2021 Arizona International Film Festival

filmfestivalarizona.com

APRIL 15-25
A Tribute to CAREN JOY DEMING

When the Arizona International Film Festival was just a seed of an idea - let us put on a determinedly independent film festival in Tucson, Arizona. As one of the founding board members Caren loved the idea. She nurtured the fest and helped it grow into an annual 10-day event in multiple venues across Tucson.

Caren enjoyed fully her commitment to the fest — to independent film, to filmmakers, to festival supporters and organizers. She brought knowledge, the ability to communicate and to implement, and an easy-going humor. She tempered her infectious enthusiasm with the realities of budget and operations.

Caren made the fest into a learning opportunity for University of Arizona and Pima Community College students. Students experienced real world exhibition programming and practices — the complex and hard work behind the scenes — as the students helped create a local event that was also regional, national and international.

At screenings and workshops, Caren’s genuine smile greeted patrons and guests. She warmly welcomed one and all. She was happy to be there and it was contagious. Oh, Caren was a sharp dresser, too.

Now, at the twenty-ninth anniversary of the festival that Caren helped bring to life in so many ways, we proudly dedicate this Arizona International Film Festival to our beloved partner, Caren Joy Deming.
Working with patients throughout the pandemic has taught me how extraordinarily fragile life is and how vulnerable we can all be. There were points throughout the height of the pandemic where it was hard to believe what was going on around me; my experience gave me a true sense of humbleness and gratitude for health and life. My goal is to give the very best of myself and continue being a source of goodness.”

— Justin White, Honorary Chair

Justin White is a registered nurse at Carondelet St. Mary’s Hospital, originally from Houston. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Management Information Systems from the University of Houston and worked as an IT professional for many years prior to becoming a nurse. In 2016 he started nursing school at Pima Community College and graduated in 2018.

It means a lot to fight every minute of every day for our patients and to be able to care for them especially when I can be a part of returning them to health and to their families. I have never seen the amount of support and people who came together for the greater good of our patients; it was the support from our staff and my family that kept me going strong.”

— Ally Rando, Honorary Chair

Ally Rando is a registered nurse at Carondelet St. Mary’s Hospital. Ally has about eight years of experience as a nurse; she earned her BSN from Grand Canyon University after completing her associate’s degree from Pima Medical Institute.

This year the Arizona International Film Festival honors our dedicated frontline medical workers who have led by example, serving our community in a time of pandemic and fear. They have cared for the sick and comforted the dying. They have continued to work, putting at risk their own health and the health of those close to them. They have trusted themselves and their co-workers as the world around them doubted, debated and sometimes despaired. And they have persisted, willing “heart and nerve and sinew” to meet impossible demands, despite exhaustion, losses and personal hardship.

Because of you, the Festival is once again rising!

AzFilmFest Team
All screenings and events are listed on the Schedule at FilmFestivalArizona.com
Buy your tickets in advance.
All events are ticketed, even free events.

How to buy an All Access Festival Pass ($60)
Access to all outdoor and online screenings
Pick yours up in person only!
Mercado Annex Box Office at the entrance of the Mercado Festival Grounds.
April 14th and 15th from 6 PM - 10 PM

How to buy a ticket for a screening
Find the screening you would like to attend and click on the "Ticket" button. It will take you to one of two secure ticketing platforms: Tickets for Outdoor Screenings are sold by EventBrite. Tickets for Online Screenings are sold on the Vimeo Platform (where you’ll also watch the films). If you don’t have a free Vimeo account, you’ll need to create one before purchasing tickets. On either platform, enter the required information to obtain your ticket. You will then receive an email that serves as your receipt and ticket.

Attending an outdoor film screening
Tickets for all outdoor screenings must be purchased in advance. Locations of outdoor sites are listed in the online catalog and your ticket email. You are not required to bring the email with you. Arrive early to allow for parking. Please wear a mask, allow 6 feet between you and other parties, and remain in your assigned seats when possible. See the Venues page at FilmFestivalArizona.com for locations and maps to the outdoor locations.

Watch an online film screening
Films have a show date and time listed in the online catalog and the ticket email. When it’s time for the screening, follow the link in the e-mail. You have 72 hours to watch the film once it starts streaming online.

Participate in free panel discussions
Panel discussions are live on Zoom. We recommend registering in advance because bandwidth constraints limit the number of Zoom participants. If you click on the link and it says the meeting is full, don’t fret! Just go to the Arizona International Film Festival Facebook page where the discussion will also be streaming on Facebook Live: facebook.com/azfilmfest.

INFO CONTACTS
Online screenings:
AZFilmFestTech@gmail.com
Online panels:
tj.aziff@gmail.com
All other festival questions:
please call 520-401-4328
**Dustwun**

Genevieve Anderson, USA, 2020, 88 min

In English & Spanish with English subtitles

_Dustwun_ is the story of an unusual friendship between an undocumented migrant lost from her group while traveling toward the US and a troubled American veteran building his own “wall” out of trash in the desert. Circumventing the contentious politics of immigration and the wall, _Dustwun_ unfolds as a fable, focusing on the human element at the core of it all.

