



32nd SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL RELEASES 2017 PROGRAM

Santa Barbara, CA –The Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF), presented by UGG®, announced today the highly–anticipated lineup for the 32nd edition, which will run February 1st to February 11th, 2017. The festival will offer a vast array of films representing 50+ countries, 51 world premieres and 64 US premieres, along with tributes with the year’s top talent, panel discussions, and free community education and outreach programs.

OPENING NIGHT

SBIFF 2017 will kick off the festival on Wednesday, February 1st, at the historic Arlington Theatre with the World Premiere of **CHARGED**. The Opening Night Film is sponsored by UGG®.

Directed by Phillip Baribeau, **CHARGED** chronicles the journey of chef and outdoorsman, Eduardo Garcia and his recovery after being electrocuted by 2400 volts of electricity miles from help in the Montana backcountry. Garcia had his hand amputated, lost ribs, muscle mass and nearly his life, but more important than what he lost is what he found. **CHARGED** tells Eduardo’s remarkable journey from getting up off the forest floor to becoming the man he is today.

The documentary is produced by Dennis Aig and Phillip Baribeau along with executive producers Teri Weinberg, Scott Ballew, Doug Ellin, Peter Hochfelder, Constance Schwartz–Morini and Michael Strahan.

INTERNATIONAL GALA

For the International Gala, the festival will feature the US Premiere of **HEAL THE LIVING** (*Réparer les vivants*) a French–Belgian drama directed by Katell Quillévéré and written by Quillévéré and Gilles Taurand. **HEAL THE LIVING** stars Tahar Rahim (*A Prophet, The Past, Grand Central, The Informant*), Emmanuelle Seigner (*Venus in Fur, The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*) and Anne Dorval (*Mommy, Heartbeats*). Three seemingly unrelated stories are masterfully woven together in this family medical drama. A French teenager takes a road trip to the sea with friends to go surfing; a woman learns her heart is failing; and the staff at a regional hospital struggles through another day of saving lives. Cohen Media Group plans for a Spring 2017 release.

CLOSING NIGHT

The Festival will close with the Lone Scherfig's period comedy–drama **THEIR FINEST** at the Arlington Theatre on Saturday, February 11 in advance of the film's March 24 stateside release. The Closing Night Film is sponsored by Winchester Mystery House.

The year is 1940, Britain. With the nation devastated by the war, the British ministry turns to propaganda films to boost morale at home. Realizing their films could use “a woman's touch,” the ministry hires Catrin Cole (Gemma Arterton) as a scriptwriter in charge of writing the female dialogue. Although her artist husband looks down on her job, Catrin's natural flair quickly gets her noticed by charming lead scriptwriter Buckley (Sam Claflin). Catrin and Buckley set out to make an epic feature film based on the Battle of Dunkirk starring pretentious fading movie star Ambrose Hilliard (Bill Nighy). As bombs are dropping all around them, Catrin, Buckley and their colorful cast and crew work furiously to make a film that will warm the hearts of the nation.

The film is produced by Stephen Woolley, Amanda Posey, Finola Dwyer and Elizabeth Karlsen. Christine Langan, Ed Wethered, Robert Norris, Ivan Dunleavy, Peter Watson, Zygi Kamasa and Thorsten Schumacher serve as executive producers. The film is produced by Number 9 Films and Wildgaze Films.

THE TRIBUTES

SBIFF has become an important showcase for Academy–Award® frontrunners, many of whom have arrived as nominees and gone on to win the Oscar. The 32nd Santa Barbara International Film Festival proudly celebrates some of the year's finest work in film. The complete list of 2017 Honorees (in date order) is as follows:

- **Viola Davis** will present **Denzel Washington** with the esteemed **Maltin Modern Master Award**, moderated by longtime friend and film historian Leonard Maltin on Thursday, February 2nd.
- **Ryan Gosling** and **Emma Stone** will receive the **Outstanding Performers of the Year Award sponsored by Belvedere Vodka**, moderated by Roger Durling, on Friday, February 3rd.
- The **Virtuosos Award presented by UGG®** will be awarded to **Aaron Taylor Johnson** (Nocturnal Animals), **Dev Patel** (Lion), **Janelle Monáe** (Hidden Figures, Moonlight), **Mahershala Ali** (Moonlight), **Naomie Harris** (Moonlight), **Ruth Negga** (Loving), **Simon Helberg** (Florence Foster Jenkins), and **Stephen McKinley Henderson** (Fences) in recognition of the year's emerging film artists. The evening will be moderated by Dave Karger on Saturday, February 4th.
- **Casey Affleck** and **Michelle Williams** will receive the **Cinema Vanguard Award**, moderated by Scott Feinberg, on Sunday, February 5th.
- The **Variety Artisans Awards** will take place on Monday, February 6th and will be moderated by Variety's Sr. VP Awards Editor, Tim Gray. Honorees to be announced.

- The **Outstanding Director of the Year Award sponsored by The Hollywood Reporter** will be Tuesday, February 7th and will be moderated by Pete Hammond. Honorees to be announced.
- **Isabelle Huppert** will be presented with the **Montecito Award** on Wednesday, February 8th, moderated by Anne Thompson.
- **Jeff Bridges** will receive the **American Riviera Award sponsored by Bella Vista Designs** on Thursday, February 9th, moderated by Scott Feinberg.

All tributes take place at the historic Arlington Theatre except the Variety Artisans Award, which will be at the Lobero Theatre.

THE PANELS

SBIFF has become renowned for creating smart, insightful panels that feature a who's who in the world of filmmaking, including many Oscar® contenders.

The panel series begins on **Saturday, February 4th** with the **“Movers and Shakers,”** (Producers Panel), bringing together the industry's most prolific producers to talk about current projects, hopes for the future of filmmaking, and insight into the creative process. Moderated by **Glenn Whipp**.

That same day proceeds with **“It Starts With the Script”** (Screenwriters Panel), bringing together top writers to discuss their craft. The panel will be moderated by **Anne Thompson**.

On **Saturday, February 11th**, **Creative Forces: Women in the Business** (Women's Panel), will be moderated by **Madelyn Hammond**.

All panels take place at the Lobero Theatre.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The **2017 Film Program** addresses timely themes including a focus on environmental activism, feminism in the Middle East, efforts to thwart ISIS around the world including, Mali and Kurdistan, the fight for democracy in Ukraine and the global refugee crisis. In addition, some of the new highlights in the program include the following sections:

- **Nordic Cinema Competition:** A diverse showcase of contemporary cinema From Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.
- **Crime Scenes:** An international selection of crime thrillers and neo-noirs filled with gritty underworlds and moral nihilists.
- **Documentary Shorts: Refugees:** A program of short documentaries featuring compelling stories from refugees living in Malawi, Syria, West Africa, Greece, Sweden and the United States.

The Jury – Films in several of the Festival’s film categories are in competition. These categories are viewed by a hand selected group of industry professionals including: Richard Raymond, Joanna Kerns, Jesus Lloveras, Tamara Asseyev, Martin Gooch, Anthony & Arnette Zerbe, Alan Marshall, Artie Schmidt, Janet Walker, Phyllis de Picciotto, Perry Lang and Mimi deGruy. On the last day of the Festival, the award winning films will be announced at the annual SBIFF awards breakfast.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND FREE SCREENINGS

Mike’s Field Trip to the Movies – More than a decade ago, SBIFF first introduced “Field Trip to the Movies,” the brainchild of renowned nature cinematographer Mike deGruy, whose passion for exploring and sharing those adventures with audiences through filmmaking was the inspiration for this fascinating and thought–provoking program. Now renamed “Mike’s Field Trip to the Movies,” the goal of the program, which is offered to 4,000 4th, 5th and 6th grade students from throughout Santa Barbara County, is to use filmmaking to stimulate creative, confident and culturally aware thinkers. Award winning filmmakers have participated each year – including James Cameron, Lee Unkrich, Gore Verbinski, Peter Ramsey, Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee, Chris Miller and Phil Lord, and Pete Docter among others. SBIFF provides **FREE** transportation to students from Title I schools. This year SBIFF is thrilled to present the critically–acclaimed hit, **Zootopia**, featuring writer/directors **Byron Howard and Rich Moore**, who will participate in a Q&A following the screenings with the students and talk about the craft of animated filmmaking. This annual free event, which takes place **Tuesday, February 7** at the Arlington Theatre, is sponsored by Montecito Bank & Trust, Santa Barbara Foundation, Union Bank, Wells Fargo, Bentson Foundation, and Volentine Family Foundation.

Student Film Studies Program – Returning for its third year, the student film studies program will bring undergraduate film students from across the country for a three day symposium with a focus on film appreciation, criticism, and analysis. Students will have the opportunity to learn from notable industry professionals and get a behind–the–scenes look at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival through a unique mix of guided and self–guided opportunities, allowing students to customize the experience and benefit from all the Festival has to offer. Students will have access to screenings, panels, Q&A sessions, celebrity tribute events, and private sessions with filmmakers and media professionals in a classroom setting. Due to the generosity of Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin, the amount of students allowed has doubled and the program will be completely **FREE** including travel and lodging.

AppleBox Family Films – SBIFF will again screen animated feature frontrunners **FREE** to families on the weekends of the Festival with complimentary popcorn and refreshments! This year will include **Zootopia** (10:00 am Feb. 4), **Moana** (10:00 am Feb. 5), and **Finding Dory** (10:00 am Feb. 11) Sponsored by KPMR Univision, Metropolitan Theatres and Rincon Broadcasting.

10–10–10 Student Screenwriting and Filmmaking Competition Sponsored by Final Draft Inc., and generously supported by Mary Beth Riordan, the 10-10-10 Competition is comprised of 20 high school and college students chosen from 120 submissions. After being selected, the filmmakers and screenwriters were then paired, and will produce a 10–minute film during the 10 days of the Festival. On Tuesday, January 31st, the 10–10–10 Press Conference will introduce the screenwriting and filmmaking finalists. On Saturday, February 11th at the Arlington Theatre, all ten completed films will be screened and the winners will be announced.

Free Public Screenings – SBIFF will again offer critically acclaimed films **FREE** to the public at the Lobero Theatre everyday throughout the Festival.

Filmmaker Seminars – SBIFF will again present educational seminars that will be **FREE** to the public and will take place in the Visit The Santa Ynez Valley Lounge throughout the Festival at 11:00am.

Super Silent Sunday – On Sunday February 5th, SBIFF will present the 1925 classic "The Freshman" starring Harold Lloyd at the Arlington Theatre completely **FREE** to the public. Live accompaniment will be provided by Adam Aceto on the theatre's Wonder Morton pipe organ, which is one of only five in existence, and is a unique opportunity to connect with the rich history of cinema. Super Silent Sunday is sponsored by Winchester Mystery House

Youth CineMedia – SBIFF presents a documentary film series produced entirely by teens involved in the Youth CineMedia program. Striving to help children transition away from gang life, drugs and alcohol and into college and careers in music, photography and video production, the organization offers creative tools, training and support for underprivileged and at–risk teens. Free to the public with Q&A following on Saturday February 11th.

3rd Weekend – SBIFF will once again present "3rd Weekend," which will feature the highlights of the 32nd Festival for Santa Barbara residents. The films will be screened throughout the weekend of February 17–19 at the Plaza de Oro Theatre. Screenings are **FREE** and seating is available on a first come, first served basis. Screening times will be posted sbiff.org in the days following Closing Night.

New SBIFF Education Director – Amanda Graves is joining SBIFF's team in the new position of Education Director. Not only will she be overseeing all of SBIFF's existing educational programs that currently serve over 20,000 individuals, but expanding and adding many more. Prior to joining SBIFF, as a high school teacher, she expanded the Visual Communications program from one class into a 3–year, sequential program that the Career Education Center in Ventura County highlights as a model pathway for Career Technology Education in the Arts, Media, and Entertainment Sector.

FOCUS ON SANTA BARBARA

Santa Barbara Filmmakers – The Santa Barbara filmmaking community continues to captivate and inspire audiences with this year’s impressive line-up. Santa Barbara filmmakers provide a diverse, thought-provoking series of features and shorts. Their programs underscore the emerging talent of up-and-coming filmmakers as well as seasoned veterans.

