

DARE DEFTANTLY.
DREAM WINDLY.
DO BOLDLY.

DANCES WITH FILMS
LA'S FAVORITE INDIE FEST HITS NY



DEC 5 THRU 8, 2024
REGAL UNION SQUARE | NEW YORK CITY
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Bringing people
TOGETHER
 through the
 power of great
 storytelling



DANCES WITH FILMS

DARE. DREAM. DO.

In these uniquely challenging times, where we sometimes feel disconnected with the world around us, we are honored to have you join us here at DWF:NY to see and hear another point of view, find a thrill, seek out the humor or simply escape into your own imagination.

We return to the Big Apple with 146 projects. Here you will discover narrative and documentary features & shorts and a line up of series pilots that have all been created by passionate, opinionated, creative, obsessive, persistent, relentless human beings who want to share their art, their vision and their voice with you.

For over 27 years DANCES WITH FILMS has championed that sort of individual as we lift up artists who examine the range of human emotion with a jeweler's loupe. You will find works that have premiered at DWF in theatres across the globe and all the major streaming platforms and beyond. So whether you see these tales on the big screen, a mobile screen or one 35,000 feet in the air, we hope you feel the impact of our passion for those we call family.

It's a crazy ride for a filmmaker. One that is always unique to them, but at the heart of it, is that uniquely fearless soul who refuses to stop until their story is told.

So yes, we do live in challenging times, but remember that we also live in a remarkable world filled with beauty, love and kindness if you only open the door.

Thank you for coming through our door as we welcome you to our third installment of DWF:NY!

Leslee & Michael
 Jackie, Ariana, Lindsey, Bennie
 and all of the rest of the team.

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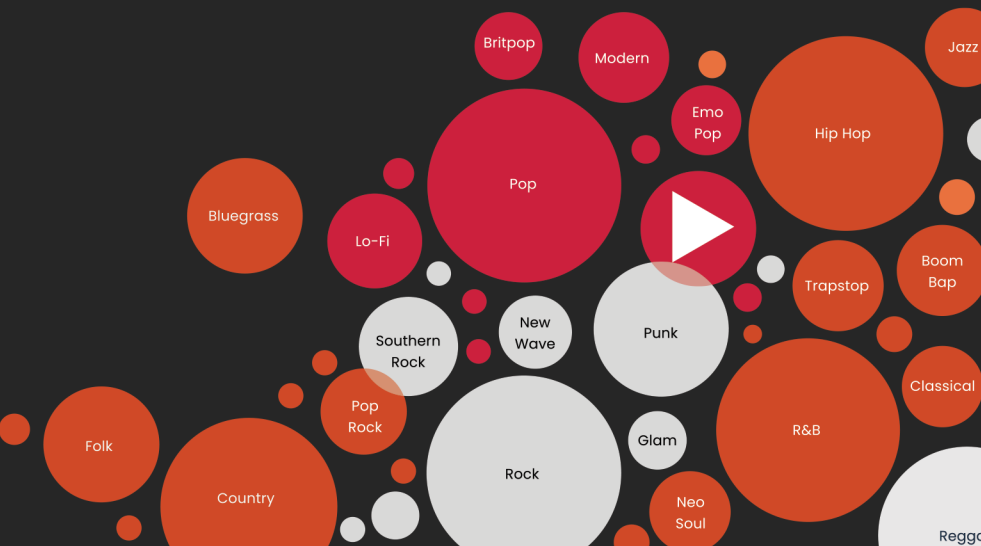
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Opening Night!

THURSDAY, DEC 5 @ 7:30PM

PEASPEAS ANDAND CARROTS CARROTS

WORLD PREMIERE | USA, 2024, 96 min.

WRITER/DIR: Evan Oppenheimer
PRODS: Edward Schmidt, Jay Zellman
CAST: Kirrilee Berger, Amy Carlson,
Jordan Bridges, Andrew Polk,
Kelly McAndrew, Talia Oppenheimer,
Callum Vinson, Laurissa Romain,
Dan Thompson, Faith Gitchell,
Krishna Doodnauth, Angel Desai,
Gabriel Rush, Ajay Naidu

Joey Wethersby is a typical 16 year-old New York girl — if your typical New Yorker had parents who were in a one-hit wonder band in the 90's. And if your typical New Yorker found themselves traveling every night to a bizarre alternate reality, where everybody only says three words: "Peas and Carrots".

HIVE

JOHANNA HAYES RILEY NOTTINGHAM CARLOTTA MIGLIOLO DECLAN CLIFFORD GENE EFRON



WORLD PREMIERE
SAT 7 DEC, 2PM

PILOT EPISODE



Five strangers find themselves trapped inside a tacky, low-budget sitcom. Watched by an unseen audience hungry for entertainment, the reluctant 'stars' must learn to play along or risk being killed off for cheap laughs.

Can they work together to uncover the mysteries of their captivity and escape? Or will they be consumed by the bright lights of 'stardom' and their darkest impulses laid bare?

PERFORM OR DIE.

hivepilot.tv



@hivepilot

NARRATIVE FEATURES

AWAY

USA, 2024, 62 min.

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 230PM

WRITERS: Derek Shane Garcia, Rosie McDonald, James Moccia

DIR: Derek Shane Garcia

PRODS: Marc Enette, Aaron Lee Wright, Derek Shane Garcia

CAST: Rosie McDonald, Aaron Lee Wright, McKenzie Salvatierra-Custin, Eva Dorrepaal, Irene Bremis

After suffering a profound loss, a travel journalist is sent on assignment to Martinique, sparking a candid reflection of her unsettled life.



ADVENTURE TOM

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 110 min.

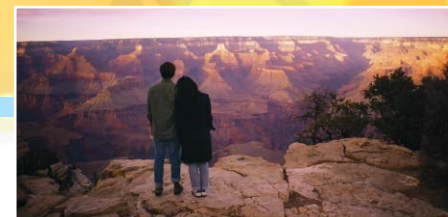
SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 7PM

WRITER/DIR: Miguel Duran

PROD: Atit Shah

CAST: Graham Patrick Martin, Andrea Londo

Tom, an unhappy artist, has to fly to Minneapolis when he learns his mother has died. Lilly, an accountant, is on the same flight. Lilly has an incident on the plane and ends up on the no-fly list. Tom is driving home because he hates flying. They agree to go together. Once they're on the road, Lilly convinces Tom to take a more scenic route. They discuss their lives on the road as they get to know each other. The two reflect on their journey when they reach the Grand Canyon, and the large unknown future ahead of them.



BOUNDARY WATERS

USA, 2024, 98 min.

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 7:45PM

WRITERS: Jennifer Manocherian, Tessa Blake

DIR: Tessa Blake

PRODS: Erin Mae Miller, Jennifer Manocherian

CAST: Etienne Kellici, Allison Miller, Chris Jackson, Carmela Zumbado with Bill Heck, and Carol Kane

In this lyrical coming-of-age film, 12-year-old Michael Murray relishes the carefree joys of early adolescence – girls and friends – until his mom has a black eye and a busted lip. Michael is desperate to know what happened, but his father Brian avoids him, Granny shushes him, and his usually resilient mother can't get out of bed. While his family weighs the cost of keeping secrets against the price of telling the truth, Michael is determined to fix what happened as he tries to become a man in a world where men cause harm.



THE COLLABORATOR

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 124.5 min.

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 7:30PM

WRITER/DIR: Travis Hodgkins

PRODS: Rashaana Shah, Cristy Coors Beasley

CAST: Rudi Dharmalingam, Nitin Ganatra, Nikhil Singh Rai, Vikram Kapadia, Anastasia Jairath, Meera Ganatra

As war rages in Kashmir in the early 1990s, a young man from a nearby village is recruited by an Indian army officer to perform a grim task, to go into the conflict zone where militants have been killed and retrieve their weapons and ID cards. Based on the critically acclaimed novel by Mirza Waheed.





AN INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTION • USA AND SPAIN • BASED ON TRUE EVENTS



WORLD
PREMIERE

DECEMBER 8TH
@ 1:45 PM

CANCHAS

A FILM BY PAULA BLANCO PÉREZ

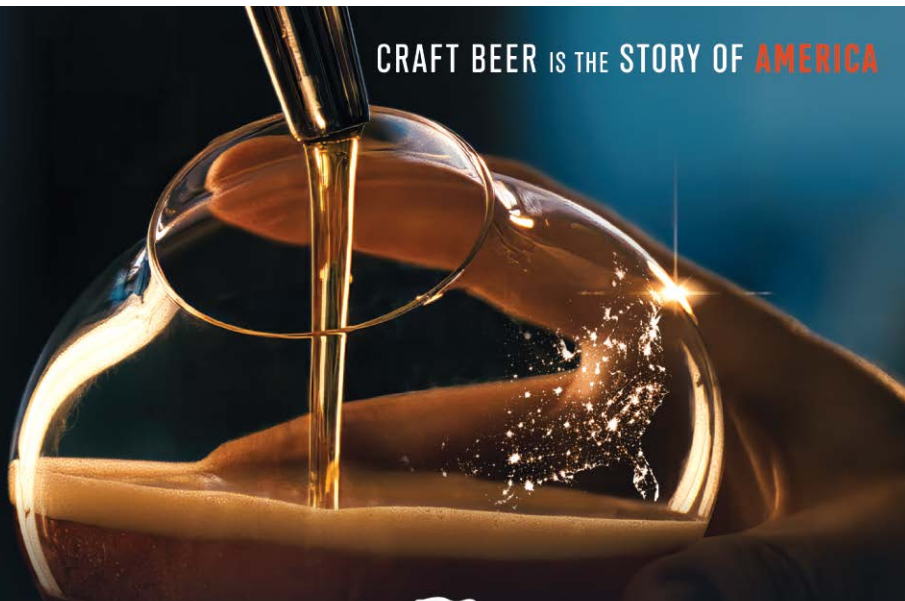


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DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS MILLHAM PRODUCED BY AMALIA EDDINGS WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY PAULA BLANCO PÉREZ @CANCHASFILM

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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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NARRATIVE FEATURES

DOUBLE EXPOSURE

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | USA, 2024, 93 min.

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 8PM

WRITER/DIR: Howard Goldberg
PRODS: Julia Verdin, Howard Goldberg
CAST: Alexander Calvert, Caylee Cowan, Kahyun Kim



How does a bride compete with a beautiful influencer who comes back from the dead to steal her husband? The past and present mysteriously collide as a man, in a life and death struggle with himself, combats his guilt over what happened to his first love in a #MeToo tragedy.

THE EGO DEATH OF QUEEN CECILIA

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 86 min.

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 630PM

WRITERS: Chris Beier, Daniel Wolfman
DIR: Chris Beier
PRODS: Travis White, Madison White, Chris Beier, Jo Schaeffer
CAST: Jo Schaeffer, Sam Stinson, Holt Boggs, John Merriman



A washed-up YouTube star blackmails an old rival in an attempt to reclaim her fame. But when things go awry, she finds herself ensnared by a drug trafficking ring. As Cecilia spirals out of control, she's forced to confront her true place in society.

GOOD FRIDAY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 62 min.

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 915PM

WRITER/DIR: Jason Mendoza
PRODS: Hanna Dzaferovic, Ryan Rosenthal
CAST: Jason Mendoza, Christian Echeverria, Dennis Alfonso, Luceny Gonzalez, Ahmad K. Simmons



Niño, a pacified child of the street is recently diagnosed with leukemia and committed to turning a new leaf. After catching Niño trying to leave for Church in his old basketball sneakers, his mother begs him to buy a decent pair by Easter mass. After enlisting estranged childhood friend and corner store crook, Dee, to help him make the money by any means, the boys realize that they're far from shoplifting grocery stores anymore when a botched house robbery puts them at the hands of loan sharks and infamous street tyrant, Big Brother.

LOLA DUST

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 90.5 min.

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 12PM

WRITER/DIR: Dom Cutrupi
PROD: Olivier Leroux
CAST: Jade Pattenden, Gabrielle Jacinto, Lochlyn Munro



After attending an audition, an aspiring actress finds herself the subject of a deep fake campaign targeting the British Minister for Immigration. In her quest to expose the truth behind the scandal and find the perpetrators, she loses agency over her personal image and becomes a victim of digital harassment, leading her to a world hidden in plain sight.



A FILM BY TESSA BLAKE

BOUNDARY WATERS

THE COST OF SECRETS.
THE PRICE OF TELLING THE TRUTH.



