

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

ACADEMY

SCREENINGS

January 4–7, 2020

Wheeler Opera House | Aspen

Isis Theatre | Aspen

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#AcademyScreenings28

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ACADEMY
SCREENINGS

28

ASPEN FILM

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Seasons Greetings!

We're back with our 28th edition of Academy Screenings — a winter tradition which gives us the opportunity to showcase and offer access to some of the most talked about end-of-year films, which may not otherwise find their way to this area or to you, our viewers.

This is a fantastic way to kick off 2020 - with eleven engaging and thought-provoking films which are sure to spur a lot of discussion during this awards season in a host of categories from acting, directing and writing, to editing, sound and production design. Academy Screenings is about lauding the craft of cinema overall, and there is some incredible talent that will be presented.

All of our films have something to say or to impart, and are important cultural reference points, indicative of this era. Our lineup is evocative of the climate around the world today and the times in which we are living. These stories collectively illustrate a larger tableau about our history, what has motivated and inspired us, where we've succeeded, where we've failed and ask how we as individuals can be better or make a difference.

Through the lens, we visit Africa, Alabama, France, Germany, Israel, New York City, the Philippines, and Russia. We see that despite our differences, we are all pursuing equality, justice, survival and understanding. Unfortunately in today's world, these are things we cannot take for granted. Our hope is that through film, we can start dialogues to help bring about transformation.

Several of our films will amuse and inspire, others are meant to make us ponder and consider. We aspire to bring new voices and perspectives to this curious and engaged community. Our lineup is conscientiously curated, presenting new and topical film discoveries that have not yet hit the multiplexes.

As an organization, Aspen Film endeavors to stir something within our movie-going public in some way. Our year-round events, series and educational programs are presented to bring new views and different glimpses of life.

We hope that you will immerse yourself in these movies. Whether you come once or to multiple films, you will no doubt leave with a different perspective. Regardless of whether you love what you see or find the material challenging, our goal is to offer a greater sense of understanding about the larger world around us.

As we are all focusing on positivity in tumultuous times, we hope you will find elements of hope within the magic of these movies.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and here's to an inspired 2020!

Susan Wrubel
EXECUTIVE + ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



ACADEMY SCREENINGS at a glance

SATURDAY JAN 4

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION 4-5 PM

Wheeler Opera House

**Private Reception for Aspen
Film Members, Passholders, and
Academy Screenings Volunteers**

BOMBSHELL

5:30 PM

Wheeler Opera House
108 MIN

DIRECTOR Jay Roach

1917

8:15 PM

Wheeler Opera House
119 MIN

DIRECTOR Sam Mendes

SUNDAY JAN 5

THE ELEPHANT QUEEN

2:30 PM

Isis Theatre
96 MIN

DIRECTOR Mark Deeble,
Victoria Stone

THE TRUTH

5 PM

Wheeler Opera House
106 MIN
English and French with
English subtitles

DIRECTOR Hirokazu Kore-eda

UNCUT GEMS

8 PM

Wheeler Opera House
135 MIN

DIRECTOR Benny Safdie, Josh Safdie

MONDAY JAN 6

THE KINGMAKER

2:30 PM

Isis Theatre
101 MIN
English and Tagalog with
English subtitles
DIRECTOR Lauren Greenfield

THE APOLLO

5 PM

Wheeler Opera House
98 MIN
DIRECTOR Roger Ross Williams

LES MISÉRABLES

8 PM

Wheeler Opera House
102 MIN
French with English subtitles
DIRECTOR Ladj Ly

TUESDAY JAN 7

INCITEMENT

2:30 PM

Isis Theatre
123 MIN
Hebrew with English subtitles
DIRECTOR Yaron Zilberman

CITIZEN K

5 PM

Wheeler Opera House
126 MIN
Russian with English subtitles
DIRECTOR Alex Gibney

JUST MERCY

8 PM

Wheeler Opera House
137 MIN
DIRECTOR Destin Daniel Cretton

SCREENING VENUES

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

320 East Hyman Avenue | Aspen

ISIS THEATRE

406 East Hopkins Avenue | Aspen

how to fest

PASSES

INDUSTRY PASS

Voting members of AMPAS, BAFTA, DGA, PGA, SAG-AFTRA, WGA and other applicable entertainment guilds receive a complimentary Industry Pass to Academy Screenings, entitling voting passholders to two (2) tickets per screening that must be reserved in advance. Industry passholders are also allowed early entry into the theatre 30 minutes prior to all screenings. To obtain an Industry Pass, please contact Aspen Film directly by email (info@aspenfilm.org) or by phone (970.925.6882) by December 16th.

