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47TH ANNUAL

SEATTLE

INTERNATIONAL

FILM FESTIVAL



APRIL
8-18²⁰²¹

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siiff seattle international
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GREETINGS FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR BETH BARRETT & FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING MANAGER STAN SHIELDS



Welcome to the 2021 Seattle International Film Festival! In these tumultuous times, we have all turned to art—films, music, TV—for comfort, education, and inspiration as we try to make sense of the new world around us.

With theatrical venues shuttered, many outlets responded by focusing on producing and acquiring work by more established filmmakers. This has left hundreds of talented new filmmakers who were just coming into their own before (or during) the pandemic with far fewer opportunities to share their work with the world. This year's slate of new filmmakers is a testament to that fact. Film festivals have always stepped in to provide those opportunities, and they have rarely been needed more than now.

At SIFF, we believe representation matters, and we have mindfully curated a lineup that shines a spotlight on the importance of culturally specific storytelling and authentic representation in front of and behind the camera. We are proud to present a grand total of 221 films from 69 countries: 68 features, 25 documentaries, 126 short films, and 2 works in progress. 21 of these films are world premieres and 18 are US premieres. More than half of our films are directed by female-identifying individuals, 66% are from first or second time filmmakers, and more than 70% don't currently have US distribution.

In 2020, we launched the SIFF Channel, our new streaming platform, to share a variety of international and independent films year-round. We are thrilled to be able to host the 47th annual Seattle International Film Festival there as well. Going virtual has provided some challenges, of course, but also many opportunities: opportunities to share our program across the United States, provide a greater level of accessibility, and celebrate these incredible films.

Reluctantly, the truncated nature of this year's festival required that we limit the number of films at the Festival. It was not as easy a task as you might think—we still wanted a broad representation across countries, regions, and genres in keeping with our legacy of variety and inclusivity. We know that our audiences flock to SIFF to discover new voices and meet new people, and we have strived to deliver on those expectations. With travel restrictions in place and widespread trepidations about even stepping outside your front door, this year's Festival provides an opportunity to experience international wonders from the comfort of your own home.

We are incredibly grateful for all of your support over the past year—from filmmakers to long-time partners to the generous donors and sponsors that make the Festival possible and help SIFF endure. It is humbling and inspiring. While we are disappointed that we can't share this experience in person, our love of film can still bring us together. Let's celebrate with the films that have been enchanting our days and haunting our dreams. We are thrilled to share them with you, and hope you discover something new, meet someone new, or embark on a new voyage "outside" from the solace and safety of your own screen. Thank you for joining us in this experience, and happy watching. Long live cinema.

Beth and Stan

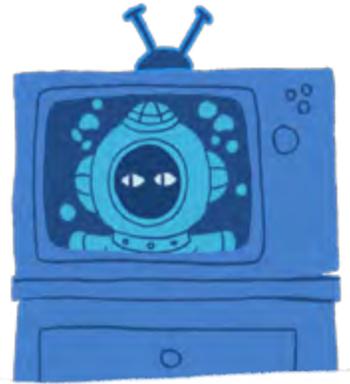
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HOW TO VIRTUAL FEST



1. FIND FILMS

YOU ARE
HERE

DIGITAL PROGRAM

Browse films alphabetically or by moods and topics. Click any film for trailer and tickets.

ONLINE FILM GUIDE

Search for films or filter by genre, mood, region, program category, and more.

PROGRAMMERS' PICKS

Explore our programmers' favorites for Festival 2021, so you know what not to miss.

2. GET TICKETS

On the film or event page on siff.net click the **BUY TICKET** or **SHOWTIME** button. If your film or event is ready for viewing, you'll be provided a link on the order confirmation screen and via email. If the viewing begins at a scheduled date and time, you'll receive a virtual access email one hour before start time.

SIFF MEMBERS: Log in to your account first to receive your Member discount.

VIRTUAL LOUNGE

Open daily from 4:00–10:00pm PT during Festival for pass holders to mix 'n' mingle. Pick your avatar and check it out—you'll find film trailers, games, a merch table, and more!

SIFF NEWS

Drop into the SIFF news page to explore the latest programming announcements, editorial content, viewing recommendations, and event highlights.



ACCESSIBILITY: SIFF strives to be an accessible organization and is working to ensure all patrons are able to access all of our programming. Learn more at Siff.net/accessibility.

3. CHOOSE HOW TO WATCH

For troubleshooting visit our [FAQ PAGE](#).

TV



Download or add the **SIFF Channel app**.

Cast from a computer or Android device using the Chrome browser to a Chromecast device.

Airplay from an Apple device to an Apple TV Gen2+ or any Smart TV with the AirPlay badge.

HDMI from a computer to your TV.

COMPUTER

Stream at watch.siff.net

PCs running Windows 7+

Google Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Opera. Explorer is not supported.

Intel-based Macs running macOS 10.12+

Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Opera.

PHONE/TABLET

Stream at watch.siff.net

iOS devices (iPhone, iPad)

Use Safari on iOS 11.2+. Screen mirroring is not supported; ensure it is turned off in your device settings.

Android devices

Use Chrome on Android 6.0+.

4. LOG IN & ENJOY THE FILM!

TICKET HOLDERS: go to watch.siff.net or the SIFF Channel app and submit your unique Voucher Code if prompted.

PASS HOLDERS: log in, using the email and password you used to purchase your pass, at watch.siff.net or on the SIFF Channel app to access all your films in one place.

CONTACT SIFF: For ticketing inquiries: boxoffice@siff.net / For Festival-related feedback: info@siff.net

SIFFCAST

The official podcast of SIFF, with new episodes hosted by Jeremy Cropf and Megan Lopez. Tune in for Festival spotlights, exclusive interviews and in-depth conversations with filmmakers, programmers, and more.



#SIFF2021

Follow SIFF on Facebook, Letterboxd, Instagram, and Twitter for Festival and year-round updates. Plus, join the SIFF Cinephiles [Facebook Group](#) to gab and grin with fellow film fans!



CLOSED CAPTIONING: Select films, pre-recorded programs, and live virtual events will be presented with the option for closed captioning, whenever possible.

SIFF believes in film's unique power to share original stories, diverse perspectives, and rich emotional journeys. Beginning in 1976 with the annual Seattle International Film Festival, then expanding into year-round programming, and our five-screen SIFF Cinema, we have offered experiences that bring people together to discover extraordinary films from around the world for nearly five decades. Our audiences allow us to take risks, host complex conversations, and truly appreciate film.

Our three theaters, SIFF Cinema Egyptian, SIFF Cinema Uptown, and the SIFF Film Center, screen arthouse and mainstream films, the latest international works, one-of-a-kind special events, and festivals.

SIFF hosts the annual Seattle International Film Festival—traditionally attracting nearly 150,000 attendees to celebrate films from more than 80 countries and regions around the world. Many of the features, short films, and documentaries we screen will not have a return to US cinemas, making it an amazing event to discover new and underrepresented voices and stories.

We go beyond our screens to provide more opportunities for our community to be inspired by and learn from film and filmmakers. SIFF's education and engagement programs cultivate community and support lifelong learning, cultural literacy and creative expression. Through partnerships, we host a variety of special screenings and mini-festivals—many of which are open to the public at no charge.

SIFF's Programmers create a mix of screenings and gatherings that offers escapism, entertainment, and enrichment. Through thoughtful curation—we continually captivate audiences, strengthen our community, and support independent filmmakers.

ARTHOUSE CINEMAS

SIFF CINEMA EGYPTIAN

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PROGRAMS

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THANK YOU

TO OUR MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Words alone cannot fully express our gratitude. Because of your generosity and continued support throughout the past year we are excited and ready to celebrate the 47th annual Seattle International Film Festival! Thanks to our members who stuck with us and to the new ones who recently joined. We truly believe that our members are what make SIFF. A round of applause to everyone who donated during our numerous fundraising drives.

It's because of your support and that of our partners and sponsors that we have this opportunity to gather virtually and experience these wonderful films. It's also because of you that we were able to launch our new streaming platform, continue our eye-opening film classes, and keep working towards reopening our cinemas. So, thank you—we hope you enjoy the show; we know we will.



WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT SIFF

BECOME A MEMBER

It's a win-win. Support SIFF and get complimentary screenings plus discounts on tickets, passes, classes, and more.

GIVE A GIFT

Support the reopening of our cinemas with a donation to help facilitate SIFF operations and new improvements to our venues to ensure the health and comfort of our audiences and staff.

TAKE A CLASS OR RENT A FILM

Find your new favorite film or explore cultural and historical topics through the filter of film in our weekly classes. Your ticket purchase directly supports SIFF, independent filmmakers, and participating partners.

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FILM PROGRAMS



African Pictures

SIFF is thrilled to present African Pictures, showcasing the best filmmaking happening in and about Africa today. This program will bring shorts and features, documentaries and fiction films to American audiences who might never have the chance to see them otherwise. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to experience innovative and inspiring filmmaking from across the continent.



Alternate Cinema

The films in this section not only aim to alter how you look at the world, but also to open your mind and make you think. Innovation and experimentation are huge elements of these feature films as well as the impressive lineup of this year's Alt Shorts package, all directed by women.



Asian Crossroads

We encourage you to take this journey across several Asian countries to discover the cultural and historical background of these faraway worlds, taste some food, hear some music, and be blown away by films about small villages, huge metropolises, and everything in between.



cINeDIGENOUS

This program focuses on global Indigenous filmmakers sharing Indigenous stories and culture. Centering Indigenous art and artists amplifies voices and perspectives that are essential to our global well-being. cINeDIGENOUS is curated and presented in partnership with Nia Tero.



Ibero-American Cinema

Ibero-American cinema is nurtured by a vast diversity, a unique history, and a long, rich tradition of storytelling. Its powerful documentaries and works of fiction have always been fantastic, with larger-than-life themes, characters, and legends igniting our imaginations, our senses, and our emotions.



Northwest Connections

Seattleites see more films per capita than the residents of any other American city, and a growing number of these selections have their roots in the fertile Pacific Northwest film community. Each year, SIFF honors the many ways in which the Puget Sound region contributes to the world of cinema, whether it acts as an evocative location for outside filmmakers or as inspiration for local filmmakers ready to strut their stuff.