Santa Barbara Local Heroes: Documentary Shorts – Produced by Phyllis de Picciotto and directed by Stan Roden, these 15 short documentaries are inspired, guided and determined by the Santa Barbara Independent’s 31 year tradition of honoring Local Heroes. The 2016 Santa Barbara Local Heroes are Dennis Apel, David Asbell, Mark Asman, Magda Barnes, Bruce & David Corwin, Kristianne Clifford, Jason Emrich, Joan Fairfield, Lee Heller, Barbara Ireland, Alagie Jammeh, Doug Mershon, Jennifer Parks, Willie Poindexter, Gary Sangenito. These short documentary portraits will screen throughout the festival before the Santa Barbara Features/Shorts.

The Stand Up Award sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League – The Santa Barbara Tri-Counties Region of the Anti-Defamation League will be sponsoring and presenting the 2nd annual '*ADL Stand Up Award*' to a dramatic film in the festival that represents an important addition to the efforts of the ADL "to secure justice and fair treatment for all." ADL has a one hundred year history of standing up to bigotry, hatred, and discrimination. The purpose of this award is to recognize and celebrate the impact that storytelling can have in fostering mutual understanding and respect.

The Tribute Awards were once again specially designed by Santa Barbara’s own Daniel Gibbings Jewelry. The Award is inspired by the iconic steeple of Santa Barbara’s historic Arlington Theatre and is handcrafted in metal and is 24 karat gold-plated, with a custom marble base. “We wanted to create an award that is not only quintessential to Santa Barbara’s beautiful culture and performing arts, but also embodied the passion and creativity we use in crafting our unique jewelry designs,” states CEO and Creative Director Daniel Gibbings and Setenay Ozdemir-Osman. “Just as the Arlington Theatre takes our imagination to new places, so do the visionary filmmakers and actors that are honored each year by the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. We are truly honored to design and create all of the awards for SBIFF.”

2017 FILM SECTIONS AND SIDEBARS

SBIFF features exciting, culturally enlightening, and entertaining programming and sidebars. 200+ films from around the world will be brought together to form an incredibly unique and diverse festival experience.

2017 SBIFF COMPETITION SECTIONS

- **DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION**
- **INDEPENDENT COMPETITION**
- **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION**
- **NORDIC CINEMA COMPETITION**
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION**
- **SPAIN/LATIN AMERICA CINEMA COMPETITION**

2017 SBIFF SIDEBARS

- **ABOVE AND BEYOND:** A selection of exhilarating documentaries that capture the adventure, beauty and thrill of surfing.
- **APPLEBOX:** A series of free award-winning animated films for families.
- **CINEMATIC OVERTURES:** A selection of films that showcase the world of performance including music, theater and dance.
- **CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA:** An international selection of feature films that highlight diverse stories from global perspectives. Sponsored by Visit The Santa Ynez Valley
- **CRIME SCENES:** An international selection of crime thrillers and neo-noirs filled with gritty underworlds and moral nihilists.
- **KOLNOA:** A selection of feature films and documentaries that examine Israel from a variety of diverse historical, cultural and political perspectives.
- **REEL NATURE:** A selection of natural history documentaries that highlight key issues facing the environment and wildlife.
- **SANTA BARBARA FEATURES:** A selection of films that are directed by Santa Barbara filmmakers or feature key issues in the local community.
- **SCREEN CUISINE:** An international selection of feature films and documentaries that examine the cultural layers of cuisine.
- **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** A selection of international award winning feature films and documentaries.

2017 SBIFF SHORTS PROGRAMS

- ANIMATED SHORTS
- COMEDIC SHORTS
- DOCUMENTARY SHORTS
- DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: REFUGEES
- DRAMATIC SHORTS
- LIVE-ACTION SHORTS: DRAMEDY
- LIVE-ACTION SHORTS: THRILLERS
- SANTA BARBARA DOCUMENTARY SHORTS
- SANTA BARBARA SHORTS
- SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES

Below is the list of World and US Premieres, followed by the competition sections, festival sidebars and shorts programs. For the complete list of films and other special events please visit www.sbiff.org.

29 WORLD PREMIERE FEATURE FILMS (listed alphabetically)

Arrangiarsi: Pizza...& the Art of Living, USA/Italy

Directed by Matteo Troncone

When Matteo's life falls apart, he moves into a 1985 VW van, traces his roots to Naples, birthplace of pizza, and discovers "arrangiarsi," the art of making something from nothing. He realizes he's not only "living the film," but needs to master arrangiarsi to survive.

Bokeh, USA

Directed by Geoffrey Orthwein and Andrew Sullivan

Cast: Maika Monroe, Matt O'Leary

When a couple on vacation in Iceland wake up to find that everyone has disappeared, they begin to question everything they know about themselves and the world.

The Cat That Changed America, USA

Directed by Tony Lee

This documentary explores the plight of P22, a celebrated mountain lion in Los Angeles who became trapped in Griffith Park after crossing two of the busiest freeways in North America, the 405 and the 101.

Charged, USA - *Opening Night Film

Directed by Phillip Baribeau

Featuring: Eduardo Garcia, Jennifer Jane

Charged with 2400 volts of electricity, Eduardo Garcia lost an arm, ribs, muscle mass and nearly his life, but more important than what he lost is what he found.

Cradle of Champions, USA

Directed by Bartle Bull

Featuring: James Wilkins and Titus Williams,

Heroes, dreams, heartbreak, and redemption: the three-month urban odyssey of the New York Golden Gloves, the world's largest, oldest, most important amateur boxing tournament.

Different Flowers, USA

Directed by Morgan Dameron

Cast: Shelley Long, Emma Bell, Hope Lauren, Rob Mayes, Sterling Knight

Millie and Emma are sisters with a rocky relationship who bring out the best and worst in each other. When Emma helps Millie run out on her big Kansas City wedding, they embark on an adventure neither could have anticipated.

Every 40 Years, USA

Directed by Eric Goldrich and Benjamin Friedberg

Gunhill Road returns to music 40 years after breaking into the Billboard Top 40 charts. EVERY 40 YEARS is about second chances and the power of chasing your dreams one more time.

The Gateway Bug, USA

Directed by Johanna B. Kelly

Over 2 billion people on earth eat insects for protein. THE GATEWAY BUG explores how changing daily eating habits can feed humanity in an uncertain age, one meal at a time.

Gaviota: The End of Southern California, USA

Directed by Shaw Leonard

In a monumental collaboration of artists, activists, and environmental organizations, this film documents the last remaining 20 miles of wild coastline in Southern California and the wildlife that thrives there.

The Good Catholic, USA

Directed by Paul Shoulberg

Cast: Danny Glover, John C. McGinley, Zachary Spicer, Wrenn Schmidt

Daniel loved his job as a small town priest more than anything. Then he met Jane. God help him.

Grass Stains, USA

Directed by Kyle Wilamowski

Cast: Kaitlyn Dever, Pablo Schreiber, Tye Sheridan

A teenager must balance the emotions he feels falling in love for the first time with the guilt he holds for the death of his girlfriend's older brother in a prank gone awry.

Island Earth, USA

Directed by Cyrus Sutton

A revealing documentary that follows the lives of Native Hawaiians to explore the realities of a food supply that are increasingly controlled by large corporate interests.

John G. Avildsen: King of the Underdogs, USA

Directed by Derek Wayne Johnson

Featuring: Sylvester Stallone, Ralph Macchio, Burt Reynolds, John G. Avildsen, Jerry Weintraub, Carl Weathers

An examination of the Oscar-winning director who brought to life some of cinema's most beloved motion pictures, including ROCKY, THE KARATE KID, and SAVE THE TIGER.

Kangaroo, Australia

Directed by Kate McIntyre Clere and Mick McIntyre

A documentary that reveals the unsettling truth about Australia's love-hate relationship with its beloved icon, and uncovers the largest mass destruction of wildlife anywhere in the world.

Liberty in a Soup, Haiti/USA

Directed by Dudley Alexis

Every New Year, in celebration of Independence Day, Haitian families feast on joumou soup. The soup represents war and victory, oppression and freedom, and the celebratory traditions of Haitian culture.

Little Pink House, USA

Directed by Courtney Moorehead Balaker

Cast: Catherine Keener, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Callum Rennie

Based on a true story, a small-town nurse defends her home and the blue-collar neighborhood she loves against white-collar power brokers.

Lives Well Lived, USA

Directed by Sky Bergman

Forty people aged 75 to 100, with a collective life experience of 3000 years, share their secrets, wit, and wisdom on how to live a meaningful life.

Mabel, Mabel, Tiger Trainer, USA

Directed by Leslie Zemeckis

The story of Mabel Stark, the world's first female tiger trainer who claimed her love for her tigers was so great that she wanted to die in the ring.

Orbiter 9 (Órbita 9), Spain

Directed by Hatem Khraiche Ruiz-Zorrill

Cast: Clara Lago, Alex Gonzalez, Andres Parra, Belen Rueda

A young woman on a deep space mission has her life turned upside down by a chance encounter with an isolated engineer.

Rebels on Pointe, Canada/Italy/Japan/USA/UK

Directed by Bobbi Jo Hart

A cinéma vérité documentary that celebrates Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo -- the all male, drag ballet company founded over 40 years ago on the heels of New York's Stonewall riots.

September 12th, USA

Directed by David Heinz

Cast: Joe Purdy, Amber Rubarth, Krisha Fairchild

Two strangers, both folk musicians stranded in California, take a road trip to New York in the days after 9/11. A story about the kindness of strangers and the power of music.

Seraphonium Live!, USA

Directed by Byl Carruthers

Over 40 Santa Barbara musicians perform the genre-bending Debut Album by Monte Schulz's 'Seraphonium', in a Sold-Out performance, at Santa Barbara's Marjorie Luke Theater.

Sixteen Legs, Australia

Directed by Niall Doran and Justin Smith

As the world rapidly descends into the next period of global mass extinction, a message of hope comes from an unlikely hero: a creature, often reviled, that has survived previous mass extinctions and climatic change in a magical ecosystem hidden beneath one of the world's last great wildernesses.

Sleepwalker, USA

Directed by Elliott Lester

Cast: Richard Armitage, Kevin Zegers, Haley Joel Osment, Izabella Scorupco, Ahna O'Reilly

A woman reconstructs her life after the apparent suicide of her novelist husband, but is met with terrifying and frequent bouts of sleepwalking.

Strawberry Days (Jordgubbslandet), Sweden

Directed by Wiktor Ericsson

Cast: Nelly Axelsson, Stanislaw Cywka, Julia Kijowska, Przemyslaw Sadowski, Torkel Petersson

15-year-old Wojtek travels to Sweden from Poland with his parents to work on a farm picking strawberries. He encounters a dark underworld where foreign guest workers are exploited by indifferent Swedes. Against all odds, he forms a connection with the farmer's daughter.

That's Not Me, Australia

Directed by Gregory Erdstein

Cast: Alice Foulcher, Isabel Lucas, Richard Davies, Belinda Missevski, Rowan Davie

Polly's dreams of making it as an actor are shattered when her identical twin sister Amy lands a plum role in an HBO show and starts dating Jared Leto. Mistaken for her famous sister at every

turn, Polly decides to use her sister's celebrity for her own advantage – free clothes, free booze, casual sex... with disastrous consequences for them both.

Tribal Justice, USA

Directed by Anne Makepeace

Two tribal court judges create innovative justice systems, striving to reduce incarceration rates by restoring rather than punishing offenders, while providing a model of restorative justice in action.

The Vervet Forest, USA/South Africa

Directed by Kyle Salazar

The story of five orphaned baby monkeys in South Africa and the struggle to save their home.

Where Have You Gone Lou DiMaggio?, USA

Directed by Brad Kuhlman

Featuring: Larry David, Colin Quinn, Suzie Essman, Joy Behar, Jeff Garlin and Chris Rock. From 1985 to 1989 Lou DiMaggio was a regular at the iconic "Catch a Rising Star" comedy club in New York City. This documentary follows Lou as he seeks advice about his return to stand-up from small group of celebrated comedians. After all this time, can Lou rediscover his voice and once again become relevant in the world of comedy?