THE DOG LIVER PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS AN INFINITE STUDIOS PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH BRICK LANE ENTERTAINMENT A FILM BY TESSA BLAKE "BOUNDARY WATERS"
EXTENSIVE KELLYS ALLISON KATLER CHRIS JACKSON CARVELA ZUMBARDO WITH BILL HECK AND CAROL KANE PRODUCED BY IAN CONNELL EDITOR IVY THAUDE MUSIC BY VALENTIN HARJALAJ
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LISA LONDON AND CATHERINE STROUD EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NATHAN WHITEHEAD PRODUCED BY CARLO RONALDI PRODUCED BY EMMA SCOTSON DEVEN BROMME EDITOR TODD SLATER LOUIS TOCCHET
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ERIN MAE MILLER JENNIFER MANOCHERIAN TESSA BLAKE BRISTY BERNGROCK PRODUCED BY LISA O'DONNELL PRODUCED BY JENNIFER MANOCHERIAN AND TESSA BLAKE DIRECTED BY TESSA BLAKE



SCREENING FRI, DECEMBER 6TH
@ 7:45PM WITH Q&A TO FOLLOW!

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE!

NARRATIVE FEATURES

MAGNETOSPHERE

US Premiere | CANADA, 2024, 89.5 min.

SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 130PM

WRITER/DIR: Nicola Rose

PRODS: Tierney Boorboor,
Rebeka Herron, Drew Martin

CAST: Shayelin Martin, Patrick McKenna, Colin Mochrie, Steven He, Tara Strong



It's 1997. Comet Hale-Bopp is passing Earth, and 13-year-old Maggie has a secret. She sees sound, hears colour, and her senses do other unusual things besides. Shy and cautious, Maggie keeps it all to herself. But when her family moves cross-country, Maggie's world is shaken up. When she starts school and her dad mounts a ramshackle theatre production of "The Pirates of Penzance," everything changes. Maggie meets several important people: her first love, a true friend, an insightful teacher, and Gil, a loony exterminator with a formidable talent. Together, they'll lead Maggie to realize her differences have a name — synesthesia.

MOONWATERZ

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 118 min.

SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 4PM

WRITER/DIR: William Tyler Wiseman

PRODS: Michael Goldberg, Mark Wiseman,
Natalie Paige Goldberg, Liz Meinders,
LJ Duey, Lisa Mamazza

CAST: Matthew Wayne Roberts, Michael Lee Joplin, Liz Meinders, Dannica Terry



A reclusive alcoholic discovers his late father's old dilapidated moonshine still deep in the woods and sets out to revive it for one final batch, reconnecting with his brother and his father's legacy in the process.

OUR HAPPY PLACE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 91 min.

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 7PM

WRITER/DIR: Paul Bickel

PRODS: Paul Bickel, Raya Miles,
David Ho, Tracie Thoms

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



Raya wakes in the forest, cold and confused, with no memory of how she got there. Each day, it happens again. By the third day, she wakes in a shallow grave. The graves deepen each time, as if an unseen force is burying her alive. Back in her cabin, she's haunted by visions of tortured women whose screams echo in her mind. Night after night, her visions intensify, blurring the line between dream and reality. As the hauntings intensify, Raya must confront a horrifying truth that shatters everything she had believed.

SCREAMS FROM THE TOWER

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 118 min.

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 9PM

WRITER/DIR: Cory Wexler Grant

PROD: Alexander Wenger

CAST: Richie Fusco, David Bloom, Madison Tevlin



A gay, coming-of-age comedy that follows Julien Rosdahl, his best friend Cary, and their outcast friends through high school in the 1990's. The only thing Julien dreams of is having a show on the high school radio station, but his brand of comedy is very... weird.



BASTARDS OF SOUL



THE EAST COAST PREMIERE
SAT, DEC 07 | 9:30 PM | REGAL UNION SQUARE
NEW YORK CITY | SCREENING & Q&A W/ DIRECTOR



“... a soul-shattering exploration of R&B-soul culture and the promise of new beginnings.”

- Nicole Alicia Xavier, Newport Beach Film Festival Review

“Bastards Of Soul Finds Joy in the Sadness.”

- PEOPLE

“... the Heartbreak and Hope in Capturing the Sudden Loss of a Rising Star.”

- The Hollywood Reporter

This film captures the remarkable journey of an unlikely frontman whose magnetic energy brought an East Dallas soul band to the edge of stardom. Chronicling the band's final days, it offers an intimate look behind the scenes—from fly-on-the-wall recording sessions to electrifying live performances. Bound by talent and unshakable camaraderie, their story is a moving testament to the strength and resilience of musicians who pursue their passion against all odds:

“The Trouble Is, You Think You Have Time.”

NARRATIVE FEATURES

SERGEANT PICKLE BREATH AND THE ROOFTOP WARRIORS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 78 min.

SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 430PM

WRITER/PROD/DIR: Jarrett Jung
CAST: Jose Duran, Stephanie Mieko Cohen, Reed Lancaster

A pot dealing man-baby is forced to find a new crib when his roommate/best friend threatens to destroy his teddy bear if he doesn't move out.



SONNY BOY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 90 min.

SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 645PM

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

After a failed writing career, a Korean-Italian-American playwright returns home to reconcile with his dying father. Sonny Caso discovers life back home has changed. He tries to make peace with a broken dream before finding a second calling as a teacher. Still, his gift for teaching falls short of his father's expectations. Sonny tries to make amends before it's too late but can't find the approval he's always wanted. When Sonny has finally forged his path, he makes an inexcusable mistake with a troubled student. Returning home is Sonny's undoing and chance to discover who he can still become.



STEP BACK, DOORS CLOSING

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 98 min.

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 645PM

WRITER/DIR: Carter Ward
PRODS: Carter Ward, Jane Hollon, Kathryn Crabtree
CAST: Carmen Berkeley, Reilly Walters, Michelle Macedo, Ashley Romans, Mershad Torabi

This is a charming love story between Ryan and Julisa, two young adults who long for authentic and emotionally intelligent relationships. After a chance encounter on the DC metro, they spend the next twenty-four hours discussing their hopes, dreams, and fears. Slowly but surely, they reveal more and more about themselves, and fall in love.



YEAR ONE

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 93 min.

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 4PM

WRITER/DIR: Lauren Loesberg
PRODS: Imani Davis, Dasha Gorin, Julia Relova
CAST: Elizabeth Yu, Emma Raimi, Maya Schnake, Taylor Kinkead, Billy Chengary, Ryder McDaniel

Ruby's freshman year of college doesn't go as planned. Despite her best efforts, she struggles to make friends other than her complicated roommate, Selene, and experiences both academic and social rejection. But Selene bears problems of her own when her severe anxiety and inability to care for herself seep into Ruby's everyday life. Soon, Ruby finds herself in a downward spiral, marked by dreams and the appearance of her glamorous alter ego, Ruby II, who begins to live the life that Ruby thinks she is expected to have.



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Closing Night!
SUNDAY, DEC 8 @ 7:30PM



HERE'S YIANNI!

NEW YORK PREMIERE | USA, 2024, 101 min.

WRITER/DIR: Christina Eliopoulos

PRODS: Valerie McCaffrey, Colleen Camp, Joe Cortese, Jason Jallet

CAST: Julia Ormond, Joe Cortese, Kevin Pollak, Rosanna Arquette,
Eric Roberts, Sofia Vassileva

Yianni and Plousia (Joe Cortese and Julia Ormond) own a charming family diner by the beach, where Yianni is a convivial host. Lately, Plousia has noticed that her husband of 40 years is not quite himself and is often wistfully distracted. One day, Yianni slips into a parallel realm, a world of his fractured mind, imagining himself as the host of a late-night talk show. Plousia learns that Yianni is facing dementia but hides his illness from coworkers and best friends (Kevin Pollak and Rosanna Arquette). As his condition worsens, Plousia becomes Yianni's full-time caregiver and lifeline. But then, long-suppressed grief and a heartbreaking delusion comes over Yianni. With Plousia's determination and her whimsical inventiveness, they discover how to smile through the sadness, and celebrate every moment they have together. Inspired by a true story.

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FRIDAY, DEC 6 @ 230PM

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DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

A CURSED MAN

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 98 min.

SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 9:15PM

DIR: Liam Le Guillou

PRODS: Liam Le Guillou, Michael Steven Robbins
CONSULTING PROD: Nigel Levy

Documentary filmmaker Liam Le Guillou enters the world of witchcraft and the occult, searching for an answer to the question "is magic real?" Seeking out some of the world's most powerful dark magic practitioners, Le Guillou asks them to put a curse on him. The consequences of this dangerous request force him to question the nature of reality and belief in this never-before-seen, dark social experiment.



A LITTLE HOPE FOR CHICAGO

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 74 min.

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 515PM

WRITERS: Kevin Nichols, Leon Lozano
DIR: Leon Lozano

PRODS: Garrett E.B. Thompson, Leon Lozano, Kevin Nichols

FEATURING: Kevin Nichols, Maya Garcia, Karter Nichols, Kerby Garcia, Bailey Renée, Koby Nichols

Part narrative performance film, part documentary, A LITTLE HOPE FOR CHICAGO is a walk through the life of a Chicago hustler, narrowly avoiding the devastating consequences of death and incarceration, as he reflects on the systemic root causes of the violence and trauma that consume youth in urban centers like Chicago.



ALL AMERICAN

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 87 min.

SCREENING: THU DEC 5 @ 330PM

DIR/PROD: Mark Andrew Altschul
CO PRODS: Evan Murphy Johnson & Maureen Hoban

CONSULTING PROD: Trish Dalton

CONTRIBUTING PROD: Kyra Tirana Barry

FEATURING: Naomi, Jojo, Arham, Barry Hart, Walter Acham, Emma Randall, Afsoon Roshanzamir Johnston, Jacque Davis, Julia Salata, Mia Macaluso

This inspiring, coming-of-age documentary offers an in depth look into Women's Wrestling through the lens of immigrant and first-generation American teenage girls. All American showcases unrelenting participants set against a dynamic backdrop of high-energy sports and adolescent life in New York City. Family expectations and gender roles are on display as our young women dream of earning a sense of belonging and acceptance in society.



BASTARDS OF SOUL

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2023, 84 min.

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 930PM

DIR/PROD: Paul Levatino

CO-PRODS: Zack Tzourtzouklis; Michael Cain
FEATURING: Chadwick Murray, Chris Holt, Danny Balis, Chad Stockslager, Matt Trimble, Matt Pence, Jeff "Skin" Wade

"BASTARDS OF SOUL" highlights the remarkable journey of Chadwick Murray, an unexpected frontman who brought a magnetic energy to a Texas band on the verge of stardom. Chronicling the final days of the group, the film captures intimate, behind-the-scenes moments from recording sessions to powerful live performances, showcasing a band unified by talent and unbreakable camaraderie. Their story is a testament to the strength and resilience of musicians who pursue their passion against all odds. "The Trouble Is, You Think You Have Time."



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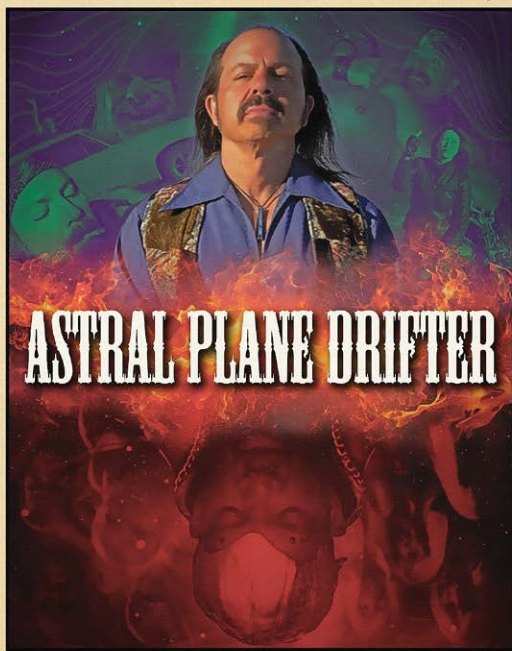
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Midnight Program
Friday, Dec. 6th 10:30pm

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Sometime Before Yesterday... Or After Tomorrow...
Somewhere Out In The Yonder... There Was This Guy...



