

OFFICIAL FESTIVAL GUIDE

37TH ANNUAL

ASPEN FILM PRESENTS

ASPEN FILM FEST

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

SEPT
25-30
2015

MOVIES IN ASPEN AND CARBONDALE

TICKETS AT ASPENSHOWTIX.COM AND 970.920.5770

ASPENFILM.ORG



[FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENFILM](https://www.facebook.com/aspenshowtix)

[INSTAGRAM.COM/ASPENFILM](https://www.instagram.com/aspenshowtix)

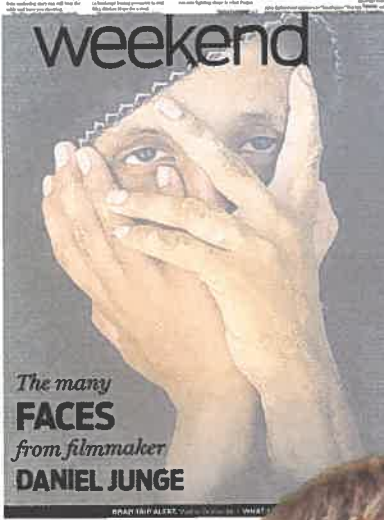


[TWITTER.COM/ASPENFILM](https://twitter.com/aspenshowtix)

[#FILMFEST15](https://twitter.com/aspenshowtix)

Aspen Film hosts 'Southpaw' sneak previews

Aspen Film is proud to present sneak previews of the upcoming film 'Southpaw' at the Aspen Film Academy Screenings. The film, directed by John Dahl, stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Riley Keough. It tells the story of a boxer who loses everything and must rebuild his life. The film is a powerful and emotional journey that will leave you in awe. Don't miss this sneak preview!



The many
FACES
from filmmaker
DANIEL JUNG

Absurdly
Shortsfest film tackles an Aspen



Life Itself, about Ebert, at Academy Screenings

Aspen Film is proud to present a sneak preview of the upcoming film 'Life Itself' at the Aspen Film Academy Screenings. The film, directed by Roger Ebert, is a documentary about the life of the legendary film critic. It is a powerful and emotional journey that will leave you in awe. Don't miss this sneak preview!



project
2015 pat

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THE DEDICATED Justin Kauflin

JAZZ PIANIST LOSES A MENTOR,
CARRIES ON A LEGACY AND COMES TO ASPEN



Flying High
usses 'Birdman'



William H. Macy looks through the
director's lens



William H. Macy looks through the
director's lens

Become one of Aspen Film's REEL PEOPLE

100+ Movies a Year
Special Events

Premieres & Free Screenings

MEMBERSHIP INFO

our nonprofit mission

To entertain, enrich, educate, and enlighten through film.

We connect audiences of all ages with global filmmakers,
their stories, imaginations, and ideas.

discounts. passes.
free screenings and more.

Enjoy year-round member benefits at Shortsfest, Filmfest,
Academy Screenings, and other events. Most importantly,
tax-deductible membership supports our festivals,
filmmaker participation, and free school programs.

for more information
visit aspenfilm.org or contact (970) 372-2883

want to join or renew?
Don't miss our special membership
promotion only during Filmfest.

Photo: May Selby



Exclusive Preview of Rudderless

Photo: Lucas Zielasko



Shortsfest 2015 Filmmakers

Aspen Film is a Colorado nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organization.

WELCOME

ASPEN
FILM
FEST
2015

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DON'T MISS OUR
**opening
reception**

friday
**SEPT
25**

4:00-5:00PM
Harris Hall Lobby

sponsored by
*The Aspen Times,
Aspen Sojourner,
Carne Humana Wine,
and Aspen Brewing Company*



With the arrival of fall's stunning foliage comes a change in the air. This year there is also change in the air at Aspen Film. As many of you know, we are bidding a fond farewell to George Eldred and Laura Thielen—the amazing duo who have led this organization for the past 20 years. The 37th Aspen Filmfest program is the last that will bear their creative input. Having joined Aspen Film as executive director in July, I am honored to carry on the legacy that Laura and George have built.

Aspen Film also recently welcomed Maggie Mackay as its new artistic director. Maggie's industry experience is unparalleled. With 13 years of programming experience she has most recently served as Senior Programmer for the Los Angeles Film Festival and Director of Nominations for the Film Independent Spirit Awards. I am delighted to bring her to our organization, where her innovative ideas will shine on the big screen, not only in Aspen, but throughout the Roaring Fork Valley. Maggie and I look forward to continuing the growth of Aspen Film and to further cultivating a passion for cinema in our community.

