILM TBD
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

EDEN BAR AT ENZIAN THEATER
1300 S. ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Join us for a special Florida Film Festival Wednesday Night Pitcher Show on the lawn at Eden Bar. Bring a blanket and grab a beer from the bar before you settle in for a casual evening with good friends and an excellent film. Want a reserved spot on the lawn with a bucket of beer and popcorn? We have a limited number of exclusive picnic baskets for sale! Grab one fast before they sell out.

These outdoor screenings are dependent upon Florida's famously unpredictable weather conditions, so we may wait until 30 minutes prior to screening time to officially post a cancellation notice on our Instagram and Facebook. You may also call Enzian's box office at 407-629-1088 x. 0230 for more information.

Filmmaker Welcome Party

SPONSORED BY FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 8–11PM
BY INVITATION ONLY

JAZZ TASTINGS
164 LAKE AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Spice up your Thursday night with our Filmmaker Welcome Party, sponsored by Full Sail University. Join fellow film lovers and filmmakers at Jazz Tastings to mix, mingle, and savor complimentary light bites and beverages. Trade notes on festival films while you enjoy legendary Florida Film Festival hospitality.

Industry Happy Hour

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 8–11PM
BY INVITATION ONLY

COPPER ROCKET
106 LAKE AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Launch into an exciting evening with an Industry Happy Hour at Copper Rocket. Filmmakers and passholders, present your festival badge at the bar to receive happy hour pricing all night long. Gather your newfound friends for a karaoke performance of a lifetime, or sit on the sidelines to discuss the excitement of the closing weekend.

Awards Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

CEREMONY
7:45PM DOORS OPEN
8–8:30PM CEREMONY
ENZIAN THEATER
1300 SOUTH ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PARTY
8:30–10:30PM
EDEN BAR AT ENZIAN THEATER
1300 SOUTH ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Gather with your Film Festival family to celebrate the best of the 2025 Florida Film Festival. Join us inside the theater at 8PM ready to cheer for your favorites as we announce both Jury and Audience Awards for this year's films. After the ceremony, head back to Eden Bar to toast our award winners and celebrate ten extraordinary days of mind-blowing movies. Your first drink is on us!

Live Music at Eden Bar

SPONSORED BY DORMAN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PERFORMING ARTS MATTER
WEEKENDS 11AM–9PM
WEEKDAYS 6–9PM
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

EDEN BAR
1300 SOUTH ORLANDO AVENUE
MAITLAND, FL 32751

Kick back, unwind, and dive into discussions about all things Florida Film Festival while enjoying live music at Eden Bar.



Spotlight Films

40 Acres

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
7–9PM AT REGAL A

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
8–9:50PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **R.T. THORNE**
CANADA, 2024, 108 MINS
IN ENGLISH AND CREE
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



After a series of plagues and wars leaves society in ruins, the Freemans are surviving—even thriving—on a farm in the middle of nowhere ... so long as they repel the occasional raiding party. Former soldier Hailey (an electric Danielle Deadwyler, *Till*, *The Piano Lesson*) and her partner Galen (Michael Greyeyes, *True Detective*, *The New World*) fled the collapse along with their children, training them to fight (and, yes, kill). But now Hailey's eldest, Emanuel, is a young man, and his need for companionship could place the whole family in jeopardy. In his feature film debut, writer-director R.T. Thorne infuses his post-apocalyptic narrative with contemporary relevance and inescapable historical power by placing Black and Indigenous characters at the center of a story about people defending their land from invaders. Reminiscent of the finest episodes of *The Walking Dead* (but with people as the monsters, not zombies), *40 Acres* will have you on the edge of your seat.

Teenaged Yuri (Helena Zengel) is a shy farm girl from the remote island of Carpathia. Raised by a loving, comically militant father (Willem Dafoe), she is taught to fear and hunt the mythical animal species known as the Ochi. But when Yuri encounters a baby Ochi, wounded and alone, she feels an inexplicable sense of kinship. Rebellious against the rules of her father and her world, she runs away from home and embarks on a quest to reunite the creature with its family. Where adventure, wonder, and magic converge, the Ochi reside. Writer-director Isaiah Saxon crafts a visually stunning world that's rife with imagination—a paradise for fantastical creatures and humans alike, though not without a little danger (and humor). Co-starring Emily Watson and Finn Wolfhard, this delightful, old-school children's adventure is reminiscent of our favorite family classics such as *E.T.* and *My Neighbor Totoro*, and a dazzling new heartfelt fantasy for the ages.

Jane Austen Wrecked My Life

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
5–6:35PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **LAURA PIANI**
FRANCE, 2024, 94 MIN, RATED R
IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Clumsy, charming, and full of contradictions, Agathe lives the rom-com dream: she works in Paris's legendary Shakespeare & Co bookstore, and there's undeniable chemistry with her colleague Félix. Beneath the glossy *Notting Hill* facade, however, she's an unpublished romance author battling writer's block who finds herself desperately single. More akin to *Persuasion*'s wallflower Anne than *Pride and Prejudice*'s confident Elizabeth, Agathe struggles to find her voice, until she is invited to a Jane Austen writer's residency in England. Spending two weeks in a manor full of creative nooks and wandering through forests and glades, she struggles daily with imposter syndrome. That is, until she starts to become acquainted with the handsome yet prickly Oliver Lowe, a distant relation of the author. Grappling with her insecurities and her heart, Agathe must decide between what she's always known and something—or someone—new. Writer-director Laura Piani draws from Austen while crafting a wholly contemporary and refreshing romantic comedy with a modern feminist twist.

A traveling magician arrives at a once-majestic hotel only to find himself unable to escape. The following morning, Mr. K (brilliantly portrayed by Crispin Glover with a deadpan, chaotic charm) is baffled by his inability to locate the exit. His search, however, is disrupted by the eccentric residents, including a group of formidable musicians, a lively kitchen staff, and a dignified elderly guest played by the exceptional Fionnula Flanagan (*The Others*, *Waking Ned Devine*). Director Tallulah Schwab infuses her film with surreal, Kafkaesque themes of alienation, bureaucracy, and the absurdity of existence. It's a world where characters are trapped in situations they can't control, endlessly searching for meaning or a way out. A cinematic blend of *Naked Lunch* meets *Delicatessen*, filtered through a David Lynch lens, Schwab's first film in a decade is a masterclass in tone, with perfect control over her artistic vision, and a remarkable showcase for Glover's unique brand of existential absurdism.

The Legend of Ochi

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
10–11:35AM AT ENZIAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
NOON–1:35PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **ISAIAH SAXON**
USA/FINLAND/UK, 2025, 95 MIN,
RATED PG
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Mr. K

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
6:45–8:30PM AT REGAL B

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
9:30–11:05PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **TALLULAH
HAZEKAM SCHWAB**
NETHERLANDS/NORWAY/BELGIUM,
2024, 94 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Spotlight Films

On Swift Horses

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
5-7PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY DANIEL MINAHAN
USA, 2024, 117 MIN, RATED R



Muriel (Daisy Edger-Jones, *Where the Crawdads Sing*), and Lee (Will Poulter, *The Bear*) are preparing to leave their Kansas home for a bright new life in California once Lee returns from the Korean War. But their newfound stability is upended by the arrival of Lee's charismatic brother, Julius (Jacob Elordi, *Saltburn*), a wayward gambler with a secret past. A dangerous attraction quickly forms. When Julius takes off for Las Vegas to make his fortune, Muriel's longing for something more propels her into a secret life of her own, betting on racehorses and exploring a love she never dreamed possible. Told in a timeless melodramatic grandness that evokes this works of Douglas Sirk (*All That Heaven Allows*) and the new queer dramas of Todd Haynes (*Carol*, *Far from Heaven*), acclaimed director Daniel Minahan (*Halston*, *Deadwood*) and screenwriter Bryce Kass's gorgeous adaptation of Shannon Pufahl's acclaimed book is a study in the smoldering desires that lay just below of the surface of mid-century propriety.

Pavements

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
9-11:10PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY ALEX ROSS PERRY
USA, 2024, 128 MIN



How best to commemorate the career of Pavement, one of the defining indie rock bands of the 1990s? Legendary frontman Stephen Malkmus would likely be opposed to the usual hyperbolic praise. A museum exhibition? How about a jukebox Broadway musical? Or perhaps a prestige movie biopic? Alex Ross Perry (*Her Smell*, FFF 2019) gives all of the above and more in his pleurably rule-flouting hybrid documentary that's one of the wildest approaches to a music doc ever made. Perry's thrillingly creative film shows little patience for hagiography in its nonlinear, absurdist approach. *Pavements* integrates archival footage of the band at the height of their cult popularity, newly shot material during their comeback tour in 2022, and a kaleidoscope of semi-scripted contemporary scenes about the shooting of a movie-within-the-movie, starring Jason Schwartzman and others. Above all, *Pavements*'s irreverent inquiry into mythmaking evinces a deep love for the artistry, ingenuity, and humor of the band, and for a now-lost alternative culture.



In an eerie, deceptively placid near-future, an innovative techno-entrepreneur named Karsh (Vincent Cassel, *Black Swan*) has developed a new software that will allow the bereaved to bear witness to the gradual decay of loved ones, dead and buried in the earth. While Karsh is still reeling from the loss of his wife (Diane Kruger, *Inglourious Basterds*) from cancer—and falling into a peculiar sexual relationship with his wife's sister (also Kruger)—a spate of vandalized graves utilizing his "shroud" technology begins to put his enterprise at risk, leading him to uncover a potentially vast conspiracy. Co-starring Academy Award® nominee Guy Pearce (*The Brutalist*), Cronenberg's latest dramatic sci-fi thriller is a stunner and his most personal film to date, combining his signature body horror with deep elder-statesman reflection after the death of his wife Carolyn in 2017. The result is a diabolically unnerving film that astonishes as a boldly unpredictable and profound meditation on grief.

The Shrouds

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
8:45-10:45PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY DAVID CRONENBERG
CANADA/France, 2024, 119 MIN,
RATED R
IN ENGLISH AND HUNGARIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

The Surfer

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
9:30-11:15PM AT REGAL A

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
6:30-8:15PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY LORCAN FINNEGAN
AUSTRALIA/USA/IRELAND, 2024,
99 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Nicolas Cage stars as "The Surfer," a man who returns to the idyllic Australian beach of his childhood, intent on conquering the crystalline waters with his son, while looking to purchase back his grandfather's seaside home. But his desire to hit the waves is thwarted by a group of locals, led by Scally (Julian McMahon, *Nip/Tuck*), whose mantra is "don't live here, don't surf here." In this intense psychological thriller, Cage affects every frame with a kind of frantic nervous energy that threatens to explode at any second. Fueled by humiliation and anger, he is drawn into a conflict that rises in concert with the punishing summer heat. Drawing on a rich history of unhinged "Ozploitation" classics like *Wake in Fright* and *Fair Game*, director Finnegan and screenwriter Thomas Martin send Cage on a merciless journey of both inner and outer turmoil, pushing him closer and closer to a breaking point that would make the Gold Coast's legendary waves look tiny in comparison.

Spotlight Films

The Wedding Banquet

MONDAY, APRIL 14
6:30–8:15PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY ANDREW AHN
USA, 2025, 102 MIN, RATED R



Frustrated with his commitment-phobic boyfriend, Chris, and running out of time, Min makes a proposal: a green card marriage with his friend Angela in exchange for expensive IVF treatments for her partner, Lee. Elopement plans are upended, however, when Min's grandmother surprises them with an extravagant Korean wedding banquet. Andrew Ahn (*Driveways*) reimagines Ang Lee's beloved 1993 classic of the same name by playfully complicating the original film's conflict and comedy. Led by a cast of some of the most acclaimed actors working today, including Bowen Yang (*SNL*), Academy Award® nominee Lily Gladstone (*Killers of the Flower Moon*), Kelly Marie Tran (*Star Wars: Episodes VIII & IX*), and South Korean breakout star Han Gi-Chan as well as beautifully articulated supporting work from Joan Chen (*Didi*) and Academy Award® winner Youn Yuh-jung (*Minari*) as the formidable matriarchs of the bride and groom's families. This joyful comedy of errors navigates cultural identity, queerness, and family expectations as well as the unexpected ways friendship and community form the modern family.

When Fall Is Coming

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
3:30–5:15PM AT REGAL A

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
11:30AM–1:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY FRANÇOIS OZON
FRANCE, 2024, 102 MIN
IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Retiree Michelle (a magnetic Héléne Vincent, Cesar Award nominee for Best Actress) lives in the countryside, peacefully enjoying her ample free time with lifelong friend Marie-Claude. Despite being estranged from her hostile daughter Valérie (Ludivine Sagnier), Michelle looks forward to a visit from her grandson Lucas—but when things don't go as planned during his stay, a long-simmering mother-daughter conflict erupts. Prolific French master François Ozon (*Summer of '85*, FFF 2021; *Potiche*, FFF 2011) devotes loving attention to the complex experiences of an older woman whose past keeps rearing its head in unforeseeable ways. Boasting impeccable turns from a strong ensemble cast, the film's many pleasures include Ozon's reunion with his *Swimming Pool* leading lady Sagnier for their first collaboration in more than two decades. A nimble and perceptive combination of black comedy, thriller, and family drama, Ozon's latest channels a touch of Chabrol and won the Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor Awards at the San Sebastian International Film Festival.

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CABERNET SAUVIGNON
Napa Valley

2025 FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL

International Showcase

Diciannove

MONDAY, APRIL 14
9:15–11:15PM AT ENZIAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
7:15–9:05PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **GIOVANNI TORTORICI**
ITALY, 2024, 108 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND ITALIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



A pivotal moment in a young person's life often comes when they leave home for the first time and venture off to college. In *Diciannove*, the highs and lows of restless youth collide with the harsh realities of adulthood when Leonardo (newcomer Manfredi Marini), a teenager from Palermo, departs for the first time and lands in Siena, Italy, via London. There, he finds himself at odds with his instructor, the curriculum, and, most chaotically, with himself. Nominated for the Queer Lion and the Horizon's Award at the 2024 Venice Film Festival and produced by Academy Award® nominee Luca Guadagnino (*Call Me by Your Name*, *Challengers*), *Diciannove* (Italian for "nineteen") marks the feature debut of writer-director Giovanni Tortorici. His skilled storytelling follows Leonardo as he drifts through life, earnestly seeking something—perhaps even himself. This bold and brash film offers an unflinchingly honest portrayal of what it means to be young and directionless, capturing the small, pivotal moments that define the experience of being nineteen again.

On a tiny, unspoiled island in the Gulf of Finland, three souls find their way through grief and back to each other. In the wake of her mother's death, young Sophia spends the summer with her father and grandmother, exploring their family's secluded summer home amid breathtaking Nordic landscapes. As Sophia grows up fast, her grandmother approaches life's end, creating a poignant symmetry that frames their time together. Glenn Close delivers a nuanced, unconventional performance as the grandmother, while newcomer Emily Matthews brings remarkable naturalism to Sophia under Charlie McDowell's (*The One I Love*) sensitive direction. Without directly addressing their shared loss, they talk about life, nature, and the mysteries of existence, slowly healing emotional wounds through simple daily adventures. Sturla Brandth Grøvlen's exquisite cinematography captures challenging low-light conditions and the tactile qualities of the Finnish wilderness, while sophisticated sound design creates an immersive sense of place. Adapted from Tove Jansson's beloved 1972 novel of the same name, *The Summer Book* achieves a rare, contemplative tone through meticulous editing and rich sensory detail, offering a pure examination of human connection across generations that transcends conventional storytelling.

Hacking Hate

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
4:30–6PM AT REGAL A

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
1:45–3:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **SIMON KLOSE**
DENMARK/NORWAY/
SWEDEN, 2024, 86 MIN
IN ENGLISH, NORWEGIAN,
AND SWEDISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



In the shadowy corners of the internet, extremism finds its breeding ground. Swedish journalist My Vingren, dubbed "the real-life Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," adopts a false identity to infiltrate global white supremacist networks, exposing the dangerous machinery of hate that transcends national borders. Through her methodical investigation, we witness both the personal toll of her undercover work and the alarming ease with which online radicalization occurs. The film's innovative "digital evidence board" approach brilliantly modernizes investigative documentary techniques while maintaining exceptional narrative clarity. Vingren's journey eventually connects her with X whistleblower Anika Collier Navaroli and researcher Imran Ahmed, forming a powerful coalition against online extremism. Together, they confront the responsibility of tech companies and chart pathways to disrupt hate speech culture. Masterfully constructed and winner of the Best Documentary Feature Award at the 2024 Tribeca Festival, *Hacking Hate* shatters the typically America-centric view of white supremacy, revealing its global reach with sobering urgency.



In the perfectly constructed public life of successful television presenter Maria (an enthralling Mirja Turestedt, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*), not a single hair is out of place—until shocking allegations against her husband Magnus (Thomas W. Gabrielsson, *The Promised Land*) shatter her carefully constructed reality. To escape media scrutiny and salvage their relationship, the couple embarks on a year-long journey, but an intense argument on the Polish coast triggers a catastrophic chain reaction. Fleeing alone to the seclusion of England's misty moors, Maria finds herself increasingly paranoid, constantly looking over her shoulder—haunted by the husband she suddenly sees in a different light and by mounting guilt following Magnus's mysterious disappearance. Based on bestselling author Håkan Nesser's novel, this taut psychological thriller navigates the treacherous terrain of self-deception with precision and restraint. Brilliantly shot, this gripping film boasts a compelling lead performance that maintains tension throughout, as Maria confronts years of willful blindness. *Unmoored* delivers a suspenseful exploration of a woman's emotional journey, as the mist-shrouded marshlands become a perfect reflection of her fractured state of mind.

The Summer Book

MONDAY, APRIL 14
4:15–5:50PM AT REGAL A

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
5–6:35PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **CHARLIE MCDOWELL**
FINLAND/UK/USA, 2024, 93 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Unmoored

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
3:45–5:20PM AT ENZIAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
3:45–5:20PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY
CAROLINE INGVARSSON
UK/SWEDEN/POLAND/SINGAPORE,
2023, 93 MIN
IN ENGLISH, SWEDISH,
AND POLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING

International Showcase

International Shorts #1

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 103 MINUTES

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19
11:30AM–1:30PM AT REGAL B**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20
NOON–2PM AT ENZIAN**



We Were the Scenery

DIRECTED BY **CHRISTOPHER RADCLIFF**
USA/VIETNAM/PHILIPPINES, 2025,
15 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
FLORIDA PREMIERE

In 1975, soon after the end of the Vietnam War, Hoa Thi Le and Hue Nguyen Che fled the country on a small boat. After nine days at sea, they docked in the Philippines, where they were held in a refugee camp and—along with nearly 100 other refugees—were utilized as background extras in the filming of *Apocalypse Now*. Christopher Radcliff (*The Strange Ones*, FFF 2017) and writer/producer Cathy Linh Che bring this harrowing and sometimes hilarious tale to life. Winner of the Short Film Jury Award for Non-Fiction at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival.



Reservations

DIRECTED BY **IVAR ASE**
NORWAY, 2024, 16 MIN
IN NORWEGIAN WITH ENGLISH
SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A restaurant dinner with her divorced father gets complicated when Lotte sees her sugar daddy on a date with another woman in this intriguing new work from the director of “Complications” (FFF 2024).



Cucumber

DIRECTED BY **HARALD FURUHOLMEN**
NORWAY/JAPAN, 2024, 11 MIN
IN JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Shintaro’s mundane existence fractures when his elderly neighbor gifts him a homegrown cucumber, triggering his social anxiety and compelling him to reciprocate at any cost.



Atom & Void

DIRECTED BY **GONÇALO ALMEIDA**
PORTUGAL, 2024, 9 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING

Persistent tremors within Valya’s underground refuge shatter her routine, forcing her to confront unexplored realms beyond the safety of her hidden world in this haunting and ethereal masterpiece from the director of “Thursday Night” (FFF 2018).



Cura Sana

DIRECTED BY **LUCÍA G. ROMERO**
SPAIN, 2024, 18 MIN
IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

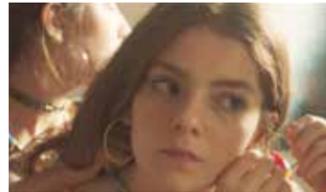
Jessica and Alma, two sisters caught in a cycle of domestic violence, begin to replace their destructive behavior with love during a trip to the food stamp office. This winner of the Crystal Bear for Best Short Film (Generation 14plus) at the 74th Berlin International Film Festival was inspired by Sean Baker’s *The Florida Project*.



The Boy with White Skin

DIRECTED BY **SIMON PANAY**
FRANCE/SENEGAL, 2024, 15 MIN
IN WOLOF AND FRENCH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

In this award-winning film (Grand Prize at Flickers’ Rhode Island Intl. Film Festival), an albino child, entrusted to a group of gold miners by his father, comes to embody all their hopes and dreams.



