

— 2ND ANNUAL —



SOCIALLY RELEVANT

FILM FESTIVAL, NEW YORK

4 VENUES | 7 DAYS | 33 COUNTRIES | 53 FILMS

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and be moved.

www.ratedsrfilms.org

Tribeca Cinemas
Maysles Cinema
Quad Cinema
School of Visual Arts

MARCH
16-22 2015



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

March 2015

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2015 SR Socially Relevant Film Festival! Throughout this festival, you'll have the opportunity to experience a range of films, each showcasing the remarkable talent of the global filmmaking community. It's especially significant that this festival calls New York City home. The City is a thriving center of media and entertainment and home to innovative storytellers and content creators who are adding new perspectives to the media landscape.

At the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, we support media in its many forms through the Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting, which facilitates film and TV production throughout the five boroughs, and NYC Media, the official TV, radio, and online network of the City of New York.

We work with the hundreds of films, television shows, and commercial projects that film on location in the five boroughs each year in a variety of ways. Productions here have access to the "Made in NY" Discount Card, which provides discounts at more than 1,000 local businesses – from dry cleaners to prop houses. We also offer educational and workforce development programs, like our ongoing "Made in NY" Talk series, which welcomes industry professionals from a variety of fields to share firsthand knowledge about their careers with students and interested New Yorkers.

We welcome you to take a look at our website – www.nyc.gov/film – and follow us on Twitter – @madeinny – and discover everything New York City has to offer the creative content community.

Sincerely,

Cynthia López, Commissioner
Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment



Rated 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.

Welcome



Dear friends,

I feel like I am the mother of 53 children (adopted, of course). They come from 33 countries, and they are all beautiful. If I were asked which one I preferred, I wouldn't know what to say; I love them all!

The 53 films that make up the 2nd edition of SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York come from different parents and they all have wonderful stories to tell. They possess beautiful souls, and I am impatient to share them with you all.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our inaugural edition, without whom, we would not be having a second edition now.

I thank our dear filmmakers, past and present, for choosing to tell socially relevant stories, for standing up to the pressures of commercial creation, for being unique, and for believing in their stories. Now they are at the scrutiny of our International Jury members who kindly took time out of their busy schedules to view and rate the films. Thank you jury members.

This year the festival is offering industry panels. These are not only for the filmmakers but also for the general public. A word of special thanks is due to our panelists and panel organizers who volunteered their time to share their hard-earned and valuable knowledge with peers but most importantly with the younger generation. Thank you panelists.

We are honoring a great filmmaker this year, Albert Maysles, with the Lifetime Inspiration Award as he was indeed a great inspiration and an influence for filmmakers of more than one generation. SR feels honored for this opportunity.

It promises to be a wonderful 2nd year. Just remember, we could not have done it without you all: filmmakers, sponsors, partners, SR team members, volunteers, friends, and you dear audience members.

Take a seat and be moved!

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



Singing your praises

www.alouettecommunications.com

AWARDS

A Lifetime of Inspiration Award

Albert Maysles (1926 – 2015)



Albert Maysles graduated in 1949 with a BA from Syracuse University and later earned a masters degree at Boston University. Albert continued to make films on his own since his brother David's death. Jean-Luc Godard once called Albert Maysles "the best American cameraman". His important films include Gimme Shelter (1970) and Grey Gardens (1976). In 2005, Albert was given a lifetime achievement award at the Czech film festival AFO (Academia Film Olomouc). In 2005, he founded the Maysles Documentary Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the exhibition and production of documentary films that inspire dialogue and action in Harlem, New York City. Albert was a patron of Shooting People, a filmmakers' community. Mr. Maysles received the National Medal of Arts from President Obama in July. His most recent documentary, Iris (2014), about the fashionable interior decorator Iris Apfel, was shown at the New York Film Festival in October. "Making a film isn't finding the answer to a question; it's trying to capture life as it is." New York Times interview — 1994

The Narrative Feature Grand Prize

The Quad Cinema offers a weeklong run for the winning narrative feature film at The Quad.

The Documentary Grand Prize

Cinema Libre Studio of Los Angeles offers the winner of the documentary films category a VOD - DVD distribution deal.

The First Look Award

The Candy Factory offers the winning filmmaker of the narrative feature free consultation advice and guidance for theatrical and digital release and help with promotion. Also a First Look to consider the distribution of the film.

The Sona Vessel: Designed and donated by Michael Aram

The Sona Bowl, takes its inspiration from the imagery that floats around classic storytelling.