Of course, that community is one whose support deeply humbles us. Aspen Film could not bring this festival to life without the generous assistance of The City of Aspen, the Embrey Family Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, Les Dames d'Aspen, the Thrift Shop of Aspen, AspenOUT, The Aspen Times, the Aspen Club & Spa, The Gant, Aspen Public Radio, Alpine Bank, Meat & Cheese Restaurant, Aspen Sojourner, and the Colorado Office of Film, Television & Media, as well as our community partners, board of directors, members, and audiences. Filmfest is a reality because of you.

George and Laura have really outdone themselves programming this festival. Each and every film is a true work of art, and I can honestly say that among the social-issue and biographical documentaries, thrilling works by foreign masters and emerging auteurs, and Oscar contenders, there is not one to be missed. I encourage you to take chances and make discoveries. With another renovation in the works at the Wheeler Opera House, we're making the Isis Theater, Paepcke Auditorium, and the Crystal Theatre our official venues this year. Please don't hesitate to let our staff members or expert volunteers know if you have any questions or special needs during your festival-going experience.

I look forward to seeing you at Filmfest.

With gratitude,

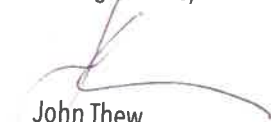

John Thew
Executive Director



Photo: Mike Lyons Photography

ASPEN FILMFEST 2015 **3**

Paepcke Auditorium

fri SEPT 25

4:00-5:00PM **OPENING RECEPTION**
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
sponsored by The Aspen Times, Aspen Sojourner, Carne Humana Wine, and Aspen Brewing Company
Harris Hall Lobby

5:30PM **OPENING NIGHT DOCUMENTARY**
City of Gold
Paepcke Auditorium
96 min. **Q+A**
8:15PM **OPENING NIGHT FEATURE**
Room
Paepcke Auditorium
113 min.

Q+A =
Filmmaker expected.

sat SEPT 26

NOON **GLOBAL VISIONS**
The Passion of Augustine
Paepcke Auditorium
103 min.

2:30PM **TRUE STORIES**
Rolling Papers + Panel
Paepcke Auditorium
120 min. **Q+A**

5:30PM **NEW VOICES**
Tumbledown
Paepcke Auditorium
105 min.

8:30PM **GLOBAL VISIONS**
The New Girlfriend
Paepcke Auditorium
107 min.

sun SEPT 27

NOON **TRUE STORIES**
Sherpa
Paepcke Auditorium
96 min.

2:30PM **GLOBAL VISIONS**
Embrace of the Serpent
Paepcke Auditorium
123 min.

5:30PM **TRUE STORIES**
Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict
Paepcke Auditorium
96 min. **Q+A**

8:15PM **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**
Experimenter
Paepcke Auditorium
97 min.

Isis Theater

mon SEPT 28

NOON **TRUE STORIES**
Frame by Frame
Isis Theater
85 min. **Q+A**

2:30PM **GLOBAL VISIONS**
El Cinco
Isis Theater
100 min.

5:30PM **TRUE STORIES**
All the Time in the World
Isis Theater
88 min.

8:15PM **NEW VOICES**
Son of Saul
Isis Theater
107 min.

tue SEPT 29

NOON **NEW VOICES**
Sworn Virgin
Isis Theater
87 min.

2:30PM **GLOBAL VISIONS**
Dough
Isis Theater
94 min.

5:30PM **TRUE STORIES**
A Ballerina's Tale
Isis Theater
85 min.

8:15PM **GLOBAL VISIONS**
The Dark Horse
Isis Theater
124 min.

wed SEPT 30

NOON **NEW VOICES**
The Great Man
Isis Theater
107 min.

2:30PM **GLOBAL VISIONS**
The Second Mother
Isis Theater
110 min.

5:30PM **CLOSING NIGHT DOCUMENTARY**
Romeo Is Bleeding
Isis Theater
93 min. **Q+A**

8:15PM **CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE**
Surprise Film
Isis Theater
121 min.

CARBONDALE

Crystal Theatre
427 Main Street, Carbondale

Crystal Theatre

5:30PM **NEW VOICES**
Tumbledown
Crystal Theatre
105 min.

8:15PM **TRUE STORIES**
Sherpa
Crystal Theatre
96 min.

5:30PM **TRUE STORIES**
Frame by Frame
Crystal Theatre
85 min.

8:00PM **GLOBAL VISIONS**
El Cinco
Crystal Theatre
100 min.

5:00PM **GLOBAL VISIONS**
The Passion of Augustine
Crystal Theatre
103 min.

7:30PM **TRUE STORIES**
Romeo Is Bleeding
Crystal Theatre
93 min.

