

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

aspenfilm.org

33RD EDITION

SHORTSFEST

APRIL 1-7, 2024

OFFICIAL PROGRAM



Aspen Daily News

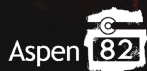
AspenOUT



THE Aspen Daily News

THE ASPEN DAILY NEWS CELEBRATES ALL THINGS
"INDEPENDENT BY NATURE." STAY FREE.

Photo Courtesy: Jordan Kaufman



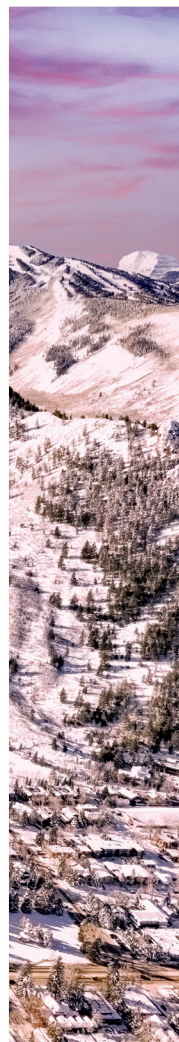
local

Authentic
ASPEN

Sol del  Valle

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SLIFER

SMITH &

FRAMPTON

Forbes
GLOBAL PROPERTIES

COLORADO'S REAL ESTATE COMPANY

We connect the people and places that make Roaring Fork Valley home. View our properties anytime at:

[ASPENREALESTATE.COM](https://www.aspenrealestate.com)

HELLO + WELCOME



Hello, Friends of Film!

Welcome to the 33rd edition of our world-class Aspen Film Shortsfest!

There's nothing like being together in the dark, sharing the experience and rollercoaster ride of a Shortsfest program in person. We can't wait for you to experience the magical curation that our Shortsfest Programming Director, Jason Anderson, and his team Liane Cunje, Lisa Haller, and Anita Tavakol, have masterfully woven together. The energy created by filmmakers joining us from around the globe is so inspiring and palpable.

You will find undulating programs that 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 that we should celebrate our similarities rather than differences and that human nature, for the most part, tends to be universal.

This year's program takes us from Colorado to Colombia, from Finland to Sierra Leone, and many places in between, with 24 countries being represented. Sixteen of our films are world premieres, meaning that you'll be the first audience anywhere to experience these incredible stories. And we're quite proud that 58% of our 70 titles are either directed or co-directed by women.

During Shortsfest, Aspen Film will spread out through the community, presenting conversations, gathering opportunities, and offering our most robust FilmEducates program. Our filmmakers and industry guests are on hand to share stories, insights, and lessons with our audiences from the stage and with students in the classroom.

We invite you to come to experience a program or several and 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



For the 33rd annual Aspen Shortsfest, our programming team is thrilled to present our audience with 70 of the most original, moving, hilarious, compelling, and inventive shorts that we had the privilege of seeing and experiencing this year.

In fact, we wish we could have shown you even more because of the abundance of truly exceptional work among the 3,100 submissions we received from filmmakers all over the world. But the selection process is always a daunting one, one that involves thousands of hours of viewing, pages and pages of notes and observations, countless debates and conversations, and more than a few sleepless nights.

Part of the challenge is finding great short films that somehow belong together, as different as they may seem. Indeed, for all the diversity in this year's selection – of stories and storytellers, of voices and perspectives, of places and people, of tones and textures, of styles and approaches – we believe these 70 films all share a special kind of energy even if it's something that's hard to name. It's an energy that's created by any

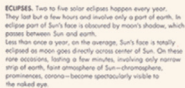
filmmaker who's determined to find a means to share whatever they've got burning inside and move mountains to somehow get it on camera and convey it with power, clarity, and nuance, too. It's something personal, something specific, something vibrant and alive and very, very human.

When all of these energies merge together during each of the 10 programs – for which many of these films' incredibly talented creators will be joining us in the historic Wheeler Opera House – the effect can be exhilarating. Indeed, it's the best sort of buzz we know. And we can't wait for you to feel it, too.

Jason Anderson

Director of Shortsfest Programming





970.544.7899 | thebayercenter.org | @thebayercenter

PROGRAMMING TEAM

Jason Anderson Director of Shortsfest Programming

Jason Anderson is a programmer, writer, and lecturer based in Toronto. He's the Lead Programmer for Short Cuts, the Toronto International Film Festival's annual program of short-form cinema, and an International Programmer covering features from the Nordic and Benelux regions for the festival. He's also the Director of Programming for the Kingston Canadian Film Festival, the country's largest standalone festival of Canadian movies. He has served on juries for such festivals as Hot Docs, the Tampere Film Festival, Vienna Independent Shorts, and the Tel Aviv International Student Film Festival. A longtime critic and columnist, he currently writes about film and music for such publications as Uncut, Sight & Sound and Broadview. He has taught film criticism and arts journalism at the University of Toronto and Toronto Metropolitan University.



Liane Cunje Programmer

Liane Cunje is a Canadian producer and film programmer. Coming from a Film Studies and TV development background in Montreal, Liane completed an MA in Producing Film and TV in the UK before working for cult label Arrow Video. A former Festival Programming Manager at TIFF, Programmer for Overlook FF, Assistant Director for Media City FF, and current Programmer for Aspen Shortsfest and TIFF's Midnight Madness Presents... series, she features on international juries and panels. Working under veteran producer Jennifer Weiss' new company, Nice Picture, FITTING IN was her first feature as Associate Producer, premiering at SXSW and TIFF 2023. She also works in Production & Acquisitions for Vinegar Syndrome Pictures. Liane's first produced picture for VSP, Alexander Phillips' sophomore feature ANYTHING THAT MOVES shot on Super 16mm, is currently in post-production.



Lisa Haller Programmer

Lisa Haller is the Director of Programming at the Atlantic International Film Festival (AIFF), where she is responsible for overseeing the artistic direction and film curation for the annual festival and its year-round initiatives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Lisa has over 10 years of experience in festival programming and strategy, and has served on juries and panels for film festivals such as the Festival du nouveau cinéma, Cúcalorus Film Festival, Norwegian Short Film Festival, and Toronto International Film Festival. Previously, Lisa acted as the Senior Short Film Programmer at Whistler Film Festival (WFF), and the Short Cuts Programmer and Festival Manager at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Lisa is excited to return as a Programmer for Aspen Shortsfest in 2024.



Anita Tavakol Programmer

Anita Tavakol has worked in short film programming for over a decade, with a focus on discovering, elevating, and supporting emerging filmmakers. She began her career at the Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival and has been a part of the programming teams for the Revue Cinema's Short Shorts Festival and Aspen Shortsfest. She has been an industry guest and panelist at the Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival and has served in a variety of roles at the Toronto International Film Festival, including Short Cuts Programming Associate; Associate Programmer, Industry; and, most recently, Talent Development Manager, overseeing TIFF talent development programming including Filmmaker Lab and Writers' Studio.



