

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

34TH EDITION



SHORTSFEST

3/31-4/5
2025



aspenfilm.org

OFFICIAL PROGRAM



Alpine Bank
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Aspen Daily News

Aspen**OUT**



CITY OF ASPEN



Dolby Creator Lab



gravity haus



Les Dames d'Aspen, Ltd.

LIMELIGHT
ASPEN



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Stranahan's
SINGLE MALT WHISKEY

THE
Aspen Daily News

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



Photo Courtesy: Jonathan Westman.



local

Authentic



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

ASPEN DANCE CONNECTION

At Basalt River Park



July 5th

RIVER JAM

Featuring **ENGAGE MOVEMENT ARTS**

HELLO AND WELCOME



Hello, Friends of Film!

Welcome to the 34th edition of our world-class Aspen Shortsfest!

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

In each of our ten programs, you will find undulating programs that take you through a gamut of emotions while experiencing life around the world. What is so wondrous is that observing the differences in places and cultures leads us to understand that we should celebrate our similarities rather than differences, and that human nature is, by and large, universal.

This year's program takes us from Colorado to Cambodia, from Mexico to Mauritius, and many places in between, with 29 countries being represented. Eleven of our films are world premieres, meaning that you will be the first audience anywhere to experience these incredible stories. And we are quite proud that 60 of our 68 titles are being shown in Colorado for the first time, here in Aspen.

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

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

Susan Wrubel
Executive + Artistic Director

In these times of great change and often greater challenges, the solace we find in art and creativity can seem not just necessary but downright miraculous. That's why the Aspen Shortsfest programming team is so grateful for the chance to present another incredible bounty of short films that may feel like little (and sometimes not so little) miracles.

For the 34th annual Aspen Shortsfest, we have gathered 68 of the most compelling, surprising, hilarious, and heart-wrenching films we discovered among the nearly 3,000 submissions we received from around the world. We believe that every single one of the selections in our ten action-packed screenings is remarkable for a multitude of reasons. Again and again, we felt wowed by the beauty of the images on screen, moved by performances of great nuance and depth, and surprised and enlightened by stories and perspectives that need to be shared with viewers far and wide. While some films astonished us for their sweep and scope, others were just as special for their quiet grace and intimacy. And while some films encouraged us to think about serious and timely subjects in new ways, others wanted us to enjoy ourselves and we were more than happy to oblige.

Whatever these films may be, they have the collective power to turn audiences into communities. So it's no wonder we can't wait to experience them in the Wheeler Opera House alongside the many loyal moviegoers, esteemed guests, keen-eyed newbies, and everyone else who has helped make Aspen Shortsfest one of this planet's best-loved showcases for shortform cinema.

Jason Anderson
Shortsfest Programming Director



ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

46TH EDITION

FILMFEST

DOCUMENTARY · DRAMA · ANIMATION · INTERNATIONAL · COMEDY · THRILLER



SEPTEMBER 16-21, 2025

VISIT [ASPENFILM.ORG](https://www.aspenfilm.org)

#FILMFEST2025

Aspen Film's Filmfest is an annual fall film festival that showcases a curated selection of highly anticipated awards-season contenders, independent films, and international cinema. Known for its intimate and audience-focused experience, Filmfest brings together filmmakers and local movie lovers in a stunning mountain setting.

Follow Us

@aspenfilm

PROGRAMMING TEAM

Jason Anderson **Shortsfest Programming Director**

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



Lucy Lerner **Shortsfest Senior Program Manager**

A lifelong enthusiast of pop culture and cinema, Lucy Lerner is a programmer, curator, critic, and producer with decades of experience in the arts. Before working for Aspen Film, she was the Senior Programmer at Mountainfilm and currently works as the Senior Programmer of Shorts at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival and is the Lead Curator and Producer for the Psychedelic Cinematheque, a program of the Psychedelic Science Conference. Her diverse background also includes a long tenure at the Telluride Film Festival. Raised in Chicago, living in the Mountain West, and parent to two amazing daughters, Lucy's extensive expertise spans project direction, project management, programming, curation, production, and operations/event management. She has served on numerous festival juries and currently programs for a diverse range of film festivals.



Liane Cunje **Programmer**

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



Lisa Haller **Programmer**

Lisa Haller is the Director of Programming at the Atlantic International Film Festival (AIFF), where she is responsible for overseeing the artistic direction and film curation for the annual festival and its year-round initiatives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Lisa has over 10 years of experience in festival programming and strategy, and has served on juries and panels for film festivals such as the Festival du nouveau cinéma, CUCALORUS Film Festival, Norwegian Short Film Festival, and Toronto International Film Festival. Previously, Lisa acted as the Senior Short Film Programmer at Whistler Film Festival (WFF), and the Short Cuts Programmer and Festival Manager at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Lisa is excited to return as a Programmer for Aspen Shortsfest in 2025.



Anita Tavakol **Programmer**

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



Phillip Domfeh Jury

Phillip Yaw Domfeh is a writer/director hailing from Los Angeles and a member of the Producers Guild of America. Most recently, he has worked as the producer of Disney Launchpad, a short film series distributed by underrepresented filmmakers on Disney+. Having produced 24 short films over the past decade, he has been nominated for 4 NAACP Image Awards. Before Disney Launchpad, he served as an executive producer of the 2019 AT&T Mentorship Program. There, he worked alongside Emmy® Award winner Lena Waithe and Rishi Rajani to mentor filmmakers and produce five short films starring Dascha Polanco, Loretta Devine, and Rob Morgan. Alongside his wife and creative partner, Priya Domfeh, he produces independent projects through their company Cosmic Otter Productions. Together, they have won awards at the Austin Film Festival, Nashville Film Festival, and Buffalo Film Festival.



