

mammoth
film lakes
festival '23



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

wednesday, may 24		7:00pm	9:00pm
Forest Service		Queendom	
Sierra Nevada Resort Lobby			Opening Night Gala

thursday may 25	11:00am	2:00pm	5:30pm	8:00pm	10:00pm
Forest Service		Episodics	Shorts Block 1	Unicorn Boy	
Edison Theater	Mojave to Mammoth Shorts	No Place for You in Our Town	Starring Jerry as Himself	Documentary Shorts 1	
Distant Brewing					Late Night Happy Hour

fri. may 26	11:00am	1:30pm	4:00pm	6:30pm	8:30pm
Forest Service		Shorts Block 2	Shorts Block 3	Nut Jobs	Love Dump
Edison Theater	A Still Small Voice	Destiny	I Said Daddy I Said	Music Videos	

sat. may 27	10:00am	12:00pm	2:30pm	5:00pm	7:30pm
Forest Service		Shorts Block 4	Documentary Shorts 2	The Horse Tail	Mississippi River Styx
Edison Theater		Burning Stone	Pure Gesticulation	Name of the Game	
Bar Sierra	Panel Brunch			Lakanuki	10:00pm Filmmaker Bash

sun. may 28	10:30am	12:30pm	2:45pm	5:00pm	7:30pm
Forest Service	Mad Cats	To Kill a Tiger	Shorts Block 5	Free Time	
Edison Theater	Animation Shorts	Naked Israel	Where the Road Leads	Documentary Shorts 3	
Minaret Cinemas					Kokomo City
Sierra Nevada Resort Lobby				9:30pm Awards Ceremony & Party	



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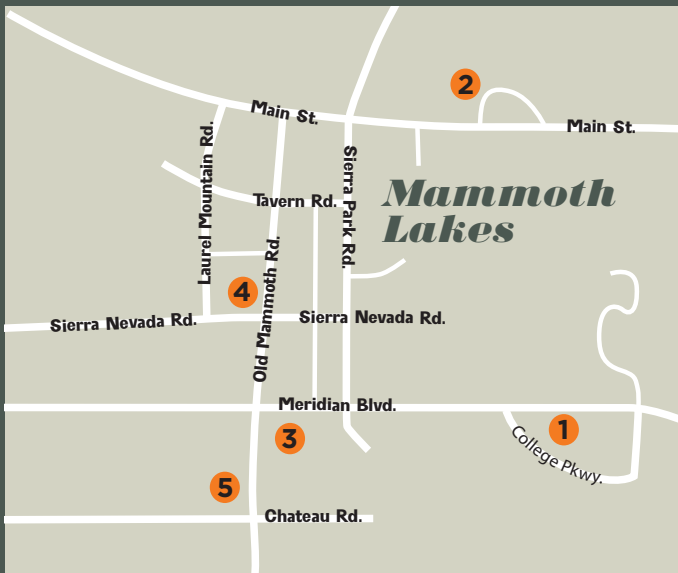
MAP + LOCATIONS

SCREENINGS

- 1. MLFF HQ / Edison Theatre**
100 College Parkway
- 2. USFS Auditorium**
2510 Main St.
- 3. Minaret Cinemas**
437 Old Mammoth Rd.

PARTIES & EVENTS

- 4. Sierra Nevada Resort / Bar Sierra**
164 Old Mammoth Rd.
- 5. Distant Brewing**
568 Old Mammoth Rd.
- Lakanuki (not on map)**
6201 Minaret Rd.



In Memoriam:

Lesley-Anne Hoxie

Dec. 4, 1989 - Jan. 16, 2023

Earlier this year we lost a friend and longtime member of the MLFF family when Lesley-Anne's life was cut tragically short by illness at age 33.

Lesley served as the Festival Manager for the past six years. She had a great passion for connecting with the filmmakers, offering warm hospitality, taking good care of their travel and accommodations and serving as the upbeat, friendly face that welcomed them to Mammoth Lakes.

This edition of the festival is dedicated to her memory. She will be sorely missed.



MLFF FILMMAKERS AND ATTENDEES: WELCOME TO MONO COUNTY!



**BEYOND
IMAGINATION**

LOCATION AND PERMIT INFO: FilmMonoCounty.com 800-845-7922



WELCOME TO MLFF

Paul: What are you doing? Did you get my email? We need to think of something to say to welcome the filmmakers!

Shira: Not yet, sorry, we got another four feet of snow and the road to Mono City is still closed so I can't get home. I had to build myself an igloo in the Von's parking lot. It took all morning.

Paul: You know, it's been raining here in L.A. and I'm a little depressed myself. I think you might have seasonal affective disorder. You should look into it. You can't be taking mornings off, we have a lot to do.

Shira: I'm not even sure if this IS the Von's parking lot. Everything is white, I feel like I'm going blind... it's getting hard to think clearly...

Paul: OK now you're just being dramatic. We need to work on...

Shira: Why yes, Olga. You're right, we have to work...



**Shira
Dubrovner**
Festival Director

Paul: Who's Olga?

Shira: There'll be a time when we'll understand why we had to suffer so much – all the mysteries will be revealed – but in the meantime, we have to live...



Paul Sbrizzi
Director of
Programming

Paul: OK, you're being weird. You're gonna scare the filmmakers. We have a FILM FESTIVAL to put on, you can't be...

Shira: Tomorrow I'll go alone, I'll teach in that school and I'll devote my whole life to people who need me. It's fall already –

Paul: OK it's actually May. Um, welcome filmmakers!!! Don't be concerned, she'll be fine, I think she'll be fine? I guess there really has been a lot of snow this year...

Shira: Winter will come soon, and everything will be covered with snow – but I'll work, I'll work...

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“ Slated had a transformative impact on our film.”

Ashbell McElveen



“ It's rare to find partners like Slated.”

Cody Lassen



“ Slated was extremely helpful.”

Anne Clements



US Narrative Feature / Sunday May 28, 5:00pm

Free Time

USA, 78 min, West Coast Premiere

Director/Writer: Ryan Martin Brown



Drew is approaching the end of his twenties, and with it his relative youth. Looking to make a sudden change, he decides to quit his cushy desk job and throw himself into rediscovering life – only to realize he doesn't know what to do with this newfound freedom.

Cast: Colin Burgess, Rajat Suresh, Holmes, James Webb, Eric Yates, and Jessie Pinnick

Director Bio: Ryan Martin Brown's work as a writer and director has played at festivals around the world. His most recent short *Tired Eyes* won the Emerging Director Award at Italy's NÓT Film Festival. He has produced several films, including Justin Zuckerman's *Yelling Fire in an Empty Theater* (Slamdance '22).

The Other Side of Ranch

directed by Cristi Rumpza



USA, 6 min

A server is confronted with the trauma of working in the service industry.

US Narrative Feature / Friday May 26, 4:00pm

USA, 107 Min, World Premiere

I Said Daddy I Said

Isolated in a rundown Texas town by her

dangerous boyfriend Daddy, LaLa finally has a plan to get out, but someone menacing is watching her every move. As the walls close in and her best laid plans crumble, LaLa is forced back into Daddy's arms, again and again and again. A grounded sci-fi drama about what it takes to escape an abusive relationship.



Director: Sebastian Karantonis

Writers: Sebastian Karantonis, Ryan Miller

Cast: Tess Sullivan, Jacob Figueroa, Paul Hungerford, Brendan McCay, Katie Chan, Ryan Miller

Director Bio: Sebastian is a Greek filmmaker, writer and visual artist hailing from the cradle of civilization, Cleveland, Ohio. He is known for *Modern Family*, *The Rookie* and *Girlboss*. His writing has been published in the *Poetic Bond*, the *Silver Needle Press*, *Chaluer* magazine and he was the recipient of the Stan and Tom Wick poetry Grant. His short films have premiered at the Athens International Film Festival, the Aesthetica Film Festival and Flatpack Film Festival, among others. This is his first feature film.