Ebb & Flow

DIRECTED BY **NAY TABBARA**
LEBANON/QATAR/USA, 2024, 19 MIN
IN ARABIC (LEBANESE DIALECT)
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Resolved to experience her first kiss, Loulwa rebels against her chaotic surroundings in a quest for stability. Venturing through Beirut’s streets on a journey of self-discovery, she is abruptly thrust into maturity as her reality shatters, forcing her to confront a transformed version of “normal.” Winner of the Student Visionary Award at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival.

International Shorts #2

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 99 MIN

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19
2–4PM AT REGAL B**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20
3–5PM AT ENZIAN**



God’s Anus

DIRECTED BY **JAN-DAVID BOLT**
SWITZERLAND, 2024, 12 MIN
IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN,
ITALIAN, SPANISH, AND SWISS-
GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

From the director of “Nero” (FFF 2020) and “Phlegm” (FFF 2023) comes this latest exercise in deliciously bad taste, as unfortunate souls stuck and tortured in dry, gaping desert holes are forced to unearth that elusive ideal: happiness.



A Brighter Summer Day for the Lady Avengers

DIRECTED BY **BIRDY WEI-TING HUNG**
TAIWAN/USA, 2024, 12 MIN
IN MANDARIN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A *giallo*-drenched feminist subversion of Edward Yang’s acclaimed film (*A Brighter Summer Day*), but this time, the film’s tragic female character gets her bloody revenge at a screening of *Deep Red*. For the real cinephiles who respect Yang and Dario Argento equally.

The films in this diverse program from seven countries all deal in subjects and imagery that could be labeled “taboo.” But true artistry can take something off-limits and uncover the truth underneath forbidden ideas. Each of these filmmakers succeed in breaking free from imaginary prohibitions to create challenging and unique works.



The Meaningless Daydreams of Augie and Celeste

DIRECTED BY **PERNELL MARSDEN**
AUSTRALIA, 2024, 7 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Two young girls embark on an increasingly weird and high-stakes game of imagination with a scarecrow that takes a twisted turn. Winner of Best Fantastic Short at Fantastic Fest 2024.



The Assistant

DIRECTED BY **PIERRE LLANOS**
PERU, 2024, 20 MIN
IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING

A young girl, splitting her time between her mother’s restaurant and her father’s makeshift dental office upstairs, discovers the truth about her family’s secret side hustle.



L'avance

DIRECTED BY **DJIBY KEBE**
FRANCE, 2024, 18 MIN
IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A rising Black art student sells a painting of his deceased mother to a renowned collector, the delivery of which reveals the cost of the money he earned.



Mamis Tvalebi

DIRECTED BY **TAMMY MAMISTVALOV**
ISRAEL, 2024, 15 MIN
IN HEBREW AND GEORGIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING

A young woman is ordered by her mother to retrieve her drunken father from the sacred male sanctuary of their synagogue. When he won’t leave, she decides to break a few taboos.



Masterpiece Mommy

DIRECTED BY **DOROTHY SING ZHANG**
UK/CHINA, 2024, 15 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

After suffering a mysterious fall, a mother prepares for a mammogram when a lump in her breast is discovered. While in the waiting room, her daughter’s interior world starts to shift, leading to the true reason for their strained relationship in this emotional modern musical.

International Showcase

International Animated Shorts Program

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 95 MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
4-5:45PM AT REGAL A

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
6-7:45PM AT ENZIAN

From the grave to the inside of a mouth, to a dark forest, and a friend's voicemail, the characters in this year's International Animated Shorts explore their relationship to the space around them with endless curiosity and desire for understanding. These eleven films from eleven countries showcase a fierce commitment to artistic creativity and integrity that represent the boundless imagination that can be found in all corners of the world.



Dolores

DIRECTED BY **CECILIA ANDALÓN DELGADILLO**
MEXICO, 2024, 9 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Dolores, a 7-year-old girl on the run from a fire demon, falls into a grave. There she meets two sinister corn husk skulls who want her to stay with them and a curious armadillo who tries to get her out at all costs.



Bunnyhood

DIRECTED BY **MANSI MAHESHWARI**
UK, 2024, 9 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

In this frenzied, nightmarish rollercoaster ride, Bobby grapples with the idea that adults are not always truthful when she is surprised by a last-minute trip to the hospital.



Il burattino e la balena

DIRECTED BY **ROBERTO CATANI**
ITALY/FRANCE, 2024, 8 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

The story of a puppet—from his “birth” through his uncertain choice of following the example of his creator—eventually discovering a humanity that scares him but requires him to take part.



ugh, listen!!

DIRECTED BY **AVIV GAFNI** AND **ALMA KENI**
ISRAEL, 2024, 6 MIN
IN HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

A group of young women send countless numbers of voice messages to one busy friend. While they complain to her about anything you can imagine, she tries to figure out how to be there for all of them.



On Weary Wings Go By

DIRECTED BY **ANU-LAURA TUTTELBERG**
ESTONIA/LITHUANIA, 2024, 11 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

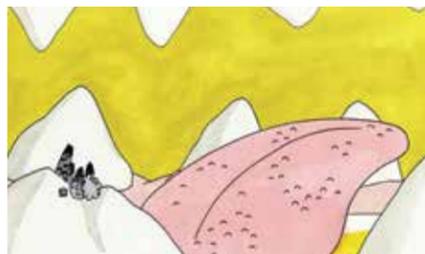
As the sun moves low and the wintery days get shorter, porcelain animals and insects hide from the freezing wind and snow. Only a small porcelain girl wanders the abandoned landscape with no way out.



Trash

DIRECTED BY **GREGORY BOUZID, MAXIME CRANCON, ROBIN DELAPORTE, MATTEO DURAND, ROMAIN FLEISCHER, ALEXIS LE RAL, MARGAUX LUTZ, AND FANNY VECCHIE**
FRANCE, 2024, 6 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

In a dark alley, a scrawny rat has no choice but to fight with a pigeon for a small slice of pizza. Without a second thought, they throw themselves in a vertiginous chase from the top to the bottom of the street.



Caries

DIRECTED BY **ALINE HÖCHLI**
SWITZERLAND, 2025, 10 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

Eager to create a monumental work of art, a shaman remains blissfully unaware that she is painting her murals inside the mouth of a vain weather presenter.



Silent Panorama

DIRECTED BY **NICOLAS PIRET**
FRANCE, 2024, 5 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

A drawing on a single sheet of paper gradually comes to life before our eyes, telling the story of a wild boar on the run and the ways in which people occupy the places that used to belong to nature. From the director of “La Bride” (FFF 2023).



Holy Heaviness

DIRECTED BY **FARNOOSH ABEDI** AND **NEGHAH KHEZRE FARDYARDAD**
IRAN, 2025, 9 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

The weight that accompanies the death of a loved one can feel unbearable, overwhelming, and very, very real. From the director and producer of “Malakout” (FFF 2021).



The Night Boots

DIRECTED BY **PIERRE-LUC GRANJON**
FRANCE, 2024, 13 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A child leaves home in the middle of the night and enters the undergrowth. There, a strange beast, curious and solitary, will lead him into the heart of the forest and, so as not to be alone again, will try to delay the child's departure as long as possible.



Flower Show

DIRECTED BY **ELLI VUORINEN**
FINLAND, 2024, 9 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Girls have been cultivated like flowers for generations. We need more growing seasons to breed new ways into the system.

Special Screenings

MUSIC FILM

King of Them All: The Story of King Records

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
1:30–2:45PM AT ENZIAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
6–7:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY YEMI OYEDIRAN
USA, 2024, 75 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING



There's a good chance you've never heard of King Records, but if you're a serious music fan, their roster of artists will be familiar. Consider these five names: James Brown, John Lee Hooker, Nina Simone, The Stanley Brothers, and The Ink Spots. Impressive, no? King Records, founded in the mid-1940s by pudgy and myopic Syd Nathan (don't worry, he called himself worse) initially released hillbilly records for Appalachians who migrated to work in Midwestern manufacturing plants. When Syd saw Black music being similarly ignored by major labels, he began issuing R&B, blues, and gospel records. Leveraging the massive success of James Brown, by the mid-1960s King was the sixth largest record company in the U.S., making its Cincinnati homebase America's most unlikely musical hotspot. Boasting terrific interviews and tons of archival footage, *King of Them All* explores this forgotten slice of history, detailing how Syd Nathan built a racially integrated, genre-defying musical empire during a time of widespread segregation, helping to shape modern American funk, soul, country, and rock music.

MUSIC FILM

Pretty Ugly - The Story of the Lunachicks

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
9:15–11PM AT REGAL B

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
6:45–8:30PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY ILYA CHAIKEN
USA, 2023, 92 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



The early 1990s was the era when punk rock exploded. Nirvana crushed the airwaves, hair metal went on hiatus, and literally anything seemed possible. The time was ripe for a shift in musical gender norms too. The Lunachicks were aching for it. Blasting out of NYC's hardcore scene while in their teens, this band of bad-ass feminists was an explosive cartoon of humor and punk rock rage with albums like *Babysitters on Acid* and *Binge & Purge*. They blew away audiences, but much like the Ramones, they never quite broke out of their cult-status ghetto, due in no small part to sexism and outright misogyny. A rollercoaster of drugs, romances, and creative conflicts led to their 2000 breakup, but two decades on, coming together to write their autobiography *Fallopian Rhapsody*, the Lunachicks ask, "Can we get it together for one more show?" Director Ilya Chaiken was there to capture the results and assembled a truckload of home movies to create this high-octane saga of enduring friendship, survival, and inspiring renaissance.



Deep in the San Fernando Valley—sporting clogs and a golden bathrobe—cult soul legend Swamp Dogg keeps it real. Since 1954, the Dogg (aka Jerry Williams) has chased dreams of musical stardom. He made fortunes; then blew it all, crafting dozens of albums on as many different labels, offering soul classics (*Total Destruction to Your Mind*), barbed politics (*The White Man Made Me Do It*), and one huge seller featuring dogs barking their way through Beatles covers. The man stays busy! He's been on an FBI watchlist, helped birth hip-hop, written country hits, and at 81, just released a "blackgrass" album (all this while mindfully raising a daughter who is now a neurologist). This wildly entertaining doc—with a collage style that's a visual cousin to early Zappa records—recounts the Dogg's often bizarre life as he navigates a surreal path across musical time and space. Friends Tom Kenny (*SpongeBob*), Johnny Knoxville, and hip-hop's Grand Master Alonzo Williams drop by to shoot the shit... and did we mention the pool is getting painted?

Swamp Dogg Gets His Pool Painted

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
7–8:45PM AT REGAL B

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
4:30–6:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY ISAAC GALE, RYAN OLSON AND DAVID MCMURRY
2024, USA, 97 MIN

CLOSING NIGHT RETRO FILM

Race with the Devil

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
8:45–10:15PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY JACK STARRETT
USA, 1975, 88 MIN, RATED PG
50TH ANNIVERSARY–4K RESTORATION



If you think the "Satanic Panic" started in the 1980s, you're in for a wild ride through West Texas as Warren Oates (*The Wild Bunch*) and Peter Fonda (*Ulee's Gold*, FFF 1997) team up (for their first of three films together) in a movie mashup for the ages. Call it a road movie unlike any other, or a "vacation gone awry" from hell. Oates and Fonda star as Roger and Frank, co-owners of a motorcycle dealership in San Antonio, Texas, who decamp in a RV with their wives (including *M*A*S*H's* Loretta Swit) for a ski vacation in Colorado. But when they make a pit stop in the middle of nowhere to blow off a little steam, they accidentally witness a grizzly satanic ritual, and soon enough they're being pursued by a small army of bloodthirsty cult members. Slowly simmering with paranoid tension before exploding in an endless series of shoot-em-up gunfights and breathless chase scenes, *Race with the Devil* more than earns its reputation as a wholly unique and superbly '70s action flick!

Sunshine & Swampland: New Florida Shorts

SPONSORED BY
ORLANDO FILM COMMISSION

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 90 MINUTES

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19
NOON-2PM AT REGAL A**

The vibrant landscapes, diverse culture, and dynamic stories of the Sunshine State come to life onscreen once again with this collection of eclectic films that celebrates the creative talent of filmmakers from across Florida. From capturing a silly evening with friends over pizza or a whimsical encounter with mythological wildlife, to the very serious issues impacting the state, this collection of animation, documentary, narrative, and experimental filmmaking provides a glimpse into the heart of Florida's ever-evolving story.



Culture War

DIRECTED BY **CALI MITIDIERI**
USA, 2024, 28 MIN

A small liberal arts college in Sarasota finds itself in a culture war against the government for the basic right of educational freedom. Now, the community must learn how to maintain resistance amid a reality they didn't sign up for.



Stuffed Crust

DIRECTED BY **JOSEPH WHITE**
AND **RYAN ENGLISH**
USA, 2024, 5 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

Two friends uncover a source of evil through a pizza box, in this Winter Park High School winner of the 2024 Brouhaha Film and Video Festival. According to the Brouhaha jury, this film "exemplifies the heart of DIY filmmaking and is a shining example of the joy that movies can bring."



Campbell & the Cryptid

DIRECTED BY **ELAINA BUFFKIN**
USA, 2024, 3 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A girl befriends a cryptid who helps her to understand that the unknown is not always as bad as it seems, in this wonderfully whimsical film from the University of Central Florida.



For the Culture

DIRECTED BY **SEBASTIAN BRITO**
USA, 2025, 6 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A troubled father, Marcus, seeks to save his relationship with his son, Tae, who just wants to play basketball with his dad.



Ana y la Distancia

DIRECTED BY
HANSEL PORRAS GARCIA
USA, 2024, 10 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A Cuban mother exiled in Miami anxiously awaits the arrival of her son, who is crossing Central American borders to join her. Co-written and produced by Robert Colom (*Mountains*, FFF 2024)



Before I Forget

DIRECTED BY **JACK HALL**
USA, 2025, 7 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A young filmmaker reflects on their negative relationship with the camera and how they must heal it for the sake of their loved ones.



Loveline

DIRECTED BY **MACI PARKER**
USA, 2024, 9 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

The desire to be loved pulls four strangers through newspaper ads, drugs, and daytime television, as they place their fate in the power of "Loveline."



Catch and Exterminate

DIRECTED BY **SUMMER PURKS**
USA, 2024, 3 MIN

On a job gone wrong, spunky pest-control employee Elliot finds herself in a chase with a paranormal being with a nasty bite.



Little Haiti, Miami, USA

DIRECTED BY **XAVIER SERRANO**
USA, 2024, 9 MIN
IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, AND CREOLE
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Arriving in Little Haiti with nothing but a painting, Erma is determined to find the man depicted in it. Who could he be? She has no idea. All she knows is that her son painted him and that the man lives somewhere in the area. With no knowledge of English, Erma enlists the help of Wilky, a local teenager to assist her. From FSU grad Xavier Serrano ("Vacation U.S.A.," FFF 2023)



Consummation

DIRECTED BY **VAN GALEX**
USA, 2024, 10 MIN

Walking amidst Eden with its lush green foliage, Adam and Eve come upon a dock and a lake in the depths of the overgrown Earth. Upon exploring, the two discover that the water brings a more sinister meaning to their journey. A Student Academy Awards® semi-finalist!

Sunshine in Doc-land: New Florida Documentary Shorts

SPONSORED BY
ORLANDO FILM COMMISSION

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 100 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
2:30–4:30PM AT REGAL A

Filmmakers in Florida have a strong tradition of telling stories that capture the challenges and beauty of life inside and outside of the Sunshine State, addressing topics ranging from recapturing lost culture to overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds and sometimes just to take a leisurely 600-meter swim with your beloved puppy. This collection of films celebrates the rich and diverse voices that make up the patchwork landscape of this unique multicultural place we call home.



Disney Wol: Page 1 Shaking the Tree

DIRECTED BY **EILEEN GALINDO**
USA, 2025, 4 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
2ND US SCREENING

In 1973 while visiting her great-grandmother for the summer in Florida, Eileen and her siblings are promised a trip to “the happiest place on earth,” Disney World. A sibling squabble breaks out at the breakfast table, and plans are thwarted. But her grandfather steps in to salvage the day.



Boil That Cabbage Down

DIRECTED BY **CANDACE WILLIAMSON**
USA, 2025, 25 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Candace is a Florida filmmaker, USC college student, and novice banjo player. As she begins to learn her first tune, she reaches out to historians, activists, and storytellers to uncover the complex history of the banjo—a musical instrument created by enslaved Black people as a remedy and a vessel for ancestral spirits. Could they be calling us back to the instrument now?



Mookie, Mo, and Me

DIRECTED BY **RYAN MCINERNEY**
USA, 2025, 12 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

“Mookie, Mo, and Me” is a stunning visual documentary of a man and his dog enjoying their morning routine, a 600-meter open ocean swim off the coast of Delray Beach.



Not Rod

DIRECTED BY **BECCA GREENE**
AND **ALEX POLLACK**
USA, 2024, 16 MIN

As a young man in Scotland, singer George Orr played in bands and dreamed of becoming a rock star. After repeatedly being told that he looked and sounded too much like a fellow newcomer named Rod Stewart, George’s dream slowly faded. Forty years and many professional sidetracks later—including stints as a martial arts trainer and a Miami paparazzo—George turns the very thing that held him back into his ticket to success.



Dream American

DIRECTED BY **GREG MARCKS**
USA, 2025, 17 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

Monkeys riding dogs herding sheep? The jaw-dropping spectacle of fringe-wearing simian cowboys gives way to the unexpectedly affecting love story behind a novelty monkey rodeo act.



No Leg Power

DIRECTED BY
TRISTAN ANTHONY ORTIZ
USA, 2024, 9 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING

CJ Bellamy had it all going for him in high school, with hopes of making it in the NBA, until an accident changed everything. But in the aftermath of that tragedy, CJ finds a new purpose through CrossFit. Winner of the 2024 Central Florida Film Slam.



Edel Rodriguez: Freedom Is a Verb

DIRECTED BY **MECKY CRUES**
AND **ADRIENNE HALL**
USA, 2024, 17 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A vivid exploration of artist Edel Rodriguez’s journey from his early life in Cuba to acclaim in the United States. Rodriguez’s time in Cuba and immigration has influenced iconic artwork and his political courage in depicting the 45th president.



Florida Features

The Paper Bear

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
1:45–4PM AT REGAL A

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
10:30AM–1PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **ARIX ZALACE**
2025, USA, 115 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE



As they search the woods of Walton County, Florida, for an elusive black bear, a father (Jason Burkey) weaves a tapestry of stories to share his deep passion for conservation with his smartphone-obsessed son (Max Ivutin). Blending Don Bluth-inspired animation with breathtaking wildlife photography, the film immerses viewers in the wetlands of Florida's panhandle, showcasing animals so effortlessly, it's easy to forget they are untamed creatures in their natural habitat. Making his directorial debut, Arix Zalace embraces the Sunshine State's natural wonder all while channeling early '80s and '90s family classics like *The Amazing Panda Adventure* and *Fly Away Home*. *The Paper Bear* is a heartfelt journey for audiences of all ages to explore the state's indigenous folklore, observational science, and the devastation of life-threatening natural disasters we sometimes struggle to explain to our kids.

The Python Hunt

MONDAY, APRIL 14
9:15–11PM AT REGAL A

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
2–4PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **XANDER ROBIN**
USA, 2025, 92 MIN



For ten days in the sweltering South Florida summer, the Everglades turns into the wildest stage imaginable for one of the strangest competitions on Earth: The Python Challenge. From seasoned pros to wide-eyed newbies chasing a crazy story, hundreds of contestants from all over the world descend on the swamps with the intent of hunting the invasive Burmese python. But this bizarre contest immediately takes a backseat to focus on a handful of unforgettable participants whose larger-than-life personalities, big ambitions, and truly bizarre motivations take center stage. Whether they're in it for the prizes, the thrill, the cause, or the pith, their unique personalities steal the show. Three-time FFF alumnus director Xander Robin (*Are We Not Cats?*, 2013) and two-time FFF alumnus producer Lance Oppenheim (*Some Kind of Heaven*, 2020) have teamed up to document this wild, beautiful, jaw-droppingly bizarre ride through one of the most unconventional competitions you'll ever witness.



A propaganda video recruiting teenagers to a football-like league of live-fire combat tells us, "If you've got a problem, don't take it to school; take it to the duel!" It sounds like a joke. However, in a near-future "free State of Florida," gun control has been abolished, and school shootings are at an all-time high. When an opportunity for twisted notoriety arises, a tormented 13-year-old Sammy enlists in a deadly competition known as "The School Duel." Director Todd Rollins Wiseman Jr. adeptly mixes enough recognizable pieces of 2020s America that the film's stark black-and-white fantasy of theocratic gun-lusting teachers and political figureheads feels eerily within our reach. Like the dystopian love child of *Starship Troopers* and *Battle Royale* we never knew we needed, this film poses the question: What if Jim Jarmusch had directed *The Hunger Games*?

