

the 2023 MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL

Feature Films

1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture

United States / 2022 / 92 min / English

The word "homosexual" did not appear in the Bible until 1946, when the translation of a single Greek word suddenly complicated the lives of millions. This DOC NYC Audience Award-winning film spotlights the work of tireless researchers who trace the origins of decades of anti-gay movements to the flimsy foundation of a mistranslation. At once challenging, enlightening, and inspiring, 1946 is bound to be one of MFF2023's most talked about documentaries.

DIR Sharon "Rocky" Roggio

PROD Sharon "Rocky" Roggio, Jena Serbu

SCR Jena Serbu, Jill Woodward

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites, GenreQueer

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00QOkOE49qM>

20 Days in Mariupol

Ukraine / 2023 / 95 min / Russian, Ukrainian, English

As the Russian invasion begins, a team of Ukrainian journalists trapped in the besieged city of Mariupol struggles to continue their work documenting the war's atrocities. An act of bearing witness to the horrors still occurring one year later, this documentary is a bold and brave document of the tragedies of war and tyrannical regimes that is a challenging yet essential watch for those who care about global human rights.

DIR Mstyslav Chernov

PROD Raney Aronson-Rath, Mstyslav Chernov, Derl McCrudden, Michelle Mizner

SCR Mstyslav Chernov

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

26.2 to Life

United States / 2022 / 90 min / English

The San Quentin Prison Marathon has an unconventional route: 105 dizzying laps around a crowded prison yard. 26.2 TO LIFE tells the story of incarcerated men who are members of the 1000 Mile Club, the prison's long-distance running club. After training all year, completing the marathon means more than entrée into an elite group of athletes; it's a chance to be defined by more than their crimes.

DIR Christine Yoo

PROD Carolyn Mao, Sara Jane Sluke, Hella Winston, Christine Yoo

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/219302434>

32 Sounds

United States / 2022 / 98 min / English

32 SOUNDS is an immersive documentary and profound sensory experience that explores the elemental phenomenon of sound. Full to bursting with humor, emotion and curiosity, this film is a uniquely mind-expanding plunge into a dimension of the human experience many of us take for granted. This meditation on the power of sound to bend time, cross borders, and profoundly shape our perception will have you hearing the world in a different light.

DIR Sam Green

PROD Thomas O. Kriegsmann, Josh Penn

SECTIONS Sound Vision

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwnIGxwVwIM>

A Common Sequence

United States / 2023 / 81 min / Spanish, English, Lakota

A critically-endangered salamander. Dominican nuns running a conservation lab. Fishermen struggling to survive off of a rapidly depleting lake. Engineers creating AI-driven apple harvest machines. These

seemingly disparate strands are woven together beautifully in Mike Gibisser and Mary Helena Clark's experimental documentary *A COMMON SEQUENCE* to meditate on questions of value, power, extraction, and adaptation. Preceded by *THE INDICATORS* Dir. Kurt Sensenbrenner.

DIR Mary Helena Clark, Mike Gibisser

PROD Graciela Guerrero-Reyes, Mary Helena Clark, Mike Gibisser

SECTIONS Cream City Cinema

A Disturbance in the Force

United States / 2023 / 84 min / English

In 1978, CBS aired the two-hour "Star Wars Holiday Special" to an audience of 13 million people. It never re-aired and is considered one of the worst shows ever to air. George Lucas has said, "If I had the time and a sledgehammer, I would track down every copy ... and smash it." A cavalcade of STAR WARS players and historians tell the bizarre history of the special that almost ended the galaxy far, far away.

DIR Jeremy Coon, Steve Kozak

PROD Jeremy Coon, Steve Kozak, Kyle Newman

SECTIONS Spotlight Presentations, Documentary Festival Favorites, Cinema Hooligante

TRAILER https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ynu-iew_gjs

A Man

Japan / 2022 / 121 min / Japanese

After the untimely death of her husband Daisuke, widow Rie holds a memorial service, where Daisuke's estranged brother appears. Looking at a photo of the deceased, he remarks, "This is not Daisuke." Rie's beloved was someone else. Detective Kido encounters an array of people in his pursuit to identify the man who had swapped lives with someone else. As he closes in on the shocking truth, mixed feelings toward the mystery man arise within Kido.

DIR Kei Ishikawa

PROD Shuhei Akita, Hiroshi Ida, Naoya Kinoshita, Yoshito Nakabe, Yohei Sadoshima, Minori Tabuchi, Toshihiro Takahashi, Yusuke Tanaka

SCR Keiichiro Hirano, Kôsuke Mukai

SECTIONS Worldviews

A Witch Story

United States, Spain / 2022 / 71 min / English

After discovering she was a descendant of Martha Allen Carrier, a woman hanged for witchcraft during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692, young writer Alice embarks on writing a book about her relative. Her work expands from a personal quest and merges with the testimony of Italian feminist scholar Silvia Federici, resulting in this post-colonial feminist documentary unveiling the real social and political motivations behind the Great Witch Hunts that underscore the violence waged against women today.

DIR Yolanda Pividal

PROD Yolanda Pividal, Ruth Somalo

SCR Alice Markham-Cantor, Yolanda Pividal
SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

Ajoomma

Singapore, Republic of Korea (South Korea) / 2022 / 90 min / Mandarin Chinese, Korean, English

A middle-aged, Korean-drama-obsessed widow from Singapore travels out of the country for the first time to Seoul and gets separated from her tour group. Her comedic misadventure becomes an unexpected road of self-discovery as she comes to terms with the life she truly wants for herself beyond her roles of daughter, wife, and mother. AJOOMMA is sure to leave your heart warmed and your spirit empowered.

DIR Shuming He

PROD Anthony Chen

SCR Shuming He, Kristen Ong

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9Akuk8w-U4>

Alcarràs

Spain, Italy / 2022 / 120 min / Catalan, Spanish, English

In a small Catalan village, the peach farmers of the Solé family spend every summer together picking fruit from their orchard. But when plans arise to install solar panels and cut down trees, the members of this tight-knit group suddenly face eviction and the loss of far more than their home. Winner of the Golden Bear at the 2022 Berlin International Film Festival, director Carla Simón has cemented herself as one of the most exciting voices in Spanish cinema.

DIR Carla Simón

PROD Tono Folguera, Sergi Moreno, Stefan Schmitz, María Zamora

SCR Carla Simón, Arnau Vilaró

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://mubi.com/films/alcarras/trailer>

All Man: The International Male Story

United States / 2022 / 83 min / English

Leopard print loin cloths, silk kimonos, and an abundance of beefy, glistening, shirtless men, INTERNATIONAL MALE was the mail-order catalog that launched a thousand fantasies and re-shaped some fickle codes of gendered clothing. This iconic catalog, created by Sheboygan native Gene Bukard, and the juicy stories behind its glossy pages blaze on screen in this breezy documentary.

DIR Bryan Darling, Jesse Finley Reed

PROD Bryan Darling, Peter Jones, Jesse Finley Reed

SCR Peter Jones

SECTIONS GenreQueer, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijxUD1nZ8KA>

And the king said, what a FANTASTIC MACHINE

Sweden, Denmark / 2023 / 88 min / Swedish, English, French, German, Arabic

In an awe-inspiring sociological journey to the center of the aperture, festival alums Axel Danielson and Maximilien Van Aertryck meticulously dissect the camera's impact on society. A mind-boggling array of archival footage weaves a visual tapestry that tracks photographic philosophy and technology throughout human history. Less about photography as an art form than our pervasive everyday use, this film will leave you equally concerned and inspired.

DIR Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck

PROD Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/780848015>

ANHELL69

Colombia / 2022 / 72 min / Spanish

A funeral car cruises the streets of Medellín while a young director tells the story of his past in this violent and conservative city. The young queer scene of Colombia blazes onscreen in all of its neon glory in this shadowy, hypnotic film. ANHELL69 explores the dreams, doubts and fears of an annihilated generation and the struggle to carry on making cinema.

DIR Theo Montoya

PROD Theo Montoya

SCR Theo Montoya

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, GenreQueer

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDpiOdKyvlg>

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret

United States / 2023 / 106 min / English

A beloved classic comes to the big screen with Kelly Fremon Craig's forthcoming adaptation of Judy Blume's ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. Starring Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates, and Abby Ryder Fortson as Margaret, this timeless coming-of-age story has transcended decades and spoken to generations. For all three, questions of identity, one's place in the world, and what brings meaning to a life will draw them closer together than ever before.

DIR Kelly Fremon Craig

PROD Judy Blume, Julie Ansell, Amy Brooks, James Brooks

SCR Judy Blume, Kelly Fremon Craig

SECTIONS North American Independents

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzRzoiHC3iE>

Bad Press

United States / 2023 / 100 min / English

Angel Ellis, a reporter for Mvskoke Media, just wants to give her readers transparent and truthful access to news relevant to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. But when Angel and her colleagues challenge the integrity of tribal officials, they set off a whirlwind that ends in the dissolution of their independent media. BAD PRESS is a nuanced, empowering tale of a modern Native community fighting for transparency and access to information to hold their government accountable.

DIR Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, Joe Peeler

PROD Garrett F. Baker, Conrad Beilharz, Tyler Graim

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

Band

Iceland / 2022 / 88 min / Icelandic, English

Icelandic performance art meets THIS IS SPINAL TAP in this wickedly fun look at women behaving creatively. Each on the brink of 40, the three women of The Post Performance Blues Band give themselves one year to become pop stars or quit the band for good. What follows is a make-it-or-break-it story of triumphant sisterhood.

DIR Álfrún Örnólfsdóttir

PROD Þórdur Bragi Jónsson, Heather Millard

SCR Álfrún Örnólfsdóttir

SECTIONS Sound Vision

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sXZQE1ERYs>

Before, Now & Then

Indonesia / 2022 / 103 min / Indonesian

Set amid the political turmoil of late-1960s Indonesia, BEFORE, NOW & THEN follows Nana, the beautiful wife of a wealthy plantation owner whose inner life remains with her deceased first husband, murdered in the civil war a decade prior. Forced to confront her husband's blatant infidelity, Nana makes an unusual connection with his younger mistress, Ino. The two women, sharing their secrets and desires, discover a newfound freedom and intimacy withheld from them both by the strictures of patriarchal society.

DIR Kamila Andini

PROD Suma Adiwinata, Gita Fara, Ifa Isfansyah
SCR Kamila Andini, Ahda Imran
SECTIONS Worldviews

Being Mary Tyler Moore

United States / 2023 / 119 min / English

With unprecedented access to the Mary Tyler Moore Estate, friends, family, and colleagues, this documentary constructs an intimate mosaic of Mary Tyler Moore's 60-year career in show business. To understand her life and impact, director and MFF2015 alum James Adolphus (LITTLE WHITE LIE) weaves together an examination of the importance of her on-screen roles, her non-traditional influence as a powerful executive, her humanitarianism, and the indelible mark she left on feminism, revealing a complex icon.

