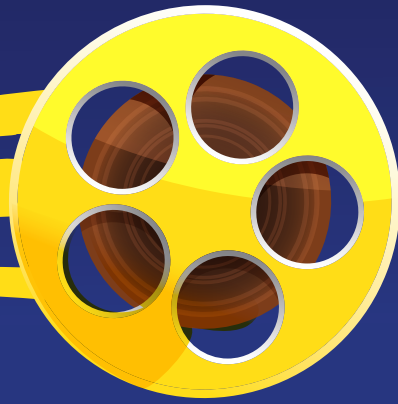


# LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



**JUNE  
10-14  
2026**

**LONG BEACH ISLAND  
NEW JERSEY**



This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the *Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission*, in conjunction with the *New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State*, a partner agency of the *National Endowments for the Arts*.

Partially funded in part by a grant from the *Ocean County Board of Commissioners*.  
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Supported in part by a grant from New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.



# WELCOME!

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Dear Friends:

On behalf of the team behind this extraordinary event, it's my great honor to welcome you to the 2026 Lighthouse International Film Festival (LIFF).

As a filmmaker alumnus (2019) myself, I know the anticipation that comes with sharing our work and the excitement of discovering new voices. On the cusp of summer, we gather again on Long Beach Island for our 18th edition to present a program shaped by authenticity, singular vision, and real creative risk. Our programmers have sought out films that don't just stand out as different but are crafted with intentional depth.

We believe in risk because creation comes at a cost. Filmmakers sacrifice greatly to bring their work to life, something we applaud as we sit down to watch. We believe in singularity because, in a world saturated with

content, being different is not enough; a filmmaker's voice must be clear and fully realized. And we believe in authenticity because audiences connect with truth.

Here on LBI, the festival experience is for everyone. Whether you're a filmmaker, a first-time attendee, or a longtime supporter, this is a place to encounter and discuss bold ideas, unexpected perspectives, and the simple power of watching a story unfold together.

At the same time, we find ourselves in a moment of renewed energy for filmmaking in New Jersey. With major studios returning and independent productions on the rise, the state is re-emerging as a vital center of film and TV production, and American cinema as a whole. The Jersey Shore, and Long Beach Island in particular, offers something rare within that ecosystem: a setting that is both cinematic and communal, where films aren't just made but experienced together across a wide

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range of venues and formats. LIFF is proud to be part of that momentum, serving as a meeting point for artists, audiences, and the industry at large.

As a testament to the enduring presence of our shore on the silver and small screens, we're proud to celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Big Night* in the presence of our special guest, Tony Shalhoub. We're also honored to welcome back Jason Alexander, this time for an exclusive masterclass for actors, taking place in the days leading up to the festival and culminating in a live showcase. It reflects our commitment not only to cinema, but to the roots from which it emerged: performance and the collective experience of the theater. Furthermore, we're proud to continue our collaboration with The New School/Parsons, hosting a new generation of filmmakers whose work reflects fearless experimentation. Supporting emerging artists isn't a side effort, it's central to who we are.

Lighthouse International Film Festival is more than a festival; it's a beachside celebration of cinema sustained by a remarkable community. Nearly 200 volunteers give their time and energy to make these five days possible, alongside local businesses, sponsors, and partners who support us in countless ways. Their generosity and commitment are what allow this festival to thrive.

And lastly, to the filmmakers: thank you for trusting us with your work. Your voices and courage are the reason we're all here.

Enjoy the films, and the way they stay with us.

Will Kuhn  
Executive Director  
Lighthouse International Film Festival

# OUR JURY



NARRATIVE FEATURES

## GINA DUNCAN

Gina is a cultural strategist and creative producer with over two decades of experience in film exhibition, performing arts, and institutional leadership. She is the CEO of The Moth, the acclaimed nonprofit storytelling organization, where she advances storytelling as a bridge across difference. From 2022 to 2025, she served as President of the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), expanding audiences, strengthening donor support, and championing bold programming. Previously, as Producing Director of the Sundance Institute, she oversaw festival operations and led two fully digital editions during the pandemic. Duncan is an Emmy Award-winning producer, a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and serves on the board of Arthouse Convergence.



NARRATIVE FEATURES

## FRANK HALL GREEN

Frank is an award-winning producer, writer/director, and co-founder of Catch & Release Films with Oscar-winner Tom Heller. Their company developed *Gonzo Girl* (dir. Patricia Arquette), set for a 2026 release. His recent projects include *Run Amok*, a Sundance 2026 satire, and *A Mosquito in the Ear*.

Green's directorial debut, *Wildlike* (2015), earned a 100% Rotten Tomatoes score and won numerous festival awards. He has also produced films like *The Outside Story* and *Remittance*, alongside developing multiple literary adaptations.

An NYU Tisch School of the Arts MFA graduate, Green began as a line producer and has worked across filmmaking roles. He also has a background in venture capital and telecommunications, and currently teaches at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).



NARRATIVE FEATURES

## NICHOLAS KEMP

Nicholas is a distribution and marketing executive with over 15 years of experience in the independent film sector. He currently serves as Senior Vice President of Theatrical Distribution & Marketing at Kino Lorber, a leading arthouse distributor with a 50-year legacy of releasing acclaimed international, documentary, indie, and classic films. Over nine years at the company, he has overseen the release of more than 150 films, leading marketing and communications with a focus on theatrical strategy. His awards campaigns have earned six Academy Award nominations for Best Documentary Feature, including one win this year for *Mr. Nobody Against Putin*. He also contributes to marketing for Kino Lorber's home video division and Kino Film Collection. Previously, he worked at Film at Lincoln Center and the New York Film Festival.



DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## LISA HOEN

Lisa is the Artistic Director of the Tromsø International Film Festival (Norway) and Tromsø Silent Film Days. She founded the children's film festival, TIFF Junior, in 2013. She studied media and philosophy and started her career as a culture and media entrepreneur by launching a lifestyle magazine in Tromsø. She has over twenty years of experience in media and communications and has worked as Head of Culture in Tromsø Municipality.



DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## ALLAN HOLZMAN

Allan is a Peabody and two-time Emmy Award-winning director/editor, who has worked across narrative and documentary film, collaborating with Roger Corman (*Battle Beyond the Stars*) and Steven Spielberg. His work on *Survivors of the Holocaust* earned two Emmys and a Peabody, while *Old Man River* and *Sounds of Memphis* received multiple festival awards. Aside from his commercial films in the 80s (*Forbidden World*, *Grunt! The Wrestling Movie*), Holzman's work often explores human rights and cultural preservation, including *Gullah* and *From the Hood to the Hill*. He created the *Invisible Art/Visible Artists* seminar series, taught at University of Southern California, and has widely lectured on filmmaking.



DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## RACHEL MASON

Rachel is a LA-based filmmaker. She earned an Emmy nomination for *Circus of Books*, a personal portrait of her parents' iconic bookstore and its role in the gay community during the AIDS crisis. In 2025, she directed the HBO Max series *An Update on Our Family*, which was later cited in legal debates about children online. That same year, Hulu released the authorized documentary she directed, *Last Take: Rust and the Story of Halyna*, about the death of her friend and cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the feature film *Rust*. Her latest film, *My Brother's Killer*, premiered at SXSW in 2026 and helped solve a decades-old murder case.

CONT'D

# OUR JURY



SHORTS

## KATE CHAMURIS

Kate is an award-winning producer whose short films have premiered at Sundance, SXSW, Palm Springs International ShortFest, and Clermont-Ferrand ISFF and have earned Oscar qualifications, a BAFTA, and an Academy Award shortlist. Her credits include *The Breakthrough* (starring Greta Lee), *Nuevo Rico*, *Blocks*, *Miller & Son* and *Balloon*, among others. Alongside her independent work, Kate has served as a senior VFX coordinator and production manager for Lucasfilm, Disney, Sony, and HBO—most recently on Disney's live-action *Moana*. She is a proud member of AMPAS (Short Film Branch), PGA, VES, NATAS, and SAG-AFTRA.



SHORTS

## KATE GELLER

Kate is a four-time Artios-nominated, New York-based casting director. Recent film credits include: *CHILI FINGER* (w/Judy Greer, John Goodman, Sean Astin & Bryan Cranston), *OH, HI!* (w/Molly Gordon and Logan Lerman), *INTO THE SKY* (w/Sam Richardson and David Cross), *IDIOTKA* (w/Anna Baryshnikov), *OMNI LOOP*, *BOB TREVINO LIKES IT* (w/John Leguizamo), *ON THE END* (w/Tim Blake Nelson), *BARRON'S COVE* (w/Garrett Hedlund), *CORA BORA* (w/Meg Stalter), *THE GOOD HALF* (w/Nick Jonas), and *SHIVA BABY* (World Premiere at LIFF 2020; w/Rachel Sennott, Molly Gordon and Dianna Agron).



SHORTS

## MEIRA BLAUSTEIN

Meira is the Co-Founder/Executive & Artistic Director of the Woodstock Film Festival, which was launched in 2000 and has quickly become one of the top-most respected regional film festivals worldwide. Blaustein has been running the annual Film Festival, along with its numerous year-round initiatives, for over two decades. In 2018, Blaustein created the Woodstock Film Festival's annual Youth Film Lab, a free three-week filmmaking intensive for teenagers. In 2020, Blaustein founded the Woodstock Film Festival four-week Filmmakers Residency/Incubator in collaboration with White Feather Farm Foundation. A filmmaker by training, Blaustein directed, produced, and consulted on countless feature films, screenplays, and documentaries in various stages, from development through production, from editing to distribution.



DARKHOUSE

## NORBERT PFEFFENBICHLER

Norbert is an artist, filmmaker, and curator who studied Media Design at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. He is a co-founder of VIDOK Studio. Pfeffenbichler was involved with the Austrian abstract cinema movement, which emerged in the 1990s. In 2002, he started working on his film series *Notes on Film*, in which he deconstructs film history from an artistic perspective. Since then, he has made a number of experimental short films, stage videos, and curated exhibitions throughout Austria. He lives in Vienna.



DARKHOUSE

## LAUREN COHEN

Lauren, a lifelong film lover and Miami Beach native, joined the Miami Film Festival in 2014 and now serves as Director of Programming. She helps shape the Festival's artistic vision, collaborates with industry partners, champions local talent, and brings exceptional stories from around the world to Miami audiences.



TV & WEB SERIES

## RON LESHEM

Ron is a Boston-based showrunner and author, and the creator of the original series *Euphoria*, and executive producer of its Emmy-winning HBO adaptation. He develops and produces series across Australia, France, Germany, and Brazil. His credits include co-creating and writing *Bad Boy*, a Netflix Top 10 hit in 47 countries, as well as *Valley of Tears* (HBO Max) and *No Man's Land* (Hulu). His upcoming thrillers include *Trust No Man* (Netflix) and *Red Skies* (Apple TV). His series, *The Gordin Cell*, was adapted by NBC as *Allegiance*. Leshem wrote *Beaufort*, an Oscar nominee, and *Incitement*, an Israeli Academy Award winner. A bestselling author in 20 languages, he is a recipient of Israel's Sapir Prize.

CONT'D

# OUR JURY



TV & WEB SERIES

## MIRIAM SPRITZER

Miriam is a New York-based international correspondent for major Brazilian outlets, known for red carpet coverage and interviews across entertainment and the arts. Her work appears in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Cosmopolitan*, *L'Officiel*, and *Marie Claire*, alongside contributions to *Rede Globo*, *Jovem Pan*, *Band*, *Record*, and digital platforms. She holds a Business Administration degree in Marketing from Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing (ESPM), earning top honors for her thesis on branding and experiential marketing. After early work in consulting and marketing, she transitioned to journalism in 2011 with TVCOM. She specializes in cultural reporting and serves on the Golden Globe Foundation board.

## SHARE WITH THE FESTIVAL

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Welcome, guests of LIFF 2026!  
Remember to include #LIFF2026  
if you're posting at or about the festival!



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### 2027 SUBMISSIONS:

[WWW.FILMFREEWAY.COM/LIGHTHOUSEINTERNATIONALFILMFESTIVAL](http://WWW.FILMFREEWAY.COM/LIGHTHOUSEINTERNATIONALFILMFESTIVAL)

# LIFF PRESENTS



## JENNIFER SNYDER BRYCELAND FILMMAKER AWARD

LIFF, the Bryceland family and the Lagralane Group are offering The Jennifer Snyder Bryceland Filmmaker Award. The \$2,000 special prize will be given to a filmmaker whose feature-length documentary displays artistic excellence, incorporates environmental and social themes, and inspires optimism in audiences.

### Matthew Soraci

As the COO of The Lagralane Group, Matthew directs the day-to-day operations involving business development, finance, marketing, and human resources. Along with acting as COO, he has garnered individual credits on Lagralane titles, acting as executive producer on *The Blood Is At The Doorstep*, *The Body Remembers When The World Broke Open*, *Givers Of Death (G.O.D.)*, *Lifeline* (short) and as associate producer on Harry Dean Stanton's last film, *Lucky*. Under the Lagralane company credit, Matthew co-executive produced the 2018 Academy Award-winning documentary *ICARUS*. He is also a producer of the podcast *Lagralane Spirits - exploring identity & culture with cocktails*. Matthew serves on the board of Los Angeles-based Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble.