The School Duel

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
7:15–9:15PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **TODD WISEMAN JR.**
USA, 2024, 91 MIN
2ND US SCREENING

The Sky Was on Fire: Ballet and War in Ukraine

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
6:15–8:30PM AT REGAL A

SUNDAY, APRIL 20
2:15–4:30PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY **JONATHAN MARICLE**
AND **JOAN FINN ADKISON**
USA/UKRAINE, 2025, 94 MIN
IN UKRAINIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
WORLD PREMIERE



"We need to understand that this war will not end if we just watch it on the TV and then talk about how bad it is somewhere in the kitchen." To make art amidst war is a difficult choice. Are you helping your country survive, and reminding them that there are still beautiful things to fight for, or are you utilizing escapism to ignore and, in turn, help others ignore what is happening around you? Produced by Orlando's Adrenaline Films (*Greetings from Queertown: Orlando*, FFF 2023 Audience Award for Best Florida Film) *The Sky Was on Fire: Ballet and War in Ukraine* documents the account of the Russian cultural genocide against Ukraine through the gripping yet beautiful story of the ballerinas and dancers who must make a choice: to leave the country, to stay and dance, or to pick up arms and fight. Throughout the last century, ballet has been used by Russia as a form of political propaganda and an expression of "soft power." When Russian forces took control of Mariupol and Kharkiv, they bombed the theaters, operas, and museums—targeting and killing artists. As Russia tries to erase the culture of Ukraine, ballet once again takes center stage as a lynchpin of international politics and resistance in Eastern Europe.

Sunspots:

New Visions of the Avant-Garde

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 86 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
9:15–11PM AT REGAL B

This year's experimental shorts program features a dazzling mix of media and techniques you won't see anywhere else on the big screen. Traverse landscapes of the physical, digital, and psychological as we bring you the latest from alternative screen cultures and renegade film artists.

Warning: This program contains films with intense strobing lights which may be harmful for photosensitive viewers.



Entre le Feu et le Clair de Lune

DIRECTED BY **DOMINIC YARABE**
USA/CÔTE D'IVOIRE, 2025, 18 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

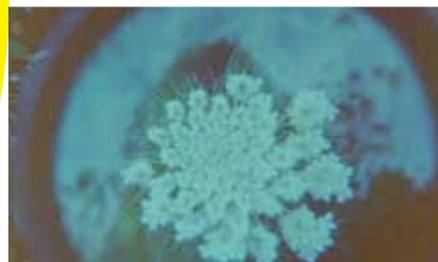
A fractured account of ten days the filmmaker's father spent hiding from war in his West African village, recreated using children living in the village today.



Burn-in

DIRECTED BY **CHARLES DILLON WARD**
USA, 2024, 2 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A film about the messy deletion of bodies from our digital memories. Digital ghosts from the late 2000s reflect the impossibility of invisibility and the permanence of the internet.



We Made Believe

DIRECTED BY **NANDA BORJA, DANIEL GOMEZ, DANNA GUTIERREZ, LIDA RINCÓN CASAS, AND LISA DANKER KRITZER**
USA/COLOMBIA, 2024, 4 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

A hand-processed, Super-8mm collaboration exploring the story of a missing mother, interwoven with lines from Mexican author and artist Verónica Gerber Bicecci's novel *Conjunto Vacío (Empty Set)*.



Kid with a Pearl Earring

DIRECTED BY **ABIGAIL HOLLAND**
USA, 2025, 7 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

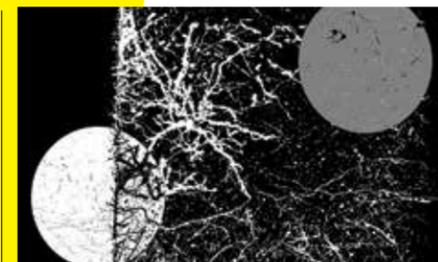
The grief of losing her father propels the filmmaker to unravel memories of girlhood and an ex-boyfriend. A self-portrait of a filmmaker obsessed with forgiveness, portrayed through men and the objects that they left behind.



How to Love a Palm Tree?

DIRECTED BY **IVAN NEVESENKO**
UKRAINE, 2024, 6 MIN
IN UKRAINIAN AND RUSSIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

A Ukrainian filmmaker-refugee's exploration of Californian reality unfolds through a dialogue between the author and his wife about the palm tree, both as a biological species and a historical symbol.



Dysfluency Circuit

DIRECTED BY **DAVE RODRIGUEZ**
USA, 2024, 6 MIN

Neural mapping models, scans of decomposing nitrate film, and bare electrical signals from analog video equipment are used to visualize the neurological landscape of a stutterer.



The Inescapable Desire of Roots 根欲

DIRECTED BY **MARK CHUA AND LI SHUEN LAM**
SINGAPORE, 2024, 6 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND MANDARIN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A man with hair growing wildly over his body is taken by a mania of ecstasy and anguish. Made using overlaid projections of 16mm and Super-8mm with the filmmakers' own hair.



Chimera

DIRECTED BY **Gael Jara and Martín André**
CHILE, 2024, 11 MIN
IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A non-binary person watches the handover of the first non-binary ID in the history of Chile. A poetic exploration of transition and fluidity in the face of rigid bureaucracy.



Field Recording

DIRECTED BY **QUINNE LARSEN**
USA, 2025, 2 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A meandering joke about three dreams evokes the fragmented, complex nature of learning and preserving an eroded language. Nominated for the Grand Jury Award at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival.



Skeyesee (Dusk Chorus)

DIRECTED BY **JIMMY SCHAUS**
USA, 2025, 3 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A series of camera feeds, projections, and frame-by-frame pans construct a *mis en abyme* portrait of a sunlit domestic space. From Jimmy Schaus, director of "My Daddy was a Gunman (For Madeline)," FFF 2019.



The Motherfucker's Birthday

DIRECTED BY **SAIF ALSAEGH**
USA, 2024, 7 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

The dancing of powerful men, unconcerned with the lives they impact, is contrasted with the dancing of the people of Iraq. Torture, hesitant political humor, and war all become a gesture of dance in this archival documentary.



Full Out

DIRECTED BY **SARAH BALLARD**
USA, 2025, 14 MIN
IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

In 19th century Paris at the Salpêtrière Hospital, patients were hypnotized on stage to reproduce the symptoms of hysteria for public audiences. Over a century later, high school cheerleaders are fainting en masse.

Midnight Movies

It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
MIDNIGHT-1:45AM
AT ENZIAN

SATURDAY, APRIL 19,
9:45-11:30PM AT REGAL A

DIRECTED BY RACHEL KEMPF
AND NICK TOTI
USA, 2023, 84 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

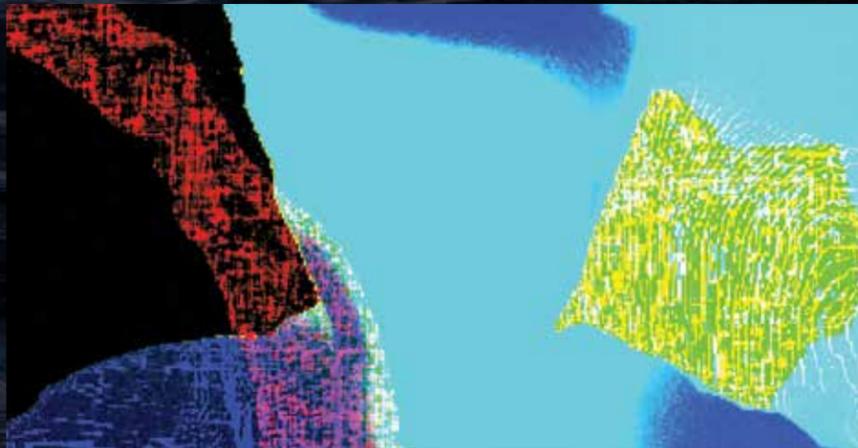


It's been over 25 years since the Florida Film Festival originally hosted *The Blair Witch Project*, but in that time the pantheon of found-footage horror films has seen a precipitous rise. Found-footage horror is ripe for DIY self-expression and visceral cinematic terror. When a filmmaking couple buy an abandoned duplex to shoot their next indie horror film in, they are delighted to find random strangers are drawn to the building, gathering outside to stare at it in a zombie-like trance. What begins as an effort to document the cult, quickly escalates into an increasingly ecstatic quest to see just how scary their real-life horror movie can get. A buzzy hit at the 2024 Toronto International Film Festival, Kempf and Toti's film lulls the viewer in with exactly the kind of mundanity you might imagine if your favorite horror movie buffs started a home-renovation YouTube channel that eventually morphed into the ultimate nightmare.

PRECEDED BY LIDAR

DIRECTED BY AUSTIN JOHNSON
AND JOHNATHON HUANG
USA, 2025, 4 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A man awakens and finds
himself *Lost in Depth*
And Reality!



Once upon a time, there was a maiden most fair who, after her mother's passing, is treated cruelly by her evil stepmother and vengeful stepsisters. But what if those stepsisters were not as malicious as one might presume? In this twisted reimagining of the classic fairy tale, director Emilie Blichfeldt has created a vicious body horror film that shows the extreme measures that one rather "plain" girl (Lea Myren) undergoes amidst a ruthless competition for physical perfection. Blichfeldt is far more interested in exploring the punishment women endure for the sake of societal beauty standards, rather than just facilitating an anti-Disney retcon on a universal tale. With shades of 2024's smash hit *The Substance*, this film is not for viewers with weak constitutions, but often is a reminder that centuries of body modifications in service to "capturing a good husband" are as uncomfortable as fitting a too-big foot into a shiny glass slipper.

The Ugly Stepsister

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
11PM-12:45AM AT REGAL A

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
MIDNIGHT-1:45AM
AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY EMILIE BLICHFELDT
NORWAY/DENMARK/ROMANIA/
POLAND, 2025, 105 MIN
IN NORWEGIAN
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
FLORIDA PREMIERE



In an alternate universe, Rachel Ormont (Betsey Brown, also at FFF 2025 with "Nepotism, Baby" and "But He's Gay") unknowingly spends her life confined within the manipulative grasp of the North American Assessment and Advertising Agency (NAAAA). Her existence revolves around evaluating the agency's premier product: a pop sensation known as Mommy 6.0 (the incredible Chloe Cherry, *Euphoria*). As Rachel's obsession with Mommy 6.0 intensifies, she embarks on a surreal journey that challenges her perceptions of reality and identity. www.rachelormont.com is a provocative techno-satire that delves into themes of digital culture, commodification, and the complexities of modern relationships. Writer-director Peter Vack (*Assholes*, FFF 2017 and this year acting in *Somnium*) returns to FFF in this bonkers dive into the extreme insanity just under the surface of hero worship, that offers something both grotesquely entertaining and deeply unsettling.

www.rachelormont.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
11:30PM-1:15AM AT REGAL A

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
11:30PM-1AM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY PETER VACK
USA, 2024, 80 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

**DUE TO GRAPHIC CONTENT,
NO ONE UNDER 18 WILL BE ADMITTED.**

Midnight Movies

Midnight Shorts: Hold On, I'm Comin'

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 91 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
MIDNIGHT-2AM AT ENZIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
MIDNIGHT-1:45AM AT REGAL B

It's been a quarter of a century since we first walked onto the Enzian stage to introduce Midnight Shorts to a wildly unsuspecting audience. Over the past 25 years this program has screened nearly 400 films, and we're only getting started! This year, a whirlwind of bodily fluids, cringe comedy, and pizza toppings lay at your disposal: the wretched refuse of humanity laid bare for those willing to take the journey. So gird up your loins and prepare your eyeballs, as we've curated an all-you-can-stomach buffet of the looniest, trashiest, and most frighteningly prescient films ever assembled.



Have You Done It Yet?

DIRECTED BY **MEGAN BRISCO**
USA, 2023, 3 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Sex education, 1980s VHS style. Welcome to midnight shorts!



Birth Controlled

DIRECTED BY **ISA FRAGA-ABAZA**
USA/ECUADOR, 2025, 5 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

In a world where fertility is the premise of a game show, we follow the journey of a pregnant woman whose body is subject to the whims of an elitist audience. They have the power to vote on every decision regarding her pregnancy—decisions that will ultimately determine life or death.



Stomach Bug

DIRECTED BY **MATTY CRAWFORD**
UK, 2024, 15 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND CANTONESE
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

Witness the disturbing unravelling of a single father struggling to cope with empty-nest syndrome. Nominated for the BAFTA for Best British Short Film.



Poppa

DIRECTED BY **PETER AHERN**
USA, 2025, 1 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Did your parents ever tell you that if you swallowed gum it would stay in your stomach for seven years? What if the reality was so much worse? Find out in this latest film from the director of "Buzzkill" (FFF 2022).



Rushmore

DIRECTED BY **ORIANE AZZHIRI, SARAH BALANGER, ALEX BRUNEAU, EVA-LUNA DELMAS, EMELINE GUIDÉ, CLARA MAYNARD, TOM PERRY, AND ELIE PLISSON**
FRANCE, 2025, 6 MIN
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

After an intriguing radio announcement rewarding "the most ridiculous death" with the winner's head engraved on Mount Rushmore, Kurt and Freddy—two gas station owners—try their luck, to the detriment of a scout camp located not far away.



Don't Talk to Strangers

DIRECTED BY **IMANOL ORTIZ LÓPEZ**
SPAIN, 2023, 5 MIN
IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Mom always told us not to talk to strangers, but Agustín is not a stranger because whenever we go to his store, he offers us treats.



I Beg Your Pardon

DIRECTED BY **JOHN W. LUSTIG**
USA, 2025, 5 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A man commits a terrible crime, and the consequences are not what you'd expect.



Wake

DIRECTED BY **SEAN CARTER**
USA, 2024, 13 MIN

With a hurricane raging outside their hospital, two nurses have one last job before evacuating: stow the "dead-on-arrival" corpse of a young girl in the downstairs morgue before the building floods. Easier said than done.



Stuck

DIRECTED BY **GISELLE BONILLA**
USA, 2023, 3 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Director Giselle Bonilla ("Mort," FFF 2024) returns with this absurdist tale of a lonely man who becomes far more attached to his sex doll than the manufacturer recommended.



Outside Noise

DIRECTED BY **ETHAN EVANS**
UK, 2024, 8 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

An overwhelmed woman listens to a sleep ambience app to unwind before bed, but when the sounds eerily begin to blend with reality, she suspects it has conjured something frightening into her room. From the executive producer of *Dashcam* (FFF secret screening, 2022).



Godfart

DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL LANGAN**
USA, 2024, 3 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

What came first: the Big Mac or the Big Bang? This is the very true story of how the universe was created.



Skeeter

DIRECTED BY **CHRIS MCINROY**
USA, 2024, 4 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

In his sixth appearance at Midnight Shorts, Austin-based maniac Chris McInroy ("We Joined a Cult," FFF 2024) reminds us that every backyard party in the South has one big pest.



Jesus 2

DIRECTED BY **JESSE MOYNIHAN**
USA, 2024, 8 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

In the future, no one can die, and no one wants to live anymore. Two space-pirate brothers must destroy an evil messiah to break the curse of immortality and deliver humanity to its final resting place.



Make Me a Pizza

DIRECTED BY **TALIA SHEA LEVIN**
USA, 2024, 12 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A very hungry woman tells a pizza delivery guy she can't pay for the pizza she ordered. But can the sex she offers instead of currency possibly equate to the true value of a pizza?

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**American Independent Competition
Narrative Features Jury**



Mary Dauterman

Mary Dauterman is a writer-director from Texas based in Brooklyn. Her debut feature *Booger*, a body horror comedy, premiered at Fantasia in 2023 and was supported by Tribeca Creators Market and Film Independent. *Booger* was released theatrically by Dark Sky Films. Her shorts have been selected for multiple Vimeo Staff Picks, screened at 30+ festivals and on Hulu, NoBudge, Vulture, and Booooooom. She has written and directed projects for Adult Swim, published kids' books that aren't for kids, and directed some decent commercials. She is developing her second feature *Thirty Grand*, supported by Film Independent's Fast Track and Screenwriting Lab.



Tomris Laffly

Tomris Laffly is a film critic and entertainment journalist based in New York, with bylines across *Variety*, *RogerEbert.com*, *W Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, *Elle*, *TIME*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *TheWrap*, and others. A member of the New York Film Critics Circle (NYFCC), Tomris covers various prominent film festivals around the world, and frequently moderates awards season panels and opening-weekend Q&As. Previously, she has served as part of the Gotham Awards nominating committees several times, the narrative competition jury of SXSW in 2023, and Hamptons International Film Festival documentary competition jury in 2024. Prior to launching her film journalism career, Tomris spent a decade in marketing and advertising production after earning her MBA. She lives in Harlem.



Charles Tremblay

Charles Tremblay started his career as a lawyer in Montreal but quickly joined UTA as an agent trainee. He then co-founded Metropole Films Distribution with Mongrel Media and acted as its managing director for 11 years. In 2017, he launched MK2 | MILE-END with France's mk2 as a partner. MK2 | MILE-END was acquired by Sphere Media in 2022 and became Sphere Films. Charles was president of Sphere Films until he left the company in 2024. He has over 20 years of experience in acquiring and distributing films in Canada. Films that he has acquired and distributed for Canada include *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, *Parasite*, *Close*, *Aftersun*, *The Worst Person in the World*, *La Grande Bellezza*, and *Holy Spider*. He is currently the Senior Advisor, Canada for MUBI.



REEL REPRESENTATION



PRESENTED BY TRAVEL + LEISURE CO.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
11:30AM-1:15PM AT REGAL A

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

DIRECTED BY **PETER PAVLAKIS**
USA, 2025, 90 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE



Peter Pavlakis
(*Apostasy Blues*) (he/him) is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker. He began his career shooting

documentary projects in East Africa and has directed three short films prior to his feature debut. When not directing, he works as a freelance cinematographer, collaborating on a range of projects that span narrative, documentary, and commercial filmmaking.

Apostasy Blues

When the rapture doesn't happen as expected, Edyn and Troy are left questioning if their missing cult leader, Stephen, has taken off with all the donations they've given over the years. As their faith is put to the test in a harsh reality of maxed-out credit cards and ex-girlfriends they thought they'd killed, the film asks whether simple pleasures like whipped cream on pancakes might be enough to help us all get over being left behind on Judgement Day. This feature film directorial debut by Peter Pavlakis utilizes a deft touch that endears rather than mocks the misguided cult followers, and newcomers Cordie Hirsch and Michael Morgan shine in their breakout roles as our embattled protagonists. *Apostasy Blues* is a hilarious yet surprisingly sharp comedy that offers inspired laughs and a heartfelt exploration of finding where we truly belong ... until the Neptunian aliens arrive to bring in the next rapture, possibly on Easter Sunday 2025.

Burt

Joe Burke's brilliant, darkly comedic *Burt* tells the story of a 69-year-old street musician with Parkinson's who is unexpectedly visited by Sammy, a man claiming to be his son. Inspired by real events, this indie gem is both intimate and awkward, with moments of genuine humor. Burt, playing himself, brings a deep authenticity to his role, infusing his musical performances with enormous heart. He invites Sammy to stay with him at his home, which he shares with his eccentric, paranoid landlord who—suspicious of Sammy's motives—begins to question his sudden appearance in Burt's life. From executive producer David Gordon Green (*Joe*, FFF 2014; *Snow Angels*, FFF 2008) and in the spirit of FFF's 2024 Grand Jury Award winner *All I've Got & Then Some*, *Burt* was filmed in just seven days on a \$7,000 budget, delivering sharp dialogue and a compelling story that is anchored by the film's brilliantly oddball performances and beautiful black-and-white cinematography. For the real Burt Berger, an LA singer-songwriter living with Parkinson's, this film is a love letter; for the director, whose own father is also battling Parkinson's, it serves as a lifeline; for the audience, it's a heartrending treatise on the power of independent storytelling.

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
2:30-4:15PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **JOE BURKE**
USA, 2025, 78 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Joe Burke (*Burt*) (he/him) is an indie filmmaker living in Los Angeles. With a distinctive voice, Burke continues to push boundaries

and tell compelling stories, filled with heart, laughs, and thrills. Enjoy more of his work at joeburke.net.



MONDAY, APRIL 14
6:30–8:45PM AT REGAL A

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
3:30–5:45PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **BILIANA**
 AND **MARINA GROZDANOVA**
 USA/BULGARIA, 2024, 108 MIN
 IN ENGLISH AND BOSNIAN
 WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 EAST COAST PREMIERE



Biliana and Marina Grozdanova (she/her) are Bulgarian-born, Brooklyn-based sister filmmakers. In 2012, they founded El Jinete Films and have been co-directing ever since. Their work has been supported by the Tribeca Film Institute, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, and the Montana Film Office. *Eastern Western* is their first feature narrative.

