



# Mammoth Lakes

Film Festival 2021

# Festival Schedule

wednesday, sept. 22	7:00pm	9:00pm
<b>Sherwin Plaza</b>	Ultrasound	
<b>Rafters</b>		Opening Night Gala

thursday sept. 23	11:30am	2:00pm	5:30pm	8:00pm	10:00pm
<b>Minaret Cinemas</b>			I'm an Electric Lampshade	Narrative Shorts 2	
<b>Sherwin Plaza</b>	Mojave to Mammoth Shorts	Doc Shorts 1	Narrative Shorts 1	History of the Occult	
<b>Distant Brewing</b>					Late Night Happy Hour

fri. sept. 24	11:00am	1:30pm	4:00pm	6:30pm	8:30pm
<b>Minaret Cinemas</b>	Everyone Wants to Be the Next Weismann	Narrative Shorts 4	Hurrah, We Are Still Alive!	Music Videos	
<b>Sherwin Plaza</b>		LIGO	Fearless	The Renegades	What Josiah Saw

sat. sept. 25	10:00am	12:00pm	2:30pm	5:00pm	7:30pm
<b>Minaret Cinemas</b>	Kartoons for Kids	Isaac	Documentary Shorts 3	A Castle with Red Walls	Larry Flynt for President
<b>Sherwin Plaza</b>		Narrative Shorts 3	Man Under Table	Social	
<b>Sierra Nevada Resort</b>	Panel Brunch			<b>Rafters</b>	10:00pm Filmmaker Bash

sun. sept. 26	10:00am	12:30pm	2:45pm	5:00pm	7:30pm
<b>Minaret Cinemas</b>	A Trip to the Moon	Faya Dayi	Beautiful Idiots	Episodics	
<b>Sherwin Plaza</b>			Doc Shorts 2	El Father Plays Himself	The First Step
<b>Rafters</b>					9:30pm Awards Ceremony & Party

# MAP & LOCATIONS

- 1. Minaret Cinemas**  
439 Old Mammoth Rd.
- 2. Sherwin Plaza**  
549 Old Mammoth Rd Ste 3
- 3. Rafters**  
202 Old Mammoth Rd.
- 4. Sierra Nevada Resort & Spa**  
164 Old Mammoth Rd.
- 5. Distant Brewing**  
468 Old Mammoth Rd.



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# GET SHREDDY

WINTER SEASON IS ABOUT TO BEGIN

Celebrate with us when the lifts start spinning for the 21/22 winter season at the annual Winter Kickoff. Get up here to bring in the new season with the first chair banner breakthrough, good times, and good friends.

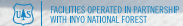
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# Welcome to MLFF

**P:** Hey Shira, what should we write on our welcome page? I never know what to write.

**S:** Just write the usual BS about we show the best films because we have an eye for blablabla, say something about carefully combing through all our submissions, yadda yadda yadda. No wait, say “cull” from our submissions, people like the word “cull.”

**P:** OK but actually that’s all true Shira, why are you discounting our...

**S:** I’m busy Paul! B-I-Z-Z-Y!

**P:** Busy with what?

**S:** Oh. My. God. I just finished putting on two Shakespeare plays, there’s a global pandemic and the forests are on fire. We can’t use the Edison Theater and we just lost the Forest Service. I’m busy finding us fabulous new venues so we can have the best festival ever.



**P:** I like it when you use the word fabulous. It reminds me of the ‘90s when we used to...

**S:** OK let’s not go into all that... not in print. Write something about how we have awesome parties every night. And that we have a badass PR company helping us bring in top level press. And we bring in and house more filmmakers than any other festival.

**P:** Now you’re sounding like a rapper, this is good. Should I mention our new music video and episodics programs?

**S:** Yes, duh. And also that we create a fun, warm, nurturing environment for our filmmakers, press, sponsors and audiences, where they can make amazing new friends and professional contacts.

**P:** Great. I’ll write that down and go hug a tree.

**S:** Fabulous. You’re fabulous. Oh jeez, that’s my other line...

**SHIRA DUBROVNER**

Festival Director

**PAUL SBRIZZI**

Director of Programming



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SPOTLIGHT SCREENING SUNDAY SEPT. 26, 12:30PM

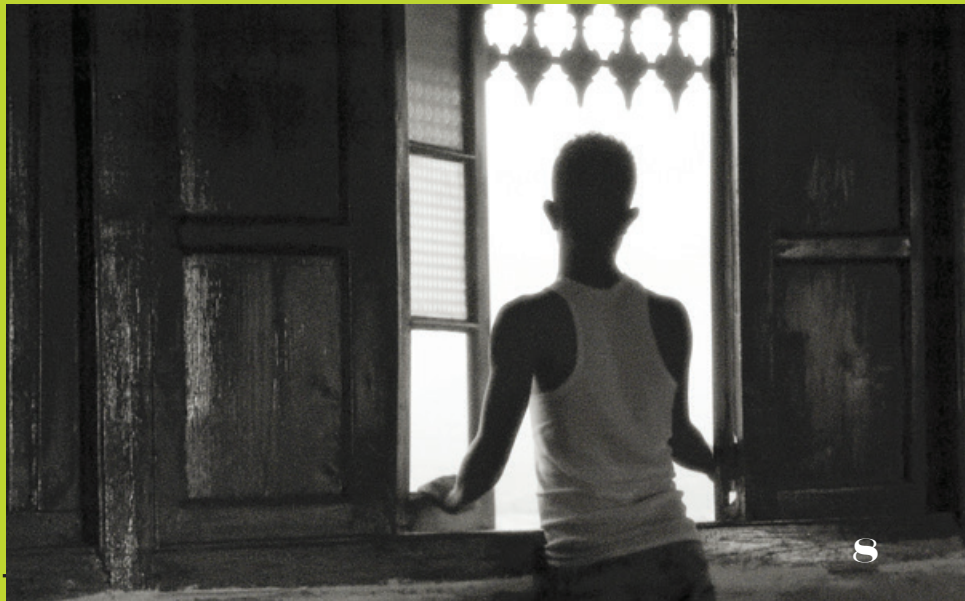
# Faya Dayi

**Ethiopia, USA, Qatar, 120 MIN**

**DIRECTOR:** Jessica Beshir

A spiritual journey into the highlands of Harar, immersed in the rituals of khat, a leaf Sufi Muslims chewed for centuries for religious meditations - and Ethiopia's most lucrative cash crop today.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Jessica Beshir was born in Mexico City and raised in Ethiopia. She received her BA in film studies and literature at UCLA. She directed the short films *He Who Dances on Wood* and *Hairat*; Faya Dayi is her first feature. Beshir is based in Brooklyn.



8

SPOTLIGHT SCREENING

SUNDAY SEPT. 26, 7:30PM

# The First Step

**USA, 90 MIN**  
**DIRECTOR/WRITER:**  
Brandon Kramer

**FEATURING:** Van Jones

In a divided America, Van Jones controversially works across party lines on landmark criminal justice reform and a more humane response to the addiction crisis. Attempting to be a bridge builder in a time of extreme polarization takes him deep into the inner workings of a divisive administration, internal debates within both parties, and the lives of frontline activists fighting for their communities.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Brandon Kramer is a co-founder of Meridian Hill Pictures. He directed *City of Trees* (Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, PBS' America Reframed, Netflix) and the Webby Award-winning series *The Messy Truth*. He won Best Director at the 2016 Chesapeake Film Festival and Indie Capital Awards, received the Audience Choice Award at the 2015 American Conservation Film Festival and was a 2015 DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities Individual Arts Fellow.



