

ASPEN FILM

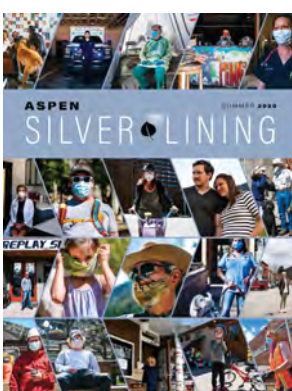
INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

SHORTSFEST

aspen + carbondale
INFO aspenfilm.org
TICKETS aspenshowtix.com

4.5-10
2022





Welcome

SHORTSFEST



It's been a wild three years since we've all been able to gather at the historic Wheeler Opera House in Aspen and at the Crystal Theatre in Carbondale to present our Oscar®-qualifying Shortsfest. We could not be more excited to be back!

Hopefully our audiences were able to experience the magical curation that our Shortsfest Programming Director, Jason Anderson, and his team did for our virtual 2020 and 2021 editions. Yet there's nothing like being together in the dark, sharing the experience and rollercoaster ride of a Shortsfest program in person.

Jason, Anita, Ivonne, and Liane have masterfully curated an undulating program that will take you through a gamut of emotions, while experiencing life around the world. What's so wondrous is that observing the differences in places and cultures leads us to understand the similarities between all of us and in human nature in general.

This year's program takes us from Argentina to Labrador, from Mississippi to Nigeria, and many places in between with 28 countries being represented. Nine of our films are world premieres, meaning you'll be the first audiences anywhere to experience these incredible stories. And we're quite proud that 53% of our 77 titles are either directed or co-directed by women.

During Shortsfest Aspen Film really spreads out through the community by presenting conversations, events, and offering our most robust FilmEducates program. Our filmmakers and industry guests share stories, insights, and lessons with students in the classroom and from the stage.

We invite you to come experience a program or several, to absorb the incredible work that is being created in short storytelling. Whether it's an animation piece, a documentary, a comedy or a drama, you will undoubtedly be impacted and come away with a new perspective. Such is the power of cinema.



Susan Wrubel
Executive + Artistic Director

As we've navigated our way through the many challenges of the last few years, we here at Aspen Shortsfest have taken no small amount of solace in the stories, experiences, and perspectives that filmmakers have continued to share with us through their incredible work. In the face of obstacles that must've seemed insurmountable at times, they persevered, somehow scrounging up budgets, dedicating long hours, and creating the proverbial villages that it really does take to make movies (even very, very short ones).

For all that, we couldn't be more grateful, or more excited, to have the privilege of sharing the most compelling and unique discoveries with our amazing Shortsfest audience. Like the 30 editions that preceded this one, the 2022 selection is full of great shorts that are often remarkably different from each other. Yet they are all testaments to cinema's power to immerse us in lives and places that are moving, thrilling, surprising, bold, heart-wrenching, and hilarious.

What makes it all the sweeter is the fact that for the first time since 2019, we are able to present these films and host our guests and audiences in the Wheeler Opera House.

Along with my programming team of Anita Tavakol, Ivonne Cotorruello, and Liane Cunje, I want to say how thrilled we are to present the abundance of poignant dramas, ingenious comedies, thought-provoking documentaries, and incredible animations that comprise Aspen Shortsfest's 2022 selection. I also want to extend my thanks to the dedicated team of pre-screeners who championed so many of these films, which we received as part of the nearly 3,000 submissions for Shortsfest this year. We hope you treasure them as much as we do.

And while this goes without saying, we're going to say it anyway: we are so happy to be back!



Jason Anderson
Shortsfest Programming Director

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

*proud supporters of
Aspen Film*

THE ASPEN TIMES

www.aspentimes.com



Snowmass Sun

Jason Anderson

Shortsfest Programming Director

Jason Anderson is a programmer, writer, and lecturer based in Toronto. He's the International Programmer for Short Cuts, the Toronto International Film Festival's annual program of short form cinema. He's also the Director of Programming for the Kingston Canadian Film Festival, the country's largest standalone festival of Canadian movies. He's served on juries for festivals such as Hot Docs, Vienna Independent Shorts, the Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival, and Nordisk Panorama. Previously a longtime critic and columnist for Toronto's Eye Weekly and The Grid, he currently writes about film and music for such publications as Uncut, Sight & Sound, and Cinema Scope. He teaches film criticism at the University of Toronto. His first novel Showbiz was published by Toronto's ECW Press in 2004. Raised in Calgary, he lives in Toronto with his wife, daughter, and too many records.



Ivonne Cotruello

Ivonne Cotruello is a Cuban film curator and producer based in New York, who has been empowering storytellers for over a decade. She is a Features Programmer at Cleveland International Film Festival CIFF, and also a programmer for Atlanta Film Festival ATLFF, Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival TTF, and a shorts programmer for Aspen Shortfest. A Berlinale Talent Campus alumna, she is always seeking out films for underrepresented voices and working on a plan of strategic diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Liane Cunje

Programmer

Liane Cunje is a producer, and leads acquisitions for Vinegar Syndrome Pictures, the new release label for underground and cult distributor Vinegar Syndrome. Coming from a film studies and TV development background in Montreal, Cunje completed an MA in Producing Film and TV in the UK before working for cult label Arrow Video. A former Manager of Festival Programming at TIFF, Programmer with the Overlook FF, and Assistant Director for Media City FF, she features on international juries and panels, and is a board member for the Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies.



Anita Tavakol

Programmer

Anita Tavakol has worked in the short film programming sphere for years, beginning at the Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival, and later as a member of the Programming Committee at the Revue Cinema, assisting in the selection process for the Short Shorts festival. She has also served in a variety of roles at the Toronto International Film Festival, including Short Cuts Programming Associate, and most recently, Associate Programmer, Industry.



Volunteer Pre-Screeners

Ingrid Adkins, Claude Amadeo, Miguel Anaya, Anna Binkley, Ann Bray, Penny Brown, Matthew Broughton, Allyson Busby, Stephen Cappel, Rick J. Carlson, Jim Coddington III, Melissa Dunfee, Cara Dyksen, Ginny Epsten, Warren Etheredge, Thom Fennessey, Carolyn Golbus, Joel Handler, Tracy Hritz, Susan Jenkins, Gilbert Khoury, Jodi Grant, Morgan Lynn Krueger, Lee Lawson, Jared Leighton, Audrey Lisman, Asha Magrati, Sheri Kaufman-Marsh, Judy Matevich, Chase McLeary, Gayle Morgan, Timothy Nelson, Gail Sachson, Laurie Chin Sayres, Sherry Schreiber, Bonnie Shappell, Michael Stevens, Emily Taylor, Jamie White, Neil Widener, Jane Zinner.

Michael Fukushima

Jury

In his 36-year career, Michael Fukushima has been an animator, filmmaker, producer, and head of the NFB's Animation Studio. He's a member of the AMPAS® Academy, with over 200 films (and some nice awards) under his belt. Most recently, he's been producer on the Oscar®-nominated animation shorts, ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR (Alison Snowden and David Fine) and 2022 nominee AFFAIRS OF THE ART (Joanna Quinn and Les Mills). Now mostly retired, Fukushima skis, cycles, and cherry-picks projects that interest him and "spark joy".