Programming Team Associates

Sandi Rankaduwa
Céline Roustan

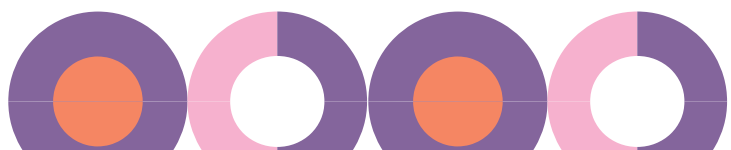
Volunteer Pre-Screeners

Ingrid Adkins
Cristina Benavente
Anna Binkley
Jim Coddington III
Ashli Cubit
Ginny Epsten

Warren Etheredge
Thera Freeman
Karen Hawkes
Gilbert Khoury
Wendy Lucas
Judy Matevich

Gayle Morgan
Corinne Neustadter
Patrick Oster
Mary Russell
Laurie Chin Sayres
Kathy Sgambati

Emily Taylor
Lisa Waldman
Christopher Wheatley
Wendle Whiting
Julie Williams



JURY + GUESTS

Arvand Khosravi Jury

As SVP and Head of Scripted Television Strategy, Arvand Khosravi oversees the team working with producers and distributors on all aspects of financing, packaging, sales, and distribution of scripted television series for global entertainment company Fifth Season. Notable TV titles include *NORMAL PEOPLE* (BBC/Hulu), *CONVERSATIONS WITH FRIENDS* (BBC/Hulu), *WOMAN IN THE WALL* (BBC/Showtime), *HIS DARK MATERIALS* (BBC/HBO), *A DISCOVERY OF WITCHES* (Sky/AMC), and ground-breaking and multiple Emmy®-winning short-form series *STATE OF THE UNION* (AMC).

An Iranian born in Paris, France, and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Arvand was educated at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington D.C., and the Cardozo School of Law in New York City, where he currently resides. He started his entertainment career at WME.



Jannat Gargi Jury

Jannat Gargi is an Emmy® and Peabody-winning producer and executive producer of the Academy Award®-winning documentary *SUMMER OF SOUL (...OR, WHEN THE REVOLUTION COULD NOT BE TELEVISED)*. As SVP of Documentaries for Westbrook Studios, Gargi established the documentary division with a premium slate of films, including *COPA 71*, with Executive Producers Serena and Venus Williams.

Before joining Westbrook, Gargi served as VP of Documentaries for VICE Studios, overseeing development for a slate of premium documentaries and series, including three-time Academy Award®-nominated documentary *FLEE* (2022) and *THE AMERICAN GLADIATORS* for ESPN's 30 For 30 series (2023).

Gargi is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (AMPAS), Producers Guild of America (PGA), serves on the Board of Directors for Washington FilmWorks, and is Co-Chair of The Redford Center Board of Directors, a non-profit that harnesses the power of media to engage people and galvanize environmental action.



Gabriella Moses Jury

Gabriella A. Moses is an award-winning Dominican-Guyanese American writer and director who graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She has received support from the Sundance Institute's Creative Producing Lab, Tribeca Film Institute's All Access Lab, Creators Market, IFP (The Gotham) No Border's Film Market, and the Los Cabos Gabriel Figueroa Film Fund programs. She participated in the Sundance Screenwriters Intensive, the NYWIFT "From Script to Pre-Production" Workshop, Tribeca and Chanel Through Her Lens, AT&T Untold Stories program, and the annual Blacklist Screenwriters Lab. She was selected for the Scripted Cannes Screenplay List, LALIFF & Netflix Inclusion Fellowship, and The Black List Latinx List. Her screenplay *EL TIMBRE DE TU VOZ* won Best Drama screenplay at the Fresh Voices Screenplay Competition, and her debut feature *BOCA CHICA*, premiered at the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival, where she won the prestigious 11th Annual Nora Ephron Award award.



Sabine Hoffman Industry

Sabine Hoffman, ACE, began her journey as a film editor in Berlin, studying philosophy, art, and film history. In the US, she has edited award-winning feature films for over 20 years. Her credits include *PERSONAL VELOCITY*, *THE BALLAD OF JACK AND ROSE*, *THE PRIVATE LIVES OF PIPPA LEE*, *MAGGIE'S PLAN*, *SHE CAME TO ME*, *THE LAST FIVE YEARS*, *THE GLORIAS*, *PASSING*, *A THOUSAND AND ONE* and *CASSANDRO*. She most recently edited *EZRA* for Tony Goldwyn and is currently working with K'naan on *MOTHER MOTHER*.

Sabine has also edited several documentary films, including Academy Award®-nominated *FERRY TALES*, *THE TWELVE DISCIPLES OF NELSON MANDELA*, *TERROR CONTAGION*, and is a co-producer for the Emmy-nominated *CODED BIAS*. Sabine serves as a consultant and mentor to filmmaking organizations such as the Gotham, Firelight Media, Reel Works, and the Sundance Institute and is a member of AMPAS.



Miranda Bailey Industry

Miranda Bailey is an award-winning writer, director and actress. Her directorial debut *GREENLIT* premiered at the 2010 SXSW Film Festival to critical acclaim and was acquired by IFC International. For her second documentary, *THE PATHOLOGICAL OPTIMIST*, Bailey spent seven years following controversial figure Dr. Andrew Wakefield, who laid claim to vaccines creating autism in children.

Bailey's directorial narrative feature debut *BEING FRANK* premiered in the at the 2018 SXSW Film Festival and was theatrically released in June 2019. Bailey wrote and directed the award-winning short, *ANOTHER HAPPY ANNIVERSARY*. She has also appeared in several feature-length films, most notably the Independent Spirit Award-winner *THE DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL*, HBO's *THE OH IN OHIO*, *DON'T THINK TWICE*, and *NORMAN*.



JURY + GUESTS

Alden Dalia Industry

Alden Dalia's journey reflects his keen eye for talent and unwavering dedication to fostering creativity. His career trajectory has been defined by his passion for storytelling and his ability to spot emerging voices in the industry. Alden's foray into film development began at Participant Media, where he honed his craft and developed a deep appreciation for the power of cinema to provoke thought and inspire change. Transitioning to Sony Pictures Entertainment marked a pivotal moment in Alden's career, where he spearheaded "Alden's Picks," a weekly newsletter that became a cornerstone of industry insights, showcasing short films and in-depth entertainment articles.

Through "Alden's Picks", Alden made his mark as a co-producer for the critically acclaimed Netflix film HIS HOUSE, which also caught the attention of WME. Now a Motion Picture Executive at WME, Alden's focus remains on uncovering untapped potential and bringing innovative storytelling to the forefront.



Inga Diev Industry

As General Manager of Ouat Media, Inga Diev is responsible for the company's business operations, overseeing all film sales and acquisitions.

