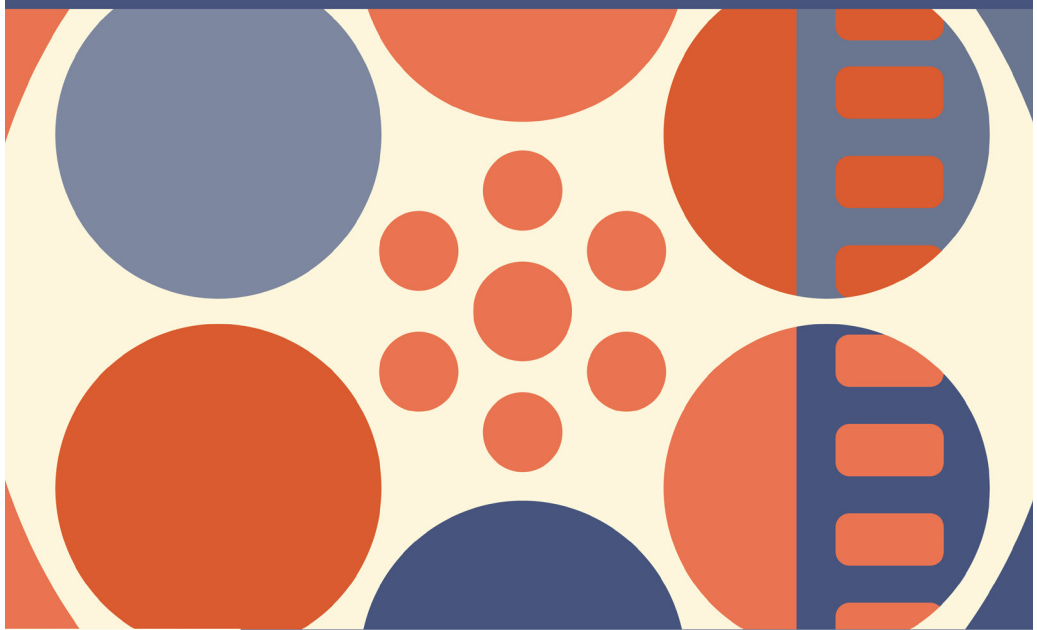




WEST CHESTER FILM FESTIVAL

WESTCHESTERFILMFESTIVAL.COM



APR 24TH THRU 26TH
TWENTY TWENTY SIX

POSTER DESIGN BY SCOTT DERBY

@UPTOWN!

KNAUER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

#WCFILMFESTIVAL @WCFILMFESTIVAL



CHESTER COUNTY HISTORY CENTER
PRESENTS

RUSTIN

DAY OF FILM

THIRD EDITION OF THE RUSTIN DAY OF FILM

A CELEBRATION OF SHORT FILMS THAT ELEVATE AFRICAN
AMERICAN AND LGBTQ STORIES AND FILMMAKERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026
AT CHESTER COUNTY HISTORY CENTER



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST CHESTER FILM FESTIVAL
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS VISIT
WWW.MYCCHC.ORG/RUSTIN

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TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are available at the door of all venues or online at www.WestChesterFilmFestival.com

Ticket prices:

- \$15 per 2-hour block of films
- \$12 with Senior Citizen or valid Student I.D.
- \$10 for all Pop-Up Film Blocks
- \$10 for Workshops - Free with Student I.D.

Our Main Venue is:

- Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center
226 North High St
- All Main Film Blocks
- Opening Night Party
- Chester Awards & 20th Anniversary Toast
- Closing Night Best of the Fest

Pop-Up Film Block Venues:

- Mayday Coffee & Shop, 123 North High St
- BierHaul TownHouse, 15 North Walnut St

Chester County 250 Venue:

- Chester County History Center, 225 North High St

Filmmaker's Meeting & Panel Discussion Venues:

- Hotel Warner, 120 North High St
- Side Bar and Restaurant, 10 East Gay St

Check out our Social Media for any changes or updates!

West Chester
Film Festival, Inc
P.O. Box 3542
West Chester, PA
19381
484-452-FILM

The official registration and financial information of the West Chester Film Festival may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. WCFF is a volunteer organization. Any misprinted or incorrect information contained herein is not deliberate. Thanks for your understanding.



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 24

5:30-7:00 pm Opening Night Party at Uptown

7:00-9:15 pm Films at Uptown

9:30 pm Pop-Up Collection of Horror Films at
Mayday Coffee & Shop

Saturday, April 25

8:00-9:45 am Get the Word Out Filmmaker Meeting &
Panel Discussion at Hotel Warner

10:00-11:45 am Young Filmmaker Films at Uptown

12:00-1:45 pm Chester County 250 Event
at Chester County History Center

2:00-4:15 pm Films at Uptown

4:30-6:45 pm Films at Uptown

7:00-8:15 pm Chester Award & 20th Anniversary Toast at Uptown

8:30-10:45 pm Films at Uptown

Sunday, April 26

9:00-10:45 am From Script to Scream Filmmaker Meeting &
Panel Discussion at Side Bar & Restaurant

11:00 am-12:45 pm Coffee & Cartoons at Bierhaul Townhouse

1:00-3:15 pm Films at Uptown

3:30-5:45 pm Films at Uptown

6:00-9:00 pm Best of the Fest Closing Night Party at Uptown

Follow Us On Social Media!



WCFF SPONSORS

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Signed, ellekay

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Something Personal, Jennifer Silver

The Biscuit Lady

The Master's Baker

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Chester County History Center

Hotel Warner

Mayday Coffee & Shop

Side Bar & Restaurant

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center

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WCFF VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO DEDICATE THEIR TIME, TALENT, AND ENERGY TO THE WCFF!

2026 WEST CHESTER FILM FESTIVAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sarah Beck, President
Renee McGusty, Vice President
& Young Filmmaker Coordinator
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& Director of Sponsorship
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Melissa Bullitt, Judging Coordinator
Olivia Carzo, Community Outreach,
Social Media & Marketing
Kevin Fitzpatrick, Board Member
Victoria Helmke, Director of Volunteers
Amy Theorin, Filmmaker Liaison
Wes Weisser, Director of Photography
Lauren Leever, West Chester University Intern
Cameron Medinger, Intern

2026 FILM REVIEW COMMITTEE

Neil Bardhan	Victoria Rose
Sarah Beck	Gigi Schneider
Megan Bertinetti	Anne Skillman
Melissa Bullitt	Michael Werner
Daryl Durnell	Rose Werner
Kevin Fitzpatrick	Ed Williams
Teak Homan	Duron Wilson
Renee McGusty	

