

THE 16TH
**Tacomna
Film
Festival**

OCT 7-14 2021

15th Annual



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2632A S 38th St, Tacoma, WA 98409


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CANNABIS**

Tacoma Film Festival

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Welcome!

Welcome to the 16th Tacoma Film Festival! We are relieved and happy to return to a fully in-person film festival at The Grand Cinema in the heart of downtown Tacoma. How many ways can we say it? We are grateful to be here after a remarkable year and to welcome people back inside the cinema! Filmmakers from the US and around the world have contributed to the lineup once again, bringing us stories of resilience, fascination, dread, and delight through the best medium we know: the moving image.

This year, as we power through the end(?) of the pandemic, we have taken careful consideration and are requiring proof of vaccination to attend, as well as masking, to provide as much safety as possible for our festival-goers and filmmakers. Please see page 15 and The Grand Cinema's website for more details, and we thank our film-going community for the overwhelming support they have shown to us for making this difficult, but necessary decision.

We are also providing online access to many of the films at TFF as we did in 2020 for those who are extra cautious about attending public events.

This year's festival has 17 feature documentary and fictional films, and over 150 short fictional works by filmmakers from over 20 countries. We are pleased with all of the excellent Pacific Northwest (WA, OR, ID, BC) films this year. We will screen 44 PNW titles, including five features, and short film packages including documentary, fiction, comedy, and late-night films, throughout the festival.

TFF is a nonprofit, community-inspired festival that depends on you for its vitality. We thank every filmmaker, juror, volunteer, and filmgoer for contributing to the festival, and hope you enjoy your experience at TFF in 2021.

TFF Staff

All information accurate at time of printing. For the latest program information visit:

OFFICIAL WEBSITE TACOMAFILMFESTIVAL.COM

SOCIAL #2021TFF #TACOMAFILMFEST @TACOMAFILMFEST

APP IPHONE AND ANDROID



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2021 Jury Awards

Best Narrative Feature \$1000
 Best Documentary Feature \$1000
 Best Narrative Short \$750
 Best Documentary Short \$750
 Best Animation \$250
 Best Music Video \$250
 Best Late Night Film \$250
 Best Pacific Northwest Feature \$500
 Best Pacific Northwest Short \$250

Additional Awards

Best Pacific Northwest Late Night Short \$125
 Best Director, Documentary Feature \$150
 Best Director, Narrative Feature \$150
 Best Director, Documentary Short \$125
 Best Director, Narrative Short \$125
 Best Performance, Narrative Feature \$150
 Best Screenplay, Narrative Feature \$150
 Best Performance, Narrative Short \$125
 Best Screenplay, Narrative Short \$125
 Best Cinematography, Documentary Feature \$150
 Best Cinematography, Narrative Feature \$150
 Best Cinematography, Documentary Short \$125
 Best Cinematography, Narrative Short \$125

Awards Announcement and Gathering 5:00-6:00PM Sunday, October 10 in The Grand Cinema Lower Lobby. No ticket required!

2021 PNW Audience Choice Awards

Filmmakers from BC, WA, OR, and ID are eligible for the PNW Choice Awards. Winners will be chosen based on audience votes.

Audience Choice, Pacific Northwest Feature \$500
 Audience Choice, Pacific Northwest Short \$250

2021 Audience Choice Awards

Filmmakers not from the Pacific Northwest are eligible for these awards. Winners will be chosen based on audience votes.

Audience Choice, Feature \$500
 Audience Choice, Short \$250

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Audience Choice Ballots

It's your chance to choose a winner. Be sure to get your ballot upon entering the theater before each screening. Rate each film you see on a scale between 1 and 5 (5 is if you loved it, 1 is if you loved it less). Drop off your ballot with a volunteer as you exit. Audience Choice winners are announced at the end of the festival.



thank you

Jacqui Cain
 Deborah Davenport
 Mary Hause
 Houqi Li

Special thanks to our volunteer screeners!

Kelly Marie Lux
 Mary Menard
 Allen Stanton
 Arlene Thomas

Lynda Zalupski
 Rick Zalupski

Festival Jury



Sharlese Metcalf Music Videos

Sharlese Metcalf began her radio career at Green River Community College in 2001 hosting their Northwest music focused show "Local Motion" on KGRG. She attained her Broadcasting Certificate from Green River, and was offered a job at Jones Radio Networks. There, she worked on Classic Country and Top 40 shows as a production assistant. While at Jones Radio, she was given a KEXP internship to work on the show Audioasis as an assistant to the host and booker.

In 2009, She became an Audioasis producer, and left the show in 2018. She currently is the Producer of the Afternoon Show, rotating host of Expansions (Third Sunday of the month) and host of Mechanical Breakdown (Mondays, 1-2am) on KEXP and has been on air since 2007.



Matt McCormick Narrative Feature Films

Matt McCormick is a filmmaker and artist whose work blurs genre distinctions to construct witty, lyrical observations of history, culture, and geography. Working at the intersection of documentary and artistic production, McCormick investigates forgotten histories while exploring experimental cinematic formalism. His films, which include *The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal*, *Some Days are Better than Others*, *The Great Northwest*, and *Buzz One Four*, have screened in venues ranging from the Sundance Film Festival to the Museum of Modern Art.

Beyond filmmaking, McCormick led programming for the PDX Film Festival and Boathouse Microcinema and served as a guest curator for the Venice International Film Festival and the Portland Art Museum. He has also directed music videos for The Shins, Sleater-Kinney, Broken Bells, and more. He is based in the Pacific Northwest where he is an assistant-professor of Art and Integrated Media at Gonzaga University in Spokane.



Nick Bruno Narrative Short Films, Late Night Films

Nick Bruno cut his teeth, like many film programmers of his generation, behind the counter of multiple video stores, first as the manager and film buyer for Five Star Video in Berkeley, California and then as a clerk at Portland, Oregon's Video Verite. He spent much of the past decade promoting and curating for the Portland International Film Festival and Northwest Film Center where, as the sole programmer for the festival's PIFF After Dark sidebar and the year-round Genrifried: Cult & Other Curiosities series, his programmatic focus leaned heavily on genre cinema. From 2019 until the pandemic interrupted the art house landscape, Nick served as the Public Cinema Programs Manager for SIFF Cinema and as a programmer for the Seattle International Film Festival. In September of this year, Nick came aboard the Film Festival Flix team as Director of Communications & PR for their virtual festival hosting platform and streaming services. He holds a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus in Film Production, Social Philosophy, and Media Studies from Marylhurst University.



Masami Kawai Narrative Short Films

Masami Kawai is a Los Angeles-born filmmaker who divides her time between Oregon and LA. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Cinema Studies at the University of Oregon. Kawai participated in Film Independent's diversity program, Project Involve. She was a selected director in the Francis Ford Coppola One-Act play series. She also received the Sarah Jacobson Filmmaking Grant, the Panavision New Filmmakers Grant, and a fellowship from LA's Visual Communications, which supports emerging Asian American filmmakers. Her work has screened at various venues, including the Rotterdam Film Festival, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, and Portland International Film Festival.

She received her BA from Hampshire College, where she focused on Visual Arts, Radical Pedagogy, and Post-Colonial Studies. After graduation, she devoted herself to community organizing before pursuing filmmaking again. She received her MFA in Directing from UCLA's School of Film.



Rana San Pacific Northwest Films

Rana San is an artist, curator, and producer whose creative practice melds dreamwork, written word, embodied movement, video poetry, and analog photography. She uses experimental modes of visual storytelling to examine intimacy and interdependence as spiritual tools for survival. In community, Rana crafts collective experiences that celebrate the work of independent artists and activists who center emergent practices in moving image media and contemporary performing arts.

As the Artistic Director at Northwest Film Forum, Rana co-curates year-round community programming, including ByDesign Festival, Cadence: Video Poetry Festival, and Local Sightings Film Festival.



Vera Brunner-Sung Narrative Feature Films

Born in Michigan to parents from Korea and Switzerland, Vera Brunner-Sung works across fiction, documentary, and experimental film to explore place and identity. Her work has been screened at festivals and museums around the world, including Sundance, Rotterdam, the Whitney Museum, Torino Film Festival, CPH:DOX, Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, San Francisco International Film Festival, Hamptons, and Ann Arbor.

Her writing on film has appeared in publications including Sight & Sound, Cinema Scope, and Millennium Film Journal. A Sundance FilmTwo and Center for Asian American Media fellow, she is currently an assistant professor at Ohio State University.



TJ Walker Pacific Northwest Films, PNW Late Night Short Films

TJ Walker founded JWALK Entertainment, a multi-faceted, innovative digital media production company, in 2011. Like many filmmakers with a passion to create, he started soon after high school making small-budget video projects. Walker later completed a degree in digital media production and got to work making his visions a reality. Walker's work includes Phoenix Run, an augmented comic book and multi-award winning web series, now in development with Gunpowder & Sky, the short film Green Fiction, and Invisible Intelligence, a multimedia reimagining of Harriet Tubman's world.

His future projects include the interactive, multimedia spinoff world of Pandemic Punk. Walker also uses his filmmaking skills to mentor at-risk fostered teens at HomeLife, a foster care company he established with his mother Quincey Walker.



Clyde Petersen Animated Films

Clyde Petersen is a transgender Northwest artist, working in film, animation, music, installation, and fabulous spectacle. He re-creates lost worlds and documents queer culture that has been largely erased by AIDS, capitalism and gentrification. He works to offer alternate, more equitable realities and futures through the reexamination of overlooked histories of queer communities.

Clyde is the director of Torrey Pines, a stop-motion animated feature film with a live score that toured the world for two years. Torrey Pines is an autobiographical film about growing up with a schizophrenic mother as a queer youth in the early '90s. Clyde is currently working on two new feature films: Even Hell Has Its Heroes: The Music of Earth, a documentary about the legendary Seattle band Earth, shot entirely on Super8 film, and Our Forbidden Country, a stop-motion animated film about the history of gay cruising in pre-AIDS Seattle.



Payal Kapadia

Documentary Feature Films

Payal Kapadia is a Mumbai based filmmaker and artist. She studied Film Direction at the Film & Television Institute of India. Her much acclaimed short film *Afternoon Clouds* was India's sole official selection in Cannes Film Festival in 2017. Her short film *And what was the Summer Saying* was awarded at the International Documentary Film Festival of Amsterdam IDFA and the Mumbai International Film festival (2020) and screened at numerous international festivals.

Kapadia's experimental short *The Last Mango Before Monsoon* was premiered at Oberhausen International Film Festival (2015), where she was awarded FIPRESCI award and Special Jury Prize. Her feature debut *A Night of Knowing Nothing* received the award for Best Documentary at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.

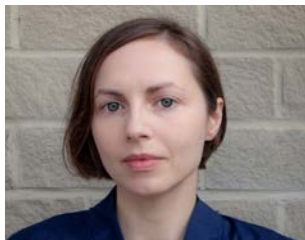


Lynne Siefert

Documentary Short Films

Lynne Siefert is a moving image artist from Seattle, WA. Her 16mm films and digital works have been exhibited internationally in film festivals such as the Berlinale, Edinburgh International Film Festival, EXiS Experimental Film and Video Festival, Antimatter Media Art, and L'Alternativa Barcelona Independent Film Festival, and in regional galleries such as The Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Glass Box, among others. Siefert has received funding from Artist Trust, 4Culture, Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, and The Puffin Foundation.

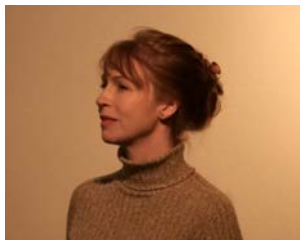
In 2019, Siefert became the first moving image artist to receive the Seattle Art Museum's Betty Bowen Award in the award's 43-year history. She recently had her first solo exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum.



Alena Koroleva

Documentary Short Films

Alena Koroleva is a multidisciplinary artist and curator originally from Ulyanovsk, Russia. She works in sound, photo and video art and curates film programs. She studied documentary filmmaking in the St. Petersburg State University of Cinema and TV and made a few short films which have been shown at international festivals including Stuttgart Filmwinter, Germany; Revolutions Per Minute Festival, Boston, US; Experiments in Cinema, New Mexico, US; Rencontres Paris-Berlin, Gimli Film Festival, Canada. Since 2012 she has been co-curating the Experimental Film Festival Kinodot, and has worked for 9 years as a member of the selection committee for the international competition of Message to Man IFF. Alena is currently in Toronto, Canada where she works as a freelance programmer and records sounds around Lake Ontario.



Courtney Stephens

Documentary Feature Films

Courtney Stephens is a filmmaker based in Los Angeles. Her non-fiction and experimental films address the contours of language, historical memory, and women's lives. Her work has been exhibited at the Berlinale, the Museum of Modern Art, New York Film Festival, The National Gallery of Art, South by Southwest, The Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Hong Kong, Camden, Mumbai, Luxembourg, Dhaka, and San Francisco International Film Festivals. She is the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, a California Humanities Grant, fellowships from MacDowell, Yaddo, Pocantico, and the Sloan Foundation, and was one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film. A graduate of the American Film Institute, she co-founded the Los Angeles microcinema Veggie Cloud and has curated film programs for The Getty, Museum of the Moving Image, Union Docs, and Flaherty NYC.

