ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

FILMFEST

46TH EDITION 9/16-21 2025

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

aspenfilm.org

The Addy Foundation
Alpine Bank Member FDIC
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Aspen Daily News
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Aspen Public Radio
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THE

Aspen Daily News

THE ASPEN DAILY NEWS CELEBRATES ALL THINGS
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Photo Courtesy Jonatan Moerman.

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HELLO AND WELCOME



Hello and welcome to our 46th Filmfest!

In another upside-down year, we look to cinema to ground us, to infuse elements of humor, brightness, and light, and to reflect on the history of our times.

This year's program reflects directly and indirectly much of what is happening around us and the globe—from elation to devastation. The through line in all of our films is perseverance.

Across our slate, people from all walks of life and different states and countries all remain steadfast in their beliefs and visions—something that feels admirable and positive, amidst the chaos.

Despite how challenged or healthy our characters may feel, their own identities and/or need for connection through family or community propel them to seek new and higher ground.

There is transformation in every one of the films in our lineup, and every character has a metamorphosis that not only affects them, but those around them.

Sharing these experiences in the dark is something unique and special; we believe that the films presented for our 46th Filmfest reveal the many layers of humanity that connect us either as friends or strangers.

We hope that you'll join us for a film or several, and experience these connections that make film so powerful.



Susan Wrubel
Executive + Artistic Director

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

JOIN NOW to enjoy all the benefits an Aspen Film membership has to offer!

- 100+ Movies Each Year
- Festival Passes + Discounts
- Special Events
- Premieres + Free Screenings

aspenfilm.org/membership
970-925-6882

FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE

Tue Sep 16

5-6:30 PM

46TH FILMFEST OPENING RECEPTION

HOOCH

PRIVATE RECEPTION
RSVP REQUIRED

7 PM

LA GRAZIA

(ITALY, 2025) 133 MIN

Wed Sep 17

2 PM

THE PERFECT NEIGHBOR

(US, 2025) 94 MIN

5 PM

FANTASY LIFE

(US, 2025) 91 MIN

8 PM

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT

(IRAN, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, 2025) 101 MIN

Thur Sep 18

2 PM

ANDRÉ IS AN IDIOT

(US, 2025) 88 MIN

5 PM

BOY GEORGE + CULTURE CLUB

(UK, 2025) 97 MIN

8 PM

SENTIMENTAL VALUE

(NORWAY, FRANCE, DENMARK, GERMANY, 2025) 133 MIN

Fri Sep 19

12 PM

REBUILDING

(US, 2025) 95 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

2 PM

SHE RUNS THE WORLD

(US, 2025) 86 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

5 PM

THE LIBRARIANS

(US, 2025) 92 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

8 PM

HEDDA

(US, 2025) 107 MIN

Sat Sep 20

12 PM

THE MARCHING BAND

(FRANCE, 2025) 103 MIN

2 PM

DREAMBOATS

WORLD PREMIERE

(US, 2025) 95 MIN

Q+A TO FOLLOW

5 PM

TRAIN DREAMS

(US, 2025) 102 MIN

8 PM

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

(US, MEXICO, 2025) 128 MIN

Sun Sep 21

12 PM

THE MUPPET MOVIE

(US, 1979) 95 MIN

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Screening Venue

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE

406 EAST HOPKINS AVE, ASPEN

SCAN FOR SCHEDULE AND MORE INFORMATION

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 FILM @ FILMFEST

12 PM Film is 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 before each screening.

PASSES

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

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.

IN PERSON

September 9-12 @ the Aspen Film Office
110 E Hallam St, Ste 115

AF Office ticket pickup: 12–4:30 PM, Tuesday–Friday

September 16-20 @ the Filmfest Box Office
420 E Hopkins Ave
(Aspen Fire Station driveway)

Filmfest Box Office hours: 11 AM–8 PM, Tuesday–Saturday

Cash + Credit Cards will be accepted.

DOORS OPEN POLICY

20 minutes before the screening AF Passholders

15 minutes before the screening AF Members

10 minutes before 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.

SOCIAL

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

@ASPENFILM | #Filmfest2025



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Partner and Private Office Advisor

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Experience Matters



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TUESDAY 9/16

46th Filmfest Opening Reception

5-6:30 PM

PRIVATE RECEPTION

BY INVITATION ONLY | RSVP REQUIRED

HOOCH
CRAFT COCKTAIL BAR



7 PM

LA GRAZIA

Oscar®-winner Paolo Sorrentino's portrait of a man reflecting on his life and his relationships with power, duty, and family. LA GRAZIA centers around the fictional Presidente Mariano De Santis (starring Sorrentino's muse Toni Servillo), whose term is nearly up.