## THE FLORENCE T. TONE AND DR. PETE VANDERVEEN AWARD FILMMAKER AWARD

The Florence T. Tone and Dr. Pete Vanderveen Award for Excellence in Short Filmmaking is a \$1,500 prize that honors the passion, skill, and vision required to create an exceptional short film—often without commercial backing, sufficient funding, or a full production team. Short filmmakers exemplify the dedication and creativity at the heart of independent cinema. This award also highlights the essential role festivals like LIFF play in championing short films as powerful platforms for emerging storytellers.

### Florence T. Tone

Florence T. Tone has served as the VP of Portland Film since 1995, working alongside film director Niels Arden Oplev on the development of films and TV, including the original *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *Mr. Robot*, and *Held for Ransom*. She has overseen the international distribution and marketing of films such as *Speedwalking* and *Rose*. She is currently in production on the film *Shadows & Light* and executive producing the musical adaptation of *We Shall Overcome* with the Nordland Theatre in Oslo, slated to premiere in November 2028.



## HONEY LEVINE & ED SINATRA AWARD AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

The Honey Levine and Ed Sinatra Award is Lighthouse International Film Festival's audience choice award, named in memory of Annette "Honey" Levine and Ed Sinatra—patrons of the arts, cinephiles and friends of the Festival. It is awarded to a feature-length documentary or narrative film, as selected by audience ballot, with the winner receiving a \$1,000 cash award.

# HEADLINERS

## OPENING FILM



### CHILI FINGER

DIRECTORS: EDD BENDA & STEPHEN HELSTAD

100 MIN  
USA

Following in the footsteps of the Coen Brothers' bittersweet, hot-and-cold storytelling style, first-time co-directors Edd Benda and Stephen Helstad craft a sharp crime comedy with a heartwarming twist. *Chili Finger*, which premiered at SXSW, unfolds in a small Midwestern town, where a chain of accidental events snowballs into a series of surprising turns, suggesting things may not be as casual as they seem.

A star-studded cast is led by the brilliant Judy Greer, as a woman at the center of the story, a mother searching for purpose in her empty nest, alongside her gullible husband, played by Sean Astin. Madeline Wise, Sarah Herrman, and Paul Stanko join the ride, along with veterans Bryan Cranston and John Goodman, in absolutely hilarious performances, proudly adding to their own gallery of offbeat characters on-screen. - *Amir Bogen*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTORS: EDD BENDA & STEPHEN HELSTAD

## CLOSING FILM



### PHOENIX JONES: THE RISE AND FALL OF A REAL LIFE SUPERHERO

DIRECTOR: BAYAN JOONAM  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

115 MIN  
USA

In 2010, amid the Marvel and DC Comics takeover of Hollywood, reports emerged of a real-life vigilante patrolling Seattle in a black-and-gold supersuit, apprehending local criminals. Known as "Phoenix Jones", he became both a community hero and a target of police scrutiny. After legal troubles sidelined him, Jones resurfaced in 2020, once again stepping into the chaos.

In his compelling, wild, and entertaining documentary, Bayan Joonam peels back the myth to reveal the man beneath the mask—a skilled martial artist shaped by a troubled childhood and a complex personality, driven by a desire to do good but struggling to fit into everyday society. - *Amir Bogen*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: BAYAN JOONAM

# CENTERPIECE FILMS



## HOT WATER

DIRECTOR: RAMZI BASHOUR

97 MIN  
USA

Who doesn't love a road trip drama? Layla, a divorced mom and an Arabic professor at Indiana University (Lubna Azabal) is at odds with her brawling, hockey playing teenage son Daniel (Daniel Zolghadri). When he gets expelled from high school, Layla packs him up to drive him to his father's house in California. With great performances by both actors, the two navigate the road and their relationship with quite a few surprising situations in between. The previous divisions between a first-generation parent and a second-generation son seem to melt away as the two find they have more in common than they once believed. Warm, funny, and deeply human, Ramzi Bashour's directorial debut (produced by LIFF alum Max Walker-Silverman), which premiered at Sundance, is a moving story about reconnection, forgiveness, and discovering family where you least expect it. - *Natalie Caricato*

COURTESY OF RICH SPIRIT



## RUN AMOK

DIRECTOR: NB MAGER

103 MIN  
USA

Patrick Wilson and Molly Ringwald lead NB Mager's tender, nuanced high school drama, offering an inspiring perspective on processing trauma in contemporary America. The coming-of-age story follows a student grappling with the loss of her mother and classmates after a school shooting. By staging her own musical reenactment of that tragic day, she revisits the events in search of healing, using creativity to find solace for herself and her community.

Expanding her acclaimed 2023 short into a feature, the Brooklyn-based filmmaker approaches this difficult subject with sensitivity and emotional clarity. The film is elevated by a strong ensemble, including Bill Camp, Margaret Cho, and Elisabeth Marvel, alongside a breakout performance by Alyssa Marvin. - *Amir Bogen*

### ■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: NB MAGER

PRODUCER: FRANK HALL GREEN

CINEMATOGRAPHER: SHACHAR LANGLEV



## THE SUN NEVER SETS

DIRECTOR: JOE SWANBERG

102 MIN  
USA

Joe Swanberg's new relationship drama is more than a crowd-pleaser. Set against the stunning landscape of Alaska, this charmer explores love, uncertainty, and emotional complexity, much like real life.

At its center is a young woman going through an existential crisis, encouraged by her older lover to test the waters before they commit to a future together. Left on her own, she spirals into despair until the sudden return of a mythological ex rekindles unresolved feelings. As she rediscovers herself as an independent and desired person, her once-confident partner begins to lose control of the situation he initiated.

Now faced with a real choice for the first time, she must decide between the stable future she imagined, the passion of her past, or herself in the present. With nuanced performances by Dakota Fanning, Jake Johnson, and Cory Michael Smith, the film, which premiered at SXSW, balances heartbreak, sweetness, and honesty. - *Amir Bogen*

COURTESY OF IFC FILMS

# SPOTLIGHT FILMS



## THE DISAPPEARANCE OF JOSEF MENGELE

DIRECTOR: KIRILL SEREBRENNIKOV  
U.S. PREMIERE

135 MIN  
DEU/FRA/ESP/USA

Out of the Cannes Film Festival comes the latest film by Kirill Serebrennikov. The acclaimed filmmaker, whose previous biopic *Limonov: The Ballad* had its U.S. premiere at LIFF 2025, turns to a stark examination of the utmost human evil, retelling the story of Josef Mengele, known as "Dr. Death" at Auschwitz.

In his multilayered adaptation of Olivier Guez's best-selling book, the Russian-born auteur follows the fleeing fugitive across South America under a false identity. Brilliantly portrayed by German actor August Diehl, the infamous tormented scientist hides from Nazi hunters and the Mossad agents, yet cannot escape his past, shaped by racist ideology and unspeakable, sadistic crimes. Trapped in paranoia, repression, and guilt, redemption remains out of reach. Serebrennikov offers no relief to the aging character, instead confronting contemporary audiences with the human-monster lurking within us, which can always be unleashed by fascism in authoritarian regimes, like the one that banished him from his own country. - *Amir Bogen*

SUB

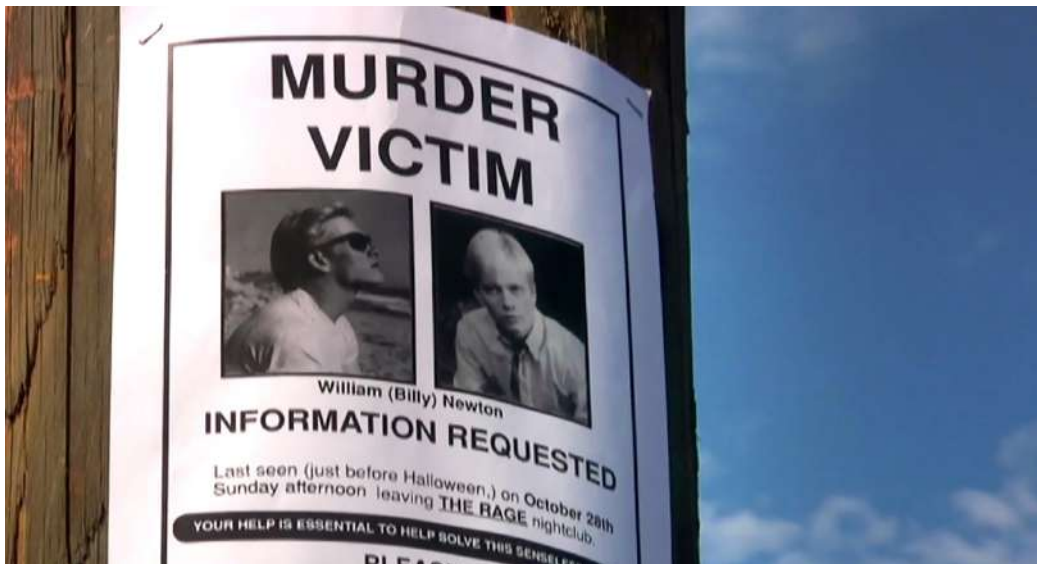


## EDIE ARNOLD IS A LOSER

DIRECTORS: MEGAN RICO & KADE ATWOOD

73 MIN  
USA

Edie Arnold is a rock star, at least in her own head. In reality, she's a hilariously awkward Catholic-school misfit, navigating the minefield of adolescence with a tight-knit posse of equally offbeat friends. When her best friend pushes her to start a band—The Nundead—Edie seizes her drumsticks and launches a scrappy, punk-fueled rebellion against rules, expectations, and her own insecurities. What follows is messy, loud, and deeply relatable: a journey through friendship, identity, and the fragile, fearless act of putting yourself out there. Bursting with humor and heart, *Edie Arnold Is a Loser* is a coming-of-age story that celebrates the courage it takes to be uncool until, somehow, you aren't. - *Natalie Caricato*



## MY BROTHER'S KILLER

DIRECTOR: RACHEL MASON

95 MIN  
USA

The true-crime genre dominates the documentary landscape these days, but rarely does a filmmaker step in as an investigator where police have given up, and actually solve a murder. That's what happens to Rachel Mason, a LIFF 2026 juror, when she embarks on a journey into a cold case from the early '90s, tracking an elusive killer and even securing an on-screen confession. In her gripping suspense thriller doc, the unrelenting filmmaker revisits the horrific murder of gay porn star Billy London, whose dismembered body was found in a Los Angeles back alley on October 20, 1990. With the help of a team of amateur detectives, she reexamines the forgotten case, probing past findings and law enforcement failures, peeling back layers of prejudice on the way to a stunning breakthrough. - *Amir Bogen*

■ TALENT ATTENDING  
DIRECTOR: RACHEL MASON

COURTESY OF FILM COLLABORATIVE



## OUR COLORS NEVER FADE

DIRECTOR: JIM MCSHERRY  
WORLD PREMIERE

84 MIN  
DEU/UKR

Amid the devastation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, beyond the headlines and the frontlines, are deeply human stories of courage, identity, and love. Filmmaker Jim McSherry embeds himself in the battlefield and follows a group of ordinary citizens—a veterinarian, a video game developer, a beekeeper, a theater manager—who, when their country was threatened, chose to stand and fight.