US Narrative Feature / Friday May 26, 8:30pm

USA, 51 Min, California Premiere

Love Dump

Screening
Sponsor



Director: Jason Avezano

Writers: Leila Gorstein, Jesse Kendall

The quirky owner of a refurbished-trash shop, Jessica Dump, serendipitously meets a forlorn dog lawyer, Todd Barkley, and the two fall deeply in love... However, their love is put to the test when Jessica's quest to find her missing father forces her to look inward in this "not-quite-Hallmark" romantic comedy.

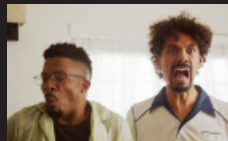
Cast: Leila Gorstein, Jesse Kendall, Rob Grabowski, EJ Cameron, Lauren Summers, Alison Banowsky

Director Bio: Jason is a director, writer, and producer from Los Angeles by way of New Jersey who has filmed various shorts and music videos. He recently wrote and directed *Upstaged By Murder*, a campy musical comedy.



Mahogany Drive

directed by Jerah Milligan,
written by James Carr,
Jonathan Braylock,
James III, Jerah
Milligan



USA, 13 min, California
Premiere

Three Black men on
vacay soon realize the house that they're staying
in is killing white women.

US Narrative Feature / Saturday May 27, 2:30pm USA, 65 Min, World Premiere

Pure Gesticulation

When Son begins a mysterious new business venture

instructing strangers over the phone, Mother can't help but involve herself. Much to Son's chagrin. But there would be no secrets in this household, no privacy whatsoever. With the exception of her own secrets. Her own clandestine machinations. If only Son could break away.

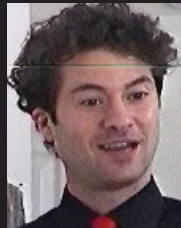


Director/Writer: Joey Hirsh

Cast: Joey Hirsh, Fern Hirsh, Cristian Guerrero, Carolyn McDermott, Natasha Sill, Bunny Gibson

Director Bio: Joey Hirsh is a novelist, poet, composer, and visual artist living in Los Angeles. After helming numerous genre bending short and mid length films, *Pure Gesticulation* is his first feature. His next film project involves blood and confusion, once again.

Hey Guys How Are You?



directed by Zane Stein,
Nate Pringle
USA, 10 min, N. American
Premiere

A young man grapples with
imposter syndrome
after accepting a
job at Red Lobster.

US Narrative Feature / Thursday May 25, 8:00pm

Unicorn Boy

USA, 90 min, California Premiere

Director/Writer: Matt Kiel

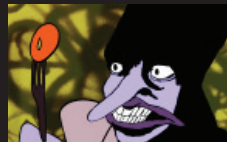


Matty, a down-on-their-luck artist, distraught by a recent breakup, is magically sucked into a unicorn-run alternate dimension. Now, Matty must work with their new unicorn friends to conquer a dark force, bringing peace to their kingdom and emotional stability to their bleak Silver Lake life.

Cast: Matt Kiel, Patton Oswalt, Maria Bamford, Sethward, Harold Perrineau, Katie Leclerc

Director Bio: Matt Kiel is an animator, director and actor who was the lead animator on the SyFy Original Series *Hell Den*. They were featured on Comedy Central's *Saturday Morning-ish Cartoons* and have worked with Shout! Factory, Mondo Media, Six Point Harness, Bento Box Entertainment, HBO, Mattel and Fusion Network.

Eclipsed



directed by
Jamie Wolfe

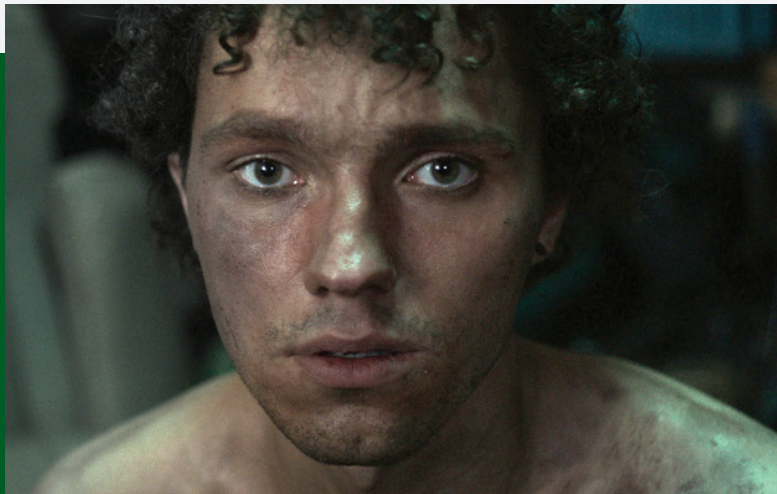
USA, 2.5 min

Tensions rise in the
final hour of the solar
eclipse.

Int'l Narrative Feature / Saturday May 27, 5:00pm

The Horse Tail

secrets. Diana, an aging sex worker, comes back to town, milk streaming from her breasts. Maj, an outcast, suspects that she is his mother. Max, a policeman, discovers that his wife has been raped in the forest. Maj is the main suspect and becomes the object of affection of the victim's daughter. Hans senses what might happen.



Poland, 75 Min, World Premiere

Between a rubbish dump, barns and a forest, there is a place where people form incestuous relationships and hold painful

Director/Writer: Justyna Łuczaj

Cast: Remigiusz Pocica, Ryta Kurak, Przemysław Bluszcz, Anouchka Kolbuch, Wojciech Biąłtas, Tomasz Mularski

Director Bio: Justyna Łuczaj is a painter, visual artist, film director, screenwriter, TV producer, and university lecturer (Rzeszów University, Arts Department). She holds a PhD in film direction.

Toni

directed by Sanjin Malešević

USA/Bosnia, 15 min, US Premiere



A sleep-deprived woman returns to find a stranger in the house who insists he's her son.

Int'l Narrative Feature / Sunday May 28, 10:30am

Mad Cats

Japan, 87 min, West Coast Premiere

Taka, a shiftless young man, sets off on a quest to find his brother Mune. Teaming up with a quirky new friend and an edgy, mysterious young girl along the way, Taka finds himself taking on a pack of vicious monster cats determined to execute unscrupulous pet shop owners.

Director/Writer: Reiki Tsuno

Cast: Shô Mineo, Ayane, Yuya Matsuura, So Yamanaka

Director Bio: Born in Japan, Reiki Tsuno went to Dublin, Ireland in 2002 where he studied film direction. 2010 found him in New York City furthering his education in film direction and film making. He was a crew member for many short films while in New York City and his own short films *Bounce of the Dead* and *Paddy and Me* were selections at various American film festivals. Returning to Japan in 2012, he directed corporate promotional videos, music videos, film trailers and more. His short film *Crying Bitch* was selected by festivals including SXSW and Fantasia in 2018.



Int'l Narrative Feature / Friday May 26, 6:30pm

Canada, 84 Min, West Coast Premiere

Nut Jobs

Benjamin tells his ex-girlfriend, Angie, that he joined a cell of left-wing terrorists to get revenge on her former boss, who owns a right-wing radio station. His story blends conceptual artists, amateur theatre troupes, a hallucinogenic vinyl record and other magical powers. All that nonsense leaves Angie wondering if he made it all up just to win her back.

Director: Alexandre Leblanc **Writers:** Alexandre Leblanc, Julien Grégoire

Cast: Jean-Sébastien Courchesne, Sophie Desmarais, Benoit Bourbonnais, Annie St-Pierre, Richard Fréchette



Director Bio: Born near Montreal, Canada, Alexandre Leblanc is a director and editor of both narratives and documentaries. Most notably, he edited Vincent Biron's *Prank* and Anne Émond's *Jeune Juliette*. After making a few short films, *Nut Jobs* (original title: *Les pas d'allure*) is his first feature.

Carol & Janet

directed by Andrea Rosen

USA, 9 min, West Coast Premiere



Hard truths are revealed when Carol and Janet each receive a package from their shared ex-boyfriend's mother.