Eastern Western

With elegiac cinematography that captures the bold landscapes of the American West, the directing duo of sisters Biliana and Marina Grozdanova deliver a masterwork of hybrid narrative fiction. *Eastern Western* is an immersive narrative experience as meant only for the big screen. The film’s slow-burn narrative constructs an improvisational fiction set in the late 1880s, eventually crossing into the eve of World War I. Filmed in Montana and cast with non-actors who bring their on-screen characters to life through their personal lived experiences, *Eastern Western* crafts an ultra-realist portrayal of its protagonists and their experiences. If the rough cowboys and Eastern European immigrants we encounter on screen seem especially lifelike and nuanced in their performances, it’s because these fictive portrayals draw from the cast’s own lived experiences. *Eastern Western* invites audiences to fold history onto itself, examining the complexities of the American immigrant experience across three centuries.

It Ends

Alexander Ullom’s (“Saving Blockbuster,” FFF 2019) gripping comic-horror thriller *It Ends* plunges us into a nightmarish late-night drive for grub with four post-college friends, hoping to enjoy one final outing before their paths diverge. However, life derails as a wrong turn traps them on a never-ending loop to nowhere. Cramped inside a Jeep Cherokee in the Florida panhandle, with the road stretching infinitely before them, they face a chilling dilemma: resign themselves to this eternal nightmare or fight to break free. In a post-pandemic, late-stage capitalistic world, they must confront ceaseless terror and find a way to coexist with it—because that’s the only way they’ll survive. From producers Keith and Jess Calder (*You’re Next*, *The Guest*, *Anomalisa*) and FFF alumna Carrie Carusone (“Joining the Birds”), *It Ends* delivers *Twilight Zone*-esque tension as it sends a message to those who can’t explain their constant fear: even if our friends don’t have answers, there is still a connection because we’re all going through the same thing. We may struggle to maintain peace and sanity in our lives forever, but at least we can hang out.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
8:30–10:15PM AT REGAL B

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
9:15–11PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **ALEXANDER ULLOM**
 USA, 2025, 87 MIN
 EAST COAST PREMIERE



Alexander Ullom (*It Ends*), based in LA, is one of *Filmmaker Magazine*’s “25 New Faces of Independent Film.” His debut feature miraculously fell into place after a viral YouTube sketch, a lucky VR poker game, and a comment on a meme. Alex hopes to make films for anyone who’s dealing with stuff.



REEL REPRESENTATION

PRESENTED BY
TRAVEL + LEISURE CO.SUNDAY, APRIL 13
2-4PM AT ENZIANWEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
7-9PM AT REGAL BDIRECTED BY **J.T. WALKER**
USA, 2024, 100 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE**J.T. Walker**
(he/him) is a native of Austin, Texas. His short "Passengers" screened at Sundance andTelluride among many other festivals. His documentary "Oldtimers" screened widely and won the Special Jury Prize at the San Francisco Int'l Film Festival. *La Gloria* is his first feature film.

La Gloria

With standout performances from its leads, David Morse (*The Green Mile*, *Contact*) and Jaklyn Bejarano, *La Gloria* delivers a potent and timely morality play at the edge of the Mexico-U.S. border. When a border rancher (Morse) has a chance encounter with a Salvadoran woman (Bejarano) escaping violence back home, he's forced to make a difficult decision that may put him in direct conflict with his son, a U.S. Border Patrol agent (Bill Heck, *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*). *La Gloria* deftly explores the worlds of its characters, with a well-crafted script and a career-defining performance by Morse, whose embodiment of the reluctant-hero/American-cowboy archetype transcends procedural genre expectations, creating a complex, emotionally resonant character that draws the viewer in and doesn't let go. Writer/director J.T. Walker brings his personal perspective to bear in *La Gloria*, completing production on the ranch where he grew up, drawing from the experiences of his youth to craft this fundamentally American story.

Nobody Wants to Shoot a Woman

This gripping feminist crime noir tells the story of Mary and her son, who must fight to keep their home after her husband, John, a paranoid bank robber, squanders their money in a gambling spree. With John out of the picture, Mary steps in to take his place with his two partners, Sean and Dave. What starts as driving jobs soon escalates, and Mary earns the nickname "Machine Gun Mary," as she becomes a fierce backup. She even confronts her son's principal. But once she regains her dignity and secures some money, Sean proposes one final heist. Like a lost character from a gritty 1970s Scorsese film, Tina Benko delivers a powerful performance, offering a raw portrayal as a woman fighting against all odds in a world that marginalizes her. Caught at the intersection of motherhood, misogyny, and crime, Mary is determined to carve out a future for herself and her son. As her love for her child pushes her to make difficult choices, the bonds of loyalty and survival are tested, and Mary does whatever it takes to protect her family.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
5-7PM AT ENZIANWEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
9:30-11:15PM AT REGAL BDIRECTED BY **KERRY ANN ENRIGHT**
USA, 2024, 94 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIEREA native of Montréal, **Kerry Ann Enright** (she/her) is an accomplished and versatile filmmaker withtalent for engaging audiences with compelling stories. Enright's debut feature entitled *Nobody Wants to Shoot a Woman* shows attention to detail and a unique creative vision. Enright is currently in post-production on her second feature, *Tiger*.



SATURDAY, APRIL 12
11AM–12:45PM AT REGAL A

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
6:30–8:15PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **SUSIE YANKOU**
USA, 2024, 88 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Susie Yankou
(she/her) is a queer, comedic writer/director/producer whose work spans music videos, branded content,

TV, and features. Her debut feature *Sisters* played the Austin Film Festival and Inside Out, where it won the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature. She previously developed half-hour comedies for Belletrist TV and Moonshot Entertainment.

Sisters

Lou, a twenty-something L.A. native who could best describe herself as a bisexual singer-songwriter-standup comedienne, never expected to add “half-sister” to her list of hyphenates. Enter Priya, the stylish and effortlessly charming sister Lou never knew she had. Priya (Kausar Mohammed, TV’s *The Flash*, *4400*) makes her grand entrance at Lou’s father’s funeral—yes, literally during the service. With a little encouragement from her ever-supportive best friend Ester (Sarah Khasrovi), Lou (played by writer/director/producer Susie Yankou) and Priya attempt to condense two decades of missed sibling moments into a whirlwind of bonding. While exclusive supper clubs and trips to unpronounceable Greek islands have their charm, Lou starts to wonder if they measure up to fart jokes at lunch or practicing Australian accents. What happens when your new biological family’s extravagant lifestyle threatens the chosen family you’ve built your whole life around? Winner of the Audience Award at Toronto’s Inside Out Festival, Yankou’s first feature is a witty, dramatic, awkward, and frequently laugh-out-loud look at redefining what makes a modern family.



Somnium

Aspiring actress, Gemma (Chloë Levine, star of FFF 2018 Grand Jury Award winner *Savage Youth*), moves to Hollywood to catch her big break, but not before taking a temporary job at experimental sleep clinic Somnium, where client’s dreams are made real. While Gemma bounces from one casting call to another, strange things start happening at the clinic. As she seeks her big break, Gemma learns the hard way that side effects may include hallucinations, confusion, paranoia, detachment from reality, and permanent nightmares. A high-concept horror psychodrama, *Somnium* is bound to satisfy audiences who crave healthy doses of Cronenberg, Lynch, and Craven in their cinema (with a splash of Verhoeven for good measure)! Florida native and FSU film school graduate Racheal Cain writes and directs her own unique vision of horror with a tightly woven script, a top-notch performance from Levine, and fine supporting turns from Grace Van Dien (*Stranger Things*), Jonathon Schaech (*That Thing You Do*), and Peter Vack (FFF 2025’s www.rachelormont.com). *Somnium* gets scary and weird in all the best ways.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
6:15–8:15PM AT REGAL A

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
9:15–11PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **RACHEAL CAIN**
USA, 2024, 92 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Racheal Cain
(she/her) grew up in Miami in the ‘90s, making VHS horror movies with the neighborhood kids. She earned her BFA in film at

Florida State University. Cain’s feature debut, *Somnium*, won Chattanooga Film Festival’s 2024 Audience Award, the Silver Audience Award at Brooklyn Horror, and Best Actress at FilmQuest.



SATURDAY, APRIL 12
9:15–11PM AT ENZIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
4:45–6:30PM AT REGAL B

DIRECTED BY **YUN XIE**
USA, 2024, 75 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Yun Xie (*Under the Burning Sun*) (she/her), a writer/director born and raised in China, is based in Los Angeles. Her

passion for storytelling began in the theater of Shanghai, and she followed that passion to New York City, where she trained as a filmmaker at the School of Visual Arts.

Under the Burning Sun

In a bleak dystopian future, with barren lands and unforgiving deserts, abortion is outlawed. Mowanza, the victim of a violent rape resulting in pregnancy, learns of a distant land with a lenient abortion policy and embarks on a journey—armed only with a half-empty water bottle and a battered car—across the brutal terrain towards the promise of hope. Inspired by director Yun Xie’s reflections on her childhood in China and her mother’s experience with a hysterotomy, this aggressive, feminist take on *Mad Max* is a poignant and deeply relevant work of art. Mowanza is a woman who has never had the power to choose for her own body. Trapped in pain, she embarks on a journey to seek freedom, only to find it remains just out of reach. Though her struggle may seem endless, it’s the journey itself that matters. Boasting stunning cinematography and an exceptional score, this film delivers a powerful message advocating for the end of violence against women, the right to reproductive freedom, and the importance of empowering women to stand up for themselves in the face of unrelenting attacks on their personal body autonomy. Winner of Slamdance 2025’s Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature.



We Strangers

Sometimes, a little white lie can snowball into pretending you can communicate with the dead. For Ray, all it takes to become a fake clairvoyant is a keen sense of observation. That’s exactly what happens when she lands a cleaning job for the wealthy residents of Gary, Indiana. What starts as a harmless fib quickly becomes an intoxicating game as Ray manipulates her gullible clientele, weaving a web of deceit. Veteran television director Anu Valia’s (*She-Hulk*, *Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens*) striking feature debut boasts a standout cast led by Kirby Howell-Baptiste (*The Good Place*, *Barry*) in a performance so bold and gripping, you’ll be talking about it long after the credits roll. Through the lens of class boundaries and the hyper-awareness of racial constructs, this fresh and uncommon story offers a humorous yet deeply poignant exploration of the failures of exotic othering.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
4:30–6:15PM AT REGAL B

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
3:45–5:30PM AT ENZIAN

DIRECTED BY **ANU VALIA**
USA, 2024, 80 MINUTES
FLORIDA PREMIERE



Anu Valia (*We Strangers*) (she/her) is a writer/director whose roots are in India and Indiana. A graduate of

NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, Anu’s work has screened around the world. Her short film “Lucia, Before and After” won the US Fiction Award at the Sundance Film Festival in 2017.

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Chloe Gbai

Chloe Gbai is an Emmy®-nominated producer and filmmaker. She's worked for over a decade on independent and commercial projects, starting with her first PA job working for Amir Bar-Lev on *Happy Valley*. Her most recent project, "Shut Up and Paint," follows artist Titus Kaphar as he grapples with an insatiable art market seeking to silence his activism. The short film was released in 2022 on *POV Shorts*, played numerous film festivals, and has been honored with a Cinema Eye Nomination, and shortlisted for the 2023 Academy Awards® for the Short Documentary category. She currently works on the original documentary films team at Netflix. Previously, as the POV shorts and streaming producer, she launched *POV Shorts*, which in its first season earned a documentary short Oscar® nomination, two Emmy® nominations, and an IDA Awards nomination for Best Short Form Series. She's a graduate from NYU's Gallatin School, a proud member of Brown Girls Doc Mafia, a 2020 Impact Partners Producing fellow, a DOC NYC New Leader, and a member-in-residence of the Meerkat Media Collective.



Monica Castillo

Monica Castillo is a critic, journalist, and the senior film programmer at the Jacob Burns Film Center. Her work has appeared in *RogerEbert.com*, NPR, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, KCRW, Mashable, Colorado Public Radio, NBC News, *TheWrap*, *Elle Magazine*, *Marie Claire*, *Vulture*, and Paley Center for Media among others. She is a member of the New York Film Critics Circle, the Critics Choice Association, and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. Monica is a proud Floridian happy to be back in the Sunshine State.



Denny Tedesco

Denny Tedesco grew up in Los Angeles. Over the years, he has worked on films, commercials, and music videos as set decorator, grip, lighting technician, location producer, and as freelance producer and director. He produced Comedy Central's *Pulp Comics*, the Academy Awards® opening starring Billy Crystal, and the award-winning music video for Elton John's song "I Want Love." With his brother, mixing engineer Damon Tedesco, Denny created CD Promo, a music label that produced over 100 jazz and classical promotional CDs. In 1996—with only a year left in the life of his father, famed session guitarist Tommy Tedesco—Denny started filming his father, his cohorts, and other musicians fondly known as The Wrecking Crew. The highly lauded film *The Wrecking Crew* was released on Netflix in 2015 and continues to play VOD platforms. Denny's latest directing project, *Immediate Family*—a music documentary that follows up on the success of *The Wrecking Crew*—was released in December 2023, went on to win 18 awards, and is currently featured on Hulu, where *The Wrecking Crew* is also featured. His latest producing job is *Hanging with Doctor Z*, and he is also currently in production on the documentary *Manhattan Transfer* and in pre-production on *Clap for the Wolfman Jack*.



SUNDAY, APRIL 13
1-3PM AT REGAL B

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
12:45-2:45PM AT ENZIAN

Ada—My Mother the Architect

DIRECTED BY **Yael Melamede**
USA, 2024, 81 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND HEBREW
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Yael Melamede (she/her) founded the independent production company SALTY Features over two decades ago. Its most recent films include *Death & Taxes*, *Ada—My Mother the Architect*, *Floyd Abrams: Speaking Freely*, and *Pay or Die*.

Dears in the Headlights

DIRECTED BY **Julia Jansch**
USA/SOUTH AFRICA, 2025, 16 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND WOLOF
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Julia Jansch (“Dears in the Headlights”) (she/her) is a Tribeca-winning filmmaker whose work has been commissioned and acquired by Disney, MTV, and *The New Yorker*. Her films, including “My Father the Mover,” “ELSA,” and “The Academy,” blend poetic storytelling with social themes. She’s currently packaging her debut feature *The Big Five* with Coco Francini.



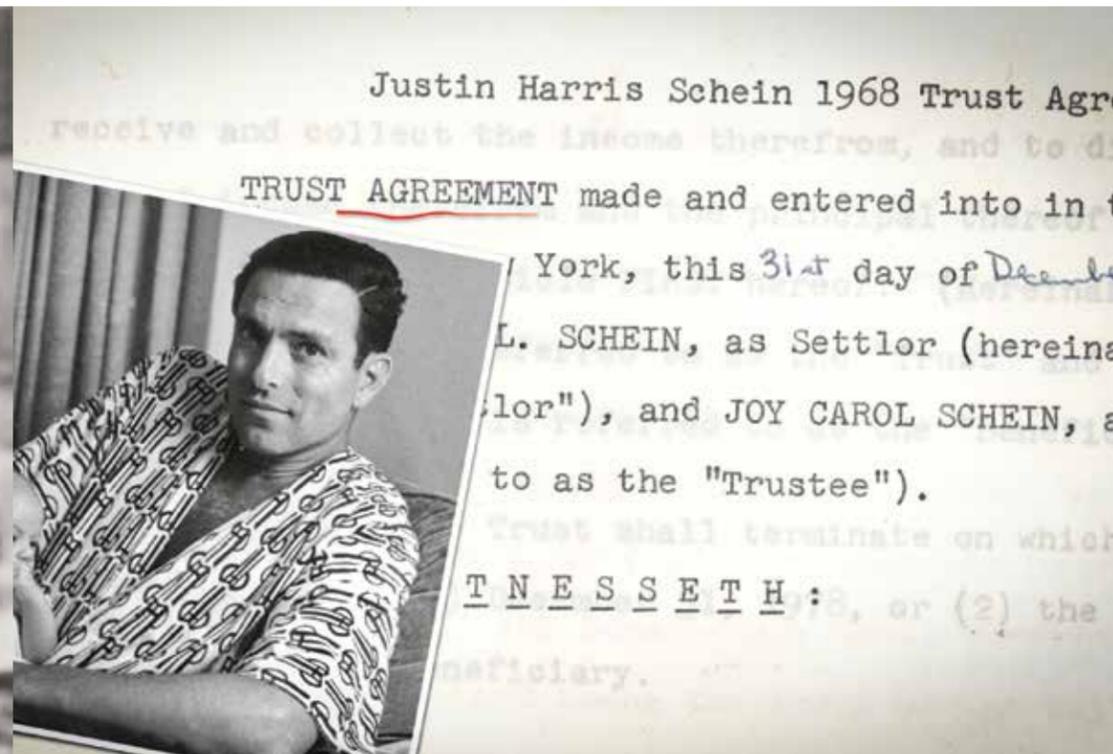
Ada—My Mother the Architect

Ada Karmi Melamede is one of the most accomplished female architects in the world, but very little is known about her outside her home country of Israel. This deeply moving portrait—directed by her daughter, filmmaker and former architect Yael Melamede (producer of *Death & Taxes*, FFF 2025)—reveals Ada as a true pioneer who, like many successful working mothers of her time, was forced to make impossible choices. Despite personal sacrifices, Ada’s work gave physical form to some of Israel’s highest democratic ideals, most notably in the acclaimed Supreme Court building in Jerusalem, the Open University, Ben Gurion Airport, and numerous civic institutions around the country. This extraordinary and fascinating film follows a woman and artist who is profoundly challenged by the demands of career and motherhood, exploring the unique bond between mother and daughter, while also reflecting on a fragile nation struggling with unfulfilled dreams.

PRECEDED BY

Dears in the Headlights

Motivated by the tragic death of her brother, Philli creates art from roadkill while her mother establishes South Africans Against Drunk Driving, channeling their grief into art and activism. From the director of “My Father, the Mover” (FFF 2020).



Death & Taxes

Harvey Schein lived the American dream—rising from Depression-era Brooklyn to the boardroom and becoming one of America’s top executives (Columbia House Record Club!). But his golden years weren’t spent soaking up success; they were consumed by a single mission: outsmarting the death tax. FFF Grand Jury award-winner Justin Schein (*Left on Purpose*, FFF 2016) utilizes decades of family footage, candid interviews, clever animation, and sharp commentary from both sides of the issue, creating a nuanced, highly entertaining, and deeply personal exploration of wealth obsession. *Death & Taxes* takes an unflinching look at the lengths one man (the filmmaker’s father) will go to secure a financial legacy, while also examining the broader social and economic consequences of inherited wealth. The film delves into the motivations, emotions, and ethical dilemmas tied to protecting a fortune, alongside the far-reaching impact of tax laws and loopholes that shape America’s financial landscape. Through intimate stories and contrasting perspectives, it’s a compelling dive into the complex intersection of family, legacy, and wealth, revealing not just the pursuit of money, but the human drive to preserve what one has built, and the sometimes troubling consequences of that pursuit.

PRECEDED BY

Just the Tip

You’re born, you have a party, you get part of your dick cut off, and everyone has a bagel. Welcome to Judaism. A sweet and funny look at circumcision, from the provocative director of “Meet My Rapist” (FFF 2014) and “He’s the One” (FFF 2020).

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
11AM-1PM AT ENZIAN

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
6-8PM AT REGAL B

Death & Taxes

DIRECTED BY **JUSTIN SCHEIN**
USA, 2024, 86 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING



Justin Schein (*Death & Taxes*) (he/him) has been making social issue documentaries for 30 years. His films *Left on Purpose* and *No Impact Man* have won numerous awards and screened around the world. As a cinematographer, he has shot over 60 films including the Oscar®-nominated *Crip Camp*. Justin co-founded Shadowbox Films in 1998.

