



BETH BARRETT

Interim Artistic Director

THE BIG SICK

Michael Showalter's crowd-pleasing and heart-breaking comedy, based on star Kumail Nanjiani's real-life courtship of writer Emily V. Gordon – the personal tragedies to overcome, and the challenges of family wrapped in standup comedy and cross-cultural misunderstandings.

DOLORES

A stunning portrait of the criminally under-celebrated labor hero, Dolores Huerta, the woman behind "sí se puede," yes we can!!

FREE AND EASY

A Chinese petty criminal on a Jim Jarmuschian visit to a small village, inhabited by ever more petty criminals all trying to get an up on each other. Dryest of dry comedy.

I, DANIEL BLAKE

Ken Loach Palme d'Or 2016 winner, and what happens when a mild-mannered worker gets caught in the system. Powerful and timely.

THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON

From Academy Award®-nominated director David France. With never-before-seen footage and rediscovered interviews, this is a must-see history of a true LGBT pioneer and self-described "street

queen" who is hailed as one of the early activists in the modern transgender movement.

GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

A lonely Yorkshire sheep farmer who drowns his feelings in booze and sordid hookups has his life turned upside down by the Romanian migrant worker he hires.

GOOK

Set on the first day of the 1992 LA Riots, two Korean brothers are just trying to run their shoe shop in a mix of hang-out comedy and escalating racial tension and violence. Short in black and white, it has a real kinship with early '90s indie film, while also investigating the complex racism and classism of the time.

LADY MACBETH

A passionate affair leads to mayhem spiraling downward in ever faster circles. Lead Florence Pugh is mesmerizing.

THE MAN

A by-turns hilarious and scathing film about artists, male ego, and the challenge of family.

THE REAGAN SHOW

Starring The Gipper himself, this eye-popping doc is entirely created with footage from the 1980s – Ronald Reagan was the first media-savvy president, and his legacy is front-and-center today.

and the one I can't wait to see... **STEP** — I mean, have you seen that trailer?!

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STAN SHIELDS · FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING MANAGER



ANGELO ACERBI · PROGRAMMER

BEHIND THE CURTAIN: TODRICK HALL

Prolific internet sensation Todrick Hall takes his career — and his audience — to the next level as he creates his "Straight Outta Oz" tour; plumbing his childhood story to create his biggest production to date.

FOREVER PURE

This revealing doc takes you inside the locker room of one of Jerusalem's most popular soccer teams as they sign two Muslim players in the middle of their season.

HAVE A NICE DAY

This gritty and audacious animated look at modern China follows Xiao Zhang, who steals \$1 million from his boss in order to fix his girlfriend's botched plastic surgery, and quickly gets in over his head.

I WAS A DREAMER

Michele Vannucci's dizzying debut features Mirko Frezza, starring in his own infectious story of an ex-con's attempts to transform himself and his community after eight years in jail.

PARIS PRESTIGE

A vibrant depiction of life in the Pigalle district of Paris that submerges the viewer in its intertwined, yet transient world, where everyone knows your business, and everything is just... business.

RUMBLE: THE INDIANS WHO ROCKED THE WORLD

A potent documentary about the influential role of Native Americans in contemporary music history that reveals how indigenous musicians helped shape our music and culture.

SAMI BLOOD

A moving and gorgeously realized fish-out-of-water story about young Sámi teen's struggles to make a new life for herself in 1930s Sweden.

STEP

Simultaneously moving and entertaining, *Step* follows the Seniors of an all-girls high school step team as they pursue the Tri-State championship. (I absolutely did not cry while watching this film. I did not.)

STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

In one fell swoop, this innovative Belgian slapstick comedy lampoons everything from government bureaucracies to guerrilla warriors to the conventional romantic comedy — and more.

WHOSE STREETS?

A sprawling, powerful look at the recent unrest in Ferguson, MO, told with unprecedented access to the activists and leaders inside the movement. A film that takes everyone to task.

IN SYRIA

My favourite film of this year. A stunning tale about a family trapped in their apartment in the middle of a war zone in Damascus. Rarely has a film been so realistic in depicting the oppression of a family facing a war they do not own, but they have to bear. Unmissable.

I WAS A DREAMER

The fact that it's a true story, and that the writer and the main character lived it, give the film the additional boost to make it one of the most accomplished and rewarding films to watch this year. A film (and man) that will stay with you for a long time.

GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

A magnificent film — much more than a gay love story, it is a walk on the path of self affirmation, of tenderness against harshness, of pride against shame. In the midst of striking wild nature, two young men learn how to love each other deeply. Prepare your tissues, as even the most insensitive will shed more than one tear here.

CHAVELA

The life of the greatest (no question here) Cuban singer ever. She stood firm in her beliefs and as her artistic persona grew she established herself as the greatest artist the world was praising. A documentary produced by Pedro Almodóvar, one of the biggest fans of Chavela, here humbled and moved like a child. This is the effect the film will have on you, too.

IT'S ONLY THE END OF THE WORLD

Xavier Dolan at his finest. His craft is expressed through the chiseled direction of the actors who represent the best of French cinema, here to serve with no hesitation the hardest and extreme decisions of a director who knows how far he can go, aware that we will follow him, regardless.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE IS...

...that there is no truth, just vague attempts at happiness, which sometimes become reality, even if not in the way we thought. An international premiere of a romantic modern comedy, with lots of irony.

CHAMELEON

This film disturbed me, made me anxious and nervous. The tale of a gentle (at first) intruder turning violent is not a new one, but here the emotional twists are surprising and the powerfulness of the simplicity of the narration is something that will linger in your thoughts, for days.

THE OATH

A father will always defend and protect his daughter, no matter what. In a peculiar Icelandic setting a father tries to break his daughter from a cycle of drug addiction and petty crimes. A solid genre film with an unusual "cold" atmosphere.