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FROM THE MIND OF MIKE CARAVELLA
A WHADDAYAGOTT PRODUCTIONS FILM. SCREENPLAY BY MIKE CARAVELLA. DIRECTED BY MIKE CARAVELLA. "ASTRAL PLANE DRIFTER"
CASTING BY JIM WARD. COSTUME DESIGNER BY JIM WARD. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JACQUELINE
JOHN J. JOUBAN. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: ZACHARY DENK, ANDREW JOSEPH, PEREZ HEINA MURPHY,
BLADE BABYOVICH, MADIE SHAW, JACQUES FERRON, VALENTINA DE ANGELIS, TUFF MOSEY,
MIKE CARAVELLA. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: CAROL BRANNETTE JOHNSON, TODD PALMER,
MATT MESS, MATT BARACALDO, RICHARD MAYNE, RAYMOND BELLINI, DEAN CARAVELLA.
PRODUCED BY MIKE CARAVELLA, SCOTT SLOANE. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: MIKE CARAVELLA, SCOTT SLOANE.



DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

BULLETPROOF: A LESBIAN'S GUIDE TO SURVIVING THE PLOT

EAST COAST Premiere | CANADA, 2024, 105 min.

SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 4:15PM

WRITER/DIR: Regan Latimer
PRODS: Regan Latimer, Jill Golick
FEATURING: Lindy Zucker, Kat Barrell,
Noelle Carbone, Javier Grillo-Marxuach,
Dr. Aiden Hirshfield, JP Larocque, Ali Liebert,
Michael MacLennan, Michelle Mama,
Megan Townsend



Filmmaker Regan Latimer takes an immersive, funny and personal look at queer representation on television and media's power to shape how we see ourselves. Witty, fast-paced and laced with pop culture references, Regan journeys across North America and beyond in her quest to understand the forces that influence the stories we see on screen. Original animation and personal anecdotes are interwoven with wide ranging conversations with television insiders, LGBTQ+ community advocates and people who just love to watch TV. As Latimer navigates an ever-evolving media landscape, the filmmaker learns first hand that representation done well has the power to transform.

CALICO REBELLION

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 75 min.

SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 2PM

DIR: Victoria Kupchinetsky
PRODS: Peter Hutchison, Misha Gutkin
CINEMATOGRAPHERS: Joe Bender, Arseni Troitski
EDITOR: Matvey Kulakov
ANIMATOR: Matvey Kulakov



In the lush woods of New York's Catskill Mountains, a mythical memory lives on... Of a time when men — armed with rifles and pitchforks, disguised in eerie leather masks and calico gowns — descended from the hills to stage the "Second American Revolution". The farmers' uprising two hundred years ago, known as the Anti-Rent War, changed the course of American history and paved the way to the formation of Abraham Lincoln's Republican Party. Today, although largely forgotten, the costumed rebellion lives on through direct descendants of those farmers. CALICO REBELLION explores a community's unique and enduring connection to its past.

THE DONN OF TIKI

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 100 min.

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 11:55PM

WRITERS/DIRS: Alex Lamb, Max Well
PRODS: Alex Lamb, Taryn Roraback, Max Well
FEATURING: Jeff Berry, Adrian Eustaquio,
Tim Glazner, Marie King, Sven Kirsten,
Shannon Mustipher, Garret Richard



The Donn of Tiki delves into the unbelievable life story of Ernest Raymond Beaumont Gantt, better known as Don the Beachcomber, the enigmatic creator of the Tiki bar. Through a creative use of animation, archival footage, and expert interview commentary, the documentary paints a vivid portrait of a man who had an outsized impact on the restaurant business, Hawaiian tourism, and the craft cocktail movement.

THE KIDS ARE NOT ALRIGHT

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 90 min.

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 11AM

DIR: Mikaela Shwer
PRODS: Mikaela Shwer, Robyn Kopp,
Alana Maiello, 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.

SERGEANT PICKLE BREATH AND THE ROOFTOP WARRIORS

A FEATURE FLICK

by
Jarrett Jung

A NEW YORK MOVIE
MADE BY A NEW YORK KID
WITHOUT A NEW YORK BUDGET

WORLD PREMIERE

DECEMBER 8th, 4:30PM



COMMUNITY UNITED FOR ELEPHANTS

R.E.S.C.U.E



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH,
6PM | NEW YORK CITY | 25 MINS | SHORT DOC

A heartwarming story about resilience, hope, and triumph in the fight to protect a species and to empower women and their communities.

SPYRAL

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 83 min.

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 5PM

WRITER/DIR: Bill Guttentag

PRODS: Jennifer Hutchins,
Lee Rothenflue, Randall White, Jason French

FEATURING: Michelle Trachtenberg

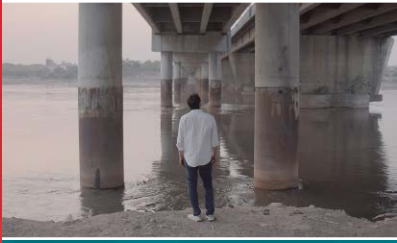


A rising rock star documents his wife's harrowing descent into the shadows, and her battle with an undiagnosed mental illness. This compelling drama exposes the devastating toll of bipolar disorder on an American family, showcasing a deeply personal tragedy that universally resonates. Through a decade of home videos, diaries, and social media posts, double Oscar-winning director Bill Guttentag crafts a poignant narrative that captures the heartbreak and complexities of mental illness in America, revealing the hidden struggles that tear families apart.

A SHORT DOCUMENTARY BY EMPOWERS AFRICA "R.E.S.C.U.E."
DIRECTED BY KEENAN FERGUSON ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MARTHA MCGUINNESS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KEENAN FERGUSON
ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE ROBIN MOULANG EDITED BY KEENAN FERGUSON PRODUCERS KRISTA KRIEBER MARY MACELREE MARTHA MCGUINNESS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DONNA CORBAT BANA MACY LISA BENTIL AISHA HAQUE SUZANNE LEYDECKER LAURA NICKLAS KRISTEN ERICSON
GRADED ONLINE POST-PIXIES SOUND DESIGN & MUSIC LICENSING ORIGIN AUDIO GRAPHIC DESIGN JENS HENKEL
STILLS PHOTOGRAPHY ROBIN MOULANG FIRST ASSISTANT CAMERA BERNARD BOTHA

DOC SHORTS GRP 1

SCREENING: THU DEC 5 @ 1PM



THE AFTER: A CHEF'S WISH

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2023, 26 min.

DIR: Umar Riaz

PRODS: Mohammad Ali, Umar Riaz

After Chef Fatima Ali – Fan Favourite Winner of ‘Top Chef: Season 15’ – faces a tragic turn of events in her life, her brother Mohammad must take up the mantle to continue her legacy of bridging cultures through food and providing the joy of it to the underprivileged in Pakistan. ‘The After: A Chef’s Wish’ is the first documentary involving Chef Fatima Ali (Featured on ‘Good Morning America’ and ‘Ellen’) to be supported by her family.



THE BELIEVERS

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 19.5 min.

DIR: Evan Newman

PROD: Manuel Lavalle

Disciples of an ancient tattoo believed to offer supernatural powers gather for a sacred day, where forces known and unknown erupt.



KEEPER

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 39.5 min.

DIR: Hannah Rafkin

PRODS: Hannah Rafkin, Jabu Ndlovu

FEATURING: Sean Malik Flynn, Alaura Flynn

For Flynn, a single father and empty nester in the Bronx, beekeeping is a source of calm, wisdom, and healing. Undeterred by his severe allergy to bee stings, he cares for hives across the city—including several inside his daughter Alaura’s childhood bedroom. When Flynn receives a life-threatening diagnosis, he reluctantly steps away from the bees under Alaura’s care. Battling cancer while fretting about his hives’ survival, Flynn prepares his daughter to continue living powerfully—with or without him.



THE ORIGINAL BADASS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 11 min.

PRODS/DIRS: Simantini Chakraborty, Godfrey Reggio

An extraordinary group of award-winning filmmakers has created a powerful short that aims to inspire hope and bring people together. The apolitical film titled THE ORIGINAL BADASS, is a fast-paced celebration of America. The film is a powerful reminder that America is already great, and it’s our responsibility to cherish and preserve the great American experiment. The film is directed by award-winning filmmakers Simantini Chakraborty and legendary Godfrey Reggio (Qatsi trilogy, with Koyaanisqatsi being the most well-known). Godfrey’s films have been presented by Francis Coppola, George Lucas and Steven Soderbergh. The film is edited by a two-time Emmy-winning editor and scored by an Emmy-nominated composer. Acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns liked the film so much that he posted about it on all his social media platforms recently.

DOC SHORTS GRP 2

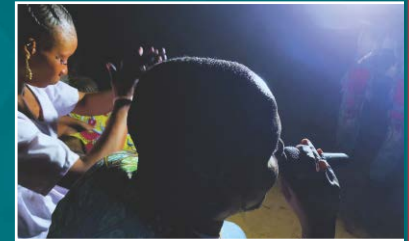
SCREENING: THU DEC 5 @ 6PM

BLUES PEOPLE

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | MALI, 2024, 8.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Jeffrey L. Page

PRODS: Jeffrey L. Page, LaSean Knox-Brown



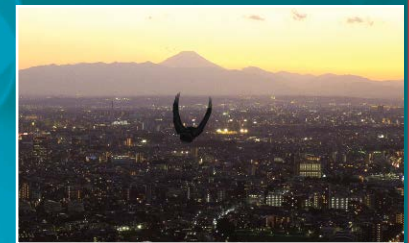
A powerful documentary linking the vibrant cultural expressions of Mali with the historical resilience of African-American blues, inspired by Amiri Baraka’s influential work. Amidst Mali’s political upheaval, the film follows Malian dancers who, despite the turmoil, find in dance a vital source of hope, a means of preserving cultural identity, and a strong voice for freedom. Through music and dance, the film highlights these art forms as deep expressions of resistance and healing, portraying how they foster resilience, unity, and an enduring human spirit, providing strength and solidarity in even the most turbulent times.

FOLLOW THE SUN

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 27 min.

DIR: Sybil Wendler

PRODS: Sherry Mesman, Sybil Wendler



While looking for her biological father, Akemi discovers a long forgotten love affair between her mother and an American sailor during the chaos of postwar Japan. With only his name as a guide, she and her sister attempt to shed light on this hidden family secret. This is an immigrant story that spans from the bombing of Hiroshima to current-day America and links a devastating historical moment in time with a personal narrative of one family.

RESCUE.

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 25.5 min.

DIRS: Keenan Ferguson, Martha McGuinness

PRODS: Krista Krieger,

Mary MacElree, Marth McGuinness

WRITER: Martha McGuinness

FEATURING: Dorothy Lowakutuk, Patricia Parkeri, Pauline Leariong, Katie Rowe



A heartwarming short documentary about resilience, hope, and triumph in the fight to protect a species and to empower women and their communities. The film gives viewers a behind-the-scenes look at the groundbreaking work of the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary and The Sarara Foundation in Northern Kenya. It is an inspiring example of what is possible in the realm of community-led conservation.

TSUMUGA: SPINNING THE THREAD OF LIFE

US Premiere | USA/JAPAN, 2024, 10 min.

WRITER/PROD/DIR: Toko Shiiki

FEATURING: Masami Tyler



A Japanese manga artist/survivor of childhood trauma shares profound insights from her personal journey, revealing the importance of nourishing both body and spirit. She emphasizes the value of eating well and continuing to pursue your passions, even when facing hardships. These practices, she shows, are essential to sustaining life.

DOC SHORTS GRP 3

SCREENING: THU DEC 5 @ 130PM



DEGREES OF FREEDOM

WORLD 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 bring higher education back inside the prison walls. Their achievement became a widely emulated model, leading to thousands of incarcerated people earning diplomas. In Degrees of Freedom, the women narrate 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.



ON BEYOND FENCES

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 21.5 min.

DIRS: "Lara" Jacqueline Hartzenbusch, Tom Donohoe, Jack Kudas, Wes Smith, Silvia Sonntag
PROD: "Lara" Jacqueline Hartzenbusch
EXEC PRODS: "Lara" Jacqueline Hartzenbusch, Jack Kudas, Wes Smith

Imagine a residential community where you spend your days growing vegetables and herbs, making pesto, pickles, and preserves, practicing mindfulness and yoga, writing, playing with puppies, and working on your personal growth in a supportive, nurturing environment. Now imagine doing all that behind a razor-wire fence. Welcome to Maine State Prison in Warren, Maine, where efforts to reform the historically brutal institution—the inspiration for Stephen King's story, "Shawshank Redemption"—have dramatically transformed the prison culture, the way "residents" do their time and, ultimately, how they return to their communities.