Coco Francini Jury

Coco Francini is an Emmy®-nominated producer and partner at Dirty Films alongside Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton. She produced Christos Nikou's Apple Original Film FINGERNAILS, and executive produced SHAYDA, winner of Sundance's Audience Award. Previously, Coco executive produced MRS. AMERICA for FX Networks, which earned ten Emmy® nominations, including Best Limited Series, Outstanding Writing, and acting nominations for Blanchett, Margo Martindale, and Tracey Ullman, as well as a win for Uzo Aduba. A frequent Quentin Tarantino collaborator, Francini worked on THE HATEFUL EIGHT, overseeing its global 70MM roadshow and the soundtrack/score that won a long-deserved Academy Award® for Ennio Morricone. Most recently, she co-founded Proof of Concept, a Netflix-funded accelerator program dedicated to championing women, trans, and nonbinary filmmakers. Francini holds a degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a master's from USC's elite Peter Stark Producing Program.



Selin Sevinc Jury

A Berlinale Talents Screenwriters alumna and a former film critic, Selin Sevinc is currently Director Of Programming at Bend Film Festival in Bend, Oregon, which screens narrative and documentary features and shorts, and a script consultant at magicofstory.com. She wrote and produced two documentary series in Turkey and has written eight narrative screenplays, one of which was produced in 2023. Her scripts entered Stowe Story Labs, the Netflix-BANFF Media Festival, and MIDPOINT Institute's programs. She published a book on the process and perils of screenwriting, "Adventures in Screenwriting: How One Writer Navigates the Dire Straits."



Celia Aniskovich Industry

Celia Aniskovich is a New York-based director and producer. Her career began in live broadcast news as an NBC Page before she transitioned into narrative and documentary filmmaking. She has directed, produced, developed, and consulted on numerous US & UK projects, and her films and series have been broadcast worldwide. In April 2020, HOW TO FIX A DRUG SCANDAL, which Aniskovich co-produced, broke the top 5 most-watched shows on Netflix three days after it premiered. In July 2020, FEAR CITY: NEW YORK VS. THE MAFIA, which Aniskovich field produced, became the #1 most-watched show on Netflix at that time, 24 hours after it premiered. Celia also produced the successful SURVIVING JEFFREY EPSTEIN for Lifetime. This year, she launched a new long-form nonfiction digital magazine, Switchboard, which serves as an IP incubator for TV and film properties.



Marie Therese Guirgis Industry

Marie Therese Guirgis is a documentary film producer and production executive who has worked with many of the leading documentary filmmakers working today. She runs Play/Action Pictures, a documentary production and financing company she started with Jeffrey Lurie, owner of the Philadelphia Eagles. Guirgis previously created and ran the documentary division of RatPac Entertainment, where she oversaw the development and production of numerous documentaries and documentary series. Prior to working in production, Marie Therese worked in film distribution for many years. She headed acquisitions and eventually ran the acclaimed arthouse distribution company Wellspring, where she distributed documentaries by Agnes Varda, Steve James, Liz Garbus, and Werner Herzog. Guirgis has an MA in Film Theory and History from The University of Iowa and a BA in History from Vassar College.



JURY + GUESTS CONT.

Glenn Kiser Industry

Glenn Kiser is the Director of Dolby Creator Lab, Dolby's initiative to educate and inspire emerging filmmakers and artists about the creative use of sound and image in storytelling. He is the host of the Dolby Creator Talks podcast, which features in-depth conversations with artists working in film, episodic, music, gaming, and podcasting. He established the Dolby Creator Lab Grant, supporting exciting new films from directors including Sean Wang, the Daniels, Rebecca Hall, Alma Har'el, and Taika Waititi. Previously, Kiser ran 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.



Sarah Lash Industry

Sarah Lash is the Vice President, Acquisitions at Condé Nast, responsible for acquiring award-winning content for the company's network of digital channels, including Glamour, GQ, The New Yorker, Vanity Fair, and WIRED. Lash started at Condé Nast in 2014 as a consultant, helping to shepherd the acquisition of dozens of short films and series for digital distribution. Prior to joining Condé Nast, Lash was Senior Vice President of Sales and Acquisitions for ATO Pictures, where she executive produced the release of TERRI, negotiated deals for all acquisitions, and oversaw ancillary sales. In 2009, Lash produced the No Borders co-production market, organized by the Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP). Prior to that, she was the Head of Domestic Sales for Cinetic Media, where she was instrumental in the sales of various titles for the Sundance, Canne 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.



Meghan Oretsky Industry

Meghan Oretsky is a Lead Curator at Vimeo, where she watches hundreds of short films each year to make selections for the Vimeo Staff Picks channel. She has shared her effusive love for short films for the past decade by serving on juries, participating in panels, and leading presentations at festivals, as well as hosting shorts screenings around the world.



Kevin Rowe Industry

Kevin Rowe is a Founding Partner at 2AM, the Oscar®-nominated talent management and production company behind PAST LIVES. He and the company focus on representing filmmakers, writers, and actors and producing film and television. Rowe put together a handful of successful client films for A24; Ari Aster's HEREDITARY and MIDSOMMAR, as well as Janicza Bravo's critically acclaimed ZOLA and Elegance Bratton's THE INSPECTION. He also represents filmmakers like Antoneta Alamat Kusajanović (Cannes Camera D'or Winner MURINA), A.V. Rockwell (Sundance Grand Jury Prize Winner A THOUSAND AND ONE), 11-time Tony nominated playwright Jeremy O. Harris (SLAVE PLAY), as well as actors Eliza Scanlen (LITTLE WOMEN, SHARP OBJECTS) and Sonoya Mizuno (EX MACHINA, HOUSE OF THE DRAGON). Rowe produced LOW TIDE (A24), THE STARLING GIRL (Bleecker Street/Focus), and LOVE ME (Bleecker Street/Focus), which stars Oscar-nominated actors Kristen Stewart and Steven Yeun. He also Executive Produced THE FRONT ROOM (A24) and OMNI LOOP (Magnolia). Rowe was featured in Next Gen 2020: The Hollywood Reporter's 35 Rising Executives 35 and Under and is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.



INDUSTRY + PANEL CONVERSATIONS

All panel conversations take place at **ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE** 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

WORKING WITH RISING TALENT

Tuesday, April 1 | 2 PM

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

Join us in conversation with two industry stalwarts whose experience includes shorts, narrative features, and documenatries. Hear from two distinct yet complementary voices who know the film landscape inside and out and offer thoughts and advice on next steps, next moves, and how best to leverage a successful short film. They will discuss the festival and distribution landscapes today, and best practices for seeking sales and representation.