But their bravery carries an even greater risk. These soldiers are members of the LGBTQIA+ community—individuals whose very identities make them targets, facing the threat of persecution, imprisonment, or worse if captured. Through intimate, unflinching storytelling, the film honors not only their sacrifice, but their resilience—their determination to defend both their homeland and their right to exist freely within it. This is a powerful portrait of defiance, humanity, and the enduring belief that even in war, love and identity must never be erased. - *Natalie Caricato*

■ TALENT ATTENDING  
DIRECTOR: JIM MCSHERRY

PANEL DISCUSSION TBA



## YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

DIRECTOR: SARA ROBIN

98 MIN  
USA

Will AI take over our jobs? Is our privacy breached by hackers? Are we being brainwashed by fake news and conspiracy theories through our own smartphones? Filmmaker Sara Robin touches on all these threats in her comprehensive and alarming documentary, but focuses on the core problem with social media: it is psychological in nature and presents a challenge to all humans. We are losing our attention span, and we don't know how to handle boredom anymore. By connecting to Instagram and TikTok for stimulation 24/7, we are disconnecting from our deeper selves, our complexities, and our creativity. Underneath the issues discussed publicly in the press by politicians and economists, the SXSW-premiered film offers a thoughtful debate about submitting our souls to the algorithm, driven by the addiction of the digital age: seeing and being seen, but without genuine feelings. - *Amir Bogen*

■ TALENT ATTENDING  
DIRECTOR: SARA ROBIN  
CO-CREATOR: JACK LEMAY

# SPECIAL SCREENINGS



## ADMISSION POSSIBLE

DIRECTORS: MATTHEW SYRETT & BOWIE ALEXANDER

93 MIN  
USA

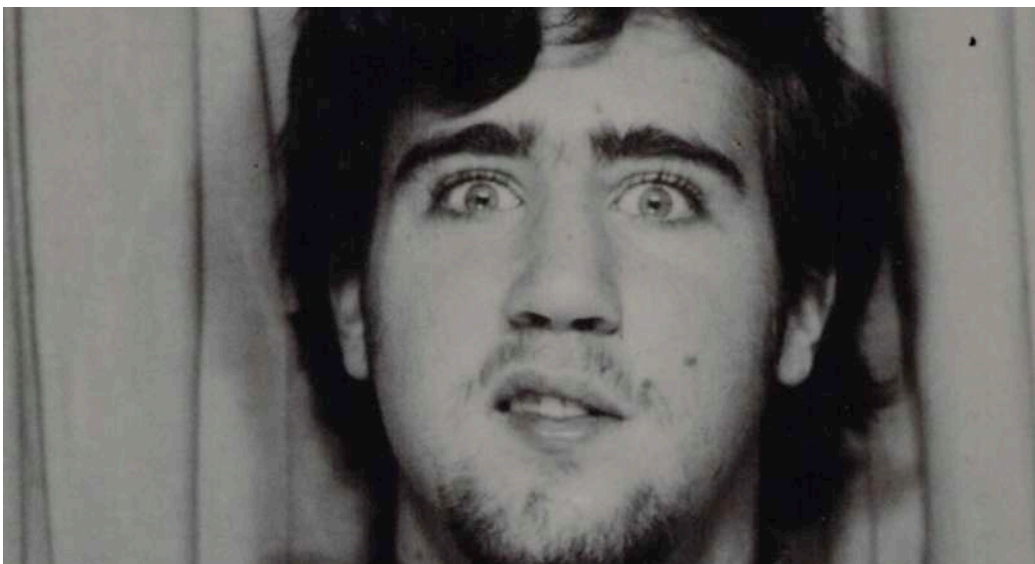
The filmmakers follow seven New York City students as they step into their senior year and embark on the high-stakes journey of applying to college. As aspiring first-generation college students from immigrant families, they carry both the weight of expectation and the promise of possibility. Navigating shifting affirmative action policies, rising tuition, and systemic barriers, each teen confronts uncertainty with resilience and heart.

Through moments of doubt, disappointment, and hard-won triumphs, the film captures something deeper than ambition—it reveals the joy, humor, and humanity of young people daring to imagine a different future. This is an intimate, moving portrait of perseverance, and a testament to the courage it takes not just to dream, but to believe those dreams are within reach. - *Natalie Caricato*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: MATTHEW SYRETT

PRODUCER: CYNTHIA WADE



## ANDY KAUFMAN IS ME

DIRECTOR: CLAY TWEEL

101 MIN  
USA

A strange, funny, and surprisingly intimate look at one of comedy's biggest enigmas. Built from his own unearthed audio diaries, the film lets Kaufman speak for himself: his messy thoughts and wild ideas are all in there.

Director Clay Tweel leans into that chaos with playful puppet animation, bringing Kaufman's unfinished stories to life in a way that feels perfectly offbeat. Alongside reflections from people like David Letterman and Carol Kane, a more human side begins to emerge. The movie doesn't try to explain Kaufman. Instead, it pulls the audience into his world, where performance and reality constantly blur. - *Shirri Gal-Kedar*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

SUBJECT: AL PARINELLO



## CELLULOID W-W-WARS

DIRECTOR: ALLAN HOLZMAN  
WORLD PREMIERE

73 MIN  
USA

After establishing himself in the film industry as a renowned director and editor—ranging from low-budget productions with horror master Roger Corman to acclaimed documentary work alongside Steven Spielberg, which earned him two Emmy Awards—Hollywood veteran Allan Holzman revisits his inspirational journey from early trauma to redemption through cinema. The 79-year-old filmmaker, educator, and a LIFF 2026 juror, turns the camera inward, confronting the childhood abuse that left him with a severe stutter. These deeply personal memories take center stage in an inspiring story of perseverance, as he channels imagination, ingenuity, and filmmaking craft into both a coping mechanism and a creative force. Drawing from his vast well of professional experience in this candid autobiographical work, Holzman offers a rare glimpse into the film industry from the 1980s onward, as well as the life that is his own. - *Amir Bogen*

■ TALENT ATTENDING  
FILMMAKER: ALLAN HOLZMAN



## V. MARIA

DIRECTOR: DAISUKE MIYAZAKI  
U.S. PREMIERE

95 MIN  
JPN

What do we inherit from those we lose—especially the parts we never knew? Japanese filmmaker Daisuke Miyazaki crafts a quiet coming-of-age story shaped by grief and curiosity. After her mother's sudden death, Maria sifts through what remains: CDs, photos, a diary, and a demo tape labeled "Maria" she can't play. This small mystery draws her toward an unseen side of her mother's life. Her search leads into the world of Visual Kei, where music and identity blur. With help from an outsider classmate, she explores its sounds and style, piecing together connections to her mother—and herself. Tender and introspective, *V. Maria* is less about answers than transformation. - *Shirif Gal-Kedar*

SUB ≡

# NARRATIVE COMPETITION



## BEACHCOMBER

DIRECTOR: ARISTOTELIS MARAGKOS  
U.S. PREMIERE

91 MIN  
GRC

From the shores of the Greek island of Lesbos emerges a contemporary reimagining of the Oedipus myth, infused with the spirit of Nikos Kavvadias' poetry. Set against the stark beauty of the Aegean Sea, this lyrical drama follows Elias, a solitary and enigmatic man driven to rebuild a vessel from scrap metal scattered along a remote beach. As he pieces together the boat's carcass, fragments of his troubled past surface, revealing a fate shaped by the lingering shadow of his sailor father. Christos Passalis (Known for his role in Yorgos Lanthimos's *Dogtooth*) delivers a compelling performance as an anti-hero ensnared by inherited patriarchal expectations and his own toxic masculinity, pursuing redemption through an obsessive, self-imposed task destined to fail, rather than sail. - *Amir Bogen*

SUB



## THE DAUGHTER

DIRECTOR: POURIA KAKAVAND  
U.S. PREMIERE

97 MIN  
IRN

Hauntingly intimate, this family drama from Iran follows a couple who, squeezed by economic hardship and the cruel limits of their reality, build an entire life around the child they cannot have. Through tender rituals, shared fantasies and small domestic performances, they conjure a daughter whose presence both sustains and unsettles them—forcing each to confront grief, desire and the fear of losing what only exists in their minds. Director Pouria Kakavand, at great personal risk as an Iranian filmmaker, works within the country's rich tradition of humanist cinema, and delicately balances realism and imagination to reveal how love reshapes survival. Thought provoking and quietly devastating, this film stays with you long after the lights go up. - *Natalie Caricato*

SUB



## DON'T CALL ME MAMA

DIRECTOR: NINA KNAG  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

105 MIN  
NOR

Immigration, liberal values, sexual attraction, and moral ambiguity intertwine in Nina Knag's controversial drama, set in a small Norwegian town, but resonating far beyond it, including the US. When a high school teacher encounters a Syrian refugee, her moral compass falters as she is drawn to him. Her righteousness takes over in the form of compassion toward him, and she lends a hand—and more. Is she driven by her subjective desire to help the young fugitive in need, or is she objectifying him through that very same impulse?

A secret affair unfolds and spirals out of control, ignoring political tensions, social norms, and a rigid bureaucracy. But when reality catches up, both privately and publicly, consequences are inevitable. Knag weaves the delicate personal and social threads, anchored by Pia Tjelta's nuanced, powerful performance as a woman trapped in her inner universe while facing an unforgiving world that feels urgently relevant to our own reality today. - *Amir Bogen*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: NINA KNAG  
PRODUCER: ELEONORE ANSELME

THE SCREENING IS SUPPORTED BY THE ROYAL  
NORWEGIAN CONSULATE GENERAL, NEW YORK



Norwegian Consulate General  
New York

SUB



## THE GYMNAST

DIRECTOR: CHARLOTTE GLYNN

84 MIN  
USA

Set in a 1990s mill town shaped by industrial decline, the plot follows a dedicated elite teen gymnast whose life has been built around the sport and the bond with her devoted "gym dad" who has invested his own hopes in her future. When a serious knee injury threatens to derail her path, both are forced to confront an uncertain reality, as the dream they share begins to feel fragile and their relationship shifts under the strain. In her debut feature, Charlotte Glynn approaches the story with a natural, unforced sensitivity, balancing realism with moments of tenderness. Newcomer and vlogging athlete, Britney Wheeler, delivers a convincing, grounded in truth, and emotionally nuanced performance in this coming-of-age story about identity, resilience, and the extent to which our dreams shape who we are and who we become when those dreams begin to change. - *Shirit Gal-Kedar*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: CHARLOTTE GLYNN

COURTESY OF VISIT FILMS



## LONE RIDER

DIRECTOR: ADAM JUMBA

88 MIN  
USA

After taking his father's 1989 Mustang, a restless young man slips into a series of nocturnal drives where memory, regret, and possibility blur along the open road. From Pennsylvania filmmaker Adam Jumba and starring Jack Alcott, the film follows Tyler as he drifts through the uncertain terrain of post-graduation life in search of direction and self-understanding. Tender, urgent, and quietly electric, the film unfolds as a coming-of-age road poem about the ache of growing up without a clear sense of home. With a raw, magnetic central performance and an intimate directorial touch that transforms ordinary nights into moments of truth, it becomes an evocative ride through heartache, second chances, and the small choices that change everything—ultimately speaking to anyone who has ever driven to escape, only to find themselves instead. - *Natalie Caricato*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: ADAM JUMBA

ACTOR: JACK ALCOTT



## MANS BEST

DIRECTOR: SETH MCTIGUE

80 MIN  
USA

Imagine being drawn into a rabbit hole while following a dog—that's what happens to the protagonist in Seth McTigue's psychological thriller, which unfolds simultaneously in his mind and in his reality. The writer-director also plays the lead role of a man haunted by trauma and guilt after a family tragedy that leaves him alone in the world with his mother and his dog, Champ.

Depressed Lance finds relief in spending time with his longtime canine friend, but when it falls ill, he is forced to break out of his passivity, take action, and do whatever it takes to find the money to heal Champ, and perhaps himself. The unclear path driven by hope, and his decisions guided by the promise of a positive outcome, until the shocking end, when the devious plot comes full circle, leaving us thinking: "wow..." and "bow wow." - *Amir Bogen*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: SETH MCTIGUE

CONT'D

# NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



### PESCADOR

DIRECTOR: HARRY DOMENICO ROSSI

107 MIN  
USA

Set against the lush, untamed landscapes of Costa Rica, Harry Domenico Rossi's directorial debut is a lyrical exploration of identity, belonging, and the invisible threads that bind us. Vacillating between mysticism, vivid dreamscapes, and raw, intimate reality, the film follows a sister and a brother who stand at a crossroads: one retreats into isolation, the other reaches out in search of connection. As they navigate dense forests, restless shores, and their own inner wilderness, each is forced to confront what it truly means to be free, to be seen, and to be loved. Drawn from the filmmaker's own life experiences, the drama takes you on a haunting emotional journey that ultimately asks where salvation truly resides, within ourselves, or in one another? - *Natalie Caricato*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: HARRY ROSSI  
PRODUCER: ANNIE RASIEL  
ACTRESS: ALEX WANEBO



### UNION COUNTY

DIRECTOR: ADAM MARKS  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

97 MIN  
USA

What does the road to recovery really look like? Written and directed by Adam Meeks, this highly authentic real-life drama follows a young man from Ohio as he navigates addiction and confronts his own shadows while attempting to rebuild his life. Anchored by a restrained and deeply human performance from Will Poulter, alongside Noah Centineo and Emily Meade, the film, which premiered at Sundance, presents a grounded portrayal of recovery.

The production was filmed in a functioning drug court, with much of the supporting cast made up of non-actors actively participating in the program. This results in the blurred lines between fiction and lived experience. It's raw, a little uncertain, extremely honest, and shows that recovery isn't about big turning points but small wins, the fight to keep going, and the meaning of taking it each day at a time. - *Shirit Gal-Kedar*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

EDITOR: SEAN WEINER

# DOCUMENTARY

## COMPETITION



### THE ART OF ADVENTURE

DIRECTOR: ALISON REID  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

86 MIN  
CAN

A vivid, soul-stirring portrait of friendship, curiosity, and a life shaped by wonder. In 1957, childhood friends Robert Bateman and Bristol Foster set off on a 30,000-kilometer journey across Africa, India, Southeast Asia, and Australia in a Land Rover they called "The Grizzly Torque." Bateman sketched and observed. Foster, a biologist with a filmmaker's instincts, helped capture and film their journey. More than an epic road trip, the film reveals how this adventure shaped their futures: Bateman as a celebrated wildlife artist, Foster as a pioneering environmental leader in British Columbia.