2026 AWARD JUDGES

Chris Cotter
Kate Kelsen
Lisa Shiner
Frederick Taylor
Thomas Verdi

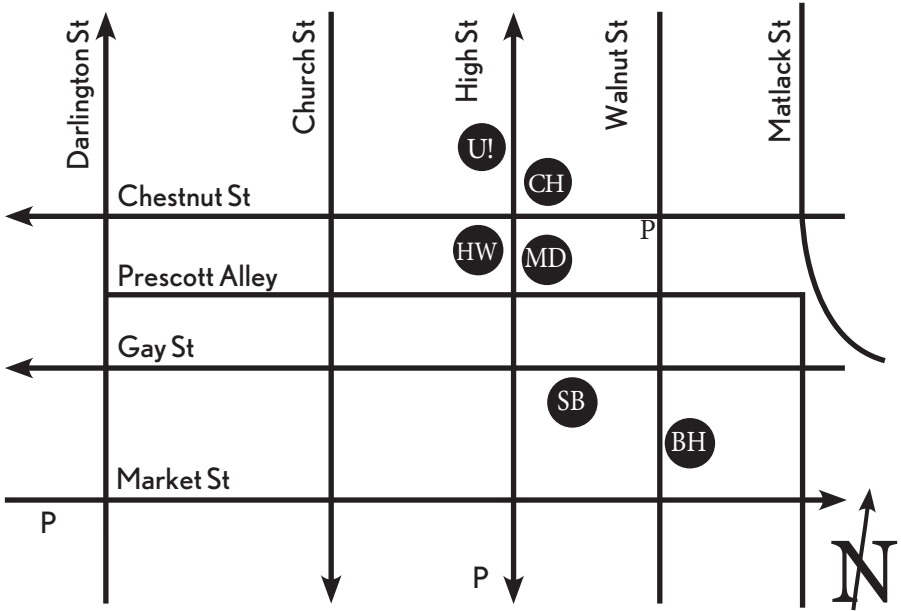
VOLUNTEERS

Peter Aleszczyk
John Bullitt
Andrew Darlack
Danny Donnelly
Dr. Tom Elmer
Aurora Fitzpatrick
Caius Fitzpatrick
Judy Fitzpatrick
Kaley Fitzpatrick
Leo Flickinger
Penelope Flickinger
Meg Helmke
Alfreda 'Fre' Howard
Teak Homan
Amber Lee
Rich Lombino
Jim McGusty
Kelly Murray
Casey O'Donnell
Shilo Patchin
Elizabeth Heckle Reed
Sean Reynolds
Brian Russell
Anne Skillman
Marc Skillman
Pam Tatum
Craig Theorin
Kurtis Theorin
Nik Theorin
David Dylan Thomas

20TH ANNIVERSARY FILM

Sydney Wild

FESTIVAL MAP OF WEST CHESTER



WCFF MERCH FOR SALE

We have 20th Year
Memorabilia!

Stock Up at Uptown! Knauer
Performing Arts Center

2026 Film Festival Venues

- U!** Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center
226 N High Street
- CH** Chester County History Center
225 N High St
- HW** Hotel Warner
120 N High St
- MD** Mayday Coffee & Shop
123 N High St
- SB** Side Bar and Restaurant
10 E Gay St
- BH** BierHaul TownHouse
15 N Walnut St
- P** Parking

PARTIES & EVENTS



Opening Night Party

Friday, April 24 from 5:30–7:00 pm

\$30 online or at the door

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center

226 N. High Street, West Chester, PA 19380

Kickoff the 2026 West Chester Film Festival with filmmakers and fellow film fans! Get your photo

taken on the red carpet, grab a drink in Mac's Foxhole, and food from Alexander Catering Company. All events through the weekend are open to the public!



Chester Awards and 20th Anniversary Toast

Saturday, April 25 from 7:00–8:15 pm

Open to the Public

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center

226 N High St, West Chester, PA 19380

And the winner is...

Join us Saturday evening to hear the winners of the Chesters, mingle with filmmakers, and enjoy a cupcake & a toast to celebrate our 20th season!



PINE STREET

CARPENTERS INC.

PARTIES & EVENTS

Best of the Fest Closing Night Party

Sunday, April 26 from 6:00–9:30 pm

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center • 226 N High St

\$60 online or at the door

Food provided by Alexander Catering & The Master's Baker

Sunday night, we will be showing a curated selection of the best films from the 2026 West Chester Film Festival, including Chester Award Winners, fan favorites, and more. This popular event includes a two-hour open bar, food by Alexander Catering, and desserts from The Master's Baker. Perfect for a special date, ladies' night out, or one more chance to see your favorite film from the Festival, it is a wonderful way to close out our 20th Fest!



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2026 PANEL DISCUSSION SERIES

Getting the Word Out!

April 25 at 8:00–9:45 AM • \$10 online or at the door

Hotel Warner • 120 North High Street

Sponsored by Something's Awry Productions

Food Provided by Mayday Coffee & Shop

Moderated by Craig Smith

Kick off your Saturday at the West Chester Film Festival with *Getting the Word Out*, a lively panel discussion designed to help filmmakers amplify their films and reach the right audiences. This engaging session brings together experienced filmmakers and industry professionals to share real-world insights on social media strategy, distribution, and marketing for independent films. Moderated by Craig Smith, a seasoned media professional and longtime QVC host known for his expertise in storytelling and audience engagement, the conversation will offer practical, actionable advice you can apply to your own projects right away. Enjoy a light breakfast and coffee provided by Something's Awry Productions and Mayday Coffee, connect with fellow filmmakers, and start your day inspired and informed.



WEST CHESTER FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY:
WEST CHESTER FILM FESTIVAL
& SOMETHING'S AWRY
BREAKFAST BY MAYDAY COFFEE & SHOP

GET THE WORD OUT!
FILMMAKER MEETING & PANEL DISCUSSION

04.25 8:00- 9:45 AM \$10.00
2026 HOTEL WARNER /PERSON
120 N HIGH ST, WEST CHESTER, PA

HW
HOTEL WARNER

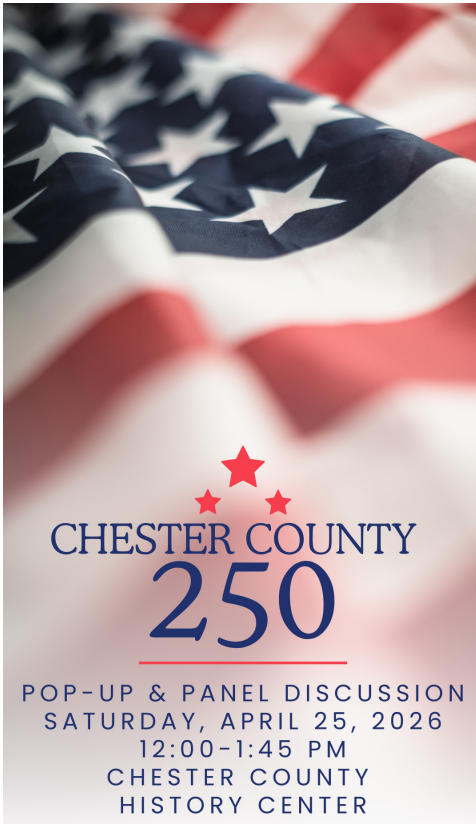
mayday

2026 PANEL DISCUSSION SERIES

Chester County 250 Pop-Up & Panel Discussion

April 25 at 12:00-1:45 PM • \$10 online or at the door
Chester County History Center • 225 North High Street

The West Chester Film Festival, in partnership with the Chester County History Center, will present a selection of films showcasing the communities, history, and art of Chester County, followed by a moderated panel discussion from historians, curators, and experts. This special event is a wonderful way to connect with our history and look forward to what is to come.