Mimi Polk Gitlin

Jury

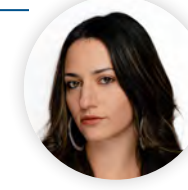
Mimi Polk Gitlin has over 30 years of experience as a producer, and film/TV production and finance executive. Gitlin produced one of the most talked-about films of its decade, THELMA AND LOUISE, which was nominated for 5 Academy Awards® and 5 Golden Globes, winning the Oscar® and Golden Globe for Best Screenplay. Gitlin also founded Gaia Entertainment which develops and produces high-caliber scripted and non-scripted series and features. In 2018 Gaia's THE BREADWINNER was nominated for an Academy Award® and went on to win 19 prestigious awards around the world. Recently, Gitlin produced the documentary FREAK POWER: THE BALLOT OR THE BOMB on Hunter Thompson's run for Sheriff in 1970 and executive produced the documentary FROM HELL TO HOLLYWOOD on Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Nick Ut. Gaia has a number of scripted features and series in development including IN AMBER'S WAKE with Christine Leunens (JOJO RABBIT) and ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE with Andy Black (NARCOS). Prior to Gaia, Gitlin served for three years as an Executive at Grosvenor Park Media working on films that include PS I LOVE YOU, PENELOPE, MISS POTTER and THE HURT LOCKER. Prior to Grosvenor Park, Gitlin was partnered for 13 years with acclaimed directors Ridley and Tony Scott overseeing the company's financing, film and television production.



Valerie Steinberg

Jury

Valerie Steinberg is a film producer based in Los Angeles. She recently produced the feature film KARMALINK (dir. Jake Wachtel), a Cambodian "Buddhist sci-fi" that opened Venice Film Critics' Week 2021. Her award-winning short films include HAIR WOLF (dir. Mariama Diallo; Sundance award winner, Aspen Shortsfest 2018, Criterion Channel), COFFEE SHOP NAMES (dir. Deepak Sethi; Aspen Shortsfest 2020, Tribeca X 2021, HBO Max), BLOCKS (dir. Bridget Moloney; Sundance 2020), FRY DAY (dir. Laura Moss; SXSW, Tribeca award winner, Criterion Channel), and THE NEW NANNY (dir. Bridget Moloney; Hulu). She is EP of several upcoming feature films, including BEAST (dir. Riley Keough/Gina Gammell), A24's THE INSPECTION, and SILVER STAR. She is an alum of the Sundance x WIF Financing Intensive, Rotterdam Lab, Berlinale Talents, Venice Biennale College Cinema, Gotham Week, Film Independent Producing Lab, and Tribeca All Access. Valerie earned her BA in Philosophy and Chinese at Yale University.



Opal H. Bennett

Industry

Opal is an Emmy-winning co-producer and shorts producer at POV. Her first season curating POV SHORTS won the 2020 IDA Award for Best Short Form Series and the series broadcast the 2021 NewsDoc Emmy Winner for Short Documentary THE LOVE BUGS. Previously Opal was Shorts Programmer and Director of Artist Development at DOC NYC and Senior Programmer at Athena Film Festival. Prior to that, Opal also worked with Nantucket Film Festival, Aspen Shortsfest, Tribeca Film Festival and Gotham (formerly IFP). She is a Programming Consultant for the March on Washington Film Festival. Opal has served on juries for SXSW, Hot Docs, Cleveland, Milwaukee and Seattle International Film Festivals and IndieMemphis Film Festival among others. She has also served on the shorts selection committees for Cinema Eye Honors and the IDA. Opal has participated on various selection committees for film programming and grants. A Columbia Law grad, Opal holds a Masters in Media Studies from the LSE, and received her BA from New York University.



Bill Gerber

Industry

Academy Award® nominee and Emmy winner Bill Gerber has spent over 30 years in the film business in several positions including President of Production at Warner Brothers Pictures and as Producer on such films as A STAR IS BORN, GRAN TORINO, A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT, WHAT'S MY NAME: MUHAMMAD ALI (for which he won an Emmy), and GRUDGE MATCH. He also has an Emmy nomination for executive producing the TV movie JAMES DEAN. Before joining Warner Brothers, Gerber was a partner at Lookout Management, a premier music management company that has represented such classic rock artists as Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, Tom Petty, The Cars and Devo. Gerber attended Beverly Hills High School and the University of California, Santa Cruz where he studied music and environmental science.



Sarah Lash

Industry

Sarah Lash is the Senior Director, Acquisitions at Condé Nast Entertainment (CNE), responsible for acquiring premium content for the company's network of digital channels, including Glamour, GQ, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, and WIRED. Lash started at CNE in 2014 as a consultant, helping to shepherd the acquisition of dozens of short films and series for digital distribution. Prior to joining CNE, Lash was Senior Vice President of Sales and Acquisitions for ATO Pictures where she executive produced the release of TERRI, negotiated deals for all acquisitions, and oversaw ancillary sales. In 2009, Lash produced the No Borders co-production market, organized by the Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP). Prior to that, she was the Head of Domestic Sales for Cinetic Media where she was instrumental in the sales of various titles for the Sundance, Cannes, Tribeca, and Toronto film festivals. Lash has also served as an agent at ICM, as Vice President of Acquisitions and Co-Productions at IFC, and as Director of Acquisitions at Lionsgate. Lash has a BA in English and Philosophy from Colgate University.



Casey Sunderland

Industry

Casey Sunderland is an agent in the media finance department at leading entertainment and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA). Sunderland works in the Los Angeles office and specializes in packaging, sourcing financing for, and/or selling the distribution rights to independently financed films. Sunderland joined CAA in 2015. Sunderland graduated from Colgate University with a degree in Economics and Film & Media Studies.



ARE YOU A YOUNG ASPIRING FILMMAKER?



JOIN ASPEN FILM'S SUMMER FILMMAKING CAMP FOR TEENS

You and fellow aspiring documentarians will take an immersive dive into the world of documentary filmmaking. During each week-long camp, you will collaborate with other teens and gain valuable hands-on experience as your team crafts a short film centered in Aspen.

AUG 1 – 5

AN INTRODUCTION TO DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

AUG 8 – 12

ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

Visit [aspenfilm.org/film-camp-2022](https://www.aspenfilm.org/film-camp-2022) for more information.

Panel Conversations

Festival at-a-glance

PROGRAMS + EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Filmmakers, Industry Guests, Passholders, and Students are invited to join us for in-depth conversations with visiting Shortsfest jury and special guests as we discuss process and craft, look at next steps, and examine the opportunities that exist for short films in today's marketplace.

Our Jury's Advice to Their Younger Selves

Thursday, April 7 | 2-3PM
Pitkin County Library
120 N Mill St, Aspen

Our veteran jury shares valuable lessons and insightful stories from their careers, highlighting successes and noting pitfalls to avoid in filmmaking. Hear tales from the set, how to streamline production, and learn which battles are not worth fighting as well as when not to give up.

SPEAKERS: Michael Fukushima, Mimi Polk Gitlin, Valerie Steinberg

A Conversation with Producer Bill Gerber

Friday, April 8 | 2-3PM
Isis Theatre
406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

Emmy winner and Academy Award® nominee Bill Gerber is a producer who has spent over 30 years in the film business. Having made his way into movies from music – as a musician and music supervisor – he landed at Warner Bros. where he eventually became president of production. Bill currently produces independently, continuing to work on music-related biopics and shows, such as A STAR IS BORN and GRAN TORINO. Having taught at USC and UCLA, Bill enjoys sharing his insights, experiences, and best practices with young filmmakers, and looks forward to engaging with our Shortsfest filmmakers and guests.

SPEAKERS: Bill Gerber, Susan Wrubel

So You've Made a Short Film... Now What?

PRESENTED BY THE ASPEN TIMES
Saturday, April 9 | 12-1PM
Pitkin County Library
120 N Mill St, Aspen



So you've made a short film that is now making the festival rounds – what happens next? This session contains invaluable information on how to get it into the world, how it might become a series or a feature, and how to leverage the film for the next project, along with other matters such as distribution, representation, and financing. Hear from top industry executives working in the short-form content realm today as to next steps, best practices, and ways to keep the momentum going.