VIP PASS

Available to Aspen Film Visionary + Benefactor Level Members; includes unlimited entry for two (2) to all Aspen Film festivals, year-round membership and guaranteed reserved seats bearing your name for all screenings.

PRIORITY PASS

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

FLEX MEMBERSHIP | \$350

Valid for 10 ticket vouchers of your choice during any Aspen Film festival: Academy Screenings, Shortsfest and Filmfest; also includes a year-round Director Level membership.

ACADEMY SCREENINGS PRIORITY PACKAGE | \$250

Valid for 1 ticket voucher to each screening during Academy Screenings; tickets must be reserved in advance; Priority Package Passholders receive access to the best available seating 30 minutes before showtime. Membership not included.

SUPER SCREENER PASS | \$150

For young professionals (35 & under), the Super Screener Pass includes one priority pass to any Aspen Film festival of choice; also includes a year-round Director Level membership.

SINGLE TICKETS

\$25 general Admission *

\$20 Aspen Film Members *

We strongly recommend purchasing tickets in advance through the **Wheeler Opera House Box Office in person, by phone at 970.920.5770 or online at aspen-showtix.com.**

*** For the two Opening Night and 8pm Closing Night Wheeler Opera House screenings, tickets are \$30 for General Admission and \$25 for Aspen Film members.**

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. Rush tickets are \$25 for General Admission and \$20 for Aspen Film members, except for the two Opening Night and 8pm Closing Night Wheeler Opera House screenings, tickets are \$30 for General Admission and \$25 for Aspen Film members. **Rush tickets are cash only.**

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have special needs covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify Aspen Film at 970.925.6882.

for up-to-date information visit **aspenfilm.org**



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#academyscreenings28

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

4-5 PM | Wheeler Opera House

Private reception for Aspen Film Members, Passholders and Academy Screenings Volunteers.

Please join us to raise a glass as we kick off 2020 and our 28th Academy Screenings.

CATERED BY LeRoy Dampier

BOMBSHELL

5:30 PM

Wheeler Opera House

Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman, John Lithgow, and Margot Robbie star in BOMBSHELL, a look inside the most powerful and controversial media empire of all time. Based on the real scandal, BOMBSHELL tells the story of the women who brought down the infamous man who created Fox News. Directed by Jay Roach and written by Charles Randolph, the film also stars Kate McKinnon, Connie Britton, Mark Duplass, Rob Delaney, Malcolm McDowell and Allison Janney. (USA, 2019) 108 MIN

DIRECTOR Jay Roach

WRITTEN BY Charles Randolph

WITH Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman, John Lithgow, Kate McKinnon, Connie Britton, with Malcolm McDowell, with Allison Janney, and Margot Robbie

DISTRIBUTED BY Lionsgate



1917

8:15 PM

Wheeler Opera House

At the height of the First World War, two young British soldiers, Schofield (Captain Fantastic's George MacKay) and Blake (Game of Thrones' Dean-Charles Chapman) are given a seemingly impossible mission. In a race against time, they must cross enemy territory and deliver a message that will stop a deadly attack on hundreds of soldiers—Blake's own brother among them. (USA, 2019) 119 MIN

DIRECTOR Sam Mendes

WRITTEN BY Sam Mendes, Krysty Wilson-Cairns

WITH George MacKay, Dean-Charles Chapman, Mark Strong, Andrew Scott, Richard Madden, Claire Duburcq, with Colin Firth and Benedict Cumberbatch

DISTRIBUTED BY Universal Pictures



With **Aspen** being a **longtime favorite winter destination** for voting members of AMPAS, BAFTA, DGA, PGA, SAG-AFTRA, WGA and other applicable entertainment guilds, **what began as an intimate and exclusive industry-only event** has grown into a **winter tradition**. From **buzzy, big-name features** to **fresh independent voices**, Aspen Film Academy Screenings brings **award season contenders** to the mountains for a showcase of **the year's highest quality cinematic achievements**.



