

40th SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PROGRAMMER'S PICKS



**CARL
SPENCE**
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR

THE 100-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO CLIMBED OUT THE WINDOW AND DISAPPEARED

An audaciously funny and side-splitting film from Sweden's biggest comic, Jonas Jonasson. Sweden's all-time box-office smash.

10,000 KM

The sexiest, most smoldering, and intimate relationship drama of this festival with raw honesty and insight.

DIOR AND I

An extraordinary and revealing behind-the-scenes look at the creation and evolution of couture through the eyes of Raf Simons, the Artistic Director.

EVERYTHING WE LOVED

A bold, unusual, and thrilling New Zealand drama that marks the arrival of a striking new talent - filmmaker Max Currie.

THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

This adaptation of the best-selling novel does not disappoint. It made me laugh, cry, and take stock of what's important in life. With terrific lead turns and a standout supporting performance from Laura Dern.

FOR THOSE IN PERIL

I got lost in this atmospheric and visceral British drama. You must see it on the big screen to properly experience it.

IN ORDER OF DISAPPEARANCE

An inventive, violent, and enjoyable dark comedy that is heavy on unique and biting Scandinavian humor.

KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON

A fascinating and deliriously entertaining documentary about a musician passing on his inspiration to new generations and artists, including Justin Kauflin (who will be having a special performance at the Triple Door).

THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES

A raw, tense, and unflinching piece of Scandi-crime from the screenwriter of THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO.

THE LITTLE HOUSE

An enveloping and searing period drama from masterful Japanese director Yoji Yamada.

LIVING IS EASY WITH EYES CLOSED

Winner of the Goya Award for Best Film, this road-trip comedy is inspired by a true John Lennon story and features one of my favorite Spanish actors, Javier Camara.

OF HORSES AND MEN

An offbeat, droll and visionary relationship study of men and their trusted steeds, from first time director/actor Benedikt Erlingsson.

THE WAY HE LOOKS

A Brazilian coming-of-age film dealing with teenage and "gay" themes in nostalgically John Hughes fashion.

WEST

A harrowing and intense East to West Germany period thriller.

SIX ADDITIONAL MUST-SEES:

BURKHOLDER - Taylor Guterson's follow-up to the local smash-hit "Old Goats".

DEAR WHITE PEOPLE - The tagline says it all - "A satire about being a Black face in a white place."

HELICOPTER MOM - A hilarious comedy starring MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING's Nia Vardalos about an overbearing mother who wishes her son were gay.

ME, MYSELF AND MUM - A funny and provocative gender-bending farce.

THE SKIN - Co-written by Catherine Breillat and featuring Burt Lancaster.

SUPERMENSCH: THE LEGEND OF SHEP GORDON - The directorial debut of Mike Myers about the titular legendary talent manager.



BETH BARRETT | DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

THE TURNING - sweeping and powerful, this omnibus of short films based on Tim Winton's collection of short films will be a hallmark of Australian cinema - great companion piece to the book!

LIFE FEELS GOOD - heartbreaking and hilarious in equal turns, Dawid Ogrodnik turns in an Oscar worthy performance as a young man with cerebral palsy who needs to be understood.

20,000 DAYS ON EARTH - Nick Cave waxes rhapsodic about Nick Cave. Brilliant.

ATTILA MARCEL - sweet, charming, and slightly twee, Sylvain Chomet's leap to live action is a rollicking good time, full of pastries, first love, and hallucinogenic tea.

THE GREAT MUSEUM - all-access pass to the rebranding and renovation of Vienna's historical museum, with more passion, humor, and humanity than you expect from one of Europe's premiere museums.

CANOPY - trapped in the rain forest war drama with few words, but makes up for it in the immersive sound design and cinematography - a true experience.

A STREET IN PALERMO - a battle to the metaphorical death between two Sicilian women who simply will not back up.

SEEDS OF TIME - inspiring tale of one man, trying to keep the human race alive into the future, by making sure that our seeds come through the modern age without genetic modification.

SHORTSFEST - every year, ShortsFest is one of my picks - with 15 packages over Memorial Day weekend, think of it as a potluck of films - try a little of this, a little of that.....

NATURAL SCIENCES - the endearing tale of a young girl, looking for her father, who may or may not be one of 3 men who installed the telephones in her village 15 years ago.