SPEAKERS: Opal H. Bennett, Sarah Lash, Casey Sunderland

aspen WHEELER OPERA HOUSE | 320 E HYMAN AVE

TUE APR 5

Opening Reception PUBLIC HOUSE
5:00 - 5:30 PM
Aspen Film Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Members
5:30 - 6:30 PM
Filmmakers, Industry Guests, Passholders + Shortsfest Volunteers

7PM Program 1 WHEELER

9:30PM Après Screening 39 DEGREES @ W ASPEN

WED APR 6

4-5PM Happy Hour SPORTS BISTRO

5PM Program 2 WHEELER

8PM Program 3 WHEELER

10PM Après Screening SILVER CITY

THU APR 7

2-3PM PANEL: Our Jury's Advice to Their Younger Selves PITKIN COUNTY LIBRARY

4-5PM Happy Hour SPORTS BISTRO

5PM Program 4 WHEELER

8PM Program 5 WHEELER

10PM Après Screening MARBLE BAR ASPEN

FRI APR 8

2-3PM PANEL: A Conversation with Producer Bill Gerber ISIS THEATRE

4-5PM Happy Hour SPORTS BISTRO

5PM Program 6 WHEELER

8PM Program 7 WHEELER

10PM Après Screening MI CHOLA

SAT APR 9

12-1PM PANEL: So You've Made a Short Film...Now What? PITKIN COUNTY LIBRARY

4-5PM Happy Hour SPORTS BISTRO

2PM Program 8 WHEELER

5PM Program 9 WHEELER

8PM Program 10 WHEELER

10PM Après Screening ASPEN PIE SHOP

SUN APR 10

11AM Program 11 Family Program WHEELER

2PM Special Showcase: Young Emerging Voices in Film ISIS THEATRE
FREE
Community Event

6PM Shortsfest Awards Dinner SPORTS BISTRO
For Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Jury

the fine print

DOORS OPEN POLICY

Doors to screenings will open as follows:
30 minutes prior to screening - AF Passholders
15 minutes prior to screening - AF Members + General Admission

RUSH TICKETS

In the case of a sold-out screening, Aspen Film will make any unfilled seats available for sale 5 minutes prior to the start of each film. The rush line forms at the venue 30 minutes prior to each screening.

\$25 General Admission
\$20 Aspen Film Members

Rush Tickets are cash only and MUST be purchased at the screening venue.

ACCESSIBILITY

Aspen Film strives to make all experiences as accessible and inclusive as possible for all participants. We are committed to: utilizing wheelchair accessible venues; providing open captioning for all screenings; offering assistive listening devices whenever possible; offering sign language interpretation for any event when possible, and upon request.

Requests must be placed 14 days or more prior to the Festival start date, to allow staff the time needed to coordinate the accommodation. We will do our best to honor requests after the deadline, however services cannot be guaranteed.

To request an accommodation, please contact us at info@aspenfilm.org or 970-925-6882.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Aspen Shortsfest promotes and advocates for film as a medium to express different perspectives, experiences, identities, and unique interpretations of art and life. We are committed to providing our audiences, guests, and partners with an experience that is safe, free of discrimination and inappropriate behavior.

carbondale CRYSTAL THEATRE | 427 MAIN STREET

FRI APR 8

7PM Program 1 CRYSTAL THEATRE

SAT APR 9

5PM Program 2 CRYSTAL THEATRE

7PM Program 8 CRYSTAL THEATRE

SUN APR 10

5PM Program 9 CRYSTAL THEATRE

CODE OF CONDUCT continued

We define inappropriate behavior as any form of written, verbal, or physical abuse or threats, the use of derogatory or discriminatory language, gestures or actions, any form of harassment, racism, sexism, or any other targeted comments which may violate any local, state or federal laws or cause personal offense to another Aspen Shortsfest participant before, during, or after the festival. Harassment, threatening behavior, and violence will not be tolerated. We reserve the right to revoke, without notice or refund, tickets, passes, credentials, or access to Aspen Shortsfest events and venues.

You can reach out directly to info@aspenfilm.org if you believe you've observed or experienced a violation of this policy, and we will work to assess the situation and to respond as soon as possible. Please remember that notifying Aspen Shortsfest does not constitute or replace a notification to local law enforcement.



For up-to-date information visit aspenfilm.org
@ASPENFILM | #Shortsfest2022

2022 Festival Awards



vimeo Staff Pick

For the fifth year, Aspen Film is proud to present the Vimeo Staff Pick Award, a live iteration of the platform's Staff Pick laurel. The winning film receives a \$2,500 cash prize and will become available for viewing worldwide on the Vimeo Staff Pick channel after the festival on Monday, April 11.

aspen

COVID PROTOCOLS

It is Wheeler Opera House policy that in order to gain entry to the building, all persons 12 years and older are required to show valid proof of full vaccination 14 days prior, OR proof of a third-party negative PCR or Antigen COVID-19 test taken within 24 hours of each event. Children ages 2-12 years must have proof of a negative COVID test. No at-home or antibody tests will be accepted.

PLEASE BRING: Legible proof of vaccination or negative test result (digital images or photocopies are acceptable) AND Photo ID for verification.

Masks are required for all attendees over the age of 2. Masks must comply with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mask recommendation. Face coverings are required indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

SINGLE TICKETS

ADMISSION FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

\$20 General Admission
\$15 Aspen Film Members
\$10 Student + Educator
FREE* for RFV Students + Teachers
*Tickets must be collected in-person from the Wheeler Opera House

ADMISSION FOR SUNDAY FAMILY FUN SCREENING

\$15 General Admission
\$12 Aspen Film Members
FREE for kids 12 + under
Complimentary kids' tickets will be issued by the Wheeler Opera House Box Office, day of show. First come, first served.

PASSES

VIP PASS

Provided to Aspen Film Auteur + Visionary + Benefactor Level Members; includes entry to all Aspen Film festivals, year-round membership and guaranteed reserved, bannered seats for all Wheeler Opera House screenings.

PRIORITY PASS

Available to Aspen Film Star + Producer + Storyteller Level Members; includes a year-round membership. Stars receive access to a reserved seating section for all Wheeler Opera House screenings. Producers + Storytellers receive access to the best available seating 30 minutes before showtime.

FESTIVAL PASS

Available exclusively thru aspenfilm.org, Festival Passes include access to screenings and select events (no membership included).

carbondale

COVID PROTOCOLS

It is Crystal Theatre policy that all persons entering the building will be required to show valid proof of full vaccination 14 days prior to any event.

PLEASE BRING: Legible proof of vaccination (digital images or photocopies are acceptable) AND Photo ID for verification.

Masks are encouraged, but not required.

SINGLE TICKETS

Tickets to Carbondale Screenings are LIMITED due to capacity restrictions at the theatre.

WE RECOMMEND PURCHASING IN ADVANCE

ADMISSION FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

\$20 General Admission
\$15 Aspen Film + Carbondale Arts Members

PASSES

If you have a Pass for Shortsfest and wish to attend screening(s) in Carbondale, please notify Aspen Film no less than 24 hours in advance to secure your seat(s). Due to limited seating in the venue, we cannot guarantee your seat unless you contact us prior.

aspen + carbondale

PASS + TICKET PICKUP

Passes + tickets purchased via credit card, may be collected at the Wheeler Opera House box office in Aspen OR at the Crystal Theatre day-of show.

Wheeler Opera House Box Office
CASH + CREDIT CARD for ALL Screenings
320 E Hyman Ave, Aspen
970.920.5770
aspenshowtix.com

Carbondale Arts
CASH ONLY for Carbondale screenings
M - F | 9am - 5pm
Sat | 10am - 2pm
76 S 4th St, Carbondale
970.963.1680

Special Events are all part of the Shortsfest experience.
Celebrate great film with great conversation!

