

# LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE 7-11, 2023



LONG BEACH ISLAND  
NEW JERSEY

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# WELCOME!



## FESTIVAL WELCOME LETTER

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 15th Annual Lighthouse International Film Festival. This year's festival promises to be our biggest and best yet, and I couldn't be more excited to share it with all of you!

As we celebrate our 15th year, I'm reminded of how far we've come since our humble beginnings. What started as a small gathering of filmmakers and movie enthusiasts has grown into a major cultural event, attracting submissions from around the world and bringing people from all walks of life together in celebration of cinema.

This year we've received a record number of submissions — a testament to the vibrancy and resilience of the independent film community. Our programming team had the tough task of narrowing down the selections, but I think you'll agree that the ones we've chosen are truly outstanding.

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to the many volunteers, sponsors, and partners who make this festival possible. From the tireless work of our dedicated volunteers, to the generous contributions of our patrons and sponsors, to the support of our community partners, we simply couldn't do it without you.

This festival is a testament to what can be accomplished when people come together in pursuit of a shared passion. It's a celebration of creativity, storytelling, and the power of film to bring people together and inspire change. I'm so proud to be a part of the Lighthouse International Film Festival because I believe that film has the power to change the world. Whether it's by shining a light on underrepresented voices and perspectives, by telling stories that challenge our assumptions and broaden our horizons, or by simply reminding us of the power of human connection and empathy, film has the power to inspire us and bring us together.

So, I invite you to join us this year as we celebrate not only the power of film but also the incredible talent and creativity of indie filmmakers. I hope you'll be inspired, entertained, and moved by the films you see, and that you'll leave this festival with a renewed sense of hope and optimism for the future.

Thank you for being a part of the Lighthouse International Film Festival. Here's to another 15 years of great cinema and community-building.

See you at the movies!

Rob Karol  
Executive Director



# OUR JURY



## NARRATIVE FEATURES

### Charlotte Regan

A filmmaker from London who grew up making music promos for local music artists, Charlotte's first short film, *Standby*, was nominated for a BAFTA. Her second short, *Fry-Up*, screened at Sundance and Berlinale. She is a Sundance Ignite Fellow and was named as a 2020 Screen International Star of Tomorrow. Her debut feature, *Scrapper*, had its world premiere at Sundance 2023 where it went on to win the World Dramatic Grand Jury Prize. The Lighthouse International Film Festival is honored to screen *Scrapper* as one of our headlining centerpiece films.



## NARRATIVE FEATURES

### Jack Sholder

A director best known for such genre classics as *The Hidden* and *Nightmare on Elm Street II*, Jack has directed feature films and television episodes for Paramount, Universal, Warner Bros, MGM, HBO, NBC, Fox, Showtime, Lionsgate, and others. He has won a Daytime Emmy for Editing and has had three of his screenplays produced. In addition, Jack has received Lifetime Achievement Awards from Fantafestival (Rome), Grossmann Film Festival (Slovenia), and Fantastic Fest (Austin). He will be attending a special screening of the film *12 Days of Terror*, which tells the story of the 1916 shark attacks on LBI and the Jersey Shore.



## NARRATIVE FEATURES

### Dan Sullivan

Dan Sullivan is a Programmer for Film at Lincoln Center. During his tenure, he has played a pivotal role in organizing numerous impressive film retrospectives, including those of Raúl Ruiz, David Lynch, Jacques Rivette, Germaine Dulac, Pedro Costa, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Hong Sangsoo, Jonas Mekas, Jane Birkin, and Charlotte Gainsbourg, among others.

In addition to these, he has curated several exceptional film series, such as "Going Steadi: 40 Years of Steadicam" (2017), "Heathcliff, It's Me: Adapting Wuthering Heights" (2017), "Make My Day: American Movies in the Age of Reagan" (2019, with J. Hoberman), and "New York, 1962-64: Underground and Experimental Cinema" (2022, with Thomas Beard). He is the former film co-editor of the *Brooklyn Rail*, and his writing has appeared in *Film Comment*, *Cinema Scope*, and other publications.



#### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## Nathalie Chifflet

A French journalist, Nathalie is chief critic for 10 local newspapers and film critic for BANDE À PART magazine (a.k.a. Jo Fishley). She has served on the juries of many festivals including Cannes Film Festival, Annecy (FIPRESCI), Biarritz, Arras, Fameck, Poitiers. She is a board member of the Syndicat Français de la Critique de Cinéma et de Télévision and board member of the Cannes Critics Week. She is also president of the jury for the best cinema books published in France in collaboration with the Centre National du Cinéma.



#### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## Jo Miller

Jo Miller is a historian and political satirist who worked with Lizz Winstead on the long-running off-Broadway comedy *Wake Up World* before joining the writing staff of *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* in 2009. After six years at TDS, she left for a two-year stint as co-creator, executive producer, and head writer at *Full Frontal* on TBS. More recent projects include *Old News*, *My Next Guest Needs No Introduction*, *The Opposition*, and *Wilmore*. Her writing has earned her four Comedy/Variety Emmy Awards, which are useful for holding knitting yarn. Jo lives in the Catskill mountains and is a proud member of the Writers Guild of America.



#### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## Wilfred Okiche

A writer, culture critic, and film programmer who has attended critic programs and reported from film and theater festivals in Locarno, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Sundance, Wilfred has worked on the selection teams for the Film Africa festival in London and the Encounters International Documentary Festival in South Africa. He has mentored fast-rising film critics at Talents Durban and worked on the selection committee of Berlinale Talents. Last year, he served as an international voter for the Golden Globe Awards. His writing has appeared in *Variety*, *OkayAfrica*, *The Africa Report*, and *The Continent* among other publications. He is a member of FIPRESCI and has participated in juries at the Carthage Film Festival and Berlinale.

# OUR JURY



## SHORTS

### David Baram

David Baram has spent over 25 years in the entertainment/media industry, including more than 15 years as president of LBI Entertainment, during which he helped develop and manage the careers of many of the industry's leading A-list artists. LBI Entertainment has also produced award-winning films and television shows, including the Martin Scorsese films *Children of the Flower Moon*, *Hell or High Water*, *The Irishman*, *Boardwalk Empire*, and others. David has also executive produced over 100 episodes of network and cable television, including the groundbreaking series *Mindfreak*. He has written, directed, and produced the 2022 Oscar-qualifying featurette *Ball and Vase*, starring Austin Pendleton. *Ball and Vase* was chosen by both *Variety* and *The Hollywood Reporter* as one of the top 15 films to watch for an Oscar nomination. He wrote, directed, and produced the Oscar-qualifying and recently PBS-acquired documentary *One All the Way*.



## SHORTS

### Joan Stein Schimke

Joan's award-winning short films, including *One Day Crossing* (Academy Award Nominee, Student Academy Award Gold Medal), *Solidarity*, and *Saeed*, have screened at over 150 festivals worldwide. Joan directed episodes of *Law and Order*; worked in various production positions on feature films for directors Taylor Hackford (*Ray*), Eric Mendelsohn (*3 Backyards*), and Bette Gordon (*Luminous Motion*), among others; and was the director of the Student Shorts Program at the Hamptons Film Festival. Joan's feature-length script was accepted to the Sundance Screenwriting Lab, where it received a Sloan Foundation grant, and the Hamptons International Film Festival Screenwriting Lab. As a social activist, Joan has volunteered in a Bosnian refugee camp, directed a short documentary about The Center for Women War Victims (Zagreb, Croatia), and was on the original committee for V-Day with Eve Ensler. A graduate of Columbia University's MFA Film Program, Joan is a Professor of Film and Video Production at Adelphi University.



## SHORTS

### Rachel Walden

Rachel Walden is a director/producer from Atlanta, GA. Her most recent short film, *Lemon Tree*, premiered in the Directors' Fortnight at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival. She currently lives in Brooklyn, NY, where she runs the independent production company Gummy Films with co-founders Pauline Chalamet and Luca Balsler.



#### EPISODICS

## Naeema Butt

Naeema Butt is an accomplished Pakistani National actor, filmmaker, journalist, social/gender equality rights activist, and award-winning Theatre of the Oppressed trainer. She is a founder of NB Media & Pehlaaj StoryCenter For Change, and was nominated for the Ellen Stuart International Award in 2018, one of the most prestigious international awards for theater activists. As an actor, Naeema has gained widespread recognition for her performances, including her role in the Pakistani national television drama *Ehd-e-Wafa*, which named her one of the top Gen Next actors in the Pakistani drama industry by Gulf News and The News International, and has leveraged her skills as a journalist and host with the Daily Pakistan. Outside of Pakistan she has produced the thrilling film *Home*, based on her own story of a woman looking for safety to escape from Pakistan to the US, and has acted in films and webseries in the US directed by award-winning directors Mehreen Jabbar and Alexis Karl, among others.



#### EPISODICS

## Nicole Moller

A Toronto-based, multi-skilled performer with a focus in acting, stunt performing, and most recently, producing. Growing up in Vancouver, Nicole began acting in theater before leaving to earn her BFA in acting from Toronto Metropolitan University. There she discovered her keen eye for detail, coordination, and love of stage combat, and went on to develop specialty skills in bladework and complex character work. Nicole's most recent acting and stunt credits include *The Boys* (Amazon Prime), *Rabbit Hole* (Paramount), *Be Mine* (Meta Horizon Worlds), and *Slasher V* (Shudder). With her years of experience from stage to set, the premiere of *A Room Without a View* at the Lighthouse International Film Festival marks Nicole's debut in the role of producer.



#### EPISODICS

## Nikolai Nikolaeff

With a career spanning 25 years, Nikolai "Niko" Nikolaeff has worked on a wide variety of genre projects with some of the best filmmakers in the world. Beginning in his native Australia, he made the move to the US in 2013 and has continued to craft his career in North America and Europe, including appearing in projects like Netflix's *Daredevil* and *The OA*, *NCIS*, *Camp*, *SIX*, *Sea Patrol*, and *Togo*, as well as *Power Rangers* for Disney. Recent projects include Halle Berry's directorial debut *Bruised*, *Stranger Things* Season 4, *Call of Duty - Vanguard*, the David Fincher directed *Bad Traveling*, and *Love, Death + Robots*. Currently, he is working on another yet to be announced major first player shooter video game as well as the upcoming premiere of the much awaited horror masterpiece *The Last Voyage of the Demeter*, based on a chapter from Bram Stoker's iconic *Dracula* and produced by Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment.

# OUR JURY

LIFF PRESENTS THE

## JENNIFER SNYDER BRYCELAND FILMMAKER AWARD

LIFF, the Bryceland family, the Lagralane Group, and the Chicago Media Project will join together this year in offering The Jennifer Snyder Bryceland Filmmaker Award. The \$3,500 special prize will be given to a filmmaker whose feature-length documentary displays artistic excellence, incorporates environmental and social themes, and inspires optimism in audiences.



### JENNIFER SNYDER BRYCELAND AWARD

## Matthew Soraci

As the COO of the Lagralane Group, Matthew directs the day-to-day operations involving business development, finance, marketing, and human resources. Along with acting as COO, Matthew has garnered individual credits on Lagralane titles, acting as executive producer on *The Blood Is At The Doorstep*, *The Body Remembers When The World Broke Open*, *Givers Of Death (G.O.D.)*, *Lifeline* (short), producer on *Ownership* (short), co-producer on *Bienvenidos*, and as associate producer on Harry Dean Stanton's final film *Lucky*. Under the Lagralane company credit, Matthew co-executive produced the 2018 Academy Award-winning documentary *ICARUS*. He is also a producer of the podcast *Lagralane Spirits*, exploring identity & culture with cocktails. Alongside his professional credits, his penchant for creative storytelling has led to a lifelong involvement in the arts. Matthew serves on the board of Los Angeles-based Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble.



### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SHORT FILMS

## Maya Brewster-Dorian

Maya is a highly accomplished Chief Productions Officer at Eva Nosidam Productions, where she spearheads all production efforts. With many years of experience in the production industry, she has established herself as a true leader in the field. Throughout her career, Maya has worked with global brands, companies, and advertising agencies, including Saatchi & Saatchi, J. Walter Thompson, Anonymous Content, Partizan Entertainment, and RadicalMedia. In her various executive roles at these companies, she consistently delivered best-in-class communications, events, and experiences. In 2015, Maya launched her own company, Network Réseau, with the goal of revolutionizing content creation by introducing new and innovative approaches. This move demonstrated her entrepreneurial spirit and her ability to navigate the ever-changing landscape of the industry.



# SHARE WITH THE FESTIVAL

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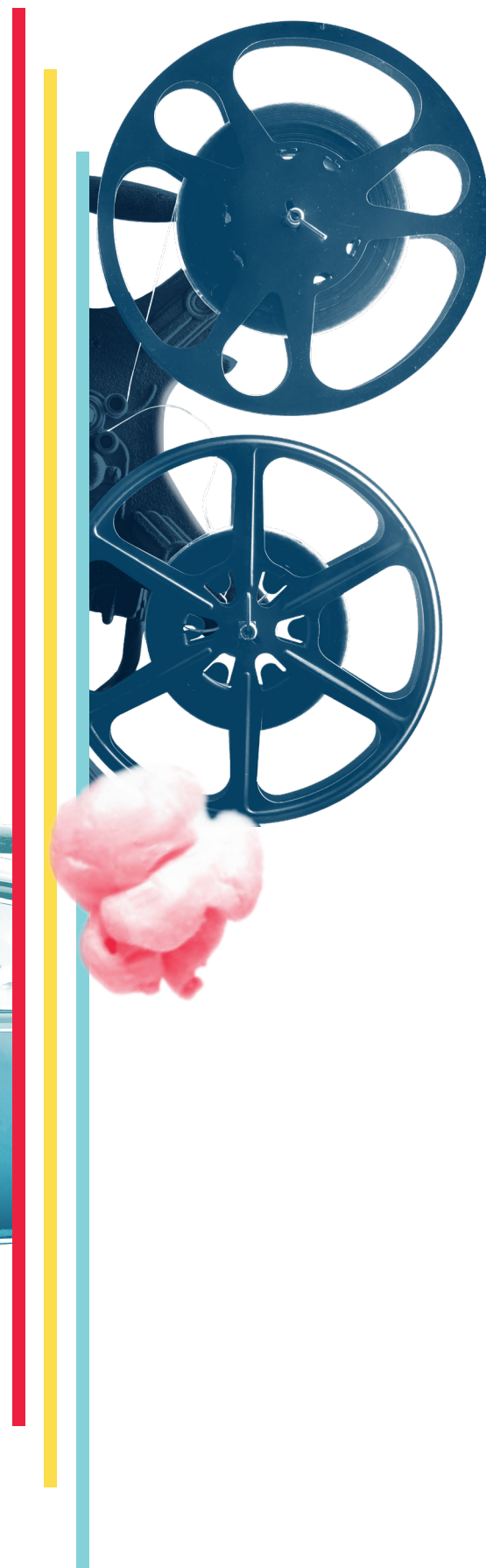
Welcome, guests of LIFF 2023!  
Remember to include #LIFF2023  
if you're posting at or about the festival!

