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Aspen Daily News

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



The Roaring Fork Valley's only independent, locally owned, newspaper and family of brands.



HELLO AND WELCOME



Hello and welcome to our 45th anniversary Filmfest!

It's amazing to think that this festival began in 1979 as a modest venture with only seven film events. Many of you have been along for the ride since then and we thank you for helping to sustain us for 4+ decades. Your support means everything to Aspen Film, as we plan to be around for decades to come. For those of you who are new to Aspen Film, we welcome you to our home, the Aspen Film Isis Theatre, where we offer something for everyone, and strive to keep the programming fresh - from blockbusters and family fare, to high-end arthouse features and impressive documentaries.

I have the privilege and pleasure of attending some of the most exciting film festivals - from Cannes to Telluride - to see which crop of films we want to share with you, our stalwart community. This is not a job I take lightly as I know that our community appreciates high-quality films that have heart, provoke thought (and laughter), and showcase amazing people doing incredible things. It is due to this high standard that I have been able to discover some of the most incredible story-telling around the globe.

The films that we're able to share with you this fall are exciting, accomplished, and just beginning their journeys towards awards season. Themes of love and family, tenacity and overcoming obstacles, as well as truth and freedom, shine through these selections, along with outstanding and unforgettable characters. As we see these characters persevere, they instill in us a respect for accepting a challenge, and remind us never to give up on what we believe in or set out to do. From Arizona to Iran, the deep oceans of Korea to remote villages of India, our lineup is exemplary of the notion that "people do not lack strength; they lack will" - (Victor Hugo).

One of the most amazing things about cinema is that it underscores the idea that human nature is universal. We look forward to seeing you at the Aspen Film Isis Theatre, and know whether you see one film, or all 17 films in the festival, you're sure to be transformed. This is the magic of the movies.



Susan Wrubel Executive + Artistic Director

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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



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aspenfilm.org/membership 970.925.6882

100+ Movies Each Year

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FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE

Tue Sep 17

5-6:30 PM

45TH FILMFEST OPENING RECEPTION

Stranahan's Whiskey Lodge

PRIVATE RECEPTION. RSVP REQUIRED

7 PM

SUPER/MAN: THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY

(US, UK, 2024) 104 MIN

Wed Sep 18

12 PM

THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG

(IRAN, FRANCE, GERMANY, 2024) 168 MIN

5 PM

¡CASA BONITA MI AMOR!

(US, 2024) 90 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

8 PM

CHECKPOINT ZOO

(US, 2024) 108 MIN

0+A TO FOLLOW

Thur Sep 19

12 PM

FLOW

(BELGIUM, LATVIA, FRANCE, 2024) 84 MIN

2 PM

SANTOSH

(UK, GERMANY, FRANCE, INDIA, 2024) 120 MIN

5 PM

A REAL PAIN

(US, POLAND, 2024) 89 MIN

••••••

8 PM

CHAMPIONS OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY

(US, AFGHANISTAN, GERMANY, 2024) 81 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

Fri Sep 20

12 PM

MEMOIR OF A SNAIL

(AUSTRALIA, 2024) 94 MIN

2 PM

MY SUNSHINE

(JAPAN, FRANCE, 2024) 100 MIN

5 PM

UNSTOPPABLE

(US, 2024) 116 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

8 PM

THE THICKET

(US, 2024) 108 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Sat Sep 21

2 PM

THE LAST OF THE SEA WOMEN

(US, 2024) 87 MIN

5 PM

THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF IBELIN

(NORWAY, 2024) 106 MIN

8 PM

SPECIAL SURPRISE SCREENING

Sun Sep 22

12 PM

THE WILD ROBOT

(US, 2024) 102 MIN

4 PM

THE JERK

(US, 1979) 94 MIN

Screening Venue ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

406 EAST HOPKINS AVE, ASPEN

,

SCAN FOR SCHEDULE



HOW TO FEST

SINGLE TICKETS

Matinees @ 12 or 2 PM:

\$25 General Admission

\$20 Aspen Film Members

Screenings @ or after 5 PM:

\$30 General Admission

\$25 Aspen Film Members

Sunday Funday - FREE FILMS @ FILMFEST

12 + 4 PM Films are FREE w/ RSVP

FREE for Roaring Fork Valley Students + Teachers

Complimentary tickets for students/teachers are secured by showing a current school ID at the box office.

