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**SOCIALLY
RELEVANT™**
FILM FESTIVAL, NY

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and be moved.

FROM

MARCH
13-19
2017

DISCOVER
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www.ratedsrfilms.org



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Bernard Shaw



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Sunday, Monday-Wednesday: 12-3pm, 5:30-10pm

Thursday-Saturday: 12-3pm, 5:30-11pm

WELCOME

WELCOME



Dear friends,

Welcome to the third edition of SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York!

This year we are happy to bring you 49 films from 32 countries dealing with a diverse range of social issues and human interest stories about ordinary and extraordinary people. We are proud to be a platform for filmmakers who choose to tell stories that educate, enlighten, uplift as they entertain.

I thank everyone who contributed to the success of our past two editions without whose help we would not be having a third edition now. I thank the dedicated team of the festival who worked tirelessly donating their time throughout the year. And, I thank our new group of volunteers who are here to help us during the festival.

I thank our talented filmmakers, past and present, for choosing to tell socially relevant stories and for standing against the pressures of commercial requirements. They are now at the scrutiny of our International Jury members who kindly took time out of their busy schedules to view and rate the selected films. Thank you jury members.

For the second year in a row, the festival is offering industry panels that are open not only to filmmakers but also to other industry members, and the general public. These are all free of charge. A word of special thanks is due to our distinguished panelists who have generously accepted and volunteered to share their hard-earned and valuable knowledge with peers but most importantly with a new generation of filmmakers. Thank you panelists.

We are honored to have the endorsement of a great consumer advocate, Erin Brockovich. And what are movies but consumer products that we need to make and use responsibly. SR refrains from endorsing films that resort to gratuitous violence, or violent forms of film making that often stun and disturb rather than engage our attention in a positive way.

We are also happy to be at the Bow Tie Chelsea Cinemas this year, the festival's new home, and feel our third edition will be a great one in this wonderful venue.

Of course all this would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, and the complicity of our partners. And, it would have been totally meaningless without you all, our dear audience members.

Take a seat and be moved!

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



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The City Of New York
Mayor's Office Of Media And Entertainment

March 2017

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2017 SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York!

Throughout this festival, you'll have an unparalleled opportunity to experience a wide range of films that raise awareness on some of the most important issues facing our society today. Considering New York City's reputation as an international hub for progressive movements and social action, it is especially significant that the festival is based here. The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment supports filmed media in its many forms through our Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting, a one-stop shop for all production needs in New York City, and through NYC Media, the official TV, radio, and online network of the City of New York.

Each year, our office works with hundreds of film, television, digital, and commercial projects that film on location throughout the five boroughs. We provide these productions with a number of useful resources, including the "Made in NY" Discount Card, which provides special offers for film industry professionals at more than 1,200 local businesses. We also offer educational and workforce development programs, such as our ongoing "Made in NY" Talks series, which welcomes leaders from a variety of media and entertainment sectors to share expertise about their industries with interested New Yorkers. Additionally, our "Made in NY" Marketing Credit program offers promotional support for projects in which at least 75% was produced in New York City.

As part of one of our newest initiatives, this spring, we are asking New Yorkers to get on the same page with "One Book, One New York," an exciting citywide reading program that will bring New York's book lovers together to read the same book at the same time. To learn more about the program and the winning title and to see the full list of free events planned throughout the five boroughs, visit NYC.gov/OneBook and be sure to follow us on Twitter at @MadeinNY.

Please visit our website, www.nyc.gov/film, to learn more about our office and discover everything New York City has to offer the creative community. Enjoy the show!

Sincerely,



Julie Menin, Commissioner
Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment

SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York is Fiscally Sponsored by Fractured Atlas.



Fractured Atlas is a 501(c)(3) public charity that has officially granted Fiscal Sponsorship to Rated SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York. Contributions for the purposes of Rated SR - Socially Relevant Film Festival New York are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Rated SR is essentially a self-funded festival in its second year. Donations are graciously accepted.

AWARDS

VANYA EXERJIAN AWARD

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

The festival presents the **Vanya Exerjian Award** to a film that raises awareness towards violence against women and girls, in commemoration of Founding Artistic Director Nora Armani's late cousin and uncle, victims of a violent hate crime.

THE NARRATIVE GRAND PRIZE

The **Candy Factory** offers the winning narrative feature film free consultation advice and a first look distribution option. **Resolution Rentals** offers \$300 certificate and 50% off on equipment rental.

