LOFT FILM FEST
NOVEMBER 10-18, 2021
LOFTFILMFEST.ORG
PRESENTED BY: DESERT DIAMOND CASINOS & ENTERTAINMENT
AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Screenings at:
THE LOFT CINEMA
3233 E SPEEDWAY BLVD | TUCSON, AZ
Welcome to the 2021 Loft Film Fest!  

The Loft Film Fest is back and we’re excited to share this exciting slate of films, each carefully curated for you. The films are among the most celebrated in the world’s most prestigious film festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto, Venice, and Berlin.

We believe there is a film for every taste, from the feel-good comedy to the emotion-filled dramas, movies that are funny, profound or complex, and a few that defied description. We were intentionally in having at least 50% of the films directed by women, and we honor films from a fully inclusive group of filmmakers.

As always, we encourage you to take risks, see movies that may fall outside of what you traditionally select. Film festivals are one of the most exciting ways to discover things about other people, other places, and maybe even about yourself.

After going on hiatus in 2020, we’re happy to be back with 8 days of films that span the globe.

You’ll notice some differences in this year’s festival. While we’re presenting a fully in-person festival, we have very few guests attending in person due to unpredictable times. We will be showing films only in Screen 1 and at our Open Air Cinema, and each film will screen only once this year.

This year we are awarding cash prizes to the film fest and the short film that win Audience Awards (so be sure to vote). Sunday, November 14, is European Art Cinema Day, a project of the International Confederation of Art Cinemas (CICAE). The CICAE award will be determined by the CICAE jury for the best film.

The festival will be accessible to those who show proof of full COVID vaccination or a negative COVID test. Badge holders will be checked when they receive their badge, and during the fest they will not need to have their vaccine status verified again.

All customers, employees, and volunteers are required to wear masks over the nose and mouth at all times indoors, with the sole exception being while seated and actively eating or drinking; masks must promptly be replaced when done eating or drinking.

As always, we rely on our volunteers for their indispensable help in making the fest run smoothly. We are incredibly thankful for your selfless participation.

Thank you to Desert Diamond Casinos and the National Endowment for the Arts for their continued support of the Loft Film Fest! I want to thank everyone who helped put the 2021 Loft Film Fest together, including our Festival Director Jeff Yanc, J.J. Giddings and Ernie Quiroz. Welcome to the team, Ernie!

Peggy Johnson, Executive Director
1 PARALLEL MOTHERS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 7:30PM
DIRECTED BY Pedro Almodóvar, 2021, Spain, in Spanish, 120 mins., Rated R

Celebrated Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar surprises us once again with this lively and tender melodrama about two women, Janis (Penélope Cruz) and Ana (Milena Smit), whose lives intersect profoundly thanks to a casual encounter in a hospital where they’re both going into labor. Janis, the older of the two, has no regrets and is delighted with the idea of motherhood. But young Ana is repe...
THE ROSE MAKER
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 5:00PM
DIREC TED BY: Pierre Pinault, 2020, France, in French with English subtitles, 93 mins., Not Rated
Celebrated French star Catherine Frot (Marguerite) takes center stage in this charmingly good-natured comedic drama once a successful rose farmer on the brink of losing her business until an unexpected innovation changes everything.

WRITING WITH FIRE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 1:30PM
DIREC TED BY: Susmith Ghosh & Rintu Thomas, 2021, India, in Hindi with English subtitles, 92 mins., Not Rated
The women reporters of India’s Khabar Lahariya newspaper are a formidable group. Cooperatively running India’s only all-female news service, the women are all of Dalit (“Untouchable”) caste, or India’s lowest class. Many of them balance caring for young children in homes without electricity while traveling the country to shed light on some of India’s most pressing human rights issues. Writing with Fire tells the extraordinary story of the Khabar Lahariya paper, the women who run it, and the impact their powerful truth-telling has in the midst of the rise of radical right-wing politics and persistent patriarchy and class injustice.

