

DANCES WITH FILMS

LA'S FAVORITE INDIE FEST SINCE 1998

FIND YOUR TRUTH



JUN 19 THRU 29, 2025

TCL CHINESE THEATRES | LOS ANGELES

DANCESWITHFILMS.COM

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DANCES WITH FILMS

LA'S FAVORITE INDIE FEST SINCE 1998

Since 1998, DWF:LA has grown into a thriving community of artists from all over the globe. Each year - and now twice a year with DWF:NY - this family comes together to welcome vibrant new voices that challenge all of us to understand a unique perspective and explore a diverse world.

This year we are honored to celebrate nearly 250 new storytellers. While some are local, many come from places as far away as Iran and Nigeria. As these artists often break barriers, they remind us that we are all one and that we all have a valued place in our world. They encourage us in the knowledge that we are not defined by others. We are defined by our own truth.

THANK YOU to our incredible programming teams chaired by Evan Chöflin, Ariana Farina, Lindsey Smith-Sands, Ethan Twardosz, Jackie Tepper and Bennie Woodell - who took on the herculean task of watching hundreds of hours of your amazing films, culminating in this 28th year of spectacular programming. Largely because of their unparalleled commitment to indie filmmakers - DWF:LA (and now DWF:NY) continues to grow.

DANCES WITH FILMS is the place to find community, to find your truth. Thank you for coming. We encourage you to find the inspiration, love, and connectedness that is the soul of DWF. We encourage you to celebrate each other's strengths.

Welcome to the 28th annual DANCES WITH FILMS!

Leslee & Michael
Founders

and crew, that is our family, who really make everything work.

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Ethan Twardosz

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Michael Wright
Karl Zensen

Los Feliz Animal Rescue
Artemis, Lucky
Blueberry, Nermal
& Zoe too!

To All the incredible people and companies who give so graciously of their time, talent & energies and without whose dedication, DWF's efforts would go largely unrecognized.

THANK YOU

DWF=LA

WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR FESTIVAL SPONSORS.
WITH THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT,
DWF CONTINUES TO CHAMPION
THE TRUE INDEPENDENT DISCOVERIES.



Opening Night!
THURSDAY, JUNE 19 @ 7:30PM

A NEW FRONTIER



As an indie filmmaker, the new normal isn't so new. Resilience, agility and tenacity are in your DNA. So while the industry contraction has paralyzed many, you see opportunity. Connect with SAGindie to help navigate the new frontier and get your movie made.



www.sagindie.org



DO NO HARM

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 90 min.

WRITER/DIR: Chris Hartwell

PRODS: Chris Hartwell, Christian Sosa, Joshua Sikora, Micah Sudduth

CAST: Harry Shum Jr., Rosaline Elbay, Jimmy Gonzales, Ronny Chieng, Kate Sanchez, Daniela Vidaurre, Curtis Belz, Orlando Arriaga, Evie Hsu, Pamela Denise Weaver, Joshua Hancock, Kaelyn Wilkins, Alec Franco

Consumed by his job as a home health nurse, Sam Yeong is burned out and frayed. When a simple mistake turns into a fatal error for one of his patients, Sam tries to bury the truth under a facade of perfection. Drawing on the ever-intensifying pressures in American healthcare as well as the many aided and victimized by that system, 'Do No Harm' offers a devastating look at our dangerous expectations and the corrosive lies we tell to survive.

ONE BUT MANY

WHEN CONFLICT IS CURRENCY, TRUTH BECOMES ENDANGERED.



WORLD PREMIERE

June 29 | 2:30 pm

From the Executive Producers of
THE GAME CHANGERS, TO KILL A TIGER, and COWSPIRACY

GRIND

WORLD PREMIERE • THUR 6/26 AT 7 PM

LEARN MORE AT
GRINDFILM.COM

MPI ORIGINAL FILMS

FEATURE COMPETITION

AFTER US, THE FLOOD

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | FINLAND, 2024, 90 min.

SCREENING: WED JUN 25 @ 645PM

WRITER: Ossi Hakala

DIR: Arto Halonen

PROD: Arto Halonen CO-PROD: Aija Berzina

CAST: Elias Westerberg, Linnea Leino, Tuomas Nilsson, Kasperi Kola, Petteri Summanen, Antti Reini, Pihla Penttinen, Jari Salmi, Tobias Zilliacus, Jemina Sillanpää, Robert Enckell, Hannu-Pekka Björkman, Hugo Komaro and Paavo Westerberg

How would you live your life if you got a second chance?

Brilliant physicist Henrik creates a fusion reactor offering endless clean energy, but its commercial use leads to environmental collapse. By 2064, climate change has devastated Earth. The UN sends Henrik's consciousness back to his birth to prevent disaster, but something goes wrong. Starting from an unexpected point, he must race against time—and himself—to save the future

After Us, the Flood is a drama, spiced with sci-fi elements, that explores relationships, identity, greed, and the reasons why humans haven't yet been able to stop climate change.

THE CALLING

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 97 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 22 @ 630PM

WRITER: Chris Retts

DIR: Mark Wilson

PRODS: Alex Swickard, Jesse Bontreger, Chris Retts, Mark Wilson

CAST: Danika Golombek, Grayson Eddey

A brother and sister are terrorized by what seems to be their late-author mother's most sinister literary creation – The Calling Witch

CONCEIVING CLARA

US Premiere | CANADA, 2024, 89 min.

SCREENING: FR JUN 27 @ 715PM

WRITERS: Tajana Prka & Tarique Qayumi

DIR: Tarique Qayumi

PRODS: Tarique Qayumi, Michelle Morris, Lael McCall, Tajana Prka

CAST: Tajana Susanna Prka, Leo Solomon, Hangama, Mariam Hazhir, Stephen JF Walker, Makayla McIntosh, Kate Whiddington, Andreii Krupnyk, Asher Krohn, Youness Amaddourh, Sheela Eshan, Simone Carriere, David Malamura, Steeve Mongrain, Hilary Marie Dusome, Ryan Minaker, Melanie Chevrier

Clara (42), a midwife, helps many women give birth but cannot bear a child. Under pressure from her mother-in-law, she undergoes IVF treatment. The complications lead her to choose between her life and the baby's. Finally, she cannot connect with the baby and must find love in her daughter.

CRUSTY FOWLER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 72 min.

SCREENING: TUE JUN 24 @ 930PM

WRITER/DIR: John Giacobbe

PRODS: John Giacobbe, Anabelle LeMieux, Isabelle LeMieux

CAST: Anabelle LeMieux, John Giacobbe

A couple in mourning set off on an impromptu sail, each with a dark secret in tow....



STAR PEOPLE

Venture out of your world.

A FILM BY ADAM FINBERG

A JASONITE PICTURES PRODUCTION • A WALL FLY PRODUCTION • AN ADAM FINBERG FILM "STAR PEOPLE"
KAT CUNNING • MCCABE SLYE • EDDIE MARTINEZ • BRADLEY FISHER • ADRIANA ALUNA MARTINEZ • AND CONNOR PAOLO COSTUME DESIGNER HELEN GEIER, CSA • KENDRA SHAY CLARK, CSA • MUSIC BY MICHAEL TURNER
EDITED BY REZA SAENINIA • EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JENNIFER O'BANNON AND TYLER SCHNEIDER • PRODUCED BY LAURYN VICTORIA • DIRECTED BY ADAM FINBERG • PRODUCED BY JOSH SHADER, P.C.A. • EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ADAM FINBERG



WORLD PREMIERE
SATURDAY, JUNE 28 @ 7:15PM

WWW.STARPEOPLEFILM.COM

Feature competition

DESIGNED BY PREETI

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 93 min.

SCREENING: THU JUN 26 @ 7:15PM

WRITERS: Rashmi Rustagi,
Wendy Moulton-Tate, Yashna Malhotra
DIR: Gayatri Bajpai

PRODS: Rashmi Rustagi, Priyanka Paranjape, Arati Misro, Tanya Momi
CAST: Rashmi Rustagi, Jay Charan, Anna Khaja, Frank Lawson, Shavya Samala, Sangeeta Agrawal, Jewel Hargrove, Ranjita Chakravarty, Puneet, Anish Chandak, Sami Kuncharapu, Vasanti Bhatt, Monica Chitkara, Havish Ravipatti, Palak Joshi, Francis Perry, Jackie Dallas, Tracey Silver, Gurudev Nagaraja, Kavita Malaviya, Allison Ewing, Vicki Beretta, Nicki Randhawa, David Schively, Vinata Karra, Ritu Marwah, Tanya Momi



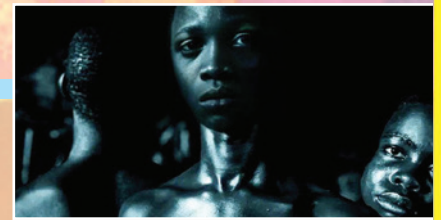
Preeti, a graceful woman in her 50s, leaves her abusive, unfaithful husband, Ajay, and steps into an uncertain future. Battling ageism and sexism, she courageously starts her own dress-design business while working to heal the strained bond with her daughter. She forms a genuine friendship with Jackson, the kind-hearted owner of a restaurant and bar. Preeti faces ridicule and exclusion from her Indian community for defying her husband's abuse and for her connection with Jackson. As she navigates her new life, Preeti discovers that freedom has its consequences.

DOKITA MUSA

WORLD Premiere | NIGERIA, 2025, 91 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 27 @ 9:15PM

WRITER/DIR: Lanre' Obisesan
PROD: Felix Olojede
CAST: Muiz Olayiwola, Peju Wahab,
Ayobami Olabiyi, Muyiwa Ademola



A world cinema coming-of-age drama rooted in social realism. Set in a Yoruba village, Dokita Musa is an ode, a love letter to Nigeria, seen through the eyes of an 11-year-old boy with palilalia who dreams of becoming a cardiologist. Blending lyrical intimacy with grounded storytelling, the film explores resilience through Musa's journey and the intersecting lives of villagers bound by silence, memory, and hope.

GOOD SPORT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2025, 72 min.

SCREENING: WED JUN 25 @ 9:15PM

WRITERS: Andrew Jack Zuckerman, Dillon Orth
DIR: Andrew Jack Zuckerman
PRODS: Dillon orth, John Cronin,
Andrew Jack Zuckerman



CAST: Sam Landman, Virginia Newcomb, Mike O'Gorman, Sari Lennick

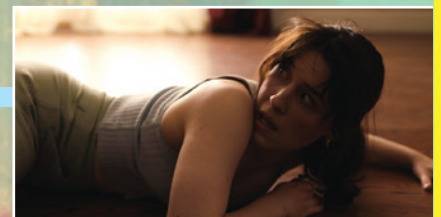
Pat is having a bad, bad day. His ex-wife's about to get remarried, he's hung over, and now he's got to coach his 12-year-old son's basketball team. There, he must face off against helicopter parents, an insane opposing coach, and his own sense of failure.

HOMEWRECKER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2025, 75 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 20 @ 7PM

WRITER/DIR: Dante Marino
PRODS: Dante Marino, Ross Warr,
Reilly Anspaugh, Daniel Rashid
CAST: Reilly Anspaugh, Daniel Rashid, Bradley Snedeker, Adria Tennor, Jorji Diaz Fadel, Manny Spero



Megan is devastated when her mom can no longer afford to buy her a house, due to her stepdad's financial troubles. Megan decides that she has to split them up. With the help of her boyfriend, Liam, she hatches a plan to use artificial intelligence to make a deepfake sex tape of her stepdad in order to frame him for cheating. Things get messy as Megan commits to the increasingly elaborate scheme and grapples with the morality of her actions.

CHARON

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DANIEL CASEY

WEST COAST PREMIERE
WEDS JUNE 25TH @ 5PM
FUSION SHORTS BLOCK 4



Feature COMPETITION

LADY PARTS

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 100 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 21 @ 845PM

WRITER: Bonnie Gross
DIR: Nancy Boyd
PRODS: Bonnie Gross,
Meghan Griesbeck, Luke Novella
CAST: Valentina Tammara, Amy Lyndon, Peter Larney, Lars Midthun



Based on writer & executive producer Bonnie Gross's true story, *Lady Parts* is a dramedy feature film where a young woman's sex life becomes a family affair when she has to undergo a vulvar vestibulectomy. Her loving, but overbearing parents help her through recovery (despite her cringing) and learn that saying "vagina" loud and proud is the first step to advocating for herself in all aspects of her life.

THE MILITIA

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 117.5 min.

SCREENING: WED JUN 25 @ 7PM

WRITER/DIR: Dylan King Welter
PRODS: Dylan King Welter, Cyril & Melissa Welter,
Bruno Albuquerque
CAST: Sam Williamson, Michael Broderick, Laurel Feierbach, Luke Stratte-McClure



Daniel Pierce dreams of joining the local militia alongside his father when he turns eighteen. But when his father becomes the target of the local sheriff, Daniel and his friends band together to form their own militia in a troubled effort to save him.

NO CHOICE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 95 min.

SCREENING: MON JUN 23 @ 930PM

WRITER/DIR: Nate Hilgartner
PRODS: Shannon Semler, Nate Hilgartner,
Steve Hilgartner, Kathleen O'Neil



CAST: Hannah Deale, Jennifer Herzog, Robert Denzel Edwards, Hayden Frank, Maria Prudente, Adam Ratcliffe

A young woman becomes unexpectedly pregnant and starts having harrowing, prophetic dreams that she will die if she can't get an abortion. *No Choice* blends horror and drama, gritty realism and vivid surrealism, into a powerful reflection of our times.

THE OBELISK

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 118 min.

SCREENING: THU JUN 26 @ 930PM

WRITERS: Béla Baptiste, Alexey Hartlieb-Shea
DIR: Béla Baptiste
PRODS: Emma Schlenoff, Béla Baptiste,
Viktor Schaidler
CAST: Alexey Hartlieb-Shea,
Dolly Lewis and Gino Anthony Pesi



Traveling alone through the ruins of America, DAVID searches for relief from his worsening condition. Deep in the wilds, he unites with PLINY, a veteran fixated on exposing the nation's downfall. Allied, they embark on a mission to the town of Lodeve, where a revolution brews against the government program that contaminated the water. Meanwhile, LIZ, a marketing exec for a lab, uncovers a corporate cover-up. With the obelisk in Lodeve serving as their signal-fire, they navigate towards the truth. Ultimately, *The Obelisk* shows us the tragedy of misinformation, manipulation, and the consequences of seeing only what we want.

WEIRDOS

A PAUL HOLLINGSWORTH FILM



DIGITAL WIZARDS STUDIOS PRESENTS A PAUL HOLLINGSWORTH FILM

DENISE GARCIA - NATHAN ONDRACEK - CHRIS VAN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GAVIN BROWN DESIGN BY SHANE MURRAY

EDITED BY VINCENT CRETARA SPECIAL EFFECTS BY AUGUSTUS DANKO

WRITTEN BY NATHAN ONDRACEK & PAUL HOLLINGSWORTH MUSIC BY DAVID BRIAN KELLY



TCL
CHINESE
THEATRES

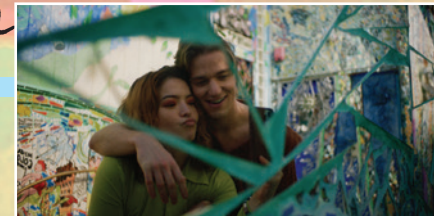
Feature competition

SOMETHING CASUAL

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 105 min.

SCREENING: TUE JUN 24 @ 715PM

WRITER/DIR: Brandon Buczek
PRODS: Brandon Buczek, Anie Delgado,
Gabrielle LeBlanc, Ben Rejzer
CAST: Piper Curda, Nico Greetham



Alex, a first-generation latino artist, and Frankie, a professional dancer, navigate the soulless casual hookup culture of Los Angeles. Dating apps and casual sex reign, as they both deny their feelings and continue seeing other people while they fall in love. A series of misunderstandings leaves these two star-crossed lovers oscillating between confusion (ghosting and ignoring) and obsession (sex and pasta). But what happens when they finally meet someone different? Do they even know how to love anymore?

SONNY BOY

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 90 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 20 @ 930PM

WRITER: Nick Maccarone
DIR: Kristen Hansen
PRODS: Nick Maccarone,
Kristen Hansen, Heath Franklin
CAST: Nick Maccarone, Ray Abruzzo, Alexis Rhee, Quinn Cote, Wes Jetton, Aurora Leonard



After a failed writing career, a writer struggles to find his way after returning home to reconcile with his dying father. Sonny tries to make peace with a broken dream before finding a second calling as a high school teacher. Still, his gift for shaping young lives falls short of the expectations of an ambitious father. Sonny tries to make amends before it's too late, but can't find the approval he's always wanted. When it seems Sonny has finally forged his path, he makes an inexcusable mistake with a troubled student.

SONNY BOY is a 2024 DWF:NY Audience Award Winner

TETHER

WORLD Premiere USA, 2024, 85 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 22 @ 630PM

WRITER: Anghus Houvouras
DIR: Hariharasudhen Nagarajan
PRODS: Hariharasudhen Nagarajan, Nicole Wu
CAST: Nick Giedris, Ben Burton, Laura Faye Smith, Joanna Cretella, Sophia Dawson, Arielle James



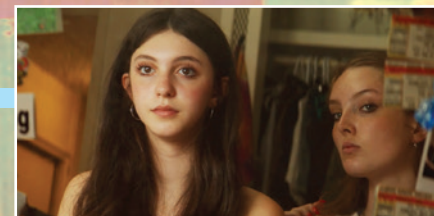
Racked with grief after losing his daughter Paula in a high school shooting, Leonard struggles to hold together the remnants of his old life. He clings to a fading hope of reuniting with his estranged wife, Amanda — a hope his therapist insists requires confronting his grief. Publicly vilified for freezing during the massacre, Gerald, an ex-school resource officer, lives under a shroud of shame, questioning his will to survive. When Leonard and Gerald's paths collide, and their downward spirals converge, what darkness will their encounter unleash?

TRASH BABY

CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 100 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 22 @ 845PM

WRITER/DIR: Jacy Mairs
PRODS: Jacy Mairs, Karlee Boon,
Cameron Holly Dexter
CAST: Esther Harrison, Chloe Kramer, Eddie Lee Wollrabe



Stevie is stuck at home for yet another sweltering summer in Pine Park. She soon crosses paths with wild not-so-child, Edie, and finds herself grappling with the natural desire to grow up quickly and the reality of what we lose when we do.

"C'MON...GROW SOME POTATOES"

ica judges

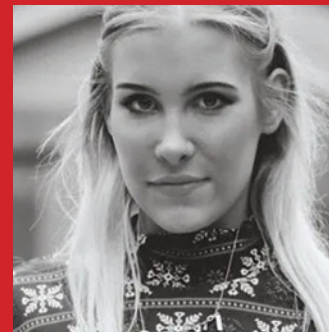
We are honored to welcome the judges for the
2025 Industry Choice Awards



STEVEN BEER
– Esq. -Partner,
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP



OLIVIA CUARTERO-BRIGGS
– Award Winning
Dramatic Writer



VAL DOWD
– Mgr. of Sales,
Submarine Entertainment



ISADORA JOHNSON
– Sales Agent,
Cinetic Media



VIJAL PATEL
– Award Winning
Film & Television Writer



BILL VERGOS
– Head of Film Acquisitions,
FREESTYLE MEDIA

STRAIT UNDERCOVER

WRITTEN BY BENJAMIN CONVOY PRODUCED BY HANNAH MANG DIRECTED BY MIKE MARTINEZ COSTUME DESIGNER ISAIAH GATES EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TIM MUSCARELLA
STARRING RAGE EBERHARDT • PETER JOHNSON • REECE PRESLEY • ALI BILL • GREGORY JACKSON • JASON NGO
EDITED BY BIZ LACHANCE • DON FEIGEL • BRIAN NETZEL • TIM DAVIS • COLE STEWERT • MARY COOKE • DENYSE FUNK
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS EDWIN WENDLER • PRODUCED BY ALEJANDRO PEREZ • NATHAN SORRENTINO • MANJIV RAHARJO

FISH & CROWN
CREATIVE

WWW.STRAITUNDERCOVER.COM

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN



FESTIVAL SCREENING: JUNE 23RD | 9:15PM

"THE MOST LOVABLE HERO
YOU'LL MEET THIS YEAR!"

FESTIVAL & THEATRE BOOKINGS | PRESS INQUIRIES
STRAITUNDERCOVERFILM@GMAIL.COM

As Seen On:
People TODAY



ica judges

VOICES

THE *Danny Gans* STORY

THE MOST FAMOUS MAN YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

WORLD PREMIERE

FRIDAY JUNE 20TH @ 5PM



A FILM BY ANDREW DAVIES GANS

@gans_andrew

GLANZROCK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS VOICES: THE DANNY GANS STORY

PRODUCED BY TURNER JUMONVILLE EDITOR WILL MÜSSER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KATHERINE LEBLOND, JESS BERRY, JENN ROMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KATIE HACKETT, JAMIE CONKLIN

WRITTEN BY ANDREW DAVIES GANS PRODUCED BY CLARE TUCKER, ANDREW DAVIES GANS DIRECTED BY ANDREW DAVIES GANS

PRESS INQUIRIES
Cher Culver
cher@cherculverpr.com



SALES INQUIRIES
Andrew Davies Gans
andrew@glanzrock.productions

Unleashed & Alumni Spotlight Features

AMERICAN COMIC

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 85 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 29 @ 645PM

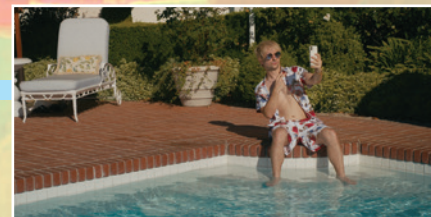
WRITER: Joe Kwaczala

DIR: Daniel J. Clark

PRODS: Daniel J. Clark & Joe Kwaczala

CAST: Joe Kwaczala, Hayley McFarland,

Sam Wiles, John Eisenrich, Biniyam Bizuneh, Doug Benson, Jon Gabrus, and Patton Oswalt



American Comic is a verité-style mockumentary that follows two up-and-coming stand-up comedians, who, despite their superficial "cultural" differences, share remarkable similarities when it comes to egotism, self-destruction, and social ineptitude. As the film satirically pulls back the curtain on the unique subculture of stand-up comedy, self-absorbed competitiveness intensifies, leading to some shocking and unexpected revelations.

