An Evening with Dr. Elvis

Enjoy an evening of music, conversation and inspiration, as we present our Humanitarian Award to Dr. Elvis Francois during his special appearance and performance at the Sedona International Film Festival!

Doctor Elvis Francois "Dr. Elvis" is an Orthopedic spine surgeon practicing in Atlanta, GA. Having completed his residency in Orthopedic Surgery at Mayo Clinic, he went on to complete his Spine Surgery fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess, Harvard Medical School.

Beyond his practice as an orthopedic surgeon, he has a unique passion for sharing his voice via uplifting music both in and outside of the hospital. Clinically, he has published many peer-reviewed scientific publications and lectured at national and international conferences on a variety of medical topics.

In 2018, he gained national attention for an impromptu rendition of "Alright" performed after a trauma call shift, and again after a cover of "IMAGINE" promoting hope during Covid-19.

Since that time, Dr. Elvis has been featured on The Ellen Show, Forbes, Rolling Stone, Good Morning America, Today and The View, among countless other mainstream media appearances. Dr. Elvis also starred on the Smash Fox TV Show, The Masked Singer, and was praised repeatedly by another doctor, Dr. Ken Jeong.

He was also named to People Magazine's sexiest men alive 2020. Furthermore, Dr. Elvis has performed live at the Indianapolis 500, Monday Night Football, The Presidential Inauguration and more. His music covers have amassed well over 10 million views on Facebook and Instagram, and in 2020 he produced an album of song covers that peaked at No. 2 on the iTunes charts and was in the Top 20 on the Billboard charts.

In another example of the size of his heart, 100% of the proceeds from his album were donated directly to a COVID-19 relief charity.

Sat, Feb 19 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:30

A Conservation Legacy: An Afternoon with Bruce Babbitt

Enjoy a screening of the Red Rock State Park film and a conversation with Bruce Babbitt.

Beginning with an introduction by former Arizona Governor and Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, the Red Rock State Park film takes the audience through the history of the park from pre-historic times through the current day. The first half of the film features segments that focus on the natural and cultural history associated with the park property including the geological process that resulted in the rock formations that draw most visitors to the area, the native inhabitants of the Verde Valley, the homesteading and ranching era, and the transition of the property to State ownership. The second half of the movie describes the habitat protection and environmental education mission of the park and the many programs available to the public with narration by park ranger staff. Beautiful panoramic views of the rock formations visible from the park trails and close ups of the park's native plants and animals throughout the film bring the audience closer to the natural world. This film was produced with the generous support of the Benefactors of Red Rock State Park.

Immediately following the film we will hear remarks followed by Q&A with Bruce Babbitt. Babbitt was Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration (1993-2001), and Governor of Arizona (1978-1987). During that time he was a tireless advocate to secure and protect public lands. In Sedona and the Verde Valley, his efforts were instrumental in the establishment of Red Rock State Park, Slide Rock State Park and the Verde River Greenway State Natural Area while he was Governor. As Secretary of the Interior he helped establish the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument among other federally protected lands. He currently serves on the boards of the Conservation Lands Foundation, the Amazon Conservation Association and as a Senior Advisor to the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy at the Lincoln Institute. Sedona is a special place because of its natural beauty, and environmental advocacy and protection is close to the hearts of many of our visitors and residents alike. You will not want to miss this special opportunity to hear from Bruce Babbitt!

Sun, Feb 20 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:30

The 12th Hour

USA | 2021 | 52 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Susan Kucera
Producer: Jim Swift
Writer: Jim Swift
Cast: David Morse

Much of our population currently lives with hopeful delusions about climate change. These delusions, many of which are built in by evolution, hamper our ability to meaningfully address the problem.

Our brains evolved to solve short-term challenges for our survival. Climate change is a long-term challenge to our survival. Can we bridge the gap between these modes of thinking?

Emmy-nominated actor David Morse narrates the brutally honest "12th Hour" with insight from noted evolutionary biologists, climate scientists, cognitive researchers and psychologists.

Preceded by:

California on Fire

USA | 2019 | 25 min • Documentary Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Jeff Frost

"California on Fire" is a groundbreaking video and sound artwork by southern Californian artist Jeff Frost. To create the film, Frost trained as a firefighter, gained full access to more than 70 wildfires, and shot 350,000 photos over five years.

Sun, Feb 20 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Thu, Feb 24 | 10am
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:17

The Addict's Wake

USA | 2021 | 105 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Michael Husain
Producers: Lisa Hall, Amy Pauszek, Michael Husain

The charming small towns and picturesque landscapes of Brown County, Indiana attract artists and seasonal tourists, but behind the scenes the community grapples with most widespread public health issue of our time.

Nearly every family, classroom, and workplace in Brown County feels the devastating ripple effects of heroin, meth, and opioid addiction. From the second-by-second panic of overdose to the slower deaths of despair, the ramifications of addiction run deep in America.

In "The Addict's Wake", one small, tight-knit community delivers piercing insight and critical perspective to an issue that impacts the nation.

In Brown County and throughout the United States, the stakes could not be higher. Hear from the teachers, law enforcement officers, and community leaders working hard to stem the tide of addiction. See the issue play out in courts, treatment centers, and faith-based programs. Come alongside a community searching for solutions and hope on the long journey from addiction to recovery.

Filmed over two years this is a powerful story of loss, hope and recovery for individuals in use, their families and a stunned community as a whole — One county illuminating an American crisis. "The Addict's Wake" shows the depth of the crisis, but also sheds light on a path forward.

Thu, Feb 24 | 7pm
Mary D. Fisher

Sat, Feb 26 | 10am
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:45

After Antarctica

USA | 2021 | 105 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Tasha Van Zandt
Producers: Lisa Remington, Amanda Spain, Tasha Van Zandt, Sebastian Zeck
Writers: Don Bernier, Tasha Van Zandt, Sebastian Zeck

In a dramatic attempt to bring awareness to the changing continent, an international expedition led by renowned explorer Will Steger embarked on the first-ever coast-to-coast expedition across Antarctica in 1989. Six explorers and their sled dogs braved howling storms, sub-zero temperatures, snow crevasses, and other perils as they traversed the icy terrain.

Now, thirty years since his groundbreaking expedition, Steger heads out on the ice once again — this time to the opposite end of the planet. Deftly weaving his contemporary journey with rare, dynamic footage of his original treacherous seven-month odyssey, "After Antarctica" is an urgent message spanning both poles.

Thu, Feb 24 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Sat, Feb 26 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:45

Ahed's Knee

Israel | 2021 | 109 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Nadav Lapid
Cast: Avshalom Pollak, Nur Fibak

A celebrated Israeli filmmaker named Y arrives in a remote desert village to present one of his films at a local library. Struggling to cope with the recent news of his mother's terminal illness, he is pushed into a spiral of rage when the host of the screening, a government employee, asks him to sign a form placing restrictions on what he can say at the film's Q&A.

Told over the course of one day, the film depicts Y as he battles against the loss of freedom in his country and the fear of losing his mother.

Winner of the Jury Prize at last year's Cannes Film Festival, this boldly shot and conceived work feels as though it has welled up from the depths of its maker's soul.

Wed, Feb 23 | 10am
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:49

Albatross

USA | 2021 | 97 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Myles Yaksich
Producers: Jennie Lew Tugend, Myles Yaksich, James Mark, Bruno Marino
Cast: Sarah Orenstein, David Keeley, Romaine Waite, Katherine Gauthier, Jill Frappier, Mikaela Bisson

"Albatross" is a character-driven drama, which examines the concept of self (identity, ethnicity and sexual-orientation) in the context of society, while illustrating the compromises individuals are willing to make to feel as though they belong.

Two seemingly separate narratives, spanning some 30 years converge at a dinner party between two newly introduced couples in 1959 New England, revealing that the attendees know much more about one another than they first thought.

Thu, Feb 24 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:37

Americanish

USA | 2021 | 91 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Iman Zawahry
Producers: Roy Wol, Paul Seetachitt, Iman Zawahry, Aizzah Fatima
Writers: Aizzah Fatima, Iman Zawahry
Cast: Aizzah Fatima, Salena Qureshi, Shenaz Treasurey, Lillete Dubey, Mohammed Amer, Godfrey, George Wendt, Kapil Talwalkar, David Rasche

Welcome to America: Where dreams come true...ish. A break from the traditional romantic comedy, "Americanish" highlights different layers of womanhood as they intersect with cultural and societal expectations.

"Americanish" invites viewers into the home and lives of three marriage-aged women as they navigate the often turbulent waters of romance, culture, career, and family. We follow the joys and tribulations of career-driven sisters Maryam and Sam Khan, and their fish-out-of-water cousin Ameera.

Set in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York, the film follows a relatable and endearing storyline offering a fresh perspective on classic rom-com tropes. "Americanish" delves into the complexity of trying to both honor and break from cultural traditions while balancing personal values and career goals in a society that does not always accommodate both.

Thu, Feb 24 | 1pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:31

The Art of Making It

USA | 2021 | 94 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Kelcey Edwards
Executive Producers: Regina K. Scully, Mara Burros Sandler, Andrew Mer, George Wells
Producers: Debi Wisch, Allison Berg, Susan Norget

From the producer of the Emmy-nominated "The Price of Everything", a film about who gets seen and who gets left behind in today's seductive, secretive and unregulated art world.

The film follows a diverse group of compelling young artists on the brink of unimaginable success or failure as they challenge systems, break barriers and risk it all with the goal of making it in an industry where all the rules are currently being rewritten.

Sun, Feb 20 | 10am
Harkins 1

Tue, Feb 22 | 4pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:34

Ascension

China | 2021 | 98 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Jessica Kingdon
Producers: Jessica Kingdon, Kira Simon-Kennedy, Nathan Truesdell

"Ascension" is an impressionistic portrait of China's industrial supply chain that reveals the country's growing class divide through staggering observations of labor, consumerism and wealth.

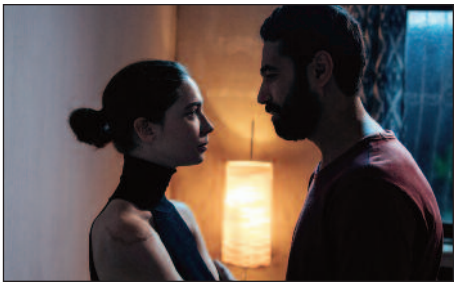
The documentary portrays capitalism in China across the levels of its operation, from the crudest mine to the most rarefied forms of leisure. Accordingly, the film is structured in three parts, ascending through the levels of the capitalist structure: workers running factory production, the middle class training for and selling to aspirational consumers, and the elites reveling in a new level of hedonistic enjoyment.

In traveling up the rungs of China's social ladder, we see how each level supports and makes possible the next while recognizing the contemporary "Chinese Dream" remains an elusive fantasy for most.

Sun, Feb 20 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Tue, Feb 22 | 1pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:38



Atlas

Switzerland | 2021 | 88 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Niccolò Castelli
Producers: Villi Hermann, Michela Pini
Writers: Niccolò Castelli, Stefano Pasetto
Cast: Matilda De Angelis, Helmi Dridi, Irene Casagrande, Nicola Perot, Anna Manuelli, Kevin Blaser, Anna Ferruzzo, Angelo Bison, Neri Marcoré, Andrea Zogg

Allegra is a lively young woman with a passion for high mountain climbing. She decides to travel to Morocco to reach the top of the Atlas, but her trip ends abruptly when a man explodes a bomb in a coffee shop and her three friends die in the attack.

Unable to overcome the trauma months later she returns to her city, where the encounter with Arad, a young Muslim refugee, forces her to confront her perception of reality, her fears and heal her profound interior wounds.

Preceded by:

The Little Drummer Boy

USA | 2021 | 10 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: John Gray
Producer: Melissa Jo Peltier
Cast: Xander Berkeley, Michael Graziadei, Jennifer Van Dyke, Wyatt Cirbus

All is not as it seems when a father and son have a violent confrontation on Christmas Eve.

Thu, Feb 24 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Sat, Feb 26 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:38

Betrayed

Norway | 2021 | 126 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Eirik Svensson
Producers: Martin Sundland, Catrin Gundersen, Therese Bøhn
Writers: Harald Rosenløw Eeg, Lars Gudmestad
Cast: Jakob Oftebro, Silje Storstein, Carl Martin Eggesbø, Eilif Hartwig, Michalis Koutsogiannakis

During World War II, millions of Jews from all over Europe are deported and killed in German concentration camps. When the German troops invade Norway, the Norwegian Jews feel safe and protected. But as the war escalates in Europe, the situation changes drastically.

One day, all the men over the age of 15 are arrested and taken to prison camps. Many of the women left behind are too frightened to escape and are desperately waiting for their husbands and sons to come back home.

On November 26, 1942, hundreds of Jews are picked up by the police and transported to the dock in Oslo. Unknowing and frightened, they are forced on board the awaiting German cargo ship "SS DONAU". The ship leaves Oslo with 532 Norwegian Jews; 302 men, 188 women and 42 children. The end station is Auschwitz.

