



**mammoth
film lakes
festival '26**

wednesday, may 20		6:15pm	9:00pm
FOREST SERVICE		Marlee Matlin Sierra Spirit Award Children of a Lesser God	
SIERRA CENTER			Opening Night Gala

thurs. may 21	11:00am	2:00pm	5:30pm	8:00pm	10:00pm
FOREST SERVICE	Shorts Block 1	Doc Shorts 1	Mojave to Mammoth	Danny Is My Boyfriend	
SIERRA CENTER		Memory of Princess Mumbi	Mono 222		
DISTANT BREWING					Late Night Happy Hour

fri. may 22	11:00am	1:30pm	4:00pm	6:30pm	8:30pm
FOREST SERVICE	Animation Shorts	Shorts Block 2	Shorts Block 3	The Moths & the Flame	Ten Will
SIERRA CENTER		Welded Together	Spring Came on Laughing	Music Videos	

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

sat. may 23		10:00am	12:30pm	2:45pm	5:00pm	7:30pm
FOREST SERVICE	Panel Discussion	Toronto Apartment	Shorts Block 4	Sugarfly	Debt to the Dead	
SIERRA CENTER		Noir	Inborn	Doc Shorts 2		
LIMELIGHT MAMMOTH			Food & Wine Event			
WIND DRIFT STUDIOS						Mountains of the Moon
MAIN ST. PIZZA & TAP					10:00pm Filmmaker Bash	

sun. may 24		10:30am	12:30pm	2:45pm	5:00pm	7:00pm
FOREST SERVICE	Shorts Block 5	Shorts Block 6	I Got Bombed at Harvey's	Doc Shorts 3	Nuisance Bear	
SIERRA CENTER		Dreaming of Lions	Tony Odyssey	One in a Million		9:30pm Awards Ceremony & Party



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WELCOME, MLFF FILMMAKERS AND ATTENDEES, TO MONO COUNTY!



BEYOND IMAGINATION



LOCATION AND PERMIT INFO: FilmMonoCounty.com 800-845-7922

WELCOME TO MLFF '26

We are honored to celebrate this year's Sierra Spirit Award recipient, Marlee Matlin, whose groundbreaking career has redefined representation and expanded what is possible in film. In addition to her recognition, this year's program includes bold, award-winning films from top-tier festivals side-by-side with boundary-pushing new discoveries—reflecting the same spirit of storytelling that Marlee has always championed.



Shira Dubrovner

Festival Director

Welcome to the stunning natural beauty of Mammoth Lakes and to five days of off-leash creativity and bonding with like-minded artists, people who have gone to the trouble of getting their genius on and lobbing it out into the world. We do our best each year to look beyond the trends and the career trajectories and just screen work that's got that special je ne sais quoi. And to keep our sense of humor about it. I can't wait to meet everyone in person and see the 2026 MLFF community come to life.



Paul Sbrizzi

Director of Programming



— IT WILL MAKE YOU QUESTION —
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#KEEPMAMMOTHUNREAL

MAP & LOCATIONS

1. US Forest Service Auditorium
2510 Main St.

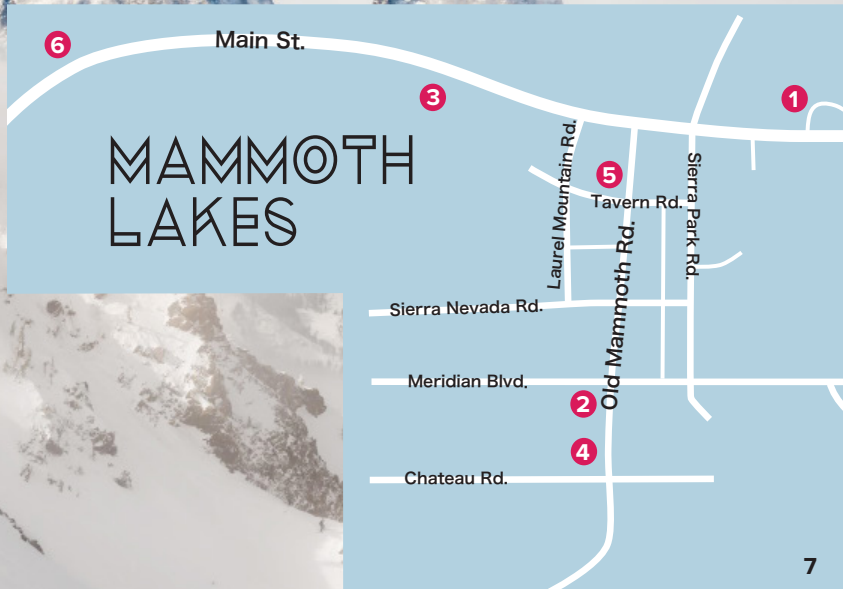
**2. Sierra Center
Screening Room & Lounge /
Festival HQ**
452 Old Mammoth Rd.

3. Main St. Pizza & Tap
3399 Main St.

4. Distant Brewing
568 Old Mammoth Rd.

5. Wind Drift Studios
94 Old Mammoth Rd.

6. Limelight Mammoth
132 Lake Mary Rd.



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**Stacey & Paul
Von Berg**

OPENING NIGHT SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Wednesday May 20, 6:15pm

children of a lesser god



USA, 119 min

Starting his new job as an instructor at a New England school for the deaf, James Leeds meets Sarah Norman, a young deaf woman who works at the school as a member of the custodial staff. A romance slowly develops between the pair in spite of Sarah's withdrawn emotional state due in part to her difficult relationship with her mother.

Director: Randa Haines

Writers: Mark Medoff, Hesper Anderson, James Carrington

Featuring: Marlee Matlin, William Hurt, Piper Laurie

Screening
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OPENING NIGHT SIERRA SPIRIT AWARD PRESENTATION:

Marlee Matlin

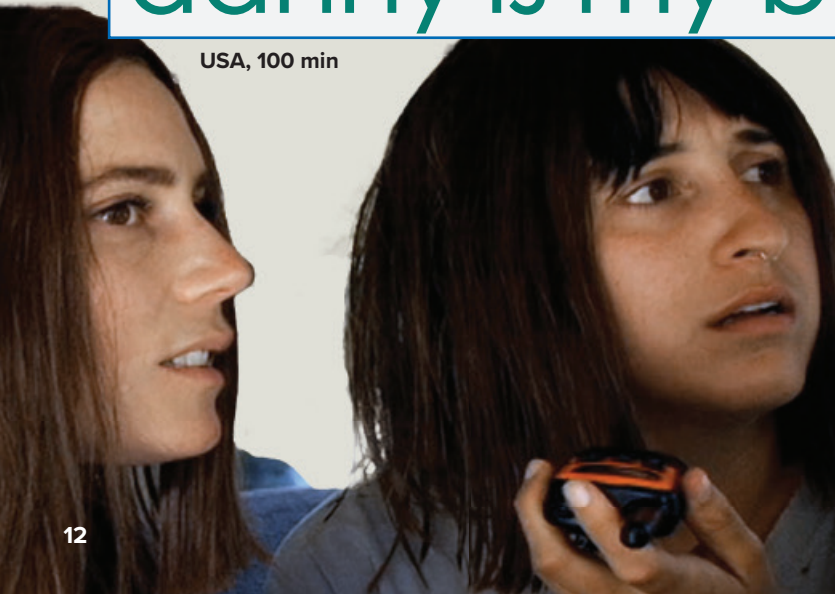
The festival's highest honor, the Sierra Spirit Award, is given to someone who has forged a unique, independent path in the world of film and television. The festival will present this award to Academy Award®-winning actress Marlee Matlin, as part of a special 40th anniversary screening of "Children of a Lesser God," including a moderated conversation about her career. Previous recipients of the award include Academy Award-winning actress Melissa Leo, Joe Dante, John Sayles, and esteemed alumni of the Groundlings including Cheri Oteri, Mindy Sterling and Julia Sweeney.

Marlee Matlin is the youngest person to receive an Academy Award for Best Actress. Her other credits include Academy Award Best Picture winner "Coda," "Reasonable Doubts," which earned her two Golden Globe Award nominations and a People's Choice Award, "West Wing," and "The L Word." She also received four Emmy nominations for her work on "Seinfeld," "Picket Fences," "The Practice," and "Law and Order: SVU." Matlin became the first Deaf person to join the DGA, with her directorial debut for the series "Accused."



danny is my boyfriend

USA, 100 min



Tightly-wound Lucy has moved back in with her mother after a breakup so bad it landed her in a psych ward. So when her new boyfriend Danny asks her to dogsit while he's away for his nephew's non-denominational circumcision party, it feels like proof she's back on track. Until a stranger recognizes the three-legged dog... as HER boyfriend's dog.