THE DOCUMENTARY GRAND PRIZE

IndiePix Unlimited offers digital distribution on IndiePix to the winning documentary. **Cinema Libre Studio** offers exclusive, one-on-one 90-min. consultation and 25% off on post work. **SundanceNOWDoc Club** offers a two-year subscription and DVD's.

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.

CITY WINERY

Special wine from City Winery offered to the winners as a testimony of good wine and good times - SRFF 2017 Fourth Edition labelled - courtesy of City Winery.

FINALIST SCRIPTS

ADVENTURES OF THE HOMELESS

Jagdish Singh, USA

A MOTHER'S LEGACY

Cilla Lowen, South Africa

WFCC (WOMEN FILM CRITICS CIRCLE) AWARD

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

TWO SCRIPT WRITING AWARDS

Finaldraft offers certificates to download latest scriptwriting software.

InkTip offers a free listing to the winning script on InkTip.

SPECIAL JURY MENTIONS OF

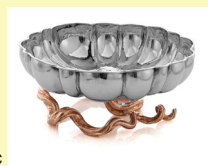
BEST ACTOR AND BEST ACTRESS:

Announced at the awards ceremony.

THE FESTIVAL'S OFFICIAL

AWARDS TROPHY

The **Sona Vessel** designed and donated by Michael Aram. The Sona Bowl, takes its inspiration from the imagery that floats around classic storytelling.



ANET ABNOUS + VAROJAN

AWARD

Specially designed scarf by Anet Abnous with the festival logo for our winners...

A VISION OF ANGELS

Timothy Jay Smith, USA

TO SHARPEN A THORN

Clint Pearson, USA



"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



SMARTPHONE FILMMAKING WORKSHOP BY CHING JUHL

WHEN: MARCH 14, 3:00 PM - 4:00PM

WHERE: FESTIVAL LOUNGE - CINEPOLIS CHELSEA (260 WEST 23RD STREET)

THE THESIS GROUP
THE THESIS GROUP

SPOTLIGHT PANEL - CHAPLIN: ARTISTS IN RESISTANCE

WHEN: MARCH 15, 8:00 - 8:40PM

WHERE: CINEPOLIS CHELSEA (260 WEST 23RD STREET)

Panelists: Napoleon Da Legend: lyricist, Kim Fraczek: Director of Sane Energy Project, Raz Mesina: Music producer, Andrew Short: writer, actor, artist and activist, Andy Tider: artist and creative director



SAG-AFTRA LOW-BUDGET FILM PRODUCTION

WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

WHERE: SAG-AFTRA NY LOCAL, 1900 BROADWAY, 5TH FL, NEW YORK, NY 10023



SPOTLIGHT PANEL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WHEN: MARCH 16, 3:00 - 4:00 PM

WHERE: CINEPOLIS CHELSEA (260 WEST 23RD STREET)

Panelists: Monica Mahendra Singh : Social Activist for Violence against Women at the UN; Piper Anderson: writer educator and Founder of Create Forward LLC; Deborah Kampmeier: Filmmaker; Kankana Chakraborty: filmmaker; Mirka Hermoza Laznik: Gender Justice coordinator at the Broad Front; Bitu Shafipour, director.

Moderator: Nora Amani, actress/ filmmaker - Founder of SRFF



SPOTLIGHT PANEL IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES

WHEN: MARCH 16, 8:45-9:15PM

WHERE: CINEPOLIS CHELSEA (260 WEST 23RD STREET)

Panelists: Lucas Jedrzejak: filmmaker, Bison Grass Films Ltd.; Brigitte Gauthier: professor, author and filmmaker; Irina Patkanian: Filmmaker Adhane Tragha, Director 600 Euro; Hassan Hamza, director, Immigration Sans Issue.

PANELS & PANELISTS



NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR SOCIALLY RELEVANT TM USES

WHEN: MARCH 17, 2:00 - 3:00 PM

WHERE: FESTIVAL LOUNGE - CINEPOLIS CHELSEA (260 WEST 23RD STREET)

Panelists: Kris Kolo : Industry Advisor, Global Executive of Director VR/AR Association; Alissa Crevier: Global Head of Brand Partnerships Littlestar; Andrew Feinberg: COO TimeLooper; Kiira Benzing: storyteller; Matthew MacVey: Journalist

Moderator: Marco Castro Cosio



NY LOVES FILM ROUNDTABLE

WHEN: FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 3 - 4 PM

WHERE: FESTIVAL LOUNGE - CINEPOLIS CHELSEA (260 WEST 23RD STREET)

Meet the team from the New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development for a roundtable discussion

Panelists: Kathryn Fisher and Steven Pelton.