Short Docs and Narratives

IndiePix offers 5-6 curated films and offers digital VOD distribution through the IndiePix listed under the SR Socially Relevant Film Festival collection on IndiePix.

Vanya Exerjian Award

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.

WFCC (Women Film Critics Circle) Award

A 5 member WFCC festival jury offer this award to a film of their choice.

Two Script Writing Awards

1. Finaldraft.com offers certificates for downloading latest scriptwriting software.
2. InkTip: Offers a free listing to the winning script on InkTip.

Special Jury Mentions:

Announced at the awards ceremony.

OPENING NIGHT FILM AND SCRIPTS

Come To My Voice (Were Dengê Min) – US Premiere

Hüseyin Karabey

Turkey/Germany/France/Kurdistan | 2013 | 101'

In a remote Kurdish mountain village, little Jiyan is worried about her father who is arrested by the Turkish police as a suspected guerilla. He will be released when his family surrenders his gun – only he has never possessed one! With her grandmother, Jiyan embarks on a journey crossing mountains and valleys to find the elusive gun and save her father from prison.

The film was screened at the Berlinale in 2014 and was very well received.

Sponsored by the **German Consulate General**

New York and MEMEAC CUNY Graduate Center - Proshansky Auditorium



March 16th, 7:00

CUNY Graduate Center - Proshansky Auditorium

Finalist Scripts

Game of Spades

Majdi Abu Shehadeh, USA

Themes: Immigration, deportation

Stepping Out

Steve Besinger, USA

Theme: Working women's rights

The Colored Women's Chapter

Nancy Zafris, USA

Theme: Racial segregation

The Sleeping House

Suzanne Griffin, USA

Theme: War crimes/identity

The Youngest Musketeer

Judy Klass, USA

Theme: Discrimination



Congratulations Nora
and the SR Socially Relevant
Film Festival Team

AIWA NJ Affiliate

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

The Challat of Tunis – US Premiere

Kaouther Ben Hania | Tunisia/France/Canada/UAE | 2014 | 90'

A man on a motorcycle known as The Challat terrorizes the women of Tunisia by slashing their bottoms with a razor. Ten years after these 'incidents', a young determined film director decides to investigate the mystery of the Challat of Tunis.

Themes: Violence against women, video games, empowering women and girls

His Excellency, the Tunisian Ambassador, will be present (TBC)



Thursday 19th, 8:30, Tribeca Cinemas

We Will Live Somewhere Else – US Premiere

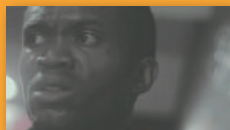
Nicolas Karolszyk | France | 2013 | 75'

The story of a struggling African man named Zola who embarks on a dangerous journey to cross the sea to France in hopes of finding answers and a better life.

Themes: Immigration and racial discrimination

Q&A (Sponsored by uniFrance) after the screening

Lifelong and Green Card precede the film



Thursday 19th, 10:15, Tribeca Cinemas

Destination: Planet Negro – New York Premiere

Kevin Willmott | USA | 2014 | 98'

In this slapstick comedy we see a witty satire about influential African-American figures, W.E.B. Du Bois and George Washington Carver. They time warp to the present to discover unbelievable developments like young men with drooping pants and the election of a black president.

Theme: Race relations in the USA

Q&A after the screening

A Cross To Burn, directed by David Brown, precedes the film



Saturday 21st, 10:00, Tribeca Cinemas

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

All in her Stride – New York Premiere

Fiona Cochrane | Australia | 2014 | 55'

Australian actor Laverne McDonnell's life and terminal diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, with discussion of the topic of euthanasia.

Themes: Cancer and Euthanasia

Still Running precedes the film

Tuesday 17th, 8:10



Truth Through a Lens – World Premiere

Justin Thomas (SVA) | USA | 2014 | 92'

The evolution of Dennis Flores from Brooklyn street kid and subway train tagger to local community organizing legend.

Themes: Police brutality and gun control

Q&A after the screening with the filmmaker and activist Dennis Flores

Tuesday 17th, 9:15



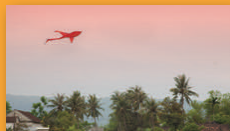
Lighter Than Orange – New York Premiere

Matthias Leupold | Germany/Vietnam | 2014 | 62'

North Vietnamese veterans tell about their memories of the war, Agent Orange and the struggles they have faced as a consequence of both.

