



Aug. 13 - 16, 2026

First Annual
SAYVILLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Sayville Theater

103 Railroad Ave, Sayville, NY 11782

RED CARPET · AWARDS · INDUSTRY PANELS
CURATED INDEPENDENT FILMS · FILMMAKER Q&AS
TABLE READS · PITCH PERFECT COMPETITION



A Message From SIFF Founder: MARIA CAPP



To say that dreams do come true feels like an understatement—standing here today is truly beyond my wildest dreams and beyond comprehension. Bringing this festival to the town that I love is a profound honor. It is an absolute joy to meet new filmmakers and creatives from our own backyard and from afar, while introducing my friends and colleagues from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Kentucky, Boston, NYC, and New Jersey so they can share their expertise with this community.

Throughout my career as a member of the Producers Guild of America and as a producer, director, and writer, I've had the privilege of working on incredible projects. But my greatest passion is bridging that Hollywood experience with my hometown. SIFF was created to be a driving force for economic development and a hands-on incubator for talent. In fact, this festival is our biggest annual fundraising event to provide vocational opportunities to local emerging filmmakers. Through this event and our comprehensive internship programs, we are actively building a creative infrastructure that provides tangible, on-the-job training for the next generation of storytellers, ensuring a sustainable ecosystem of talent for years to come.

This vision could never have come to life without a remarkable group of supporters. I am deeply and endlessly grateful to:

- Our incredible SIFF team: The volunteer staff and our Emerging Talent Interns. It truly takes a village! (Please refer to the list below to see the dedicated SIFF team who made this possible).
- My advisory board mentors: Especially Mario D'Amore, who lifted me with suggestions, connections, and faith every step of the way.
- The wonderful press and media outlets: Thank you for covering our festival and helping us share our story!
- Daria Yoder: Thank you for collaborating and for the endless hours you spent perfectly executing my vision, both visually and in words.
- Our industry professionals and brand partners: Thank you for generously donating the memberships, equipment, tools, and licenses that we are able to give away to our filmmakers today.
- Paul Sinacore, Mark Myers, and all my amazing colleagues: Thank you for your time, dedication, and invaluable support and wisdom.
- Our cornerstone partners: Sayville Ford, Five Towns College, SS Abstract, LI Home Properties, and May Day Productions, for your integration of brand while providing the fiscal means to sustain our creation and launch.
- Our amazing community: The Greater Chamber and all the local merchants and vendors who supported us. A special thank you to Butera's, Metro's, and Sayville Athletic for serving as our filmmaker mixers and filmmaker lounge.
- Our wonderful host venues: Devin and the amazing staff at the Sayville Movie Theater, as well as Marc and his incredible team at the CM Performing Arts Center—John McGuire, Brianna Hunter, Collin Kirdahy, Daria Yoder, Jason Sullivan, and John Silecchia.

To our amazing community and to the filmmakers: Thank you for trusting and joining me along this journey! I hope you fully immerse yourselves in this event. My deepest wish is that you come away from this festival with a few new friends, potential collaborators, and a clear path and understanding of what's next in your professional working journey as a filmmaker. And to the community—we hope you connect with each and every story and are as moved as our screening team was in selecting these special stories to bring to you!

Staff and Volunteers

FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP

Founder & CEO Maria Capp
Festival Manager Daria Yoder
Technical Director John McGuire
Production Management Brianna Hunter
Festival & Pre-Production Coordinator Deanna Petropoulos (Boston University)
BTS Director & Videographer Jason Sullivan
Social Media Strategist Collin Kirdahy
Growth & Development Richard Dean

THE SIFF 2026 TEAM

Publicity, Pitch Perfect Coordinator & Talent (Mary Louise Foster) Natasha Capp (Stella Adler / Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts)
Wardrobe & Costume (Mary Louise Foster) Mel Newman
HMU (Foster), TX & Lobby Production Assistant Sally Memoli (Five Towns College)
Talent Coordinator & Swing Cam Production Assistant Samantha Bruno (Purchase College)
Lobby Information & Red Carpet Rita O'Brien
Security, G&E & Camera Operator John Silecchia (Five Towns College)
Security & G&E Tim Waldron (Five Towns College) Isabella Laikin (Boston University)
SIFF Festival Photographer Ed Shin
Camera Operator Cassie Schneider (Five Towns College)
Photographer, Camera Operator & G&E Alexander "Xander" Viola (Ithaca College)
Photographer, 3rd Unit Videographer & Social Media Victoria Mills (Five Towns College)
BTS Photographers (Interior) Alexander Nachman (Five Towns College) Joseph Maddalone (Five Towns College)
On-Camera Talent & Production Assistant Chris Foley (Five Towns College)
Production Assistants Patrick Campbell (Five Towns College) Peter Caligiure (Five Towns College) Aiden Lorenzo (Hofstra University) Daniel Haubenreich

FESTIVAL SCREENERS

Bernard D'Agostino Samantha Bruno Amanda DiMontova (Quinnipiac University) Victoria Mills (Five Towns College) Rita O'Brien Deanna Petropoulos Avi Scheinberg (Emerson College) Presley Schmitt (Quinnipiac University) John Silecchia (Five Towns College)

CAPPRICIELLI EMERGING TALENT INTERNS

Krista Birong (Quinnipiac University) Samantha Bruno (Purchase College) Patrick Campbell (Five Towns College) Amanda DiMontova (Quinnipiac University) Brooke Walper (California State University, Fullerton) Breanna Garcia (California State University, Fullerton), Jamie Gesell (Adelphi University) Genevieve Henry (University of Hawaii) Ezra Horowitz (Adelphi University) Noah Howe (Adelphi University) Brianna Hunter (Five Towns College) Emily Kelliher Aiden Lorenzo (Hofstra University) Sally Memoli (Five Towns College) Victoria Mills (Five Towns College) Deanna Petropoulos (Boston University) Avi Scheinberg (Emerson College) Presley Schmitt (Quinnipiac University)

Mission

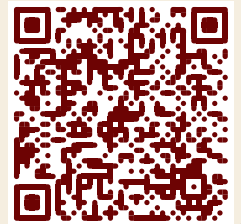
The Sayville International Film Festival (SIFF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is a community-driven, industry-connected event by Cappricielli Productions. Our mission is to launch careers, foster social change, and build a sustainable creative ecosystem.

The Sayville International Film Festival is our biggest fundraising event!

We prioritize diverse, regional, and international voices; especially students, emerging, and underrepresented filmmakers, showcasing bold work and highlighting the unique culture of Long Island, NY.

SIFF bridges Hollywood and Sayville, NY, offering participants unparalleled resources and networking, leveraging our decade-long professional experience in film markets, sales, and independent production.

We offer a platform for all submissions, including released films seeking theatrical screening and distribution. Join us on the South Shore of Long Island, NY, to celebrate vision, stimulate regional economic growth, and work toward becoming an Academy Award and BAFTA qualifying festival.



Scan for
SIFF Trailer

Socials



Sayville International
Film Festival



@sayvillefilmfestival



@sayvillefilmfestival

Celebrating Our Honorees

August 16, 2026 at 3:00pm at CM Performing Arts Center



Paula Hart

**Inaugural Recipient, The Vanguard
Legacy Award**



Melissa Joan Hart

**Inaugural Recipient, The Vanguard
Legacy Award**

On August 16, the inaugural Sayville International Film Festival is proud to celebrate artists and storytellers whose work reflects the heart of SIFF: independent creativity, industry excellence, community connection and lasting cultural impact.

For our first festival year, SIFF will honor Sayville natives Paula Hart and Melissa Joan Hart of Hartbreak Films as the inaugural recipients of The Vanguard Legacy Award. Their careers reflect the bridge SIFF is building between Long Island, Hollywood and the next generation of filmmakers.

This event will take place during our Closing Gala on August 16, 2026. Tickets available [here](#).

The Vanguard Legacy Award

The Vanguard Legacy Award honors trailblazers who masterfully blend immense talent with relentless persistence and elite business acumen. It celebrates visionaries who break industry barriers, master their vocation, and create an enduring legacy by leading with authenticity and family.

Sayville natives and industry veterans Paula and Melissa Joan Hart of Hartbreak Films are our inaugural recipients in celebration of their groundbreaking producing partnership. From their Long Island roots to the heights of Hollywood, they have redefined independent and studio television and film. They were chosen for their decades of work building a global brand; bringing laughter, light, and truth into our living rooms through generation-defining characters and vital stories that champion the extraordinary in the ordinary.

Celebrating Our Honorees

The Eternal Voice Award for Historical Contribution

Mary Louise Foster

Pen Name: Louise Forsslund

(March 13, 1873 - May 2, 1910)



The Eternal Voice Award for Historical Contribution honors artists of the past whose creative legacies have transcended time to leave an indelible mark on their community and the arts. It celebrates literary and cinematic trailblazers whose timeless stories continue to resonate, inspire, and illuminate the path for future generations of storytellers.

Turn-of-the-century writer and Sayville native Mary Louise Foster is the inaugural posthumous recipient of this honor. While our community knows her by her given name, Mary Louise Foster, when she began publishing her stories and novels, she chose to use her family's original name, Louise Forsslund, as her professional nom de plume to honor her father and his stories, which heavily inspired her work.

Achieving immense national success with her pioneering writings, she used her voice to capture the essence of her era while putting Sayville on the literary map. Importantly, this award brings overdue awareness to her lasting, yet often overlooked, contribution to filmmaking. Although she passed away before seeing her stories reach the silver screen, her acclaimed novel *Old Lady No. 31* was adapted into a silent film in 1920, and later reimagined as the 1940 feature film *The Captain Is a Lady*. She was chosen for this honor to resurrect a brilliantly forged local legacy and celebrate how her timeless words successfully bridged the gap between literature and cinema.

Celebrating Our Honorees



Director, *Baristas vs Billionaires*

baristasvsbillionaire.com

Mark Mori is an Academy Award-nominated and Emmy Award-winning American documentary filmmaker, television producer and screenwriter of documentary and reality television series and specials. Mori is the president and founder of Single Spark Pictures.

Mark Mori

**Inaugural Recipient, The Cinematic
Solidarity Award**

This award honors documentary filmmakers whose body of work transcends the screen to function as a vital tool for collective empowerment and social change. It stands for the belief that cinema is not merely a reflection of society but a powerful catalyst for action, celebrating artists who demonstrate a relentless dedication to exposing injustice, challenging entrenched power structures, and amplifying the voices of the underrepresented.

We are honoring Mark with this award in recognition of his lifelong commitment to investigative filmmaking. Rooted in Mark's foundational experiences as a steelworker and union activist, he brings an unparalleled, hard-earned authenticity to your craft. Mark's work speaks clearly to broad audiences while revealing the profound human stakes behind complex political and economic systems.

Baristas vs. Billionaires is a natural continuation of Mark's legacy, capturing the deeply American story of a new generation of workers standing up to immense corporate power and fighting for dignity on the job. By honoring Mark, the Sayville International Film Festival recognizes a career dedicated not just to exposing hard truths, but to issuing a cinematic call to action; empowering viewers to realize the profound change they can create when they organize and stand in solidarity.

Mark Mori is one of the most talented and certainly bravest documentary film makers I have ever known. To take on the subject of the Starbucks workers, during a time in our country when unionization is being targeted from every side of the corporate world, qualifies as a clearly brave act to me. There are many good documentaries out there. Mark's film is an important one.

- Alec Baldwin

Advisory Board Members



Mario D'Amore

Banker/Seasoned Realtor for High-Net-Worth Buyers, Sellers, & Investors

For over four decades, Mario D'Amore has built an unmatched network of elite connections, financial expertise, and real estate acumen—making him the go-to advisor for high-net-worth individuals, sports figures, and entertainment clients looking to buy, sell, and invest with confidence.

As a top executive at a National Banking Institution and banker for many years, Mario worked with affluent clients, structuring complex financial strategies to grow and protect their wealth. Also, as a licensed Realtor with The Luxian International Realty, he brings that same strategic insight to luxury real estate transactions, ensuring his clients maximize every opportunity.

Mario's elite background in banking and finance (University of Virginia) combined with his real estate expertise (over decades within the industry) positions him as a true concierge-level advisor.

Banker or realtor, whether securing a discreet off-market opportunity, selling a luxury estate for maximum return, or guiding clients through sophisticated investment strategies, Mario operates with precision, discretion, and an unparalleled network of resources.

His influence extends beyond banking and real estate—holding several prestigious board positions and memberships in key financial and real estate organizations such as the (FEA) Federation of Exchange Accommodators for Qualified Intermediaries/1031 Like-Kind Exchanges, Opportunity Zone Funds, (HFA) Hedge Fund Association, ProVisors, XPX for exit planners and related fields for sports & entertainment.

He is well versed in the third-party sector. Further, positioned with foundational pride as an advisor focused on supporting businesses and professionals (Attorneys/CPAs) with sound fiscal management, ready to move adeptly from straight forward to highly sophisticated and complex client needs.

Other resources include Wealth Management, Investment Advisors, Private Equity/Joint Venture/M&A, Family Offices, Attorneys/CPAs

Barbara Liguori is a seasoned wealth management professional with more than 35 years of experience advising business owners, high-net-worth individuals, and multigenerational families. Based in Melville, New York, she works with clients throughout the United States, developing tailored strategies and coordinating the resources needed to help them manage and preserve their wealth with greater purpose and insight.