A presentation of
Aspen Film
110 E. Hallam St., Suite 102
Aspen, CO 81611
(970) 925-6882
aspenfilm.org



Filmfest Café

Green Cuisine will have fresh and delicious meal and snack options available for purchase at Harris Hall Lobby between shows.
Friday, September 25 - Sunday, September 27.



HOW TO FILMFEST

GENERAL INFORMATION

Doors open 30 minutes before show time. Aspen Film REEL PEOPLE members, including pass holders, receive priority access.

Please arrive early. In the event of a sell-out, all unclaimed seats are released 10 minutes before show time.

The wait-list for sold-out shows begins outside the theater 45 minutes before show time. In Carbondale the wait list begins 30 minutes before show time.

Programs are subject to change.

If you have special needs covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify Paepcke Auditorium (970-925-4240), the Isis Theater (970-925-7584), or the Crystal Theatre (970-236-2013) by September 21.

TICKETS

Weekday Matinees (before 5 pm)

General Admission **\$10**
Aspen Film
REEL PEOPLE members **\$9***

Evening + Weekend Shows

General Admission **\$15**
Aspen Film
REEL PEOPLE members **\$12***

Aspen Film REEL PEOPLE member tickets

To become a member and enjoy valuable year-round benefits, visit aspenfilm.org or call (970) 372-2883.

* Member price only available in person, online, or by phone through the Wheeler Box Office. Discount is **NOT** available at Bonfire Coffee.

BUY YOUR TICKETS

We strongly recommend purchasing tickets in advance.

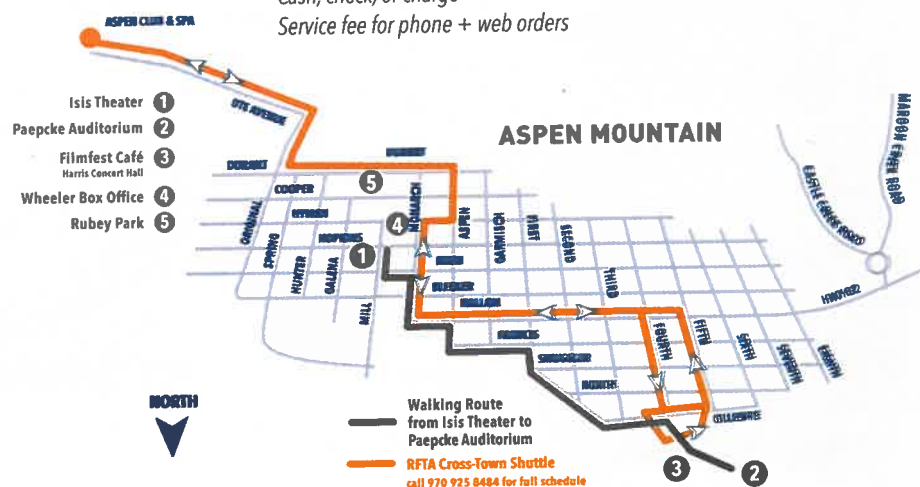
Tickets on sale at door, only if available.

ALL TICKETS

Wheeler Opera House Box Office
(tickets only, presentations elsewhere)
(970) 920-5770
(866) 449-0464
aspenfilm.org
Cash, check, or charge
Service fee for phone + web orders

CARBONDALE TICKETS

Bonfire Coffee
433 Main Street, Carbondale
Mon - Sun 6:30am - 5pm
Cash + check only



ASPEN

4:00–5:00pm
Harris Hall Lobby
Opening Reception
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

*sponsored by The Aspen Times,
Aspen Sojourner,
Carne Humana Wine and
Aspen Brewing Company*

5:30pm
Paepcke Auditorium
OPENING NIGHT DOCUMENTARY
City of Gold

Arguably the foremost food writer of our era, Pulitzer Prize-winning *Los Angeles Times* restaurant critic Jonathan Gold has long been a champion of the little guy, as represented by the mom-and-pop immigrant kitchens that sparkle in a sea of celebrity destinations. His passion, tenacity, and prodigious intellect have inspired his readers to boldly dine where they've never dined before—and director/co-producer Laura Gabbert has set out to ensure they do the same for moviegoers. Following Gold around L.A. as he goes about his delicious daily business, this documentary captures the free spirit of both the man and his city in thought-provoking, convention-challenging, and of course mouthwatering ways. Appearances by such pioneering chefs as Roy Choi and David Chang only sweeten the pot. (USA, 2014, 96 min.)