Director/Writers: Lucy Sandler, Mechi Lakatos

Cast: Lucy Sandler, Mechi Lakatos, Brooke Smith, Rachel Brunner, Maleah Goldberg, Michelle Thompson

Director Bio: Mechi and Lucy have been creative collaborators and best friends for eight years. They feel called to the process of scratching at something larger than ourselves, and committed to the complex work of pulling back the veil of illusion that the modern world has erected between us and the depths of our potential to experience the unknowable.

N. American NARRATIVE FEATURE

Saturday May 23, 7:30pm

debt to the dead

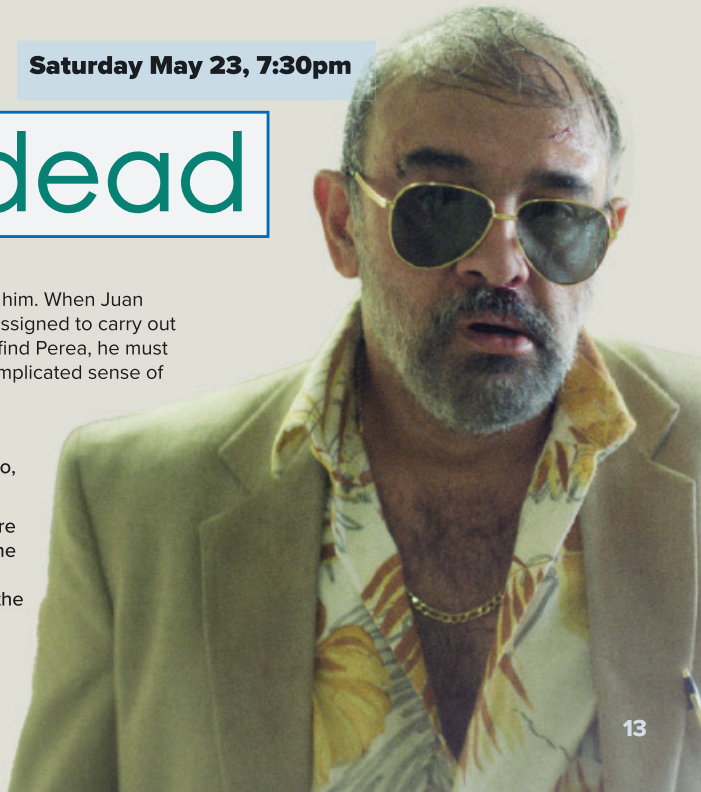
Mexico/Spain, 100 min, International Premiere

Cipriano Zuzunaga is a worn-out policeman whose best days are behind him. When Juan Perea, the son of a prominent congressman, is kidnapped, Zuzunaga is assigned to carry out a solitary investigation in a city neighborhood teeming with suspects. To find Perea, he must confront not only a web of secrets but also his own troubled past and complicated sense of fatherhood.

Director/Writer: Daniel Castro Zimbrón

Cast: Gerardo Trejoluna, Brontis Jodorowsky, Juan Daniel García Treviño, Alexis Ayala

Director Bio: Daniel's previous feature films *The Darkness* and *Tau* were showcased at numerous international festivals, including the Atelier at the Cannes Film Festival and the Morelia International Film Festival. He has served as a jury member for prestigious programs and grants including the Fulbright-García Robles scholarship and IMCINE's screenwriting support fund. He is currently a recipient of the Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte, the prestigious artistic grant awarded by Mexico's Ministry of Culture.



N. American

NARRATIVE FEATURE

mono 222

USA, 80 min,
World Premiere

Thursday May 21, 5:30pm

friendship, and desire in the city of dreams. Duke and Ava navigate a volatile romance fueled by impulsive gestures and fragile vulnerability, while Kia and Iris search for intimacy and connection through the rhythms of music that define their bond.

Alongside them, other couples and friends stumble through the tangled maze of passion, heartbreak, and self-discovery of their early twenties.

Director: Quinton Dominguez / **Writers:** Quinton Dominguez, Maya Spangler, Cody Simon

Cast: Angel Juarez, Drake Jazz Brown, Faith Harper, Romy Flores, Clip Brookins

Director Bio: Quinton Kienow Dominguez is a filmmaker raised in Phoenix who first found his voice through music videos and documentary filmmaking, capturing raw emotion and the spirit of his community. After moving to Los Angeles to study film, he developed a distinct cinematic style.

gobbledygook

directed by Lizzete Flores, Nathaniel Elegino

USA, 12 min, West Coast Premiere

A girl encounters an other worldly entity through her television set with every click of the remote.



N. American
NARRATIVE FEATURE

Friday May 22, 8:30pm

USA, 74 min

ten will

When his van breaks down, Tennessee Williams (AKA Ten Will), a recently released convict, tears through the streets of LA, colliding with everyone in his path in a desperate attempt to register on time as a sex offender.

Director/Writer: Max DeFalco

Cast: Mikul Robins

Director Bio: Max DeFalco is an independent writer/director from Long Island, NY, now based in LA. He draws inspiration from the chaos, colorful characters, and unpredictability he stumbles upon in everyday life. He was selected for the 2025 CAA Moebius Film Festival and UTA's New Wave Showcase. His shorts have played at MLFF, Palm Springs Shorts Festival and many others. He is represented by UTA.

blinks in mimi's singing voice



directed by Natalie Xie

China, 6 min

Sleep paralysis and
glimpses of wonder.

N. American

NARRATIVE FEATURE

Saturday May 23, 12:30pm

toronto apartment

Canada, 70 min, World Premiere

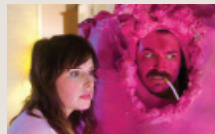
Dumped and left with an apartment he can't afford, Toronto tenant Lock hatches a scheme: sublease his unit for an hour or two at a time. Before long, his 'community space' is a smashing success and becomes a hub for the city's musicians, dating groups and terrorist cells.

Director/Writer: Tristan Wheeler

Cast: Tristan Wheeler, Alex Jodi Verge, Mitchell Graw, Owen Hooper, Jessica Grossman, Neal Armstrong

Director Bio: Tristan Wheeler is a Toronto-based filmmaker, writer and actor. His shorts *Poet Laureate* (2023) and *I'm Sorry Cody* (2024), have played at Insomniac Film Festival and Bleeding Edge. *Toronto Apartment* is his first feature film.

i killed osama!?



directed by Maxwell Nalevansky, Carl Fry
USA, 3 min,
West Coast Premiere

An absurdist, surreal satire of post-9/11 American ideologies.



International
NARRATIVE FEATURE

Sunday May 24, 12:30pm

dreaming of lions

Portugal/Brazil/Spain, 88 min

The raw, touching, surreal and hilarious story of Gilda (Denise Fraga), a Brazilian woman with terminal cancer. Her only desire is to die without pain while she still recognizes herself, but she fears the risks of her past failed suicide attempts. She connects with Amadeu, a much younger kindred spirit. as she becomes involved with a dubious clandestine euthanasia organization.

Director/Writer: Paolo Marinou-Blanco

Featuring: Denise Fraga, João Nunes Monteiro, Joana Ribeiro, Victoria Guerra

Director Bio: Paolo Marinou-Blanco is a Portuguese and Greek director, producer & screenwriter born in New York City, with a B.A. in Philosophy from London School of Economics and an MFA in Film from New York University. Following an internship with Spike Lee, Paolo wrote, directed and produced his first feature *Goodnight Irene*, which screened at 30 festivals worldwide and was theatrically released in Portugal and the UK.



A photograph of a slum in Umata, Kenya, with people sitting in the foreground. The background shows a dense cluster of makeshift wooden buildings built on a hillside. In the foreground, two women are sitting on the ground, one in an orange shirt and another in a patterned shirt. The overall scene is one of poverty and displacement.

International
NARRATIVE FEATURE

Thursday May 21, 2:00pm

memory of princess mumbi

Kenya, Switzerland,
Saudi Arabia, 80 min

In 2013, filmmaker Kuve travels to Umata to document the aftermath of a war that revived ancient kingdoms. There, he meets Mumbi, who challenges him to make his film without the use of AI. As Kuve searches for his own voice, he begins to realize that even in a broken world, beauty can be found in the small human moments we often overlook.

