



LOFT FILM FEST

NOVEMBER 10-18, 2021

LOFTFILMFEST.ORG

PRESENTED BY: DESERT DIAMOND CASINOS & ENTERTAINMENT
AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS



DESERT DIAMOND CASINOS

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SCREENINGS AT:

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3233 E SPEEDWAY BLVD | TUCSON, AZ

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FILM FESTIVAL BADGES ARE SOLD OUT!

FILMS

General: \$12 | Loft Members: \$10

OFFICIAL FEST WEBSITE

LoftFilmFest.org

SCREENINGS TAKE PLACE AT

The Loft Cinema
3233 E. Speedway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85716

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The Loft Film Fest was proud to receive a \$20,000 Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for our 2021 edition – the only film festival in Arizona to receive NEA funding.

The NEA describes the purpose of Art Works grants to honor the “works of art, the ways art works on audiences and the fact that art is work for artists and arts professionals...enhancing the value of individuals and communities, by connecting us to each other and to something greater than ourselves, and by empowering creativity and innovation in our society and economy. The arts exist for beauty itself, but they also are an inexhaustible source of meaning and inspiration.”

The NEA grant funds the Loft Film Fest and also Loft Film Fest on the Road, a tour of free screenings of festival-quality films to underserved rural and urban areas in Southern Arizona with Loft Solar Cinema, a van outfitted with solar panels and batteries (donated by Technicians for Sustainability) that allows the power of the sun to provide the power to project films under the stars. The Loft Solar Cinema is the only American member of the Solar World Cinema network representing more than a dozen countries.

The Loft Film Fest, and the organization behind it, The Loft Cinema, are grateful for the support and the validation of the NEA Art Works grant.

CICAE Award The Loft Film Fest is the only American festival member of the International Confederation of Art Cinemas (CICAE). The CICAE was founded in 1955 and represents a network of more than 4,000 screens and 22 international film festivals that have a shared mission of building audiences for excellent independent international films. The CICAE award will be determined by a 3-member jury. This year's jury includes:

PETER CATALANOTTE

An Arizona native, Peter Catalanotte has been with Film Tucson for over 20 years, facilitating production for a wide range of feature films such as *TRAFFIC*, *THREE KINGS*, *ALMOST FAMOUS*, *THE HANGOVER: PART III*, and the upcoming Steven Spielberg film *THE FABELMANS*, along with a wide array of reality TV shows, commercials, fashion shoots, and music videos.

Laurie Ann Schag

Laurie Ann Schag is a creative entrepreneur currently working in Arizona on an HBO Max show. She has also worked in distribution and digital media for AppleTV, Netflix, Fintage House, Fox, Paramount, MGM, Universal and on the independent film *A Day Without A Mexican*. Laurie Ann is a Board Member of the Copperbridge Foundation and served as the Vice President and on the Documentary Selection Committee at IDA. She served on the Jury at the Anasy Documentary Awards and the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival. A native Californian of Hispanic descent, Laurie Ann directed and produced *Great Day in Havana* with Casey Stoll, a documentary that examines the culture, politics and daily life in Cuba.

GIULIANA FANTONI

Giuliana Fantoni grew up in Treviso, Italy, in a family in love with cinema. Her parents managed Cinema Edera, an historical arthouse, until 1970. After her studies Giuliana joined them in this work oriented to high quality films. Now she is the programmer and the director of the 3-screen Cinema Edera and president of FICE (Federazione Italiana Cinema Essai) of Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia e Trentino Alto Adige.

Welcome to the 2021 Loft Film Fest!

The Loft Film Fest is back and we're excited to share this exciting slate of films, each carefully curated for you. The films are among the most celebrated at the world's most important film festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto, Venice and Berlin.

We believe there is a film for every taste, from the feel-good comedy to the emotion-filled drama, movies that are funny, profound or complex, and a few that defy categorization. We were intentional in having at least 50% of the films directed by women, and we honor films from a fully inclusive group of filmmakers.

As always, we encourage you to take risks, see movies that may fall outside of what you traditionally select. Film festivals are one of the most exciting ways to discover things about other people, other places, and maybe even about yourself.

After going on hiatus in 2020, we're happy to be back with 8 days of films that span the globe.

You'll notice some differences in this year's festival. While we're presenting a fully in-person festival, we have very few guests attending in person due to the unpredictable times. We will be showing films only in Screen 1 and at our Open Air Cinema, and each film will screen only once this year.

This year we are awarding cash prizes to the feature film and the short film that win Audience Awards (so be sure to vote). Sunday, November 14, is European Art Cinema Day, a project of the International Confederation of Art Cinemas (CICAE). We are excited to be among 400 cinemas in 33 countries to participate in this global event to celebrate European films.

The festival will be accessible to those who show proof of full COVID vaccination or a negative COVID test. Badge holders will be checked when they receive their badge, and during the fest they will not need to have their vaccine state verified again.

All customers, employees, and volunteers are required to wear masks over the nose and mouth at all times indoors, with the sole exception being while seated and actively eating or drinking; masks must promptly be replaced when done eating or drinking.

As always, we rely on our volunteers for their indispensable help in making the fest run smoothly, and we are grateful for their participation!

Thank you to Desert Diamond Casinos and the National Endowment for the Arts for their continued support of the Loft Film Fest!

I want to thank everyone who helped put the 2021 Loft Film Fest together, including our festival directors Jeff Yanc, J.J. Giddings and Ernie Quiroz! Welcome to the team, Ernie!

Peggy Johnson, Executive Director

Peggy



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Venice, New York

1 PARALLEL MOTHERS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 7:30PM

DIRECTED BY Pedro Almodovar, 2021, Spain, in Spanish, 120 mins., Rated R

Celebrated Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar surprises us once again with this lively and tender melodrama about two women, Janis (Penélope Cruz) and Ana (Milena Smit), whose lives intersect profoundly thanks to a casual encounter in a hospital where they're both going into labor. Janis, the older of the two, has no regrets and is delighted with the idea of motherhood. But young Ana is regretful and scared. As they walk through the hospital corridor, waiting for their respective new arrivals, just a few words exchanged between them will complicate the women's lives forever. Almodóvar expands on his earlier representations of femininity, turning the film's focus to the many complicated facets of motherhood. A boisterous, moving and infinitely loving ode to women, *Parallel Mothers* takes its place within the director's gallery of great films with a bold color palette, careening plot twists and dramatic performances that border on comic, yet stands memorably on its own.



