FILM GUIDE AND SCHEDULE
18 1/2
Directed by Dan Mirvish
USA • English • 2021 • 89 minutes

UPPER ALLEN
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 9:50 PM
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 12:05 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗

As she’s wrapping up her workday, transcriber Connie stumbles on the recording the world has been searching for: the 18 1/2-minute gap of conversation missing from the scandalous Nixon tapes. With Watergate flooding the news cycle, Connie understands the powerful weight of the truth in her possession and feels it’s her civic duty to share her discovery with the public. To publish the findings, Connie secretly meets with Paul, a trusted journalist whose byline she’s been following for years. To listen to the recording together, Connie and Paul check in to the nearby Silver Sands Motel, the closest place with working tape players, and pose as newlyweds to maintain their anonymity. While the pair attempt to stay undetected, interactions with the motel’s colorful characters—the overly sensual Lena and Samuel, and a group of free spirits starting the revolution—lead them to fear their mission may be compromised. The what-if drama thriller 18 1/2 plays out just one possible scenario of the fate of the still unknown conversation the world may never hear. —A.B.

FILM SPONSOR(S):
This film is presented with the generous support of ALISTAIR and JOYCE FYFE.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
107 MOTHERS
(Cenzorka)
Directed by Peter Kerekes
SLOVAKIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, UKRAINE • Russian, Ukrainian • 2021 • 93 minutes

While monotonous days drag on with tedious chores for inmates at a Ukrainian women’s prison, some find motivation right next door in the children’s ward. 107 MOTHERS dramatizes the remarkable true stories of moms who are allowed to serve their sentences with their children until they turn three years old. Although housed in separate buildings on the prison property, mothers are able to nurse their infants day and night and play with their toddlers on the outdoor playground. These women share their stories about what led them to prison, their desires for the future, and their complicated role as a mother behind bars. While some moms serving time are granted requests for parole, others aren’t so lucky and must consider the options for the future care of their children when they age out of the prison’s care facility. Demanding the utmost compassion, this fictional portrayal of real-life accounts of motherhood in prison is hopeful, heartbreaking, and unforgettable. —A.B.

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓

892
Directed by Abi Damaris Corbin
USA • English • 2022 • 95 minutes

Living in a cheap motel in Atlanta and separated from his wife and child, former U.S. Marine veteran Brian Easley is desperate. Driven to the brink by forces beyond his control, the soft-spoken, kind man decides to rob a bank and hold hostages with a bomb. As police, media, and family members descend on the bank and Brian, it becomes clear he’s not after money—he wants to tell his story and have what is rightfully his, even if it costs him his life. In her debut feature, director Abi Damaris Corbin hauntingly blends together the dramatic tension of a hostage negotiation standoff with the intimate emotional world of one life derailed by bureaucracy and a lack of resources. Based on a true story, 892 showcases powerful performances by John Boyega, the late Michael K. Williams in his final screen role, and others who remind us of the social responsibility we have to our soldiers, colleagues, and families, and to strangers as well. —Sundance Film Festival

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓
1991
Directed by Sergio Ramírez
GUATEMALA • Spanish • 2021 • 78 minutes

Friday, April 1, 2022 at 10:05 PM

ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

In 1991, Guatemala teenagers coming-of-age were either “breaks” (working-class Indigenous youth who often had an interest in break dancing) or “anti-breaks” (their white, upper-class counterparts who hunted them down in city streets). While daily news reports detail the country’s bloody civil war, best friends Beto and Daniel keep busy working shifts cleaning pools and maintaining the grounds for the entitled well-to-do. Whereas both boys would be classified as “breaks,” Beto proudly owns it, while Daniel secretly longs for an escape from his unlucky class assignment. His chance arrives when rich Tony notices Daniel’s soccer skills, and Tony welcomes him into his wealthy world of house parties, girls, and brutal attacks on “breaks.” Slowly, Daniel drifts from Beto, his family, and his beloved neighborhood, all for the sake of fitting in with someone who was once considered his enemy. As the risk of violence inches closer to home, Daniel wonders if his conflicted loyalty aligns with his conscience, but it may be too late to turn back. 1991 is essential viewing and a compelling film that brings to life a dark period of Guatemalan history that should never be forgotten. —A.B.

PRODUCER(S)
Sergio Ramírez
Jayro Bustamante
Joaquín Ruano

SCREENWRITING
César Díaz
Jayro Bustamante
Sergio Ramírez

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Álvaro Rodríguez
Pablo Valladares

EDITING
César Díaz

PRINCIPAL CAST
Eduardo Cabrera
Brandon López
Juan José Muralles
Daniela Castillo

ACCEPTED
Directed by Dan Chen
USA • English • 2021 • 92 minutes

Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 7:20 PM
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 2:35 PM

ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

In rural Louisiana, where education standards are among the lowest in the country, Michael and Tracey Landry wanted to be part of the solution. Their mission began with just five students in their kitchen, but their ambitious T.M. Landry College Preparatory School grew to nearly 200 students over the next decade. The draw? The remarkable 100% college acceptance rate for their predominately Black, working-class student body, 30% of whom are admitted to Ivy League schools. Wildly inspiring college acceptance videos landed the school on every feel-good talk show, touting them as the ultimate underdog story. But, as the school garners more media attention, so does public scrutiny. How is this possible? Students live and breathe their studies, but taking the brunt of Michael’s brash lectures and questionable methods of motivation push some youth to their breaking point. ACCEPTED, at once uplifting, shocking, and thought-provoking, exposes the mounting pressures of the college application process and the ethical conflicts intertwined with trying to guarantee someone a successful future. —A.B.

PRODUCER(S)
Jason Y. Lee
Dan Chen
Jesse Einstein
Mark Monroe

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Daphne Qin Wu
Dan Chen

EDITING
Joshua Altman
Arielle Zakowski
Jean Rheem

FILM SPONSOR(S):

CLEVELANDFILM.ORG
Whenever Will Steger leaves his home in northern Minnesota to go on an expedition, he looks at his woodshed and wonders if he’ll be back to burn the wood. This has been the mindset of the polar explorer since he went on his acclaimed Antarctic expedition in 1989—the goal of which, with a team of six people from six different countries, was to bring international attention to the effects of climate change. And it is his mindset today when departing for solo expeditions in the Arctic. But expeditions are more than research and adventure for Steger, who has overcome both physical and mental struggles in his past; he sees these adventures as a chance to explore within himself as well. AFTER ANTARCTICA is a deep and celebratory, yet chilling, portrait of the 1989 expedition, fluidly combined with Steger’s reflections on grit and legacy. This documentary blends intimate archival footage and recordings from past expeditions with the picture of Steger today, who is still exploring in his 70s and claims, “Expeditions keep me young.” —J.H.

PRODUCER(S)
Lisa Remington
Tasha Van Zandt
Sebastian Zeck

SCREENWRITING
Don Bernier
Tasha Van Zandt
Sebastian Zeck

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Sebastian Zeck

EDITING
Don Bernier

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

FILM SPONSOR(S):
Canada

When the real estate of the southern U.S. coast is eyed by the wealthy, tax hikes and land auctions threaten the homes of the Gullah people who live there and have been stewards of the region for generations. Under the orders of General William Sherman, the property was originally deeded to freed slaves after the civil war. This is their inheritance. It is not just a commodity for the Gullah people, but a family resource. Their lives, livelihood, history, and language are all inherently tied to the land; it is the basis of their pastoral culture. But when the land is at risk, the Gullah culture is also at risk. Told through personal narratives, the documentary AFTER SHERMAN is the story of a community that endures in the lowcountry—despite how the effects of systemic racism have led to recent threats of gentrification and a horrific hate crime. It is a meditation, rich and warm, on what exactly makes a home: the land, the people on it, and the community created together through tradition and shared history. —J.H.

PRODUCER(S)
Blair Dorosh-Walther
Madeleine Hunt-Ehrlich

EDITING
Blair Seab McClendon
In 2018 17-year-old Ahed Tamimi went to prison for slapping an Israeli soldier. In response, a member of the Israeli parliament suggested that, as punishment, the Palestinian girl should be shot in the knee to prevent her from walking again. Based on these real-life events, the fictional but reflective AHED’S KNEE opens with Y, a celebrated Israeli filmmaker, casting the part of Ahed for a film installation. While working to get this new project off the ground, Y takes a trip to a remote village where one of his completed films is screening at a local library. In preparation for his film screening, Y befriends Yahalom, a beautiful young woman who serves as Deputy Director of the Israeli Ministry of Culture’s Libraries department. Frustrated with the ministry’s increasing restrictions on what kind of films they will support, Y and Yahalom’s friendly conversations soon escalate to impassioned debates about humanity, art, and the country’s right to censorship. A film that itself has been approved by the Israeli Ministry of Culture, AHED’S KNEE is a shockingly introspective masterpiece, complete with avant-garde film techniques and imaginative dance breaks. —G.S.

Although Ali and Ava live in the same city of Bradford, England, their lives are unfolding in two entirely different worlds. Ali is a British-Pakistani landlord who is currently navigating the complexities of his failing marriage, and Ava is an Irish-born single mother balancing her responsibilities at home with her job as a teaching assistant. Brought together by chance and a rainstorm, Ali’s and Ava’s worlds unexpectedly collide. Starting their relationship as friends, Ali and Ava find themselves increasingly drawn to each other romantically...to the dismay of both of their families. While cultural differences and cumbersome family dynamics have the potential to create barriers between them, Ali and Ava grow closer through music and dancing. But as they continue to build their intimate relationship, the two lovers struggle to protect the sweetness of their connection with harsh reactions from the outside world. Endearing and humorous, ALI & AVA is a beautiful modern day love story about two people who have more in common than a first impression might imply. —G.S.
AMERICANISH
Directed by Iman Zawahry
USA • English • 2021 • 90 minutes

UPPER ALLEN Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 7:20 PM
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 2:20 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓

This charming rom-com follows Paki-stani-American sisters and their newly immi-grated cousin as they juggle their love lives, careers, and familial expectations in Jackson Heights, Queens, NY. The three young Muslim women must contend with equal pressures of family and career. As the eldest sister, Sam is determined to carve her own career-driven path. But are her hopes of advancement worth rejecting her values? Maryam, the youngest and most eager to embrace tradition, prefers to wear a hijab and dreams of saving her first kiss for her husband. But when she chases a boy and a spot in Harvard's prestigious pediatrician program at the same time, she realizes a tough choice lies ahead. And while bubbly, fish-out-of-water Ameera comes to America determined to marry a Pakistani doctor, new experiences open her eyes to other possibilities. Through its charismatic performances and fresh perspec-tive on the genre, AMERICANISH paints a lively, intersectional portrait of Muslim-American womanhood. —D.O.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

AMPARO
Directed by Simón Mesa Soto
COLOMBIA, SWEDEN, QATAR • Spanish • 2021 • 95 minutes

CONNOR PALACE Friday, April 1, 2022 at 12:10 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓

When Amparo arrives home to an empty house after a long shift, she worries what the streets of Medellín, Colombia have done with her children. She finds eight-year-old Karen still with the babysitter, but 18-year-old Elías, who never came to pick up his younger sister after school, is nowhere to be found. After speaking with the neighbors, Amparo learns Elías was taken by the Colombian army battalion and forced to enlist. With no job or degree, the military defines Elías as a “regular soldier,” an ideal recruit to fight on the frontlines in the most dangerous region of Caquetá. Terrified for her son’s life, Amparo seeks the help of an officer to delay Elías’ morning departure. But in a country where corruption can be the law of the land, everything comes at a price. AMPARO illustrates the rare grit and selfless determination found in mothers when their children’s lives are on the line. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Juan Sarmiento G.
Simón Mesa Soto
SCREENWRITING
Simón Mesa Soto
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Juan Sarmiento
EDITING
Ricardo Saraiva
PRINCIPAL CAST
Luciana Gallego
John Montoya
Diego Alejandro Tobúñ
Sandra Melissa Torres

PRODUCER(S)
Roy Wol
Paul Seetachitt
Iman Zawahry
Aizzah Fatima
SCREENWRITING
Aizzah Fatima
Iman Zawahry
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Chloe Weaver
EDITING
Jesi Rojas
PRINCIPAL CAST
Aizza Fatima
Salena Qureshi
Shenaz Treasury
Lillete Dubey
Godfrey
Kapil Talwalkar
Mo Amer
George Wendt
Ajay Naidu
David Rasche

(216) 623-3456
ANAIS IN LOVE  
(Les Amours D’Anais)  
Directed by Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet  
FRANCE • French • 2021 • 98 minutes

CONNOR PALACE  
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 7:40 PM  
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 9:40 AM

X CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)  
ACCESSIBILITY  
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Flighty, impulsive, and carefree to a fault, Anais struggles to pay her rent, hold down a job, and finally finish her thesis that’s months overdue. Her irresistible charm barely keeps her afloat as she flees from one version of love or lust to another. Traditional monogamy with boyfriend Raoul doesn’t suit her. Her brief love affair with Daniel, a married man as old as her father, is lukewarm at best (but his home is at least a place to land for the time being). These relationships feel more like hobbies than commitments until Anais discovers Daniel’s effortlessly beautiful wife Emilie. Immediately enamored by Emilie’s captivating aura of mature elegance, Anais rearranges every part of her already-haphazard life just to be near her. Intrigued by Anais’ forward advances, Emilie finds herself cautiously yearning for desires she thought she’d outgrown. Dripping with French sensuality, ANAIS IN LOVE flows like a poetic dance of forbidden passions that lovers rarely pursue, for fear they may bring the ultimate pleasure. —A.B.

PRODUCER(S)  
David Thion  
Stéphane Demoustier  
Philippe Martin  
Igor Auzépy

SCREENWRITING  
Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet

CINEMATOGRAPHY  
Noé Bach

EDITING  
Chantal Hymans

PRINCIPAL CAST  
Anaïs Demoustier  
Valeria Bruni Tedeschi  
Denis Podalydès  
Jean-Charles Clichet

ANONYMOUS SISTER  
Directed by Jamie Boyle  
USA • English • 2021 • 94 minutes

UPPER ALLEN  
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:20 PM  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 11:50 AM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)  
ACCESS  
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY  
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Just two years apart in age, Jamie and Jordan Boyle were inseparable growing up. Wherever older sister Jordan went, Jamie followed. And when Jordan fell in love with figure skating, Jamie tagged along as well. But what Jamie saw as a fun hobby, Jordan dedicated herself to completely, and soon the majority of the family’s time and resources were devoted to Jordan’s figure skating career. Hoping to make it to the Olympics, Jordan worked tirelessly toward her goals. But after developing nerve damage in her feet, her dreams were abruptly halted. As Jordan was lost, devastated, and developing different waves of undiagnosed pain, her doctors began prescribing opioids... with consequences no one would see coming. Filmed through the years by Jamie, ANONYMOUS SISTER is an intimate documentary that offers a revelatory look into an all-too-familiar struggle that has plagued American families for decades: opioid addiction. Blending home movie footage with modern day interviews, this film is a powerful and personal story of love, pain, and perseverance. —G.S.

PRODUCER(S)  
Marilyn Ness  
Elizabeth Westrate  
Jamie Boyle

CINEMATOGRAPHY  
Jamie Boyle

EDITING  
Jamie Boyle

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

CLEVELANDFILM.ORG
THE ART OF MAKING IT
Directed by Kelcey Edwards
USA • English • 2021 • 94 minutes

MIMI OHIO THEATRE
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 4:45 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 9:20 AM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Take a peek behind the curtain of the elite and elusive modern art world, a culture composed of its own hierarchies, languages, and value systems...many of which are no longer serving artists themselves. From museum boards to the unregulated art market, from MFA programs to flipping art for profit, THE ART OF MAKING IT examines the complex inequalities in today’s art economy and the many artists who have been left behind as a result. As with numerous other parts of our society, the age of Covid-19 has highlighted the need to reimagine and restructure outdated standards in the creative world. Recognizing that the definitions of beauty and truth have become so subjective, the way art is presented must change as well. Featuring an array of diverse up-and-coming artists sharing their personal stories about trying to “make it” in the art world (including Cleveland native Gisela McDaniel), this fascinating documentary gives a multifaceted and nuanced view of the challenges inside the art scene in America. —G.S

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

THE ART OF REBELLION
Directed by Libby Spears
USA • English • 2021 • 79 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 2:30 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Lydia Emily says fondly that she comes from “a whole bloodline of loudmouths.” Her mother was a civil rights activist in Louisiana, Lydia herself is a socially vocal street-artist based in Los Angeles, and both her daughters speak their minds and own their truths. Her defiantly steadfast attitude persists in all aspects of her life, especially in regard to her youngest daughter’s autism diagnosis at one year old and Lydia’s own diagnosis of primary progressive multiple sclerosis years later. Through medical struggles, emotional setbacks, and communities that don’t initially embrace her art, the documentary THE ART OF REBELLION tells Lydia’s story of unflinching determination. Faced with a tidal wave of medical bills, a roller coaster of medication side effects, and a severe lack of access to care for her condition—all underscoring the fierce societal need for universal healthcare—nothing will stop Lydia from creating, even if she must tie the paintbrushes to her hands. —J.H.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S):
Debi Wisch

CINEMATOGRAPHY:
Sebastian Lasasoza Rogers

EDITING:
Nyneve Laura Minnear
Inés Vogelfang

PRODUCER(S):
Suzanne Lafetra
Doug Blush
Katy Wood
Sam Hook

CINEMATOGRAPHY:
Libby Spears
Amy Bench
Daniel J. Clark
Chris Parkhurst

EDITING:
Elisa Bonora
Sam Hook
THE AUTOMAT
Directed by Lisa Hurwitz
USA • English • 2021 • 79 minutes

The acerbic wit and voice of the iconic Mel Brooks welcomes you into the warm arms of THE AUTOMAT. Dripping with panache and pizzazz, this documentary dives deep into these forgotten “centers of paradise.” Automats, known by many through the forgotten Horn & Hardart chain, were once the centerpieces of meeting places for many folks across different backgrounds, coming together over lemon meringue pie and meatloaf. While the innovative technology of the automat paved the way for more modern updates to the concept, the lasting impact is not through cuisine, but through the conversations and connections made around the cuisine. THE AUTOMAT enlists the help of iconic figures, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Colin Powell to name a few, to spell out the special nature of these places. Each subject beams with the memory and feeling of being surrounded by what many of them refer to as “magic.” A place where all were welcomed. Hurwitz’s warm directorial hand guides this welcome feeling without being too intrusive, letting everyone have a seat at the table. Anchored by a sparkling soundtrack (including an original song from Mel Brooks), THE AUTOMAT celebrates the beauty of simplicity, connection, and community, all tied up in a deeply nostalgic bow. —B.R.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Lisa Hurwitz
Russell Greene

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Andre Mascarenhas
Daniel Vita
Garrett Lennington
Paul Malimian
Philip Lucas
Riley Gibson
Sandra Chandler
Stephen Cocklin

EDITING
Michael Levine
Russell Greene

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

KEYBANK
STATE THEATRE
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 5:05 PM
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 12:00 PM

BEAUTIFUL MINDS
(Presque)
Directed by Bernard Campan, Alexandre Jollien
FRANCE, SWITZERLAND • French • 2020 • 92 minutes

If “The undertaker is here!” is not something you would ever imagine being shouted excitedly in a club, then this film is ready to broaden your mind. After a slight mishap involving a meditation in the trunk of a hearse, two men find themselves on one of the most unusual road trips put to screen. They could hardly be more different: Louis, resigned to a life of relative solitude, is an undertaker whose work has made him numb to the grim reality of death and all the ensuing complications; Igor, eager to make friends, is a philosophizing delivery man with cerebral palsy and an entirely alternative perspective—on death and much more. While both are outsiders in their own right, on the road they discover they have more in common than they first expected. BEAUTIFUL MINDS is a genuinely heartwarming film that will leave you considering the connections that can be made between people different from yourself, if only you release yourself from expectation...or fall asleep in a hearse. —J.H.

PRODUCER(S)
Philippe Godeau

SCREENWRITING
Hélène Grémillon
Alexandre Jollien
Bernard Campan

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Christophe Offenstein

EDITING
Annette Dutertre

PRINCIPAL CAST
Bernard Campan
Alexandre Jollien

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

KEYBANK
STATE THEATRE
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 12:10 PM
BEING MICHELLE
Directed by Atin Mehra
USA • ASL, English • 2022 • 80 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 5:10 PM
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 9:15 AM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Besides an occasional visit to the ice cream shop or the few years of respite spent with her loving foster mother, Michelle’s childhood was nothing short of traumatic. Deaf and autistic, Michelle endured years of neglect, sexual abuse, and a hostile world that refused to ever take the time or make an effort to listen to her. An early encounter with law enforcement left Michelle terrified of anyone in uniform, a catalyst for numerous arrests and five years in a Florida state prison. For the duration of her incarceration, Michelle had no interpreter and little opportunity to sign. This perpetual breakdown in communication had been her life’s recurring theme until she gained the support of Kim, a prison volunteer who would become Michelle’s legal guardian after her release. A powerful and heart-wrenching documentary, BEING MICHELLE explores Michelle’s appalling accounts of her experiences with the criminal justice system and her brave attempt to fight for her rights under the law. —A.B.

Content Warning: This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

BEST BIRTHDAY EVER
Directed by Michael Ekblad
GERMANY, SWEDEN, NETHERLANDS • English • 2021 • 75 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 11:55 AM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Little Charlie turns five tomorrow! Mom is baking his favorite—chocolate carrot cake—and he knows Dad has already picked out the perfect present. On the morning of Charlie’s birthday, his baby sister Clara is running a temperature and ruins Charlie’s plans for a perfect day of fun at the lake. While Mom and Dad rush Clara to the doctor, Charlie mopes next door at Monica’s house before deciding to pack his wagon and head to his grandmother’s house. To get there, he and Monica embark on a daring adventure deep in the forest where they befriend countless woodland creatures, including snails, frogs, butterflies, and birds. But they must learn to work together to dodge sly foxes and startling thunderstorms for a safe journey. Based on the book series Karlchen by Rotraut Susanne Berner, BEST BIRTHDAY EVER is an animated gift that’s fun for all ages. Older siblings will relate to the joys and frustrations of sharing the spotlight with the babies of the family. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

(216) 623-3456
BOULEVARD! A HOLLYWOOD STORY
Directed by Jeffrey Schwarz
USA • English • 2021 • 85 minutes

CONNOIR PALACE
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 4:40 PM
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 12:10 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Picture it. 1950. Old Hollywood is abuzz over leading lady Gloria Swanson, star of the era’s hit “Sunset Boulevard.” The film’s heroine, Norma Desmond, finds herself falling out of Hollywood’s spotlight and desperate to make a comeback. While Gloria’s own height of success was primarily seen in 1920s silent films, it’s hard to ignore the parallels of Gloria’s personal career trajectory with that of her most notable character. Now at age 50, Gloria’s opportunities have dwindled. So she decides to create one for herself by turning “Sunset Boulevard” into a Broadway musical—reprising her legendary role. When she recruits two young songwriters, Dickson Hughes and Richard Stapley, to help bring her vision to life, a complicated love triangle forms, and tensions take root because of Gloria’s near obsession with returning to stardom. With the help of music archives and candid interview footage of Hughes and Stapley, BOULEVARD! A HOLLYWOOD STORY tells a tale of hanging onto the dream of Hollywood, an unforgiving place that’s so quick to let you go. —A.B.

