

SEDONA

International
Film Festival

Presented by:

Mercedes-Benz of Northern Arizona

Celebrating 31 Years

February 22-March 2, 2025

FILM SYNOPSSES AND SCHEDULE



Vicki Lawrence and Mama: A Two-Woman Show

One of the most beloved television personalities of all time — Emmy Award-winning comedienne Vicki Lawrence — comes to the Sedona International Film Festival with her all-new, two-woman show!

As part of the legendary cast of the Carol Burnett Show, Ms. Lawrence created her most endearing character to date — Thelma Harper or “Mama” — which later became the title character of the hilarious hit comedy series, “Mama’s Family”.

Experience a sidesplitting two-act show that serves a mix of stand-up, musical comedy and observations about real life from Ms. Lawrence and “Mama”. Fun, laughs and a good time!

Plucked out of total obscurity as a high school senior, Vicki Lawrence went on to become part of the now-legendary cast of the “Carol Burnett Show.” In the seventh season, and hundreds of hilarious sketches later, at the ripe, old age of 24, Vicki created her most endearing character to date, Thelma Harper. After the Burnett Show, Vicki went on to star in “Mama’s Family,” which consistently topped the ratings for its entire six-year run of original shows. “Mama” has attained almost a cult status among her legions of loyal television viewers, who still enjoy her in reruns twice daily throughout most of the country and the world.

No stranger to television, Vicki perfected her hosting skills on her own daytime talk show, “Vicki!”, from 1992 to 1994. She received critical acclaim when she was the only talk show host since Oprah to be nominated for a Daytime Emmy in her freshman year. Through the years Lawrence has made appearances on other television programs, such as “Laverne & Shirley”, “Major Dad”, “Roseanne”, “Hannah Montana” (Hannah’s Grandma Stewart), and “Yes, Dear”.

The unprecedented ratings for the “Carol Burnett Showstopper Special,” which delighted more than 50 million viewers, convinced Ms. Lawrence that the time is right to take Mama out of the closet, dust off her sensible shoes and hit the road with this new touring production.

This is a separate ticketed event. Tickets are \$59 General Admission or \$49 for Festival Members.

Sat, Feb 22 | 8pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:45

Sponsored by Bob and Sharon Lewis



From Broadway with Love: An Evening with Ezekiel Andrew and Garrett Taylor

Come join Ezekiel Andrew and Garrett Taylor for an unforgettable night of music and storytelling as we bring you the sounds of Broadway all the way from New York City! They will be joined by special guest Samantha Stevens.

You’re in for a treat as we sing the big band sounds of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., and Nat King Cole, to the grandeur of Broadway showstoppers including, Stars from “Les Miserables”, Music of the Night from “The Phantom of the Opera”, and Impossible Dream from “The Man of LaMancha”.

Ezekiel Andrew — a native of the Mississippi Delta — enjoys a career of both excitement and versatility. He is most grateful to have performed in some of the major regional theaters across the country. Some of his favorite roles include: Coalhouse Walker Jr. (Theatre Under the Stars), The Beast in “Beauty and the Beast”(Syracuse Stage), and Jim in “Big River” (Utah Shakespeare Festival. In November 2021, he made his Broadway debut with the cast of Disney’s “The Lion King”, where he remains today.

Ezekiel also enjoys being active as a concert artist, most often creating his own programs and opportunities as he travels from theater to theater. With a heart for youth and arts education, Ezekiel enjoys giving back to the community by going to high schools and colleges, holding masterclasses and talkbacks to inspire the next generation of artists.



Garrett Taylor



Samantha Stevens

Sat, Mar 1 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:30

Sponsored by Susan Valletta and Eddie Washkin, Jr. and Sheri Young



FREE LIVE CONCERT: The Storytellers

Join us for a **FREE concert** to celebrate 31 years of the Sedona International Film Festival! This is our way of thanking all of YOU — our supporters, audience members and sponsors — and the entire Sedona community for supporting us for three decades!

The Southern California bluegrass band — The Storytellers — will be returning to Sedona to perform this **FREE** closing night concert as the finale to the 31st Anniversary Festival!



The Storytellers

The Storytellers has established itself as a creative force in the Southwest Roots Music scene. They draw from the rich canon of traditional bluegrass, country blues, old-time and folk music as a basis for inspired improvisations and intrepid vocal harmonies. Renowned for their strong musical chemistry, soulful harmonies, delicate acoustic sensibilities, soaring grooves, tight rhythms, and substantive storytelling, they bring their joyous musical magic to every stage they stand on.

The Storytellers have performed at the Calico Bluegrass Festival, the Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival, the Desert Bluegrass Festival in Marana, Arizona, as well as the Brookdale Bluegrass Festival, where the band performed onstage with legendary bluegrass star Peter Rowan. In June the band headlined the prestigious Prescott Bluegrass Festival in Prescott, Arizona.

Get your **FREE TICKETS** to this extraordinary concert event today! Available on a first-come, first-served basis. And be ready to **CELEBRATE 31 YEARS** of the Sedona International Film Festival and our community!

Sun, Mar 2 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 2:00

Sponsored by Lydia Delventhal



Avenue of the Giants

USA | 2023 | 102 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Finn Taylor

Producers: Noah Lang, Dean Lyras, George Rush, Jeanine Thomas

Cast: Stephen Lang, Elsie Fisher, Luke David Blumm, Robin Weigert

Herbert Heller (Stephen Lang) carries a traumatic secret from his childhood in Eastern Europe: Now the owner of a toy store in Marin County, California, Herbert survived the Holocaust in his teens. The Nazis forced him into the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp at the age of 12, but he managed to escape three years later and kept the secret from everyone — including his own children — for 60 years.

When Herbert is diagnosed later in life with a terminal illness, he befriends Abby (Elsie Fisher), an isolated teenager whose own brush with pain and death inspires him to open up. Abby and Herbert reveal their stories to each other, forge an unlikely intergenerational friendship, and together find a path toward healing.



Stephen Lang

Stephen Lang will be honored with our Outstanding Actor Award for his performance in "Avenue of the Giants". His son, Noah Lange — who produced this film and will be in Sedona in person — will accept the award on Stephen's behalf.

Wed, Feb 26 | 7pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:42



Following Harry

USA | 2024 | 90 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Susanne Rostock

Producers: Frankie Nasso, Susanne Rostock, Edward Zeng

"Following Harry" joins Harry Belafonte during the last twelve years of his life, as the legendary artist and civil rights leader embarks on a deeply personal and reflective journey, while inspiring the next generation of entertainers and activists to disrupt injustice across the globe.



Shari Belafonte

Belafonte creates a blueprint for the future by demonstrating how love has the power to redirect oppression into oblivion.

Special guest Shari Belafonte — Harry's daughter — will be in Sedona to host the film and Q&A discussion along with director Susanne Rostock.

Tue, Feb 25 | 7pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:30



Lisa Dahl: Blessed By Grace

USA | 2025 | 15 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Eric Wolfinger

Executive Producers: Lisa Dahl, Scott Yates

Producer: Jesse P. Cutler

"Lisa Dahl: Blessed By Grace" shares the inspiring journey of chef and restaurateur Lisa Dahl, who turned personal tragedy into a thriving culinary career in Sedona, Arizona. After the devastating loss of her son Justin, who was murdered in the 1990s while helping someone in need, Lisa found healing through cooking. In 1995, she moved to Sedona and opened her first restaurant, Dahl & DiLuca, as a tribute to their shared love of cooking. Over the next nearly 30 years, she expanded her business to six acclaimed restaurants, each dedicated to preserving Justin's memory.

Set against the majestic red rocks of Sedona, "Lisa Dahl: Blessed By Grace" offers a heartfelt look at Lisa's resilience, spirituality, and passion for cooking, which has brought comfort and joy to so many while keeping her son's memory alive.

Preceded by:



Go For Grandma

USA | 2023 | 35 min • Narrative Short

Director: Sabrina Doyle

Producer: Ron Eli Cohen

Writer: Lucian Nakazato-Patterson

Cast: Justine Lupe, Amy Madigan, Austin Schoenfeld

Inspired by the iconic 80's fantasy films we all grew up on, "Go for Grandma" is a magical journey into the mind of a young boy who escapes a neglectful home life through his grandmother's love and the power of his imagination. Lucian uses the fables passed down by his grandmother to confront his mother's demons. When events take a particularly dark turn, Lucian discovers that his oceanic imagination is his greatest source of strength and healing.

Sat, Mar 1 | 4pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 0:50



10 Kilos

Israel, Guatemala, USA | 2024 | 118 min
Narrative Feature

Director/Producer: Doron Eran

Writers: Avi Amar, Sharon Yitzhaki, Omri Rose

Cast: Daniella Kertesz, Maya Eshet, Luna Mansour, Lioz Levi, Tom Graziani

Inspired by a best selling true story by Sharon Yitzhaki.

Sharon Yitzhaki traveled to Bolivia with a guy she barely knew. She was indicted in an attempt to smuggle 10 kilos of cocaine out of the country and sentenced to serve her time at one of the cruelest women's prisons in the world. She quickly became a media sensation in Bolivia, had an affair with the head of La Paz's drug cartel, established a "family" in prison, ran the cartel business in prison to protect her family, became addicted to cocaine and quit to save the loved ones in her life, and used a loophole in the law to smuggle herself and her family to Brazil, from there back to Tel Aviv.

Then wrote a detailed, bestselling autobiography. All of this before her 28th birthday.

Sun, Feb 23 | 4pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:58



After the Rain: Putin's Stolen Children Come Home

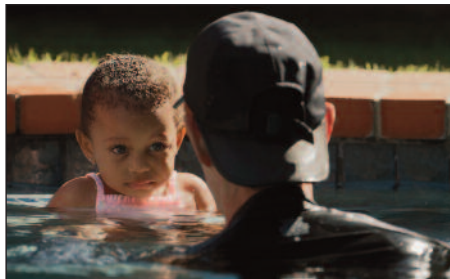
USA | 2024 | 79 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Sarah McCarthy

Producers: Olha Beskhnelytsina, George Chignell, Natalia Libet, Sarah McCarthy, Sasha Odynova

Deep in a forest by the Baltic Sea, a group of Ukrainian families come together to start the healing process with the help of golden retrievers and palamino horses at an animal therapy retreat. In the safety of the forest, the children's memories of being illegally deported to Russia and their families' struggles to rescue them are unraveled with the help of skilled and sensitive counsellors. The joy and humor the children discover during their time in the forest make it easy to forget that their stories are the reason the International Criminal Court recently issued an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin. Nearly 20,000 abducted children remain in Russian institutions.

Preceded by:



A Swim Lesson

USA | 2024 | 20 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Rashida Jones, Will McCormack

Producers: Nicole Emanuele, Emily Arlook

Cast: Bill Marsh

"A Swim Lesson" is an ode to an everyday hero: Bill Marsh, a swim teacher who helps children manage their fears and discover their own power when submerged in an overwhelming unknown. He has taught thousands of kids and worked together with their parents and families to instill confidence and safety in their lives. Directed by Rashida Jones and Will McCormack, the film is a prime example of one's dedication to teach and inspire a new generation.

Sun, Feb 23 | 10am

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Tue, Feb 25 | 4pm

Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:39



Amal

Belgium | 2024 | 107 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Jawad Rhalib

Producer: Genevieve Lemal

Writers: Jawad Rhalib, David Lambert, Chloé Léonil

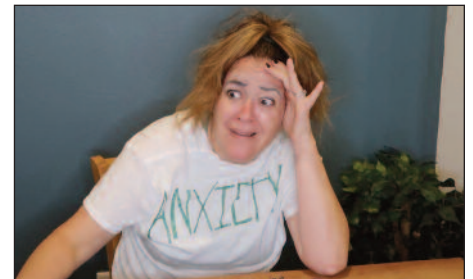
Cast: Lubna Azabal, Fabrizio Rongione, Catherine Salée

Brussels teacher Amal encourages students' passion for reading and freedom of expression, despite risks. Her daring approach leaves a mark on pupils and families.

Sun, Feb 23 | 1pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:47



Anxiety Club

USA | 2024 | 87 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Wendy Lobel

Producers: Jonathan Gray, Wendy Lobel, Carolin Ehrenburg, Scott Sinkler, Jeff Spivack

Cast: Marc Maron, Joe List, Aparna Nancherla, Tiffany Jenkins, Baron Vaughn, Eva Victor, Tara Brach, PhD, Natalie Noel, LMHC

"Anxiety Club" provides an intimate and humorous look at anxiety through the eyes and minds of some of the most brilliant comedians working today.

Tiffany Jenkins, Joe List, Marc Maron, Aparna Nancherla, Mark Normand, Baron Vaughn and Eva Victor offer candid reflections on their relationship with anxiety through exclusive interviews, standup performances, sketch videos, therapy and everyday life.

Wed, Feb 26 | 4pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Fri, Feb 28 | 10:10am

Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:27



Apocalypse in the Tropics

Brazil, USA, Denmark | 2024 | 110 min
Documentary Feature

Director: Petra Costa
Producers: Petra Costa, Alessandra Orofino

When does a democracy end, and a theocracy begin? In "Apocalypse in the Tropics", Petra Costa investigates the increasingly powerful grip that faith leaders hold over politics in Brazil. Costa gains extraordinary access to the country's top political leaders, including President Lula, and former President Bolsonaro, as well as to Brazil's most famous televangelist: a larger-than-life pastor who seems to play puppet master to the latter.