Wild, Terrifying, Fantastic

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Beans*

A 12-year-old Mohawk girl's coming-of-age story and political awakening during the Oka Crisis. Deer's fresh voice reminds us of the importance of authentic representation and culturally specific storytelling. Drawing upon her documentary roots, and experience growing up in the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Deer delivers a timely film grounded in authentic history. (d: Tracey Deer (Mohawk) c: Kiawentiio, Rainbow Dickerson, Violah Beauvais, Canada 2020, 92 min)



FutureWave Shorts

The next generation of filmmakers are finding their unique voices and creating media with purpose. These shorts from filmmakers 18 and under are glorious evidence that storytelling is already strong for the future. (Shorts Package, 81 min)



Goddess of the Fireflies*

US Premiere

After her parents announce they're getting a divorce, 16-year-old Catherine (Kelly Depeault) dives into a life of sex and drugs in 1990s rural Quebec in this tender and gorgeously shot coming-of-age story about angst, desire, rebellion, and addiction. (d: Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette c: Kelly Depeault, Éléonore Loiselle, Caroline Néron, Canada (Québec) 2020, 105 min)



Summertime

A sprawling portrait of Los Angeles told through the work of spoken word poetry, 25 Angelenos' aspirations and fears intersect over the course of one long, hot SoCal day in the latest from director Carlos López Estrada (*Blindspotting*). (d: Carlos López Estrada c: 25 Get Lit Poets, USA 2020, 95 min)



Valentina

When trans teen Valentina moves from the city to a small, conservative town, the community quickly sets up roadblocks to her happiness, forcing the shy teen to stand her ground in this inspiring and hopeful story of gender expression and solidarity. (d: Cássio Pereira dos Santos c: Thiessa Woinbackk, Guta Stresser, Rômulo Braga, Brazil 2020, 95 min)



Worm

In an alternative 1990s equal parts Yorgos Lanthimos and Todd Solondz (but gentler), an awkward young teen must complete a school requirement in which students wear electronic collars that detach only upon engaging in their first kiss. (d: Christopher Winterbauer c: Theo Taplitz, Lulu Wilson, Azure Brandi, Tommy Dewey, Rosemarie DeWitt, USA 2019, 97 min)



Youth v Gov

21 young activists ranging from age 13 to 24 lead a charge against the United States government, holding them legally responsible for exacerbating the world's climate change crisis, in this story of political youth empowerment. (d: Christi Cooper, USA/New Zealand 2020, 110 min)



The Bears' Famous Invasion

In this colorful and innovatively designed animated film based on the 1945 Italian children's book by Dino Buzzati, Bear King Leonzio gathers his clan to a uniquely creative war against the land of man to save his son from a human circus. In French with English subtitles. Ages 10+ (d: Lorenzo Mattotti v: Leïla Bekhti, Thomas Bidegain, Jean-Claude Carrière, France/Italy 2019, 82 min)



The Family Picture Show

Bring the whole family around your home entertainment center for a playful set of animated and live-action films curated for the young and the young at heart. Ages 5+ (Shorts Package, 80 min)



The Legend of Hei

A shapeshifting cat spirit ventures into the unknown in search of friends and a new home after his forest habit is destroyed in this epic animated feature that topped the box office in its native China. In English. Ages 9+ (d: MTJJ, China 2019, 101 min)



Nahuel & the Magic Book

A curious young boy, a healer's apprentice, and a talking wolf go on a seafaring adventure to rescue the boy's fisherman father from a wicked sorcerer who is after a book that grants its reader magical powers. In Spanish with English subtitles. Ages 8+ (d: Germán Acuña v: Consuelo Pizarro, Jorge Lillo, Marcelo Liapiz, Vanesa Silva, Muriel Benavides, Chile/Brazil 2020, 98 min)



Too Far Away

A mutual love of soccer provides the basis for a blossoming friendship between a bullied German boy, struggling to fit into a new school after his family's relocation, and a young Syrian refugee in desperate need of family. In German with English subtitles. Ages 8+ (d: Sarah Winkenstette c: Yoran Leicher, Sobhi Awad, Anna König, Andreas Nickl, Julia Hirt, Germany 2019, 89 min)

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OPENING NIGHT

CELEBRATION + FILM



Roll out the Red Carpet in your living room and join us for SIFF 2021 Opening Night! We will kick off the evening with a live program including the announcement of the Mayor's Office Award, tributes to those we lost this year, and thanks to our sponsors. After the program, SIFF 2021 opens with Robert Connelly's *The Dry*, a crackling neo-noir murder mystery starring Eric Bana, and based on Jane Harper's award-winning novel. Stick around after the film for a pre-recorded Q&A with Robert Connelly and Eric Bana.

The Dry

Eric Bana returns to Australian cinema in this crackling neo-noir murder mystery about a tortured Melbourne detective drawn back to his outback hometown of Kiewarra to investigate the death of a childhood friend. (d: Robert Connelly c: Eric Bana, Genevieve O'Reilly, Keir O'Donnell, John Polson, Miranda Tapsell, Australia 2021, 117 min)

Thursday, April 8, program starts at 6:30pm PT



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CLOSING NIGHT

CELEBRATION + FILM



Join us as we wrap up the 2021 Seattle International Film Festival with our Golden Space Needle Awards Ceremony, and a screening of *Rosa's Wedding*, from SIFF favorite Catalan director Icíar Bollaín (*Yuli* (2018), *The Olive Tree* (2016)). At the awards ceremony, the juried and audience awards will be presented live, so be sure to rate each film on the SIFF Channel to cast your vote for your favorites!

Rosa's Wedding

In this joyful Catalan dramedy, costume designer Rosa is about to turn 45 and sick of being taken for granted, taken advantage of, and putting out other people's fires. Taking control of her own life, she announces a surprise engagement to a mysterious suitor, much to the dismay of her family. (d: Icíar Bollaín c: Candela Peña, Sergi López, Nathalie Poza, Ramón Barea, Paula Usero, Spain/France 2020, 97 min)

Sunday, April 18, program starts at 5:00pm PT



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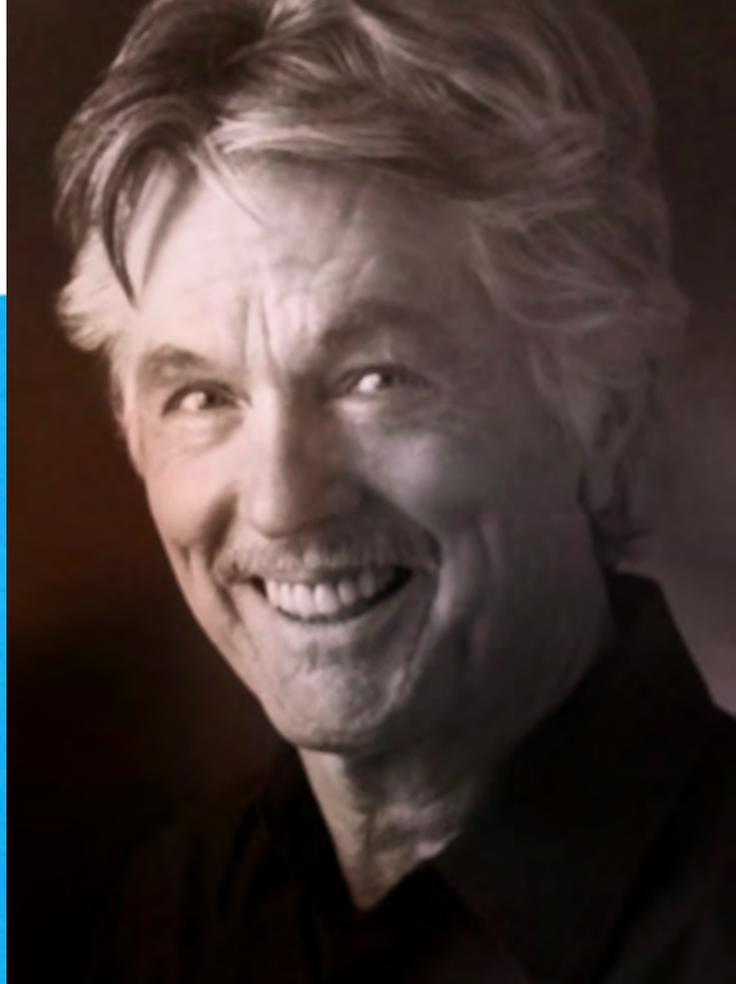
SIFF 2021 Outstanding Achievement in Cinema Award
Presented by Wells Fargo Private and Commercial Bank

Thursday, April 15, program starts at 6:30pm PT

For over fifty years, Tom Skerritt has been captivating audiences worldwide. The acclaimed actor has left an indelible mark on the medium, having crafted some of film and television's most memorable characters. Skerritt is known for iconic roles in films like *M.A.S.H.*, *Turning Point*, *Up In Smoke*, *The Dead Zone*, *Top Gun*, *Steel Magnolias*, *A River Runs Through It*, *Singles*, *Contact*, *Smoke Signals*, and, of course, Ridley Scott's *Alien*, which made its world premiere at the Fourth Annual Seattle International Film Festival in 1979. For his work in the 1993–97 CBS series *Picket Fences*, he was recognized with the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series.

Skerritt has been a fixture in the Pacific Northwest since 1988, with residence in Madison Park. He is a dedicated patron and benefactor of local arts, and serves as a Board Emeritus with SIFF. Recently, Skerritt launched the EVRGRN Channel, (on STIRR app), a free streaming service focused exclusively on uplifting Northwest origin storytellers and the region's creative impact on imagination and expression nationwide and abroad.

SIFF is proud to honor Skerritt's career and commitment to the arts with a special Tribute Event featuring a live interview with the renowned actor, moderated by notable film critic Thelma Adams, and a screening of *East of the Mountains*, by local filmmaker S.J. Chiro, based on the novel by local author David Guterson ("Snow Falling on Cedars").



East of the Mountains World Premiere
Local filmmaker SJ Chiro directs Tom Skerritt in this heartrending tale, based on the novel by David Guterson ("Snow Falling on Cedars"), about a terminally ill, retired heart surgeon who journeys back to Eastern Washington to end his life. (d: SJ Chiro c: Tom Skerritt, Mira Sorvino, Annie Gonzalez, Wally Dalton, Jule Johnson, USA 2021, 93 min)



Celebrating creative excellence

We're proud to join you in supporting Seattle International Film Festival. In fact, we're dedicated to the success of all local patrons who are advancing the arts. Working together, we can design a plan for the future.

Let's connect

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COMPETITIONS

The **juried competitions** are made up of films selected by our Festival programmers and represent the best in their category from all over the world. The winners are chosen by a carefully selected jury of industry professionals and film lovers. These include the Official Competition, the New American Cinema Competition, the New Directors Competition, the Ibero-American Competition, the Documentary Competition, and the Short Films Competition. The three winners in the Short Films Competition—Live-Action, Animation, and Documentary—are eligible to be nominated for an Academy Award®.

