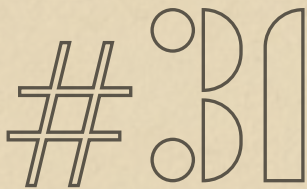


ARIZONA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



APRIL 19 - 30, 2023

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CASA VIDEO ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY
FROM THE ARIZONA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**



CASA VIDEO AND FILM BAR EST. 1983

With tens of thousands of movies to rent and over 300 beers to choose from, Casa has been Tucson's home for film and entertainment since 1983.



2905 E Speedway Blvd.



WELCOME AND BIENVENIDOS TO EVERYONE



Welcome to the 31st Annual Arizona International Film Festival. If you are one of the more than 50 filmmakers visiting us from the United States or around the world, we are happy to have you here in the Old Pueblo. If you are a Tucson movie lover looking for great films, you are in the right place!

I am honored to serve as this year's Honorary Chair of the festival. As a strong supporter of independent films, I look forward to the many unique stories available this year. I would like to commend the Festival for providing a platform for independent thought and ideas. "Extraordinary films not seen on ordinary screens" is the mantra this festival has taken, and this year is no exception.

The staff, volunteers and directors of the Arizona International Film Festival have done it again with almost 100 films, more than 20 countries participating and over 50 filmmakers attending. Choose your selection of animations, documentaries, short and feature films, especially the many films with strong Native American representation, and great parties, all within several screening locations in our beautiful city of Tucson.

Get your tickets and popcorn, and enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regina Romero".

Regina Romero,
Mayor of Tucson

Reverence



Wendi Schneider & Laurie Lambrecht
April 18 - June 10, 2023

ETHERTON GALLERY

Arizona International Film Festival **Public Parking**

Find garages & lots within walking distance to performance venues, dining and more!

DOWNTOWN



MERCADO DISTRICT



LEGEND

- Park Tucson GARAGE with Entrance point
- Park Tucson SURFACE LOT with Entrance point
- Public Parking Facility with Entrance point
- Arizona International Film Festival Performance Venue
- Access Route
- Sun Link Streetcar Stops
- Road Closure for construction

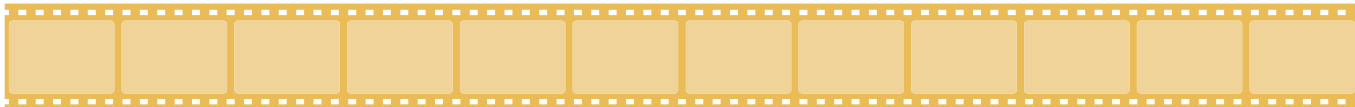


- Centro Garage**, 345 E. Congress St.
- Depot Plaza Garage**, 45 N. 5th Ave.
- Pennington Street Garage**, 110 E. Pennington St.

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MAIN GATE SQUARE



7:30pm | OPENING NIGHT FILM



 **The Warm Season**

Janet Grillo, USA, 2023, 100 min.

As a young girl, Clive (Carie Kawa) encountered Mann (Michael Esparza), an alien in human disguise, who gave her a glowing rock before being captured by government agents. 25 years later in 1992, an escaped Mann returns to Clive's failing motel to retrieve the "fail-safe" in order to return to his planet. Between the weather patterns and the government closing in, they only have three days to get him home.

“ This might sound odd, but I never thought of the story as having a “sci-fi” lens. Instead, they were the circumstances for the character. She had met an extraterrestrial. He returned. I took them as real and explored them as such.”

—JANET GRILLO, DIRECTOR OF *THE WARM SEASON*





© 2002 Shelley Niro: The Essential Sensuality of Ceremony: Sense of Smell, Sound, Touch, Sight, & Taste

SHELLEY NIRO

FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Artist's Reception: April 22nd, 7-10 pm | Exhibition: April 18 - June 3, 2023

Andrew Smith Gallery Arizona

330 S. Convent Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701 | andrewsmithgallery.com | 505.984.1234





6pm

The Nature of Healing

Faith Howe, Canada, 2022, 81 min

The Nature of Healing is the frank and raw spoken truth of seven courageous people who survived the Mohawk Institute. Located in Brantford, Ontario, the Mohawk Institute was Canada's first and longest-running "Indian Residential School," operated by the Canadian Government and the Anglican Church, housing approximately 15,000 Indigenous children for 140 years. The tracking, luring, and kidnapping of children spanned more than 60 communities and four provinces. From victims to survivors to activists, the documentary is a story of resistance, resilience and healing told personally and for all the thousands of children who never could.

8pm GLOBAL SHORTS 1

Balnéum

Hugo Lacasse and Michel Patry, Canada, 2022, 18 min

A grown-up daughter is determined to awaken her father's memories buried deep within his rambling memory.



I Think I Like it Here

Charlie Tyrell, Canada, 2023, 10 min

Fresh off a breakup, a woman packs up her formerly shared apartment. As objects are packed, she's triggered by memories from her nine-year relationship.

Panic Attack

Anthony Assad, Ireland, 2023, 13 min

Alex is in the throes of his transition from female to male. When his best friend abandons him he's forced to confront his anxieties alone.

Safe as Houses

Mia Mullarkey, Ireland, 2022, 16 min

On a hot summer's day, Aggie, a woman with Down Syndrome, offers shelter to a young girl when her home is not so welcoming.