As the film unveils the key role the evangelical movement has played in Brazil's recent political turmoil, it also reveals the apocalyptic theology that drives its chief protagonists. As in her Academy Award-nominated "The Edge of Democracy", Costa documents a time of profound confusion and despair with lucidity and a poetic eye. Weaving past and present, she immerses us in the contradictory realities of a young democracy that is hanging on by a thread, and in doing so holds up a mirror to the rest of the world.

Thu, Feb 27 | 1:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Sat, Mar 1 | 4pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:50



April in France

France | 2025 | 77 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Producer: David Boaretto

April, a 5-year-old English girl, moves to Paris just before the first lockdown. She feels miserable, isolated in her Parisian flat and desperately wants to go back to London. However, when the restrictions ease, her father drives her to Labastide d'Armagnac, a small medieval village in the South-West of France where her great-grandfather bequeathed them his house.

April is not much happier at first in the deserted village but slowly discovers it. On her great-grandfather's grave she brings flowers, talks to him and strongly believes that he might eventually come back to be with her. In the meantime, she meets some of her great-grandfather's friends. With them she will open to the world, discover her inner self and in turn she will transform the adults around her.

Preceded by:



Instruments of a Beating Heart

Japan | 2024 | 23 min • Documentary Short

Director: Ema Ryan Yamazaki
Producer: Eric Nyari

Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Film!

First graders in a Tokyo public elementary school are presented with a challenge for the final semester: to form an orchestra and perform "Ode to Joy" at a school ceremony. "Instruments of a Beating Heart" examines the Japanese educational system's tenuous balance between self-sacrifice and personal growth as it teaches the next generation to become part of society.

Sat, Feb 22 | 1pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Mon, Feb 24 | 7:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:40



As the Tide Comes In

Denmark | 2023 | 88 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Juan Palacios
Producer: Kasper Lykke Schultz

With beautiful cinematography and intimate storytelling, told with a humorous human touch, the film follows the 27 residents on a tiny Danish island who are used to severe weather and flooding.

Climate Change now poses a serious existential threat to the tiny island. However, its last farmer Gregers, whose family has lived there for 8 generations, hasn't given up in the face of the impending catastrophe. He refuses to build a new life elsewhere and instead hopes to find a wife to manage the farm with him.

"As the Tide Comes In" is as poetic and heartwarming as it is urgent and significant. A visually stunning work of cinema that presents the reality of climate change and depopulation as it is happening now, right in the heart of Europe.

Preceded by:



Leonie, Skeet & the Piglets

Belgium | 2023 | 15 min • Documentary Short

Director/Writer: Jip Jasmijn Heijenga
Producers: Sofie van van Noten, Mariëlle Dazler
Cast: Leonie De Reu

Leonie's biggest dream is to become a pig farmer. On the farm of her parents she is happily wandering around with her best friend, Skeet the cat. She is always helping out in any way possible: fertilizing the sows, tending to the pigs and help load the fully grown hogs onto the truck that will bring them to the slaughterhouse.

Sun, Feb 23 | 10:10am
Mary D. Fisher

Tue, Feb 25 | 1pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:43



Auction

France | 2024 | 91 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Pascal Bonitzer

Producer: Saïd Ben Saïd

Writers: Pascal Bonitzer, Iliana Lolic

Cast: Alex Lutz, Léa Drucker, Nora Hamzawi, Louise Chevillotte

André Masson, an auctioneer at Scottie's, receives a letter from a lawyer claiming that a common worker in the suburbs of Mulhouse owns a painting by Egon Schiele. André's first reaction is to believe that it can only be a fake. He decides to make the trip to Mulhouse anyway and against all odds, the painting turns out to be a masterpiece gone missing in 1939. This could undoubtedly be the turning point of his career, but after a brief investigation, he realizes that he has in his hands a looted work of art.

Sun, Feb 23 | 10am

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:31

Sponsored by:

STEPHANIE LARSEN
INTERIOR DESIGN



Bad Shabbos

USA | 2024 | 84 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Daniel Robbins

Producer: Adam Mitchell

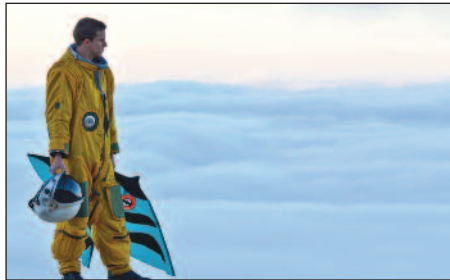
Writers: Daniel Robbins, Zack Weiner

Cast: Kyra Sedgwick, Cliff Smith, David Paymer, Milana Vayntrub, Jon Bass, Meghan Leathers, Catherine Curtin, Ashley Zukerman

Audience Award Winner at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival, "Bad Shabbos" is here to prove that even Shabbat can go haywire in this off-beat comedy. Directed by Daniel Robbins and co-written by Zack Weiner, this chaotic "one-night-in-New-York" story turns family dinner into a sidesplitting disaster.

When two couples — Abby and Benjamin, and David and Meg (freshly converted to Judaism) — gather for a traditional Shabbat dinner, things spiral faster than you can say "hamotzi" when an accidental death (or...murder?) derails the evening entirely, and Meg's devoutly Catholic parents are due any moment to meet David's very Jewish family. Before you know it, Shabbat becomes a comedy of biblical proportions.

Preceded by:



Tale of the Kite

USA | 2017 | 30 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Michael Fallavollita

Cast: John Schuck, Kevin DeSimone

His dreams of flight began with a kite. A young test pilot finds himself in a mysterious desert region out of contact with his airbase and with little hope of survival. But childhood memories of his grandfather may provide the key to his ultimate destiny.

Sun, Feb 23 | 7pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:54

Sponsored by Debra Mae White Stephens



Battersea

USA | 2024 | 90 min • Narrative Feature

Director: T.J. Sandella

Writers: T.J. Sandella, Jad Adkins

Cast: Nancy Kimball, Jesse Howland

Estranged siblings reconvene at their childhood home, where they spend a precarious weekend drinking and talking — uncovering the narratives and secrets that have shaped their lives.

Preceded by:



The River

USA | 2024 | 15 min • Narrative Short

Director: Clare Cooney

Producer: Rainbow Dickerson

Writer: Claude Jackson Jr.

Cast: Rainbow Dickerson, Geoff Marslett, Jennifer Bobiwash, Susanna Osife

Rocky's war with herself puts her family in the crossfire.

The traditions of the Camu women on the Gila River Reservation go back generations, and basket weaving is their prized contribution to the world. Rocky Camu, a mother who struggles with problem gambling, puts that legacy on the line in an attempt to prove her worth to her family. A story about hidden addictions with a visible cost.

Thu, Feb 27 | 1pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Sat, Mar 1 | 7:10pm

Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:45

Sponsored by:





Between the Mountain and the Sky

Canada | 2024 | 95 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Producer: Jeremy Power Regimbal

In 2005 after graduating high school, Maggie Doyne embarked on a gap year, where she met Tope, a now grown Nepalese orphan, caring for orphaned children.

United in purpose, Maggie and Tope pooled resources to establish a children's home, women's empowerment program, and school in Nepal. Years later, their relentless efforts led to being honored as the 2015 CNN Hero of the Year. But days after the award ceremony, Maggie, by then guardian to over fifty Nepalese children, faced the unthinkable, plunging the family into disbelief and despair.

After a chance encounter amidst her grief, Maggie allows a filmmaker into her life to document herself, her family, and soon enough, their falling in love. "Between the Mountain and the Sky" explores resilience, love's impact in loss, and a family's enduring strength to find and rekindle hope in the darkest times.

Thu, Feb 27 | 7:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Sat, Mar 1 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:35

Sponsored by:



Beyond the Rush

USA | 2024 | 105 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Robert John Sayegh
Producers: Robert John Sayegh, Candy Potts, Cathy Moriarty

Cast: Mena Suvari, Bill Barrett, Eric Roberts, Cathy Moriarty, John Savage, Franikie Faison, Amanda Clayton, Jayce Bartok, Christopher Egan

Samuel Grievers — a rising investigative journalist now demoted to covering the gossip column — is a high-functioning addict who finds himself at a crossroads dealing with cascading mental health issues, childhood traumas, a failing career, and the pressures of starting a family.

When he receives a secret tip that Judge Joy, from his damaged past, is suspected of deviant sexual acts within the juvenile court system, church, and community, Samuel goes undercover and rogue, returning to his old neighborhood.

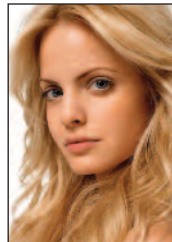
Special guest Mena Suvari will be in Sedona for the premiere of "Beyond the Rush".

Mon, Feb 24 | 1pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Wed, Feb 26 | 4:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:45

Sponsored by:
STEPHANIE LARSEN
INTERIOR DESIGN



Mena Suvari



Blind AF

USA | 2024 | 87 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Producer: Gina LeVay
Cast: Shawn Cheshire

An unflinching, emotionally raw story of courage, transcendence and the healing power of self-belief, "Blind AF" tells the journey of a blind female Paralympic champion and multiple world-record holder, Shawn Cheshire as she becomes the first blind person to ride a single, non-tandem bike across the United States — 3600 miles in 60 straight days — while confronting painful truths about her past that she spent a lifetime trying to outrun.

Thu, Feb 27 | 4:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Sat, Mar 1 | 10am
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:27

Sponsored by Jan Taylor

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Blind at Heart

Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg | 2023
136 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Barbara Albert

Producers: Boris Ausserer, Katarzyna Ozga, Oliver Schündler, Nicolas Steil, Anne Walsler

Writers: Meike Hauck, Barbara Albert, Julia Franck

Cast: Mala Emde, Max von der Groeben, Thomas Prenn, Liliane Amuat

Spanning several key chapters in German history, "Blind at Heart" is leading Austrian director Barbara Albert's stirring adaptation of Julia Franck's best-selling novel.

When aspiring young medical student Helene (a mesmerising Mala Emde) arrives in the exciting, roaring 1920s Berlin with her sister Martha (Liliane Amuat) she soon she meets and falls in love with Karl (Thomas Prenn) and the world seems to be their oyster.

But, as the city's carefree ambiance darkens, the course of Helene's life takes a drastic, irreversible turn when the Nazis come into power. She meets handsome Luftwaffe officer Wilhelm (Max von der Groeben) and through strokes of fate and the cover-up of her Jewish ancestry during the Nazi era, she is gradually robbed of her identity. Despite the fear, the courage to make an outrageous decision grows, moved by the hope for a new beginning and ready to do anything to start a new life.

Mon, Feb 24 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Sun, Mar 2 | 10am
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 2:16



Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion

USA | 2024 | 107 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Matthew Miele

Producers: Anne Chertoff, Joe McFate

"Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion" showcases the six-decade career of award-winning costume designer, Bob Mackie. And like his costumes, Bob Mackie is wholly unique and unfiltered, which makes for a compelling and candid subject.

The film examines Bob's unique upbringing, those whom he has held dear within his inner circle, and the familial surprises in his life that have all contributed to the optimism and audacity present in his work.

Because the film is fully authorized, Quixotic Endeavors was given access to the full Bob Mackie archive, which has been meticulously kept and curated with many rare and unseen artifacts, including the outfits that didn't make the cut. We also capture the over-the-top costumes as they get sequined and beaded from sketch to stage. Specific highlights include some of the soon-to-be lost art methods by old-world artisans that help make each outfit Mackie conjures something to behold and remember.

The documentary feature includes original interviews with Bob Mackie clients and collaborators, along with those he has inspired - designers, stylists, comedians and actors, as well as Bob's first-person account of some of his most iconic looks from The Carol Burnett Show's Startlett O'Hara dress to Cher's 1986 Academy Awards look with feathered headdress and Tina Turner's iconic concert costumes. Bob Mackie is a truly peerless and timeless costume designer, with interviews from Cher to Pink, to Tom Ford and Miley Cyrus, to RuPaul and Carol Burnett a testament to that fact.

Special guest Bob Mackie will be in Sedona to host the premiere of "Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion" and will do a post-film Q&A.

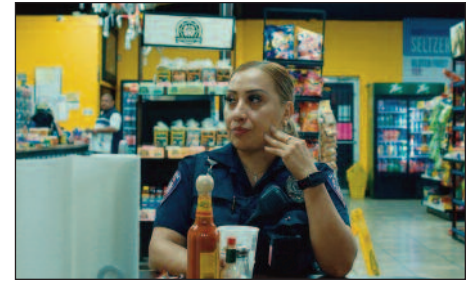


Bob Mackie

Sat, Feb 22 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:47

Sponsored by Kealyn's Closet



The Border Crossed Us

Netherlands | 2023 | 72 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Loretta van der Horst

Producers: Willem Baptist, Nienke Korthof

The human cost of US immigration policy reaches far beyond physical borders.

While a big white surveillance blimp constantly hovers over the small border town of La Joya, Texas, local police officers patrol the neighborhood looking for human smugglers. The region is littered with traces of people who have attempted to get into the US by crossing the Rio Grande. But rather than arresting the immigrants, the officers are gathering intelligence on the smugglers and smuggling bosses tied to Mexican cartels.

Slowly the mutual dependence between police and smuggler reveals a system caught in a never-ending cycle, with the immigrant dangerously caught in-between.