"Betrayed" is based on the true story about the Braude family. An ordinary Norwegian family whose fate is sealed by the fact that they are Jews.

Tue, Feb 22 | 10am
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 2:06

Black Box

France | 2021 | 127 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Yann Gozlan
Writers: Nicolas Bouvet-Levrard, Yann Gozlan, Jérémie Guez, Simon Moutairou
Cast: Pierre Niney, Lou de Laâge, André Dussollier

The taut and suspenseful "Black Box" unravels the events behind a tragic incident in the aeronautics industry.

Matthieu, a brilliant young black-box analyst with an extraordinarily acute ear is charged with investigating a deadly plane crash. Progressively obsessed by inexplicable evidence that doesn't add up, and spiraling further and further into the realm of paranoia, he gradually loses credibility at the BEA, the bureau that investigates aviation safety in France. So he's forced to go rogue, risking both career and life, but determined to uncover the sordid truth.

Mon, Feb 21 | 1pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 2:07

Black White and the Greys

USA | 2021 | 99 min • Narrative Feature

Directors: Marchelle Thurman, Casey Nelson
Producers: Jay Jablonski, Jessica Mathews
Writers: Casey Nelson, Marchelle Thurman
Cast: Casey Nelson, Marchelle Thurman, Jay Jablonski, Rachel Luttrell, Dominic Bogart, Jared Wofford, Rachael Thompson, Skylar Denney

An interracial couple going through a divorce, are forced to quarantine together in 2020, through the Covid Pandemic and 'Black Lives Matter' movement.

Thu, Feb 24 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Sat, Feb 26 | 1pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:39

Boycott

USA | 2021 | 71 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Julia Bacha
Producers: Daniel J. Chalfen, Suhad Babaa

When a news publisher in Arkansas, an attorney in Arizona, and a speech therapist in Texas are told they must choose between their jobs and their political beliefs, they launch legal battles that expose an attack on freedom of speech across 33 states in America.

"Boycott" traces the impact of state legislation designed to penalize individuals and companies that choose to boycott Israel due to its human rights record. A legal thriller with "accidental plaintiffs" at the center of the story, "Boycott" is a bracing look at the far-reaching implications of anti-boycott legislation and an inspiring tale of everyday Americans standing up to protect our rights in an age of shifting politics and threats to freedom of speech.

Sun, Feb 20 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Wed, Feb 23 | 4pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:11

Boulevard! A Hollywood Story

USA | 2021 | 85 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Jeffrey Schwarz
Executive Producers: Alan Eichler, Gerald Herman, Scott Sigman
Producers: Jeffrey Schwarz, John Boccardo

The true story of Gloria Swanson's attempt to make Sunset Boulevard; into a musical and the resulting threesome with her songwriters.

When Gloria Swanson, the iconic star of Sunset Boulevard, saw an opportunity to parlay her silent film glory into a new phase of her career, she began to envision a musical stage adaptation of her most famous film.

Enter, Dickson Hughes and Richard Stapley, two struggling songwriters (and romantic couple) looking for their big break. The men find themselves whisked away by Swanson to a sumptuous house in Palm Springs, where the trio set to creating the musical from the ground up. As the days wear on, a triangle begins to take hold that goes beyond mere creative partnership.

From the dark alleys of L.A. to the desert nirvana of Palm Springs to the posh New York theater world, "Boulevard! A Hollywood Story" is the tale of three individuals who attempt to share a melody with all those people out there in the dark…and how the music of that moment defined the rest of their lives.

Fri, Feb 25 | 1pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:25

Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen

USA | 2022 | 88 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Daniel Raim
Producers: Sasha Berman, Daniel Raim
Writers: Daniel Raim, Michael Sragow
Cast: Norman Jewison, Robert F. Boyle, Rosalind Harris, Michele Marsh, Neva Small, Topol
Featuring: Jeff Goldblum (narrator)

The fall of 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of "Fiddler on the Roof", the film Pauline Kael (The New Yorker) called "the most powerful movie musical ever made."

Narrated by Jeff Goldblum, "Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen" captures the humor and drama of director Norman Jewison's quest to recreate the lost world of Jewish life in Tsarist Russia and re-envision the beloved stage hit as a wide-screen epic.

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim puts us in the director's chair and in Jewison's heart and mind, drawing on behind-the-scenes footage and never-before-seen stills as well as original interviews with Jewison, Topol (Tevye), composer John Williams, production designer Robert F. Boyle, film critic Kenneth Turan, lyricist Sheldon Harnick, and actresses Rosalind Harris, Michele Marsh, and Neva Small (Tevye's daughters).

The film explores how the experience of making Fiddler deepened Jewison as an artist and revived his soul.

Mon, Feb 21 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:28

State of the Unity

USA | 2022 | 88 min • Documentary Feature

Directors/Producers: Jillian Speece, Nathaniel Paul Hoff
Executive Producers: Jillian Speece, Nathaniel Paul Hoff, Donna Kohl, Jon David Croel
Featuring: David Anderson Hooker, Ph.D., Marci Carolyn Kaptur, Patrick Ashton, Jillian Speece, Nathaniel Paul Hoff

Is unity possible? That is the question that launched the Brooklyn-based band The Bergamot on a quest to all 50 States to unite people with music, community, and collaboration. What began as a simple idea in the band's touring vehicle, brought about a profound revelation. How do we reframe the way we perceive and understand unity.

"For it is not a shared narrative of a future, but a narrative of a shared future, that can unite us together" says David Hooker Ph.D. How the duo connected people, with that exact vehicle they were sitting in, started a conversation that continues to this day.

Join them in this timely 50,000-mile tour in human understanding, perseverance, and empathy that changed their lives forever.

This special screening will be followed by a Q&A and performance by the band The Bergamot.

Sun, Feb 20 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:28

Bring It Home

USA | 2021 | 81 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Carl Kriss
Producer: Margie Glick

In November 2018, General Motors announced plant closures in Ohio, Michigan, Maryland and Oshawa, Ontario. This decision left thousands of families with unanswered questions. Would these plants be closed permanently? Should they request out-of-state transfers? What would happen to their pensions and benefits?

"Bring It Home" tells the stories of five families from the Lordstown, Ohio auto plant at a crossroads following GM's decision.

What will happen to the families who are forced to relocate and the community they leave behind?

Preceded by:

Unlivable Oasis

USA | 2021 | 27 min • Documentary Short

Director: Mauricio Rodriguez
Producers: Mauricio Rodriguez, Elizabeth Weil, Nadia Sussman
Writers: Mauricio Rodriguez, Nadia Sussman, Almudena Toral

In the eastern Coachella Valley, one of the hottest regions in the U.S., an immigrant family struggles to find livable housing in the midst of the climate crisis.

Welcome to Thermal, a Southern California town that's both a playground for the rich and home to some of the hottest farmland in the world. Thermal is a case study in how the growing climate crisis magnifies inequality, and how it intersects with housing, our first line of defense against an increasingly inhospitable environment.

Thu, Feb 24 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Sat, Feb 26 | 10am
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:48

Building a Bridge

USA | 2021 | 96 min • Documentary Feature

Directors: Evan Mascagni, Shannon Post
Producers: Nick Capezzera, Evan Mascagni, Shannon Post

"Building a Bridge" follows Father James Martin on his journey to make the Catholic Church more accepting of the LGBTQ+ community, despite loud opposition from within and outside the Church.

Horrified by Catholic leaders' silence in the wake of the Pulse nightclub massacre, Father Martin writes a widely-acclaimed book and tours the country speaking with the news media, local parishes and LGBTQ+ Catholics with his message of "compassion, respect, and sensitivity."

The film follows Father Martin and the lives he has impacted, including a grieving Pulse mother, a family with three queer siblings, and a college student trying to reconcile his gay and Catholic identities.

Despite online attacks and his own personal struggles, Father Martin reaches hundreds of thousands of people with his message across the country and world.

Preceded by:

The Spiritual Exercises

USA | 2020 | 18 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Scott Chestnut, Lloyd Kramer
Producers: Alison Joy, Lloyd Kramer, Tom Yellin

Terry and Therese fall in love in 1960s New York. He's a rising star in the art world, and she works at the famed Metropolitan Opera. The only problem? He's a Jesuit Priest who has taken a vow of celibacy. "The Spiritual Exercises" tells a love story in the face of impossible odds.

Sun, Feb 20 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Tue, Feb 22 | 10am
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:54

Calendar Girls

Sweden | 2022 | 84 min • Documentary Feature

Directors/Producers/Writers: Maria Loohufvud, Love Martinsen

Meet the Calendar Girls — Florida's most dedicated dance team for women over 60.

"Calendar Girls" is a coming-of-golden-age film about the second teenage phase: the retirement phase. Following senior volunteer dancers in Southern Florida, who are determined to prove that age is just a number, The Calendar Girls give it all they've got. And they have a lot to give — impressive makeup; handmade costumes; elaborate dance routines; and, most notably, their unparalleled enthusiasm and sparkling personalities.

Through revealing conversations and choreographed dance scenes the film captures the challenges of being a woman over 60 and the delicate balance of family, home and dance. With laughter and tears, relationships and identities change as new dreams are discovered.

Directors Maria Loohufvud and Love Martinsen craft a life-affirming, feel-good documentary that shakes up the outdated image of what it means to be an "old lady". It's a call for everyone to dance their heart out, while you still can.

Sun, Feb 27 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:24

Carlos Ghosn: The Last Flight

Lebanon, France, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom
2021 | 90 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Nick Green
Producers: Lily Fletcher, Linda Mechaab, Nora Melhli

In December 2019, Carlos Ghosn, the former CEO of the Renault-Nissan alliance accused of financial crimes, stunned the world by escaping Japan in a Hollywood leak.

Very quickly, he went from famous industry leader to international fugitive: what triggered this impressive fall? Ghosn claims to have been the victim of a conspiracy involving Nissan executives and members of the Japanese government.

Yet the charges against him are hard to ignore.

This documentary sheds light on this complex, multifaceted history. Interviews, archive footage and exclusive testimonials from Carlos Ghosn and his wife Carole reveal new details about his spectacular escape.

Mon, Feb 21 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Wed, Feb 23 | 1pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:30

Cat Daddies

USA | 2021 | 89 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Mye Hoang
Producers: Dave Boyle, Mye Hoang, Rob Bennett, Nobu Nagatsuma

David Giovanni is living on the streets of New York, determined to stay together with his beloved cat Lucky. When he's finally granted a spot in a transitional housing facility that accepts cats, the COVID-19 pandemic and a devastating medical diagnosis puts his future together with Lucky in doubt. David's journey is interspersed with portraits of other "cat dads" from all over the country and some of which struggle to navigate the unprecedented events of 2020 with their little furry friends. They include a group of firefighters, a stunt man, a truck driver, a Bay Area tech worker, a schoolteacher whose cat becomes a viral sensation, and an actor/Instagram influencer. These men couldn't be more different, but they share an unconditional love of their beloved pets.

"Cat Daddies" is a refreshing and timely exploration of modern masculinity and the unlikely bond between man and cat.

Preceded by:

Snowy

USA | 2021 | 12 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Alexander W. Lewis, Kaitlyn Schwalje
Producers: Justin Levy, Rebecca Stern
Writer: Kaitlyn Schwalje

Snowy, a four-inch-long pet turtle, has lived an isolated life in the family basement. With help from a team of experts and his caretaker, Uncle Larry, we ask: Can Snowy be happy, and what would it take? This short documentary is both an investigation into animal happiness and an intervention to improve one turtle's life. We explore our capacity to understand the animals that live in our homes.

Sun, Feb 20 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Tue, Feb 22 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:41

Code Name: Nagasaki

Norway | 2021 | 70 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Fredrik S. Hana
Producer: Gunhild Oddsen
Writers: Fredrik S. Hana, Marius Lunde

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Documentary at last year's Slamdance Film Festival, this thrilling cinematic investigation follows a young Norwegian man, Marius Lunde, as he attempts to locate his estranged mother, who left for Japan and cut off all ties with her family when Lunde was just 5 years old.

Bonded by a love of film, childhood friends Lunde and director Fredrik S. Hana decide to capture Lunde's journey through masterfully-rendered, genre-specific re-enactments. The duo stage the intricate chapters of their quest — with Lunde as the leading man and Lunde behind the camera — alongside raw handheld footage, cleverly blurring the lines between fact and fiction, real and imagined.

Preceded by:

The Bitter Root

USA | 2021 | 19 min • Documentary Short

Director: Chad Clendinen
Producers: Adam Finck, Davis Goslin, David Ocitti

David Ocitti was just a boy when the rebels attacked his village, killing his father and forcing him to become a soldier in their brutal army. After surviving gunfire in a narrow escape, David finds his way home to northern Uganda, only to be ostracized from friends and family. Years later, determined to help others avoid the same pain, David dedicates his life to reuniting rebel fighters with their families, some after over 20 years at war. We follow David as he boards small planes and rides down remote paths, venturing into active conflict zones to bring home fighters whose families never lost hope in their return.