The **Golden Space Needle Awards** are selected by SIFF audiences. Voting will happen on the SIFF Channel via a 5-star rating system. We will be giving Audience Awards for Best Narrative, Documentary, and Short Film.

Winners are announced at the Closing Night Awards and Celebration on April 18.



HOW TO VOTE

You'll be able to vote on films directly within the viewing platform via a 5-star rating system. Just click the star rating located to the right of the buttons under the description on the film's landing page. (The stars may be difficult to see on light colored images.)

- For short film programs, you'll find the stars underneath each short film description, listed on the short film package landing page.
- Feel free to add or change your ratings up until 11:59pm PT on Saturday, April 17, at which point ratings will be pulled and tallied.
- There will be no write-in voting for Actor, Actress, or Director this year.



SUPPORT
SIFF

givebigwa.org/seattle-international-film-festival

FILM FORUMS & DISCUSSIONS

Connecting filmmakers and audiences with Seattle film industry leaders and thinkers on topics that are relevant to film today. It's your chance to dig deep and gain insight into the art and business of film.

[SEE THE FULL LINEUP](#)

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

The SIFF 2021 Works-in-Progress Forum brings two global film teams, six industry mentors, and a select SIFF audience into the filmic creative process at a vital junction: just before a picture is "locked." Together, they watch the films-in-progress and engage in critical feedback for a valuable creative experience. This year's Works-In-Progress includes a fictional narrative and documentary culled from international independent projects and is perfect for anyone with a passion for the creative process in visual storytelling.



WORKS-IN-PROGRESS DOCUMENTARY

Walk With Me (aka Trans*Formed)

Thursday April 15, 9:00am – 1:00pm



Lisa Leeman has produced, directed, written, and edited award-winning documentaries for thirty years. Lisa's award-winning documentary, *Awake*, is one of only 17 films directed by women in the 250 top-grossing films of 2014.



WORKS-IN-PROGRESS NARRATIVE

Vera Dreams of the Sea

Friday April 16, 9:00am – 1:00pm



Kaltrina Krasniqi (Kosovo) is an award-winning director working in film, television and digital humanities. Her film *Sarabande* (2018) premiered in ZagrebDox, and was awarded Best Documentary in Cinalfama Film Festival.

LIVE EVENTS

All events take place in **Pacific Daylight Time**



Live on Zoom



Live on the SIFF Channel (tv app or watch.siff.net)

THURSDAY APRIL 8	FRIDAY APRIL 9	SATURDAY APRIL 10	SUNDAY APRIL 11	MONDAY APRIL 12	TUESDAY APRIL 13
		Kin Theory: Indigenizing Film Industry Spaces 12:00 - 1:00pm	Build It & They Will Come: Virtual Film Community 12:00 - 1:00pm		
		What The Femme Roundtable 1:30 - 3:00pm	Ibero-American Documentary Roundtable 1:30 - 3:00pm		
		Live Q&A <i>Valentina</i> 3:30 - 4:30pm	Live Q&A <i>Captains of Zaatari</i> 3:30 - 4:30pm		
	Live Q&A <i>Summertime</i> 5:00 - 6:00pm	Live Q&A <i>Potato Dreams of America</i> 5:00 - 6:00pm	Live Q&A <i>Beans</i> 5:00 - 6:00pm	Live Q&A <i>Strawberry Mansion</i> 5:00 - 6:00pm	Live Q&A <i>Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America</i> 5:00 - 6:00pm
Opening Night Celebration & Film: The Dry 6:30 - 10:00pm	Documentary Shorts Roundtable 6:30 - 8:00pm	Documentary As Document Roundtable 6:30 - 8:00pm	Shifting Lenses Roundtable 6:30 - 8:00pm	World Building Through Production Design 6:30 - 8:00pm	Taiwan Films Roundtable 6:30 - 8:00pm
	Live Q&A <i>East of the Mountains</i> 8:30 - 9:30pm	Live Q&A <i>This Town</i> 8:30 - 9:30pm	Live Q&A <i>All Those Small Things</i> 8:30 - 9:30pm	Live Q&A <i>Writing With Fire</i> 8:30 - 9:30pm	Live Q&A <i>Preman</i> 8:30 - 9:30pm

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 14**

**THURSDAY
APRIL 15**

**FRIDAY
APRIL 16**

**SATURDAY
APRIL 17**

**SUNDAY
APRIL 18**

Works-in-Progress

Documentary:
*Walk With Me (aka
Trans*Formed)*
9:00am - 1:00pm

Works-in-Progress

Narrative: *Vera
Dreams of the Sea*
9:00am - 1:00pm

**Igniting Our
Film Industry**

12:00 - 1:00pm

**Breaking
Traditions
Roundtable**

1:30 - 3:00pm

Live Q&A

*The Return:
Life After ISIS*
3:30 - 4:30pm

Live Q&A

Mother's Milk
5:00 - 6:00pm

Live Q&A

The Pink Cloud
5:00 - 6:00pm

Live Q&A

Nudo Mixteco
5:00 - 6:00pm

Live Q&A

Wisdom Tooth
5:00 - 6:00pm

**Closing Night
Celebration
& Film:
Rosa's Wedding
5:00 - 9:30pm**

**cINeDIGENOUS
Roundtable**
6:30 - 8:00pm

**Diving into Nature
Roundtable**
6:30 - 8:00pm

**A Tribute to Tom
Skerritt**
6:30 - 9:30pm

**Activism in Short
Filmmaking**
6:30 - 8:00pm

**Bold Virtuosos
Roundtable**
6:30 - 8:00pm

Live Q&A

Ma Belle, My Beauty
8:30 - 9:30pm

Live Q&A

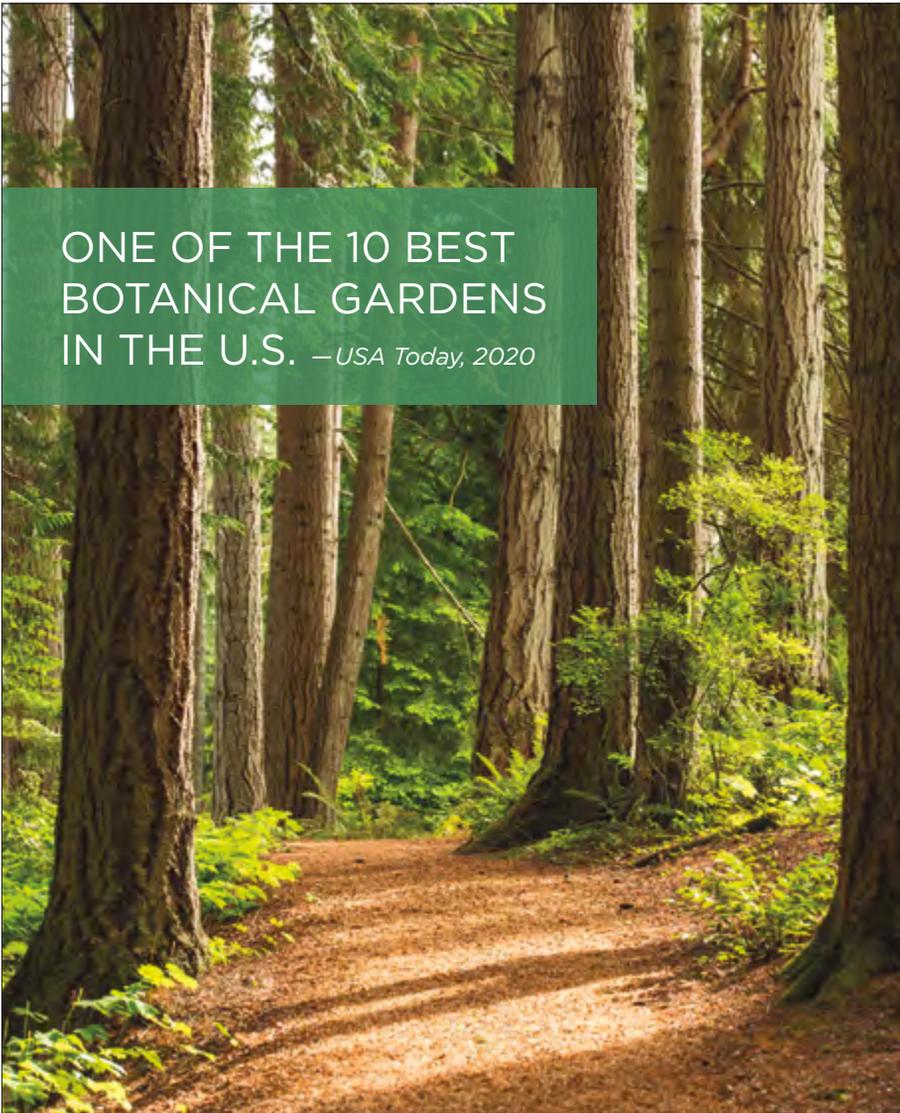
All Sorts
8:30 - 9:30pm

Live Q&A

Too Late
8:30 - 9:30pm

Live Q&A

There Is No Evil
8:30 - 9:30pm

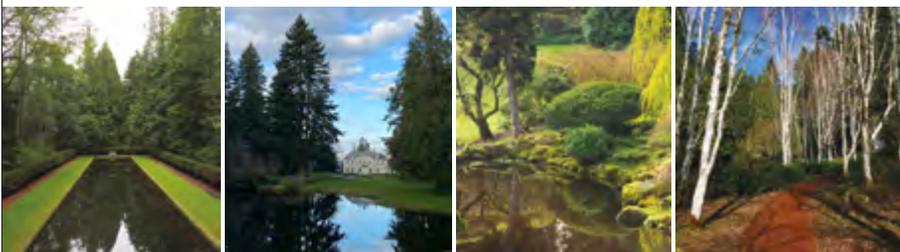


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PROGRAMMERS

SIFF is more than just an annual festival of the world's greatest films; it's a community of creative, passionate people who live and breathe cinema. Meet our talented team of 27 programmers—the people who work and watch movies all year long to curate the best films possible for the Seattle International Film Festival.

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Get to know our programmers on
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FILMS A-Z

Here's the complete 2021
lineup—click on any film to
see the full details, watch the
trailer, and buy a ticket.

Find films sorted by mood, topic and region at the back of the program or head to the online film guide to filter and explore further—making it easy as ever to find the type of cinematic experience you're craving.