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N. AMERICAN NARRATIVE FEATURE SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 2:30PM

# Man Under Table

USA, 81 MIN, WEST COAST  
PREMIERE / Plays with  
EleCtroniC\_NiChtmaRe\_StOry\_1.  
avi (p.42)

**DIRECTOR/WRITER:**

Noel David Taylor

**CAST:** Noel David Taylor, Ben Babbitt,  
John Edmund Parcher, Katy Fullan,  
Robert Manion, Alisa Torres

A beleaguered man trying to write a movie  
gets pulled into everyone else's projects as he  
hallucinates his way through LA's bizarre indie  
film scene.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Noel David Taylor, born in 1985,  
is a prolific American film director, screenwriter, producer,  
actor, and production designer. His work has been featured  
in *Vogue*, *Adult Swim*, *Wieden-Kennedy*, Los Angeles  
County Museum of Art, Chicago Underground Film  
Festival, Portland Film Festival, and HollyShorts.



10

N. AMERICAN NARRATIVE FEATURE SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 5:00PM

# Social

USA, 110 MIN, WORLD PREMIERE

**DIRECTOR/WRITER:** Miles Triplett

**CAST:** Gary Champion, Lancee Bond, Josephine Sun, Miles Triplett

Gary, who's been diagnosed with  
social anxiety, lives a lonely lifestyle  
suffering mild panic attacks. In a brash  
attempt to make a friend, he meets  
Alexis, who has been diagnosed with  
ADD. Through a series of events,  
together they attempt to find the  
one person who Gary has never  
had anxiety around, his high school  
girlfriend Kayla.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Miles  
discovered his love for filmmaking by  
creating a series of parody videos and  
eventually music videos. In 2015, Miles wrote  
and directed his first feature film *College  
Life*, which led to SVS Productions focusing  
primarily on feature films. As of 2021, SVS  
Productions 7 feature films seen in festivals  
across the country, including securing  
theatrical distribution for *In The Moment*.



11

N. AMERICAN NARRATIVE FEATURE WEDNESDAY SEPT. 22, 7:00PM

# Ultrasound

USA, 103 MIN, WEST COAST  
PREMIERE

After a strange sexual encounter, Glen and Cyndi become unwitting test subjects in a mind control experiment. They search for answers as their own memories become tools for manipulation.

**DIRECTOR:** Rob Schroeder

**WRITER:** Conor Stechschulte

**CAST:** Vincent Kartheiser, Chelsea Lopez, Breeda Wool, Tunde Adebimpe, Chris Gartin, Bob Stephenson

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Rob began his film career directing music videos and movie marketing promos. He is co-founder of Lodger Films and produces independent features. He currently produces and directs the Emmy Award winning PBS series *Variety Studio: Actors On Actors*, now in season 14. *Ultrasound* is his feature film directorial debut.



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N. AMERICAN NARRATIVE FEATURE

FRIDAY SEPT. 24, 8:30PM

# What Josiah Saw

USA, 120 MIN, WEST COAST  
PREMIERE

**DIRECTOR:** Vincent Grashaw

**WRITER:** Robert Alan Dilts

**CAST:** Robert Patrick, Nick Stahl, Scott Haze, Kelli Garner, Tony Hale, Jake Weber

Josiah and his son Thomas are all that remain of an estranged family. After experiencing terrifying visions, Josiah decides they must change their ways to right a great wrong. Eli and Mary, Josiah's eldest children, are enticed to reunite at the old farmhouse to sell the property, in hopes of closing this haunting chapter of their lives for good. Sins of the past will be paid in full.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Vincent Grashaw produced the film *Bellflower*, which premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. Grashaw wrote and directed his debut feature, *Coldwater*, which premiered at SXSW 2013. Grashaw then directed his sophomore feature *And Then I Go*, a novel adaptation starring Justin Long, Melanie Lynskey and Tony Hale, distributed by The Orchard.



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INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE THURSDAY SEPT. 23, 8:00PM

# History of the Occult

**Argentina, 82 MIN, N. AMERICAN PREMIERE / Plays with Body of the Mined (p.42)**

It's the final broadcast of '60 minutes to Midnight', the most famous journalism show on TV. Tonight's guest is Adrian Marcato, who might expose a conspiracy that links the government with an actual Coven. Meanwhile, a group of journalists race against time to locate the mysterious object that will allow Marcato to make his on-air confession.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Cristian Ponce wrote and directed *Un Año sin Televisión*, *Policompañeros Motorizados*, *La Obra de mi Vida*, *Breve Historia en el Planeta*, and the animated web series *The Kirlian Frequency*, which was re-released in 2019 on Netflix. His first feature was screened at Marche du film in Cannes and later premiered at the Sitges Fantastic Film Festival.

**DIRECTOR/WRITER:** Cristian Ponce

**CAST:** German Baudino, Nadia Lozano, Agustin Recondo, Casper Uncal, Ivan Esquerre Hector Ostrofsky



INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE

FRIDAY SEPT. 24, 4:00PM

# Hurrah, We Are Still Alive!

**Poland, 85 MIN / Plays with Knife Hanging from a Tree (p.42)**

**DIRECTOR/WRITER:** Agnieszka Polska

**CAST:** Piotr Polak, Sonia Roszczuk, Joanna Drozda, Marta Ojrzynska, Arkadiusz Brykalski, Jacek Beler

An artistic commune is working on a film about Rosa Luxemburg, they are fascinated by the Director, they also loathe him. The question is - where has he gone and who really is the man who has so strongly influenced the life of this community? The dynamics between people living in an artistic and emotional symbiosis turns out to be equally explosive and toxic.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Agnieszka Polska is a visual artist and film director who uses computer-generated media and traditional cinema to reflect on an individual and their social responsibility. She has presented her works in international venues, including the New Museum and the MoMA in New York, Centre Pompidou and Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Tate Modern in London, Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC.



INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 12:00PM

# Isaac

Lithuania, 81 MIN, WEST COAST PREMIERE

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Jurgis Matulevicius

**CAST:** Severija Janušauskaitė, Aleksas Kazanavičius, Dainius Gavenonis

The film starts in 1941 when the main character kills a Jew, Isaac, at the Lietukis garage massacre in Lithuania. Years later he is haunted by images of the past and an increasing burden of guilt. The film discusses themes of friendship, love, regret and self-liberation in the difficult historical context of the Holocaust and the post-war Soviet era in Lithuania.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Jurgis Matulevičius graduated from the Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy with a degree in film directing. He has worked with well-known Lithuanian film directors Šarūnas Bartas, Algimantas Puipa and others. He made a number of short films that were presented in many local and international festivals like Los Angeles' Cinefest, Kiwi International, Krakow Film Festival, Oberhausen Film Festival, Odessa Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival Film Market "Marche du Film" and others.



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INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE

SUNDAY SEPT. 26, 10:00AM

# A Trip to the Moon

Iran, 85 MIN / Plays with Cocoon (p.42)

DIRECTOR/WRITER:  
Mohammadreza Shayannejad

**CAST:** Monir Beytari, Parisa Hoseini, Sadra Behbodi, Misagh Bahrololomian, Mohammadreza Shayannejad

Sounds are mechanical waves remaining in the space without disappearing. Zoya has gone to the Moon and has put her voice in a bottle for Farid. Now, Farid needs to build his device to recover those sounds.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Mohammadreza Shayannejad was born in 1983 in Iran. He gained his master's degree in producing from The Iran Broadcasting University. Opposing prevalent filmmaking methods in cinema led him and his friends to form the independant filmmaking group "Kamja" which consists of filmmaking graduates and students. They went on to produce *Safar Be Maah (A Trip to the Moon)* as their first feature film using a completely independent approach.



17

N. AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FRIDAY SEPT. 24, 4:00PM

# Fearless

USA, 89 MIN

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Wojciech Lorenc

**FEATURING:** Nancy Wagoner, James Reyna

In small-town Texas, a non-profit boxing gym provides a space where participants “have a safe, educational and encouraging place to learn their skills.” FEARLESS is an observational documentary focused on the difficulties faced by people of color and immigrants in the United States today, by unpacking the concept of American optimism and the unrealistic expectations that accompany it.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Val Trevino (producer) is a Mexican-born multimedia artist whose films have screened and won awards in international festivals, and whose work has reached over 20 million people online. Wojciech Lorenc (director) is a Polish-born filmmaker. He has taught filmmaking at Columbia College Chicago, University of Hawaii West O’ahu, Columbus State University, and currently Sam Houston State University where he coordinates the BFA in Film and Television Production.