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# HEADLINERS

## OPENING FILM



### PARACHUTE

DIRECTOR: BRITTANY SNOW  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

97 MIN  
USA

In her inspiring directorial debut, actress Brittany Snow, who is known for her playful performances in *Pitch Perfect* and *Hairspray*, brings to the screen an intimate dramatic account of two young people struggling with emotional challenges and finding comfort in each other's strengths and deficiencies. Inspired by a whirlwind true story of unconventional romance, Riley, played by Courtney Eaton (*Mad Max Fury Road*, *Yellowjackets*), is determined to overcome her issues with body image, food, and love but soon falls for another addiction: her friend Ethan.

Eaton impresses in her highly nuanced role, which garnered her the "Best Performance Award" at SXSW. Her chemistry with co-lead Thomas Mann, with his quiet charisma, is exceptional and charges this film with both optimism and disappointment. The two leads are surrounded by an amazing supporting cast of Kid Cudi, Francesca Reale, Gina Rodriguez, Joel McHale, and Dave Bautista, all led by the sensitivity and honesty of Snow (winner of "Best First Feature Award" at SXSW) and producer Lizzie Shapiro, LIFF favorite *Shiva Baby* and LIFF 2020 juror.

PREMIERED AT SXSW

## CLOSING FILM



### LOUD & LONGING

DIRECTORS: ISABEL ELLISON & RYAN GUITERMAN  
WORLD PREMIERE

94 MIN  
USA

Lucy and Lucien are two childhood friends who share a deeply troubled past and struggle to maintain their sanity and sobriety as they cut their teeth in the New York City arts & theater scene. As their breakout moment arrives, both are forced to grapple with a legacy of childhood trauma, addiction, and loss. They must rely on their chosen family of artists and sex workers to help bring them through their dark night of the soul.

MAIN CAST: ISABEL ELLISON, SAM ENCARNACIÓN, FRANCO GONZÁLEZ, ELL PECK, DAVID J. CORK, & MAX CARPENTER

#### ■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTORS: RYAN GUITERMAN & ISABEL ELLISON

RYAN GUITERMAN'S FIRST FEATURE FILM *CANVAS* PREMIERED AT LIFF IN 2021. SINCE THEN, HE HAS JOINED THE FESTIVAL'S PROGRAMMING TEAM.

# CENTERPIECE FILMS



## BLEECKER

DIRECTOR: EDITH HAGIGI

104 MIN  
USA

Intertwining stories of motley characters in NYC's Village being told with heart and humor. The straight face in this pack is Maya, who has come to the Big Apple to find her place in the world. She starts to care about these folks and really tries to help one of them in this brighter-than-bleak slice of life.

MAIN CAST: ALICIA CROWDER, BEN STILLER, TOVAH FELDSHUH, BOB ARI, DRENA DE NIRO, CHRISTINE TAYLOR, ALICE KREMELBERG, ANITA GILLETTE, DAPHNE RUBEN-VEGA, MICHAEL GODERE, AND IRA HAWKINS, WHO ATTENDED LIFF WITH THE FILM *SWAN SONG* IN 2021 AND PASSED AWAY LATER THAT YEAR

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: EDITH HAGIGI



## SCRAPPER

DIRECTOR: CHARLOTTE REGAN

84 MIN  
USA

A vibrant and inventive father-daughter comedy that tells the story of Georgie, a resourceful 12-year-old girl who secretly lives alone in a flat in a working-class suburb of London after her mother's death. To survive, she steals bikes and pretends to live with an uncle to keep social workers at bay. When her estranged father, Jason, suddenly arrives, he forces Georgie to confront reality. Initially resistant to his efforts, Georgie eventually realizes that they both have a lot of growing up to do.

Harris Dickinson (*Triangle of Sadness*) and newcomer Lola Campbell deliver remarkable performances in this moving and frequently hilarious story. Winner of a Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, *Scrapper* is full of spirit, humor, and formal daring that sets it apart from much of British working-class cinema. With irresistible charm and emotional depth, it is a film about two emotionally tangled people navigating the challenges of adulthood and parenthood.

COURTESY OF KINO LORBER

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: CHARLOTTE REGAN

# SPOTLIGHT FILMS



## **GREAT PHOTO, LOVELY LIFE**

**DIRECTORS: AMANDA MUSTARD & RACHEL BETH ANDERSON**

**112 MIN  
USA**

Photojournalist Amanda Mustard returns home to Pennsylvania to investigate the sexual abuse crimes committed by her grandfather. A visual whirlwind of memories from her family's archive unravels a world of secrets through interviews, photographs, and home movies. An eight-year cinematic journey, this doc chronicles a granddaughter's attempt to disrupt a cycle of intergenerational trauma through the voices of the survivors and her grandfather himself.

**COURTESY OF HBO  
PREMIERED AT SXSW**

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
**DIRECTOR: AMANDA MUSTARD**



## **THE MAIDEN**

**DIRECTOR: GRAHAM FOY**

**117 MIN  
CAN**

A perfect summer day ends in tragedy, weaving a cosmic connection between three suburban teenagers. Best friends Colton and Kyle float the river, trade dreams, and spray paint in the local ravine. Like the boys, Whitney explores the ravine, seeking solace by writing and drawing in her diary. But when her best friend abandons her, Whitney disappears.

**PREMIERED AT THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**



## ROSE

**DIRECTOR: NIELS ARDEN OPLEV**  
**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

**106 MIN**  
**DNK**

*Rose follows two sisters, Inger and Ellen, and how their relationship is challenged on an anticipated bus trip to Paris. Inger is not solely on a trip to see Paris; she has a hidden agenda. Tucked in her pocket is a letter from an old boyfriend, her first love, who left her when she was young — an experience that might have spurred the mental illness that she still suffers from.*

**MAIN CAST: SOFIE GRÅBØL, LENE MARIA CHRISTENSEN, ANDERS W. BERTHELSEN**

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
**DIRECTOR: NIELS ARDEN OPLEV**



## WHAT DOESN'T FLOAT

**DIRECTOR: LUCA BALSER**  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

**70 MIN**  
**USA**

*Seven stories. One city. A disparate group of characters fill out this darkly comedic anthology of New Yorkers at their wits' end. When the dailiness of urban life is suspended by an unforeseen conflict, each character must make a decision. While the outcomes vary, a unified sense of the city emerges: New York becomes a mirror to the ego, reflecting our true character, while the rest sink to the bottom. Luca Balsler's directorial debut was shot by acclaimed cinematographers Sean Price Williams and Hunter Zimny. The cast includes Pauline Chalamet and Larry Fessenden, among others.*

**COURTESY OF CIRCLE COLLECTIVE**

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
**DIRECTOR: LUCA BALSER**  
**PRODUCER: RACHEL WALDEN**

# SPECIAL SCREENINGS



## 12 DAYS OF TERROR

DIRECTOR: JACK SHOLDER

87 MIN  
ZAF

The year was 1916, and the citizens of New Jersey dared not step in the water for fear of meeting a grim fate in the jaws of a great white shark. For 12 days, the bloodthirsty beast would stalk the normally serene beaches of LBI and the Jersey shore awaiting the next victim to tempt fate by taking a swim. The TV drama from 2004 is based on a true story.

MAIN CAST: COLIN EGGLESFIELD, JOHN RHYS-DAVIES

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: JACK SHOLDER



## CELEBRATING JULIA REICHERT JERSEY GIRL & OSCAR WINNER

DIRECTOR: STEVE BOGNAR

30 MIN  
USA

A special event celebrating the life and work of Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Julia Reichert, who spent every summer of her childhood as a beach urchin and working class kid on LBI, where her family had a trailer in Holgate.

After a four year battle with cancer, Reichert passed away in December 2022. This event will feature clips from Reichert's 50 years of inspiring and entertaining documentaries, in-person remembrances, and a new short film written and narrated by Reichert herself, in which she tells her story of growing up on LBI and discovering her desire to be a filmmaker in an era when women and working-class people had no clear path to that profession.

In-person guests will include Reichert's husband and filmmaking partner Steven Bognar and her nephew, Jeff Reichert (LIFF alum). Julia, Steven, and Jeff won Oscars in 2020 for their documentary film *American Factory* (LIFF 2019 Closing Film).

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: STEVE BOGNAR



**STANDING WITH IRANIAN FILMMAKERS:  
PAIN UNDER THE SKIN**  
DIRECTOR: MOHSEN JAFARI RAD  
WORLD PREMIERE

60 MIN  
IRN

In a small village, a man who owns many properties is known as a trustworthy and benevolent person outside the house, but treats his two wives and nine children with strange violence inside the house. This film is the narration of the last child of the family, who is himself a well-known journalist and critic of violence and its visible and hidden dimensions.

The filmmaker Mohsen Jafari Rad, who was arrested for his participation in the anti-government protests, died January 18th, 2023, two months after his release from prison. According to the official reports, the 35-year-old documentary filmmaker and critic committed suicide by consuming aluminum phosphide tablets. According to the film's distributor, Mohsen dedicated his film to "the Iranian women who were subjected to violence."



**NEW JERSEY'S BEST:  
THE BASTARD SONS**  
DIRECTOR: KEVIN INTERDONATO  
WORLD PREMIERE

84 MIN  
USA

Life for a crew of organized criminals is disrupted when Vincent Damiano's father, the family's boss, is murdered. Vincent and his "Bastard" brothers, a group of orphaned souls raised together, have an idea of who killed their father... his partner, Rome. In a valiant and calculated attempt to regain the business and exact vengeance on Rome over the course of one day, the Bastards wage an all-out war in order to get their pound of flesh.

**MAIN CAST: KEVIN INTERDONATO, FRANK EDGAR, MALIK WHITFIELD, AL SAPIENZA**

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
DIRECTOR: KEVIN INTERDONATO

# NARRATIVE COMPETITION



## CENTRAL VALLEY

DIRECTORS: NIV KLAINER & GABRIEL OLIVA

90 MIN  
USA

When his younger brother suddenly passes away, Tim, a 35-year-old drug peddler who has never been able to take care of himself properly, must decide what to do with his 10-year-old nephew: let him go into foster care, or rise to the occasion, straighten his life out, and take care of him himself.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

ACTOR & WRITER: TRAVIS ANDRE ROSS

PRODUCER: MELANIE ROSENBERG



## THE FIRST GLANCE

DIRECTOR: HYUN-TAK KIM  
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

70 MIN  
KOR

One woman wants to kill, the other woman wants to die. Hiding their inner thoughts, the two women drive perilously over the icy road. In the trunk of the car is an urn, a Pandora's box.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: HYUN-TAK KIM

PRODUCERS: IN-AE KIM & SIYEON YU



## LISSA'S TRIP

DIRECTOR: JEFFERY LANDO  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

76 MIN  
USA/CAN

A struggling actress embarks on an epiphanic odyssey across Hollywood when she tries to get to her audition despite having accidentally dropped a LOT of acid.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: JEFFERY LANDO

THIS SCREENING IS SUPPORTED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF CANADA  
IN NEW YORK.

Canada





## LISTEN

DIRECTOR: MARIA DOUZA  
US PREMIERE

108 MIN  
GRC

Financial upheaval forces a teenage deaf girl to leave her progressive Athens school and return to her father's struggling island where she is confronted by the danger of prejudice and intolerance — most shockingly, her own.

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
DIRECTOR: MARIA DOUZA

THIS SCREENING IS SUPPORTED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF GREECE IN NEW YORK.



## NOÉMIE SAYS YES

DIRECTOR: GENEVIÈVE ALBERT  
US PREMIERE

116 MIN  
CAN

15-year-old Noémie has been living in a youth home for the last three years. When her hopes of being taken back by her mother evaporate, Noémie runs away in search of community and freedom. She joins her friend Léa, a former member of the center, whom she knows from home, and who introduces her to a gang of petty delinquents. She soon meets Zach, who offers her a job as an escort for a weekend.

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
DIRECTOR: GENEVIÈVE ALBERT

THIS SCREENING IS SUPPORTED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF CANADA IN NEW YORK.



## NO WAY TO SPIN IT

DIRECTOR: KYLE MYHRE  
WORLD PREMIERE

86 MIN  
USA

With her wedding mere months away, Claire's drug-addict sister throws a wrench into her seemingly perfect life.

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
DIRECTOR: KYLE MYHRE

CONT'D

# NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



### SHUDDERBUGS

DIRECTOR: JOHANNA PUTNAM

106 MIN  
USA

Sam returns to her childhood home when her mother suddenly passes. In place of familiar spaces and memories, she finds only uneasiness and confusion. Things are missing, the environment seems unnatural, and the neighbor is suspiciously obtuse. Isolated with these mysteries, Sam wrestles with her instincts to untangle the truth.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: JOHANNA PUTNAM

PRODUCERS: BRENNAN BROOKS & JAMIE UNRUH



### WHEELS AND AXLE

DIRECTOR: JUMPEI MATSUMOTO  
WORLD PREMIERE

121 MIN  
JPN

Inspired by Georges Bataille's provocative novel Madame Edwarda, Manami is a female student who hates her wealthy family because they are "fake". She meets Jun, a wealthy gay man, in Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku. They go to a male host club together and begin to share a host guy called Seiya.

*This film contains multiple explicit sex scenes.*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: JUMPEI MATSUMOTO



# DOCUMENTARY

## COMPETITION



### AMERICAN POT STORY: OAKSTERDAM

DIRECTORS: DAN KATZIR & RAVIT MARKUS  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

97 MIN  
USA

The unknown origin story of how a handful of underdogs risked everything to ignite the current worldwide revolution in cannabis policy. Filmed over a decade, this groundbreaking film illuminates the power of the activist, no matter the cause.

PREMIERED AT SLAMDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTORS: DAN KATZIR & RAVIT MARKUS



### BATATA

DIRECTOR: NOURA KEVORKIAN  
US PREMIERE

120 MIN  
LBN/CAN

Shot over an unparalleled 10 years, Syrian-Lebanese director Noura Kevorkian's intimate camera follows the plight of Maria and her family of Syrian migrant workers who find themselves unable to return to their hometown of Raqqa, Syria. This *Peabody Award* and *Amnesty Award*-winning film captures an entire decade while documenting not only the age-old conflict between two nations, but also the unbending spirit of a woman who puts family ahead of all else.