Opening Reception

Tuesday, April 5

5-5:30PM | Aspen Film Filmmakers, Industry Guests,
Jury + Members

5:30-6:30PM | Filmmakers, Industry Guests,
Passholders + Shortsfest Volunteers

PUBLIC HOUSE

328 E HYMAN AVE, ASPEN



Join us for an Opening Reception to kick off our 31st Shortsfest! We'll gather at the Public House restaurant for libations and nibbles, directly adjacent to the Wheeler Opera House's front entrance, and housed by one of Aspen's oldest and most notable buildings.

Afternoon Happy Hours

Wednesday-Saturday
April 6-9

4-5PM

SPORTS BISTRO

414 E HYMAN AVE, ASPEN

Open to Filmmakers + Festival Guests



We are pleased to welcome Aspen Film filmmakers and festival guests at our daily Happy Hours at Sports Bistro prior to our evening Shortsfest screenings. Meet and mingle with Aspen Film's programming team, filmmakers from around the world, and our visiting industry guests.

Shortsfest Awards Dinner

Sunday, April 10

6PM

SPORTS BISTRO

414 E HYMAN AVE, ASPEN

By Invitation



Come celebrate with us as we wrap up Shortsfest 2022! Awards determined by our esteemed Shortsfest Jury will be presented to filmmakers in a host of categories. Our Drama, Documentary, Comedy, Animation and Short Short award-winners are all Oscar®-qualifiers. The Youth Jury Award is a coveted filmmaker honor, and our Ellen Award is bestowed by dear friends of Aspen Film Founder Ellen Hunt. And for the fifth consecutive year, we're proud to present the Vimeo Staff Pick Award, a live iteration of the platform's Staff Picks laurel.

Nightly Après Screenings

Tuesday-Saturday
April 5-9

10PM

Open to Festival Filmmakers, Guests, Pass + Ticket holders

After each night's final film program, the party moves from the Wheeler to a different hotspot around town for drinks and dialogue with our visiting programming team, filmmakers, and industry guests. Drink specials for all Shortsfest ticket and passholders.

TUESDAY

39 DEGREES @ W ASPEN | 709 E DURANT AVE, ASPEN

WEDNESDAY

SILVER CITY | 210 S GALENA ST, ASPEN

THURSDAY

MARBLE BAR ASPEN | 415 E DEAN ST, ASPEN

FRIDAY

MI CHOLA | 411 E MAIN ST, ASPEN

SATURDAY

ASPEN PIE SHOP | 307 S MILL ST, ASPEN

Opening Reception

PUBLIC HOUSE
5:00 - 5:30 PM
 Aspen Film Filmmakers, Industry Guests,
 Jury + Members
5:30 - 6:30 PM
 Filmmakers, Industry Guests,
 Passholders + Shortsfest Volunteers



Shorts Program 1

7PM

98 MIN
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
 FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

ALSO SCREENING IN CARBONDALE
CRYSTAL THEATRE | FRIDAY APRIL 8 | 7PM

MY MOM'S EGGPLANT SAUCE

Filmmaker Shaina Feinberg's mom Mary had an abusive relationship with her own mother. She also happens to make a delicious eggplant ragout. Shaina explores the connection between this recipe and a traumatic experience revolving around Mary's first marriage. While filming this short documentary, Shaina and Mary's own relationship seeps through.
(SHAINA FEINBERG, US, 10 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



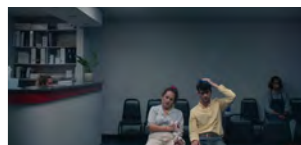
IF I GO, WILL THEY MISS ME

Lil' Ant's 12-year-old imagination is boundless. He is fascinated by Pegasus, the Greek mythological creature. He dreams of flying like him and sees a mysterious group of airplane people and yearns to fly with them.
(WALTER THOMPSON-HERNÁNDEZ, US, 13 MIN)



WE SHOULD GET DINNER!

This chaotic comedy about bottled-up anger and relationship boundaries begins when Abby runs into Sean, her ex-stepbrother, who she has not spoken to since their parents' ugly divorce. Sean is looking to move on with his life, while Abby is looking for someone to walk her down the aisle. What happens to people who drift from your life? What happens if they come back? What do you want to say to them, if anything at all? And what if it's not how you expected it to be?
(ELIZA JIMÉNEZ COSSIO, LEXI TANNENHOLTZ, US, 10 MIN)



NUISANCE BEAR

Churchill, Manitoba is famous as an international destination for photographing polar bears. Through a shift in perspective this documentary reveals an obstacle course of tourist paparazzi and wildlife officers whom bears must navigate during their annual migration.
(JACK WEISMAN, GABRIELA OSIO VANDEN, CANADA, 15 MIN)



SIERRA

Loosely inspired by the director's childhood, this animation pulls viewers into a surreal car-racing world and the story of a father and his son. In order to win, the boy turns himself into a car tire.
(SANDER JOON, ESTONIA, 16 MIN) US PREMIERE



ERRATUM

Florence, a teacher and researcher, uncovers with astonishment an anachronistic engraving – in modern French – on a Gallo-Roman fresco she just dug up. When she realizes this engraving is really from antiquity, her rationality is put to the test.
(GIULIO CALLEGARI, FRANCE, 19 MIN)



WARSHA

Mohammad is a crane operator working in Beirut. One morning he volunteers to take on one of the tallest and notoriously most dangerous cranes in Lebanon.
(DANIA BDEIR, LEBANON/FRANCE, 15 MIN)



Après Screening 9:30PM

39 DEGREES @ W ASPEN
 709 E DURANT AVE, ASPEN

At the base of Aspen Mountain, 39 DEGREES is a dynamic indoor/outdoor restaurant and bar that hosts dual culinary experiences daily.



Happy Hour

SPORTS BISTRO
 414 E HYMAN AVE, ASPEN
 DETAILS ON PAGE 9

4-5PM



Shorts Program 2

5PM

94 MIN
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
 FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

ALSO SCREENING IN CARBONDALE
CRYSTAL THEATRE | SATURDAY APRIL 9 | 5PM

A BRIEF HISTORY OF US

When you are in a relationship for a long time, it can begin to feel like you are no longer an individual but part of a superorganism. This animation invites viewers to consider the decisions we make and the differences between our choices.
(ETGAR KERET, POLAND, 7 MIN)



THE WINDOW

One year after Beirut's port explosion, Basma returns to the country despite fleeing in search of her safety and well-being. Mariam, her former partner, is hosting a dinner at their old apartment to celebrate her recent marriage to a man. Together they struggle to find closure while avoiding discussion of the trauma they share.
(SARAH KASKAS, LEBANON, 16 MIN)
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



DEERWOODS DEATHTRAP

While on a trip to Cape May, New Jersey in 1971, Jack and Betty survived an accident that not many other humans have: they were hit by a train. Not only did they survive, but their 4-year-old son, infant daughter, and elderly mother survived the crash as well. Fifty years later, they return to the scene of the accident to recount their conflicting memories.
(JAMES P GANNON, US, 9 MIN)



FARRUCAS

Four teenagers from a marginal suburb in Almería, Spain, will see their self-confidence and friendship put to the test.
(IAN DE LA ROSA, SPAIN/US, 18 MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



FREEDOM SWIMMER

The story of a grandfather's perilous swim from China to Hong Kong parallels his granddaughter's own quest for a new freedom in this animated documentary.
(OLIVIA MARTIN-MCGUIRE, FRANCE/AUSTRALIA, 15 MIN)



CRUMB

For one man, all there is to obsess over is the seemingly endless barrage of food crumbs, loose cat litter, and floor dirt. But when an important tool in the management of those crumbs is taken away, an inevitable journey inwards begins.
(JOSH COHEN, US, 6 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



