



*mammoth  
lakes  
film festival*

*may 25-29 2016*

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# *festival schedule*

<b>WEDNESDAY, MAY 25</b>		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>9:00pm</b>
<b>Minaret Cinemas</b>		<b>Operation Avalanche</b>	
<b>Sierra Event Center</b>			<b>Opening Night Party</b>

<b>THURSDAY, MAY 26</b>		<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
<b>Edison</b>		<b>Shorts Block 1</b>	<b>Myrtle Beach</b>	<b>MAD</b>
<b>Forest Service</b>			<b>Atlan</b>	
<b>Sierra Nevada Lodge</b>			<b>Happy Hour 5-7</b>	

<b>FRIDAY, MAY 27</b>		<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>
<b>Edison</b>		<b>Shorts Block 2</b>	<b>Baby Bump</b>	
<b>Forest Service</b>				<b>Beware the Slenderman</b>
<b>Mono Lake Theater</b>			<b>Saturn Returns</b>	

<b>SATURDAY, MAY 28</b>		<b>10am</b>	<b>12noon</b>	<b>2:30pm</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
<b>Edison</b>			<b>Bodkin Ras</b>	<b>All the Colors of the Night</b>	<b>Under the Sun</b>	
<b>Forest Service</b>	<b>Saturday Morning Indie Cartoons</b>		<b>Shorts Block 3</b>	<b>On The Rocks</b>	<b>Buddymoon</b>	<b>Joe Dante Talk + Innerspace</b>
<b>Rafters</b>					<b>10:00pm Filmmaker Bash</b>	

<b>SUNDAY, MAY 29</b>		<b>11:00am</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Edison</b>			<b>Helmut Berger, Actor</b>		
<b>Forest Service</b>		<b>Shorts Encore Screening</b>	<b>Learning to See</b>	<b>Last Summer</b>	<b>Sonita</b>
<b>Sierra Event Center</b>				<b>9:00pm Awards Ceremony &amp; Party</b>	

# map & locations

## 1. Edison Theater

100 College Parkway  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

## 2. U.S. Forest Service Theater

2510 Main Street  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

## 3. South Gateway Student Apartments

121 College Parkway  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

## 4. Sierra Event Center

452 Old Mammoth Rd  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

## 5. Sierra Nevada Lodge

164 Old Mammoth Rd  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

## 6. Rafters

202 Old Mammoth Rd,  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

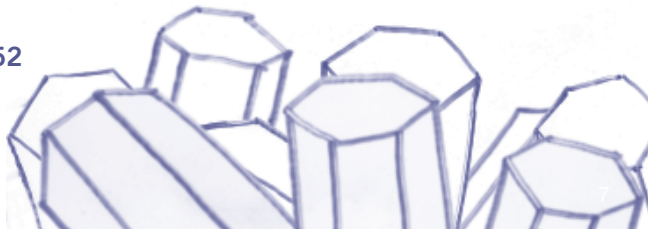
## Mono Lake Theater

1 Visitor Center Dr.  
Lee Vining, CA 93541



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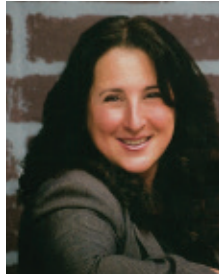
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# welcome from shira

Why do I love producing a film festival? The answer is easy--who wouldn't love showcasing new up and coming talent and providing an opportunity for all these artists' voices to be heard?

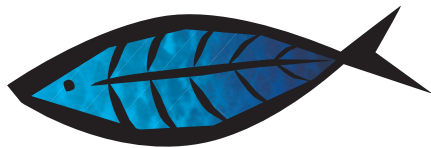
I was once told that just completing a film is truly a miracle. It is even more of a miracle when it is an independent film. Independent filmmakers go against the grain, challenging the big machine of Hollywood. They say "I am going to tell my story my way," and the odds are stacked against them. I am so proud of all the filmmakers who are in our festival this year, that stuck to their artistic vision and toughed it out to create a piece of art that we have the privilege and opportunity to share with you.



We commit to continuing to support these true artists and others like them, for many years to come. We pledge to remain a significant factor in bringing their work to the landscape of the Eastern Sierra that is truly near and dear to my heart.

*shira dubrovner*

Festival Director



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# welcome from paul

Last year's inaugural Mammoth Lakes Film Festival was all we had hoped for when we first started planning it. We were able to program a fantastic selection of films by emerging filmmakers. We screened high-profile films such as Oscar-nominee *Cartel Land* and the widely-discussed *Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine*. We signed blue-chip sponsors, including RED Cameras and Panavision. Organizationally the festival went off with nary a hitch. But most importantly we brought together an awesome community of indie filmmakers, film lovers, festival staff, industry and press for four days of good vibes, great films and parties—a vortex of creativity in a beautiful natural setting.

This year and in years to come we plan to take this strong start and build on it, offering filmmakers a venue

for showing inspired, risk-taking work. Shira and I are filmmakers ourselves, so we bring that sensibility to our vision for the festival. Rather than thinking of ourselves as gatekeepers, protecting audiences from anything too extreme, we see the festival as an open door for the best of creative expression in all its strange, intimate, explosive, emotional and intellectual beauty. I can't wait to be a part of 2016's five-day community of lovely people sharing their creativity, nourishing their spirits and having a lot of fun.



*paul sbrizzi*

Director of Programming

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special presentation

# Innerspace

Saturday May 28, 7:30pm, Forest Service Theater

Director: Joe Dante

Writers: Chip Proser, Jeffrey Boam

Producer: Micheal Finnell

Cast: Dennis Quaid, Martin Short, Meg Ryan, Lydia Maxwell, Kevin McCarthy, Fiona Lewis, Robert Picardo, Wendy Schaal

A scientifically miniaturized marine unexpectedly finds himself floating around the body of a hypochondriac, and trying to outwit saboteurs who want the device that shrank him. Attempts by his colleagues to retrieve the little man - protected inside a tiny submersible - are hampered by the would-be thieves.