"_Dustwun_ is a fable about one of the most contentious and troubling challenges of our time—immigration and the Wall. Our nation’s ideological divides have become so extreme that the only thing we share in common is the feeling of alienation from, and fear of, one another. _Dustwun_ endeavors to understand and elevate what binds us together as human beings, irrespective of metaphorical, or actual, borders.”

—GENEVIEVE ANDERSON, WRITER/DIRECTOR OF _DUSTWUN_
Thursday, April 15

3pm PANEL

Dustwun
- Made in Arizona

Filmed entirely in Green Valley, south of Tucson, Dustwun explores the complex issues of immigration and focuses on a relationship between a lost migrant and an American war veteran. Genevieve Anderson, the writer/director, will be joined on the panel by members of her creative team to discuss filming in the desert in Arizona, the pluses, minuses, finding resources, dealing with the community, permits, and other issues.

Panelists include: Genevieve Anderson (Writer/Director), Tomas Arceo (Director of Photography), Crystal Hernandez (Lead Actor), Karen Hernandez (Producer), Shay Lopez (Art Director), Andy Martinez Jr. (Actor), Tim Ottman (Production Designer) and Jill Remez (Actor).

6pm

Ondine

Tomasz Sliwinski, Poland, 2019, 40 min

In Polish with English subtitles

Hiding a dark secret, Cezary still lives with his caring mother when he falls in love with Emilia, a dynamic rock singer. One day, all three are faced with the myth of Ondine and her curse.

preceded by

Red (aka Rudy)

Karina Węgiełek, Poland, 2019, 30 min

In Polish with English subtitles

A father and daughter try to come to terms with the void left by the loss of a loved one when they are unexpectedly interrupted by a stranger.

8pm

She’s In Portland

Marc Carlini, USA, 2019, 100 min

Two old college friends, now in their thirties, admire each other’s lives while feeling trapped in their own. Wes is tied to his demanding corporate career and his responsibilities to his growing family. He extends a work trip to drag Luke, his dispirited artist friend, up the California coast to find Luke’s “one that got away”. As they travel from Los Angeles to Portland, the journey takes a deeper look into life choices, acceptance, and commitment.

Welcome to Festival Online!

Simply buy a ticket online and be ready to watch your selection on your personal computer or on any internet-connected device.

All Festival Online Films are available for 72 hours after their start time.

And the best part is, you can watch from anywhere in the World!
After So Many Days
Jim Hanft & Samantha Yonack, USA, 2020, 87 min
This award-winning documentary portrays the raw personal account of Jim and Sam, a singer-songwriter duo, who uprooted their lives in an attempt to play one show every day for a year, putting their music, health, career, and first year of marriage to the test.

preceded by

In the Same Direction: Jeff Pifher & Socrates’ Trial
Alexander Craven, USA, 2020, 17 min.
From the inception of a musical idea, through the recording process and live performance, this short documentary tells the story of Jeff Pifher and his band Socrates’ Trial and their idea of what jazz can be today.
Friday, April 16

3pm PANEL

A Focus on Cinematography

She's in Portland is a road movie about two buddies who drive up California Highway 1 to Portland on a journey of life re-examination. Director of Photography Devin Whetstone, a Festival alumnus, will recount his journey up the coast to discuss the variety of cinematographic challenges presented, his vision for the film, and his selection of technical resources to meet these situations. Director Marc Carlini will join the panel to discuss his relationship with his DP.

6pm

Transference: A Bipolar Love Story

Raffaello Degruttola, United Kingdom, 2019, 103 min

In English and Norwegian with English subtitles

Set in London, this twisted psychological drama about obsessive love follows Katarina, a Norwegian nurse, and Nik, a fellow immigrant nurse from Italy. The couple embarks on a passionate affair that threatens to implode from the pressures of unresolved mental health issues concealed in their secret pasts.

preceded by

Office Song

Marcus Markou, United Kingdom, 2020, 14 min

The inner world of ordinary office workers and their humdrum lives bursts into life with poetry.

8pm

Toprak

Sevgi Hirschhäuser, Turkey, 2020, 106 min

In Turkish with English subtitles

Since the death of his parents, teenager Burak has lived with his religious uncle Cemil and his grandmother in a remote Turkish village. They live simple lives while struggling to support themselves by selling pomegranates. Cemil is satisfied to live his life in poverty, but Burak dreams of moving to the city to study at the university. When Burak’s grandmother gets sick, difficult decisions change their lives.
Online

**Anna**

Dekel Berenson, United Kingdom, 2019, 15 min

In Ukrainian with English subtitles

Anna is an aging single mother in war-torn Eastern Ukraine who is desperate for a change. Lured by a radio advertisement, she goes to party with a group of American men who are touring the country, searching for love.

**Daughter (Dcera)**

Daria Kashcheeva, Czech Republic, 2019, 15 min

Should you hide your pain, close yourself inside your inner world, full of longing for your father’s love and its displays? Or should you attempt to understand and forgive before it is too late?