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THE SCHOOLGIRLS (LAS NIÑAS)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 2:00PM
DIREC TED BY: Pilar Palomera, 2020, Spain, in Spanish/Catalan with English subtitles, 97 mins., Not Rated
Growing up in small-town Spain in the early ’90s, 11-year-old Celia is the responsible student and considerate daughter. When improbably cool Irma storms in from Barcelona, she upsets the girls who live by the rules and the order of the girls’ strict Catholic school, run by men from a deep-lineage aristocratic family. Unexpectedly, the two girls become fast friends, and soon Celia is swept up in a rebellious clique that breaks all the rules and flaunts authority. Her eyes newly opened to the world, Celia starts to raise questions about her own family background, including her absent father. This audaciously animated, vividly performed coming-of-age period piece is an honest depiction of an international and fully-featured second-generation feminist

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13 CICADA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 4:45PM
DIRECTED BY Matthew Fifer & Kieran Mulcare, 2020, USA, 96 mins., Not Rated

After a string of unsuccessful and awkward encounters with women, Ben, a young bisexual, goes “back on the dick” (on his sister enthusiastically exclaims). Cicada follows Ben (played by co-director/co-writer Matthew Fifer), who is white, as he comes out to the world and develops an intense relationship with Sam, a man of color struggling with deep wounds of his own. As the summer progresses and they intimately grow, Ben ultimately gains the strength to face a childhood trauma he has long suppressed. Sensitive made and beautifully crafted, this surprising feature untangles the myriad ways in which trauma can manifest themselves in adult life, particularly for that of queer man. Matthew Fifer co-wrote the film, a tender new love story for the modern era, based on his own experiences, lending Cicada an intensely personal authenticity and realism.

14 IMPERFECT
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 11:30AM
DIRECTED BY Regan Linton & Brian Malone, 2021, USA, 77 mins., Not Rated

Imperfect is a story of artists who live and perform with the uniqueness of disability, and therefore have historically been denied their place in the spotlight. The film chronicles a unique company of actors who have all nature of disabilities – from spinal cord injury to Parkinson’s Disease, cerebral palsy to autism – as they attempt an unprecedented version of Kander, Ebb, and Fosse’s beloved musical, Chicago. Capturing the raw, honest stories of the actors both inside the production process and outside the theatre in their everyday lives, Imperfect reveals a rare behind-the-scenes look at a unique community of talented disabled artists who push to succeed as professional performers no matter the obstacles or setbacks, simultaneously crushing stale notions of disability and affirming the human condition in all its uniqueness.

15 LUCHADORAS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 1:30PM
DIRECTED BY Paola Calvo & Patrick Jasim, 2021, Mexico/Germany, in Spanish with English subtitles, 77 mins., Not Rated

The riveting documentary Luchadoras is an intimate portrait of three courageous female wrestlers (Luchadoras) from Ciudad Juárez who, despite being surrounded by machismo and constant danger, both in and out of the ring, fight to redefine the image of women wrestlers (Luchadoras) from Ciudad Juárez who, despite being surrounded by machismo and constant danger, both in and out of the ring, fight to redefine the image of women. The riveting documentary Luchadoras is an intimate portrait of three courageous female wrestlers (Luchadoras) from Ciudad Juárez who, despite being surrounded by machismo and constant danger, both in and out of the ring, fight to redefine the image of women. Short-statured Mini Serinita dreams of becoming a full-time Luchadora and leaves the factory work that demeaning houses so many women for the rest of their lives. From her house, Lady Candy can see the U.S. Border where her daughters were taken but, due to visa regulations, can never cross it. And Baby Star, a young single mother who was a Lucha Libre Star at an early age, is ready to make her comeback.

16 NINJABABY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 4:00PM
DIRECTED BY Yngvild Sve Flikke, 2021, Norway, in Norwegian w/ English subtitles, 103 mins., Not Rated

Rakel, a young cartoonist with a messy room and an even messier social life, is surprised when her best friend Ingrid points out the obvious cause of Rakel’s recent body changes: She’s pregnant. Rakel spins out further upon discovering it’s too late to do anything about it. Complicating matters is Mia, the hopeless but kind-hearted one-night-stand and presumed father, who becomes yet another persistent presence in her life. As Rakel explores her life with petulant charm, the increasingly (and literally) animated fetus begins to affect her mind as much as her body, casting opinions on her every move through disorienting illustrations that nod to her graphic novel source material. Director Yngvild Sve Flikke strikes an engaging balance between irreverence and heart. But it’s the choice to let Rakel be as likable as she is caustic that elevates this frank, raw comedy to affecting coming-of-age tale.