**Director's Bio:** Joe Dante began his career as an editor for indie film producer Roger Corman, making a directorial splash with the low-budget *Hollywood Boulevard* (1976), followed by *Piranha* (1978) and *The Howling* (1980). His breakthrough film, *Gremlins* (1984), was Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment's first film, followed by *Innerspace* (1987). Dante's films often mix fantastical storylines with comedic elements.

USA/120 Min



# A Night with Joe Dante

## Sierra Spirit Award Ceremony and Conversation with Joe Dante following the screening of *Innerspace*



*Joe Dante*

Some directors are good with horror. Some are good with comedy. But there's no one like Joe Dante, who puts them together with his own unique slant. He grew up in an era when horror films and cartoons were regular Saturday TV viewing; when classic films of the 30s and 40s ran on television at all hours of the day and night, everything from screwball comedies to B horror films to westerns and more. References to those films can be found throughout his work in film, television and the Internet.

He has a vast knowledge of movie history and an intuitive sense of how to use it to his and the audience's satisfaction. His ability to embrace opposite qualities with equal

fervor gives his movies their one-of-a-kind voice and enduring appeal.

Joe Dante is a treasured, iconic American director. His body of work reflects his unique brand of creativity and intelligence, a delicious sense of humor and fearless originality. That is why we honor him with the first "Sierra Spirit Award." It's what our beautiful mountains and scenery are all about—beauty, risk-taking, reaching for your goals despite the challenges.

Joe Dante will be joined on stage by Robert Picardo (*Star Trek Voyager*), who appeared in many of Dante's classic films, for a look back at his career as of one of Hollywood's most beloved and successful film directors.



*Robert Picardo*



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# Operation Avalanche

**Wednesday May 25, 7:00pm, Minaret Cinemas**

**Director: Matthew Johnson**

**Writers: Matthew Johnson, Josh Boles**

**Producers: Matthew Miller, Lee Kim**

**Cast: Matt Johnson, Owen Williams, Andy Appelle,  
Jared Raab, Josh Boles, Director Brackett,  
Sharon Belle, Julie Williams**

In 1967, during the height of the Cold War, two young CIA agents (Matt Johnson and Owen Williams) go undercover at NASA to investigate a possible Russian mole. In disguise as documentary filmmakers, they tap phones and break into offices while purporting to learn more about the Apollo project. But when they end up uncovering a shocking NASA secret — and a major government cover-up — they decide to embark on a new mission that may put their own lives at risk.

**Director Bio:** Matt Johnson was born in Toronto and studied film at York University. He co-created the series *Nirvana the Band the Show* (2009) and directed *The Dirties* (2013). *Operation Avalanche* is his second feature.

**USA / 93 min**





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# Sonita

**Sunday May 29, 7:00pm, Forest Service Theater**

**Director: Rokhsareh Ghaemmaghami**

**Producer: Gerd Haag**

**Featuring: Sonita Alizadeh,  
Rokhsareh Ghaemmaghami**

The inspiring story of Sonita Alizadeh, an 18-year-old Afghan refugee in Iran who thinks of Michael Jackson and Rihanna as her spiritual parents and dreams of becoming a big-name rapper. For the time being, her only fans are the other teenage girls in a Tehran shelter. Her family, however, has a very different future planned for her: as a bride she's worth \$9,000.

Iranian director Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami poignantly shifts from observer to participant altering expectations as Sonita's story unfolds in an intimate and joyful portrait.

**Director Bio:** Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami studied filmmaking and animation at the Tehran Art University. Her research on animated documentary resulted in writing a book: *Animated Documentary, a New Way to Express*. She has made six documentaries and won more than 20 international awards. *Cyanosis* (2007) and *Going up the Stairs* (2011) have had wide international exposure.

**Germany, Switzerland, Iran / 90 min**



# All the Colors of the Night

**Saturday May 28, 2:30pm, Edison Theater**

**Director: Pedro Severin**

**Writer: Luiz Otávio Pereira**

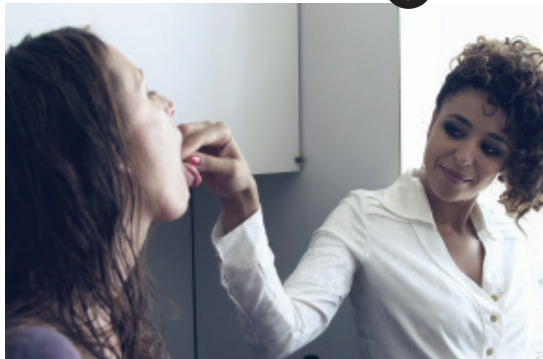
**Producers: Orquestra Cinema Estúdios**

**Cast: Sabrina Greve, Sandra Possani, Brenda Ligia, Giovanna Simões, Rômulo Braga Music: Tomaz Alves Souza**

Iris lives alone in a spacious apartment by the sea. The green horizon seems to distance it from the city in comfortable isolation. At nightfall, the place hosts known and unknown in a frantic party flow. Iris is the main attraction. But on a hungover morning, she finds a corpse in the living room.

**Director Bio:** Pedro Severin was born in 1978, in Recife, Brazil. He studied filmmaking at the University of Bristol (UK) and directed the short films *Unforgettable Carnival* (2007), *Sane* (2009), *Song for My Sad Sister* (2012), *Rodolfo Mesquita and the Monstrous Masks of Joy* (2013), and *Reptile Shop* (2014).

**Brazil / 70 Min**



## I Would Like to Be Enraptured, Muzzled and on My Back Tattooed

**Director: Andy Malafaia / Brazil / 16 min**

Silvana is a tired woman. The world no longer belongs to her, the invisible bothers her, the daily life oppresses her. What she wants sometimes is to abandon everything and go back home.