PREVIOUS FESTIVALS: HOT DOCS

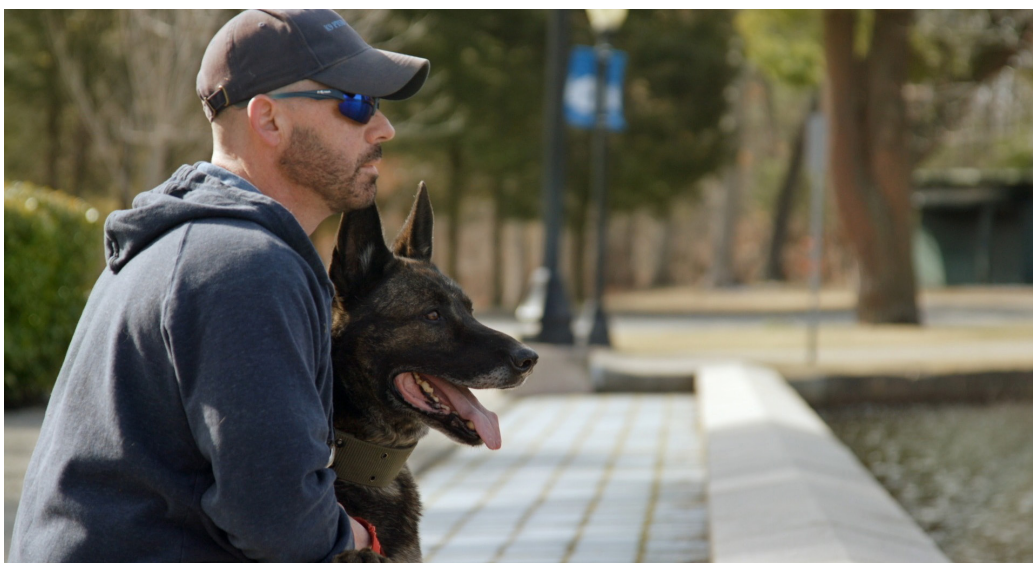
■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: NOURA KEVORKIAN  
PRODUCER: PAUL SCHERZER

THIS SCREENING IS SUPPORTED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF CANADA IN NEW YORK.

Canada

SUB



### HEALING DAKOTA

DIRECTOR: JAMES LAMONTE

82 MIN  
USA

K9 Dakota was the K9 that tracked down the Boston Terrorist in 2013 and soon after developed PTSD and was set to be euthanized. This love-inspiring movie documents a chance meeting that changes his life. La Monte also helped found the organization K9PTSD which helps to rehabilitate other dogs like Dakota that are featured in the film, many of whom have been placed with veterans and their families.

CONT'D

# DOCUMENTARY

## COMPETITION



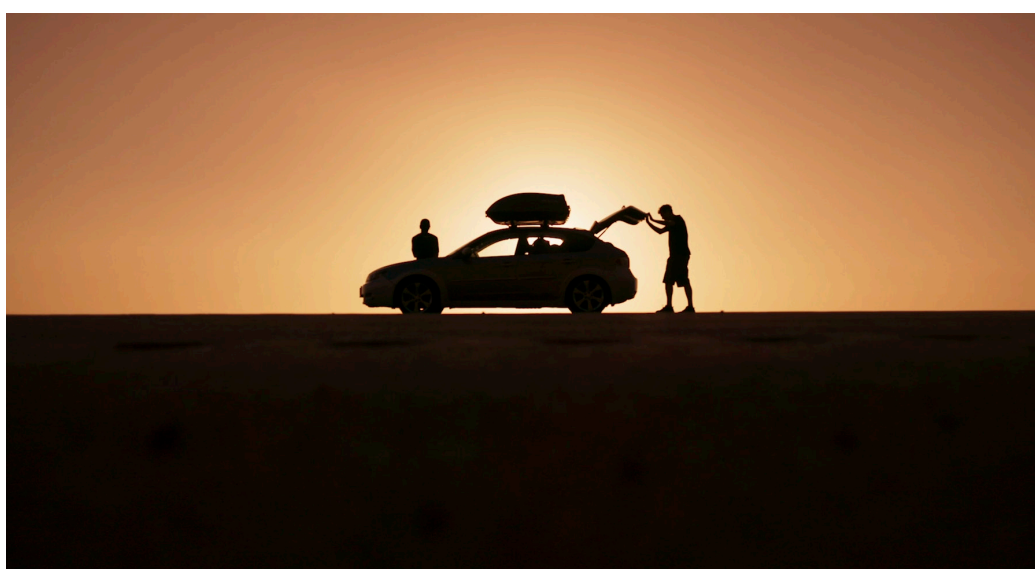
### MOTEL DRIVE

DIRECTOR: BRENDAN GERAGHTY  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

61 MIN  
USA

Located along a sun-bleached stretch of Fresno, CA, Motel Drive was a row of historic motels that had seen better days. Originally a regional hub for performers on the circuit, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, and The Rolling Stones stayed and played there. But when California's High-Speed Rail Project bypasses the strip, the motels disintegrate into a locale infamous for illicit activity, full of drugs and prostitution. A vérité, street-level vantage of post-industrial America, documented over eight years, on one city block.

PREMIERED AT SLAMDANCE FILM FESTIVAL



### OUT THERE: A NATIONAL PARKS STORY

DIRECTOR: BRENDAN HALL

70 MIN  
USA

Two childhood friends embark on a 10,000 mile road trip through the U.S. national parks, revealing a heartfelt tapestry of stories from the people they meet along the way. Far from any clichéd narrative, they hear profound stories of people from all ages, walks of life, and cultures that come to the parks seeking tranquility, healing, motivation, and connection to the natural world.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: BRENDAN HALL



### STORIES FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE

DIRECTOR: DEBORAH DICKSON  
WORLD PREMIERE

88 MIN  
USA

Beginning in the year preceding a global pandemic and culminating in the present day, *Stories from the Lighthouse* follows three young people on the verge of adulthood as they work toward fulfilling their dreams while "adapting to a sighted world." A film about growing up blind, about friendship, about loss, about transcendence.



## TO KILL A TIGER

DIRECTOR: NISHA PAHUJA  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

125 MIN  
CAN

On the night of a family wedding in a village in India, a 13-year-old girl is gang raped by three men. Her father takes on the fight of his life when he demands the accused be brought to justice. With tremendous access to all facets of the story, the film charts the emotional journey of an ordinary man thrown into extraordinary circumstances, and forces a social reckoning that will reverberate for years to come.

PREMIERED AT TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: NISHA PAHUJA

THIS SCREENING IS SUPPORTED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF CANADA  
IN NEW YORK.

Canada



## WE ARE TENACIOUS

DIRECTOR: ASH KREIS  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

86 MIN  
USA

This family of dedicated pioneers, made up entirely of transgender alpaca ranchers, have set out to make the Tenacious Unicorn Ranch in Colorado (located "somewhere in the middle of nowhere") a Queer Utopia. But as they pursue their true liberation, they also battle fierce weather, impossible finances, far-right militia, and their own internal conflicts, leading to a discovery of what tenacity really means.

# DARKHOUSE FILMS



## ABRUPTIO

DIRECTOR: EVAN MARLOWE  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

94 MIN  
USA

Les Hackel is a guy down on his luck who wakes to find an explosive device has been implanted in his neck. He must carry out heinous crimes in order to stay alive while trying to identify the mastermind manipulating the now twisted and strange world around him.

MAIN CAST: JAMES MARSTERS, JORDAN PEELE, ROBERT ENGLUND, SID HAIG, HANA MAE LEE

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: EVAN MARLOWE  
ACTOR: DARREN DARNBOROUGH



## BROOKLYN 45

DIRECTOR: TED GEOGHEGAN

93 MIN  
USA

Five military veterans gather in the ornate parlor of a Brooklyn brownstone. Best friends since childhood, they've reunited to support their troubled host, but when his invitation for cocktails turns into an impromptu séance, the metaphoric ghosts of their past become all too literal.

MAIN CAST: ANNE RAMSAY, JEREMY HOLM, LARRY FESSENDEN

PREMIERED AT SXSW



## ENTER MYCEL

DIRECTOR: DANIEL LIMMER

74 MIN  
AUT

After the death of her mother, thirteen-year-old Lena struggles to keep her family life and her own sanity together, juggling the challenges of caring for both her newborn baby sister and her depressed father, who seeks relief in a communication system enabled by a natural fungal parasite called Mycel.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: DANIEL LIMMER

THIS SCREENING IS SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRIAN CULTURAL FORUM IN NYC.

austrian | cultural | forum <sup>NYC</sup>





## GHOST BABE

DIRECTOR: PIPE DELGADO

80 MIN  
USA

Three surfer bros get tangled up in an 80-year-old murder mystery after inheriting a mansion haunted by the foxy spirit of a legendary 1930s Hollywood starlet. Is this the end for them, or just the beginning?

■ TALENT ATTENDING

WRITERS/PRODUCERS: BRADEN BACHA & ANI ORRIS



## UNICORN BOY

DIRECTOR: MATT KIEL

90 MIN  
USA

When a heartbroken young artist is sucked into a unicorn-run alternate dimension, they must help conquer a dark force in order to bring peace to the kingdom and themselves.

PREMIERED AT SLAMDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

MAIN CAST: MATT KIEL, MARIA BAMFORD, PATTON OSWALT, MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG, HAROLD PERRINEAU



## SPECIAL SCREENING

### THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

DIRECTOR: NIELS ARDEN OPLEV

152 MIN  
SWE

The first installment of Stieg Larsson's Millennium Series (2009). A troubled computer hacker and a disgraced journalist are hired by the wealthy Henrik Vanger to investigate the suspicious disappearance of his niece 40 years earlier. As the pair dig deeper, they discover evidence pointing to a scripture-minded serial killer.

MAIN CAST: NOOMI RAPACE, MICHAEL NYQVIST

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: NIELS ARDEN OPLEV



# DARKHOUSE SHORTS



**A BODY APPEARED AT THE LAKE TODAY**  
DIRECTOR: BRIAN RATIGAN

5 MIN  
USA

A found footage examination of what happened at the lake today. Images randomly selected from found footage; poems written without images; music written without images or words. A collaborative work by Non Films. 8mm found footage: New York, 1953. Assembled in Brooklyn.



**ALIENATION**  
DIRECTOR: RAY RAGHAVAN

14 MIN  
CAN

A young Mexican girl, lost in the forest, must find her mother while being pursued by border patrol agents and something otherworldly.



**BENEATH CRACKED PAVEMENT**  
DIRECTOR: MARCUS FAHEY

16 MIN  
USA

Three Brooklyn highschoolers set out to make a quick buck selling candy bars in their neighborhood... but after stumbling onto the scene of a gruesome murder, the teens wind up being kidnapped and taken hostage by the occult hipsters who've just moved in.



**BIRDHOUSE**  
DIRECTOR: JESCA PRUDENCIO

11 MIN  
USA

A curious young boy and his family arrive at an Airbnb filled with birdhouses that are both whimsical... and haunting.



**BLACK DRAGON (RỒNG ĐEN)**  
DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER THOMPSON

14 MIN  
USA

Vietnam, 1968. A feared American colonel, nicknamed the Black Dragon by Vietnamese locals, must face his inner shadow when his platoon presents him with a captured Viet Cong girl who harbors some very unusual powers.



**THE BREAKTHROUGH**  
DIRECTOR: DANIEL SINCLAIR

14 MIN  
USA

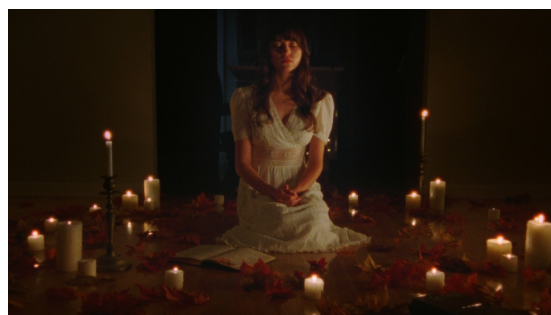
Jane and Teddy are on the brink of divorce, but when their marital problems come to a sticking point, they have an unexpected breakthrough. Starring Greta Lee, Ben Sinclair, Kristin Slaysman, and Hana Marie Kim. Winner of Best Live Action Short Film at the Phoenix Film Festival and Special Jury Award for Performances at the Sonoma International Film Festival.



**CONSUMER**  
DIRECTOR: STEPHANIE IZSAK

12 MIN  
USA

Tortured by toxic beauty standards, thirteen-year-old Rein discovers an unconventional and disturbing way to lose weight. She thinks she's found a fast track to perfection... but ends up biting off more than she can chew.



**ECHO**  
DIRECTOR: MATTHEW BRENNAN

3 MIN  
USA

A woman plays back a mysterious old tape.



**ELISABETH**  
DIRECTOR: MONICA DE ALMEIDA

SUB 14 MIN  
CHE

Recently widowed, Mr. Bojac feels like he's losing his mind. Oppressed by dreams, death, and a name repeated over and over again, he tries to understand their meaning. Even Jo, brought in to help him regain some mental clarity, leads him instead into psychological turmoil.





### EMPTY WINDOWS

DIRECTORS: ANDREW ROSENSTEIN & JOSEPH ROSENSTEIN

14 MIN  
USA

A little boy with schizophrenia survives a murder-suicide attempt at the hands of his mother. Haunted by the past, he stops taking medication to confront his demons.

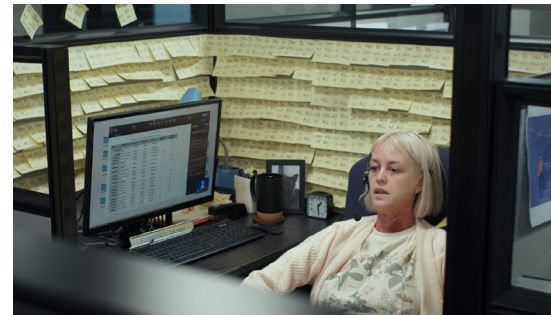


### ESCALATION

DIRECTOR: CHRISTIAN BACHINI

SUB 15 MIN  
ITA

A paranoid and self-centered man has to decide what kind of person he is inside, or it may just eat him... alive.



### FLORENCE IN CUSTOMER CARE

DIRECTORS: JORDAN SOMMERLAD & CORY STONEBROOK

14 MIN  
USA

A customer care representative at a furniture website begins to unravel as a mysterious rash appears on her body.



### GET AWAY

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL GABRIELE

15 MIN  
USA

A group of friends spending the weekend at a remote vacation rental in the desert play a mysterious VHS tape and realize that there are too many strange and terrifying coincidences.



### GIVEN AGAIN

DIRECTOR: JAKE OLESON

9 MIN  
USA

A painter's obsession with a pattern in nature disrupts her sense of what is real. The more she fixates on this pattern, the more reality falls apart.



### HALF SAMURAI

DIRECTOR: RASHAD HAUGHTON

SUB 11 MIN  
USA/JPN

A mysterious drifter wanders into a bar owned by a psychopathic Yakuza gang on Halloween night.