RUSH TICKETS, if available, may be purchased at the venue immediately prior to each screening.

DASSES

FESTIVAL PASS (\$350) Available exclusively at **aspenfilm.org**. Festival Passes include access to **all** screenings and select events (no membership included).

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

TICKET + PASS PURCHASE

ONLINE 24/7

If you have purchased tickets via Aspen Film's website in the recent past, you likely already have an Eventive login and account.

If you are new to us, you must create a new Eventive Account. This is quick and easy and you will be prompted to do so the first time you make a purchase.

SCAN FOR HOW TO FEST



IN PERSON @ THE BOX OFFICE

September 3-13 - at the Aspen Film Office: 110 E Hallam Ave; Ste 115

AF Office ticket pickup hours: 12-4:30 PM, Tuesday - Friday.

September 17-21 - at the Filmfest @ Isis Theatre Box Office: 406 E Hopkins Ave

Filmfest @ Isis Box Office hours: 11 AM - 8 PM, Tuesday - Saturday.

Cash + Credit Cards will be accepted.

DOORS OPEN POLICY

20 minutes prior to the screening - AF Passholders and members

15 minutes prior to the screening - General

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 and offering sign language interpretation when possible and upon request.

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

CODE OF CONDUCT

Aspen Film is committed to providing our audience, guests, and partners with a safe, respectful, and appropriate experience free of discrimination and inappropriate behavior. Harassment, threatening behavior, and violence will not be tolerated. We reserve the right to revoke tickets, passes, credentials, or access to Aspen Film events and venues without notice or refund.

If you believe you've observed or experienced a violation of this policy, email info@aspenfilm.org, and we will work to assess the situation. Please remember that notifying Aspen Film does not constitute or replace a notification to local law enforcement.



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TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17



5-6:30 PM PRIVATE RECEPTION

BY INVITATION ONLY | RSVP REQUIRED



7 PM

SUPER/MAN: THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY

Underwritten by Cat + Jon Koplovitz and Katherine + Dane Chapin

The story of Christopher Reeve is an astonishing rise from unknown actor to iconic movie star, and his definitive portrayal of Clark Kent/ Superman set the benchmark for the superhero cinematic universes that dominate cinema today. Reeve portrayed the Man of Steel in four SUPERMAN films and played dozens of other roles that displayed his talent and range as an actor before being injured in a near-fatal horseriding accident in 1995 that left him paralyzed from the neck down.

After becoming a quadriplegic, he became a charismatic leader and activist in the quest to find a cure for spinal cord injuries, as well as a passionate advocate for disability rights and care - all while continuing his career in cinema in front of and behind the camera and dedicating himself to his beloved family.

From the directors of MCQUEEN, Ian Bonhôte and Peter Ettedgui, this film includes neverbefore-seen intimate home movies and an extraordinary trove of personal archive material, as well as the first extended interviews ever filmed with Reeve's three children about their father, and interviews with the A-list Hollywood actors who were Reeve's colleagues and friends. The film is a moving and vivid cinematic telling of Reeve's remarkable story.

(US, UK, 2024) 104 MIN



DIRECTORS Ian Bonhôte, Peter Ettedgui **WRITER** Peter Ettedgui

PRODUCERS Lizzie Gillett, Robert Ford, Ian Bonhôte WITH Alexandra Reeve Givens, Matthew Reeve, Will Reeve

FESTIVALS Sundance Film Festival 2024; DC/DOX Film Festival 2024; Sydney Film Festival 2024 COMMUNITY PARTNER



