

41ST SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
PROGRAMMERS' PICKS
PRESENTED BY DARK HORSE WINES



**Carl
Spence**
ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR

Here's a baker's dozen of films – with the exception of a few favorite filmmakers, I've focused mainly on new discoveries from around the world. The films that we have feted at galas and special presentations are not listed here but are also some of my top picks!

EISENSTEIN IN GUANAJUATO – Peter Greenaway, one of the world's most audacious filmmakers sheds light on Russia's greatest (and notorious) filmmaker and his flamboyant exploits in Mexico that Putin would rather not have in the history books.

EXPERIMENTER – Peter Sarsgaard shines as the controversial social scientist Stanley Milgram. Original, aesthetically inventive chronicle of the man and his infamous “obedience study” that had patients electrically shock each other. Plus Winona Ryder perfectly plays his wife!

FIDDLESTICKS – The wonderfully original and imaginative filmmaker Veit Helmer (*Tuvalu, Baikonur*) makes a live-action film inspired by Hal Roache's “Little Rascals” and “The Adventures of Pippi Longstocking” where children question authority, slip sleeping pills to the adults, create mayhem wherever they go and free their grandparents who have never stifled their curiosity.

GAZELLES – The latest film from Mona Achache, director of SIFF hit and award winning film *The Hedgehog*. Five French women in their 30s try to figure out what they want in love and life in this comedy-drama based on Camille Chamoux's successful one-woman show “Camilla Attaque.”

GHADI – Not what you would expect from a Lebanese film – *Ghadi* is a sparkling, imaginative and joyous fable about a young boy with Down Syndrome that is mistaken for being an angel.

GOODNIGHT MOMMY – Unsettling and sophisticated auteur horror film surrounding twin brothers that are convinced their post-facial surgery mother is an imposter.

GRAZIELLA – Two outcasts try to make a new life for themselves but can't escape their past. Starring Denis Lavant (Leo Carax, *Holy Motors*) and Rossy De Palma (Pedro Almodovar's *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down*).

I KISSED A GIRL – A smash hit in France! This sparkling Hollywood style romantic comedy revolves around the politically incorrect storyline of a man whose wedding plans to marry another man are derailed when he mistakenly falls in love with a woman.

KILLING FIELDS OF DR. HAING S. NGOR – Rare Archival footage, original animation, and new interviews not only capture Ngor's tragic life story as a Cambodian genocide survivor and Oscar winning actor (*The Killing Fields*) but also engagingly provides a historical account of the circumstances that brought the Khmer Rouge to power and the Vietnamese occupation that followed.

ME HIM HER – Incisive, witty, and irreverent comedy of errors surrounding three Los Angeles millennials trying to survive the pitfalls of a celebrity obsessed world that exposes their every move.

RACING EXTINCTION – A captivating and urgent look at the decimation of aquatic species and also the revelation of what methane and carbon are doing to our oceans and the potential destruction of our entire planet's ecosystem. From the Director of *The Cove*.

THE GREAT ALONE – Mesmerizing landscapes and packed full of action and visceral emotion – this riveting documentary on an extraordinary man and his perseverance against adversity is one of those incredible triumphs of the human spirit that needs to be seen to be believed.

THESE ARE THE RULES – Compelling and sobering slow-burn drama that observes a seemingly idyllic family forever changed in the aftermath of a senseless violent attack.

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BETH BARRETT | DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

THE DARK HORSE - Starring the always amazing Cliff Curtis as a Maori chess prodigy who established a chess club for inner city gang members.

EISENSTEIN IN GUANAJUATO - Because Greenaway. In Mexico. About Eisenstein. Right?

THE FAREWELL PARTY - Hilarious Israeli film about retirement homes and assisted suicide - a huge box office hit, as touching as it is funny.

HEDI SCHNEIDER IS STUCK - Goldie Hawn-esque Hedi gets stuck in an elevator, which sets off a series of panic attacks. She deals with them with wry subversive humor (and tranquilizers) in this sensitively played comedy.

THE INVISIBLE BOY - Italian teenage superhero, who can turn himself invisible, really just wants to get the attention of the cute girl in his class, but he has to fight the evil corporation who kidnapped her to do it! Great vintage special effects with a tender core.