47 U.S. PREMIERE FEATURE FILMS (listed alphabetically)

About Us (Entonces nosotros), Costa Rica

Directed by Hernán Jiménez

Cast: Hernán Jiménez, Noelia Castaño, Marina Glezer

Diego, trying to salvage the relationship with his girlfriend, plans a beach getaway to propose and clear the air. A chance encounter turns a perfect weekend in paradise into Diego's worst nightmare.

Angry Inuk, Canada

Directed by Alethea Amaquq-Baril

Inuit director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril joins a new tech-savvy generation of Inuit as they campaign to challenge long-established perceptions of seal hunting.

At your Doorstep (Cerca de tu casa), Spain

Directed by Eduard Cortés

Cast: Sílvia Pérez Cruz, Lluís Homar, Adriana Ozores, Iván Massagué, Manuel Morón
An evicted mother, a banker with a conscience, and a police officer sing and dance in this inspiring Brechtian musical drama about maintaining hope through daily struggles and an economic crisis.

Ben Gurion: Epilogue, Israel/France

Directed by Yariv Mozer

Using newly discovered 1968 interview footage of David Ben-Gurion, this documentary reveals his prophecy and worldview while showcasing his dedication to Zionism and a life of self-examination.

The Black Pin, Montenegro/Serbia

Directed by Ivan Marinovic

Peter, a misanthropic orthodox priest, returns to his idyllic Montenegrin peninsula to nurse his demented mother. He quickly gets into a conflict with superstitious villagers who will seek creative ways to chase him away

Bluefin, Canada

Directed by John Hopkins

A passionate study of the giant bluefin tuna, the largest tuna species in the world at the brink of collapse.

By Accident (par accident), France

Directed by Camille Fontaine

Cast: Hafsia Herzi, Emilie Dequenne, Mounir Margoum

In this tense thriller, two women from very different backgrounds form a bond following a hit-and-run accident.

Carrie Pilby, USA

Directed by Susan Johnson

Cast: Bel Powley, Nathan Lane, Gabriel Byrne, Vanessa Bayer, Colin O'Donoghue, Jason Ritter
Awkward, isolated and disapproving of most of the people around her, a precocious 19-year-old genius is challenged to put her convictions to the test by venturing out into the NYC dating scene.

Codename Holec (Deckname holec), Austria/Czech Republic

Directed by Franz Novotny

Cast: Johannes Zeiler, Vica Kerekes, Kryštof Hádek, David Novotny, Gerrit Jansen, Michael Fuith

A director films the 1968 Russian invasion of Prague and, with his girlfriend, takes the film to a director in Vienna. The director knows her well, but he knows the Czech Secret Service even better.

The Constitution (Ustav Republike Hrvatske), Croatia

Directed by Rajko Grlić

Cast: Nebojša Glogovac, Ksenija Marinković, Dejan Aćimović, Božidar Smiljanić

The unlikely relationships that form in a shared apartment building reveal a series of social, political, and ethnic issues that point to larger problems, a perfect metaphor for modern-day Croatia.

The Crest, USA

Directed by Mark Christopher Covino

Featuring: Andrew Jacob, Dennis Kane

Two descendants of an Irish king journey to an island where he once presided--not to reclaim the land, but to surf the waves.

Cruelty (Grimmd), Iceland

Directed by Anton Sigurdsson

Cast: Guðrún María Bjarnadóttir, Þorsteinn Gunnar Bjarnason, Helgi Björnsson

Reykjavik, a city known for its carefree lifestyle and peaceful existence, is rocked when two sisters who have been missing for three days are found brutally murdered. The two best detectives in the police force are tasked to solve the case.

The Fixer (Fixeur), Romania

Directed by Adrian Sitaru

Cast: Tudor Aaron Istodor, Mehdi Nebbou, Nicolas Wanczycki, Diana Spatarescu, Adrian Titieni

In this charged moral drama, a headline-grabbing sex scandal gives a news network trainee a chance for his big break, forcing him to decide how far he is willing to go to get ahead.

The Fury of a Patient Man (Tarde para la ira), Spain

Directed by Raúl Arévalo

Cast: Antonio de la Torre, Luís Callejo, Ruth Díaz

A romance between a gentle Madrid laborer and a working single mother becomes a struggle for survival when the woman's violent boyfriend returns from prison.

The Gambler (El jugador), Argentina

Directed by Dan Gueller

Cast: Alejandro Awada, Pablo Rago, Guadalupe Docampo, Lali González, Esteban Bigliardi, Andrés Zurita, Oscar Alegre

When a retired gambler develops a weakness for his boss's granddaughter, trouble is a sure bet. This psychological thriller is based on the famous short novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

Godspeed, Taiwan

Directed by Chung Mong-Hong

Cast: Michael Hui, Na Dow, Leon Dai, Chung-Hua Tou, Matt Wu, Yi-Wen Chen, Vincent Liang

A Taiwanese drug mule's foolproof smuggling method is thrown out of whack when he catches a ride with the wrong cab driver. GODSPEED stars Hong Kong comedy legend Michael Hui.

Hands of a Mother (Die Hände meiner Mutter), Germany

Directed by Florian Eichinger

Cast: Andreas Döhler, Jessica Schwarz, Katrin Pollitt, Heiko Pinkowski

At a family reunion aboard a ship, Markus remembers for the first time what his mother did to him when he was a child—and Markus and his wife must confront an ugly truth.

Heal the Living (Réparer les vivants), France/Belgium - *International Gala

Directed by Katell Quillévéré

Cast: Tahar Rahim, Emmanuelle Seigner, Anne Dorval, Bouli Lanners, Kool Shen

Following the aftermath of an accident, three seemingly unrelated stories are intertwined around the moment when tragedy meets hope.

Holy Biker (Reza a Lenda), Brazil

Directed by Homero Olivetto

Cast: Cauã Reymond, Humberto Martins, Sophie Charlotte, Luisa Arraes, Júlio Andrade

Set in a lawless and arid Brazilian landscape, this edgy action film follows a gang of armed motorcyclists who risk their lives in search of a miracle to make it rain.

House of Others (Skhvisi sakhli), Georgia

Directed by Rusudan Glurjidze

Cast: Salome Demuria, Ia Sukhitashvili, Olga Dihovichnaya, Alexander Khundadze

Two families have survived a devastating civil war. Being on the winning side, they are granted the hastily vacated houses of the defeated. Unable to find peace, the battles still rage within them.

I'm Not a Rebel (Yo no soy guerrillero), Mexico

Directed by Sergio Sánchez

Cast: Juan Pablo Castañeda, Luis Arrieta, Manuel Uriza

A student hijacks a plane to save his love who has been taken by the secret police. Despite being set in a dark time in Mexico's history, this is a comedy about what it means to be a rebel.

In The Blood (I Blodet), Denmark

Directed by Rasmus Heisterberg

Cast: Kristoffer Bech, Elliott Crosset Hove, Victoria Carmen Sonne

Four students buy an apartment together in Nørrebro, Copenhagen, and move in together. We follow their 20s, their ups and downs and the loneliness they discover after they split.

Jeffrey, Dominican Republic/France

Directed by Yanillys Perez

Jeffrey is a kid from the streets of Santo Domingo who dreams of becoming a reggaeton singer. In order to achieve his goals, he must first overcome the tough realities of the world around him.

Jericó, The Infinite Flight of Days, France/Colombia

Director: Catalina Mesa

Featuring: Celina Acevedo, Cecilia Bohórquez, Laura Katherine Foronda

This colorful, poetic, and lush documentary presents an intimate view of eight women of all ages in the Colombian village of Jericó, revealing their stories, their inner lives, and their wisdom.

The Journey is the Destination, UK/South Africa/Canada

Directed by Bronwen Hughes

Cast: Ben Schnetzer, Maria Bello, Ella Purnell, Kelly Macdonald, Sam Hazeldine

This is an inspiring recreation of the life of the late Dan Eldon, a photojournalist, artist, and activist who documented the violence and famine in Somalia and the end of apartheid in South Africa..

Ken San, Japan

Directed by Yuichi Hibi

Featuring: Michael Douglas, Martin Scorsese, John Woo

This documentary is a study of Ken Takakura, often described as Japan's greatest and last movie star.

Mali Blues, Mali/Germany

Directed by Lutz Gregor

Featuring: Fatoumata Diawara, Ahmed Ag Kaedi, Bassekou Kouyaté

Mali is considered the cradle of jazz and the blues, but its rich musical tradition is threatened. After fleeing Mali as a young woman, rising music star Fatoumata Diawara returns for a concert performance.

Men of Wood & Foam, Australia

Directed by Shaun Cairns

In the 1950s and '60s, as surfing became a sport and developed a culture of its own, six enterprising friends changed the shape of Australian surfing. They were known as the Brookvale Six.

Moka, France/Switzerland

Directed by Frédéric Mermoud

Cast: Emmanuelle Devos, Nathalie Baye, David Clavel

A grieving woman pursues a couple whom she suspects of killing her son in a hit-and-run.

The Most Beautiful Day (Der geilste tag), Germany

Directed by Florian David Fitz

Cast: Matthias Schweighöfer, Florian David Fitz, Rainer Bock

Andi and Beno are terminally ill, but before each meets his end, they grab some cash and head out on a road trip in search of the most beautiful day.

My Hero Brother, Israel/India

Directed by Yonatan Nir

In this remarkable and inspiring story, a group of young people with Down syndrome embark on a demanding, two week trek through the Himalayas, accompanied by their siblings.

The Nest (Il nido), Switzerland/Italy

Directed by Klaudia Reynicke

Cast: Ondina Quadri, Fabrizio Rongione, Diego Ribon, Sonia Gessner, Luigi Diberti

Cora has returned to Bucco to help her father organize the annual Feast of the Virgin. The arrival of a mysterious man upsets the town's harmony, unearthing a crime committed 40 years ago.

Piuma, Italy

Directed by Roan Johnson

Cast: Luigi Fedele, Blu Yoshimi, Michela Cescon

An unexpected pregnancy turns a young couple's world upside down. Hesitant and tentative, Ferro and Cate must navigate the most exciting and complicated nine months of their lives, trying not to lose their purity and unique poetic air.

Pyromaniac (Pyromanen), Norway

Directed by Erik Skjoldbjærg

Cast: Trond Hjort Nilsen, Per Frisch, Liv Bernhoft Osa, Henrik Rafaelsen, Agnes Kittelsen

Nineteen-year-old Dag has recently returned to the village where his father is chief of the volunteer fire brigade. His parents notice that he has changed--and then the fires begin.

A Queer Country, UK

Directed by Lisa Morgenthau

Uncovering how liberal attitudes are often at odds with Israel's legal structure, this documentary shows what it's like to identify as LGBT in a country steeped in social and political controversy.

A Quiet Heart (Lev shaket meod), Israel

Directed by Eitan Anner

Cast: Ania Bukstein, Giorgio Lupano, Lior Lifshitz, Uri Gotlieb, Rona Lee Shimon, Irit Kaplan

A young concert pianist in Jerusalem is persecuted by ultra-religious groups. Faced with escalating isolation and violence, she must use music as a bridge to overcome towering religious barriers.

Rage (Ikari), Japan

Directed by Sang-il Lee

Cast: Ken Watanabe, Mirai Moriyama, Kenichi Matsuyama, Go Ayano, Suzu Hirose, Aoi Miyazaki, Satoshi Tsumabuki.

In this arresting ensemble thriller, a grisly unsolved murder links three seemingly unrelated stories in three different Japanese cities.

Revenge (Hevn), Norway/Canada

Directed by Kjersti Steinsbø

Cast: Siren Jørgensen, Frode Winther, Maria Bock, Anders Baasmo Christiansen, Trond Espen Seind

Rebekka sets out to confront a man who, years before, assaulted her recently deceased sister. As her plan falls apart, she must decide how far she is willing to go to seek revenge.

Shadows of Paradise, Canada

Directed by Sebastian Lange

Featuring: David Lynch, Bobby Roth

When a spiritual luminary dies, how do his devotees continue? This film documents Transcendental Meditation's metamorphosis following the passing of its founder, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

Soof 2, Netherlands

Directed by Esmé Lammers

Cast: Lies Visschedijk, Fedja van Huêt, Achmed Akkabi

After her marriage comes undone, Soof has to reinvent herself and get her tumultuous life back on track.