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18



12 PM

THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG

Shot entirely in secret, Mohammad Rasoulof's award-winning thriller, THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG, centers on a family thrust into the public eye when Iman is appointed as an investigating judge in Tehran. As political unrest erupts in the streets, Iman realizes that his job is even more dangerous than expected, making him increasingly paranoid and distrustful, even of his own wife Najmeh and daughters Sana and Rezvan. (Iran, France, Germany, 2024) 168 MIN

DIRECTOR Mohammad Rasoulof **WRITER** Mohammad Rasoulof

PRODUCERS Mohammad Rasoulof, Amin Sadraei, Jean-Christophe Simon

WITH Misagh Zare, Soheila Golestani, Mahsa Rostami, Setareh Maleki

FESTIVALS Cannes Film Festival 2024, WINNER - Fipresci Award + Jury Special Prize; Toronto International Film Festival; Sydney Film Festival 2024, WINNER - Audience Award Best International Feature; Telluride Film Festival 2024; New York Film Festival 2024



DIRECTOR Joshua Zeman
WRITER Joshua Zeman, Daniel Lonsbury
PRODUCERS Joshua Zeman, Zachary Mortensen,
Ian Davies, Torquil Jones
WITH Oleksandr Feldman, Vadym Vorotynskyy, Vitalii
Ilchenko, Svitlana Vyshnevetska, Andrii Tyvaniuk,
Vitalii Sevelin, Tymofii Kharchenko
FESTIVAL Tribeca Film Festival 2024, WINNER - Audience
Award Documentary
COMMUNITY PARTNER





5 PM

¡CASA BONITA MI AMOR! Underwritten by Laurie Cappello

From the producers of the Emmy®-nominated Six Days to Air, feature documentary ¡CASA BONITA MI AMOR! tracks the rise, fall, and revival of the beloved Colorado landmark Casa Bonita. Casa Bonita opened in 1974 in an unassuming strip mall. The massive "Disneyland of Mexican restaurants" is an Old West and Acapulco-inspired fever dream made famous by its indoor waterfall, cliff divers, and haunted caves. The restaurant was featured in a classic 2003 episode of South Park. When the show's creators, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, learn that Casa Bonita might close its doors for good, they attempt to preserve a crumbling piece of their childhood and Denver history. **(US, 2024) 90 MIN**

O+A TO FOLLOW

DIRECTOR Arthur Bradford
WRITER Arthur Bradford
PRODUCER Jennifer Ollman
WITH Trey Parker, Matt Stone
FESTIVALS Tribeca Film Festival 2024, WINNER Audience Award; Telluride Film Festival 2024

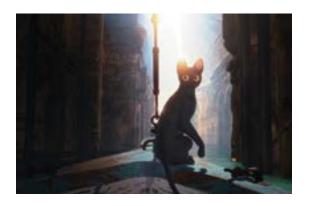
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CHECKPOINT ZOO Underwritten by Melinda Goldrich

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, starting the worst war Europe has seen in over fifty years, shocking the world. Five weeks after the invasion first began, the Ecopark Feldman Zoo's founder, Oleksandr Feldman, a Ukrainian businessman, and philanthropist, posted a desperate plea to social media — the relentless shelling had left thousands of animals trapped in their cages with little food or water, and only a few zookeepers were left to care for them. Within 24 hours, a group of selfless volunteers had appeared on Feldman's doorstep, offering to help in any way they could. Thanks to footage captured by the zookeepers, volunteers, and news media, filmmaker Joshua Zeman has reconstructed the events of this rescue, allowing us to examine the scope of the impact of war on some of its most innocent victims: the animals who are caught in the crossfire. (US, 2024) 108 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19



12 PM

FLOW

Underwritten by Lauren + David Chazen

When a solitary cat's home is devastated by a great flood, he finds refuge on a boat populated by other creatures, including a dog, a bird, a capybara, and a lemur. Sailing through mystical landscapes, they must navigate the challenges, dangers, and wonders of this new world.