Six Feet of Separation

Toni Nordli, Norway, 2022, 18 min

March 2020. Dina and Noah can't see each other anymore. How long is the separation going to last and will their relationship survive it?

The Midwife

Anne-Sophie Bailly, France, 2022, 29 min

In French with English subtitles

Else, an herbalist and a midwife, and Nicole, her young apprentice, are disturbed during their daily practice. A stranger riding a horse demands that all the women of the village gather in its small church.



3pm Panels

Attend a FREE panel discussion

Panel Discussions will stream live on Zoom and the AzIFF Facebook page at [facebook.com/azfilmfest](https://www.facebook.com/azfilmfest) at 3pm (Arizona time) on

Friday, April 21

Saturday, April 22

Wednesday, April 26

Thursday, April 27

Friday, April 28

Saturday, April 29

Find the schedule, descriptions and links on our website:

[filmfestivalarizona.com](https://www.filmfestivalarizona.com) under Panels.

5pm

The Incredible 25th Year of Mitzi Bearclaw

Shelley Niro, Canada, 2021, 96 min

As Mitzi Bearclaw turns 25, she faces a tough choice -- stay in the big city to chase her dream, or leave her boyfriend and return to her isolated reserve to help care for her sick, embittered mother. Mitzi reluctantly returns to Owl Island to find that not much has changed. Her confidence and modern style clash with the sleepy, slow-paced island; the bullies are the same; the handsome Honeyboy is still running the water taxi; and Mitzi's mother Annabelle is as unloving as ever. As she navigates a year of anger, loss, and love, Mitzi starts to question her destiny.

Sponsored by the Andrew Smith Gallery Arizona

8pm

The Year of the Dog

Michael Peterson, Andrew McGinn and Robert Grabow, USA, 2023, 97 min

Matt, a loner alcoholic at rock bottom, struggles to maintain sobriety for 30 days so he can honor his mother's dying wish, to visit her in hospice, sober. His book-thumping AA sponsor, Fred, offers him refuge at his farm, where Matt finds Yup'ik, a stray Husky with a unique talent. The man and dog relationship is precarious at first, but with the help of a close-knit Montana community, the two strays find a connection and discover what it takes to pull through to the finish.



This symbol denotes a new film by a Festival alum.



10pm DRAMATIC SHORTS 1

Birdhouse

Jesca Prudencio, USA, 2023, 10 min

A curious young boy and his family arrive at an Airbnb filled with birdhouses that are both whimsical...and haunting.

Cardiac Hill

John Canfield, USA, 2023, 20 min

A girl in high school receives a heart transplant, and she starts to take on the darkest qualities of her donor.



Instant Noodle

Michelle Sastraatmadja, USA, 2023, 14 min

When her Caucasian dad tells her that he would like to have the traditional Indonesian instant noodle for his birthday, Marianna is forced to go on a last-minute grocery run.

Keel

Margaret Seid, USA, 2023, 11 min

Set in the summer of 1977, an impressionable young woman navigates life and love.



Search & Destroy

Alexander M Rosales, USA, 2022, 15 min

Rafael and his neighborhood friends are on the run after pranking the high school baseball team. This means they have to ditch their plans for their 7th annual "first day of summer swim".

Wannabe

Josie Andrews, USA, 2022, 14 min

On the verge of their big break, a girl group will stop at nothing to push themselves to stardom. But the promise of the future shifts to a nightmare when their lead singer freezes mid-audition.



12pm SHORT DOCS

A Boat for My Brother

Matthew Boyd, USA, 2023, 14 min

After the tragic death of his little brother, Johnnie Oberg sets out to put on a Viking funeral in his honor.

Bright Morning Stars: The Johnsons of Hemphill

Ethan Payne, USA, 2021, 17 min

Mabel and Gwen Johnson are pillars of their post-coal community in Eastern Kentucky. Faced with unspeakable obstacles, they started a community center and a bakery.

Language Keepers

Ajuawak Kapashesit, USA, 2023, 11 min

Using modern technologies like film and video games, social media, and radio, three Ojibwe residents of Minnesota work to revitalize their language.

Swap Film.Co: Behind the Shutter

Naomi Garcia Pasmanick, USA, 2022, 9 min

Emmanuel Blackwell III opened a small film processing company that also created a tightly knit community of San Francisco photographers.

The Alchemy of David

Nicholas Woytuk, USA, 2023, 14 min

David Michael Kennedy's photography is more than art — it's alchemy.

Unc

Faith Frankenfield, USA, 2022, 15 min

Aaron Campbell, known as Unc, navigates the trauma caused by gun violence and gang retaliation to youth of color in West Philadelphia.

2pm

Imagining the Indian: The Fight Against Native American Mascoting

Aviva Kempner and Ben West, USA, 2022, 95 min

A comprehensive examination of the movement to eradicate the words, images, and gestures that many Native Americans and their allies find demeaning and offensive. The film takes a deep dive into the issues through archival footage and interviews with those involved in the fight. The psychological research is clear: the use of Native American mascots is detrimental, not only to Native people, but to marginalized groups everywhere.

"We respectfully acknowledge the Arizona International Film Festival takes place on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui."



4pm

Small Fry

Joongha Park, South Korea, 2023, 95 min

In Korean with English subtitles
Ho-joon, an unknown actor nearing his 40s, runs a fishing YouTube channel. The day after his failed audition, he goes to a pay-to-fish lake to shoot one of his YouTube videos. There, he bumps into Director Nam and Actress Hee-jin, who has already been cast in the film he auditioned for. Three "small fries" wandering around the lake.

