

SLAMDANCE

FILM
FESTIVAL

LOS ANGELES

FEBRUARY 19-25, 2026

SLAMDANCE

presented by



2026

SLAMDANCE

SCHEDULE

Thursday 2/19

DGA1 7:00pm The Projectionist plus First Film Podcast

atrium 9:00-11:00pm Opening Night Party

Friday 2/20

DGA1 7:30 PM BRB w/ Starlit

DGA2 1:00pm A Free Daughter of Free Kyrgyzstan w/ Panther Pat
3:00pm Whispering of the Moon w/ Lost Wax
5:30pm Snowland w/ Domestic Demon
8:00pm The Tallest Dwarf w/ The Bear Hunt

LM4 12:00pm You Look Fine w/ Unlimited, Forever and Ever, No Matter What
2:15pm Unstoppable Shorts
4:30pm The Key
6:45pm Documentary Shorts
9:00pm Matapanki w/ Levantamuertos: Cumbia for the Dead

LM5 12:00pm Narrative Shorts Block One
2:15pm The LeMieurs w/ No Matter the Weather
4:15pm The Bulldogs w/ Still Standing
6:30pm The Old Man and the Parrot w/ The Human, Will
9:15pm Episode Block

EVENTS 10:00am Breaking into Episodic Television - Presented by NBCU LAUNCH
10:00am WIP Brunch @ Kodak House
12:00pm Pessah Law Clinic: Pre-Production
1:00pm The Business of Self-Care presented by WIP
3:00-6:00pm WIF Mixer

DGA1 7:30pm Under The Rainbow: The Curious Crimes Of The Ruby Slippers w/ OKAY plus Slamdance First Film podcast

DGA2 12:30pm Clovers w/ ____ in Paris
3:00pm Brailled It w/ Becoming Ollie
5:30pm Danny is My Boyfriend w/ Cat & Nat
8:00pm Kings of Venice w/ The Good Farmer & the Failed Son

LM4 12:30pm 50 Meters w/ Mother's Influence
2:30pm Zumeca
5:15pm Episode Block
7:30pm A Story About You w/ Tears
9:45pm Santa Zeta

LM5 12:30pm Narrative Shorts Block Two
2:45pm Dump of Untitled Pieces
5:00pm Documentary Shorts
7:15pm The LeMieurs w/ No Matter the Weather
9:30pm 11 w/ After That

2220 5:00pm Revolution
7:15pm Experimental Shorts
9:30pm Animated Shorts

2220 Lobby 4:30pm Corpse Pose
11:15pm Corpse Pose Musical Performance

2220 Back room 4:30-11:30pm A Voice from the Hut / Before Closure / The Time Before / WebDoc Rocas de Santo Domingo

EVENTS 10:00am-5:00pm Writers Day Presented by PageCraft
12:00pm Pessah Law Clinic: Production
4:30pm Directing Beyond Assumptions
6:00-8:00pm Happy Hour

LEGEND:

DGA1 - Directors Guild Theater 1
DGA2 - Summer Chastant and David Pierce Theater / Directors Guild Theater 2
LM4 - Landmark Sunset Theater 4
LM5 - Landmark Sunset Theater 5
2220 - 2220 Arts + Archives
EGYPTIAN - Egyptian Theater
EVENTS take place in the DGA Atrium, DGA RM 100 and in DGA Theater 3

Sunday 2/22

DGA1	7:30 PM Film Independent Screening
DGA2	12:30pm Ten Will w/ Brain to Meninges 2:30pm Back On Track w/ Girl of Wind 5:00pm Three Colors: Pan-African 8:00pm The Plan w/ Deadweight
LM4	12:30pm Silver w/ Now That We Are Sending You to the End 2:45pm Dump of Untitled Pieces 5:00pm House 4 w/ In Exchange for Flesh 7:00pm The Bulldogs w/ Still Standing 9:15pm The Old Man and the Parrot w/ The Human, Will
LM5	12:30pm Narrative Shorts Block Three 2:45pm Snowland w/ Domestic Demon 5:15pm BRB w/ Starlit 7:30pm Unstoppable Shorts 9:45pm Kings of Venice w/ The Good Farmer & the Failed Son
2220	3:00pm THIS IS BUZZ 6:00pm 99 Special 7:00pm Animated Shorts 9:15pm Experimental Shorts
2220 Lobby	4:30-10:30pm Corpse Pose
2220 Back room	4:30-10:00pm A Voice from the Hut / Before Closure / The Time Before / WebDoc Rocas de Santo Domingo / Corpse Pose
EVENTS	9:00-11:00am Programmers Brunch 12:00pm Pessah Law Clinic: Post-Production 1:00pm Not a Niche: Disability and the Future of Film Programming 3:30pm Student Symposium: Cinevation 5:30-7:30pm Programmers Happy Hour

Wednesday 2/25

LM4	12:30pm Three Colors: Pan-African 3:00pm Narrative Shorts Block Three 5:15pm Whispering of the Moon w/ Lost Wax
LM5	12:30pm Silver w/ Now That We Are Sending You to the End 2:45pm The Plan w/ Deadweight 5:00pm Brailled It w/ Becoming Ollie

EGYPTIAN	8:00-9:00pm Closing Night Awards 9:00-11:00pm Closing Night Reception presented by Easterseals
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Monday 2/23

DGA2	5:30pm Revolution 8:00pm Tony Odyssey
LM4	1:00pm A Free Daughter of Free Kyrgyzstan w/ Panther Pat 2:45pm House 4 w/ In Exchange for Flesh 4:45pm Santa Zeta 7:15pm Narrative Shorts Block One
LM5	1:00pm You Look Fine w/ Unlimited, Forever and Ever, No Matter What 3:30pm Ten Will w/ Brain to Meninges 5:30pm 50 Meters w/ Mother's Influence 7:30pm Danny is My Boyfriend w/ Cat & Nat
EVENTS	Market Monday: The NonDÈ Way Sponsored by All-Movie Hotel 10:00-10:15am Ted Hope's NonDÈ Welcome and Day's Agenda 10:15am-12:45pm Morning Sessions 12:45-1:45pm Lunch 1:45-5:00pm Afternoon Sessions 5:00-6:30pm Market Monday Happy Hour

Tuesday 2/24

LM4	1:00pm The Key 3:15pm The Tallest Dwarf w/ The Bear Hunt 5:30pm Tony Odyssey 7:45pm Back On Track w/ Girl of Wind 10:00pm 11 w/ After That
LM5	12:30pm Zumeca 3:15pm Narrative Shorts Block Two 5:30pm Clovers w/ ____ in Paris 7:45pm A Story About You w/ Tears 10:00pm Matapanki w/ Levantamuerdos: Cumbia for the Dead



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WELCOME

A very big welcome to Slamdance '26!

Slamdance is a community, an experience and a statement and we invite you to take part. Now in our second year in Los Angeles, we continue to grow our mission by launching new films, new careers and new ideas in filmmaking and media arts. Thank you to our alumni, community partners, sponsors, festival jury and an incredible festival programming and staff team for making this year's festival possible. Let's now celebrate the filmmakers from across the globe and discover together the new artists who will shape our cultural future. Enjoy the show!

Peter Baxter

Co-Founder

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Indicates Made in Los Angeles.

Festival Info

Directors Guild

7920 W Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90046

Landmark Sunset

8000 West Sunset Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90046

2220 Arts + Archive

2220 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Egyptian Theater

6712 Hollywood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90028

How to Access Slamdance

- All Access Passes: \$50
- Tickets: \$19
- Events: Free with registration
- Virtual Festival Pass: \$7.99 or \$50 for an annual subscription
- Get your All Access Passes and tickets from slamdance.com and the Slamdance Box Office during opening hours
- Register for events from slamdance.com
- Get your Virtual Festival Pass from slamdancechannel.com

Box Office Hours:

Feb. 19: 1pm - 9pm
Feb. 20: 9am - 10pm
Feb. 21: 9am - 10:15pm
Feb. 22: 9am - 10:15pm
Feb. 23: 9am - 8:30pm
Feb. 24: 11am - 10:30pm
Feb. 25: 11am - 9:30pm

Festival Office / Filmmaker Relations Hours:

Feb. 19: 1-6pm
Feb. 20-25: 10am-12pm; 1-6pm

www.slamdance.com

Instagram: [@slamdancegroup](https://www.instagram.com/slamdancegroup)

X (Formerly Twitter):
[@slamdance](https://twitter.com/slamdance)

Facebook: [facebook.com/
SlamdanceFilmFestival](https://facebook.com/SlamdanceFilmFestival)

#slamdance2026

Email: support@slamdance.com

Virtual Festival: Slamdancechannel.com

Watch the 2026 Film Festival on the Slamdance Channel February 24th - March 6th! Our channel expands our mission of providing filmmakers the opportunity for audiences to discover their new work. The global streaming platform is available on Apple TV, Firestick and Roku, as well as online. Access to the Slamdance '26 festival lineup and year-round programming costs just \$50!

Staff

Peter Baxter
-> President &
Co-Founder

Taylor Miller
-> Festival
Director &
Unstoppable
Co-Founder

Anna Lee Lawson
-> Festival Manager

Lizzie Friedrich
-> Festival
Coordinator

Lily Calvert
-> Digital Content
& Social Media
Manager

Eddie Bernard
-> Social Media
& Marketing
Consultant

Krystin Braverman
-> Festival
Producer

Austin Welsh
-> Operations
Manager

Hayden Jennings
-> PR Coordinator

Bailey Pauze
-> Box Office
Manager

Emma Mazurek
-> Event
Coordinator

Holly Maniatty
-> Accessibility
Coordinator

Ray Taylor
-> Onsite
Accessibility
Coordinator

Nichole Alvarez
-> Landmark Venue
Manager

Skizz Cyzyk
-> 2220 Arts Venue
Manager

Paul Sbrizzi
-> Art Director

Andy Viner
-> Videographer

Lauren Desberg
-> Photographer

Juliet Romeo
-> Unstoppable
Co-Founder

42West
-> Slamdance
Publicist

Aditya Ezhuthachan
& Pessah Law Group,
LLP
-> Legal Counsel

Edel Rodriguez
-> Slamdance '26
Key Art

Andi Benge
-> Animated Bumper

Peter Baxter
Marie Jamora
Paul Rachman
-> Slamdance
Board Members

Mission

Slamdance's mission is to function as an agent of change in filmmaking and digital media, helping to make the creative works of artists with divergent voices accessible to everyone.

Slamdance is a non-profit organization under code section 501 (c) (3).

AGBO Fellowship

Slamdance alumni Anthony and Joe Russo began the annual AGBO Fellowship in 2018 to pay forward the support they received in launching their careers at the festival. We thank Anthony and Joe for their ongoing commitment to our community, as well as AGBO partner Angela Russo-Oststot and team members Marian Koltai-Levine, Sarah Caruso, Casey Lapidus and Sophia Russo.



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3 LITTLE BIRDS
event planning

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PRODUCERS

yeah!
RENTALS

>> Narrative Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 5:30PM, DGA; Mon Feb 23rd, 7:30PM, Landmark •
USA / 100 min

Danny Is My Boyfriend LA

Tightly-wound Lucy has moved back in with her mother after a breakup so bad it landed her in a psych ward. So when her new boyfriend Danny asks her to dogsit while he's away for his nephew's non-denominational circumcision party, it feels like proof she's back on track. Until a stranger recognizes the three-legged dog... as HER boyfriend's dog. Throw into a reluctant alliance by the discovery that they're both dating Danny, Lucy and the stranger-Mechi, a socially awkward babysitter-conspire to get even. [@dannyismybf](https://www.instagram.com/dannyismybf)

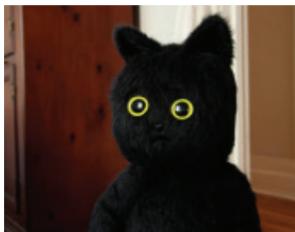


Directors: Mechi Lakatos, Lucy Sandler / Story: Lucy Sandler, Mechi Lakatos / Producers: Lucy Sandler, Mechi Lakatos, Rachel Brunner, Joey Fitzsimmons, Trace Le / Cast: Lucy Sandler, Mechi Lakatos, Brooke Smith, Rachel Brunner, Maleah Goldberg, Michelle Thompson

Cat & Nat

Director: Aaron Hughes / USA / 10 min /
World Premiere

>> Disturbing fortune cookie predictions send a girl and her cat into a surreal spiral. [@acatnat.episodes](https://www.instagram.com/acatnat.episodes)



>> Narrative Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 2:45PM, Landmark; Sun Feb 22nd, 2:45PM, Landmark •
Turkey / 105 min / N. American Premiere

Dump of Untitled Pieces

Facing eviction, idealistic young photographer Aslı and her carefree, art-illiterate roommate Murat try to sell her work in Istanbul's art market. Following one humiliating defeat after another, Aslı smashes a gallery window in frustration, yet a star curator of the industry, Mete, offers to rebrand it as performance art. Accepting this offer against her nature leads to a deluge beyond control.

