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# SHORTSFEST

35TH EDITION 4/7-11,  
2026

OFFICIAL  
PROGRAM  
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# HELLO AND WELCOME



## Welcome to our 35th Shortsfest!

This is a record-breaking year for us! More than 3,200 filmmakers submitted work — the most in our history. From that extraordinary pool, our programming team has curated 61 films from 25 countries and six continents (Antarctica, we're coming for you). Eight are world premieres, and we are truly delighted to be the first festival to bring them to a public audience.

Aspen Shortsfest is proud to be one of the few exclusively shorts-only festivals in the U.S. with Oscar®-qualifying awards in five categories. This year, we're especially thrilled to welcome back *JANE AUSTEN'S PERIOD DRAMA* — a recent nominee for the Oscar® for Best Live-Action Short — along with filmmakers Julia Aks and Steve Pinder, who join us April 8 at the Isis to talk about their remarkable journey.

Beyond the screenings, join us for conversations at the Aspen Film Isis Theatre during the day. Talk to the person next to you. The films will give you plenty to say.

That's where the real magic lives.

**Welcome — and enjoy every frame.**

Kitty Boone  
Executive Director

**The 35th edition of Aspen Shortsfest feels momentous in so many ways.** First and foremost, the festival's programming team is thrilled to be part of an incredible tradition of celebrating films and filmmakers at Shortsfest that goes all the way back to 1991 (and even further back for the whole of Aspen Film's year-round events and activities). We feel like it's an immense privilege to have the chance to shine a light on talents who may be only beginning to make their mark in the cinema world.

**With the 35th program, the team believes we've delivered one of the most diverse, most remarkable, and most impactful Shortsfest selections ever.**

Our amazing audiences at the Wheeler Opera House will soon embark on a journey that consists of 61 live-action narrative, animated, and documentary shorts.

And make no mistake: it wasn't easy getting to this point, what with the over 3,200 submissions—and the incredible abundance of fantastic new films from which we had to somehow choose the best of the best.

Yet we emerged at the other end with tired—and sometimes teary—eyes, along with the burning desire to share these discoveries with viewers whose spirit of openness and generosity toward all this new talent wows us again and again.

To be part of an experience that's been so special to so many of us over the course of 35 editions is truly one of those joys that just keeps on giving and giving. **We can't wait for the Wheeler's house lights to dim and the screen to light up once again... and then many more times after that.**

Jason Anderson  
Shortsfest Programming Director





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# PROGRAMMING TEAM

## Jason Anderson **Shortsfest Programming Director**

Jason Anderson is a programmer, writer, and lecturer based in Toronto. He's the lead programmer for Canada and the international programmer for the Nordic and Benelux regions for the Toronto International Film Festival. He was also the longtime programmer for Short Cuts, TIFF's annual program of shortform cinema. He also programs features and shorts for the Kingston Canadian Film Festival and the Macau International Shorts Film Festival. He has served on juries for such festivals as Hot Docs, the Tampere Film Festival, Vienna Independent Shorts, Glasgow 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 and Sight & Sound. 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.



## 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, made its festival premiere in 2025.



## 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 2026.



## Anita Tavakol **Programmer**

Anita Tavakol has worked in film programming and arts administration for 15 years, with a particular focus on supporting and elevating the work of new filmmaking voices, beginning at the Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival. She has been a part of the programming teams for Aspen Shortsfest and the Atlantic International Film Festival, held a variety of roles in Festival and Industry Programming at the Toronto International Film Festival, including Short Cuts Programming Associate and Talent Development Manager, and most recently served as Industry Producer at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival.



## Alex Heller Jury

Alex Heller is a writer/director working between Los Angeles, Chicago, and Norway. Her debut feature film *THE YEAR BETWEEN*, an autobiographical comedy about bipolar disorder that stars J. Smith-Cameron and Steve Buscemi, premiered at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival. It then sold to Peacock and received praise from *The New York Times*, *Variety*, Roger Ebert, and NPR. Heller's recent short film *DEBATERS* (starring J. Smith-Cameron and Kenneth Lonergan) premiered at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, was selected for the Sundance Short Film Tour, and is a proof-of-concept for an upcoming feature film of the same title.



## Yvonne Ashley Kouadjo Jury

Yvonne Ashley Kouadjo is an Emmy-winning producer and curator for Op-Docs, *The New York Times*'s esteemed platform for short documentaries. Since 2011, Op-Docs films have sparked global conversations, influenced national policies, and garnered an array of industry distinctions.

Yvonne Ashley collaborates with independent filmmakers globally, developing and championing films that include *INSTRUMENTS OF A BEATING HEART* (2025 Oscar® Nominee) and *ISLAND IN BETWEEN* (2024 Oscar® Nominee). She frequently participates in film festivals and markets, serving on various panels, forums, and juries, and leading seminars.



## Claudia Puig Jury

Claudia Puig is a nationally recognized film critic, entertainment journalist, and film festival curator. She has been Director of Programming for the Santa Barbara International Film Festival since 2021 and is also Program Director for the Cascadia International Women's Film Festival. She previously served as Senior Programmer for the AFI Film Festival and has led programming for the Mendocino, Napa Valley, and FilmFest 919 festivals.

