

42nd Seattle International Film Festival

PROGRAMMERS' PICKS

presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



Carl
Spence

Festival Director &
Chief Curator

ANTONIA - In the unlikelyst of places I had some free time in Buenos Aires and stumbled into this Italian film that woke me up to a discover poet in a beautifully crafted debut feature.

BEING 17 - The directing chops of André Téchiné (*Wild Reeds*) with screenplay duties shared with Céline Sciamma (*Girlhood*) sets the stage for an explosive and contemporary take on the coming of age genre in a way that only could be conceived and portrayed by the French..

CLOSET MONSTER - All you need to know is that an teenager with aspirations become a special-effects makeup artist and escape his small suffocating and intolerant town gets much of his advice from Buffy, his pet hamster (named after the vampire slayer), that speaks to him in the voice of Isabella Rossellini and apparently has more than nine lives.

COCONUT HERO - A sweetly deadpan romance and unexpectedly life-affirming tale about a depressed 16-year-old outcast whose plans to kill himself is thwarted by finding out he might die earlier than expected after all.

GIRL ASLEEP - The most imaginative film I have seen this year. A big hearted fantastical teen adventure about the trials and tribulations of adolescence from the female perspective. An unholy and courageous mix of Lynchian weirdness, Wes Anderson specificity with a little bit of "Where the Wild Things Are" mixed in.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT - If you love the lush colors of Technicolor and witty repartee then see this Ernst Lubitsch classic recently restored by the Film Foundation.

MOON IN THE 12TH HOUSE - The only politics in this film are the politics of an estranged and broken family. The two young actresses in this film are mesmerizing and the film is beautifully crafted by emerging female talent, Dorit Hakim.

MORRIS FROM AMERICA - A 13 year-old African American teenager and his father struggle to fit into the very white town of Heidelberg, Germany. The challenges of being black and misunderstood in a foreign country has the perfect balance of comedy and levity.

NEWS FROM PLANET MARS - Terrific Belgian comic actor Francois Damiens stars as a middle-age man with a humdrum existence and Vincent Macaigne is the highly erratic meat cleaver carrying nutcase who wakes him up to the excitement of life.

PRESENTING PRINCESS SHAW - Amazing story, about a YouTube singer that's unknowingly made into an international singing sensation by Kutiman, an Israeli music producer on the other side of the world.

RED GRINGO - I never knew who Dean Reed was but I've always been fascinated by the repressed and overlooked history of Latin America and this film opened my eyes to a crazy but true story of someone who was beloved almost everywhere else in the world except his country of birth. Another discovery from my visit to Buenos Aires.

THE SCENT OF MANDARIN - I like French Cinema! Olivier Gourmet stars in a classical and sumptuous love story about two broken souls trying to overcome the deep scars they both have endured from the first world war.

SOUTHSIDE WITH YOU - Sweet as ice cream, this is a lovely and romantic fictionalized account (though painstaking researched) first date of our current president and first lady.

TRUMAN - Two of my favorite actors and a wonderful dog that knew just how to act to win my heart. A lovely tale of friendship between longtime friends and canine companions. This film swept the Spanish Goya awards for Best Picture, Director, Screenplay, Actor, Supporting Actor.

WELCOME TO NORWAY - Winner of the audience award in Goteberg - this is a whacky scandic comedy with atypical plot lines as a down and out but lovable loser comes up with a plan to turn his failing resort into a bustling refugee center for profit.

PURCHASE PASSES & TICKETS AND COMPLETE LINEUP AT SIFF.NET | BOX OFFICE: 206.324.9996



SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 2

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



BETH BARRETT | DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

THE BRAND NEW TESTAMENT - Grumpy robe-wearing Belgian God is pissed off. His daughter Ea went and told all the pesky mortals their exact date of death by cellphone, and then buggered off through the washing machine to Earth. An unmissable irreverent and darkly hilarious comedy.

BUGS - The protein of the future is burrowing under the dirt today. Occasionally kind of gross, entirely fascinating, and completely what is to come. Part of Culinary Cinema.

CHICKEN PEOPLE - You know who you are... Competitive raiser or backyard afficianado, the power of the chicken compels you.

THE LAST KING - Big screen epic that really is "Game of Thrones" on skis, with the King's loyal bodyguards saving the infant King-to-be from murderous family machinations.

THE LURE - I guarantee you will see nothing else quite like this. Cannibalistic mermaid sisters join a bar band in a Polish musical set in the '80s. A-Mazing.

MOUNTAINS MAY DEPART - Jia Zhangke's time-spanning drama about the changing face of China, decisions that have been made, and what may come of it. Beautiful and engrossing.

NALEDI: A BABY ELEPHANTS TALE - It quite literally starts with the birth of a baby elephant, an awe-inspiring event. With elephant welfare and poaching in the news today, could not be more topical.