Just the Tip

DIRECTED BY **JESSIE KAHNWEILER**
USA, 2024, 14 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE



Jessie Kahnweiler's (“Just the Tip”) (she/her) films have been featured everywhere from *The New York Times* to the Cannes Film Festival. Jessie wrote, directed, and starred in *The Skinny*, a dark comedic series based on her ten-year relationship with bulimia, that premiered at Sundance. Jessie has developed shows for CW, Hulu, ABC, and Fox.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
6:15–8:15PM AT ENZIAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
4–6PM AT REGAL B

Fatherless No More

DIRECTED BY **KAYLA JOHNSON**
 USA, 2025, 86 MIN
 WORLD PREMIERE



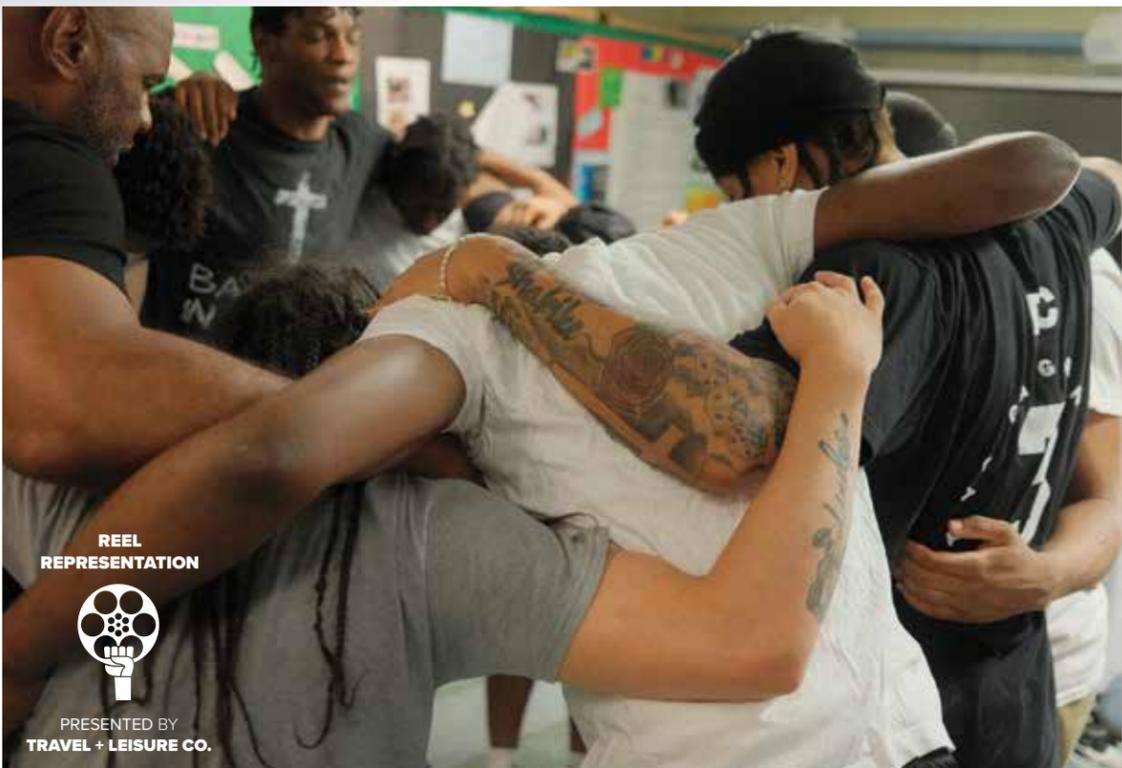
Kayla Johnson
 (*Fatherless No More*) (she/her) is a four-time nominee for best documentary at the Pan African Film Festival, British Urban Film Festival, Austin Film Festival, and Best Georgia Feature winner at the 2023 Atlanta Film Festival for the Oscar®-qualified film *Fenom*. She served as an ESPN digital producer and a 2019 Webby Award honoree.

Livestreams with GrandmaPuzzles

DIRECTED BY **EMILY SHESKIN**
 USA, 2024, 7 MIN
 SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Emily Sheskin
 (“Livestreams with GrandmaPuzzles”) (she/her) is an award-winning film and commercial director who tells stories full of optimism and resilience, without glossing over life’s challenges. She holds a BFA from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts and is a member of New York Women in Film & Television, Film Shop, and IFP.



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Fatherless No More

Super Bowl champion, defensive lineman, and Orlando pastor Tim Johnson had a simple morning routine: he would find a quiet spot and pray. One morning, during his prayer, he distinctly heard two words: “Riker’s Island.” Confused, he paused to google the name and discovered it was one of the most notorious and violent prisons in the world. Initially asking himself, “What does this have to do with me?” Johnson did not ignore the divine message. Taking it seriously, he left behind a comfortable life in his Central Florida community and made the bold decision to move into an RV, heading to New York to launch a rehabilitation program at the prison. His efforts resulted in a 67% drop in violence among the inmates. Through not just words, but tangible acts of love and commitment, Johnson became a father figure to many of the young men, providing guidance and support they had never received before. Co-produced by Cole Anthony of the Orlando Magic and gospel music legend CeCe Winans, *Fatherless No More* is a powerfully compassionate and faith-driven story of one inspiring man, whose courage of conviction and passionate goal of not leaving even the most forgotten men of society behind are testament to the freedom that comes from embracing love in all its forms.

PRECEDED BY

Livestreams with GrandmaPuzzles

In a time when social interaction is hard to come by, one grandma shares her hobby with an audience wider than you may expect. From the director of “Jesszilla” (FFF 2018).



I’m Your Venus

Long before Madonna vogued, Gaga bad-romanced, or RuPaul drag-raced, there was New York City’s ballroom scene, mostly made up of Black and Latinx runaways, and chronicled in Jennie Livingston’s legendary 1991 documentary *Paris is Burning*. At the heart of the NYC drag and ballroom culture, a certified goddess emerged—petite, fierce, and radiating beauty, glamor, and swagger. Named Venus Xtravaganza, she made you believe she could break through to a kind of superstardom that didn’t even exist yet. She emerged, fully formed, as a global trans icon in *Paris is Burning*, but tragically, she wouldn’t live to see the film’s release as she was found murdered on December 21, 1988, at just 23 years old. Now, decades later, *I’m Your Venus* picks up a trail gone cold as her two families—biological and ballroom—come together to honor her memory, seek answers about her death, and in the process find unexpected common ground. Three-time FFF alumna Kimberly Reed (“Seat 31: Zoey Zephyr,” FFF 2024) returns to the festival with this emotional powerhouse of a film.

PRECEDED BY

Shade in the Sunshine State

A glimpse into the ways the LGBTQ+ ballroom community in Miami uses performance as a form of political activism in a state that is currently passing legislation to deny the rights of queer and transgender people.



SATURDAY, APRIL 12
9:15–11:15PM AT REGAL B

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
3:45–5:45PM AT ENZIAN

I’m Your Venus

DIRECTED BY **KIMBERLY REED**
 USA, 2024, 85 MIN
 FLORIDA PREMIERE



Director/Producer **Kimberly Reed’s** (*I’m Your Venus*) (she/her) films include *Dark Money, Equal, Prodigal Sons*, and *Transhood*. Her films garnered international acclaim including the Oscar® shortlist, duPont Columbia Prize, and four Critics Choice nominations; premiered at Telluride & Sundance; and were released on HBO/Max, Netflix, and PBS. Her most recent film “Seat 31: Zoey Zephyr” was shortlisted for the 2025 Academy Awards®.

Shade in the Sunshine State

DIRECTED BY **OLIVIA BENDIS, BEN NAKHUDA, AND JULIO ROCHA**
 USA, 2024, 14 MIN
 FLORIDA PREMIERE



Olivia Bendis, Ben Nakhuda, and Julio Rocha are a team of directors based in Southern California. After meeting in Chapman University’s documentary program, they conceptualized “Shade in the Sunshine State” along with DP Jake diTargiani and producer Nana

Nakano. The film explores their shared interest in the performing arts and political protest.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
1:45-4PM AT REGAL B

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
1:30-3:45PM AT ENZIAN

The Lost Wolves of Yellowstone

DIRECTED BY **THOMAS WINSTON**
 USA, 2025, 93 MIN
 SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Thomas Winston (*The Lost Wolves of Yellowstone*) (he/him) is an Emmy® award-winning filmmaker and the founder/CEO of Grizzly Creek Films, an independent production company in Montana. Tom and his team have created original series and documentary films for Disney+, National Geographic, and PBS, among others. His films have screened Tribeca, BFI London, Mill Valley and CPH:DOX.

This Land

DIRECTED BY **MIKE BRADLEY**
 USA, 2025, 20 MIN
 EAST COAST PREMIERE



Mike Bradley (“This Land”) (he/him) is a film school reject and a former newspaper photographer for clients including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Bloomberg*. His documentary work explores subjects including Indigenous land issues, addiction, and the criminal justice system.



The Lost Wolves of Yellowstone

On January 12, 1995, wolves returned to Yellowstone National Park, 50 years after their elimination. On that fateful day, Mollie Beattie carried the first Canadian-born wolf, Alpha Female Wolf #5, into Yellowstone’s experimental acclimation enclosure. From that day forward, their lives would be forever connected. The first female director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Mollie Beattie’s journey to this monumental moment included a brief stint as a fashion model in New York and a life-changing Outward Bound expedition that inspired her to pursue a career in environmental science and conservation. In-depth interviews with the key players at the center of the historic Yellowstone wolf reintroduction keep us on the edge of our seats as they guide us through the story as it happens. Director Thomas Winston’s (producer of *Path of the Panther*, FFF 2022, and “Chasing Ghosts,” FFF 2020) latest is a thrilling document of this historic undertaking—accented by gorgeous cinematography (also by Winston) and incredible 16mm film footage, recovered and restored for the very first time.

PRECEDED BY

This Land

In 1974, Mohawk Indians fight to reclaim their land from the State of New York in one of the only examples of Indigenous people successfully recovering land in the United States.



No One Died: The Wing Bowl Story

Delve into the outrageous and wild world of the Wing Bowl, a Philadelphia-based competitive eating contest that captivated fans for over two decades. From its humble beginnings as a local radio promotion, to its transformation into a larger-than-life phenomenon, this one-of-a-kind spectacle drew tens of thousands of fans and featured jaw-dropping feats of gluttony. Director Pat Taggart’s bacchanalian documentary takes a closer look at the eccentric personalities of the competitors, particularly the rise and fall of legendary eaters like “Sonny,” “El Wingador,” “Sloth,” and “The Black Widow,” and the impact the contest had on the city’s culture. With a mix of personal stories from participants, fans, and critics, it offers a behind-the-scenes look at the lives of the competitive eaters, many of whom sacrificed their health for the spotlight in what became a beloved and controversial tradition before its eventual end in 2018. Hilarious and captivating, the film examines the absurdity, excess, and camaraderie that defined this unique chapter in Philadelphia’s history.

PRECEDED BY

Georgie

Georgie is like many retirees, full of wisdom and interesting life stories that reflect on love, happiness, fear, and loss. Georgie also happens to be a very charismatic, entertaining ex-mobster and drug kingpin in the Philly mafia.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
3-5:15PM AT ENZIAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
9:30-11:45PM AT REGAL B

No One Died: The Wing Bowl Story

DIRECTED BY **PAT TAGGART**
 USA, 2024, 91 MIN
 SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/
 2ND US SCREENING



A lifelong Philadelphian, **Pat Taggart** (he/him) gravitates towards edgy/quirky/funny stories with memorable characters. *No One Died: The Wing Bowl Story* is his third feature film and certainly the most challenging edit, with 26 years of insanity packed into 90 minutes.

Georgie

DIRECTED BY **JENNIE BUTLER**
 USA, 2024, 14 MIN
 FLORIDA PREMIERE



Jennie Butler (she/her) is a documentary filmmaker based in LA and NYC. She was an AP on the documentary *Tell Them You Love Me*, which was the #1 film on Netflix following its 2024 release. Her documentary short “Georgie” has screened at DOC NYC, New/Next, Aspen Shortsfest, CUFF Docs, and more.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
4:30–6:30PM AT REGAL A

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

Not One Drop of Blood

DIRECTED BY **JACKSON DEVEREUX**
 AND **LACHLAN HINTON**
 USA, 2025, 85 MIN
 EAST COAST PREMIERE



Jackson Devereux and **Lachlan Hinton** (*Not One Drop of Blood*) are Australian documentarians based in Brooklyn, known for their character-driven films on socio-political issues. Their work has premiered at Tribeca and DOC NYC; has been recognized with Emmy®, RFK Journalism, and AAFCA honors; and features in *The New York Times* and *Vice*.



Psychedelic in the Sky

DIRECTED BY **MATTHEW SALTON**
 USA, 2025, 11 MIN
 FLORIDA PREMIERE



Matthew Salton (“Psychedelic in the Sky”) (he/him), a filmmaker and artist from Washington state, currently lives in Berlin,

Germany. His first documentary feature *Dwarves Kingdom* is about a Chinese theme park that employs 100 little people. His last two films, “Richard Twice” and “Santa Is a Psychedelic Mushroom,” premiered in 2017 as *New York Times Op-Docs*.

Not One Drop of Blood

Something haunting is at the heart of this portrait of the American West. Harney County, Oregon, seems like idyllic cowboy country; however, fear and distrust lay just beneath the surface of this isolated agrarian community. For over 50 years, a mystery has baffled ranchers and law enforcement alike: who or what is responsible for the killing and mutilation of cattle, by inexplicable methods, leaving not one drop of blood? As the investigation into these grisly events unfolds, the film explores not only the elusive perpetrators but also the deep-seated superstitions of rural farmers, their fear of the unknown, and the indomitable human spirit in the face of the inexplicable. It also challenges the notion that a community can be easily defined by its geography. *Not One Drop of Blood* offers a peculiar and vivid tribute to modern Americana, while contemplating the enduring allure of the American West.

PRECEDED BY

Psychedelic in the Sky

Perhaps stories of unidentified flying objects and alien life coming to earth have more to do with spirituality than science-fiction? Somewhere in the gray area between science and faith, two-time FFF alumnus Matthew Salton (“Patty, Are You Bringing Weed in from Jamaica?” FFF 2020; “Richard Twice,” FFF 2017) finds inspiration (if not answers) in his latest work of documentary animation.



¡Quba!

¡Quba! follows a diverse group of LGBTQ+ activists as they advocate for enshrining the family code (marriage equality) into the Cuban constitution. Ramon Silverio and Adela Hernandez, who have been working in this movement for over 40 years, join with younger activists, Las Isabellas, in Santiago de Cuba, as well as Ulises Suarez and Cenesex director Mariela Castro in Havana. After decades, Cubans were able to create a bridge between the Cuban government (Cenesex) and the population despite the vitriol of the evangelical Methodist church and the ever-present machismo embedded in Cuban culture. Activists both inside and outside the government creatively move the country to be more inclusive, more tolerant, and more aware that LGBTQ+ equality is an essential component of the revolution. This story of love uses music (Los Zafiros!) and performance to stimulate joy and justice along the way to Cuba becoming the first Communist government in the world to include LGBTQ+ human rights.

PRECEDED BY

Icebreakers

The elite sport of ice skating bans same-sex pairs and gender fluidity, but at the Gay Games skating competition in Paris, queer skaters are free to express themselves and their identities. Co-directed by Marlo Poras (*Mai’s America*, FFF 2002).



MONDAY, APRIL 14
8:30–10:15PM AT REGAL B

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
6:30–8:30PM AT REGAL B

¡Quba!

DIRECTED BY **KIM ANNO**
 USA/CUBA, 2025, 70 MIN
 IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH
 SUBTITLES
 SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/
 2ND US SCREENING



Kim Anno (*¡Quba!*) (she/her) is a filmmaker/video artist whose work has been screened and exhibited by museums and film

festivals/venues nationally and internationally. She received a Guggenheim fellowship as well as an Asian Cultural Council fellowship, and a Henry Luce foundation award in 2024.

Icebreakers

DIRECTED BY **MARLO PORAS**
 AND **JOCELYN GLATZER**
 USA, 2025, 22 MIN
 EAST COAST PREMIERE/
 2ND US SCREENING



Marlo Poras (“Icebreakers”) (she/her) produced, directed, and shot the critically acclaimed, award-winning feature documentaries



Mai’s America (P.O.V.), *Run Granny Run* (HBO), and *The Mosuo Sisters* (PBS).

She’s currently developing *The Escape*, a personal documentary. **Jocelyn Glatzer** (she/her) is an award-winning filmmaker focused on creating documentaries that highlight individuals inspiring hope, love and compassion. Her works include the Emmy®-nominated *The Flute Player*, Oscar®-nominated *My Country, My Country*, and numerous dance- and arts-based projects.

MONDAY, APRIL 14
6-8PM AT REGAL B

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
9:30-11:30PM AT ENZIAN

Something Better Change

DIRECTED BY **SCOTT CRAWFORD**
USA, 2024, 85 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Scott Crawford
(*Something Better Change*) (he/him) has been a filmmaker for the last ten years. His first film was

Salad Days: A Decade of Punk in Washington, DC, and the follow-up was *CREEM: America's Only Rock 'n' Roll Magazine*. Both films received critical acclaim and multiple film festival awards.

Adidas Owns the Reality

DIRECTED BY **KEIL ORION TROISI**
AND **IGOR VAMOS**
USA/NETHERLANDS, 2024, 22 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND KHMER WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE



Igor Vamos
(“Adidas Owns the Reality”) is a founder of notorious comedy-activism group The Yes

Men, whose satirical interventions form the basis of three award-winning documentaries. **Keil Orion Troisi** has been a core member since 2012. He has collaborated with dozens of activist groups, using humor to advance environmental and social justice campaigns.



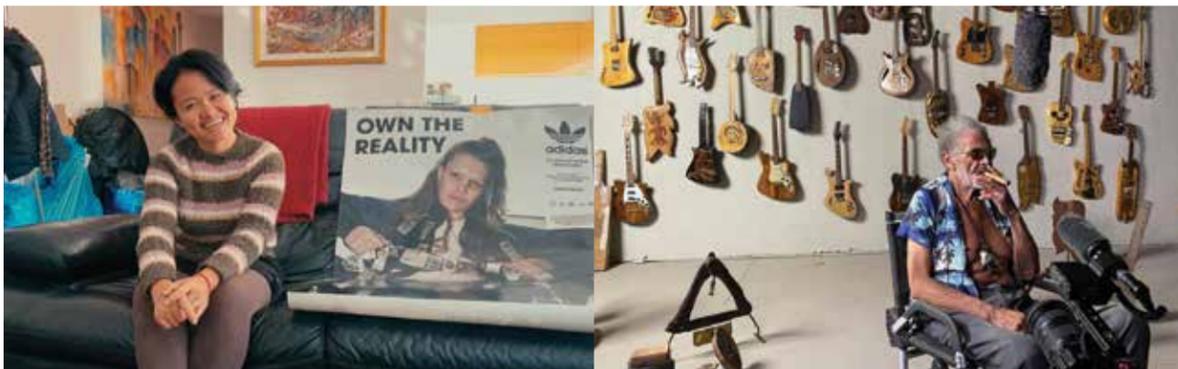
Something Better Change

Canadian punk-rock legend Joey “Shithead” Keithley—frontman of the iconic band D.O.A. and a pioneer of hardcore punk—brings his defiant energy from the stage to the Burnaby, British Columbia, city council race. Known for his fiery lyrics and relentless advocacy, Keithley lives by his punk mantra, “Talk - Action = Zero,” and aims to channel that ethos into political activism. Director Scott Crawford (*Salad Days: A Decade of Punk in Washington D.C.*, FFF 2015, and *Creem: America's Only Rock 'n' Roll Magazine*, FFF 2020) returns with this chronicle of Keithley's unconventional, \$7,000 grassroots campaign as he blends raw DIY ethos with a heartfelt mission to make his community stronger, while challenging the status quo. Featuring interviews with punk legends, including Ian MacKay (Minor Threat/ Fugazi), Keith Morris (Black Flag/Circle Jerks), Dave Grohl (Nirvana/Foo Fighters), East Bay Ray (Dead Kennedys), and Henry Rollins; behind-the-scenes campaign footage; and electrifying moments of raw determination, Keithley's story proves that rebellion and hope can thrive, even in the halls of politics.

PRECEDED BY

Adidas Owns the Reality

In a brilliant display of guerrilla activism, the Yes Men (*The Yes Men Fix the World*) successfully deceive the fashion elite and the world, while shining a spotlight on the harsh realities of Adidas's factory conditions.



Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere

Witness the fascinating story of a photographer and photojournalist's entire career in his own gentle and humble words. After taking some of the most classic photographs in Hollywood history, Steve Schapiro set his sights on something that he felt was significantly more important: documenting the civil unrest that was happening in Black America. Shapiro provided America with iconic images to magnify the voices of James Baldwin, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and many more. His stories are remarkable not because they're his alone, but because of the selfless dedication to public service he pursued in his own distinctive way. *Being Everywhere* honors the legendary photographer's remarkable career, his unparalleled ability to capture defining moments in history, and his unique fortune to be present at key moments of social change, revealing his deep empathy and unwavering commitment to documenting the human experience.

PRECEDED BY

Freeman Vines

Freeman Vines spent his life looking for the perfect materials to craft a guitar that will make the perfect sound. That perfection may come from a place that is least expected—the town's former lynching tree.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
11:30AM-1:15PM
AT REGAL B

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
4:45-6:30PM AT ENZIAN

Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere

DIRECTED BY **MAURA SMITH**
USA, 2025, 71 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE



As a graduate of the USC Cinema Department, **Maura Smith** (*Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere*) went on to direct

Towing, with Sue Lyon and Joe Mantegna. While in Columbia University's MFA film program, Smith received first prize for the Zaki Gordon Memorial Award in screenwriting. Smith has directed for Sony Music, BBC TV, and Paramount.

Freeman Vines

DIRECTED BY **ANDRÉ ROBERT LEE**
AND **TIM KIRKMAN**
USA, 2025, 14 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/
2ND US SCREENING



André Robert Lee (“Freeman Vines”) (he/him) is a filmmaker, keynote speaker, and educator whose work has appeared at NYC Public Schools, Ford Foundation, Urbanworld, Film Movement, BET, Paramount, Universal, PBS, HBO, Sundance, Picturehouse, NPR, and CNN. Emmy®, GLAAD, Gotham, and Spirit Award nominee **Tim Kirkman** (he/him) directed *Dear Jesse*, *Loggerheads*, *Lazy Eye*, *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, and *2nd Serve*.