KRISHA - Based on the award winning short film, a mesmerizing film about one woman's attempt to reconnect to her family after a decade of drugs, only to have it spiral down quickly. Winner of the Jury and Audience awards at SXSW 2015.

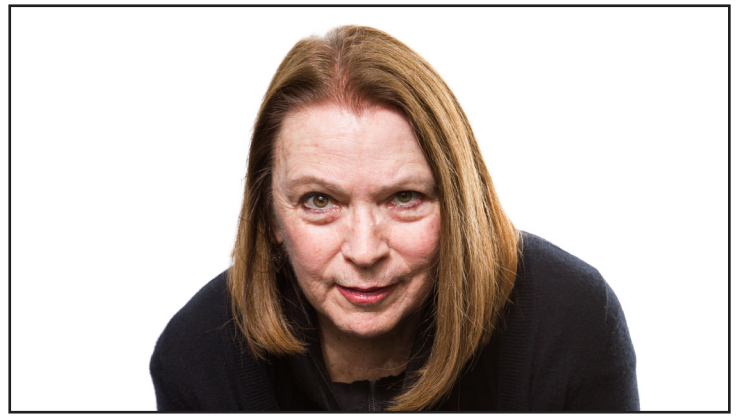
THE LOOK OF SILENCE - The stunning follow up to last years *The Act of Killing*, exploring one man's confrontation of the Indonesian killers of his brother, 40 years ago, and his parents silence around it.

MY SKINNY SISTER - A remarkable debut for the director and both actresses - a tale of sisterhood and love, because no one can love or yell like a sister.

PHOENIX - A revelatory film from Christian Petzold, starring the luminous Nina Hoss (*Barbara*) as a concentration camp survivor trying to figure out who betrayed her to the Nazis. The final scene will stun you.

SHERRY & THE MYSTERY OF PALO CORTADO - Sherry isn't just for your Aunt Zelda anymore! A history of this particular wine, and the mysterious formation of the most elusive style, the Palo Cortado. Part of our new Culinary Cinema film program!

SHORTSFEST WEEKEND - A buffet of films! Memorial Day weekend at SIFF Cinema Uptown.



MARYNA AJAJA | PROGRAMMER

ANGKOR'S CHILDREN - In a country ravaged by the Khmer Rouge regime, three stories of young women born after the genocide demonstrate how to heal a wounded nation through art.

A BLAST - A fast pace, fast developing, sex laden story of a woman who makes a huge decision and doesn't look back.

CARTOONISTS: FOOT SOLDIERS OF DEMOCRACY - Documentary, a dozen political cartoonists from countries all around the world discuss their work.

CHERRY TOBACCO - Tender/compassionate story of a teenage girl who falls in love on a nature hike in the Estonian countryside.

CHUCK NORRIS VS COMMUNISM - Takes place in Romania, about the black-market business of re-dubbed blockbuster Hollywood films that sparked the imagination of a generation and a Revolution.

COLOR OF THE POMEGRANATES - One of the greatest Soviet directors, and one of his best films—a colorful ethnographic marvel of the senses.

CORRECTION CLASS - A very hard and tough dramatic feature about handicapped adolescents in Russia.

LIZA, THE FOX FAIRY - Liza loves Japanese culture. She may be a fox fairy because she has terminally bad luck with men.

MARGARITA, WITH A STRAW - Laila has cerebral palsy but that doesn't keep her from learning, being sexy, or having fun. Similar tone as *Life Feels Good* from Poland last year.

MY SKINNY SISTER - From the point of view of the un-skinny sister— heart breaker with sweet touches and unforgettable.

NAME ME - The loneliness of fatherless girls hidden behind brazen promiscuousness. Natural acting and convincing to the last moment.

THE PASSION OF AUGUSTINE - 1960s is the background for an old-fashioned film about a convent run by Mother Augustine who deeply loves teaching music —added bonus of divine music.

PIONEER HEROES - Three characters brought up in Soviet schools function in contemporary Russia.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION - A contemporary story of classical dancer/actress and her servant - class differences get in the way.

THE VILLAGE - A British photographer travels with her Georgian boyfriend to a tiny mountain village in Georgia. Her cultural independence goes against the culture of the village — and this is a lesson she will learn.