200 Meters*

Upon learning his son has had an accident, a desperate Palestinian construction worker at wit's end attempts to smuggle himself past the separation wall between Israel and the West Bank to see him. (d: Ameen Nayfeh c: Ali Suliman, Lana Zreik, Samia Bakri, Tawfeeq Nayfeh, Palestine/Italy/Qatar/Sweden 2020, 96 min)



All Sorts

World Premiere

In a comedy that could only have come out of the Pacific Northwest, a lonely data entry clerk discovers a secret door in the office and stumbles upon the world of competitive champion folder filing. (d: J. Rick Castañeda c: Eli Vargas, Luis Deveze, Greena Park, Mike Markoff, USA 2021, 93 min)



All Those Small Things

World Premiere

In this strong character piece from Rebel Kat Productions, James Faulkner ("Game of Thrones") stars as a British game show host who, reeling from the death of a close friend, journeys to the Pacific Northwest in search of meaning. (d: Andrew Hyatt c: James Faulkner, Gloria Laino, Kerry Knuppe, David Robb, USA/UK 2021, 107 min)



Alt Shorts: Female (Re)Visions

Taken together, these experimental films from female filmmakers exhibit technical mastery, narrative tomfoolery, animated intricacy, and emotional honesty. (Shorts Package, 72 min)



Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir

James Redford's final film is an illuminating rendering of author Amy Tan ("The Joy Luck Club") through her own family photo albums and video footage, linking her prolific and groundbreaking work with the generations of women and immigrants before her. (d: James Redford, USA 2021, 101 min)



Ancestors

The spirit remembers what it means to be in relationship to all beings, past, present and future, seen and unseen. (Shorts Package, 70 min)



Animation4Adults

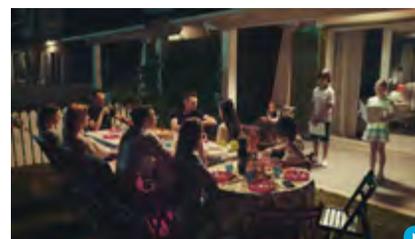
With the tip of their pen or the click of their mouse, these talented filmmakers take us on unexpected journeys from the otherworldly outer reaches to the inner depths of one's mind. (Shorts Package, 104 min)



Athanor - The Alchemical Furnace

North American Premiere

A candid account of surrealist filmmaker/ animator Jan Švankmajer, now 85 years old and retired, as he reflects on his influential career, artistic philosophies, and 40-year relationship with his late wife and creative partner Eva Švankmajerová. (d: Adam Ol'ha, Jan Daňhel f: Jan Švankmajer, Czech Republic/Slovakia 2020, 118 min)



Bad Tales

A sweltering Roman summer turns up the heat for the dark doings of a group of dysfunctional families in this slyly humorous, occasionally grotesque, but always gripping noir. (d: Damiano D'Innocenzo, Fabio D'Innocenzo c: Elio Germano, Barbara Chichiarelli, Lino Musella, Gabriel Montesi, Italy/Switzerland 2020, 98 min)

Click on any film to see the full details,
watch the trailer and snag tickets.



Beans*

A 12-year-old Mohawk girl's coming-of-age story and political awakening during the Oka Crisis. Deer's fresh voice reminds us of the importance of authentic representation and culturally specific storytelling. Drawing upon her documentary roots, and experience growing up in the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Deer delivers a timely film grounded in authentic history. (d: Tracey Deer (Mohawk) c: Kiawentiio, Rainbow Dickerson, Violah Beauvais, Canada 2020, 92 min)



The Bears' Famous Invasion

In this colorful and innovatively designed animated film based on the 1945 Italian children's book by Dino Buzzati, Bear King Leonzio gathers his clan to a uniquely creative war against the land of man to save his son from a human circus. Ages 10+ (d: Lorenzo Mattotti v: Leila Bekhti, Thomas Bidegain, Jean-Claude Carrière, France/Italy 2019, 82 min)



Bebia, à mon seul désir

North American Premiere

In this beautifully composed black-and-white drama out of Georgia, an estranged teenager returns to her rural village to perform an ancient burial tradition for her late grandmother, in which she must string a thread through sixteen miles of forest. (d: Juja Dobrachkous c: Anastasia Davidson, Anushka Andronikashvili, Guliko Gurgenedze, Georgia/United Kingdom 2021, 118 min)



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The Big Hit

“Let us not waste our time in idle discourse!” An out-of-work actor who runs a prison theater program directs a staging of “Waiting for Godot,” giving the troupe of convicts a chance to go on the road with Beckett’s masterwork. Inspired by a true story. (d: Emmanuel Courcol c: Kad Merad, David Ayala, Lamine Cissokho, Sofian, Khammes Pierre Lottin, France 2020, 105 min)



Captains of Zaatari

A rousing, heartfelt tale about two soccer-obsessed Syrian friends living in Jordan’s Zaatari Refugee Camp who, upon learning that a famed Qatari sports academy is visiting the camp, may have finally found their ticket to a bigger, brighter future. (d: Ali El Arabi, Egypt 2021, 75 min)



Caterpillars

North American Premiere

An observational film about the modern-day Pygmy villages of the Central African Republic and two young Pygmies who travel to the city to sell makongo (roasted caterpillars, a regional delicacy) to fund a travelling tribal school. (d: Elvis Sabin Ngaibino, Central African Republic/Argentina 2020, 73 min)



Censor

Enid, a film censor involved with the “video nasties” slate of 1980s horror films, journeys into a dark, unsettling fairytale world when she happens upon a cult film that might explain her sister’s disappearance years earlier. (d: Prano Bailey-Bond c: Niamh Algar, Nicholas Burns, Vincent Franklin, Sophia La Porta, UK 2021, 84 min)



Charter*

A complex and empathetic portrayal of motherhood in conflict with self-preservation, a recent divorcée kidnaps her estranged children and spirits them away to the Canary Islands. From the director of *Sami Blood*, SIFF 2017 Grand Jury Prize winner. (d: Amanda Kernell (Sami) c: Ane Dahl Torp, Troy Lundkvist, Tintin Poggats Sarri, Sverrir Gudnason, Eva Melander, Sweden 2019, 94 min)



Chuck Connelly: Into the Light

An entertaining and elucidating portrait of the temperamental, neo-expressionist painter Chuck Connelly, the Harvey Pekar of the painting world, from his alcoholic 1980s heyday to his disillusioned, agoraphobic present. (d: Benjamin Schwartz, USA 2020, 74 min)



Conductivity

North American Premiere

Pick up that baton, step up to the podium, and join these three would-be conducting students at various stages in their training at the prestigious Sibelius Academy in Helsinki as they learn the leadership skills necessary to lead an orchestra. (d: Anna-Karin Grönroos, Finland 2020, 75 min)



Criollo

North American Premiere

Raised on his grandmother’s cooking, celebrated Uruguayan chef Hugo Soca takes us through the heart of his nation’s rich culinary traditions—from homemade wine to Pampas barbecue to simmering fish stew and all points in-between—in this mouth-watering, joyous celebration. (d: Pablo Banchero, Uruguay 2019, 79 min)



Deadly Cuts

North American Premiere

They’re going to do more than “take a little off the top” in Rachel Carey’s blackly comic feature debut, as a group of working-class Dublin hairdressers become accidental vigilantes to protect themselves from the local gang threatening their neighborhood. (d: Rachel Carey c: Angeline Ball, Ericka Roe, Lauren Larkin, Shauna Higgins, Aidan McArdle, Ireland 2020, 90 min)

Click on any film to see the full details, watch the trailer and snag tickets.



The Dog Who Wouldn't Be Quiet

In Argentinian filmmaker Ana Katz's bitter-sweet and warmly existential feature shot over several years, a gentle man searches for love amid a litany of new jobs while a changing world flirts with the apocalypse. (d: Ana Katz c: Daniel Katz, Valeria Lois, Julieta Zylberberg, Lide Uranga, Raquel Bank, Carlos Portaluppi, Argentina 2021, 73 min)



Downstream to Kinshasa

A stark, honest, and empathetic portrait of disabled survivors of the Democratic Republic of Congo's Six-Day War traveling to the capital city of Kinshasa seeking reparations after 20 years of dehumanizing bureaucratic delays. (d: Dieudo Hamadi, Democratic Republic of Congo/France/Belgium 2020, 90 min)



The Dry

Eric Bana returns to Australian cinema in this crackling neo-noir murder mystery about a tortured Melbourne detective drawn back to his outback hometown of Kiewarra to investigate the death of a childhood friend. (d: Robert Connolly c: Eric Bana, Genevieve O'Reilly, Keir O'Donnell, John Polson, Miranda Tapsell, Australia 2021, 117 min)
Available April 8, 6pm-12am PT, in the U.S.

REEL BLACK WOMANHOOD IN INDEPENDENT CINEMA

March, 30 2021

Navigate away from Hollywood stereotypes and recognize how Black independent cinema of the past 30 years is affording Black women multi-dimensional characterizations.

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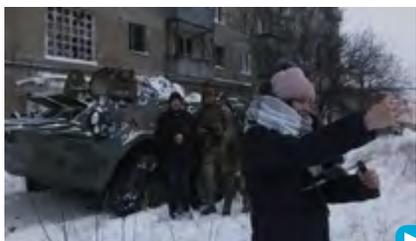
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The Earth is Blue as an Orange

Amidst the surrounding chaos of the 2014 War in Donbass, a Ukrainian film school-bound youth, her three siblings, and her single mother make a film to cope with living on the frontlines of a war zone. (d: Iryna Tsilyk, Ukraine/Lithuania 2020, 74 min)



East of the Mountains

World Premiere

Local filmmaker SJ Chiro directs Tom Skerritt in this heartrending tale, based on the novel by David Guterson ("Snow Falling on Cedars"), about a terminally ill, retired heart surgeon who journeys back to Eastern Washington to end his life. (d: SJ Chiro c: Tom Skerritt, Mira Sorvino, Annie Gonzalez, Wally Dalton, Jule Johnson, USA 2021, 93 min)



The Family Picture Show

Bring the whole family around your home entertainment center for a playful set of animated and live-action films curated for the young and the young at heart. (Shorts Package, 80 min)



Father

After a fiery protest over missing wages, social services take away the children of a small factory town day laborer. Now, he must set off on foot on a harrowing cross-country journey to Belgrade to file an appeal and restore his family. (d: Goran Bogdan c: Boris Isaković, Nada Šargin, Serbia/France/Germany/Croatia/Slovenia/Bosnia and Herzegovina 2020, 120 min)



Faya Dayi

A visually breathtaking narrative/documentary hybrid about the khat trade, a lucrative Ethiopian crop with a psychoactive effect, told through a hallucinatory patchwork of episodes on those who cultivate it, those who partake, and the local youth who seek something more out of life. (d: Jessica Beshir, Ethiopia/USA/Qatar 2021, 119 min) *Available April 16-18 in the U.S.*



Final Exam

North American Premiere

With seven days before the titular final exam and summer vacation, a talented substitute teacher must prove himself worthy of rehiring while trying to financially care for his ailing grandma, deal with his troublemaking brother, and defend a falsely accused student. (d: Chen-ti Kuo c: Lan Wei-hua, Wu Hong-xiu, Wong Xin-jue, Yang Shiau-li, Taiwan 2021, 103 min)



Fly So Far

North American Premiere

After serving ten years behind bars for her miscarriage, considered by her government to be an act of aggravated murder, Teodora Vásquez becomes a spokesperson for the other 16 Salvadoran women behind bars for the same "crime" in this story of sorority, resilience, and solidarity. (d: Celina Escher, El Salvador/Sweden 2021, 88 min)



Fruits of Labor

Fruits of Labor is a character-driven account that explores universal themes of how a young Chicanx woman in high school navigates family obligations, life as a farmworker, and the desire to pursue her dreams despite the predicaments of our times. (d: Emily Cohen Ibañez, USA 2021, 73 min)



FutureWave Shorts

The next generation of filmmakers are finding their unique voices and creating media with purpose. These shorts from filmmakers 18 and under are glorious evidence that storytelling is already strong for the future. (Shorts Package, 81 min)

Click on any film to see the full details, watch the trailer and snag tickets.