### HIGHER GROUNDS

DIRECTOR: JOE KRAMER

17 MIN  
USA

On the fateful day intelligent life arrives to destroy Earth, a slacker alien gets sidetracked from his mission when he's smitten with a bitter barista. Suddenly, our survival depends on whether this space-schmuck can get her number before his plucky partner blows us sky high.



### JUNE

DIRECTOR: DWAYNE CAMERON

15 MIN  
NZL

Willow and David receive serious news causing their world to disintegrate over the following 24 hours. This one day in June for the couple holds raw despair, unleashing carnal natures, but a transcendent occurrence offers them the hope of new life.



### IN THE MOUNTAINS

DIRECTOR: WALLY CHUNG

5 MIN  
USA

A couple go hiking and something weird happens.

# DARKHOUSE SHORTS



**THE KEYS**  
DIRECTOR: PANN MURUJAIYAN

18 MIN  
AUS

Rupert, a real estate agent in 1949 Los Angeles, pilfers an estate listing to prove his merit but soon discovers that his actions have put him in grave danger.



**THE LAKE MERRITT MONSTER**  
DIRECTOR: BENJAMIN MULHOLLAND

17 MIN  
USA

When Ollie Henderson's mother is attacked by a monster hiding in the depths of Lake Merritt, he sets out on a mission to find her — discovering instead a hidden network of monster hunters tasked with protecting Oakland from its own dark underbelly.



**LATE NIGHT**  
DIRECTOR: OBEID UDDIN

SUB 12 MIN  
NPL

After a late-night study session, Tara decides to head home. But the driver she booked has a mysterious history with her family... and ulterior motives against her.



**THE LITTLE MERMAN**  
DIRECTORS: CRISTIAN PALUSO & MELANIE OOI

13 MIN  
USA

An isolated woman on the Puget Sound makes a mysterious discovery on the beach in this psychological fantasy.



**MICKEY DOGFACE**  
DIRECTOR: ZACH FLEMING

10 MIN  
USA

Halloween night, three friends high in a van, and an urban legend surrounding a cult singer's mysterious death in a fire — what could go wrong?



**MINCEMEAT MANOR**  
DIRECTORS: HEDLEY HARLAN & RYAN M SHAW

6 MIN  
USA

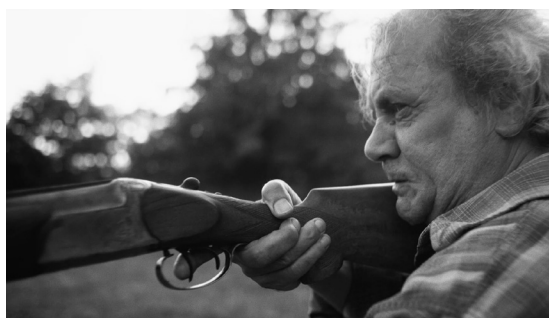
After accidentally waltzing his ravishing wife into a cattle pulverizer of his own creation, a disgraced inventor and his enemies hold a séance to set the record straight with the dearly departed spouse.



**NIGHT AFTER-LIFE**  
DIRECTOR: LUKE MILLER

7 MIN  
USA

After gorging himself on alcoholic teenagers, an ancient vampire comes face-to-face with Death—and Death would like a few words.



**PUNISHMENT**  
DIRECTOR: CRISTINA DI LORITO

SUB 18 MIN  
ITA

The life of a shepherd changes after the arrival of a spirit in his farm. The spirit has come to protect the animals he took advantage of during his whole life.



**SONAR**  
DIRECTOR: JAMES HUGHES

6 MIN  
UK

A swimmer detects an unusual sound late at night, and she decides to investigate.



### UKUKU

DIRECTORS: SCOTT BEKISZ & RONALD RODAS

8 MIN  
USA

When Sami, a young woman who works for a mining company, tries to evict a Shaman from his home, he places a curse on her which summons a mythic creature called the Ukuku.



### VARIATIONS ON A THEME

DIRECTOR: PETER COLLINS CAMPBELL

7 MIN  
USA

A couple has begun physically splitting into many different versions of themselves and must investigate an uncomfortable mutation that has arisen. Peter Collins Campbell is the director of *DimLand*, LIFF 2021 Jury Award winner for Best Narrative Feature.



## BLOCK 1

THURSDAY 6:00 PM

MINCEMEAT MANOR	ELISABETH
PUNISHMENT	LATE NIGHT
JUNE	
ECHO	
THE KEYS	

## BLOCK 4

SUNDY 11:00 AM

VARIATIONS ON A THEME	HIGHER GROUND
FLORENCE IN CUSTOMER CARE	EMPTY WINDOWS
CONSUMER	GIVEN AGAIN
IN THE MOUNTAINS	HALF SAMURAI

## BLOCK 2

FRIDAY 5:45 PM

BIRDHOUSE	THE LITTLE MERMAN
UKUKU	MICKEY DOGFACE
BENEATH CRACKED PAVEMENT	GET AWAY
SONAR	

## BLOCK 3

SATURDAY 5:45 PM

NIGHT AFTER-LIFE	A BODY APPEARED AT THE LAKE TODAY
ALIENATION	ESCALATION
BLACK DRAGON	THE LAKE MERRITT MONSTER
THE BREAKTHROUGH	

# FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL



## A ROOM WITHOUT A VIEW

DIRECTOR: SACHA SEWHDAT  
WORLD PREMIERE

13 MIN  
CAN

When a downtrodden man tries his luck at a futuristic brothel, he finds himself in a session with an uncomfortably familiar, artificially intelligent sex worker. Neither has any idea how much their short time together will affect their futures.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

LEAD ACTRESS & PRODUCER: NICOLE MOLLER, LIFF Episodics Juror 2023



## BALL AND VASE

DIRECTOR: DAVID BARAM

31 MIN  
USA

When an ailing and widowed elderly magician learns his grandson will not be visiting for his last Christmas, he struggles to reconnect with the world—and himself—by attempting to perform at a local pub that he used to visit with his wife.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: DAVID BARAM, LIFF Shorts Juror 2023



## HOME (EPISODIC)

DIRECTOR: NAEEMA BUTT  
WORLD PREMIERE

9 MIN  
USA

A Pakistani woman's journey in search of a place to call home in the bustling city of New York, as she navigates her identity and grapples with the duality of perception, all in one unforgettable night.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR & ACTRESS: NAEEMA BUTT, LIFF Episodics Juror 2023



## LEVITICUS

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRA RAINIS  
US PREMIERE

9 MIN  
USA

When seminarian Eduard is caught kissing a fellow seminarian in church, he is forced to decide between his faith and his love. Director Alexandra Rainis is a LIFF programmer.



## VACATION HOME

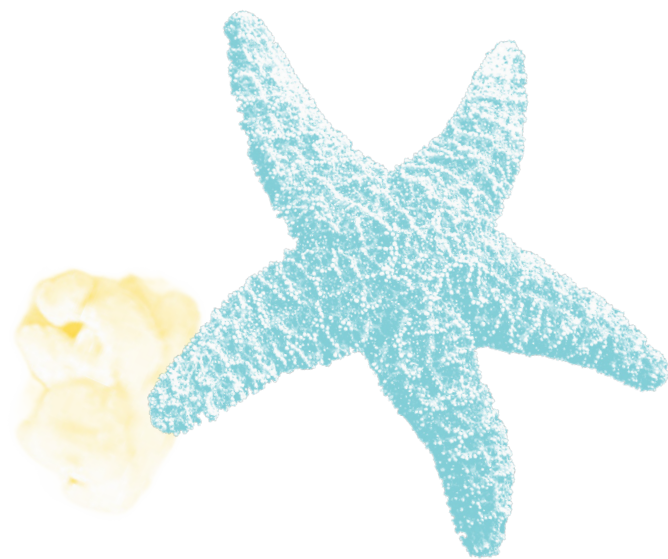
DIRECTOR: JOAN STEIN SCHIMKE  
WORLD PREMIERE

6 MIN  
USA

When Dora goes on vacation with her daughter Hannah, she begins to see the world differently.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: JOAN STEIN SCHIMKE, LIFF Shorts Juror 2023



# SHORT FILMS NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



**A BELLEVUE LOVE STORY**  
DIRECTOR: MICHAEL WOLFE

20 MIN  
USA

A manic and a depressive begin a hospital romance that forces us to question everything we thought we knew about medicine and everything we want to believe about the healing power of love.



**A LOT OF YOU ARE ASKING**  
DIRECTOR: LIZA RENZULLI

7 MIN  
USA

Alexis strives for a life of intentional, curated, elevated perfection — and to share that life with her cadre of social media followers.



**A NATURAL FORCE**  
DIRECTOR: GORDON LEPAGE

3 MIN  
USA

Two raccoons follow different paths along to the physics of things. A stop-motion animated short.



**A NIGHT IN THE CÓSMICO**

DIRECTORS: LUIS DE VAL & DIEGO HERRERO



15 MIN  
ESP

Based on the book "The End of the World" by Javier Prieto, *A Night in the Cósmico* explains the story of two people who, as they have lost everything, can finally live without fear.



**AN IDEAL OF LIBERTY**  
DIRECTOR: NOEL PAGANOTTI

14 MIN  
USA

In 1929, an African American couple are forced out of their home by the government after a railroad is set to be built on top of their land. Bill will have to choose between leaving with his wife and baby or staying to protect his house and legacy.



**ANNIVERSARY**

DIRECTOR: LAIN KIENZLE

15 MIN  
USA

In anticipation of what she hopes is a surprise anniversary dinner from her husband, a middle-aged woman enlists the help of her best friend to give her a stunning makeover that's been long overdue.



### ASKING FOR IT

DIRECTOR: CHRISTY LEE HUGHES

12 MIN  
USA

A victim of a crime quickly becomes the suspect in this gender flipped adaptation of a satirical play directed by Lighthouse International Film Festival Alumna Christy Lee Hughes (Guardian, 2021).



### EVERGREEN

DIRECTOR: MALIN BARR

7 MIN  
USA

In the award-winning short film Evergreen, the line between reality and dream blurs for Swedish Mia (Malin Barr) who suffers from anxiety induced paranoia on the day of her immigration interview.

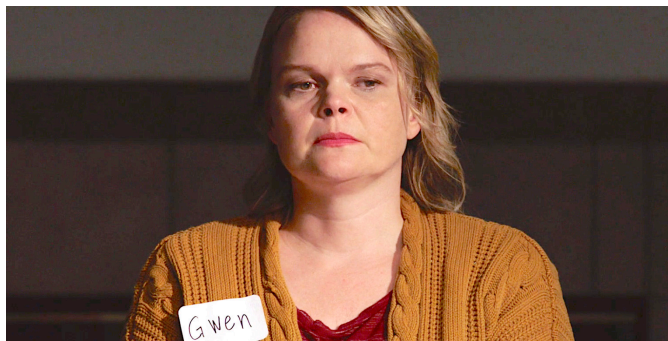


### GPS

DIRECTOR: NELL DASHIELL

9 MIN  
USA

Kim and Jamie—an upscale, young urban couple—have just arrived home after an evening out with friends when Kim hears a noise. Fearing that a burglar may be downstairs, Kim dispatches Jamie to investigate. As it happens, Kim is on the right track, BUT..



### HANGMAN

DIRECTOR: MEGAN BROTHERTON

15 MIN  
USA

A recently widowed woman works through the complexities of grief with the help of friends, strangers, and Tupperware. Starring: Sarah Rodenbaugh, Bonnie Helman, Suzy Nakamura, Travis Coles, JP Manoux.

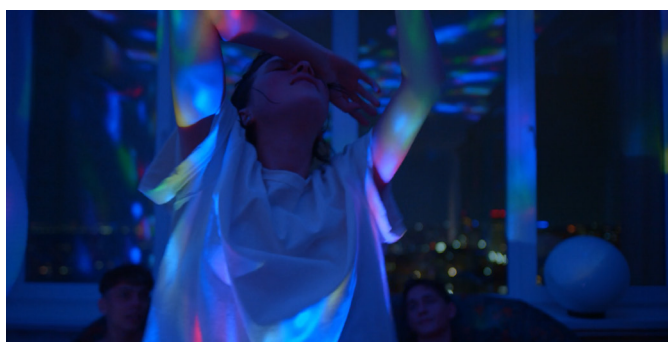


### HE CAN SLEEP ON THE COUCH

DIRECTOR: AHINOAM CAPON

SUB 21 MIN  
ISR

In her own domestic Garden of Eden, a young writer tangles herself in a love triangle with her stable boyfriend and his famous younger brother who is forced to sleep on their couch following a breakup. (Jerusalem Film Festival, Special Mention: Best Live Action Short Film)



### HOMO DEUS. DIVINE HUMAN

DIRECTOR: YULA DEGLINA

SUB 19 MIN  
UKR

Two partygoers, Nazar and Ulia, intervene to save a man having a bad drug trip and contemplating suicide on a rooftop. What was supposed to be a one-night stand turns into a day of caring for the troubled stranger and forming an unexpected friendship.

CONT'D

# SHORT FILMS NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



### HOW TO PACK UP YOUR LIFE IN ONE DAY

DIRECTOR: ALBERT BENIADA

4 MIN  
USA

This short film explores the emotional journey of a woman who must pack up and say goodbye to her life, inspired by actress Sam Garland's own experiences. Set to an eponymous poem, the film delves into the anguish, thrill, and grief of starting anew, discovering what must be left behind to move forward.

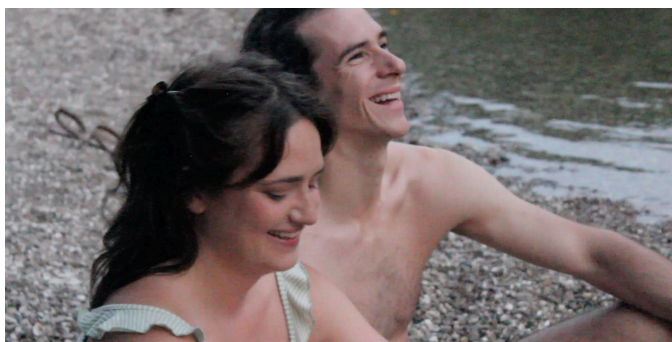


### ICE CREAM. SLADOLED

DIRECTOR: STEVE SPREMO

12 MIN  
USA

A Day in the Life of a recent immigrant, where no one understands anyone else, and a trip to buy ice cream triggers a series of absurd misadventures. Premiered at Palm Springs Int'l ShortFest. LIFF is this short's 18th film festival and New Jersey Premiere.



### LEAVE ME TENDER

DIRECTOR: RACHEL COLLIGNON

SUB 12 MIN  
FRA

Leo came to the countryside a year ago, battling crippling depression. Tonight, she's ready to find new horizons. But her hosts have a different idea in mind. Rachel Collignon wrote, directed, and stars in this short film, receiving several acknowledgments in European festivals.