Director/Writer: Damien Hauser

Cast: Shandra Apondi, Ibrahim Joseph, Samson Waithaka, Michael Garama

Director Bio: Damien Hauser is a Swiss-Kenyan filmmaker who has produced a wide range of short films, music videos, plays, and commercials. In recent years, he has completed three feature films that have screened at major international festivals including Tallinn Black Nights, IFFR Rotterdam, and BFI London. His films have also received several awards and are available on platforms such as Netflix.

International **NARRATIVE FEATURE**

Noir traces the anatomy of a nightmare, following the spark that emerges from darkness. Kerem, a fifty year old filmmaker, retreats to an island seeking solitude. One day, he attends a funeral and finds himself shedding tears without knowing whose coffin lies before him. When it is revealed to be that of a young woman, rumors begin to spread. Her fiance, Orhan, interprets the stranger's mourning with jealousy and anger. What begins as personal tension soon escalates into collective violence and chaos among the islanders.

Saturday May 23, 12:30pm

Director: Ragıp Ergün

Writers: Ragıp Ergün, Samet Dogan

Featuring: Cansel Elcin, Yigit Efe Tuzlacioglu, Ece Gokcen, Elif Cansu Akbıyık, Nazan Bayazit, Ceren Kose, Erol Babaoğlu, Mesut Tozkoparan

Director Bio: After his studies, Ergün turned to advertising and fashion, producing projects for international brands and creating experimental works across diverse visual fields. As a filmmaker, Ergün also works in cinematography, creative direction, and screenwriting. At the same time, he is a painter. For him, image and content carry equal weight: form is not meant to soften narrative and character but to deepen and elevate them.

noir

Turkey, 110 min, US Premiere

International

NARRATIVE FEATURE

Friday May 22, 4:00pm

Egypt, France, 96 min,
N. American Premiere

spring came on laughing

Unveiling the hidden complexities of joyous Spring, this black comedy anthology presents four tales and a captivating finale. From a chaotic brunch turned proposal to a raging birthday bash, misunderstandings and chaos ensue. Accusations of theft shake a hair salon, while a wedding day turns into a nightmare. As the seasons shift, the autumn finale brings hope for rejuvenation.

Director/Writer: Noha Adel

Cast: Sally Abdo Mokhtar Younis, Shady Hakim, Rahab Anan, Wessam Salah, Reem El-Aqqad, Roka Yasser, Carol Ackad, Mona Elnamoury, Kawthar Younis

Director Bio: Adel previously made the short films *Into Reverse* and *Once Upon a Time in the Café*, which screened in various local and international festivals, where they won multiple awards.

International
NARRATIVE FEATURE

tony odyssey

Sunday May 24, 2:45pm

Brazil, USA, 105 min

Tony and his best friend, Ivy, plan to rob the bar where he's trapped in servitude, stealing a reality-altering drug that launches them into a psychedelic odyssey. As they navigate surreal visions and shattered memories, Tony searches for answers and the power to rewrite his fate—facing his past and confronting God himself.

Director/Writer: Thales Banzai

Featuring: Kelson Succi, Iraci Estrela, Sandro Guerra

Director Bio: From VHS shorts in the '90s to skate promos on Mini-DV in the 2000s, Brazilian director Thales Banzai has always been immersed in filmmaking. His work has screened at festivals in Brazil and beyond, spanning experimental films, documentaries, commercials and music videos. Now based in LA, he continues to develop narrative projects, including his graphic novel *Selva*. *Tony Odyssey* is his first feature.



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Sunday May 24, 2:45pm

USA, 94 min,
West Coast Premiere

i got bombed at harvey's

On August 26, 1980, an elaborately constructed bomb packed with 1,000 pounds of dynamite was wheeled into Harvey's Wagon Wheel Casino in Lake Tahoe alongside a handwritten demand for \$3 million. What followed was a surreal 33-hour standoff between the FBI and a device so intricate it was considered virtually undefeatable. But beneath the spectacle and suspense lies a far more dark and personal story.

Directors: Amy Bandlien Storkel, Bryan Storkel

Featuring: Jim Birges, Igor Grbesic, Ethan Riley, Ian S. Peterson, Michael Solarez, Jennylyn Caterina, Marianne Wiedeman

Director Bio: Bryan and Amy Storkel directed the Emmy Award-winning documentary *The Pez Outlaw* (MLFF 2022) and the Netflix original feature documentary *Bitconned*. They were showrunners/producers for *It's Florida Man* (HBO) and *Smugshot* (AMC). They just finished an original 4-part series on Hulk Hogan for Netflix.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Friday May 22, 6:30pm

the moths & the flame



USA, 97 min, N. American Premiere

In Pahokee, Florida, the myth of the absent Black father is contradicted every day: housework, children's birthdays, neighborhood, care. In vignettes brimming with solidarity, the film traces out its protagonists' self-confidence. Calm and attentive.

Director/Writer: Kevin Contento

Featuring: Jean Voltaire, Malik Hall, Maliyah Hall, Malik Hall Jr., Dirwin, Tavion Jamal Dent, Wiltavious Mckelton, Willy

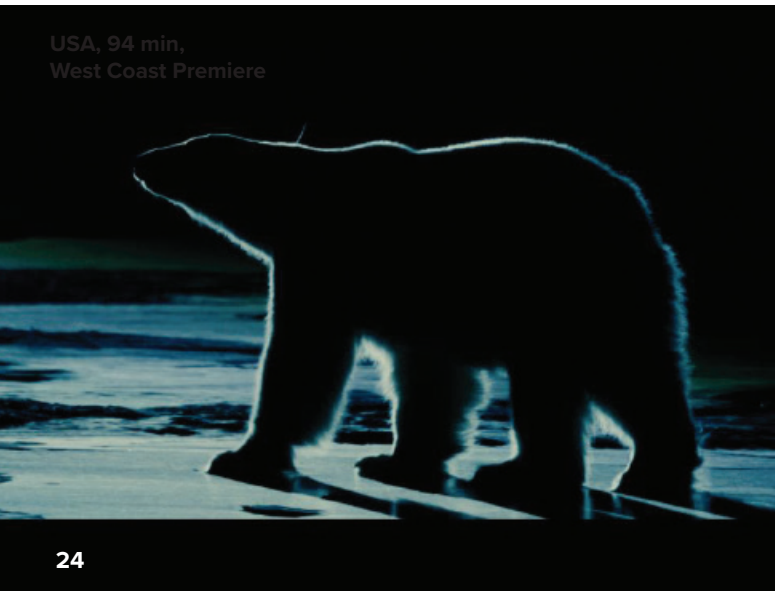
Director Bio: Kevin Contento is a Colombian-American filmmaker who was born in Plantation, Florida, in 1990. *The Moths & the Flame*, his second feature film, had its World Premiere at the Berlinale Forum. Contento's filmography combines documentary, narrative, and experimental narrative techniques. He draws inspiration from Sufi parables and combines them with the experience of living in Florida.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Sunday May 24, 7:00pm

USA/Canada/UK, 89 min

USA, 94 min,
West Coast Premiere



24

nuisance bear

A polar bear is forced to navigate a human world of tourists, wildlife officers, and hunters as its ancient migration collides with modern life. When a sacred predator is branded a nuisance, it becomes unclear who truly belongs in this shared landscape.

Director/Writers: Jack Weisman, Gabriela Osio Vanden

Featuring: Mike Tunalaaq Gibbons

Director Bio: Jack Weisman's works of creative nonfiction have premiered at festivals including Sundance, SXSW, TIFF, and IDFA. Jack's short film *Nuisance Bear* (2022), also co-directed with Gabriela Osio Vanden, earned a spot on the Academy Awards® Shortlist, two Emmy nominations, and top honors at Cinema Eye Honors, Critics' Choice Documentary Awards, and IDA Documentary Awards.

Screening
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DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Saturday May 23, 5:00pm

sugarfly



USA/Germany, 88 min, World Premiere

A shockingly intimate and revealing portrait of two highly creative and intelligent old souls. After a suicide attempt, Skye resolves to get sober and rebuild his life. He leans on his closest friend, Big Jake, a longtime addict whose health is rapidly declining. As Skye enters detox and a rehabilitation program far from Seattle, institutional failures and personal limits pull both men back toward the lives they are trying to escape. A palpable emotional bond between the two men and the filmmaker allows us to witness the beauty of their spirits and the depth of their struggles with inner demons with great empathy, employing an unsettlingly stark visual approach.

