

20
YEARS

TOPAZ

FILM

FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY WOMEN IN FILM DALLAS

in person Oct 18-24

online Oct 18-31

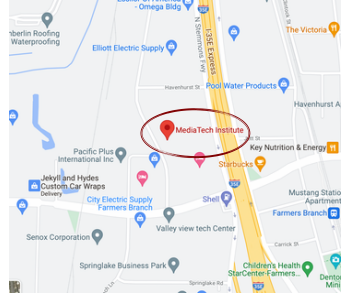
2021

LOCATIONS

Monday, October 18

MediaTech Institute

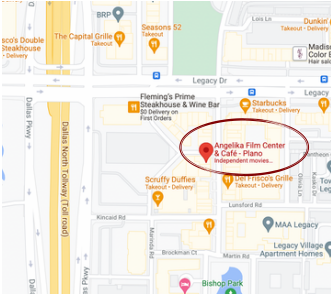
**13300 Branch View Ln.,
Dallas, Texas 75234**



*Tuesday, October 19–
Thursday, October 21*

Angelika Plano

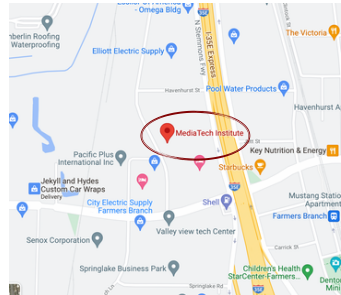
7205 Bishop Rd., Plano, TX 75024



*Friday, October 22 &
Saturday, October 23*

MediaTech Institute

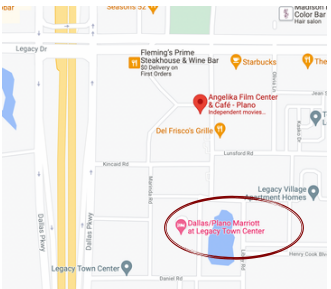
**13300 Branch View Ln.,
Dallas, Texas 75234**



Sunday, October 24

**Dallas Plano Marriott
at Legacy Town Center**

7121 Bishop Rd., Plano, TX 75024



OCTOBER

2021

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

18

Opening Night

MediaTech Institute
6:00 pm Doors Open
6:30 pm Opening Night Party
8:00 pm Local Flavor Short Films Block

19

Student Night

Angelika Plano
5:30 pm Doors Open
6:00 pm Student Short Films Block
7:45 pm Graduate Student Short Films Block

20

*Women's
Wednesday*

Angelika Plano
5:30 pm Doors Open
6:00 pm Covid Short Films Block
7:30 pm Women's Short Films Block

21

Texas Thursday

Angelika Plano
5:30 pm Doors Open
6:00 pm Texas Short Films Block
7:50 pm The 8th - Documentary Feature

22

Comedy Night

MediaTech Institute
5:30 pm Doors Open
6:00 pm Experimental Short Films Block
7:00 pm Comedy Short Films Block
9:00 pm All Female Stand-up Comedy Show

23

*Saturday
Shenanigans*

MediaTech Institute
10:30 am Doors Open
11:00 am Foreign Short Films Block
12:25 pm Lunch & Visual Storytelling and
Immersive Video Talk by AMP Studios
1:15 pm Ice Cream Social
2:00 pm Documentary Short Films Block
3:40 pm Narrative Short Films Block
5:30 pm Filmmakers Tell All Talk
6:45 pm KOTHHI 1947 - Narrative Feature

24

*Topaz Brunch
& Awardst*

Dallas Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center
10:30 am Doors Open
11:00 am Topaz Awards
1:30 pm Meet & Greet

25-31

*Extended
Online Viewing*

<http://topazfestival.sparqfest.live>

A Note From the Topaz Festival Directors

20
YEARS

TOPAZ
FILM
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY WOMEN IN FILM DALLAS

Welcome to Topaz 2021!

WIFD Members, Supporters, Filmmakers and Friends:

Thank you for joining us! It is our absolute honor to lead this film festival for the third year. 2021 marks the 20th year that Women in Film Dallas has presented a film festival and we hope this is the most memorable yet. Although the festival has changed names and venues over the years, our mission has remained the same. We aim to provide a platform for independent women filmmakers to promote their work, share their voices and support one another. Throughout the past 20 years, women have gained more parity and opportunity, but there is still room for improvement in our industry.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the on-going fight against the virus, we opted for both an in-person and virtual platform this year. While many festivals have retired, we feel strongly that our mission is too important not to continue. In that spirit, we have extended our festival to 14 days, 7 hybrid days (in-person and virtual) with an encore watching time period of 7 additional days. The health and safety of our community and filmmakers are of the utmost importance to us. Therefore, we believe we have found a compromise to allow for all comfort levels to enjoy Topaz. Masks and capacity limits will be in place during the in-person portions of the festival. For those that are unable to attend in-person, we invite you to join our festivities virtually.

Each year we and the Topaz Festival Committee volunteer our time and passion to helping this festival flourish. While there is conflict locally and around the world, we all turn to Topaz as a refuge, to focus on a way to feed into other women and help them grow. This event would not be possible without each of our programmers, volunteers and WIFD Board members. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your continued service and support. May your generosity be paid back to you ten-fold.

Enjoy the show!
Alicia Pascual & Connie Lo Ferrara

About Topaz

Co-Directors - Alicia Pascual & Connie Lo Ferrara

Lead Programmer - Andrea Newham

For 20 years, Women in Film Dallas has provided a platform for independent female filmmakers to promote their work through its annual film festival. Originally named Chick Flicks and subsequently known as Flicks by Chicks, we changed the name in 2019 to Topaz Film Festival to better reflect the spirit of our film competition and the history of our organization. The name Topaz comes from the official gemstone of Texas, which was thought in ancient times to enhance visions. In 1987, WIFD established the Topaz Award to honor distinguished Texas women who, through their own visions, have made outstanding contributions to film and television history. With the Topaz Film Festival, we strive to honor past Topaz Award recipients and the vision of new independent female film makers.



2021 Topaz T-shirt designed by Susan Bin

The Topaz Film Festival is an extension of the Women in Film Dallas Scholastic Grant Fund, a 501c3 that provides financial support through grants and scholarships to women in the pursuit of media arts degrees and those in the productions of film, television and screen-based media. Proceeds from the festival will serve to fund the scholastic grant.



Thank you to all of our volunteers. It truly takes a village and we would not have been able to accomplish any of this without your time and effort!



A Note From WIFD President Tiffany Vollmer

**WIFD MEMBERS, FILM MAKERS, SUPPORTERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS,
WELCOME TO THE 20TH ANNUAL TOPAZ FILM FESTIVAL!**

37 years as an organization and 20 years presenting a film festival! What an incredible legacy! Since 1984 Women In Film Dallas has empowered women to not only get jobs in this male dominated industry, we have also encouraged our mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts and others to tell their own stories through the medium of film. I truly believe we have broken glass ceilings over the past decade not only for women, but for all minority voices that deserve to be heard! I also believe the only way is up, and we will continue to reach for the stars!

I would like to take a moment to recognize and congratulate the two powerhouse women behind this amazing event...

Alicia Pascual and Connie Lo Ferrara have been working in tandem for years to make Topaz the festival that it is today. As the Festival Directors, they have done a remarkable job. Even a worldwide pandemic last year couldn't stop them!

It is such an honor to be a predecessor in the wake of their time on the Board as President and Vice President and watch them take this very important part of what we do to the next level! I honestly can't imagine how they did all this work in the past, while running the organization. Ladies, you are "Shero's" and we are all grateful!

I would also like to recognize the women that served on the film festival committee. Myself and Vice President Gail Cronauer attended what meetings we could and had the opportunity to have shared moments with many of them along the way. Their countless hours even during a time of uncertainty, to gather while being mindful and socially distant when it deemed necessary, is why this year's Topaz will be the BEST year yet!

