



LONG BEACH ISLAND, NJ

JUNE 3-6, 2021



LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, in conjunction with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



Supported in part by a grant from New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.



WELCOME!

FESTIVAL WELCOME LETTER

The Lighthouse International Film Festival ("the Festival" or "LIFF") is thrilled to welcome friends, film fans, volunteers, filmmakers, and special guests to our 13th annual celebration of independent film. This year, the Festival will be presented as a "Trifecta" event, offering in-theater screenings, drive-in screenings, and virtual screenings. It's been a year of challenges, but the show is ready to go on, like never before!

By June 2020, the pandemic had shut down nearly the whole world. As a result, the lights went out in theaters everywhere as the film industry struggled to adapt to our global crisis, along with everyone else. However, as cultural events went dark throughout the world, the Festival somehow found light under the stars on Long Beach Island! We created the world's first-ever drive-in international film festival, gaining national and international recognition in the process. Quickly pivoting to an all drive-in format was incredibly challenging, but we made it happen with the help of the LBI community, volunteers, supporters, donors, and filmmakers, who all embraced this unique and innovative endeavor in the face of unprecedented challenges. Other film festivals faced the challenges of 2020 by cancelling their events or by going solely virtual. Only LIFF went big and bold, screening films for our audiences, in their cars, under the stars!

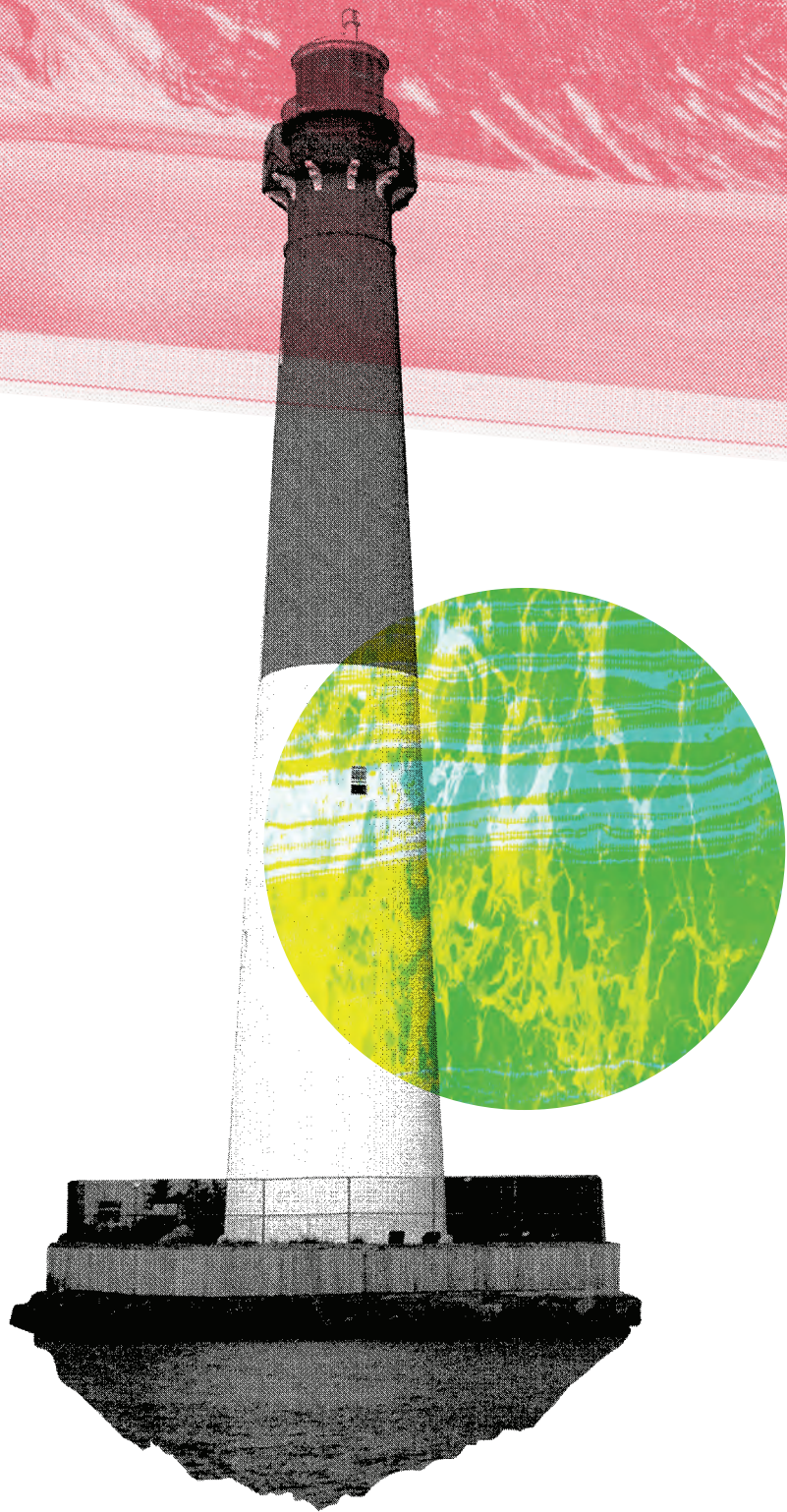
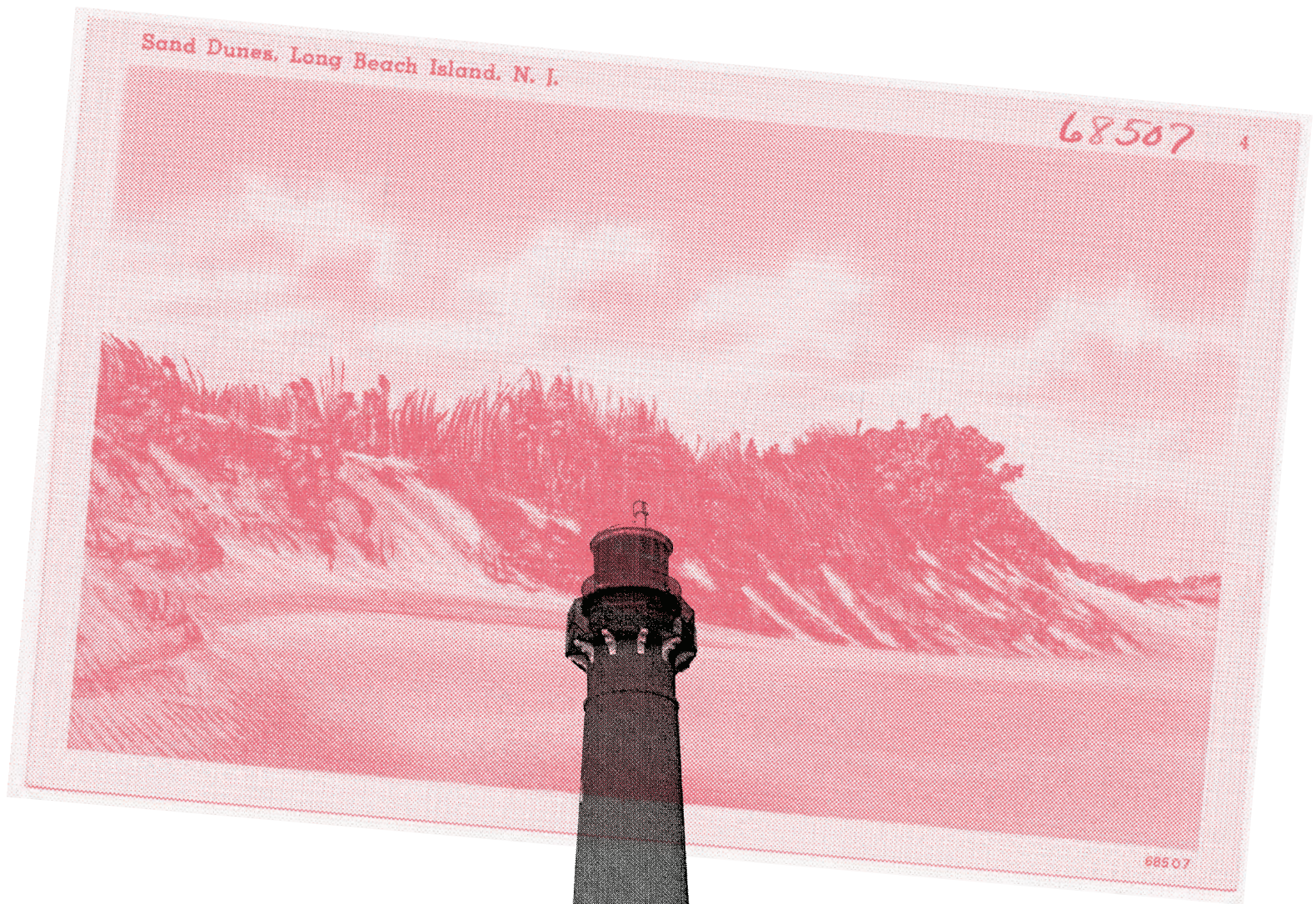
As we all know, the pandemic is still a fact of life and we are not out of the woods just yet. There is, however, a light at the end of the tunnel. The Festival is closely monitoring the New Jersey COVID guidelines and will implement all necessary protective measures in all our theater venues, so that we can once again offer you all a safe and fun 4-day cinematic experience, featuring the best of independent films from around the world. It is our goal to create a

safe space, where audiences can enjoy movies on the big screen and engage in conversations with filmmakers about films, passions, and shared ideas. We are doing all that we can to offer the film experience our audiences have come to expect, while maintaining a laser-like focus on safety.

This year, we are celebrating the 13th anniversary of the Festival, and it's clear we have much to celebrate. For instance, the Festival was selected once again in 2020 by MovieMaker Magazine for a spot on its "25 Coolest Festivals in the World" list — a highly coveted honor within the film festival world. The Festival has earned its way into the "big leagues" over these past 13 years, and we intend to celebrate our success by offering our 2021 audiences yet another fantastic lineup of independently made narratives and documentaries, comedies and dramas, shorts, episodics, and surf films from around the world. Plus, we are overjoyed to be able to once again offer a full slate of Q&As, panel discussions, masterclasses, and other special events, like the Filmmakers' Breakfast by the Bay, to our film fans. There is something for everyone to enjoy at LIFF 2021, and we cannot wait to see you once again at the movies!

This year, when we come together to experience intimate interactions with stories and characters on the big screen, let's all enjoy a much-needed break from the isolation we've all experienced, and let's all look forward to 2022, knowing the future will be even brighter. Join us at the 2021 Lighthouse International Film Festival as we bring up the lights once more on the joy of cinema!

LIFF TEAM



OUR JURY



NARRATIVE FEATURES

Jonathan Duffy

Jonathan Duffy is a creative producer, Independent Spirit Award Winner, and co-founder of Ten Acre Films. Based in Oakland, he was a producing mentor for the 2019/2020 Stowe Story Lab. He was also a fellow in the following programs: Rotterdam Producing Lab, Cannes Producers Network, The Sundance Producing Summit, and more. Duffy produced numerous films which have premiered at Sundance including the critically lauded *Sorry To Bother You*, *Sound of Silence*, *Light From Light*, *Before You Know It*, *The Long Dumb Road*, and *Pit Stop*. Most recently, he produced the feature films *I Used to Go Here*, *No Future*, and *Mark, Mary & Some Other People*, and served as consulting producer on *Potato Dreams of America*.



NARRATIVE FEATURES

Edson Jean

Edson Jean is a Haitian-American actor/writer/director and IFP/Gotham Narrative Labs alum. His debut feature film *Ludi* premiered at SXSW(2021). He most recently was nominated for a Streamy and Mipcom award for directing all eight (23 minute) episodes of his dramedy, *Grown*, for Complex Networks. Prior to that, he wrote, directed, and starred in *The Adventures of Edson Jean* (2013), which aired on HBO/HBOGO. As an actor he was most recently seen in *Moonlight*, *War Dogs*, HBO's *Ballers* and *Bloodline* (Netflix).



NARRATIVE FEATURES

Lanie Zipoy

Lanie Zipoy is a Memphis-born, New York-based director and producer. Her feature film *The Subject*, starring Jason Biggs and Aunjanue Ellis, won the Best Feature Film Award at nine festivals, including the Lighthouse International Film Festival. She was awarded the Mira Nair Rising Female Filmmaker Award from the Harlem International Film Festival and Best Director trophies from the Newark International Film Festival and the Art of Brooklyn Film Festival. Her other films include *17 Things I Wish I Could Tell You Since You Died*, *Kid Sister*, and *Simone*. She is a member of Film Fatales, Filmshop, and the FilmmakeHers.



DOCUMENTARY

Sonia Kennebeck

A Malaysian-born, New York City-based independent filmmaker and investigative journalist with 17 years of directing and producing experience, Sonia Kennebeck's most recent documentary feature, *United States vs. Reality Winner*, premiered at SXSW 2021, and her documentary thriller *Enemies of the State* (TIFF 2020) will be released in theaters by IFC Films in late July 2021. Kennebeck's first feature-length film, *National Bird*, premiered at the Berlinale and received a 2018 Emmy nomination for Outstanding Current Affairs Documentary. *Foreign Policy* magazine recognized her as one of the 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2016, and she was also selected as one of 25 New Faces of Independent Film by *Filmmaker Magazine*. In 2019, DOC NYC included her in the annual 40 Under 40 list of documentary filmmakers.



DOCUMENTARY

Keith Maitland

A director, producer, and screenwriter, Maitland (*Tower*, *Dear Mr. Brody*) lives in Austin, TX with his wife, (*Dear Mr. Brody* producer/cinematographer) Sarah Wilson, and their 5-yr-old production-assistant/son, Theo. In 2016, *Variety* named Maitland one of "10 Documakers to Watch." That year, *TOWER* won multiple festival awards, received PGA, Gotham, and Peabody nominations and won the first ever Critic's Choice Award for Most Innovative Documentary, as well as the Emmy for Best Historical Documentary.



DOCUMENTARY

Lynne Sachs

A Brooklyn-based experimental documentary filmmaker who was awarded support from the Guggenheim Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Jerome Foundation, Lynne Sachs' films have screened at venues such as the Museum of Modern Art, Wexner Center for the Arts, the Walker, and the Getty, and at festivals including the New York Film Festival and the Sundance Film Festival. Retrospectives of her work have been presented at the Museum of the Moving Image, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Festival International Nuevo Cine in Havana, and China Women's Film Festival.