TUCSON PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Toronto, Telluride

2 JULIA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:30PM

DIRECTED BY Julie Cohen & Betsy West, 2021, USA, 95 mins., Rated PG-13

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FILM SPONSOR, ARIZONA PUBLIC MEDIA

Julia tells the story of the legendary cookbook author and television superstar who changed the way Americans think about food, television, and even about women. Using never-before-seen archival footage, personal photos, first-person narratives, and cutting-edge, mouth-watering food cinematography, the film traces Julia Child's surprising path, from her struggles to create and publish the revolutionary *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* (1961) which has sold more than 2.5 million copies to date, to her empowering story of a woman who found fame in her 50s, and her calling as an unlikely television sensation. From Oscar-nominated filmmakers Julie Cohen and Betsy West, (*RBG*).



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SOCIETY, INC. & ARIZONA FRIENDS OF
CHAMBER MUSIC.

3 SHERLOCK JR. W/ LIVE MUSIC SCORE!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 7:30PM (FREE ADMISSION!)

DIRECTED BY Buster Keaton, 1924, USA, silent w/ intertitles, 45 mins., Not Rated / Suitable for all ages

Tickets will be available 20 minutes before the screening once all Loft Film Fest badgeholders have been seated.

Buster Keaton's hilarious 1924 silent comedy, *Sherlock Jr.*, hits the Loft Cinema's big screen with a brand-new original score performed live on stage by Tucson musicians from the American Harp Society & Arizona Friends of Chamber Music! The film will be followed by a Q&A with the musicians, conductor and composers. Featuring Emily Chao (violin), Charles duPreez (clarinet), Carla Fabris (harp), Juan Mejia (cello), Jeff Vanderlee (conductor), Yuanyuan (Kay) He (composer, Part 1), John Muniz (Composer, Part 2), Vincent Calianno (Composer, Part 3).

In *Sherlock, Jr.*, comedy legend Buster Keaton stars as a movie theater projectionist who dreams of becoming a super sleuth like Sherlock Holmes, and somehow manages to step into the movies he's showing in order to snoop out brilliant discoveries, thus bringing his fantasies to hilarious life!



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca, Outfset

4 THE NOVICE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 7:30PM

DIRECTED BY Lauren Hadaway, 2021, USA, 94 mins., Not Rated

Winner of the top prize at this year's Tribeca Film Festival, *The Novice* is an intense psychological thriller that grips the viewer until its very last frame. Isabelle Fuhrman (*Orphan*), plays Alex Dall, a college freshman who begins to wildly unravel when her deep seated obsession with climbing the ranks of the varsity rowing team, no matter the cost, pushes her mind and body to a dangerous edge, while also alienating everyone around her. Fuhrman's fierce lead performance collides with first-time feature filmmaker Lauren Hadaway's bold direction and dynamic editing, creating a visceral look into a cutthroat world. With echoes of *Black Swan* and *Whiplash*, the film emerges as a propulsive, blistering cinematic experience examining the ultimate cost of achievement and excellence.



TUCSON PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Toronto, San Diego

5 THE HUMANS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 7:00PM

DIRECTED BY Stephen Karam, 2021, USA, 108 mins., Rated R

An adaptation of his own Tony-winning play, Stephen Karam's directorial debut is a Thanksgiving dinner invitation you won't want to turn down. Featuring poignant, funny, lived-in performance from a stellar ensemble – Richard Jenkins, Steven Yeun, Beanie Feldstein, Amy Shumer, June Squibb and Jayne Houdyshell – *The Humans* tracks the emotional intricacies of a working-class family bound by tradition, contention and unshakable loyalties. Erik and Diedre Blake (Jenkins and Houdyshell) have gathered three generations of their Pennsylvania family to celebrate Thanksgiving at their daughter's new, slightly dilapidated, apartment in lower Manhattan. As darkness falls outside and things start to fall apart inside (with a few eerie bumps in the night thrown in to enhance the sense of unease), the group's deepest joys, fears and regrets are laid bare. Piercingly funny and undeniably haunting, *The Humans* explores the hidden dread of a family and the love that binds them together. An A24 release.



TUCSON THEATRICAL PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca, Chicago

6 KUBRICK BY KUBRICK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 7:30PM

DIRECTED BY Gregory Monro, 2020, France/Poland, in English/French/Italian with English subtitles, 73 mins., Not Rated

A treasure trove of never-before-heard audio recordings forms the spine of this thrilling cinematic essay on the methods and madness of iconic director Stanley Kubrick. Despite being one of the most scrutinized filmmakers of all time, Kubrick was notoriously reticent to analyze or discuss his work, and the chance to hear his own words was a rarity – until now. Unspooling exclusive new recordings of detailed interviews with the mythic director spanning 30 years that ruminate on his philosophies and inspirations, documentarian Gregory Monro weaves a tapestry of archival footage with the rhythm and care of a consummate historian relishing in his discoveries, shining new light on the mysteries and intricacies inherent in Kubrick's singular, enduring filmography. Taking viewers on a journey beyond Jupiter, this exuberant and lyrical cinematic essay celebrates the essence of what film means to those who make it—and those who watch.



TUCSON PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Cannes, Telluride, Toronto

7 AFTER LOVE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 7:30PM

DIRECTED BY Aleem Khan, 2020, UK, in English/French/Arabic/Urdu with English subtitles, 89 mins., Not Rated

Mary Hussain (Joanna Scanlan, *Notes on a Scandal*), who converted to Islam when she married and is now in her early sixties, lives quietly with her husband Ahmed in the port town of Dover in the South-East of England. Following his unexpected death, she suddenly finds herself a widow. A day after the burial, she discovers that Ahmed had a secret life just twenty-one miles away from their home, across the English Channel in Calais. The shocking discovery compels Mary to find out more and, as she grapples with her shattered sense of identity, her search for understanding has surprising consequences. Featuring a powerful, award-winning performance by Scanlan, *After Love* is a highly-accomplished debut from writer/director Aleem Khan.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Cannes, Locarno

8 VORTEX

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 7:30PM

DIRECTED BY Gaspar Noé., 2021, France/Belgium/Monaco, in French with English subtitles, 142 mins., Not Rated

The latest film from boundary-pushing director Gaspar Noé (*Irreversible*, *Enter the Void*, *Climax*) explores new depths of tenderness without forgoing the uncompromising fatalism that defines his work, Noé guides us through a handful of days in the lives of an elderly couple in Paris: a retired psychiatrist (Françoise Lebrun, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*) and a writer (Dario Argento, director of such Italian horror classics as *Suspiria* and *Deep Red*) working on a book about the intersection of cinema and dreams. Using a split-screen effect, Noé follows them around their cramped apartment, piled high with a lifetime of books and mementos, with two cameras—a bold aesthetic choice that both unites and isolates them. Noé doesn't shy away from the darker elements that begin to take hold, but led by the astonishing performances of Lebrun, Argento, and Alex Lutz as their troubled grown son, he has created his most fragile and humane film yet.