THE ELEPHANT QUEEN

2:30 PM

Isis Theatre

THE ELEPHANT QUEEN is Athena, a majestic elephant matriarch, who leads her family across an unforgiving, yet cinematic natural landscape made up of grasslands and woodlands, dotted with seasonal waterholes. The elephants share their home with a cast of supporting character species who provide texture and richness to the elephants' ecosystem – from a toenail height perspective. Athena, as leader of her herd, anticipates the coming dry season and knows there are lean times ahead. As the waterholes dry up, she has no choice but to take her family on a treacherous journey across even more foreboding landscapes, as the majestic creatures seek refuge until the rains fall again. (United Kingdom, Kenya, 2019) 96 MIN

DIRECTOR Mark Deeble, Victoria Stone

WRITTEN BY Mark Deeble

WITH Chiwetel Ejiofor

DISTRIBUTED BY Apple+



THE ELEPHANT QUEEN

THE TRUTH

5 PM

Wheeler Opera House

Fabienne is a star; a star of French cinema. She reigns amongst men who love and admire her. When she publishes her memoirs, her daughter Lumir returns from New York to Paris with her husband and young child. The reunion between mother and daughter will quickly turn to confrontation: truths will be told, accounts settled, loves and resentments confessed. (France, Japan, 2019) 106 MIN; **English and French with English subtitles**

DIRECTOR Hirokazu Kore-eda

WRITTEN BY Hirokazu Kore-eda

WITH Catherine Deneuve, Juliette Binoche, Ethan Hawke, Clémentine Grenier, Manon Clavel, Alain Libolt, Christian Crahay, Roger Van Hool

DISTRIBUTED BY IFC Films



THE TRUTH

UNCUT GEMS

8 PM

Wheeler Opera House

From acclaimed filmmakers Josh and Benny Safdie comes an electrifying crime thriller about Howard Ratner (Adam Sandler), a charismatic New York City jeweler always on the lookout for the next big score. When he makes a series of high-stakes bets that could lead to the windfall of a lifetime, Howard must perform a precarious high-wire act, balancing business, family, and encroaching adversaries on all sides, in his relentless pursuit of the ultimate win. (USA, 2019) 135 MIN

DIRECTOR Benny Safdie, Josh Safdie

WRITTEN BY Ronald Bronstein, Benny Safdie, Josh Safdie

WITH Adam Sandler, Lakeith Stanfield, Julia Fox, Kevin Garnett, Idina Menzel, Eric Bogosian, Judd Hirsch, Keith Williams Richards, Mike Francesa, Jonathan Aranbayev, Noa Fisher, Abel Tesfaye

DISTRIBUTED BY A24



UNCUT GEMS

THE KINGMAKER

2:30 PM

Isis Theatre

Centered on the indomitable character of Imelda Marcos, *THE KINGMAKER* examines, with intimate access, the Marcos family's improbable return to power in the Philippines. The film explores the disturbing legacy of the Marcos regime and chronicles Imelda's present-day push to help her son, Bongbong, win the vice presidency. To this end, Imelda confidently rewrites her family's history of corruption, replacing it with a narrative of a matriarch's extravagant love for her country. In an age when fake news manipulates elections, Imelda's comeback story serves as a dark cautionary tale. (Denmark, USA, 2019)

101 MIN; **English and Tagalog with English subtitles**

DIRECTOR Lauren Greenfield

WRITTEN BY Lauren Greenfield

WITH Imelda Marcos, Imee Marco, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Andres Bautista