CONT'D

OUR JURY



SHORTS

Lukas Pribyl

Lukas Pribyl worked as a scriptwriter and history advisor for Czech TV. He is the director, producer, and scriptwriter of *Forgotten Transports*, a quartet of feature-length documentaries on the history of deportations of Jews to little known camps. These films received numerous prizes, including the Czech Academy Award. He is also a recipient of the Czech Theater DNA Award. He is a member of both the Czech and European Film Academies. Pribyl served as the first Director of the European Shoah Legacy Institute and now works for the Czech Foreign Ministry as a Counsellor at the Czech Embassy in Washington, D.C., heading the Public Diplomacy Department while writing a script for a feature.



SHORTS

Tomer Shushan

A writer and a film director from Israel, Shushan graduated from the Film Department of Minshar School of Art, Tel Aviv, with Excellence scholarship 2016. His graduation short film, *Inside Shells* (2017), screened in FIPA and other festivals. His latest film *White Eye* won the Best Narrative Short Jury Award in SXSW 2020, as well as at Lighthouse International Film Festival, and was nominated for an Oscar in 2021. Shushan is currently developing his first feature film *Between the Sacred and the Secular* and the Israeli TV series *Torso*.



HIGHSCHOOL FILMS

Nona Haller

Nona Haller is a Creative Executive at Nina Tassler and Denise Di Novi's PatMa Productions. In 2019, she produced the first Lighthouse International Film Festival of New Jersey on the West Coast. Previously, Nona worked at Paradigm Talent Agency assisting the Television Literary Department. Nona graduated from Boston University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Television Management.



EPISODIC

Lee Broda

Lee Broda is a celebrated producer and writer who has shepherded over forty films to success through her company LB Entertainment. LB Entertainment's movies have premiered in the world's top film festivals including Sundance, Venice, Toronto, Tribeca, SXSW, BFI, and NYFF, and have been distributed worldwide, garnering international recognition and numerous awards. *A Private War*, *The Kindergarten Teacher*, *Dark Places* (Charlize Theron), *Tesla* (Ethan Hawke), and *Big Gold Brick* are just a few of the productions she has been involved with, as well as the upcoming films *The Card Counter* by Paul Schrader (starring Oscar Isaac and Tiffany Haddish) and *Lansky* with Harvey Keitel.



EPISODIC

Fabiola Rodriguez

An independent producer based in Miami, Florida, Fabiola Rodriguez began her media career working in broadcast television and later transitioned into film, working both above and below the line on narrative projects. She is currently producing Edson Jean's debut feature film, *Ludi*, which premiered at SXSW and was the Opening Night Film at the 2021 Miami Film Festival. Fabiola graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies.



EPISODIC

Kuye Youngblood

Kuye Youngblood is an Emmy Award-winning producer with experience in scripted and documentary series. Formerly the Head of Development and Production, she is currently the General Manager of the BRIC TV network. Her responsibilities include creative development of new series and managing a team of dynamic media makers. Her EP work has screened at Tribeca Film, Sundance, New Voices in Black Cinema, Hot Docs, ABFF, and Bentonville. Original series include *The Show About The Show*, *Brooklynification*, *Dinette*, and *All Hail Beth* (LIFF 2020). She's a speaker at SXSW and Series Fest and a producer/moderator for IFP panels. She was also Series Producer for *Neighborhood Beat*, a show about her hometown of Brooklyn!

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

Paula Froehle

A producer, director, visual artist, educator and entrepreneur based in Chicago, Paula is the Co-Founder and CEO of Chicago Media Project (CMP)—the innovative multifaceted philanthropic community of documentary film lovers who believe in the power of media to bring about social change. Within CMP, Paula guides over 50 members in the philanthropic support of social impact films and filmmaker sustainability. She also co-manages CMP's equity fund, Chicago Media Project Invest/Impact (CMP I/I), that invests in commercially viable documentaries



JENNIFER SNYDER BRYCELAND AWARD

Matthew Soraci

Matthew Soraci is 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*; and as associate producer on Harry Dean Stanton's last film *LUCKY*. Under the Lagralane company credit, Matthew co-executive produced the 2018 Academy Award winning documentary *ICARUS*. Alongside his film 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.



MASTERCLASSES

PRODUCING WHILE FEMALE, BEFORE AND AFTER #METOO

A Panel with Lee Broda and Fabiola Rodriguez

Friday, 12:30 at LBI museum

Since the eruption of the Harvey Weinstein scandal and the rise of the #MeToo movement, the American film industry has experienced a dramatic change regarding issues of inclusivity, diversity, and gender equality. More and more female actors and directors are gaining public recognition, but what about the women working to make films happen out of the spotlight? Lee Broda and Fabiola Rodriguez will discuss the intricacies of being a female producer, before and after #MeToo.



MASTERCLASS WITH

Dash Shaw

Saturday, 12:30 at LBI museum

Dash Shaw is a cartoonist and animator. His latest feature, *Cryptozoo*, which he wrote and directed, premiered at Sundance 2021 to rave reviews, and won the NEXT Innovator Award. It premiered internationally at the Berlinale, where it won an award in its program there as well. His debut as writer-director was the animated feature *My Entire High School Sinking into the Sea* which screened at the 2016 New York Film Festival and Toronto International Film Festival. He's also the cartoonist of several graphic novels, including *New School*, *Doctors*, *Bottomless Belly Button*, *Clue: Candlestick* and the forthcoming *Discipline*, out September this year from New York Review Comics. The San Francisco Film Society recently awarded him the 2021 Golden Gate Persistence of Vision Award.



A MASTERCLASS ON THE EVERY DAY BY

Lynne Sachs

Sunday, 12:30 at LBI museum

According to Sigmund Freud's theory of dreams, our day residue is composed of the memory traces left by the events of our waking state. In this workshop, we explore the ways in which fragments of our daily lives can become material for the making of a personal film. While many people in the film industry rely upon a chronological process that begins with the development phase and ends with post-production, our interaction will build on an entirely different creative paradigm that encourages participants to embrace the nuances, surprises and challenges of their daily lives as a foundation for a diaristic practice.



I OPENING FILM

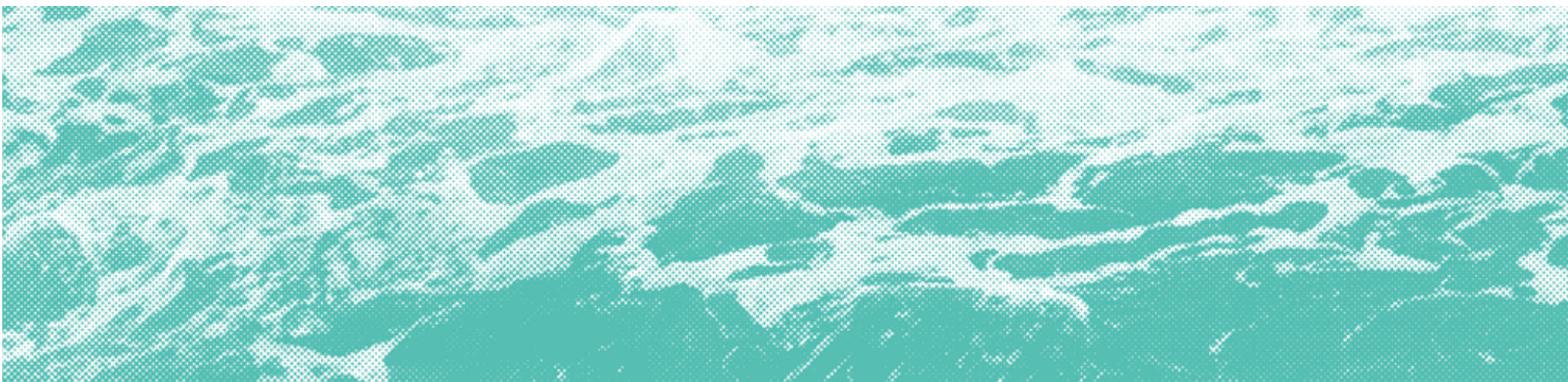


SWAN SONG
DIRECTOR: TODD STEPHENS

105 MIN
USA

Retired hairdresser Pat Pitsenbarger has given up on life from the confines of his nursing home. But when he gets word that a former client's dying wish was for him to style her final hairdo, he sets out on an epic journey across the midwest town to confront the ghosts of his past—and collect the beauty supplies necessary for the job. *Swan Song* is a comical and bittersweet journey about rediscovering oneself, and looking gorgeous while doing so (premiered virtually at SXSW). Starring: Udo Kier, Linda Evans, Michael Urie and Ira Hawkins

■ EXPECTED TO ATTEND
DIRECTOR TODD STEPHENS AND ACTOR MICHAEL URIE

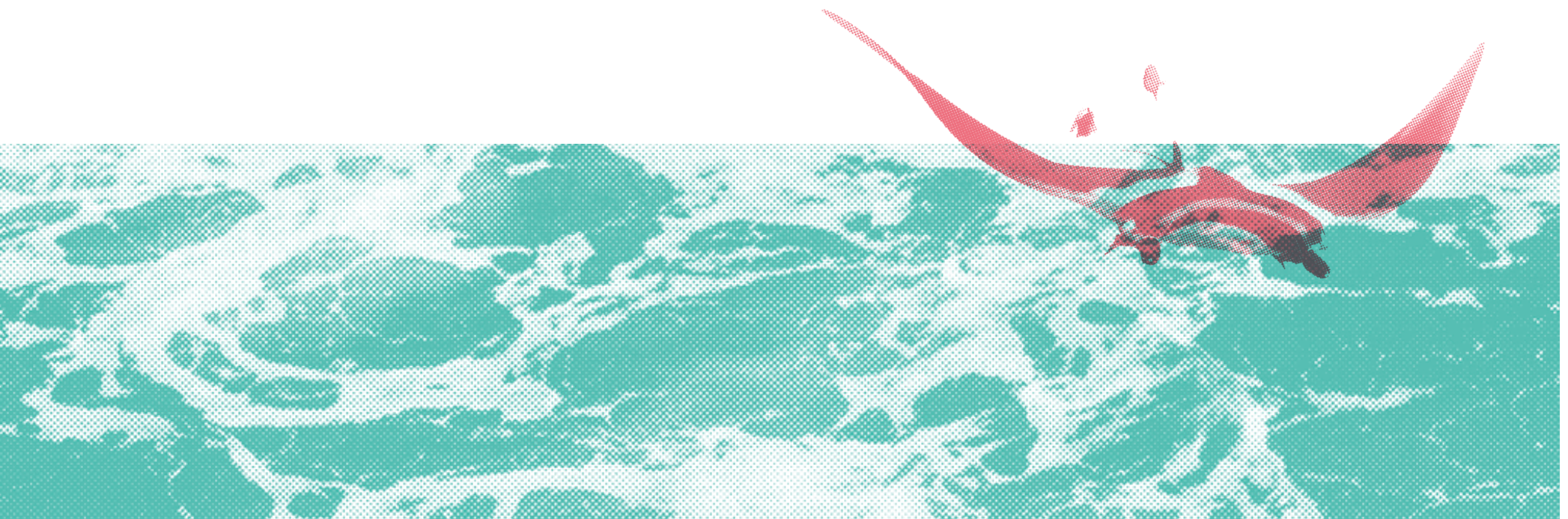


CLOSING FILM

LILY TOPPLES THE WORLD
DIRECTOR: JEREMY WORKMAN

90 MIN
USA

A stunning cinematic portrait of 20-year-old sensation Lily Hevesh, the world's most acclaimed domino toppler and the only girl in her field, as she rises as an artist, role model, and young woman. An unlikely American tale of a quiet Chinese adoptee who transforms into a global artistic force with over 1 billion YouTube views. (Premiered virtually at SXSW, Jury Award Winner for Best Documentary)



SHARE WITH THE FESTIVAL

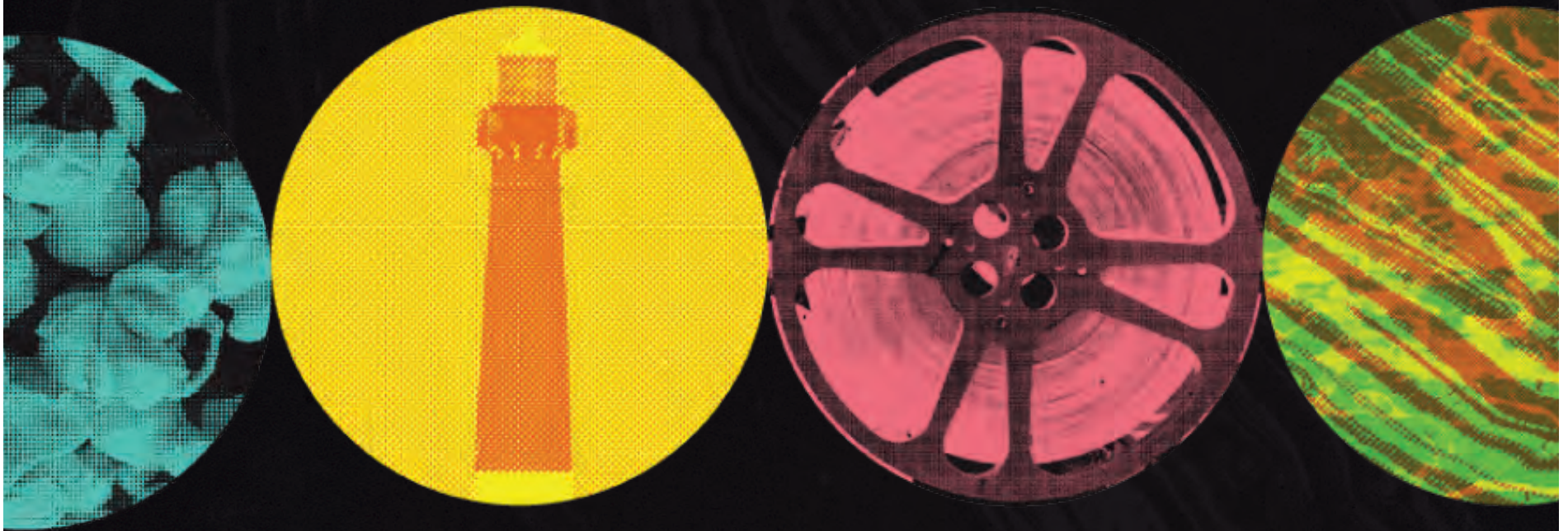
Guests of LIFF 2021,
Remember to include #LIFF2021
if you're posting at or about the festival!