17 NUDO MIXTECO
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 11:00AM
DIRECTED BY Ángeles Cruz, 2021, Mexico, in Spanish with English subtitles, 91 mins., Not Rated

Mexican actor-turned-director Ángeles Cruz (I Carry You With Me) crafts a powerful and poignant feature debut with this triptych of interwoven stories set in the Mixtec Gisacoo village of San Mateo during the annual celebration of the town’s patron saint, as three indigenous women navigate personal crises that put them at odds with customs and traditions which they both embrace and challenge. Maria (Sonia Couch, Potosi) is a young housekeeper who returns home to San Mateo after the death of her mother, rekindling a romance with single mother Piedad (Eleven Yañez, Days of Grace), while simultaneously suffering the wrath and rejection of her father. Chabela (Aida Lopez, Frida) is faced with the unexpected return of her long-AWOL husband Esteban (Noé Hernández, Miss Bala), who insists on a village tribunal after she refuses to take him back.

18 WE BURN LIKE THIS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 11:45AM
DIRECTED BY Alana Wakeman, 2021, USA, 81 mins., Not Rated

When 22-year-old Roe, a descendant of Holocaust survivors, is targeted by Neo-Nazis in Billings, Montana, her ancestor’s trauma becomes real. After hitting a low, Roe returns home to her mother and uncovers the truth about a childhood accident. As anti-Semitism continues to rise in the community, we follow Roe on her journey to forgive herself, her mother, and the broken world. Inspired by true events, this powerful debut feature from Alana Wakeman is a coming-of-age story shedding light on the inherited effects of historical trauma and the strength of survival and healing. Starring Madeline Coghlan (Holidays, ABC’s The Rookie) and Devery Jacobs (Reservation Dogs, American Gods).

SILENT LAND and HOLY FRIT are also in competition, see pages 9-10 for film info.
OPEN AIR CINEMA
SCREENINGS WILL TAKE PLACE OUTDOORS AT THE LOFT CINEMA

Open Air Screenings at The Loft Cinema will be using individual audio transmission. Earphones will be available for purchase at each screening (for $1 each), but we recommend that you bring your own WIRED earphones or headphones to maximize your viewing experience. (Note: airpods, bluetooth, and other wireless headphones are NOT compatible with our system.)

Open Air Cinema requires ALL customers, employees, and volunteers, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks while visiting its campus. Masks may be removed while seated and actively eating or drinking. To view all of our Covid Safety Protocols visit: loftcinema.org/covid

19 CHAMELEON STREET (4K RESTORATION)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY: Wendell B. Harris, 1990, USA, 94 mins., Not Rated

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 1990 Sundance Film Festival, Wendell B. Harris Jr.'s debut feature endures as a brilliant satirical examination of the place of race and class in the performance of American social life. Harris himself stars as William Douglas Street Jr., a real-life con man from Detroit who, disillusioned with working for his father, sets about reinventing himself—and then again, and then again—successfully impersonating a vast succession of journalists, lawyers, athletes, and even surgeons in the process. Harris’s film boldly shape-shifts to match his subject’s own chameleonic transformations, yielding not just a landmark work in American independent cinema but also a singular meditation on the mutability of Black American identity that’s dense with aesthetic and political ideas. New 4K restoration by Arbelos Films, supervised by director Wendell B. Harris.

20 HOLY FRIT (In Competition: CICAE award)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY: Justin S. Monroe, 2021, USA, 119 mins., Not Rated

Talented yet unknown Los Angeles-based artist Tim Carey is a bit of a socialite, relying on his latest hit, humor and charm to cover for his shortcomings. But when he stiffs his way into winning the commission to create the world’s largest stained-glass window of its kind, winning out over four companies from around the world, he finds himself in quite the predicament. He has no idea how to make the complicated design. After a desperate search, Tim connects with someone who might have the answer: Narcissus Quagliata, a world famous glass maestro from Italy. From the moment Narcissus arrives, Tim learns that his talent and humor will only take him so far. Setting aside his personal demons and his ego, he must submit to the artist’s lessons of a master if he is to win the three-year race against the clock. As this highly-entertaining documentary unfolds, the clash of two very big personalities slowly transforms into the forging of a lasting friendship, while offering a heartfelt and often comedic film boldly shape-shifts to match its subject’s own chameleonic transformations, yielding not just a landmark work in American independent cinema but also a singular meditation on the mutability of Black American identity that’s dense with aesthetic and political ideas. New 4K restoration by Arbelos Films, supervised by director Wendell B. Harris.