Tamara, Venezuela/Uruguay/Peru

Directed by Elia K. Schneider

Cast: Luis Fernández, Mimí Lazo, Prakriti Maduro, Karina Velásquez, Julie Restifo, Carlota Sosa, Tamara Adrián

A successful lawyer with a wife and two small children finally comes to terms with his neglected past and his desire to become a woman.

Tiger Theory (Teorie Tygra), Czech Republic

Directed by Radek Bajgar

Cast: Jirí Bartoska, Eliska Balzerová, Tatiana Vilhelmová

In this hugely successful tragicomedy, veterinarian Jan sets off on a last pilgrimage in search of the wild.

Tommaso (L'intelligenza del maschio), Italy

Directed by Kim Rossi Stuart

Cast: Kim Rossi Stuart, Cristiana Capotondi, Camilla Diana

In a case of eternal adolescence, a man leaves his wife and spirals further into lust and immaturity.

Water and Sugar: Carlo di Palma, The Colours of Life, Italy

Directed by Fariborz Kamkari

A galaxy of cinema luminaries, including Ken Loach, Ettore Scola, Wim Wenders and Bernardo Bertolucci, pay tribute to the great Italian cinematographer Carlo di Palma.

Welcome Home, Belgium

Directed by Philippe de Pierpont

Cast: Arthur Buysens, Martin Nissen, Harry Cleven. Claude Semal

Two teenagers have been friends since childhood. Disillusioned by life in their hometown, they escape and hide in vacant homes left by others who have gone on vacation.

Window Horses – The Poetic Persian Epiphany of Rosie Ming, Canada

Directed by Ann Marie Fleming

Cast: Ellen Page, Sandra Oh, Nancy Kwan, Shohreh Aghdashloo

In this warm and whimsical animated film, a young Canadian poet of Chinese and Persian descent navigates cultural and generational divides after being asked to perform at a poetry festival in Iran.

2017 SBIFF COMPETITION SECTIONS (listed alphabetically) - NOTE: Some films may also be cross-listed in one or more festival sidebars

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Ben Gurion: Epilogue, Israel/France - US Premiere

Directed by Yariv Mozer

Using newly discovered 1968 interview footage of David Ben-Gurion, this documentary reveals his prophecy and worldview while showcasing his dedication to Zionism and a life of self-examination.

Cradle of Champions, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Bartle Bull

Featuring: James Wilkins and Titus Williams,

Heroes, dreams, heartbreak, and redemption: the three-month urban odyssey of the New York Golden Gloves, the world's largest, oldest, most important amateur boxing tournament.

Jeffrey, Dominican Republic/France - US Premiere

Directed by Yanillys Perez

Jeffrey is a kid from the streets of Santo Domingo who dreams of becoming a reggaeton singer. In order to achieve his goals, he must first overcome the tough realities of the world around him.

Jerico, The Infinite Flight of Days, France/Colombia - US Premiere

Director: Catalina Mesa

Featuring: Celina Acevedo, Cecilia Bohórquez, Laura Katherine Foronda

This colorful, poetic, and lush documentary presents an intimate view of eight women of all ages in the Colombian village of Jericó, revealing their stories, their inner lives, and their wisdom.

John G. Avildsen: King of the Underdogs, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Derek Wayne Johnson

Featuring: Sylvester Stallone, Ralph Macchio, Burt Reynolds, Jerry Weintraub, Carl Weathers

An examination of the Oscar-winning director who brought to life some of cinema's most beloved motion pictures, including ROCKY, THE KARATE KID, and SAVE THE TIGER.

Ken San, Japan - US Premiere

Directed by Yuichi Hibi

Featuring: Michael Douglas, Martin Scorsese, John Woo

This documentary is a study of Ken Takakura, often described as Japan's greatest and last movie star.

Mabel, Mabel, Tiger Trainer, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Leslie Zemeckis

The story of Mabel Stark, the world's first female tiger trainer who claimed her love for her tigers was so great that she wanted to die in the ring.

My Hero Brother, Israel/India - US Premiere

Directed by Yonatan Nir

In this remarkable and inspiring story, a group of young people with Down syndrome embark on a demanding, two week trek through the Himalayas, accompanied by their siblings.

Rebels on Pointe, Canada/Italy/Japan/USA/UK - World Premiere

Directed by Bobbi Jo Hart

A cinéma vérité documentary that celebrates Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo -- the all male, drag ballet company founded over 40 years ago on the heels of New York's Stonewall riots.

Shadows of Paradise, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Sebastian Lange

Featuring: David Lynch, Bobby Roth

When a spiritual luminary dies, how do his devotees continue? This film documents Transcendental Meditation's metamorphosis following the passing of its founder, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

Water and Sugar: Carlo Di Palma, The Colours of Life, Italy - US Premiere

Directed by Fariborz Kamkari

A galaxy of cinema luminaries, including Ken Loach, Ettore Scola, Wim Wenders and Bernardo Bertolucci, pay tribute to the great Italian cinematographer Carlo di Palma.

Where Have You Gone Lou DiMaggio?, USA

Directed by Brad Kuhlman

Featuring: Larry David, Colin Quinn, Suzie Essman, Joy Behar, Jeff Garlin and Chris Rock.

From 1985 to 1989 Lou DiMaggio was a regular at the iconic "Catch a Rising Star" comedy club in New York City. This documentary follows Lou as he seeks advice about his return to stand-up from small group of celebrated comedians. After all this time, can Lou rediscover his voice and once again become relevant in the world of comedy?

INDEPENDENT COMPETITION

Bokeh, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Geoffrey Orthwein and Andrew Sullivan

Cast: Maika Monroe, Matt O'Leary

When a couple on vacation in Iceland wake up to find that everyone has disappeared, they begin to question everything they know about themselves and the world.

Carrie Pilby, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Susan Johnson

Cast: Bel Powley, Nathan Lane, Gabriel Byrne, Vanessa Bayer, Colin O'Donoghue, Jason Ritter, William Moseley

Awkward, isolated and disapproving of most of the people around her, a precocious 19-year-old genius is challenged to put her convictions to the test by venturing out into the NYC dating scene.

Different Flowers, USA

Directed by Morgan Dameron

Cast: Shelley Long, Emma Bell, Hope Lauren, Rob Mayes, Sterling Knight

Millie and Emma are sisters with a rocky relationship who bring out the best and worst in each other. When Emma helps Millie run out on her big Kansas City wedding, they embark on an adventure neither could have anticipated.

The Good Catholic, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Paul Shoulberg

Cast: Danny Glover, John C. McGinley, Zachary Spicer, Wrenn Schmidt

Daniel loved his job as a small town priest more than anything. Then he met Jane. God help him.

Grass Stains, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Kyle Wilamowski

Cast: Kaitlyn Dever, Pablo Schreiber, Tye Sheridan

A teenager must balance the emotions he feels falling in love for the first time with the guilt he holds for the death of his girlfriend's older brother in a prank gone awry.

The Journey is the Destination, UK/South Africa/Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Bronwen Hughes

Cast: Ben Schnetzer, Maria Bello, Ella Purnell, Kelly Macdonald, Sam Hazeldine

This is an inspiring recreation of the life of the late Dan Eldon, a photojournalist, artist, and activist who documented the violence and famine in Somalia and the end of apartheid in South Africa.

Little Pink House, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Courtney Moorehead Balaker

Cast: Catherine Keener, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Callum Rennie

Based on a true story, a small-town nurse defends her home and the blue-collar neighborhood she loves against white-collar power brokers.

September 12th, USA - World Premiere

Directed by David Heinz

Cast: Joe Purdy, Amber Rubarth, Krisha Fairchild

Two strangers, both folk musicians stranded in California, take a road trip to New York in the days after 9/11. A story about the kindness of strangers and the power of music.

Sleepwalker, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Elliott Lester

Cast: Richard Armitage, Kevin Zegers, Haley Joel Osment, Izabella Scorupco, Ahna O'Reilly

A woman reconstructs her life after the apparent suicide of her novelist husband, but is met with terrifying and frequent bouts of sleepwalking.

That's Not Me, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Gregory Erdstein

Cast: Alice Foulcher, Isabel Lucas, Richard Davies, Belinda Missevski, Rowan Davie

When Amy is mistaken for her successful twin sister, she decides to take advantage of the situation--with disastrous consequences for them both. Sometimes success and failure look identical.

Window Horses – The Poetic Persian Epiphany of Rosie Ming, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Ann Marie Fleming

Cast: Ellen Page, Sandra Oh, Nancy Kwan, Shohreh Aghdashloo

In this warm and whimsical animated film, a young Canadian poet of Chinese and Persian descent navigates cultural and generational divides after being asked to perform at a poetry festival in Iran.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The Black Pin (Iгла ispod praga), Montenegro/Serbia - US Premiere

Directed by Ivan Marinovic

Cast: Nikola Ristanovski, Bogdan Diklic, Jelisaveta 'Seka' Sabli, Filip Klicov

Peter, a misanthropic orthodox priest returns to his idyllic Montenegrin peninsula to nurse his demented mother. He quickly gets into a conflict with superstitious villagers who will seek creative ways to chase him away.

Codename Holec (Deckname holec), Austria/Czech Republic - US Premiere

Directed by Franz Novotny

Cast: Johannes Zeiler, Vica Kerekes, Kryštof Hádek, David Novotny, Gerrit Jansen, Michael Fuith

A director films the 1968 Russian invasion of Prague and, with his girlfriend, takes the film to a director in Vienna. The director knows her well, but he knows the Czech Secret Service even better.

The Constitution (Ustav Republike Hrvatske), Croatia - US Premiere

Directed by Rajko Grlić

Cast: Nebojša Glogovac, Ksenija Marinković, Dejan Aćimović, Božidar Smiljanić

The unlikely relationships that form in a shared apartment building reveal a series of social, political, and ethnic issues that point to larger problems, a perfect metaphor for modern-day Croatia.

The Fixer (Fixeur), Romania - US Premiere

Directed by Adrian Sitaru

Cast: Tudor Aaron Istodor, Mehdi Nebbou, Nicolas Wanczycki, Diana Spatarescu, Adrian Titieni

In this charged moral drama, a headline-grabbing sex scandal gives a news network trainee a chance for his big break, forcing him to decide how far he is willing to go to get ahead.

Godspeed, Taiwan - US Premiere

Directed by Chung Mong-Hong

Cast: Michael Hui, Na Dow, Leon Dai, Chung-Hua Tou, Matt Wu, Yi-Wen Chen, Vincent Liang, Vithaya Pansringarm

A Taiwanese drug mule's foolproof smuggling method is thrown out of whack when he catches a ride with the wrong cab driver. GODSPEED stars Hong Kong comedy legend Michael Hui.

Hands of a Mother (Die hände meiner mutter), Germany - US Premiere

Directed by Florian Eichinger

Cast: Andreas Döhler, Jessica Schwarz, Katrin Pollitt, Heiko Pinkowski

At a family reunion aboard a ship, Markus remembers for the first time what his mother did to him when he was a child—and Markus and his wife must confront an ugly truth.

House of Others (Skhvisi sakhli), Georgia - US Premiere

Directed by Rusudan Glurjidze

Cast: Salome Demuria, Ia Sukhitashvili, Olga Dihovichnaya, Alexander Khundadze, Malkhaz Jorbenadze, Sabina Akhmedova, Zurab Magalashvili

Two families have survived a devastating civil war. Being on the winning side, they are granted the hastily vacated houses of the defeated. Unable to find peace, the battles still rage within them.

The Nest (Il nido), Switzerland/Italy - US Premiere

Directed by Klaudia Reynicke

Cast: Ondina Quadri, Fabrizio Rongione, Diego Ribon, Sonia Gessner, Luigi Diberti, Giovanni Franzoni

Cora has returned to Bucco to help her father organize the annual Feast of the Virgin. The arrival of a mysterious man upsets the town's harmony, unearthing a crime committed 40 years ago.

A Quiet Heart (Lev shaket meod), Israel - US Premiere

Directed by Eitan Anner

Cast: Ania Bukstein, Giorgio Lupano, Lior Lifshitz, Uri Gotlieb, Rona Lee Shimon, Irit Kaplan, Ludi Boken, Yoav Levi

A young concert pianist in Jerusalem is persecuted by ultra-religious groups. Faced with escalating isolation and violence, she must use music as a bridge to overcome towering religious barriers.