THE QUEEN OF IRELAND - "Pantigate" led Ireland's top drag queen Panti Bliss to emerge as the lead political voice for marriage equality - with a liberal dose of humor and performance to keep it spicy!

TANNA - Lushly beautiful film about a young couple in love, torn apart by tribal custom. Shot on the island of Vanuatu, starring the Yakel tribe, Tanna will take you to a place you have never been.

TICKLED - New Zealand journalist David Farrier tackles the light-hearted topic of "competitive endurance tickling videos" - or so he thinks this astounding doc takes turn after turn after turn and you never know where it is going next. Do not miss.

ShortsFest - Don't miss this year's best short films, over Memorial Day weekend at SIFF Cinema Uptown - the next generation of creativity starts here.



ANGELO ACERBI | PROGRAMMER

ONE KISS - A deeply moving coming out (and of age) film, with much love and friendship and a great deal of hope.

THEY CALL ME JEEG ROBOT - Triumphant at the Italian Oscars. Come and meet a strange new superhero with a desperate beautiful heart.

BEING 17 - First love is hard and beautiful. First gay love hits even deeper, when you do not recognize it right away.

THE DRESSMAKER - An uplifting feast for the soul and the eyes, with style and glamour and an amusing healthy dose of evil.

FREE IN DEED - Do you believe in miracles? Faith can be blinding and hoping too much can be fatal.

KILO TWO BRAVO - The best war movie ever, where war is unseen but strongly present. It will dig deep in your hearts.

LITTLE MEN - The tale of a friendship between two boys against the incomprehensible rules of adults, and two young actors to praise for.

THE BRAND NEW TESTAMENT - Leave the dogmas behind, and experience a different view on the rules and regulations of the Testament. It is definitely a brand new version.

FROM AFAR - A dark tale of solitude, where the inability of dealing with his homosexuality brings a man to desperate actions. Powerful and astounding first feature.

THE TENTH MAN - When going back home turns out to be different than any expectation, and maybe better. A tender and light comedy.

ZUD - Be daring and immerse yourself in the Mongolian steppe. A mesmerizing film about unforgiving nature and family traditions not to be missed.

SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 3

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



MARYNA AJAJA | PROGRAMMER

BODY - A quirky drama mixed with a bit of New Age mystery as an investigative coroner, his anorexic daughter, and her therapist make their way through life.

DAWN - Visually stunning homage updates a mythic propaganda story about Pavlik, a young Soviet boy who betrayed his anti-Soviet father.

DEMON - Not exactly a horror film, *Demon* is about the past that comes back to haunt a contemporary Polish countryside wedding party.

FAMILY FILM - A family find themselves lost at sea, literally and figuratively, after a couple leave their teenagers at home in Prague to go sailing in the tropics in this black comedy where everyone, even the family dog, face the dangers of independence.

THE HIGH SUN - It is genius to use the same actors in three separate war related storylines in a sensuous and richly shot film about love.

UNDER THE SUN - Vitaly Mansky, a controversial documentary director, makes a beautifully framed film that reveals cracks in the agitprop world of North Korea.

HOME CARE - An altruistic home nurse learns to help herself.

ILLEGITIMATE - Something peculiar is going on in a family that forces them (as well as us) to grapple with morality in this unscripted, actors' film that is both clever and daring.

BEFORE THE STREETS - Gripping and spiritual, the first film set among the Atikamekw communities of Québec, featuring an indigenous cast speaking in their native tongue.

THE WOUNDED ANGEL - Four moral tales (backed by scenes from Finish painter Hugo Simberg's frescoes), that deal with the destiny of four teenagers who burn their wings in a village in Kazakhstan.



JUSTINE BARDA | PROGRAMMER

PRESENTING PRINCESS SHAW - About a struggling unknown singer/songwriter whose YouTube posts get the attention of a famous viral-video artist will remind you of what's magical about the internet.

RADIO DREAMS - Quietly hilarious but also touching story of an eclectic sampling of the Iranian diaspora who coalesce around San Francisco's #1 Persian-language radio station.

CHECKS AND BALANCES - Offers thrilling proof that democracy – with all the debate, dissent, and discussion it entails – is alive and well in Algeria, in the press at least, if not in the presidency.

UNDER THE SHADOW - The latest entry in a spate of films by young directors from Iran who blend horror and social critique in a way that adds menace to the former and a terrifying new dimension to the latter.

FAMILY FILM - One of the films this year that really surprised me. So much melodrama, so skillfully handled, to such compelling and resonant effect.

BEING 17 - *Téchiné* is in fine, fine form with this sweet and sexy story of first love set in the snowy Pyrenees. Co-writer is Céline Sciamma (*Tomboy*, *Girlhood*).