PARTICIPANTS Marie Therese Guirgis - Play/Action Pictures, Sarah Lash - Condé Nast

WHAT ABOUT A FILM MAKES US TAKE NOTICE

Wednesday, April 2 | 2 PM

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

Our fantastic Shortsfest Programming Team gives perspectives on programming methods and strategies, sharing ideas about what it takes for films to stand out. They will provide insights about the programming process and the wider festival landscape for filmmakers close to home and further abroad.

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

PLATFORMS + POSSIBILITIES

Thursday, April 3 | 2 PM

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

This session examines the different avenues short films may take on their way to reaching audiences, highlighting the role of online platforms and other options in today's marketplace. Panelists will address the diverse audiences their platforms reach, objectives they serve, and how filmmakers are successfully using new platforms to get eyes on their work and generate interest in their projects.

PARTICIPANTS Celia Aniskovich - Switchboard, Meghan Oretsky - Vimeo

IN CONVERSATION WITH KEVIN ROWE, CO-FOUNDER OF 2AM

Friday, April 4 | 12 pm

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

Kevin Rowe joins us in conversation from talent management and production company 2AM. We will talk about how his representation of filmmakers, writers, and actors dovetails into the production of some of today's hottest indie film and television. Using several recent debut film projects as case studies, Kevin goes deep into the process of developing feature projects using the momentum created by exciting and innovative shortform content.

PARTICIPANT Kevin Rowe - 2AM

CREATIVE SOUND DESIGN FOR SHORT FILMS

Friday, April 4 | 2 PM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Great sound design is not exclusive to big-budget studio films. It is something that can be utilized 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 - Dolby Creator Lab

Dolby Creator Lab

PATHWAYS + PITFALLS

Saturday, April 5 | 2 PM

OPEN TO ALL 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 and pragmatic advice about which battles are worth fighting (or not).

PARTICIPANTS Phillip Domfeh, Coco Francini, Selin Sevinç

FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE

Mon 3/31

2 PM

**VOICES IN FILM YOUTH FORUM
KICKOFF EVENT**

Basalt High School

BY INVITATION

5 PM

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

Stranahan's Whiskey Lodge

BY INVITATION

7 PM

PROGRAM 1 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

9 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

Stranahan's Whiskey Lodge

Thu 4/3

2 PM

**PANEL: PLATFORMS +
POSSIBILITIES**

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

3:30-4:30 PM

SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

5 PM

PROGRAM 6 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

8 PM

PROGRAM 7 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

10 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

Hooch

Venues

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

320 EAST HYMAN AVE, ASPEN

10 2025 Shortsfest Official Program

Tue 4/1

2 PM

**PANEL: WORKING WITH
RISING TALENT**

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

3:30-4:30 PM

SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

5 PM

PROGRAM 2 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

8 PM

PROGRAM 3 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

10 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

Gravity Haus

Fri 4/4

12 PM

**IN CONVERSATION WITH
KEVIN ROWE, CO-FOUNDER
OF 2AM**

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

2 PM

**PANEL: CREATIVE SOUND
DESIGN FOR SHORT FILMS**

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

3:30-4:30 PM

SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

5 PM

PROGRAM 8 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

8 PM

PROGRAM 9 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

10 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

Buck

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

406 EAST HOPKINS AVE, ASPEN

Wed 4/2

2 PM

**PANEL: WHAT ABOUT A FILM
MAKES US TAKE NOTICE**

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

3:30-4:30 PM

SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

5 PM

PROGRAM 4 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

8 PM

PROGRAM 5 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

10 PM

APRÈS SCREENING

Silver City

Sat 4/5

2 PM

PANEL: PATHWAYS + PITFALLS

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

4 PM

PROGRAM 10 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

6-7 PM

SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

7:30 PM

SHORTSFEST AWARDS

PROGRAM

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

BY INVITATION

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SCAN FOR
SCHEDULE



\$225 FESTIVAL PASS

Available exclusively at aspenfilm.org, Festival Passes include access to screenings and select events (membership not included).

MEMBER PASSES

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

PASS PICKUP

March 31- April 4 | 10 AM-3 PM

Shortsfest Filmmaker Lounge

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

Passes may be collected from our Filmmaker Lounge before 3 PM M-F of the festival.

March 31-April 4 | 4-8 PM + April 5 | 12-4 PM

Wheeler Opera House Box Office

After 4 PM M-F + After 12 PM Sat - Passes may be collected from the Wheeler Opera House Box Office.

Aspen Film will have a dedicated window at the Wheeler to assist with Pass pickup.

SINGLE TICKETS

\$28* General Admission

\$20* Aspen Film Members

**Includes \$3 Aspen ShowTix ticketing fee*

Free for Roaring Fork Valley Students + Teachers**

***Must show a current local school ID at the box office. Email aspenfilmeducates@gmail.com with questions*

TICKET PICKUP

All single tickets must be processed via

Wheeler Opera House Box Office

320 East Hyman Ave, Aspen

970-920-5770 Aspenshowtix.com

DOORS OPEN POLICY

30 minutes prior to screening - Passholders

20 minutes prior to screening - AF Members

10 minutes prior to screening - General Admission

RUSH TICKETS

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

REFUND POLICY

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

PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Many short films are unrated and contain mature themes +/or language. Aspen Film advises that 5 PM programs may be best suited to ages 13+ and 8 PM programs may be best suited to ages 17+.

PHOTOGRAPHY + VIDEO

The Aspen Film team will be photographing and recording various aspects of Shortsfest throughout the festival. Aspen Film may use these images for promotional or educational purposes. Festival attendees are strictly prohibited from photographing any aspect of the festival without express permission from Aspen Film. Attendees in violation of this policy may be removed from the venue and will be required to surrender any recordings taken.