9 HIT THE ROAD

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 7:30PM

DIRECTED BY Panah Panahi, 2021, Iran, in Farsi with English subtitles, 93 mins., Not Rated

Panah Panahi—son of Iranian New Wave legend Jafar Panahi (*The White Balloon*, *Offside*)—makes a striking feature debut with this charming, sharp-witted and ultimately deeply moving comic drama. *Hit the Road* takes the tradition of the Iranian road-trip movie and adds unexpected twists and turns. Panahi follows a family of four – two middle-aged parents and their two sons, one a taciturn adult, the other a rambunctious 6-year-old – as they drive across the stunning Iranian countryside toward an unspoken destination. What awaits them remains a mystery for most of *Hit the Road*, but the journey itself is mesmerizing. Effortlessly shifting from subtle comedy to understated drama and back again, Panahi revels in the hilarious, emotional eccentricities of a family on the move and the strangers they meet along the way.



TUCSON PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

New York, London



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Alliance Francaise, Gold Coast

10 THE ROSE MAKER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 5:00PM

DIRECTED BY Pierre Pinaud, 2020, France, in French with English subtitles, 95 mins., Not Rated

Celebrated French star Catherine Frot (*Marguerite*) takes center stage in this charmingly good-natured comedy as a once-successful rose farmer on the brink of losing her business until she forms an unlikely friendship with three new apprentices. Eve (Frot) used to be content living in almost complete isolation to focus on her passion for growing roses, making her one of the most famous rose creators in the world. But when financial hardships threaten her business and livelihood, desperate measures are required. The unexpected solution comes in the form of three new workers who are recruited cheaply from a back-to-work program. There's just one small problem: these hapless outcasts have no gardening skills and know absolutely nothing about growing roses. Now Eve is going to have to tend to a lot more than just her rose bushes to keep her head above water, and this odd team with nothing in common hatches a crazy plan that just might save the business and change all their lives forever.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Sundance, Seattle, Krakow

11 WRITING WITH FIRE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 1:30PM

DIRECTED BY Sushmit Ghosh & Rintu Thomas, 2021, India, in Hindu with English subtitles, 92 mins., Not Rated

The women reporters of India's Khabar Lahariya newspaper are a formidable group. Cooperatively running India's only all-female news service, the women are all of Dalit ("Untouchable") caste, or India's lowest class. Many of them balance caring for young children in homes without electricity while traveling the country to shed light on some of India's most pressing human rights issues. *Writing with Fire* tells the extraordinary story of the Khabar Lahariya paper, the women who run it, and the impact their powerful truth-telling has in the midst of the rise of radical right wing politics and persistent patriarchy and class injustice. Winner of Audience and Jury prizes at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Berlin, San Sebastian

12 THE SCHOOLGIRLS (LAS NIÑAS)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 2:00PM

DIRECTED BY Pilar Palomero, 2020, Spain, in Spanish/Catalan with English subtitles, 97 mins., Not Rated

Growing up in small-town Spain in the early '90s, 11-year-old Celia is ever the responsible student and considerate daughter. When impossibly cool Brisa storms in from Barcelona, she upsets the order of the girls' strict Catholic school, run by nuns with a stern disposition and an iron fist. Unexpectedly, the two girls become fast friends, and soon Celia is swept up in a rebellious clique that breaks all the rules and flaunts authority. Her eyes newly opened to the world, Celia starts to raise questions about her own family background, including her absent father. This astute drama is anchored by vivid performances from its young cast, who effortlessly convey the tensions and anxieties of adolescence. The directing debut of Pilar Palomero not only tells the story of her own life, but also of the many Spanish women who grew up during the 1990s, torn between a traditional way of life and a much more modern, highly emancipated one.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca, NewFest

13 CICADA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 4:45PM

DIRECTED BY Matthew Fifer & Kieran Mulcare, 2020. USA, 96 mins., Not Rated

After a string of unsuccessful and awkward encounters with women, Ben, a young bisexual, goes “back on the dick” (as his sister enthusiastically exclaims). *Cicada* follows Ben (played by co-director/co-writer Matthew Fifer), who is white, as he comes out to the world and develops an intense relationship with Sam, a man of color struggling with deep wounds of his own. As the summer progresses and their intimacy grows, Ben ultimately gains the strength to face a childhood trauma he has long suppressed. Sensitively made and beautifully crafted, this surprising feature untangles the myriad ways in which childhood traumas can manifest themselves in adult life, particularly for that of queer men. Matthew Fifer co-wrote the film, a tender new love story for the modern era, based on his own experiences, lending *Cicada* an intensely personal authenticity and realism.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Prague, Denver

14 IMPERFECT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 11:30AM

DIRECTED BY Regan Linton & Brian Malone, 2021, USA, 77 mins., Not Rated

Imperfect is a story of artists who live and perform with the uniqueness of disability, and therefore have historically been denied their place in the spotlight. The film chronicles a unique company of actors who have all nature of disabilities – from spinal cord injury to Parkinson’s Disease, cerebral palsy to autism – as they attempt an unprecedented version of Kander, Ebb, and Fosse’s beloved musical, *Chicago*. Capturing the raw, honest stories of the actors both inside the production process and outside the theatre in their everyday lives, *Imperfect* reveals a rare behind-the-scenes look at a unique community of talented disabled artists who push to succeed as professional performers no matter the obstacles or setbacks, simultaneously crushing stale notions of disability and affirming the human condition in all its uniqueness.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
SXSW, San Francisco

15 LUCHADORAS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 1:30PM

DIRECTED BY Paola Calvo & Patrick Jasim, 2021, Mexico/Germany, in Spanish with English subtitles, 93 mins., Not Rated

The riveting documentary *Luchadoras* is an intimate portrait of three courageous female wrestlers (Luchadoras) from Ciudad Juárez who, despite being surrounded by machismo and constant danger, both in and out of the ring, fight to redefine the image of women in Mexico. Short-statured Mini Serinita dreams of becoming a full-time Luchadora and leaving the factory work that disenfranchises so many women for the rest of their lives. From her house, Lady Candy can see the U.S. Border where her daughters were taken but, due to visa regulations, can never cross it. And Baby Star, a young single mother who was a Lucha Libre Star at an early age, is ready to make her comeback.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Sundance, Berlin

16 NINJABABY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 4:00PM

DIRECTED BY Yngvild Sve Flikke, 2021, Norway, in Norwegian w/ English subtitles, 103 mins., Not Rated

Rakel, a young cartoonist with a messy room and an even messier social life, is surprised when her best friend Ingrid points out the obvious cause of Rakel’s recent body changes: She’s pregnant. Rakel spins out further upon discovering it’s too late to do anything about it. Complicating matters is Mos, the hapless but kind-hearted one-night-stand and presumed father, who becomes yet another unexpected presence in her life. As Rakel flails through decisions with petulant charm, the increasingly (and literally) animated fetus begins to affect her mind as much as her body—even chiming in with opinions on her every move. Enriching the story with illustrations that nod to her graphic-novel source material, director Yngvild Sve Flikke strikes an engaging balance between irreverence and heart. But it’s the choice to let Rakel be as likable as she is caustic that elevates this from raucous comedy to affecting coming-of-age tale.