Int'l Narrative Feature / Sunday May 28, 2:45pm Serbia, 82 min Director/Writer: Nina Ognjanović

Where the Road Leads

A stranger arrives in a remote and isolated village; the locals suspect his involvement in the construction of a highway nearby. A few misunderstandings and lies are enough for the locals' intolerance to escalate to an open conflict. Jana falls in love and realizes the danger. She is the only one who can save him.

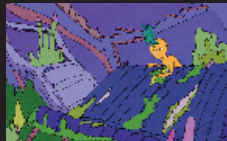


Cast: Jana Bjelica, Zlatan Vidović, Vladimir Maksimović, Ninoslav Čulum, Svetozar Cvetković, Branislava Stefanović

Director Bio: Nina Ognjanović is a Serbian writer/director. She graduated from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade in 2022. *Where the Road Leads*, her thesis film, premiered at Slamdance 2023, winning the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature and a Grand Jury Honorable Mention.

Organic Matter

directed by Emily Halaka • USA, 9 min, West Coast Premiere



A group of scavengers navigate a surreal, acid-colored planet in the aftermath of an ecological reckoning.



— IT WILL MAKE YOU QUESTION —
SO MANY THINGS.
LIKE REALITY.

#KEEPMAMMOTHUNREAL

US Documentary Feature / Saturday May 27, 7:30pm USA, 86 min, California Premiere

Mississippi River Styx

A middle-aged New Jersey man is given three months to live and decides to spend his last days attempting to float the length of the Mississippi River in a ramshackle houseboat with his beloved pug, chasing adventure, inspiring people with his end-of-life bravado, and living on the charity of the communities he visits.

Screening
Sponsor



Directors: Tim Grant, Andy McMillan

Featuring: Kelly Phillips, Sapphire

Director Bio: Tim Grant produced *Finders Keepers*, *J. Cole Forest Hills Drive: Homecoming* and *The Passing On*. He directed *The Aria of Babyface Cauliflower Brown*, which premiered at Hot Docs. Andy McMillan is an accomplished photographer, writer, and director. His work has appeared in *CNN*, *GQ*, *The New York Times Magazine* and *Vanity Fair*.

Requiem for a Whale

directed by Ido Weisman

Israel, 15.5 min

An encounter with a whale's corpse evokes thoughts about the dialogue between death and life.



US Documentary Feature / Saturday May 27, 5:00pm

USA, 117 Min, World Premiere

Name of the Game

the late 1980s until the early 2000s, with clubs like The Right Track, Tigers, and The Boom Boom Room open seven nights a week and the dancers becoming local legends. *Name of the Game* looks at the lives of past and current male dancers and the women that have supported them both as followers and as managers. It explores how this subculture intersects with the origins

of hip hop, gang culture, and kung fu assassins. For mature audiences.



Director/Writers:

William Forbes, Douglas Skinner

Featuring:

XTC, Champagne The Champ, Hena C, Profit The Problem, Dark & Lovely, After Midnight

Director Bio: Longtime friends William Forbes and Douglas Skinner collaborated on the screenplay for *John Henry* (2020) with William directing and composing and Douglas co-writing and co-starring. It became one of the most streamed films on Netflix. They went on to found Ebe Productions, and while conducting interviews for a project based on male exotic dancers they decided to make it a documentary.

US Documentary Feature / Thursday May 25, 5:30pm USA, 75 min, West Coast Premiere

Starring Jerry as Himself

Director: Law Chen

Writers: Jerry Hsu, Law Chen

A family documents how their immigrant father Jerry, a recently retired Florida man, was recruited by the Chinese police to be an undercover agent, only to discover a darker truth.

Featuring: Jerry Hsu, Kathy Hsu, Jesse Hsu, Joshua Hsu, Jon Hsu, Tiffany Shi

Director Bio: Based in Brooklyn. Law's narrative, documentary, and commercial films have earned 19 Cannes Lions, as well as multiple Webby Awards, Vimeo Staff Picks, and screened at film festivals around the world. *Starring Jerry as Himself* is his debut feature.



A Throwing Forth

directed by Xiao Zhang

China/USA, 6 min,

World Premiere

Sliding planes of window and time, seeking a transitory reunion with family in the interval of memory.



US Documentary Feature / Friday May 26, 11:00am

USA, 93 Min, West Coast Premiere

A Still Small Voice

she learns to provide spiritual care to people confronting profound life changes. Through Mati's experiences with her patients, her struggle with professional burnout, and her own spiritual questioning, we gain new perspectives on how meaningful connection can be and how painful its absence is.

Mati is a chaplain completing a year-long hospital residency, as



Screening Sponsor



Director: Luke Lorentzen

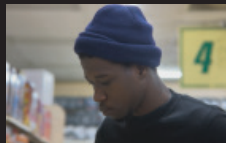
Featuring: Margaret "Mati" Engel, Rev. David Fleenor

Director Bio: Luke

Lorentzen's previous film, *Midnight Family* (MLFF 2019) won over 35 awards, including a Special Jury Award for Cinematography at Sundance. His original series *Last Chance U* won an Emmy for Outstanding Serialized Sports Documentary.

From Fish to Moon

directed by
Kevin Contento



USA, 13 min,
West Coast Premiere

In a small supermarket
somewhere in the
American
backwoods...

23

Int'l Documentary Feature / Friday May 26, 1:30pm Iran, 53 min, West Coast Premiere

Destiny

she finds herself in as she studies for university. The film portrays the competing pressures on young women living this experience, trying to balance the wishes of their family and their faith with their desire for a career.

Director: Yaser Talebi **Featuring:** Sahar Aezi, Abdolrahim Aezi, Sharafaldin Aezi, Zahra Aezi

Screening Sponsor 



Director Bio: Yaser Talebi is an Iranian film director, producer, screenwriter, and editor, born in 1982. His films, including *Beloved* (MLFF 2019) and *I Won't Remain Alone* (MLFF 2021) have been screened at festivals worldwide and won numerous awards. He has made many documentaries for television and served as a jury member at numerous international film festivals.

Vision of Paradise

directed by
Leonardo Pirondi
Brazil/USA/UK,
16 min,



West Coast Premiere
Imagination, computer simulations and the mythical island of Hy-Brazil, thought to exist to the west of Ireland.

Int'l Documentary Feature / Sunday May 28, 12:30pm

Naked Israel

anticipation of joining the army, and it shapes their childhood understanding of gender, sexuality and authority. This experience has a profound effect on the upbringing of the Israeli man. This film is an irreverent look at Israeli masculinity through a series of interviews with Israeli men from diverse backgrounds and of a broad range of ages. For mature audiences (nudity).



Israel, 60 Min, World Premiere

All Israelis are drafted to the army when they turn 18, and a significant percentage serve as combat soldiers. Young Israelis grow up with the

Director: Inés Moldavsky

Featuring: Yotam, Eyal, Aiden, Hadar, Mark, David, Neri, Nitzan, Eli, Ran, Shuki, Inés Moldavsky

Director Bio: Inés Moldavsky's work focuses on the interaction of gender, nationality and sexuality. Her film *The Men behind the Wall* won the Golden Bear award at the 2018 Berlinale. Her film *Naked America* screened at the 2022 Mammoth Lakes Film Festival.

I Never Had Dreams of My Son

directed by
Jason Blevins

Ukraine/USA, 16 min,
California Premiere

A Ukrainian father finds
proof his missing son
may still be alive
in captivity.



25

Int'l Documentary Feature / Thursday May 25, 2:00pm Bulgaria, 81 min, US Premiere

No Place for You in Our Town

A group of hooligans from a decaying former mining city cling to their soccer team's success as though their lives depend on it. When they face a series of personal and communal collapses, it seems that the whole world is changing — but will they?



Director: Nikolay Stefanov

Featuring: Tsetso And Tony, Mimeto, Dado, Roby And Borko, Chokancheto and Atsi

Director Bio: Nikolay Stefanov made his directing debut with two mid-length documentaries in 2016 and 2018. *No Place for You in Our Town* is his first feature-length documentary. It had its world premiere in the Next:Wave competition at CPH:DOX 2022.

First Months of Freedom



directed by Kriss Li
Canada, 9 min,
California Premiere

A woman's first
months off parole
into the pandemic.