Single Tickets

Gen. Admission \$11
Matinee \$8

Members of The Grand Cinema receive \$2.50 off regular prices for single tickets.

VIP Festival Pass

\$150

Includes Opening Night, Closing Night, t-shirt, welcome bag, unlimited films, and access to the Festival Lounge with complimentary food and drink. To guarantee seating at films, please arrive 30 minutes prior to each screening.

Student Pass

FREE! THANKS TO
TACOMA
CREATES

Visit The Grand Cinema box office now and throughout the festival to sign up for a free Student Film Pass. (Must show student ID.) Then just present your pass at the box office for free admission to as many regular TFF screenings as you'd like!

Students are any currently enrolled primary, secondary, college, or trade school students of any age. Some restrictions apply: Opening and Closing Night, Family Shorts.

Opening Night

\$15/10 Members

Event details on page 10.

Closing Night

\$15/10 Members

Event details on page 14.

How to buy tickets & passes

Festival passes and single tickets for all films and events can be purchased at:

The Grand Cinema
606 S Fawcett Ave Tacoma, WA
or online at tacomafilmmfestival.com.

TFF Merchandise

2021 Tacoma Film Festival merchandise is available at The Grand Cinema throughout the festival.

rain jacket!
\$40



the classic t!
\$20, AVAILABLE IN
JADE OR BLACK

OPENING NIGHT

Thursday, October 7, 7:30 PM



the film

Potato Dreams of America

Opening the 2021 Tacoma Film Festival is Potato Dreams of America, Wes Hurley's long awaited feature film that is closely based on the writer-director's childhood.

Struggling to survive in the USSR during the turbulent years of Perestroika, Lena and her gay son, Potato, escape into the fantasy world of pirated American movies, but soon the movies are not enough and Elena decides to become a mail-order bride and discover America for herself. Soon after Lena marries a much older and very eccentric John, the mother and son find that they're in for a lot of surprises.

Come watch TFF 2021's opening feature film and join us in kicking off an incredible eight days of storytelling. Stay for the afterparty and enjoy free cookies and a complimentary drink!

Full film details on page 18.



Wes Hurley is a Russian-born and raised, Seattle-based filmmaker. He has made two feature films, dozens of shorts and 2 seasons of the critically acclaimed comedy series *Capitol Hill*.

His autobiographical short documentary *Little Potato* received dozens of awards and screened at many festivals including the 2017 Tacoma Film Festival. In 2018, TFF exhibited Hurley's Virtual Reality work *Potato Dreams*.

The Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett Avenue
General Admission \$15/Members \$10



BROWNE
FAMILY VINEYARDS



ELYSIAN
BREWING

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CENTERPIECE FILM

Friday, October 8, 8:00 PM



the film

Youngstown

The Tacoma Film Festival is pleased to welcome back Pete Ohs with his latest feature comedy *Youngstown*. Ohs was last here in 2017 with *Everything Beautiful is Far Away*, a feature-length narrative that he wrote and directed.

Youngstown is set in and named after the town in Ohs' home state of Ohio and features Stephanie Hunt (*Friday Night Lights*, *Somebody Up There Likes Me*) and Andy Faulkner (*Wobble Palace*, *Nothing Bad Will Happen, We Are*).

Youngstown tells the story of Sarah Jayne Reynolds, who is in the witness protection program but is a terrible liar. After another unsuccessful resettling, she ditches her new life and returns to her hometown to attend the annual fair she's never missed. But when her true identity is revealed, she's forced to choose between being something she's not and finally growing up.

Full film details on page 19.



Director Pete Ohs
will be in attendance.

Pete Ohs is a four-time regional Emmy-Award winner and was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film" for 2013.

In 2017, he wrote and directed *Everything Beautiful is Far Away*, a sci-fi fable starring Julia Garner, Joseph Cross and a robohead.

He is the co-director of the 2012 feature *I Send You This Place*, in addition to several short films and music videos.

The Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett Avenue
General Admission \$11/Members \$8.50

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SOUND SUCCESS BEGINS HERE.

Special Events

Family Shorts

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 9
10:00 AM**

**The Grand Cinema #1
606 Fawcett Avenue
Free!**

Limited reserved seating,
day of only.

Challenging expectations and reflecting growth and resilience, NYICFF Kid Flicks Two is a fantastic trip on the road to growing up. Surprises in a dumpling bring good luck, and many reflections, in the beautiful stop motion animation *The Coin*. In *The One You Never Forget*, a young teen tries to keep his first date under wraps, but his parents have other ideas. In *Home Away 3000*, a space traveller's funky space van konks out on an unknown planet with plenty of surprises.

Full film details on page 31.

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Viva Kid Flicks!

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 9
10:00 AM**

**The Grand Cinema #2
606 Fawcett Avenue
Free!**

Limited reserved seating,
day of only.

NYICFF Viva Kid Flicks celebrates the best Spanish-language short films from around the globe. The brilliant Spanish-language tales in Viva Kid Flicks, with a range of kids' perspectives, speak volumes in any tongue. NYICFF jury-award winner *3Feet* kicks things off in style with Gonzalo, who tries his hilarious best to keep things clean to stay in the game; then orbit around Ailin and her mom, who work through love and challenges in the charming stop motion *Ailin on the Moon*.

In Spanish with English subtitles.
Full film details on page 38.

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Special Events

TRACK 06 a music video showcase

**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 12
5:00 PM**

**The Grand Cinema
606 Fawcett Avenue
GA \$11
Members \$8.50**

TRACK is back in its sixth installment showcasing music videos from our own backyard and around the world. Join filmmakers, musicians, and movie lovers for this one-of-a-kind chance to see music videos as nature intended, on the big screen, turned up loud.

Full film details on page 39.

Connect

Festival Lounge

Throughout the festival, all festival-goers have access to our Festival Lounge where they can enjoy free Wi-Fi, conversation and refreshments.

FRIDAY: OPEN 3-9PM
(BAR 5-9P)
SATURDAY: OPEN 12P-9P
(BAR 5-9P)
SUNDAY: OPEN 12P-7P
(BAR 4-7P)
MON - WED: OPEN 3-9P

**The Grand Cinema's
Lower Lobby**

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Social Media

Our media team will share interviews, film reactions, and exclusive event footage on our social profiles. Follow along and share your experience too.

#2021TFF
#TACOMAFILMFEST
@TACOMAFILMFEST



The Tacoma Film Festival is also Online!

The 16th Tacoma Film Festival will be streaming! Select films will be available online during the week of the festival, October 7-14.

Please visit
tacomafilmfestival.com for
film and ticket info.

Special Events

CLOSING NIGHT

Thursday, October 14, 7:30 PM



the film

Thin Skin

Thin Skin is a music-infused darkly comedic drama about keeping it together when you're falling apart. A true story by the comedian and musician Ahamefule J. Oluo, *Thin Skin* is loosely based on the award-winning Off-Broadway show *Now I'm Fine* and the *This American Life* story "The Wedding Crasher".

It features Ahamefule J. Oluo, Annette Toutonghi, Ijeoma Oluo, Dwayne Kennedy, and Hari Kondabolu. Shot entirely on location in Seattle, *Thin Skin* is directed by Charles Mudede from a script written by Mudede, Ahamefule J. Oluo, and Lindy West.

Watch this last feature film of TFF 2021 and join us after to toast an incredible eight days of storytelling, and to learn who won this year's Audience Choice awards. Enjoy refreshments, a no host bar, and music.

Full film details on page 22.



Charles Tonderai Mudede is a Zimbabwean-born cultural critic, urbanist, writer, and filmmaker.

He collaborated with acclaimed director Robinson Devor on the films *Police Beat* and *Zoo*, both of which premiered at Sundance. *Police Beat* is part of the Museum of Modern Art's permanent collection, and *Zoo* was presented at the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes. Mudede is currently the film editor for Seattle's *The Stranger*.

The Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett Avenue
General Admission \$15/Members \$10

BROWNE
FAMILY VINEYARDS

hello,
cupcake

7
SEAS

ELYSIAN
BREWING

COVID-19 Policy

Proof of vaccination and face masks are required to attend the Tacoma Film Festival's indoor events.

- ***HIGHLY PREFERRED*** Your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card. Originals, copies, or photographs on a mobile device are acceptable.
- **WA State Certificate of COVID-19 Vaccination.**
- Certificate of COVID-19 vaccination or Washington State Immunization Information System printout. (We only need COVID-19 vaccination information.)
- Image or copy of proof from your health care provider
- You may be asked for photo ID.

All forms of proof should show that you have received the full course of the vaccine at least two weeks prior to your visit to The Grand.

We are not generally accepting negative tests for entry at this time. If you have a medical condition or bona fide, sincerely held religious belief that prevents providing proof of vaccination, you may enter with a negative COVID-19 test that shows a result within 48 hours of entry.

PLAN A GRAND EVENT

Rent our theater for a private screening!
Bring your own film or see one of our currently playing films.
Visit grandcinema.com/rentals for more details!



Creating space and welcoming new stories: A Panel Discussion led by Jamika Scott

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM
FREE !
The Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett Avenue**

Filmmakers will discuss breaking down barriers and creating greater accessibility for telling stories through film.

Focusing on how aspiring filmmakers can get started- and why it's so important that they do- as well as how people already working in the field can make and keep space for new voices.



MODERATOR JAMIKA SCOTT

Born and raised in the Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma, Jamika Scott is a writer, filmmaker, and advocate. She is currently working on a web series that examines the intricacies of being the matriarchal head of a family unit.

Socially Isolated Podcast: Live Episodes

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR LOOK IN OUR LOBBY FOR UPDATES ON DATES AND TIMES. FREE!
The Grand Cinema, 606 Fawcett Avenue**

Socially Isolated, Tacoma's arts and pop culture podcast, will be recording live from the TFF Lounge! Stop by to listen in on interviews and submit your questions for the festival crew.

Socially Isolated is hosted by Jp Avila and Ryan Davis. Listen to past episodes and subscribe at soisopodcast.com.

TACOMAFILMFESTIVAL.COM



HOSTS JP AVILA AND RYAN DAVIS.

Film Guide

Still from *Seven Years in May*
(Page 18)

Narrative Features

Pages: 18-22

Some screenings will include post film Q&As in theater.

staff

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR & PROGRAMMER
David Dinnell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GRAND CINEMA
Philip Cowan

ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GRAND CINEMA
Wade Neal

EVENTS & SALES MANAGER
Rachel Marecle

A huge thank you to our festival volunteers & staff!

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Ernest Jasmin
MEMBERSHIP MANAGER
Marlee Myers

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Ken Crowell
MEMBERSHIP & ACCOUNTING
Gini Liley

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Paul Richter
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Oliver Johnson
FILM TRAFFIC & PROJECTION
Jose Candido, Diante Neagle, Pat.c Noriega, & Wendell Ratliff
ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING
Wade Neal, Philip Cowan, Ernest Jasmin

Narrative Features



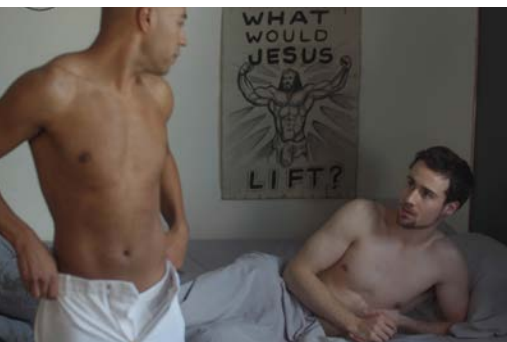
Potato Dreams of America

Wes Hurley
US | 2021 | 96 min

Struggling to survive in the USSR during the turbulent years of Perestroika, Lena and her gay son, Potato, escape into the fantasy world of pirated American movies, but soon the movies are not enough and Elena decides to become a mail-order bride and discover America for herself.

Soon after Lena marries a much older and very eccentric John, the mother and son find that they're in for a lot of surprises. Closely based on the writer-director Wes Hurley's childhood, *Potato Dreams of America* is one of those stories that prove that real life is often much stranger than fiction.

Opening Night Event details on page 10.



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THURSDAY OCTOBER 7 7:30 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #162



Seven Years in May

Affonso Uchôa
Brazil | 2019 | 41 min

Seven Years in May is a remarkable achievement of simple and powerful storytelling. The heart of the film is Rafael, a young man from a working class neighborhood in Brazil, who recounts his past experiences navigating the difficulties within his neighborhood and surviving police persecution.