DOC SHORTS GRP 4

SCREENING: SUN DEC 3 @ 11:30AM



THE AFRO MEXPATs

EAST COAST Premiere | USA/MEXICO, 2024, 16.5 min.

DIR: Ebony Marie Bailey
PRODS: Ebony Marie Bailey, Andalusia K. Soloff

Three Black women fed up with US racism join a growing movement of Black Americans who seek refuge in Mexico, but what does "freedom" really look like on the other side?



DAYS BETWEEN REST

EAST COAST Premiere | USA/UGANDA, 2024, 12 min.

DIR: Peter Decherney
PRODS: Peter Decherney, Sara Byala

A Ugandan Jewish woman, who has seen the religion growing in her country, finds peace in music, prayer, and the sabbath.

DOC SHORTS GRP 4

SCREENING: SUN DEC 3 @ 11:30AM

JUST START

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2023, 7.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Will Floor
PRODS: Will Floor, Madeline Wolfenbarger
FEATURING: Madeline Wolfenbarger



Madeline, a trail runner, triumphs over childhood trauma through running, using her past as fuel to promote joy over perfection.

STOLEN SPRINGS

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | USA, 2024, 35 min.

WRITER/PROD/DIR: Houston Diaz
FEATURING: Houston Diaz, Nickie Sekera, Alexander Polanco, Simon Jarcho, Jim Wilfong, Joshua Goodman, Megan Wolff, Chris Kessler



Through interviews with activists, officials, and affected residents, the film reveals the hidden damage caused by bottled water, from environmental degradation to community loss, challenging viewers to reconsider what's truly in each bottle.

TARAS

EAST COAST Premiere | UKRAINE/USA, 2024, 11.5 min.

DIR: Zeppelin Zeerip
PRODS: Murray Weis, Steve Winter, Jeffrey Hartman



A Ukrainian snowboarder turned soldier grapples with the trauma of war and the uncertainty of being called back, seeking solace in nature as he tries to reintegrate into society.

TIDES OF CHANGE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 2.5 min.

DIR: Justin Wheelon
PROD: Rebecca Kelley
FEATURING: Rebecca Kelley



In "Tides of Change", a brief 2 minute short documentary, viewers are taken on a breathtaking journey beneath the waves, guided by an experienced underwater photographer who is deeply passionate about marine conservation. Through stunning visuals and intimate encounters with marine life, the film showcases the hidden beauty of the ocean and the devastating impact of human pollution. The photographer shares personal insights, highlighting the importance of keeping our oceans clean. Through her lens, we witness both the fragility and resilience of marine ecosystems and are inspired to take action to protect our planet's most precious resource. This short documentary serves as a poignant reminder that every piece of trash removed from the ocean can make a significant difference in preserving its beauty and health for future generations.



ica judges

We are honored to welcome the judges for the 2024 Industry Choice Awards



BOYS. IN WIGS. IN HIGH SCHOOL.



OLIVIA CUARTERO-BRIGGS
– TV Writer,
Founder of The Storrior Box



GABI EBRON
– Homegrown Films,
Director of Development



ADAM KRENTZMAN
– Film & TV Producer



**MARK ORDESKY
& JANE FLEMING**
– Producers, Court Five



VIJAL PATEL
– TV Creator, Producer



BILL VERGOS
– Head of Digital Film Distribution
Freestyle Digital Media

ica judges

"SCREAMS FROM THE TOWER" INTRODUCING RICHEL FUSCO DAVID BLOOM JESSICA JOY ROE HARTRAMPF SARA SEVIGNY AND MADISON TEVLIN
CASTING BY RACHEL REISS & REBECCA LA GORE LIZ LEWIS CASTING, CSA MUSIC BY ALEX REDFERN EDITOR CHRIS KURSEL
PRODUCTION DESIGN KERRY LYN WALSH COSTUME DESIGN NEVENA TODOROVIC DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH WHELDEN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MATTHEW CHRISTOPHER PIETRAS TOMOS RHYS EVANS CLAUDIA RUBALCAVA COLBY COTE CHASE WEIDEMAN-GRANT STEPHEN WRIGHT
PRODUCER ALEXANDER WENGER, PGA WRITTEN, DIRECTED, & PRODUCED BY CORY WEXLER GRANT

ASTRAL PLANE DRIFTER

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 89 min.



SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 1030PM

DIR: Scott Slone

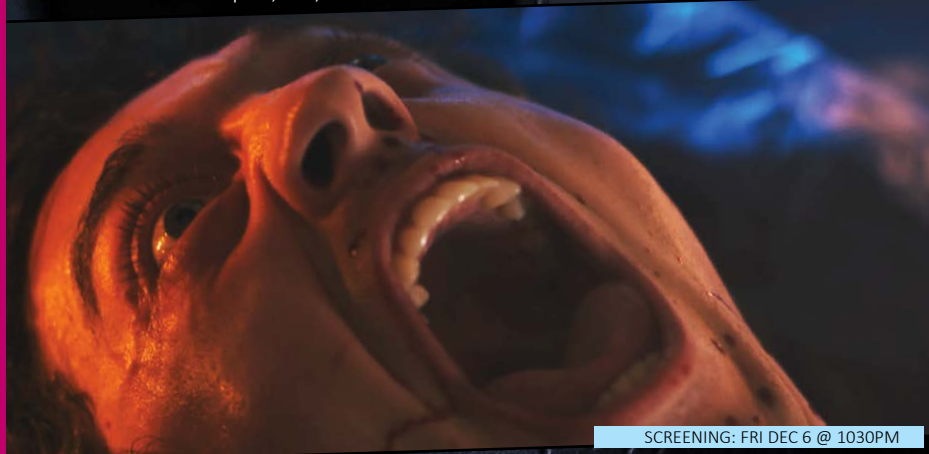
PROD/WRITER: Mike Caravella

CAST: Mike Caravella, John J. Jordan, Mike Rad, Christophe Zajac-Denek, Andrew Joseph Perez, Irena Murphy

Sometime before yesterday... or after tomorrow... a man called The Drifter goes on an existential journey through a maze of outrageous scenarios with his trusted Sidekick, to save the day. The girl. The universe...

BLEEDING

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | USA, 2024, 97.5 min.



SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 1030PM

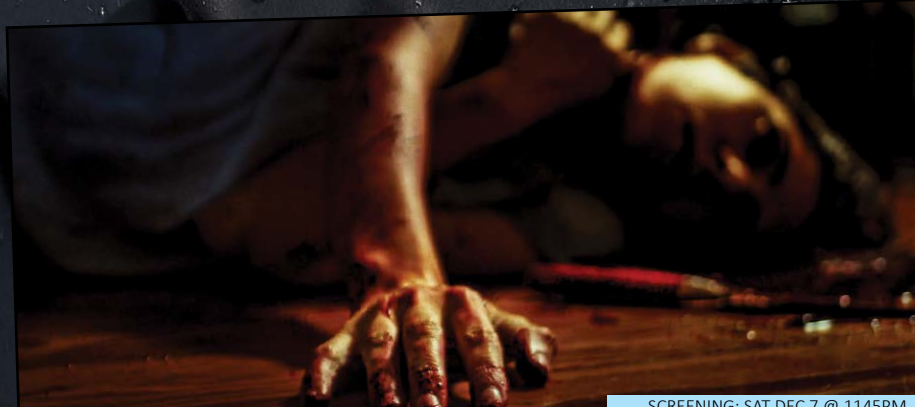
WRITER/DIR: Andrew Bell

PRODS: Nicholas Payne Santos, Bofan Zhang, Kenny Green

CAST: John R. Howley, Jasper Jones, Tori Wong, Andrew Bell

In a world where vampire blood is harvested as a drug, two desperate teenagers on the run from a vicious dealer break into an empty house and find a sleeping girl locked inside.

MIDNIGHT SERIES FEATURES



SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 1145PM

ITCH!

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 82.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Bari Kang

PRODS: Monica De Oliveira, Bari Kang

CAST: Olivia Kang, Bari Kang, Monica De Oliveira, Ximena Uribe, Maria Ventura Lucas, Patrick Michael Valley, Douglas Stirling, Steven Alonte

In this gripping survival tale, a horrific outbreak called the ITCH! transforms its victims into self-destructive shells. Jay, a widower grappling with grief, takes refuge in a seemingly safe department store with his estranged young daughter, Olivia. However, their sanctuary quickly becomes a nightmarish trap, revealing that danger lurks among them. As paranoia rises and the infection closes in, they must battle the outbreak and the darkness within themselves. With life-and-death decisions to make, they confront their fractured bond in a harrowing climax that challenges the true meaning of protection and love.

STRAIGHT ON TILL MORNING

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 104 min.



SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 1130PM

DIR: Craig Ouellette

PRODS: Craig Ouellette, Bonnie Jean Tyer, Annalea Fiachi, Robert Vestal, Joanna Fang

WRITERS: Craig Ouellette and Neal McLaughlin, Story by Neal McLaughlin

CAST: Kelsey Christian, Bonnie Jean Tyer, Maria Olsen, Bill Hengstenberg, Michael Gmur, Travis Lincoln Cox

Two dreamers, small town musician Dani and spunky waitress Kaitlin, start falling for each other on a spontaneous road trip. The future is bright — until they cross paths with a twisted family with something much much darker in mind. A unique blend of romance and horror Straight On Till Morning weaves the beautiful and terrible things people do for love into an edge of your seat journey into darkness.

ARACHNID

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/PROD/DIR: Luke Paron
CAST: Killer-Kelly, David Svojboda, Lacey Creighton, Holly Melsom

After witnessing an entrancing dance performance, the psyche of a young man begins to fall apart through a series of strange encounters.



BILL

EAST COAST Premiere | UK, 2024, 10.5 min.

DIR: Emily Dhue
WRITER/PROD: Deana Taheri
CAST: Deana Taheri, Yianni Sines, Zac Branciforte

A woman murders her sexist husband and transforms his corpse into a puppet of the perfect man.



BODY BUDDIES

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 3 min.

WRITERS: Pearl Lam & Tommy Heffernan
PROD/DIR: Tommy Heffernan
CAST: Jayvon Davis, Pearl Lam, Sean Nguyen, Megan Huynh, Rebekah Nachman

An engagement photographer and a mobster are forced to work together in order to save their skins.



ESCAPE

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 3.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Lorenzo Manetti
PRODS: Zack Fox, Elia Petridis
CAST: Grace Frances

Awakening on the floor of a destroyed suburban bedroom, we discover a global invasion has begun and we are not alone in the house...



HUMANZEE

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 23.5 min.

WRITERS: Taro O'Halloran, Brett Melican
DIR: Taro O'Halloran
PRODS: Ren Evans, Taro O'Halloran, Brett Melican
CAST: Liz Bishop, Zach Norton, Cheryl Dedora-Pynn, Marty Smith

Deep in the basement of an old house on a quiet suburban street, Jane Howell harbors a strange little creature named Ziggy. The two share their life in solitude, where Ziggy's only connection to the outside world comes from black and white movies on an old TV. Their way of life is put into question when an old friend from the past appears at her door, leaving Jane scrambling to preserve Ziggy's innocence as he starts connecting the dots of his mysterious origins.

SHIVA

NEW YORK Premiere | CANADA, 2023, 13.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Josh Saltzman
PRODS: Jordan Nahmias, Lewis Spring, Josh Saltzman
CAST: Corinne Koslo, Rosa Laborde, Avery Saltzman, Roney

Shiva is an unnerving tale about a recently widowed woman who breaks with a long-held Jewish mourning ritual in hopes of connecting with her deceased husband.



VINES

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 18 min.

WRITER/DIR: Luke Zwanziger
PRODS: Luke Zwanziger, Sophya Vidal
CAST: Lowell Deo, Joel Austin

A mad botanist experiments on an unwilling human subject to give plants a fighting chance against climate change.

THE WIDOWER

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 8.5 min.

WRITERS: Amy Eisinger, Michael Buran
DIR: Michael Buran
PRODS: Frank Mosca, Michael Buran, Amy Eisinger
CAST: Anthony Gaudio, Jeffrey Alan Solomon, Mars Buran, Robin Guiver

A widower still reeling from the tragic death of his wife is left to care for a newborn alone. Isolated, sleep-deprived, and grief-stricken, he begins to suspect a malevolent presence is closing in on his baby.