DESERT RUNNERS - four "regular people" join the hundreds that try to complete the 4 Deserts Grand Slam - ultramarathons in some of the most punishing, and gorgeous, places on earth.

A BRONY TALE - I will admit, I wasn't exactly sure what a brony was, but now i know that they are some of the most passionate guys on earth - passionate about "My Little Pony."



MARYNA AJAJA | PROGRAMMER

LIFE FEELS GOOD - Tender story and incredible acting by Dawid Ogrodnik, also saxophone player in *IDA*.

THE CONGRESS - crazy, and profound film. Hollywood's "Miramont Studios" creates a digital image of an actor in exchange for a hefty sum and the promise that the actor will never act again. Inventive vision half live dramatic acting/half animation.

HARD TO BE A GOD - powerful, visceral all-encompassing panoramic at the same time claustrophobic image of a medieval hell.

IDA - Powerful story of a young nun who finds out she is Jewish.

CLASS ENEMY - Smart film about teenage suicide brilliantly acted.

TANGERINES - Oddly a buddy picture that is pure anti-war.

REMOTE CONTROL - A young man learns the limits of remote control and that there's other things besides village life.

VIKTORIA - What's a belly-button-less Socialist Baby of the Decade to do when the Socialist regime changes?

LIAR'S DICE - Exciting fascinating road trip and an unlikely friendship against the background of magnificent landscapes.

STANDING ASIDE, WATCHING - A tough, no nonsense women returns to her provincial town and makes big changes in the status quo.

SHAME - In a northwest Russian navy town the women wait for their men to return from submarine duty. Loosely based on the Kursk tragedy.

OF HORSES AND MEN - surprising, funny, shocking, bold, stubborn Icelanders show us what they're made of.

40 DAYS OF SILENCE - 1st film viewed in Berlin and liked it the most. Color palate vivid, light and shadow delectable in a tribute to four women from different generations who live together in a tiny mountainous village.

THE BETTER ANGELS - recounts Abraham Lincoln's boyhood in Indiana. Thoroughly researched and authentic down to the very fibers worn, and food eaten.



EMILY ALM | PROGRAMMER

DAMNATION - A majestic and thoughtful portrait about the intricate and fragile relationship between dams and the river ecosystems they were built in.

IT'S ONLY MAKE BELIEVE - I loved taking the ride through all the twists and turns of this Norwegian thriller about a young woman trying to rebuild her life after being released from prison.

EASTERN BOYS - This incredibly honest and daring portrait of two very unlikely lovers, and how their relationship quickly becomes much more about protection than companionship.

REGARDING SUSAN SONTAG - Having read many of Sontag's works in college, I was enthralled with this intimate and subtle biopic that explores the person behind so many highly-revered and socially-provocative literary works.

SEEDS OF TIME - This documentary inspired me to increase my awareness about the food we eat - where it comes from, how it differs from their ancestral crops of centuries ago, and what I can do to preserve nature's most precious resources.



JUSTINE BARDA | PROGRAMMER

REGARDING SUSAN SONTAG - Fantastic doc about a cultural icon and one of the leading public intellectuals of the 20th

FIFI HOWLS FROM HAPPINESS - One of my personal favorites, a little gem of a doc about a great but long-forgotten Iranian artist, who also happens to be a character with a capital "C": obscene, irascible, egotistical, with a venomous wit.

FISH & CAT - One of the few films I saw this year that really surprised me - I genuinely wasn't sure where it was going from one scene to the next, but I sure wanted to find out!

THE INTERNET'S OWN BOY - By turns inspiring, infuriating and heart-breaking, the story of internet prodigy and open source activist Aaron Swartz and his persecution by the US government.

ELECTRO CHAABI - From the poorest neighborhoods of Cairo, an electrifying and addictive version of Arab hip hop has evolved out of the popular music known as chaabi to become the inspiring soundtrack to Egypt's tumultuous present.

TRIP TO ITALY - When you want something that's pure pleasure, see this. Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon meander down the Italian coast in a Mini Cooper convertible, enjoying long boozy lunches overlooking the sparkling sea.

DANGEROUS ACTS: THE UNSTABLE ELEMENTS OF BELARUS - A truly inspiring account of the Free Theater of Belarus. A compelling reminder of the power of art in the face of political repression.

RAGS & TATTERS - Hailed by Variety as "a touchstone of post-revolutionary Egyptian cinema," this film grew out of the director's street videography during the 2011 Revolution. A complex and striking work of great dramatic resonance.