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N. AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

THURSDAY SEPT. 23, 5:30PM

# I’m an Electric Lampshade

USA, 96 MIN

DIRECTOR:  
John Clayton Doyle

**FEATURING:** Doug McCorkle, Regina McCorkle, Cesar Valentino, Isra Jeron Ysmael, Darnell Peart, Robin Dunn

Doug McCorkle, a buttoned-up, mild-mannered corporate accountant, is the world’s least likely rock star. After retiring at age 60, he puts his marriage and life savings on the line to chase his wildest dreams, travelling from the United States to Mexico and the Philippines.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** John’s work has been presented at venues including The Brooklyn Museum, MassMoCa & Parque Lage. He is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Harlem Dance Club, an organization that builds community by breaking down perceived boundaries and barriers through music, dance and visual arts.



N. AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY FEATURE SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 7:30PM

# Larry Flynt for President

USA, 90 MIN, WEST COAST PREMIERE  
DIRECTOR: Nadia Szold

**FEATURING:** Larry Flynt

The wild ride of the Hustler Magazine publisher's 1983 campaign for president, told through never-before-seen footage. It is the story of the quintessential outsider who fought to expose hypocrisy and bigotry, which ultimately nearly cost him his life. The film unfolds with plot twists stranger than fiction, dialogue more outrageous than parody and a love story between two outcasts, who in the end couldn't have been more American.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Nadia Szold's first work as a director was at 17 when she founded the theater troupe Cojones Company. She directed 14 plays performed in New England and New York City before embarking on her work in film. Her first feature *Joy de V.*, starring Evan Louison and Claudia Cardinale, premiered at the Slamdance Film Festival in 2013 to critical acclaim and a nod from the jury.



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N. AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

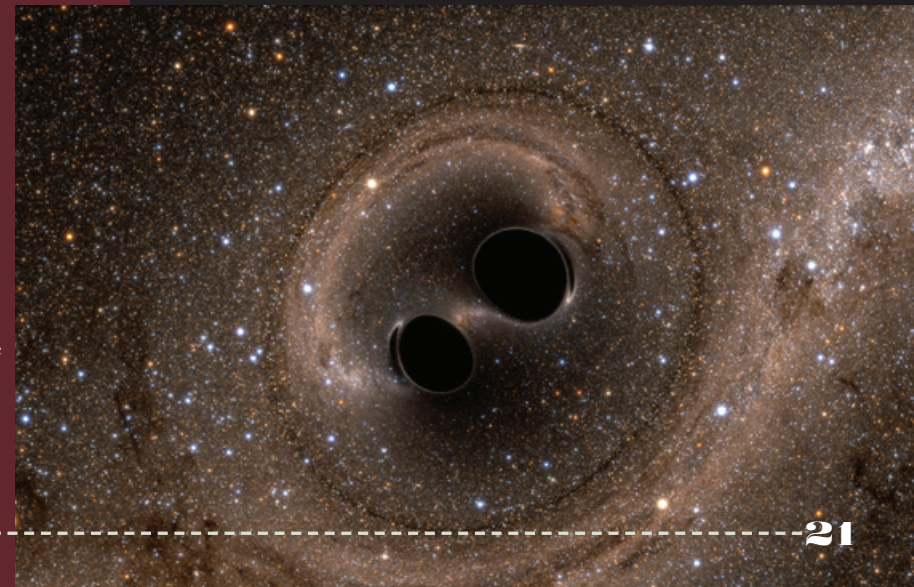
FRIDAY SEPT. 24, 1:30PM

# LIGO

USA, 83 MIN  
DIRECTOR: Les Guthman  
FEATURING: Rai Weiss, Kip Thorne, Barry Barish

The riveting inside story that topped National Geographic's list of "The Top 20 Scientific Discoveries of the Decade," the Nobel Prize-winning discovery of gravitational waves from deep space, 2015-2017, which launched a radical new era in astronomy. Director Les Guthman witnessed this dramatic peak in the lives of 1,000 scientists around the world who risked their careers on a \$1 billion search for these exquisite messengers from the "warped side" of space.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Les Guthman is a multiple award-winning writer, director, producer and editor of 32 feature documentaries. He also created and produced the *Discover Magazine* science series at Disney and "Outside Television," the production division of Outside Magazine. He began his career at PBS and NBC News in New York.



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INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE SUNDAY SEPT. 26, 2:45PM

# Beautiful Idiots

Plays with  
Radde (p.43)

Greece / Austria, 94 MIN,  
WORLD PREMIERE

**DIRECTOR/WRITER:**

Michael Ginthoer & Christos Chassapis

**FEATURING:** David Auerbach,  
Christos Chassapis

"He came to Greece looking for a revolution. But all he got was metaphors." Beautiful Idiots is many things: A socio-economical expertise, a moebius-looped soul odyssey, a cunning foray into numerical obscurantism, but at its core it's an accurate portrait of middle-aged David Auerbach who, in order to see a future, must overcome the demons of the past.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Born in Salzburg, Austria, Michael holds a degree in Philosophy and History. In 2007 he made his critically acclaimed debut feature "Zen and Zero", which won numerous prizes at festivals. Since 2002 he has lived in Vienna, working as an independent journalist and filmmaker.



22

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 5:00PM

# A Castle with Red Walls

Iran, 72 MIN

INT'L PREMIERE

Plays with Hüzün  
Is a Tranny Name  
(p.43)

**DIRECTOR:** Abbas Raziji

**FEATURING:** Davoud Roustae

Iranian filmmaker Davoud Roustae made more than 100 movies that were all banned from being screened, both before and after the Islamic revolution. He is the only director who ever succeeded in making a movie in the red-light district of Tehran, in spite of laws that strictly forbid it.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** At age 25 the Iranian cinema community recognized Abbas as an authoritative and different casting director; he also started teaching art at university. During these years, he wrote for professional cinema & theatre journals. After producing some high-grossing movies, he produced his first feature *Cold Breath* (MLFF 2017), which received numerous awards.



23

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE SUNDAY SEPT. 26, 5:00PM

# El Father Plays Himself

**FEATURING:** Jorge Roque Thielen, Jorge Thielen Armand

A film director returns to Venezuela to make a film based on his father's life in the jungle. He casts Father to play himself. What starts as an act of love and ambition — filmmaking to more deeply understand the self, and the other — spirals into a process which confronts Father's struggles with addiction and his life devoid of his son.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Mo Scarpelli is a director and cinematographer of mostly non-fiction cinema. Her films have screened at the Berlinale, Visions du Réel, IDFA, SXSW, among other festivals; and released in cinemas such as the Barbican and ICA in London; and online with MUBI.com. Mo's *Anbessa* (2019) was nominated for the Crystal Bear and Glashütte Documentary Prize at the 69<sup>th</sup> Berlinale.



Venezuela, UK, Italy,  
USA / 94 MIN / WEST  
COAST PREMIERE  
**DIRECTOR:** Mo Scarpelli

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FRIDAY SEPT. 24, 11:00AM

# Everyone Wants to Be the Next Weismann

Spain, 65 MIN / Plays  
with Pivetta (p.43)

**DIRECTOR:**  
Alberto Triano

**FEATURING:** Martín Solo, MuPan

Martín Solo, contemporary art collector and the first to discover the great Richard Weismann, takes on the challenge of introducing the world to his unique vision of art by opening his private museum to the public. To do this, Martín prepares a retrospective of his latest discovery: Mu Pan, a Taiwanese, Brooklyn-based artist whose fantastical works criticize and reflect the violence and brutality of society.