BOY BAND

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 16 min.

WRITER/DIR: Benedict Chiu
 PRODS: Penny Lin, Benson Quach, Benedict Chiu
 CAST: Jay Lee, Daniel Kim, Bruce Baek, David Phillip Fishman, Dan Hwang, Joanna Sotomura

A member of a famous K-Pop boy band, whose face has been disfigured by an accident, must undergo surgery to repair his fracturing image.

DUMMY!

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 13.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Francesca Pazniokas
 PRODS: Francesca Pazniokas, Rae Boyadjis
 CAST: Natalie Walker, Pam Arciero

An aspiring cabaret singer struggles to break free from her controlling mother — a ventriloquist dummy who was once a star herself. DUMMY! is a surreal technicolor melodrama about fearing you weren't built for the world you're meant to inhabit.



HIVE

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 9 min.

WRITER/DIR: Felipe Vargas
 PRODS: Nicole Crespo, Bijan Kazerooni, Nick Scully
 CAST: Xochitl Gomez, Lorelai Olivia Mote

A strict teenager loses the young girl she's babysitting at a playground, forced to confront an insidious entity hidden among the children. Starring Xochitl Gomez (Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness, Dancing with the Stars).

OBSESSION

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 10.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Devon Kane
 PRODS: Madelaine Melcher, Devon Kane, Michael Goi, Daniel Keilbach
 CAST: Rachel Deutsch, Joe Chamberlo, Amanda Fritz, Devon Drew, Gaby Sandoval

When a true crime fanatic discovers that she is hooking up with her favorite serial killer, she becomes violently obsessed with him.



TO HELL WITH YOU

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

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

A stubborn demon and a tenacious angel quarrel about the fate of a young man's soul after a botched exorcism.

SUNDOWNING

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR: Faith Liu
 PROD: Rebecca Doyle
 CAST: Ken Takemoto, Richard Follin, Shu Lan Tuan, Cristen Barnes

A nursing home resident faces down nightfall, neglectful nurses, old regrets, and the thing lurking beneath the floorboards... armed with only a straw and a handful of peas.



WALTER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 13.5 min.

WRITER: Rose Hanish
 DIR: Alan Arias
 PRODS: Alan Arias, Rose Hanish
 CAST: Jack Benson, Abbie Anderson, Conor Long

A struggling actor desperately wants the role of a fast-food brand spokesman—until he begins facing terrifying visions of the company mascot: a giant, anthropomorphic hot dog.

WEREWOLF SCOUTS

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 4.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Vinnie Hogan
 PRODS: Zachary Burns, Jacob Leighton Burns, Vinnie Hogan
 CAST: Seth Gutierrez, J. Alan Davidson, and Clint Joseph

9 year old Chase is the world's worst boy scout, so when he witnesses his scout master become a werewolf... things get a little awkward.



Josh

JOSH CELLARS

“MAKING WELL-BALANCED WINE TAKES HARD WORK, BUT MY DAD WOULDN'T HAVE HAD IT ANY OTHER WAY.”

Joseph Cellars

FOUNDER, JOSH CELLARS



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SHORTS BLK 1

SCREENING: THU DEC 5 @ 3:45PM

ASHES TO DUST

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR: Clark Childers

PRODS: Clark Childers, Adam Walton, Ben Ilisun, Liz Rogers

CAST: Adam Walton, Diane Gaeta



Estranged siblings Elizabeth and Danny reunite in their childhood home after the death of their eccentric mother. Without a will or any instructions, old wounds are quickly reopened and disagreements abound. A Ouija board may be the only way for “Mom” to provide the guidance they both desperately seek.

BLUE PLAQUE

WORLD Premiere | UK, 2024, 16 min.

WRITER/DIR: Fraser Clubb

PRODS: Guy Wilson, Austin Staton

CAST: Austin Staton, Luke Stevenson, Steve Shaw



Art. Absinthe. Suicide. Two failed artists compete to be immortalized with an English Heritage Blue Plaque. But is art worth dying for?

EL SECRETO

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 17 min.

WRITERS: Daniel Rocha & Parker Wierling

DIR: Daniel Rocha

PRODS: Haley Fusia, Daniel Rocha,

Valheria Rocha, Parker Wierling

CAST: Parker Wierling, Denise Arribas, Sarah Borne



In this coming-of-age, dark comedy thriller that explores themes of isolation, miscommunication, and redemption, *El Secreto* follows James, a high schooler trying to make it through his Spanish class in order to graduate. His teacher, Dr. Espindola seemingly makes it impossible for him to catch a break, forcing James to get creative. As the film unfolds, we, the audience, are forced to take stock of our beliefs and ask ourselves the question, “Is there such a thing as divine justice?”

MAGGIE'S NOT OKAY

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITER: Mouzam Makkar **DIR:** Vance Smith

PRODS: Mouzam Makkar, Vance Smith, Clare Cooney,

Behzad Dabu, Suzaine, Mike McNamara

CAST: Mouzam Makkar, Behzad Dabu, Clare Cooney, Paloma Nozicka



Maggie, a chronic people pleaser, is always getting pushed around. But when she tries to return a lost cat to his owner, Maggie is finally pushed too far and decides to push back... in a most unexpected way.

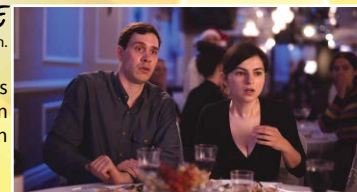
PLUS ONE

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 10 min.

WRITER/DIR: Claire Buss

PRODS: Courtney Podraza, Alexander Schepsman

CAST: Rachel Sachnoff, Ian Edlund, Bennett Clarkson



A comedy about psychosexual office politics.

ROLE PLAY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 16 min.

WRITER/DIR: Elizabeth Katz **PROD:** Stephany Barrera

CAST: Kyra Belle Johnson, Michael Starr, Samantha Svensson Riggs, Danielle Bessler, Camryn Eakes, Sofia Joanna, Shelby Nunn, Ash T, Deanna Anthony, Michele Selene Ang, Jack Seavor McDonald



A triple-threat actress with Broadway aspirations faces an identity crisis in a high-stakes audition. As she becomes desperate for external validation, reality and musical fantasy begin to blur in dangerous ways. “This Is The Dream!”...Isn't it?

MIDNIGHT SHORTS BLK 1
FRI DEC 6 AT 10:15PM
THEWIDOWERFILM.COM



THE WIDOWER



SHORTS BLK 2

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 12:15PM

A THOUSAND CUTS

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 18 min.

WRITER/DIR: Meredith Chin

PROD: Caitlin Carleton

CAST: Madison Lee, Jadé Porciatti, Jack O'Brien



An elite college fencer grapples with an unspoken attraction to her teammate while training for her last competition. Pressured to be the best, and expected to win the team a championship title, her emotions boil over in one vengeful final bout.

THE CIRCLE

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 20.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: David James Schultz

PRODS: Jared Biunno, Gabriel Claremont, Daniel Jaffe, Douglas Forrester, James Sharpe

CAST: Daniel Berkey, Ben Heineman



A game of transference occurs one night when an aging teacher crosses a boundary line with a student who looks uncannily like his younger self.

COMPOSITE

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 11.5 min.

DIR: Grant Raun

WRITER/PRODS: Carrie Adams, Grant Raun

CAST: Carrie Adams, Elisha Mudry



An engagement photographer connects with a bride-to-be when her fiancé doesn't show up to their photo shoot.

THE EVERLASTING LIFE OF DEBBIE GOMOLKA

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2022, 12 min.

WRITER/DIR: Brian Sacca

PRODS: Brian Sacca, Ariel Heller, Kyle Smithers

CAST: Brooke Dillman, Eugene Cordero, Jenna Johnson



Debbie Gomolka believes there are two perfect things in life: soup in a bread bowl and her plan to create a memorable legacy. She's wrong about both.

MOON & BACK

US Premiere | USA, 2024, 12.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Pony Nicole Herauf

PROD: Brittany Delgaty

CAST: Mattie Driscoll, Bren Eastcott, Ellie Moon (Voice)



Two young women spend a weekend memorializing their friendship, before one of them permanently moves to the moon.

NO ESCUCHADO (NOT HEARD)

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | PUERTO RICO, 2024, 7 min.

WRITER/DIR: Jazmín Caratini

PRODS: Jazmín Caratini, José Gilberto Molinari-Rosalay, Jesús Romero, Natalie Droz

CAST: Jazmín Caratini, Jorge Armando Rivera



NO ESCUCHADO "NOT HEARD" shares the story of a woman who finds herself feeling uneasy during movies. In her hope to receive assistance, she comes across an usher who fails to comprehend her request for help. What begins as a miscommunication evolves into a profoundly impactful experience that transforms both of their lives permanently.

SWEET & CRUNCHY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 2 min.

WRITER/DIR: Hunter Woelfle

PRODS: Phoenix Liu, Tigre Ferguson

CAST: Bernadette Pérez, Keegan Haney



A beloved school teacher decides to do away with her least favorite student on Halloween.

SHORTS BLK 3

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 2:45PM



ARTIFICIAL

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 9.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Dustin Cook
PRODS: Ian Schiller, Christopher Rodriguez Marquette, Kirsten Wagner
CAST: Sara Anne, Dylan Silver, Leslie Stevens

When a struggling artist makes a deal with an enigmatic AI for creative success, she descends into a Faustian nightmare where her physical vitality and morality are slowly drained away by the seductive and deadly paintings the entity creates through her.



BIOLOGICAL

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 14.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Justin Emeka
PRODS: Meghan Mowery; Drama League of New York
CAST: Jerrell Davis, Zora Howard, Axel Emeka, Jazmyn Scott

A talented Hip-Hop artist in Seattle, WA struggles to find success. On the verge of his biggest break, he must choose between fame and fatherhood at a critical moment in his son's life.



COLOR THEORIES

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 16.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Devin Jane Febbroriello
PROD: Andi Hummel
CAST: Jessica O'Connor, Audree Stephens, Leslie Cranwell Dawes, Victoria Newbill

Color Theories is a narrative short that explores grief and coming of age through an exploration of first menstruation and the visual light spectrum ROY G BIV. The film poetically shines a light on how the moments in life that break us apart are also the moments that crack us open to see the deeper qualities of ourselves, one another, and life itself.



IT'S NOT YOU... IT'S THE ALIENS!

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 7.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Taylor Anthony Miller
PRODS: Taylor Anthony Miller, Lauren Sowa
CAST: Taylor Anthony Miller, Lauren Sowa
A man shares with his girlfriend that he's received a message from extraterrestrials that puts their relationship in jeopardy.



MAL CULO

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 9 min.

WRITER/DIR: Anna Salinass **PROD:** Marcel Pérez
CAST: Anna Salinas, Rekha Shankar, Shannon Dee

As Annie gets ready for a date, a string of misfortunes befalls her butt.



THE PARADISE ROAD

NEW YORK Premiere | MEXICO/USA, 2023, 25 min.

WRITER/DIR: Lisa Marie Tedesco
PRODS: Lisa Marie Tedesco, Shelly Ro
CAST: Mandahla Rose, Shelly Ro

Having just gotten married to the woman of her dreams, Ellie takes Shae on a romantic excursion to the west coast seaside for a moment of happiness and seclusion before inevitably coming to terms with a life-altering decision.



THE SEAGULL (BUT LIKE, NOT CHEKHOV)

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 3 min.

WRITER/PROD/DIR: Devon Wycoff
CAST: Steph Barkley, Frank Mosley

A patient struggles to see why an obvious pattern is being perpetuated in his life.

SHORTS BLK 4

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 5:30PM

I IN THE CHAMBER

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 7.5 min.

WRITERS/DIRS: Annie Girard, Diana Wright
PRODS: James Bristow, Kourtney Gleason, Matt Danner, Rachel Parsons
CAST: Mary Elizabeth Ellis, Yara Martinez, Wilson Bethel

A work-obsessed assassin sent to "retire" her coworker is shocked to discover her target is pregnant and infuriated by how baby-proofed a nursery can be.



CHATRON

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 11 min.

DIR: Daniel Casey
PRODS: Tom Horvath, Dustin Snipes
CAST: Tim Casey, Shaun Buckley, Nickola Shreli, Cheryl Nichols, Nicholas Bateman

I went to pick up the body. 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.