FUNDING YOUR FILM IDEAS

WHEN: MARCH 18, 10:15-11:30AM

WHERE: SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS MFA SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY FILM THEATER - 136 WEST 21ST STREET, 1ST FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10011

Panelists: Susan Margolin : Founder St. Marks Productions, Courtney Hage: Member advisor Fractured Atlas, Debra Zimmerman: Executive Director, Women Make Movies, Moderated by: Christopher Atamian: storyteller, journalist and director; Hayden Goldblatt: Counsel,



THE HAZARDOUS (BRAVE) DOCUMENTARY

WHEN: MARCH 18, 12:00 - 1:15 PM

WHERE: SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS MFA SOCIAL DOCUMENTARY FILM THEATER - 136 WEST 21ST STREET, 1ST FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10011

Panelists: Axel Baumann: Cinematographer; Guy David: Filmmaker; David A. Andelman: Journalist; David A. Andelman: Journalist.

PLAY READINGS



Congratulations Nora and the
SR Socially Relevant Film Festival Team

AIWA NJ Affiliate

SPOTLIGHT FILM ! THE GREAT DICTATOR

Charlie Chaplin | USA | 125'

Chaplin's 1940 masterpiece follows a Jewish barber who returns to his neighborhood after a prolonged convalescence from injuries suffered in WW I. Unaware of the rise of Hynkel during his absence and of his own uncanny resemblance to the dictator. This most humane incarnation of the Tramp embarks on an accidental campaign of resistance, impelled by his own innocence and the will of an indomitable young woman. Chaplin's sublime storytelling gift and his faith in the vitality of civilization are on full display in this prophetic satire of the vanities of the power-mad.

Screens on **Wednesday, March 15, 8:50 pm**

Panel discussion prior to the screening

Spotlight screening

co-presented with The Thesis Group.



NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION



600 EUROS-AMERICAN PREMIERE

Adnane Tragha | France | 88'

THUR. 3/16 9:15 PM - Q&A with the director.

During the french presidential campaign in the spring of 2012 and in a climate characterized by the rise of the extreme right, some, like Marco, move away from politics and no longer vote. Both disappointed by politicians and mired in financial problems, Marco gradually turns his back on our society. Approaching forty, he takes stock of his life and realizes that he has not achieved his goals.



DESTINY-NYC PREMIERE

Wei Zhang | China | 2016 | 97'

FRI. 3/17 9:15PM - Q&A with the director. (TBC)

Autism is a condition not well understood by many in China. 9-year-old Xi He has been diagnosed as autistic but attends a "normal" school at the continuous insistence of his mother.



2 GIRLS - NYC PREMIERE

Jeo Baby | USA/ India | 2016 | 72'

SAT 3/18 2PM - Q&A with director Jeo Baby.

The problems faced by women in our society and the issues of women all over the world are exposed through the thoughts of two 6th grade students named Achu and Anagha. They have already experienced a lot of restrictions that are only meant for girls.



PROPHECY - NYC PREMIERE

Zuri Rinpoche | Netherlands/Bhutan | 2015 | 84'

SAT. 3/18 7:15PM - Q&A with the director. (TBC)

An immortal ancient prophecy awakens the truth of humanity. Prophesied by an ancient text, two men seek out in search of a Terton, a treasure revealer - one of the prophesied reincarnate Buddhas destined to propagate religion and benefit all sentient beings.



SPLIT-NYC PREMIERE

Deborah Kampmeier | USA | 128'

SAT. 3/18 9:15PM - Q&A with the director.

Inanna, a young woman split off from her dark side and her sexuality, identifies with the darkness in the autobiographical play directed by Derek. When Inanna and Derek meet in person they are instantly and deeply attracted to each other and a complicated love affair begins leaving indelible marks on both.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION



THE CHOCOLATE CASE - NYC PREMIERE - OPENING FILM - Benthe Forrer | Netherlands | 2016 | 90'

TUES. 3/14 7:15 PM - Q&A with the director.

The incredible journey of three Dutch journalists who try to persuade large corporations to end the use of child labour in the chocolate industry and when rebuffed decide to take matters into their own hands by creating the world's first slave-free chocolate bar.



AMERICAN SOCIALIST: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EUGENE VICTOR DEBS - WORLD PREMIERE

Yale Strom | USA | 2016 | 90'

TUES. 3/14 9:15 PM - Q&A with the director.

The contemporary political movement to address income inequality began over 100 years ago with Eugene Victor Debs. This film traces the history of American populism, with the man who inspired progressive ideas - from FDR's New Deal to Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign.