PRODUCER(S)
Jeffrey Schwarz
John Boccardo

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Doug Hosdale
Matt May

EDITING
Jeffrey Schwarz

BOYCOTT
Directed by Julia Bacha
USA • English, Hebrew, Arabic • 2021 • 73 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 2:40 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

When a news publisher in Arkansas, an attorney in Arizona, and a speech therapist in Texas are told they must choose between their jobs and their political beliefs, they launch legal battles that expose an attack on freedom of speech across 33 states in America. BOYCOTT tells the stories of these “accidental plaintiffs,” providing rich context on the origins of state legislation aimed at silencing boycott efforts in the USA, why these laws came to be, and how activists, lawyers, organizers and everyday citizens like Bahia Amawi, Alan Leveritt, and Mikkel Jordahl are now fighting back. —SXSW

PRODUCER(S)
Suhad Babaa
Daniel J. Chalfen
Julia Bacha

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Amber Fares
Kelly West

EDITING
Flavia de Souza
Eric Metzgar
Unassuming Kakhi, with his scruffy white beard and mild-mannered nature, is a legend of sorts around his hometown in the Republic of Georgia, all the way to Brooklyn’s Brighton Beach. An accomplished wrestler in his heyday, Kakhi somehow escaped the gambling addiction that plagues the other men in his family. Looking to cover his brother’s debts, Kakhi sets out for America to visit his son Soso, only to find he, too, has run up a hefty tab with a threatening mob boss over a game of cards. Layered with weighty themes and unexpected bouts of off-kilter humor, BRIGHTON 4TH introduces a quirky collection of strangers-turned-friends living in Soso’s Brooklyn boarding house. Kakhi’s new family-away-from-home links him up with odd jobs and opportunities to scrape together what his son owes, but it may not be enough. Determined to help Soso get back on his feet, Kakhi must decide how far he will go to give his son a fresh start in this bittersweet story of a father’s undying devotion. —A.B.

BROTHERHOOD
(Bratrství)
Directed by Francesco Montagner
CZECH REPUBLIC, ITALY • Bosnian • 2021 • 97 minutes

Jabir, Usama, and Usier have a complicated relationship with their Islamist father Ibrahim. Torn between the structure of their strict religious upbringing in rural Bosnia and their individual desires for growth and exploration, the boys struggle to find their place in the world. When Ibrahim is sentenced to two years in prison for terrorist affiliations, the three brothers are left alone for the very first time, but the burden of responsibility weighs heavy in their father’s absence. Before departing for his prison sentence, Ibrahim gives each of his sons specific tasks for running the household and their family’s sheep farm while he is away, demanding everything remain how he left it for when he returns. A captivating coming-of-age documentary, BROTHERHOOD follows these brothers through their trials and tribulations over two years while their father is in prison—two years that turn out to be incredibly formative for each of them. —G.S.

Content Warning: This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.
Unlike her rebellious sister Bea, Sarita doesn’t spend much time partying or clubbing. But after being talked into a night out in Guatemala City, Sarita dresses up and joins Bea on the dance floor, letting loose for a rare moment. Following a drunken argument with her sister, Sarita goes home early, leaving Bea at the club with her gang-affiliated ex-boyfriend, Andrés. In the morning, Sarita is distraught to find that Bea never made it home. When the police seem uninterested in pursuing her sister’s disappearance, Sarita realizes it is up to her to find out what happened to Bea. Convinced that Andrés is responsible, Sarita approaches him, posing as an aspiring member of his gang, and slowly immerses herself into his world. Finding herself in increasingly dangerous situations, Sarita remains steadfast, stopping at nothing to get to the truth. A breathtaking crime thriller, CADEJO BLANCO craftily unfolds its suspenseful layers against the backdrop of Guatemala’s grisly gang violence. —G.S.

PRODUCER(S)
Mauricio Escobar
Ryan Friedkin
Jack Hurley
Justin Lerner

SCREENWRITING
Justin Lerner

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Roman Kasseroller

EDITING
Justin Lerner
Cesar Díaz

PRINCIPAL CAST
Karen Martínez
Rudy Rodríguez
Pamela Martínez
Brandon López

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles v

Whether they’re performing at an animal rescue center benefit, a church fundraiser, or a shrimp parade, the Calendar Girls give it all they’ve got. And they have a lot to give—impressive makeup; handmade costumes; elaborate dance routines; and, most notably, their unparalleled enthusiasm and sparkling personalities. They are a group of hardworking senior volunteer dancers in Florida, determined to prove that age is just a number. Through a series of intimate portraits seamlessly interwoven with dance scenes, directors Maria Loohufvud and Love Martinsen craft a loving look at these incredible women in all their 60-plus glory. They refuse to become invisible, and the camera mirrors the pride and respect they feel for their bodies while also acknowledging the struggles they’ve encountered in the process of renegotiating their identities. CALENDAR GIRLS is a joyous reminder of the importance of having a tribe: a chosen family who will lift you up, encourage you to be your most authentic self, and tell you to dance like everybody is watching.

—Sundance Film Festival

PRODUCER(S)
Maria Loohufvud
Love Martinsen

SCREENWRITING
Maria Loohufvud
Love Martinsen

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Maria Loohufvud
Love Martinsen

EDITING
Maria Loohufvud
Love Martinsen

FILM SPONSOR(S):

This film is presented with the generous support of BILL DECAPITE.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

CLEVELANDFILM.ORG
CANDELA
Directed by Andrés Farías
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC • Spanish • 2020 • 87 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 9:55 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Told in three parts, CANDELA reveals the frantic and fatal few days before a hurricane in Santo Domingo and discloses the layered tragedy of life in the Caribbean. Cloaked in neon lights and the weight of a predetermined future, a woman takes startling action after visiting a renowned nightclub. A police detective, depressed and disillusioned with the corrupt political system, wallows in a lack of confidence and lets both love and justice slip through his fingers. And finally, sultry and poised as a drag performer, but desperate and heartbroken off-stage, a young man tries to atone for his lover’s past mistakes. Examining how the lives of these three apparent strangers intertwine, this visually tantalizing reverie follows the unfolding cause and effect of each character’s actions, leading to a shocking finale. CANDELA will leave you stunned and ponderous as the hurricane finally rolls through. —J.H.

THE CANNONS
Directed by Steven Hoffner
USA • English • 2021 • 90 minutes

CONNOR PALACE
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 7:15 PM
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 11:45 AM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

In 1978 Coach Neal Henderson founded the first minority youth hockey program in the country. Today, still coaching at 81 years old, the legendary Coach Neal has 40 years worth of rosters full of alumni players who revere him. Henderson’s community-funded Fort Dupont Cannons Hockey Club in Washington, D.C. supplies predominately Black players with access to free equipment, skates, uniforms, and a glimpse of opportunity beyond the blocks of their inner-city neighborhoods. Best friends on and off the ice, Robert and Rayvon suit up for their final season as Cannons in their senior year of high school. In a city that continues to struggle with homicide, racism, and poverty, both boys fight to graduate and contemplate their next steps beyond their beloved ice arena. THE CANNONS offers the epitome of sport for these young players who find heroes in their dedicated coaches. It is through the athletes’ most triumphant victories and devastating losses that they truly learn how to play the game. —A.B.
Whoever said a dog was man’s best friend certainly didn’t have the patience for cats and their, at times, aloof capacity for love and companionship. Director Mye Hoang’s documentary CAT DADDIES serves as evidence that the bond between human and feline is more than meets the stereotypical eye. Told through the stories of men across different geographic and demographic backgrounds, CAT DADDIES at its core is woven together through its subjects’ deep and undying bond with their furry comrades, complete with sumptuous glamour shots of these gentle, majestic animals. Through its runtime, the film meanders into explorations of loneliness, masculinity, and community. The film takes us from Flame, the fire station superstar who wins over the hearts of a gaggle of gruff men, to Lucky, the sweet cat who keeps David company as he navigates housing and illness during the Covid-19 pandemic. Cats feel like home to people, and this film is a testament to the infinite ways in which cats can enrich lives. And for the record, this film shows that you truly CAN herd cats and do it successfully.

—B.R. (a cat dad himself)
CHARLOTTE
Directed by Éric Warin, Tahir Rana
CANADA, FRANCE, BELGIUM • English • 2021 • 92 minutes

UPPER ALLEN Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 12:05 PM
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 5:05 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description • English Subtitles ✓

As World War II unfolds in Berlin, so, too, does Charlotte’s passion for art. Loved ones and the city’s Academy of Fine Arts affirm her natural talent, but the Nazi influence grows stronger each day and ultimately upends her ambitious dreams. After danger arrives at her family’s doorstep, Charlotte’s parents urge her to leave Germany to care for her aging grandparents in the French Riviera. Miles from the war and just steps from the sea, Charlotte finds love and solace in her growing portfolio of artwork and freehand sketches of the world around her before a devastating tragedy strikes. Determined to outline her family’s demons, Charlotte commits to recreating her entire life in paintings—retelling every painful and blissful memory—before it’s too late. Based on the remarkable true story of German-Jewish artist Charlotte Salomon, the animated drama CHARLOTTE is a poetic depiction of a woman’s resilience captured in her timeless body of artwork. Free-flowing and profound, Charlotte’s paintings reveal a beautifully complicated life in deeply troubled times. —A.B.

FILM SPONSOR(S):
Canada
This film is presented with the generous support of JANE and ERIC BUDER SHAPIRO.

CHILDREN OF THE ENEMY
Directed by Gorki Glaser-Müller
SWEDEN, DENMARK, QATAR • Swedish, Spanish, English, Arabic • 2021 • 97 minutes

MIMI OHIO THEATRE Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 12:00 PM
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 2:40 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles ✓

In 2014 Patricio Galvez’s daughter Amanda married an infamous jihadist and moved from Sweden to Syria to fight for ISIS. After both Amanda and her husband are killed in the collapse of the caliphate, their seven young children, ages one to eight, are left orphaned and trapped in a Syrian prison camp in dire conditions, while the debate over government responsibility for “children of the enemy” drags on. Without support from any of the countries involved, the orphaned children of ISIS fighters have been left in squalor and neglect. Desperate to bring his grandchildren back to Sweden safely, Galvez sets out on a dangerous solo mission to find them and take them home himself. A deeply moving documentary about frustration, love, and loss, CHILDREN OF THE ENEMY sheds light on the complex issues that remain in the wake of a devastating war, and the thousands of innocent children who have been left to suffer for the sins of their parents. —G.S.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
CONSULATE OF SWEDEN CLEVELAND
MALTZ MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE
The Museum of Diversity & Tolerance
(216) 623-3456
In rural Costa Rica, Clara longs to be free of her holy obligations. As a vessel of the Virgin Mary, Clara heals the sick, injured, and unfortunate, but her sheltered life as a grown woman cripples her body and withers her soul. Aside from her deep connection with her horse Yuca, Clara possesses few joys to call her own. Treated as both child and spectacle for religious visitors, Clara quietly envies her 15-year-old niece Maria’s journey to womanhood—a chapter unfairly torn out of her own life story. Although forbidden and punishable by her mother, Clara’s desire to arouse herself is relentless. She yearns for pleasure anywhere she can find it, often leaning on nature to inspire her most sensual experiences. Deep and intriguing, CLARA SOLA blurs the boundaries between myth and reality, following Clara’s sense of self-expression and spiritual aura as it begs to be set free. —A.B.
THE COW WHO SANG A SONG INTO THE FUTURE
Directed by Francisca Alegría
CHILE • Spanish • 2022 • 93 minutes

Years ago, Tomas’ grandmother Magdalena committed suicide under mysterious circumstances in a river near her family’s dairy farm. No one understood why she did it, and her body was never found. Decades later, Magdalena emerges from the same river, fully alive, although the river itself is now dying. The world that Magdalena is returning to is much different from the one she left. Fish in the river are dying; the bees on the land have vanished; the birds who can still fly away have all migrated. The ecosystem is completely collapsing from the overwhelming mistreatment from human activity, and the dairy cows on her family’s farm are suffering greatly, along with the environment around them. As Magdalena wanders back to her old home to face her family, each of her loved ones is confronted with dark secrets from their past and present. Filled with haunting and surreal imagery, THE COW WHO SANG A SONG INTO THE FUTURE powerfully highlights society’s destructive relationship with the natural world through the lens of a mystical family drama. —G.S.

DAUGHTER OF A LOST BIRD
Directed by Brooke Pepion Swaney
USA • English • 2021 • 66 minutes

Kendra always knew she was adopted, and she loved her parents and childhood growing up in her predominantly white Oregon community. When encouraged to seek out her birth family, Kendra discovers her Lummi heritage from the Lummi Nation in Northwest Washington. Curious, yet terrified of what she may find, Kendra reunites with her free-spirited birth mother, who was also adopted. The two embark on their own conflicted journeys—a balancing act of making peace with who they thought they were, and the blood that courses through their veins. The backdrop to this complex family tree is the horrific chapter of American history marked by the 1958 Indian Adoption Project, a program of the federal government that removed Indian children from their Native homes to be adopted by non-Native families in a forcible act of assimilation. The documentary DAUGHTER OF A LOST BIRD depicts just one of too many Native stories about the devastating loss and resilient spirit of this nation’s tribes whose children continue to be removed despite the law of the land, the Indian Child Welfare Act. —A.B.
DEALING WITH DAD
Directed by Tom Huang
USA • English • 2021 • 106 minutes

UPPER ALLEN
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 4:50 PM
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 2:20 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

The Chang siblings live vastly different lives: Margaret is a perfectionist, Roy is sad about his divorce, and Larry has no interest in leaving his parents' house. When Margaret gets word that their dad isn't acting like himself and has barely gone out, she decides to take matters into her own hands and drags Roy along with her in the process. The siblings and their dad haven’t always seen eye-to-eye, with Margaret getting the brunt of their father’s anger and disappointment. As they try to figure out what to do, they begin to remember experiences they had growing up, which in turn brings them closer together than ever before. Filled with humor and heart, DEALING WITH DAD is a case study on relationships of all kinds and what we have to do to protect them. —N.A.

PRODUCER(S)
Tanner Kling
Brian Yang
Cindy Lu
Randy Kulina
Tom Huang

SCREENWRITING
Tom Huang

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Irvin Liu

EDITING
Kurt Nishimura
Tom Huang

PRINCIPAL CAST
Ally Maki
Hayden Szeto
Peter S Kim
Dana Lee
Echo Kellum
Pags Leong
Megan Gailey
Karan Soni
Cindera Che

THE DEVIL’S DRIVERS
Directed by Daniel Carsenty, Mohammed Abugeth
GERMANY • Arabic, Hebrew, English • 2021 • 90 minutes

UPPER ALLEN
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 2:20 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Palestinian Bedouins have lived on their ancestral land for centuries. Defined by their nomadic and agricultural traditions, they have worked hard to keep their way of life alive—something that has become increasingly difficult. With the creation of Israel in 1948, most Bedouins were forced from their homeland. Today, a small number of Bedouin people remain on the land, despite the obstacles the Israeli military have put into place to force them out. Without running water, permits to build permanent structures, or the ability to find work in their communities, the Bedouin people don’t have a lot of options to make ends meet. But one option they do have is to smuggle Palestinian workers across the southern border with Israel, the only place where Israel’s border wall has yet to reach. Following some of these Bedouin smugglers as they risk their freedom and their lives to feed their families, THE DEVIL’S DRIVERS captures the desperation and resilience of a long-oppressed group of people who have nowhere else to turn. —G.S.

PRODUCER(S)
Daniel Carsenty

CINEMATOGRAFHY
Daniel Carsenty

EDITING
Laia Prat
Jane had a bright and promising future until a traumatic event derailed her senior year of college. So much so that instead of finishing her last semester of college as planned, she now must return home to her family’s lake house and complete an extra credit project in order to graduate. As Jane reconnects with old friends and acquaintances around town, she runs into her former classmate, Amber, and her young son. Realizing Amber’s son might need help with communication and speech—subjects Jane studied at college—Jane offers to babysit him and teach Amber sign language. The slow and relaxed pace of summer by the lake in Michigan varies immensely from the hustle and bustle of college life, which just might help Jane come to terms with what happened to her. DISFLUENCY is an emotional, impactful film about how healing is a never-ending process on the journey to get back to being ourselves. Libe Barer plays Jane with such a beautiful, raw vulnerability that we want nothing more than to see her thrive. —N.A.

**Content Warning:** This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

**COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):**

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

PRODUCER(S)
Danny Mooney
Anna Baumgarten
Elaine Hastings Edell

SCREENWRITING
Anna Baumgarten

CINEMATOGRAPHY
John Fisher

EDITING
Kevin Birou

PRINCIPAL CAST
Libe Barer
Ariela Barer
Chelsea Alden
Dylan Arnold
Travis Tope
Kimiko Singer
Molly Hagan
Ricky Wayne
Diana DeLaCruz
Wayne David Parker

Abandoned by her family, young Mia has been left in the care of Albert, a solemn middle-aged man who takes his daily tasks very seriously. Albert has been given specific instructions in caring for Mia, including replacing her teeth over and over again in a very particular way. Why? Because Mia’s teeth are made entirely out of ice. Fitting Mia with a special contraption that collects her saliva throughout the day, Albert freezes the saliva in the form of Mia’s teeth. Their mysterious routine is carried out in almost complete silence, with all of the shutters closed. Mia is forbidden from leaving the apartment and spends her days wandering the creaking halls...that is, until an anonymous voice, referred to only as “the master,” phones Albert instructing him to prepare to bring the girl into the outside world. What follows is a series of bizarre twists and turns that unfold gradually into the backdrop of this dark fantasy world. Strange and surreal, EARWIG is gothic horror that melts as slowly as the ice dentures in Mia’s mouth. —G.S.

**PRODUCER(S)**
Jean des Forêts
Amélie Jacquis
Andy Starke
Jean-Yves Roubin
Cassandre Warnauts

**SCREENWRITING**
Lucile Hadžihalilović
Geoff Cox

**CINEMATOGRAPHY**
Jonathan Ricquebourg

**EDITING**
Adam Finch

**PRINCIPAL CAST**
Paul Hilton
Romola Garai
Alex Lawther
Romane Hemelaers
THE ERIE SITUATION
Directed by David Ruck
USA • English • 2022 • 71 minutes

ALLEN THEATRE
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 7:25 PM
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 4:50 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Is the lake supposed to be...green? THE ERIE SITUATION wades through the troubled waters of Lake Erie, whose highly toxic algae blooms are keeping boaters, fishermen, and water lovers at bay. In 2014 these toxins meandered their way into Toledo’s drinking water, forcing the city to go without for three days. Since then citizens have invested heavily in new water treatment technology to ensure it never happens again. But the mayor is calling for action at the root of the problem: a surplus of agricultural runoff. While some farmers are voluntarily changing to more sustainable practices, the increasing number of CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) are finding ways to duck regulations with no accountability for what happens downstream. Shoreline communities including Point Place, Ohio struggle to stay afloat—physically and economically—as the sticky, pungent waters leave locals with persistent coughs, itchy eyes, and respiratory issues. Up against a strong farming lobby, scientists and citizens are desperately fighting for their own safety and the rights to protect their beloved water. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Julie Andersen
Tod Hardin
David Ruck
Zach Passero
SCREENWRITING
David Ruck
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Ryan Busch
EDITING
Grace Eggleston

EVERYBODY DANCE
Directed by Dan Watt
USA • English • 2021 • 85 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 4:45 PM
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 12:00 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

It is essential that we learn what everyday life is like from a variety of viewpoints. Empathy is an important skill and one we should all possess. EVERYBODY DANCE is a documentary that gives us a glimpse into the lives of children who have developmental disabilities. Director Dan Watt takes us on a journey as we explore the trials, tribulations, and daily lives of five kids of different abilities as they prepare for their dance recital. Instructor Bonnie Schlachte, founder and creator of Ballet For All Kids, aims to create a safe space for anyone wanting to indulge in their artistic side. EVERYBODY DANCE will make you feel the full spectrum of emotions. Tissues are not recommended, but required. —N.A.

FILM SPONSOR(S):

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Dan Watt
Isaiah Camp
Howard Barish
Mike Nell
SCREENWRITING
Dan Watt
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Benjamin Fischinger
EDITING
Isaiah Camp
THE EXILES
Directed by Ben Klein, Violet Columbus
USA • English • 2022 • 96 minutes

MIMI OHIO THEATRE
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 7:15 PM
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 2:40 PM

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ❌ • English Subtitles ❌

Producers
Ben Klein
Violet Columbus
Maria Chiu

Cinematography
Connor K. Smith
Alexander J. Huenschmid

Editing
Connor K. Smith

In THE EXILES, Ben Klein and Violet Columbus work with filmmaker and Academy Award® nominee Christine Choy in completing her documentary about Tiananmen Square. After an introduction of Choy, a character in every sense of the word, we get taken back to China in 1989, where non-violent protesters were attacked by the government. To this day we still don’t know how many lives were lost. Many of these people had to flee their country and haven’t returned since. Choy shares her footage with the exiles, and we get pulled into the personal stories of Wu’er Kaixi, Yan Jiaqi, and Wan Runnan. Did these men think their risks were worth it? THE EXILES aims to find out. —N.A.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK
Directed by Bobbi Jo Hart
CANADA • English • 2021 • 96 minutes

ALLEN THEATRE
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 4:45 PM

ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ❌ • English Subtitles ❌

Producers
Bobbi Jo Hart
Robbie Hart

Cinematography
Claire Sanford
Samuel Trudelle-Gendron
Naomi Ture

Editing
Catherine Legault

In the 1960s, an all-female rock band was making a name for themselves in the music scene...and their name was Fanny. With their long hair, rocking stage presence, and incredible instrumentation skills, Fanny was unlike any other girl group before them. But despite their unmatched talent and groundbreaking music, Fanny never quite broke through. With lesbian and Filipino members, the band failed to fit the desired “image” of the time. And with a lack of support, the group eventually fell apart. Decades later, Fanny’s lasting legacy has paved the way for female musicians across a variety of genres. Throughout their career, the women in Fanny have battled sexism, racism, and homophobia. Now in their 60s, back together and releasing a new album, Fanny Walked the Earth, the badass chicks in Fanny are tackling ageism as well. A powerful documentary featuring interviews with a swath of legendary music icons including Bonnie Raitt, Todd Rundgren, The Go-Go’s Kathy Valentine, and The B52’s Kate Pierson, FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK will have you dancing in your seat. —G.S.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
It’s 1948 in Palestine, and British rule is coming to an end. Laughing children tauntingly chase the departing military vehicles with rocks and slingshots... but whispers of a different war are spreading through the countryside. Not particularly concerned with the looming conflict, 14-year-old Farha goes about her days, dreaming of a future in the city with her best friend Farida, and of someday opening her own school for girls. But Farha’s tranquil daydreams are abruptly halted as the first bombs of the Arab-Israeli conflict fall upon her village. In an effort to protect her, Farha’s father locks her in a pantry and promises to return for her. In the chaos, Farha is left alone, in the dark, observing the collapse of her community through a small hole in the door. A devastating story of war and displacement, FARHA captures a series of haunting tragedies amidst the Palestinian Nakba, in which over 700,000 people were forcibly displaced. —G.S.

Content Warning: This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

The two traveled the world chasing iconic eruptions in the name of science, knowing their unbreakable tether to these unpredictable time bombs would likely be their inevitable demise. Thankfully for the world, Katia and Maurice documented every adventure, capturing never-before-dared footage to learn how to predict the timing and intensity of future eruptions and educate the public on best practices for safe evacuations. Told through the Krafft’s unflinching camera lenses, FIRE OF LOVE drops audiences in a stunning view of Zaire’s Mount Nyiragongo, Indonesia’s Krakatau, Washington state’s Mount Saint Helens, Alaska’s Mount Saint Augustine, and Japan’s Mount Unzen—the couple’s final expedition. —A.B.
FIRE ON THE PLAIN
(Ping Yuan Shang De Mo Xi)
Directed by Zhang Ji
CHINA • Chinese • 2021 • 113 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 7:25 PM
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 9:25 AM

× CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles ✔

If you are looking for your next favorite film noir, look no further than FIRE ON THE PLAIN. The film starts on a cold winter’s night in China in 1997, where we meet Li Fei and Shu. Li Fei desperately wants to escape her town and takes lessons from her more fortunate neighbors to better her chances of doing so. Shu, the angsty teenager next door, holds a soft spot for Li Fei and the two build an unlikely bond. As a series of murders strike their city, Shu ends up being recruited by an undercover detective. Yet the murders mysteriously stop without the cops knowing who the perpetrator could be. Flash forward eight years later, when Shu and Li Fei have taken drastically different paths in life. Shu is now a young police officer who decides to reopen the investigation from his past, which will unexpectedly bring Li Fei back into his life. FIRE ON THE PLAIN combines romance, a whodunnit, social commentary, and a variety of twists and turns. What more could you want? —N.A.