6pm

Bella

Bridget Murnane, USA, 2022, 98 min

Bella is about the life, influence and impact of California-based artist and activist Bella Lewitzky. Bella was a talented, strong, outspoken individual, who dedicated her creative life to protect the rights of every American. Designated one of America's irreplaceable dance treasures by the Dance Heritage Coalition and awarded the National Medal of Arts, Lewitzky's life demonstrates how a "uniquely Californian" artist with vision and tenacity can change the lives of her fellow citizens.

8pm

The Beehive

Alexander Lasheras, Canada, 2023, 87 min

In this dramatic science-fiction tale, a family living on a farm experiences a strange and mysterious cosmic event. The brave and curious Rosemary finds what she thinks is an unusual beehive growing on a tree branch and decides to keep track of its progress every day, only to discover that it's not a beehive after all. The story showcases up and coming Indigenous talent and Canada's beautiful scenery.



SCREENING SITES

THE SCREENING ROOM

127 E Congress St
on the Streetcar Line (free),
Congress/6th Ave stop

Parking

Pennington Garage, 110 E Pennington

MERCADO ANNEX

267 South Avenida del Convento
Streetcar Line (free)
Cushing/Convento stop

Free parking in Mercado parking lot

MAIN GATE PLAZA

905 East University Boulevard
Streetcar Line (free)
University/Tyndall stop

Parking

Main Gate Garage, 815 E 2nd St

THE LOFT CINEMA

3233 E Speedway Blvd
Free parking in Loft's parking lot



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over 100 years ago.

INSIDE

Inside the hotel, you're invited to revel in the high ceilinged luxury rooms; featuring Arizona clay walls, in-room wine refrigerators and locally curated snacks, bath suites with individual soaking tubs, cedar lined closets and spa robes, and stay for a drink in our intimate lobby bar.

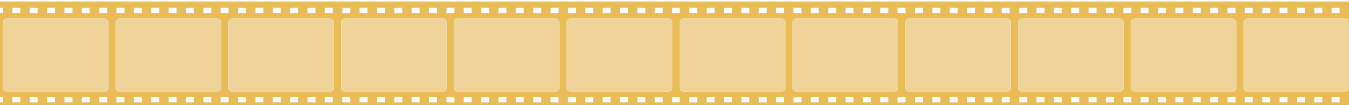
BEST

The Citizen Tucson provides a generous taste of the best that Arizona has to offer.

LOCAL

Our lobby bar offers regionally inspired cocktails and wines crafted with care and attention. Terroir - the taste of place - shines through our wines, cocktails, and local beers. Our cocktail program features regional spirits, ethically-sourced & house-made ingredients, and even wine!





10pm COMEDY SHORTS

A Vegan Love Story

Daniela di Salvo, Canada, 2022, 13 min

Do vegans consider people who do not ascribe to their lifestyle to be evil individuals, who do not deserve love or respect?

Amigos Tontos

Josh Kirk, USA, 2023, 4 min

In 1872 New Mexico Territory, two cowboys entertain themselves with a nightly routine.

Asking for It

Christy Lee Hughes, USA, 2022, 12 min

A victim of a crime quickly becomes the prime suspect.



Endless

Douglas Williams, USA, 2022, 10 min

A newly created startup helps a grieving widow using "companion re-enactment" techniques.

Hey Pinky

Neil West, United Kingdom, 2022, 10 min

Inspired by shared experiences within the film industry, this mockumentary looks back at the catastrophic production of a film director's final project.

Matilda & William

Johanna Ställberg, Sweden, 2021, 6 min

In Swedish with English subtitles.

Matilda takes her father to her boyfriend's parents to talk to them about William wanting anal sex.

Rainfall The Band

Shane Peltzman, USA, 2022, 15 min

An up-and-coming rock band battles nerves, band dynamics and self-sabotage during the fifteen minutes leading up to their biggest show to date.

The Lord's House

Sebastian Hunt, USA, 2023, 13 min

A woman encounters a series of escalating distractions in her efforts to reach God.





1pm

Las Abogadas: Attorneys on the Front Lines of the Migrant Crisis

Victoria Bruce, USA, 2022, 91 min

In English, Spanish & French with English subtitles

Las Abogadas follows a group of immigration attorneys over a multi-year odyssey as the U.S. government under President Trump upends every law meant to protect those fleeing from persecution, violence and war. From setting up a legal clinic in a Volkswagen bus in the middle of 5000 desperate migrants, to forcing border guards to follow the law and accept a blind woman into U.S. custody, to counseling African migrants stuck in Tijuana, to giving legal advice in the brutally hot Mexican sun to families desperate to see American soil — we watch our characters' surreal journeys to try and help.

“ With the rhetoric in Washington increasing to a fever pitch around the subject of refugees coming to the southern border, it was important for me as a documentary film director to bring a humanitarian face to the crisis in a way that would engage audiences in the United States and other developed countries and inspire people to action - to show that one person can make a difference in the lives of others.”

—VICTORIA BRUCE, DIRECTOR OF *LAS ABOGADAS*

PANEL

follows screening

Ground Zero on Immigration:

A conversation on immigration in Arizona

Within the immigration debate, there are people who work on a daily basis to humanize and put a face on the issue. Join the conversation with two of Tucson's very own pro-immigrant attorneys and advocates, Isabel Garcia of *Derechos Humanos* and Margo Cowan of *Justicia Para Todos*. They have been on the forefront of immigration issues on a local and national stage for decades, pushing back against anti-immigrant policies and practices, while assisting individual migrants, asylum and refugee seekers from Central America and the world.