A story of passion, exploration, and the most pure and deep love of the natural world. It's also a portrait of a friendship that spans decades, one that will leave you longing to step outside, go further, and truly travel.  
- *Shirrit Gal-Kedar*

■ TALENT ATTENDING  
DIRECTOR: ALISON REID



### THE ASCENT

DIRECTORS: EDWARD DRAKE, SCOTT VELTRI & FRANCIS CRONIN  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

103 MIN  
USA

A stirring blend of personal triumph and true-crime tension, this inspiring documentary follows Mandy Horvath's record-breaking attempt to summit Mount Kilimanjaro after losing her legs under mysterious circumstances. As Mandy maps out a daring plan and pushes her body up the mountain, she also confronts trauma, relearns trust, and reclaims agency over her life. Poignant and intimate, the film celebrates resilience, courage, and the fierce individuality that drives one woman to transform tragedy into an extraordinary quest. The film is a powerful testament to the human spirit.  
- *Natalie Caricato*

■ TALENT ATTENDING  
DIRECTORS: SCOTT VELTRI & EDWARD DRAKE



### BLOOD & GUTS

DIRECTORS: CARLYE RUBIN & KATIE GREEN

80 MIN  
USA

Meet the Adams Family, a DIY clan of horror filmmakers. On their ninth film project, mom and dad, Toby and John, and daughters, Lulu and Zelda, combine their skills, creativity, and relentless perseverance to keep their grisly dreams alive—and to keep the family close. Intimate, affectionate, and unapologetically gory, this entertaining documentary follows the messy, joyous labor of making art together: late-night shoots, budget crises, improvised special effects, and the small rituals that bind them. A love letter to creativity, kinship, and the stubborn bravery of filmmakers, this film shows how "the family that slays together, stays together." - *Natalie Caricato*

■ TALENT ATTENDING  
DIRECTORS: CARLYE RUBIN & KATIE GREEN

CONT'D

# DOCUMENTARY

## COMPETITION



### A DROP IN THE OCEAN

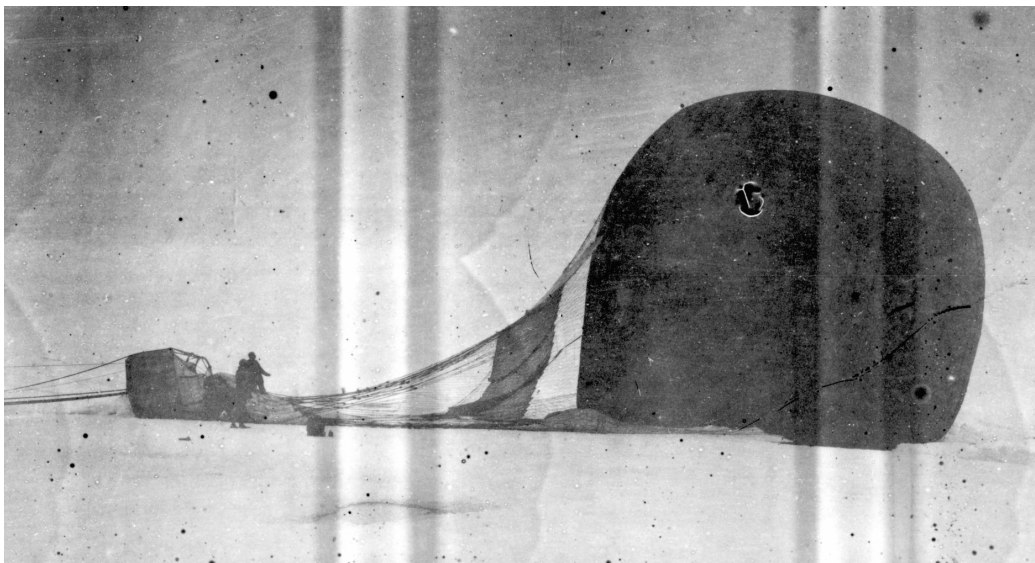
DIRECTOR: HOLO WANG  
U.S. PREMIERE

70 MIN  
TWN

In this quietly mesmerizing documentary, freediving becomes more than a sport. It's a space where ambition, identity, and endurance collide beneath the surface. The film follows Taiwanese athletes Hua-Yang Huang and Afa Zhang, two competitive, friendly freediving rivals focused on becoming Taiwan's top diver. Both are invited to the Blue Hole vertical freediving international competition. One is driven by record-breaking depth, while the other's journey moves between competition and transformation, from Taipei Pride performer to mermaid athlete.

Filmmaker Holo Wang beautifully captures both the physical toll, like the blackouts, pressure, and risk, as well as the strange serenity that comes with surrendering to the deep. The result is an immersive, visually striking portrait of two divers chasing very different goals, yet meeting in the same vast, silent blue. - *Shirrit Gal-Kedar*

SUB



### ICE GRAVE

DIRECTOR: ROBIN HUNZINGER  
U.S. PREMIERE

59 MIN  
FRA/SWE/NOR

In the summer of 1897, three Swedish men set out on a mission that could have changed world history: to conquer the North Pole by hydrogen balloon. The high-risk venture was soon cut short, and S. A. Andrée, Knut Frænkel, and Nils Strindberg vanished along the way.

More than three decades later, in August 1930, a sealing ship made a chilling discovery on the remote island of Kvitøya: the expedition's remains, bodies frozen in time beneath the snow, alongside journals and undeveloped film. The three explorers left their mark after all. Their writings and photographs form a haunting record of an unreachable region, its brutal environment, and the human struggle for survival under the harshest conditions. More than a century after their deaths, French filmmaker Robin Hunzinger brings together 240 recovered photographs and archival materials to retell this ambitious journey—and the people behind it.

- *Amir Bogen*

SUB



### MY NDA

DIRECTORS: JULIANE DRESSNER & MIRIAM SHOR

99 MIN  
USA

In the words of Margaret Atwood, "The best way of keeping a secret is to pretend there isn't one," an idea that is set in the core of Juliane Dressner and Miriam Shor's powerful and intimate documentary that exposes the human toll behind non-disclosure agreements—legal tools increasingly used to bury truths of sexual abuse, racial discrimination, and systemic wrongdoing. Through deeply personal testimonies, individuals who once felt bound to silence confront the weight of what they've carried, revealing the emotional cost of secrecy and the courage it takes to break it. As their voices emerge, a larger pattern comes into focus—one that questions the ethics of silence and the structures that protect it. Urgent and unflinching, the film, which premiered at SXSW, invites audiences to witness not only stories long suppressed but the act of reclaiming them. - *Natalie Caricato*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTORS: JULIANE DRESSNER & MIRIAM SHOR

COURTESY OF CINEPHIL



## PUBLIC ACCESS

DIRECTOR: DAVID SHADRACK SMITH

108 MIN  
USA

The year is 1971. Some of us—most of us, probably—weren't around yet. Neither was the internet. Hard to believe, but humanity managed to survive without smartphones, laptops, or even digital cameras. Technology was bulky and complicated, yet an adventurous media initiative in New York City opened the gates to original productions by individuals outside the mainstream television networks, under the umbrella of the city's cable services. They called it Public Access.

Using archival footage, David Shadrack Smith's Sundance documentary revisits the initiative, driven by creative inspiration and free speech, while exposing the chaos surrounding it. From outlandish TV characters like Robin Byrd and Frantic Fran to explicit programs such as *Midnight Blue*, which tested the limits of the First Amendment, the channel thrived on provocation. Fifty-five years later, in the age of social media, similar questions persist and are discussed through the lens of the analog era. - *Amir Bogen*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: DAVID SHADRACK SMITH



## SEIZED

DIRECTOR: SHARON LIESE

94 MIN  
USA

These days, traditional press is under attack from social media, conspiracy theories, and the spread of fake news. Sharon Lieise's documentary stands as a reminder of the importance of old-school journalism that speaks truth to power through firsthand reporting. The film recounts a standoff between a small-town Kansas newspaper and its mayor, over critical coverage. The clash escalated in August 2023, when local police raided the offices of the Marion County Record and the home of its owner, Eric Meyer—causing distress to his 98-year-old mother, who passed away the following day. Rather than being deterred, the battle-tested, unrelenting editor pushes back against authorities who abused their power in an attempt to suppress reporting on a corruption case. As the story breaks into the national news cycle, hidden truths come to light, exposing a cover-up and leaving us with much to reflect on from this site-specific account. - *Amir Bogen*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: SHARON LIESE

# DARKHOUSE FEATURES



## SPECIAL EVENT

### 2551 TRILOGY

DIRECTOR: NORBERT PFAFFENBICHLER  
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

2551.01: THE KID

65 MIN

2551.02: THE ORGY OF THE DAMNED

82 MIN

2551.03: THE END

80 MIN

AUT

In a hellish underworld ruled by an oppressive dictator and steeped in perversion, primal violence, and despair, a rare act of kindness emerges: a compassionate man determined to save a child from a horrific fate. But can this fragile spark of light break through the darkness and dismantle a corrupt social order of a decaying society? Not in Norbert Pfaffenbichler's *2551 Trilogy*, where he performs a ruthless post-mortem on civilization itself with his sharpest scalpel. Drawing on silent cinema, German Expressionism, and puppeteering, the Austrian visionary artist crafts a layered nightmare of striking intensity. LIFF proudly presents this masterful horror opus in three parts on the big screen, with the filmmaker in attendance. - *Amir Bogen*

## ■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: NORBERT PFAFFENBICHLER

COURTESY OF DEAF CROCODILE

THE SCREENING IS SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRIAN CULTURAL FORUM, NY.

[austrian cultural forum<sup>NYC</sup>](#)



## THE DRIFTLESS

108 MIN

DIRECTOR: TIM CONNERY

USA

A wild, macabre ride through an anthology that weaves together four stories with the anchor being an antique store, where customers can leave a "tip for a tale" and shop owner Al is more than happy to oblige. The scenic, beautiful backdrop of the Midwest brings to light the often concealed, unimaginable terrors that also lurk in this primal landscape. Director Tim Connery's stories explore a frightening crew of masked killers, a haunted musician's date with a cursed bottle of liquor, a pool-keeper's odd artifacts and a revengeful young woman out for blood. An intriguing, seductive and a bloody good time is sure to be had at Driftless Antique & Oddities... tell Al that LIFF sent ya! - *Joanna Bruno*

## ■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: TIM CONNERY



## ERICA

DIRECTOR: TARÔ MIYAOKE  
U.S. PREMIERE

83 MIN  
JPN

It's love at first sight for Takumi, a man who's been single for the last 23 years, when he meets Erica at his local café. He comes to learn she is suffering at the hands of her abusive, current boyfriend, Ryo. Takumi empathizes with her loneliness and pain, entangling himself in a chaotic and frightening dynamic between Erica, her sister and Ryo. Inexplicable and unsettling events begin to upend Takumi's previously quiet life. Tarô Miyaoaka's Japanese horror feature will leave you wondering if the butterflies in your stomach are that of admiration or a signal of warning coming from your gut instinct. - *Joanna Bruno*



## HEART OF DARKNESS

DIRECTOR: ROGÉRIO NUNES

82 MIN  
BRA

Adapting Joseph Conrad takes nerve. Adapting him as animation, in Brazil, over eleven years of independent production, takes something else. Rogério Nunes and Alois Di Leo's *Heart of Darkness* relocates Conrad's voyage to a near-future Rio, where Marlow--a corporate cop sent by boat through the favelas--searches for a missing Captain Kurtz, and Conrad's questions about empire, complicity, and the moral collapse of men inside their systems come through whole. Cybercaine fuels the underworld, baile funk drives the score, and hand-drawn 2D figures move through textured 3D environments. The result is a film of texture and conviction--one that earns its strangeness frame by frame and arrives, finally, as something wholly its own. - *Ryan Guiterman*



## RED FLAG

DIRECTOR: MATTHEW GIAQUINTO  
WORLD PREMIERE

71 MIN  
USA

Violence, gore, murderous fantasies... all appropriate adjectives to describe a marriage, right? Director Matthew Anthony Giaquinto explores a couple's rapidly declining relationship in a traditional, delineated structure snowballing towards horrific and tragic consequences. Marriage is messy, relationships are hard work, but sometimes they aren't worth saving. The effort might be better spent on releasing all the pent-up anger and frustration your other half has caused! *Red Flag* takes us on a bloody, whirlwind ride you don't want to miss out on. Filmed right at home on LBI, this spectacle of horror is a must-see for locals and horror fans alike. - *Joanna Bruno*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR: MATTHEW GIAQUINTO

# SHORT FILMS

NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



**\$13**  
DIRECTOR: MELISSA SKIRBOLL

8 MIN  
USA

When a long-time New Yorker introduces her niece to her beloved city, a doughnut and a waterfront view ignite memories of her greatest, but luckiest, loss.



**"5TH"**  
DIRECTOR: MICAH STREETER  
WORLD PREMIERE

16 MIN  
USA

Two men meet at a restaurant for the first time in years and have an honest talk about shame, stability, and the nature of recovery.