Puig was President of the Los Angeles Film Critics Association from 2016–2023, and a speechwriter and consultant for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She spent 15 years as lead movie critic at *USA Today* and 11 years at the *Los Angeles Times*, contributing to Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles uprising.

A frequent moderator and commentator, she spent 20 years as a film critic on National Public Radio's "Film Week." She is fluent in Spanish and holds degrees from UCLA and USC.



## Celia Aniskovich Industry, Switchboard

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. Last year, she launched a new long-form nonfiction digital magazine, *Switchboard*, which serves as an IP incubator for TV and film properties.



## Abe Bengio Industry, WME Independent

Abe Bengio is an Agent at WME Independent, the packaging and sales division of William Morris Endeavor. During his time at WME, Abe has packaged and sold award-winning directors' films including Beth de Araujo's JOSEPHINE (Sundance 2026 Winner; in Competition at the Berlin International Film Festival), Ruben Östlund's TRIANGLE OF SADNESS (Palme d'Or Winner; nominated for three Academy Awards including Best Picture), Alex Russell's LURKER (Sundance 2025; Independent Spirit Awards), Saim Sadiq's JOYLAND (Cannes Jury Prize Winner; Academy Award shortlisted for Best International Feature), and Ira Sachs' PASSAGES (Sundance 2023; acquired by MUBI). Prior to WME, Abe was a Manager of Film Sales at Fifth Season (f.k.a. Endeavor Content). With a focus on international talent, writers, and directors, he also represents production companies, financiers, and entertainment venture funds in North America and abroad. Abe hails from Montreal and received a BFA in Creative Producing from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.



## Beau Farrell Industry, Vimeo

Beau is a Curator for Vimeo Staff Picks. He previously served as an Associate Shorts Programmer for SXSW and has screened at AFI Fest, Heartland International Film Festival, Indy Shorts, and Santa Fe Independent Film Festival. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife and daughters.



## Jo Light Industry, No Film School

Jo Light has spent over a decade at the intersection of Hollywood and the written word. She worked for five years as a professional script analyst at Relativity Media and ICM Partners before turning that expertise toward her own screenwriting, landing a horror feature in an Austin Film Festival live table read and winning first place in Midwest WeirdFest's inaugural feature screenplay competition. She holds a Master's of Professional Writing from the University of Oklahoma and has taught writing at the college level. Since 2018, she's been a staff writer at No Film School and also contributes to the Final Draft blog.



## Julia Aks + Steve Pinder Co-Directors, JANE AUSTEN'S PERIOD DRAMA

Oscar®-nominated duo Julia Aks & Steve Pinder's humor has often been described as "easy" and "I don't get it, it's just CASABLANCA with farts." The pair met in 2016 when Steve was a film student at USC, directing a SOUND OF MUSIC parody about climate change, with zombies. He needed an actor who could pull off a kick-ass Julie Andrews impersonation, and Ms. Aks waltzed into his life. In 2019, Julia reached out to Steve with a wild idea: co-direct a Julie Andrews shot-for-shot remake of Ariana Grande's hit 7 RINGS music video. The parody went viral, and the two began a string of collaborations for Julia's YouTube channel, including the sketches REST IN BEAUTY, YOU ARE MY ROCK (MY DWAYNE, MY JOHNSON), and the aforementioned GASABLANCA. In 2024, the pair took the leap from sketch to cinema, making their first narrative short film: a satire about menstruation called JANE AUSTEN'S PERIOD DRAMA. The film enjoyed a wildly successful film festival run, won the Jury Award for Comedy at Aspen Shortsfest, and is nominated for an Academy Award®. Julia and Steve live in LA, where they are developing a feature film version of JANE AUSTEN'S PERIOD DRAMA and other irreverent comedies with heart.



# INDUSTRY + PANEL CONVERSATIONS

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

Join us for in-depth conversations with visiting Shortsfest jury and industry guests as we discuss process and craft, explore next steps, and examine the opportunities for short films in today's marketplace.

## IN CONVERSATION WITH JULIA AKS + STEVE PINDER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 | 2 PM

**OPEN TO FILMMAKERS, INDUSTRY GUESTS + PASSHOLDERS**

After charming Shortsfest audiences and winning the Oscar®-qualifying Jury Award for Comedy for their delightful JANE AUSTEN'S PERIOD DRAMA in 2025, directors Julia Aks and Steve Pinder make a very welcome return to Aspen. They will take part in a special onstage conversation about every stop on their acclaimed short's eventful journey from first inspirations all the way to the Academy Awards®.

**PARTICIPANTS** Julia Aks + Steve Pinder

## PLATFORMS + POSSIBILITIES

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 | 2 PM

**OPEN TO FILMMAKERS, INDUSTRY GUESTS + PASSHOLDERS**

This session will explore different avenues shorts can take to reach audiences with a special focus on the ever-expanding role and growing importance of online platforms. Our panelists will address the diverse audiences their platforms reach, the many objectives they serve, and how filmmakers have successfully used them to get eyes on their work and generate interest in their projects and careers going forward.