Rage (Ikari), Japan - US Premiere

Directed by Sang-il Lee

Cast: Ken Watanabe, Mirai Moriyama, Kenichi Matsuyama, Go Ayano, Suzu Hirose, Aoi Miyazaki, Satoshi Tsumabuki.

In this arresting ensemble thriller, a grisly unsolved murder links three seemingly unrelated stories in three different Japanese cities.

Tiger Theory (Teorie Tygra), Czech Republic - US Premiere

Directed by Radek Bajgar

Cast: Jirí Bartoska, Eliska Balzerová, Tatiana Vilhelmová

In this hugely successful tragicomedy, veterinarian Jan sets off on a last pilgrimage in search of the wild.

Tommaso (L'intelligenza del maschio), Italy - US Premiere

Directed by Kim Rossi Stuart

Cast: Kim Rossi Stuart, Cristiana Capotondi, Camilla Diana

In a case of eternal adolescence, a man leaves his wife and spirals further into lust and immaturity.

NORDIC CINEMA COMPETITION

In the Blood (I Blodet), Denmark - US Premiere

Directed by Rasmus Heisterberg

Cast: Kristoffer Bech, Elliott Crosset Hove, Victoria Carmen Sonne

Four students buy an apartment together in Nørrebro, Copenhagen, and move in together. We follow their 20s, their ups and downs and the loneliness they discover after they split.

Cruelty (Grimmd), Iceland - US Premiere

Directed by Anton Sigurdsson

Cast: Guðrún María Bjarnadóttir, Þorsteinn Gunnar Bjarnason, Helgi Björnsson

Reykjavik, a city known for its carefree lifestyle and peaceful existence, is rocked when two sisters who have been missing for three days are found brutally murdered. The two best detectives in the police force are tasked to solve the case.

Pyromaniac (Pyromanen), Norway - US Premiere

Directed by Erik Skjoldbjærg

Cast: Trond Hjordt Nilsen, Per Frisch, Liv Bernhoft Osa, Henrik Rafaelsen, Agnes Kittelsen

Nineteen-year-old Dag has recently returned to the village where his father is chief of the volunteer fire brigade. His parents notice that he has changed--and then the fires begin.

Revenge (Hevn), Norway/Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Kjersti Steinsbø

Cast: Siren Jørgensen, Frode Winther, Maria Bock, Anders Baasmo Christiansen, Trond Espen Seind

Rebekka sets out to confront a man who, years before, assaulted her recently deceased sister. As her plan falls apart, she must decide how far she is willing to go to seek revenge.

Sami Blood (Sameblod), Sweden/Denmark/Norway

Directed by Amanda Kernell

Cast: Lene Cecilia Sparrok, Maj-Doris Rimpi, Hanna Alström, Anders Berg, Latarina Blind

A Sámi girl in the 1930s is removed from her family and sent to a state boarding school intended to raise its Indigenous people to a level deemed "acceptable" to the rest of Swedish society.

Strawberry Days (Jordgubbslandet), Sweden - World Premiere

Directed by Wiktor Ericsson

Cast: Nelly Axelsson, Stanislaw Cywka, Julia Kijowska, Przemyslaw Sadowski, Torkel Petersson

15-year-old Wojtek travels to Sweden from Poland with his parents to work on a farm picking strawberries. He encounters a dark underworld where foreign guest workers are exploited by indifferent Swedes. But against all odds he forms a connection with the farmer's daughter.

SOCIAL JUSTICE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Angry Inuk, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Alethea Amaquq-Baril

Inuit director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril joins a new tech-savvy generation of Inuit as they campaign to challenge long-established perceptions of seal hunting.

The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe, Australia - US Premiere

Directed by Ros Horin

A group of traumatised former refugees in Sydney take on the risky challenge of creating and performing in a piece of theatre about their lives. In the process they are transformed, empowered and healed; and their play triumphs.

Bluefin, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by John Hopkins

A passionate study of the giant bluefin tuna, the largest tuna species in the world at the brink of collapse.

Breaking Point: The War for Democracy in Ukraine, USA/Ukraine

Directed by Mark Jonathan Harris and Oles Sanin

When their country is invaded by Russia, Ukrainians of all backgrounds rally to the country's defense, creating a new sense of Ukrainian nationhood in the process.

Gaza Surf Club, USA

Directed by Philip Gnadet and Mickey Yamine

Cast: Sabah Abu Ghanem, Mohammed Abu Jayab, Ibrahim Arafat

Sick of occupation and political gridlock, the surfers of the Gaza Strip find their own taste of personal freedom in the waves of the Mediterranean.

Gulistan, Land of Roses, Canada

Directed by Zaynê Akyol

In the mountains and deserts of Kurdistan, female PKK guerrillas are fighting ISIS. In this startling and intimate and immersive documentary, these revolutionary women invite us into their daily lives, speak frankly about their ideals and share reflections on their world.

Island Earth, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Cyrus Sutton

A revealing documentary that follows the lives of Native Hawaiians to explore the realities of a food supply that are increasingly controlled by large corporate interests.

Kangaroo, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Kate McIntyre Clere and Mick McIntyre

A documentary that reveals the unsettling truth about Australia's love-hate relationship with its national icon.

Mali Blues, Mali/Germany - US Premiere

Directed by Lutz Gregor

Featuring: Fatoumata Diawara, Ahmed Ag Kaedi, Bassekou Kouyaté

Mali is considered the cradle of jazz and the blues, but its rich musical tradition is threatened.

After fleeing Mali as a young woman, rising music star Fatoumata Diawara returns for a concert performance.

A Queer Country, UK - US Premiere

Directed by Lisa Morgenthau

Uncovering how liberal attitudes are often at odds with Israel's legal structure, this documentary shows what it's like to identify as LGBT in a country steeped in social and political controversy.

A Revolution in Four Seasons, USA

Directed by Jessie Deeter

Cast: Jawhara Ettis, Emma Ben Jemaa

This seminal film tells the story of two women with opposing political views fighting for their different versions of a democratic future for Tunisia, the country that sparked the Arab Spring.

Tribal Justice, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Anne Makepeace

Two tribal court judges create innovative justice systems, striving to reduce incarceration rates by restoring rather than punishing offenders, while providing a model of restorative justice in action.

SPAIN/LATIN AMERICA CINEMA COMPETITION

About Us (Entonces nosotros), Costa Rica - US Premiere

Directed by Hernán Jiménez

Cast: Hernán Jiménez, Noelia Castaño, Marina Glezer

Diego, trying to salvage the relationship with his girlfriend, plans a beach getaway to propose and clear the air. A chance encounter turns a perfect weekend in paradise into Diego's worst nightmare.

At your Doorstep (Cerca de tu casa), Argentina - US Premiere

Directed by Eduard Cortés

Cast: Sílvia Pérez Cruz, Lluís Homar, Adriana Ozores, Iván Massagué, Manuel Morón, Iván Benet, Oriol Vila

An evicted mother, a banker with a conscience, and a police officer sing and dance in this inspiring Brechtian musical drama about maintaining hope through daily struggles and an economic crisis.

The Fury of a Patient Man (Tarde para la ira), Spain - US Premiere

Directed by Raúl Arévalo

Cast: Antonio de la Torre, Luís Callejo, Ruth Díaz

A romance between a gentle Madrid laborer and a working single mother becomes a struggle for survival when the woman's violent boyfriend returns from prison.

The Gambler (El jugador), Argentina - US Premiere

Directed by Dan Gueller

Cast: Alejandro Awada, Pablo Rago, Guadalupe Docampo, Lali González, Esteban Bigliardi, Andrés Zurita, Oscar Alegre

When a retired gambler develops a weakness for his boss's granddaughter, trouble is a sure bet. This psychological thriller is based on the famous short novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

Holy Biker (Reza a Lenda), Brazil - US Premiere

Directed by Homero Olivetto

Cast: Cauã Reymond, Humberto Martins, Sophie Charlotte, Luisa Arraes, Júlio Andrade, Silvia Buarque, Jesuíta Barbosa, Jonathan Azevedo

Set in a lawless and arid Brazilian landscape, this edgy action film follows a gang of armed motorcyclists who risk their lives in search of a miracle to make it rain.

I'm Not a Rebel (Yo no soy guerrillero), Mexico - US Premiere

Directed by Sergio Sánchez

Cast: Juan Pablo Castañeda, Luis Arrieta, Manuel Uriza

Orbiter 9 (Órbita 9), Spain - World Premiere

Directed by Hatem Khraiche Ruiz-Zorrill

Cast: Clara Lago, Álex González, Belén Rueda

A young woman on a deep space mission has her life turned upside down by a chance encounter with an isolated engineer.

Tamara, Venezuela/Uruguay/Paraguay - US Premiere

Directed by Elia K. Schneider

Cast: Luis Fernández, Mimí Lazo, Prakriti Maduro, Karina Velásquez, Julie Restifo, Carlota Sosa, Tamara Adrián

A successful lawyer with a wife and two small children finally comes to terms with his neglected past and his desire to become a woman.

2017 SBIFF SIDEBARS (listed alphabetically) - NOTE: Some films may be cross-listed in more than one festival sidebar

ABOVE AND BEYOND: A selection of exhilarating documentaries that capture the adventure, beauty and thrill of surfing.

Bunker 77, USA

Directed by Takuji Masuda

Featuring: Laird Hamilton, Tony Alva, Johnny Knoxville, C.R. Stecyk III, Art Brewer

In a tribute to "Bunker" Spreckles, a hedonistic '70s surf punk known for his colorful antics, this documentary features archival footage and interviews with Laird Hamilton, Tony Alva, and Johnny Knoxville.

The Crest, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Mark Christopher Covino

Featuring: Andrew Jacob, Dennis Kane

Two descendants of an Irish king journey to an island where he once presided--not to reclaim the land, but to surf the waves.

Gaza Surf Club, USA

Directed by Philip Gnadl and Mickey Yamine

Featuring: Sabah Abu Ghanem, Mohammed Abu Jayab, Ibrahim Arafat

Sick of occupation and political gridlock, the surfers of the Gaza Strip find their own taste of personal freedom in the waves of the Mediterranean.

Given, USA

Directed by Jess Bianchi

Featuring: Aamion Goodwin, Daize Goodwin, Given Goodwin, True Goodwin

Seen through a child's eyes, Given's family explores world cultures while surfing along the way. This deeply moving film offers a humbling contrast of a small voice traveling through a big world.

Men of Wood & Foam, Australia - US Premiere

Directed by Shaun Cairns

Featuring: Midget Farrelly, Nat Young, Bob McTavish, The Brookvale Six: Gordon Woods, Scott Dillon, Denny Keogh, Bill Wallace, Barry Bennett, Greg McDonagh

In the 1950s and '60s, as surfing became a sport and developed a culture of its own, six enterprising friends changed the shape of Australian surfing. They were known as the Brookvale Six.

APPLEBOX: A series of free award-winning animated films for families.

Finding Dory, USA

Directed by Andrew Stanton, Angus MacLane

Featuring: Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks, Ed O'Neill

The friendly but forgetful blue tang fish begins a search for her long-lost parents, and everyone learns a few things about the real meaning of family along the way.

Moana, USA

Directed Ron Clements, John Musker

Featuring: Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Rachel House

In Ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse incurred by the Demigod Maui reaches an impetuous Chieftain's daughter's island, she answers the Ocean's call to seek out the Demigod to set things right.

Zootopia, USA

Directed by Byron Howard, Rich Moore

Featuring: Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Idris Elba

In a city of anthropomorphic animals, a rookie bunny cop and a cynical con artist fox must work together to uncover a conspiracy.

CINEMATIC OVERTURES: A selection of films that showcase the world of performance including music, theater and dance.

At your Doorstep (Cerca de tu casa), Argentina - US Premiere

Directed by Eduard Cortés

Cast: Sílvia Pérez Cruz, Lluís Homar, Adriana Ozores, Iván Massagué, Manuel Morón, Iván Benet, Oriol Vila

An evicted mother, a banker with a conscience, and a police officer sing and dance in this inspiring Brechtian musical drama about maintaining hope through daily struggles and an economic crisis.