© @thisisadumpofpromotion

Director/Writer: Melik Kuru / Producer: Hilal Şenel, Fahriye İsmayılova /Cast: Manolya Maya, Ekremcan Arslandağ, Tuğrul Tülek, Tülin Özen, Ceylan Özgün Özçelik, Emrah Özdemir, Okan Avcı, Cüneyt Yalaz



>> Narrative Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 4:30PM, Landmark; Tue Feb 24th 1PM, Landmark •
France / 108 min / North American Premiere

The Key

Alain and Bruno don't know each other and have nothing in common. Yet, they do

share one thing: they are both complete outsiders. Shut out even from their own lives, they have no real contact with the world around them. In the eyes of others, they are practically invisible. Their lives suddenly change when they meet a third man: Z. This strange homeless guy has a very peculiar way of surviving. Instead of begging on a street corner, he has come up with his own solution: breaking into large apartments and living there in hiding. Alain and Bruno learn the art of breaking and entering and staying "hidden." But the evil that eats away at our societies also takes hold of the hearts of our two protagonists: they want more and more ... thinking it will make them even happier... [@htthprod](https://www.instagram.com/htthprod)



Director/Writer: Paul G. Sportiello /
Producer: Emilie Huynh / Cast: Sylka,
Bruno Clairefond, Alain Guillot, Dorothee
Deblaton

>> Narrative Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 9PM, Landmark; Tue Feb 24th, 10PM, Landmark •

Chile / 71 min / N. American Premiere

Matapanki

friends. Despite his tough exterior, he has a soft side: he cares for his grandmother, María Luisa, who suffers from fibromyalgia. One day, after trying a strange alcoholic brew, he gains superpowers that are activated every time he drinks the potion.

Director/Writer: Diego "Mapache" Fuentes /
Producer: Tomás Santelices /
Cast: Ramón Gálvez, Diego Bravo, Antonia McCarthy, Rosa Peñaloza, Rodrigo Lisboa

Ricardo is a punk who spends his days drinking and going to gigs with his

Determined to change society, he jumps into action, but things spiral out of control when, after a bloody mistake, he triggers a global conflict against himself.
[@matapanki](https://www.instagram.com/matapanki)



Levantamuertos: Cumbia for the Dead

Director: José Eduardo Castilla Ponce /
Writers: Victor Duarte Mata, Jose Eduardo Castilla Ponce / Mexico /
19 min

>> A cumbia-loving embalmer sets out on a road trip with a corpse, searching for the money that the deceased had hidden.



>> Narrative Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 6:30PM, Landmark; Sun Feb 22nd, 9:15PM, Landmark •
USA / 85 min / World Premiere

The Old Man and the Parrot

Ana, is forced to confront Praxi and unravel the bizarre claim. As Praxi recounts his romance with Yoelvis, we flash back to their attempt to open a vegan Cuban restaurant and their fateful encounter with Radel. There, the truth behind the curse emerges;

revealing Radel's motivations,

Yoelvis' secrets, and
why Ana may be the
only one capable of
undoing the spell.
©acocuyo_
productions



Director: Gabriel de Varona / Producer: Kevin Ondarza / Writers: Gabriel de Varona, Kevin Ondarza / Cast: Ruben Rabasa, Serafin Falcon, Rene Lavan, Isabella Bobadilla, Mia Rose Chamaro

The Human, Will

Director: Edward Bursch / Writers: Edward Bursch, Dave Niedoba / USA / 7 min / World Premiere

>> A depressed insurance claims adjuster vows to exercise Free Will after his pet goldfish Frodo is shot and killed. ©humanwillseries



>> Narrative Feature

Sun Feb 22nd, 8PM, DGA; Wed Feb 25th, 2:45PM, Landmark •
USA / 74 min / World Premiere

The Plan LA

In an East LA apartment, a group of young activists prepares for a violent

political act: to disrupt a high-profile graduation ceremony in a coordinated attack they believe will make a lasting impact. But as the day wears on and the heat rises, cracks begin to show. Personal grievances bubble to the surface. Romantic entanglements, unresolved trauma, and doubts about the mission threaten to derail everything. Shot in a single, uninterrupted take, *The Plan* traps the audience inside the apartment with the characters as time runs out. It's a pressure-cooker thriller that morphs into a pitch-black comedy about the absurdity of idealism in a fractured world – and what happens when the people who want to change everything can't even agree on what they're fighting for. [@theplan_movie](https://www.instagram.com/theplan_movie)

Director/Writer: Jessica Barr / Producers: Jessica Barr, Alexander Spenser Gould, Sarah Whelden, Kelly Wilcox / Cast: Ryan Simpkins, An-Li Bogan, Eve Lindley, Jordan Hull, Percy White, Logan Miller, Arkira Chantaratananond, Frank Mosley



Deadweight

Director: Bese Komáromy / Hungary / 23 min / N. American Premiere
>> A young woman attempts to connect, even as bodies pile up, while something lurks behind her and eats everything. [@komabybese](https://www.instagram.com/komabybese)



>> Narrative Feature

Sun Feb 22nd, 12:30 PM, DGA; Mon Feb 23rd, 3:30PM, Landmark •
USA / 74 min / World Premiere

TEN WILL LA

When his van breaks down, Tennessee Williams (AKA Ten Will), a recently released convict, tears through the streets of LA, colliding with everyone in his path in a desperate attempt to register on time as a sex offender. [@maxdefalco_](https://www.instagram.com/maxdefalco_)



Director/Writer: Max DeFalco / Producers: Max DeFalco, Cheyenne Slowensky / Cast: Mikul Robins, Donna Dymally, Alicia Hecht, Terrell Lamb, Kathleen Deming, Sonny Frank, Peggy Fields Richardson, Harvey Fisher

Brain to Meninges

Director: Chaehyeok Lim / S. Korea / 5 min
>> After living with holes in my meninges for 10 years, I felt that there was a passage through which memories are passed between my brain and meninges. Through this, my memories pass by my brain like the flow of water.
[@imchaehyeok](https://www.instagram.com/imchaehyeok)



>> Narrative Feature

Sun Feb 22nd, 5PM, DGA; Wed Feb 25th, 12:30PM, Landmark •
USA / 120 min / World Premiere

Three Colors: LA Pan-African

Directors: Elijah Davis, Allison A. Waite, Tyler Ocasio Holmes / Writers: Madou Elijah Diarrassouba, Gillian Allou, JaQuay Collins, Elijah Davis, Dami Olatunji / Producers: Elijah Davis, Dami Olatunji, Jack McMann, Joseph Agboola, Ben Ephraim, Christen Vanderbilt Ellis, Asar Saint Lamont, Jaala Alston, Amy Roach / Cast: Loretta Devine, Bashir Salahuddin, Peyton Alex Smith, Sibongile Mlambo, Stephen Bishop, Lathan Ava, Kimrie Lewis

This anthology feature uses the Pan-African

flag to tell three stories about Black existence:
RED (Liberation): Star collegiate athlete Ahmari Rose has been taught that football is the only way to provide for his family. When he suffers a devastating knee injury, Ahmari must fight desperately to reclaim his place on the field.

BLACK (Unity): Undocumented Ghanaian immigrant Joana is unjustly fired from her job. At risk of deportation, she must decide whether to trust the strangers in the African American community around her.

GREEN (Prosperity): Jontavious

“John” Rodgers, an actor striving to support his family, faces a dilemma when the network begins to drive the Black sitcom he stars in toward racist caricature to boost ratings.

 @threecolorsfilm



>> Narrative Feature

Mon Feb 23rd, 8PM, DGA; Tue Feb 24th, 5:30PM, Landmark •

Brazil / 105 min / World Premiere

Tony Odyssey LA

Trapped in a grimy roadside bar, Tony, a young Black man, works endlessly to pay off his debt to the ruthless Mr. Casio. Cleaning, fixing, cooking—his life is a cycle of servitude

and threats, with no way out. Until Ivy arrives. A longtime friend turned accomplice, she has a plan: rob the bar and escape. Tony is her key—he knows where Casio hides his weapons and the powerful Drug that fuels his operation. But escape isn't a place; it's freedom itself. With their no-way-back heist behind them, they consume the stolen Drug, plunging into a reality-shattering odyssey. Through fractured memories, a surreal metropolis, and a confrontation with God himself, Tony seeks the ultimate answer—why is his life the way it is? But he doesn't just want answers.

He wants change. And to rewrite his fate, he must first endure the journey.

@tony.odyssey



Director: Thales Banzai / Writer: Kelson Succí /

Producers: Thales Banzai, Camila Cornelsen, Mario Peixoto /

Cast: Kelson Succí, Iraci Estrela, Sandro Guerra, Antônio Pitanga, Leci Brandão, Teuda Bara, Luiz Bertazzo, Chico César

>> Narrative Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 3PM, DGA; Wed Feb 25th, 5:15PM, Landmark •
Hong Kong, Cambodia, India / 85 min / N. American Premiere

Whisperings of the Moon

Following her
father's sudden
death, actress
Nisay returns
to Phnom Penh
from New York.
LA

At her old theater, she reunites with former lover Thida and Thida's daughter, Malika. Memories from seven years ago flood back—ambiguous training, bittersweet plays, and a secret romance. Now reunited, their interactions are shadowed by reality's constraints: money, marriage, protest, loss. Yet love still flows through every embrace and gaze. Separation repeats—on stage, in memory, in life itself. They part with tender, rational goodbyes and hollow blessings. Only in the past, within the emotional furnace of their training, could their true love ever fully unfold. [@whisperings_of_the_moon](https://www.instagram.com/@whisperings_of_the_moon)



Director: Yuqing Lai / Producers: Siddartha Jatla, Lily Yang, Esther Li / Writers: Yuqing Lai, Siddartha Jatla, Zoey Cao / Cast: Sopheanith Thong, Deka Nine

Lost Wax

Director: Omorose Osagie
Canada, Nigeria / 14 min / US
Premiere

>> When a young girl disappears from a Benin city apartment complex, a bronze caster is haunted by grief for this stranger in unexpected ways.

[@lostwaxfilm](https://www.instagram.com/@lostwaxfilm)



>> Documentary Feature

Sat Feb 21st 12:30PM, Landmark; Mon Feb 23rd, 5:30PM, Landmark •
Egypt, Denmark, Saudi Arabia / 72 min / US Premiere

50 Meters

Through a complex and emotionally layered father-daughter journey set in the waters of a community swimming pool in Cairo, Yomna, a first-time director, uses the filmmaking process as a tool to spend more time with her distant father. As she approaches him, she explores her existential questions surrounding career, parenthood, and mortality.