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Alberto has made several short documentaries, music videos, commercials and a few virtual reality pieces for agencies such as Warner Music and Sony Music. He is currently directing the Zombi Moreno studio, focused on art and creativity. *Everyone Wants to Be the Next Weismann* is his debut as a feature documentary filmmaker. He recently finished his first fiction feature film *Losers*.



INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FRIDAY SEPT. 24, 6:30PM

# The Renegades

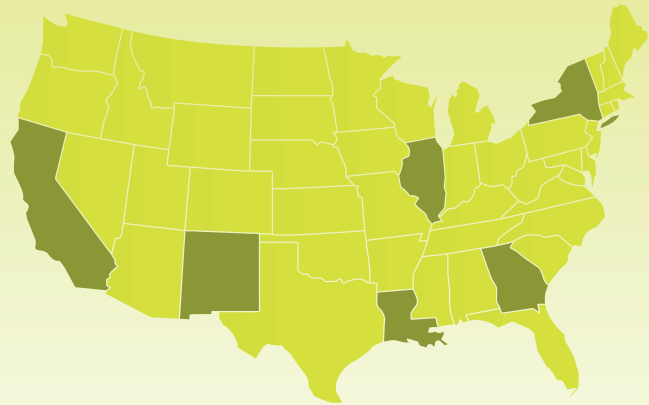
Germany, 76 MIN,  
US PREMIERE /  
Plays with No Body  
(p.43)

## DIRECTORS:

Lisa Maria Hagen, Mariam Noori

Meral is looking for her baby brother Ferhat, a missing ISIS member. Oliver, a convicted terrorist, is trying to find his way back into western society. They are connected through one fateful photograph. Can Oliver help Meral to find some answers? The documentary deals with one of the most disturbing events in recent history, as more than 5,000 young people left Europe to join ISIS. How did we lose them, and how do we treat those who come back?

**DIRECTOR BIO:** Mariam Noori fled Afghanistan for Germany at three years old. She reports on migration and islamism for the German public broadcaster ARD. She has written two best-selling biographies about the boxing champion Hamid Rahimi and German rapper Massiv. Lisa Maria Hagen is a videojournalist for the German public broadcaster ARD, reporting on migration and islamism. From 2010-2016 she lived in Mexico City, reporting from Latin America for US and European media.



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# Narrative Shorts 1



## NITTY GRITTY PUNJAB POLICE

Director: Kabir Mehta / India / 12.5 min / World Premiere  
I document my time with a washed-up dishonest constable and his troop of two, in this self-reflexive re-imagining of a police documentary.

## WASTING TIME AT THE END OF THE WORLD



Director: Milos Mitrovic / Canada / 8 min / World Premiere  
A lonely comedian prepares for a virtual stand up act. A sadly funny glimpse into Covid reality and digital connections that fail to replicate the real deal.



## KNOT WAKING

Director: Lauren Flinner / USA / 4 min  
A dream of the combined afterlife of one thousand trees. A sensual, stream of consciousness assemblage of scraps. Tiny triangles of paper mediate.

THURSDAY SEPT. 23, 5:30PM



## A MINI TRILOGY

Director: Shannon Lee / USA / 7 min / West Coast Premiere  
A young woman with a dog obsession comes to terms with her facts of life.

## COMPLY+-ANCE PREFACE

Director: Isora Iwakiri / Japan / 17 min / World Premiere  
A directionless aspiring actress finds herself wedged between her parents' wishes and those of a strong-willed director.



## WE WON'T FORGET

Directors: Edgar Morais, Lucas Elliot Eberl / Writers: Edgar Morais, Lucas Elliot Eberl, Whitney Able / USA, Portugal / 14 min  
A woman's frustrations boil to the surface while hosting a party for her friends, culminating in a public freakout that turns into collective hysteria.

## YEARLINGS

Director: Melanie Akoko / France / 13 min / N. American Premiere  
An girl on the brink of adolescence has to navigate her first feelings of desire on her own when a local handyman and his horse come to fix a broken wall.





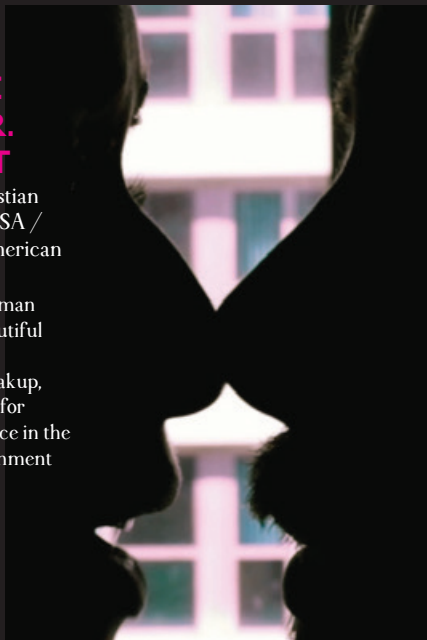
# Narrative Shorts 2

THURSDAY SEPT. 23, 8:00PM

## A PLACE FOR MR. CARPET

Director: Sebastian Karantonis / USA / 28 min / N. American Premiere

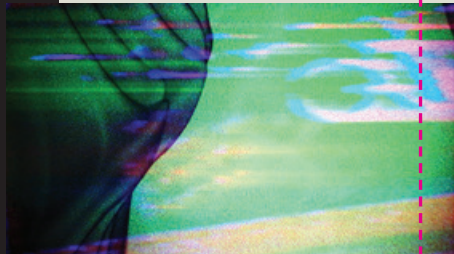
"Even a useless man can make a beautiful carpet." After a devastating breakup, a man searches for purpose and place in the harshest environment on earth.



## THE FLAW IN THE CRYSTAL

Director: Ryan Betschart / USA / 3 min / West Coast Premiere

An exploration into Astral Projection via my diagnosis of Exploding Head Syndrome.



## THE EXPECTED

Director: Carolina Sandvik / Sweden / 14.5 min

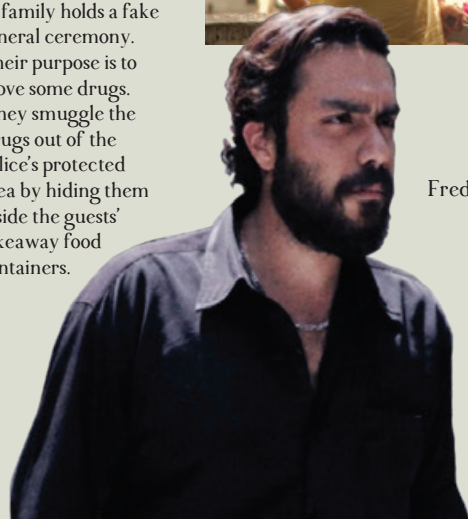
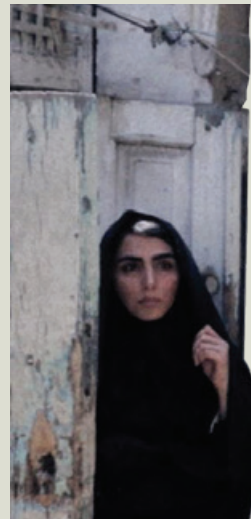
A father-to-be ends up in a feverish nightmare after a miscarriage, when a strange entity seems to be growing in the mother's blood.

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## THE MOVEMENT

Director: Rouzbeh Kazemi / Iran / 15 min

A family holds a fake funeral ceremony. Their purpose is to move some drugs. They smuggle the drugs out of the police's protected area by hiding them inside the guests' takeaway food containers.



## HUMAN NATURE

Director: Sverre Fredriksen / Netherlands / 2 min / West Coast Premiere

A short animation film about the love animals have for people, and the harm they consciously or unconsciously cause us.



## MANAUS HOT CITY

Director: Reinel Garcia / Brazil / 13 min / N. American Premiere

Two friends meet to eat a bodó fish. The talk between them goes through the colors and smells of the houses, cooks on the pavement, in the heat of the city. Someone stays and someone leaves.