ACCESSIBILITY

Aspen Film strives to make all experiences as accessible and inclusive as possible for all participants. We are committed to utilizing wheelchair-accessible venues, providing open captioning for all screenings, offering assistive listening devices whenever possible, and offering sign-language interpretation for any event, when possible and upon request. Requests must be placed 14 days or more before the Festival start date to allow staff the time needed to coordinate the accommodation. We will do our best to honor requests after the deadline; however, services cannot be guaranteed.

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

LAND USE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Aspen Film acknowledges, with honor and respect, that the land we reside upon today is the traditional ancestral homelands of the Ute Nations and peoples. We thank the past, present, and future generations of Indigenous people for their stewardship while also acknowledging the painful history and ill-treatment that occurred on these lands. We celebrate the many contributions made by Native peoples, especially in the fields of storytelling, art, and film, and encourage all to recognize and uncover the stories of the original inhabitants of the land we all walk on.

CODE OF CONDUCT

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

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

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

THE SHORTSFEST EXPERIENCE

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

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

Monday, March 31 5 PM

BY INVITATION | RSVP REQUIRED

Stranahan's Whiskey Lodge

307 S Mill Street, Aspen

We'll gather for libations and nibbles at Stranahan's Whiskey Lodge, located one block south of the Wheeler Opera House on South Mill Street, next to Wagner Park.



SHORTSFEST AWARDS PROGRAM

Saturday, April 5 7:30 PM

BY INVITATION | RSVP REQUIRED

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

406 E Hopkins Avenue, Aspen

Hosted by Aspen Film's dynamic duo of Executive + Artistic Director Susan Wrubel and Shortsfest Programming Director Jason Anderson, this will be a lively evening of celebration and recognition. The night kicks off with a walk down the Red Carpet, followed by a welcome toast, and presentation of the festival's nine awards. Each Jury will present their selections, and the winners in each category will be lauded for their achievements in cinema.

FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION VISIT

aspenfilm.org



aspenfilm.org

@ASPENFILM

#SHORTSFEST25

AFTERNOON SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOURS

Tuesday-Friday, April 1-4 3:30-4:30 PM

Saturday, April 5 6-7 PM

Open to Filmmakers, Industry Guests + Passholders

The Boat Tow

315 E Hyman Street, Aspen

Meet and mingle with Aspen Film's programming team, visiting filmmakers and industry guests at our daily Sip + Chat Networking sessions at the Boat Tow.



NIGHTLY APRÈS SCREENINGS

Monday, March 31 9 PM

Tuesday-Friday, April 1-4 10 PM

Open to All Shortsfest Ticket + Pass 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 Pass + Ticketholders.

MONDAY

[STRANAHAN'S WHISKEY LODGE](#) | 307 S Mill Street, Aspen

TUESDAY

[GRAVITY HAUS](#) | 315 E Hyman Ave, Aspen

WEDNESDAY

[SILVER CITY](#) | 210 S Galena St, Aspen

THURSDAY

[HOOCH](#) | 301 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

FRIDAY

[BUCH](#) | 508 E Cooper Ave, Aspen



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VOICES IN FILM YOUTH FORUM KICKOFF EVENT

2 PM

80 MIN | Basalt High School

BY INVITATION

The week kicks off with a special in-school event at Basalt High School featuring a selection of festival films.



OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

5 PM

STRANAHAN'S WHISKEY LODGE 307 S Mill Street, Aspen

BY INVITATION | RSVP REQUIRED



SHORTS PROGRAM 1

7 PM

98 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

DEBATERS

Set in a debate chamber, the film follows affluent high schoolers arguing a minimum wage bill to impress two working-class adult judges.

(ALEX HELLER, US, 10 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



DECK 5B

We meet a mother full of desire on a ferry's parking deck. She has to choose between her parental duty and the love she's been waiting for.

(MALIN INGRID JOHANSSON, SWEDEN, 14 MIN)
US PREMIERE



GEORGIE

An ex-mobster reflects on love and loss after spending 32 years in prison.

(JENNIE BUTLER, US, 15 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



JANE AUSTEN'S PERIOD DRAMA

England, 1813 Miss Estrogenia gets her period during a long-awaited marriage proposal.

(JULIA AKS + STEVE PINDER, US, 13 MIN)





LOCA

A woman finds the path to freedom through the energy of tango.

(VÉRONIQUE PAQUETTE, CANADA, 5 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



ZARI

Amidst preparations for her sister's wedding in India, young American Neelu forges an unexpected connection with Zeyb, a quiet sari store clerk with a secret.

(SHRUTI PAREKH, US, INDIA, 19 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



WE WERE THE SCENERY

In 1975, Hoa Thi Le and Hue Nguyen Che fled Vietnam by boat and docked in the Philippines. There, they were utilized as background extras during the filming of *Apocalypse Now*.

(CHRISTOPHER ROBERT RADCLIFF, US, 15 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE

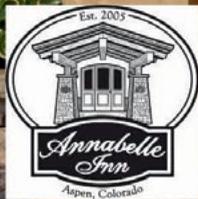


APRÈS SCREENING

STRANAHAN'S WHISKEY LODGE 307 S Mill Street, Aspen

Stranahan's Whiskey Lodge combines majestic mountain views, alpine-inspired bites, and rare pours at their new destination for all things après.

9 PM



(877)266-2466
Visit Annabelleinn.com

232 W Main Street
Aspen, CO 81611

PANEL: WORKING WITH RISING TALENT

2 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

3:30-4:30 PM

THE BOAT TOW 315 E Hyman Street, Aspen

OPEN TO FILMMAKERS, INDUSTRY GUESTS + PASSHOLDERS

Details on page 12



SHORTS PROGRAM 2

5 PM

94 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS

Haunted by rising sea levels, a daughter digs up her father's grave to move his body to higher ground.

(ELHAM EHSAS, UK, 15 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



LUNA AND THE BRAIN TUNA

8-year-old Luna is shocked to learn that her dad has a 'brain tuna' and must use her big imagination to figure out how to help.

(AARON LUCAS, AUSTRALIA, 11 MIN)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE



TEDDY

TEDDY is a portrait of a male birth doula working to improve birth outcomes for Black women in Houston, Texas.