"*Seven Years in May* could be read as a political fable that prefigures Brazil's complex situation, but also as a mythological tale full of hope, in which it is still possible to imagine another future for the country" (Elena Lopez Riera)

Preceded by
Misery Next Time
Rajee Samarasinghe
Sri Lanka | 2021 | 5 min

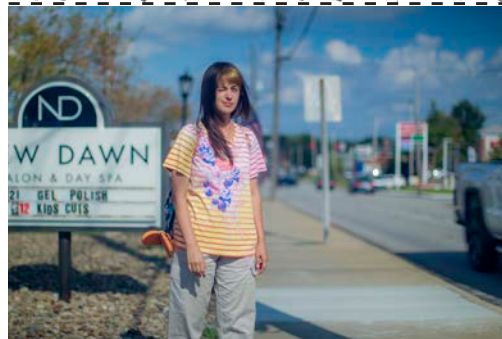
Desert Lights
Felix Blume
Mexico | 2021 | 30 min

See pg 62 for short film info.

FRIDAY	OCTOBER 8	12:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
MONDAY	OCTOBER 11	5:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2



Narrative Features



Youngstown

Pete Ohs
US | 2021 | 78 min

Sarah Jayne Reynolds is in the witness protection program but she's a terrible liar. After another unsuccessful resettling, she ditches her new life and returns to her hometown to attend the annual fair she's never missed.

But when her true identity is revealed, she's forced to choose between being something she's not and finally growing up.



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FRIDAY OCTOBER 8 8:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #162



Wood and Water

Jonas Bak
Germany/France/Hong Kong | 2021 | 80 min

With seamless grace, shooting on 16mm, and underscored by a soundtrack from Brian Eno, German director Jonas Bak moves from the tall spires of the Black Forest to the teeming skyscrapers of Hong Kong in his tranquil, deeply moving feature debut.

Newly retired from her church job, Anke (played by Bak's real-life mother) dreams of spending time with her grown children. Though she manages time with her daughters, the absence of her elusive son Max, who has been living for years in Hong Kong, leaves her feeling incomplete. So, in a bold decision, Anke pushes through her anxieties and deep loneliness and travels to Hong Kong just as ongoing pro-democracy protests erupt. While there, a series of chance encounters coupled with the city's teeming energy help her make way for a new chapter in her life, one of spiritual renewal and self-awareness.



SATURDAY	OCTOBER 9	4:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 13	12:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1

Narrative Features



FIRSTNESS

Brielle Brilliant
US | 2021 | 78 min

The debut feature film from Brielle Brilliant, *Firstness* features musician Tim Kinsella (from the bands Joan of Arc, Cap'n Jazz, Owls, and others) as a maladjusted dad who is trying to heal in an experimental therapy group called Infinite Beginnings. Meanwhile, his nonbinary kid (performed by Spencer Jording) is getting close with an older man (played by Caleb Cabrera). Their relationship feels both dreamy and concerning—depending on whose watching.

Brielle Brilliant makes books, films, and prank calls about (mis)communication, liberation, and the multiplicity of identity. They are the author of *The Spud* and *The Curtsy Family*, the director of this short film *Streakers*, the voice behind prank-calling project *Calls/Deliveries*, and the artist of the series *Illocutionary Hay* which was exhibited at Open House Contemporary Chicago. They have a degree in Philosophy and they dance. Brielle has also worked as a youth counselor, writer, teacher, and bookseller, and has a couple other names, like Pavli.

SATURDAY	OCTOBER 9	6:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
TUESDAY	OCTOBER 12	1:30 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1



The Scary of Sixty-First

Dasha Nekrasova
US | 2020 | 81 min

While out apartment hunting, college pals Noelle and Addie stumble upon the deal of a lifetime: a posh duplex on Manhattan's Upper East Side. But soon after moving in, a more sinister picture of the apartment emerges when a mysterious woman arrives and claims the property used to belong to the infamous and recently-deceased Jeffrey Epstein.

With this news, Noelle becomes obsessed with the visitor—to the point of infatuation. As the pair plunge deeper into the conspiracies of the Epstein case, Addie falls into her own bizarre state: a pseudo-possession complete with inexplicable fits of age-regressed sexual mania. As they peel back on these strange occurrences, the truth reveals itself to be more twisted than they could have ever imagined.

PRESENTED BY:



FRIDAY	OCTOBER 8	10:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
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Narrative Features



Lake Forest Park

Kersti Jan Werdal
US | 2021 | 60 min

Filmed on location in Northwest Washington, *Lake Forest Park* (un)winds through a coming-of-age tale of a group of friends dealing with the secret of a classmate's death. The film explores collective and individual grief tinged with existential confusions. Caught are sweet subtleties of youth while the unsayable calls out to the sounds that are raining.

Kersti Jan Werdal is a photographer and filmmaker whose work centers around collective memory, hidden truths within cultures that experience(d) erasure, and place. Demanding an active viewer, she typically situates specific plot-points opaque, and prefers to pivot away from the expository. Her films focus on off-screen sound and framing of the subject to tell a story, while often working within a structuralist form. She frequently works in Washington State, where she was born and raised, incorporating landscapes and histories of the region. *Lake Forest Park* is Werdal's second feature-length film.

SUNDAY	OCTOBER 10	2:30 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
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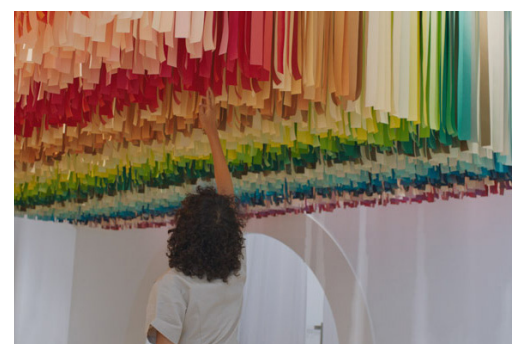
Alia's Birth

Sam Abbas
US/UK/Bolivia | 2020 | 66 min

A rocky relationship between a female couple forces them to spend the night apart. Through their respective journeys we experience a live recorded set by queer superstar DJ/Producer Nicole Moudaber and witness a live home birth with a resuscitation.

With Poorna Jagannathan, Nikohl Boosheri, Maya Kazan, Samuel H. Levine, and Edward Akrouf.

Sam Abbas is an Egyptian-American filmmaker currently living in Paris. In 2018, he founded the production company ArabQ Films, and released his debut feature *The Wedding* across the U.S. and Middle East. The film screened in Turkey, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Egypt; countries in which it is difficult & in parts illegal to identify as gay or nonbinary. In 2020 Abbas acted as curator, director, editor, and producer and teamed with leading cinematographers from around the world to create the documentary *Eremja* (Anthologies).



SUNDAY	OCTOBER 10	4:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
MONDAY	OCTOBER 11	4:30 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1

Narrative Features



A Black Rift Begins to Yawn

Matthew Wade
US | 2021 | 101 min

Two scientists come into possession of their recently-deceased professor's set of cassette tapes, thought to contain recordings of signals from beyond the stars. As the former classmates dig into the recordings, they begin to feel memory, time and their identities slip into obscurity.

An experiment in steam-of-conscious narrative filmmaking, *A Black Rift Begins to Yawn* is a tone poem spouting from the dark forest floors of the Pacific Northwest.

Matthew Wade is a filmmaker, animator, artist and composer. He has worked as a freelance commercial animator in LA for numerous international brands. Matthew's films have screened in dozens of film festivals, art galleries, and universities around the world. He lives with his wife/producing partner, Sara Lynch, and their cats in rural Oregon.

PRESENTED BY:



SPONSORED BY:



SUNDAY OCTOBER 10 7:30 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #1

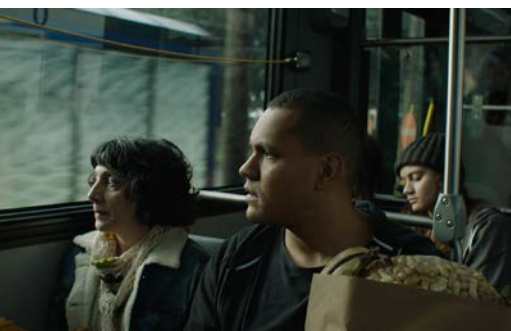
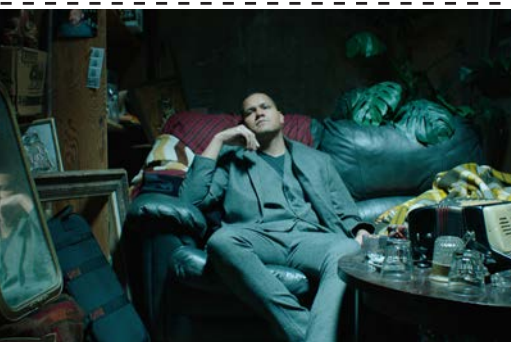


Thin Skin

Charles Mudede
US | 2021 | 90 min

Ahamefule Joe Oluo's days are spent at a soul-deadening corporate job and his nights come alive behind a trumpet at Seattle jazz clubs. Struggling to climb out of the ruins of his broken marriage, Aham has to deal with endless bureaucracy, a boss trying to lead him to the Lord, and a mother who refuses to cut ties with his ex.

After losing his home, Aham with his two young daughters, moves into his older sister Ijeoma's one bedroom apartment along with their mother, a well-meaning white lady from Kansas, and her array of caged animals. One day, their estranged Nigerian father makes contact after years of silence which sends the family into a mad scramble for meaning. Pressed together in this vise of a home, the family struggles with adult life and the meaning of family.

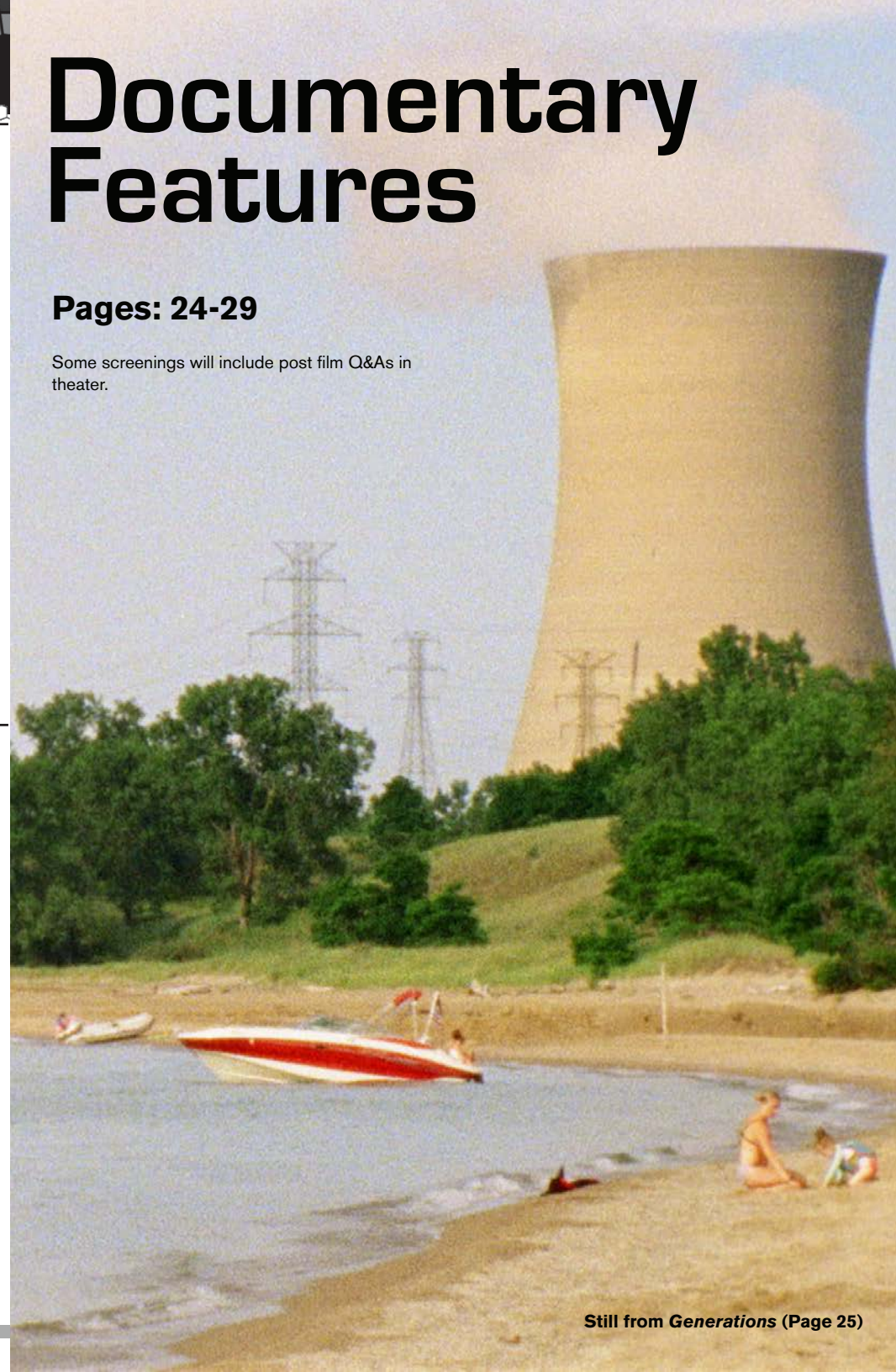


THURSDAY OCTOBER 14 7:30 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #1 G2

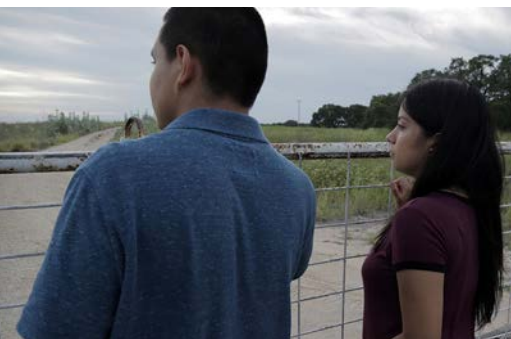
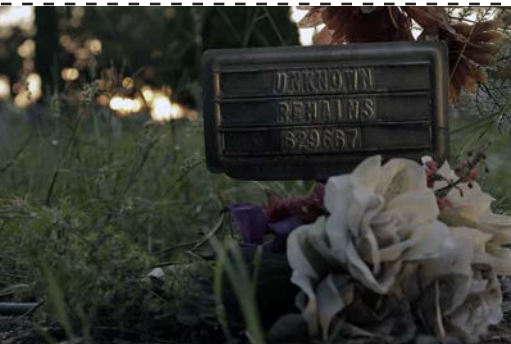
Documentary Features

Pages: 24-29

Some screenings will include post film Q&As in theater.