31

# Narrative Shorts 3

## THE HERMIT

Director: Noel Taylor / USA / 3.5 min  
A reclusive man is accosted by a traveling salesman.



## BLOWING IT

Director: Ethan Mermelstein / USA / 14 min / World Premiere  
A filmmaker attempts to gain a sense of control during lockdown by forcing his family to participate in a documentary.



## MILLENNIAL PRINCE

Director: Julie Fliegenspan / USA / 6.5 min  
A manatee shares a romantic spaghetti dinner with her boyfriend, but he's distracted by Tinder notifications and he sneaks out to meet a match in the middle of the night.



SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 12:00PM



## LE CANAPÉ

Directors: Baptiste Sornin, Karim Barras / France / 15 min / US Premiere  
Baptiste waits for his friend Karim to help him get rid of the last piece of furniture in the apartment he shared with his girlfriend: a sofa. When Karim arrives, he tells him that he has been dumped too.

## CLOUDY DAYS

Director: Chuang Yung-Hsiang / Taiwan / 26 min  
A middle-aged foreign spouse endeavors to repress the desire for her considerate and amiable stepson only to stay in her loveless yet smooth marriage life.



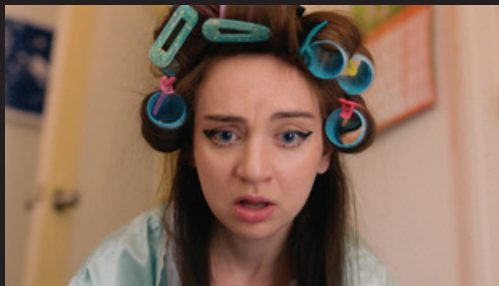
## ARTISTIC CHARACTER

Director: Vasily Chuprina / Russia, Netherlands / 15 min / West Coast Premiere  
When a quiet artist spends his time daydreaming of his muse, he inadvertently sets in motion a series of actions that he has no control over.



# Narrative Shorts 4

FRIDAY SEPT. 24, 1:30PM / FOR MATURE AUDIENCE



## MOHA

Directors: Clement Bancel  
/ France / 22 min /  
N. American Premiere  
Moha and Lucie had a great love.  
Today, they are separated. Moha  
doesn't know how to survive this  
breakup. Sometimes he follows  
Lucie, who met Martin



## RIDE OR DIE

Director: Lily Citrin / USA / 5 min /  
World Premiere  
When her bestie Madeline commits a  
heinous crime, Adele has two options:  
be a total bummer and hold her friend  
accountable or be a good feminist and  
support her badass BFF.

## SUN SONIFICATION

Director: Ryan Betschart /  
USA / 4 min /  
N. American Premiere  
A rumination on the passive  
politics of whiteness.



34

FRIDAY SEPT. 24, 1:30PM / FOR MATURE AUDIENCE

## PROGRESSIVE TOUCH

Director: Michael Portnoy / Austria / 13 min  
Three futuristic, absurdist love scenes in which the goal is to "improve" sex by  
complicating its rhythm and choreography. Sex as dance as comedy.



## DEVEK

Director: Uriya Hertz  
/ Israel / 14 min /  
West Coast Premiere  
When a young man  
takes his sick mother  
to visit a psychic  
medium near the  
Dead Sea, things do  
not go as planned.



## IT'LL BE OVER SOON

Director: Benjamin Rigby  
/ Australia, USA / 11 min  
When the pandemic hits,  
two men are forced to  
evaluate their unexpected  
long distance relationship.



35

# Documentary Shorts 1

## THE WINDING FARMLAND

Director: Sarah-Christine  
Bourihane / Canada / 24 min  
/ West Coast Premiere

In rural Quebec, Carl and  
Alexandra raise their children  
living by Christian and  
environmentalist values, as  
they attempt to take on the life  
of their forefathers, but they  
can't escape the realities of the  
modern world.



36

THURSDAY SEPT. 23, 2:00PM

## UNCLE IN LA

Director: Kai Stoeckel / Germany / 28 min  
"Who says Katy doesn't love me back?" my uncle asks before  
heading off from south Germany to Los Angeles to live with  
one of the biggest stars of our time, Katy Perry.



## SINCE YOU ARRIVED, MY HEART STOPPED BELONGING TO ME

Director: Erin Kökdil / USA / 21 min  
Central American mothers journey by bus through  
Mexico, searching for their children who migrated north  
towards the United States but disappeared en route.

37

# Documentary Shorts 2

## PARIZAD

Director: Mehdi Imani  
Shahmiri / Iran / 24 min /  
West Coast Premiere

Keshvar is a solitary old woman  
crafting woven textiles in an  
ancient tradition. She tells a tale  
of a fairy and a sheperd who  
came to her village one day ...



58

SUNDAY SEPT. 26, 2:45PM

## A MAN IN CHAIN

Director: Alireza Mirasadullah /  
UK / 23 min / West Coast Premiere

For the past 14 years, through winter  
and summer, a young man has been  
tethered to a solid tree root within  
sight of the family hut.



## SHREDDED

Director: Noam  
Stolerman / Israel /  
16.5 min / West Coast  
Premiere

An aging bodybuilder is  
on the path to becoming a  
champion. Moments before  
emerging as a finalist, he  
might face a heartache.



59



## VAGALUMES (FIREFLIES)

Director: Leo Bittencourt /  
Brazil / 19 min / West Coast  
Premiere

The fauna and flora of  
Roberto Burle Marx's gardens,  
inhabited by visitors to  
Flamengo's Park, while the city  
of Rio de Janeiro is fast asleep.  
A fabulated ethnography.

# Documentary Shorts 3

## NOT WORTH KILLING

Director: Eric M. Ivey / USA / 21 min /  
West Coast Premiere

The story of the unlikely friendship between Sister Lillian Oliver, IHM, and Mitchell Rutledge, a convicted murderer serving life without parole in an Alabama state penitentiary.



40

SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 2:30PM

## FROM THE IN AND OUTSIDE

Director: Dyaa Naim / Germany / 19 min /  
Anwar Al-Bunni, a Syrian human rights  
activist living in exile with his family in Berlin,  
collects testimonies of prisoners who survived  
state torture centres, which contributed to the  
opening of the first trial in history against the  
crimes of the Assad regime.



## I WON'T REMAIN ALONE

Director: Yaser Talebi /  
Iran / 15 min / N. American  
Premiere

An elderly disabled couple  
living in a small village in the  
northern part of Iran face an  
unfathomable dilemma when  
their youngest son falls into a  
coma after an accident.



41

## BEYOND THE WIRE

Director: Ted Griswold / USA /  
17 min / West Coast Premiere  
Veteran Army Ranger Chris  
Pesqueira experiences his first few  
days of freedom after 33 years in  
prison and leans into a community  
of formerly incarcerated veterans  
for support.