THE COOP - Simple but brilliantly conceived story of the unexpected consequences of polygamy in a rural Turkish village. Based on the experience of the director's own grandmother.

MOUNTAIN – A fascinating character study of an Orthodox Jewish wife and mother who finds herself drawn to the nocturnal underworld of sex and drugs that exists in an ancient Jerusalem cemetery.

SONITA – The self-described love child of Michael Jackson and Rihanna, Sonita is an aspiring rap musician – as well as a refugee from Afghanistan, and a commodity with a \$9000 price tag.

SAND STORM – Really impressive first feature, and one of several from the Middle East this year that focus on the complexity of relationships among women in male-dominated societies.

SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 4

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



DAN DOODY | PROGRAMMER

First and foremost, I recommend attending **SHORTSFEST** weekend in full, SIFF's preeminent festival-within-a-festival and one of our best slates yet of short films.

Check out **SHORTSFEST OPENING NIGHT** and **CLOSING NIGHT** for an excellent selection of short films—we have our annual showcases of animation, family films, gay short cinema, and local filmmakers—but my favorite package this year is **THE DEVIL'S BROOD**, a collection of weird and horrifying micro-cinema.

For further horrific thrills you're going to have to stay up till the witching hour; two frightening midnighters of choice this year are **UNDER THE SHADOW**, the Iranian exorcist flick, and the wicked **ANOTHER EVIL**.

News broke earlier this year that "Mystery Science Theater 3000" will be relaunching, in the meantime, we've got two of the show's previous mad scientists here in person skewering Ed Wood's transvestism epic **GLEN OR GLENDA**.

Two neo-noir thrillers to catch include **MIDDLE MAN**, a Cohen Brothers-esque dark comedy in which a very bad comedian discovers murder greatly improves his humor, and the wonderfully stylish Southern Gothic tale, **ALL THE BIRDS HAVE FLOWN SOUTH**.

Mark Cousins returns to SIFF with his poetic love letter to his hometown, **I AM BELFAST**, while **THE QUEEN OF IRELAND**, a portrait of the Irish drag queen Panti Bliss, is the most rip-roaringly hilarious documentary at SIFF.

Past SIFF tributee Ewan McGregor stars in the taut suspense-filled espionage thriller **OUR KIND OF TRAITOR**, based on the John Le Carré bestseller.

If I had to pick one archival to see on the big screen, this year's choice would be 1943's wonderful, life-affirming **HEAVEN CAN WAIT** directed by Ernst Lubitsch and starring the luminous Gene Tierney.

Hands down, my favorite film this year is **KEDI**, a documentary on cats in Istanbul, which will be preceded by a new short film starring YouTube sensation "Simon's Cat," in full color and not yet available on the internet.



CRAIG DOWNING | SHORT FILM PROGRAMMER

HOW TO LOSE WEIGHT IN 4 EASY STEPS (*Extremely Awkward and Incredibly Funny* Shorts Program) - Starring Beck Bennett of "Saturday Night Live" the narrative is irresistibly gross and filled with copious amounts of references to bodily functions.

THE PROCEDURE (*WTF?! Shorts Program*) - Made in Tukwila, this is middle-school top-shelf experimental genius!!!

GLOVE (*Animation4Adults*) - High-fives for this true story of a space glove lost and drifting through the mysterious cosmos since 1968.

OFFLINE DATING (*ShortsFest Closing Night Shorts Program*) - The scariest movie ever: asking someone out on a date - but totally cold call in person!

EGGPLANT (*Coming of Age Shorts Program*) - A brain hardwired so differently can be so beautiful.

SUPERFAN (Documentary Short screens with **FULL COURT: THE SPENCER HAYWOOD STORY**) - The story of a diehard Seattle SuperSonics fan and his quest to bring NBA basketball back to Seattle.

CASSETTE GIRL (*Animation4Adults*) - Futuristic explosive robots that defend a black-market of underground beta tapes.

YOU CAN GO (*Tipping Point Shorts Program*) - A school administrator takes an emotional risk as she tries to reach out to a troubled student.

LIFE SMARTPHONE (*Tipping Point Shorts Program*) - Phone addiction that you can only hope that you don't empathize with.

SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 5

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



LAURA GOOD | PROGRAMMER

SLEEPING GIANT - Set in a heat hazed resort town, next to the foreboding cliffs of Lake Superior, *Sleeping Giant* offers a starkly realistic glimpse into the cruelty and volatility of youth.

11:55 - With love, lawlessness, epic stand-offs and a killer soundtrack - *11:55* gives the western genre a Latin American update.

CHEVALIER - A quick witted and gorgeously rendered absurdist comedy, that critiques modern notions of masculinity with equal parts scathing and love.

OUR LOVED ONES - The sophomore feature from Anne Emond (*Nuit #1*) is a vivid look at family, fate and the resilience of the human spirit.