**29TH OF FEBRUARY**  
DIRECTOR: DIEGO FANDOS

23 MIN  
ESP

Tomás wants to celebrate his ninetieth birthday but he has no one to invite.... except his staunchest enemy. A sad comedy, a hopeful drama about the situation of many of our elders.

SUB



**AN ACT OF LOVE**  
DIRECTOR: STEPHAN STELMAN

14 MIN  
USA

When Molly discovers her husband Dave's secret interest in gay porn, she arranges a threesome to explore his sexuality. But her act of acceptance reveals deeper complexities as the couple navigates new territory in their marriage.

SUB



**ALCHEMY OF THE WORD**  
DIRECTOR: JESSICA BENHAMOU  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

15 MIN  
GBR

1873 - The damned poets, Arthur Rimbaud and Paul Verlaine, have eloped to London where they struggle to keep the faith in their love and their work.



**ALONG THE WAY**  
DIRECTOR: DAVID M. TAN  
WORLD PREMIERE

6 MIN  
USA

A disheartened young man isolates and buries himself in futile work on a failing farm that mirrors his own internal callousness, only to find unexpected grace in messages from his father.



### ANOTHER DAUGHTER

DIRECTOR: HONGYU CHEN  
U.S. PREMIERE

15 MIN  
CHN

A mother with two daughters is pregnant again. After finding out through a check-up that the baby is another girl, the family decides to terminate the pregnancy.



### ANYONE LIVED IN A PRETTY HOW TOWN

DIRECTOR: DANIEL KREIZBERG  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

8 MIN  
USA/MCO/LTU

In a picturesque town, a man named "anyone" rejoices in the beauty of everyday life and celebrates the natural world.



### BEYOND THE SURFACE

DIRECTOR: QUITTERIE CHIUDI

7 MIN  
FRA

Sometimes, humankind must be outraged to remain human.



### BOX OFFICE CHAMP

DIRECTOR: MIKE TIMONEY

8 MIN  
USA

A mockumentary about a star of Hollywood's Golden Age, who rivaled Clark Gable as top draw at the box office. Starring Dylan Baker, Ethan Phillips and Tony Goldwyn.



### THE BOY WITH THE DINOSAUR HEAD

DIRECTOR: IMRAN J. KHAN  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

10 MIN  
USA

A troubled first-grader is convinced he's a dinosaur, matching wits with the teacher trying to bring him back down to earth.



### BROKEN DAWN

DIRECTOR: HAE-OH PARK  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

16 MIN  
KOR

An elderly woman drives through the dawn in a drive-my-car service to soothe her loneliness. But those she most wishes to connect with are the ones who make her feel the loneliest.



CONT'D

# SHORT FILMS

NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



### BRUCE

DIRECTORS: KADI TSANG & KATUSHA JIN

14 MIN  
USA

A grieving Hong Kong mother must choose between staying in New York for her daughter's future or returning home to reclaim her own.



### BUDDIES

DIRECTOR: RAHUL HANSRAJ

5 MIN  
IND

Two strangers meet on a day when they fake their identities, but reveal their true selves.



### BURNING VIRTUE

DIRECTOR: CATRIONA RUBENIS-STEVENS

14 MIN  
USA

A Texan ex-con faces down her violent past while helping a young girl escape the state for an abortion.



### BURRO

DIRECTOR: HANNAH LERNER  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

12 MIN  
USA

After failed IVF, a desperate nurse makes a sacred pilgrimage and returns convinced she is pregnant.



### THE CALL

DIRECTOR: KYLE DALSIMER

8 MIN  
USA

A young actress comes face-to-face with a volatile composer at the biggest callback of her life.



### CARILLON

DIRECTOR: DIEGO PÉREZ GONZÁLEZ  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

20 MIN  
ESP

1948. Andrés, badly wounded, hides in the tower of the Carillon clock and lives there hidden. María, the maid on the floor below, discovers him. The stealth and danger will give way to the irrepressible passion of María and Andrés. 75 years later, Andrés' son, the clockmaker of the Carillon, will discover the whole truth of what happened there.

SUB



**THE CATCHER**  
DIRECTOR: LUKA GALLE

30 MIN  
BEL

Robin, a lonely young man, works for the government as a catcher of invisible birds.

SUB



**COLORS OF THE SOUL**  
DIRECTOR: LAUREN SCHWARTZBARD

2 MIN  
USA

In a black-and-white world where color is forbidden, a chance encounter changes a girl's life forever.



**A COMFORT**  
DIRECTOR: JENNY CURTIS  
WORLD PREMIERE

17 MIN  
USA

Set against the backdrop of an authoritarian regime, a young girl and her estranged aunt must find in each other what it means to feel safe.



**COTTONMOUTH**  
DIRECTOR: COLE JOHNSON  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

16 MIN  
USA

Longing for his family back, a young wannabe rapper seeks redemption from his baby mama on the night of his first gig.



**THE CRUMBS**  
DIRECTOR: AMOS POSNER

11 MIN  
USA

A couple returns to the restaurant where they had their first date, only to encounter the limits of memory.



**DEAR SHOP GIRL**  
DIRECTOR: NIRA BURSTEIN

15 MIN  
USA

After a tense call from her landlord (Fred Armisen), a struggling vintage-shop owner—eager to make a sale—enthusiastically offers to help a gentleman (Rory Culkin), only to learn he's searching for the outfit he plans to wear when he takes his own life.

CONT'D

# SHORT FILMS

NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



### THE DEATH OF THERAPY

DIRECTOR: JARED HIRSCH

13 MIN  
USA

An unemployed therapist, desperate for purpose, plots to unravel an ex-patient's life in order to lure him back into therapy.



### DEBT I OWE

DIRECTOR: ZANE RIZVI-RIEMER

18 MIN  
USA

Burdened by gambling debts, a Pakistani-American widower searches for redemption while struggling to be a good father to his two daughters.



### DECEMBER, DAY ZERO

DIRECTOR: JOHN ROBERT HAMMERER

8 MIN  
USA

A recovering alcoholic comes face-to-face with his bartender ex-girlfriend when he attempts to drop off a Christmas gift at her bar.



### DOBRINA

DIRECTOR: HANNES RALL

6 MIN  
DEU/SGP

Lotte Reiniger meets Sergio Leone in this animated short, where desire burns as bright as the desert sun.



### THE DRIVE

DIRECTOR: DAVID ARROW

13 MIN  
USA

It's a warm November day in the early 1960s and Liz (Amber Paul) has just picked up the kids for her weekly carpool. Little does she know that this will be a drive she'll never forget.



### ELSEWHERE

DIRECTOR: BRIAN KEANE  
WORLD PREMIERE

14 MIN  
USA

A queer married couple in NYC faces the aftermath of a devastating loss.



**AN EXCESS BAGGAGE (UN BAGAGE EN TROP)**

DIRECTOR: MYRIAM GARCIA MARIENSTRAS  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

16 MIN  
FRA

When her daughter leaves for the holidays, a lonely mother must confront the demons she has spent years hiding behind their bond.



**F MINOR**

DIRECTOR: JOSH LITMAN  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

15 MIN  
USA

A struggling musician is plagued by feelings of insecurity when he discovers he was never a target of his music teacher's predatory behavior.



**FABRIC**

DIRECTOR: FRANK SUN

14 MIN  
USA

Amid the glamour and chaos of New York Fashion Week, a photographer and a model trade access and beauty as they yearn for a real connection.



**FIRE AT WILL**

DIRECTOR: MORGAN GRUER

10 MIN  
USA

A dysfunctional family attempts to settle their will.



**GET BACK TO ME**

DIRECTOR: RAN FINKELSTEIN  
WORLD PREMIERE

12 MIN  
ISR

Ariel only wants to forget his father's death, but his grandmother's memory problems prevent him from moving on with his life.



**GOOGLE TRANSCRIPT**

DIRECTOR: ADAM REICH

11 MIN  
USA

A darkly comedic tale in which two men wrestle with the implications of a terrifying new Google app that can recall all past conversations and even predict those from the future.

CONT'D

# SHORT FILMS

NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



### I WANNA BE

DIRECTOR: CHAEWON SUH  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

19 MIN  
KOR

A blind high school runner, Woori, loses her guide at the last minute. With a scholarship to New York on the line, she's forced to team up with Lola, a reluctant guide runner just trying to make up for failing grades.



### IN ANOTHER DAY

DIRECTOR: NAAMA MANOR  
U.S. PREMIERE

11 MIN  
ISR

Within four walls, a daughter faces her greatest fear as she tries to get her mentally ill mother to attend a rehabilitation committee that will define her disability status.



### THE JOURNALIST

DIRECTOR: SANTI BENEDIT  
WORLD PREMIERE

14 MIN  
GBR

A meticulous crime journalist races to expose the truth behind a murder tied to a retired criminal, as the prime suspect fights to clear his name under intense police interrogation.

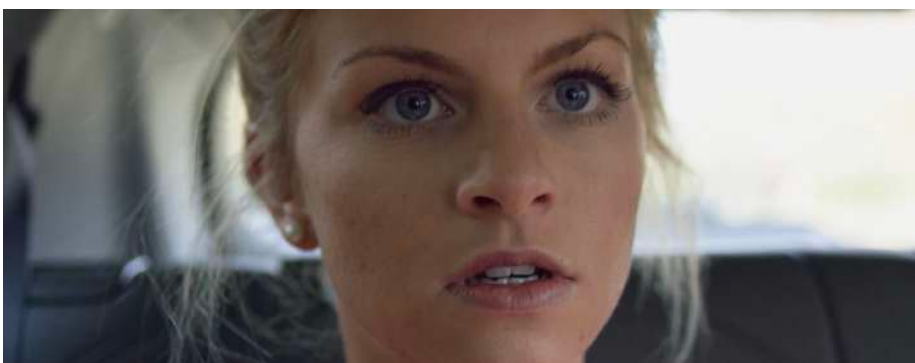


### A KING'S CURTAIN

DIRECTOR: GRANT M. JOHNSON

17 MIN  
USA

A career woman's love and devotion to her Shakespearean actor father are tested when his descent into Alzheimer's jeopardizes her chance for a coveted promotion.

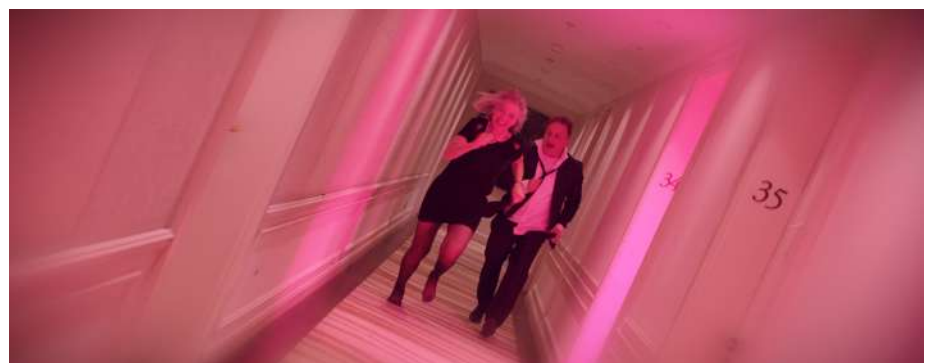


### KRISTEN

DIRECTORS: MARY & VERONICA POMILLA

20 MIN  
USA

Disbelief is willfully suspended as a runaway teen avoids dealing with the repercussions of a house fire, until she is left with nowhere to run.



### LAST RESORT

DIRECTOR: DAVID R. KRAMER

22 MIN  
CHE

Terminally ill Paul Siegert travels to a secluded Swiss mountain resort for assisted suicide, where a chance encounter with another guest turns his final night into a mix of unexpected freedom, laughter, and connection that makes him question his plan.





### LAST STAND AT BUTTE CITY

DIRECTOR: NATALIE SCHWAN  
WORLD PREMIERE

17 MIN  
USA

In 1880 Montana, a reclusive rancher is given 30 days to abandon her homestead when the railroad claims her land, forcing her to confront the trauma that has bound her to it for decades.



### LAY LEFTY DOWN

DIRECTOR: TRAVEN RICE  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

15 MIN  
USA

Two women unexpectedly unite through stories of grief and laughter, after their family throws a surprise memorial for a left breast.



### LEMON

DIRECTOR: ITAY SEMO  
U.S. PREMIERE

5 MIN  
ISR

A small gesture by Jimmy, a pizza delivery driver, triggers a surprising chain of events in the city, revealing how a seemingly random act can lead to wide and meaningful impact.



### MARIANNE AND THE REBELS

DIRECTOR: PIERRE GUY

11 MIN  
USA

In a world gone revolutionary, one woman refuses to lose her mind to rigorous ambitions.



### MAY I PUT YOU ON HOLD

DIRECTOR: ASH BLODGETT  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

14 MIN  
USA

While dealing with telephone customer service, Liz is accidentally transferred to the Afterlife and must now decide what she believes in to get back to the land of the living.



### MEETING YOUR MAKER

DIRECTOR: GREGORY JM KASUNICH  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

18 MIN  
USA

*Meeting Your Maker* follows Otis, a beloved puppet on a long-running children's show, as he faces an existential crisis just before the series' milestone 300th episode.