PRODUCER(S)
Dun He

SCREENWRITING
Cao Liu

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Chengma Zhiyuan

EDITING
Matthieu Laclau

PRINCIPAL CAST
Zhou Dongyu
Liu Haoran
Mei Ting
Wang Xuebing
Yuan Hong

FIREBIRD
Directed by Peeter Rebane
ESTONIA • English • 2021 • 107 minutes

UPPER ALLEN
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 11:50 AM
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 2:20 PM

× CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions × • Audio Description × • English Subtitles ✗

As a private on a Soviet Air Force base during the Cold War, Sergey is counting the days until his service is up. While there’s an unspoken assumption that he and fellow comrade Luisa are in love, both have instead taken an interest in Roman, the base’s newest commander. While Luisa and Roman’s affections are conveniently public, Sergey and Roman’s forbidden romance must be kept secret to avoid the harsh punishment of such love: five years in a hard labor camp with no return to the service. As growing suspicions circulate of their love affair, Roman abruptly ends their relationship, leaving Sergey heartbroken as he heads off to drama school in Moscow to start his post-military life. And yet their love refuses to be stifled. With dreams of spending their life together, it may be an impossible feat with Roman’s desire to maintain his reputation as a well-respected pilot. Based on the unbelievable true story of Sergey Fetisov, FIREBIRD reveals a heart-wrenching love triangle of passion, anguish, and dangerous vulnerability. —A.B.

SCREENWRITING
Peeter Rebane
Tom Prior

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Mait Maekivi

PRINCIPAL CAST
Tom Prior
Oleg Zagorodnii
Diana Pozharskaya

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

EQUALITY OHIO
THE FIRST STEP
Directed by Brandon Kramer
USA • English • 2021 • 89 minutes

CONNOR PALACE
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 7:40 PM
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 2:30 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓

Depending where you fall on the political spectrum, political commentator Van Jones may evoke an array of different emotions. To some, he is seen as a truth teller and a changemaker. To others, he is a talking head for the Democrats’ “Communist agenda.” And to a group of former supporters, Jones is seen as an untrustworthy traitor. An outspoken progressive voice on CNN, Jones has taken an increasingly controversial approach to getting things done...by reaching across the aisle. During the Trump administration, Jones worked tirelessly to create criminal justice reform, joining with the former president and his supporters to do so. Although Jones ran the risk of losing the backing of both sides by trying to pass a bipartisan bill, he pushed forward, continuing to bring people together who normally would never find themselves in the same room. An inside look at Jones’ courageous efforts and dedication to criminal justice reform, THE FIRST STEP is an intimate documentary that reframes what it means to make a difference and highlights the importance of continuing to have conversations with people of differing opinions. —G.S.

FILM SPONSOR(S):
COMMUNITY SPONSOR(S):

FRAMING AGNES
Directed by Chase Joynt
CANADA, USA • English • 2022 • 75 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 5:00 PM
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 2:30 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓

In the 1950s, far before the word transgender was used in the mainstream, Agnes Torres approached the UCLA Medical Center seeking sex reassignment surgery. Born male, Torres always felt she was meant to be in a woman’s body, and she was one of the first public figures to make this dream a reality. Through her transitional process, Torres met with sociologist Harold Garfinkel, who recorded their conversations about Torres’ life as a trans woman. Garfinkel’s work with Torres became the first known American case study of a transgender individual’s experience. For decades to come, Torres’ life would be seen as a source of inspiration and strength within the LGBTQIA+ community. But, as it turns out, she was not alone in her endeavors. Years later a small group of filmmakers would discover dozens of other transcripts from interviews that Garfinkel gave to other people who had successfully transitioned; people whose stories were never told publicly. Filled with true-to-life reenactments of Garfinkel’s interviews, the experimental documentary FRAMING AGNES examines these powerful untold stories alongside the stories of the modern day trans people who play these historic icons. —G.S.

FILM SPONSOR(S):
COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

CLEVELANDFILM.ORG
FREE RENTY: LANIER V. HARVARD
Directed by David Grubin
USA • English • 2021 • 95 minutes

Who owns the rights to the violence of the past? Is it the victim or the perpetrator? No one wants to know the answer to this question more than Tamara Lanier. In FREE RENTY: LANIER V. HARVARD, Lanier is desperately trying to get her great-great-great grandfather’s daguerreotype out of Harvard’s possession. Renty, an enslaved man, was forced to pose for this photo in 1850 for the purposes of proving that African Americans are an inferior race by zoologist Louis Agassiz. In 2019 Lanier sued the university in hopes of gaining these photos of her relative. After all, this is her history, and why should Harvard continue to own it? Renty did not have a say if he wanted to be photographed or not. If he refused, he would have certainly received a harsh and inhumane punishment. The case is still ongoing, but this documentary provides an excellent look into the lawsuit and why it is important for our country to own up to our turbulent past. —N.A.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S)
David Grubin

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Sam Russell

EDITING
Deborah Peretz

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

FROM THE HOOD TO THE HOLLER
Directed by Pat McGee
USA • English • 2021 • 102 minutes

For Kentucky, 2020 was an especially difficult year. The Covid-19 crisis compounded with the aftermath of Breonna Taylor’s murder highlighted systemic racial issues in a state that has suffered from stark inequality for decades. As one of the poorest states in the nation, Kentucky has some of the worst access in the U.S. to education, healthcare, and clean drinking water. It’s ironic that a state with some of the most disenfranchised people is represented by one of the most powerful politicians in the country: Mitch McConnell. For years, people across Kentucky have felt that McConnell is not connected with the struggles of the communities he represents. Seizing an opportunity to step up and advocate for his people, Democratic candidate Charles Booker decided to run for Senate, taking on the establishment-endorsed Amy McGrath in the 2020 election. A captivating documentary of his incredible journey against the odds, FROM THE HOOD TO THE HOLLER follows Booker as he works to unite people of all colors across Kentucky, while fighting against big money in politics, voter suppression, and systemic corruption in a historically deeply red state. —G.S.
FULL OUT: INSIDE OHIO SHOW CHOIR
Directed by Audrey Leach
USA • English • 2021 • 88 minutes

Connor Palace
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7:20 PM
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 12:00 PM

*CIF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓

If the story of Glee was told by someone who had actually been to Ohio, you’d get FULL OUT: INSIDE OHIO SHOW CHOIR. Bursting with energy, humor, and sparkling personalities, the film follows the journeys of four high school show choirs (three of them in the Northeast Ohio area!) as they prepare for a show-tune soaked season of vocal competition. As the school year progresses, each group faces its own unique challenges—from school levy failures to personal illnesses to competition losses. Though the choirs rarely intersect with each other in person, they are linked by an intense love of performing and an adoration of the tight-knit communities they’ve built. The film’s stories cross quickly, offering brief glimpses and check-ins as the months progress, propelling the students through the year, hopeful of a victory down the road. Director Audrey Leach’s light and laidback touch allows the film’s spirited characters to take center stage. FULL OUT: INSIDE OHIO SHOW CHOIR shines as the perfect depiction of the epic highs and lows of high school show choir from a lens that truly understands its leads who, at the end of the day, are just teenagers trying to express themselves and have fun. —B.R.

PRODUCER(S)
Audrey Leach
Hannah Leach

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Audrey Leach
Hunter Livingston
Artemis Polemis

EDITING
Audrey Leach

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
This film is presented with the generous support of
KEN ROBINSON.

GENTLE
Directed by László Csuja, Anna Nemes
HUNGARY • Hungarian • 2022 • 92 minutes

Westfield Studio Theatre
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:20 PM
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 2:25 PM

*CIF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓

As a female bodybuilder, Edina leads a life that revolves around one thing: pursuing the title of Miss Olympia. Day and night, Edina and her partner/trainer Adam obsessively plan for her success. With all of their time and resources going towards Edina’s training, the couple find themselves in a difficult financial situation. To make ends meet, Edina secretly joins a niche escort service where men can play out their fantasies of being with a strong muscular woman. While first resistant to this controversial side hustle, Edina begins to find a sense of freedom and playfulness in her work as an escort—something she cannot afford to do in her real life. Meanwhile, as Edina’s exhaustive training schedule, restrictive dieting, and steroid shots push her body and mind to the brink, she finds herself faced with an impossible choice: continue to pursue a dream she has dedicated her life to or save her life itself. Starring real-life Hungarian bodybuilder Eszter Csonka, GENTLE captures the brutal dedication it takes to excel in this distinctive world. —G.S.

PRODUCER(S)
András Muhi
Gábor Ferenczy

SCREENWRITING
László Csuja
Anna Nemes

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Zágon Nagy

EDITING
Attila Csabai

PRINCIPAL CAST
Eszter Csonka
György Turós
Csaba Krisztik

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
GIRL PICTURE
(Tytöt tytöt tytöt)
Directed by Alli Haapasalo
FINLAND • Finnish, French • 2022 • 100 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 11:45 AM
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 10:10 PM

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Mimmi is a surly teenager with an unworn sequin dress in her closet and a job at a local smoothie stand. Luckily, she works with her best friend, Rönkkö, whom she loves fiercely even when Rönkkö drags her to house parties in the suburbs. At one of these parties, she sees Emma, a single-minded figure skating prodigy who has yet to consider a life outside of the sport she loves more than anything. While Mimmi and Emma navigate their unexpected first love, Rönkkö is determined to experience pleasure for herself. Addressing issues of sexual orientation, family abandonment, and performance pressure, GIRL PICTURE gracefully presents an authentic story encapsulating the exhilaration and misery of the early years of romantic exploration. Normalizing the inherent awkwardness of sex, centering on female desire and pleasure, and promoting clear communication about sexual needs and consent, this feature posits a tale of young women being given the space to explore, learn, and grow in their own time, and is a celebration of that journey. —J.H.

FILM SPONSOR(S):
COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

This film is presented with the generous support of JINNY and JOHN JOHNSON.

GLOB LESSONS
Directed by Nicole Rodenburg
USA • English • 2021 • 104 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 2:20 PM

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

He’s an anxious, “mostly closeted” wannabe actor who’s wound a little too tight. She’s a directionless free spirit with a dry sense of humor and a drinking problem. Both are late bloomers with a fear of vulnerability. As the two oldest members in their traveling children’s theater troupe, Alan and Jesse are stuck driving across the Midwest together for the next ten months. Bouncing between cramped motel rooms, indifferent audiences, and endless snow-covered plains, they seem to be experts in getting on each other’s nerves. But over the course of the tour, the odd couple begins to break down each other’s defenses, leading to creative and emotional breakthroughs. Made on a micro-budget of less than $50K, debut director Nicole Rodenburg and her childhood friend Colin Froeber wrote and starred in this buddy road trip dramedy. With their sincere chemistry and ample heart, the pair makes GLOB LESSONS an offbeat celebration of platonic love and finding your path in life, even if you’ve had a hard time getting started. —D.O.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
GOOD MADAM
(Mlungu Wam)
Directed by Jenna Cato Bass
SOUTH AFRICA • Xhosa, English • 2021 • 92 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 2:25 PM
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 9:55 PM

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Reeling from her beloved grandmother’s death, Tsidi and her daughter Winnie have nowhere to turn. In reluctant desperation, Tsidi heads to Constantia, a white, well-to-do suburb of South Africa’s Cape Town, where her mother lives and works as an in-home caretaker for bedridden Diane. The gated drive, manicured lawn, and timeless porcelain teacups only bring jarring flashbacks for Tsidi from when she visited as a child. And this stirs up triggering memories and resentment for her mother, who has spent more of her life caring for Diane than her own daughter. Suspicions lurk around every corner, and Tsidi prays every night for protection from the house that echoes eerie whispers and plagues her with unexplainable visions. She pleads with her aging mother to leave and fears her unwavering devotion to Diane is a result of a preeminent power looming in their midst. Riddled with deep-seated angst and unnerving racial undertones, GOOD MADAM creeps in slowly, its ominous power overtaking any sense of ease or contentment. —A.B.

GRAIN
Directed by Tommaso Sacconi, Alex Contell
USA, ITALY, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND • English • 2021 • 81 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 7:20 PM
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 11:55 AM

ACCESSIBILITY
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Digital photography, with its sharper edges, higher definition, and instant gratification, dramatically changed the way we capture and consume the imagery in front of us. But these “perfect” shots we see on our phones—in a world more distorted than ever—may be doing us all a great disservice. Millennials worldwide, whose childhoods were slowly overrun by all-things-digital and looming screen time addictions, are driving the return to film photography and the need for a slowdown. Film photographers praise the analog process of the good ol’ days for its deliberate, intentional, and creative techniques. While shooting, the focus remains on what they see through their lens instead of the camera’s display screen. Hours spent in the darkroom, meticulously labeling by hand over each detail of their prints, allows room for more personal creativity. Now, with more people craving real over flawless, the documentary GRAIN captures how shooting analog brings passionate photographers joy as artists and how the uniqueness of film may be here to stay. —A.B.

FILM SPONSOR(S):

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
clevelandprint room
HAPPENING
(L’événement)
Directed by Audrey Diwan
FRANCE • French • 2022 • 100 minutes

**MIMI OHIO THEATRE**
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 7:25 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 10:00 PM

**ACCESSIBILITY**
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

In 1963 France, Anne, a promising young university student, is devastated to learn she’s pregnant. She immediately insists on termination, but her physician warns of the unsparing laws against either seeking or aiding abortions, and her tentative attempts to reach out to her closest friends are nervously rebuffed. As weeks pass, without support or clear access, an increasingly desperate Anne unwaveringly persists in seeking any possible means of ending the pregnancy in hopes of reclaiming her hard-fought future. Adapting Annie Ernaux’s memoir, Diwan creates an expressively evoked period piece of undeniable current resonance. HAPPENING never sensationalizes, but directly and graphically details not only the dangers and indignities of Anne’s harrowing quest but also how the surrounding indifference escalates her plight. Anamaria Vartolomei stuns as the unrelenting Anne, immersing us in her character’s certainty that the failure to end this pregnancy would surely be the end of her life as well. —Sundance Film Festival

HATCHING
Directed by Hanna Bergholm
FINLAND • Finnish • 2021 • 87 minutes

**KEYBANK STATE THEATRE**
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 10:10 PM
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 9:30 AM

**ACCESSIBILITY**
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Tinja’s mother showcases their family’s existence on her popular blog Lovely Everyday Life as a brightly hued domestic idyll set amid manicured suburban perfection. Beneath the impeccable veneer, though, friendless tween gymnast Tinja is struggling, spending most of her time striving to please her image-obsessed mom and appease her shrilly obnoxious little brother. After finding a wounded bird in the woods, she brings its strange egg home, nestles it in her bed, and nurtures it until it hatches. The creature that emerges, christened Alli, becomes Tinja’s closest friend, surrogate child, and living nightmare in this tremendously twisted coming-of-age body horror film. Director Hanna Bergholm’s pointedly satirical feature debut constantly surprises, upending expectations by continually morphing alongside the newly hatched Alli. Delivering audacious displays of vomitous havoc, HATCHING is also a fascinating portrait of the nature of maternal instinct, as Tinja battles to come to terms with the genuine emotional bond with her grotesque and blood-thirsty newfound family while contending with the fraying connection to her own demanding mother. —Sundance Film Festival
HIT THE ROAD
Directed by Panah Panahi
IRAN • Farsi • 2021 • 93 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 2:25 PM

ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Much like any road trip, no matter who is in the car, the temperament of those inside shifts. One moment everyone is laughing, and the next someone is yelling, while another person may be crying. However, HIT THE ROAD is not your run-of-the-mill family road trip. Instead it is shrouded in mystery, fear, and the unknown. There is a deep sense of urgency among the passengers to make their destination, but we aren’t entirely sure where they are headed and why—at least at first. Expertly paced and filled with deep sadness and wry humor, HIT THE ROAD embodies the notion of trying to make the best out of a bad situation. —N.A.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

HOMEBODY
Directed by Joseph Sackett
USA • English • 2021 • 75 minutes

ALLEN THEATRE Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 2:35 PM Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 7:35 PM

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

If you’re looking for a body swap film in a chaotic “Freaky Friday” style...look elsewhere. Joseph Sackett’s HOMEBODY approaches the trope with a more gentle and steady hand, though chaos does still ensue.... Nine-year-old Johnny is attached to his babysitter, Melanie. Her lipstick, her clothes, her humor, her aura. Something about her draws Johnny in, and once he somehow finds himself in her body, he can ask himself why and reflect on the attachment. The exploration of a new body plops Johnny into coming to terms with his identity, simultaneously catapulting him into Melanie’s life, dodging her “boyfriend” and taking on her doula duties. It is during these wild few hours that Johnny questions what the world around him truly is, and where he can fit inside of it. Anchored by a cheerful score and Colby Minifie’s range-scaling performance, HOMEBODY finds the simple joys of imagination, fantasy, and our own intuition. —B.R.
For anyone who lived through the 1990s, one-hit-wonder Chumbawamba’s *Tubthumping* was undeniably part of the decade’s nostalgic soundtrack. The band’s unexpected success and leap into the mainstream, however, was a stark contrast to the group’s foundational anti-establishment roots. As self-proclaimed anarchists, led by lead vocalist Dunstan Bruce, bandmates took every opportunity on and off stage to share their frustrations with the political status quo and inspire audiences to take action for causes against racism, unfair labor laws, and corporate greed. The newfound mega platform that their famous chart-topper afforded them provided access to a massive global audience. But at what cost? The genre-bending documentary *I GET KNOCKED DOWN* follows Bruce, now middle-aged and struggling to find his place in the world as a retired radical, and his “ghost of Chumbawamba past,” as he reminisces with his former bandmates. With wild stories of rebellion, philanthropy, and fame, Bruce wonders if he actually made meaningful change and what actions he can take now to support the next generation of passionate activists. —A.B.
INHOSPITABLE
Directed by Sandra Alvarez
USA • English • 2021 • 102 minutes

Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 5:00 PM
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 11:45 AM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗

What happens when your city’s largest nonprofit health provider becomes a monopoly? When the multi-billion-dollar nonprofit hospital system University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) decided they would no longer accept Highmark Insurance after June 2019, Pittsburgh patients faced a lose-lose decision: switch to debt-inducing health care plans or give up their beloved doctors. The two entities—both monopolies of their respective industries in western Pennsylvania—gave residents few options and a ticking timeline to overturn the impending breakup. INHOSPITABLE follows the stories of a number of UPMC cancer patients and underserved community members who face life-or-death consequences in the wake of the hospital’s controversial decision. With the help of patient advocates and state legislators, these determined individuals demand nonprofit hospitals, including UPMC, accept all insurance plans or relinquish their nonprofit status—and the enormous tax exemptions the charitable label affords them. Health care economists weigh in on the much larger issue of hospitals prioritizing their growing pockets over patient care, making this film a riveting story for any city. —A.B.

THE INNOCENTS
(De uskyldige)
Directed by Sturla Brandth Grøvlen
NORWAY • Norwegian • 2022 • 117 minutes

Friday, April 1, 2022 at 4:50 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 9:45 PM

✗ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓

There’s an unsettling side to Ida, who dabbles in harming animals, and her autistic sister Anna. Often tasked with watching Anna while their parents settle into the family’s new apartment, Ida soon befriends loner Ben, while she leaves Anna to play in the sandbox with young Aisha. When Ida and Anna discover Ben’s budding telekinesis and Aisha’s empathic telepathy abilities, the four unlikely friends spend their summer days together testing these powers. But what begins as trivial stunts—moving small rocks or reading each other’s harmless thoughts—quickly progresses into deeds far more menacing. As the children’s abilities grow stronger and they discover not everyone is using their powers for good, playtime morphs into a battle of the minds for the sake of their survival. A chilling, twisted thriller determined to leave audiences crawling out of their skin, THE INNOCENTS unleashes jaw-dropping plotlines of morbid ambitions and the unexpected powers that are struggling to overthrow them. —A.B.

FILM SPONSOR(S):
This film is presented with the generous support of MICHAEL FLUELLEN and LYNN MILLINER.
THE JANES
Directed by Emma Pildes, Tia Lessin
USA • English • 2022 • 101 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 4:45 PM
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 11:45 AM

× CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✔ • Audio Description ☑ • English Subtitles ☑

In the spring of 1972, police raided an apartment on the South Side of Chicago. Seven women were arrested and charged. The accused were part of a clandestine network. Using code names, blindfolds, and safe houses to protect their identities and their work, they built an underground service for women seeking safe, affordable, illegal abortions. They called themselves Jane. Facing off against the mafia, the church, and the state, the Janes exhibited unparalleled bravery and compassion for those most in need. Co-directors and Sundance Film Festival alumni Tia Lessin and Emma Pildes unearth this incredibly timely story to demonstrate how the fight for safe and legal abortions was, and continues to be, an uncertain and perilous undertaking. Electrifying archival footage of Chicago in the late 60s and early 70s, coupled with affectingly honest interviews with THE JANES themselves, brings to life the city and its spirit of revolution in that historic moment.
—Sundance Film Festival

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

KARMALINK
(Chiet Krawy)
Directed by Jake Wachtel
CAMBODIA, USA • Central Khmer, English • 2021 • 102 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 7:25 PM
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 11:55 AM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ☑ • Audio Description ☑ • English Subtitles ✔

When Leng Heng dreams, vivid imagery emerges from his former lives, which all lead to the same mysterious treasure: a solitary gold figurine. When he wakes, Leng Heng fervently sketches scenes from these windows into the past, tracing clues to where the coveted artifact might be hidden. As government officials work to force his impoverished community out of Phnom Penh to make room for a high-tech bullet train in the name of progress, Leng Heng and his friends dream of what this treasure would mean for their families. With the help of Srey Leak, a master of picking locks and haggling for hard drives, the friends set out on an expedition to find the treasure, leaning on Cambodia’s burgeoning augmented reality scene to tap into a deeper level of consciousness. Briding the ancient beliefs in karma and reincarnation with the futuristic possibilities of artificial intelligence, the sci-fi drama KARMALINK delves into the mind-bending capabilities of technology and the life-altering implications it poses when left in the wrong hands.
—A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
Performing for a full house night after night in 19th century Naples, Eduardo Scarpetta adores the spotlight. Known for his hilarious stage plays, he lives for opulence and his pompous, self-absorbed self. A man of many roles—father, uncle, and rumored womanizer—Eduardo flourishes in his lavish villa, home to his wife, children, and a growing number of relatives who can’t help but hate to love their famous benefactor. After attending a performance written by the famous poet D’Annunzio, Eduardo dreams of bringing an adapted version to his own theatre company. His, by contrast, will entertain audiences as a comedic parody rather than the original’s dark, tragic nature. With verbal approval from the author, Eduardo prepares his cast for the new show’s opening night. But the performance sparks harsh outrage with accusations of plagiarism, and Eduardo faces a pivotal court decision where he stands to lose everything. Based on the biography of actor and playwright Eduardo Scarpetta, THE KING OF LAUGHTER unveils a beautiful homage to classic Italian theatre. —A.B.