Preceded by:



A Border Between Us

United Kingdom | 2023 | 14 min
Documentary Short

Director: Riad Arfin

Producer: Charlotte Hailstone

When a Bangladeshi man moves across the world to be with his partner in the UK, they discover the unforeseen costs of following your heart. In "A Border Between Us", Director Riad Arfin explores his personal experience of being in an interracial relationship and trying to settle in a culture very different from his own. Between visa rules and cultural norms, is it possible to find a place to call home that works for them both?

Mon, Feb 24 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Wed, Feb 26 | 7pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:26



Bring Them Home

USA | 2024 | 85 min • Documentary Feature

Directors: Daniel Glick, Ivan MacDonald, Ivy MacDonald

Producers: Sarah Clarke, Lily Gladstone, Ivan MacDonald

Writers: Daniel Glick, Ivan MacDonald

Narrated by Academy Award-nominated actor Lily Gladstone, "Bring Them Home" tells the story of a small group of Blackfoot people and their mission to establish the first wild buffalo herd on their ancestral territory since the species' near-extinction a century ago. This act restores the land, re-enlivens traditional culture and brings much needed healing to their community.

Preceded by:



Dancing Warrior

USA | 2024 | 11 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Rachel McDonald, Peter Goetz

Producer: Kevin Hoban

On windswept hills surrounded by the bluffs of the Lakota Badlands sits the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. For the native youth, living here can be a struggle – the teen suicide rate is among the highest in the country. But many have found hope and purpose in the traditional sport of horse racing known as "Indian Relay". We follow one teen racing team, named Dancing Warrior, who come together to compete and support each other as they face the challenges of life on the reservation.

Wed, Feb 26 | 1:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Fri, Feb 28 | 7:10pm

Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:36

Sponsored by:



A Call from the Wild

Norway | 2024 | 82 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Asgeir Helgestad

Producers: Ageliki Lefkadiou, Asgeir Helgestad

Writers: Asgeir Helgestad, Anne Elvedal

Filmmaker Asgeir Helgestad documents the state of nature at his home country Norway, where he has photographed all his life. From the lives of bees at his farm, to wild reindeer on the high mountains, and puffins at the ocean's edge, he shows the beauty of threatened nature and tracks down human actions responsible for its decline.

This is a personal story on our connection with the non-human world, the relations between the small and the big, and a reminder of nature's strength and vulnerability.

Preceded by:



Planetwalker

USA | 2024 | 31 min • Documentary Short

Directors/Writers: Dominic Gill, Nadia Gill

Producers: Nadia Gill, Michael Fearon

Cast: John Francis

In 1971 John Francis, known the world over as 'Planetwalker,' witnessed an oil tanker collision in the San Francisco Bay. The sight of oiled birds on the shoreline caused him to give up motorized transport and rely solely on his own two feet. Months after that he took a vow of silence convinced that listening rather than adding fuel to any fire was the way ahead.

Sat, Feb 22 | 4:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Mon, Feb 24 | 1pm

Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:53



Champions of the Golden Valley

USA | 2024 | 81 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Ben Sturgulewski

Producers: Katie Stjernholm, Baktash Ahadi

In the remote mountain villages of Bamyan, Afghanistan, a newfound passion for skiing attracts young athletes from rival ethnic groups to the slopes. With minimal gear and makeshift wooden skis, the determined ski coach Alishah Farhang organizes a thrilling ski race that fosters camaraderie, joy, and triumph. However, after the shocking collapse of their country, many of the skiers are displaced across the globe as refugees, and must call upon the lessons learned in the mountains of their homeland to find a way forward.

Preceded by:



Swift Justice

USA | 2023 | 15 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Victor J. Blue, Ross McDonnell

Producers: Ross McDonnell, Victor J. Blue, Melissa Fajardo

The Taliban's court system helped win the war in Afghanistan. How is justice served under Sharia Law?

Mon, Feb 24 | 7:10pm

Harkins 2

Wed, Feb 26 | 4pm

Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:36



Dirty Laundry

USA | 2024 | 72 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Rocky Walls
Producer: Zach Downs
Cast: Mitchell Wray, Charlie Schultz, Erika Lewandowski, Ian Cruz, Deborah Asante

In the winter of 1997, after a mysterious stranger interrupts their laundry routine with words of wisdom and a random magic trick, two best friends find themselves incapable of lying. As they work together to break the spell, they discover how much is at stake when the truth comes out.

Preceded by:



The Lesson

USA | 2024 | 29 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Kimberly Kalaja
Cast: Molly Leland, Alimi Ballard

After a harrowing sexual assault on the NYC subway, a woman buys a gun for self-defense. But during her first shooting lesson, she begins to realize that a gun may not be all she needs.

Sun, Feb 23 | 4pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Tue, Feb 25 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:41



Do Us Part

USA | 2024 | 93 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Reed Arnold
Producers: Reed Arnold, Xander Black, Nic Vannatta
Cast: Kelly Russo, Travis Laughlin, Reed Arnold

When Ryan's best friend and never-quite-requited love from college, Rose, shows up to his wedding day unannounced and uninvited, it falls to the lascivious best man, Mark, to keep the romantic turmoils from the trio's college years and secrets old and new from spinning the event off the rails.

Preceded by:



Take One

USA | 2024 | 12 min • Narrative Short

Director: Gerald Adamson
Producers: Holden Weihs, Amber Amoureux
Writer: Holden Weihs
Cast: Holly King, Karter Spoklie, Sasha Allen-Grieve, Olivia Kviklys, Justin Marshall Elias

An ambitious film director is determined to make their mark in the cutthroat world of cinema. Shot in a continuous take.

Sun, Feb 23 | 1:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Tue, Feb 25 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:45

Sponsored by:
STEPHANIE LARSEN
INTERIOR DESIGN



Don't Forget Me

China | 2024 | 92 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Gao Qi Sheng
Producer: Zhu Ren Wei
Cast: Zhang Xin Yu, Liang Jing Kang, Li Yan Xi

"Don't Forget Me" chronicles the struggles of a small-town woman grappling with her child's organ failure, exhausting all efforts to fight for her child's survival. Concurrently, a young delinquent, confronted with the profound questions of existence after his mother's brain death, resolves to honor the meaning of life by donating her organs.

The film explores themes of survival and death, as well as each individual's journey of personal evolution amidst life's complexities: the path of reconciliation with one's inner darkness and demons.

Preceded by:



I'm Not Here

USA | 2024 | 13 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: DeDe Drake
Producers: Jenna Marie Johnson, Emma West
Cast: Jenna Marie Johnson, Leonard Wu, Bente Engelstoft

A short film about a short pregnancy. We follow Dana as she grapples with having to end her non-viable pregnancy, ultimately choosing an unorthodox route to acceptance.

Sun, Feb 23 | 10:10am
Harkins 2

Tue, Feb 25 | 4pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:45



Drive Back Home

Canada | 2024 | 100 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Michael Clowater

Producers: Maddy Falle, Brian Mason, William Woods

Cast: Alan Cumming, Charlie Creed-Miles, Clare Coulter, Sprague Grayden

In the winter of 1970, a cantankerous, small-town plumber from rural New Brunswick, must drive his beat-up work truck 1000 miles to Toronto to get his estranged, gay brother out of jail after being arrested for having sex in a public park. The two men are then forced to drive back home together at the behest of their hard-nosed mother before they kill each other.

Inspired by a true story and starring Alan Cumming.

Mon, Feb 24 | 7pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:40



Driver

USA | 2024 | 90 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Nesa Azimi

Producers: Nesa Azimi, Nicolas Borel, Ines Hofmann Kanna

Writers: Nesa Azimi, Nicolas Borel

After losing everything, Desiree Wood takes a second lease on life as a long-haul truck driver. Alongside an irreverent group of women truckers, she fights for a life on the road.

Using an intimate and observational approach, "Driver" captures the experience of Desiree and her fellow drivers within a system that routinely promises and denies them the safety and autonomy that they desire. The film follows Desiree as she struggles to balance the demands of being a working driver with her ambitions as the head of a driver-led movement run from her truck, which is constantly at risk of being repossessed.

In a rapidly disappearing American labor landscape, Desiree and her sisterhood of truckers rally against the crushing forces of an industry that is indifferent to their survival.

Preceded by:



Mother of Portland

USA | 2024 | 7 min • Documentary Short

Director: Kyle Tobin LaMontagne

Cast: Lisa Schroeder

A gritty glimpse inside the kitchen of one of the most beloved restaurants in Portland and the wild, ambitious, and heroic life of owner and head chef Lisa Schroeder. The inspiring story of this powerful woman and how she became a pillar in a Portland community that desperately needs support.

Wed, Feb 26 | 1pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Fri, Feb 28 | 7:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:37



Evergreens

USA | 2024 | 125 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Jared Briley

Producers: Ashley Briley, Mary C. Russell, Marc Dahlstrom, Casey Cowan, Rich Cowan, Kylie Cowan

Cast: Darby Lee Stack, Edouard Philippinonnat

"Evergreens" is a coming-of-age love story of two unlikely companions who connect by chance and embark on a road trip across Washington State. As we follow them in their journey, we witness the simplicity of getting to know someone that inevitably leads to the complexity of falling in love with them — all while trying to figure out their lives in a country that seems to be changing by the minute.

Meeting some friends along the way, we get a glimpse of the truly transformative power of human connections.

Sun, Feb 23 | 7:10pm

Harkins 2

Tue, Feb 25 | 1:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 2:05



Every Little Thing

Australia | 2024 | 93 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Sally Aitken

Producers: Bettina Dalton, Anna Godas, Oli Harbottle

In a film of joy and wonder, amid the glamour of Hollywood, Terry Masear finds a sense of healing from her past on a transformative journey as she nurtures wounded hummingbirds, unraveling a visually captivating and magical tale of love, fragility, healing and the delicate beauty in tiny acts of grace. Terry has an ambitious goal: to save every injured hummingbird in Los Angeles. But the path to survival is fraught with danger. This heart-expanding Sundance hit introduces audiences to Terry's diminutive patients through breathtaking slow-motion photography and emotional storytelling.

Over the course of director Sally Aitken's moving documentary, we become deeply invested in baby hummingbirds like Cactus and Wasabi, celebrating their tiny victories and lamenting their tragedies. Through Terry's eyes, each bird becomes memorable, mighty and heroic. Her compassion and empathy serves as a reminder that grace can be found in the smallest of acts and the tiniest of creatures.

Preceded by:



The School of Canine Massage

USA | 2024 | 11 min • Documentary Short

Director: Emma D. Miller

Producers: Emma D. Miller, Colby Day

The Ojai School of Canine Massage provides professional training in the art and science of dog massage therapy. With a mix of whimsy and tenderness, "The School of Canine Massage" offers a portrait of this unique school and its dog-loving participants — revealing how people heal dogs and dogs heal people.

Sat, Feb 22 | 7pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Mon, Feb 24 | 1:10pm

Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:44



The Everything Pot

USA | 2024 | 92 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Sherise Dorf

Producers: Callie Bloem, Sherise Dorf, Christopher J. Ewing, Sean Patrick Kelly, Emily Sheehan

Cast: Lisa Edelstein, James Wolk, Gina Torres, Erik Griffin, Delaney Marie Rowe, Deja Monique Cruz

When empty nester Rachel RSVPs and sends a gift way too quickly to an acquaintance's wedding invitation, she inadvertently breaks up the engaged couple, and in trying to get them back together, her own marriage implodes.

Rachel and Adam have their routines down, their dynamic is set, and after 23 years, Rachel's learned to make peace with feeling dismissed and often unseen; sometimes they feel more like roommates than spouses, and that seems to be perfectly okay with Adam.

Preceded by:



Where No Clock Rules the Day

USA | 2024 | 11 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Tyler Jay Kirkpatrick

Producer: Christopher Ahrendt-Mansilla

Cast: Costa Johnson, Quinn Cote

A beautiful high school game turns personal when Noah, a troubled pitcher, faces his early childhood friend, Aiden, at the plate. Fueled by years of estrangement, Noah must decide whether a remnant of what once was remains.

Thu, Feb 27 | 4pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Sat, Mar 1 | 10:10am

Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:43

Sponsored by:
STEPHANIE LARSEN
INTERIOR DESIGN



Finding Musana

USA | 2024 | 94 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Jim W. Hanon

A young Ugandan and a Colorado intern discover first-hand how charity models in Africa can create exploitation and dependence. Together with unexpected partners, they develop a model of local-ownership and micro-enterprise that could forever shift how the West views poverty relief.

Preceded by:



Then Comes the Body

USA | 2023 | 15 min • Documentary Short

Director: Jacob Krupnick

Producers: Damilola Aleje, Jacob Krupnick

Cast: Daniel Owoseni Ajala

"Then Comes the Body" is a short documentary about underdogs, globalism, and dance. It starts with Daniel Ajala, a self-taught ballet dancer who discovers the European dance form in the American movie "Save the Last Dance". With no ballet schools in Nigeria, he opens Leap of Dance Academy in his front yard: humble, rigorous, and free to anyone with dedication.

Sat, Feb 22 | 10:10am

Mary D. Fisher

Mon, Feb 24 | 4:10pm

Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:49

Sponsored by Jan Taylor



The Glory of Life

Germany, Austria | 2024 | 98 min • Narrative Feature

Directors: Judith Kaufmann, Georg Maas

Producers: Solveig Fina, Thomas PridnigHelge Sasse, Clemens Wollein

Writers: Georg Maas, Michael Gutmann, Michael Kumpfmüller

Cast: Henriette Confurius, Sabin Tambrea, Manuel Rubey, Daniela Golpashin

Because of the power of love, the last year of Franz Kafka's life becomes his happiest. He has never before been able to allow himself to experience intimacy, he suffers from tuberculosis and is dependent on his overbearing family. But the worldly wise Dora Diamant accepts him as he is. And he accepts her.