Chester County 250 Pop-Up

N.C. Wyeth: The Giant

LGBT Equality Alliance

Dare to Declare

Together We Thrive



2026 PANEL DISCUSSION SERIES

From Script to Scream: Building Better Horror

April 26 at 9:00–10:45 AM • \$10 online or at the door

Side Bar & Restaurant • 10 East Gay Street

Sponsored by Something's Awry Productions

Food provided by The Biscuit Lady

Moderated by Collin Peters of Film Asylum

Start your Sunday with a thrilling dive into the world of horror at From Script to Scream: Building Better Horror, a panel discussion held at Side Bar from 9:00–10:45 AM.

This engaging session brings together horror filmmakers and a professional horror makeup artist to explore what it takes to create fear on screen—from storytelling and atmosphere to practical effects and behind-the-scenes techniques. Whether you're a filmmaker looking to sharpen your skills or simply a fan of the genre, you'll gain insight into how great horror comes to life. A light breakfast will be provided by The Biscuit Lady—come grab a bite, connect with fellow horror enthusiasts, and get inspired.

PRESENTED BY
WEST CHESTER FILM FESTIVAL
& SOMETHING'S AWRY

FROM SCRIPT TO SCREAM:

BUILDING BETTER HORROR

FILMMAKER MEETING
& PANEL DISCUSSION

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 AT 9:00 AM
SIDE BAR & RESTAURANT
10 EAST GAY STREET, WEST CHESTER, PA



POP-UP FILM COLLECTIONS

Horror Pop-Up

Friday, April 24 at 9:30 pm

\$10 online or at the door

Mayday Coffee & Shop

123 N High St



Yes, the Horror Block is BACK! This popular late-night event includes the scariest films from the 2026 West Chester Film Festival, including Oscar-shortlisted films and Chester Award nominees from five countries. Look into those things that go bump in the night, and what hides behind the stories we have been told. Held at Mayday Coffee & Shop, this event will sell out!

Horror Pop-Up

Octopus

Playing God

White Meat: Appetizer

The Quinta's Ghost

The Pearl Comb

Films in this block are unrated and may not be suitable for all audiences.



POP-UP FILM COLLECTIONS

Coffee & Cartoons

Sunday, April 27 from 11:00–12:30 pm

\$10 online or at the door

BierHaul TownHouse

15 N Walnut St.



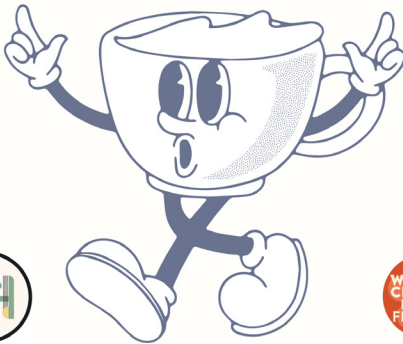
BIERHAUL

LAGERHAUS & NEW AMERICAN KITCHEN

TOWNHOUSE

Bring the whole family to BierHaul TownHouse on Sunday morning for brunch and a show! This year's lineup includes Oscar nominees, films from young filmmakers, and global voices. Food and beverages are available for purchase from Bierhaul. This is the perfect opportunity to check out what the film festival is all about! (Note: while films are unrated, these are generally appropriate for all audiences. Direct questions to info@westchesterfilmfestival.com or ask anyone with a Fest shirt at the venue.)

Coffee & Cartoons



Sunday, April 26
at 11:00 am
Bierhaul Townhouse

WWW.WESTCHESTERFILMFESTIVAL.COM

Coffee & Cartoons Pop-Up

Retirement Plan

Pig

Dance into the Day

The Girl Who Cried
Pearls

Rush Order Drive!
CalGal Drive

Éiru

Forevergreen

2026 FILM SELECTION SCHEDULE DETAILS

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

7:00–9:15 pm Selection of Films at Uptown!

PIEGIRL

The Drive

If Cities Could Dance: J-Setting Atlanta

Éiru

Do Evil Thoughts Make an Evil Man?

The Long Walk for Water

Leaf

Panic Switch

The Pearl Comb

Becoming the Man: A Prequel

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

10:00–11:45 am Selection of Young Filmmaker Films at Uptown!*

The World's Gone Mad

The Tuba Guy

Fallen

Don't Move

BH7: Building a Basement Ride

What is Art?

The Art of the Throw

The Choice

Clocked

Fighting Roosters and Eagle

Becoming Jeremy

Take Three Please

The Definition of a Hero

Hot Tub Horror Story

Forget-Me-Not

2:00–4:15 pm Selection of Films at Uptown!

N.C. Wyeth: The Giant

Cabbage - A Short Film

The Girl Who Cried Pearls

Deeply Darkly Drole

A Lovely Uncomfortable Thing

Pour Concrete in My Wound

Z-Mile

Forget Me Not

Octopus

Retirement Plan

* The Young Filmmaker Film Festival is a selection of films submitted by filmmakers who are 18 and younger. While filmmakers from around the globe are welcome to submit, acceptance preference will be given to filmmakers residing in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania. The films in this block are in keeping with the MPAA ratings of G, PG, or PG-13. This showing is not part of the judged competition, and there are no awards for this category.

2026 FILM SELECTION SCHEDULE DETAILS

4:30–6:45 pm Selection of Films at Uptown!

Pig
LGBT Equality Alliance
Gallina
Erlkönig
The Variety Club
Run Rabbit
The Quinta's Ghost
Excuse Me
Mom
Together We Thrive

8:30–10:45 pm Selection of Films at Uptown!

Sit with Me While I Die
The Corona Collection: Louis Armstrong's Neighbors
Creator
Because Today is Saturday
Street Muse
No Feedback
A Thousand Questions and One Miracle
Playing God
Archibald Wallace and the Whisky Theory

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

1:00–3:15 pm Selection of Films at Uptown!

The Woman in the Room
First Nations: Finding the Chickasaw
Dark Orange
Life Support
Prayer of the Sea
Magnet Brain
Papillon (Butterfly)
Dare to Declare
The Last Fry
White Meat: Appetizer

3:30–5:45 pm Selection of Films at Uptown!

Such a Pretty Girl
Autokar
Tarik Shah - Don't Play Like Them
White Lettering
Dance into the Day
The Prayer
The Boy with White Skin
Rush Order Drive! CalGal Drive!
Living with Maria
Forevergreen

2026 AWARD NOMINEES

Congratulations to all of this year's nominees!