Int'l Documentary Feature / Sunday May 28, 12:30pm

India, Canada, 125 Min

To Kill a Tiger

later, she's found stumbling home. After being dragged into the woods, she was raped by three men. Ranjit goes to the police, and the men are arrested. But Ranjit's relief is short-lived, as the villagers and their leaders launch a sustained campaign to force the family to drop the charges. To Kill a Tiger follows Ranjit's uphill battle to find justice for his child. In India, where a rape

is reported every 20 minutes and conviction rates are less than 30 percent, Ranjit's decision to support his daughter is virtually unheard of.



Director: Nisha Kumari Pahuja

Director Bio: Nisha Pahuja is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker based in Toronto and Bombay. Her credits include *Diamond Road* (2007 Gemini Award for Best Documentary Series), *Bollywood Bound* (2001 Gemini nominee) and the award-winning *The World Before Her* (2012; Best Documentary, Tribeca Film Festival; Best Canadian Documentary, Hot Docs Film Festival; TIFF's Canada's Top Ten; Sundance Film Forward Program). Pahuja's short film for Global's 16/9 about the Delhi Gang rape was the recipient of an Amnesty International media award for Canadian journalism in 2015.

Spotlight Feature / Wednesday May 24, 7:00pm

Queendom

France / USA, 98 min

Director: Agniia Galdanova



Born and raised on the harsh streets of Magadan, a frigid outpost of the Soviet gulag, Gena is only 21. She's a queer artist who stages radical performances in public that become a new form of art and activism. She dresses in otherworldly costumes made from junk and tape, and protests the government on the streets of Moscow. By doing that, she wants to change people's perception of beauty and queerness and bring attention to the harassment of the LGBTQ+ community. The performances—often dark, strange, evocative, and queer at their core — are a manifestation of Gena's subconscious. But they come at a price.

Featuring: Gena Marvin

Director Bio: Agniia Galdanova is a Sundance and IDFA-supported documentary film director. Her first feature-length documentary *One Step Forward, One Step Back* about a family's dream to live far from civilization in the Altai Mountains premiered at Message to Man International Film Festival.

Spotlight Feature / Sunday May 28, 7:30pm

USA, 73 Min, California Premiere

Kokomo City

nothing back while breaking down the walls of their profession. Executive produced by Lena Waithe, the film won the Sundance Film Festival's NEXT Innovator Award and NEXT Audience Award, as well as the Berlinale's Audience Award in the Panorama Documentary section.

This wildly entertaining and refreshingly unfiltered documentary passes the mic to four Black transgender sex workers in Atlanta and New York City, who hold

nothing back while breaking down the walls of their profession. Executive produced by Lena Waithe, the film won the Sundance Film Festival's NEXT Innovator Award and NEXT Audience Award, as well as the Berlinale's Audience Award in the Panorama Documentary section.

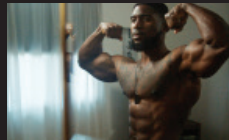


Director: D. Smith

Featuring: Daniella Carter, Dominique Silver, Koko Da Doll, Liyah Mitchell

Director Bio: D. Smith is a two-time Grammy nominated producer, singer, and songwriter. In 2014, Smith decided to transition into the woman she always knew she was, unaware that living in her truth meant that she would have to sacrifice making music for a living, the thing she loved the most. The silver lining came with the creation of *Kokomo City*.

PREP directed by Raymond Knudsen
USA, 14 min, West Coast Premiere



A bodybuilding fever dream fueled by childhood trauma, food porn and acid techno music.

Spotlight Feature / Saturday May 27, 12:00pm

Burning Stone

USA, 81 min, World Premiere

Director: Tyler Brunner **Writer:** Claire Fraleigh

Motivated by the pursuit of angel-hood, the boy Enoch sacrifices his friends and family to a prospective uranium deposit in Coles Hill, Virginia. An ensemble of hypnotic instruments and choir weave together, intersect, and thread sonic and visual information in an unconventional approach to silent film. For mature audiences.

Cast: Joyce Liang

Director Bio: Brunner (b. 1998) is a visual artist, filmmaker, and composer currently working in Baltimore, MD. *Burning Stone* unites the *Books of Enoch* and the anecdotal worship of uranium. A retrospective of drawings and sculptures titled "Burning Stone: Postmortem" acted as the film's sequel, and was put on display at The Parlor in downtown Baltimore.



Perspex by Plaid



Music video directed
by Emma Catnip
UK, 3 min

2023 MLFF Shorts

presented by



Shorts Block 1

Thursday May 25, 5:30pm



Better People

Director: Nina Kramer / Writer:
Jessica Uhler / USA / 10.5 min. /
World Premiere

Jess finds herself in a predicament when she's asked to pay a stranger's kindness forward at a drive-thru coffee shop.



Hold to Dash

Director: John Connor
Hammond / Writer: Leo
Winters / USA / 15.5 min. /
West Coast Premiere

A hapless professional gamer goes on an uncomfortable date with a fan.

A Body Appeared at the Lake Today



Director: Brian Ratigan / Writer: Daniel DeVaughn /
USA / 5 min. / West Coast Premiere

Found footage images randomly selected;
a poem written without images; music written
without images or words.

Catching Spirits



Director: Vanessa Beletic / USA / 12 min.

Destiny makes a decision that could reveal a secret she doesn't yet understand. Will dancing kill her or unlock something magical?

Half Sisters



Director: S. Cagney Gentry / USA / 13.5 min.
/ World Premiere

Half sisters who have never met discover something they have shared every day.

The Slight Deviation of the Atoms



Director: Antoine Denis / France / 18.5 min. / Int'l Premiere

At a party, Xavier is eagerly waiting for a girl he met the night before. But then he gets to know another girl, Alice. The slight deviation of one atom creates a series of unpredicted moves.

Shorts Block 2

Friday May 26, 1:30pm

Blind Colour



Director:
Patricia D Lewis
/ USA / 12 min. /
World Premiere

It is better to
love than to
hate.



The Actress

Director: Steve Collins / USA /
14.5 min. / West Coast Premiere

An actress makes a surprise visit
to meet her brother's new girlfriend
and destroy his life.

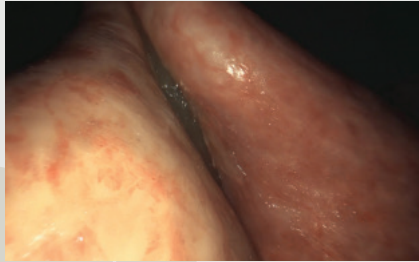
Chiaroscuro



Director: Elias Djemil-Matassov / Writers: Elias
Djemil-Matassov, Elizabeth Crispo, Jean-
Philippe Nadeau Marcoux / Canada / 9 min. /
West Coast Premiere

The story of the memory that is born and that
dies. But memory rarely dies, to tell the truth.

Juice



Director: Mona Keil
/ Germany / 5 min. /
California Premiere

Meaty creatures
must learn to share
their juicy world with
pesky little bugs
before they run dry.

Filling Holes



Directors: Miriam
Gabriel, Sophia de Baun
/ USA / 15 min. / West
Coast Premiere

Best friends Sophia
and Mimi move in
together for a new
start after their lives
were disrupted by
the pandemic.

I Love Pictures



Director: Gabriel Bellone / Writers:
Gabriel Bellone, Aki Charland / USA /
20 min. / N. American Premiere

A model attempts to kill a
photographer after a mutual
confidante turns to murderous despair.

Shorts Block 3

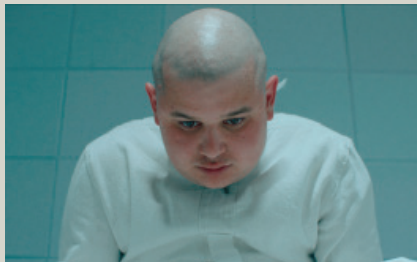
Friday May 26, 4:00pm

The Community



Director: Milos Mitrovic / Canada
/ 4 min. / California Premiere

Two men are brought together by a secret kept in the woods, but when they go looking for it, they end up finding something much more meaningful.