OUR HAPPY PLACE

WEST COAST PREMIERE Premiere | USA, 2025, 89 min.

SCREENING: WED JUN 25 @ 9PM

WRITER/DIR: Paul Bickel

PRODS: Paul Bickel, Raya Miles,

David Ho, Tracie Thoms

CAST: Paul Bickel, Raya Miles, Tracie Thoms, Eugene Byrd



Raya jolts awake on the forest floor—shivering, disoriented, and alone. She has no memory of how she got there. The next morning, it happens again—and then again the morning after. By the third morning, she claws her way out of a shallow grave. Each time, the graves deepen, as if an unseen force is trying to bury her alive. Back at her cabin, she's haunted by visions of tortured women whose screams echo in her mind. Night after night, the supernatural torment intensifies, blurring the line between dream and reality—until *Raya* unearths a horrifying secret buried deep in the woods... and within herself.

SPLINTER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 85 min..

SCREENING: MON JUN 23 @ 715PM

WRITER/DIR: Rio Contrada

PRODS: Rio Contrada, Geoff Ryan,

Becca E. Davis, Taylor Calloway,

Michele L. Williams, Isaac Carlen,

Biagio Varriale, Camille Thomas, Major King III, Peter Horgan, Anthony Roberson

CAST: Scout Tayui-Lepore, Debbie Allen, Caterina Moscat, Aaron Ford, Presciana Esparolini,

Susan Han, Karl Makinen, Jaicy Elliot, Sophia Tayui-Lepore, Sharena Walker, Jake Klar,

Poonam Basu, Tori Allen, Cinai Jai Leonard, Gia Poeme, Roma Mosavi



Grad student ROSY LOOPER is in the last semester of her practicum before becoming a certified school psychologist. In her professional life, she's composed and responsible — a perfect role model for a child. Outside of school, she's a motorcycle-riding, pill-popping thrill seeker.

On her first day, *Rosy* volunteers to take the case of *ELLA BETTANCOURT*, a second-grader displaying mysterious behaviors. *Rosy* fears that *Ella* may be suffering abuse at home. To solve the case, she must confront her own history of trauma and convince *Ella* to do what she has never been able to do herself — open up.

STILL SMILING

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 97 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 27 @ 245PM

WRITERS: Niall Cassin, Georgia Menides,

Sofia Monzerratt, Josh Ridgway,

Bahar Bella Danesh

DIR: Jared Cohn, Bahar Bella Danesh (Co-Director)

PRODS: Bahar Bella Danesh, Luna Zhang, Daemon Hillin

CAST: Shiva Negar, Billy Zane, Peter Facinelli, Shane West, Shohreh Aghdashloo



Inspired by true events, this gripping thriller follows *Darya*, a young woman who escapes war-torn Iran at 15, determined to build a new life in Los Angeles. She marries the charismatic *Sam Lebon*, a man who promises love and security, but beneath his charm lies a dark and dangerous obsession. As *Sam's* control turns to violence, *Darya* makes a daring escape — only to realize he will never let her go.

THE KILLING MOON

WORLD PREMIERE

Friday June 27th

9:30pm

See what makes *The Killing Moon* a Black List
'Reader Recommended' Script



@thekillingmoon_movie

GASB♥G

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A coming-of-age story about a lovable overtalker
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Created & Written by Lynn Rosen

Featuring
Mary Bacon
David James Boyd
Tina Chilip
Trey Gerrald
Mia Katigbak
Chad Kessler
Danielle Skraastad
with
Deirdre Lovejoy
and
Jackie Tohn



"A much-needed
breath of fresh air."
-Film Threat



Unleashed & Alumni Spotlight Features

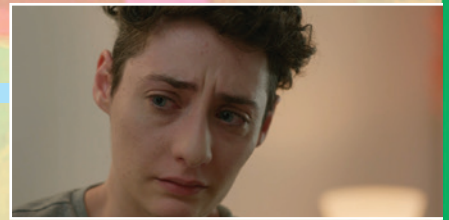
T

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 87 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 20 @ 715PM

WRITER/DIR: Lane Michael Stanley
PRODS: Lowell Blank, Lane Michael Stanley
CAST: Mel Glickman, Mursi Haynes, Sam Kerner,
Jairo Rivas, Deb Fink

Filmed over lead actor Mel Glickman's real-life first year taking Testosterone, T is a fictionalized, never-before-seen journey of nuanced transmasculine discovery, authentically portraying the moving struggles and joys encountered in friendships, family, and romantic relationships.



TASTE THE REVOLUTION

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 86 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 29 @ 430PM

WRITER/DIR: Daniel Klein
PRODS: Daniel Klein, Phil Cohen, Maury Loeb, David Linke, Kevin Linke
CAST: Mahershala Ali, Jeremy Beiler, Amatus Karim Ali, Lamman Rucker, Rhys Coiro, Colin Trevorrow

In August of 2001, two aspiring filmmakers set out to chronicle the story of charismatic, revolutionary Mac Laslow (Oscar®-Winner Mahershala Ali, in his first-ever starring role) and the group of disillusioned college students drawn together one summer to create a "World Summit" to counter the apathy of a privileged generation.

Lured by the promise of free food and booze, hundreds of young people descend upon a borrowed country estate to drink, take drugs, have sex, and swap politics. As the organizers sink deeper into the logistical nightmare of managing a modern revolution, the filmmakers witness the group's loss of confidence in their ability to change the world.



TEACHER'S PET

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 90 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 21 @ 715PM

WRITER/DIR: Noam Kroll
PRODS: Sheldon Brigman, p.g.a.,
Richard Handley, p.g.a., Noam Kroll, p.g.a.,
Kayli Fortun, Brian Hanson
EXEC PRODS: Sheldon Brigman, Luke Barnett, Charles L. Bunce, Kelby Thwaites, Russ Dewolf
CAST: Michelle Torian, Luke Barnett, Clayton Royal Johnson, Kevin Makely, Sara Tomko, Drew Powell,
Alexe-Anne Godin, Alexis DawTyne and Barbara Crampton

When brilliant but isolated high school senior Clara's English teacher dies mysteriously, a charismatic replacement arrives who takes a disturbing interest in her academic potential. As Mr. Heller's mentorship turns to dangerous obsession, Clara uncovers his horrifying secret identity and murderous past. Now trapped in a psychological game with a predator who's eliminated anyone standing in his way, Clara must use her understanding of Heller's twisted psychology against him before she becomes his next victim. Some lessons are worth dying for – others are worth killing for.



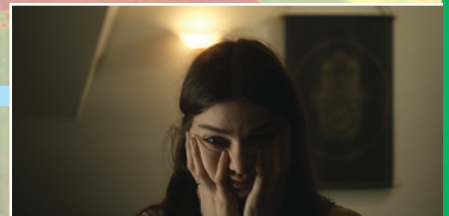
THE TRIBUTARIES

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 101 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 29 @ 12PM

WRITER/DIR: Kat Gueli
PRODS: Michael Corrente,
Justin Portaro, Kat Gueli
CAST: Catharine Daddario, Kelly Rutherford, Audrey Grace Marshall, Sky Nelson

Amid the quiet chaos of college life and the growing weight of her mother's fading health, Robbie keeps her head down and her heart guarded until she meets Drew—magnetic, effortlessly charming, and hiding more than he lets on. As reluctant as Robbie is, their connection deepens as they inspire each other to confront their pasts with honesty and courage. The Tributaries is a story of resilience, unexpected connection, and the healing power of love on the path to becoming whole.



EXPIERENCE HOW EXTREMISM IS BORN



THE MILITIA

A Film by Dylan Welter

**WORLD PREMIERE
JUNE 25TH 7PM**

Unleashed & Alumni spotlight Features

UNIVERSAL

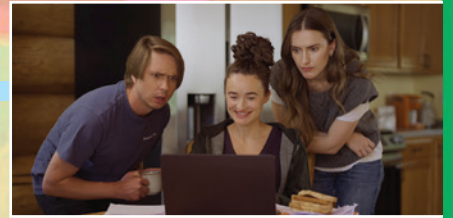
WORLD Premiere | UK, 2025, 90 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 21 @ 930PM

WRITER/DIR: Stephen Portland

EXEC PRODS: Kelley Mack

CAST: Joe Thomas, Rosa Robson, Kelley Mack



In this comedy/drama/sci-fi, a couple of academics enjoying a romantic break in a remote log cabin find their stay interrupted by someone who has tracked them down, seeking their help with what could be the biggest discovery in history...



CRAFT BEER IS THE STORY OF AMERICA



DWF LA
2023 OFFICIAL SELECTION

DWF NY
2023 OFFICIAL SELECTION

UNITED CRAFTS OF AMERICA

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PRODUCER ROBERT SCOVILLE FEATURING JESSE FURGESON AND LAURA DIERKS
EDITED BY JEFF WARREN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOEL FROOME A.C.S.
MUSIC BY GREG JOHNSON WRITTEN BY JONATHAN ADELSON
CREATED AND DIRECTED BY SERGIO CAMACHO
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PILOTS BLOCK 5 SAT JUNE 28 at 1:15PM



TCL
CHINESE
THEATRES

Closing Night!

SUNDAY, JUNE 29 @ 7:30PM

CAPTAIN TSUNAMI



WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 93 min.

WRITER: P.J. Marino

DIR: Aaron Sherry

PRODS: Michael Buhlman, Karla Buhlman, Jim Wareck,
P.J. Marino, Tessa Munro, Amy Bloom

CAST: Madeleine McGraw, P.J. Marino, Craig Frank, Tessa Munro,
Jeremy Sisto, Archie Kao, Cameron Meyer, Rick Howland,
Camille Mana, GloZell Green, Joe Nieves

Quiet comic book store owner Glenn's past, present, and future are thrown into disarray when precocious twelve-year-old Emma appears one night, hundreds of miles from her home, at his doorstep. Her brilliant, but neurodivergent mother, once the love of Glenn's life, has mysteriously disappeared, leaving only a bag full of artwork about her childhood hero, Captain Tsunami, and cryptic instructions to bring it all to Glenn if anything should ever happen. Emma is certain that her mother's beautiful and haunting pages hold not only a message to Glenn, but a secret about her family's magical origins. However, as the story comes alive, everyone involved begins to question what they really know...and the truth is not what they expected to discover.



Fusion Features

A BLOODY MESS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 83 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 930PM

WRITER/DIR: Daniel Hayden
PROD: Daniel Hayden; Sydney O'Toole
CAST: Sydney O'Toole, Mary Birdsong, Anna Bezhler, Dhruv Uday Singh, James Werner, Jim Woods, Casey Feigh, Cameron Kelly, Betsy Sodaro, Matt O'Toole

*A film about rage that's a movie about revenge that's a documentary about sh*t. A true-crime documentarian and her loyal crew investigate a small-town tragedy that's faded into memory as a national joke, but as her determination to uncover the truth becomes more intense, her methods become less ethical—until they become dangerous.*



CIAO, MAMA

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 77 min.

SCREENING: TUE JUN 24 @ 915PM

WRITER/DIR: Luca Perito
PRODS: Johnny Wactor, Luca Perito, Micah Joe Parker, Viral Keshwala, Colin Flynn
CAST: Micah Joe Parker, Johnny Wactor, Emily Alabi, Rebecca Radisic, Jeremy Luke, Alessia Franchin, Tom Martin, Katie Keene, Lou Sandoval, Ty LaPlaunt, Pete Gardner and Colin Flynn

Ciao, Mama follows Tony Esposito as he returns to his hometown in Long Island, New York, for the funeral of his beloved mother. After years spent in Los Angeles chasing his dreams, Tony is weighed down by guilt for not being there during her illness—a secret she kept, believing that goodbyes are pointless and don't ease the pain of moving on. Instead, she held fast to the belief that carrying on the dream is what truly matters.



THE DISTANT JUMP

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 53 min.

SCREENING: TUE JUN 24 @ 430PM

WRITERS/PRODS: Vinnie Hogan & Frank Kim
DIR: Vinnie Hogan
CAST: Remy Joslin, Frank Kim, P Michael Hayes, Alaithia Valez, Bronte Harrison, Ryan Luckie, Sydni Beuhler, Mike Dellens, and Lauren Lox

When Jennifer's daughter is abducted by people with supernatural abilities, the only clue left behind is a glowing, golden orb. An aura.



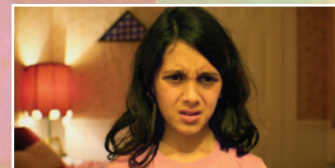
PRECEDED BY:

BABYTEETH

USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR: Paul Sanchez IV PROD: Jason A. White
CAST: David Mattle, Coleman Simmons, Susanna Sierra, Wendy Gutierrez

Toni is an 11-year-old LatinX, transboy, who is afraid of the monster under their bed... which is very real...but it may not be the only monster in the house.



THE KILLING MOON

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 81 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 27 @ 930PM

WRITER/DIR: Daniel Bogran
PRODS: Beverly Amidon, Daniel Bogran, Jon Bogran
CAST: Matthew Leone, Victoria Diamond, Ryan Caraway

A mysterious young man interrupts a wealthy couple's lake vacation when he shows up wounded at the doorstep of their luxury cabin. The couple's decision to help kicks off a wild power struggle, culminating in sinister, seductive turns that reduce them all to their most primal desires.



DWF LA
2023 OFFICIAL SELECTION

TETHER

WORLD
PREMIERE
JUNE 22
@ 6:30 PM

TICKETS



TRAILER



INSTAGRAM



PSF PRODUCTIONS PRESENT TETHER
STARRING NICK GIEHRIS BEN BURTON LAURA FAYE SMITH JOANNA CRETELLA SOPHIA DAWSON AND ARIELLE JAMES
SOUND DESIGN BY NATHAN RUYLE MUSIC BY DARRYL JOHN HANNAN EDITOR ALJANDRA ARMUJO
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NICK WALKER PRODUCTION DESIGNER CASSIE HOWELL
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER JULIA ELAINE WALKER PRODUCERS HARIHARASUDHEN NAGARAJAN AND NICOLE WU
WRITTEN BY ANGHUS HOJVCOURAS DIRECTED BY HARIHARASUDHEN NAGARAJAN

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GoodFellas



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WATCH THE PILOT EPISODE ON 6/28
AT DANCES WITH FILMS

Fusion Features

PILGRIM

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 111 min.
SCREENING: TUE JUN 24 @ 645PM

WRITERS/DIRS: Scout Purdy & Doug Purdy
PRODS: Doug Purdy, Tom Flynn, Colette Freedman
CAST: Scout Purdy, Doug Purdy, Brooke Purdy, Max Purdy, Colette Freedman, Tom Flynn, Ryan Bollman, Jenica Bergere

After a series of revelations, 15 year old Joe devises a plan to cure her teen angst; A month long pilgrimage filled with communication issues, terrible survival skills, and zero WIFI. AKA: a summer hiking trip with her father. Pilgrim is a funny, heartwarming story of connection and discovery.



REAL COUPLES

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 78 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 29 @ 215PM

WRITER/DIR: Julian Berger
PRODS: Julian Berger, Nick Petroccione, Noah Herndon
CAST: Julian Berger, Adriana Hinojosa, Nick Petroccione, Hudson Klass, Marie Zolezzi, Jake Marlow, Jake Orozco-Herman, Isabella Dake, Gloria Ines, Danielle Ferroni, Matthew Wunsch, Quentin Montoya, Jay Wilder, Martina Sanders

Oliver and Blue can't stop arguing. Colton starts seeing Amber, but his roommate Tobias is always in the way. Avery moves in with Spencer, even though they've been together for less than a year. Russell and Julia run into someone from Julia's past. Joe is nervous he's terrible at sex, and Hannah doesn't mind telling him the truth. Lucy and Tatum are in love. These are Real Couples.



SHATTERED ICE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 100 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 29 @ 430PM

WRITER: Jake Miskin
DIR: Alex Ranarivelo
PRODS: Jake Miskin, Benjamin Stephen, Daniel Sheldon, Christopher V. Nelson
CAST: Charlie Gillespie, Kyla Kenedy, Sterling Beaumon, Jack Falahee, Matt Letscher

Nehoiden High School hockey stars Will Mankus and Danny Campbell dream of college scholarships as they approach their critical senior year. Suddenly, their bright future is cast into darkness when Danny dies by suicide. Feeling his dreams slipping away amidst the loss of his best friend, Will struggles to find purpose and connection in his life, drawing the concern of his family, teammates, and childhood crush. As he confronts his grief and forms a bond with the team's reluctant new coach, Will and the Nehoiden Black Bears become a symbol of resilience and a rallying cry for their town, finding hope in unexpected places.



SILENT PREY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 113 min.

SCREENING: WED JUN 25 @ 930PM

WRITER/DIR: Avan Hardwell
PRODS: Avan Hardwell, Lindsay Clift, Shaunda Hardwell, Casey Zimmerman
CAST: Misty Monroe, Matt Rasku, Donovan David and Juanita Jennings

When an embattled Los Angeles attorney learns that the police have attributed her brother's untimely death to an accidental overdose, she joins forces with a hesitant detective to uncover the truth. Soon their investigation unearths a string of murders that point to a serial killer hellbent on cleansing America of the evil he believes to be destroying it.



People are still so afraid of using the word vagina, yet it is just a part of our body. We titled our film "Lady Parts," because we can use actual terms instead of nicknames for "down there."

Be on the lookout for Lady Parts friendship bracelets at Dances with Films and let the trading begin!



STAR PEOPLE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 103 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 715PM

WRITER/DIR: Adam Finberg
 PRODS: Adam Finberg, Josh Shader
 CAST: Kat Cunning, McCabe Slye, Connor Paolo, Eddie Martinez, Bradley Fisher, Adriana Aluna Martinez



A photographer receives a tip that could finally shed light on her childhood UFO sighting, but a deadly heatwave and unexpected guests threaten to derail her obsessive search for answers.

STRAIT UNDERCOVER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 93 min.

SCREENING: MON JUN 23 @ 915PM

WRITER/DIR: Benjamin Gonyo
 PROD: Hannah Mang
 CAST: Race Eberhardt



Strait Undercover is a hilarious action-comedy about a lowly rural USDA agent who goes undercover to stop a corrupt agro-tech company from polluting his hometown. The film breaks new ground by casting Race Eberhardt, a comedic actor with a disability, in the lead role as the hero, without drawing attention to his differences.

THE UNICORN DIARIES

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 100 min.

SCREENING: MON JUN 23 @ 9PM

EXEC PROD/DIR: Cate Caplin

WRITER/PROD: Serene Zloof

CO-PRODS: Rosy Zloof, Soham Kattan

CAST: Datgirl, Chad Doreck, Billy Budinich, Niki J. Crawford, Sophia Louisa Lee, Brent Charles, Alexandria Gracely, Gui Agustini, Ruby Farley, Asiyeh Ziaei, Abbe Rowllins, Shahriar Ghoudsifar, Quinn Knox, Madison Orange, Jeff Lawless, Gregory Townsend, Nicky Romaniello, Mary Pumper, Nyx Ciel, Madison Holland, Nicky Serrano, Bradley James Holzer, Lilly Bluemoon, Zapper Jones



Lili, a first-generation Middle Eastern-American DJ, lives between the pull of her traditional family values and a seemingly perfect long-term relationship. After a chance encounter with a charismatic polyamorous couple, Lili plunges into the seductive, unpredictable world of Ethical Non-Monogamy and relationship expanding connections. Determined to keep her heart anchored while her desires roam, boundaries blur, casual turns complicated, and the rules of love are rewritten. Risking everything, her relationship, her identity and her sense of control, Lili must navigate desire, identity, and the true cost of freedom.

WHERE WERE YOU

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 96 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 5PM

WRITERS: Leah & Phillip Abraham
 DIR: Phillip Abraham
 PRODS: Leah Abraham, Phillip Abraham
 CAST: Leah Bateman, Phillip Abraham



When two small-town artists cross paths in a cemetery, their mutual hunger for meaning inspires them to leave their broken hearts behind and move to Los Angeles, unbeknownst to each other.





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MIDNIGHT SERIES

ACOLYTE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 96 min.

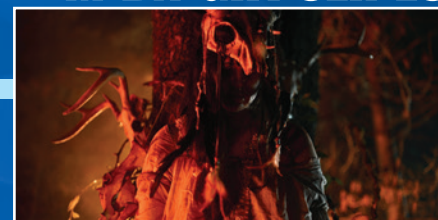
SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 1015PM

WRITER/DIR: Cameron A. Tubbs

PRODS: K. Bevin Ayers, Cameron A. Tubbs,
Matthew Benjamin Canada

CAST: Cameron A. Tubbs, Matt Kiesling,
K. Bevin Ayers

After a mysterious incident, Kai fled his home in rural Appalachia thinking he would never look back. But when his mom dies, he returns seven years later hoping to repair his relationship with his estranged and troubled brother, Russ. As they try to put the past behind them, strange and disturbing things begin to happen around their home in the mountains: locals going missing, break-ins, and strange sounds coming from the basement. Soon Kai is forced to confront the dark legacy of their family – and how you can never really escape your past.