A trusted relationship builder, Barbara specializes in helping clients navigate the opportunities and complexities that come with significant wealth. Her areas of focus include pre-liquidity-event planning, business succession planning, trust and estate planning, tax-sensitive wealth strategies, portfolio design, banking and lending, and charitable giving. She is known for her highly responsive approach, transparency, and genuine commitment to her clients and their long-term goals.

Throughout her career, Barbara has held leadership and relationship-management roles with Capital One Bank, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, and Citibank. Her experience spans business and commercial banking, where she developed deep expertise in serving business owners and other accomplished individuals.

Barbara completed Citigroup's Commercial Credit College and studied organizational management at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue, New York.

Active in her community, Barbara serves as a mentor with the Moxie Mentoring Foundation and is a member of the Sayville Lions Club and the Long Island Business Development Corporation. She is also an active supporter of Pronto Food Bank in Brentwood, Long Island.



Barbara Liguori

Wealth Management Expert

Advisory Board Members



Rick Eberle

Public Relations + Publicity Expert,
Venue Manager & Booking Agent,
Radio/Podcast Host, Musician

With an alt rock flavor that fans of Third Eye Blind or Foo Fighters would dig on one track, to a sugary pop-rock sensibility in the vein of Fountains of Wayne or Barenaked Ladies on another, Rick Eberle has proven himself to be a unique and versatile singer, songwriter and guitarist on both ends of the musical spectrum.

As a BMI affiliated artist, several of Rick's tunes co written with the band Iridesense have been used by Nickelodeon in the past on their shows "Drake & Josh" and "Zoey 101" and were licensed to "iCarly" as well. Influenced by a wide variety of musicians from The Beatles and Elvis Costello, to Gavin DeGraw and Hozier, Eberle consistently delivers hard hitting, powerful riffs interwoven with melodic vocals and insightful, introspective lyrics. Whether in the bands Iridesense or Big Rick Energy, or as a striking soloist - each listen is an aural adventure.

Magnetic Vine offers record label/ film studio marketing services, publicity, social media, and talent management and booking duties for venues, festivals, conventions, TV/radio stations, bands, artists, actors, authors, chefs, sports figures and companies of all kinds. The company has successfully produced and promoted events with the Heavy Metal Hall of Fame, Jeffrey Gaines, Alessi Brothers, Zak Starkey, Trey Songz, Peter Tosh Estate, John Coltrane Home, Sky Katz, Forever in Your Mind, Fun Lovin Criminals, Eddie Money, Ryan Leslie, Ninedays, Push Play and others and festivals that have included appearances by Ed Burns, Hugh Grant, Daniel Baldwin, Brian Dennehy, Paul Sorvino, Susie Essman, Phylicia Rashad, Baz Luhrmann and so many more.

As a record executive, Rick spent time working on online initiatives for Pink, Usher, Outkast, Dido and others at Arista Records in NYC. He then left Manhattan to work in venue management, booking and promotions for The Downtown Concert Venue, presenting artists like Jewel, Fall Out Boy and Maroon 5. Rick has also had a long career in radio, including time at 92.7 WLIR FM and several iterations of 94.3 FM, including 94.3 The Shark where he was instrumental in the initial branding and launch of the station as promotion director. Currently, Rick hosts Rising Stars Radio Monday nights at 9pm EST on 90.3 WHPC FM.

Richard Dean is a product leader and coach with over 15 years of experience across product, business development, and startup delivery. He has built global teams, delivered award-winning products, and specialized in higher education technology, including a student wellbeing app recognized for helping tackle loneliness and isolation. Richard has supported more than 50 startups from idea to launch and scale, including ventures that achieved successful exits. In 2024–2025, he worked within a major international software group before relocating to the United States in 2026. Additionally, he holds a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu black belt and has spent over a decade coaching sports across the UK and South Asia.



Richard Dean

Director, Growth and Technology

Advisory Board Members



Grace Lovret

Managing Director and Chief
Investment Officer of Franger LLC

Grace M. Lovret is the Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer of Franger LLC, a multi-generational family office, and the owner of GL Consulting Solutions LLC, a specialized tax advisory firm.

A dedicated advocate for visionary entrepreneurship, she serves on the boards of several emerging ventures and actively supports founders across industries. Her diverse portfolio

Spans finance, biotech, consumer goods, real estate, and media. She is also a partner in a production company and a film studio that champions independent creatives and personally invests in Broadway productions. As co-founder of MindArk, an AI company, Grace continues to merge innovation with impact. Most recently, she launched the first of nine Brooklyn Dumpling Shop franchises in Vancouver.

Beyond business, Grace is deeply committed to youth mentorship and mental health advocacy. She is currently helping develop a collaborative mental health initiative designed to combat shame and stigma, promote wellness through reform and legislation, and create compassionate, protective pathways.

Guided by purpose, Grace believes in the transformative power of equipping the next generation with essential social-emotional skills. She emphasizes philanthropy and volunteering as cornerstones of both personal growth and professional stewardship.

Speakers

Industry Day: Saturday August 15, 2026



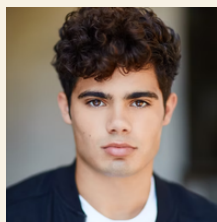
Angela Mickey

CSA, Managing Director of Casting LLC (Liz Lewis Casting Partners)



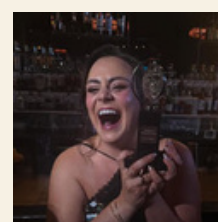
Diana Cherry-Holmes

Director, Office of Film and Cultural Affairs Suffolk County



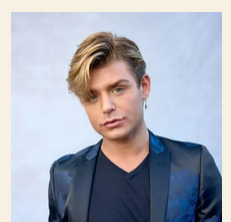
Emery Kelly

Actor (Prom Dates, Alexa and Katie)



Emily Rose Attridge

Tony Award Winning Hair and Makeup Artist



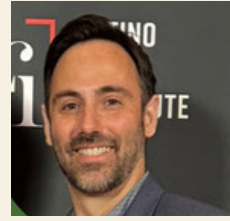
Garrett Clayton

Actor (REACH, Teen Beach Movie, King Cobra)



Greg Cusumano

Writer, director, producer, and editor



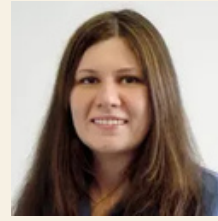
Greg D'Alessandro

Chief Creative Officer at Weekly World News



John Burton

Talent Associate at Roger Paul Inc. Entertainment Agency



Kristi Kilday

Film producer, CEO at KO Creative



Mark Myers

Producer, writer, founder of Citizen Skull



Mark Walton

Associate Professor of Media Management: The New School



Michael Peters

Producer, editor, writer, Technical Supervisor & Professor at Five Towns College



Matt Nuget

Colorist, C.S.I., Finishing Artist



Noel Calloway

Writer, Director, Producer, Coach



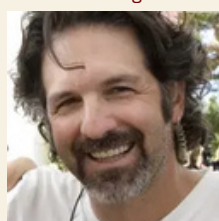
Paul Sinacore

Casting Director, CSA, Member of the TV Academy



Rob Simmons

Emmy Nominated producer and entrepreneur



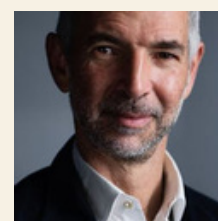
Romeo Tirone

Cinematographer, TV director. Emmy Nominee (Dexter). Five Towns College



Shilpa Mankikar

Filmmaker, AWD Co-Chair New York



Tim Palmer

Cinematographer; Professor of the Practice, Cinematography at BU



Tunji Asinsehinwa

Cinematographer; Assoc. Professor, Assoc. Dean of Department of Film



Ziqi Yang

Director / DP; Recipient Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, USC MFA

Table Read

Talent

Natasha Capp
Henry Fenyo
Carmela Newman
Mike Newman
Chris Roach
Raffaela Capp
Debbie D'Amore
Mario D'Amore
Christina D'Orta-Muens
Sebastian Muens
Isabella Muens
Steven Capp
Ashley Stauffer
Liam Attridge
Garrett Clayton
Julian Mazzola
Jose Eduardo Ramos
Leif Easterson
Toni Belafonte
Emery Kelly
Michelle Wilson

Table Read Screenplays

Sophie's Miracle (Writer: Susan Kelejian) - FEATURE

Salt (Writer: Cassandra Schneider) - SHORT

We're Not Dead Yet (Writer: Vitória Fallavena and Taye Couto) - SHORT

Afternoon (Writer: Drew Henriksen) - SHORT

Pitch Perfect

**Pitch Perfect Competition takes place on Saturday, August 15, 2026 at 4:30pm
at the Sayville Theater**

Get ready to hear the next great film and television ideas at the Sayville International Film Festival's Pitch Perfect Competition, taking place August 15th.

This special showcase features a selection of filmmakers and screenwriters who will pitch their projects directly to our audience and judges. From feature films and shorts to television concepts and original screenplays, each participant will have the opportunity to bring their story, vision, and creative voice into the room.

Pitches will be presented live or by video submission, and will be evaluated exclusively on the Pitch Perfect presentation, not on the filmmaker's preliminary festival submission.

Sit back, listen closely, and discover the stories that could be the next ones on the big screen.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

Pitch Presentors:



Susan Kelejian
Ojai, CA



Joseph Zanchelli
Sayville, NY



Danielle Bainbridge
New York, NY



Emily Lobsenz
New York, NY



Sandy Parker
New Orleans, LA



Joi-Noelle Worley
California, USA

Judges



Liz Lewis, CSA

Liz Lewis, CEO of LLCPC in New York and Los Angeles, has been at the forefront of the casting industry for more than two decades, and continues to be unparalleled in her ability to secure the perfect talent for commercials, film, television, and theater. Forgoing the cookie-cutter approach of larger agencies, Liz runs a venerable casting boutique that hears each clients' needs so the perfect match is found. While she personally has a hand in all of the projects that come through her office, she has cultivated a collaborative team who bring their own diverse talents to the table.

The proof of Liz's talent is in the pudding: she cast the original voices of the EMMY NOMINATED Nickelodeon show, Peter Rabbit, received a 2009 CSA ARTIOS AWARD nomination for OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CASTING for Stormy Weather, a 2008 SLAMDANCE AUDIENCE AWARD for BEST NARRATIVE FILM for The Project, cast the voices for the OSCAR NOMINATED documentary Sound and the Fury, and the NY FILM FESTIVAL OPENER animated short, Knitwits. Additionally, she assembled the original and subsequent line-ups for The Daily Show. In the process she discovered many of the improv and sketch actors that have risen to stardom in the past fifteen years.

Liz is proudly associated with the Casting Society of America, Women's Business Enterprise National Council, Women President Organization, Women in Film and Television, Association of Independent Commercial Producers, and the British Academy of Film and Television.

Winner of the HELLER AWARD for Best Commercial Casting Director

Angela Marie Hutchison

Liz LAngela Marie Hutchinson is known for her work as a writer of A Christmas for Mary (2020), which aired on OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network. Angela appeared as herself in the role of The Poet on FOX's new lip sync show, I Can See Your Voice (2020). She has cast and produced numerous films, including Hollywood Chaos and H.U.S.H. She is also author of the book, Create Your Yes, When You Keep Hearing No, which was originally published by Sourcebooks. The audio version of the book will be released by Penguin Random House Audio on March 16, 2021. She has been married to Arthur Hutchinson since 2004. They have three children and live in Los Angeles.



Mark Myers

Mark Myers is the founder of Los Angeles-based Citizen Skull Productions, established in 2010 with a focus on developing, financing, and producing independent film.

Mark also launched Citizen Skull Management, where he supports talent with a grounded, strategic approach. He is particularly passionate about championing emerging and underrepresented voices, working closely with writers, directors, and actors to bring fresh perspectives to screen.

Mark is currently in preproduction on a sci-fi feature starring Constance Wu and is developing additional projects with Saban and Lionsgate. His recent credits include an unscripted music series for MGM+ and Showtime, Glorious starring J.K. Simmons (Fantasia premiere, now on Shudder), Netflix's Collision, and the Tribeca-premiering pilot In the Cards. He also produced the Emmy-winning documentary Street Gang (Sundance, HBO) and a VICE documentary on WWE star Chyna.

Citizen Skull's films—including Heartthrob, Manson Family Vacation, and Experimenter—are available on Netflix, and its projects have been featured at major festivals such as Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, Cannes, and more, with television work spanning networks both in the U.S. and internationally.

Daniel Moya

Daniel Moya is a writer, director, producer, and actor from Long Island. After studying at the Lee Strasberg Theater and Film Institute for 10 years, he graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Film/Television Production. He is known for 18½ (2021) and Rental (2017). He lives in New York.



Viz-Ability

Viz-Ability is an award winning, résumé-forward initiative celebrating mid-senior level disabled creatives working above and below the line across film, TV, and animation throughout the Greater L.A. area that first premiered at the historic Radford Studio Lot in 2025.

Founded by Caledonia Hanson, Viz-Ability is a volunteer-led initiative dedicated to making the future of Hollywood accessible to everyone.

Built on the belief that opportunities should never be limited by perceived limitations, financial barriers, or lack of access, Viz-Ability uplifts mid-to-senior level filmmakers, animators, and storytellers by showcasing their work through visual representations of their resumes — allowing the work to speak for itself so that there's no excuse not to be hired by those invested in what an individual can bring to the table.

Through advocacy, collaboration, and accessible programming, Viz-Ability is helping shape a more inclusive entertainment industry for the next generation of Visionaries.