THE CLOCK PAINTER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 16 min.

WRITER: Shannon Jilek **DIR:** Dylan Levine
PROD: Frederik Ehrhardt
CAST: Anna Maria Blackwood, Corinne McLoughlin, Peter Gonzalez, Carl Garrison, Emma Hullar, Devin Lee

Teenager Clara's life takes a surprising turn for the better when she lands a lucrative job at a watch factory, but a startling discovery soon changes everything.



FEIGN

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2023, 7.5 min.

WRITER/PROD/DIR: Adam Rioux
CAST: Jenna Kanell, Tashae Henry, Sam Drust

A woman is mugged in a club bathroom.

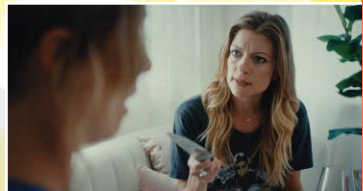


FINISHING NOTES

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 9 min.

WRITER/DIR/PROD: Stephanie J. Röst
CAST: Sascha Alexander, Kristen Rozanski

After months of radio silence, Bethany shows up on childhood friend Melissa's doorstep unannounced with a bottle of wine— and she wants answers.



SICK DAY

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2023, 11.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Hughes Ransom
PRODS: Amanda Prager, Tyler Burke, Hughes Ransom
CAST: Amita Rao, James Adomian

A burnt out assistant's perfect plan to get sent home sick is derailed when a swarm of locusts invades Los Angeles.



SWEDISH DEATH

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | IRELAND, 2024, 12.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Kristina Yee **PRODS:** Maggie Ryan
CAST: Aoife Hinds, Tiernan Messitt-Greene

In this unique take on the survival thriller, Caroline becomes a minimalist to maintain control over a chaotic life, but fate and irony combine when a severe winter storm strikes and she is snowed in. With no power and no options, she must decide which of her most meaningful belongings to feed the fire with if she wants to live.



SHORTS BLK 4 (CONT)

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 5:30PM



THIS MEANS GOODNIGHT

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 9 min.

WRITER/PROD: Rachel Kinzler **DIR:** Peter Charney
CAST: Rachel Kinzler, Anna Rudegear

Two neighbors share a wall and lead parallel lives. Through their day to day, they find solace within each other to help navigate the loneliness of city life.

SHORTS BLK 5

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 11:15AM



BABY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 15.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Jack Campbell
PRODS: Henry Cohen, Isabella Bahl
CAST: Lauren McCann, Elisabetta D'Avenia, Hayden Schuster, Zachary Drossman

Nathalie, the mother of a socially isolated boy, is forced to make a difficult choice when her son brings a friend home for the first time.



DEAD PET SHARK

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 13 min.

WRITER/DIR: Misha Gankin
PRODS: Matthew Gibson, Sonia Bhatia, Dasha Pimenov
CAST: Brandon Antonik-Rodriguez, Joseph Steven, Isabel Lamers, Eshan Lyall

Arthur walks the beach with his grandfather Zachariah, who entices Arthur to explore the ecosystem. Arthur discovers a massive dead shark. Arthur takes it home, hoping to resurrect it. Arthur pours salt into the water: it doesn't work. Arthur's frenemy Patrick comes over for breakfast, and Arthur feeds him to the shark. Arthur's mother Selina catches Arthur in the act and forces him to return it to the beach. Arthur cuts the rope off the shark's neck and discovers the scar that killed it. Arthur cleans litter off the beach. Doing so, he discovers the legendary queen conch.



HARLEM FRAGMENTS

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 18 min.

WRITER: Cameron Tyler Carr, Wes Goodrich, Danielle Douge
DIR: Cameron Tyler Carr
PRODS: Salma Qarnain, Keep or Destroy, Black Man Films, Flor De Oro Tejada
CAST: Roderick Lawrence, Clarissa Thibeaux, Stella Coviello, Kyle Keyes

An Afro-futurist scrapbook storytelling of a Harlem Black family's beautiful destruction during the 2008 recession. A natural disaster so mesmerizing you can't look away from the tragedy. Based on true events—Harlem Fragments is a visually stunning and emotionally resonant journey that explores themes of love, family, resilience, and acceptance. It takes audiences on a cosmic adventure while reflecting on the enduring strength of sibling bonds, the complexities of divorce, and normalizing the ongoing journey of processing emotions to show children and families alike there is a light at the end of the tunnel.



PULL OVER RIGHT HERE

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 9 min.

WRITER/DIR: Erin Elders
PRODS: Michael May, Erin Elders
CAST: David Yow, Ava Bellows

During a driver's ed lesson, Hayley is forced to pull over to the side of the road so her instructor, Glen, can tell her about his estranged daughter. She does her best to navigate the situation, trying to figure out whether or not things are headed in a dangerous direction.

SHORTS BLK 5 (CONT)

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 11:15AM

RIPPER WAS HERE

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 19 min.

WRITER: Chris Schieffelin **DIR:** Joel Kazuo Knoernschild
PRODS: Joel Kazuo Knoernschild, Barry O'Donnell, Chris Schieffelin, Randy Wedick, Josh Giroux
CAST: Billy Minshall, Travis Joe Dixon, Greg Lutz



Based on the true story of Lt. RJ Rippenkroeger, the first man in space. In 1961, recently declassified documents reveal American Astronaut Lt. RJ Rippenkroeger beat the Cosmonauts into space by 71 days. Unfortunately, catastrophic events and a government cover-up sealed Rippenkroeger's mission forever from the history books, until now. The violent conclusion challenges lessons in social conventions, legacy, and man's thoughtless disposal of life.

WE GOOD?

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITER/DIR: Shawn Dempewolf
PRODS: Morgan Lester, Charles Papert
CAST: Doug Hurley, Camille Mana, Stevie Nelson



Todd's company is about to go public, but on the day he should be celebrating, he's wracked with anxiety about a sexual encounter fifteen years ago. Now, he has to go visit his old flame to make sure she won't cancel him.

SHORTS BLK 6

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 1:45PM

DRAFT NIGHT

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 19 min.

WRITER: Shawn Williams **PROD/DIR:** Thomas Glinkowski
PRODS: Avery Chung-Melino, Tuan Quoc Le, Jillian Nordby, Sierra Oleson
CAST: Joseph David-Jones, Justin Prentice, Shawn Williams, Gloria Stingily, Destiny Ekwueme, Corey Giffit, Bryan Philip Cruz



A young Black basketball prodigy struggles with expectations, pressure, and the weight of his own ambition as he waits to hear his name called on the night of the NBA draft.

HAVE WE MET?

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2023, 9.5 min.

WRITER/PROD/DIR: Megan Robinson
CAST: Kira Guloien, Farhang Ghajar, Noah Spitzer

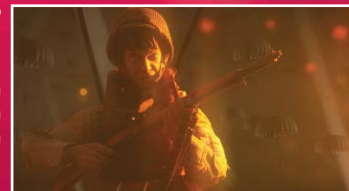


An actress is struggling to make a crowdfunding video to bolster her flailing career. When an unwitting passerby unintentionally disrupts her shoot, he becomes the catalyst for her downward spiral.

ONE FINAL DAY

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | USA, 2024, 6.5 min.

WRITER: Mike Arnott **DIR:** Paul Hollingsworth
PRODS: Ben Varadi, Paul Hollingsworth
CAST: Justin Voegelin



At the height of the Second World War, two young soldiers on different sides of history begin to question the war that they once glorified, and are forced to choose how to respond. One Final Day is a journey through war-torn Europe in an animated drama exploring the brutalities of war, bravery, honor, and the price of freedom.

Follow the Sun

A Short Documentary
by Sybil Wendler

*a family secret,
a second life*

Thursday, December 5
6:00 pm

A Gemini Media Production

Contact: Sybil Wendler on IMDB

SHORTS BLK 6 (CONT)

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 1:45PM

STRONGHOLD

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER: Anna Maria Hozian **DIR:** Meghann Artes
PRODS: Joe Lyons, Anna Maria Hozian, Meghann Artes
CAST: Ora Jones, London Wygant



When a group home for boys closes and a single mother who has regained custody of her son does not show up on the final day, the house mother must go in search of the boy's mom before heading off to her new life where she hopes to reconcile with her own estranged daughter.

SUPERCRITICAL

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 7.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: John Osment
PRODS: John Osment, Hayley Ulmer
CAST: Misha Brooks, Amanda Bruton



In a post-apocalyptic nuclear fallout shelter, a young scientist bothers their team leader with a series of progressively inane HR requests.

WAIT TO TELL MOTHER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 11.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Emma Elizabeth Steiger
PRODS: Emma Elizabeth Steiger, Diane Steiger, Colton Eschief Mastro, Nick Mastro, Will Brunker, Jessie Gill, Wylie Rush
CAST: Emma Elizabeth Steiger, Darby Lee Stack, Claire Kresser, Duane Daniels, Sydney Walsh, Zane Haney, Tanner Zahn Hagen



After losing the most important person in her life, Anna must wrestle with her own choice surrounding life or death.

WATCHING WALTER

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 17 min.

WRITER: Mark Dylan Brown **DIR:** Mitch Yapko
PRODS: Cynthia Gravinese, Mark Dylan Brown, Mark Aznavourian, Mitch Yapko
CAST: Stephen Tobolowsky, Gareth Williams, Andrew Elvis Miller, Benjamin Stockham, William Leon



Watching Walter is a short biopic starring Stephen Tobolowsky set in both 1995 Philadelphia and World War II Nazi occupied Poland. Based on the true story of Holocaust survivor-turned watchmaker Wladyslaw "Walter" Wojnas, it's a slice of life story that touches on several poignant moments in his life during those times.

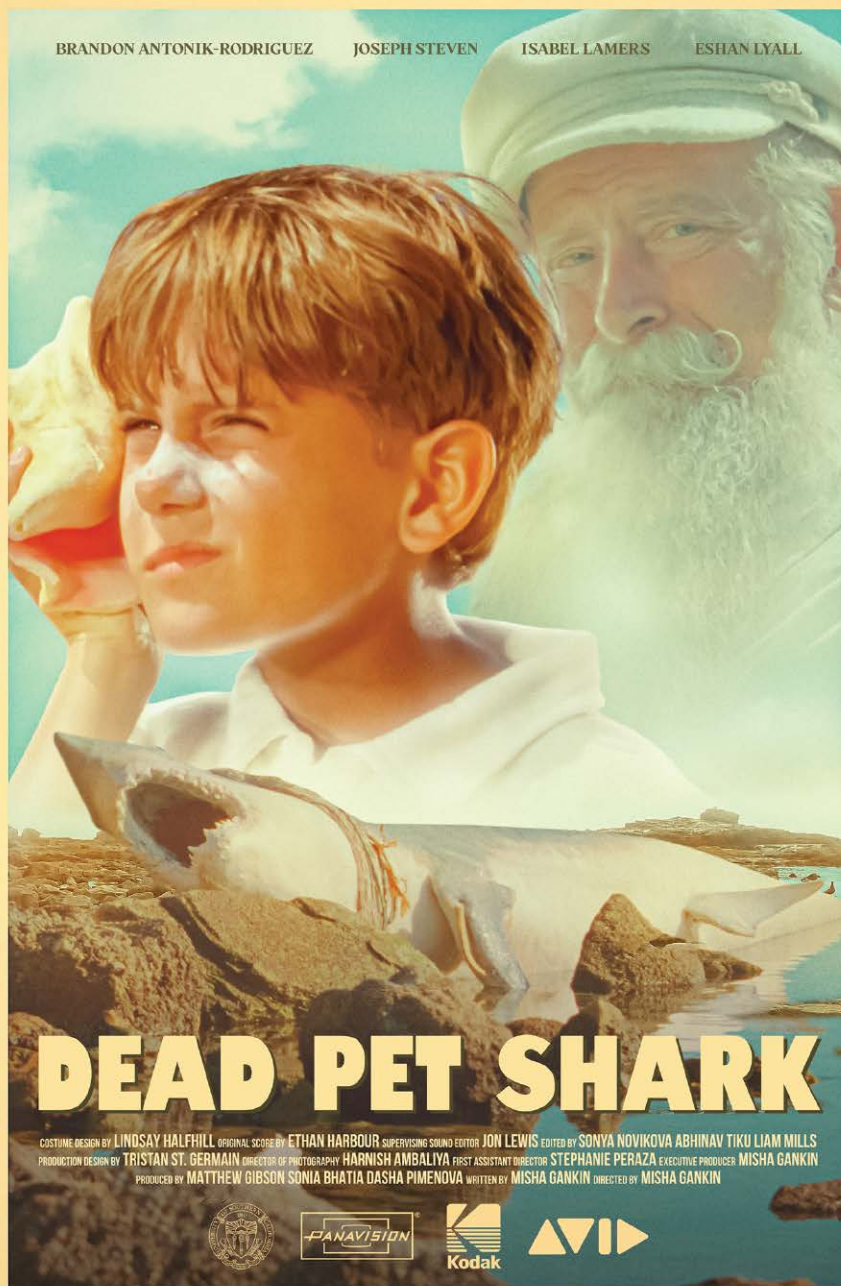
ON BEYOND FENCES

@on_beyond_fences_doc

A film about reform and redemption
inside Maine State Prison



By Tom Donohoe "Lara" Jacqueline Hartzenbusch Jack Kudas Wes Smith Silvia Sonntag



PRG

SHORTS BLK 7

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 4:15PM

BULLET PROOF

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 13 min.