BETWEEN TWO WAVES

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 87 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 27 @ 1130PM

WRITERS/DIRS/PRODS: Courtney & Mark Sposato

CAST: Koko Marshall, Dave Coleman, Mara Beier,
Deana DiCosimo, Mary Loomam, Mila Falkoff

After her mother's death, Cass Milligan returns home for the first time in years, only to find the house isn't done with her. She's convinced it's haunted. Her twin brother thinks she's unraveling. As buried memories surface, they must uncover the truth before the past swallows her whole.



KOMBUCHA

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 94 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 27 @ 1145PM

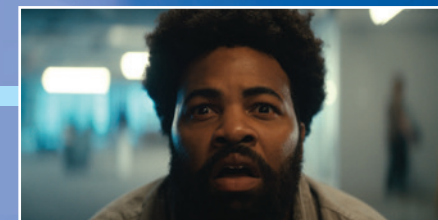
WRITER: Geoff Bakken

DIR: Jake Myers

PROD: John Condne

CAST: Terrence Carey, Claire McFadden, T.J. Jagodowski, Charin Alvarez, Paige Bourne, Jesse Kendall

Luke Merritt lands a job at the cult-like Symbio Corporation, where a mind-altering kombucha turns employees into productive corporate cogs. As the drink begins to erase his identity, his ex-girlfriend Elyse uncovers Symbio's grotesque secret: a monstrous Mother at the heart of the company, churning out obedient clones. With Luke slipping beyond reach, Elyse must race to save him and destroy the source before the company consumes him completely.



PEEPING TODD

WORLD PREMIERE Premiere | USA, 2025, 88 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 20 @ 1145PM

WRITERS: Josh Munds & Chris Alan Evans

DIR: Josh Munds

PRODS: Alexander Jeffery, Chris Alan Evans,
Josh Munds, Melissa Munds, Paul Petersen,
Brittany Fallow, Tamra Corley Davis

CAST: Chris Alan Evans, Mabel Thomas, Paul Petersen

When his peeping passions become compromised, Todd decides he'll do whatever it takes to continue stalking his beloved Claire. An obsessive HOA fleet and a dense boyfriend are obstacles Todd must dance around if he wants to sing his way into Claire's heart. As Claire gets wrapped up in the lies of her fiancé and the web of her stalker, she must escape the two most toxic relationships she's ever faced.



SÉANCE

USA, 2024, 85 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 21 @ 1145PM

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Vivian Kerr

PRODS: Marion Kerr, Suresh Cedrick Pereira,
Makenna Tuttle, Savannah Lindblad

CAST: Scottie Thompson, Jilon VanOver,
Connor Paolo, Vivian Kerr

In 1892 California, a Victorian woman contemplating adultery is forced to take refuge from a storm at the home of her first husband and his unstable wife, who claims to be haunted by their dead child.



MIDNIGHT SHORTS: GRP 1

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 21 @ 11PM

ADA AND EVAN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2025, 9.5 min.



WRITER/DIR/PROD: Delaney Flanagan
CAST: Jeffrey Keller, Max St. John, Delaney Flanagan

When Ada and Evan take a bite of the forbidden fruit, they accidentally unleash a world of sin — and with it, a newfound horniness. There's just one problem: Evan's not into Ada. Like, at all. In fact, he kind of sees her as a sister. But with the fate of humanity on the line, Ada refuses to give up. Armed with modern dating tactics, she's determined to win him over. Will Evan give in to temptation, or will humanity cease to exist? A biblical comedy about desire, rejection, and playing hard to get.

BE NICE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 7 min.



WRITER/DIR/PROD: Eric Baktanian
CAST: Jeremiah Acevedo,
Cooper Alexander, Danney Paul

A sleepover goes awry for a bully.

BRONZE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 7 min.

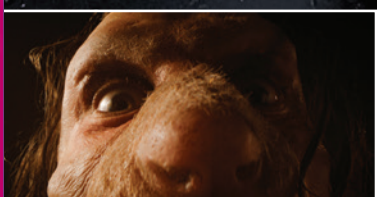


WRITER/DIR/PROD: Corey Benson Powers
CAST: Sana Rehman, Luke Brandt

Wine, sun, and a good book: the perfect ingredients for Tori to relax in her yard on a beautiful summer day. Spurred by a flirtatious message, Tori launches into an impromptu photo shoot — unaware that she has an audience.

THE FULL-TIME LOVE RAT

WORLD Premiere | AUSTRALIA, 2024, 16 min.



WRITERS/PRODS: Charles Cottier,
Jack Hutchinson, Tristan Barr
DIR: Tristan Barr
CAST: Charles Cottier, Perry Mooney, Kelly Hodge, Melissa Le-Yu, Mia Grunwald, Matthew Caffoe

Newly wealthy and disillusioned, Randall, a mobile game developer, asks his old friend Sarah out for dinner to tell her how he actually feels about her. She deflects the conversation, insisting a solution to his crisis of meaning could be to join the dating applications. Heartbroken, Randall follows Sarah's advice, but this casual and dishonest way of life begins to have dehumanising effects on his mind and body. Without Sarah, however, Randall can't find it in himself to stop, as he doubles down on the descent into ratty madness.

MIDNIGHT SHORTS: GRP 1

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 21 @ 11PM

ME & MY PENIS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 15.5 min.

WRITER: Patrick Oury
DIR: Claire Chubbuck
PRODS: Nathan Paul, Marlowe Blue
CAST: Patrick Oury, Aleksander Popovic,
Sofia D'Marco, Sherita Starks, Natalie Stavola

In a desperate attempt to conquer his psychologically driven erectile dysfunction, Jason battles his best friend and nemesis: a six-foot-tall personified penis named Victor.

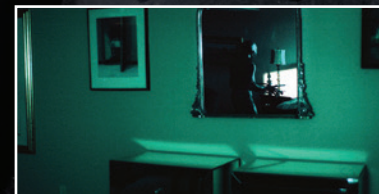


MIRROR/MIRROR

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 12.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Drew Phillips
PRODS: Drew Phillips, Montavius Parker,
Johnath Davis, Marcus McGill, Chris Cox
CAST: Armani Greer, Jamal Akakpo, Jay McKenzie

A young black couple in the Bronx who are expecting, score a dream manor for a steal, unaware a malevolent force lurks within its antique mirrors, targeting their unborn child.



MY DEAD DAD'S FUNERAL

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 12.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Jamie Manelis
PRODS: Connie Ennis, Jamie Manelis,
Hunter Milano, Brook Linder, Josh Lieberman,
Joey Soloway, Michele Manelis
CAST: Jamie Manelis, Connie Ennis, Cooper Tomlinson, John Ennis

Riley needs to spread her estranged father's ashes at his childhood home, but her dark day takes a bizarre turn.

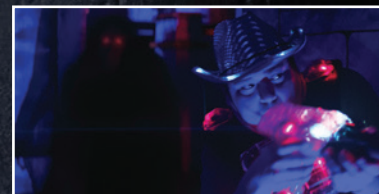


TAG

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR: Travis Bible
PRODS: Mike Nicholas, Kemerton Hargrove
CAST: Susan Elle, Spencer Harrison Levin,
Chloe Baldwin, Ray Yamamoto,
Jennifer Castillo, Ru Benjamin Revolver

During a birthday celebration at a laser tag arena, a group of friends find themselves hunted by a demon that can wipe them out of existence with its touch.

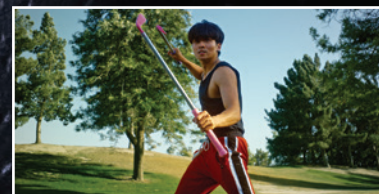


VIOLET VENDETTA

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 11 min.

WRITERS: Ted Hayden & Theo Olesen
DIR: Ted Hayden
PRODS: Adam Hemmert & Jessica Solari Hayden
CAST: Brandon H. Lee, Hector Melgoza

Wannabe filmmakers Luke and Hunter will do anything to finish their dream project—including fighting off the hitmen sent by the shady 'executive producer' bankrolling them.



VIRGIN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2025, 14.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Ramone Menon
PRODS: Ramone Menon & Annalea Fiachi
CAST: Jessica Damouni, Herman Gambhir
and Katie Lynn Stoddard

A horror movie about the birth of Jesus Christ.



MIDNIGHT SHORTS: GRP 2

SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 1145PM

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 13.5 min.



WRITER/DIR: Jeph Porter
PRODS: Jamison Acker & Jeph Porter
CAST: Allison Carmody, Dale Dobson

A skeptical teenage girl, Riley, reluctantly joins her UFO-obsessed father, Jerry, on a road trip to a UFO convention, only to experience an otherworldly encounter that brings them closer together.

ENDZGIVING

CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 10.5 min.



WRITERS: Patrick T. Dorsey & Tina Carbone
DIR: Tina Carbone
PRODS: Tina Carbone, Jack Fatheree, Patrick T. Dorsey
CAST: Will Madden, Hayley Marie Norman, Dustin Hahn, Skyler Bible, Jackie Michele Johnson, Gabriella Pastore

This is gonna be Will's last Friendsgiving.

QUEER SCREAMS

LGBTQ+ GENRE FILM FESTIVAL



MIDNIGHT SHORTS: GRP 2

SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 1145PM

IN2U

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 14 min.

WRITER: John A. Rice
DIR: Adrienne Acevedo Lovette
PRODS: Adrienne Acevedo Lovette, John A. Rice, Elod Zoltan Filyó, Margaret Romolo Zukor, Eddie Martínez
CAST: Christian Prjns Coen, Dre Davis, Emily Mesa

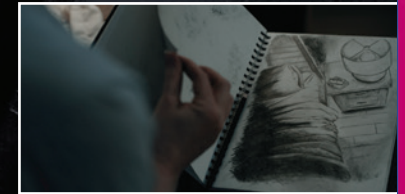


Cam is a charming but isolated adult content creator, hustling for tips while avoiding his alcoholic mother and dreaming of stardom. One night, he's lured into a private chat by a cryptic user named "In2U." Her unsettling questions cut deeper than his usual flirty routine, exposing wounds he hides from the world. When she offers him money to run away, Cam impulsively shares his address. His teasing sister Macy barges in, breaking the spell—but In2U vanishes. That night, something enters the house. The connection isn't virtual anymore. In2U is real—she's come to claim him, and the camera never stops streaming.

IT DRAWS CLOSER

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 4.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Joshua David Matthews
PRODS: Kyle Steinike, Jason Sheedy, Joshua David Matthews
CAST: Erin Ownbey, Brett Brooks



A young woman discovers the creature she just sketched is in the bedroom with her.

THE NIGHT WITHIN

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 18.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Mark Lammerding
PROD: Teeny Stillings
CAST: Andy McQueen, Whitney Rice, Stanislav Tabirta

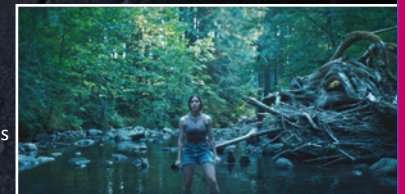


A social worker's obsession with a case plunges him into a fight for survival against malevolent forces.

SILENT ECHOES

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 19 min.

WRITER/DIR: Katie O'Grady
PRODS: Tierney Boorboor, October Moore, Matt Morris
CAST: Emily Rued, Dylan Kenin, Stella Allen

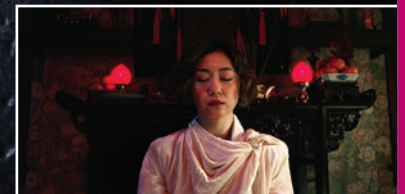


After going mute witnessing her mother's brutal murder, a ten-year-old girl and her aunt return to their family cabin on Mt. Hood, where sinister intentions force her to confront her trauma and reveal a deadly truth.

SISTER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 9.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Alyce Tzue
PRODS: Diliiana Deltcheva, Jack Gravina, Maurice Zhu
CAST: Kelsey Wang, Dralla Aierken, Eddie Yu, Artemis Snow, Jacy Duan

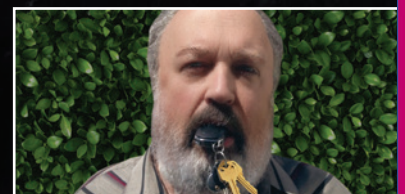


Inspired by true events: An anxious mother-to-be consults her sister, a spirit medium, to ease her mind about her child's future, and gets much more than she bargained for.

YES DEAR

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 4.5 min.

WRITERS: Marsha Song & Calix Lewis Reneau
DIR: Ken Blackwell
PRODS: Pea Woodruff & Calix Lewis Reneau
CAST: Whit Spurgeon



A beleaguered husband arrives home, attempts to make dinner for his demanding wife, and gets nagged to death, literally.



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DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

A LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P. GIANNINI

USA, 2024, 81 min.

SCREENING: WED JUN 25 @ 445PM

DIR: Davide Fiore

WRITERS: Joseph Mancini & Davide Fiore

PRODS: Davide Fiore, Anna Laclergue,
Sacha Smith, Joseph Mancini

NARRATED BY: Sacha Smith

A Little Fellow: The Legacy of A.P. Giannini is a feature documentary on A.P. Giannini, a visionary Italian-American banker who championed the working class and transformed California's economy. From rebuilding San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake to backing Hollywood and the Golden Gate Bridge during the Great Depression, Giannini's investments helped shape modern America. He offered loans on a handshake, defied Wall Street, and built the Bank of Italy into Bank of America. Through expert interviews and rare artifacts, the film explores his enduring legacy as a fearless innovator who made banking accessible to "the little fellow".



AMERICAN CLOWN

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 90 min.

SCREENING: MON JUN 23 @ 7PM

DIR: Guilford Adams & Casey Pinkston

PRODS: Jason Sallee, Bill Parks,
Guilford Adams, Scott Barber

As the American narrative towards 'bozos' sours, a working clown goes on a journey of discovery to find hope for an ever-changing profession.



AMONG NEIGHBORS

USA, 2024, 100 min.

SCREENING: MON JUN 23 @ 430PM

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Yoav Potash

CAST: Yaacov Goldstein, Pelagia Radecka,
Anita Friedman, Aaron Tartakovsky

Using beautiful hand-drawn animation to bring the past to life, "Among Neighbors" investigates the story of a small, rural town where the longstanding peace between Jewish and Polish neighbors was shattered by World War II. Now, in an era where difficult truths about the past are being silenced for political gain, the film focuses on the only living Holocaust survivor from the town, and an aging eyewitness who saw Jews murdered there — six months after the Nazis were defeated. Produced and directed by award-winning filmmaker Yoav Potash ("Crime After Crime," Sundance Film Festival), "Among Neighbors" is an evocative and heart-pounding murder mystery with urgent political relevance.



ANXIETY CLUB

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 86 min.

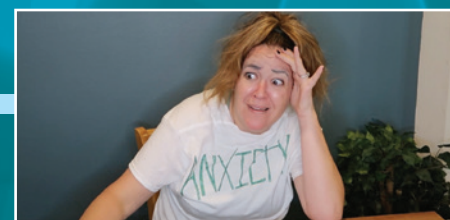
SCREENING: MON JUN 23 @ 645PM

DIR: Wendy Lobel

PRODS: Wendy Lobel, Carolin Ehrenburg,
Jonathan Gray, Scott Sinkler, Jeff Spivack,
Janelle Draper

CAST: Comedians Tiffany Jenkins, Joe List, Marc Maron, Aparna Nancherla, Mark Normand,
Baron Vaughn, Eva Victor. Also Tara Brach, PhD, Natalie Noel, LMHC

ANXIETY CLUB offers a heartfelt and humorous exploration of anxiety through the lens of some of today's most brilliant (and anxious) comedians: Tiffany Jenkins, Joe List, Marc Maron, Aparna Nancherla, Mark Normand, Baron Vaughn, and Eva Victor. With a mix of stand-up performances, sketch videos, exclusive interviews, and relatable everyday life scenarios, they candidly share their personal struggles with anxiety, the world's most prevalent mental health condition, affecting more than 300 million people globally. Join these comedians as they reveal how humor and vulnerability can coexist, turning their mental health battles into powerful narratives that resonate with audiences everywhere.



Writer/Director Beth Curry is so honored to share Lemon, based on her Nicholl Fellowship-winning script, with DWF!

Lemon

We must
never go outside,
but in here, we're happy.



Sunday
June 22
11:45AM
Block 4

A FILM BY BETH CURRY "LEMON" BASED ON THE SCRIPT BY BETH CURRY AND BETH CURRY
"THE BIRTH OF A NATION" BY JAMES BRADEN "HONOLULU" BY BETH CURRY
"THE BIRTH OF A NATION" BY JAMES BRADEN "HONOLULU" BY BETH CURRY

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

FEAR AND NOW

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 94 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 27 @ 7PM

WRITER/DIR: Liat Ron
PRODS: Liat Ron & Shachar Langlev

In a world where fear and trauma shape the birthing experience, Fear and Now redefines the narrative. After a far too common yet unacknowledged traumatic first birth, filmmaker Liat Ron discovers HypnoBirthing and embarks on a transformational journey, offering an unprecedented window into what birth can truly be. This trailblazing documentary reveals that safe, comfortable, enjoyable, and fear-free births are possible, even within a system that leads us to believe otherwise. Fear and Now shines a light on a birthing revolution already underway and calls on us to acknowledge and heal from the birth traumas we carry.



FLAMINGO CAMP

USA, 2025, 80 min.

SCREENING: WED JUN 25 @ 430PM

DIR: Chris Coats
PRODS: Chris Coats,
Zackary Drucker, Jonathan Steven Green

In the near-lawless squatter town of Slab City, a group of young queer and trans anarchists create a thriving safe space for themselves known as Flamingo Camp. In the harsh Sonoran Desert, the camp flourishes through the mild winter months under the leadership of its founder, Nova. But when Nova departs for the summer and the brutal heat sets in, the unthinkable happens—fracturing this once close-knit chosen family.



FORTUNATE SONS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 85 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 21 @ 5PM

WRITER/DIR: Peter Jones
PRODS: Peter Jones,
Taylor Vracin-Harrell, John Bard Manulis

A feature-length documentary about the 1974 graduating class of the Harvard School for Boys, then a private, military school for the sons of the Los Angeles elite. Born into privilege and groomed to lead, they entered 7th grade of this all-male, military school in the cultural watershed year of 1968. An American journey about friendship, life, loss, and redemption—culminating with the class' 50th reunion in 2024—it resonates powerfully with the developing national conversation about the mental health of boys and men, the evolution of masculinity, and the power of connection and vulnerability.



I NEED YOU: 53 YEARS OF THE BAND AMERICA

USA, 2025, 94 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 8PM

DIRS: Dustin Elm & David Breschel
PRODS: Jack Piatt, David Breschel,
Charlie Cohen, Natalia Nastaskin

Gerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell, the founding members of the band America, have spent over five decades touring together, playing nearly 100 shows annually since their iconic hit "A Horse With No Name" skyrocketed them to fame fresh out of high school. During their 53rd straight year on the road, the duo decides to step back from touring together.

As they prepare to take the stage for what they've decided will be their final performance together, the film offers a portrait of two lifelong friends and collaborators whose music has endured generations, bringing audiences along for the emotional crescendo of America's remarkable journey.



DEPARTMENT OF ONE

Nothing good
happens after
rehearsal.

SERIES BY
ARCADIA CONRAD

STARRING
ED BEGLEY, JR
AMY MADIGAN
KELSEY LANDON
BEN EDLIN
DAMON DAYOUB

REP:
MATT ATCHITY
MATT@STORYMERCHANT.COM
310-701-3677

Saturday
June 21
1:00pm
(Pilots BLK 2)
TCL Chinese
Theater



From filmmaker Yoav Potash
producer & director of the Sundance Film Festival hit *Crime After Crime*

AMONG NEIGHBORS

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE



“This film is beautifully crafted and the animated scenes bring it all home with dramatic impact. Potash’s film should stand as a vital document in history.”

FILM
THREAT

MONDAY, JUNE 23
at 4:30PM
with filmmaker Q&A and
special guests from the film



amongneighbors.com

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

THE KIDS ARE NOT ALRIGHT

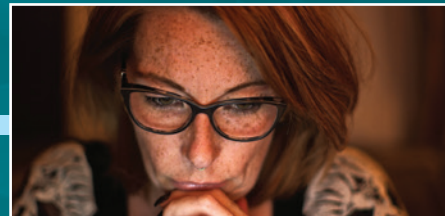
LOS ANGELES Premiere | USA, 2025, 91 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 29 @ 10AM

DIR: Mikaela Shwer

PRODS: Mikaela Shwer, Alana Maiello,
Robyn Kopp, Kimberly Stuckwisch, Kate Logan

What does it mean to be a survivor? Generations of children have been left with this question in the wake of abuse suffered at the hands of the Troubled Teen Industry, an unregulated network of for-profit institutions claiming to fix wayward teenagers. Decades later, they are fighting back. Filmed over the course of nine years, *The Kids Are Not Alright* is an intimate portrait of trauma following three families’ journeys as they work to shed light on the devastating impacts of institutional abuse, pursue healing in the absence of justice, and fight to hold abusers accountable.



THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH

WEST COAST Premiere | USA/INDONESIA, 2025, 110 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 29 @ 1215PM

WRITER/DIR: David Booth Gardner

PRODS: David Booth Gardner,
Shayne McGrath, Louie Psihoyos

A thrilling, eight-year journey into the heart of Sumatra’s Leuser Ecosystem—a 2.6-million-hectare rainforest where tigers, elephants, rhinos, and orangutans still roam free. Filmed by a dedicated mostly Indonesian crew, this investigative documentary follows a group of extraordinary wildlife activists as they risk everything to save one of Earth’s last untouched wildernesses from the devastation of the illegal palm oil industry.



MEANDERING SCARS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 102 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 1030AM

DIRS/PRODS: Allison Norlian & Kody Leibowitz

Two decades after being paralyzed in a domestic violence incident, Erika Bogan uses her wheelchair to climb the largest free-standing mountain in the world – Mt. Kilimanjaro – to help raise awareness about the mental health struggles plaguing both her and the disability community at large.



NEVER GET BUSTED!

WORLD Premiere | AUSTRALIA, 2025, 110 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 20 @ 915PM

WRITER/DIR: David Anthony Ngo

DIR: Stephen McCallum
PRODS: Erin Williams-Weir,
Daniel Joyce, David Anthony Ngo

Barry Cooper was a highly decorated Texas narcotics officer – until he turned on the police force, busting crooked cops and teaching drug users how to hide their stash.



ONE BUT MANY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 67 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 29 @ 230PM

WRITERS/PRODS: Joel Olicker & Janna Giacoppo

DIR: Janna Giacoppo

ONE BUT MANY reveals how the escalating global crisis of Human-Wildlife Conflict is being weaponized against the very people and animals it affects most. This unflinching documentary exposes the deep ties between the trophy hunting industry and policy decisions driven by both the U.S. and African governments, leaving communities and wildlife in peril. But in parts of Kenya, where trophy hunting has been banned for decades, extraordinary models of coexistence are not only emerging—they’re thriving. With raw truth and radical hope, *One But Many* dares to reimagine how humans and wildlife share space in an increasingly complex world.



“Santa Baby” composer Philip Springer’s career spanned 75+ years adorned with legendary artists and locations.

Travel back in time to a fascinating walk through luminous music history.

More Than Santa Baby

A short documentary film

WORLD PREMIERE
MONDAY JUNE 23, 4:45PM
USA 2025, 40 MINUTES



A film by
Tamar Springer

TICKETS



DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

THE OPENER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 72 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 1245PM

WRITERS/PRODS: Philip Labes,

Sunya Mara, Jeff Toye

DIR: Jeff Toye

FEATURING: Philip Labes & Jason Mraz

A feel-great story about a street performer who posted his music online and found that it spoke to millions. When his songs reached the ears of one of his heroes, Grammy-winner Jason Mraz, he was invited on his very first tour and given a chance to prove himself on the big stage.



SQUATCHERS: THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN BIGFOOT

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 83 min.

SCREENING: TUE JUN 24 @ 9PM

WRITER: Barret Hacia

DIRS/PRODS: Barret Hacia & Josiah Bultema

CAST: James “Bobo” Fay, Cliff Barackman,
Jeff Meldrum, Les Stroud, Steven Streufert,
Rictor Riolo, Thom Cantrall, Virginia Wade

An outsider’s view into the endearing subculture of those who believe in Bigfoot, from scientists to the supernatural and everything in between.



VOICES:

THE DANNY GANS STORY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 102 min.

SCREENING: FRI JUN 20 @ 5PM

WRITER/DIR: Andrew Davies Gans

PRODS: Andrew Davies Gans & Clare Tucker

A captivating exploration of a son’s journey to uncover the truth behind his father’s extraordinary life. Andrew Gans delves deep into the inspiring and improbable journey of his father, legendary Las Vegas entertainer, Danny Gans, and the circumstances surrounding his untimely passing. As Andrew navigates a path of self-discovery, growth, and acceptance, his story unfolds against the compelling backdrop of his father’s underdog triumphs. It’s a story about the echoes of a voice that continues to inspire, reverberating through the life of the son he left behind.



YOU’RE NO INDIAN

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 80 min.

SCREENING: SAT JUN 28 @ 245PM

DIR: Ryan Flynn

EXECUTIVE PRODS: Wes Studi, Tantoo Cardinal

PRODS: Michael Sammaciccia, Santana Rabang

NARRATED BY: Tantoo Cardinal

Tribal politicians exiling their own people. Families torn apart. Bodies exhumed to prove identity. Militias hired to seize control of casinos. You’re No Indian uncovers a hidden civil war in Indian Country where the rising practice of disenrollment strips Native people of their citizenship, identity, and rights. Fueled by casino profits, political power, and personal vendettas, some tribal governments are using fear, violence, and legal loopholes to erase their own members. Through unflinching firsthand accounts, this highly anticipated film exposes a crisis threatening the very survival of Native nations.



ZZASLOW K-427

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 78 min.

SCREENING: SUN JUN 22 @ 745PM

WRITERS/PRODS: Robert Ham & Adam Zaslów

DIR: Robert Ham

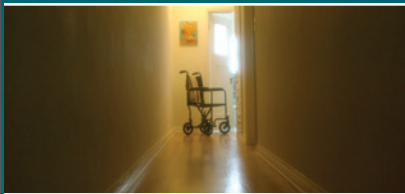
FEATURING: Juan Colon Estrada, Adam Zaslów,
John Starks, John Feal, Mike Breen

Zzaslow K-427, honors the remarkable service of the longest tenured bomb-sniffing dog to ever serve in the U.S. Army, and how this unassuming black Labrador retriever saved lives, both on and off the battlefield, healing humans in extraordinary ways that are completely unexpected.



DOC SHORTS: GRP 1

SCREENING: FRI JUNE 20 @ 445PM



A GOOD DEATH

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 19 min.

WRITER/DIR: Mia Hagerty
PRODS: Anna O'Donnell & Shubhra Dubey

When Mark, a five-year cancer patient, decides to use Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) to end his suffering, he turns to Karen Morin, a 68-year-old home hospice nurse, to prescribe him the life-ending medication. As Mark prepares for his death and reflects on the end of his life, loved ones of Karen's former patients share what it was like to love someone under that burden – and with that gift.

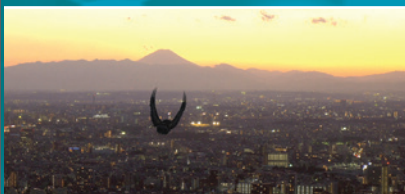


ASK AN IRANIAN

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

DIRS: Elliot Feld, Jonathan Pottins
PRODS: Gregg Hurwitz, Elliot Feld, Jonathan Pottins

In this fast-paced piece, Iranian-Americans will speak to camera and reveal what life is truly like under the Iranian regime.



FOLLOW THE SUN

USA/JAPAN, 2024, 27 min.

WRITER/DIR: Sybil Wendler
PRODS: Sybil Wendler & Sherry Mesman

A tender and compelling story that spans from the bombing of Hiroshima to present-day America as it recounts the journey of a woman in search of her unknown biological father.



LOST ALONE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 6 min.

WRITER/DIR: Meital Cohen Navarro
PRODS: Meital Cohen Navarro & Mahsa Shamsa
FEATURING: Elisabeth Mann

At 95, Holocaust survivor Elisabeth Mann races against time to complete a final painting, confronting haunting memories of Auschwitz and the family she lost.



OLD GIRL IN A TUTU:

SUSAN RENNIE DISRUPTS ART HISTORY

USA, 2025, 8 min.

WRITERS: Cheri Gaulke & Sue Maberry
DIR/PROD: Cheri Gaulke

Feminist scholar, Susan Rennie, seizes her iPhone and sneaks her queer, octogenarian body into master works of art, disrupting the narrative of the male gaze. With humor and wit, Rennie's photographic interventions offer a feminist critique of the conventional canon of art history, and an unabashed embrace of her elder, queer identity.



VAN GOGH AND THE HOSPITAL GARDEN

WORLD Premiere | USA/France, 2024, 7.5 min.

DIR/PROD: Mustafa Eck

On May 8, 1889, Vincent van Gogh entered a psychiatric hospital near Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France. The next day he wrote to his brother Theo that he had begun painting "violet irises." The hospital garden offered solace and inspiration to Van Gogh during his stay. That tradition continues today, as hospital patients engage in artistic practice as a key part of their recovery. This documentary explores the hospital's lasting legacy and brings viewers to its garden where van Gogh created countless works of art.

DOC SHORTS: GRP 2

SCREENING: MON JUN 23 @ 445PM

DIMINISHING RETURNS

USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR: Colin Whitman
PRODS: Colin Whitman, Aleksandar Jovic,
Alison Messinger

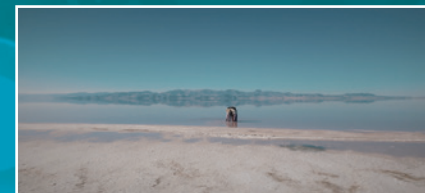


\$80 due today. Out of time and out of options, Ernesto keeps a positive outlook while he hunts the streets and dumpsters of LA in the hope of finding enough recyclables to pay for his daughter's chemo treatment back home in the Philippines.

ILLUSION OF ABUNDANCE

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | USA, 2024, 19 min.

WRITERS: Sophia Cutrbus, Amy MacDonald,
Sofia Gorder, Christopher Lee, Alexander Lee
DIRS: Amy MacDonald, Sofia Gorder of Brolly Arts,
Christopher Lee, Alex Lee of TWIG Media Lab
PROD: Brolly Arts



Begun in 2022, Illusion of Abundance (IOA) is a grassroots racial, social and climate justice project. It exposes a climate and culture in crisis due to the declining Great Salt Lake. IOA illuminates the historical erasure of the natural world and indigenous knowledge systems that hold innovative and necessary concepts available for saving our climate holistically. Through dance, prose, intertribal interviews and song, research, and stunning cinematography of Utah's waterways and the nature it supports, IOA immerses you in the possibility of positive change and building paradigms to include underrepresented voices in stewardship, artistry and decision making around natural resources, land use, and climate.

THE MOON IS BEAUTIFUL

WORLD Premiere | GERMANY, 2025, 8.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Bruno Noaro
PROD: LFRFILMS
FEATURING: Ken Matsubara



The Japanese artist Ken Matsubara explores themes of memory, repetition, and the impermanence of time through mesmerizing motion images. Set in Sankt Peter Köln, Cologne, his art installation features projections inside Tibetan singing bowls, creating a spiritual and reflective experience. The central theme of Ken's art is explored through the concept of water as a flow of life, connecting with the energies in the surrounding space.

MORE THAN SANTA BABY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 40 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Tamar Springer



Everyone knows the song, "Santa Baby," but its composer, Philip Springer's contribution to the American musical landscape is vast. Join his daughter Tamar to celebrate this unique artist from his early hits to a globe-spanning viral video in his 90s. More Than Santa Baby transports viewers through a unique period in 20th century music in a heartfelt, multi-layered story of perseverance and hope.

DOC SHORTS: GRP 3

SCREENING: TUE JUN 24 @ 445PM

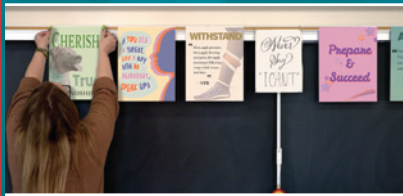


DEGREES OF FREEDOM

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 33 min.

DIRS: Aisha X. Elliott, Cheryl Wilkins,
Kathy Boudin, Jake Ratner
PRODS: Michelle Daniel Jones, Logan McBride

In the tough-on-crime 1990s, harsh laws eliminated college programs in American prisons. Refusing to accept this injustice, women at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility were determined to continue their education on their own terms. Their achievement became a widely emulated model, leading to thousands of incarcerated people earning diplomas. Now, these women are bringing their story to new audiences. Created by the same inspiring group of women who rescued college, Degrees of Freedom chronicles their powerful journey of organizing behind and through the bars of New York's only maximum-security prison for women to create a transformative community of care — reclaiming their futures and challenging the narrative of who they are and what they can achieve.



HELD AT GUNPOINT

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 22 min.

WRITER/DIR: Mark J. Sanchez
PRODS: Eduardo Maia, Tarun Kanakamedala

Held at Gunpoint follows Jess, a veteran High School teacher, as she contends with the epidemic of gun violence in America. The new realities of the job, from active shooter drills to emergency wound training, have taken a toll, and Jess must now choose between her beloved career and her physical and mental well-being. She represents teachers across the United States who are putting their lives on the line to educate the next generation of Americans. Is this what they signed up for? Should teachers have to pay the ultimate price?



INK OR DIE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 17 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Lane Michael Stanley
FEATURING: Keith Edmonds Jr.,
Cheryl Heckman Edmonds

How a young couple who met in a recovery house became artists, entrepreneurs, and community leaders.



STITCH AND TIME

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 13.5 min.

DIRS: David Munro & V. Scott Balcerek
PRODS: David Munro, V. Scott Balcerek
& Michele Ditomas

Clay Turner and Billy Ray Worth, two incarcerated men serving life sentences, forge an extraordinary friendship through an unexpected act of compassion: starting a crochet group to make warm items for fellow inmates in hospice care. Together, they lead a community of men who defy stereotypes about life behind bars, finding purpose and connection through care giving and creativity. As the group collaborates on a special project—a crochet wall hanging for the hospice unit—their story becomes one of redemption, transformation, and the enduring power of human connection.

DOC SHORTS: GRP 4

SCREENING: THU JUN 26 @ 445PM

A P.U.P. STORY - A DOCUMENTARY TAIL OF LOVE AND AFFECTION

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 20 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Barry Rosenthal



This is the story of LAX P.U.P.s. A novel and innovative program started nearly 15 years ago at Los Angeles World Airports. Dogs and their owners/handlers are trained and certified as Therapy Dogs. They are then qualified to roam the terminals of LAX and calm stressed out passengers through a bit of dog love and affection. The program is now in over 90 airports and the therapy dogs are requested to visit nursing homes, colleges, and all sorts of public events.

FIPPING PANCAKE DAY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 20 min.

DIR: Ben Scantlin
PRODS: John Kubin, Jed Williams,
Nick Hatcher, Lisa Hatcher, Ben Scantlin
FEATURING: Frank Hampton

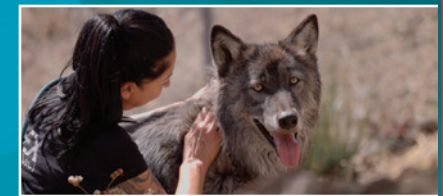


For 75 years, the International Pancake Day Race has united Liberal, Kansas, and Olney, England in a transatlantic tradition like no other. But this year, it's more than just a race — one man is on a mission to break not one but two pancake world records. Through rich history, heartfelt stories, and high-stakes flipping, this documentary captures the spirit of competition, community, and one epic quest for the record books. Get ready for a high-flying, record-breaking celebration of community, competition, and pancakes!

FOLSOM'S RUN

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 16 min.

WRITER/DIR: Evan Morton
PRODS: Evan Morton, Yuka Kobayashi,
and Danny Goor
FEATURING: Steve Wastell, Paula Ficara,
and Vernon Wells

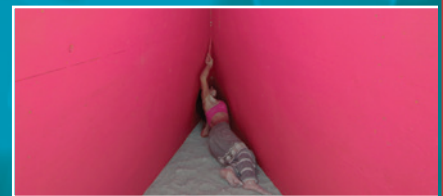


What happens when people play god and mix "Man's Best Friend" with the "Big Bad Wolf?" Follow Apex Protection Project on an exciting mission to expose the harsh truths about a beautifully misunderstood species: the wolfdog. Bred to be tame, born to be wild, Folsom finds himself on his last legs as he faces euthanasia.

THE HEALING CUBE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 30 min.

DIR: Christopher Gallo
PRODS: Christopher Gallo & J. Absurd
FEATURING: Lisa Darling



In an isolated post-apocalyptic town in the California desert, a woman creates a Healing Cube after the loss of her boyfriend, and the incredible artistic community that helps her get it done. This film is set against the backdrop of the town of Bombay Beach, the Salton Sea, and the Bombay Beach Biennale.

IMPORT MODELS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 11.5 min.

DIR/PROD: James Chung



A dive into the history and legacy of Import Models, Asian American women who shaped Import Car culture. Following three generations as they navigate struggles, celebrate successes, and reflect on the impact of modeling.



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DOWNBEAT: A Celebration of MUSIC & DANCE

SCREENING: FRI JUNE 27 @ 5PM

BEGIN AGAIN

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 4 min.

WRITER/DIR: Ava Acres PROD: Matt Farren

CAST: Matt Farren, Isabella Acres, Steven Hadrych

A zombie. A log cabin. A love story.

CANNED

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | SOUTH KOREA, 2025, 5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Lynn Lee

PROD: Jiyun Han

CAST: Shinhee Jang & Minseok Jeong

A young human wanders into a labyrinth and encounters the Minotaur. They start to dance together.

CO-PILOT

USA, 2025, 6 min.

WRITERS/DIRS/PRODS: Robert DeVine & Jeremiah Hammerling

CAST: Marcus Hunt, Bridget Arnet, Izzy Stewart, Ari James

When a malfunctioning robot recognizes himself as the hero in an animation he begins to remember his true nature.



NORWAY, 2024, 2.5 min.

DANCE UNITE US

WRITER/DIR: Ove Kenneth Nilsen PROD: Lene Albertsen FEATURING: Aché

It seems as if something has changed in the world. War and conflicts create gaps between people, nations and cultures. This inspired this song and video which chooses to look at our similarities, and at how music and dance have always united and healed.

DARKNESS FALLING

POLAND/USA, 2024, 4 min.

WRITER/DIR: Marcin Nowrotek

PRODS: Ceiri Torjussen & Marcin Nowrotek

An animated, music-driven short film delving into themes of vulnerability and the repetitive cycles of violence. Written, directed and animated by Polish filmmaker Marcin Nowrotek, the piece is an artistic response to Ceiri Torjussen's track DARKNESS FALLING, featured on his 2024 album SOUL IN THE MACHINE.

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 5 min.

DAY 34

WRITER/DIR/PROD/CAST: Karen Haglof

Day 34 is a rotoscope-driven animated music video. A woman relives memories in the aftermath of lost love from another time and place and begins to doubt their meaning. Half-sleepless nights are spent with old movies as company, blurring distinctions between remembered reality and dreamy wishful recall.

THE ECHO OF YOUR GOODBYE

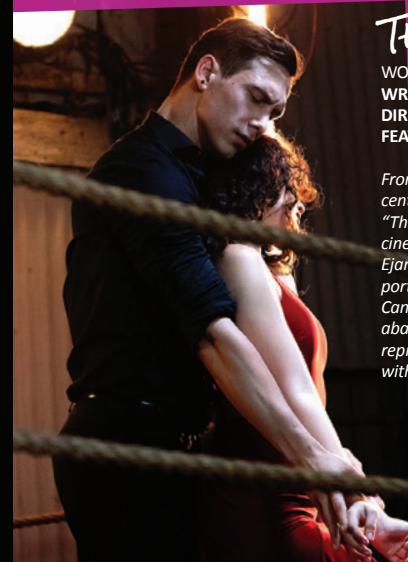
WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 3 min.

WRITERS/PRODS: Frank Mayor & Satu

DIR: Satu

FEATURING: Laura Sofía Domínguez & Anthony Cannarella

From director Satu (King Nigel's Nervous Breakdown), comes the dance-centric music video for Frank Mayor's "The Echo of Your Goodbye" (ft. Viro). Featuring stunning visuals from cinematographer, Josh S. Rose, and evocative choreography from Jasmine Ejan, "The Echo of Your Goodbye" tells the story of a romance in turmoil portrayed by rising stars, Laura Sofía Domínguez (P-Valley) and Anthony Cannarella (Olivia Rodrigo's SOUR Prom). In the poignant setting of an abandoned boxing ring, the dust settles on a young couple navigating repressed frustrations through the ebb and flow of erratic passion. Filmed with a 100% Los Angeles-based cast and crew.



DOWNBEAT: A Celebration of MUSIC & DANCE

SCREENING: FRI JUNE 27 @ 5PM

THE GHOST IS ME

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 2.5 min.

WRITERS: Marc Havener & Dan Billen DIR: Marc Havener PROD: Dan Billen FEATURING: Flora Kay

A haunting tribute to Herk Harvey's 1962 cult classic *Carnival of Souls*, the piece embraces a brooding, minimalist aesthetic, employing hypnotic shot compositions and sparse editing to evoke an atmosphere of eerie detachment. Shot on location in the church from the film, all effects were achieved in-camera to channel the original. Flora Kay embodies Mary Henry, a young woman unseen by the world yet determined to be acknowledged. The result is a ghostly, dreamlike meditation about isolation, identity, and the fragile fight to feel alive.

LONGING/BELONGING

U.S. Premiere | CANADA, 2024, 3.5 min.

DIRS: Rachael Withers & Niamh Wilson WRITER: Rachael Withers PRODS: Erin Purghart & Rachael Withers
CAST: Niamh Wilson, Cast of Dancers

longing/belonging follows a queer femme struggling to break out of the mold of their straight relationship and their journey to discovering identity and community.

LOSER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 3.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Andie Arbo PRODS: Tina Carbone, Will Westwater
CAST: Elli Moore, Manny Oakley, Sidney Brasher, Avery Potemri, Marie Spieldenner, Zeze Zankich

A woman enlists her friends to help her carry out a heist.

SNAPSHOT

WORLD Premiere | UK, 2025, 9 min.