**PARTICIPANTS** Celia Aniskovich, Switchboard + Beau Farrell, Vimeo

## IN CONVERSATION WITH ABE BENGIO

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 | 2 PM

**OPEN TO FILMMAKERS, INDUSTRY GUESTS + PASSHOLDERS**

Abe Bengio joins us in conversation to discuss his unique vantage on the film world as an agent at WME Independent who has packaged and sold award-winning films by such vanguard directors as Ruben Östlund, Saim Sadiq, and Ira Sachs. We will talk about navigating the changing landscape for creators of film and TV, with a focus on how emerging US and international talents can develop the skills and strategies they need to realize projects that are bold, compelling, and unique.

**PARTICIPANT** Abe Bengio, WME Independent

## PATHWAYS + PITFALLS

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 | 12 PM

**OPEN TO FILMMAKERS, INDUSTRY GUESTS + PASSHOLDERS**

Our esteemed jury members share valuable lessons and insightful stories from their careers, highlighting successes and noting pitfalls to avoid in the film world. Hear industry anecdotes, get pragmatic advice, and learn about what it takes to forge a way forward.

**PARTICIPANTS** Alex Heller, Yvonne Ashley Kouadjo, Claudia Puig

# FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE

## Mon 4/6

### VOICES IN FILM YOUTH FORUM KICKOFF EVENT

Basalt High School

BY INVITATION

## Tue 4/7

4 PM

### PROGRAM 1 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

6-7 PM

### OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

BY INVITATION

8 PM

### PROGRAM 2 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

## Wed 4/8

2 PM

### PANEL: IN CONVERSATION WITH JULIA AKS + STEVE PINDER

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

4 PM

### PROGRAM 3 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

6-7 PM

### SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

8 PM

### PROGRAM 4 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

## Thu 4/9

2 PM

### PANEL: PLATFORMS + POSSIBILITIES

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

4 PM

### PROGRAM 5 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

6-7 PM

### SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

8 PM

### PROGRAM 6 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

## Fri 4/10

2 PM

### PANEL: IN CONVERSATION WITH ABE BENGIO

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

4 PM

### PROGRAM 7 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

6-7 PM

### SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

8 PM

### PROGRAM 8 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

## Sat 4/11

12 PM

### PANEL: PATHWAYS + PITFALLS

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

2 PM

### PROGRAM 9 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

5 PM

### PROGRAM 10 + FILMMAKER Q+A

Wheeler Opera House

8 PM

### SHORTSFEST AWARDS PROGRAM

Aspen Film Isis Theatre

BY INVITATION

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## Venues

**WHEELER OPERA HOUSE** 320 EAST HYMAN AVE, ASPEN

**ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE** 406 EAST HOPKINS AVE, ASPEN

SCAN FOR  
SCHEDULE



## FESTIVAL + MEMBER PASSES

All Festival Passes include access to screenings, panel conversations, and select events.

## PASS PICKUP

**April 7-10 | 10 AM - 8 PM**  
**Shortsfest Filmmaker Lounge**  
@ The Aspen Collective  
213 S. Mill St, Aspen, CO 81611

*\*No pass pickup at the Wheeler Opera House*

## 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](mailto:aspenfilmeducates@gmail.com) with questions*

## TICKET PICKUP

All single tickets must be processed via the:

**Wheeler Opera House Box Office**  
320 East Hyman Ave, Aspen  
**970-920-5770 [Aspenshowtix.com](http://Aspenshowtix.com)**

Doors Open 30 minutes before showtime.

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

## REFUND POLICY

It is Aspen Film's policy not to issue refunds for tickets or passes purchased. If you wish to transfer tickets or a pass to a different individual, please reach out to [info@aspenfilm.org](mailto:info@aspenfilm.org).

## PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Many short films are unrated and contain mature themes +/or language. Aspen Film advises that 4 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](mailto:info@aspenfilm.org) or **970-925-6882**

## LAND USE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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 for expressing diverse perspectives, experiences, identities, and unique interpretations of art and life. We are committed to providing our audiences, guests, and partners with a safe experience 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](mailto: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

Tuesday, April 7

6-7 PM

BY INVITATION | RSVP REQUIRED

### Wheeler Opera House

320 E Hyman Avenue, Aspen

Lite bites + refreshments will be available for filmmakers and invited guests.



## SHORTSFEST AWARDS PROGRAM

Saturday, April 11

8 PM

BY INVITATION | RSVP REQUIRED

### Aspen Film Isis Theatre

406 E Hopkins Avenue, Aspen

Awards presented by our esteemed Jury will be awarded to filmmakers across a host of categories.

Our Animation, Comedy, Documentary, Drama, and Short Short award-winners are all Oscar®-qualifiers. The Youth Jury Award is a coveted honor for filmmakers, and the Ellen Award is bestowed by dear friends of Aspen Film's Founder and champion of short film, Ellen Kohner Hunt.

## SIP + CHATS

Wednesday-Friday, April 8-10

6-7 PM

OPEN TO FILMMAKERS + INDUSTRY GUESTS

### Aspen Brewing Company

121 S Galena Street, Aspen

We're pleased to welcome Shortsfest filmmakers + industry guests to our daily SIP + CHATS at the Aspen Brewing Company. Join us for relaxed conversation, connection, and a little buzz in-between film screenings.



## FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION VISIT

[aspenfilm.org](http://aspenfilm.org)



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#SHORTAF



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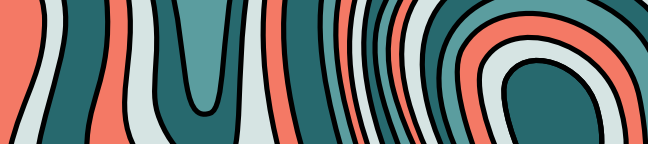


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# MONDAY 4/6



## VOICES IN FILM YOUTH FORUM KICKOFF EVENT

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 and student work. The program is hosted by students with a filmmaker Q+A.



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## SHORTS PROGRAM 1

4 PM

93 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### EARTH TO PERCY

On a long-term mission aboard the International Space Station, an astronaut discovers the rest of the crew have become best friends without him.

(JEREMY BEILER, US, 13 MIN)



### ZWERMEN (MURMURATION)

An elderly man realizes he's suddenly turning into a bird.

(JANNEKE SWINKELS + TIM FRIJSINGER, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, 13 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### AGAPITO

It's the last day of the month. Bowlers flock to the lanes of a bowling alley that has seen better days. Mira, the manager, decides to close early. She's awaiting the arrival of a special visitor.

(KYLA ROMERO + ARVIN BELARMINO, PHILIPPINES, FRANCE, 15 MIN)

US PREMIERE



### SOLEIL PÂLE (PALE SUN)

On a beach in summer, 12-year-old Abel is ashamed of his father's body, marked by cancer.

(ADRIAN MOYSE DULLIN + JAWAHINE ZENTAR, FRANCE, 16 MIN)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



### THE BAKER'S HOTLINE

At a hotline for baking emergencies, a small team fields calls from strangers in crisis, only to discover that behind each kitchen catastrophe lies a tender, messy slice of someone's life.

(DAVE SCHUMAN + EMILY SCHUMAN, US, 13 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### JAH! (YES!)

In a world that rewards success, failure might be the most radical act.

(MADLI LÄÄNE, ESTONIA, 4 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### GATORVILLE

In Colorado's forgotten valley, two siblings face alligators and the ache of leaving youth behind.

(FREDDIE GLUCK, US, 19 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



## OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

6-7 PM

WHEELER OPERA HOUSE 320 E Hyman Avenue, Aspen

BY INVITATION | RSVP REQUIRED



## SHORTS PROGRAM 2

8 PM

93 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### IRTIZAZ

At a funeral, a young divorcee is thrust into a competition, navigating the treacherous social jungle to prove she's still worthy of being claimed as a potential wife by the grieving widow's son.

(SARA BALGHONAIM, SAUDI ARABIA, 14 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### AIR HORSE ONE

Training, Take-Off, Grand Prix. Legacy is one of the most valuable and celebrated horses in show jumping. In pursuit of victories, she is flown between competition venues across the globe, experiencing long journeys in the business class of equine air travel.

(LASSE LINDER, SWITZERLAND, BELGIUM, 21 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### BALCONADA

A hot summer day brings several neighbors out on their balconies. During a sudden rainstorm, one of them gets a burst of inspiration, which encourages the rest to live in the moment.

(IVA TOKMAKCHIEVA, BULGARIA, FRANCE, 8 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### NERVOUS ENERGY

On the cusp of success/failure, two unhinged female filmmakers decide to break up with their boyfriends, and for once, make a bold decision with their lives.

(EVE LIU, US, 15 MIN)



### RAMÓN WHO SPEAKS TO GHOSTS

After a volcanic eruption, Ramón walks the island of La Palma with his microphone, looking for ghosts.

(SHERVIN KERMANI, SPAIN, CANADA, MEXICO, 8 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE

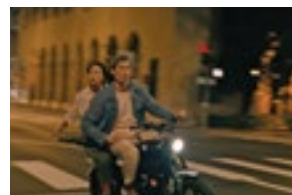


### DASHER

A down-and-out delivery driver and a disgruntled waitress team up to find holiday spirit amidst the madness of a Honolulu Christmas.

(ALEXANDER BOCCHIERI, US, 27 MIN)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



## PANEL: IN CONVERSATION WITH JULIA AKS + STEVE PINDER

2 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

## SHORTS PROGRAM 3

4 PM

91 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### MANGO SEED

In this tender autobiographical account, a young woman's decision to pursue her dreams in another city impacts her relationship with her father.

(BERNI JIANG, AUSTRALIA, 14 MIN)

US PREMIERE



### SULAIMANI

One evening in Paris, two strangers – both young women from Kerala, India – find themselves in an Indian restaurant. The space's sights, sounds and smells take them on a journey through bittersweet memories of their uprooting and emancipation.

(VINNIE ANN BOSE, FRANCE, 20 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### THE BOYS AND THE BEES

On an idyllic farm in rural Georgia, young parents tenderly share their knowledge of life, love, and nature with their young sons while teaching them the art of beekeeping.