DIR James Adolphus

PROD Ben Selkow, Lena Waithe, Debra Martin Chase, Rishi Rajani, Andrew C. Coles, Laura Gardner

SECTIONS Art & Artists, Documentary Festival Favorites

Beyond Human Nature

United States / 2023 / 109 min / English

When a man is murdered by drowning in a paper pulp vat, a small town clamors for justice as his brother faces the slippery nature of objective truth. BEYOND HUMAN NATURE chronicles the grisly Tom Monfils homicide investigation of 1992 through the eyes of the people who lived it. This Green Bay true crime story is handled with deft care by local director Michael Neelsen.

DIR Michael Neelsen

PROD David Neelsen, Jared Gores, Natalie Pohorski

SCR Joe Pudas, Michael Neelsen

SECTIONS Cream City Cinema

TRAILER https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmNueW_Neec

birth/rebirth

United States / 2023 / 98 min / English

A morgue technician successfully reanimates the body of a little girl, but to keep her breathing, she will need to harvest biological materials from pregnant women. When the girl's mother, a nurse, discovers her baby alive, they enter into a deal that forces them both down a dark path. Director Laura Moss (FRY DAY, MFF2017) breathes new life into the reanimation genre with twists and turns so horrendous you can only laugh to keep your stomach from churning.

DIR Laura Moss

PROD Mali Elfman, David Grove Churchill Viste

SCR Laura Moss, Brendan J. O'Brien
SECTIONS Cinema Hooligante

Black Barbie: A Documentary

United States / 2023 / 100 min / English

Love her or hate her, almost everyone has a Barbie story, especially Black women and girls. BLACK BARBIE explores the story behind the first Black Barbie doll because she has a story too. Through intimate access to a charismatic Mattel insider, Beulah Mae Mitchell, BLACK BARBIE delves into the cross-section of merchandise and representation as Black women struggle to elevate their voices and stories, refusing to be invisible.

DIR Lagueria Davis

PROD Lagueria Davis, Aaliyah Williams

SCR Lagueria Davis

SECTIONS Black Lens, Documentary Festival Favorites

Blue Jean

United Kingdom / 2022 / 97 min / English

England, 1988. Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government is about to pass a law stigmatizing gays and lesbians, forcing Jean, a high school gym teacher, to live a double life. As pressure mounts from all sides, the arrival of a new girl at school catalyzes a crisis that will challenge Jean to her core. Anchored by a stunning debut feature performance by Rosy McEwan, this BAFTA-nominated drama is not to be missed.

DIR Georgia Oakley

PROD H el ene Sifre

SCR Georgia Oakley

SECTIONS GenreQueer, Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGGRNmIU7fc>

Blueback

Australia / 2022 / 102 min / English

Abby (Mia Wasikowska) is a marine biologist raised by her single mother, a force-to-be-reckoned-with environmental activist. Growing up, her local community includes a kind-hearted fisherman (Eric Bana), a grouper fish she calls Blueback, and another young guardian of the local ecosystem. But when Abby learns of her mother's debilitating stroke while researching coral reef destruction, she must return home and confront new challenges that face their beloved bay and its beloved life forms. 10+

DIR Robert Connolly

PROD Robert Connolly, James Grandison, Liz Kearney

SCR Robert Connolly, Tim Winton

SECTIONS Rated K: For Kids, Worldviews

TRAILER https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YhdSLRH_horved=0

Bones of Crows

Canada / 2022 / 127 min / English, Cree, Italian

Aline, a Cree musical prodigy, and her siblings are plunged into a struggle for survival when they are removed from their family home and forced into Canada's residential school system. We follow Aline as she journeys from child to matriarch — a moving multi-generational epic of resilience, survival, and the pursuit of justice. BONES OF CROWS unfolds over 100 years with a cumulative force that propels us from traumatic past to triumphant future.

DIR Marie Clements

PROD Marie Clements, Trish Dolman, Christine Haebler

SCR Marie Clements

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, North American Independents

Bonnie Blue: James Cotton's Life in the Blues

United States / 2022 / 86 min / English

Credited with introducing the blues to rock audiences, Grammy-winning singer, harmonica player, and songwriter James Cotton gets a fitting tribute in this vibrant documentary portrait. Cotton's musical influence shaped the Chicago Blues style into what it is today. His story is one of empowerment during a time when the weight of racial inequity made the journey seem impossible. Cotton's music made history. His musical voice was unique, and the blues were never the same since.

DIR Bestor Cram

PROD Judith Laster, Sam Pollard, James Montgomery

SCR Bestor Cram, Mike Majoros

SECTIONS Sound Vision, Documentary Festival Favorites

Call Me Dancer

United States / 2023 / 84 min / English, Hindi

Manish is a young and talented street dancer who struggles against his parents' insistence that he follow a traditional path. When he accidentally walks into an inner-city dance school and encounters a curmudgeonly 70-year-old Israeli ballet master, a hunger develops within. Ambitious and passionate, Manish is determined to make it as a professional dancer, but the odds are stacked against him—a true-life fairytale from the streets of Mumbai to the stages of New York.

DIR Leslie Shampaine, Pip Gilmour

PROD Cynthia Kane, Priya Ramasubban, Leslie Shampaine

SECTIONS Art & Artists, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://callmedancer.com/>

Casa Susanna

France, United States / 2022 / 97 min / English

In the 1950s and '60s, an underground network of transgender women and cross-dressing men found refuge at a modest house in the Catskills region of New York. Known as Casa Susanna, the house provided a shelter for them to live for a few days as they had always dreamed. Told through the moving photographs and memories of its visitors, CASA SUSANNA provides a look back at a secret world where the persecuted and frightened found freedom.

DIR Sébastien Lifshitz

PROD Muriel Meynard

SCR Sébastien Lifshitz

SECTIONS GenreQueer, Art & Artists

Category: Woman

Canada / 2022 / 76 min / English, Swahili, Hindi

When 18-year-old South African runner Caster Semenya burst onto the world stage in 2009, her championship was not celebrated but marred by doubt in her veracity as "a woman." **CATEGORY: WOMAN** focuses on four remarkable athletes from the Global South who have been forced out of competition by new regulations by World Athletics (formerly the IAAF), posing questions of bodily autonomy and human rights in the world of sports that are exceedingly timely today.

DIR Phyllis Ellis

PROD Howard Fraiberg

SCR Phyllis Ellis

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/776678222>

Chile '76

Chile, Argentina, Qatar / 2022 / 95 min / Spanish

Chile, 1976: the early days of the Pinochet dictatorship. Carmen heads to the family beach house to supervise its renovation. The rest of the family visits sporadically during the winter vacation. When the family priest asks her to take care of a young man he is sheltering in secret, Carmen steps into unexplored territories. CHILE '76 moves from a quiet character study to a gripping thriller, exploring a sheltered, upper-middle-class woman's precarious flirtation with political engagement.

DIR Manuela Martelli

PROD Alejandra Garcia, Juan Pablo Gugliotta, Dominga Sotomayor, Nathalia Videla Peña, Andrés Wood, Omar Zúñiga Hidalgo

SCR Manuela Martelli, Alejandra Moffat

SECTIONS Worldviews, Cine Sin Fronteras

TRAILER <https://m.imdb.com/video/vi3830039065/>

Cinebuds LIVE: Enter the Dragon

Hong Kong, United States / 1973 / 102 min / English, Cantonese

Milwaukee Film and 88Nine Radio Milwaukee are thrilled to team up for a special 50th-anniversary screening of ENTER THE DRAGON on 35mm presented by Cinebuds hosts Dori Zori and Kristopher Pollard! Bruce Lee plays a martial-arts expert determined to help capture the narcotics dealer whose gang was responsible for the death of his sister. Stick around after for a live podcast recording and audience Q&A to celebrate this stone-cold action classic.

DIR Robert Clouse

PROD Raymond Chow, Paul Heller, Fred Weintraub

SCR Michael Allin

SECTIONS Spotlight Presentations, Cinema Hooligante

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKUZjfTESM>

Coyote

Canada / 2022 / 89 min / English, Spanish, French

When his restaurant closed, Camilo, an immigrant and widower, had to take a menial job. Just as a new opportunity arises and his life gets back on track, his estranged daughter returns and asks him to watch her son (whom he's never met) while she goes to rehab. What follows is an intimate and insightful tale of a family trying to reconstruct itself in one of the year's most poignant and emotionally genuine films.

DIR Katherine Jerkovic

PROD Nicolas Comeau

SCR Katherine Jerkovic

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, North American Independents

Dear Thirteen

United States / 2022 / 80 min / English, Spanish, French, Bambara, Nepali

Heartwarming and subtle, DEAR THIRTEEN lends insight into the perspectives of nine thirteen-year-olds across the globe. Told through gorgeous cinematography—with no adult commentary but the filmmaker's—these diverse and far-reaching stories will inspire younger teens going through the similar task of coming of age amidst urgent challenges to their generation. Older teens and adults will have a

poignant dose of nostalgia through the film's meditation on the endless and universal quest of self-discovery. 11+

DIR Alexis Neophytides

PROD Alexis Neophytides, Trina Rodriguez

SECTIONS Teen Screen, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/397452487>

Earlybird

United States / 2022 / 102 min / English

A familiar face in Cream City Cinema, Martin Kaszubowski returns with his solo feature debut, EARLYBIRD, the story of a struggling theater owner as he tries to resurrect his business with increasingly outlandish play productions. A meditation on creative careers and the potential for passion fizzling out, this fictional film will hit close to home and provide glimmers of hope for arts patrons and workers alike.

DIR Martin Kaszubowski

PROD Kristin Peterson

SCR Martin Kaszubowski

SECTIONS Cream City Cinema

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5f0o7oLspg>

Egghead & Twinkie

United States / 2023 / 87 min / English

After coming out to her parents, an Asian American teenage girl takes off on a road trip to meet her online crush with the help of her nerdy best friend. At only 26, writer/director Sarah Kambe Holland expertly balances humor with sincerity. This fast-moving, light-hearted road movie explores identity, sexuality, and self-discovery for a generation of youth seeking love and acceptance on the internet. 15+

DIR Sarah Kambe Holland

PROD Danielle Fountaine, Sarah Kambe Holland, Valerie Starks

SCR Sarah Kambe Holland

SECTIONS Teen Screen, GenreQueer, North American Independents

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3DLQvfulJg>

El Equipo

United States / 2023 / 80 min / Spanish, English

In 1984, an unlikely meeting between legendary American forensic scientist Dr. Clyde Snow and a group of Argentine students would ultimately change the course of forensic science and human rights. Told almost entirely through archival material and a decade of interviews, EL EQUIPO follows the harrowing

experiences of this Latin American team as they challenge the official cover-ups of authoritarian regimes, many still in power, even as the risks to themselves increase.