1pm | The Loft Cinema

Space, Hope and Charity

Sandy Cummings, USA, 2023, 78 min

This is the deeply personal story of Charity Woodrum, a University of Arizona PhD candidate who overcame childhood poverty and, later, unfathomable tragedy while pursuing her dream of becoming an astrophysicist. In 2017, Charity was married and had a 3 year old son, had recently finished a NASA internship and was thriving. Then, life as she knew it ended when her husband and son die in a flash. Charity finds her way back from the edge with help from old friends and perfect strangers.



“ I've always been struck by stories of ordinary people overcoming extraordinary circumstances, inspiring audiences to strive to be their best selves. When I heard about Charity's remarkable life story, I was determined to share her story with the world. What resulted is a deeply personal film that explores the very human themes of poverty, family dysfunction, finding purpose after tragedy, and the power of human connection. At a time when the world feels like it's off its axis, Charity's story is one of hope.”

— SANDY CUMMINGS, DIRECTOR OF *SPACE, HOPE AND CHARITY*



PASSES & TICKETS

All Access Festival Passes give you admission to all screenings for \$100.

Saver Passes give you admission to 6 screenings for \$30! Pick up yours on Opening Night, April 19 at Mercado Annex Box Office 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Starting April 20, All Access Passes and Saver Passes are available at The Screening Room.

Buy a ticket for a screening

Find the film you would like to attend on FilmFestivalArizona.com. Click on the gold "Tickets" button to purchase a ticket. When you have finished the transaction, you will receive an email that will serve as your receipt and ticket.

Tickets are also available at their corresponding box office 1 hour before the show.

Arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the screening, we cannot guarantee latecomers a seat.

Main Gate Square screenings are free but it's a ticketed event. Seating is on a first-come basis.



4pm

Solar Wind Alley

Anastasia Lobkovski, Finland, 2022, 76 min

In Finnish with English subtitles

Alice lives with her younger sisters in a rural Finnish village, in the house their mother built before she passed away. Alice has taken the mother's place as the head of the family and wants to protect and shelter them from the world. When a solar storm hits the village, it leaves everyone without electricity and puts the community in crisis.



6pm

(ENCORE SCREENING)

The Warm Season

Janet Grillo, USA, 2023, 100 min

The new indie sci-fi feature film, *The Warm Season*, reveals how a woman's purpose is redefined when the extraterrestrial she encountered as a child returns to reclaim what was left behind.

Follow the Fest | filmfestivalarizona.com



ArizonaInternationalFilmFestival



@AZFilmFest



azfilmfest



7pm SHORT SHORTS

Edinburgh From the Skies

Douglas Vernimmen, United Kingdom, 2021, 4 min

Edinburgh is a city of extraordinary beauty – from whatever angle it is regarded.

Intersections

Hart Ginsburg, USA, 2022, 5 min

A return visit to the infamous Shibuya intersection.

Mystery Hole

Matt Bissett-Johnson, Australia, 2022, 2 min

A creature with a trunk is chased into a hole leading to a mysterious world.

Night Ride from LA

Martin Gerigk, Germany, 2023, 5 min

A love letter to the energy and vibe of the Californian way of life.

Nomad Palindrome

Kai Carlson-Wee, USA, 2022, 2 min

Nomad Palindrome captures a transient lifestyle that moves both forward and backward at once. The poem in the film is a palindrome.

Pour Generation

Patrick Smith, USA, 2022, 4 min

A winsome mutation is shunned by a homogenous tribe of siblings.

Shakespeare for all Ages

Hannes Rall, Germany, 2022, 3 min

Shakespeare's works are timeless. This film proves it.

The Bloom

Jody Xiong, China, 2022, 5 min

Twelve disabled people create a colorful smiley face by detonating paint-filled balloons using the power of their minds.

Up in Smoke

Ernie Berger, USA, 2022, 5 min

A zany character experiences his first day in a new job operating a mobile crematorium. What could go wrong?





6pm

(ENCORE SCREENING)

Space, Hope and Charity

Sandy Cummings, USA, 2023, 78 min

This is the deeply personal story of Charity Woodrum, a University of Arizona PhD candidate who overcame childhood poverty and, later, unfathomable tragedy while pursuing her dream of becoming an astrophysicist.



8pm EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

Almost a Masterpiece

Robert Belinoff, USA, 2022, 10 min

An older film maker swings for the fences with a follow-up film.

Goya Called

Patrick Moser, USA, 2023, 4 min

A phantasmagoric visit from Goya Lucientes to contemporary North Florida.

Interview with Traveler #582

Lisa Steindler and Jon Bernson, USA, 2023, 12 min

Drawing on the power dynamics of a job interview, this film takes aim at this absurd capitalist ritual and its many tropes.

Revelation to the Disembodied

André Silva, USA, 2022, 9 min

Fragments of a collective post-human dream construct a world that straddles hyper-technological, ecological, and mythological dimensions.

Signs of our Times

Lisa Birke, Canada, 2022, 10 min

A seemingly endless parade of empty platitudes and paradoxical life affirmations trouble entitlement and question who determines and owns the American Dream.