Themes: Vietnam war and Agent Orange

Wednesday 18th, 8:35



Black Harvest – North American Premiere

Sean Clark and Jean-Louis Schuller | Luxembourg/USA | 2014 | 87'

On the remote plains of North Dakota, in what could be considered the "gold rush" of modern times, two men search for redemption.

Themes: US economy, homelessness and the oil rush

Q&A after the screening

*You will also see **Pink Dolphin and Yamal Fairy Tales** at this screening*

Thursday 19th, 5:15



Send in the Clowns – New York Premiere

Sam Lee | USA/Haiti | 2014 | 83'

Artists with good intentions slowly reveal Haiti's crippling and conflicted relationship with an arguably more absurd global aid industry.

Themes: Humanitarian aid in Haiti

Q&A after the screening with the Brooklyn-based filmmaker

Tears precedes the film

Friday 20th, 6:15



DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

Cotton Road – New York Premiere

Laura Kissel | USA – 2014 | 73'

Cotton Road follows the commodity of cotton from farm to factory, across industrial landscapes, to illuminate the human experiences within a global supply chain.

Themes: Cotton plantations, China and clothing manufacture
Q&A after the screening with a fashion designer to be announced
Counter precedes the film



Friday 20th, 8:15

Love is the Highest Law – New York Premiere

Liliya Anisimova (SVA), USA | 2014 | 83'

A unique, firsthand look into three powerful stories connected through the strength of overcoming stringent same-sex laws both in Russia and the United States and of love triumphing over hardship.

Themes: LGTB rights and discrimination
Q&A after the screening
Butterflies precedes the film



Friday 20th, 10:10

Gaucha del Norte – East Coast Premiere

Sofian Khan/Andres Caballero | USA/Patagonia | 2014 | 55'

The nomadic two-year journey of Patagonian sheepherder Eraldo Pacheco recruited to work in Idaho with his herd of more than a thousand sheep, as he faces the ups and downs of a psychologically demanding job far away from his home and family.

Themes: Nomadic life and migration
Q&A after the screening

Our Fight: Peru's Deadly Environment precedes the film



Saturday 21st, 6:30

Cinema Palestine – New York Premiere

Tim Schwab, Canada/Palestine | 2014 | 79'

Told through intimate in-depth interviews the film explores the life and work of multiple generations of Palestinian filmmakers and media artists, questioning what it means to be a Palestinian artist in the context of the larger struggle for nationhood.

Themes: Palestinian identity, Middle East conflict
Q&A after screening with GUY DAVIDI via Skype

High Hopes, directed by the award-winning GUY DAVIDI



Saturday 21st, 8:15

THE COPENHAGEN



Celebrate

Socially Relevant Film Festival

with a *Special Tasting Menu & Cocktails* inspired by the titles of the films showing during the festival at the TriBeCa Cinemas.
(10% Discount on all menus for festival guests)

2 drinks for the price of one

(only available during the festival dates)

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- 50% off House Wines
- \$4 Draft Beers
- \$1 Oysters
- \$10 Margherita Pizza
- \$5 Crispy Fried Shrimp

SCHEDULE

MONDAY 16

CUNY Graduate Center

7:00 pm

Come To My Voice (Were Dengê Min)

TUESDAY 17

Maysles Cinema

7:00 pm

Plundering Tibet
Umutugudu! Rwanda 20 years on

8:10 pm

Still Running
All in her Stride

9:15 pm

Truth through a Lens

WEDNESDAY 18

Maysles Cinema

7:30 pm

Niro and Flicka
The Orchard Keepers

8:35 pm

Lighter Than Orange

9:50 pm

Rooftops of Jerusalem
Bone to Brain
Lingering Time

THURSDAY 19

Tribeca Cinema

4:00 pm

Mental Illness on Trial
Mamma är Gud
Pearl

5:15 pm

Yamal Fairy Tales
Pink Dolphin
Black Harvest

7:10 pm

A Syrian Story
We Cannot Go There Now, My Dear

8:30 pm

The Challat of Tunis

10:15 pm

Lifelong
Green Card
We Will Live Somewhere Else

FRIDAY 20

Tribeca Cinema

4:00 pm

Bystander
Nasbandi
A Stage for Size

5:00 pm

The Handkerchief
È Stata Lei (It Was Her)
Zacharie Doesn't Live Here Anymore

6:15 pm

Tears
Send In The Clowns

8:15 pm

Counter
Cotton Road

10:10 pm

Butterflies
Love Is The Highest Law

SCHEDULE AND PANELS

SATURDAY 21

Tribeca Cinema

4:30 pm

My Mother's Voice
Born in Adana
Cyprus Summer 1974
24/Havadamk

6:30 pm

A Search For Justice
Our Fight: Peru's Deadly Environment
Gaucho del Norte

8:15 pm

High Hopes
Cinema Palestine

10:00 pm

A Cross to Burn
Destination: Planet Negro

SUNDAY 22

The Quad Cinema

12:30 pm

The Silence of our Friends
The Unclean (Najes)
Zio Ninuccio
Dignity
Miss Klara
In His Own Home