SOPHIE CABON | PROGRAMMER

A HARD DAY - In this absurd Korean thriller, a police officer goes through the worst day of his life. Completely over-the-top and absolutely hilarious.

GEMMA BOVARY - A revisit of Flaubert's "Emma Bovary," starring Lucchini and Gemma Arterton. Smart and Sexy.

GENTE DE BIEN - In this delicate and touching film, a young boy moves in with his estranged father and slowly gets to know him.

HANDMADE WITH LOVE IN FRANCE - Did you ever ask yourself how the flowers and feathers were made in haute couture designs? A fascinating look at a dying craft.

LOVE AT FIRST FIGHT - Thomas Caillol's first feature film offers a new vision of teen summer love removed from the clichés.

THE NEW MAN - Stephanie is a Nicaraguan transsexual prostitute. In this beautiful and heartbreaking documentary, she goes searching for her long lost family.

OUT OF NATURE - A man goes on jogging weekend to have a break from his boring family life and realizes along the way what he really wants.

PHOENIX - A disfigured concentration camp survivor searches for her husband in post-war Berlin. A beautiful and surprising film by the director of *Barbara*.



JUSTINE BARDA | PROGRAMMER

CHALLAT OF TUNIS - The Virgin-O-Meter! Fascinating mockumentary that tackles sexism in Arab culture... as well as Western stereotypes about sexism in Arab culture.

DÉCOR - Beautiful, clever homage to the golden era of Egyptian film (1930s-50s), and especially the "women's film" that was its hallmark.

FASSBINDER: TO LOVE WITHOUT DEMANDS - Wide-ranging yet intimate portrait of the director by a friend and collaborator; includes a never-before-seen interview with a spectacularly hungover (and expansive) Fassbinder from Cannes 1978.

GEMMA BOVARY - Sexy send up of "Madame Bovary" starring Gemma Arterton (sexy!) and Fabrice Lucchini (send up!). Also luscious French countryside.

GENTLE - Powerful, poetic adaptation of Dostoevsky's short story "A Gentle Creature," transplanted to Vietnam. Restrained, intelligent – a little gem of a film.

I AM THE PEOPLE - Right up there with Jehane Noujaim's *The Square* as a chronicle of the Egyptian Revolution – this time from the perspective of a poor farming family. Warm, witty, and insightful – documentary at its best!

THE LAMB - An utterly delightful and charming tale of (Turkish) village life with a contemporary feel and a feminist twist.

LOVE, THEFT, AND OTHER ENTANGLEMENTS - Possibly the best Palestinian film I've seen this year: smart, political, but with a light, often comic touch and a bona fide nail-biter ending.

PHOENIX - Might be my favorite film in SIFF 2015. Director Christian Petzold and star Nina Hoss are at the top of their game in this revelatory tale of devastation and rebirth.

THE VALLEY - This stylish political allegory from Lebanon is also a slow-burn thriller about mysterious characters in a fraught environment set against a starkly beautiful landscape.



LUCIE GUÉRIN | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT



DAN DOODY | PROGRAMMER

ELEPHANT SONG - An indoors psychodrama that depicts the toxic relationship between a manipulative patient (Xavier Dolan) and his psychiatrist.

I AM THE PEOPLE - A fascinating documentary about the Egyptian revolution from a farmer's point of view that gives a completely new perspective to the political event.

LOVE AT FIRST FIGHT - my favorite French film of the festival: an unprecedented, rousing, and funny directorial debut that tells, with an eccentric energy, the love story between a survivalist tomboy and a young woodcutter (astonishing Adèle Haenel and Kévin Azaïs)!

NAME ME - A powerful Russian drama about daughter and father relationships that beautifully and bitterly captures the two teenage girls' desperate longing for love and recognition.

ROMEO IS BLEEDING - A compelling and heart-breaking documentary about a determined poet in violent Richmond, CA who wants to stage a modern version of "Romeo and Juliet" that denounces the city's gang wars.

THE SECOND MOTHER - An emotional and comic Brazilian drama about a maid and her (too) modern daughter who does not accept her mother's submissiveness.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION - A poetic drama that captures the journey of a Bengali actress who struggles to assert her individuality.

VILLA TOUMA - A beautiful Palestinian drama that portrays three aristocratic sisters living in a suspended time, soon to be disrupted by the arrival of their niece.