KING'S CHOICE

History is an endless source of great stories, even during periods we thought we knew perfectly. The film dramatizes the resistance through the neutrality of the King of Norway, standing against the arrogance and violence of the Nazis. You don't need to love war movies to love this.

I, DANIEL BLAKE

There is little left to say about Ken Loach, right? Wrong! In this film he gives us a lot more of life and human relationships to think about, he gives us new characters to cherish, with a surprisingly lighter touch that blends superbly with the dramas of contemporary Britain. He is a maestro and this film proves it, again.



MARYNA AJAJA · PROGRAMMER



TILSON ALLEN-MERRY · PROGRAMMER

ZOOLOGY

A middle-aged zoo employee grows a tail, falls in love, and people around her go mad. Beware of being different...

MY HAPPY FAMILY

From Nana Ekvtimishvili & Simon Gross (*In Bloom*), a teacher in Georgia, craving peace and quiet, decides to leave her large noisy and nosy family and live on her own.

CLOSE RELATIONS

Documentarian Vitaly Mansky (*Under The Sun*) must have relatives in every city in Ukraine and they speak with insight and passion about the situation.

IVAN

Ivan is John in Russian but this film is really about Ivan from the point of view of Tonya, a genuine live wire sassy ten year-old Russian girl.

THE LAST FAMILY

Based on the life of a surreal Polish painter. A complex and sometimes harrowing look at an obsessive, talented, and twisted family who nonetheless, in their own ways, loved each other.

DEATH IN SARAJEVO

Director Danis Tanović's (*No Man's Land*) dramatic multi-layered black comedy about luxury Hotel Europe in Sarajevo and the chaos that ensues during the anniversary of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

PAVLENSKY: MAN AND MIGHT

A documentary about Russian artist and activist, Petr Pavlensky, who passionately believes a citizen must speak out (or refuse to speak), refute, and resist the power of the state and he turns those deeds into outrageous actions of resistance.

ANISHOARA

How rare it is to see a coming-of-age film shot in Moldova. Restrained and visually arresting, confidently directed, and keenly observed.

PARIS PRESTIGE

Starts out like a Guy Richie story and then takes a sharp turn towards real feeling and empathy between brothers.

MELLOW MUD

Winner of Latvian National Film Awards, this film about a young girl deals with a host of family problems in the Latvian countryside, finding questionable solutions and overcoming real barriers.

THE BIG SICK

This is an expertly executed film that fearlessly explores issues of compassion, love, and personal growth in an excitingly funny way. I have never laughed and cried so much during a single movie.

CITY OF GHOSTS

The remarkable access that director Matthew Heineman is granted by his subjects and the stories that he masterfully coerces out of them elevates his films to thrilling heights.

PERSON TO PERSON

This ensemble comedy admirably presents an array of New York characters as they inadvertently explore their own wants and limitations without forcibly threading their stories together in a vain attempt at cohesion.

CHASING CORAL

A stunning documentary that wants to explain the beautiful connectivity of our world and the excruciating truth about the current and future effects of global climate change through the rapid disappearance of this underwater bedrock.

DEAN

Dean is lighter and funnier than more grief dramedies, but never shies away from confronting those feelings of loss, confusion, and misunderstanding.

LEMON

Lemon is about as singularly unique as any film I've seen. While the situations and interactions may often feel surreal, they are crafted by a filmmaker who fully understands her craft and is fearless in her attempts at unraveling her audience's expectations.

GIVE ME FUTURE

This documentary is not just for a niche audience of electronic music lovers, but for those who appreciate beautifully composed cinematography and films that don't rely on preaching a singular, overt message.

THE WORK

The Work is a brutally raw and unobstructed look at the vast layers of pain, anger, and remorse while simultaneously presenting the immense power of community building.

BEACH RATS

I'm extremely excited to witness Eliza Hittman's sophomore feature, as it appears to consider many of the same themes, sexual exploration, introversion, and extreme vulnerability, as her first film, *It Felt Like Love*.

CROWN HEIGHTS

Another feature out of Sundance that I am very much awaiting is Matt Ruskin's film adapted from an episode of "This American Life," which stars quite possibly the most exciting and versatile young actor around, Lakeith Stanfield.

SIFF 2017 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS · 5



JUSTINE BARDA · PROGRAMMER

HEDI

This might be my favorite film in the festival. A romantic drama of personal rebellion and self-realization set against the backdrop of the impending Arab Spring (and the dazzling Mediterranean!).

MY HAPPY FAMILY

Oh, but I loved this one too! This is a little jewel of a film – the story of a woman who can no longer stand the suffocating crush and craziness of her family and decides to do something about it.

THOSE WHO REMAIN

This is a piece of documentary filmmaking that really impressed me: the story of Lebanon's recent past and present told through the experience of one tenacious old farmer in the beautiful Akkar District.

IN SYRIA

The director and cast (all of whom come from war-torn countries) made this film because they wanted to give the world a sense of what life is now like for ordinary Syrians. Starring the incomparable Hiam Abbass.

THE YOUNG KARL MARX

Film viewers of the world, unite! And then come see Raoul Peck's (*I Am Not Your Negro*) second incredibly relevant film this year about a radical thinker who changed the world.

A DRAGON ARRIVES!

Like no Iranian film you've seen before – I guarantee it! – this film is a rollercoaster ride through genres: noir, fantasy, mystery, road movie, ghost story. And a spectacularly handsome one too.

KATI KATI

I was mesmerized by this first feature from Kenya, a compelling unsettling, strangely plausible vision of the afterlife – limbo as a holiday resort with a transcendental twist.