Director: Max Schoenfeld

Featuring: Skye Thomas and Kenneth "Big Jake" Madsen

Director Bio: Max Schoenfeld is a filmmaker from Seattle, Washington, and a graduate of Brown University in English with a focus on nonfiction writing. Moving from writing into cinema, he has worked in screenwriting and post-production before directing his debut feature documentary, Sugarfly.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Friday May 22, 1:30pm

France/Netherlands/Belgium,
96 min, West Coast Premiere



welded together

Katya's life as a welder is full of daily struggles, but her true battle lies within. As she strives to weld together the broken pieces of her past, she is faced with harsh reality. Katya tries to protect her little sister from a tragic fate, hoping for a better future for the both of them.

Director: Anastasiya Miroshnichenko

Director Bio: Anastasiya has worked since 2008 as a director of historical, entertainment and scientific TV projects. Her first documentary *Crossroads* (2014) tells a story of a homeless artist, and had its world premiere at Warsaw IFF and won a Special Mention Jury Award and the Audience Award. Her next documentary, *Debut* (2017), observed a theater club in a women's prison; it premiered at IDFA and received a Special Mention at the Krakow Film Festival.

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Saturday May 23, 2:45pm

inborn



USA, 77 minutes, World Premiere

Battling a lifetime of repression and trauma, a man poisons his parents and uses their corpses to recreate a happier childhood. Even in death, however, his parents resist. Simple, shocking, darkly beautiful imagery and an extreme central performance dramatize a singularly disturbed psyche.

Director/Writer: Joseph Hirsh

Featuring: Joseph Hirsh, Tyler Rainer, Karen Penley, Art Roberts

Director Bio: Joey Hirsh is a multimedia artist living in Los Angeles. After helming numerous genre-bending short and mid-length films, his first feature was *Pure Gesticulation* (MLFF 2023). He is also a novelist, poet, composer, and visual artist.

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Saturday May 23, 7:30pm

USA, 92 min,
World Premiere

mountains of the moon

The unseen connections between sport, life, music, and the living earth, set to the timeless tunes of the Grateful Dead. Captured almost entirely at night using cutting-edge cinematography, lasers, animation, and projection mapping. The world's greatest athletes, adventurers, and thinkers appear as luminous figures, navigating through the natural world.

Director: Chris Benchetler

Featuring: Chris Benchetler, Michelle Parker, Elena Hight, Alannah Yip, Hamish McArthur, Sam Stroh, Michael Gardner, Sam Kuch

Director Bio: Chris Benchetler is a professional skier and multidisciplinary artist who has redefined the intersection of sport, art, and nature. Raised in California's Sierra Nevada, his deep connection to the outdoors fuels his creative expression—from murals and custom skis to boundary-pushing films like *Fire On The Mountain* and *Mountains of the Moon*.

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Sunday May 24, 5:00pm

one in a million



USA/UK, 104 min

We first meet Israa in Turkey at age 11 as she and her family of Syrian refugees prepare to cross the Aegean Sea, risking everything in search of safety and a better life in Germany. What unfolds is a deeply personal chronicle of war, exile and heartbreak, as she grows up navigating adolescence, identity and belonging far from the home she was forced to leave. Filmed over ten years, *One in a Million* follows Israa on an extraordinary journey from childhood to adulthood.

Director/Writers: Itab Azzam, Jack MacInnes

Featuring: Israa

Director Bio: Born in Syria, Itab Azzam currently resides in London. She is an award-winning filmmaker, producer and humanitarian. She works with Syrian refugee women on empowerment, education, and through Film for Freedom, an initiative that trains refugee women in filmmaking. Born and raised in London, filmmaker Jack MacInnes moved to Damascus where he met and ultimately married co-director Itab. His work has appeared on Netflix, BBC and PBS and received the Emmy, BAFTA, Peabody, Grierson, and Prix Italia Awards.

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2026 MLFF SHORTS

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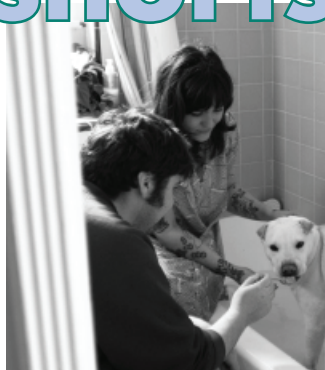
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narrative shorts 1

kràlik

directed by Alessandro Marchiori
Rocca / written by Alessandro
Marchiori Rocca, Giulia Grandinetti,
Giorgio Moretti
Italy, 14 min, US Premiere

A father is haunted by a recurring
nightmare where his son kills him.
Life in their farm becomes
increasingly difficult,
as their territory
shrinks.



ufo

director: Gabriel Bernini
/ writers: Gabriel Bernini,
Alexandra Jade

USA, 8 min, World Premiere
A suburban couple attempt
day-to-day normalcy while a
UFO hovers over their home.



chaika

directed by Ingrid Paola Bonilla Rodríguez
Colombia, 14.5 min, N. American Premiere
Valentina, a 76-year-old Russian
cosmonaut, receives a late letter from
Cuba inviting her to an agricultural
mission on Mars.



the strange performances at the church

directed by Ray Smiling

USA, 14 min

When a Tiny Desk Concert style music program loses its guest 90 minutes before filming, chaos ensues, and a deep-seated familial conflict comes to a head.

Thursday May 21, 11:00am



too romantic

directed by Talia Light Rake • USA, 24 min

When a collaboration between two influencers unexpectedly turns romantic, Samantha Carr's perfect night takes a downturn, forcing her to navigate today's toughest choice: what's more important -- love or Likes?



nicky and mike are in beach formal

directed by Michael Spencer

USA, 3 min, West Coast Premiere

Nicky and Mike get sidetracked while looking for their friends' wedding at Coney Island.

narrative shorts 2

Friday May 22, 1:30pm



the sandman

directed by David Auerbach,
Erich Wilhelm Zander / written by
David Auerbach

Austria/USA, 6.5 min, US Premiere
A geological fairy tale.



boat movie

directed by Anna Torzullo, Stephanie Ibarra
USA, 16 min, World Premiere

A group of friends go on a boat outing to witness
an unprecedented natural phenomenon.

terry's calendar

directed by Chris Connor • USA, 16.5 min, West Coast Premiere

A lonely, internet addicted neurotic orders a gimmicky calendar from TikTok hoping that it'll inspire him to take charge of his life. But it completely backfires, sending him into existential despair and dangerous obsession.



be a man

directed by Lucas Parra / written by Lucas Parra, Valèria Cuní • Spain, 20 min, West Coast Premiere

Miguelito, an innocent seven-year-old boy, accompanies his father and grandfather on a hunt that will change him forever.

afternoon within afternoon

directed by Rafael Ramos
Brazil, 16 min, World Premiere

On Sunday afternoons, Tati's family often gathers at her house. But Tati recently turned 18, and a new event in her life turns this family Sunday into a dive into her questions about life.



narrative shorts 3

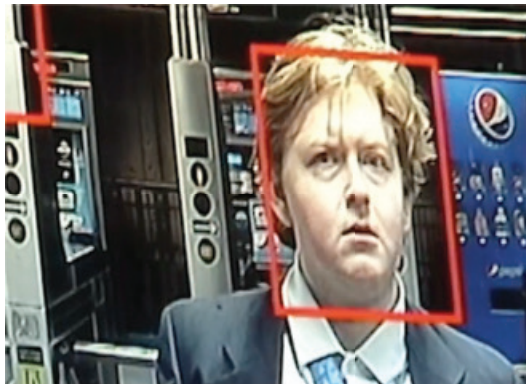
Friday May 22, 4:00pm

cold feet

directed by Heather Hill

USA, 12 min, World
Premiere

Kitty has always followed her best friend Ramona's lead. When an impromptu double date goes awry, she has to find her own way home for the first time.



brain rot

directed by Jackson Coates

USA, 13 min, West Coast Premiere

Benji needs his phone to go to sleep.



to all the girls i never banged: i'm sorry

directed by Harry Plowden

UK, 19.5 min

A dark secret is exposed when Ed and Nath, two Brits abroad, compete for the same girl while leading a hostel bar crawl in Budapest.



busy bodies

directed by
Kate Renshaw-Lewis

USA, 6 min

Tiny workers run a domesticated factory under the supervision of giant hands.

together up there

directed by Hiroyuki Seki

Japan, 25 min, N. American
Premiere

A couple trying to climb the mountain they once visited on their honeymoon. The husband was aiming for the summit while carrying a certain secret.



narrative shorts 4

dyspepsia by salty biscuits

directed by Ahsabul Yamin • Bangladesh, 10 min

A paranoid young man, convinced a bug he swallowed is living in his stomach, embarks on a darkly absurd quest with his friend to find relief before his mind and body spiral out of control.



collaborative efforts

directed by Daniel Neofetou, Ralph Pritchard

UK, 18 min, World Premiere

Rivalries escalate at an east London house party full of artists.



a very serious disease

directed by Max Cantor • USA, 14 min, World Premiere / written by Mike Bucchino, Flula Borg, Max Cantor

A decidedly unfunny German doctor discovers a neurological virus that is destroying people's senses of humor.