5X Real

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 120 MIN

MONDAY, APRIL 14
3-5:30PM AT REGAL B

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
1-3:30PM AT REGAL A



The Little Brown Bird

DIRECTED BY **KT BRYDEN**
USA, 2025, 33 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

Once down to just 80 birds in the wild, the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow is at risk of extinction. Biologist Fabiola “Fabby” Baeza-Tarin and a group of unexpected collaborators work to protect the sparrows, their shrinking habitat, and the headwaters of the Everglades. This stunning documentary from director/producer KT Bryden (who also shot segments for 2022 FFF Audience Award winner *Path of the Panther*) is set in the heart of the I-4 corridor and shines an important light on the work of these incredible environmentalists.



KT Bryden (“The Little Brown Bird”) (she/her) is an Emmy®-winning cinematographer, director, producer, and conservationist. Her work has been featured on Disney+, PBS, and National Geographic. As Wildpath’s executive producer, she collaborates with scientists and conservationists to create impactful films that inspire audiences to protect our planet.



Institution

DIRECTED BY **JONATHAN WYSOCKI**
USA, 2024, 3 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

In the aftermath of the overturning of Roe vs. Wade and its possible repercussions on millions of due process clause cases, filmmaker Jonathan Wysocki (“Adjust-a-Dream,” FFF 2015) contemplates his same-sex marriage, his parents’ “traditional” marriage, the Apollo 13 space mission, and a debate against a marriage equality bill.



Jonathan Wysocki’s (“Institution”) (he/him) award-winning feature *Dramarama* was distributed on Hulu, and his many short films have screened at festivals worldwide. Wysocki is a fellow of the Sundance Screenwriters and Directors Labs, a Project Involve fellow at Film Independent, a Berlinale Talent Campus alum, and a clinical assistant professor at LMU.



The Devil is Busy

DIRECTED BY **GEETA GANDBHIR**
AND **CHRISTALYN HAMPTON**
USA, 2024, 31 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

As the director of operations and security at an abortion clinic in Atlanta, Georgia, that is besieged by protestors, Tracy doesn’t take any chances when it comes to the safety of both the patients and the staff. Executive produced by CNN’s Soledad O’Brien, “The Devil is Busy” is an eye-opening, portrayal of the shifting landscape for abortion providers in America.



Christalyn Hampton (“The Devil is Busy”) is an award-winning producer and casting director. Credits include *Through Our Eyes: “Homefront”* (HBO MAX, NAACP nomination) and *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* (Peacock). **Geeta Gandbhir** is an Academy Award®-winning director, producer, and editor. Credits include *Born in Synanon* (Paramount), *Eyes on the Prize* (HBO), and *Lowndes County and the Road to Black Power*.



The Conscience Files

DIRECTED BY **BRIAN BOLSTER**
USA, 2025, 14 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

The U.S. National Park Service’s reminder to “take only photographs; leave only footprints” is often seen as the umbrella code of conduct at its majestic locations. But for many visitors to Arizona’s Petrified Forest National Park, the temptation to procure some of its glittery, colorful stones has proven to be irresistible. Unfortunately, that act is also rumored to be cursed. 2019 FFF Grand Jury Award winner Brian Bolster (“Departing Gesture”) turns his quirky lens on this alien landscape to document many of the strange stories surrounding these sacred rocks.



Brian Bolster (“The Conscience Files”) (he/him) is a multi-award winning filmmaker whose work has screened at over 80 international film festivals worldwide, including Sundance, Tribeca, and Full Frame and has been distributed by *The New Yorker*, The Atlantic Video, Aeon Video, United Airlines, and Time Warner Cable among other channels.



Bad Hostage

DIRECTED BY **MIMI WILCOX**
USA, 2024, 39 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SWEDISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Emmy® and ACE award-winning director Mimi Wilcox (co-editor FFF 2021’s *The Dilemma of Desire*) puts her own family under the microscope as her grandmother recounts being held hostage by a pair of gunmen in the 1970s. After the incident she shocked her small town by declaring that she felt more threatened by the police than by the men holding her hostage. A thrilling piece of family lore intersects with the famous kidnapping of Patty Hearst and a dramatic bank heist in Sweden as it strives to dissect the sexism and misogyny at the heart of the pernicious origins of “Stockholm Syndrome.”



Mimi Wilcox is an Emmy®-nominated and ACE Eddie award-winning documentary editor and filmmaker. Her film “Bad Hostage” was shortlisted as a best documentary of the year by the IDA. She has edited documentaries for Netflix, Hulu, Amazon, Showtime, MAX, and Criterion; festival premieres include SXSW, Tribeca, CPH:DOX, and Sheffield DocFest.



FilmFreeway



American Independent Competition Shorts Jury



Adam Brook

Adam Brook is the director of theatrical sales at Magnolia Pictures where he discusses movies to the nth degree with coworkers and theatrical buyers alike. He previously worked at Sony Pictures Classics in theatrical sales working on such varied titles as *The Wife*, *Maiden*, *The Father*, *Parallel Mothers*, and *Wicked Little Letters*. At one time he ran a small television production studio producing satellite media tours for major film studios and television networks that introduced him to such varied celebrities as Caesar Milan, Ricky Martin, and Steven Spielberg, Meryl Streep, and Tom Hanks while they were promoting *The Post*. He received a BA in film studies from Chapman University. While at Magnolia he's had the privilege of working on numerous films such as *Thelma*, *One to One: John & Yoko*, and the forthcoming *Swamp Dogg Gets His Pool Painted*.



Brian Tallerico

Brian Tallerico is the managing editor of RogerEbert.com, the president of the Chicago Film Critics Association, and the co-producer of the Chicago Critics Film Festival. As an entertainment journalist for nearly 25 years, he freelances for *The A.V. Club*, *Vulture*, *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *GQ*, *L.A. Times*, *Arrow Films*, and more. He appears regularly on podcasts, radio, and at film festivals, discussing movies, TV, video games, books, and entertainment news. As the managing editor of RogerEbert.com, he manages a staff of dozens of freelancers, assigning and editing most of the content on the site, while also serving as one of the company's main critics. He is nothing without his wife Lauren, and three boys: Lucas, Miles, and Noah. They make everything possible and everything worthwhile.



Alisha Wainwright

Alisha Wainwright is an actress, director, podcast host, and former scientist. She is best known for starring as Nicole Warren in Netflix's *Raising Dion*. She also played Maia Roberts in Freeform's hit supernatural drama *Shadowhunters* and currently stars in the Apple TV+ comedy series *Platonic*. Expanding her creative scope, Wainwright directed "Scattered," a short film that premiered at the 2024 Florida Film Festival. She also hosts *When Science Finds a Way*, a podcast about the science changing the world. Before joining the film industry, Wainwright studied at the University of Florida and worked as a plant scientist, a background that fuels her curiosity and creativity.



SHORTS 1: Kick Out the Jams

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 90 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
1:15–3:15PM AT REGAL A

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
6:30–8:30PM AT REGAL A

What a feeling! These films come in hot, quick, and tight—bursting with energy, emotion, and a need to be heard. Whether loud or quiet, wild or raw, they all demand one thing: Let me be who I am.



we good?

DIRECTED BY **SHAWN DEMPEWOLFF**
USA, 2024, 12 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

On the advice of counsel, a nebbishy tech executive visits a woman he had an awkward one-night stand with fifteen years ago to make sure she won't threaten his impending IPO.



Witness

DIRECTED BY **RADHA MEHTA AND SAIF JAAN**
USA, 2024, 14 MIN
IN ENGLISH, URDU, AND ARABIC
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

An esteemed imam is furious and dumbfounded when he learns that a sacred ceremony he performed may be invalidated due to a secret kept from him by his most trusted assistant, in this new film from the director of "Evan Ever After" (FFF 2023 Audience Award for Best Florida Short).



Cherry-Colored Funk

DIRECTED BY **CHELSIE PENNELLO**
USA, 2025, 16 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A serial grifter sees all his angry chickens come home to roost when seemingly everyone he's ever wronged shows up on the opening day of his dubious Italian ice business.



Em & Selma Go Griffin Hunting

DIRECTED BY **ALEXANDER THOMPSON**
USA, 2025, 18 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Tensions boil up between a mother and daughter—Pollyanna McIntosh (*The Walking Dead*) and Milly Shapiro (*Hereditary*)—when the girl balks at delivering the killing blow during her first griffin hunt in this grim fantasy tale set in a dark alternate version of our 1930s reality.



Juana Pelos

DIRECTED BY **MARIA MEALLA**
USA, 2025, 8 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

A young Latina girl, getting bullied at school for her prominent leg hair, begs her mother to let her shave her legs. When her mom adamantly refuses, the girl turns to her older sister for help.



remember me

DIRECTED BY **CLAIRE LORY TITELMAN**
USA, 2025, 9 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

A woman whose social skills have grown rusty—due to an extended period spent alone caring for her ailing father—rehearses for an upcoming date, her first in a long while.



The Truck

DIRECTED BY **ELIZABETH RAO**
USA, 2024, 13 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

When a rural drug store won't sell them a morning-after pill, a young couple is forced to deal with a sleazy store employee who demands an upsetting payment in addition to taking all their cash.

Shorts Program 1 Directors



Shawn Dempewolf ("we good?") (he/him) is a writer, director, and producer. He got his start as an assistant to *The Office* writers Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupnitsky, and his first break writing/producing *Replay* for Go90. He's had features packaged by CAA and has pitched TV projects to all the places that make them.



Claire Titelman (she/her) is a filmmaker, actor, and Andy Kaufman Award-nominated comedian. Her film "remember me" had its premiere at Sundance '25. She was named one of *LA Weekly's* "Eight L.A. Artists and Art-World Figures to Watch." She has been on numerous TV shows and films, including a roundtable regular on *Chelsea Lately*.



Maria Mealla ("Juana Pelos") (she/her) was raised in Bolivia on a healthy balance of cultural folklore and Catholic superstition. Her short film "La Macana" won HBO's 2023 Pa'lante Competition and was licensed by MAX.

Mealla's work has been supported by the Tribeca Institute, Stowe Story Labs, and PBS's Latinx branch, Latino Public Broadcasting.



Chelsie Pennello (she/her) is a Chinese American filmmaker based in Washington, DC. She enjoys telling stories about offbeat characters and moments of unexpected grace. Her first narrative short, "Mandarins,"

world premiered at Cinequest and was accepted into over 17 festivals in 2023. "Cherry-Colored Funk" is her second short film.



Radha Mehta (she/her) is an award-winning filmmaker with an MFA from AFI. Her film "DOSH" won the Slamdance Spirit Award in 2024. **Saif Jaan** (he/they) is an emerging writer who grew up in a Muslim Yemeni and Pakistani household in Saudi Arabia. "Witness" won funds from Tasveer+Netflix, Islamic Scholarship Fund, and InsideOut.



Elizabeth Rao (she/her) is a screenwriter and director who loves irreverent, intimate, and provocative stories. "The Truck" premiered at Telluride Film Festival, screened at MoMA, and is a Hamptons International

Film Festival award winner. She's currently developing her debut feature as a Hear Us fellowship awardee and with mentorship from Spike Lee.



Alexander Thompson ("Em & Selma Go Griffin Hunting") (he/him) specializes in darkly lyrical, fantastical tales of aberrant psychology, strange monsters, and even stranger people.



SHORTS 2: The Lonely One

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 93 MIN

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
3:45-5:45PM AT REGAL A

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
9-11PM AT REGAL A

A man whose debts catch up with him. A rebellious teen looking for a place to feel at home. A woman with a new health ailment navigating familial interactions. A man battling with his hair insecurities. A woman competing with a doll for attention. A woman on a road trip with her father, having open discourse about protest and revolution. A bride with cold feet. A theatre teacher facing the barrel of a gun. These rabble rousers have a certain loneliness to contend with, but they face it as best they can.



Somebody Cares

DIRECTED BY **JULIEN LASSEUR**
USA, 2025, 5 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

A deadbeat owes money to someone who sends muscle to deal with him. A crushed windpipe is only step one.



Unholy

DIRECTED BY **DAISY FRIEDMAN**
USA, 2025, 14 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND HEBREW
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Noa, a young adult with a complex gastrointestinal disorder, attends her family's Passover Seder for the first time since being put on a feeding tube.



Clementine

DIRECTED BY **ZOE DAVIDSON**
USA, 2025, 10 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

After a young woman finds her childhood doll at her parents' yard sale, she discovers the doll is better at her social life than she is.



Something Blue

DIRECTED BY **SAMANTHA NISENBOIM**
USA, 2025, 10 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

A bride (Mary Holland, *Happiest Season*) struggles with cold feet before the ceremony, but it turns out to be more complicated than just pre-wedding jitters.



Dandelion

DIRECTED BY **FIONA OBERTINCA**
USA/CANADA, 2025, 19 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

In 1970s Los Angeles, a rebellious queer teen gets thrown out of yet another foster placement and finds herself in the company of a mysterious social worker.



Receding

DIRECTED BY **JUSTIN LAI**
USA, 2025, 4 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

A young man with a receding hairline battles with his insecurities before he chooses a hat to wear out to a party. The party does not go as planned, and the hat is not the issue.



Echoes of Pomegranate

DIRECTED BY **ALEX BIJAN ZANDI**
USA, 2024, 15 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
FLORIDA PREMIERE

While on a road trip, Shirin's father is worried that a protest video she posted online may put their Iranian family in danger. However, other dangers may lurk nearby.



Ado

DIRECTED BY **SAM HENDERSON**
USA, 2025, 16 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Ms. Hopkins (Jenifer Lewis, *Black-ish*) is rehearsing *Much Ado About Nothing* with her middle school theatre class when it is interrupted by an armed ex-student with some unresolved feelings.

Shorts Program 2 Directors



Julien Lasseur ("Somebody Cares") (he/him) is an award winning director and producer. His films have screened at Sundance, Camden International, Palm Springs International, Mill Valley, and Heartland. In 2014, Julien was a top ten HBO *Project Greenlight* finalist. In 2019, Julien won Best Director at Denver's SeriesFest for *Palomino & Swissy*.



Fiona Obertinca ("Dandelion") (she/her) is a Swedish-Albanian director whose work has screened in film festivals around the world. A graduate of the AFI Conservatory, Fiona honed her skills in Hollywood, working in development on acclaimed projects such as MAX's *Made for Love*. She teaches screenwriting at Northwestern University's National High School Institute.



Daisy Friedman ("Unholy") (she/her) is a writer and director based in New York City. Her history as a transplant recipient has drawn her to create work that centers on tradition, intimacy, and disability. Her first film, "As You Are," received the Grand Jury Prize special mention at Outfest and the NewFest35 Emerging Filmmaker award.



Justin Lai (he/him) is a director and writer from Austin who currently resides in Brooklyn. "Receding" is his first short film. The film's idea was devised when Justin's college roommate Truman suggested they produce a short within two weeks.



Zoe Davidson (she/her) is a Los Angeles-based, Middle East-raised, Surinamese-American filmmaker. She received her MFA in screenwriting from USC and has worked across the entertainment industry in film, television, and marketing. Her stories focus on women and alienation. "Clementine" is her directorial debut.



Alex Bijan Zandi ("Echoes of Pomegranate") (he/him) is an Iranian-American filmmaker based in Brooklyn. His work explores the social challenges and enchantments of the Middle Eastern diaspora. Zandi's films have been screened at film festivals globally, including Montclair, Maryland, Brooklyn, Urbanworld, and Amsterdam (Best Experimental Film). He is a 2023-2025 Jerome Hill artist fellow.



Samantha Nisenboim ("Something Blue") (she/her), a USC film school alum, is a seasoned producer turned director, known for *Renfield*, *The Tomorrow War*, and *The Lego Batman Movie* (PGA nomination). With nearly two decades of experience working on over 20 films, she now brings her passion for storytelling to writing and directing.



Sam Henderson ("Ado") (he/him) was recently named one of "25 Screenwriters to Watch" by Austin Film Festival and *MovieMaker Magazine*. His films have been selected by Oscar-qualifying fests: Austin Film Festival, St. Louis International Film Festival, Cleveland International, Florida International, and RSF Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival.



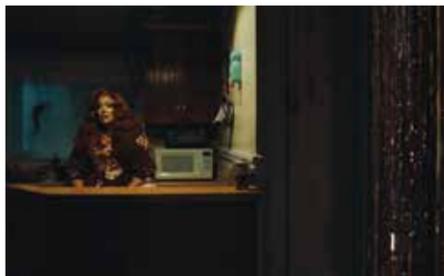
SHORTS 3: Anywhere's Better Than Here

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 96 MIN

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
10:30AM–12:30PM AT REGAL B

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
5:45–7:45PM AT REGAL A

Stuck, restless, ready to run—these films explore the desperate, daring, and defiant ways people try to change their fate. Because when you're trapped, lost, or just done, one truth remains: anywhere is better than here. So, where to next?



After What Happened at the Library

DIRECTED BY **SYRA MCCARTHY**
USA, 2024, 15 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

In the aftermath of a terrifying incident during drag story hour, a drag queen faces a different kind of ordeal while being interviewed by an ostensibly friendly media personality.



Paper Towels

DIRECTED BY **ETHAN KUPERBERG**
USA, 2024, 3 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

While muddling his way through an automated customer-service phone system, a frustrated man just looking for his package accidentally orders a service he never knew the seller even offered.



We Buy Houses

DIRECTED BY **SCOTT BURKHARDT**
USA, 2025, 8 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

An entrepreneurial young Black man making a living flipping houses faces a reckoning when he encounters an old classmate who refuses to vacate his grandmother's foreclosed home.



Sorry

DIRECTED BY **ALEX GETLIN AND ADAM SCHALLER**
USA, 2025, 11 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

After (unsuccessfully) coaching her friend to demand a refund for a takeout order that arrived wrong and three hours late, a woman descends into an existential spiral sprung from the endless "sorrys" she and other women feel compelled to offer.



Last Hope

DIRECTED BY **LENA KAMINSKY**
USA, 2025, 10 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

A lonely man whose chief joy in life was volunteering at a struggling cat shelter tries to convince the manager to reinstate him after getting fired for being too lax with the rules.



Portland Is the New Portland

DIRECTED BY **CHRISTOPHER SCAMURRA**
USA, 2024, 17 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A talented but childish musician concocts a number of fake indie bands to try to drum up attention for the music scene in his hometown of Portland—no, not that one—but he has to scramble when he gets a call from *Rolling Stone* looking to interview the performers.



Bloom

DIRECTED BY **CHLOË LEVINE**
USA, 2025, 15 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

Chloë Levine (*Savage Youth*, FFF 2018) directs this blistering short about a young girl (Oona Laurence, "Penny Dreadful," FFF 2014) with profound anger issues who lashes out in an unexpected way when she learns her alcoholic father has lost her childhood home.



Out for Delivery

DIRECTED BY **CHELSEA CHRISTER**
USA/CANADA, 2025, 17 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A woman with terminal cancer schedules the delivery of her Death with Dignity medication and the collection of her remains on the same day, but thanks to a delivery delay, she is still alive when her body-pickup driver (Martin Starr, *Silicon Valley*) arrives.

Shorts Program 3 Directors



Syra McCarthy ("After What Happened at the Library") (she/they) is a half-Filipino, half-New Zealander, first-generation American filmmaker and actor. Moving with grace between different styles of film—from

cinematic surrealism to smart, quirky comedy—McCarthy approaches filmmaking with a stylistic flair that subverts expectations.



Scott Burkhardt ("We Buy Houses") (he/him) is a filmmaker based in NYC, where he attended Columbia University's School of the Arts. His short films have screened at festivals around the world and won multiple prizes.

He teaches writing at New York University, the University of Pennsylvania, and in the Killer Films/Stony Brook MFA program.



Lena Kaminsky ("Last Hope") (she/her) studied acting at Emerson College. Her short film "Little Mouse" (written & directed), premiered at DWF, NYC (Audience Award), and screened at over 15 festivals

around the country and internationally. She has written two full length plays, *Salvage* and *Ursa Major*. Lena lives with her wife in NYC.



Chloë Levine ("Bloom") (she/her) is an actress and filmmaker. She has starred in films that have premiered at Sundance, SXSW, and Cannes. Her short "Dragon" won Best Experimental Short in Tribeca's *Our City, My Story*.

Her short "Blubber" premiered at the Green Point Film Festival in 2023. Levine resides in Brooklyn, NY.



Ethan Kuperberg ("Paper Towels") (he/him) is a filmmaker currently working in London on an upcoming *Game of Thrones* series for HBO. He was an executive producer on the second season of the

Netflix series *Beef* and wrote for all seasons of *Pachinko* and *Transparent*. Ethan is a regular contributor to *The New Yorker*.