ASTEL

Astel, 13, accompanies her father every day in the bush. Together, they look after their herd of cows. Until one day, they meet a shepherd and changes come to Astel's peaceful life.
(RAMATA-TOULAYE SY, SENEGAL/FRANCE, 24 MIN)
US PREMIERE



Shorts Program 3

8PM

96 MIN
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
 FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

THE VICTORIAS

Every day at the Tenement Museum in New York, "costumed interpreters" took turns performing as Victoria Confino, a 14-year-old Sephardic Jewish immigrant living in 1916. When the Vickies (as the performers were known) were laid off during the pandemic, they mourned the loss of a unique connection to a long-dead woman and to each other.
(ETHAN FUIRST, US, 15 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



wed april 6 > continued

EGÚNGÚN (MASQUERADE)

Salewa must return for her mother's funeral in Lagos. At the funeral she runs into an important person from her past and is forced to go in search of her own peace in this meditation on home, memory, and the many versions of ourselves that haunt us. (OLIVE NWOSU, NIGERIA/UK, 14 MIN)



L'AMOUR EN PLAN

After 20 years of living together, Carine, Fabrice and their son Simon have a well-ordered daily life. While Carine is restricted to household chores, Fabrice spends his time watching television. This animation portrays family members who each occupy a different space and whose eyes no longer meet. (CLAIRE SICHEZ, FRANCE, 15 MIN) US PREMIERE



PARACLETE

In this dark comedy about disappointment, lies, faith, and hope, Ricardo is set to play Jesus in a small-town biblical reenactment. While he is crossing the countryside in a hurry to make it on time something disappointing happens. (MATIAS MAUMUS, TOMAS MAUMUS, ARGENTINA, 14 MIN) INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE



MY GRANDMOTHER IS AN EGG

Pre-arranged marriage is a traditional practice in East Asia, selling a young girl to another family to be raised as a future daughter-in-law. This animated film documents the personal and larger phenomenon of women's oppression. (WU-CHING CHANG, UK/TAIWAN, 8 MIN)



WOMEN OF VIRTUE

Etel, a 9-year-old girl who lives in the Hasidic community in Paris, gets her period for the first time. Etel is blessed, until she finds out that in her religion, women are considered impure when they have their period. (STÉPHANIE HALFON, FRANCE, 30 MIN)



Après Screening 10PM

SILVER CITY
210 S GALENA ST, ASPEN

Silver City is located in the historic Elks Building in the heart of downtown Aspen. This beautiful building is nearly 150 years old and their rustic decor of stone and wood bring to mind mountain saloons of the past.



Panel 2-3PM

Our Jury's Advice to Their Younger Selves

Pitkin County Library
120 N Mill St, Aspen
DETAILS ON PAGE 6

Happy Hour 4-5PM

SPORTS BISTRO
414 E HYMAN AVE, ASPEN
DETAILS ON PAGE 9



Shorts Program 4 5PM

98 MIN
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

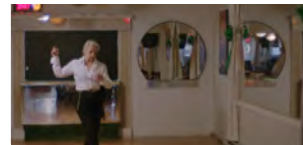
ENJOY

Unable to honestly verbalize his problems, Michael searches for a way out of his spiraling depression. It's not until his fractious relationship with a student comes to a head that he's finally able to see a reason for hope. (SAUL ABRAHAM, UK, 18 MIN)



SATURDAY NIGHT

This documentary essay offers a poetic and bittersweet snapshot of aging in an urban environment, as viewed through the lens of dance. (ROSANA MATECKI, CANADA, 15 MIN) US PREMIERE



SOFT ANIMALS

Two ex-lovers cross paths at a train station in this animation. (RENEE ZHAN, UK/US, 3 MIN)



DADDY'S GIRL

A young woman's charming but overbearing father helps her move out of her wealthy, older boyfriend's apartment. (LENA HUDSON, US, 10 MIN)



BEITY

Roula is a rich woman living in a lavish house in Batroun, Lebanon. Today is the first day of winter break, and she anxiously awaits her daughter's return home. (ISABELLE MECATTA, LEBANON/US, 15 MIN)



VIDEO VISIT

Each week, scores of people visit the Brooklyn Public Library to see their incarcerated loved ones via a free video call. This documentary portrays the family members and the librarians who must negotiate daily with the Department of Corrections in their efforts to keep families connected. (MALIKA ZOUHALI-WORRALL, US, 23 MIN)



DEAR MAMA...

It's 1996 in South L.A., Tanisha mourns the loss of her mom. Her dad, Nate, wants to leave the past behind. When they hear of Tupac's death, their confrontation reaches a boiling point. (WINTER DUNN, US, 14 MIN)



Shorts Program 5 8PM

97 MIN
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

HANGING ON

This creative documentary spotlights the strengths found in Oulton, Leeds, an old coal-mining community comprised of over 60 houses that's now been sold to private investors. Through a combination of audio interviews and artistic visuals, we discover the stories of these residents and their ongoing campaign to save their homes. (ALFIE BARKER, UK, 10 MIN)



SOLAR ECLIPSE

Saaghi and her two friends have come to the largest park in Teheran to take pictures of the once-in-a-century total solar eclipse. As the teenagers' wanderings lead them to a remote part of the park, Saaghi sees something that should have stayed hidden. (ALIREZA GHASEMI, RAHA AMIRFAZLI, IRAN/FRANCE, 14 MIN)



GOODBYE JEROME!

Having just arrived in paradise, Jerome sets out to find his wife Maryline. In the course of his search, he sinks into a surreal and colorful world in which no one seems to be able to help him. (GABRIELLE SELNET, ADAM SILLARD, CHLOÉ FARR, FRANCE, 8 MIN)



DON VS LIGHTNING

When Don, an elderly Scottish grump, finds himself the victim of multiple lightning strikes, he begins to worry that his quiet, orderly life may never be the same again. (BIG RED BUTTON, UK, 13 MIN)



NAYA

Naya, a wolf that walked from Germany to Belgium, is the first wolf in Belgium in 100 years. Suddenly making headlines, her presence takes a mysterious turn in this voyeuristic documentary. (SEBASTIAN MULDER, NETHERLANDS, 25 MIN)



WHITE DEVIL

An interracial couple weathers quarantine rather comfortably until the death of George Floyd upends their routine and their cozy brownstone becomes a hellscape. This horror satire tells the tale of a Black woman held captive with whiteness as it mutates into a monstrosity. (MARIAMA DIALLO, BENJAMIN DICKINSON, US, 15 MIN)



TOGETHER

Two anonymous strangers meet in a motel room by the sea. (ALBERT SHIN, SOUTH KOREA/CANADA, 12 MIN) US PREMIERE



Après Screening 10PM

MARBLE BAR ASPEN
415 E DEAN ST, ASPEN

Found in the heart of downtown Aspen within the Hyatt Residence Club Grand Aspen, next to the Silver Circle Ice Rink. Enjoy the spirits of the season at their custom marble bar or lounging fireside.