BEST DRAMA

Octopus

Director: George Dogaru

The Pearl Comb

Director: Ali Cook

The Woman in the Room

Director: Danny Donnelly

BEST COMEDY

Archibald Wallace and
the Whisky Theory

Director: Brian Pennington

No Feedback

Director: Benjamin Ryan

White Meat: Appetizer

Director: David Dylan Thomas

BEST DOCUMENTARY

First Nations: Finding the Chickasaw

Director: Sarah Flower

N.C. Wyeth: The Giant

Director: Erik Freeland

Together We Thrive

Director: Aurelien Tanguet

BEST ANIMATED FILM

Forevergreen

Directors: Nathan Engelhardt &
Jeremy Spears

Retirement Plan

Director: John Kelly

The Girl Who Cried Pearls

Directors: Chris Lavis &
Maciek Szczerbowski

BEST ARTS/EXPERIMENTAL FILM

Erlkönig

Directors: Morgan Middleton &
Charlie Driscoll

If Cities Could Dance:

J-Setting Atlanta

Director: Fr3deR1cK Jerome Taylor

Street Muse

Director: Beth Cloutier

BEST PENNSYLVANIA FILM

Dare to Declare

Director: Chris Cotter

LGBT Equality Alliance

Director: Pier Nicola D'Amico

Rush Order Drive! CalGal Drive!

Director: Kris Theorin

2026 AWARD NOMINEES

BEST FILM BY A WOMAN

A Thousand Questions
and One Miracle

Director: Esther Wenger

Papillon (Butterfly)

Director: Florence Mialhe

Such A Pretty Girl

Director: Deborah Puette

BEST STUDENT FILM

Dance into the Day

Director: Taney Basinger

Forget Me Not

Director: Christopher Lee Slater

Panic Switch

Director: Cameron Red Howe

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Donna L. Muzio, Artistic Director & Founder
Nancy Page, Resident Choreographer
Tim Early, Brandywine Contemporary

NANCY PAGE'S THE WONDERFUL

WIZARD OF OZ



Photo: Jacqui Mohl

MAY 16-17, 2026

Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall at West Chester University

Tickets Available Now!



BrandywineBallet.org



FILM DESCRIPTIONS

THE 2026 WEST CHESTER FILM FESTIVAL IS PRESENTED BY
OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS. OUR FILM VENUE IS
UPTOWN! KNAUER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.

A LOVELY UNCONTROLLABLE THING

ASHLEY SEERING • CA • UNITED STATES •
WOMAN FILMMAKER • DOCUMENTARY • 11:05

A Lovely Uncontrollable Thing offers a profile of artist Victoria Moore as she shapes a life grounded in nature, craftsmanship, and personal growth. Known for jewelry and tools created from self-forged damascus steel, Moore's work blurs the line between utility and art, strength and delicacy. As she transforms raw materials by hand, she also redefines happiness and success on her terms, proving that a meaningful life is built one piece at a time.



A THOUSAND QUESTIONS AND ONE MIRACLE

ESTHER WENGER • AUSTRIA • WOMAN FILMMAKER •
DRAMA • 28:01

In the 1950s, young Eva is raised in a society where traditional gender roles define a woman's worth. Struggling to fit into the mold expected of her and wishing to escape the pressure, little Eva longs to be invisible. As a young woman, she embrace life, enjoying love and newfound freedoms. Today, as an older woman, Eva realizes that the world overlooks the elderly. This short film humorously explores the cyclical nature of invisibility in a woman's life from childhood to old age and shows how not being noticed any longer becomes a source of empowerment.



ARCHIBALD WALLACE AND THE WHISKY THEORY

BRIAN PENNINGTON • MD • UNITED STATES • COMEDY •
4:56

This "documentary" from the 1972 Agricultural Archives investigates the peculiar discoveries of farmer Archibald Wallace. Scientific breakthrough of the century, or quantum fluke? You decide.

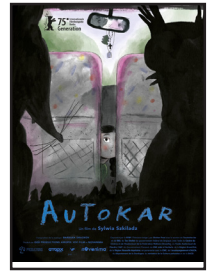


FILM DESCRIPTIONS

AUTOKAR

SYLWIA SZKIŁADZ • BELGIUM & FRANCE •
WOMAN FILMMAKER • ANIMATION • 17:27

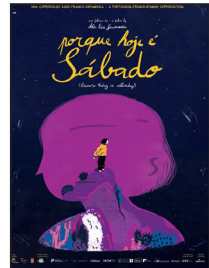
In the 1990s, 8-year-old Agata leaves Poland for Belgium. Her perspective transforms the migratory reality into an initiatory experience.



BECAUSE TODAY IS SATURDAY

ALICE EÇA GUIMARÃES • PORTUGAL • ANIMATION • 12:24

It's Saturday, and a woman struggles with the difficulty of reconciling her home life and her need to escape.



BECOMING JEREMY

COLE AYLAIAN • CA • UNITED STATES •
YOUNG FILMMAKER • DOCUMENTARY • 4:59

"Becoming Jeremy" captures the struggles and triumphs of a man recovering from drug addiction as he builds a new community and sense of self, striving to fulfil his greatest potential of Becoming Jeremy.



BECOMING THE MAN: A PREQUEL

MICHAEL ZOLOMIJ • PA • UNITED STATES • COMEDY • 6:52

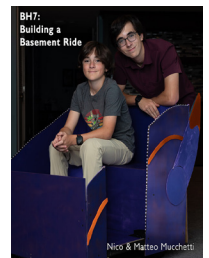
Becoming the Man: A Prequel is (as stated) the prequel to the award-winning "RIP: Kevin The Man". This short comedy film finds Cevin (before receiving full "The Man" status) at a low and searching for his joy.



BH7: BUILDING A BASEMENT RIDE

NICO MUCCHETTI & MATTEO MUCCHETTI • DE •
UNITED STATES • YOUNG FILMMAKER • DOCUMENTARY •
15:57

Two brothers work together to create a Disney-style dark ride attraction in their basement, which they open as a food drive for their community.



FILM DESCRIPTIONS

CABBAGE

EMILY GODSON • IRELAND • WOMAN FILMMAKER • COMEDY • 14:58

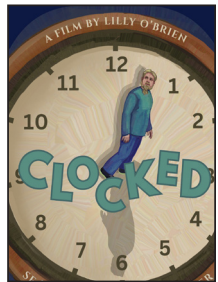
Jack and his mother Fran struggle to cope with the loss of Jack's father. When Jack's Grandad recounts a curious tale about cabbages, a seed for reconciliation is sown. Cabbage sensitively navigates family dynamics after the impact of a difficult life event (death/suicide). It is a quirky, hopeful story about resilience and the cycle of life.



CLOCKED

LILLY O'BRIEN • CA • UNITED STATES • YOUNG FILMMAKER • DRAMA • 6:00

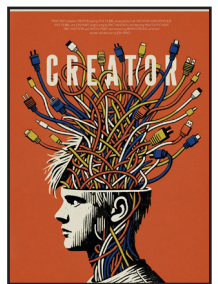
When a man wakes up locked in a small room with a head injury, he tries to regain his strength and his memory with the presumed help of an unknown voice.



CREATOR

JON PIVKO • NJ • UNITED STATES • DRAMA • 13:58

A short film where a young musician navigates the absurdity of the Information Age, as AI blurs the line between art and identity in unexpected ways.