21 SILENT LAND
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY: Agnieszka Waszczyszyn, 2021, Poland/Czech Republic/Italy, in Polish/English/French/Italian, with English subtitles, 113 mins., Not Rated

Duelly tense and profoundly absent, Silent Land follows the Italian vacation of a wealthy Polish couple as it falls perfectly to pieces. Adam and Anna arrive at a picturesque Italian seaside vacation home, sugaring about the days ahead. The inconveniences of an unfilled swimming pool is only the first sign that a cloud of animus and dissatisfaction has followed them there. And then the twins witness a terrible accident from their balcony. How should they respond? An investigation by the local authorities is followed by the revelation of CCTV footage of the day after the incident. What responsibility do they bear? With their holiday at risk and the small town’s police circling ever closer, this sleek couple must test the strength of their own moral foundations. Expertly observed and carefully crafted, Silent Land, the debut feature from Agnieszka Waszczyszyn, imbues subtle detail with hidden meanings to create an intricate web of psychological suspense and crumbling, ever-shifting morals.

22 FREELAND
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY: Maria Furloni & Kate McLean, 2021, USA, 80 mins., Not Rated

In this spellbinding drama, an off-the-grid California cannabis farmer approaching her twilight years faces a threat to her livelihood after the drug's legalization. Devi, having bred legendary pot strains for decades on the remote homestead she built herself, but when cannabis is legalized, she suddenly finds herself fighting for her survival. In a tour-de-force performance as Devi, Krisha Fairchild (star of the acclaimed 2015 drama, Kekoa) brings the timeliness of a black-market grower battling to keep her farm to the screen. Featuring a heart-breaking turn by John Craven as an old flame from Devi’s hippie commune days, and Frank Mosley and Lily Gladstone as adrift harvest workers, the film is full of standout performances. Shot on location at off-the-grid pot farms during the actual harvests in Mendocino County, Leoni Krippendorff and Kate McLean imbue this emotional thriller with a deep and empathetic authenticity.

23 COCOON (KOKON)
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY: Leon Krippendorff, 2020, Germany, in German, 89 mins., Not Rated

For 14-year-old Nora, the summer of 2018 is one she'll never forget. The hotsiest ever recorded in Berlin’s history, it’s also the summer she breaks her fingers, gets her first period in the most embarrassing way possible, colors her hair, and falls in love. With a mostly absentee mother who drinks too much, and a boy-crazy older sister who doesn’t want her around, shy Nora (Lena Urszula Urzędowska, How to Sell Drugs Online (Fast)) prefers the company of her sister’s friends. But the sweet, married woman inside Nora’s head will start to change when punky classmate Romy (Jella Haase, and spending her time fantasizing about her sister’s friends. But the sweet, married woman inside Nora’s head will start to change when punky classmate Romy (Jella Haase, How to Sell Drugs Online (Fast)) brings the timely story of a real-life con man from Detroit who, disillusioned with working for his father, sets about reinventing himself—and then again, and then again—successfully impersonating a vast succession of journalists, lawyers, athletes, and even surgeons in the process. Harris’s film boldly shape-shifts to match his subject’s own chameleonic transformations, yielding not just a landmark work in American independent cinema but also a singular meditation on the mutability of Black American identity that’s dense with aesthetic and political ideas. New 4K restoration by Arbelos Films, supervised by director Wendell B. Harris.

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**IN COMPETITION: CICAE AWARD**
CICAE and Juror information on page 2
Film descriptions on pages 7-10
24 • BEANS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 5:00PM
DIRECTED BY Tracey Deer, 2020, Canada, 92 mins., Not Rated

In the summer of 1990, a twelve-year-old Mohawk girl in Kanehsatà:ke is forced to grow up fast and find her own inner warrior during an armed stand-off between her community and the government. Torn between innocent childhood and reckless adolescence, Beans (Kiawentiio Tarbell, in a powerful performance) struggles to build her own identity amidst the chaos of the uprising and the injustice of a world that sees her as “different” even in her own land. Will she succumb to the pressures of a society intent on bringing her down? Or will she rise up to assert her strength and uniqueness of character? Inspired by her own childhood, writer/director Tracey Deer’s debut feature, set during the Oka Crisis, which tore Quebec and Canada apart for 78 tense days in 1990, is a timely and touching look at the lives of Indigenous youth and families told with heartbreaking honesty.

25 • FAYA DAYI
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 11:30AM
DIRECTED BY Jessica Beshir, 2021, Ethiopia, 120 mins, Not Rated

In her hypnotic documentary feature, Ethiopian-Mexican filmmaker Jessica Beshir explores the coexistence of everyday life and its mythical undercurrents. Though a deeply personal project—Beshir was forced to leave her hometown of Harar with her family as a teenager due to growing political strife—the film she returned to make about the city, its rural Oromo community of farmers, and the harvesting of the country’s most sought-after export (the euphoria-inducing plant) is neither a straightforward work of nostalgia nor an issue-oriented doc about a particular drug culture. Rather, she has constructed something dreamlike: a film that uses light, texture, and sound to illuminate the spiritual lives of people whose experiences often become fodder for ripped-from-the-headlines tales of migration.