WET BUM: A touching and fresh coming of age movie with gorgeous swimming shots and an amazing actress (Julia Sarah Stone)!

XENIA - A weird and wild road comedy about two brothers looking for their estranged father in a surrealist Greece.

This year's slate of archival screenings at SIFF is one of the best in my memory.

I'm already giddily awaiting the screening of James Whale's **THE OLD DARK HOUSE**, classic noir from Robert Siodmak, **THE DARK MIRROR**, and Max Ophüls, **CAUGHT**.

Powell and Pressburger's **THE RED SHOES** simply has to be seen on the big screen as does **THE CAVE OF SILKEN WEB**, though for very different reasons.

A cinephile's dream, SIFF is screening the recently rediscovered 1916 version of **SHERLOCK HOLMES**, which hasn't been on the big screen in nearly a century. Speaking of, **MR. HOLMES** stars Ian McKellan as the iconic detective, re-teaming with writer/director Bill Condon (*Gods and Monsters*).

Two great documentaries deserve your attention, the wonderfully touching and life-affirming **ONE MILLION DUBLINERS**, and **VERY SEMI-SERIOUS**, a candid behind the scenes look at The New Yorker cartoons.

And, finally, a trinity of films that will give you pleasant nightmares: **CUB** is part *Tucker & Dale Vs. Evil*, part *Lord of the Flies*; **SHREW'S NEST**, a claustrophobic Gothic Grand Guignol thriller; and **WHEN ANIMALS DREAM**, a Danish lycanthropic counterpart to *Let the Right One In*.



ANDREW ESPE | PROGRAMMER

7 CHINESE BROTHERS - As a misanthropic and slightly alcoholic garage mechanic, Jason Schwartzman, is reliably engaging in this quirky serio-comedy.

THE LITTLE DEATH - A funny, shocking, and ultimately moving sex comedy from Australia. Unexpectedly my favorite film in the festival.

MANGLEHORN - David Gordon Green has outdone himself with this surreal, experimental character portrait featuring a dynamite Al Pacino.

ME EARL AND THE DYING GIRL - A crowd-pleaser with touching performances and biting, filmic wit.

RESULTS - Cobie Smulders makes the successful leap from TV to indie film with this unconventional, hysterical romantic comedy that subverts the genre completely.

SHORTS FEST - We have so many amazing shorts from all over the world this year! Come laugh, cry, and emotionally dance with films under 20 minutes.

SLOW WEST - A magical realist, brutal, and funny Western featuring my future third husband Michael Fassbender.

STEVE JOBS: MAN IN THE MACHINE - A compelling expose from Alex Gibney about one of technology's pioneers.

SUMMER OF SANGAILE - A tender, romantic love story between two very different people - their relationship literally takes flight!



DUSTIN KASPAR | PROGRAMMER

BEATS OF THE ANTONOV - This documentary from Sudan explores the music that is thriving in the refugee camps and the resilience of a diverse population finding hope in a horrible racial civil war.

CIUDAD DELIRIO - A Colombian romantic comedy with an epic amount of salsa dancing. Good luck sitting still.

GUIDANCE - An irreverent feature that is subversive fun with surprising emotional depth.

LITTLE FOREST - SUMMER/AUTUMN/WINTER/SPRING - Sumptuous foodie feature spans four hours of a lovely, simple story with extraordinarily beautiful Japanese cuisine.

MARGARITA WITH A STRAW - Not-to-be-missed performance by Kalki Koechlin in a film that is empowering in all of the right ways.

MORBAYASSA - Strong female-centric Guinean drama tackles several different perspectives on life in and outside of Africa in an authentic and exceptional way.

PAPER PLANES - Will have you standing and cheering over a paper plane throwing competition.

ROMEO IS BLEEDING - Inspiring portrait of youth commenting on their world with great literature through the contemporary art of slam poetry.

SNOW ON THE BLADES - Samurai drama is a glorious dive into honor and duty even as the world changes around them, building to an incredibly poignant finale.

THE TEACHER'S DIARY - Delectable Thai romance is why movies are made: a buoyant (literally) and creative diversion that will have audiences smiling from ear to ear.



RUTH HAYLER | PROGRAMMER

THE APU TRILOGY - Newly digitally restored, Satyajit Ray's three films made between 1955 and 1959 are towering masterpieces of world cinema; I first saw them more than 40 years ago, and will remember and love them for the rest of my life.