(Belgium, Latvia, France, 2024) 84 MIN Ages 10+

DIRECTOR Gints Zilbalodis

WRITERS Gints Zilbalodis. Matiss Kaza

PRODUCERS Matiss Kaza, Gints Zilbalodis, Ron Dyens,

Gregory Zalcman

FESTIVALS Cannes Film Festival 2024:

Toronto International Film Festival 2024;

Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2024 WINNER - Jury Award, Audience Award + Best

Original Music Award

2 PM

SANTOSH

Underwritten by Marilena + Greg Lucier

A government scheme sees newly widowed Santosh inherit her husband's job as a police constable in the rural badlands of Northern India. When a low-caste girl is found raped and murdered, she is pulled into the investigation under the wing of charismatic feminist inspector Sharma.

(UK, Germany, France, India, 2024) 120 MIN

DIRECTOR Sandhya Suri

WRITER Sandhya Suri

PRODUCERS Mike Goodridge, James Bowsher,

Balthazar de Ganay, Alan McAlex

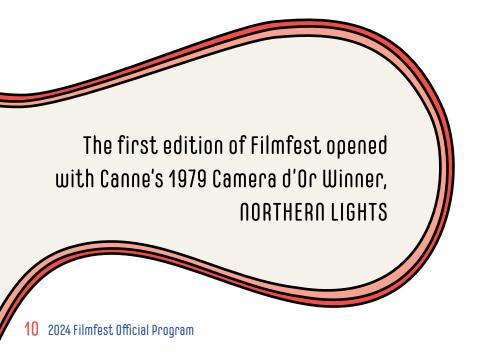
WITH Shahana Goswami, Sunita Rajwar

FESTIVALS Cannes Film Festival 2024; Toronto

International Film Festival 2024; Jerusalem Film

Festival 2024, WINNER - Award for International

Cinema Best International Debut







5 PM

A REAL PAIN

Underwritten by Chelsea + Samuel Saxton

Mismatched cousins David (Jesse Eisenberg) and Benji (Kieran Culkin) reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the odd couple's old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history.

(US, Poland, 2024) 89 MIN

DIRECTOR Jesse Eisenberg **WRITER** Jesse Eisenberg

PRODUCERS Dave McCary, Ali Herting, Emma Stone, Jesse Eisenberg, Jennifer Semler,

Ewa Puszczynska

WITH Jesse Eisenberg, Kieran Culkin, Will Sharpe, Jennifer Grey, Kurt Egyiawan, Liza Sadovy,

Daniel Oreskes

FESTIVALS Sundance Film Festival 2024, WINNER - Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award;

New York Film Festival 2024

COMMUNITY PARTNERS





8 PM

CHAMPIONS OF THE GOLDEN VALLEY

Underwritten by Katherine Kendrick

In the high peaks of Afghanistan, young villagers from rival ethnic groups build makeshift wooden skis and convene for an exuberant mountain race that requires incredible camaraderie and resilience – lessons they must call upon when they experience the shocking collapse of their country.

(US, Afghanistan, Germany, 2024) 81 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

DC/DOX Film Festival 2024

DIRECTOR Ben Sturgulewski
PRODUCERS Baktash Ahadi, Katie Stjernholm
WITH Sayed Alishah Farhang, Mujtaba Hussaini,
Hussain Ali Nazari
FESTIVALS Tribeca Film Festival 2024;

The seventeen films that comprise our 45th Anniversary lineup present captivating perspectives and offer intriguing glimpses into different lives.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20



12 PM

MEMOIR OF A SNAIL

Grace Pudel is a lonely misfit with an affinity for collecting ornamental snails and an intense love for books. At a young age, when Grace is separated from her twin brother, Gilbert, she falls into a spiral of anxiety and angst. Despite a continued series of hardships, inspiration and hope emerges when she strikes up an enduring friendship with an elderly eccentric woman named Pinky, who is full of grit and lust for life. From Academy Award®-winning animation writer and director Adam Elliot, MEMOIR OF A SNAIL is a poignant, heartfelt, hilarious chronicle of the life of an outsider finding her confidence and silver linings amongst the clutter of everyday life.