Tue, Feb 22 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Fri, Feb 25 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:29

The Conductor

USA | 2021 | 99 min • Documentary Feature

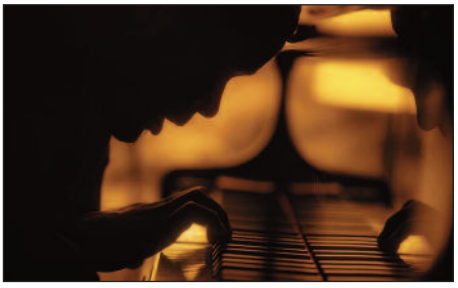
Director: Bernadette Wegenstein
Producer: Annette Porter
Writers: Stefan Fauland, Bernadette Wegenstein

"The Conductor" takes the audience into the heart of classical music, and into the soul of one of its top artists, the internationally renowned conductor Marin Alsop — the first woman to serve as music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra — giving us backstage passes to the artistry and energy that rewards her audiences and inspires her students.

With unprecedented access, the director and film crew accompany Marin Alsop to concerts around the world from Mozart's Magic Flute in São Paulo, to Mahler's 1st Symphony in Lucerne, to Bernstein's Mass in Baltimore, and her opening concert in Vienna.

In spite of rejections from the establishment of classical music and being told "girls can't do that," Marin Alsop persisted and never let go of her childhood dream of becoming a conductor. The film features a combination of intimate interviews with the Maestra, a look into her private life, unseen archival footage with her mentor Leonard Bernstein, and Vérité scenes conducting different orchestras.

Preceded by:



A Concerto is a Conversation

USA | 2020 | 14 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Ben Proudfoot, Kris Bowers
Producers: Jeremy Lambert, Kris Bowers
Cast: Kris Bowers, Horace Bowers Sr.

A virtuoso jazz pianist and film composer tracks his family's lineage through his 91-year-old grandfather from Jim Crow Florida to the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Sat, Feb 19 | 10am
Mary D. Fisher

Mon, Feb 21 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:53

A Crack In The Mountain

Hong Kong | 2021 | 115 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Producer/Writer: Alastair Evans
Cast: Hương Thiên Nguyễn Lê, Howard Limbert, Adam Spillane, Giang Hoàng Đặng, Bill Hayton

Deep in the jungle of Central Vietnam, lies a magnificent underground kingdom.

Hang Son Doong which translates as "mountain river cave", is the largest cave system on the planet and a place of spectacular beauty.

With more people having climbed Everest than visited Son Doong, its pristine charm has remained undisturbed for millions of years. In 2014 Son Doong's future was thrown into doubt when plans were announced to build a cable car into the cave.

With many arguing that this would destroy its delicate eco-system and the local community divided over the benefits this development would bring, the film follows those caught up in the unfolding events.

Beautifully shot and scored, "A Crack In The Mountain" is a powerful exposé about how both good and bad intentions can ultimately lead to one of the world's greatest natural wonders being trampled for money. As well as inspire those who care about our natural heritage to fight to protect it.

Wed, Feb 23 | 10am
Mary D. Fisher

Fri, Feb 25 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:55

De Gaulle

France | 2020 | 108 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Gabriel Le Bomin
Producers: Aïssa Djabri, Farid Lahouassa
Cast: Lambert Wilson, Isabelle Carré

May 1940. France is facing a disastrous military situation against the German army. Charles de Gaulle, newly appointed General, joins the Government in Paris while Yvonne, his wife, and their three children stay in the East.

Facing the defeatist attitude of Pétain ready to negotiate with Hitler, de Gaulle has one purpose: continue fighting. And along with thousands of French families, Yvonne and the children are soon forced to flee the advancing German troops.

Without contact from one another, the doubt arises: will the de Gaulle family be sacrificed for the sake of France?

Mon, Feb 21 | 7pm
Mary D. Fisher

Sun, Feb 27 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:48

Dear Zoe

USA | 2021 | 95 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Gren Wells
Executive Producers: Lizzie Friedman, Susan Cartsonis, Brent Emery, Suzanne Farwell
Producers: Marc Lhormer, Brenda Lhormer, Peter Phok, Christopher H. Warner
Writers: Marc Lhormer, Melissa Martin
Cast: Sadie Sink, Theo Rossi, Kweku Collins, Vivien Blair, Justin Bartha, Jessica Capshaw

Adapted from the heartbreaking and inspirational novel of the same name, "Dear Zoe" is the beautiful, grounded story of Tess, an ordinary teenage girl with ordinary problems, who must come to terms with the death of her extraordinary baby sister Zoe who died on the morning of 9/11.

While the whole nation reels, Tess and her family struggle with their very personal loss. Against long odds, Tess finds love and support in unusual and unexpected places. Her coming-of-age journey enables her to reconcile her anger and guilt about what happened, and sees her ready to participate with her family in the process of healing and living to face another day.

Sat, Feb 26 | 10am
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:35

Delicious

France, Belgium | 2021 | 112 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Éric Besnard
Producers: Philip Boëffard, Christophe Rossignon
Writers: Éric Besnard, Nicolas Boukhrief
Cast: Gregory Gadebois, Isabelle Carre, Benjamin Lavernhe

Writer/director Éric Besnard's mouth-watering new historical comedy indelibly pairs Grégory Gadebois and Isabelle Carré as a gifted chef and his unlikely protégé, who must find the resolve to free themselves from servitude.

In 1789 France, just prior to the Revolution, gastronomy is strictly the domain of the aristocrats; indeed, the prestige of a noble house is entirely dependent on the quality and reputation of its table. So, when the talented but prideful cook Manceron (Gadebois) serves an unapproved dish of his own creation at a dinner hosted by the self-entitled Duke of Chamfort (C'est La Vie's Benjamin Lavernhe), the repercussions are brutal, and he is promptly dismissed.

The wounded Manceron swears off his passion and retreats with his son to a regional inn visited only infrequently by travelers, and where vegetable soup is the common meal. But when a mysterious woman (Carré) arrives and offers to pay to become his apprentice, the stage is set for a wildly enjoyable tale of reignited passion, mentorship and revenge — and of the creation of France's very first restaurant.

Tue, Feb 22 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:52

The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson

Australia | 2021 | 108 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Leah Purcell
Producers: Bain Stewart, David Jowsey, Angela Littlejohn, Greer Simpkin, Leah Purcell
Cast: Leah Purcell, Rob Collins, Sam Reid, Jessica De Gouw, Benedict Hardie, Harry Greenwood, Tony Cogin

“The Drover’s Wife,” an Australian revenge tale starring Leah Purcell (who also wrote and directed the film) is an adaptation of her successful Australian stage play of the same name.

A searing Western thriller, “The Drover’s Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson” is a reimagining of Henry Lawson’s classic short story “The Drover’s Wife.” The story is set in 1893, and centers on the heavily pregnant Molly Johnson (Purcell) and her children, who struggle in isolation to survive the harsh Australian landscape after her husband leaves to go drove sheep in the high country.

One day, she finds a shackled Aboriginal fugitive named Yakada (Rob Collins) wounded on her property and forms an unlikely bond with him. Molly soon becomes the target of the suspicious lawman Nate Clintoff (Sam Reid) who sends an officer to her home. The encounter between Molly, the officer and Yakada turns deadly and results in a tragic chain of events with Molly becoming a symbol of feminism and anti-racism.

"The Drover’s Wife" is a story that goes beyond borders and time. The issues explored within the film are still incredibly pertinent today and inspiring to those who watch it.

Mon, Feb 21 | 10am
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:48

Drunken Birds

Canada | 2021 | 105 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Ivan Grbovic
Producers: Luc Déry, Kim Mccraw
Cast: Antonio Guerrero, Hélène Florent, Claude Legault, Marine Jonhson, Gilberto Barazza, Yoshira Escárrega, Amaryllis Tremblay, Maxime Dumontier, Karl Walcott, Normand D'amour

Willy can no longer hide his feelings for Marlena. The problem is Marlena belongs to a Mexican drug lord to whom Willy is employed, and an attempt to steal the boss's woman would have disastrous consequences. Willy tries anyway and succeeds in winning Marlena's heart, but the lovers are forced to flee for their lives to locations unbeknownst to each other but far from Mexico.

Marlena seeks refuge in Montreal with a family member, and Willy manages to find summer work on a Quebec farm picking lettuce. The only clue to Marlena's whereabouts is a locket from a Montreal jeweler she gave him before they parted.

The farm owners are kindly at first and Willy gets along with everyone, making it a suitable sanctuary in which he can use his few hours of leisure time to search for his lost love. However, his kind-hearted and naive nature soon lands him in trouble again after he is falsely accused of sexually assaulting the farm owners' daughter, Lèa, who is desperate to escape farm life.

Tue, Feb 22 | 1pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:45

Exposing Muybridge

USA | 2021 | 88 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Marc Shaffer
Producers: Elisabeth Haviland James, Rebecca Pederson, Serginho Roosblad, Marc Shaffer

"Exposing Muybridge" tells the story of trailblazing 19th-century photographer Eadweard Muybridge, who changed the world with his camera. Muybridge set the course for the development of cinema when he became the first photographer to capture something moving faster than the human eye can see — Leland Stanford's galloping horses. He also produced a sprawling and spectacular landscape catalog, ranging from Alaska to Central America, Utah to California.

Artful, resilient, selfish, naive, eccentric, deceitful — Muybridge is a complicated, imperfect man and his story drips with ambition and success, loss and betrayal, near death experiences and even murder. "The machine cannot lie," Stanford declared of Muybridge's pioneering motion images. But what about the photographer?

More than a century after his death, Muybridge's photographs have never ceased to seduce cutting-edge artists, scientists, innovators, and general viewers alike.

Preceded by:

The Sound of Gravity

USA | 2020 | 13 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Sarah Klein, Tom Mason

This short film chronicles the first ever detection of gravitational waves — more than 100 years after Einstein predicted them. It was a discovery that literally shook the world (ever so slightly!).

Mon, Feb 21 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Fri, Feb 25 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:41

Faith Can Move Mountains

Norway | 2021 | 81 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Silje Evensmo Jacobsen
Producer: Ingvil Giske

A group of Greek Orthodox nuns settle down in a remote and beautiful village in Norway, planning to build a monastery on a steep and dangerous mountain overseeing the fjord. Penniless, but with a strong faith, they try to adapt in the new surroundings and gain the community's trust – to the point that the local authorities are tempted to convert the monastery into a tourist attraction. A unique, paradoxical story about the globalized intersection of will power, transcendence, and profit.

Preceded by:

Ark of the Apocalypse

USA | 2021 | 13 min • Documentary Short

Director: Jeremy Seifert
Producers: Jeremy Seifert, Emmanuel Vaughn-Lee

The Bible teaches that God washed clean the evil, corruption and violence of the Earth with a global flood, but spared the lives of Noah, his family and the animals in a great ark.

In northern Kentucky lies Ark Encounter, a life-size homage to all 510 feet of Noah's Ark. It serves as a teaching aid for the Old Testament as well as a marvel of modern workmanship. Inside the dramatic ark, even nonbelievers are tempted to see an omen in the recent natural disasters of fire and flood, which could portend a sign of a coming apocalypse.

Sat, Feb 19 | 1pm
Mary D. Fisher

Mon, Feb 21 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:34

Four for Fun

USA | 2022 | 88 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Jason Cook
Producers: Jason Cook, Jacob Young
Cast: Jacob Young, Annika Foster, Donovan Patton, Brytni Sarpy

A "choose-your-own-ending" dinner party, with 11 roads leading to a single conclusion: our best life is lived in the present.

As Emmy and her husband Søren head to her boss's house for a dinner party, she discovers panties in her purse — remains from a tryst with her boss. Over and over she tries to rid herself of the evidence — and the guilt — without any luck.

Meanwhile, her boss George, and his wife Desirae, welcome them for a fancy dinner beneath the stars, in anticipation of a meteor shower, and to Søren's surprise, an offer of swinging.

In this multiverse, only the audience is privy to how different choices effect each character and outcome. What is most difficult is the simplest answer — the best life is lived in the present.

Wed, Feb 23 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:28

France

France, Germany, Italy, Belgium | 2021 | 133 min
Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Bruno Dumont
Cast: Léa Seydoux, Blanche Gardin, Benjamin Biolay, Emanuele Arioli

Léa Seydoux brilliantly holds the center of Bruno Dumont's unexpected new film. She stars as France de Meurs, a seemingly unflappable superstar TV journalist whose career, homelife, and psychological stability are shaken after she carelessly drives into a young delivery man on a busy Paris street.

This accident triggers a series of self-reckonings, as well as a strange romance that proves impossible to shake. A film that teases at redemption while refusing to grant absolution, "France" is tragicomic and deliciously ambivalent — a very 21st-century treatment of the difficulty of maintaining identity in a corrosive culture.

