

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

SHORTSFEST

April 10–16, 2023

INFO + PASSES
aspenfilm.org

TICKETS
aspenshowtix.com

Official Program

THE ASPEN TIMES



HELLO AND WELCOME



We're delighted to have you join us for this, our 32nd edition of Aspen Film Shortsfest.

There's nothing like being together in the dark, sharing the experience and rollercoaster ride of a Shortsfest program in person, which we understood more than ever in 2022, having been virtual the two years prior.

We can't wait for you to experience the magical curation that our Shortsfest Programming Director, Jason Anderson, and his team Diana Cadavid, Liane Cunje, and Lisa Haller have masterfully woven together. The energy created by filmmakers joining us from around the globe is so inspiring, and palpable.

You will find an undulating program that takes 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 Colorado to the Republic of the Congo, from Greece to India, and many places in between, with 33 countries being represented. Ten of our films are world premieres, meaning that you'll be the first audiences anywhere to experience these incredible stories. And we're quite proud that 48% of our 79 titles are either directed or co-directed by women.

During Shortsfest, Aspen Film really spreads out through the community; presenting conversations, events and offering our most robust FilmEducates program. Our filmmakers and industry guests share stories, insight 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



The programming team here at Aspen Shortsfest can't help but feel spoiled for choice when it comes to the overwhelming abundance of amazing films and incredible filmmakers we encounter every year. We are continually humbled in the face of all the compelling stories, fascinating characters, enlightening

perspectives and vital new voices that we get to discover and experience thanks to the nearly 3,000 submissions we receive from virtually every corner of the globe. That so many of these talents are emerging directors from places and communities that have long gone under-represented on screen makes us even more grateful for the chance to showcase their work.

The big challenge, of course, is figuring out how to whittle down this bounty to fit into a six-day program when we could easily fill 60 or more with the movies we love (and just think of all the popcorn we could eat...). But we do it... somehow. And that means the 11 programs of 79 films in Aspen Shortsfest's 32nd annual selection contain as much emotion, inspiration, invention, drama, tension and fun as we could cram in to such an all-too-finite space. Our education and industry events are just as action-packed.

The fact that we have so many of the filmmakers here in Aspen to share their shorts and connect with audiences adds an extra charge to these proceedings, too. Indeed, we may have never appreciated that chance to be together and celebrate the amazing things happening up on the screen as much as we did at last year's Shortsfest, our first in-person after our online editions in 2020 and 2021. For our filmmaker guests, team members and audience members alike, it was surely one of the most emotionally powerful and downright enjoyable editions in our history.

And being the spoiled folks we are, we're hungry for more of the same at the 32nd Aspen Shortsfest. And yes, we're eager to share all the good stuff on our plates.

Jason Anderson
Director of Programming

Jason Anderson

Director of Programming

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.



Diana Cadavid

Diana Cadavid is a Colombian/Canadian curator of film and new media. She's currently International Programmer for the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and the Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival (LALIFF) and the Festival Internacional de Cine de Cali (FICCALI).

Diana has also produced and edited the short films "BREATHE THE NIGHT" (20, currently available on HBOMax in the USA), "BLEIBEN" (06), "STILL LIFE WITH ECHO" (08) and "DEFINE SOLIDARITY" (13), directed by Álvaro Girón. She was the Production Manager for the feature film MAÑANA A ESTA HORA (16) by Lina Rodríguez, and is producing A MOTH IN THE FLAME by Mónica Bravo.



Liane Cunje

Liane Cunje is a producer, programmer, and leads acquisitions for Vinegar Syndrome Pictures. 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 Festival Programming Manager at TIFF, Programmer with the Overlook FF, Assistant Director for Media City FF, and current Programmer for Aspen Shortsfest, she features on international juries and panels, and is a board member for the Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies. She recently Associate Produced her first feature, Molly McGlynn's BLOODY HELL, which premiered at SXSW 2023.



Lisa Haller

Lisa Haller has worked in film festival programming and strategy for over 10 years. She is currently the Senior Short Film Programmer at the Whistler Film Festival (Canada). Previously, Lisa worked with the Toronto International Film Festival programming team as the Canadian film manager and programmer for TIFF Short Cuts. She has served on juries and panels for film festivals such as the Atlantic International Film Festival, Cucalorus Film Festival, Newport Beach Film Festival, Norwegian Short Film Festival, and Toronto International Film Festival. Lisa holds a Master's in Communication and Culture at York University and Toronto Metropolitan University. She lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia with her husband and rambunctious twin toddlers.