The two meet in 1923 on the Baltic Sea coast, where he is convalescing and she is working in a Jewish Volksheim. Together they go to Berlin and, when Franz's health deteriorates rapidly, to a sanatorium in Austria. Barely a year after they meet, he dies. The memory of their time together will shape Dora for the rest of her life.

Sun, Feb 23 | 7:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Sun, Mar 2 | 10am

Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:38



A Good Wolf

Canada | 2024 | 93 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Ramey Newell

"A Good Wolf" examines a 40-year conflict over a single tract of land adjacent to Denali National Park — a volatile struggle between state and federal authorities, fur trappers and wildlife advocates, and competing human interests on public lands.

Armed with thorough data, biologists and activists bring a new proposal to state authorities, hoping to regain protections for wolves near the park boundary.

Preceded by:



Losing Blue

Canada | 2024 | 15 min • Documentary Short

Director: Leanne Allison

Producer: David Christensen

Writer: J.B. MacKinnon

What does it mean to lose a color? "Losing Blue" is a cinematic poem that delves into the impending loss of some of the most extraordinary blues on Earth — the otherworldly blues of ancient mountain lakes. Glacier-fed alpine lakes each have a unique blue formed by the mountains and ice that shaped them. These intense colors hold the memory of "deep time," geological processes millions of years old.

Sun, Feb 23 | 10am

Harkins 1

Tue, Feb 25 | 7pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:48

Sponsored by Kealyn's Kloset



Hacking Hate

Denmark, Norway, Sweden | 2024 | 86 min
Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Simon Klose

Producer: Elin Kamler

This thriller documentary "Hacking Hate" follows Swedish investigative reporter My Vingren, known as the original "Girl With the Dragon Tattoo", as she goes undercover to infiltrate white supremacist movements online. She unveils how social media platforms profit from hate and examines the threat this poses to democracy worldwide.

The film is a call for action against the spread of extreme and authoritarian agendas and highlights efforts to make tech platforms accountable for their role in real-world violence.

Sat, Feb 22 | 4pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Mon, Feb 24 | 1:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:26



I Hope This Helps!

USA | 2023 | 52 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Producer/Writer: Daniel M. Freed

From executive producer Matthew Modine, "I Hope This Helps!" is a humorous, genre-bending hybrid documentary that invites viewers to ponder the evolving relationship between humanity and technology.

In the film, investigative journalist Daniel Freed enlists the help of Google's AI chatbot, Bard, to collaborate on a documentary...about AI. Appearing in the blue, furry form it requested, Bard helps Freed explore the benefits and risks of this world-changing innovation.

Preceded by:



Christmas, Every Day

USA | 2024 | 14 min • Documentary Short

Director/Writer: Faye Tsakas

Producer: Enrique Pedraza Botero

From their rural Alabama home, two preteen girls attract thousands of online fans while promoting fashion and beauty products. Stays within brand guidelines promoting products to fans online.

Fri, Feb 28 | 10am

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Sat, Mar 1 | 7:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:06



Into the Heart of the Mountain

Netherlands | 2024 | 97 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Producer: Annegré Bosman

The film follows Zen spiritual leader, social and peace activist Roshi Joan Halifax of Santa Fe, NM on her path to empower women and Indigenous people and to preserve their culture, bringing medical care and support on a deeply intimate pilgrimage with her team of medical practitioners called Nomads Clinic into the most remote, high-altitude regions of the Himalayas in Nepal.

Wed, Feb 26 | 7:10pm

Harkins 2

Fri, Feb 28 | 4:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:37

Sponsored by Stephen and Patricia Holst



The Invisible Doctrine

USA | 2024 | 75 min • Documentary Feature

Directors/Producers: Peter D. Hutchison, Lucas Sabeau

Writers: Peter D. Hutchison, George Monbiot

Since the 70s, Neoliberal policy has dominated the political and economic agenda of the West. The film's narrator/subject, author George Monbiot, makes a case that Neoliberal policies are incompatible with the preservation of life on earth as we know it, and calls for an increase in democratic civic engagement as a remedy for the spiral of alienation and loneliness our consumer society is mired within.

Monbiot's opinions presented in the film will stimulate thought and lively discussions regarding the causes of the political, environmental and social crises that define our times.

Mon, Feb 24 | 10am

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Wed, Feb 26 | 7:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:15



Jack & Lou: A Gangster Love Story

USA | 2024 | 104 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Nancy Boyd, Sabatino Ciatti Jr., Aslan Dalgic, Jocelyn Koo, Lorenzo Mendoza, Lilith Mo, Grace Park, Alexis Patton, Robin Want, David Willner, Itchy Yang

Producers: Maria Sara Santoro, Max Pearce, Hatuey Rodriguez

Cast: Sebastiano Pigazzi, Natalie Shinnick, Sam Abraham, Greg Roman, Linda Hamilton

In the 1970s, old gangster moll Lou Rolfe is confronted with her involvement in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre orchestrated by her former husband, and Capone's main hitman, Jack McGurn.

Back in 1920s Chicago, Al Capone's Italian outfit battles Bugs Moran's Irish gang for control of the city. Jack is a rising pro boxer, but when Black Hand gangsters kill his step-father he goes on a vengeance spree. Capone takes notice and hires him. Lou wants to be famous and starts a job as a dancer in one of Capone's speakeasies where she meets Jack. Their romance doesn't blossom, but booms.

Jack grows more and more absent from his family and Lou more and more influential in his life. She will do anything to have him rise to power in Capone's outfit.

Wed, Feb 26 | 4pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:44



The Kiss

Denmark | 2022 | 110 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Bille August

Producers: Thomas Heinesen, Lars Sylvest

Writers: Bille August, Greg Latter, Stefan Zweig

Cast: David Dencik, Mads Bjørn, Mathias Bøgelund,

From the Oscar-award winning director Bille August and based on Stefan Zweig's classic short story *Beware of Pity*, "The Kiss" is a romantic drama set against the backdrop of 1913 Denmark at the start of World War I, following the journey of Anton Abildgaard, a noble cavalry officer, hoping to complete his military training with distinction.

After helping the local Baron Løvenskjold out of a tough situation one day with his automobile, he is invited to join him and his family for dinner at their castle, where he meets the Baron's beautiful wheelchair bound daughter, Edith. The two begin spending more and more time together as Edith slowly falls in love and Anton struggles with being able to discern if his feelings for her are genuine or merely out of pity, all while the ominous threat of the first World War looms over them.

Sat, Feb 22 | 7:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Sun, Mar 2 | 10:10am

Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:50

Sponsored by:



Lena and Vladimir

Macedonia | 2023 | 96 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Igor Aleksov

Producers: Ilija Ciriviri, Dejan Iliev

Writer: Aleksandar Rusjakov

Cast: Sara Klimoska, Tony Naumovski, Deniz Abdula, Luran Ahmeti

Immersed in the profound pain of their pasts, Lena and Vladimir discover a fragile yet resilient connection that transcends their individual tragedies. Set against the backdrop of a forest sanctuary, their journey of healing and redemption unfolds as they navigate the complexities of trauma, forgiveness, and the transformative power of love.

Mon, Feb 24 | 7pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Wed, Feb 26 | 10:10am

Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:36

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Lilly

USA | 2024 | 93 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Rachel Feldman

Producers: Allyn Stewart, Kelly E. Ashton, Kerianne Flynn, Jyoti Sarda, Simone Pero, J. Todd Harris, Christine Schwarzman, Julie Kaufman, Rachel Feldman

Writers: Rachel Feldman, Adam Prince

Cast: Patricia Clarkson, John Benjamin Hickey, Thomas Sadoski

When a hard-working Alabama factory supervisor discovers that for 20 years she's been earning only half of what men with the same job are paid - only because she is a woman, she begins a long journey to fight for justice.

Starring Patricia Clarkson, "Lilly" is based on the remarkable life of fair pay activist Lilly Ledbetter, who stood up for equality all the way up to the Supreme Court, through the power corridors of Congress, and ultimately The White House. "Lilly" is an extraordinary journey of an ordinary woman who refused to accept the status quo, and underscores the transformative impact of one individual's courage.

This is a movie about a working-class woman who saw a wrong that needed to be fixed. When she realized that she could no longer rectify the issue for herself, she became determined to help others, becoming the voice and the face of fair pay. She learned quickly, becoming an activist who changed the hearts and minds of Congress, a President, and then a law.

Sat, Feb 22 | 1pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:33

Sponsored by:

STEPHANIE LARSEN
INTERIOR DESIGN



Midas Man

United Kingdom | 2024 | 112 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Joe Stephenson

Producers: Trevor Beattie, Jeremy Chatterton, Billy Dietrich, Richard Holmes

Writers: Brigit Grant, Jonathan Wakeham

Cast: Jacob Fortune-Lloyd, Emily Watson, Eddie Marsan, Jay Leno, Eddie Izzard

On a cold night in 1961, a young record store owner walked into Liverpool's Cavern Club and discovered the greatest pop act the music world would ever see. So begins the story of Brian Epstein, the man who found The Beatles.

Featuring a star-making performance by Jacob Fortune-Lloyd (The Queen's Gambit) as Epstein, as well as the familiar faces of Emily Watson, Eddie Marsan, Jay Leno and Eddie Izzard, this funny, thrilling and occasionally heartbreaking film charts Epstein's life as he guides the scrappy four-piece band's rise from dingy bars to the hallowed halls of The Ed Sullivan Show and beyond—a story of one man's radical faith in talent and the sacrifices he made to champion it.

Sat, Mar 1 | 1pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:52

Sponsored by Patrice Currivan



Mistress Dispeller

China, USA | 2024 | 94 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Elizabeth Lo

Producers: Emma D. Miller, Maggie Li

Writers: Elizabeth Lo, Charlotte Munch Bengtson

In China, a new industry has emerged devoted to helping couples stay married in the face of infidelity. Wang Zhenxi is part of this growing profession, a "mistress dispeller" who is hired to maintain the bonds of marriage — and break up affairs — by any means necessary.

Offering strikingly intimate access to private dramas usually hidden behind closed doors, "Mistress Dispeller" follows a real, unfolding case of infidelity as Teacher Wang attempts to bring a couple back from the edge of crisis. Their story shifts our sympathies between husband, wife and mistress to explore the ways emotion, pragmatism and cultural norms collide to shape romantic relationships in contemporary China.

Preceded by:



They Call Me The Tattoo Witch

USA | 2024 | 15 min • Documentary Short

Director/Producer: Lindsay Nyman

In Hanoi, Vietnam, tattoo artist Tran Ngoc specializes in the rare and challenging art of tattooing over scars. Despite the social stigma surrounding tattoos in Vietnam, Ngoc empowers her clients, including breast cancer survivors and women with self-harm scars, to reclaim their bodies, demonstrating that her work is a profound act of compassion and resilience.

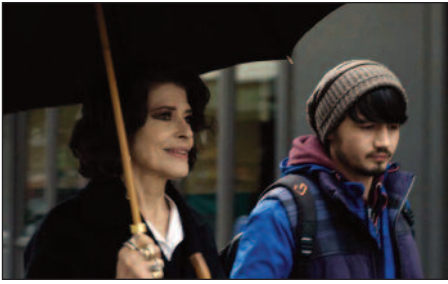
Sun, Feb 23 | 7pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Tue, Feb 25 | 10:10am

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:49



My Motherland

France | 2023 | 91 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Benoit Cohen

Producers: Romain Legrand, Vivien Aslanian,

Jean-François Camilleri, Raphaël Perchet

Writers: Eléonore Pourriat, Benoit Cohen

Cast: Fanny Ardant, Nawid Elham, Pierre Deladonchamps

France has been living alone in her apartment since her husband's death. When she hears on the radio that an NGO is putting in touch homeless migrants and people who are willing to welcome them, she decides — against her family's opinion — to welcome Reza, a young Afghan broken by war and exile.

Preceded by:



One Punch

United Kingdom | 2024 | 11 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Huse Monfaradi

Producers: Harvey Ascott, Xiaoxuan Zhu

Cast: George Jaques, Preeya Kalidas, Riz Khan

A misguided young prisoner confronts his overwhelming guilt when he is visited by the compassionate parents of the boy he killed.

It is a very human emotion to feel hatred towards someone who has inflicted great pain and hardship upon you or your family. However, the ability to turn that anger into compassion and forgiveness is almost a superhuman ability.

Sat, Mar 1 | 10am

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:42



My Stolen Planet

Germany, Iran | 2025 | 82 min
Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Farahnaz Sharifi

Producers: Farzad Pak, Anke Petersen, Lilian Tietjen

Using the essayistic style of a diary, "My Stolen Planet" traces how the Islamic Revolution changed life for women in Iran.

Born in 1979 shortly after the fall of the Pahlavi dynasty, the director draws on her personal archives and found 8mm movies of strangers' lives to show moments of private joy and public defiance under the regimented oppression in Tehran.

A stunning collage of dancing and singing contrasted with public acts like burning hijabs in the streets, the film is simultaneously a beautiful reclamation of memory and a brave act of resistance against the oppression of theocratic State religious authoritarianism.