To our members, thank you for your continued support through your membership every year no matter how much or how little you are able to participate. With the circumstances we as a community and the world continue to face, your dues, donations and time, ensure that we can continue to meet our mission in providing educational and storytelling opportunities for the future of women in our industry and organization.

To grow an organization, it takes a village. It has been my privilege to have served the members of this organization alongside the greatest village of gals anyone could hope for. Thank you to our awesome Board of Directors Gail, Cristal, Cydney, Monika, and Grace for your hard work and dedication. It's not easy running an organization after coming out of an international pandemic! And to the Social WIF's ZStar, Natzia and Lindsay, you gals rocked it out! I would also like to recognize those that keep us informed! To Anitie, Lauren and now Alicia, please know how much your work is appreciated!

And now onto the Main Event! On behalf of the board of directors, committee members and Topaz Film Festival Directors for WIFD 2021... Grab some popcorn and enjoy the show!

Warmest Regards,

Tiffany Vollmer
President 2021



About WIFD

In 1984, a team of production professionals formed an organization that would evolve to become Women In Film Dallas, a non-profit organization committed to empowering, promoting, and mentoring women in the entertainment, communication, and media industries. With members involved at every level in feature films, documentaries, commercials, and corporate productions, WIFD quickly grew to become one of the region's most active, exciting, and influential industry organizations.

WIFD offers tuition scholarships and filmmaking grants, and presents educational programs, networking events and workshops for our members and the North Texas filmmaking community. Members also serve the community by combining their talents to produce Public Service Announcements for other Dallas area non-profit organizations. Our Topaz Award honors distinguished professionals who have made outstanding contributions to our industry.

Our members include producers, directors, writers, performers, crews, agents, managers, distributors, exhibitors, editors, lawyers, administrators, digital effects specialists, executives, publicists, interactive designers and more.

We have 5 membership levels: Corporate, Professional, Associate, Friend and Student. Eligibility requirements and member benefits are listed on our Join Us! page. Please visit our website:

www.wifdallas.org

Board Members & Leaders

Tiffany Vollmer - President
Gail Cronauer - Vice President
Cristal Givens - Secretary
Cydney Cox - Treasurer
Monika Warkins - Membership Chair
Grace Kelly - Grants & Scholarships Chair
Anietie Antia-Obong/Alicia Pascual - Communications Director



WOMEN IN FILM
DALLAS

Empower. Promote. Mentor
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wifdallas.org



Topaz Award

Brenda Strong

Brenda's journey in entertainment began when she attended Arizona State University and graduated with a degree in Musical Theater. She has gone on to be an award-winning actress, director, and producer in a career spanning over three decades.

With parts in Mel Brooks's feature film *Spaceballs*, and a few years later in Aaron Sorkin's *Malice*, Brenda began a long and storied acting career. As the narrating character, *Mary Alice Young*, in the long running ABC hit series, *Desperate Housewives*, Brenda garnered 2 Emmy nominations and 2 Screen Actors Guild Awards.

The variety of her roles has been extensive, as is obvious by her appearances on *Seinfeld* as *Sue Ellen Mishke*; *Party of Five* as *Kathleen Isley*; *Sports Night* as *Sally Sasser*; and *Fear the Walking Dead* as *Ilene Stowe*. Brenda also starred in three seasons of TNT's reboot of the 1980s drama *Dallas* as *Ann Ewing*. Not only did Brenda portray *Nora Walker* on the popular Netflix Series *13 Reason's Why*, but she directed two pivotal episodes in the fourth and final season. More recently she's been seen as *Lillian Luthor* on CW's *Supergirl* from 2016-2021. She is currently filming in Chicago for a new series on AMC called *61st Street*, starring opposite *Courtney B. Vance*. Brenda's theater credits include playing the lead role of "*Tamara*" in *Tamara* in Los Angeles. She starred opposite *Jack Stehlin* in *Titus Redux* at the Center Theater Group's *Kirk Douglas Theater* and was seen alongside *Lauri Metcalf* and *Jimmi Simpson* in *Nick Jones' Ovation-nominated play, Trevor*.

With her husband, *John Farmanesh-Bocca*, Brenda has produced two multi-award-winning short films, *I Did Not Forget You* and *#3 Normandy Lane*, which Brenda also directed. The film showed

With her husband, John Farmanesh-Bocca, Brenda has produced two multi-award-winning short films, *I Did Not Forget You* and *#3 Normandy Lane*, which Brenda also directed. The film showed in 21 film festivals world-wide, including the 2019 Topaz Film Festival, and received 12 film festival awards, including several Best Narrative Short, Best First-time Filmmaker. She also produced the award winning documentary "FALLEN" with filmmaker Thomase Marchese.

Brenda was never one to limit herself. In 2000, she sang with the Millennium Choir at the Vatican and toured throughout Italy with composer Beppe Cantarelli as one of his premier soloists, singing in both Latin and Italian. Other passions include being an E-RYT 500 (Experienced Registered Yoga Teacher); she has created a line of yoga videos through her company Strong Yoga4Women. These videos were created to help women and couples struggling with the stress of infertility. She has proven her commitment by being the spokesperson for the American Fertility Association, receiving an honorary doctorate for her pioneering work in the field of fertility from Yo San University. It is the prestigious honor of the Topaz Film Festival to acknowledge and celebrate Brenda's many accomplishments. We look forward to seeing her continued positive impact both as a filmmaker and in her philanthropic pursuits.

Special Thanks



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FLEASTYLE



Rising Star Award

Cocoa Brown

Whenever actress, comedienne, and Screen Actors Guild award nominee Cocoa Brown takes the stage, the world stands still!

Brown is undeniably one of the most talented comics and performers of this generation. The Newport News, Virginia native, born Farah Brown, assails her craft with such passion and soul-searching veracity, when she claims a stage the ensuing act is nothing short of a force of nature. Cocoa Brown audaciously draws from painful reminiscences and hard-knocked lessons, bravely weaving humorous tales that uplift, upend, and upgrade everything you thought you knew about comedy. What is it that drives the comic who female fans nationwide have nicknamed the "The Truth?" It's the sheer will of a woman who survived the worst life had to offer and is still standing.

Most notably known for her lead role in the film Tyler Perry's *The Single Mom's Club* and *For Better or Worse* on OWN network, the hilarious comedian/actress Cocoa (pronounced Co-kah) Brown treats audiences to thought-provoking humor in which she declares "I don't tell jokes I tell the truth!" Her Grown Woman delivery both on stage and on the screen in supporting roles such as FX's *American Crime Story*, NBC's *Marlon*, and most recently FOX's critically acclaimed 9-1-1 and the Mindy Kaling's life inspired Netflix series, "Never Have I Ever". Cocoa will also be appearing on the new 50 cent/Starz cable network series, "BMF: Black Mafia Family" in Spring 2021. Cocoa has generated and continues to grow a large and loyal following all over the world and has proven to her fans old and new that not only is she a funny comedian but she is also a versatile actress.

Cocoa has had guest star roles on several other notable TV projects including *2 Broke Girls*, *Psych*, *The Soul Man*, *The Neighborhood* and *Breaking Bad* as well as supporting roles in major motion pictures such as films as *Ted 2* (in which she was hand-picked for the role of "Joy" by Seth MacFarlane), *Lakeview Terrace* with Samuel L. Jackson, *Lethal Procedures* directed by Jahmar Hill and *His, Hers, and the Truth* which is one of the official selections of the 2019 American Black Film Festival!

Being appropriately dubbed as a "comedy machine gun" by America's Got Talent judge Sharon Osbourne, she has received numerous awards including the DC Comedian of the Year after only a short time of stand-up and was handpicked by the family of Moms Mabley to receive the 2018 Moms Mabley Legacy Award. She is a fan favorite and has been all over the world touring regularly and has also been featured on the Showtime Network Shaquille O'Neal Comedy All-Stars as well as a featured performer at the 2018 Montreal Just for Laughs Comedy Festival.