SIFF Viz-Ability artists, filmmakers, and writers will be featured at the January 31, 2027 showcase in Los Angeles, CA

SIFF Viz-Ability selections:

The Lost Castle (Director: Alex Lynch)

The Creature (Director: Sebastian DiGirolomo)

The Two Sides of Erin (Director: Ben Chovnick)

9/11: One Man's Journey (Director: Joe Maddalone)

Someone's in the House (Director: Joe Maddalone)

Autistic Mode (Director: Bob Clark, Nix Busby, Charles Moss, Malcolm Thomas, Gabrielle Teaford)

Prestige Director's Cut (Director: Benjamin Chovnick)

The Art of Being Different (Director: Marlow Jean Paniccia)

Abby Dee Hannah-Dawson (Written by Patrick Campbell)

The Astral Guardians: Pilot (Written by Kristie De Rose)



Caledonia Hanson (they/she)

Founder | Director of Operations

With over 15 years of experience as a Production Designer and creative leader, Caledonia combines firsthand industry knowledge with a passion for building meaningful pathways for underrepresented talent.

Through Viz-Ability, they are redefining how Hollywood discovers, connects with, and champions disabled creatives by putting experience, artistry, and professional achievement front and center.

In Memory



Mary Renard Liss

Remembered for her work in *Four Cousins* and a *Christmas* and for the many lives she inspired as a teacher and friend, her spirit and legacy will remain with all who were fortunate enough to know her.



Vincent Pastore

Vincent Pastore was a beloved and unforgettable actor whose unmistakable New York spirit touched audiences around the world. Best known for his iconic role on *The Sopranos*, he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire and entertain generations to come.

Honoring Our Heroes: 9/11



JAMES F. MCGEE, IV

Lieutenant James "Jimmy" McGee dedicated his life to service through various roles in EMS. Before joining the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) in 2007, Lt. McGee worked as a paramedic for Jamaica, Mary Immaculate, and Lenox Hill Hospitals in the NYC 911 voluntary hospital system. Alongside his service within hospital systems, he also served as paramedic with New Hyde Park and North Massapequa Fire Department. In 2014, he was promoted to rank of lieutenant within FDNY and served as an officer with the EMS Special Operations Command before his final assignment at Station 54. Lieutenant McGee was a dedicated member of the emergency response community, who ran towards danger and answered the call on September 11, 2001, during the attacks on the World Trade Center. Lt. McGee worked tirelessly at Ground Zero contributing to response and recovery efforts following the attacks. He was later diagnosed with a World-Trade Center related illness, which he succumbed to on December 12, 2025



STEVEN BERUBE

On February 28, 2024, the FDNY lost another beloved member due to a September 11-related illness with the passing of Captain Steven Berube, a 38-year member of the FDNY. Born on April 8, 1960, Captain Berube was a graduate of Mineola High School's Class of 1978 and attended St. John's University.

He began his fire service involvement as a volunteer with the Mineola Volunteer Fire Department from the late 70s until the early 80s. In December 1985, Steve got the call from the FDNY and was sworn in. After his academy graduation, he was assigned to Engine 222 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. He spent eight years at "Triple Deuce" before transferring to Ladder 120 "Watkins Street," where he received the knowledge and skill needed to be a valuable part of a truck company. In 1997, Steve was promoted to lieutenant and in 1998 was assigned as a founding member/officer of Ladder 133 in South Jamaica, Queens, where he honed his leadership skills. In 2004, Steve was proudly promoted to captain. In 2006, Ladder 111 "The Nuthouse" in Bedford-Stuyvesant became Captain Berube's final home when he was named its commanding officer. He held that position until his retirement in July of 2023 and had the distinction of being Ladder 111's longest serving company commander.

Captain Berube became a member of the FDNY Incident Management Team after volunteering with the FDNY to head to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. He rose to the rank of deputy incident commander with the FDNY team and was also involved with the Southwest Incident Management Team 1. His involvement with both teams brought him to Los Alamos, NM; Prescott, AZ; Buffalo, NY; and Homestead and Panama Beach, FL, to name a few. He was honored to be the lead public information officer for the Granite Mountain Hotshot Memorial in July 2013 honoring the loss of the 19 wildland firefighters who perished fighting the Yarnell Hill Fire near Prescott, Arizona. Steve was proud to be invited to New Zealand in September of 2022 for the New Zealand Fire Department's annual 9/11 Memorial ceremony and Sky Tower stair climb.

Steve was a devoted and loving husband to Beth; father to Matthew, Kyle, and Paige; father-in-law to Ashley; and brother to Jeff and to Glenn, who proudly served with him in the FDNY.

Steve served in the rescue and recovery efforts at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001, and for several months afterwards. In February 2023, he was diagnosed with 9/11-related pancreatic cancer. He passed away in February 2024. He is deeply missed by his family and friends, as well as his FDNY, SWIMT, and New Zealand Fire families.



ROBERT M. KELLY

Robert M. Kelly was a wonderful, loving husband to JoAnna Kelly for 37 years and an amazing father to Veronica, Emery, and son-in-law Jesse. His spirit lives on and continues to grow in his two beautiful granddaughters, Everly Jo and Williamina.

Robert was extremely proud to be a NYC firefighter. He couldn't wait to start. Hired when he was just 23 years old, Robert broke many athletic records at the FDNY Fire Academy. He spent his first seven years in the South Bronx at Engine 71, where he would always stop on his way home and bring us Italian bread from Arthur Avenue. He spent the next nine years in Queens and the remainder of his career at Rescue 5 in Staten Island. After 9/11 and his dedicated work at Ground Zero, he was recruited to work with Rescue 5 because they lost so many brave men. He was honored to be a part of that team and work in their memory. Nothing made Robert happier than helping people and saving lives. No matter where he was, he was always taking care of people and looking out for the underdog. He believed in treating people kindly with fairness, consideration, and respect.

As much as Robert loved being a firefighter, his most beloved role was being a husband and father. Everything he did, he did for us. He was so proud of his family and children's accomplishments. He cherished every minute we spent together creating memories in Disney World, Montauk, and taking drives upstate. He loved nature and the outdoors, camping, and hiking. If he could live outside under the stars, he would. He had a big heart full of love and a warm laugh. He loved to tell dad jokes everywhere we went just to make people smile.

In the last ten years of his life, Robert started studying the Bible and all of Jesus's teachings. His faith was strong, and he spread the word whenever he could. He knew when two people were speaking about Jesus, then Jesus was in the room, and he was in good company. This helped Robert stay positive and present during his sickness. Even in the end, he was taking care of us, making sure we were all okay. He would always remind us to "whisper good words to yourself, because you make them real." On March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday, Robert lost his battle to acute myeloid leukemia.

Robert will be remembered as a loving husband, father, friend, and respected firefighting professional. He will be deeply missed, as he touched many lives with his love, spirit, and good words.

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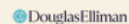


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Schedule

Day 1: Thursday August 13, 2026 - Opening Night

4:00-6:00 PM	Filmmaker Registration
4:00-6:00 PM	Opening Night Red Carpet & Press
6:00-7:30 PM	Filmmaker Mixer at Butera's
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Opening Night Feature Film Block 1 + Q&A
9:45 PM – 12:15 AM	Screening Block 2MAIN + Q&A
9:45 PM – 12:15 AM	Screening Block 2SECOND + Q&A

Day 2: Friday August 14, 2026 - Film Screening Day and Night

10:00 AM	Screening Block 3MAIN + Q&A
10:00 AM	Screening Block 3SECOND + Q&A
12:00 PM	Screening Block 4MAIN + Q&A
12:00 PM	Screening Block 4SECOND + Q&A
2:00 PM	Screening Block 5MAIN + Q&A 90
2:00 PM	Screening Block 5SECOND + Q&A 90
4:00 PM	Screening Block 6MAIN + Q&A 90
4:00 PM	Screening Block 6SECOND + Q&A
6:00-7:30 PM	Filmmaker Mixer at Sayville Athletic Club
7:00 PM	Screening Block 7MAIN + Q&A
7:00 PM	Screening Block 7SECOND + Q&A
9:00 PM	Screening Block 8MAIN + Q&A
9:00 PM	Screening Block 8SECOND + Q&A
11:00 PM	Screening Block 9MAIN + Q&A
11:00 PM	Screening Block 9SECOND + Q&A

Day 3: Saturday August 15, 2026 - Industry Day & Film Screenings

10:00 AM	Industry Block 1: The Indie Architecture - Packaging, Incentives, and Distribution
11:00 AM	Industry Block 2: The Talent Equation - Attachment Strategy and Representation
12:00 PM	Industry Block 3: The Actor's Lens - Saying "Yes" to Indie Film
12:00 PM	Screening Block 9ASECOND - With Actor Garrett Clayton, Podcast recording (Scoop on the Stoop)
1:30 PM	Industry Block 4: Crossing Mediums - Directing for the Global Screen
2:30 PM	Industry Block 5: The Multi-Hyphenate Hustle - Pitching and the Creative Process
3:30 PM	Industry Block 6: Building the Engine - Vocational Readiness & The Below-the-Line Economy
4:30 PM	Pitch Perfect Competition
6:00 PM	Screening Block 10MAIN + Q&A
6:00 PM	Screening Block 10SECOND + Q&A
8:00 PM	Screening Block 11MAIN + Q&A
6:00 – 7:30 PM	Filmmaker Mixer 1 at Metro's
7:30 – 9:00 PM	VIP Filmmaker Event at Buddha Belly (Limited Capacity*)
7:30 – 9:00 PM	Filmmaker Mixer 2 Sayville Athletic Club
10:00 PM	Screening Block 12MAIN + Q&A
10:00 PM	Screening Block 12SECOND + Q&A

Day 4: Sunday August 4, 2026 - Table Read and Closing Day Ceremonies

10:00 AM	Screenwriting Table Read
1:00 PM	Nominated Filmmaker & Industry/Presenter Closing
3:00-6:00 PM	Closing Ceremony & Awards

Day 1 Films

Day 1: August 13, 2026

7:30 PM - Opening Night Feature Film Block 1 + Filmmaker Q&A - Opening Night Film



Baristas vs Billionaires

Director: Mark Mori

Producer: Mark Mori, Bob Judson, Alec Baldwin

Writer: Brandyn Cross and Mark Mori

Key cast and crew: Susan Sarandon

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Feature Documentary

Log Line: Starbucks baristas in Buffalo, NY, organize to take on corporate exploitation, sparking a nationwide, generational uprising among working-class Millennials and Gen Z as they challenge a powerful billionaire CEO and fight for their rights.

Run time: 1:12:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Buffalo International Film Festival 2025: Best WNY Feature, Workers Unite Film Festival 2025:

Best Documentary Feature, Atlanta Film Festival 2026, Ethos International Film Festival 2026: Grand Jury Prize, Dunein

International Film Festival 2026, Reel Work May Day Labor Film Festival 2026, Washington DC International Film Festival

Content warnings: Strong language

9:30 PM - Screening Block 2MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - Late Night Thrillers & Suspense



She Cries Murder

Director: Tony Capes

Producer: Peter Anthony

Writer: Tony Capes

Key cast and crew: Tristan Rizzuto, Kazuya Folger, Laura Mazziotti

Genre: Comedy, Crime, Mystery, Thriller

Project type: Narrative Feature

Log Line: Two brother private detectives work to solve the murder of a woman's husband. A case that was concluded as a suicide by local police.

Run time: 01:27:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: **World Premiere:** Strand Theatre April 17th 2026

Content warnings: Strong Language, Death, Depictions of Violence



Colorhouse

Director: S.P. Batchelder

Producer: Nicholas Batchelder and Colette Freedman

Writer: Sanaz Tamjidi

Key cast and crew: Corin Nemec, Winter Bassett, Stakiah Lynn Washington

Genre: Thriller, Social Justice, Horror, Psychological Thriller

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: A group of girls who have grown up together under the captivity of a madman, hatch a violent plan of retaliation

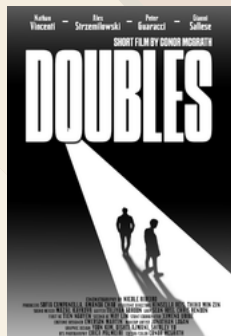
Run time: 13:27

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Wyoming International Film Festival, LA Shorts International Film Festival, Studio City

International Film Festival, Mystic Film Festival, Portland Film Festival

Content warnings: Depiction of Child trafficking, drug use, violence, death



Doubles

Director: Conor McGrath

Producer: Sofia Campanella, Amanda Chau

Writer: Conor McGrath

Key cast and crew: Alex Strzemilowski, Nathan Vincenti

Genre: Crime thriller

Project type: Narrative short

Log Line: Two former friends and cyber security rivals secretly meet to broker a deal. However, after getting captured by rival businessmen, they realize just how much their friendship has meant to them, and just how similar they are.

Run time: 10:31

Language: English

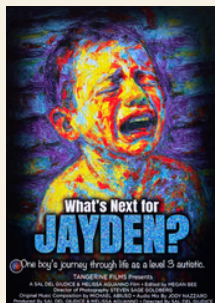
Any screenings or awards: World Premiere

Content warnings: Strong Language, Violence

Day 1 Films

Day 1: August 13, 2026

9:30 PM - Screening Block 2SECOND + Filmmaker Q&A - Thresholds: Beyond the Surface



What's Next for Jayden

Director: Sal DelGiudice

Producer: Sal DelGiudice, Melissa Aguanno

Key cast and crew: Steven Sage Goldberg

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary Feature

Log Line: What's Next for Jayden follows a single mother raising her young son with Level 3 autism as she navigates the demands of caregiving while balancing a career, revealing a portrait of resilience, unconditional love, and the realities of living with autism.