Preceded by:



A Move

Iran | 2024 | 27 min • Documentary Short

Director/Writer: Elahe Esmaili

Cast: Hossein Behboudi Rad

Elahe returns to her hometown in Mashhad, Iran, to help her parents move to a new place after 40 years. Influenced by the Woman-Life-Freedom movement, she's also hoping for a bigger move beyond just a new apartment.

Thu, Feb 27 | 10:10am

Harkins 2

Sat, Mar 1 | 1pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:49



Never Alone

Finland | 2024 | 85 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Klaus Härö

Producer: Ilkka Matila

Writers: Klaus Härö, Jimmy Karlsson

Cast: Ville Virtanen, Rony Herman, Kari Hietalahti, Satu Tuuli Karhu

"Never Alone" tells the gripping story of Jewish refugees seeking safety in Finland during WWII. As Nazi influence grows, the Finnish-Jewish businessman Abraham Stiller (Ville Virtanen, Netflix's "Bordertown") risks everything to protect the refugee community. This powerful film showcases courage, resilience, and the fight for hope amidst overwhelming adversity.

From the celebrated director Klaus Härö, known for Oscar-shortlisted "The Fencer" and Golden Globe-nominated "My Sailor, My Love," comes a powerful true story that shines a light on the plight of Jewish refugees seeking sanctuary in Finland and the unwavering hero who risked everything to protect them.

Preceded by:



One in the Chamber

USA | 2024 | 27 min • Narrative Short

Director: Jay Goldenberg

Producer: Kristjan Thor

Writer: Chris Austin

Cast: Katie Mumford, Daniel Kublick

Alex Webb is an exciting new author and screenwriter with a string of bestsellers and a hit movie adaptation under his belt. Zoe Clarke is an entertainment reporter who has been tasked with going to Alex's home to do a profile piece on the up-and-coming young writer. However, it becomes apparent that Zoe's motives for meeting Alex aren't for the interview at all.

Mon, Feb 24 | 10:10am

Mary D. Fisher

Sun, Mar 2 | 10:10am

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:52



A New Kind of Wilderness

Norway | 2024 | 84 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Silje Evensmo Jacobsen
Producer: Mari Bakke Riise

On a small farm in a Norwegian forest, the Paynes live a purposefully isolated life, aiming to be wild and free. Maria and Nik, along with their four children are self-sufficient. They practice home-schooling and strive for a closely-knit family dynamic in harmony with nature. However, when tragedy strikes the family, it upends their idyllic world and forces them to forge a new path into modern society. The film beautifully captures an intimate soulful portrait of love, life and growing up, and invites reflection on our own life choices.

Wed, Feb 26 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Fri, Feb 28 | 4pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:24



Nomad Solitude

Belgium | 2023 | 87 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Sebastien Wielemans
Producers: Samuel Tilman, Fabrice Esteve, Sebastien Wielemans

In their vehicle, Laurie, Kristy and Linda live alone on the American roads — like thousands of modern American nomads who can no longer afford to pay for their housing. With no money to spare, these three sixty-year old women are fleeing, in their own way, a part of their history that has left a deep mark on them.

Fri, Feb 28 | 10am
Harkins 1

Sat, Mar 1 | 1:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:27



The Paper Bag Plan

USA | 2024 | 107 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Anthony Lucero
Producer: Ke'alo'hi Lee
Cast: Lance Kinsey, Cole Mass, Ravi Kapoor, Diana Lee Inosanto, Chandra Russell, Jillian Mercado

A father embarks on a plan to train his physically disabled son to bag groceries in the hopes of him landing a job and a path to independence.

Mon, Feb 24 | 4pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Thu, Feb 27 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:47



Paper Flowers

USA | 2024 | 101 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Mahesh Pailoor
Producer: Asit Vyas
Writer: Mary Krell-Oishi
Cast: Karan Soni, Kapil Talwalkar, Olivia Liang, Tom Everett Scott, Faran Tahir, Meera Simhan, West Liang, Jenny Gago

At 22, Shalin Shah had it all — a loving and supportive family, the love of his life by his side, and a promising future ahead, filled with high-minded ideals of changing the world. A recent USC graduate, Shalin heads off to Peru to serve in the Peace Corps for two years. But when Shalin suddenly becomes ill and is diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, his life is completely upended, and a once bright future becomes dim.

Fri, Feb 28 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Sat, Mar 1 | 10:10am
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:41



The Performance

USA | 2023 | 112 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Shira Piven
Producers: Chaya Amor, Daniel Finkelman, Jeremy Piven, Jenny Shakeshaft, Geno Taylor
Writers: Shira Piven, Joshua Salzberg
Cast: Robert Carlyle, Jeremy Piven, Maimie McCoy, Steven Berkoff

Based on a short story by Arthur Miller, "The Performance" is set in 1937 as the fascist atmosphere in Germany is nearing its brutal pinnacle.

Harold May (Jeremy Piven) is an American Jew and gifted tap dancer. Though he is nearly past his prime, he still longs for the success and status that have eluded him. While on tour in Europe, Harold, his old flame Carol, and the rest of his troupe are scouted by Damian Fugler, a German attache.

Not Knowing the blond-haired May is a Jew; Fugler offers them a huge sum to perform one show in Berlin. Once in Germany, the troupe discovers that the show is an exclusive performance for Hitler himself.

As Fugler, Harold, and the troupe's lives become intertwined, Harold is faced with a choice: either keep his Jewishness a secret for the sake of his dreams or, ironically, own up to who he really is in order to escape.

Join us as we honor Jeremy Piven with our Outstanding Career Achievement Award. He will be in Sedona to host the premiere of "The Performance" and have a Q&A discussion with our audience.



Jeremy Piven

Thu, Feb 27 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:52

Sponsored by John Gafford



A Photographic Memory

USA | 2024 | 87 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Rachel Elizabeth Seed

Producers: Sigrid Dyekjær, Matthew Perniciaro, Grace Remington, Rachel Elizabeth Seed

Writers: Rachel Elizabeth Seed, Christopher Stoudt

"A Photographic Memory" is an intimate, genre-bending portrait of a daughter's attempt to piece together a portrait of her mother, an avant-garde journalist and a woman she never knew.

Uncovering the vast archive Sheila Turner Seed produced, including lost interviews with iconic photographers Henri Cartier-Bresson, Gordon Parks, Cecil Beaton, Bruce Davidson, Lisette Model, and others, the film explores memory, legacy, and stories left untold.

Director/Subject Rachel Elizabeth Seed weaves together personal and photo-historical media to tell a universal story about facing mortality and loss, the search for identity, construction of memory and the restoration of a legacy.

Thu, Feb 27 | 10:10am

Mary D. Fisher

Sat, Mar 1 | 7pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:27



Pink Lady

Israel, Italy | 2024 | 104 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Nir Bergman

Producers: Estee Yacov Mecklberg, Haim Mecklberg, Marica Stocchi

Writer: Mindi Ehrlich

Cast: Gal Malka, Sara von Schwarze, Nur Fibak

In an ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem, Bati leads a seemingly perfect life with her husband and three children. But her world begins to crumble when her gentle husband is blackmailed over a secret affair with his male Torah study partner.

Preceded by:



This is Jan

USA | 2024 | 21 min • Narrative Short

Director: Robert Larriviere

Producers: Robert Larriviere, Ryan Glorioso, Brooklyn Campagne, Gregory McNamara

Writers: Robert Larriviere, Hunter Burke, Nick Lavin

Cast: Lyle Brocato, James Dumont, Laura Flannery, Robert Larriviere

Alone in a hotel, Jan has the solitude and freedom to shed the identity imposed on them by the tight constraints of the era's societal norms. Relieved of that burden, Jan relishes the opportunity to transform into the person they believe they truly are. Bolstered by newfound confidence, they push their own boundaries, only to discover that nothing is as it seems. When compelled to decide between what the world expects of them and who they want to be, Jan embraces who they truly are.

Thu, Feb 27 | 4pm

Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 2:05



Pol Pot Dancing

Germany, Norway | 2024 | 101 min
Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Enrique Sánchez Lansch

Producers: Arne Birkenstock, Laryssa Stone

Chea Samy was an outstanding soloist in the royal dance ensemble at the Cambodian Royal Palace in the 1930s. But she was also Pol Pot's foster mother. After marrying Pol's older brother, a low-level official at the royal court, she looked after the boy as if he were her own. They lost contact when he disappeared into the underground after his graduation.

In 1975, like millions of other Cambodians, she was driven to the rice fields. Only after three years of forced labor did she learn that Pol Pot was the boy she had raised decades before. As one of only few dancers, she managed to survive his reign and returned to Phnom Penh as a dance teacher, thus preserving knowledge of the traditional dance.

One of her first pupils was Sophiline Cheam, now a successful choreographer. Her ensemble incorporates events from Cambodia's past in its dance routines. The starting point is a curious fact about Pol Pot's career, which few Cambodians know about: the connection between Pol Pot and classical Cambodian dance.

Sun, Feb 23 | 4pm

Harkins 1

Tue, Feb 25 | 10am

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:41



Relative Control

USA | 2024 | 108 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Dafna Yachin

Producers: Jason Pinardo, Charlene Davis, Dafna Yachin

Writer: Charlene Davis

Cast: Teri Polo, Patrick McDade, Brian Anthony Wilson, Alice Schaeer, Richard Lyntton, Erica Wong, Ryan Saviano, Jeff Mark, Nick Delaney

Teri Polo ("Meet the Fockers") stars as a middle-aged, divorced, type-A attorney, whose life spins out of control as she juggles the demands of her ex-cop, handful of a father, her increasingly forgetful mother, an unemployed son, and a reignited romantic interest; all while defending against a hostile takeover in the largest corporate control contest of her career.

Wed, Feb 26 | 4:10pm

Harkins 2

Fri, Feb 28 | 10:10am

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:48



Resilient Man

United Kingdom, France | 2024 | 90 min
Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Stéphane Carrel

Producers: Gabriel Chabanier, Julia Fangeaud, Guillaume Roy

At the height of his fame, Steven McRae, a brilliant star dancer at the Royal Ballet in London, injured his Achilles tendon and collapsed on stage. His career seemed over. However, after 2 years of absence, accompanied by his coaches and the company's medical team, he followed a special program to return to his highest level. Despite the adversity, Steven McRae intends to return to the stage and dance the most prestigious roles in the repertoire again.

Thu, Feb 27 | 7pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Sat, Mar 1 | 10am

Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:30

Sponsored by Mary Byrd



Riefenstahl

Germany | 2024 | 115 min • Documentary Feature

Director/Writer: Andres Veiel

Producer: Sandra Maischberger

Leni Riefenstahl is considered one of the most controversial women of the 20th century as an artist and a Nazi propagandist. Her films "Triumph of the Will" and "Olympia" stand for perfectly staged body worship and the celebration of the superior and victorious. At the same time, these images project contempt for the imperfect and weak.

Riefenstahl's aesthetics are more present than ever today — but is that also true for their implied message? The film examines this question using documents from Riefenstahl's estate, including private films, photos, recordings and letters. It uncovers fragments of her biography and places them in an extended historical context. How could Riefenstahl become the Reich's preeminent filmmaker and keep denying any closer ties to Hitler and Goebbels?

During her long life after the fall of Nazism, she remained unapologetic, managing to control and shape her legacy. In personal documents, she mourns her "murdered ideals". Riefenstahl represents many postwar Germans who, in letters and recorded telephone calls from her estate, dream of an organizing hand that will finally clean up the "shit-hole state". Then, her work would also experience a renaissance, in a generation or two this time could come - what if they are right?

Sun, Feb 23 | 1pm

Alice Gill-Sheldon

Tue, Feb 25 | 4:10pm

Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:55

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Rooted

USA | 2024 | 95 min • Documentary Feature

Directors: Bridget Besaw, Par Parekh
Producer: Lauren Waring Douglas
Cast: Germaine Jenkins

Faced with the lack of fresh produce in a Charleston, South Carolina food desert, Germaine Jenkins creates an urban farm on an empty city lot. Germaine, a Black mother-of-two, embarks on a journey to bring fresh food to her community and own the land she farms — a critical first step in establishing stability for her community and sowing the seeds of generational wealth for her family.

Thu, Feb 27 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Fri, Feb 28 | 1pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:35



Sabbath Queen

USA | 2024 | 105 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Sandi Dubowski

Noted documentarian and social impact pioneer Sandi Dubowski ("Trembling Before G-D", "A Jihad For Love") rapturously leads us through a 21 year journey in the life of Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie's as the heir of 38 generations of Orthodox rabbis who is torn between accepting his ancestral destiny or becoming a drag queen rebel.

The gay founder of an everybody-friendly, God-optional, artist-driven, pop-up experimental congregation, Lou-Lavie's cinematic quest to radically reinvent religion and challenge gender norms reflects many of the most pressing issues facing all spiritual people in today's polarized world.

Fri, Feb 28 | 1:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Sat, Mar 1 | 4:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:45



Shattered Ice

USA | 2024 | 100 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Alex Ranarivelo
Producers: Benjamin Stephen, Daniel Sheldon, Christopher V. Nelson, Jake Miskin
Writer: Jake Miskin
Cast: Charlie Gillespie, Sterling Beaumon, Kyla Kenedy, Jack Falahee

High school hockey bruiser Will Mankus (Charlie Gillespie) is more lost than ever following the unexpected loss of his best friend and the school's star player, Danny (Sterling Beaumon), to suicide. As he confronts his grief, Mankus must lift himself up from rock bottom with the help of his small-town New England community to find hope and purpose through his family, friends, and the sport he loves.

