



**SOCIALLY
RELEVANT**

6 annual
FILM FESTIVAL NY

TAKE A SEAT AND BE MOVED

MARCH 15-21

**CINEMA
VILLAGE**

22 EAST 12th street
New York, NY 10003

 ratedsrfilms.org

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CINEMA LIBRE STUDIO

A FILM BY RÉMI KESSLER



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2018



OFFICIAL SELECTION
SOCIALLY RELEVANT
FILM FESTIVAL
NEW YORK

THE ADVOCATES

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE WHO HAS THEIR BACK

"A POWERFUL LOOK AT THE UNSUNG HEROES WHO ARE OUT ON THE STREETS OF LOS ANGELES AT ALL HOURS."

— STEVE LOPEZ, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"THIS CANDID LOOK AT THE HOMELESS PROBLEM IN L.A. COULD START A NEW MOVIE MOVEMENT."

— JASON COLEMAN, WHY SO BLU

"HAS REAL IMPACT!"

— KPCC FILM WEEK

ALSO ON DVD & ON DEMAND



SCREENING FRIDAY, MARCH 15 @ 5:00 PM (NYC PREMIERE!)



PIRIAPKURA

THE LAST TWO SURVIVORS

"Explores the resolve of indigenous people who persist in the forests of Brazil despite shifting circumstance"

— The Atlantic



ALSO ON DVD & ON DEMAND



SCREENING SUNDAY, MARCH 17 @ 1:15 PM

WELCOME



Dear SRFF Friends,

SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York welcomes you to Cinema Village. This year we focus on women and children in conflict zones to draw attention to the plight of the two most vulnerable groups who pay the highest price in the face of the impunity enjoyed by their perpetrators. Our spotlight film is on the life and work of 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, the Congolese Dr. Denis Mukwege who courageously continues to combat the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

The attacks on indigenous women and First Nations peoples in Canada who are repeatedly murdered and mutilated with the obvious intention of eradicating them, is nothing short of Genocide. In Piripkura, a documentary from our slate this year, we hear a language spoken the last two survivors of an indigenous group in Brazil. The world does not heed the damage caused and continues to develop and construct with no respect for human lives and values. We hope to shine the spotlight on these values and sound the alarm as they become threatened. Our films portray women as victims, and men in vulnerable situations, yet they also celebrate empowerment, success and survival. In short, they show the ordinary lives of the extraordinary.

The SRFF team is grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of our past five editions. This festival is a collective effort and without everyone's help, it is not possible to bring it to fruition. I am deeply indebted to our board members, to our dedicated festival team, and to our interns from China, France, Korea, Morocco, Brazil, the UK and the USA, who worked tirelessly on this sixth edition. A word of thanks is due to our new group of volunteers, here to help during the festival week. Special thanks to the talented SRFF filmmakers, past and present, for resisting commercial dictates and telling socially relevant stories. Thank you filmmakers. Our International Jury members view the films, deliberate, and pick the winner. We thank you jury members for your dedication and diligence.

Like previous years, we offer workshops, panels, roundtables, and script readings in addition to networking opportunities and happy hours. Words of appreciation and gratitude are due to our distinguished panelists who generously accept to donate their time, and share their hard-earned knowledge to inspire a new generation of filmmakers. Thank you, panelists.

We are proud to enjoy the support of foundations, granting bodies and businesses such as the New York State Council on the Arts, The City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, LMCC, The German Consulate General of New York, Fairway Law Firm in Paris, The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, Dutch Culture and Apco Worldwide, and the support of our partners who share our vision. We could not chart this journey without your help. Thank you, our sponsors and partners!

Why have a film festival if not to share it with like-minded people, and establish dialogue for rapprochement with others? Dear film lovers, socially responsible citizens, audience members and now our friends, this is your festival.

Take a seat and be moved!

Nora Armani
 Founding Artistic Director
 SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York



Singing your praises

www.alouettecommunications.com



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

March 16, 2019

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered at New York City's Cinema Village for the sixth annual edition of SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York.

The Empire State is the crossroads of the cultural world, and a focal point for those with the passion for making great films and cinematic art. Since the earliest days of motion pictures, Manhattan has drawn a diverse community of filmmakers who provide a broad perspective on contemporary social issues by exploring both unique and universal themes that reflect various aspects of the human experience.

Today, filmmakers of all backgrounds continue to bring compelling stories to the big screen in various genres – from full-length productions, to documentaries, to short features. This year's festival promises to be another insightful and enriching cinematic experience that introduces the works of talented and creative minds, certain to captivate and inspire audiences. Such artistic expression is important and I applaud this celebration of visionary ideas that help build bridges among cultures and countries through the powerful medium of film.

Warmest regards and best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Cuomo".

ANDREW M. CUOMO

AWARDS

Vanya Exerjian Award

Empowering Women and Girls

The **Vanya Exerjian Award** is presented to a film or a person in recognition of their work in raising awareness towards violence against women and girls. It is named in commemoration of Founding Artistic Director Nora Armani's late cousin and uncle, victims of a violent hate crime.

The Narrative Grand Prize

Cinema Libre Studio offers exclusive, one-on-one 60-min. consultation.

The Documentary Grand Prize

IndiePix Unlimited offers digital distribution on IndiePix to the winning documentary.

Cinema Libre Studio offers exclusive, one-on-one 60-min. consultation.