Director/Writer: Yomna Khattab / Producer: A. A. Films /
Featuring: Yomna Khattab, Akram Khattab

Mother's Influence

Director: Meg Wriggles / UK / 15 min /
N. American Premiere

>> A young filmmaker tries to get a better understanding of her mother, an influencer navigating aging and body dysmorphia. [@megwriggles](https://www.instagram.com/megwriggles)

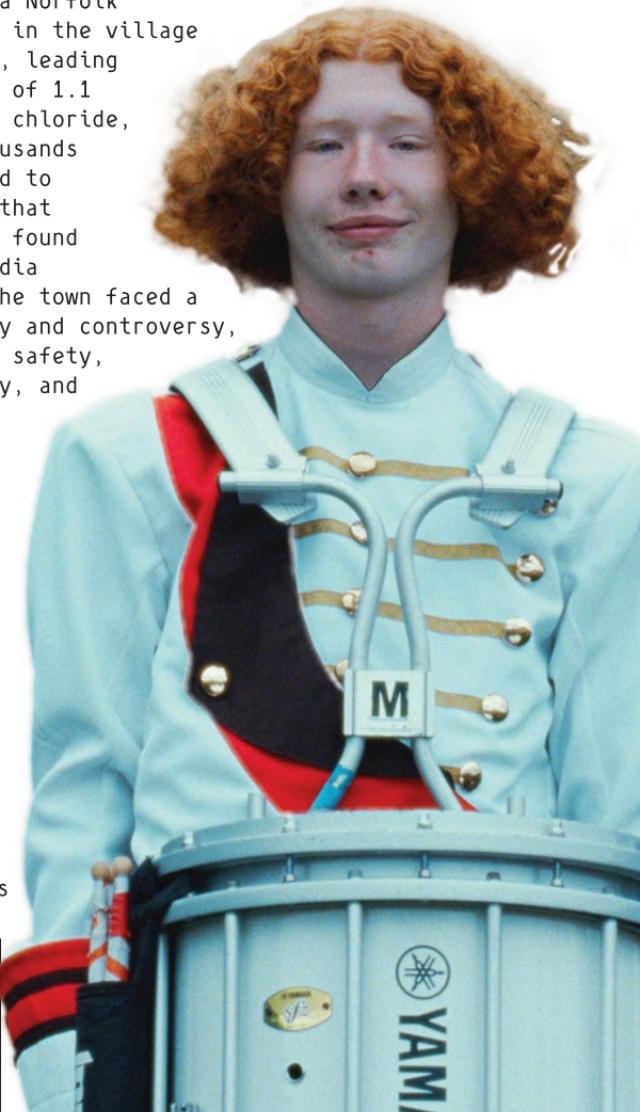


>> Documentary Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 4:15PM, Landmark; Sun Feb 22nd, 7PM, Landmark •
USA / 87 min / World Premiere

The Bulldogs

On February 3rd, 2023, a Norfolk Southern train derailed in the village of East Palestine, Ohio, leading to the release and burn of 1.1 million pounds of vinyl chloride, a known carcinogen. Thousands of residents were forced to evacuate. In the weeks that followed, the community found itself thrust into a media whirlwind. Overnight, the town faced a maelstrom of uncertainty and controversy, raising questions about safety, corporate responsibility, and the economic future of an already struggling community. The Bulldogs picks up as the news cameras leave, and residents struggle to resume their lives in the aftermath of the derailment. From a chiropractor-turned-activist, to the leader of an elderly dance group, The Bulldogs paints a rich and nuanced picture of a tight-knit community in crisis. [@loosefilms](https://www.loosefilms.com)



Directors: Ori Segev,
Noah Dixon /
Producers:
Drew Johnson,
Alexander Hyde



Still Standing LA

Directors: Victor Tadashi Suarez,
Livia Albeck-Ripka / USA / 10 min
>> Residents face an impossible choice
after the Los Angeles wildfires:
should they risk their health to
return home? [@still.standing.film](https://www.stillstanding.film)

>> Documentary Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 1PM, DGA; Mon Feb 23rd, 1PM, Landmark •
Switzerland / 65 min

A Free Daughter of Free Kyrgyzstan

censorship is on the rise, a young activist and pop-star rises as a voice of resistance. This vérité-style documentary follows



In this Central Asian country where young women are still kidnapped as brides and government
the musical journey of Zere Asylbek as she uses her music to spark solidarity among Kyrgyz women, despite being labeled an "Agent of the West."

[@qafreedughter_film](https://www.instagram.com/qafreedughter_film)

Director/Writer:
Leigh Iacobucci
/ Featuring:
Zere Asylbek



Panther Pat

Director: Ashley Brandon / USA /
12min / World Premiere

>> In 1970, Patricia Palinkas, a schoolteacher with no playbook and everything to prove, became the first woman to play professional football when she stepped onto the field for the Orlando Panthers. [@ashbrando419](https://www.instagram.com/ashbrando419)



>> Documentary Feature

Sun Feb 22nd, 5PM, Landmark; Mon, Feb 23rd, 2:45PM, Landmark •
Germany / 70 min / World Premiere

House 4

HOUSE 4 documents a year in the life of inmates at Berlin's youth prison. With exceptional access and the trust of both prisoners and staff, the film follows its protagonists as they undergo mandatory therapy. Does this institution succeed in changing the paths of these young men? House 4 holds up a mirror to the

youth prison systems of Western social welfare states.

©@philipp_schaeffer

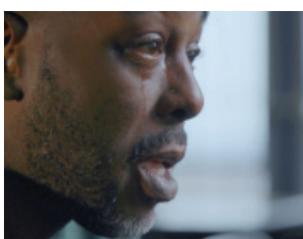


Director:
Philipp Schaeffer
/ Producers:
Paul Hartmann,
Franzis Unger

In Exchange for Flesh

Directors: Sandro Ramani, Corey Devon Arthur / USA / 15 min /
>> When two incarcerated artists secretly document a routine prison practice, they risk their lives to expose a state policy that blurs the line between safety and sexual abuse.

©@inexchangeorfleshfilm

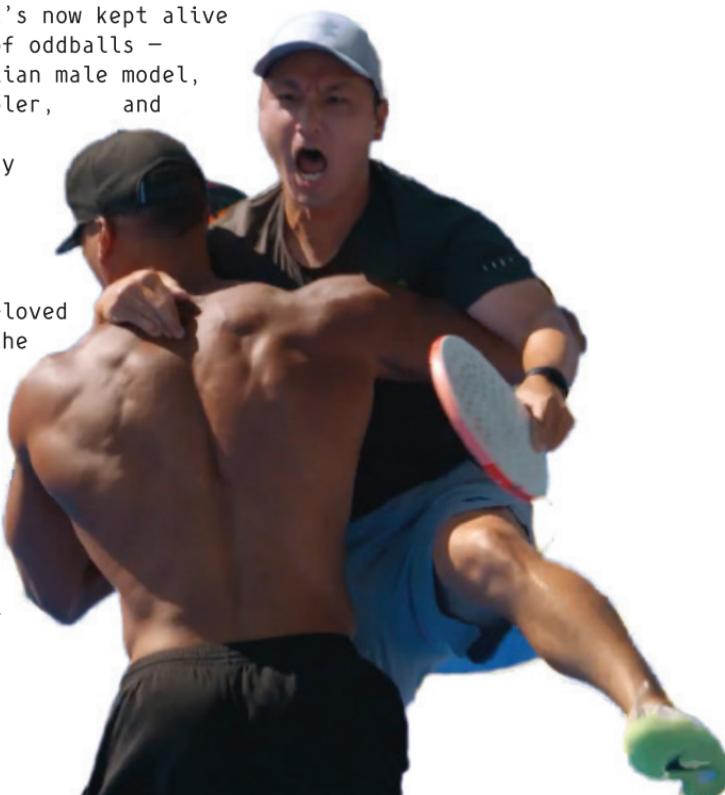


>> Documentary Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 8PM, DGA; Sun Feb 22nd, 9:45PM, Landmark •
USA / 95 min

Kings of Venice LA

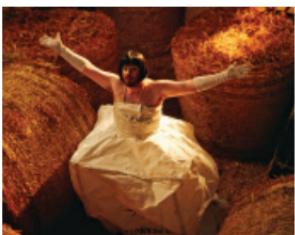
Spend a day on the boardwalk with KINGS OF VENICE, a madcap look at the paddle tennis community of Venice Beach. Once a proud sport, it's now kept alive by a collection of oddballs – including an Italian male model, a degenerate gambler, and Hollywood's most accomplished party crasher. That is, until pickleball shows up and threatens to overtake their beloved courts, leading the locals to hatch an over-the-top plan: a \$50,000 winner-take-all tournament to put paddle tennis back on the map. Can our rag-tag crew pull off a miracle, or is paddle tennis dead for good?
@kingsofvenice



Director/Writers: Sveinn Ingimundarson, S.D. Saltarelli /
Producers: Sveinn Ingimundarson, S.D. Saltarelli /
Featuring: Scotty Freedman, Ernesto Russo, Sonia Ode Lucci,
Carl Tabor, Brian Wan, Larry Nagler

The Good Farmer & the Failed Son

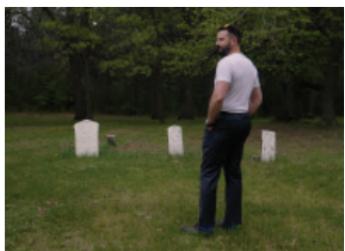
Director: Ailill Martin / Ireland /
14 min / N. American Premiere
>> A drag queen and his father consider the traditions around inheritance and what they may mean for the future of their family farm. [@ailillmartin](#)



>> Documentary Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 2:15PM, Landmark; Sat Feb 21st, 7:15PM, Landmark •
USA / 75 min / World Premiere

The LeMieurs



Filmmaker Sammy LeMieur had his camera on hand for a four-year period of fervid transition within his own family. His relationship to his subjects—including his surgeon father and mortician brother—evolves as they do. What begins as the simple capture of family gatherings and the goings-on

of a small-town funeral home develops into a layered, often stark, and always honest meditation on loss, change, and the beauty and burden of tradition. The smallest observed moments take on potent emotional valence, accentuated by the passing of the seasons. The LeMieurs can handle bitter winter, but are they prepared for the melancholy of spring? [@thelemieurs](https://www.instagram.com/thelemieurs)

Director: Sammy LeMieur /
Producers: Collin Colaizzi,
Sammy LeMieur / Featuring:
Beverly LeMieur, Tim
LeMieur, Seth LeMieur, Kyle
LeMieur, Steve LeMieur,
Mikey LeMieur, Eli LeMieur,
Jim LeMieur, John LeMieur



No Matter the Weather

Director: Florence Lafond / USA /
10 min

>> After Renée, 83, breaks her ankle, her granddaughter Florence steps in as her caregiver. An intimate reflection on aging, love and grief. [@laflond](https://www.instagram.com/laflond)



>> Documentary Feature

Sun Feb 22nd, 12:30PM, Landmark; Wed Feb 25th, 12:30PM, Landmark •
Poland, Norway, Finland / 79 min / N. American Premiere

Silver

Through the eyes of 12-year-old Juvi, we experience the life of the inhabitants of the oldest mine in Bolivia, whose deaths weigh as much as the mined silver.



Confront the limits of human endurance, and the remanence of history's bloodstains. A visual statement on the foundations of modern wealth.



Director/Writer: Natalia Koniarz / Producers: Maciej Kubicki (TELEMARK), PIRAYA, IV Films

Now That We Are Sending You to the End

Director: Blake Knecht / USA / 13 min
/ N. American Premiere

>> A young girl predicts the end of time as the desert begins to disappear, and direct-on-film techniques parallel the landscape's collapse. [@blakekne/](https://www.instagram.com/blakekne/)



>> Documentary Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 5:30PM, DGA; Sun Feb 22nd, 2:45PM, Landmark •
USA / 90 min

SNOWLAND

A visually rich, character-driven documentary that takes viewers into the imaginative world of Cora Lee Witt, a woman who left a polygamous sect in Utah and spent decades creating a magical realm she calls "Snowland." Using a blend of cinéma vérité and dreamlike stop-motion animation, the film and Cora's artistic pursuit become a metaphorical journey of lost innocence, survival, and self-discovery. More than a story of escape, SNOWLAND stands as a testament to the transformative power of art, the resilience of the human spirit and the quiet, radical act of creating something beautiful from the hardest parts of life.

© @snowlanddoc

Director: Jill Orschel /
Writers: Jill Orschel,
Susan Metzger / Producers:
Jill Orschel, Joanne
Feinberg / Featuring: Cora
Lee Witt, Becca Fischer



Domestic Demon LA

Director: Anahid Yahjain / Portugal / 6 min / N. American Premiere
>> A housebound mother's hunger for agency and control among the mutating textures and temporalities of her home sets off an uncanny transformation. © @medullacreative



>> Breakout Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 9:30PM, Landmark; Tue Feb 24th, 10PM, Landmark • Philippines / 61 min / World Premiere

11

When an ongoing apocalypse halts the production of Gabby's new film, she escapes to see her artist friend Tona in La Union, a former booming beach town and strategic site for a US military base. This semi-autobiographical work is both a confession and a resistance: a film about the need to keep filming at the end of the world. [@audreyrougets](https://www.instagram.com/audreyrougets)



Director/Writer: Bebe Go / Producer: Martika Ramirez Escobar / Cast: Gabby Padilla, Tona Lopez, Joanne Cesario, Jao San Pedro, Vi-an Tan

After That LA

Directors: Xinhao Lu, Mufeng Han / Writer: Mufeng Han / USA / 11 min / World Premiere
>> A man named Xinhao wanders the uninhabited city of the future. After memorializing his past, he disappears.
[@violetfilming__](https://www.instagram.com/violetfilming__)



>> Breakout Feature

Fri, Feb 20th, 7:30PM, DGA; Sun, Feb 22nd, 5:15PM, Landmark •
USA / 93 min / World Premiere

BRB

LA

Set in the fleeting era of dial-up and away messages, when the world was just grasping the power of online self-curation, BRB follows

15-year-old Sam, who embarks on a road trip with her older sister Dylan to meet the boy she fell for in a chatroom. What starts as a quest to meet a first love, descends into a chaotic, painfully funny journey of two young women trying to unravel the tender and chaotic intersections of girlhood. While Dylan (Zoe Colletti) shape-shifts to be whoever a boy might want, Sam (Autumn Best), searches for the courage to be seen fully, disability and all, by someone she loves. BRB is a love letter to early internet girlhood, to complicated sisters, and to anyone who's ever felt both invisible and exposed all at once.