WRITERS: Will Craig, Sara Newton **PROD/DIR:** Sara Newton
CAST: Joanie Nerrettig, Chad Governale, Brandon Campbell, Spencer Pettigrew, Paula Sample

Based on true events in a new Americana, two small town schools test out active shooter policies for their school district. Tonight is the big vote; it's all about safety.



THE COVER

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR: Will Crouse **PROD:** Kevin Reodica
CAST: Abbey Toot, Mickey O'Sullivan, Sean Kazarian, Yuchi Chiu, James Dawson

In the midst of a catastrophic software crisis at a crypto startup, CTO Mary must race against time to save her company — and her sanity.



GOOD BOY

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | USA, 2024, 18 min.

WRITER/DIR: Colin Russell **PROD:** Ambika Jain
CAST: Richard Conti, Musik, Chris Madera, Kim Selby

An isolated widower yearns for the good old days and spends the present trying to bring them back. When reality fails to meet expectations and things come crashing down, he must decide whether to accept a new companion, warts and all.



ME AND DAD

NORTH AMERICAN Premiere | USA, 2024, 8.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Shane Connellan
PRODS: Too Many Alans Films: Shane Connellan, Jamie Strickler
CAST: Flynn Gray, Pat Shortt, Shane Connellan, Brendan Farrell

A boy struggles to get through to his oblivious, drunk dad at a local pub. All attempts are ignored. The barman is the boy's only soft ear. In one final gesture, Charlie desperately attempts to push Dad to break.



SEE THIS

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITERS: Charlie Traisman, Emma Van Lare **DIR:** Tricia Lee
PRODS: Katherine Romans, Charlie Traisman, Elizabeth Valenti
CAST: Rachel Hilson, Alex MacNicoll, b, Katherine Romans, Charlie Traisman, Emma Van Lare, Matt Monaco

After problematic Tweets of Vibe Editorial's new editor-in-chief resurface, memories from the night before reveal what's behind the public takedown.

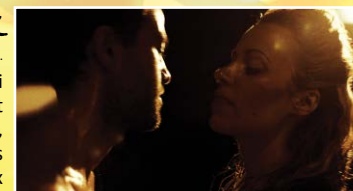


STUCK

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2023, 8.5 min.

WRITERS: Liam Gareau, Dan Abramovici **DIR:** Dan Abramovici
PRODS: Myrthin Stagg, Kate Forrest
EXEC PRODS: Michael Pillarella, Raimo Strangis, John Hartman, Maurizio Strangis
CAST: Michael Pillarella, Karen Knox

After life-changing ostomy surgery, Rai retreats from the world, abandoning his rock and roll dreams. However, when a former band mate unexpectedly reenters his life, Rai is compelled to face his fears, igniting a dramatic journey of self-discovery.



THE SUN IS IN MY EYES

US Premiere | MEX/PUERTO RICO/USA, 2024, 9.5 min.

DIR: Pablo Tapia Pla **PROD:** Jimmy O'Keeffe
CAST: Cameron Lee Phan, Britney Grasso

An impressionistic and poetic exploration of love, longing, and heartache. The story follows a young queer man as he navigates the memories of a past romance, conjuring his lover in the present.



45

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SHORTS BLK 8

SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 11:15AM

FAST FORWARD TO FOREVER

US Premiere | USA, 2024, 10 min.

WRITER: Brendan Carretero **DIR:** Dylan Martin
PRODS: Jeffery L. Gary, Brendan Carretero
CAST: Corey Timmons, Marlee Learner, Akil Jackson

When his significant other passes away, a boy finds himself remembering the past and asking, "What could I have done differently?"



ROSEBUD

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 13 min.

WRITER/DIR: Emily Coutts
PRODS: Emily Coutts, Katelyn McCulloch
CAST: Clare McConnell, Georgiana Iatrou

While grieving the loss of her virtual best friend, introverted Margot is inspired to live life to the fullest for a day by signing up for a children's dance class.



SALVE, ANIMA

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITERS: Juan Zuloaga Esloit, Charlize Zamora,
Jay San Junior
DIR: Juan Zuloaga Esloit **PROD:** Isabelle Rivera
CAST: Marit Aurin, Elisa Jacobs Nixon,
Benedikt Sebastian, Sareen Tchekmedyan

A deaf Ballerina with the illusion of dancing like she once did experiences her world morphing into a fantasy, after discovering the possibility of bringing the music back into her life.



SID THE KID

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2023, 12 min.

WRITERS: Sofia Lane, Jeff Legge
DIR: Sofia Lane **PROD:** Jeff Legge
CAST: Tyler Robinson, Toni Ellwand

Set against the backdrop of a fading Americana town, a teenage scavenger spends his nights digging through trash, guided only by the overhead glow of a strange contraption that emerges from his backpack like the beacon of an angler fish.



SKY

WORLD 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.



WHY ARE YOU LIKE THIS?

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 9 min.

WRITERS/PROS: Rosie Grace, Nate Hapke
DIR: Nate Hapke
CAST: Melanie Thompson, Marisa Hood, Nate Hapke,
Shiva Ayama, Kelsey L. Moore, Javier Prusky, CB Mullen,
Niya Wright, Daniel Koren, Whitney Montgomery

A couple seeks counseling when the competitive nature of one of them threatens their relationship and their friendships. It's all fun and games... unless you're Kara.



'Pray you've
got talent!'

pike

Thursday 5th December 4pm
The Regal Union Square Theater
850 Broadway, NYC

<https://pro.imdb.com/title/tt13029550/>



SHORTS BLK 9

SCREENING: SUN DEC 8 @ 1:45PM

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

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 6.5 min.

WRITER/PROD/DIR: Jesse Cowell

CAST: Jesenia, Michelle Batista, Cary Hite, Hilary Walker, Shari Ellis, Alex Spence, Marissa Parness, Guy Rader, Elizabeth Tsung



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.

BROOKLYN

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 20.5 min.

WRITERS: Timur Guseynov, Kateryna Kurganska

DIR: Timur Guseynov

PRODS: Kateryna Kurganska, Timur Guseynov

CAST: Feodor Dolan, Hayden Schuster, Alison the pit bull, Marko Ulaj, Oleg Chechelnitsky



After saving an abused pit bull, a troubled Brighton Beach teenager who makes ends meet through crime while raising his little brother, must protect the dog from its nefarious owners.

CANCHAS

WORLD 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.

FAST

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 10 min.

WRITER/DIR: Clayton Henderson

PROD: Tamra Corley Davis

CAST: Samuel Bosh, Donovan Roe, Sara Patterson



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

IRMA

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 12.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Roger Torres

PRODS: Phateka Malahleha, Melissa Valdiviezo

CAST: María Jimena Gastelum, Christina Mauro, Jazmene Valenzuela



When Melissa's unstable mother Irma tries to break into her new home, she must decide if protecting herself and her daughter is worth the price of abandoning her mother forever.

PACE

NEW YORK Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

WRITER/DIR: Beck Williams

PRODS: Shannon Elizabeth Clark, Aaron Krimez, Kelly Lou Dennis, Beck Williams, Sarah Evans

CAST: Beck Williams, Bex Taylor-Klaus, Kelly Lou Dennis



While struggling with dysphoria, a transmasculine boxer, Remy, wrestles with the decision to transition at the potential cost of their marriage. Remy meets a shy trans boxer, Joey, who is returning to the gym post-transition, facing his fear of being judged or ostracized by his former boxing community. When Remy invites Joey to train with them, the two find solace and camaraderie while facing challenges they each have been avoiding. As Remy's relationship with their partner reaches a boiling point, Joey reminds Remy that their journey is a process, and it's okay not to have all the answers yet.

PILOTS GRP 1

SCREENING: THU DEC 5 @ 4PM



EDEN FOR TWO

USA, 2024, 22 min.

WRITER/DIR: Colin Henning
PRODS: Colin Henning, Chad Hylton
CAST: Hayleigh Hart Franklin, Brian D. McCormack, Colin Henning

NYC. 1989. After escaping Communist Hungary, two Hungarians find themselves with opposing views of starting over in America. István, afraid of leaving his culture and home behind, is clinging to his yet-to-arrive girlfriend, while József is ready to treat himself to the American experience. Caught in the middle is their neighbor, Maria Louise, whose life and routine is joyfully upended by the arrival of two new friends.



THE MURDER NETWORK

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 23 min.

WRITERS: Christopher James Lang, Rachel Chelsea Foster
DIR: Christopher James Lang
PRODS: Christopher James Lang, Jenna O'Connell, Rachel Veznaian
CAST: Amanda Todisco, Rachel Chelsea Foster, Landon Moss, Billy Whelan, Keith C

A producer for a true crime docu-drama show, looking to prove herself, inadvertently uncovers a serial killer.



PASSAGE

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2024, 31 min.

DIR: Karl Janisse
PRODS: Tomas Street, Alexis Ottier, Karl Janisse
CAST: Liv Rian, Daniel Ginanne, Tristan McKinnon, Kristina Lao, Aslan Jordan-Knox, Trevor Hinton, Ried Cronin, Ugo Nwachuku

It's 1914, and the crew of the SS Talaria descends into a puzzling charade of madness after departing the docks of Cairo. Emilia Duprey, a lone stowaway stealing passage to America, now finds herself entangled in a 100,000-year-old secret fueled by a mysterious entity infecting the minds of those on board.



PIKE

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2023, 15 min.

WRITER: Nick Green **DIR:** Alex Klaus
EXEC PROD: Charles Delaney
CAST: Charles Delaney, Stephanie Tripp, Lucia Michiels, George Lazenby

A talent agent becomes disillusioned with his vacuous world of celebrity, decides to embark on a serial killing spree of anyone he deems guilty of having zero talent starting with his own celebrity client list!



RAGING DOLL

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 7.5 min.

WRITER: Jessica Catalano **DIR:** Ruthie Marantz
PRODS: MJ Bernier, Rob Simmons, Kresh Novakovic
CAST: Jessica Catalano, Yamaneika Saunders, Laila Zakirova, Bryan Burton, Tracey Carnazzo and Cathy Moriarty

A delusional millennial from the Bronx gets in the ring with a junior boxing champion known as The Smoke.

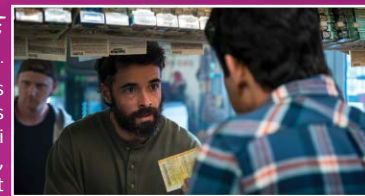
PILOTS GRP 2

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 12:45PM

FORTUNE

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 27.5 min.

WRITERS: Corey Cott, Matthew Perkins
DIR: Matthew Perkins
PRODS: Corey Cott, Matthew Perkins, Steve Sielatycki
CAST: Corey Cott, Chris Henry Coffey, Hannah Elless, Matt Skollar, Elliott Cott



In this Southern Gothic tale of greed, a blue-collar timber yard worker miraculously wins a massive lottery jackpot.

GASBAG

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 24 min.