Cocoa is also a staunch believer in "Paying it Forward" and has shown that belief by partnering with the Social Butterflies Foundation that supports women with Lupus and Fibromyalgia by donating 10% of all sales from The Cocoa Brown Collection, her CBD infused body creams, body scrubs and hand sanitizers and Cocoas Craveables, CBD infused baked goods and candies, to the foundation. She also founded and teaches acting, stand up comedy and the business of show business to adults and children with her "From Stage 2 Screen" and "Little Oscars" Acting workshops. Not only do audiences get a great show but they feel as though they have gained a friend. Cocoa says, "If my audience feels like they know me, then that means I've connected with them and I've shared my gift." Cocoa has a style that relates to both women and men and an energy and warmth on and off the stage that has earned her the respect and love of crowds and colleagues alike. There is no doubt that you will see Cocoa Brown continue to take her life and her career by the reigns and maneuver it on her own terms and what will manifest from that will blow your minds!

www.cocoabrown4life.com

www.thecocoabrowncolletion.com

www.cocoascraveables.com





Advocacy Award

Justina Walford

Justina Walford bridges the divide between the arts and socio-political policy through her work with organizations and on projects in both spheres. Walford is currently the Head of Programming for the acclaimed Oxford Film Festival in Mississippi, as well as the Managing Editor of the film news website, FilmsGoneWild.com and Associate Producer of KERA-TV's Frame of Mind. Earlier in her career, Walford was the founder and festival director of Women Texas Film Festival, which celebrated a successful 5-year run from 2016-2020. She wrote the horror film Ladies of the House. And in the early 00's, she served as the founder, director and critically acclaimed member playwright of Split.Id Stage Performances in Hollywood where she earned the Red Carpet Award from Women in Theatre.

Her activism in Dallas started with rescuing, rehabilitating, and finding homes for countless stray dogs in her neighborhood which led to her documentary Tattler's Tale. Her entry into the world of loose dogs and the effect it had on her neighborhood educated her on many urgent inequities in Southern Dallas, including the environmental inequity most recently seen with Shingle Mountain. Because of that, she has served on the board of Downwinders at Risk and Southern Sector Rising and now is an active member of the steering committee for the Coalition for Neighborhood Self-Determination, representing the neighborhood of Fruitdale.

Gratitude Award



The Beasley Family

For over 40 years, MPS Studios in Dallas and Austin have rented the cameras, lighting/grip/electric, and sound stages to production companies making movies, commercials, and episodic shows. Their staff of highly specialized, factory-trained, and industry-savvy technicians provide world-class service to clients around the corner and across the globe. MPS Studios works with projects of every size, with the biggest names in show biz and those on their way to be. They partner with your team to get them the tools they need to put as much production value on the screen as possible, all while working within budget.

The Dallas facility offers 65,000 square feet of equipment, studios, and a lighting service center, while the Austin office provides camera and lighting/grip/electric rentals.

Camera inventory includes ARRI ALEXA Mini LF, ARRI ALEXA Mini, ARRI AMIRA, RED Monstros and Heliums, hundreds of lenses, and thousands of filters. Lighting inventory includes ARRI Skypanel S30's, S60's, S120's, and some of the only Skypanel S360's in Texas. ARRI M-series HMI's, LiteMats, and Astera Helios and Titans, as well Fisher 10 and 11 dollies and Fisher 21 and 23 jib arms are also part of MPS's inventory. Contact MPS Studios Dallas or Austin to have a rental package customized for your next project.

www.mpsfilm.com

Local Flavor Short Films

Sponsored By



Avoid

Directors Martheya Nygaard, Lori Sundeen Soderbergh / USA / 06:29

AVOID was conceived as a visceral/visual response to avoiding each other to be safe from COVID-19. By our actions, we create a void, causing grief, fear, anxiety, and hope. We investigated improvisation during both filming and production. Film sites were determined by safety and accessibility factors. Each dancer performed 10 task-based movement scores. In post-production, we blended eight movement performances into one, conveying the narrative that we are all connected in our human responses to the pandemic. The musician/composer wove a tapestry of environmental sounds and musical instruments into a score placed over the pre-edited dances.



The Cinephilles

Director Vanessa Jimenez / USA / 04:20

These two friends are always up to catch a good flick together, but this one takes the cake.



Do Not Disturb

Director Bonnie Discepolo (aka Bonnie Ryan) / USA / 08:42

Do Not Disturb is a darkly comic voyeuristic peek into the intimate relationship between the insulated super wealthy and the anonymous staff that take care of their every need. Ariana is agoraphobic, suicidal, and supremely wealthy, but she can't buy friendship. Or can she?



F News

Director Wendy Pennington / USA / 07:10

Frustrated with current events, a teenage boy creates a compelling device that can change the world if only he could get his community to buy it.

Local Flavor Short Films

His Eyes Are Blue

Director Agatha Ryan / USA / 14:24

Set on a utopian ranch in the Texas Hill Country, His Eyes Are Blue traces the growth of a snarky teenage boy as he struggles to write his college admissions essay.



Let the People Come Inside

Director Melissa Hernandez / USA / 15:16

"Let the People Come Inside" is a short film documentary detailing the TCU play "For Bo", written by Ayvaunn Penn, which is based on the real-life story of Botham Jean. It was created as a class project in the TCU Department of Film, Television, and Digital Media in collaboration with Theatre TCU.

A TCU Film, Television and Digital Media Production

LET THE
PEOPLE
COME INSIDE



IT'S OUR NATURE TO BREW
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Student Shorts

BREAKING VANILLA



Breaking Vanilla

Director Hollis Rosenkranz / USA / 07:20

A global shortage of the world's favorite bean has sent vanilla prices sky-high, however, there's a new frontier for the flavor breaking ground in South Florida. Routinely represented by a counterfeit chemical, natural native vanilla is on the path to extinction, and its history is anything but plain.



Cain Rose Up

Director Amy Nigro / USA / 13:19

With a goal to follow in his father's footsteps, Curt has failed a final exam & just wants to be alone, but the personalities that surround him seem to make that impossible. While traveling from the library to his dorm he is challenged to see himself for who he truly is. Will he continue to suppress and repress his true self or live as the person his father wants him to be?



How To OxiClean a Broken Heart

Director Naomi Brady / USA / 08:57

While sobbing in a McDonald's parking lot listening to a voicemail from her recent ex-girlfriend, Jess accepts an invitation for casual sex (re: booty call) and embarks on a desperate period-bloody quest for closure at Hot-Jock-Dave's place.



The Lion Blanket

Director Sofia Afonasina / Estonia / 14:17

Berta's sister Helena has gone missing and there is little hope of finding her. Berta visits the morgue, where she views several bodies, each with her own tragic story. How can Helena be one of them?

Student Shorts

Moonshot

Director Chase Davis / USA / 13:40

Widowed after her husband's overdose, Micah must confront her estranged and recently rehabilitated brother, Jojo, when he moves in to assist with the final stage of her pregnancy.



Night Bloom

Director Ong Jie Xin / Singapore / 16:37

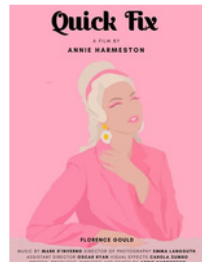
Penny grew up barely interacting with Grandpa, the man who had hurt her mother in the past. Now a frail old man suffering from severe dementia, Grandpa cannot remember who Penny is, needless to say hold a conversation with her. When Penny meets Grandpa in her dream, he is back to his healthy and alert self.



Quick Fix

Director Annie Harmeston / United Kingdom / 03:36

A short, but oh-so-sweet story of a user's journey on the way to ultimate self-optimization. Quick Fix HQ, a glossy, contrived and overwhelmingly pink self-care sanctuary, welcomes the user to reach their full glowing potential at the click of a button.