**Mthunzi**

Tebogo Malebogo, South Africa, 2019, 9 min

Cultural tensions come to the forefront when a passer-by attempts to help a woman.

**So What If The Goats Die**

Sofia Alaoui, France, 2019, 23 min

In Berber with English subtitles

High in the Atlas Mountains, a young shepherd must go buy supplies at a market village more than a day’s walk away. When he finds the village abandoned because of strange events, he is faced with a crisis of faith by mysteries that go beyond his understanding.

**The Tea at the Bottom of the Teapot**

Lou Ma Ho, France, 2019, 19 min

In French with English subtitles

In 19th century Vietnam, a young man who does not control his emotions meets a woman—the Master of Tea—who will upset his life.
3pm PANEL

Euro Filmmakers

How different is it to produce a film in Europe? The Turkish/German team of Sevgi and Chris Hirschhäuser (Toprak), Italian filmmaker (based in London) Raffaello Degruttola (Transference: A Bipolar Love Story) and Polish filmmaker Tomasz Sliwinski (Ondine) will discuss how they approached their aspects of productions including funding, locations, crew, filming, editing, distribution and festivals.

6pm

Let the People Decide

Gavin Guerra, USA, 2019, 108 min

It is said that when you mess with the right to vote, you mess with the heart of our democracy. Tracing the voting rights movement from the early 1960’s to the present, civil rights supporters and opponents describe their struggles and explain their arguments. While appearing to reflect unique southern historical conditions, denial of the right to vote has played and continues to play a significant role in political and national power struggles.

preceded by

... so it goes

Jim Hall, USA, 2019, 2 min

This short film poem is about 4-letter words like: Love and hate. Rich and poor. Blue is a 4-letter word, and so is the word...VOTE!

8pm

Being Dead

John Meyers, USA, 2020, 99 min

Based on the novel by British author, Jim Crace, Being Dead is a powerful story of loss, regret, and love’s ability to endure. Shifting back and forth in time in the lives of naturalists Joseph and Celice Adkins, they travel to revisit the site of their magical meeting 25-years earlier, only to disappear. Having spent a lifetime dismissing the couple’s staid lives, their estranged daughter, Syl, now embarks on a reluctant search for her missing parents.

Find Your Films

Browse festival films by category or themes and find the films that interest you the most.

filmfestivalarizona.com

Trailers, film descriptions and more!
7pm Highline

Chris Smead & Gordon Gurley, USA, 2020, 117 min

Five friends set out to hike the physically challenging Highline Trail in Utah’s Uinta mountains in 10 days. Covering over 100 miles at altitudes averaging 10,700 feet could be life-threatening, even for experienced hikers. Each hiker’s personal story plays out amid breathtaking mountain views and light-hearted banter, revealing the shared passion and commitment behind their adventure.

“Along with my co-director Gordon "Gordy" Gurley, we spent 10 days on the trail following 5 long distance hikers and capturing their experience. We then spent an additional 20 days shooting interviews and B-roll to help convey the history of both the characters and the trail itself. 15 months of editing and animating then followed before the final film was completed.”

—CHRIS SMEAD, CO-DIRECTOR OF HIGHLINE
Bird of Paradise
Alexander Zorn, USA, 2019, 13 min
A queer geriatric nurse learns one of life's hardest lessons when he falls in love with one of his patients.

Furthest From
Kyung Sok Kim, USA, 2019, 18 min
When a water contamination issue forces a trailer park to be closed, a young girl must come to terms with leaving everything and everyone she's ever known behind.

Generation Lockdown
Sirad Balducci, USA, 2019, 17 min
Based on a short story by a 6th grader, an eleven-year-old boy tries to save his friend's life during an active shooter attack in his school.

Get By With a Little Help
Jefferson Brassfield, USA, 2020, 22 min
Cate is a lonely, witchy librarian who fails to find comfort and connection in her normal life, so she goes to the extreme of seeking it out in the supernatural.

Rumor
Christian Hammons & Eric Coombs Esmail, USA, 2020, 16 min
In a small town on the High Plains, a girl learns that her brothers have kidnapped the bully who drove her twin to suicide. What will she do?

My Daughter Yoshiko
Brian Blum, USA, 2019, 16 min
After her daughter is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Saki is finding life harder and harder to manage. Too ashamed to burden others and too proud to ask for help, Saki is now faced with the daunting task of giving her daughter the best life possible.

Totems
Justin Deegan, USA, 2019, 14 min
In this post-apocalyptic film, two indigenous men must find a new way of existing in their colonized Turtle Island, territory of Seattle.
3pm PANEL

Voter Suppression in the United States of America

Is voter suppression the “new normal” in American politics? Learn what is happening now in Arizona and nationally with panelists who are in the midst of this fight. The panel will lead off with an opening statement by Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva, a sponsor of a current anti-voter suppression bills in Congress. Panelists will include Pima County Recorder Gabriella Cázares-Kelly, the first indigenous woman ever elected county-wide, who deals with voter registration; director Gavin Guerra of Let The People Decide which traces the history of voter suppression in the US; Flavio Bravo, director of the Arizona Democracy Collaborative; and representatives from statewide organizations on voter registration.