Alex Getlin ("Sorry") (she/her) is a performer, writer, and director. A Northwestern graduate, she currently sings with symphonies worldwide. TV and film

credits include *The Blacklist* and *The Break with Michelle Wolf*. **Adam Schaller** (he/him) is a director and writer who has optioned several screenplays. A Harvard graduate, he co-founded Young Screenwriters, a writing community with over 45,000 members.



Christopher Scamurra ("Portland is the New Portland") (he/him) is a filmmaker based in Los Angeles. He previously managed production at Academy Award® nominee Scott Hamilton Kennedy's

Black Valley Films, where he co-produced Kennedy's *Shot in the Arm* alongside astrophysicist Neil DeGrasse Tyson. Currently, he is the director of photography on a documentary on Saquon Barkley.



Chelsea Christer ("Out for Delivery") (she/her) began her filmmaking career in San Francisco. Her work centers on character-driven narratives, often exploring themes of identity, ambition, and human connection.

Her feature-length debut, the award-winning music documentary *Bleeding Audio*, was released to critical acclaim. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and their dog, Sagan.



SHORTS 4: Ripple

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 94 MIN

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
3:30–5:30PM AT REGAL B

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
8:30–10:30PM AT REGAL A

A pub of patrons breaking out into song. A young man getting stung in the throat during his date request rehearsal. A trans woman dealing with a collective secret desire among her suitors. A teen girl running into an unexpected obstacle ... with her car. A nepo baby in full-on meltdown. A phoned threat at a synagogue. A woman doing laundry on Father's Day and grieving her dad. A young girl searching for her father's corpse with a fisherman. They all ripple in still water when there is no pebble tossed, nor wind to blow.



The Singers

DIRECTED BY **SAM DAVIS**
USA, 2025, 18 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

An adaptation of a 19th-century short story written by Ivan Turgenev. A lowly pub full of downtrodden patrons connect unexpectedly through an impromptu sing-off.



Sweet Talkin' Guy

DIRECTED BY **DYLAN AND SPENCER WARDWELL**
USA, 2025, 5 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A trans woman (co-director Dylan Wardwell) goes on three consecutive dates with straight men. As the men grapple with their fragile masculinity, their sexual identity unravels in a frantic shared monologue.



Nepotism, Baby!

DIRECTED BY **TIJ D'OYEN**
USA, 2024, 12 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

After her nepotism fails her, a fame obsessed young woman (*Betsey Brown*, star of FFF 2025 film www.rachelormont.com) fabricates a conspiracy to jumpstart her career. From the director of "Lollygag" (FFF 2022).



Cycles

DIRECTED BY **CHINWE OKORIE**
USA, 2025, 8 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

Greta goes about getting her laundry done at a crowded laundromat, before receiving an emotionally charged call from her sister.



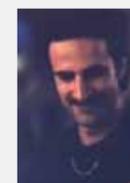
Sam Davis ("The Singers") (he/him) is an Oscar®-nominated multi-hyphenate filmmaker with a foundation in cinematography. His films have received honors at Sundance, Tribeca, and SXSW among others. His focus as a

director is on elevated non-fiction storytelling as well as the gray area in between narrative and documentary.



Blake Winston Rice (he/him) premiered his breakout film "Tea" in competition at the Cannes Film Festival. "Tea" has been selected into 11 Oscar-qualifying festivals, with Patty Jenkins serving as EP. BWR is currently in post on his

upcoming film "Disc," starring Jim Cummings. His debut feature, *The Empty Lot*, in development.



Spencer Wardwell ("Sweet Talkin' Guy") (he/him) left his role as GQ's Director of Video in

2016 to pursue filmmaking in LA. A graduate of AFI, he directs commercials, writes feature screenplays, and creates short films—both solo and in collaboration with his sister, **Dylan Wardwell** (she/her). Dylan began a modeling career at 19 after shooting a Vivienne Westwood campaign. She has since been featured in *Vogue*, *The Cut*, and *Cultured*. As a writer/director, she aims to create films that explore gender and identity while maintaining universal resonance.



Alexah Acuña ("Thump") (she/her) is an artist, production designer, and director based in Los Angeles. A first-generation American with parents from Mexico, Acuña's process is cathartic and personal, often



Tea

DIRECTED BY **BLAKE RICE**
USA, 2024, 12 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

While rehearsing asking out the girl of his dreams, a lonely and highly allergic Circuit Shack employee (Michael Gandolfini, *The Many Saints of Newark*) gets stung in the throat by a hornet, in this short from executive producer Patty Jenkins (*Wonder Woman*) and Andrew Carlberg ("Mahogany Drive," FFF 2023).



Thump

DIRECTED BY **ALEXAH ACUÑA**
USA, 2025, 11 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

A teen girl prepares to leave for prom when she hears a thump as she backs out of her driveway.



Say As I Say

DIRECTED BY **DANIEL SOLÉ**
USA, 2025, 12 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

During Shabbat service at a synagogue, a woman sorting canned goods for a food drive receives a disturbing call from a stranger.



Corpse Fishing

DIRECTED BY **JEAN LIU**
USA, 2024, 16 MIN
IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

In search of her missing father, a desperate teenager strikes a deal with a stranger to go fishing for corpses.

Shorts Program 4 Directors

referencing her own liminal feelings. She employs and explores the creepy, the dreamy, the kitschy, the ugly, the artificial, and the nostalgic.



On the heels of his award winning short film "Lollygag," **Tij D'Oyen** ("Nepotism, Baby!") (he/him) was selected for *Filmmaker Magazine's* "25 New Faces of Independent Film '22" and as the 2023 Slamdance

AGBO fellow. With support from the Sundance Institute, Tij is currently in development on his debut feature with 2AM.



Daniel Solé ("Say as I Say") (he/him) is a filmmaker residing in Brooklyn, New York. He wrote two shorts that premiered at Tribeca, "You Can Go" and "Gets Good Light," the first of which earned him the Best Writer award

at the NBC Universal Shorts Festival. He works as an in-house editor at Public Record.



Chinwe Okorie ("Cycles") (she/her) is a multi-genre storyteller. Nominated for Best Austin Filmmaker in 2021, her films "Lovebites" (selected by Issa Rae's Hoorae Media) and "Elephant!" (Austin Film Festival

2022) earned her recognition as a "Top Writer to Watch" by *MovieMaker Magazine*. She's developing "Elephant!" as her feature debut.



Jean Liu ("Corpse Fishing") (she/her) is a British-Chinese filmmaker based in Los Angeles. With a background in documentary, Jean favors telling grounded stories full of observational details. Her shorts have featured at SXSW, Tribeca, and other international film festivals.

Jean is a graduate of USC's Stark program, where she was a BAFTA scholar.



SHORTS 5: I Can't Help Myself

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 93 MIN

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
6-8PM AT REGAL B

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
4-6PM AT REGAL A



Like Me

DIRECTED BY **ASHLEY LAUREN THOMAS**
USA, 2024, 7 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Thanks to some surprise assistance from her cat, a young woman trying to crack the code of social-media success stumbles upon the secret to instant virality.



But He's Gay

DIRECTED BY **MICHAEL CALCIANO**
USA, 2024, 12 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Thanks to a mix-up between text threads, someone's ex shows up at a Brooklyn friend-group's party, and the vibe turns tense as everyone anxiously awaits the inevitable blowup.



Spray Bottle

DIRECTED BY **JENNA KANELL**
USA, 2025, 10 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A stuntwoman (Jenna Kanell, *Terrifier 1 & 2*) walks into the middle of a robbery at the diner where her neurodivergent brother works and—already frustrated by her dealings with her health insurer—chooses action over peace.



Finding Daddy

DIRECTED BY **EMILY WILSON**
USA, 2025, 12 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

Two struggling adult sisters discover an online ad from their estranged, supposedly deadbeat father—played by wrestling legend Jake “The Snake” Roberts—offering his services as a “sugar daddy,” so they decide to track him down to find out whether he actually has any money.

Shorts Program 5 Directors



Ashley Lauren Thomas (she/her) is an actor born and raised in Memphis, TN. She completed a theatre minor at Vanderbilt University, studied film acting at the Nashville Acting Studio, and has been acting in the southeast for fifteen years. “Like Me” is her debut short as a writer and director.



Ariel Gardner (“Time Realter”) (he/him) is a veteran filmmaker from Los Angeles. Among his extensive catalogue, he is best known for the short films “Molly’s Single” (2019), “Let’s Keep the Party Going” (2024), and the feature film *On the Rocks* (2017). He also was a co-founder of the Racer Trash art collective.



Michael Calciano (“But He’s Gay”) (he/him) is a NYC-based filmmaker and writer. His films have been played at film festivals, including Fantasia Film Festival, Florida Film Festival, Boston Underground, Bushwick Film Festival, and more. His film work can currently be seen online on Short of the Week and Alter. michaelcalciano.com / IG: @neeshcalneesh



Julia Bales (“Public Freakout”) (she/her) is a Los Angeles-based writer and filmmaker from Maryland. Bales’s storytelling blends dark humor with sharp social commentary. Her short films have played at festivals throughout the US, and her commercial work includes projects for Amazon, Disney, and Kellogg’s.



The Bride's Curse

DIRECTED BY **ALEX KAVUTSKIY** AND **JERZY ROSE**
USA, 2025, 20 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

On their first night of marriage, a wife tells her husband about an ancient curse on the women in her family that threatens very specific calamity should their husbands lie, and justifiably skeptical, the husband decides to test the truth of the story. The latest bit of twisted fun from 4x FFF alumnus Alex Kavutskiy (“Vertical Valor,” 2023) and FFF award-winner Jerzy Rose (*Crimes Against Humanity*, 2014).



As an action actor, **Jenna Kanell** (“Spray Bottle”) (they/she) has performed while riding motorcycles, stunt driving cars, airborne in harnesses, in a helicopter, and in countless fight scenes. These credits include the most recent *Bad Boys*, and as the protagonist of the original *Terrifier*. Jenna is also a TEDx speaker, writer, and director.



Margaret Miller (“Randy as Himself”) (she/her) is a writer/director from Texas. Her directorial debut short “Poof” was selected for official competition by Cannes Film Festival as the only American selection in 2023. She is co-writer of the documentary “Dress-A-Cow,” which premiered at SXSW and was a Short of the Week and Vimeo Staff Pick.



Emily Wilson (“Finding Daddy”) (she/her) is an LA-based writer, director, and editor from Syracuse, NY, and an alumna of the SUNY Purchase film conservatory. Specializing in darkly comedic storytelling, her short films have screened at Sundance, SXSW, NoBudget, SeriesFest, and have snagged a Vimeo Staff Pick.



Jerzy Rose (he/him) and **Alex Kavutskiy** (he/him) (“The Bride’s Curse”) are good pals who make very cool stuff separately but, for some reason, decided to make this one together. They’re individually very talented and, together, pretty good too.



Time Realtor

DIRECTED BY **ARIEL GARDNER**
USA, 2025, 12 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

An old man with not much to live for decides to sell his remaining years to a “time realtor” and gift the money to his estranged daughter, but he changes his tune after sparking an unexpected romance with a woman in a bar. A new film from the director of “Judy,” FFF 2017.



Public Freakout

DIRECTED BY **JULIA BALES**
USA, 2025, 10 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

A confrontation between a working man and an obstinate suburban teen at a gas station turns explosive when the boy’s mother arrives and ratchets up the tension with her protective instincts.



Randy as Himself

DIRECTED BY **MARGARET MILLER**
USA/CANADA, 2025, 10 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE/2ND US SCREENING

Things turn surreal on the set of a true-crime reenactment when an actor doesn’t show up for work, and the Texan whose wife was murdered agrees to appear as himself in her death scene. Marin Hinkle (*The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*) co-stars in this new film from producers Natalie Metzger and Matt Miller (“Thunder Road,” FFF 2016; *Greener Grass*, FFF 2019).



Due to Graphic Content, Recommended for Mature Audiences Only

SHORTS 6: ANIMATED SHORTS: **Stuff Like That**

SPONSORED BY LURE DESIGN, INC.

TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 90 MIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
6:45–8:30PM AT ENZIAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 18
8:45–10:30PM AT REGAL A

“I knew I was captured,” says Quincy upon glimpsing the forbidden fruit, and in the same way, you will not want to leave when you lay your eyes on the enthralling array of artistry in this year’s edition of the domestic animated shorts program. A lonely polar bear desperate for a playmate, a British bobby who stumbles outside of time, a yearning janitor thrust into combat, a comical mime having a tough conversation, a survivor reliving her trauma, a young girl entranced by death, a scheming duck cutting deals with monsters, a bluegrass meditation on existence, a pair of flies facing their doom, a whole town wallowing in drink, a woman alone with her thoughts and the snails, a group of miners making an unfathomable discovery, a zealous cult rocked to their core, and a wayward space-rabbit on the fringes of existence populate this diverse and expansive collection of the best and most outstanding animation we’ve seen this year.



Snow Bear

DIRECTED BY **AARON BLAISE**
USA, 2025, 11 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

Aaron Blaise, director of Disney’s Oscar®-nominated *Brother Bear*, brings us this beautifully hand-drawn tale of a lonesome polar bear exploring the diminishing Arctic tundra in search of a friend. A bittersweet and ultimately heartwarming story supported by Polar Bears International and The National Parks Conservation Association.



There’s a Robbery in Progress

DIRECTED BY **MORGAN MILLER**
USA/UK, 2025, 4 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

Festival veteran Morgan Miller (“There’s Too Many of These Crows,” FFF 2016) returns to FFF, this time using his signature style of hand-drawn animation to show us the plight of a British police officer nudged outside of reality when a meta-mishap occurs during a bank robbery.



Dormilón

DIRECTED BY **OLIVIA MARIE VALDEZ**
USA, 2025, 9 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

The director of *The Test* (FFF 2023) levels up her stop-motion animation to Švankmajer tier with this eerie gothic tale about a janitor in a decrepit movie theater who sees his surreal dreams come to grotesque life when a nightmarish monster threatens his beloved home.



Le Charade

DIRECTED BY **ERIKA TOTORO**
USA, 2024, 3 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

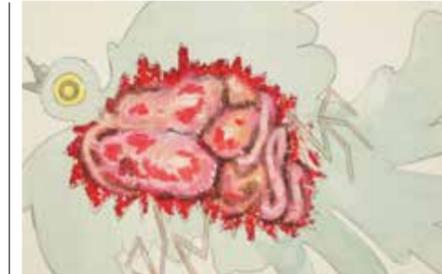
The movement in this short from the founder of the Savannah College of Art & Design’s Stop-Motion Club is so smooth, you won’t believe it’s not CGI—but we promise, this comedic take on the French New Wave about a mime breaking up with an imaginary friend is entirely sculpted and posed frame-by-frame, just like Ray Harryhausen would’ve done it.



IF IS

DIRECTED BY **PAIGE GLORIA HARBERTS**
USA, 2025, 2 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

Using the innovative technique of literally ripping apart charcoal drawings and sewing them back together with thread, the director imparts the anguish felt by a survivor of sexual assault in this haunting film that will stay with you long after its short runtime is over.



new(bird) life

DIRECTED BY **SASHA UIJEONG SHIN**
USA, 2024, 3 MIN
IN ENGLISH AND KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Child-like drawings and a pale watercolor palette bring an air of whimsy to this story of a little girl who experiences a transcendental journey inspired by her encounter with a dead pigeon.



Duckville

DIRECTED BY **BILL PLYMPTON**
USA, 2024, 8 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

Legendary animator and perennial crowd favorite Bill Plympton (*Slide*, FFF 2024) turns his trademark scribble style toward a spiraling comedy of errors about a town of ducks whose mayor fears they’re just too boring, so he hires a monster to liven things up. Hijinks inevitably ensue.



Hunky Dory

DIRECTED BY **STEVEN VANDER MEER**
USA, 2024, 6 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Steven Vander Meer (“Salmon Deadly Sins,” FFF 2014) returns to the festival in his signature “flipbook” style, animating a near-psychedelic meditation on the interactions between humans and animals set to a Béla Fleck tune and hand drawn on 4,320 individual 3x5 index cards.



Time Flies

DIRECTED BY **LJ BURNETT**
USA, 2024, 4 MIN
FLORIDA PREMIERE

Two flies respond very differently to learning of their swiftly impending mortality—one trying to live their short life to the fullest, the other wallowing in existential agony—in this colorful and fast-moving cartoon that doesn’t shy away from the horrors of life.



Take Me Drunk I'm Home

DIRECTED BY **NOLAN J. DOWNS**
USA, 2025, 11 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A town full of people whose lives are dominated by drinking see their stories and their physical forms meld, flow, and intertwine in this poignant and lyrical animation from yet another burgeoning iconoclast at CalArts.



Confetti

DIRECTED BY **AMANDA THERESE BONAIUTO**
USA, 2024, 4 MIN
SOUTHEAST PREMIERE

A surreal meditation on routine, separation, and snails rendered in gleefully smudgy pencil drawings and marked by utterly immersive sound design.



MINE!

DIRECTED BY **LOU MORTON**
USA, 2025, 8 MIN
EAST COAST PREMIERE

The Midwest, early 20th century. Coal barons and politicians stage a photo op on the surface, while far below, the miners carve a grueling path deep into the ground. But no one suspects the dazzling secret waiting in the pitch-black heart of the earth in this appropriately charcoal-drawn animation.



Mother Clay

DIRECTED BY **ARMIN RANGANI**
AND **RAHA AMIRFAZLI**
USA, 2025, 6 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A lowly temple servant in a bleak subterranean hellscape makes a shocking discovery that hurls their devout society into chaos in this grim and masterful stop-motion tale evocative of Phil Tippett's harrowing *Mad God*.



Voyage of the Red Rabbit

DIRECTED BY **SAM GUALTIERI**
USA, 2025, 11 MIN
WORLD PREMIERE

A solitary astronaut rabbit journeys across the unfathomable reaches of space in search of his home. Meanwhile, down on Earth, an old man contemplates the afterlife while enjoying a nice slice of pie—the philosophical meta-commentary provided by the filmmaker's actual recording of his Italian "Nonno" contemplating the afterlife while enjoying a nice slice of pie.

Shorts Program 6 Directors



Aaron Blaise ("Snow Bear") (he/him) spent 21 years with Disney Animation where he helped create some of the most beloved films ever made. He was an animator on *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *The Lion King*, *Mulan*, and more. In 2003, he co-directed *Brother Bear* and earned an Oscar® nomination for Best Animated Film.



Morgan Miller ("There's a Robbery in Progress") (he/him) graduated from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. He worked in film restoration for The Criterion Collection. His film "There's Too Many of These Crows" won a number of film festival prizes. He teaches at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York.



Olivia Marie Valdez ("Dormilón") (she/her) is a stop-motion filmmaker from Florida, based in LA. Her credits include "The Weight of It" (2021), winner of the Cine-Motion Film Festival and the Starz Film Contest, and "The Test" (2022), which premiered at the 2023 BFI London Film Festival.



Erika Totoro (she/her) is a stop-motion filmmaker from Westchester, New York. A recent graduate from the Savannah College of Art and Design, her senior thesis project, "Le Charade," was produced in 30 weeks with a team of eight students.



Paige Gloria Harberts ("IF IS") (she/her) is a motion artist based in Kansas City, Missouri. Much of her work revolves around the human experience and explores the complexity and vulnerability of it. She has found through her process that there is not only beauty in construction but the destruction of art as well.



Sasha Uijeong Shin ("new(bird) life") (she/her) is an animator and filmmaker based in New Jersey who creates films and animations inspired by personal anecdotes that center the feminine experience. As storyteller, she

thrives to use fantastical imagery to spark weirdness and wonder from the everyday.



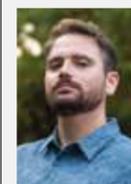
Bill Plympton ("Duckville") (he/him) is considered the King of Indie Animation and received two Oscar® nominations, for the shorts "Your Face" and "Guard Dog." He's directed nine animated features, including *The Tune* and most recently *Slide*. He's also known for music videos made for Kanye West, Madonna, and Weird Al Yankovic.



Northern California based artist **Steven Vander Meer** ("Hunky Dory") (he/him) creates animated films by drawing on 3x5 inch index cards. His award winning films have screened at Sundance, Ann Arbor, Slamdance, Anney, Cinequest, and many others, as well as the National Gallery of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the DeYoung Museum.



LJ Burnett (they/she) is a storyboard and comic artist from Virginia pursuing a BFA in sequential art. Their passion for collaborative storytelling and animation led them to join a student team at SCAD Animation Studios and pitch the story that would become "Time Flies."



Nolan J. Downs ("Take Me Drunk I'm Home") (he/him) is an animator and director originally from Chicago, now living in Southern California. He has a deep interest and compulsion to examine narrative structure with hopes to develop new ways to tell familiar stories. His more recent work tends toward character-driven, dark humor.