GRAND CENTRAL - The sophomore feature from one of France's rising young women directors, Rebecca Zlotowski, starring equally exciting actors Léa Seydoux (*BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOR*) and Tahar Rahim (*A PROPHET, THE PAST*).

THE ROOFTOPS - Algeria's most important living director, is at the top of his game in *THE ROOFTOPS*, a multi-character portrait of life in the country's capital city.



CAMILLE DEVY | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

TANGERINES - The big surprise from my Palm Springs Film Festival, this is a deeply moving and gripping movie on the relativity of the notion of war enemy. A wonderful pacifist film.

VENUS IN FUR: Probably one of the sexiest movies screening this year, showing us that Polanski is still here, somehow silently creating masterpieces. And that Mathieu Amalric is definitely a great actor!

THE CONGRESS: This one has it all: beautiful and melancholic story, crazy animated part, wonderful soundtrack, reflection on the cinema industry and above all, a striking performance by Robin Wright.

OF HORSES AND MEN: is an unforgettable movie. Very dry Icelandic humor and gorgeous cinematography makes this one an odd little jewel, that will show you things you've never seen before!

GRAND CENTRAL: Raw and delicate at the same time, **GRAND CENTRAL** paints an intense love triangle set around a nuclear power plant, giving both young French actors, Léa Seydoux and Tahar Rahim, another chance to shine.

LITTLE ACCIDENTS: A sensitive drama that follows three very different destinies and their interweaving after a mining accident. The performances by newcomers Jacob Lofland (**MUD**) and Boyd Holbrook makes this movie truly exceptional.

STARRED UP: Powerful and chilling prison movie about an explosive father-son relationship.

JEALOUSY: A bittersweet, melancholic movie on the fragility of love and happiness, gorgeously shot in black and white.

CLASS ENEMY: A very well made and chilling Slovenian drama dissecting group dynamics through a high school rebellion after a young girl's suicide.

SHORTSFEST: Shorts are real treats that capture the essence of storytelling. You should take advantage of SIFF to see some really good ones!

I'm also pretty excited to see **THE DOUBLE**, **20,000 DAYS ON EARTH**, **ME, MYSELF AND MUM** and **BEGIN AGAIN** (among many others!).



DAN DOODY | PROGRAMMER

This year's midnight slate is exceptionally strong with my favorite being **THE BABADOOK**, an Aussie chiller that is one of the most frightening films I've seen in years.

Not so frightening, but bloody good fun is **DEAD SNOW 2: RED VS. DEAD**, the sequel to the Norwegian Nazi Zombie flick that packed out SIFF houses.

Cinematic provocateur Bobcat Goldthwaite is back with **WILLOW CREEK**, a found footage gem in which a pair filmmakers search for the legendary Sasquatch.

RIGOR MORTIS is a Hong Kong homage to the great **MR. VAMPIRE**, while **WHY DON'T YOU PLAY IN HELL** is an all-out crazy yakuza crime flick.

TIME LAPSE is an excellent, smart sci-fi thriller, while **MIRAGE MEN**, a documentary about the U.S. Government's response to the U.F.O. phenomenon, isn't quite science fiction but it isn't really science fact either.

FLY COLT FLY: THE LEGEND OF THE BAREFOOT BANDIT chronicles the Pacific Northwest's most wanted fugitive, the charming and resourceful Colton Harris-Moore.

More notorious, having served 12 years on the FBI's most wanted list, James "Whitey" Bulger's legacy and bizarre trial provides the fascinating material for **WHITEY: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VS. JAMES J BULGER**, from the filmmaker behind the **PARADISE LOST** trilogy.

MUSE OF FIRE follows two actors as they delve into the mystique surrounding Shakespeare and his work, getting interviews with nearly every great British thespian alive, including Dame Judi Dench, Ian McKellan, Tom Hiddleston, Jude Law, and many, many more.

Finally, **GOLD** is a wonderfully, charming and sweat comedy from Ireland about the lengths people will go to win the hearts and minds of their loved ones.



ANDREW ESPE | PROGRAMMING

THE BETTER ANGELS - A searing, enveloping, and gorgeous meditation on growing up and the development of the soul, seen through the eyes of a young Abraham Lincoln.

THE CONGRESS - Equal parts experimental and emotionally involving, Ari Folman's study of film, aging, and self-worth is a hallucinatory, gripping, and moving cinematic ride.