(LAUREN SANTUCCI, US, 16 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



GIGI

From the tormented little mermaid to the fulfilled woman she is today, Gigi tells us about her gender transition with humor and sensitivity.

(CYNTHIA CALVI, FRANCE, 14 MIN)



UNHOLY

UNHOLY follows Noa, a young adult with a complex gastrointestinal disorder, as she attends her family's Passover Seder for the first time since being put on a feeding tube.

(DAISY FRIEDMAN, US, 13 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



THE NICKNAME

A bachelorette party is derailed when one bridesmaid learns she has a terrible nickname.

(RACHEL OLSON, US, 7 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



CATTYWAMPUS

In the middle of a heist, two diamond thieves discover they need to prioritize their work-life balance.

(JONO CHANIN, US, 19 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



SHORTS PROGRAM 3

8 PM

95 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

AND GRANNY WOULD DANCE

Six-year-old Marmar listens to the stories her grandmother's friends tell. She remembers how Granny would start to dance whenever her Grandad played the accordion.

(MARYAM MOHAJER, UK, 10 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



NOW, HEAR ME GOOD

A musician living abroad ponders his sense of community, a self-imposed exile, and what propels him to create.

(DWAYNE LEBLANC, US, 15 MIN)
US PREMIERE



THROUGH THIN ICE

A scientist's run is upended on the Great Salt Lake shores when her dog plunges through the ice, catalyzing a desperate series of choices.

(GABRIELLE KARDON + ARTHUR VEENEMA, US, 11 MIN)



THE WEIGHT OF A DOG

New retiree Dawn's world is upended when she is tasked with chaperoning her adult daughter's abortion.

The generational differences that have shaped their experiences of womanhood clash, and Dawn grapples with the limitations that have shaped her life.

(LUCY SANDLER, US, 16 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



S THE WOLF

A man recounts his capillary peregrinations from adolescence until now - from the barber's trauma to his first love to the loss of his hair and eventually of the most important person in his life.

(SAMEH ALAA, FRANCE, 10 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



CLEAN SLATE

Two Asian nonbinary actors and best friends must make some sacrifices when they go up for the same breakout role.

(EMILY MAY JAMPEL, US, 9 MIN)
WORLD PREMIERE



CHIKHA (QUEEN)

Seventeen-year-old Fatine must choose between embracing her family's chikha musical legacy or pursuing a safer future with her disapproving boyfriend.

(AYOUB LAYOUSSIFI + ZAHOUA RAJI, FRANCE, MOROCCO, 24 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



APRÈS SCREENING

10 PM

GRAVITY HAUS 315 E Hyman Ave, Aspen

Located on the northern edge of Wagner Park, you'll discover Gravity Haus Aspen, inspired by the town's beloved, vibrant ski culture and close-knit community.



PANEL: WHAT ABOUT A FILM MAKES US TAKE NOTICE

2 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

3:30-4:30 PM

THE BOAT TOW 315 E Hyman Street, Aspen

OPEN TO FILMMAKERS, INDUSTRY GUESTS + PASSHOLDERS

Details on page 12



SHORTS PROGRAM 4

5 PM

96 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

ROPE SWING

A young woman revisits a beloved place one final time, reliving memories while embracing change and the uncertainty of moving forward with gratitude for the past.

(ANNA CAPPELLO, US, 3 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



MAX DISTANCE

Stuck in endless droning Zoom meetings, a programmer daydreams about the stranger next door—until she finally gets a chance at love.

(MARISSA GOLDMAN, US, 15 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



MAYBE ELEPHANTS

Three rebellious teenage daughters, a restless mother, a father struggling with potatoes, and maybe some elephants find themselves in Nairobi. What could go wrong?

(TORILL KOVE, NORWAY, CANADA, 17 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE

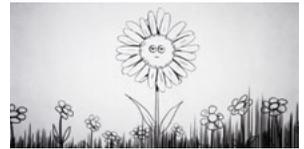


WILD FLOWERS

In a detailed voicemail, a man explains how to use the old lawn tractor to mow the grass on his land without unbalancing the garden.

(THIERRY SIROIS + RUDOLPH SAINT-GELAIS, CANADA, 6 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



ON THE WAY

During a 15-minute car ride, a child and his father engage in a complex discussion, providing a clearer understanding of the reality that Kosovar society faces today.

(SAMIR KARAHODA, KOSOVO, 14 MIN)

US PREMIERE



CLASSROOM 4

CLASSROOM 4 follows an award-winning History professor who teaches a course on the history of crime and punishment in the US to half-incarcerated and half-free students.

(EDEN WURMFELD, US, 39 MIN)

US PREMIERE



SHORTS PROGRAM 5

8 PM

96 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

WE SHOULD EAT

A family dinner takes an unexpected turn when a 12-year-old's school project on identity forces everyone to question who they are—and what's really on the menu.

(SHAINA FEINBERG, US, 10 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



OUT FOR DELIVERY

When terminally ill Joanna decides to pursue end-of-life options, the systems set up to make her death peaceful and dignified yield the opposite.

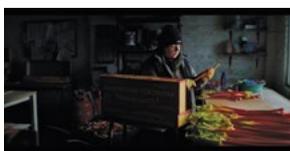
(CHELSEA CHRISTER, US, 17 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



RHUBARB RHUBARB

It's harvest time in the Yorkshire Rhubarb Triangle, where the pink stuff is picked by candlelight.

(KATE MCMULLEN, UK, 16 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



COMO SI LA TIERRA SE LAS HUBIERA TRAGADO (AS IF THE EARTH HAD SWALLOWED THEM UP)

Olivia, a young woman living abroad, returns to her hometown in Mexico, hoping to reconnect with her past.

(NATALIA LEON, FRANCE, 14 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



TIGER

TIGER highlights an Indigenous award-winning, internationally acclaimed artist and elder, Dana Tiger, her family, and the resurgence of the iconic Tiger t-shirt company.

(LOREN WATERS, US, 14 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



VOX HUMANA

An eccentric biologist interrogates a wild man found in the forest after an earthquake hit a small mountain town.