BEST OF ENEMIES - Two supremely articulate and opinionated men, William F. Buckley and Gore Vidal, attacking each other on live TV at the 1968 Democratic Convention—what could be more entertaining? Also uncannily predictive of the increasingly acrimonious future of political commentary.

LISTEN TO ME MARLON - Marlon Brando recorded his thoughts about life, work, and philosophy on tape throughout his life; this unique and riveting documentary paints an unforgettable portrait of the supremely gifted actor and troubled man, told in his own words.

THE OLD DARK HOUSE - *Frankenstein* director James Whale reunited with Boris Karloff (playing a mute butler) the next year (1932) to make this hilarious haunted house chiller; the delicious cast includes Charles Laughton, Raymond Massey, Melvyn Douglas, Gloria Stuart, and Ernest Thesiger. Undeservedly underseen; preserved by the Film Foundation.

PHOENIX - Nina Hoss (*Barbara*) gives a powerhouse performance in the deeply ironic story of a woman with a reconstructed face who has miraculously survived a concentration camp; after the war she meets her ex-husband who does not recognize her, but thinks she looks enough like his dead wife that, with coaching, she could claim the wife's rich estate.

SAVED FROM THE FLAMES - Mark this one "DON'T MISS!!" We have been trying for years to get the crusading film preservationist Serge Bromberg to come to SIFF, and we finally succeeded. His enthusiasm is contagious: come for laughs, surprise, and delight.

THE SECOND MOTHER - A longtime live-in maid in Sao Paulo feels almost like a part of the rich family she serves, but she has not been able to see her own daughter for ten years; when the daughter comes to stay with mom to get reacquainted while applying for college, her independent attitudes cause an earthquake in the status quo.

SUNSHINE SUPERMAN - Daredevil Carl Boenish and his wife Jean joyfully jump off mountains, bridges, skyscrapers, and anything else tall and scary for the thrill of flying (with a parachute, and often a helmet-cam).



BRANDEN HAWKINS | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

EISENSTEIN IN GUANAJUATO - I'm a fan of both Peter Greenaway and Sergei Eisenstein, so of course I would recommend this film. This is Greenaway's passion project. You have to see it!

THE LOOK OF SILENCE - This film takes a look at the other side of the Indonesian Killings of 1965-66 that Joshua Oppenheimer didn't explore in the Academy Award nominated film, *The Act of Killing*.

THE NIGHTMARE - A documentary that's terrifying? Yes. This is that rare breed of documentary horror that I have been searching for!

ROMEO IS BLEEDING - A moving documentary about a young man who sets out to create an urban re-telling of "Romeo and Juliet" to open up the dialogue around gang violence in his hometown.

WHEN MARNIE WAS THERE - Perhaps the last Studio Ghibli production (now that Miyazaki has retired) boasts the studio's trademark beautiful hand-drawn animation in the magical story of a lonely girl who discovers a new best friend, who may or may not be real.

THE WOLFPACK - Six brothers (and a sister) spend their entire lives locked away in a Manhattan apartment by their tyrannical father, home-schooled by their mother, entertaining themselves with elaborate recreations of their favorite movies. But when one of them escapes the apartment, all of them begin dreaming of venturing into the world.



MEGAN LEONARD | PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

808 - From "Sexual Healing" to "We Can't Dance", the 808 tracks in this doc will get you groovin.

BEHAVIOR - Such a beautifully told story about a young boy and his teacher. The way Daranas manages to make the kids in the film feel so real brought me to tears. Please bring tissues.

THE GREAT ALONE - The pups, you guys... THE PUPS!!! Oh, and Lance Mackey shows us all how to own the Iditarod race.

GUIDANCE - Who wouldn't want a guidance counselor who gives out shots to students, am I right?

LAMB - Carefully toying the line between road movie-buddy pic and Nabokov, *Lamb* manages to make you feel uneasy with a relationship between man and adolescent.

RESULTS - Cobie Smolders and Guy Pierce are so adorably wonderful in this non-standard rom-com.

ROMEO IS BLEEDING - Such a beautiful story about a young man who decides to turn "Romeo and Juliet" into a story about the violence in Richmond, CA with the help of his spoken word poetry group.