Volunteer Pre-Screeners

Ingrid Adkins, Cristina Benavente, Anna Binkley, Avi Bond, Penny Brown, Marissa Carlisle, Rick Carlson, Ryan Carrion, Jim Coddington III, Ashli Cubit, Ginny Epsten, Warren Etheredge, Don Farias, Thera Freeman, Jodi Grant, Joel Handler, Joe Hardie, Karen Hawkes, Gilbert Khoury, Lisa Kissel, Emanuel Lopez, Brett Lysiak, Judy Matevich, Gayle Morgan, Mary Russell, Laurie Chin Sayres, Bonnie Shappell, Jeanne Souldern, Michael Stevens, Lisa Waldman, Wendle Whiting, Maria Zeff, Jane Zinner

Justine Bateman Jury

Filmmaker and author Justine Bateman has an impressive, decades-long resume in film and TV that includes a Golden Globe nomination and two Emmy nominations.



VIOLET, Bateman's directorial feature film debut of her own script, stars Olivia Munn, Luke Bracey, and Justin Theroux. It premiered at the 2021 SXSW Film Festival and the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival. VIOLET was the official selection in six more festivals, and is "Certified Fresh" with an 82% Rotten Tomatoes rating, after receiving rave reviews. At the 2022 Cadet Film Awards, Bateman won Best Breakthrough Filmmaker and was nominated for Best Original Screenplay. IndieWire named Justine one of the "22 Rising Female Filmmakers to Watch in 2022."

Bateman wrote and produced her directorial film short debut, FIVE MINUTES, which premiered at the 2017 Toronto Film Festival and was chosen by seven more festivals, including the 2018 Tribeca Film Festival. It was one of the winners of the 2019 Amazon Prime Video Direct Festival Stars Program and was chosen by both Short of the Week and Vimeo Staff Picks.

Justine has authored two books, both best-sellers. FAME and FACE were published by Akashic Books in 2018 and 2021, respectively. In 2021, she was named one of InStyle's "Badass 50" and chosen as one of Adweek's "Trailblazers." Justine holds a UCLA degree in Computer Science and Digital Media Management.

Opal H. Bennett Jury

Opal H. Bennett 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. Previously Opal was Shorts Programmer and Dir. of Artist Development at DOCNYC and Senior Programmer at Athena Film Festival. She has also worked with Nantucket Film Festival, Aspen Shortsfest, and Tribeca Film Festival. She is a Programming Consultant for the March on Washington Film Festival.



Opal is a member of the AMPAS Documentary branch. She has participated on various festival juries and selection committees for film grants. A Columbia Law grad, Opal holds a Masters from the LSE and received her B.A. from NYU.

Kiva Reardon Jury

Kiva Reardon is Vice President, Film at PASTEL, the filmmaking collective founded by Barry Jenkins, Adele Romanski, and Mark Ceryak. Previously, she held the positions of: Associate Director of Film Programs at the Academy Museum and Lead Programmer of Contemporary World Cinema at the Toronto International Film Festival. She has also worked with Hot Docs, the Miami International Film Festival, and the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR). In 2013 she founded clé journal, a publication dedicated to film and feminism, which ran until 2019. Her writing on film has appeared in multiple magazines, newspapers, and online. She has spoken at institutions around the world and served on numerous international festival juries.



Glenn Kiser Industry

Glenn Kiser is the Director of the Dolby Institute, Dolby's initiative to bring education and inspiration to filmmakers and artists about the creative use of sound and image in storytelling. He is the host of the Dolby Institute Podcast, now in its eighth season, featuring in-depth conversations with artists about how they use technology. He created the Dolby Institute Fellowships, supporting exciting new films from directors including the Daniels, Rebecca Hall, Alma Har'el, Benh Zeitlin, Taika Waititi, Dee Rees, and Reed Morano. Previously, Kiser was the VP & General Manager of Lucasfilm's Skywalker Sound, where he oversaw sound teams on numerous films including AVATAR, THE INCREDIBLES, WALL-E, and the STAR WARS prequels. Before joining Skywalker, Kiser was a post-production executive at Propaganda Films, where he worked with directors including David Fincher, Spike Jonze, and Jane Campion. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



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.



Sudeep Sharma Industry

Sudeep is a Programmer for the Sundance Film Festival focusing on documentary feature films. Having started at Sundance in 2008 as a screener of international documentary features for the festival and a reader for the labs, he has previously been an Associate Programmer, Documentaries and Shorts Programmer for the festival. He is also Director of Programming for the Palm Spring International Shortfest where he has programmed since 2014 and served as Interim Artistic Director for the 2022 edition. Sudeep has worked in programming at many festivals including the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, Aspen Shortsfest, LA Film Festival, AFI Fest, and was Director of Public Programming for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Science. He has advised on funding and granting boards and served on numerous film festival juries including at Toronto International Film Festival, San Francisco Film Festival, Dokufest, and others. A native of New Jersey, Sudeep has a Ph.D. in Cinema and Media Studies from UCLA. He has taught film and television history, industry, and criticism courses at universities throughout Southern California.



Jonathan King Industry

Jonathan King is Chief Creative Officer, Narrative at Concordia Studio, an independent film and television company founded in partnership with acclaimed documentary filmmaker Davis Guggenheim, with the support of Laurene Powell Jobs and Emerson Collective.