CONT'D

# SHORT FILMS

NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



**A MOTHER'S LOVE**  
DIRECTOR: HARALD SCHWARZENBACHER  
U.S. PREMIERE

22 MIN  
AUT

A mother loses her daughter in an accident caused by her eight-year-old son and tries to cope with the consequences and the blame.

SUB



**NIGHT TERRORS**  
DIRECTOR: YARON ARAZI  
U.S. PREMIERE

20 MIN  
ISR

On what begins as a routine couples' evening, an intimate moment exposing cracks between love, fear, and danger.

SUB



**OLIVE**  
DIRECTOR: TOM KOCH

13 MIN  
USA/FRA

While caring for grandma, Sam begins to question the nature of their relationship.

SUB



**OPHIOLOGY**  
DIRECTOR: ISAAC BYRNE  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

17 MIN  
USA

A heist gone wrong leaves Reggie caught between her lover Ace and her mortally wounded friend Jacky, but when Jacky tells Reggie how the getaway went wrong, she is forced to decide who to trust and who dies.



**PAS VRAIMENT ORDINAIRE**  
DIRECTOR: GIL HENRY  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

16 MIN  
USA

A young boy helps his mentally ill mother obtain help while protecting his younger sister from the unfolding events.



**QHUYAMANTA**  
DIRECTORS: SEBASTIAN PANOZO & NISHANTH SWARNA  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

18 MIN  
USA

When a miner's young sister is haunted by visions of his death in Bolivia's most dangerous mine, she must find a way to stop him from returning to the very work that keeps them alive.



### **RUYA**

DIRECTOR: NICOLE MAIROSE DIZON

8 MIN  
USA

When a T'boli dreamweaver goes into a coma, her anxious, insomniac daughter must dream and communicate with Fu Dalu, the Spirit of Abaca, to pick up where her mom left off on the next t'nalak.

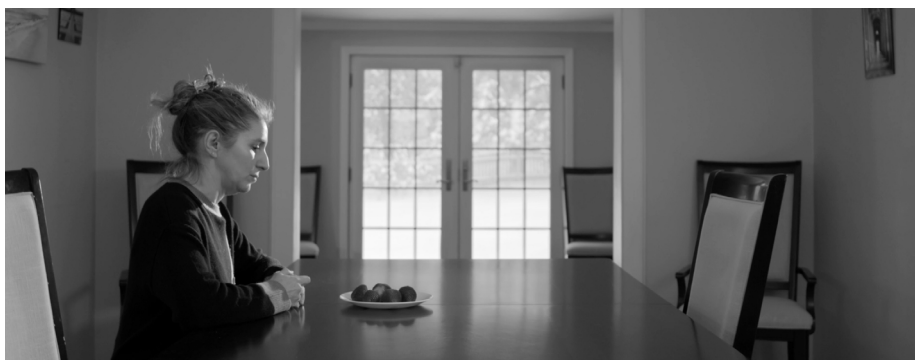


### **SIT WITH ME WHILE I DIE**

DIRECTOR: BRIAN RUSSELL

19 MIN  
USA

A priest must reconcile his lifelong dogmatic views on suffering with real-life pain.



### **SOME THINGS CHANGE**

DIRECTOR: JULIE KOROGODON  
WORLD PREMIERE

5 MIN  
USA

A woman determined to leave her ice-cold marriage must face the true source of her emotional prison in order to escape it.



### **SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOU**

DIRECTOR: GORDON LEPAGE

9 MIN  
USA

A pair of feuding raccoons, having found shelter from a winter storm, receive an unexpected guest.



### **SOMETHING POINTLESS**

DIRECTOR: ASA BAILEY  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

14 MIN  
WLS

When an unhappy young boy discovers an older man quietly affixing painted eggshells to a disused wall in their neighbourhood, he begins to understand how even the smallest, strangest acts can leave behind something lasting.



### **SWEET LIKE MANGO**

DIRECTOR: VICTORIA J. SMITH

18 MIN  
USA

A famous artist moves back to his hometown to mend the relationships he lost while chasing his dream.

CONT'D

# SHORT FILMS

NARRATIVE

## COMPETITION



**TEDDY & TATER**  
DIRECTOR: LOUISA DUCHIN

16 MIN  
USA

When an up-and-coming ventriloquist's puppet begins exploring his gender, the ventriloquist must decide whether to support his puppet's wishes at the risk of their act, while learning more about his own identity along the way.



**TRAVEL PLANS**  
DIRECTOR: ZOEY SIDWELL

4 MIN  
USA

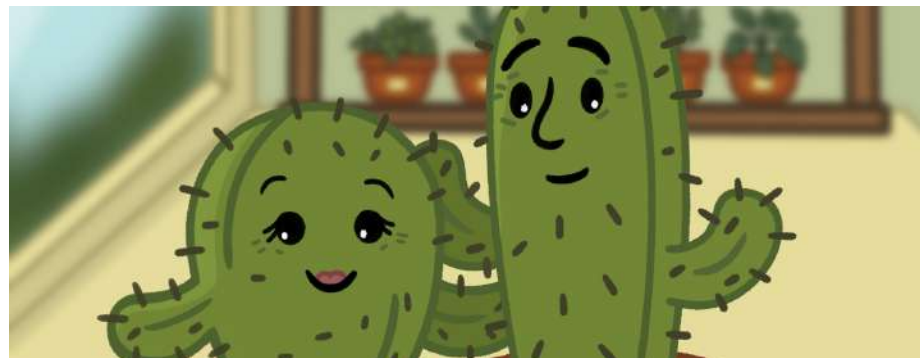
After her wedding ceremony, a bride must extricate herself from an unfortunate entanglement before she can honor her vows.



**WAITING FOR BIGFOOT**  
DIRECTOR: SEBASTIAN RUSSELL

15 MIN  
USA

Two strangers get to know each other better during the course of one night's search for the cryptid.



**THE WINDOWSILL**  
DIRECTOR: KERRY MOSIER  
WORLD PREMIERE

4 MIN  
USA

On a sunlit windowsill, a row of plants marked with names quietly holds the weight of memory, until a new arrival begins to reveal why.



**WOOLY BULLY**  
DIRECTOR: KRISTEN BUCKELS CANTRELL

21 MIN  
USA

Becca is thrown for a loop as her Alzheimer's-stricken mother's delusions veer into the paranormal.



**WORMHOLES**  
DIRECTOR: VANESSA BAILEY

13 MIN  
GBR

When an introverted cosmology student is reluctantly drawn into conversation by a vivacious late-night cleaner, he discovers a universe far bigger than quantum mechanics.



**YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE**  
DIRECTOR: HARRISON FULLER

26 MIN  
CZE

A young couple vacationing in Prague have a violent altercation after a night out—they go their separate ways, each crossing paths with a stranger over the course of the night.



**YOU'LL BE FINE**  
DIRECTOR: CRAIG H. HARWOOD

14 MIN  
USA

On the day of Juliana's son's wedding, she comes back to the sand dunes where memorable moments with her deceased husband are ignited as she tries to release her past, accept her son's impending marriage and step into an unknown future.

# SHORT FILMS

DOCUMENTARY

## COMPETITION



**BACK TO NORMAL:  
A CANCER SURVIVOR DOCUMENTARY**  
DIRECTOR: SENON DAVIS

20 MIN  
USA

Surviving cancer isn't what you expect it to be; after the congratulations and the celebrations, you realize you can't just go Back to Normal.



**BALL LIGHTNING**  
DIRECTOR: CATRIONA TRINA BAKER

12 MIN  
USA

A story of love, resilience and surviving the trauma of war.



**BINDINGS**  
DIRECTORS: LUCY SPAHR & SUSAN DANIELLE PINCHIAROLI

20 MIN  
USA

Facing an uncertain future, a man with autism turns to his family's small craft business as a catalyst for his independence.



**BORN SECRET**  
DIRECTOR: RILEY FITCHPATRICK

20 MIN  
USA

Having grown up in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a filmmaker digs into the legacy of a town founded on the prospect of nuclear war.



**DRAGON MOM**  
DIRECTOR: HARRISON BUCK

26 MIN  
USA

A mother and her son navigate disability through adaptive skiing, revealing how the outdoors can offer freedom, connection, and a more inclusive path than the built world often provides.



**FIRST NATIONS:  
FINDING THE CHICKASAW**  
DIRECTOR: SARAH FLOWER

5 MIN  
GBR

*First Nations: Finding the Chickasaw* reveals the extraordinary discovery of pre-American War of Independence documents in the great libraries of the United Kingdom.



### FLOTSAM RIVER CIRCUS

DIRECTOR: CORY BYERS  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

7 MIN  
USA

A floating river circus sails down the Mississippi River, stopping to perform along the way.



### HAPPY IN THE BRONX

DIRECTOR: NANCY A. SIESEL  
WORLD PREMIERE

27 MIN  
USA

*HAPPY IN THE BRONX* tells the story of Happy, a Bronx Zoo elephant held in captivity for nearly five decades, and the extraordinary legal battle for Happy's freedom to a sanctuary in Tennessee.



### HOUSE OF LIGHT

DIRECTOR: ADAM ZAX

13 MIN  
USA

As the last lighthouse keeper in America approaches retirement, Dr. Sally Snowman reflects on how to say goodbye to her spiritual and emotional connection to Boston Light, the oldest light station in the country.

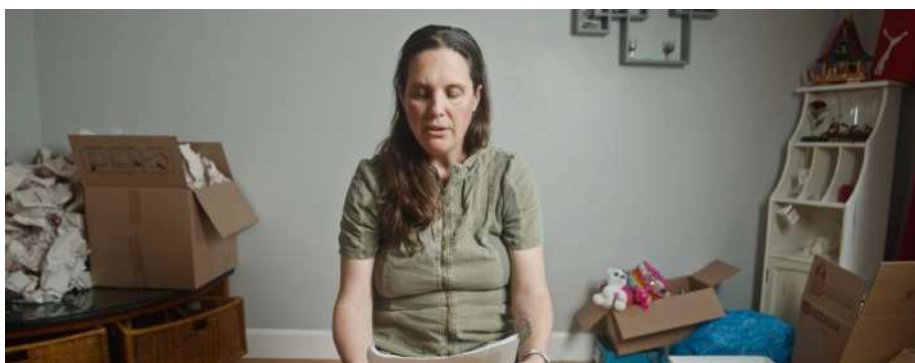


### JUSTIN'S ADDICTION STORY: NO FAMILY IS IMMUNE

DIRECTOR: JACOB SURETTE

7 MIN  
CAN

A mother and son story about addiction, courage, love and loss, and the hope of recovery for others.



### THE LETTER

DIRECTORS: STEVE W. THOMPSON & MICHAEL P. DEMINICO

11 MIN  
USA

When a recently arrived immigrant family loses their asylum status, a New England community surrounds the family with care and support to help them voluntarily self-deport and leave the United States.



### LIFELINES

DIRECTORS: HANNAH ROSENZWEIG & ROBIN HONAN

10 MIN  
USA

Two families are transformed by paid family leave, revealing how time to heal and connect changes everything—what would it mean if every family had this lifeline?

CONT'D

# SHORT FILMS DOCUMENTARY

## COMPETITION



**MEMENTO FABULAM**  
DIRECTOR: CANDELA NÚÑEZ GUTIÉRREZ  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

22 MIN  
ESP

*Memento Fabulam* reconstructs the silenced memory of Jerez during the Francoist repression, guided by the figure of "grandfather Viruta," a carpenter who wrote down the names of those who disappeared.



**A MYSTICAL ORNITHOLOGY**  
DIRECTORS: JEREMY SEIFERT & BENJAMIN JAMES ROBERTS

11 MIN  
USA

On his South Carolina farm, ornithologist and poet Drew Lanham tends land as sanctuary for birds—reckoning with loss while nurturing a fragile, wild hope.



**OH YEAH!**  
DIRECTOR: NICK CANFIELD

17 MIN  
USA

The story of the iconic electronic music duo Yello and the phenomenon of their 1980s hit song, exploring the song's cultural impact and its enduring place in the American psyche.



**PIEGIRL**  
DIRECTOR: DANIEL QUIYU

6 MIN  
USA

Chelsea Frost, better known as "PIEGIRL", brings the feeling of nostalgia one slice of pie at a time.



**SHADOW OF HOPE**  
DIRECTOR: MITCHELL NIELSEN

6 MIN  
AUS

Far from home, a young Burmese man struggles to escape the weight of a brutal and unforgiving military coup that threatens both his nation's freedom and its very survival.



**A TAREA**  
DIRECTOR: ALFONSO O'DONNELL  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

28 MIN  
ESP

Poachers and climate change are wiping out the fine clam and the slimy clam in the Galician estuaries. A group of shellfish gatherers on foot fight to remedy this imbalance. A hard work whose tradition is extinguished with each generation.





**THE WILD GIRL OF  
BRUSHVALLEY TOWNSHIP**  
DIRECTOR: HEATHER CASSANO

30 MIN  
USA

*THE WILD GIRL OF BRUSHVALLEY TOWNSHIP* tells the story of Minnie Adams, one of the estimated one million people who died in American mental institutions. She is buried in an unnamed grave in the Dixmont State Hospital Cemetery.