Russian forces are moving in, but Irka refuses to leave her home teetering on the rural Ukraine/Russia border. Her husband, Tolik, caves to the demands of the armed men whose visits grow more frequent, and he urges Irka that they must leave their small Ukrainian village in time for their baby to arrive in a hospital, far from conflict. With their food supply dwindling, fresh water reeking, and a due date just two months away, opportunities for safe refuge look grim. Tensions rise when a civilian plane traveling from Amsterdam to Malaysia is shot down nearby, reportedly by pro-Russian terrorists. When Irka’s brother, Yaryk, suspects Tolik’s traitorous alliance with Russian invaders, he fears for his sister’s safety and demands she leave with him immediately. Inspired by unbelievably true events surrounding the war in Donbas and the catastrophic crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in 2014, KLONDIKE depicts an all-too-timely glimpse of a family struggling to survive in senseless war-torn lands. —A.B.
KRIMES
Directed by Alysa Nahmias
USA • English • 2021 • 85 minutes

MIMI OHIO THEATRE
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 10:10 PM
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 7:30 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Growing up, Jesse Krimes knew his life was different from the rest of his friends’ lives. Raised by his teenage mother, Jesse and his family struggled financially for most of his childhood. Despite the ups and downs, Jesse was always able to turn to art as an outlet. But Jesse’s life soon started on a downward spiral that would land him with a six-year prison sentence at the age of 27. While locked up, Jesse began to work, in secret, on an awe-inspiring project using bed sheets, hair gel, and other items he was able to tuck away in his cell. Upon his release, Jesse emerged from prison with incredible masterpieces in tow, catching the attention of the prestigious art world. Despite his celebrated achievements and international recognition, Jesse still finds himself struggling to adapt to the outside world. Even with all of the progress he has made, the threat of going back to prison looms in the background. Following Jesse’s journey through incarceration, release, and the difference he has made in the lives of so many, KRIMES is a documentary that captures the strength of the human spirit and the unifying power of art. —G.S.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
moCa Cleveland
MUSEUM OF CREATIVE HUMAN ART

LAST FILM SHOW
(CHHELLO SHOW)
Directed by Pan Nalin
INDIA • Gujarati • 2021 • 110 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 12:00 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 9:30 AM

✗ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Nine-year-old Samay is obsessed with film. Unfortunately, because he is from the intellectual Brahmin caste in India, his father believes that cinema is against their values and forbids Samay from watching. But just like the romance in the movies, no obstacle can prevent true love. And Samay will do everything he can to immerse himself into the fantastic stories he sees on 35mm film, finding refuge from his simple life in the small town of Chalala. Befriending a local projectionist, Samay exchanges his lunches for time in the projection booth where he begins to learn everything he can about the art of film. As his obsession grows, rebellious Samay begins to steal some of his favorite reels, creating a makeshift cinema of his own to display the films for his friends. But just as he’s discovering his talent for showing film, an impending switch to digital is on the horizon, threatening to destroy everything that Samay loves. A beautiful ode to film, Bollywood, and the power of cinema, LAST FILM SHOW is a moving story of art and passion. —G.S.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
Stocker Arts Center of Lorain County Community College
MOTIVASIONS for Cleveland
LINOLEUM
Directed by Colin West
USA • English • 2022 • 101 minutes

CONNOR PALACE
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM

× CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ×

In the fictional Fairview Heights, Ohio, Cameron Edwin (Jim Gaffigan), the host of a public access children’s science program, finds himself in what most would call a mid-life crisis. But when cosmic events bring a satellite crash to his backyard, his coming-of-age story really begins. Determined to truly follow his dreams and become an astronaut, he charges ahead. Building a fully operational rocket ship is his only mission, much to the dismay of his family and those around him, who have ambitions and dreams of their own. Among his wife, Erin (Rhea Seehorn), on her own path to fulfillment, his witty daughter, Nora, and a curious neighbor drawn in by the scientific exploration, Cameron navigates what becomes a blend of fantasy and reality as continued bizarre happenings heighten his journey...and there may even be an appearance from a doppelgänger. With Douglas Sirk-esque colors, incredible production design, and strong performances, LINOLEUM is a beautiful meditation on memory, dreams, and acceptance from Ohio-born writer/director Colin West. —B.R.

PRODUCER(S)
Chad Simpson
Dennis Masel
Chadd Harbold

SCREENWRITING
Colin West

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Ed Wu

EDITING
Keara Burton

PRINCIPAL CAST
Jim Gaffigan
Rhea Seehorn
Katelyn Nacon
Gabriel Rush
Amy Hargreaves
West Duchovny
Michael Ian Black
Tony Shalhoub
Elizabeth Henstridge
Roger Hendricks Simon

LITTLE NICHOLAS’ TREASURE
(Le Trésor du Petit Nicolas)
Directed by Julien Rappeneau
FRANCE • French • 2021 • 103 minutes

MIMI OHIO THEATRE
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 5:00 PM
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 2:30 PM

× CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓

The world of young Nicholas is harmonious and consistent: he has a mom, a dad, a kind schoolteacher, and the best group of friends a young boy could ask for. However, his peaceful world is shattered when his father gets promoted at work and announces that the family is moving to the South of France, which might as well be a million kilometers away from the life Nicholas knows. How will he survive without Alceste and his constant croissants, or without Clotaire and his air-headed mischief? Who around him will quote philosophers if not Agnan? And most of all, who will he play soccer with? One day, the boys stumble on a way to prevent this devastating separation—a treasure hunt. Punctuated by perky music throughout and ripe with the infectious determination of youth, LITTLE NICHOLAS’ TREASURE is a celebration of the friendships that stay with you, even in the face of separation. —J.H.

PRODUCER(S)
Olivier Delbosc

SCREENWRITING
Julien Rappeneau
Mathias Gavarry

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Vincent Mathias

EDITING
Stan Collet

PRINCIPAL CAST
Ilan Debrabant
Jean-Paul Rouve
Audrey Lamy
Pierre Arditi

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
ROCKY RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
A LOVE SONG
Directed by Max Walker-Silverman
USA • English • 2021 • 81 minutes

After unhitching her camper at a lakeside in the mountains, Faye finds her rhythm cooking meals, retrieving crawfish from a trap, and scanning her old box radio for a station. She looks expectantly at the approach of a car or the mailman, explaining to neighboring campers that she’s waiting for a childhood sweetheart she hasn’t seen in decades. When he does arrive, Lito and Faye, both widowed, spend an evening reminisce about their lives, losses, and loneliness. A whimsical romance, Max Walker-Silverman’s captivating debut feature shows an “American West” full of quietude, compassion, and introspection. It’s both naturalistic and vaguely surreal, blurring our sense of time and beauty, loss and vivacity, the grandiose natural world and intimate humanism. Career performances from Dale Dickey and Wes Studi bring an inescapable presence to people we don’t often see portrayed on film. They are gentle outliers possessed of resilience and existential spirit, seeking to process something elusive: a feeling of love for what’s no longer there. Like Faye turning her radio dial, they listen hopefully for the faint trace of A LOVE SONG. —Sundance Film Festival

MADELEINE COLLINS
Directed by Antoine Barraud
FRANCE, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND • French • 2020 • 102 minutes

Judith adores her life in Switzerland with Abdel and daughter Ninon. But work takes her away for days at a time to Spain, Poland, and other countries that come to mind when she spins her alibi. In reality she’s commuting to France to live the other half of her life with her husband Melvil and their two sons. As Judith moves swiftly from one life to the other, seemingly undetected, threads of her intricate web of lies begin to unravel when her lovers and children start to ask questions. Judith is well-versed in explaining away her whereabouts to keep suspicions at bay, but mysterious dizzy spells appear when she feels the pressure mounting. Conversations and interactions progressively reveal shocking pieces of Judith’s journey to her two parallel lives, which are both wearing thin. A psychological masterpiece, MADELEINE COLLINS is a pure gift of twists and deception, with its heroine dodging—and inventing—truths at every turn. —A.B.
Like many other devout Christians, Kimberly Shappley grew up believing sexual and gender orientation was a choice—and deviating from the cisgendered heterosexual norm was not only the wrong choice, but also a deadly sin. But everything changed after her son Kai was born and Shappley began to notice Kai wasn’t like her other boys. From a very young age, Kai expressed that he was, in fact, a trans girl. Watching her beautiful trans daughter grow up, Shappley was forced to re-evaluate her staunch belief system. And while she remained close to her faith, choosing to support Kai left her isolated from their devoutly religious community. Searching for mothers like herself, Shappley took to the internet, where she discovered the “Mama Bears” Facebook page. Connecting with other Christian mothers of LGBTQIA+ children from all over the country, these Mama Bears are joining together to fight for a safer and more inclusive world for their children. Following the journeys of three soul-searching mothers, MAMA BEARS is an uplifting documentary about what it means to love our children unconditionally. —G.S.
MARTIN AND THE MAGICAL FOREST
(Martin a tajemství lesa)
Directed by Petr Oukropec
CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA, GERMANY • Czech • 2021 • 80 minutes

DIRECTED BY
Petr Oukropec
CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA, GERMANY

Friday, April 8, 2022 at 2:35 PM
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 12:05 PM

ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Martin’s not much for the outdoors, so he’s less than enthused when his mom sends him off to an eco-friendly summer camp: no cell phones allowed. Secluded in a wilderness paradise, campers build campfires, learn survival skills, and explore the lush forest. But they’re not alone. Drillers work nearby in search of rare minerals, and camp counselors fear their work will poison the groundwater and destroy the precious natural resources. When Martin notices sneaky vines, pinecones, and hunks of mischievous brush coming to life, he senses the forest might be trying to tell him something. While teams of campers race to find a secret treasure hidden deep in the forest, these magical creatures whisk Martin off on a different mission entirely. With the help of fellow camper Foxie, whose book of fairytales warns that these enchanted spirits may be in grave danger, Martin dares to follow the forest’s lead...before it’s too late. MARTIN AND THE MAGICAL FOREST takes audiences on an imaginative journey full of courageous feats and wild adventures. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Peter Badač

SCREENWRITING
Kateřina Kačerovská

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Lukáš Teren

EDITING
Dana Klempířová

PRINCIPAL CAST
Sebastian Pöthe
Josefína Krycnerová
Tobiáš Rímský
Václav Hubka
Johana Horváthová
Kristýna Boková

MARVELOUS AND THE BLACK HOLE
Directed by Kate Tsang
USA • English • 2021 • 81 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 2:40 PM

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

After the death of her mother and the quick introduction of her father’s new girlfriend into their family, 13-year-old Sammy is angry. Lashing out, Sammy repeatedly finds herself getting into trouble in school and at home. Faced with the threat of being sent to a reform camp as punishment, Sammy enrolls in a summer class on small business at her local community college. Encouraged by her well-meaning teacher to “go after her dream,” Sammy begrudgingly attends class with sarcastic eyerolls. But after a chance encounter with Margot the Marvelous (played by the illustrious Rhea Perlman), an eccentric and magnetic children’s magician, Sammy’s hard exterior begins to soften. Taking the lost girl under her wing, Margot begins to teach Sammy the secrets of the trade, encouraging Sammy to create her own act. But perhaps Margot’s most astounding trick of all is the transformation of this angsty and rebellious teenager into a charming and warmhearted young woman. Filled with magic of all kinds, MARVELOUS AND THE BLACK HOLE is a delightful and enchanting tale you won’t want to miss on the big screen. —G.S.

Content Warning:
This is a Family Film for older kids, as there is some mild language used.

PRODUCER(S)
Carolyn Mao

SCREENWRITING
Kate Tsang

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Nanu Segal

EDITING
Cyndi Tissel
Ryan Denmark

PRINCIPAL CAST
Miya Cech
Rhea Perlman
Leonardo Nam
Paulina Lupe

This film is presented with the generous support of the PESSES/MEISEL FAMILIES.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PEGIE ADAMSON BLACK HOLE
Lake Erie ADVOCATE Cleveland
A writing space for youth

(216) 623-3456
Football players were dwindling for teams at Milwaukee’s Messmer (urban and predominantly Black) and Shorewood (affluent and largely white) high schools. To give boys the opportunity to play under the famous Friday night lights, the communities decided to merge their rosters and form the Messwood football team. As the Messwood Greyhounds enter a rebuilding season after losing a strong senior class, the growing pains are evident on and off the field. While Coach Davis aims to primarily use football to teach commitment and discipline, the stark differences between the challenging home lives and opportunities afforded to his Black and white players are impossible to ignore. Beyond game film and two-minute drills, the coaching staff must create a support system to keep players eligible academically and motivated to know they are worth more than their segregated streets. The engaging documentary MESSWOOD explores the powerful role of high school sports, racial divides among parents versus their children, and how we still have a long way to go before we’re truly playing on the same team. —A.B

In 2016 Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country, an ethnic cleansing campaign began against Rohingya Muslims, blaming them for all of the problems in their communities. Over the last few years, tens of thousands of Muslims have been killed in Myanmar, and hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee the country. Those who remain are some of the most persecuted people in the world, according to the UN. But before the country’s leaders began to spread hatred against Muslims, Buddhist and Muslim neighbors lived peacefully side by side for generations, and some still do...to an extent. Hla, a Buddhist midwife in a small village, treats Buddhists and Muslims alike, although the way she talks to her Muslim patients echoes the racist sentiment from the Myanmar military. Her Muslim apprentice Nyo Nyo is training to be a midwife in order to bring her Rohingya village much-needed access to healthcare. Intimate and nuanced, MIDWIVES is a complex documentary that captures both the affection and the tension between Hla and Nyo Nyo through Nyo Nyo’s apprenticeship and beyond. —G.S.
MIJA
Directed by Isabel Castro
USA, MEXICO • English, Spanish • 2022 • 88 minutes

MIJA
Directed by Isabel Castro
USA, MEXICO • English, Spanish • 2022 • 88 minutes

Doris Muñoz desperately longed for better representation in the indie music she listened to as a teenager. At 23, she took matters into her own hands and began a career in music talent management, passionately advocating for rising Latinx artists. Her swift success transformed her into a pillar for a community of first- and second-generation Americans seeking collective acceptance and healing through song. When Doris receives news that forces her to reconsider working in music, she finds Jacks Haupt, an auspicious young singer eager to break out of her parent’s home in Dallas, Texas. Beyond the sweet moments of joy, glitter, and hope, Doris and Jacks share the ever-present guilt of being the first American-born members of their undocumented families. For them, the pressure of financial success is heightened because it facilitates green card processing and family reunification. MIJA is an immensely emotional and intimate portrait honoring the resilience of immigrants and their children. Director Isabel Castro’s debut feature constructs an ethereal love letter to their indomitable spirit in the face of constant instability, and heartily affirms that all humans have the right to shine and to dream. —Sundance Film Festival

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Tabs Breese
Yesenia Tlahuel
Isabel Castro
SCREENWRITING
Isabel Castro
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Isabel Castro
Luisa Conlon
David Rodriguez
EDITING
Jennifer Tiexiera
Ora DeKornfeld
Alex Bohs

MILLIE LIES LOW
Directed by Michelle Savill
NEW ZEALAND • English • 2021 • 100 minutes

UPPER ALLEN
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 5:05 PM

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Millie’s life is on track; she is a promising young architect in New Zealand who has just landed her dream internship in New York City. But when a panic attack derails her travel plans, the finely woven web of lies that led her to this point starts to unravel. Too ashamed to tell the truth about what happened, Millie employs a range of disguises and diversion tactics to hide from her friends and family while she acquires funds for a new ticket. Innovatively using a tent as a green screen and flour as snow, Millie maintains the ruse that she made it to New York by posting edited photos on Instagram. Meanwhile, she endures financial roadblocks and interpersonal humiliation at the expense of her maintained social status. A fresh take on the hollowness of online presence and the life we lose at the altar of that preoccupation, MILLIE LIES LOW is a truly modern story of one woman’s journey from denial to self-acceptance. —J.H.

PRODUCER(S)
Desray Armstrong
Angela Littlejohn
SCREENWRITING
Michelle Savill
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Andrew Stroud
EDITING
Dan Kircher
PRINCIPAL CAST
Ana Scotney
Jillian Nguyen
Chris Alosio
Rachel House
Sam Cotton

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LATINA
www.clevelandarts.org
www.latinawest.org

(216) 623-3456
Cristina sneaks in a tearful prayer before she secretly slips off the grounds of her rural Romanian convent. Church bells usher her to a cab discreetly parked just out of view, and soon she’s on her way to the hospital. After a visit with her doctor, she hails a cab back to the convent, hoping to return before anyone notices she’s been gone. But Cristina’s foreboding travel plans are perilously interrupted, and a jaded police inspector has volunteered to investigate the novice’s whereabouts that led to her unexpected fate. With suspenseful revelations at every turn, the crime drama MIRACLE unfolds the layers of Cristina’s horrific case and the inspector’s obsession with solving it. Strewn with both believers and non-believers throughout—each with their own cynical interpretation of the state of the world—the film invites thought-provoking insights into the definition of a miracle, if such a thing can exist in such a God-forsaken place as this. —A.B.

Content Warning: This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

MISSION
Directed by Tania Anderson
FINLAND, GERMANY • English, Finnish • 2022 • 95 minutes

Missionary work is one of the most important tenets to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). Each year over 60,000 young LDS members are sent all over the world to preach their gospel and to convert as many non-believers as they can. Following the journeys of four missionaries as they make their way to Finland, the documentary THE MISSION is an enlightening look at the real-life stories behind the suits and name tags that have long defined the Mormon faith. Facing language barriers, homesickness, and mental health issues, this mission trip to Finland may be the most difficult challenge of their lives. Venturing to a country where Mormons are a small minority, these young missionaries are often faced with cold rejection. However, led by the belief that their work is an important part of God’s plan, they remain steadfast in their dedication to the Church’s mission. While these staunch believers have their work cut out for them, preaching to a nation of people who largely identify as atheist, each of them will learn invaluable lessons about faith, community, and purpose. —G.S.
MISSION: JOY—FINDING HAPPINESS IN TROUBLED TIMES
Directed by Louie Psihoyos
USA • English, Tibetan • 2021 • 90 minutes

MIMI OHIO THEATRE  Monday, April 4, 2022 at 5:10 PM
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 2:40 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

A room has never heard more laughter than when His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu sit down in easy chairs to shoot the breeze in the spring of 2015. The delightful documentary MISSION: JOY—FINDING HAPPINESS IN TROUBLED TIMES features never-before-seen footage that inspired The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World. The film is a witness of the endearing friendship of an Asian Buddhist and an African Christian—both winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, who each manifested their own timeless legacies of nonviolence and compassion for others in their respective corners of the world. The story weaves together the friends’ childhoods and paths to prominence, while the icons reflect and field questions about life, death, and how to wring out happiness from places where none can be found. While their awe-inspiring reputations set an assumed tone of solemn reverence, the pair are human after all, and they flood the interaction with blissful moments of relatable, down-to-earth joy that’s refreshingly unexpected. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
TRINITY CATHEDRAL
AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

MIXTAPE TRILOGY: STORIES OF THE POWER OF MUSIC
Directed by Kathleen Ermitage
USA • English • 2021 • 94 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE  Friday, April 1, 2022 at 4:55 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 9:25 AM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Music is more than a collection of sounds traveling from an instrument to our ears; the collective experience of listening to music promotes unification and formation of community. Former Akronite Dylan Yellowlees found her community in the audiences of the 350+ Indigo Girls’ shows she’s attended (including many at the Akron Civic Theatre), and also found the courage, through their music, to be her true self. “Seeing people live authentically,” she says, “makes it easier for you to live authentically.” Music can also inspire change. Michael Ford founded Hip Hop Architecture to address the “60-year backlog of complaints” about the spaces inhabited by Black and brown people. Now he runs week-long camps in cities all around the U.S., which use prompts from rap music to help local kids think about how they would build better cities. MIXTAPE TRILOGY: STORIES OF THE POWER OF MUSIC includes these stories and more in a filmic thank-you note to the role music has played in shaping our culture and our world. —J.H.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
Mountains, unmovable, frame every shot in this soft, steady drama about a pair of estranged siblings who are brought together when their father falls into a coma. Cal is calm and solid, even with a hurricane of emotions happening within him regarding his relationship with their abusive father and the ways in which he failed to protect his sister. Erin (played by Haley Lu Richardson) is sharp and sure and moves faster than her emotions can keep up with. She ran away after a violent blowout with her father seven years ago and headed east, where the sky was small and the mountains not so confining. Brother and sister haven’t seen each other since. When Cal and Erin both come back to the sprawling ranch they used to call home, over the deathbed of a man they both resent, reconciliation becomes a possibility. For a reflection on the healing power of both forgiveness and vengeance, look no further than MONTANA STORY. —J.H.

Content Warning: This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

FILM SPONSOR(S):

MONTANA STORY
Directed by David Siegel, Scott McGehee
USA • English • 2021 • 113 minutes

UPPER ALLEN
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 7:35 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 9:35 AM

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

UPPER ALLEN
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 5:05 PM

MURINA
Directed by Antoneta Alamat Kusijanović
CROATIA, USA, BRAZIL, SLOVENIA • Croatian, English • 2021 • 92 minutes

Sun-kissed hillsides and waves lapping the shore of an island floating in the Adriatic Sea is paradise for most, but not for Julija. Even though it’s home, it may as well be a prison. It’s no secret Julija despises her father, Ante, who’s constantly berating her and belittling her breathtakingly beautiful mother, Lela. Forced to spear fish alongside her father daily and endure his controlling taunts, Julija manages to rebel in whatever small ways she can. When Javier, a wealthy businessman and lifelong friend of Ante, pays the family a visit, Julija longs for a life where Javier is her loving, supportive father. Javier and Lela’s romantic tension signals a past that could never be. Although degrading and abusive, Ante is not blind and sees the rifts Javier’s presence is carving through his family. An ominous coming-of-age story, MURINA overflows with jealousy, conflicted passion, and delightfully menacing intentions. —A.B.

FILM SPONSOR(S):
MY EMPTINESS AND I
(Mi vacío y yo)
Directed by Adrián Silvestre
SPAIN • English, French, Spanish • 2022 • 98 minutes

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓

Raphi, young and naive, enjoys writing love poems and dreams about falling in love. She decided to leave her native France and moved to Barcelona, where she works in a call center. Her many attempts to maintain relationships with other boys gave her anxiety. And even with an official diagnosis from her psychologist—gender dysphoria—Raphi struggles with what that means. As a trans woman, Raphi not only needs to define and defend herself to anyone who asks, but also she needs to deal with the social pressures to move forward with irreversible reassignment surgery. Even among her trans support group, Raphi faces mixed messages about needing to love herself exactly as she is, juxtaposed with the assumption that she must change her body in order for someone to love her in return. The brutal dating scene is no help as she’s matched with men who see her as more of a sexual novelty than a human being in search of love and connection. Wading through serious doubts and an array of intimate encounters of varying pleasure, Raphi must learn to trust herself and her newfound opportunity of the arts as a means of healing and empowerment. Raw, honest, and thought-provoking, MY EMPTINESS AND I is an intensely intimate journey of self-discovery and acceptance. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE

MY OLD SCHOOL
Directed by Jono McLeod
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2022 • 104 minutes

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓

When 16-year-old Brandon Lee (not that Brandon Lee) first enrolled as a new student at Scotland’s Bearsden Academy, his classmates immediately felt there was something off about him...but they couldn’t quite put their finger on it. After learning he had lived a rather unconventional life, they shrugged off his oddities and began to accept him for who he was—or rather, who he claimed to be. It didn’t take long for Lee to start making a name for himself in his new school by finding friends, hosting parties, and even starring in the school musical. But just as everything seems like it’s falling into place for Lee, a shocking secret is revealed—throwing this wealthy Glasgow suburb into chaos. Featuring a variety of entertaining interviews with Lee and his former classmates, and filled with a variety of twists and turns, MY OLD SCHOOL unfolds like a humorous mystery thriller, despite being a documentary. Because Lee agreed to tell his story only if his face could remain hidden, perhaps the most captivating part of the film is that his interview is read by Alan Cumming, whose role as Lee is extraordinarily convincing. —G.S.
NAVALNY
Directed by Daniel Roher
USA • English, Russian • 2022 • 98 minutes

In August 2020, a plane traveling from Siberia to Moscow made an emergency landing. One of its passengers, Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, was deathly ill. Taken to a local Siberian hospital and eventually evacuated to Berlin, doctors confirmed that he had been poisoned with Novichok, a nerve agent implicated in attacks on other opponents of the Russian government. President Vladimir Putin immediately cast doubt on the findings and denied any involvement. While recovering, Navalny and his team—already with a large social media following in tow—partnered with the data investigative journalism outlet Bellingcat as well as other international news organizations to investigate his attempted assassination and find proof of the Kremlin’s involvement. In NAVALNY, filmmaker Daniel Roher reveals a courageous and controversial would-be president at the precipice of sacrificing everything in order to bring reform to his homeland. —Sundance Film Festival

NO STRAIGHT LINES: THE RISE OF QUEER COMICS
Directed by Vivian Kleiman
USA • English • 2021 • 78 minutes

When Rupert Kinnard’s comic strip character the Brown Bomber (inspired by the boxer, Joe Louis) came out as gay in 1977, he became the first ever Black, queer comic character to be serialized. And he was a superhero to boot! The vastly diverse world of queer comics was an early instance in which queer people could draw themselves as they truly were, or imagined themselves to be, well before there was any proper queer representation in mainstream media. This largely underground and uncensored creative outlet told the real queer experience. It carved a cathartic space for the queer community to comment on the world around them, process trauma, and celebrate the oftentimes fantastical queer reality. With NO STRAIGHT LINES: THE RISE OF QUEER COMICS, you will be immersed in a rotation of queer comics, with cleverly overlayed sound effects and intercut with interviews from the pioneering artists in the field as they share their firsthand history. —J.H.
NR. 10
Directed by Alex van Warmerdam
NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM  •  Dutch, German, English  •  2021  •  100 minutes

MIMI OHIO THEATRE  
Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 2:30 PM  
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 10:00 PM

× CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✔

What starts as an exceptionally human, voyeuristic drama steadily expands into an introspective reflection on family, fact, and colonialism. Günter, who was found abandoned in the woods as a child, is now a talented stage actor living a relatively normal life. He balances a tense rehearsal schedule, an extramarital affair with his director’s wife, and regular dinners with his adult daughter. One day a stranger approaches Günter on a pedestrian bridge and whispers a single, foreign word into his ear. Little does Günter know that in this word is the truth of his heritage, the truth of his daughter’s unique medical condition, and the answer to all of his questions about where he came from. The encounter leads Günter down a path of acceptance, right into the grasp of the people who have been manipulating his life from the start. From director Alex van Warmerdam—of past CIFF favorites “Borgman” (CIFF38) and “Schneider vs. Bax” (CIFF40)—NR. 10 is a volatile yet gripping film that will leave you with questions you would never have imagined yourself asking at the start. —J.H.