DANCE INTO THE DAY

TANEY BASINGER • PA • UNITED STATES • WOMAN FILMMAKER • STUDENT ANIMATION • 1:37

An elderly woman kick-starts the day by transforming her morning routine into a disco dance party.



DISCLAIMER

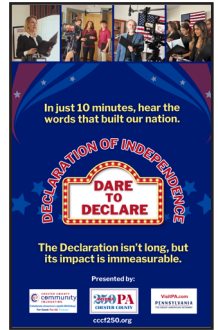
The films shown this weekend are intended for an adult audience. None of the films are rated. While the majority of films are suitable for any audience, preferences of individuals vary greatly. The viewer assumes responsibility for themselves and any minors. If you have questions about content of any block, please feel free to ask the Block Captain!

FILM DESCRIPTIONS

DARE TO DECLARE

CHRIS COTTER • PA • UNITED STATES • DOCUMENTARY • 14:16

The Dare to Declare video brings the Declaration of Independence out of the textbook and into the present by featuring students and community members reading its words aloud, highlighting how the nation's founding ideals remain relevant, contested, and powerful 250 years later, and underscoring that democracy is not a finished achievement, but an ongoing responsibility carried by each new generation.



DARK ORANGE

ZAHRA AZADPOUR • IRAN • WOMAN FILMMAKER • ANIMATION • 6:00

A young couple appears to live a peaceful life, yet beneath the surface their relationship is fractured. The woman struggles with the weight of a one-sided emotional bond and makes a final attempt to restore intimacy. Her partner dismisses her feelings, reducing their connection to physicality and treating her as subordinate. Disillusioned and depressed, she confronts the painful reality of emotional neglect. Ironically, he sees himself as a feminist and advocate for women's rights, publicly condemning physical violence and participating in the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, while failing to recognize the harm within his own relationship.



DEEPLY DARKLY DROLE

MOHAMAD RAZAZIAN • IRAN • DRAMA • 14:32

A middle-aged bachelor lives with his difficult, ex-ballet teacher mother. Consumed by grief, he suddenly finds himself sobbing but not shedding tears. Between looking after his mother and painting, he tries to discover, by whatever means, whether his inability to shed tears is due to an emotional lack or something that lies deeper within him. The time for making crucial decisions has arrived.



FILM DESCRIPTIONS

DO EVIL THOUGHTS MAKE AN EVIL MAN?

SIMON STOCKDALE • PA • UNITED STATES • DRAMA • 12:30

A man on his deathbed makes a horrible confession.

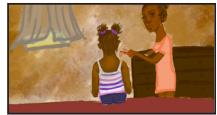


DON'T MOVE

HANNAH SHAW • MD • UNITED STATES •

YOUNG FILMMAKER • ANIMATION • 0:50

The film is about being scared to ask for help. A young girl tries to do things on her own, like combing out her hair. But when it doesn't go well, she's too afraid to tell her mom.



ÉIRU

GIOVANNA FERRARI • IRELAND • WOMAN FILMMAKER •

ANIMATION • 12:59

Éiru is the smallest child of an Iron Age clan. All she wants is to be a mighty warrior who is taken seriously by her kinfolk. But when the village's well mysteriously dries up, only she is small enough to descend into the belly of the earth to investigate and bring the water of life back to her people. Éiru is the story of a child in search of a challenge, and a goddess in search of a champion.



ERLKÖNIG

MORGAN MIDDLETON & CHARLIE DRISCOLL •

UNITED STATES • WOMAN FILMMAKER • ART/
EXPERIMENTAL • 6:25

In a powerful exploration of racial and health disparities, classical music takes center stage when a father and son confront the ominous figure of Der Erlkönig, the whisperer of death.



EXCUSE ME

LENA LOUISE STREITWIESER • WASHINGTON, DC •

UNITED STATES • WOMAN FILMMAKER • DRAMA • 7:38

Ignored because of her age, 50-year-old Amanda leaves a coffee shop on her way to a job interview without the last chocolate croissant, but maybe something even sweeter.



FILM DESCRIPTIONS

FALLEN

ANGELA YAN • PA • UNITED STATES •
YOUNG FILMMAKER • DRAMA • 4:09

Mia writes a confession letter to Robyn, recalling their most touching moments together.



AESOP'S FIGHTING ROOSTERS AND EAGLE

WIDE ANGLE YOUTH MEDIA • MD • UNITED STATES •
YOUNG FILMMAKER • ANIMATION • 1:58

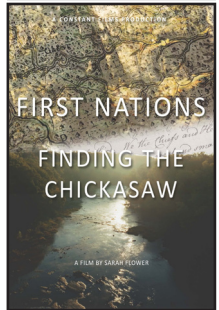
In this modern retelling of an Aesop Fable, two roosters fight for control of the hen house. But is the win really worth it?



FIRST NATIONS: FINDING THE CHICKASAW

SARAH FLOWER • UNITED KINGDOM •
WOMAN FILMMAKER • DOCUMENTARY • 5:14

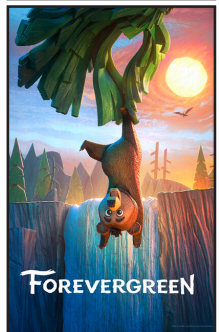
The extraordinary discovery of pre-American War of Independence documents relating to the Chickasaw Nation in the great libraries of the United Kingdom has uncovered a treasure trove of previously unseen material.



FOREVERGREEN

NATHAN ENGELHARDT & JEREMY SPEARS •
UNITED STATES • ANIMATION • 13:03

An orphaned bear cub finds a home with a fatherly evergreen tree, until his hunger for trash leads him to danger.



FORGET ME NOT

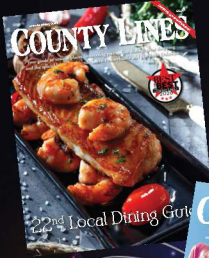
CHRISTOPHER LEE SLATER • UNITED KINGDOM •
STUDENT FILMMAKER • STUDENT DRAMA • 14:42

As a wife prepares for her anniversary dinner, she is confronted by a stranger who begins to unravel the world around her.



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FILM DESCRIPTIONS

FORGET-ME-NOT

KAYA MELÜH • GERMANY • YOUNG FILMMAKER
• DRAMA • 6:15

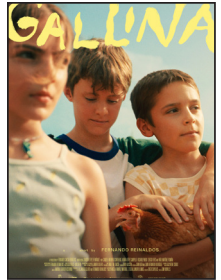
Klara is a 16-year-old girl who lost her best friend Ella in a tragic accident. In order to better process her friend's death, Klara wants to remember Ella. However, for Klara this seems impossible.



GALLINA

FERNANDO REINALDOS • SPAIN • DRAMA • 16:30

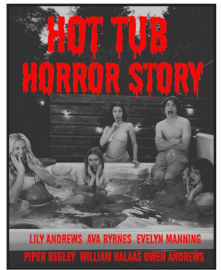
In rural Spain, ten-year-old Pablo loves spending time at his granny's countryside home, playing with his younger sister Alba and his best friend Martín. But everything changes when Martín pressures him to betray his family, leaving Pablo to question where he truly belongs.