6pm

Whores on Film

Juliana Piccillo, USA, 2019, 86 min

“Being a whore is one of the most demeaned things you can do in real life, but, make a movie about one and you might get an Oscar.” Stories about sex workers have fascinated filmmakers and audiences for over a century. When real sex workers and academics review portrayals of sex workers on screen, however, a complex reality emerges: a reality that has been missed and misunderstood with alienating consequences for sex workers and for the wider community.

preceded by

Queerer Than Thou

Kate Jessop, United Kingdom, 2019, 3 min

Who is the queerest of them all? This queer off will reveal all!

8pm

Hell of a Heartache

Robert Burson, USA, 2020, 88 min

Bobby Thompson is a hard-partying has-been country music singer whose wild and reckless ways are interrupted when he learns he might have a 12 year old daughter. When she is dumped off alone at his motel room one day, Bobby’s life takes a sudden new turn. This indie film was filmed entirely in Northern Arizona using all local cast and crew.

preceded by

Hung Up

Damon O’Steen, USA, 2020, 13 min

After a brutal bull-riding injury, Patty “Duke” struggles to handle the pain and support her hot-headed cowboy husband.
The Arizona International Film Festival invites you to a special event

TREASURE HUNT

Sunday - April 18th, 2021
10am - 4pm
the Mercado District
Tucson, Arizona

$1,000 in Cash & Prizes awarded at the movie premiere - 7:30pm

click here for details - www.LustForGold.com

no purchase necessary
Mercado Annex

Sunday, April 18

7:30pm UNDER-THE-STARS SCREENING

Lust for Gold: A Race Against Time
Robert May, USA, 2020, 74 min

Captivated by the legend of the Lost Dutchman’s Mine, retired missile scientist Robert Kesselring forms a secret expedition. Its goal is to find the cache of gold believed to be hidden in the Superstition Mountains outside of Phoenix, Arizona. Many have searched for it, and some have lost their lives trying to find it. But, after years of research, Kesselring is confident that he has decoded a map to lead his 5-man crew to the treasure.

“...It is the human condition that interests me. All the characters in our film have a thirst for adventure, but they’re also in search of something else. While finding gold is at the forefront of their minds, they each have other motivations, some conscious, some unconscious. They seek redemption, praise, purpose, to prove their human value, to change their lot in life – all part of the human experience”

– ROBERT MAY, DIRECTOR OF LUST FOR GOLD
Monday, April 19

3pm PANEL

Hell of a Heartache - Made in Arizona

Hell of a Heartache is a feature film that was shot entirely in Cottonwood, Arizona near Sedona. It tells the story of a faded and jaded country music performer who gets a second chance at life. Rob Burson, lead actor and director, and members of his creative team will talk about the making of this film with special emphasis on shooting the film in Arizona, the issues they faced and their solutions.

Panelists include: Rob Burson (Actor/Director), Katie Owens (Assistant Director), Brendan Rincon (Music Director/Composer) and Vic Rincon (Cinematographer).

6pm

The Sound of Silence

Marek Klosowicz & Dariusz Twaróg, Poland, 2019, 45 min

In American Sign Language, English and Swahili with English subtitles

The hardships faced by many deaf Rwandan children include social discrimination and poverty. A new world awaits those who enter the Nyabihu Demonstration School for the Deaf, where children and parents are taught to communicate using sign language, allowing them to hear and say the word, “mama” for the first time.

preceded by

Wantoks: Dance of Resilience in Melanesia

Iara Lee, USA, 2019, 20 min

In English & French with English subtitles

Performers celebrate their culture and draw attention to their islands’ plight due to climate change.

8pm

Woman of the Photographs

Takeshi Kushida, Japan, 2020, 89 min

In Japanese with English subtitles

An introverted photographer runs a neighborhood photo shop and lives alone, his evenings devoid of human companionship. On a hike in a forest, his solitary life is abruptly interrupted when a woman falls from her perch in a nearby tree. A dancer, the agile young woman is strikingly beautiful. Soon it is revealed that both dancer and photographer have scars, some are visible, but some are not.

How much I desire!
inside my little theater
the moon and the flowers.
Imprisoned for Profit
John Wright, USA, 2020, 13 min
Phoenix attorney John Dacey quit his private practice to focus on challenging the existence of the private prison industry, which he believes exploits the convicted for profit. He and his team plan to bring a case against the industry all the way to the Supreme Court.

Just Dinner with Friends
Benjamin Weinstein, USA, 2019, 10 min
Sean is thrilled to be invited to dinner with his ex...until he finds himself face to face with her new boyfriend.

Rosa’s Sanctuary
John Sheedy, USA, 2019, 19 min
In Spanish with English subtitles
Rosa Sabido, a Mexican native, has not set foot outside of her church in Mancos, Colorado for over two years.