STRAIGHT FROM THE PEN-WORLD PREMIERE

Paul Sutton | USA | 2016 | 51'

WED. 3/15 4PM - Q&A with the director.

An unprecedented creative writing class matches 24 prisoners--mostly lifers--with a dozen college students on a maximum security yard in southern California. Prisoners learn to express themselves openly and honestly, many for the first time, to a group of strangers, in a setting where survival often demands alienation, disaffection, and aggression.

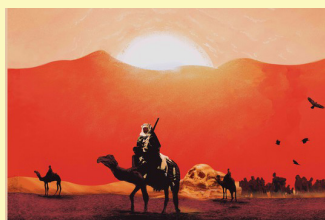


THE STOLEN CHILDHOOD-US PREMIERE

Armen Gasparian | Armenia | 2014 | 52'

WED. 3/15 5:45PM - Q&A with the director.

In December 1988 an earthquake measuring 6.8 magnitude razed to the ground Armenia's second largest city of Leninakan (now Gyumri). Twenty-six years later, we see a city with destroyed buildings as if the earthquake occurred only yesterday. The city is seen through the eyes of a little girl - Nina.



CROWS OF THE DESERT-EAST COAST PREMIERE

Marta Houske | USA | 2016 | 61'

WED 3/15 7:15 PM - Q&A EXEC.. Producer Paul Turpanjian and the director.

This Hero's Journey Through The Armenian Genocide recounts the incredible true story of one man's desperate struggle to not only stay alive but to help save his people from near extinction. Based on the memoirs of Levon Yotnakhparian.



KETERMAYA - US PREMIERE

Lucas Jedrzejak | UK | 2016 | 78'

THU 3/16 6:00 PM - Q&A with the director.

On a dusty hillside surrounded by olive trees, the children of Katermaya, the Lebanese refugee camp, play far away from the horrors of Syria. An important corrective to narratives surrounding refugees, and a moving fable of hope and resilience.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION



TRAILS OF HOPE AND TERROR - NEW YORK PREMIERE

Benthe Forrer | Netherlands | 2016 | 90'

THU. 3/16 7:30 PM -

Filmmakers travel to the U.S. border to walk the desert and interview humanitarian groups, social workers, legal professionals, the undocumented, and anti-immigration protesters to explore the historical and economic reasons for the current immigration crisis, and how politicians have used this issue to garner votes.



THE TOXIC CIRCLE - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Wilfried Koomen | Italy/Netherlands | 2016 | 53'

FRI. 3/17 4:00 PM - Q&A with the director.

Campania, the area around Naples, is known as the biggest illegal landfill for chemical waste in Europe. This is where the Camorra dumps industrial waste from all over Europe and from outside the continent; a global problem where every country has its own industrial dump.



IT AIN'T PRETTY- NYC PREMIERE

Dayla Soul | USA | 2016 | 69'

FRI. 3/17 5:30PM - Q&A with the director/producer. (TBC)

A documentary about the challenges and triumphs of female big wave surfers fighting sexism in the water, in competition, in the media and in the surf industry with the support of a closely-knit community of like-minded women.



MIXED FEELINGS - NYC PREMIERE

Guy Davidi | Israel | 2016 | 76'

WED. 3/15 5:45PM - Q&A with the Academy Award nominee, Emmy award winning director

When Israel attacks Gaza, acting teacher Amir Orian can't withhold his objections to the war. Despite the conflict Amir encourages his students to find their strength to be vulnerable and weak on stage. Filmed between two wars, 'Mixed Feelings' captures the ongoing collapse of Israeli civil society, yet it's a compassionate story about cultural resistance through theater.



ROLL CALL: A DANCE STORY - WORLD PREMIERE

Anthony DiFranco | USA | 2016 | 56'

SAT 3/18 4:00 PM - Q&A with the director/Producer

A group of intrepid young wheelchair-bound ballroom dance students live through the day to day challenges and joys of their passion for dance, as they transcend their disabilities to put on an originally choreographed gala dance show.



CALLED TO RESCUE REDEFINING OUR BARNYARD STORY - NYC PREMIERE

Naomi Call | USA | 2016 | 74'

SAT 3/18 5:30 PM - Q&A with the director.

Animal lovers of all ages will be inspired by this heart warming message that is certain to live on long after the film. Called to Rescue is an inspiring glimpse into life on fifteen farm animal sanctuaries throughout the US. The animals simply by being themselves are changing lives, lifestyles and beliefs. No graphic images.