Jimmy Boden

Director: Christopher Pickering / USA / 10 min.

What has led this imprisoned government asset to reach his breaking point?

The Bloody Family



Director: Amir Karami / Iran / 14 min. /
West Coast Premiere

In an old and mysterious house, a young girl has not left her dark room for years. A social worker enters this house to save the girl's life.

Sanaa, Seductress of Strangers



Director: Jan Eilhardt
/ Writers: Jan Eilhardt,
Sanaa Schläger /
Germany / 5 min. / US
Premiere

A cheerful city guide shows historical places in her neighborhood, but succumbs to base desires and transphobic entanglements.

Summer Rain



Director: Shao Lin
/ Taiwan / 15 min. /
N. American Premiere

Taiwanese siblings spend a rainy summer day together during quarantine.

Sorry



Directors: Brent Worden,
Spencer Bang / Writer:
Spencer Bang / USA /
13 min. / World Premiere

A popular online content creator tries to craft an apology when a clip of him making sexist comments spreads online.

Scent of A Persimmon Flower



Director: Jae Hong Park
/ S. Korea / 14.5 min. /
World Premiere

A middle-aged brother tries to help his blind younger sister find a romantic partner.

Shorts Block 4

Saturday May 27, 12:00pm

Vegeversary



Director: Sarah Schmidt / USA / 4 min. / West Coast Premiere

A rabbit's friends take her on a meat-bender to celebrate her vegan-anniversary, indulging in the kinds of foods she avoids all year long.



Work Life

Director: Kevin Ung / Writer: Matthew Stewart / USA / 13 min.

Four corporate co-workers unknowingly cross paths during a chaotic weekend that leaves their lives intertwined through improbable twists of fate.

Stuck



Director: Brittany Reeber / USA / 10 min. / World Premiere

Wanda, an introverted stoner, is roped into her roommates' music video shoot, when she finds a kindred spirit in a mouse stuck to a sticky pad.

Baloney Beacon



Director: Max Landman / USA / 5 min.

The balloon gods are hungry. Peculiar appetites evoke vulnerable memories.

Wild Card



Director: Tipper Newton / USA / 12.5 min.

Two strangers are brought together by a video dating service.

Wolf



Director: Siavosh Zandi Qashqaei / Iran / 15 min. / US Premiere

Yashar, the only child of a nomadic family, faces a dilemma of life and death.

Sentimental Value



Director: Steve Collins / USA / 12 min. / California Premiere

A trip inside a piano to get to the bottom of a depressed pianist and find out what's really wrong.

Shorts Block 5

Sunday May 28, 2:45pm



Deflated

Director: Steve Collins / USA /
8 min. / West Coast Premiere

A pool plumber has a mystical experience with a reincarnated client and is briefly beautiful.



Bromance

Director: SaraKlara Hellström /
Sweden / 12 min. / Int'l Premiere

Fifteen year old gamer Råkan joins his best friend Fabbe and goes to a girls party for the first time in his life.

Untitled Days



Director: Eva Rini May Cragg / Germany / 8 min.
/ Int'l Premiere

A woman doesn't quite want to come into frame. On the verge of invisibility she tiptoes towards herself.

Sucks to Be the Moon



Directors: Eric Paperth, Tyler March / USA / 11 min. / California Premiere

Jealous of the sun's stardom, the moon journeys into space, searching for a planet that actually cares about him.

La Última Historia



Director: Vicente Molina Pardo / Spain / 16 min. / N. American Premiere

In a dystopian and indeterminate society, the Black Inquisitor is faced with the task of capturing The Metaphors Poet, who uses his artistic-activist skills to commit crimes.

Horse Brothers



Directors: Milos Mitrovic, Fabian Velasco / Canada / 8 min. / California Premiere

Two paranoid brothers are consumed with murderous fantasies after a horse convinces them that they are each others' enemies.

The Vacation



Director: Jarreau Carillo / USA / 9.5 min.

A Black man attempts to take a vacation.

Animation

Sunday May 28, 10:30am

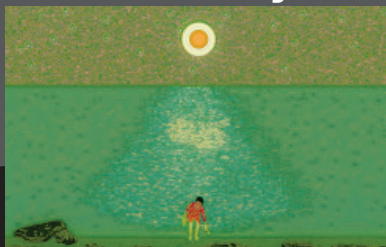
In the Big Yard Inside the Teeny-Weeny Pocket



Director: Yoko Yuki / Japan / 6.5 min.

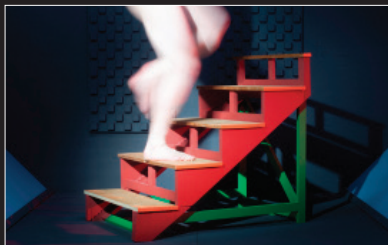
An animation rhyme that weaves together many days of observing, recording, and experimenting.

Well Wishes My Love, Your Love



Director: Gabriel Gabriel Garble / Malaysia / 9 min.

A boy lends his friend a prosthetic arm for the day.



Arrest in Flight

Director: Adrian Flury / Switzerland / 8 min. / California Premiere

The non-obvious character of movement when transferred to an alien object.



Rules

Director: Jeanette Jeanenne / USA / 8 min. / US Premiere

The rules of the game were understood.

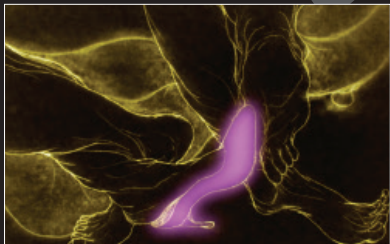
Pentola



Director: Leo Černic / Italy / 7 min. / West Coast Premiere

Pentola is a small middle-aged man who leaves his wife Titti for Batman.

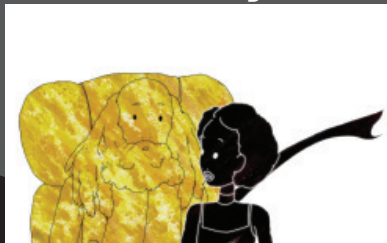
fur



Director: Zhen Li / USA, China / 6.5 min.

A crush gone moldy...

By Water



Director: Iyabo Kwayana / Writers: Luther Clement-Lam, Iyabo Kwayana / USA, Guyana / 12 min.

An unlikely hero's journey into his own memories becomes a vehicle for reconciliation and healing for himself and his sibling.

Our Pain

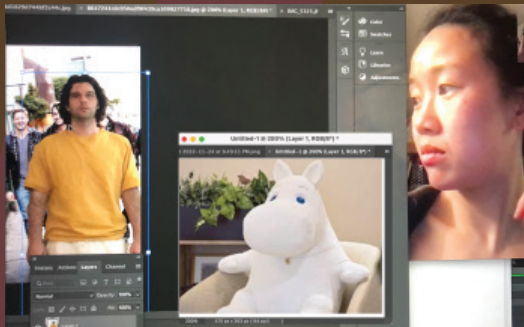


Director: Shunsaku Hayashi / Japan / 16 min. / N. American Premiere

Our common pain, although experienced individually and uniquely, is what connects us.

Documentary Shorts 1

Moomin



Director: Zach Dorn / USA / 5 min. /
West Coast Premiere

An eager romantic attempts to win over
an ex-partner with a Moomin plush toy in a
virtual claw game.

ViciousCircle



Director: Tianyun Lyu / USA, China / 11 min.

An experimental documentary animation
about my grandmother's relationship with
my mother.

Thursday May 25, 8:00pm

Carl Runs the Paper



Directors: Joey Horan, Manish Khanal / USA / 27 min. / West Coast Premiere

A 73-year-old newfound newspaper editor navigates grief while saving California's oldest weekly paper.



A Call

Director: Ian Sinichenka / Writers: Bohdan Diorditsa, Ian Sinichenka / Ukraine / 12.5 min. / World Premiere

Viktor Plastun, a base station engineer, risks his life to help restore communications after the shelling in the Mykolaiv, Ukraine.



Flightpath

Director: David Grabias / USA / 26 min.

A meditation on death and the grief journey through the eyes of Sarah, a wildlife researcher in the California desert, and her dogs.