For Concordia, King most recently produced STILL: A Michael J. Fox movie, directed by Guggenheim and to be released by Apple in May 2023; RITA, the new film from acclaimed Guatemalan filmmaker Jayro Bustamante, and SWAN SONG, directed by Academy Award winner Benjamin Cleary and starring Academy Award winner Mahershala Ali.

Prior to launching Concordia, King was President of Narrative Film and Television at Participant. Over the course of 12 years



at Participant, King built a diverse slate of almost 50 feature films, including STILLWATER directed by Academy Award winner Tom McCarthy and starring Matt Damon, the 2019 Best Picture winner GREEN BOOK, Alfonso Cuarón's multiple Academy Award winning ROMA, 2017 sleeper hit WONDER, the 2016 Best Picture winner SPOTLIGHT, as well as CONTAGION, LINCOLN, BEASTS OF NO NATION, THE HELP, THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL, DEEPWATER HORIZON, and A MOST VIOLENT YEAR. In 2012, he launched Participant's effort into making films in Latin America, which produced Pablo Larrain's prize-winning films NO and NERUDA, and Sebastian Lelio's 2018 Academy Award winner A FANTASTIC WOMAN. King also produced the Emmy Award winning limited television series WHEN THEY SEE US, created and directed by Ava DuVernay.

Throughout his 25 years in the film industry, King has worked as both an independent producer and an executive for companies including Focus Features and Miramax Films. He started his career in MGM's New York office, scouting books, theater, and independent films.

INDUSTRY + PANEL CONVERSATIONS

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

Pathways + Pitfalls

Thursday, April 13 | 2:30 PM

Aspen Film Isis Theatre
406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

Open to Filmmakers, Industry
Guests + Passholders

Our esteemed jury members 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 and learn which battles are not worth fighting and when NOT to give up.

PARTICIPANTS: Justine Bateman,
Opal H. Bennett, Kiva Reardon

Navigating Today's Short Film Landscape

Friday, April 14 | 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 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: Jonathan King,
Sarah Lash, Sudeep Sharma

The Role of Sound Design

Saturday, April 15 | 12 PM

Aspen District Theatre
199 High School Rd, Aspen

FREE and Open to the Public
PRESENTED BY:

Glenn Kiser, Dolby Institute



Great sound design is not exclusive to big-budget studio films. It is something that can be employed by filmmakers with any size budget. Learn the role sound design can play at the conceptual stage of your independent project and how sound can help you tell your story. Join filmmakers and sound designers from three films in our official selection who will present scenes from their films, discuss how sound design helped their narrative, or even became part of the narrative, and share how sound connects with music as a creative element.

PARTICIPANTS: Glenn Kiser,
Select Filmmakers

FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE

Mon April 10

1 PM
VOICES IN FILM YOUTH FORUM KICKOFF EVENT
ASPEN DISTRICT THEATRE
FREE for Students + Teachers

Tue April 11

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

7 PM
PROGRAM 1 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

9 PM
APRÈS SCREENING
PONYBOY AT W ASPEN

Wed April 12

4-5 PM
HAPPY HOUR
MOUNTAIN CHALET

5 PM
PROGRAM 2 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

8 PM
PROGRAM 3 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

10 PM
APRÈS SCREENING
SILVER CITY

Thu April 13

2:30-3:30 PM
PANEL: PATHWAYS + PITFALLS
ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

4-5 PM
HAPPY HOUR
MOUNTAIN CHALET

5 PM
PROGRAM 4 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

8 PM
PROGRAM 5 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

10 PM
APRÈS SCREENING
HOOCH

Fri April 14

2:30-3:30 PM
PANEL: NAVIGATING TODAY'S SHORT FILM LANDSCAPE
ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

4-5 PM
HAPPY HOUR
MOUNTAIN CHALET

5 PM
PROGRAM 6 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

8 PM
PROGRAM 7 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

10 PM
APRÈS SCREENING
GRAVITY HAUS

Sat April 15

12-1 PM
DOLBY WORKSHOP
ASPEN DISTRICT THEATRE
FREE and Open to the Public

2 PM
PROGRAM 8 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

4-5 PM
HAPPY HOUR
MOUNTAIN CHALET

5 PM
PROGRAM 9 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

8 PM
PROGRAM 10 FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

10 PM
APRÈS SCREENING
MI CHOLA

Sun April 16

10-11 AM
BREAKFAST AT THE FEST
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
Pass + Ticket Holders

11 AM
PROGRAM 11 FAMILY PROGRAM FILMMAKER Q+A
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

6 PM
SHORTSFEST AWARDS DINNER
39 DEGREES AT W ASPEN
By Invitation

Festival Venues

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
320 East Hyman Avenue, Aspen

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE
406 East Hopkins Avenue, Aspen

ASPEN DISTRICT THEATRE
199 High School Road, Aspen

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 and 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).