DISTRIBUTED BY Greenwich Entertainment



THE KINGMAKER

THE APOLLO

5 PM

Wheeler Opera House

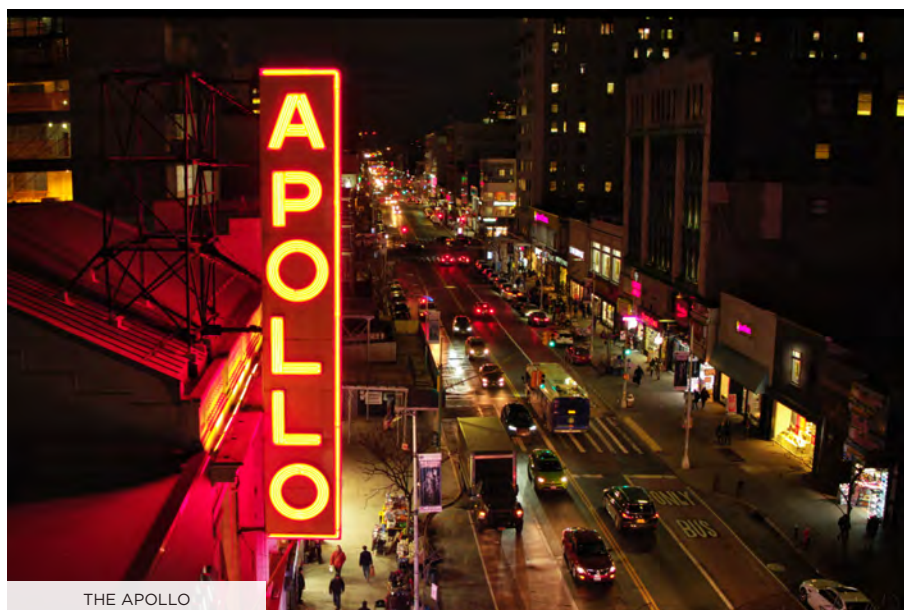
The HBO documentary *THE APOLLO*, helmed by Oscar®- and Emmy®-winning director Roger Ross Williams, chronicles the unique history and contemporary legacy of New York City's landmark Apollo Theater. The feature-length film weaves together archival clips of music, comedy and dance performances; behind-the-scenes verité footage of the team that makes the theater run; and interviews with such artists as Jamie Foxx, Angela Bassett, Pharrell Williams, Common, Patti LaBelle and Smokey Robinson. While uncovering the rich history of the internationally renowned theater that has influenced American music and culture for 85 years, Williams also examines the current state of race in America, following a new multi-media adaptation of Ta-Nehisi Coates' best-selling book "Between the World and Me" as it comes together on the theater's grand stage. (USA, 2019) 98 MIN

DIRECTOR Roger Ross Williams

WRITTEN BY Cassidy Hartmann, Jean Tsien

WITH Jamie Foxx, Angela Bassett, Pharrell Williams, Common, Patti LaBelle and Smokey Robinson

DISTRIBUTED BY HBO



THE APOLLO

LES MISÉRABLES

8 PM

Wheeler Opera House

Inspired by the 2005 riots in Paris, *LES MISÉRABLES* follows Stéphane (Damien Bonnard), a recent transplant to the impoverished suburb of Montfermeil, as he joins the local anti-crime squad. Working alongside his unscrupulous colleagues Chris (Alexis Manenti) and Gwada (Djebri Zonga), Stéphane struggles to maintain order amidst the mounting tensions between local gangs. When an arrest turns unexpectedly violent, the three officers must reckon with the aftermath and keep the neighborhood from spiraling out of control. (France, 2019) 102 MIN; **French with English subtitles; France's 2020 Academy Award selection for Best International Feature Film**

DIRECTOR Ladj Ly

WRITTEN BY Ladj Ly, Giordano Gederlini, Alexis Manenti

WITH Damien Bonnard, Alexis Manenti, Djebri Zonga, Issa Perica, Al-Hassan Ly, Steve Tientcheu, Almamy Kanoute, Nizar Ben Fatma, Raymond Lopez, Luciano Lopez, Jaihson Lopez, Jeanne Balibar, Omar Soumare, Sana Joachaim, Lucas Omiri

DISTRIBUTED BY Amazon Studios



LES MISÉRABLES



INCITEMENT

2:30 PM

Isis Theatre

In September 1993, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announces the Oslo Accords, which aim to achieve a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians after decades of violence. Yigal Amir, a law student and a devoted Orthodox Jew, cannot believe that his country's leader will cede territory that he and many others believe is rightfully — by the word of G-d — theirs.

As the prospect of a peaceful compromise approaches, Amir turns from a hot-headed political activist to a dangerous extremist. Consumed by anger and delusions of grandeur, he recruits fighters and steals weapons to form an underground militia intent on killing Palestinians. After his longtime girlfriend leaves him, Amir becomes even more isolated, disillusioned, and bitter. He soon learns of an ancient Jewish law, the Law of the Pursuer, that he believes gives him the right to murder Yitzhak Rabin. Convinced he must stop the signing of the peace treaty in order to fulfil his destiny and bring salvation to his people, Amir's warped mind sees only one way forward. (Israel, 2019) 123 MIN; **Hebrew with English subtitles**; *Israel's 2020 Academy Award selection for Best International Feature Film*