HOT TUB HORROR STORY

LILY ANDREWS • WA • UNITED STATES •
YOUNG FILMMAKER • DRAMA • 8:53

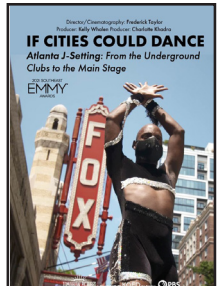
Hot Tub Girls Night goes very wrong.



IF CITIES COULD DANCE: J-SETTING ATLANTA

FR3DZER1CK JEROME TAYLOR • GA • UNITED STATES •
ART/EXPERIMENTAL • 5:12

The Acrobatic LGBTQ Dance sensation that traveled from Southern Historically Black Colleges to the Clubs of Atlanta.



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FILM DESCRIPTIONS

LEAF

HORATIU CARPIUC • ROMANIA • DRAMA • 19:49

A single father's surprise for his 14-year-old daughter turns into a tense confrontation when he discovers her with an older boy, forcing them to confront their bond.



LGBT EQUALITY ALLIANCE

PIER NICOLA D'AMICO • PA • UNITED STATES • DOCUMENTARY • 5:58

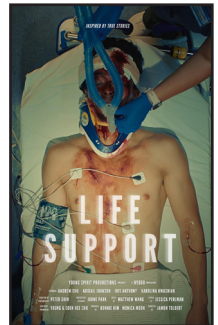
This short documentary highlights the LGBT Equality Alliance, the organization behind Phoenixville Pride, and their year-round work supporting and uplifting the local LGBTQIA+ community. Through interviews with Alliance members and footage from Phoenixville Pride, the film explores how grassroots organizing, visibility, and intentional community-building create safer, more inclusive spaces. Showcasing Pride as both a celebration and a commitment, the documentary captures the heart of an organization dedicated to advocacy, connection, and belonging beyond a single event.



LIFE SUPPORT

JAMON TOLBERT • CANADA • DRAMA • 10:32

Inspired by true stories, an emergency doctor struggling under the weight of life-and-death decisions must confront his own hidden traumas as he teaches a young medical student what it truly means to save a life. Told with raw intensity and emotional depth, Life Support has won multiple jury awards for Best Short Film, Best First Time Filmmaker, and Best Performance. It offers a rare glimpse into the world of emergency medicine, where every choice can mean the difference between life and loss.



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FILM DESCRIPTIONS

LIVING WITH MARÍA

JOHN BARNARD • CANADA • COMEDY • 9:50

A newly emigrated Latina woman struggles with her loss of culture, her inability to work in a new country, and her husband's lack of empathy. Cleverly, she manages to transport him into an alternate dimension, wherein they both inhabit a 1950s film from the Mexican golden age of cinema.



MAGNET BRAIN

KURT ST. THOMAS • DE • UNITED STATES • COMEDY • 7:55

Magnet Brain is a dark comedy mockumentary about billionaire George Romero, who founded TMS, a company that uses magnets to bring the dead back to life. With zombies stepping in to fill the workforce gap, things get complicated—especially with PETZ (People for the Ethical Treatment of Zombies) voicing their concerns. MAGNET BRAIN was created in just 48 hours for the Baltimore 48 Hour Film Project!



MOM

RICK BARNWELL • MD • UNITED STATES • DRAMA • 5:00

A woman on her deathbed uses her remaining strength to perform a simple act of motherly love.



N.C. WYETH: THE GIANT

ERIK FREELAND • PA • UNITED STATES • DOCUMENTARY • 6:01

A short documentary about the commissioning of a painting by the great illustrator and muralist N.C. Wyeth by graduates of Westtown School to honor the loss of one of their classmates, who died at a young age. After 100 years, the painting has become a touchstone for the school and a symbol of the power of education and imagination.



FILM DESCRIPTIONS

NO FEEDBACK

BENJAMIN RYAN • AUSTRALIA • COMEDY • 7:37

While a team of professional bank robbers wait for the heist to begin, their nerves and egos clash as their penchant for improv and killer impressions threaten to unravel their meticulously laid plans.



OCTOPUS

GEORGE DOGARU • ROMANIA • DRAMA • 15:27

A young boy's imagination begins to blur the lines of reality, leaving the adults around him uncertain about what's real. As his uncanny abilities begin to grow, they're forced to ask: is it a gift—or a curse?



PANIC SWITCH

CAMERON RED HOWE • PA • UNITED STATES • STUDENT ANIMATION • 5:18

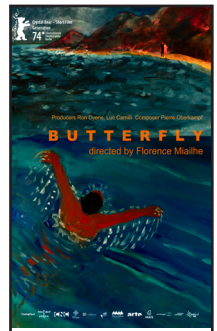
Stop-motion animation of a standup performance telling the story of the speaker, a high school teacher, managing his class when a student finds a bag of weed. His class gets excited and speculates about who the drugs could belong to until the culprit returns to try and find the bag.



PAPILLON (BUTTERFLY)

FLORENCE MIALHE • FRANCE • WOMAN FILMMAKER • ANIMATION • 15:00

In the sea, a man swims. As he does, memories come to the surface. From his early childhood to his life as a man, all his memories are linked to water. Some are happy, some glorious, some traumatic. This story will be that of his last swim. It will take us from the source to the river, from the waters of childhood pools to those of swimming pools, from a North African country to the shores of the Mediterranean, from Olympic stadiums to water retention basins, from concentration camp to the dream beaches of Reunion.





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FILM DESCRIPTIONS

PIEGIRL

DANIEL QUIYU • NJ • UNITED STATES • DOCUMENTARY • 5:38

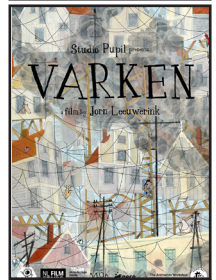
Chelsea Frost, better known as “PIEGIRL”, brings the feeling of nostalgia one slice of pie at a time. But this is not your grandma’s pie. It is an adventure of flavor, friendship, and joy.



PIG

JORN LEEUWERINK • NETHERLANDS • ANIMATION • 8:16

A big group of animals makes itself dependent on a power grid, hooked onto the socket-shaped snout of a single sleeping pig... How long will that last?



PLAYING GOD

MATTEO BURANI • ITALY • ANIMATION • 8:58

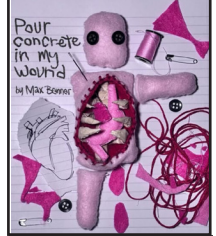
A clay sculpture comes to life in the darkness of a workshop, surrounded by strange creatures...