Run time: 01:21:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: New Jersey Doc Festival, Long Island International Film Expo, Red Movie Awards Fest, Golden Door Film Festival



ILAAJ: Healing

Director: Joi-Noelle Worley

Producer: Kiva Worley, Joi-Noelle Worley

Writer: Joi-Noelle Worley

Key cast and crew: Siddharth Kumar, Mayuri Patel

Genre: Drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: Plagued by strange and frightening dreams, a young man struggles with the reality of his returning memory as his sister encourages him to heal from their painful past.

Run time: 9:00

Language: Hindi

Any screenings or awards: World Premiere

Content warnings: Death, mention of Car accident



Present Tense

Director: Holly Hudson

Producer: Holly Hudson, Alex Aymard

Writer: Holly Hudson

Key cast and crew: Holly Hudson, Christophe Guybet

Genre: Sci-fi comedy

Project type: Narrative short

Log Line: A meditation session goes off-script when the app's AI begins to unravel mid-guidance—leaving the human on the other end to improvise calm, connection, and something that looks a lot like therapy

Run time: 4:15

Language: English

Content warnings: Cleveland International Film Festival



Silicon Valley Girl

Director: Yeon Jin Lee

Producer: Celene Di Stasio

Writer: Yeon Jin Lee

Key cast and crew: Audrey Hui, Michelle Krusiec

Genre: Thriller

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: Everything seems perfect for a young Asian female intern at a top tech company-until an unexpected visit from a fellow intern's mother threatens to unravel the secrets she's desperate to keep hidden.

Run time: 13:19

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: LA Shorts International Film Festival

Content warnings: Death/Murder, Blood/Gore

Day 2 Films

Day 2: August 14, 2026

10:00 AM - Screening Block 3MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - Advocacy and Art



Dream a World

Director: Barry Rosenthal, Christo Tsiaras

Producer: Kayla Young, Daija Smith

Writer: Barry Rosenthal

Key cast and crew: Tiffany Haddish, Ringo Starr, Ty Burrell, Philip Bailey

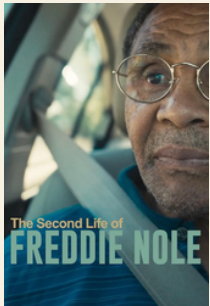
Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary Feature

Log Line: See foster care through a whole new lens as a very special organization prepares foster for careers in filmmaking

Run time: 01:01:00

Language: English



The Second Life of Freddie Nole

Director: Dana Nachman

Producer: Chelsea Matter, Dana Nachman, Josh Braun, Rudy Valdez, Ryan Harrington

Writer: Dana Nachman

Key cast and crew: Chelsea Matter, Dana Nachman, Josh Braun, Rudy Valdez, Ryan Harrington

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary Short

Log Line: When Freddie Nole drives to meet a man walking out of prison, he's not just offering a ride, he's offering hope, dignity, and a path to permanent freedom. As this vérité road trip unfolds, we come to learn the remarkable story behind Freddie's mission, a staggering mistake that cost him 50 years of freedom but ultimately brings him right back to the prison door.

Run time: 21:35

Language: English



Mike and Billy's American Pie

Director: Erin P.S. Zimmerman

Producer: Erin P.S. Zimmerman, Billy Cross

Key cast and crew: Billy Cross

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary Short

Log Line: From their initial meeting behind the bar at Chez Panisse, to the establishment of their pie shop in Beverly Hills, Billy Cross recounts the joys and pains of his life with renowned chef, Michael James, whose life was tragically cut short by AIDS. Billy reflects on his journey of resilience, the importance of love in all forms, and the ongoing fight for LGBTQ+ rights. This is 'Mike & Billy's American Pie'

Run time: 20:17

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: 2025 Best Documentary Short (Kansas City Film Fest International), 2025 Best of Fest (CinemaDiverse Film Festival Palm Springs), **Official Selection:** 2026 Dances With Films Los Angeles, 2026 Dances With Films New York, 2025 Oxford Shorts, 2025 First City Film Festival, Semi-finalist: Dublin Film Awards, London International Filmmakers Festival

10:00 AM - Screening Block 3SECOND+ Filmmaker Q&A - Short Form Story Block



A P.U.P. Story

Director: Barry Rosenthal

Producer: W. Finn Miller, Barry Rosenthal

Writer: Bill Miller

Key cast and crew: Barry Rosenthal, Bill Miller, Barry Rosenthal

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary Short

Log Line: Tails of love and affection through the eyes of the Therapy dogs of Los Angeles International Airport.

Run time: 19:48

Language: English



Welcome To Theatre

Director: Annetta Marion

Producer: Theatre Revolution

Writer: Gabrielle Fox

Key cast and crew: Michael Raymond Fox, Sean Weil

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Satire

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: Two slightly lovable, mediocre white theatre producers (think Archie Bunker), try to revive their festival and save the theatre from financial ruin in a post pandemic world.

Run time: 14:31

Language: English

Day 2 Films



She Fell From Space

Director: Seriina Covarrubias

Producer: Seriina Covarrubias, Nidhin Patel

Writer: Seriina Covarrubias

Key cast and crew: John Devilman, Joshua Florhaug, Mai Sato, Thomas Später

Genre: Sci-Fi, Comedy

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: After a fire takes his neighborhood and house, a struggling tattoo artist's life takes an even more bizarre turn when a spaceship crash-lands in his backyard, unleashing a stunning alien. To his horror, she speaks only "dog" and electrocutes people when upset. As neighbors and agents close in, he must help her adapt to Earth before love, the HOA, and intergalactic trouble collide.

Run time: 15:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Golden State Film Festival, Indie Vegas Film Festival, First Contact Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Animation Film Festival (Smocastle), Shock-A-Go-Go Film Festival (Art House Theater): Best Art Direction, Long Beach Underground Film Festival, GenCon Film Festival, Sci-Fi, Horror, and Action International Film Festival, Los Angeles Fantasy Fest, Sick Chick Flicks



The Copier

Director: Cole Quirk

Producer: Emily Redenbach

Writer: Cole Quirk

Key cast and crew: Suellen Vance, Emily Redenbach, Ruth Williamson, David Dean Bottrell, Rance Collins

Genre: Comedy

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: Ruby the receptionist struggles to fix the office copier while balancing an overactive imagination.

Run time: 5:58

Language: English



Rocketship

Director: Iris Almaraz

Producer: Iris Almaraz, Erin Ploss-Campoamor

Writer: Iris Almaraz

Key cast and crew: Chelsea Rendon, Mila Ibarra, Sammi Corona-Lampa, Gloria Laino

Genre: Drama, Coming of Age, Latinx

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: Two neglected sisters set out to retrieve their mentally ill mother from a playground, discovering grit, tenderness, and childhood resilience along the way.

Run time: 11:00

Language: English, Spanish



May I Put You On Hold?

Director: Ash Blodgett

Producer: Tara Jayn

Writer: Ryan Self

Key cast and crew: Tara Jayn, Natalie Lynch, Sam Manual

Genre: Comedy, drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: While dealing with telephone customer service, Liz is accidentally transferred to the Afterlife. Now, stuck between death and hold music, Liz must outwit cosmic bureaucracy and discover what really matters, if she wants to get back to the land of the living.

Run time: 13:25

Language: English



The Donut Hole

Director: Giselle Vazquez - Ramirez

Producer: Edie Pilar Monroy, Giselle Vazquez - Ramirez

Writer: Tanya Linette Smith

Key cast and crew: Edie Pilar Monroy, Raquel Salinas, Chaz Woo

Genre: Comedy

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: At a donut shop, a sharp-tongued young Latina turns a petty feud into a sweet-and-dirty power play, serving her novela-loving grandma as the unexpected real winner.

Run time: 3:25

Language: English

Content warnings: Strong Language

Day 2 Films



Your Night is My Day

Director: Jen Sall

Producer: Jen Sall, Nance Messineo

Writer: Jen Sall, Ellen Huggins

Key cast and crew: Benjamin Earl Turner, Ava Hase

Genre: Romance, Comedy

Project type: Narrative short

Log Line: Worlds apart, two twenty-somethings collide over a tenuous connection, dependent on computer screens and time zones to reveal their true selves

Run time: 10:10

Language: English



Rita's Wish

Director: Cristina Sasso

Producer: Sean R Hill

Writer: Cristina Sasso

Key cast and crew: Aliza Carrillo, Luis Gelilei, Sydney Rose

Genre: Drama, fantasy

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: 8-year old Rita projects her pain onto the birthday doll her father gave her, until her imagination strikes back, and she must confront what she really wants.

Run time: 6:30

Language: English

Content warnings: Violence

12:00 PM - Screening Block 4MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - Student Feature / Short



Ride Out

Director: Ryder Kazerman, Teddy Greenwald-Schaye

Producer: Ryder Kazerman, Teddy Greenwald-Schaye

Writer: Ryder Kazerman, Teddy Greenwald-Schaye

Key cast and crew: Sean Patrick Ferris, Preston Mark, Kate Brady

Genre: Drama, Crime, Surreal, Comedy

Project type: Narrative Feature (Student Film)

Log Line: After a devastating breakup, a seasoned New York drug dealer embarks upon an ambitious night of work with his protégé where they have experiences that will change them forever.

Run time: 1:45:00

Language: English

Content warnings: Drug Use, Strong Language, Violence, Blood/gore, Death, Guns



The Talk

Director: Hila Cage Coppola

Producer: Hila Coppola

Writer: Hila Cage Coppola

Key cast and crew: Kareem Zion

Genre: Drama

Project type: Narrative Short (Student Film)

Log Line: What begins as a tender conversation between a father and son slowly reveals the unseen weight carried by the women in their lives. As the truth unfolds, the personal becomes political, exposing a system that does not protect everyone equally and turning love into a quiet reckoning with loss, legacy, and injustice

Run time: 5:00

Language: English

Content warnings: Child death

12:00 PM - Screening Block 4SECOND+ Filmmaker Q&A - Deep Character Study



Anatomy

Director: Zaki Rubenstein

Producer: Tommy Nash

Writer: Robert Alan Dilts

Key cast and crew: Sara Noah, Tommy Nash

Genre: Drama

Project type: Narrative Feature

Log Line: A dying contract killer takes on a young female protégé to carry on his work.

Run time: 01:52:50

Language: English

Content warnings: Guns, Violence, Blood/gore, Strong Language

Day 2 Films

2:00 PM - Screening Block 5MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - Underserved Voices - Child POV



Mermaid

Director: Fia Perera

Producer: Ryan Lacen, Jenica Bergere, Hilliard Guess, Fia Sophia Perera, Mary Vernieu, Toni Long, Tyler Musikanth

Writer: Fia Sophia Perera

Key cast and crew: Devyn McDowell, Arturo Luiz Soria, Nat Faxon, Mary Birdsong, Tom Kiesche, Alex Moffatt, Missi Pyle

Genre: Drama, LGBTQ+

Project type: Narrative Feature

Log Line: When a child longing to be a mermaid crosses paths with a grief-stricken drag queen on the verge of giving up, the unlikely pair form a life-saving bond - one that will force them both to risk everything in the end.

Run time: 01:32:29

Language: English

Content warnings: Depicts Suicide attempts



Love Zuri

Director: Okema T Moore

Producer: Okema T Moore, Mohamed Williams, Nofistat Almaroof, Nicole Harrison, Melina Greene

Writer: Nofistat Almaroof

Key cast and crew: Mohamed Williams, Llogan Paige, Montana Monroe Jenkins

Genre: Drama, family

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: Left alone with his non-verbal daughter for the weekend, a father's fears about her autism give way to joy when her song teaches him how to truly hear her.

Run time: 19:54

Language: English

2:00 PM - Screening Block 5SECOND + Filmmaker Q&A - Viz Ability and Student Films

Viz-Ability Highlight Screening (Approx 45:00)

The Lost Castle

Director: Alex Lynch

Key cast and crew: Alex Lynch

Project type: Student Film

Log Line: A writer is mysteriously called into the woods to find the remains of what was once a Kings castle.

Language: English



The Creature

Director: Sebastian DiGirolomo

Producer: Sebastian DiGirolomo

Writer: Sebastian DiGirolomo

Key cast and crew: Alex McLaughlin, Ariel Nachman, Jack Hogan, James Fusco, Annika Martens, Eugene Romanchuk, Marc Cadou

Genre: Gothic Horror, Supernatural Horror, Psychological Horror

Project type: Narrative Feature

Log Line: A man encounters a creature that he doesn't know if it's real or not after the passing of his friend.

Language: English

Content warnings: Blood/gore



The Two Sides of Erin

Director: Ben Chovnick

Producer: Ben Chovnick

Writer: Ben Chovnick

Key cast and crew: Courtney Autera, Lily Boisvert, Paul Schiller, Tryston Bellon, Pamela Chovnick

Genre: Drama

Project type: Narrative Feature

Log Line: A girl is depressed after a break up and meets her inner self.

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Five Towns College Luminaries 2024

Any information to include about warnings: Mental Health Issues



9/11: One Man's Journey

Director: Joe Maddalone

Key cast and crew: Joe Maddalone

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary short (Student Film)

Log Line: A paramedic offers a firsthand look at the hidden realities of 9/11.