The Lines In Between

Georgia Usborne and Julia Discenza, USA, 2023, 11 min

Struggling with writer's block, a woman moves through surreal worlds to discover the ebbs and flows of creativity.

The Plight & Desertion of Arthur Leigh Hazelwood

Edgardo Luis Gonzalez, USA, 2022, 15 min

To the Border! Arthur L. Hazelwood joins the Army to prove himself; however upon seeing combat, he decides to desert and forge his own piece of the world.



6pm

King of Kings: Chasing Edward Jones

Harriet Marin Jones, France, 2022, 98 min

Gangster to some, philanthropist to others, who was the real Edward Jones? In the '30s and '40s, this descendant of slaves becomes one of the richest men in the United States thanks to the Policy business, an illegal numbers game, that ultimately became the modern State Lottery. But in these times of segregation, his success and unfailing support of the African American community became a problem. In conflict with both the mob and the Feds, he is forced into a life on the run.



8pm ARIZONA SHORTS

Choice

Dick Fisher, USA, 2023, 6 min

At the beach during her summer vacation before college, Rebecca faces an impossible choice.

Dear Ancestors

Freddy Jay Walker, USA, 2023, 3 min

A powerful lyrical performance by artist Chezale pays homage to historical women figures.

Prayer Run for the Santa Ritas

Leslie Ann Epperson, USA, 2022, 6 min

Tohono O'odham runner Marlinda Francisco runs to protest the threat of an open-pit copper mine.

Recipient

Gerren Ard, USA, 2023, 15 min

This documentary shadows the process of a living donor offering his kidney to save his friend's life... both are Tucson filmmakers.

Revenge of Dakota:

A restored scene from "The Trail to Yesterday" (1918)

Bart Santello and Edwin Carewe, USA, 2023, 10 min

A scene digitally restored from the last surviving nitrate copy discovered at a film archive in Amsterdam.

Summerhaven: The Series

Stacey Cochran, USA, 2023, 11 min

A strange small town where murder victims get another chance at life... and can communicate with those who killed them.

The Last Wild River

Isaac Dudley, USA, 2022, 12 min

Two companions paddle the entirety of the Verde River in an attempt to capture its beauty, threats and challenges.



5pm

Andrew After Angola

Will LaCalle, USA, 2023, 40 min

This riveting documentary follows a re-entry program created to help former prisoners rebuild their lives in Louisiana and explores the complex background of the program's founder, Andrew Hundley. Andrew is in a unique position to speak to this experience, having spent years in Angola, Louisiana's largest prison, for second-degree murder, a crime he committed at age 15. Observational scenes capture important conversations and moments of drama through the perspective of those who have served decades behind bars. The film allows time to consider the tough questions it raises, namely, whether Andrew and the people he works with deserve a second chance.

“ I have learned so much through the participants in this film about the potential people have to change.”

—WILL LACALLE
DIRECTOR OF ANDREW AFTER ANGOLA



6pm

Motel Drive

Brendan Geraghty, USA, 2023, 62 min

Within a community of motels infamous for illicit activity, the Shaw Family grapples with housing insecurity and addiction while trying to raise their young son. When California's High-Speed Rail Project displaces them, a glimpse of stability appears within reach. A vérité, street level vantage of post-industrial America, documented over eight years, on one city block.

“ At its core, the goal of *Motel Drive* is to shine a light on the lived experiences and basic human needs of this particularly overlooked population – the so-called hidden homeless”

—BRENDAN GERAGHTY
DIRECTOR OF MOTEL DRIVE

7:30pm | Mercado Annex



Healing Dakota

James LaMonte and K9 Dakota, USA, 2023, 82 min

Follow the journey of discovery and healing of Dakota, a brave K-9 who developed PTSD while serving in the military. When Dakota is scheduled to be put down, a chance encounter with a K-9 trainer starts a journey of love and healing.



“ Making this film was an honor, there really are no words to describe the gratitude for the opportunity to make this film. My passion for healing these amazing dogs is what motivated me to get in front and behind the camera. Never give up, for a single moment can change everything.”

—JAMES LAMONTE, DIRECTOR OF *HEALING DAKOTA*

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8pm ANIMATION SHORTS

Buon Ferragosto

Claudia Miatello, Canada, 2022, 7 min

In Italian with English subtitles.

A boy has the adventure of his lifetime in the city of Florence with an unexpected friend.

Moirai, Thread of Life

Ina Conradi and Mark Chavez, Singapore, 2023, 6 min

Set in the distant future, a female astronaut in search of untouched lands finds herself gravitating toward a mysterious force in a strange cave.



Night

Ahmad Saleh, State of Palestine, 2021, 16 min

In Arabic with English subtitles.

Night brings peace and sleep to all the people in a town in ruins. Only the eyes of a mother of a missing child stay resilient.

Ninety-five Senses

Jerusha and Jared Hess, USA, 2022, 14 min

An ode to the body's five senses, delivered by a death-row inmate with little time left to enjoy them.

Slouch

Michael Bohnenstingl, Germany, 2022, 18 min

A wannabe musical legend is pushed by his song-writing-demon to deep dive into his darkest emotions.

The Cocoon

David Shen Miller, USA, 2023, 9 min

Trapped inside a room covered with muddy footprints, a man will stop at nothing to mop the floor perfectly clean.

The Rat

Yuanqing Cai, China, 2022, 13 min

On a stormy night, a drunk man stumbles back home to find two huge rats.

Well Wishes My Love, Your Love

Gabriel Gabriel Garble, Sweden, 2022, 9 min

A newly orphaned boy lends his companion a prosthetic arm for the day.





FYI

🎬 We're proud that so many alumni from our 30 previous festivals choose to submit again. Our "earliest" alum is from the 2001 Festival, **Patrick Smith/Pour Generation**.

🎬 **Meeting filmmakers** is one of THE best parts of a film festival!

🎬 Look for "**Filmmaker in Attendance**" on our website to see who's coming to present their films to Tucson.

🎬 Two FREE programs great for families: **Short Shorts (Sun Apr 23)** and the **Indie Youth Festival (Sat Apr 29)**.

Grab your free tickets at filmfestivalarizona.com.

6pm

The Exile of the Sea

Mauricio Brunetti, Colombia, 2022, 72 min

In Spanish with English subtitles

This is the story of Johana, a Colombian girl, who must flee from her homeland due to the violence. She is forced to change her life, her habits, and leave everything behind so she can find a safe future.

According to United Nations estimates, the number of international migrants worldwide has increased over the last twenty years, reaching 281 million in 2020. This documentary seeks to create empathy for those who have the courage to change everything and strive for a chance to survive.

8pm

Accidental Expat

Alan Barr, Mexico, 2023, 96 min

In English and Spanish with English subtitles.

A bright young Latino DREAMer from Texas must battle the demons of a deportation to Mexico and starting a new life in a country he only knew as an infant.

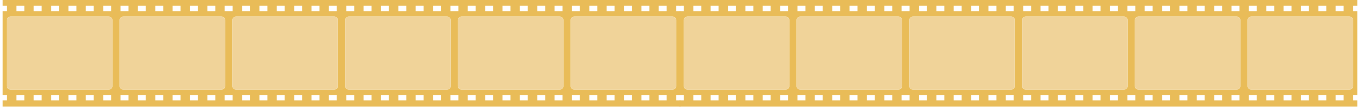


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Trailers, film descriptions and more!



7:30pm | Mercado Annex

To The Summit

Junce Ye, China, 2022, 90 min

In Chinese with Chinese & English subtitles

Xia Boyu is the first Chinese double-amputee climber to have reached the summit of Mount Everest. He lost his feet to frostbite in 1975, when he was part of the Chinese Mountaineering Team, after saving one of his teammates by offering him his only sleeping bag. He failed to reach the summit and both his feet were amputated afterwards. However, he didn't give up regardless of the amputation and a bout with cancer. He finally fulfilled his dream on his fifth attempt on May 14th, 2018, at the age of 69.



“ Blending the adventure elements, this biopic shows Xia Boyu's perseverance and positive attitude towards life, as well as the magnificence of Mount Everest. It retains all the artistic value and social significance of the film itself, while also taking into account the entertainment of the audience.”

—JUNCE YE, DIRECTOR OF *TO THE SUMMIT*



6pm

Silent Beauty

Jasmín Mara López, USA, 2022, 88 min

In English & Spanish with English & Spanish subtitles

When filmmaker Jasmin Mara López sees a photo of her niece with her grandfather, she is flooded by painful memories of her own childhood sexual abuse at his hands—and the following 24 years of her silence. In this cinematically striking and poetic documentary, López bravely films her story as a willful act to accept difficult truths while finding beauty in the process of healing. As she defies the cultural silence that pervades her family and confronts her abusive grandfather, a world of generational abuse unfolds, and she discovers she is not alone.

FilmFestivalArizona.com



8pm

Gift of Fear

Jack Kohler and Katy Dore, USA, 2023, 106 min

Mili watched in horror as her mother was murdered 11 years ago, becoming another Missing and Murdered Indigenous statistic. Now 17, Mili's former crew kidnaps her girlfriend after Mili chooses her MMA team over the gang. Tribal cops and an agent from the Federal Missing and Murdered Unit are on the case, but Mili waited for the authorities once...she won't wait this time. Gift of Fear is based on true incidents that have occurred within the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's #MMIW crisis which affect Native women and their communities in North America and Canada.



7:30pm | Mercado Annex



Four Souls of Coyote

Áron Gauder, Hungary, 2023, 106 min.

In English and Hungarian with English subtitles

The film is an alternative and more modest creational myth, in which humans are not at the top of the food chain, nor the king of the world, but only one amongst creatures. The film goes back to the creation, when Old Man created life from mud. His creations are new and unknown and affect the world. Desire and emotions are unknown too, and with their evolution, the world is getting more complicated. Through adventures filled with animals, magic, hunger, greed, and the sacred circle of all creations, the story gives us hope that it is not too late to save Earth.





10pm DRAMATIC SHORTS 2

Hedgehog

D. Mityr, USA, 2022, 17 min

In Ukrainian and Russian with English subtitles

As the war starts in Ukraine, six-year-old Nina is sent to her grandmother's remote village. In the shack outside, Nina discovers a badly wounded Russian soldier.

House Call

Sam Reiss, USA, 2022, 17 min

A woman isolated in a vacation home lets in a handyman leading to an unexpected encounter.

Likeness

David A. Flores, USA, 2023, 14 min

A young woman works with a digital copy of her mom to investigate the sudden disappearance of her real mom.

Nash

Tim Warren, USA, 2022, 12 min

Nine-year-old Nash is determined to find the monster that killed his mother; his father George is equally determined to stop him.