Mon, Feb 24 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:40

Sponsored by:



Health First Foundation
Northern Arizona™



Sheepdog

USA | 2024 | 120 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Steven Grayhm
Producers: Joe Newcomb, Lynn d'Angona, P. Colin Kane, Ric Smith, Steven Grayhm
Cast: Virginia Madsen, Vondie Curtis Hall, Steven Grayhm, Lilli Cooper, Dominic Fumusa, Matt Dallas, Maggie Geha

Decorated US Army combat Veteran Calvin Cole (Steven Grayhm), is court ordered into treatment and into the care of a VA trauma therapist in-training (Virginia Madsen), who still works the night shift at a diner to pay for college.

Things become even more complicated when Calvin's father-in-law and retired Vietnam Veteran (Vondie Curtis Hall), shows up on his doorstep, having just been released from prison.

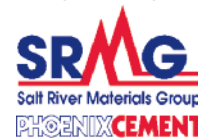
When Calvin's plan to run from the past blows up in his face, he learns through tough love and compassion that he must put himself back together again.

Wed, Feb 26 | 10am
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Fri, Feb 28 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 2:00

Sponsored by:





So Surreal: Behind the Masks

Canada | 2024 | 88 min • Documentary Feature

Directors/Writers: Neil Diamond, Joanne Robertson
Producer: Daniel Morin

In this part detective story and part art history, Cree Director/Subject Neil Diamond undertakes a journey to retrieve First Nations Indigenous ceremonial masks from collectors and museums around the world, helping return them to the Yup'ik native people of Canada.

He traces the origins and spiritual meanings of the masks, their historical influence on the Surrealist art movement, and the role that former Sedona resident artist Max Ernst played in introducing Indigenous mask influenced art during the very beginnings of the Surrealist movement.

Sat, Feb 22 | 10am
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Mon, Feb 24 | 4:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:28

Sponsored by:



Stone Mountain

USA | 2024 | 83 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Daniel Newell Kaufman
Producer: Krista Worby

The colossal rockface carving depicting three Confederate leaders – Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson – towers over Stone Mountain Park, on the outskirts of Atlanta. It's Georgia state's most popular tourist attraction.

Daniel Kaufman's brilliant film profiles the locals living beneath it: an activist striving to be a voice for the town's majority Black community; an historian confronting his own legacy; a third generation Klansman who is fueling renewed division in the region, and a civil rights organizer campaigning for the monument's destruction. Unfolding over a turbulent five years in the U.S., including a wave of anti-racist protests that saw the toppling of statues and monuments across the country, this visually arresting documentary reveals a divided community grappling with its troubled legacy and uncertain future.

Preceded by:



I'm Still Here

USA | 2024 | 26 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Stephen Stinson, Sam Miller
Producers: Heather Jeffcoat, Leadership Birmingham
Cast: Barbara Shores, Houston Brown, Jefferson Drew

Between 1947 and 1967, black owned homes in Birmingham, Alabama were bombed over 50 times. Homes on Center Street were targeted so often, the neighborhood became known as 'Dynamite Hill.' The street became an inflection point for the Civil Rights movement. "I'm Still Here" tells the story of three people who lived this history as children and elected to stay in Birmingham to try and turn the city's struggles with Civil Rights into a symbol for hope.

Sun, Feb 23 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Tue, Feb 25 | 7:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Total Running Time: 1:49



Striking the Palace

France | 2024 | 87 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Nessim Chikhaoui
Writers: Nessim Chikhaoui, H el ene Filli eres
Cast: Lucie Charles-Alfred, Corinne Masiero, Marie-Sohna Cond e, Maimouna Gueye, Salimata Kamate

Eva, 20, joins Safietou, Djaoua, Violette and Simone, a team of chambermaids at one of Paris's finest Palace Hotels. She discovers the poor working conditions of these invisible women, who work tirelessly to keep the high standards of these luxurious hotels, where one night can cost their annual salary.

Many are not even employed by the hotels directly but by sub-contractors, and are therefore particularly vulnerable.

While on strike to fight against subcontracting and to obtain better working conditions, they come up with a colorful idea: having their own "Fashion Week" in front of the hotel!

Sat, Feb 22 | 10am
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:27

Sponsored by Debra Mae White Stephens



Surviving Brandenburg

Germany | 2023 | 82 min • Narrative Feature

Directors: Zoltan Paul, Ben von Grafenstein
Producers: Clementina Hegewisch, Jan Kerhart
Writer: Zoltan Paul
Cast: Zoltan Paul, Adele Neuhauser, Dietrich Hollinderbäumer, Sabine Waibel, Joachim Paul Assböck

Laszlo — an old white ex film director without perspective in life — finds new reason first having an affair with a hot but dangerous woman and after in running for mayor against a right wing populist in his tiny village. Meaningfull, current and funny!

Preceded by:



Anwar

Canada | 2024 | 19 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Fawaz Al-Matrouk
Producers: Jared Seehafer, Ryan Michael Connolly, Xin Li
Cast: Kerry Bishé, Jay Abdo, Garland Scott, Ammar Haj Ahmad, Leo Etemadi, Saif Haj

"Anwar" is a personal sci-fi story about a mother who chose to live forever and a son who longs for heaven. We see Anwar age from 8 to 18 to 80, while Mona remains eternal throughout, until he has a final moment of doubt, and she has a final moment of hope. Starring Kerry Bishé ("Argo", "Halt & Catch Fire") and Jay Abdo (Herzog's "Queen of the Desert").

Tue, Feb 25 | 4:10pm
Harkins 2

Thu, Feb 27 | 10am
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:41



Sweetwater

USA | 2025 | 118 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Writer: Martin Guigui
Producers: Tim Moore, Dahlia Waingort Guigui, Darren Moorman
Cast: Everett Osborne, Jeremy Piven, Cary Elwes, Kevin Pollak, Richard Dreyfuss, Eric Roberts, Robert Richard, Gary Clark Jr., Jim Caviezel

Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton, makes history as the first African American to sign an NBA contract, forever changing the game of basketball.

Sweetwater was born to change the game. Revered as the father of basketball as it's now known and loved by millions, Harlem Globetrotters phenom Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton overcame a lifetime of barriers and a barrage of discrimination to become the first African American to join the NBA.

Politics and high emotions take on cultural evolution as Sweetwater attempts to overcome all odds and risk everything to fulfill his destiny and bring change and a "new" game to the world.

Invited Special Guests:



Everett Osborne



Cary Elwes



Jim Caviezel

Fri, Feb 28 | 7pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:58

Sponsored by Angela Loscalzo



Two Strangers Trying Not to Kill Each Other

United Kingdom, Denmark, USA | 2024 | 100 min
Documentary Feature

Directors: Manon Ouimet, Jacob Perlmutter
Producers: Manon Ouimet, Jacob Perlmutter, Signe Byrge Sørensen

World-renowned photographer Joel Meyerowitz, 84 and his wife Maggie Barrett, 75, a talented yet less recognized writer, navigate the complexities of aging and artistic recognition.

When Maggie slips and breaks her femur, Joel quickly transitions into a caregiver role, and their dynamic shifts, unearthing long-buried frustrations.

This intimate film explores their three-decade partnership, revealing the delicate balance between individuality and togetherness. Through this beautifully produced in-depth exploration of a marriage, we witness the tender unraveling of a seemingly idyllic relationship, exposing both underlying tensions and enduring love.

Wed, Feb 26 | 10:10am
Mary D. Fisher

Fri, Feb 28 | 7pm
Alice Gill-Sheldon

Total Running Time: 1:40



Valensole 1965

France | 2024 | 85 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Dominique Filhol
Producers: Virginie Lacombe, Dominique Filhol, Steve Rene
Writers: Dominique Filhol, Edouard Blanchot
Cast: Matthias Van Khache, Vahina Giocante

Valensole, Provence, summer 65. At dawn, Maurice Masse, a farmer, discovers in his lavender field a UFO that takes off at an astonishing speed, leaving traces on the ground. The news attracts the crowds and puts Maurice in the spotlight.

Faced with this sudden unwanted notoriety, he tries to protect his family. But beyond his daily life, it is the life of this small village which will be shaken up. Based on a true story.

Preceded by:



Living on the Edge

United Kingdom | 2024 | 16 min • Narrative Short

Director: Jishnu Nandan
Producers: Dennis Ngango, Kristin Duffy
Writer: Gbenga Chesterman
Cast: Daniel Adetu, Curtis Appleby

A chance cliffside meeting between two very different men turns second thoughts into second chances.

A traffic warden travels to a high cliff with the conviction to jump. There, he encounters a young British man with a similar intention — and an ice cream van. Through an unexpected moment of connection and shared sense of purpose, they decide it might be worth living another day.

Fri, Feb 28 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:41



Waltzing Matilda

Czech Republic | 2023 | 99 min • Narrative Feature

Director: Petr Slavík
Producers: Nataša Slavíková, Vít Janeček
Writers: Nataša Slavíková, Petr Slavík
Cast: Karel Roden, Regina Rázlová, Zuzana Kánoc, Antonio Šoposki

Illness is not only a complication of life, but also an opportunity to embark on a journey of healing in a broader sense.

In a story inspired by real events an introverted Karel (Karel Roden) lives in a world of order and strict rules with a little room for empathy. He visits his extroverted and bohemian mother Matylda (Regina Rázlová), a former bar singer, mostly because of a sense of obligation. Matilda unexpectedly loses her apartment and Karel has no choice but to have her live with him. Their coexistence is a disaster especially when it comes out that Matilda is developing Alzheimer's.

Karel's son Pavel (Antonio Šoposki), an irresponsible flutist who despises his father's profession as an executor, is seemed as the best option to take care of their troubled grandmother.

The new household of three different temperaments across generations brings humorous moments. However with the progressing symptoms of the disease they turn more tragicomic. At first the hopeless situation turns the family's life upside down but through not giving up they achieve something meaningful not only for Matilda, but also for themselves.

Tue, Feb 25 | 4pm
Sedona Performing Arts Center

Total Running Time: 1:39

Sponsored by Mary Byrd



What She Carried

USA | 2024 | 95 min • Narrative Feature

Director/Producer/Writer: John DiAntonio
Cast: Caitlin Wise, Logan Ernstthal, Ben Newman

Colorado Territory, 1869. After a cholera outbreak hits a remote mining camp, a woman is forced to travel 97 miles of unforgiving wilderness with her child in tow and another on the way.

Filmed in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado, "What She Carried" explores the enduring love, tenacity, and strength of motherhood.

Sat, Feb 22 | 1:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Mon, Feb 24 | 10am
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:35



Wisdom of Happiness

USA, Switzerland | 2024 | 90 min
Documentary Feature

Directors: Barbara Miller, Philip Delaquis
Executive Producers: Richard Gere, Oren Moverman, Walo Kamm, Tashi Albertini-Kaiser, Tobias Asch, Hanspeter Maurer-Adotsang, Monlam Maurer-Adotsang
Producer: Philip Delaquis

"Wisdom of Happiness" is a profound, new cinematic exploration of the innermost world of the Dalai Lama, perfectly attuned to our times. In an intimate heart-to-heart, the world's greatest ambassador of compassion invites everyone along for a journey to the source of happiness.

At the pinnacle of nine exceptionally challenging decades in the world spotlight that began at the age of four, the Dalai Lama reflects on balancing millennia-old Tibetan Buddhist traditions with contemporary values of our globalized society that now struggles to overcome violence and war while standing on the brink of environmental collapse. The first Nobel Peace Laureate to be recognized for an early call to preserve our planet shows us that is possible to build a healthier, happier world for all living beings and that the tools necessary to do so are, in fact, already in the palms of our hands.

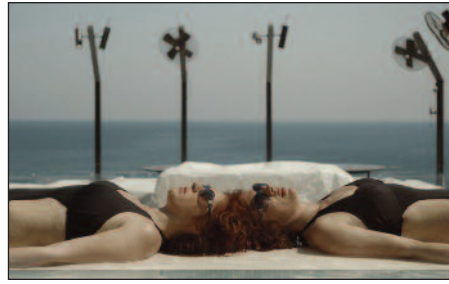
Thanks to his expansive mind and disarming wit, the Dalai Lama's incredibly complex path to a healthy, happy life is finely distilled and inspires us to see how simple it could be to build to a peaceful, prosperous society for all to thrive. While happiness is born in each of us, only the cultivation of unconditional compassion for one another will transform the world. In what is likely to be the Dalai Lama's last appearance in a film, the extraordinary collaboration between Barbara Miller, Philip Delaquis, Manuel Bauer, Oren Moverman and Richard Gere creates a remarkable and timely offering to viewers. The filmmakers weave captivating access with contemplative visuals and never-before-seen archival film to take viewers on a generous meditative climb — from the base of suffering to the peak of human intelligence where the view is simply transformational. "Wisdom of Happiness" is an unforgettable, meditative experience for the 21st Century that not only unlocks a door to genuine, lasting happiness but reveals that each and every one of Earth's 8 billion beings holds their very own key to it in the palm of their hand.