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TIME	MON 3/14	TUES 3/15	WED 3/16
10:00AM			
11:00AM			WORKSHOP Low-budget workshop 11:00am AT SAG-AFTRA
12:00PM			
1:00PM			
2:00PM			
3:00PM			
4:00PM			SHORTS PROGRAM 1 Women & Climate 4:00pm
5:00PM		FESTIVAL OPENING 5:30pm (Red Carpet)	
6:00PM	Panel 1 From Book to movie: Adapting the novel for the sceen 6:00pm	Caged No More 6:30pm AT BOW TIE CINEMAS	Beneath The Olive Tree Moving Stories 6:00pm
7:00PM			
8:00PM	AT ALBERTINE FRENCH BOOKSTORE		Supersonic Women 8:00pm
9:00PM			
10:00PM			Escapes 10:00pm AT BOW TIE CINEMAS

SHORTSPROGRAM1 OILPALMFREEISLANDS-INDONESIA
Women & Climate 'AINA: THAT WHICH FEEDS US
THE SUSTAINABLE
A SINGLE STEP

SHORTSPROGRAM2 BORDER
Discrimination & THREE
Justice GREG TAYLOR - GHOST
A HEARTH OF OUR OWN

SHORTSPROGRAM3 SAY DUST
Disability, Love, NOW I KNOW
Hope TWO AND TWENTY TROUBLES
GIRL ON THE MOON

SHORTSPROGRAM4 CINÉMÈTEQUE
Social Media GEN A
A SOCIAL LIFE
DECONSTRUCTING FACEBOOK

THUR 3/17	FRI 3/18	SAT 3/19	SUN 3/20
		PANEL 1 Revisiting distribution 10:30am AT SVA-MFA Chelsea	
		PANEL 2 Shaping the documentary 12:00pm AT SVA-MFA Chelsea	Abrazos 11:00am AT CRS Shorts Program 4 THEME: Social Media 12:00pm AT CRS
		100 Years Later 2:00pm	
		Dance Iranian Style 4:00pm	
SHORTS PROGRAM 2 Discrimination & Injustice 4:00pm	Plus! My Beautiful White Skin Tamashii 4:00pm		
SHORTS PROGRAM 3 Disability, Love, Hope 6:00pm	Augmented Reality/ Virtual Reality Demo. 5:00-8:00pm The Neighborhood That Disappeared 6:00pm	Who Killed The Armenians? 6:00pm	CLOSING PANEL Films & Climate 6:30pm AT TENRI CULTURAL INSTITUTE
Sense The Wind 8:00pm	I Am Not From Barcelona 8:00pm	All Meshed Up 8:00pm	AWARD CEREMONY Q&A with the winners 7:30pm AT TENRI CULTURAL INSTITUTE
Lost Tongue 10:00pm	The Sex Temple 10:00pm	Before The Spring 10:00pm	
AT BOW TIE CINEMAS	AT BOW TIE CINEMAS		

LOCATIONS

- ALBERTINE FRENCH BOOKSTORE
972 5th Ave., NY, NY 10075

SAG-AFTRA
1900 Broadway, 5th Floor NY, NY 10023

BOW TIE CHELSEA CINEMAS
260 W. 23rd St., NY, NY 10011
- SVA-MFA Social Documentary Film
136 W. 21st St., NY, NY 10011

CRS
123 4th Ave., NY, NY 10003

TENRI CULTURAL INSTITUTE
43 W. 13th St., NY, NY 10011

THE SHORTS PROGRAM

**A FLOCK OF BIRDS | USA | 29' | WORLD PREMIERE**

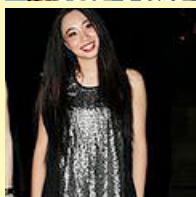
Director: VICTORIA HARWOOD BUTLER-SLOSS

Set in 1968 with flashbacks to the Ottoman Empire in 1915 a Flock of Birds is a lyrical tale that explores the many aspects of love while celebrating the beauty and sexuality of women at all ages.

**CROSSING THE LINE | USA | 29' | WORLD PREMIERE**

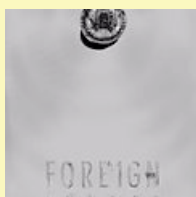
Director: ANDRE FUAD DEGAS

Tension mounts when Khadijah, a Muslim High School track runner falls for Terrence, an all American Football player, setting the stage for a dramatic ending during the college championship meet in Queens, New York.

**EARTH (BUMIKU) | INDONESIA | 5' | AMERICAN PREMIERE**

Director: NATASHA DEMATRA

The beauty of the environment and how it was abandoned by some people is shown in this music video mixed with a touching song. This music video is also the soundtrack of the documentary about the Minister of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia.