The IndiePix Vision Award:

IndiePix offers a special award to a film they choose from the Official Selection.

Short Docs and Narratives

IndiePix Unlimited offers 5-6 curated films digital distribution through IndiePix Unlimited listed under the SR Socially Relevant Film Festival collection. **Final Draft** offers scriptwriting software certificates to winners.

Three Script Writing Awards

Final Draft offers certificates to download latest scriptwriting software.

InkTip free listing to winning scripts on InkTip.

Special Jury Mentions for Best Actor and Best Actress:

Announced at the awards ceremony.

WFCC - Women Film Critics Circle - Award

WFCC jury give this award to a film of their choice.

The SRFF Official Awards Trophies

Desigend and Donated by Michael Aram

City Winery

Special wine from City Winery offered to the winners as a testimony of good wine and good times - SRFF 2019 Sixth Edition labelled - courtesy of City Winery.

Surprise Awards

Every year the festival surprises the filmmakers with awards in special categories, such as Brave Documentarian, Social Justice Advocate, Lifetime of Inspiration, Ensemble work and similar awards.

The Finalist Scripts

Dukkha

by Rachana Suri

Terrordise

by VN Alexander

Halfway to Mars

by Fabian Martin

The Late Great Race

by Ben Lokey

Liberation

by Stephen Colley

What We Know

by Juliana Roth



"I am proud to support the mission of the SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York. Movies have a unique ability to bring social issues to life and films like these can truly change lives, I should know."

—Erin Brockovich

PANELS & PANELISTS



Youth video interviews of senior Morningside Heights citizens
A project of SRFF with EVC and the help of MRH

When: 1:30 PM, Devised Saturday February 8 and Filmed Saturday February 16
Screens Saturday March 16

Where: MRHS - 100 La Salle Street, Ground Floor, New York, NY 10027

Instructor: Nora Armani – *Actress/Filmmaker/educator.*

Videographers: Yhenni Michaelis, Mediba Diarra, Serenah Vaughan

Interviewees: Tiana Leonard, Nancy Eder, Robin Berson, John Kapner



Using Archival Footage in Documentary and Scripted Films

When: Saturday March 16, 10:30 - 11:30am

Where: School of Visual Arts MFA Social Documentary Film Theater - 136 West 21st Street, 1st floor, New York, NY 10011

Panelists: Liza Rafael, Lauren Wimbush, Sebastiaan Kes, Robert Tutak



Moderator: Christopher Atamian: *storyteller, journalist and director.*

Casting panel

When: Saturday March 16, 11:45 - 12:45 pm

Where: School of Visual Arts MFA Social Documentary Film Theater - 136 West 21st Street, 1st floor, New York, NY 10011

Panelists: Jen Rudin, Jennifer Peralta-Ajemian, Liz Ortiz



Moderator:
Christopher Atamian:
*storyteller, journalist
and director.*

Film Festivals: Do's and Don'ts - Your Chance to Hear out the Organizers

When: Monday March 18, 1:15 - 2:30 pm | **Where:** Cinéma Village- 22 E 12th St, New York, NY 10003

Meet with festival organizers: Frederic Boyer, Artistic Director Tribeca Film Festival | Isaac Zablocki, Senior Director of Film Program at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan | Nora Armani, Founder and Artistic Director SRFF | Geoffrey Guerrero, Founder Katra Film Series | Sebastian Rea, Founder 30 Under 30 Film Festival



PANELS & PANELISTS



The Governor's Office - Filming in New York

When: Tuesday March 19, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Where: Cinema Village - 22 E 12th St, New York, NY 10003

NY Film Production Panel: Meet the team from the New York State

Governor's Office of Motion Picture and Television Development for a roundtable discussion of all things productive in New York State – tax credits, location scouting, finding stages and crew, and more.

Whether you're a first time filmmaker wondering where to start or a veteran producer looking to catch up on the latest, this informal face-to-face Q&A is an invaluable opportunity to Meet Team NY and hear firsthand about all the great things New York State has to offer. **Panelists:** Steven Pelton, NYS Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development & Connie McFeeley, Film Tax Credit Dept. at Empire State Development.



Video Diary workshop

When: Tuesday March 19, 3:10 – 4:00 pm | **Where:** Center for Remembering and Sharing (CRS) - 123 4th Ave #2, New York, NY 10003

"In the Video Diary Workshop I will guide filmmakers into the exploration of the visual clues hidden in locations which can be used to trigger your creative imagination for future projects. Narration nowadays is a visual experience. In order to promote our movies in Cannes or other venues, a script, or a synopsis is no longer sufficient. Filmmakers are asked to provide Mood Boards, Visual Pitches and Visual References. Teasers are often required. We go Visual. The idea of the workshop is to give you some advice on how to gather visual informations and reorganize them into a narrative thread to serve your development process." Preceded by the Screening of Bari Upside Up, 10min.