Q+A WITH FILMMAKER LAURA GABBERT

*Special thanks to
Peter Nicklin and Linda McCausland +
Meat & Cheese Restaurant*

8:15pm
Paepcke Auditorium
OPENING NIGHT FEATURE
Room

Both highly suspenseful and deeply emotional, *Room* is an unexpectedly tender exploration of the boundless love between a mother and child under the most harrowing of circumstances. Based on Emma Donoghue's award-winning bestseller, *Room* tells the extraordinary story of Jack (Jacob Tremblay), a spirited five-year-old who is looked after by his loving and devoted Ma. Like any good mother, Ma (a stunning Brie Larson) dedicates herself to keeping Jack happy and safe, nurturing him with warmth and love and doing typical things like playing games and telling stories. Their life, however, is anything but typical—they are trapped, confined to a windowless, 10-by-10-foot space. But as Jack's curiosity about their situation grows and Ma's resilience reaches its breaking point, they decide to enact a risky plan to escape. Lenny Abrahamson directs a stellar cast that also includes William H. Macy and Joan Allen. (Ireland/Canada, 2015, 113 min.)

Special thanks to Lee and Steve Rittvo

CARBONDALE

5:30pm
Crystal Theatre
NEW VOICES
Tumbledown

Bringing vibrant indie sensibilities to bear on a classic genre, husband-and-wife team Sean Mewshaw and Desiree Van Til present a romantic comedy that eschews cutesiness for subtler charms and trades sentiment for poignancy. Rebecca Hall co-stars as Hannah, the widow of a singer-songwriter in the brilliant-but-troubled Elliott Smith vein, who has fled to small-town New England to keep the late musician's morbidly curious fans at bay. But Andrew (Jason Sudeikis) will not be deterred: the academic is determined to write a biography about her husband, and Hannah reluctantly opts to join him rather than beat him. The decision forces her to traverse an emotional landscape that, it turns out, opens on to new horizons with a breadth she never imagined. Griffin Dunne, Blythe Danner, Richard Masur, and Joe Manganiello bring joie de vivre to supporting roles. (USA/Canada, 2015, 105 min.)

8:15pm
Crystal Theatre
TRUE STORIES
Sherpa

For decades, Westerners tended to view Himalayan Sherpas as the mascots of Mount Everest—eager, loyal, ever-enduring—with good reason: it was easier than admitting they were all-too-human, easily exploited cogs in the treacherous machine that is the commercial-expedition market. But all that began to change a couple of years ago, after tensions between some European climbers and their guides boiled over mid-trek. Compelled to tell the story from the natives' perspective, award-winning Australian filmmaker and veteran climber Jennifer Peedom traveled to Nepal at the onset of the 2014 climbing season—only to become embroiled in the tragic, and politically mobilizing, aftermath of an avalanche that killed 16 sherpas. At once breathtaking and heartbreaking, epic and intimate, this documentary explores the impact that our dream of conquering nature has on the people bound by economic circumstance to help make it come true. (Australia/U.K., 2015, 96 min.)



City of Gold



Room



Tumbledown



Sherpa

ASPEN

NOON

Paepcke Auditorium

GLOBAL VISIONS

The Passion of Augustine

Mother Augustine's convent in rural Québec has long enjoyed a reputation for discovering and nurturing young virtuosos. But the sound of classical music is quickly being drowned out by the sociopolitical upheaval of the 1960s. The Canadian government has begun secularizing the educational system, leaving the dedicated teacher and her fellow nuns little choice but to get with the program or risk closure. In the midst of the crisis, her own mischievous niece Alice arrives at the school. Standing at a crossroads between Vatican II and a burgeoning feminist movement, can Mother find a new path? Léa Pool's light-hearted drama about the inevitability of change and the courage required to confront it is all the more affecting for its gently private moments and evocative soundtrack—but no less funny. (Canada, 2015, 103 min.)

Special thanks to Nancy and Charles Wall + Sarah Flug

ALSO PLAYS IN CARBONDALE

2:30pm

Paepcke Auditorium

TRUE STORIES

Rolling Papers

The impending death of old media and the legalization of recreational marijuana sound like two different stories. This offbeat yet revealing documentary indicates otherwise. As the first-ever marijuana editor for a major American newspaper, Ricardo Baca of *The Denver Post* covers all things cannabis-related, including the explosive growth of the Colorado industry. Upon being named to the position in early 2014, he in turn became the subject of much national coverage; suddenly the news was news itself. But whether the development of a whole new beat is enough to save traditional journalism proves a key, and compelling, question for this team of Colorado filmmakers—including director Mitch Dickman and frequent Aspen Film guest Daniel Junge, who acts as co-producer—albeit one lightened by interludes of spinning pot strains. (USA, 2015, 79 min.)