DIR Bernardo Ruiz

PROD Gabriela Alcalde

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, Documentary Festival Favorites

Ennio

Italy, China, Belgium, Japan / 2021 / 156 min / Italian, English, French, Portuguese, Chinese

Giuseppe Tornatore's epic tribute to the vast career of Ennio Morricone, the composer of earworm western film scores from *THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY* to *THE HATEFUL EIGHT*. This documentary is a can't-miss for cinephiles and music buffs alike, delving into the creative process of a master across five decades with insightful interviews from Quentin Tarantino, Dario Argento, John Williams, Clint Eastwood, and the maestro himself.

DIR Giuseppe Tornatore

PROD Peter De Maegd, San Fu Maltha, Gianni Russo, Gabriele Costa

SCR Giuseppe Tornatore

SECTIONS Sound Vision, Art & Artists

TRAILER https://youtu.be/y_sMAYADwCA

Ernest and Celestine: A Trip to Gibberita

France, Luxembourg / 2022 / 80 min / French

Ernest and Celestine are best friends. And even if one of them is a bear and the other is a mouse, they always step towards adventures together. They are forlorn when Ernest's cherished violin breaks. Gibberita, Ernest's hometown, is the only place to repair it and is home to the world's great musicians and luthiers. But it's a tense homecoming: Ernest's father, a judge, is upholding a citywide ban on music. Can Ernest, Celestine, and a mysterious masked hero restore joy to Gibberita? This rollicking, symphonic, and tender mouseterpiece will leave you rejoicing, "Liberty, equality, and music for all!" 6+

DIR Jean-Christophe Roger, Julien Chheng

PROD Damien Brunner, Didier Brunner, Stéphan Roelants

SCR Guillaume Mautalent, Sébastien Oursel, Gabrielle Vincent

SECTIONS Rated K: For Kids

TRAILER

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=25GBE13A49k&embeds_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fgkids.com%2F&feature=emb_logo

Falcon Lake

Canada, France / 2022 / 100 min / French, English

Bastien, 13, is spending the summer with his family at a lake cabin in Quebec. Introverted and slightly lost, he's drawn to a local legend of a young ghost haunting the lake. When Chloe, a socially adept 16-year-old, arrives, a glazed melancholy and transgressive magic sets in as they form a bond. Shot on 16mm film with a subtle but striking soundtrack, FALCON LAKE conjures unfolding mysteries amid the potent possibilities of summers as they pass. 15+

DIR Charlotte Le Bon

PROD Sylvain Corbeil, Julien Deris, David Gauquié, Nancy Grant

SCR François Choquet, Charlotte Le Bon, Bastien Vives

SECTIONS Teen Screen, North American Independents

Finding Her Beat

United States / 2022 / 89 min / English, Japanese

A master of Japanese drumming and a Korean adoptee from Minnesota boldly convene an all-female troupe to perform Taiko, the Japanese drumming art that has been off-limits to women for centuries. This energizing and uplifting story follows a dynamic group of performers working to bridge the cultural divide while fighting through creative differences, exhaustion, and the early menace of COVID-19.

DIR Dawn Mikkelson, Keri Pickett

PROD Dawn Mikkelson, Jennifer Weir

SECTIONS Sound Vision, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/647819492>

Finding Satoshi

Japan, United States / 2022 / 61 min / English, Japanese

With only a photograph and a name, a group of passionate armchair sleuths tried unsuccessfully for years to answer the question, "Who is this man?" Narrated by Willem Dafoe, FINDING SATOSHI is an exuberant documentary that finally solves the fourteen-year mystery of an alternate-reality game that brought together players from around the globe in unlikely ways to find this mystery man.

DIR Laurent Barthelemy

PROD Laurent Barthelemy, Yanis Deschamps, Airi Yamawaki, Grace Masako Kawahara

SCR Yanis Deschamps, Matthew Klinman, Zack Poitras, Laurent Barthelemy

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://filmfreeway.com/submissions/23294531>

Give Me Pity!

United States / 2022 / 80 min / English

Sissy St. Claire graces the small screen for her first-ever television special, an evening full of music, laughter, glamour, and entertainment! But Sissy's live event quickly begins to curdle into a psychedelic

nightmare of vanity, insecurity and delusional ambition, provoked by the glowering presence of a mysterious masked man. "GIVE ME PITY! is a singular vision that could resonate with audiences with a taste for lurid cinematic mischief-making." (Screen International)

DIR Amanda Kramer

PROD Jake Agger, Sarah Winshall

SCR Amanda Kramer

SECTIONS Cinema Hooligante

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qo6poa0XSE>

Godland

Denmark, Iceland, France, Sweden / 2022 / 143 min / Danish, Icelandic

The struggle between the structures of religion and our brute animal nature plays out amid the beautifully foreboding landscapes of Iceland in this psychological epic from director Hlynur Pálmason (WINTER BROTHERS, MFF2018). In the late nineteenth century, a Danish priest makes the dangerous trek to Iceland's remote southeastern coast to establish a church. He finds his resolve tested as he confronts the harsh terrain, temptations of the flesh, and being an intruder in an unforgiving land.

DIR Hlynur Pálmason

PROD Eva Jakobsen, Mikkel Jersin, Katrin Pors, Anton Máni Svansson

SCR Hlynur Pálmason

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/789053419>

Gods of Mexico

Mexico / 2022 / 97 min / No Dialogue

A tribute to those who strive to preserve their cultural identity, GODS OF MEXICO looks at resistance to modernization in rural Mexico. This stunning and immersive voyage through the faces, age-old gestures, and traditions of hundreds of individuals is a cinematic reminder that living in tune with our essence as human beings is still possible. These people resist the kind of progress that clouds their memory and confuses the consideration of values worth following.

DIR Helmut Dosantos

PROD Helmut Dosantos, Gerardo González Fernández, Pilar Goutas, Marta Núñez Puerto

SCR Helmut Dosantos

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ErJIHr3864>

Golden Years

Switzerland / 2022 / 92 min / Swiss German

Newly retired Alice and her husband Peter are ready to finally enjoy their golden years together. But their pent-up marital problems bubble to the surface on a cruise through the Mediterranean. The spouses go on separate journeys of self-discovery, each finding unexpected ways to spend their time. A breakout hit at the Swiss box office, audiences are sure to love this never-too-late-for-a-coming-of-age comedy.

DIR Barbara Kulcsar

PROD Lukas Hobi, Reto Schärli

SCR Petra Biondina Volpe

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Nsz9fTLpHQ>

How to Blow Up a Pipeline

United States / 2022 / 104 min / English

A crew of young environmental activists executes a daring mission to sabotage an oil pipeline in this taut and timely thriller, part high-stakes heist, part radical exploration of the climate crisis. "Based on last year's controversial manifesto by Andreas Malm...director Daniel Goldhaber's fictionalized adaptation firmly puts the "how" back in the book's title in thrillingly dramatizing what these actions could and probably should look like." (Slant Magazine)

DIR Daniel Goldhaber

PROD Ariela Barer, Alex Black, Daniel Goldhaber, Alex Hughes, Isa Mazzei, Adam Wyatt Tate, David Grove Churchill Viste

SCR Ariela Barer, Jordan Sjol, Daniel Goldhaber, Andreas Malm

SECTIONS North American Independents

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSb585bGYmQ>

Huesera

Mexico, Peru / 2022 / 97 min / Spanish

Valeria's joy at becoming pregnant with her first child is quickly taken away when she's cursed by a sinister entity. As danger closes in and relationships with her family become fractured, she's forced deeper into a chilling world of dark magic that threatens to consume her. A group of witches emerge that could be her only hope for safety and salvation, but not without grave risk.

DIR Michelle Garza Cervera

PROD Edher Campos, Paulina I. Villavicencio

SCR Michelle Garza Cervera, Abia Castillo

SECTIONS Cinema Hooligante, Cine Sin Fronteras

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22g-vksXD8c>

Hundreds of Beavers

United States / 2022 / 108 min / English

From the team that brought you LAKE MICHIGAN MONSTER (MFF2018) comes this 19th-century, black and white, no dialogue, supernatural winter epic we think both Tex Avery and Charlie Chaplin would be proud of. A drunken applejack salesperson must go from zero to hero and become North America's greatest fur trapper by defeating, yes, HUNDREDS of beavers.

DIR Mike Cheslik

PROD Ryland Brickson Cole Tews, Matt Sabljak

SCR Mike Cheslik, Ryland Brickson Cole Tews

SECTIONS Cream City Cinema, Cinema Hooligante

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/698323728>

Hung Up on a Dream

United States / 2023 / 116 min / English

Nearly 60 years after they met as teenagers before exploding onto the British Invasion music scene, The Zombies tell the tumultuous tale of their decades-long journey through the music industry, including creating one of the most influential albums ever, "Odessey and Oracle." The band reflects on their turbulent yet inspiring journey from true friendship to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

DIR Robert Schwartzman

PROD Russell Wayne Groves

SECTIONS Sound Vision

I Don't Want To Be Dust

Mexico, Argentina / 2022 / 85 min / Spanish

Bego, ignored by her family, terribly bored and feeling increasingly irrelevant, sees her life changed when she joins a new-age meditation group that preaches the coming of a great cataclysm. Based on the filmmaker's experience with new-age cults and starring his mother, this film is a meditation on an older woman battling the indifference of her family and society, which is all too quick to embrace the prospect of the apocalypse.

DIR Iván Löwenberg

PROD Facundo Escudero Salinas, Aida Herrerias, Elsa Reyes

SCR Iván Löwenberg

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, Worldviews

I Like Movies

Canada / 2022 / 99 min / English

Burlington, Ontario, 2003. Hyper-ambitious teenage cinephile Lawrence Kweller dreams of attending film school at NYU. To raise the hefty tuition fee, he gets his dream job at the local video store, Sequels. "Imagine if SUPERBAD were directed by a woman who didn't allow the toxic masculinity and misogyny to go unchecked while giving her genuinely funny and moving characters the room for growth and empathy. I LIKE MOVIES does that." (CTV's Your Morning)

DIR Chandler Levack

PROD Lindsay Blair Goeldner

SCR Chandler Levack

SECTIONS Teen Screen, North American Independents

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=godMZzeWTu0>

Is There Anybody Out There?

United Kingdom / 2023 / 90 min / English

Born with a disability so rare that no reliable statistics exist, filmmaker Ella Glendining wonders if anyone else can share the experience of living in a body like hers. This simple question, one which nondisabled people so often take for granted, leads to a journey to not only others who live like her but to the realization that meeting them changes how she sees herself and the world.