INVESTIGATING PARADISE

And speaking of the afterlife, an Algerian woman journalist interrogates the Salafist propaganda that martyrs for Islam will each be received in paradise by 72 beautiful virgins... Funny and disturbing.

CHAVELA

This woman's voice haunts my dreams. An amazing musician and an amazing human being whose songs will be familiar to anyone who's seen the films of Pedro Almodóvar.

MAURICE

First saw this early Merchant Ivory production of E.M. Forster's novel when I was 17! Can't wait to see it again on the big screen. Still remember the love scene between James Wilby and Rupert Graves – ooh (fans self), is it warm in here?



JULIANA BOJORQUEZ · PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

MA' ROSA

As a Filipino filmmaker, it's really nice to see Filipino representation in the Festival. Can't wait to see this on the big screen!

AFTER THE STORM

I'm excited to see how this simple story about family relations plays out with SIFF audiences, by way of Hirokazu Kore-eda's style of storytelling.

TEA PETS

I'm just a sucker for animation, and this one is really hilarious. Love seeing what new things are coming out of the Chinese film industry.

STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

I overheard one of my friends cracking up while watching this film in the office, so I'm looking forward to literally laughing out loud with this one.

CHASING CORAL

This documentary about the changing conditions of the coral reefs around the world reminds us how important and *real* this issue is.

A LIFE IN WAVES

Such a cool look at a woman pioneer in music and to see all of the random, everyday sounds she created that often go unnoticed.

KAKEHASHI: A PORTRAIT OF CHEF NOBUO FUKUDA

Seriously, who doesn't like food documentaries, especially about Japanese food? I'm so excited to see how this chef takes traditional Japanese dishes and puts his own twist on it after coming overseas. Also, it's beautifully shot and the food looks so good, it might make you cry.

PROM KING, 2010

This film was directed by a Seattle University alumnus, Christopher Schaap, and as a current student attending this school, it is truly inspiring to see the film possibilities after graduation.

IVAN TSAREVITCH AND THE CHANGING PRINCESS: FOUR ENCHANTING TALES

If you like animation, you're gonna like this one. The use of shadow-puppet style animation and with intricate designs of the backgrounds are stunning. It reminds me of different styles of animation I saw in Khalil Gibran's *The Prophet* shown at SIFF a couple years ago.

8 BORDERS, 8 DAYS

One of this year's winners of the SIFF Documentary Grant. Director Amanda Bailly provides an intimate look at this subject by following a single mother and her children through this journey – weaving a strong and moving narrative.



JAMES DAVIS · PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

ANIMAL CRACKERS

Any chance to see the Marx brothers on the big screen shouldn't be missed.

THE BIG SICK

I look forward to anything Michael Showalter is involved with.

THE LITTLE HOURS

A hilarious story about raunchy nuns and with a great cast.

SECRET FEST

Four films that will blow you away.

MEATBALL MACHINE KODOKU

This is as big a mystery to me as Secret Fest. I can't wait.

FERMENTED

I wish we could show this in smell-o-vision.

CHASING CORAL

From the people that brought us *Chasing Ice*. I'm both excited and terrified to see this film.

A GHOST STORY

A beautifully shot ghost/love story.

ZOOLOGY

A charming tale about our ever-changing bodies.

SAMI BLOOD

Beautiful cinematography and a great story.



NELLO DE ANGELIS · PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

BAD BLACK

The greatest film to exist, it's a non-stop 60-minute thrill ride in which the narrator is more of a hype man.

FEATHER

Existing somewhere between Young Adult fiction and Mike Mills, this is a charming coming-of-age tale that happens to be hilarious as well.

MY JOURNEY THROUGH FRENCH CINEMA

If there's one thing I love more than watching film, it's discussing it – this 3hr+ venture through French cinema sounds incredible.

NOCTURAMA

My favorite film of the Fest, this is a daring and immediate genre film that is packed with so much influence it's never short of a cinematic tour de force.

THE ORNITHOLOGIST

Reminiscent of Alain Guiraudie's *Staying Vertical*, this is a queer religious fable that, even if not figured out, remains a visual feast.

PROM KING, 2010

I went to school with Chris and he paid me to say nice things so yeah.

POW WOW

I'm a huge fan of Robinson Devor so his return to documentary filmmaking following *Zoo* is must-see.

WITHOUT NAME

Reminds me of lighter Philippe Grandrieux or more serious Ben Wheatley, either way, this is a mind f*ck of a film that is sure to thrill.

YOURSELF AND YOURS

You can never go wrong with Hong Sang-soo and if the roll he's been on as of late suggests anything, it's that this is going to be another hit.

ZOOLOGY

If you loved *The Lobster* as much as I did and wish there were more things similar to it, look no further!

SIFF 2017 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS · 7



DAN DOODY · PROGRAMMER



JUAN MANUEL DOMINGUEZ · PROGRAMMER

SHORTSFEST WEEKEND

SIFF's preeminent showcase for short films and filmmakers on the rise. Whether you love comedy, drama, animation, or documentaries, you'll find brilliant and fascinating new work here. If you can only catch a few packages, I recommend ShortsFest Opening Night and "DIY Demonology," a collection horrors both hilarious and chilling.

WITHOUT NAME

A chilling eco-horror nightmare by a former ShortsFest filmmaker that's a complete mind trip.

A DATE FOR MAD MARY

A wonderful Irish charmer that won Best Irish Feature Film at the Galway Film Fleadh.

THE FARTHEST

If you love *Cosmos*, then this is the documentary for you — it details the Voyager mission from inception to the moment the probes left our solar system.

THE LANDING

Recounts the tragic and controversial events surrounding Apollo 18's crash landing in western China.

TIME TRAP

A hugely enjoyable adventure where a group of students become trapped inside a mysterious cave where they discover time passes differently underground than on the surface.