Immediately following, join director Mitch Dickman and a panel of notable industry experts for an in-depth discussion on how Amendment 64 has impacted our local community from a legal, health, and economic perspective—both the successes and challenges. More @ aspenfilm.org.

Zach Armstrong, Listen Productions



Rolling Papers

6 OFFICIAL FESTIVAL GUIDE

5:30pm

Paepcke Auditorium

NEW VOICES

Tumbledown

Bringing vibrant indie sensibilities to bear on a classic genre, husband-and-wife team Sean Mewshaw and Desiree Van Til present a romantic comedy that eschews cutesiness for subtler charms and trades sentiment for poignancy. Rebecca Hall co-stars as Hannah, the widow of a singer-songwriter in the brilliant-but-troubled Elliott Smith vein, who has fled to small-town New England to keep the late musicians morbidly curious fans at bay. But Andrew (Jason Sudeikis) will not be deterred: the academic is determined to write a biography about her husband, and Hannah reluctantly opts to join him rather than beat him. The decision forces her to traverse an emotional landscape that, it turns out, opens on to new horizons with a breadth she never imagined. Griffin Dunne, Blythe Danner, Richard Masur, and Joe Manganiello bring joie de vivre to supporting roles. (USA/Canada, 2015, 105 min.)

Special thanks to Mel and Paulette Blumenthal + Colorado Creative Industries

ALSO PLAYS IN CARBONDALE

8:30pm

Paepcke Auditorium

GLOBAL VISIONS

The New Girlfriend

Combining suspense and romance, farce and social critique, French master François Ozon (*8 Women*) delivers a bold and provocative adaptation of a story by mystery writer Ruth Rendell. Following the untimely death of new mother Laura, husband David must carry on as a widower with an infant. Laura's best friend Claire, while grieving herself, aims to be of service—but gets more than she bargained for upon discovering David's closely kept secret. As their friendship deepens, Claire finds herself keeping secrets of her own from husband Gilles, bringing into focus questions about the nature of identity, desire, and sexuality in the modern world. Nuanced performances by Romain Duris and Anaïs Demoustier ground the drama in poignancy even as it makes witty forays into surreal territory. Imagine Hitchcock with a twist of Almodóvar and a dose of heart. (France, 2014, 107 min.)



The New Girlfriend

CARBONDALE

5:30pm

Crystal Theatre

TRUE STORIES

Frame by Frame

When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, taking a photo was a crime. After the regime fell from power in 2001, a fledgling free press emerged and a media revolution was born. The award-winning *Frame by Frame* follows four brave souls at the forefront of Afghanistan's post-war photojournalism. Turning a compassionate lens on the social realities of their strife-torn country, the four photographers courageously hold to their belief in the unique ability of the picture to bring about understanding and change. Interweaving revealing interviews, powerful photojournalism, and never-before-seen archival footage, documentarians Alexandria Bombach and Mo Scarpelli create an urgent and inspiring portrait of these dedicated professionals determined to reclaim their country's humanity. (USA, 2015, 85 min.)

8:00pm

Crystal Theatre

GLOBAL VISIONS

El Cinco

Here's a coming-of-age romance with a wry twist: its hero (of sorts) is 35 and already married. Facing the end of his run as a pro soccer player, Páton is experiencing a midlife crisis. His job qualifications are few, his self-defeating tendencies many, and for all his efforts to find a new sense of purpose, things are going from bad to worse. Lucky for him his better half, Ale, remains cheerfully patient. But can he keep his insecurities from finally straining the one good thing in his life? Argentinian writer/director Adrián Biniez delivers his engaging exploration of love's redemptive power with sharp wit and genuine warmth, aided by the natural charm of stars Esteban Lamothe and Julieta Zylberberg—who happen to be partners off-screen as well as on. (Argentina/Uruguay, 2014, 100 min.)



Tumbledown



The Passion of Augustine

ASPEN

Noon

Paepcke Auditorium

TRUE STORIES

Sherpa

For decades, Westerners tended to view Himalayan Sherpas as the mascots of Mount Everest—eager, loyal, ever-enduring—with good reason: it was easier than admitting they were all-too-human, easily exploited cogs in the treacherous machine that is the commercial-expedition market. But all that began to change a couple of years ago, after tensions between some European climbers and their guides boiled over mid-trek. Compelled to tell the story from the natives' perspective, award-winning Australian filmmaker and veteran climber Jennifer Peedom traveled to Nepal at the onset of the 2014 climbing season—only to become embroiled in the tragic, and politically mobilizing, aftermath of an avalanche that killed 16 sherpas. At once breathtaking and heartbreaking, epic and intimate, this documentary explores the impact that our dream of conquering nature has on the people bound by economic circumstance to help make it come true. (Australia/U.K., 2015, 96 min.)