Before joining Ouat Media, Inga spent over a decade working in film production and broadcast programming, most recently at Sundance Channel Canada. For six years, Inga also served on the Board of Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Centre (CFMDC), Canada's leading not-for-profit, non-commercial distributor and resource for independently produced film.

Based out of Toronto, Ouat Media specializes in distribution and worldwide sales of short films and is one of the world's primary destinations for work by the industry's rising stars. Currently boasting an award-winning catalog featuring 12 Oscar® nominees and three Oscar® winners, their network of partners also spans multiple continents and includes platforms and broadcasters such as Netflix, HBO, Showtime, Canal+, BBC, PBS, ESPN, Al Jazeera, Condé Nast Entertainment, The Criterion Channel, Kanopy, and Tencent Video.



Sarah Lash Industry

Sarah Lash is the Senior Director, Acquisitions at Condé Nast, responsible for acquiring award-winning content for the company's network of digital channels, including Glamour, GQ, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, and WIRED. Lash started at Condé Nast in 2014 as a consultant, helping to shepherd the acquisition of dozens of short films and series for digital distribution. Prior to joining Condé Nast, 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.



Diana Williams Industry

Diana Williams is the CEO + Co-founder of Kinetic Energy Entertainment, which is a multi-platform venture studio that partners with creators at the intersection of story and technology to develop and produce story-based IPs. She has a wide range of experience in the entertainment industry, developing IP and producing creative content for distribution across storytelling media. Throughout her career, she has been at the forefront of working with emerging and established talent to ensure a diversity of voices.

Before Kinetic, Diana was the Creative Development and Franchise Producer for STAR WARS at Lucasfilm, where she developed film and TV (including STAR WARS REBELS, ROGUE ONE), mobile and console video games. She was also involved in publishing and helped launch ILMxLAB, an immersive entertainment + VR/AR/mixed reality lab.

Diana produced the critically acclaimed feature film OUR SONG, which earned her a nomination for an Independent Spirit Award in the Producer category.



INDUSTRY + PANEL CONVERSATIONS

MAKING FILMS THAT GET NOTICED

WED APRIL 3 | 2:30 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

Our fantastic Shortsfest Programming Team will give their perspectives into programming methods and strategies and share their ideas about what it takes for films to stand out. They will provide their insights about the programming process and the wider festival landscape for filmmakers both close to home and further abroad.

PARTICIPANTS Jason Anderson, Liane Cunje, Lisa Haller, Anita Tavakol

PATHWAYS + PITFALLS

THUR APRIL 4 | 2:30 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

The three members of our esteemed Shortsfest jury share valuable lessons and insightful stories from their careers, highlighting successes and noting pitfalls to avoid in the film world. Hear industry anecdotes, get pragmatic advice, understand which battles are not worth the fight, and when not to give up.

PARTICIPANTS Jannat Gargi, Arvand Khosravi, Gabriella Moses

NAVIGATING TODAY'S SHORT FILM LANDSCAPE

FRI APRIL 5 | 2:30 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

This session will explore ways to get you and your short film out into the world. Topics include: the ins and outs of film festivals, the short-film marketplace, representation, and making future projects possible. Hear from industry people working in the shorts realm today about next steps, best practices, and ways to keep the momentum going.

PARTICIPANTS Alden Dalia, Inga Diev, Sarah Lash, Diana Williams

A CONVERSATION ON CRAFT: EDITING WITH SABINE HOFFMAN, ACE

SAT APRIL 6 | 12 PM

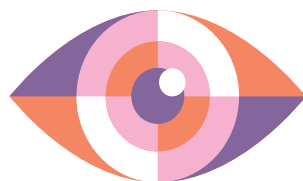
ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

This year our in-depth featured conversation focuses on the art and craft of editing. We are delighted to welcome film editor Sabine Hoffman, ACE, whose roots started in the realm of shorts. Sabine has worked on award-winning projects for over 20 years and will share insights and experiences from her artistic journey. She will discuss how her work as a storyteller influences the trajectory and shape of a film and how she synergizes the vision of the directors with whom she works.



AT-A-GLANCE



MON APRIL 1

1 PM

VOICES IN FILM YOUTH FORUM KICKOFF EVENT

Glenwood Springs High School

By Invitation

TUE APRIL 2

5 PM

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

ASPEN PUBLIC HOUSE

RSVP Required

5-5:30 PM

Aspen Film Members

5:30-6:30 PM

Filmmakers + Industry Guests

7 PM

PROGRAM 1

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

9 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

HOOCH

WED APRIL 3

2:30-3:30 PM

PANEL: MAKING FILMS THAT GET NOTICED

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

4-5 PM

SIP + CHAT

5 PM

PROGRAM 2

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

8 PM

PROGRAM 3

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

10 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

BUCK

THU APRIL 4

2:30-3:30 PM

PANEL: PATHWAYS + PITFALLS

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

4-5 PM

SIP + CHAT

5 PM

PROGRAM 4

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

8 PM

PROGRAM 5

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

10 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

THE MOLLIE

FRI APRIL 5

2:30-3:30 PM

PANEL: NAVIGATING TODAY'S SHORT FILM LANDSCAPE

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

4-5 PM

SIP + CHAT

5 PM

PROGRAM 6

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

8 PM

PROGRAM 7

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

10 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

MI CHOLA

SAT APRIL 6

12-1 PM

A CONVERSATION ON CRAFT: EDITING WITH SABINE HOFFMAN, ACE

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

2 PM

PROGRAM 8

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

4-5 PM

SIP + CHAT

5 PM

PROGRAM 9

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

8 PM

PROGRAM 10

FILMMAKER Q+A

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

10 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

SILVER CITY

SUN APRIL 7

6 PM

SHORTSFEST

AWARDS DINNER

39 DEGREES AT W ASPEN

By Invitation

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

VENUES

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

320 East Hyman Ave, Aspen

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

406 East Hopkins Avenue, Aspen



SCAN HERE
for information
about Shortsfest



HOW TO FEST

PASSES

\$220 – Festival Pass

Available exclusively at [aspenfilm.org](https://www.aspenfilm.org). Festival Passes include access to screenings and select events (membership not included).

Member Passes

Member Passes vary in price and benefits, but all include access to our Opening Reception and the best available seating 20 minutes before showtime.

Pass Pickup

April 1-6 | 10 AM- 4 PM

Shortsfest Filmmaker Lounge @ Roots RX

400 E Hyman Ave A102, Aspen

Before 4 PM each day of the festival - Passes may be collected from our Filmmaker Lounge (located next to Roots Rx - across the street from the Wheeler Opera House)

April 2-6 | 4-8 PM

Wheeler Opera House Lobby

After 4 PM each day - Passes may be collected from the Wheeler Opera House Box Office. Aspen Film will have a dedicated window to assist with Pass pickup.