Documentary Shorts 2

Empty Rooms



Director: Zhenia Kazankina / Russia / 5.5 min.
/ N. American Premiere

With the help of found 16mm film and voice messages, this film brings my exiled friends back to their empty rooms.



Squid Fleet

Director: Ed Ou, Michael Hsu /
Writer: Michael Hsu /
USA, China / 13.5 min. /
US Premiere

A poetic exploration of the Chinese long-distance fishing fleet and the destruction wrought by the commodification of people and nature.



Animal in Ascension

Director: Ian Clark / USA /
6 min. / California Premiere

An inter-dimensional fever dream about DMT and the margins of human perception.

Saturday May 27, 2:30pm

Ukarajo - Mentawai Score



Director: Cannelle Guhur / Writers: Cannelle Guhur, Teutak Gougou, Kornelius / France / 18 min. / US Premiere

The flower men on the Mentawai archipelago in Indonesia have days that repeat themselves, with a regular rhythm. Slowly, each gesture, each impact is transformed to create a great musical score.



Becoming Howard

Director: Matt Fuller / USA / 22.5 min.

A 58 year-old person with autism leaves his job as a crossing guard for his 40th high school reunion in the Midwest.



Balloon Boy

Directors: Brian Gersten, Arlin Golden / USA / 16.5 min. / World Premiere

On October 15, 2009, America watched with rapt attention a large balloon floating through the skies of Colorado on live TV.

Documentary Shorts 3

Let Me Take You Home

Director: Evelyn
Hang Yin / USA /
5 min.

Ah Yeh meanders through the dreamscape of an old Chinatown, where he is joined by others from his time and makes it familiar to his granddaughter.



Brotherness



Director: David Power / Writers: David Power,
Julia Elger, Bence Prokop / Romania / 8 min.

Confronted with their fears, two young brothers find out they need to rely on each other in order to overcome them.

Sunday May 28, 5:00pm

8 Days at Ware



Directors: Meg Shutzer, Rachel Lauren Mueller / USA / 26 min. / West Coast Premiere

Two back-to-back suicides at a juvenile detention center in rural Louisiana raise troubling questions about the state's justice system and expose a legacy of abuse and neglect.

Andrew after Angola



Director: Will LaCalle / USA / 40 min. / California Premiere

A re-entry program helps former prisoners rebuild their lives in Louisiana; the program's founder, Andrew Hundley, has a complex background.

Mojave to Mammoth

Enchanted Cove

Director: Jeff Kardesch / USA / 12.5 min. / California Premiere

A woman finds a camera on a hike.



Idaho Babe



Oh yes, I was extra strong.

Director: Arlie Sommer / USA / 8 min. / California Premiere

Babe Hanson, a queer woman and a buckaroo legend, ran the Sawtooth Lodge in the Sawtooth National Forest of Idaho for 25 years, at the beginning of the 1900s.

Thursday May 25, 11:00am

Game Hawker



Directors: Josh Izenberg, Brett Marty / USA / 25.5 min.

For Shawn Hayes, falconry is more than a deep connection with raptors; it's his life's work. As an American falconry ambassador, he's carved a space for himself where people of color haven't always been welcome.

Momentum



Directors: Michelle Aguilar, Lane Power / USA / 48 min.

An inspiring film about two friends who find hope, strength and new beginnings in an unexpected way: the punishing sport of Mixed Martial Arts.

Episodics

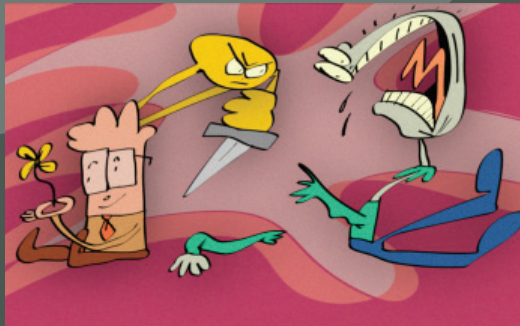
Play This At My Funeral



Director: Ray Smiling / USA / 8 min. /
West Coast Premiere

A series of short stories highlighting the intimate moment a pop song becomes your song.

Secrets and Lies in a Town of Sinners



Director: Jonni Phillips / USA / 30 min. /
World Premiere

Some sad people get eyeball diseases, join the circus, go inside their own eyeballs, go underground, stuff like that. The sequel to "Barber Westchester"

Thursday May 25, 2:00pm

Palookaville



Director: Theodore Collatos / USA / 17 min. / West Coast Premiere

Things get turned upside down when JoJo wakes up believing he's Joe Louis - one of boxing's greatest legends...



Space Rats

Directors: Darwin Schulze, Basil Scott-Mitchell / Australia / 15 min. / US Premiere

Four escaped lab rats voyage on a mission through space to prove life beyond Earth and return home.



Momo Local

Director: Alexia Colette / France / 12 min. / California Premiere

A schizophrenic dumpster diver in Paris must overcome his greatest fear, as the world around him turns pink.

Music Videos

Friday May 26, 6:30pm



Rakiya Su Katamam

by Altin Gün

directed by Sylvain
Rusques, Simon
Moreaux



Continuous Hinge

by Non Plus Temps

directed by Sam
Lefebvre, Michael
Zamora



Love Him

by Two Shell

directed by
Eternal USA



Funeral Solution

by Osees

directed by
Logan Feser



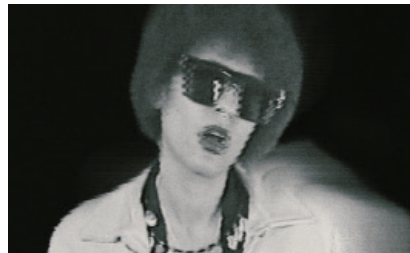
Perspex

by Plaid, directed by Emma Catnip



Under No Nation

by Goat, directed by John Mark Lapham



Got Your Number

by The Maghreban & Nah Eeto ,
directed by Fake Smile



Share the Present

by Gift, directed by Andrew Gibson



Take Me for a Ride

by Jennifer Vanilla, directed by Sam Puglia



Oceans Niagara

by M83, directed by Jann Gonzales

Music Videos

Friday May 26, 6:30pm



Doorman

by slowthai, Mura Masa

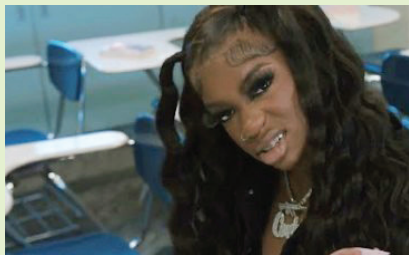
directed by
THE REST



Look Like a Man

by Decius

directed by Liam May



Shabooya

by Hitkidd, Gloss Up,
K Carbon, Slimeroni,
Aleza

directed by
Hitkidd



So Typically Now

by U.S. Girls

directed by Meg Remy



ALL VIP PASS Holders receive a Free oxygen bar
starting at 6pm on May 24th, 2023
and discount IV Therapy.

SCREENPLAY



Canajoharie - "The Boiling Pot" by Dean C. Cummings

Degan Brandt, a burned-out professor, finds out he has a son, Hiawatha, and grandchildren he has never met. But Hiawatha is angry and attempts to kill Degan. During

the attempt, Hiawatha is killed by a local cop. The autopsy shows that Degan is not Hiawatha's son; there was a mix up at the maternity hospital...



Field of Weeds by Kelly Jean Karam

A perpetually stoned and financially desperate marijuana farmer seeks advice from her beloved Grandma, now a ghost, on how to win back custody of her teenage son,

while battling against the crooked winery baron hellbent on owning her land.



Hard Cold Truth by Patrick L. McConnell

After investing many years searching for the "Cure to the Common Cold," this socially anemic Scientist, finds what he's looking for, or does he? In opposition to his claustrophobic-personal story, he realizes true friendship and a new connection to life as he traverses through a dark, shocking possibility – The Allegation that his Cure... Might be the death of us all.



I'll Meet You There by John Somers Fairchild

A PCT thru-hiker spends the day with his late uncle's best friend.