Schwerehosen
Josh Kasselman, USA, 2019, 5 min
When Megan receives a surprise social invitation from a higher-up at her company, she’s worried her nerves - and her apathetic husband - will sink her.

Intangible
Bart Santello, USA, 2020, 9 min
Intangible means “that which cannot be easily defined, formulated or grasped - vague.” This experimental film is about forgotten memories assembled from fragments of old 8mm film.

Soledad
Lisa Molomot, USA, 2019, 23 min
In English & Spanish with English subtitles
Weaving live action and animation, a young woman from Central America reveals what life is like for those imprisoned in the Eloy Detention Center while seeking asylum.

UnLuv Echoes
Grant Hunker & Jaime Leann Carpenter, USA, 2019, 5 min
After taking a pill to suppress the urge to find love, echoes and memories of lost love emerge in this POV short film poem.

Veil
Nicol Eilers, USA, 2020, 9 min
When a scientist creates a device to reincarnate people, she discovers a sinister plot to divert her poorer clients to black market organ harvesting.
**Tuesday, April 20**

**6pm SHORT DOCS**

**Bear With Me**
Daphna Awadish, Netherlands, 2019, 5 min
Through moving interviews and animation, this film reveals the many difficulties prevalent for those who cross borders to be with the ones they love.

**Brewed in Palestine**
Emma Schwartz, USA, 2019, 17 min
An intimate portrait of the Taybeh Brewery, the first craft brewery on the West Bank, reveals the daily realities of one resourceful Palestinian family working under Israeli occupation.

**Broken Orchestra**
Charlie Tyrell, USA, 2019, 12 min
When the Philadelphia public-school system began losing funding for its music-education programs, hundreds of instruments were in need of repair, until the community moved into action.

**Charlie’s Lot**
Thomas Carroll, USA, 2020, 11 min
Charlie’s antique car-collecting habit has become a problem. But, Charlie is an avid preservationist, an anonymous crusader in the fight to save the soul of his city.

**Chasing Color: A Gem Trader’s Journey**
Rob Himebaugh, USA, 2019, 24 min
In English & Hindi with English subtitles
A global gem hunter searches Asia for the perfect rough, and learns how the world’s colored stone trade affects everyone she meets.

**The Duckpond**
Robert Andersson, Sweden, 2019, 90 min
In Swedish with English subtitles
Fredrik’s peaceful life in an idyllic small town is turned upside down when his old childhood friend, Patrik, is released from prison. Together with Birger, the third member of their old trio, they manage to get lost in a chaotic spiral involving a vindictive policeman, a few grams of weed and a gang of Danish robbers.

**The Beauty of Decay**
David Rowe, USA, 2020, 20 min
Photographer Wayne Martin Belger explores Wonder Valley in California using a camera he made from a human skull.

When the dusk sets in stories in bloom on outdoor screens and the film-goers gather.
Tuesday, April 20

9pm GLOBAL SHORTS—ONLINE

Destete
Ines Gowland, Argentina, 2019, 14 min
In Spanish with English subtitles
Returning to her family farm in Argentina, Teresa is determined to sell the property, as Ernesto, the presumptuous man who runs it, tries to convince her to keep it.

Her Last Scene
Kyoungju Kim, South Korea, 2019, 29 min
In Korean with English subtitles
Elderly Soon-ok takes care of her ill daughter and is cast in a student independent film in the role of a dying woman.

The Heavy Burden
Yılmaz Özdil, Turkey, 2019, 17 min
In Kurdish with English subtitles
When his donkey Bozo is retired by the municipality, Avdel must find a younger donkey in order to keep his sanitation job. To help his uncle, his nephew, who had fled from Syria, crosses the border to bring back his own donkey.

Yarne
Andrew Krakower, USA, 2020, 15 min
In Nepali, Tibetan with English subtitles
Yarne is an annual six-week period when Buddhist monks remain within the monastery grounds for focused study. A child monk decides to save up every rupee he earns during Yarne to buy a soccer ball, but first he will have to stand up to the monastery bully.

7:30pm
BORDER FILMS

Missing in Brooks County
Lisa Molomot & Jeff Bemiss, USA, 2020, 81 min
Brooks County, Texas is 70 miles from Mexico and undocumented crossers detour through the county’s rugged terrain. Two grief-stricken families seek a missing relative, while locals express differing opinions, revealing the pain and polarization of our immigration practices.

preceded by

The Marker
Will Francome & Katie Green, USA, 2020, 13 min
Artist Alvaro Enciso has placed homemade crosses in the desert, indicating where a human lost their life.
Wednesday, April 21

3pm PANEL
The Nuts & Bolts of Independent Film Distribution

Many filmmakers come to realize that making their films is not the biggest hurdle they face. It’s distribution after their film is made. Writer/producer/director Liz Manashil is a leading expert on independent film distribution. In 2016 she managed the groundbreaking Sundance Institute’s Creative Distribution Initiative and conducted research into all aspects of independent film distribution. Ms. Manashil will talk about film festival strategy, how and when to connect to a distributor, what sales agents do, self distribution, and more.