Amanda Bonaiuto ("Confetti") (she/her) is an animator, artist, and assistant professor at Parsons School of Design. She makes work exploring experimental narrative, twisted characters, and dark humor. Her films have screened

at prestigious institutions globally, including Slamdance Film Festival, Anney International Animation Festival, Ottawa International Animation Festival, and Ann Arbor Film Festival.



Lou Morton ("MINE") (he/him) is an animator, filmmaker, and associate professor. His work is driven by rhythmic structures and explores themes of industrial labor practices and environmental devastation.

His films have screened at festivals including Sundance, SXSW, Anney, and Ann Arbor Film Festival.



Armin Rangani (he/him) is an Iranian-born visual artist and filmmaker based in New York. He worked as a senior concept artist

at nDreams. His work spans art direction, visual development, and painting, exploring identity and surrealism. His latest film is "Mother Clay."

Raha Amirfazli (she/her) is an Iranian filmmaker pursuing her MFA in film and television production at NYU Tisch. Her debut feature, *In the Land of Brothers*, premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival, where she won the Best Directing Award in the World Dramatic Competition. She was named the 2024 U.S. recipient of the Academy Gold Fellowship for Women and is developing her second feature, *An Ode to the Drunk*.



Sam Gualtieri (he/him) created "Voyage of the Red Rabbit" after resolving to make work that is rooted in his personal experience and combines his artistic interests. Discovering the look and feel of this film in tandem with discovering more about his grandfather has been deeply rewarding.



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The Bride's Curse (p. 85.)
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A Brighter Summer Day for the Lady Avengers (p. 31)
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Edel Rodriguez: Freedom Is a Verb (p. 39)
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Em & Selma Go Griffin Hunting (p. 77)
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Entre le Feu et le Clair de Lune (p. 42)
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Fatherless No More (p. 64)
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The Lost Wolves of Yellowstone (p. 66)
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Not One Drop of Blood (p. 68)
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Not Rod (p. 38)
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Now and Then (p. 15)
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Pretty Ugly - The Story of the Lunachicks (p. 34)
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The Python Hunt (p. 40)
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Rosemary's Baby (p. 17)
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Swamp Dogg Gets His Pool Painted (p. 35)
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Schedule

Friday, April 11

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B	TIEDTKE AMPHITHEATER AND BELVEDERE AT WINTER PARK EVENTS CENTER
5P 5:15PM Opening Night Reception	5P	5P	5P
6P 6:15-6:30PM Welcome	6P	6P	6P
7P 6:30-8:30PM Opening Night Film: <i>Stolen Kingdom</i> preceded by "Rushmore" (p. 18)	7P 7-9PM Opening Night Film Second Screening: <i>Stolen Kingdom</i> preceded by "Rushmore" (p. 18)	7P	7P
8P	8P	8P 7:30-9:30PM Opening Night Film Third Screening: <i>Stolen Kingdom</i> preceded by "Rushmore" (p. 18)	8P
9P	9P	9P	8P-MIDNIGHT Opening Night Party (p. 19)
10P	10P	10P	9P
11P	11P	11P	10P
12A	12A	12A	11P
			12A

Saturday, April 12

ENZIAN THEATER	REGAL A	REGAL B
10A 10-11:35AM <i>The Legend of Ochi</i> (p. 23)	10A	10A
11A	11A 11AM-12:45PM <i>Sisters</i> (p. 56)	11A
12P	12P	12P 11:30AM-1:15PM <i>Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere</i> preceded by "Freeman Vines" (p. 71)
1P 12:30-2PM <i>Burt</i> (p. 51)	1P	1P
2P	2P 1:15-3:15PM Shorts #1: "Kick Out the Jams" (p. 76)	2P 1:45-4PM <i>The Last Wolves of Yellowstone</i> preceded by "This Land" (p. 66)
3P	3P	3P
4P 3-5:15PM <i>No One Died: The Wing Bowl Story</i> preceded by "Georgie" (p. 67)	4P 3:45-5:45PM Shorts #2: "The Lonely One" (p. 78)	4P
5P	5P	5P 4:30-6:15PM <i>We Strangers</i> (p.59)
6P	6P	6P
7P 6:15-8:15PM <i>Fatherless No More</i> preceded by "Livestreams with GrandmaPuzzles" (p. 64)	7P 6:15-8:15PM <i>Somnium</i> (p. 57)	7P 6:45-8:30PM <i>Mr. K</i> (p. 23)
8P	8P	8P
9P	9P 8:45-10:45PM <i>The Shrouds</i> (p. 25)	9P
10P 9:15-11PM <i>Under the Burning Sun</i> (p. 58)	10P	10P 9:15-11:15PM <i>I'm Your Venus</i> preceded by "Shade in the Sunshine State" (p. 65)
11P	11P	11P
12A MIDNIGHT-2AM Midnight Shorts: "Hold on I'm Comin'" (p. 46)	12A 11:30PM-1:15AM www.rachelormont.com (p. 45)	12A
1A	1A	1A

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

EDEN BAR
11AM-9PM
Live Music (p. 21)

WINTER PARK VILLAGE
3-5PM
Winter Park Village
Block Party (p. 21)



Schedule

Sunday, April 13

ENZIAN THEATER		REGAL A		REGAL B	
10A		10A		10A	
11A	11AM-1PM <i>Death & Taxes</i> preceded by "Just the Tip" (p. 63)	11A	11:30AM-1:15PM <i>Apostasy Blues</i> (p. 50)	11A	10:30AM-12:30PM Shorts #3: "Anywhere's Better than Here" (p. 80)
12P		12P		12P	
1P		1P		1P	1-3PM <i>Ada – My Mother the Architect</i> preceded by "Dears in the Headlights" (p. 62)
2P	2-4PM <i>La Gloria</i> (p. 54)	2P	1:45-4PM <i>The Paper Bear</i> (p. 40)	2P	
3P		3P		3P	
4P		4P		4P	3:30-5:30PM Shorts #4: "Ripple" (p. 82)
5P	5-7PM <i>Nobody Wants to Shoot a Woman</i> (p. 55)	5P	4:30-6:30PM <i>Not One Drop of Blood</i> preceded by "Psychedelic in the Sky" (p. 68)	5P	
6P		6P		6P	6-8PM Shorts #5: "I Can't Help Myself" (p.84)
7P		7P	7-9PM <i>40 Acres</i> (p. 22)	7P	
8P	8-11PM An Evening with Christina Ricci, featuring <i>Now and Then</i> (p. 14)	8P		8P	
9P		9P		9P	8:30-10:15PM <i>It Ends</i> (p. 53)
10P		10P	9:30-11:15PM <i>The Surfer</i> (p. 25)	10P	
11P		11P		11P	

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

EDEN BAR
10AM-2PM
Sunday Brunch (p. 21)

11AM-9PM
Live Music (p. 21)



NOBODY WANTS TO SHOOT A WOMAN

Wednesday, April 16

ENZIAN THEATER		REGAL A		REGAL B	
12P		12P		12P	
1P	12:45-2:45PM <i>Ada – My Mother the Architect</i> preceded by "Dears in the Headlights" (p. 62)	1P		1P	
2P		2P		2P	
3P		3P		3P	
4P	3:45-5:45PM <i>I'm Your Venus</i> preceded by "Shade in the Sunshine State" (p. 65)	4P	4-5:45PM International Animated Shorts (p. 32)	4P	3:30-5:45PM <i>Eastern Western</i> (p. 52)
5P		5P		5P	
6P		6P		6P	
7P	6:45-8:30PM Animated Shorts: "Stuff Like That" (p. 86)	7P	6:15-8:30PM <i>The Sky Was on Fire: Ballet and War in the Ukraine</i> (p. 41)	7P	7-9PM <i>La Gloria</i> (p. 54)
8P		8P		8P	
9P		9P		9P	
10P	9:30-11:30PM <i>Something Better Change</i> preceded by "Adidas Owns the Reality" (p. 70)	10P	9-11PM Shorts #2: "The Lonely One" (p. 78)	10P	9:30-11:15PM <i>Nobody Wants to Shoot a Woman</i> (p. 55)
11P		11P		11P	

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

ENZIAN
10:30AM-NOON FORUM:
Eavesdropping on Echoes—Exploring the Art of Sound for Film (p. 20)

EDEN BAR
6-9PM
Live Music (p. 21)
8PM
Wednesday Night Pitcher Show (p. 21)



LA GLORIA

Monday, April 14

ENZIAN THEATER		REGAL A		REGAL B	
4P		4P		4P	3-5:30PM 5X Real (p. 72)
5P		5P	4:15-5:50PM <i>The Summer Book</i> (p. 29)	5P	
6P		6P		6P	
7P	6:30-8:15PM <i>The Wedding Banquet</i> (p. 26)	7P	6:30-8:45PM <i>Eastern Western</i> (p. 52)	7P	6-8PM <i>Something Better Change</i> preceded by "Adidas Owns the Reality" (p. 70)
8P		8P		8P	
9P		9P		9P	8:30-10:15PM <i>jQuba!</i> preceded by "Icebreakers" (p. 69)
10P	9:15-11:15 PM <i>Diciannove</i> (p. 28)	10P	9:15-11PM <i>The Python Hunt</i> (p. 40)	10P	
11P		11P		11P	

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

EDEN BAR
6-9PM
Live Music (p. 21)



THE PYTHON HUNT

Thursday, April 17

ENZIAN THEATER		REGAL A		REGAL B	
1P		1P		1P	
2P	1:30-2:45PM <i>King of Them All: The Story of King Records</i> (p. 34)	2P		2P	
3P		3P		3P	
4P	3:45-5:30PM <i>We Strangers</i> (p. 59)	4P	3:30-5:15PM <i>When Fall is Coming</i> (p. 26)	4P	4-6PM <i>Fatherless No More</i> preceded by "Livestreams with GrandmaPuzzles" (p. 64)
5P		5P		5P	
6P		6P	5:45-7:45PM Shorts #3: "Anywhere's Better than Here" (p. 80)	6P	6:30-8:30PM <i>jQuba!</i> preceded by "Icebreakers" (p. 69)
7P	6:30-8:15PM <i>Sisters</i> (p. 56)	7P		7P	
8P		8P		8P	
9P		9P	8:30-10:30PM Shorts #4: "Ripple" (p. 82)	9P	
10P	9:15-11PM <i>It Ends</i> (p. 53)	10P		10P	9:30-11:45PM <i>No One Died: The Wing Bowl Story</i> preceded by "Georgie" (p. 67)
11P		11P		11P	
12A	MIDNIGHT-2AM Secret Screening #1	12A		12A	
1A		1A		1A	
2A		2A		2A	

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

ENZIAN
11AM-12:30PM FORUM: The Art of Hand-Drawn Indie Animation (p. 20)

EDEN BAR
6-9PM
Live Music (p. 21)

JAZZ TASTINGS
8-11PM
Filmmaker Welcome Party (Invitation Only) p. (21)



WE STRANGERS



IQUBA!

Tuesday, April 15

ENZIAN THEATER		REGAL A		REGAL B	
4P	3:45-5:20PM <i>Unmoored</i> (p. 29)	4P	4:30-6PM <i>Hacking Hate</i> (p. 28)	4P	
5P		5P		5P	
6P		6P		6P	
7P	6:30-8:15PM <i>Apostasy Blues</i> (p.50)	7P	6:30-8:30PM Shorts #1: "Kick Out the Jams" (p. 76)	7P	6-8PM <i>Death & Taxes</i> preceded by "Just the Tip" (p. 63)
8P		8P		8P	
9P		9P		9P	
10P	9:15-11PM <i>Somnium</i> (p. 57)	10P	9-11:10PM <i>Pavements</i> (p. 24)	10P	8:30-10:30PM <i>Not One Drop of Blood</i> preceded by "Psychedelic in the Sky" (p. 68)
11P		11P		11P	

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

ENZIAN
11AM-12:15PM FORUM: The Birds and the Bears: Exploring Impact Filmmaking in Florida (p. 20)

1-2:30PM FORUM: Motion Picture Paradise: A History of Florida's Film and Television Industry (p. 20)

EDEN BAR
6-8PM
Tuesday Tasting (p. 21)
6-9PM
Live Music (p. 21)

Schedule

Friday, April 18

ENZIAN THEATER		REGAL A		REGAL B	
1P		1P		1P	
2P	1:30-3:45PM <i>The Lost Wolves of Yellowstone</i> preceded by "This Land" (p. 66)	2P	1-3:30PM 5 X Real (p. 72)	2P	
3P		3P		3P	2:30-4:15PM <i>Burt</i> (p. 51)
4P		4P	4-6PM Shorts #5: "I Can't Help Myself" (p. 84)	4P	
5P	4:45-6:30PM <i>Steve Schapiro: Being Everywhere</i> preceded by "Freeman Vines" (p. 71)	5P		5P	4:45-6:30PM <i>Under the Burning Sun</i> (p. 58)
6P		6P		6P	
7P		7P	6:30-8:15PM <i>The Surfer</i> (p. 25)	7P	7-8:45PM <i>Swamp Dogg Gets His Pool Painted</i> (p. 35)
8P	7:30-11PM An Evening with Mia Farrow, featuring <i>Rosemary's Baby</i> (p. 16)	8P		8P	
9P		9P	8:45-10:30PM Animated Shorts: "Stuff Like That" (p. 86)	9P	9:15-11PM <i>Pretty Ugly - The Story of the Lunachicks</i> (p. 34)
10P		10P		10P	
11P		11P	11PM-12:45AM <i>The Ugly Stepsister</i> (p. 45)	11P	
12A	MIDNIGHT-1:45AM <i>It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This</i> preceded by "LiDAR" (p. 44)	12A		12P	MIDNIGHT-1:45AM Midnight Shorts: "Hold on I'm Comin'" (p. 46)
1A		1A		1A	

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

ENZIAN
11AM-12:30PM
FORUM: Filmmaker Forum

EDEN BAR
6-9PM
Live Music

THE COPPPER ROCKET
8-11PM
Industry Happy Hour
(Invitation Only)



Sunday, April 20

ENZIAN THEATER		REGAL A		REGAL B	
12P		12P		12P	11:30AM-1:15PM <i>When Fall is Coming</i> (p. 26)
1P	NOON-2PM International Shorts #1 (p. 30)	1P	NOON-1:35PM <i>The Legend of Ochi</i> (p. 23)	1P	
2P		2P		2P	1:45-3:15PM <i>Hacking Hate</i> (p. 28)
3P	3-5PM International Shorts #2 (p.31)	3P	2:15-4:30PM <i>The Sky Was on Fire: Ballet and War in the Ukraine</i> (p. 41)	3P	
4P		4P		4P	3:45-5:20PM <i>Unmoored</i> (p. 29)
5P		5P	5-6:35PM <i>Jane Austen Wrecked My Life</i> (p. 22)	5P	
6P	6-7:45PM International Animated Shorts (p. 32)	6P		6P	6-7:15PM <i>King of Them All: The Story of King Records</i> (p. 34)
7P		7P		7P	
8P		8P	7:15-9:05PM <i>Diciannove</i> (p. 28)	8P	8-9:50PM <i>40 Acres</i> (p. 22)
9P	8:45-10:15PM Closing Night Retro: <i>Race with the Devil</i> (p. 35)	9P		9P	
10P		10P		10P	
11P		11P		11P	
12A		12A		12A	
1A		1A		1A	

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

EDEN BAR
10AM-2PM
Sunday Brunch Buffet (p. 21)
11AM-9PM
Live Music (p. 21)



Saturday, April 19

ENZIAN THEATER		REGAL A		REGAL B	
11A	10:30AM-1PM <i>The Paper Bear</i> (p. 40)	11A		11A	
12P		12P	NOON-2PM Sunshine & Swampland: New Florida Shorts (p. 36)	12P	11:30AM-1:30PM International Shorts #1 (p. 30)
1P		1P		1P	
2P	2-4PM <i>The Python Hunt</i> (p. 40)	2P	2:30-4:30PM Sunshine in Doc-Land: New Florida Documentary Shorts (p. 38)	2P	2-4PM International Shorts #2 (p. 31)
3P		3P		3P	
4P		4P		4P	4:30-6:15PM <i>Swamp Dogg Gets His Pool Painted</i> (p. 35)
5P	5-7PM <i>On Swift Horses</i> (p. 24)	5P	5-6:35PM <i>The Summer Book</i> (p. 29)	5P	
6P		6P		6P	
7P		7P		7P	6:45-8:30PM <i>Pretty Ugly - The Story of the Lunachicks</i> (p. 34)
8P		8P	7:15-9:15PM <i>The School Duel</i> (p. 41)	8P	
9P		9P		9P	
10P	9:30-11:05PM <i>Mr. K</i> (p. 23)	10P	9:45-11:30PM <i>It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This</i> preceded by "LiDAR" (p. 44)	10P	9:15-11PM Sunspots: New Visions of the Avant-Garde (p. 42)
11P		11P		11P	
12A	MIDNIGHT-1:45AM <i>The Ugly Stepsister</i> (p. 45)	12A	MIDNIGHT-2AM Secret Screening #2	12A	11:30PM-1AM www.rachelormont.com (p. 45)
1A		1A		1A	

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

EDEN BAR
11AM-9PM
Live Music (p. 21)

Festival Awards Ceremony and Party (p. 21)

ENZIAN
7:45PM
Doors Open
8-8:30PM
Awards Ceremony

EDEN BAR
8:30-10:30PM
Awards Party



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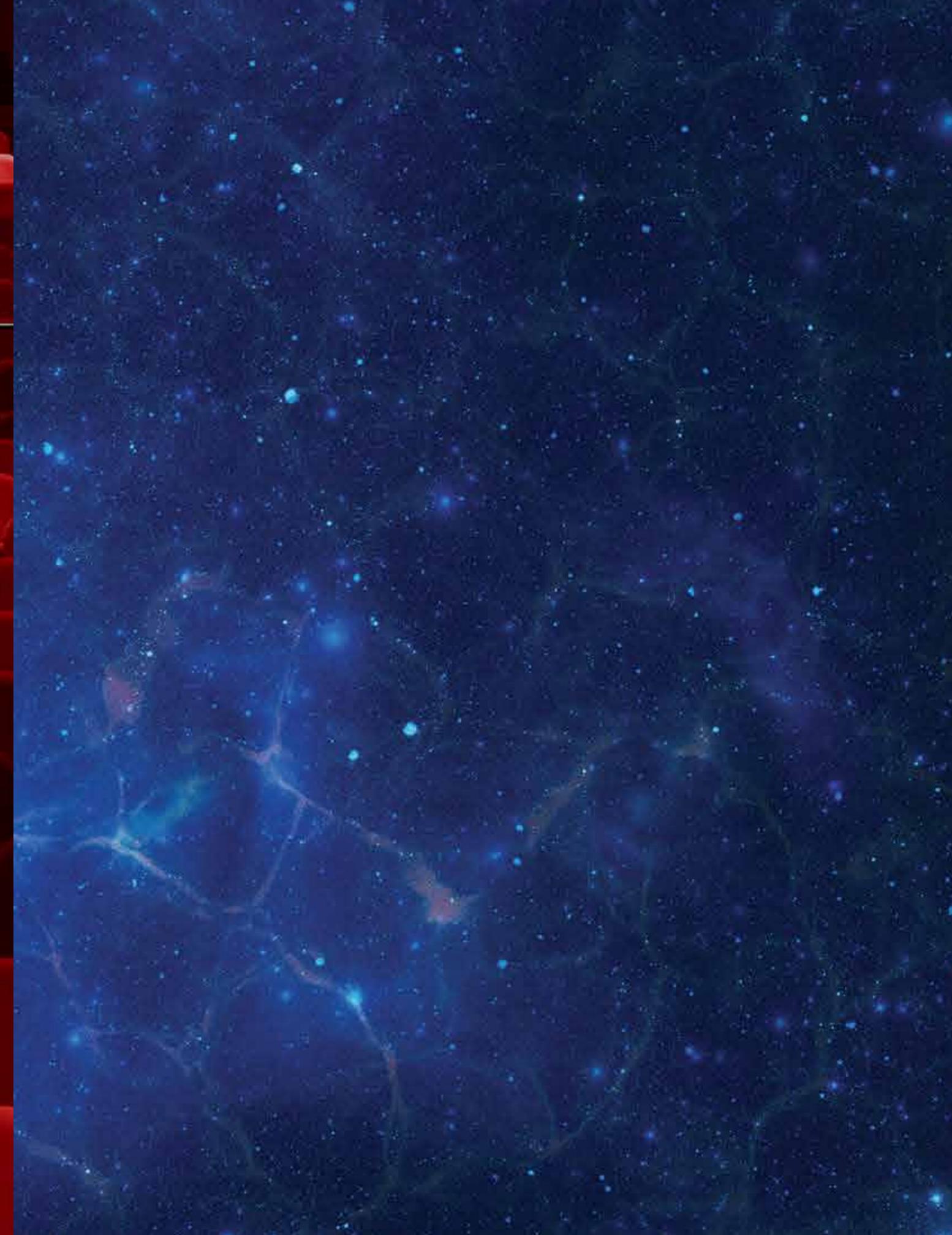
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