SINGLE TICKETS

ADMISSION FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

\$20 General Admission

\$15 Aspen Film Members

FREE* for Roaring Fork Valley Students + Teachers

*Complimentary tickets for students are secured by showing a current student ID at the box office. Teachers with groups of students must reserve tickets by emailing aspenfilm.edu.co@gmail.com

ADMISSION FOR SUNDAY FAMILY FUN SCREENING

\$15 General Admission

\$12 Aspen Film Members

FREE for kids 12 + under

Complimentary kids' tickets must be issued by the Wheeler Opera House Box Office, day of show. First come, first served.

PASS + TICKET PICKUP

Tickets, passes and day-of purchases must be collected at the Wheeler Opera House Box Office.

320 East Hyman Ave, Aspen

970.920.5770

aspenshowtix.com

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.

COVID PROTOCOLS

Masks are encouraged in all venues, but not required.

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.

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 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 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



@ASPENFILM | #Shortsfest2023

THE SHORTSFEST EXPERIENCE

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

Opening Reception

Tuesday, April 11

5 PM

5–5:30 PM | Aspen Film Member Reception

5:30–6:30 PM | Passholders, Filmmakers, Jury + Industry Guests

PUBLIC HOUSE

328 E Hyman Ave, Aspen



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

UNDERWRITTEN BY



Breakfast at the Fest

Sunday, April 16

10-11 AM

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

320 E Hyman Ave, Aspen

Open to Filmmakers, Festival Guests, Pass + Ticket holders

Paradise

A UNIQUE BAKERY ASPEN

Mrs. Barr's

NATURAL FOODS

Join us for lite breakfast bites and warm beverages before our Family Program screening.

THANK YOU to Guayaki Yerba Mate, Liquid Death, Mrs. Barr's, and Paradise Bakery

Shortsfest Awards Dinner

Sunday, April 16

6 PM

39 DEGREES AT W ASPEN

550 S Spring Street, Aspen

By Invitation



Come celebrate with us as we wrap up Shortsfest 2023! Awards determined by our esteemed Shortsfest 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



Afternoon Happy Hours

Wednesday–Saturday

4–5 PM

April 12-15

MOUNTAIN CHALET

333 E Durant Ave, Aspen | 5th Floor

Open to Filmmakers + Industry Guests



We are pleased to welcome Aspen Film filmmakers and industry guests at our

daily Happy Hours at Mountain Chalet prior to our evening Shorts screenings. Meet and mingle with Aspen Film's programming team, filmmakers from around the world, and our visiting industry guests.

Nightly Après Screenings

Tuesday, April 11

9 PM

Wednesday–Saturday

10 PM

April 12-15

Open to Filmmakers, Festival 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

PONYBOY AT W ASPEN | 550 S Spring St, Aspen

WEDNESDAY

SILVER CITY | 210 S Galena St, Aspen

THURSDAY

HOOCH | 301 E Hopkins, Aspen

FRIDAY

UNRAVEL AT GRAVITY HAUS | 215 E Hyman Ave, Aspen

SATURDAY

MI CHOLA | 411 E Main St, Aspen

VOICES IN FILM YOUTH FORUM KICKOFF EVENT

1 PM

80 MIN

ASPEN DISTRICT THEATRE 199 High School Rd, Aspen **FREE FOR STUDENTS + TEACHERS**

To launch this year's inaugural Voices in Film Youth Forum, the week kicks off with a special in-school event at the Aspen District Theatre featuring a selection of this year's festival films. The interactive program is hosted by youth with a filmmaker Q+A following the films. The event is broadcast live so that students and teachers who cannot attend in person may participate remotely.

CO-PRESENTED BY



SPECIAL THANKS TO the Addy Foundation, Aspen District Theatre, AspenOut, Clark's Market, Grassroots TV, and Mrs. Barr's

TUESDAY APRIL 11

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

PUBLIC HOUSE

5-5:30 PM

Reception for Aspen Film Members

5:30-6:30 PM

Open to Passholders, Shortsfest

Volunteers, Filmmakers + Industry Guests



SHORTS PROGRAM 1

7 PM

92 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

CLOSING DYNASTY

On a school day, a seven year-old hustles strangers for money on the streets of New York City.

(Lloyd Lee Choi, US, 17 MIN)
Colorado Premiere



WHEN YOU LEFT ME ON THAT BOULEVARD

Teenager Ly and her cousins get high before a boisterous Thanksgiving at their auntie's house.

(Kayla Abuda Galang, US, 13 MIN) Colorado Premiere



THE DEBUTANTE

A young woman persuades a hyena to take her place at a dinner dance being held in her honor.

(Elizabeth Hobbs, UK, 8 MIN) Colorado Premiere



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

While it's her birthday, Mariam, a farmer living in a small Armenian village, hears that her husband has just canceled his return.