Sun, Feb 20 | 7pm
Mary D. Fisher

Sun, Feb 27 | 10am
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 2:13

Free Renty: Lanier v. Harvard

USA | 2021 | 95 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Producer: David Grubin
Cast: Tamara Lanier, Benjamin Crump, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Tina Campt, Ariella Azoulay

"Free Renty: Lanier v. Harvard" tells the story of Tamara Lanier, a Black woman determined to force Harvard University to cede ownership of daguerreotypes of her great-great-great grandfather, an enslaved man named Renty.

The images are emblematic of the inhumanity of slavery, the racist science that supported it, and the white supremacy that continues to infect our society today. The film focuses on Lanier, following her lawsuit and the growing activism around it, and features Attorney Benjamin Crump and author Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Preceded by:

Learning to Breathe

USA | 2021 | 10 min • Documentary Short

Director/Writer: Joe Brewster
Producers: Joe Brewster, Geeta Gandbhir, Michele Stephenson, Blair Foster

In 2014, the police killings of Eric Garner, John Crawford, Tamir Rice, and Michael Brown led to protests all across the country. That year, in a short film for the New York Times, we asked ten young boys to share their particular challenges of growing up Black in America. It was seen by millions.

Five years later, these boys are now young men, and in the wake of global uprisings and continued state-sanctioned violence against Black bodies, we revisit them.

Tue, Feb 22 | 10am
Harkins 1

Fri, Feb 25 | 4pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:45

Helene

Finland | 2020 | 121 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Antti Jokinen
Producers: Antti Jokinen, Evelin Penttilä, Mikko Tenhunen
Writers: Antti Jokinen, Marko Leino, Rakel Liehu
Cast: Laura Birn, Johannes Holopainen, Krista Kosonen, Pirkko Saisio, Eero Aho

Inspired by true events, "Helene" describes the life of Finland's most acclaimed painter Helene Schjerfbeck between 1915-1923.

Year 1915. Helene Schjerfbeck is a forgotten artist living in the countryside with her elderly mother. Years have passed since her last exhibition, and Helene has continued to paint only for her own passion.

Everything changes when an art dealer discovers Helene and her 159 amazing paintings and wants to organize a large solo exhibition. However, the most important moment in Helene's life is brought on by her encounter with amateur painter Einar Reuter, who is a passionate admirer of Helene's art. He becomes Helene's confidante and the unfulfilled love of her life.

Sun, Feb 27 | 7pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 2:01

Implanted

USA | 2021 | 93 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Producer: Fabien Dufils
Writers: Fabien Dufils, David Bourgie
Cast: Michelle Girolami, Ivo Velon, Martin Ewens, Edouard Montoute

Sarah, a struggling young woman living in Brooklyn, agrees to volunteer as an experimental test subject for a pharmaceutical company called Dynamic Health Cure to be implanted with the LEXX nanochip. Sarah hopes that the money received for her participation will solve her financial troubles and help her to take care of her mother who has Alzheimer's.

A nanochip is implanted in her cerebral cortex. It is designed with artificial intelligence technology to take control of the body at the inception of any disease or illness.

When the implant turns sinister and orders her to commit crimes, Sarah is plunged into a murderous spiral with only one choice: to live or die.

Mon, Feb 21 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:33

Kiss Me Kosher

Israel, Germany | 2020 | 101 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Shirel Peleg
Producers: Chevy Chen, Christine Günther
Cast: Moran Rosenblatt, Luise Wolfram, Rivka Michaeli, Juliane Köhler, Bernhard Schütz

A subversive love story between clashing cultures and families, "Kiss Me Kosher" is a romantic misadventure crossing all borders. When two generations of Israeli women fall for a German woman and a Palestinian man, chaos follows. What happens with lovers who don't fit but do belong together?

Tue, Feb 22 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Sun, Feb 27 | 10am
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:41

The Last Bus

United Kingdom | 2021 | 86 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Gillies Mackinnon
Producers: Roy Boulter, Sol Papadopoulos
Writer: Joe Ainsworth
Cast: Timothy Spall, Phyllis Logan

Life is a journey and "The Last Bus" takes our old soldier, 90-year-old Tom Harper (Timothy Spall) on an epic trip from his home of fifty years - a remote village in the most northerly point of Scotland - back to the place he was born – close to England's most southerly point.

Battling against time, age and fate, desperate to keep a promise to his beloved wife Mary (Phyllis Logan), our intrepid hero Tom embarks on an odyssey, revisiting his past, connecting with the modern world and a diverse, multi-cultural Britain he has never experienced.

"The Last Bus" is a road movie; a film about love, loss and the human spirit. A film that reminds us we are not alone - and that we're all on this ride together.

Sat, Feb 19 | 10am
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:26

Life & Life: A Story of Redemption

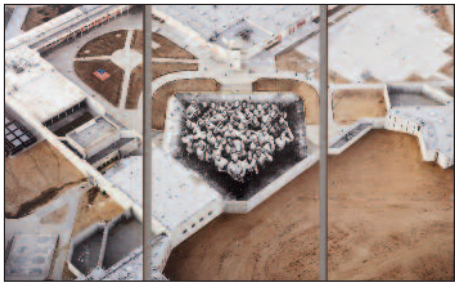
France, USA | 2021 | 80 min • Documentary Feature

Director: N.C. Heikin
Producers: N.C. Heikin, Nicole London, Jessica Wolfson

After serving 35 years in prison for murder, musician Reggie Austin faces an uncertain future back on the streets as he tries to rebuild a life, reconnect with his family, and armed with little else but his heart and his music, find a way to survive.

"Life & Life" tracks the journey that musician Reggie Austin takes to redeem his life following a murder conviction 40 years ago. With surprising honesty and depth, the film looks at Austin's effect on his fellow inmates and his efforts to reconnect with his family, as well as questioning parole and sentencing practices through his story. Ultimately, the film reveals the steep and dangerous hill ex-prisoners must climb upon release to free themselves and create a positive future. "Life & Life" is a story of the struggle for redemption and hope against near impossible odds, accompanied by a soundtrack that comes straight from Austin's heart.

Preceded by:



Tehachapi

USA | 2021 | 14 min • Documentary Short

Directors: JR, Tasha Van Zandt

"Tehachapi" follows currently and formerly incarcerated men at California's level four supermax prison as they collaborate with renowned photographer and artist JR on a project to transform the prison yard into a powerful and participatory work of art.

Sun, Feb 20 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Wed, Feb 23 | 10am
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:34

Lifeline

Czech Republic | 2021 | 81 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Rudolf Havlík
Producer: Petr Erben
Writers: Rudolf Havlík, Filip Oberfalcer
Cast: Jiří Langmajer, Martina Babišová

Petr Horak is a top cardiac surgeon, he has a 21-year-old daughter called Lucie who has a congenital heart defect. Petr decides to carry out the operation on his daughter himself before they go on an adventurous journey to a beautiful Nordic island together.

Lucie doesn't see her father very much and is still hurt by him leaving his wife Martina so on this journey they have plenty of time to rekindle their relationship. On the way, Peter has to learn some things and realize that he misses Lucie. That he should change some things in his life and learn not to be as selfish as he is. Out of the blue, while they are in wild nature, Lucie collapses.

Preceded by:

Welcome to Forever

USA | 2021 | 9 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: John Gray
Producer: Melissa Jo Peltier
Cast: Alicia Hannah

The brilliant designer of smart houses leaves a posthumous surprise for his widow.

Wed, Feb 23 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:30

Lune

Canada | 2020 | 113 min • Narrative Feature

Directors/Producers: Aviva Armour-Ostroff, Arturo Perez Torres
Writers: Aviva Armour-Ostroff, Brian Ostroff
Cast: Aviva Armour-Ostroff, Chloe Van Landschoot, Vlad Alexis

Miriam is a South African born Jew raising her seventeen year old daughter Eliza in Canada. Nelson Mandela's upcoming election triggers a manic episode in the bipolar Miriam, who has spent years fighting apartheid. Fuelled by the introduction of Mike, Eliza's Black boyfriend, Miriam's mania escalates as she navigates politics, religion, the mental health care system, and parenting.

Fri, Feb 25 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Sat, Feb 26 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:53

Luzzu

Malta | 2021 | 95 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Alex Camilleri
Producers: Rebecca Anastasi, Ramin Bahrani, Alex Camilleri, Oliver Mallia
Cast: Jesmark Sciclun, Michela Farrugi, David Scicluna

A hardworking Maltese fisherman, Jesmark is faced with an agonizing choice. He can repair his leaky luzzu – a traditional, multicolored wooden fishing boat – in the hopes of eking out a meager living at sea for his wife and newborn son, just as his father and grandfather did before him. Or he can decommission it in exchange for an EU payout and cast his lot with a sinister black-market operation that is decimating the Mediterranean fish population and the livelihoods of the local families who depend on it.

Sat, Feb 19 | 1pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:35

Margrete: Queen of the North

Denmark, Sweden, Norway | 2020 | 115 min
Narrative Feature

Director: Charlotte Sieling
Producers: Birgitte Skov, Lars Bredo Rahbek
Writers: Charlotte Sieling, Jesper Fink, Maya Ilsøe
Cast: Trine Dyrholm, Søren Malling, Jakob Oftebro, Morten Hee Andersen, Paul Blackthorne

The year is 1402. Margrete has achieved what no man has managed before. She has gathered Denmark, Norway and Sweden into a peace-oriented union, which she single-handedly rules through her young, adopted son, Erik.

The union is beset by enemies, however, and Margrete is therefore planning a marriage between Erik and an English princess. An alliance with England should secure the union's status as an emerging European power but a breathtaking conspiracy is under way that can tear Margrete and all she believes in apart.

Fri, Feb 25 | 10am
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:55

Marvelous and the Black Hole

USA | 2021 | 81 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Kate Tsang
Producer: Carolyn Mao
Cast: Miya Cech, Rhea Perlman, Leonardo Nam, Paulina Lule, Kannon Omachi, Jae Suh Park, Jonathan Slavin

A teenage delinquent (Miya Cech) befriends a surly magician (Rhea Perlman) who helps her navigate her inner demons and dysfunctional family with sleight of hand magic. A coming-of-age comedy that touches on unlikely friendships, grief and finding hope in the darkest moments.

Official selection at Sundance Film Festival 2021 and Tribeca Film Festival 2021

"'Marvelous and the Black Hole' will make you believe in magic" —Los Angeles Times

Tue, Feb 22 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:21

Me To Play

USA | 2021 | 72 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Producer: Jim Bernfield
Cast: Dan Moran, Chris Jones, Joe Grifasi

Two professional actors with Parkinson's disease put up an Off-Broadway production of Samuel Beckett's "Endgame," a play he wrote as a metaphor for living with the disease after his mother succumbed to Parkinson's.

In the play, Beckett wrote, "There's nothing funnier than unhappiness;" this movie proves it. It also shows that when the body gives way, all that's left is soul.

Preceded by:

Lydia Emily's Last Mural

United States | 2021 | 22 min • Documentary Short

Director: Christoph Johannes Superstar Green
Cast: Lydia Emily

Lydia Emily, a Los Angeles-based mural artist who is living with progressive Multiple Sclerosis, paints her last mural in downtown LA.

Mon, Feb 21 | 10am
Harkins 1

Wed, Feb 23 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:34

The Neutral Ground

USA | 2021 | 82 min • Documentary Feature

Director: CJ Hunt
Producer: Darcy McKinnon
Writers: Jane Geisler, James Hamilton, CJ Hunt

"The Neutral Ground" documents New Orleans' fight over monuments and America's troubled romance with the Lost Cause.

In 2015, director CJ Hunt was filming the New Orleans City Council's vote to remove four Confederate monuments. But when death threats halt that removal, CJ sets out to understand why a losing army from 1865 still holds so much power in America.

Preceded by:

Sound of Judgment

USA | 2021 | 21 min • Documentary Short

Director: Julia Wall
Producers: Julia Wall, Carli Brosseau, Jessica Koscielniak
Writers: Carli Brosseau, Julia Wall

"Sound of Judgment" takes viewers into the small North Carolina town of Graham, where a Confederate statue stands facing north in the popular town square.

After the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer, people in Graham begin speaking out about the town's bloody past and turbulent present. They invoke the name and story of the town's first Black elected official, Wyatt Outlaw, who was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan in 1870.

Sun, Feb 20 | 10am
Mary D. Fisher

Tue, Feb 22 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:43

The New Gospel

Germany, Switzerland, Italy | 2020 | 107 min
Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Milo Rau
Producers: Arne Birkenstock, Sebastian Lemke, Olivier Zobrist

What would Jesus preach in the 21st century? Who would his disciples be? And how would today's bearers of secular and spiritual power respond to the return and provocations of the most influential prophet and social revolutionary in human history?

With "The New Gospel", Milo Rau is staging a "Revolt of Dignity". Led by political activist Yvan Sagnet, the movement is fighting for the rights of migrants who came to Europe across the Mediterranean to be enslaved on the tomato fields in southern Italy and to live in ghettos under inhumane conditions.

The director and his team return to the origins of the gospel and stage it as a passion play of an entire civilization. In Matera, in southern Italy, where the great Jesus films from Pasolini to Gibson were shot, an authentically political as well as theatrical and cinematic "New Gospel" emerges for the 21st century.