(ITALY, 2025) 133 MIN | DRAMA

DIRECTOR Paolo Sorrentino

WRITER Paolo Sorrentino

FESTIVALS Venice Film Festival 2025; Telluride Film Festival 2025; New York Film Festival 2025

WITH Toni Servillo, Anna Ferzetti, Orlando Cinque



2 PM

THE PERFECT NEIGHBOR

Using bodycam footage from dozens of police visits, THE PERFECT NEIGHBOR bears witness to a tight-knit community navigating one neighbor's relentless harassment. But her hostility takes a sinister turn when it escalates into a fatal crime.

(US, 2025) 94 MIN | DOCUMENTARY

DIRECTOR Geeta Gandbhir

FESTIVALS Sundance Film Festival 2025, WINNER - Directing Award, US Documentary; SXSW 2025; Full Frame Documentary Film Festival 2025; New York Film Festival 2025; Sheffield International Documetary Festival 2025



5 PM

FANTASY LIFE

After getting laid off, a thirty-something paralegal in New York starts babysitting his psychiatrist's three granddaughters and falls for their mother, an actress in a rocky marriage.

(US, 2025) 91 MIN | COMEDY

DIRECTOR Matthew Shear

WRITER Matthew Shear

FESTIVALS SXSW 2025, WINNER - Special Jury Award, Audience Award, Narrative Feature

WITH Amanda Peet, Matthew Shear, Alessandro Nivola, Judd Hirsch

COMMUNITY PARTNER

HEADQUARTERS



8 PM

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT

What begins as a minor accident sets in motion a series of escalating consequences.

(IRAN, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, 2025) 101 MIN | ACTION, ADVENTURE, CRIME

DIRECTOR Jafar Panahi

WRITER Jafar Panahi

FESTIVALS Cannes Film Festival 2025, WINNER - Palme d'Or; Toronto International Film Festival 2025; Telluride Film Festival 2025; New York Film Festival 2025

WITH Vahid Mobasseri, Mariam Afshari, Ebrahim Azizi, Hadis Pakbaten, Majid Panahi, Mohamad Ali Elyasmehr

THURSDAY 9/18



2 PM

ANDRÉ IS AN IDIOT

André, a brilliant idiot, is dying because he didn't get a colonoscopy. His sobering diagnosis, complete irreverence, and insatiable curiosity send him on an unexpected journey learning how to die happily and ridiculously without losing his sense of humor.

(US, 2025) 88 MIN | DOCUMENTARY

DIRECTOR Tony Benna

FESTIVALS Sundance Film Festival 2025, WINNER - Jonathan Oppenheim Editing Award, Audience Award, US Documentary; Cannes Film Festival 2025; Sydney Film Festival 2025

WITH André Ricciardi

COMMUNITY PARTNER

pathfinders
you never have to walk alone



5 PM

BOY GEORGE + CULTURE CLUB

A provocative, chaotic, and impossibly fun look at one of music's most groundbreaking bands. An intimate portrait of the band's meteoric rise to fame, their dramatic split, and their remarkable reunion for the film.

(UK, 2025) 97 MIN | DOCUMENTARY

DIRECTOR Allison Ellwood

FESTIVALS Tribeca Film Festival 2025

COMMUNITY PARTNER

AspenOUT



8 PM

SENTIMENTAL VALUE

Sisters Nora and Agnes reunite with their estranged father, the charismatic Gustav, a once-renowned director who offers stage actress Nora a role in what he hopes will be his comeback film. When Nora turns it down, she soon discovers he has given her part to an eager young Hollywood star. Suddenly, the two sisters must navigate their complicated relationship with their father — and deal with an American star dropped right into the middle of their complex family dynamics.

(NORWAY, FRANCE, DENMARK, GERMANY, 2025) 133 MIN | DRAMA

DIRECTOR Joachim Trier

WRITERS Joachim Trier, Eskil Vogt

FESTIVALS Cannes Film Festival 2025, WINNER - Grand Prize of the Festival; Toronto International Film Festival 2025; Telluride Film Festival 2025; New York Film Festival 2025

WITH Renate Reinsve, Stellan Skarsgard, Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas, Elle Fanning, Anders Danielsen Lie, Jesper Christensen



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FRIDAY 9/19



12 PM

REBUILDING

A gentle humanist story of resilience that follows a cowboy to a trailer camp in the American West after losing his family ranch to wildfire. As he reconnects with his daughter and ex-wife, he finds an unlikely community in his neighbors.