SINGLE TICKETS - FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

\$25 General Admission

\$20 Aspen Film Members

Free* for Roaring Fork Valley Students + Teachers

*Complimentary tickets are available by showing a current local school ID at the box office. Teachers with student groups must reserve tickets by emailing aspenfilmeducates@gmail.com

TICKET PICKUP

All single tickets (or day-of-purchases) must be processed via the Wheeler Opera House Box Office

320 East Hyman Ave, Aspen

970-920-5770 [Aspenshowtix.com](https://www.aspenfilm.org)

DOORS OPEN POLICY

30 minutes prior to screening - AF Passholders

15 minutes prior to screening - AF Members

10 minutes prior to screening - General Admission

RUSH TICKETS

In case of a sold-out screening, Aspen Film will make any unfilled seats available for sale at the box office 5 minutes before the start of each program.

REFUND POLICY

It is Aspen Film's policy not to refund tickets or passes that have been purchased. If you wish to transfer tickets or a pass to a different individual, please reach out to info@aspenfilm.org

PHOTOGRAPHY + VIDEO

The Aspen Film team will be photographing and recording various aspects of Shortsfest throughout the festival. These images may be used by Aspen Film for promotional or educational purposes. Festival attendees are strictly prohibited from photographing any

aspect of the festival without express permission from Aspen Film. Attendees in violation of this policy may be removed from the venue and will be required to surrender any recordings taken.

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; and offering sign-language interpretation for any event, when possible and upon request.

Requests must be placed 14 days or more before 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

LAND USE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Aspen Film acknowledges, with honor and respect, that the land we reside upon today is the traditional ancestral homelands of the Ute Nations and peoples.

We thank the past, present, and future generations of indigenous people for their stewardship while also acknowledging the painful history and ill-treatment that occurred on these lands.

We celebrate the many contributions made by Native peoples, especially in the fields of storytelling, art, and film, and encourage all to recognize and uncover the stories of the original inhabitants of the land we all walk on.

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, and free of discrimination and inappropriate behavior.

Aspen Shortsfest defines 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 that 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 Aspen Shortsfest 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.

SOCIAL

For up-to-date information visit [aspenfilm.org](https://www.aspenfilm.org)



[@ASPENFILM](https://www.aspenfilm.org) | [#Shortsfest2024](https://www.aspenfilm.org) | [#shortaf](https://www.aspenfilm.org)

THE SHORTSFEST EXPERIENCE

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

Opening Night Reception

Tuesday, April 2

5 PM

RSVP Required

5–5:30 PM | Aspen Film Members

5:30–6:30 PM | Filmmakers + Industry Guests

ASPEN PUBLIC HOUSE

328 E Hyman Ave, Aspen

We'll gather for libations provided by Woody Creek Distillery and nibbles at the Aspen Public House, which is directly adjacent to the Wheeler Opera House's front entrance and housed in one of Aspen's oldest and most notable buildings.



Shortsfest Awards Dinner

Sunday, April 7

6 PM

By Invitation

39 DEGREES AT W ASPEN

550 S Spring St, Aspen

Awards determined by our esteemed Jury will be presented to filmmakers in a host of categories. Our Animation, Comedy, Documentary, Drama, 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.



UNDERWRITTEN BY **W ASPEN**

Afternoon Sip + Chats

Wednesday–Saturday, April 3–6

4–5 PM

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

MOUNTAIN CHALET

333 E Durant Ave, Aspen



We are pleased to welcome Aspen Film filmmakers, industry guests + festival passholders at our daily Sip + Chats at Mountain Chalet before our evening Shorts screenings. Meet and mingle with Aspen Film's programming team, visiting filmmakers, and industry guests.

Nightly Après Screenings

Tuesday, April 2

9 PM

Wednesday–Saturday, April 3–6

10 PM

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests, Pass + Ticket holders

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

TUESDAY

HOOCH | 301 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

WEDNESDAY

BUCK | 508 E Cooper Ave, Aspen

THURSDAY

THE MOLLIE | 111 S Garmisch St, Aspen

FRIDAY

MI CHOLA | 411 E Main St, Aspen

SATURDAY

SILVER CITY | 210 S Galena St, Aspen





MONDAY APRIL 1

VOICES IN FILM YOUTH FORUM KICKOFF EVENT

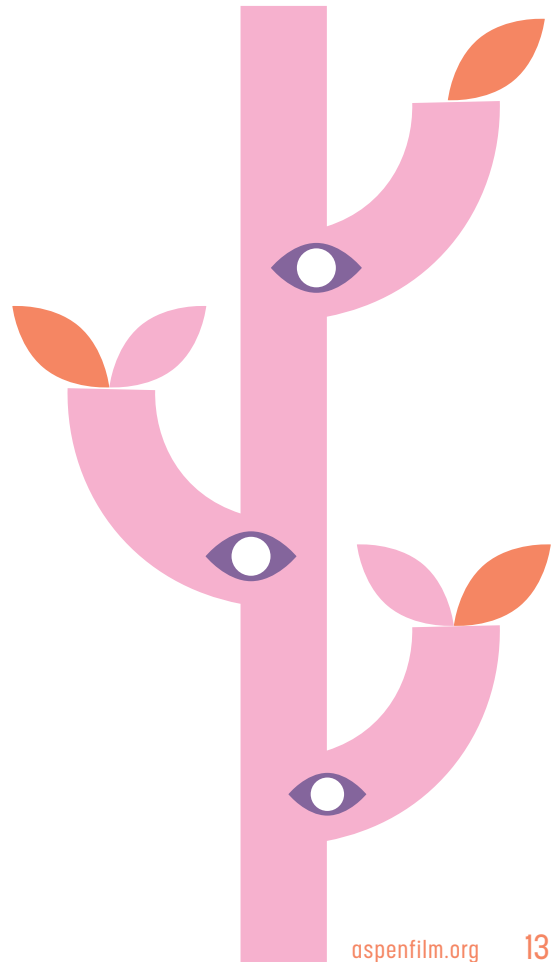
1 PM

80 MIN | GLENWOOD SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

BY INVITATION

The week kicks off with a special in-school event at Glenwood Springs High School featuring a selection of festival films and films made by young Colorado filmmakers. This interactive program is hosted by youth, with a filmmaker Q+A to follow. The event will be live-streamed so students and teachers may also participate remotely.

SPECIAL THANKS



aspenfilm.org



**PROUD TO SUPPORT
ASPEN FILM AND
INDEPENDENT FILM
EVERYWHERE**

eventive

amazing festivals start here



TUESDAY APRIL 2

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

5 PM

ASPEN PUBLIC HOUSE 328 E Hyman Ave, Aspen

5-5:30 PM Aspen Film Members

5:30-6:30 PM Filmmakers + Industry Guests



SHORTS PROGRAM 1

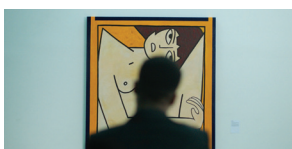
7 PM

98 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FEMALE FRAME

A large painting of a naked woman is being transported and seems to fall victim to a harsh and masculine outside world.