SHORTSFEST OPENING NIGHT - An amazing year for shorts all around, but make sure you buy your tickets early for Opening Night. You won't want to miss Don Hertzfeldt's new short on the big screen!

TANGERINE - So much raunchy fun here that I can't wait to watch it again. The whole "shot on an iPhone" thing made it a curiosity for me, but watching it made the whole thing make sense.

THE WOLFPACK - So bizarre you just have to watch it to understand. A group of brothers (and one sister) have been locked away in their home by their father, and their only access to the outside world is Hollywood movies.



ANGÈLE PAN CRAZI | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

CARTOONISTS - Such an interesting documentary. A powerful picture of freedom of expression, democracy and the place of freedom around the world.

CHERRY TOBACCO - *Cherry Tobacco* takes you on a hike with your teenage best friend and three (loser looking) adults. Add a little flirtation, and beautiful landscapes and you have an amazing Estonian film.

THE GREAT ALONE - I didn't know anything about sled dog races before watching *The Great Alone*, but I loved it. The puppies are really cute!

LOVE AT FIRST FIGHT - This film has really well written dialogue, and amazing performances from both main actors who are creating really realistic characters. A good story that you want to follow through to the end.

MY SKINNY SISTER - This drama showcases the brightness in the relationship between two sisters. Such great and heartfelt acting.

OUR SUMMER IN PROVENCE - One of my favorite French movies; a great - full of sun - comedy, with a good cast, beautiful landscapes and an appealing plot.

SHORT SKIN - Really good Italian coming of age movie, amazing songs and great performance from the main character, who is sweet.

STEAK (R)EVOLUTION - A crazy doc that's a great way to see diverse cultures. And you get the urge to taste everything that you see on screen!

THE TOURNAMENT - Awesome French film with crazy chess players. Very funny moments and a great story to follow.

WET BUM - Touching film about growing up. I enjoyed the way teenagers and old people interacted. Really nice and clever mix.



CLINTON McCLUNG | SIFF CINEMA PROGRAMMER

THE ASTROLOGER - I do love me some outsider cinema, and this recently unearthed passion project from 1975 is a 10 on the WTF scale. Be prepared for totally nonsensical editing, slo-mo dining, and perhaps the most meta moment in all film history.

BEING EVEL - As a kid, my Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle was my favorite toy, though I only have vague memories of the man himself. This portrait paints him as a superstar, a hero, and a total bastard. Fascinating stuff.

CHUCK NORRIS VS COMMUNISM and **ELECTRIC BOOGALOO** - You honestly couldn't ask for a better double feature!

DEATHGASM - Opening and closing our Midnight Adrenaline series is one of the freshest and funniest horror films in ages. *Bill and Ted* meet *Dead Alive*, with a lot more awesome metal and a very important lesson in how to fight off demons with a dildo.

DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN: CAMBODIA'S LOST ROCK AND ROLL - The blending of Western rock and roll and traditional Cambodian music made for a new sound so strong that even the Khmer Rouge couldn't stop it from influencing the world. Now the secret history is revealed.

GOODNIGHT MOMMY - Two things that have always made me feel oddly uncomfortable – plastic surgery and identical twins – combine for a slow burn psycho thriller with a truly unforgettable ending.

THE NIGHTMARE - Seriously, the scariest film I've seen all year is this documentary from the director of the great *Room 237*. Not a film to watch just before bed, which is, of course, why I had to include it in the Midnight Adrenaline program.

SLEEPING WITH OTHER PEOPLE - So I love rom-coms, and this one is full of wonderfully dirty dialogue and two of my favorite comedic actors, Jason Sudeikis and Alison Brie (toss in Adam Scott for good measure).

TANGERINE - A low budget film about transsexual prostitutes on the streets in L.A. may not sound ripe for comedy, but *Tangerine* is one of the most laugh out loud films I've seen in ages. Not to be missed!



CORY RODRIGUEZ | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

DIFFERENT STROKES - This shorts package is full of strong, influential stories about the diverse lives of gay and transexual men and women that are sure to make you laugh, cry, and everything in between. Highly recommended: *Stealth* and *Pop Up Porno: m4m*.