# Baby Bump

Friday May 27, 5:30pm, Edison Theater

Director/Writer: Kuba Czekaj

Producers: Magdalena Kamińska, Agata Szymańska

Cast: Kacper Olszewski, Agnieszka Podsiadlik, Caryl Swift,

Sebastian Łach, Weronika Wachowska

The story is focused on the physical changes an 11-year-old boy goes through and the frustrations it causes—he doesn't want to be noticed and belittled. He doesn't know what's happening to him. He can't accept that this transformation has begun. He escapes into a fantasy world, a cruel fairy tale where his connection with his community and his mother—who is also unable to accept the changes in her son—seem to reach the ultimate breaking point. *Baby Bump* is a portrait of a child trapped in adolescence. It's a rarely acknowledged fact, but growing up really isn't for kids.

**Director Bio:** Kuba graduated from the Krzysztof Kieslowski Radio and Television Faculty at the University of Silesia and from the Development Lab Feature Programme at the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing. He received a scholarship from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and made the shorts *Don't be Afraid of the Dark Room* and *Twist & Blood*, which have received numerous awards.

USA / 97 min

23



## Infinite Water

Director: Sunny Liang / USA / 4 min

Let us dive deep into the infinite water of the beautiful universe and feel the heartbeat of life itself resonating through the city, celebrating its inhabitants.

# Bodkin Ras

**Saturday May 28, 12:00pm, Edison Theater**

**Director/Writer: Kaweh Modiri**

**Producer: Raymond van der Kaaij**

**Cast: Sohrab Bayat, Eddie Paton, Lily Szramko**

The story of an isolated character, a semi-nomadic wanderer of sorts who is on the outside looking in and disrupting the social and moral order. All characters except Bodkin are real people playing themselves. Red James, a Scotsman who has spent time in various prisons in the UK, narrates the story. BODKIN RAS plays with the idea of the unknown intruder looking for a fresh start, aiming for a fair chance. In his pure and existential aim to belong somewhere he is a hazard to himself and his surroundings.

**Director Bio:** Kaweh Modiri (1982) is a Dutch artist, filmmaker and writer of Iranian descent. His short film *My Burglar and I* — the true story of an artist who stalks his burglar over a period of a year and proclaims him to be the protagonist of his new film — had its world première in Rotterdam in 2011, winning the René Coelho Award. In April 2012 his debut novel *Mr. Sadek and Others* was published by Thomas Rap and nominated for the Academica Literature Award.

**Netherlands / 79 Min**





# Buddymoon

Saturday May 28, 5:00pm, Forest Service Theater

**Director:** Alex Simmons

**Writers:** David Giuntoli, Flula Borg, Alex Simmons

**Producers:** Flula Borg, David Giuntoli, Alex Simmons,  
Jennifer Wood

**Cast:** David Giuntoli, Flula Borg, Jeanne Syquia,  
Brian T. Finney, Claire Coffee

When David is dumped just days before his wedding, Flula, his upbeat and very German best man, convinces him to go on the honeymoon trip together: a seven-day backpacking trip through the Oregon wilderness. On the trail, the two friends meet a conspiracy theorist, a friendly backpacker, and a bloodthirsty predator on an unrelenting trek that tests their friendship and their lives.

**Director Bio:** Alex Simmons has directed award-winning documentaries on subjects like Big Tobacco's moves in the developing world and the hunt for drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzman. Simmons has also directed projects with artists like Death Cab for Cutie, Sigur Rós, Mos Def and Flula. *Honey Buddies* is his first film.

USA / 80 min

25



## Simply the Worst

**Directors:** Franz Mueller, Johannes Kuerschner / Germany / 20 min

Günther and Hindrich got itchy feet. For the Saxon skiing luminaries the local sledding hill isn't enough anymore. They're going to conquer the

legendary "Cleft of Lomnica" by skis. These two-stroke friends have to handle a lot of tests along the way.

*narrative feature*

# Last Summer

**Sunday May 29, 5:00pm, Forest Service Theater**

**Director: Leonardo Guerra Serágnoli**

**Writers: Leonardo Guerra Serágnoli, Igort**

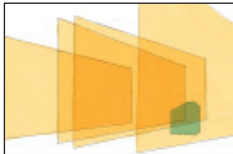
**Producers: Elda Ferri, Luigi Musini, Milena Canoneno**

**Cast: Rinko Kikuchi, Yorick Van Wageningen, Lucy Griffiths, Laura Sofia Bach, Daniel Ball, Ken Brady**

Having lost custody of her six-year-old son, a young Japanese woman has four days to say goodbye to him on-board a yacht belonging to her western ex-husband's wealthy family. Alone with the crew, who are under direct instruction to keep a watchful eye on her, the woman must try to forge a connection with her son before she has to part from him for many years.

**Director Bio:** Born in Rome, Leonardo Guerra Seragnoli graduated with a degree in Film Scoring from Berklee College of Music in Boston and in Screenwriting from the London Film School. He has written, directed and produced a series of short films. Founder of Essentia, an indie film production company. *Last Summer* is his feature debut.

**Italy / 94 Min**



## Here There

**Director: Alexander Stewart / Croatia, USA / 5 min**

A traveler's sketchbook, drawn in Croatia in the summer of 2014. Details soon fade away into abstract impressions on the edges of memory.

# MAD

Thursday May 26, 7:30pm, Edison Theater

Director/Writer: Robert G. Putka

Producers: Mike Blanchard, Mark Reeb, Kevin J. Hughes,  
Robert G. Putka, Eilis Cahill, Joe Battaglia

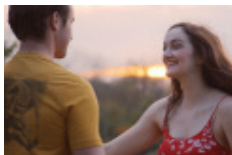
Cast: Jennifer Laffleur, Maryann Plunkett, Eilis Cahill,  
Mark Reeb, David Sullivan, Conor Casey,  
Shaun Weiss, Chris Doubek



A matriarch past the point of a nervous breakdown, her two daughters who don't give a damn, and the heat-seeking missiles of resentment they toss at each other. After a late-in-life divorce, compounded by bi-polar disorder, Mel finds herself in a psych ward. Her two daughters, facing varying problems of their own, would rather dodge the responsibility than care for her. Personal grievances bubble to the surface.