Thu, Feb 27 | 7:10pm
Harkins 2

Sat, Mar 1 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:30

Sponsored by Stephen and Patricia Holst



Wishing on a Star

Austria, Italy, Croatia, Slovakia, Czechia | 2024
99 min • Documentary Feature

Director: Peter Kerekes
Producers: Erica Barbiani, Lucia Candelpergher
Writers: Erica Barbiani, Peter Kerekes

In this light Italian comedy/documentary, Luciana, a Neapolitan astrologer has a method to make her clients' wishes come true. All they need to do is take a trip on their birthday to a precise destination that she calculates to be reborn under a new sky. Whether it's Taipei, Beirut or a nearby village, during these birthday journeys, the protagonists will go through unexpected transformations to help them discover what they truly desire.

Sun, Feb 23 | 4:10pm
Mary D. Fisher

Tue, Feb 25 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Total Running Time: 1:39



Zurawski v Texas

USA | 2024 | 98 min • Documentary Feature

Directors: Maisie Crow, Abbie Perrault
Executive Producers: Hillary Clinton, Chelsea Clinton
Producers: Maisie Crow, Abbie Perrault, Amy Flanagan, Siobhan Sinnerton, Blye Faust, Cori Shepherd

Women denied abortions under Texas' ambiguous and unforgiving abortion bans band together with a fearless attorney to sue Texas. While battling in court against the state and its immovable Attorney General, the extent of their traumatic experiences is revealed as they wrestle to regain their reproductive futures and set a precedent for millions of other women and families.

"Zurawski v Texas" reveals the dire impact of losing access to healthcare — and the extraordinary efforts of the women and men fighting on the front-line to regain those rights.

Sun, Feb 23 | 1:10pm
Harkins 2

Mon, Feb 24 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:38

Documentary Shorts PROGRAM 1



A Brutal, Beautiful Life

USA | 2024 | 11 min • Documentary Short

Director: Beau Gaughran

Producer: Maddy Butcher

Writer: Maddy Butcher

Cast: Vicki Taussig, Caitlyn Taussig, Sheldonna Zwicker, Maddy Butcher, Sarah Bangert, Taylor Hammack

In the vast, rugged beauty of the Rocky Mountains and high desert, ranching women, their dogs, horses, and cattle, share powerful connections that reveal nature's quiet ways. This is a story about tiny moments of understanding and connection, unseen by most, appreciated by few. These moments are rich with meaning and speak to connecting with nature in a way that honors intuition and experience.



Motorcycle Mary

USA | 2024 | 22 min • Documentary Short

Director: Haley Watson

Producers: Rachel Greenwald, Haley Watson

In the 1950s, Mary McGee found her sense of freedom when she became the first American woman to race motorcycles. Mary's pioneering journey of conquering sexism and her own fears paved the way for the next chapter in motorsports.



Stud Country

USA | 2023 | 11 min • Documentary Short

Directors/Producers: Lina Abascal, Alexandra Kern

Stud Country, the largest queer country western line dancing event in America, was created to preserve Los Angeles' little known 50+ year queer line dancing tradition. Despite its success and fiercely committed community, the event is set to lose its venue due to gentrification.



We Exist in Memory

USA | 2024 | 13 min • Documentary Short

Director: Darian Woehr

Producers: Hailey Sadler, Bruna Kadletz, Darian Woehr

How do you rebuild "home" from nothing but memories? This verite-style film thrusts us into the intimate conversations between Maria and her grandchild, Marucha: two Indigenous refugees living in displacement. To Maria, the Venezuelan delta is her home. To Marucha, these refugee camps are all she knows. Through the rhythms of their daily lives, we witness the complexity of raising a new generation in displacement and explore how land, memory and identity are deeply intertwined.

Documentary Shorts PROGRAM 1



Strong Grandma

USA | 2023 | 15 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Cecilia Brown, Winslow Crane-Murdoch

"Strong Grandma" follows Catherine Kuehn — a 95-year old competitive deadlifter — into what she believes will be her final weightlifting competition. Kuehn got into weightlifting when she was 80 years old because she had osteopenia, and was surprised to find she had a knack for it. She began competing at 85 and has won every event she has entered, simply because there's no one else in her age to compete against.



Saving Superman

USA | 2024 | 11 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Adam Oppenheim, Samuel-Ali Mirpoorian
Producers: Adam Oppenheim, Samuel-Ali Mirpoorian, Julie Spiller

When a local man with autism known as the town hero faces eviction, the community comes together when he needs saving. In a small suburb outside of Chicago lives Jonathan, a 57-year-old man with ASD (autism spectrum disorder), also known as 'Superman'. Known for his heroic actions, Jonathan is a revered member of the Glen Ellyn community and has been a staple in the 4th of July Parade for nearly 30 years.



Eat Flowers

USA | 2023 | 15 min • Documentary Short

Director: River Autumn Finlay
Writer: Cig Harvey

When photographer and writer Cig Harvey found out her best friend Mary was diagnosed with terminal leukemia, she did what she knew best: made photographs. As Mary faced isolation and debilitating treatment, Cig set out to bring the world to Mary. Over the coming years, Cig captured and sent Mary images of beauty, life and color. Images that evoked the sensual, the sacred, the delicate and the brave.

Tue, Feb 25 | 10am
Harkins 1

Thu, Feb 27 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:38



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Documentary Shorts PROGRAM 2



Weree

United Kingdom | 2023 | 15 min
Documentary Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Tal Amiran
Cast: Johnson Weree

Having fled the Liberian civil war, renowned self-taught artist Johnson Weree is seeking asylum in the Netherlands where he lives undocumented and without a fixed address. Haunted by the horrors of his past, he draws bright-colored otherworldly portraits, whilst longing for a brighter future.



A Body Called Life

USA | 2024 | 15 min • Documentary Short

Director/Writer: Spencer MacDonald
Producer: Pascal Duschetta
Cast: James Weiss

A self-isolated young human known as "James" delves into the hidden world of microscopic organisms, forging a tender connection with these nearly invisible creatures and developing a massive online following, as he seeks to understand his own place in the cosmos and accept the scars of his past.

"A Body Called Life" is a film made in collaboration with James, with a screenplay adapted from the verbatim Instagram posts of James, starring James as James, and featuring a charming score by Dan Deacon.

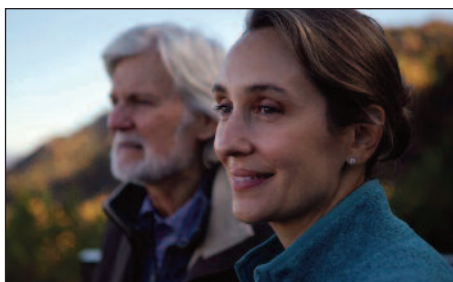


Designed by Disaster

USA | 2024 | 20 min • Documentary Short

Director: James 'Q' Martin
Producer: Page Buono
Writer: Page Buono
Cast: Danny Giovale, Timmy O'Neill

"Designed by Disaster" is a deeply personal and inspiring story about Danny, a passionate climber who faces a life-changing ordeal in the Dolomites. Danny is propelled to invent a revolutionary type of crampon, addressing a critical safety gap in mountain travel. This invention not only transforms the outdoor industry but also marks Danny's journey of self-discovery and resilience. His return to the Dolomites, decades later, symbolizes his full-circle journey bringing the product he invented to the place where he almost lost his life.

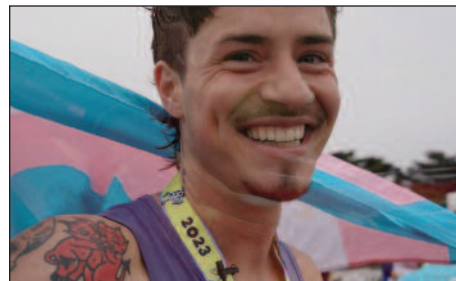


Appalheads

USA | 2024 | 17 min • Documentary Short

Director: Scott Faris
Producers: Anna Richardson White, Meg Griffiths

Decades after leaving Appalachia, a daughter returns to eastern Kentucky to excavate her father's remarkable filmmaking legacy — as the founder of Appalshop — and examine the pull home still has on her.

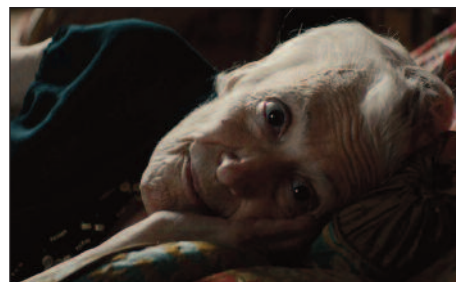


Out of the Dark: Cal Calamia

USA | 2024 | 9 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Tom Mason, Sarah Klein
Producer: Heather Martino
Cast: Cal Calamia

An intimate look at the journey of professional athlete Cal Calamia, a transgender marathon runner who's advocating for inclusion in the running world. This film delves into Cal's journey, from their upbringing in a conservative suburb to their decision to come out as transmasculine and begin hormone therapy. It explores Cal's profound struggles with mental health and how they ultimately found the support necessary to survive and eventually go on to dominate the nonbinary category in major marathons, as well as become an advocate for transgender rights.



The Final Copy of Ilon Specht

USA | 2024 | 18 min • Documentary Short

Director: Ben Proudfoot
Producers: Brendan Gaul, Rachel Greenwald, Ben Proudfoot
Cast: Ilon Specht, Allison Case

From two-time Oscar-winner Ben Proudfoot comes "The Final Copy of Ilon Specht", an intimate deathbed account of the unsung advertising genius who coined L'Oréal's iconic "Because I'm Worth It" slogan in 1971, a four-word feminist manifesto that, against all odds, changed advertising forever.

Wed, Feb 26 | 10am
Harkins 1

Fri, Feb 28 | 4pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:34

Documentary Shorts PROGRAM 3



The Puzzle Palace

USA | 2023 | 12 min • Documentary Short

Directors/Producers: Jenny Schweitzer Bell, Brian Bell

Cast: Roxanne Miller, George Miller

In a Boca suburb, a couple retire to a second marriage of freedom, play, and the world's largest puzzle collection.



Cycling Without Age

USA | 2024 | 28 min • Documentary Short

Director: Isaac Seigel-Boettner

Producer: Jacob Seigel Brielle

There is something about riding a bike that makes you feel like a kid again. All too often, we lose touch with that magic as we get older. Through the stories of pedal-powered rickshaw pilots and their elder passengers, "Cycling Without Age" explores the importance of feeling the wind in your hair at all stages of life's journey.



Bright White Light

Finland | 2023 | 14 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Henna Väliky, Eesu Lehtola

Producers: Henna Väliky, Ville Sivonen

Writer: Henna Väliky

"Bright White Light" is a short animated documentary exploring near-death experiences through five culturally diverse narratives, using real audio recordings. Through experimental visuals, it guides viewers on a transcendent voyage beyond mortality, unveiling how these experiences profoundly impact the essence of life, blurring the boundaries between existence and the mysteries of the after-life.



Hold the Line

USA | 2023 | 18 min • Documentary Short

Director: Daniel Lombroso

Producer: Devon Blackwell

When the nation's largest Protestant organization decides to purge women in leadership positions, the influence of two prominent pastors is put to the test.



The Devil Is Busy

USA | 2024 | 31 min • Documentary Short

Directors: Geeta Gandbhir, Christalyn Hampton

Producer: Soledad O'Brien

As the director of operations and security of an abortion clinic in Atlanta, Tracy doesn't take any chances when it comes to the safety of both the patients and the staff. "The Devil Is Busy" is an eye opening on the ground portrayal of the shifting landscape for abortion providers in America.

Thu, Feb 27 | 10am

Harkins 1

Sat, Mar 1 | 4pm

Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:43



Spit It Out

USA | 2023 | 16 min • Narrative Short

Director: Ray Sisters

Producers: Austin Ray, Robin Ray

Writer: Westin Ray

Cast: Kate Sumpter, Eric Roberts, Anya Longwell, Tadeo Sorice, Micah Flamm, Artemis Snow

A father (Eric Roberts) enthusiastically shares his DNA ancestry test results with his family. What could go wrong? Everything.



The Ice Cream Man

USA | 2024 | 35 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Robert Moniot

Producers: Greg Malone, Amy Pauszek

Cast: Noah Emmerich

Shortlisted for the Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film.

Shortly after the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, a popular ice cream shop owner, Ernst Cahn, finds himself targeted by the infamous "Butcher of Lyon", Klaus Barbie. As his world crumbles, "The Ice Cream Man" must choose between resistance and death, a choice that will reverberate throughout the country. Based on actual events.



Once More, Like Rain Man

USA | 2024 | 15 min • Narrative Short

Director: Sue Ann Pien

Producers: Suzann Ellis Spurgeon, Darren Dean, Bella Zoe Martinez, Melissa Jean Martinez-Areffi, Andrew J Areffi

Writer: Bella Zoe Martinez

Cast: Bella Zoe Martinez, Matt Jones, Joe Mantegna, Sue Ann Pien, Sosie Bacon, Kristen Hager, Vella Lovell, Tracy Reiner, Tal Anderson, Alex Plank, James Paxton, Scott Krinsky, James Ponsoldt, Jenee LaMarque, Glory Simon, Andrew Carillo, Felix Pire, Naia Schroder, Tyler Sopland

"Once More, Like Rain Man" follows Zoe and her dad, Gerry in a 'day in the life' of an autistic actress running the gambit of stereotypes she has to deal with — and her dad's battle in supporting her forging that path for herself — in a funny, frustrating, painful and sometimes triumphantly sarcastic kind of way.