**YOU FOUND A FRIEND IN ELVIS**  
DIRECTOR: JANIE PRICE  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

11 MIN  
GBR

Two of rock and roll's greatest legends, a dead body and a group of thieves...a story too far-fetched to be true...or is it?

# SHORTS

## BLOCK LINEUP

### SHORTS BLOCK #1 + Q&A

THURSDAY 11:00 AM

---

BOX OFFICE CHAMP	QHUYAMANTA
SWEET LIKE MANGO	SOME THINGS CHANGE
BROKEN DAWN	LAST RESORT
COLORS OF THE SOUL	

### SHORTS BLOCK #4 + Q&A

THURSDAY 6:30 PM

---

SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOU	A MOTHER'S LOVE
BRUCE	F MINOR
LAY LEFTY DOWN	BURNING VIRTUE

### SHORTS BLOCK #7 + Q&A

FRIDAY 5:30 PM

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THE JOURNALIST	ANYONE LIVED IN A PRETTY HOW TOWN
A COMFORT	ELSEWHERE
MEETING YOUR MAKER	BUDDIES
"5TH"	

### SHORTS BLOCK #10 + Q&A

SATURDAY 6:30 PM

---

TRAVEL PLANS	A KING'S CURTAIN
FABRIC	DECEMBER, DAY ZERO
SIT WITH ME WHILE I DIE	BEYOND THE SURFACE

### SHORTS BLOCK #13 + Q&A

SUNDAY 10:00 AM

---

WORMHOLES	KRISTEN
OPHIOLOGY	PAS VRAIMENT ORDINAIRE
GET BACK TO ME	RUYA
THE WINDOWSILL	

### SHORTS BLOCK #2 + Q&A

THURSDAY 1:30 PM

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DEAR SHOP GIRL	YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE
I WANNA BE	YOU'LL BE FINE
TEDDY & TATER	

### SHORTS BLOCK #5

THURSDAY 9:00 PM

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THE DRIVE	ALCHEMY OF THE WORD
DOBRINA	ANOTHER DAUGHTER
NIGHT TERRORS	

### DOC SHORTS BLOCK #8 + Q&A

FRIDAY 8:00 PM

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THE LETTER	JUSTIN'S ADDICTION STORY: NO FAMILY IS IMMUNE
DRAGON MOM	FLOTSAM RIVER CIRCUS
BACK TO NORMAL: A CANCER SURVIVOR	PIEGIRL
HOUSE OF LIGHT	

### SHORTS BLOCK #11

SATURDAY 8:30 PM

---

SOMETHING POINTLESS	THE BOY WITH THE DINOSAUR HEAD
THE CRUMBS	IN ANOTHER DAY
WAITING FOR BIGFOOT	

### DOC SHORTS BLOCK #14 + Q&A

SUNDAY 12:30 PM

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OH YEAH!	A MYSTICAL ORNITHOLOGY
THE WILD GIRL OF BRUSHVALLEY TOWNSHIP	MEMENTO FABULAM
LIFELINES	

### SHORTS BLOCK #3 + Q&A

THURSDAY 4:00 PM

---

CARILLON	OLIVE
THE DEATH OF THERAPY	BURRO
FIRE AT WILL	ALONG THE WAY
COTTONMOUTH	

### SHORTS BLOCK #6 + Q&A

FRIDAY 3:00 PM

---

LEMON	WOOLY BULLY
LAST STAND AT BUTTE CITY	MAY I PUT YOU ON HOLD?
MARIANNE AND THE REBELS	GOOGLE TRANSCRIPT
THE CALL	

### DOC SHORTS BLOCK #9 + Q&A

SATURDAY 11:00 AM

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FIRST NATIONS: FINDING THE CHICKASAW	BALL LIGHTNING BORN SECRET
BINDINGS	HAPPY IN THE BRONX

### SHORTS BLOCK #12

SATURDAY 10:15 PM

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AN EXCESS BAGGAGE	29TH OF FEBRUARY
THE CATCHER	

### SHORTS BLOCK #15 + Q&A

SUNDAY 2:30 PM

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\$13	DEBT I OWE
A TAREA	SHADOW OF HOPE
AN ACT OF LOVE	
YOU FOUND A FRIEND IN ELVIS	

# LIFF SCHEDULE

SURFLIGHT THEATRE BEACH HAVEN, NJ	LBI FOUNDATION LOVELADIES, NJ	SURF CITY FIREHOUSE SURF CITY, NJ	BIRD & BETTY'S BEACH HAVEN, NJ	SPECIAL EVENTS
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## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

5:00 PM			5:00   98 MIN ● YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE + Q&A	
7:30 PM			7:30   73 MIN ● CELLULOID W-W- WARS + Q&A	
9:30 PM			9:40   65 MIN ● PERMANENT DREAM + Q&A	
11:00 PM			11:00-CLOSING WELCOME PARTY	

## THURSDAY, JUNE 11

10:00 AM				10:00   65 MIN FRIENDS OF THE FEST Q&A
11:00 AM			● 11:00   90 MIN SHORTS BLOCK 1 + Q&A	
12:00 PM	12:00 - 2:00 JASON ALEXANDER MASTERCLASS SHOW	● 12:00   97 MIN THE DAUGHTER		● 12:00   86 MIN DARKHOUSE SHORTS BLOCK 1 + Q&A
1:30 PM			● 1:30   90 MIN SHORTS BLOCK 2 + Q&A	
2:00 PM		● 2:15   91 MIN BEACHCOMBER		
2:30 PM	● 2:30   135 MIN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF JOSEF MENGELE			● 2:30   82 MIN HEART OF DARKNESS + Q&A
4:00 PM			● 4:00   90 MIN SHORTS BLOCK 3 + Q&A	
4:30 PM		● 4:30   94 MIN SEIZED + Q&A		
5:00 PM	● 5:15   107 MIN PESCADOR + Q&A			
6:30 PM			● 6:30   90 MIN SHORTS BLOCK 4 + Q&A	
7:00 PM		● 7:00   82 MIN DARKHOUSE SHORTS 2 + Q&A		
7:30 PM	● 7:45   100 MIN OPENING NIGHT: CHILI FINGER + Q&A			
9:00 PM			● 9:00   69 MIN SHORTS BLOCK 5	
9:30 PM		● 9:30   83 MIN ERICA + Q&A		
10:00 PM				● 10:00   94 MIN ANTARCTICA- DOMAIN ONE

● HEADLINER ● SPOTLIGHT ● DOCUMENTARY ● FEATURES ● SURF ● DARKHOUSE ● SHORTS ● TV & WEB SERIES ● SPECIAL SCREENINGS

CONT'D

## THURSDAY, JUNE 11

10:30 PM ● 10:30 | 70 MIN  
A DROP IN THE OCEAN

12:00 AM

12:00-CLOSING  
OPENING PARTY  
@MARLIN RESTAURANT  
& BAR

## FRIDAY, JUNE 12

8:30 AM

8:45 - 10:30  
BREAKFAST W/  
FILMMAKERS  
@PARKER'S GARAGE

11:00 AM ● 11:00 | 105 MIN  
DON'T CALL ME MAMA  
+ Q&A

● 11:00 | 90 MIN  
TV BLOCK 1 + Q&A

● 11:00 | 65 MIN  
2551.01: THE KID + Q&A

11:30 AM ● 11:30 | 103 MIN  
THE ASCENT + Q&A

12:30 PM

● 12:50 | 82 MIN  
2551.02: THE ORGY  
OF THE DAMNED  
+ Q&A

1:30 PM ● 1:30 | 107 MIN  
BIG NIGHT ANNIVERSARY  
+ Q&A

1:30 - 2:30  
RON LESHEM  
MASTERCLASS

2:00 PM

● 2:00 | 80 MIN  
BLOOD & GUTS + Q&A

3:00 PM

● 3:00 | 87 MIN  
SHORTS BLOCK 6 + Q&A

● 3:00 | 85 MIN  
DARKHOUSE SHORTS  
BLOCK 3 + Q&A

4:00 PM

● 4:10 | 80 MIN  
MANS BEST + Q&A

4:30 PM  
4:30  
CONVERSATION W/  
TONY SHALHOUB

5:30 PM

● 5:30 | 91 MIN  
SHORTS BLOCK 7 + Q&A

● 5:30 | 84 MIN  
DARKHOUSE SHORTS  
BLOCK 4 + Q&A

6:00 PM ● 6:00 | 59 MIN  
ICE GRAVE

● 6:20 | 108 MIN  
PUBLIC ACCESS + Q&A

7:30 PM ● 7:30 | 102 MIN  
THE SUN NEVER SETS

8:00 PM

● 8:00 | 90 MIN  
SHORTS BLOCK 8 + Q&A

9:00 PM

● 9:00 | 71 MIN  
RED FLAG + Q&A

10:00 PM

10:00-CLOSING  
FRIDAY NIGHT  
PARTY  
@QUEEN CITY MARINA

## SATURDAY, JUNE 13

8:30 AM

8:45 - 10:30  
BREAKFAST W/  
FILMMAKERS  
@HOTEL LBI

11:00 AM ● 11:00 | 97 MIN  
UNION COUNTY + Q&A

● 11:00 | 86 MIN  
THE ART OF  
ADVENTURE + Q&A

● 11:00 | 84 MIN  
SHORTS BLOCK 9 + Q&A

● 11:00 | 80 MIN  
5221.03: THE END +  
Q&A

CONT'D

## SATURDAY, JUNE 13

1:00 PM	1:20   84 MIN <b>THE GYMNAST + Q&amp;A</b>	1:15   102 MIN <b>MY NDA + Q&amp;A</b>	1:15   83 MIN <b>DARKHOUSE SHORTS BLOCK 5 + Q&amp;A</b>
1:30 PM			1:30   90 MIN <b>TV BLOCK 2 + Q&amp;A</b>
3:30 PM	3:30   93 MIN <b>BOLIO: THE SPIRIT OF THE MUSTANG + Q&amp;A</b>	3:45   88 MIN <b>LONE RIDER + Q&amp;A</b>	3:30 - 4:30 MASTERCLASS W/ ALLAN HOLZMAN & NORBERT PFAFFENBICHLER: LOW-BUDGET HORROR @LBI MUSEUM
4:00 PM			4:00   90 MIN <b>TV BLOCK 3 + Q&amp;A</b>
6:00 PM	6:00   103 MIN <b>RUN AMOK + Q&amp;A</b>	6:00   84 MIN <b>OUR COLORS NEVER FADE + Q&amp;A</b>	
6:30 PM			6:30   68 MIN <b>SHORTS BLOCK 10 + Q&amp;A</b>
8:00 PM		8:15   108 MIN <b>THE DRIFTLESS + Q&amp;A</b>	
8:30 PM	8:30   97 MIN <b>HOT WATER</b>		8:30   61 MIN <b>SHORTS BLOCK 11 + Q&amp;A</b>
10:00 PM			10:15   69 MIN <b>SHORTS BLOCK 12</b>
			10:00 - Closing SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY: JURY AWARDS WINNERS REVEAL @STATION 117

## SUNDAY, JUNE 14

10:00 AM	10:00   101 MIN <b>ANDY KAUFMAN IS ME + Q&amp;A</b>	10:00   92 MIN <b>FEED THE FISH + Q&amp;A</b>	10:00   90 MIN <b>SHORTS BLOCK 13 + Q&amp;A</b>	10:00 NJ HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE
11:30 AM				11:30   93 MIN <b>ADMISSION POSSIBLE + Q&amp;A</b>
12:30 PM	12:30   95 MIN <b>MY BROTHER'S KILLER + Q&amp;A</b>	12:30   95 MIN <b>V. MARIA</b>	12:30   73 MIN <b>SHORTS BLOCK 14 + Q&amp;A</b>	
1:30 PM				1:50   104 MIN <b>THE NEW SCHOOL/ PARSONS SHOWCASE + Q&amp;A</b>
2:30 PM		2:40   108 MIN <b>SURF BLOCK</b>	2:30   85 MIN <b>SHORTS BLOCK 15 + Q&amp;A</b>	
3:00 PM	3:00   73 MIN <b>EDIE ARNOLD IS A LOSER + Q&amp;A</b>			
5:00 PM				5:00 - 7:00 CLOSING CEREMONY @JOE POP'S
7:00 PM	7:15   115 MIN <b>CLOSING NIGHT: PHOENIX JONES + Q&amp;A</b>			

# MOVIE & EVENT VENUES

## SURFLIGHT THEATRE

201 Engleside Ave  
Beach Haven, NJ

## LONG BEACH ISLAND FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS & SCIENCES

120 Long Beach Boulevard  
Loveladies, NJ

## SURF CITY FIREHOUSE

713 Long Beach Blvd.  
Surf City, NJ

## BIRD AND BETTY'S

529 Dock Rd  
Beach Haven, NJ

# TICKET & PASS INFORMATION

[WWW.LIGHTHOUSEFILMFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.LIGHTHOUSEFILMFESTIVAL.ORG)

**ALL ACCESS PASS: \$175**

**FILM ONLY PASS: \$125**

Passes can be purchased and picked up at the Festival Headquarters throughout the festival. Please be prepared to queue outside at venues. Arrive 15 minutes before screening to assure priority seating.