26 • HIVE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 11:30AM
DIRECTED BY Blerta Basholli, 2021, Kosovo, in Albanian with English subtitles, 84 mins., Not Rated

Winner of three major Sundance Film Festival 2021 awards: Audience Award, Directing Award and World Cinema Grand Jury Prize!

Hive, the debut feature by Kosovo-born filmmaker Blerta Basholli, is a searing drama based on the true story of beekeeper Fahrije Hoti, who, like many of the other women in her patriarchal village, has lived with fading hope and burgeoning grief since her husband went missing during the war in Kosovo. In order to provide for her struggling family, Fahrije (Yllka Gashi) pulls the other widows in her community together to launch a business selling a local food product. Together, they find healing and solace in considering a future without their husbands—but their will to begin living independently is met with hostility. The men in the village condemn Fahrije’s efforts to empower herself and the women around her, starting a feud that threatens their newfound sovereignty—and the financial future of Fahrije’s family.
A HERO
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 4:00PM
DIRECTED BY Asghar Farhadi, 2021, Iran/France, in Farsi with English subtitles, 127 mins., Rated PG-13

Acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi, whose intimate dramas A Separation and The Salesman both won Oscars, returns with another gripping, incisive study of human frailty. In this year’s Cannes Film Festival Grand Prix winner, Rahim (Amir Jadidi) is a calligrapher who was imprisoned when he could not repay a mounting debt. While Rahim is on a two-day release from his medium-security penitentiary, his girlfriend, Farkhondeh (Sahar Goldoust) presents him with a golden opportunity that will secure his release. Once he becomes co-called free, Rahim is flanked by his family — including a vulnerable son from a previous marriage — his adoring admirers, his weary debtors, and even his former jailers, while mounting expectations surround him like a pile of bricks. Through impeccably plotted twists that play out like a life-or-death game of snakes and ladders, our hero’s days of freedom come to feel numbered.

A Separation

DIRECTED BY Asghar Farhadi, 2021, Iran/France, in Farsi with English subtitles, 127 mins., Rated PG-13

When the death of her grandmother unleashes a generational curse, a disenchanted flamenco dancer resigned to a desk job is forced to experience the five stages of grief through a visit from her female ancestors, pushing her to finally break the cycle.

HUELLA
DIRECTED BY Gabriela Ortega, 2021, USA, 15 mins.

Three Sisters, Three Languages

Sunita Sangaré, 2021, Switzerland, 8 mins.

A series of short comedic vignettes, collected into a singular short film, linked by a specific tone and pace. They’re absurd, slow, and warm – sketch comedy at reduced speed.

SLOW VINE
DIRECTED BY Glenn Fellman, 2021, USA, 16 mins.

In this absorbing, edge-of-your-seat thriller, an Indigenous woman embarks on the fight of her life when she goes in search of her missing sister. Kaylee “K.O.” Uppashaw, a broken former boxer struggling to pick up the pieces of her life, discovers that her younger sister, Weeta, who disappeared two years ago, is possibly alive and circulating in a trafficking operation. For the man responsible, Real life US boxing world champion Kali Reis plays the fiercely driven protagonist, delivering a powerfully raw performance in a role that she co-wrote with director Josef Kubota Wladyka. The ruthless world of human trafficking is brought to life with gripping suspense, immaculate cinematography and an emotional depth that resonates long after the end credits roll. Executive produced by Darren Aronofsky.

27 A HERO

30 NARRATIVE SHORTS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 1:30PM
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FILM SPONSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA SCHOOL OF THEATRE, FILM & TELEVISION

Spanning a range of styles, emotions, and techniques, this year’s collection of short films offers something for everyone. The vision of these directors is a glimpse into the promising future of narrative filmmaking.

If you are interested in watching these films, please visit here with gripping suspense, immaculate cinematography and an emotional depth that resonates long after the end credits roll. Executive produced by Darren Aronofsky.