TUCSON PREMIERE

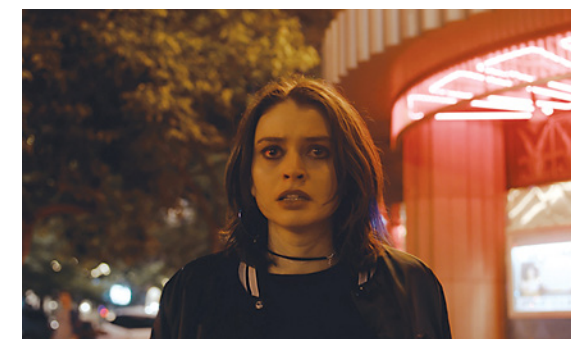
OTHER FESTIVALS:
San Sebastian, Rotterdam, Seattle

17 NUDO MIXTECO

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 11:00AM

DIRECTED BY Ángeles Cruz, 2021, Mexico, in Spanish with English subtitles, 91 mins., Not Rated

Mexican actor-turned-director Ángeles Cruz (*I Carry You With Me*) crafts a powerful and poignant feature debut with this triptych of intertwining stories set in the Mixtec Oaxaca village of San Mateo during the annual celebration of the town’s patron saint, as three indigenous women navigate personal crises that put them at odds with customs and traditions which they both embrace and challenge. Maria (Sonia Couoh, *Potosí*) is a young housekeeper who returns home to San Mateo after the death of her mother, rekindling a romance with single mother Piedad (Eileen Yañez, *Days of Grace*), while simultaneously suffering the wrath and rejection of her father. Chabela (Aida Lopez, *Frida*) is faced with the unexpected return of her long-AWOL husband Esteban (Noé Hernández, *Miss Bala*), who insists on a village tribunal after she refuses to take him back.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Santa Fe; São Paulo

18 WE BURN LIKE THIS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 11:45AM

DIRECTED BY Alana Waksman, 2021, USA, 81 mins., Not Rated

When 22 year-old Rae, a descendant of Holocaust survivors, is targeted by Neo-Nazis in Billings, Montana, her ancestors’ trauma becomes real. After hitting a low, Rae returns home to her mother and uncovers the truth about a childhood accident. As antisemitism continues to rise in the community, we follow Rae on her journey to forgive herself, her mother, and the broken world. Inspired by true events, this powerful debut feature from Alana Waksman is a coming-of-age story showing the inherited effects of historical trauma and the strength of survival and healing. Starring Madeline Coghlan (*Holidays*, ABC’s *The Rookie*) and Devery Jacobs (*Reservation Dogs*, *American Gods*).

SILENT LAND and **HOLY FRIT** are also in competition, see pages 9-10 for film info.

OPEN AIR CINEMA

SCREENINGS WILL TAKE PLACE OUTDOORS AT THE LOFT CINEMA

Open Air Screenings at The Loft Cinema will be using individual audio transmission. Earphones will be available for purchase at each screening (for \$1 each), but we recommend that you bring your own WIRED earphones or headphones to maximize your viewing experience. (Note: airpods, bluetooth, and other wireless headphones are NOT compatible with our system)

Open Air Cinema screenings will have a maximum capacity of 100 people. The Loft Cinema requires ALL customers, employees, and volunteers, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks while visiting its campus. Masks may be removed while seated and actively eating or drinking. To view all of our Covid Safety Protocols visit: loftcinema.org/covid



OTHER FESTIVALS:
Sundance, New York

19 CHAMELEON STREET (4K RESTORATION) WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY Wendell B. Harris, 1990, USA, 94 mins., Not Rated

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 1990 Sundance Film Festival, Wendell B. Harris Jr.'s debut feature endures as a brilliant satirical examination of the place of race and class in the performance of American social life. Harris himself stars as William Douglas Street Jr., a real-life con man from Detroit who, disillusioned with working for his father, sets about reinventing himself—and then again, and then again—successfully impersonating a vast succession of journalists, lawyers, athletes, and even surgeons in the process. Harris's film boldly shape-shifts to match its subject's own chameleonic transformations, yielding not just a landmark work in American independent cinema but also a singular meditation on the mutability of Black American identity that's dense with aesthetic and political ideas. New 4K restoration by Arbelos Films, supervised by director Wendell B. Harris.

20 HOLY FRIT (In Competition: CICA award) THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY Justin S. Monroe, 2021, USA, 119 mins., Not Rated

Talented yet unknown Los Angeles-based artist Tim Carey is a bit of a wisecracker, relying on his latent wit, humor and charm to cover for his shortcomings. But when he bluffs his way into winning the commission to create the world's largest stained-glass window of its kind, beating out 60 companies from around the world, he finds himself in quite the predicament: He has no idea how to make the complicated design. After a desperate search, Tim connects with someone who might have the answer: Narcissus Quagliata, a world-famous glass maestro from Italy. From the moment Narcissus arrives, Tim learns that his talent and humor will only take him so far. Setting aside his personal demons and his ego, he must submit to the artistic lessons of a master if he is to win the three-year race against the clock. As this highly-entertaining documentary unfolds, the clash of two very big personalities slowly transforms into the forging of a lasting friendship, while offering a heartfelt and often comedic look into the drama of any human endeavor that is greater than the sum of its parts.