(ILKE PADDENBURG, NETHERLANDS, 7 MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



GABY'S HILLS

It's summer, Gaby has hit puberty. Her life is about to change.

(ZOE PELCHAT, CANADA, 21 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



THE SCHOOL OF CANINE MASSAGE

At a unique training program in Southern California, people heal dogs, and dogs heal people.

(EMMA D. MILLER, US, 11 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



GOLDEN CHILD

A young woman is reunited with her childhood friend at a pool party and reckons with the fact that he used to pee on her.

(HANNAH LEVIN, US, 10 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE

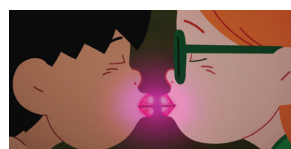


FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

YUCK!

Yuck! Kissing on the mouth is disgusting. But secretly, little Léo really wants to try it...

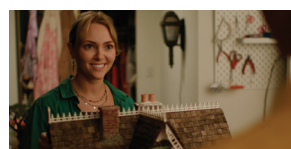
(LOÏC ESPUCHE, FRANCE, 13 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



HOLIDAY HOUSE

A content creator feels obligated to let her internet benefactor visit her workshop.

(ALEX HELLER, US, 13 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



DASH, 92, SNOWBOARDER

There's something spiritual about riding the snow...

(CHERYL HESS, US, 3 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



THE MASTERPIECE

Leo and Diana, a rich couple, bring a broken TV to a recycling point. There they meet Salif and his son, two scrap dealers.

(ÀLEX LORA-CERCOS, SPAIN, 20 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



APRÈS SCREENING

9 PM

HOOCH 301 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

Hooch combines quality and ambience to bring sauce to locals and tourists alike. Elevated cocktails + casual bar snacks served in low-lit, rustic-chic surrounds.



WEDNESDAY APRIL 3



PANEL: MAKING FILMS THAT GET NOTICED

2:30 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

SIP + CHAT

4-5 PM

MOUNTAIN CHALET 333 E Durant Ave, Aspen

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

DETAILS ON PAGE 12



SHORTS PROGRAM 2

5 PM

94 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

AS IT WAS

Lera returns to her hometown, where nothing is as it was before.

(ANASTASIIA SOLONEVYCH + DAMIAN KOCUR, POLAND, UKRAINE, 15 MIN) US PREMIERE



BAD DRIVER

A bad driver tries to avoid driving.

(ANTONIA GRILIKHES-LASKY, US, 7 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



LOVE TO THE MAX

A family fights to stay together in the face of persecution by the Texas government for loving their transgender kid.

(TANYA SELVARATNAM + ROSE BUSH, US, 14 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



BORDER HOPPER

Desperate to get a travel permit, Laura learns to navigate the US immigration system like a videogame.

(NICO CASAVECCHIA, US, 14 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



THE TORNADO OUTSIDE

Embracing the chaos of life!

(MARIA TOMAZOU, UK, 9 MIN) US PREMIERE



THE ONLY GIRL IN THE ORCHESTRA

Orin O'Brien never wanted the spotlight, but when Bernstein made her the first female musician in the New York Philharmonic, it was inevitable.

(MOLLY O'BRIEN, US, 35 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE





WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

SHORTS PROGRAM 3

8 PM

95 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

SIRENA

A young Dominican woman is forced to rethink her move to the US after a dark family secret surfaces.

(OLIVIA DE CAMPS, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 17 MIN)
WORLD PREMIERE



GOOD GRIEF

What should be a sober memorial devolves into chaos as a dysfunctional family is pushed to its breaking point.

(MEGAN CHUMBLEY, US, 12 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



NOLA

A Black woman navigates toxic restaurant culture and her wavering mental health, until a chance encounter changes her.

(AISHA EVELYNA + NATALIE REMPLAKOWSKI, CANADA, 10 MIN)
WORLD PREMIERE



THE CAR THAT CAME BACK FROM THE SEA

Full of exuberance and frivolousness, six friends drive to the Polish Baltic coast and back in a small, dented car.

(JADWIGA KOWALSKA, SWITZERLAND, 11 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



FRATELLI CARBONAI

A Malian migrant finds their place amongst a family of charcoal burners in the remote Calabrian mountains.

(FELIX BAZALGETTE + JOSHUA HUGHES, UK, US, ITALY, 18 MIN)



I CAN'T BE SORRY

A woman travels to a diner, hoping to meet someone from her past.

(ROBERT MACHOIAN, US, 16 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



HALFRICAN AMERICAN

Zeke attends a cookout with his boisterous Black family and estranged father. Based on a true story.

(ZEKE NICHOLSON, US, 12 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



APRÈS SCREENING

10 PM

BUCK 508 E Cooper Ave, Aspen

Buck is a fun basement bar and an unpretentious place that brings back a little divey, mountain-town charm where all the ski bums can gather.



THURSDAY APRIL 4



PANEL: PATHWAYS + PITFALLS

2:30 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

SIP + CHAT

4-5 PM

MOUNTAIN CHALET 333 E Durant Ave, Aspen

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

DETAILS ON PAGE 12



SHORTS PROGRAM 4

5 PM

96 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

DAMMI

Returning to Paris, a man is confronted with his shame and fears while exploring his lost Arab Identity.

(YANN MOUNIR DEMANGE, FRANCE, UK, 19 MIN) **COLORADO PREMIERE**



NUN OR NEVER!

A nun digs a man up from the ground and loses her grip on everyday life. Can secrets and harmony coexist?

(HETA JÄÄLINOJA, FINLAND, 11 MIN) **COLORADO PREMIERE**



WE EXIST IN MEMORY

How do you rebuild "home" from memories for a new generation growing up in displacement?

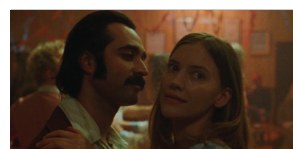
(DARIAN WOHR, US, BRAZIL, 13 MIN) **COLORADO PREMIERE**



MOTHERLAND

During 1979 at the height of the Iran Hostage crisis, Babak goes on a trip to meet his fiancée's parents.

(JASMIN MOZAFFARI, CANADA, 24 MIN) **INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE**



WIRE & CLOTH

Anika accompanies her mercurial mother to a wealthy friend's home, where they connect over fantasy - and doomed longing.

(SWETHA REGUNATHAN, US, 16 MIN) **NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**



ALTYN AI (GOLDEN MOON)

A short documentary about a young Kyrgyz girl who works as a truck driver to pay for her medical school.

(AISHA SULTANBEKOVA, US, 14 MIN) **WORLD PREMIERE**





THURSDAY APRIL 4

SHORTS PROGRAM 5

8 PM

96 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

THE SMALLEST POWER

A medical resident in Iran finds purpose when the protests following Jina Amini's death reach her hospital.

(ANDY SARJAHANI, IRAN, US, 7 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



AFTER DAWN

Three lives in a Parisian public housing suburb intersect without ever meeting.