ANIMAL CRACKERS

You can't love cinema if you don't love the Marx Brothers, and this pre-code gem is near-perfect.

DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE WITH LIVE SOUNDTRACK BY THE INVINCIBLE CZARS

Austin's Invincible Czars return, this time to perform a live accompaniment to the silent version of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, starring John Barrymore in the title role(s).

ESCAPE ROOM

An ingenious thriller where a group of friends must solve a series of escape room puzzles, but both success and failure have deadly, deadly consequences.

THE BIG SICK

Most heartfelt love story of our know-it-all feel-it-all generation.

THE PARIS OPERA

Love the opera? Love cinema? Love smart yet kind movies? Discover *The Paris Opera* at SIFF.

INFINITY BABY

Bob Byington does it again: He creates the sharpest dry comedy in many years. And it cuts, as always, deep.

ETHEL & ERNEST

The beautiful work of Raymond Briggs once again captures our hearts.

ON THE ROAD

A mixed-as-it-gets wonderful piece of music documentary (with dabs of fiction) that show that Michael Winterbottom and Wolf Alice have created a one-of-a-kind film.

PATTI CAKE\$

Fast-paced, heavy attitude, and a hip-hop wonder that you never thought was possible: *Patti Cake\$*, your SIFF revelation.

CHAVELA

The red poncho lady was a musical legend so big that Pedro Almodovár is a footnote in her life. A heartfelt, sincere, simple, and magnificent opportunity to fall in love with an icon.

NEWTON

This Indian movie is fresh take, brave and smart, on politics. Can a decent man impose his ways and beliefs in this world?

TERROR 5

Simple: this Argentinian horror flick is the funny, in a Joker way, condensation of its country fears, injustices and, of course, love for genre.

YOURSELF AND YOURS

Hong Sang-soo keeps creating the most beautiful, engaging, simple and yet difficult to explain movies in the world.

SIFF 2017 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS · 8



LAURA GOOD · PROGRAMMER



MARCUS GORMAN · PROGRAMMER

HELLO DESTROYER

On the surface this film appears to be about hockey but it's actually a brilliant, clear-eyed, and ultimately crushing critique of the social construct that is masculinity.

SHORT FILM PROGRAM: COMING OF AGE

The coming of age program is full of mystery, mess and cinematic splendour that will remind you why short films should be seen on the big screen.

THE INLAND ROAD

Set against the dreamlike landscape of rural New Zealand, this atmospheric character study features a self-possessed performance from newcomer, Gloria Popata.

WEIRDOS

A quirky, fresh, and offbeat road movie with a cast of characters that includes the ghost doppelgänger of Andy Warhol.

ANGRY INUK

This powerful and visually arresting piece of activist cinema offers an intelligent viewpoint on the polarizing seal hunt as a vital and sustainable part of indigenous culture.

BOUNDARIES

The sophomore feature from emerging Quebecois auteur Chloé Robichaud (*Sarah Prefers To Run*), tells the story of three women whose lives intersect against the backdrop of a small-scale political fight that has much larger echoes.

SAMI BLOOD

A heartbreaking and beautiful fish-out-of-water story with a quiet yet absorbing sensibility that has deep political undercurrents addressing Scandinavian colonialism.

IT'S ONLY THE END OF THE WORLD

The latest from wonder kid Xavier Dolan is a vivid, painful, and brilliantly scored look at the scars and bonds of family.

SEARCHERS

Directed by Inuk filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk (*Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* which is widely considered the best Canadian film of all time), *Searchers* is a response to the John Ford western of the same name, and an important reclaiming of indigenous representation.

SHORT FILM PROGRAM: WOMEN ON THE VERGE

This female driven short film program explores complex characters as they navigate major turning points with humor, nuance, grief, and in some cases – wine.

RUMBLE: THE INDIANS WHO ROCKED THE WORLD

A loud, lively, decades-spanning history of Native Americans in rock and roll and their everlasting influence. Great archival footage and some of the best music of the century.

BOUNDARIES

My love for this wicked and dryly funny feminist political satire deepens each time I think about it.

DARA JU

My favorite film in the New American Cinema competition, a unique character study of a first-generation Nigerian-American on Wall Street with a powerhouse supporting performance from Michael Hyatt.

THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON

A heartbroken, furious call to arms as New York City's Anti-Violence Project investigates the mysterious 1992 death of the famous drag queen and trans liberation activist.

ETHEL & ERNEST

A film adaptation of Raymond Briggs' heartfelt graphic novel, following his parents' 50-year romance through the Depression, World War II, and parenthood. Brenda Blethyn and Jim Broadbent's lovely vocal performances will give you the feels.

HELLO DESTROYER

A bleak and powerful look at masculinity and institutionalized violence set against the minor-league hockey arenas and frozen landscapes of Northern British Columbia.

MR. LONG

Possibly my favorite of the Fest, Japanese director Sabu shows us humanity at its best and its worst with this drama about a Taiwanese assassin trapped in a small town.

THE OSIRIS CHILD: SCIENCE FICTION VOLUME ONE

I love a good genre throwback, so please enjoy this rollicking sci-fi adventure of desert planets, space pilots, prison breaks, and some wonderful practical effects work.

STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

Good slapstick is hard to pull off, so I'm in awe of this film, which is like if Zucker-Abrahams-Zucker made a Belgian comedy about colonization and bureaucracy set in the South American jungle.

THOSE REDHEADS FROM SEATTLE IN 3D

The movie musical is the genre closest to my heart, so I can't resist a restoration of a 3D Technicolor musical from 1953 set during the Klondike Gold Rush starring Agnes Moorehead and with original songs by Bob Merrill and Johnny Mercer.