DIR Ella Glendining

PROD Janine Marmot

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/798384603>

It's Only Life After All

United States / 2023 / 123 min / English

From Sundance award-winning director Alexandria Bombach (ON HER SHOULDERS, MFF2018) comes an intimate look into one of America's most iconic folk-rock bands – the Indigo Girls. Across decades of political turmoil, the Indigo Girls consistently stood for Indigenous rights, racial justice, LGBTQ dignity, and climate change. By celebrating the legacy of a duo who never quite got their flowers, IT'S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL lifts up the powerful charisma of their integrity, vulnerability, and harmony.

DIR Alexandria Bombach

PROD Jessica Devaney, Kathlyn Horan, Anya Rous

SECTIONS GenreQueer, Sound Vision

Jasmine is a Star

United States / 2022 / 60 min / English

JASMINE IS A STAR follows a determined sixteen-year-old with albinism (lack of pigment in the hair, skin, and eyes) who makes it her mission to become a professional model in her hometown of Minneapolis

while attempting to go unnoticed in every other aspect of her teenage life. Director Jo Rochelle (writer for Freeform's GOOD TROUBLE) creates a sensitive depiction of a different category of teenage angst.

Preceded by KYLIE Dir. Sterling Hampton

DIR Jo Rochelle

PROD E.G. Bailey, Sha Cage

SCR Jo Rochelle

SECTIONS Black Lens, North American Independents

Join or Die

United States / 2023 / 99 min / English

JOIN OR DIE is a film about why you should join a club — and why the fate of America may depend on it. Legendary political scientist Robert Putnam's BOWLING ALONE (2000) marked the decline of community connections over the final quarter of the 20th century. This serious yet playful documentary checks in on Putnam's project and our lack of progress to re-forge the kinds of diverse communities that foster true democracy.

DIR Rebecca Davis, Pete Davis

PROD Pete Davis, Rebecca Davis

SCR Rebecca Davis, Pete Davis

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/737884603>

Joyland

Pakistan, United States / 2022 / 126 min / Urdu, Punjabi

Following a long spell of unemployment, a timid Haider lands a job at a Bollywood-style burlesque. Telling his family he is a "theater manager," Haider is coming into his own as a backup dancer - costume and all! As he acclimates to the job, Haider becomes infatuated with Biba, an unflappable trans woman who runs the show. This unforeseen partnership opens his eyes and worldview in unexpected and intimate ways.

DIR Saim Sadiq

PROD Apoorva Guru Charan, Sarmad Sultan Khoosat, Lauren Mann, Kathryn M. Moseley, Katharina Otto-Bernstein, Oliver Ridge, April Shih, Sabiha Sumar

SCR Saim Sadiq, Maggie Briggs

SECTIONS Worldviews, GenreQueer

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsxOU0vNym0>

Karaoke

Israel / 2022 / 100 min / Hebrew

An offbeat, comedic journey that delights and surprises, **KARAOKE** follows Tova and Meir, a typical aging couple with 46 years of marriage and two grown daughters. Their lives get a jolt of excitement from their upstairs neighbor, Itzik, who invites them to his penthouse for karaoke nights. Tova and Meir fall hard for Itzik's energetic lifestyle. They enter a competition amongst their neighbors and soon themselves, trying to win Itzik's attention.

DIR Moshe Rosenthal

PROD Efrat Cohen

SCR Moshe Rosenthal

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-OEAWvYARw>

Karen Carpenter: Starving for Perfection

United States / 2023 / 98 min / English

As the #1 American music act of the 1970s, the Carpenters were on "Top of the World," producing a string of pop masterpieces. Behind closed doors, Karen Carpenter's quest for perfection resulted in low self-esteem and a public battle with anorexia nervosa, leading to her untimely death at 32. For the first time, hear Karen's struggles in her own voice through never-before-released recordings and through the voices of those who knew her.

DIR Randy Martin

PROD Brad Osborne, Randy Schmidt, Katie Chase, Allison Willoughy

SCR Randy Schmidt

SECTIONS Sound Vision, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://youtu.be/7zVIIAitMFU>

King Coal

United States / 2022 / 85 min / English

A cinematic journey through the past, present, and future of Appalachia, **KING COAL** documents coal's cultural influence on identity while telling a magically real tale of a girl who glimpses into a future beyond coal, observing the pain and beauty of a community on the brink of change. At once playful and somber, **KING COAL** is a luminous meditation on place, industry, and cultural tradition through the eyes of a child.

DIR Elaine McMillion Sheldon

PROD Diane Becker, Shane Boris, Peggy Drexler, Elaine McMillion Sheldon

SCR Shane Boris, Heather Hannah, Logan Hill, Iva Radivojević, Elaine McMillion Sheldon

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5YEbyKo9KU>

KOKOMO CITY

United States / 2023 / 73 min / English

Shot in striking black and white, four Black transgender sex workers present the earthshaking stories of their lives. Sharing reflections on knotty desire, far-reaching taboo, identification in labor, and gender's many meanings, KOKOMO CITY offers an unapologetic and cutting analysis of Black culture and society from a vantage point vibrating with energy, sex, challenge, and hard-earned wisdom. Preceded by HOW NOT TO DATE WHILE TRANS Dir. Nyala Moon

DIR D. Smith

PROD Bill Butler, Harris Doran, D. Smith

SECTIONS Black Lens, GenreQueer

L'immensità

Italy, France / 2022 / 97 min / Italian

Adri, a preteen in 1970s Rome, moves into an apartment with his family in a time of significant socio-cultural change. While his parents (Vincenzo Amato and screen icon Penélope Cruz) struggle in an unhappy marriage, Adri and his siblings look for a sign - a voice from above or a song on TV, maybe - to guide them. Featuring luscious costumes, captivating performances, and a musical number for the ages, L'IMMENSITÀ is an irresistible springtime story.

DIR Emanuele Crialese

PROD Lorenzo Gangarossa, Mario Gianani, Dimitri Rassam

SCR Emanuele Crialese, Francesca Manieri, Vittorio Moroni

SECTIONS Teen Screen, Worldviews, GenreQueer

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEMcJYau5j4>

La Civil

Mexico, Belgium, Romania / 2021 / 140 min / Spanish

Inspired by true events, LA CIVIL tells the story of Cielo, a mother searching for her daughter abducted by a Northern Mexico cartel. When authorities fail to help, Cielo takes matters into her own hands. She earns the trust and sympathy of Lamarque, an unconventional army Lieutenant working in the region. Her collaboration with Lamarque will pull her into a vicious cycle of violence as she transforms from mother to avenging militant.

DIR Teodora Ana Mihai

PROD Hans Evereart

SCR Habacuc Antonio De Rosario, Teodora Ana Mihai

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, Worldviews

TRAILER https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_bR3WdrFFQ

La Jauría

Colombia, France / 2022 / 86 min / Spanish

Eliu is incarcerated in an experimental juvenile prison deep in the heart of the Colombian tropical forest for a crime committed with his friend, El Mono. Every day, the teenagers perform hard manual labor and endure intense group therapy under the menacing gaze of camp guard Godoy. One day, El Mono arrives at the same center, and with him comes the past Eliu is trying to escape. A Herzogian blend of surreal oddity and sublime beauty, LA JAURIA will leave you breathless.

DIR Andrés Ramírez Pulido

PROD Jean-Étienne Brat, Lou Chicoteau, Andrés Ramírez Pulido

SCR Andrés Ramírez Pulido

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, Worldviews

Lakota Nation vs. United States

United States / 2022 / 120 min / English

A chronicle about the Očéti Šakówiŋ and their decades-long fight to reclaim control of the Black Hills, LAKOTA NATION VS. UNITED STATES is a powerful glimpse behind the global land back movements from co-directors Jesse Short Bull and Laura Tomaselli. Featuring analysis of treaties and interviews with Native leaders and powerful poetry from writer/narrator Layli Long Soldier, this film is a stirring call to justice and a testament to the strength of the Oyate.

DIR Jesse Short Bull, Laura Tomaselli

PROD Benjamin Hedin, Phil Pinto

SCR Layli Long Soldier

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRnPxzJL-uE>

Land of Gold

United States / 2022 / 110 min / English, Punjabi, Spanish

Kiran is a young, irresponsible man about to become a father. He's a first-generation Punjabi American working as a truck driver. When Kiran hears pounding on a shipping container, he discovers an undocumented girl named Elena. Everything changes as they set out on a cross-country road trip to search for Elena's family. They evade authorities while fighting and bonding over music, paint swatches, and what it means to be seen as "an other" in modern America.

DIR Nardeep Khurmi

PROD Nardeep Khurmi, Keertana Sastry, Pallavi Sastry, Simon Taufique

SCR Nardeep Khurmi

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, North American Independents

Last Flight Home

United States / 2022 / 106 min / English

In the 1970s, Eli Timoner founded Air Florida, the fastest-growing airline in the world. In 2021, his declining health led him to pursue California's End of Life Option Act. Captured in intimate vérité footage by his middle child, Ondi Timoner, this heart-wrenching film documents Eli's family gathering for his final days to share stories, laughter, and grief while exploring essential questions such as the meaning of life, death, family, and love.

DIR Ondi Timoner

PROD Ondi Timoner, David Turner

SCR Ondi Timoner

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugC5ypRIS_w

Little Richard: I Am Everything

United States / 2023 / 98 min / English

LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING explodes the whitewashed American rock n' roll canon revealing the Black queer originator at its center - Richard Penniman. This trove of archival and performance footage, interviews of family, peers, and trailblazing Black and queer scholars reveals how Richard created an art form as an ultimate act of self-expression. MFF alum Lisa Cortés guides us through the rollicking career of a man careening between God, sex, and rock n' roll.

DIR Lisa Cortés

PROD Caryn Capotosto, Lisa Cortés, Robert Friedman, Liz Yale Marsh

SCR

SECTIONS Spotlight Presentations, Black Lens, Sound Vision, GenreQueer

Living Wine

United States / 2022 / 85 min / English

Following the journey of natural winemakers in Northern California during the largest wildfire season on record, LIVING WINE reveals the delicate balance of terroir as translated from soil to glass. Equal parts farmer, winemaker, and artist, these creatives demonstrate innovation as they eschew the industrial agricultural practices of the corporate wine industry in the name of healing the environment and the souls of wine aficionados.

DIR Lori Miller

PROD Lori Miller

SECTIONS Art & Artists

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONFBEEHrF1Q>

Losing Ground

United States / 1982 / 86 min / English, Spanish

One of the first feature films directed by an African-American woman, Kathleen Collins's LOSING GROUND tells the story of a married couple at a crossroads in their lives. Sara Rogers (Seret Scott), a black professor of philosophy, is embarking on an intellectual quest to understand "ecstasy" just as her painter husband, Victor (Bill Gunn), sets off on a more earthy exploration of joy. Throughout the summer, the two each experience profound awakenings. Preceded by LOOK BACK AT IT Dir. Felicia Pride

DIR Kathleen Collins

PROD Eleanor Charles, Cheryl Hill

SCR Kathleen Collins

SECTIONS Black Lens

Love & Irony

United States / 2022 / 108 min / English

The search for an authentic life leads an existential bike mechanic to discover the universal truths and transformative powers of love. With stunning black and white cinematography and cameos from all your favorite Milwaukee businesses, LOVE & IRONY is a romantic comedy that is just as much a love letter to the Cream City itself.