(DON JOSEPHUS RAPHAEL EBLAHAN, PHILIPPINES, US, SINGAPORE, 23 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



APRÈS SCREENING

10 PM

SILVER CITY 210 S Galena St, Aspen

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



PANEL: PLATFORMS + POSSIBILITIES

2 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

3:30-4:30 PM

THE BOAT TOW 315 E Hyman Street, Aspen

OPEN TO FILMMAKERS, INDUSTRY GUESTS + PASSHOLDERS

Details on page 12



SHORTS PROGRAM 6

5 PM

96 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

ON A SUNDAY AT 11

A young Black ballerina performs her Sunday rituals while facing the pressure to perform whiteness—an unapologetic celebration of the powerful, ancestral bond embedded in Black women. (ALICIA K. HARRIS, CANADA, 9 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



AND THE STARS ARE THE SAME

A Mayan elder reflects on the meaning of home a generation after having left hers. (RAÚL PAZ PASTRANA + ALAN DOMINGUEZ, US, 13 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



TENNIS, ORANGES

A robotic vacuum suffering from burnout quits its job at a hospital and sets out to find community and a greater purpose on a quiet street where two lonely rabbits are stuck in perpetual loops. (SEAN PECKNOLD, US, 11 MIN)



SIESTA

Ramona tells a childhood fable to help soothe Cindy's jealousy. But an old curse is awoken. (GUSTAVO RENÉ SANABRIA, PARAGUAY, US, 9 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



A SUMMER'S END POEM

Shortly before the end of the summer holidays, a country boy spends his savings on his dream of a city hairstyle—with surprising results. (LAM CAN-ZHAO, CHINA, SWITZERLAND, MALAYSIA, 15 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



ASTRO

Emily just started working as a telephone psychic for a morally ambiguous spiritual call center. In a series of conversations with callers from varying walks of life, she discovers that perhaps there is something spiritual inside or around her. (TIM EWALTS, NETHERLANDS, 17 MIN) INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE



FILANTE

Every night, Paulette observes the same shooting star in the sky. She makes her deepest wish: to find her mysteriously missing pet rat. Days pass, but the animal doesn't return. Paulette wants to understand what's wrong with her star. (MARION JAMAULT, FRANCE, 9 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE



PORELESS

A fabulous, queer Muslim beauty entrepreneur must figure out how to compete in a Shark Tank-like product pitch contest after suffering an untimely allergic reaction. (HARRIS DORAN, US, 13 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE



SHORTS PROGRAM 7

8 PM

96 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

SUSANA

A middle-aged American woman finds herself alone in Mexico City. When encountering a group of young American tourists, she jumps at the opportunity for a little adventure.

(GERARDO COELLO ESCALANTE + AMANDINE THOMAS, MEXICO, US, 16 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



THE COST OF HUGGING

A conversation between two people in a hotel bar elicits a story about work, purpose, and pandas.

(LOUIS BHOSE, UK, 9 MIN)
US PREMIERE



LIVESTREAMS WITH GRANDMAPUZZLES

A lifelong hobby becomes a lifeline for an unexpected Twitch streamer.

(EMILY SHESKIN, US, 6 MIN)



WRECKED A BUNCH OF CARS, HAD A GOOD TIME

In America, the things we create, we also find a way to destroy. We follow four people who have never met but will smash each other to smithereens in a Demolition Derby.

(JAMES P. GANNON + MATT FERRIN, US, 12 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



A BEAR REMEMBERS

A mysterious metallic sound emanates from the hills and haunts a rural village, leading a lonely boy and an elderly woman on a journey to uncover its source.

(LINDEN FENG + HANNAH PALUMBO, UK, 20 MIN)
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



ROBESPIERRE

After a long absence, Max returns to Paris and settles in with his father in the lively Belleville district.

(PIERRE MENAHEM, FRANCE, 24 MIN)
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



RETIREMENT PLAN

At apathy with his life, Ray dreams of the beauty and joy he will find in retirement.

(JOHN KELLY, IRELAND, 8 MIN)
COLORADO 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.



IN CONVERSATION WITH KEVIN ROWE, CO-FOUNDER OF 2AM

12 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

[DETAILS ON PAGE 9](#)

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

PANEL: CREATIVE SOUND DESIGN FOR SHORT FILMS

2 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

[DETAILS ON PAGE 9](#)

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SHORTS PROGRAM 8

5 PM

96 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

LOS CARPINCHOS (CAPYBARAS)



A family of capybaras seek refuge in a chicken coop, but the hens don't trust them. The curiosity of the youngest members of the families will create a union with unexpected consequences.

(ALFREDO SODERGUIT, FRANCE, URUGUAY, CHILE, 10 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY



A grieving septuagenarian widow with two left feet rediscovers herself at a ballroom dance studio.

(EMILY EVERHARD, US, 11 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE

HEADLAND



On a pebbled beach reclaimed from the ocean, tension rises as the age-old tradition of sea rescues interweaves with recent Channel crossings.

(MARIANNA DUARTE, UK, 13 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE

JULY 4TH, EAST NEW YORK



On July 4th, in East New York, Tomiwa ventures into another neighborhood against his mother's wishes in search of fireworks.

(ADEWALE OLUKAYODE, US, 16 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE

1 HIJO & 1 PADRE (A SON AND A FATHER)



Kevin is seen as a troubled boy. After another incident, he is forced to participate in an all-male behavioral therapy session.

(ANDRÉS RAMÍREZ PULIDO, COLUMBIA, 25 MIN) US PREMIERE

AN ONGOING LIST OF THINGS FOUND IN THE LIBRARY BOOK DROP, USUALLY BEING USED AS BOOKMARKS



Library worker Daniel catalogs an assortment of forgotten objects left in returned books.

(KAYLA ABUDA GALANG, US, 4 MIN) COLORADO PREMIERE

SHE RAISED ME



When a struggling writer discovers he's dating the son of his favorite actress, he'll do anything to make (and keep) a meaningful connection.