Unplanned Parenthood

Director Sherman-Weiner / USA / 15:46

A young adoptee has an unplanned pregnancy and must decide whether to abandon her education and future career to raise her unborn child, or to opt for an abortion or adoption and say goodbye to her only known kin before giving them a chance.



Graduate Student Shorts



Deliver Me

Director Yasmin Asif / USA / 16:31

In 1968 Berkeley, CA, a hot bed of political activism, a young man finds his future at the mercy of the Vietnam draft. When his ex-girlfriend needs his help accessing an illegal abortion, he learns he is not the only person fighting for control over their life and future.



FTY: Failure to Yield

Director Heather Halstead / USA / 18:44

In the future where warring city states have established areas of barren wasteland of border zones, an AI programmed to guard such a region with deadly force begins to gain sentience when she meets a woman attempting to cross.



Gaslight

Directors Kristen Yuan, Mild Kamolluck Niamkongkit / USA / 03:33

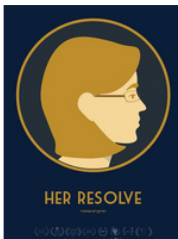
Ryan, a gas station attendant and chronic smoker, decides to break up with his girlfriend and sentient lighter, El. Unluckily for him, she does not take the news well. Crying and emotionally distraught, El goes on a fiery rampage around the rather flammable gas station. The gravity of his mistake dawning on him, Ryan tries to deescalate things before it all ends in flames.



Headspace

Directors Jordan Kirchner, Skye Schumacher / USA / 05:12

"Headspace" is a short visual effects film that is a representation of panic attacks and hypnagogic hallucinations. Hypnagogia is a common symptom for individuals with sleep disorders as they transition between consciousness and REM sleep. These hallucinations can be frightening and hyper-realistic, and often are tied medically to anxiety.



Her Resolve

Director Marissa Dingman / USA / 3:44

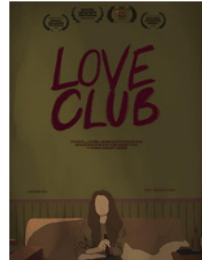
Death on its own is never easy, but there seems to be a more acute trauma and emotional whiplash surrounding someone making the final decision to take their own life. Audio collected from a sit-down interview follows a daughter's story to find closure after the parting of her father; her resolve through connections to her family, the women left in the wake of distressing loss.

Graduate Student Shorts

The Love Club

Director Anna McGuckin / Australia / 18:21

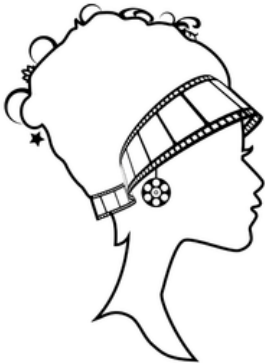
Dealing with her own trauma and forced to go by a persistent friend, a dispirited young woman joins a conventional group therapy program where she begins to realise that her road to healing maybe not so.



Phoenix 93

Director Alice Goudon / France / 13:36

A Pink Old Man tries to bring about the incarnation in the material world of a pink flamingo from an immaterial world. This pink flamingo is cloned so that it will ineluctably die among its fellow beings in the material world.



THE FILM
FESTIVAL
DOCTOR

www.thefilmfestivaldoctor.com

Benjamin Dane Gali Cronauer

SWEET Lemonade

Taste and See

In a battle for turf, a homeless veteran and a reclusive old lady rediscover what it means to be seen and heard.

SCAN ME

Women Shorts

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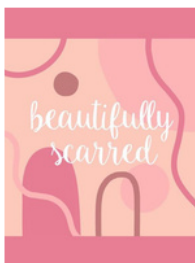
Accidental
Date

Starring Dana Dache and Griffin Wade
A Palm Springs Women in Film & Television Production

Accidental Date

Directors Kim Waltrip, Kate Spates / USA / 10:06

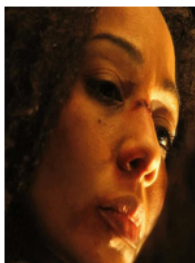
A Russian woman visits Palm Springs in search of a date.



Beautifully Scarred

Director Ashleigh Huggins / Australia / 13:00

Body image struggles and body confidence is not a new concept to anyone, but understanding the correlation with cancer patients is. Ashleigh, a young director, has seen several family members battle cancer treatment so now embarks on a journey to find out what happens when treatment is over. This journey begins with a deep dive into the lives of two breast cancer survivors who are now finding their way through life with a changed and scarred body. Caitilin, a mother of three boys, shares her journey from diagnosis to now, in two years remission, and opens up about the tactics she has used to help focus on the future rather than the past. Similarly, Jo, a mother of two daughters, shares how she founded a charity to ensure other women have the best experience in the worst situations. But for both ladies there is one more step they hope to take in order to feel whole again. Therefore Ashleigh joins these ladies on their personal journeys as they turn to nipple tattooing and body painting to celebrate their bodies and how strong they have been so far. In turn sharing with all cancer survivors out there that there are ways to love yourself, even when scars cloud both body and mind.



Broken

Directors Olivia N'Ganga, Mikael Dinic / France / 03:45

1 in 3 women are victims of violence during their lifetime, i.e. 1 billion women worldwide. Their names are Myriam, Adèle, Clémence ... They are 20, 35 or 48 years old. They are victims but do not always have the words to speak and to find help ... Since January 1, 2020, 11 women have died killed by their spouse or ex-spouse.

Women Shorts

Enough Room

Director Christianna Carmine / USA / 09:57

A successful Latina in Los Angeles encounters assumptive bosses, racist neighbors, and a white savior roommate just before a first date -- then discovers her potential partner hates Mexicans.



I Want to Make a Film About Women

Director Karen Pearlman / Australia / 12:04

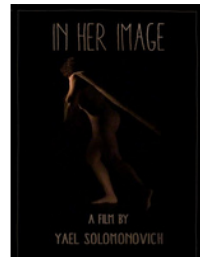
'I want to make a film about women' is a queer, speculative, documentary love letter to Russian constructivist women. It asks what the revolutionary women artists of the 1920s said, what they did, and what they might have created had it not been for Stalin's suppression.



In Her Image

Director Yael Solomonovich / Israel / 09:04

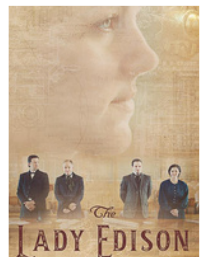
A young woman tracks down an elderly man in order to make amends for the tragedy that devastated his life.



The Lady Edison

Director Jaye Sarah Davidson / USA / 18:29

In 1870, Margaret Knight launched a patent dispute that would be the first of its kind. She is forced to prove in court that she the designer, is the rightful owner of the patent of the machine that puts bottoms on paper bags; not Charles Annan, the man who has already built it.



Women Shorts



The Last Song

Director Charlie Li / China / 06:43

A female Peking opera actor is experiencing a bad marriage. She impulsively murdered her husband during an argument. Desperate, she felt unprecedented relief and sang the last song of her life on the roof.



SLUMP

Director Polly Pierce / Canada / 18:23

After her comedy video with the school baseball team goes viral, a plus-size broadcasting student discovers that "locker room talk" is not just talk.



When Alone

Director Paz Bernstein / Isreal / 04:40

We get a chance to dive into one's soul, as we take a peek at a woman touching herself. The feminine power explodes, changing all of the surroundings, painting the town with the magic of woman sexuality.



Woven

Director Joe Mischo / USA / 13:00

Shelley Bruce narrates a visual poem that explores womanhood and its connection to nature.



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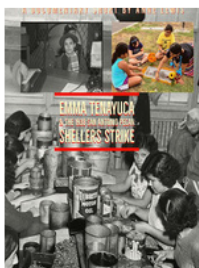
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Bound

Director Danielle Wheeler / USA / 07:42

A young girl is lured from her troubled home by a mysterious stranger that seems to have all the answers.