DIR John A Biesack

PROD John A Biesack

SCR John A Biesack

SECTIONS Cream City Cinema

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/790914648>

Love, Charlie: The Rise and Fall of Chef Charlie Trotter

United States / 2021 / 96 min / English

Chicago's Charlie Trotter revolutionized American cuisine and paved the way for celebrity chefs with his eponymous restaurant putting Chicago on the global map for fine dining. With exclusive access to never-before-seen material and interviews with luminary chefs like Emeril Lagasse, Wolfgang Puck and Grant Achatz, this documentary tenderly reveals Trotter's relentless pursuit of excellence as well as his troubled legacy, showcasing the challenges facing chef and restaurant culture today.

DIR Rebecca Halpern

PROD Renee Frigo

SCR Rebecca Halpern

SECTIONS Art & Artists, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9dYyg5VcvA>

Lowndes County and the Road to Black Power

United States / 2022 / 90 min / English

Through first-person accounts and searing archival footage, **LOWNDES COUNTY AND THE ROAD TO BLACK POWER** tells the story of the local movement and young Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organizers who fought not just for voting rights but for Black Power in Lowndes County, AL. Directed by Peabody Award-winning duo Sam Pollard and Geeta Gandbhir, this film chronicles the people who fought for the right to vote for everyone.

DIR Sam Pollard, Geeta Gandbhir

PROD Jessica Devaney, Dema Paxton Fofang, Anya Rous

SCR Vann R. Newkirk II, Dema Paxton Fofang

SECTIONS Black Lens, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCE-keWeTd0>

Madonna: Truth or Dare

United States / 1991 / 120 min / English

We're down on our knees and want to take you to the dance party of MFF2023! This documentary chronicles Madonna's controversial 1990 "Blonde Ambition" tour and reveals her as she is, on stage and off—a businesswoman, singer, dancer, and the biggest star in the music world. Experience Madonna through her relationship with her dancers, crew, then-boyfriend Warren Beatty, friends, and family in this intimate glimpse into the boundary-pushing singer's drive and individuality.

DIR Alek Keshishian

PROD Tim Clawson, Jay Roewe

SECTIONS Sound Vision, GenreQueer

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtYp9YKhUZ8>

Manuela

United States, Argentina / 2022 / 90 min / English

Manuela, a Latina immigrant, gets a job as a nanny for a woman who is often absent for work. She looks after two-year-old Alma (played by the director's real-life daughter), gradually building a bond with the defiant girl that seems to replace the one she has with her own daughter, whom she, too, has left for work. When Alma's mother goes missing, Manuela faces an impossible decision in this understated, delicate drama.

DIR Clara Cullen

PROD Helena Martel Seward

SCR Clara Cullen

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, North American Independents

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/458938235>

Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes

United States / 2022 / 82 min / English

Max Roach's stunningly diverse seven-decade career marked him as one of the great musical artists of the 20th century. From the revolutionary jazz of the 1940s to the civil rights years, through experiments in hip-hop and beyond, he was a pioneering cultural activist in a nation steeped in racism. This film follows Roach across a rich and complicated life, years of now-legendary achievement, deep personal struggle, and the price he paid for his outspoken views.

DIR Sam Pollard, Ben Shapiro

PROD Ben Shapiro, Sam Pollard

SECTIONS Sound Vision, Black Lens

Max, Min & Meowzaki

India / 2022 / 147 min / Hindi, English

Max and Min are breaking up. They argue endlessly about divvying up their possessions. The future home of their cat Meowzaki (named after Japanese animation titan Hayao Miyazaki) hangs in the balance. While navigating their separation and heartbreak, both embark upon vastly different but equally impactful journeys in this effervescent crowdpleaser that's catnip for hopeless romantics.

DIR Padmakumar Narasimhamurthy

PROD Naveen Kwatra, Samiksha Oswal, Shael Oswal

SCR Padmakumar Narasimhamurthy

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwiUIY7pkVQ>

Metropolis feat. Anvil Orchestra

Germany / 1927 / 153 min / No Dialogue

The Anvil Orchestra (a reformation of the Alloy Orchestra) returns to the Milwaukee Film Festival, providing their inimitable brand of musical accompaniment to Fritz Lang's 1927 sci-fi opus METROPOLIS. A stunning tale of working-class rebellion, mad scientists, and sexy lady robots, METROPOLIS is the urtext of sci-fi cinema. And the experience of a classic silent film coupled with live music in the Oriental Theatre (also born in 1927) is an incomparable experience!

DIR Fritz Lang

PROD Erich Pommer

SCR Thea von Harbou

SECTIONS Spotlight Presentations, Sound Vision

Mom & Dad's Nipple Factory

United States / 2023 / 81 min / English

OPENING NIGHT! WORLD PREMIERE! After his wife Randi survives breast cancer and a mastectomy, Brian Johnson, a serial entrepreneur and tinkerer, embarks on an extraordinary journey to help her feel complete. From a bedroom in Eau Claire, WI, director Justin "Justinsuperstar" Johnson's parents pursue the perfect prosthetic nipple, transforming what began as an intimate labor of love into a "factory" with the power to change thousands of survivors' lives in this fascinating tale of resilience, dignity, and family.

DIR Justin "Justinsuperstar" Johnson

PROD Jason Cohen, Noah Lang

SECTIONS Spotlight Presentations, Documentary Festival Favorites

Mutt

United States / 2023 / 87 min / English, Spanish

An eventful New York City day in the life of Feña, a twentysomething trans man (Lio Mehiel in a Sundance Special Jury award-winning performance), is told in what The Hollywood Reporter calls "one of the best films about post-transition adjustment." With three people from Feña's past jolting him in different directions, MUTT confronts the complications between cultures, generations and lost loves with honesty, tenderness and wit.

DIR Vuk Lungulov-Klotz

PROD Jennifer Kuczaj, Vuk Lungulov-Klotz, Joel Michaely, Stephen Scott Scarpulla, Alexander Stegmaier

SCR Vuk Lungulov-Klotz

SECTIONS GenreQueer, North American Independents

Nam June Paik: Moon is the Oldest TV

United States / 2023 / 107 min / English, German, Korean

Recognized as "The Father of Video Art" and coiner of the term "electronic superhighway," Nam June Paik was one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. From his childhood in Japan-occupied Korea to his immigration to the United States, to experimental influences like John Cage and Fluxus, NAM JUNE PAIK: MOON IS THE OLDEST TV is an artful biography of a visionary global citizen.

DIR Amanda Kim

PROD Jennifer Stockman, David Koh, Amy Hobby, Amanda Kim, Jesse Wann, Mariko Munro

SECTIONS Art & Artists, Documentary Festival Favorites

Next Sohee

Republic of Korea (South Korea) / 2022 / 135 min / Korean

Sohee is a high school student excited to land an externship at a major internet provider's call center, but the prized office job turns out to be a nightmarish workplace. The pressure of the job eventually leads to her death. Detective Oh Yoo-jin (Bae Doona, SENSE8, THE HOST) retraces Sohee's steps to reveal the cause of her death. Yoo-jin finds out that the incident's hidden side is more insidious than she ever could have imagined.

DIR July Jung

PROD Dong-ha Kim, Ji-Yeon Kim

SCR July Jung

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9PmjTKhIBg>

No Bears

Iran / 2022 / 106 min / Turkish, Farsi, Azerbaijani

Acclaimed director Jafar Panahi (playing a fictionalized version of himself) relocates to a rural Iranian border town to remotely direct a new film in nearby Turkey. The story sharply mirrors disturbing events that begin to occur around him. As he struggles to complete his film, Panahi finds himself thrust into a local scandal. In the wake of Panahi's recent real-life incarceration, NO BEARS has become an urgent addition to Iranian cinema.

DIR Jafar Panahi

PROD Jafar Panahi

SCR Jafar Panahi

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTJBVrxLfRs>

Oink

Netherlands, Belgium / 2022 / 72 min / English

When Babs' grandfather gifts her a pig named Oink for her 9th birthday, she persuades her parents to let her keep it if Oink follows puppy training. But are her parents the biggest threat to Oink? The annual sausage competition organized by The Society for Meat Products from Fresh Pigs is approaching. Tender, silly, and charming, OINK is told through stunning stop-motion animation (and a dash of scatological humor). A must-see for children and children at heart. 6+

DIR Mascha Halberstad

PROD Marleen Slot

SCR Tosca Menten, Fiona van Heemstra

SECTIONS Rated K: For Kids

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/708666888>

Okthanksbye

Netherlands / 2023 / 91 min / Dutch, French, Sign Language

Jamie and her new friend sneak away from their school for the deaf, hoping to find Jamie's ill grandmother in Paris. With most of the story propelled with Dutch signed dialogue, this latest offering from Nicole van Kilsdonk (TAKING CHANCES, MFF2013) is a refreshing, buoyant, and incredibly edifying adventure of friendship, family, and navigating—nay, claiming—a world that doesn't always consider you. For mature 9-year-olds or 10+ Content Notes: contains some adult language, depiction of moderate underage drinking

DIR Nicole van Kilsdonk

PROD Rogier Kramer

SCR Lilian Sijbesma, Nicole van Kilsdonk

SECTIONS Rated K: For Kids, Teen Screen

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/797741028>

Other People's Children

France / 2022 / 104 min / French

When dedicated high school teacher Rachel falls in love with Ali, it's not long before she also falls for his daughter Leila. Although she feels like a mother, Rachel can't forget Leila is another woman's daughter. She longs for a child of her own, but as a forty-something woman, she knows she has limited time to begin a family. OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN becomes a soulful, sexy, and resolutely grown-up story of the elusive quest for agency and belonging.

DIR Rebecca Zlotowski

PROD Frédéric Jouve

SCR Rebecca Zlotowski

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qT4So01MJLQ>

Our Father, the Devil

United States, France / 2021 / 108 min / French

An African immigrant's quiet existence in a small mountain town in the south of France is upended by the arrival of an African priest she recognizes from her past. "A cutting, at times unwieldy exploration of trauma and forgiveness, the enigmatic drama goes places you almost certainly won't expect — and, once there, makes you wonder how you ever thought it could have gone anywhere else." (Variety)

DIR Ellie Foubi

PROD Ellie Foubi, Joseph Mastantuono

SCR Ellie Foubi

SECTIONS Worldviews

Passages

France / 2023 / 91 min / English, French

In contemporary Paris, German filmmaker Tomas (MFF fave Franz Rogowski) embraces his sexuality through a torrid love affair with a young woman named Agathe (Adèle Exarchopoulos). This impulse blurs the lines which define his relationship with his husband, Martin (Ben Whishaw). A top contender for co-writer/director Ira Sachs' most complex and thorny screen character, Tomas must either embrace the confines of his marriage or come to terms with the relationship having run its course.