Special thanks to Adam and Melony Lewis + City of Aspen
ALSO PLAYS IN CARBONDALE

2:30pm

Paepcke Auditorium

GLOBAL VISIONS

Embrace of the Serpent

Nabbing the Directors' Fortnight top prize at Cannes in May, this mesmerizing Colombian epic transports viewers into the heart of the South American rainforest, where Karamakate, a young shaman, has taken refuge from the ravages of early 20th-century development. When a German scientist seeking a sacred healing plant intrudes on his solitude, Karamakate begrudgingly serves as a river guide; four decades later, an American explorer comes to him on a similar quest. Part fever dream, part ethnographic exploration, director Ciro Guerra's film evocatively interweaves these two journeys. Gorgeous black-and-white cinematography captures the languor and beauty of a lost world, as the seekers glide through a hypnotic, mysterious, sometimes frightening, ever-changing riverscape. Along the way, the young shaman's anger over the depredations wrought by outsiders gives way to an aging man's sorrow at the shattering aftermath. (Colombia, 2015, 123 min.)



Embrace of the Serpent

5:30pm

Paepcke Auditorium

TRUE STORIES

Peggy Guggenheim:
Art Addict

Diana Vreeland: *The Eye Has to Travel* director Lisa Immordino Vreeland returns with yet another striking documentary about a 20th-century socialite turned legendary cultural power broker. A combination of archival footage, recently re-discovered audio recordings, stills, and commentary from myriad present-day tastemakers serves as the judiciously straightforward frame for a portrait that derives all its luster from the colorful—and indeed lusty—subject herself: Peggy Guggenheim. The doyenne of modern art founded some of the most influential galleries of their day in London and New York City before moving to Venice to open the world-class museum that bears her name. Along the way, she befriended creative titans like Duchamp, Beckett, and Ernst and nurtured the talents of Pollock, Rothko, and Motherwell, among others. The zeitgeist of 20th-century modernism comes to life in this personal exploration of one of its guiding luminaries—candor, passion, and all. (USA, 2015, 96 min.)

Q+A WITH FILMMAKER LISA IMMORDINO
VREELAND

Special thanks to Toby Lewis + The Gant
Community Partner: Anderson Ranch

8:15pm

Paepcke Auditorium

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Experimenter

In 1961, with World War II still fresh in the collective consciousness, an American social psychologist conducted an experiment whose subjects were instructed to administer what they believed were electric shocks to strangers. His findings about their tendency to comply became household news—but the controversies that swirled around them impacted his life and career in unexpected ways. This compelling biopic follows Stanley Milgram (a wonderfully wry Peter Sarsgaard) through it all, wife Sasha (Winona Ryder) by his side. And although writer/director/producer Michael Almereyda's latest film investigates profound questions about the dynamics of social behavior, he infuses it with his trademark irrepressible style. *Experimenter*, peppered with surprise cameos and playfully unconventional cinematic effects, is smart and thought-provoking entertainment. (USA, 2015, 108 min.)



Experimenter

CARBONDALE

5:00pm

Crystal Theatre

GLOBAL VISIONS

The Passion of Augustine

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7:30pm

Crystal Theatre

TRUE STORIES

Romeo Is Bleeding

As a native of Richmond, California—a town plagued by gang warfare—Donté Clark is on a mission to combat violence with poetry: he and his high-school students at arts center RAW Talent are adapting *Romeo and Juliet* to present-day circumstances. Documentarian Jason Zeldes follows the aspiring writers and actors as they come to terms with the issues underlying the feuds between not only the Montagues and the Capulets but also their own families, friends, and neighbors. The more real and fictional tragedies begin to overlap, however, the heavier the burden Clark shoulders becomes. Intercut with archival and performance footage, this portrait of a young man struggling to give voice as well as hope to a hurting community is as inspiring as it is absorbing. (USA, 2015, 93 min.)



Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict

Courtesy of the Peggy Guggenheim Collection Archives, Venice.



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28

ASPEN

Noon
Isis Theater

TRUE STORIES

Frame by Frame

When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, taking a photo was a crime. After the regime fell from power in 2001, a fledgling free press emerged and a media revolution was born. The award-winning *Frame by Frame* follows four brave souls at the forefront of Afghanistan's post-war photojournalism. Turning a compassionate lens on the social realities of their strife-torn country, the four photographers courageously hold to their belief in the unique ability of the picture to bring about understanding and change. Interweaving revealing interviews, powerful photojournalism, and never-before-seen archival footage, documentarians Alexandria Bombach and Mo Scarpelli create an urgent and inspiring portrait of these dedicated professionals determined to reclaim their country's humanity. (USA, 2015, 85 min.)