A manifesto of solidarity with the poorest, a revolt for a more just, humane world.

Sat, Feb 19 | 7pm
Mary D. Fisher

Tue, Feb 22 | 1pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:47

Our Almost Completely True Story

USA | 2021 | 89 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Don Scardino
Producers: Mariette Hartley, Jerry H Sroka, Don Scardino
Writers: Jerry H Sroka, Mariette Hartley
Cast: Peter MacNicol, Tess Harper, Morgan Fairchild, Bernie Kopell, John Rubenstein, Stu Pankin, Mindy Sterling, Peter Onorati

When a tall, aging, shiksa icon meets a short Jewish “leprechaun” in a bird store … what are the chances?

Mariette Hartley has been acting for over 60 years. She was nominated for five Emmys and won for “The Incredible Hulk”. In addition, she has won 3 Clios, done Broadway, toured, shot hundreds of TV series, appeared in films like “Ride the High Country” and “1969” and who can forget those Polaroid commercials?

Unfortunately, “the business” being “the business”, Mariette finds herself having to audition for people who have no idea of who she was (or is). And then she faced ageism: a tendency to regard older persons unworthy of attention or unsuitable for employment.

A friend suggests Mariette should have a significant other in her life and pressures her to tackle the dreaded online dating sites.

Meanwhile, the “leprechaun” had a thriving voice-over career in New York, so naturally he moved to L.A. to do TV and film and hasn’t worked since.

How they meet, how he wins her, loses her, and wins her, sounds like a familiar story, but with Peter MacNicol, Tess Harper, Morgan Fairchild, Bernie Kopell, Jack McGee, Peter Onorati, John Rubenstein, Mindy Sterling, Sam McMurray and Stu Pankin … it isn’t.

Sat, Feb 26 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:29

The Pact

Denmark | 2021 | 115 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Bille August
Producers: Jesper Morthorst, Karin Trolle
Writers: Thorkild Bjørnvig, Christian Torpe
Cast: Birthe Neumann, Simon Bennebjerg, Nanna Skaarup Voss, Asta Kamma August, Anders Heinrichsen

It's 1948 and 63-year-old "Out of Africa" author Karen Blixen (pen name: Isak Dinesen) is a lonely literary sensation — until she meets talented 30-year-old poet Thorkild Bjørnvig. She promises him stardom if he will obey her unconditionally.

From director Bille August comes this sterling adaptation of Bjørnvig's bestselling memoir.

Fri, Feb 25 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:55

Peace by Chocolate

Canada | 2021 | 100 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Jonathan Keijser

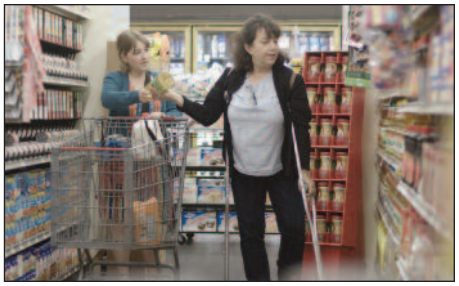
After the bombing of his family's chocolate factory, Tareq Hadhad, a charming young Syrian refugee, struggles to settle into small-town life in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Despite moving to a new country, he's intent on pursuing his dream to become a doctor. But when his father, Issam, insists that he must focus on survival, Tareq and his family move towards a different, but familiar path: Rebuilding Issam's chocolate business.

When what seemed like a nostalgic attempt to cling onto remnants of an old life past becomes an overnight sensation, Tareq is shocked. Put in the role of business manager, he must choose between the demands of an exponentially growing business and an offer to go back to medical school. New challenges arise between a rival chocolatier while the heartbreak of Tareq's sister left behind in Syria weighs heavily on the family. Nevertheless, Tareq remains set on his goals, buoyed by a supportive community of eclectics.

As father and son both struggle to find common ground and navigate the complexities of family duty, the heightening tension between them threatens to tear the family apart. Based on the internationally recognized true story.

Thu, Feb 24 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:40



Peeky

USA | 2021 | 84 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Jack Paulson
Producers: Jack Paulson, Charles T. Jones
Cast: Jill Holden, Madeleine Paulson

A stubborn, grief-stricken middle-aged woman is helped out of her spiraling decline, by a spritely and meta-physically inspirational teenage girl in the delightful crowd-pleaser "Peeky".

Los Angeles high-school drama teacher Beth Levine is asked to take some time off work due to her regular outbursts at her students. She insists that it's just the irritation from her broken ankle and from limping around on crutches. In fact, the moment she hobbles home to begin a six-week forced leave, it's apparent that there's more to her story.

While attempting to climb her front steps miserably, a light-hearted, quirky teenager, Peeky, materializes out of thin air to help. But that's the last thing that stubborn Beth wants from anyone. After a little coaxing, she agrees to let Peeky help her out for a few weeks to earn credit for college.

Peeky, is full of surprising quirks and meta-physical philosophies which Beth finds irritating. However, much to Beth's surprise, Peeky burrows into her heart and life suddenly seems less lonely.

Sat, Feb 19 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:24

Pie in the Sky

USA | 2021 | 83 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Maria Gobetti
Producer: Eric Ronn
Writer: Lawrence Thelen
Cast: K Callan, Laurie O'brien

"Pie in the Sky" is a dramedy about two women, Dory (65), and her mother, Margaret (85), who live together in a mobile home in Abilene, Texas.

On this particular morning – Dory's birthday – Mama has awoken early with the over whelming need to bake her an apple pie. When Dory is awoken by the noise, she reluctantly joins her mother, and together they assemble the pie and chat. While she teaches Dory the old family recipe, Mama reveals some long-kept secrets that alter Dory's understanding of her past. But Mama defiantly justifies her need for secrets, suggesting that the truth isn't always what it is, but what people believe it to be.

Mama brings about a flurry of surprises for Dory's birthday; and as the pie comes out of the oven, Dory's world is forever changed.

A play that was adapted into an intimate, poignant, and often hilarious film, "Pie in the Sky" will leave you with a warm heart and craving a slice of a warm apple pie.

Wed, Feb 23 | 1pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:23

Plan A

Germany, Israel | 2021 | 109 min • Narrative Feature

Directors/Writers: Doron Paz, Yoav Paz
Producers: Minu Barati, Skady Lis
Cast: August Diehl, Sylvia Hoeks, Michael Aloni, Nikolai Kinski

"Plan A" is based on the incredible true story of the "Avengers" — a group of Jewish vigilantes, men and woman, who after surviving the holocaust are vowing to avenge the death of their people — "an eye for any eye, a tooth for a tooth".

Max, a holocaust survivor has lost all his family in the camps. Full of rage and with nothing left to live for other than revenge he helps the Jewish Brigade, soldiers under British command, to off the record find and execute Nazis accused of leading positions in the Nazi system. When the brigade is called off, Max follows Anna and a group of former partisans to Nuremberg, where they soon realize that they will not find redemption in the upcoming Nuremberg trials.

Led by charismatic leader Abba Kovner, they formulate the biggest revenge operation in history — "Plan A". They infiltrate German water companies as undercover engineers with only one goal: to poison the drinking water in Nuremberg, Munich, Cologne, Weimar and Hamburg.

Sun, Feb 20 | 10am
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:49

Portrayal

Canada | 2020 | 90 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Billie Mintz
Producers: Danny Webber, Billie Mintz

Since he was a child, Roman Lapshin has been haunted by a secret his late grandfather revealed to him when he was only 12 years old — a personal disclosure regarding the mysterious and troubling origins of thousands of pieces of missing artwork his grandfather had painted over his lifetime.

As long as he can remember, Roman has been obsessed with the burden of his grandfather's revelation, convinced that he alone must investigate and expose the murky fate of his grandfather's artwork to redeem his grandfather's name and artistic legacy. But finding the paintings will mean going against the wishes of his entire family — who has been guarding this secret all along.

It also means confronting the notorious and powerful man at the center of this secret whom Roman believes exploited his grandfather when he was a desperate, recent immigrant to a new country.

Preceded by:

Cloud of Witnesses

USA | 2018 | 5 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Linda Parisi, Kevin Strickland
Producer: Linda Parisi

Allison Moore Adams reflects on how painting women who inspire her helped her heal.

Thu, Feb 24 | 10am
Harkins 1

Sat, Feb 26 | 4pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:35

Powerlands

USA | 2021 | 74 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Ivey Camille Manybeads Tso
Producers: Jordan Flaherty, Ewa Jasiewicz

A young Navajo filmmaker investigates displacement of Indigenous people and devastation of the environment caused by the same chemical companies that have exploited the land where she was born. On this personal and political journey she learns from Indigenous activists across three continents.

Preceded by:

Before They Fall

Canada | 2021 | 40 min • Documentary Short

Director: Cam MacArthur
Producer: Momme Halbe
Writers: Cam MacArthur, Momme Halbe
Cast: Dr. Suzanne Simard, Rande Cook, TJ Watt, Rainbow Eyes

A decades-long battle by conservation groups, First Nations, and scientists to protect the remaining old-growth forests in British Columbia escalates when land defenders block a logging company from accessing the last unprotected ancient watershed on southern Vancouver Island.

Mon, Feb 21 | 1pm
Harkins 1

Fri, Feb 25 | 1pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:54

Refuge

USA | 2021 | 78 min • Documentary Feature

Directors/Producers: Erin Levin Bernhardt, Din Blankenship

"Refuge" is a story about fear and love in the American South. A leader in a white nationalist hate group finds healing from the people he once hated — a Muslim heart doctor and his town of refugees.

Chris is a husband and father, a veteran, and until recently, a leader in the KKK. He started hating Muslims when the planes hit the Twin Towers on 9/11, but is forced to confront his hate when he receives a text from Muslim refugee, Heval. The film illustrates the false promises of hate and reveals where real and lasting refuge is found. Where there is love, there is refuge.

"Refuge" is set in the most diverse square mile in America — Clarkston, Georgia — and follows a Syrian Kurd, a former Klansman, and a town of refugees who seek belonging in a country that blames them for its problems. Swimming against the current of an increasingly polarized and isolated America, each must decide whether they will risk knowing and being known by those who oppose them. Ultimately, "Refuge" uncovers what is possible when we leave the security of our tribes and what is at stake for our country if we don't.

Wed, Feb 23 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Fri, Feb 25 | 7pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:18

The Return: Life After ISIS

Spain, United Kingdom | 2021 | 90 min
Documentary Feature

Director: Alba Sotorra
Producers: Vesna Cudic, Alba Sotorra, Carles Torras

Shamima Begum and Hoda Muthana made it into worldwide headlines when they left their countries as teenagers to join ISIS. Now they want to return but their countries don't want them back.

With unprecedented access we enter the prison camp Roj in Syria, which holds families of ISIS fighters. Among them, probably the most famous British recruit Shamima Begum, who fled London when she was just 15, and Hoda Muthana from USA who allegedly incited her followers on Twitter to support the Islamic State. Universally reviled by the media, they now tell their stories for the very first time.

Preceded by:

Our Daughters

Nepal, India | 2021 | 8 min • Documentary Short

Director: Kurt Andrew Schneider
Producer: The Eightfold Collective

Every year more than 20,000 girls are trafficked across the Nepal/India border. "Our Daughters" chronicles the journey of Karuna, a young woman who since being rescued has dedicated her life to the battle against sexual slavery.

Mon, Feb 21 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Fri, Feb 25 | 10am
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:38

River

Australia | 2021 | 75 min • Documentary Feature

Directors: Jennifer Peedom, Joseph Nizeti
Producers: Jo-Anne McGowan, Jennifer Peedom, John Smithson
Writers: Robert Macfarlane, Joseph Nizeti, Jennifer Peedom
Featuring: Willem Dafoe (narrator)

Throughout history, rivers have shaped our landscapes and our journeys; flowed through our cultures and dreams. "River" takes its audience on a journey through space and time; spanning six continents, and drawing on extraordinary contemporary cinematography, including satellite filming, the film shows rivers on scales and from perspectives never seen before. Its union of image, music and sparse, poetic script will create a film that is both dream-like and powerful, honoring the wildness of rivers but also recognizes their vulnerability.

"River" is a cinematic and musical odyssey that explores the remarkable relationship between humans and rivers. Written by Robert Macfarlane with music by Richard Tognetti and the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) and featuring music by Jonny Greenwood and Radiohead and narration by Willem Dafoe.

Preceded by:

Guardians of Paradise

Switzerland | 2021 | 12 min • Documentary Short

Director/Writer: Ivan Maria Friedman

An intimate glance into the Burmese life and culture in the months preceding the 2021 military coup. A meditation on Freedom & Peace to support the People of Myanmar in their painful struggle towards self-determination and a more equal society.