#LIFF2021



@LIGHTHOUSEFILM



HEADLINERS



CRYPTOZOO
DIRECTOR: DASH SHAW

95 MIN
USA

Featuring the voice talents of Lake Bell, Zoe Kazan, Michael Cera, Louisa Krause, and Peter Stormare, the film follows cryptozookeepers through a richly-drawn hallucinatory world as they struggle to capture a baku (a legendary dream-eating hybrid creature) and begin to wonder if they should display these rare beasts in the confines of a zoo, or if these mythical creatures should remain hidden and unknown. (Premiered virtually at Sundance)

■ TALENT ATTENDING
DIRECTOR DASH SHAW



DEAR MR. BRODY
DIRECTOR: KEITH MAITLAND

97 MIN
USA

When 21-year-old hippie-millionaire Michael Brody Jr. decided to give away his \$25 million fortune to anyone in need, he ignited a psychedelic spiral of events. Instant celebrities, Brody and his wife Renee were mobbed by the public, scrutinized by the press, and overwhelmed by the crush of personal letters responding to his extraordinary offer. Fifty years later, an enormous cache of these letters are discovered—unopened.

■ TALENT ATTENDING
DIRECTOR KEITH MAITLAND & PRODUCER MELISSA ROBYN GLASSMAN

CONT'D

HEADLINERS



JOHN AND THE HOLE

DIRECTOR: PASCUAL SISTO

98 MIN
USA

An eerie coming-of-age story that plays out the unsettling reality of a kid who holds his bourgeois family captive in a hole in the ground, becoming the "man" of the house. Starring Charlie Shotwell, Michael C. Hall, Jennifer Ehle, and Taissa Farmiga. (Premiered virtually at Sundance)



LUDI

DIRECTOR: EDSON JEAN

80 MIN
USA

A hardworking and exhausted nurse battles coworkers, clients, and one impatient bus driver to learn her self-worth as she chases the American Dream in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood. (Premiered virtually at SXSW)

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR EDSON JEAN & PRODUCER FABIOLA RODRIGUEZ



PLAYING WITH SHARKS

DIRECTOR: SALLY AITKEN

90 MIN
AUS

A true pioneer in both underwater filmmaking and shark research, Valerie Taylor is a living legend and icon in the underwater world. From the birth of cage diving, to "Jaws" hysteria, to the dawn of cageless shark diving, Valerie became a trailblazing advocate for the ocean's most maligned and misunderstood creatures. (Premiered virtually at Sundance)



POTATO DREAMS OF AMERICA

DIRECTOR: WES HURLEY

95 MIN
USA

An autobiographical dark comedy about a gay boy growing up in the Soviet Union, his mail-order bride mother, and their adventurous escape to America. (Premiered virtually at SXSW)

■ TALENT ATTENDING

PRODUCER JONATHAN DUFFY



UNITED STATES VS. REALITY WINNER

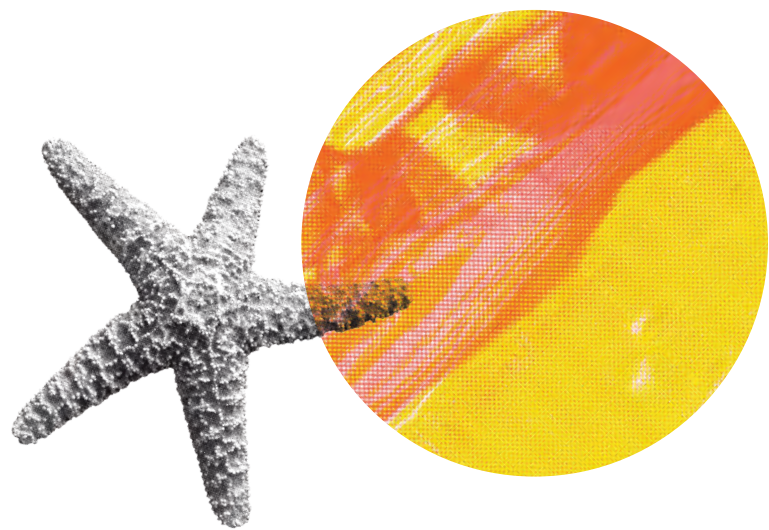
DIRECTOR: SONIA KENNEBECK

93 MIN
USA

A state of secrets and a ruthless hunt for whistleblowers — this is the story of 25-year-old NSA contractor Reality Winner. (Premiered virtually at SXSW)

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR SONIA KENNEBECK



SPOTLIGHT FILMS



AT THE READY DIRECTOR: MAISIE CROW

96 MIN
USA

Horizon High School, just outside El Paso, Texas, is home to one of the largest law enforcement education programs in the region. Students train to become police officers and border patrol agents, but as they embark on such a career path, they begin to discover that the realities of their dream jobs may be at odds with the truths and people they hold most dear. (Premiered virtually at Sundance)



DIRTY TRICKS DIRECTOR: DANIEL SIVAN

100 MIN
ISR

When the world's best Bridge player, Lotan Fisher from Israel, is accused of cheating by his former teammate and nemesis, the ensuing scandal confounds experts, criminal science, and celebrities, and ultimately brings about the downfall of nearly the entire sport. (U.S. Premiere)

■ EXPECTED TO ATTEND
DIRECTOR DANIEL SIVAN

SUB 



ECHOES OF VIOLENCE

DIRECTOR: NICHOLAS WOODS

106 MIN
USA

A woman travels from Sedona to Los Angeles looking for revenge upon the immigration lawyer who ruined her life. With the help of two men she encounters on the way, she's determined to bring down the dangerous mobster and his father, played by Frank Oz. (East Coast Premiere)



LISTEN

DIRECTOR: ANA ROCHA DE SOUSA

74 MIN
UK/PRT

On the outskirts of London, Portuguese parents of three struggle to make ends meet. When a misunderstanding arises at school over their deaf daughter, the British social services grow concerned for the safety of the children. A real life drama about the tireless battle of an immigrant couple against the law, in a desperate fight to keep their family together. (Premiered at Venice Film Festival, Winner: Best Directorial Debut)



SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



Friends of the Festival



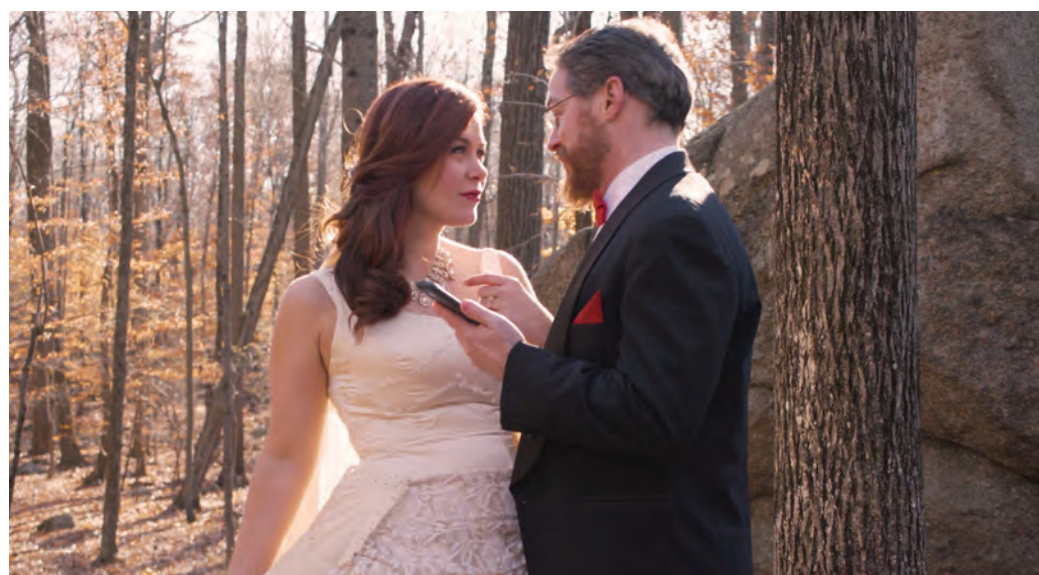
LIFE UNEXPECTED

DIRECTORS: GUY NATTIV & JAIME NEWMAN

32 MIN
ISR/USA

Shot over 10 years in intimate, raw home footage by the Oscar-winning filmmaking couple and LBI favorite Guy Nattiv and his wife and creative partner Jaime Ray Newman, this new short doc tells a personal story of the unforgiving roller coaster of bringing life into this world. (US Premiere)

SUB 



DEARLY BELOVED

DIRECTOR: EDWARD DOUGLAS

15 MIN
USA

An eccentric photographer, an incompetent florist, a tactless and unreliable groom — as Ramsey's perfect plans begin to go awry on the day of her wedding, her world seems to be coming apart... literally. (World Premiere)

■ TALENT ATTENDING
PRODUCER/ACTOR JESSE R. TENDLER



THE CROSSING

DIRECTOR: JULIANA PEÑARANDA-LOFTUS

40 MIN
USA/COL

When desperate refugees fleeing the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela are welcomed by a small Colombian border city, a political fire-storm erupts. A moving documentary that offers a portrait of conflict, suffering, generosity, and the power of the human spirit. (East Coast Premiere)

■ TALENT ATTENDING

PRODUCER DENISE GRAYSON

SUB

Nighthouse Midnight Film



CANVAS

DIRECTOR: RYAN GUITERMAN

75 MIN
USA

When a demon known as "The Painter" comes to Earth, FBI agent George Rohan finds himself tasked with covering up the devilish killer's multiplying murders. Meanwhile, a journalist works to unveil his growing web of lies. (World Premiere)

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR RYAN GUITERMAN

SUB

Special Screening



TRIPLE THREAT

DIRECTOR: STACEY MALTIN

MUSICAL

99 MIN
USA

Fresh out of college, Chloe and Maggie put their all into creating their new original musical, Firefly, and ten years of hard work pay off when the show is picked up for a Broadway premiere. Now in their thirties, each realizes that happiness might look a little different from what their younger selves envisioned, from parenthood to partnerships to professional success.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR/ACTOR STACEY MALTIN

NARRATIVE COMPETITION



DIMLAND

DIRECTOR: PETER COLLINS CAMPBELL

**75 MIN
USA**

In an attempt to shake off her melancholy, a young woman escapes the city to her family's country cottage only to rediscover a world she'd long forgotten and the old friend who may convince her to leave reality behind. (East Coast Premiere)

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**

DIRECTOR PETER COLLINS CAMPBELL



EVERYTHING IN THE END

DIRECTOR: MYLISSA FITZSIMMONS

**74 MIN
USA/ISL**

Stranded in a small Icelandic village during Earth's final days, a Portuguese man seeks solace in the brief human connections he encounters. A quiet, contemplative humanist story set on the beautiful Nordic island. Exploring themes of grief, death, and how in the end human connections allow us to forgive and accept.

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**

DIRECTOR MYLISSA FITZSIMMONS AND PRODUCER BRENDEN HUBBARD



HERE & AFTER

DIRECTOR: SHAUN CRAWFORD

**61 MIN
CAN**

When Ray gets a day pass from rehab, he has a chance encounter with Arora. As they spend the day together, he discovers that the mysteries she holds may change his life forever. (East Coast Premiere)



NOT KNOWING
DIRECTOR: LEYLA YILMAZ

94 MIN
TUR

A family struggling with the difficulties of everyday life in an ever changing world have their lives turned upside down when a malicious rumor is spread about their son. As the parents search for their son who suddenly disappeared, they come to realize that they have been lost themselves. Facing an uncertain future, they must come to terms with not knowing any of the answers. (U.S. Premiere)



ONE MOMENT
DIRECTOR: DEIRDRE O'CONNOR

114 MIN
USA

Starring legendary actor Danny Aiello in his final film performance. Middle-age siblings struggle to manage their personal lives, families and careers, while also caring for their recently widowed, aging father.

■ TALENT ATTENDING
DIRECTOR DEIRDRE O'CONNOR



SENIOR CITIZEN
DIRECTOR: MARINOS KARTIKKIS

84 MIN
CYP

A lonely elderly man takes refuge every evening in the hospital where he spends the night sleeping on benches and chairs. Every morning he returns to his house, where his only companions are his cat and his memories. After he is discovered by a curious young nurse, a relationship of trust between the two begins to build. (U.S. Premiere)



CONT'D

NARRATIVE COMPETITION



SLEEP
DIRECTOR: MICHAEL VENUS

100 MIN
DEU

Marlene (Sandra Hüller, "Toni Erdmann") suffers a nervous breakdown in a remote village. As her 19-year-old daughter Mona follows, she comes upon a well-kept family secret and an old curse that ultimately threatens her life with a never-ending nightmare. (Premiered at Berlinale)

SUB 

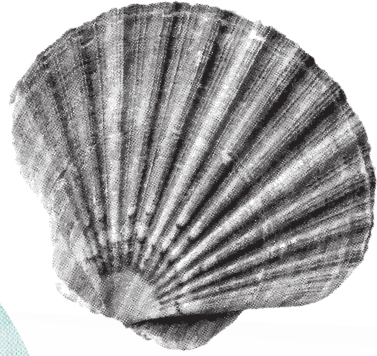


VASY'S ODYSSEY
DIRECTOR: VASILEIOS PAPTHEOCHARIS

104 MIN
GRC/ESP

Two strangers travel from Spain to Greece, through France, Italy, and Albania, on a trip where they will learn to face their mistakes and delve into their personal and family relationships. An adventurous journey, full of humor. A search for hope and happiness through gastronomy, folklore, old traditions, and the difficulty of communication between foreign languages.

SUB 



Liff 2021

DOCUMENTARY

COMPETITION



ANATOMY OF WINGS

DIRECTORS: KIRSTEN D'ANDREA HOLLANDER & NIKIEA REDMOND

85 MIN
USA

Ten Black middle school girls return each week to collaborate in an after-school film project about their own coming-of-age in Baltimore City. Shot over a decade with the guidance of their Black and white mentors, this self-defined 'second family' is left to question if its solidarity will survive the realities of living in a world of racial inequity.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTORS KIRSTEN D'ANDREA HOLLANDER & NIKIEA REDMOND



CHASING CHILDHOOD

DIRECTORS: MARGARET MUNZER LOEB & EDEN WURMFELD

85 MIN
USA

In today's world of structure and helicopter parenting, free play in childhood has disappeared, giving way to unprecedented anxiety and depression. Psychologists, activists, and leaders of the "free play" movement fight to bring back the untold benefits of a less curated childhood.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTORS EDEN WURMFELD



OPERATION WOLF PATROL

DIRECTOR: JOE BROWN

86 MIN
USA

Eco-activist Rod Coronado ("eco-terrorist" according to some) fights to end wolf hunting in the United States. When his Wolf Patrol is met with a tightening of "hunter harassment" laws that prohibit photography on public lands, he has to ask himself if he is willing to go back to prison to fight a law that some are calling unconstitutional.