©@thekatecobb



Director: Kate Cobb / Writers:
Michael Waller, Sydney Blackburn /
Producers: Kevin Bigley, In The Rye
Productions, Chicago Media Angels
/ Cast: Autumn Best, Zoe Colletti,
Beth Lacke, Keith Kupferer, Richard
David, Dan Haller, Cristian Lager

Starlit

LA

Director: Shannon Lee / USA /
10 min / World Premiere
>> Three teenage girls sneak
out into the night to meet up
with a crew of energy drink
bootlegging aliens.



>> Breakout Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 12:30PM, DGA; Tue Feb 24th, 5:30PM, Landmark •
USA / 96 min

Clovers LA

When Jenny loses her job at the Randolph County Jail, she winds up managing a quasi-legal strip mall casino. There she meets a collection of gamblers and outcasts whose lives seem as uncertain as hers. Filmed over a number of years in a small southern town decaying from unemployment and a drug epidemic, Clovers documents a group of people violently yearning for something greater. This verité film follows them as they navigate the space between hope and resignation, safety and danger, legal and illegal – the big grey world that exists just before the slot machine stops spinning. [@cloversmovie](https://www.instagram.com/cloversmovie)



Director/Writers: Jacob Hatley, Tom Vickers /
Producers: Jacob Hatley, Tom Vickers / Cast:
Jennifer Paschal, JD Cranford, Sharon McNeill

in Paris

Director: Mark Elijah Rosenberg / USA /
9 min / World Premiere

>> When we took a trip to France to decide our future, I filmed everything but you—shielding our affair lest your husband find out. Do these secrets still sting?

[@markelijahrosenberg](https://www.instagram.com/markelijahrosenberg)



>> Breakout Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 9:45PM, Landmark; Mon Feb 23rd, 4:45PM, Landmark •
Spain / 117 min / North American Premiere

Santa Zeta

Zoe leads a double life: by day she is a famous travel influencer, exploring the world with her channel "Santa Zeta" and amassing millions of followers. By night she becomes a relentless predator hunter, seeking revenge for the death of her little sister, murdered by a monster the police never caught. In Seoul, she tracks down Jaw Kim, a pedophile holding a child captive. After eliminating Jaw Kim, she hacks his computer and follows a lead to another predator in Los Angeles, where she hunts down Thaddeus Ginger and uncovers Amelia Kemper, the mastermind behind a global network of pedophiles. Decrypting Amelia's files, Zoe makes a chilling discovery—the man she has been searching for all along lives in her own hometown in Biscay. Zeta returns home only to face an unimaginable nightmare. This revelation, along with a shocking secret about her sister's death, forces Zeta to confront her deepest demons.

@antoniomunozdemesa



Director/Writer: Antonio Munoz de Mesa / Producer: Jordi Monedero / Cast: Nekane Otxoa, Africa Giron, Arlette Torres, Ivan Villanueva, Darci L. Strother, Izoko, Jordi Monedero



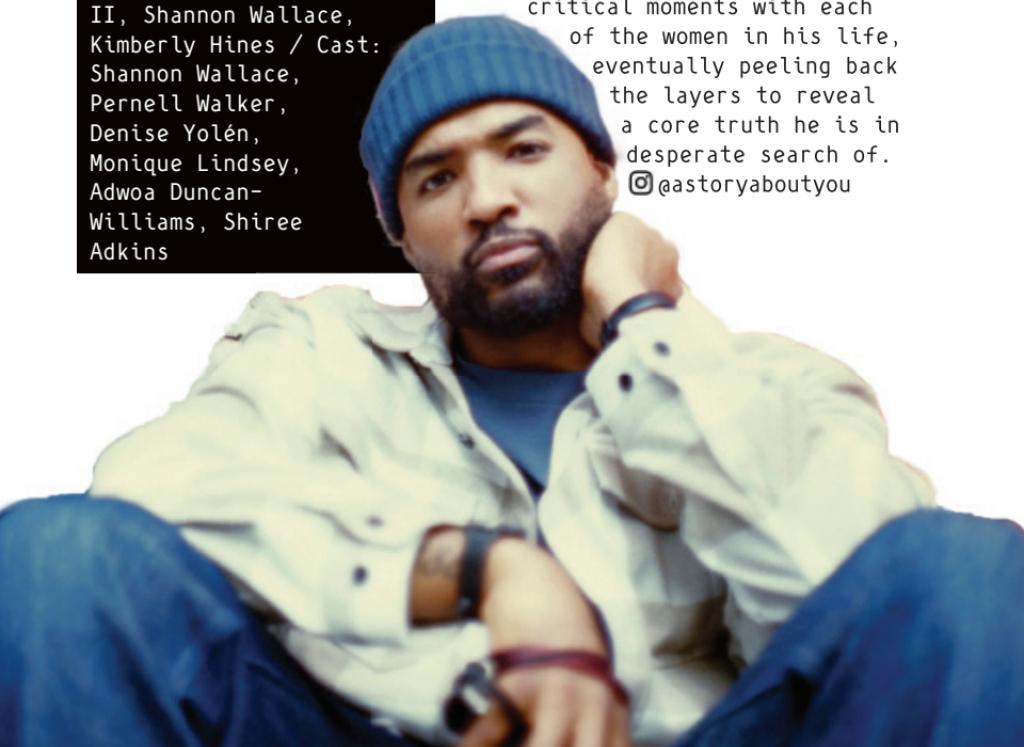
>> Breakout Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 7:30PM, Landmark; Tue Feb 24th, 7:45PM @ Landmark •
USA / 91 min / World Premiere

A Story About You

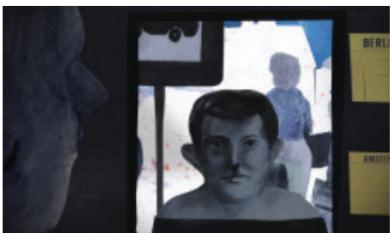
Director: Joseph E. Austin II / Writer: Denise Yolén / Producers: Denise Yolén, Jeremy Harris, Joseph E. Austin II, Shannon Wallace, Kimberly Hines / Cast: Shannon Wallace, Pernell Walker, Denise Yolén, Monique Lindsey, Adwoa Duncan-Williams, Shiree Adkins

Wilde is an enigmatic lover longing to learn how to love properly. The problem is, every woman he's ever known has a different definition of what that means. He is a good man who wants to be a better man but doesn't know how; he is charming, powerfully moving, and still curiously disarming. As Wilde moves through his week he reaches critical moments with each of the women in his life, eventually peeling back the layers to reveal a core truth he is in desperate search of.
@astoryaboutyou



Tears

Director: Paulina Ziolkowska / Germany, Poland / 9 min / N. American Premiere
>> A film about the impossibility of making a decision. A world filled with possibilities and a lost woman who may not want to choose at all.



>> Breakout Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 2:30PM, Landmark; Tue Feb 24th, 12:30PM, Landmark • Dominican Republic / 140 min / World Premiere

Zumeca

Based on a true story, Zumeca tells us about the first family of the Americas between a Spaniard, Miguel, and a Taino, Zumeca. Fleeing from his past, Miguel is haunted by deliriums of the old world. Zumeca sees something in Miguel that he himself cannot see. This opens a path for a love that goes beyond language, culture, rituals. But does it transcend their basic human nature? Miguel and Zumeca try to run away from their destiny only to fulfill their own prophecy. A broken man from a decadent world is given an opportunity at a new life by a woman that is full of light, great emotional intelligence and elevated connection with nature. A world of magic, fire, night, rivers, caves and spirits that wallows anyone who resists them. The conquest of the new world is through the intimacy of two people. [@davidmalerbaq](https://www.instagram.com/davidmalerbaq)



Director/Writer: Maler
/ Producers: Maler, Nashla Bogaert, Gilberto Morillo, Ligia Bonetti / Cast: Angela Canó, Ruben Ochandiano, Miguel Dionisios Ramos

>> Unstoppable Feature

Sun Feb 22nd, 2:30PM, DGA; Tue Feb 24th, 7:45PM, Landmark •
USA / 56 min / World Premiere

Back on Track

In 2018, the Triad Trackers reached the pinnacle of their team's 30-year history, earning a spot in the Wheelchair Basketball National Finals. Two years later, the team was suddenly gone, ripped away as a casualty of Covid-19.

When Chris Rivera moved to Winston-Salem, he decided the final Trackers' basket had yet to be scored. Alongside two of his former teammates, Chris assembled a squad that showcases the physicality that the sport demands. Off the court, each player has their own unique story that led them to the game. For them, wheelchair basketball isn't just a sport; it's a family.

@tictkac10



Director/Writer: Peter Tkac /
Producers: Peter Tkac, Peter Gilbert /
Featuring: Chris Rivera, Bri Solomon,
Tamirat "T" Ives-Rublee, The Triad
Trackers Wheelchair Basketball Team

Girl of Wind

Director: Nanxi Yuan / Writer: Deng Zhiying / China / 38 min / US Premiere
>> A solitary deaf girl with a passion for free-climbing skyscrapers shares a journey of friendship with a filmmaker.



>> Unstoppable Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 3PM, DGA; Wed Feb 25th, 5PM, Landmark •
USA / 73 min / World Premiere

Brailled It LA

Every year, the best under-18 braille readers and writers in the English-speaking world come to Los Angeles to compete in the Braille Challenge. For one weekend, these blind and low-vision kids aren't the minority in the room. BRAILLED IT gives the kids cameras and has them document the event on their own. The often-disorienting cinematography challenges sighted audiences to follow the action on the kids' terms. Ultimately, the kids' charmingly honest, intimate, and emotional footage makes accessible to all audiences the human drama of their experience and the true power of literacy for all.