Still from *Generations* (Page 25)



Missing In Brooks County

Lisa Molomot, Jeff Bemiss
US | 2020 | 80 min

Missing in Brooks County follows the stories of two families searching for their loved ones who went missing in the fields of Brooks County, Texas. A gripping drama, it is also a deeply humane portrait of the human rights workers, activists, and law enforcement agents who confront the life-and-death consequences of a broken immigration system.

Lisa Molomot has directed and edited documentaries about the American Southwest in recent years including *Precious Knowledge*, *The Cleaners*, and *Soledad*.

Jeff Bemiss is an award-winning, Oscar-shortlisted writer/director who has worked in shorts, features and documentaries. His work has aired on network television and PBS.

FRIDAY	OCTOBER 8	2:15 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
THURSDAY	OCTOBER 14	2:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1



Victoria

Sofie Benoot, Liesbeth De Ceulaer, Isabelle Tollenaere
US/Belgium | 2020 | 71 min

In the desert of Southern California, lies the unfinished city of California City. A predesigned city, it was originally intended to mirror LA in size and population, but was never completed. Lashay T. Warren, left behind his turbulent past in LA to make a fresh start within this grid of thousands of crumbling streets.

Lashay willfully makes his way through the vast city on foot, reporting about his encounters with his new and unfamiliar home in a diary, just like the early pioneers did, when they entered a foreign desert country. "If I keep things in motion, everything will be alright, everything in life will be straighter", writes Lashay. His walks become less purposeful, merely guided by curiosity, the stimuli of the landscape and the rhythm of his footsteps. Victoria evokes this wandering, in which Lashay, like a contemporary pioneer, draws up his own path and leaves behind his mark.

FRIDAY	OCTOBER 8	5:30 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 13	2:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1



Generations

Lynne Siefert
US | 2020 | 67 min

Composed of scenes of coal power plants and their surrounding communities, *Generations* was filmed throughout the United States in 2018 and 2019. The film consists of twelve 5 minute single-shot static tableaux that depict people doing everyday activities while living in the shadow of massive power-generating stations.

Taking inspiration from George Inness' 1856 painting, "The Lackawanna Valley", which illustrated a scene at the beginning of the industrial revolution in United States' (made possible largely by the invention of coal powered steam engines), the coal power plants in *Generations* stand as remnants of a fading era of industrialization and as future relics ushering in the Anthropocene.

Special Juror presentation.

SATURDAY	OCTOBER 9	2:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
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Taming the Garden

Salomé Jashi
Georgia/Switzerland/Germany | 2021 | 90 min

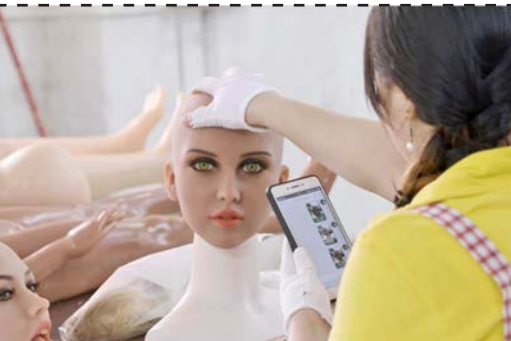
The second feature-length documentary from Georgian filmmaker Salomé Jashi, whose 2016 debut feature *The Dazzling Light of Sunset* received critical acclaim and several awards.

Taming the Garden depicts a powerful man, the former prime minister of Georgia, who has developed an exquisite hobby. He collects century old trees along Georgia's coastline. He commissions his men to uproot them and bring them to his private garden. Some of these trees are as tall as 15-floor-buildings. And in order to transplant a tree of such dimensions some other trees are chopped down, electric cables are shifted and new roads are paved through mandarin plantations.

The film moves the concept of uprooting from its metaphorical meaning into an oppressive, tangible and yet surreal reality.

SATURDAY	OCTOBER 9	4:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
TUESDAY	OCTOBER 12	7:15 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2

Documentary Features



Ascension

Jessica Kingdon
China/US | 2021 | 97 min

Ascension is an impressionistic portrait of China's industrial supply chain that reveals the country's growing class divide through staggering observations of labor, consumerism and wealth. The documentary portrays capitalism in China across the levels of its operation, from the crudest mine to the most rarefied forms of leisure.

Accordingly, the film is structured in three parts, ascending through the levels of the capitalist structure: workers running factory production, the middle class training for and selling to aspirational consumers, and the elites reveling in a new level of hedonistic enjoyment. In traveling up the rungs of China's social ladder, we see how each level supports and makes possible the next while recognizing the contemporary "Chinese Dream" remains an elusive fantasy for most.

SATURDAY	OCTOBER 9	8:30 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 13	8:30 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1

Holy Frit

Justin Monroe
US | 2021 | 120 min

In this three-year race against time, Tim Carey, a talented, yet unknown L.A. artist, bluffs his way into winning the commission to create the largest stained-glass window of its kind. The problem is, he doesn't know how to make it.

After a desperate search, he finds someone who might have the answer - a famous glass maestro, named, Narcissus Quagliata.

Justin S. Monroe, originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a filmmaker and producer based in California. His previous films include the feature narratives *The Rock 'N' Roll Dreams of Duncan Christopher* (2010) and *The Unraveling* (2015). *Holy Frit* is Monroe's first feature-length documentary. The film premiered at the 2021 Slamdance where it received the Audience Award.

SUNDAY	OCTOBER 10	11:45 AM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
MONDAY	OCTOBER 11	12:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1

Documentary Features



Her Socialist Smile

John Gianvito
US | 2020 | 93 min

Though her life generated voluminous literature, most people ignore the fact that iconic deaf-blind author Helen Keller (1880–1968) was one of the most passionate socialist advocates of her time. In *Her Socialist Smile*, director John Gianvito resurrects Keller's radical views, which have been largely suppressed or sanitized over the years.

Beginning in Keller's early 30s, the pioneer leftist thinker fervently and eloquently spoke out on behalf of many progressive causes, from the rights of women and the disabled, to international socialism and world peace. Gianvito combines onscreen text taken from her most memorable public appearances, recorded voiceover by politically engaged poet Carolyn Forché, and quiet images of nature, creating another unique blend of activism, historical analysis and poetry. Reminding us that leftist struggles are inseparable from disability advocacy, Keller's words remain remarkably pertinent today.

SUNDAY	OCTOBER 10	4:45 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
THURSDAY	OCTOBER 14	12:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1

Terra Femme

Courtney Stephens
US | 2021 | 62 min

Terra Femme is an essay film comprised entirely of amateur travelogues filmed by women in the 1920s-50s. With a score by Sarah Davachi, the film weaves between geographical essay, personal inquiry, and historical speculation, examining these films as both private documents and accidental ethnographies. The films present a new type of traveler: no longer a male seeker of conquests, she might be a divorcee on a tour of biblical gardens, or a widow on a cruise to the North Pole.

Representing the world through women's eyes, the films raise questions about the politics of the tourist's gaze and the history of female mobility.

Juror presentation.

Courtney Stephens will be in attendance and presenting a special live version of Terra Femme.

SUNDAY	OCTOBER 10	7:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
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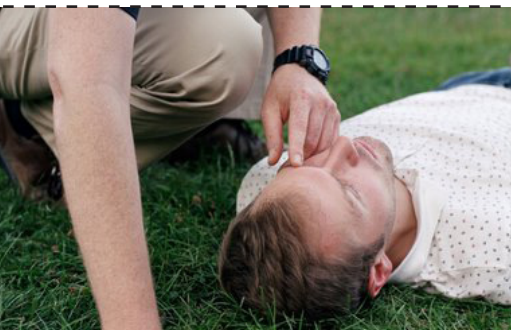
A Night of Knowing Nothing

Payal Kapadia
India/France | 2021 | 96 min

One of the year's most electrifying debuts – and winner of the best documentary award at Cannes – Payal Kapadia's hybrid feature *A Night of Knowing Nothing* is a fever dream of impossible love tied to a broader reflection on contemporary India. Structured around letters from an unseen protagonist, L, directed to her estranged lover, K, Kapadia's film is at once grand and contained, weaving fragments of a romance and moments of domestic life with handheld documentary footage captured around the country over several years.

Utilizing a variety of formats and formal approaches in service of an entrancing, cohesive whole, the film offers a rich and sensual interplay between sound and image that heightens its atmospheric textures. A film of unexpected urgency that delivers on the exhilarating potential promised by Kapadia's breakthrough shorts, *A Night of Knowing Nothing* announces the arrival of an audacious cinematic talent. - Andréa Picard

MONDAY	OCTOBER 11	2:30 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
THURSDAY	OCTOBER 14	3:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2



Acts of Love

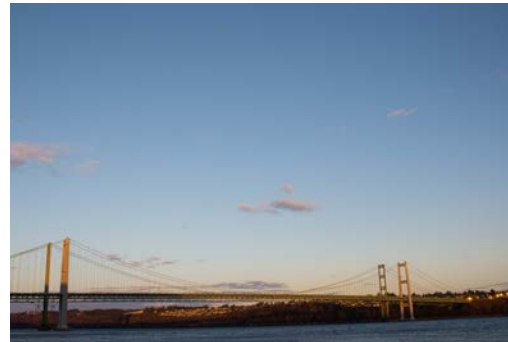
Isidore Bethel, Frances Leplay
US/France | 2021 | 71 min

A romance from the past creeps into the present. Looking for a way forward, a filmmaker arranges meetings with strangers on dating apps and asks them to make a film with him. He spirals into a series of unconventional relationships with them, and what results is a fragmented story about love, disappointment, and desire. Throughout, he receives phone calls from his mother, who reluctantly offers her son criticism and devotion – other forms of love.

Isidore Bethel's directorial debut *Liam* received the Paris LGBTQ+ Film Festival's Jury Prize in 2018. He was one of Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film" in 2020. Films he has edited and produced have screened in Cannes, IDFA, Cinéma du Réel, and Museum of Modern Art.

Francis Leplay is an actor and novelist, and has published two novels with Les Éditions du Seuil. He has worked with directors Sofia Coppola, Arnaud Desplechin, and Noémie Lvovsky, was featured in the TV series *Engrenages*, and screened at Cannes, Berlin, Venice, and Toronto.

MONDAY	OCTOBER 11	6:30 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
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700 Feet Down

Carly Vester, Peter Bortel
US | 2021 | 46 min

November 7, 1940: spectators from across Washington gathered to watch the Tacoma Narrows Bridge's collapse. A deep dive exploration into how history influences the present, *700 Feet Down* tells the story of the famed Galloping Gertie: those who witnessed her build and ultimate collapse, those who have explored her wreckage, lured by adventure and a giant octopus; and those who have studied her history.

Director in attendance.

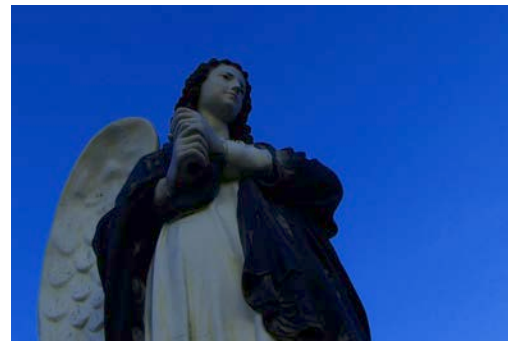
Preceded by
Narratives of Salishan: The Untold History
Justi Putzenreuter
US | 2019 | 32 min

Fire on Broadway
Mick Flaaen
US | 2020 | 11 min

See pg 62 for short film info.