OTHER FESTIVALS:
Slamdance, Melbourne



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Toronto, Zurich, Chicago

21 SILENT LAND (In Competition: CICA award) FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY Agnieszka Woszczynska, 2021, Poland/Czech Republic/Italy, in Polish/English/French/Italian, with English subtitles, 113 mins., Not Rated

Deliciously tense and profoundly observant, *Silent Land* follows the Italian vacation of a wealthy Polish couple as it falls perfectly to pieces. Adam and Anna arrive at a palatial Italian seaside vacation home, sanguine about the days ahead. The inconvenience of an unfilled swimming pool is only the first sign that a cloud of ennui and dissatisfaction has followed them there. And then the two witness a terrible accident from their balcony. How should they respond? An investigation by the local authorities is followed by the revelation of CCTV footage from the day of the incident. What responsibility do they bear? With their holiday at risk and the small town's police circling ever closer, this sleek couple must test the strength of their own moral foundations. Expertly observed and carefully crafted, *Silent Land*, the debut feature from Agnieszka Woszczynska, imbues subtle details with hidden meanings to create an intricate web of psychological suspense and crumbling, ever-shifting morals.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

SXSW, Calgary, Guanajuato

22 FREELAND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY Mario Furloni & Kate McLean, 2021, USA, 80 mins., Not Rated

In this spellbinding drama, an off-the-grid California cannabis farmer approaching her twilight years faces a threat to her livelihood after the drug's legalization. Devi has been breeding legendary pot strains for decades on the remote homestead she built herself. But when cannabis is legalized, she suddenly finds herself fighting for her survival. In a tour-de-force performance as Devi, Krisha Fairchild (star of the acclaimed 2015 drama, *Krishna*) brings the timely story of a black-market grower battling to keep her farm to the screen. Featuring a heart-breaking turn by John Craven as an old flame from Devi's hippie commune days, and Frank Mosley and Lily Gladstone as adrift harvest workers, the film is full of standout performances. Shot on location at off-the-grid pot farms during the actual harvest, directors Mario Furloni and Kate McLean imbue this emotional thriller with a deep and empathetic authenticity.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Berlin, Outfest, Frameline

23 COCOON (KOKON) SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 8:00PM

DIRECTED BY Leoni Krippendorff, 2020, Germany, in German, 89 mins., Not Rated

For 14-year-old Nora, the summer of 2018 is one she'll never forget. The hottest ever recorded in Berlin's history, it's also the summer she breaks her finger, gets her first period in the most embarrassing way possible, colors her hair, and falls in love. With a mostly absentee mother who drinks too much, and a boy-crazy older sister who doesn't want her around, shy Nora (Lena Urzendowsky, *How to Sell Drugs Online (Fast)*), prefers the company of her caterpillar collection, and spends her time fantasizing about her sister's friends. But the sweet, cocooned world inside Nora's head will start to change when punky classmate Romy (Jella Haase, *Combat Girls*) takes an interest. With nuanced insight into the lives and feelings of her teenage characters, and eliciting complex performances from her young cast, writer/director Leonie Krippendorff also shows a native's flair for revealing Berlin's lesser-known locations. Shot in dreamy candy-color in the culturally diverse neighborhood around Kottbusser Tor, this delightfully bittersweet film takes us along on Nora's journey from naïve child to older-and-wiser young adult.



LOFT FILM FEST
NOVEMBER 10-18
LOFTFILMFEST.ORG

	WEDNESDAY, NOV 10		THURSDAY, NOV 11		FRIDAY, NOV 12	
	SCREEN 1	OPEN AIR	SCREEN 1	OPEN AIR	SCREEN 1	OPEN AIR
11:00 AM			<u>35</u> The Siamese Bond		<u>36</u> In Front of Your Face	
11:30 AM						
12:00 PM			11:00 AM 80mins		11:00 AM 85mins	
12:30 PM						
1:00 PM						
1:30 PM					<u>15</u> Luchadoras	
2:00 PM			<u>31</u> Narrative Shorts		1:30 PM 93mins	
2:30 PM			1:30 PM 120mins			
3:00 PM						
3:30 PM						
4:00 PM						
4:30 PM					<u>27</u> A Hero	
5:00 PM			<u>10</u> The Rose Maker		4:00 PM 127mins	
5:30 PM			5:00 PM 95mins			
6:00 PM						
6:30 PM						
7:00 PM					<u>5</u> The Humans	
7:30 PM			<u>4</u> The Novice		7:00 PM 109mins	
8:00 PM	<u>1</u> Parallel Mothers	<u>19</u> Chameleon Street	7:30 PM 94mins	<u>20</u> Holy Frit		<u>21</u> Silent Land
8:30 PM	7:30 PM 120mins	8:00 PM 94mins		8:00 PM 119mins		8:00 PM 116mins
9:00 PM						
9:30 PM						
10:00 PM						
10:30 PM			<u>41</u> After Blue		<u>33</u> Late Night Shorts	
11:00 PM			10:00 PM 127mins		10:00 PM 105mins	
11:30 PM						

	SATURDAY, NOV 13		SUNDAY, NOV 14		MON, NOV 15	TUES, NOV 16	WED, NOV 17	THUR, NOV 18
	SCREEN 1	OPEN AIR	SCREEN 1	OPEN AIR	SCREEN 1	SCREEN 1	SCREEN 1	SCREEN 1
			<u>17</u> Nudo Mixteco		<u>28</u> Clara Sola			
<u>14</u> Imperfect			11:00 AM 91mins		11:00 AM 106mins	<u>18</u> We Burn Like This	<u>25</u> Faya Dayi	<u>27</u> Hive
11:30 AM 78mins						11:45 AM 81mins	11:30 AM 120mins	11:30 AM 84mins
			<u>11</u> Writing with Fire					
<u>39</u> Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy			1:30 PM 92mins		<u>32</u> Documentary Shorts	<u>30</u> Little Girl	<u>37</u> The Neutral Ground	<u>12</u> The Schoolgirls
1:45 PM 121mins					2:00 PM 116mins	2:15 PM 90mins	2:30 PM 80mins	2:00 PM 97mins
			<u>16</u> Ninjababy					
			4:00 PM 103mins		<u>24</u> Beans	<u>13</u> Cicada	<u>29</u> Catch the Fair One	<u>34</u> Simple Passion
<u>38</u> Ahed's Knee					5:00 PM 92mins	4:45 PM 96mins	5:00 PM 85mins	4:45 PM 99mins
4:45 PM 109mins								
			<u>3</u> Sherlock Jr. w/ Live Music Score		<u>7</u> After Love	<u>8</u> Vortex	<u>9</u> Hit the Road	<u>2</u> Julia
<u>6</u> Kubrick by Kubrick		<u>22</u> Freeland	7:30 PM 45mins	<u>23</u> Cocoon	7:30 PM 89mins	7:30 PM 135mins	7:30 PM 93mins	7:30 PM 95mins
7:30 PM 73mins		8:00 PM 80mins	+30min Q&A	8:00 PM 99mins				
<u>40</u> Strawberry Mansion								
10:00 PM 91mins								

IN COMPETITION: CICA E AWARD
CICA E and Juror information on page 2
Film descriptions on pages 7-10