[@david_grabias](https://www.instagram.com/david_grabias)



Directors: Salome Cummins, Isaiah Gauthier, David Grabias, Christopher Morgan, Brendon Schulze / Writer: David Grabias / Producers: Anne Edgar, David Grabias, Alison Kohlhardt / Featuring: Salome Cummins, Isaiah Gauthier, Christopher Morgan, Lynn Wu, Brooke Petro

Becoming Ollie

Director: Annalise Valentino / England /
33 min / World Premiere

>> A childhood stroke reshapes a family's world. Two siblings make a film about the journey to process the experience. [@annalisevalentino](https://www.instagram.com/annalisevalentino)



>> Unstoppable Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 8PM, DGA; Tue Feb 24th, 3:15PM, Landmark •
USA / 92 min

The Tallest Dwarf

As filmmaker Julie Wyman unpacks the rumors of "partial dwarfism" in her family, she discovers that she has hypochondroplasia dwarfism and that hers is the last of a body type she has inherited. She joins forces with a group of dwarf artists to confront the legacy of being fetishized and put on display. Together, they embody their full humanity as they dance, laugh, and create films that reclaim a complicated history and speak back to the echoes of eugenics in the newly emerging pharmaceutical interventions that make little people taller. What does it mean to belong in a world that wants to change who you are? [@thetallestdwarf](https://www.instagram.com/thetallestdwarf)



Director: Julie Forrest Wyman /
Producers: Lindsey Dryden, Shaleece Haas,
Jonna McKone, Julie Forrest Wyman /
Featuring: Julie Wyman, Sofiya Cheyenne,
Rebecca Cokley, Chandler Crews, Sarah
Folkins, Matthew Jeffers, Katrina Kemp,
Mark Povinelli, Aubrey Smalls

The Bear Hunt

Director: Lily Drummond / Writers: Lily Drummond, Nat Luna / Australia / 12 min / N. American Premiere

>> A 12-year-old's attempt to make her teddy bear "normal" before her birthday becomes a poignant journey toward embracing difference. [@thebearhuntnfilm](https://www.instagram.com/thebearhuntnfilm)

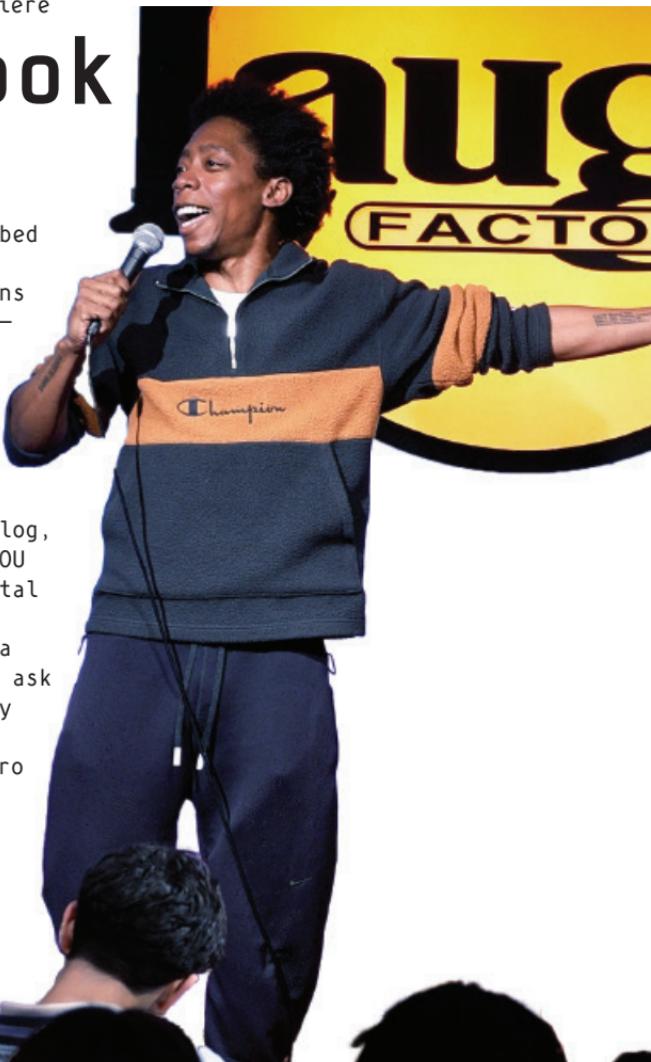


>> Unstoppable Feature

Fri Feb 20th, 12PM, Landmark; Mon Feb 23rd, 1PM, Landmark •
USA / 85 min / US Premiere

You Look Fine LA

Trapped in a hospital bed during a sickle cell crisis, a comedian turns the camera on himself – and his disease – to document the brutal, funny, and deeply human story behind the pain no one sees. Part stand-up set, part survival log, part visual journal, YOU LOOK FINE blends hospital footage, humor, and hard truths to answer a question people rarely ask – what does it actually feel like to live with sickle cell? ©ajsnowpro



Director/Writer: J. Snow / Producers: Aaliyah Williams, Marlon Wayans, Rick Alvarez / Featuring: J. Snow

Unlimited, Forever and Ever, No Matter What



Director: Jayme Coveliers/ Writers: Jayme Coveliers, Lisa Coveliers / USA / 13 min / World Premiere

>> A chronic pain flare-up forces a former athlete to decide between muscling through or putting her daughter first. ©unlimitedforevershortfilm

>> Spotlight Feature

Thu Feb 19th, 7PM, DGA •
USA / 94 min / World Premiere

The Projectionist

A reclusive projectionist haunted by a wrongful conviction and the loss of his wife lives in solitude inside a fading art house theater – until one fateful night when his past resurfaces, forcing him to confront the truth, rekindle love, and find peace in the glow of the final reel.



Director/Writer: Alexandre Rockwell / Producers: Quentin Tarantino, Jack Auen / Cast: Vondie Curtis-Hall, Karyn Parsons, Kasi Lemmons, David Proval, Kevin Corrigan, Michael Buscemi

>> Spotlight Feature

Sat Feb 21st, 7:30PM, DGA •
USA / 96 min / World Premiere

Under The Rainbow: The Curious Crimes Of The Ruby Slippers LA

The story of the 2005 theft and recovery of the most iconic symbols in film history: the Ruby Slippers worn by Judy Garland in The Wizard of Oz (1939). The story traces the lives of two men bound together by the crime: a passionate collector devoted to preserving Hollywood history, and a retired mob associate living in small-town Minnesota. What begins as a simple smash-and-grab robbery sets off a chain of unexpected events. As the investigation unfolds, both men are forced to reckon with long-buried truths and secrets. The film asks whether the mystique of the Ruby Slippers is merely Hollywood legend, or something more profound.



Director/Writers: Seth Gordon, Nikki Calabrese / Producers: Seth Gordon, Nikki Calabrese / Featuring: Michael Shaw, Heather Holme, Rachael Bergen, Terry Martin, Brandon Martin, Pam Dowell, Brian Mattson, John Kelsch

Okay LA

Director: Andrew Kightlinger / USA /
17 min / World Premiere

>> Struggling with the loss of her husband, a widow processes her grief by searching for him amidst the cosmos.  @andrew.vhs



>> Narrative Shorts

Fri Feb 20th, 12PM, Landmark; Mon Feb 23rd, 7:15PM, Landmark

Shorts Block 1

Dyspepsia by Salty Biscuits

Director: Ahsabul Yamin / Bangladesh / 10 min /

N. American Premiere

A paranoid young man is convinced a bug he swallowed is living in his stomach. [@ahsabulyamin](https://www.instagram.com/ahsabulyamin)

Beaks

Director: Xavier Demoulin / Writers: Louise Dubois, Xavier

Demoulin / France / 23 min / N. American Premiere

20-year-old Anaïs, burdened with debt, inherits her father's rooster and has to learn how to make it fight. [@xavierdemoulin](https://www.instagram.com/xavierdemoulin)

In Another Life LA

Director: Tristan Blue / USA / 9 min

An elder queer hermit searches for a mysterious cave they believe will allow them to commune with a past self.

Child's Fare

Director: Kirsty McLean / UK / 13 min / US Premiere

Left outside the pub by her dad, 12-year-old Abby's feelings of rejection escalate to a violent outburst. [@kirstymclean](https://www.instagram.com/kirstymclean)

It Means Hope

Director: Shadi Karamroudi / Writers: Shadi Karamroudi, Arian Vazirdaftari / Iran / 15 min / World Premiere

An encounter between a woman forced into a confession video and a female member of the video crew. [@shadi_karamroudi](https://www.instagram.com/@shadi_karamroudi)

To All the Girls I've Never Banged: I'm Sorry

Director: Harry Plowden / UK / 20 min / World Premiere

A dark secret is exposed when two Brits abroad compete for the same girl while leading a hostel bar crawl in Budapest.

[@harryplowden](https://www.instagram.com/harryplowden)



>> Narrative Shorts

Sat Feb 21st, 12:30PM, Landmark; Tue Feb 24th, 3:15PM, Landmark

Shorts Block 2

The Chair LA

Director: Dustin Tan / USA / 7 min

A carpenter makes a chair for a customer, but it's not a normal chair. [@dustin_tan](https://www.instagram.com/dustin_tan)

SPEEDY!

Director: OH Jiin / S. Korea, USA / 17 min / N. American Premiere Seoul, 1989. Jung-min wants to become a speed-reading prodigy, just like Dong-hyun – the coolest guy in town, who can finish an entire book in just 60 seconds! [@centralpark0.0](https://www.instagram.com/centralpark0.0)

Closer in Strife

Director: Alec Nikoghosian / Canada / 10 min

A grandmother and her grandchild's distant relationship is disrupted after devastation occurs in Beirut. [@thealecn](https://www.instagram.com/thealecn)

Fantasies of a Rescue Dummy

Director: Adrian Maganza / UK / 7 min

A rescue dummy gets forgotten at the bottom of a swimming pool. [@adrianmaganza](https://www.instagram.com/adrianmaganza)

Beneath the Night

Director: Maximilian Karakatsanis / Germany / 14 min / N. American Premiere

A metro driver with colorful hair is unexpectedly chosen as the face of a public transport advertising campaign. Shot on 16mm.

Harajuku, FL

Director: Andrés Giménez / USA, Japan / 13 min / World Premiere Miami, Tokyo, expensive fish eggs, and father-son turmoil... in a blender. [@andresjesusgimeneznunez](https://www.instagram.com/andresjesusgimeneznunez)

Crazy For You

Director: Greta Díaz Moreau / Spain / 19 min
Rural Spain, Y2K. 16-year-old Alma is desperate to be seen by the star bullfighter, but it will be harder than she expects.

[@loquitaxti_film](https://www.instagram.com/loquitaxti_film)

>> Narrative Shorts

Sun Feb 22nd, 12:30PM, Landmark; Wed Feb 25th, 3PM, Landmark

Shorts Block 3

The Fan Man

Director: Austin Hutchings / Canada / 8 min / World Premiere
A lonely tenant finds a man in his bathroom ceiling fan.

We Used to Take the Long Way Home

Director: An Nguyen / Vietnam, U.S.A / 14 min
Returning to Vietnam after many years, a teenage girl reunites with friends for a roadtrip to "Lake Perfect." [@junefil.ms](https://www.instagram.com/@junefil.ms)

Karupy

Dir: Kalainithan Kalaichelvan / Canada / 12 min / US Premiere
At her 65th birthday, Karupy makes an unexpected announcement: she will be ending her own life that very night.

Jonathan

Director: Lieven Corthouts / Writers: Tsegakiros Zebreabruk, Nyawel Maluth Meth, Lieven Corthouts / Belgium, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan / 17 min / World Premiere
After years of war, a woman takes a long bus journey to her hometown to find her missing son and mother. [@lievencorthouts](https://www.instagram.com/@lievencorthouts)

CLARITIES

Directors: Daniel Jaffe, Michelle Uranowitz / USA / 17 min / World Premiere
An ominous chain text spreads across the world as Earth's first hotel rocketship prepares for launch. [@dannyjaff](https://www.instagram.com/@dannyjaff)

To Continue Knowing (You)

Director: Beth Barnes / Switzerland / 13 min / World Premiere
As an irritable young couple travel home, a misunderstanding occurs and relationship issues surface. [@bethbarnes](https://www.instagram.com/@bethbarnes)

Charlie Is Not a Boy LA

Director: Pol Kurucz /
Writers: Pol Kurucz, Pablo Larcuen / USA / 13 min / World Premiere
In a crumbling household ruled by a perverted father, a hushed soul clings to the magic of his eccentric grandmother.
[@polkurucz](https://www.instagram.com/@polkurucz)



>> Shorts

Fri Feb 20th, 6:45PM, Landmark; Sat Feb 21st, 5PM, Landmark

Doc Shorts

Leveret Road

Director: Tim Bouvette / Writers: Tim Bouvette & Jeanne Gourd / Canada / 14 min / US Premiere

Neuroatypical 10 year old Jeanne must still learn to succeed in school. [@tim_bouvette](https://www.instagram.com/tim_bouvette)

Sweet Water

Director: Ali Nabeel / Iraq / 16 min / World Premiere

Sixty-year-old beggar Qisma wants to end her life. But her dog, Bobby, is holding her back. [@sweet_waterfilm](https://www.instagram.com/sweet_waterfilm)

For Every Apricot

Director: Kaia Fortis Scott / Writers: Kaia Fortis Scott,

MaryBeth Ryan Larone / Canada, Iceland / 6 min

The unlikely story of a daughter in search of a "miracle."

[@_kaiapapaya/](https://www.instagram.com/_kaiapapaya)

La Mayordomía

Director: Martin Edralin / Canada / 23 min

In Xochimilco, a borough of Mexico City, families wait decades for an opportunity to take care of a Baby Jesus icon at home for one year.

Ramón Who Speaks to Ghosts

Director: Shervin Kermani / Writers: Shervin Kermani, Karla Reyes

/ Spain, Canada, Mexico / 7.5 min /

US Premiere

After a volcanic eruption, Ramón walks the island of La Palma with his microphone, looking for ghosts. [@shervinkermani](https://www.instagram.com/shervinkermani)

Correct Me If I'm Wrong

Director: Hao Zhou / Germany, USA /

23 min

Torn between love and tradition, a southwest Chinese family tries to

purge a mysterious entity from their queer heir.