(BEN LEWIS, US, CANADA, 14 MIN) WORLD PREMIERE

SHORTS PROGRAM 9

8 PM

96 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

THE FINAL CUT

Alan's life flashes before his eyes—but it's a sloppy sizzle reel. He meets God, a dizzy Hollywood producer, demanding a re-cut, but God gets distracted.

(SASCHA SEINFELD, US, 8 MIN)
WORLD PREMIERE



PIE DAN LO (BLACK TIDE)

On July 25, 2020, the bulk carrier MV Wakashio ran aground on the reef on the east coast of Mauritius. (KIM YIP TONG, FRANCE, MAURITIUS, 14 MIN)
US PREMIERE



ARE YOU SCARED TO BE YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU THINK THAT YOU MIGHT FAIL?

While recovering from top surgery, Mad struggles with wanting their partner's attention and accepting their mother's help.

(BEC PECAUT, CANADA, 18 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



TE EXTRAÑO PERDULA (MISS YOU PERDULARIA)

In a Cuban school, a group of girls who call themselves "Las Perdularias" find ways to cope with an island becoming emptier every day.

(MANU ZILVETI, CUBA, 10 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



APRÈS SCREENING

10 PM

BUCK 508 E Cooper Ave, Aspen

Buck is an unpretentious basement bar/restaurant that brings back mountain-town charm. A local's favorite where ski bums gather for food, drink and community.

BOOTIE'S

An overworked assistant who moonlights at a lap dance party is thrown when her day job boss enters the club. The two are caught in a delightfully awkward game of social chicken and an unspoken power struggle that begs the question – who's really in charge? (MILANA VAYNTRUB, US, 12 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



QUOTA

When every global citizen is required to track their CO2 emissions, it makes little impact... that is until they discover the consequences of reaching their designated quota. (JOB, JORIS & MARIEKE, NETHERLANDS, 3 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



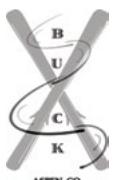
THE BEGUILING

What seems to be a burgeoning romance between two Indigenous people turns sinister as one grows suspicious of the other. When confronted, deceit turns their romantic evening into a darkly comedic nightmare. (ISHKWAZHE SHANE MCSAUBY, US, 15 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



THE SENTRY

A suave spy's routine mission in Cambodia gets complicated when a surprisingly talkative local guard makes him face the human cost of his actions. (JAKE WACHTTEL, CAMBODIA, 18 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



SATURDAY 4/5

PANEL: PATHWAYS + PITFALLS

2 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

SHORTS PROGRAM 10

4 PM

98 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

GRANDMA NAI, WHO PLAYED FAVORITES



During her chaotic family's Qingming visit, dead Grandma Nai sneaks away from her peaceful afterlife after overhearing that her queer grandson is about to get engaged to a woman.

(CHHEANGKEA, CAMBODIA, FRANCE, US, 19 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE

PERCEBES



With the sea and the urban Algarve as a backdrop, we follow the complete life cycle of a special shellfish called PERCEBES, a goose barnacle. From their formation to the dish, we cross different contexts in this journey, allowing us to better understand this region and its inhabitants.

(ALEXANDRA RAMIRES + LAURA GONÇALVES, PORTUGAL, FRANCE, 11 MIN)

BREASTMILK

A new Nigerian mother struggles to breastfeed her baby while navigating her tense relationship with her husband as well as her family's expectations.

(IFEYINWA ARINZE, US, NIGERIA, 16 MIN)
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



THE MAN WHO COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT

In the middle of winter, paramilitary forces stop a passenger train.

(NEBOJŠA SLIJEPČEVIĆ, CROATIA, FRANCE, BULGARIA, SLOVENIA, 13 MIN)



DEATH BY NUMBERS

A school shooting survivor confronts her assailant in a poetic journey to empowerment.

(KIM A. SNYDER, US, 37 MIN)
COLORADO PREMIERE



SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

6-7 PM

THE BOAT TOW 315 E Hyman Street, Aspen

OPEN TO FILMMAKERS, INDUSTRY GUESTS + PASSHOLDERS

Details on page 12





SHORTSFEST AWARDS PROGRAM

7:30 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 12

BY INVITATION | RSVP REQUIRED

Awards determined by our esteemed Juries are presented to filmmakers in a host of categories. Our Animation, Comedy, Documentary, Drama, and Short Short prizes are all Oscar®-qualifiers. The Youth Jury Award is a coveted filmmaker honor, and the Ellen Award is bestowed in the name of Aspen Film's Founder and champion of short film, Ellen Kohner Hunt.



2025 FESTIVAL AWARDS



Underwritten by
David Nochimson



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Mimi Polk Gitlin



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THE ELLEN AWARD

The Ellen Award honors Ellen Kohner Hunt, the Founder and first Executive Director of Aspen Film.

It is awarded to the film whose unique artistry and inventive sentiment open the hearts and minds of the audience. It can be a twisted comedy, a tragic drama, a clever animation, or an enlightening documentary. Whatever genre it comes from, it must linger in one's mind long after the showing, encouraging vibrant community dialogue among its viewers.



ASPEN FILM HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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



INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

Aspen Film is more than movies. We are in fact, an "Independent by Nature" film society that presents two significant film festivals annually, plus year-round film programming, special events, and a robust education program.