# Shorts before

## ELECTRONIC\_NIGHTMARE\_STORY\_1.AVI

Director: Noel Taylor / USA / 4 min  
It's the future, or present, or something, and two "people" meet in a normal area to talk about it.  
Plays with Man Under Table  
Saturday Sept. 25, 2:30 PM



## COCOON

Director: Yavar Darehzami / Iran / 8 min  
A short man, under the influence of the media, makes an artificial limb for himself, grows tall, comes out of his house, and we see that everyone is short.  
Plays with A Trip to the Moon  
Sunday Sept. 26, 10:00 AM



## KNIFE HANGING FROM A TREE

Director: jiHee Nam / S. Korea / 3.5 min  
A story based off of a Korean traditional saying, directly translated to "sour grapes."  
Plays with Hurrah, We Are Still Alive!,  
Friday Sept. 24, 4:00 PM



## BODY OF THE MINED

Director: Eric Jungmann / USA / 15 min  
A quiet young woman moves into a new building and meets a reclusive engineer on the brink of completing a bizarre, extraordinary machine.  
Plays with History of the Occult, Thursday Sept. 23, 8:00 PM



42

# Features

## NO BODY

Director: Rares Hantiu / Romania / 10 min / N. American Premiere  
A young man has drowned in a river, but no body was found. His father seeks the body, day after day, on the shores of the river. Meanwhile, the river flows on.  
Plays with The Renegades  
Friday Sept. 24, 6:30 PM



## PIVETTA

Directors: Diogenes Muniz, Douglas Lambert / Brazil / 17.5 min / International Premiere  
The limits between art and transgression in the life of a graffiti artist and her relationship with her toddler Isis, the baby artist.  
Plays with Everyone Wants to Be the Next Weismann, Friday Sept. 24, 11:00 AM



## RADDE

Director: Ali Lavarimonfared / Iran / 9 min  
A lonely fisherman lives in an abandoned wharf with broken ships. He finds a fish who tried to commit suicide, and he wants to save its life.  
Plays with Beautiful Idiots,  
Sunday Sept. 26, 2:45 PM

## HÜZÜN IS A TRANNY NAME

Director: Nihat Karatasli / Turkey / 15 min / N. American Premiere  
Outspoken Turkish trans-activist and sex-worker Gani\_met\* discusses "Hüzün," a Turkish word that describes a collective form of melancholia.  
Plays with A Castle with Red Walls,  
Saturday Sept. 25, 5:00 PM



43

# Episodics



## NOW IS NOT THE BEST TIME

Director: Jaqueline Dow /  
Writer: Seth Birkan / USA

A comedic webseries that follows Alisa as she exceedingly complicates her life, while navigating the strangest and most unsavory corners of New York City and her mind.

44

SUNDAY SEPT. 26, 5:00PM

## DAD PALS

Director: Kyle Kenyon / USA /  
5 min / West Coast Premiere

Three friends are put to the test when they find out their childhoods were shockingly different.



## SECRETS AND LIES IN A TOWN OF SINNERS

Director: Jonni Phillips / USA

The series follows a number of families all residing within the fictional town of Des Amato in Harvaland County, California. Much of the overarching story of the series is told through visual worldbuilding and sight-gags, and each episode focuses on a different home within the titular town.



## KHAKI IS NOT LEATHER

Director: Ray Smiling / Writers:  
Konyin Ayuba, Ray Smiling /  
USA / West Coast Premiere

Everyone's locked down. Dating is suspended. People are starved of intimacy. We turn to phones, laptops. To find someone. To feel good, to feel seen.



45



# MOJAVE TO MAMMOTH



## UNEARTHED

Director: Colin Rosemont / USA / 16 min / World Premiere  
The intersections of history, spirituality, colonialism, and contemporary archaeology are examined through the experiences of archaeologists and Native Californians brought together by an excavation.



## DEATH VALLEY

Director: Grace Sloan / USA / 11 min / West Coast Premiere  
NYE 2080 and Earth is abandoned. A radiologist travels from outerspace to practice yoga in the desert when an earthquake hurls her from a cliff.



## AVERY

Director: Christine Wood / USA / 13.5 min / West Coast Premiere  
Avery finds herself enamored with an actor in an avant-garde theater piece only to realize it isn't that she wants him, rather she wants to be him.

46

THURSDAY SEPT. 23, 11:30AM

## NORTHBOUND

Director: Noam Azouz / Israel / 11 min / World Premiere  
The stories of people who choose to live in remote places under the harsh conditions of the arctic circle.



## GOODBYE HOLY MOUNTAIN

Director: Luke Rudy / USA / 5 min / World Premiere  
A short documentary on the ragtag life of the humble ski bum.



## THE GREAT MILESTONE

Director: Ignasi López Fabregas / Spain / 13 min  
A mountaineer has one last goal to accomplish: to climb that impossible summit. A woman tired of waiting for her husband to return from his mountain escapades decides to seek some adventure of her own.



47

# Kartoons for Kids

SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 10:00AM



## ZARA OG DEI

Director: Nils Johan Lund,  
Bjørn Sortland /  
Norway / 13 min  
When Zara and her family  
remake the pageant-like  
Miss Competition, it's a much  
more wacky "hit" than "miss"!



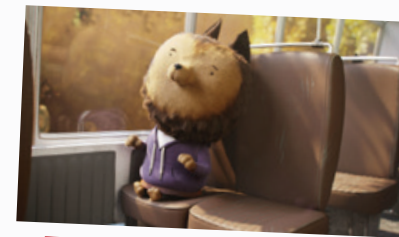
48

# Kartoons for Kids

SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 10:00AM

Hosted by

**GAIL  
MATTHIUS**



## TOBI AND THE TURBOBUS

Director: Verena Fels / Germany / 75 min  
You fly with no seat! That's the rule in the Turbobus. To  
get one is a hard day job for a young wolf on his turbo-  
journey to find real friendship.

## HUGO & HOLGER

Director: Teddy Halkier Kristiansen  
/ Denmark / 14 min  
Holger is in fact a baby elephant but  
all the boy Hugo sees is a big puppy  
dog. It's all about the eyes that see.



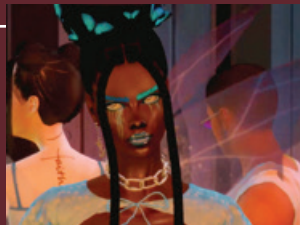
## BILL N BACK

Director: Olivier Brisson /  
Canada / 75 min  
The exciting and mind-twisting  
adventures of two comically  
conjoined twins, an enthusiastic  
wolf and a bossy rabbit, who must  
work together to adapt to EVO, a  
wacky world in constant evolution.



49

# Music Videos



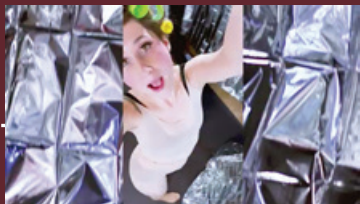
**LOVE PROBLEMS**  
by Gel Set, directed by Olivia de Camps



**UNTIL I FALL**  
by Lucinda Chua, directed by William Kennedy



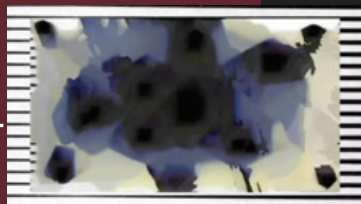
**HEY BOY**  
by Brijean, directed by Brijean Murphy



**GEM**  
by Jane Inc., directed by Carlyn & Shanda Bezic



**STAY THE RIDE**  
by Gus Gus, directed by Arni & Kinski



**WHITE SUGAR**  
by Black Dice, directed by Aaron Anderson



**DRIPPING VISIONS**  
by Freak Heat Waves, directed by Cole Kush



**ROOM WITH A VIEW**  
by Rone, directed by (La)Horde - Brutti /  
Debrouwer / Harel



**THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN'T DO**  
by Spirit of the Beehive, directed by Ryan Schnackenberg



**YÜCE DAG BASINDA**  
by Altin Gun, directed by Bregt Pepijn  
Verhagen & Tom Ooms



**OFTEN THEY CAME TO VISIT,  
EVEN JUST TO SEE HOW SHE WAS**  
by Ruth Goller, directed by Paula Rae Gibson



**HOUKOU**  
by Satomimagae, directed by Nonowe Akihito

FRIDAY SEPT. 24, 6:30PM

# Music Videos



**DOCTOR SAYS**  
by Midnight Sister, directed by Giraffe Studios



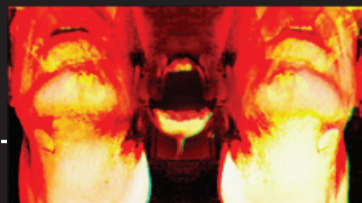
**SINK IN**  
by Tirzah, directed by Leah Walker



**MISS THE RAGE**  
by Trippie Redd ft. Playboi Carti,  
directed by Nick Walker



**INDUSTRY BABY**  
by Lil Nas X, Jack Harlow, directed by  
Christian Breslauer



**DROOL**  
by Part Chimp, directed by Chris Spalton

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# SCREENPLAY COMPETITION



## **CASSANDRA** by **DAVID E. TOLCHINSKY**

A female detective, Block, encounters a mysterious uniformed female police officer Crawley. Together, they try to stop a serial killer whose trademark is to leave a drawing of the location of her subsequent murder at each crime site. Based on the award-winning short, Cassandra.