28 CLARA SOLA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 11:00AM
DIRECTED BY Nathalie Álvarez Mesén, 2021, Costa Rica/Belgium/Germany/Sweden, in Spanish with English subtitles, 104 mins., Not Rated

Weeta, who disappeared two years ago, is possibly alive and circulating in a trafficking operation. For the man responsible, Real life US boxing world champion Kali Reis plays the fiercely driven protagonist, delivering a powerfully raw performance in a role that she co-wrote with director Josef Kubota Wladyka. The ruthless world of human trafficking is brought to life with gripping suspense, immaculate cinematography and an emotional depth that resonates long after the end credits rol

29 CATCH THE FAIR ONE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 5:00PM
DIRECTED BY Josef Kubota Wladyka, 2021, USA, 83 mins., Not Rated

In a remote village in Costa Rica, 40-year-old Clara (Costa Rican dancer Wendy Chinchilla Araya, in her debut role) is believed to have a special connection to God. As a “healer” who has been visited by the Virgin Mary, she sustains a family and a village in need of hope, while she finds solace in her relationship with the natural world and her beloved horse, Yuca. But after years of being controlled by her mother without any agency of her own, Clara’s sexual desires are stirred by an unexpected attraction to her young niece’s (Ana Julia Porras Espinoza) kind-hearted new boyfriend (Daniel Castañeda Rincón). Clara begins to rebel — at first in subtle ways and then in ways that defy the expectations of her sleepy community and lead to explosive results. Costa Rican-Swedish director Nathalie Álvarez Mesén’s feature debut is a powerful meditation on female empowerment and the fine line between the physical and the mystical.

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SIBLINGS, RELATIONSHIPS, ADDICTION, A NEW BICYCLE, AND THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR.

AHERO

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SINCE YOU ARRIVED, MY HEART STOPPED BELONGING TO ME
DIRECTED BY Erin Semine Kökdil, 2021, USA, 21 mins.
Central American mothers journey by bus through Mexico, searching for their children who migrated north towards the United States but disappeared en route.

COFFEE & SUGAR
DIRECTED BY Andy Volk, 2021, USA, 8 mins.
In conversation with her grandson, 93-year-old Carol goes on a vibrantly animated journey as she reflects on her unbelievable marriage of 62 years. Combining a fantastic mixture of hand-drawn and stop-motion techniques, "Coffee & Sugar" explores the memories of love that transcend time and all conventions.

BLACK CANVAS
DIRECTED BY Shirin Ekhlasi, 2021, Iran/Germany, 17 mins.
Mohamed, a refugee from Guinea who has fled his country due to his opposition to the Guinean government, is seeking a new life in Germany. He tries to forget his past by learning how to paint. While everything seems to be going well, some obstacles are being placed in the way of his stay by the German government.

THE STATE OF BEING A FATHER
DIRECTED BY Diante Singley, 2021, USA, 8 mins.
Three friends talk about the past, present and future of black masculinity.

WE WERE THERE TO BE THERE
DIRECTED BY Mike Plante & Jason Willis, 2021, USA, 27 mins.
On June 13, 1978, the punk bands the Cramps and the Mutants played a free show for psychiatric patients at the Napa State Hospital in California.

MISSION: HEBRON
DIRECTED BY Rona Segal, 2020, Israel, 22 mins.
In Israel, soldiers are recruited at the age of 18. Six ex-soldiers face the camera and recall their recent service. Including rare cell-phone footage, captured by local witnesses, Mission: Hebron offers an unflinching guide to the most troubled city in the West Bank.

SWEET MARY, WHERE DID YOU GO?
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL KRATCOVICH, 2021, Australia, 16 mins.
An escaped convict lost in 1803 Australia encounters two immortal time travelers from our evolved future, on a ride of passage journey to viciously understand mortality.

OUROBORUS
DIRECTED BY Chloé Fairest, 2020, France, 8 mins.
In a suburban town, a purple liquid is starting to trap everyone who is settling into their daily routine. The more they wait to change their habits, the harder the liquid makes it to change the situation, and look for what life has to offer.

POLKA DOT BOY
DIRECTED BY Sarina Nihei, 2020, France, 7 mins.
A boy is suffering from a polka-dot disease on his arms since he can remember. Encountering some peculiar events, he discovers a hidden connection between the disease and a religious group.

METUBE 3: AUGUST SINGS ‘UNA FURTIVA LAGRIMA’
DIRECTED BY Daniela Moshel, 2020, Austria, 8 mins.
The intergalactic music nerds August and Elfi conquer the opera stage and orchestrate their final adventure in an opulent manner.

LUCID DREAMERS
DIRECTED BY Matthew Potwardowski, 2021, USA, 11 mins.
A directionless daydreamer tries to reconnect with his childhood friend, mysteriously trapped in a state of sleep paralysis.