(Ophelia Harutyunyan, Armenia, France, Belgium, 23 MIN)
North American Premiere



ECHO

Daniel Kish, a pioneer of echolocation, has taught himself to "see" despite being completely blind.

(Benjamin Wolin, Michael Minahan, US, 17 MIN) Colorado Premiere



ALL CHOKED UP

A woman must decide whether to save her husband when he starts choking on a sandwich.

(Allison Volk, US, 4 MIN) World Premiere



DEAR PASSENGERS

A restless longing spreads inside the city bus.

(Madli Lääne, Estonia, 11 MIN) Colorado Premiere



APRÈS SCREENING

9 PM

PONYBOY AT W ASPEN

550 S Spring St, Aspen

Brooklyn's top nightlife venue is here in Aspen this winter as Ponyboy, joining forces with W Aspen, a remix on luxury in the Grotto that's both immersive and unmistakable.



HAPPY HOUR

MOUNTAIN CHALET

333 E Durant Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 8

4-5 PM



SHORTS PROGRAM 2

5 PM

93 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

HONOLULU

Flaming lobsters and menstruation woes plague 12-year-old Yuki's doomed Hawaiian beach vacation.

(Maya Tanaka, US, 15 MIN) North American Premiere



SERENITY

What happens when Augmented Reality makes our digital echo chamber real?

(Kaveh Tehrani, Iran, Norway, 4 MIN)

North American Premiere



ALL-INCLUSIVE

Eleven-year-old Fer travels with his family to a countryside resort a few hours outside Bogotá.

(Duván Duque Vargas, Colombia, France, 20 MIN)



SHADOW OF THE BUTTERFLIES

A woman is slowly lured into a nostalgic daydream as she observes butterflies.

(Sofia El Khyari, France, Portugal, Qatar, 9 MIN)

Colorado Premiere



SEAN + THE RAMBLINGS OF A SCULPTURE ARTIST

After a tragic accident, an eccentric sculpture artist journeys to connect with his true self.

(Lauren Tolfa, Felicia Hettinga, US, 12 MIN)

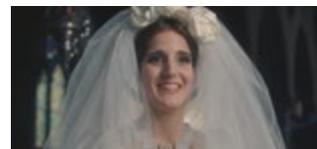
Colorado Premiere



GOLD AND MUD

A sprawling story of love and loss, as reflected on a single face.

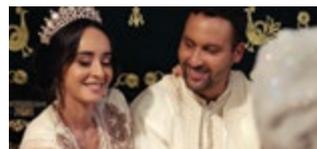
(Conor Dooley, US, 9 MIN) Colorado Premiere



YA BENTI

Sabrina is about to marry Younes, a wedding that's everything for her mother and grandmother.

(Anissa Allali, France, 24 MIN) Colorado Premiere



SHORTS PROGRAM 3

8 PM

95 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

REST STOP

A young Ugandan-American girl realizes her place in the world through a bus journey with her family

(Crystal Kayiza, US, 12 MIN) Colorado Premiere



TEACUPS

For almost half a century, Don Ritchie would approach people contemplating suicide.

(Alec Green, Finbar Watson, Australia, Ireland, 8 MIN)

International Premiere



SHORTSFEST 2023 by the numbers

THE PASS

A young man swims at a private beach where he meets a complicated stranger who watches from shore.



(Pepi Ginsberg, US, 15 MIN) Colorado Premiere

THE MIAMI VICE INCIDENT

The Miami Vice Incident explores a 35-year rift in a family caused by an episode of Miami Vice.



(Tim Kirk, US, 20 MIN) Colorado Premiere

NOCTURNAL BURGER

A night gets catapulted into an investigation of abuse at a dysfunctional police station in Mumbai.



(Reema Maya, India, 28 MIN) Colorado Premiere

OPEN AND SHUT

Struggling with isolation and family pressure, Jen becomes preoccupied with her mysterious neighbor.



(Kulap Vilaysack, US, 12 MIN) Colorado Premiere

APRÈS SCREENING

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.



33 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

10

WORLD
PREMIERES

48%
of our 79
filmmakers
are women

JURY PANEL 2:30-3:30 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

HAPPY HOUR 4-5 PM

MOUNTAIN CHALET

333 E Durant Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 8



SHORTS PROGRAM 4 5 PM

93 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

THE WATER MURMURS

A young woman must bid farewell to the people she loves before her riverside town is submerged.



(Story Jianyan Chen, China, 15 MIN)

Colorado Premiere

GARRANO

A young boy, Joel, discovers a man who is about to set a forest on fire.



(David Doutel, Vasco Sá, Portugal, Lithuania, 14 MIN)

Colorado Premiere

THRIVING: A DISSOCIATED REVERIE

A surrealist exploration of dissociative identity disorder (DID).



(Nicole Bazuin, Canada, 10 MIN) Colorado Premiere

SHALLOTS AND GARLIC

When sisters Nur and Karina reunite, tensions rise as Karina blames Nur for her allergic reaction.