## **CHILD** by **GIOVANNI LABADESSA**

After the death of her father, a woman returns to her childhood home in the Polish wilderness. When her son goes missing into the woods, the husband immediately dives into the unknown, while she struggles to get the local police to help. They say it is because of a strong wind blowing in the mountains, but she believes it's because her husband and son are black. Finally their son is found, the problem is both father and mother found one.



## **HER SCREAMING RED EYE** by **MATTHEW DIXON**

A star architect envisions a "living building" that changes form in harmony with natural light. From within the presentation model, she hears the voice that first spoke to her in the wooden fort she built as a child. Both sanctuary and prison, the fort is where her unique imagination was born and her voices and visions came to life. Both devil and ally, they are the source of her greatest ideas and most terrifying fears. For her one-of-a-kind designs to actually be built, she must find a way to live with both.



## **KOSMOS** by **ALEX BLUMBERG**

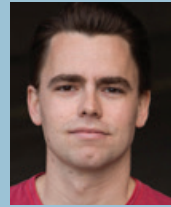
At the height of the Cold War space race, a team of freethinking Soviet rocket scientists-turned-UFOlogists must outwit the KGB, the military, and a corrupt psychiatrist after receiving an alien transmission warning of an imminent nuclear apocalypse. "Chernobyl" meets "The X-Files."



## **LICENSE & REGISTRATION** by **JACKSON EZINGA**

After a series of setbacks, a wanna-be cop feels he has no other choice than to put on his dead father's uniform and badge to fulfill his destiny.

# FINALISTS



## **MR. COOL** by **BEAU BRIANS**

An ordinary college student, Joe, tries to figure out his life when he is pulled into an epic mission by Mr Cool, a flashback-plagued bad-ass with a dark and mysterious past. This takes them on an adventure of danger, expensive set pieces, self discovery and ultimately love, building to a climactic showdown against evil forces where Mr Cool has to make the ultimate sacrifice and Joe has to run around holding a silver box with glowing blue parts.



## **MUSTARD GREEN** by **PATRICK L. MCCONNELL**

"Luc is eleven and lives in the Bayou outside of New Orleans in 1925; might be described as a Cajun 'Huck Finn.'" His world is a beautiful challenge, delightful to a boy, concerning to his mother. He's a hunter who loves animals. Who finds a friend in a strange frog. The friendship brings magic, new challenges, altering the world around him.



## **ONE WAY** by **MEITAL COHEN NAVARRO**

Estranged from her family and her ultra-orthodox community, Tiki, a Jewish mother, has been living in exile for years. But when she discovers that her 18-year-old daughter, Chaya, is about to get married in two days, Tiki drives back to Los Angeles in her old broken-down Jeep, determined to change Chaya's destiny. But stopping this arranged marriage may prove harder than expected... as Chaya herself refuses to go with her.



## **THE LAST ONES** by **C. D. PETERSON**

The Last Ones portrays the loss of a way of life. Douglas, a teen, and his farm family struggle through WWII only to face the tumult of the post-war boom. Douglas leads the fight to put off a voracious land developer but cannot stop progress. The State claims the land for the Massachusetts Turnpike. The family will endure, but the result is the same — their way of life is gone. They must go their own ways.



## **UNISON KISMET** by **FRANCESCO CAPUSSELLA**

3197. Aulen, a solar-powered humanoid with telekinetic skills activated on Earth post-Phamtat invasion, learns of his friend's brutal murder. Aulen embarks on a mission to human-colonized Mars where he reaches the exotic matter and time-travels to 2051 Earth failing to stop the interstellar response to the 1974 Arecibo message. After the Dostis Cabak battle in 3197, Aulen discovers to be human, his parents' identity and accepts his homosexual feelings for the murdered humanoid.

# MAMMOTH

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# PARTIES & EVENTS

## Opening Night GALA

Wednesday Sept. 22, 9:00pm, Rafters, 202 Old Mammoth Rd.

Kick off Mammoth Lakes' seventh 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.



## Champagne Brunch & Panel Discussion

Saturday Sept. 25, 10:00am, Sierra Nevada Resort

Come for an informative panel discussion with industry professionals and enjoy an all you can eat champagne brunch outside in the courtyard of the Sierra Nevada Resort. \$25 online, \$30 at the door.

## Late Night Happy Hour

Thursday Sept. 23, 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.



## Filmmakers Bash

Sat. Sept. 25, 2021 @ 10:00pm

Rafters, 202 Old Mammoth 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 and wine bar, a stellar venue, and a one-of-a-kind band with us at RAFTERS. This year's band, THE EVANGENTALS, \$25 online, \$30 at the door

## Closing Night Awards Gala

Sunday Sept. 26, 9:30pm, Rafters, 202 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

Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony, starting at 9:30pm on Sunday the 26th.

## JURY AWARD FOR BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award  
\$10,000 Panavision Camera Rental Grant  
\$13,500 Light Iron Post Production Package  
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  
Orson Trophy



## JURY AWARD FOR BEST 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

## Allison Amon



Allison Amon spent 18 years developing Chelsea Pictures into a world class Production Company, winning awards at Sundance for *The Queen of Versailles*, an Emmy for *Like a Girl* and many Cannes Lions amongst others. She has served

as EVP of Development and Sales at Bullitt as well as Superconductor, both companies owned by The Russo Brothers and Justin Lin. Currently she is working at Superconductor, an agency owned by The Russo Brothers. In Superconductor's first year of business she worked with the new model advertising agency to increase exposure, garner new clients produce award winning work and win AdAge's Small Agency of the Year. Fresh off a feature film project with Roman Coppola which is currently in post production, Allison is looking forward to MLFF and all the creative energy it brings.

## DOCUMENTARY FEATURES



## Elegance Bratton

Elegance Bratton is an award-winning director, writer and producer. He began making films as a US Marine after spending

a decade homeless on the streets of New York. His nonfiction feature debut, *Pier Kids* has played more than 50 film festivals worldwide. It made its television and streaming debut in August 2021 on PBS/POV. Production is underway on Bratton's feature film directorial debut *The Inspection*, which he also wrote. The film is produced by A24, Gamechanger Films and Chester Algernal Gordon via Bratton and Gordon's Freedom Principle. Bratton and Gordon are in post-production on their documentary feature "Hell Fighter," a co-production with Five Fifty Five Films that highlights the story of African American Jazz pioneer and music mogul, James Reese Europe. Bratton made his television debut as the creator and executive producer of the Viceland television series *My House*.

## INT'L DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

# Jury

## Kimberley Browning



Kimberley is a filmmaker based in LA and is the Festival Director of Hollywood Shorts Film Festival. Kimberley also is an Associate Short Film Programmer at Tribeca Film Festival, and Senior

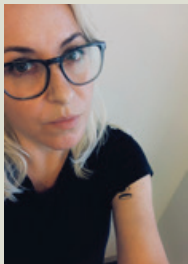
Programmer of the Catalyst Content Festival. She has served as the Executive Producer of HBO ACCESS since 2015. Originally from Washington DC, she studied music and film production at University of Southern California and began her production career at Disney's Touchstone Television. Her film credits include *Uprooted: The Journey of Jazz Dance*, *All Hallow's Eve 2*, *Archie's Final Project*, *Certified*, *Room 19* and *Earbuds*. Her episodic credits includes programming for HBO, A&E Networks, CBS, NBC, ABC Signature, Rollingstone.com, People.com, Warner Bros. TV, Comedy Central and RealNetworks.