[@_haozhou_](https://www.instagram.com/_haozhou_)



2220 Arts+Archives, Sat Feb 21st, 9:30PM; Sun Feb 22nd, 7PM

Animation

Wan Wan

Director: Mayuko Kobayashi / USA, Japan / 8 min

Thanks for the food, thanks for the name, I love you before I get to your house. [@mayukobs_](https://www.instagram.com/mayukobs_)

Transitional Object

Director: Shayna Strype / USA / 8 min / World Premiere

A young girl's beloved stuffed snowman guides her through imagined landscapes of memories, fears, and dreams.

[@woosieparty](https://www.instagram.com/woosieparty)

Play Fight!

Director: Katrina Larner / USA / 8 min

Five little girls play games, tell secrets, run around, jump, and giggle... and jump and jump and jump and-- [@katrinalarna](https://www.instagram.com/katrinalarna)

blinks in mimi's singing voice

Director: Natalie Xie / USA / 6 min / US Premiere

Sleep paralysis and glimpses of wonder. [@bioiwt2002](https://www.instagram.com/bioiwt2002)

A Flame the Colour of Air

Director: Emily Pelstring / Canada / 8 min

A speculative vision exploring femininity and eroticism, based on the texts of a medieval Catholic mystic. [@_em_bo](https://www.instagram.com/_em_bo)

A Bloody Situation

Director: Nerian Keywan / UK, Palestine / 6 min / US Premiere

Through radio snippets and salon chatter, teen Nara meets Ms Moodswings, a personified menstruation blood blob. [@neriankey](https://www.instagram.com/neriankey)

Witness: An Organima Film

Director: Nik Arthur / Writers: Nik Arthur, Jodre Datu / Canada / 5 min.

A film that captures the sentience in small life-forms: ancient beings on stone, an intelligent water droplet, and spirits of sunlight. [@nikarthur](https://www.instagram.com/nikarthur)



ima wa ima

Director: Greg Keung Chun Yam / UK, Taiwan, Hong Kong / 5 min / N. American Premiere

An office worker's encounters with a caterpillar unlock childhood memories. [@bigbreadpedlar](#)

Hungry Hollow

Director: Sarah Ruyle / USA / 6 min

A girl left for dead gets devoured by forest spirits.

[@w4lkingfish](#)

Busy Bodies LA

Director: Kate Renshaw-Lewis / USA / 6 min

Tiny workers run a domesticated factory under the supervision of giant hands. [@kates.belly](#)

How To Build A Sand Castle

Director: Nour Khamis / UK / 4 min

A shore, a call, a castle, and what is carried back. [@knouvy](#)

One, Two, Three..., Four, Five, Six LA

Director: Yingdan Lai / USA / 8 min / N. American Premiere

In a confined world of discipline, a girl's quiet longing unfolds through a box of chocolate.

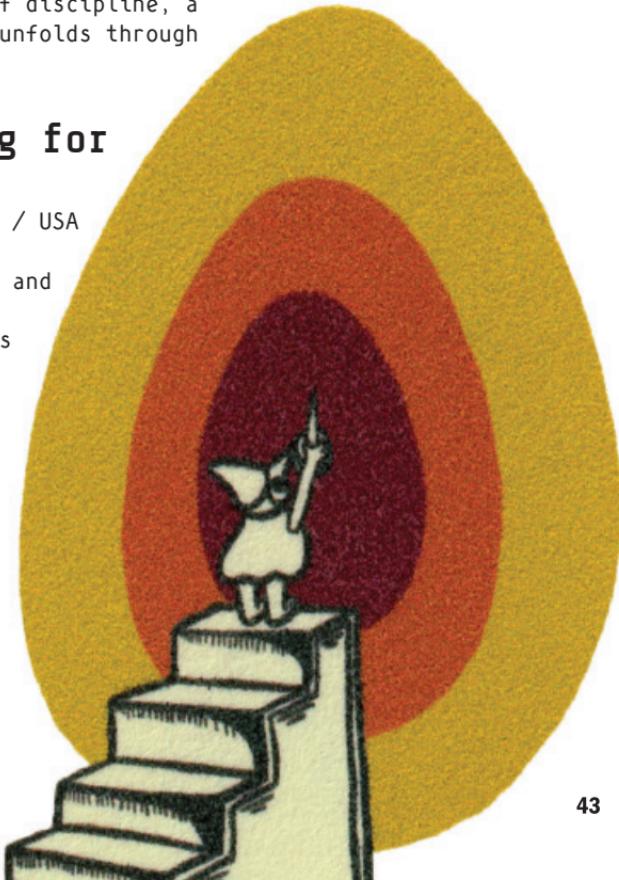
[@yingdanlaii](#)

Bootstrapping for the Boobied

Director: Stella Chen / USA / 13 min

Maxed out, burnt out, and sex-starved, Amber Su submits to a glamorous self-help guru.

[@madcomrade](#)



Fri Feb 20th, 2:15PM, Landmark; Sun Feb 22nd, 7:30PM, Landmark

Unstoppable



Familiar Stranger

Director: Ace Mahbaz / UK / 15 min

First date. Unexpected plot twist. [@acemahbaz](#)

Going Nowhere Fast LA

Director: Dylan Paffe / Canada, USA / 15 min / World Premiere

Three adults living with disabilities navigate an unconventional love triangle. [@dylanpaffe](#)

Blindsided LA

Director: Patrick Hogan / USA / 8 min

The most terrifying things are the ones we don't see coming. [@ppatrickhogan](#)

Everhand

Director: Shane Hillier / USA / 6 min

After ordering a mysterious machine, a one-armed farmer and his wife face off with a company rep to reclaim their humanity.

[@lee_cleaveland](#)

explant/implant

Director: Josh Weissbach / USA / 3 min

The filmmaker has his pacemaker replaced, with an upgrade in battery life and a downgrade in scar tissue. [@jweissbach](#)

Murphy's Ranch LA

Director: John M. Riva Jr. / USA / 12 min

A routine pool-cleaning job leads two brothers into a hidden compound where curiosity quickly becomes a threat. [@mikeyrivajr](#)

The Knight

Director: Lotte Sweeney / Writers: Lotte Sweeney, Maiah Stewardson / Australia / 11 min / N. American Premiere

A hot, disabled teenager concocts a world of medieval pleasures in her bedroom. [@_parkinglott](#)

Bear

Director: Kate Hammer / Scotland / 11 min

Jude must make it across town to get to her job interview, along with the giant sentient teddy bear that follows her everywhere.

[@katethehammer](#)

HERE WE ARE AGAIN

Directors: Hughes Ransom, Justin Lee / USA / 9 min / World Premiere

A depressed man decides to finally get out of bed, except his bed won't let him. [@hughesransom](#)

>> Shorts

Sat Feb 21st, 5PM, 2020 Arts+Archives; Mon Feb 23rd, 5:30PM, DGA

Revolution

of being & infinity:
evolving and liberatory
languages of cinema

Curated by Matazi Weathers

"We are one, of nature, of neighbor, of being and infinity of time and space tangible, yet intangible-indestructible I AM"

ANIMIST UNCONSCIOUS (2025)

Director: Zion Estrada / Turtle Island/Lenape Territory / 10 min Sound, abstraction, and LiDAR imaging compel Metro Atlanta to reckon with its histories of Black erasure. [@zionestrada](https://www.instagram.com/zionestrada)

I AM (1982)

Director: Ijeoma Iloputaife / Nigeria (Oji River) / Ghana / Turtle Island / 3 min Reflect on life over the sounds of Fela and the Africa 70 while luxuriating in the aesthetic beauties of nature. [@sigiott](https://www.instagram.com/sigiot)

Za Mwezi (2026) LA

Director: Matazi Weathers / Turtle Island (Tovaangar) / 16 min / N. American Premiere A true happening of some things i remember in ritual or songs of the mind and moon mesmerize in the hypnosis of orbit. [@mataazii](https://www.instagram.com/@mataazii)

Dzata: The Institute of Technological Consciousness (2023)

Director: Francois Knoetze, Russel Hlongwane, Amy Louise Wilson / South Africa / 8 min Artists explore and imagine vernacular technological practices operating across Africa. [@glodeffilms](https://www.instagram.com/@glodeffilms)



Nsala (2025)

Director: Mickael Sltan Mbanza / Democratic Republic of Congo / 10 min / US Premiere Blending Belgian colonial archives with new footage, the human side of a dehumanizing economic machine is revealed. [@mickael_sltan_mbanza](https://www.instagram.com/@mickael_sltan_mbanza)

Auras (2026)

Director: Tenzin Phutso / Tibet, India, Mexico, Turtle Island / 7 min / World Premiere An experimental self portrait. [@tenzinprojects](https://www.instagram.com/@tenzinprojects)

You Do Not Exist LA

(2026) Director: Dwayne LeBlanc / USA / 8 min / N. American Premiere A young man reflects on distance and memory from his yard beneath the flight paths of South Central Los Angeles. [@madehaste](https://www.instagram.com/@madehaste)

an excision spell

(2020)

Director: Kearra Amaya Gopee / USA / 5 min An intra-communal call to arms and self-determination in the face of white supremacist violence. [@kearraramaya](https://www.instagram.com/@kearraramaya)

Maono Mzimi/ unbroken spaces of vision (2024)

Director: Sonya Mwambu / Canada, Uganda / 25 min A 30-minute 16mm and digital hybrid performance in which loss is explored through space and motion. [@sonya.mwambu](https://www.instagram.com/@sonya.mwambu)

>> Shorts

Fri Feb 20th, 9:15PM, Landmark; Sat Feb 21st, 5:15PM, Landmark

Episodes

Daddies Boi LA

Director: Jason Avezzano / Writers: Louie Rinaldi, Zoe Tyson / USA / 15 min

As youth and options dry up for two aging sugar babies, they must plunge into the bizarre "desire economy" via a provocative app.

[@DaddiesBoi_](https://www.instagram.com/@DaddiesBoi_)

Soft Boil LA

Director: Alec Goldberg / Writers: Alec Goldberg, Camille Wormser / USA / 23 min

Lulu takes a job as a nanny, only to discover that her new boss isn't who she expected. [@alecdgoldberg](https://www.instagram.com/@alecdgoldberg)

Vicky Wakes Up LA

Director: Victoria Blade / USA / 12 min / World Premiere

Stuck in a dead-end office job, Vicky lives an uninspired existence until she's confronted by a mystical pop star.

[@victoria_blade](https://www.instagram.com/@victoria_blade)

Disc

Director: Renzo Montoya / USA / 7 min

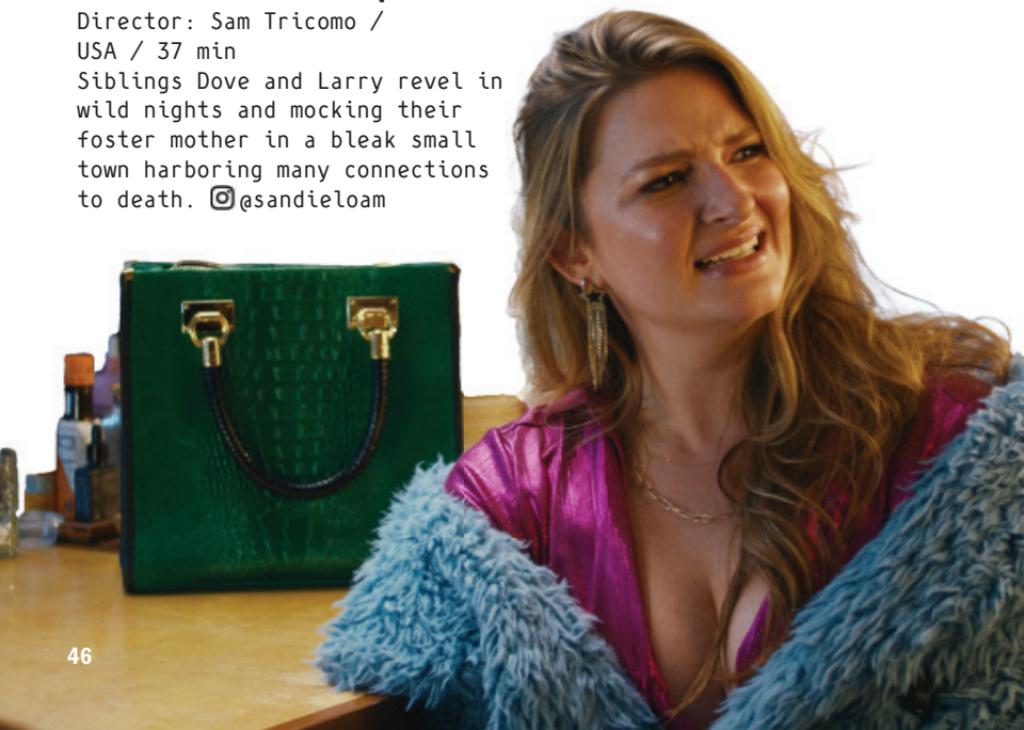
A street rapper promotes his latest single in the Big Apple, but he is challenged by the arrogant competition around the block.