SHORT FILM PROGRAM: THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE - From cuddle parties, to fight clubs, to matters of life and death, this short film program explores the bold, bloody and beautiful spectrum of our most powerful emotion.

DEAD SLOW AHEAD - An immersive piece of visually driven, avant-garde storytelling, scored only by the rhythmic, industrial soundscape of a cargo ship, the wind and the waves.

UNCLE HOWARD - A frank and deeply personal documentary by the nephew of acclaimed filmmaker Howard Brookner (*Burroughs: The Movie*) and the vibrant 1980's New York art scene, which he was taken from too soon. Rich with archival and behind-the-scenes footage of the likes of Spike Lee, John Waters, Madonna, Allen Ginsburg, Andy Warhol, Tom Dicillo, Jim Jarmusch (who executive produced) and of course, William S. Burroughs.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE GOOD MEN GONE - The bond between two sisters is tested as they break free from their abusive home to strike out on their own, in this nuanced and melancholically personal journey story.

LOVE & FRIENDSHIP - Adapted from one of the most delightfully wicked stories ever to spring from Jane Austen's pen, *Love & Friendship* is a sharp-tongued critique of eighteenth century polite society that will have you rolling in the aisles.

PAUL À QUÉBEC - A family drama about death, that manages to be not only charming, empathetic and funny, but life affirming.



RUTH HAYLER | PROGRAMMER

OUR LITTLE SISTER - The gentle, warm-hearted story of three older sisters adopting the orphan younger half-sister they had never known, and coming together as a family, by director Hirokazu Kore-Eda (*I Wish, Nobody Knows*).

A MONSTER WITH A THOUSAND HEADS - Fast-paced Mexican thriller about a desperate wife and mother who, when denied health care due her critically ill husband, confronts the insurance company via pistol, accompanied by her 17-year-old son.

THE BRAND NEW TESTAMENT - Wildly creative and funny Belgian/French absurd comedy in which God is a petty tyrant who lives in an apartment in Brussels with his wife and young daughter, inventing new laws to frustrate mankind; his daughter rebels and escapes, going out into the world to recruit six new apostles.

THE LAST KING - This action-packed Norwegian historical adventure, set in 1206, in which two warriors attempt to save the infant son of the assassinated king, features lots of skiing, horses galloping through the snow, and fights with swords, axes, and bows and arrows.

MICROBE AND GASOLINE - The latest film from Michel Gondry (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *The Science of Sleep*) is a delightful tale of two misfit teenage boys (their nicknames make up the film's title) taking a road trip in their house-on-wheels powered by a lawnmower motor.

MOUNTAINS MAY DEPART - This epic Chinese saga by Jia Zhangke (*The World*) tells the story of a rural woman courted by two young men and what becomes of them over the course of their lives.

THE MUSIC OF STRANGERS: YO-YO MA AND THE SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE - Great music and warm personalities in a hymn to cultural diversity, by Oscar-winning director Morgan Neville (*20 Feet From Stardom*).

THE LOVERS AND THE DESPOT - The truly bizarre and amazing story of the South Korean divorced couple, a leading actress and film director, who were kidnapped (separately) and taken to North Korea to make no-expense-spared films for movie-obsessed dictator Kim Jong-il in the 1980's. Remarkable!

CHIMES AT MIDNIGHT - Orson Welles had a lifelong obsession with Shakespeare, and particularly with his robustly funny and ultimately tragic anti-hero Sir John Falstaff, which culminated in this magnificent film that Welles crafted from parts of five plays. A beautiful 50th Anniversary digital restoration.

THE GENERAL - The best film at the Festival is likely to be Buster Keaton's masterpiece *The General* (1926), shown in a beautiful digital presentation, with a new musical score by Keaton-fan Joe Hisaichi of Studio Ghibli. Treat yourself to a great movie-going experience, seeing this hilarious and touching train-loving Civil War saga on a big screen with an audience.

SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 6

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



DUSTIN KASPAR | EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS MANAGER

ANGRY INDIAN GODDESSES - An infectiously fun Bachelorette getaway has plenty of social commentary surprises in store.

AS I OPEN MY EYES - North African drama expertly portrays a young female musician on the cusp of social activism during the lead up to the Tunisian Spring.

FREE IN DEED - A mesmerizing drama that will rock audiences to their core with the story of a real-life tragedy and the societal machinations that force people to find support in the wrong places.

NAKOM - An exemplary rural drama that effectively examines the sometimes opposing societal forces of education/progress and family/tradition.

OTHER GIRLS - A quartet of young women experience episodes of iconically joyous and heartbreaking adolescence.

OUR LITTLE SISTER - Hirokazu Kore-eda's newest masterpiece proves that you don't need contrived conflict to make an engrossing film about sisters experiencing the beauty of human dynamics.