Panel on Film Distribution

Saturday, March 21, 2015, 10:15 am - 11:45 am

Panelists

Beth Portello - Cinema Libre Studio
Elliott Kanbar - Exhibitor/President of CinemaFlix Distribution
Adeline Monzier - Unifrance
Rola Nashef - Filmmaker/Distributor
Jason Ward - Producer/Distributor, founder/CEO of Candy Factory Films

Panel on Storytelling

Saturday, March 21, 2015, 12pm - 1:30pm

Moderator: Louis Proyect - Writer/Film critic

Panelists

Morgan Jenness - Dramaturg/Literary Agent.
Brigitte Gauthier - Scriptwriting Professor
Ann Collins - Film Editor/Producer
Lorena Luciano - Filmmaker (Winner SR Social Justice Award 2014)
Filippo Piscopo - Filmmaker (Winner SR Social Justice Award 2014)

SAG-AFTRA presents

Onscreen in 2015:

The Why's & How's of Diversity in Entertainment Media

Sunday, March 22, 11:00am - 12:30 pm

Moderator: Adam Moore - SAG-AFTRA
National Director of EEO & Diversity

Panelists

Jennifer Betit Yen - Actor, Writer, Attorney
Jennifer Peralta-Ajemian - Casting Director
Carmen Palaez - Actor
Hoji Fortuna - Actor (USA)
Pejman Jamal - Actor (Denmark)

The above three panels take place at: SVA SocDoc 136 W. 21st Street in Chelsea, 1st Floor, NYC

Next Panel: Dialogue on the Potential of Art as a Revolutionary Tool

Sunday, March 22, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Moderator: Adam Kritzer

Storyteller/Filmmaker

Panelists

Jessica Vale - Filmmaker (Winner SR Festival 2014)
Cherrell Brown - Community and National Organizer with Equal Justice, USA
Sean Starowitz - Bread baker and Community-based artist
A filmmaker from the SR 2015 selection by invitation.

Takes place at: The Center for Remembering and Sharing, 123 4th Avenue NYC

NARRATIVE SHORT COMPETITION

Pearl – World Premiere
Pejman Khorsand-Jamal
Denmark | 2014 | 21'



The problems that accompany actor Anoush Lafzi due to his Middle Eastern background as he auditions in Denmark.

Themes: Ethnicity, acting stereotypes

You will also see Mental Illness on Trial and Mamma ár Gud at this screening

Thursday 19th, 4:00

Yamal Fairy Tales –
World Premiere
Anna Antonova | Russia
2013 | 4'



A little girl goes to the attic and finds an old storybook about Yamal legends in Northern Russia. As she starts reading it the pictures in her mind, which come alive through documentary footage.

Theme: Indigenous people

Q&A after the screening

You will also see Pink Dolphin and Black Harvest at this screening

Thursday 19th, 5:15

Pink Dolphin – World Premiere
Nadia Menco and Lucie
Tripon | Colombia | 2014 | 9'



A symbol of the arts and culture, the Pink Dolphin lives in the fresh waters of the Amazon. Its possible extinction is a threat to our planet's biodiversity. Its fantastic appearance is the source of many legends, songs, dances and poems.

Theme: Biodiversity and Environmental Protection

Q&A after the screening

You will also see Yamal Fairy Tales and Black Harvest at this screening

Thursday 19th, 5:15

Lifelong

Liv Scharbatke | Germany
2013 | 9'33"



After his release from prison, a man is unable to deal with the loneliness of his new reality and the world, which he doesn't recognize; he quickly realizes the one only way out is to return to prison.

Themes: Prison and its aftermath

You will also see Green Card and We Will Live Somewhere Else at this screening

Thursday 19th, 10:15

Bystander – NY Premiere
Adria Dawn | USA | 2014 | 5'



A boy faces the difficult decision of whether to keep watching the bullying around him, or to become a vehicle for change.