Sat, Feb 19 | 4pm
Mary D. Fisher

Tue, Feb 22 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:27

Scenes from the Glittering World

USA | 2021 | 80 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Jared Jakins
Producers: Hunter Phillips, Roni Jo Draper, Scott Christopherson, Carly Jakins, Kelyn Takeaki Ikegami
Writers: Jared Jakins, Christian Jensen

Three Indigenous youth come of age on the fringes of the Navajo Nation. “Scenes from the Glittering World” is a meditation on adolescence, trauma and the power of connecting with a homeland. Filmed at the most remote high school in the continental United States, at the farthest edge of the Navajo Nation, this film shares the stories of Indigenous youth as they grapple with ambitious dreams, their family responsibilities, and the isolated nature of their community — all while the school itself faces existential questions about its purpose and future.

Preceded by:

Into the Circle

USA | 2021 | 17 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Scott Faris, Meg Griffiths
Producer: Meg Griffiths

In the wake of a life-altering tragedy, a resilient Indigenous family tells the story of a community that helped them reconnect with their Lakota heritage.

Sun, Feb 20 | 1pm
Mary D. Fisher

Wed, Feb 23 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:37

The Sound of Us

USA | 2021 | 118 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Chris Gero
Producers: Chris Gero, Sara Bachler, Ben James
Writers: Chris Gero, Sara Bachler

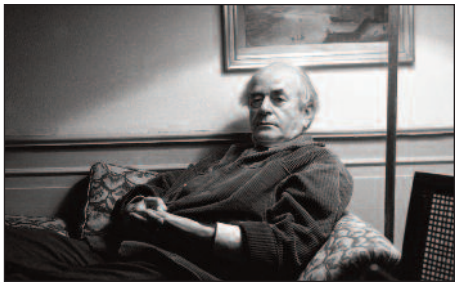
Music is the sound of truth, the sound of hope. It is the sound of unity and courage. During this critical time in history, the profound truth remains that music is the great, universal language.

"The Sound of Us" chronicles a series of wide-ranging, diverse stories that exemplify the power of music and the triumph of the human spirit.

Fri, Feb 25 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Sun, Feb 27 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:58



Speer Goes to Hollywood

Israel | 2020 | 97 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Vanessa Lapa
Producers: Tomer Eliav, Vanessa Lapa
Writers: Joelle Alexis, Vanessa Lapa

Albert Speer is an enigma. The highest-ranking Nazi in Nuremberg to be spared the death sentence, Speer was one of Hitler's closest confidants and his chief architect, tasked with rebuilding Berlin as the capital of a global empire. As Reichsminister of Munitions, Speer was responsible for 12 million slave laborers. And yet, even now, he has the reputation of being "the good Nazi" – a myth he carefully constructed himself.

"Speer Goes to Hollywood" meets its protagonist in 1971, while Speer was working on a screenplay for Paramount Pictures, based on his bestselling wartime memoir "Inside the Third Reich". Based on months of audio cassettes, recorded by screenwriter Andrew Birkin, it features Speer's callous attempt to whitewash his past in a feature film. The audio narrative is supplemented by rare archival footage, taken before and during World War II and later, during Speer's retirement as a semi-reclusive country gentleman.

Mon, Feb 21 | 10am
Mary D. Fisher

Wed, Feb 23 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:37

Three Minutes: A Lengthening

Netherlands, United Kingdom | 2021 | 61 min
Documentary Feature

Director: Bianca Stigter
Producer: Floor Onrust
Featuring: Helena Bonham Carter (narrator)

"Three Minutes: A Lengthening" presents a home movie shot by David Kurtz in 1938 in a Jewish town in Poland and tries to postpone its ending. The film is a haunting essay about history and memory. As long as we are watching, history is not over yet.

The three minutes of footage, mostly in color, are the only moving images left of the Jewish inhabitants of Nasielsk before the Holocaust. Those precious minutes are examined moment by moment to unravel the human stories hidden in the celluloid. Different voices enhance the images: Glenn Kurtz, grandson of David Kurtz, and Maurice Chandler, who appears in the footage as a young boy.

Preceded by:

When We Were Bullies

Germany, USA | 2022 | 35 min • Documentary Short

Director/Writer: Jay Rosenblatt
Producers: Elena Filippini, Jay Rosenblatt, Stefano Tealdi

"When We Were Bullies" begins with a mind boggling "coincidence" from 25 years ago which ultimately leads the filmmaker to track down his 5th grade class (and 5th grade teacher) to see what they remember of a bullying incident from 50 years ago. In a playful yet poignant way, he begins to understand his complicity and the bully in all of us.

Mon, Feb 21 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Thu, Feb 24 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:36

Tokyo Shaking

France | 2021 | 101 min • Narrative Feature

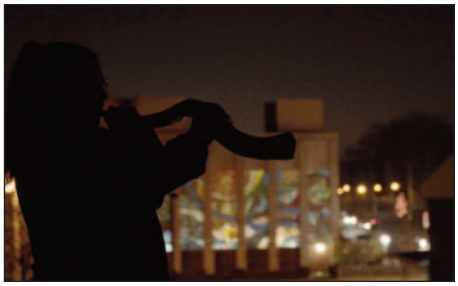
Director: Olivier Peyon
Producer: Kristina Larsen
Writers: Olivier Peyon, Cyril Brody
Cast: Karin Viard, Stéphane Bak, Yuri Narita

March 11, 2011. The biggest earthquake Tokyo has ever experienced triggers the Fukushima disaster. Alexandra has just arrived in the country from France to work in a bank, and has to face this nuclear crisis.

Torn apart between her work and her family, she will defend honor and given word despite emerging terror and anxiety.

Thu, Feb 24 | 10am
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:41



A Tree of Life

USA | 2021 | 80 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Trish Adlesic
Producers: Susan Margolin, Geeta Gandbhir, Michael Keaton, Mark Cuban, Lauran Bromley
Cast: Trish Adlesic

On Saturday, October 27th, 2018, a white supremacist, further radicalized by the political climate at the time, walked into the Tree of Life Synagogue with four semiautomatic assault weapons, shouting “all Jews must die.” He murdered eleven congregants, ranging in age from 54 to 97, as they prayed.

"A Tree of Life" creates a deeply personal portrait of the survivors, victims, and the victims' family members of the Pittsburgh Synagogue attack, and brings into sharp focus the hate-based crisis that threatens our collective safety and democracy.

As the first film to document the survivor’s stories and the only documentary with this level of personal access to the survivors and families of the victims, viewers will experience first-hand how the lives of those directly affected have fundamentally changed and how the Pittsburgh community and the congregations set out on a path towards healing.

Thu, Feb 24 | 1pm
Mary D. Fisher

Sat, Feb 26 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:20

Trust Me

USA | 2020 | 91 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Roko Belic
Producers: Caree Davis, Rosemary Smith
Writers: Roko Belic, Joe Phelps

"Trust Me" is a feature-length documentary exploring human nature, information technology, and the need for media literacy to help people trust one another, bring them together and create a more resilient population.

The film shows how an avalanche of negative news and mis-information is making us all terrified of the world. This has led to mistrust of others, which further leads to racism, polarization, mental health disorders and even crime.

Sensational media take advantage of our survival instincts to earn more clicks and ad revenue with scary and shocking headlines – many of which aren’t even true – and we’re enabling them each time we share. When our fear goes up, our trust comes down. When people don’t trust each other, they don’t help each other and progress stalls. We become farther apart.

"Trust Me" covers emotional stories, interwoven with science and expert interviews to show us where the world really stands and the right way to consume and share media.

Mon, Feb 21 | 1pm
Mary D. Fisher

Fri, Feb 25 | 10am
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:31

Two Eyes

USA | 2019 | 108 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Travis Fine
Producers: Travis Fine, Kristine Fine, Maxine Makover, Steven Robert Kozlowski, Liam Finn, Kate Bornstein
Cast: Joshua Leonard, Lily Gladstone, Benjamin Ribgy, Kiowa Gordon, Nakhane Toure, Jessica Allain, Uly Schlesinger, Kate Bornstein, Ryan Cassata, Samuel Jaxin Enemy Hunter

"Two Eyes" explores gender and love ... art and passion ... chasing after your muse ... and finding your true people along the way. The story follows three main characters in three distinct time periods.

A young artist travels to Montana in 1868 to paint the wild, untamed land. When he finds an unexpected love and discovers the gender fluidity that existed openly in many Indigenous tribes, his notion of self is forever changed.

A young photographer in 1979 is forever changed when a bold foreign exchange student comes into his life and introduces him to a new world where who he is ... who he chooses to be...and who he chooses to love ... is accepted, honored and ultimately his decision alone to make.

A young trans musician in 2020 tries to take his life in a moment of utter despair and hopelessness. He ultimately meets his angel: a trans therapist who passes along the lessons she has learned about living life true to who you are — lessons she learned directly from the same characters we've met in 1979 and 1868.

The three characters' lives are interwoven into a cinematic triptych and become a single powerful story titled "Two Eyes" which takes its meaning from the way many Indigenous tribes understood, respected, and honored those in their tribe that saw the world with two eyes: one that looks out as a man and one that looks out as a woman.

Wed, Feb 23 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Sat, Feb 26 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:48

Wake Up

USA | 2022 | 88 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Janet Craig
Producers: Janet Craig, Doug Grossman, Mark David, Joaquin Camilo, Bill Mendieta, Kristen Wise, Mike Wise, Tami Barnett, RaisingHOPE
Writers: Janet Craig, Dan Horan
Cast: David Gridley, Tori Griffith, Isaac C. Singleton Jr, Chasnie Houston, O'Shay Neal, Brooke Anne Smith, Matt Socia, Janet Craig, Judson Mills, Zoë Noelle Baker, Briana Price, Rane Jameson, Mark McClain Wilson, Malakai Carey, Pragathi Guruprasad, Shirley Chen, Adam Ambruso, Edmond Laryea, Tammy Dahlstrom

Based on real-life stories of foster children who tragically become human trafficking victims, "Wake Up" tells the story of a quiet community rocked after a former foster teen accidentally gets his love interest and her best friend targeted by a sex trafficking ring. A daring rescue is mounted – but will it be too late?

"Wake Up" is led by first-time writer/director Janet Craig who weaves together a thrilling story of foster youth entrapped in the world of human trafficking. It features a diverse, multi-ethnic cast who hail from the United States and Canada.

Sat, Feb 26 | 1pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:28

You Will Remember Me

Canada | 2020 | 108 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Eric Tessier
Producer: Christian Larouche
Cast: Rémy Girard, Julie Le Breton, Karelle Tremblay, France Castel, David Boutin

In "You Will Remember Me", Edouard (Remy Girard), a public figure and retired History teacher, is slowly starting to lose his memory. Accustomed to speaking on all the stands, he must make himself more discreet, even if he believes he still has a lot to say.

Edouard's son-in law hires his daughter Bérénice (Karelle Tremblay) to help watch over him, even though she is a little lost herself. Their relationship will lead Edouard to revisit a time from his personal history that he had chosen to forget, and Bérénice to find meaning in her own life.

The drama intensifies when Edouard's wife can no longer stand the effects the dementia has on her husband, and must choose between staying by his side until the end or spending the remaining years on her own terms.

Sun, Feb 20 | 1pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:48

Documentary Shorts PROGRAM 1

Neurodivergent

USA | 2021 | 26 min • Documentary Short

Director: Afton Quast Saler
Producers: Rachel Priebe, Reagan Shea

When a 35-year-old film student is diagnosed with ADHD, she turns the camera on herself to question her past, her future, and why women are often under-diagnosed with this misunderstood disorder.

The Wild Inside

USA | 2018 | 14 min • Documentary Short

Director: Andrew Michael Ellis
Producers: Mahalia Cohen, Andrew Michael Ellis, Shane Slattery-Quintanilla

A haunting short about inmates in the Arizona state-prison system working to break wild horses as they prepare for their own release.

For Our Girls: A Conversation with Black Women

USA | 2021 | 11 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Michèle Stephenson, Joe Brewster
Producer: Conversation Series Collective

"For Our Girls: A Conversation with Black Women" presents updated discussions and reflections on Black women as seen through the eyes of mothers and daughters — exploring the vital role Black women have played in the social justice movements while having their own plights denied and ignored,

The film examines the challenge and hardships Black women face from within and outside of their own communities. Through one-on-one mother-daughter conversations, camera interviews, archival footage and more, "For Our Girls" presents a love letter to Black daughters and women everywhere.

Fog

USA | 2021 | 14 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Michael Pedraza, James Mihaley
Producers: Eduardo Dolhun, Michael Pedraza, James Mihaley, Donna Pedraza
Writer: James Mihaley
Cast: Eduardo Dolhun

In a city known for innovation and solving some of the world's most difficult challenges, San Francisco is faced with a crisis: how to address the worsening homeless situation. As thousands of residents flee San Francisco to other parts of the United States, hundreds of homeless arrive in search of a city known for taking in the downtrodden and outcast.

Moved to act, a local doctor begins a journey to chronicle the stories of homeless individuals in his community. What he discovers is shockingly transformative.