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WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 13	6:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
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Slow Revolution

Rustin Thompson
US | 2021 | 71 min

Slow Revolution is the sixth feature-length film from Seattle filmmaker Rustin Thompson, whose 2018 film *My Mother Was Here*, received the Audience Award at the 14th Tacoma Film Festival.

A globe-trotting cameraman sends letters, postcards and videos from his more than 38 years of travel to his former colleague and lover. She shares them in an intimate voice-over, as he reflects on his experiences and reframes them for a present in which democratic instability, climate catastrophe, runaway technology and a global pandemic threaten the future of the planet.

Despite a sense of hopelessness, everywhere he "sees images for a film I can make." His restless need to document humanity is his own personal form of resistance.

THURSDAY	OCTOBER 14	5:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
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Short Film Programs

Pages: 31, 38-53

Some screenings will include post film Q&As in theater. Unless noted as "family friendly", most films are not yet rated and viewer discretion is advised.

Still from VO (Page 47)

Short Film Programs

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9 10:00 AM THE GRAND CINEMA #1

family shorts

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65 MIN From the New York International Children's Film Festival.



Eaten



The One You Never Forget



Shy & Ketchup

1. Wash Day

Canada | 2019 | 2 min
Jaida Salmon

Join Zoey as she goes through her weekly grueling routine of washing and styling her hair.

2. Shy & Ketchup

Chile | 2019 | 4 min
Teresa Romo

Hunger or craving, a shy girl has to push beyond her comfort zone to fulfill her need in this hilarious film.

3. The Butterfly

Affect

Canada | 2019 | 5 min
Stephanie Blakey

Before "the change," Jesse didn't think she was any different from her friends. Now she's a young worm trying to find her place in a butterfly's world.

4. The Coin

China, United States | 2019 | 7 min
Siqi Song

On Chinese New Year, finding the coin hidden in a dumpling brings good luck. One girl discovers new identities and long-standing connections tucked inside as well.

5. Paper Kite

Qatar | 2019 | 7 min
Nada Bedair

From her sixth grade classroom, Noor sketches a kite she sees outside the school walls. When new student Zayn walks in, a dream starts to take flight.

6. Home Away 3000

France | 2018 | 11 min
Héloïse Pétel & Philippe Baranzini

After crashing on an unknown planet, a space traveller begins to repair his spaceship. Little does he know the surprises that await him.

7. The One You Never Forget

United States | 2019 | 8 min
Morgan Jon Fox

A 14-year-old excitedly prepares for his first dance, but will his date live up to his parents' expectations?

8. 3feet

Colombia | 2018 | 14 min
Giselle Geney

Get your (soccer) kicks on the way to school with Gonzalo as he hilariously tries his very best to keep things clean and stay in the game.

9. Eaten

Iran | 2019 | 7 min
Mohsen Rezapour

On a mysterious, unknown planet, a rabbit-like creature is eaten, but that's just the beginning of the story.

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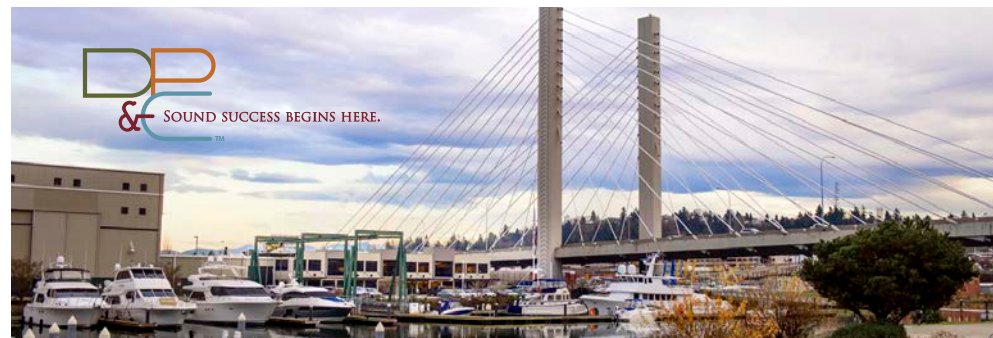
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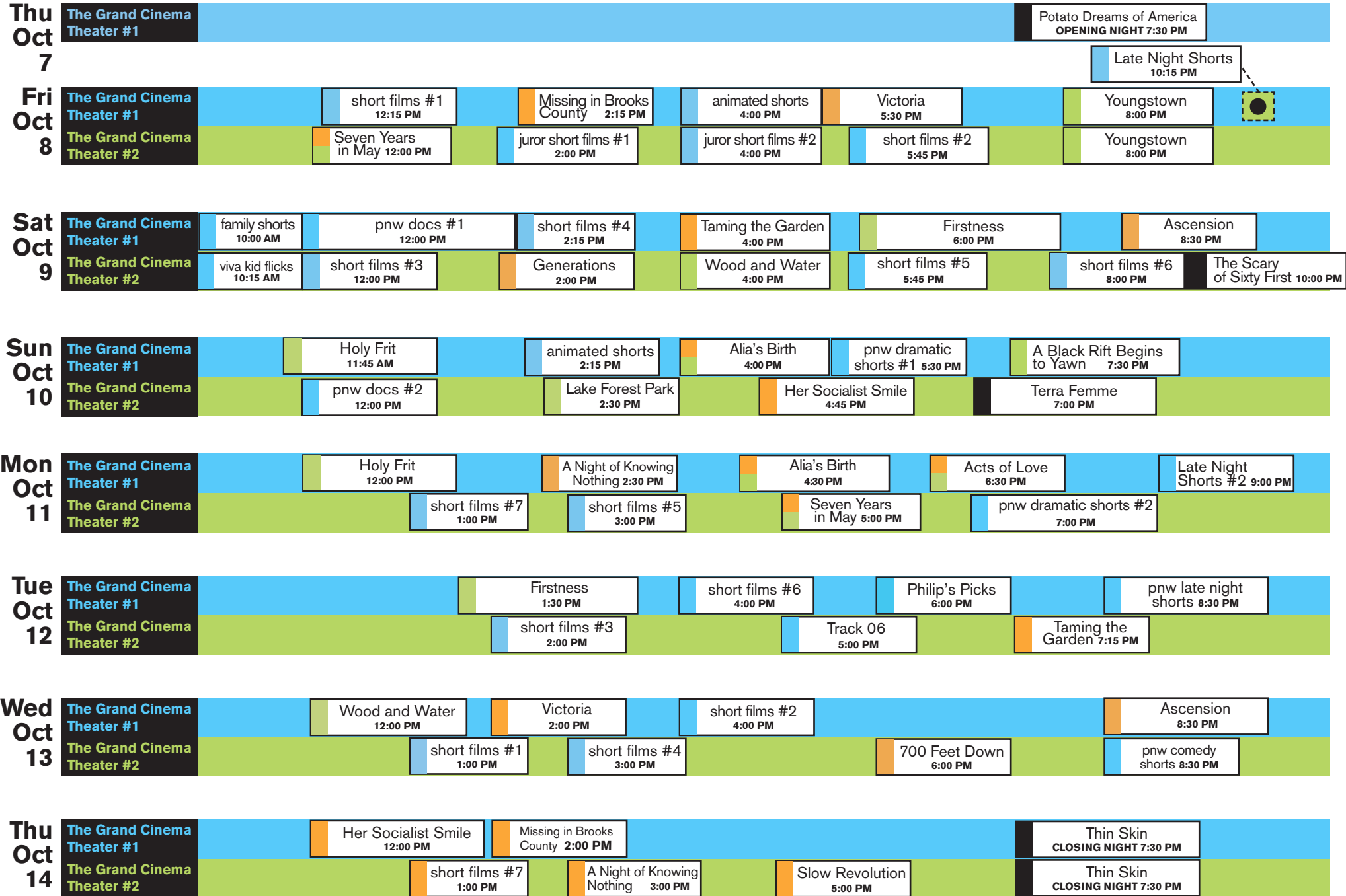
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Schedule at a Glance

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 Shorts Program
 Feature Narrative

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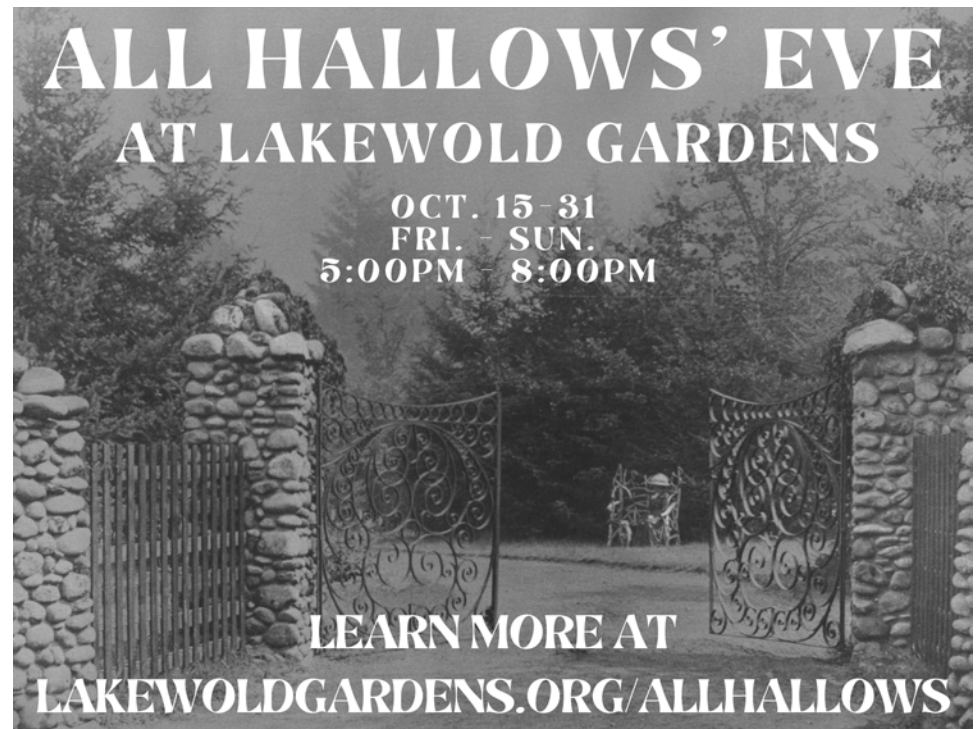
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Short Film Programs

¡viva kid flicks!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9 10:00 AM THE GRAND CINEMA #2

SPONSORED BY



64 MIN From the NY International Children's Film Festival. **In Spanish with English subtitles.**



1. 11:40

Claudia Ruiz
Argentina | 2018 | 12 min

When Damián gets a watch for his birthday, he and his little brother Matias can't stop checking it, anxiously waiting for 11:40 to arrive.



2. 3feet

Giselle Geney
Colombia | 2018 | 14 min

Get your (soccer) kicks on the way to school with Gonzalo as he hilariously tries his very best to keep things clean and stay in the game.



3. Ailín on the Moon

Claudia Ruiz
Argentina | 2018 | 5 min

A mother and daughter's love is orbited by joys and challenges.



4. Doze

Alfonso Acosta
Colombia | 2019 | 7 min

Growing up is never easy, especially since Daniel must navigate some of it alone—until support turns up in an unexpected form.



5. My Brother Luca

Carlos Algara & Catalina Serna
Mexico | 2019 | 9 min

When an imaginative little girl discovers that her brother might have superpowers, she sets out on a quest to make sure everyone else sees him as she does.



6. The Size of Things

Carlos Felipe Montoya
Colombia | 2019 | 12 min

Diego and his dad live a life of simple means in the forest, so when Diego comes across an unexpected find, its magnitude grows curiuser and curiuser.



7. Lessons Learnt by the Sea

Néstor Kim Enríquez
Cuba | 2018 | 5 min

Eleven-year-old Alejandro surfs off the coast of Havana every afternoon, learning lessons of resilience from the ultimate teacher, the sea.

Track 06: A Music Video Showcase

TUESDAY OCTOBER 12 5:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #2

81 MIN 18 music videos from our own backyard and around the world, just how nature intended—on the big screen, turned up loud!