THE PARADISE SUITE - Pan-European multi-character drama draws the audience in and captures all of the exceptionally drawn characters into a web of perfectly tuned filmmaking.

PATHS OF THE SOUL - Zhang Yang's unusual road movie is a breathtaking doc/drama hybrid that bears witness to a Tibetan group's 1200-mile journey on foot to Lhasa.

THE REVOLUTION WON'T BE TELEVISED - Thrilling street-level access to the activism of a group of young Senegalese rappers in a film that incredibly captures both the energy of the 2012 presidential protests and the exhilaration of the stage performance.



MEGAN LEONARD | PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

BURN BURN BURN - A brithchick road movie that finds the humor in death, and the struggles of friendship. You'll fall in love with Alex (Laura Carmichael of "Downton Abbey") and Seph (Chloe Pirrie) just like I did.

ZOOM - Allison Pill and Tyler Labine making sex dolls, and a rotoscoped Gael Garcia Bernal? Also, who knew Jason Priestly was still doing good things? Come watch this wild ride, it's one of my absolute favorites!

THE FITS - A beautifully poetic coming of age story about a young tomboy transitioning from hanging with her brother, to wanting to join the dance team. Anna Rose Holmer helms this cinematic slow burner.

FOLK HERO & FUNNY GUY - Sometimes all I want is fun and funny, and *Folk Hero & Funny Guy* gives you just that. Alex Karpovsky ("Girls") and rising star Wyatt Russell (*Everybody Wants Some!!*) have fantastic chemistry and charm their way through their whole adventure.

HORIZONS - Following three generations of ballerinas in Cuba, *Horizons* puts dance of film in the most elegant of ways. Alicia Alonso, 93 year-old Cuban prima ballerina, and the young and beautiful Viengsay Valdés transport you to the rich world of Havana's National Ballet of Cuba.

MA MA - Penelope Cruz is at her best in this Spanish drama from auteur, Julio Medem. Don't forget a box of tissues though, because this one is a tearjerker.

OVARIAN PSYCOS - "Haters gonna hate, and ovaries gonna ovulate." Do I need to say more? It took these BA Chicana bicycle riders no time to win me over.

THE PISTOL SHRIMPS - From the director of SIFF 2014's *A Brony Tale*, Brent Hodge is back with a documentary about LA's rec female basketball league. Featuring Aubrey Plaza's team, The Pistol Shrimps, this doc showcases the value of female camaraderie and friendship in a city and industry that can rip women apart.

TOWER - With rotoscoped interviews and reenactments, *Tower* handles the tough subject of the UT, Austin campus shooting with style and grace. The news cycle should take note of how *Tower* covers the heroes and victims of such events.

WTF?! - Terrifying buttoholes, demonic tampons and singing sumo wrestlers. And that's only three of the shorts in the WTF?! program this year...

SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 7

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



SHRUTI SWAMINATHAN | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

CLAIRE IN MOTION - Exquisite in its simplicity, the film captures the abstract spectrum of emotions felt against a sudden loss and the realization that we never know our loved ones completely.

THE BRAND NEW TESTAMENT - If you're looking for a thought-provoking film with powerful ideas, this is the one.

HORIZONS - It's a beautifully shot film that follows two ballerinas in different levels of their journey to emulate the Cuban prima ballerina, Alicia Alonso, and what it takes to be the best.

A NEW HIGH - Inspiring and uplifting, here's a story of local men and women who train to climb Mt. Rainier, and in the process, resurrect their lives and change their story.

WOMEN HE'S UNDERESSED - If you like Old Hollywood, classic glamour, and sassy stylists, this documentary – exploring the life of legendary costume designer Orry Kelly – is for you!

BURN BURN BURN - A powerful exploration of loss, friendship, and growing up, this road trip film deftly navigates tragedy and comedy and speaks to people of any age and any background who suddenly find themselves bereft of the person who anchored their life.

SLEEPING GIANT - Relive your teenage angst (and give teenage you a break) through this riveting coming-of-age drama which explores the recklessness and unease that accompanies the discovery of one's true identity. .

I AM BELFAST - Leave behind all preconceived notions of documentary films. There is no better way to describe this film as a hypnotic meditation on Belfast, its vibrant history, people, and magic.

THE FITS - An immersive, allegorical tale of a young woman's identity crisis when her desire to blend in with her newfound girlfriends is forced against her natural instincts. If you want your films to provoke you and make you wonder about what it means to "fit in" – here's your film.

VINTAGE TOMORROWS - This one is for all the steampunk fans out there – celebrate the subversive movement in a journey through its roots, expansion, and cultural significance.



CLINTON McCLUNG | DIRECTOR OF CINEMA PROGRAMMING

IN A VALLEY OF VIOLENCE - Indie genre master Ti West delivers a fresh and funny version of the "Mysterious Stranger" western tale, featuring the breakout star of the year: Jumpy the dog.