GOODNIGHT MOMMY - This raw and unsettling Austrian horror film about two sons and their mother after she comes home from the hospital throws body horror, identity crises, and family conflict into a pot and just keeps churning it.

I AM MICHAEL - A riveting performance by James Franco makes this earnest depiction of Michael Glatze, a man conflicted with his beliefs about homosexuality, even more credible and illuminating.

IN UTERO - This vivid and highly enlightening documentary about prenatal life points to both nature and nurture as crucial factors to the development of children in the womb and the subsequent lifestyles they possess in the future.

INSIDE OUT - Who doesn't want to see the next Pixar masterpiece?! This one focuses on personifications of the human emotions and is sure to acquaint you with them so well that you'll be leaving the theatre with all of them (of course, in the best way).

ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL - This captivating story about an unlikely pairing of an awkward high schooler and his classmate with leukemia proves to be the *Fault in Our Stars* that we deserve, replacing sappy love for sincere affection and understanding in what becomes a story of beautiful companionship through the good and the bad.

THE NIGHTMARE - A scary look at the lives of those who suffer from sleep paralysis that focuses on the voices of the subjects rather than bombard viewers with copious amounts of evidence, ultimately pulling viewers into the nightmares even further.

THE OVERNIGHT - This crazy sex-comedy featuring the talented Adam Scott, Taylor Schilling, Jason Schwartzman, and Judith Godreche as two Los Angeles couples trying to spice things up is sure to please and finish with a bang (or something to that effect).

SLOW WEST - Michael Fassbender and Kodi Smit-McPhee shoot em' up in this brutal and beautifully shot revisionist western from first time director, John Maclean.

THE WOLFPACK - This enthralling documentary about a group of youths who have lived their lives cut off from the world with nothing but the cinema to enlighten them is a surefire choice for those seeking an intimate portrait that captures both the impact of the movies and the depth of the subjects' situation.



STAN SHIELDS | PROGRAMMER

808 - A fascinating look at the Roland TR-808 Rhythm Composer, which has quite possibly become the most influential musical instrument of the last 35 years.

ALL THINGS MUST PASS - Actor Colin Hanks' directorial debut, is a surprisingly intimate chronicle of the rise and fall of the biggest success story in record store history.

ANIMATION4ADULTS and **SAVED BY THE BELL** - It's always so hard to pick a single short film package, so I'm going to cheat and pick two!

THE CHINESE MAYOR - With astonishing access, *The Chinese Mayor* takes us deep into the messy world of regional Chinese politics.

THE FORECASTER - I'll just say this: after watching this doc on Martin Armstrong and his mysterious Economic Confidence Model, another programmer and I immediately changed our retirement portfolios.

KRISHA - 2014's powerhouse short film is back as a white-knuckle, feature-length, family drama.

LIZA, THE FOX FAIRY - This quirky, Hungarian fable is one of the most visually striking features that I've seen this year.

RACING EXTINCTION - This new film from the makers of *The Cove* is a game-changing look at the growing crisis in our oceans.

WAR OF LIES - A riveting 90-minute interrogation of the man who convinced the world that Iraq had WMDs.

WATERLINE - A great police procedural about a decades-long secret that stretches from the town's most powerful forces to a place uncomfortably close to home.



ANDY SPLETZER | PROGRAMMER

5 FILMS THAT I RECOMMEND:

2045 CARNIVAL FOLKLORE - An absurdist, noise rock, sci-fi tale that plays like a post-nuclear *Alphaville*.

ALTERNATE WORLDS - Found footage, animation, and oddball experiments create a cracked window through which to view our modern world.

CHUCK NORRIS VS. COMMUNISM - The incredible true story about how black market copies of US action films transformed Romania.

DREAMS REWIRED - Clips from nearly 200 archival films show how our anxieties over unchecked technology in a hyper-connected world are nothing new.

NATURAL HISTORY - Experimental filmmaker James Benning has crafted a complex theory of viewership that he uses when turning his camera onto objects in Vienna's Museum of Natural History.

5 FILMS THAT I WANT TO SEE:

THE ASTROLOGER - It's easy to dismiss the "so bad it's good" genre, but this one sounds like it's true, hypnotic insanity!

DEATHGASM - They had me at electric guitars, dildo fights, severed limbs, chainsaw duels, and fountains of blood.