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TUCSON PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Toronto, Seattle, Hawai'i

24 BEANS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 5:00PM

DIRECTED BY Tracey Deer, 2020, Canada, 92 mins., Not Rated

In the summer of 1990, a twelve-year-old Mohawk girl in Kanehsatà:ke is forced to grow up fast and find her own inner warrior during an armed stand-off between her community and the government. Torn between innocent childhood and reckless adolescence; Beans (Kiawentiio Tarbell, in a powerful performance) struggles to build her own identity amidst the chaos of the uprising and the injustice of a world that sees her as "different" even in her own land. Will she succumb to the pressures of a society intent on bringing her down? Or will she rise up to assert her strength and uniqueness of character? Inspired by her own childhood, writer/director Tracey Deer's debut feature, set during the Oka Crisis, which tore Quebec and Canada apart for 78 tense days in 1990, is a timely and touching look at the lives of Indigenous youth and families told with heartbreaking honesty.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Sundance, Full Frame

25 FAYA DAYI

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 11:30AM

DIRECTED BY Jessica Beshir, 2021, Ethiopia, 120 mins, Not Rated

In her hypnotic documentary feature, Ethiopian-Mexican filmmaker Jessica Beshir explores the coexistence of everyday life and its mythical undercurrents. Though a deeply personal project—Beshir was forced to leave her hometown of Harar with her family as a teenager due to growing political strife—the film she returned to make about the city, its rural Oromo community of farmers, and the harvesting of the country's most sought-after export (the euphoria-inducing khat plant) is neither a straightforward work of nostalgia nor an issue-oriented doc about a particular drug culture. Rather, she has constructed something dreamlike: a film that uses light, texture, and sound to illuminate the spiritual lives of people whose experiences often become fodder for ripped-from-the-headlines tales of migration.



TUCSON PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:

Sundance, Sydney

26 HIVE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 11:30AM

DIRECTED BY Blerta Basholli, 2021, Kosovo, in Albanian with English subtitles, 84 mins., Not Rated

Winner of three major Sundance Film Festival 2021 awards: Audience Award, Directing Award and World Cinema Grand Jury Prize!

Hive, the debut feature by Kosovo-born filmmaker Blerta Basholli, is a searing drama based on the true story of beekeeper Fahrije Hoti, who, like many of the other women in her patriarchal village, has lived with fading hope and burgeoning grief since her husband went missing during the war in Kosovo. In order to provide for her struggling family, Fahrije (Yllka Gashi) pulls the other widows in her community together to launch a business selling a local food product. Together, they find healing and solace in considering a future without their husbands—but their will to begin living independently is met with hostility. The men in the village condemn Fahrije's efforts to empower herself and the women around her, starting a feud that threatens their newfound sovereignty—and the financial future of Fahrije's family.



TUCSON PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, BFI London



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca, Calgary

27 A HERO

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 4:00PM

DIRECTED BY Asghar Farhadi, 2021, Iran/France, in Farsi with English subtitles, 127 mins., Rated PG-13

Acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi, whose intricate dramas *A Separation* and *The Salesman* both won Oscars, returns with another gripping, incisive study of human frailty. In this year's Cannes Film Festival Grand Prix winner, Rahim (Amir Jadidi) is a calligrapher who was imprisoned when he could not repay a mounting debt. While Rahim is on a two-day release from his medium-security penitentiary, his girlfriend, Farkhondeh (Sahar Goldoust) presents him with a golden opportunity that will secure his release. Once he becomes a so-called free man, Rahim is flanked by his family — including a vulnerable son from a previous marriage — his adoring admirers, his weary debtors, and even his former jailers, while mounting expectations surround him like a pile of bricks. Through impeccable plot twists that play out like a life-or-death game of snakes and ladders, our hero's days of freedom come to feel numbered.

28 CLARA SOLA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 11:00AM

DIRECTED BY Nathalie Álvarez Mesén', 2021, Costa Rica/Belgium/Germany/Sweden, in Spanish with English subtitles, 106 mins., Not Rated

In a remote village in Costa Rica, 40-year-old Clara (Costa Rican dancer Wendy Chinchilla Araya, in her debut role) is believed to have a special connection to God. As a "healer" who has been visited by the Virgin Mary, she sustains a family and a village in need of hope, while she finds solace in her relationship with the natural world and her beloved horse, Yuca. But after years of being controlled by her mother without any agency of her own, Clara's sexual desires are stirred by an unexpected attraction to her young niece's (Ana Julia Porras Espinoza) kind-hearted new boyfriend (Daniel Castañeda Rincón). Clara begins to rebel — at first in subtle ways and then in ways that defy the expectations of her sleepy community and lead to explosive results. Costa Rican-Swedish director Nathalie Álvarez Mesén's feature debut is a powerful meditation on female empowerment and the fine line between the physical and the mystical.

29 CATCH THE FAIR ONE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 5:00PM

DIRECTED BY Josef Kubota Wladyka, 2021, USA, 85 mins., Not Rated

In this absorbing, edge-of-our-seat thriller, an Indigenous woman embarks on the fight of her life when she goes in search of her missing sister. Kaylee "K.O." Uppshaw, a broken former boxer struggling to pick up the pieces of her life, discovers that her younger sister, Weeta, who disappeared two years ago, is possibly alive and circulating in a trafficking network. Looking to make her family whole again, Kaylee sets off on a dark and treacherous journey, intentionally getting herself entangled in the trafficking operation in order to retrace her sister's steps and work her way up the chain of command to find the man responsible. Real life US boxing world champion Kali Reis plays the fiercely driven protagonist, delivering a powerfully raw performance in a role that she co-wrote with director Josef Kubota Wladyka. The ruthless world of human trafficking is brought to life here with gripping suspense, immaculate cinematography and an emotional depth that resonates long after the end credits roll. Executive produced by Darren Aronofsky.



HUELLA

DIRECTED BY Gabriela Ortega, 2021, USA, 15 mins.

When the death of her grandmother unleashes a generational curse, a disenchanted flamenco dancer resigned to a desk job is forced to experience the five stages of grief through a visit from her female ancestors, pushing her to finally break the cycle.

AFTER THE EGG

DIRECTED BY Chelsea Slayter, 2021, USA/New Zealand, 18 mins.

A young woman becomes an unlikely caregiver for her estranged father and his new chicken friend after he suffers a life altering stroke.

LA MOTOCHORRA

DIRECTED BY Clarice Bales, 2021, USA, 19 mins.

In an old, abandoned mining town, Liz, the daughter of a jobless miner, has given up hope. What begins as a normal day, is ignited with the roar of Soledad and her motorcycle rolling into town.