Panel

2-3PM

A Conversation with Producer Bill Gerber

Isis Theatre

406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen
DETAILS ON PAGE 6

Happy Hour

4-5PM

SPORTS BISTRO

414 E HYMAN AVE, ASPEN
DETAILS ON PAGE 9



Shorts Program 6

5PM

96 MIN

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

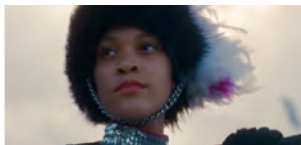
DISPLACED

Driven by the ambition of keeping their beloved sport alive, two local players in post-war Kosovo wander from one obscure location to another carrying with them the only possession of their club: their tables.
(SAMIR KARAHODA, KOSOVO, 15 MIN)



DRUMMIES

This documentary tells the story of the underground, highly competitive glitzy world of primary school drum majorettes, a sport that meets at the intersection of cheerleading and marching band processions. In the heat of a slow summer holiday, we follow a team that anxiously awaits for COVID regulations to be lifted to allow them to go back to the sport that shapes and defines their lives.
(JESSIE ZINN, SOUTH AFRICA/US, 14 MIN)



SOME STILL SEARCH

A drama featuring first-time immigrant actors, this story of a family torn apart by an ICE raid follows the simultaneous experiences of a woman in detention, and the 5-year-old boy she's left behind. Their separation gives rise to an unexpected relationship when a stranger is faced with parenting her child. We feel the proximity of the immigration system to the characters, and witness them make decisions about the positions they're in: choices grounded in their spirit, in the very human thing that makes them individuals.
(NESARU TCHAAS, US, 15 MIN)



CHILLY & MILLY

Eleven years after filming a documentary about his family, director William D. Caballero returns home to revisit scenes with his parents. Chilly, William's father, is a diabetic with kidney failure while Milly sees herself as a caretaker. Watching the documentary, Chilly and Milly discuss their life together, including their successes and setbacks.
(WILLIAM DAVID CABALLERO, US, 9 MIN)



YOU AND ME BEFORE AND AFTER

Hannah and Rachel are sisters with baggage. Today, they have agreed to get their first tattoos together. Stuck side-by-side in the chair with nothing to do but talk, they are forced to confront a shared history that's as painful as it is hilarious.
(MADELEINE GOTTLIEB, AUSTRALIA, 12 MIN) US PREMIERE



BOOBS

A young woman is confronted with the birth of paper breasts on her body. Exploring a woman's love-hate relationship with her body and her femininity in ways both comic and dark, this animation highlights the powerful symbolism that breasts evoke for everyone.
(MARIE VALADE, CANADA, 7 MIN)



OUSMANE

Ousmane, a newly arrived Burkinabé immigrant living in Montreal, sees his life take a turn when he meets an elderly, disoriented lady, Edith, at the end of a long workday. After learning about Edith's terrible living conditions but not fully understanding what the task entails, he naively decides to take on the role of her caregiver as if she were his own mother.
(JORGE CAMAROTTI, CANADA, 25 MIN) US PREMIERE



Shorts Program 7

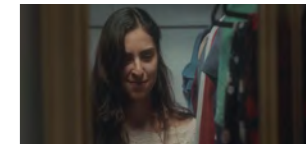
8PM

97 MIN

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

DRESS UP

On the eve of her sister's wedding, Karina brings her "best friend" home to meet the family. When the groom-to-be joins them, she is reminded of her family's expectations and her queer anxieties begin to unravel in a film that blurs the line between fiction and reality.
(KARINA DANDASHI, US, 13 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



CHARLOTTE

In 1971, folk singer Lena Black released her song, "Charlotte." Fifty years later, a pop singer, T.Y.M., releases a cover. This animation follows the fall-out of this pop song on the lives of the Black family, including Lena, her daughter Diane, and her 11-year-old grandson, Eli.
(ZACH DORN, US, 12 MIN)



MEMOIR OF A VEERING STORM

It is a morning in September. A storm is about to break. A mother drives a girl to school in the morning and picks up a woman at the end of the school day. Anna, a 15-year-old girl, sneaks out of school, and with the help of her boyfriend, they visit a hospital. There, she has to face an event that will jolt her into adulthood.
(SOFIA GEORGOVASSILI, GREECE, 14 MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



ALLOWED

Weeds aren't just weeds. They're like friends. During the first wave of COVID-19, plants and flowers are allowed to grow wild. Using 3D animated photos, ALLOWED lyrically re-examines our relationship with urban plant life in the urgent context of biodiversity loss and climate crisis.
(ZILLAH BOWES, UK, 4 MIN)



SKIN & BONE

A drifter, Christian takes a job on a secluded farm run by a woman named Serene. Christian soon begins having terrible nightmares. One night, a white horse appears and warns him of a curse that envelops the land, perpetuated by its sole owner, Serene. Deteriorating mentally and physically, and buckling under the burden of his prophetic dreams, Christian must ultimately decide whether to trust his instincts, no matter how violent or terrifying.
(ELI POWERS, US, 17 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



JENSEN

After years of writing songs for the band Jensen, named for original frontwoman Nina Jensen, Georgia's singing lead vocals at a big gig. But everyone — especially Alden, her bandmate — seems to want her to be... well, more like Nina. Every moment leading up to the show, from soundcheck to makeup, is haunted by the presence of Nina — who was also Georgia's best friend.
(CHLOE SARBIB, US, 14 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



STRANGER THAN ROTTERDAM WITH SARA DRIVER

In 1982, the completion of Jim Jarmusch's sophomore film STRANGER THAN PARADISE hinged on producer Sara Driver's willingness to smuggle one of the world's rarest and most controversial films across the Atlantic Ocean.
(LEWIE KLOSTER, NOAH KLOSTER, US, 10 MIN)



THE DIAMOND

Stefan is lonely with a blinding ambition to make friends. One day he stumbles upon a diamond in the woods. Unable to reach it, the solution presents itself in the form of an even smaller man.
(VEDRAN RUPIC, SWEDEN, 14 MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



Après Screening

10PM

MI CHOLA
411 E MAIN ST, ASPEN



Progressive Mexican cuisine with attentive service in an environment that is casual, hip and fun is their sole soul mission.

Panel 12-1PM

So You've Made a Short Film...Now What?

Pitkin County Library
120 N Mill St, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 6

Happy Hour 4-5PM

SPORTS BISTRO
414 E HYMAN AVE, ASPEN
DETAILS ON PAGE 9



Shorts Program 8 2PM

95 MIN

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

ALSO SCREENING IN CARBONDALE
CRYSTAL THEATRE | SATURDAY APRIL 9 | 7PM

FANMI

Heartbroken following a break-up, Martine receives the unexpected visit of her mother, Monique. Too engrossed in her own sadness, Martine doesn't notice right away that her mother is hiding something, but a bad feeling starts to take hold of her. During this short stay, these two very different women will have one last chance to get closer to one another before they run out of time. **(SANDRINE BRODEUR-DESROSIERS, CARMINE PIERRE-DUFOUR, CANADA, 14 MIN) US PREMIERE**



SKYWARD

Two young birdwatchers, Mya and Arjun, feel the pressure of climate change and the biodiversity crisis greatly. Although they feel isolated and judged by others, they are determined to stand up for what they believe in, in this documentary about coming of age in the age of climate chaos. **(JESSICA BISHOPP, UK, 19 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE**



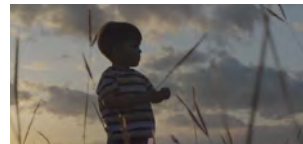
BOTTLE CAP

Size matters to a fiddler crab – claw size, that is. And it's a problem for Shelton. When a plastic bottle cap stands in for his worthless digging claw, Shelton believes himself to be a god. But this kind of glory will come at a horrible cost. **(MARIE HYON, MARCO SPIER, US, 5 MIN) US PREMIERE**



SOTAVENTO

Every night Matias and Salvador wait for the call of their grandfather who narrates the fabulous deeds of the fisherman Sotavento. One day, in the morning, they decide to return home and become lost in the woods as the mythical Sotavento intervenes. **(MARCO SALAVERRIA, VENEZUELA/CUBA, 11 MIN) INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**



AUNTIE

The day after meeting a crew of 20-somethings at a South Asian happy hour, 39-year-old Hena is thrown into their group text. **(FAWZIA MIRZA, US, 7 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE**



THE MARTHA MITCHELL EFFECT

She was once as famous as Jackie O. And then she tried to take down a President. This archival documentary portrays the unlikely of whistleblowers: Martha Mitchell, a Republican cabinet wife who was gaslighted by the Nixon Administration to keep her quiet. **(ANNE ALVERGUE, DEBRA MCCLUTCHY, US, 39 MIN)**