(Australia, 2024) 94 MIN Rated R

DIRECTOR Adam Elliot
PRODUCERS Adam Elliot, Liz Kearney
WITH Eric Bana, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Sarah Snook,
Jacki Weaver

FESTIVALS Telluride Film Festival 2024; Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2024,

WINNER - Cristal Award

COMMUNITY PARTNER

SAETAV D®CVEH

2 PM

MY SUNSHINE

On a Japanese island, winter is time for ice hockey, but Takuya isn't thrilled about it. His real interest lies in Sakura, a rising figure skating star from Tokyo, for whom he has started to develop a genuine fascination. His coach spots potential in Takuya and mentors him to form a duo with Sakura for an upcoming competition. As winter persists, feelings grow, and the two children form a harmonious bond. But even the first snow eventually melts away.

(Japan, France, 2024) 100 MIN

DIRECTOR Hiroshi Okuyama

WRITER Hiroshi Okuyama

PRODUCERS Toshikazu Nishigaya, Masa Sawada

WITH Keitatsu Koshiyama, Kiara Takanashi,

Sôsuke Ikematsu, Ryûya Wakaba

FESTIVALS Cannes Film Festival 2024;

Taipei Film Festival 2024

COMMUNITY PARTNER

⊠spen**0UT**

"What makes independent films stand out from Hollywood films is that they are personal statements of the film makers" - Ellen Kohner Hunt



5 PM

UNSTOPPABLE

US Debut

Underwritten by Ellen-Jane + Ben Moss

UNSTOPPABLE is the inspiring true story of Anthony Robles (Jharrel Jerome), who was born with one leg but whose indomitable spirit and unbreakable resolve empowered him to defy the odds and pursue his dreams. With the unwavering love and support of his devoted mother, Judy (Jennifer Lopez), and the encouragement of his coaches, Anthony fights through adversity to earn a spot on the Arizona State Wrestling team. But it will demand everything he has, physically and mentally, to achieve his ultimate quest to become an NCAA Champion. UNSTOPPABLE is a captivating sports drama that follows the journey of a determined athlete as he overcomes obstacles to achieve greatness, all while intertwining a heartwarming family narrative full of emotion and inspiration.

(US, 2024) 116 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

DIRECTOR William Goldenberg
WRITERS Eric Champnella, Alex Harris,
John Hindman
PRODUCERS Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Elaine
Goldsmith-Thomas, Anthony Robles, Andrew
Fraser, Gary Lewis, David Crocket
WITH Jharrel Jerome, Jennifer Lopez, Bobby
Cannavale, Michael Peña, Don Cheadle
FESTIVAL Toronto International Film Festival 2024
COMMUNITY PARTNER





8 PM

THE THICKET

Underwritten by Margie + Bryan Weingarten

When fierce bounty hunter Reginald Jones (Peter Dinklage) is recruited by a desperate man to track down a ruthless killer known only as Cutthroat Bill (Juliette Lewis), he rallies a band of unlikely heroes including a grave-digging ex-slave and a street-smart woman-for-hire. Together, they embark on a perilous quest to track down Cutthroat Bill which leads them into the deadly "no-man's-land" known as...The Thicket.

(US, 2024) 108 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

DIRECTOR Elliott Lester

WRITER Chris Kelley, based on the novel The Thicket by Joe R. Lansdale

PRODUCERS Peter Dinklage, Michael Frislev, Shannon Gaulding, David Ginsberg, Elliot Lester, Gianni Nunnari, Caddy Vanasirikul

WITH Peter Dinklage, Juliette Lewis, Levon Hawke, Gbenga Akinnagbe, James Hetfield, Arliss Howard

"One of the most amazing things about cinema is that it underscores the idea that human nature is universal" - Susan Wrubel

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21



2 PM

THE LAST OF THE SEA WOMEN Underwritten by Mimi Polk Gitlin

In THE LAST OF THE SEA WOMEN, an extraordinary band of feisty grandmother warriors wage a spirited battle against vast oceanic threats. Often called real-life mermaids, the haenyeo divers of South Korea's Jeju Island are renowned for centuries of diving to the ocean floor — without oxygen — to harvest seafood for their livelihood. Today, with most haenyeo now in their 60s, 70s, and 80s, their traditions and way of life are in imminent danger. But these fierce, funny, and hard-working women refuse to give an inch, aided by a younger generation's fight to revive their ancestral lifestyle through social media. Peering into what drives haenyeo young and old, this moving documentary zeroes in on their tight-knit friendships, savvy independence, and infectious sense of empowerment. The story unfolds into an uplifting tale of women taking on world powers to protect their beloved ocean and inspire a new generation. (US, 2024) 87 MIN