**Director Bio:** At 21, Robert was hired by HBO to develop his short *Mouthful* into a series for their DIGITALS division. He has made other chit-chatty shorts, including *Oi, Meu Amor*, which premiered at SXSW (as did *Mouthful*). He'll know he's made it when he can afford to buy a used jet ski.

USA / 83 min



## Got a Girl

Director: Isaac Blade / USA / 15 min

Feeling neglected by her hotshot musician boyfriend, college student Emma decides to spend time with an old crush who just moved back to town.

# On the Rocks

**Saturday May 28, 2:30pm, Forest Service Theater**

**Director/Writers: Ariel Gardner & Alex Kavutskiy**

**Producers: Mete Sozer, Jeffrey Coulter, JD Lifshitz, Raphael Margules, Keaton Heinrichs, Akiva Nemetsky, Jake White**

**Cast: Chase Fein, Nichole Bagby, Kate Freund, Robert DeNiro, Curt Neill, Audrey Whitby, Aaron Kee**

A delayed coming of age comedy about a young married couple struggling with the growing pains of settling down. After his father dies, Dallas convinces his needy wife Karen to move out of their small apartment into his childhood home to take the next step into adulthood. As work, family, and life stressors mount for Dallas, their tumultuous relationship reaches a tipping point.

**Director Bio:** Alex Kavutskiy and Ariel Gardner have made countless videos for the web and television, but are best known for their dark comedy web series *Kill The Baby*. Everyone in the filmmaking world is super stoked to watch their first feature *On The Rocks*.

**USA / 70 Min / World Premiere**



## Hookin' Up

**Director: Michael Busch / Writers: Katie Cunningham, Timmy L'Heureux / USA / 9 min / World Premiere**

Jessica and Peter are about to have a perfectly normal Tinder date.

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# Atlan

**Thursday May 26, 5:00pm, Forest Service Theater**

**Director: Moein Karimoddini**

**Producer: Moein Karimoddini**

Ali is a Turkman horse trainer and horses are his life. His horse, Ilhan, has won him many prizes. Ali plans to use Ilhan's and his other horses' award money to pay for his wedding, but when an unexpected situation arises, Ali needs to fight for Ilhan's continued success. In the Turkman language, Atlan means "mount a horse and depart." Because horses are the most important element in the life of Iranian Turkmen, horse races are among the most significant social events in their culture.

**Director Bio:** Moein Karimoddini has a Bachelor of Arts in Directing from the Iran Broadcasting University in Tehran (1998). He was a member of the jury for the sixth Cinema Verite (2013). In 2012 he directed the award-winning *When the Clouds Come Down*.

**Iran / 62 Min**



## Second Life

**Dir: Eugene Pankov / Poland / 19 min**

A Russian woman decides to freeze the body of her 91-year old mother in liquid nitrogen and signs a contract to freeze herself as well. She hopes that in the future they will be unfrozen and try to rebuild their complicated relationship and repair their unhappy life.



# Beware the Slenderman

Friday May 27, 8:00pm, Forest Service Theater

Director: Irene Taylor Brodsky

Producer: Sophie Harris

The true story of the internet's elusive Boogeyman and two 12-year-old girls who would kill for him. Morgan Geysler and Anissa Weier lured their best friend into the woods, stabbed her 19 times, then set out on an odyssey to meet the tall and faceless man known online as Slenderman. Shot over 18 months with heartbreaking access to the families of the would-be murderers, the film plunges deep down the rabbit hole of their crime, a Boogeyman and society's most impressionable consumers of media.

**Director Bio:** Irene Taylor Brodsky (Director) is an Oscar®-nominated, Emmy®- and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker whose documentaries have shown theatrically, at film festivals and on television worldwide. She began as a still photographer, working with the deaf and the blind in the Himalayas. While living in Kathmandu, she published her first book, *Buddhas in Disguise*, and made her first film, *Isharra*, in 1993. She later returned to New York to produce and shoot award-winning television documentaries, and worked as a producer with *CBS News Sunday Morning*. Her films include *Hear and Now* (2007), *The Final Inch* (2009), *Saving Pelican 895* (2011), *One Last Hug: Three Days at Grief Camp* (2014), and *Open Your Eyes* (2016), which is also playing at the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival, on Sunday, May 29 at 2:00pm.

USA / 97 min



# Helmut Berger, Actor

**Sunday May 29, 2:00pm, Edison Theater**

**Director/Writer: Andreas Horvath**

**Producer: Andreas Horvath**

**Featuring: Helmut Berger, Viola Techt, Andreas Horvath**

A relentless, intimate portrait of the legendary Austrian movie star Helmut Berger. The man who epitomized beauty and the exuberant jet set lifestyle of the 70s now reigns over a run down two-room apartment at the outskirts of his hometown of Salzburg, Austria. In this small hideaway kingdom time seems to have stopped. Helmut's mood swings and sudden outbursts of aggression are reminiscent of actor Klaus Kinski's tirades. But the film exposes the brusqueness of his character for what it really is: a cry for attention and intimacy.

**Director Bio:** Andreas Horvath was born in Salzburg, Austria in 1968. He studied photography in Vienna and multimedia art in Salzburg. Horvath's documentaries have received awards at international film festivals such as the Chicago International Documentary Film Festival, the Karlovy Vary IFF and the Max Ophüls Prize Festival. As a photographer Andreas Horvath has published black and white photo albums about Yakutia, Siberia and rural America. In 2013 Horvath received the Outstanding Artist Award from the Austrian Ministry of Art and Culture.