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

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

SHORTSFEST 25 BY THE NUMBERS

2
INTERNATIONAL
PREMIERES

11
WORLD
PREMIERES

3
NORTH AMERICAN
PREMIERES

7
US
PREMIERES

39
COLORADO
PREMIERES

29 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Australia Bulgaria Cambodia Canada Chile China Croatia Cuba
France India Ireland Italy Kosovo Malaysia Mauritius Mexico
Moldova Netherlands Nigeria Norway Philippines Portugal
Singapore Slovenia Sweden Switzerland UK Uruguay USA

FESTIVAL TEAM

ASPEN FILM TEAM

Susan Wrubel
Executive + Artistic Director

Jason Anderson
Shortsfest Programming Director

Lucy Lerner
Shortsfest Senior Program Manager

Erin McVoy
Operations + Production Director

Aaron Koehler
Senior Marketing + Communications Manager

Morgan Witt
Production + Marketing Coordinator

Kloe Lee
Office Administrator

Liz Lasko
Membership Coordinator

Regna Frank-Jones
Head of Education Development + Programs

Livier Cruz
Education + Program Coordinator

Alyssa Lopez
Guest Services Manager

Mateus Hueb
Guest Services Coordinator

Adrion Folse
Box Office Coordinator

Erica Fonseca
Filmmaker + Jury Concierge

Lucy Lea Tucker
Public Relations Consultant

Kimi Mischke
Graphic Designer | Brave & Co Design

Daniel Bayer
Photography

Stacey Rinker
Bookkeeper

ASPEN FILM INTERNS

Madi Rochon
Andy Garay

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SPECIAL THANKS

ASPEN DAILY NEWS

Daine Amsden
Josh Behrman
Rachel Bock
David Cook
Geoff Hanson
Spencer McKnight

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

Joe Masher | Owner + CEO Scene One Entertainment
Ismael Ramirez | Theatre Manager
Jacob Akhad
Leigham Azarcon
Francisco Bergamasco
Milagros Capperi
Fiorella Cespedes
Roman Del Grasso
Mateo Fernandez
Lucia Gimenez
Amina Hmani
Sarrah Hmani
Treymon Morrissey
Lucas Nordermeer
Paul Norman
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Joaquina Sabadin
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WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

Michael Baca
Alexandra Feeley
Alex Glen
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Mike Harrington
Ginger Hennington
Cody Hosinski
Nicole Levesque
Jennifer Long
Malia Machado
Maria Machuca
Karen McConnell
Maddy Overton
Risa Rushmore
Matt Thompson
Tom Wardaszka
Peter Weiland

VOLUNTEER PRE-SCREENERS

Ingrid Adkins	Pamela Levy
Jason Argent	Magda Makarucha
Anna Binkley	Judy Matevich
Ann Bray	Gayle Morgan
Penny Brown	Timothy Nelson
Lindsey Campbell	Patrick Oster
Marissa Carlisle	Ali Rezavand
Laurie Chin Sayres	Jessica Robbins
Jim Coddington III	Joan Saffa
Bianca Darby-Matteoda	Terri Sofarelli
Warren Etheredge	Heidi Untener
Thera Freeman	Lisa Waldman
Beth Gage	Chris Wheatle
Janet Grant	Janie Yuguchi Gates
Karen Hawkes	Jane Zinner
Gilbert Houry	



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

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF LOCAL FILM LOVERS!

Members are the core of Aspen Film, supporting our work and creating a vibrant collective of cinephiles. With a variety of benefits, from free screenings to festival passes and special events, members get the inside scoop on buzzy new films and reimagined cult classics. At the theatre, members find familiar faces, intriguing conversations, and a shared love for experiencing new places, ideas, and stories. Memberships offer a range of valuable benefits and exclusive offers at every level.

- 100+ MOVIES EACH YEAR
- FESTIVAL PASSES + DISCOUNTS
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- PREMIERES + FREE SCREENINGS

Ready to be a part of the story?

Members enjoy more access, deeper connections, and unforgettable moments.

[ASPENFILM.ORG/
MEMBERSHIP](https://aspenfilm.org/membership)
[INFO@ASPENFILM.ORG](mailto:info@aspenfilm.org)



FILM EDUCATES

For more than 25 years, the intersection of visual storytelling, learning, and community have been the focus of Aspen Film's FilmEducates programs. Our programs serve geographically and economically diverse audiences and are offered at low or no charge. We promote positive youth development and skill building, cultural understanding, critical thinking, and self expression through one of the most powerful and democratizing forms of creative expression—film.

@Shortsfest

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

@Year Round

FilmEducates increases film access through customized programs in partnership with schools, youth-centric organizations, and mental health providers who understand the power, pervasiveness, and appeal of film to engage with youth.

@SUMMER

Film Camp provides a deep dive into filmmaking for middle and high school students. Participants are introduced to the technical aspects of filmmaking, learn ways to express themselves through film, and experience being part of a creative team. Camps focus on animation or live action filmmaking and are lead by qualified educators from the Cinematic Arts program at Community College of Aurora.

LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR EDUCATION
PROGRAMS HERE



ASPEN FILM CAMP 2025

REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!

CALLING ALL YOUNG STORYTELLERS!

This is your young person's chance to join fellow creatives for an immersive dive into the world of filmmaking.

During each week of camp students will gain valuable hands-on experience using state-of-the-art equipment, while collaborating with each other and crafting short films.

JULY 14-18

ANIMATION CAMP

@ TACAW

400 ROBINSON ST, BASALT

JULY 21-25

MOVIE MAGIC CAMP

@ RED BRICK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

110 E HALLAM ST, ASPEN

MORE
INFO



ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

TACAW

 red brick
center for
the arts



Timeless Townhome in Downtown Aspen

650 S Monarch Street Unit 11, Aspen, CO

Direct Ski Access to Aspen Mountain

Close to Fine Dining, Shops and Culture.

4 Bed, 3.5 Bath, 2,378 Sq Ft

Offered at \$8,950,000



Rare and Coveted Mountain Home

175 White Horse Springs Road, Aspen, CO

Close to downtown Aspen, Sweeping Views of Aspen Ski Area, Timeless Architecture.

4 Bed, 4 Bath, 7,134 Sq Ft, 6.53 Acres

Offered at \$16,750,000



New Construction in Old Snowmass

2388 Lazy O Road, Snowmass, CO

Sold Furnished

4 Bed, 4 Bath, 3,823 Sq Ft

Offered at \$7,975,000



Electric Pass Lodge Luxury

119 Wood Road Unit 206, Snowmass, CO

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 997 Sq Ft

Offered at \$2,695,000



Erik Berg

Engel & Völkers Aspen • Partner & Private Office Advisor

+1 (970) 379-6353 • ErikBergAspen.com

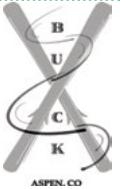
Erik.Berg@EngelVoelkers.com



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