**FOREIGN SOUNDS | USA | 8' | NEW YORK STATE PREMIERE**

Director: ERIC SHAHINIAN

A young couple, who have just moved in together, has their relationship tested when they take opposing stances in response to the sounds of their neighbor's domestic dispute.

**IMMIGRATION SANS ISSUE | FRANCE | 5' | NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE**

Director: HASSAN HAMZA

A man which we do not distinguish the face, who seems being from Immigration and nonchalantly wanders alone in the streets of Paris. From time to time , equipped with a notepad he scribbled words. A voice declaims a text as rhymes. It Slam reveals us the life of this man; all these experiences, motivations, his failures and finally his only goal.

**LAST NIGHT IN EDINBURGH | UK | 20'58"**

Director: BITA SHAFIPOUR

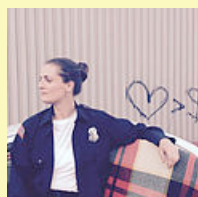
When two teen sisters discover that their family holiday abroad is really a plan by their parents to deliver them both into forced marriages, the girls flee home to find their own ways of remaining in Edinburgh, testing the limits of their bond and the resolve of the adults who control their futures.

**LE GRAND BAIN | FRANCE | 16' | USA PREMIERE**

Director: VALERIE LEROY

A former swimming champion who moves into a housing project after her divorce ends up giving swimming lessons to her fellow residents... without a swimming pool.

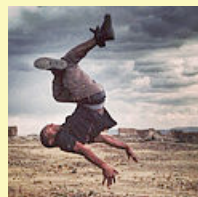
NARRATIVE SHORT COMPETITION



LAURA | USA | 9' | WORLD PREMIERE

Director: NATALIE JOHNSON

Laura is an American female veteran living in her car in an industrial parking lot. Struggling with PTSD and working as a security guard, she attempts to make the most of her days while looking for a job to better utilize her skills and experience. On an unsuspecting afternoon, her car gets towed, which pushes Laura to spend the night in the streets, her only comfort the music of a lonely street musician.



NAU | USA | 10'

Director: DANIEL GARCIA, AMY SECADA, SEBASTIAN REA

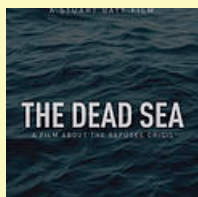
An audiovisual dance journey inspired by the Native American Paiute tribe and their fight against the coal industry.



PLAYGROUND | FRANCE | 9' | USA PREMIERE

Director: FRANCIS GAVELLE

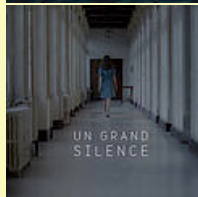
Bruno loves Delphine very much... Delphine loves Jerome very much... Jerome stares at Marjorie... Marjorie doesn't love her father nor her mother any more.



THE DEAD SEA | UK | 15' | AMERICAN PREMIERE

Director: STUART GATT

After almost reaching Europe by boat, Emmanuel and Olu are returned to Libya and incarcerated in one of its infamous migrant detention centres.



VEIL OF SILENCE | FRANCE | 29' | NEW YORK STATE PREMIERE

Director: JULIE GOURDAIN

It is 1968 and Marianne is 19. She is placed in a home far from her family and friends where she meets other young girls whose common secret has shaken the foundations of their social standing.



WHEEL CHAIR DANCE | JAPAN | 5'

Director: YASUHIRO TAMURA

A young ex-dancer in a wheelchair, he is in love with a female server in the café. She doesn't treat him as a person with a disability, but she doesn't see him as a special person too. One day, he runs into her on a date with another man. It makes him head to the ocean and push his feeling on his dance.

THE SHORTS PROGRAM


9 DAYS FROM MY WINDOW IN ALEPPO | NETHERLANDS / SYRIA | 13' | NEW YORK STATE PREMIERE

Directors: ISSA TOUMA, FLOOR van der MAULEN, THOMAS VROEGE

One morning in August 2012, renowned Syrian photographer Issa Touma saw young men lugging sandbags into his street. It turned out to be the start of the Syrian uprising in the city of Aleppo. Touma grabbed his camera and spent nine days holed up in his apartment, recording what was happening outside. The result? An unprecedented glimpse into a war that has been raging for five years now.


AMERICAN PSYCHOSIS | USA | 14' | NEW YORK STATE PREMIERE

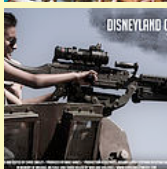
Director: AMANDA ZACKEM

Pulitzer Prize winning Journalist, Author and Activist Chris Hedges, discusses modern day consumerism, totalitarian corporate power and living in a culture dominated by pervasive illusion.