Q+A WITH FILM GUESTS

STACEY PICULELL AND SIERRA VOSS

Special thanks to *Aspen Public Radio*

ALSO PLAYS IN CARBONDALE



Frame by Frame



El Cinco



All the Time in the World



Son of Saul

5:30pm
Isis Theater

TRUE STORIES

All the Time in the World

Like Thoreau before her, Suzanne Crocker went to the woods because she wished to live deliberately. Unlike Thoreau, she captured the experience on film. A multi-award-winning hit on the festival circuit, this thoughtful documentary follows the Canadian director/producer herself, along with her husband and their three young children, into the Yukon wilderness, where they live off the grid for nine months, learning to fend for themselves in the absence of a single modern amenity. Without electricity or plumbing, never mind the Internet, they live by their wits according to the earth's natural cycles; what they discover about connecting with nature and each other is sometimes funny, sometimes moving, and always fascinating. (Canada, 2014, 88 min.)

Special thanks to *Juliet Shield-Taylor + the Embrey Family Foundation*

8:15pm
Isis Theater

NEW VOICES

Son of Saul

October 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau. Saul Ausländer is a Hungarian member of the Sonderkommando, the group of Jewish prisoners forced to assist the Nazis in their large-scale exterminations. While working in a crematorium, he discovers the body of a boy he takes for his son. Even as his fellow inmates plan an uprising, Saul embarks on his own impossible mission: save the child's body from the flames and find a rabbi to oversee a proper burial. The stakes of both rebellion and redemption couldn't be higher or more harrowing; that the audience comes to see as much from Saul's perspective only underscores what is, in its breaks with narrative and cinematographic convention, a singular achievement. Precisely as chaotic and unrelenting as it must be, writer/director László Nemes's debut feature took the Coen Brothers-juried Grand Prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival. (Hungary, 2015, 107 min.)

ASPEN

Noon
Isis Theater

NEW VOICES

Sworn Virgin

In the remote villages of Albania, patriarchy endures. Women must resign themselves to a life of domestic servitude—unless they agree to the terms of an unusual social contract: tradition dictates that they may adopt the identities of free men, so long as they remain celibate. Taking the name Mark, Hana becomes one such “sworn virgin.” But 14 years on, the limitations of her situation have begun to seem as confining as the alternative. So she makes the decision to leave behind all she has ever known, traveling to Italy to join her sister, Lila, who had fled for the modern world years before. There, Mark begins to rediscover her roots as Hana. Filmmaker Laura Bispuri’s provocative yet sensitive exploration of the ways in which we receive and resist our gender roles unfolds in flashbacks and quiet present-day moments, driven by the careful performance of lead Alba Rohrwacher against a stunning backdrop that shifts dramatically from secluded mountain to bustling city. (Italy/Germany/Switzerland/Kosovo/Albania, 2015, 90 min.)

2:30pm
Isis Theater

GLOBAL VISIONS

Dough

Nat Dayan (played by the venerable Jonathan Pryce) has fallen on hard times: the Jewish widower’s bakery is dying along with its customer base in London’s East End. And considering his sons aren’t willing to breathe new life into the family business, a hostile takeover by the landlord seems inevitable. Enter Ayyash, a teenaged Muslim refugee from Darfur. Dayan’s new assistant seems to have a magic touch: suddenly, the shop is once again teeming with customers seeking out his special baked goods. But is it all too good to be true? Despite age and cultural difference, can this odd couple learn to have faith in one another? Director John Goldschmidt’s heart-warming dramatic comedy explores this unlikely of friendships. (U.K., 2015, 94 min.)

5:30pm
Isis Theater

TRUE STORIES

A Ballerina’s Tale

Among a handful of dancers with household-name recognition, American Ballet Theatre star Misty Copeland personifies the drive to realize one’s dreams against all odds. In this stirring behind-the-scenes documentary, director/producer Nelson George traces the obstacle course she has been navigating with extraordinary courage since the beginning of her career: not only is she black and muscularly built in a white and waiflike world, but she has also endured injuries from which only the rarest of athletes could recover. Encapsulated by her recent struggle to come back from shin surgery and take her place as a company soloist in the ballet of ballets that is *Swan Lake*, Copeland’s story bears all the hallmarks of the greatest sports dramas. That it happens to be true is all the more astonishing. (USA, 2015, 85 min.)