YOUTH WILL NOT SLEEP
DIRECTED BY Perrine Lamy-Quique, 2021, France, 29 mins.
It is one of those nights when everything can change. When you don’t know anymore if time goes forward or backward like a broken record. It is a bunch of teenagers in waiting, stuck in a mountain boarding school, seeking a welcoming face. It is Judith who, above all, wants Dagan back.

A DUTIFUL SPOUSE
DIRECTED BY Michael Multathy, 2021, USA, 5 mins.
Be polite and thoughtful with whomever you quarantine.

HOMERUN
DIRECTED BY Julie Paturange, 2020, France, 5 mins.
A man quits a dancing party, he limps on his way home and races against time and gets rid of these hostilities to go home.
**LITTLE GIRL**
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 2:15PM**
DIRECTED BY Sebastian Lifshitz, 2020, France/Denmark, in French with English subtitles, 90 mins., Not Rated

Happy and healthy seven-year-old Sasha has always identified as a girl. Initially resistant, her parents have come to embrace what Sasha has known all along, and so begins their journey together in a slow-to-adapt world. *Little Girl* is a profound and heartrending portrait of Sasha’s everyday struggles to be recognized by her school, her peers, and her small community in Northeastern France, as well as a larger look at gender identity and the power of family. Beautifully crafted and intimately photographed, with a structure that wows a narrative film as much as a documentary, Cannes award-winner Sébastien Lifshitz’s (*Bambi, Wild Side*) latest gem offers compassionate insight into the pains, joys, and simple yet sublime victories Sasha experiences in her search for acceptance.

**SIMPLE PASSION**
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 4:45PM**
DIRECTED BY Danielle Arbid, 2020, France/Belgium, in French/English with English subtitles, 99 mins., Not Rated

In this adaptation of Annie Arneaux’s best-selling 1992 novel, French filmmaker Danielle Arbid vividly captures the feverish experience of an all-consuming love affair. Hélène (Laetitia Dosch) is a successful woman who teaches Humanities at the Sorbonne. She is a strong, independent woman who has raised her son alone, but when she enters into an addictive, erotically-intoxicating relationship with a younger, married Russian diplomat named Aleksandre (played by celebrated Russian Royal Ballet dancer Sergei Polunin), she is caught in the grip of romantic obsession and the black hole desire creates. As her affair with the coldly cruel Aleksandre escalates, Hélène becomes further possessed by sexual desire and the escape it offers from the banality of her daily routine. But how long can the flame burn before it rages out of control?

**THE SIAMESE BOND (LAS SIAMESAS)**
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 11:00AM**
DIRECTED BY Paula Hernández, 2020, Argentina, in Spanish with English subtitles, 80 mins., Not Rated

Mothers and daughters and the often-fraught ties that bind serve as the subject of this expressive drama from writer/director Paula Hernández, whose previous film, *The Sleepwalkers*, was selected as Argentina’s official submission for the 93rd annual Academy Awards. Forty-something Stella (Valeria Lois, *History of Fear*), single and searching, lives with her ailing mother, Clota (Rita Cortese, *Wild Tales*), whom she dutifully cares for while longing for some kind of escape. When Stella’s long-estranged father – and Clota’s long-ago-divorced husband – dies and leaves Stella two apartments in a drab coastal town, the two embark on a bus trip that will change their lives forever. Director Hernández presents us with a clear-eyed portrait of love between parent and child that’s as explosive as it is unconditional. Almost surreal in its presentation of familiar situations in unfamiliar places, the film feels both early-recognizable yet far from anything resembling real life.
36 IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 11:00AM
DIRECTED BY Hong Sangsoo, 2021, South Korea, in Korean with English subtitles, 85 mins., Not Rated

After years of living abroad, a middle-aged former actress (Lee Hye-young) has returned to South Korea to reconnect with her past—only to have her reassembled and her regrets by the film director with whom she would like to make a comeback—discover her resentments and regrets, her Financial difficulties, and the big secret that's keeping her aloof from the world. Both bagging in and cloud-cleaning in its mix of the spiritual and the cynical, In Front of Your Face finds the endlessly prolific Hong Sangsoo (Night and Day, Women on the Beach) in a particularly contemplative mood; it's a film that somehow finds that life is at once full of grace and a bad joke.