Emma Tenayuca and the 1938 San Antonio Pecan Shellers Strike

Director Anne Lewis / USA / 12:27

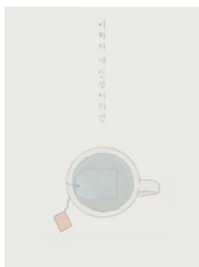
About the victorious strike of 10,000 pecan shellers and strike leader Emma Tenayuca, singer Keli Rosa takes three girls to Emma Tenayuca's grave and a mural painted on a laundromat. Together they uncover memories and the power of labor and shared liberation.



Hey.

Director Stephanie Oustalet / USA / 05:09

My debut film as a writer and director. "Hey" conveys an intense love blossoming between two people. This film was created to explore the profound simplicity of intimacy without words.



If This Tea Were My Life

Director Grace Kim / USA / 00:43

Life should be just like drinking tea. "이 차가 내 인생이라면" is a short poetic animation that parallels the act of drinking tea to the feelings experienced in life.

Texas Shorts

Maybe This Year

Director Natalie Lynch / USA / 03:17

Musical Parody of Maybe This Time from Cabaret.

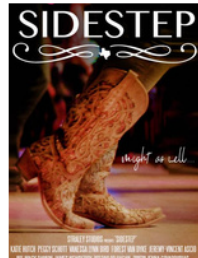
In February 2021, two women are at their wits end after a year of lockdowns. But in this musical comedy, they are holding out hope that Maybe This Year Won't Suck.



Sidestep

Director Natasha Straley / USA / 10:40

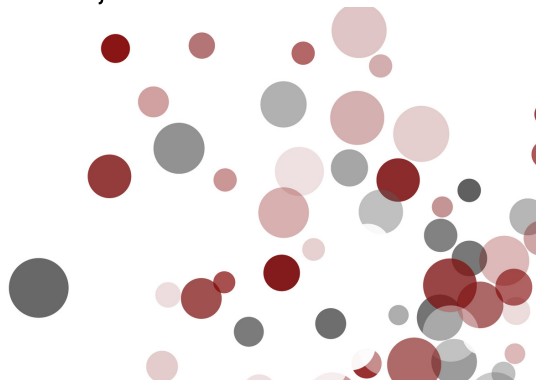
A woman finds herself torn between the bustle of her New York life and the quaint dance floors of her home in Texas. Should she stay or should she go now?



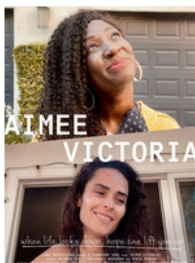
#Whitina

Director Sean Smith / USA / 15:56

Inspired by coming of age cult classics, #Whitina is a film about exploring the crossroads of the inner and outer struggles of being Mexican-American against the backdrop of a social media obsessed society. High School cheerleader and whitina (white acting Latina) Genesis Valdez is forced to go on the run with her two former best friends (Bella and Chris) after a confrontation with undercover I.C.E. Agents. The altercation is filmed by two middle schoolers and the group goes #viral. While on the run Chris reveals he is a dreamer and could get deported. Genesis makes a decision to help Chris escape and learns what it really means to be "down for La Raza."



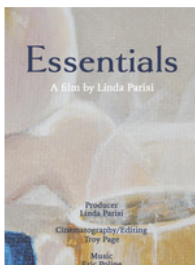
Covid-19 Shorts



Aimee Victoria

Director Chrystee Pharris / USA / 10:35

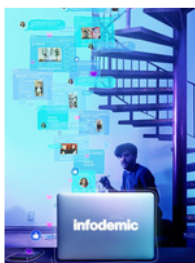
Aimee Victoria is a short film conceived and created entirely remotely during the lockdown of 2020 and inspired by true stories of relationships from disabled and LGBTQIA people which never make it to the screen. A film about two profoundly deaf women of color whose relationship is tested during a period of unprecedented turmoil. Separated on their anniversary, Aimee is shaken out of her self-imposed apathy as she demonstrates her love to Victoria.



Essentials

Director Linda Parisi / USA / 04:33

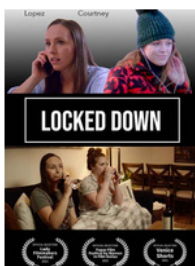
The headlines told them to be afraid, to fear their neighbors and to stay in their homes but these women found a way to define their own essentials and still take care of themselves and each other. For a year, rain or shine, they met outside, wore masks, distanced, respected the county guidelines AND held onto two things that fed their bodies and souls: creating & connection.



Infodemic

Director Elena Viklova / USA / 14:44

Under lockdown, an emerging graphic artist searches for inspiration online but gets absorbed by the universe of home-made influencers.



Locked Down

Director Emily Roos / USA / 16:42

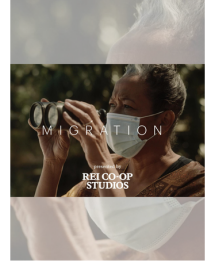
Alyssa is a workaholic. Bailey is an unemployed actor. An unlikely roommate pairing, and they do NOT get along. The Covid-19 lockdown in New York City has made it all that much worse, but when a winter storm knocks out the power, they'll be forced to actually interact, maybe even reconcile.

Covid-19 Shorts

Migration (Trees Rememberd)

Director Angela Tucker / USA / 08:43

"Migration" (based in 2020): In the time of COVID, Pepper has barely left her home in New Orleans. She must decide if she is willing and able to venture outdoors during a pandemic. As she comes to see the meditative aspects of birding, she learns that nature can bring together strangers when we are at our most disconnected.



The Pulse Within Us

Director Maria Michael / USA / 15:13

Natalie, a young dancer finds herself stuck in New York after the cancellation of her first participation in a ballroom dance competition during the lock down. Her female dancing idol and hero, Ana, offers to accommodate her for as long as time Natalie needs. Natalie grabs the opportunity and proposes something rather unexpected. . .



Silver Lining

Director Yanyi Xie / USA / 08:56

Alexis Hex, a drag artist in Chicago, experienced drastic life changes as the performing industry was heavily affected during the lockdown in the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Inside the studio apartment, they moved their drag shows onto virtual streaming platforms, and started a knitting tutorials YouTube channel, following their life-long passions.



Experimental Shorts



A few Things I'm Beginning to Understand

Director Xenia Matthews / USA / 11:52

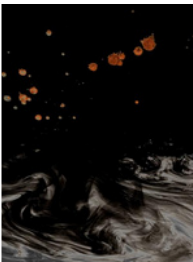
Surf the glittering channels of Xenia's mind in this highly saturated, musical spectacular where she and an old friend, Pearl, begin making sense of the issues between Xenia and her boyfriend, Keke. This film is a true labor of love. Created in the isolation of the pandemic, Matthews uses fragmented form and innovative visuals to assess issues of antiblackness through the intimate lens of young love.



An Apology

Director Collin Del Cuore / USA / 17:28

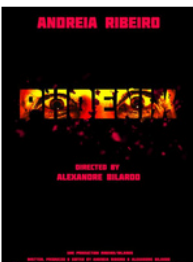
An Apology follows a man who has lost touch with what matters most - real human connection. As he goes through the motions of furniture shopping, we get a glimpse into his imagination, filled with movement and dance. Danielle Agami's narration tackles emotions that stem from our collective isolation, what it means to be an immigrant artist in America, and highlights the spiritual sacrifices we make when we cling to damaging ideals dictated by modern society.



(crude) Oil

Director Jonathan Hetler / USA / 06:47

It's April 2020, and the value of crude oil in the United States dips into the negatives for the first time in history. What will Oil do now if she is no longer needed? A timely look at our dependence on and abuse of the natural resource a-la a high-end sex worker.



Phoenix

Director Alexandre Bilardo / Switzerland / 03:48

The fragments of a woman's life that is reborn after being consumed in the flames.