ANOTHER EVIL - An A+ combo of horror and uncomfortable cringe-comedy, with amazing performances from Steve Zissis (my favorite actor on "Togetherness") and Mark Proksch (aka the infamous K-Strass). Plus: a new short film from Todd Rohal that left me literally bathed in blood!

THE MADS ARE BACK and **B-MOVIE BINGO** - Two unique events that take the best-worst movies and add special guests, live comedy, and games. Fans of "Mystery Science Theater 3000" or just plain FUN should not miss these one-of-a-kind shows!

OH, YOU PRETTY THINGS - Holy moly, do we have some treats in store for you at an all Bowie and Glam Rock dance party at the Neptune. I'm already getting my costume ready!

LOVE & FRIENDSHIP - During a Skype Q&A with Whit Stillman he revealed that his next film would be a Jane Austen story, and I was immediately excited – and after seeing the finished product I am even more excited.

MICROBE & GASOLINE, HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE, SLASH, and **CLOSET MONSTER** - This is an amazing year for coming of age tales about weirdoes and outcasts – aka, my people. See them all!

BEWARE THE SLENDERMAN - An internet boogie-man horror story, a dark female friendship straight out of *Heavenly Creatures*, and a court case as infuriating as "Making a Murderer."

THE QUEEN OF IRELAND - An inspirational drag queen's tale of turning sass into political passion and helping to change her-story. Can I Get an Amen?

THE LAST KING - "Game of Thrones" in Norway. On skis. Plus it stars the great Kristofer Hivju who you may recognize as Tormund Giantsbane on, yup, "Game of Thrones."

ANGRY INDIAN GODDESSES - What starts out as a sort of Bollywood Bridesmaids goes in surprising directions and has a lot to say about timely issues for women in India.

SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 8

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



SADIA RAO | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

PATHS OF THE SOUL - Zhang Yang uses fiction to portray the riveting reality of unconditional Tibetan devotion to spirituality. His unique style of filmmaking allows us to live this harsh yet extraordinary pilgrimage.

TOWER - Incredible animation, shattering investigative skills and a story that shook the nation - *Tower* is a must watch!

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST - Informative of the region, yet emotionally wrenching with a selection of eclectic, need of the hour films portraying several experiences of people belonging to the Middle East. The short film program prioritizes the voices of those that are often left unheard.

RAINBOW - Back to rural India, Nagesh Kukunoor creates an innocent world of two siblings. Join them on this gleeful journey through the desert, to fulfill their fearless ambitions.

SONITA - Ghaem Maghami's insightful portrait allows the viewer to become a part of Sonita's rebellious-rapper-refugee life.

SUMMERTIME - Corsini uses a powerful feminist lens, creating an informative film and a romantic tearjerker, at the same time..

UNDER THE SUN - A shocking exposé, revealing the rule of state propaganda like never before, in the world's most notorious dictatorship.

VINTAGE TOMORROWS - Dive into this bizarre world, made from the most beautiful elements of history and the future. Don't forget your steampunk goggles!

MOTHERLAND - Motherland deals with much more than a mother-daughter relationship. It boldly approaches the connection of two women.

HUMMUS - "It's not something ordinary, it's magical!" It's Hummus! You'll never get enough of the ladle fulls of tahini or mouth-watering chick peas.



GALEN ROSENTHAL | PROGRAMMER

BRIDE FOR RIP VAN WINKLE - Every time you think you have this film figured out, it pulls the rug out from under you.

CREEPY - A new horror film from the director of *Cure and Pulse*, nuff said.

TRIVISA - Any film produced or directed by Johnnie To is worth a watch, it's just common sense.

HONOR THY MOTHER - How many movies combine the Catholic Church and gunplay? Count them, count them on your fingers.

THE BACCHUS LADY - A movie about a 65 year old prostitute suffering from an STD. I'm listening.

ALONE - A good old fashioned mind f#@k.

THE MOBFATHERS - Let's just say Hong Kong is not a fan of big brother China. There will be blood, lots, and lots of blood.

A COPY OF MY MIND - We've all heard how piracy is destroying the film industry, but who knew it could topple a government.

DRAGON INN - Where did Tarantino get the idea for *The Hateful Eight*?

SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 9

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



STAN SHIELDS | PROGRAMMER

BATTLEDREAM CHRONICLE - Inspiring animation from Martinique that mixes online gaming culture with a post-colonialist slant, generating unexpectedly entertaining results.

CONTEMPORARY COLOR - This film of David Byrne's curated celebration of the sport of color guard is simply a singularly unique and moving experience.

DEATH BY DESIGN - After watching this bracing look at the unseen consequences of our Information Age, I have found myself giving my phone the side-eye on a daily basis.