Theme: Bullying

You will also see Nasbandi and A Stage for Size at this screening

Friday 20th, 4:00

The Handkerchief – NY Premiere
Linda Niccolò | New Zealand
2013 | 12'35"



A blind man looking for love meets the woman of his dreams on a park bench in a rose garden. He charms her with his other very finely tuned senses.

Themes: Blindness and Perception

Q&A after the screening

You will also see È Stata Lei (It Was Her) and Zacharie Doesn't Live Here Anymore at this screening

Friday 20th, 5:00

È Stata Lei (It Was Her) – US
Premiere Francesca Archibugi
Italy | 2014 | 21'50"



The film questions the prison system as the right place for a recovery process and repentance for the violent man. The story is set in Regina Coeli prison in Rome, an intimate universe of violent and delicate relationships.

Themes: Violence against women and empowering women. You will also see The Handkerchief and Zacharie Doesn't Live Here Anymore at this screening

Friday 20th, 5:00

Zacharie Doesn't Live Here Anymore – NY Premiere
Alberto Segre | Italy/France
2014 | 18'



Madalena, a Spanish immigrant working as a housemaid for the Chaumont family in Paris, becomes completely desperate when the child left in her care disappears...

Themes: Immigration and Family

Q&A after the screening

You will also see The Handkerchief and È Stata Lei (It Was Her) at this screening

Friday 20th, 5:00

NARRATIVE SHORT COMPETITION

Tears – NY Premiere
Yahya Ghobadi | Iran
2013 | 8'5



A little girl is very happy to receive a present on her birthday, but the war is in their dwelling place and in her city...

Themes: War and Children

This film precedes a screening of Send In The Clowns

Friday 20th, 6:15

Counter – NY Premiere
Nicholas Bouier | USA
2014 | 11'20



Set in 1942 Indianapolis, Bayard Rustin stages a reckless one person sit-in at a local diner run by Junior Ray, a rare female business owner.

Themes: Discrimination, civil rights and police brutality

This film precedes a screening of In an Ideal World

Friday 20th, 8:15

Butterflies – NY Premiere
Cayman Grant | Canada
2013 | 18'55



Inspired by true events, Butterflies is a teenage story about a cancer survivor who learns to live life to the fullest with a new friend who faces his own battle with leukemia.

Themes: Cancer and teenage love

This film precedes a screening of Love is the Highest Law

Friday 20th, 10:10

The Silence of Our Friends
Iina Lempiäinen | Finland
2014 | 9'58



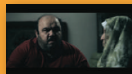
Elise is on her way to a school parent/teacher night. Her daughter's been involved in a bullying incident. Elise arrives late to find that the others have already gotten started. To everyone's surprise, the teacher has found an unusual way to convey the children's situation.

Theme: Bullying

You will also see Najes, Zio Ninuccio, Dignity, Miss Klara and In His Own Home at this screening

Sunday 22nd, 12:30

The Unclean (Najes) –
NY Premiere
Bahram Ark and Bahman Ark
Iran | 2014 | 19'06



While driving on a dark night, a Moslem man hits a dog. He wants to care for it but his religion considers dogs 'unclean'. His humane gesture creates havoc.

Themes: Religion and family

You will also see The Silence of Our Friends, Zio Ninuccio, Dignity, Miss Klara and In His Own Home at this screening

Sunday 22nd, 12:30

Dignity – NY Premiere
Tom Verrall | UK | 2014 | 7'



Dignity takes place in a residential rest home in suburban England. The story focuses on Captain Taylor, a retired naval officer. Due to his fragility and loneliness, his life now has little quality and his situation is made worse by the lack of care shown by the staff.

Themes: Retirement homes and old age

You will also see The Silence of Our Friends, Najes, Zio Ninuccio, Miss Klara and In His Own Home at this screening

Sunday 22nd, 12:30

Miss Klara – NY Premiere
Robert Spaeth | Germany
2014 | 17'50



Miss Klara has been working for the Sonnenwendes for thirty years. She follows her daily routine as attendant of Lady Sonnenwend, who has become mute. One day Lady Sonnenwend's voice awakens...