Language: English

Day 2 Films



Someone's in the House

Director: Joe Maddalone

Writer: Joe Maddalone

Key cast and crew: Avery Garcia, Ava Michele Hyl, George Cassella, Judy Bauerlein

Genre: Horror

Project type: Narrative Short (Student Film)

Log Line: When two sisters are left home alone, they must avoid a violent intruder who breaks in and intends to kidnap them

Language: English

Content warnings: Violence



Autistic Mode

Director: Bob Clark, Nix Busby, Charles Moss, Malcolm Thomas, Gabrielle Teaford

Producer: Bob Clark

Key cast and crew: Bob Clark, Nix Busby, Charles Moss, Malcolm Thomas, Gabrielle Teaford

Genre: Sci-Fi, Detective, Noir, Comedy, Musical, Personal, Autobiography, Cyberpunk, Gaming, Fantasy

Project type: Animation

Log Line: "Autistic Mode" is an animated anthology film made of shorts created by Autistic animators to express their perspective on the Spectrum.

Language: English



Prestige Director's Cut

Director: Benjamin Chovnick

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary feature

Log Line: A documentary about a small town senior center and its members.

Language: English



The Art of Being Different

Director: Marlow Jean Paniccia

Producer: Marlow Jean Paniccia

Writer: Marlow Jean Paniccia

Key cast and crew: Marlow Jean Paniccia

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Student Film

Log Line: I am a 15 year old autistic girl with a story that needs to be heard. With no budget and no filmmaking experience, I grabbed my iphone to document my painful and humiliating experience in Jr High school that broke me into a million pieces. The Art of Being Different is my personal journey of being a teen on the spectrum forced to juggle unrealistic expectations, social isolation, autistic burnout and the messy reality of recovery without losing hope. I made this film not for the sake of 'cinema,' but to advocate for myself and others like me. And after my recovery I am back to challenge a school system that often feels like it was built to keep us on the outside looking in.

Run time: 7:48

Language: English



Episode II: Knowledge

Director: Vladimir Maruska

Writer: Vladimir Maruska

Key cast and crew: Vladimir Maruska, Sia Maruska, Ronan Jewett

Genre: Sci-Fi

Project type: Student Film

Log Line: Episode II follows the story of Lance and Vespa as they travel across the galaxy in search of the dark warrior who almost cost them their lives. Now, as the trail grows warm, they discover a relic from the past—one that simultaneously brings them together and pushes them apart. In the uncertainty, the dark warrior emerges once more—this time, with an interesting proposition.

Run time: 18:32

Language: English

Content warnings: Depictions of death.



In the Season Thereof

Director: Nadia Moosa

Producer: Ella Britz

Writer: Nadia Moosa

Key cast and crew: Leighton Hester, Sophia Maiorano, Scarlett Reilly

Genre: Thriller, Romance, Psychological Horror, Religious Horror

Project type: Student Film

Log Line: Thrown into a new town senior year, Mark has left Utah, the Church of Jesus Christ, and a two-parent household. He quickly falls for an adventurous girl, but as religious guilt and obsession consume him, he's left with nothing but a lingering citrus stench.

Run time: 15:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Harvard Divinity School Film Fest: Official Selection, Imbolg: Women Who Terrify Film Festival: Best Student Film, Anchor TV and Film Society's Annual Student Film Festival: Most Original Short, Shorts and Stout Film Festival: Best Student Film

Day 2 Films

4:00 PM - Screening Block 6MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - Sayville & Long Island Locals



Upside Down on Long Island

Director: David Musolf

Producer: David Musolf

Writer: David Musolf

Key cast and crew: Malena Sadaka

Genre: Drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: Life unravels as a young woman makes a surprise visit to dad's beach condo with a new boyfriend.

Run time: 19:29

Language: English



West Landing

Director: Doug Gallo

Producer: Honora Campbell

Key cast and crew: Carolyn Bajzer, Iman Amini, Hrishikesh Vasishth, Finn Campbell, Iman Amini

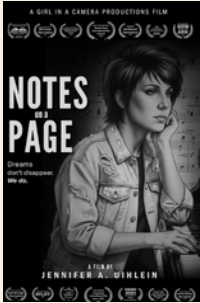
Genre: Documentary, Mental Health, Long Island

Project type: Documentary Short

Log Line: As open-water swimmers gather every morning in Hampton Bays, their daily swims provide a sense of community, friendship, purpose, and joy.

Run time: 15:20

Language: English



Notes on a Page

Director: Jennifer A. Uihlein

Producer: Jennifer A. Uihlein

Key cast and crew: Jennifer A. Uihlein

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary Short (Student Film)

Log Line: A middle-aged mother navigates life's challenges, coming to a powerful realization: the noise that told her she wasn't good enough was wrong, fueling her to find her voice - a testament to the human spirit and importance of self-belief.

Run time: 13:34

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Norwood Film Festival, Accolade, Marina del Rey Film Festival



Fly Away [Music Video]

Director: Charlotte Avenue Productions

Producer: Chris St John

Writer: Chris St John

Key cast and crew: Charlotte Avenue Productions, Chris St John

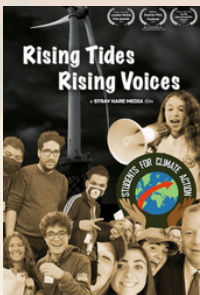
Genre: Folk, Americana, Country

Project type: Music Video

Log Line: A father watches in wonder as his child grows up in the blink of an eye and steps boldly into the world, carrying his love and faith along the way.

Run time: 3:55

Language: English



Rising Tides Rising Voices

Director: Peter Judge

Producer: Peter Judge

Writer: Peter Judge

Key cast and crew: Melissa Parrott, Harrison Bench

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary Short

Log Line: The film highlights how high school students learn to use political and advocacy tools to create change at the local and state levels to fight climate change. This 30-minute film follows the advocacy work of high school students in "Students for Climate Action", founded in Sayville, NY in 2017, to get the "Students for Solar Act" passed by the New York State Senate, Assembly and signed by the Governor. It showcases the ups and downs of fighting climate change and the hopes for change these dedicated students have.

Run time: 26:32

Language: English

Day 2 Films

4:00 PM - Screening Block 6SECOND + Filmmaker Q&A - Student Films



Imaginary Friend

Director: Jason Sullivan

Producer: Jason Sullivan

Writer: Jason Sullivan

Key cast and crew: Jason Sullivan

Genre: Psychological

Project type: Narrative short, Student Film

Log Line: A girl with a lot of baggage, gets pursued by a crazed lunatic out to get her, except it's all in her head...

Run time: 11:54

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: FTC 15th Annual Luminaries: Audience Choice, Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Directing, Best Narrative, 2025 LIIFE: North American Premiere

Content warnings: Alcohol, Depictions of death/suicide



Strawberry Milkshake

Director: Jillian Green

Producer: Jillian Green, Arianna Breyer

Writer: Calista Cardenas

Key cast and crew: Brea Weston, Pricilla Torres, Michaela Noel

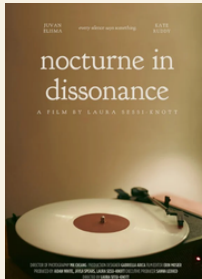
Genre: Comedy, Drama

Project type: Student Film

Log Line: A workaholic & aspiring bakery owner struggles to find a date for her best friend's wedding, leaving her to wonder which relationships matter most

Run time: 12:55

Language: English



Nocturne in Dissonance

Director: Laura Sessi-Knott

Producer: Laura Sessi-Knott, Aidan White, Jayla Spears

Writer: Laura Sessi-Knott

Key cast and crew: Kate Ruddy, Juvan Elisma

Genre: Romance, Drama

Project type: Student Film

Log Line: A couple's anniversary celebration takes a turn when a wine bottle spills, bringing unspoken questions to the surface.

Run time: 8:26

Language: English



Forget Me Not

Director: Isabella Laikin

Producer: Theodore Park

Writer: Isabella Laikin

Key cast and crew: Mike Tobin, Sam Owens, Alfred Pearson, Christine Mone, Christopher Grey

Genre: Drama, Thriller, Psychological, Mystery

Project type: Student Film

Log Line: A priest recovering from memory loss after an accident returns to hear confessions, only to recognize a voice that forces him to confront a buried sin from his past.

Run time: 9:12

Language: English

Content warnings: Sexual Assault



Behind the Mask

Director: Catherine Andre

Producer: Becca E. Davis

Writer: Catherine Andre

Key cast and crew: Della Saba, Kario Marcel, Jay Abdo

Genre: Drama, Fantasy

Project type: Student Cast

Log Line: After the death of a famous actor, his estranged daughter visits his home and discovers a magical THEATER MASK that whisks her back in time, to a majestic stage, where she comes face to face with him as a young man.

Run time: 15:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Amazon Innovative Storytelling Award, AFI Fest, Santa Barbara International Film Festival: World Premiere Official Selection, FLICKERS Rhode Island International Film Festival: Semifinalist, SouthSide Film Festival: Official Selection, BlueCat Screenplay Competition: Semifinalist

Day 2 Films



Potato Heads

Director: Morgan Paige Hafke

Producer: Hannah Dorothy Yellen, Morgan Paige Hafke, Emily McAlpine

Writer: Morgan Paige Hafke

Key cast and crew: Jack Silver, Zoë Wojnicki

Genre: Romance, Dark Comedy, Romcom

Project type: Student Film

Log Line: Two lonely sociopaths discover their common affinity for murder and bond through bloodshed. Together, they learn that they are capable of more love than they ever thought.

Run time: 23:43

Language: English

Content warnings: Violence, Guns, Blood/gore

7:00 PM - Screening Block 7MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - 9/11 Memoriam Block



9/11: An American Requiem

Producer: Julie Broihier, Bill Zimmerman

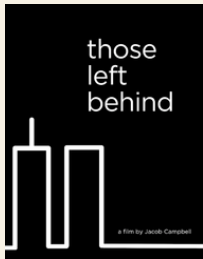
Project Type: Documentary

Log Line: A documentary featuring firsthand stories from 9/11 responders that continue to shape our collective memory.

Run time: 01:32:43

Language: English

Content warnings: Sensitive subject material



Those Left Behind

Director: Jacob Campbell

Producer: Jacob Campbell

Writer: Jacob Campbell

Key cast and crew: Jacob Campbell, Jeanne Maurer, Jill Maurer-Campbell, Joseph Maurer, Steve Campbell, Abigail Dollries, Will Cox, Kevin Allen Caby, Wendi Litteral, Will Cox, Jessica Hinds, Avi Zev Weider, Heath Lanzillotti.

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary, Short

Log Line: Using oral histories and home movies, a filmmaker explores his family's recovery from the loss of their wife, mother, and daughter in the 9/11 attacks.

Run time: 22:09

Language: English

7:00 PM - Screening Block 7SECOND + Filmmaker Q&A - Comedy Block



We Want the Virus

Director: Paul Santoli

Producer: Joshua Libertine, Sterling L. Pope, Kevin Rios, Quan Logan.

Writer: Paul Santoli, Daniel Gualajara

Key cast and crew: Paul Santoli, Cody Schultz, Amy Lyndon, Elisabeth Montanaro, Sam Naismith.

Genre: Comedy

Project type: Feature

Log Line: After a blacked out night of drinking, two lifelong friends and struggling actors wake up and realize they raised 22 thousand dollars falsely claiming they had the Coronavirus, and now must go to extreme lengths in order to obtain the virus and collect their cash.

Run time: 01:21:37

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival, Winner Best Comedy and Peoples Choice. Regal L.A. Live, New York CineFest.



Stall Buddies

Director: Glenn McBride Jr

Producer: Glenn McBride Jr, Jimmy Kelly, Brannon Brass.

Writer: Glenn McBride Jr

Key cast and crew: Glenn McBride Jr, Brannon Brass, Elizabeth Brandon, Kyle Grant, Jenna Alise, Giovanni Lozada, Kevin Martin, Jennifer Elyse Feldman, Vaughn Johnson, Cheron Bey, Cindy Brown, Sal Salanitri, Jimmy Kelly, Matthew Avery Thompson, Ryan Staton.

Genre: Comedy

Project type: Short, Web / New Media

Log Line: Two office workers become the best of friends, while sitting at opposite sides of the bathroom stalls.

Run time: 17:00

Language: English

Day 2 Films



Auditory Problems

Director: Lorin Davis

Producer: Lorin Davis, Eric Davis

Writer: Lorin Davis

Key cast and crew: Richelle Meiss, Meredith Morton, Rio Magdaleno, Kristi Clainos.

Genre: Comedy

Project type: Short

Log Line: Wrapper rage. Slurping fury. Tapping torture. Lisa's nervous system is under assault. She wants to fight. She wants to flee. She's got problems . . . auditory problems.

Run time: 10:55

Language: English

9:30 PM - Screening Block 8MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - Unique Stories



Curio

Director: Danielle Bainbridge

Producer: Hilary Giorgi

Writer: Danielle Bainbridge

Key cast and crew: Charence Higgins, Felicia Oduh, Brian Inocencio

Genre: Drama, Documentary

Project type: Documentary, Experimental, Short

Log Line: Curio is a short film that tells the story of Millie and Christine McKoy, two Black conjoined twins born into slavery in North Carolina in 1851. The McKoys spent the majority of their lives and careers as sideshow and freak show performers, first under slavery and later as free women. Curio unfolds in an episodic style that utilizes direct quotations from archival source material such as their autobiography, newspapers, and family reports to tell the story of where disability and slavery meet.