WRITER/DIR: Cottia Thorowgood PROD: Charles Haswell FEATURING: Viola Pantuso

A short dance film featuring the Chicagoan dancer Viola Pantuso, artist of the Royal Ballet company, with original composition by Eduardo Andrade. A model longs to break free from a demanding photographer as she poses for an uninspiring fashion shoot. Desperate to reclaim her autonomy and explore London, she fantasizes about her escape.



DOWNBEAT: A Celebration of MUSIC & DANCE

SCREENING: FRI JUNE 27 @ 5PM

STAIRCASE STOMP

USA, 2024, 3.5 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD/MUSICIAN: Aaron Louis

FEATURING: Jody McKee (Stop-Motion Animation Artist), Scotty Hull (Digital Animation Artist)

Set in a storm-battered cabin, "Staircase Stomp" is a stop-motion music video by punk/new wave band *The Clamor* that explores themes of identity, inner conflict, and self-reckoning. A lone man is haunted by a mysterious female figure whose presence blurs the boundary between psychological tension and supernatural intrusion. As reality begins to unravel, the cabin becomes a stage for a surreal descent into fractured memory and emotional collapse. Blending horror aesthetics with handmade animation, the video distorts time and space to reflect a mind at odds with itself and a past that refuses to stay buried.

TAKEITALL

WRITERS: Atara Glazer, Ron Geffen, Jack Glazer DIR: Ron Geffen PROD: Atara Glazer
CAST: Jasmine Day, Jack Glazer, Atara Glazer, Michael Johannson, Rebekah Chernis, Sara Gottschalk, Stephanie Cicero, Michael Mosbeck, Lia Metz, Celinda Chang, Molly Feinstein, Tom Chandler

A fever dream Jazzercise class from the 80's with a twist! Don't drink the rave water!

THESE MOMS ARE COOLER THAN ME

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 2 min.

WRITER/DIR: Andrew Bourne PROD: Dianna Avena

FEATURING: Andrew Bourne, Dianna Avena, Joey Avena & The Stayin' Alive Dance Crew

A deadbeat son realizes some moms are cooler than him.

VALETIE JUNE - JOY, JOY

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | USA, 2025, 3 min.

WRITER/DIR: Taylor Washington

PRODS: Taylor Washington & The Wild Honey Pie

Tennessee roots rock fave Valerie June's music video for her uplifting new single "Joy, Joy!" Fresh off her 6th LP: "Some say it takes mud to have a lotus flower. This song reflects on the hard times we might face: to fail, to fall, to lose, to be held down, to be silenced, to be shut out yet still hold onto a purely innocent and childlike joy. I come from a heritage of ancestors who lived this truth by inventing blues music. Generations after they've gone, the inner joy they instilled in us radiates and lifts cultures throughout the world."



W.H.W.D.

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 3.5 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD/CAST: Timothy Hautekiet

A comedy metal song about the state of mankind in the internet age.

WOULD YOU CALL HIM A BAD MAN?

USA, 2024, 5 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Ian Hinden

After being unfairly fired for trying to protect the tips of her fellow *Pittie Party Girls*, the heroic and exploited waitress Ava is forced into the cruel dark underbelly of the retro-futuristic neon city known as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, Richman Richmond, Jr., a billionaire play-pig, recalls his harrowing and abusive youth as he self-medicates with *OnlyFans* subscriptions. To overcome her trauma and truly feel a sense of ownership over her reality, Ava must defeat Richman Richmond, Jr.



COMPETITION SHORTS: GRP I

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 21 @ 1145 AM

AUTZA

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 16 min.

WRITER/DIR: Tarun Kanakamedala
 PRODS: Barento Taha, Ari Johnson, Mark J. Sanchez
 CAST: Raynil Kumar, Eddie Alfano, Leah Haile, Janet Craig



A once-promising pianist works in a liquor store, far removed from his former life. He receives a call that threatens to discard the last remnant of his past—a storage unit containing his piano.

HAPPY PLACE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 11.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Sara Monge
 PROD: Katie Sue Escher
 CAST: An-li Bogan, Marta Piekarz



After realizing she may want to date women, Anna goes to her roommate's cousin's lesbian engagement party in the hopes of finding answers, but discovers something much more terrifying instead.

HEALER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITER/DIR: Grant Lafferty
 PRODS: Rachel Friedman, Grant Lafferty, Auberin Strickland, and Nico Porcaro
 CAST: Jefferson White, Rachel Friedman, Alison Jaye, Amrita Li Newton, Gunner Willis, and Loyd Catlett



Wandering the Bible belt, Harmon Dodd, a charismatic revivalist, draws loyal congregations from small-town churches with the promise of miracle healings. But, when a desperate young woman drags him far from the comfort of his pulpit and into the decaying home where her dying sister waits, Harmon finds himself cornered, forced to prove whether he's a messiah or false prophet.

NWA (BLACK)

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 20.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Hans Augustave
 PRODS: Hans Augustave, Bruno Vernaschi, Raashauna Payne, Matthew Romanski
 CAST: Nathaniel Sainvilien, Macc Plaise, Roland Lane



Frantz, a first-generation Haitian-American, is tasked with getting a haircut without the usual supervision of his strict immigrant father Jean. Left to his own devices, Frantz decides on a more trendy haircut, connecting him to the Black American culture his father warned him not to embrace. His journey spotlights the dichotomy of what it means to be Black in America when one's identity has already been shaped by a different Black diasporic experience.

OLD GOAT

CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2025, 8.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Teddy Alvarez-Nissen
 PRODS: Claire Loudis, Parker Fenady
 CAST: Teresa Bascle

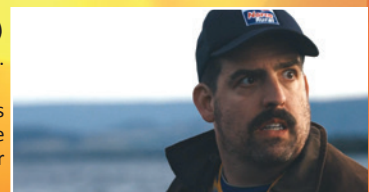


A family struggles to care for their aging grandfather as he transforms into an animal.

OVER (OR HOW TO SAVE THE WORLD)

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | AUSTRALIA, 2025, 18.5 min.

WRITERS/DIRS: Duncan Ragg & Anna Phillips
 PROD: Isabella Debbage
 CAST: Adam Dunn, James Carey & Matilda Bowmaker



A father must confront his apathy towards the world's big issues when his disabled son, who is terrified of open water, steals his boat and refuses to come back to shore until his Dad has saved the world.





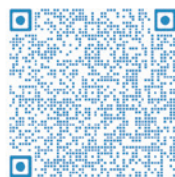
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COMPETITION SHORTS: GRP 2

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 21 @ 2 PM

CANCHAS

WEST COAST Premiere | USA/SPAIN, 2024, 17.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Paula Blanco Pérez
PROD: Amalia Eddings

CAST: Anuska Martínez, Joaquín Caserza, Dolores Cardona,
Emilio Lorente, Fran Bordonado

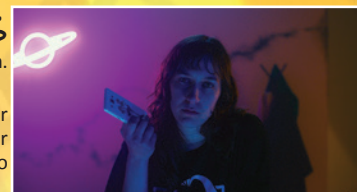


In the heart of the Covid-19 pandemic, Bárbara, a dermatologist turned frontline worker in Madrid, endures exhaustion and heartbreak as she fights for her patients against the virus. Canchas offers a poignant glimpse into her journey of quiet courage amid an overwhelming crisis.

CATARATAS

WEST COAST Premiere | ARGENTINA, 2025, 5.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Francisco Bendomir
PRODS: Tatiana Lichtensztein & Francisco Bendomir
CAST: Bianca Pujía Levy, Camila Peralta, Patricio Pérez Piñero



It's New Year's Eve, and Catalina is waiting for her girlfriend to pick her up to go to the airport when an unusual incident with a firework threatens to ruin their vacation.

JEWBOY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 7 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: David Bernstein
CAST: David Bernstein



A Jewish man relives his experience of a hate crime for a one-man show.

JUST BEFORE DAWN

WORLD Premiere | USA/UK, 2025, 23 min.

WRITER: Ezna Sands DIR: Dustin Bowser
PRODS: Chelsea Pressley, Dustin Bowser, Ezna Sands
CAST: Kieran Black, Aaliyah Black,
Shaun Paul McGrath, Cher Lourens

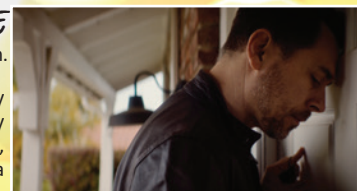


A London cab driver picks up the wrong fare but tries to do the right thing, pulling him into a shadowy underworld where the truth is far more disturbing than he ever imagined.

TURPENTINE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 14 min.

WRITERS/DIRS: Luke and Rita Konopasky
PRODS: Josh Best, Luke and Rita Konopasky
CAST: Matthew T. Ducey, Alicia Blasingame, Guy Heilweil,
Payton Sweeney, William Nicol and Lauren Fiala

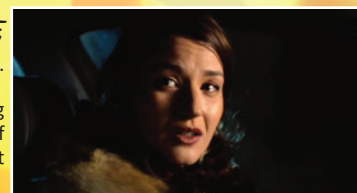


Two estranged siblings must part with the house that holds their shared past.

WALTZ FOR THREE

WEST COAST Premiere | FRANCE/USA, 2024, 18 min.

WRITER/DIR: Oriana Ng
PRODS: Abigail Prade, Oriana Ng, Isabelle Mecattaf
CAST: Ophélie Lehmann, Mikaël Mittelstadt



A rich woman picks up a male prostitute and asks for more than what he usually sells.



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Price	\$149 ⁹⁹ <small>1800+ Value</small>	\$99 ⁹⁹ <small>700+ Value</small>	\$69 ⁹⁹ <small>500+ Value</small>	



COMPETITION SHORTS: GRP 3

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 21 @ 415 PM

ASHER BABY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 13.5 min.

WRITERS: Paulina Lagudi Ulrich & Alyssa Najafi
DIR: Paulina Lagudi Ulrich

PRODS: Paulina Lagudi Ulrich, Cooper Ulrich,
Alyssa Najafi & Heston Horwin

CAST: Katie Parker, Heston Horwin & Chase Cargill

A picture-perfect influencer couple eagerly anticipates the arrival of their unborn son, Asher, as cracks appear in their seemingly flawless facade.



BREAK ROOM

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 46 secs.

WRITERS/DIR: Emily Goss

PRODS: Shayan Ebrahim, Emily Goss CAST: Emily Goss

Night after night, a woman screams out her animal fury and torrential sorrow in a Rage Room. But how will she cope when annihilation just doesn't do it for her anymore?



DEAD WEIGHT

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR: Virginia Root

PRODS: Virginia Root, Alexandra Renzo, Austin Madrid
CAST: Griffin Newman, Alexandra Renzo

Greer, a solo female backpacker, unwittingly survives an apocalyptic event while in the wilderness. She resolves to live out the rest of her numbered days in peace until she encounters Aaron, a fellow survivor with a very different take on the end of the world.



FIREFLIES IN THE DUSK

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 18 min.

WRITERS: Jonathan Hammond, Ryan Roach
DIR: Jonathan Hammond PROD: Martin Spanjers
CAST: Emily Goss, Nick Ballard, Hale Appleman,
Drew Droege, Jade Catta-Preta, Amy Yasbeck

Victorian-era Charlotte and modern bro Zack exchange love letters through time and space. When Charlotte's overbearing mother forces her to marry the uptight Cecil, Charlotte throws herself through a time portal to be Zack. But when Cecil follows, everything goes awry.



HEAVEN AND NATURE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 8 min.

WRITERS/PRODS: Brandon Johnston & Lindsay Chambers
DIR: Steven Fierberg
CAST: Lindsay Chambers, Jenny Cooper, Brandon Johnston

Set in the late 1950s, childhood sweethearts are confronted with the realities of their relationship as adults and are forced to acknowledge that situations are not always what they appear to be. They must ask themselves what they are willing to sacrifice to live the American Dream.



SWEDISH DEATH

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | IRELAND, 2024, 12.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Kristina Yee

PRODS: Maggie Ryan

CAST: Aoife Hinds, Tiernan Messitt-Greene

Seeking a sense of control in her life, Caroline becomes a minimalist, but in an ironic twist of fate a severe winter storm leaves her trapped in her home without power and she must burn her few – and increasingly meaningful – belongings in order to survive.



WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON.

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 17 min.

WRITER/DIR: Greg Rubner PROD: James Panetta
CAST: Myah Daniels, Nate Pringle, Alexandre Chen

Three distinct people struggle to comprehend a rapidly evolving world.





COMPETITION SHORTS: GRP 4

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 1145 AM

CANVASSING

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 11 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Matty Chang
CAST: Vale Weaver, Viron Weaver,
Lucas Mazanko, Michael Mazanko



Two brothers paint portraits of expensive homes to make ends meet.

LEMON

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Beth Curry
CAST: Britney Young, Egypt Brooks



When Lemon's agoraphobic mother dies suddenly, six-year-old Lemon goes outside for the first time in search of her father.

MOTI

INDIA, 2025, 16 min.

WRITER/DIR: Yash Saraf
PRODS: Karan Shah, Yash Saraf
CAST: Koosilab Sengupta, Aarav Gomes,
Sayak Roy, Tapasya Dasgupta



One day a dog named Moti turns into a boy. As he evolves, he loses his canine sense of smell and his old ways of navigating the normal world.

TE SEGUIZÉ A LA OSCURIDAD

USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITER: Joy Regullano DIR: Nicholas Luciano
PRODS: Joy Regullano, Julia Schmidt, Bobbie Lucas
CAST: Joy Regullano, Geo Lee, Jane Kim, Susannah Kim,
Rekha Shankar, Allyn Pintal, Matthew Jaeger,
Rachael Drummond, Myra Cris Ocenar, Marking IV,
Rachel Leyco, Amalia Aquino, DarylJim, Adrianna Diaz



A driven high school sophomore obsessively studies Spanish all year so she can test up a level into her crush's class.

WRESTLE-OFF

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 19.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Sabatino Ciatti Jr.
PRODS: Maria-Sara Santoro, Max Pearce, Evan Hartney
CAST: Jillian Rezen, Sam Jacobs, Marlana Dunn,
Gus M. Darden, Mason Eaglin



Fueled by her late father's belief that she belonged on the team, Alex returns to wrestling her senior year in the wake of his passing. Determined to earn a varsity spot on the all-male team he once coached, she grapples with grief and the challenge of proving herself. With support from her father's protégé, Coach James, and rising tension with her mother, Marissa, Alex must make a defining choice: confront her nemesis, Hunter, head-on—or cut weight to avoid him. WRESTLE-OFF is a story of grief, perseverance, and quiet resilience—starring Jillian Rezen and inspired by wrestler Skylar Grote.

YINDING BRIDGE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 10.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Joanna Song
PROD: Nan Chao
CAST: Xiang Zhang, Zhennan Sun, Hongqi Zhu, Peng Liu



When a struggling father accidentally collides his rickshaw with a wealthy businessman's car, their heated clash unexpectedly leads the privileged man to reevaluate his relationship with his child.

COMPETITION SHORTS: GRP 5

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 2 PM



DEPENDENT

U.S. Premiere | AUSTRALIA, 2025, 14.5 min.

WRITER: Marcus Khoudair
DIR: Joseph Chebatte
PRODS: Julian Maroun, Daniela Maroun, Tyler Pharo
CAST: Julian Maroun, Luke Maroun

Dedicated yet depleted carer Julian grapples with his own physical limitations and emotional strain while caring for his younger brother, Luke, who has Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. As Julian faces a testing medical diagnosis, the omnipresent weight of responsibility for his brother overwhelms him. The brothers' bond is tested when news of escalating conflict in the Middle East forces them to confront their worst fears. *Dependent* explores the burdens and beauty of brotherly responsibility and unconditional love. It examines themes of agency, interdependence, and obligation and invites audiences to reconsider assumptions about disability, autonomy, duty, and the dynamics of care.



MIRIAM

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 17 min.

WRITER: Levi Alexander DIR: Josie Andrews
PRODS: Brenda Goodman, Levi Alexander, Josie Andrews
CAST: Pearl Scarlett Gold, Justin Kirk, Amy Davidson, Roman Adolfo, Connor Esterson, Henry Leith, Laura Gardner, Allan Wasserman

In 1985 Los Angeles, 12-year-old Miriam is chosen to be the first bat mitzvah in her Orthodox community—a controversial decision that divides the congregation. Stifled by traditional expectations of womanhood, Miriam secretly skips her rabbi's lessons to pursue skateboarding under the wing of a homeless teen. But when her double life is exposed, Miriam must choose between sparking change in her community or chasing her own dreams—realizing that true rebellion is not rejecting tradition, but reshaping it on her own terms.



PATAKHA

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER: Umit Ipek DIR: Rohit Relan
PROD: Tiffany Wu
CAST: Ashi Sharma, Winston Vengapally, Amanh Nathen, Deepika Jariyal, Jay Patel, Misha Molani, NeilKhurania

Radha, an 11-year-old girl in rural India, begins her first day of work at a firecracker factory. In this unfamiliar setting, she loses her beloved school bag—something she would fight for with all her might. The film follows her journey to retrieve the backpack, a symbol of more than just a bag: it represents her future and the education that has been taken away from her.



SHORTWAVE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 18.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Mike Diaz
PRODS: Ryan Pomeranz, Joshua Rexon
CAST: Shakira Barrera, Bryan Dodds, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Charles Baker

A woman stuck in a dead-end life finds excitement in the form of mysterious Russian messages on her shortwave radio.



THE TRAVELER

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 18 min.

WRITER/DIR: Matthew Scheffler
PRODS: Meghan-Michele German, Matt Ruscio, Matthew Scheffler
CAST: Natalie Knepp, John Joseph Gallagher, Ryan Barger

New York, 1887 — In an isolated farmhouse, a reclusive widow is haunted by a supernatural presence she longs to be her late husband. As the spirit grows increasingly hostile, she questions whether something far more sinister is lurking.

COMPETITION SHORTS: GRP 6

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 415 PM

ALL WE CAN DO

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 20 min.

WRITER/DIR: Ryan Noufer
PRODS: Brian Buxton, Trevor Alper, Amina Fishburn, Deb Buxton
CAST: Camille Ramsey, Andrew Ibach, Robert Catrini & Jeryl Prescott



A government program sends female agents to the homes of critically alone men for a night of sanctioned romance — the program's intent is to curb mass shootings in America.

THE GREATEST JOY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 13 min.

WRITER/DIR: Lea Pascal
PRODS: Kelsey Oluk, Thea Lux and Lea Pascal
CAST: Meghan Reardon, Nicholas Horst, Jake Szczepaniak, Thea Lux, Romar Alog, Arnett Hawkins, and Danielle O'Farrell



Sammy has a non-viable pregnancy. She's either going to have to have an abortion, or she's going to miscarry. Told over three days, *The Greatest Joy* is a comedic telling of a woman's journey of preparing, and then having, a miscarriage.

PAULIE

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2025, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR: Aaron Martini
PRODS: Aaron Martini, Maxime Lauzon
CAST: Matthew Close, Maxime Lauzon



Desperate to separate himself from his comedic persona and make a genuine connection with someone, a clown (literally) goes on a date. Despite his best efforts to disguise who he really is, his cartoonish nature begins to slip through the cracks. After a series of awkward mishaps, he's sure he's blown it—but to his surprise, his date still seems genuinely interested. As the night unfolds, the parts of himself he's so determined to hide might actually be what keeps the date alive.

REHEARSAL

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 15 min.

WRITER: Willa Colleary DIR: Jamie Gallo
PRODS: Maya Donato, Torianna Turnbow, Benjamin Shiff, Sarah Costigan
CAST: Taylor Jackson Ross, Torianna Turnbow, Baz Felber, Ezekiel Joseph, Alondra Ofelia Bautista, Diego Lopez



Every Friday at La Dana High School, Ms. Murphy and her students rehearse a school shooting, their roles and blocking choreographed with chilling precision. After the school board finds out, they send in an interrogator to question the class. *Rehearsal* follows the series of interviews with these students, as they must defend how this twisted act gives them power over their own safety. As the offscreen questioner interrogates the group, he grows increasingly disturbed by these events they call "Rehearsal". Does Ms. Murphy give an outlet to her marginalized students? Or does she tokenize them, reinforcing harmful stereotypes of victim and perpetrator?

WITCH

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 8 min.

WRITER: Kevin Khamneipur
DIRS/PRODS: Kevin Khamneipur & Andrew Frescas
CAST: Wyatt Solis, Hattie Smith, John Henry Richardson, Robert Kovalova, Constance Brenner, Brandon Harb, Kevin Carney, William Sibley

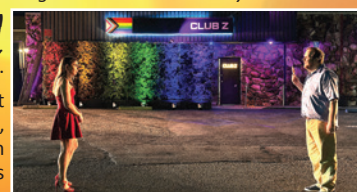


On a quiet train ride, a curious young boy befriends a seemingly kind stranger — until the man's chilling tale of murder shatters the illusion of safety, exposing the lurking horrors within ordinary moments.

XY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 12 min.

WRITERS: JL Perkel & Stephan Fleet DIR: Stephan Fleet
PRODS: Rose Alsander Toberman, Brenden Rodriguez, JL Perkel, Dani Sophia, Luna Vixxen
CAST: JL Perkel, Dominic Burgess



Up and coming trans actress, JL Perkel and Dominic Burgess (*Palm Royale*, *American Horror Story*, *Rebel Moon*, *Dr. Who*) star in a social commentary on trans rights in America — *XY* is the story of a repressed convenience store clerk named Y and a trans cam girl named X whose lives tragically intersect at a bleak strip mall in today's America.