I AM BIG BIRD: THE CAROLL SPINNEY STORY - A lovely, touching, and fascinating tribute to the television legend and gifted man behind the Sesame Street sensation.

LUCKY THEM - A romantic-comedy that escapes the pratfalls and clichés of the genre with an edge, wit, and grace. Toni Collette and Thomas Haden Church are perfect.

MOOD INDIGO - Michel Gondry's most whimsical and moving film since *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. It's inventive and quirky, of course, but poignant and resonant with compelling performances from Romain Duris and Audrey Tautou.

RAGS AND TATTERS - An invigorating and engrossing abstract docu-drama that's authentically revelatory and purely cinematic. It's rich in ideas and plays with the boundaries of sound and image.

THE SKELETON TWINS - A crowd-pleasing dramedy with two of the best comedic actors turning in passionate, subdued, powerful performances and a winning chemistry. Plus, it features perhaps the best lip-sync rendition of an 80's classic...ever.

STARRED UP - A gripping and brutal prison drama about a father-son relationship trying to overcome its bruised past. Filmmaker David Mackenzie reveals the souls behind aggressive and volatile men.

TOM AT THE FARM - Xavier Dolan continues to refine and intensify his cinematic voice with this bizarre, disturbing, and dark thriller that's as spellbinding as it is horrifying. It's an engaging deconstruction of a genre film.

THE TURNING - Based on Tim Winton's moving collection of short stories, this adaptation is a potent, devastating, and stark panoramic view on the changes that invoke the power and beauty of ordinary lives.



BRANDEN HAWKINS | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

THE CONGRESS - I am a huge fan of Ari Folman and his daring combination of animation and live-action filmmaking.

MOOD INDIGO - This bittersweet love story is told in a very visually inventive way that only Michel Gondry can create.

RHYMES FOR YOUNG GHOULS - This First Nations film is unique in that it uses elements of Hollywood horror film, not to scare, but to tell a metaphorically deep story of oppression.

THE BABADOOK - Although structurally conventional, this film's use of visual effects that scared the socks off of me.

WETLANDS - This film is definitely not for everyone, but for those willing to sit through a bunch of disgusting images will find something very honest in its methods of storytelling.

WE ARE THE BEST! - A very sweet and funny movie about rebellious kids that is told in a very understated style.

CLOWNWISE - This film is very well produced with its subtle and poignant humor. I found myself laughing at parts well after the film ended.

THE BOY AND THE WORLD - An interesting little animated movie that is surprisingly deep despite the fact that there is no dialogue.

#CHICAGOGIRL - A fascinating documentary that is very inspiring and very relevant to this day and age.

DESERT RUNNERS - An amazing documentary about average people training for marathons in the most extreme places on earth.



RUTH HAYLER | PROGRAMMER

WE ARE THE BEST! - The best Swedish film this year is a hilarious yet honest and touching portrait of the spirit of youth by director/co-writer Lukas Moodysson (*SHOW ME LOVE, TOGETHER*), based on the autobiographical graphic novel by his wife, Coco. It's the early 1980's in Stockholm and everyone says punk is dead—but that doesn't stop two rebellious 13-year-old girls from starting a punk band. So what if they have no instruments and no musical talent?—attitude is all! Eventually they recruit another outsider, shy but talented guitarist and devout Christian Hedwig, to give them some musical credibility, and they proceed to live up to the film's title.

MOOD INDIGO - Wild and crazy director Michel Gondry (*ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND, THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP*) creates a super-imaginative and visually creative story in his first French film, starring Audrey Tautou (*AMELIE*), Romain Duris (*CHINESE PUZZLE, POPULAIRE*), Omar Sy (*THE INTOUCHABLES*), and Gad Elmaleh (*MID-NIGHT IN PARIS*). It's a surreal tragic romance told to the beat of Duke Ellington.

TRACKS - Terrific and versatile young actress Mia Wasikowska (*THE DOUBLE, ONLY LOVERS ARE ALIVE*) gives perhaps her strongest performance yet in *TRACKS*, the true story of a young woman who trekked 1700 miles across the Australian desert, alone with four camels and her dog.