[@victoria_blade](https://www.instagram.com/@victoria_blade)

Puke Bitch: Episode One

Director: Sam Tricomo / USA / 37 min

Siblings Dove and Larry revel in wild nights and mocking their foster mother in a bleak small town harboring many connections to death. [@sandiealoam](https://www.instagram.com/@sandiealoam)



2220 Arts+Archives, Sat Feb 21st, 7:15PM & Sun Feb 22nd, 9:15PM

Experimental

Ghost of Home

Director: Chen Xie / China, USA / 13 min / World Premiere
On the day my grandfather's spirit was to depart, I began searching for the traces he left behind. [@chenxiefi](#) LM5022

I Was There

Director: Kamila Kuc / UK, Poland / 13 min
An exploration of familial bonds, intergenerational memory, and the enduring impact of shared narratives. [@kamilakucinsta](#)

SOMEONE TO STEAL HORSES WITH

Director: Dylan Pailes-Friedman / USA, Italy / 9 min / N. American Premiere
A horse reflects on memory during the press release for his new book, disturbing people's daily routines. [@dylan_p.f](#)

Whose Woods Are These

Director: Kate Nartker / USA / 7 min
A family mystery unfolds through woven fabric, exploring the connection between cloth and narrative. [@knart](#)

Diana & Minerva

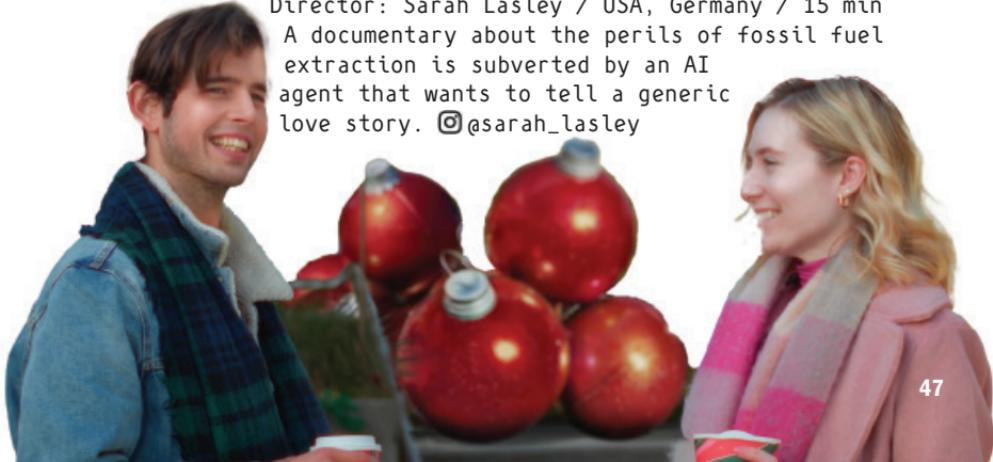
Director: Francesca Occhionero / Writer: William De Natale / Italy / 11 min / World Premiere
Mythological goddesses Diana and Minerva resurface in two contemporary women. [@dianaminervamovie](#)

I would have liked to make a different film

Director: Suse Itzel / Germany / 24 min / N. American Premiere
How can I talk about sexual violence? How can I live after a childhood full of violence? How do I remember? [@suseitzel](#)

Climate Control

Director: Sarah Lasley / USA, Germany / 15 min
A documentary about the perils of fossil fuel extraction is subverted by an AI agent that wants to tell a generic love story. [@sarah_lasley](#)



>> Shorts

Sun Feb 22nd, 7:30PM, DGA

Film Independent

In Sickness and In Health LA

Director: Alexandria Collins / Writer: Montserrat Luna-Ballantyne / USA / 15 min / World Premiere

Veronica and Luis go on a romantic weekend getaway after Luis's exorcism, but Veronica fears her husband is still possessed.

[@isisihthefilm](https://www.instagram.com)

Keepsake LA

Director: Ritvik Dhavale / Writer: Bushra Burney / USA / 11 min / World Premiere

A year after her father's passing, Saira tries to connect with her mom and brother by starting a Pakistani Drama podcast.

[@keepsakeshortfilm](https://www.instagram.com)

Pack LA

Director: Peiqi Peng / Writer: Jax Ball / USA / 10 min / World Premiere

A young werewolf tries to befriend a group of werewolf hunters while keeping their identity hidden. [@packthefilm](https://www.instagram.com)

Seaweed Snacks LA

Director: Sylvia Ray / Writer: Brandyn Johnson / USA / 12 min / World Premiere

A hard-edged dad just wants to survive another birthday party, but when a try-hard super dad won't take "no" for an answer, things get real awkward...real fast. [@seaweedsnacksfilm](https://www.instagram.com)

Trad Wife LA

Director: Jacob Combs / Writer: Laura Hunter Drago / USA / 14 min

An actress turned tradwife influencer finally finds her dream audience, but a troll exposes the cracks in her perfect marriage.

[@tradwifefilm](https://www.instagram.com)



Sun Feb 22nd, 6PM, 2020 Arts+Archives

99 Special

Staring Contest

Director: Courtney Sposato / USA / World Premiere

Two friends are having a staring contest when something enters and everything changes. [@ghoundstoothstudios](https://www.ghoundstoothstudios.com)

Three Thousand Five Hundred

Director: Jérémie Roy / Canada / World Premiere

When the housing market comes knocking on a cardboard house door. [@aleroyjeremi](https://www.galeroyjeremi.com)

Dead Grandma

Directors: Rachel Kempf, Nick Toti / USA / World Premiere

Grandma died at the worst possible moment.

Monkey Bar

Director: Mya Van Dyk / Canada

A sad monkey grapples with their harsh reality while having a smoke. [@pissppisstis](https://www.pissppisstis.com)

Paul's Portrait LA

Director: Andrea Gonzalez Mereles / USA / World Premiere

Paul is paralyzed from the neck down. He thinks it's important to help others and does it by working on digital accessibility.

[@andreagmer/](https://www.andreagmer.com)

Pickup

Director: Viktoriia Lapushkina / Russia, USA / World Premiere

Trying to complete a pickup-class assignment, a shy girl ends up on a rooftop smoking area where she finds a guy about to jump.

[@vikulenochek](https://www.vikulenochek.com)

The Stars, and All the Planets and the Moon

Dir: Shayna Strype / Writer: Mark Roberts / USA

A man reflects on losing his best friend.

[@badmuleinc](https://www.badmuleinc.com)

You, Rock LA

Director: Daniel Maggio / USA

An angry man makes an important discovery while skipping rocks. [@dpmaggio](https://www.dpmaggio.com)



>> Digital, Interactive and Gaming

Sat Feb 21st, 4:30-11:30PM; Sun Feb 22nd, 4:30-10PM,
2220 Arts+Archives

DIG

Before Closure LA

Director: Haocheng Liu / Writer: Grace Ng / USA / 30 min

While Murph is moving out of her apartment after ending a long-term relationship, she finds a box of her ex-boyfriend's old things and sorts through them to find closure. [@beforeclosure](https://www.instagram.com/beforeclosure)

A Voice from the Hut

Director: Prashanna Subedi / Writers: Hemanta Adhikari, Prashanna Subedi / USA, Nepal / 13 min / World Premiere

A talented 13-year-old village girl dreams of winning a music contest hosted by her idol, but is isolated in a hut by tradition during menstruation.

[@voicefromthehut_vr](https://www.instagram.com/voicefromthehut_vr)

Corpse Pose LA

Director: Sean Hucknall / USA / 28 min

An experimental musical following a heartbroken man's nocturnal odyssey.

[@sean_the_emo](https://www.instagram.com/sean_the_emo)

The Time Before

Directors: Leo Metcalf, Mike Golembewski (Interactive Design) / Writer: Leo Metcalf / UK / 15 min / N. American Premiere

Olly delves into his childhood memories, navigating the fantastical dream worlds his sister created to shield them from family strife. [@aleometcalf](https://www.instagram.com/aleometcalf)

WebDoc Memoria Rocas de Santo Domingo

Director: Ivan Torres Zagal / Chile / 35 min

Memoria Rocas uncovers the silenced history of a former Chilean detention and torture center, tracing the origins of state repression during Pinochet's dictatorship.



Sat Feb 21st, 11:15pm @ 2220 Arts+Archives

Corpse Pose Musical Performance LA

Sun Feb 22nd, 3:00pm @ 2220 Arts+Archives

This Is Buzz LA

Director: Mark Pellington / USA / 105 min

A mind blowing music documentary about the first immersive tv show that was on MTV when MTV was cool.

Events - Friday Feb. 20

Femme Film Friday

10:00-11:00am, DGA Atrium

Breaking into Episodic Television

Join NBCU LAUNCH for an intimate conversation with Rory Kramer (Director, "St. Denis Medical") and Sebastián Rea (Writer, "Devil in Disguise: John Wayne Gacy") as they discuss their transitions into television, break down the elements of working on episodic productions, and share tips on navigating the current entertainment landscape.

12:00-1:00pm, DGA Theater 3

Pessah Law Clinic: Pre-Production

From securing funding to locking in IP, we'll walk you through the legal hazards and best practices to get your project off to a great start, before you even pick up a camera.

1:00-2:00pm, DGA Atrium - Presented by WIP

The Business of Self-Care: Protecting the Producer While Protecting the Project

As the demands on producers continue to increase, producers need to prioritize self-care to combat high-pressure environments and prevent burnout. We will be discussing establishing boundaries, prioritizing physical health, time management and support systems.

>> Moderator: Adetoro Makinde (WIP)

>> Heather Rae >> Heather Mason (Impact Lounge)

>> Effie Brown >> Lianne Halfon

3:00pm-6:00pm, DGA Atrium - W.I.F. LA Presents

The Open Frame Mixer

Join us during Femme Film Friday for an afternoon gathering of women and non-binary filmmakers who aren't waiting for permission for real conversations, future collaborations and momentum. No gatekeepers, no asking for access, just a room full of people taking that next step in their careers together. Come for a power hour, or stay the whole time. We suggest having your mood boards, pitch decks, reels and other calling cards handy on your phone or printed!

3:00-4:00pm - WRITING PARTNERS (all genres)

4:00-5:00pm - PRODUCERS / DIRECTORS (doc, narrative)

5:00-6:00pm - DIRECTORS,
PRODUCERS, ARTISANS, CREW

Guests choose 4-5 open ended, creative prompt cards on arrival to give to others during the event.

"I'm building..."

"I'm looking for..."

"I want to break into..."

"I can help with..."



Events - Saturday Feb. 21

Writers Day

10:00-11:30am, DGA RM 100 - Writer's Workshop

Bulletproof Your Story Structure

Learning how structural elements function to escalate narrative tension and create audience investment can help diagnose where your script is stuck. Whether you're ready to develop a new idea or stumped by notes on a current draft, this session can help you knock your script out of the park.

>> Led by Heidi Hornbacher of PageCraft

11:45am-1:00pm, DGA RM 100 - Writer's Workshop

Writing Dialogue That Doesn't Suck

We'll cover how to get away from "On The Nose" dialogue and how to craft a deeper voice. We will look at the origins of strong dialogue in character work and story structure, scene structure that facilitates strong dialogue, character emotions vs audience emotions, and how to make exposition work for story momentum.

>> Led by Heidi Hornbacher of PageCraft

12:00-1:00pm, DGA Theater 3

Pessah Law Clinic 2: Production

Film sets are unpredictable. Unions, locations, cast and crew, acts of God – it's hard to prepare for the unexpected, but we'll provide you with what you need to know to navigate whatever comes your way.