Run time: 14:12

Language: English



The Tea Cup

Director: ZhiMin Hu

Producer: ZhiMin Hu

Writer: ZhiMin Hu

Key cast and crew: Joyce Ji, Yu-Shan Lin, Faye Hu-Soucy

Genre: Family Drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: A teacup triggers MeiLi's childhood memories and her bittersweet relationship with her father, who was both a victim of and an abuser within the cycle of family violence. How MeiLi confronts her past deeply influences her perspective on her past, present, and future.

Run time: 17:30

Language: English, Mandarin Chinese

Any screenings or awards: Yorkton Film Festival: Multicultural Award



A Bit of Everything and Matzoh Balls Too

Director: Emily Lobsenz

Producer: Emily Lobsenz

Writer: Emily Lobsenz, Henry Tenney

Key cast and crew: Paul San Filippo, Katherine Castro, Emily Lobsenz, Rich Cutler, Natalia Bougadellis

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary, Short

Log Line: From bubbes to Michelin-star chefs, composers to Holocaust survivors, Matzo Ball Soup is the protagonist of a perpetually evolving tale about cultural identity and human connection. Slipping between kitchens, hands mold and souls bare their making to craft humble ingredients into a ritual that sustains, unites, and empowers us through love, life, and loss.

Run time: 15:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: New York Jewish Film Festival, Sokcho International Food Film Festival, Santa Barbara Jewish Film Festival, Cleveland Film Festival, UK Jewish Film Festival, Lake County Film Festival, PHILADELPHIA Jewish Film Festival.



Thanks Babs!

Director: Jen Rainin, Rivkah Beth Medow

Producer: Jen Rainin, Rivkah Beth Medow

Key cast and crew: Clare Major, Zachary Fink

Genre: Comedy

Project type: Documentary, Short

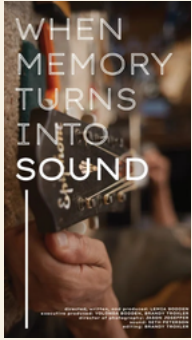
Log Line: Meet Babs, an optimistic octogenarian speed racing through life, one five-year plan at a time.

Run time: 14:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Frameline Film Festival, San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

Day 2 Films



When Memory Turns Into Sound

Director: Lemia Bodden

Producer: Lemia Bodden

Writer: Lemia Bodden

Key cast and crew: Geoff Yenson, David Dart, Brandy Troxler, Jason Joseffer, Seth Peterson, Yolonda Bodden, Brandy Troxler.

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary

Log Line: WHEN MEMORY TURNS INTO SOUND highlights the creative works of two Luthiers (guitar makers), Dave and Geoff, and their Mentor/Mentee relationship that spans for 10 years. They work out of a beautiful workshop in the middle of Navarro, CA, close to the coast and Mendocino. Dave has been making string instruments since 1966 and has mentored and worked beside Geoff since 2014. As Geoff starts to break off and explore his own designs and craft, the future is uncertain for Dave's Legacy.

Run time: 7:34

Language: English



Erika: The Road Taken

Director: Heidi Hornbacher

Producer: Heidi Hornbacher

Writer: Heidi Hornbacher

Key cast and crew: Erika Bizzarri

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary, Short

Log Line: Nearing 100 years old, an American expat in Italy reflects on the challenges she faced there as a young widow and what it means to age.

Run time: 7:32

Language: English, Italian



Affordable Housing

Director: Eunice Levis

Producer: Okema Moore

Writer: Wi-Moto Nyoka

Key cast and crew: Ianne Fields Stewart, Lyrica Okano, Kujo Ashanti, Bobby DeJesus.

Genre: Horror

Project type: Short

Log Line: A too-good-to-be-true apartment pairs pragmatic Constance with awkward Hailey—but as strange nightly events escalate, the roommates begin to question what they've really signed up for.

Run time: 16:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Winter Film Festival NYC, Philadelphia Latino Arts & Film Festival



The Circle

Director: Heloise Chung

Producer: Jonathan Gonzalez

Writer: Heloise Chung

Key cast and crew: Aria Song, Keiko Carreiro, Tom Clancey

Genre: Drama

Project type: Short

Log Line: When Agnes is let go from her gallery, she receives a visit from her future self. Her message: forget art, get a real job. In a moment of desperation, she makes a choice, but is it the right one?

Run time: 5:23

Language: English

9:30 PM - Screening Block 8SECOND + Filmmaker Q&A - Avant-Garde & Mixed Shorts



How to Build a Life

Director: Simbi Hall

Producer: Joseph Wilson

Writer: Indira Gibson Wilson

Key cast and crew: Glenn Childress, Marzell Martinear, Timmion Lichtenberg, Sherice Watson, James Bond, Tate Mack, Matt M. Gibson, James Robinson, Indira G. Wilson, Marsha Thompson, Cooper Barnes

Genre: Drama

Project type: Short, Television

Log Line: After a bitter divorce, an aspiring home improvement expert returns to her midwestern hometown, buys a hundred year old mansion and begins the journey to refurbish the house... and her life. But starting over ain't easy, especially with an evil codependent mother looking to be cared for, a dating pool full of old boyfriends and a dream house that's turning into a nightmare.

Run time: 30:00

Language: English

Day 2 Films



Ways to Fly

Director: Kirby Marshall-Collins

Producer: Efa Akutekha, Musau Onwubiko

Writer: Kirby Marshall-Collins

Key cast and crew: Briana Monet, Kyrie McAlpin, Fadhia Carmelle Marcelin, Zaire Davis, Ashley Chatman, Blake Smith

Genre: Family, Narrative, Youth

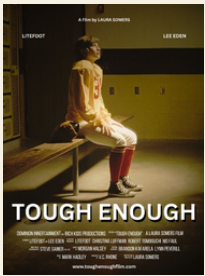
Project type: Short

Log Line: When her barrettes mess up her pirouettes, an excitable, hyper-focused Black girl must power through the distractions — and her mother's expectations — to fly like the ballerinas do.

Run time: 14:55

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Panavision New Filmmaker Program - Grant, Grant Recipient, Pan African Film Festival -World Premiere Official Selection, Oak Park Black Film Festival - Northern California Premiere Official Selection, Black Harvest Film Festival - Official Selection, Cucalorus Film Festival - Official Selection, BAMKids Film Festival - New York Premiere, Black Film Space x CliveRD Proof of Concept Grant - Semifinalist, ScreenCraft Film Fund - Quarterfinalist, Believe Psychology Film Festival - Grand Prize - Best Short.



Tough Enough

Director: Laura Somers

Producer: v.c. rhone, Litefoot, Charley Flyte

Writer: Laura Somers

Key cast and crew: Steve Gainer, Litefoot, Lee Eden

Genre: Drama, Historical

Project type: Short

Log Line: In 1947 small-town Texas, societal norms are challenged when a determined teenage girl — with the support of her Cherokee coach — joins the high school football team. Based on a true event.

Run time: 15:35

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: 2024 ScreenCraft Screenplay Film Fund - Semifinalist, 2025 Roy W. Dean Short Film Grant - Finalist, LA Film Fest - Los Angeles Premiere/Official Selection.



Development

Director: Chloe Caudillo

Producer: Via Bia, Haskiri Velazquez, Sal Lopez, Alan Luna.

Writer: Chloe Caudillo

Key cast and crew: Haskiri Velazquez, Raquel McPeck Rodriguez, Leticia Castillo, Jeff Lorch, Sal Lopez.

Genre: Comedy Drama

Project type: Short

Log Line: Struggling to climb the corporate ladder, a Latina office worker finally lands a leadership training seminar, only to realize that to be successful, trainees must become clones of the "nepo baby" boss.

Run time: 10:13

Language: American Sign Language, English, Spanish

Any screenings or awards: Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival - Special Screening, New York Latino Film Festival - Official Selection, NewFilmmakers Los Angeles - Official Selection, Seattle Latino Film Festival - Pacific Northwest Premiere/Official Selection, Whistler Film Festival - Official Selection, Micheaux Film Festival - Official Selection, Phoenix Film Festival - Arizona Premiere/Official Selection, San Diego Latino Film Festival - San Diego Premiere/Official Selection, GRRL HAUS Cinema - Official Selection, Mírala Film Festival - Best Narrative Short.



A Paradox of Quantum Superposition

Director: Sandy Parker

Producer: Julie D. Holman, Kathryn J. Hatam, Miles Doleac, Sandy Parker.

Writer: Sandy Parker

Key cast and crew: Kate Adair, Robbie Marshall

Genre: Drama

Project type: Short

Log Line: When a woman realizes her cat is missing, it will take a dream of a memory of long-ago dreams to bring her into a better reality.

Run time: 7:49

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Austin Micro Film Festival - Best Science Fiction Screenplay Award Winner.

Day 2 Films

The Departing Present

Director: Jade Anderson

Producer: Jade Andersoin

Writer: Jade Anderson

Key cast and crew: Anna Featherstone, Stephen Balsamo, Jasmine Wing, Kunpeng Lu, Kimberly Dallas, Joel Salguero, William Yang, Floral Yu, Madison Moskowitz, Angelique Dorcely, Amy Gaipa, Kate Levitt.

Genre: Drama, Romance, Coming Of Age

Project type: Short

Log Line: A young woman, haunted by the ghost of her late sister, meets a young man who changes her view on life.

Run time: 6:47

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Stony Brook University Capstone Festival - World Premiere, Mastic Beach Mini Indie Film Festival - Official Student Screening Selection.



Debbie Walks Her Duck

Director: Nikki Braendlin

Producer: Melissa Balint

Writer: Nikki Braendlin

Key cast and crew: Jill Lover, Paloma Ronquillo, Sacha Smith.

Genre: Drama

Project type: Short

Log Line: Debbie walks to the nail salon, oblivious to the crises unfolding around her.

Run time: 6:45

Language: English



Lovebirds

Director: Maria Corso

Writer: Matt Hamilton

Key cast and crew: Janna Jalla, Vinny Carty.

Genre: Drama/Adventure

Project type: Short

Log Line: Betty and Ray, a wild couple on the run, live fast and love hard while staying one step ahead of the law. With their lives on the line and a clean getaway just out of reach, they attempt one more job — one which may cost them more than they can afford.

Run time: 4:11

Language: English

11:30 PM - Screening Block 9MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - No Sleep Friday Night



Slumber Still: Dawn of Shadows

Director: Patrick Sherrard

Writer: Patrick Sherrard

Key cast and crew: Michael Mingoia, Danielle Colette, Edis Delgado.

Genre: Horror

Project type: Feature

Log Line: In this Sleep Paralysis thriller, you will meet the Wilsons. In 1986, the Wilson family's very happiness and existence are threatened and rocked to the core when dark entities invade their home, minds and...dreams. The final slumber is just the beginning of the nightmare. Made by a small Long Island based production company. The independent film makers are born and bred Long Islanders. Movie completely shot on Long Island.

Run time: 01:28:32

Language: English



Frankslist

Director: Christine Celozzi

Producer: Ming Fen Congdon, Rose Michelle Knight, Alexa Frisch.

Writer: Christine Celozzi

Key cast and crew: Christine Celozzi, Alessandra Levy, Katie Notovny, Mitchell Slan, Rebecca Gomberg.

Genre: Horror/Satire

Project type: Short

Log Line: A simple interview spirals into a nightmare of bizarre encounters and escalating chaos. [absurdist satire]

Run time: 14:19

Language: English

Day 2 Films



The Shower

Director: Okema T Moore

Producer: Guneet K. Singh, Lawrence "Law" Watford, Okema T Moore.

Writer: Isabelle Pierre

Key cast and crew: Isabelle Pierre, Okema T. Moore.

Genre: Thriller, Drama

Project type: Short

Log Line: A woman's grief turns a baby shower into a test of motherhood, worth, and survival...because the one and only guest may never get to leave.

Run time: 10:32

Language: English

11:30 PM - Screening Block 9SECOND + Filmmaker Q&A - Midnight Vibes

Opting In

Director: Susan Dynner

Producer: Susan Dynner, Kira Leinonen, Shauna Grace.

Writer: Susan Dynner

Key cast and crew: Shauna Grace, Philip Lubin, Leonora Pitts.

Genre: Dark Comedy, Thriller, Romantic Comedy

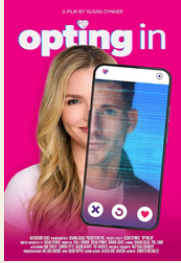
Project type: Short

Log Line: Burned out on dating apps, a hopeful single woman gives romance one last shot, only to find her latest match might be perfect in all the wrong ways.

Run time: 13:45

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: D.C. Independent Film Festival - World Premiere; Official Selection, Cinequest Film Festival - West Coast Premiere Official Selection



Beautiful, Pam

Director: J.R. Stokes

Producer: J.R. Stokes, Tom Ciorciari, Peter Konsevitch, Sara Stabile.

Writer: J.R. Stokes

Key cast and crew: Tom Ciorciari, Bec Fordyce, Peter Konsevitch.

Genre: Drama, Comedy

Project type: Feature

Log Line: "This is Me", A Queer sex-worker undergoes a crisis of identity, addiction, and depression amidst the week of their son's 18th birthday.