Themes: Caretaking

You will also see The Silence of Our Friends, Najes, Zio Ninuccio, Dignity and In His Own Home at this screening

Sunday 22nd, 12:30

Green Card – World Premiere
Pilar Rico and David Whitmer
USA/Bangladesh | 2014 | 7'38



The story of a song and its author Mohammad Rahman, a convenience store owner and song lyricist from Bangladesh who now lives in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Themes: Immigration

Q&A after the screening

You will also see We Will Live Somewhere Else and Lifelong at this screening

Thursday 19th, 10:15

DOCUMENTARY SHORT COMPETITION

Plundering Tibet

–NY Premiere
Michael Buckley
Canada/Tibet | 2014 | 24'21"



Based on Chinese mining operations, Tibet becomes the victim of pollution and a target for disaster. The mining pollutes drinking the water, kills the livestock, and degrades the grasslands on which Tibetan nomads depend.

Themes: Environment and Indigenous populations
You will also see Umutugudu! Rwanda 20 Years On at this screening

Tuesday 17th, 7:00

Umutugudu! Rwanda 20 Years On

–NY Premiere
Giordano Cossu | France
2014 | 36'



Former Rwandan genocide killers and survivors must live together again and face the struggle of rebuilding life and living amongst those who may have killed members of their family.

Themes: Genocide and Survival
Q&A after the screening
You will also see Plundering Tibet at this screening

Tuesday 17th, 7:00

Still Running –NY Premiere

Wayne de Lange/Sven Harding | South Africa
2014 | 4'45"



The story of how Wings for Life World Run ambassador, Pieter du Preez, overcame a tragic cycling accident, which left him paralyzed from the chest down.

Theme: Physical disability
This film precedes a screening of All In Her Stride

Tuesday 17th, 8:10

Niro and Flicka – NY Premiere

Hai Afik | Israel | 2014 | 30'



On his 40th birthday Niro tries to reconcile with his father and wonders if he will find love or if he will remain alone with his music and his donkey for the rest of his life.

Themes: Israeli-Palestinian conflict, nature and freedom.
Q&A after the screening
You will also see The Orchard Keepers at this screening

Wednesday 18th, 7:30

The Orchard Keepers

–NY Premiere
Bryony Dunne | Egypt/Ireland
2014 | 28'



Two Bedouin women embark on a daily journey, against a backdrop of political upheaval, to keep their orchard, an island of green floating in the arid Sinai desert, alive.

Themes: Nomads, Bedouins and Women
You will also see Niro and Flicka at this screening

Wednesday 18th, 7:30

Rooftops of Jerusalem

–NY Premiere
Hana Elias | Israel
2014 | 7'54"



Holy city, controversial city, contested city. That's how people talk about Jerusalem. But who is paying the price? While Palestinian youth are training Parkour on the rooftops, a group of Jewish boys celebrating Purim, interfere.

Themes: Jerusalem status and Israeli-Palestinian conflict
You will also see Bone to Brain and Lingering Time at this screening

Wednesday 18th, 9:50

Bone to Brain

(Winner SR Award)
Rachel Greco | USA
2014 | 20'



Meet Nicki Muller, a young woman diagnosed with bone cancer at age 13 and brain cancer at age 21. This thought provoking documentary explains the power of art and acceptance.

Themes: Cancer and young people
Winner SR Award Katra Film Series
Q&A after the screening
You will also see Rooftops of Jerusalem and Lingering Time at this screening

Wednesday 18th, 9:50

Lingering Time

World Premiere
Ching Chen Juhl | USA/China
2014 | 30'



This film takes you to the 60th anniversary reunion celebration of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Alumni return with joy and nostalgia to a changing country.

Themes: Identity, return and music
Q&A after the screening
You will also see Rooftops of Jerusalem and Bone to Brain at this screening

Wednesday 18, 9:50

DOCUMENTARY SHORT COMPETITION

Mental Illness on Trial

–NY Premiere
Hiroshi Hara | Gary Tsai
USA 2014 | 12'



A story about the criminalization of mental illness, the lives that are affected by it, and the people working to curb this unjust tide of incarceration.

Themes: Mental health

Q&A after the screening

You will also see Mamma är Gud and Pearl at this screening

Thursday 19th, 4:00

Mamma är Gud – US Premiere
Maria Bäck | Denmark/Sweden
2013 | 30'



Through different visions of reality we see a woman learn valuable lessons with her connection to God and to her mother. The film is creatively built on Skype conversations between (the director) and God (her psychotic mum), whose face we never see in the film.

Themes: Mental health

You will also see Mental Illness on Trial and Pearl at this screening

Thursday 19th, 4:00

A Syrian Story
New York Premiere
Samer Beyhum | Canada
2014 | 13'06



Through the striking images and testimonies of activists, Jessica tells the story of the terrible tragedy for Syrian people over three difficult years under the regime of Bashar Al Assad.