Jorie Lee Crosses the Line by Mary Kuryla

Jorie Lee, a broke mother of 5, cuts a deal with a criminal disguised as a surf bum and her estranged daughter Bebe to cross state lines to terminate

her pregnancy, her moral rectitude challenged at every bend. Though Jorie's racing chops supply the speed to elude police after she, paradoxically, robs a Planned Parenthood, she cannot outrun the hurt she has caused Bebe or her own fury at nixing her career.

FINALISTS



Learning to Be Human by John T. Frederick

Rodney King asked the question: “Why can’t we all just get along?” An ensemble of conflicting characters illustrate: Why... in Orange County, California. Boiled

down, difference is essential.



Livermorium by Sean William Morrisroe

Four households on a quiet Bay Area cul-de-sac enjoy a summer cookout. However, their tranquil lives are soon irrevocably altered by unrelated events and tragedies. A shy

awkward scientist’s heart is broken by a duplicitous lover with international implications. A desperate young wife turns to a bizarre ancient ritual to conceive. A mother’s fight to rid the neighborhood of feral swine ends in mayhem and death...



Lupe Q and the Galactic Earworms

by Javier Badillo, Nat Marshik

Punk rock. Disenfranchised BIPOC teens. Creepy space aliens. Queer young romance. Three scrappy teens in a punk band discover their terrible music is the only thing that can save the world from an alien invasion.



Perfect Memory by Matthew Dixon

After he and his wife, Claire, lose their daughter in an accident that they could have prevented, Max Fine, a Columbia University psychiatrist specializing in PTSD, is confronted by the inefficacy

of current treatments. He turns to an experimental procedure that can digitally “rewrite” traumatic memories by converting the brain’s neuro-electric signals to zeros and ones.



Salt Springs by Brittany Peace Reeber

Revolving around an eccentric family of women in a near future Florida that is undoubtedly sinking, Salt Springs is about a working-class mom, who goes to great lengths to keep her

family together. When she goes to clean up the trailer of their late great grandmother, she finds an unexpected guest who puts her selfless, dotting nature to the test.

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PHYSICAL THERAPY

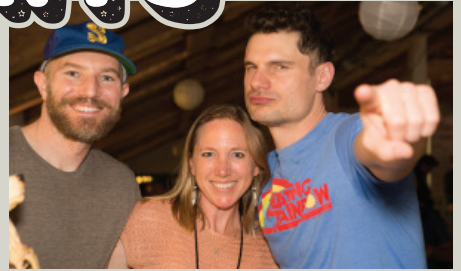
inbalancemammothpt@gmail.com

PARTIES + EVENTS

Opening Night Gala

Wednesday May 24, 9:00pm, Sierra Nevada Resort Lobby, 164 Old Mammoth Rd.

Kick off Mammoth Lakes' ninth annual independent film festival in style! Dance the night away to some sweet digital tunes, enjoy an open beer and wine bar, and meet our visiting filmmakers. \$25 online, \$30 at the door.



Late Night Happy Hour

Thursday May 25, 10:00pm, Distant Brewing, 468 Old Mammoth Rd.

Enjoy your sweetest happy hour yet - an open bar at Distant Brewing. Mingle with fellow film-goers and our visiting filmmakers. \$25 online, \$30 at the door.

Champagne Brunch & Panel Discussion

Saturday May 27, 10:00am, Bar Sierra, 164 Old Mammoth Rd.

Come for an informative panel discussion with industry professionals and enjoy an all you can eat champagne brunch. \$25 online, \$30 at the door.





Filmmakers Bash

Saturday May 27, 10:00pm

Lakanuki, 6201 Minaret Rd.

Come celebrate and honor our visiting filmmakers with a party to end all parties (although we've still got one more night to party)! Enjoy an open beer bar at a stellar venue, the one-of-a-kind Lakanuki. \$25 online, \$30 at the door.

Closing Night Awards Gala

Sunday May 28, 9:30pm, Sierra Nevada Resort Lobby, 164 Old Mammoth Rd.

It may seem like the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival is coming to a close. But this is just the beginning, right? Audience and Jury Awards will be presented in all categories. After the awards presentations (and during), we will celebrate. Let's talk, enjoy the open beer and wine bar, and dance about it with another DJ into the wee hours of the night. \$25 online, \$30 at the door.



AWARDS + PRIZES

JURY AWARD FOR BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
\$10,000 Panavision Camera Rental Grant
\$13,500 Light Iron Post Production Package
Slated script+financial analysis bundle
Orson Trophy

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
\$5,000 Panavision Camera Rental Grant
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY

\$1,000 Cash award
Slated script+financial analysis bundle
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST N. AMERICAN NARRATIVE SHORT

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE SHORT

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST ANIMATION SHORT

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST MUSIC VIDEO

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy



Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony, starting at 9:30pm on Sunday the 28th.

JURY



Brian Welk

Brian Welk is the Senior Reporter for *IndieWire's* business team, covering entertainment industry news and analysis along with festival and awards coverage, primarily focused on the movies. Prior to joining *IndieWire*, Welk spent six years at the Hollywood

trade publication *TheWrap*, eventually working his way up to the role of Senior Film Reporter. In that time, he's attended and covered the Oscars, Sundance, TIFF, SXSW, the Golden Globes and more. He's also served as a moderator for industry panel discussions at SXSW and elsewhere and appeared as an expert on "Good Morning America," BBC News, and for other outlets. Welk in 2022 won the New York Press Club Award for National Entertainment News (online) and has been nominated for online entertainment journalist of the year from the LA Press Club.

NARRATIVE FEATURES



Shaun Hill

Shaun Hill serves as President of Indican Pictures, a motion picture distribution label, formed in 2004. Hill, along with her partner Randolph Kret, released 400+ films into the market since

the company's inception. Hill oversees the operation from acquisitions to legal and through release across all media including theatrical, digital, and cable television, home video and ancillary platforms worldwide. Prior to launching Indican Pictures, Hill produced features, music videos, commercials, programmed for the Slamdance FF, Hollywood FF, guest speaker at Cinequest FF, Sunscreen FF, UCLA Masters Screenwriting Program judge and is currently on the Advisory Board for the University of Riverside. Hill, along with Kret continues the Indican Pictures sponsorship with the Los Angeles LGBT Center and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

NARRATIVE FEATURES



Scott Steindorff

Scott Steindorff, an international television and film producer and writer, specializes in adapting literary bestsellers into premium movies and television. He recently

executive produced *Station Eleven*, a book to screen adaption, released on HBO Max and named one of the best TV shows of 2021 (*NY Times*, *LA Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *Rolling Stone*, etc.). It won the Critics Choice Super Award for Best Science Fiction/Fantasy Series and received a nomination for a Peabody Award. Scott, in the business since 1998, has brought to life projects like Netflix's docu-series *Firechasers*, NBC's hit series *Las Vegas*; John Favreau's *Chef*, *The Lincoln Lawyer* with Matthew McConaughey; *Love in the Time of Cholera*; and the critically acclaimed and award-winning HBO miniseries *Empire Falls*. He is currently in production on two documentaries set to release in 2023: *ADHD: Wired Differently* and *Understanding Autism*, examining each condition through a modern lens.

NARRATIVE FEATURES

cont. > 65

JURY



Allison Amon

Allison Amon Spent 18 years as the co-owner of Chelsea Pictures, winning multiple awards at Cannes Lions, Sundance and an Emmy for *#Likeagirl*. She co-produced *Queen of Versailles* and *The*

Kingmaker, This year producing *The Seven Faces of Jane* for Roman Coppola. She also is the President of Superconductor, an advertising agency owned by Justin Lin and The Russo Brothers. Along with winning ADAge's small Agency of the year, Superconductor has worked in the entertainment and metaverse to produce award winning work for its clients.