SARAH HARRIS · PROGRAMMER



RUTH HAYLER · PROGRAMMER

CABARET

One of my favorite musicals ever. Liza and Fosse are a perfect match.

CITY OF GHOSTS

One of the most haunting and important films I saw at Sundance this year. No doubt, you'll be hearing about this film come Oscar® season.

QUEST

A beautiful and intimate portrait of a family over the course of ten years. The Rainey family will leave a mark on your life.

DINA

An honest and sweet look at love, intimacy, and relationships. This is well-crafted storytelling at it's best.

DOLORES

Dolores Huerta is a feminine icon and now there's (finally) a film that recognizes her great impact on our society.

STEP

You'll fall in love with the girls on this Baltimore high-school step team. Their stories of how they try to become the first in their family to attend college are truly inspiring.

FOREVER PURE

A powerful documentary about hate speech, mob mentality, and the Israeli and Palestinian struggle through a sports lens.

WHAT LIES UPSTREAM

Filmmaker Cullen Hoback has created a political thriller that uncovers the layers to what is systematically wrong with our drinking water.

WHOSE STREETS?

The essential and raw documentary of Ferguson from those that took to the streets.

THE FORCE

Director Pete Nicks delicately follows the Oakland Police Department over two years of corruption and scandal. Would make for an interesting pairing with *Whose Streets?*

THE MARSEILLE TRILOGY: MARIUS (1931), FANNY (1932) AND CESAR (1936)

The 4K digital restoration of these classics written by Marcel Pagnol looks and sounds great. Full of wonderful characters, great acting, an epic love story, and a spicy sense of humor, they are little known today, but ripe to become a treasured discovery.

MAURICE

This 30th anniversary 4K digital restoration of one of the most beautiful and heartfelt of the Merchant-Ivory films tells the story of forbidden love between two men in Edwardian England, adapted from the landmark E.M. Forster novel.

MY JOURNEY THROUGH FRENCH CINEMA

One-time SIFF tributee Bertrand Tavernier takes a relaxed stroll through favorite French films of his youth; combining autobiography and an intelligent and loving commentary – it's crammed with good stories and great clips.

MOKA

In this tense thriller a grieving woman (Emmanuelle Devos) tracks down the driver (Natalie Baye) she thinks killed her son in a hit-and-run accident; what will she do?

THE UNKNOWN GIRL

An idealistic young doctor persistently seeks to identify the young immigrant woman who was turned away from her clinic late one night and ended up dead the next morning; another masterful story by the Dardenne Brothers (*Two Days, One Night*).

AFTER THE STORM

The new film by Hirokazu Kore-Eda (*My Little Sister*) tells the story of an all-too-fallible divorced dad trying to spend quality time with his young son.

I, DANIEL BLAKE

Veteran lefty director Ken Loach seems to reach into your chest and rip out your heart in this fierce attack on the failure of the British welfare system; winner of the Palme d'Or.

DAWSON CITY: FROZEN TIME

A quirky film essay, full of intriguing tangents, tells how hundreds of early 1900s silent films were discovered frozen and buried in Dawson City, Yukon, in 1978.

SIFF 2017 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS · 10



DUSTIN KASPAR · PROGRAMMER



MEGAN LEONARD · PROGRAMMER

BECOMING WHO I WAS

A breathtaking and heartbreaking documentary about a reincarnated Lama under the age of 10 and the elder Buddhist monk who works to instruct him in an isolated village without access to formalized training or the Lama's Tibetan homeland.

DARA JU

Anthony Onah's first feature is an engrossing tale of a young Nigerian-American's experience on Wall Street. The narrative of love, family, and criminal temptation expertly lays the foundation for an equally astute examination of the immigrant experience.

DAWSON CITY: FROZEN TIME

This incredible true-life film uses a collage of archival footage to bring to stunning life the story of over 500 silent films from the 1920s that were discovered 50 years later in the Yukon Territory.

HANDSOME DEVIL

A coming-of-age treasure from Ireland finds a musically inclined 16-year-old sent to a rugby-mad boarding school. Equally hilarious and emotional; has won the heart of everyone I know who has seen it.

INDIGENOUS WITHOUT BORDERS

This showcase of seven shorts created by indigenous filmmakers features stunning animations, narratives, and an incredible doc illuminating the Native perspective from Standing Rock.

KATI KATI

A wonderfully original Kenyan film which finds a young woman stranded in a place (and a narrative) somewhere between philosophical sci-fi and fantasy.

MA' ROSA

A Filipino matriarch's desperate search to find money to pay a police bribe perfectly explores the street level corruption in the drug trade. Lead Jaclyn Jose took Best Actress at Cannes for her dynamite performance.

TEA PETS

This exuberant animated film, inspired by *Toy Story*, puts a delectably Chinese spin on the clay tea figurines come to vibrantly colorful life on an action-filled adventure to unlock their identities.

THE WEDDING PARTY

Nollywood (the prolific Nigerian film industry) returns to SIFF with this hilarious romcom pitting the families of the bride and groom against each other as their wedding ceremony escalates into pure Lagosian chaos.

WHITE SUN

A cinematic gem that portrays a revolutionary who returns to his conservative town to bury his father. As the drama ties itself into a knot, the film's narrative unwinds the challenges that the people face within the rural mountain villages of Nepal.

BAND AID

The relationship dram-com we all need. Zoe Lister-Jones excels in her directorial debut starring herself and Adam Pally as a couple writing songs about their worst break-ups as a form of ill-advised couples therapy. Also Fred Armisen is their sex-addict neighbor who plays drums.

GOOK

Set during the lead-up to the Rodney King verdict, *Gook* give us a glimpse into the life of two Korean American brothers living in South Central LA. In Justin Chon's bold second feature, he lets you in to experience the pain and suffering of two clashing minority communities.