Script reading - excerpts from the six finalist scripts

When: Wednesday March 20, 1:15 PM

Where: Cinema Village- 22 E 12th St, New York, NY 10003

Directed By: Jillie Simon- Jillie Simon is an actor/singer/writer/producer/director who began her acting career in theater, working with luminaries such as Marlo Thomas (Cleveland Playhouse) & Marian Seldes (StagePlays Theater Company), appearing in "Tony & Tina's Wedding", at the Public Theater, NYC, etc. Film & TV work includes "Confess" w/ Melissa Leo, "You Have The Right to Remain Violent", "A Beautiful Mind",

"Full Frontal w/ Samantha Bee", "As The World Turns", and, currently in the festival circuit,

"The Incoherents" w/ Amy Carlson, "Prince Harming" & "Hungry", a short film she also wrote, co-directed, co-produced (w/ 9 awards, including 4 Best Actress/Best Performance she was honored with in 27 festivals).

Jillie has also performed at Upright Citizen's Brigade and her production company, Endorphin Records, just finished a new short film "A Chance". www.jilliesimon.com



Low budget film production—SAG-AFTRA

When: Thursday March 21, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm|

Where: SAG-AFTRA NY Local - 1900 Broadway, 5th Fl, New York, NY 10023

Meet the SAGIndie staff and the Theatrical Business team of SAG-AFTRA to learn the ins and outs of low budget Motion Picture & Television production. Join SAGIndie staff and SAG-AFTRA Theatrical Business Representatives to walk you through the process of signing SAG-AFTRA Low Budget Agreements from start to finish. The SAGIndie workshop highlights the Student/Short Film and Low Budget Theatrical Agreements. If you want to learn about new media contracts, the SAG-AFTRA New Media department holds their own workshop in Los Angeles.



**SOCIALLY
RELEVANT™**
FILM FESTIVAL
NEW YORK

Opening Film



THE MERGER | US Premiere
Mark Grentell | Australia | 2018 | 103'

Australia's audience favorite of 2018!

In this comedic narrative feature, a former star footballer returns to his home town and is persuaded to coach the struggling, local footy team. He recruits refugees to make up the numbers with hilarious results, but ultimately takes the community on a journey of change.

[Trailer](#)

Screens March 15, 7:00 PM
Immediately following the Opening Welcome

and

AFTER PARTY
starting 10:30 PM
at:



**SOCIALLY
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FILM FESTIVAL
NEW YORK

Closing Film and Awards Ceremony

DANSEUR | New York Premiere
Scott Gormley | USA | 2018 | 70'

Enter any dance studio in the US and the classes will be brimming with little bunheads dreaming of crossing the stage at Lincoln Center. But you will be hard pressed to find a single boy among them. The film explores why in a country that strives for gender equality where young women are encouraged to cross the gender barrier and participate in male-dominated fields does this disparity exist?

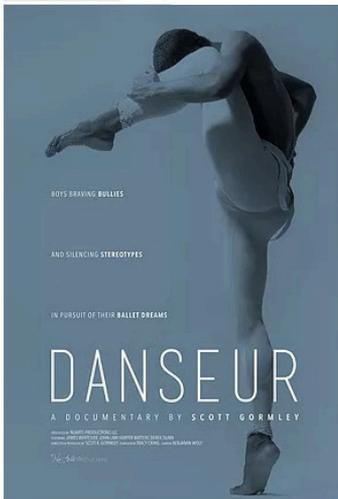
[Trailer](#)

Screens Thursday March 21, 7:30 PM
Q&A following the screening

and

AFTER PARTY

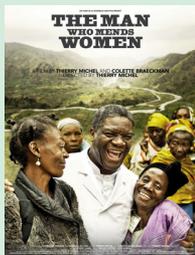
starting 10:30 PM
at:



SPOTLIGHT EVENT

Spotlight screening | **Monday, March 18, 6:30pm Cinéma Village****The Man Who Mends Women - The wrath of Hippocrates**

Thierry Michel & Colette Braeckman | Belgium | 2015 | 112'



Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018 and the Sakharov Prize 2014, Doctor Mukwege is internationally known as the man who mends thousands of women raped during the 20 years of conflicts in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of the poorest countries on the planet despite its extremely rich sub-soil. His endless struggle to put an end to these atrocities and denounce the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators is not welcome. The women to whom he has restored physical integrity and dignity stand beside him as true activists for peace and justice.

Spotlight panel | **Monday, March 18, 8:30pm Cinéma Village****WOMEN and CHILDREN in CONFLICT ZONES**

Immediately following the screening of the documentary film

The Man Who Mends Womenabout **2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege**With the participation of the director **Thierry Michel**

The panelists:

**Ms. Pramila Patten**

UnderSecretary- General (TBC)
UN Special Representative
on Sexual Violence

**Mrs. Cathleen de Kerchove**

Director
Les Enfants de Panzi et d'Ailleurs
(The Children of Panzi)

**Dr. Marie Claudine Mukamabano**

Kuki Ndiho
Rwanda Orphans
Support Project

**Ms. Susan O'Malley**

Chair of NGO CSW



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Special thanks to:

WIF (Women's International Forum), WFCC (Women Film Critics' Circle), Edie Nugent, Katie Chambers (NYWIFT), Cathleen De Kerchove, Susan O'Malley (CSW), Houry Geudelekian (CSW), Ruchira Gupta, Beth Portello, Richard Castro, Erica Peek, Jordan Mattos, Valerio Caruso, Bruno Chatelin, Steven Pelton, Adam Moore, Louis Proyect, Ara Araz, Christopher Pelham, Nurhan Becidyan, Hayk Arsenian, Anita Anserian, Elizabeth Akian, Talene Kachadourian, John Kazanjian, John Bennett, Jillie Simon, Melissa Silverstein, our film viewers: Dirk Robertson, Sara Khaki, Mohammad Reza Eyni, Francesco Capuano, and Rebecca Moore, Ron Bruno, MRHS, The New School and Sheena Daree Miller, Arthur Marblestone, Lee at the Management of Cinema Village and Joseph, our jury members, panelists, catering partners: Luis, Ismael, Dave and Eva, our volunteers, interns, and all the wonderful friends and supporters who helped us, and who we may have inadvertently failed to mention. A HUGE THANK YOU!