Documentary Shorts PROGRAM 1

Give and Take

USA | 2021 | 12 min • Documentary Short

Director: Gareth Smit
Producer: Justin Levy

An intimate look at the community fridge movement in New York City during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

After seven of their drivers died from COVID-19, a car service in Queens, NY started hosting a community fridge on the sidewalk outside their offices. A small business started by immigrants, Fenix XL now serves a largely immigrant community with 24-hour access to free food. Fanny, who lost her cleaning job when schools were closed, now relies on this fridge to survive. The first community fridge in NYC started outside a Bed Stuy apartment in February 2020; there are now over 100 across the city, inspiring a movement around the world.

From My Window

USA | 2021 | 20 min • Documentary Short

Director: Frank Pickell
Producers: Christian Silberbauer, Daniel Bedell
Cast: Melissa Simpson, Erik Weihenmayer, Jeff Evans, Skyler Williams

From her bedroom window, Melissa Simpson looks out at the highest peaks in Colorado. Despite being so close, the mountains have always been worlds away for Melissa, who was born with cerebral palsy.

With the help of her friend and mentor, blind adventurer Erik Weihenmayer, Melissa sets out to conquer something far greater than a summit. Through humility and grace, Melissa proves that what is within us, is stronger than what's in our way.

Full Picture

USA | 2020 | 12 min • Documentary Short

Director: Jacob Reed
Producers: Santina Muha, Jacob Reed, Elizabeth Reichelt, Stephen Sanow
Writers: Jacob Reed, Santina Muha, Elizabeth Reichelt, Stephen Sanow
Cast: Santina Muha

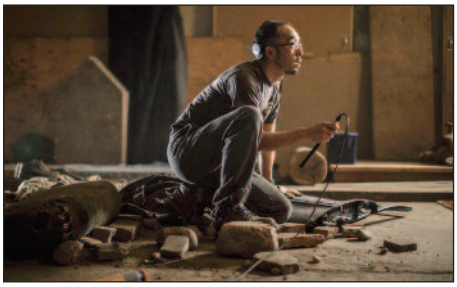
Santina has been in a wheelchair since she was six years old. With meetings, hangouts, and classes happening virtually due to the Coronavirus quarantine, she's experiencing something new: Choosing when (or if) to disclose her disability.

Sun, Feb 20 | 4pm
Mary D. Fisher

Tue, Feb 22 | 7pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:49

Documentary Shorts PROGRAM 2



Footsteps

Canada | 2020 | 14 min • Documentary Short

Director/Writer: Jeremy Benning

An inside look at the world of the Foley artist. This short documentary is a sneak peek into a unique post production sound facility located in rural Ontario, an hour north of Toronto.

The Love Bugs

USA | 2019 | 34 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Maria Clinton, Allison Otto
Producer: Allison Otto

Over 60 years Charlie and Lois O'Brien traveled to more than 67 countries, quietly amassing the world's largest private insect collection, an entomological game-changer of 1.25 million specimens. These two renowned, married entomologists now grapple with the advancement of the Parkinson's disease that afflicts Charlie. But Charlie and Lois know they need to keep fighting for the value of scientific knowledge, so they turn to their insects for a little help.

This humorous and poignant documentary explores the Love of Nature and the Nature of Love — and what it means to completely devote oneself to both.

Joychild

USA | 2021 | 6 min • Documentary Short

Director: Aurora Brachman

A child reveals a secret to their mother: "I'm not a girl." This breathtakingly honest portrait of growing up gender expansive beautifully captures the hesitancy, fear, and relief at revealing one's innermost thoughts, as well as the unconditional love of a mother.

The Lawnmower Men

United Kingdom | 2021 | 12 min • Documentary Short

Director: Brendan Cleaves

Every year in a field in West Sussex, the worlds most extreme endurance motorsport race takes place, on Lawnmowers.

Añay Kachi: The salt workers of the Peruvian Andes

Peru | 2021 | 13 min • Documentary Short

Director/Producer: Cristobal Ruiz

At 3,300 m above sea level, in the Peruvian Andes, indigenous people have been harvesting salt by hand for over 600 years, prior to the Inca times.

After many years of struggle and unfair working conditions, the salt workers became owners of the salt mine, creating a communal company.

Today they proudly own and operate the salt business. Through the eyes of Laurita, a 65-year-old indigenous salt worker, this short film explores the cultural meaning that this place has for the people of Maras and how it is shaping the future of the next generations.

Second Sight

USA, Philippines | 2019 | 28 min • Documentary Short

Director: Cole Sax
Producers: Philip Hessler, Cole Sax

One family's life forever changed.

Nestled in the rice fields of the Philippines, the Laniohan family faces the life-inhibiting consequences of blindness until a group of doctors visit the village and give the gift of sight in under five minutes.

Mon, Feb 21 | 4pm
Mary D. Fisher

Wed, Feb 23 | 7pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:47

Documentary Shorts PROGRAM 3

The Mountain and the Maiden

USA, India | 2020 | 22 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Shmuel Hoffman, Anton von Heiseler
Producers: Margelit Hoffman, Narayan Kaudinya, Sheikh Ayub

This is the story of a day in the life of Aspiya. A 10-year-old girl living with her younger brother, older sister and parents in a one-room-shack in New Delhi near Asia's biggest landfill. Aspiya is the main supporter of her family. Every single day she walks up the landfill in order to collect trash that then will later be sold to companies that reuse the materials for their products. While the subtext is pollution, child labor, our modern lifestyle of waste the main thing is that you can be happy no matter the circumstances.

This film is about the human crave for happiness and how, despite dire circumstances, your outlook on life determines the inner quality of your life.

Spirits and Rocks: An Azorean Myth

Switzerland, Portugal | 2022 | 14 min
Documentary Short

Director: Aylin Gökmen
Producers: Victor Candeias, Aylin Gökmen

On a volcanic island, inhabitants are caught in an unending cycle: the threat of impending eruptions and earthquakes, and the burden of past traumas loom over them. Some draw upon myth and religious beliefs to interpret their precarious situation, while others demonstrate resilience, rebuilding their villages from the volcanic rocks. Mirroring the ethereal atmosphere of the island's landscapes, the film gradually takes on the appearance of the stories it recounts.

A Ship from Guantanamo

USA | 2021 | 6 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Dara Kell, Veena Rao
Producers: Beth Jacob, Mansoor Adayfi

Unjustly stuck behind bars for more than 20 years, Moath al Alwi builds elaborately detailed ships out of scrap materials from Guantanamo Bay.

Voice Above Water

USA | 2021 | 12 min • Documentary Short

Director: Dana Frankoff
Producers: Eric Ebner, Dana Frankoff

"Voice Above Water" is the story of a 90-year-old Balinese fisherman who can no longer fish because of the amount of plastic in the ocean.

Coded

USA | 2021 | 29 min • Documentary Short

Director: Ryan White
Producers: Conor Fetting-Smith, Marc Gilbar, Jessica Hargrave, Chris Leggett, Rafael Marmor

"Coded" follows the illustrator J.C. Leyendecker, whose legacy laid the foundation for today's out-and-proud LGBTQ advertisements.

Senior Prom

USA | 2021 | 14 min • Documentary Short

Director: Luisa Conlon
Producers: Jessica Chermayeff, Luisa Conlon

For so many high-schoolers, prom is a rite of passage in all of its love-filled, well-coiffed, abundantly photographed glory. But for generations of LGBTQ+ youth — especially those that grew up in the decades before Stonewall — prom has been emblematic of the exclusion from a world they could not experience as their authentic selves. But at Triangle Square, a haven for LGBTQ+ retirees in Hollywood, California, the idea of a “senior” prom has taken on an entirely new meaning.

"Senior Prom" celebrates our eldest LGBTQ+ generation who spent a lifetime fighting for the right to love openly and, via rich personal archives, retraces lives and legacies of resistance that helped change the course of civil rights.

Inga

Denmark | 2017 | 7 min • Documentary Short

Director: Uffe Mulvad

Through her memoirs, Inga reflects about love, old age and death. We are invited into her home, as she doing her morning rituals and baths in the cold lake. The short portrait shows in artistic and intimate pictures, a day in a life, how it's like being old and what it means for Inga.

Thu, Feb 24 | 4pm
Mary D. Fisher

Sat, Feb 26 | 7pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:44

Shorts PROGRAM 1

The Lady Edison

USA | 2021 | 19 min • Narrative Short

Director: Jaye Sarah Davidson
Producers: Jaye Sarah Davidson, Victoria Hill, Marie Joy Hunt
Writers: Jaye Sarah Davidson, Kate Emery
Cast: Dani Deetté, Adam Fristoe, Jonathan Horne

In 1870, Margaret Knight launched a patent dispute that would be the first of its kind. She is forced to prove in court that she the designer, is the rightful owner of the patent of the machine that puts bottoms on paper bags; not Charles Annan, the man who has already built it.

27 Children

Romania | 2021 | 18 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Daniel Wyland
Cast: Dorotheea Petre, Dana Voicu, Adina Stetcu, Emma Ungureanu, Lucian Pavel, George Alexandru

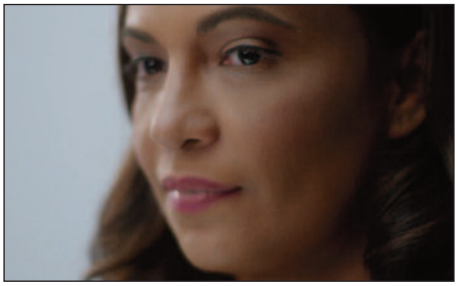
Romania, 2020: Based on actual facts. 40-year-old childless kindergarten teacher, Ana Petcu, visits her doctor to discuss lab results. Despite receiving answers to life long questions, she discovers the repercussions of being raised in Eastern European communist block foster care systems. The discreet birth-control practices of that system, meant to keep young girls safe, turns out to be life-altering in other ways. Motherhood has escaped her, but she'll find a way to move on through her other children, her students.

Dog Years

United Kingdom | 2021 | 16 min • Narrative Short

Director: Natalys Willcox
Producer: Laura Giles
Writer: Jake Mackintosh
Cast: Kyla Goodey, Jill Greenacre, Dodger

Depressed and living in isolation, Demelza promises to leap from the cliffs of her Cornish village when her elderly dog Lucky dies. Can she find a reason to live before he snuffs it?



Dreamer

USA | 2020 | 8 min • Narrative Short

Directors/Producers: Vergi Rodriguez, Diana Zollicoffer
Writer: Vergi Rodriguez
Cast: Vergi Rodriguez, Linden Waddell, Rafael Noble, Avery Waddell, Jared Bell

Lily Cruz, a DACA recipient, travels on a medical volunteer mission and upon returning to the USA a TSA agent isn't so welcoming.

Lioness

USA | 2021 | 8 min • Narrative Short

Director: Molly E. Smith
Producer/Writer: Sara Oliva
Cast: Sara Oliva, Lily Jane

Barricaded in a motel room, a mother's determination and primal instincts kick in to protect her child's innocence.

Collapse!

USA | 2021 | 9 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Joseph Johnson
Cast: Nathan Ondracek, Lauren Byrd

On the morning a suburban married couple plans to conceive their first child, the husband faces a crisis of optimism when he discovers that his backyard beehive is suffering from Colony Collapse Disorder (all the bees have mysteriously vanished). Fearing an environmental Armageddon is upon the world, he suggests to his ready-to-make-a-baby-right-now-minded wife that they postpone their plans of parenthood in order to spare their forthcoming child the hardships the future may bring.

Beautiful Violence

USA | 2021 | 13 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Joey Medina
Cast: Bill Dawes, Eric Blake

A powerful and gripping story about a white terminally ill businessman who uses racism to force an African American man he never met before to kill him in order for his family receive his life insurance money.

Sun, Feb 20 | 1pm
Harkins 1

Tue, Feb 22 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:31

Shorts PROGRAM 2

A Life Within

USA | 2021 | 17 min • Narrative Short

Director: Claire Imler
Producer: Kylia LaMure
Writers: Claire Imler, Mady Dever
Cast: Kyla Stone, Wendy Banks, Sarah Parlow, Madison Morris

After starting a new job as a home care nurse, a young woman determined to do her best forms a unique bond with her patient.

Urania Leilus

USA | 2021 | 22 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Andrew Serban
Producers: Andrew Serban, Jacob Karim, Nora Bode
Cast: Kate Garfield, Britt Michael Gordon, Matt Riker

A young female journalist is subjected to death threats and intimidation after witnessing human rights abuses at an ICE detention center for undocumented immigrant children.

Recipiphany

USA | 2021 | 11 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Eric Cloughley
Producers: Eric Cloughley, Anthony E. Cabral
Cast: Robyn Coffin, Preston Tate Jr., Lee Palmer, Theresa Ro

Starring Robyn Coffin (Chicago Fire), "Recipiphany" tells the true story of cancer-survivor chef struggling to heal others through good food.

True Story: I Feel

USA | 2021 | 14 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Matthew Law
Producers: Rob Smith, Grasie Mercedes, Shaun Clay, Matthew Law
Cast: Matthew Law, Shaun Clay

A Black therapist attempts to persuade his patient — who has a history of violence — into saying how he feels.