Themes: Middle East conflict and war

Q&A after the screening

This film precedes a screening of We Cannot Go There Now, My Dear

Thursday 19th, 7:10

We Cannot Go There Now, My Dear – US Premiere
Carol Mansour | Lebanon/
Syria/Palestine | 2014 | 42'



The story of Palestinian refugees living in Syria and their lives that are continuously being rebuilt awaiting a return to the homeland ever since they were forced to flee Palestine in 1948.

Q & A afterward with CAROL MANSOUR via Skype.

Interview conducted by CHRISTA SALAMANDRA, Professor of Anthropology and Syria specialist at Lehman College

Thursday 19th, 7:10

Nasbandi

Anne Munger and Zoe
Hamilton | USA/India
2014 | 23'15



Nasbandi: Conversations About Female Sterilization in Rural India. The stories of four women as they reflect on their decisions to get—or not get—sterilized.

Themes: Women, sexuality and oppression

Q&A after the screening

Friday 20th, 4:00

A Stage for Size – US Premiere
Corina Maritescu | USA
2014 | 21'59



A Stage For Size' is a short documentary telling the story of a few women whose journey in life is one of self-love, self-care and self-acceptance. But for a small yet active community in Los Angeles, fatness is a reason for love and pride.

Themes: Stereotypes, discrimination and obesity

Q&A after the screening

You will also see Bystander and Nasbandi at this screening

Friday 20th, 4:00

My Mother's Voice
–NY Premiere
Mark Friedman | USA
2012 | 25'



The true story of a fourteen-year-old girl, orphaned in the Armenian genocide, who finds her way to America to marry a man she knows only from a photograph.

Themes: Genocide and collective memory

Q&A after the screening

You will also see Born in Adana, Cyprus 1974 and 24/Havadamk at this screening

Saturday 21st, 4:30

Born in Adana
East Coast Premiere
David Hovan | Canada
2014 | 15'



The surrender of Adana to Turkey by the French causes yet another upheaval and further deportation of the Armenians of that city in search for a new home.

Themes: Genocide and collective memory

You will also see My Mother's Voice, Cyprus 1974 and 24/Havadamk at this screening

Saturday 21st, 4:30

DOCUMENTARY SHORT COMPETITION

Cyprus Summer 1974

World Premiere
Edith Weil | Cyprus/USA
2014 | 24'



Cyprus wakes up to the sound of gunfire and war on a beautiful summer morning in July 1974. A thirteen-year-old schoolgirl writes a diary of the unfolding events.

Themes: Conflicts, war and survival
Q&A after the screening

You will also see My Mother's Voice, Born in Adana and 24/Havadamk at this screening

Saturday 21st, 4:30

24 / I Confess With Faith (Havadov) – US Premiere
Shahen Nazarenko
Armenia | 2013 | 15'



Two parallels...two souls...two dialogues...two worlds ...a monastery and a city. The film is based on the prayer "I Confess with Faith" by one of the most noble and saintly leaders of the Armenian Apostolic church. *You will also see My Mother's Voice, Born in Adana and Cyprus 1974 at this screening*

Saturday 21st, 4:30

A Search For Justice

–NY Premiere
NY Times series | USA
2014 | 13'05



Nearly 35 years after the murder of four American churchwomen in El Salvador, the case continues to take surprising turns... and focuses attention on the United States' involvement.

Themes: US foreign intervention, extra-judicial killings and justice

You will also see Our Fight: Peru's Deadly Environment and Gaucho Del Norte

Saturday 21st, 6:30

Our Fight: Peru's Deadly Environment – US Premiere
Paul Redman, Peru
2014 | 7'32



This story is one of many examples of indigenous peoples defending the forest and paying the ultimate sacrifice after four Ashéninka leaders are murdered in vain.

Themes: Environment and indigenous populations
This film precedes a screening of Gaucho del Norte

Saturday 21st, 6:30

High Hopes

Guy Davidi | Palestine
2014 | 14'20



In 1997-98, many Bedouin refugees living under Israeli Occupation were forcibly displaced by Israel to a garbage dump. High Hopes covers the struggle for peace and a viable existence of a Palestinian state.

Soundtrack donated by Pink Floyd.