(ARIELLE KNIGHT, US, 19 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### FORAGERS

A young couple foraging for mushrooms is caught in a lightning storm, an experience that unearths the quiet distance buried between them.

(CARLOS CAGIN, US, 14 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



### ON THE 8

Drowning in postpartum anxiety, a chorus-line dancer played by Mamie Gummer is pulled back into an audition she thought motherhood had left behind.

(JULIE CAVALIERE, US, 8 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



### JAZZ INFERNAL

Koffi, a young Ivorian trumpeter, arrives in Montreal with nothing but the legacy of his father to guide him. Lost between the city's noise and the silence of his past, he must confront his roots to finally find his own voice.

(WILL NIAVA, CANADA, 16 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



## SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

6-7 PM

ASPEN BREWING COMPANY 121 S Galena Street, Aspen

OPEN TO FILMMAKERS + INDUSTRY GUESTS

Details on page 12



## SHORTS PROGRAM 4

8 PM

93 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### OFF THE RECORD: JULIA

Julia is a gifted Aztec dancer, a devoted counselor and advocate who is deeply committed to her personal and spiritual evolution. She uses her lived experience to help lift other young women out of the street economy and reach their full potential.

(AURORA BRACHMAN, US, 10 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### NOSTALGIE

Drew Lord Haig, a faded 80s pop star from England, is invited to perform at an event in Northern Ireland. Hoping to recapture his glory days, he instead encounters a disturbing truth that changes everything.

(KATHRYN FERGUSON, UK, 19 MIN)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



### VENEZIA DIORAMA

Unfolding like a set of postcards, a series of animated art boards depicting a decaying Venice captures the mythical city's final moments of fragility.

(NICOLAS PIRET, BELGIUM, 6 MIN)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



### STILL STANDING

After the Los Angeles wildfires leave thousands of homes contaminated with toxic ash, residents face an impossible choice: should they risk their health to return home?

(VICTOR TADASHI SUAREZ + LIVIA ALBECK-RIPKA, US, 10 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### UNE FUGUE (TO THE WOODS)

Sister remembers that Brother had dark eyes, hair like her own, shoulders as fragile as a bird's wings, and that he knew the way to the river by heart. Sister has forgotten nothing about Brother.

(AGNÈS PATRON, FRANCE, 15 MIN)

US PREMIERE



### HOMEBODIES

In a world where it literally costs to go outside, a woman risks fraud by paying her unemployed boyfriend's "exit toll" to get some alone time.

(RACHEL OLSON, US, 12 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



### AMBUSH

Two strangers. One night. A city breaking its own heart.

(YASSMINA KARAJAH, JORDAN, CANADA, 21 MIN)

US PREMIERE



# THURSDAY 4/9

## PANEL: PLATFORMS + POSSIBILITIES

2 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

## SHORTS PROGRAM 5

4 PM

88 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### COMMUNITY THEATRE

Three generations' stories unfold in a Scottish town community theatre.

(LEWIS BAILLIE, SCOTLAND, 14 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### BLUSH

Set on a humid Friday night, Blush explores moments in the lives of teenagers growing up in Singapore.

(ANA CHAVEZ, SINGAPORE, US, 15 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



### PARADAÏZ

Welcome to a place filled with houseless slugs, bullet-ridden walls, never-ending cigarettes, and exploding tomatoes. This must be Paradaïz.

(MATEA RADIC, CANADA, 9 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### WE WERE HERE

In a crumbling Indian town, three retired men stage a protest against machines taking over human jobs by pretending to be household appliances.

(PRANAV BHASIN, INDIA, 10 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### SHI (POETRY)

In 2044, an old man and a guard travel to the grasslands to find a rare Kazakh poetry book for a Beijing director.

(ABUKASSMU KARAN, CHINA, 20 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



### ONE LAST ORDER

After 37 years turning drive-thru orders into personal connections, Sighe Williams expects a quiet farewell from a Florida burger joint. But her town has other plans.

(LAUREN DEFILIPPO + SAM SOKO, US, 20 MIN)

US PREMIERE



## SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

6-7 PM

ASPEN BREWING COMPANY 121 S Galena Street, Aspen

OPEN TO FILMMAKERS + INDUSTRY GUESTS

Details on page 12



## SHORTS PROGRAM 6

8 PM

94 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### THE ORACLE

When an atheist psychiatrist hypnotizes his con artist patient, a message from his long-dead twin emerges. Is it the perfect con? Or proof that reality is far stranger than he would like to admit?

(JJ ADLER, US, 18 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### TALK ME

In a world where words replace intimacy, a local outsider in a Spanish village must choose between a loveless marriage and the promise of true connection with a kindred stranger.

(JOECAR HANNA, SPAIN, US, 20 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### LA MORT DU POISSON (THE DEATH OF THE FISH)

A girl tries to prevent her mother from drowning in depression after the death of a fish.

(EVA LUSBARONIAN, FRANCE, 14 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### THE TIME MY GRANDMOTHER WAS HELD HOSTAGE BY BANK ROBBERS

Filmmaker Rosella Tursi's family recounts the time her grandmother was held hostage by bank robbers in her home. But how much of this story is true?