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FUSION SHORTS: GRP 1

SCREENING: MON JUNE 23 @ 5 PM

BLOOD AND MILK

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITERS/DIR: Eve Crusto
PRODS: Eve Crusto, Jo Rochelle
CAST: J'aiLa Christina Price, K Steele, Jailyn Rae, Malik Eli,
Martin Bats Bradford, Eve Crusto

Weezy is a day-dreaming New Orleans teenager who escapes to a thrift store from her isolating reality — living with her mother in a run-down government-issued trailer after Hurricane Katrina — to explore her thoughts about a life-changing decision she has to make.

COCONUT + PISTOL

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 17 min.

WRITER/DIR: Gregory Caruso
PROD: Dustin Cook
CAST: Dylan McTee, Sierra Swartz, Kevin Changaris

Amidst the renovation of his secluded cottage, Dean struggles with unresolved feelings for his ex-girlfriend Carol, leading to a tumultuous encounter when she arrives with her new boyfriend.

DANDELION

CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2025, 20 min.

WRITER: Corey Pinchoff
DIR: Fiona Obertinca
PROD: Tori Ichikowitz
CAST: Ava Lalezarzadeh, Vic Michaelis

In 1970s Los Angeles, rebellious queer teen MARGARET gets thrown out of yet another foster placement and finds herself in the company of a mysterious social worker who's tasked with finding her a new home before the break of dawn. At odds and forced to travel the city together, Margaret realizes that running may not be her only option.

DOG PEOPLE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 20 min.

WRITERS: Dan Sanders-Joyce & Robbie Silverman
DIR: Bradley Stryker
PRODS: Dan Sanders-Joyce, Robbie Silverman, Ryan Perry
CAST: Dan Sanders-Joyce,
Robbie Silverman and Dee Wallace

Two unsuspecting men show up at a sweet old lady's doorstep pretending to offer their services, but as strange events occur, and bizarre discoveries are made they quickly learn it might be her who's pulling a fast one on them.

EVERYBODY'S SAD

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 10 min.

WRITERS: Sarah Yoakley, Steve Sanders
DIR: Steve Sanders
PROD: Sarah Yoakley
CAST: Sarah Yoakley, Isaac Garza, Drew Coolidge

After their grandfather's funeral, three cousins search his home office for valuables. "Everybody's Sad" is a completely improvised comedy, navigating personal ambitions in the face of death.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 11.5 min.

WRITER: Rachelle Zalter DIR: Lain Ewing
PRODS: Lain Ewing, Mailyne K. Briggs, Loren Maxine
CAST: Britney Young, Wade Allain-Marcus, Hunter Reese Peña

Maggie, a dedicated woman facing career and personal challenges, is preparing for a performance review and product launch at Elite Talent Agency. She accidentally eats a colleague's pot brownies while managing her responsibilities, including caring for her boss's son's pet frog, Ribbit. This leads to a series of comedic mishaps that test Maggie's resilience as she navigates the chaos. Maggie's journey explores themes of ambition, self-doubt, and the pursuit of recognition in the workplace, offering a humorous and relatable portrayal of modern-day challenges.

63

FUSION SHORTS: GRP 2

SCREENING: TUE JUNE 24 @ 5 PM



BACKSTAGE

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2025, 11.5 min.

WRITERS/DIR: Gabe Zack
PRODS: Caitlyn Santos, Ginger Page,
Dani Barker, Gabe Zack
CAST: Corben Bowen (AKA Boslen),
Rory Saper, Bola Omodara, Liliyanna Phillips

At a packed underground show, young videographer Jack gets swept into the chaos surrounding rising artist Aaron. As tensions erupt between Aaron and his manager, Jack keeps filming—until a violent night forces him to choose between capturing the moment or becoming part of it.



I DO WITHOUT YOU

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 19.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Vivian Miranda
PRODS: Oliver Johnson, Marshall Kistner,
Savvas Yiannoulou, Stephanie Barnes, Vivian Miranda
CAST: Allison Paige, Andria B. Langston

Newly engaged and totally friendless Amelia decides to ask her high school ex-best friend to be her maid of honor: who she hasn't talked to in 10 years, and whose crush she stole back in the day... She'll probably be so excited to see her too!



MY KIND OF PEOPLE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 14.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Joe Picozzi
PRODS: Joe Picozzi, Alex Berard, Lauren Germani
CAST: Justin Russo, Joey Dardano, Bonnie Rose,
Savino Laquale

After a DNA test uncovers his father's adoption, a proud paesano from Providence, Rhode Island grapples with the revelation that he's not actually Italian American, and never has been. With the foundation of his identity destroyed, and his familial bonds broken, he begins to spiral.



NONNA'S NUDE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 7 min.

WRITERS: Olivia Stoker & Courtney Ulrich
DIR: Courtney Ulrich
PRODS: Olivia Stoker, Courtney Ulrich, Brooks Yang
CAST: Olivia Stoker, Stephen Ellis, Andrew Russell,
Michael-Leon Wooley, John Wolf, Rachel Lin

A tender comedy about a young woman's reckoning with aging, the value of art, and the female form.



SNOWBITZD

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 25 min.

WRITER/DIR: Patrick Curran
PRODS: Devin Skrade, Jay Seals,
Julia Schott and Patrick Curran
CAST: Lawrence Pressman, Ansuya Nathan,
Greg Romero Wilson and Stephen J. Lattanzi

A self-taught rocket scientist invites a big city journalist out into the desert to cover a launch that will prove, once and for all, that the Earth is flat.

FUSION SHORTS: GRP 3

SCREENING: TUE JUNE 24 @ 7 PM

COMPOSURE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 11.5 min.

WRITERS: Carrie Adams, Windy Raun
DIR: Windy Raun
PRODS: Carrie Adams, Windy Raun
CAST: Carrie Adams, Elisha Mudry



An engagement photographer connects with a bride-to-be when the groom doesn't show up to their photoshoot.

DOGGETONE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 30 min.

WRITER/DIR: Emelie Claxton
PRODS: Cindy Allen, Emelie Claxton,
Kristina Kondrath, Daniel Ott
CAST: Jona Xiao, Kei Roldan, Coley Campany, Lauren Elyse
Buckley, Adrian Villegas, Haeleigh Royall



A struggling artist gets a sweet gig dog sitting for a wealthy publicist, but all hell breaks loose when the Pomeranian in her care is DOGNAPPED right out from under her nose. On her quest to get the dog back before the owner gets home, she must face art world jerks, drag queens, drunk bridesmaids, and the rift forming in her most important relationship.

EXPERTS IN A DINGY FIELD

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 17.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Mitchell Camarda
PRODS: John Puma, Kevin Burns, Joe Rosenbloom
CAST: Armand Assante, Dante Palminteri,
Jake Cannavale, Craig DiFrancia, Peter Gaudio,
Sidney Rosenberg, Big Joe Gambino



Following a first date, a young man seeks refuge amongst his 'family'. Upon learning that the 'expert' ways of these knock-around guys are outdated, he stands his ground and is inevitably launched back out into the real world where he belongs.

SLICE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 10.5 min.

WRITERS/DIRS: Siri Miller, Lauren Hoover
PRODS: Josh Russell, Eric Thompson
CAST: Siri Miller, Jason Downs, Schuyler Girion,
Bear D'Angelo, Quonta Beasley



In a desolate desert diner, four strangers cross paths over the course of a single day, each carrying secrets and regrets. A preacher, a reserved young woman, and two runaways navigate the past and the present as memories resurface, suspicions grow, and fate binds them together. As their stories unravel, long-hidden wounds and irreversible choices come to light. Slice is a tense exploration of belief, betrayal, and the consequences of knowing too much.

TODAY AGAIN

WORLD Premiere | USA/CANADA, 2024, 18 min.

WRITER/DIR: Harrison Thomas
PRODS: Harrison Thomas, Dave Thomas,
Tali Rabinowitz, Scott McElroy
CAST: Harrison Thomas, Dave Thomas, Tali Rabinowitz



What is it like to mourn someone who is still alive? To lose someone slowly, instead of all at once? Connor, grapples with the complexities of his relationship with his aging father, Gary, while coming over to discuss his will. Played by real life father and son Dave and Harrison Thomas.

FUSION SHORTS (DWF:NY): GRP 4

SCREENING: WED JUNE 25 @ 5 PM



BITCH I'M EARLY (B.I.E.)

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 6.5 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Jesse Cowell
CAST: Jesenia, Michelle Batista, Cary Hite, Shari Ellis, Hilary Walker, Alex Spence, Elizabeth Tsung, Marissa Parness, Guy Rader

In the corporate world, being FIRST is all that matters. Two women, a generation apart, find themselves locked in an absurd battle for a coveted promotion. Desperate to outshine each other, the ladies escalate their rivalry from petty arguments to an all-out race to the office. "Bitch I'm Early" delivers a masterclass in comedic timing and mounting tension with an eclectic, diverse cast to back it up. This six-minute gem manages to pack the punch of a full feature, hilariously skewering corporate culture while reminding us that in the rat race, we're all running in circles.



BLUE PLAQUE

WEST COAST Premiere | UK, 2024, 15.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Fraser Clubb
PRODS: Austin Staton, Guy Wilson
CAST: Austin Staton, Luke Stevenson, Steve Shaw

Art. Absinthe. Suicide. Two failed artists compete to be immortalised with an English Heritage Blue Plaque. But is art worth dying for? Blue Plaque is a wild and thought-provoking allegorical tale loaded with absurd self-aware humour and poignancy.



CHARON

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 11 min.

WRITER/DIR: Daniel Casey
PROD: Thomas Horvath
CAST: Timothy Casey, Shaun Buckley, Cheryl Nichols, Nickola Shreli, Nicholas Ashe Bateman, Kasey Bell, Madeline Jones, Kerry Teague

I went to pick up the body and disappear it. But as I drove out of the city with a dead guy in my trunk, his ghost... it appeared. Just sitting in my back seat, watching me. The way they all do.



FAST

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 14.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Clayton Henderson
PRODS: Tamra Corley Davis, TCD Films, Rockhill Studios, Alexander Jeffery
CAST: Samuel Bosch, Donovan Roe, Sara Patterson

Overweight Jake begins to lose his sanity after being put on an extended fast by his intense personal trainer.

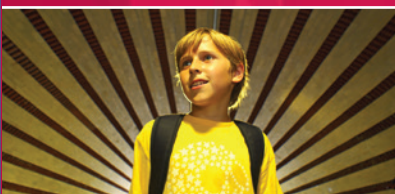


GOOD BOY

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 18 min.

WRITER/DIR: Colin Russell
PRODS: Ambika Jain, Alec Rodrigues
CAST: Richard Conti, Musik, Chris Madera, Kim Selby, Hannah McBride, Caitlyn Linden

Still grieving the loss of his beloved dog, a solitary widower questions his hasty decision to take in a new best friend.



SKY

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 14.5 min.

WRITERS: Jiahui Liang & Andrew Lucido
DIR: Andrew Lucido
PROD: Jiahui Liang
CAST: Magnus Newville, Ben McHugh, Danielle Augustine, Smüth

When 10-year-old Jake is left home alone again by his workaholic parents, he answers the call of the open sky and ventures through chaotic New York City, searching for his own space to dream.

FUSION SHORTS: GRP 5

SCREENING: WED JUNE 25 @ 7 PM

BLOOD BOYS

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 13 min.

WRITERS/DIR: Jordan M. Hahn
PRODS: Katherine Romans, Charlie Traisman, Elizabeth Valenti, Damian Joseph Quinn
CAST: Booboo Stewart, Jamie Clayton, Damian Joseph Quinn



In a cutthroat competition for the coveted position as a billionaire's Blood Boy, Sam faces off against top-dog candidate Charlie, pushing Sam to confront the dark underbelly of his aspirations.

DUNWICH

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITERS/DIRS: Chris Marrone & Chris S. Gabriel
PRODS: Chris Marrone, Chris S. Gabriel, Ben Marias, Aaron Putnam
CAST: Chris S. Gabriel, Chris Marrone, Kika Magalhães, Gabe Laurant



In the small town of Dunwich, Deputy Jones sets out to check on his estranged friend Sam, a loner with a troubling past connected to the town's dark secrets and supernatural rumors. Upon arriving at Sam's isolated home, tensions escalate when he discovers Sam distraught, wielding a knife. The reunion unearths past traumas from their youth, linked to the night Sam's mother mysteriously disappeared.

MASCLOOKING

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 9 min.

WRITER/DIR: Jonathan Hammond
PROD: Regina Pigsley
CAST: Daniel Franzese, Patrick Mayuyu, Kevin Keppy



After two friends discuss the pros and cons and gay dating apps, one starts to get ominous messages from a potential hookup with the handle, MascLooking. And MascLooking is getting close...and closer...

SHE FOLLOWS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 15 min.

WRITERS: Miranda Rausch & Gio Randazzo
DIR: Gio Randazzo
PRODS: Gio Randazzo, Alexa Niemi, Sylvia Randazzo, The Niclan Group, Cynthia Zitter, Angelique Pereira
CAST: Gio Randazzo, Cynthia Zitter, Angelique Pereira, Michael Egues, Alec Ludacka, Sam Tankersley, Michael Redford, Pavlo Zengo



In a quiet Jersey beach town, a man is haunted by the ghost of a woman searching for her lost love. As her presence grows more intense, he's forced to confront his own fears of love, loss, and commitment. Inspired by true events, this supernatural drama blurs the line between ghost story and emotional reckoning—where the haunting isn't just from the dead, but also the past we run from.

SORRY, MY CAT IS SICK

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 22.5 min.

WRITER: Melinda-Catherine Gross
DIRS: Mashka Wolfe, Jaden LeBel
PRODS: Mashka Wolfe, Jaden LeBel, Melinda-Catherine Gross, Kat Alysha, Steven Moreno
CAST: Emmie Nagata, Dora Kiss, Daniel Fitzgerald, Anastasia Washington, Nick Molari, Saahil Anand, Will Thomas McFadden



Nancy must figure out if she's becoming a crazy cat lady or if her fur baby is possessed by the devil.

SPOOL

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 11 min.

WRITER: Mike Gerbino
DIR: Mike Manning
PRODS: Wesley Barker, Mike Manning and Dane Naimy
CAST: Jesse LaTourette, Jessica Erin Martin



Two sisters struggle with their father's cognitive decline while investigating a mysterious hole in his house that seemingly has no bottom.



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FUSION SHORTS: GRP 5

SCREENING: WED JUNE 25 @ 7 PM

TALK SHIT

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 12.5 min.

WRITERS/DIRS: Boyfriends (Will Thede & Ben Weiss)

PRODS: Jamie Sweeney, Devin Tusa, Morgan Prouse, Will Thede, Ben Weiss

CAST: Courtney Doyle, Analisa Gutierrez, Tess Goldwyn



Ella wants to move out. Taylor does not take this well. What follows is an outrageous series of twists and turns as Taylor refuses to accept the reality of losing control of her only friend. Birthday cake flies, a power drill revs, and blood splatters as the two women confront the unspeakable answer to a seemingly simple question: "Who's your best friend?"

FUSION SHORTS: GRP 6

SCREENING: THU JUNE 26 @ 5 PM

APRICOT

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 28.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Frank Frascella

PRODS: Annie Huang, Neale Brown, Paulina Jaskiewicz

CAST: Dana DePirri, Richard Neil, Jy Prishkulnik, Andrew Elvis Miller, Jonathan von Mering, Ivan Mok, Peter Pasco



A talented young chef struggles to grow her confidence during an intense dinner service at a once legendary restaurant on the brink of losing its coveted Michelin star.

ESCAPE ARTIST

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2025, 8 min.

WRITER: Bo Price

DIR: Sergine Dumais

PRODS: Kino Montreal, Slap Kiss Film

CAST: Bruno Pelletier & Emilie Josset



Luke is the world's greatest escape artist. But can he escape an uncomfortable conversation with Camille? She wants to define their relationship, but Luke uses his skills to disappear.

HAPPY SHAMEVERSARY

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 8 min.

WRITERS: Dan Treadway & Noah Miller

DIR: Megan L.C. McNally

PRODS: Michelle Jones Iliev & Matthew Mastrantuono

CAST: Audrey Harden, Duvall O'Steen, Moses Villarama



Tired of reliving the most embarrassing moment of her life, Felicia seeks help to rewrite her most shameful memory.

NO TROUBLE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 17.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Jonathan Chan

PRODS: Rich Ting, Jonathan Chan,

Zayd Siddiqui, Max Stafford

CAST: Rich Ting, Peggy Lu, Zac Titus, and Ken Takemoto



After a group of racist punks threaten a Chinese restaurant, a cook on parole grapples with whether to take matters into his own hands to defend the community.

ORBIT

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 23 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Ben Tedesco

CAST: Natalie Lynch, Bruce Brown, Gerarda Lahey-Keppler, Christina Bartels, Tim Ashby, Michael Gianelli, Bob Weinswig



An introverted, lonely, obituary writer deals with mortality while navigating her own unfulfilled life.

FUSION SHORTS: GRP 7

SCREENING: THE JUNE 26 @ 7 PM



CAPTURE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 19 min.

WRITER/DIR: Jamie Effros
PRODS: Brady Kirchberg, Nick Hernandez
CAST: Sarah Ellen Stephens, Wai Ching Ho, Esther Chen, Alfredo Narciso, Jennifer Fouche

The year is 1999, and Monie Wills has escaped the chaos of the city and a toxic relationship to go solo camping in the remote forests of Maine. But after her first night alone in the woods, a picture appears on her brand-new digital camera of herself, asleep in her tent. Lost and terrified, she descends into self-doubt and madness as the camera begins to depict not only what has happened, but what will happen to her.



CHOOCH

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITER/DIR: Peter Horgan
PRODS: Peter Horgan, Todd Remis, Sammie Astaneh, Dipo Ziwa
CAST: Josh Koopman, Anthony Firicano

A low-level thug is ordered to kill a man. Hesitant to pull the trigger, he visits his bestfriend, a reformed gangster, seeking advice.



GRIND

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 16 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Mark Apicella
EXEC PRODS: Nick Reid, Lana Link, Rob Pfaltzgraff
CO-PROD: Tara Gallardy
CAST: Giovanni Cristoff, Alma Martinez, David Gurrola, Carlos Padilla Jr., Bree Winslow, and Rey Gallegos

When John, an aspiring sneaker designer in East Los Angeles, gets the opportunity of his life to be featured in his idol's pop-up shop, his best friend and business partner tries to pull him down his own divergent path as he promises John's shoe design to a gang.



SANDRA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2025, 12 min.

WRITERS: Alison Banowsky, Hannah Levy, Jen Chuck
DIRS: Hannah Levy, Jen Chuck
PRODS: Rob Hatch-Miller, Puloma Basu
CAST: Alison Banowsky, Andrew Knox

A surreal comedy that follows Jane (Alison Banowsky) whose banal and predictable life with her boyfriend (Andrew Knox) is upended when she finds out that a mysterious and erratic woman has been living in her basement. The film is about getting unstuck, learning to trust your intuition, and most importantly, letting your freaky side flourish.



UNFAITHFUL

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 9 min.

WRITERS: Otha Cole, Seri DeYoung
DIR: Seri DeYoung
PRODS: Jack D. Fleischer, Otha Cole, Seri DeYoung
CAST: Ronald Auguste, Jack D. Fleischer, Aimee McGuire

The 2007 reality show Unfaithful! ruthlessly exposes cheating partners. Host Shaun Johnson discovers how much his life mirrors his troubled guests when his own relationship insecurities cause him to spiral. Ignoring warnings that his current guest is actually a stalker, he lets the episode fall into chaos. This dark satire highlights the unsavory moments at the dawn of reality TV.



UNIT 303

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2025, 5.5 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Beth Evans
CAST: Katherine Cullen, Colin Doyle

Meghan tries to sell Kyle on a future in Unit 303.

FUSION SHORTS: GRP 8

SCREENING: FRI JUNE 27 @ 5 PM

KODAZ: THE PRIMORDIAL GOD OF LIGHT AND ETHER

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 11.5 min.

WRITERS: Will Ropp, Nick Skardarasy
DIR: Will Ropp
PROD: Natalie Rousseau

CAST: Maddie Ziegler, Nick Skardarasy, Natalie Rousseau

A doctor dresses up for Halloween.



MILDRED 4 A MILLION

USA, 2024, 24 min.

WRITER/DIR: Kimmie P Callaway
PRODS: Kimmie P Callaway, Jason Serrato, Kate Adair, Matt Wood
CAST: Marla Gibbs, Obriella Genesis Witron, Julian Ashley Mitchell, Brie Eley, Hayley Keown

A gregarious great-grandmother who desperately wants to connect with her tablet-obsessed great-granddaughter sets out on a quest to get a million followers on TikTok. Starring legendary TV icon Marla Gibbs at 93 years young, this poignant comedy explores human connection across generations in the age of tech addiction.



THE NICKNAME

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 6.5 min.

WRITER: Sydney O'Toole
DIR: Rachel Olson
PRODS: Rachel Olson, Sydney O'Toole
CAST: Sydney O'Toole, Mary Holland, Hillary Anne Matthews, Anna Bezahler, Moni Oyedepo, Lilliana Winkworth

A bachelorette party is derailed when one bridesmaid learns she has a terrible nickname.



PEOPLE WALK DOGS AT NIGHT IN THE SUBUTZBS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 24 min.

WRITER/DIR: Drake Wootton
PROD: Quinn Hoinoski
CAST: Matthew Daddario, Kaylene Sharsky, Emily Garrett, Cisco Sepeda

A married high school math teacher, on the verge of becoming a father, struggles to keep an affair with a love-struck student from upending his life.