(YOHANN KOUAM, FRANCE, 25 MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



BOGOTÁ STORY

A young mother must choose between her family and her dreams during a dark time in Columbia's history.

(ESTEBAN PEDRAZA, COLUMBIA, 16 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



PAPER TOWELS

Josh is on the phone with customer service. Josh is about to make a mistake.

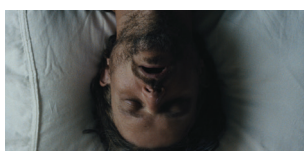
(ETHAN KUPERBERG, US, 4 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



IN OUR OWN WAY

A man misses his chance to say goodbye to his dying brother.

(JASON HEADLEY, US, 6 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



BEAUTIFUL MEN

Three bald brothers travel to Istanbul to have a hair transplant.

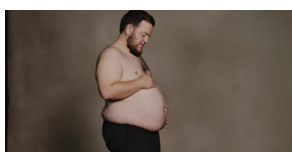
(NICOLAS KEPPENS, BELGIUM, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, 19 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



SEAHORSE PARENTS

Four (soon-to-be) transgender parents share their stories of what carrying their future children as transgender males is like.

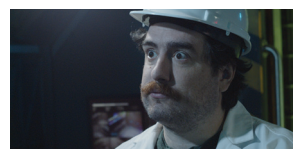
(MIRIAM GUTTMANN, NETHERLANDS, 10 MIN) US PREMIERE



I NEED IT YESTERDAY

When his boss insists that he needs a report "yesterday," Chris embarks on an epic quest to send a message back in time.

(CHRIS W. SMITH + JACK DE SENA, US, 11 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



APRÈS SCREENING

10 PM

THE MOLLIE 111 S Garmisch St, Aspen

Warmth and elegance define evenings at MOLLIE. The bar is a destination, with cocktails at once sophisticated and timeless. The menu takes cues from the great standards with thoughtful, elegant updates alongside a dynamic wine, beer, and spirits list.



MOLLIE
ASPEN

FRIDAY APRIL 5



PANEL: NAVIGATING TODAY'S SHORT FILM LANDSCAPE

2:30 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

SIP + CHAT

4-5 PM

MOUNTAIN CHALET 333 E Durant Ave, Aspen

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

DETAILS ON PAGE 12



SHORTS PROGRAM 6

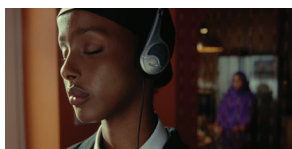
5 PM

98 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

MUNA

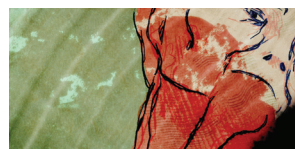
A British-Somali teen must navigate a confusing mourning period for a family member she never met.



(WARDA MOHAMED, UK, 19 MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

APHASIA

Aphasia is an unsettling sensory experience that immerses us in the world of people with Alzheimer's disease.



(MARIELLE DALPÉ, CANADA, 4 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE

SAR: SEARCH AND RESCUE

Colorado Search and Rescue volunteers highlight the true cost behind Search and Rescue and what motivates their sacrifice.



(TRISTAN OWEN, US, 16 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE

WOULDN'T MAKE IT ANY OTHER WAY

A costume designer visits their homeland, Guam, to make costumes for children's theatre and reconnect with distant parents.



(HAO ZHOU, GUAM, US, 21 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE

TERMINALLY ILL

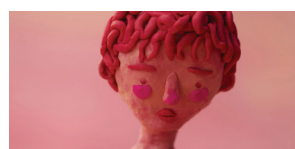
When a rapper is summoned to his grandmother's deathbed, he engages in a madcap freestyle in an attempt to prevent her death.



(CHRIS COLE, US, 8 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE

THIS IS TMI

Big boobs vs. small boobs? A group of ladies discuss who has it worse.



(SUBARNA DASH + VIDUSHI GUPTA, INDIA, 6 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE

CLÉO FROM 8:20 TO 2:35

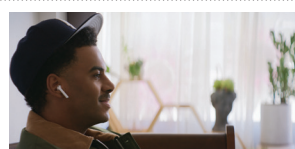
When Cléo receives an ominous alert on her phone, she counts down the moments until she and her children will be reunited.



(SHAINA FEINBERG, US, 10.5 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE

DEEP TISH

A.J.'s massage could have been better.



(DAVE PAIGE, US, 13.5 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



FRIDAY APRIL 5

SHORTS PROGRAM 7

8 PM

97 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

BUST

A trans girl cop with the NYPD goes undercover to make a drug bust.

(ANGALIS FIELD, US, 11 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



LA PERRA

Being a daughter, being a mother, becoming a woman.

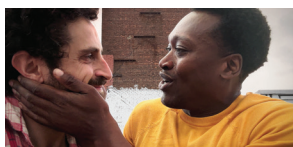
(CARLA MELO GAMPERT, COLOMBIA, FRANCE, 14 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



8 MINUTES 20 SECONDS

Max must race against time to reconcile with his ex-boyfriend in order for them to be together in the last moments of sun.

(HARRIS DORAN, US, 9 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



PANADRILO

Camila is left alone on her unpredictable migration to the US after her husband is swallowed by a crocodile.

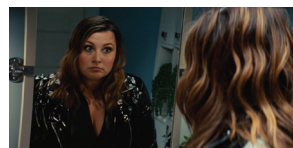
(MARCELA HEILBRON, PANAMA, 15 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



I COULD DOM

A people-pleaser has an ill-advised date with a sexually submissive man to prove to her friends that she could totally dom.

(MADISON HATFIELD, US, 16 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



TAKING BACK THE GROOVE

Disco legend Richie Weeks claws back the rights to his music and restores his legacy in the wake of the BLM movement.

(CELIA ANISKOVICH, US, 33 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



APRÈS SCREENING

10 PM

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 mission.

Mi Chola
COMIDA POR VIDA

SATURDAY APRIL 6



A CONVERSATION ON CRAFT: EDITING WITH SABINE HOFFMAN, ACE

12 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

SIP + CHAT

4-5 PM

MOUNTAIN CHALET 333 E Durant Ave, Aspen



Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

DETAILS ON PAGE 12

SHORTS PROGRAM 8

2 PM

98 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

ESSEX GIRLS

Flipping the “Essex Girl” trope, this coming-of-age film explores Black British girlhood and magical female friendships.

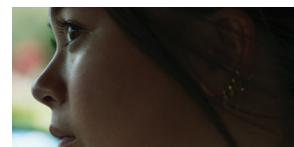
(YERO TIMI-BIU, UK, 15 MIN)



MĀNOA VALLEY

Two friends living in Mānoa Valley spend a summer day together before one of them moves to New York City.

(EMILY MAY JAMPEL, US, 11 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



OYU (GRIEF)

It is the last day of the year and night falls on the small town of Toyama, Japan.