**Austria / 90 Min**



Documentary feature

# Learning to See

Sunday May 29, 2:00pm, Forest Service Theater

Director: Jake Oelman

Producers: Jerry Aronson, Jake Oelman

Featuring: Robert Oelman, Christian Lopez

Struggling with a mid-life crisis, Robert leaves his psychology career to pursue photographing rare and exotic insects and moves from the United States to Colombia. On his journeys through the rain forests of the Amazon Basin, we watch as he forms a special bond with his subjects. This connection enables

him to make striking photographic images of new and undocumented species. Guided by his assistant Christian Lopez, he scours the forest for stunning insects. After more than 20 years of traveling, searching and photographing, his quest culminates with a New York City gallery show where he finally shares his images with the general public.

**Director Bio:** In 2011 Oelman produced a documentary about the annual Electric Daisy Carnival, *The EDC Experience*, which premiered nationwide as a part of NCM Fathom Events. In 2012 he directed and produced the feature romantic comedy film *Dear Sidewalk*, starring Joe Mazzello and Michelle Forbes, which premiered at the Austin Film Festival. *Learning To See* premiered at the 2016 SXSW Film Festival.

USA / 69 min



## Open Your Eyes

Director: Irene Taylor Brodsky / USA / 34 min

Manisara and Durga have cataracts. Their mountain home in Nepal has become a warren of darkness. Filmed over three days, *Open Your Eyes* follows their life-changing journey for a chance to see again.

*Documentary feature*

# Myrtle Beach

**Thursday May 26, 5:00pm, Edison Theater**

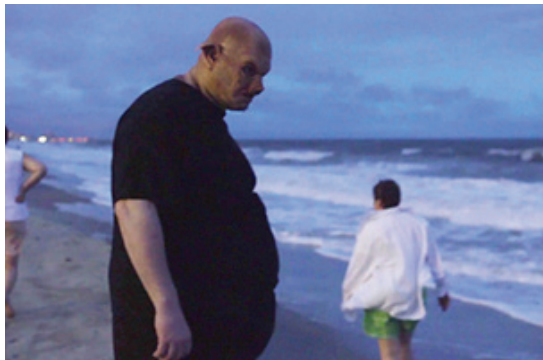
**Directors: Neil Rough, Michael Fuller**

**Producer: Michael Fuller**

Like a darker, less whimsical Vernon, Florida, Myrtle Beach profiles a charismatic cast of local eccentrics, survivors, and lone-wolves. Disarmingly quiet and visually arresting, these candid monologues and conversations gently coax disparate world views to the fore and fix a circumspect gaze on the uncharted flip side of life in resort towns.

**Directors Bio:** Neil Rough divides his time between Toronto and New Brunswick, Canada. He has spent the last 20 years photographing extensively throughout North America. He is beginning work on a second film on folk singer Michael Hurley that will take place along the entire stretch of US Highway 30. Michael Fuller currently lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, where he is completing a body of photographic work and has begun research on a second feature film exploring the human desire to set foot on Mars.

**Canada / 80 Min**



# Under the Sun

**Saturday May 28, 5:00pm, Edison Theater**

**Director: Vitaly Mansky**

**Producers: Natalya Manskaya, Simone Baumann,  
Filip Remunda**

“My father says that Korea is the most beautiful country... Korea is the land of the rising sun,” says eight-year-old schoolgirl Zin-mi. Despite continuous interference by government handlers, director Vitaly Mansky still managed to document life in Pyongyang, North Korea in this fascinating portrait of one girl and her parents as she prepares to join the Korean Children's Union on the 'Day Of The Shining Star' (Kim Jong-Il's birthday). As the family receives instruction on how to be the ideal patriots, Mansky's watchful camera captures telling details—from comrades struggling to stay awake during an official event to Zin-mi's tears at a particularly grueling dance lesson.

**Director Bio:** Born 1963 in the Ukraine, filmmaker Vitaly Mansky is one of the most acclaimed contemporary Russian documentary filmmakers and producers. His first film came out in 1989 and since then he has shot more than 30 films which have screened at festivals worldwide. Since 1996 Mansky has been working for various TV channels in Russia, popularizing documentary cinema on television. He is the producer of the national award Lavrovaya Vetr (Laurel Branch) for the best Russian documentary films, and president of the annual Moscow Documentary Film Festival Artdokfest. He is still collaborating with various studios and television channels in Russia and abroad as an independent producer. He currently lives in Latvia.

**Russia, Latvia, Germany, Czech Republic, North Korea / 106 min**



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# Saturn Returns

**Friday May 27, 5:30pm, Mono Lake Theater**

**Director: Shawn Tolleson**

**Writer/Producers: Gregory Lemkin, Shawn Tolleson**

**Cast: Nicholle Tom, Alison Haislip, Erin Chambers, Jordan Belfi, Miles Gaston Villanueva, Andrew Dits, Michael Cory Davis**

Five college friends on the cusp of 30 (in astrological terms their “Saturn return”) reunite in Mammoth Lakes, California for a wedding of two of their group. 36 hours before the wedding the missing sixth friend of their group—the former best friend of the groom and the bride’s ex-boyfriend—arrives unexpectedly, forcing everyone to question their lives and choices.

**Director Bio:** Shawn holds her B.F.A. in Acting and Directing from the University of North Carolina. She has acted in over 100 plays and directed 20 plays, including a Sam Shepard world-premiere for the MET Theatre in Los Angeles. Her short films have played in film festivals around the world. She sold a pitch to Warner Bros. and is a Sundance Producer’s Lab Fellow and a Lincoln Center Theatre Lab-West Fellow.

**USA / 97 min**



## Small Talk

**Director: Hilary Campbell / USA / 6 min**

A young woman returns to her childhood neighborhood to document their daily activities but finds the outdoor bustle less active during the winter season.



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# shorts block 1

## Samedi

**Director: Hannibal Mahé / France / 15 min**



Manu runs away from juvie. Outside, nobody pays attention to him.

## The Emily & Ariel Show

**Directors: Emily Hoffman, Ariel Noltimier Strauss / USA / 2.5 min**



Juxtaposing animated video footage with stop-motion puppetry, Emily & Ariel bring you into their lives as close, twenty-something friends on an average Friday night.