Saturday May 23, 2:45pm

a poem

directed by Vasilios Papaioannu
USA/Greece/Italy, 3 min

In an underground garage, a voice message becomes the testament of a love left in limbo, while fleeting images allude to the moment that led to it.



los ingrávidos

directed by Antonio Morra
Italy/Mexico, 14 min, US Premiere

In a remote village in Mexico where Mayan culture is still alive, Alonso and Bryan search for their missing friend Gustavo. They will be forced to confront their fears on a journey into darkness and personal growth.

cacciatori d'uranio

directed by Davide Palella
Italy, 19 min, N. American Premiere
Planet Earth, year 2960 AD. A group of uranium hunters returns to the blue planet in search of the precious metal. The crackling of the Geiger counter leads one team member deep into a cave. There, the explorer encounters an ancient relic from the old world, awakening it from a slumber that had lasted for centuries, perhaps millennia.



narrative shorts 5

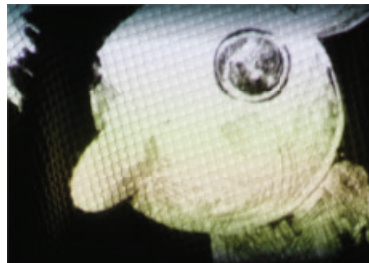
Sunday May 24, 10:30am

gonna die more

directed by Jarrod Holloway

USA, 20 min, World Premiere

Newly released from a psychiatric hospital in the 1980s, Ennis discovers a message in an old yearbook that leads him headlong into a supernatural mystery.



better half

directed by Grace Demopoulos

USA, 2.5 min, West Coast Premiere

A girl transforms into a rabbit after encountering an alluring community.

fan

directed by Philippe Berthelet
Canada, 8.5 min, West Coast
Premiere

Victor is Camille's table fan.
Following a rough heatwave, she
decides to replace him with an
air conditioner. Victor will try to
surmount this act of treason.



operation wandering soul ////////// ghost tape number 10

directed by Ryan Betschart • USA, 6 min

At a seance, an American war vet upset
over his daughter's suicide is tricked by
con artists who end up playing him a
tape of his own war crimes, triggering
him to take his life.

the glass magazine

directed by Josu Vaquerizo

UK, 39 min, West Coast Premiere

Experimental musician and shoplifter
Trudy arrives at a guardianship building
full of eccentrics to take care of a
dog in exchange for free
accommodation.



narrative shorts 6



agàta

directed by Benedetta Fiore / written by
Benedetta Fiore, Öykü Aydın

Italy, 7 min, US Premiere

On the day of the Spring celebration Agàta, a 16-years-old introverted girl, tries to prove her worth in her closed village community in the Czech Republic.

Sunday May 24, 12:30pm

tomorrow

directed by Christian Meola

USA, 27 min, World Premiere

Eric and Oliver develop an unexpected bond after a hug that lasts longer than usual.



tears

directed by Paulina Ziolkowska

Poland, 9 min

A film about the impossibility of making a decision. A world filled with possibilities and a lost woman who may not want to choose at all.



god is delighted when we are in motion

directed by Sophia Alloggiamento
USA, 14.5 min, West Coast Premiere
A single day unfolds in vignettes as
eighteen choir boys pass through
moments of quiet tenderness.



leivalaul

(Breadsong)

directed by Katariina Aule

Estonia, 16 min

The story of a 19th century rural family who discover a catchy song that is broadcast from the future through the family children after they are accidentally fed some mouldy bread. It is a story about greed, and how gold fever can make a man blind to true treasures in life, eventually breaking a family.



doc shorts 1

gold man

directed by Rishi Chandna

India, 14 min, World Premiere

A satirical exploration of society's obsession with the opulent, through a few days in the life of the 'Gold Man of Bihar' - a gilded age icon who flaunts his wealth audaciously, wearing five kilos of gold jewellery every day. Even as the weight of fame presses down on him sometimes.



hyodo's paradise

directed by Jacque Rabie

USA/Japan, 22 min

Hyodo, an unconventional character amidst the normalcy and conformity of Japan, lives in a vibrant house filled with hundreds of sex dolls.

Thursday May 21, 2:00pm

going nowhere fast

directed by Dylan Paffe

Canada/USA, 15 min

Three adults living with disabilities navigate an unconventional love triangle in this bittersweet portrait of resilience and connection.



jar of time

directed by Nevena Semova

Bulgaria, 27.5 min, N. American Premiere

One of the last nomadic Pomaks in Bulgaria search for the finest grazing fields for their cows and sell milk to support themselves. Even though dairy production regulations have made their livelihood illegal, the couple is dedicated to preserving their freedom.



doc shorts 2

stamp on my threshold like a cowboy

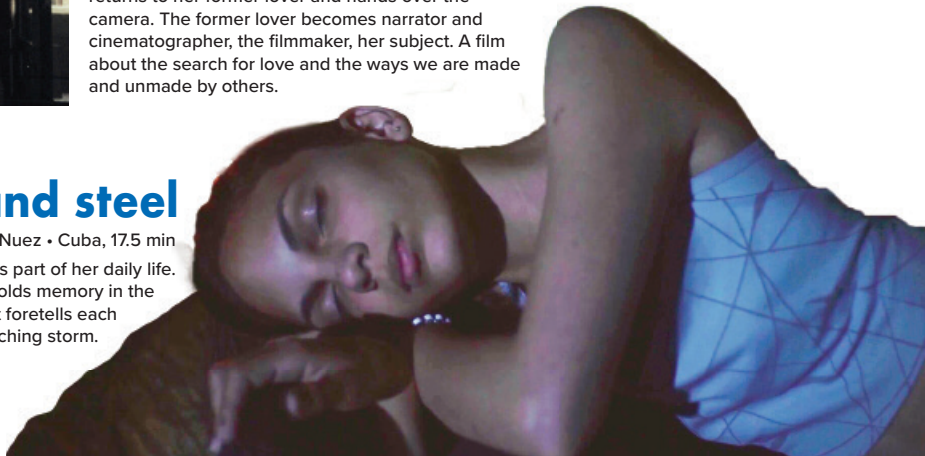
directed by Cicely Hadman • UK, 15 min, World Premiere

When a romantic encounter leaves a filmmaker with questions, she returns to her former lover and hands over the camera. The former lover becomes narrator and cinematographer, the filmmaker, her subject. A film about the search for love and the ways we are made and unmade by others.

water and steel

directed by Grethel Nuez • Cuba, 17.5 min

In a rural village in Cuba, Rocío lives with pain as part of her daily life. Her body, marked by medical interventions, holds memory in the form of scars, as she faces the humid climate that foretells each approaching storm.





citizen-inmate

directed by Hesam Eslami

Iran, 14.5 min, N. American Premiere

Tehran through the Panopticon: Stories of surveillance and resistance

Saturday May 23, 5:00pm

32 ans à bord

directed by Naomi Goldziuk

France, 32.5 min, N. American Premiere

Aboard a deep-sea trawler, a crew of four fishermen set off for a 15-day trip out to sea. Day and night, they work to the throbbing rhythm of the machines and the sea. At night, during watchkeeping hours, their minds wander and fragments of stories emerge, somewhere between a quest for freedom and social fatality.