IDA - Acclaimed filmmaker Pawel Pawlikowski (*MY SUMMER OF LOVE*) returns to his native land to make his first Polish film, a moving and intimate drama about Anna, an innocent young novice nun in 1960s Poland who, on the verge of taking her vows, is told a dark family secret dating from the terrible years of the Nazi occupation. Anna meets her aunt, a worldly and cynical Communist Party insider, who tells Anna that her name is really Ida, and that her parents were Jews murdered during the Nazi occupation. Powerfully written, mesmerizingly acted and eloquently shot in austere black-and-white.

THE CONGRESS - Israeli director Ari Folman (*WALTZ WITH BASHIR*) makes a real change of pace with the trippy and intriguing science fiction tale *THE CONGRESS*, freely adapted from a novel by Stanislaus Lem. Part animation, part live action, *THE CONGRESS* tells the story of aging actress Robin Wright (played by Robin Wright, *THE PRINCESS BRIDE*), who is offered a devil's bargain: a big contract to sell the rights to her virtual self to big studio—in return for never acting again. With

Danny Huston, Harvey Keitel, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Paul Giamatti, and Jon Hamm (voice only).

BORGMAN - Fiendishly funny and deeply unsettling, this pitch black comedy is a suburban fable exploring the nature of evil in unexpected places. Camiel Borgman, a strange wild man living in an underground chamber, is ferreted out by priests, but manages to escape. He knocks on the door of a well-to-do family and is initially driven off with violence, but soon he is welcomed into the house and before long has the wife, her children and their nanny under his spell. Like a cross between Haneke's *FUNNY GAMES* and *BOUDU SAVED FROM DROWNING*, *BORGMAN* is explosively subversive.

MR. DEEDS GOES TO TOWN (1936) - Don't miss this rare chance to enjoy a beloved classic on the big screen, in a new digital restoration. Gary Cooper shines as the suggestively-named poet, Longfellow Deeds, peacefully minding his own business in the small town of Mandrake Falls when he unexpectedly inherits \$20 million and becomes an overnight celebrity. Jean Arthur plays a big city reporter covering the story, who get closely involved with her subject. A delight from master director Frank Capra.

J'ACCUSE (1919) - Anyone who has ever seen silent film giant Abel Gance's famed epic *NAPOLEON* (1927) will mark this rare showing of his earlier *J'ACCUSE* (*I Accuse*), digitally restored, as essential viewing. Shooting during the closing months of World War One, Gance incorporated real battle footage and used 2000 exhausted veterans on furlough in creating this devastating anti-war attack, amazing for its immediacy. An army of ghosts of the war dead march on the living, demanding that they change the world to stop war. Shown in commemoration of the 100th.

WHAT IS CINEMA? - Chuck Workman, famed editor/director ("Precious Images"), has created a wonderful documentary that explores the meaning of cinema for those who have made it their lives. Workman assembles a rich cornucopia of interviews with a wide range of great directors, illustrated with scenes from their films. We hear from Mike Leigh, David Lynch, Jonas Mekas, Costa-Gavras, Kelly Reichardt, Michael Moore and more; and, via archive, Hitchcock, Kurosawa, Robert Bresson, Chantal Akerman, and Robert Altman. A film lover's treasure.

BALLET 422 - 25-year-old corps de ballet dancer Jason Peck wins the coveted assignment to choreograph a new original ballet—the 422nd—for the world famous New York City Ballet. Director and cinematographer Jody Lee Lipes shadows Justin as he works with the company, following the creative struggle from conception to highly anticipated premiere. An unprecedentedly intimate look inside professional ballet, both on stage and in the wings. You are there! anniversary of World War One.



VIRGILE HEITZLER | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

JEALOUSY - I am fond of how Philippe Garrel manages to show the different facets jealousy can take in relationships.

ABUSE OF WEAKNESS - I loved the reciprocity in this domination-based relationship, as well as the fatal attraction both characters exercise on each other.

A STREET IN PALERMO - It reminded me Italian neorealism, a ludicrous appearance hiding violence and mediocrity.

MEDEAS - I'm very interested in movies about families deadly sentenced by a lack of communication.

BLIND DATES - I loved this poetic movie about a disillusioned society in which people try to find a meaning to their life.

ME, MYSELF AND MUM - I loved watch Guillaume Gallienne physically and verbally flitting around in this hilarious comedy, which includes some very moving reflexion about mother-son relationships

GERONTOPHILIA - I loved this film which tries to bring love and desire to their most obvious and beautiful simplicity.

TANGERINES - I love the main question of this movie: what make us human being? During war, the answer becomes vital.