## The Ring Thing

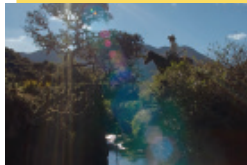
**Director: Friederike Jehn / USA / 7 min**



A couple, a pool, a ring. One misunderstanding leads to the next, pushing this relationship to the edge.

## Tisure

**Director: Adrian Geyer / Venezuela / 13 min**



A couple's problems are diminished by the vastness of their surroundings in the loneliness of the mountains. Can they finally agree for their own survival?

*thursday may 26, 3:30pm, edison theater*

## Partners

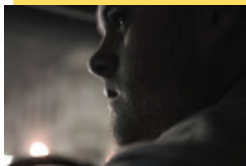
**Director: Joey Ally / USA  
/ 6 min**



Kate and Leigh are work/life partners. When a slump in their sex life forces them to reconsider their relationship, they must confront how intertwined their lives have become.

## Dead Sharks

**Director: Nic Barker /  
Writers: Nic Barker & the  
cast / Australia / 16 min**



A relationship is like a shark. It has to move forward or it dies.

## Deep Gold

**Director: Julian Rosefeldt  
/ Germany / 20 min**



An exuberant and voluptuous homage to Luis Buñuel's surrealist masterpiece *The Golden Age*, relocated to Berlin in the '20s.

# shorts block 2

## The Lingerie Show

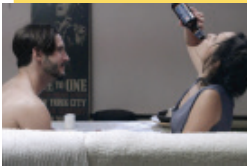
**Director: Laura Harrison / USA / 8 min**



Lorraine, a drug addict, throws a “lingerie show” to seduce her boyfriend, Cesar, away from his sugar daddy, Wade. Wade buys Cesar toilet paper and grape soda and Lorraine can't compete with that.

## The Truck

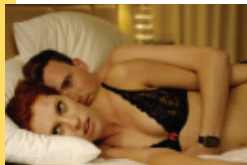
**Director: Sandrine Brodeur-Desrosiers / Canada / 10 min**



A day. An hour. A basement. Olivier and Sophie, both in a relationship, decide to cheat on their partners together. They were sure they had all it figured out.

## Western Women

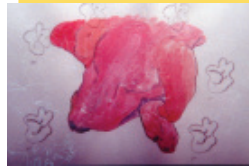
**Director: Alexander Yan / USA / 14 min**



A young man orders an unusual sex toy.

## Lazy Daze

**Director: Brian Smee / USA / 4 min**



Dog in the land where the good life takes you.

*friday may 27, 2:30pm, edison theater*

## The Panty Symphonic

**Director: Zach Strum  
/ Writers: Zach Strum,  
Micah Vassau / USA /  
14 min**



When Arnold dies before finishing his will, a rat race ensues for his most prized possession—a pair of panties.

## Audition

**Director: Lovisa Sirén /  
Sweden / 14 min**



Mika is auditioning male actors for her first feature. The actors are all well-established alpha dogs in the film business. The situation turns more sour as their confidence in her reaches new lows. Mika starts pushing harder, reaching the limits for what's okay in this kind of situation and what is not.

## Flaws

**Director: Josh Shaffner /  
USA / 3 min**



A hand drawn, autobiographical, surreal rant about years spent in the service industry.

## A Night in Tokoriki

**Director: Roxana Stroe  
/ Writers: Roxana Stroe,  
Ana-Maria Gheorghe /  
Romania / 18 min**

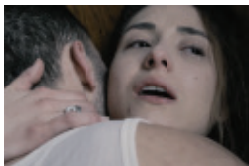


In an improvised night club called "Tokoriki," the whole village celebrates Geanina's 18th birthday. Her boyfriend and Alin will give her a most surprising gift, one that nobody will ever forget.

# shorts block 3

## Everything Will Be Fine

**Director: Jan Kutrzeba / USA / 9 min / World Premiere**



A single shot short film touching on topics of immigration, love, trust, poverty, and loneliness.

## Bottom Feeders

**Director: Matt Reynolds / USA / 2.5 min**



Two fictional species try to make it through the day in this bleak parody of the natural world.

## Jungle

**Director: Asantewaa Premeh / USA / 13 min**



The story of two Senegalese immigrants, Amadou and Yaya, as they try to make a living selling fake designer purses on the bustling streets of Chinatown in New York City.

## Night Stalker

**Directors: New Media Ltd / Writers Mike Anderson, Ryan Dickie, Abigail Horton / USA / 10 min**



A young woman and her karaoke date are poisoned by haunted takeout food and sucked to an alternate dimension of clay where only she can save their lives.

*saturday may 28, 12:00 noon, forest service theater*

## At Least You Are Here

**Director: Kristen Swanbeck / Writers: Kristen Swanbeck, Bohdana Smirnov / USA / 12 min / World Premiere**



A lonely Ukranian woman living in Brooklyn, experiences the war going on in her home country through her computer. She wanders the streets looking for connection.

## Deer Flower

**Director: Kangmin Kim / USA, S.Korea / 7.5 min**



In the summer of 1992, Dujung, an elementary student, goes to a farm in the suburbs with his parents. While his parents believe the expensive and rare specialty from the farm will strengthen their son's body, Dujung suffers side effects.

## Bev

**Directors: Samy Burch, Alex Mechanik / Writer Samy Burch / USA / 26 min**



The son of a serial killer goes to a trust workshop in Tampa, has nightmares.