Sunday May 24, 5:00pm

doc shorts 3



leftover footage

directed by Mahmoud Eliraqi
Egypt, 20 min, World Premiere

A photojournalist investigates whether the images and videos he captures are mysteriously connected, using principles of quantum mechanics to explore unseen relationships between reality, perception, and the universe.



is gang stalking real

directed by Theodore Collatos
USA, 17 min, West Coast Premiere
A raw, unflinching look at a friendship haunted by meth-fueled paranoia, and fragile moments of clarity behind bars.

squeezed light

directed by Les Guthman

USA, 36 min, West Coast Premiere

The inside, first-person chronicle of the Nobel Prize-winning LIGO Scientific Collaboration's stunning 2024 breakthrough in its quest to harness quantum-squeezed light to achieve the most precise measurements ever made -- and to discover the most distant events in the "warped side" of the universe.

koki, ciao

directed by Quenton Miller,
written by Koki

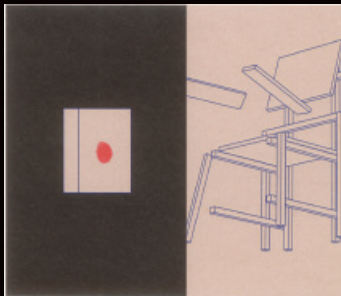
Netherlands, 11 min

The autobiography of Koki, an immortal parrot, loyal comrade of Marshal Tito, leader of Yugoslavia for 35 years. Made over 4 years with Koki responding to previously unseen archives, this biopic relives the caged memories of this 68 year speaking bird, who had the honour of meeting Hollywood stars, and bloodthirsty dictators.



animation

Friday May 22, 11:00am



a kite killed a plane

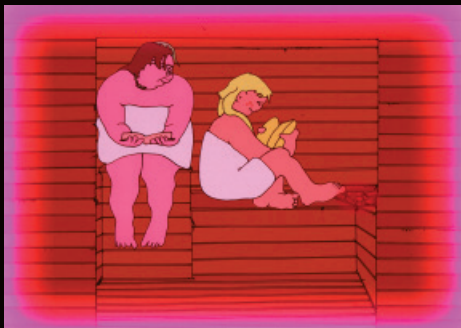
directed by Daniel Sharoni • Israel, 5 min

The confrontation with the phenomenon of violence becoming embedded in the local space as a mundane and inseparable part of existence itself.

wan wan

directed by Mayuko Kobayashi • Japan/USA, 8 min

Thanks for the food, thanks for the name, I love you before I get to your house.



air

directed by Anna Firth

USA, 3.5 min

Two artists keep warm in the legacy of an esteemed summer residency.

witness: an organima film

directed by Nik Arthur / written by Nik Arthur,
Jodre Datu • Canada, 5.5 min



Meticulously hand-animated with organic matter, *Witness: An Organima Film* renews our child-like ability to see hidden life in small universes.



play fight!

directed by Katrina Lerner
USA, 8 min

Five little girls are monkeying around. They play games, tell secrets, brush hair, run around, dress up, and jump, and giggle, and jump and jump and jump and jump and...

juicy and sweet

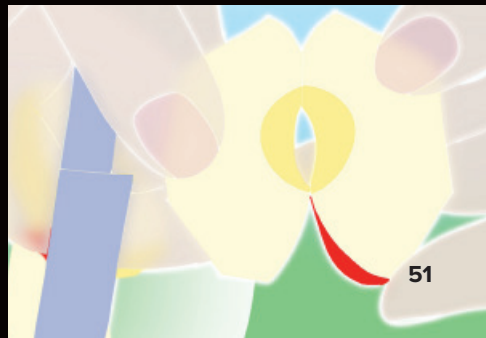
directed by Sasha Uijeong Shin • USA, 4 min, West Coast Premiere

What does it mean to be a girl in her 20s still living in her mom's apartment?

starlit

directed by Shannon Lee
USA, 10 min

Three teenage girls sneak out into the night to meet up with a crew of energy drink bootlegging aliens.



animation



whose woods are these

directed by Kate Nartker • USA, 6.5 min

Created frame by frame from over 500 feet of woven fabric, this animated short reimagines the mysterious disappearance of the filmmaker's great-great-great-grandmother in 1841.

long live livia

directed by Zach Dorn

USA / S. Korea, 16 min

An animator discusses a scene from the TV series *The Sopranos* while meticulously crafting stop-motion recreations of his family's home movies.



o' bingo!

directed by Ian Kelewae

USA, 5 min

An old lady walks her dog and a magical plant finds canine camaraderie.

music videos

Friday May 22, 6:30pm



boys with the characteristics of wolves

Unknown Mortal Orchestra,
dir. by Ruban Nielson



boyfriend

2Charm, dir. by Joel Thomas Wilson



listen2me

Foxwarren, dir. by Winston Hacking



enough

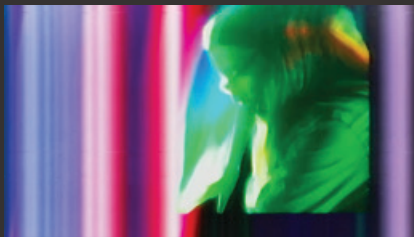
PVA, dir. by PVA



i hate antichrist

John Maus, dir. by Andrew Norman Wilson

music videos



elevate

Holy Fuck, dir. by John Smith



playing classics

Water from your Eyes,
dir. by James Dayton



high season

Yuliia Yanko & Trygve Luktvaslimo,
dir. by Trygve Luktvaslimo



groundwork

KiiiKiii, dir. by Bang Jae Yeob



small violence

Junior Brother,
dir. by Ellius Grace & Junior Brother



aperture

Gem Club, dir. by Charlie Engman



putting ya dine

Monaleo, dir. by POTENT



chore boy

Shlohmo (feat. SALEM),
dir. by Shlohmo + Eliel Ford



erghad afewo

Tinariwen, dir. by Axel Digoix



disiniblud

Disiniblud, dir. by Chris Osborn

mojave to mammoth

reunion

directed by Kyle Montgomery,
Judd Myers / written by Kyle
Montgomery

USA, 15 min, West Coast
Premiere

Seeking a solo meditative
hike in the woods, a man
bumps into his past on the
remote trail that leads to
some unsavory viewpoints.



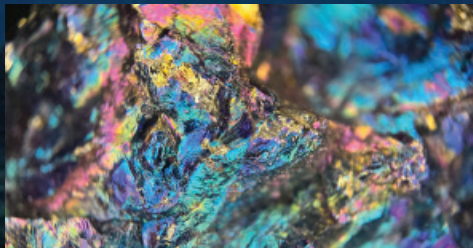
my grandfather was a mountain climber

directed by Tabitha Ellis • UK, 4 min, West Coast Premiere

A conversation between me and my grandfather, who died in 1963.
When my mother was a year old.

materia

directed by Alisi Telengut • Canada, 6.5 min
Stones and rocks transform into vast terrains
of texture and light. Through macro and
microscopic imagery, the film explores the
hidden kinship between the human body
and the mineral world.





what lies unseen – convict lake

directed by Colin West

USA, 15 min

In the summer of 2025, our team completed a grueling five-day cleanup beneath the surface of Convict Lake in Mono County, removing nearly 3,000 pounds of trash and 70 tires, in what became our hardest travel cleanup ever.

A beautiful disaster, hidden in plain sight.

bears in hot tubs

directed by Maddie
Bear, Claire Musser

USA, 17 min

In the backyards of Los Angeles, bears are not intruders but neighbors, Bears in Hot Tubs reimagines how we live together through the perspective of one bear, Maddie.



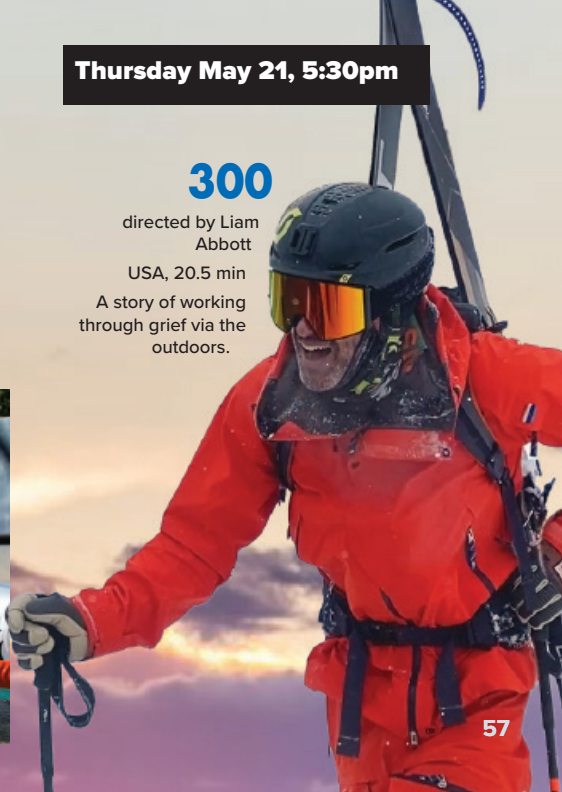
Thursday May 21, 5:30pm

300

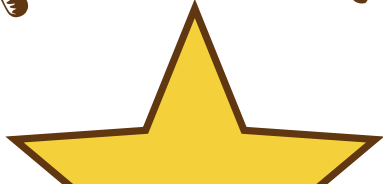
directed by Liam
Abbott

USA, 20.5 min

A story of working
through grief via the
outdoors.