(US, 2025) 95 MIN | DRAMA

Q+A TO FOLLOW

DIRECTOR Max Walker-Silverman

WRITER Max Walker-Silverman

FESTIVALS Sundance Film Festival 2025; Seattle International Film Festival 2025; Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2025; Melbourne International Film Festival 2025

WITH Josh O'Connor, Meghann Fahy, Amy Madigan, Kali Reis, Lily LaTorre, Nancy Morlan, Zeilyanna Martinez

COMMUNITY PARTNER





2 PM

SHE RUNS THE WORLD

Allyson Felix is the most decorated track and field athlete of all time. At the height of her career, she faced a life-threatening pregnancy — and a nearly 70% pay cut from Nike, exposing a sports industry without maternal protections. But Felix turned adversity into action, redefining what it means to be a champion and sparking a movement far beyond the track.

(US, 2025) 86 MIN | DOCUMENTARY

Q+A TO FOLLOW

DIRECTORS Perri Peltz, Matthew O'Neill

FESTIVALS Tribeca Film Festival 2025

WITH Allyson Felix, Wes Felix

COMMUNITY PARTNER



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



5 PM

THE LIBRARIANS

As an unprecedented wave of book banning is sparked in Texas, Florida, and beyond, librarians under siege join forces as unlikely defenders fighting for intellectual freedom on the front lines of democracy.

(US, 2025) 92 MIN | DOCUMENTARY

Q+A TO FOLLOW

DIRECTOR Kim A. Snyder

FESTIVALS Sundance Film Festival 2025; Dallas International Film Festival 2025, WINNER - Grand Jury Prize; SXSW 2025; Sarasota Film Festival 2025, WINNER - Jury Prize; Seattle International Film Festival 2025, WINNER - Lena Sharpe Award for Persistence of Vision; Full Frame Documentary Festival 2025; Miami Film Festival 2025; DC/DOX Film Festival 2025

COMMUNITY PARTNER

ASPEN WORDS

aspen institute



8 PM

HEDDA

From writer/director Nia DaCosta comes a provocative, modern reimagining of Henrik Ibsen's classic play. HEDDA (Tessa Thompson) finds herself torn between the lingering ache of a past love and the quiet suffocation of her present life. Over the course of one charged night, long-repressed desires and hidden tensions erupt — pulling her and everyone around her into a spiral of manipulation, passion, and betrayal.

(US, 2025) 107 MIN | DRAMA

DIRECTOR Nia DaCosta

WRITER Nia DaCosta
Based on: "Hedda Gabler" by Henrik Ibsen

FESTIVALS Toronto International Film Festival 2025; London Film Festival 2025

WITH Tessa Thompson, Imogen Poots, Tom Bateman, Nicholas Pinnock, Nina Hoss

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

SATURDAY 9/20



12 PM

THE MARCHING BAND

Thibaut is an internationally renowned conductor who travels the world. When he learns he was adopted, he discovers the existence of a younger brother, Jimmy, who works in a school cafeteria and plays the trombone in a small marching band. Everything seems to set them apart, except their love of music. Sensing his brother's exceptional talent, Thibaut decides to remedy the injustice of fate. Jimmy begins to dream of a different life...

(FRANCE, 2024) 103 MIN | COMEDY, DRAMA

DIRECTOR Emmanuel Courcol

WRITERS Emmanuel Courcol, Irène Muscari

FESTIVALS Cannes Film Festival 2024

WITH Benjamin Lavernhe, Pierre Lottin, Sarah Suco, Jacques Bonnaffé, Clémence Massart-Weit, Anne Loiret

COMMUNITY PARTNER

ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL AND SCHOOL 75

2024-2026 A 3-YEAR CELEBRATION



2 PM

DREAMBOATS WORLD PREMIERE

English-born restaurateur Ben Towill and chef Charlie Layton, self-proclaimed "slightly soft chefs" driven by a passion for food and adventure, find themselves at a crossroads during the pandemic. Seeking a new goal to anchor themselves amid the uncertainty, they set their sights on an audacious challenge: rowing 3,000 miles across the Atlantic in the World's Toughest Row.

(US, 2025) 95 MIN | DOCUMENTARY

Q+A TO FOLLOW

DIRECTOR Zachary Thompson

ASPEN FILMFEST

A Legacy of Cinema Over the Years

990 FILMS



5 PM

TRAIN DREAMS

Based on Denis Johnson's beloved novella, TRAIN DREAMS is the moving portrait of Robert Grainier, a logger and railroad worker who leads a life of unexpected depth and beauty in the rapidly changing America of the early 20th Century.