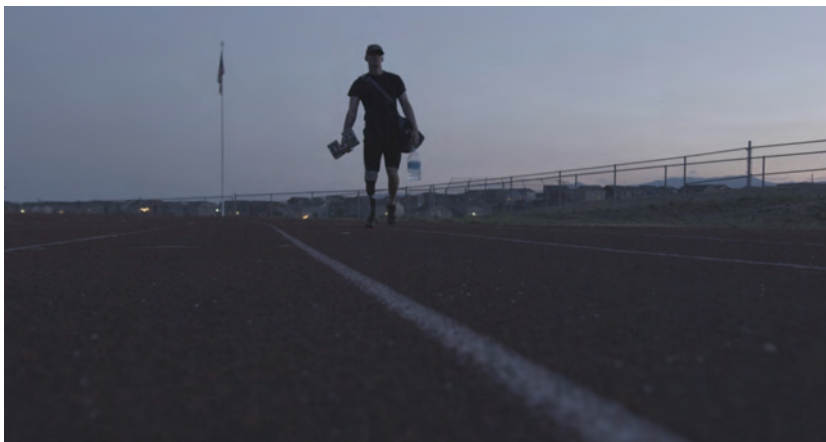


SAPELO

DIRECTOR: NICK BRANDESTINI

91 MIN
CHE/USA

On the barrier island of Sapelo, two brothers, JerMarkest and Johnathan, are growing up in the last remaining enclave of the Saltwater Geechee people. Their greatest joy is exploring the island like their adoptive mother did as a child. At the dawn of adolescence, the brothers inherit their elder matriarch's hope, but their bond is tested as they begin to face the wider world.



UNITED WE HEAL

DIRECTORS: RYAN WELCH & RYAN ROSSMAN

71 MIN
USA

American veterans struggle to adapt to civil life. This documentary follows them as they try to navigate the trauma of PTS and choose to overcome it with an attitude of growth instead of stigma. (East Coast Premiere)



THE WALL OF SHADOWS

DIRECTOR: ELIZA KUBARSKA

92 MIN
POL

The Sherpa family breaks a taboo and takes part in the Himalayan expedition to Kumbhakarna, one of the holiest of mountains, to earn money for their son's school and save him from their own dangerous traditional line of work. They accompany the leading world class alpinists, as the towering mountain (7710 m) confronts both the climbers and Sherpas with equal harshness.

SUB



WE WANT THE AIRWAVES

DIRECTOR: SCOTT RYAN

82 MIN
USA

The journey of a trio of first time TV makers as they set forth on a daring adventure in 2005 — an activist focused docuseries entitled "Manifesto!" Cut from countless hours of behind the scenes footage and interviews with industry insiders and outsiders, the film follows the making of the series, all while exposing the harsh realities of the ethically challenged unscripted television world.

SURF FILMS



A BOY'S JOURNEY
DIRECTORS: DEVERAUX GALLAGHER

38 MIN
USA

On August 6, 2020, eleven-year-old Bobo Gallagher became the first person ever to cross the Alenuihaha Channel on a wing and a foil in only the second documented solo crossing of that channel in history. This is his story.



BEYOND TRADITION
DIRECTORS: SHIN AOKI

16 MIN
JPN

The urushi Alaia Project is based on a foundation of appreciation and respect for both nature and surfing. Surfing enthusiasts from Japan, Australia and America are working together to establish and maintain a beautiful world, a sustainable environment and a responsible society that can be passed on to the next generation.



SALAD DAYS
DIRECTOR: EMILY ANDERSON

13 MIN
USA

In a small East Coast beach town, two boys set out to have an adventure-filled summer. Their friendship is put to the test as they navigate town tensions, family struggles, and coming of age in the world today.



SINHALA
DIRECTOR: JP LEWIS

4 MIN
UK

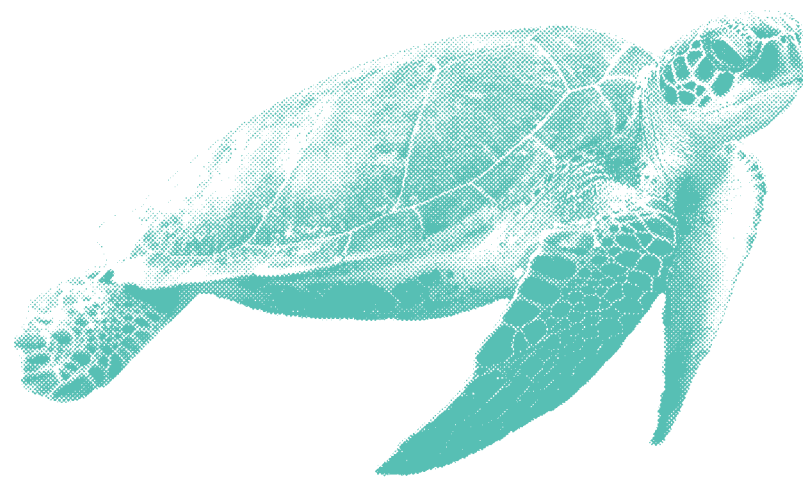
An exploration of life and spirituality, we journey through a Sri Lankan surfer's relationship with the ocean — from losing his home in the 2004 Tsunami as a child, to becoming a free surfer as an adult.



SOMBRIO SURF
DIRECTOR: TARA-LEE NOVAK

4 MIN
CAN

Born and raised as a beach squatter on Canada's West Coast, Leah Oke overcame great tragedy to become one of the country's first professional surfers.



SHORT FILMS COMPETITION



1NS 12 MIN
DIRECTORS: FIONA CAMPBELL & ELLA EXLEY UK

A one night stand turns into a bittersweet date inside a safe room, after a government lockdown causes the two partygoers to spend the day together. (New Jersey Premiere)



A HUNDRED MILES FROM MONTAUK 4 MIN
DIRECTOR: EMILY ANDERSON USA

In exchange for working as a deckhand on a lobster boat, I get to film the men at work and get to discover the beauty and terror of commercial fishing, and how to poop in a bucket while not falling overboard. (U.S. Premiere)



ACTING WEAK 10 MIN
DIRECTOR: MAAYAN SCHWARTZ ISR

90 year old actress Naomi reluctantly enacts her greatest fear: losing control. Little did she know that the same fate awaits her. (New Jersey Premiere)



ALINA 25 MIN
DIRECTOR: RAMI KODEIH USA

As Nazis separate children from their parents in the Warsaw Ghetto, a gang of women risks everything to smuggle their friend's three-month-old baby to safety. Inspired by true events. Starring Alia Shawkat.



APPETITE 14 MIN
DIRECTOR: STACEY MALTIN USA

Jack, an aging hedge fund CEO, hesitantly acquiesces when Ruby, his wife of 25 years, suggests they check out an open love party. Thrust into a new world, he is surprised to uncover the intimacy he actually desires. (New Jersey Premiere)



BORDERLINE COFFEE 10 MIN
DIRECTOR: JEFF AYERS USA

"Coffee?" Asks the mysterious blue post-it. "To Bed" replies the red. A young woman's thoughts battle it out as she ventures through her anxiety to accomplish what would seem to be a simple task: a cup of coffee. (New Jersey Premiere)



BRYAN ZANISNIK'S BIG PIVOT

DIRECTOR: NICK RAVICH

7 MIN
USA

Recently returning to New York after several years of living in Sweden, sculptor and storyteller Bryan Zanisnik comically chronicles the highs and lows of life as a contemporary artist, discovering a love for mushroom foraging and the pleasures of inner stillness along the way.



CHARLIE SURFER

DIRECTOR: PIA STRØMME

18 MIN
NOR

Charlie fights the feeling of being different from the other kids by doing the things he loves: surfing and dancing.



CHECKING OUT

DIRECTORS: VICK KRISHNA & PIYALI SYAM

15 MIN
USA

Two Indian-American group therapy members check into a hotel room to carry out a suicide pact.



CLARK!

DIRECTOR: CLAIRE DUB

4 MIN
USA

On her one-year anniversary with Clark, Nell attempts to write a romantic poem. The task proves impossible... until she finds a way to tap into her true inspiration. (World Premiere)



DREAMER

DIRECTORS: VERGI RODRIGUEZ & DIANA ZOLLICOFFER

8 MIN
USA

Lily Cruz, a DACA recipient, travels on a medical volunteer mission and upon returning to the USA a TSA agent isn't so welcoming.



FINE

DIRECTOR: MAYA YADLIN

SUB 9 MIN
ISR

A family is driving through the desert, on the way to a holiday feast. The girls are sleeping peacefully in the back seat, but their tranquility is disturbed when dad hears a beloved song and tries to share the experience with them. (New Jersey Premiere)

CONT'D

SHORT FILMS COMPETITION



FORGET-ME-NOT
DIRECTOR: ALI ARMINIO

10 MIN
USA

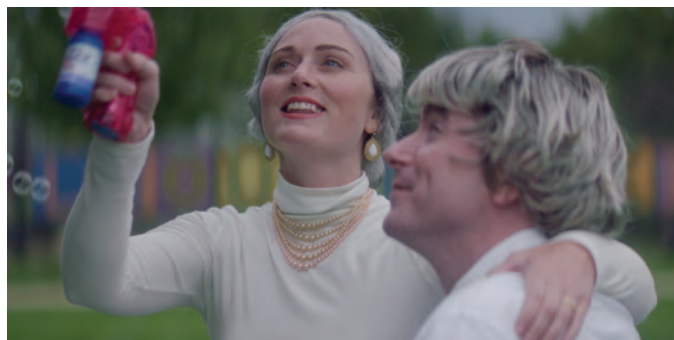
Unpacked boxes, unanswered voicemails, and a pet fish—a young woman adjusts to life alone in a new city. (World Premiere)



FRANKIE
DIRECTOR: JAMES KAUTZ

11 MIN
USA

Frankie, a non-binary trans person, crashes their ex-partner's men-only 12 step meeting, determined to be heard... no matter the cost. (East Coast Premiere)



GROW OLD WITH ME
DIRECTOR: J.J. MCDOWELL

7 MIN
USA

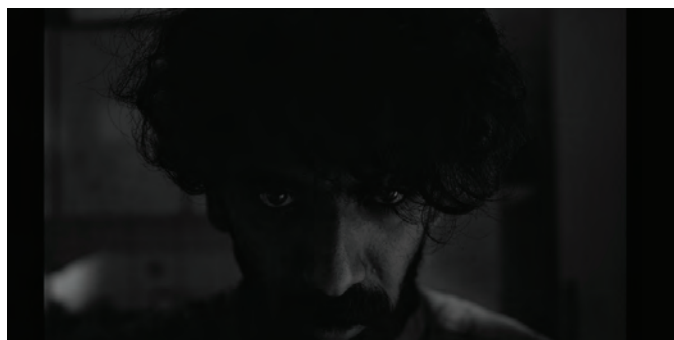
A threatening medical diagnosis prompts a young couple to dramatize their golden years. (New Jersey Premiere)




GUARDIAN
DIRECTOR: CHRISTY LEE HUGHES

13 MIN
USA

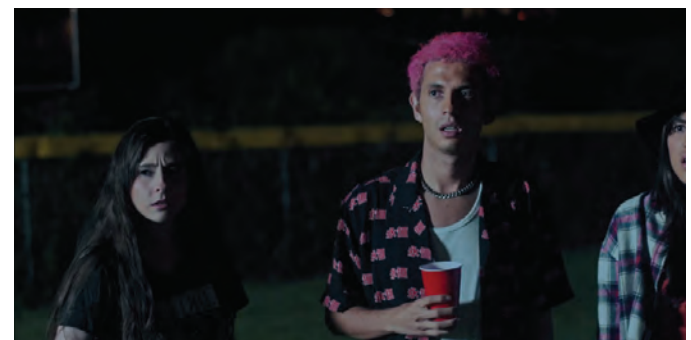
After Derrick's latest and most ridiculous injury yet, he is forced to do what no human has ever done before and attempt to fire his guardian angel, Gabby. (World Premiere)



HALLUCINATED
DIRECTOR: MOHAMMED OMAR

 12 MIN
SAU

Moayd is a delivery man who has issues with sleeping and it gets worse and worse until he doesn't know how to separate between real and hallucinations.



HELL OF A PITCHER
DIRECTOR: DANIEL BURITY

10 MIN
USA

On Independence Day a group of friends trespass on a little league baseball field and get stalked by a mysterious baseball player, forcing them into a deadly game. (East Coast Premiere)



HOME CONSTRUCTORS

DIRECTOR: NITZAN ROZEN

SUB 5 MIN
ISR

5 Palestinian workers try to find their place alongside their Jewish-Israeli constructor during Israeli Memorial Day. By distancing themselves from a foreigner fellow-worker that is a refugee from Darfur, the workers are hoping to finally belong to this land that defines its owners by the rules of war. (New Jersey Premiere)



HOW MUCH AM I WORTH?