(ROSELLA TURSI, US, CANADA, 25 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### A SHOT AT ART

Two seasoned volunteers at an international art festival join a controversial installation. But as events spiral out of control, the line between art and power blurs completely.

(ILKE PADDENBURG, NETHERLANDS, 17 MIN)



## PANEL: IN CONVERSATION WITH ABE BENGIO

2 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

## SHORTS PROGRAM 7

4 PM

95 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL

Now 95, Martin Luther King Jr. 's lawyer and speechwriter reflects on the personal cost and surprising truths of making history, offering an intimate insider's view of the Civil Rights Movement.

(BEN PROUDFOOT + STEPHEN CURRY, US, 29 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### O'SEY BALAMMA

During the Sankranti festival celebrations, a matriarch and her housekeeper confront solitude through the intimacy of each other's company.

(RAMAN NIMMALA, INDIA, 13 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### PIDIKWE (RUMBLE)

Indigenous women of various generations become part of an audiovisual whirlwind that straddles the borders between film and performance, traditional and contemporary, and past and future.

(CAROLINE MONNET, CANADA, 10 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### THE HOLE

Two socially inept neighbors forge an unlikely connection when a hole opens up between their apartment units.

(COURTNEY KARWAL, US, 12 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### THEY

As the world reaches peak negativity, our hero's plot to encourage peace backfires and a devastating situation develops to change the tide.

(RENÉE ZELLWEGER, UK, 9 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### STALIN BOYS

Four middle school boys in a Texas border town have developed an unusual obsession: Joseph Stalin.

(BIANCA GIAEVER + ORA DEKORNFELD, US, 22 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



## SIP + CHAT: NETWORKING HOUR

6-7 PM

ASPEN BREWING COMPANY 121 S Galena Street, Aspen

OPEN TO FILMMAKERS + INDUSTRY GUESTS

Details on page 12



## SHORTS PROGRAM 8

8 PM

95 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### ÖRONMASK (EARWORM)

Ulph Degerfors is plagued by an earworm as Rednex's "Cotton Eye Joe" takes over his mind, driving him toward madness and contaminating everything he hears.

(PATRIK EKLUND, SWEDEN, 13 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### FILLE DE L'EAU (WATER GIRL)

Mia has spent her life freediving, fishing, and gliding through seaweed and rocks. Time marked her body and world. Loved ones vanished. Tonight, she remembers.

(SANDRA DESMAZIÈRES, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, PORTUGAL, 15 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### CI SHI CI KE (AT THE STAGE WHEN)

In a Chinese megacity, a young laborer navigates her marriage to a well-off man and finds herself pulled more and more into an unintended future.

(HAO ZHOU, US, CHINA, 16 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



### CALLBACK

Max arrives home to find that his boyfriend has booked a callback. All hell breaks loose.

(MATTHEW PUCCINI, US, 16 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### PLACEHOLDER

The one before the right one.

(TEEMU NIKKI, FINLAND, 15 MIN)

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE



### MARGA IN MEXICO CITY

Marga's life and future take an unexpected turn at 21 weeks pregnant during a surprise visit to Mexico City in 1995.

(GABRIELA ORTEGA, MEXICO, US, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 20 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



## PANEL: PATHWAYS + PITFALLS

12 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS

## SHORTS PROGRAM 9

2 PM

100 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### NO SKATE!

Paris, 2024 Olympic Games. Isaac is a sandwich man. Cléo is a sandwich woman. One day, Isaac sees Cléo throw a skateboard into the water.

(GUIL SELA, FRANCE, 24 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### SEA STAR

An older Black man partakes in his first swimming lesson while battling with his own hardships beneath the surface.

(TYLER MCKENZIE EVANS, CANADA, 12 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE

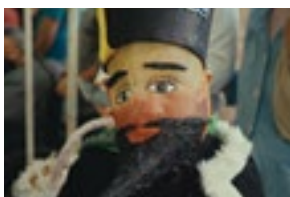


### LA MAYORDOMÍA

Families wait decades for an opportunity to take care of a miraculous Baby Jesus icon at home for one year.

(MARTIN EDRALIN, CANADA, 23 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### NOTES FROM PLANET THREE

Science versus science fiction in the misinformation age.

(SIMON ELLIS, UK, 14 MIN)

US PREMIERE

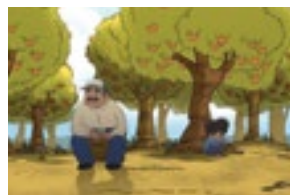


### THE APRICOT

The story of a 10-year-old boy and his first summer working on the family's apricot farm. This project is based on real childhood memories that the director holds dear to his heart.

(ALEX AVILA, US, MEXICO, 10 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### VILLA ENCANTO

After her mother's death, a precocious teenager is uprooted from 1960s Spanish Harlem when her musician father takes a gig at a Puerto Rican summer resort in upstate New York. Through music and community, she learns to redefine the meaning of home.

(JOEL PEREZ, US, 17 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



## SHORTS PROGRAM 10

5 PM

95 MIN | WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

FILMMAKER Q+A TO FOLLOW

### DUA JI

At her mother's rural Taiwanese funeral, the eldest daughter quietly confronts inheritance, grief, and her place in the family.