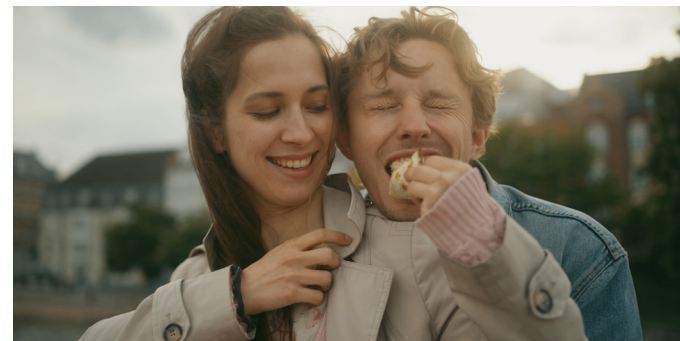


### I WANTED TO BE VITTORIO GASSMAN

DIRECTOR: CRISTIAN SCARDIGNO

SUB 16 MIN  
ITA

In 1962, 40-year-old actor Aldo Marianecchi returns to his hometown, Cisterna di Latina, hoping for his big break. While spending the weekend with lifelong friends and a young American woman he met on a movie set in Rome, he anxiously awaits a life-changing call.

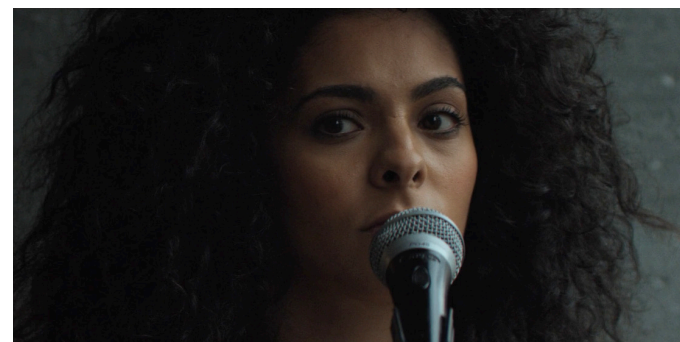


### LIV

DIRECTOR: KASPER VEJLO KRISTENSEN

SUB 15 MIN  
DNK

A young woman unknowingly discovers a mystical power whereby she can bring back the dead, but only if she is the cause of death. When she finds out that her boyfriend is terminally ill, to save her love, she must choose between her power and destiny.



### LES CÂLINS CHEAPS (CHEAP HUGS)

DIRECTOR: SARAH BASKIN

15 MIN  
CAN

Two strangers, reeling from the loss of their mutual friend, find themselves in an unexpected moment of connection on the streets of Montreal. Starring Valéry Lessard, Miryam Magri & Sarah Baskin. Best Drama (Toronto Shorts); Special Jury Award, Le Train Bleu (Cinema on the Bayou).





**LUNCHBOX**  
DIRECTOR: ANNE HU

16 MIN  
USA

When a Taiwanese American woman prepares lunches from her childhood, she struggles to forgive herself for pushing away her immigrant mother.



**MOTHERLAND**  
DIRECTOR: CHRISTINA YOON

18 MIN  
USA

A Korean adoptee raised in America returns to Korea to search for her birth mother. She is met with secrecy from the adoption agency as well as her own family but remains relentless on her solo journey, driven by her longing to discover the truth of her origins.



**NAKAM**  
DIRECTOR: ANDREAS KESSLER

SUB 33 MIN  
DEU

Ukraine, 1942. Twelve-year-old violinist Mitka plays in a Ukrainian restaurant with pianist Yegor. Nobody knows that Mitka is part of a Jewish partisan movement. When an opportunity arises to execute an attack on SS officers in the restaurant, Mitka puts his only friend, Yegor, in grave peril.



**NOCTURNAL BURGER**  
DIRECTOR: REEMA MAYA

28 MIN  
USA

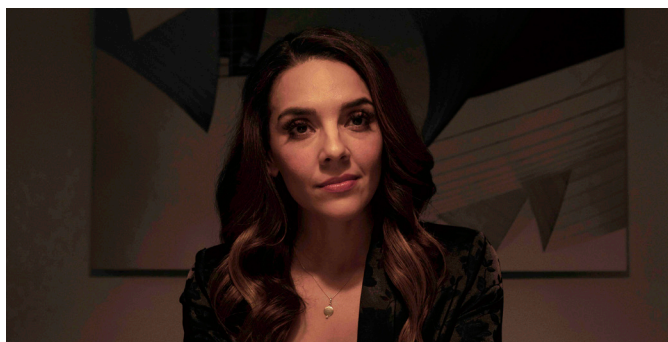
A 13-year-old girl and a 30-something man are brought to a police station in Mumbai in the middle of the night by two strangers. Amidst questionable motives and unreliable narrators, a frustrated female constable investigates what happened that night, and what could've happened.



**OMI**  
DIRECTOR: ADAM LEBOWITZ-LOCKARD

15 MIN  
USA

When he's ready to take the next step with his shiksa girlfriend, a young Jewish man gets possessed by the spirit of his dead Yiddish grandmother, Omi, who has plans of her own.



**ONE NIGHT WITH LOVE**  
DIRECTOR: SALVATORE E. SUTERA

27 MIN  
USA

Vanessa Rubio, of Cobra Kai, leads a stellar cast in a story where, over the course of one night, the entity of LOVE takes the form of a human again, coming to the aid of a former Latina dancer who has lost her way.

CONT'D

# SHORT FILMS NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



**OUT OF WATER**  
DIRECTOR: MADI STINE

13 MIN  
USA

When a disenchanted mermaid-for-hire is mistaken for a real one, she plays along to disastrous consequences. Starring Marlee Learner, Anabelle Murphy. Best Short, Myrtle Beach International Film Festival. Best Student Film, Julien Dubuque International Film Festival.



**OVERDUE**  
DIRECTOR: MELISSA SKIRBOLL

15 MIN  
USA

Maureen, a laid-off widow working at a dive bar, reconnects with former student Jason after he receives bad reviews for his play. They find hope for a better tomorrow.



**OVER MY DEAD BODY**  
DIRECTOR: MEITAL COHEN NAVARRO

25 MIN  
USA

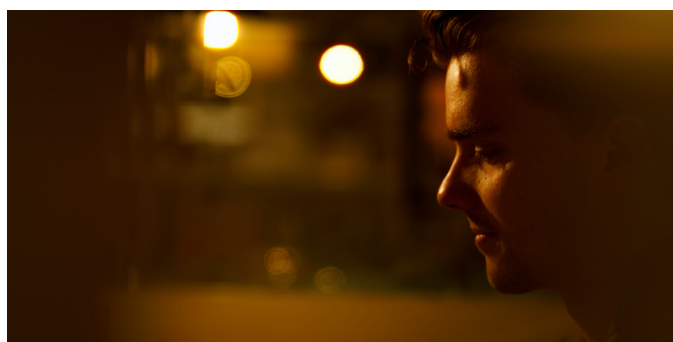
When a young Jewish Persian-American woman tells her parents that her fiancé is Muslim, they make her choose between him and them.



**RABIES**  
DIRECTOR: ALBERTO DÍAZ

**SUB** 16 MIN  
ESP

Filomena's life is struck by poverty and the sad obscurity of hardship and torment. Terrible occurrences will mark her character during her childhood growing up in a Galician hamlet towards the end of the 19th century. Might she have the opportunity to change her fate?



**REMNANTS OF A BROKEN HEART**  
DIRECTOR: RICH TOULMIN

19 MIN  
UK

Award-winning director Rich Toulmin uses his experience with Autism to tell a story about a man experiencing a breakup from an abusive relationship, showing how he struggles to deal with emotions as a male in modern society, and as a neurodivergent.



**REQUIEM**  
DIRECTOR: EMMA GILBERTSON

25 MIN  
UK

Requiem is set in 1605 against the backdrop of the witch trials. It's a coming of age story, following Evelyn (Bella Ramsey) as she engages in a game of cat and mouse against her father, Minister Gilbert, in order to be with Mary (Safia Oakley-Green), the woman she loves.



### ROUNDABOUT

DIRECTORS: VINNY ANAND & RONALD AUSTIN JR.

10 MIN  
USA

When a finance all-star walks in on a surprising and scandalous scene involving his boss and trans sister, he's thrown into a world of moral turmoil. As he's forced to confront his own values and beliefs, he begins to realize that nothing is what it seems in his inner circle.



### SHELL SHOCKED

DIRECTOR: PAULA CAJIAO

13 MIN  
USA

After 2 years of unsuccessful treatment, a combat veteran suffering from Battle-induced stuttering discovers a controversial drug banned since World War II that has the possibility to cure him.



### SOLIDARITY

DIRECTOR: MARK L. MAZZEO

6 MIN  
USA

When Reilly and Darwin hear about budget cuts at the office, they agree to act in solidarity to save their jobs. Starring Melanie Rosedale, Matthew Schmid, and Patrick Heraghty.



### SPLIT

DIRECTOR: ANU VAIDYANATHAN

SUB 16 MIN  
LUX

*Split* is about the fissures in a marriage and how a couple, Natalie and Joseph, overcome them in the presence of a foreigner, Sheila, who looks to become a mainstay. An ode to writers, to writing, despite everything.



### STOLEN DREAMS

DIRECTOR: JUSTIN FERRATO

12 MIN  
USA

A detained migrant escapes a detention center and tries to survive on the run. A fever dream into the psyche of a migrant teenager traumatized by his journey. Houston WorldFest 2023, Platinum Remi Award Winner (Live Action Short).



### TART

DIRECTOR: ROSE SCHIMM

11 MIN  
CAN

An elderly widow lives in a lonely grey world until she adopts a big lovable dog who brings love and color back into her life.

CONT'D

# SHORT FILMS NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



**THE AVON LADY**  
DIRECTOR: CAROLINA ESPIRO

13 MIN  
USA

An elderly immigrant named Rosa decides to face her fears of speaking English and becomes an Avon Lady. She's a fantastic failure until she meets an eccentric customer who shows her she'll need more than English to make a sale.



**THE CHOSEN ONE**  
DIRECTOR: ELAZAR FINE

19 MIN  
USA

After impulsively shaving off his beard and sidelocks, Eli Eisenstein is thrown out of his Hasidic family home. He finds refuge with his estranged ex-religious aunt Shifra, but inner turmoil forces him to flee her apartment in the middle of the night.



**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**  
DIRECTOR: ANDREW FITZGERALD

17 MIN  
USA

A Vietnamese-American family's plan to cover up a drunk driving accident begins to unravel when their emotional baggage spills out in front of the police.



**THE HOPE CHEST HAS A SECRET DRAWER**  
DIRECTOR: LAURA FRENZER

15 MIN  
USA

A daughter working to reach her mother lost in Alzheimer's uncovers a dark family secret. Starring Amy Hargreaves (*Homeland*, *Blue Ruin*) and Anna Stuart (*As the World Turns*, *All My Children*). An award-winning screenplay by Laura Frenzer, and a women-led team.



**THE REWRITE**  
DIRECTOR: KEN AGUADO

9 MIN  
USA

A British screenwriter asks his estranged writing partner to read a letter that turns out to be a suicide note, but tempers flare and old wounds resurface when the estranged partner insists on a major rewrite. Starring Chris Geere (*You're the Worst, This is Us*) & Chris Webster (*Reacher*, *Most Dangerous Game*).



**THE RITZ**  
DIRECTOR: ALLEX TARR

15 MIN  
USA

In 1950s Oklahoma, a 16-year-old girl must decide whether to stay with her abusive father or elope with her new beau. Based on a true story.



### TO BE HONEST

DIRECTOR: JOHN ROBERT HAMMERER

6 MIN  
USA

Two exes attempt to reconnect, unaware they each have something to hide.



### WHAT WILL BE, WILL BE

DIRECTOR: JACK WAKE-WALKER

11 MIN  
UK

Kutaisi, Georgia: A Ukrainian refugee and a local taxi driver must navigate around specific problems in their lives, while Fate looms over them. Starring and co-written by Darina Rulova, who fled Mariupol in March 2022.



### WHEN YOU LEFT ME ON THAT BOULEVARD

DIRECTOR: KAYLA ABUDA GALANG

13 MIN  
USA

Teenager Ly and her cousins get high before a boisterous family Thanksgiving at their auntie's house in southeast San Diego in 2006. Received the 2023 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Grand Jury Prize and the 2023 SXSW Special Jury Prize for Vision.

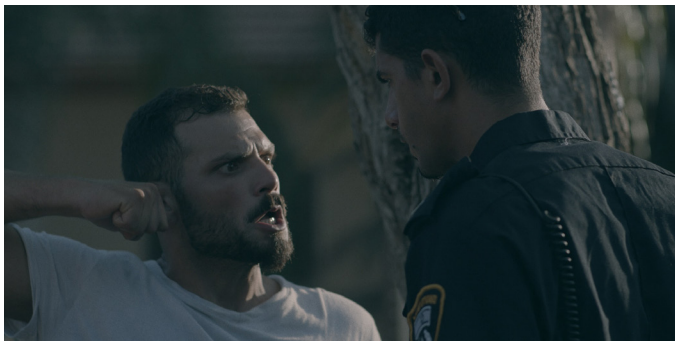


### YOU CAN STAY HERE IF YOU WANT

DIRECTOR: SARAH ROSEN

12 MIN  
USA

Breaking up is hard to do—especially during a crisis. When a couple breaks up on the eve of the New York City lockdown, their relationship gets a second shot. Shot on 16mm, a dramatic comedy about what we owe our lovers, our neighbors, and ourselves.



### YUVALO

DIRECTOR: ADI NAGAR

SUB 6 MIN  
ISR

Yarden calls the police on her manic-depressive brother. She is forced to face both her family, who are in denial, and law enforcement, who do not take the matter seriously. Will her brother Yuvalo finally receive treatment, or will he be sent back home again?

# SHORT FILMS DOCUMENTARY

## COMPETITION



**#MOCRAZYSTRONG**  
DIRECTORS: JAMIE MOCRAZY & MARK LOCKI

18 MIN  
USA

Professional skier Jamie MoCrazy's life was flipped upside down after a traumatic brain injury from a ski accident. In this inspiring story witness Jamie's journey from a statistically improbable survival to recovery with groundbreaking treatment and the support of her family and the medical community.



**ASTOR PLACE, THE AMERICAN DREAM** 20 MIN  
DIRECTOR: GIUSEPPE MALPASSO USA

Evolved through time, legendary multiethnic hair salon Astor Place has become a beacon of New York City cool. Between its forty artists, they share their stories that show the commitment of immigrants who came to America in pursuit of their dreams and still believe that there is light beyond the horizon.