A Gay in the Life

For the men in these shorts, everyday life is forever shaped by unexpected circumstances. (Shorts Package, 100 min)



Get the Hell Out

Politics may bring out the worst in us, but nothing compares to the events in this action-packed Grand Guignol comedy about a team of activists, legislators, and civilians going up against a parliament filled with hyperactive zombie mutants infected with "idiot rabies." (d: I-Fan Wang c: Bruce Ho, Megan Lai, Taiwan 2020, 96 min)



Goddess of the Fireflies*

US Premiere

After her parents announce they're getting a divorce, 16-year-old Catherine (Kelly Depeault) dives into a life of sex and drugs in 1990s rural Quebec in this tender and gorgeously shot coming-of-age story about angst, desire, rebellion, and addiction. (d: Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette c: Kelly Depeault, Éléonore Loiselle, Caroline Néron, Canada (Québec) 2020, 105 min)

**WHAT THE FEMME
THE EVOLUTION OF
ELLEN RIPLEY**

MAY 18, 2021

From gender-swapped survivor to mother warrior to alien-human hybrid, Ellen Ripley's unconventional feminist journey is reevaluated and reinvigorated through the lens of film programmer Anthony Hudson.

SIFF.NET/CLASSES

**VIRTUAL
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Final Exam



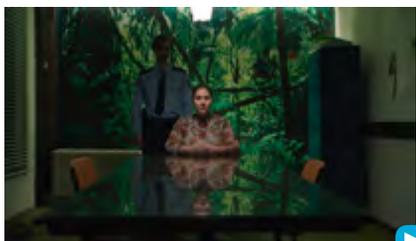
My Missing Valentine



The Teacher



Get The Hell Out



God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya

Downtrodden and underappreciated, a woman in a small Macedonian town creates nationwide shock waves (with the help of a sensation-seeking TV reporter) when she upsets a local men-only religious tradition. (d: Teona Strugar Mitevska c: Zorica Nusheva, Labina Mitevska, Stefan Vujisic, Suad Begovski, Macedonia/Belgium 2019, 100 min)



The Heist of the Century

A motley gang of six middle-aged men, led by an aging stoner and a master actor, pulls off the most daring bank robbery in Argentina's history, leading to folk hero status—and an unexpected reckoning. Based on the incredible true story. (d: Ariel Winograd c: Guillermo Francella, Diego Peretti, Rafael Ferro, Juan Alari, Argentina/USA 2020, 114 min)



I'M FINE (Thanks for Asking)

A recently widowed mother on the outer edges of Los Angeles works her rollerskating tail off to get her and her eight-year-old daughter off the streets, over one long day of pawn shop negotiations, food app delivery mishaps, and shady landlords. (d: Kelley Kali, Angelique Molina c: Kelley Kali, Wesley Moss, Deon Cole, Brooklynn Marie, Steven Ira Scipio, USA 2021, 90 min)



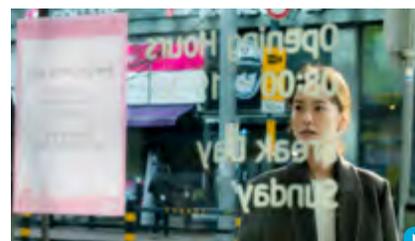
Inheritance

Hope, pain, strength, reptiles: we inherit many things in this world—and some we choose to leave behind. (Shorts Package, 101 min)



In the Same Breath*

Nanfu Wang (*One Child Nation*) directs this tragic, revealing, and journalistically risky contextualization of the COVID1-9 outbreak, spotlighting the similar Chinese and American government propagandic responses to the once-in-a-century pandemic that brought the world to a standstill. (d: Nanfu Wang, USA 2021, 95 min)



Kim Ji-young, Born 1982

A blazingly feminist story based on Cho Nam-joo's controversial bestselling autobiographical novel that rocked South Korea, thirtysomething Ji-young (Jung Yu-mi, *Train to Busan*) navigates a conservative patriarchal society in search of identity and self-actualization. (d: KIM Do-young c: JUNG Yu-mi, GONG Yoo, KIM Mi-kyung, South Korea 2019, 118 min)



Ladies of Steel

In this feel-good comedy, three elderly sisters embark on a soul-reclaiming road trip after 75-year-old Inkeri accidentally kills her husband with a frying pan. (d: Pamela Tola c: Leena Uotila, Heikki Nousiainen, Pirjo Lonka, Seela Sella, Saara Pakkasvirta, Finland 2020, 91 min)



The Legend of Hei

A shapeshifting cat spirit ventures into the unknown in search of friends and a new home after his forest habit is destroyed in this epic animated feature that topped the box office in its native China. Ages 9+ (d: MTJJ, China 2019, 101 min)



Leveling Up

Navigating the passage into adulthood is tricky at any age. (Shorts Package, 108 min)

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Little Girl

From Cannes Film Festival winner Sébastien Lifshitz (*Bambi, The Lives of Thérèse*) comes a sympathetic and poignant documentary about Sasha, an eight-year-old transgender girl whose family protects her from her rural French town's outdated gender norms. (d: Sébastien Lifshitz, France 2020, 85 min)



Love and Fury

A bold and honest look at the complexities of Native identity and art, through the lens of Sterlin Harjo, in conversation with Indigenous artists living in the US and abroad. This year-long portrait of 20 creatives (musicians, poets, sculptors, performance artists, muralists, comedians) reminds the viewer of the rich, diverse and sometimes brooding artistic expression of Native peoples. (d: Sterlin Harjo (Seminole/Muscogee Creek), USA 2020, 93 min)



Love Type D

An oft-dumped woman realizes she carries a genetic marker that makes her a loser in love; to break the curse, she must get back together with all 12 of her exes and break up with them herself. (d: Sasha Collington c: Maeve Dermody, Rory Stroud, Tovah Feldshuh, Oliver Farnworth, United Kingdom 2019, 95 min)



Ma Belle, My Beauty

Set in the sun-drenched vineyards of southern France, two newlywed musicians adjusting to their new European life get a sudden visit from Lane, the former third party in their polyamorous relationship back in New Orleans. (d: Marion Hill c: Idella Johnson, Hannah Pepper, Lucien Guignard, Sivan Noam Shimon, USA/France 2021, 93 min)



Mogul Mowgli

Oscar® nominee Riz Ahmed (*Sound of Metal, "The Night Of"*) co-authors and stars in this drama about an up-and-coming British rapper who develops an autoimmune degenerative disorder, forcing him to move back in with his traditional-minded Pakistani family. (d: Bassam Tariq c: Riz Ahmed, Alyy Khan, Sudha Bhuchar, Aiysha Hart, Nabhaan Rizwan, United Kingdom 2020, 90 min)



Motherland

Viktorija brings her American-born son to Lithuania a year after the fall of the USSR, hoping to reclaim her family's estate and reestablish a sense of home in the country she fled 20 years prior. (d: Tomas Vengris c: Matas Metlevski, Severija Janušauskaitė, Darius Gumauskas, Barбора Bareikytė, Lithuania/Latvia/Germany/Greece 2019, 96 min)



Mother's Milk

In this collaborative and experimental "film quilt" told in nine parts—individual chapters are made by different filmmaking teams and combined into a visual album—a Black man named Sparrow searches for meaning, self, and home as he leaps through a dying universe. (d: Larry Powell, Adriana DeGirolami, Kameron Neal, Bianca LaVerne Jones, Shinelle Azoroh, Alex Ander, John MacDonald, Lelund Durond Thompson c: many, USA 2021, 63 min)



My Missing Valentine

North American Premiere

Winner of Best Picture at the Golden Horse Film Festival, this offbeat, time-shifting Taiwanese romantic comedy follows a post office counter clerk whose life moves at an exceptionally fast pace until the unusual day when she meets her match. (d: Yu-Hsun CHEN c: LIU Kuan-Ting, Patty Lee, Duncan Chou, Joanne Missingham, Taiwan 2020, 119 min)



Nahuel & the Magic Book

A curious young boy, a healer's apprentice, and a talking wolf go on a seafaring adventure to rescue the boy's fisherman father from a wicked sorcerer who is after a book that grants its reader magical powers. Ages 8+ (d: Germán Acuña v: Consuelo Pizarro, Jorge Lillo, Marcelo Liapiz, Vanesa Silva, Muriel Benavides, Chile/Brazil 2020, 98 min)



INSTEAD OF FILMGOING, WE'RE FILMSTAYING!

Tips for turning a digital film festival into a SIFFtastic home theater experience.

Tip 2 GET FRESH TAKES

The household's newest SIFFgoer, Gary the pet ficus, lauds films with fantastic natural lighting.

Tip 1 DISTURB YOUR NEIGHBORS

Glimpses of buffalo birthing scenes and homicidal Norwegian clowns convince peeping Jones that he's going back to watching network TV.

Tip 3 SAVE A SEAT

Reserve your roommate a spot at least one thigh's length from the make-out section. They'll thank you, if they show up at all.

Tip 4 MICROWAVE A HEART ATTACK

Drench popcorn in chocolate, butter, regret, pork fat, caffeine, carcinogens, sucrose, glucose, Glenn Close, and cookie dough.

Tip 5 DRESS UP-ISH

Try to look halfway nice for this date night. To your partner, that's all that matters.