(YUHAN TSAI, TAIWAN, US, 18 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE



### UNA VEZ EN UN CUERPO (ONCE IN A BODY)

While dealing with a strange being that lives inside her, a woman seeks to reconcile with her sister over an incident from their adolescence. By exploring the experiences they share through their bodies, she confronts the nature of what inhabits her.

(MARÍA CRISTINA PÉREZ GONZÁLEZ, COLOMBIA, US, 11 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE

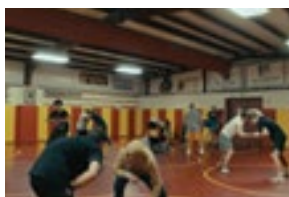


### THE MELONEERS

In this small-town coming-of-age story, wrestling and fatherhood intersect as a high school coach uses the sport to help youth in his rural American community understand what they can and can't control in their lives.

(BRENDAN YOUNG, US, 22 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



### 80 ZARBEH (THE 80 BLOWS)

A mother tries to save her daughter from the police.

(ALIREZA ABBASI, IRAN, 13 MIN)

WORLD PREMIERE



### ARE WE STILL MARRIED?

Over the course of one night, Laura must decide if she will invite her husband Jack – who has recently been turned into a vampire – back into their house.

(KIT STEINKELLNER, US, 12 MIN)

COLORADO PREMIERE

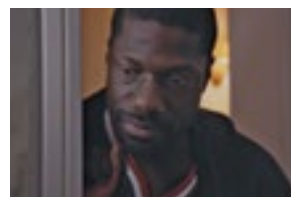


### LE CHIEN DES SABLES (SAND DOG)

A few days after Christmas, Abdou, a traumatized child, is entrusted to Sam, a lost neighbor. One night, they meet and heal each other, helped by a mysterious dog.

(FABIEN DAO, FRANCE, 19 MIN)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE



## SHORTSFEST AWARDS PROGRAM

8 PM

ASPEN FILM ISIS THEATRE 406 E Hopkins Ave, Aspen

DETAILS ON PAGE 12

BY INVITATION | RSVP REQUIRED

Awards + Special Mentions in a host of categories will be presented to filmmakers by our esteemed Juries, Programmers + Special Guests.

# 2026 FESTIVAL AWARDS



Underwritten by Maja and  
Nicholas Paepcke DuBrul



Underwritten by  
Mark Johnston



Underwritten by  
Martha and Richard Finger



Underwritten by  
Riley Kinney



Underwritten by  
Mimi Polk Gitlin



Underwritten by Lindenfelser  
Family Charitable Fund



Underwritten by  
Monica Vidal and Joe Sherman

*\* Oscar®-qualifying awards*

# VIMEO STAFF PICK AWARD



Aspen Film is proud to present the Vimeo Staff Pick Award, a live iteration of the platform's Staff Pick laurel. The winning film will receive a \$5,000 cash prize and be available for worldwide viewing on the Vimeo Staff Pick channel after the festival, on Monday, April 13.

# 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'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 2026 BY THE NUMBERS



## 25 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

Australia Belgium Bulgaria Canada China Colombia Dominican Republic Estonia Finland France India Iran Jordan Mexico Netherlands Philippines Portugal Saudi Arabia Singapore Spain Sweden Switzerland Taiwan UK USA

## ASPEN FILM TEAM

---

**Kitty Boone**  
Executive Director

**Jason Anderson**  
Shortsfest Programming Director

**Lucy Lerner**  
Shortsfest Senior Program Manager

**Erin McVoy**  
Operations + Production Director

**Aaron Koehler**  
Senior Marketing + Communications Manager

**Regna Frank-Jones**  
Head of Education Development + Programs

**Kloe Lee**  
Office Administrator

**Adrian Folse**  
Box Office Coordinator

**Alyssa Lopez**  
Guest Services Manager

**Mateus Hueb**  
Guest Services Coordinator

**Shelly Marolt**  
Filmmaker Lounge Concierge

**Kimi Mischke**  
Graphic Designer | Brave & Co Design

**Daniel Bayer**  
Photography

**Stacey Rinker**  
Bookkeeper

## PRODUCTION CREW

---

**Matt Baxter**

**Joseph Gamble**

**Henri Jones**

**Katey Polovin**

**Ingrid Salgado-Zuniga**

**Conor Tomlin**

**Colorado Mountain College**  
Media Arts Students

**Community College of Aurora**  
Cinematic Arts Program Students

## ASPEN FILM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Sue O'Bryan**

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**Lewis Teague**

## YOUTH JURY

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**Jimmy Chuluun**

**Elliot Galbraith**

**Timothy Lindenfelser**

**Penelope Mathis**

**Caden Smith**

# SPECIAL THANKS

## ASPEN DAILY NEWS

Daine Amsden  
Josh Behrman  
Rachel Bock  
David Cook

## WHEELER OPERA HOUSE

Michael Baca  
Lucy Berdailles  
Alixandra Feeley  
Alex Glen  
Pete Hajdu  
Devin Hale  
Mike Harrington  
Ginger Kennington  
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Lurii Kozin  
Tim Kronos  
Nicole Levesque  
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Maria Machuca  
Maddy Overton  
Tom Perkins  
Matt Thompson