6pm
Finding Courage
Kay Rubacek, USA, 2020, 81 min

In English and Chinese with English subtitles

In 1999, the Chinese Communist Party Regime ordered eradication of a meditation practice called Falun Gong, which tore millions of families apart. No one in China is permitted to talk about it. Yifei Wang, a Communist Party journalist and Falun Gong practitioner, was arrested in China, as were her brother and sister. Now in the US, she decides to tell her sister’s story, even if it means never returning to China and putting her family members there at risk.

8pm
Moments in Spacetime
Christopher Cowden, Canada, 2020, 113 min

Macie, a Thai immigrant adopted into a North American family, must look after her dementia suffering grandfather (played by John Rhys-Davies). When Macie discovers that her birth mother may not have died in a tsunami fifteen years earlier, she teams up with her grandfather to discover the truth about her past in order to decide which family means more to her.

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Club Congress Plaza

Wednesday, April 21

7:30pm  TUCSON ➔ FILM ➙ CONNECTIONS

A Handful of Dates
Hashim Hassan, Sudan, 2019, 12 min
In Arabic with English subtitles
A young boy’s precious world begins to unravel when he learns the disturbing truth behind his family’s fortune, and the harsh reality of a certain farmer’s inevitable demise.

Hi, How are you?
Howon Kim & Minyoung Kim, South Korea, 2019, 9 min
In English with Korean subtitles
In the middle of a desert under a blazing sun, a young man opens his eyes and realizes he is tied up and alone. How is he going to survive?

CC Dances the Go-Go
Erin C. Buckley, USA, 2020, 11 min
A little love story + go-go dancing.

Crybaby
Adam Valencia, USA, 2019, 5 min
Latina teen Gabby encounters an otherworldly presence in her new house. Is it her imagination or is it something else?

Scheherazade Zero One
Madeleine Collier, USA, 2019, 13 min
In French with English subtitles
In this futuristic take on 1001 Nights, Bruno, an up-and-coming filmmaker, threatens to replace his worn-out cyborg with a newer model. Then Bruno makes a startling discovery.

Silver Moon
Elias Benavidez, USA, 2020, 10 min
Plagued by dreams of colliding meteorites, a retired astronomer begins to question if he is envisioning the future... or if he’s unraveling into a ‘dementia wonderland.’

This One Weird Trick
Joanie Wind, USA, 2020, 6 min
A woman slogs through an identity mired with gendered stereotypes and consumer capitalism to attempt to discover her true self. What is “natural” or “original” becomes inaccessible, forgotten, and nonexistent.

All the filmmakers in this program have some connection to Tucson: they grew up in Tucson and moved away; or they lived in Tucson and then moved on; or they shot their film in Tucson. All Tucsonans at heart!
Thursday, April 22

3pm PANEL

A Documentary Point of View

Hear what challenges are overcome and insights gained in the production of documentaries that touch on exploiting prison inmates for profit, the vicissitudes of sanctuary and the portrayal of sex workers in film. Unique questions about the documentary process such as how place determines what films get made, how differences between early visions and actual conclusions are reconciled and how much public demand and funding affect themes chosen will be discussed.

Panelists include Arizona documentary filmmakers: Lisa Molomot (Soledad), Juliana Piccillo (Whores on Film), John Sheedy (Rosa’s Sanctuary) and John Wright (Imprisoned for Profit).

6pm

Stalking Chernobyl
Exploration After Apocalypse

Iara Lee, Ukraine/USA/Bulgaria/Slovakia, 2020, 59 min

In English, Russian and Ukrainian with English subtitles

A thriving city, celebrated for its roses, collapsed on April 27, 1986, the day after the Chernobyl catastrophe. Residents were evacuated within two hours. Three decades later, wildlife has returned in the absence of human settlements and disaster tourism flourishes. Illegal hiking adventurers known as "stalkers," extreme sports enthusiasts and artists explore and revel in the ghostly, post-apocalyptic landscape.

preceded by

A Fistful of Rubbish

David Regos, Spain, 2019, 14 min

A desert area in Spain known for Western films, is being trashed. An English resident decides to take things into his own hands.

8pm

Go / Don’t Go

Alex Knapp, USA, 2020, 95 min

Go / Don’t Go is a post-apocalyptic psychological thriller, oscillating between a forgotten love story and inescapable paranoia. Adam, a loner living at the end of human existence, is kept sane by his daily routine: wake up, brush teeth, forage for supplies, take out the trash, go shopping, check what needs to be checked, cross off what needs to be crossed off. Things begin to unravel as Adam is confronted with an unexpected terrifying possibility: maybe he is descending into madness, or maybe he’s not actually alone.

preceded by

Imaginary Friend

Zach Rubin, USA, 2020, 16 min

The only company Helen keeps is a virtual assistant that leads her through her day.
Online

Thursday, April 22

9pm ANIMATION SHORTS

Big[foot] Love
Joshua Dean Tuthill/Alessia Cecchet, USA, 2019, 2 min
A forest, a hunter, a groan.