Tip 9 GO SHOELESS

Give your feet a huge relief after standing in that long imaginary festival line.

Tip 8 INVITE A PET

But make sure the film content is appropriate. What's PG-13 divided by 7?

Tip 10 THEATERIZE YOUR HARDWOOD

Coat floors in soda to create proper stickiness, then tape down twinkly lights to safely lead to bathroom and/or fridge.

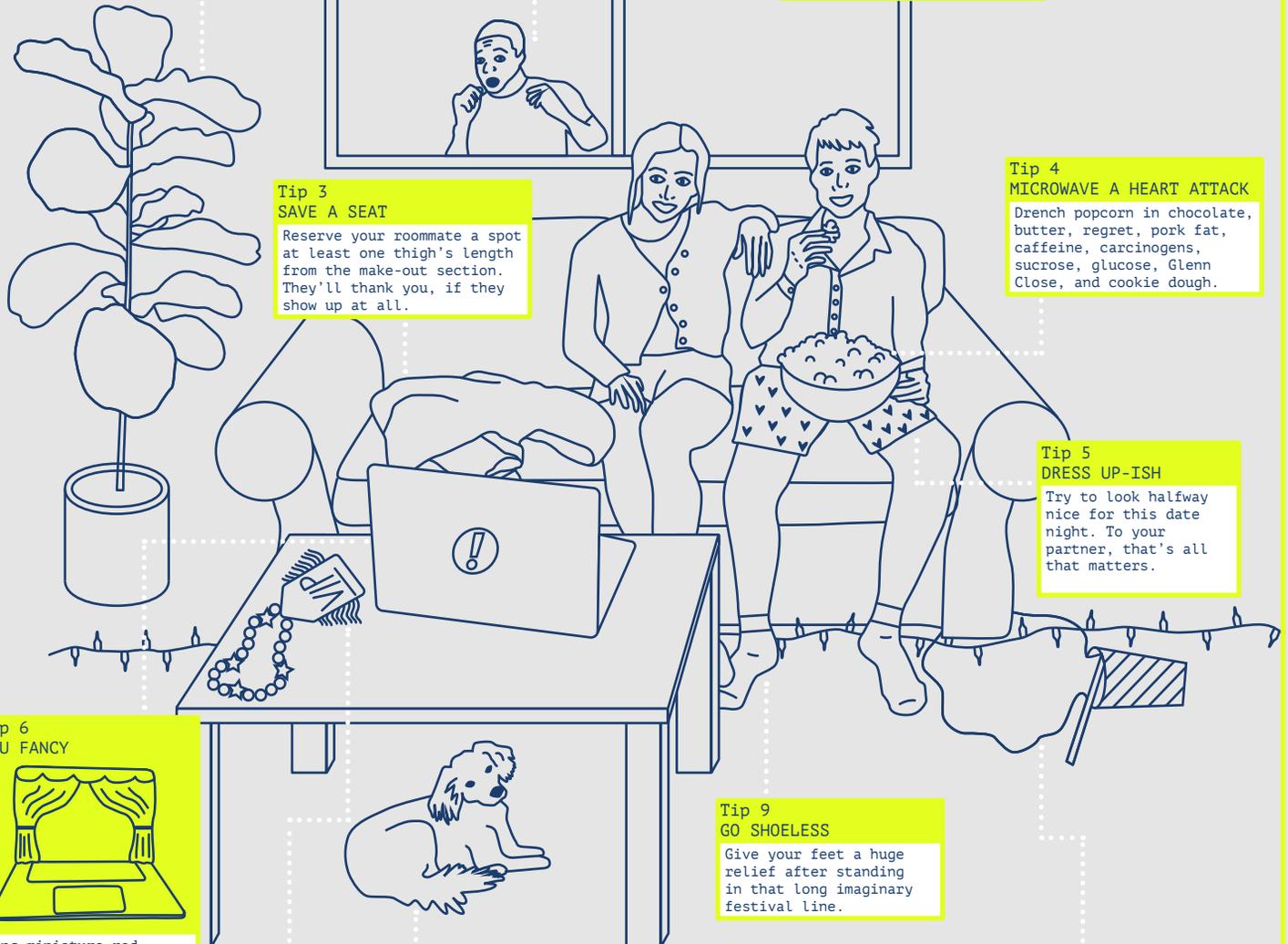
Tip 6 YOU FANCY



Hang miniature red curtains on each side of the viewing screen. As you open them, imitate a tiny organ man as your boo-thang delivers polite, obligatory applause.

Tip 7 VIP YOURSELF

Craft a bedazzling VIP pass that grants access to your bathroom, your fridge, and your Sock Puppet Director's Talk.





Nudo Mixteco*

Set against the backdrop of the annual Festival of San Mateo, writer/director Ángeles Cruz weaves a rich tapestry of three Indigenous women navigating love, sex, and desire within the often-crushing strictures of customs and traditions. (d: Ángeles Cruz c: Noé Hernández, Aída López, Eileen Yáñez, Sonia Couoh, Myriam Bravo, Jorge Doal, Mexico 2021, 91 min)



The Perfect Candidate

Dr. Maryam is an overworked medic at an underserved Saudi clinic. In order to improve safety measures and working conditions, she decides to run for a seat on the municipal council despite the rampant misogyny within her community. (d: Haifaa Al-Mansour c: Mila Alzahrani, Nourah Al Awad, Dhae Al Hilali, Saudi Arabia/Germany 2019, 105 min)



Phantasmagorias

Nine terrifying tales to disturb your sleep and disquiet your dreams. (Shorts Package, 106 min)



The Pink Cloud

When a mysterious and lethal pink cloud appears over a Brazilian city, two people engaging in a one-night stand are forced to quarantine together over several years in this eerie and prescient science-fiction film that now seems all too real. (d: Luli Gerbase c: Renata de Lélis, Eduardo Mendonça, Kaya Rodrigues, Girley Brasil Paes, Helena Becker, Brazil 2021, 103 min)



Potato Dreams of America

From Wes Hurley, the creator of famed local webseries "Capitol Hill," comes an autobiographical coming-of-age dark comedy about a young closeted Russian boy in the disintegrating USSR who moves to Seattle with his prison doctor-turned-mail-order bride single mother. (d: Wes Hurley c: Marya Sea Kaminski, Tyler Bockock, Dan Lauria, Sera Barbieri, Lea Delaria, USA 2021, 95 min)



Preman

World Premiere

A deaf criminal with a traumatic past and his son must fight their way out of their small Indonesian village after witnessing a horrible murder, pitting the gangster against the mob outfit that employed him. (d: Randolph Zaini c: Khiva Iskak, Muzakki Ramdhan, Kiki Narendra, Salvita Decorte, Revaldo, Indonesia 2021, 92 min)



Rebel Objects

North American Premiere

Haunted by a long-broken relationship with her father, anthropologist Carolina Arias Ortiz returns to her childhood home of Costa Rica to repair their relationship while haunted by the otherworldly mystery of ancient stone spheres in this lyrical and poetic debut feature. (d: Carolina Arias Ortiz, Costa Rica/Colombia 2020, 70 min)



The Return: Life After ISIS

A humanizing depiction of the young Western women who committed themselves to ISIS, only to regret joining an organization that preyed on their devotion, as they deprogram at a refugee camp with no country to call their own. (d: Alba Sotorra Clua, Spain/United Kingdom 2021, 90 min)



Riders of Justice

US Premiere

Mads Mikkelsen (*Another Round*) reunites with the writer/director of *Men & Chicken* in this pitch-black screwball comedy of revenge, starring as a heartbroken man whose wife's suspicious death in a train crash leads to outlandish conspiracy theories and gangland bloodshed. (d: Anders Thomas Jensen c: Mads Mikkelsen, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, Lars Brygmann, Andrea Heick Gadeberg, Nicolas Bro, Denmark 2020, 116 min)

Click on any film to see the full details,
watch the trailer and snag tickets.



Rita Moreno: Just A Girl Who Decided To Go For It

Rita's gonna get her kicks tonight. A close-up on Rita Moreno, now an ebullient 89 and one of the few actors from Hollywood's studio era still working today, from her childhood in Puerto Rico to her illustrious career on Broadway and in Hollywood. (d: Mariem Pérez Riera f: Gloria Estefan, Morgan Freeman, Whoopi Goldberg, Eva Longoria, Justina Machado, USA 2021, 90 min)

Available April 16-18 in the U.S.



Rosa's Wedding

In this joyful Catalan dramedy, costume designer Rosa is about to turn 45 and sick of being taken for granted, taken advantage of, and putting out other people's fires. Taking control of her own life, she announces a surprise engagement to a mysterious suitor, much to the dismay of her family. (d: Icíar Bollaín c: Candela Peña, Sergi López, Nathalie Poza, Ramón Barea, Spain/France 2020, 97 min)

Available April 18, 6pm-12am PT, in the U.S.



The Salt In Our Waters

North American Premiere

A warm and charming tale of an affluent and idealistic sculptor who leaves the city to find inspiration in a beautiful coastal village on the Bangladeshi delta, leading to a culture clash between traditional and modern values. (d: Rezwana Shahriar Sumit c: Fazlur Rahman Babu, Titas Zia, Tasnova Tammana, Shatabdi Wadud, Bangladesh/France 2020, 106 min)

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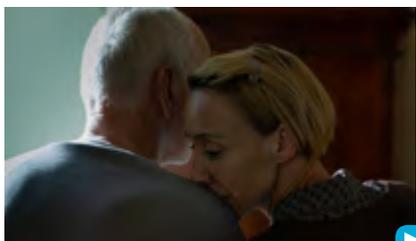
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Sanremo

North American Premiere

In this unique and humane love story set in a retirement home, an elderly man with dementia repeatedly courts a fetching fellow housemate—connected by a shared memory of a song from their youth—while struggling with his own fragmented memories. (d: Miroslav Mandić c: Sandi Pavlin, Silva Čušin, Boris Cavazza, Mojca Funkl, Lara Komar, Slovenia/Italy 2020, 85 min)



Secret Keepers

Nine episodes that explore how secrets can energize, embarrass, expose, entrap, and maybe even enlighten us. (Shorts Package, 88 min)



Seeing Red

She sees love, she sees rage, she sees blood. A program dedicated to these shes. (Shorts Package, 113 min)



The Shepherdess and the Seven Songs

A lyrical, feminist character study set in the Himalayans and based on an Indian folk tale, about a fiercely beautiful nomadic shepherdess named Laila who catches the eye of a lustful young herdsman. (d: Pushpendra Singh c: Navjot Randhawa, Sadakkit Bijran, Shahnawaz Bhatt, Ranjit Khajuria, Mohammed Yaseen, India 2020, 98 min)