Shorts Program 9 5PM

98 MIN

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

ALSO SCREENING IN CARBONDALE
CRYSTAL THEATRE | SUNDAY APRIL 10 | 5PM

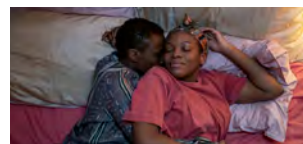
THE SHAMAN'S APPRENTICE

In this animated adaptation of an Inuit traditional story from the North Baffin region, a young shaman in training must face her first test — a trip to the underground to visit Kannaaluk, The One Below, who holds the answers to why a community member has become ill. **(ZACHARIAS KUNUK, CANADA, 21 MIN)**



FOR LOVE

An illegal immigrant, Nkechi, lives happily in the shadows with her partner Martha. But when immigration officers turn up unexpectedly, they have to make difficult decisions about their future together. **(JOY GHARORO-AKPOJOTOR, UK, 12 MIN)**



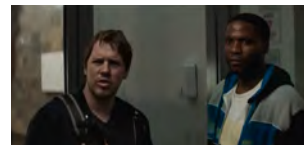
O'SHO (WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TAUGHT)

Filmed on the Qualla Boundary and Cherokee Nation, this documentary explores expressions of reciprocity in the Cherokee world, brought to life through a story told by an elder and first language speaker. *O'SHO* circles the intersection of tradition, language, land, and a commitment to maintaining balance. This film was created in collaboration with independent artists from both Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. **(BRIT HENSEL, US, 9 MIN)**



I LIVE HERE

A skeptical white man interrogates a non-compliant Black university student named James about whether he lives in their shared building or not. **(TYLER EVANS, CANADA, 11 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE**



SUCCESSFUL THAWING OF MR. MORO

Mr. Moro finds out that his ex-partner Adrian, who has been cryopreserved for the past 43 years, will be thawed and brought back to life. When the staff from ScandiCryonics arrives to pick up the cryocontainer with Adrian's body, Milo realizes he might not be ready for Adrian to return. **(JERRY CARLSSON, SWEDEN, 14 MIN)**



CONDUCTING LIFE

Filmed over seven years, *CONDUCTING LIFE* follows the journey of conductor Roderick Cox and his quest to succeed in the highly competitive field of orchestral conducting, a profession that has traditionally overlooked musicians of color. **(DIANE MOORE, US/FRANCE, 31 MIN)**



Shorts Program 10 8PM

95 MIN

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

F^CK 'EM RIGHT B^CK

A queer Black aspiring Baltimore rapper must outwit his vengeful day-job boss in order to avoid getting fired after accidentally eating an edible. **(HARRIS DORAN, US, 13 MIN)**



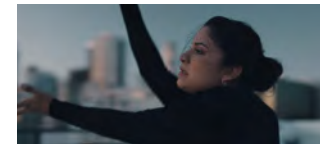
NALUJUK NIGHT

Every January 6 from the dark of the Nunatsiavut night, the Nalujuit appear on the sea ice. They walk on two legs yet their faces are animalistic, skeletal, and otherworldly, as viewers will see in this up-close look at an exhilarating and sometimes terrifying Labrador Inuit tradition. **(JENNIE WILLIAMS, CANADA, 13 MIN)**



HUELLA

Daniela Garcia, a Dominican flamenco dancer stuck in a job she hates, learns one day that her grandmother, Leonora, has passed. The death unleashes generational trauma that manifests in Dani's life, like a haunting curse. **(GABRIELA ORTEGA, US, 14 MIN)**



BELLE RIVER

Spring flooding in Mississippi hits record highs. In Louisiana, the residents of Pierre-Part are preparing for the worst. Barring an unexpected turn of events, local authorities will soon be forced to open the floodgates of the Morganza Spillway in order to save the cities of New-Orleans and Bâton-Rouge from further uncontrolled flooding. Faith and resilience are the two best weapons they still have in the face of uncertainty. **(GUILLAUME FOURNIER, SAMUEL MATTEAU, YANNICK NOLIN, US/CANADA, 12 MIN)**



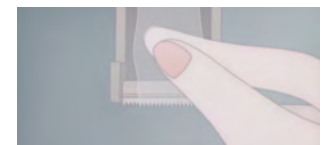
SHARK

Completing the trilogy of wickedly dark comedy shorts that began with *SPIDER* and *BEAR*, Nash Edgerton finds a perfect match in Rose Byrne as Sofie, a woman who loves pranks just as much as Jack, Edgerton's on-screen alter ego. Alas, the couple's quest to outdo each other may lead to the most outrageous calamity of all. **(NASH EDGERTON, AUSTRALIA, 14 MIN)**



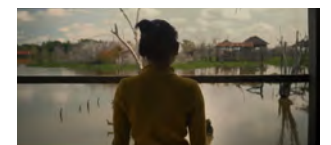
ANXIOUS BODY

Living things, artificial things, geometry shapes, and lines. When these different things encounter each other in this animation, something new is born. **(YORIKO MIZUSHIRI, JAPAN/FRANCE, 6 MIN)**



FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY

A young indigenous Bunong woman and her older brother spend one last day in their rural village in northeastern Cambodia before an impending move to the capital city in search of a more prosperous life. **(POLEN LY, CAMBODIA/GERMANY, 24 MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**



Après Screening 10PM

ASPEN PIE SHOP
307 S MILL ST

Pizza parlor serving square slices, whole pies, cold beers and cocktails in the heart of Aspen.



Shorts Program 11 11AM FAMILY PROGRAM

83 MIN

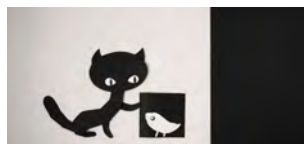
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

The first six films in this family-friendly program of animated films are appropriate for viewers of all ages. Parents are advised that **Footsteps on the Wind**, **In Nature**, and **Mum Is Pouring Rain** explore themes of loss and hardship, LGBTQ+ relationships, and mental health and may be best suited to viewers ages 10 and above. **In Nature** and **Mum Is Pouring Rain** are also presented in their original French-language versions with English subtitles.

CAT AND BIRD

Two opposing animals— cat and bird — have an encounter. They meet, sniff one another, and get familiar with each other.

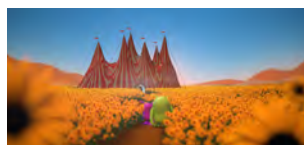
(FRANKA SACHSE, GERMANY, 8 MIN)



SMILE

GroM wakes up one morning to find that his mouth is stuck in a sour face. His friend LobO comes visiting and together they embark on a journey to find GroM's smile.

(JONAS FORSMAN, SWEDEN, 7 MIN) US PREMIERE



CARTOON OF A CAT SLEEPING

A 7-minute comedy which unfolds entirely in one shot. As the story gets more and more chaotic, one big question looms: Will the cat ever wake up?

(RANDALL SCOTT CHRISTOPHER, US, 8 MIN)



AERONAUT

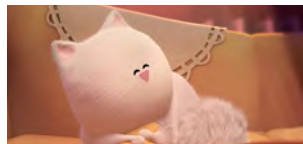
Ten-year old Kevin has grown up with a tyrannical father. He dreams of becoming a pilot and leaving it all behind him.

(LEON GOLTERMAN, NETHERLANDS, 2 MIN) US PREMIERE



CAT AND MOTH

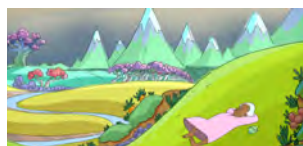
Meet Ditto, a fluffy white cat. The universe seems out to get her as she tries to find the most comfortable spot to take her nap. (INDIA BARNARDO, CANADA/UK, 7 MIN)



SHE DREAMS AT SUNRISE

Gerry has a monotonous, daily routine led by her optimistic great-nephew and caretaker. Although he tries to make Gerry smile, she's rarely in the mood.