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Saturday May 23, 2:45pm

reel flavors & fine vines

A new addition to the festival, this wine and food pairing event takes place Saturday, May 23 with wine maker Rachel Stellareese Davies from Stellareese Wine of Napa Valley. She has personally curated the wines to be paired with amuse-bouches from the house chef of the new Limelight Mammoth Hotel and Residences. The five wines will include one from her personal library - not available anywhere else. Limelight features luxury hotel rooms and residences just steps from the Village gondola and Mammoth Ski Area. The Limelight is located at 132 Lake Mary Rd.

Pass Holders \$65; Individual Tickets \$85



SCREENPLAY FINALISTS



Alma's Will by Kelly Karam, Jeff Howe

After decades of unanswered prayers, a devout midwife finally becomes pregnant, but faith turns feral when her baby is taken, and she unleashes a violent crusade

to reclaim the miracle she believes God promised her.

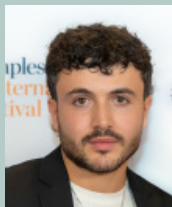
Biting Susan by Michael Arcos, Yamil Rodriguez



In 1991, a preteen boy's final week with his best friend and first love spirals into an unhinged folk-horror adventure on their suburban cul-de-sac, culminating in a confused, impulsive bite of the girl he loves.

Brothers' Cove by Hugo André

Set in wartime Britain in 1945,



and told through the perspective of a quiet, introspective boy named Theo, Brothers' Cove follows

two brothers who escape an orphanage in search of freedom and sanctuary, finding temporary solace in an abandoned seaside cottage - until strangers return and tragedy strikes, propelling the younger brother into a haunting journey of survival, grief, and self-discovery.

Festa do Inquisidor by T Gordon Stanley

A cash-strapped young tour guide leads a carefully selected group of tourists to a festival in a remote Portuguese village closed for centuries, only to discover a ghost festival of an Inquisitor who will try them for their forefathers' crimes from 400 years in the past.



Ghosting by Micheline Auger

A psychological horror about a successful ghostwriter who retreats to a remote cabin to write her first novel—only to find the line between authorship, trauma, and possession beginning to collapse.



The Measure of She by Karen Dee Carpenter

In a fragile marriage, a painter paralyzed by doubt and a professor consumed by ambition are forced to face the cost of success and the silence between them.

Murderer in the Ski Degree by BA (Brian) Anaclerio



When a vengeful junior college dean declares war on skiing, a rogue ski professor rallies his ragtag students to save the sport—and their diplomas.

Ophelia is Dying by Pimvenus Clark



When Ophelia learns her leukemia has returned for the third—and likely final—time, she

defies her helicopter parents, trades IV drips for open roads, and sweeps her big-hearted brother into a whirlwind adventure—chasing beauty, breaking rules, and scattering love like confetti in her wake.



The Unseen by Shiva Ramanathan

A grieving doctor, an eccentric hypochondriac and an UFO hunter, bound by a horrific past, receive cryptic messages from an unseen entity that lead them to a remote desert on Christmas Eve where something momentous awaits. First, they must uncover the reason they were chosen if they are to survive what is about to happen.



Until The Time We Die by Daniel Talbott

When his brother makes a decision that breaks open his life and leaves him utterly alone, Taylor ventures into the chaos and swirl of the French Quarter and greater New Orleans, whose eclectic inhabitants, lost souls, and fellow travelers will either drown him or help him toward some new shore of possibility.

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PHYSICAL THERAPY

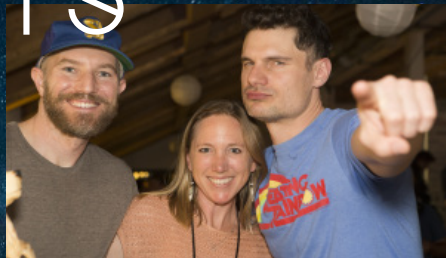
PARTIES & EVENTS

Opening Night Gala

Wed. May 20, 9:00pm, Sierra Center Screening Room Lounge, 452 Old Mammoth Rd.

Kick off Mammoth Lakes' 12th annual independent film festival in style! Dance the night away to some sweet party tunes, enjoy an open beer and wine bar, and meet our visiting filmmakers.

\$25 online, \$30 at the door.



Late Night Happy Hour

Thursday May 21, 10:00pm, Distant Brewing, 568 Old Mammoth Rd.

Enjoy your sweetest happy hour yet at the local favorite tasting beer room DISTANT BREWING. Mingle with fellow film-goers and our visiting filmmakers.

Party is open to all. Passholders receive a complimentary drink ticket.

Panel Discussion with Coffee & Pastries

Saturday May 23, 10:00am, USFS, 2510 Main St.

Come for an informative panel discussion with industry professionals and enjoy coffee and pastries while we discuss "How to Get Distribution and Kick-Start Your Career"

\$12 online, \$15 at the door.



Filmmakers Bash

Saturday May 23, 10:00pm

Main St. Pizza & Tap, 3399 Main St.

Come celebrate and honor our visiting filmmakers with a party to end all parties (although we've still got one more night to party)! A night to remember! Spend the evening singing Karaoke with Local DJ Maurice. Party is open to all. Passholders receive a complimentary drink ticket.



Closing Night Awards Ceremony

Sunday May 24, 9:30pm, Sierra Center Screening Room Lounge,
452 Old Mammoth Rd.

It may seem like the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival is coming to a close. But this is just the beginning, right? Jury and Audience Awards will be presented in all categories. After the awards presentations (and during), we will celebrate. Let's talk, enjoy the open beer and wine bar, and dance about it into the wee hours of the night. \$25 online, \$30 at the door.



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AWARDS & PRIZES

Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony, starting at 9:30pm on Sunday the 24th

JURY AWARD FOR BEST N. AMERICAN NARRATIVE FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award

\$15,000 Panavision Camera
Rental Grant
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

BRAVERY AWARD FOR DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST N. AMERICAN NARRATIVE FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award

\$5,000 Panavision
Camera Rental Grant
Orson Trophy

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

\$1,000 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST N. AMERICAN NARRATIVE SHORT

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST INT'L NARRATIVE SHORT

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST ANIMATION SHORT

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy

JURY AWARD FOR BEST MUSIC VIDEO

\$500 Cash award
Orson Trophy



JURY



Carlos Aguilar

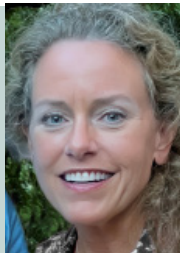
Originally from Mexico City, Carlos Aguilar is an L.A.-based film critic and journalist whose work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Variety, The Wrap,

among others. He is a member of the Los Angeles Film Critics Association (LAFCA), the National Society of Film Critics (NSFC), and the Critics Choice Association (CCA).

NARRATIVE FEATURES

Shaun Hill

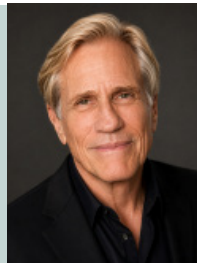
Shaun Hill is a seasoned film executive and co-owner of Indican Pictures, a distribution company she co-founded with Randolph Kret in 2004. Driven by a passion for cinema, she has helped bring more than 475 films to audiences worldwide. Hill oversees acquisitions, legal, and multi-platform distribution, including theatrical, digital, broadcast, and home video, ensuring the company remains competitive with distinctive content. Her acquisition work includes films such as Silver Star featuring Grace Van Dien, Tapawingo starring Jon Heder, and more recently Swallowtail & Dragonfly with Russell Wong. Before Indican, Hill worked on the film festival circuit, programming for Slamdance and the Hollywood Film Festival. She has also spoken at Cinequest and Sunscreen festivals and serves as a judge for the UCLA Masters Screenwriting Program.



NARRATIVE FEATURES

Randal Kleiser

Randal Kleiser is an internationally renowned filmmaker best known as the director of Grease, one of the most successful and enduring musicals in cinema history. His career spans decades of studio and independent filmmaking, as well as pioneering work at the intersection of storytelling and new technology. Alongside his work as a director, Kleiser is also an author and visual artist. His book Drawing Directors: Volume I (2023) combines portraits of legendary filmmakers with personal recollections and behind-the-scenes Hollywood stories. He expanded the project with Drawing Directors: Volume II in 2025, continuing his unique exploration of cinema through art, memory, and lived experience.