PRODUCER(S)
Marc van Warmerdam

SCREENWRITING
Alex van Warmerdam

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Tom Erisman

EDITING
Job ter Burg

PRINCIPAL CAST
Tom Dewispelaere
Frieda Barnhard
Hans Kesting
Pierre Bokma
Dirk Böhling

NUDO MIXTECO
Directed by Ángeles Cruz
MEXICO  •  Spanish  •  2021  •  91 minutes

ALLEN THEATRE  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 4:45 PM  
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 2:35 PM

× CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✔

Set against the backdrop of the fictional village San Mateo’s annual festival, three people return to their hometown in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. While all three left San Mateo to find work and opportunity in the city as economic migrants, each arrives with their own unique motivation. Maria, once ostracized from her family and community, comes back to attend her mother’s funeral. Esteban, gone three years, suddenly returns to his family home to reclaim his alleged rights as a husband, without taking in account the way he abandoned his wife, Chabela. And Toña, who has long suffered from childhood trauma, returns to save her daughter from a similar fate. As each story unfolds, it collides and overlaps with the others, feeding into and enhancing one another with hauntingly brilliant cinematography. As the name implies, NUDO MIXTECO (meaning “Mixtecan Knot”) weaves these tales of Mixtecan life together, highlighting the throughlines of belonging, poverty, migration, and plight of Indigenous women. —G.S.

Content Warning: This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

PRODUCER(S)
Lucia Carreras
Lola Ovando

SCREENWRITING
Ángeles Cruz

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Carlos Correa

EDITING
Miguel Salgado

PRINCIPAL CAST
Sonia Couoh
Eileen Yáñez
Noé Hernández
Aída López
Myriam Bravo
Jorge Deol

(216) 623-3456
ON THE DIVIDE
Directed by Maya Cueva, Leah Galant
USA • English, Spanish • 2021 • 79 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 4:55 PM
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 11:55 AM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

The Whole Women’s Health Clinic in McAllen, Texas is the only remaining facility that provides abortions along the U.S./Mexico border. Just down the street, the Women’s Health Clinic (purposely named to create confusion) boasts free pregnancy tests and sonograms, encouraging women to carry their pregnancies to term, no matter the circumstance. The urgent documentary ON THE DIVIDE follows three Latinx people who are deeply entrenched in opposite sides of the abortion debate in McAllen: Mercedes, a young mother who considers herself ‘saved’ by the pro-life movement; Denisse, a pro-choice activist and volunteer for the Whole Women’s Health Clinic; and Rey, the abortion clinic’s security guard, who comes face-to-face with angry protesters every day as they threaten his livelihood and even his life. As their lives become more complicated, each of these subjects is forced to confront the challenges of their beliefs. Using McAllen’s unique cultural blend as a backdrop, this documentary can be viewed as a microcosm for the national debate over a woman’s right to choose. When both sides firmly believe they are on the right side of a life or death argument, there’s no backing down. —G.S.

ONE PINT AT A TIME
Directed by Aaron Hosé
USA • English • 2021 • 89 minutes

UPPER ALLEN
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 5:05 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 12:05 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

To Shaun Harris, co-owner and brewmaster of Harris Family Brewery, the first Black-owned brewery in Pennsylvania, sharing a beer with someone is a way to establish common ground and start conversations that matter; brewing beer is his contribution to the ongoing fight for racial equality. As Harris states, “Everybody’s got to do their part for what they know how to do, and beer is the thing I know how to do.” Alisa Bowens-Mercado, owner and brewmaster for Rhythm Brewing Co. in New Haven, Connecticut, says more: “It’s about awareness. It’s about owning the things we consume.” The disparity between the level of consumerism and the lack of ownership for Black people is also part of her drive. Within the craft beer industry, there has been a growing push for diversification. ONE PINT AT A TIME follows the brewers of several Black-owned craft breweries, exploring the barriers of racism, lack of access, and, in some cases, the “Bermuda triangle of legislation” they’ve faced in order to start their businesses and bring commerce, jobs, and civic pride to their communities. —J.H.
ONE ROAD TO QUARTZSITE
Directed by Ryan Maxey
USA • English • 2022 • 89 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 12:10 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✓ • English Subtitles ✓

Each winter hundreds of thousands of snowbirds flock to Quartzsite, Arizona, an offbeat camping and RV haven sitting comfortably between L.A. and Phoenix. Known as the “Desert Phenomenon,” this little-known pocket of sand serves as a temporary home to nomadic families, retirees, veterans, people experiencing homelessness, recreational drug users, deeply religious believers, and die-hard gem and rock enthusiasts. For many this eccentric oasis is safe, supportive grounds in contrast to conventional mainstream society. Kids play freely in the desolate outdoors, climbing trees and brainstorming blueprints of their own religion. Retirees connect through scheduled activities at the community center or by paying visits to the “naked bookseller’s” Reader’s Oasis or the famous Hi Jolly Cemetery. Those who typically migrate solo find community with their fellow wanderers when they reminisce on their winding roads to Quartzsite. An enlightening, one-of-a-kind watch, the documentary ONE ROAD TO QUARTZSITE leads audiences into an unforgettable faction of our country whose welcoming nature provides a respite for traveling souls. —A.B.

PRODUCER(S)
Ryan Maxey
Josh Polon

SCREENWRITING
Ryan Maxey
Josh Polon
Sophie Hardeman

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Ryan Maxey

EDITING
Ryan Maxey

OUR (ALMOST COMPLETELY TRUE) STORY
Directed by Don Scardino
USA • English • 2021 • 92 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 4:55 PM
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 2:25 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x

Life in Hollywood has lost its luster for timeless actress, Mariette Hartley. Although her reputation precedes her from the peak of her acting career decades prior, meaningful work these days—and a decent date—are hard to find. When Mariette meets Jerry Sroka, a forever-comic who’s also been wading through L.A.’s insufferable dating scene, Jerry immediately falls for her stunning elegance and exceptionally dry humor. Seemingly aloof to Jerry’s advances, Mariette reluctantly caves to Jerry’s goofy impressions and genuine kindness, and the two forge a budding relationship. They compare notes on past marriages, pointless auditions, and their favorite classic movies. But as things get more serious and unexpected challenges arise, Mariette wonders if it may be too late for love. Written by and starring the legendary Mariette Hartley and Jerry Sroka, OUR (ALMOST COMPLETELY TRUE) STORY shares the hilarious, vulnerable realities for aging actors and the search for love as seniors in Hollywood. —A.B.

PRODUCER(S)
Jerry Sroka
Mariette Hartley
Don Scardino
Matthew Bennett
Jeff Hardwick
Tim Mann
Dana L. Williams

SCREENWRITING
Jerry Sroka
Mariette Hartley

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Tim Hennessy
Matthew Clark

EDITING
Matthew Bennett

PRINCIPAL CAST
Mariette Hartley
Jerry Sroka
Tess Harper
Bernie Kopell
Morgan Fairchild
John Rubinstein
Peter MacNicol
Peter Onorati
Mindy Sterling
Sam McMurray
Maeve Quinlan
Since colonizers set foot on this soil, violent massacres, forced assimilation tactics, and unjust legislation have been used to eradicate Indigenous People from their sacred lands. Since the 1800s, the U.S. government has broken countless peace treaties with Native tribes on a whim, stripping Natives of their land, food, economic resources, and the ability to practice their traditional cultures. While these resilient tribes have been fighting for their rights for generations, the demonstrations in Standing Rock, North Dakota placed them on an international stage. When construction crews showed up in 2016 to develop the Dakota Access Pipeline near the main source of water for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, so too did thousands of peaceful protesters. The poignant documentary OYATE shares the perseverance and struggles these Water Protectors faced at Standing Rock and introduces the Native leaders, politicians, and activists working to shed light on the ongoing injustices Indigenous People endure. Native voices and contributions are vital for this world to thrive, and they’ve been stifled for far too long. —A.B.

PARIS, 13TH DISTRICT
Directed by Jacques Audiard
FRANCE • French • 2022 • 106 minutes

In the sprawling city of Paris, strangers, friends, and lovers wander for companionship. Confident of what they want, but not yet knowing what they need, they struggle to find just the right fit to fill their respective voids. Young Émilie, who’s in search of a new roommate and always up for a commitment-free romance, meets Camille, who soon fills both requests. As detached as she claims to be, however, Émilie finds herself falling for Camille, just as he’s pulling away. Enter Nora, whose bright disposition entices Camille immediately, setting off a friendship that Camille wishes will evolve to be more. And Amber, discovered in the most unlikely of places, seems to be the kindred spirit Nora didn’t know she was searching for. The steamy, sensual PARIS, 13TH DISTRICT reveals the intricacies of romantic relationships. We may pick up casual friendship here, intimacy there, and deep connection someplace else. Is true happiness possible until we find all three? —A.B.
THE PATH
(Der Pfad)
Directed by Tobias Wiemann
GERMANY • German • 2022 • 99 minutes

The year is 1940, and Rolf, his father Ludwig, and his dog Adi (named Adolf only so they can watch him play dead) are trapped in Marseille and being persecuted by Nazis. They are desperate to escape to America, where Rolf’s mother checks the port every day for their arrival. But after Ludwig is captured, young Rolf must continue the journey with only the help of their guide, Nuri (a child herself), Adi, and the diamond hidden in his tube of toothpaste. On the run, the children forge a bond that heals old wounds and lights a spark of hope in both of them. While Rolf misses his father, he is comforted knowing his father’s wisdom is always with him as he helps Nuri, who also lost her parents, find peace. An enduring portrait of the compassion and humanity that must not be lost during wartime, THE PATH is an essential film for the modern era. —J.H.

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

PEACE BY CHOCOLATE
Directed by Jonathan Keijser
CANADA • English, Arabic • 2021 • 96 minutes

When the Hadhads fled Damascus to escape the war in Syria, they were forced to leave everything behind, including their thriving chocolate business. Now, as refugees new to Antigonish, Nova Scotia, they must adapt to their unfamiliar life in a much smaller, much colder place. Tareq, the eldest son, longs to pursue his goal of returning to medical school. But his personal plans starkly conflict with the plans of his father, Issam, who is intent on rebuilding the family’s chocolate business in Canada. Insisting his father leave the past behind, Tareq is shocked when Issam’s chocolate business begins to take off. As Issam is presented with bigger opportunities to expand his chocolate factory, Tareq must make the difficult decision between fulfilling his own dreams or helping his father achieve his dreams for the family. Based on an incredible true story, PEACE BY CHOCOLATE is an inspiring narrative of working together and overcoming unimaginable hardship. Filled with moments of laughter and joy along the way, this film is sure to leave a sweet taste in your mouth! —G.S.

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

FILM SPONSOR(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Jonathan Keijser
Martin Paul-Hus
Catherine Légar
Kathy Wolf

SCREENWRITING
Jonathan Keijser
Abdul Malik

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Benoit Beaulieu

EDITING
Jonathan Keijser
Mathieu Bélanger

PRINCIPAL CAST
Hatem Ali
Ayham Abou Ammar
Mark Camacho
Yara Sabri
Kathryn Kirkpatrick
PERFUME DE GARDENIAS
Directed by Macha Colón
PUERTO RICO • Spanish • 2021 • 97 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 11:55 AM
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 2:25 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Isabel spends her days in the same repetitive routine: cooking, scrubbing dishes, hanging laundry, and caring for her dying husband, Mario. When he finally passes, loved ones fill the funeral home, including a gossipy circle of elderly women praising Isabel’s ornate floral arrangements and freshly pressed casket linens. Veiled in excessive flattery, heavy persuasion, and religious guilt, the gals have a proposal for Isabel: use your God-given creativity to help us give members of our community a thoughtful, customized funeral experience. Reluctant at first, Isabel begins creating elaborate décor and personalized pieces for visitation services to suit the desires of the deceased. When Isabel attends one of the more intimate rituals organized by the ladies, she’s shocked to find their well-meaning intentions may have gone too far. A thought-provoking, compassionate story of the care we receive versus the care we deserve in our final years, PERFUME DE GARDENIAS portrays a group of selfless women doing what they feel is the best way to support their sick, aging community. —A.B.

FILM SPONSOR(S):
This film is presented with the generous support of DEBRA S. GOLD, in honor of EILEEN GOLD and the “PLEIADES”—the strongest capable women.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
LatinUS Theater Co

THE PEZ OUTLAW
Directed by Amy Bandlien Storkel, Bryan Storkel
USA • English • 2022 • 84 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 7:15 PM
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 12:00 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

For years Steve was miserable in his job as a machinist. Each day Steve would clock into his factory job and dream of a more adventurous life. Little did Steve know, the adventure of a lifetime would find him soon enough. After an impromptu trip to Eastern Europe, Steve began smuggling something so secretive, so sought after, so valuable into the USA...something that would change his life forever: PEZ dispensers. And not just any PEZ dispensers, but dispensers that weren’t even on the market yet. With the demand for these rare products on the rise from high profile collectors, Steve began making more money than he ever could have imagined. But his success came at a cost. Having made a name for himself as “The PEZ Outlaw,” Steve gained some powerful enemies. The CEO of American PEZ, also known as the “Pezident,” had Steve blacklisted, while attempting to thwart his plans at every turn. But “The PEZ Outlaw” prevailed...in his own way. A gripping documentary filled with colorful reenactments and first-hand accounts, THE PEZ OUTLAW is a wild true story of love, adventure, and following your dreams. —G.S.

PRODUCER(S)
Amy Bandlien Storkel
Bryan Storkel

SCREENWRITING
Amy Bandlien Storkel
Bryan Storkel

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Britton Foster

EDITING
Evan Vetter
Amy Bandlien Storkel
Bryan Storkel

CLEVELANDFILM.ORG
PIGGY
Directed by Carlota Pereda
SPAIN • Spanish • 2021 • 90 minutes

It’s hard to be a teen. The girls who relentlessly torment Sara make the infamous bullies in “Carrie” seem tame. Online and in person, they heckle her with jeers of “Piggy.” While it’s an unimaginative and cruel nickname about Sara’s weight, it also refers to her family’s butcher shop where she spends the hot summer days isolated from the other teens in her Spanish town. Sara is unable to stand up to anyone, be it her tormentors or her hyper-critical mother. Exceedingly shy and self-conscious, she simply retreats into the music constantly blasting from her headphones. But as Sara stumbles home defeated after a particularly vicious encounter with the girls, she comes across a mysterious stranger in a compromising position: he has her bullies trapped—bloodied and screaming—in the back of his van. When he drives away, Sara is left with a difficult choice. Does she accept this man as her murderous guardian angel or help the girls who make her life a living hell? Stuck between longing and loathing, years of rejection and pent up emotion hurtle Sara towards a bloody, morally ambiguous conclusion. Based on the award-winning short of the same name, PIGGY carves out a unique spot in the revenge-horror canon. —D.O.

PRODUCER(S)
Merry Colomer

SCREENWRITING
Carlota Pereda

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Rita Noriega

EDITING
David Pelegrín

PRINCIPAL CAST
Laura Galán
Richard Holmes
Carmen Machi
Irene Ferreio
Camille Aguilar

POSER
Directed by Ori Segev, Noah Dixon
USA • English • 2021 • 87 minutes

An outsider, Lennon longs to be a part of the thriving underground music scene in Columbus, Ohio. But the only way the quiet and self-conscious Lennon can position herself next to the artists she admires is by interviewing them for her podcast. Obsessed with recording everything around her in an attempt to connect with the indie art scene, what starts out as a passion project slowly transforms into a dark obsession. Lennon’s sense of identity becomes increasingly blurred as she begins to fixate on one artist in particular, Bobbi Kitten, a confident and talented songwriter whose stage presence emulates everything Lennon wishes to be. As the two become closer, and Bobbi encourages Lennon to share her own music, the revelation of a disturbing secret will bring everything to a boiling point. Featuring an array of real musicians from the underground music scene in Columbus, POSER is a gripping indie drama with a uniquely familiar backdrop. —G.S.

PRODUCER(S)
Drew Johnson
Juli Sasaki
Brett Reiter
Josh Nowak

SCREENWRITING
Noah Dixon

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Logan Floyd

PRINCIPAL CAST
Sylvie Mix
Bobbi Kitten
PRIMERA
Directed by Vee Bravo
CHILE • Spanish • 2021 • 96 minutes

“What you don’t share will be lost.” This call to solidarity is the heartbeat of PRIMERA. When a student revolt against inflated metro prices sparks a national revolution in Chile, the Primera (“First Line”) is established by the people. Armed with bits of bricks, rocks, and shields made out of satellite disks, their role is to take the brunt of the police force in order to protect those who have been awakened to the injustices rampant in their government and want to peacefully protest. But the Covid-19 pandemic forces protests to halt, bringing with it a new way for the government to abuse its power. Still, the Primera carries on protecting their communities by sanitizing public spaces, providing meals, and cleaning the homes of the elderly, all through autonomous community effort. This documentary is shown through intertwining personal narratives, including that of Angy and Felipe—two parents-turned-activists who are leading Chile’s revolutionary path to a new constitution. PRIMERA presents a resilient community that refused to back down in the face of manipulation and violence; what was shared was not lost. —J.H.

PRIVATE DESERT
(Deserto Particular)
Directed by Aly Muritiba
BRAZIL • Portuguese • 2021 • 120 minutes

Sara boldly stares Daniel in the eyes before turning around and unzipping the dress he bought for her. She shimmies out of the garment and holds it out to him, but lets the dress fall before he can grab it. She walks away, unapologetic. After being ostracized by her family, she is used to people not accepting her for who she is, but it stings more from the man she loves. Daniel picks up the dress and leaves, quietly simmering. With a brutality scandal causing his police career to crumble and his family to distance themselves from him, Daniel felt that Sara—the woman he had been talking long-distance with for months—was the only consistency in his life. But their first meeting did not go at all how he planned, and every interaction since has caused him to question if he knows her at all. And yet, he is drawn to her. PRIVATE DESERT is a delicately crafted film that proves love can be found if we can move beyond our assumptions. —J.H.
QUAKE
(Skjálfí)
Directed by Tinna Hrafnsdóttir
ICELAND • Icelandic • 2021 • 104 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 4:55 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

While walking through a park with her six-year-old son, Ívar, Saga experiences an epileptic fit, terrifying her son and causing partial memory loss. Fearful she will be labeled an unfit mother, Saga endeavors to hide the extent of her condition from her family and Ívar’s father. While the people around her question her parenting ability, Saga fights to keep custody of her son, still reeling from the missing patches in her memory. Meanwhile, as she grapples with repressed memories from a childhood trauma that has resurfaced, Saga turns inward, uncovering vague, painful memories from childhood. When the truth comes to light, she is forced to confront the demons of her past and open up her previously insular life to those around her for love and support. Immersive throughout, QUAKE is a film both heartbreaking and soothing about the fears of motherhood and the boundless connection of family. —J.H.

Content Warning: This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

SWEDISH CULTURAL SOCIETY

QUICKENING
Directed by Haya Waseem
CANADA • English, Urdu • 2021 • 89 minutes

MIMI OHIO THEATRE
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 5:10 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

As the oldest daughter of Pakistani immigrants, Sheila finds herself in a delicate balance between two very different worlds. While studying performing arts at her university, Sheila longs to fit in with her peers, socializing and partying. But she is simultaneously navigating enormous pressures from her Canadian-Pakistani community. As her parents’ relationship begins to deteriorate, Sheila attempts to step further into her own life. Yet stepping into adulthood is more complicated for Sheila than it is for the rest of her friends. For Sheila the exploration of her independence, sexuality, and intimate relationships directly clashes with her traditional upbringing. Struggling to cope with the compounded stress of it all, Sheila becomes increasingly isolated from friends and family on both sides. As the lines between reality and anxiety blur, Sheila is thrust into mental and emotional turmoil. An alluring portrait of a gradual unraveling, QUICKENING’s beautiful camerawork and cinematography immerse viewers into this powerful story of identity and belonging. —G.S.
It’s summer in Paris in 1942 and Irene is in love—in love with her studies as a young budding actress, in love with her life as a young woman in the city, and in love with her doctor’s handsome assistant. Preparing for the biggest audition of her life for a prestigious acting conservatory, Irene dreams about and works exuberantly towards her future. Carefree and joyful, she bounces from her classes to home where she playfully torments her family while practicing her craft, annoying them with her dramatic gestures and rehearsals. A sunny optimist, Irene does not sense the danger creeping towards her. Irene is Jewish, and the climate in Nazi-occupied Paris is changing quickly, threatening to take away everything Irene and her family have worked for. As the laws and regulations around the Jewish residents of Paris become increasingly stifling, Irene’s world is turned upside down. With the focus of the film artfully on Irene’s life and experiences, rather than the political turmoil in the background, A RADIANT GIRL is a portrait of a beautiful life cut short by a hideous part of history. —G.S.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

This film is presented in loving memory of DALE E. HOPKINS II.
RESURRECTION
Directed by Andrew Semans
USA • English • 2022 • 103 minutes

Margaret (Rebecca Hall) leads a successful and orderly life, perfectly balancing the demands of her busy career and single parenthood to her fiercely independent daughter Abbie. But that careful balance is upended when she glimpses a man she instantly recognizes, an unwelcome shadow from her past. A short time later, she encounters him again. Before long, Margaret starts seeing David (Tim Roth) everywhere—and their meetings appear to be far from an unlucky coincidence. Battling her rising fear, Margaret must confront the monster she’s evaded for two decades who has come to conclude their unfinished business. Writer-director Andrew Semans has crafted a surreal and deeply disturbing film, blending drama and horror to deftly unearth a nightmare that feels all too real. Hall masterfully embodies Margaret’s trepidation as her firmly controlled world begins to unravel, while Roth’s David diabolically begins to pull the rug out from underneath her. RESURRECTION promises a gripping excavation of an inescapable past. —Sundance Film Festival

SALOUM
Directed by Jean Luc Herbulot
SENEGAL, FRANCE • Wolof, French • 2021 • 80 minutes

It’s 2003 in Guinea-Bissau, and the military has declared a coup. Amidst the violent chaos, a trio of infamous mercenaries called Bangui’s Hyenas are on a mission to smuggle a notorious drug dealer out of the country. When their trip is forced off course by an unexpected complication, the Hyenas find themselves laying low on an isolated nature preserve in Saloum, Senegal, surrounded by the massive river that is the Sine-Saloum Delta. What first seems like a relaxing layover for the weary group, slowly transforms into a waking nightmare, filled with the sinister folklore and rumored curses of this remote land. As haunting memories begin to consume one of their own, the Hyenas find themselves in a danger far darker than exposure for their illegal activity. An enthralling tale from beginning to end, SALOUM is a supernatural thriller filled with secrets, twists, and unlikely heroes. In this mystical genre-crossing journey, nothing is as it appears. —G.S.
SAMUEL’S TRAVELS
(Sema Celojumi)
Directed by Aik Karapetian
LATVIA • Latvian, English • 2021 • 85 minutes

While traveling through Eastern Europe in search of his long lost father, Samuel takes a massive and unexpected detour. After hitting a pig on a back country road, Samuel pulls the animal into his car and looks for a spot in the woods to bury him. To Samuel’s surprise, he is caught in the act by Kirke, the farm owner’s daughter. One inexplicable thing leads to another, and soon Samuel finds himself enslaved at the owner’s pig farm at the hands of Kirke, who has fallen in love with him. Living in a pig sty with a chain around his neck, Samuel is forced into both hard labor and dinner parties. What begins as a living nightmare oddly may end up being just the thing Samuel was looking for...a purpose. In what plays out like a twisted fairy tale, SAMUEL’S TRAVELS is a dark adventure with bizarre silver linings. —G.S.