**A PERFECT LOVE**  
DIRECTOR: KYLE SAYLORS

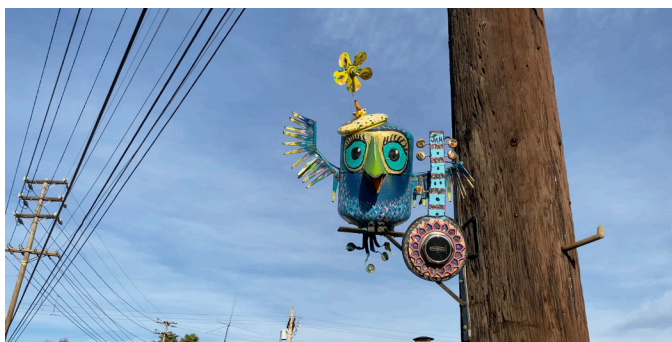
28 MIN  
USA

An inspirational story of one family's dream to adopt a child with special needs from China. Eight years and six special needs children later, the family copes with the struggles of bringing two cultures together to form an everlasting bond.



**DARON, DARON COLBERT** 14 MIN  
DIRECTOR: KEVIN EDWARD STEEN USA

An actor living on the edge of one of the most polluted zip codes in the United States prepares for a role.



**POWERS**  
DIRECTOR: PAIGE MORROW KIMBALL

24 MIN  
USA

A budding artist in her 60s hangs whimsical trash sculptures on telephone poles to spread joy in her urban community. Worried it may be illegal, she disguises herself as a man and through her random acts of kindness comes into her own, making peace with her troubled past.



**REQUIEM FOR A WHALE** 15 MIN  
DIRECTOR: IDO WEISMAN **SUB** ISR

From an encounter with a whale's corpse washed ashore at Nitzanim beach in Israel, a collective experience shines, regarding the dialogue between life and death. Winner of IDFA award for Best Student Film.



### SALT LINES

DIRECTOR: DAN MCDUGALL

16 MIN  
UK

One woman's unlikely journey from law student to fifth generation Captain of her own lobster trawler. Balancing work with raising her son while also pregnant with her next child. A career path sought out of passion and tradition.



### THE EYE BEGINS IN THE HAND

DIRECTOR: YEHUDA SHARIM

15 MIN  
USA

A tribute to the artwork of Ruben A. Sanchez, who has been largely absent from critical conversations on Chicanx art, as well as an unsentimental reckoning with the fate of many cultural workers that struggle between paying rent and/or creative endeavors.



### THIS IS A STORY ABOUT NEON SIGNS

DIRECTOR: ERIKA MERCEDES BARKER

7 MIN  
USA

Join me as we explore the dazzling world of neon sign-making in New York City. Meet the talented artisans who hand-bend tubes to create stunning works of art that light up the city. Get ready to be wowed by their fascinating history and cultural significance.



### UNDER G-D

DIRECTOR: PAULA EISELT

24 MIN  
USA

"Under G-d" is a Sundance 2023 documentary short about the Jewish response to the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Supreme Court decision. It follows the legal challenges to abortion bans on religious freedom grounds and the fight to protect democracy while upholding the separation of church and state.



# EPISODICS

## COMPETITION



### BLIND STITCH

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER BERGMAN

17 MIN  
USA

A Koreatown tailor finds success in America by living a double life as a gang surgeon. In a city of secrets, he knows them all.



### BROKEN TOILETS

DIRECTOR: JESSE TOLEDANO  
WORLD PREMIERE

22 MIN  
USA

BROKEN TOILETS is a comedy about a Hasidic property manager who harbors a love for hip hop. When this is discovered by two of his tenants, who are aspiring hip hop artists themselves, they form an indelible trio and together they figure out how to balance their artistic passions with the realities of everyday living.



### CAMP GREENWOOD

DIRECTOR: KOURTNEY BELL

22 MIN  
USA

Camp Greenwood is a serialized dark comedy about six toxic narcissists who get trapped in a haunted cabin in the Adirondacks, and it won't set them free until they become better people.



### CARLY DOLLS

DIRECTORS: MAUDIE SCHMIDT &  
JAXSON POWER

20 MIN  
USA

A homeschooled fourteen-year-old, Carly, is forced to face public high school. She turns to her dolls, Lily and Mermia, for comfort and advice.



### COUPLE OF GUYS

DIRECTOR: DEBRA MARKOWITZ

21 MIN  
USA

A newly divorced attorney comes out and is ready to live it up with a flirtatious rocker who is ready to settle down, and together, they try for a second chance at love.



### EASILY SOLVED MYSTERIES

DIRECTOR: KEVIN RALSTON  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

9 MIN  
USA

A woman wakes up in her apartment to find something wasn't how she left it. The search for an answer changes her life when it really doesn't need to.



### GRIEVANCE GULCH

DIRECTOR: JIM HODGSON

7 MIN  
USA

A group of inept gunslingers try to form their own town so they won't get hanged. They discover that running a town just might be worse.



### HEADLESS: A SLEEPY HOLLOW STORY

DIRECTOR: WILLIAM J. STRIBLING

19 MIN  
USA

In this modernized, comedic update on the Washington Irving classic short story, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," awkward science teacher Ichabod Crane finds himself roommates with the legendary Headless Horseman and must embark on a mysterious journey to find his new friend's old head while discovering himself along the way.



### HIT MAN: SECRETS OF LIES

DIRECTOR: ELIAS PLAGIANOS

19 MIN  
USA

A reflective hitman from New York City travels to a small town where he is confronted with an artifact from his past that forces him to re-examine his profession and his personal history. Based on the best selling "Hit Man" book series by Grand Master of mystery Lawrence Sanders.



# EPISODICS

## COMPETITION



But I won't give up on you and I'm with you.

### INCOMING CALL

DIRECTORS: SHARON YAISH & GOLAN RAIS  
WORLD PREMIERE

SUB 21 MIN  
ISR

A first glance at the dramas that take place in the Anonymous Helplines of the ERAN Association (Emotional First Aid).



### LOST IN CALIFORNIA

DIRECTOR: MATHIEU ROCHET

SUB 15 MIN  
FRA

Larry, a Frenchman living in Los Angeles, sets out to track down Dr. Dre after making an untenable promise to his girlfriend: to bring her the unreleased Detox album he claims to have for a party. Larry has four days to find a record that was never released. Through this quest, he introduces us to Los Angeles and the Gangsta Rap culture.



### MASHED

DIRECTOR: STACEY MALTIN

6 MIN  
USA

A tender, raunchy, and queer exploration of female pelvic pain and sexual dysfunction that follows a woman struggling with vaginismus as she tries to connect with her sexuality through rushed and reckless intimacy and vigorous EMDR trauma therapy.



### THE MERRY MAKERS

DIRECTOR: JEAN-SEBASTIEN BUSQUE

16 MIN  
CAN

The Merry Makers is a TV show where JS and Fred, two likable yet slightly irreverent tinkerers, work on awesome projects and show young people how to make tons of practical stuff while cultivating their curiosity and know-how!



### METAL MAN

DIRECTOR: LAUREL PARMET  
CREATOR: TOMAS PAIS  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

10 MIN  
USA

Metal Man is a comedy about a heavy metal handyman who gets called for various jobs and always gets entangled in the lives of his unruly customers.

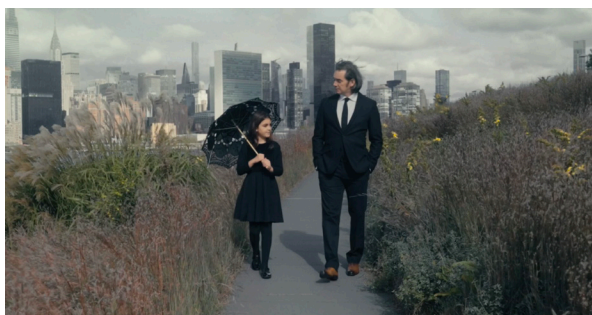


### STONED BREAKUPS: HANNAH

DIRECTOR: BENJAMIN-SHALOM RODRIGUEZ  
WORLD PREMIERE

8 MIN  
USA

Despite having asthma, comedian Hannah Pilkes smokes a fat blunt and shares details about a past relationship when she was just a 17-year-old improvising high schooler dating a 27-year-old guy who loved ketamine.



### UNCONDITIONAL

DIRECTOR: NELSON DOWNEND

7 MIN  
USA

Following a family funeral, a widower is caught off guard when his precocious 8-year-old daughter makes a wish to become a vampire so that she will never die.



### UN\$UITED

DIRECTOR: TOM BALDINGER

20 MIN  
USA

Greg makes the "bad" decision to walk away from his inheritance to become a professional poker player, not knowing the tremendous risks and implications his decisions will have on him and his family and friends.



### WHAT THE ELF?!

DIRECTOR: TATE HANYOK  
CREATOR: CAMERON KELLY

13 MIN  
USA

When a B-list actress gets canned from her network show, she takes the only other job she's qualified for: a Christmas Elf at the mall.

# SURF FILMS



## **BIG WAVE GUARDIANS**

**DIRECTOR: LUKE STIRTZ**

**91 MIN  
USA**

Hawaii's North Shore is the world's most dangerous 7 mile stretch of beach. As surfers push the limits and crowds increase, a small group of heroes have reinvented water safety on a parallel track to the rising dangers.



## **STOP PLAYIN' WITH 'EM**

**DIRECTOR: SEAN MADDEN**

**63 MIN  
USA**

Quest Soliman and Paul Godette are Rockaway Beach based skaters turned surfers. Trading frigid winter waves for Panamanian shores, the two celebrate diversity, brotherhood, and adventure.

# SURF SHORTS



## **BAGUS LAGI - THE DREAM NEVER ENDS**

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRE RIBAS

**SUB** 25 MIN  
BRA

Pedro Booman is a free surfer from Portugal who loves traveling to Indonesia in search of perfect barrels. After 3 years of restrictions due to the pandemic, he finally has an opportunity to return, this time staying 63 days in the northern Mentawai Islands, a true paradise on earth.



## **THE GIFT OF BATHSHEBA**

DIRECTOR: ZACH HELLMUTH

4 MIN  
USA

A documentary that explores Kevin "Buju" Nicholls' personal connection to his village on the East Coast of Barbados.



## **WAVES APART**

DIRECTOR: JOSH GREENE

25 MIN  
USA

A Jewish surfer confronts the dark, anti-semitic history of the sport he once found solace in. He investigates the swastikas carved into the first commercially produced surfboards, the German-American bund, and Hollywood's first surf film.



## **YAMA**

DIRECTORS: LUCY SMALL & MADDIE MEDDINGS

23 MIN  
AUS

Join Australian surfer and activist Lucy Small as she travels to Ghana to meet with a group of pioneering female surfers and skaters.

# INDUSTRY EVENTS



## MASTER CLASS

### STUNTS AND ACTING: INTERSECTIONALITY IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

WITH NICOLE MOLLER

In entertainment today, there's an ever-mounting pressure to stand out amongst the crowd. This pressure, mixed with the outdated idea that one must work their way up in one field only, creates a barrier to up-and-coming artists who have yet to secure the opportunity to work, but still have much to contribute to their industry. Longevity is key in an industry that takes diligence, patience, and constant vulnerability to carve one's place in it. Nicole Moller, a stunt performer and actor from Toronto, Canada, will explore the role of career intersectionality in the entertainment industry and how this approach is both professionally sustainable and personally fulfilling.

#### WHEN

FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH  
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

#### WHERE

### LBI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

129 Engleside Ave,  
Beach Haven, NJ 08008



## WORKSHOP

### GLAM TO GORE

WITH SOPHIA-MARIE ROMAN

Get ready to transform from glam to gore with Sophia-Marie Roman! As a licensed cosmetologist and makeup artist, Sophia-Marie is a master at creating stunning makeup looks for special occasions, TV, film, and theater. You might have seen her work in *Bel Air* on Peacock, *The Retaliator* on HBO Max, or *Free Meek* on Amazon Prime.

Sophia-Marie is skilled in prosthetic applications, using latex and silicone, blood rigging, character makeup, and face painting to achieve realistic and impressive results. Want to learn how to create realistic wounds, cuts, bruises, and burns like a pro? Then join Sophia-Marie in this special effects makeup workshop!

In this class, you'll witness Sophia-Marie's amazing skills as she demonstrates step-by-step how to achieve gory effects that you usually only see in movies and TV. You'll also get hands-on experience with the techniques and tools used in the industry. So, if you're ready to take your makeup game to the next level and get a little gory, come attend Sophia-Marie's special effects makeup workshop. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to learn from one of the best in the business!

#### WHEN

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH  
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### WHERE

### LBI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

129 Engleside Ave,  
Beach Haven, NJ 08008

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## BREAKFAST WITH THE FILMMAKERS

### FILMMAKERS PANEL WITH Q&A

Start your day off on a high note with some scrumptious bites and a cup of java, courtesy of Private Dining by Francis, the acclaimed executive French chef of LBI! Not only will your taste buds be delighted, but you'll also be treated to an engaging and enlightening conversation. The filmmakers behind many of the festival's narrative and documentary feature films will be there too, ready to answer your burning questions and share their insights.

Just a friendly reminder that this event is exclusively open to All Access Pass Holders, Filmmakers, Industry Guests, and Members of the Press. We're expecting a high turnout, so be sure to arrive on time. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!

## WEDNESDAY LAUNCH PARTY

Let's start the festival off with a bang! Join us as we come together to celebrate independent films on LBI. Happy Hour drinks and the Happy Hour menu will be available all night long exclusively for those with a festival badge. It's the perfect opportunity to meet new people, mingle, and most importantly, have a fantastic time.

Filmmakers, Industry Guests, Press, All Access Pass Holders, and Staff only. Must be 21.

## FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY

We would like to extend a warm invitation to join us at Wally's in Surf City for an unforgettable evening under the stars in their lovely tented outside courtyard. This is the perfect opportunity for filmmakers, film programmers, film buffs, and festival staff to mingle, share stories, and connect with one another.

Filmmakers, Industry Guests, Press, All Access Pass Holders, and Staff only. Must be 21.

## SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY

Join us for an enchanting evening celebrating independent films from around the world under the stars on Barnegat Bay. Sip wine, enjoy a beer, and nibble on delicious bites from the Queen City Market as you mingle with fellow film buffs and meet the filmmakers. Come for the stunning view, stay for the fun and entertainment! We can't wait to see you there.

Filmmakers, Industry Guests, Press, All Access Pass Holders, and Staff only. Must be 21.

## CLOSING PARTY & AWARDS CEREMONY

Celebrate with us at Joe Pop's, an iconic shore bar. Enjoy great cocktails and dinner provided by local restaurants, mingle with old and new friends, and await the highly anticipated awards announcements. Let's bid farewell to a wonderful festival and raise a glass to the memories made. Join us for a night of fun! See you at Joe Pop's!

Filmmakers, Industry Guests, Press, All Access Pass Holders, Staff, and Volunteers only.