DIRECTOR Yaron Zilberman

WRITTEN BY Ron Leshem, Yaron Zilberman

WITH Yehuda Nahari Halevi, AmitayYaish Ben Ousilio, Anat Ravnizky, Yoav Levi, Dolev Ohana, Raanan Paz, Sivan Mast, Daniella Kertesz

DISTRIBUTED BY Greenwich Entertainment



INCITEMENT

CITIZEN K

5 PM

Wheeler Opera House

Oscar®-winning writer/director Alex Gibney's revelatory CITIZEN K is an intimate yet sweeping look at post-Soviet Russia from the perspective of the enigmatic Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a former oligarch turned political dissident. Benefitting from the chaos that ensued after the dissolution of the U.S.S.R., Khodorkovsky was able to amass a fortune in financing and oil production and became the richest man in Russia. But when he accused the new Putin regime of corruption, Khodorkovsky was arrested, his assets were seized and following a series of show trials, he was sentenced to more than ten-years in prison. Today, as an exile living in London, he continues to speak out against Putin's two-decade stranglehold on power. Expertly researched and photographed, Gibney uses Khodorkovsky's story as a way to explore the complex interplay between oligarchy and government and its destructive effect on democracy, in Russia and beyond. (United Kingdom, USA, 2019) 126 MIN; **Russian with English subtitles**

DIRECTOR Alex Gibney

WRITTEN BY Alex Gibney

WITH Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Vladimir Putin, Leonid Nevzlin, Boris Berezovsky, Igor Malashenko, Anton Drel, Boris Yeltsin, Alexei Navalny, Tatyana Lysova

DISTRIBUTED BY Greenwich Entertainment



CITIZEN K

JUST MERCY

8 PM

Wheeler Opera House

JUST MERCY is the true story of young lawyer Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) and his history-making battles for justice in Alabama. Stevenson refuses to back down as he fights a legal system without mercy stacked against him and his clients at every turn. One of his first, and most incendiary cases is that of Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx), a man whose clear innocence means nothing to the corrupt and compassionless forces Stevenson doggedly takes on. (USA, 2019) 137 MIN

DIRECTOR Destin Daniel Cretton

WRITTEN BY Destin Daniel Cretton, Andrew Lanham, Bryan Stevenson

WITH Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Brie Larson

DISTRIBUTED BY Warner Bros.



JUST MERCY

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 ARE THE BEDROCK OF
 OUR ORGANIZATION.
 A huge thank you to all of our
 patrons and supporters.**



ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

save the dates

SHORTSFEST

March 31 – April 5, 2020

Aspen + Carbondale

aspenfilm.org

SF
29



FILMEDUCATES

who we are

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 the world and build bridges of understanding between cultures. While movies may not change our world, they can make a difference in how we see and live in it. **Aspen Film's free school programs** seek to expand world views, develop critical viewing skills, cultivate curiosity and inspire creativity. As more and more schools eliminate media literacy from their curricula, Aspen Film provides a singular service, through extensive free programs for youth, an underserved segment of our population with limited access to age-appropriate cultural opportunities. **Aspen Film's FilmEducates programs are incredibly popular with teachers** who value film for its compelling appeal to students and its ability to illustrate issues, concepts and ideas with succinct creativity. **Aspen Film partners with schools, art centers and youth organizations in three counties** from Aspen to Rifle and beyond. From serving as a teacher resource to creating curriculum-enriching programs, we create meaningful opportunities for all grades.

what we do

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.

SCHOOLS TO THE FESTIVAL

Schools and youth programs receive free admission to public programs during Filmfest and Shortsfest. We also distribute dozens of complimentary tickets to families and young clients of health and human services.

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 Shortsfest film. Filmmakers have said that winning this award is one of the highest honors at the festival.

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independent by nature?



ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

why aspen film? 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 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 present 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 is a way to bolster the work of our neighbors and colleagues.

Aspen Film endeavors to highlight diverse views and provide a glimpse into something new. In addition to adult programs offering one-of-a-kind experiences with filmmakers, we create educational programs exploring the craft and theory of cinema that inspire learning in the classroom and at our festivals. Our plan is 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 Film aspires to be bigger, bolder and better. We bring you unique experiences, from intimate, small group dialogues in and out of the classroom, to shorts and features on the big screen. As Aspen is remote and unique—a special place to visit but a challenging place to reach—it takes 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 that we can keep giving back to our community that has been so generous to us over the years.

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