The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe, Australia - US Premiere

Directed by Ros Horin

A group of traumatised former refugees in Sydney take on the risky challenge of creating and performing in a piece of theatre about their lives. In the process they are transformed, empowered and healed; and their play triumphs.

Harmonia, Israel

Directed by Ori Sivan

Cast: Tali Sharon, Alon Moni Aboutboul, Yana Yossef, Ali Suliman, Itai Shcherback, Tamir Tavor, Liron Amram

Inspired by a biblical story from the book of Genesis, HARMONIA is a feminine interpretation of the story of the “mothers” and their two half brother boys. By that, challenging the metaphorical origin of the historic clash between the two conflicted peoples, now seeking harmony through the world of classical music.

Indivisible (Indivisibili), Italy

Directed by Edoardo de Angelis

Cast: Angela Fontana, Marianna Fontana, Antonia Truppo, Antonio Pennarella, Peppe Servillo, Gaetano Bruno, Gianfranco Gallo, Massimiliano Rossi, Marco Mario de Notaris

Teenage conjoined twins, blessed with beautiful voices, are exploited by their father as an entertainment act. They face an emotional decision when a doctor claims he can separate them.

Jeffrey, Dominican Republic/France - US Premiere

Directed by Yanillys Perez

Jeffrey is a kid from the streets of Santo Domingo who dreams of becoming a reggaeton singer. In order to achieve his goals, he must first overcome the tough realities of the world around him.

King of the Dancehall, USA

Directed by Nick Cannon

Cast: Nick Cannon, Whoopi Goldberg, Busta Rhymes, Kimberly Patterson

Nick Cannon directs and stars in this high-energy musical about a young man from Brooklyn who gets caught up in the vibrant Kingston music scene during a visit to Jamaica.

Mali Blues, Mali/Germany - US Premiere

Directed by Lutz Gregor

Cast: Fatoumata Diawara, Ahmed Ag Kaedi, Bassekou Kouyaté

Mali is considered the cradle of jazz and the blues, but its rich musical tradition is threatened. After fleeing Mali as a young woman, rising music star Fatoumata Diawara returns for a concert performance.

Rebels on Pointe, Canada/Italy/Japan/USA/UK - World Premiere

Directed by Bobbi Jo Hart

A cinéma vérité documentary that celebrates Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo -- the all male, drag ballet company founded over 40 years ago on the heels of New York's Stonewall riots.

Score, USA

Directed by Matt Schrader

This documentary brings Hollywood's premier composers together to give viewers a privileged look inside the musical challenges and creative secrecy of the world's most widely known music genre: the film score.

Featuring: Hans Zimmer, Danny Elfman, John Williams, Trent Reznor, James Cameron, Randy Newman, Quincy Jones, Howard Shore

CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA: An international selection of feature films out of competition.

1:54, Canada

Directed by Yan England

Cast: Antoine Olivier Pilon, Sophie Nélisse, Lou-Pascal Tremblay, David Boutin, Patrice Godin, Robert Naylor, Anthony Therrien, Guillaume Gauthier

Tim, a high school student and science geek, tries to avoid provoking the local bullies. But when his only friend and crush meets tragedy at their hands, Tim decides to take his own revenge.

Godless (Bezbog), Bulgaria/Denmark/France

Directed by Ralitza Petrova

Cast: Irena Ivanova, Ivan Nalbantov, Ventsislav Konstantinov, Alexandr Trifonov, Dimitar Petkov

A Bulgarian physiotherapist, struggling to survive, forms a friendship with an elderly patient. This sublime morality play explores the corruptibility of the spirit and the possibility of atonement.

Glory (Slava), Bulgaria/Greece

Directed by Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov

Cast: Stefan Denolyubov, Margita Gosheva

After a railroad worker finds and turns in a large sum of cash abandoned on the tracks, the state rewards him with a new wristwatch. He soon finds himself in the middle of a corruption scandal, used by PR executives to plot a diversion.

In Between (Bar bahar), Israel/France

Directed by Maysaloun Hamoud

Cast: Mouna Hawa, Shaden Kanboura, Sana Jammeli

Three Palestinian women sharing an apartment in the vibrant heart of Tel Aviv find themselves doing the same balancing act between tradition and modernity, citizenship and culture, fealty and freedom.

Little Wing (Tyttö nimeltä Varpu), Finland

Directed by Selma Vilhunen

Cast: Linnea Skog, Paula Vesala, Lauri Majjala

In this sharp and touching portrait of adolescence from Oscar-nominated Finnish filmmaker Selma Vilhunen, a 12-year-old girl sets out on an impromptu quest to find her birth father.

Moka, France/Switzerland - US Premiere

Directed by Frédéric Mermoud

Cast: Emmanuelle Devos, Nathalie Baye, David Clavel

A grieving woman pursues a couple whom she suspects of killing her son in a hit-and-run.

The Most Beautiful Day (Der geilste tag), Germany - US Premiere

Directed by Florian David Fitz

Cast: Matthias Schweighöfer, Florian David Fitz, Rainer Bock

Andi and Beno are terminally ill, but before each meets his end, they grab some cash and head out on a road trip in search of the most beautiful day.

Oath, The (Eiðurinn)

Directed by Baltasar Kormákur

Cast: Hera Hilmar, Baltasar Kormákur, Gísli Örn Garðarsson

A father tries to pull his daughter out of her world of drugs and petty crime, only to find that danger can be found in the most unexpected of places.

One Night of Love (Una noche de amor)

Directed by Hernán Guerschuny

Cast: Sebastián Wainraich, Carla Peterson, Rafael Spregelburd, María Carámbula, Justina Bustos, Soledad Silveyra

Leo and Paula, married for twelve years, go out for a rare evening without the kids. By the end of the night, they ask whether to fix their marriage—or to go their separate ways.

Piuma, Italy - US Premiere

Directed by Roan Johnson

Cast: Luigi Fedele, Blu Yoshimi, Michela Cescon

An unexpected pregnancy turns a young couple's world upside down. Hesitant and tentative, Ferro and Cate must navigate the most exciting and complicated nine months of their lives, trying not to lose their purity and unique poetic air.

The Shepherd (El pastor)

Directed by Jonathan Cenxual Burley

Cast: Maribel Iglesias, Miguel Martín, Alfonso Mendiguchía

A lonely shepherd's home and way of life is threatened when building promoters become interested in his land.

Soul on a String, China

Directed by Yan Zhang

Cast: Quni Ciren, Kimba, Siano Dudiom Zahl

A killer is entrusted with a sacred mission.

The Teacher (Ucitelka), Slovakia/Czech Republic

Directed by Jan Hrebejk

Cast: Zuzana Mauréry, Zuzana Konečná, Csongor Kassai

Allegations are made against a seemingly empathetic, kind, and amiable-looking teacher, claiming that she uses her students to manipulate their parents into providing her with minor handyman assistance, unearned material comforts, and even a love affair.

This Beautiful Fantastic, UK

Directed by Simon About

Cast: Jessica Brown Findlay, Andrew Scott, Jeremy Irvine

A young woman who dreams of being a children's author makes an unlikely friendship with a cantankerous, rich old widower.

CRIME SCENES: An international selection of crime thrillers and neo-noirs filled with gritty underworlds and moral nihilists.

At the End of the Tunnel (Al final del túnel), Argentina

Directed by Rodrigo Grande

Cast: Leonardo Sbaraglia, Clara Lago, Pablo Echarrri, Federico Luppi, Javier Godino

Crippled by an accident, paraplegic Joaquin uses his tech wizardry to discover that his neighbors are digging a tunnel in order to rob the bank next to his apartment.

By Accident (Par accident), France - US Premiere

Directed by Camille Fontaine

Cast: Hafsia Herzi, Emilie Dequenne, Mounir Margoum

In this tense thriller, two women from very different backgrounds form a bond following a hit-and-run accident.

Cruelty (Grimmd), Iceland - US Premiere

Directed by Anton Sigurdsson

Cast: Guðrún María Bjarnadóttir, Þorsteinn Gunnar Bjarnason, Helgi Björnsson

Reykjavik, a city known for its carefree lifestyle and peaceful existence, is rocked when two sisters who have been missing for three days are found brutally murdered. The two best detectives in the police force are tasked to solve the case.

Godless (Bezbož), Bulgaria/Denmark/France

Directed by Ralitzza Petrova

Cast: Irena Ivanova, Ivan Nalbantov, Ventsislav Konstantinov, Alexandr Trifonov, Dimitar Petkov

A Bulgarian physiotherapist, struggling to survive, forms a friendship with an elderly patient. This sublime morality play explores the corruptibility of the spirit and the possibility of atonement.

Godspeed, Taiwan - US Premiere

Directed by Chung Mong-Hong

Cast: Michael Hui, Na Dow, Leon Dai, Chung-Hua Tou, Matt Wu, Yi-Wen Chen, Vincent Liang, Vithaya Pansringarm

A Taiwanese drug mule's foolproof smuggling method is thrown out of whack when he catches a ride with the wrong cab driver. GODSPEED stars Hong Kong comedy legend Michael Hui.

Holy Biker (Reza a Lenda), Brazil - US Premiere

Directed by Homero Olivetto

Cast: Cauã Reymond, Humberto Martins, Sophie Charlotte, Luisa Arraes, Júlio Andrade, Silvia Buarque, Jesuíta Barbosa, Jonathan Azevedo

Set in a lawless and arid Brazilian landscape, this edgy action film follows a gang of armed motorcyclists who risk their lives in search of a miracle to make it rain.

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Directed by Frédéric Mermoud

Cast: Emmanuelle Devos, Nathalie Baye, David Clavel

A grieving woman pursues a couple whom she suspects of killing her son in a hit-and-run.

Rage (Ikari), Japan - US Premiere

Directed by Sang-il Lee

Cast: Ken Watanabe, Mirai Moriyama, Kenichi Matsuyama, Go Ayano, Suzu Hirose, Aoi Miyazaki, Satoshi Tsumabuki.

In this arresting ensemble thriller, a grisly unsolved murder links three seemingly unrelated stories in three different Japanese cities.

Welcome Home, Belgium - US Premiere

Directed by Philippe de Pierpont

Cast: Arthur Buysens, Martin Nissen, Harry Cleven. Claude Semal

Two teenagers have been friends since childhood. Disillusioned by life in their hometown, they escape and hide in vacant homes left by others who have gone on vacation.

KOLNOA: A selection of feature films and documentaries that examine Israel from a variety of diverse historical, cultural and political perspectives.

Ben Gurion: Epilogue, Israel/France - US Premiere

Directed by Yariv Mozer

Using newly discovered 1968 interview footage of David Ben-Gurion, this documentary reveals his prophecy and worldview while showcasing his dedication to Zionism and a life of self-examination.

Dimona Twist, Israel

Directed by Michal Aviad

This stunning documentary focuses on women from North Africa and Poland who journeyed to Israel by ship in the 1950s and 1960s and were sent to Dimona.

Harmonia, Israel

Directed by Ori Sivan

Cast: Tali Sharon, Alon Moni Aboutboul, Yana Yossef, Ali Suliman, Itai Shcherback, Tamir Tavor, Liron Amram

Inspired by a biblical story from the book of Genesis, HARMONIA is a feminine interpretation of the story of the “mothers” and their two half brother boys. By that, challenging the metaphorical origin of the historic clash between the two conflicted peoples, now seeking harmony through the world of classical music.

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Cast: Mouna Hawa, Shaden Kanboura, Sana Jammeli

Three Palestinian women sharing an apartment in the vibrant heart of Tel Aviv find themselves doing the same balancing act between tradition and modernity, citizenship and culture, fealty and freedom.

My Hero Brother, Israel/India - US Premiere

Directed by Yonatan Nir

In this remarkable and inspiring story, a group of young people with Down syndrome embark on a demanding, two week trek through the Himalayas, accompanied by their siblings.

A Queer Country, UK - US Premiere

Directed by Lisa Morgenthau

Uncovering how liberal attitudes are often at odds with Israel's legal structure, this documentary shows what it's like to identify as LGBT in a country steeped in social and political controversy.

REEL NATURE: A selection of natural history documentaries that highlight key issues facing the environment and wildlife.