Theme: Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Q&A after the screening via Skype

This film precedes a screening of Cinema Palestine

Saturday 21, 8:15

A Cross to Burn

–NY Premiere
David Brown | USA
2014 | 7'40



A young artist learns that a lynching occurred on a site that is now a city park and asks that the location be marked with a wooden cross.

Themes: Race relations in the US

You will also see Destination: Planet Negro at this screening

Saturday 21, 10:00

Zio Ninuccio

–NY Premiere
Noriko Sugiura | Italy
2014 | 16'



Carmine Ametrano is one of the few remaining farmers practicing traditional winemaking on the slopes of Mt. Vesuvius. A technique that goes back to the ancient civilization of Pompeii.

Themes: Agriculture, culture and traditions

Q&A after the screening via Skype

You will also see The Silence of Our Friends, Najes, Dignity, Miss Klara and In His Own Home at this screening

Sunday 22nd, 12:30

In His Own Home

–NY Premiere
Malini Johar Schueller | US
2014 | 29'11



When heavily armed campus police broke into the University of Florida campus apartment of disabled and unarmed Ghanaian doctoral student Kofi Adu-Brempong, and shot him in the face, his life was forever changed. Yet the officer who shot him was neither suspended nor fired.

You will also see The Silence of Our Friends, Najes, Zio Ninuccio, Dignity and Miss Klara at this screening

Sunday 22nd, 12:30

JURORS

Feature Competition Jury

Jacqueline Ada: CNC, FRANCE

Nicole Ansari Cox: ACTRESS/ PRODUCER, US

Jordan Mattos: DISTRIBUTION/ACQUISITION, US

Valerio Caruso: EDITOR CINEUROPA, FRANCE, ITALY

Mariette Monpierre: FILM DIRECTOR, FRANCE, GUADELOUPE, US

Documentary Competition Jury

Antoine de Baecque: FILM CRITIC, FRANCE

Patrick Vilbert: LAWYER, FRANCE

Lorena Luciano: FILMMAKER, US, ITALY

Beth Portello: PRODUCER/DISTRIBUTOR, US

Nareg Hartunian: NON-PROFIT DIRECTOR, PHOTOGRAPH

Documentary Shorts Competition Jury

Michèle Soullignac: DIRECTOR OF PÉRIPHÉRIE, PARIS

Simon Brook: FILMMAKER, SR 2014

Sandrine Morvan: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNE IMAGE, ST. OUEN

Filippo Piscopo: FILMMAKER, SR 2014

Scriptwriting Competition Jury

Robert Schenkkan: PULITZER PRIZE WINNING PLAYWRIGHT/SCREENWRITER, US

Morgan Jenness: PLAYWRIGHT, LITERARY CONSULTANT, EDUCATOR, US

Brigitte Gauthier: SCRIPTWRITING PROFESSOR, FRANCE

Ruth Priscilla Kirstein: ACTRESS/DIRECTOR, THE MIDDLE EAST FILM INITIATIVE

WFCC Award Jury

Chiara Spagnoli: FILM CRITIC

Edie Nugent: FILM CRITIC

Monica Castillo: FILM CRITIC

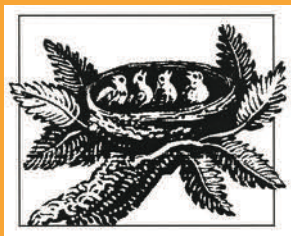
Lesley Coffin: FILM CRITIC

Zuzu Boisson: WFCC INTERN

Prairie Miller: FILM CRITIC, ARTS EXPRESS RADIO HOST

Short Films Competition Jury

SR TEAM MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS FROM THE 2014 EDITION



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Web: www.soar-us.org

*Providing humanitarian relief to orphaned
Armenians throughout the world since 2005*

THE FESTIVAL TEAM

The Team

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Education & Community Outreach: **Constance Dubois**
Sponsorships, Press & Communication: **Delphine Millot**
Outreach & Newsletter: **Sarah Means**
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Creative Direction: **Leonard Sorcher**
Website and Creative: **Joppe Louwrier**
Publicists: **Susan Senk and Linda Altman – Susan Senk PR**
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Our Ambassadors

Aram Spendjian – Orlando, FL
Julien Thomas – Paris, France
Dalia Kasparian-Semerdjian – Vienna, Austria

Festival Interns SR 2015

Araxi Mardirian – Administration
Naira Marti – Partnerships
Al Feindt – Documentation

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My very best wishes for a successful event.
—*Elizabeth Akian*

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Cheers and **ENJOY** the movies

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