Death Pays Flora a Visit

USA | 2024 | 12 min • Narrative Short

Director: Tanna Frederick

Producer: Sy Rosen

Writer: Sy Rosen

Cast: Mimi Kennedy, Eric Roberts

In this both dark and uplifting comedic short film, Death (Eric Roberts) pays an unsuspecting Flora (Mimi Kennedy) a visit telling her it's her time. However Flora doesn't want to go. There's still so much she needs to do. And in surprising and satisfying turn of events, Flora wins the day.



June Bug

Canada | 2024 | 13 min • Narrative Short

Director: Kyle Sawyer

Producers: Katie Billo, Alison Maxwell

Writers: Kyle Sawyer, Katie Billo

Cast: Ray Kennington, Matthew Romantini, Jim Phu, Joanne Blouin-Dafoe, Jaxton Dafoe

After failing an eye test, an elderly woman struggles to come to terms with the fact that she may never drive her beloved VW Beetle again.

Sun, Feb 23 | 1pm

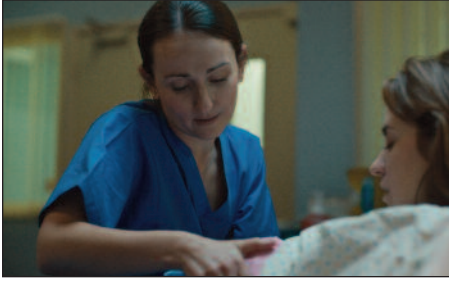
Harkins 1

Tue, Feb 25 | 7pm

Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:31

Sponsored by Angela Loscalzo



Delivery

United Kingdom | 2024 | 25 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Ben Lankester
Producers: Bophanie Lun, Joe Binks
Cast: Rosie Chappel, Jordan Kouamé, Emily Laing, Alita Simpson, Alison Rose, Aoife Gaston, Christina Balmer, Shri Patel

Newly-qualified midwife Mary experiences the most physically and psychologically challenging night shift of her career as she oversees two life-and-death pregnancy cases.



Broad Daylight

USA | 2023 | 15 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Alex Goldberg
Producers: Catia Ojeda, Milena Govich, Liz Vacco
Cast: Tim Fannon, Anne Gee Byrd

Following a long walk with his energetic but aging mother Beverly, Jeremy must grapple with a harrowing decision.



A Bear in the Woods

USA | 2024 | 11 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Andrew F. Laurich
Producers: Alexa Tassone, Sean Barney
Cast: Mimi Michaels, Wil Ropp

A hungry bear tests the relationship of two campers.



Two Breaths

USA | 2024 | 17 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Kateryna Kurganska
Producers: Kateryna Kurganska, C. Craig Patterson, Valerie Delahaye

After a man-made disaster decimates an evergreen island, a stranded 11-year-old Ava must find the tenacity to leave behind her home with the help of an unlikely friend – the majestic Manta Ray called Two Breaths.



Bat Boy

USA | 2023 | 20 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Aaron Lemle
Producers: Matt Johnson, Kennedy Love-Green
Cast: Khandi Alexander, Domonique Brown, Yvette Freeman, Ray Porter

Andre, a young man on the autism spectrum, finds solace in visiting the bats that live under the bridge near his house. One day his world is turned upside down when the bats disappear. At the behest of his concerned grandmother, he seeks out the help of a lauded bat scientist to help him find out what happened. Rather than helping Andre, the bat scientist projects her own environmental cynicism onto his quest and spurns his plea for help.

Sun, Feb 23 | 7pm
 Harkins 1

Tue, Feb 25 | 1pm
 Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:28



The Last Ranger

USA | 2024 | 26 min • Narrative Short

Director: Cindy Lee

Producers: Darwin Shaw, Nomtha Dano

Writer: David S. Lee

Cast: Liyabona Mroqoza, Avumile Quongqo, Makhaola S. Ndebele, David S. Lee

Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film!

When young Litha is introduced to the magic of a game reserve by the last remaining ranger, they are ambushed by poachers. In the ensuing battle to save the rhinos, Litha discovers a terrible secret.



Unsaid

USA | 2024 | 12 min • Narrative Short

Director: Monique Moses

Producers: Melisa Breiner-Sanders, Shannon Taylor

Writer: Robert King

Cast: Robert King, Caitlin McGee, Edgar Momplaisir

A bi-racial man finally gets the courage to tell his grandmother how her racist past affected him — at her funeral.



Are you There?

USA | 2024 | 15 min • Narrative Short

Director/Producer: Caitlin Carleton

Writer: David Yarbrough

Cast: Caitlin Carleton

A woman begins to heal her broken life after listening to the calls on a telephone answering machine left behind by the previous, unknown tenant.



I Don't Care If the World Collapses

Egypt | 2024 | 21 min • Narrative Short

Director: Karim Shaaban Morsy

Producers: Karim Shaaban Morsy, Omar Hamdy

Writer: Wael Hamdy

Cast: Salma Abu Deif, Emad Rashad, Amir Salaheldin, Emad El Tayeb

A dilemma ensues when a career-driven line producer finds herself in a position where she has to choose between the job responsibility and being a human being, trying to save the one-day commercial shoot from collapsing.



Tomorrow

Iran | 2023 | 17 min • Animated Short

Director/Producer/Writer: Aryasb Feiz

Set in Shiraz, Iran, this thrilling and poignant tale follows a resilient 10-year-old street urchin grappling with daily hardships. His father's life hangs in the balance, relying on him to secure life-saving medicine. Amidst the struggle, an extraordinary bond forms between the young protagonist and a stray dog, altering their lives forever. Together, they find solace, hope, and transformation amidst challenging circumstances.

Wed, Feb 26 | 1pm

Harkins 1

Fri, Feb 28 | 7pm

Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:31



Neither Donkey Nor Horse

USA | 2024 | 29 min • Narrative Short

Director: Robin Wang

Producers: Ellen Eliasoph, Aslan Dalgic, Lilith Mo, Jesse Parker Aultman, Chirsten Vanderbilt Ellis

Writers: Robin Wang, Jesse Aultman

Cast: Chris Pang, Jim Lau, Michael Monasterio, Albert Kuo, Beryl Liu

Amidst the outbreak of the 1910 Manchurian Plague, a young Chinese doctor must defy prejudices of both the East and the West to champion his groundbreaking theory about the disease's deadly evolution.



Toots.

USA | 2024 | 13 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Chris Alan Evans

Producers: Chris Alan Evans, Alexander Jeffery, Brittany Fallow

Cast: Pam Dougherty, Logan Sledge

When his aging mother's health declines due to Parkinson's, a devoted son grapples with the challenges of becoming her caregiver.



Parker and the Green Dress

USA | 2024 | 23 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Kristen Wolf

Producer: Kristin Loudis

Cast: Val Quinonez, Melody Brooke, Iddrisu Alidu, Rose Vasquez, Ami Diatta, Adison Keith, Jason Head, Bobbie Renee

A queer teen is torn between prom dreams and the fear of disappointing her grandmother. A chance encounter with an elderly woman, who harbors her own hidden truth, sparks a journey of mutual discovery. Together they confront the secrets that shape their lives. Can they embrace their truths before time slips away?



Belief

USA | 2024 | 14 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Christian Loubek

Producers: Christian Loubek, Erika Hamilton, Schadrack Karekezi

Cast: Erika Hamilton, Mykee Selkin, Blake McLennan, Barrett Hamilton Loubek, Tia Robinson, Charley Harper Loubek

Alongside his wife and daughter, Lennox joyously unpacks their new home but is left speechless when he finds a letter in a moving box labelled 'mom' that predestines a different life for him – it's not as he remembers.



Au revoir Belmondo

France | 2023 | 14 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Lisa Kohn

Producer: Amélie Queret

Cast: Baptiste Carrion-Weiss, Vinora Epp

When Julien, a young, shy Frenchman, meets Patricia, a lonely, American exchange student, only one thing stands in their way — his strange obsession with Jean-Paul Belmondo.

Wed, Feb 26 | 7pm

Harkins 1

Fri, Feb 28 | 1pm

Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:33



Mouse!

United Kingdom | 2024 | 20 min • Narrative Short

Director: Max Fisher

Producers: Maddy Easton, Slmon Alveranga

Writer: Max P. Fisher

Cast: Vikash Bhai, Rakhee Thakrar, Sanish Shah

"Mouse!" is a hopeful story about a young boy who falls in love with a mouse which his dad is hell bent on killing. The mouse becomes a lens through which the film explores themes of love, loss and grief.



A Guest In My Country

USA | 2024 | 16 min • Narrative Short

Director: John Thomas Gray

Producer: Melissa Jo Peltier

Writer: John Gray

Cast: Bayo Akinfemi

An immigrant Uber driver takes an upscale couple across town, and the drama that unfolds among them reveals truths they all would have preferred stayed hidden.



Stalled In Eight Etudes

USA | 2023 | 15 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Kersti Bryan

Producers: Connie Jo Sechrist, Cameo Wood

Cast: Tracey Bonner, Celine Jackson

Eight lives intersect in a municipal courthouse bathroom and find a surprising humanity.



Room Taken

Ireland | 2023 | 19 min • Narrative Short

Director: TJ O'Grady-Peyton

Producer: Colmán Mac Cionnaith

Writer: Michael Whelan

Cast: Brid Brennan, Gabriel Adewusi

Shortlisted for the Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film!

Having just arrived in Ireland, Isaac is part of the rapidly growing unhoused population. One day, while charging his phone in a coffee shop, he meets Victoria, an elderly blind woman. After forgetting her bag in the cafe, Isaac returns it to her. Once inside her home and in desperate need of a place to stay, Isaac sneaks upstairs and begins to live there, unbeknownst to Victoria.



Camping in Paradise

Norway | 2023 | 23 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Eirik Tveiten

Producers: Gaute Lid Larssen, Heidi Arnesen

Cast: Oddrun Valestrand, Espen Alknes, Stig Henrik Hoff, Mona Grenne

A philosopher and his girlfriend involuntarily must spend a night at a nudist campsite, which is far beyond their comfort zone. At the campsite they meet a friendly couple, and this reveals underlying conflicts and creates tension in their relationship.



Chase Me

USA | 2024 | 3 min • Narrative Short

Director/Writer: Sal Ardongde

Producers: Sal Ardongde, Sofia Miera

Cast: Jonathan Lee, Lindsey Wagstaffe, Rebecca Stoughton, Keita Murray

When runner Tony comes upon a curiously competitive runner, Eva, their encounter turns into a fierce race of athleticism and wits. Who might Eva be?

Thu, Feb 27 | 1pm
Harkins 1

Sat, Mar 1 | 7pm
Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:36



Proof of Concept

USA | 2022 | 7 min • Narrative Short

Directors/Writers: Max Cohn, Ellie Sachs
Producers: Kerry Mack, Hannah Dweck, Ted Schaefer
Cast: Richard Kind, Will Janowitz, Ellie Sachs

An aspiring auteur tries coaxing her dad and uncle into financing her first short film but winds up raising more questions than dollars.



Shadows

USA | 2024 | 16 min • Narrative Short

Director: Alejandra Vidal
Producers: Julianna Oommen, Parco Richardson
Writer: Madina Khan
Cast: Mateo Vidal, Luca Vidal, Elizabeth Woodworth, Julianna Oommen

Young brothers Max (4) and Noah (7) find sanctuary in an imaginary world made of shadows, but when reality collapses in around them, they must face the dark together.



Buscando Alma

USA | 2024 | 16 min • Narrative Short

Director: Melissa Fisher
Producers: Melissa Fisher, Kai de Mello-Folsom, Katie Gunderson
Writers: Melissa Fisher, Mair Flores
Cast: Carolina Gutierrez, Neher Jacqueline Briceño, Marc Anthony Samuel

A Honduran immigrant is given the chance to meet her mother after nearly two decades of separation. As she grapples with the uncertainty of their reunion, she is confronted by tumultuous memories of her past.



Polemos

Ukraine | 2024 | 12 min • Narrative Short

Director: Evgen Brooks
Producers: Platon Osadchiy, Mariana Shafro, Seyar Kurshutov
Writers: Yuliia Fedosiuk, Alik Dziubenko

"Polemos" artistically highlights the centuries-long battle for freedom and independence. At all historical times, Ukraine has given birth to warriors whose worldview was based on the desire for freedom and the willingness to give up everything for it, even their lives. Different generations of warriors depicted in the film are manifestations of the same tradition, in which the fight for freedom is the most important principle.



Desync

Canada | 2023 | 12 min • Narrative Short

Director: Minerva Marie Navasca
Producer: Asa Kazerani
Writers: Chen Sing Yap, Minerva Marie Navasca
Cast: Jady N Nasato, Jennifer Villaverde, Angelica Alejandro, Tatiana Ashton

A young Filipina filmmaker attempts to overwrite a painful memory of her mother with a perfect narrative.



Hearts of Stone

Belgium | 2024 | 30 min • Narrative Short

Director: Tom van Avermaet
Producer: Katleen Goossens
Writers: Tom van Avermaet, Alison Kathleen Kelly
Cast: Noomi Rapace, Jessica Barden

In a sculpture park in the heart of a bustling metropolis, Paula, a lonely street artist, entertains people as a living statue. She longs with an impossible love for Agatha, a stone sculpture next to her regular spot. When a festival for living statues arrives in the park, Paula is dismayed to find that Agatha has been replaced by a new, modern sculpture.

Thu, Feb 27 | 7pm
 Harkins 1

Sat, Mar 1 | 1pm
 Harkins 1

Total Running Time: 1:33