DIR Ira Sachs

PROD Saïd Ben Saïd, Michel Merkt

SCR Ira Sachs, Mauricio Zacharias

SECTIONS GenreQueer, Worldviews

Pay or Die

United States / 2023 / 90 min / English

PAY OR DIE is a scathing documentary that follows three families living under the United States healthcare system facing the impossible costs of insulin, both financial and human. Although pharmaceutical companies now promise to slash prices, we see the human face of this healthcare crisis, urging a reconsideration of not just insulin but the healthcare industry writ large, pointing toward a brighter future where care is a human right than a privilege.

DIR Rachael Dyer, Scott Alexander Ruderman

PROD Rachael Dyer, Yael Melamede, Scott Alexander Ruderman

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

Peak Season

United States / 2023 / 82 min / English

New York yuppies Amy and Max arrive in resort town Jackson Hole, WY for summer vacation. When Max is called away on business, Amy finds a friend in Loren, a local wilderness guide. They spend the week together exploring the Tetons. Both lonely and lost in their own lives, Amy and Loren share an instant connection. As her bond with Loren grows into something more than friendship, Amy questions whether she'll return to NYC with Max after all.

DIR Henry Loevner, Steven Kanter

PROD Lovell Holder, Steven Kanter, Henry Loevner, Patrick Ward

SCR Steven Kanter, Henry Loevner

SECTIONS North American Independents

Periodical

United States / 2023 / 93 min / English

Explore the marvel and mystery of the menstrual cycle from first period to last in PERIODICAL, an unexpected exploration of the human body. Bringing you stories from professional athletes to scientists to young activists, we uncover the shocking truths, challenge taboos, and celebrate the untapped potential of this nutrient-dense blood. Through innovative mixed media storytelling, PERIODICAL is for everyone who wants to know more about the menstrual cycle and even more for those who don't.

DIR Lina Lyte Plioplyte

PROD Pegah Farahmand

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

Piaffe

Germany / 2022 / 86 min / German

Introverted and unqualified, Eva is given the unexpected task of foley-ing the sound for a commercial featuring a horse. As she slowly acclimates to the new job, her obsession with creating the perfect equine sounds grows into something more tangible — specifically, a horse tail. Eva harnesses this unique physicality, becoming more confident and empowered, and lures an unassuming botanist into an intriguing game of submission. Shot on lush 16mm, PIAFFE is a visceral journey into control, gender, and deceit.

DIR Ann Oren

PROD Sophie Ahrens, Fabian Altenried, Kristof Gerega

SCR Thais Guisasola, Ann Oren

SECTIONS Cinema Hooligante

TRAILER <https://cineuropa.org/en/video/rdID/427874/f/t/>

Pianoforte

Poland / 2023 / 91 min / Polish, English, Chinese, Italian, Russian, Slovenian

Every five years, young pianists converge in Warsaw to participate in the legendary Chopin Piano Competition. The competition is a roller coaster of a classical ride, with extremely tough qualifying rules, multiple stages, legendary jurors, and a whole lot of pressure. A unique chance of a lifetime, portrayed from backstage and set to Frédéric Chopin's genius music.

DIR Jakub Piątek

PROD Maciej Kubicki

SECTIONS Sound Vision, Documentary Festival Favorites

PLAN C

United States / 2023 / 99 min / English

Plan C, a secret grassroots organization, persistently fights to expand access to abortion pills across the US. Filmmaker Tracy Droz Tragos accompanies the team as they look for ways to distribute abortion pills while following the letter of the law. From heart-wrenching phone calls to unmarked vans serving as mobile clinics, this documentary provides intimate access to those who refuse to back down and is required viewing in 2023.

DIR Tracy Droz Tragos

PROD Tracy Droz Tragos

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

R.M.N.

Romania, France, Belgium, Sweden / 2022 / 125 min / Romanian, Hungarian, German, English, French, Sinhala

A few days before Christmas, Matthias returns to his multi-ethnic Transylvanian village to discover why his young son refuses to speak after facing a shock in the woods. When new workers are hired at the small factory in town, the community's peace is disturbed. Underlying fears grip the adults, and frustrations, conflicts and passions erupt through the thin veneer of apparent understanding and calm in this tense drama from Cristian Mungiu (GRADUATION, MFF2017).

DIR Cristian Mungiu

PROD Cristian Mungiu

SCR Cristian Mungiu

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGi_xGhu1j8

Riceboy Sleeps

Canada / 2022 / 117 min / English, Korean

Set in the 1990s and shot on 16mm film, RICEBOY SLEEPS is a raw and radiant mini-epic about a Korean mother and her teenage son living in suburban Canada. Both emblematic and unique to themselves, their story reflects the sacrifices and challenges immigrants face while creating new homes yet maintaining complicated ties to their ancestral ones. With a stunning score and sublime lighting, RICEBOY is a deeply moving journey across lives and continents. 14+

DIR Anthony Shim

PROD Anthony Shim, Rebecca Steele, Bryan Demore

SCR Anthony Shim

SECTIONS Teen Screen, North American Independents

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcwwHKLY8Nc>

Rise and Rebuild: A Tale of Three Cities

United States / 2022 / 74 min / English

Three distinct neighborhoods—Wilmington's Brooklyn, Atlanta's Sweet Auburn, and Chicago's Bronzeville have all met the same demise—the utter destruction of Black wealth. Massacres, race riots, and government policies sabotaged these once-prosperous communities of Black families and professionals. Directed by Emmy Award-winning Asako Gladsjo and Academy Award Nominee Sam Pollard, RISE AND REBUILD: A TALE OF THREE CITIES confronts the historical destruction of Black wealth in communities and devises strategies for building a more equitable future.

DIR Asako Gladsjo, Sam Pollard

PROD Christalyn Hampton, Geeta Gandbhir

SECTIONS Black Lens, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/795701620>

Róise & Frank

Ireland / 2022 / 90 min / Gaelic

RÓISE & FRANK follows grief-stricken widow Róise who becomes convinced that a stray dog is her husband Frank reincarnated. As Róise begins to open herself up to the outside world and regain her lost happiness, she allows her canine companion to coach the local children's Hurling team. Winner of the Audience Awards at the Santa Barbara and Sedona International Film Festivals, RÓISE & FRANK is guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

DIR Rachael Moriarty, Peter Murphy

PROD Cúán Mac Conghail

SCR Rachael Moriarty, Peter Murphy

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER

<https://mkefilm.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/Main/EVdDa5BlZqhHodUzrHIRSLwBwZmPbsh3PHsVc4-JaDuF0w?e=olYdsP>

Sam Now

United States / 2022 / 87 min / English

What do two film-obsessed half-brothers do when the younger's mom goes missing? Using every video format imaginable, they make a movie, of course, and travel thousands of miles on a quest to solve this family mystery. Stitching together 25 years of home videos while playfully filling the archival gaps along the way, SAM NOW is a coming-of-age documentary that uses art as an attempt to heal intergenerational trauma.

DIR Reed Harkness

PROD Reed Harkness, Jason Reid

SCR Reed Harkness

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D82SUG_NeNc

Scrapper

United Kingdom / 2023 / 84 min / English

Following her mother's death, a resourceful 12-year-old girl, Georgie (newcomer Lola Campbell), lives alone in their London-outskirts flat. She makes money stealing bikes with her friend and keeps social workers at bay by pretending to live with an uncle. It works like a charm until her father, Jason (the awards-worthy Harris Dickinson), appears. Georgie wonders why her absent father is suddenly taking an interest, especially when she's doing just fine on her own, thank you very much.

DIR Charlotte Regan

PROD Theo Barrowclough

SCR Charlotte Regan

SECTIONS Worldviews

SHIMONI

Kenya / 2022 / 97 min / Swahili, English

In this gripping and carefully developed drama from editor-turned-writer/director Angela Wanjiku Wamai, a teacher newly released from prison renegotiates the confines of the physical world while forced to face his nightmare in the flesh. "SHIMONI is an impressive investigation of the phrase "hurt people hurt people" with a deep dive into the why." (Black Girl Nerds) Wamai emerges as a powerful new voice in the Kenyan film scene.

DIR Angela Wanjiku Wamai

PROD Wangechi Ngugi

SCR Angela Wanjiku Wamai

SECTIONS Worldviews

Sick of Myself

Norway, Sweden / 2022 / 95 min / Norwegian, Swedish

Signe and Thomas are in an unhealthy, competitive relationship that turns vicious when Thomas suddenly breaks through as a contemporary artist. In response, Signe makes a grotesquely desperate attempt to regain her status by creating a new persona hell-bent on attracting attention and sympathy. SICK OF MYSELF brings dark humor and body horror extremity to a story as ridiculous as it is relatable.

DIR Kristoffer Borgli

PROD Dyveke Bjørkly Graver, Andrea Berentsen Ottmar

SCR Kristoffer Borgli

SECTIONS Cinema Hooligante

Smoking Causes Coughing

France / 2022 / 80 min / French

A wildly inventive new French comedy from Quentin Dupieux (MANDIBLES, RUBBER), SMOKING CAUSES COUGHING follows the misadventures of a team of five superheroes known as the Tobacco Force - Benzene, Nicotine, Methanol, Mercury, and Ammonia. After a devastating battle against a diabolical giant turtle, the Tobacco Force is sent on a mandatory week-long retreat to strengthen their decaying group cohesion. Their sojourn goes wonderfully well until Lézardin, Emperor of Evil, decides to annihilate Earth.

DIR Quentin Dupieux

PROD Hugo Sélignac

SCR Quentin Dupieux

SECTIONS Cinema Hooligante

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCyWf4Zd3RI>

Squaring the Circle (The Story of Hipgnosis)

United Kingdom / 2022 / 101 min / English

Whether you're a fan of Pink Floyd or not, you likely know what the album cover of "The Dark Side of the Moon" looks like. But you might not be familiar with the creative duo behind this iconic image: Storm Thorgerson and Aubrey "Po" Powell, aka the innovative design studio, Hipgnosis. Their methods were unconventional, and their budgets were often unreasonable. Still, they were fearless visionaries who artfully manipulated photographic images long before computer graphics became ubiquitous.

DIR Anton Corbijn

PROD Trish D Chetty, Ged Doherty, Colin Firth

SCR Trish D Chetty

SECTIONS Art & Artists, Sound Vision

Subject

United States / 2022 / 97 min / English

SUBJECT turns the documentary gaze upon its own form, asking audiences to consider the ethical implications of the experiences of those whose real lives are shared on screen and, in turn, unalterably changed by this experience. Featuring commentary from influential names in the documentary world and central participants from acclaimed documentaries THE STAIRCASE, HOOP DREAMS, THE WOLFPACK and more, subjects reveal the highs and lows of their participation. This is a must-see for any doc-head.