Bluefin, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by John Hopkins

A passionate study of the giant bluefin tuna, the largest tuna species in the world at the brink of collapse.

The Cat that Changed America, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Tony Lee

This documentary explores the plight of P22, a celebrated mountain lion in Los Angeles who became trapped in Griffith Park after crossing two of the busiest freeways in North America, the 405 and the 101.

Gaviota: The End of Southern California, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Shaw Leonard

In a monumental collaboration of artists, activists, and environmental organizations, this film documents the last remaining 20 miles of wild coastline in Southern California and the wildlife that thrives there.

Kangaroo, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Mick McIntyre and Kate McIntyre Clere

A documentary that reveals the unsettling truth about Australia's love-hate relationship with its beloved icon, and uncovers the largest mass destruction of wildlife anywhere in the world.

Sixteen Legs, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Niall Doran and Justin Smith

As the world rapidly descends into the next period of global mass extinction, a message of hope comes from an unlikely hero: a creature, often reviled, that has survived previous mass extinctions and climatic change in a magical ecosystem hidden beneath one of the world's last great wildernesses.

The Vervet Forest, USA/South Africa - World Premiere

Directed by Kyle Salazar

The story of five orphaned baby monkeys in South Africa and the struggle to save their home.

SANTA BARBARA FEATURES: A selection of films that are directed by Santa Barbara filmmakers or feature key issues in the local community.

Every 40 Years, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Eric Goldrich and Benjamin Friedberg

Gunhill Road returns to music 40 years after breaking into the Billboard Top 40 charts. EVERY 40 YEARS is about second chances and the power of chasing your dreams one more time.

The Gateway Bug, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Johanna B. Kelly

Over 2 billion people on earth eat insects for protein. THE GATEWAY BUG explores how changing daily eating habits can feed humanity in an uncertain age, one meal at a time.

Gaviota: The End of Southern California, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Shaw Leonard

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Lives Well Lived, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Sky Bergman

Forty people aged 75 to 100, with a collective life experience of 3000 years, share their secrets, wit, and wisdom on how to live a meaningful life.

Seraphonium Live!, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Byl Carruthers

Over 40 Santa Barbara musicians perform the genre-bending Debut Album by Monte Schulz's 'Seraphonium', in a Sold-Out performance, at Santa Barbara's Marjorie Luke Theater.

SCREEN CUISINE: An international selection of feature films and documentaries that examine the cultural layers of cuisine.

Arrangiarsi: Pizza...& the Art of Living, USA/Italy - World Premiere

Directed by Matteo Troncone

When Matteo's life falls apart, he moves into a 1985 VW van, traces his roots to Naples, birthplace of pizza, and discovers "arrangiarsi," the art of making something from nothing. He realizes he's not only "living the film," but needs to master arrangiarsi to survive.

Cafe Nagler, Germany/Israel

Directed by Mor Kaplansky, Yariv Barel

The director embarks on a journey to reveal the story behind the legendary Café Nagler, owned by her family during the 1920s in Berlin, and finds that historical truths can be overrated.

Ella Brennan: Commanding a Table, USA

Directed by Leslie Iwerks

Featuring: Emeril Lagasse, Danny Meyer, Tim and Nina Zagat, Daniel Boulud, Jeremiah Tower
With the success of New Orleans iconic establishment Commander's Palace, restaurateurs and chefs from all walks of life credit the important role chef Ella Brennan has played in building and enhancing American cooking and hospitality.

The Gateway Bug, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Johanna B. Kelly

Over 2 billion people on earth eat insects for protein. THE GATEWAY BUG explores how changing daily eating habits can feed humanity in an uncertain age, one meal at a time.

Island Earth, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Cyrus Sutton

A revealing documentary that follows the lives of Native Hawaiians to explore the realities of a food supply that are increasingly controlled by large corporate interests.

Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificent, USA/Mexico

Directed by Lydia Tenaglia

Featuring: Mario Batali, Anthony Bourdain, Francesca De Luca

Both a biopic of a complicated man and an exploration of the gathering forces that converged to shape a new American cuisine and create the cult of "celebrity chef"... A consummate hedonist, Jeremiah Tower's career spans the riotous sexual revolution of the 70's to the high rolling "greed-is-good" spirit of the '80s.

Liberty in a Soup, Haiti/USA - World Premiere

Directed by Dudley Alexis

Every New Year, in celebration of Independence Day, Haitian families feast on joumou soup. The soup represents war and victory, oppression and freedom, and the celebratory traditions of Haitian culture.

Soof 2, Netherlands - US Premiere

Directed by Esmé Lammers

Cast: Lies Visschedijk, Fedja van Huêt, Achmed Akkabi

After her marriage comes undone, Soof has to reinvent herself and get her tumultuous life back on track.

Theater of Life, Canada

Directed by Peter Svatek

An extraordinary soup kitchen in Milan - the Refettorio Ambrosiano - run by internationally renowned chef Massimo Bottura and 40 of the world's best chefs. All food served was made from the food waste of Expo Milano 2015. The film also tells the compelling story of several of the refugees and homeless the Refettorio served.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: A selection of international award winning feature films and documentaries.

Afterimage, Poland

Directed by Andrzej Wajda

Cast: Boguslaw Linda, Aleksandra Justa

The last movie of Andrzej Wajda tells the story of one of the best artists of the 20th Century, Wladyslaw Strzeminski, who battled Stalinist orthodoxy and his own physical impairments to advance his progressive ideas about art.

Chasing Trane: The John Coltrane Documentary, USA

Directed by John Scheinfeld

Featuring: Denzel Washington, Wynton Marsalis, Sonny Rollins

The documentary explores the global power and impact of the music of John Coltrane and reveals the passions, experiences and forces that shaped his life and revolutionary sounds.

The Commune, Denmark/Sweden/Netherlands

Directed by Thomas Vinterberg

Cast: Fares Fares, Ulrich Thomsen, Trine Dyrholm

A story about the clash between personal desires, solidarity and tolerance in a Danish commune in the 70's.

The Distinguished Citizen, Argentina/Spain

Directed by Gastón Duprat, Mariano Cohn

Cast: Oscar Martínez, Dady Brieva, Andrea Frigerio

After refusing big and prestigious awards all over the world, Mr. Mantovani, Literature Nobel Prize winner, accepts an invitation to visit his hometown in Argentina, which has been the inspiration for all of his books. It turns out that accepting this invitation is the worse idea of his life.

I Am Not Your Negro, USA

Directed by Raoul Peck

Featuring: James Baldwin, Raoul Peck

Writer James Baldwin tells the story of race in modern America with his unfinished novel, Remember This House.

Indivisible, Italy

Directed by Edoardo De Angelis

Cast: Angela Fontana, Marianna Fontana, Antonia Truppo

Teenage conjoined twins, blessed with beautiful voices, are exploited by their father as an entertainment act. They face an emotional decision when a doctor claims he can separate them.

Land of Mine, Denmark/Germany

Directed by Martin Zandvliet

Cast: Roland Møller, Louis Hofmann, Joel Basman

A young group of German POWs are made the enemy of a nation, where they are now forced to dig up 2 million land-mines with their bare hands.

My Life as a Zucchini (Ma vie de courgette), Switzerland/France

Directed by Claude Barras

Cast: Gaspard Schletter, Sixtine Murat, Paulin Jaccoud

After his mother's disappearance, Courgette is befriended by a police officer Raymond, who accompanies him to his new foster home filled with other orphans his age. At first he struggles to find his place in this strange, at times, hostile environment. Yet with Raymond's help and his new-found friends, Courgette eventually learns to trust and might find true love.

Norman: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer, USA

Directed by Joseph Cedar

Cast: Richard Gere, Lior Ashkenazi, Michael Sheen, Steve Buscemi, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Josh Charles, Dan Stevens, Hank Azaria

A veteran "fixer" in NYC's Jewish community gets in over his head when he sets out to impress the visiting Israeli foreign minister.

On the Other Side (S one strane), Croatia

Directed by Roan Johnson

Cast: Luigi Fedele, Blu Yoshimi, Michela Cescon

An unexpected pregnancy turns a young couple's world upside down. Hesitant and tentative, Ferro and Cate must navigate the most exciting and complicated nine months of their lives, trying not to lose their purity and unique poetic air.

The Salesman (Forushande), Iran/France

Directed by Asghar Farhadi

Cast: Shahab Hosseini, Taraneh Alidoosti, Babak Karimi

After their old flat becomes damaged, Emad (Shahab Hosseini) and Rana (Taraneh Alidoosti), a young couple living in Tehran, are forced to move into a new apartment. Once relocated, a sudden eruption of violence linked to the previous tenant of their new home dramatically changes the couple's life, creating a simmering tension between husband and wife.

Toni Erdmann, German/Austria/Romania

Directed by Maren Ade

Cast: Sandra Hüller, Peter Simonschek, Michael Wittenborn

An alternately hilarious and mortifying comedy about the fraught relationship between a repressed corporate consultant and her incessantly prank-playing dad.

Your Name (Kimi no na wa), Japan

Directed by Makoto Shinkai

Cast: Ryūnosuke Kamiki, Mone Kamishiraishi, Ryō Narita

In this enchanting and thought-provoking animated film, two high school kids who have never met - city boy Taki and country girl Mitsuha – awaken to find they have swapped bodies.

2017 SBIFF SHORTS PROGRAMS (listed alphabetically)

22 WORLD PREMIERES

17 US PREMIERES

ANIMATED SHORTS

Balcony, Hungary - US Premiere

Directed by David Dell'Edera

Midday heat and silence engulfs the streets of a downtown housing estate.

Confined (Confino), Italy - US Premiere

Directed by Nico Bonomolo

The power of art redeems an artist from the confinement imposed by the fascist dictatorship in Italy.

Edward the Gorilla, USA

Directed by Charles D'Avignon

Edward the Gorilla is lonely on his birthday, but he gets a surprise present that certainly makes his day more interesting.

Fish with Legs, Australia - US Premiere

Directed by Dave Carter

A school of fish wakes up to discover that everyone has grown legs. Only one fish claims the change is due to evolution.

Lead in the Head (Du plomb dans la tête), France - US Premiere

Directed by Aurore Peuffier

A wolf is taken down and brought back to the village as a trophy. But the animal is not dead and the bullet lodged in its skull has repercussions on its psyche.

Post No Bills, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Robin Hays

Noodle Boy must make his way through a series of obstacles and challenges in order to save Miss Fortune.

Second To None, Ireland

Directed by Vincent Gallagher

The world's second oldest man hatches a plan to claim the top spot.

Spring Jam, New Zealand

Directed by Ned Wenlock

A young stag, lacking impressive antlers, must improvise sweet music if he's to have a chance during the mating season.

swiPed, USA

Directed by David Chai

An animated comedy about a world dominated by technology and social media. Is humanity being swiped away?

"The Talk": True Stories About the Birds & the Bees, Canada

Directed by Alain Delannoy

There are things in life you never forget. One of them, like it or not, is "The Talk."

COMEDIC SHORTS

3-Way (Not Calling), Canada

Directed by Molly McGlynn

Cast: Emma Hunter, Emily Coutts, Kristian Bruun, Marni Van Dyk

A woman riddled with existential dread on the eve of a big birthday convinces her partner to have a threesome that changes everything...and nothing.

A Done Deal, Canada

Directed by Simon Lamarre-Ledoux, Pierre-Marc Drouin

Cast: Richard Fréchette, Steve Laplante, Pascale Tremblay

Remy, a hitman for a small-time Montreal mobster, has to kill Fernand, an old associate who talks too much. The plan is simple: invite him for coffee, offer him a ride and shoot him in the alley. Easy! A done deal...

Catseye, USA

Directed by Kevin Huang

Cast: Scott Stanley

A kitten chasing the unattainable.

Discipline, Switzerland - US Premiere

Directed by Christophe M. Saber

Cast: Frank Semelet, Florence Quarternoud, Garance Rohr, Adel Ahdy, Nour Gayed

It is 9:30pm in a grocery store in Switzerland. In a moment of anger, a father loses patience and disciplines his disobedient child. A shocked customer immediately intervenes and as others start to get involved the situation gradually escalates into chaos...