(ATSUSHI HIRAI, FRANCE, JAPAN, 22 MIN) US PREMIERE



WHERE MY MEMORY BEGAN

Follow elder Ballu as she tries to remember a 400-year-old cotton tree.

(PRISCILLIA KOUNKOU-HOVEYDA, SIERRA LEONE, 9 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



REDLIGHTS

An innocent evening out at a local bar takes a life and death turn for two indigenous women.

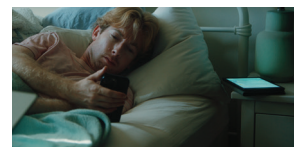
(EVA THOMAS, CANADA, 14 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



SEE SAW

Glenn wakes up to discover that his personal data has been leaked and is spreading virally all over the world.

(MATT PORTER, US, 12 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



NOTHING SPECIAL

Between four walls, two women are waiting. One, for death that keeps passing her by. The other, for her life to begin.

(EFRAT BERGER, FRANCE, ISRAEL, 16 MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE





SATURDAY APRIL 6

SHORTS PROGRAM 9

5 PM

99 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

HAFEKASI

A brown girl, raised by her single white mum, must find her place in a world quick to remind her she doesn't belong.

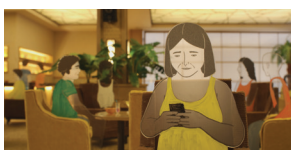
(ANNELISE HICKEY, AUSTRALIA, 16 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



THE MIRACLE

The Miracle, a place where the sun always shines, with endless opportunities to relax and food is in abundance.

(NIENKE DEUTZ, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, 15 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



A STUDY OF EMPATHY

Feelings are art. Or is art feelings?

(HILKE RÖNNFELDT, DENMARK, GERMANY, 15 MIN) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



DOLCE CASA

Maggy, 63, packs boxes in a large luxurious house.

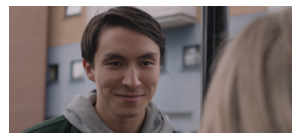
(STÉPHANIE HALFON, FRANCE, ITALY, CANADA, 23 MIN) US PREMIERE



RATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Two strangers journey to an abortion clinic together after a one-night stand.

(LOLA FREARS, UK, 14 MIN) US PREMIERE



SHÉ (SNAKE)

When pressures mount on a tightly wound violinist in a London youth orchestra, her internal monsters take external form.

(RENEE ZHAN, UK, 16 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



SHORTS PROGRAM 10

8 PM

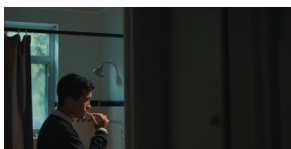
94 MN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

XIE XIE, OLLIE!

A biracial man seeking connection with his Chinese heritage confronts unexpected challenges in understanding his identity.

(JAMES MICHAEL CHIANG, CANADA, 9 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



BEEN THERE

How tourists become invaders hunting for the best pictures.

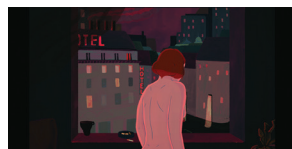
(CORINA SCHWINGRUBER ILIĆ, SWITZERLAND, 10 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



27

Alice is 27 today. She still lives with her parents and tends to live in her dreams to escape her dreary everyday life.

(FLÓRA ANNA BUDA, FRANCE, HUNGARY, 11 MIN)



PRIMETIME MOTHER

The audition process for a game show becomes the latest test of a long-suffering mother's fortitude and tenacity.

(SONNY CALVENTO, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, 15 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



SATURDAY CONT.



SHORTS PROGRAM 10

CONTINUED

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

An Indigenous man takes a Happy Thanksgiving wish very very personally.

(ISHKWAAZHE SHANE MCSAUBY, US, 8 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



BOB'S FUNERAL

Searching for the root of generational trauma, the director sneaks a camera into his estranged grandfather's funeral.

(JACK DUNPHY, US, 19 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



THE DREAM MACHINE

Composer Timothy Cleary has ingeniously crafted a one-of-a-kind electronic musical device to feed his artistic drive.

(ANDREW SEGRETI, US, 9 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



I AM THE FIRE

A seed must burst to make a flower.

(PATRIK EKLUND, SWEDEN, 15 MIN) INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE



APRÈS SCREENING

10 PM

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 the rustic decor of stone and wood bring to mind mountain saloons of the past.



SHORTSFEST 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

16

WORLD
PREMIERES

37

COLORADO
PREMIERES

6

NORTH AMERICAN
PREMIERES

24

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

58%

of our filmmakers
are women

22

LANGUAGES



SUNDAY APRIL 7

SHORTSFEST AWARDS DINNER

6 PM

39 DEGREES AT W ASPEN 550 S Spring Street, Aspen



By Invitation

Awards determined by our esteemed Jury will be presented to filmmakers in a host of categories. Our Animation, Comedy, Documentary, Drama, 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.

UNDERWRITTEN BY **W ASPEN**



2024 FESTIVAL AWARDS



UNDERWRITTEN BY
CORZA MEDICAL



UNDERWRITTEN BY
KATHERINE KENDRICK



UNDERWRITTEN BY
MARTHA + RICHARD FINGER



UNDERWRITTEN BY
WENDI STURGIS + ALEX YONG



UNDERWRITTEN BY
MARGIE + BRYAN WEINGARTEN

THE ELLEN AWARD

The Ellen Award honors films that best convey the **unique, quirky, humorous, and inventive** sentiment she embodied as Founder and first Executive Director of Aspen Film, Ellen Kohner Hunt..

It is bestowed on a film that **shocks, pops, and bursts open the hearts and minds of its audience**. It can be a twisted animated comedy, a tragic drama, or an enlightening documentary. Whatever genre it comes from, it must linger in one's mind long after the showing, encouraging vibrant community dialogue among its viewers.



ASPEN FILM HISTORY

Aspen's potential to become a center for cinema came into view in 1979, when Ellen Kohner Hunt passed a note to a friend at a meeting of the Aspen Council for the Arts which read: "How about having a film festival?"

Ellen was inspired by the idea of inviting filmmakers who challenged the medium rather than following the Hollywood formula. So, out of her kitchen, with the help of Carol Rudolph, Lee Alexander, and Gail Holstein, Filmfest, the event and the organization, were established.

Visionary as ever, Ellen saw short films begin to gain popularity and started to incorporate them into regular Filmfest programming in the late 1980s. As the number and quality of films under 40 minutes grew, it became clear to her that with such a plethora of interesting shorts available from all over the world, an entire festival dedicated to short-form storytelling was warranted. And so, in 1991, Shortsfest was established as its own unique festival. In the years since, Shortsfest has grown into an Oscar®-qualifying event and one of the top festivals in the country devoted exclusively to short film.