SLOW VINE

DIRECTED BY Glenn Fellman, 2021, USA, 14 mins.

A series of short comedic vignettes, collected into a singular short film, linked by a specific tone and pace. They're absurd, slow, and warm – sketch comedy at reduced speed.

OTAVA

DIRECTED BY Lana Bregar, 2021, Slovenia, 14 mins.

An adolescent girl tries to dream about the memories of her mother while having to be physically present in the surrounding farm with her grandmother.

THEM

DIRECTED BY Sunita Sangaré, 2021, Switzerland, 8 mins.

A father and his daughter on the run from strange creatures.

HOUSES IN MOTION

DIRECTED BY Adrian Meyer, 2020, USA, 8 mins.

Sibling relationships, addiction, a new bicycle, and the most wonderful time of the year.



31

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 2:00PM

Previous iterations of the Loft Film Fest's *Documentary Shorts* have highlighted eventual Oscar-nominated short films. This year's collection of offers a diverse range of films, with windows into the way people live across the world.

SINCE YOU ARRIVED, MY HEART STOPPED BELONGING TO ME

DIRECTED BY Erin Semine Kökdil, 2021, USA, 21 mins.

Central American mothers journey by bus through Mexico, searching for their children who migrated north towards the United States but disappeared en route.

COFFEE & SUGAR

DIRECTED BY Andy Volk, 2021, USA, 8 mins.

In conversation with her grandson, 93-year-old Carol goes on a vibrantly animated journey as she reflects on her unbelievable marriage of 62 years. Combining a fantastic mixture of hand-drawn and stop-motion techniques, "Coffee & Sugar" explores the memories of love that transcend time and all conventions.

BLACK CANVAS

DIRECTED BY Shirin Ekhlas, 2021, Iran/Germany, 17 mins.

Mohamed, a refugee from Guinea who has fled his country due to his opposition to the Guinean government, is seeking a new life in Germany. He tries to forget his past by learning how to paint. While everything seems to be going well, some obstacles are being placed in the way of his stay by the German government.

THE STATE OF BEING A FATHER

DIRECTED BY Diante Singley, 2021, USA, 8 mins.

Three friends talk about the past, present and future of black masculinity.

WE WERE THERE TO BE THERE

DIRECTED BY Mike Plante & Jason Willis, 2021, USA, 27 mins.

On June 13, 1978, the punk bands the Cramps and the Mutants played a free show for psychiatric patients at the Napa State Hospital in California.

MISSION: HEBRON

DIRECTED BY RONA SEGAL, 2020, ISRAEL, 22 MINS.

In Israel, soldiers are recruited at the age of 18. Six ex-soldiers face the camera and recall their recent service. Including rare cell-phone footage, captured by local witnesses, Mission: Hebron offers an unflinching guide to the most troubled city in the West Bank.



32

LATE NIGHT SHORTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 10:00PM

SWEET MARY, WHERE DID YOU GO?

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL KRATOCHVIL, 2021, AUSTRALIA, 16 MINS.

An escaped convict lost in 1803 Australia encounters two immortal time travelers from our evolved future, on a rite of passage journey to vicariously understand mortality.

OUROBORUS

DIRECTED BY Chloé Forestier, 2020, France, 8 mins.

In a suburban town, a purple liquid is starting to trap everyone who is settling into their daily routine. The more they wait to change their habits, the harder the liquid makes it to change the situation, and look for what life has to offer.

POLKA DOT BOY

DIRECTED BY Sarina Nihei, 2020, France, 7 mins.

A boy is suffering from a polka-dot disease on his arms since he can remember. Encountering some peculiar events, he discovers a hidden connection between the disease and a religious group.

METUBE 3: AUGUST SINGS 'UNA FURTIVA LAGRIMA'

DIRECTED BY Daniela Moshel, 2020, Austria, 8 mins.

The intergalactic music nerds August and Elfi conquer the opera stage and orchestrate their final adventure in an opulent manner.

LUCID DREAMERS

DIRECTED BY Matthew Potwardowski, 2021, USA, 11 mins.

A directionless daydreamer tries to reconnect with his childhood friend, mysteriously trapped in a state of sleep paralysis..

YOUTH WILL NOT SLEEP

DIRECTED BY Perrine Lamy-Quique, 2021, France, 29 mins.

It is one of those nights when everything can change. When you don't know anymore if time goes forward or backward like a broken record. It is a bunch of teenagers in waiting, stuck in a mountain boarding school, seeking a welcoming face. It is Judith who, above all, wants Dagan back.

A DUTIFUL SPOUSE

DIRECTED BY Michael Mulcahy, 2021, USA, 5 mins.

Be polite and thoughtful with whomever you quarantine.

HOMERUN

DIRECTED BY Julie Paturange, 2020, France, 5 mins.

A man quits a dancing party, he limps on his way home and races against time and gets rid of these hostilities to go home.



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33 LITTLE GIRL TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 2:15PM

DIRECTED BY Sebastian Lifshitz, 2020, France/Denmark, in French with English subtitles, 90 mins., Not Rated

Happy and healthy seven-year-old Sasha has always identified as a girl. Initially resistant, her parents have come to embrace what Sasha has known all along, and so begins their journey together in a slow-to-adapt world. *Little Girl* is a profound and heartrending portrait of Sasha's everyday struggles to be recognized by her school, her peers, and her small community in Northeastern France, as well as a larger look at gender identity and the power of family. Beautifully crafted and intimately photographed, with a structure that evokes a narrative film as much as a documentary, Cannes award-winner Sébastien Lifshitz's (*Bambi*, *Wild Side*) latest gem offers compassionate insight into the pains, joys, and simple yet sublime victories Sasha experiences in her search for acceptance.

OTHER FESTIVALS:
BERLIN, CHICAGO, SEATTLE



34 SIMPLE PASSION THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 4:45PM

DIRECTED BY Danielle Arbid, 2020, France/Belgium, in French/English with English subtitles, 99 mins., Not Rated

In this adaptation of Annie Arneaux's best-selling 1992 novel, French filmmaker Danielle Arbid vividly captures the feverish experience of an all-consuming love affair. Hélène (Laetitia Dosch) is a successful woman who teaches Humanities at the Sorbonne. She is a strong, independent woman who has raised her son alone, but when she enters into an addictive, erotically-intoxicating relationship with a younger, married Russian diplomat named Aleksandre (played by celebrated Russian Royal Ballet dancer Sergei Polunin), she is caught in the grip of romantic obsession and the black hole desire creates. As her affair with the coldly cruel Aleksandre escalates, Hélène becomes further possessed by sexual desire and the escape it offers from the banality of her daily routine. But how long can the flame burn before it rages out of control?

ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto, San Sebastian



35 THE SIAMESE BOND (LAS SIAMESAS) THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 11:00AM

DIRECTED BY Paula Hernández, 2020, Argentina, in Spanish with English subtitles, 80 mins., Not Rated

Mothers and daughters and the often-fraught ties that bind serve as the subject of this expressive drama from writer/director Paula Hernández, whose previous film, *The Sleepwalkers*, was selected as Argentina's official submission for the 93rd annual Academy Awards. Forty-something Stella (Valeria Lois, *History of Fear*), single and searching, lives with her ailing mother, Clota (Rita Cortese, *Wild Tales*), whom she dutifully cares for while longing for some kind of escape. When Stella's long-estranged father – and Clota's long-ago-divorced husband – dies and leaves Stella two apartments in a drab coastal town, the two embark on a bus trip that will change their lives forever. Director Hernández presents us with a clear-eyed portrait of a love between parent and child that's as explosive as it is unconditional. Almost surreal in its presentation of familiar situations in unfamiliar places, the film feels both eerily recognizable yet far from anything resembling real life.

ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Mar del Plata, Miami



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, New York

36 IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 11:00AM

DIRECTED BY Hong Sangsoo, 2021, South Korea, in Korean with English subtitles, 85 mins., Not Rated

After years of living abroad, a middle-aged former actress (Lee Hye-young) has returned to South Korea to reconnect with her past and perhaps make amends. Over the course of one day in Seoul, via various encounters—including with her younger sister; a shopkeeper who lives in her converted childhood home; and, finally, a well-known film director with whom she would like to make a comeback—we discover her resentments and regrets, her financial difficulties, and the big secret that's keeping her aloof from the world. Both beguiling and oddly cleansing in its mix of the spiritual and the cynical, *In Front of Your Face* finds the endlessly prolific Hong Sangsoo (*Night and Day*, *Woman on the Beach*) in a particularly contemplative mood; it's a film that somehow finds that life is at once full of grace and a bad joke.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca, AFI Docs

37 THE NEUTRAL GROUND

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 2:30PM

DIRECTED BY CJ Hunt, 2021, USA, 82 mins., Not Rated

In December 2015, the New Orleans City Council voted to remove four Confederate monuments from public grounds. A forceful group of critics protested the decision, and fearing retaliation, no crew would agree to remove the statues. To comedian and *The Daily Show* field producer CJ Hunt, these protestors' fanatical loyalty to the losing side of a 160 year-old war seemed like ideal material for a short, satirical internet video. But as he filmed the conflict surrounding the monuments, a bigger story began to reveal itself. Harrowing, smart, and bitterly funny, Hunt's documentary *The Neutral Ground*, confronts the Lost Cause with refreshing clarity. With New Orleans as the main backdrop of the story, the film expands its scope to the country at large, bringing to light the fabricated histories born out of the Civil War and the hard truths much of America has yet to face about slavery. Turning a sharp eye to the tangled thread between past and present, *The Neutral Ground* targets necessary change centuries in the making that might—finally—be catching up to itself.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto, New York

38 AHED'S KNEE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 4:45PM

DIRECTED BY Nadav Lapid, 2021, Israel/France/Germany, in Hebrew/French/German with English subtitles, 109 mins., Not Rated

A film of radical style and splenetic anger, *Ahed's Knee*, from acclaimed Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid (*Synonyms*), follows a celebrated but increasingly dissociated director (Avshalom Pollak) to a small town in the desert region of Arava for a screening of his latest film. Already anguished by the news of his mother's fatal illness (Lapid's film was made soon after the death of his own mother, who had worked as his editor for many years), he grows frustrated with a speech-restricting form he is encouraged to sign by a local Ministry of Culture worker (Nur Fiyak). The confrontation ultimately sends him into a spiral of rage aimed at what he perceives as the censorship, hypocrisy, and violence of the Israeli government. This boldly shot and conceived work, which won the Grand Jury Prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival, feels as though it has welled up from the depths of its maker's soul.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Berlin, New York

39 WHEEL OF FORTUNE AND FANTASY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 1:45PM

DIRECTED BY Ryusuke Hamaguchi, 2021, Japan, in Japanese with English subtitles, 121 mins., Not Rated

In this altogether delightful triptych of stories, director Ryûsuke Hamaguchi (*Happy Hour*); proves he's one of contemporary cinema's most agile dramatists of modern love and obsession. Whether charting the surprise revelation of a blossoming love triangle, a young couple's revenge plot against an older teacher gone awry, or a case of mistaken romantic identity, Hamaguchi details the sudden reversals, power shifts, and role-playing that define relationships new and old. Playfully inspired by life's tiny miracles, *Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy* is both ironic and tender, a lively and intricately woven work of imagination that questions whether fate or our own vanities decide our destinies.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Sundance, Fantasia

40 STRAWBERRY MANSION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 10:00PM

DIRECTED BY Kentucker Audley & Albert Birney, 2021, USA, 91 mins., Not Rated

In the dystopian future of 2035, where dreams can be taxed and invaded by advertisers, government agent James Preble (co-director Kentucker Audley) travels to the eccentric home of aging artist Arabella Isadora (Penny Fuller) to audit her dreams and finds himself falling in love as he explores her subconscious, stored on a vast library of VHS tapes. Beautifully imagined and realized by co-directors Adler and Albert Birney, who shot the film digitally then transferred to 16mm to achieve its distinctive, candy color-saturated look, *Strawberry Mansion* is a surreal sci-fi romantic comedy which reminds us that our dreams may be our most precious natural resource.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Toronto, Locarno, Fantastic Fest

41 AFTER BLUE (DIRTY PARADISE)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 10:00PM

DIRECTED BY Bertrand Mandico, 2021, France, in French/English/Polish with English subtitles, 127 mins., Not Rated

Winner! Best Film, Fantastic Fest 2021!

From the eccentric imagination of French filmmaker Bertrand Mandico (*The Wild Boys*), comes *After Blue (Dirty Paradise)*, a shockingly unique erotic sci-fi acid western that explodes the boundaries between genre and avante-garde. In a far-flung future, humanity has left Earth for After Blue, a strange planet whose peculiar effects on hair make the realm solely hospitable to women. When Roxy (Paula Luna), the lonely teenage daughter of the colony's hairdresser Zora (Elina Löwensohn), impulsively unearths a notorious criminal who promises to grant her three wishes, the ensuing violence exiles mother and daughter from the settlement, so they may track down and bring this legendary killer to justice.



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