(Andrea Nirmala Widjajanto, Canada, Indonesia, 17 MIN)

45TH PARALLEL

A monologue is performed in a building, telling stories of permeable borders and impermeable laws, reflecting on how free movement, free knowledge and free space are under threat.



(Lawrence Abu Hamdan, UK, 15 MIN)

Colorado Premiere

SIMO

The usual rivalries and jealousies that exist between siblings take a dangerous turn.



(Aziz Zoromba, Canada, 24 MIN) Colorado Premiere

SHORTS PROGRAM 5 8 PM

96 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

KLETTE

An unaccomplished 26-year-old woman must make a heartbreaking decision after a one-night stand.



(Michael Abay, Belgium, 17 MIN)

North American Premiere

MUNICIPAL RELAXATION MODULE

Ken has a great idea for a bench.



(Matthew Rankin, Canada, 6 MIN) US Premiere

SLOW LIGHT

A story of a man who can only see the past.



(Katarzyna Kijek, Przemysław Adamski,

Poland, Portugal, 11 MIN) Colorado Premiere

ASPEN FILM

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Premieres +

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

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aspenfilm.org/membership

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GALAPAGOS

A lonely schoolteacher's day takes a dark turn when her beloved pet rabbit mysteriously disappears.

(Kyle Sims, US, 13 MIN) World Premiere



MANCHA

Cory and her all-female family own La Playa restaurant in Anchorage, Alaska. Haunted by her family's past trauma in a nightmare, she awakens to discover she's at work.

(Nicole Mejia, US, 15 MIN) Colorado Premiere



SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS

Is the border between life and death more porous than we think?

(Ariane Louis-Seize, Canada, 4 MIN) Colorado Premiere



HOW WE GET FREE

The film follows Elisabeth Epps as she works to abolish cash bail in Colorado, first as an activist.

(Geeta Gandbhir, Samantha Knowles, US, 32 MIN) World Premiere



APRÈS SCREENING 10 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.



INDUSTRY PANEL 2:30-3:30 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

HAPPY HOUR

MOUNTAIN CHALET

333 E Durant Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 8



4-5 PM

SHORTS PROGRAM 6

5 PM

98 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

THE ROOF

A Cheyenne teen uncovers a secret that brings him closer to his family than ever before.

(Alexander Bocchieri, US, 20 MIN)



ANSCHT

A film about the fears we suffer from as children and smile about as adults.

(Matthias Huber, Switzerland, 3 MIN) US Premiere



HELP ME UNDERSTAND

Six women come to a consensus.

(Aemilia Scott, US, 15 MIN) Colorado Premiere



AUGUST VISITOR

When her mother's male friend comes over for dinner, Ralu gains a deeper understanding of her mother

(Ifeyinwa Arinze, US, 11 MIN) World Premiere



BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A young woman receives a mysterious letter attached to a brick through her window.

(Julie Ecoffey, Switzerland, 3 MIN) US Premiere



MULIKA

An 'afonaut' emerges from the wreckage of a spaceship in the volcanic crater of Mount Nyiragongo.

(Maisha Maene, Democratic Republic of Congo, 14 MIN) Colorado Premiere



IN THE GARDEN OF TULIPS

Amidst the 1988 war, Caroline takes a car ride with her father to the Iranian countryside of Birjand.

(Julia Elihu, US, 14 MIN) World Premiere



CASTELLS

After a breakup, Lara returns to her hometown Barcelona to think about her dreams and desires.

(Blanca Camell Galí, France, Spain, 22 MIN) North American Premiere



SHORTS PROGRAM 7

8 PM

97 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

THE DALLES

Cam takes it as an invitation to follow a handsome cyclist to a local cruising site.

(Angalis Field, US, 12 MIN) Colorado Premiere



BALL PEOPLE

Each year, hundreds of people from all over America apply to join the Ball Crew at the US Open tennis tournament. Only a few dozen are ultimately selected.



(Scott Lazer, US, 13 MIN) Colorado Premiere

HOOPA

3000 BC. A small group of inhabitants of the 'Low Countries' are fighting the elements and hunger.



(Sem Assink, Netherlands, 2 MIN)
North American Premiere

SIN RAÍCES

A newly adopted refugee prepares for her first red carpet appearance with her pop-star mother.



(Gabriella Athena Moses, US, 16 MIN)
Colorado Premiere

48 HOURS

After three years in prison, Nader is given a furlough to go home.



(Azadeh Moussavi, Iran, 20 MIN) North American Premiere

THINK SOMETHING NICE

At the mercy of the dentist's chair, the protagonist cannot escape the confrontation with pain and the dregs of the miserable human condition.



(Gentinetta Claudius, Switzerland, 6 MIN)
North American Premiere

AIRHOSTESS-737

An airhostess collapses on a flight, convinced that the problem is her new braces.