In 1999, after two decades at the helm of what was a mostly volunteer-driven organization, Ellen retired from serving as the organization's Executive Director. It was at that time, as a tribute to the founder of an organization whose passion and zeal were boundless, Ellen's dear friends and Shortsfest collaborators created the Ellen Award. This honor is bestowed annually on a Shortsfest Film that reflects the spirit of its namesake - tasteful but whimsical.

Today, Ellen's vision for an intimate and inspiring film festival experience not only lives on but has flourished and expanded into a robust year-round film society now called Aspen Film. Under the umbrella of Aspen Film, we now host three world-class film festivals per year (FILMFEST - est 1979, ACADEMY SCREENINGS - est 1991 and SHORTSFEST - est 1991); organize major movie events in every season; welcome 10,000+ people each year; host live conversations with 100+ film artists and special guests; own a brick + mortar cineplex and support an expanding FilmEducates program which touches the lives of over 3,000 students per year.



INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

ASPEN FILM IS MORE THAN MOVIES. We are in fact, an "Independent by Nature" film society that presents three significant film festivals annually, plus year-round film programming, special events, and a robust education program.

Aspen Film's mission is to enlighten, enrich, educate, and entertain through film. We endeavor to highlight diverse views and provide revealing glimpses into the unexpected.

We are committed to showcasing independent and original content, the likes of which might not otherwise be seen by local audiences or students.

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE



BETTER TOGETHER

Support Our Capital Campaign

Aspen Film and the Isis Theatre are a perfect pair to unite community, create connection and foster creativity.

After 43 years of bringing cinema, dialogue, and community engagement to the Roaring Fork Valley, Aspen Film solidified a permanent home for our programming by acquiring the iconic Isis Theatre in October, 2022. With your crucial support, Aspen Film will convert the existing multiplex theater space into a film centric community arts center.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PLANS HERE



ASPEN FILM TEAM

Aspen Film Team

Susan Wrubel
Executive + Artistic Director

Jason Anderson
Shortsfest Programming Director

Erin McVoy
Operations + Production Director

Aaron Koehler
Senior Marketing + Communications Manager

Allie Wrubel
Program + Digital Content Manager

Regna Frank-Jones
Head of Education Development + Programs

Livier Cruz
Education + Program Coordinator

Lucy Lea Tucker
Public Relations Consultant

Stacey Rinker
Bookkeeper

Shelly Marolt
Filmmaker Lounge Concierge

Alyssa Lopez
Guest Services Manager

Sarah Poling
Guest Services Coordinator

Eden Bartok
Education + Volunteer Concierge

Kimi Mischke
Graphic Designer | Brave & Co Design

Daniel Bayer
Photography

Aspen Film Interns

Noelle Aguilar	Jacob Meltzer
Heather Bayer	Michael Ortiz
KC Bowlan	Rachel Robertson
Sarah Carré	Evan Teperman
Max Chadwick	Emily Wright
Lucy Chesterton	
Dayna Gulliksen	
Haven Johnson	
Lucas Lacy	
Fiona McNeal	

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Gail Holstein

Lynda Palevsky

Gabrielle Rafelson

Youth Jury

Elliot Galbraith

Nell Lieb

Timothy Lindenfelser

Yazmin Ramos

Thank you to all of
our volunteers!



SPECIAL THANKS

ASPEN DAILY NEWS

Daine Amsden
Josh Behrman
Rachel Bock
David Cook
Spencer McKnight

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Justin Sterna
Leigham Azarcon
Milagros Capperi
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Billy Martinez
Trey Morrissey
Martina Pernas
Bryce Platek
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Raul Ramirez
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Keyton Young
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Deb Tullman
Tom Wardaszka
Peter Weiland

AF

**ASPEN FILM MEMBERS ARE
THE BEDROCK OF OUR ORGANIZATION.**

A huge thank you to all of our patrons & supporters.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

JOIN THE RANKS OF AN AMAZING FILM SOCIETY!

Our commitment to bringing impactful films from around the globe to our mountain community can be seen throughout our year-round programming, including monthly indie film showcases (FREE for Aspen Film members), specially curated film series, events, and, of course, three world-class film festivals.

Our members recognize the importance of film as a medium for great storytelling. They share our commitment to developing the art of filmmaking and bringing innovative initiatives and programs to our local communities. Membership is available at several levels and offers a range of benefits and exclusive offers that can't be beaten.

100+ MOVIES EACH YEAR ◀ **FESTIVAL PASSES + DISCOUNTS**
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Join now to enjoy all the benefits an Aspen Film membership has to offer! aspenfilm.org/membership 970.925.688



FILM EDUCATES

For more than 20 years, Aspen Film's FilmEducates program 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. We utilize film as a medium to expand worldviews, develop critical viewing skills, cultivate curiosity, and inspire creativity.

@Shortsfest

The Voices in Film Youth Forum, which incorporates a wide variety of FREE youth-focused programming and events during Shortsfest, will kick off the festival at Glenwood Springs High School. The forum is an umbrella over key educational programs: **Making Movies Matter, Filmmakers to the Classroom, Young Filmmaker Labs, Students to the Festival, and Youth Jury.**

Local and visiting young filmmakers + media studies students also have the opportunity to socialize, connect, and get feedback on their films from festival programmers during a social mixer and Young Filmmaker Lab at the end of the week.

@Year Round

Youth Untethered is a free in-school initiative that provides curriculum enrichment through our Humanities & Film program, offering arts-based learning to fulfill high school credits in Humanities and Human Geography. We show compelling short films from the Aspen Film Shortsfest archive and pair them with experiential learning activities, reflection, and discussion to enrich curriculum and positive youth development in classroom settings.

@SUMMER

Aspen FilmEducates provides an immersive dive into the world of filmmaking through our Film Camps allowing teens to learn to express themselves through film, as well as to experience what it's like to be part of a creative team. This year's camps focus on Animation and Making Movie Magic. Aspen Film partners with Cinematic Arts students from the Community College of Aurora to provide experienced educators to teach our camps.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS HERE



ASPEN FILM CAMP



Does your TEENAGER dream of becoming a filmmaker?

This is your young person's chance to join fellow storytellers for an immersive dive into the world of filmmaking. During each week of camp students will gain valuable hands-on experience using state-of-the-art equipment, while collaborating with each other and crafting short films.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



ANIMATION CAMP

July 29 - August 2, 2024

10 to 15-year-olds craft individual fairytale stories using Stop Motion: Pixilation, Cut-out Animation, Object Motion, Claymation, and 2D Computer Generated Imagery.

LOCATION: Red Brick Center for the Arts
110 E Hallam Street, Aspen

MAKING MOVIE MAGIC!

August 5-9, 2024

This film camp is a one-week, all-day immersive dive into the world of filmmaking. 10 to 15-year-olds will learn new ways to express themselves and gain valuable hands-on experience using state-of-the-art equipment and producing their own short films.

LOCATION: TACAW
400 Robinson Street, Basalt



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