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NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION



A THOUSAND PIECES – North American Premiere

Véronique MÉRIADEC | France | 2018 | 82'

Twenty-five years after the assassination of her son Olivier in 1977, Nicole Parmentier (Clémentine Célarié) decides to meet with Eric Gaubert (Serge Riaboukine) who has just been released from prison after having served his time for these crimes. What results is an explosive encounter behind closed doors between two damaged and fragile protagonists destiny has forced together.



COMING HOME – World Premiere

Daria Shumakova | Russian Federation, Armenia | 2018 | 85'

In the mid-90's in an Armenian border village the 6-year-old boy Saro, his mother Anahit and his best friend - grandpa Karen, are waiting for Saro's father Vacho's return from the war. Over the past four years, Saro has become a man child - taking charge of all head of the family duties. Every night, Saro asks the Moon to return his father, and one day his wish comes true...



BIG EARTH (HOTEL CALIFORNIA) – US Premiere

Patrick Merz, Benno Gut | Germany | 2017 | 110'

BIG EARTH means world without border, a world for all of us. An old hotel, lost at the country side, insolvent and home of dozens of refugees. Lack of space, awful food and troubles with youngsters from town, the inhabitants of the hotel try hard to get through. But then a TV station decide to initiate a show with refugees. What seems to be a great chance ends up nearly in a disaster. Only solidarity and engagement can things turn around to good.



DOING MONEY– New York state Premiere

Lynsey Miller | U.K. | 2018 | 87'

A young Romanian woman is snatched in broad daylight from a London street, trafficked to Ireland and used as a sex slave in a series of pop-up brothels. Her shocking true story offers a tense and thought-provoking thriller exposing how, in modern Britain, as in many other modern countries, slavery can hide in plain sight.



OPENING FILM

THE MERGER – US Premiere

Mark Grentell | Australia | 2018 | 103'

A former star footballer returns to his home town and is persuaded to coach the struggling, local footy team. He recruits refugees to make up the numbers with hilarious results, but ultimately takes the community on a journey of change.



YEVA – New York Premiere

Anahid Abad | Iran, Armenia | 2017 | 94'

Yeva is a young woman who escapes her influential in-laws with her daughter Nareh after her husband's tragic death and takes refuge in one of the villages of Karabakh, Armenia...Yeva is a complete stranger in this village and is obliged to hide her true identity in her daily life, until one day...

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

**A DIGNIFIED DEATH—North American Premiere**

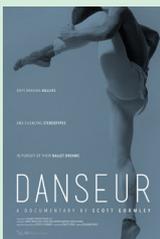
Jesse van Venrooij | Netherlands | 2018 | 52"

Eelco chooses death by legal euthanasia. Under strictly specified circumstances, physicians in the Netherlands are allowed to perform euthanasia and assisted suicide at the request of a patient. The film shows the last moments of a man with unbearable and hopeless mental suffering. It was Eelco's wish to record the last stage of his life but also to show the world how his bereaved deal with his death afterwards. His mission: to bring mental suffering and death as a solution into the open in our society.

**BACKLASH—North American Premiere**

Sara Jegeman | Switzerland | 2018 | 72'

Zeliha Dagli, a feminist and activist, takes us on a journey to the suburbs of Stockholm, where human rights are being violated by the romanticized waves of fundamentalism. Intertwined with Zeliha's personal story five womens rights activists hailing from Turkey, Tunisia and Iran speak up about integration, cultural relativism, honorary killings as well as Political Islam.

**DANSEUR—New York Premiere**

Scott Gormley | USA | 2018 | 70'

Enter any dance studio in the US and the classes will be brimming with little bunheads dreaming of crossing the stage at Lincoln Center. But you will be hard pressed to find a single boy among them. The film explores why in a country that strives for gender equality where young women are encouraged to cross the gender barrier and participate in male-dominated fields does this disparity exist?

**IN THE NAME OF YOUR DAUGHTER—New York State Premiere**

Giselle Portenier | Canada | 2018 | 84'

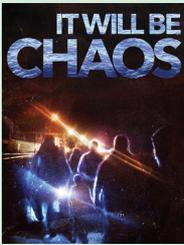
Terrified of bleeding to death, young Tanzanian girls as young as eight have to make the most difficult choice of their young lives: to submit to female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage, or to risk their lives and run away from home not knowing if they'll ever see their families again. Rhobi Samwelly, one of the most charismatic women in Africa, risks her life to give the girls a safe haven; a story of courage and hope.