DIR Jennifer Tiexiera, Camilla Hall

PROD Joe Caterini, Camilla Hall, Jennifer Tiexiera

SCR Camilla Hall, Lauren Saffa, Jennifer Tiexiera

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER https://www.filmaffinity.com/us/evideos.php?movie_id=844420

The 'Vous

United States / 2022 / 82 min / English

In its seventh decade of business, the famed Memphis alleyway barbecue institution, The Rendezvous, faces unprecedented change as its legendary servers retire and the immigrant family-owned business rolls into a new generation. Proving that the restaurant business can create chosen families that bring even more folks together with food, this intimate, character-driven doc will leave you hungry for more.

DIR Jack Porter Lofton, Jeff Dailey

PROD Jack Porter Lofton

SECTIONS Art & Artists

The Angry Black Girl and Her Monster

United States / 2023 / 91 min / English

THE ANGRY BLACK GIRL AND HER MONSTER follows anti-hero Vicaria, a brilliant teenager who believes death is a disease that can be cured. After the brutal murder of her brother, she embarks on a dangerous journey to bring him back to life. Inspired by Mary Shelley's FRANKENSTEIN, the film's writer and director, Bomani J. Story, crafts a thrilling tale about a family that will survive and is reborn again despite the terrors of systemic pressure.

DIR Bomani J. Story

PROD Darren Brandl, Jack Davis, Bomani J. Story

SCR Bomani J. Story

SECTIONS Black Lens, Teen Screen, Cinema Hooligante

The Blue Caftan

Morocco, France, Belgium, Denmark / 2022 / 124 min / Arabic

In this luscious romantic drama, Halim and Mina run a traditional caftan store in one of Morocco's oldest medinas. They hire Youssef to keep up with the demands of their commanding customers. After catching longing glances, Mina realizes how much the young man's presence moves her husband. A tender tribute to love and all of its complications, THE BLUE CAFTAN is one of the year's most decadent dramas.

DIR Maryam Touzani

PROD Nabil Ayouch

SCR Maryam Touzani, Nabil Ayouch

SECTIONS GenreQueer, Worldviews

TRAILER <https://youtu.be/fJJBaGlt0FI>

The Doom Generation

United States / 1995 / 83 min / English

Young lovers Jordan White (James Duval) and Amy Blue (Rose McGowan) pick up a dangerously handsome drifter, Xavier Red. When Xavier inadvertently kills a convenience store clerk, they are forced to go on the run, traversing a bizarre and ultra-violent America. Certainly not for the faint of heart, acclaimed director Gregg Araki's unhinged fifth feature is finally restored to its original glory in a cut not seen since the 1995 Sundance Film Festival.

DIR Gregg Araki

PROD Gregg Araki, Yves Marmion, Andrea Sperling

SCR Gregg Araki

SECTIONS Cinema Hooligante

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4bizbSsAzY>

The Eight Mountains

Italy, Belgium, France / 2022 / 147 min / Italian

THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS tells the story of two childhood friends who reunite as adults in the Italian Alps to build a mountainside cottage that becomes a site of reflection and reconciliation. Winner of the 2022 Cannes Film Festival Jury Prize, the film uses exquisite beauty and grace to trace the life trajectories of two men whose peak moments and low ebb become one with the craggy landscape that has shaped them both.

DIR Felix van Groeningen, Charlotte Vandermeersch

PROD Hans Everaert, Lorenzo Gangarossa, Mario Gianani, Louis Tisné

SCR Charlotte Vandermeersch, Felix van Groeningen

SECTIONS Worldviews

The Elephant 6 Recording Co.

United States / 2022 / 93 min / English

The unique inside story of the innovative evolution behind the sounds of the 1990s from psychedelic rock bands Olivia Tremor Control, Neutral Milk Hotel, and The Apples in Stereo, all founding groups behind the Elephant 6 Collective. Featuring interviews with pioneers Robert Schneider and Jeff Mangum, performances, and video clips, this brisk-paced rock doc charts the genesis of that uber-creative, DIY music scene and captures its electricity and joy.

DIR C.B. Stockfleth

PROD Lance Bangs

SECTIONS Sound Vision, Documentary Festival Favorites

The Five Devils

France / 2022 / 103 min / French

THE FIVE DEVILS follows Vicky, a young girl with an acute sense of smell, who spends her time collecting scents in jars. When her estranged aunt suddenly returns to their mountain town, the invocation of her fragrance plunges Vicky back in time to unravel the mystery of her mother's fiery past with her now sister-in-law. The acclaimed sophomore feature from filmmaker Léa Mysius (AVA, MFF2018), THE FIVE DEVILS forges a witchy and wildly imaginative fable out of family secrets and queer romance.

DIR Léa Mysius

PROD Jean-Louis Livi, Fanny Yvonnet

SCR Paul Guilhaume, Léa Mysius

SECTIONS Cinema Hooligante, GenreQueer

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYSFNbtAC3c>

The Grab

United States / 2022 / 104 min / English, Russian, Ukrainian

The latest explosive exposé from director Gabriela Cowperthwaite (BLACKFISH) has no smaller stakes than the future of humanity, as brave investigative journalists risk life and career to peel back layers of deception from world governments and deep-pocketed private investors looking to wrest control of water and food—global natural resources we all rely on. A real-life ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN, THE GRAB is "the holy s&t" documentary of the year." (RogerEbert.com)

DIR Gabriela Cowperthwaite

PROD Gabriela Cowperthwaite, Blye Pagon Faust, Nathan Halverson, Amanda Pike, Nicole Rocklin

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

The Happiest Man in the World

North Macedonia, Belgium, Slovenia, Denmark, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina / 2022 / 100 min / Bosnian

Asja, a 40-year-old single woman, lives in Sarajevo. To meet new people, she ends up spending her Saturday in a speed dating event. She's matched with Zoran, a 43-year-old banker. However, Zoran is not looking for love but forgiveness. Director Teona Strugar Mitevska (GOD EXISTS, HER NAME IS PETRUNYA, MFF2019) returns to the Fest with this gripping drama tale of reconciliation that manages to be heartwrenching and humorous in equal measure.

DIR Teona Strugar Mitevska

PROD Amra Baksic Camo, Sébastien Delloye, Maria Møller Christoffersen, Adis Djapo, Danijel Hocevar, Labina Mitevska, Vanja Sremac

SCR Teona Strugar Mitevska, Elma Tataragic

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY5yK3dnyWM>

The Harvest

United States / 2023 / 110 min / English, Hmong

After a car accident leaves his family in need of his help, Thai returns home to Southern California, only to find his whole world in disarray. With mounting medical bills and secrets of their own, the family watches as Cher, a tough and stubborn Hmong father, suffers through the devastating effects of kidney failure. Thai struggles to choose between his fractured relationship with his family or a life free from the burden of traditions.

DIR Caylee So

PROD Doua Moua, John Houselog

SCR Doua Moua

SECTIONS North American Independents

The New Americans: Gaming a Revolution

United States / 2023 / 102 min / English

Straight from its premiere at SXSW, Ondi Timoner's latest documentary is a potent next chapter to her 2009 WE LIVE IN PUBLIC (presented in a double feature at MFF2023, see p. XX). THE NEW AMERICANS is a visceral, meme-driven journey at the intersection of finance, media, and extremism that uncovers the connection between the Gamestop squeeze and the January 6th insurrection to reveal the explosive possibilities of our digital future.

DIR Ondi Timoner

PROD Ondi Timoner, David Turner

SCR Ondi Timoner

SECTIONS Spotlight Presentations, Documentary Festival Favorites

The Punishment

Argentina, Chile / 2022 / 85 min / Spanish

While on a road trip, Ana and Mateo leave their son on the side of the road, just for a bit, as a form of punishment. But he's nowhere to be found when they return. As they frantically search for the boy, a long-simmering, unspoken conflict comes to a boil. Filmed as one continuous take, THE PUNISHMENT is confident and courageous with a clockwork-tight script that will have you gripping the edge of your seat.

DIR Matías Bize

SCR Coral Cruz

SECTIONS Cine Sin Fronteras, Worldviews

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWTsLaeQp00>

The Quiet Epidemic

United States / 2022 / 102 min / English

After years of living with mysterious symptoms, several disparate patients are finally diagnosed with a disease that some claim does not exist: Chronic Lyme disease. Alongside Directors Winslow Crane-Murdoch and Lindsay Keys, both Lyme patients themselves, these patients demand answers but land in the middle of a fierce and murky medical debate littered with suppressed research, buried documents, and injustices endured throughout the medical system.

DIR Lindsay Keys, Winslow Crane-Murdoch

PROD Chris Hegedus, Lindsay Keys, Daria Lombroso

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8pBkzUwb88>

The Right to Read

United States / 2023 / 80 min / English

From executive producer LeVar Burton and director Jenny MacKenzie, THE RIGHT TO READ is an empowering documentary covering the refusal of curriculum specialists to use brain science to shape reading education in the elementary grades. Sharing the stories of an NAACP activist, a teacher, and several families, this film challenges us to challenge our schools to strive for the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read.

DIR Jenny Mackenzie

PROD Sabi Habib-Lowder

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptUYVHDeHOw>

The Starling Girl

United States / 2023 / 116 min / English

Seventeen-year-old Jem Starling (Eliza Scanlen, LITTLE WOMEN) struggles with her place within her Christian fundamentalist community. Everything changes when her magnetic youth pastor Owen (TOP GUN: MAVERICK's Lewis Pullman), returns to their church. "The power of this sensitive and devilishly detailed coming-of-age drama is rooted in the friction that it finds between biblical paternalism and modern personhood." (IndieWire)

DIR Laurel Parmet

PROD Kara Durrett, Kevin Rowe

SCR Laurel Parmet

SECTIONS North American Independents

The Tuba Thieves

United States / 2022 / 92 min / American Sign, English

From 2011-2013 dozens of tubas were stolen from Southern California high schools. THE TUBA THIEVES is not about thieves or missing tubas. Instead, it asks what it means to listen. d/Deaf director Alison O'Daniel explores sound in this work of creative non-fiction, blending documentary and fictionalized performances with Los Angeles' land, soundscapes and the space of the screen to re-orient audiences in an unfamiliar and exhilarating way.