DIRECTORS: RACHEL HANDLER & CATRIONA RUBENIS-STEVENS

6 MIN
USA

This stirring documentary explores the failings of the U.S. health system through the lens of four women with disabilities. (New Jersey Premiere)



IF ONLY YOU KNEW

DIRECTOR: EINAT GAULAN

15 MIN
ISR

Ellie has a baby in her belly. Joyful and excited, she goes to the mall to have a routine check-up, in which she discovers there is no heartbeat. Shocked and in pain, wondering around at the mall; Ellie is trying to paint herself a slightly different picture. (U.S. Premiere)



HONOR

DIRECTOR: LAUREN NOLL

16 MIN
USA

Laine faces expulsion from BYU with her graduation around the corner after a loving encounter with a fellow female student. Upon being invasively questioned, Laine is granted a troubling option to save her degree, forcing her to choose between her heart and her faith. (New Jersey Premiere)

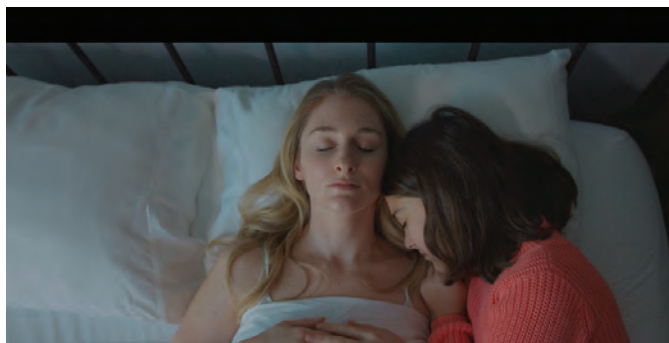


HUNGRY GHOSTS

DIRECTOR: MARK BORKOWSKI

18 MIN
USA

A man's desperate search for his drug addicted wife forces him to confront his own demons or die with hers. (New Jersey Premiere)



JASMINE

DIRECTOR: NIKOLAI METIN

10 MIN
USA

In a not so distant future, a family struggles to prevent tragedy; for the second time over. (World Premiere)

CONT'D

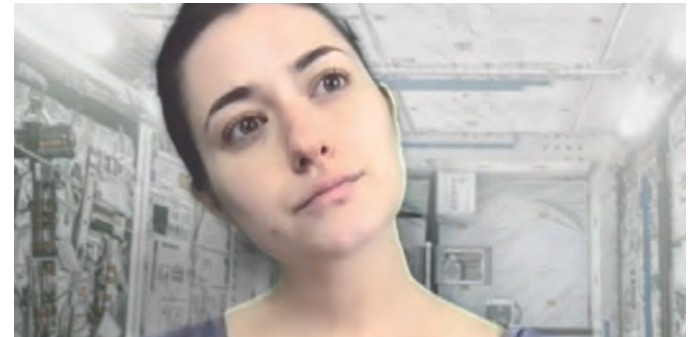
SHORT FILMS COMPETITION



JUST FOR THE RECORD
DIRECTOR: VOJIN VASOVIC

SUB 7 MIN
SRB

In an abandoned attic, a toy, dictaphone-robot REC desperately tries to record the voice of a bird in order to overwrite his last recorded memory.



KEEP THE MUSIC GOING
DIRECTOR: LUCI STAMP

17 MIN
USA

Written for and recorded entirely on Zoom. "Keep the Music Going" is a story about the last two humans and their friendship, thousands of miles apart. (World Premiere)



KILL CAT OAKLAND
DIRECTOR: KARISA BRUIN

11 MIN
USA

When the psychotic family cat attacks their dying mother, young sisters Rose and Julia clash over whether or not to send him to cat heaven. What transpires is a cat fight over the best way to grieve. (World Premiere)



LITTLE GAMES
DIRECTOR: STÉFANE HOUSSIER

14 MIN
UK

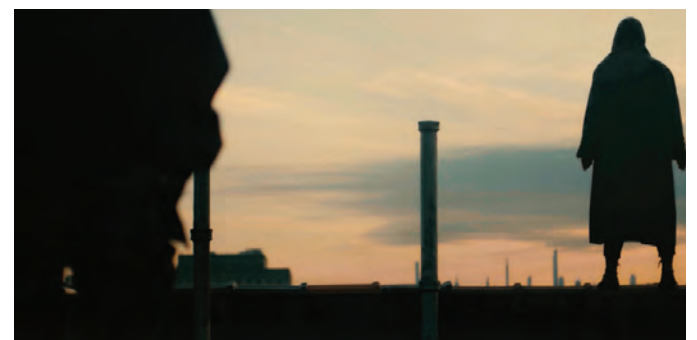
Escaping from a violent lover, Natasha is drawn into a child's sinister plot. But is it true, or a cruel game with Natasha the plaything? (U.S. Premiere)



LITTLE POINT RICHMOND
DIRECTOR: JANE SELLE MORGAN

8 MIN
USA

A documentary about a mysterious artist who brings magic to his neighborhood with the help of faeries. (Non-virtual premiere)



"LOVE"
DIRECTOR: ANDREA ASHTON

4 MIN
USA

In this narrative art film bringing a modern poem to life, a series of touching vignettes show two women falling in and out of love — but not in any traditional way you've seen before. (New Jersey Premiere)





MEMORIES OF MY GRANDMOTHER

DIRECTOR: SAVITHRI M

5 MIN
IND

A walk down memory lane; of long mud trails, moments lost in wonder, savored homemade delicacies and nights spent dreaming by the light of fireflies. It is a walk through childhood memories of summers spent at home, close to family.



NOW YOU SEE US

DIRECTOR: ROMINA SCHWEDLER

11 MIN
USA

Two actresses "of a certain age" compete fiercely for a role in a TV commercial, but as their audition approaches, the lifelong rivals begin to discover that they are in the presence of a much larger threat: A society that finds them invisible! (New Jersey Premiere)



ONCE UPON A TIME

DIRECTOR: EMRE KARAPINAR

SUB 37 MIN
TUR

The team, goes to Syria to tell the story of the people who left their homes, is caught in the middle of the intensifying war during the days of the conflict. (U.S. Premiere)



ONE

DIRECTOR: JENNY KAVIT

15 MIN
USA

A 36-year old struggling entrepreneur working as a Lyft driver goes on a tumultuous late-night ride which leads her to examine her decisions in life.



OUR OLD DEN

DIRECTOR: MAX KIRK

15 MIN
UK

Three friends on the brink of adulthood reunite in the place they grew up together. With both live action and animation, they go from the past to the future, and back again



PIGLET PIGLET

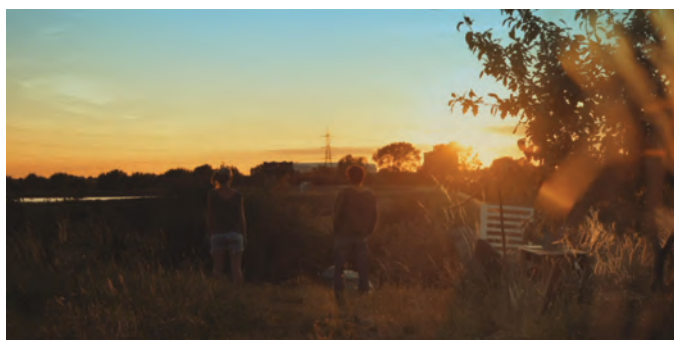
DIRECTOR: LIN TSUNG-YEN

SUB 15 MIN
TWN

The sudden pregnancy and miscarriage of a young woman results in a turbulent day of anxiety and loneliness, set in a monumental day of a country's search for hope. (U.S. Premiere)

CONT'D

SHORT FILMS COMPETITION

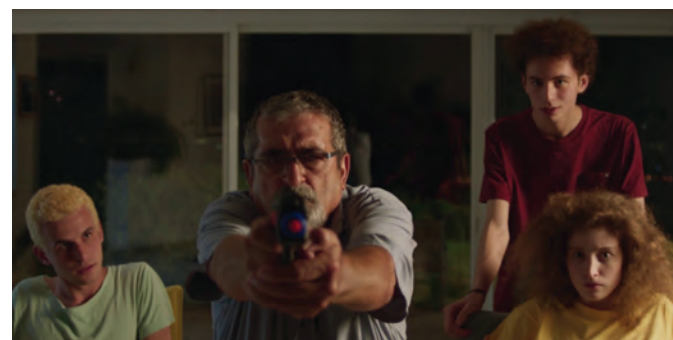


PLOT 9

DIRECTOR: STACIE DUPERROUZEL

9 MIN
UK

Alice discovers a stranger where she seeks solitude and must fight her prejudice to help him, but is she also in need of help? (World Premiere)



QUALITY TIME

DIRECTOR: OMER BEN-DAVID

SUB 22 MIN
ISR

Eyal, newly retired from Israel's secret service, gets his biggest assignment so far - to become a father for his adolescent son. (U.S. Premiere)



ROUTINE

DIRECTOR: RUSS EMANUEL

5 MIN
USA

During a mysterious pandemic, Cassie's quarantine life has turned into a routine, day in and day out. Nothing new seems to happen, until she realizes she's out of coffee.



SNOWY

DIRECTORS: KAITLYN SCHWALJE & ALEXANDER LEWIS

12 MIN
USA

Snowy, a four-inch-long pet turtle, has lived an isolated life in the family basement. With help from a team of experts and his caretaker, Uncle Larry, we ask: Can Snowy be happy, and what would it take? (New Jersey Premiere)

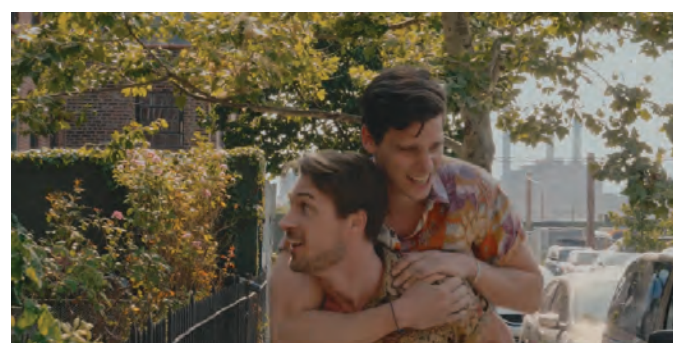


SOFA SO GOOD

DIRECTOR: NOA OSHEROFF

13 MIN
USA

In the streets of New York, a young woman is relentlessly, stubbornly and desperately looking for a sofa. A funny-touching story about holding on and letting go. (New Jersey Premiere)



SOMETHING BORROWED

DIRECTOR: LYDIA BOTTOM

10 MIN
USA

A neighborhood in Brooklyn "borrows" an old truck.



THE APPOINTMENT
DIRECTOR: ALEXANDRE SINGH

20 MIN
UK

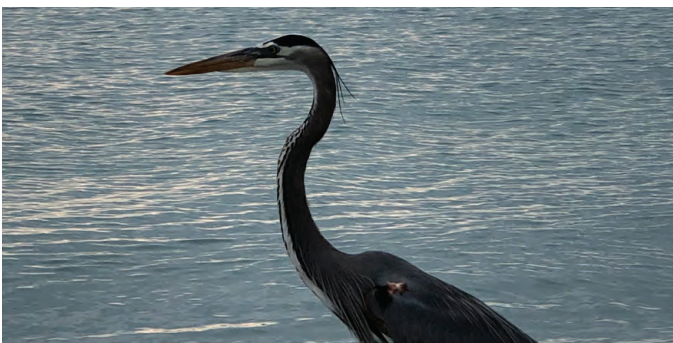
Disturbed by a mysterious entry in his diary, novelist Henry Salt embarks on an obsessive quest to uncover the identity of his 12 o'clock appointment.



THE BIGONIA GARDEN
DIRECTOR: RON GOLDIN

SUB 20 MIN
ISR

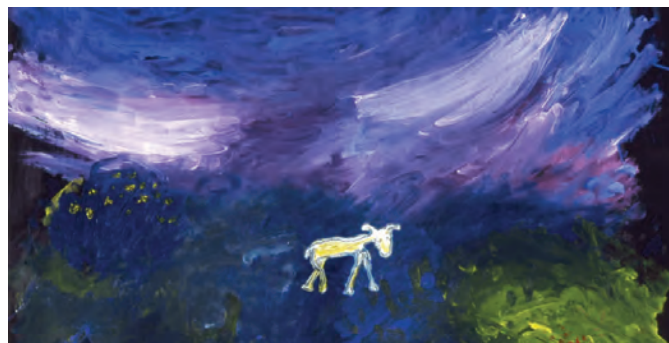
While war is raging outside, Adam and Bar, neighbors, meet in the staircase between sirens. The war and their budding relationship force Adam, a loner foley artist, to deal with his personal and social anxieties.



THE BIRD BEAUTY CONTEST
DIRECTOR: SHARON COOPER

6 MIN
USA

The Bird Beauty Contest is a 6-minute comedy that features live birds (from Florida), including bird scandals, bird commercials, breaking news from Bird Blitzer of the Bird Broadcast Network, and more! Come see who is crowned Ms. Bird Beauty! (Non-virtual Premiere)



THE DARING YOUNG GIRL ON THE FLYING TRAPEZ
DIRECTOR: NINA ROSS

39 MIN
UK

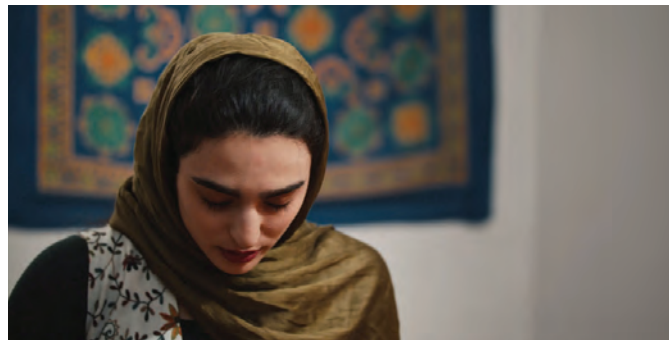
Artist, Nancy Willis, creates an alchemy between extreme disability and expansive creativity. The life she has been forced to lead has some-how freed her to experience the world in a unique and mesmerizing way... (New Jersey Premiere)



THE FEATHER
DIRECTOR: CATRIONA RUBENIS-STEVENS

12 MIN
USA

During a less than incredible first date, an unusual moment with a loose feather could change the course of the night. (New Jersey Premiere)



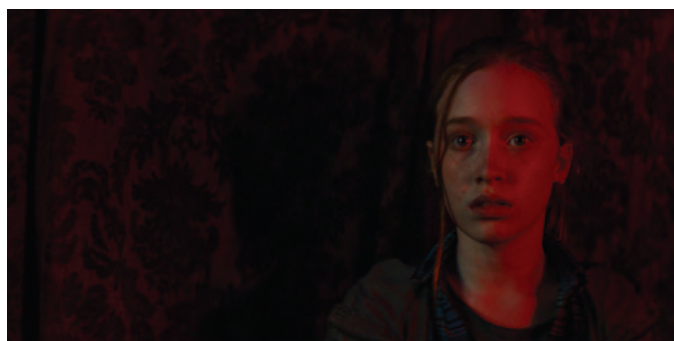
THE GIRL SITTING HERE
DIRECTOR: AZADEH NIKZADEH

4 MIN
USA

A young girl from a lower class family in Iran, getting pushed into a temporary marriage after she cannot repay her debt. (World Premiere)

CONT'D

SHORT FILMS COMPETITION



THE HIDEAWAY

DIRECTOR: JANE STEPHENS ROSENTHAL


10 MIN
USA

After hearing rumor that her mother is a stripper, 14-year old Nika becomes determined to discover the truth, unknowingly crossing the threshold into adulthood. (East Coast Premiere)



THE ICE CUBES

DIRECTOR: SARA DUFOSSE

 10 MIN
BEL

"The ice Cubes" tells the story of a past relationship and what's left of it after a few months, shot in a single take. (New Jersey Premiere)



THE ONLY BEAUTIFUL THING

DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH IRWIN

15 MIN
USA

Sinatra, a pitbull, just graduated from a training program that pairs rescue dogs and prison inmates. Nikki and her partner Margaux agree to foster Sinatra but we soon find out this act of generosity comes with strings attached. Can the womens' relationship survive what this new arrival brings. (World Premiere)



THE SANDS OF TIME

DIRECTOR: JAMES HUGHES


14 MIN
UK

A Time Portal in the Sands Brings a Young Couple Together. (East Coast Premiere)

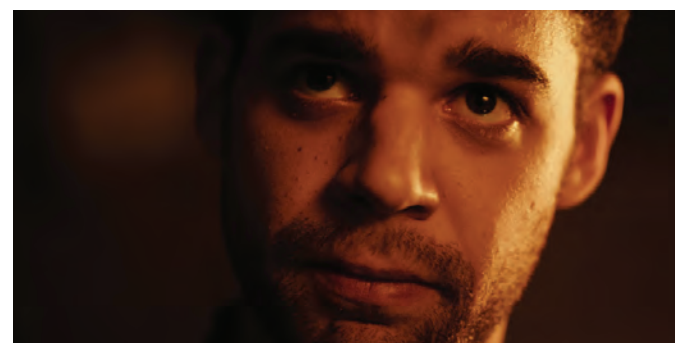


THE SHEPHERD

DIRECTOR: ILYA PLYUSNIN

 9 MIN
RUS

A typical office plankton Leonid living a boring life under a load of daily issues is struggling to finish the annual report for his obnoxious boss when he suddenly gets a chance of getting hold of mighty powers and show the world who the real boss in the town is with a little help from unearthly invaders! (New Jersey Premiere)



THE STAMP COLLECTOR

DIRECTOR: LUKE MOMO

9 MIN
USA

A high-tech thief comes home from the scene of a crime, reeling with guilt and misbegotten plans. How will his artificially-intelligent assistant, designed to help commit crimes, respond to his programmer's sudden change of heart?