Experimental Shorts

Run

Director Sakurako Shibata / Japan / 12:03

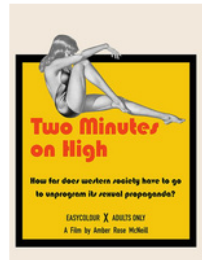
Establishing identities. 2020 - enclosed body and mind. Two women revolving an inner world.



Two Minutes on High

Director Amber Rose McNeill / USA / 02:41

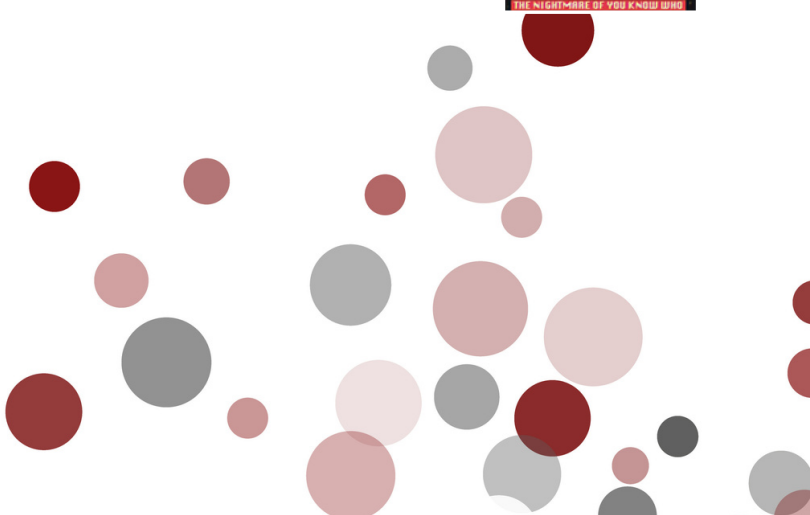
"Two Minutes on High" challenges the deeply ingrained concepts of normative sexuality and traditional gender roles via a metaphoric exploration of the four phases of the sexual response cycle: desire, arousal, climax and resolution.



WOMXN

Directors Adrien Gystere Peskine, Eden Tinto Collins / France / 05:25

Jane Dark lives and studies in the Noir-Et-Cher Whenever her community is harassed by Europe Normale Police. She turns into the super shero WOMXN helped by her mate: a womanoid Dolphin in a spaceship called the KORA Mother





STAND UP Comedy



Alberta The Exception of Dallas, TX has been a Comedian for 3 years. She is animated, energetic and witty with a love for double entendres. She frequently performs at Arlington Improv, Hyena's Comedy Club in Fort Worth/Dallas and other locations across the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. This year she has expanded her reach traveling around the United States to be the light God has created her to be.

IG/Twitter: @bertab24 FB: Alberta The Exception or Alberta Fitchard-Brydson

Hi, My name is SeAirra Ford I'm a 23 year old comedian right out of Fort Worth, Texas. I love being able to make a person's day better through laughter. Growing up watching comedy was a light in my life & now I get to be that light in someone else's life. It's one of the best feelings for me.

FB: SeAirra Ford IG/Twitter: @seairraford



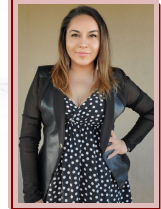
Ali Nazary been in the US for 43 years and in the hospitality business for 40 years. In 1995 he founded Café Izmir and has had several restaurants and night clubs such as Kismet Kasbah. He is currently running Cafe Izmir on Greenville Ave. and became a standup comic after he lost his sight in 2019.

FB: Ali Nazary

Irma Ruiz is a former wannabe chola, turned school teacher, turned comedian. Although she's been kicked out of every neighborhood Nextdoor.com group she's joined and is banned from 5 Facebook Mom groups, you can still find her performing in comedy clubs, casinos & festivals in Texas and various locations throughout the nation. Her comedy covers motherhood, education, marriage, family and more. She is the producer of the Teachers Gone Bad Show and even though she doesn't believe in tarot cards, she pretends to in her Tarot Card Comedy Show on VivaLiveTv.

IG: @MindTwistComedy

FB: @mindtwistcomedy



Kinsey Ford is a recent transplant to Fort Worth, having escaped the icy clutches of the East Coast. Kinsey enjoys the finer things in life, mainly gin with a side of curly fries

FB: Kinsey Ford

Sarah Tullos was raised in the West Texas desert. She has since lost most of her country charm but has maintained her asthma. Sarah performs and hosts comedy all over the DFW and sings opera all over the passenger side of her husband's ride. She's torn between being professionally funemployed or just a mediocre housewife.

Instagram and twitter @thesarahshow ___

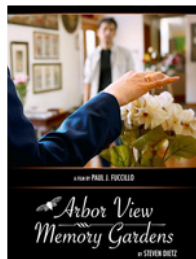


Comedy Shorts

Arbor View Memory Gardens

Director Paul J. Fuccillo / USA / 10:04

A funeral home employee questions the meaning of life when she encounters a man who claims he's still alive. Adapted from an excerpt of "This Random World" by Steven Dietz.



Beach Body

Director Kelly Diaz / USA / 08:51

Freshly divorced, overweight, and nearing forty, Amanda must navigate an encounter with an ex she still desires



The Dogfriend

Director Fredgy Noel / USA / 13:20

Struck by the supreme loneliness of her circumstances, a young woman wishes for her dog to become her boyfriend and then endures the myriad consequences when her wish comes true. The Dogfriend is a careful-what-you-wish for dark comedy about the monster that is straight, cis, white male privilege and equally a story about the various cycles and iterations of loss. Ultimately, it's about a woman who chooses herself, despite the unspeakable fear of isolation. It weaves together undeniable themes of this past year; solitude, loneliness, whimsy and absurdity, while also integrating the mountainous and ongoing, collective conversations we've shared around gender, race and systems of privilege. Last but not least, it is an ode to the great city of New York, which has proven, now more than ever, to be a unique and strange haven of magic and possibility.



Donut Chase

Director Sarah Baskin / USA / 08:28

Two oddball female police officers flip the script on the male buddy-cop genre as they find themselves in a high-speed powdered jelly donut chase.



Comedy Shorts



Egg Party

Director Kersti Bryan / USA / 09:45

Egg Party begins in a sun-soaked Brooklyn apartment in late spring. Six women in their late-thirties gather, with lots of wine and laughter, to dye Easter eggs. Through a series of whimsical portraits we discover each woman's view on her respective egg, lost dreams, and new beginnings. As the afternoon light shifts around them, it is revealed they have gathered to support their friend Molly, who is desperate for motherhood and struggling through loss and infertility. After her world is cracked open, coming together becomes the greatest balm to heal a grieving spirit.



Loser

Director Vanessa M. H. Powers / USA / 12:55

A 10-minute comedy of errors, following a young woman through a day that goes from bad to worse. A series of misadventures leads her to the conclusion that perhaps being a 'loser' isn't so bad.



Pap Trap

Director Rachel Napolitano / USA / 05:38

Liz, the party girl who refuses to retire, pays a visit to her old partner in crime, Sara, hoping to make a score. Sara will do whatever it takes to make her new job at the clinic work and leave her past behind... until it comes walking through the door. Will Liz back down when the Doctor begins a well woman exam? Not on your life.



Sweetcorn

Director Niamh Donohoe / Australia / 07:41

Mel is ecstatic to be declared "Woman in Finance 2020" - it epitomises everything she wants to achieve in her life: synergy, alignment, strategy, outcomes. And what better way to tell the world about it than through a corporate interview, with pre-scripted key messages? But Mel quickly 'pivots' into an authenticity paradox. What does it mean for her to be her? Can she really be trained to be real? And what's sweetcorn got to do with any of this?