Silver Linings

Even the darkest clouds can have silver linings. This global collection of short films explores how the worst of times can bring out the best in us. (Shorts Package, 103 min)



Slalom

In Charlène Favier's timely and unsentimental feature debut that explores when mentorship becomes abuse, up-and-coming actress Noée Abita (*Sink or Swim*) plays a 15-year-old skiing prodigy in training who falls prey to her manipulative and lecherous coach (Jérémie Renier, *In Bruges*). (d: Charlène Favier c: Jérémie Renier, Noée Abita, Axel Auriant-Blot, Maira Schmitt, Muriel Combeau, France 2020, 90 min)



Son of Monarchs

In this soulful and stunningly shot Sundance prizewinner, a New York-based Mexican biologist dedicated to mapping out the monarch butterfly's genetics returns to Mexico for his grandmother's funeral, coming to terms with the repressed trauma of his youth. (d: Alexis Gambis c: Tenoch Huerta Mejía, Alexia Rasmussen, Lázaro Gabino Rodríguez, USA/Mexico 2021, 97 min)



The Song of the Butterflies US Premiere

Rember Yahuarcani, a member of the Uitoto Nation, struggles in his every existence to find new artistic inspiration. He returns home to the forests, to learn the stories of how his people were nearly extinguished and how his loving grandmother survived to nurture the memories of their ancestors. (d: Núria Frigola Torrent, Peru 2020, 65 min)



The Spy

A tense, twisty, sumptuously designed espionage thriller about Sonja Wigert, the famous Norwegian-Swedish actress recruited to spy on a high-ranking, starstruck Norwegian Nazi official, only to have her loyalties tested by the Third Reich. (d: Jens Jonsson c: Ingrid Bolsø Berdal, Rolf Lassgård, Alexander Scheer, Norway/Belgium/Sweden 2019, 110 min)

Click on any film to see the full details,
watch the trailer and snag tickets.



Strawberry Mansion

In this sweet and colorful bit of surrealistic speculative fiction set in the near future, a “dream auditor” on assignment becomes obsessed with an aging eccentric and, while investigating the VHS archive of her subconscious, happens upon a chance at love. (d: Albert Birney, Kentucker Audley c: Penny Fuller, Kentucker Audley, Grace Glowicki, Reed Birney, Linas Phillips, Constance Shulman, USA 2021, 90 min)



Street Gang: How We Got to Sesame Street*

Come and play on Sesame Street with this definitive chronicle of the show’s origin, full of rare and never-before-seen footage. Meet the gang of artists, writers, and educators as they share stories about creating this groundbreaking show that changed children’s educational television forever. (d: Marilyn Agrelo, USA 2021, 107 min)



Summer of 85

In the latest from acclaimed French filmmaker François Ozon (*8 Femmes*, *Swimming Pool*), a chance encounter between two teen boys at a seaside resort evolves into a carefree summer romance with tragic undertones. (d: François Ozon c: Félix Lefebvre, Benjamin Voisin, Philippine Velge, Valéria Bruni-Tedeschi, Melvil Poupaud, France/Belgium 2020, 101 min)

cINeDIGENOUS
MAGICAL REALISM & THE DOCUMENTARY

May 25, 2021

Director Emily Cohen Ibañez shares the ways her documentary, *Fruits of Labor*, makes space for magical realism where spiritual forces live in nature and the extraordinary is entangled with the mundanity of everyday life.

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Summertime

A sprawling portrait of Los Angeles told through the work of spoken word poetry, 25 Angelenos' aspirations and fears intersect over the course of one long, hot SoCal day in the latest from director Carlos López Estrada (*Blindspotting*). (d: Carlos López Estrada c: 25 Get Lit Poets, USA 2020, 95 min)



Super Frenchie

This thrilling documentary delves into Matthias Giraud's personal and professional lives, where he juggles his passion for extreme sports with his duties as a devoted husband and father. (d: Chase Ogden, USA/France/Iceland 2020, 77 min)



Sweat

Three days in the life of a celebrity fitness motivator and social media influencer Sylwia, whose carefully curated persona (600,000 Instagram followers!) belies the anxious, insecure real person within. A high-energy character study about the fission between private and public life. (d: Magnus Von Horn c: Magdalena Koleśnik, Julian Świeżewski, Aleksandra Konieczna, Poland/Sweden 2020, 105 min)



The Teacher

After he announces to his class his approval of same-sex marriage, a rumor circulates that Kevin, a 26-year-old civics teacher, is HIV-positive. Kevin fights for acceptance from his community as he navigates falling in love for the first time. (d: Chen Ming-lang c: Oscar Chiu, Sam Chang, Winnie Chang, He Zi-hua, Taiwan 2019, 92 min)



Tell Her

North American Premiere

When his parents divorce and his mother moves to the United States, 11-year-old Sasha of St. Petersburg, Russia is pulled apart emotionally between two parents, both of whom he loves, and two cultures. (d: Alexander Molochnikov c: Svetlana Hodchenkova, Artem Bystrov, Kai Goetz, Wolfgang Czerny, Alexei Serebryakov, Irina Rozanova, Russia 2021, 98 min)



There Is No Evil

Filmed in secret and banned in its home country, Mohammad Rasoulof's Golden Bear-winning film is an anthology of four short stories, each focused on a person affected by the capital punishment system in a country that commits more executions per capita than anywhere else on Earth. (d: Mohammad Rasoulof c: Ehsan Mirhosseini, Kaveh Ahangar, Mahtab Servati, Germany/Czech Republic/Iran 2020, 150 min)



This Is My Desire

In this tender and compassionate drama elegantly captured in 35mm, two modern Nigerians, grappling with their everyday lives and the compromises they make to help their families, dream of leaving the hectic streets of Lagos for a new life abroad. (d: Arie Esiri, Chuko Esiri c: Jude Akwudike, Temi Ami-Williams, Cynthia Ebijie, Tomiwa Edun, Jacob Alexander, Nigeria 2020, 116 min)



This Town

US Premiere

In this touchingly twisted comedy that recalls the mockumentaries of Christopher Guest, a young man accused of murdering his entire family tries to reenter the dating scene, only to run afoul of suspicious townsfolk and a retired cop. (d: David White c: David White, Rima Te Wiata, Robyn Malcolm, Alice May Connolly, New Zealand 2020, 86 min)



Together Together*

Ed Helms ("The Office") and Patti Harrison ("Shrill") star in this unconventional, platonic rom-com-dram about the friendship forged between a middle-aged app designer and the twentysomething woman he hires to be a gestational surrogate. (d: Nikole Beckwith c: Ed Helms, Patti Harrison, Tig Notaro, Julio Torres, Anna Konkle, USA 2021, 90 min)

Click on any film to see the full details, watch the trailer and snag tickets.



Too Far Away

A mutual love of soccer provides the basis for a blossoming friendship between a bullied German boy, struggling to fit into a new school after his family's relocation, and a young Syrian refugee in desperate need of family. Ages 8+ (d: Sarah Winkenstette c: Yoran Leicher, Sobhi Awad, Anna König, Andreas Nickl, Julia Hirt, Germany 2019, 89 min)



Too Late

World Premiere

Hollywood is a bloodthirsty town, but nobody has it as bad as Violet Fields, a stand-up comedy booker and personal assistant to a famed comic with a monster appetite. Featuring a murderers' row of alt-comedy mainstays. (d: D.W. Thomas c: Alyssa Limperis, Ron Lynch, Will Weldon, Fred Armisen, Mary Lynn Rajskub, Jenny Zigrino, Jack De Sena, USA 2021, 80 min)



Topside

An empathetic and eye-opening portrayal of the houseless people who live in New York City's abandoned subway tunnels, following a drug-addicted mother and her five-year-old daughter who are forced aboveground during a harsh winter. (d: Celine Held, Logan George c: Zhaila Farmer, Celine Held, Jared Abrahamson, Fatlip, USA 2020, 85 min)

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RAISING OUR VOICES
APRIL 6, 2021

How is authentic storytelling defined and supported in our society? Filmmaker Ciara Lacy dissects the impact of colonialism on who controls the narrative.

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Tove

A lush biopic on the Finnish author and illustrator Tove Jansson during the formative decade in which she invented internationally famous creations the Moomins while managing a disapproving family and a bisexual love triangle in the shadow of World War II. (d: Zaida Bergroth c: Alma Pöysti, Krista Kosonen, Shanti Roney, Robert Enckell, Kajsa Ernst, Finland 2021, 103 min)



The Translator

US Premiere

A riveting thriller about an Arabic-English translator for the 2000 Olympics in Australia, forced into exile after a fateful mistranslation, who must return to Syria after his activist brother goes missing during the Arab Spring. (d: Rana Kazkaz, Anas Khalaf c: Ziad Bakri, Yumna Marwan, David Field, Sawsan Arsheed, Miranda Tapsell, Syria/France/Switzerland/Belgium/Qatar 2020, 105 min)



Truman and Tennessee: An Intimate Conversation

Featuring the voices of Jim Parsons and Zachary Quinto as the eponymous duo, this dual-portrait documentary from director Lisa Immordino Vreeland (*Love, Cecil*) charts the friendship and professional rivalry between author Truman Capote and playwright Tennessee Williams. (d: Lisa Immordino Vreeland v: Jim Parsons, Zachary Quinto, USA 2020, 86 min)



Under the Open Sky

Yakusho Kōji (*The Third Murder*) gives a riveting performance as a lifelong Yakuza, released from prison after 13 years, whose journey to find the mother who abandoned him as a child is hindered by his gangster past. (d: Miwa Nishikawa c: Yakusho Kōji, Taiga Nakano, Masami Nagasawa, Isao Hashizune, Meiko Keiji, Seiji Ryokkaku, Yukiya Kitamura, Japan 2020, 126 min)



The Unknown Saint

An absurdist, droll, entertaining fable about a criminal who returns to the hill where he stashed his stolen goods, only to find that a well-guarded shrine to a "missing saint" has been built over it. (d: Alaa Eddine Aljem c: Younes Bouab, Salah Bensalah, Bouchaib Essamak, Mohamed Naimane, Anas El Baz, Morocco/France 2019, 100 min)



Valentina

When trans teen Valentina moves from the city to a small, conservative town, the community quickly sets up roadblocks to her happiness, forcing the shy teen to stand her ground in this inspiring and hopeful story of gender expression and solidarity. (d: Cássio Pereira dos Santos c: Thiessa Woinbackk, Guta Stresser, Rômulo Braga, Brazil 2020, 95 min)