## NARRATIVE SHORTS

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# Jury



## 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.

### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES



## Devin DiGonno

Devin is an Independent Producer with over 15 years' experience in the film industry most recently working in International Acquisitions at Lakeshore Entertainment. She began her career at ICM in the Literary Department working closely with authors to help adapt their literary visions for film and television. She then moved to Universal Motion Pictures, where she worked on *Shakespeare in Love*, *Out of Sight* and *Meet Joe Black*, before moving to MGM, where she worked on *The Thomas Crown Affair* and *Flawless*. Devin's passion for film, the creative process and tenacity to see her projects brought to the screen led her to open her own independent film company in 2002, String and A Can Productions, where she produced her first independent feature, *Spike*, which was a prizewinner at Edinburgh Film Festival and Screamfest. Her second film, *Disappearing in America*, debuted at the Newport Film Festival. Currently she has several films and television projects in varying stages of production.

### INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURES



## Shalini Dore

Shalini Dore has been an editor with *Variety* for a long time now. A former newspaperwoman, she transitioned to magazines with *Variety*, specializing in international entertainment. She has been to the Cannes Film Festival as well as Palm Springs, the Indian Film Festival Los Angeles and Napa Valley. Film festivals are places where we can discover little gems before they get adopted by the big distributors. Besides being the features news editor at *Variety*, Dore is also the internship coordinator, a position that helps encourage the next generation of entertainment journalists.

### INT'L DOCUMENTARY FEATURES



## Summre Garber

Summre Garber is a maker and programmer of films. In addition to producing four short films and directing two more documentary shorts (one that proudly played at

Mammoth Lakes Film Festival in 2017), she was the Director of Operations at Slamdance for four years until 2013 when she became the Co-Captain of the Documentary Programming Committee and has maintained that role ever since. She was also the Senior Programmer for the Bentonville Film Festival for two years, in addition to screening and consulting for a number of other festivals including CUFF, AFI and LAFF. She is happy to let anyone know who asks that in 2020 she watched over 500 film festival submissions. Summre received an MA in Film Theory from San Francisco State University.

### ANIMATION & DOC SHORTS



## Caleb Hammond

Caleb Hammond is the Managing Editor of *MovieMaker* magazine where he's covered film festivals such as Sundance, Toronto International Film

Festival, AFI Fest, True/False Fest, and Telluride. He has interviewed such diverse names as Claire Denis, Paul Schrader, Paul Verhoeven, Abel Ferrara, Kevin Hart, Spike Lee and Peter Bogdanovich. Outside of *MovieMaker*, he works with the Sundance Documentary Fund and AFI Fest. He is an avid sports watcher and also holds a special affinity for live car chases on the L.A. network news.

### NARRATIVE FEATURES



## Rebecca Keegan

Rebecca Keegan is the senior film editor of *The Hollywood Reporter*. Prior to joining *THR*, Keegan served as Hollywood correspondent for *Vanity Fair*, film writer for the *Los Angeles Times* and

Hollywood correspondent for *Time* magazine. She is also the voice of KPCC's *On the Lot*, and the author of the books *Young Frankenstein: The Story of the Making of the Film* and *The Futurist: The Life and Films of James Cameron*. A native of New York State, Keegan graduated from Northwestern University.

### NARRATIVE FEATURES

## David Massey

David Massey, an Academy Award-Nominated filmmaker for his Live-Action Short film *Last Breeze of Summer* (1992), has an MFA in Advanced Film & Television from the American Film Institute. His docudrama *Men of Courage* received an NAACP Image Award, airing on PBS and BET. Massey's six short films under the UCE Productions banner include *Island Song* (winner 2013 Audience Award at the Pan African Film Festival). He has produced several international documentaries including *Dare to Struggle*, *Dare to Win*, a documentary on the Women's Movement in Ghana, narrated by Danny Glover. Massey's latest projects are *When Justice Isn't Just*, a short documentary distributed by First Run Features (available on iTunes); *Not All Lost*, a reality-based, celebrity-driven PBS program that aired in February 2020; and *Passage*, a narrative short film in pre-production. Massey is the recipient of several prestigious awards, including The Martin Ritt Scholarship; 2011 PBS Innovation Award and the Eastman Kodak Second Century Honoree. A voting member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, he serves on the Oscar-qualifying Festival and Student Academy Award committees and the Executive Committee of the Live-Action and Animated branch.

**DOCUMENTARY FEATURES**

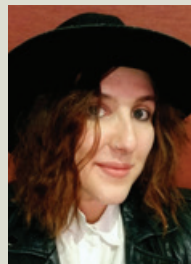


# Jury

## Bojana Sandic

Bojana Sandic is a film festival programmer with an enthusiasm for authentic voices. She is currently Programming Director of NewFilmmakers Los Angeles, where she is focused on connecting emerging filmmakers with new audiences and opportunities. Formerly the Director of Short Film Programming at the Newport Beach Film Festival, she maintains a love of shorts as a medium for storytelling. She has worked in short film development at Lexus Short Films and served on film festival juries including those of Slamdance, Outfest and Palm Springs Shortfest.

**INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURES**



## Ana Souza

Ana Souza is the Manager of the Programming department and a Programmer on the features team for the Sundance Film Festival. She is also the Head Programmer for the Sun Valley Film Festival, and the Producer for this year's Palm Springs International ShortFest Forum. She programmed shorts and features for the LA Film Festival for several years before becoming Head Programmer of World Fiction for their last edition in 2018, and she was an Associate Programmer of Short Films for AFI FEST for four editions. Her work has ranged from programming to filmmaker/industry relations and event production in festivals including Outfest, the LA Latino International Film Festival, Ambulante California, the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, and NALIP's Latino Media Fest, among others.

**NARRATIVE SHORTS**



## 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. He was also Chief Community Officer of Withoutabox.com in 2005. Jacques has also been a programming associate at the Los Angeles Film Festival since 2011 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 the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival. He also wrote, directed and produced the feature film *The Dogwalker* as well as produced five other feature films.

**INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURES**



## Breven Warren

With over 15 years of experience working at filmmaker organizations including Sundance Institute, Film Independent, AFI and Outfest, Breven has built film mentorship programs. After attending graduate school at the University of Florida in 2015 to research the efficacy and sustainability of nontraditional filmmaker support programs, she was invited to develop the artist support programs at an entertainment studio built on the blockchain. She refined her problem of practice to pursue her doctoral research at USC. She is currently building out the R&D for the long-term vision of Angaelica to be a part of the change she hopes to see in the art and entertainment industry landscapes, specifically in regard to systemic practices that affect access and equity in talent discovery and film investment.

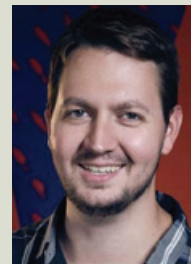
**ANIMATION & DOC SHORTS**



## Brian Welk

Brian Welk is a film and entertainment journalist based in Los Angeles. He has worked at the Hollywood trade publication *TheWrap* since 2016 and has been in his current role as a film reporter since 2018. Brian primarily covers the film industry, writing everything from breaking news updates, box office reports, awards coverage, interview features to analysis on industry trends for both the web and as an on-camera personality. He has attended and reported on the Oscars, Golden Globes, Emmys and the Sundance Film Festival in his capacity with *TheWrap*. Prior to joining *TheWrap*, Brian received his Masters in Specialized Journalism - The Arts from USC and worked as a freelance reporter and film critic. His bylines have appeared in *The Village Voice*, *LA Weekly*, *Consequence of Sound*, *The Argonaut* and more. Brian graduated with a degree in journalism from Indiana University and is a Chicagoland native.

**INT'L DOCUMENTARY FEATURES**



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