DIR Alison O'Daniel

PROD Su Kim, Rachel Nederveld, Alison O'Daniel, Maya E. Rudolph, Elizabeth Skadden

SCR Alison O'Daniel

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://creative-capital.org/projects/the-tuba-thieves/>

The Unknown Country

United States / 2022 / 85 min / English

An invitation to reunite with her estranged Oglala Lakota family launches grieving young woman Tana (Lily Gladstone) on an unexpected road trip from the Midwest toward the Texas-Mexico border. In this largely solitary journey with an unknown destination, she navigates the complex, post-2016 election social climate and a natural landscape that is increasingly surreal. Along the way, she bonds with unexpected people who are as much a part of the landscape as the mountains and roads. Preceded by PARENTAL ORBIT Dir. Dara Carneol & Bernard Carneol

DIR Morrisa Maltz

PROD Katherine Harper, Laura Heberton, Thomas Heitkamp, Morrisa Maltz, Lainey Bearkiller Shangreaux, Vanara Taing

SCR Lily Gladstone, Morrisa Maltz, Lainey Bearkiller Shangreaux, Vanara Taing

SECTIONS North American Independents

The Warm Season

United States / 2023 / 103 min / English

It's 1967. 12-year-old Clive is playing in the desert behind her family's remote motel when an unusual ranch hand mysteriously appears before her. His name is Mann, and he's from another planet that is dying, searching for a new place for his kind to live. Mann hands Clive a glowing orb, asks her to hide it, and promises he'll be back. Cut to 25 years later, Mann returns and needs Clive's help.

DIR Janet Grillo

PROD Julie Crosby, David Youse

SCR Adam Seidel

SECTIONS Cream City Cinema

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-y6a52TPrs>

The Year Between

United States / 2022 / 94 min / English

After dropping out of school with a newly diagnosed mental illness, college sophomore Clemence Miller is coming home to the Illinois suburbs and a bedroom in her family's basement. She now faces the challenges of bipolar disorder, the responsibilities of adulthood, and her damaged relationships with family and friends. Inspired by true events, *THE YEAR BETWEEN* sees Clemence struggle to figure out what it means to heal without driving everyone around her...well, crazy.

DIR Alex Heller

PROD Caterin Camargo-Alvarez, Rachel Gould, Alex Heller, Sonya Lunsford, Eugene Sun Park, Amanda Phillips

SCR Alex Heller

SECTIONS North American Independents

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhxQEHEIQGQ>

Therapy Dogs

Canada / 2022 / 83 min / English

Ethan and his best friend Justin are having an existential moment as they enter the final phase of high school, on the precipice of adulthood and the great unknown. In search of meaning, they embark on making the ultimate senior video. Lauded as "bracing, exhilarating" by *The New York Times*, *THERAPY DOGS* is a youthful, insightful, exuberant display of the last blinding flashes of youth. 14+

DIR Ethan Eng

PROD Patrick Cederberg, Ethan Eng, Matthew Hornick, Walter Woodman

SCR Ethan Eng, Justin Morrice

SECTIONS Teen Screen, North American Independents

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8sa7N2mb8A>

This World is Not My Own

United States / 2023 / 98 min / English

Chewing gum sculptures, a wealthy gallerist, a firebrand wrestler, a notorious murder case, and the segregated south – it's all part of Nellie Mae Rowe's boundless universe. *THIS WORLD IS NOT MY OWN* reimagines this self-taught artist's colorful world and life in the 20th century (1900-1982), celebrating her life's work and the contagiously positive impact her work had on contemporary Black life and culture. Preceded by *ROGER J. CARTER: REBEL REVOLUTIONARY* Dir. Justin Fairweather

DIR Petter Ringbom, Marquise Stillwell

PROD Ruchi Mital

SCR Ruchi Mital, Petter Ringbom

SECTIONS Black Lens, Art & Artists

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/opndx/twinmo>

Time Bomb Y2K

United States / 2023 / 80 min / English

As the year 2000 approached, widespread fear arose that a code glitch would result in all the world's computers reverting to 1900 and all systems grinding to a halt. Using all archival footage, co-directors Brian Becker and Marley McDonald document the frenzied hysteria surrounding the countdown from doomsday preppers to politics and pop culture. TIME BOMB Y2K is a wild ride through the final days of the '90s and a compelling portrait of a turning point in the digital revolution.

DIR Marley McDonald, Brian Becker

PROD Brian Becker

SECTIONS Documentary Festival Favorites

To Live and Die and Live

United States / 2023 / 105 min / English

Muhammad, a Hollywood film director, returns to Detroit for his step-father's funeral, but his battle with addiction, hidden from others, drives him to immediately fade away into the sultry, drug-saturated after-hours of Detroit. Directed by MFF alum Qasim Basir (DESTINED, A BOY.A GIRL. A DREAM.) and featuring Amin Joseph (SNOWFALL) as Muhammad, TO LIVE AND DIE AND LIVE is an evocative testament to the astonishing power community can provide in a cruel world. Preceded by TRIGGERED Dir. Hissoni Mustafa

DIR Qasim Basir

PROD Qasim Basir, Samantha Basir, Nina Yang Bongiovi, Cory Hardrict, Amin Joseph, Dana Offenbach, Forest Whitaker

SCR Qasim Basir

SECTIONS Black Lens, North American Independents

Ultra Secret Midnight Screening

/ 2022 / 92 min / English

This is no joke, people! We've got one of the most exciting screenings of MFF coming your way, but we're legally prohibited from telling you anything about it! Not to be confused with our Super Secret Members-Only Screening, this ULTRA SECRET [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is filled with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and the most [REDACTED] you'll experience in 2023!

SECTIONS GenreQueer, Cinema Hooligante

Unicorn Wars

Spain, France / 2022 / 92 min / Spanish

It's BAMBI meets APOCALYPSE NOW in this provocative and strangely beautiful horror comedy from acclaimed filmmaker and illustrator Alberto Vazquez (director of MFF2017 alum BIRDBOY: THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN), who uses its outrageous candy-colored premise to explore religious zealotry, the tortured legacies of military fascism, and the depths of the soul. Join cuddly bear brothers Bluey and Tubby as they face the horrors of war in the battles against the unicorn army that lives deep in the treacherous forest.

DIR Alberto Vázquez

PROD Chelo Loureiro, Iván Miñambres

SCR Alberto Vázquez

SECTIONS Cinema Hooligante

TRAILER https://youtu.be/G_l23TmiHMc

Until Branches Bend

Canada / 2022 / 98 min / English

Robin is a cannery worker who struggles to get an abortion. When she finds an invasive insect in a peach at work, she turns her focus towards proving to her community that the danger it poses is real. As her obsession alienates her from friends and family, she sinks deeper into her task. UNTIL BRANCHES BEND is a psychological drama about how trouble beneath the surface will always come to light.

DIR Sophie Jarvis

PROD Sara Blake, Magali Gillon-Krizaj, Tyler Hagan, Olga Lamontanara, Michela Pini

SCR Sophie Jarvis

SECTIONS North American Independents

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWcFs0P5fGU>

Viking

Canada / 2022 / 104 min / French, English

The Viking Society is recruiting volunteers for the first human mission to Mars. Their assignment? Stay earthbound and mirror the astronauts on Mars to troubleshoot the interpersonal conflicts brewing millions of miles away. The film balances absurdist humor with a poignant reflection on the human condition as it follows the subjects of behavioral research—and the astronauts they mirror.

DIR Stéphane Lafleur

PROD Luc Déry, Kim McCraw

SCR Eric K. Boulianne, Stéphane Lafleur

SECTIONS North American Independents

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbj9KuigagA>

We Are Not Ghouls

United States, United Kingdom / 2022 / 92 min / English

Despite believing the detainees at Guantanamo Bay were "the worst of the worst" in the war on terror, US Air Force JAG Attorney Yvonne Bradley volunteered to defend Binyam Mohamed's death penalty case. But her assumptions are turned upside down over four years as she unravels this unimaginable case to reveal the truth. Speaking truth to power in the face of corruption, Bradley proves an unlikely and unassuming source of inspiration.

DIR Chris James Thompson

PROD Jessica Farrell, Andrew Swant, Chris James Thompson

SECTIONS Cream City Cinema, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zd7ZcFfpEg>

We Are Still Here

Australia, New Zealand / 2022 / 82 min / English, Maori, Arrernte, Samoan, Turkish

In an anthology epic that spans 1,000 years and multiple generations from the distant past to the 19th century, to the present day and a strange, dystopian future – this landmark fiction collection traces the collective histories of Indigenous peoples across Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific. Diverse in perspective, content and form, traversing the terrain of grief, love, and dispossession, they each bear witness to these cultures' ongoing struggles against patriarchy, colonialism, and racism.

DIR Beck Cole, Dena Curtis, Tracey Rigney, Danielle MacLean, Tim Worrall, Renae Maihi, Miki Magasiva, Mario Gaoa, Richard Curtis, Chantelle Burgoyne

PROD Mia Henry-Teirney, Mitchell Stanley, Toni Stowers

SCR Dena Curtis, Richard Curtis, Mario Gaoa, Danielle MacLean, Miki Magasiva, Renae Maihi, Samuel Paynter, Tiraroa Reweti, Tracey Rigney, Tim Worrall

SECTIONS Worldviews

TRAILER https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GapOQ_X9M2g

We Live in Public

United States / 2009 / 91 min / English

Revisit master documentarian Ondi Timoner's WE LIVE IN PUBLIC (MFF2009) in 35mm preceding her latest THE NEW AMERICANS (p. XX) for a double feature that tracks the internet's pervasiveness in our time. WE LIVE IN PUBLIC foreshadows the social networking boom as it chronicles the story of Josh Harris, entrepreneur, artist, and techno-clairvoyant, who suggested that eventually, we all trade our privacy for technology and now live in public.

DIR Ondi Timoner

PROD Keirda Bahruth, Ondi Timoner

SCR Ondi Timoner

SECTIONS Spotlight Presentations, Documentary Festival Favorites

TRAILER <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdS6Z0ylGUU>

Wetiko

Mexico / 2022 / 89 min / Spanish, English, Mayan languages

A Maya teen is the hero of this mythopoetic adventure film. His quest: to venture into the jungle, guiding a “spiritual leader” toward an elusive hallucinogenic toad that will complete his impending ritual—but this search for the sacred will turn out differently than either of them expects. Starring up-and-comer Juan Daniel García (LA CIVIL) and shot in dreamy 35mm, WETIKO is a visceral indictment of colonialism and appropriation with a late-night movie edge. 16+

DIR Kerry Mondragón

PROD Michael Hoff, Kerry Mondragón

SCR Kerry Mondragón

SECTIONS Teen Screen, North American Independents, Cine Sin Fronteras

What We're Hungry For: How Food Pantries Fed Rural Wisconsin During the Pandemic

United States / 2022 / 44 min / English

Documenting the response of five local Wisconsin food pantries to the unprecedented needs created by the coronavirus pandemic, this film tells the story of the hard work, ingenuity, and compassion of these organizations while also exploring the complex and longstanding challenges of fighting hunger in rural America. Preceded by UNCONVENTIONAL: LIVING LIFE TO THE MAX Dir. Hannah Johnson

DIR Jim Winship

PROD Jim Winship, Parker Winship

SECTIONS Cream City Cinema

TRAILER <https://vimeo.com/735268763>