TOM AT THE FARM - I liked the fact that Dolan's attentions to aestheticism in his previous films, works as well in this dark tale.

LONGWAVE - I liked this endearing team of losers, and their kind fights about a brand new topic in the 70s, feminism.



DUSTIN KASPAR | PROGRAMMER

THE BABADOOK - You will make sure the closet door is closed every night.

BORN TO FLY - Art as life. A beautiful examination of the fringes of art that is deeply personal and builds to a wonderfully meaningful climax.

THE BOY AND THE WORLD - Fabulous for all ages visual poem exploring the journey from rural into urban for a young Brazilian boy.

DEAR WHITE PEOPLE - Justin Simien's incendiary comedy announces a fabulous new voice to African American cinema.

DIFRET - Exceptional Ethiopian feature features an extraordinary true-life story in the fight for women's rights in 1990's Ethiopia.

HOUSE OF MAGIC - A rollicking fun 3D animated animal adventure.

I AM BIG BIRD - A touching portrait of a performer who has imbued Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch with his soul for decades.

MANUSCRIPTS DON'T BURN - Cinema as defiance.

MISS ZOMBIE - Gorgeously shot social commentary by way of zombie flick.

SIDDHARTH - A father searches desperately for his missing son in a mesmerizing film with an unforgettable ending.

ZIP & ZAP AND THE MARBLE GANG - Goonies in Spain. Good fun!



MEGAN LEONARD | PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

THE CONGRESS - Trippy animation, and an incredible look at the ethics of Hollywood, crafted by one of my favorites, Ari Folman.

THE DOUBLE - A bizarre, stylized follow-up for Richard Ayoade (*SUB-MARINE*, 2010). I love the look and feel of this incredible adaptation starring Jesse Eisenberg... and Jesse Eisenberg.

SHAKE THE DUST - This film shows why we love music and dance, in this case hip-hop. You don't need money, just creativity to participate and create. Adam Sjöberg captures this across the globe in Uganda, Yemen, Cambodia and Colombia.

SUPERMENSCH: THE LEGEND OF SHEP GORDON - A directorial debut from comedian Mike Myers that surprised me in Toronto. This doc showed me the side of the music/entertainment industry that tends to frequently go unnoticed.

THE SEARCH FOR GENERAL TSO - Wow, after watching this doc on the Americanization of Chinese food I had the worst (read best) craving... YUM.

THE GRAND SEDUCTION - Fun, funny and totally delightful... and who knew Taylor Kitsch had a foot fetish?

A BRONY TALE - I never knew the world of "My Little Pony" was so popular among the big kids...

INTERNET'S OWN BOY - In the age of information, it's enraging to see the governments obsession over and prosecution of Aaron Swartz's massive theft of JSTOR articles; all he craved was for the world to have access to knowledge.

SEEDS OF TIME - Nothing scares me more than learning about all of the foods in the world that are slipping away.

NIGHT MOVES - This tense film takes us through the plot and execution of an eco-terrorist attack gone totally wrong.



CAMILLE MADINIER | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

JEALOUSY - I particularly enjoy how Philippe Garrel manages to tell a story poetically and with fascinating insight. Maybe because the idea which underpins the film is in his very own life...

ME, MYSELF AND MUM - Made with the same elegance and the same humor that characterize the wonderful Guillaume Gallienne, who is having a lot of fun, dressing up from a character to another, taking us with him in his fanciful world.

LAST YEAR AT MARIENBAD - A wonderful dive into the idea of time and chronology. Alain Resnais confirmed, after *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, how directing is for him an innovative, bold and challenging art.

TOM AT THE FARM - This movie really unveils a new aspect of the art of the young director: it's a bold and imaginative thriller; a sort of a dark, and yet playful, fable about lies and disillusion.

ABUSE OF WEAKNESS - I was pretty moved by this poignant movie about vulnerability. Maybe the autobiographical character of the movie is what allowed her to adopt a perfect tone, and to be psychologically very subtle.

TANGERINES - A beautiful movie about what is it to be Human. How do we share this with every other man, even though war, self-sufficiency and exacerbated nationalisms damage it a bit more, every day?

A STREET IN PALERMO - This curious encounter in a Sicily close to Far West, bringing in front of the stage the mercilessly and the roughness of all the neighbors delighted me !