FILM SPONSOR(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Gints Grūbe
SCREENWRITING
Aik Karapetian
Aleksandr Rodionov
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Jurģis Kmins
EDITING
Paula Popmane
PRINCIPAL CAST
Kevin Janssens
Laura Siliņa
Aigars Vilims
Normunds Griežciņš
Juris Bartkevičs
Guntis Pilsums

This film is presented with the generous support of LYNN MILLINER and MICHAEL FLUELEN.

SCARBOROUGH
Directed by Shasha Nakhai, Rich Williamson
CANADA • English • 2021 • 136 minutes

Three children forge a bond, pure and strong in the face of adversity. Bing is a kid with a big imagination, a kind heart, and a father who refuses to address his mental health struggles. Sylvie has a younger brother who doesn’t know how to communicate with the world and a mother desperately trying to reach him. When Bing and Sylvie become fixtures at the local literacy center, under the loving watch of Ms. Hina, they meet Laura, whose neglectful parents don’t notice she is turning their eviction notices into a family of paper ducks. This quietly stirring film grants us the chance to observe the world from the children’s perspective: allowing curiosity to guide them rather than shame, helping each other unquestioningly, and not being afraid to see the world as a wondrous place to play. SCARBOROUGH—tender and tough in a reflection of life itself—invites us to reconnect with that time in our lives when we were still malleable. —J.H.

FILM SPONSOR(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Shasha Nakhai
Kenya-Jade Pinto
SCREENWRITING
Catherine Hernandez
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Rich Williamson
EDITING
Rich Williamson
PRINCIPAL CAST
Liam Diaz
Essence Fox
Anna Claire Beitel
Felix Jedi Ingram Isaac

This film is presented with the generous support of CANADA.
SELL/BUY/DATE
Directed by Sarah Jones
USA • English • 2022 • 97 minutes

Accessibility
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

When Sarah Jones wrote and performed her one-woman off-Broadway production Sell/Buy/Date, she aimed to tackle the age-old question, “Is sex work empowering or exploitative?” For her work, Jones received a plethora of praise for tackling the complexities and nuanced viewpoints in the sex industry. She also received a lot of criticism from sex workers for potentially exploiting an issue she had no real experience with. Incorporating the characters from her one-woman show, Jones tackles the backlash from her project head on, talking to a variety of people across the widely varied spectrum that is the sex industry: some who find it fulfilling and empowering, and some who find it incredibly harmful and are battling to end the sex trade all together. Highlighting the disproportionately negative impact the sex trade has on Indigenous women and women of color, SELL/BUY/DATE is a refreshingly reflective documentary, calling out its own flaws and contradictions as it dives into such a complex topic. Filled with surprising celebrity appearances, including Ilana Glazer, Rosario Dawson, and Bryan Cranston, SELL/BUY/DATE is as entertaining as it is informative. —G.S.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
KARAMU
A JUSTICETO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SIRENS
Directed by Rita Baghdadi
USA, LEBANON • Arabic • 2022 • 78 minutes

Accessibility
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Amidst the ongoing political and civil unrest in Lebanon, Lilas and Shery find a much needed outlet for their fury and frustration in their band “Slaves to Sirens.” As members of the Middle East’s first all-female thrash metal band, these women face an endless string of obstacles, one of the biggest being the lack of a thrash metal scene in Lebanon. Chasing big dreams, the musicians work day and night to achieve their goals, grappling with internal conflicts, secret relationships, and the controversy surrounding their boundary-pushing group. To achieve their goals, Lilas and Shery must balance self-expression and sexuality against traditional values. An all-encompassing documentary, SIRENS is more than a portrait of a band trying to make it; it is an insight into the way a new generation is navigating the complex social issues in a rapidly changing country. —G.S.
SOUL OF A BEAST
Directed by Lorenz Merz
SWITZERLAND • French, Swiss-German, Japanese • 2021 • 110 minutes

Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 9:45 PM
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 2:15 PM

MIMI OHIO THEATRE

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

As a young single father, Gabriel isn’t the best caretaker. Although he loves his son Jamie, Gabriel spends much of his time partying or wandering the city with his best friend Joel, often leaving Jamie alone. Reckless and carefree, Gabriel and Joel are partners-in-crime, chasing after adventures and adrenaline rushes. But everything about the friends’ dynamic changes when Joel’s girlfriend Corey is thrown into the mix. From the moment he meets his best friend’s girlfriend, Gabriel finds himself completely infatuated with Corey, creating a consuming love triangle that threatens to destroy everyone involved. Emotions run high on all sides, and as their complicated dynamic descends into madness, Gabriel’s inner turmoil spreads outward into the world around him.

A dark romantic fantasy with its own myths and tall tales, SOUL OF A BEAST uses surreal themes and beautiful images to transport viewers to an entirely new world. —G.S.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

Consulate of Switzerland in Cleveland

CLEVELANDFILM.ORG

SUBLIME
Directed by Mariano Biasin
ARGENTINA • Spanish • 2022 • 100 minutes

Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 7:15 PM

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Best friends since childhood, Manuel and Felipe spend their teenage days playing soccer on the beach, trading boyish “Would you rather?” ultimatums, and practicing in their rock band. When Felipe helps Manuel set the perfect backdrop for Manuel’s first romantic night with his girlfriend, Azul, Manuel secretly can’t help but think about Felipe. Although the boys confide in each other about everything, this topic seems off-limits since Manuel isn’t sure if the feelings are mutual. As Felipe and Manuel prepare for an upcoming party where they’ll be playing their greatest hits for a crowd of friends and girls they’re allegedly interested in, the duo begins to collaborate on a brand new song. Vulnerable lyrics flow freely from Manuel, and channeling his emotions into his music may give him the courage to finally be honest with Felipe. But will Manuel’s affection inevitably doom their friendship? Set to a soundtrack of jam sessions, SUBLIME shares a tender story of innocence, heartache, and beautiful young love. —A.B.
“Every step you take, you’re moving forward a moment in time. But what if the opposite were true?” Faced with the looming start of middle school, four young girls go on one last childhood adventure at the tail end of their summer. However, a day that starts as lighthearted and innocent turns abruptly dark when the girls make a disturbing discovery. While they work together to unravel the mystery of their encounter, their mothers (played by Lake Bell and Megan Mullally) are frantic to find them. They turn to each other for support and, in doing so, rediscover the kinship of their own carefree summer days. Including both fantastical and horror elements, this romp through a summer’s weekend is troubled and real; it lovingly shapes the loss of innocence as a rite of passage rather than something to be mourned. SUMMERING will make you crave the whimsical perspective of youth in the face of tragedy, if only we could walk backward in time. —J.H.
SWEETHEART
Directed by Marley Morrison
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2021 • 103 minutes

At the wise old age of 17, AJ has the world figured out: it’s all going to hell, and there’s nothing anyone can do about it. Perpetually apathetic, AJ is dreading the annual family vacation, where the pool, beach, and family-friendly stage shows were once the highlight of her year. Dragged to the modest holiday trailer park by her mother against her angsty will, AJ’s joined by: her nine-year-old sister Dana, in all her ignorant innocence; her perfectly pregnant older sister Lucy; and Lucy’s boyfriend Steve, who seems to be the only one who remotely understands AJ. Determined to hate every minute of the trip, AJ finally musters a smile after meeting Isla, the park’s alluring lifeguard donned in chlorine and Converse. The two become fast friends, but Isla’s mixed signals and AJ’s fumbling insecurity leave AJ wondering if they could be more. An ode to those coming-of-age years, when you’re simultaneously the smartest and most clueless version of yourself, SWEETHEART is the unforgettable summer fling worth the sunburn. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Michelle Antoniades
SCREENWRITING
Marley Morrison
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Matt Wicks
Emily Almond Barr
EDITING
Keelan Gumbley
PRINCIPAL CAST
Nell Barlow
Ella-Rae Smith
Jo Hartley

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

A TALE OF LOVE AND DESIRE
(Une histoire d’amour et de désir)
Directed by Leila Bouzid
FRANCE • French • 2021 • 103 minutes

The title really does say it all. A TALE OF LOVE AND DESIRE follows Ahmed and Farah, who meet at the Sorbonne. Ahmed is immediately attracted to Farah, but he is hindered by his culture and lack of experience. Farah is everything Ahmed isn’t; she’s outgoing and outspoken, has a sense of adventure, and is eager to explore Paris. The pair have a meet-cute on the metro, and so begins their story of will they or won’t they. Ahmed and Farah’s chemistry explodes off the screen, so much so that we want to savor every second we see them together. Filled with stolen glances, swoon-worthy moments, and so much sexual tension, there is no doubt every viewer will be at the edge of their seat wanting more. —N.A.

PRODUCER(S)
Sandra da Fonseca
SCREENWRITING
Leila Bouzid
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Sébastien Goepfert
EDITING
Lilian Corbeille
PRINCIPAL CAST
Sami Oualbali
Zbeida Belhajamor
Diong-Kéba Tacu
Aurélia Petit

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories
When the state of Israel was established in 1948, war broke out and Palestinian villages saw their populations decimated. The true nature of these events still prompts heated debate: for Israelis, it’s the “War of Independence;” but to Palestinians, it’s known as the “Nakba,” or the “Catastrophe.” A dark moment in Israeli history, the Nakba has become such a taboo topic that it’s rarely discussed. In the 1990s, graduate student Teddy Katz interviewed hundreds of people while researching a rumored civilian massacre in the village of Tantura during the 1948 war. Based on his findings, Katz concluded the brutal killings did occur. After being sued for defamation, threatened, and stripped of his academic credentials, Katz learned the state would go to great lengths to protect its established version of events. Since then, his hundreds of hours of tapes sat in silence. But decades later, director Alon Schwarz revisits the controversial recordings—this time presenting them to former Israeli soldiers, scholars, and government officials, many of whom insist the massacre never happened. TANTURA is an astute documentary that explores the enduring power and purpose of protected narratives. Taking a historiographic approach, Schwarz examines why nations struggle to acknowledge problematic parts of their own history. —D.O.

**TANTURA**
Directed by Alon Schwarz
ISRAEL • Hebrew • 2022 • 95 minutes

**CONFERENCE PALACE**
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 2:40 PM

**ACCESS**
United States and U.S. Territories

**ACCESSIBILITY**
Closed Captions ✔ • Audio Description ✔ • English Subtitles ✔

**TERRIBLE CHILDREN**
Directed by Shanti Thakur
USA • English, French, Danish • 2021 • 57 minutes

**ALLEN THEATRE**
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 2:35 PM
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 11:50 AM

**ACCESS**
United States and U.S. Territories

**ACCESSIBILITY**
Closed Captions ✔ • Audio Description ✔ • English Subtitles ✔

In TERRIBLE CHILDREN, director Shanti Thakur shares a deeply personal account. Her father, Hari, gives her a letter written by his dad that he didn’t open for 20 years. When he hands it to her, he says, “maybe you can do something with this.” Spoiler alert, she does. Thakur discovers her father was banished by his family for marrying her mother, a woman from Denmark. She learns numerous stories about her father’s intergenerational trauma and forging a new path for himself. This documentary explores many themes and topics, from masculinity and race to the partition of India in 1947. Thakur brilliantly blends different facets of storytelling into one stunning documentary. —N.A.
THE TERRITORY
Directed by Alex Pritz
BRAZIL, DENMARK, USA  •  Portuguese, Tupi-Kawahiva  •  2022  •  86 minutes

ALLEN THEATRE  Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 4:55 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10—April 17, 2022)
ACCESS
Regional: OH, PA, MI, IN

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓  •  Audio Description ✓  •  English Subtitles ✓

It’s devastating to witness Brazil’s Amazon rainforest attacked by malicious chainsaws and deliberately set brush fires. Within the depths of these lush natural resources live the country’s Indigenous Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau people, a shrinking community that has been thriving off the land for centuries. With deforestation slowly encroaching on their protected lands, they look to their elder-appointed leader, 18-year-old Bitaté, to navigate how they will face these invaders. Coupled with an unsupportive government, their biggest threat is a group of small farmers who plan to develop a plot of Indigenous land with the dream of finally owning a piece of their beloved country. While some attempt to lawfully acquire the land, others are not so patient and begin taking what they feel is rightfully theirs. Outfitted with handmade bows and arrows, drones, and video cameras, Bitaté and his villagers risk their lives to defend their ancestors’ land and expose the grave dangers these invaders are bringing to the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau in THE TERRITORY. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

PRODUCER(S)
Will N. Miller
Sigrid Dyekjær
Lizzie Gillett
Darren Aronofsky

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Alex Pritz
Tangae Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau

EDITING
Carlos Rojas Felice

THE THIEF COLLECTOR
Directed by Allison Otto
USA  •  English  •  2022  •  93 minutes

KEYBANK STATE THEATRE  Friday, April 1, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 12:00 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10—April 17, 2022)
ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✓  •  Audio Description ✓  •  English Subtitles ✓

The day after Thanksgiving in 1985, a quiet day at the University of Arizona Museum of Art in Tucson, Willem de Kooning’s beloved Woman-Ochre oil painting vanished. But no fingerprints and no proof left the case cold. When the coveted piece of art is found 32 years later—valued at more than $160 million—in the New Mexico home of the late Jerry and Rita Alter, the real mystery begins. Through comical reenactments and persuasive personal accounts from museum staff, police detectives, and the antique dealers who made the discovery, THE THIEF COLLECTOR reopens the decades-long investigation that soon reveals itself as much more than a single stolen painting. Shocked friends and family members wrestle with the possibility that their pleasant, vibrant, well-traveled school teacher friends could have been leading deceitful double lives. Obsessed with the chase? Living for the thrill? The whole truth died with Jerry and Rita, and their cryptic clues crafted along the way leave an ominous legacy of unanswered questions. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
THREE MINUTES—A LENGTHENING
Directed by Bianca Stigter
NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2020 • 69 minutes

What can be captured in three minutes time? Unknown faces? Unmarked buildings? Look harder, and you may find a priceless snapshot of an unsuspecting Jewish town mere months before being devastated by the Holocaust. In 1938, David Kurtz and his wife departed Brooklyn for a grand tour of Europe and stopped off in what would later be identified as Nasielsk, Poland. There, Kurtz let his camera roll over snippets of everyday life: children’s smiling faces in the street, families departing the synagogue, and casual strolls around the town square. THREE MINUTES—A LENGTHENING features these precious moments of home film footage, meticulously studied and dissected to rescue the lost memory of this community. With the help of dedicated historians and the USA Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., Kurtz’s grandson, Glenn, attempts to piece together this image of history that would have otherwise been forgotten. A fascinating, illuminating process, these painstaking efforts serve as a visual memorial of the innocent Nasielsk faces and spaces we must never forget. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

TIGER 24
Directed by Warren Pereira
USA, INDIA • English, Hindi • 2022 • 90 minutes

Riveting from start to finish, TIGER 24 takes a deep dive into who is responsible when animals kill humans in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in India. The answer is a lot more complex than meets the eye. Filmmaker Warren Pereira introduces us to Ustad, aka Tiger 24. He has been labeled a maneater by the local government for killing more than one person, and his fate at the moment is unclear. The fascinating documentary TIGER 24 explores the ethics of the situation at hand through footage and interviews with locals. But, at its core, Pereira explores what can happen when proper measures aren’t put in place to ensure safety for all. —N.A.

Content Warning: This film contains material that may be difficult for some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
TO THE END
Directed by Rachel Lears
USA • English • 2022 • 104 minutes

MIMI OHIO THEATRE
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 7:40 PM
Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 11:45 AM

The world is in crisis as it misses target after target to stop climate change. The Green New Deal has captured the imagination of millions with its visionary promise for systemic economic and environmental change that will build a better and more just world. In this moment of political upheaval with clashes in the streets and the halls of Congress, climate policy is taking center stage for the first time in American history, and the fight is on. TO THE END goes behind the scenes of a social and political movement where young people reject the cynicism and complacency of a power structure that has failed to meaningfully address the existential threat we face. Director Rachel Lears (“Knock Down the House”) crafts an urgent coming-of-age story of a movement, told through the narratives of four instrumental young leaders and women of color — Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Varshini Prakash, Alexandra Rojas, and Rhiana Gunn-Wright. As the future they will live in fast approaches, the last generation with a chance to end climate change is using their power and demanding a say in what that future will be.

—Sundance Film Festival

PRODUCER(S)
Sabrina Schmidt Gordon

SCREENWRITING
Rachel Lears
Robin Blotnick

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Rachel Lears

EDITING
Robin Blotnick

PRINCIPAL CAST
Alexandra Rojas
Rhiana Gunn-Wright
Varshini Prakash
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

TRAMPS!
Directed by Kevin Hegge
CANADA • English • 2022 • 104 minutes

UPPER ALLEN
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7:15 PM
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 2:20 PM

With the vibrancy and pop of the movement it covers, TRAMPS! is a colorful deep dive into the New Romantics. A group of 1980s London artists and creators of film, fashion, music, and visual art, at times they have had their contributions minimized. The film runs through a wide array of stories, each as rich and engaging as the voices who tell the stories themselves—pioneers of the movement. From the tales of the New Romantics’ beginnings in the punk footsteps of the Sex Pistols and the Clash, to the unabashedly queer roots that permeated every inch of the culture, TRAMPS! captures the chaotic excitement of the artistic creation and evolution of this sensational era. Every figure sparkles and is given their space to shine. From Judy Blame to Princess Julia, every subject has a special impact on this pivotal and impactful culture. Kevin Hegge’s TRAMPS! celebrates and champions them all, creating a funky, hypnotic reintroduction to a movement we could all learn from. —B.R

PRODUCER(S)
Brian Robertson
Kevin Hegge

SCREENWRITING
Kevin Hegge

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Jack Reynolds

EDITING
Neil Cavalier

FEATURING
Judy Blame
Duggie Fields
John Maybury
Mark Moore

FILM SPONSOR(S):

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

CLEVELANDFILM.ORG
VERA DREAMS OF THE SEA
(Vera Andrron Detin)
Directed by Kaltrina Krasniqi
KOSOVO, NORTH MACEDONIA, ALBANIA • Albanian • 2021 • 87 minutes

WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 11:55 AM
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 4:55 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

As a sign language interpreter, Vera often speaks for others, but less so for herself. This time will be different. When her husband Fatmir takes his own life, the Kosovo community mourns the loss of its well-respected judge. Condolences flood in, but Vera also receives a visit from Fatmir’s cousin Ahmet, who claims Fatmir promised him the couple’s home in the nearby village before his death. With no written proof of her husband’s alleged wishes, Vera is resistant. She instead hoped to pass on the home to her daughter, even if it opposes the village’s antiquated tradition of male-only heirs. Ahmet persists, and other men from the village insist Ahmet is the rightful owner. Chain smoking her way through a fog of grief and suspicion, Vera’s resistance is soon met with threats and ultimatums, and the mounting pressure has placed her in grave danger. Infuriating and empowering, VERA DREAMS OF THE SEA chronicles Vera’s relentless battle to protect herself and her female family’s future from the grip of the repressive patriarchy. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
NOTA

WAR ON THE DIAMOND
Directed by Andy Billman
USA • English • 2021 • 75 minutes

CONNOR PALACE
Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 2:30 PM
Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 5:00 PM

✓ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Plenty of baseball fans around the country love to hate the New York Yankees, but Cleveland’s contempt for the team runs deep. Directed by Ohio native and “Believeland” (CIFF40) director Andy Billman, WAR ON THE DIAMOND examines the lethal pitch that set off a historic rivalry. In 1920, Cleveland Indians (now Guardians) star player Ray Chapman went to bat against the already-controversial Yankees pitcher Carl Mays. Chapman didn’t even see Mays’ pitch before it fatally struck him in the head. To this day, Chapman is the only baseball player to die from on-field injuries. Chapman was upheld as a martyr, while Mays went down in infamy. By delving into the lives of both men, Billman reminds viewers they were more than the tragic accident that has come to define them. Over a century later, the bad blood between the teams continues. Utilizing archival materials, reenactments, and interviews with key players and sports writers, this intriguing documentary traces the feud from that fateful day through decades of intense competition, betrayal, and pettiness. —D.O.

PRODUCER(S)
Art Horan
Andy Billman
Danielle Alberico
Pamela Lynn Sullivan

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Jonathan Taylor Hurley

EDITING
Paul Carruthers

FILM SPONSOR(S):
This film is presented with the generous support of JACK and MARY BOYLE.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
CHAGRIN DOCUMENTARY FILM FEST
Western Reserve Historical Society

JacksonLewis
Julia joins her husband when he relocates to his family’s native Romania for a new job. Having recently abandoned her acting career, she finds herself frequently alone and unoccupied. One night, people-watching from her picture window, she spots a vague figure in an adjacent building, who seems to be looking back at her. Soon after, while alone at a local movie theater, Julia’s sense of being watched intensifies, and she becomes certain she’s being followed—could it be the same unknown neighbor? Meanwhile, a serial killer known as The Spider stalks the city. Utilizing near-vacant Bucharest streets and expansive luxury apartments, director Chloe Okuno and cinematographer Benjamin Kirk Nielsen design compositions that are both exquisite and unsettling, with every shadow offering cover for potentially imminent danger. But beneath the tension of Okuno’s hypnotic auteur vision, WATCHER is an elegantly simple depiction of one woman calculating in real time whether to trust her own sense of peril. Maika Monroe vividly conveys Julia’s nervous discomfort as no one takes her intuitions seriously and she pivots between self-doubt and defiant aggression. — Sundance Film Festival
“Do no harm.” The simple, ethical commitment doctors have been making for generations can fade with time—or heavy-handed persuasion. But thanks to a handful of seasoned doctors and a current wave of young medical professionals who have witnessed the damaging impacts of Big Pharma on patients across the country, there may be a cure for the drug industry’s stranglehold on health care in America. WHITE COAT REBELS follows the grassroots efforts of medical students nationwide, led by UCLA’s Neda Ashtari and Case Western Reserve University’s Gloria Tavera, and their fight to make essential medications affordable for all. With persistent drug reps bombarding doctors’ offices, incessant advertising for prescription drugs to the public, and powerful control over research studies, doctors at every level of medicine reveal how pharmaceutical companies have infiltrated every facet of today’s health care system. Now, in the face of a devastating opioid crisis and lingering pandemic, these health care providers implore audiences to join the movement to advocate and vote for fair access to life-saving medicine. —A.B.