Bloodbath



Letter to a Nation

The Great Divide

1. The Great Divide

Artist: The Shins
US | 2020 | 4 min
Paul Trillo

2. Graceful Child

Artist: Jack Larkin
US | 2021 | 4 min
Christian Whittemore

3. Inside Out

Artist: Mikaela Seegers & KOLA
US | 2021 | 4 min
Karan Wadhwa

4. Buyaca

Artist: Guaynaa
Puerto Rico | 2020 | 3 min
Juanchi González

5. Adieux

Artist: Zeaux
US | 2021 | 6 min
Zoe Stern Stillinger

6. Casio

Artist: J!MMY
US | 2020 | 3 min
Alyssa Trawkina

7. The Distance Between

Artist: Olympic Sounds
South Africa | 2020 | 4 min
Alison Martin

8. Sixteen Hundred Miles

Artist: Nuâge
Greece | 2021 | 6 min
Alexandros Papathanasopoulos

9. Aziz-E-Man

Artist: Maral
US | 2021 | 4 min
Annapurna Kumar

10. Skyrocket

Artist: The Murlocs
US | 2020 | 5 min
Jake Armstrong

11. Letter to a Nation

Artist: GP Jackson
US | 2020 | 4 min |
Taylor Kambia

12. Walk The Talk

Artist: Good Wilson
Austria | 2019 | 3 min
Rupert Höller

13. Mada Mada

Artist: Autonomie
Canada | 2020 | 5 min
Alexandre Richard

14. Extraña Suerte

Artist: Los Búmerans
Puerto Rico | 2021 | 4 min
Juanchi González

15. Back to Me

Artist: Will Jordan
US | 2020 | 7 min
Luca Pizzoleo

16. Kreis

Artist: Ralph Mothwurf Orchestra
Austria | 2021 | 7 min |
Kilian Immervoll & Anna Sophia Russmann

17. The Tulsa Post-Modernist Society

Artist: Nathan Leigh
US | 2020 | 4 min |
Nathan Leigh

18. Bloodbath

Artist: Dramas
Austria | 2020 | 4 min
Rupert Höller

Short Film Programs

Philip Cowan's Picks

TUESDAY OCTOBER 12 6:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #1

107 MIN Selections from the Executive Director of The Grand Cinema, Philip Cowan.



1. Entracte (Intermission)

Anthony Lemaitre
France | 2019 | 16 min

Yacine and his two friends want to see Fast & Furious 8 in their suburban multiplex, no matter what. Their problem: they can only afford the film-club screening. What should have been a simple trick for Yacine will turn into a surprising experience.



2. Rise Up

Bryan Buckley
USA/Brazil/Kenya | 2020 | 8 min

Who is the definitive modern role model for mankind? Is it a politician? A writer? A scientist? Twelve remarkable children from around the world give their answers.



3. Girl with a Thermal Gun

Rongfei Guo
China | 2020 | 12 min

A Chinese delivery man fantasizes about a girl who measures his temperature in a supermarket during COVID-19.



4. Two Jacked

Jon Huertas
US | 2021 | 10 min

What happens when the world's worst carjacker (Kenny Stevenson) meets the world's most understanding victim (Currie Graham)?



5. Snowy

Kaitlyn Schwalje, Alex Wolf Lewis
US | 2021 | 13 min

Snowy, a four-inch-long pet turtle, has lived an isolated life in the family basement. We ask, can Snowy be happy, and what would it take?



6. Like the Ones I Used to Know

Annie St-Pierre
Canada | 2020 | 18 min

December 24, 1983, 10:50 p.m.; Julie and her cousins ate too much sugar, Santa Claus is late and Denis, alone in his car, is anxious at the idea of setting foot in his ex-in-law's house to pick up his children.



7. The Letter Room

Elvira Lind
US | 2020 | 30 min

When a kind-hearted prison officer (Oscar Isaac) is transferred to the letter room, he soon gets involved in an inmate's personal affairs...

Short Film Programs

short films 1

FRIDAY OCTOBER 8 12:15 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #1
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13 1:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #2

95 MIN Six short fictional films from Ghana, Egypt, Iran, UK and the US.



1. Da Yie

Anthony Nti
Ghana | 2019 | 20 min

A foreigner in Ghana gets an assignment from his gang to find kids for a risky job that will take place later that evening. While spending the day with two energetic children, Prince and Matilda, he starts to question his decision and how it will affect their lives.



2. i am afraid to forget your face

Sameh Alaa
Egypt | 2020 | 15 min

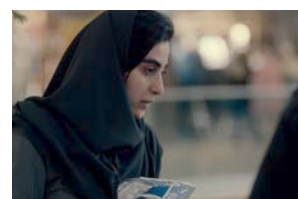
After being separated for 82 days, Adam travels down a rough road to be reunited with the one he loves, whatever it takes.



3. Good Thanks, You?

Molly Manning Walker
UK | 2020 | 13 min

In the aftermath of an attack, Amy is left voiceless, trapped in a whirlwind of incompetence. She must find a way to confront what has happened, in order to save what matters to her most.



4. Witness

Ali Asgari
Islamic Republic of Iran | 2020 | 15 min

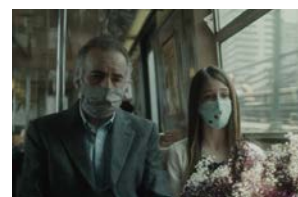
A mother helps an elderly woman in a shopping mall in Tehran. A tragedy occurs, brutally confronting her with the impact of her actions.



5. Dọlápọ is Fine

Ethosheia Hylton
UK | 2020 | 15 min

Ready to leave her UK boarding school and enter the working world, a young Black woman faces pressure to change her name and natural hairstyle.



6. Leylak

Scott Aharoni, Dennis Latos
US | 2021 | 17 min

In present day Queens, New York, a Turkish gravedigger is unable to face a shattering truth, and risks losing the dearest connection left in his life.

Short Film Programs

short films 2

FRIDAY	OCTOBER 8	5:45 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 13	4:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1

77 MIN Documentary and narrative short films. Filmmaker(s) in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



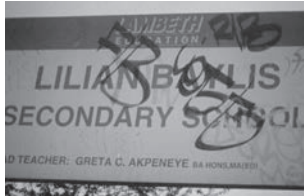
1. Same/Different/Both/Neither

Adriana Barbosa and Fernanda Pessoa

Brazil/US | 2020 | 19 min

In a period of isolation, far away from each other, two friends reconnect through video-letters, inspired by the poetic gaze of women experimental filmmakers.

West Coast Premiere



2. Surviving You, Always

Morgan Quaintance

UK | 2020 | 18 min

The transcendental promise of psychedelic drugs versus a concrete and violent experience of metropolitan living. These two opposing realities form the backdrop for an adolescent encounter told through still images and written narration.



3. Orbita

Udval Altangerel

Mongolia/US | 2020 | 4 min

Trailing the first Mongolian cosmonaut, the filmmaker orbits her home through her camera obscura. Her personal narrative weaves into Mongolia's past as a satellite state.



4. SPACELAND

Caitlin Ryan

US | 2020 | 7 min

Long hallways, an orchestrated auction, and acts of disappearance, Spaceland, travels through the mysterious American landscape of storage units. Space that captures the line between necessity and amenity; between an interim life event and the more permanent obscured.



5. Quietly Violated

Isaac Olsen

US | 2021 | 18 min

Deeply personal and utterly anonymous, this is an exploration of the folk art tradition of the video manifesto, expanded with lush visuals.



6. In the Air Tonight

Andrew Norman Wilson

US | 2020 | 11 min

In the Air Tonight unfurls a ghost story beneath the night skies of Michael Mann's Los Angeles. The film recounts the apocryphal tale behind Phil Collins' 1980 superhit "In the Air Tonight," which, legend has it, should be told aloud as the song builds to its climactic drum break.

Short Film Programs

short films 3

SATURDAY	OCTOBER 9	12:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
TUESDAY	OCTOBER 12	2:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2

67 MIN Documentary short films. Filmmaker(s) in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. Make Sure the Sea Is Still There

Gloria Chung

US | 2021 | 8 min

I found time and landscapes moving strangely, if at all—seeming to mirror our new reality of sudden isolation, tragedy, and the utter unknown.

2. Mirage

Jack Cronin

US | 2019 | 7 min

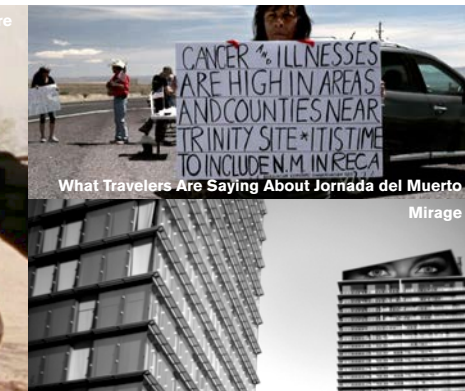
A study of the contrasting landscapes with the city of Las Vegas, Nevada and the Red Rock Canyon.

3. What Travelers Are Saying About Jornada del Muerto

Hope Tucker

US | 2021 | 14 min

Visitors and residents of the Tularosa Basin of New Mexico, site of the first detonation of an atomic bomb, contribute to the production of public memory after making "the journey of the dead."



4. Horse Fare

Mische Mellor and Caryn Cline

US | 2021 | 5 min

In *Horse Fare*, two horse-obsessed filmmakers interact with three horses and their owner.

5. Bug Farm

Lydia Cornett

US | 2020 | 14 min

Four distinct women in Central Florida form a bond over crickets, superworms, and roaches on an insect farm in the small town of LaBelle.

6. End of the Season

Jason Evans

US | 2020 | 13 min

At the end of the season, a group of matsutake mushroom hunters search for rare subterranean treasures in the high desert of Oregon's Cascade mountain range. A film that considers nature, consumption, labor, displacement, and temporary shelter.

7. Green Turns Brown

Joie Estrella Horwitz

US | 2020 | 6 min

A eulogy to the artist Luchita Hurtado, whose work was discovered at the age of 97 in a storage unit in San Bernardino, California, and immediately gained notoriety during the final years of her life. Shot several months before the artist's passing, the Super 8 film explores Luchita's oscillation between visibility and invisibility as a female painter mirrored by her observations of duality within the natural world.

Short Film Programs

short films 4

SATURDAY	OCTOBER 9	2:15 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 13	3:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2

94 MIN Six short fictional films from Sudan, Egypt, Iran, and the US.



1. Al-Sit

Suzannah Mirghani

Sudan, Qatar | 2020 | 20 min

An arranged marriage in a cotton-farming village in Sudan. Does 15-year-old Nafisa have a choice?



2. Our Pain

Mahtab Pishghadam

Iran | 2021 | 9 min

Two women seeking a refuge from inevitable limitations of reality which denies their very existence.



3. Undercut

Kelly Pike

US | 2019 | 14 min

High school female athletes become unlikely teammates in the wake of unspoken trauma.

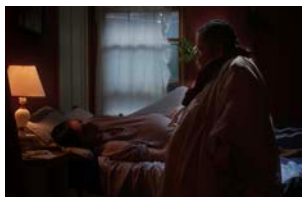


4. Nafs Said

Huma Hussain

US | 2020 | 13 min

Nafs Said is a story about an Indian-Muslim housewife, Maryam, whose mundane life is abruptly interrupted by an opportunity to explore her desires.

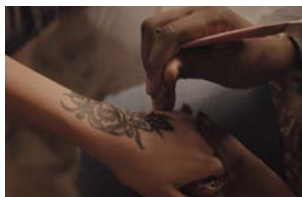


5. Light on a Path, Follow

Elliot Montague

US | 2019 | 15 min

Joaquín, a transman living in rural 1990s New England, is eight months pregnant. After encountering a mysterious spirit in the forest, Joaquín goes into labor early. Is this spirit haunting or guiding Joaquín as he awaits his midwife?



6. Henet Ward

Morad Mostafa

Egypt | 2020 | 23 min

Halima, a Sudanese henna painter goes to Basma's, a young Egyptian bride to prepare her for her wedding: under the eyes of her daughter Ward, the encounter between the two women grows from complicity to suddenly unveiled tensions.

Short Film Programs

short films 5

SATURDAY	OCTOBER 9	5:45 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
MONDAY	OCTOBER 11	3:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2

78 MIN Documentary and narrative short films. Filmmaker(s) in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. Some Kind of Intimacy

Toby Bull

UK | 2021 | 6 min

The filmmaker tries to communicate with the sheep living where his parents are buried.



2. Civil Twilight at the Vernal Equinox

Emily Vey Duke and Cooper Battersby

US | 2021 | 12 min

"What would another world look like, one that is carried by this feeling of empathy, of mutual love between humans and animals, between species? How would our relationship with a largely domesticated nature and environment change? How would established relationships of power and strength be redefined with this thought?" –Tasja Langenbach.



3. Yollotl (Heart)

Fernando Colin Roque

France | 2020 | 17 min

Yollotl connects the past and the present through a love story inspired by Mesoamerican mythology and testimonials from children who live in the Mayan rainforest. A story in Nahuatl and a ritual song accompanies the journey through the interior of ancient trees to the universe.



4. Halpate

Adam Khalil, Adam Piron

US | 2020 | 14 min

Considered a staple of Florida tourism, alligator wrestling has been performed by members of the Seminole Tribe for over a century. As the practice has changed over the years, *Halpate* profiles the hazards and history of the spectacle through the words of the tribe's alligator wrestlers themselves and what it has meant to their people's survival.



5. The Whelming Sea

Sean Hanley

USA | 2020 | 29 min

Three animal lives entangle at the edge of the rising sea. Horseshoe crabs spawn on eroded urban beaches, migrating shorebirds seek sustenance at a midpoint, and humans attempt to make a difference in this age of mass extinction.