Veins of the World

Eleven-year-old Amra lives in a traditional nomad community on the Mongolian steppe, which is threatened by the influx of global mining companies. He longs for a modern way of life, but when his father tragically dies, Amra must honor his father's legacy and fight to protect his community. (d: Byambasuren Davaa c: Bat-Ireedui Batmunkh, Purevdorj Uranchimeg, Algirchamin Baatarsuren, Enerel Tumen, Yalalt Namsrai, Germany/Mongolia 2020, 97 min)



Waikiki

In this honest portrayal of the gritty side of paradise, Kanaka Maoli filmmaker Christopher Kahunahana, depicts the story of Kea, a part-time Hawaiian teacher, hula dancer, and nightclub hostess, who crashes her beat-up van into a mysterious homeless man in the dead of night. Kea is quickly triggered to face her own past traumas and a new perspective. (d: Christopher Kahunahana (Kanaka Maoli) c: Danielle Zalopany, Peter Shinkoda, Jason Quinn, USA 2020, 77 min)



When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

Nine-year-old Anna harnesses all the courage she can when her family flees Nazi Germany to live as refugees in unfamiliar territory. This tender historical family drama emphasizes the importance of upholding strength and love in the face of fear. (d: Caroline Link c: Riva Krymalowski, Carla Juri, Oliver Masucci, Marinus Hohmann, Germany/Switzerland 2020, 119 min)

Click on any film to see the full details,
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When I'm Done Dying

A young, impoverished rapper's addiction to a street drug threatens his dreams of stardom, his relationship with his family, and the romance of his older, upper-class DJ girlfriend in this drama set in Istanbul's underground hip-hop scene. (d: Nisan Dağ c: Oktay Çubuk, Hayal Köseoglu, Ushan Çakir, Eren Çigdem, Müfit Kayacan, Turkey/Germany 2021, 97 min)



Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America

Interweaving lecture, personal anecdotes, interviews, and shocking revelations, ACLU deputy legal director Jeffery Robinson draws a stark timeline of anti-Black racism in the United States, from slavery to the modern myth of a post-racial America. (d: Emily Kunstler, Sarah Kunstler, f: Jeffrey Robinson, Gwen Carr, Dr. Tiffany Crutcher, Carolyn Payne, Josephine Bolling McCall, Commissioner Tami Sawyer, USA 2021, 117 min)



Wisdom Tooth

An undocumented maid, her fishmonger half-brother, and a glamorous, mob-affiliated outsider lead this seductive, textured relationship drama/crime thriller set in a poor Chinese fishing village near the Korean border in the dead of winter. (d: Liang MING c: Xingchen Lyu, Wu Xiaoling, Wang Jiajia, Wang Weishen, Ta Hai, Chen Yongzhong, China 2019, 104 min)

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Writing With Fire

A powerful and uplifting documentary about the fearless journalists behind Khabar Lahariya, India's only newspaper run by Dalit ("untouchable") women, as they fight for truth and justice in the face of hostile patriarchy and the rise of the right. (d: Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh, India/Norway/Finland 2021, 93 min)



Wyrm

In an alternative 1990s equal parts Yorgos Lanthimos and Todd Solondz (but gentler), an awkward young teen must complete a school requirement in which students wear electronic collars that detach only upon engaging in their first kiss. (d: Christopher Winterbauer c: Theo Taplitz, Lulu Wilson, Azure Brandi, Tommy Dewey, Rosemarie DeWitt, USA 2019, 97 min)



Youth v Gov

Twenty-one young activists ranging from age 13 to 24 lead a charge against the United States government, holding them legally responsible for exacerbating the world's climate change crisis, in this story of political youth empowerment. (d: Christi Cooper, USA/New Zealand 2020, 110 min)

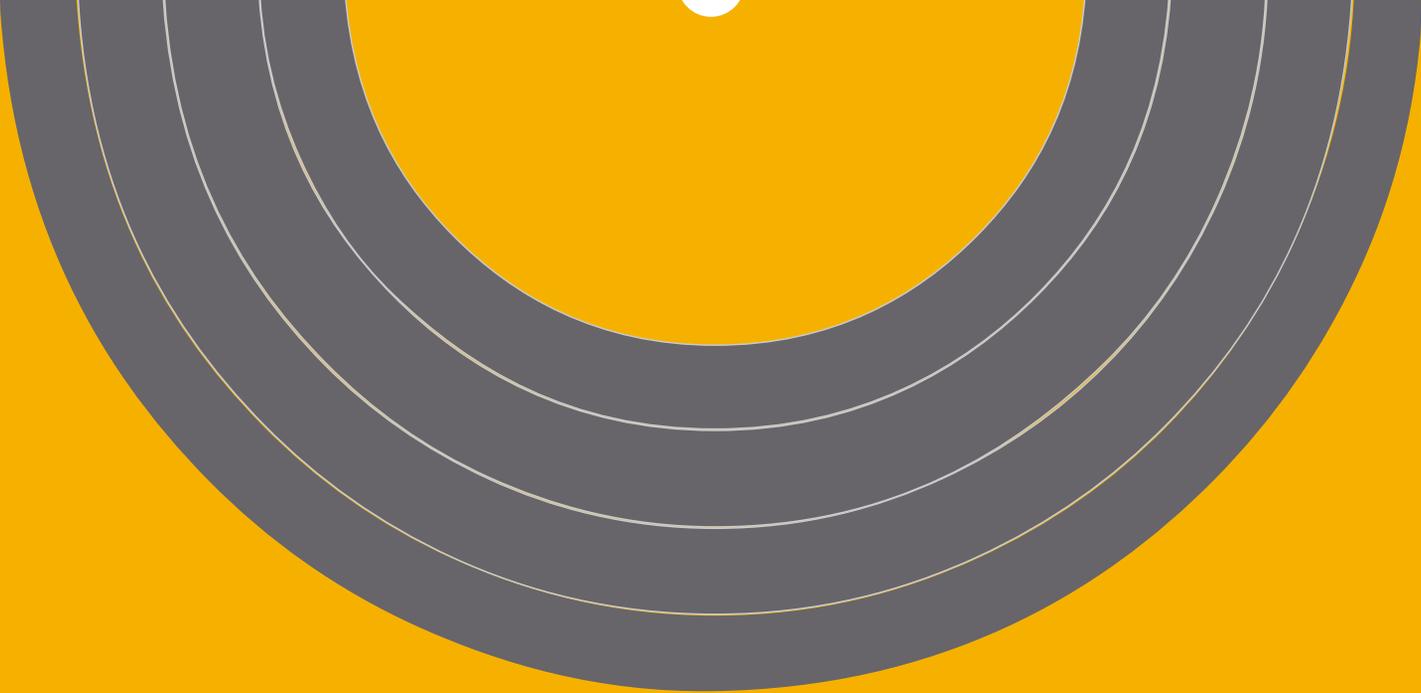
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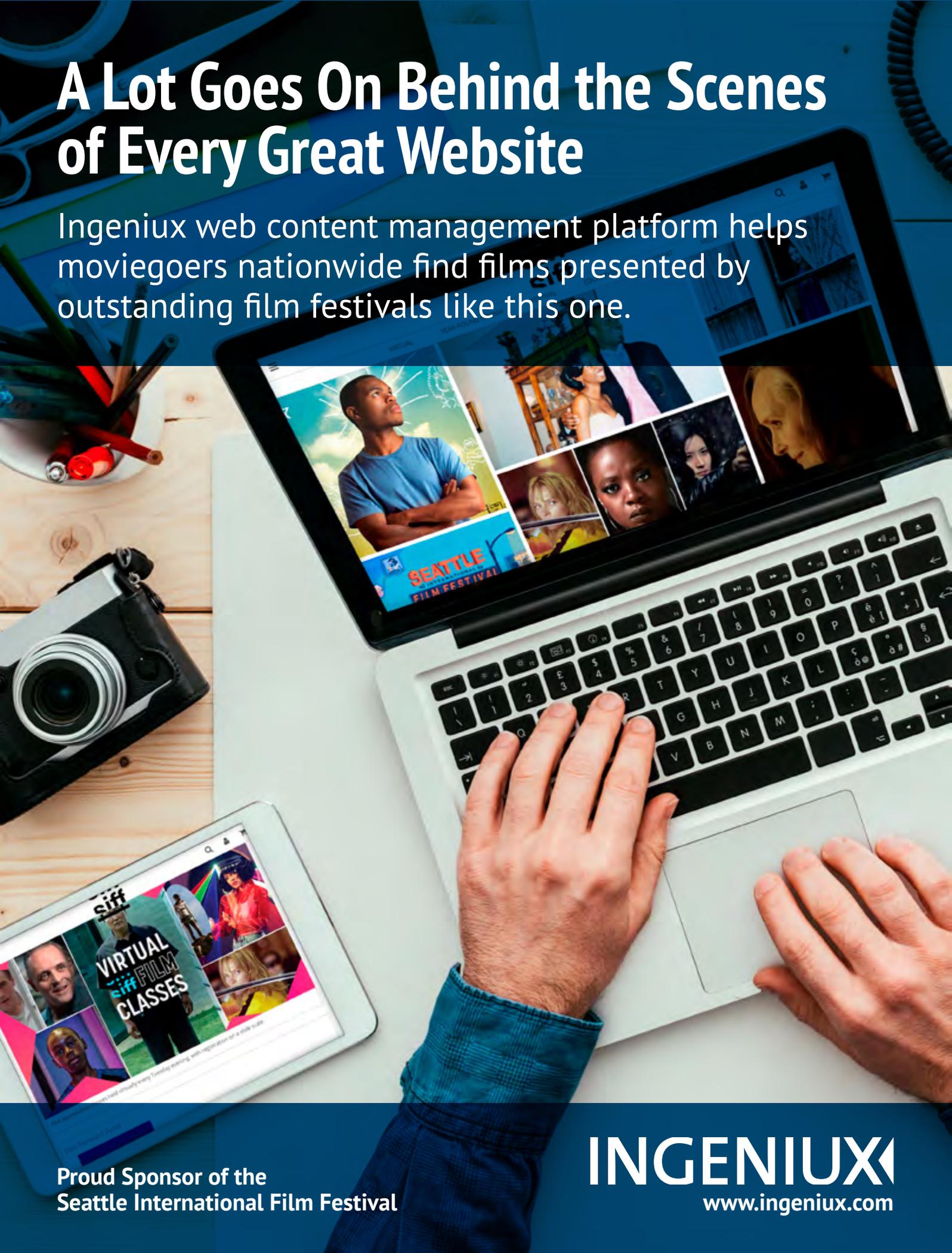
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