VICTIM NO. 6

DIRECTOR: NANCY MENAGH

22 MIN
USA

In 1975 New York City, a fun-loving woman out at her local bar invites a handsome stranger back to her place, despite knowing there's a serial killer on the loose. (South Jersey Premiere)



WAVES

DIRECTOR: MARGARITA MILNE

16 MIN
UK

On a surfing trip, an Australian woman questions her decision to move to the other side of the world for love. (East Coast Premiere)



WICKED IMAGE

DIRECTOR: CAITLIN SCHERER

9 MIN
USA

Lucifer, Satan and the Devil meet with a corporate PR agent to rehabilitate their images — which includes reminding the world that they're women. However, they quickly discover that the PR agent is more evil than they are. (Non-virtual Premiere)

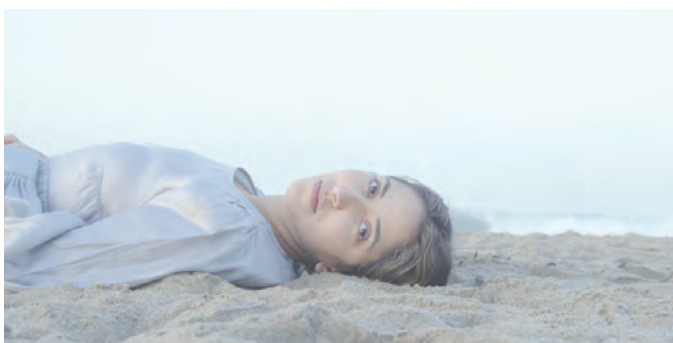


WILDERLOVE

DIRECTOR: CONNOR RYAN

SUB 9 MIN
DEU

An impressionistic journey through the pains of childhood lost, and the desire to heal a broken relationship.

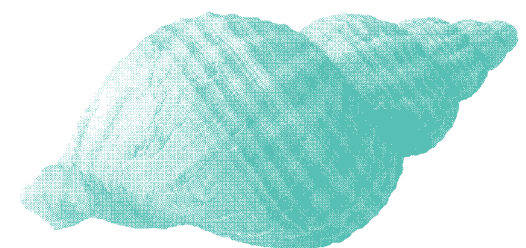


WORDS

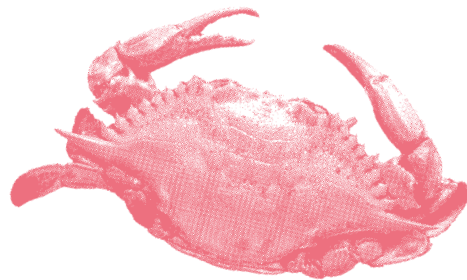
DIRECTOR: HELIYA ALAM

5 MIN
USA

When Haley falls into a deep depressive sleep, Andrew must wake her up, using the only method left; his words.



COVideo



A MOMENT ON MAIN STREET

DIRECTOR: BRIANNA STIMPSON

18 MIN
USA

A film exploring the impact of COVID-19 on one Main St. in the United States and the perspective of the people who own businesses there. (World Premiere)

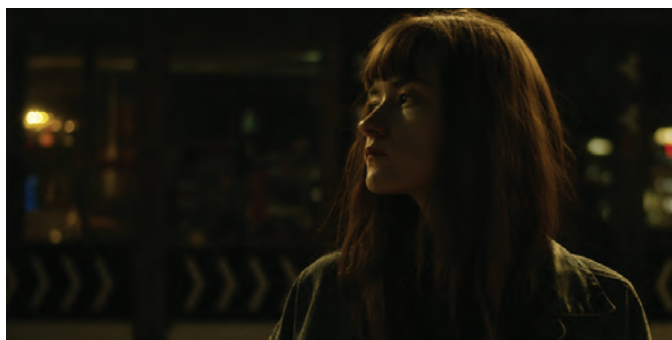


CALL ME BACK: THE UNCOMMON WISDOM OF YVETTE SLOSCH

DIRECTOR: AARON WEINSTEIN

20 MIN
USA

Infamous New York talent agent, Yvette Slosch, isn't gonna let a global pandemic stop a young jazz violinist from becoming a star, whether he likes it or not. (East Coast Premiere)



THE DAYS OF MARCH

DIRECTORS: SAMULI KUUSISTO

SUB 12 MIN
FIN

A young woman finds solace in the city emptied by the pandemic, but ends up facing unexpected repercussions of the situation. (U.S. Premiere)



GLIDING

DIRECTOR: GALINA CHAKAROVA

6 MIN
UK

A young girl gliding through life on her roller blades has to contend with the pandemic and leaving this blissful life behind. (World Premiere)



HOME FREE

DIRECTOR: EDDIE SHEIH

5 MIN
USA

A pandemic challenges a Chinese student on the path to legal immigration while sheltering in her new American home. (New Jersey Premiere)



THE INSOMNIA PLAGUE

DIRECTORS: LEONARDO ARANGUIBEL & MARCO COLANTON

16 MIN
USA

Top Latin American artists unite for a reading of excerpts from Gabriel García Márquez's "100 Years of Solitude".



THE LUCKY ONES
DIRECTOR: JANIS BRODY

3 MIN
USA

An animated film about a party in a fridge. The fancy craft beers snub 2020's most unwanted guest.



MESSAGE FROM THE FUTURE
DIRECTOR: DANO JOHNSON

4 MIN
USA

A time traveler tries to save the future. It doesn't go well. (New Jersey Premiere)



MORONAVIRUS
DIRECTOR: MICHELA MARINI

SUB 10 MIN
ITA

Fake news spreads faster than any virus.



MY SISTER
DIRECTOR: JAMIE LOKOFF

7 MIN
USA

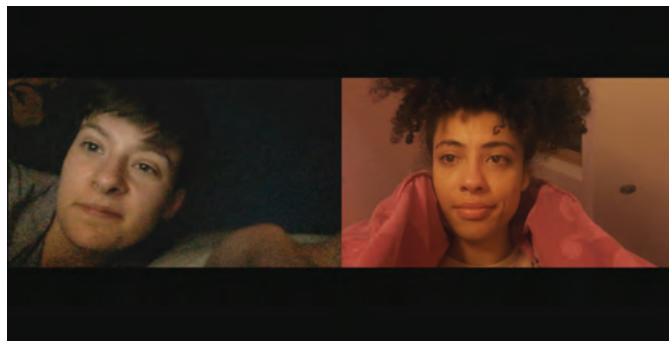
It's New Year's Eve 2020 and the end of a horrible year is finally here. (World Premiere)



PUSS
DIRECTOR: LEAH SHORE

9 MIN
USA

Samantha is having a hard time getting laid for some reason. (New Jersey Premiere)



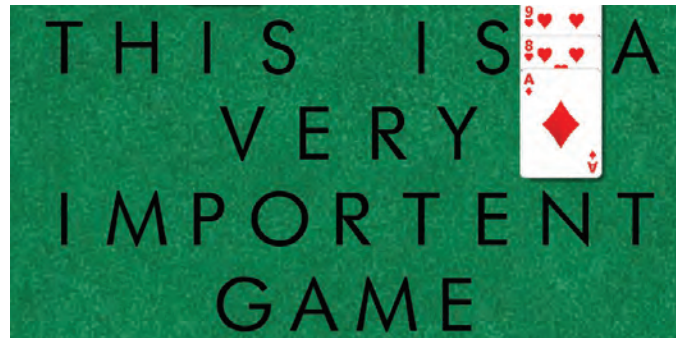
REMEMBER THAT?
DIRECTOR: AELLA JORDAN-EDGE

12 MIN
UK

A group of friends show concern when another friend goes AWOL after some bizarre text messages. Through a string of video calls, a friendship that had waned begins to show the embers of something more meaningful.

CONT'D

COVideo



**THIS IS A VERY
IMPORTANT GAME**
DIRECTOR: AHINOAM CAPON

SUB 2 MIN
ISR

One girl can bring the Covid-19 pandemic to an end. All she got to do is win this game of Solitaire. (World Premiere)

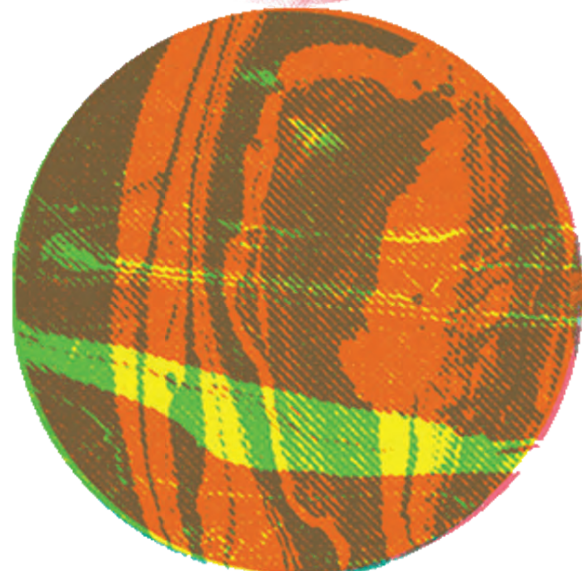
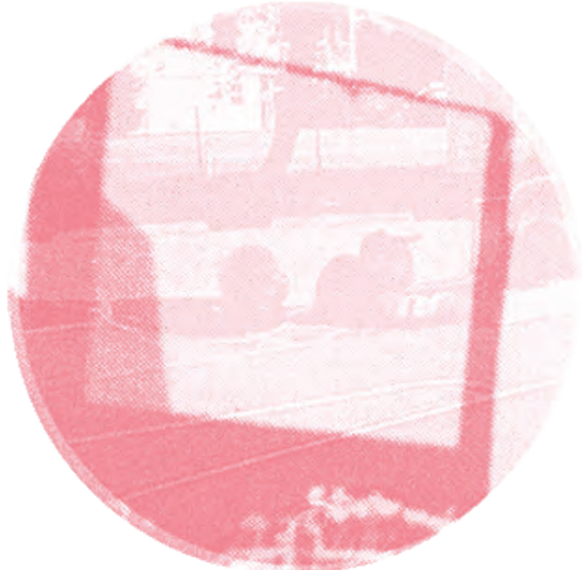


WHILE WE STAYED HOME
DIRECTOR: GIL VESELY

SUB 6 MIN
ISR

While we stayed home during quarantine, a young man met a young woman in the empty streets of Tel- Aviv. Flirting became difficult, for each hid a secret under his mask. (East Coast Premiere)





EPISODIC COMPETITION



ALL AMERICAN KIDS
DIRECTOR: ARIEL POSTER

20 MIN
USA

ALL AMERICAN KIDS transports young audiences across the country through the extraordinary stories of everyday kids. Each episode is a kid driven mini-documentary that explores the family, community, and passions of a local kid host. Kids discover what makes them unique, while developing an understanding that WE ARE ALL AMERICAN.



DADDYDELPHIA
DIRECTOR: HAROLD ERIC

30 MIN
USA

Five twenty-somethings become lost while on a road trip due to their navigator's alcohol-fueled gross negligence. As a result, they are relegated to life in a small, peculiar town filled with inhabitants who hold mysterious beliefs, strange traditions, and a determination to burn them at the stake.



EARLY TO RISE
DIRECTOR: ALEC COHEN

12 MIN
USA

On the way to a distant planet, three less-than-qualified astronauts aboard the DreamBlaster spaceship are accidentally awoken from hibernation—90 years too early. After the panic of being trapped in their hibernation pods wears off, they commit themselves to finding an escape. Alone in the endless void, they can't kill themselves, they can't kill each other, so they'll just have to kill time.



HAPPY EPIDEMIC
DIRECTOR: JONATHAN JUDE

8 MIN
UK

Happy Epidemic is a comedy web series set in real-time against the backdrop of the coronavirus crisis. Like the rest of the world, 21-year-old Jake is struggling to get a grip on what the "new normal" that everyone keeps talking about really means.



HUDSON FALLS
DIRECTOR: ELIAS PLAGIANOS

22 MIN
USA

The secrets of a small upstate town that revolve around an eccentric scientist (William Sadler) begin to unravel when a private eye from the city (Richard Kind) takes on a seemingly mundane job in an effort to rekindle a relationship with his ex-wife (Jessica Hecht).



LOVE IN 2020
DIRECTOR: EIRINN DISBROW

5 MIN
USA

When the COVID-19 pandemic hits, 28-year-old Kenna Benjamin (Anna Jaller) hates her job and is unsuccessful in love. Now human contact is banned (or at minimum, requires six feet of separation). While everyone around her has a quarantine companion, she takes to dating apps in search of meaningful connection.