Short Film Programs

short films 6

SATURDAY	OCTOBER 9	8:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
TUESDAY	OCTOBER 12	4:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1

68 MIN Six short fictional films. Filmmaker(s) in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. this one;s for you man

J. Rose

US | 2021 | 8 min

On a late summer day, three boys are reminded of an old friend.



2. If Found

India Donaldson

US | 2021 | 8 min

A playful, tender exploration of companionship and boundaries told with almost no dialogue, *If Found* depicts an encounter between June, a seemingly lonely dog tied up to a fence, and the dog-obsessed Lydia, a lonely woman with bad boundaries and a newly found inclination

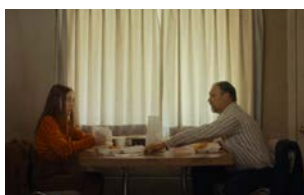


3. Cornered Rat

Dong-Ren Hong

US/TAIWAN | 2020 | 10 min

Due to being bullied at school, a 13-year-old boy skips class and flees the city to find his single father, a baseball coach in a small country town.

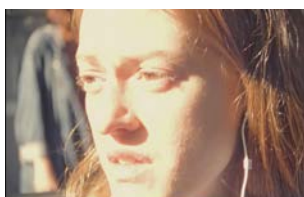


4. Bind

Inka Rusi

US/Finland | 2021 | 13 min

A teenage girl has to come to terms with her father whose fear and helplessness manifest in a need for control under the guise of for-your-own-good tough love.



5. The End of Suffering (a proposal)

Jacqueline Lentzou

Greece | 2020 | 14 min

Sofia is panicky, again. The Universe decides to contact her. An other-worldly dialogue. A planet symphony for Mars, where people dream awake and fight for love.



6. Winter's Kickflip

Zach Weintraub

US | 2021 | 15 min

A flailing father-to-be panics at the idea that a glorious moment from his past may now be inaccessibly distant.

Short Film Programs

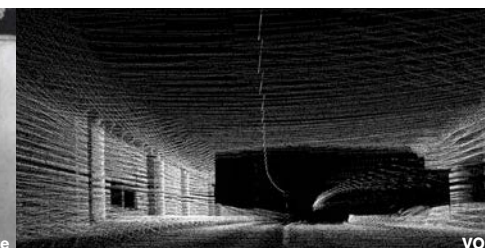
short films 7

MONDAY	OCTOBER 11	1:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
THURSDAY	OCTOBER 14	1:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2

87 MIN Eight documentary, animated and fictional films.



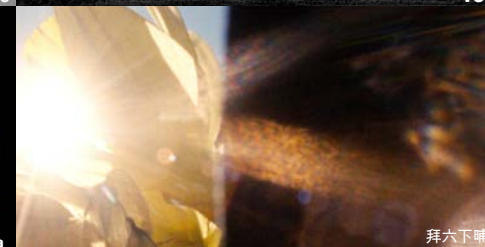
Atomic Cafe



VO



Ventana



拜六下晡

1. ATOMIC CAFÉ: The Noisiest Corner in J-Town

Akira Boch, Tadashi Nakamura

US | 2020 | 10 min

In the late 1970's, when L.A.'s punk rock scene was exploding, an unlikely family-owned restaurant in Little Tokyo started by Japanese Americans returning from America's WWII concentration camps, became one its most popular hang-outs.

2. Favor & Grace

Adrian L Burrell, Michael T Workman

US | 2021 | 10 min

After the execution of her nephew at the hands of the Vallejo Police, Angela seeks justice.

3. We Cannot Love What We Do Not Know

Alexander Johnston and Kelly Sears

US | 2021 | 4 min

A chilling phantasmagoric journey into the paranoid soulless soul of right wing historical propaganda.

4. VO

Nicolas Gourault

France | 2020 | 19 min

A sensory investigation about the role of human workers in the training of self-driving cars.

5. Ventana

Edgar Jorge Baralt

US/Venezuela | 2021 | 11 min

A retrieved picture of a window elicits memories and the impulse to recreate a lost site. By this same window, an eight year old child feels the cold air on his face and imagines the future.

6. Borrachero

Gustavo Cerquera Benjumea

Canada | 2019 | 8 min

After a robbery goes wrong, a woman flees to her hometown in southern Colombia. Along the way, she encounters a mysterious figure, which might be the embodied spirit of an ancient plant.

7. 拜六下晡 pài-lak ē-poo

Erica Sheu

US/Taiwan | 2021 | 2 min

A half-moon on the blue sky. A quiet offering connects the unreachable world with the physical ground.

8. The Unseen River

Phạm Ngọc Lân

Viet Nam | 2021 | 23 min

Stories told along the river: a woman reunites with her ex-lover at a hydroelectric plant; meanwhile, a young man travels downstream to a temple in search of a cure for his insomnia.

Short Film Programs

late night shorts 1

FRIDAY OCTOBER 8 10:15 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #1

PRESENTED BY



SPONSORED BY



89 MIN SF, horror and cult short films. Filmmaker(s) in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. Hot Dog Steering Wheel

Meg Favreau
US | 2020 | 4 min

Gwen's hot dog drive does not go as planned.



2. The Killer in Cursed Water

Laurent Ardoit and Stephane Duprat
France | 2020 | 15 min

Cindy and Quentin are spending a romantic week-end by a lake. But a killer is prowling and he could hide a greater threat.



3. The Following Year

Miguel Campaña
Spain | 2021 | 22 min

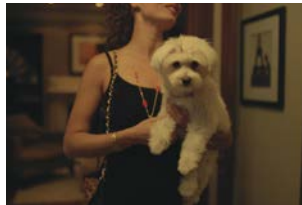
The day of his anniversary, a widow farmer receives the clone of the woman he lost years ago under tragic circumstances.



4. Flaming Torch

Alex Broadwell
US | 2021 | 6 min

Rhythmically manipulated vocal intros from 1930's and '40's Hollywood nitrate sound recordings undergird a chaotic exploration of the visual and haptic side of language.



5. Wolf in Dude's Clothing

Solmund MacPherson
Canada | 2021 | 13 min

A starving wolf finds a suit of human skin, crawls inside, and becomes a man.



6. X

Mareike Wegener
Germany | 2020 | 29 min

X is a reimagination of the crossroad myth and inspired by the lives of the filmmaker's father and grandfather, who also play the lead roles.

Short Film Programs

late night shorts 2

MONDAY OCTOBER 11 9:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #1

PRESENTED BY



SPONSORED BY



90 MIN SF, horror and cult short films.



1. Cabin for Two

Sam Hoiland
US | 2020 | 13 min

An eccentric man makes a dating tape from his cabin in a post-apocalyptic future.



2. Cutter

Dan Repp and Lindsay Young
US | 2021 | 16 min

A teenage cutter in recovery and her overbearing mother are haunted by a ghost who seeks to keep them at odds.



3. Hekademia

Gloria Mercer
Canada | 2020 | 16 min

In the near future, an isolated teenage girl attends a virtual reality high school.



4. Hey, It's Me.

Courtney & Mark Sposato
US | 2020 | 12 min

A selfish man tries to alter his destiny when he receives an ominous phone call from his future self.



5. Perfect as Cats

Kevin Vu
US | 2020 | 18 min

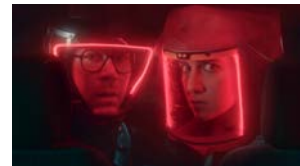
Inseparable sisters Henriette and Anais find their relationship and lives being torn apart under mysterious circumstances.



6. The Dark Odyssey

Michael Lavine
US | 2021 | 9 min

A brave captain and his faithful mate transport a captive warrior. When their ship is forced to navigate an asteroid field, their mission is jeopardized.



7. Survivors

Carlos Gómez-Trigo
Spain | 2020 | 6 min

Natural selection says that only those who adapt will survive. What if humans have become stupid?

Short Film Programs

animated short films

FRIDAY	OCTOBER 8	4:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1
SUNDAY	OCTOBER 10	2:15 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #1

74 MIN A program of nine international short animated films. For mature audiences.



1. A Poem by Alba

Yoo Lee
US | 2021 | 6 min

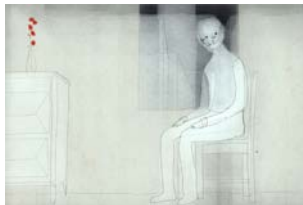
An elderly woman living alone in her apartment keeps company with a bird who visits her windowsill.



2. Our Bed is Green

Maggie Brennan
US | 2021 | 7 min

Grappling with a disorienting world and an intense fixation, Cecily finds herself visiting Realm--a virtual reality facility that allows clientele to create virtual facsimiles of real-life places and people.



3. Suspensão

Luis Soares
Portugal | 2020 | 7 min

A man is unable to make a choice and the world comes to a halt. Is the tension of indecision stronger than the fear of mistake?



4. What Resonates in Silence

Marine Blin
France | 2021 | 8 min

Hiding death doesn't make it disappear. A young girl suffers from the adults' silences and feels dispossessed of her right to mourn.

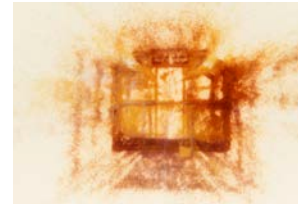
Once adult, she describes the tender gestures that bind her to the dead.



5. Alternative Facts

Marina Santana De la Torre
Mexico/US | 2020 | 1 min

A reflection on the phrase "Alternative Facts" used during a press conference on January 22, 2017.



6. Maalbeek

Ismaël Joffroy Chandoutis
France | 2020 | 16 min

Survivor but amnesiac of the attack at Maalbeek metro station on 22 March 2016 in Brussels, Sabine is looking for the missing image of an over-meditated event of which she has no memory.



7. Three

Soyeon Kim
Korea/US | 2020 | 2 min

A visceral impression of life based on Henry David Thoreau's Walden.



8. The Midnight Sun

Connor Radding
US | 2020 | 12 min

A park ranger is disoriented by her internal desire to find a missing boy. An animated short film about isolation, loss, and a search for meaning.



9. Ecorce

Samuel Patthey, Silvain Monney
Switzerland | 2020 | 15 min

In a hidden place, the daily routine of a retirement home unfolds as time seems to stand still. The penciled residents come to life on paper. Some are active, others rest or follow a fixed schedule to be repeated each day: medication, meals, games... Around them, machines are flashing, caregivers are busy and some crucifixes remind them of the death that lies in wait. Time fades away and nearby, stretches a forest.

Short Film Programs

jurors' short films 1

FRIDAY OCTOBER 8 2:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #2

77 MIN Narrative and documentary films from TFF jurors. Filmmakers in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. Phoenix Run

TJ Walker
US | 2018 | 10 min

Taking place in a dystopian future where everyone is infected with a deadly nano virus, A street smart smuggler Marky is on the run from a crooked super hero and his infected henchmen. Marky flees to the only family he's ever known, former superhero Ma Jones AKA Thunder.



2. The Deepest Hole

Matt McCormick
US | 2020 | 12 min

The Deepest Hole chronicles the little-known history of the United States and Soviet Union's Cold-War race to see which country could be the first to penetrate 10 miles into the ground and reach the Earth's mantle. While neither country completely accomplished their goals, the effort indirectly inspired a now infamous urban legend and one of the earliest examples of "fake news" going viral on the internet.

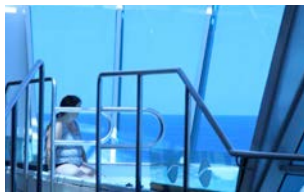


3. And What the Summer is Saying

Payal Kapadia
India | 2018 | 23 min

Namdeo has learned to live off the forest from his father. He scours the treetops, searching for honey. The wind blows and afternoon descends on the small village by the jungle. Women of the village whisper little secrets of their lost loves. A strange smoke emits from the ground.

A mystical film poem about Kondwalli, its inhabitants and surrounding forest.



4. ARK

Lynne Siefert
US | 2016 | 32 min

Part travelogue, part philosophical meditation, *Ark* is a film about decadence and illusion. Set in the not too distant future, in a post-apocalyptic world, Ark melds lurid surrealist imagery with sardonic musings of anonymous passengers aboard a cruise ship at the end of the world.

Short Film Programs

jurors' short films 2

FRIDAY OCTOBER 8 4:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #2

65 MIN Narrative and documentary films from TFF jurors. Filmmakers in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. NAMI

Masami Kawai
US | 2015 | 13 min

NAMI -- which means waves in Japanese -- follows one day in the life of a Japanese immigrant widow who journeys across Los Angeles to reach the ocean. She struggles with the loneliness of mourning and comes to terms with her place in the world without her husband.



2. Wax Museum

Alena Koroleva, Mike Hoolboom
Russian Federation | 2020 | 12 min

In a suite of 15 scenes, most arriving in a single master shot, the Russian heroine renegotiates her pact with Russian capitalism, and the new bodies and relationships it made possible. Shot in Saint Petersburg during a sunny autumn, when our faces could still bear the old light.