(Thanasis Neofotistos, Greece, 15 MIN)
Colorado Premiere

COUSINS

Two cousins reunite in Brooklyn when a run-in with an ex turns the night into a mission of revenge.



(Karina Dandashi, US, 13 MIN)
North American Premiere

APRÈS SCREENING**10 PM****UNRAVEL AT GRAVITY HAUS**

215 E Hyman Ave, Aspen

Unravel Coffee + Bar

A sustainable coffee shop with organic breakfast and lunch menu options and an afternoon apres gathering spot with small bites, wine & hand-crafted cocktails.



DOLBY WORKSHOP 12-1 PM

ASPEN DISTRICT THEATRE

199 High School Rd, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 5

SHORTS PROGRAM 8 2 PM

93 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

THINGS UNHEARD OF

Ten-year-old Şevîn wants to make a Kurdish-speaking television for her bedridden and mute granny.



(Ramazan Kılıç, Türkiye, 16 MIN) US Premiere

GOOD CONDITION

Barry's starting over.

(Frank Mosley, US, 10 MIN) World Premiere



THE FUTURE'S PAST

The history of our universe. And how humans kinda fit in.

(Christopher Smith, Jack De Sena, US, Sweden, 6 MIN) World Premiere



ME + AYDAROUS

A gutsy young woman sneaks off for a date only to butt heads with her chaperoning chauffeur.

(Sara Balghonaim, Saudi Arabia, US, 8 MIN) World Premiere



I HAVE NO TEARS AND I MUST CRY

A small peek into a green card interview for an immigrant couple.

(Luis Fernando Puente, US, 13 MIN) Colorado Premiere



MESTRAL

The Soldevila family puts their beach house up for sale. Júlia, the youngest, tries to stop them.

(Cordelia Alegre, Spain, 12 MIN) International Premiere



AWAY

A heartbreaking portrait of two 16-year-old Ukrainian refugees in Budapest.

(Ruslan Fedotov, Portugal, Hungary, Belgium, 29 MIN) Colorado Premiere



HAPPY HOUR 4-5 PM

MOUNTAIN CHALET

333 E Durant Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 8



SHORTS PROGRAM 9 5 PM

98 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

A family's plan to cover up a drunk-driving accident unravels in front of the police.

(Andrew Fitzgerald, US, 18 MIN) Colorado Premiere



MIRROR MIRROR

The mechanics of self-pleasure.

(Sandulela Asanda, South Africa, 9 MIN) US Premiere



PUFFLING

Over the course of one night, Icelandic teenagers Birta and Selma save young puffins from danger.

(Jessica Bishopp, UK, Iceland, 20 MIN)



CALCUTTA 8:40AM

Yann is leaving Calcutta, unsure of the next time he will be able to see his son again.



(Adriano Valerio, France, India, 14 MIN)
North American Premiere

ALL I KNOW

A man's search for his friend puts him at risk of revealing life-altering secrets they both share.



(Obinna Onyeri, Nigeria, US, 16 MIN)
North American Premiere

SULAM

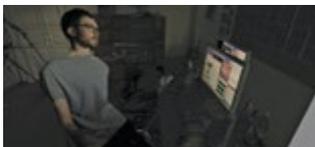
When an immigrant teen must help her mom before school, tensions of belonging bubble to the surface.



(Noam Argov, US, 11 MIN) World Premiere

BACKFLIP

Attempting a backflip is not safe. You can break your neck. So my avatar does it for me. 8,640 jumps in a day. I wouldn't be able to jump so much myself.



(Nikita Diakur, Germany, France, 12 MIN)

SHORTS PROGRAM 10 8 PM

95 MIN

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE**THE VACATION**

A Black man attempts to take a vacation.



(Jarreau Carrillo, US, 10 MIN) Colorado Premiere

ARMAT

Élodie tries to find out more about her family's Armenian origins. She discovers a harsh history.



(Elodie Dermange, Switzerland, 12 MIN)
North American Premiere

NANITIC

9 year-old Trang starts to shift out of oblivion as her aunt Ut tends to Grandma.



(Carol Nguyen, Canada, 14 MIN) US Premiere

TAUMANU

New Zealand. 1929. When a parcel is delivered to a colonial manor house, mysterious Māori twins arrive to reclaim the contents.



(Taratoa Stappard, New Zealand, 22 MIN) US Premiere

CREAMY

A parable on the idiom 'opportunity makes the thief'.



(Bálint Dániel Sós, Hungary, 5 MIN) US Premiere

A LA VIE A L'AMOR

Cesar collects testimonials and theories on unconditional love, from those around him.



(Emilie Mannering, Canada, 15 MIN)
Colorado Premiere

TROY

Troy has loud sex. Troy has loud sex 24-7. Troy shares a wall with Thea and Charlie. Troy is ruining their lives... or is he saving them?



(Mike Donahue, US, 16 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 soul mission.