THE FITS - A striking and atmospheric debut about a tomboyish boxer who tries out for an after-school drill team. Inspired by real stories of mass hysteria.

NUTS! - Featuring work by an amazing team of animators, Penny Lane transforms this true story of an Erectile Dysfunction doctor into an ingenious, entertaining look at our entrepreneurial spirit.

OUR LOVED ONES - Anne Émond's sophomore feature is an expansive, heartfelt portrait of a family learning to transcend their demons and long-kept secrets.

PRESENTING PRINCESS SHAW - A heartwarming, 21st century Cinderella story about an aspiring singer in New Orleans, including an incredible performance from the Internet in the role of the glass slipper.

A SONG FOR YOU: THE AUSTIN CITY LIMITS STORY - A backstage pass to 40 years of the best music show on television, featuring performances from everyone from Ray Charles to Wilco to St. Vincent.

SONITA - This Sundance Jury Prize winner is the story of a young Afghani teen who uses every tool at her disposal to avoid a forced marriage, with surprising results.

WE ARE X - What starts out as a slick, promotional piece transforms into a pretty amazing documentary about art, fame, and perfectionism - not to mention survival.



ANDY SPLETZER | PROGRAMMER

THE 1,000 EYES OF DR. MADDIN - Guy Maddin is a cinematic alchemist who weaves dreams with fetishes and makes gold.

ALT SHORTS - Six local experimental filmmakers join this rich mix of shorts from around the world, including a new work from Peter Tscherkassky.

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC - I worked on this and can't wait to see how it turned out.

CHICKEN PEOPLE - To paraphrase Barbra Streisand, "People who love show chickens are the loveliest people in the world!" This doc is great.

DEAD SLOW AHEAD - Pure cinema. Magnificent images and a sci-fi sound design combine to pull you into a movie that's always fascinating, even when you don't always know why.

THE GENERAL - How often do you get to see Buster Keaton on the big screen? Not often enough!

GLEN OR GLENDA - Trace Beaulieu and Frank Conniff ("Mystery Science Theater 3000") comment on the Ed Wood masterpiece.

MICROBE & GASOLINE - Michel Gondry directs Audrey Tautou. Need I say more?

A SCANDAL IN PARIS - This 1946 film from Douglas Sirk follows a con man who becomes a police chief, and it has a monkey in it named Satan. I'm there.

TRANSPICOS - Riveting tale of US border agents that grabs you early and doesn't let go. Oh, and the SXSW audiences agreed with me.

SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 10

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



HEBE TABACHNIK | WORLD CINEMA PROGRAMMER

BEYOND MY GRANDFATHER ALLENDE - Using personal interviews and never-before-seen archival footage, Marcia Tambutti, granddaughter of one of Latin America's most revered and tragic political figures, former Chilean president Salvador Allende, offers a priceless glimpse into his personal life in this heartfelt documentary. Winner of the inaugural L'Oeil d'Or Award for Best Documentary at the Cannes Film Festival.

THE BRIDE - One of the most visually arresting and emotionally charged films coming from Spain this year, *The Bride* brings to life Garcia Lorca's *Bodas de Sangre* ("Blood Wedding"), his timeless drama of the relentless strength of love and the power of women to choose their own destinies.

HOW MOST THINGS WORK - The fresh, promising first feature of Argentine director Fernando Salem, winner of Best Director and Best Screenplay honors at the Mar del Plata Film Festival. Full of humor and insight, Salem offers a sharp and observant portrait of the pains and wonders of two young women trying to grow up.

HORIZONS - The pursuit of perfection is never more evident than in the discipline and dedication it takes to dance. *Horizons* is the moving and lyrical portrait of the lives of three Cuban women completely committed to the art of ballet, featuring legendary prima ballerina assoluta Alicia Alonso and Ballet Nacional principal dancer Viengsay Valdes.

NUEVA VENEZIA - The spirit and resilience of people happy to be alive is at the center of this moving doc about a small fishing community like so many other in the world, with one remarkable difference: the entirety of the village is perched on stilts above Colombia's Lake Tota, with homes, schools and even a soccer field floating just a few feet above that country's largest lake.

RARA - Rara means "uncommon" in Spanish, exactly what this story is: a rare jewel of a film that marks the remarkable debut of Chilean writer/director Pepa San Martin. A fresh and surprising coming of age story as seen through the eyes of a smart 12 year-old girl, the film skillfully depicts the realities faced by many families headed by same-sex parents.

THE VIOLIN TEACHER - A down-on-his-luck musician is charged with teaching violin to a group of tough high school kids in São Paulo's most notorious favela. Acclaimed writer/director Sergio Machado (*Lower City*) gives the classic 'inspirational teacher' narrative a fresh energy in this lively and affecting film. The *Violin Teacher* will leave not a dry eye in the house.