3. Character

Vera Brunner-Sung
US | 2020 | 17 min

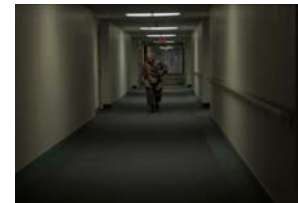
Actor Mark Metcalf made his reputation playing aggrieved authority figures, most famously in National Lampoon's *Animal House* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Now in his 70s, he takes a critical look back on his life and career in this meditation on power, privilege, and the perils of being a "type."



4. Mixed Signals (After Hannah Weiner)

Courtney Stephens
US | 2018 | 8 min

A female patient, undergoing a neurological exam, must communicate through the narrow language of medical phrases and physical compliance. She transforms into a military supply ship and charts a new course, while sounding her alarm in an antiquated maritime code. The film is a loose adaptation of Hannah Weiner's 1982 chapbook, *Code Poems*.



5. ZONA

Masami Kawai
US | 2021 | 15 min

ZONA takes place in the near-future Los Angeles, where a drought has worsened and an old immigrant woman searches the city for water.

Pacific Northwest Short Films

Documentary pg 55 - 57
Dramatic pg 58 - 59
Late Night pg 60
Comedic pg 61

Still from *Lake Forest Park* (Page 21)

PNW Short Programs

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9 12:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #1

pnw doc shorts 1

68 MIN Documentary films from the Pacific Northwest. Filmmakers in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. Vanishing Seattle Films: Chinatown-International District - Bush Garden

Martin Tran
US | 2020 | 13 min

Japanese restaurant. Birthplace of American karaoke. Gathering place for community advocates. This is the story of the iconic Bush Garden, yet another possible victim of gentrification and displacement.



2. Takilma Stories

Philip Lauri, Steven Oliver
US | 2021 | 24 min

Protests in the streets. Environmental crises. A madman in the White House. Welcome to 1970.

In a quiet pocket of Oregon, a utopian community of hippies, midwives and self-taught builders reflect on being one of the last idyllic and uncompromised places in America.



3. Honor Thy Mother

Lucy Ostrander
US | 2021 | 31 min

Honor Thy Mother is the untold story of over 35 Aboriginal women from Canada and Native women from tribes in Washington and Alaska who migrated to Bainbridge Island, the traditional territory of the Suquamish people, in the early 1940s.

They came, some still in their teens, to pick berries for Japanese American farmers. Many, just released from Indian residential schools, fell in love in the berry fields and married Filipino bachelors. Despite having left their homeland and possible disenfranchisement from their tribes, they settled on the Island to raise their mixed heritage (Indipino) children.



pnw doc shorts 2

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10 12:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #2

79 MIN Documentary films from the Pacific Northwest. Filmmakers in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. Cedar Rose

Kersti Jan Werdal
US | 2020 | 8 min

Cedar Rose is a short film essay about the lost language and land of the Native Duwamish people in the Pacific Northwest.



2. Ode to the Seabird

Bridget Irish
US | 2021 | 8 min

A brief sea odyssey featuring scores of birds soaring amidst snowy mountains and puffins bobbing atop the choppy waters of an Alaskan bay in spring.



3. Now is the Time

Christopher Auchter
US | 2019 | 16 min

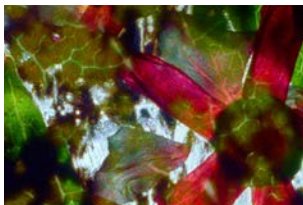
In August 1969, when internationally renowned Haida carver Robert Davidson was only 22 years old, he carved the first new totem pole on British Columbia's Haida Gwaii in almost a century. An event that would signal a rebirth of the Haida spirit, Haida filmmaker Christophe Auchter revisits this history on the 50th anniversary of this event.



4. Aquí

Melina Kiyomi Coumas
US | 2019 | 4 min

Aquí is an experimental 16mm short film exploring what home means to a multicultural young woman living in Oregon.



5. Film Tattoo

Caryn Cline
US | 2020 | 4 min

For this film, I scratched 16mm black leader between two garden stones, filled its frames with garden plants, and animated them on an optical printer. - Caryn Cline



6. Katie Dean: Printmaker

Donovan Wilson
US | 2020 | 4 min

An intimate look into the work and artistic process of Katie Dean in her printmaking studio located in Tacoma, Washington USA.



7. Stolen Dirt, Fresh Air

Dan Schwert
US | 2020 | 15 min

A documentary chronicling nearly 30 years of activity in Seattle's illegal underground renegade BMX community.



8. Coffee & Sugar

Andy Volk
US | 2021 | 8 min

In conversation with her grandson, 93-year-old Carol goes on an animated journey through her 62 year marriage, exploring memories of love that transcend time.



9. Where Should We Go

Producer: Dru Holley Director: Che O'Grady
US | 2020 | 12 min

Where Should We Go is the first in a series of films about the Abina neighborhood, a historic center of Black life in Portland, Oregon. Decades- long urban renewal, rooted in racist policies, destroyed houses, churches, and schools in favor of freeways and sports venues and displaced thousands of residents who never returned. This painful displacement tore apart Black residents' cultural home, squashed their sense of place and connection, and Black families were prevented from building generational wealth. With the impact of those actions still being felt today, the film features conversations with legendary Black Portland leaders, residents, and academics to explore the questions "Where can we (the Black community) go that is safe from racism and police brutality? Where can we live without eventually getting pushed out of our neighborhoods?".

PNW Short Programs

pnw dramatic shorts 1

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10 5:30 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #1

64 MIN Narrative short films from the Pacific Northwest. Filmmaker(s) in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. That Piece of You

Jessica Barr

US | 2021 | 11 min

With help from her girlfriend Maddie, Trisha sneaks into her old house when the new tenant and his date return to the house unexpectedly.



2. Bloom

Dawson Doupé, Ryder Doupé, Todd Tapper

US | 2020 | 14 min

Identical twin sisters who haven't spoken in years reunite for a road trip after one of them tries to take her own life.



3. Valor & Sacrifice

Emilio Miguel Torres

US | 2021 | 10 min

In 1930's Puerto Rico, a politician must make the decision between solidifying his legacy as governor of the territory or staying true to his cause.



4. The Pageant

Kasey O'Brien

US | 2021 | 7 min

One person's questioning throws a young couple into a state of crisis.



5. See Me

Dawn Jones Redstone

US | 2021 | 22 min

See Me follows three Black Portlanders living during COVID.

PNW Short Programs

pnw dramatic shorts 2

MONDAY OCTOBER 11 7:00 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #2

58 MIN Narrative short films from the Pacific Northwest. Filmmakers in attendance with a post-screening q/a.

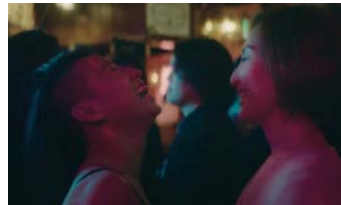


1. For Sale

Melinda Raebyne

US | 2020 | 8 min

Inspired by actual events and using interviews from survivors of sex trafficking to be the voice of the lead character's subconscious *For Sale* provides viewers a glimpse into this crime that plagues the US.



2. And Then

Jenn Ravenna Tran

US | 2021 | 17 min

Mana is a Japanese-American woman who arrives in Tokyo seeking to find a break from her life as an artist. Haru is a Japanese woman from the countryside who dreams of becoming an artist herself one day. They meet under unique circumstances, and their story unfolds...



3. Family Recipe

Kamari Bright

US | 2021 | 5 min

A grandfather's baking lesson teaches a young girl acceptance, as she learns the similarities between ingredients and people.



4. Welcome Home

Sam Cleary

US | 2021 | 12 min

When adolescent Elsabe is adopted by a well-to-do lawyer named Nancy, she struggles to feel welcome in her new home as her jealous step-brother Andrew attempts to corner Elsabe in her alienation.



5. Navigate

Kim Drake

US | 2021 | 16 min

A young man finds himself at a crossroads when he learns his mother has early onset dementia. He tries to escape his reality by building a flying sailboat.

PNW Short Programs

pnw late night shorts

TUESDAY OCTOBER 12 8:30 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #1

PRESENTED BY



SPONSORED BY



67 MIN SF, horror and cult shorts from the Pacific Northwest. Filmmakers in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. After Dinner

Brian Johnson
Canada | 2020 | 11 min

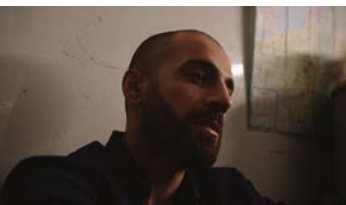
A young mother tries to protect her family from something strange that she finds behind her house.



2. Erebus

Will Ammann
US | 2020 | 19 min

A young woman finds herself trapped in a surreal wasteland, and begins to question the nature of her reality.



3. Threat Material

William Blake
US | 2021 | 14 min

Fear and violence escalate as a mysterious insurgency group fights to prevent a chain-reaction holocaust.



4. West Winds

Matthew Thomas Ross
US | 2021 | 16 min

A survivor of an unknown apocalyptic event seeks refuge at a beach where the west winds keep the air safe but struggles with the isolation.



5. Zombie Walk

Rollyn Stafford
US | 2020 | 7 min

Rollyn takes his zombie for a walk through post apocalyptic Downtown Portland, Oregon.

PNW Short Programs

pnw comedy shorts

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13 8:30 PM THE GRAND CINEMA #2

SPONSORED BY



75 MIN Comedy short films from the Pacific Northwest. Filmmakers in attendance with a post-screening q/a.



1. Distinct Properties of the Indonesian Spotted Tree Frog

Brendan Lee Hickey
US | 2021 | 13 min

Life is silly for Mochi, an office worker in an enigmatic coastal community - as he develops burgeoning psychic powers derived from a rare frog species.



2. Go Fish

Josh Brine
US | 2020 | 15 min

Charlie sets out to get a new job until an old coworker shows up sending his plans spiraling.



3. Burrito Bride

Patrick Fifelski
US | 2021 | 4 min

An impulsive bride bails on her wedding for a pancake eating competition.



4. Best Self

Alexis Wojcio
US | 2020 | 9 min

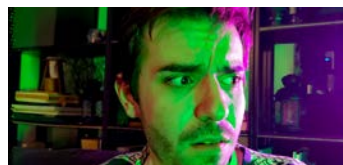
Best Self is a dark comedy that follows, McKenna, an aspiring social media influencer, and her very supportive grandmother.



5. Crouching Comic

Alberta Poon
US | 2021 | 11 min

A Vietnamese-American comedian, confronts her anxieties (as represented by her traditional mother and white society), using her umami brand of humor to defend and claim her artistic identity.



6. blunts & death

Beau Forbes
US | 2021 | 3 min

Two friends, one blunt, one simple question.



7. A Dinner Party From Hell

Derek Schneider
US | 2020 | 20 min

Alex's life is turned on its head when Aurora enters his comic shop and invites him to her dinner party from hell.

Short Films with Features

short films playing with features

Two short films accompanying *Seven Years in May* and two films preceding *700 Feet Down*.



Misery Next Time

Rajee Samarasinghe
Sri Lanka | 2021 | 5 min

This associative stream of visuals, culled from the past, reflect on the roles of art, labor, and journalism in Sri Lanka. ***Plays with the feature, Seven Years in May, details on page 18.***

FRIDAY	OCTOBER 8	12:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
MONDAY	OCTOBER 11	5:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2



Desert Lights (Luces del desierto)

Félix Blume
Mexico | 2021 | 30 min

Some strange lights appear at night in the Mexican desert. Residents tell us what they've seen. *Desert Lights* is a horror movie, in the darkness of the desert. ***Plays with the feature, Seven Years in May, details on page 18.***

FRIDAY	OCTOBER 8	12:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
MONDAY	OCTOBER 11	5:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2



Fire on Broadway

Mick Flaaen
US | 2020 | 11 min

A short form documentary from digitally restored 16mm footage of the 1963 fire of the historic Broadway Theater in Tacoma WA. ***Plays with the feature, 700 Feet Down, details on page 29.***

WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 13	6:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
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Narratives of Salishan: The Untold History

Justi Pfutzenreuter
US | 2019 | 32 min

Narratives of Salishan: The Untold History presents the experiences of Salishan residents, using their own voices, as an intervention into the dominant negative narrative. ***Plays with the feature, 700 Feet Down, details on page 29.***

WEDNESDAY	OCTOBER 13	6:00 PM	THE GRAND CINEMA #2
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Still from *Desert Lights* (Page 62)

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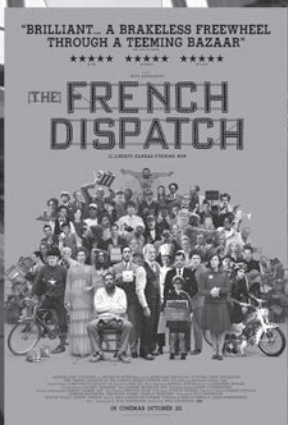
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DUNE (PG-13, 155 MIN)
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THE FRENCH DISPATCH (R, 103 MIN)
OPENING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22



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