EPISODIC COMPETITION



NOC – NON-OFFICIAL COVER 26 MIN
DIRECTOR: IAN VOGLESONG USA

Richie Jones is a struggling actor, barely making ends meet as a waiter. His life is quickly going nowhere when he is approached by "agents" Martin and Karla with a Faustian deal to work for the CIA in exchange for acting jobs—only the roles they feed him aren't that good, and the danger he finds himself in is very real.



OWLS & ECHOES 31 MIN
DIRECTOR: HOPE OLAIÉ WILSON USA

Owls & Echoes is a bite-sized anthology of darkly comedic and suspenseful vignettes exploring happiness, identity, common sense, and the fragility of assumptions. Each vignette explores a unique everyday scenario that ties into moral dilemmas with a darkly comic twist. Recurring characters and motifs interconnect the stories in a shared strange universe.



SHUT UP, ASTORIA 32 MIN
DIRECTOR: NEIL FENNEL USA

As twins Scott (Guy Olivieri) and Laurie (Kate Middleton) turn 40, they have no careers, no love lives, and they're losing their home. But they do have amazing friends. Maybe that will be enough? Shut Up, Astoria is a sitcom pilot, recorded live, in front of a studio audience.

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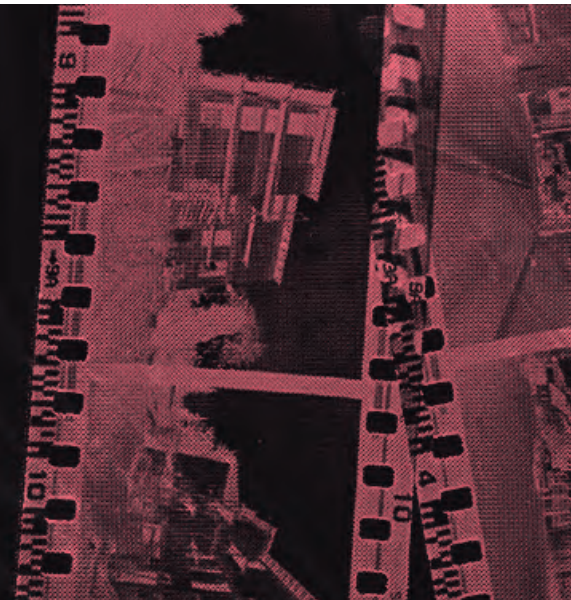
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ONLINE FEATURE FILMS

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THE FALCONER

DIRECTOR: ANNIE KAEMPFER

SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTARY

73 MIN
USA

An intimate cinematic portrait that follows Master Falconer Rodney Stotts on his mission to build a bird sanctuary and provide access to nature for his stressed community. The film weaves Rodney's present-day mission with the story of his past, both of which are deeply rooted in issues of social and environmental injustice, and consistently orient the viewer to his worldview: nature heals.



FRUITVILLE

DIRECTORS: LALLAN SAMAROO & LARRY HORRELL

STOP-MOTION ANIMATION & COMEDY

94 MIN
TTO

A quirky, animated comedy-drama about a group of real fruit, who face an existential crisis when plastic fruits are brought into their space. Much debate and division occur as they attempt to deal with this problem. Hilarity ensues and ultimately, they find a deeper understanding of the fruits' place in the order of things.



KILLING THE SHEPHERD

DIRECTOR: TA OPRA

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTARY

**73 MIN
USA**

A remote community in Africa, led by a woman chief, attempts to break the stranglehold of absolute poverty by waging a war on wildlife poaching. For decades illegal wildlife poaching by both subsistence and bush meat gangs has led to the government declaring this community's homeland "depleted" of wildlife.



LAST CALL FOR TOMORROW

DIRECTORS: GARY NULL & VALERIE VAN CLEVE

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTARY

**94 MIN
USA**

We are witnessing the 6th Mass Extinction of our planet, and it is accelerating faster than most scientists predicted. We are losing about 200 species a day. Global industrial pollution is killing over 9 million people a year, through bad air and water. This documentary reflects on the crisis facing all life on Earth. We are in an extinction emergency, and if we do not act, there may not be a tomorrow.



CONT'D

ONLINE FEATURE FILMS (VIRTUAL ONLY)



LIKE A WOMAN
DIRECTOR: GAIL MOONEY
DOCUMENTARY

52 MIN
USA

Stories of ten women who work in male-dominated careers such as; helicopter pilot, Goodyear blimp pilot, auto mechanic, racecar driver and more.



ME TO PLAY
DIRECTOR: JIM BERNFIELD
DOCUMENTARY

72 MIN
USA

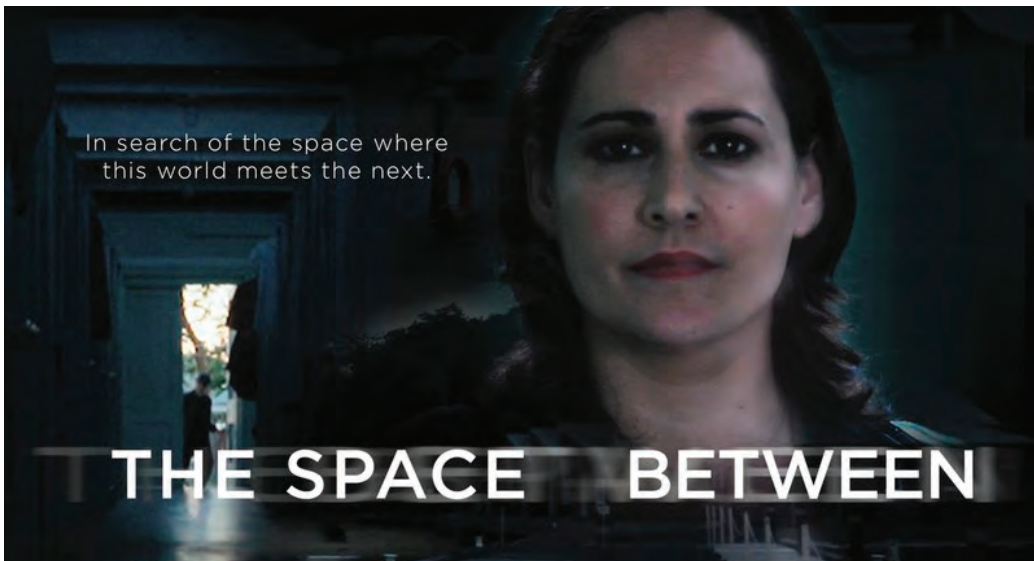
Dan Moran and Chris Jones are professional New York actors who share six decades of acting experience. Now they share Parkinson's disease, a progressive disorder that disables the brain cells that help control movement, balance, and expression. It affects all the elements essential to an actor's craft.



ONE LONG DAY
DIRECTOR: GAIRO CUEVAS
 COMEDY

71 MIN
USA

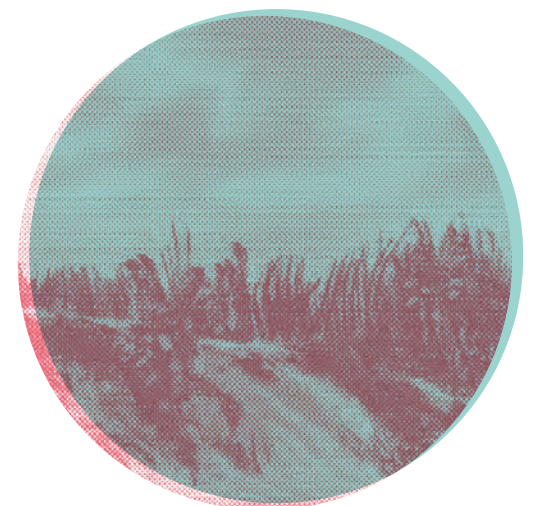
Dani's morning seems to be going pretty well, until she's told by her best friend that her life is pathetic. Now all Dani wants to do is go home and hide from the world. However, Dani's roommate blames Dani for her dog running away. Now she has one day to find Scout, or lose her apartment for good. Dani spends the day hiking through her outdated hometown encountering new and familiar faces forcing Dani to re-evaluate her life by confronting her dreaded past. Maybe, if Dani can just make it through the day, she'll find a little more than she thinks she's been scouting for.



THE SPACE BETWEEN (PILOT EPISODE)
DIRECTORS: BIANCA BIASI, LOUISE MEEK, & NORMAN NEESON
 EPISODIC, PARANORMAL DOCUMENTARY

45 MIN
AUS

Spurred on by a paranormal experience as a child, filmmaker Bianca Biasi explores the grounds of Sydney's old Quarantine Station, reputedly Australia's most haunted site. Encountering inexplicable phenomena, Bianca and her team of psychics, experts and professional ghost-hunters gather evidence, talk to witnesses and seek the truth about the strange events said to occur here.



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YOUR DAY IS MY NIGHT

2013

64 MIN

While living in a "shift-bed" apartment in the heart of New York City's Chinatown, a household of immigrants shares their stories of personal and political upheaval. As the bed transforms into a stage, the film reveals the collective history of the Chinese in the United States through conversations, autobiographical monologues and theatrical movement pieces. Shot in the kitchens, bedrooms, wedding halls, cafés and mahjong parlors of Chinatown, this provocative, hybrid documentary addresses issues of privacy, intimacy, and urban life.



TIP OF MY TONGUE

2017

80 MIN

To celebrate her 50th birthday, filmmaker Lynne Sachs gathers together other people, men and women who have lived through precisely the same years but come from places like Iran or Cuba or Australia or the Lower East Side, not Memphis, Tennessee where Sachs grew up. She invites 12 fellow New Yorkers -- born across several continents in the 1960s -- to spend a weekend with her making a movie. Together they discuss some of the most salient, strange and revealing moments of their lives in a brash, self-reflexive examination of the way in which uncontrollable events outside our own domestic universe impact who we are.



FILM ABOUT A FATHER WHO

2020

74 MIN

From 1984 to 2019, Sachs shot film of her father Ira Sachs Sr, a bon vivant and pioneering businessman. This intimate documentary is her attempt to understand the web that connects a child to her parent and a sister to her siblings. As the startling facts mount, Sachs as a daughter discovers more about her father than she had ever hoped to reveal.



SPECIAL EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE: VENUE DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. IN THE CASE OF UNSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES EVENTS MAY BE CANCELLED OR MOVED.



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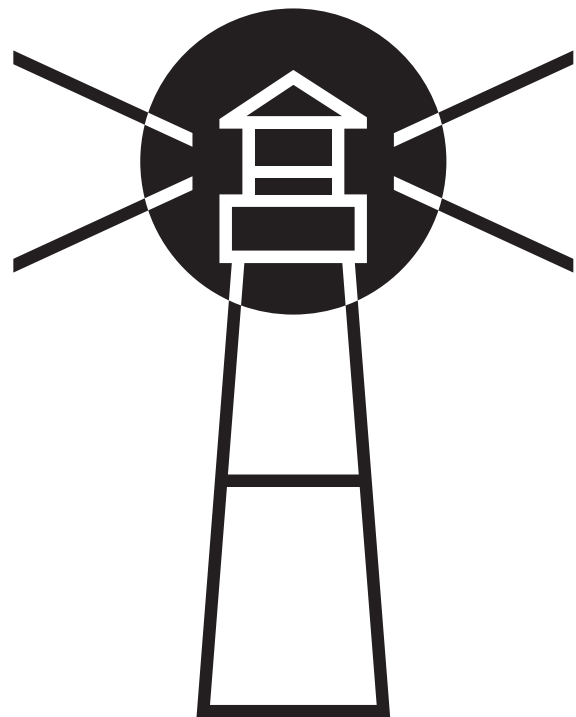
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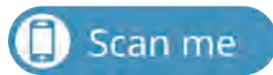
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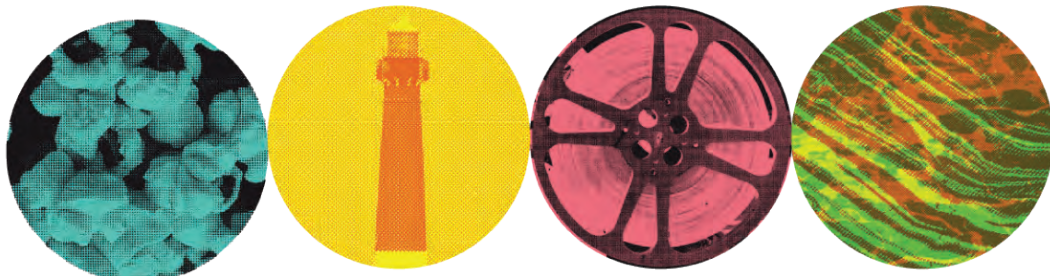
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PHOTOGRAPHY
CREATIVELY YOURS, DAYNA
NATALIE CARICATO
ED SHIN
PAT TROTTER

MOVIE VENUES

REGAL THEATER

733 NJ-72
Manahawkin Commons Shopping Area
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

SURF CITY FIREHOUSE

713 N. Long Beach Blvd.
Surf City, NJ

LONG BEACH ISLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS & SCIENCES

120 Long Beach Boulevard
Loveladies, NJ 08008

UNDER THE STARS DRIVE – IN

Veteran's Park
100 Engleside Avenue
Beach Haven, NJ 08008



TICKET & PASS INFORMATION

WWW.LIGHTHOUSEFILMFESTIVAL.ORG

Individual Tickets	IN & OUT Pass
\$12	\$125

Virtual Cinema	Virtual Cinema
\$49.95	(Individual) \$7

Drive-In *per vehicle*
\$35

IN & OUT Pass includes all "out at the theater" screenings, Filmmakers' Breakfasts by the Bay, Friday night's party at Bird & Betty's, Filmmakers' Q &As, panel discussions and the Virtual Cinema films (which you can watch "in your home").

Note: Does not include drive-in screenings.

Virtual Cinema Pass includes all shorts, episodics and several features to enjoy in your home. The Virtual Cinema Pass does not include films screened "out at the theater" or at the drive-ins.

Drive-In is being held in Beach Haven at Veteran's Bicentennial Park. *Cost is per film, per vehicle entry.*

FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS

SOUTHERN OCEAN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

265 W. 9th Street
Ship Bottom, NJ

HOURS:

Monday, May 24.....	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tuesday, May 25.....	3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Wednesday, May 26.....	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Thursday, May 27.....	3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday, June 1.....	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Wednesday, June 2.....	3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Thursday-Sunday, June 3-6.....	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM




Pick up your passes, grab a program, purchase Festival merchandise, and obtain Island information. Passes can be picked up at the Southern Ocean County of Chamber of Commerce and the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts, with proof of purchase.