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, New York

37 THE NEUTRAL GROUND
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 2:30PM
DIRECTED BY CJ Hunt, 2021, USA, 82 mins., Not Rated

In December 2015, the New Orleans City Council voted to remove four Confederate monuments from public grounds. A forceful group of critics protested the decision, and fearing retaliation, no crew would agree to remove the statues. To comedian and The Daily Show field-producer CJ Hunt, these protestors' fanatical loyalty to the losing side of a 160 year-old war seemed like ideal material for a short, satirical internet video. But as he filmed the conflict surrounding the monuments, a bigger story began to reveal itself. Harrowing, smart, and bitterly funny, Hunt's documentary The Neutral Ground confronts the Lost Cause with refreshing clarity. With New Orleans as the main backdrop of the story, the film expands its scope to the country at large, bringing to light the fabricated histories born out of the Civil War and the hard truths much of America has yet to face about slavery. Turning an eye to the tangled thread between past and present, The Neutral Ground targets necessary change centuries in the making that might—finally—be catching up to itself.

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca, AFI Doc

38 AHED'S KNEE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 4:45PM
DIRECTED BY Nadav Lapid, 2021, Israel/France/Germany, in Hebrew/French/German with English subtitles, 109 mins., Not Rated

A film of radical style and splenetic anger, Ahed’s Knee, from acclaimed Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid (Synonyme), follows a celebrated but increasingly dissociated director (Avshalom Pollak) to a small town in the desert region of Arava for a screening of his latest film. Already anguished by the news of his mother’s fatal illness (Lapid’s film was made soon after the death of his own mother, who had worked as his editor for many years), he grows frustrated with a speech-restricting form he is encouraged to sign by a local Ministry of Culture worker (Nir Papai). The confrontation ultimately sends him into a spiral of rage aimed at what he perceives as the censorship, hypocrisy, and violence of the Israeli government. This boldly shot and conceived work, which won the Grand Jury Prize at this year’s Cannes Film Festival, feels as though it has welled up from the depths of its maker’s soul.

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto, New York

39 WHEEL OF FORTUNE AND FANTASY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 1:45PM
DIRECTED BY Ryusuke Hamaguchi, 2021, Japan, in Japanese with English subtitles, 121 mins., Not Rated

In this altogether delightful triptych of stories, director Ryusuke Hamaguchi (Happy Film) proves he’s one of contemporary cinema’s most agile dramatists of modern love and obsession. Whether charting the surprise revelation of a blossoming love triangle, a young couple’s revenge plot against an older teacher gonemax, or a case of mistaken romantic identity, Hamaguchi details the sudden reversals, power shifts, and role-playing that drive these relationships new and old. Playfully inspired by life’s tiny miracles, Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy is both ironic and tender, a lively and intricately woven work of imagination that questions whether fate or our own values decide our destinies.

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Berlin, New York

40 STRAWBERRY MANSION
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 10:00PM
DIRECTED BY Kentucker Audley & Albert Birney, 2021, USA, 91 mins., Not Rated

In the dystopian future of 2035, where dreams can be taxed and invaded by advertisers, government agent James Preble (co-director Kentucker Audley) travels to the eccentric home of aging artist Arabella Isadora (Penny Fuller) to audit her dreams and finds himself falling in love as he explores her subconscious, stored on a vast library of VHS tapes. Beautifully imagined and realized by co-directors Audier and Albert Birney, who shot the film digitally then transferred to 16mm to achieve its distinctive, candy-color-saturated look, Strawberry Mansion is a surreal sci-fi romantic comedy which reminds us that our dreams may be our most precious natural resource.

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Sundance, Fantasia

41 AFTER BLUE (DIRTY PARADISE)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 10:00PM
DIRECTED BY Bertrand Mandico, 2021, France, in French/English/Polish with English subtitles, 127 mins., Not Rated

Winner! Best Film, Fantastic Fest 2021!

From the eccentric imagination of French filmmaker Bertrand Mandico (The Wh Wh Boys), comes After Blue (Dirty Paradise), a shockingly unique erotic sci-fi acid western that explores the boundaries between genre and avant-garde. In a far-flung future, humanity has left Earth for After Blue, a strange planet whose peculiar effects on hair make the realm uniquely hospitable to women. When Roxy (Paula Louns), the lonely teenage daughter of the colony’s hairdresser Zora (Elinor Løvseth), impulsively38
unscores a notorious criminal who promises to grant her three wishes, the ensuing violence exiles mother and daughter from the settlement, as they try to track down and bring this legendary killer to justice.

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Toronto, Locarno, Fantastic Fest
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