### WHEN

FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH  
SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH  
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

### WHERE

**ST. THOMAS CHURCH**  
13th St. & Long Beach Blvd.  
Surf City, NJ

### WHEN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7TH  
10:00 p.m. - closing

### WHERE

**NARDI'S**  
11801 Long Beach Blvd.  
Long Beach, NJ

### WHEN

FRIDAY, JUNE 9TH  
10:00 p.m. - midnight

### WHERE

**WALLY'S**  
712 Long Beach Blvd.  
Surf City, NJ 08008

### WHEN

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH  
10:00 p.m. - midnight

### WHERE

**QUEEN CITY MARKET/  
MARINA**  
525 2nd St.  
Beach Haven, NJ 08008

### WHEN

SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### WHERE

**JOE POP'S SHORE BAR  
& RESTAURANT**  
2002 Long Beach Blvd.  
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008

# WRITE BY THE BEACH



Long Beach Island has a rich history of inspiring artists and writers for decades, and the Lighthouse International Film Festival is proud to continue this tradition with our annual Write by the Beach series. This special retreat offers a unique opportunity for selected screenwriters to unleash their creativity, connect with peers, and be inspired by the breathtaking beauty of Long Beach Island.

At the Lighthouse International Film Festival, we understand the challenges faced by women in the film industry, and we are committed to supporting women storytellers. We showcase women-written, directed, and produced films, and provide networking opportunities to help women advance their careers in this highly competitive field.

We believe that diversity of voices is essential to the art of storytelling, and our selection process reflects this commitment. Each year, we receive hundreds of applications from talented filmmakers and screenwriters, and we select three exceptional women who have a proven track record of success. To be eligible, applicants must have served as the primary screenwriter on at least one produced and completed short or feature film.

At the Lighthouse International Film Festival, we are proud to offer our Write by the Beach series and support the creativity and success of women in film. We believe that by providing opportunities for diverse voices to be heard, we can enrich our culture and society with fresh and compelling stories.



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FILMS COMPETITION

**ESCORTED**  
**ADRIAN ANTONSEN**  
Norway | 22:49 min

**EURYDICE**  
**IMOGEN RUSSELL**  
USA (NY) | 5:54 min

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY,  
MARGOT**  
**ANDRIANA YATSYSHYN**  
USA (NY) | 14:15 min

**HARDCORE**  
**MADELEINE CASE**  
USA (CA) | 9:57 min

**MAYA! THE MUSICAL**  
**ELLA LAMBIASE & MEAGHAN  
KRANTZ**  
USA (NJ) | 4:57 min

**REDUCE SINGLE-USE**  
**AARON DIAMENT**  
USA (NJ) | 0:59 min

**THE SUMMER WIND**  
**LUKAS CORNINE**  
USA (NJ) | 2:39 min

**TAKING INVENTORY**  
**AARON DIAMENT**  
USA (NJ) | 2:35 min

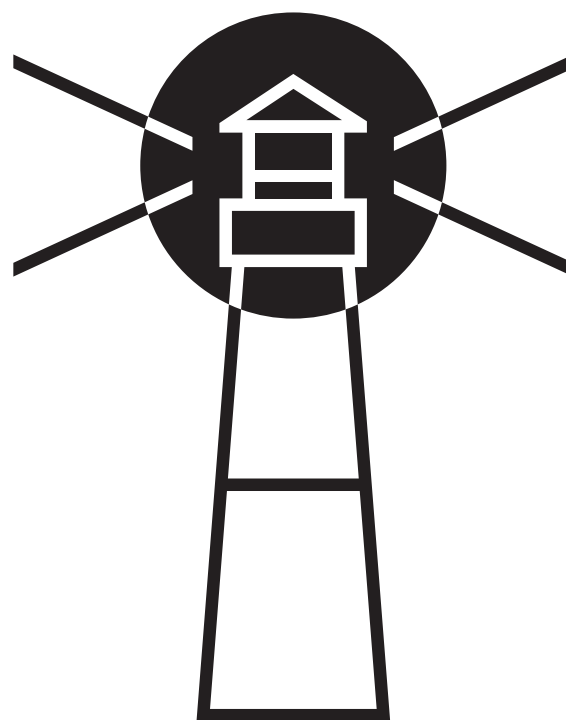
**WELL-DYING**  
**JUNHYEOK "ERIC" KIM**  
South Korea | 13:50 min

**WILD ANIMALS**  
**STEVEN MINAYA**  
USA (NJ) | 2:41 min

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Echoes  
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**LBI'S ARTS AND LEISURE MAGAZINE**

**Echoes of LBI Magazine™** is the ultimate guide to arts and leisure on Long Beach Island, NJ. A high quality magazine that's educational and an archive of local history, as well as art, photography, lifestyles, festivals and all shore activities. Every issue gives back to the community and its people.

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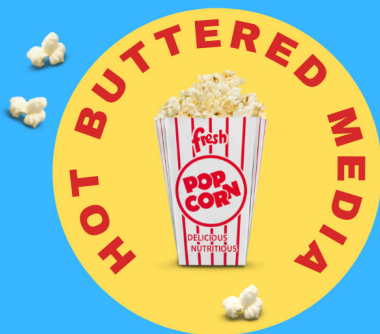
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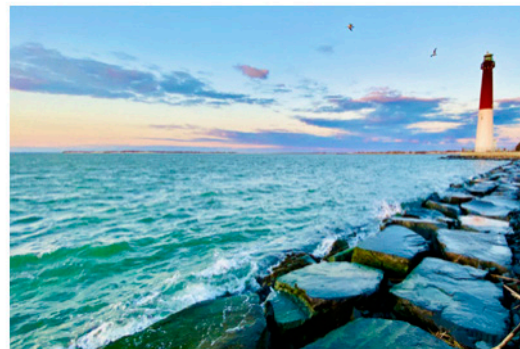
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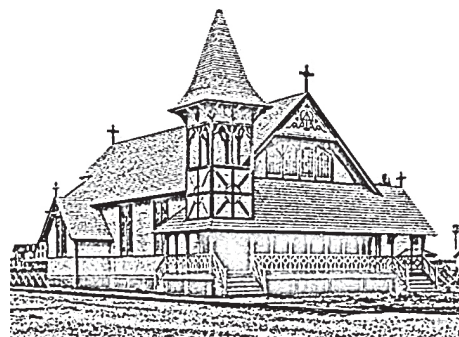
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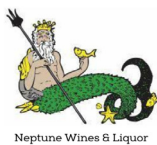
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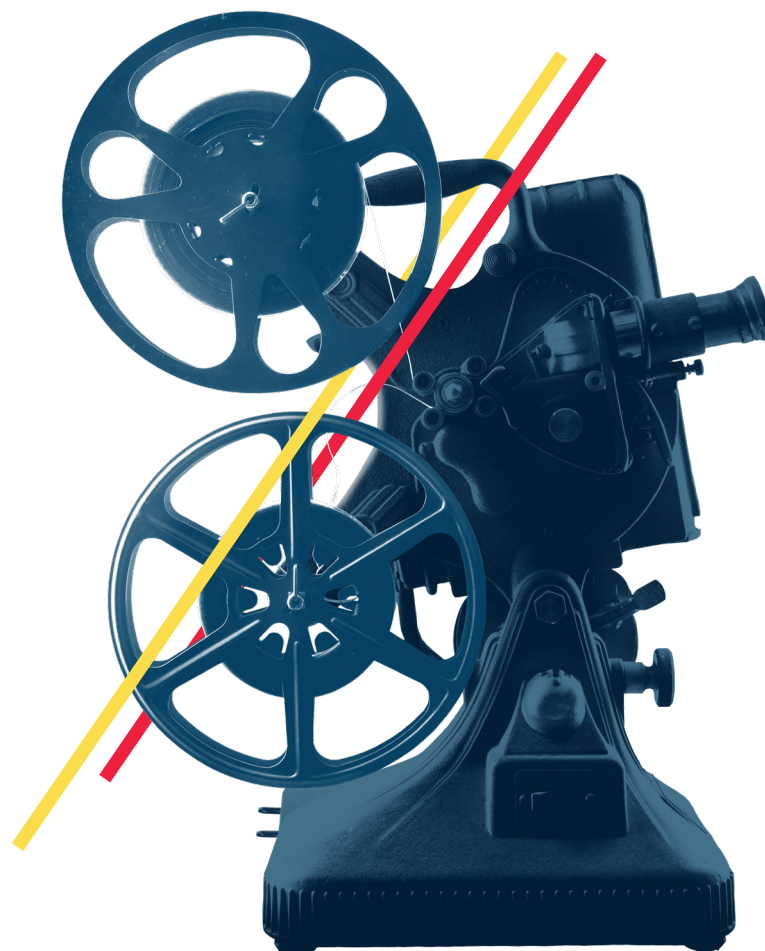
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Please arrive at the venues at least 15 minutes prior to the screening times to ensure seating. Be prepared to queue up outside the venue.



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## 2023 FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS HOURS:

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Friday, June 2 .....	<b>4:00 PM - 6:00 PM</b>
Tuesday, June 6.....	<b>11:00 AM - 1:00 PM</b>
Wednesday, June 7 .....	<b>11:00 AM - 6:00 PM</b>
Thursday, June 8.....	<b>11:00 AM - 6:00 PM</b>
Friday, June 9 .....	<b>11:00 AM - 7:30 PM</b>
Saturday, June 10.....	<b>11:00 AM - 7:00 PM</b>
Sunday, June 11.....	<b>11:00 AM - 2:00 PM</b>

***Pick up your passes, grab a program, purchase Festival merchandise, and obtain LBI information at our Headquarters. Passes can be picked up at all venues during the Festival with proof of purchase. Passes can also be picked up at Things A Drift in Ship Bottom 10am – 5pm, during Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences office hours, and at the Manahawkin location of Agnello's Café prior to the Festival. Please have proof of purchase.***

 Assisted listening headphones are available at the Regal Theater upon request. Call ahead 844.462.7342.

 Communication assistance is available upon request with 3 weeks notice.

 All locations are wheelchair accessible.

# LIFF SCHEDULE

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

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			6:30 ● <b>12 DAYS OF TERROR</b> + Q&A 86 MIN	
			9:00 ● <b>STOP PLAYIN' WITH EM'</b> + Q&A 63 MIN	
				10:00-CLOSING <b>WEDNESDAY LAUNCH PARTY</b> @NARDI'S

## THURSDAY, JUNE 8

			2:00 ● <b>PAIN UNDER THE SKIN</b> 60 MIN	
		2:30 <b>SHORTS BLOCK 1 + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN		
3:00 PM	● <b>3:00 FRIENDS OF THE FEST</b> + Q&A 70 MIN			
3:30 PM			3:45 <b>EPISODICS BLOCK 1</b> + Q&A 120 MIN	
5:00 PM		5:15 <b>SHORTS BLOCK 2 + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN		
5:30 PM	● <b>5:45 CELEBRATING JULIA REICHERT</b> + Q&A 30 MIN			
6:30 PM			6:30 ● <b>DARKHOUSE SHORTS 1 + Q&amp;A</b> 105 MIN	
7:30 PM	● <b>7:30 PARACHUTE</b> + Q&A 97 MIN   OPENING FILM			
8:00 PM		8:00 <b>SHORTS BLOCK 3 + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN		
8:30 PM			9:00 ● <b>BROOKLYN 45</b> 93 MIN	

● HEADLINER  
 ● SPOTLIGHT  
 ● DOCUMENTARY  
 ● FEATURES  
 ● SURF  
 ● DARKHOUSE  
 ● SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



CONT'D

# FRIDAY, JUNE 9

	LBI FOUNDATION LOVELADIES, NJ	REGAL CINEMAS MANAHAWKIN, NJ	SHIP BOTTOM FIREHOUSE SHIP BOTTOM, NJ	LBI HISTORICAL MUSEUM BEACH HAVEN, NJ	SPECIAL EVENTS
9:00 AM					9:00 - 10:30 <b>BREAKFAST W/ FILMMAKERS</b> @ST. THOMAS
11:00 AM	11:00 ● <b>LISTEN + Q&amp;A</b> 108 MIN	11:15 ● <b>OUT THERE + Q&amp;A</b> 70 MIN	11:00 ● <b>BATATA + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN	11:00 <b>SHORTS BLOCK 4 + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN	
1:30 PM	1:45 ● <b>WE ARE TENACIOUS + Q&amp;A</b> 86 MIN	1:30 ● <b>CENTRAL VALLEY + Q&amp;A</b> 90 MIN		1:30 <b>WORKSHOP</b> STUNTS & ACTING W/ NICOLE MOLLER	
2:30 PM			2:30 <b>EPISODICS BLOCK 2 + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN		
3:00 PM				3:15 ● <b>UNICORN BOY + Q&amp;A</b> 90 MIN	
4:00 PM	4:15 ● <b>NOÉMIE SAYS YES + Q&amp;A</b> 116 MIN	4:00 ● <b>HEALING DAKOTA + Q&amp;A</b> 82 MIN			
5:00 PM			5:15 <b>SHORTS BLOCK 5 + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN		
5:30 PM				5:45 ● <b>DARKHOUSE SHORTS 2 + Q&amp;A</b> 105 MIN	
6:30 PM		6:30 ● <b>LISSA'S TRIP + Q&amp;A</b> 76 MIN			
7:00 PM	7:15 ● <b>BLEECKER + Q&amp;A</b> 104 MIN				
8:00 PM			8:00 ● <b>WHEELS AND AXLE + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN	8:15 ● <b>GHOST BABE + Q&amp;A</b> 80 MIN	
8:30 PM		8:45 ● <b>THE MAIDEN</b> 117 MIN			
10:00 PM					10:00-CLOSING <b>FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY</b> @ WALLY'S

● HEADLINER ● SPOTLIGHT ● DOCUMENTARY ● FEATURES ● SURF ● DARKHOUSE ● SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

CONT'D

# SATURDAY, JUNE 10

	LBI FOUNDATION LOVELADIES, NJ	REGAL CINEMAS MANAHAWKIN, NJ	SHIP BOTTOM FIREHOUSE SHIP BOTTOM, NJ	LBI HISTORICAL MUSEUM BEACH HAVEN, NJ	SPECIAL EVENTS
9:00 AM					9:00 - 10:30 BREAKFAST W/ FILMMAKERS @ST THOMAS
11:00 AM	11:00 ROSE + Q&A 106 MIN	11:15 STORIES FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE + Q&A 88 MIN	11:00 THE FIRST GLANCE + Q&A 70 MIN	11:00 EPISODICS BLOCK 3 + Q&A 120 MIN	
1:00 PM			1:15 SHORTS BLOCK 6 + Q&A 120 MIN		
1:30 PM	1:45 MOTEL DRIVE + Q&A 61 MIN	1:45 SHUDDERBUGS + Q&A 106 MIN		1:45 ENTER MYCEL + Q&A 74 MIN	
3:30 PM	3:45 AMERICAN POT STORY + Q&A 97 MIN				
4:00 PM			4:00 SHORTS BLOCK 7 90 MIN	4:00 WORKSHOP GLAM TO GORE W/ SOPHIA- MARIE ROMAN	
4:30 PM		4:30 TO KILL A TIGER + Q&A 125 MIN			
5:30 PM				5:45 DARKHOUSE SHORTS 3 + Q&A 120 MIN	
6:00 PM	6:15 SCRAPPER + Q&A 84 MIN		6:15 SHORTS BLOCK 8 + Q&A 120 MIN		
7:30 PM		7:30 THE BASTARD SONS + Q&A 84 MIN			
8:30 PM	8:45 WHAT DOESN'T FLOAT + Q&A 69 MIN			8:30 ABRUPTIO + Q&A 94 MIN	
9:00 PM			9:00 SURF SHORTS 80 MIN		
10:00 PM					10:00 - CLOSING SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY @ QUEEN CITY MARINA