Candy Shop
Patrick Smith, USA, 2019, 3 min
There are 11,926 pharmaceutical drugs available worldwide. This satirical commentary about our cultural, recreational, and economic infatuation with prescription drugs shows 2863 of them.

Flower and the Girl
Robin Heap, United Kingdom, 2019, 9 min
A young shadow girl reminds an aging clown what it means to be young again.

If Anything Happens I Love You
Will McCormack & Michael Govier, USA, 2020, 12 min
A man and woman struggle to come to terms with a devastating loss.

Kite
HongWei Wang, China, 2020, 16 min
One day a little white man meets a mysterious visitor, resulting in a series of novel and thrilling events.

Mandala
Kiran Bhakta Joshi, Nepal, 2019, 6 min
Mandala is about the Impermanence of Things. What is life but a brief moment of beauty - only to be wiped away to create something new?

Rain
Piotr Milczarek, Poland, 2019, 5 min
Rain is a simple animated film on collective consciousness.

Severance
Christian Eusebio, USA, 2019, 2 min
An office child is fated to be a cog in the machine.

The Great Toilet Paper Scare
Brian Gersten, USA, 2020, 11 min
This untold story reveals a notorious incident involving Johnny Carson, a lot of toilet paper, and millions of fearful Americans.
3pm PANEL

A Conversation with Panavision

Panavision has been a critical part of the motion picture business since its inception. It is the world’s leading manufacturer of cameras and lenses for motion picture production and has a storied history of influence and leadership in the industry that few companies can rival.

Representatives from Panavision will share their perspectives on current trends and major issues affecting the business today, discuss where they see production technology headed, highlight some of their products and programs that support independent producers – like the Panavision DXL2 camera system and their New Filmmaker Program – and take questions from those attending. This program is not to be missed!

6pm

Jump The Fence
Molly Elizabeth Parker, USA, 2020, 97 min
In English and Portuguese with English subtitles

Time is the enemy in this behind-the-scenes documentary adventure in no-budget filmmaking. Jump into the action with actors Britt Harris and Molly Elizabeth Parker as they trek to Brazil for the making of Ale Paschoalini’s feature film, Raízes. Will artistic vision prevail as the skeleton crew battles the elements in this high pressure race against the clock?

8pm

Inez & Doug & Kira
Julia Kots, USA, 2020, 96min

When Inez committed suicide after a long struggle with bipolar disorder and drug addiction, she left no note—only a pile of old photos strewn about her bed. The two people closest to her—her sister Kira and her fiancé Doug are left with too many questions. Doug embarks on a self-destructive quest to decipher the significance of the photographs and understand what pushed Inez to take her own life.
9pm COMEDY SHORTS

Bad Morning
Adam DeViller, Canada, 2019, 8 min
Two unscrupulous salesmen get more than they bargained for when they try to take advantage of a little old lady.

In The Basement
Gianluca Randazzo, USA, 2020, 16 min
Three cousins of varying socio-economic status struggle to divvy up the money their grandfather left for them.

My Dinner with Werner
Maverick Moore, USA, 2019, 18 min
Based on a real dinner conversation between acclaimed filmmaker Werner Herzog and controversial actor Klaus Kinski in 1987, this wildly bizarre and wacky farce features a murder plot as the main dish.

Groups of Two
Bobby Slaski, USA, 2020, 12 min
Two actors at an audition struggle to distinguish between their true feelings and the direction they’ve been given.

Moneybag Head
Patrick O’Brien, USA, 2020, 15 min
Dennis, a lonely sad sack with an unfortunate cranial deformity, finds himself romantically entangled with Catherine, a charming political cartoonist. After the two share an intensely intimate night together, Dennis is happier than he’s ever been -- until he sees Catherine’s latest cartoon.

Pay it Forward
Anthony Lucero, USA, 2020, 3 min
Grandpa and granddaughter try to negotiate their way out of a car accident.

In Sync
Eddie Shieh, USA, 2019, 5 min
A young couple walks a fine line while thriving in an open marriage until they catch each other breaking their own rules.
Online

Saturday, April 24

1pm
Indie Youth Shorts

Bygones
by Bree O’Dell
USA, 2019, 15 min
A radio sparks a mystery.

Colors Run
by Olivia Carter
USA, 2019, 16 min
Unlikely friendship saves the day.

Comfortable Position
by DRF Children Animation Studio, Uzbekistan, 2019, 4 min
What do you feel when you sleep?

Diamond Game
by Nolan Trifunovic
USA, 2020, 10 min
A writing team can’t get it right.

3pm PANEL
Behind the Scenes Filmmaking

Join actors Britt Harris and Molly Elizabeth Parker as they recount their trek to Brazil for the making of an independent feature film. Time is the enemy in their behind the scenes documentary, Jump the Fence, an amazing adventure in no-budget filmmaking.

Learn about the delights and demands of the magic and drama of independent filmmaking on a shoestring budget and meet Ale Paschoalini, the director of the independent feature, Raízes.