**ISAAC POPE: THE SPIRIT OF AN AMERICAN CENTURY—World Premiere**

Rock Grant | USA | 2018 | 58' 10"

Intimate view of 100 years of American history seen through Isaac Pope, an African-American centenarian who's a spellbinding storyteller and unsung hero of war, the civil rights and workers' movements, and the tale of the nation's spirit, loss and love. Grandson of enslaved people, son of sharecroppers, he yearned toward the American Dream. His life shows tectonic shifts in some interactions between races that show the way forward.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

**IT WILL BE CHAOS**—New York Premiere

Lorena Luciano, Filippo | USA | 2018 | 90'

Life in Southern Italy is thrown into a tailspin when refugees arrive by the thousands and the locals are left to fend for themselves. Eritrean survivor Aregai, trapped in the Italian faltering immigration system, goes underground to reach Northern Europe. Through his journey, intercut with the road trip to Germany of a Syrian family, the clash between the newcomers and the locals escalates.

**MONUMENT OF PRIDE**—New York State Premiere

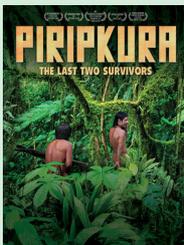
Sebastian Kes | Netherlands | 2017 | 83'

For decades Holland is known as one of the LGBTQ-friendliest countries in the world. But how did gay emancipation develop in the Netherlands? How did this country get from executing sodomites in the 18th century to being the first in the world to legalize gay marriage in 2001? The documentary Monument of Pride tells the story of the 'pink revolution' in the Netherlands. Historical images alternate with current events held on the Amsterdam Homomonument with portraits of today's activists.

**MUSA DAGH—THE ROAD HOME**—North America Premiere

Mariam Ohanyan | Armenia, Turkey | 2018 | 53'

During the 1915 Armenian Genocide, the residents of six Armenian villages surrounding Musa Mountain (Musa Dagh near the Mediterranean Sea) refused to obey the deportation decree of the Ottoman Empire and organized a defense force with only 600 warriors with limited weapons and ammunition. An Armenian family visits the land of their ancestors on the day of commemorations on the anniversary of this defense.

**PIRIPKURA**—New York Premiere

Mariana Oliva, Renata Terra, Bruno Jorge | Brazil | 2018 | 82'

The last two surviving members of the Piripkura people, a nomadic tribe in the Mato Grosso region of Brazil, struggle to maintain their indigenous way of life amidst the region's massive deforestation. Living deep in the rain forest, Pakyî and Tamandua live off the land relying on a machete, an ax, and a torch lit in 1998. The camera team, trek deep into the uninhabited region to find traces of the men as the systemic violence used against indigenous Amazon people is revealed, a situation likely to become more perilous with Brazil's newly elected President.

**PUBLIC FIGURE**—New York Premiere

Brian Corso | USA | 2018 | 70'

In an exploration of our society's increasing obsession with social media, the film's insightful documentation of social media use and addiction invites the viewer to question if what we see online is reality or a complete delusion. The film follows the lives of our established Instagram influencers around the globe - beginning in New York all the way to Los Angeles, Toronto, Vancouver and Johannesburg, South Africa.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION



SEEING IS BELIEVING: WOMEN DIRECT—New York Premiere

Cady McClain | USA | 2018 | 84'

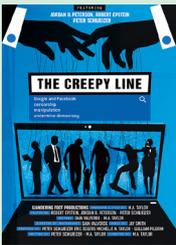
An intimate conversation with female directors who are using their voices to tell stories that matter to them. The film strives to encourage, inspire, and provide mentorship for those who are looking to find and use their own unique voice.



THE ADVOCATES—New York Premiere

Rémi Kessler | USA | 2018 | 87'

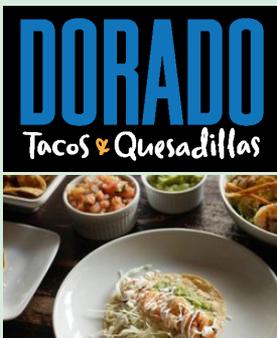
Over half a million people are homeless in the United States—25% of whom are in California. Amid public outcry over the ballooning homeless population—nearly 54,000 people on any given night in Los Angeles—three advocates with three different organizations show what the lost ideal of “care in the community” looks like amid a changing policy landscape. Intensely human and humanizing, The Advocates provides a sweeping look at the causes of this unprecedented crises.



THE CREEPY LINE—New York Premiere

Michelle Taylor | USA | 2018 | 80'

An eye-opening documentary, The Creepy Line reveals the stunning degree to which society is manipulated by Google and Facebook and blows the lid off the remarkably subtle – hence powerful – manner in which they do it.



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Congratulations Nora and the
SR Socially Relevant Film Festival Team

AIWA NJ Affiliate

My very best wishes
for a successful event.

—*Elizabeth Akian*



Armenian Network of America, Inc.