POUR CONCRETE IN MY WOUND

MAX BENNER • PA • UNITED STATES • ART/EXPERIMENTAL • 8:42

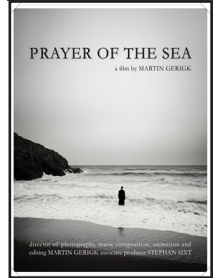
A reflection on mental health, friendship, and change



PRAYER OF THE SEA

MARTIN GERIGK • GERMANY • ART/EXPERIMENTAL • 6:30

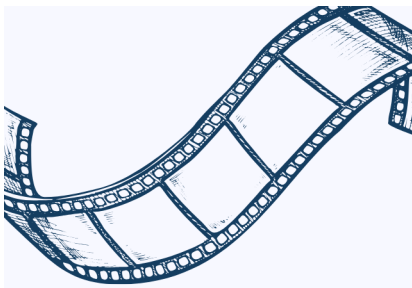
A composer recounts a dream from his youth that inspired the slow movement of his first string quartet, Prayer of the Sea. The dream, depicting a peaceful dissolution into the sea and wind, symbolized his future death. Decades later, rediscovering a drawing from the quartet’s premiere - perfectly capturing the dream’s essence - revived its emotions. Now older, he reflects on the dream’s message: a serene acceptance of life’s inevitable end. Prayer of the Sea is an audiovisual elegy offering a calm perspective on the universal experience of passing.





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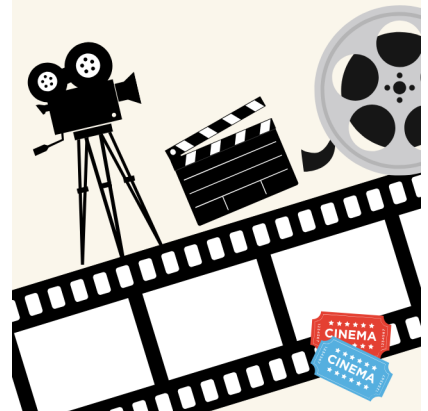
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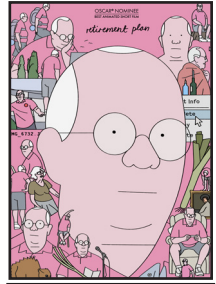


FILM DESCRIPTIONS

RETIREMENT PLAN

JOHN KELLY • IRELAND • ANIMATION • 7:17

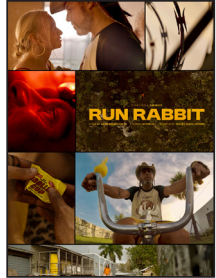
Dissatisfied with life, Ray (Domhnall Gleeson) dreams of the beauty and joy he'll find when work finally ends.



RUN RABBIT

ADAM DANGER SMITH • FL • UNITED STATES • DRAMA • 27:30

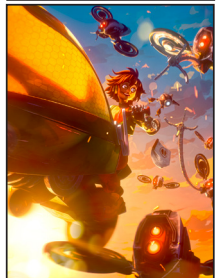
A man on the run races against time, each step pulling us deeper into his desperate journey. Taut, urgent, and unflinching, this short film keeps the destination hidden until the very end.



RUSH ORDER | DRIVE! CALGAL DRIVE!

KRIS THEORIN • PA • UNITED STATES • ANIMATION • 1:31

In the cyberpunk future of NeoCalifornia, when you order food you want it delivered RIGHT NOW! Thankfully GrubRush has psychocycles standing by, ready to bring you your order no matter how many traffic jams, police drones, or car chases they have to go through to do it!



SIT WITH ME WHILE I DIE

BRIAN RUSSELL • CT • UNITED STATES • DRAMA • 19:22

A priest must reconcile his lifelong dogmatic views on suffering with real life pain, examining how we will die, the intersection of faith and death, and specifically with how we may, or may not, be called to suffer at the inevitable end. Set against the backdrop of medical aid in dying, and death with dignity.



STREET MUSE

BETH CLOUTIER • CA • UNITED STATES • WOMAN FILMMAKER • ART/EXPERIMENTAL • 5:03

Overlooked by passersby, two homeless women forge an intimate moment recalling how it felt once to be beautiful. A sleeping drunk wakes to join them, finding dignity in the soaring lines of the Puccini aria through which they share their stories.



FILM DESCRIPTIONS

SUCH A PRETTY GIRL

EVGENII BAKIROV • RUSSIAN FEDERATION •
DOCUMENTARY • 10:00

Meg has returned to her childhood home to help her aging father. But when her twelve year old uncovers a long-forgotten relic from her past, Meg must decide in a matter of moments who she'll protect: her parent or her child.



TAKE THREE PLEASE

CARTER STOUTD • PA • UNITED STATES • YOUNG
FILMMAKER • DRAMA • 16:39

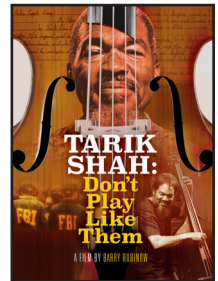
On Halloween night, a group of mischievous kids embarks on a spree of pranks and candy heists. What begins as a playful adventure quickly takes a terrifying turn when they become trapped in an abandoned house, haunted by the chilling consequences of their actions. As fear sets in and sinister truths emerge, childhood innocence collides with dark realities. Blending humor, suspense, and an eerie atmosphere, Take Three Please explores friendship, fear, and the perils of growing up. Can they escape their worst nightmares?



TARIK SHAH - DON'T PLAY LIKE THEM

BARRY RUBINOW • CA • UNITED STATES • DOCUMENTARY
• 24:59

Tarik Shah is a supremely talented jazz bassist, a beloved teacher of music and martial arts, a trusted friend and mentor to many. How did he end up being entrapped by the FBI and locked away in solitary confinement for over 2 and a half years.....unjustly imprisoned for 15 years? Meet this incredible American and hear his remarkable story of resilience and triumph of the human spirit.



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FILM DESCRIPTIONS

THE ART OF THE THROW

CALEB DANIEL WEAVER • PA • UNITED STATES • YOUNG FILMMAKER • DOCUMENTARY • 13:56

From knowing almost nothing in the disc golf world to knowing pretty much everything. The story will follow Isaiah, telling how he got into disc golf and how he got into tournaments. From practicing and dreaming about playing in tournaments to actually playing in them.



THE BOY WITH WHITE SKIN

SIMON PANAY • FRANCE • DRAMA • 14:41

Entrusted by his father to a group of gold-miners, an albino child embodies all of their hopes.



THE CHOICE

ARIANNA LEWIS • MD • UNITED STATES • YOUNG FILMMAKER • ART/EXPERIMENTAL • 1:07

This film explores the choices we feel compelled to make in life and how we can learn to let go of the belief that we must choose.



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FILM DESCRIPTIONS

THE CORONA COLLECTION : LOUIS ARMSTRONG'S NEIGHBORS

CHARANYA RAMAKRISHNAN & REGINA BAIN • NY • UNITED STATES • WOMAN FILMMAKER • DOCUMENTARY • 17:36

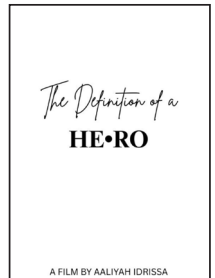
The Corona Collection brings to life the iconic Jazz legend Louis Armstrong and his wife Lucille through the voices of neighbors who knew them best. These cherished memories, heartfelt stories, and neighborhood histories, offer a unique and intimate perspective on the Armstrongs' lives in their own community.