PRODUCER(S)
Diane Becker
Greg Barker
Christopher Buchanan
Dr. Harriet Fraser

CINEMATOGRAPHY
Tom Bergmann

EDITING
Todd Downing

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions ✔ • Audio Description ✔ • English Subtitles ✔
In Indigenous communities, the term “two-spirit” is used to describe individuals who have both a masculine and a feminine spirit within one body. Lincoln, a two-spirit teenager of Mi’kmaw heritage, has grown up estranged from both his Native community and his gender and sexual identities. Raised with his half-brother by an abusive father, Lincoln has been told his entire life that his Mi’kmaw birth mother is dead. Upon discovering unopened letters from her that his father kept hidden for years, Lincoln runs away, embarking on a long journey to find his mother. Along the way, Lincoln crosses paths with Pasmay who, as an openly two-spirit Mi’kmaw, embodies everything that Lincoln is trying to hide within himself. What starts as a mission to track down his mother gradually transforms into a beautiful voyage of self-discovery. Set in the wild Indigenous lands of Nova Scotia, WILDHOOD is a powerful and poignant coming-of-age film about love, community, and self acceptance. —G.S.
Here’s a thought: Why not consider the actual future to lead us into the future? Youth & Government, a national program of the YMCA, provides the training grounds for impassioned middle and high school students to do just that. The wholly immersive experience tasks young participants with establishing and simulating every facet of their state government—deciding court cases, passing budgets, debating legislation, and even running for office. THE YOUTH GOVERNOR follows California’s Y&G program of 4,000 bright leaders and their heated race for the state’s 72nd Youth Governor. The field begins with six candidates, and it is up to their campaign staff to help define unique platforms and strategies to win the votes of their constituents. The grueling campaign trail forces candidates to learn more about their own ideologies when faced with opposing views and reveals refreshing examples of genuine collaboration across party lines. But are shady politics inevitable to pull off a win? Hopeful and inspiring, this political race is one you will actually want to watch. —A.B.

Content Warning: This is a Family Film for older kids, as there is some mild language used.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER CLEVELAND EDUCATION FUND
THE CITY CLUB OF CLEVELAND

YUNG PUNX: A PUNK PARABLE
Directed by Seth Kramer, Daniel A. Miller, Jeremy Newberger
USA • English • 2021 • 63 minutes

ACCESS
United States and U.S. Territories

ACCESSIBILITY
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles

Color Killer—comprised of frontman Lincoln, guitarist Dylan, bassist Nate, and drummer Matt—is defining a new punk rock era. These young, talented musicians sport classic band tees and long hair dyed neon—a rite of passage for official initiation—while playing edgy tracks about hating winter, unfair bedtimes, and stranger danger for drunk crowds in Massachusetts dive bars. Little do they know they’re well on their way to stardom. YUNG PUNX: A PUNK PARABLE follows the bandmates and their roadie parents in preparation to play the biggest stage of their lives: the legendary Vans Warped Tour. As the youngest band to ever play the infamous punk rock festival—ages ranging from just eight to 12 years old—the boys each bring their own sound, frustrations, and budding personalities to the group. Like any famous rock band, nerves, jealousy, and quarrels creep in. But these young musicians must learn to put themselves aside for the love of the music and future of the band. —A.B.

Content Warning: This is a Family Film for older kids, as there is some mild language used.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):
YUNI
Directed by Kamila Andini
INDONESIA, SINGAPORE, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA • Serang-Javanese • 2021 • 95 minutes

In her last year before graduation, life for Yuni should be full of time spent with her girlfriends, harmless crushes on teachers, and thinking about the possibilities of attending college. And it is, to be sure. If only the prospect of getting married wasn’t complicating things. Smart, beautiful, and at the top of her class, Yuni faces a marriage proposal from a boy’s family she’s never met. The pressure to not only accept, but to do so quickly and be grateful for the offer, weighs heavily against her school counselor’s support to consider her academic dreams. Yuni witnesses classmates’ lives change with unexpected pregnancies and forced marriages, and she meets a female salon owner living an independent single life. The paths of those around her certainly don’t make Yuni’s decision any easier. A coming-of-age story of girls forced to grow up too soon, YUNI offers a story of rare courage against the backdrop of strict traditions and stifling expectations. —A.B.

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

ZERO GRAVITY
Directed by Thomas Verrette
USA • English • 2021 • 75 minutes

While it’s true today’s 11-year-olds will one day run the world, middle schoolers in San Jose, California are taking their summer break to get a head start. Immersed in their own space race, a group of ambitious students enter the Zero Robotics ISS (International Space Station) Competition. Their mission: compete with teams across the country to write the most strategic code for surveying satellites, known as SPHERES. These satellites will help map out a GPS system to successfully orbit Mars, opening the door to infinite opportunities and exploration of the Red Planet. Led and coached by Tanner (Campbell Middle School’s after-school instructor) each coder-in-the-making brings their own strengths, unique perspectives, and boundless curiosity to their team. They arrive with the hopes their programming strategy will soon be hard at work discovering other-worldly frontiers. Featuring astronauts Jack Fischer, Cady Coleman, and Steve Smith, ZERO GRAVITY highlights the importance of empowering the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators who will fearlessly lead us into the future—even the unknown. —A.B.

PRODUCER(S)
Thomas Verrette
Haller Rice
SCREENWRITING
Thomas Verrette
CINEMATOGRAPHY
Carlos Marulanda
EDITING
Thomas Verrette

COMMUNITY PARTNER(S):

CLEVELANDFILM.ORG
SHORTS
On the corner of Main Street in Stephenville, Texas, sits SlimPickins Outfitters, the first Black-owned outdoor outfitter shop in the country. Owned by Jahmicah Dawes and his wife, Heather, the shop has become a staple in the community that represents fellowship, allyship, and outfitting friends for their next adventure. But more than that, they are telling a story of hope and reconciliation, of community and friendship in an America that desperately needs to hear it.

This film follows “Mugsy,” an animated coffee cup as he wakes up after a night of revelry on top of a bar strewn with the remnants of an epic celebration. As he recounts his troubles, the world of the bar slowly comes alive around him and Mugsy begins a dream-like journey that recalls an animated Busby-Berkeley-inspired extravaganza.

An immigrant truck driver makes his way home across the American Midwest.

Laurent’s weekend getaway with his mistress takes an unexpected turn.

An out of town family member is in danger, and all one man has available to assist is his voice, love, and humanity. Will it be enough?

Based on a true little incident, this film details an intimate night gone wrong.

Based on the Miryang case in South Korea which shocked the nation in 2004, two computer-illiterate parents decide to design a protest banner when police refuse to investigate their daughter’s alleged suicide.
TEN DEGREES OF STRANGE
Lynn Tomlinson
USA • English • 2021 • 5 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
This music video—based on a song by Robert Macfarlane and Johnny Flynn, from the album *Lost in the Cedar Wood*—takes inspiration from *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, an ancient story written on clay tablets. This story of loss and hope in nature is told through colorful, shifting, changing, morphing clay on glass animation.

BUMP
Rory Keenan
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2021 • 15 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Despite her bravado and bluster, it’s clear that Pearl is suffering. But an inevitable acceptance is coming.

MAKING PEACE
Judah Ray
USA • English • 2020 • 23 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Sometimes what you’re afraid of, is what will set you free. It’s 1969, and Janis is stranded on the side of a desolate, desert road, where she’s picked up by a stranger, Dennis, who helps her come to terms with the reality of her situation.

POWERS
Paige Morrow Kimball
USA • English • 2021 • 24 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A budding artist in her 60s spreads joy in her urban community by hanging sculptures on telephone poles with messages of positivity. Afraid to get caught, she disguises herself as a man, hanging them anonymously. Through her random acts of kindness she comes into her own as an artist and makes peace with her troubled past. This heart-warming story reminds us that it’s never too late to discover one’s true passion. (Shot during the Covid-19 pandemic with an all-female crew of one, on an iPhone 11 Pro.)

THE PARK BENCH
Rob Edwards
USA • English • 2022 • 4 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
As young Bella struggles to cope with her father’s Sickle Cell diagnosis, she is befriended by an unlikely ally who lends a helping hand (or wing).

ENTRANCE OF PINK ELEPHANTS
Tatiana Fedorovskaya
ISRAEL • English, German • 2022 • 16 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Three elephants must entertain superhumans today, so they might live tomorrow. Josef, an artist of the Jewish “Cabaret-Terezin,” performs each week with his dog, Kasper, for an audience of Nazis and their wives. It’s an absurd performance in pink elephant costumes, which Josef invented to ridicule what is happening in the “city donated by the Führer to the Jews.”

THE TREATMENT
(El tratamiento)
Álvaro Carmona
SPAIN • Spanish • 2019 • 9 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A clinic offers what you’ve always wanted...as long as you’re okay with one controversial side effect.
MONDO DOMINO
Suki
FRANCE • No Dialogue • 2021 • 6 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
In a deafening noise of chainsaws, loggers happily hum as they cut down trees to be used as decor for a fashion show. This contemporary cartoon satire, in the form of a burlesque action musical tragi-comedy, leads us into a delirious whirlwind of chain reactions as chaotic as they are grotesque.

CENSOR OF DREAMS
(Le Censeur des rêves)
Léo Berne, Raphaël Rodríguez
FRANCE • French • 2021 • 18 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓
Every night, The Censor and his team moderate Yoko’s dreams. Tonight nothing goes as planned.

YOU GO GIRL!
Shariffa Ali
USA • English • 2021 • 13 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
Audrey, a New York City comedian who can make a joke of any situation, faces a staggering challenge in the beautiful mountains of Oregon. Can this city woman overcome her fears and rise?

NAKAM
Andreas Kessler
GERMANY • German, Russian, Ukrainian, Yiddish • 2022 • 33 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓
12-year-old violin player Mitka is supposed to execute an attack on several SS officers in the name of a partisan movement. But this attempt will also put his only friend in danger.

FULL PICTURE
Jacob Reed
USA • English • 2020 • 12 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
With meetings, hangouts, and classes happening virtually due to the Covid-19 quarantine, Santina is experiencing something new. But who will and will not be surprised when they learn what exactly that is?

WRITTEN BY
Callie Bloem, Christopher Ewing
USA • English • 2021 • 15 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
Kenzie, a 20-something Angeleno, discovers during a totally boring and routine general checkup that she is fictional. And, even worse, that she was written by a dude.
SHORTS PROGRAM 4  92 minutes  

UNspoken
William Armstrong
DENMARK • English • 2021 • 7 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A film centered around world-class contemporary choreographer Paul Lightfoot (Artistic Director of the Netherlands Dance Theatre), who lost his father during the Covid-19 pandemic. Not permitted into the hospital to say goodbye, he began working remotely with a Danish dancer to create a performance that processes the emotions he and many have shared worldwide. The result is a look behind the curtain into how a modern master interprets loss into physical form—and a powerful beacon of hope to carry us through uncertain times.

AMERICANIZED
Erica Eng
USA • Erica • 2021 • 17 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓
To her high school basketball teammates, Eng is just a girl who sits on the bench; but to the Asian kids she’s “Americanized.” Struggling with her Chinese-American identity, she tries to find a sense of belonging within the two worlds that don’t accept her.

REPLY
Elle Mills
USA • English • 2021 • 14 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
15-year-old Sam Trottier decides to make a film after he finds a box of his mom’s videotapes hidden in their attic from the summer of 2006. The tapes show Sam’s mom Casey documenting herself working on one last project before saying goodbye to her childhood home—the same summer her new neighbors moved in.

MR. SPAM GETS A NEW HAT
William Joyce
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2021 • 13 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A man with a head full of dreams is beaten down by the foremen in the factory where he works. Then he meets the Woman in the Polka Dot Dress who brings meaning, love, and dreams back to his life.

MELONS
Matt MacDonald
USA • English • 2021 • 15 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A jolly grocery store manager learns to stand up for himself after a misunderstanding brands him as public enemy #1.

A PECULIAR SILENCE
Cinque Northern
USA • English • 2021 • 26 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
This film tells the story of playwright Liza Jessie Peterson’s shutdown 2020 performance of her acclaimed play The Peculiar Patriot at Angola, the Louisiana State Penitentiary and America’s largest prison-plantation. The documentary examines what led to the shutdown of the performance, the material that confronted a system, and how the impact of Peterson’s visit rippled through Angola long after the record of her visit was erased by prison authorities.
REFRIGERATE AFTER OPENING
Kevin Ung
USA • English • 2020 • 6 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A man who is down on his luck gets a second shot at life when he finds a magical refrigerator.

FAROS
Rayna Buxton
USA • English • 2021 • 2 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
Ori, the eternally vexed keeper of a living lighthouse, struggles through his daily chores and finds comfort in his cat, Clam.

LIKE THE ONES I USED TO KNOW
(Le grandes claques)
Annie St-Pierre
CANADA • French • 2021 • 18 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✔
It’s Christmas Eve 1983 and Denis, alone in his car, is anxious at the idea of setting foot in his ex-inlaw’s house to pick up his children.

SQUIRREL WARS
Jill Morley
USA • English • 2021 • 8 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A New York artist’s obsession makes her the leader of a squirrel war on Facebook. The pressure cooker of quarantining mixed with the polarization of politics intensifies the ire of squirrel lovers everywhere.

DEAR MAMA...
Winter Dunn
USA • English • 2021 • 14 minutes
Closed Captions ✔ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
The death of Tupac draws different reactions from a father and his artistic daughter, forcing them to confront the emotional aftermath of their own tragedy.

CHOULEQUEC
Benoit Blanc, Matthias Girbig
FRANCE • French • 2020 • 26 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✔
A father in search of his missing daughter arrives in the isolated village of Choulequec. His immediate confrontation with the local sheriff and his absurd regulations is a mere foretaste of what lies ahead.

RESIST: THE RESISTANCE REVIVAL CHORUS
Susan O’Brien
USA • English • 2021 • 20 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
In the midst of a country divided, a diverse group of women and non-binary individuals unite through the historic power of music to create a movement ignited by song.
THE BOX
Shal Gerard Ngo, James Burns
USA • English • 2019 • 15 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
This hybrid short film combines documentary, stop-motion animation, and cinematic vignettes to immerse audiences in the world of solitary confinement. We interview three people who have spent a combined nine years in solitary, one of whom is a director of the film, James Burns.

THE FARMER AND THE LIGHTNING STORM
Danielle Browne
USA • English • 2021 • 5 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓
Burdened by frustration and fear, the Goddess of Lightning cannot find meaning in what she does and suppresses her abilities. Can a nearby farmer help Lightning regain confidence in her powers, and by extension, in herself?

TRIGGERED
Tara Westwood
USA • English • 2021 • 18 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A U.S. Senator faces her greatest challenge when a home invasion takes a shocking turn.

AYO NENE
Daouda Diakhaté
FRANCE • French • 2020 • 28 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓
Alassane, a 30-year-old French-Senegalese, lives alone with his nine-year-old son, Yanis, in a shabby studio in the suburbs of Bordeaux. Unemployed, Alassane does his best to maintain a balance. The day the juvenile court judge decides to place Yanis in a foster home, Alassane takes all the risks to stay with his son.

BRIEF SURVEY
Dava Whisenant
USA • English • 2020 • 3 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A good-hearted hiker finds himself overcome by nature’s majesty, only to be drawn into a cosmic nightmare.

EL CARRITO
Zahida Pirani
USA • Spanish • 2021 • 15 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓
Nelly lives alone with her elderly father. The only way she makes ends meet is by working as a street vendor from dawn to dusk. She has learned not to trust anyone, but one day finds she must take a leap of faith.

CHRISTIAN
(Christian)
Adán Pichardo
SPAIN • Spanish • 2021 • 11 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✓
Young devotee, Cristiano, wants to be trained in the seminary to become a Catholic priest. But when he is interviewed by the former priest of his hometown, he is forced to make a confession that might derail his plans.
MISO
Kelly Walker
USA  •  English  •  2021  •  10 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
Cat is pregnant and doesn’t want to be. Since support is scarce and options are limited, she decides to take a non-traditional approach by enlisting the help of Sophie—a local doula who aids women as they take matters into their own hands. Literally.

IF I CAN’T BREATHE
Cheray O’Neal
USA  •  English  •  2020  •  2 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
What happens when quarantine, a poet, police brutality, and 25 kids collide? Mediate on this fearless spoken word protest that can only be summed up in four words, and witness this powerful testimony of love and loss from our greatest teachers...the youth.

THE COCKTAIL PARTY
Jessica Sanders
USA  •  English  •  2021  •  4 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A young waitress unexpectedly turns a cocktail party into a martial arts action film about empowerment.

PARENTS
Coline Béal
FRANCE  •  French  •  2021  •  16 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
Parents find themselves questioning their past as they try to understand what led to the day that changed their lives and their daughter’s forever.

NANA KI DUM
Jacob McSharma
USA  •  English, Hindi  •  2021  •  11 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A new mom contends with her traditional Indian father while trying to sleep train her infant.

DEATH AND THE WINEMAKER
(Le Vigneron et la Mort)
Victor Jaquier
SWITZERLAND  •  French  •  2021  •  19 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A young winemaker devotes himself to creating the best wine in the world to win the hand of his beloved Mathilde—the daughter of his rich neighbor. He creates a wine so exquisite, even Death demands to taste it. As he learns the awful truth about Mathilde’s fate, he captures Death in a barrel, ignoring the consequences on the natural order of things.

CONDUCTING LIFE
Diane Moore
USA  •  English  •  2021  •  31 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
The remarkable journey of Roderick Cox is detailed as he tirelessly pursues his dream—to secure a top position with a major orchestra.
NUMB
Natasha Jatania
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2020 • 11 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A father and son take the time to spread the ashes of the mother. After the unemotional experience they begin to talk about spontaneity and the father’s missed opportunities. Thus begins their shared journey.

MARCEL
Gastón Calivari
ARGENTINA • Spanish • 2021 • 18 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Gastón meets the clown that animated his three-year-old birthday party, who now has a new life as Marcel—a trans woman who attends his flower shop next to the cemetery of Nogoyá, Argentina.

HOLD ME TIGHT
Leoluna Robert-Tourneur
BELGIUM, FRANCE • No Dialogue • 2021 • 6 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
In the heart of a dark forest, two silhouettes meet, attract, and repel each other in an explosive bridal parade.

AFTER (A LOVE STORY)
Clare Cooney
USA • English • 2021 • 14 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A surviving couple works to begin healing the emotional and psychological wounds of a shared trauma.

MORE THAN I REMEMBER
Amy Bench
USA • English • 2022 • 14 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
One night at her home in southeastern Congo, 14-year-old Mugeni awakes to the sounds of bombs. As her family scatters to the surrounding forests to save themselves, Mugeni finds herself completely alone. From there, she sets out on a remarkable solo journey across the globe, determined to reunite with her lost loved ones and lift up the Banyamulenge people.

NORTH STAR
P.J. Palmer
USA • English • 2021 • 30 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A rural rancher and his ailing husband, struggling against poverty and isolation, make a heartbreaking decision in order to preserve the dignity of their marriage in the face of mounting pressures from relatives.
YOUR STREET
(Deine Strasse)
Güzin Kar
SWITZERLAND • German • 2020 • 7 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A street in the industrial area of Bonn, faceless, unobtrusive, unfinished where warehouses, construction sites, and car washes dominate. But little by little, the grey present of the street is being charged with its past, which is linked to one of the most painful episodes in the history of reunified Germany. Are public memorials collective remembrance or collective repression?

SQUISH
(Sprötch)
Xavier Seron
BELGIUM • French • 2020 • 20 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
It’s Tom’s turn to take care of Sam, his five-year-old son. What could go wrong?

7 LBS 8 OZ
Yoo Lee
USA • English • 2021 • 7 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
When a young mother moves in on 8th street in Jersey City, NJ, she learns about the value of the community and how her perceptions determine her experiences.

SILENT PARTNER
Aristotle Torres
USA • English • 2021 • 16 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Silas Jones is an accomplished Black trial attorney on the cusp of making partner at a white-shoe law firm. Upon successfully defending a white woman charged with murdering a Black teen, Silas comes to a crossroads with his wife Kosi, an equally accomplished professor, as they prepare to attend the firm’s celebration. As the night progresses, Silas questions the legitimacy of his promotion. Will he make the ultimate sacrifice?

PHOTO OP
Dava Whisenant
USA • English • 2020 • 3 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A humorous cautionary tale about the perils of trusting a stranger with your phone.

BREAKING TRAIL
Jesse Roesler
USA • English • 2021 • 30 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Emily Ford sets out with Diggins, a borrowed Alaskan Husky sled dog, to become the first woman and person of color to thru-hike the 1,200-mile Ice Age Trail in winter. As the 69-day journey through subzero temperatures tests her physical and mental endurance, Emily and her canine protector develop an unbreakable bond as they embrace the unexpected kindness of strangers and discover they’ve become figureheads in the movement to make the outdoors more accessible for everyone. What begins as an extraordinary physical and mental challenge also becomes a spiritual adventure.

THE FORGOTTEN PLACE
Oscar Rene Lozoya
USA • English • 2021 • 12 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
All Eric ever wanted was a friend. He just never knew how to find one. (Adapted from the short play, The Forgotten Place.)
FREEBIRD
Joe Bluhm, Michael Joseph McDonald, Nicholas Herd
CANADA • English • 2021 • 6 minutes
Closed Captions X • Audio Description X • English Subtitles X
This coming-of-age story is about a boy with Down Syndrome who learns to navigate the world with a loving mother, an absent father, a classroom bully, and a life-long crush.

FRIMAS
Marianne Farley
CANADA • French • 2021 • 19 minutes
Closed Captions X • Audio Description X • English Subtitles ✔
In the near future, following the adoption of an anti-abortion law, 35-year-old Kara has no other choice but to end her pregnancy using an illegal abortion clinic.

SISSY
Eitan Pitigliani
ITALY • Italian • 2022 • 20 minutes
Closed Captions X • Audio Description X • English Subtitles ✔
After his mother’s death, Luca finds he has hit rock bottom. Living on the streets among the homeless, to somehow feel closer to her, he finally decides to go back home for his father’s birthday where something magical just might happen.

COVID CRUSADER: THE CARLA BROWN STORY
Randy Scott Slavin
USA • English • 2020 • 4 minutes
Closed Captions X • Audio Description X • English Subtitles X
Motivated by the death of her husband due to Covid-19, Carla Brown is on a mission to vaccinate the African American population of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

JUST IN CASE
Kirsty Robinson-Ward
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2021 • 14 minutes
Closed Captions ✔ • Audio Description X • English Subtitles X
Within the ambiguous safety of a service station, a concerned father and his scared daughter take refuge. Rachel lives with bipolar disorder and the invisibility of her condition has become all too real for herself and her father.

KOWALSKY
Émile V. Schlesser
LUXEMBOURG • Luxembourgish, German, English • 2022 • 14 minutes
Closed Captions X • Audio Description X • English Subtitles ✔
Once a wealthy family, the Kowalsky’s fortune is gradually falling apart. When the only son comes begging his widowed mother for help, an ugly row escalates between the two that forces them to bitter choices and cruel deeds. A dark satirical tale about the vicious masquerade between a mother and her son.

SHE DREAMS AT SUNRISE
Camrus Johnson
USA • English • 2021 • 11 minutes
Closed Captions X • Audio Description X • English Subtitles X
In this heartwarming animated film, an elderly woman escapes her mundane reality through her dreams while her great-nephew helps reconnect her to what she’s really missing.
SHORTS PROGRAM 11  95 minutes  CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

**FINAL DEATHTINATION**

Marika Tamura  
USA • English • 2021 • 2 minutes  
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x

A suicidal man encounters Death who tries to help him find the best place in the world to die.

**SALES PER HOUR**

Michelle Uranowitz, Daniel Jaffe  
USA • English • 2019 • 7 minutes  
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x

A young woman faces a moral dilemma when she witnesses a sexual encounter in a dressing room at the clothing store where she works.

**A WORK OF ART**

Kristoffer Polaha  
USA • English • 2021 • 17 minutes  
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x

While her uncle works on his greatest masterpiece, a young girl battles depression—both unaware their unlikely family of two is running out of time.