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SINCE 1984

SCHEDULE OF FILMS & PANELS

	3:30 PM	Pollution and Environment (program of shorts)*
FRI 3/15	5:00 PM	The Advocates (preceded by Two Sides)
	7:00 PM	Opening Welcome + The Merger
	9:15 PM	It Will Be Chaos (preceded by 01)
	10:30 PM	After Party (by invitation only - limited no. of tickets available)
SAT 3/16	10:15 AM-1:00PM	Industry Workshops I & II (SVA)
	1:30 PM	Drug Addiction (program of short) & EVC Film
	3:00 PM	Health in life and death (program of shorts)
	5:00 PM	Yeva
	6:45 PM	Monument of Pride
	8:45 PM	A Thousand Pieces
SUN 3/17	1:15 AM	Piripkura (preceded by Neemkomok)
	3:30 PM	Musa Dagh (preceded by Taniel & Under the Walnut Tree)
	5:15 PM	Coming Home
	7:00 PM	Seeing is Believing: Women Direct
	9:00 PM	Public Figure (preceded by The Old Rogue)
MON 3/18	1:30-2:30 PM	Panel with Film Festival Organizers
	2:30-4:00 PM	Presentation TCG & Networking (CRS)
	3:15 PM	Women and Choice (program of shorts)
	4:50 PM	Backlash
	5:00 PM	Reception by Invitation - Limited No. of tickets available (Vapiano)
	6:30 PM	The Man Who Mends Women
	8:30 PM	Panel: Women & Children in Conflict Zones

SCHEDULE OF FILMS & PANELS

TUES 3/19	2:00 PM	Governor's Office For Film & TV - Filming in NY
	3:10 PM	Video Diaries Workshop - Brigitte Gauthier
	3:30 PM	Capital Punishment (program of shorts)
	5:00 PM	Freedom (program of shorts)
	5:00 PM	Happy Hour for filmmakers (Ribalta)
	6:30 PM	Big Earth (Hotel California)
	8:45 PM	The Creepy Line
WED 3/20	1:15 PM	Script Finalists table read with actors (workshop)
	2:30-4:00 PM	Scriptwriter Reception & Networking (CRS)
	3:00 PM	Across the Border (program of shorts)
	5:00 PM	Isaac Pope: The Spirit of an American Century (preceded by Remembering Port Chicago)
	5:00 PM	Happy Hour for filmmakers (La Contenta Oeste)
	6:30 PM	Doing Money
	9:00 PM	A Dignified Death (preceded by I'm Fat)
THURS 3/21	10:30 AM	Low Budget Film Production (SAG-AFTRA)
	5:30 PM	In the Name of Your Daughter
	7:30 PM	Danseur (preceded by Drag Queen Story time)
	9:00 PM	Awards Ceremony
	10:30 PM	After Party (by invitation only - limited no. of tickets available)

SHORT FILM BLOCKS

FRI 3/15 3:30	SAT 3/16 1:30 PM	SUN 3/16 3:00 PM	MON 3/18 3:15 PM	TUE 3/19 3:30 PM	TUE 3/19 5:00 PM	WED 3/20 3:00 PM
Polution and Enviroment	Drug Addiction	Health in Life and Death	Women and Choice	Capital Punishment	Freedom	Across The Border
Guy Hircfeld, a guy with a camera sustainUp Wild Utah: America's Red Rock wilderness Karma Coma	Highway Mike Family Day H.O.P.E Youth Video Program	Uzzi Doctor Co bOObs: The war on women's breasts	Amina, My Sister Separation Flowers of Marrakech The Line California Girls	The Act of Terror Executioner's shadow	10x10ft The Mandarin Tree Timmy Miller Has a heavy head	Maria I Am DACA Her Room By the Kitchen





NARRATIVE SHORTS PROGRAM



OI

Julian Friedrich, Katharina Potratz | Germany | 2017 | 07' |
 Sergam is a little boy. A refugee. His boat's stranded on the coast. His mother didn't survive. Instead, a young woman takes care of him and they both set off on their way through a nightmare. This is one of the films from the international short film initiative 'Second Truth'. These silent films are meant to be freely accessible on social media and are released by press offices, festivals and on CD.



10X10 FT

Dhruv Tripathi | UK | 2018 | 18' |
 More than 60% of the people in Bombay actually reside in houses of 10x10 feet or worse. '10x10ft' revolves around a newly married couple, who is frustrated, as they have to share a one room house with the groom's parents. This frustration is further increased by the fact that getting a bigger space is a leisure that they can't afford in this city of crowded homes and cramped desires.



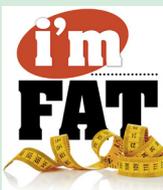
AN ACT OF TERROR

Ashley Paige Brim | USA | 2017 | 16' |
 The true story of Virginia Christian, a 16-year-old African American girl accused of murder in the Jim Crow South.



FAMILY DAY

Ashley Berman | USA | 201 | 17'15" |
 Family Day is a powerful short film about a mid twenties woman (Kelly O' Connell) who is finishing up her third stint in rehab at Greenbrier Rehab center in Dobbs Ferry NY. In the final days of her three month stay, her mother and loving step dad (Brenda and Richard) come to visit for Family Day. What ensues is unexpected and revealing.



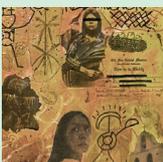
I'M FAT

Tom Cavanaugh | USA | 201 | 10'16" |
 I'M FAT is a short film that deals with the body shaming issue! A big beautiful woman is working out when she's approached by a slender, attractive, seemingly 'Fitness Guru'! We find out that our big, beautiful woman is NOT putting up with it this time. Our lady has been approached by people selling diets, people selling coaching, people selling gym memberships and not once have they gotten to know her...



KARMA COMA

Guillaume Courty | France | 2018 | 15' |
 François, a young student, is accosted in the street by a stranger saying he needs medicine. François decides to give him a twenty-euro bill... but he is very far from suspecting the consequences of his gesture.