THE DEFINITION OF A HERO

AALIYAH IDRISSE • UNITED STATES • YOUNG FILMMAKER • DRAMA • 3:04

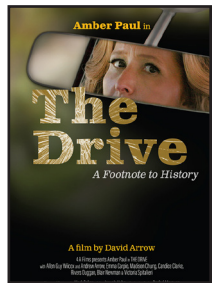
A teenaged girl tasked with answering a tedious, philosophical question about heroism in an English class surely finds the answer through quality time with her father.



THE DRIVE

DAVID ARROW • NY • UNITED STATES • DRAMA • 12:20

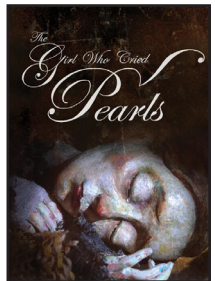
It's a warm November day in the early 1960s and Liz has just picked up the kids for her weekly carpool. Little does she know that this will be a drive she'll never forget.



THE GIRL WHO CRIED PEARLS

CHRIS LAVIS & MACIEK SZCZERBOWSKI • CANADA • ANIMATION • 17:36

A haunting fable about a girl overwhelmed by sorrow, the boy who loves her, and how greed leads good hearts to wicked deeds.



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FILM DESCRIPTIONS

THE LAST FRY

SAM ZARRIN • CA • UNITED STATES • DRAMA • 17:52

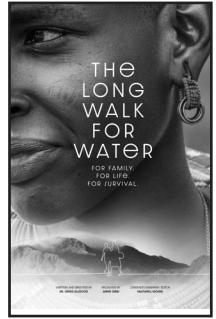
Bruce, recently diagnosed with cancer, is looking to create one final happy memory with his family, but the universe seems to refuse to let that happen.



THE LONG WALK FOR WATER

DR. GREG ALLGOOD • CA • UNITED STATES • DOCUMENTARY • 13:54

Two humanitarians aiming to bring water to communities join two Kenyan women on their 10 mile daily walk to fetch water for their families and cattle. Along the way they discover the devastating impact of this walk on the women's families, their relationships, and their own lives and self-fulfilment.



THE PEARL COMB

ALI COOK • UNITED KINGDOM • DRAMA • 20:33

In 1893, a fisherman's wife becomes the first person to cure someone of tuberculosis. A doctor, intent on proving a woman's place is in the home and not practising medicine, investigates - only to discover the source of her unearthly power.



THE PRAYER

NIVEDITA POHANKAR • INDIA • WOMAN FILMMAKER • ART/EXPERIMENTAL • 14:49

Young Nisha waits for a lifesaving ventilator bed for her brother during the COVID pandemic. With no other solution in sight, Nisha prays for her brother's life. She has the most profound experience of the divine through her prayer and the manifestation of the experience is the much needed ventilator bed. In her state of relief, Nisha hears another prayer.



FILM DESCRIPTIONS

THE QUINTA'S GHOST

JAMES A. CASTILLO3 • SPAIN • ANIMATION • 17:13

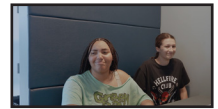
In 1819, an exhausted Francisco de Goya retires to “La Quinta del Sordo” to spend his final days away from public life and focused on his work. Unfortunately, in the deep solitude of that modest country house, the painter falls seriously ill. Closer to death than ever before, Francisco de Goya is visited by the ghosts of his past. Tormented by these visits and with his health rapidly declining, Goya paints the Black Paintings on the walls of his home as a last resort to drive the ghosts out of his life—losing almost everything in the process, including his sanity and nearly his life.



THE TUBA GUY

HANNAH SHAW • MD • UNITED STATES •
YOUNG FILMMAKER • DRAMA • 2:34

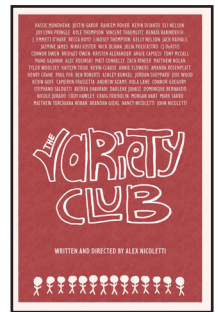
The protagonist must find the source of music that is driving her crazy! She goes on a journey and somehow ends up back in a familiar place.



THE VARIETY CLUB

ALEX NICOLETTI • PA • UNITED STATES • COMEDY • 13:44

Desperate to grow up and leave a camp for kids with disabilities, a young woman with Down syndrome plots her escape with a potential suitor.



THE WOMAN IN THE ROOM

DANNY DONNELLY • UNITED STATES • DRAMA • 23:26

“The Woman in the Room” is the story of a man burdened with his decision to end his mother’s life. Is it murder or mercy? A thought-provoking look at end-of-life decisions and how one man deals with the guilt that comes with them. Screenplay based upon the short story “The Woman in the Room” copyright 1978 Stephen King; used by permission, all rights reserved.



THE WORLD'S GONE MAD

FRANCISCO MEREJO • FL • UNITED STATES •
YOUNG FILMMAKER • COMEDY • 3:23

This isn't your typical mad scientist. What I was to tell you was that there was someone eviler, someone madder. And what if they're the reason for scientist going mad in the first place, maybe the mad scientist isn't really mad. Every scheme, every plot to do evil was just meant to destroy them and get them out of power, but it just ends up doing good to the city and makes the real mastermind look like a stand-up citizen.



TOGETHER WE THRIVE

AURELIEN TANGUEP • PA • UNITED STATES •
DOCUMENTARY • 9:53

A 10 minute film about the West Chester Community Center illustrating its importance to the community through interviews, stories, and visuals.



WHAT IS ART?

SOPHIA LEE • MD • UNITED STATES • YOUNG FILMMAKER •
ART/EXPERIMENTAL • 2:39

This film explores how different people define art, showing that art is a personal form of expression shaped by creativity, connection, and individual perspective.



WHITE LETTERING

JUDIT SIMON • HUNGARY • WOMAN FILMMAKER •
DRAMA • 13:12

October 23, 1956, Budapest. Zoli, a 25 year old medical assistant, goes to work at the Central Ambulance Service. On this day, his shift changes from day to night. He brought the old family ring to propose to his girlfriend next morning. Suddenly, an emergency call comes. A demonstrator was shot at the State Radio Building. Zoli changes his mind and does not go to his girlfriend. He decides to stay at Ambulance Station in order to serve as long as he can.



FILM DESCRIPTIONS

WHITE MEAT: APPETIZER

DAVID DYLAN THOMAS • PA • UNITED STATES • COMEDY • 11:49

True story: beneath Washington Square, an urban park in Philadelphia, lie buried the bodies of hundreds of enslaved people. What if, one night, they all came back as zombies, but they only ate white people?



Z-MILE

GREG STEES • CA • UNITED STATES • COMEDY • 7:49

While dealing with the zombie apocalypse, aspiring rapper Merman works hard to take care of his ailing grandmother. Armed with a baseball bat and CD burner, Merman makes his way through the desert wasteland, but these trying times leave him questioning his career in music.



Thank You!



With endless gratitude, the WCFF would like to thank A. Roy Smith for his continuous contributions to the film festival and the borough of West Chester.



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