ALL VENUES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

LIFF SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

	VETERANS PARK BEACH HAVEN, NJ	LBI FOUNDATION LOVELADIES, NJ	THE REGAL MANAHAWKIN, NJ	FIREHOUSE SURF CITY, NJ	SPECIAL EVENTS
5:00 PM				5:00 SHORTS BLOCK 1 + Q&A 90 MIN	
6:00 PM		6:00  FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL + Q&A 85 MIN			
7:30 PM				7:40 SHORTS BLOCK 2 + Q&A 90 MIN	
8:00 PM	8:00  SWAN SONG 95 MIN OPENING FILM				
8:30 PM		8:45  ECHOES OF VIOLENCE 107 MIN			
10:30 PM	10:45  SURF FILMS 75 MIN				

FRIDAY, JUNE 4










9:00 AM					9:00 *BREAKFAST W/ FILMMAKERS SUNSET PARK, HARVEY CEDERS
10:00 AM				10:00 SHORTS BLOCK 3 + Q&A 90 MIN	
10:30 AM		10:30  DIRTY TRICKS + Q&A 100 MIN Q&A	10:30  AT THE READY 96 MIN		
12:30 PM			12:45  NOT KNOWING 94 MIN		12:30 PANEL: Producing While Female, Before and After #MeToo @LBIMUSEUM
1:00 PM		1:10  UNITED WE HEAL 71 MIN			
2:00 PM				2:00 SHORTS BLOCK 4 + Q&A 90 MIN	
3:00 PM		3:00  HERE & AFTER 61 MIN	3:00  LISTEN 74 MIN		

 HEADLINER
  SPOTLIGHT
  DOCUMENTARY
  FEATURES
  SURF
  SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS





*Ship Bottom Firehouse in case of rain

CONT'D

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

	VETERANS PARK BEACH HAVEN, NJ	LBI FOUNDATION LOVELADIES, NJ	THE REGAL MANAHAWKIN, NJ	FIREHOUSE SURF CITY, NJ	SPECIAL EVENTS
4:30 PM		 4:40 SAPELO 91 MIN		4:30 EPISODIC I BLOCK 5 + Q&A 90 MIN	
5:00 PM			 5:00 UNITED STATES VS. REALITY WINNER + Q&A 93 MIN Q&A 6:50		
7:00 PM		 7:00 CRYPTOZOO + Q&A 95 MIN Q&A 9:00		 7:10 WE WANT THE AIRWAVES	
7:30 PM			 7:30 LUDI + Q&A 85 MIN Q&A 9:10		
8:00 PM	 8:00 DEAR MR. BRODY 96 MIN				
9:00 PM				9:15 SHORTS BLOCK 6 + Q&A 90 MIN	
9:30 PM		 9:45 CANVAS + Q&A 75 MIN Q&A 11:20	 9:50 SLEEP 102 MIN		
10:30 PM	 10:20 POTATO DREAMS OF AMERICA 95 MIN				

SATURDAY, JUNE 5













9:00 AM					9:00 *BREAKFAST W/ FILMMAKERS SUNSET PARK, HARVEY CEDERS
10:00 AM		 10:00 WOLF PATROL 86 MIN		10:00 COVIDEO BLOCK 7 + Q&A 90 MIN	
10:30 AM			 10:30 SENIOR CITIZEN 84 MIN		
12:00 N		 12:10 ANATOMY OF WINGS + Q&A 85 MIN			
12:30 PM			 12:30 LUDI + Q&A 80 MIN		12:30 MASTERCLASS WITH DASH SHAW @ LBI MUSEUM

 HEADLINER
  SPOTLIGHT
  DOCUMENTARY
  FEATURES
  SURF
  SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

*Ship Bottom Firehouse in case of rain

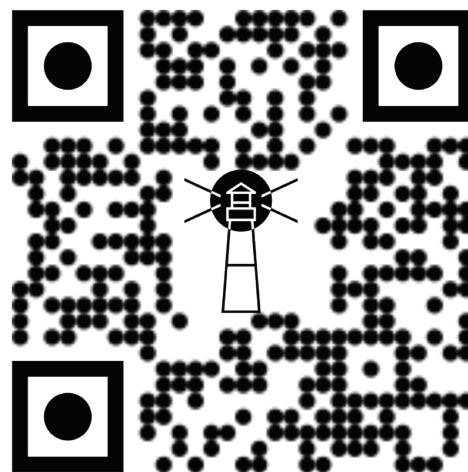
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SATURDAY, JUNE 5

VETERANS PARK BEACH HAVEN, NJ	LBI FOUNDATION LOVELADIES, NJ	THE REGAL MANAHAWKIN, NJ	FIREHOUSE SURF CITY, NJ	SPECIAL EVENTS
2:00 PM			2:00 SHORTS BLOCK 8 + Q&A 90 MIN	
2:30 PM	 2:30 WE WANT THE AIRWAVES 85 MIN			
3:00 PM		 3:00 UNITED STATES VS. REALITY WINNER 93 MIN		
4:30 PM	 4:30 DIMLAND + Q&A 75 MIN		 4:30 CRYPTOZOO + Q&A 95 MIN Q&A 6:50	
5:00 PM		 5:15 PLAYING WITH SHARKS 96 MIN		
6:30 PM	 6:45 CHASING CHILDHOOD + Q&A 85 MIN Q&A 11:20			
7:00 PM			7:00 SHORTS BLOCK 9 + Q&A 90 MIN	
7:30 PM		 7:30 JOHN AND THE HOLE 98 MIN		
8:00 PM	 8:00 EVERYTHING IN THE END 74 MIN			
9:00 PM	 9:10 VASY'S ODYSSEY 104 MIN			9:00 MIDFEST PARTY @ BIRD & BETTY'S
9:30 PM	 9:45 ONE MOMENT 114 MIN	 9:45 LISTEN 74 MIN	 9:40 TRIPLE THREAT + Q&A 99 MIN	

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

VETERANS PARK BEACH HAVEN, NJ	LBI FOUNDATION LOVELADIES, NJ	THE REGAL MANAHAWKIN, NJ	FIREHOUSE SURF CITY, NJ	SPECIAL EVENTS
10:00 AM			10:00 SHORTS BLOCK 10 + Q&A 90 MIN	
10:30 AM	10:30 DIMLAND 74 MIN			
12:30 PM	12:20 CHASING CHILDHOOD+ Q&A 85 MIN Q&A			12:30 MASTERCLASS WITH LYNNE SACHS @ LBI MUSEUM
2:00 PM			2:00 EPISODIC II BLOCK 11 + Q&A 90 MIN	
2:30 PM	2:40 UNITED WE HEAL 71 MIN			
4:30 PM	4:30 WOLF PATROL 86 MIN		4:40 COVIDO BLOCK 12 + Q&A 90 MIN	
7:00 PM			7:00 VASY'S ODYSSEY 104 MINS	
8:00 PM	8:00 LILY TOPPLES THE WORLD 90 MINS			
9:30 PM			9:30 WINNER OF NARRATIVE COMPETITION	
10:00 PM	10:00 WALL OF SHADOWS 92 MINS			



CONT'D

LIFF SCHEDULE

SHORTS BLOCK #1

THURSDAY 5:00 PM

ROUTINE	HONOR
"LOVE"	THE STAMP
SNOWY	COLLECTOR
QUALITY TIME	VICTIM NO. 6
CLARK!	

EPISODIC I BLOCK #5

FRIDAY 4:30 PM

OWLS & ECHOES
DADDYDELPHIA
NOC
HAPPY EPIDEMIC

SHORTS BLOCK #9

SATURDAY 7:00 PM

SOFA SO GOOD	FORGET ME NOT
WILDERLOVE	IF YOU ONLY KNEW
LITTLE POINT	THE BIRD BEAUTY
RICHMOND	CONTEST
BORDERLINE	ALINA - 2020
COFFEE	

SHORTS BLOCK #2

THURSDAY 7:40 PM

A HUNDRED MILES	THE GIRL SITTING
FROM MONTAUK	HERE
THE HIDEAWAY	1NS
LITTLE GAMES	ONE
HELL OF A PITCHER	FINE
THE ICE CUBES	

SHORTS BLOCK #6

FRIDAY 9:15 PM

PIGLET PIGLET	THE BIGONIA
ONCE UPON A TIME	GARDENS
THE DARING YOUNG	
GIRL ON THE FLYING	
TRAPEZE	

SHORTS BLOCK #10

SUNDAY 10:00 PM

NOW YOU SEE US	THE FEATHER
ACTING WEAK	WAVES
HUNGRY GHOSTS	MEMORIES OF MY
KEEP THE MUSIC	GRANDMOTHER
GOING	

SHORTS BLOCK #3

FRIDAY 10:00 AM

OUR OLD DEN	THE SHEPARD
CHARLIE SURFER	GROW OLD WITH ME
SOMETHING	WICKED IMAGE
BORROWED	JUST FOR THE
THE ONLY	RECORD
BEAUTIFUL THING	

COVIDEO BLOCK #7

SATURDAY 10:00 AM

MY SISTER	A MOMENT ON MAIN
CALL ME BACK:	STREET
THE UNCOMMON	PUSS
WISDOM OF YVETTE	WHILE WE STAYED
SLOSCH	HOME
MESSAGE FROM THE	THE LUCKY ONES
FUTURE	
THE INSOMNIA	
PLAGUE	

EPISODIC II BLOCK #11

SUNDAY 2:00 PM

ALL AMERICAN KIDS	EARLY TO RISE
HUDSON FALLS	SHUT UP, ASTORIA
LOVE IN 2020	

SHORTS BLOCK #4

FRIDAY 2:00 PM

BRYAN ZANISNIK'S	HOME
BIG PIVOT	CONSTRUCTORS
THE SANDS OF TIME	WORDS
CHECKING OUT	JASMINE
PLOT 9	GUARDIAN

SHORTS BLOCK # 8

SATURDAY 2:00 PM

APPETITE	FRANKIE
HOW MUCH AM I	HALLUCINATED
WORTH?	KILL CAT OAKLAND
THE APPOINTMENT	DREAMER

COVIDEO BLOCK #12

SUNDAY 4:40 PM

REMEMBER THAT?	THE DAYS OF
HOME FREE	MARCH
GLIDING	THIS IS A VERY
MORONAVIRUS	IMPORTANT GAME



THANK YOU

AND PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING
THE LIGHTHOUSE FILM SOCIETY
WWW.LIGHTHOUSEFILMFESTIVAL.ORG



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MARY ALLEN REALTY - LOIS DORNAN
NORTH SHORE INN
REGAL CINEMAS
S & S SPORTS
SANDY PAWS DOG SITTING
SEA HORSE MOTEL
SEA SPRAY MOTEL
SHELL LIQUORS
SURF CITY FIREHOUSE
THE ENGLSIDE INN AND RESTAURANT
THE ISLANDER MOTEL
THINGS A DRIFT
WALLY'S
WBNJ 91.9 FM

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FIREFLY GALLERY
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NEPTUNE LIQUORS

PAT TROTTER PHOTOGRAPHY
SHIP BOTTOM FIRE HOUSE
SHORE DESIGN
SOLACE STUDIO + GALLERY
SOUTH-END SURF 'N PADDLE
THE WOO HOO
WBNJ 91.9 FM
WOODIES DRIVE-IN

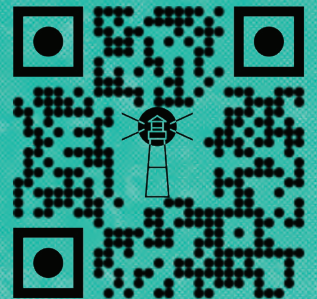
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LA BAMBA
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PEARL STREET MARKET
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ROMMEL'S WINE & SPIRITS
SPEAKEASY PIZZERIA
VIKING VILLAGE
WAWA
WILDFLOWERS BY THE LIGHTHOUSE

WELCOME TO LONG BEACH ISLAND



FILM FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

- 1** Lighthouse Visitor Center / Barnegat Lighthouse State Park / Barnegat Light, NJ
- 2** Miss Barnegat Light / 1801 Bayview Ave / Barnegat Light, NJ (next to Viking Village)
- 3** Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences / 120 Long Beach Blvd / Loveladies, NJ
- 4** Birdy's Cafe / 7801 Long Beach Blvd / Harvey Cedars, NJ
- 5** Sunset Park / 1 W. Salem Ave Harvey Cedars, NJ
- 6** Surf City Firehouse / 713 N. Long Beach Blvd / Surf City, NJ
- 7** The Local Market and Kitchen / 604 Central Ave / Ship Bottom, NJ
- 8** Festival Headquarters, Southern Ocean Country Chamber of Commerce / 265 W. 9th Street / Ship Bottom, NJ
- 9** Regal Cinemas / 733 RT 72 East / Manahawkin Commons / Manahawkin, NJ
- 10** The Gables / 212 Centre Street / Beach Haven, NJ
- 11** Bird and Betty's / 529 Dock Road / Beach Haven, NJ
- 12** LBI Historical Museum / 129 Engleside Ave / Beach Haven, NJ
- 13** Veterans Park / Engleside Ave & Atlantic Ave / Beach Haven, NJ

 **ALL LOCATIONS ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

WRITE YOUR OWN MOVIE!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! CREATE THE SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER OF YOUR DREAMS BY FILLING IN THE BLANKS WITH ANYTHING YOU WANT, JUST FOLLOW THE SUGGESTIONS! LET'S MAKE SOME MOVIE MAGIC!



A person in a _____ beach town vanishes while _____ in the
(ADJECTIVE) (VERB ENDING IN -ING)

_____. When the _____ investigates the disappearance, they
(BODY OF WATER) (OCCUPATION)

find out that they were _____ by a _____! They close all of the
(VERB ENDING IN -ED) (ANIMAL)

_____ in town. And make signs that say "No _____!" The
(PLACES) (VERB ENDING IN -ING)

entire town is _____ and starts to _____. 3 people; a
(ADJECTIVE) (VERB)

_____, _____, and the _____ team up to _____
(OCCUPATION) (OCCUPATION) (OCCUPATION) (VERB)

the _____ in a very tiny _____. **AND THAT'S A WRAP!**
(ANIMAL) (NOUN)