NEEMKOMOK'

Douglas Cushnie | USA | 2018 | 20' |
 Isadora, an Indigenous Californian (Gabriolino/Tongva) woman, faces a battle to survive after being emancipated from the abusive Los Angeles mission where she was raised in the early 1800's. She's helped by Domingo, a Franciscan friar, on the journey to bring her to a Native village where she can finally be safe.

NARRATIVE SHORTS PROGRAM



TANIEL

Garo Berberian | U.K. | 2018 | 19'59" |

One of the greatest innovative poets of the 20th century, a respected teacher, exciting public speaker, loving father and husband, Taniel Varoujan at 31 foresaw the looming darkness that was approaching and the destruction of the Armenian nation in what became known as the Armenian Genocide. The narrative is delivered with an emotive depth of feeling by Hollywood legend Sean Bean. Music by Philip Glass played by Valentina Lisitsa sets the scene of World War 1 with heartfelt minimalist tones.



THE MANDARIN TREE

Cengiz Akaygün | Germany | 2017 | 17'58" |

After her father is arrested for political reasons by the Turkish government, little Sirin is finally allowed to visit him in prison for the first time. When a prison official interprets her painting of a bird as an anarchistic symbol and confiscates it, the girl is devastated, but her father encourages her to believe in the freedom of thought. For her second visit, she paints a "harmless" mandarin tree. – Will her hidden message be discovered?



THE OLD ROGUE (EPISODE ONE)

Steve Perkins | USA | 2018 | 5'31" |

An elderly expatriate returns to the USA after a life overseas only to find that technology, and the social network, has changed his reality with several unintended consequences.



TIMMY MILLER HAS A HEAVY HEAD

Carlo Keshishian | U.K. | 2018 | 18' |

In a bout of planomania, Timmy Miller wends his way through the selcouth chasing a newly found apantomancy. Upon seeking the nepenthe, Miller encounters a myriad of curious characters who have him suspect that all is not as it seems... or is it?



TWO SIDES

Michael Gamarano Singleton | U.K. | 2018 | 9'57" |

Two Sides explores the lives of Ali, an emerging property developer, and Ryan, a struggling electrician fallen on hard times. When their worlds intertwine, Ali is left with a new perspective.



UNDER THE WALNUT TREE

Leah Bedrosian Peterson | USA | 2018 | 06'20" |

A young boy has been displaced during the massacre of his people. After wandering alone for days, he is ready to give up but fights to continue to safety. "Under The Walnut Tree" is loosely based on the true story of Shahan Natalie, who survived the Hamidian Massacres after witnessing the murder of his family.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS PROGRAM

**AMINA, MY SISTER**

Patrick Bodenham | U.K. | 2018 | 18'30" |

The personal story of a family of Rohingya refugees from persecution in Myanmar into the world's newest and largest refugee camp.

**BOOBS: THE WAR ON WOMEN'S BREASTS**

Megan S Smith | USA | 2018 | 26'56" |

In "bOObs," we first learn from medical doctors about myths surrounding mammography, such as mammograms are "early detection" and "low radiation". We hear heart-breaking stories of how this breast cancer diagnostic test helped to tragically change the lives of three female patients. And how financial greed played a large part in sending women down this frightful path in the first place.

**CALIFORNIA GIRLS**

Laura Hinman | USA | 2018 | 8' |

This short documentary follows the work of Tiffany Adams, an artist who is indigenous to California. Her performance piece, paintings and jewelry are all tied to her responsibilities as a Native woman. Through art she encompasses the endurance required to maintain our identities in a contemporary setting.

**DOCTOR CO**

Lysander Wiering | Netherlands | 2017 | 24'25" |

Co is a an 80-year old doctor who gives medical aid to refugees. He crosses the wastelands of Amsterdam on his bike day in day out. He visits the refugees in abandoned parking lots and derelict office buildings as they have been declined a permit of residence and are therefore not eligible for professional medical help.

**DRAG QUEEN STORYTIME**

Tyler Litwin | USA | 2018 | 9'14" |

In Greensboro, NC, two drag queens read to children at a private bookstore in order to promote diversity and challenge gender stereotypes.

**EXECUTIONER'S SHADOW**

Maggie Burnette Stogner | USA | 2018 | 40' |

The film tackles tough issues of justice, injustice, and capital punishment and underscores themes of race and economic inequities, high rates of wrongful incarceration, mental illness among inmates. This provocative film challenges viewers to question their deepest beliefs about the meaning of justice, and to examine how the death penalty defines who we are as individuals and as a society.

**FLOWERS OF MARRAKECH**

Yuntong Man | US | 2017 | 7'59" |

Nadia, a Moroccan Henna artist, is a single mother in Marrakech that is struggling to make a livable wage during the slow tourism season. The Marrakech Henna Art Café offers an innovative solution: mixed media Henna ornaments

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS PROGRAM



GUY HIRCEFELD, A GUY WITH A CAMERA

Andrés Gallegos | USA | 2018 | 12' |

Guy Hircefeld, a veteran that served in the Israeli military at the start of its occupation of Palestine in the 1980s, now fights against Israeli occupation, ethnic cleansing, and environmental warfare. His only weapon is a camera.