**INHERITANCE**

Annalise Lockhart  
USA • English • 2020 • 13 minutes  
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x

A Black family in rural Vermont attempts to live a life of solitude and cope with the ghosts living on their property.

**THE DOGFRIEND**

Fredgy Noël  
USA • English • 2021 • 13 minutes  
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x

Struck by the supreme loneliness of her circumstances, a young woman wishes for her dog to become her boyfriend and is then forced to endure a myriad of consequences when her wish comes true.

**THE WAKE**

Luis Gerard  
PUERTO RICO, CANADA • English • 2022 • 23 minutes  
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x

A restless 15-year-old has spent his life surrounded by death, raised in his parents’ funeral business in a small town. Viewing his alcoholic father as profiting from the dead, our hero does him one better leading to some unexpected consequences.

**MISS ALMA THOMAS: A LIFE IN COLOR**

Cheri Gaulke  
USA • English • 2021 • 20 minutes  
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x

Alma W. Thomas lived a life of firsts: the first Fine Arts graduate of Howard University (1924), the first Black woman to mount a retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art (1972), and the first Black woman to have her paintings exhibited in the White House (2009). Yet she did not receive national attention until she was 80. This documentary explores Thomas’ incredible life through the lens of curators, art specialists, scholars, her family, and award-winning actress Alfre Woodard as the voice of Miss Thomas. Released in conjunction with a major four-city museum retrospective, thousands will have the opportunity to learn about her life, work, and continuing influence.
DEATH AND THE LADY
Geoff Bailey, Lucy Struever
USA • French • 2021 • 8 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
On a dark and stormy night, Death pays a visit to a very old lady and her dog.

PEEPS
Sophie Somerville
AUSTRALIA • English • 2019 • 18 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Peek into the inner world of a turbulent teenage friendship group on their after-school shopping trip.

THE INVENTOR
Philip Musey
USA • English • 2021 • 15 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
In July 1916, Garrett Morgan and his brother Frank risked their lives to save miners trapped in an underground inferno using an invention of Morgan’s own making. But the morning newspapers left their heroic efforts out of the story entirely.

NEURODIVERGENT
Afton Quast Saler
USA • English • 2021 • 25 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
When a 35-year-old film student is diagnosed with ADHD, she turns the camera on herself.

LEAVE TO REMAIN
Remy Bazerque
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2021 • 10 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Things get wild at the visa and immigration services when Karim, a young Iranian father living in the United Kingdom, is mistakenly threatened with deportation.

MAKE IT EASY
Ellie Gravitte
USA • English • 2019 • 20 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A chance encounter between a young musician (Alexis Floyd, of Inventing Anna) and a street busker leads to an enchanted journey of song and self-discovery one midnight in New York City.
Myrtle has gone off the rails today, spouting all types of nonsense about her past. None of it can be true, right? RIGHT!}

Our story follows Linda, an up-and-coming actress who steps into a key role on the hit TV show: *Silly Human.* We soon find out the production is run by an artificial intelligence who demands perfection, and if a cast member does not meet this requirement there will be consequences.

Desperate to find the perfect new employee during a job interview, a weary office manager discovers that his new recruit is not what he seems.

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Desperate to find the perfect new employee during a job interview, a weary office manager discovers that his new recruit is not what he seems.

After suffering a trauma, a girl plots her revenge in this slick Brazilian thriller.

A bickering couple gets lost on a dead-end road when they stumble into a horrifying time loop that will change their lives forever.

A scoring assistant working on a horror feature film finds her debilitating perfectionism has manifested as the film’s malevolent spirit who will not let her live past the night unless she delivers a perfect score.

Food delivery driver, Charlie, uses his job to fuel his uncommon hobby. But his next delivery might not go as planned.
AFTER HOURS SHORTS 2 98 minutes ✔ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

ALLEN THEATRE
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 9:50 PM

**SPRITE FRIGHT**
Matthew Luhn, Hjalti Hjalmarsson
NETHERLANDS • English • 2021 • 10 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
When a group of rowdy teenagers trek into an isolated forest, they discover peaceful mushroom creatures that turn out to be an unexpected force of nature.

**BLACK BOX**
Nicole Sofia
CANADA • English • 2021 • 12 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A wife tries to rekindle her dying marriage with her husband when she learns a life-changing secret.

**BRUTALIA, DAYS OF LABOR**
Manolis Mavris
GREECE, BELGIUM • Greek • 2021 • 25 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✔
Anna observes the universe of her human hive. Not being able to consent to the violence that surrounds her, she will have to make a radical decision.

**BREW STORY**
Jake Barcus
USA • English • 2021 • 5 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
Desperate to stay awake, one man goes to great lengths to get a cup of coffee.

**HAUNTING THE HAUNTED**
John Gigrich
USA • English • 2019 • 6 minutes
Closed Captions ✔ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
The crew of a haunted house tries to find a teenaged trouble-making ghost, even though they’re not sure if she’ll talk their ears off or rip off their limbs.

**BLUE BISON**
Camrus Johnson, Stefano Pennisi
USA • English • 2020 • 20 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A group of vigilantes abduct wrongdoers and coerce them into confessions, forcing them back on the straight and narrow. Tonight their attempt at justice has taken an unexpected turn.

**WHY DON’T YOU LIKE ME?**
Ira (Irina) Storozhenko
USA • English • 2022 • 20 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A rideshare driver’s five-star rating starts to suddenly go down.
**THE COCKTAIL PARTY**  
Jessica Sanders  
USA • English • 2021 • 4 minutes  
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles  
A young waitress unexpectedly turns a cocktail party into a martial arts action film about empowerment.

**KOWALSKY**  
Émile V. Schlesser  
LUXEMBOURG • Luxembourgish, German, English • 2022 • 14 minutes  
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles  
Once a wealthy family, the Kowalsky’s fortune is gradually falling apart. When the only son comes begging his widowed mother for help, an ugly row escalates between the two that forces them to bitter choices and cruel deeds. A dark satirical tale about the vicious masquerade between a mother and her son.

**CHEMISTRY**  
Isaac Garza  
USA • English • 2021 • 11 minutes  
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles  
Based on a true little incident, this film details an intimate night gone wrong.

**THREE MEETINGS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COMMITTEE**  
Jones  
UNITED KINGDOM • Bulgarian • 2021 • 18 minutes  
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles  
When the citizens of the small farming village of Dobre vote for a mythical creature, democracy comes face to face with reality.

**NUMB**  
Natasha Jatania  
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2020 • 11 minutes  
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles  
A father and son take the time to spread the ashes of the mother. After the unemotional experience they begin to talk about spontaneity and the father’s missed opportunities. Thus begins their shared journey.

**REVERSAL OF FORTUNE**  
Mark Kunerth  
USA • English • 2020 • 21 minutes  
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles  
While many people are aware of the world of professional competitive eating, this short film mockumentary, narrated by Minnie Driver, follows the journey of three of America’s up-and-coming amateur competitive eaters, eager to break into the big leagues and join the ranks of gastro-gorging gods.

**WRITTEN BY**  
Callie Bloem, Christopher Ewing  
USA • English • 2021 • 15 minutes  
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles  
Kenzie, a 20-something Angeleno, discovers during a totally boring and routine general checkup that she is fictional. And, even worse, that she was written by a dude.
LEAVE TO REMAIN
Remy Bazerque
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2021 • 10 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Things get wild at the visa and immigration services when Karim, a young Iranian father living in the United Kingdom, is mistakenly threatened with deportation.

MELONS
Matt MacDonald
USA • English • 2021 • 15 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A jolly grocery store manager learns to stand up for himself after a misunderstanding brands him as public enemy #1.

SQUIRREL WARS
Jill Morley
USA • English • 2021 • 8 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A New York artist’s obsession makes her the leader of a squirrel war on Facebook. The pressure cooker of quarantining mixed with the polarization of politics intensifies the ire of squirrel lovers everywhere.

TELL-TALE WANK
James Everett
UNITED KINGDOM, USA • English • 2022 • 23 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
An overly honest man must help his wife hide a dead body from the government inspector that can make their dream of adopting a baby come true.

SNOW GLOBE & THE CAT
Rick Page
USA • English • 2021 • 10 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
’Twas the day after Christmas, when all through the house, ex-wife Lydia returns to get her revenge on Frank. Poor bastard.

THE DOGFRIEND
Fredgy Noël
USA • English • 2021 • 13 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Struck by the supreme loneliness of her circumstances, a young woman wishes for her dog to become her boyfriend and is then forced to endure a myriad of consequences when her wish comes true.

THE TREATMENT
(El tratamiento)
Álvaro Carmona
SPAIN • Spanish • 2019 • 9 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A clinic offers what you’ve always wanted… as long as you’re okay with one controversial side effect.
SHIFT
Cam Swartz
USA • English • 2021 • 6 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x
When a simple boulder’s peaceful existence is interrupted by the presence of a rowdy bird, he finds himself forced to make a choice between his own stability and the lives of others.

OUR FUTURE OUR FIGHT
Beth Murphy
USA • English • 2021 • 22 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x
Jonah Gottlieb, a Bay Area teen moved to action because of wildfires raging in his backyard, investigates the connection between climate change and fire and how the Indigenous practice of cultural burns can offer solutions.

HANAMI
Lisa Maeda
USA • English • 2020 • 4 minutes
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x
A young girl trapped within Japanese-American internment finds solace in painting flowers. Her colorful creations come to life and light up her world for a fleeting moment.

SEEDLING
Brooke Purdy
USA • English • 2021 • 14 minutes
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x
When the seeds you plant grow into more than you imagined.

TOP OF THE SHELF
Kevin Leal
USA • English • 2021 • 7 minutes
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x
After a lifetime of putting away books, an old librarian must face the challenge of placing the very last book at the top of a 10,000-foot tall shelf.

SPROUT
Nayt Cochran
USA • English • 2021 • 6 minutes
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x
A kind-hearted gardener nurtures a botanical child’s individuality when a prize-winning plant causes self-doubt.

REHAK
Pierre B
UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE • English • 2020 • 7 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x
A young girl in her age of innocence discovers a magical drawing hidden behind her bedroom wall.

SUPERWORM
Jac Hamman, Sarah Scrimgeour
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2021 • 25 minutes
Closed Captions x • Audio Description x • English Subtitles x
Superworm is super-long and super-strong and is always saving the day. But who can save him when he gets too full of himself and is captured by the evil Wizard Lizard?
BLACK SLIDE
Uri Lotan
ISRAEL, UNITED KINGDOM • Hebrew • 2021 • 11 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Eviah, a young and timid boy on the brink of puberty, and his best friend sneak into the Black Slide—the most terrifying ride in Aqua Fun. There Eviah will gain insight to prepare him for events about to unfold at home.

THE NIGHT I LEFT AMERICA
Laki Karavias
USA • English • 2021 • 14 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
While anxiously awaiting the results of his mother’s visa renewal request, a teenage boy living in Texas is confronted with buried memories he left behind in Uganda.

NOT TOO LATE
Thiago Maia
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2019 • 2 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
This film looks at the impacts humanity is having on the animal kingdom in the hopes of inspiring change.

SMILE PLEASE
Bakul Matiyani
INDIA • Hindi • 2021 • 21 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
The story of young Ali, who is afflicted by Moebius Syndrome. To make matters worse his condition is yet undiagnosed. As Ali and his family prepare to leave their small town home, Ali worries about acceptance in the new unknown city and the sorrow of having to leave behind his best friend, Rajan. As the two friends make plans to enable them to stay in touch, for the first time in his life Ali must ask something of his father.

NOUSOURS
Lou Rigoudy
CANADA • French • 2021 • 3 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A baby girl stumbles across a box. In it, she discovers a new friend, a teddy bear. Like a dream, we are transported through moments in their relationship, flashes in time, as the girl begins to run, play, and learn about the world. But as she grows older, the time comes to pack away childish things for good.

MUM IS POURING RAIN
(Maman pleut des cordes)
Hugo de Faucompret
FRANCE • French • 2021 • 29 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Jane is looking forward to spending Christmas with her mom, but she is sent unknowingly to her grandma’s instead. The holidays turn out to be quite an adventure as Jane meets new friends: Cloclo, the gigantic hobo who lives in the forest, and Sonia and Leon, two local kids. As she learns to open herself to others, Jane will inspire her mother with the necessary strength to get back on her feet.

EGER, 1552
Attila Szász
HUNGARY • Hungarian • 2021 • 17 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Two sixth graders lose their way on a school trip and find themselves in the middle of the siege of Eger in 1552, on the exact day the Turks unleash their final attack on the iconic Hungarian castle.
HUMANATEE
Sea Jin Park
USA, SOUTH KOREA • English • 2021 • 3 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Created to draw awareness to the danger posed to manatees by boaters, especially in Florida. This is a bittersweet animated film in which jellyfish attempt to create an illuminating barrier between manatees and the boats that threaten them.

FETCH
Sam Gill
NEW ZEALAND • English • 2021 • 18 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Even in space, a dog remains man’s best friend.

THE SCHOOL BY THE SEA
(Skolen ved havet)
Solveig Melkeraaen
NORWAY • Norwegian • 2021 • 29 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A depiction of centralization, as seen through the eyes of children, that documents a group of first graders whose school will be closing soon, forcing them to move to a larger school.

MONKEY DOMINO
(Affendomino)
Ulf Grenzer
GERMANY • German • 2021 • 4 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
An ape at the zoo is reminiscing about his life in the jungle. The encounter with a manager and his daughter changes his cage life forever.

ELSA
Albert Carbó
SPAIN • Catalan • 2021 • 12 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Six-year-old Elsa just wants to live happy and free as the queen of the kingdom.

MEOW OR NEVER
Neeraja Raj
UNITED KINGDOM • English • 2020 • 10 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
In a madcap musical, a catstronaut travels the galaxy looking for the meaning of life when she encounters a space pup eager to help—but only gets them into trouble at every turn!

FATHER, SON, AND THE BEACH
Chieh-Huei HSU
TAIWAN • Mandarin Chinese • 2020 • 19 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A boy has helped his father all summer long with only one request. Will his father deliver?
WE ARE HERE
Doménica Castro, Constanza Castro
USA • English • 2021 • 9 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Accompanied by animation and music, this audio-visual portrait shows what it’s like to walk this land in the shoes of an immigrant under 30. It’s a moment of reflection that reminds us of the people who immigrated to this country when they were children. Perhaps we can see them beyond their status after this experience.

CHANGE THE NAME
Cai Thomas
USA • English • 2021 • 19 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
An intimate portrayal of Black youth organizing on the west side of Chicago, this documentary follows a group of fifth graders from Village Leadership Academy as they embark on a campaign to rename Stephen A. Douglas Park after freedom fighters Anna Murray and Frederick Douglass. Over the course of the three-year grassroots campaign the students tackle bureaucratic Chicago Park District systems, underestimations of their capacity to make real change, as well as a Covid-19 pandemic and global uprising.

NEITHER HERE NOR THERE
Franco Machado-Pesce
USA • Spanish • 2021 • 12 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
After getting beat up by the local racist bullies, Nacho only feels hate in his heart. However, when he finds a mysterious creature hiding within a magical bus, he learns that hate is caused by fear, and on the other side of fear is forgiveness.

PASSAGE
David M. Massey
USA • English • 2021 • 17 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
In 1600, Gamba, leader of a West African Village, faces a new challenge that could endanger his family and village.

HEADNOISE
Rafael Jimenez, Alejandro Álvarez
USA • English • 2020 • 9 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Friends Rashaun and Damon are talented basketball players from the same inner-city neighborhood. Both are NBA hopefuls, but Rashaun is the more coveted pick among college recruitment scouts. However, Rashaun’s passion isn’t basketball, and he instead desires to be a sculptor. Although Rashaun’s journey to follow his passion is plagued with racial inequity challenges, he is determined to not be defeated by his internal head noise.

STORIES WITHIN
PJ Raval
USA • English • 2021 • 10 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Featuring a diverse collection of stories from the Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) experience, this film delves into a diverse cross section of 14 individuals from the AAPI community in Austin, Texas. Each participant is given the opportunity to speak to their younger selves about the acts of racism and discrimination they’ll face and messages of empowerment to bring with them to the present, shattering the notion that Asian Americans have homogenous experiences and backgrounds.

SHUT UP AND PAINT
Titus Kaphar, Alex Mallis
USA • English • 2022 • 20 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
African-American painter Titus Kaphar looks to film as a medium in the face of an insatiable art market seeking to silence his activism.
LOCAL HEROES SHORTS 1  94 minutes  ✔ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

FREE
Conrad Miles
USA • English • 2021 • 3 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A young woman navigates a world where everything is paid for by credits.

KASAMA
Nick Cavalier
USA • English • 2021 • 17 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A documentary portrait of husband and wife culinary duo, Genie Kwon, and Tim Flores, as they open their first Chicago restaurant, Kasama, during the Covid-19 pandemic.

MURDERER
Eli Manos
USA • English • 2021 • 9 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A crazed man wants to turn his house plants into salads. The house plants have other ideas.

100TH AND CEDAR
Carl Kriss
USA • English • 2022 • 24 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
The story of a Cleveland community health worker who overcame addiction and now gives back to the community that saved her.

AMERICAN DINNER
Dale Omori
USA • English • 2021 • 6 minutes
Closed Captions ✔ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A Japanese-American realizes the connectivity of food to other cultures but especially to our past.

IN THE EVENT OF MY DEATH
Brian Scott Steele
USA • English • 2019 • 20 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
Jeremy. Just. DIED. So, in the event of his death, he leaves behind a series of clever clues and witty video messages for his best friend and bandmate Sam, and his brash sister Mandy, which sends them on an adventure through their shared past. They get to experience one last day with Jeremy after he’s gone, and in the end are compelled to mourn the best way they know how.

THE BIG COMEBACK: THE CHOIR OF MAN AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE
Geoff Yaw, Bob Ruggieri
USA • English • 2021 • 15 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
This film examines the business, personal, and artistic challenges faced and overcome by the performing arts community due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In June 2021, Playhouse Square welcomed audiences to the first live performance on its stages in 15 months. After the cancellation of 1,100 performances, the performing arts center triumphantly reopened with The Choir of Man, the first international tour to perform in the United States since the start of the pandemic.
AMERICAN HEARTBREAK
Dale Omori, Harlan Spector
USA • English • 2021 • 15 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Professor Glenn Frank saved hundreds of lives in the aftermath of the Kent State University shootings in 1970 but paid the price when his country broke his heart.

RUE
Andrew E. Rudd
USA • English • 2019 • 13 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
22 improv actors perform a character based on regrets submitted by anonymous confessions. All of them are vying for a promotional opportunity for a new time travel company. Three contestants are chosen and sent back to the moments of their regrets.

PROJECT TURTLE
Jaren Leiken
USA • English • 2021 • 23 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A student documentary about homelessness by 17-year-old Jaren Leiken (a high school senior in Cleveland, Ohio) that asks three questions: what is homelessness; what are people and organizations doing to prevent and cure homelessness; and how can young people help? With insight provided by thinkers, innovators, and a U.S. Senator, Project Turtle shines a spotlight on one of the worst humanitarian crises of our times, while arguing that all of us—including young people—can bring an end to homelessness in America if we work together.

MAN IN THE BOX
Brian Lachowski
USA • English • 2020 • 5 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
The story of an aspiring mime who struggles to entertain people in a world where everybody hates mimes.

CHOICE
Arman Taheri
USA • English • 2021 • 4 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A flat tire makes a couple begin to question their journey. What choice will they make?

SNOW GLOBE & THE CAT
Rick Page
USA • English • 2021 • 10 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
‘Twas the day after Christmas, when all through the house, ex-wife Lydia returns to get her revenge on Frank. Poor bastard.

RUNNING HOME—THE RUN4WATER STORY
Scott Leighton
USA • English • 2021 • 26 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Over the course of 11 days, clean water activist and adventurer Katie Spotz (best known for breaking a world record as the youngest person to complete a solo row across the Atlantic Ocean) ran 341 miles across the state of Ohio, breaking yet another incredible world record—the most ultramarathons run consecutively by a female. Spotz’s inspirational journey was followed by thousands, hooked by the idea of an ordinary woman doing extraordinary things. This documentary intimately and unflinchingly captures Katie’s journey, challenging viewers to embark on their own version of extraordinary.
KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 2:30 PM

DAWN
Timon Birkhofer
USA, GERMANY • English • 2021 • 5 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Five unique individuals take us on a journey where their achievements shine beyond preconceived ideas of what is possible.

YOU ARE ART
Shiori Ito
JAPAN • Japanese • 2021 • 11 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Hiroe Ohashi, deaf since birth, is an actor and dancer who initially faced discrimination by “normal” people who could hear. Through an examination of Ohashi’s experience and struggles in becoming an expressive artist, we are able to reconsider the definition of “normal.”

OUT OF THE DARK: RAVEN
Sarah Klein, Tom Mason
USA • English • 2021 • 9 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Olympic shot putter Raven Saunders shares her childhood trauma, the intensity of her 2016 Olympic experience, and the pitfalls of celebrity that challenged her mental health.

STAIRS
Zoljargal Purevdash
MONGOLIA • Mongolian • 2019 • 12 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A young man’s dream to make a living in Ulaanbaatar is put to the test when he must navigate the social and physical obstacles in his path.

SUNSHINE
Martha Goddard
AUSTRALIA • English • 2021 • 9 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
A distraught woman has a chance encounter at a cafe that changes her life.

CHEN CHEN
Kargo Chen
HONG KONG • Chinese • 2020 • 22 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
Caring for his home-ridden brother, who has cerebral palsy, Chen discovers his brother has certain desires that are not being addressed and decides to take him out for the day to get some real world experience.

NEURODIVERGENT
Afton Quast Saler
USA • English • 2021 • 25 minutes
Closed Captions • Audio Description • English Subtitles
When a 35-year-old film student is diagnosed with ADHD, she turns the camera on herself.
QUEER CINEMA SHORTS 94 minutes ✔ CIFF46 STREAMS (April 10–April 17, 2022)

AIMEE VICTORIA
Chryystee Pharris
USA • English, ASL • 2020 • 10 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
Two profoundly deaf women of color find their relationship being challenged during a period of unprecedented turmoil.

COMING OUT WITH THE HELP OF A TIME MACHINE
Naman Gupta
USA • English • 2021 • 20 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
When coming out to his traditional Indian parents, Sid uses his time machine to reset the day trying to make sure everything goes perfect.

PINK & BLUE
Carmen LoBue
USA • English • 2021 • 13 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
After a surprise first-time pregnancy, a trans couple of color wrestles with how the new baby will affect their relationship and how to raise a child in a binary world.

UNITY MOSQUE
Nicole Teeny
USA, CANADA • English • 2020 • 7 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
After having to hide their relationship while making the Hajj, El-Farouk—a gay Imam—and his husband Troy co-founded Unity Mosque in Toronto, one of the world’s first queer-affirming and gender-equal mosques. Though the mosque receives death threats, it forges on, playing a life-saving role in the lives of its members.

STATIC SPACE
John Klein, Kate Black-Spence
USA • English • 2021 • 28 minutes
Closed Captions ✓ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
Jamie is a young woman living in rural Indiana struggling to figure out her place and identity. When she inadvertently stumbles across a frequency on her ham radio and makes contact with astronaut Noa currently orbiting Earth, the two women are presented with the opportunity to find meaningful connection, even while worlds apart.

THE TAILOR
Nathalie Therriault
CANADA • English • 2020 • 16 minutes
Closed Captions ✗ • Audio Description ✗ • English Subtitles ✗
A gender non-conforming person struggling to assert their identity unexpectedly finds courage in an aging master tailor.
SCHEDULE
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>WESTFIELD STUDIO THEATRE</th>
<th>ALLEN THEATRE</th>
<th>UPPER ALLEN</th>
<th>MIMI OHIO THEATRE</th>
<th>KEYBANK STATE THEATRE</th>
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<td>12:15 PM Saloum p.29</td>
<td>Shorts Program 1 p.75</td>
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<td>11:45 AM The King of Laughter p.13</td>
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Thursday, April 7

Cleveland Film Festival 2022
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### Saturday, April 9

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