GRAND CENTRAL - In the troubling and extraordinary world of the nuclear power station, Rebecca Zlotowski brings lyricism, courage and subversiveness to the screen. Charming!

LONGWAVE - I loved Longwave's incongruity and dynamism, as well as its setting in Portugal of the 70s. Moreover, I liked how the movie echoes the today's political and social stakes...

VENUS IN FUR - The game the two characters are playing becomes a troubling duel, which oscillates between fiction and reality, a game that I enjoyed a lot being part of.



CLINTON MCCLUNG | SIFF CINEMA PROGRAMMER

WILLOW CREEK - Bobcat Goldthwait has emerged as one of my favorite and most versatile directors, and now he reinvents the found footage horror film with a young couple searching for bigfoot. Yes, it's funny, but best of all, it's terrifying as well!

THE ONE I LOVE - I can't even write about this delicious twist on relationships without giving too much away. All I can say is you have to see it for yourself, and with Mark Duplass and Elizabeth Moss giving incredible performances, there's no reason not to.

THEY CAME TOGETHER - David Wain and Michael Showalter do for the rom-com what their film **WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER** did for coming of age movies: explodes all the clichés into a magnificent farce.

BORGMAN - Like a Grimm's Fairy Tale made extra grimm...wonderfully twisted and deadpan, and funny as well.

RIGOR MORTIS - A loving tribute to all sorts of Asian horror styles, and especially the great Mr. Vampire films. Really delivers with the horror, the action, and the WTF that fans of the genre love.

STARRED UP - If you like "Prison Break" or "The Wire", this tense, violent, and realistic story of life in prison is for you, and features a father and son face-off that is unforgettable. Plus, newcomer Jack O'Connell's performance is reminiscent of Malcolm McDowell in **A Clockwork Orange**.

WE ARE THE BEST! - Like a Swedish tween version of the comic book "Love and Rockets" come to life, filled with punk attitude and swagger, as well as real sensitivity. A perfect celebration of what it means to be an outsider, and my new favorite Lukas Moodysson film.

UNFORGIVEN - Does transplanting Clint Eastwood's famous western into post-feudal Japan really work? By blending samurai action and western style with the great Ken Watanabe, the answer is decidedly "Yes!"

NIGHT MOVES - Kelly Reichardt (**OLD JOY**, **MEET KATE**) once again shows her diversity as a filmmaker with this tense thriller about eco-terrorists who dream of blowing up a dam.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW - RHPS was my film school. The cool theatre that showed it every midnight ended up seducing me with their calendar of odd and unique delights. I only made it through high school by dressing as Eddie every weekend and giving good sax - so it is extra exciting to present this special anniversary screening and return the audience experience to its heyday!



CORY RODRIGUEZ | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

THE BABADOOK - Australian horror with a fantastical feel. This mid-night treat meshes an *Insidious*-esque atmosphere with the imagination encapsulated in children's tales. Offering some solid scares, this film is a must see for modern horror fans.

TO BE TAKEI - A fabulous documentary centered around George Takei, the gay *Star Trek* icon. Funny, engaging, and inclusive, this film is a quirky treasure.

THE SKELETON TWINS - Kristen Wiig and Bill Hader, enough said. I can't wait to see this darkly comedic drama about an odd pair of twins.

LUCKY THEM - A delightful dramedy starring Toni Collette that incorporates music, love, and discovery. A perfect indie film with a nice infusion of the Seattle scene.

THE STRANGE COLORS OF YOUR BODY'S TEARS - For those seeking Argento style giallo-horror, this is the film for you. I am excited to see what the *Amer* (2009) directors have in store for this mystery-thriller about a woman's disappearance and her husband's investigation.

THE DOUBLE - This film is definitely on my list of films to see for its cast (Jessie Eisenberg, Mia Wasikowska), its dark surreal tone, and its subject matter that reflects the recently released *Enemy*.

A MASQUE OF MADNESS - An experimental look at Boris Karloff's contributions to the world of cinema. With style, thought, humor, and depth, this cinematic experience is a trip

#CHICAGOGIRL - THE SOCIAL NETWORK TAKES ON A DICTATOR - The power of social media and its role in modern socio-political issues; Brilliant, contemplative, and relative.

RAGS & TATTERS - An Egyptian drama that focuses on protest, community, and survival. A film I will be keeping an eye out for because of its gripping account of the 2011 Lotus Revolution in Cairo.

SOMETHING MUST BREAK - A strong film for the gay and trans audiences that follows two men in Sweden who battle with feelings of love, otherness, and uncertainty. I have to see this!



STAN SHIELDS | PROGRAMMER

20,000 DAYS ON EARTH - Nick Cave, Iain Forsyth, and Jane Pollard's witty deconstruction of the traditional music documentary follows Cave's artistic process on his 20,000th day on the planet.

BAD HAIR - One of the strongest films of the year is this intimate tale of a nine-year-old boy with stubbornly curly hair who dreams of having long, flowing locks like a pop star.

BEYOND THE BRICK: A LEGO BRICKUMENTARY - A fun and informative look at the one of the most popular toys in the world.

#CHICAGOGIRL - THE SOCIAL NETWORK TAKES ON A DICTATOR - You'll never forget the day you met the Chicago teenager who runs the Syrian revolution from her bedroom.

FINDING FELA - Academy Award®-winning director Alex Gibney's fascinating look at one of the 20th century's most influential musicians, and the hit Broadway musical he inspired.

HISTORY OF FEAR - First-time director Benjamin Naishtat has created a masterful exercise in suspense that examines the very nature of fear itself.

MISS ZOMBIE - What would you do if a pet zombie was delivered to your door?

SHORTS FEST WEEKEND - So many great shorts to choose from this year! If you can only catch a couple packages, make sure that they include Opening Night, Animation for Adults, or Dan's awesome late-night package.

STANDING ASIDE, WATCHING - A powerful look at small-town tyranny, that slowly building in intensity until you can't wait for this pressure-cooker to blow.

A WOLF AT THE DOOR - A sharply acted and constructed detective story that abruptly turns from whodunnit to whydoit.



ANDY SPLETZER | PROGRAMMER

THE AIRSTRIP - The director of *LOOS ORNAMENTAL* returns with another doc about modernist architecture, but this time traveling from Europe through South America and landing at the airstrip where the atomic bomb was launched on Japan.

ALT SHORTS - From found footage to surreal storytelling, these short films will surely blow your mind.

ANOTHER - Subjective storytelling is hard to pull off, but this giallo-inspired horror film is a mind-bending throwback to early David Lynch.

A DREAM OF IRON - Footage of giant container ships being forged and assembled demands viewing on the big screen, but it's the spiritual side of this doc that makes it fascinating.

A MASQUE OF MADNESS - Edited with a sense of humor, this kaleidoscope of clips from the 50 years of Boris Karloff's career is both an interesting experiment and an entertaining tribute.

These five films are a good start for people looking for something different. Now I'm going to look through the rest of these Programmers Picks to finish my own "must see films" list.



BRAD WILKE | PROGRAMMER

BOYHOOD: Richard Linklater (*DAZED AND CONFUSED*, *SLACKER*) makes a triumphant return to his independent roots with *BOYHOOD*, a dazzling micro-epic, shot over the course of 12 years in and around Austin, Texas.

HELLION: With a superb cast and a pounding heavy metal soundtrack, *HELLION* establishes Kat Candler as a bold, unflinching filmmaker telling a story that is at once intimate and expansive, raw and authentic.

FIVE STAR: Blending equal elements of narrative and non-fiction filmmaking, writer-director Keith Miller creates an honest portrait of two men on the brink as they come to terms with what it means to be a father, a son, and a man.

RED KNOT: Set against the stunning backdrop of the Southern Ocean and the jagged coast of Antarctica, Scott Cohen's *RED KNOT* explores the dual themes of isolation and intimacy via the fragile relationship of a pair of newlyweds.

LAYOVER: Gorgeous and hypnotic, writer-director Joshua Caldwell's feature-film debut, *LAYOVER*, is an exercise in visual storytelling that will make you remember why you fell in love with the movies.

TIME LAPSE: Bradley King's smart genre film, *TIME LAPSE*, is a welcome indie entry to the thought-provoking canon of time travel films.

SAM & AMIRA: Drawing on his own experience in the military, writer-director Sean Mullin's feature film debut, *SAM & AMIRA*, is a stark indie drama that looks past common stereotypes to get to the heart of the very real human beings behind them.

KINDERWALD: Set in the rugged wilderness of mid-19th-century Pennsylvania, Lise Raven's mysterious second feature, *KINDERWALD*, is an entrancing examination of a pioneer community as they cope with the disappearance of two children.