AFRICA YOGA PROJECT | KANADA / KENYA | 20' | NEW YORK STATE PREMIERE

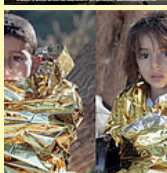
Director: ANDREA WING

Having grown up in the slums of Nairobi, Millie & Patrick face violence, crime, and despair. At vulnerable points in their lives, they are introduced to yoga through the Africa Yoga Project.


DISNEYLAND OF WAR | USA | 19'34" | WORLD PREMIERE

Director: CHRIS SMILEY

Director Chris Smiley and Producer Michael Hanes, an Iraq War combat veteran, challenge the glorification of war and violence in our culture while exposing the propaganda of the Miramar military air show. This air show is one of many outlets where war and violence is given a warm, inviting and exciting aura.


CHILDREN IN GOLD | USA/GREECE | 6' | NEW YORK STATE PREMIERE

Director: IRINA PATKANIAN

After disembarking on Lesbos, Greece, children of refugees get wrapped up into silver and gold thermal blankets and we tensely watch how the golden foil, quite eerie at first, morphs into regal finery and turns these children of foreign lands into precious gifts to us all – wonderful, fabulous, carrying the mystery of the future. In this documentary poem, there is no narration or interviews, but I hold the shot long enough to let audience stop thinking and start seeing for themselves.


ECHOES OF SURVIVAL | USA | 26' | NEW YORK STATE PREMIERE

Director: AVO JOHN KAMBOURIAN

Echoes of Survival is a documentary series that explores the individual work of a group artists, writers, and musicians whose work draws influence from their Armenian roots. Featuring Ara Dinkjian.


HIDDEN WISDOM | USA / TIBET | 7'16" | US PREMIERE | US PREMIERE

Director: CHELSI BULLARD

During a session of carpet weaving, Pasang recounts her history and tells how weaving is deeply connected to Tibetan culture. She shares her personal story of escaping Tibet and eventually finding refuge in New York.


LINDA AND HER DOG VILA HELPING 2016 SAMOS REFUGEES | FRANCE / GREECE | 13' | WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Brigitte Gauthier

Linda explains to us the situation of the refugees in Samos, Greece, the human tragedy, the discrepancy between what they need and the donations.

DOCUMENTARY SHORT COMPETITION



MY BEAUTIFUL NICARAGUA | USA / NICARAGUA | 24' | NEW YORK PREMIERE

Director: EDELSIN LINETTE MENDEZ

12-year-old Edelsin Linette Mendez illuminates the consequences of climate change on the coffee market, her community's traditional source of livelihood and Nicaragua's primary agricultural product.



MY COUNTRY IS THE WORLD | USA | 8'

Director: ARTHUR KANEGIS

Garry Davis gave up Broadway to become world citizen #1, standing up for a world in which Humanity is United, a world in which we are one.



THAT MOMENT | USA / PALESTINE | 12' | WORLD PREMIERE'

Director: Ching Chen Juhl

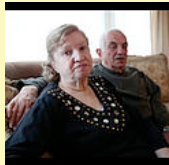
Italian photographer/author Federico Busonero captures images of rare moments with a traditional film camera. Busonero documents a Palestine that is personal, poetic, and subtly painful.



THE GATHERING | USA | 24' | NEW YORK STATE PREMIERE

Director: MICKI DICKOFF

"The Gathering" tells the story of Witness to Innocence, the largest organization of death row exonerates in the United States. The injustice suffered by these survivors compels them to be warriors against the death penalty.



TWO TALES OF A CITY | USA / TURKEY | 9'16" | NEW YORK STATE PREMIERE

Director: TALIN AVAKIAN

Meet Ekrem & Ayda Borekciler, Sarkis & Baydzar Eken: Two couples, four individuals, all of whom were born and raised in the lively historical city of Diyarbakir (to Armenians: Dikranagerd), with their ever so similar stories.



WOMAN PRAYED AND PREYED UPON | INDIA | 30'

Director: KANKANA CHAKRABORTY

A 30 minutes Docudrama on Violence against Women mainly focused on India. the film highlights the irony that men who prey upon women are the ones who pray to Goddesses.

It is recorded in different Indian Languages with English Subtitles.



WHERE IS MY GRANDCHILD? | USA / ARGENTINA | 15'

Producers: KYRA DAMTON, LAWRENCE CHOLLET.