# indie cartoons

## Nine to Five Ned

Director: Brandon Ray /  
Writers Brandon Ray, Lisa Ray



## When I Met Dottie

Director: The Bum Family



## Trash Cat

Director: Kelsey Goldych



## Scaredy Bat

Director: Greg Perkins



## First Eyes on the Moon

Director: John Akre



## Mush Mouth

Director: Christine Amato



## BIGHEROES

Director: Maurice Huvelin



## Lily's Big Day

Director: The Bum Family





*saturday may 28, 10:00am, forest service theater*

## Kids in Cars

**Director:** Haley Carroll / **Writers:**  
Haley Carroll, Steven Gabriel



## Reservoir Rabbits

**Director:** Caroline Director



## In Case of Emergency

**Director:** Sophia Yu



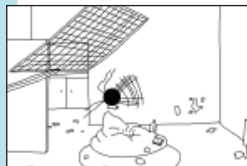
## Little Shimajiro

**Director:** Isamu Hirabayashi



## Life Is Rugged

**Director:** Simon Schnellman



## Cyborg Shrimp

**Director:** Eric Hicken



## Lily Gets a Pet

**Director:** The Bum Family



A close-up photograph of a bouquet of flowers. The bouquet features several large yellow roses, a prominent red calla lily, and clusters of small red berries. There are also smaller white and orange roses and green foliage. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

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# parties & events

## Opening Night Gala

Wednesday May 25, 9:00pm, Sierra Event Center

(across from Vons, next to Shogun)

Kick off Mammoth Lakes' second 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. Entertainment will be provided by Ouroboros Shadow Pictures.



*Ouroboros Shadow Pictures*

## Filmmakers Happy Hour

Thursday May 26, 5:00pm-7:00pm, Duke's Bar, Sierra Nevada Lodge

Enjoy your sweetest happy hour yet - an open bar at Duke's in the lobby of the Sierra Nevada Lodge. Mingle with fellow film-goers and our visiting filmmakers.

## Filmmakers Bash

Saturday May 28, 10:00pm, Rafters

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 and wine bar at a stellar venue. This year's band, Disco Shrine, comes to Mammoth from L.A. with their 80s-flavored electronic dance music.



*Disco Shrine*

## Shorts Encore Screening

Sunday May 29, 11:00am, Forest Service Theater

An additional screening of the shorts by filmmakers who are in attendance.

## Closing Night Awards Gala

Sunday May 29, 9:00 - 12:00am, Sierra Event Center

It may seem like the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival is coming to a close. But this is just the beginning, right?

Jury Awards will be presented for Best Narrative Feature, Best Documentary Feature, Best Narrative Short, and Best Animation or Documentary Short. Audience Awards will be presented for Narrative Feature and Documentary Feature.

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 D.J. into the wee hours of the night.

# Jury 2016

**JOHN FIEDLER**, a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, spent 10 years as a motion picture executive before becoming a movie producer. Presently, Fiedler is preparing his 17th motion picture, *Cork*, written by William Boyd. John began his career at Technicolor, Inc. as a Photographic & Production Services executive. He served as senior vice president of development & production for Rastar Films, later moving to Tri-Star Pictures, and finally to parent company Columbia Pictures, where he became President of Production & Acquisitions. He was involved in the production of over forty films, among them *Blue Thunder*, *Jagged Edge*, *Agnes of God*, *Murphy's Romance*, *Stand By Me*, *La Bamba*, and *Roxanne*. Fiedler's first film as producer was *The Beast*, for Columbia Pictures. His second film, *Aunt Julia & the Scriptwriter*, was the closing night premiere of the Toronto Film Festival and won the Prix du Public at the Deauville Film Festival. It was followed by *Mortal Thoughts*, *Beyond the Law*, *Serial Mom* starring Kathleen Turner, *A Good Man in Africa* starring Sean Connery and Diana Rigg, *Copycat* starring Sigourney Weaver, *I Love You, I Love You Not* starring Jeanne Moreau, Claire Danes, and Jude Law, as well as *Pecker* and *Cecil B. Demented*, both



written & directed by John Waters. Fiedler executive produced for MTV Films & Paramount Classics/Vantage mystery genre and was a founding partner of ESN, e-studio network, a web-based company that provides its entertainment company customers with a suite of management tools.

**JOHN WIRTH** has written and produced hundreds of hours of television and continues to be one of Hollywood's most sought after television Showrunners. He is currently serving as Executive Producer/Showrunner on AMC'S Hell On Wheels. He has served as an Executive Producer on *The Cape*; *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*; *Love Monkey*; *Ghost Whisperer*; *The District* and *Nash Bridges*. He's worked as a Consulting Producer on *Falling Skies* and on *V*, and as a Supervising Producer on the award winning *Picket Fences* and the cult favorite *The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr.* He also worked as an Executive Story Editor on *Remington Steele*. In addition, Mr. Wirth has held development deals with Touchstone Television, 20th Century Fox Television, Sony Television, Grant Tinker Television, and Warner Brothers Television, producing pilots for all four major networks, USA, CW and A&E. Mr. Wirth conceived and co-edited the WGA's *Television Writer's Handbook*, and sits on the Showrunner Training Program Committee as well as the WGA's Television Writers Council. He has been honored with three Western Heritage Awards, an Environmental Media Award, an Angel Award, and the 2004 Ribbon of Hope Award for AIDS Awareness and Education.





**KELLY LEOW** is the Deputy Editor of MovieMaker Magazine, the 23-year-old independent film publication based in Santa Monica, California. Born and raised in Singapore, she graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in English, and has remained in Los Angeles ever since. Kelly has done jury duty (festival, that is) in New Orleans, journeyed to Malaysia to attend screenings of censored cinema, and eaten porridge in Park City with Pu-

litzer Prize-winner Jonathan Gold. She aims to make independent filmmaking more rewarding one article at a time.



**ALLISON AMON** developed a strong passion for film at The University of Wisconsin Madison, where she majored in Anthropology with a strong focus on ethnographic documentary filmmaking. Following university, she and her then future husband spent over a year hitchhiking through northern Africa and Europe. In the mid-'90s she worked as Head of Production at Palomar Pictures. At the close of the decade,

Allison joined Chelsea and opened their Los Angeles branch. She and her partner Lisa Mehling became co-owners in 2001. Chelsea is a creatively driven, independently owned production and talent management company. Chelsea has cultivated and curated a roster of unique and diverse talents and garnered the advertising industry's top accolades, from Gold Lions to Pencils.