6pm
Flannery
Elizabeth Coffman & Mark Bosco, USA, 2019, 97 min
Winner of the first-ever Library of Congress/Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film, Flannery tells the story of Flannery O’Connor, southern U.S. Catholic writer and cartoonist. By age 20, she was recognized as “perhaps the most naturally gifted of the youngest generation of American novelists.” Combining humor and unflinching observations of human darkness in her signature Gothic style, freaks, misfits, saints and prophets were grist for her literary mill.

On the bright marquee titles after titles
come soon to light the screens.
In this moving story of three generations of women, a 22 year-old single mother, Claudia, gets evicted from her house for not being able to pay the rent. Claudia is forced to leave her six year old daughter with an elderly neighbor while she goes to search for both a job and for her never-found true love. Struggles to understand one another arise as the characters begin to grow apart.

Although made in Italy, the same story can happen every day throughout Europe or even in any country on the entire planet earth. Modern life, besides all its possibilities and numerous choices it has offered to the mankind, seems to have jeopardized some of their basic needs. Having a secure and stable job, a trusting friendship, a true love or sometimes even their basic human dignity...”

—MOHSEN MAHKMALBAF, DIRECTOR OF MARGHE AND HER MOTHER
Saturday, April 24

9pm EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

Kii Nche Ndutsa
(“Time and the Seashell”)
Itandehui Jansen, Mexico, 2020, 13 min
In Mesoamerica, the seashell is a symbol for time. This short film invites us to reflect on past, present and future in a changing landscape where the natural environment is slowly disappearing.

Tides
Andre Silva, USA, 2020, 8 min
Filmed at Masonboro Island, an undeveloped barrier island in southeastern North Carolina, Tides contemplates the liminal space between the modern technological world and that more ecological dimension we label as “nature” or “the environment.”

Traces
Alex Murrull, Spain, 2020, 10 min
Two strangers share a room during different shifts. Their loneliness is broken as they both find each other’s objects, and a relationship develops that lies somewhere between fantasy and reality.

Last Supper
Piotr Dumała, Poland, 2019, 13 min
Moving to the rhythm of modern music for a string quartet, a drama based around a group of men seated at a table, or the Last Supper of Jesus and the Twelve Apostles.

This One Weird Trick
Joanie Wind, USA, 2020, 6 min
A woman slogs through an identity mired with gendered stereotypes and consumer capitalism to attempt to discover her true self. What is “natural” or “original” becomes inaccessible, forgotten, and nonexistent.

Valerio’s Day Out
Michael Arcos, USA, 2019, 9 min
In English and in Jaguar
A young jaguar goes on a killing spree when he escapes from his enclosure at a zoo. After he’s captured, sedated, and relocated, he makes a video diary for his significant other, Lula.

The Dressing
Patrick Moser & Jackson Moser, USA, 2019, 15 min
A cardboard monster searches for meaning in tidal rhythms.
Online/Screening Room  Sunday, April 25

11am

ONLINE
Best of the Fest

Screenings all day

Don’t miss this opportunity to see the award-winning films and audience favorites from the 2021 Arizona International Film Festival. The all-day online screenings will make up a must-see day of the very best of independent films from around the world. Schedule will be announced on Saturday, April 24 at 10pm.

1pm

THE SCREENING ROOM
ARTIST TALK

with Wayne Martin Belger

Wayne is a photography-based installation artist whose exhibitions consist of both the hand-made camera and photographs produced by the camera. Each camera is created for a specific body of work, containing artifacts specific to that area of study.

Screening of a short documentary about Wayne, The Beauty of Decay will also be featured.

Seating is limited!

3pm PANEL

ONLINE
Book to Screenplay to Film—A Discussion

Writer Stacey Cochran and writer-director-producer Desmond Devenish discuss the process of optioning and adapting Stacey’s bestselling novel Eddie & Sunny to film. Staying true to the writer’s vision is always a creative issue. Learn how Stacey and Desmond navigated this sensitive process. Moderated by Scott McVeigh.
OUTDOOR FESTIVAL SITES

MERCADO ANNEX
267 South Avenida del Convento
Streetcar Line (free)
Cushing/Convento stop
**ALERT** Sunday routes end at 8:26pm
Parking
Lot (free) north of Mercado Annex

CLUB CONGRESS PLAZA
311 East Congress St
on the Streetcar Line (free),
Congress/6th Ave stop
Parking
Centro Garage, 345 E Congress St

MAIN GATE PLAZA
943 East University Boulevard
Streetcar Line (free)
University/Tyndall stop
Parking
Main Gate Garage, 815 E 2nd St

FESTIVAL TEAM

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Director of Operations
Claudia Jespersen

Director of Special Projects
John Mason

Marketing & Development Director
Mia Schnaible

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The Arizona International Film Festival is a project of the Arizona Media Arts Center (AzMAC), a non-profit organization that champions independent filmmaking.
Take a Haiku Hike in Downtown Tucson

The 2nd annual Haiku Hike literary competition showcases twenty winning haiku poems printed on acrylic signage in planters located along Congress Street and Stone Avenue.

downtowntucson.org/haikuhike