Run time: 01:03:35

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: B. Frank Film Festival, Big Apple Film Festival, Queens World Film Festival - Winner for Best Actor, Finalist for Best Feature, Finalist for Best Director, Winter Film Festival NYC - Best Picture Winner, Best Director Nominee, Las Cruces Film Festival, Off Hampton Film Festival, Open Gate Film Festival - Winner for Best Director, Winner for Audience Choice Award, Nominated for Best Ensemble, Nominated for Best Actor, Garden State Film Festival - Narrative Feature Winner, Best Actor Nominee, Best Supporting Actor Nominee, Best Supporting Actress Nominee, Long Island Cinema Festival - Best Director Winner, Best Screenplay Winner, Best Feature Nominee, Best Cinematography Nominee; Best Actor Nominee, Best Actress Nominee



A Comfort

Director: Jenny Curtis

Producer: Jenny Curtis

Writer: Jenny Curtis

Key cast and crew: Jenny Curtis, Georgiana Curtis, Leanna Tallmeister, John Beatty, Paul Cross, Chris Porter, C.J. Drumeller, Pierce Cooke.

Genre: Drama

Project type: Short

Log Line: Set in the not-so-distant future, against the backdrop of a militaristic authoritarian regime with the horrors of the outside world circling in. When a young girl is dropped off with her estranged aunt, they must find in each other what it means to feel safe.

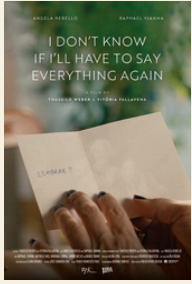
Run time: 16:23

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Lighthouse Film Festival - World Premiere



Day 2 Films



I don't know if I'll have to say everything again (Eu não sei se vou ter que falar tudo de novo)

Director: Vitória Fallavena, Thassilo Weber

Producer: Alina Lyra

Writer: Vitória Fallavena, Thassilo Weber

Key cast and crew: Angela Rebello, Raphael Vianna, Rodrigo Graciosa, Bea Palma, Paulo Francisco Paes, Adonias Dantas, Clara Diegues.

Genre: Drama, LGBT

Project type: Short

Log Line: Fernando meets his mother weekly at a café. During their encounters, he always tells her that he is gay. Ana, who has Alzheimer's, has difficulties in remembering her son's sexuality; what we are left to question is whether she truly forgets or if she chooses not to remember.

Run time: 14:10

Language: Portuguese

Any screenings or awards: Bengaluru International Short Film Festival - Indian Premiere; Official Selection, Mill Valley Film Festival - Bay Area premiere; Official Selection, MiX Festival Internazionale di Cinema LGBTQ+ e Cultura Queer - European Premiere; Special Mention, Festival Rio LGBTQIA+ - World Premiere; Audience Award - Best Short Film, Festival de Cine de La Habana - Cuba Premiere; Official Selection, Melbourne Queer Film Festival - Australian Premiere; Official Selection, 32º Festival Mix Brasil de Cultura da Diversidade - Official Selection - Competition, Long Beach QFilm Festival - International Premiere; Official Selection, Tag! Queer Shorts Festival - Hispano/Latine Creativity Award, FanCineQueer | Festival Internacional de Cine LGBTI de Extremadura - Spanish Premiere; Official Selection, Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival - Official Selection, 6ª TRANSFORMA - Festival Internacional de Cinema da Diversidade de Santa Catarina - Official Selection, DIGO - 10º Festival Internacional de Cinema da diversidade sexual e de gênero de Goiás - Official Selection, Reel Out Charlotte - Official Selection, Festival MIX México - Cine, Diversidad Sexual y de Género - Mexican Premiere; Official Selection, Everybody's Perfect - Geneva International Queer Film Festival - Swiss Premiere; Official Selection, BEYOND: The Cary Film Festival - Official Selection, Ridgway Independent Film Fest - Official Selection, 22 OutfestPerú Film Festival LGBTQ+ - Peruvian Premiere, Milwaukee Illuminate Film Festival - Best of Fest Award, HIVE: International Short Film Days Berlin - German Premiere, Seattle Latino Film Festival - Official Selection, Endimaris Sitges LGBTBIQ+ Film Festival - Official Selection, Festival de Cinema de Trancoso - Best Short Script, FilmPride - Brighton & Hove Pride LGBTQIA+ Film Festival - Official Selection, New York City Short Film Festival (NYC Shorts) - Best LGBTQ+ Film, Spokane International Film Festival - Golden SPIFF - Best Short

Day 3 Films

12:00 PM - Screening Block 9ASECOND - REACH with Actor Garrett Clayton, Podcast recording (Scoop on the Stoop)



Reach

Director: Leif Rokesh

Producer: Maria Capp, Autumn Bailey, Charles Box, Grant Harling

Writer: Johnny James Fiore, Maria Capp, Grant Harling

Key cast and crew: Garrett Clayton, Corbin Bernsen, Johnny James Fiore, Joey Bragg, Jordan Doww

Genre: Drama, Comedy, Coming of Age

Project type: Narrative Feature

Log Line: A socially awkward teenager plans on killing himself, until Clarence, the new quirky kid in school, befriends him.

Run time: 01:32:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Westfield International Film Festival 2019, Cinema at the Edge Independent Film Festival 2020: Best Actor - Garrett Clayton

Content warnings: Depression, Suicide, Gun Violence, Death, Drug/Alcohol Addiction, Bullying, Abuse, Homophobia, Strong Language

6:00 PM - Screening Block 10MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - Women Filmmakers / Bold Visions



He/She/Us

Director: Susan Kelejian

Producer: Alice Manica, Devorah Cutler-Rubenstein

Writer: Susan Kelejian

Key cast and crew: Nicole da Silva, Emmett Preciado

Genre: Drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: When she meets him again for the first time in over a year and struggles with his physical transformation, he tries desperately to convince her that love is "deeper than pronouns."

Run time: 18:54

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: New York Monthly Film Festival 2025, Paris Film Awards 2025: Gold Award, Florence, Film Awards 2025: Best Drama, New York Movie Awards 2025: Best Drama, Best First Time Director, London Movie Awards 2025: Best Indie Short Film, Eerie International Film Festival 2025: Best Film – Audience Choice, California Women's Film Festival 2026, Golden State Film Festival 2026, WILDsound Festival 2026, Hawaii International Film Festival 2026, Film Endowment Festival 2026, Albuquerque Film Festival 2026: Everybody is Somebody Award, Cannes "Next Step" Film Festival 2026, InterCultural Voices Film Festival 2026

Content warnings: Transphobia



The Owls

Director: Taylor McNulty

Producer: Taylor McNulty

Key cast and crew: Jacquelyn Chin, Pearl Rhein

Genre: Uplifting Documentary

Project type: Documentary Short

Log Line: Each week, a group of Old Widowed Ladies, known as the OWLS, gathers for dinner, finding friendship, laughter, and a way forward through their shared grief.

Run time: 16:28

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Jersey Shore Film Festival 2026: Best Short Documentary, Round the Globe Film and Music Festival 2026: Women's Issues Award, Citrus Circuit Film Festival 2026: Best Short Documentary, Centre Film Festival 2026, Short Sweet Film Festival 2026, Miami Beach Film Festival 2026

Content warnings: Mentions of Death



Marianne And The Rebels

Director: Pierre Guy

Producer: Brian Urbina

Writer: Elena D Clark, Pierre Guy

Key cast and crew: Anthony Robert Grasso, Joe Penczak, Elena D Clark

Genre: Comedy, History, Satire

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: In 19th-century Europe, an independent young woman, Marianne, finds herself caught in a love triangle with Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, forcing the self-proclaimed revolutionaries to confront the one thing their grand theories can't explain: matters of the heart.

Run time: 11:32

Language: English, French

Any screenings or awards: Washington DC International Cinema Festival 2025: Best Dark Comedy Short

Content warnings: Infidelity

Day 3 Films



Level One

Director: Roxy Shih

Producer: Cole Wede, Kelsey Nie, Evan Nie

Writer: Kelsey Nie

Key cast and crew: Toy Lei, Scott Rosendall

Genre: Sci-fi

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: A stripped down look at the claustrophobic experience of being trapped, not just in space but also in time.

Run time: 7:11

Language: English



Father Daughter Dance

Director: Gabrielle Fox

Producer: Theatre Revolution, Studio 129

Writer: Gabrielle Fox

Key cast and crew: Michael Patrick Sullivan, Pëtra Denison

Genre: Family Drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: After years of dancing around their differences, a daughter confronts her father about his "hunting" trip with the guys

Run time: 11:32

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Peekskill Film Festival 2022, Chain NYC Film Festival 2022, Katonah Classic Stage Film Festival 2022:

Audience Choice Award, Lady Filmmakers Film Festival 2022, Austin Revolution Film Festival 2023: Best Drama Short

Content warnings: Family Relationship Issues, Strong language, Politics, Mention of Animal Deaths, Mentions of Murder



Trouble

Director: Annetta Marion

Producer: Gabrielle Fox

Writer: Gabrielle Fox

Key cast and crew: Donna Vivino

Genre: Political Drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: A high school teacher is confronted by what trouble means and who gets to define it.

Run time: 8:11

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Glass Ceiling Breakers 2026, Peekskill Film Festival 2026, Chain Film Festival 2026, Rhode Island

International Film Festival 2026, MOM Film Festival 2026,

Content warnings: Strong Language



Rock Island Prison 1864

Director: Joy Shannon

Producer: Joy Shannon

Writer: Joy Shannon

Genre: History, Drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: A Black Union soldier guards his ex-master, a Confederate prisoner, who vows to re-enslave him.

Run time: 6:49

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Queens Underground International Black History Film Festival 2025, The People's Film Festival 2025,

The Virginia Black Film Festival 2025, 'Pulling Focus' African American Film Festival of the Quad Cities 2025, Chambana Film

Festival 2025, The Los Angeles Underground Railroad Film Festival 2025, Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival 2025, The Soul 4 Reel

Film Festival 2025, Bill Johnson Black Film Festival 2025, Olive-Harvey College Criminal Justice Short Film Festival 2025, Las Vegas

Black Film Festival 2025, The LA Independent Women Film Awards 2025, Brooklyn International Short Awards 2025, The IndieFEST

Film Awards 2025: African American Theme Award, Los Angeles Film Awards 2025, Venice Shorts Film Festival 2025, Chicago

FEEDBACK Film Festival 2025: Best Drama Short, Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival: Best Drama Short

Content warnings: Racism, Slavery, Abuse

Day 3 Films

6:00 PM - Screening Block 10SECOND + Filmmaker Q&A - Darker Tone Feature + Shorts

Neverland

Director: Erik Wegner

Producer: Erik Wegner, Chris Victor, Kyle McCuiston

Writer: Erik Wegner

Key cast and crew: Lauren Alexandria Kittrell, John Varina, Daniel O'Shea

Genre: Drama, Romance

Project type: Narrative Feature

Log Line: Emma drifts between reality and fantasy as she fights to survive the pain of the life she cannot escape from, while relentlessly struggling to have the life she always dreamed of.

Run time: 01:22:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: World Premiere

Content warnings: Mental Illness, Strong Language, Infidelity

The Runner of Pamplona

Director: Steve Rahaman

Producer: Erik Wegner

Writer: Erik Wegner

Key cast and crew: Isa Feliu, Daniel O'Shea, Cathy Rocher

Genre: Drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: One Day...One Audition...One Last Chance...After a series of mistakes that kept Alba from her dream of becoming an actress, she now has one last chance to get everything she always wanted as she races through the city to reach an audition that could change everything.

Run time: 25:35

Language: English

Content warnings: Strong Language

Ask the Blessing

Director: V.C. Rhone

Producer: V.C. Rhone, April Sharp

Writer: Rachel Barrett

Key cast and crew: Bryan Schany, Luke David Hamilton, Alina Harmann

Genre: Period Drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: During America's Victorian Era of 1901 a family struggles to pick up the pieces after the return of an estranged patriarch.

Run time: 10:20

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Simi Film Fest 2025, Indie Film LA 2026

Content warnings: Absent Parent, Violence

8:00 PM - Screening Block 11MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - Ensemble Showcase

Stakeout

Director: Micah Khan

Producer: Natalie Stavola, Francesco Cordaro, Katrina Kearns, Victoria Diana, Micah Khan

Writer: Victoria Diana, David Wappel

Key cast and crew: Seth Gilliam, Sonja O'Hara

Genre: Thriller, Horror, Crime

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: On a tense stakeout, two weary cops debate the value of their work—unaware that something sinister stalks the streets... and them.

Run time: 10:52

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Smoodcastle Horror Film Festival 2025, Lake Placid Film Festival 2025, Albany Film Festival 2026: Best Horror Film, Rung Film Festival 2026

Content warnings: Strong Language, Murder, Violence, Blood/Gore

The Three Phases Of Fern

Director: Bill Blaney

Producer: Bill Blaney

Writer: Bill Blaney

Key cast and crew: Tony DeRiso, Jon Howard, Richard Blaney, Michelle Cain

Genre: Drama, Coming of Age

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: A shy high school senior becomes involved in his town's drug subculture in 1980 Long Island.

Run time: 31:24

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Long Island International Film Expo 2023: Best Short

Content warnings: Drug Use/Addiction, Violence, Strong Language



Day 3 Films



If Only You Were Free

Director: Gregory Cusumano

Producer: Gregory Cusumano, Danika Cusumano, Jeremy Maupin, Anthony Moore

Writer: Gregory Cusumano

Key cast and crew: Amy Pemberton, Jeremy Maupin, Harriett Weaver

Genre: Horror, Thriller, Drama, Romance

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: A surgeon straining under the pressure of his career and marriage, becomes imprisoned to the very thing he thought would set him free.