ELECTRIC BOOGALOO: THE WILD UNTOLD STORY OF CANNON FILMS - The perfect companion piece to *Chuck Norris vs. Communism*.

THE NIGHTMARE - This documentary about sleep paralysis has been called terrifying, which is not a word normally used to describe docs.

TANGERINE - More because I hear it's funny and honest, and less because they say it's a beautiful movie shot on a cell phone.



HEBE TABACHNIK | PROGRAMMER

THE FIRE (EL INCENDIO) - "I'm interested in emotions and strong stories, things that mobilize you," said Juan Schnitman, the director of *The Fire*, in an interview after the premiere of the film in Berlin. That's exactly why I chose this film and we are thrilled to have the North American Premiere at SIFF.

GÜEROS - *Güeros*, winner at top film festivals like Berlin, San Sebastián and Tribeca, made its director Alonso Ruiz Palacios one of the most exciting new voices in Mexico. His debut feature, a stylish nod to the French New Wave, brings to life a youthfully charged Mexico City rarely seen on screen.

LOREAK (FLOWERS) - One of my personal favorites, *Flowers*, was love at first sight at the 2014 San Sebastian Film Festival. Three women, a bunch of flowers and two men are at the center of this poetic and cinematic gem that will linger in your soul long after the movie is over.

MARSHLAND - This stunning thriller—set against the backdrop of post-Franco democracy in Spain—literally cleaned up the 2015 Goya Awards, winning in ten categories, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Editing and Best Lead Actor for Javier Gutierrez. Simply the best.

MESSI - Sports fans and anyone five to 99 years old: *Messi* is the documentary you do not want to miss. Award-winning director Alex de la Iglesia gives us the incredible true story of today's greatest soccer player's rise to glory. Let Messi's spectacular ability and disarming persona sweep you from your seat.

THE NEW MAN - Unique, captivating and moving, the story of Stephania, a transexual with a fascinating past as a revolutionary activist in Nicaragua, was the winner of the Teddy Award for Best Documentary at the 2015 Berlin International Film Festival.

NN - We have seen many films about the dirty wars in Argentina and Chile, but *NN* director Héctor Gálvez takes a deeply heartfelt look at the lesser-known dark chapter in Perú's history and the painstaking search for answers and closure in the present day.

PACO DE LUCÍA: A JOURNEY - I love music, I love flamenco, and I think Paco de Lucía was one of the greatest flamenco guitarists and musicians of all times. In this intimate and exhilarating documentary, also featuring stellar names like Carlos Santana, Ruben Blades, Alejandro Sanz, John McLaughlin, Estrella Morente, and Chick Corea, you will discover why.

SPANISH AFFAIR - This spicy romantic comedy that smashed all box office records in Spain does not disappoint. Rafa and Amaia are memorable characters who are absolutely not meant for each other—but chance has something different in store for them.



BRAD WILKE | PROGRAMMER

3 1/2 MINUTES, TEN BULLETS - Eye-opening and infuriating documentary about a single fateful night at a Florida gas station.

CHATTY CATTIES - Welcome to a world where cats can communicate with their owners via telepathy. And these cats don't pull any punches. Laugh-out loud black comedy.

CIRCLE - 50 people enter. One person leaves. Only nobody knows how they got there or what the hell is going on. A real-time puzzler that invites the audience to put the pieces together along with the characters up on screen.

CHUCK NORRIS VS. COMMUNISM - The true story of how one courageous woman almost single-handedly (and quite nonchalantly) empowered an entire country to take to the streets. An essential (and, until now, missing) piece of film culture history.

FOURTH MAN OUT - A gay movie for straight people. See it here first, then sit back and watch as it lights up the festival circuit all summer and fall before making a big mainstream splash when it hits theaters.

FRONT COVER - A thoughtful drama with a moral dilemma at its center that punches way above its indie weight class.

THE HALLOW - An Irish horror film that earns each and every one of its scares. And there are a lot of them.

HAPPY 40TH - A master class in acting, direction, and tone. Not a false note in one of the most female-centric indie films to come along in quite some time.

A RISING TIDE - Takes a fresh look at the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the livelihood of a small, family-run restaurant on the Jersey shore.

THE WOLFPACK - Must be seen to be believed. That is all.

Programmers' picks Presented by Dark Horse Wines



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