(US, 2025) 102 MIN | DRAMA

DIRECTOR Clint Bentley

WRITERS Clint Bentley, Greg Kwedar

FESTIVALS Sundance Film Festival 2025; Toronto International Film Festival 2025

WITH Joel Edgerton, Felicity Jones, Nathaniel Arcand, Clifton Collins Jr., John Diehl, Paul Schneider, Kerry Condon, William H. Macy

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Aspen Historical Society



8 PM

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN

DREAMGIRLS and BEAUTY AND THE BEAST director Bill Condon returns to the movie musical in this dazzling Technicolor-hued fantasy.Valentín (Diego Luna), a political prisoner, shares a cell with Molina (Tonatiuh), a window dresser convicted of public indecency. The two form an unlikely bond as Molina recounts the plot of a Hollywood musical starring his favorite silver screen diva, Ingrid Luna (Jennifer Lopez). Based on the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical hit.

(US, MEXICO, 2025) 128 MIN | DRAMA, MUSICAL

DIRECTOR Bill Condon

WRITERS Bill Condon, Terrence McNally, Manuel Puig

FESTIVALS Sundance Film Festival 2025; Locarno Film Festival 2025

WITH Diego Luna, Tonatiuh, Jennifer Lopez, Bruno Bichir, Josefina Scaglione, Aline Mayagoitia

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Justice for Migrant Women

74 COUNTRIES

316 OSCAR® NODS

9/21 SUNDAY



FREE COMMUNITY SCREENING

12 PM

THE MUPPET MOVIE

Kermit and his newfound friends trek across America to find success in Hollywood, but a frog-legs merchant is after Kermit.

(US, 1979) 95 MIN | ADVENTURE, COMEDY, FAMILY

DIRECTOR James Frawley

WRITERS Jerry Juhl, Jack Burns

WITH Jim Henson, Frank Oz, Jerry Nelson, Richard Hunt, Dave Goelz

COMMUNITY PARTNER

buddy program
INSPIRE. EMPOWER. MENTOR.



ABOUT ASPEN 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 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 46-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 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 Senior Marketing + Communications Manager
REGNA FRANK-JONES Head of Education Development + Programs
LIZ LASKO Membership Coordinator
MORGAN WITT Production Coordinator
KLOE LEE Office Administrator
LUCY LEA TUCKER Public Relations Consultant
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A huge THANK YOU to all of our volunteers!

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

35TH EDITION

SHORTSFEST

DOCUMENTARY · DRAMA · ANIMATION · INTERNATIONAL · COMEDY · THRILLER







APRIL 7-11, 2026

VISIT ASPENFILM.ORG #SHORTSFEST

Aspen Shortsfest is recognized as one of the premier short film festivals in North America. Each April, enthusiastic audiences, filmmakers, and special guests from around the globe gather to participate in public screenings, panels, workshops, and other festivities that spotlight the art and craft of short-form cinema.

Follow Us
@aspenfilm

FILM EDUCATES

FilmEducates started in 1998 to bring free arts-based enrichment and media literacy programs to rural youth. Twenty-seven years later, it's become the hub for film education in our region, nurturing the next generation of storytellers.

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.

SPECIAL THANKS to the Addy Foundation, Alpine Bank, Aspen Community Foundation, AspenOut, City of Aspen, Colorado Mountain College, The Ellen Fund, Colorado Office of Film, Media + Television, Rotary Club of Aspen, Thrift Shop of Aspen, Town of Basalt Public Arts Commission and individual donors and foundations for supporting our educational initiatives.

KEY PROGRAMS

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

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.



INTERNSHIPS We offer immersive, credit-bearing learning experiences and career-building opportunities for students in film and media. College-level students gain behind-the-scenes knowledge of the film industry and develop skills in professional communication, event production, and content creation.

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 specific programs at Filmfest and Shortsfest at no charge.



YOUNG FILMMAKER LABS At Shortsfest, visiting filmmakers meet with high school students to screen films, including student works-in-progress, explore the creative process, and offer feedback on students' work.

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

OBSESSED WITH FILMS THAT MAKE YOU LAUGH, CRY, AND THINK ALL IN ONE SITTING?



AF MATCH *for the* MOVIES

From indie gems to award-winning features, Aspen Film delivers the very best in cinema to Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley all year long—**but we can't do it without your support.**

Aspen Film's **Match for the Movies campaign is live!** For a limited time, every donation, new membership, and membership upgrade will be **matched dollar for dollar—up to $100,000**—now through September 30. ***Double Your Impact, Double Your Donation.***

Champion the stories that move, inspire, and connect us!

VISIT
aspenfilm.org