## VOLUNTEER PRE-SCREENERS

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Marissa Carlisle  
Jenna Cichanski  
Amy DeLuca  
Warren Etheredge  
Thera Freeman  
Beth Gage  
Janie Yuguchi Gates  
Janet Grant  
Gus Gusciora  
Karen Hawkes  
Mateus Hueb  
Gilbert Khoury  
Pamela Levy  
Mallory Martin  
Judy Matevich  
Gayle Morgan  
Paul Phillips  
Jessica Robbins  
Steven Sacks  
Joan Saffa  
Laurie Chin Sayres  
Emily Taylor  
Rian Thompson  
Conor Tomlin  
Lisa Waldman  
Jane Zinner



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 chances to revisit beloved 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

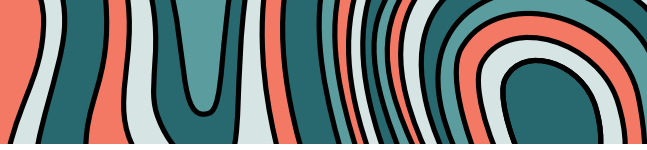
### Ready to be a part of the story?

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.

**The Voices in Film Youth Forum** incorporates a wide variety of FREE youth-focused programming and events during the festival.

## MAKING MOVIES MATTER

Films and themed shorts packages (e.g. immigration, the environment, creative storytelling) are available online for educators to use in their classrooms to enrich curriculum in language, visual arts, history, world geography, and science.

## FILMMAKERS TO THE CLASSROOM

Filmmakers visit schools from Aspen to Glenwood Springs to share their films, culture, and creative process in classroom and auditorium settings.

## YOUNG FILMMAKER LABS

Visiting filmmakers and industry guests meet with local high school and college-level students to screen films, including student works-in-progress, explore the creative process, and offer insight into the art and craft of filmmaking.

## INTERSHIPS

In partnership with Colorado community colleges, we offer immersive, credit-bearing internships for students interested in film and media. Participants gain behind-the-scenes experience in the film industry while building skills in professional communication, event production, and content creation.

## SUMMER FILMMAKING CAMPS

Film Camps provide a deep dive into filmmaking for middle 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 led by teaching artists from the Cinematic Arts program at the Community College of Aurora. Registration is now open!

*Aspen FilmEducates gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Addy Foundation, Alpine Bank, Andy Zanca Youth Empowerment Program, Aspen Fire Department, AspenOUT, Basalt High School, the City of Aspen, Colorado Mountain College Isaacson School for Communication, Arts and Media, the Colorado Office of Film, Media & Television, Community College of Aurora, The Ellen Fund, Obermeyer Wealth Partners, Rotary Club of Aspen, Think Tank, the Town of Basalt Public Arts Commission, YETI, and our many individual donors and foundations for supporting our educational initiatives.*



LEARN MORE ABOUT  
OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS HERE

# ASPEN FILM CAMP 2026

REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN!

JULY 13-17

ANIMATION CAMP

@ RED BRICK CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
110 E HALLAM ST, ASPEN

JULY 20-24

MOVIE MAGIC CAMP

@ TACAW  
400 ROBINSON ST, BASALT

MORE  
INFO



## 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.

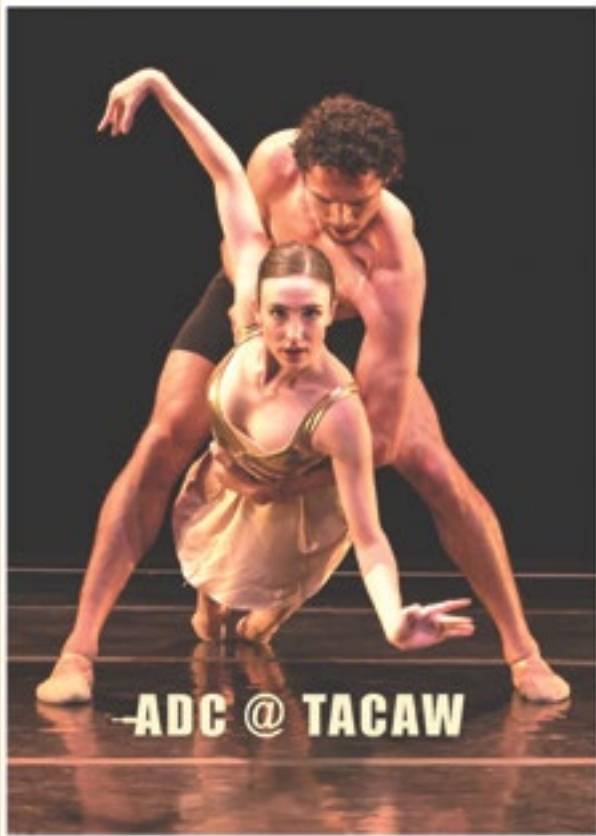


ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

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the arts



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July 17, 7 PM

Colorado  
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