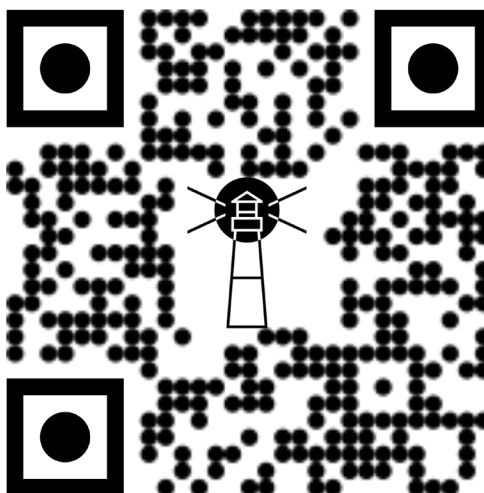
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CONT'D

# SUNDAY, JUNE 11

	LBI FOUNDATION <i>LOVELADIES, NJ</i>	REGAL CINEMAS <i>MANAHAWKIN, NJ</i>	SHIP BOTTOM FIREHOUSE <i>SHIP BOTTOM, NJ</i>	LBI HISTORICAL MUSEUM <i>BEACH HAVEN, NJ</i>	SPECIAL EVENTS
9:30 AM	9:30 ● <b>BIG WAVE GUARDIANS</b> + Q&A 91 MIN				
10:00 AM			10:00 ● <b>HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SHORT FILMS</b> 90 MIN		
11:00 AM				11:00 ● <b>DARKHOUSE SHORTS 4 + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN	
12:00 PM	12:00 ● <b>NO WAY TO SPIN IT</b> + Q&A 86 MIN		12:15 <b>SHORTS BLOCK 9 + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN		
1:30 PM				1:45 ● <b>THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO</b> + Q&A 152 MIN	
2:30 PM	2:30 ● <b>GREAT PHOTO, LOVELY LIFE + Q&amp;A</b> 112 MINS				
3:00 PM			3:00 ● <b>SHORTS BLOCK 10 + Q&amp;A</b> 120 MIN		
5:00 PM					5:00 - 7:00 <b>AWARDS CEREMONY/ CLOSING PARTY</b> @ JOE POP'S SHORE BAR
7:30 PM	7:30 ● <b>LOUD &amp; LONGING + Q&amp;A</b> 90 MINS   CLOSING FILM				

● HEADLINER  
 ● SPOTLIGHT  
 ● DOCUMENTARY  
 ● FEATURES  
 ● SURF  
 ● DARKHOUSE  
 ● SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



# SHORTS & EPISODICS

## BLOCK LINEUP

### SHORTS BLOCK #1

THURSDAY 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

THE REWRITE	LIV
RABIES	OVER MY DEAD BODY
ICE CREAM, SLADOLED	GPS

### EPISODICS BLOCK #1

THURSDAY 3:45 PM - 5:45 PM

HEADLESS: A SLEEPY HOLLOW STORY	INCOMING CALL
GRIEVANCE GULCH	THE MERRY MAKERS
BLIND STITCH	
LOST IN CALIFORNIA	

### SHORTS BLOCK #2

THURSDAY 5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

OUT OF WATER	EVERGREEN
LEAVE ME TENDER	HOW TO PACK UP YOUR LIFE IN ONE DAY
YUVALO	
SPLIT	LES CÂLINS CHEAPS (CHEAP HUGS)

### SHORTS BLOCK #3

THURSDAY 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

I WANTED TO BE VITTORIO GASSMAN	ASKING FOR IT
WHAT WILL BE, WILL BE	THE FAMILY CIRCUS
THE CHOSEN ONE	HOMO DEUS. DIVINE HUMAN

### SHORTS BLOCK #4

FRIDAY 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

A NIGHT IN THE COSMICO	THE RITZ
STOLEN DREAMS	OMI
THE HOPE CHEST HAS A SECRET DRAWER	A NATURAL FORCE
	OVERDUE

### EPISODICS BLOCK #2

FRIDAY 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

CARLY DOLLS	STONED BREAKUPS
EASILY SOLVED MYSTERIES	UN\$UITED
COUPLE OF GUYS	METAL MAN

### SHORTS BLOCK #5

FRIDAY 5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

NAKAM	TO BE HONEST
ANNIVERSARY	NOCTURNAL BURGER
YOU CAN STAY HERE IF YOU WANT	

### EPISODICS BLOCK #3

SATURDAY 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

CAMP GREENWOOD	MASHED
WHAT THE ELF?!	BROKEN TOILETS
HIT MAN	UNCONDITIONAL

### SHORTS BLOCK #6

SATURDAY 1:15 PM - 3:15 PM

REQUIEM FOR A WHALE	THIS IS A STORY ABOUT NEON SIGNS
#MOCRAZYSTRONG	UNDER G-D
POWERS	

### SHORTS BLOCK #7

SATURDAY 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

MOTHERLAND	HE CAN SLEEP ON THE COUCH
HANGMAN	REMNANTS OF A BROKEN HEART
AN IDEAL OF LIBERTY	

### SHORTS BLOCK #8

SATURDAY 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM

TART	REQUIEM
THE AVON LADY	A LOT OF YOU ARE ASKING
LUNCHBOX	SOLIDARITY

### SHORTS BLOCK #9

SUNDAY 12:15 PM - 2:15 PM

ONE NIGHT WITH LOVE	SHELL SHOCKED
A BELLEVUE LOVE STORY	WHEN YOU LEFT ME ON THAT BOULEVARD
ROUNDAABOUT	

### SHORTS BLOCK #10

SUNDAY 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

A PERFECT LOVE	SALT LINES
THE EYE BEGINS IN THE HAND	DARON, DARON COLBERT
ASTOR PLACE, THE AMERICAN DREAM	

# THANK YOU!

AND PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING

THE LIGHTHOUSE FILM SOCIETY

[WWW.LIGHTHOUSEFF.COM/FILM-SOCIETY](http://WWW.LIGHTHOUSEFF.COM/FILM-SOCIETY)

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LAURA REGNIER

MARY ALLEN REALTY - LOIS DORNAN

NEPTUNE LIQUORS

PANGEA NATURALS

PAT TROTTER PHOTOGRAPHY

RE/MAX OF LONG BEACH ISLAND - CYNDY

FRIEDLAND

RE/MAX OF LONG BEACH ISLAND - JOE MAYO

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

SABINA FLETCHER

SCOJO'S

SETTLERS INN

SHARON DAILEY

SIDE EYE SOUND

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LATINO FLAVOR GRILLE

LBI ROTARY FOUNDATION

OLIVE GARDEN

PICNIC PERFECT

PIETRO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

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BLUE WATER CAFÉ

BRUNO'S MEAT MARKET

CALLOWAY'S RESTAURANT

DAYMARK

ELEMENT RESTAURANT & BAR

HARVEY CEDARS MARINA

JOEY'S PIZZA AND PASTA

LA BAMBA MEXICAN RSTAURANT

LBI TABLE

MANERA'S STEAK & SEAFOOD

NEPTUNE MARKET

SPEAKEASY PIZZERIA

STAFFORD DINER

TGI FRIDAY'S

THE ARLINGTON

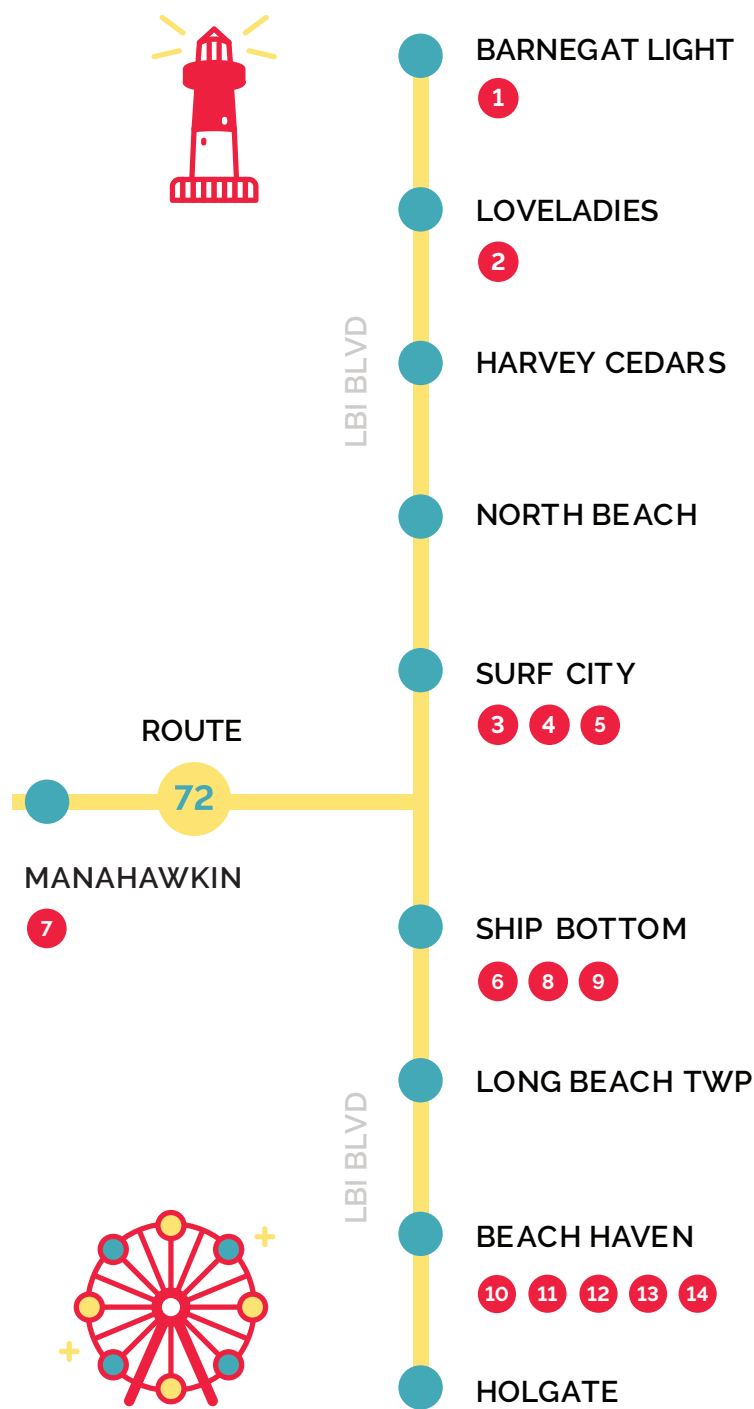
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# LONG BEACH ISLAND SHUTTLE SERVICE

**JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> – 11<sup>TH</sup>**

THURSDAY - SUNDAY  
8:00 AM TO 2:00 AM

Those colorful LBI shuttle buses running up and down Long Beach Island BLVD are for you!

**SHUTTLES ARE FREE FOR LIFF PASS HOLDERS**

LBI shuttle buses will be stopping at all screening venues, parties, Breakfasts with the Filmmakers, and events to help you get where you are going. Please, no alcohol or smoking on shuttle buses!

**HOW DO YOU CATCH THE LBI SHUTTLE?**

Stand on any corner on Long Beach Blvd. When you see a colorful "LBI SHUTTLE" bus approaching, wave vigorously — no need to dance (but feel free to!).

**IF SOMEONE IN MY PARTY DOES NOT HAVE AN ALL ACCESS PASS, CAN THEY RIDE?**



Yes, the fee is \$2 until 7:00 pm and \$5 after 7:00 pm.

**HOW OFTEN DOES THE LBI SHUTTLE RUN?**

The shuttles run on a continuous loop. A bus should be at the venues every 20 minutes depending on traffic and road conditions. There should be a bus at the end of a screening or event to take you to other venues.

SHARE WITH THE FESTIVAL

Welcome, guests of LIFF 2023!  
Remember to include #LIFF2023  
if you're posting at or about the festival!

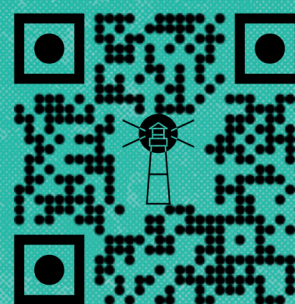
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2024 SUBMISSIONS: [WWW.FILMFREEWAY.COM/LIGHTHOUSEINTERNATIONALFILMFESTIVAL](http://WWW.FILMFREEWAY.COM/LIGHTHOUSEINTERNATIONALFILMFESTIVAL)

# WELCOME TO LONG BEACH ISLAND



ALL LOCATIONS ARE  
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



## FILM FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

- 1 Lighthouse Visitor Center / Barnegat Lighthouse State Park / Barnegat Light, NJ
- 2 Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences / 120 Long Beach Blvd / Loveladies, NJ
- 3 Northside Bar & Grille / 1500 Long Beach Blvd / Surf City, NJ
- 4 St. Thomas of Villanova Church / 13th St. & Long Beach Blvd / Surf City, NJ
- 5 Wally's / 712 Long Beach Blvd / Surf City, NJ
- 6 Festival Headquarters, LBI Office Share / 285 W. 8th Street / Ship Bottom, NJ
- 7 Regal Cinemas / 733 RT 72 East / Manahawkin Commons / Manahawkin, NJ
- 8 Joe Pop's Shore Bar / 2002 Long Beach Blvd / Ship Bottom, NJ
- 9 Ship Bottom Firehouse / 2006 Central Ave / Ship Bottom, NJ
- 10 The Gables / 212 Centre Street / Beach Haven, NJ
- 11 LBI Historical Museum / 129 Engleside Ave / Beach Haven, NJ
- 12 Marlin Bar & Restaurant / 2 S. Bay Ave / Beach Haven, NJ
- 13 Queen City Market/Marina / 525 2nd Street / Beach Haven, NJ
- 14 Bird & Betty's / 529 Dock Road / Beach Haven, NJ