Facon, Australia - US Premiere

Directed by Joshua Dang

Cast: Jane Watt, Shaun Colnan, Will Gabriel, Melinda Arnold

Tia must confess her love of meat to her vegan boyfriend before he meets her family.

It's Been Like A Year, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Cameron Fay

Cast: Jack Quaid, Nikohl Boosheri, Matt Edwards

A sexually stifled young man grows increasingly distracted during a rendezvous with an attractive young woman.

Otherhalf, USA

Directed by Ben West

Cast: Eric Normington, Josh Bednarsky, James Bartz, Jayme Lynn Evans, Adrienne Whitney
After his legs walk out on his body a man visits a therapist to find a way to put himself back together.

Surrogate, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Olivia Hamilton

Cast: Olivia Hamilton, Stephanie Turner

Two estranged best friends reach a breaking point when one is the pregnancy surrogate for the other.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

Battling Back, USA

Directed by Jeff Zimbalist, Michael Zimbalist

An abused foster child is adopted by his boxing coach, who pushes him to achieve new heights in and out of the ring and channel his energy into a sport that ends up saving his life.

The Discarded, Brazil/USA

Directed by Annie Costner

Guanabara Bay seems doomed to become a lifeless cesspool, except for the dedication of a few Cariocas, whose efforts give hope for a brighter future.

Mama Rwanda, USA

Directed by Laura Hinson

A modern tale of the work/life balancing act, MAMA RWANDA illuminates the remarkable lives of two women mixing the wit of motherhood with the spirit of entrepreneurship to overcome extreme poverty.

Perfectly Normal, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Joris Debeij

A high-functioning autistic man balancing reality with his imaginary world, proves that one can make deliberate choices to find stability and to be more present in life.

Seven Dates With Death, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Mike Holland

The story of Moreese Bickham, the oldest living survivor of death row. Bickham describes his killings, his experience on death row and how he was able to get out with his life.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: REFUGEES

Dancing In Limbo, Malawi/USA - World Premiere

Directed by Amanda Larsh, Caroline Roffe, Hannah Bradford, Nick McDonald

When dance becomes the only way to express yourself and forget your troubles as a refugee, true passion emerges.

High Chaparral, USA

Directed by David Freid

Sweden's Wild West solution to the Syrian refugee crisis.

Port of Entry, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Marisa Pearl

"Port of Entry" captures a group of refugees during their first moments in America at a roadside motel in Newark, New Jersey, exploring the sense of loss and hope that pervades the refugee experience.

Refuge, Greece/USA

Directed by Matthew. K Firpo

Refuge is a chronicle of human stories from the European Refugee Crisis in Greece, focused on humanity and hope.

Refugee, USA

Directed by Emily Moore, Joyce Chen, Emily Chen

'Refugee' tells the story of a West African woman who left her five children in 2003 in order to come to the US and provide them with a better future.

DRAMATIC SHORTS

4 Pounds of Flowers, USA

Directed by Rob Richert

Cast: Chris Chalk, Laura Heisler, Matthew Mongillo, Emilie Talbot

For the last 5 years, Kayla and her boyfriend Trevor have scraped by working their small weed grow. On the eve of their last sale of the season, Kayla realizes she is pregnant which compels her to confront Trevor's idealism and their way of life.

The Bathtub (Die Badewanne), Austria/Germany

Directed by Tim Ellrich

Cast: Simon Jaritz, Rainer Wöss, Stefan Pohl

Three brothers try to dive back into their idealized past through an old family picture of them in a bathtub.

Hitch, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Poppy Walker, Sophie Hexter

Cast: Martin Sacks

A young, deaf runaway hitches a ride with a mysterious man.

Lacrimosa, Austria - World Premiere

Directed by Tanja Mairitsch

Cast: Saskia Rosendahl, Frowin Wolter

A young girl Mila wakes up in an unknown world full of mysteries. On her journey through ever changing surreal landscapes she meets her lost lover Theo.

Owen, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Kelly Pike

Cast: Casey Kramer, Owen the Golden Retriever

With her survival on the line, an impoverished woman is forced to make a painful choice.

Stairway (Stopnice), Slovenia - US Premiere

Directed by Miroslav Mandic

Cast: Davor Golubovic, Liza Marija Grasic, Lovro Karunc Dobravic, Jasa Savic

When you are away from an environment which evokes intense memories, your imagination makes that environment larger and more beautiful. When you return to the place you craved for, you are often disappointed.

LIVE-ACTION SHORTS: DRAMEDY

10 K, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Neil LaBute

Cast: J.J. Kandel, Clea Alsip

A man and a woman meet on a wooded path. Is it an accident or something planned? Is it the first time or the hundredth? '10K' is a suburban mystery shot through with humor and tension and desire.

Chicken / Egg, UK - US Premiere

Directed by James D'Arcy

Cast: Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Hayley Atwell, Max Fowler

Mark's a good guy. Kenneth not so much. Mark's gonna help Kenneth out. Maybe.

Hairpin Bender, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Maureen Bharoocha

Cast: Lauren Lapkus, Nicole Byer, Mary Holland, Aparna Nancherla, Marcy Jarreau

When stand-up and improviser Michelle Marcus is over the rat race of Los Angeles, her fellow comedian friends band together and have one last night out on the town.

Louder, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Jake Viramontez

Cast: Francesca Eaddy, Crystal Bush, Bettina Devin, Panther Jones

Remy Pointe lives in a world of silence. You can't raise your voice above 60 decibels, otherwise you disappear. No one knows where you go or what happens to the vanished.

Megan's Shift, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Zeke Farrow

Cast: Zeke Farrow, Kristin Slaysman, Sarah Butler, Christine Woods

Zeke never should have taken Megan's shift.

Pregame, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Andrew Rhymer, Jeff Chan

Cast: Aaron Schroder, Brian McElhaney, Christine Bullen, Maya Erskine, Nick Reinhardt, Patrick Woodall, Scarlett Bermingham

A group of friends implodes while stubbornly pursuing their self interests on New Years.

Writer's Block, USA

Directed by Troy Miller

Cast: Jane Lynch, Rizwan Manji, Andy Kindler, Anthony 'Citric' Campos, Tyler Clark, Jessica Leigh Gonzales

Past her prime and afflicted with a severe case of writer's block, a veteran songwriter finds new inspiration in a bird that takes up residence outside her home.

LIVE-ACTION SHORTS: THRILLERS

The Beast (Zvir), Croatia - US Premiere

Directed by Miroslav Sikavica

Cast: Marko Ban, Ivan Smoljo

A rashly accepted job at a construction site in a coastal resort becomes a pain in the neck of a backhoe loader operator from the hinterland who, in order to retain paternal authority and get the legal, but dirty demolition work done, needs to remove an unwanted witness.

Buoy, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Christopher Nelius and Justin McMillian

Cast: Otis Pavlovic, Oscar Redding

In a sleepy coastal town 16 year-old Corey arrives for his last day of work on a shark-meshing boat. But after the captain Mick reveals that his deckhand has quit, they head out onto the ocean where Corey faces a responsibility he is not ready for.

The Call, UK - US Premiere

Directed by Ethan Jahan

Cast: Chris Leaney

What happens when the news you read and listen to becomes reality?

Cul-De-Sac, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Damon Russell

Cast: Shawn Christensen, Phoebe Tonkin
Parents living at the end of a quiet Cul-De-Sac discover a listening device inside their sons teddy bear.

Fugit, Spain - US Premiere
Directed by Marta Bayarri
Cast: Oriol Ruiz, Nil Cardoner, Carles Tomás, Astrid Camprubí, Jordi Llovet
Carles travels by car with his teenage son, Pol. An unexpected incident will change the course of their lives.

Porcupine, Canada/Taiwan/USA
Directed by Clifford Miu
Cast: Samantha Bilinkas
To protect her infant child on New Year's Eve from an impending intruder, a young widow asks the 911 operator for permission to shoot.

SANTA BARBARA DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

The 11, USA - World Premiere
Directed by Alexandra Vasquez
Taking place on MTD's Line 11, this short documentary breaks unspoken barriers between strangers and proves that everyone has a story to tell.

The Beelievers, USA
Directed by Leah Bleich
By delving into the eccentric world of backyard beekeeping, this documentary provides an angle on the small but powerful ways that everyday people can help the planet.

Coastal Guardians, USA
Directed by Andrew Han
Exploring the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, the Chumash leader who proposed it, and all of the proponents for and against its implementation.

Lead End, USA
Directed by Amanda Jack and Moises Jinho
A look into protecting the California condor from harm and potential lead poisoning.

Losing Ground, USA
Directed by Trevor Lestak
Ranch owners on the Gaviota Coast fight to protect their land and way of life.

Planted, USA - US Premiere
Directed by Olivia Lucero

A charismatic carnivore explores the culture of veganism and learns about the most sustainable form of eating.

SANTA BARBARA SHORTS

The Hostage, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Bryce Paul

Cast: Andy Fernuik, Paul Miller, John Robilette, Mike Power

Two incompetent kidnappers struggle with a very resilient hostage and must decide what to do with him.

The Financial Teller, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Mike Winger

Cast: Robert Byrne, Hayley O'Connor, Hope Zweig, Hope Zweig, Sean Jackson

Robert's retirement strategy changes after he meets with a financial planner.

Twinsburg, USA

Directed by Joe Garrity

Cast: Joe Garrity, Phil Garrity, Kate Charlotte Hodges, Tess Hodges

Feeling sentimental about his fading twin identity, Jerry reunites with his reluctant brother at the world's largest gathering of twins.

Working Class Hero, USA

Directed by Jake Martin

Cast: Colleen Klinefelter, Logan Hunter, Nick Cron-DeVico

Two office workers are convinced their colleague is the superhero "Superior Man," and they go to great lengths to prove it.

Last Blind Date, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Brent Florence

A sham-man and a bungling woman meet on social media for their last blind date.

My Marilyn, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Marcus Mizelle

Cast: Courtney Morse, Beverly Hyde, Spencer Gibb

A young, Marilyn Monroe-obsessed actress struggles with delusions of grandeur, identity, and her own naiveté in Hollywood.

One Shot, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Ryan Slattery

Cast: Mario Guilin, Alexa Rakow

An ex-military man is home, and he is on a personal mission. It all comes down to one night, one plan, and one shot.

Someone's Hero, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Amalie Lintrup

Cast: Hunter Paul, Aaron Anthony, Andrew C. Fultz

A washed out police cadet failing to carry on his family's legacy of decorated police officers in light of his dead brother's passing decides to find the hero within in the most roundabout way – the neighborhood watch.

SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES

Hand.Line.Cod, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Justin Simms

Set in the coldest waters surrounding Newfoundland's rugged Fogo Island, this doc follows a group of "people of the fish"-traditional fishers who catch cod live by hand, by hook and line, one at a time.

Devereux Slough, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Michael Love

Devereux Slough is a sanctuary for myriad birds and wildlife and a serene natural environment for people to enjoy in Santa Barbara, California

Don't Sell My Guitars, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Lynn Montgomery

A beloved country musician whispers a final request to his wife.

About the Santa Barbara International Film Festival

The Santa Barbara International Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts and educational organization dedicated to discovering and showcasing the best in independent and international cinema. Over the past 30 years, SBIFF has become one of the leading film festivals in the United States – attracting 90,000 attendees and offering 11 days of 200+ films, tributes and symposiums, fulfilling their mission to engage, enrich, and inspire the Santa Barbara community through film.

Sponsors of the 32nd Santa Barbara International Film Festival include: UGG®, Belvedere Vodka, Dom Pérignon, Anti-Defamation League, Montecito Bank & Trust, Visit The Santa Ynez Valley, IMDB, Santa Barbara Foundation, Union Bank, Winchester Mystery House, Wells Fargo, Westerly Wines, The Bentson Foundation and many more supporting through trade.

SBIFF continues its commitment to education and the community through free programs like its 10-10-10 Student Filmmaking and Screenwriting Competitions, Mike's Field Trip to the Movies, National Film Studies Program, AppleBox Family Films, 3rd Weekend and educational seminars. This past June, SBIFF entered a new era with the acquisition of the historic and beloved Riviera Theatre. The theatre is SBIFF's new home and is the catalyst for program

expansion and marks the first time that Santa Barbara has had a 24/7 community center to expand their mission of educational outreach.

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