ROBERTO BOLLE - THE ART OF THE DANCE

I'm not lying when I say you've never seen a dance documentary this beautiful. Not only is Roberto Bolle's work as a dancer breathtaking, but the the backdrop of Rome, Verona, and Pompeii will have your jaw on the floor. Just wow.

WTF?! SHORTS

I like to believe that this year's WTF program has really been classed up. Okay that's a lie, it's filthy and weird. You're going to love it.

GIVE ME FUTURE

Go in for the concert doc, stay for the story of Cuba on the precipice of change. Major Lazer throws the first concert in Havana by American musicians post-embargo, and we get a glimpse at what and how outside culture has seeped into isolated Cuba.

THE WORK

Take a dip into the deeply personal moments of a four day group therapy session at Folsom Prison. Combining citizens and convicts together to put in "the work," prepare to be a part of the emotional breakdowns and breakthroughs of these tough men on the verge.

COLUMBUS

Kogonada's debut feature showcases the depth of his cinematic knowledge. The master of the video essay (if you've never watched these - do) steps behind the camera to beautifully capture excellent performances from John Cho and Haley Lu Richardson, and the architecture of Columbus, Indiana.

THE FORCE

Follow the Oakland Police Department as they go from training, to the streets, to controversy. What starts as a breath of fresh air in police training quickly plummets into scandal.

A LIFE IN WAVES

With the re-popularization of '80s era synth music take a moment to learn about synthesizer pioneer Suzanne Ciani. Not only was she one of the original synth musicians, she also created the famous synth sounds behind Atari, Coca-Cola, pinball games, and more.

PERSON TO PERSON

If Paul Thomas Anderson and Robert Altman had a broke millennial movie baby, this would be it. Flitting from person to person (as you could presume from the title), Dustin Guy Defa captures comedic human fallibility in the confined spaces of NYC.



CLINTON MCCLUNG · PROGRAMMER

THE '80S TEEN MOVIE HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

This is my third year organizing our annual Neptune party, and it gets more fun every year. This time we have hilarious staged readings from Ian Bell, '80s movie anthem sing-along videos, and a live 80s cover band. Totally tubular outfits encouraged!

TRIPLE DOOR SPECIAL EVENTS WITH THE INVINCIBLE CZARS AND PROM QUEEN

Join us at the Triple Door for two great live music and film events featuring the stellar Austin band Invincible Czars band performing with a Lionel Barrymore's classic *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, and Seattle's amazing Prom Queen hosting a special evening of Puget Soundtrack.

THE FABULOUS ALLAN CARR and SUSANNE BARTSCH: ON TOP

Two incredible, extravagant promoters who brought camp taste and sensibility into the mainstream – and threw great parties along the way!

BACKPACK FULL OF CASH and WHAT LIES UPSTREAM

Vitally relevant documentaries about a domestic issue that is more vital than ever: the disastrous effects of privatization on essential public services (education and clean water).

BAD BLACK and JUNGLE TRAP

These hugely entertaining one-of-a-kind micro-budget home-made affairs – one from Uganda, one lost in storage for decades – have a plucky, mildly insane, let's-make-a-movie spirit that I cannot wait to watch with an audience!

MR. LONG and SUFFERING OF NINKO

Fans of Japanese cult movies (you know who you are) can't afford to miss these two modern takes on classic archetypes: the stoic samurai and the horny-yet-repressed monk.

BAD DAY FOR THE CUT and LAKE BODOM

My fave international genre films that add new twists to old formulas in unexpected and exciting ways. If you crave thrills, don't read about them...just go!

DEAN and ENTANGLEMENT

The sub-genre of smart, non-traditional, melancholic rom-coms for nerds is exploding this year (just look at our opening night!), and these are great additions to the canon that featuring some of my favorite comic actors (Demetri Martin, Gillian Jacobs, and Thomas Middleditch).

A LIFE IN WAVES and GIVE ME FUTURE

Fans of electronic music can't afford to miss these history lessons about female synth pioneer Suzanne Ciani and the fascinating journey to Cuba by EDM legends Major Lazer.

THE LANDING

And finally we have my favorite documentary this year, probing the mysterious Apollo 18 mission – but make sure to Google the facts after the credits roll.



SANDRA ONANA · PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

LADY MACBETH

This advertising quote "Imagine Hitchcock directing *Wuthering Heights*" really won me over.

PARIS PRESTIGE

Pigalle is one of my favorite districts in Paris and this film portrays it with such vibrant sensitivity, giving a much-needed, contemporary insight that you almost never see in French cinema.

WHOSE STREETS?

Probably the best of the Ferguson documentaries.

HEDI

This one was adjudged as "the first great film of the Fest" in the early weeks of programming so I can't help but have a soft spot for it.

PATTI CAKE\$

How could I not be drawn to a woman-directed film about a plus-sized girl from New Jersey who seeks fortune as a gangster rapper?

NOCTURAMA

It's a captivating stylistic piece that is meant to speak to my generation, and relentlessly challenged my thoughts on what rebellion means.

HEARTSTONE

I feel like I discovered Scandinavian cinema this year, working as a SIFF programmer for the first time, and I can't get enough of it now.

8 BORDERS, 8 DAYS

Providing a human face to the statistics is what I feel strongly about in a time when we shouldn't allow ourselves to become desensitized to the Syrian conflict.

SAMI BLOOD

I did not know anything about Scandi colonialism before, and I love how cinema never fails to make me travel through times and places I could have never explored otherwise.

THE SMUGGLER AND HER CHARGES

History delivers its share of extraordinary tales and this one kept me at the edge of my seat.

SIFF 2017 PROGRAMMERS' PICKS · 12



CORY RODRIGUEZ · PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

WALLFLOWER

This powerful narrative feature from first-time director Jagger Graving follows both the perpetrator and victims leading up to the real-life Cap Hill massacre that shook the city in 2006. Relevant, local, and tough to swallow, this film is sure to stick with you.