DIRECTOR Sue Kim

PRODUCERS Erika Kennair, Sue Kim, Malala Yousafzai FESTIVAL Toronto International Film Festival 2024 **COMMUNITY PARTNER**



5 PM

THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF IBELIN

Underwritten by Monica Vidal + Joe Sherman

When Mats Steen, a Norwegian gamer, died of a degenerative muscular disease at age 25, his parents mourned what they thought had been a lonely and isolated existence. They were unaware that Mats had long been leading a vibrant digital life that had left a profound impact on a community of fellow gamers. This film allows viewers to experience the game from the inside, observe avatars in their own world, and to discover wisdom emanating from this virtual world. (Norway, 2024) 106 MIN

DIRECTOR Benjamin Ree **PRODUCER** Ingvil Giske

FESTIVALS Sundance Film Festival 2024, WINNER -Directing Award, World Cinema Documentary, Audience Award - World Cinema Documentary; Göteborg Film Festival, WINNER - Dragon Award Best Nordic Documentary

8 PM

SPECIAL SURPRISE **SCREENING**

After 44 years of Filmfests, do you trust us?

We are sworn to secrecy. Really! Our SPECIAL SURPRISE SCREENING is shrouded in mystery, but trust us, it's one you won't want to miss. Expect the unexpected and prepare to be amazed by a film that will leave you talking long after the credits roll.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22

FREE FILMS @ FILMFEST

As a gift to the community that has supported the organization for 45 years, Aspen Film will offer these Sunday Films FREE to the community. RSVP REQUIRED





12 PM

THE WILD ROBOT

From DreamWorks Animation comes the eagerly anticipated adaptation of a literary sensation, PETER BROWN's beloved, award-winning, #1 New York Times bestseller, THE WILD ROBOT.

The epic adventure follows the journey of a robot—ROZZUM unit 7134, "Roz" for short — that is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island and must learn to adapt to the harsh surroundings, gradually building relationships with the animals on the island and becoming the adoptive parent of an orphaned gosling.

THE WILD ROBOT stars Academy Award® winner LUPITA NYONG'O (Us, The Black Panther franchise) as robot Roz; Emmy and Golden Globe nominee PEDRO PASCAL (The Last of Us, The Mandalorian) as fox Fink; Emmy winner CATHERINE O'HARA (Schitt's Creek, Best in Show) as possum Pinktail; Oscar® nominee BILL NIGHY (Living, Love Actually) as goose Longneck; Emmy® winner KIT CONNOR (Heartstopper, Rocketman) as gosling Brightbill and Oscar® nominee STEPHANIE HSU (Everything Everywhere All at Once, The Fall Guy) as Vontra, a robot that will intersect with Roz's life on the island.(US, 2024) 102 MIN

DIRECTOR Chris Sanders **WRITER** Chris Sanders **PRODUCER** Jeff Hermann WITH Lupita Nyong'o, Pedro Pascal, Kit Connor, Catherine O'Hara, Bill Nighy, Stephanie Hsu, Mark Hamill, Matt Berry, Ving Rhames FESTIVALS Toronto International Film Festival 2024



I SCAN HERE TO RSVP

4 PM

THE JERK

Underwritten by Nicole + Jeffrey L. Goldberg

A simpleminded, sheltered country boy suddenly decides to leave his family home to experience life in the big city, where his naivete is both his best friend and his worst enemy.