Special thanks to Esther Pearlstone + Aspen Club & Spa
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8:15pm
Isis Theater

GLOBAL VISIONS

The Dark Horse

Kiwi megastar Cliff Curtis (*Whale Rider*, *Once Were Warriors*) gives a towering yet tender performance in this spirited drama based on the life of Maori chess master Genesis Potini. Seeking respite from, if not redemption for, his struggles with bipolar disorder, Potini signs on to coach the at-risk members of a youth chess club. Among them is his own nephew, Mana, whose interest in the game constitutes betrayal in the eyes of his father Akiri, Genesis’s brother. Thus is the stage set for a showdown, at home as well as at the competition the students are practicing so hard for. Given such raw material in every sense of the phrase, writer/director James Napier Robertson refuses to smooth it over—and the rough-edged yet heartfelt results are all the more memorable for that. (New Zealand, 2014, 124 min.)

Special thanks to Neil Karbank



Sworn Virgin



Dough



A Ballerina’s Tale



The Dark Horse



The Great Man



Romeo Is Bleeding



The Second Mother

ASPEN

Noon

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NEW VOICES

The Great Man

Markov (Surho Sugaipov) and fellow French Legionnaire Hamilton (a superb Jérémie Renier of *The Child* and *The Kid with a Bike*) move as one, scouting behind enemy lines during their final days in Afghanistan. When an unauthorized mission triggers an ambush, Markov commits a courageous act of brotherhood that nevertheless puts him at odds with the Legion—and jeopardizes his future. He had enlisted as a foreign refugee, hoping to gain citizenship and provide a better life for his son; now he finds himself in Paris as an undocumented civilian. Markov eventually reunites with Hamilton, and their friendship resumes until a sudden turn of events upends their fragile world. An affecting treatment of identity, trauma, and paternal and fraternal responsibility, Sarah Leonor's finely wrought tale is so suffused with generous humanity that we're never sure to whom the title actually refers. (France, 2015, 107 min.)

2:30pm

Isis Theater

GLOBAL VISIONS

The Second Mother

Regina Casé shines bright as Val, the longtime housemaid and nanny to a family of means in São Paulo. She cleans, cooks, and cares for teenaged Fabinho with the skillful care of a woman who accepts without question her station in life. Enter Jéssica, the smart and strong-willed daughter Val hasn't seen in years. In town to take her university entrance exams, Jéssica flouts the class-based rules of Brazilian society, much to the dismay of everyone in the household—her mother included. Amid the tension, something has got to give; it's a scenario that writer/director Anna Muylaert explores with both sensitivity and spirit, walking the line between family drama, social study, and sharp-edged comedy as captivatingly the characters themselves test the boundaries between old ways and new. (Brazil, 2015, 110 min.)

5:30pm

Isis Theater

CLOSING NIGHT DOCUMENTARY

Romeo Is Bleeding

As a native of Richmond, California—a town plagued by gang warfare—Donté Clark is on a mission to combat violence with poetry: he and his high-school students at arts center RAW Talent are adapting *Romeo and Juliet* to present-day circumstances. Documentarian Jason Zeldes follows the aspiring writers and actors as they come to terms with the issues underlying the feuds between not only the Montagues and the Capulets but also their own families, friends, and neighbors. The more real and fictional tragedies begin to overlap, however, the heavier the burden Clark shoulders becomes. Intercut with archival and performance footage, this portrait of a young man struggling to give voice as well as hope to a hurting community is as inspiring as it is absorbing. (USA, 2015, 93 min.)

Q+A WITH FILMMAKER JASON ZELDES

Special thanks to Tom and Darlynn Fellman + Alpine Bank

Community Partners: Theater Aspen + Aspen Words

ALSO PLAYS IN CARBONDALE

8:15pm

Isis Theater

CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE

Surprise Film

What better finale for this 37th edition than a perennial favorite, the *Surprise Film*. Our lips are sealed until the opening credits except to say that this year's selection is a timely drama based on actual events, featuring top-drawer talents who are always a pleasure to watch. (USA, 2015, 121 min.)

CARBONDALE SHOWS

ASPEN
FILM
FEST
2015

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25

5:30pm SEE PAGE 5
Crystal Theatre
NEW VOICES
Tumbledown

8:15pm SEE PAGE 5
Crystal Theatre
TRUE STORIES
Sherpa



Tumbledown

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26

5:30pm SEE PAGE 6
Crystal Theatre
TRUE STORIES
Frame by Frame

8:00pm SEE PAGE 6
Crystal Theatre
GLOBAL VISIONS
El Cinco



El Cinco

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27

5:00pm SEE PAGE 7
Crystal Theatre
GLOBAL VISIONS
The Passion of Augustine

7:30pm SEE PAGE 7
Crystal Theatre
TRUE STORIES
Romeo Is Bleeding



Romeo is Bleeding

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