The power and significance of telling a story that unfolded over many decades, and the importance of follow up reporting, is illustrated by Retro Report's, "Where is my Grandchild?"



WILD HORSES & WILD MEN | USA | 13'12" | NEW YORK PREMIERE

Director: PAT SHANNAHAN

They come to the prison complex jittery and wild-eyed, wired to detect danger. They spook easily. They are suspicious, careful and anxious. They are here to be trained, these wild horses. But at this prison, people don't say the horses are here to be "broken." They are here to be gentled.

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—Elizabeth Akian*

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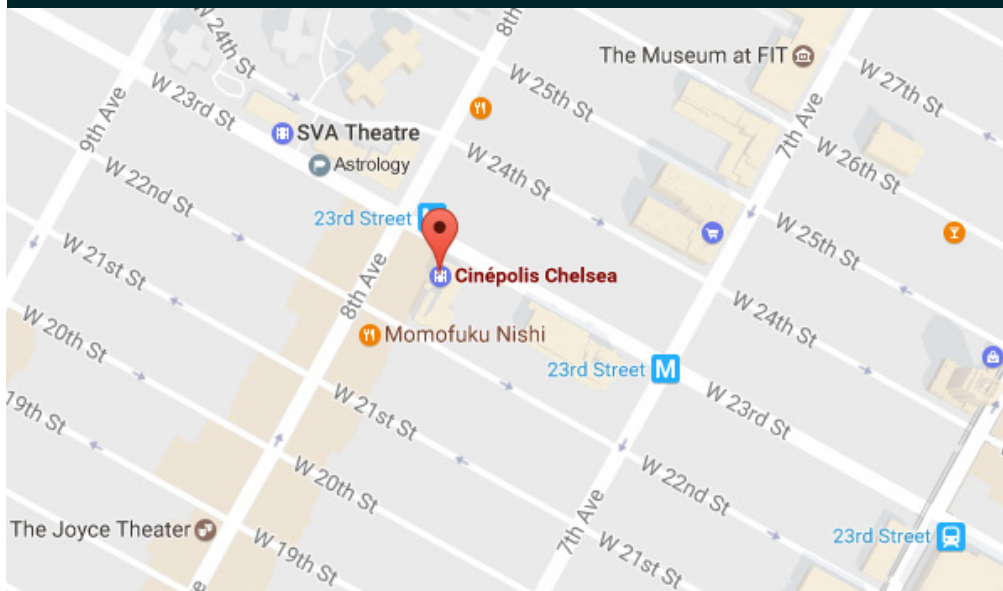
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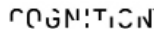
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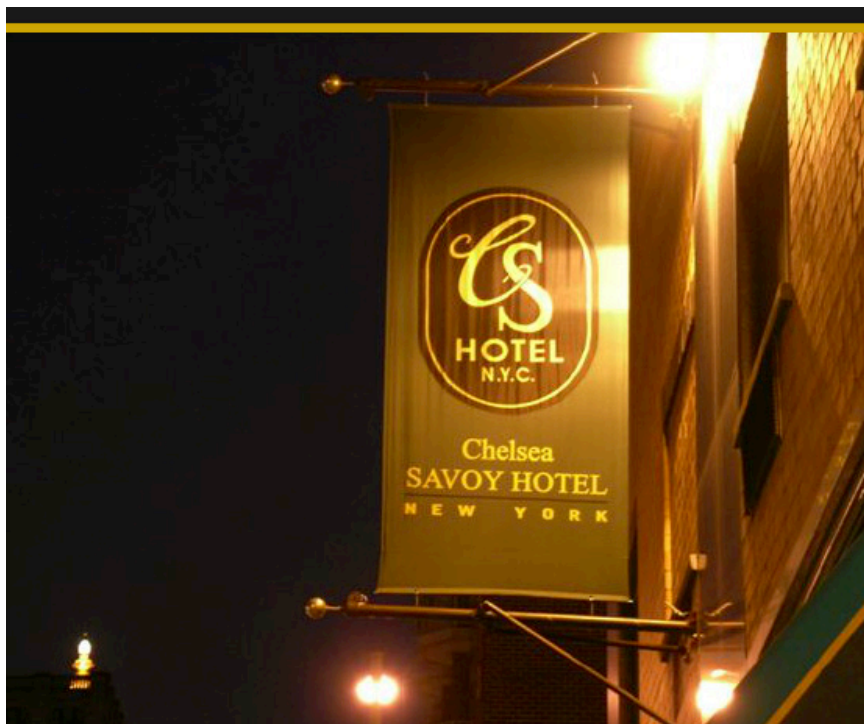


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