Tone Deaf

Director Daisy Hobbs / USA / 08:05

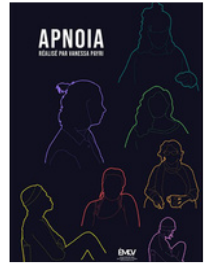
Emily Jackson is a 35 year old Black woman who is still OBSESSED with her favorite white boy band from middle school, "Co3". What will she do in the wake of the BLM movement, when she discovers the men she has idolized for over two decades aren't the clean cut "pop princes" she's always seen them as?

Foreign Shorts

Apnoia

Director Vanessa Payri / Canada / 15:05

Our mother, a colleague, a sister, an uncle, a friend, a friend of a friend, a stranger, who they are doesn't really matter. They are sharing an aggression, a hidden history of which they carry the silence, but most importantly, they have decided to live and no longer survive in the shame of their sexual assault.



Galah

Director Rahim Toofan / Iran / 10:00

Two young lovers named Somayeh and Zabih, as Afghan citizens living in Iran, have decided to get married. Due to the common tradition in Afganistan, Zabih has to pay money before marriage. He faces with strange problems because of the strictness of the daughter's father and his demand for too much money. Strange things happen.



Mirror

Director Farnak Moradi / Iran / 14:04

After many years, She gets back to her late brother in law's house and reveals secrets for his two daughter's.



Out of Play

Director Romi Menachem / Isreal / 19:59

Bar (12), a longtime member of the boys' clique and the class's soccer team, is forced to re-earn her place in the team's lineup. While asserting her place, she realizes that a deeper issue is at stake.



Foreign Shorts



Part of Me

Director Marina Waltz / United Kingdom / 08:22

Recently married couple Lucy and Christopher are coping with their grief in opposite ways after the stillbirth of their child. Christopher just wants life to continue as normal but Lucy sees evidence of the continued presence of her child everywhere. After Christopher leaves for work, Lucy's attention is drawn to a sound emanating from the room at the end of the corridor which seems to frighten and attract her in equal measure. As she approaches the sound's source, the corridor walls become sticky and the steady drip of water transforms into something altogether more supernatural. Lucy finds herself drawn into a birth of her own.



Sober

Director Joël Duinkerke / Netherlands / 17:16

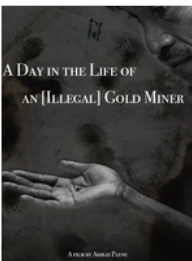
As Adriana lies on her deathbed a young girl appears before her. Together they wander through the Dutch landscape of Zeeland while Adriana tries to make peace with her past. Although her life has been largely dominated by men, 'Sober' shows a brighter future for the next generations of women.

Documentary Shorts

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A Day in the life of an [Illegal] gold miner

Director Ashlei Payne / Indonesia / 13:53

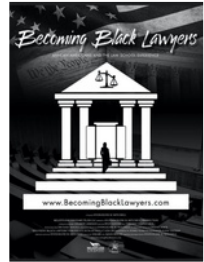
Borneo, Indonesia, is home to some of the most significant gold mining operations. Logistics are often messy and illegal, so some Dayak villagers find themselves hand-making equipment and destroying their homeland to compete for survival.

Documentary Shorts

Becoming Black Lawyers

Director Evangeline M. Mitchell / USA / 19:59

When these five Black lawyers set out on their journeys to receive a professional legal education, they did not realize that they would have to struggle against additional battles even more challenging than the rigors of learning the law in a hypercompetitive environment. They discover the contradictions of studying in an institution that idealistically represents "justice" for all.



Cloud of Witnesses; A Portrait of Painter Allison Moore Adams

Directors Linda Parisi, Kevin Strickland / USA / 04:41

Allison Moore Adams reflects on how painting women who've walked through hardship helped her heal.



From the Ground Up

Directors Trent Zulkiewicz, Will Brenninkmeyer / USA / 14:22

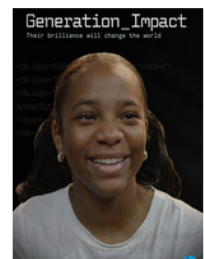
In the semi-arid village of Malolo in Singida, Tanzania, Adija and her surrounding community rely on one water source, a single hole in the ground no larger than the size of an average puddle. From the Ground Up takes a look into Adija's daily routine and provides a powerful understanding of the localized impact of the increasingly dire global water crisis.



Generation Impact: The Coder

Director Samantha Knowles / USA / 06:44

Jay Jay Patton was only 13 when she designed and built Photo Patch, a mobile app to help kids send photos and letters to parents who are incarcerated. The app was inspired by Jay Jay's own experience; her dad was in prison for five years and it was difficult to communicate with him as much as she wanted. This is a true story of drive, hope and ingenuity.



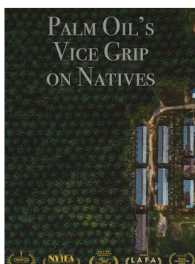
Documentary Shorts



In Plain Air

Director Miranda Bellamy / New Zealand / 15:59

Pauline Bellamy has been an artist for her whole life. From the mountains to the sea, through the snow and windstorms, we accompany her on a journey through the seasons in the picturesque South Island of New Zealand. While she creates on-the-spot plein air paintings, Pauline reflects on her personal challenges, what fascinates her about painting, and five decades of work.



Palm Oil's Vice Grip on Natives

Director Ashlei Payne / Indonesia / 19:01

Over 14 million acres of rainforest in Borneo, Indonesia, have been deforested for *Elaeis guineensis*. This film narrates the near eradication of tribal Dayak traditions and indigenous lifestyles due to monoculture farming. Villager's point of view offers hushed insights into labor exploitation and illegally stolen land.



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The Future of Production is here.

Dandelion

Director Jane Ballentyne / New Zealand / 12:10

Comedy drama about supporting the one you love through episodes of difficult mental health. A woman struggles to connect with her depressed husband, when he finally reaches breaking point. Leaving her alone in the middle of nowhere, she finds herself caught somewhere between a dream and reality and with nothing left to lose she makes a wish.



Dirty Little Secret

Director Dale Griffiths Stamos / USA / 13:22

Nick thinks he can breeze through these therapy sessions with the court appointed psychologist, Dr. Dana Reynolds. After all he's Nicholas P. Berenger - he's charmed or bought himself out of worse situations than this. But soon he realizes that Dr. Reynolds may have something on him, and it's not pretty.



Jen, 28

Director Iyin Landre / USA / 13:09

Jen, 28 is based on the writer and star's personal survivor story. This film shines a light on the more common forms of date rape and sexual assault. We hear both of the characters' perspectives and are left with our own thoughts by the end.



Myrtle

Director Patricia McCormack / United Kingdom / 15:39

Myrtle, a trailer park Mom from Indiana, cooks dinner for her son. But something's not quite right. This kitchen is anonymous, industrial, and Myrtle's working to a deadline. As her composure unravels, we realize that 21 grams is all that separates life from death.



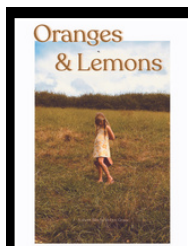
Movement (Trees Remembered)

Director Angela Tucker / USA / 12:21

"Movement" (based in 1960): Carmella takes her daughter, Jojo, a disinterested teenager, on a fishing trip. Wanting to make sure that her daughter is grounded in her roots, Carmella passes on the need for strength and resilience during a burgeoning civil rights movement. Based on real life events.



Narrative Shorts



Oranges & Lemons

Director Robyn Grace / New Zealand / 12:45

Sometimes staying quiet is not the way forward. After being bullied at school and ignored at home, our girl finally finds her voice in the strangest place. It opens her eyes to the joys that have been right in front of her all along. Set in 1973 with a backdrop of political unrest and social change, a young girl in rural New Zealand questions her place in the world, in a search for her freedom. Oranges & Lemons is about summer and heat, childhood and bravery, it is a snapshot of a time gone by, when life was simpler, but bullying was just as complicated.