THE LANDING

This engaging documentary about the 1973 mission to the moon and the secrecy surrounding it will have you asking questions and demanding answers!

LAKE BODOM

A group of teens are attacked while sleeping lakeside. While it may seem like your standard slasher at first glance, just you wait and see. Based on an actual Finnish cold case, this campfire tale is sure to haunt.

LANDLINE

Director Gillian Robespierre (*Obvious Child*) and actress Jenny Slate team up again, this time for a dramedy about a dysfunctional East Coast family living and learning about love in the '90s.

DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE

You remember the the 1920 horror classic about a physician with a dark side, right? Well, come see this silent picture transform into something truly unforgettable at the Triple Door with a live score by the Texas rock band, the Invincible Czars.

PYROMANIAC

A disturbing character study of a budding arsonist who ignites a panic in his small town. The fiercely dark subject matter juxtaposed with the glowing richness of the cinematography is not to be missed.

THE LITTLE HOURS

I am very excited for this comedy about a servant who seeks refuge at a convent after fleeing from his master. Why you ask? I'll give you seven reasons: Dave Franco, Aubrey Plaza, Nick Offerman, Molly Shannon, Alison Brie, Fred Armisen, and John C. Reilly.

LIVES WITH FLAVOR

What better way to eliminate culinary and cultural borders than with an honest and resplendent documentary about Mexican food?

PROM KING, 2010

A fun and endearing story for all the twentysomething gays out there that want a (motion) picture-perfect romance, but just can't seem to make it happen.

DIVINE DIVAS

This Brazilian documentary is centered around the aptly named Rival Theatre that defied the misguided morals of the government and played host to a number of talented trans performers and drag queens. Intimate and very lively, this LGBTQ film is bound to make your list too.



ANDY SPLETZER · PROGRAMMER

ALT SHORTS

A grab bag of experimental short films, many of which were made by an increasingly cohesive local film community.

CABARET

A movie that deals with art and gender fluidity in the face of rising fascism, set in pre-War Berlin (but may as well be present day North Carolina, eh?).

DAWSON CITY: FROZEN TIME

Hypnotic and fascinating story of a Gold Rush town pieced together from old nitrate films that were once lost and now are found.

MEATBALL MACHINE KODOKU

The trailer is full of questionable special effects, gallons of blood, and very little logic, which makes it look like great WTF fun.

LANE 1974

Local filmmaker SJ Chiro's long-awaited feature about a kid taking care of her mom in a 1970s hippie commune.

POW WOW

It's been too long since I've seen a Robinson Devor film, and I'm excited that he's still working with his longstanding cinematographer Sean Kirby.

ROCKETMEN

Animator Web Crowell's old-fashioned, serialized story of "rocketmen" who are there to fight an adversaries that may never show up. Good fun.

A CLOSER LOOK AT SWEETHEART DEAL

Sweetheart Deal has been on my radar for a while now, which makes me want to look at this entire Forum event.

THOSE SHOCKING SHAKING DAYS

Thought-provoking and completely engrossing experimental documentary about war that calls into question all the tropes that documentaries use to talk about war.

WALLFLOWER

I remember the shooting this film is based on, then the controversy surrounding the production, but I hear the final film is balanced and very, very good.



HEBE TABACHNIK · PROGRAMMER

BAD INFLUENCE

The friendship between a troubled city kid and a shy Mapuche boy deepens against the pressures of schoolyard cruelty and the boy's indigenous community fighting for its rights. In her extraordinary debut feature, Claudia Huaiquimilla offers a heartfelt coming of age drama while denouncing an urgent social and environmental crisis.

THE BAR

When a pair of patrons are assassinated outside a bar's front door and the streets quickly empty into an eerie silence, a motley group of barflies find their leisurely afternoon jaunt has become ground zero for a sinister government conspiracy. Acclaimed writer/director Alex de la Iglesia (*My Big Night*, *Witching And Bitching*) is back with a bang!

CHAMELEON

The lives of two women is interrupted by the unexpected visit of a charming and intriguing young man. The ensuing afternoon is all but a quiet affair. Uncomfortable from its first minute, this debut feature of Chilean director/writer Jorge Riquelme, is a highly satisfying and skillfully made minimalist psychological thriller.

DEVIL'S FREEDOM

This film brilliantly captures the realities of living in a traumatic moment in Mexico's history, and the very real human cost paid to a deeply broken, inhumane system. Winner of all the top awards at the 2017 Guadalajara International Film Festival.

DIVINE DIVAS

Audience Award winner at Rio 2016 and this year's SXSW film festivals, *Divine Divas* is a loving tribute to crossdressing Brazilian performers from more than 50 years ago. These legendary divas share life stories filled with humor and heartbreak, sadness and strength, as they prepare for one final performance.

THE GROWN UPS

A glimpse into the lives of four middle-aged friends grappling with the reality of living with Down Syndrome, *The Grown Ups* is an immersive, unforgettable look at four people navigating love, sex, responsibility and the realities of being 'conscious adults' in a world that still wants to regard them as children.

MAY GOD SAVE US

Madrid, during the sweltering summer of 2011 there's a serial killer quietly hunting elderly women throughout the city's core. Detectives Velarde (Antonio de la Torre, *Marshland*, *Cannibal*, *Unit 7*) and Alfaro (Roberto Álamo, *Family United*, *The Skin I Live In*) find themselves racing against time to stop the increasingly gruesome murders.

PENDULAR

A cinematic gem, Brazilian director Julia Murat expands the possibilities of fiction and dance. Winner of the FIPRESCI award for Best Film in the Panorama Section at this year's Berlinale, *Pendular* is a lyrical, uncompromised look at the creative process and a searing and unforgettable love story.