KIDZ SHORTS: BLK 1

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 10 AM



CALL ME ALEXANDER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 10 min.

WRITERS: Alexander James Rodriguez & Liz Rodriguez
DIR: Alexander James Rodriguez
PROD: Liz Rodriguez
CAST: Alexander James Rodriguez

The story begins with Alexander walking to his car in Downtown Los Angeles, thinking about the free-spirited young woman who ensnares everyone within her path with her hypnotic beauty, and magnetic charm. He recounts their relationship as his "Ride Or Die". Torn by the love lost he is compelled to reconnect with her. He calls in hopes to hear her voice, but when the answer phone clicks on he is visibly disappointed, he ends the message with "Call Me, it's Alexander". Unsatisfied, he decides to take flight to find her. He takes us down memory lane, with various sweet moments of their time together, darting through LA traffic the fast paced second act "Flashback" begins.

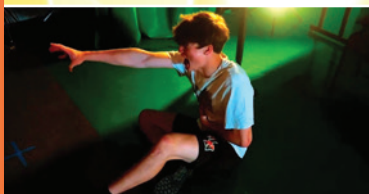


DOWN SAFE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 8 min.

WRITER/DIR: Fédor Benton
PROD: Kim Altenritter
CAST: Maci Miller, Kingston Miller, Fédor Benton

When 10-year-old Fédor discovers a locked safe buried in his backyard, his world transforms into a thrilling quest to uncover its secrets.

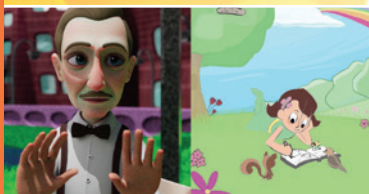


LETHAL LIZARD

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 9 min.

WRITERS: Justin Fearon, Chris Tweedy
DIR: Justin Fearon
PRODS: RJ Kukulski, Justin Rouse
CAST: Justin Fearon, RJ Kukulski, Chris Tweedy, Justin Rouse

A semi sequel to Super Dude, a high school comedy film turned into an action drama. The evil mask is taken by another student who abuses its powers and it is up to Justin to take it back.



LIFE ISN'T FAIR

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 3 min.

WRITER: Dana Sweeney
DIRS: The Animation Course C.A.T. class
PRODS: The Animation Course C.A.T. class
CAST: Aisa Uchimura, Stephan Pohler

30 middle and high school students worked collaboratively under the tutelage of former Disney Animator Chad Stewart to create this charming film about a Grandfather and Granddaughter comparing reasons why they think life isn't fair. Not only are they able to 'see' through the eyes of a different generation, but they also come to understand that the most unfair thing in life has no age gap.



MAYOR MAX

USA, 2024, 8 min.

DIR/PROD: Moses Fleischman
CAST: Max Mueller, Phyllis Mueller

Idyllwild, California is just like any other picturesque mountain town. Nestled between pine trees and mountain peaks it has everything you might expect: hiking trails, quaint shops, and more. There's one thing that sets Idyllwild apart, the mayor of the town is a golden retriever.



PIZZA PANIC

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 6 min.

WRITERS/PRODS: Riley Harrison & Mac Ullem
DIR: Mac Ullem
CAST: Alexander Kim, Griffin Illenberger and Rylee Carlson

A pizza delivery worker reckons with his robotic replacement in a battle over who can work faster.

KIDZ SHORTS: BLK 2

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 1145 AM

THE AUDITION

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 6 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Mac Ullem
CAST: Els Page, Tessa Maryott, and Scott Ullem

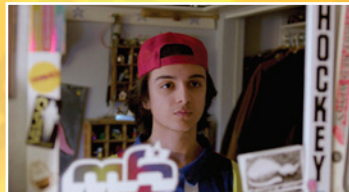


When the recital pianist shows up unprepared for his best friend's audition, the situation spirals into disaster.

CRICKETS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 24 min.

WRITERS: Bardia Seiri, Ryan Harris DIR: Bardia Seiri
PRODS: Bardia Seiri, Ryan Harris, Chase Bowers, & Dillon Lovelace
CAST: Bardia Seiri, Ryan Harris, Chase Bowers, Felipe Cerdan, Melanie Cerdan, Cardan Watson & Kenzy Mostafa



Crickets follows three childhood friends—Raffi, Lucas, and Caleb—once inseparable, now drifting apart after high school. Separated by jobs, distance, and the quiet weight of adulthood, they reunite for a spontaneous road trip, hoping to escape the loneliness settling into their lives. But as the miles pass and old memories resurface, unspoken tensions and buried feelings begin to surface. The open road becomes a quiet battleground where friendship is tested and truths are revealed. Crickets is a tender, atmospheric exploration of growing up, growing apart, and the fragile connections that hold us together even when everything else changes.

KRAMPUS ON CAMPUS: ASYLUM

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 6 min.

WRITERS: Nick Barth, Richard Pecoraro, Brody Spitzfaden
DIR: Richard Pecoraro
PRODS: Nick Barth, Brody Spitzfaden, Louis Mastillo
CAST: Richard Pecoraro, Nick Barth, Brody Spitzfaden, Brooke Norton



A year after the events of Krampus on Campus this film follows Richie who is blamed for the disappearance of numerous people. Richie is sent to an asylum as he was blamed for the missing people. Is it really Krampus or is it what the doctors believe and a part of Richie's imagination.

SOLITUDE...

USA, 2025, 6 min.

WRITER/DIR Joshua Najera
PRODS: Joshua Najera, Connor Bernhardt
CAST: Cecil Lanoux, Elizabeth Utsman, Micha Eckmann, Payton Juarez



What once used to be his everlasting dream, only fills the vacant atmosphere of the resounding theater as Frank tells a story about how he met his love; Cecelia. Reminiscing through dances shared for two, Frank is raptured and beguiled into the fragment of his life. He is reminded of his moments shared with Cecelia and holds it in his memory. What once used to bring him the opportunity of life and color is now diminished by his own loneliness in the place where they once both stood at with simply a photograph of remembrance of their devotion in life.

THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN

USA, 2025, 7 min.

WRITER/DIR: Vaughn Eknoyan
PROD: Aaron Rips
CAST: Kameron Johnson, Niko Chakos, Nick Conocenti, David Lopez, Caelum Goldstein, Vaughn Eknoyan, John Chakos, Peter Chakos, Michael Lopez



When Ralph Anderson reluctantly rejects a part of a dish served by a prestigious American restaurant, neither him nor his friend Hunter find themselves prepared for what comes next.

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LOEWS
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KIDZ PRO SHORTS: BLK 1

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 115 PM

CAPTAIN PRINCESS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 6 min.

WRITER/DIR: Michael E. Peter
PROD: Kimmie Kim & Michael E. Peter

CAST: Lois Peter, McClane Peter, Brianne Moncrief, Judy Greer



In a galaxy made of cardboard, glitter, and wild imagination, two sisters, Lois and McClane, explore the cosmos without ever leaving their playroom. But when big sis is away, it's up to little Lois—joined by Lovey, her stuffed unicorn—to take charge. As the fearless Captain Princess, Lois explores new planets, encounters alien creatures and journeys into the unknown.

FORGET-ME-NOT

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 10 min.

DIR: Shayla C. Durbois
PROD/WRITER: Sarah Anne Sumpolec

CAST: Molly Rose Meredith, Marcus Doyle, Lauren Skemp,
Nora Hermez, Beatriz Ochoa, Robert Valentine

A group of literary characters refuse to be forgotten and decide to take matters into their own hands!



POW!

USA, 2025, 8 min

WRITER/DIR: Joey Clift

PRODS: Mik Moore, Harold Moss,
Donick Cary, Tom Chorlton, Goldie Chan

CAST: Rainy Fields, Angela Startz, Jim Ruel, Joey Clift

A Native American kid scrambles to charge his dying video game console at a bustling intertribal powwow.



SNOW DAY!

USA, 2024, 10 min.

WRITERS/DIR/PROD: Kiara Lin
CAST: Shelby Rabara, Jonathan Freeman,
Jennifer Paz, Maile Flanagan

When a spunky eight (and a half) year old is moved across the country, homesick, she does what any other little girl would think to do: summon an almighty weather changing Demon to make it snow for her. The Demon thinks her idea is laughable however, and contests her wish. Will she get her Snow Day?



WEIZDOS

USA, 2025, 5.5 min.

DIR: Paul Hollingsworth
WRITERS: Paul Hollingsworth & Nathan Ondracek

PROD: Paul Hollingsworth

CAST: Nathan Ondracek & Denise Garcia

What if Middle School underdogs Jasmine, Owen, and Tito are Earth's best chance at surviving a Monster Invasion? This spooky comedy blends humor, heart & horror in a thrilling supernatural adventure!



THE WISHING WAND

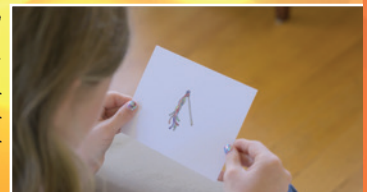
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Premiere | USA, 2024, 3 min.

WRITER/DIR: Jane Fraser

PROD: Brent Fraser

CAST: Jane Fraser

If you had a magic wand, what would you wish for? When Jane's pug Maisy destroys her favorite wand, disaster turns into wonder when a new wand serendipitously arrives at the door. Jane discovers that with one wave, sweet things can happen. "The Wishing Wand" is a short-film by Jane Fraser, a first-time filmmaker with Down Syndrome. The film is dedicated to her late grandmother Claire, Jane's best friend and personal wand-maker.





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KIDZ PRO SHORTS: BLK 2

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 245 PM

CHANGING ROOM

INDIA, 2025, 11 min.

WRITER/DIR: Ruchir Kulkarni

PRODS: Ruchir Kulkarni, Shilpa Kulkarni,
Shrikrishna Kulkarni, Chinmay Kanitkar

CAST: Sayalee Phatak, Srijay Deshpande, Rutvij Kulkarni

In a society where body image is scrutinised from an early age, Changing Room follows 12-year-old Pratik, an introverted overweight boy. In the seemingly mundane setting of a clothing store, casual remarks and unspoken judgments unravel the silent struggles of a child grappling with self-worth.

NOD

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 21 min.

WRITERS: Tristan Baumgardner & E.F. Broyles

DIR: Tristan Baumgardner

PROD: Eliana Henry

CAST: CheyAnne Harris, Jake Ellsworth, Grant Baciocco, Shirley Cook Brooks,
Marcel Van Werkhoven, Elisha Kenniv, Noel Sassoon, Ethan Bell

Upon inheriting a mystical cottage on the anniversary of her brother's fateful disappearance, Ella Grimm must learn to believe in make-believe when she finds herself magically whisked away to the Land of Nod.

THE OUTCASTS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 15 min.

DIR: Jenn Page

PRODS: Jenn Page, Summer Walters,
Chris Edgar, David Schatanoff Jr.

WRITERS: Jenn Page & John L Curtis

CAST: John L Curtis, Harleen Quinzel, Claire Kresser, Anthony Ruggieri, Zaela Rae, Kiran Jackson,
Eva Huang, Summer Walters, Chase Simone, Adron Duell, Jaimes Timas, Ethan Clark

After escaping a sinister intergalactic regime, a gifted crew of misfit kids hides on Earth, hoping to disappear. But when mercenaries close in, their fragile refuge shatters—and they must once again harness their powers to fight for justice, testing the limits of friendship, family, and sacrifice.

THE ROCKET MAN

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2024, 18 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Laurence Cohen

CAST: Connor Price, Samantha Somer-Wilson, John Boylan,
Drew Nelson, Shawn Reynolds, Ingrid Haas

It's a sad day when Benji is forced to accompany his father to work. Luckily enough, his imagination provides him with plenty of entertainment, until he discovers an unsettling secret.

KIDZ PRO SHORTS: BLK 3

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 415 PM

EARTHWORMS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 16 min.

WRITER/DIR: Caitlin Noah

PRODS: Caitlin Noah & Matt Hoodhood

CAST: Brea Mascorro, Oscar Winter, Amber Steigelfest

Earthworms is a short Sci-Fi adventure film about a Martian girl who steals a spaceship and travels through the stars in an attempt to prove to her skeptical neighbor that life on Earth exists. On her journey, she meets a mysterious loner and the two make an exchange that will change their lives.

DANCES WITH FILMS 28
is dedicated to
the memory of our beloveds
who stood by our dreams
and nurtured our
independent spirit
during their time here on earth.

Above all, we honor
Daisy Duran -
mother of DWF's own
Kerim - whose strength
and love were
an inspiration.



KIDZ PRO SHORTS: BLK 3 (cont)

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 4:15 PM

STRAIGHT LACED

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 21 min.

WRITER: Jill Johnson Mann
DIR: Cynthia Gibb

PRODS: Jill Johnson Mann & Cynthia Gibb



CAST: Natalia Mann, Matthew Bukzin, Aini Rockwell, Mario Manna, Penelope Sajda, Callie Sarro, Sophie Jasmin Walther, Isabelle Leeming, Brigg Liberman, Blake Raho, Brian Lombardi, Claire Butler, Phoebe McCance, Chloe Carson, Chloe Debuck, Charlie Watson, Cameron Mann, Vivienne Leeming, Ellie Rockwell, Ella Davis, Lola Rockwell, Jennifer Malaquias Ryan, Markley Rizzi, Deb Katz, Michele Feinberg, Jill Johnson Mann, Cheryl Nadzam, Bella Rizzi, Cotton Bodell, Wynston Browne, Linde Gibb, Mike O'Hara, Marc Hartog, Rick Baumblatt

Lucia is an honors student, star rower, and good kid. Her dad didn't grow up with the privileges she and her sisters enjoy, so there is no excuse for her not following his path to Princeton. Even as an unlikely friendship develops with the school's drug dealer, Eddy, Lucia is not planning to play her peers' risky game of experimenting with fake prescription pills as study aids. But when she begins to buckle under the academic pressure in her town of overachievers, she makes a choice that leaves everyone in her life rethinking whether getting into the "right" college matters at all.

UNO Y MEDIO CONTRA EL MUNDO

USA, 2025, 22 min.

WRITER/DIR: Jacob Estrada

PRODS: Luis Estrada & James Valdez

CAST: Angel Trinidad Rossell, Lucia Vico, Giovanni Navarro, Gabriela Machuca, Michael Calas, Paulo Estrada



Uno y Medio Contra El Mundo follows the story of Julián, a self-made young family man living in Mexico who needs to emigrate to the United States because of the unfortunate perils of his job. He struggles with his new life in the agricultural region of the Central Coast of California, where he must learn how to harvest strawberries to provide for his family. He resents the need to escape his home country to keep his family and himself safe but eventually finds his way to become a successful and happy immigrant.

UNTRAVELED

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 14 min.

WRITER/DIR: Yale Fried

PRODS: Liv Boren, Chris Dooly, Isaak Popkin, Yale Fried

CAST: Zin Kassel, Joel Widman, Bern Cohen, Chris Dooly, Karen Fried



Simon is three days from his Bar Mitzvah and the nightmares are getting worse. Visions of dropping the Torah and disappointing his Father haunt him. As his orthodox Father pushes him toward blind faith, Simon wrestles with his Torah portion, the story of the binding of Isaac. Why would G-d ask a dad to sacrifice his son? And why would a dad agree to it? As Simon reckons with his faith and his Father, he is called in front of his entire community to read from the Torah he's no longer sure he can trust.

KIDZ PRO FEATURE!

SCREENING: SUN JUNE 22 @ 6:15 PM

APOCALYPSE LOVE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 60 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Vera VanGuard

CAST: David Lorigo, Vera VanGuard, Danny Arroyo, Jed Rowen, Michael Lang, Bobby McGee



19-year-old emo teen Tom is still mourning the loss of his prom-night girlfriend, BB, when aliens invade Earth and reanimate the dead into a zombie army. Refusing to let BB become one of them, Tom digs up her body and sets off on a journey to bring her back to life — dodging death rays, a Goth ex-girlfriend, and making unlikely allies along the way.

PILOTS: BLK 1

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 21 @ 1130 AM

BROADWAY BOOKS: THE TIPPING POINT

USA, 2024, 15 min.



WRITER/DIR: Carianne King
PRODS: Abbie Jones, Miranda Kahn
CAST: Ruby McCollister, Lauren Servideo, Eric Yates, Nick Naney, Carlos Dengler, Joe Apollonio, Rew Starr

In aggressively gentrifying Manhattan, a group of over-educated, under-employed bookstore workers struggle to keep their independent bookstore in business using increasingly desperate measures. In the pilot episode ("The Tipping Point"), The Broadway Books team scramble to raise the numbers for the Malcolm Gladwell reading that night upon learning of Gladwell's impossible demands (and epic rider). Pierre accuses Nick of not having read his staff picks.

THE FUN IN FUNNY

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 22 min.

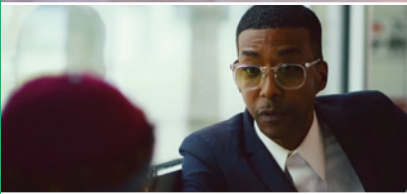


WRITER: David Roth DIR: Christine Lakin
PRODS: Nicole Treston Abranian, Brian R. Etting, Alana Katzner, Christine Lakin producer Zach Lev, David Roth, Cloie Wyatt Taylor, Ivy Yu
CAST: David Roth, Skylar Aleece Smith, Carly Jibson, Johnno Wilson, Marcus Williams

A stand-up comedian hangs up his microphone until an unlikely friendship with a young girl inspires him to give the stage another shot.

PAPER DREAMS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 13 min.



DIR: Casey Washington
WRITER: Miguel A. Nunez
PRODS: Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins, Miguel A Nunez, Casey Washington
CAST: Miguel A. Nunez, Heavenly Joy Jerkins, Gretta Renell Stone, Mike Rusnak, Joe Herrea

A struggling musician finds himself saddled with a young girl who may or may not be his daughter. He discovers her vocal talent and the two forge an unlikely partnership.

PILOTS: BLK 2

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 21 @ 1 PM

DEPARTMENT OF ONE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 48 min.



WRITER: Arcadia Conrad
DIR: John Redlinger
PRODS: Charles Haid, Michael Laskin, Chris Spencer
CAST: Ed Begley, Ben Edlin, Kelsey Landon, Amy Madigan, Jordan Gonzalez, Damon Dayoub, Autry Hayden-Wilson

Cassandra Wheeler is burning out. An overworked and overcommitted high school drama teacher, she's beginning to realize she might be a bad mother. And one of her most famous former students appears to be falling for her.

PILOTS: BLK 2 (cont)

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 21 @ 1 PM

IAMERICA

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 23.5 min.

DIR: Sean Crampton
PRODS: Lauren Lindley & Julian Gavilanes
WRITERS: Julian Gavilanes & Sean Crampton
CAST: Erika T Johnson & Julian Gavilanes

"IAMERICA" tells the story of Marc Stacy, a fallen Hollywood star whose comeback depends on playing a veteran with PTSD. To prepare, he hires Erica Johnson, a real-life war hero. Though worlds apart, they form an unlikely bond as Erica's strength pushes Marc to face his insecurities and past. Inspired by a life-changing friendship, the film explores unexpected connections, resilience, and self-discovery. Together, Marc and Erica redefine their worth and learn that the biggest impact often comes from the most unassuming people.



PILOTS: BLK 3

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 21 @ 245 PM

ONE FOR THE TEAM

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 32 min.

DIR: Rain Valdez
PRODS: Kyle Puccia, Darryl Stephens, Silas Howard, Liesl Wilke
WRITERS: Darryl Stephens & Kyle Puccia
CAST: Kassian Drake, Carson Polish, Abigail Killmeier, Eric C. Sun, Cecelia Sandoval, Alex Tobias, Nayo Wallace, Justine Estrada, Peter Pasco, Travis Myers, Cailin McDonald, Max E. Williams, David Christian, Deon Griffin, Nicky Cutler

Desperate to hang onto his Ivy League scholarship, trans hotshot Nico Ramirez moves an hour away from home to play lacrosse at an affluent new high school. Coach says Nico could win them the championship, but will he lose his friends, his full-ride, and his entire sense of self in the process?



THE PSIONICUM

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 24 min.

WRITER/DIR: Robert Moon
PRODS: Robert Moon, Larry Kaster, Rush Hour Productions
CAST: Mike Manning, Lincoln Hoppe, Karen Strassman, Jeanette O'Connor, Jett Wilder, A.J. Castro, Maya Nalli, Dylan Wittrock, Ian S. Peterson, Ian Schuelke, Mikaylee Mina, Darcy Shean, Ritzi Lanier, Robert Moon, Malgosia Tolak, Joseph Proctor, Jason Caceres, Jake I. Garcia, Shannon Morris

At the world's seventh-most-famous college of the paranormal, a documentary crew follows the lives of students and faculty as they stumble through life, love, and supernatural shenanigans.



Two

WORLD Premiere | KAZAKHSTAN, 2024, 30 min.

DIR: Olzhas Yermekbayev
WRITERS: Chingiz Ondasynov, Maria Maslova, Aynur Mubarova, Anara Zhunussova, Vasily Kutsenko
PRODS: Irina Sosnovaya, Temirlan Ataulla, Oleg Dyo, Bexultan Kazybek, Vasily Kutsenko, Maria Maslova, Ksenia Andreenko, Dias Shibanov

CAST: Dameli Tastan Zhasmin Saideldinova, Sanurzhan Suleyev, Daniil Kunis, Marina Konyashkina, Aziz Beishenaliyev, Almira Tursyn, Sanzhar Madi

A teenager lies about being pregnant to get attention from her distant boyfriend – only to face unexpected consequences when the lie goes viral



PILOTS: BLK 4

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 28 @ 11 AM

CRAZY AS A LOON

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 14 min.