2:00-3:15pm, DGA RM 100 - Writer's Workshop

Trailblazers, Breakouts & Breakthroughs

Newly minted feature writer/directors join us for a freewheeling discussion on their projects, how they broke through, what they've learned, what they'd do differently, and what they're doing next.

>> Moderator: Heidi Hornbacher of PageCraft

>> Andrew Kightlinger - Slamdance alum & grand prize winner, writer/director Lost on a Mountain in Maine, Tater Tot & Patton

>> Jessica Liu - writer/director, first feature 2026 Better Life

>> Nitzan Mager - writer/director, 2026 Sundance premiere first feature Run Amok



3:45-5:00pm, DGA RM 100 - Panel

State of the Industry Panel - Screenwriting for the 2026 Landscape

Join us for a frank discussion with a group of working screenwriters on what they've learned since the strikes, what they're working on now, how they see things shifting in the coming year(s) and how writers are withstanding or using AI. We'll look at how writers are breaking in and finding ways to thrive despite all the news out there. Q&A to follow.

>> Moderator: Heidi Hornbacher of PageCraft

>> Jeff Howard - Emmy-winning writer/showrunner, Marvel's Moon Girl & Devil Dinosaur, Phineas and Ferb, Planes, Tinkerbell

>> Pam Ribon - writer, My Year of Dicks, Moana, Ralph Breaks the Internet

>> Daniel Casey - Slamdance alum, writer F9: The Fast Saga, Kin, Drone

>> Jami O'Brien - Producer, Industry, NOS4A2, Fear the Walking Dead, Hell On Wheels

Writer Mixer to follow.

Unstoppable Panel

4:30-5:30pm, DGA Atrium

Directing Beyond Assumptions

Disabled directors – as well as directors who actively include disabled performers and crew – are still treated as exceptions rather than leaders. This panel brings together directors with disabilities and established allied directors who have consistently cast and collaborated with disabled talent, connecting studio-scale experience with independent filmmaking. Together, they will explore how inclusive directing practices strengthen storytelling, expand creative possibilities, and challenge long-standing industry myths about risk, capability, and audience engagement.

>> Moderator: Peter Farrelly

>> Ashley Eakin >> Alexander Yellen

6:00-8:00pm, DGA Atrium -

Sponsored by Video StoreAge and Pessah Law Group

Happy Hour



Events - Sunday Feb. 22

Programmers Day & Student Symposium

9:00-11:00am, DGA RM 100

Programmers Brunch Hosted by Magenta

12:00-1:00pm, DGA Theater 3

Pessah Law Clinic 3: Post-Production

How can you get your masterpiece in front of as many viewers as possible? From deliverables to distribution agreements, and everything in between, we will show you what it takes to make sure everyone gets to see your incredible work.

1:00-2:00pm, DGA Atrium - Unstoppable Panel, Sponsored by FWD-Doc

Not a Niche: Disability and the Future of Film Programming

Disabled people are not a niche audience – and disability stories do not belong in a silo. With more than 16% of the population living with a visible or nonvisible disability, true representation must extend beyond the screen to include who is programming, curating, and shaping film festivals across all categories. The Unstoppable program was created to challenge the idea that disability belongs only in special sections. Real inclusion happens when programmers across narrative, documentary, shorts, and experimental work actively engage with disability as a natural part of storytelling. This panel explores how Unstoppable has helped shift festival culture and why integrating disability throughout all programming leads to more authentic, representative, and innovative film festivals.

>> Moderator: Juliet Romeo

>> Maddie Jones >> Lee Pugsley

>> Nic Novicki

3:30-5:30pm, DGA Atrium

Student Symposium: Cine\vation

The 2026 Slamdance Film Festival invites your students, recent graduates, and faculty members to the CINE\VATION Student Symposium. Hosted by Slamdance and community partners, CINE\VATION is an opportunity for film students and faculty to connect, engage in dialogue, and hang out. Each attending school is invited to pick a representative to join a panel in discussing filmmaking, the industry, and early careers. This will be followed by Slambingo – a fun, interactive community building event and a happy hour.

>> Moderator/Host: Diana Keeler

5:30-7:30pm, DGA Atrium - Sponsored by Utopia

Programmers Happy Hour

Events - Monday Feb. 23

Market Monday

Sponsored by Francis Ford Coppola's All-Movie Hotel

10:00am-5:00pm, DGA Atrium

The NonDē Way: Fun & Dangerous Ideas To Disrupt What Once Was "Indie" & To Separate From A Lame Ass Corporate Film Industry

Working from the premise that both Hollywood and Indie are on their death rattles - if not yet quite a rotting corpse - what does an ecosystem that prioritizes the sustainability of the art, artist, audience and ecosystem look like?

In collaboration with Slamdance, NonDē presents a rapid-fire feast of dangerous ideas delivered in 10 minute rants, sermons and pleas - each to build this thing we love - cinema - better than before - and always along practical and positive lines.

NonDē is predicated on the recognition that nothing needs to be this way or that way. Prioritizing sustainability, collaboration, transparency and innovation - a peaceful revolution is upon us



2026

and we know you'll want to leap into the pool. Prepare to be drenched in what the corporate hierarchy considers dangerous, disruptive and mind blowing. Leave with the roadmap to escape our current hell hole! Discussions will be on a wide range of subjects and approaches from those already deeply committed to the NonDē movement including, but not limited to:

>> Ami Vora
>> Jon Stahl
>> Annalisa Shoemaker
>> Jon Reiss
>> Richard Rushfield
>> Lela Meadow-Conner
>> Ted Hope

>> Jake S. Weisman
>> Dan Sickles
>> Avi Setton
>> Courtney Romano
>> Franklin Leonard
>> Keith Ochwat
>> Donny Broussard

Program Schedule

10:00-10:15am - Ted Hope's Welcome and Day's Agenda

10:15am-12:45pm - Morning Sessions

12:45-1:45pm - Lunch

1:45-5:00pm - Afternoon Sessions

5:00pm-6:30pm, DGA Atrium

Market Monday Happy Hour



Adam Pertofsky is an award-winning director and editor with 30 years of experience across commercials, music videos, and features. His documentary short **THE WITNESS FROM THE BALCONY OF ROOM 306** earned Oscar and Emmy nominations. His debut feature documentary, **UBUNTU**, premiered in 2023.



Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine is an actor and Slamdance-alumni filmmaker. His documentary **MEMORIES OF LOVE RETURNED**, executive produced by Steven Soderbergh, was a Spotlight Feature at Slamdance 2025. As an actor, he next appears in Ron Howard's **ALONE AT DAWN**. TV credits include Apple TV's "Smoke" and Showtime's "Dexter: Resurrection."



Rosanna Xia is a Pulitzer Prize finalist and environmental reporter for the Los Angeles Times. She directed and produced the award-winning documentary **OUT OF PLAIN SIGHT**, Slamdance's 2025 opening night film. She wrote the award-winning book "California Against the Sea."

Narrative Features & Breakouts



Andrew Kightlinger was born and raised in Madagascar before settling in South Dakota. His multi-racial, omni-cultural background fuels a passion for commercial, character-driven storytelling. His feature **LOST ON A MOUNTAIN IN MAINE** was released theatrically and reached Netflix's Global Top 10. He's a past winner of the Slamdance Screenplay Grand Prize.



Chris Bauer's acting credits span 300 episodes of television, 40 feature films, and multiple plays on Broadway and off. He has worked with writer/directors John Patrick Shanley, Jez Butterworth, Alan Ball, David Simon, Ethan Coen and David Mamet among others. Memorable roles include Frank Sobotka in "The Wire" and Wild Bill Hancock in "Heels." Recent film appearances include **3HAAD**, which he also wrote and directed.



Marie Jamora's debut feature **WHAT ISN'T THERE** premiered at Slamdance. Her short **FLIP THE RECORD** won Best Narrative at Urbanworld and was shortlisted for the Oscars®. She has been a Slamdance Features programmer and on the Indies Jury. She has been Head of Jury for Manila International Film Festival and on the Feature Film Jury for Bentonville. She's the 2025 Guest Artistic Director of AFI's Directing Workshop for Women.

Narrative Shorts & Episodes



Daniel Casey's filmmaking debut, *THE DEATH OF MICHAEL SMITH*, premiered at Slamdance 2007. Current screenwriting projects include a TV adaptation of *MASS EFFECT* for Amazon Studios, an untitled crime thriller for Sony Pictures and Plan B, and projects for Netflix, 21Laps and Bad Robot. Past work includes *10 CLOVERFIELD LANE* (Paramount), *KIN* (Lionsgate) and *FAST AND FURIOUS 9* (Universal).



Gio Labadessa is a writer-producer based between Los Angeles and New York. Recent credits include *FISHGIRL* (PÖFF Critics' Pick Special Mention), *DOG OF GOD* (Latvia's entry for the 2026 Academy Awards), and *ISABEL* (Berlinale Panorama). He also champions distinctive auteur voices as the founder of Nòt Film Fest in Italy.



Andrew Reid, born in Jamaica, is a disabled writer/director who holds an MFA from USC. His short *IRON LUNG* won the 2025 Slamdance Grand Jury Prize for Best Unstoppable Short, and his award-winning films have screened at over 90 festivals worldwide.

Short Animation, Experimental & 99 Special



Erick Oh Erick Oh is an Academy nominated filmmaker and a former Pixar animator, currently based in San Francisco and Seoul, Korea.



Imani Davis is a producer, a writer and a film programmer at the American Cinematheque in Los Angeles, where she has worked on events with A-list filmmakers and talent such as Sofia Coppola, Spike Lee, Sean Baker, Jordan Peele, Daniels, Damien Chazelle, and Christopher Nolan. She is the founder and lead programmer of the American Cinematheque's short film festival PROOF, dedicated to proof-of-concept short films.



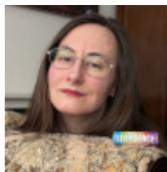
Don Hertzfeldt is a two-time Academy Award nominee whose animated films include "It's Such a Beautiful Day", "ME", "The Meaning of Life", "Paper Trail", "Rejected", and the "World of Tomorrow" series. His work has received hundreds of awards and in 2014 made a special appearance on "The Simpsons".



Radha Mehta is an award-winning filmmaker with an MFA from AFI for Directing. A two-time Slamdance alumna and Slamdance George Starks Spirit Award winner, her works explore women empowerment and dismantling cultural taboos. Her films include DOSH, WINDS OF SILENCE, WITNESS, and SŪNNA. She's in development on her debut feature ANITYA.



Natasha Ofili wrote, directed, and starred in the 2025 horror short WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY, following the success of THE MULTI, which was accepted into 16 film festivals, including Slamdance's Unstoppable category in 2022. Her acting work includes Principal Vaughn in Netflix's "The Politician" and Hailey Cooper in Marvel's Spider-Man games.



Beth Prouty Beth is a former documentary producer with more than a decade of film festival programming experience across a variety of genres, over two decades of involvement in the world of film and filmmaking, and a bit more than four decades of experience living as a disabled person.

Programme IS

Abbie Jones	Annika Birgel	*Cashmere Jasmine
Abby Falvo	Anthony Pedone	Catherine Legault
Abhi Indrekar	Anthony Shepherd	Catriona Rubenis-Stevens
Agnieszka Zwiefka	Antonio Harper	Charlene Fisk
Alec Scholzen	Arden Earnest	*Chris Parizo
Alem Dauletkulov	Ashley Seering	Christian Tasiopoulos
Alessandra Lichtenfeld	Becca Roth	Christine Fugate
Alex Dvorak	Becca Schall	Christine Margaret Wu
Alex Nevill	Behnam Abedi	*Claire Barnett
Alex Davies	Benana Sonjira	Cory Byers
Alexa Coblenz	Billy Ray Brewton	Cory Reeder
Alexia Colette	Birdy Wei-Ting Hung	*Craig Parish
Alistair Quak	Breven Warren	Cynthia Garcia Williams
Allen Riley	*Brian Ratigan	Daisy Rosato
Amanda Bonaiuto	Brian Yulo Ng	Dan Katzir
Amir Youssef	*Brogan Luke Bouwhuis	Daniel Barosa
*Andi Benge	Bryce Fishman	David Ratner
Andreas Resch	Cade Featherstone	Dc Kasundra
Andrew Crane	Caleb Zlomke	Dean Marcial
Andrew Edison	Camilla Jämting	Desireia Valteau
Andrew Stone	Camille Wormser	Diego Rodriguez
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