THE WINTER

In the tradition of the defining works of Hemingway and London, first-time director Emiliano Torres delivers a lean, muscular, and deeply moving tale of survival against the unforgiving forces of both nature and man himself. Winner of both the Special Jury Award and the Jury Award for Best Cinematography at the 2016 San Sebastian Film Festival.

WOODPECKERS

Equal parts tender love story and gritty realist drama set in an infamous prison in Santo Domingo, *Woodpeckers* won the Special Jury Prize and Best Actor award at this year's Guadalajara International Film Festival from one of Latin America's most exciting young filmmakers.



SOPHIE TSOTRIDIS · PROGRAMMING ASSISTANT

STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

Literally the funniest film I've seen this year! It's absurd and engaging — I strongly recommend it for a good laugh!

PROM KING, 2010

Directed by a former Seattle University student, it's an endearing debut feature, a mix of comedy and drama. It depicts accurately and genuinely relationships between young adults nowadays. It will ring a bell for people of my generation!

IT'S ONLY THE END OF THE WORLD

Latest movie by Canadian Director Xavier Dolan, based on an incredible play by Jean-Luc Lagarce. I had the chance to see it in France when it was released, and as always with Dolan, it's a beautiful film.

GIVE ME FUTURE

Great music and an energetic city, yet so poorly known by westerners, are the ingredients of this terrific documentary!

NOCTURAMA

I saw it last year in France and I loved it! The cinematography is mesmerizing and it tackles key political topics in 2016 France: activism, terrorism, and youth. It's definitely a must see of the festival.

PERSON TO PERSON

A humble New York comedy with a strong cast and great acting. I liked the enjoyable, bright, and peaceful atmosphere that made me want to hang out in the city.

ANGRY INUK

I have never seen an indigenous militant documentary, and I am looking forward to it. It seems very powerful, the kind of doc that changes your perspective on the world, and does not leave you blank.

WHOSE STREETS?

It's one of the most solid documentaries about police brutality and racism in the U.S. It played at Sundance and I've heard really good echoes. Looking forward to it!

I, DANIEL BLAKE

I'm a huge fan of Ken Loach and I am super excited for his new film. It won the Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival in 2016, and I expect it to be amazing.

THE NILE HILTON INCIDENT

Swedish drama that takes place in Cairo during the Arab Spring revolution, played at Sundance and Berlin, and it looks thrilling.



TOM VICK · PROGRAMMER

LOVE AND DUTY

Any chance to see a restored classic from this era of Chinese cinema on the big screen is a must.

TASTE OF CHERRY

A haunting masterpiece that never fails to stir up new philosophical questions no matter how many times you see it, from a master who was taken from us far too early.

DIAMOND ISLAND

If the idea of Cambodia still brings to mind the killing fields, this look at Phnom Penh today through the eyes of young workers at its proliferating high-rise developments will prove eye-opening.

ANIMAL CRACKERS

If you're like me, you never miss a chance to see the Marx Brothers in action.

FREE AND EASY

This dry, Jarmuschian indie comedy from China is smart, laugh out loud entertainment.

SUFFERING OF NINKO

This bawdy tale of a monk who inspires uncontrollable lust in women is one of the most unique and charming films to come out of Japan recently.

COME, TOGETHER

A family drama that effectively and movingly conveys the tremendous pressure on middle-class Koreans to keep their heads above water.

YOURSELF AND YOURS

Another witty entry into the expanding, addictive oeuvre of Hong Sang-soo, Korea's premier chronicler of the never-ending battle of the sexes.

A DRAGON ARRIVES!

Think you know what Iranian movies are like? Think again!

BY THE TIME IT GETS DARK

Ambitious, experimental and engrossing, the long-awaited second feature from Anocha Suwichakornpong furthers her eccentric aesthetic.

ABOUT SIFF

We are dedicated to fostering a community that is informed, aware, and alive.

SIFF believes in film's unique power to share original stories, diverse perspectives, and rich emotional journeys. Beginning in 1975 with the annual Seattle International Film Festival, expanding into SIFF Education, and, most recently, operating our year-round five-screen SIFF Cinema, we have offered Seattle, and beyond, experiences that bring people together to discover extraordinary films from around the world. Our distinctly smart audiences allow us to take risks, host complex conversations, and truly appreciate film. SIFF is NOW.

The **SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** is the largest film festival in the United States, with more than 155,000 people attending each year. The 25-day event, held each May and June, is renowned for presenting over 400 features, short films, and documentaries gathered from more than 80 countries. We receive over 4,000 independent film submissions annually, and screen debut features and shorts alongside works by established master filmmakers and arthouse cinema hits. More than 70% of the films screened at the Festival will not return to theaters, making SIFF an amazing place to discover and celebrate new work from around the world.

Over 200,000 people annually attend **SIFF CINEMA** to see the best new arthouse and feature films at our three classic movie houses: SIFF Cinema Egyptian, SIFF Cinema Uptown, and the SIFF Film Center. Featured also are the latest international works, one-of-a-kind special events, and festivals, including the Noir City Film Festival, Cinema Italian Style, and French Cinema Now. Through SIFF Cinema, we are dedicated to preserving and enriching the experience of attending the movies while going beyond the screen with filmmaker and panel discussions. SIFF Cinema also hosts SIFFsupports, a program dedicated to supporting, presenting, and highlighting film events and festivals by our local film community.

SIFF EDUCATION programs are designed to train and strengthen our strong community of educators, film lovers, and filmmakers of all ages. Film Appreciation classes and Cinema Dissections dig deeper into the art of film, while youth filmmaking camps and Crash Cinema events provide hands-on filmmaking experiences.

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