WRITER: Lynn Rosen
DIR: Christopher Gerson (part 1), Julie Kramer (part 2)
PRODS: Chad Kessler, Lynn Rosen

CAST: Mary Bacon, David James Boyd, Tina Chilip, Trey Gerrald, Mia Katigbak, Chad Kessler, Deirdre Lovejoy, Danielle Skraastad, Jackie Tohn



A coming-of-age comedy series about George Nordstrom, a lovable recently-out overtalker discovering what (and who) he really wants... at age 42. His overbearing mother, meddling neighbor, and dysfunctional coworkers at The Marcia Powell Travel Agency sure won't make it easy. But thanks to his can-do spirit, loving shoves from his brash cousin, Jean, and the liberating realization that he's gay, George will learn to love silence. He may even learn to love himself.

MAKESHIFT SOCIETY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 23.5 min.

WRITER/DIR: Serena Schuler
PRODS: Maira Memmi, Serena Schuler
CAST: Siobhan Doherty, Amy Shank, Nardeep Khurmi, Carla Lee, Hayley Goldstein, E. Ambriz DeColosio, Tommy Beck



A female take on the tech industry, Makeshift Society is a comedy series about finding your misfit, makeshift family, and going after your dreams together. When suddenly fired by her tech bro boss, Alex discovers a converted warehouse of misfit founders fearlessly pursuing their dreams with their eccentric businesses. Inspired, she decides to embark on an adventure to go after her dream and build her own startup.

THE PINTO VAZELTY HOUR

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 23 min.

WRITER/PROD/DIR: R.J. Sullivan
CAST: Coulter Rail, Anna Simpson, Alfred Smith, Cara Swift, Matt Simpson, Brianna Lawrence



A misunderstood bean struggles to get the respect he wants as the host of a surreal variety show and the father of two teenagers.

PILOTS GRP 3

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 3:15PM

A LEGEND IS HATCHED: I BECOME FAMOUS... IN MY OWN MIND

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITER/DIR: Victoria Myers
PROD: Madeline Stephenson
CAST: Victoria Myers, Mike Iveson



An unflappable gal-about-town and her madcap quest to get her own television show. A Legend is Hatched: I Become Famous... in My Own Mind is designed to be the first in a series that follows the misadventures of our TV-Star-to-Be as she tries to fulfill her great ambitions. Along the way, she meets a group of oddballs who also have show business dreams. In this world, everyone just wants their time in the spotlight, a chance to be seen, and to make a friend.

PILOTS GRP 3 (CONT)

SCREENING: FRI DEC 6 @ 3:15PM



LE PARROT

USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITER/DIR: Rachael Sonnenberg
PROD: Martin de Crane
CAST: Will Janowitz, Catherine Curtin, Mariette Booth, Maxwell Bank

Three siblings return home for their mother's funeral. Chaos ensues when they realize their mother has left behind her pet parrot.



LIKE COMMENT SUBSCRIBE

WORLD Premiere | CANADA, 2024, 8.5 min.

WRITER: Marley Kajan, Connor Ferris
DIR: Sabina Olivia Lambert
PRODS: Elizabeth Fraser, Sabina Olivia Lambert, Marley Kajan, Connor Ferris, Brandie Konopasek, Breann Smordin

CAST: Marley Kajan, Connor Ferris, Yusuf Zine, Paloma Nuñez, Matthew Thomas Rogers, Taylor Love, Deborah Tennant

Episode 1: #PRnightmare – BFF's Avery and Meaghan are two of Toronto's hottest influencers. As the face of Vaag, her mom Sasha's vegan leather bag company, Meaghan stars in a sexy commercial featuring their newest satchel. Despite their artistic marketing efforts, the campaign is being ripped apart online for being problematic. To recover from the scandal, Avery offers his expertise to design an apparel line as a "glittery olive branch" for the queer community. Despite the risk, Sasha accepts his pitch, and warns Meaghan that her recently plummeting online metrics are a threat to the company.



LOFT AND FOUND

USA, 2024, 30 min.

WRITER: Zach Weiss **DIRS:** Pete O'Hare, Phillip Kibbe
PRODS: Pete O'Hare, Zach Weiss, Kristin Kirkley, Helen O'Hare
CAST: Amanda Kristin Nichols, Eli Bridges, Rashad Brown, Rich Carrillo, Taylor Plas

Faced with rising rent and a final chance to live their dreams, five artists in their mid 30s run an event venue out of their sketchy Brooklyn warehouse loft. Navigating wild lifestyles, aging roommate drama, and the creep of modern anxiety, can they get their shit together? ...or at least make this month's rent?



RAT CZAR

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 12 min.

WRITER: Maggie Scudder **DIR:** Ana Breton
PRODS: Ana Breton, Maggie Scudder, Jake Huff, Jim Mauro
CAST: Maggie Scudder, Marcus Raye Perez, Rick Younger, Mabel Thomas, Drew Lausch, Rachel Dratch, Ashley Nicole Black, Ophira Eisenberg, Luann de Lesseps

Rat Czar is a comedy web series about New York's newly appointed director of rodent mitigation and her staff as they attempt to win an unwinnable war against both the Mayor of New York and the city's growing rat population – which outnumbers them a million to one.

PILOTS GRP 4

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 11:30AM



THE SELF-LOVE ACT

USA, 2024, 20.5 min.

DIR: Kareema Bee
PRODS: Alesa Andrew, Zulay Troche, Shirlyn Cesar, Chisom Chieke, Tiffany Kehinde
CAST: Kareema Bee, Dr. Gina Paige, Che'Von Cooper, Pamela Alvarez, Tydre, Mother Walker

In this series hosted by Kareema Bee, a Black woman and artist explores her journey through self-love in dialogue with others, supported by The Big We Foundation. In this episode, Kareema finds out her African ancestry in an unexpected way, which catapults her into an exploration of her roots, only to find what she's been searching for may have been right in her backyard.

(CONT) PILOTS GRP 4

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 11:30AM

UNITED CRAFTS OF AMERICA

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 47 min.

WRITER: Jonathan Adelson **DIR:** Sergio Camacho
PRODS: Sergio Camacho, Jonathan Adelson, Robert Scoville



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.

WORLD TWISTORIES

EAST COAST Premiere | USA/UK, 2023, 22.5 min.

WRITERS: Brian Wallace, Paul Longley
DIRS: Brian Wallace, James Longley
PRODS: Brian Wallace and Matt Mitchell – Fancy Movies (USA); James Longley and Paul Longley – Oakmead Productions (UK)
ORIGINAL MUSIC: Roman Falkenstein
CAST: Paul Longley (host), Christopher Hatfield, Whit Spurgeon



World Twistories is an exciting new series that explores eccentric people and their offbeat ideas throughout history. Each topic explored is verifiably true, exhaustively researched, and presented by the effortlessly charming IG/Tik-Tok sensation Paul Longley. In this pilot episode, we look at a coffee shop that opened in London in 1703, but a coffee shop "with a twist"—in order to get their caffeine fix, patrons were required to speak Latin.

PILOTS GRP 5

SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 2PM

BABYTEETH

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2024, 15 min.

PRODS: Jason A. White, Paul X Sanchez IV
CAST: David Mattel, Coleman Simmons, Susana 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.

HIVE

WORLD Premiere | AUSTRALIA, 2024, 48 min.

WRITER: Rhys Tate **DIR:** Dan Jones
PRODS: Dan Jones, Rhys Tate, Riyana Kasmawan
CAST: Johanna Hayes, Riley Nottingham, Carlotta Migliolo, Declan Clifford, Gene Efron



Five strangers wake to find themselves trapped inside a tacky, low-budget sitcom. Watched by an unseen audience ever hungry for entertainment, the reluctant 'stars' must learn to play along with their eerie 'supporting' castmates or risk being killed off for cheap laughs. Can they work together to uncover the mysteries of their captivity to escape? Or will they be consumed by the bright lights of 'stardom' and their darkest impulses laid bare?

NIGHTFISH

USA, 2024, 23 min.

WRITERS: Katie North, Daniel Yaiullo
DIR: Sophie Niesenbaum
PRODS: JT Tsou, Katie North, Daniel Yaiullo
EXEC PROD: JT Tsou
CAST: Daniel Yaiullo, Katie North



Nightfish follows the unlikely friendship of two overnight aquarium employees: Sam, a depressed security guard with thwarted ambitions of being a marine biologist, and Piper, a joyfully unbalanced trash-lover who is living out her dream of being a night janitor. In episode one, a dangerous break-in forces the unwilling Sam and overeager Piper to join forces to solve the mystery.



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GASB♥G

A comedy series

A coming-of-age story about a lovable overtalker discovering what (and who) he wants...at age 42.

Created & Written by Lynn Rosen



gasbagtheseries.com



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

gasbagtheseries.com

DWF:NY Screening: Friday, December 6 @ 12:45pm | Regal Union Square

PILOTS GRP 6

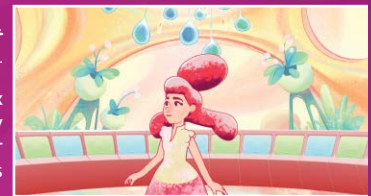
SCREENING: SAT DEC 7 @ 4:30AM

ADA

EAST COAST Premiere | USA, 2023, 21 min.

WRITER: Elizabeth Cox
DIRS: Elizabeth Cox, Kirill Yeretsky
PROD: Brooke Brewer

CAST: Rachel Riall, Maggie Pistner, Jacob Barrens



Should we eradicate mosquitoes? Create superintelligent AI? Create artificial wombs? These are some of the questions on Ada's mind as she heads to the first day of her new job at the public library. She soon realizes her daily reality—mundane duties, grumpy boss—is completely at odds with the urgency she feels about the pressing problems facing humanity.

DROPPED

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 16.5 min.

WRITER: Richard Spitaletta **DIR:** Lucy Hirschfeld
PRODS: Richard Spitaletta, Maya Zaleski
CAST: Richard Spitaletta, Caroline Mixon, Aishwarya 'Aishu' Devan, Thursday Farrar



Dropped is a comedy pilot following Andrew Wallace, a struggling actor who gets dropped by his agent while teaching a master class to a group of children at his old Catholic Middle School. Between his former best friend Laura—now the school drama teacher, a class of Gen Alpha kids who want nothing to do with him, and Bridgit, a 12 year old girl who just booked Law and Order, Andrew must face his fears of failure and connect with his younger self who found joy in art outside of career success.

THE FUN IN FUNNY

WORLD Premiere | USA, 2024, 22.5 min.

WRITER: David Roth **DIR:** Christine Lakin
PRODS: Nicole Treston Abranlian, Brian R. Etting, Christine Lakin, Zach Lev, David Roth, Cloie Wyatt Taylor
CAST: Skylar Smith, David Roth, Marcus Williams, Johnno Wilson, Carly Jibson



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

RUNNING ERINS

USA, 2024, 35 min.

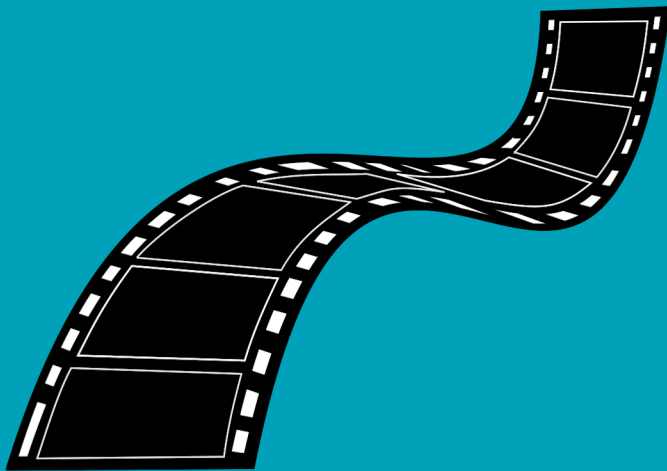
WRITER: Erin Fogel **DIR:** Guillermo Ivan
PRODS: Erin Fogel, Guillermo Ivan, Zeev Feldman, Bryan Capri
CAST: Erin Fogel, Nancy Nagrant, Deborah Rayne, Guillermo Ivan, Adrian Mahawaduge, Milo Fridman



Finally, Erin Fogel has everything pretty much where she wants it. She and her ex are successfully co-parenting their son. Her best friend just moved in. She's dating again. Her parents moved to the neighborhood. And while she's still sad about closing her yoga studio, she has a fantastic community of moms at her son's school to sustain her. But then a new mom joins their group, and she clearly has an axe to grind with Erin. Suddenly, everything Erin has worked so hard to build is in jeopardy, and she's got to figure out how to hold on.

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