The work of Chelsea directors has been featured at Sundance, Venice, Cannes, Toronto and The Berlin Film Festival amongst others. Allison was an executive producer on the documentary, *Queen of Versailles*, which opened the Sundance Festival in 2012 and became one of the top grossing US documentaries of all time. Chelsea represents independent film makers David Gordon Green, Kyle Patric Alvarez, Lauren Greenfield, Alex Gibney, Greg Kohs, Neil Abramson, Amir Bar-Lev, and Robb Bindler amongst others. Allison and her family own a home in Mammoth Lakes and spend a considerable amount of time in the Easter Sierra, especially in the winter, as her two children ski for the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team.



**JOHN SCHEINFELD** From pop culture to politics, sports to world religions, Venice and Toronto film festivals to PBS, Emmy®, Grammy® and Writers Guild Award nominee John Scheinfeld is a critically-acclaimed documentary filmmaker with a broad range of subjects and productions to his credit. Scheinfeld is currently in production on the first authorized feature documentary about jazz legend John Coltrane.

Most recently, he directed, wrote and produced two high-profile documentaries for PBS: *Dick Cavett's Watergate* and *Dick Cavett's Vietnam*, each framed by guest interviews from the period and commentary by legendary talk show host Dick Cavett. Scheinfeld is best known for the feature documentaries *The U.S. vs. John Lennon*, which tells the true story of the US

# Jury

government's attempt to silence the beloved musician and *Who Is Harry Nilsson (And Why Is Everybody Talkin' About Him)?*, a documentary about one of the most talented and uncompromising singer-songwriters in pop music history. On the heels of a Grammy® nomination for producing *Beautiful Dreamer: Brian Wilson and the Story of SMiLE*, Scheinfeld wrote, produced and directed *Electric Youth: Teen Stars in the Music Business*, a special for A&E for which he received an Emmy® nomination as writer. Previously, he directed, wrote and produced *No Fighting in the War Room... or... Dr. Strangelove and The Nuclear Threat* as well as critically-acclaimed documentaries for National Geographic, *Tomb of Jesus* and *In The Name of Heaven*.



**KATHERINE TULICH** began her career in Australia, writing film reviews and features for the country's leading newspapers and was the Australian correspondent for the Hollywood Reporter and Entertainment Weekly. She is a well known radio and TV personality working for the Seven Network Australia and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Based in the US for the past ten years she has contributed regularly to *Los Angeles Times*, *Variety* and

*Washington Post*. Appearing on the renowned *At the Movies* TV show as a guest host filling in for Roger Ebert, she is now a

contributor for his ongoing site, [rogerebert.com](http://rogerebert.com). She has served as a judge on numerous film festivals around the world including Toronto, Chicago, Seattle and Palm Springs. Katherine is a member of the Film Critics Circle of Australia (FCCA), the prestigious FIPRESCI (International board of film critics) and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

**AMANDA SALAZAR** is Vice President of Film Acquisitions at Fandor which is an American subscription movie viewing service and social video sharing platform. She is also the co-director of the reconstituted Camera Obscura film society in Petaluma, CA. Her previous position was Program Director at the Newport Beach Film Festival and Orange County Film Society and she continues to program at select festivals. She is also a classically trained violinist and continues to teach and perform.



**BOJANA SANDIC** is the Director of Short Film Programming at the Newport Beach Film Festival, the Short Film Programmer for the South East European Film Festival in Los Angeles, and the editor of *Music In Press*, an online music magazine. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in both Literary Journalism and Psychology & Social Behavior from the University of California, Irvine and is always looking for ways to share great storytelling.

# awards & prizes

Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony and Party, starting at 9pm on Sunday the 29th at the Sierra Event Center.

## **Jury Award for Feature Documentary**

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## **Jury Award for Feature Narrative**

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\$10,000.00 Post-Production package from Light Iron

## **Jury Award for Animation or Documentary Short**

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## **Jury Award for Narrative Short**

\$500.00 cash

Gopro camera

## **Audience Award for Documentary Feature**

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## **Audience Award for Narrative Feature**

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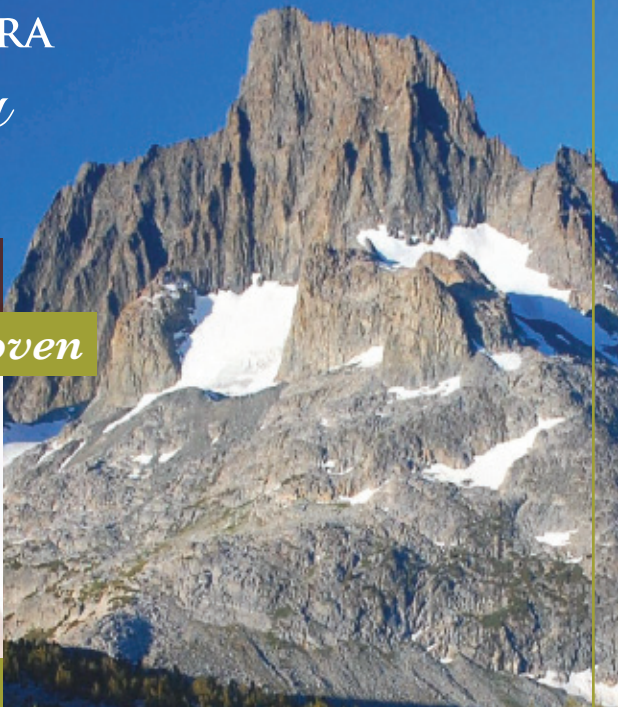
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## **Tim Casey**

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Festival Trailer & Key Art

## **Rico Helmecke**

PR Assistant

## **Branko Kral**

**with B King Digital**

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## **Chuck Scatolini**

Venue Manager Edison

## **Kim Kittinger**

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## **Sharon Clark**

Concessions Manager

## **Gabe Gerson**

Film Festival Intern

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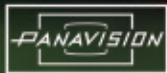


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