As an MLFF vet, Allison cannot wait for the Festival this year and all the creative energy that makes it happen.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES



Margeaux Sippell

Margeaux Sippell is a film reporter at MovieMaker Magazine, where she loves to focus on documentary films and docuseries. She has written cover stories featuring Nicolas Cage,

Felicity Jones, Andrew Dominik and Ana de Armas. In the past, she has written for Variety, The Boston Globe, and TheWrap. When she's not writing words for the page, she's writing music and lyrics for folk songs on her guitar. She grew up in Portsmouth, Rhode Island and graduated from Emerson College with a degree in Writing, Literature and Publishing in 2019.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES



Ana Souza

Born in Brazil, Ana Souza was partially raised in The Netherlands and now resides in Los Angeles. She holds a B.A. from the University of Warwick and an M.A. from the University of Southern California. She is the Manager of the

Programming department at Sundance and a programmer on the features team, focusing on US and International fiction films across sections. In addition to her work at Sundance, she is the Director of Programming at the Sun Valley Film Festival and the Forum Producer for the Palm Springs International ShortFest. She has also programmed for AFI FEST, Outfest, the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, and the LA Film Festival in the past, and she has worked in various capacities for LALIFF, Ambulante California, and NALIP's Latino Media Fest, among others.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

Kimberley Browning

Kimberley Browning is a filmmaker & film festival professional based in Los Angeles. Originally from Washington DC, Kimberley studied music and film at USC, then began her career working in production at Disney's Touchstone Television. She is on the short film programming team at Tribeca Festival, and is the Production Advisor for the festival's AT&T UNTOLD STORIES million dollar feature film production program. She previously was the Executive Producer of HBO Access, the network's development and training program for directors and writers. Recent film credits include *Uprooted: The Journey of Jazz Dance* which premiered on HBO Max in 2022 and *Being Michelle*, currently on the festival circuit. Kimberley serves as the National Chair of Film at YoungARTS, the nominating organization for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts.

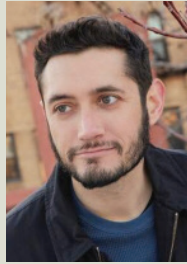
INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURES



Dan Perlman

Dan Perlman is a comedian, writer, and director from New York City. He's the co-creator-writer-star of Showtime's critically-acclaimed comedy series, *Flatbush Misdeemeanors*. Dan made his directorial debut in the Flatbush episode, "boomerang," which Vulture praised for its "masterful direction." Dan also wrote & directed the award-winning short film, *Cramming*. Dan first co-created the prize-winning digital series of *Flatbush*, which served as the foundation for the Showtime show. Made on zero-budget, the first installment became Oscar-qualified after winning Grand Jury Awards in its festival run. As a stand-up, Dan has been featured on Comedy Central and was named one of the New Faces at the Montreal Just For Laughs Festival. Dan is a regular at the famed Comedy Cellar in NYC and headlines venues across the country. His writing has also appeared in *The New Yorker*.

INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURES



Jacques Thelemaque

Jacques Thelemaque is an award-winning writer, producer and director who founded the Los Angeles filmmaking collective Filmmakers Alliance in 1993 and FA Productions in 2004. Jacques has also been

a programming associate at the Los Angeles Film Festival and has been an advisor, board member, programmer, juror or invited speaker at numerous film-related organizations and events. Jacques has written and directed numerous short films, including *Transaction* which played at the Sundance Film Festival, and won the Grand Prix du Jury Award in the Labo Competition at Clermont-Ferrand. He also wrote, directed and produced the feature film *The Dogwalker* as well as produced five other feature films.

INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURES, INT'L DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

JURY

Sarah Crowe

Sarah Crowe is an award winning Producer, Director and sometimes Assistant Director. She has been producing documentaries, narratives, and commercials for nearly 15 years. Sarah is an Executive Producer at Amazon where she spends her day creating branded content and spends her free time creating documentaries and supporting independent film in Washington and beyond. Films such as *Lane 1974* (directed by SJ Chiro) and *Worst Laid Plans* (directed by Mark Jones and Nesib Shamah). She produced *Welcome To Doe Bay* (directed by Nesib Shamah and Dan Thornton), an Emmy-nominated documentary that premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival. Sarah's directorial debut is an international award winning feature documentary *Dyna Does Dressage*. Sarah was a Producer and Assistant Director of the original series *Capitol Hill* and is the Executive Producer on *Potato Dreams of America* (both directed by Wes Hurley).



INT'L DOCUMENTARY FEATURES



Sandrine Cassidy

Sandrine grew up in Morocco and France. She joined Unifrance in 1996 and discovered the world of festivals. The relationships she built with

programmers gave her a specific insight into each festival and their subtle differences of style and mission. Sandrine moved to Los Angeles and since 1998, serves with passion as USC's Senior Director of Festival, Distribution & Talent Development. She advises students and alumni on strategies for their student films and independent features in the festival circuit and reaching their career goals. She is responsible for the Licensing of the large catalogue of USC shorts. She has recently taken a creative role on screenplays, or films in post production as Producer on independent features, Sandrine is often invited to participate in juries, panels or to give individual mentoring sessions. She has been on the Tribeca Festival screening committee since 2015.

NARRATIVE SHORTS



Ryan Betschart

Ryan Betschart is founder and co-director of San Diego Underground Film Festival, founder of film and music festival Heavy Light; has programmed for

Slamdance Film Festival; and has taught at CalArts, UC San Diego, SDSU, Stephens College, and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His films have screened at Fantasia, Slamdance, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Porto Post/Doc, Hammer Museum, REDCAT, Desert Daze, and have won awards at Slamdance, Athens International Film and Video Festival, Indie Memphis, and Arizona Underground. His band Shrine Maiden's album *And I Arise* was named one the Top 10 Experimental Albums of 2020 by Outtalletuals zine. Ryan holds an MFA in Film/Video from CalArts, and a BA in Visual Art from UC San Diego.

NARRATIVE SHORTS

Scenery Samundra

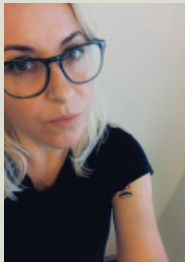
Scenery Samundra is an LA-based Music Supervisor who got her start working with the Emmy award winning music supervision team on *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, as well as Luca Guadagnino's HBO series, *We Are Who We Are* and several other notable projects including Crystal Moselle's groundbreaking show *Betty*. She is currently an Associate Music Supervisor at Motive, specializing in trailers for films and TV shows. Previously, she worked for the in-house music supervision team at Warner Brothers TV Music, as well as at NTS Radio's LA headquarters, and served as a consultant for David Lynch's Festival of Disruption. Scenery also serves on the Guild of Music Supervisors Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee which recently launched a mentorship program for aspiring Music Supervisors from underrepresented backgrounds.



**ANIMATION & DOC SHORTS,
MUSIC VIDEOS**

Sarah Diamond

Sarah Diamond is the former Director of Programming for the Slamdance Film Festival and currently serves as a programmer for the Slamdance Narrative Features and Animated Shorts committees. She holds an MFA in Fiction from Otis College of Art & Design and is a practicing entertainment attorney.



ANIMATION & DOC SHORTS

Brian Morataya

An LA native with Central American parents, Brian likes to tell people that music was his first love, before getting into the film/tv world. Back in his teens he was a bass player in a small local punk rock band, playing house and backyard shows and some famous local venues. During that time he started to get passionate about photography, specifically analog photography, and still shoots primarily on 35mm with his collection of cameras. He is also a seasoned projectionist for film festivals and events and has worked in many aspects of the film/television world — he is now a member of IATSE Local 600 as a digital utility and sometimes as a second camera assistant. He hopes to continue his work in the camera world and one day to become a professional camera operator. His dedication to his craft and his unwavering passion for art and film make him the person you want on your team.



MUSIC VIDEOS



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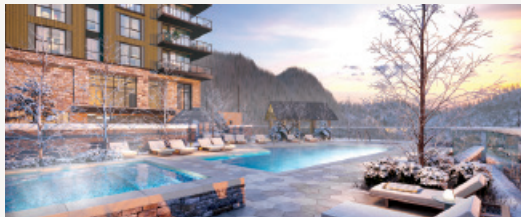
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Paul Sbrizzi

Technical Director
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