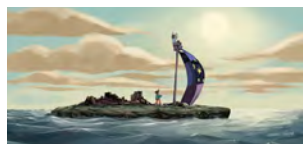
(CAMRUS JOHNSON, US, 11 MIN)



FOOTSTEPS ON THE WIND

Noor and her little brother, Josef, journey far away from home, orphaned from a devastating earthquake.

(MAYA SANBAR, UK/BRAZIL/US, 7 MIN)



IN NATURE

You may not be aware of it, but homosexuality isn't just a human story.

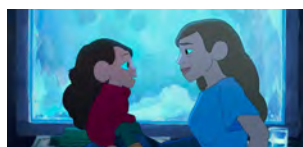
(MARCEL BARELLI, SWITZERLAND, 5 MIN) US PREMIERE



MUM IS POURING RAIN

Tenacious 8-year-old Jane is sent to spend Christmas at her grandmother's. Against all odds, the holidays turn out to be an adventure. As she opens up to new friends, she'll find that life can be a feast, if she lets it.

(HUGO DE FAUCOMPRET, FRANCE, 30 MIN)



Special Showcase: 2PM Young Emerging Voices in Film

90 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

ISIS THEATRE

406 E HOPKINS AVE, ASPEN

FREE

COMMUNITY EVENT

No Pass or Ticket Required



Young Emerging Voices in Film is a new endeavor presented as part of Aspen Film's FilmEducates program. This inaugural showcase will feature two films crafted by local youth filmmaking teams. The event celebrates the achievements of young filmmakers using visual storytelling to address and portray the experiences and issues important to a new generation.

Following the films, members of each young filmmaking team will join Aspen Film's Executive + Artistic Director on stage to discuss the inspiration, process, craft, and messages of their work.

FACES OF THE FUTURE

A teenage bully sees his future self when his actions are confronted head on with the face of the future.

(MICAH SANDERS-SILVA, MORITZ JOHNSON, ASPEN HIGH SCHOOL, 17MIN)



5POINT VOICES YOUTH FILM PROJECT

In 2020, during a time of social isolation, 10 high school seniors collaborated on a short

film. These first-time filmmakers worked alongside professional teaching artists to experience the transformative process of filmmaking. This project celebrates youth voices.

(CLASS OF 2020 SENIORS, BRIDGES HIGH SCHOOL, 9MIN)



Shortsfest Awards Dinner 6PM

SPORTS BISTRO

414 E HYMAN AVE, ASPEN

DETAILS ON PAGE 9



Membership Matters.

100+ movies each year
Passes + Discounts
Special Events
Premieres +
Free Screenings

Aspen Film seeks to enlighten, enrich, educate, and entertain through film.

Join now to enjoy all the benefits an Aspen Film membership has to offer!

aspenfilm.org/membership

970.925.6882



ASPEN FILM TEAM

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Erin McVoy
Operations + Production Director

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Shortsfest Programming Director

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Marketing + Program Manager

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THANK YOU
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**ASPEN FILM
MEMBERS ARE
THE BEDROCK
OF OUR ORGANIZATION.
A huge thank you to all of our
patrons and supporters.**

FILM EDUCATES

For more than 20 years, Aspen Film has dedicated itself to youth education and outreach. We believe that film is a vibrant artistic expression and powerful communication tool, able to open windows to humanity and build bridges of understanding between cultures. While movies may not change our world, they can shift our perspectives, and reshape how we choose to live in it.

Aspen Film's free school programs seek to expand worldviews, develop critical viewing skills, cultivate curiosity, and inspire creativity. As more and more schools eliminate media literacy from their curricula, Aspen Film helps fill that void by providing extensive opportunities for youth, an often overlooked segment of our population with limited access to age-appropriate cultural opportunities.

Over the years, our FilmEducates programs have evolved to meet the changing needs of students and teachers. The shifts taking place in the world and in cinema overall have encouraged us to embrace technology through virtual screenings, as well as more interactive digital media. We recently expanded our programming to include a hands-on Summer Filmmaking Camp. In a larger effort to advocate for STEAM curricula in our community, we partnered in 2021 with the Aspen Historical Society, the Red Brick Center for the Arts, and Colorado Film School to present a one week experience for teens, which culminated in five incredible short films written, directed, and produced by students and screened in Aspen at the Isis Theatre.

FILMMAKERS TO THE CLASSROOM

As part of our most popular program, international filmmakers visit schools from Aspen to Glenwood Springs to share their films, culture, and creative process in classroom and auditorium settings.

MAKING MOVIES MATTER

Aspen Film provides films and themed shorts packages (e.g., immigration, the environment, creative storytelling) to enrich curricula in language and visual arts, history, world geography, social sciences, and ESL.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Students and teachers are invited to experience in-depth public panel discussions with filmmakers and invited industry professionals on various topics relating to the art and industry of filmmaking today.

SUMMER FILMMAKING CAMP

We offer a Summer Camp for youth interested in learning the art of filmmaking. Students in a small group setting get hands-on experience with everything from storyboarding to camera operation to post-production and editing.

TICKETS FOR TEACHERS

To encourage local educators to identify new films appropriate for their curricula, Aspen Film provides tickets for teachers to attend certain programs at Filmfest and Shortsfest at no charge.

YOUNG FILMMAKER LABS

At Shortsfest, visiting filmmakers meet with high school students to screen films including student works-in-progress, explore the creative process, and offer feedback on students' work.

YOUTH JURY

A recruited jury comprising local middle and high school students awards a student prize to their favorite short film" to "awards a student prize to the film they feel best reflects the impressions and thoughts of today's youth.

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ASPEN FILM

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Aspen's Year-Round Film Society

With a history going back to 1979, and a mission to enlighten, enrich, educate, and entertain through film, Aspen Film has been creating unique and memorable experiences for both the cinephile and the casual movie lover throughout the Roaring Fork Valley for over four decades. Aspen Film is more than just a film festival. We are, in fact, a film society that puts on three significant film festivals annually, organizes year-round film programming, produces special film events, and offers a robust educational program that extends beyond our valley.

One of our main objectives is to showcase the best of cinema from around the globe. We embrace the spirit of community, striving to align ourselves with partners throughout the valley who share our mission and passion. Film is a discipline that flourishes within the arts, humanities, and many sciences. Using cinema to highlight education, art, and culture can cultivate unity, and bolster the work of our neighbors and colleagues.

Aspen Film endeavors to highlight diverse views and provide revealing glimpses into the unexpected. In addition to adult programs offering one-of-a-kind experiences with filmmakers, we create educational programs exploring the craft and theory of cinema to inspire learning in the classroom and at our festivals. We plan to grow Aspen Film's footprint in the Roaring Fork Valley by incorporating these programs into summer camps and afterschool programs.

Each year we welcome close to 20,000 participants to our presentations and happenings. We are committed to original content and show more than 100 regional debuts annually, many of which might not otherwise find their way to local audiences. Hosting more than 75 film artists and other special guests every year, we provide educational experiences for audiences of all ages. The majority of these programs are offered free of charge.

Aspen is remote and unique—a very special place to visit but a challenging place to reach. It takes many resources to get filmmakers and artists here to engage with the community, and to bring students into town to experience our programs on a deeper level.

In order to amplify our contributions to the Roaring Fork Valley, we need your support. Whether it's your feedback, word-of-mouth, donations, or membership, no gesture is too small. We are grateful for all your help, and for your time, the most valuable resource of all.

Please consider making a contribution to Aspen Film, so we can continue giving back to our generous community.

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