WAREHOUSED - This sly Mexican satire won the Audience Award at the Morelia Film Festival (as well as my heart) with the sheer economy of its premise and its unforgettable performances: an aged employee about to retire and the young man who is to take over have to wait in an empty warehouse for a delivery that, in true "Waiting for Godot" fashion, never materializes but forever transforms their lives.



BRAD WILKE | PROGRAMMER

MIDDLE MAN - Neo-noir meets Grand Guignol in this black comedy starring Jim O'Heir (*Parks & Rec*) from writer-director Ned Crowley.

AMERICANA - Writer-director Zachary Shedd's tale of an alcoholic film editor coming apart at the seams as he attempts to piece together the details of his sister's murder.

CLAIRE IN MOTION - The devil is in the details as Claire (Betsy Brandt) tries to unravel the mystery of her husband's recent disappearance in this nuanced drama co-written and directed by Annie J. Howell and Lisa Robinson.

THE EYES OF MY MOTHER - First-time director Nicolas Pesce's stunning, unsettling chamber piece of a young woman's coming of age under very unusual circumstances.

ALL THE BIRDS HAVE FLOWN SOUTH - Creepy, observational story of love, obsession, and disease from brothers Joshua and Miles Miller. Did I already mention how creepy this gets?

11:55 - A modern re-imagining of *High Noon* in which a recently returned Marine (Danny Mendoza) must finally deal with the demons he hoped to leave behind.

DON'T THINK TWICE - A wry, observational comedy set in the world of improv comedy featuring the talents of Keegan-Michael Key, Gillian Jacobs, and writer-director Mike Birbiglia.

CHICKEN PEOPLE - A real-life Best in Show set in the world of competitive show chickens. Not to be missed.

BEWARE THE SLENDERMAN - Ripped-from-the-headlines documentary that tells the story of an urban legend frighteningly come to life.

GLEASON - Heart-wrenching, ultimately uplifting documentary on the post-NFL career of former WSU star and New Orleans Saints defensive back, Steve Gleason, as he grapples with ALS (#TeamGleason).

SIFF 2016 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS | 11

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery



ANDY VOLK | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

THE BRAND NEW TESTAMENT - Hilarious and thoughtful, it pokes fun at religion by picturing God as a deadbeat, misery-loving father with a rebellious 10 year-old daughter, who then suffers from his own creations.

LAST CAB TO DARWIN - A film about a man eager to die that is beautifully shot, full of heart and humor, and an overall enjoyable, feel-good trip that left me smiling.

ALONE - From the opening shot to the end, my mind was hurting and a little unhinged as this movie got darker, creepier, and all the more engrossing through several long takes.

MICROBE AND GASOLINE - A whimsical, charming, and free spirited film about two boys road tripping house on wheels that made me want to escape and go on a road trip.

FOLK HERO & FUNNY GUY - A solid and refreshing buddy road trip comedy full of honesty and a good heart

UNDER THE SUN - This film about "real life" in North Korea is disturbing, insightful, and a bit terrifying when you look at the whole picture

I AM BELFAST - Gorgeous, simple, and an extraordinary look into the city of Belfast through the depiction of a old and gentle woman as the city's soul.

TAG - As confusing and surreal as this film is, it is literally bloody fun with one of the craziest and jaw-dropping opening scenes I have ever seen.

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC - Remarkable performance by Viggo Mortensen, the film is full of emotion with absorbing characters and a powerful story.

UNDER THE SHADOW - An intense and effective allegorical horror that left me in a general state of dread, with tension constantly rising to a crazy climax.



MIRIAM YACOUBI | PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

SONITA - Sonita's defiant yet fragile depiction of empowerment through art makes it one of the most inspiring films of the year.

MARZIA MY FRIEND - one of the most special films of the festival, *Marzia My Friend's* melancholic beauty lingered long after watching it for the first time.

BURN BURN BURN - *Burn Burn Burn* was the most refreshing film, I fell in love with the way it brilliantly dealt with topics that rarely belong to the comedy genre.

SUMMERTIME - A raw, pure, and refreshing love story carried by two beautiful leads.

MOUNTAINS MAY DEPART - A life tale which broke my heart in the most beautiful way; its poetry touched me with the elegance and the beauty of a silent film.

MICROBE & GASOLINE - Playful and wonderfully sincere; once again, I fell in love with Gondry's characters and the optimism for which they live.

HEAVEN CAN WAIT - Lubitsch's magic did it again, one of his finest films, and a classic that I will never get tired of.

KEDI - The fact that the movie features cats makes it wonderful - but it taking place in Istanbul makes it impossible not to love.

TANNA - A unique yet universal love tale which features the power and excitement of cinema.

PROGRAMMERS' PICKS

Presented by Francis Ford Coppola Winery

FRANCIS
COPPOLA
DIRECTOR'S