NARRATIVE FEATURES

JURY



Pat Saperstein

Pat Saperstein is Deputy Editor of Variety where she covers film, television and locations as well as Los Angeles food, history and culture. She is a frequent film festival

juror and panelist and was previously Hollywood correspondent for Le Film Francais.

INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURES



Jacques Thelemaque

In 1993, Jacques co-founded Filmmakers Alliance. As President, he built the grassroots collective into an important independent filmmaking community and resource organization with films screening at every major

festival in the world. He's overseen the production of hundreds of films and developed a wide range of innovative and dynamic filmmaking support programs. In 2004, Jacques and partner Liam Finn formed FA Productions and in 2005, he was named Chief Community Officer of Withoutabox.com. Jacques has written, directed and produced numerous feature films, shorts, and even commercials, playing in premiere festivals – and winning prestigious awards - around the world, including Sundance and the Berlinale. He has hosted many seminars and workshops and served as a guest lecturer or invited speaker, board member, programmer and juror at numerous film schools, film organizations and film festivals. He was an Associate Programmer for the LA Film Festival. He is currently building a new short film streaming platform called BURP, which will launch beta phase in late 2025.

INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURES



Katherine Tulich

Katherine Tulich began her career in Australia, where she wrote film reviews and features for the Sydney Morning Herald and the Sunday Telegraph. She was also the Australian

correspondent for the Hollywood Reporter and Entertainment Weekly. She became a well known radio and TV personality. Based in the US, she was a regular contributor to the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and Variety. She was also invited to appear on the renowned "At the Movies" TV show as a guest host filling in for Roger Ebert. Katherine now corresponds as a Hollywood reporter for the national Australian Broadcasting Corporation (TV and radio).. She has been a voting member of the Golden Globes since 2010 and has served as a judge on numerous film festivals around the world including Toronto, Chicago, Seattle and Palm Springs. Katherine is also a member of the Film Critics Circle of Australia (FCCA) and the prestigious FIPRESCI (International board of film critics).

INT'L NARRATIVE FEATURES



Allison Amon

Allison Amon is the President of Superconductor, an advertising agency founded by Justin Lin and The Russo Brothers. Along with winning

ADAge's small Agency of the year twice, Superconductor works at the crossroads of entertainment and advertising to produce award winning work for its clients. She spent 18 years as the co-owner of Chelsea Pictures, winning multiple awards at Cannes Lions, Sundance and an Emmy for #Likeagirl. She co-produced Queen of Versailles, The Kingmaker, and was the Producer of The Seven Faces of Jane for Roman Coppola. As an MLFF vet, Allison is always happy to be back in the Eastern Sierra and looking forward to the Festival and all the creative energy that comes with it.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

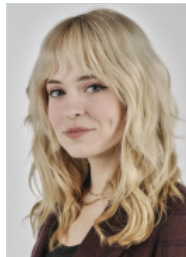


James Costa

James Costa is the Founder & Co-president of Los Angeles based Bird Street Productions. He is an award-winning film producer with over fifty titles to his credit.

His most recent projects include the Academy Award® winning film All the Empty Rooms, The Dating Game Apocalypse In the Tropics, The Stringer, Cookie Queens, Closure, and The Disciple. He is on the National Council of The Roundabout Theatre in New York, as well as The Vice president of The Board of Directors for Sea Shepherd USA. He is a member of The Producers Guild of America and BAFTA/LA.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES



Alison Foreman

Alison Foreman is a Features Writer at IndieWire covering TV, film, and trends across pop culture and entertainment. She's a journalist, critic, and industry analyst with a passion for blood, spectacle, and

basic human decency. She's also the creator of the midnight movie column IndieWire After Dark, and an expert in the history of cult audiences and genre filmmaking. A Georgia Tech graduate, Ali previously worked at CBS News, Showtime, and "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." In 2020, she won Best Online TV Feature from the Los Angeles Press Club for her reporting at Mashable on police procedurals.. She has two National Arts and Entertainment Journalism Award nominations. Her work spans video games, music, web culture, science, politics, business, and tech, with bylines at The AV Club, Refinery29, and CNN.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

Kiva Reardon

Kiva Reardon is a producer, writer, and programmer working across fiction and non-fiction. Previously, she held the positions of: Vice President of Film at Barry Jenkins's production company PASTEL; Associate Director of Film Programs at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures; and Lead Programmer of Contemporary World Cinema at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). She founded *cléo* journal, a publication dedicated to film and feminism, which ran from 2013 to 2019. Her writing has appeared in *Filmmaker*, *Sight & Sound*, *MUBI Notebook*, *Cineaste*, and many others. She writes a newsletter on movies and motherhood, *Care Takes*. She has acted as an advisor at the Sundance, Film Independent and Almanack Screenwriters labs and served on festival juries at Locarno, Jeonju, Palm Springs and Aspen. She is on the founding Advisory Board of the Los Angeles Festival of Movies.



NARRATIVE SHORTS

JURY

Kimberley Browning

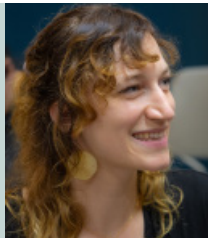
Kimberley Browning is a filmmaker & film festival professional based in Los Angeles. She is a Senior Associate Short Film Programmer at Tribeca Festival, and is the Production Advisor for the festival's AT&T UNTOLD STORIES \$1.2M feature film program. She has worked on the festival programming teams of LA Film Festival, Guadalajara Intl Film Festival - Los Angeles and Catalyst Content Festival. Kimberley is the founder of Hollywood Shorts, a short film and animation industry screening series and filmmaker development community, launched in Los Angeles in 1998. She previously served as the Executive Producer of HBO ACCESS Episodic Directing and Writing Fellowship. Kimberley is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences.



NARRATIVE SHORTS

Amanda Bonaiuto

Amanda Bonaiuto is an animation director, artist, and assistant professor of Illustration at Parsons School of Design. She uses animation to experiment with choreographic movement, relational ruptures, and the ever present tension between bodies and space. Her work examines experiences of turmoil in mundane spaces; the bedroom, the funeral home, the emotional dance created through chains of physical association. Her films consider how our environments exert influence as we reciprocally construct our own worlds. Her films have screened at film festivals and institutions globally, including Slamdance Film Festival, Annecy International Animation Festival, Ottawa International Animation Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, among others. Her work has been recognized by press outlets such as *It's Nice That*, *The New Yorker*, *Vimeo*, and *NPR*. She holds an MFA in Experimental Animation from the California Institute of the Arts, and a BFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



ANIMATION & DOC SHORTS



Kangmin Kim

Kangmin Kim is a filmmaker and designer who holds both a BFA and MFA from CalArts' Experimental Animation program. He has a depth of experience in both stop motion

and motion graphics; his work often combines handcrafted characters with digitally designed backgrounds. Kangmin has been a faculty member at CalArts since 2021, serving as a thesis advisor for MFA students, teaching stop motion classes, a structure map method. Kangmin's recently completed trio of animated shorts inspired by his memories (DEER FLOWER, JEOM, and KKUM) have made him one of today's most highly awarded contemporary animators. His films have screened at the top animation festivals — (Annecy, Ottawa, Hiroshima, Zagreb — as well as Sundance, AFI, and SXSW. His most recent film, KKUM, won the Grand Prize for Short Animation as well as the Public Prize at the 2020 Ottawa International Animation Festival, marking just the third time OIAF's nearly 50-year history that the same film has won both prizes.

ANIMATION & DOC SHORTS



Sarah Diamond

Sarah Diamond is the former Director of Programming for the Slamdance Film Festival and currently serves as a programmer for the Slamdance Narrative Features and Animated Shorts committees. She holds an MFA in Fiction from Otis College of Art & Design and is a practicing entertainment attorney.

ANIMATION & DOC SHORTS

Sean Barnes

Found in the woods at a young age by a poor family of carpenters, he spoke only the language of the 4-leggers. He was ultimately bartered to a rich family of tech enthusiasts in the Bay Area purely as Friday night entertainment where his lack of civilized manners or speech was of no consequence. The boy went on to use his skills in storytelling and furniture making and even learned to walk on two legs.

MUSIC VIDEOS



Brian Morataya

An LA native with Central American parents. In his teens he was in a local punk rock band, playing both backyard shows and famous venues. He's passionate about analog photography, and shoots primarily on 35mm. He is a seasoned projectionist for film festivals and events — he is now a member of IATSE Local 600 as a digital utility and as a second camera assistant. He hopes to become a professional camera operator.

MUSIC VIDEOS



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