(US, 1979) 94 MIN

DIRECTOR Carl Reiner

WRITERS Steve Martin, Carl Gottlieb, Michael Elias PRODUCERS William E. McEuen, David V. Picker **WITH Steve Martin. Bernadette Peters.** Catlin Adams



SCAN HERE TO RSVP



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INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

ABOUT ASPED FILM

Aspen Film is more than Filmfest. We are in fact, an "Independent by Nature" film society that presents year-round film programming, including world-class festivals, special events and a robust education program.



The tradition of Aspen Film began 45 years ago in 1979 when our founder, Ellen Kohner Hunt, passed a note to a friend in an Aspen Arts Council meeting that read, "How about having a film festival"? Ellen was one of Aspen's most remarkable volunteers and visionaries, who, as one of her friends observed, founded what is now a 45-year-old organization by "cajoling, bribing, and blackmailing a group of cinema junkies to sit through reels of film and shelves of video, and then debate the merits of each."

Since those feisty early days, much has changed in Aspen and within Aspen Film. Our rag-tag mountain town has grown into a small city and our organization has matured to support year-round programming in our own brick and mortar multiplex cinema. What hasn't changed, is our organization's commitment to Ellen's vision of showcasing independent and original voices in film, the likes of which might not otherwise be seen by audiences in the Roaring Fork Valley.



ASPEN FILM TEAM

Susan Wrubel | Executive + Artistic Director

Erin McVoy | Operations + **Production Director**

Aaron Koehler | Sr. Marketing + Communications Manager

Regna Frank-Jones | Head of Education Development + Programs

Livier Cruz Guerrero | Education Coordinator + Teaching Artist

Morgan Witt | Production + Marketing Coordinator

Kloe Lee | Office Administrator Liz Lasko | Membership Coordinator Lucy Lea Tucker | Public Relations

Consultant Stacey Rinker | Bookkeeper Kimi Mischke | Graphic Designer Tom Wardaszka | DCP Conversion

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Laurie Cappello

David Chazen

Helga Fisch

Melinda Goldrich

Katherine Kendrick

Cathy L. Koplovitz

Nina Kotick

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Mimi Polk-Gitlin

Wendi Sturgis

Monica Vidal

Bryan Weingarten

Doug Weiser

COMMUNITY PARTNERS















A huge THANK YOU to all of our volunteers!

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FILM EDUCATES

For more than 20 years, Aspen Film has dedicated itself to youth education and outreach. We believe that film is a vibrant artistic expression and powerful communication tool, able to open windows to humanity and build bridges of understanding between cultures. Aspen Film's free school programs seek to expand worldviews, develop critical viewing skills, cultivate curiosity, and inspire creativity.

We strive to provide an atmosphere where young people and engaged adults connect on a two-way street of learning. We champion the importance of mentorship, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration through strong community partnerships and relationships with educators, filmmakers, and industry professionals. By promoting cross-cultural, multi-generational, and interdisciplinary opportunities to learn and connect with others, we develop youth and make the community stronger.

SPECIAL THANKS to the Addy Foundation, Alpine Bank, AspenOut, Basalt Public Arts Commission, City of Aspen, Community College of Aurora, Ellen Fund, Colorado Office of Film, Media + Television, Isaacson School for Communication, Arts and Media at Colorado Mountain College, Red Brick Center for the Arts, Rotary Club of Aspen, TACAW, and individual donors and foundations for supporting our educational initiatives.

KFY PROGRAMS

FILMMAKERS TO THE CLASSROOM As part of our most popular program, filmmakers from around the globe 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 curriculum 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 curriculum in language, visual arts, history, world geography, 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 CAMP We offer filmmaking 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 students to screen films, including student works-inprogress, explore the creative process and offer feedback on students' work.

TO LEARN MORE about our programs or to get involved, go to aspenfilm.org/education

HELP US RAISE \$45,000

Thanks to our acquisition of the Isis Theatre, we now have a brick and mortar programming home that allows us to continue offering a diverse mix of arthouse and commercial fare to this community for many years to come.

We can't do what we do without you - we need your continued support.

In honor of our 45th year, the Aspen Film Board has pledged to match donations made by the end of the year, dollar for dollar,

up to \$45,000.











Photos courtesy of Aspen Historical Society