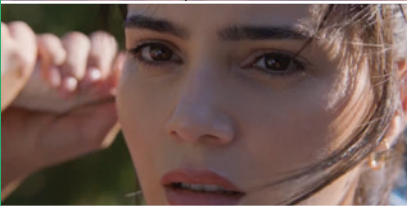


WRITER: Lisa Cordileone
DIR: Monica Raymund
PRODS: Lisa Cordileone, Shaan Dasani, Morgan Marcell
CAST: Max Adler, Lisa Cordileone, David Alan Madrick, Beck Williams, Kyla Garcia, Ryan Reilly, Maxwell Hicks

Crazy As A Loon is a gripping proof of concept for the TV series *Committed*, centered on one American family simply trying to exist during the Lavender Scare in 1953 Washington, D.C. On the night of her son's birthday party, a matriarch is hunted by a covert government unit—unleashing far more than her perpetrators bargained for. The story exposes the ruthless tactics of the Miscellaneous M Unit: secret interrogations, surveillance, and blacklists targeting queer Americans, people of color, and intellectuals. This story resonates with a chilling truth—what happened 70 years ago still echoes through America today.

LOVE/ALL

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 22.5 min.



DIR/PROD: Greg Bekkers
WRITERS: Greg Bekkers & Andrea Londo
CAST: Andrea Londo, Jeremy Gimenez, Brad Benedict

Starring Andrea Londo (Netflix's *Narcos*) *Love All* is a sports drama following Logan Mitchell, a pro tennis player attempting a comeback from his controversial suspension. As he grapples with his uncertain future, Logan crosses paths with Nina Alvarez, the current number one in the world who is facing challenges of her own. They will need to decide what they are willing to sacrifice to get to the top in the high-stakes world of professional tennis.

OBSEVANCE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 23 min.



DIR: Emily Lerer
WRITER/PRODS: Elyssa Nicole Trust
CAST: Elyssa Nicole Trust, David Garelik, Liz Samuel, Tyler Herman, Jonah Feingold, Lauren Schaffel, Elana Gantman, Mark Karafin, Jenna Harwood, Carol Brooks, Geoffrey Greene

After a deep loss and academic expulsion, a hard partying-secular Jew, Gabby, finds healing and meaning in Judaism, embracing it fully as a Ba'alat Teshuvah.

SISTERS OF SENECA

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 13 min.



WRITER/DIR: Greg Kaston
PRODS: Greg Kaston & Pete Dorton
CAST: Greg Kaston, Anthony Robert Grasso, Nasia Thomas, NaTonia Monet

Two detectives looking for a missing person, are led to a speakeasy, and met with modern day survivors, Abigail and Ayasha, of a historical atrocity and a supernatural force that puts their own lives in danger. The detectives are faced with the decision to save the missing person or save themselves.

PILOTS: BLK 5

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 28 @ 115 PM

BEFORE ANYONE ELSE

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 14 min.



WRITER/DIR: Samantha Barrett
PRODS: Samantha Barrett & Emily Kelly
CAST: Madeleine Shalhan, Iago Lashua, Jarod Bainbridge, Kelsey Longwill, Michael Park, Kevin Barrett

As Annie navigates the highs and lows of dating, a chance encounter with her childhood friend turned trivia host throws her love life into disarray, leading to an evening filled with laughter, awkwardness, and unexpected revelations in the heart of an Irish pub.

UNITED CRAFTS OF AMERICA

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 47 min.



WRITER: Jonathan Adelson
DIR: Sergio Camacho
PRODS: Sergio Camacho, Jonathan Adelson, Robert Scoville
CAST: Jesse Ferguson & Laura Dierks

United Crafts of America offers an intimate look into America's most vibrant craft beer cities, uncovering the country's most innovative breweries and the passionate people behind them. The journey begins with New York City's own Interboro Spirits & Ales, where co-owners Laura Dierks and Jesse Ferguson blend beer and hip-hop to create one of NYC's most influential breweries, breathing new life into the city's rich brewing heritage. For these brewers, craft beer is more than just a beverage—it's a symbol of identity, community, and pride. From the rustic charm of small-town breweries to the urban sophistication of city brewpubs, this series shows how craft beer is the story of America.

THE WAR ON STRAWS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 18.5 min.



WRITER/DIR: Eleanor Vigneault
PRODS: Hardy Awadjie, Mingjun "Maggie" Zheng, Diana Postolache, Augusta Mariano
CAST: Leon Mandel, Genetra Tull, Augusta Mariano, Hardy Awadjie, Daniela Couso, Sarah Healey, Michael Moskewicz, Christine H. Chang, Eleanor Vigneault

A period piece from 2015—a bad year to be a plastic straw. And perhaps a worse year to be in the business of them.

PILOTS: BLK 6

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 28 @ 330 PM

ENCHANTED INVESTIGATIONS: GOLDILOCKS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 9 min.



WRITER/DIR/PROD: Daric Loo
CAST: Daric Loo

Was Goldilocks a thief? Join the clever Elf detective Elaris Silverleaf and her whimsical magical cat, Faelynn, as they unravel the mysteries behind the beloved fairytale, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." What begins as a simple investigation – complete with interviews from legendary fairytale figures – soon leads to a tangled web of secrets and a sinister plot that could upend the entire fairy realm. Brimming with wit, wonder, and enchantment, this adventure promises to turn every fairytale on its head!

FORMERLY KNOWN AS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 21 min.



WRITER: Luke Steinborn
DIR: Chris Leary
PRODS: Chris Leary & Luke Steinborn
CAST: Jayden Libran, Micky Shiloah, Andrew Gabriel, Rachel Thundat, Vishal Patel, Luke Steinborn

In this hilarious and chaotic rock-mockumentary, a film crew sets out to capture the making of an aging rockstar's comeback album, only to find that the real story lies with the eccentric team working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep everything afloat. Oh, also the rockstar is a talking purple muppet.

GASBAG

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 24 min.



WRITER: Lynn Rosen
DIRS: Christopher Gerson & Julie Kramer
PRODS: Chad Kessler & Lynn Rosen
CAST: Mary Bacon, David James Boyd, Tina Chilip, Trey Gerrald, Mia Katigbak, Chad Kessler, Deidre Lovejoy, Danielle Skraastad, and Jackie Tohn

A coming-of-age ensemble comedy about a lovable, recently-out overtalker discovering what (and who) he wants...at age 42. The heart of TED LASSO meets the vibe of ABBOTT ELEMENTARY, by way of Queens, New York, baby.

HALFWAY HANDSOME

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 27 min.



WRITERS: Matt Tory, JJ Carroll, Josh Fasold
DIR: Matt Tory
PRODS: Jamie Costa, JJ Carroll, Matt Tory, Josh Fasold, Kianna Dixen
CAST: Jamie Costa, JJ Carroll, Matt Tory, Josh Fasold

This is HALFWAY HANDSOME, a new original comedy show featuring bizarre sketches, hilarious impressions, funny short films, parodies, memorable recurring characters, and even original songs. Each episode packs in 4-6 unique sketches and surprise guest stars. With its fresh and unpredictable humor, it's the perfect show for a good laugh with your girlfriend, roommate, co-worker, dog, or even your parents (though we can't promise your parents will always get it). Halfway Handsome is your dose of comedy that's always entertaining, sure to brighten your day, and leave you with a good feeling.

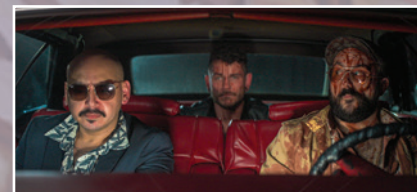
PILOTS: BLK 7

SCREENING: SAT JUNE 28 @ 545 PM

BASIL KING

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 21.5 min.

WRITERS: Taylor Fredricks, Ryan Castro, Isaac Scego
DIR: Daryl Della
PRODS: Taylor Fredricks, Ryan Castro, Sheilava, Amado DeHoyos
CAST: Ryan Castro, Taylor Fredricks, Shaun Meglen, Michael Fischer, Hollis L. Edwards III, Joseph Finfer

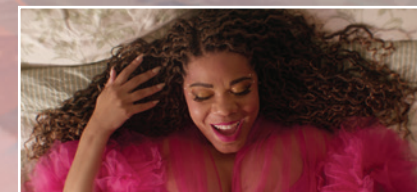


A late-night business deal goes awry, leaving three overzealous gangster wannabes scrambling to clean up the bloody aftermath. With no real plan— or wits for that matter— the trio hurries to take care of business before it takes care of them. Our narrator and main character Jeffrey Basil, the Basil King himself, offers a glimpse at what it's like to be the high profile mob boss of a booming basil business. In today's fiercely competitive produce industry, you must follow one rule or you'll surely be dead, because if you're not paying in green, you're paying in red.

DIVINE INTERVENTION

WEST COAST Premiere | USA, 2025, 17.5 min.

WRITER: Zina Ellis
DIR: Kelly McCready
PRODS: Zina Ellis & Sarah Means
CAST: Zina Ellis, Robert Barnes Jr., Futaba Shioda, Christian Elán Ortiz, Sakile Camara, Imani Pearl, Chazmond Peacock, Rose Anne Rabut, Kyle Dalsimer, Simon Henriques, Frances Li



After nearly causing an international incident, Aphrodite (the Greek goddess of love in her Kardashian-esque modern form) is stripped of her powers. Will she regain her omnipotence by helping super-single Brooklynite Delia find true love... or be banished from the Pantheon forever? Divine Intervention is an irreverent comedy about the highs and lows of modern love, with a lot of help from the ancients.

GUMSHOES

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 20 min.

WRITERS: Dana Quercioli & Megan Hovde
DIR: Sarah Haskins
PRODS: Dana Quercioli, Megan Hovde, Erica Reid, L. Dinah Palmisano, Molly McCloskey, Stacey Seigert
CAST: Dana Quercioli, Megan Hovde, Holly Austin, Edgar Blackmon, David Calderon, Brendan Jennings, Stephanie Weir, Nnamdi Ngwe, Bob Dassie, Allison Reese



As Annie navigates the highs and lows of dating, a chance encounter with her childhood friend turned trivia host throws her love life into disarray, leading to an evening filled with laughter, awkwardness, and unexpected revelations in the heart of an Irish pub.

PICK ME UP

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2025, 7 min.

WRITERS/DIRS/PRODS: Brian Regal & Nat Anglin
CAST: Brian Regal, Barbara Lee Bragg, Justin McHugh, Rocio López, Nat Anglin, John Henry Richardson

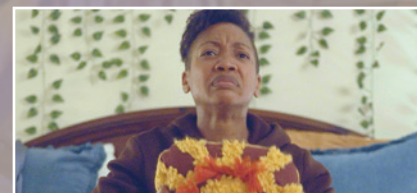


Two gig workers accept a moving job on an app and find themselves stuck in the middle of a messy divorce.

S.B.S. (SINGLE BLACK SHEPHERD)

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 8.5 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Tiffany Yvonne Cox
CAST: Tiffany Yvonne Cox, Angela Grove, Krystal M Harris, Michelle Flanagan



Once Monet learns that her fiance is actually already married, she decides to follow another dream of hers; being a shepherd in France.

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43 ZZASLOW K-427

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NARRATIVE FEATURES ARE LISTED IN **WHITE**.
 NARRATIVE SHORTS ARE LISTED IN **YELLOW**.
 DOCS ARE LISTED IN **MAGENTA**.
 MIDNIGHT SERIES IS LISTED IN **PURPLE**.
 PILOTS ARE LISTED IN **GREEN**.
 KIDZ & DOWNBEAT ARE LISTED IN **BLUE**.

THU
JUN 19

730PM **OPENING NIGHT FILM: DO NO HARM**

FRI
JUN 20

445PM **DOC SHORTS GRP 1**
 • A GOOD DEATH • ASK AN IRANIAN • FOLLOW THE SUN • LOST ALONE
 • OLD GIRL IN A TUTU... • VAN GOGH AND THE HOSPITAL GARDEN
VOICES: THE DANNY GANS STORY
 5PM **HOMEWRECKER**
 7PM **T**
 715PM **NEVER GET BUSTED!**
 915PM **SONNY BOY**
 930PM **PEEPING TODD**
 1145PM

SAT
JUN 21

1130AM **PILOTS BLK 1**
 • BROADWAY BOOKS: THE TIPPING POINT • THE FUN IN FUNNY
 • PAPER DREAMS
 1145AM **COMPETITION SHORTS BLK 1**
 • AURA • HAPPY PLACE • HEALER • NWA (BLACK) • OLD GOAT
 • OVER (OR HOW TO SAVE THE WORLD)
 1PM **PILOTS BLK 2**
 • DEPARTMENT OF ONE • IAMERICA
 2PM **COMPETITION SHORTS BLK 2**
 • CANCHAS • CATARATAS • JEWBOY • JUST BEFORE DAWN
 • TURPENTINE • WALTZ FOR THREE
 245PM **PILOTS BLK 3**
 • ONE FOR THE TEAM • THE PSIONICUM • TWO
 415PM **COMPETITION SHORTS BLK 3**
 • ASHER BABY • BREAK ROOM • DEAD WEIGHT
 • FIREFLIES IN THE DUSK • HEAVEN AND NATURE
 • SWEDISH DEATH • WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON.
 5PM **FORTUNATE SONS**
 630PM **THE CALLING**
 715PM **TEACHER'S PET**
 845PM **LADY PARTS**
 930PM **UNIVERSAL**
 11PM **MIDNIGHT SHORTS BLK 1**
 • ADA AND EVAN • BE NICE • BRONZE • THE FULL-TIME LOVE RAT
 • ME & MY PENIS • MIRROR/MIRROR • MY DEAD DAD'S FUNERAL
 • TAG • VIOLET VENDETTA • VIRGIN
 1145PM **SÉANCE**

SUN
JUN 22

10AM **KIDZ BLK 1**
 • CALL ME ALEXANDER • DOWN SAFE • LETHAL LIZARD
 • LIFE ISN'T FAIR • MAYOR MAX • PIZZA PANIC
 1145AM **COMPETITION SHORTS BLK 4**
 • CANVASSING • LEMON • MOTI • TE SEGUIRE A LA OSCURIDAD
 • WRESTLE-OFF • YINDING BRIDGE
 1145AM **KIDZ BLK 2**
 • THE AUDITION • CRICKETS • KRAMPUS ON CAMPUS 2: ASYLUM
 • SOLITUDE... • THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN
 115PM **KIDZ PRO BLK 1**
 • CAPTAIN PRINCESS • FORGET-ME-NOT • POW! • SNOW DAY!
 • WEIRDOS • THE WISHING WAND
 2PM **COMPETITION SHORTS BLK 5**
 • DEPENDENT • MIRIAM • PATAKHA • SHORTWAVE • THE TRAVELER
 245PM **KIDZ PRO BLK 2**
 • CHANGING ROOM • NOD • THE OUTCASTS • THE ROCKET MAN
 415PM **COMPETITION SHORTS BLK 6**
 • ALL WE CAN DO • THE GREATEST JOY • PAULIE
 • REHEARSAL • WITCH • XY
 415PM **KIDZ PRO BLK 3**
 • EARTHWORMS • STRAIGHT LACED
 • UNO Y MEDIO CONTRA EL MUNDO • UNRAVELED
 615PM **APOCALYPSE LOVE**
 630PM **TETHER**
 745PM **ZZASLOW K-427**
 845PM **TRASH BABY**

MON
JUN 23

430PM **AMONG NEIGHBORS**
 445PM **DOC SHORTS GRP 2**
 • DIMINISHING RETURNS • ILLUSION OF ABUNDANCE
 • THE MOON IS BEAUTIFUL • MORE THAN SANTA BABY
 5PM **FUSION SHORTS BLK 1**
 • BLOOD AND MILK • COCONUT + PISTOL • DANDELION
 • DOG PEOPLE • EVERYBODY'S SAD • PERFORMANCE REVIEW
 645PM **ANXIETY CLUB**
 7PM **AMERICAN CLOWN**
 715PM **SPLINTER**
 9PM **THE UNICORN DIARIES**
 915PM **STRAIT UNDERCOVER**
 930PM **NO CHOICE**

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TUES
JUN 24

430PM **THE DISTANT JUMP + BABYTEETH**
 445PM **DOC SHORTS GRP 3**
 • DEGREES OF FREEDOM • HELD AT GUNPOINT
 • INK OR DYE • STITCH AND TIME
 5PM **FUSION SHORTS BLK 2**
 • BACKSTAGE • I DO WITHOUT YOU • MY KIND OF PEOPLE
 • NONNA'S NUDE • SNOWBIRD
 645PM **PILGRIM**
 7PM **FUSION SHORTS BLK 3**
 • COMPOSURE • DOGGONE • EXPERTS IN A DYING FIELD
 • SLICE • TODAY AGAIN
 715PM **SOMETHING CASUAL**
 9PM **SQUATCHERS: THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN BIGFOOT**
 915PM **CIAO, MAMA**
 930PM **CRUSTY FOULER**

WED
JUN 25

430PM **FLAMINGO CAMP**
 445PM **A LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P. GIANNINI**
 5PM **FUSION SHORTS BLK 4**
 • BITCH I'M EARLY (B.I.E.) • BLUE PLAQUE • CHARON
 • FAST • GOOD BOY • SKY
 645PM **AFTER US, THE FLOOD**
 7PM **FUSION SHORTS BLK 5**
 • BLOOD BOYS • DUNWICH • MASCLOOKING • SHE FOLLOWS
 • SORRY, MY CAT IS SICK • SPOOL • TALK SHIT
 7PM **THE MILITIA**
 9PM **OUR HAPPY PLACE**
 915PM **GOOD SPORT**
 930PM **SILENT PREY**

THUR
JUN 26

445PM **DOC SHORTS GRP 4**
 • A P.U.P. STORY... • FLIPPING PANCAKE DAY
 • FOLSOM'S RUN • THE HEALING CUBE • IMPORT MODELS
 5PM **FUSION SHORTS BLK 6**
 • APRICOT • ESCAPE ARTIST • HAPPY SHAMEEVERSARY
 • NO TROUBLE • OBIT
 7PM **FUSION SHORTS BLK 7**
 • CAPTURE • CHOOCH • GRIND • SANDRA • UNFAITHFUL! • UNIT 303
 715PM **DESIGNED BY PREETI**
 930PM **THE OBELISK**

FRI
JUN 27

245PM **STILL SMILING**
 5PM **UNLEASHED! - FUSION SHORTS BLK 8**
 • KODAR: THE PRIMORDIAL GOD... • MILDRED 4 A MILLION
 • THE NICKNAME • PEOPLE WALK DOGS LATE AT NIGHT...
 5PM **DOWNBEAT: A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC & DANCE**
 • BEGIN AGAIN • CANNED • COPILOT • DANCE UNITE US •
 • DARKNESS FALLING • DAY 34 • THE ECHO OF YOUR GOODBYE
 • FIGHT FOR UKRAINA • THE GHOST IS ME • LONGING/BELONGING
 • LOSER • SNAPSHOT • STAIRCASE STOMP • TAKEITALL
 • THESE MOMS ARE COOLER THAN ME VALERIE JUNE - JOY, JOY
 • W.H.W.D. • WOULD YOU CALL HIM A BAD MAN?
 7PM **FEAR AND NOW**
 715PM **CONCEIVING CLARA**
 915PM **DOKITA MUSA**
 930PM **THE KILLING MOON**
 1130PM **BETWEEN TWO WAVES**
 1145PM **KOMBUCHA**

SAT
JUN 28

1030AM **MEANDERING SCARS**
 11AM **PILOTS BLK 4**
 • CRAZY AS A LOON • LOVE/ALL • OBSERVANCE • SISTERS OF SENECA
 1245PM **THE OPENER**
 115PM **PILOTS BLK 5**
 • BEFORE ANYONE ELSE • UNITED CRAFTS OF AMERICA
 • THE WAR ON STRAWS
 245PM **YOU'RE NO INDIAN**
 330PM **PILOTS BLK 6**
 • ENCHANTED INVESTIGATIONS: GOLDBLOCKS
 • FORMERLY KNOWN AS • GASBAG • HALFWAY HANDSOME
 5PM **WHERE WERE YOU**
 545PM **PILOTS BLK 7**
 • BASIL KING • DIVINE INTERVENTION • GUMSHOES
 • PICK ME UP • S.B.S. (SINGLE BLACK SHEPHERD)
 715PM **STAR PEOPLE**
 8PM **I NEED YOU: 53 YEARS OF THE BAND AMERICA**
 930PM **A BLOODY MESS**
 1015PM **ACOLYTE**
 1145PM **MIDNIGHT SHORTS BLK 2**
 • CLOSE ENCOUNTER • ENDZGIVING • IN2U • IT DRAWS CLOSER
 • THE NIGHT WITHIN • SILENT ECHOES • SISTER • YES DEAR

SUN
JUN 29

10AM **THE KIDS ARE NOT ALRIGHT**
 12PM **THE TRIBUTARIES**
 1215PM **THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH**
 215PM **REAL COUPLES**
 230PM **ONE BUT MANY**
 430PM **TASTE THE REVOLUTION**
 430PM **SHATTERED ICE**
 645PM **AMERICAN COMIC**
 730PM **CLOSING NIGHT FILM: CAPTAIN TSUNAMI**

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