Run time: 24:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: FirstGlance Film Festival Philadelphia 2018, Horror Films in Hotlanta 2019, HollyShorts Monthly screenings 2019, 19th Kansas International Film Festival 2019, JellyFest - Season 4 2019Pasadena Horror Film Festival 2020: Audience Award

Content warnings: Sexual Themes, Death, Alcohol Use, Violence



1020

Director: Julie Goldstone

Producer: Annie Huang, Ally Maki, R.K. Russell, Rhea Damani

Writer: Nat Mauldin

Key cast and crew: Ally Maki, Alysia Reiner, Sarunas Jackson, Yuji Okumoto

Genre: comedy, drama

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: Max, a woman in her early thirties who has recently lost her mother, attempts to reconnect with her estranged father in a comedy about grief, longing, and magical thinking.

Run time: 19:19

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: LA Shorts International Film Festival 2026, HollyShorts Film Festival 2026

Content warnings: Strained Parental Relationships, Sickness, Death, Strong Language



We Got Ours

Director: Alycia Lynette Cooper

Producer: V.C. Rhone, Corey Grant

Writer: Alycia Lynette Cooper

Key cast and crew: Rell Battle, Dominique Witten, Luenell Campbell, Michael Colyar, Omar Gooding, Flame Monroe

Genre: Comedy

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: While backstage at a comedy show, three comics make a pact not to perform if the promoter doesn't pay all three of them what's owed before the show begins.

Run time: 12:38

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: BraveMaker Film Festival 2025, Diversity In Cannes 2025

Content warnings: Strong Language



Writing for Timothée

Director: Dana Nachman

Producer: Chelsea Matter, Dana Nachman, Lesley Powers, Lilian Chiang

Writer: Dana Nachman, Lilian Chiang, Braden Kelly

Key cast and crew: Chelsea Zhang, Landon Moss, Ren Asher, Ryan Hotes

Genre: Romantic Comedy

Project type: Narrative Short

Log Line: A struggling film student with a secret identity as the anonymous author of a cult Timothée Chalamet fanfic races to erase all evidence when the actor himself is unexpectedly on his way to her apartment.

Run time: 12:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Alliance of Women Directors Capstone Screening 2025, Cinequest Film Festival 2026

Content warnings: Strong Language

Day 3 Films

8:00 PM - Screening Block 11SECOND + Filmmaker Q&A - LGBTQ+ Representation

The Dads

Director: Luchina Fisher

Producer: Luchina Fisher, Stephen Chukumba

Key cast and crew: Dwyane Wade

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Feature Documentary

Log Line: A group of dads building a movement to support their trans and gender expansive kids are forced to make an impossible choice amid a shifting political landscape: stay and fight or flee the country.

Run time: 1:12:00

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: SXSW 2026, Florida Film Festival 2026, Milwaukee Film Festival 2026, NewFest Pride 2026 Cinema Q 2026 - Audience Choice, Best Feature Film, Newburyport Film Festival 2026, Sofia Pride Film Fest 2026, Thrive Youth Center 2026, Sea Cliff Film Festival 2026 California Film Institute Pride 2026, Bentonville Film Festival 2026, Sedona Film Festival Pride Screening 2026, Frameline Film Festival 2026, Alliance For Full Acceptance Community Screening 2026, The Dads Foundation Screening 2026, QFest St. Louis 2026, Pickford Film Center 2026, Zinegoak Bilbao Film Festival 2026, Eugene Friends Church Screening 2026, Bangkok LGBTQ+ Film Festival 2026, Thailand Film Festival for Women's Rights 2026, Maine International Film Festival 2026, Maine Tucson LGBTQ Education Foundation Film Festival 2026, Woodshole Film Festival 2026, Rainbow Connections 2026, Film Out San Diego 2026, Prairie Pride Film Festival 2026 Tucson Dads Meetup 2026, Morehouse College Human Rights Festival 2026

Content warnings: Transphobia, Homophobia

Find An Identity

Director: Maria Capp

Producer: Rubyll Banuelos, Maria Capp, Steve Capp

Writer: Maria Capp

Key cast and crew: Segun Oduolowu, Tim Hutchinson

Genre: Social Issue Documentary

Project type: Documentary

Log Line: This heartfelt documentary explores sexuality and adolescent identity formation in the face of bullying, mental illness, and self-doubt.

Run time: 39:00

Language: English

Content warnings: Bullying, Mental Health, Suicide

10:00 PM - Screening Block 12MAIN + Filmmaker Q&A - Local Filmmaker Web Series

The Egg

Director: Nick Rampulla, Alex Lepping, Asher DeVerna, Owen Parrott

Producer: Nick Rampulla, Alex Lepping, Asher DeVerna, Owen Parrott

Writer: Nick Rampulla, Alex Lepping, Asher DeVerna, Owen Parrott

Key cast and crew: Nate Clancy, Louis Plastini, Taylor Mason, Leo Hill

Genre: Drama, Comedy, Crime

Project type: Web Series

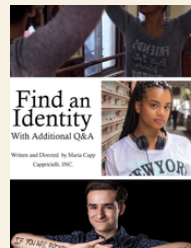
Log Line: A college freshman, Jonas, takes advantage of a rumor, straining his relationships with his introverted roommate Charlie and his cousin Taylor, who is struggling to finish her senior play.

Run time: 2:16:13

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Sayville Theatre Premiere July 2025

Content warnings: Strong Language, Crime



Day 3 Films

10:00 PM - Screening Block 12SECOND + Filmmaker Q&A - International Features



The Jewish Jail Lady and The Holy Thief

Director: Victor Velle

Producer: Barry Rosenthal

Writer: Nick Shanmans

Key cast and crew: Harriet Rossetto, Mark Borovitz

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary Feature

Log Line: A documentary that explores the troubled pasts of Rabbi Mark Borovitz and Harriet Rossetto, leading to the creation of the Beit T'Shuvah, a unique global recovery center

Run time: 60:04

Language: English

Any screenings or awards: Boston Independent Film Awards 2022 CKF International Film Festival 2022, Los Angeles Reel Recovery Film Festival 2022, Miami Indie Film Awards 2022, Milan Gold Awards 2022, New York International Film Festival 2022, Santa Barbara Film Awards 2022, Vegas Movie Awards 2022, SoCal Film Awards 2022, New York Independent Cinema Awards 2022, LA Sun Film Fest 2022, Venice Shorts 2022

Content warnings: Alcoholism, Death, Strong Language, Sexual Themes, Absent Parent, Mental Health Issues, Infidelity



Unspoken

Director: Maciej Adamek

Producer: Jacek Kucharski

Writer: Maciej Adamek

Key cast and crew: Mateusz Skalski, Marcin Szymański

Genre: Documentary

Project type: Documentary Feature

Log Line: A portrait of 26-year-old Matthew - a young man who stutters and wants to realize his childhood dream. He wants to become a Polish champion in acrobatics.

Run time: 51:30

Language: Polish

Any screenings or awards: The Rhodope International Film Festival 2025, Lighthouse Lens Film Festival 2026: Best Feature Documentary, The Atlantis Awards 2026: Best Director & Best Documentary Feature, Puerto Aventuras International Film Festival 2026, Frozen River Film Festival 2026: Special Jury Award, Awesome International Film Festival: 2026

Content warnings: Death

Awards and Nominees

Best Film. Sponsored by Entertainment Partners, Movie Magic Scheduling / Budgeting And Celtx Professional

- **Mermaid (Narrative Feature) WINNER**
- **Ride Out (Narrative Feature, Student), WINNER**
- **1020 (Narrative Short), WINNER**
- **Nocturne in Dissonance (Narrative Short, Student), WINNER**
- Ask the Blessing (Narrative Short)
- Colorhouse (Narrative Short)
- If Only You Were Free (Narrative Short)
- Writing for Timothée (Narrative Short)
- Trouble (Narrative Short)
- A Comfort (Narrative Short)
- Father Daughter Dance (Narrative Short)

Best Directing, Sponsored by Alliance of Women Directors and Scriptation

- **Mermaid (Feature) Fia Perera, WINNER**
- **Three Phases of Fern (Narrative Short) Bill Blaney, WINNER**
- **Baristas vs. Billionaires (Doc Feature) Mark Mori, WINNER**
- **Those Left Behind (Doc Short) Jacob Campbell, WINNER**
- Ride Out (Feature)
- We Want the Virus (Feature)
- Auditory Problems (Narrative Short)
- Curio (Doc Short)
- When Memory Turns into Sound (Doc Short)
- Notes on a Page (Doc Short)

Cinematography, Sponsored by Women In Media, Celtx

- **Mermaid (Feature), WINNER**
- **Three Phases of Fern (Narrative Short), WINNER**
- We Want the Virus (Feature)
- Colorhouse (Narrative Short)
- If Only You Were Free (Narrative Short)
- Ilaaj: Healing (Narrative Short)
- Upside Down on Long Island (Narrative Short)
- Opting In (Narrative Short)
- Lovebirds (Narrative Short)
- Notes on a Page (Narrative Short)
- Imaginary Friend (Narrative Short, Student)

Best Art Direction, Sponsored by Women In Media

- **Nocturne in Dissonance (Narrative Short), WINNER**
- **Marianne and the Rebels (Narrative Short), WINNER**
- **Potato Heads (Narrative Short, Student)**
- **Curio (Documentary Short), WINNER**
- Autistic Mode (Feature)
- Mermaid (Feature)
- Stakeout (Narrative Short)
- Strawberry Milkshake (Narrative Short)
- Opting in (Narrative Short)
- Auditory Problems (Narrative Short)
- Rock Island 1864 (Narrative Short)
- Behind the Mask (Narrative Short, Student)

Best Ensemble

- **Marianne and the Rebels (Narrative Short), WINNER**
- Three Phases of Fern (Narrative Short)
- We Got Ours (Narrative Short)
- The Copier (Narrative Short)
- The Shower (Narrative Short)
- Strawberry Milkshake (Narrative Short)
- Colorhouse (Narrative Short)

Awards and Nominees

Best Actor

- **Anatomy (Feature) Tommy Nash, WINNER**
- **Ask the Blessing (Narrative Short) Luke David Hamilton, WINNER**
- Mermaid (Narrative Feature)
- Ride Out (Narrative Feature)
- Beautiful, Pam (Narrative Feature)
- Slumber Still: Dawn of Shadows (Narrative Feature)
- Nocturne in Dissonance (Narrative Short)
- If Only You Were Free (Narrative Short)
- Your Night is My Day (Narrative Short)
- The Donut Hole (Narrative Short)
- Father Daughter Dance (Narrative Short)
- Marianne and the Rebels (Narrative Short)

Best Actress

- **Opting in (Narrative Short) Shauna Grace, WINNER**
- Mermaid (Feature)
- Neverland (Feature)
- A Comfort (Narrative Short)
- Auditory Problems (Narrative Short)
- The Runner of Pamplona (Narrative Short)
- 1020 (Narrative Short)
- Your Night is My Day (Narrative Short)
- Strawberry Milkshake (Narrative Short)
- The Donut Hole (Narrative Short)
- Father Daughter Dance (Narrative Short)

Original Screenplay in Produced Film

- **Three Phases of Fern (Narrative Short), WINNER**
- Opting In (Narrative Short)
- Mermaids (Feature)

Wardrobe, Hair, and Make Up

- **Rock Island Prison (Narrative Short), WINNER**
- Ask the Blessing (Narrative Short)
- Tough Enough (Narrative Short)
- Marianne and the Rebels (Narrative Short)
- Curio (Narrative Short)

Best Editing Sponsored by Avid

- **Neverland (Narrative Feature), WINNER**
- **Ilaaj: Healing (Narrative Short), WINNER**
- **Baristas vs. Billionaires (Documentary Feature), WINNER**
- **Curio (Documentary Short), WINNER**
- Colorhouse (Narrative Short)
- Trouble (Narrative Short)
- Your Night is My Day (Narrative Short)
- Doubles (Narrative Short)
- The Talk (Narrative Short)
- Thanks Babs! (Doc Short)
- When Memory Turns into Sound (Doc Short)
- A Bit of Everything and Matzoh Balls Too (Doc Short)
- Erika: The Road Taken (Doc Short)
- Notes on a Page (Doc Short)

Best Song

- **A P.U.P Story ("I'm a Pup" by Peter Halperin), WINNER**
- Fly Away
- The Copier
- Opting In

Best Sound Editing

- **Auditory Problems (Narrative Short) WINNER**
- **The Egg (Web Series) Asher DeVerna, WINNER**
- When Memory Turns into Sound
- Stakeout
- The Circle
- ILAAJ: Healing

Awards and Nominees

Best Score - Stage

- **Neverland - Kyle McCuiston - WINNER**
- When Memory Turns into Sound
- The Egg
- Stakeout
- Ride Out
- ILAAJ: Healing

Screenplay

- FEATURE
 - **1st: Ilaaj**
 - 2nd: Simon & Delilah
 - 3rd: Sophie's Miracle
- SHORT
 - **1st: We're Not Dead Yet**
 - 2nd: Mommi With An I short
 - 3rd: Afternoon short
- STUDENT, SEMI-FINALIST
 - **Salt**

Pitch Perfect Competition

1st Prize, Sponsored by Adorama: **Joseph Zanchelli - Deli Dog Days**

2nd Prize, Sponsored by Movie Magic: **Susan Kelejian - Love In the Wings**

Thank you to everyone who submitted and participated in the FIRST ANNUAL SAYVILLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL!