



NOVEMBER 11-19, 2026 • LOFTFILMFEST.ORG

Presented by:
**Desert Diamond Casino and
Max McCauslin & John Smith**


DESERT DIAMOND CASINO
An Enterprise of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

 **Loft
Film
Fest**

THE LOFT
CINEMA
SINCE 1972

The Loft Cinema
3233 E Speedway Blvd
Tucson, AZ

GET YOUR TICKETS

loftfilmfest.org

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General: \$250 | Loft Members: \$200
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FILM TICKETS

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

ALL SCREENINGS AT

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The Loft Cinema is proud to be one of 7 international film festival members of the International Confederation of Art House Cinemas (CICAE). The CICAE was founded in 1955 with the goal of promoting cultural diversity in cinemas and festivals. The CICAE is a nonprofit association that brings together more than 2400 arthouse cinemas with more than 4400 screens in 45 countries.

Loft Cinema Founder and Executive Director Emeritus, Peggy Johnson is a Vice-President of the CICAE Board of Directors.

Every year The Loft Film Fest awards the CICAE Arthouse Cinema Award to a film selected by an international jury. This year's jury includes:

Lela Meadow-Conner



Lela is Executive Director of Art House Convergence, a nonprofit organization supporting mission-driven, community-focused independent exhibitors across the United States, and advocating for the vital role they play in sustaining the independent film ecosystem. As Founder/Producer at mamafilm she specializes in supporting mission-aligned stories that have screened at

festivals around the world, including Sundance, Tribeca, Palm Springs and BFI London.

Marlena Gabryszewska



Marlena Gabryszewska has worked in the film sector since 2009, including as Head of Programming at Iluzjon – the cinema of Poland's National Film Archive – and Managing Director of Warsaw's Elektronik Cinema. Since 2019, she has served as President of the Polish Arthouse Cinemas Association. She is also a co-creator of MOJEeKINO.PL, an online platform for Polish

arthouse cinemas. She is a member of the European Film Academy and a Vice President of the CICAE.

Bill Goodykoontz



I learned to read from my grandmother's Addams Family collections. My plans to become a professional basketball player sadly stalled when my growth did, around the seventh grade. I have a bachelor of arts degree in English from James Madison University and a master of advanced studies degree in Film and Media Studies from Arizona State University. I've been a TV critic, chief film

critic for USA Today Co., a features columnist, a smart-aleck sports columnist, a city hall reporter, a police reporter and now a media critic. One day I'll settle on something.

See pages 24-26 for all 8 nominated films!

Welcome to the 2026 Loft Film Fest!

For years, I've loved The Loft as an audience member and supporter. Welcoming you to my first Loft Film Fest as Executive Director is both a joy and an honor. What has always drawn me here is what brings so many of us back: adventurous films, thoughtful conversations, and the pleasure of sharing a movie with people who love cinema.

This year's festival celebrates that spirit with stories from around the world and opportunities to connect with the artists who bring them to life. We're especially excited to honor Gus Van Sant, Susan Seidelman, and Joan Tewkesbury, whose distinctive voices have helped shape independent film and inspired generations of filmmakers and audiences.

My thanks to our festival team, staff, volunteers, sponsors, and members for making this gathering possible— and to you for being part of it. Your support keeps The Loft a place where independent voices are heard and our community comes together.

I hope you'll take a chance on something unfamiliar, stay for a conversation, and discover a film that stays with you long after the credits roll.

See you at the movies!

Elise Lopez, Executive Director





GUS VAN SANT

2026 LOFTY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Loft Film Fest is honored to present Gus Van Sant with a 2026 Lofty Achievement Award for his extraordinary body of work that has expanded the language and vision of cinema.

Van Sant is one of the most audacious and accomplished American filmmakers of his generation. He is widely celebrated as a leading figure of the New Queer Cinema movement and a master at bridging independent arthouse aesthetics with mainstream Hollywood cinema.

His breakthrough film *Drugstore Cowboy* (1989) established him as a leading figure in the U.S. indie scene. He went on to receive Academy Award nominations for Best Director for *Good Will Hunting* (1997) and *Milk* (2008), both also nominated for Best Picture. With *Elephant* (2003), an unflinching portrait of youth and violence, he won the Palme d’Or and Best Director at Cannes.

His most recent work, *Dead Man’s Wire* (2025), premiered at the Venice and Toronto International Film Festivals.

In addition to making groundbreaking films, Van Sant is a painter, photographer and musician.

The Lofty Achievement Award will be presented to Gus Van Sant after the screening of *My Own Private Idaho*. He will introduce the screening of *Mala Noche*.



35MM FILM PRINT!

FILM SPONSOR:
LGBTQ+ Alliance Fund
at the Community
Foundation for
Southern Arizona

1 MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 6:00PM

Mike Waters (River Phoenix) lives on the street and befriends the somewhat older and streetwise Scott FAVOR (Keanu Reeves) who shows him how to survive. Waters suffers from narcolepsy and can fall asleep at any moment in any circumstance. FAVOR comes from a rich family and is rebelling against his own background. The stunning cinematography and poetic directorial vision create a hypnotic, dream-like atmosphere in this multi-award-winning masterpiece.

DIRECTED BY Gus Van Sant, 1991, USA, 104 mins., R



35MM FILM PRINT!

2 MALA NOCHE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 9:15PM

Van Sant’s first film, *Mala Noche*, a gritty, beautiful drama shot with almost no budget on grainy, black-and-white 16mm film stock on the streets of Portland, Oregon, received critical attention but no widespread distribution. Based on Walt Curtis’ semi-autobiographical novel, the story follows the relationship between Walt, a gay store clerk, and two younger Mexican boys, Johnny and Roberto Pepper.

DIRECTED BY Gus Van Sant, 1986, USA, 78 mins, NR



SUSAN SEIDELMAN

2026 LOFTY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Loft Film Fest is honored to present Susan Seidelman with a 2026 Lofty Achievement Award for her groundbreaking films and extraordinary contribution to cinema culture.

Susan Seidelman was the first American director to have an independent film, *Smithereens*, screened in competition at the Cannes Film Festival. This 1982 feature was followed by *Desperately Seeking Susan*, which co-starred Madonna, in her first film, and Rosanna Arquette, a guest at the first Loft Film Fest in 2010. *Desperately Seeking Susan* (1985) was named as one of 100 greatest films directed by women by the BBC; it resulted in a Cesar Award nomination and in 2023 was selected for preservation in the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress for its “cultural, historical or aesthetic significance”.

Seidelman’s other feature films include *Making Mr. Right* with John Malkevich; *Cookie*, co-written by Nora Ephron; *She Devil*,

starring Meryl Streep and Rosanne Barr in her first feature film, *Gaudi Afternoon*, *Boynton Beach Club*, *Musical Chairs* and *The Hot Flashes*.

Seidelman, and screenwriter Jonathan Brett, were nominated for an Oscar for the live-action short film *The Dutch Master* in 1994. Her television credits famously include the pilot of *Sex and the City*.

The Lofty Achievement Award will be presented to Susan Seidelman after the screening of *Desperately Seeking Susan*. She will introduce the screening of *Smithereens*.



3 DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 6:45PM

In *Desperately Seeking Susan*, two women – a bored housewife and a bohemian drifter – are linked by a series of personal ads in a newspaper. Set in New York City, identities are mistaken and the plot twists and turns as the film explores the intersection of the lives of these two women. Notably the film also features early roles for John Turturro, Giancarlo Esposito, Laurie Metcalf and Steven Wright. And the film had a seismic impact on 1980s fashion, influenced in part by Madonna’s early style.

DIRECTED BY Susan Seidelman, 1985, USA, 104 mins., PG-13



Seidelman will be signing copies of her 2024 memoir, *Desperately Seeking Something* on Saturday, Nov 14 from 2:45pm - 3:30pm in Open Air Cinema.

4 SMITHEREENS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 3:30PM

Seidelman’s first feature, *Smithereens* follows a narcissistic young woman from New Jersey who comes to New York City hoping to become a figure in the punk subculture, only to find that it has gravitated towards Los Angeles. In order to pay her way across country, she engages in a number of parasitic relationships, shifting her allegiances to new “friends” in an ongoing effort to ultimately endear herself to someone who will finance her desired lifestyle.

DIRECTED BY Susan Seidelman, 1982, USA, 93 mins, R



JOAN TEWKESBURY

2026 LARRY MCMURTRY SCREENWRITING AWARD

The Loft Film Fest is honored to present Joan Tewkesbury with the inaugural Larry McMurtry Screenwriting award, which will be presented over zoom by Larry’s writing and producing partner, Diana Ossana.

When director Robert Altman asked Joan if she knew anything about Nashville – she said she didn’t. So she moved there in 1973 to observe the city, its culture and its people, and the result was the award-winning screenplay for *Nashville*.

In addition to her screenplays, Joan is a director of film and television, a novelist, producer, choreographer and actress (not to mention an early stint as a dancer), and, most recently, a writing teacher.

Joan’s collaborations with Altman include *McCabe and Mrs. Miller* and *Thieves Like Us*.

The Larry McMurtry Screenwriting award, created with Larry’s blessing, will be presented by his writing and producing partner, Diana Ossana, to honor the work of a deserving member of the greater film creative community from around the world.

Screenwriting derived from Larry’s and Diana’s work has received 34 Oscar nominations and 13 Oscars. During Larry’s thirty-five-year residency in Tucson, he and Diana were devoted patrons of The Loft Cinema.

The Loft Film Fest is grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Larry, who The Loft Cinema had the privilege to know and welcome as a friend over many years, including a private screening of *Brokeback Mountain*, the first time Larry and Diana saw their Oscar-winning film on the big screen!

Guest Artist Appearances Supported By:
Sue Ellen Schuerman & Bob Erbe



5 NASHVILLE

written by Joan Tewkesbury and directed by Robert Altman

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 1:00PM

The Larry McMurtry Screenwriting award will be presented to Joan Tewkesbury by Diana Ossana before the screening of NASHVILLE.

This cornerstone of 1970s American moviemaking from Robert Altman is a panoramic view of the country’s political and cultural landscapes, set in the nation’s music capital. *Nashville* weaves the stories of twenty-four characters—from country star to wannabe to reporter to waitress—into a cinematic tapestry that is equal parts comedy, tragedy, and musical.

DIRECTED BY Robert Altman, 1975, USA, 160 mins, NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Locarno, New York

FILM SPONSOR:
The Brocious Family in memory of Cindy Brocious

6 PAPER TIGER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 7:00PM

Adam Driver and Miles Teller are Gary and Irwin, brothers who are complete opposites but who share a close bond. The wealthier, more worldly Gary convinces family man Irwin to take part in a get-rich-quick scheme. As the brothers pursue the American Dream, they get entangled in a dangerous Russian mafia scheme that terrorizes their family, testing their bond as betrayal becomes possible. Co-starring Scarlett Johansson as Irwin’s wife, the film is an intense domestic drama that draws from the director’s personal and family history in 1980’s Queens.

DIRECTED BY James Gray, 2026, USA, 115 mins., R

OPENING NIGHT PARTY!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 5:00PM

Who’s invited: Loft Film Fest Badge Holders and everyone with a ticket for opening night. Join us in our Open Air Cinema space at The Loft Cinema for our Opening Night Party, kicking off at 5:00pm. Toast the opening of the Loft Film Fest with a free glass of champagne and hors d’oeuvres provided by Desert Diamond Casinos!



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto, New York

FILM SPONSOR:
Eleanor Ortega

7 CLARISSA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:30PM

Sophie Okonedo (*Hotel Rwanda*) stars as Clarissa Dalloway, with India Amarteifio (*Bridgerton*) as the young Clarissa, in this adaptation of Virginia Wolf’s 1925 novel *Mrs. Dalloway*. The film, set in modern-day Lagos, follows a society wife preparing for a party while reflecting on her youth and the choices that led her to marry a respected man instead of her poet boyfriend. Co-starring Ayo Edibiri and Daniel Oyelowo.

DIRECTED BY Arie Esiri and Chuko Esiri, 2026, Nigeria, in English, 125 mins., NR

IT’S A WRAP! CLOSING NIGHT PARTY!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 5:30PM

Who’s invited: Loft Film Fest Badge Holders and everyone with a ticket for closing night. Enjoy hors d’oeuvres provided by Desert Diamond Casinos, and toast the wrap of another great Loft Film Fest with a free glass of champagne! Party begins at 5:30pm in our Open Air Cinema space at The Loft Cinema!



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto, New York

Winner of the Critics’ Week
Grand Prize at the Cannes
Film Festival!

8 LA GRADIVA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 11:45AM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:30PM

A group of high school students sets off on a school trip to discover the ruins of Pompeii. They are seized by a sense of vertigo and allow themselves to be overwhelmed by desire and anger, until they surrender completely. Critics are calling it one of the best films of the year, one that redraws the boundaries of how stories can be told, mapping desire across time, and the tragic reality that we are unable to fully understand what’s happening to us as it happens.

DIRECTED BY Marine Atlan, 2026, France, in French and Italian with English subtitles, 145 mins., NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto, New York

Winner! Virginie Efira and
Tao Okamoto shared Best
Actress Award, Cannes Film
Festival

9 ALL OF A SUDDEN
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 7:30PM

Official submission of Japan for the Best International Feature Film Academy Award!

Virginie Efira stars as Marie-Lou, who runs a nursing home near Paris and strives for more humane elder care. Her friendship with Mari (Tao Okamoto), a Japanese theatre director facing terminal cancer, deepens her commitment to residents’ dignity. Shot in Paris at an actual elder-care facility in the 15th arrondissement, the film is inspired by the non-fiction book *You and I – The Illness Suddenly Get Worse*, a collection of letters between philosopher Makiko Miyano and medical anthropologist Maho Isono, as the former was in her own battle with metastatic breast cancer.

DIRECTED BY Ryusuke Hamaguchi, 2026, Japan/France, in French and Japanese with English subtitles, 195 mins., PG13



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto, BFI
London

10 THE BELOVED
(EL SER QUERIDO)
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 7:45PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 11:30AM

Starring Oscar winner Javier Bardem and Victoria Luengo, the latest from Rodrigo Sorogoyen chronicles an unnerving collaboration between a charismatic, manipulative director and the actor daughter he hasn’t seen in 13 years. At lunch in a Madrid restaurant, Esteban (Bardem) offers his daughter, a struggling actor, the lead role his new film, a historical drama set in the Sahara desert about the Sahrawi uprising against their Spanish colonizers. *The Beloved* examines what happens when dysfunctional family dynamics fuse with artistic hubris.

DIRECTED BY Rodrigo Sorogoyen, 2026, Spain, in Spanish with English subtitles, 135 mins., NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Toronto, New York, Chicago

Winner! Un Certain Regard,
Cannes Film Festival

11 EVERYTIME
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 4:45PM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 10:45AM

Official submission of Germany for the Best International Feature Film Academy Award!

Everytime is a portrait of a family facing a shocking loss after the teenaged Jessie falls to her death during a night of heavy partying at a Berlin high-rise. Her mother, younger sister and boyfriend share guilt, shame and forgiveness when, one year later, they take a holiday together that shifts between memory, reality and fantasy. *Everytime* depicts its characters grasping at straws as they look for ways to resurrect Jessie in the digital age. Director Sandra Wollner eschews platitudes of grief narratives to sit with the painful contradictions of moving forward through loss, finding a strange, empathetic visual language to hold them.

DIRECTED BY Sandra Wollner, 2026, Germany, in German with English subtitles, 119 mins., NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Sundance, True/False, Seattle

Winner! NEXT Audience Award, Sundance Film Festival

FILM SPONSOR:
Archaeology Southwest

12 AANIKOOBJIGAN (ANCESTOR/GREAT-GRANDPARENT/GREAT-GRANDCHILD)
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 5:00PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 2:15PM

With director Zack Khalil LIVE to introduce film and take part in a post-film Q&A at the Sunday, Nov 15 screening!

Zack Khalil is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker whose work centers on the use of innovative nonfiction forms. His films and installations exhibitions include the Museum of Modern Art, Lincoln Center, the Whitney Museum, Walker Arts Center and Sundance Film Festival.

The Khalils document the work of a group of repatriation specialists from various tribes in Michigan who work to bring their ancestors’ remains back to their native land. Those bodies have been locked behind museums, libraries, and exhibitions, all in the name of “preservation.”

Dazzling animation is used to illustrate the expansive nature of how Native Americans view death outside the enforced binary we often impose. AANIKOOBJIGAN manipulates time and space within museum archives, confronting history and spirituality.

DIRECTED BY Adam Khalil and Zack Khalil, 2026, USA, 85 mins., NR



Plante will be signing copies of ***Sensation Cinema: The Audacious, Defiant History of Louis Sher and the Art Theatre Guild*** on Saturday, Nov 14 from 2:00pm - 2:45pm in Open Air Cinema.

13 SENSATION CINEMA: AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING WITH AUTHOR MIKE PLANTE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 1:00PM

In 1954, Louis Sher took over a modest neighborhood movie theater in Ohio. Within a decade, he was running the largest independent cinema chain in America – a chain that eventually included The Loft Cinema.

Police raided his theaters, seized prints, and dragged him into court. Sher fought back, taking one censorship battle all the way to the Supreme Court, producing Justice Potter Stewart’s immortal definition of obscenity: “I know it when I see it.” Sher’s Art Theatre Guild brought foreign films, underground cinema, gay and lesbian films, and other cinematic provocations to audiences across the country, transforming the American moviegoing landscape.

Mike Plante was first fascinated by Louis Sher’s story when working on a documentary about The Loft Cinema to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2022. We’re excited to have Mike here to present a slide show of one of the great forgotten showmen, risk-takers, and freedom fighters of the American screen.

Mike Plante, a co-founder of the Loft Film Fest, has made films, worked at movie theaters, run projectors and programmed film festivals since 1993. From 2001 to 2025, he worked at the Sundance Film Festival where he was Senior Programmer for Short Films. Today he books movies for The Beverly Theater in Las Vegas.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Berlin, BFI London

14 THE BLOOD COUNTESS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 2:00PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 7:30PM

Countess Elizabeth Báthory of Ecsed was a Hungarian noblewoman and alleged serial killer, who owned land in the Kingdom of Hungary. Director Ulrike Ottinger turns Báthory’s story into a campy vampire comedy starring none other than a blood-soaked Isabel Huppert!

Countess Báthory wakes from her beauty sleep and surfaces in Vienna. With her maid, she seeks a vital red elixir while evading her nephew, his therapist, vampirologists, and police pursuing a book that endangers vampires. The film features glorious costumes, cinematography and music.

DIRECTED BY Ulrike Ottinger, 2026, Austria/Germany, in German, French and Russian with English subtitles, 118 mins., R



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, New York, BFI London

Winner! Best Screenplay, Cannes Film Festival

15 A MAN OF HIS TIME
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 7:45PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 11:00AM

September 1940. Self-styled author and “political strategist” Henri Marre (Swann Arlaud, *Anatomy of a Fall*) arrives alone in Vichy as the authoritarian regime settles in. Broke, estranged from his family, and carrying copies of his self-published manifesto *Notre Salut (Our Salvation)*, the 49-year-old is determined to secure what he believes is his rightful place in the new administration. This absorbing procedural uncovers the banality of evil at the very heart of the Vichy government.

DIRECTED BY Emmanuel Marre, 2026, France, in French with English subtitles, 159 mins., NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Sundance, Karlovy-Vary

Winner! Sundance 2026
Best Director World Cinema



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Venice, Toronto

FILM SPONSOR:
Joe F. Tarver, P.C.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto, BFI
London, New York

Winner! Grand Jury Prize,
Cannes Film Festival 2026

16 HOW TO DIVORCE DURING THE WAR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 1:00PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 2:30PM

Official submission of Lithuania for the Best International Feature Film Academy Award!

Vilnius 2022. High-flying executive Marija chooses the worst possible moment for an honest conversation with her husband Vytas about divorcing – just one day before Russia’s invasion of Ukraine goes into full scale. Now the couple must navigate the process of separation as it collides with the impact of war and a growing refugee crisis.

DIRECTED BY Andrius Blazevicius, 2026, Lithuania, in Lithuanian with English subtitles, 108 mins., NR

17 ARRESTED MEMORY
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 5:00PM

Winner! Runner up for People’s Choice Award, Toronto

A gorgeous thriller/absurdist comedy, *Arrested Memory* focuses on a Lee, a bad-ass seasoned detective recently diagnosed with PTSD-induced dementia. Lee is brought in to lead the investigation into the kidnapping of a five-year old boy (the film is an homage to Kurasawa’s *High and Low*). Lee is doggedly pursued by both cops and crooks after he unwittingly wanders off with a multimillion-dollar ransom in a crime caper from cult auteur SABU. *Arrested Memory* uses a warm color palette and a soundtrack that heightens the tension, and is complete with mistaken/ disordered identities, overwhelming guilt, dance numbers, and the irreverent interventions of both incompetent police and hapless Yakuza.

DIRECTED BY Sabu, 2026, Taiwan, in Mandarin with English subtitles, 87 mins., NR

18 THE DREAMED ADVENTURE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 1:30PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 6:45PM

Official submission of Bulgaria for the Best International Feature Film Academy Award!

In southeastern Bulgaria, an archaeologist becomes involved in illegal trade when she agrees to help an acquaintance whose vehicle has been stolen. Drawn into territories of danger and dispute, she is forced to confront her own rough-edged desires.

DIRECTED BY Valeska Grisebach, 2026, Germany/Bulgaria, in Bulgarian and German with English subtitles, 167 mins., R



ARIZONA PREMIERE

Official submission of China for the Best International Feature Film Academy Award!



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Toronto, New York, BFI
London, Telluride



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Sundance, Full Frame,
Seattle

Winner! US Documentary
Director Award, Sundance

19 ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE MIDDLE EAST
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 1:15PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 6:30PM (OPEN AIR)

Seeking a fresh start, chef Xu Fu travels to the Middle East to support his family and repay his debts. Alongside restaurant manager Ma Junsheng, he transforms the struggling Dragon Restaurant into a thriving business. But when war engulfs the city, their hard-won success is shattered and the restaurant becomes a refuge for those caught in the conflict. As danger closes in, Xu Fu must risk everything to protect his newfound community and preserve a small beacon of hope amid the devastation.

DIRECTED BY Muye Wen, 2026, China, in Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, and English with English subtitles, 141 mins., R

20 TENDER LOVING CARE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 4:30PM

Winner! 5 Awards at San Sebastian Film Festival including Best Film

Mike Leigh (7-time Oscar nominee), with his customarily brilliant ensemble and collaborative process, has crafted a portrayal of overwhelmed, resilient lives in post-Brexit England that is being hailed as one of his signature works. Amy (Kate O’Flynn, *Widow’s Bay*) a government child protection worker, moves back with her upbeat best friend Rosie, a social services officer facing daily anger and resentment. Amy’s aging parents worry about her happiness while dealing with their own crisis. Avoiding didacticism and maintaining a leveling sense of humor, Leigh shows, with clear-eyed compassion, the difficulty of asking for—and accepting—help in a world that continually lets us down.

DIRECTED BY Mike Leigh, 2026, UK, 107 mins., R

21 SOUL PATROL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 AT 7:30PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 2:30PM

“He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how.” This quotation from Nietzsche (who is one of the film’s guiding muses) sets the stage for the dramatic reunion of the Vietnam War’s first Black special ops team who share their untold story, revealing hidden military history and exploring whether confronting the past can heal old wounds.

DIRECTED BY J.M. Harper, 2026, USA, 100 mins., NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
SXSW

Winner! Jury Award,
Calgary Underground Film
Festival



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Berlin, New York, BFI
London



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Locarno

22 BAGWORM
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 9:45PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 6:30PM (OPEN AIR)

After a sexually frustrated hammer salesman steps on a rusty nail, he struggles to determine whether the world’s sudden and violent turn against him is real, or if it’s the result of the infection consuming his body and mind..

DIRECTED BY **Oliver Bernsen, 2026, USA, 96 mins., NR**

23 DAO
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 10:30AM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 4:30PM

“DAO is a perpetual and circular movement which flows in everything and unites the world.” Dao takes us to the casting of Gloria, a character whose daughter is about to be married. An off-screen voice directing the casting session tells us that “the first step is to make this family”. Actors and non-actors are cast and brought together to become relatives who will all celebrate a wedding in Paris and commemorate the loss of their patriarch in Guinea-Bissau. Their individual stories and their common threads of heritage are woven together with fact and fiction as they travel between these two worlds; love, laughter, ritual, pain and history intertwined. Perpetual circular movement framing reality.

DIRECTED BY **Alain Gomis, 2026, France/Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, in French and Wolof with English subtitles, 185 mins., NR**

24 OBJET A
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 12:30PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 7:30PM

“Objet a” is a psychoanalytic term from Jacques Lacan that means the unattainable object cause of desire. Oren’s “wickedly kinky” (*Variety*) satire follows Ingeborg and Adam, a husband and wife who are visionary surgeons bound by love, control and fixations. She is compelled to steal objects while he strives to become one. When an accident introduces Gaia to the couple, she unsettles the careful balance that takes the newly-formed throuple to unexpected psychological and physical explorations.

DIRECTED BY **Ann Oren, 2026, Germany, in German with English subtitles, 95 mins., NR**



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca, DC/DOX

Winner! Special Jury
Mention, Tribeca Film
Festival



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Thessaloniki

Winner! Best documentary,
International Documentary
Film Festival Amsterdam



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
DOC NYC

25 TIME WARP
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 8:00PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 6:30PM (OPEN AIR)

50 years after *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* electrified audiences, a drag theater company in Rock Springs, Wyoming stages a shadow cast. Led by 25-year-old Kenny Starling, they fight for queer visibility in their community.

DIRECTED BY **Allison Berg, 2026, USA, 112 mins., NR**

26 TRAINS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 7:30PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 6:30PM (OPEN AIR)

This stunningly unique documentary, like *Koyaanisqatsi* with an interrail pass, chronicles the history of Europe in the early 20th century using only mesmerizing archival footage of trains with no dialogue. Starting with men assembling a locomotive piece by piece, the train is then sent down the tracks to collect soldiers headed for the First World War. Back at the factories, women have taken over the assembly lines, building artillery that gets loaded onto train flatcars and hauled directly to the front. On the front, the trains swap out the weapons for the wounded. The pattern holds into the Second World War. As the war wages and countries are conquered and liberated, the same rail lines serve both sides - Allied and Axis alike, each running their own operations on the same tracks. *Trains* traces the world at its darkest hours and the role the railroad played in both its survival and liberation.

DIRECTED BY **Maciej Drygas, 2024, No Dialogue, 81 mins., NR**

27 WE MET AT GROSSINGERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 5:00PM

Co-presented by **Tucson J International Film Festival**

A nostalgic exploration of the Borscht Belt’s golden era through Grossinger’s Resort, once the crown jewel of Jewish vacation destinations in the Catskills, from its heyday to decline. Funny, bittersweet and filled with rare archival footage, this documentary revives the iconic resort that inspired *Dirty Dancing* and defined an era of Jewish American life.

DIRECTED BY **Paula Eiselt, 2025, USA, 104 mins., NR**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11														
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM
SCREEN 1										6 Paper Tiger 7:00pm 1 Hr 55 Min				
SCREEN 3	(In Competition) CICAE & Audience awards CICAE & Juror info on page 2 Film descriptions on pages 24-26									21 Soul Patrol 7:30pm 1 Hr 40 Min				
OPEN AIR								Opening Night Party! 5:00pm						

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12														
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM
SCREEN 1		23 Dao 10:30am 3 Hr 5 Min			40 Marie Madeleine 2:15pm 1 Hr 44 Min (In Competition)			11 Everytime 4:45pm 1 Hr 59 Min		9 All of a Sudden 7:30pm 3 Hr 15 Min				
SCREEN 3			24 Objet a 12:30pm 1 Hr 35 Min		39 Hot Water 2:45pm 1 Hr 37 Min		29 Live Action Shorts 5:15pm 1 Hr 40 Min			25 Time Warp 8:00pm 1 Hr 52 Min				
OPEN AIR								45 Dog of God 6:30pm 1 Hr 32 Min						

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13														
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM
SCREEN 1		41 The Red Hangar 11:15am 1 Hr 22 Min		46 The Gymnasts of Fisherman Colony 1:30pm 1 Hr 32 Min		28 Doc Shorts 3:45pm 1 Hr 40 Min		3 Desperately Seeking Susan w/ Susan Seidelman 6:45pm 1 Hr 44 Min	+Q&A		45 Dog of God 10:00pm 1 Hr 32 Min			
SCREEN 3			33 Everything Else is Noise 12:00pm 1 Hr 11 Min (In Competition)		14 The Blood Countess 2:00pm 1 Hr 58 Min		35 Downtown 4:45pm 1 Hr 38 Min (In Competition)		43 Closure 7:15pm 1 Hr 48 Min		22 Bagworm 9:45pm 1 Hr 36 Min			
OPEN AIR								37 Cheyenne 6:30pm 1 Hr 44 Min (In Competition)						

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14														
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM
SCREEN 1		33 Everything Else is Noise 11:00am 1 Hr 11 Min (In Competition)		16 How to Divorce During The War 1:00pm 1 Hr 48 Min		Intro	4 Smithereens with Susan Seidelman 3:30pm 1 Hr 33 Min		1 My Own Private Idaho with Gus Van Sant 6:00pm 1 Hr 44 Min	+Q&A		Intro	2 Mala Noche w/ Gus Van Sant 9:15pm 1 Hr 18 Min	
SCREEN 3		47 The Lorraine 10:45am 1 Hr 24 Min		13 Sensation Cinema 1:00pm 1 Hr 30 Min		37 Cheyenne 2:45pm 1 Hr 44 Min (In Competition)		41 The Red Hangar 5:15pm 1 Hr 22 Min		26 Trains 7:30pm 1 Hr 21 Min			30 Late Night Shorts 9:45pm 1 Hr 30 Min	
OPEN AIR									25 Time Warp 6:30pm 1 Hr 52 Min					

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15														
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM
SCREEN 1		44 On The Road 10:45am 1 Hr 33 Min		Intro	5 Nashville with Joan Tewkesbury 1:00pm 2 Hr 40 Min			12 Aanikoobijigan 5:00pm 1 Hr 25 Min	+Q&A		10 The Beloved 7:45pm 2 Hr 15 Min			
SCREEN 3		34 Trial of Hein 10:00am 2 Hr 2 Min (In Competition)		19 Once Upon a Time in The Middle East 1:15pm 2 Hr 21 Min		20 Tender Loving Care 4:30pm 1 Hr 47 Min				24 Objet a 7:30pm 1 Hr 35 Min				
OPEN AIR									22 Bagworm 6:30pm 1 Hr 36 Min					

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16														
	10:00AM	11:00AM	12:00PM	1:00PM	2:00PM	3:00PM	4:00PM	5:00PM	6:00PM	7:00PM	8:00PM	9:00PM	10:00PM	11:00PM
SCREEN 1		11 Everytime 10:45am 1 Hr 59 Min		18 The Dreamed Adventure 1:30pm 2 Hr 47 Min			32 Local Shorts 5:00pm 1 Hr 26 Min			15 A Man of His Time 7:45pm 2 Hr 39 Min				
SCREEN 3			42 Nina Roza 12:00pm 1 Hr 43 Min		38 A Fox Under a Pink Moon 2:30pm 1 Hr 16 Min (In Competition)		23 Dao 4:30pm 3 Hr 5 Min			31 Animated Shorts 8:30pm 1 Hr 48 Min				
OPEN AIR									34 Closure 6:30pm 1 Hr 48 Min					

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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YOU HAVE GREAT TASTE IN MOVIES.

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A NEW INFERNO

Filmed during the hottest days of Phoenix, Arizona’s summer heatwave, *A New Inferno* follows paramedics as they race to save the lives of heatstroke victims using a radical new treatment: ice immersion therapy. **DIRECTED BY Nita Blum-Reddick & Jonathan Pickett, 2026, USA, 16 mins.**

LA TIERRA DEL VALOR
(THE HOME OF THE BRAVE)

In the summer of 2025, ICE agents conducted sweeping immigration raids across Los Angeles. As migrant communities were pushed into hiding, singer Vanessa Hernandez, professionally known as Nezza, stepped into the light. Invited to perform the national anthem for a Dodgers baseball game, she makes a courageous decision to sing the anthem in Spanish, honoring a community that has been told to make itself unseen. **DIRECTED BY Cristina Costantini, 2026, USA, 23 mins.**

ERUCTION

Winner! Special Jury Award SXSW
Kaylee, a young woman with extraordinary burping abilities aims to break the female world record of 107.3 decibels, having already hit 110db in practice. Her journey to official recognition unfolds in this unique documentary. **DIRECTED BY Victoria Trow, 2026, USA, 6 mins.**

28 DOCUMENTARY SHORTS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 3:45PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 11:45AM

ARIZONA PREMIERE

Experience stories from urgent, powerful and moving true-life stories at the Documentary Shorts Program!

Approximate Runtime: 98 mins

RAMÓN WHO SPEAKS TO
GHOSTS

After a volcanic eruption, Ramón walks the island of La Palma with his microphone, looking for ghosts. **DIRECTED BY Shervin Kermani, 2025, Spain/Canada/Mexico, In Spanish with English subtitles, 8 mins.**

BORROWED FROM THE EARTH

Throughout their histories, both horse and Indigenous people have been corralled. Fences put horses in pens and the Blackfeet on reservations, attempts to subdue both were also successful in strengthening connection between horse and man. **DIRECTED BY Zach Johaneson, 2025, USA, 15 mins.**

WATER COOLER

Winner! Best Short Documentary, Palm Springs Short Film Festival
The Trump administration has turned immigration courts into deportation traps. As ICE agents wait to arrest their targets outside of courtrooms, their banal conversations clash with the severity of their actions. **DIRECTED BY Emma V.F., 2026, USA, 12 mins.**

A WOLF IN THE SUBURBS

Welcome to Mississauga, where lawns are clipped, neighbors are watchful and no blade of grass dares misbehave. Except at Wolf Ruck’s place. His lawn grows wild and so does trouble. **DIRECTED BY Amélie Hardy, 2026, Canada, 18 mins.**



WE WERE HERE

In a sleepy old Indian town, convinced that machines are replacing them, three retired men threaten to take over the jobs of household appliances. **DIRECTED BY Pranav Bhasin, 2025, India, Hindi & English with English subtitles, 10 mins.**

JAZZ INFERNAL

Koffi, a young Ivorian trumpeter, arrives in Montreal with nothing but the legacy of his father to guide him. Lost between the city’s noise and the silence of his past, he must confront his roots to finally find his own voice. **DIRECTED BY Will Niava, 2025, Canada, 16 mins.**

HAND

A heart-broken college student ignores a grotesque hand infection as she develops an obsession with stains on her carpet. **DIRECTED BY Jennifer Winterbotham, 2025, USA, 18 mins.**

AMÉRICA

América, a 10-year-old girl from a remote village in the Peruvian Andes, dreams of getting a bicycle so she’ll never be late for school again. But to earn the money to buy it, she needs to come up with a plan. **DIRECTED BY Javier Arias-Stella, 2025, Peru, In Spanish & Quechua with English subtitles, 16 mins.**

29 LIVE ACTION SHORTS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 5:15PM

ARIZONA PREMIERE

Experience creative storytelling at its best with this stellar collection of Live Action Shorts!

Approximate Runtime: 100 mins

FOLLOWING

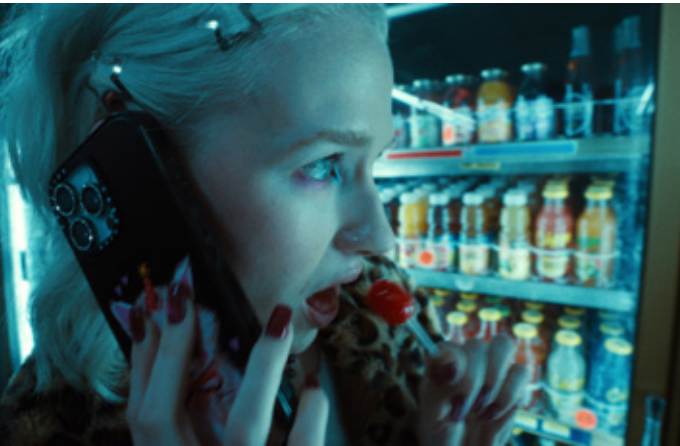
A social outcast’s life is forever changed when he discovers Melissa Joan Hart is inexplicably following him. **DIRECTED BY Briana Pozner, 2025, USA, 13 mins.**

RELAY

On Montana’s Blackfeet Reservation, a 10 year old boy watches as screens consume his family. When the lights go out, he glimpses what he’s been missing. So as the world flickers back to life, he makes a choice—one that could change everything. **DIRECTED BY Thilo Gundelach, 2025, USA, 15 mins.**

BORDERLINE

A Norwegian customs officer, a Finnish poacher, and a mysterious Swedish woman meet at the border between their homelands, becoming entangled in a conflict over laws, language, and prejudice. **DIRECTED BY Johannes Vang, 2026, Norway / Finland / Sweden, in Saami, Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish and English with English subtitles, 12 mins.**



SOMEONE TO STEAL HORSES WITH

A horse reflects on memory, disturbing the daily routines of citizens in Los Santos, San Andreas, during the press release for his new book “Someone to Steal Horses With”. **DIRECTED BY Dylan Pailes-Friedman, 2025, Italy/USA, 9 mins.**

GOD IS SHY

During a train ride, Ariel and Paul pass the time sketching their deepest fears. Their game takes an unexpected turn when Gilda, a mysterious passenger, intrudes on their exchange. Yet, her relationship with fear seems far less innocent than their playful drawings. **DIRECTED BY Jocelyn Charles, 2025, France, In French with English subtitles, 15 mins.**

AGNÈS

Agnès, a young French actress living in Los Angeles, dreams of making it in the United States. But a quick stop at the supermarket, just before a neighborhood party, changes everything. Her American dream suddenly turns into a nightmare. **DIRECTED BY Nora Arnezeder, 2025, France, In English & French with English subtitles, 15 mins.**

SCISSORS

A slasher with a grudge meets his match when a group of queer friends on a weekend getaway turns his killing spree into a bloody night he never saw coming. **DIRECTED BY Hannah Aline, 2026, USA, 12 mins.**

30 LATE NIGHT SHORTS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 9:45PM

ARIZONA PREMIERE

Don’t miss this wild collection of short films on the big screen!

Approximate Runtime: 90 mins

DOLLHOUSE ELEPHANT

In a world that demands community participation, individual desires inevitably collide. A group of neighbours, each focused on their own goals, must learn to communicate and consider one another. But when small, everyday actions trigger unexpected consequences, they are forced into interactions that challenge their independence. **DIRECTED BY Jenny Jokela, 2025, Finland, No dialogue, 11 mins.**

UM

Bird gods descend to Earth to save humanity from its own destruction. As their divine descendants spiral into chaos, these ancient deities must restore balance to a world teetering on the edge of collapse. **DIRECTED BY Luis Nieto, 2025, France, In Japanese with English subtitles. 8 mins.**

FLOCK

When the sheep population of a tight-knit farming community mysteriously vanish, an elderly Shepherd becomes the target of suspicion and anger as his meagre flock are miraculously untouched by this freak event. **DIRECTED BY Mac Nixon, 2025, UK, 20 mins.**



EMBODIED

Embodied is a collective oil pastel-animated reflection on death, as shared by individuals facing the end of life aided by psychedelic-assisted care. **DIRECTED BY Samuel W. Smith, 2025, USA, 13 mins.**

FACUK

In a God-fearing village lying between two rivers, giving birth to a “fačuk” — an illegitimate child — is a mortal sin. Everyone in the village recoils from the young pregnant woman who is about to give birth at any moment. In this narrow-minded and harsh rural environment, fear grows inside her. **DIRECTED BY Maida Srabović, 2025, Croatia/Slovenia, In Croation with English subtitles, 13 mins.**

I HAVE A

A man lists the things he has. **DIRECTED BY Rory Waudby-Tolley, 2025, UK, 5 mins.**

MURMURATION

An elderly man realizes he’s suddenly turning into a bird.. **DIRECTED BY Janneke Swinkels & Tim Frijsinger, 2025, Netherlands/Belgium, 13 mins.**

SABA

In a surreal world where gravity flows upward, a young boy embarks on a poetic journey through grief, memory, and the endless search for closure. **DIRECTED BY Liron Topaz, 2026, USA, 10 mins.**

31 ANIMATED SHORTS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 8:30PM

ARIZONA PREMIERE

Don’t miss our Animated Shorts program featuring some of the best animated short films from the top film festivals!

Approximate Runtime: 108 mins

SIGNAL

Claudie is absolutely passionate about her rather unusual job: scanning the cosmos for signs of extraterrestrial life, hoping to make contact. Completely absorbed in her mission, she gradually loses touch with those around her. To the point that reality itself could fades away from her... **DIRECTED BY Mathilde Parquet & Emma Carré, 2025, France, In French with English subtitles, 17 mins.**

WHALE 52 - SUITE FOR MAN, BOY, AND WHALE

Animated by Bill Plympton, *Whale 52* draws on the legend of the “loneliest whale” as a 3rd grade student with selective mutism and a silently grieving school volunteer discover a magical pen and journal that enables them to hear each other with a listening heart. **DIRECTED BY Daniel Neiden, 2026, USA, 12 mins.**

DOG ALONE

A dog was abandoned in its home at the same time my grandfather became a widower, and I was returning from London, a place where I felt lonelier than ever. **DIRECTED BY Marta Reis Andrade, 2025, Portugal/France, in Portuguese with English subtitles, 13 mins.**

BECAUSE TODAY IS SATURDAY

It’s Saturday, and a woman struggles with the difficulty of reconciling her home life and her need to escape to unleash her creative side. **DIRECTED BY Alice Eça Guimarães, 2025, Portugal, France/Spain, 12 mins.**



THE VALLEY BETWEEN

“We do not have that authority and that right to decide the fate of a continent. We are not the only ones on this place.” Eamon Harrity talks about wildlife migration across the border in the San Rafael Valley in Arizona. Eamon has headed a study of the species that migrate and their responses to border barriers that began in 2020. The barriers, until this year, consisted of barbed wire and vehicle barriers set up to allow for animal movement. Now, a 30-foot steel wall is being built across the valley. In this short documentary, you will see the San Rafael Valley before the 30 foot wall and learn about the variety of wild animals, including jaguars, that cross the border in their search for food, water and mates. **DIRECTED BY Leslie Ann Epperson, 2026, USA, 4 mins.**

BUFF

After being released from jail for climate activism, a woman encounters an abused rodeo Buffalo for which she will trek the American Southwest in an attempt to free it and herself. **DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER GESSNER, 2026, USA, 15 mins.**

FLAG SONG

Flag Song is a short form film created around a poem written by the Indigenous Nations Poets Fellows and Faculty at an In-Na-Po retreat at Amerind Museum & University of Arizona Poetry Center. **DIRECTED BY Dusan Harminc & Andrew Blue Sky, 2026, USA, 6 mins.**

TRUNCATED SOUL (ALMA TRUNCADA)

The final thoughts of a sicario unravel in the moments before his soul becomes trapped in the in-between, a liminal space where regret, memory, and judgment collide. **DIRECTED BY Pedro Perez Nuñez, 2026, USA, 12 mins.**

32 LOCAL SHORTS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 5:00PM

ARIZONA PREMIERE

Celebrate the creativity of our community with a collection of short films made by local filmmakers, each bringing their unique stories to the big screen.

Approximate Runtime: 86 mins

TOKA: THE GAME MUST GO ON

Rolanda trains a group of Tohono girls in the game of Toka on the Tucson reservation. Through this ancestral tradition, she seeks to keep the memory of her ancestors alive and reconnect with the deeper meaning of her last name. At the same time, Tai, one of her eleven year old students, weaves together through her life experiences what it means to be a Tohono girl, and how Toka embodies part of the strength, wisdom, and spirituality that sustain their community. **DIRECTED BY ohono O’odham Nation’s Documentary Film Collective, 2025, USA, 17 mins.**

SMILE, PLEASE

When a long-running sitcom show faces its final episode, a supporting actress must confront what comes next, searching for her own identity among societal pressures and the large changes that await her. **DIRECTED BY Caroline Rosen & Madeline Heinrich, 2026, USA, 7 mins.**

THEY WAIT

When the law fails, and every other option runs dry, a desperate grandfather seeks revenge through an Indigenous spirit broker, only to discover that spoken fury can awaken ancient forces beyond anyone’s control. **DIRECTED BY David J Aberle, 2026, USA, 11 mins.**

BE STILL, BOONE

A character driven revisionist western, *Be Still, Boone* follows a hardened cowboy haunted by years on the trail as he struggles to reconnect with his estranged daughter before the weight of his past costs him what little he has left. Beneath its rugged exterior, the film is an intimate story of regret, masculinity, and emotional inheritance. **DIRECTED BY Clinton Lee Willis, 2026, USA, 14 mins.**



THE FOLLOWING 8 FILMS ARE NOMINATED FOR THE CICAE ARTHOUSE CINEMA AWARD:



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS: Berlin, Toronto, New York, Morelia

33 EVERYTHING ELSE IS NOISE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 12:00PM SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 11AM



In Mexico, cellist and composer Tere lends her plant-filled apartment to her colleague Rosa for a TV interview. Their conversation wanders, and Tere’s daughter, who like her mother and Rosa is a cellist, joins the process. What follows is spiced with electrical blackouts, a barking dog, boring questions and platitudes. A witty, absurdist comedy that lampoons art-world pretension while honoring female friendship. The minimalist tale is told not only with a minimalist yet hilarious script, but also with a brilliant use of clashes between sound and image.

DIRECTED BY Nicolás Pereda, Mexico, 2026, in Spanish with English subtitles, 71 mins., R



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS: Berlin, Seattle, Provincetown

Winner! Jury Award, Berlin Film Festival

34 TRIAL OF HEIN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 10:30AM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:45PM



A boatman delivering Hein back to a remote island asks, “Why would you come to this godforsaken place?” Hein replies, “This is my home.” After 14 years, Hein is returning to the island village of his birth. Having fled a constricting, conservative community for a freer existence, Hein now wants to revisit his roots and a secret relationship from his youth. The small community, however, isn’t sure this man is actually Hein, so they demand a trial to determine the truth. Hein is forced by the increasingly contentious hearings to face uncomfortable truths about the divide separating the man he wants to be from the Hein demanded by the villagers.

DIRECTED BY Kai Stänicke, 2026, Germany, in German with English subtitles, 122 mins., NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Netherlands Film Festival,
Frameline, Cinema Queer
Film Festival



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Berlin, Sundance, Tribeca

Winner! Waldo Salt
Screening Writing Award,
Sundance 2026



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Toronto

35 DOWNTOWN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 4:45PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 3:00PM



In 1989, three young gay men throw themselves wholeheartedly into the hedonistic nightlife scene of Amsterdam, a life of friendship, sex and drugs, until the mysterious AIDS virus casts its shadow over their lives. 32 years later – in the lockdown of the Covid pandemic – the three unexpectedly reunite and confront the wounds from their youth.

DIRECTED BY Michiel van Erp, 2026, The Netherlands, in Dutch with English subtitles, 98 mins., R

36 TAKE ME HOME

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 3:15PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 4:30PM



Anna, a Korean adoptee, cares for her aging parents while they care for her, in a fragile balance of meeting one another’s needs. When a Florida heat wave shatters their routine, Anna’s future is uncertain until she creates a world where she can thrive. Anna and her sister Emily, who lives in New York, share a loving but tenuous relationship, while Emily and her father struggle to navigate an underfunded healthcare system, exposing systematic inequality for those with cognitive disabilities that can quickly drive a seemingly middle-class family toward the margins. Both Sargent and Ahn share a touching rapport as sisters, illuminating the cracks, faults, and bonds that ultimately unify them. A warmly personal film from director Liz Sargent, with her sister in the role of Anna.

DIRECTED BY Liz Sargent, 2026, YEAR, USA, 91 mins., NR

37 CHEYENNE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 6:30PM (OPEN AIR)
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 2:45PM



Director Taimi Arvidson introduces us to four fearless cowgirls whose reasons for getting on those horses may differ, but whose determination, resilience, and sisterhood are impossible not to admire. *Cheyenne* balances the exhilaration of riding wild broncos with its very real emotional and physical toll. *Cheyenne* follows Bee, Brooke, Lake, and Ally on the American rodeo circuit, documenting their physical and mental journeys as they push boundaries and overcome a historic, nearly 90-year gender ban in the sport, with the ultimate goal of competing at the prestigious Cheyenne Frontier Days finals.

DIRECTED BY Taimi Arvidson, 2026, USA, 104 mins., NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
CPH-DOX, Full Frame, Hot
Docs Canada



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Sundance, Karlovy-Vary, BFI
London



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Cannes, Toronto, BFI
London

38 A FOX UNDER A PINK MOON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 2:30PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 3:00PM



Winner! Best Documentary at International Documentary Film Festival
Amsterdam

Soraya, a strong-willed 16-year-old Afghan sculptor and illustrator, has been trying for five years to escape Iran and join her mother in Austria. This subtly textured self-portrait interweaves chilling scenes of her escape attempts with political news from Afghanistan and videos in which she sings and dances-or shows her bruises. Soraya is determined to shape her own future.

DIRECTED BY Soraya Akhlaghi and Mehrdad Oskouei, 2025, France/Iran/
Denmark, in Persian and Dari with English subtitles, 76 mins., NR

39 HOT WATER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 2:45PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 12:45PM



Winner! Best Feature, San Francisco International Film Festival

In this road-trip movie that explores family fractures and intergenerational differences, Daniel, a first-generation American, gets kicked out of high school for fighting. His tightly-wound mother Layla (Lubna Azabal, *Incendies*), an Arabic professor originally from Beirut, decides to drive across the US to take her son to live with his father in California. Their journey is full of eccentric characters including a Colorado hot springs fanatic (Dale Dickey).

DIRECTED BY Ramzi Bashour, 2026, USA, in English, Arabic & French with
English subtitles, 97 mins., NR

40 MARIE MADELEINE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 2:15PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 5:30PM



In Jacmel, Haiti, prostitute Marie Madeleine (played by director Gessica Geneus) lives freely outside society’s rules. When she meets Joseph, a devout evangelical believer, an unlikely bond forms. Joseph is caught between worlds when his father opens a church across the street from Marie’s brothel, setting the stage for explosive confrontations between desire and freedom.

DIRECTED BY Gessica Geneus, 2026, Haiti, in French and Haitian with English
subtitles, 104 mins., NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Berlin, Guadalajara

41 THE RED HANGAR
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 11:15AM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 5:15PM

Winner! 5 awards including Best Picture at Guadalajara International Film Festival

During Chile’s 1973 coup, Air Force Captain Jorge Silva faces an internal struggle as his military academy becomes a prison camp. Based on a memoir, the film asks - how does one man caught up in events he cannot control or escape comply without being complicit?

DIRECTED BY Juan Pablo Sallato, 2026, Chile/Argentina, in Spanish with English subtitles, 82 mins, NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Berlin, Sofia

Winner Silver Bear for Best Screenplay, Berlin Film Festival

42 NINA ROZA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 12:00PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 5:00PM

Official submission of Canada for the Best International Feature Film Academy Award!

Mihail is a curator for a private art collection. Originally from Bulgaria, he settled in Canada with his daughter Roza almost 30 years ago. Over the years, their origin story has become a taboo at home...until Mihail is asked to investigate the case of an 8-year-old Bulgarian girl who may be a painter prodigy. He must return to his homeland and his past and confront the emotional cost of their uprooting.

DIRECTED BY Genevieve Dulude De-Celles, 2026, France, in French with English subtitles, 103 mins, NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Thessaloniki, Mill Valley

Winner! Golden Alexander International Award

43 CLOSURE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 7:15PM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 6:30PM (OPEN AIR)

Closure centers on a family in Warsaw whose son disappears one day without a trace. After his teenage son, Krzysztof, goes missing in May 2023, Daniel searches Poland’s Vistula River, torn between fear that his son is dead and hope that he may still be alive. CCTV footage taken on the morning of his disappearance shows Krzysztof standing on a bridge, but not whether he jumped or walked away. Daniel continues to investigate long after the police and local media have stopped searching.

DIRECTED BY Michal Marczak, 2026, Poland, in Polish with English subtitles, 108 mins., NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Venice, Morelia

Winner! Horizons Award and Queer Lion Award, Venice

44 ON THE ROAD (EN EL CAMINO)
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 10:45AM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 8:00PM

Official submission of Mexico for the Best International Feature Film Academy Award!

Veneno, a rebellious young drifter, frequents roadside diners where he sleeps with truck drivers. Urgently needing a ride, he convinces Muñeco, a hard-edged driver who keeps to himself, to take him deep into the hyper-masculine world of long-haul trucking across the north of Mexico.

DIRECTED BY David Pablos, 2025, Mexico, in Spanish with English subtitles, 93 mins, NC-17



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca, Fantasy Film Fest

Winner! Best Screenplay, Latvian Film Festival

45 DOG OF GOD
THURS, NOV 12 AT 6:30PM (OPEN AIR)
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 10:00PM

Official submission of Latvia for the Best International Feature Film Academy Award!

Rotoscope animation is used to tell the story of a 17th century Livonian village of Zaube, where something’s in the air, something potentially sinister and ripe with nightmarish ramifications.

DIRECTED BY Lauris Abele and Raitis Abele, 2025, Latvia, in Latvian with English subtitles, 92 mins., NR / For mature audiences, contains graphic sex and violence.



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca, Zurich

46 THE GYMNASTS OF FISHERMAN COLONY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 1:30PM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 5:30PM

The unlikely birth of a gymnastics team offers a spark of hope for a small group of Pakistani girls in Machar Colony, a sprawling settlement of Karachi. Many who live there are referred to as being “stateless” or undocumented. While girls are expected to work peeling shrimp, study the Quran and marry young, these determined girls take up gymnastics, defying social norms, working with a dedicated male coach.

DIRECTED BY Habiba Nosheen, 2026, Pakistan, in Urdu with English subtitles, 92 mins, NR



ARIZONA PREMIERE

OTHER FESTIVALS:
Tribeca

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47 THE LORRAINE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 10:45AM
WEDNESDAY, NOV 18 AT 12:00PM

The Lorraine is so much more than the balcony of Room 306. While The Lorraine is a Memphis landmark best known as the place Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968, the reason that Dr. King and so many other Black luminaries stayed there to begin with is because of the safe haven that Walter and Loree Bailey had built up over two decades of segregation in the South. The Lorriane was a rare Black-owned hotel that became a bustling hub of activity, especially when the legendary Stax Records was right down the street.

DIRECTED BY Sam Pollard, 2026, USA, 84 mins., NR



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