Winder

Case Avron, USA, 2023, 5 min

When the power goes out in an old farmhouse, Clair must venture down into the basement equipped with nothing but a janky wind-up flashlight.

Wrap Me in a Sheet

Molly Muse and Britt Harris, USA, 2023, 17 min

Two sisters travel to the Washington coast to unearth a dark family secret.





12pm INDIE YOUTH

12:34

Drew Mette, USA, 2022, 7 min

One night, Isabelle is haunted by a mysterious force.

Birthday Cake

Garvin Kim, Korea, 2023, 5 min

A stranger is eating Evelyn's birthday cake.

By this Lake

Zhangyuan Zhao, USA, 2022, 6 min

A surrealist look a young man's journey with overcoming grief.

Como una Mosca en Leche (Like a Fly in Milk)

Nicholas LeBoeuf, USA 2022, 4 min

Trapped in conformity, yearning to break out; suddenly, a fly.

Haya

Ugnė Alaburdaitė, Lithuania, 2022, 12 min

Lithuanian and Vietnamese with English subtitles

A Vietnamese girl struggles to find happiness growing up in a foreign country.

Inbetween

Eli Press-Reynolds, USA, 2022, 9 min

Julian is a transgender teenager who is struggling to fit in amongst his cis peers.

Irr-Elephant

Collin Bridge, USA, 2022, 4 min

A socially awkward goofball seeks acceptance through his one-of-a-kind puns.

Love At First Sighting

William Manning, Canada, 2022, 5 min

A nice weekend at a cottage turns out-of-this-world after something falls from the sky.

Love Song

Francisco Zucal Hernández, USA, 2022, 6 min

Spanish with English subtitles

Two classmates meet to do homework. But first, a visit to Chinatown.

Midnight Massacre in Utah

Acacia Yuan, USA, 2022, 10 min

The Midnight Massacre took place after the end of WWII at a POW camp in Salina, Utah.

Mosquito Fish

Bryn Wright, USA, 2021, 2 min

What are mosquito fish?

My Lockdown Ramadan

Laila Yasmin Laljee, United Kingdom, 2022, 5 min

A school girl embarks on her very first Ramadhan.

Room

Ian Dani Kim, USA, 2022, 9 min

Korean with English subtitles

An anxious teenager locks himself in his imaginary room.

Water Lullaby

Piotr Kaźmierczak, Poland, 2022, 4 min

Animated music video for "Warsaw Village Band".



2pm

Crows Are White

Ahsen Nadeem, Ireland, 2022, 97 min

In English and Japanese with English subtitles

After decades of living a secret life, a filmmaker travels to a strict Japanese monastery in search of guidance. The only monk who will help him prefers ice cream and heavy metal over meditation. *Crows Are White* is an exploration of truth, faith and love, from the top of a mountain to the bottom of a sundae.

4pm

Black Moon

Tonatiuh García Jimenez, Mexico, 2022, 100 min

In Spanish with English subtitles

The story of three brothers, and a people's rebellion to defend their river. A story of folklore, courage and heroism; of nature's exuberant landscapes and a magical connection between grandfather and grandson, all lit by the phases of the moon in the night sky. Social events interwoven with magical realism, beautifully filmed in Veracruz, Mexico.

6pm

Ariel

Alison Murray, Canada, 2022, 102 min

In English and Spanish with English subtitles

Ariel is the story of a brother and sister who return to the country of their birth, Argentina, for the first time in their adult lives. Against the backdrop of glamorous tango clubs of Buenos Aires, they uncover dark family secrets and the reason for their parents' emigration to Canada.

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7:30pm | Mercado Annex



Pepe Serna: Life Is Art

Luis Reyes, USA, 2022, 62 min

Groundbreaking Mexican-American character actor Pepe Serna finally takes the spotlight in Luis Reyes' joyous ode to Serna's life and the hundred-plus charismatic scene-stealing roles that paved the way for generations of Chicanx actors in Hollywood and beyond.

preceded by

Abuelo

Kayvon Derak Shanian, USA, 2022, 11 min

An immigrant grandfather (played by Pepe Serna) is faced with raising his 16-year-old granddaughter after a tragic car accident that takes the life of his only son.

A Tribute to Pepe Serna

With more than 100 film and television credits over a 50-year career, veteran actor Pepe Serna is known for his roles in such films as *Car Wash*, *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai* and *Downsizing*. But Pepe Serna is perhaps most recognized today for his role as Angel, Al Pacino's doomed refugee buddy who meets his demise at the end of a buzz saw in *Scarface*. In addition to his Hollywood success, the actor is a visual artist who has exhibited his art in international galleries and conducts motivational improvisational workshops in high schools nationwide. Today Pepe Serna serves as a link between traditional Hollywood and a new generation of filmmakers who grew up watching his films.





8pm

Good Guy with a Gun

John Mossman, USA, 2023, 108 min

Will Greenwood, a Chicago teenager forced to come to terms with his father's violent death, visits a small town and finds solace in a group of local kids. When the town bully threatens Will's new friend, how far will he go to protect him...especially with a gun? A coming of age drama where young men and guns come crashing together.

Filmmaker John Mossman, a gun owner and hunter who favors "commonsense gun control," wants his film to open a more nuanced discussion about firearms and the dangers of America's macho-mythic gun culture.

10pm GLOBAL SHORTS 2

Courtroom

Changhee Han, South Korea, 2023, 22 min

In Korean with English subtitles

In the middle of the trial, prosecutor Kang notices something strange happening.