Spell It Out In Neon

Director Tammy Minoff / USA / 11:51

Beth, an aspiring young artist, and her charming commitment phobic coworker, Brian, definitely have a "thing". When he invites her along to a Halloween party, she thinks their relationship might actually move out of the "friend zone" spurring her to take a romantic leap of faith.



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Feature Films

The 8th (Documentary)

Directors Aideen Kane, Lucy Kennedy, Maeve O'Boyle / Ireland / 01:34:52

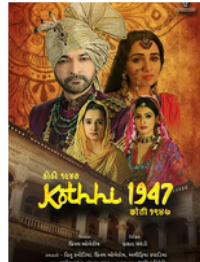
The 8th tells the story of Irish women and their fight to overturn one of the most restrictive abortion bans in the world. An urgent narrative, a cautionary tale and a roadmap for progressive reforms in a modern era where authoritarianism is on the rise, The 8th shows a country forging a new progressive path at a time when reproductive rights are threatened around the world.



KOTHHI 1947 (Narrative)

Director Prasad Gavandi / India / 01:45:35

This is a story of that inextinguishable hope, a saga of patience and unbroken promise for which a woman can cross all the boundaries. She gives away all of it and sacrifices everything to keep her promise. It was the era when India was just getting freed from British reign. Amidst riots and pressure from the newly emerging government. Graceful Begum Mehrunisa got married to Nawab Sikandar Mirza, notices her husband had an eternal connection with palace (Kothhi). Begum loved her husband and instantly made a place in her own heart for her husband's love as well. The King Mahabat Khan of Junagadh had run away to Pakistan and so nawab's siblings. Nawab decides to travel to Pakistan to find them. Begum promised him that she would do anything and everything to keep the palace safe. Unfortunately, destiny had its own dice to play.



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The Age of Reason

Director Mathilde Franchet / France / 27:15

A young girl whose life has always been governed by the trauma of a rape experienced in her childhood finds herself once again confronted with a similar event. By speaking, she overcomes this second trauma and readjusts her perception of the female body and her relationship to the others.



Biscuit Dust

Director Cooper Lindsay / Australia / 13:03

BISCUIT DUST follows the story of Addy and Andrew Gella and their families drought-stricken sheep station in outback Australia. In a world of family conflict, financial woe and dried-up dreams, Addy and Andrew navigate through the difficult decisions of what to do after their father's unspoken struggle with mental health.



Black is the New Brown

Director Jeffrey Guerra Hunt / USA / 18:11

When Olivia lands the job of her dreams, as a casting associate, she is given the difficult task to cast Hollywood's next big Latin Star. Can she overcome her own prejudice and look past the industry's stereotypes and set expectations of what it is to be Latin, especially Afro-Latino.



Deployed

Directors Kate Robertson Pryor, David M. Weiss / USA / 16:35

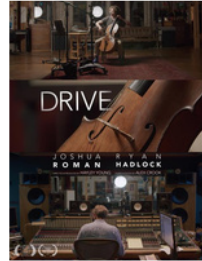
A woman experiences the ups and downs of life as a military spouse and does her best to cope with all that is thrown her way during her husband's first deployment.

Encore Shorts

Drive

Director Hayley Young / Japan / 18:14

An intimate look inside a musician and producer's collaborative process. Nationally renowned cellist and composer Joshua Roman records his 2020 Music Journal piece "Drive" with Ryan Hadlock, producer at Bear Creek Studio (Lumineers, Brandi Carlile, Vance Joy, Foo Fighters, Soundgarden). Written and inspired by Roman's personal journey across the country during the height of the Covid 19 pandemic and racial unrest of this last summer, "Drive" is both an experiment of sound and space as well as an offering of hope and unity through our universal response to music. Full performance of the cello sextet written and performed by Roman and recorded by Hadlock in a turn-of-the-century barn nestled on 10 acres just north of Seattle, Washington.



Eat, Ate

Director Shidokht Dezhah Shahabi / Iran / 05:00

In the search for his mother during an Iranian wedding ceremony, the little lamb learns about food customs around the world...



Falafel

Director Nikita Hattangady / USA / 19:13

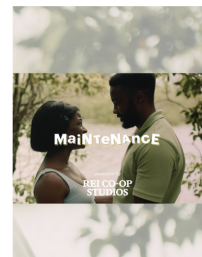
Two young professionals having an awful morning suddenly meet at a cafe in London. A day that starts out terrible does not have to end that way. The Internationally award-winning film plays like a mini feature, with action, music, romance, moments of humor, and a touch of Bollywood. Falafel is a story about dreams coming true.



Maintenance (Trees Remembered)

Director Angela Tucker / USA / 12:25

"Maintenance" (based in 1990): Nia and Franklin are a bickering couple weathering a rough patch in their marriage. While deciding whether to leave Philadelphia to be closer to nature, they take a trail maintenance class from a park ranger and learn the importance of maintaining something you love.



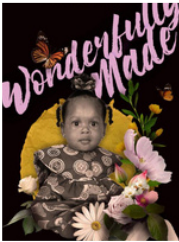
Encore Shorts



Stalling It

Directors Caroline Ward, Jemma Moore / United Kingdom / 06:52

Five toilets, three bridesmaids, one pregnancy test, one nosy neighbour... zero ideas of what to do next. It's 1988, Sammy, Bethan and Jo are bridesmaids. We join them in the midst of the time honoured female tradition...the joint bathroom break.



Wonderfully Made

Director Benita Ozoude / USA / 15:00

Kashmere Culberson is a young African American woman who embodies strength and confidence. Kash was born without arms, but she does not allow her disability to limit her pursuit of happiness and self-love. This observational piece gives us a glimpse of her world.

Encore Feature



The Edge of Existence (Documentary)

Directors James Suter, Charlie Luckock / USA / 01:27:15

Set in the Western Corridor of the Serengeti, about the untold story of human-wildlife conflict in Africa. Human-wildlife conflict is a global issue that has reached crisis levels, threatening the survival of both humans and wild animals. The situation is dire, and if it is not addressed urgently, it will have a catastrophic effect on the environment and on communities that live alongside wild animals daily. The Edge of Existence aims to tell the story of key characters on the ground in the Serengeti who face daily challenges as they struggle to coexist with Africa's wildlife.



Auditions - Classes - Meetings - Rehearsals

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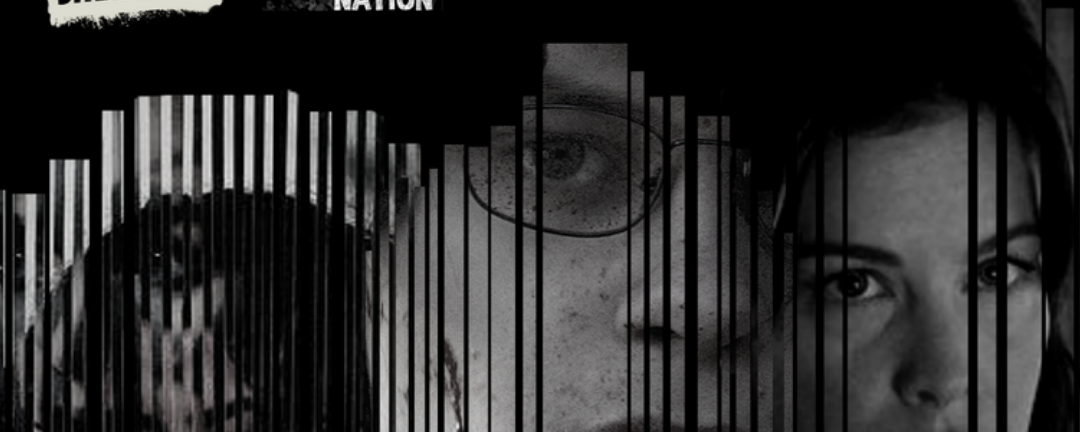
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