BREAKFAST AT THE FEST

10-11 AM

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE
DETAILS ON PAGE 8

SHORTS PROGRAM 11 FAMILY FUN PROGRAM

11 AM

77 MIN
FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW
WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

LUCE AND THE ROCK

One day, a giant Rock lays in the middle of the peaceful little village where Luce lives.



(Britt Raes, Belgium, France, Netherlands, 13 MIN)
Colorado Premiere

CANDLELIGHT

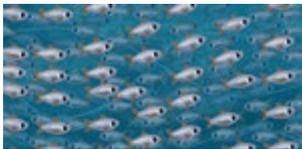
Two candles in love panic when their flames cause each other to rapidly melt.



(SCOTT NEWTON, UK, Ireland, 7 MIN) US Premiere

POND

A shoal of herrings, adopting fantastic formations, roams the vast ocean.



(Lena von Döhren, Eva Rust, Switzerland, 9 MIN)
US Premiere

QUEEN OF THE FOXES

The queen of the foxes was the saddest of them all.



(Marina Rosset, Switzerland, 9 MIN) Colorado Premiere

RAINBOY

While gardening in the sky, Rainboy injures the sun. Revenge!



(Barbara Brunner, Switzerland, 5 MIN) World Premiere

NON-NEGOTIABLE

Deb presents her anxious parents a list of terms and conditions for the arrival of her new sibling.



(Mike Doxford, UK, 9 MIN) Colorado Premiere

THE SOCIAL CHAMELEON

Cosmo the Chameleon doesn't fit in with the other animals and must learn to live by his own colors.



(Alex Ross, US, India, 9 MIN) Colorado Premiere

THE PRESENTER

A shy production assistant at a news channel is pulled up on stage to present the evening news.



(Josephine Lohoar Self, Ireland, 2 MIN)
International Premiere

CANARY

Sonny works in an underground coal mine, taking care of the canary that detects deadly methane gas.



(Pierre-Hugues Dallaire, Benoit Therriault, Canada, 12 MIN) Colorado Premiere

AWARDS DINNER

6 PM

39 DEGREES AT W ASPEN

550 S Spring Street, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 8



2023 FESTIVAL AWARDS



PRESENTED BY Colorado Film School

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE



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 Aspen Film Isis Theatre in October, 2022.

With this brick and mortar space, Aspen Film is more committed than ever to bringing you an exciting mix of first-run releases, independent film and other thought-provoking special events programming.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PLANS HERE](#)



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Erin McVoy

Operations + Production Director

Katherine Roberts

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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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

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

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. Aspen Film's free school programs seek to expand worldviews, develop critical viewing skills, cultivate curiosity, and inspire creativity.

New this year is the Voices in Film Youth Forum which incorporates a wide variety of youth-focused programming and events during Shortsfest. 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. The week kicks off with a special in-school event at the Aspen District Theatre featuring a selection of this year's festival films. The interactive program is hosted by youth with a filmmaker Q+A following the films. The event is broadcast live so that students and teachers who cannot attend in person may participate remotely. Local and visiting young filmmakers and media studies students have the opportunity to socialize, connect, and watch a compilation of student works during a social mixer at the end of the week. The forum is produced by a youth-driven steering committee with the support and mentorship of Aspen Film's staff.

Aspen FilmEducates provides an immersive dive into the world of filmmaking through our Film Camps giving an opportunity for teens to learn to express themselves through film, as well as to experience what it's like to be part of a creative team. Each participant is involved in every step of the process, from operating the camera, to manning the mic boom to editing the final cut. This year's camps focus on documentary filmmaking and animation. Aspen Film partners with the Colorado Film School to provide experienced educators to teach our camps.

SPECIAL THANKS TO the Addy Foundation, Alpine Bank, the Art Base, AspenOut, Aspen District Theatre, Bridges High School, Clark's Market, Colorado Film School, Colorado Mountain College, Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media, the Dolby Institute, The Ellen Fund, Red Brick Center for the Arts, Rotary Club of Aspen, and Wheeler Arts Grant for supporting our educational initiatives.

FILMMAKERS TO THE CLASSROOM

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

HUMANITIES + FILM STUDIES

To fulfill high school credits in Humanities and Human Geography, we show compelling films from the Shortsfest archive and pair them with experiential learning activities, reflection, and discussion to enrich curricula and youth development in classroom settings.

MAKING MOVIES MATTER

Aspen Film provides films and themed shorts packages (e.g. immigration, the environment, creative storytelling) to enrich curricula in language, visual arts, history, world geography, LGBTQ+ issues, and the social sciences. Films are available online for educators to use in their classrooms at their convenience.

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 CAMPS

We offer film camps 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 and college-level film students to explore the creative process and offer feedback on students' work.

YOUTH JURY

A recruited jury comprises local high school students and 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.

MANY THANKS

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MANY THANKS

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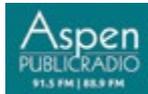
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