Cyn

United Kingdom | 2021 | 8 min • Narrative Short

Director: Ben Desmond
Executive Producers: Julian Lennon, Eloise Smyth
Producers: Karen Stirgwolt, Bill Milner
Writers: Ben Desmond, Karen Stirgwolt
Cast: Eloise Smyth, Bill Milner, Julia Carlile, Finn Jonah Whiting, Malcolm Tomlinson

Liverpool 1960. Art students, Cyn and John, find their blossoming romance in a state of flux as music and fame starts to overtake their passion.

Biology 101

USA | 2021 | 7 min • Narrative Short

Director: Angel C. Ruiz
Producers: Adam C. Ruiz, Kaylee Amante
Writer: JJ Duffy
Cast: Kaylee Amante, David W. Rice, Alexis Graves

A couple reconnect after 8 years to catch up and face a challenging secret together.

C A • D E N C E

USA | 2021 | 7 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Michael Mike Canon
Producers: Kelly Rubin, Michael Mike Canon, Luca Malacrino
Cast: Luca Malacrino, Sohm Kapila

A tree stands still in the middle of the desert, while the rest of the world around it moves.

After the recent withdrawal from Afghanistan, PTSD, stress, and depression among U.S. Military veterans have been getting worse and the number of suicides per day is increasing.

"C A • D E N C E" explores isolation, trauma, and mental health within the Veteran community from the rare POV of mother nature.

Johnny The Dime

USA | 2021 | 8 min • Narrative Short

Director: Joseph Blake Menzel
Producers: David Lambert, David Gazzo, Joseph Menzel
Writer: David Gazzo
Cast: David Gazzo

A brash New Yorker, discovers a peeping-tom spying on his sister. He vows to defend her honor and get revenge, in a very unconventional way.

Wed, Feb 23 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Fri, Feb 25 | 1pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:34

Shorts PROGRAM 3

Masque-19

Germany | 2021 | 6 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Marko Roth
Producers: Blaise Izard, Marie Bordaz, Manuel Henoque
Cast: Eugenie Derouand, Quentin Faure, Soria Mouffakir

This film is based on true events. Since the Covid-19 pandemic hit, the numbers of domestic abuse cases went through the roof. When France imposed an extremely strict lock-down, the victims were trapped at home with their abusers 23 hours a day. They were only allowed out for one hour to go to a pharmacy or a grocery store. French pharmacists came up with a way victims could secretly ask for help: The code word “Masque-19”.

enough.

USA | 2020 | 14 min • Narrative Short

Director: Caleb Slain
Producers: Richard Stevenson, Max Losee, Ethan Seneker, Hope Alexander, La'Charles Trask
Writer: Nathan Nzanga
Cast: Nathan Nzanga, Max Losee

Using footage shot over a decade, "enough." is a narrative hip hop film exploring Nathan Nzanga's journey from quirky kid born to Congolese immigrants, to an idealistic teenage artist, to a frustrated young man. The film uses dream logic to sift through Nate's most conflicted feelings about policing, love, and identity in a divided nation.

Volley

USA | 2020 | 15 min • Narrative Short

Director: Oliver DeFilippo
Producers: Catie Bellinger, Martin George Berishaj, Oliver DeFilippo, Jonathan Harmon, Àlex Lora
Writers: Oliver DeFilippo, Martin George Berishaj
Cast: Martin George Berishaj, Camrus Johnson

A casual game of tennis between friends becomes an awakening to the relationships and the lives they take for granted.

Nur and Abir

Spain | 2021 | 13 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Manu Gómez

This summer is special. Abir is finally going to the beach thanks to her friend Nur, and behind the back of her dictatorial parents. Together they have come up with a plan to fulfill their dream of swimming together in the sea.

:60 Seconds

USA | 2021 | 18 min • Narrative Short

Director: John 'Quig' Quigley
Producers: John 'Quig' Quigley, Cori-Anne Greenhouse, Brent Bye
Writers: Mark Sanderson, John 'Quig' Quigley
Cast: Emily Martz, Christopher Wiehl, Majeed Nami, Laith Wallschleger, Rob Nagle

What if you had only minutes to pull off your next heist? Dixon and his crew — Caleb, the tech genius, and Benny, the muscle — are about to find out when they target a remote desert casino. Dixon starts the plan in motion when he becomes romantically involved with a naive casino cashier, Chessa, who has been looking for a way out of her mundane life making it easy for him to convince her to help his team with the heist.

The foursome – each knowing their role in the low-key theft – will have only sixty seconds to make their getaway. What ensues – interwoven with flash forward scenes of what should happen and flash-back scenes of what could derail the theft – is a wild, suspenseful ride.

Shorts PROGRAM 3

Faith

USA | 2020 | 5 min • Narrative Short

Director: Matteo Mosterts
Producer: Sara Seligman
Writers: Ariane Thielenhaus, Matteo Mosterts
Cast: Beth Grant, Marcelo Tubert

A catholic nun decides to break her vows and go back to find the man she fell in love with 20 years ago.

Read No More

USA | 2021 | 11 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Katherine Fairfax Wright
Producers: Katherine Fairfax Wright, Brock Williams, Michael Barnett
Cast: Denny Love, Breeda Wool, John Moeslein

Recuperating in a military hospital after a catastrophic incident during the war in Afghanistan, a young soldier recounts fragmented moments of his life. Fervidly patriotic footage from mid-century PSAs about the courage of war, the care of veterans, and the benefits of the local public library bolster the soldier's elliptical confessional, which is pulled from an actual account.

Good Night

Australia | 2021 | 9 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer: Kate Separovich
Writer: David Vincent Smith
Cast: Caroline Brazier, Clarence Ryan

A busy sound engineer accepts a last-minute recording instead of heading home to his family and is deeply affected by the song he's recording.

Wed, Feb 23 | 1pm
Harkins 1

Fri, Feb 25 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:31

Shorts PROGRAM 4

Orbital Christmas

Japan | 2021 | 17 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Mitsuyasu Sakai
Producers: Dennis Castello, Tetsuro Satomi, Mitsuyasu Sakai
Cast: Ryan Shrime, Kaori Neville, Eijiro Ozaki, Jenna Parker

In near future, Ali, a Muslim space pilot, is working alone on a space station during the Christmas season, because all other crew is back to the Earth for the holidays. One day, Takako, a Japanese girl who lives in the city on Moon, stows away in an unmanned cargo ship and gets on board the space station. Although she wants to go to the Earth to meet her father, she took the wrong cargo ship. The problem is her father is caught in the atomic bomb attack by terrorists in Japan and missing now. And none can reach the area he is missing, because the area is contaminated by the radioactive substance and the electromagnetic pulse caused by the bomb broke all electronics.

To Be Saved

USA | 2020 | 13 min • Narrative Short

Director: Brent Harvey
Producers: Jeff Locker, Brent Harvey
Writer: Jeff Locker
Cast: Jeff Locker, Pete Capella

How do you save someone you love who doesn't want to be saved?

Two brothers are forced to have a brutally honest and gut-wrenching conversation about the devastating effects of depression on one brother's life after his failed suicide attempt.

Sproutland

USA | 2021 | 25 min • Narrative Short

Director: Cynthia Wade
Producer: Matthew Syrett
Writer: Nannina Gilder
Cast: Beth Robbins, Charley Danger Rusk, Elizabeth Aspenlieder

Beth lives with constant reminders of her deceased husband — a local health guru named Sproutman. She dodges her neighbors who chant yoga mantras and drink green juices in his honor. When her son grows increasingly obsessed with his dad's legacy, Beth wonders: who am I now without Sproutman? As Beth forges a path she neither expected nor wanted, she learns that life can hold despair and joy at the same time.

Tell Me Something

USA | 2020 | 9 min • Narrative Short

Directors: Curtis Webster, Leanne Melissa Bishop
Producer: Curtis Webster
Writer: Curtis Webster
Cast: Curtis Webster, Leanne Melissa Bishop, Irene Nester

A woman driven to a deep depression by isolation during the COVID-19 quarantine finds an unexpected human connection when she makes a video call to a suicide prevention hotline.

Leylak

USA | 2020 | 17 min • Narrative Short

Directors: Scott Aharoni, Dennis Latos
Producers: Scott Aharoni, Dennis Latos, Mustafa Kaymak
Writer: Mustafa Kaymak
Cast: Nadir Saribacak, Isabella Haddock

As New York City deals with the ravishing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Yusuf, a 45-year-old immigrant gravedigger in Queens, struggles to make ends meet and care for Renk, his eleven-year-old daughter. Unable to face the sudden demise of his hospitalized, COVID-19 stricken wife, and consumed with guilt over her death, Yusuf withholds the truth from his daughter. Several days pass and the weight of the truth, no longer containable, forces an unavoidable reckoning between Yusuf and Renk.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

China | 2020 | 12 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Shiyue Xu
Cast: Jiaxi Chen, Zhilv Zhang, Wenxin Xie, Keqin Yao

Throughout Tommy's life, the song "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" has undergone many changes that mirror his journey through the different stages of his life.

Thu, Feb 24 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Sat, Feb 26 | 1pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:33

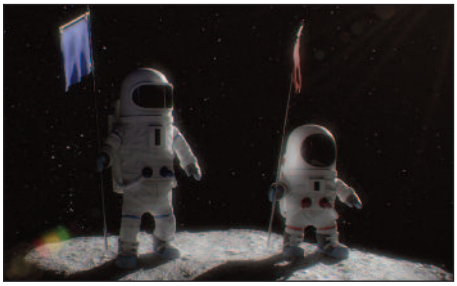
Shorts PROGRAM 5

Ready Forward

USA | 2021 | 26 min • Narrative Short

Director: Jim Jost
Producers: Deborah Glazier, Stasia Droze Jost, Jim Jost
Writer: Deborah Glazier
Cast: Amy Hill, Dennis Chun, Lehi Falepapalangi, Danielle Zalopony, Brandon Karrer, Jason Quinn

Despite years of loneliness and guilt following a devastating family tragedy, a retired Navy Captain desperately tries to reconnect with his wife one last time, knowing she may never forgive him.



Space Race

USA | 2021 | 6 min • Animated Short

Director/Writer: Shane Dioneda

Two competing Astronauts race to claim the moon for themselves.

These Final Hours

USA | 2021 | 12 min • Narrative Short

Director: Lionel Coleman
Producers: Benjamin Dunn, Shan Harris, Brian Flaccus, Joseph David-Jones
Writer: Brian Flaccus
Cast: Joseph David-Jones, Aeriél Miranda

Set against the backdrop of the Black Lives Matter protests, Curtis is a young African-American struggling through his days in America, but what you see isn't necessarily the truth.

Gum

USA | 2020 | 9 min • Narrative Short

Director: Jacob Reed
Producers: Jacob Reed, Francesca DeLutis
Writers: Suzi Barrett, Rebecca Drysdale
Cast: Suzi Barrett, Rebecca Drysdale

In a reality where gum doesn't exist, Anne pitches an idea that could change the world.

of our trespasses.

USA | 2021 | 9 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Taylor Ross
Producer: Kaitlyn Corwin

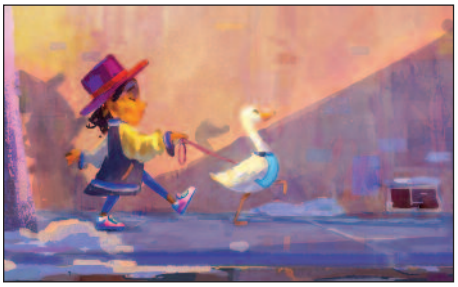
A religious girl begins to question the faith she has known all her life when she discovers a secret her best friend has been hiding.

Distances

Spain | 2020 | 13 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Susan Béjar

Sometimes, a crazy looking person enters the subway, and suddenly, a void is created around him. But what would happen if you chose to stay and treat him kindly? Perhaps, you would discover that inside him, there is someone who was once sane. Or maybe, you would discover, that deep down, we are all a little insane.



The Park Bench

USA | 2022 | 5 min • Animated Short

Director/Writer: Rob Edwards
Producers: Erin Dempsey, Carl Reed, Majorie Sanon

In a series of fractured images, we meet a young girl named Bella, who is scared and confused as she watches her mother care for her father in pain. Bella is quickly shooed away and finds herself alone on a park bench on a gorgeous day, where she meets a duck with a broken wing. She leaps at the chance to bring the duck home and distract herself from her worries. Over time, the duck fills the void in Bella and her mother's lives with laughter and joy.

The Book of Ruth

USA | 2020 | 15 min • Narrative Short

Director: Becca Roth
Producers: Chen Drachman, Caitlin Gold
Writer: Chen Drachman
Cast: Tovah Feldshuh, Chen Drachman, Monica Wyche, Scott Klavan, Aleksander Varadian, Housso Semon

Margo, Dan, Jordan, and Lizzy visit grandmother Ruth for Passover. Later that night, Lizzy finds Ruth watching a midnight news story about Anne Frank's death. Lizzy then confesses to have known a related secret for years and Ruth is left with some explaining to do.

Thu, Feb 24 | 1pm
Harkins 1

Sat, Feb 26 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:35