Gutter

Theodore Drusba, Canada, 2022, 22 min

In French with English subtitles

During a severe thunderstorm, a pregnant woman, a businessman and a widower find shelter in a bowling alley.

Process

Patrick Gather, United Kingdom, 2022, 21 min

A conflicted process server is torn between helping two very different victims of domestic violence. His choice ultimately threatens to derail his ethical foundation and his career.

Takbir

Jordi Calvet, Spain, 2022, 15 min

In Spanish with English subtitles

A writer realizes that the new TV show he's been approached to develop might be used as a blueprint for a terrorist group's new attack.

The Dress

Marie Karkashadze, Republic of Georgia, 2022, 9 min

A young woman under house arrest decides to change her appearance drastically for her last chance at a "perfect date."

Trigger.Charlie.One

Dan Clifton, United Kingdom, 2022, 10 min

A naval commander must follow orders and press the launch button triggering the earth's final nuclear apocalypse.



12pm (ENCORE SCREENING)

To The Summit

Junce Ye, China, 2022, 90 min

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4pm (ENCORE SCREENING)

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Through adventures filled with animals, magic, hunger, greed, and the sacred circle of all creations, the story gives us hope that it is not too late to save Earth.



2pm

Israelism

Eric Axelman and Sam Eilertsen, USA, 2023, 84 min

When two young American Jews raised to unconditionally love Israel witness the mistreatment of Palestinians, they battle the old guard to create a new movement opposing Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people, and re-centering Judaism itself.



6pm

The Crossroads

Douglas Alan Raine, USA, 2023, 96 min

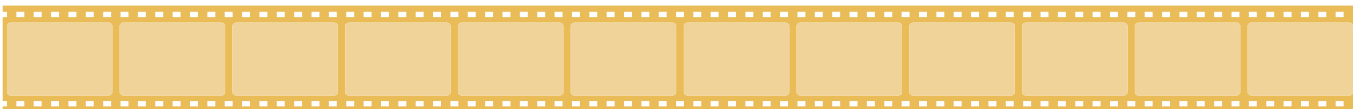
An ex-cowboy war vet with mild PTSD picks up a hitchhiking singer-songwriter dealing with trust and abuse issues. He cares for her and exposes a simpler life, which soon exposes their inner demons. They find commonalities in themselves that develop into a relationship.



Sam Polito

—
1958-2022

Sunday, April 30



7:30pm | Mercado Annex



Unicorn Boy

Matt Kiel, USA, 2023, 90 min

A passion project 10 years in the making, Unicorn Boy is a young adult, coming-of-age animated feature which explores the complexity of first heartbreak and gender identity. The story follows a down-on-their-luck artist, distraught by a recent breakup, who is magically sucked into a unicorn-run alternate dimension. This auteur-driven portrait of one's former self is a beautiful reflection of the challenges that come along with growth and self-discovery.

“ It turns out, the whole time I thought I was making a film about resolution, I was making a film about allowing myself to become who I truly am. I found myself communicating my expression of gender and true perspective on life before I even knew about it myself.”

—MATT FRIEL, DIRECTOR OF *UNICORN BOY*



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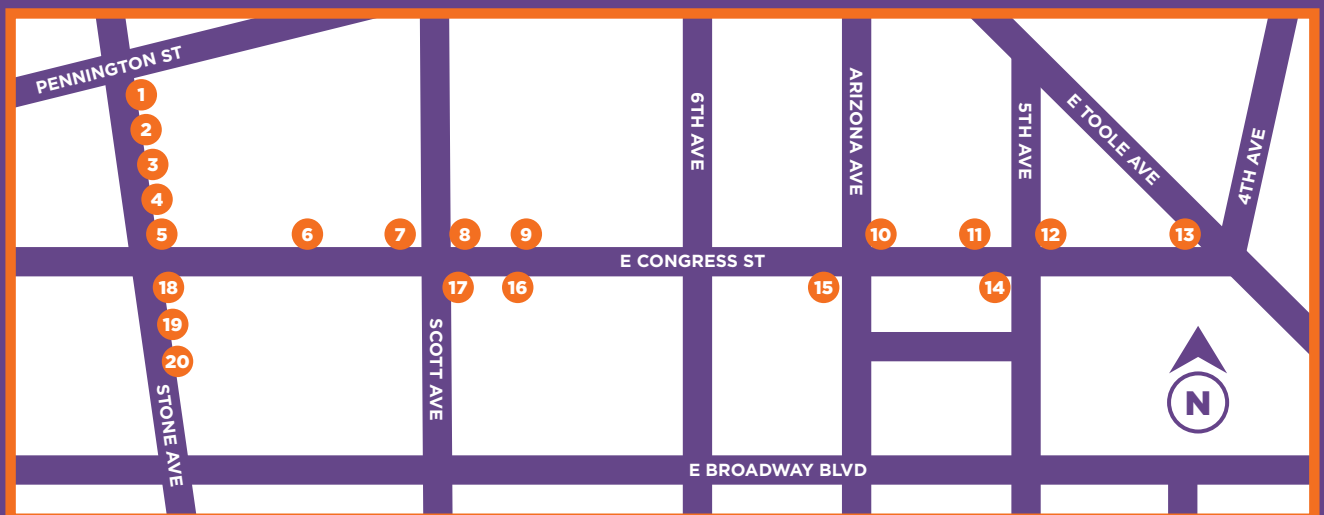
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