HER ROOM BY THE KITCHEN

Markus Kaatsch | USA | 2018 | 11'34" |

Rous is a determined 25-year-old woman from Mexico who signed up with a U.S. placement agency to work as an au pair for a year. Highly-skilled Mexican women migrate to the U.S. with fresh-faced optimism about becoming au pairs. In "Her Room By the Kitchen," Rous questions the true value of the opportunities promised by this year abroad.



HIGHWAY MIKE

Sriyanka Ray | USA | 9'37" |

Highway Mike is the story of Mike, a formerly homeless addict who used to live below the bridge in a park where hundreds of users gather every day to do drugs. Now he does outreach work to prevent overdoses in that same park. Mike tries to balance his past with his present as he leads us into the underbelly of one of New York City's most overlooked communities.



H.O.P.E

EVC | USA | 2018 | 15'14" |

This is a film about the opioid epidemic in the United States. We explore how the problem connects both urban and rural communities, and ways to humanize people who are addicted to opioids.



I AM DACA

Bill Hellams | USA | 2018 | 28'35" |

Most Americans have heard of DACA but very few people have ever actually met a Dreamer or were aware the young person they did know was a Dreamer. I partnered with Dream Action Oklahoma and interviewed 17 Dreamers. If folks could not meet these young people in person at least they would be able to learn a little about them in this documentary....



MARIA

Shiri Paamony eshel | USA | 2018 | 26'06" |

Maria is an 18 year old poet, daughter of Mexican immigrants from the Bronx NY. Maria's life was never easy, as she had to live with her alcoholic father, mother, mother's schizophrenic husband and 2 sisters. The images from Maria's present life are woven with her past in the form of artistic storytelling and poetry.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS PROGRAM



REMEMBERING PORT CHICAGO

Alexander Irwin | USA | 2017 | 9'18" |

In California's Bay Area, a painful memory lingers of the Port Chicago disaster of WWII, when hundreds of the Navy's first black sailors perished.



SEPARATION

Emilie Richardson | USA | 2018 | 6'49" |

Women in Afghanistan describe their lives from marriage to the start of their divorce proceedings.



SUSTAINUP

IRIS MOHR | USA | 2018 | 13'12" |

This is a story about sustainable fashion. It's about the clothes we wear, the people who make them, and the environmental and social impact the industry is having on our world. sustainUp is a groundbreaking documentary film that through the eyes of NYC fashion designers makes us ask "At what cost are we buying are clothes?"



THE LINE

Davit Ohanjyanyan | Armenia | 9'25" |

From the first sight this movie is about a girl who became disabled during the war. In this movie, I was trying to show how strong can a person be in such situations and how big could be his/her desire to live. The leading hero and the core meaning of the movie is that strong, ambitious and full of life girl.



UZZI

Ido Weisman | Israel | 2018 | 20'21" |

At the age of 94, Prof. Uzi Ornan continuing his lifelong ongoing struggles for upholding the Secular and Democratic image of the State of Israel with his last endeavor to establish and secure Civil Burial rights where he lives. udince's attention...



WILD UTAH: AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS

Chris Lee, Alex Lee | USA | 2108 | 13'53" |

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) is made up of people like you, concerned citizens from Utah and throughout the nation who share the common goal of preserving Utah's remaining desert wild lands, known collectively as America's red rock wilderness. This film tells us why these lands are worth protecting, and what can be done to ensure these public lands are protected for generations to come.

THE FESTIVAL TEAM

NORA ARMANI: Founding Artistic Director

LUCIE TRIPON: Panels/Production

KECHU CHANG: Film Submissions & Filmmaker Relations

MICHAEL CLAES: PR/ Marketing/ Sponsorship

JOHN BENNETT: Marketing/ Promotion

SYLVIA MEAD: Media Sponsorships/ Event and Volunteer Coordinator

JILLIE SIMON: Script Selection/ Table Readings Director

ARED SPENDJIAN: Art Director/ Branding

ALICE YEUNG: Social Media & Video

MINSOO LEE: Outreach Research and Communications

YITIAN CHI: Website Updates and Media Listings

ENZO FLORES: Sponsorship and Communication

CHING JUHL: Video and Photo Coverage

CONNIE AREVALO: Video Coverage

ARMEN SPENDJIAN: PR and Video Assistance

CRAIG LOWY: Festival Trailer Editor

LINDA SELMAN: Outreach

JURY MEMBERS

NARRATIVE FEATURE:

Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Emilie Caillon

Victoria Harwood

Butler-Sloss

Sebastien Sisak

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE:

Sonia Herman Doltz

Arpiar Elmayan

Elda Khanamirian

Naela Refaat

Dirk Robertson

Christopher Wheatley

NARRATIVE SHORT:

Nina Alban

Charles Ancelle

Eric Shahinian

DOCUMENTARY SHORT:

Sarah Bullion

Marta Houske

Eric Perlman

SCRIPTWRITING:

Eileen Deutsch

Brigitte Gauthier

Bethany Jacobson

WFCC - AWARD

(Women Film Critics' Circle)

Andrea Chase

Sara Clements

Liron Cohen

Yasmin Kleinbart

Linda Lerner

Edie Nugent

Rose Pacatte

Jessica Pena

Maria Cristina Rodriguez

Andrea Thompson

Mimi Torchin



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ARMENIANS IN FILM

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ARMENIAN FILMMAKERS

AT LINCOLN CENTER

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Films must be under 25 minutes in duration

Films that have been screened in previous years are ineligible

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