All locations and shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible. Communications assistance is available upon request with 3 weeks' notice.

## ALL ACCESS PASS

### A 5-DAY CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE

- All films
- Priority Entry & Seating
- 2 Breakfast with the Filmmakers
- Parties + Special Events
- LBI Shuttle Rides

*Please arrive 15 minutes prior to screenings to assure priority seating and be prepared to queue outside.*

## FILM ONLY PASS

### FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO BINGE

- All films
- Priority Entry & Seating

*This pass does not include special events & screenings. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to screenings and be prepared to queue outside.*

## TICKETS & ENTRY

- Individual film tickets available online at [LighthouseFF.com](http://LighthouseFF.com)
- RUSH tickets at door available if space permits

*Please arrive 20 minutes prior to screenings and be prepared to queue outside.*

*College students are free, based upon available space. Must have current college ID.*

# FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS

## KELLER WILLIAMS

### PREFERRED PROPERTIES OF LBI

241 W. 9th Street  
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008

## 2026 FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS HOURS:

Friday, May 22.....	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Saturday, May 23.....	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Monday, May 25.....	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sunday, June 7.....	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Monday, June 8.....	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Wednesday June 10.....	2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Thursday, June 11.....	12:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Friday, June 12.....	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Saturday June 13.....	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Sunday, June 14.....	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*All Access and Film Only Passes, Filmmakers, Industry Passes, Press passes, Volunteer t-shirts and badges can be picked up at Headquarters.*

## ALL ACCESS AND FILM ONLY PASSES MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

### Festival Headquarters

**Keller Williams**  
241 W 9th St, Ship Bottom, NJ

### Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and Sciences

120 Long Beach Blvd, Loveladies, NJ  
Phone: 609-494-1241

Monday - Saturday.....10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### Things A Drift

406 Long Beach Blvd, Ship Bottom, NJ  
Phone: 609-361-1668

Thursday-Sunday.....11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### The Cheese Shoppe (ONLY UNTIL JUNE 7)

615 N Bay Ave, Beach Haven, NJ  
Phone: 609-833-4230

Friday-Sunday.....11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## PLEASE NOTE THAT TO PICK UP PASSES YOU MUST BRING:

- proof of purchase
- a confirmation email
- and a photo ID



*Communication assistance is available upon request with 3 weeks notice.*



*All locations are wheelchair accessible.*

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## WELCOME PARTY

Kick off the Lighthouse International Film Festival with filmmakers, film lovers, and staff. Enjoy great food, drinks and company as we launch an unforgettable weekend of cinema by the sea.

All Access Badges may enjoy a happy hour menu and drinks. Must be 21+.

**WHEN**  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH  
10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

**WHERE**  
**BIRD & BETTY'S**  
529 Dock Rd, Beach Haven

## NIGHT OWL AFTER PARTY

Rally your crew and dive into the late-night scene with filmmakers, staff, and fellow night owls.

No cover for All Access Badges, Staff Badges, and Volunteers. Must be 21+.

**WHEN**  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH  
Midnight - closing

**WHERE**  
**MARLIN BAR AND RESTAURANT**  
2 S Bay Ave, Beach Haven

## CENTERPIECE PARTY

Party under the stars on beautiful Barnegat Bay. Turn up the music, hit the dance floor and dive into a night of nonstop festival energy. Drinks flowing, great snacks, great people all around—this is where the stories keep going long after the credits roll. Let's celebrate, connect and keep the vibe alive.

All Access Badges only. Must be 21+.

**WHEN**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH  
10:00 p.m. - closing

**WHERE**  
**QUEEN CITY MARINA**  
525 2nd St, Beach Haven

## KARAOKE PARTY & JURY AWARDS REVEAL

Head to Station 117 for a high-energy night of karaoke and late-night fun. The Jury Awards will be announced, celebrating the chosen films for their bold storytelling and the visionary storytellers and artists whose work captivated LIFF audiences and jurors alike. Grab a drink, sing your heart out and celebrate with filmmakers, friends and fellow film lovers.

All Access Badges only. Must be 21+.

**WHEN**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH  
10:00 p.m. - closing

**WHERE**  
**STATION 117**  
117 N Bay Ave, Beach Haven

## CLOSING PARTY

Wrap up an amazing weekend in true LBI style at Joe Pop's, the legendary shore bar where the party never stops. Enjoy bites from local favorites, share a few laughs, and toast to an unforgettable festival weekend.

Don't miss the Festival Awards Announcement as we close out LIFF 2026 and celebrate the memories made.

All Access Badges, Volunteers, and Staff welcome.

**WHEN**  
SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE**  
**JOE POP'S**  
2002 Long Beach Blvd,  
Ship Bottom

# DARKHOUSE SHORTS



## THE BINDING

DIRECTOR: RYAN KENNEDY

10 MIN  
USA

In the wake of a failed exorcism, a grieving father does "whatever it takes" to destroy the entity that took his daughter, even if that means committing an unforgivable sin of his own.



## BRIAN WON'T WEAR CONDOMS

DIRECTOR: GENNA EDWARDS

11 MIN  
USA

An alternative contraceptive procedure tests the relationship between a wellness influencer and her skeptical best friend.



## BURIED ABOVE GROUND

DIRECTOR: ANNA CHI  
U.S. PREMIERE

20 MIN  
USA

Burdened by isolation and loneliness, a college freshman follows ghostly signals into the woods—and finds the courage to lift what's buried inside him.



## CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

DIRECTOR: VICTORIA HILL  
WORLD PREMIERE

14 MIN  
AUS

The fabulous Treasure sisters, Mavis and Audrey, have turned their failed acting careers into an award-winning gourmet sausage business, produced on their inherited Napa Valley farm, but behind the curtain lies a sinister sisterhood.



## CERULEA

DIRECTOR: AJ LAMBERT  
WORLD PREMIERE

16 MIN  
USA

A young mother's fleeting wish to abandon her family comes true in an instant that ends up being the rest of her life.



## THE COLOR OF DARKNESS

DIRECTOR: KIRK SANDERS  
WORLD PREMIERE

18 MIN  
USA

A desperate Hannah and Will visit a rural fertility retreat only to discover a secretive matriarchal cult, whose psychedelic rituals shatter her identity into a new persona, while forcing him to confront the buried horrors of his traumatic childhood he once fled.



**DOWNSIDED**  
DIRECTOR: ED WILLEY

9 MIN  
GBR

On his last day of work, a software engineer attempts to salvage the digital remains of his wife before being discovered by his coworker.



**GIZAKI**  
DIRECTOR: XANTI RODRIGUEZ  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

8 MIN  
ESP

Kana, a tender creature who travels through the desires of the young, helps a friend with a problem by delving into her subconscious, where nothing is as it seems.



**HER KIND**  
DIRECTOR: INGRID ANNA JUNGEMANN

11 MIN  
USA

A woman who is not a woman, quite, takes a trip with a baby who is not her own.



**HIDE**  
DIRECTOR: BRENDEN HUBBARD

16 MIN  
USA

Still reeling from an incredible loss, a father (Shakey Graves) and daughter cling to a bedtime routine keeping them safe in a town where an unfathomable horror visits its inhabitants night after night.



**HIVEMIND DELUXE**  
DIRECTOR: CHRIS ALAN EVANS

10 MIN  
USA

When she and her boyfriend are abducted at a cosmic meditation circle, a disillusioned young woman must resist an alien hive-mind upgrade to save herself.



**THE LION**  
DIRECTOR: ABIGAIL ZEALEY BESS  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

11 MIN  
USA

Katherine wins a "Make a Wish Contest." Her wish? To pet the lion at the zoo.

CONT'D

# DARKHOUSE SHORTS



## MARDAZMA

DIRECTOR: AMIR MASOUD SOHEILI  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

14 MIN  
IRN

Two Taliban soldiers transporting prisoners take a secret path and encounter a jinn that forces them to face their fear, power, and beliefs.

SUB



## THE ME IN THE TV

DIRECTOR: GORDON PHILLIPS

7 MIN  
USA/IDN

A young woman moves into a new apartment and comes face to face with a less human version of herself.



## MEAT

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL SKANES  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

12 MIN  
USA

A doting wife, a controlling husband, and an appetite for revenge.



## NAILBITER

DIRECTOR: CAL ROHDIE

10 MIN  
USA

Natalie, a young girl desperate to stop biting her nails, is confronted with the manifestation of her anxieties.



## NEVERMORE

DIRECTOR: LIANNA BOERMEESTER  
U.S. PREMIERE

6 MIN  
ISR

A duo of women shape-shifters, a wolf and a crow, are trying to survive the end of the world. Will they be able to find a place to call home?



## PRECIOUS LIGHT

DIRECTOR: NICKON C. HEMATI

13 MIN  
USA

In a quiet, post-collapse world, a couple's peaceful routine is disrupted by the sudden appearance of a mysterious beam of light in their cabin—what begins as a curiosity soon becomes an obsession that threatens to unravel their relationship.



**PRIME**

DIRECTOR: MEAGAN COYLE  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

16 MIN  
USA

A trauma victim joins a Utopian farming community only to find she's bitten off more than she can chew.



**PROJECT BLUE BUCKET**

DIRECTOR: JOSH KAHN  
WORLD PREMIERE

11 MIN  
USA

After a farmer blames aliens for taking his feet, he and his daughter have to come to terms with his conspiracy-laden beliefs when a mysterious insurance claim investigator shows up uninvited.



**THE SAFETY GAMES**

DIRECTOR: JEREMIAH KIPP

11 MIN  
USA

A mother's hyper-vigilance may be the very thing that thrusts her daughter into harm's way.



**THE SCENE**

DIRECTOR: DANIEL MEYERS

12 MIN  
USA

With the hope of discovering a new lead, a detective revisits the scene of his partner's brutal murder. Yet, the longer he stays, the harrowing truth begins to reveal itself...

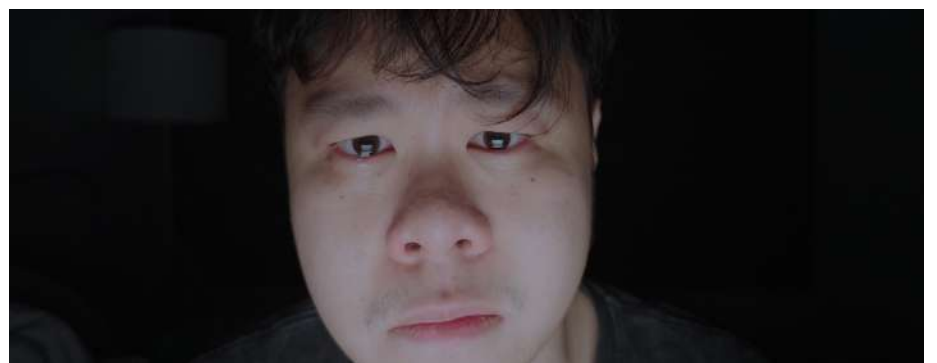


**SHROOMERY**

DIRECTOR: DANE BENKO  
WORLD PREMIERE

14 MIN  
USA

A young couple on the verge of breakup must team up to fight off a growth of malicious mushrooms that has overtaken their refrigerator.



**SLEEP CALL**

DIRECTOR: RICHER HUYNH

25 MIN  
USA

A lonely young man finds love online when a late-night sleep call with a stranger blossoms into an intimate digital romance.

CONT'D

# DARKHOUSE SHORTS



## SOY BOY

DIRECTOR: ADRIAN HUI

17 MIN  
USA

When a jaded college senior encounters his idealized alter ego at a party, his curated existence starts to unravel.



## TARGET AUDIENCE

DIRECTOR: BERNARDO HIPPERT

13 MIN  
BRA

A hitman builds a massive following by posting his kills until cancel culture turns him from creator into target.



## TERROIR

DIRECTOR: CASEY ROGERSON

14 MIN  
USA

On a remote French vineyard, a group of wine critics become the target of a masked killer.



## TRAD

DIRECTOR: DAVE BEKERMAN

12 MIN  
USA

A struggling influencer reluctantly pivots to tradwife content to dig her husband out of a financial hole and soon becomes trapped by the increasingly disturbing demands of her viral persona.



## UNDER MY SKIN

DIRECTORS: GRACE HABECKER & LIAM GORECKI

4 MIN  
USA

An incarcerated woman is gaslit into believing the bugs she sees aren't real.



## US-HER

DIRECTOR: DAVID SALGADO MARCOTE  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

22 MIN  
ESP

*US-HER* is a loose adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's short story, "The Fall of the House of Usher".





**WE'LL STILL BE HERE**  
DIRECTOR: SÉYLA HOSSAINI

18 MIN  
USA

Two cousins reunite after a long time apart—one who has fallen into a spiral of drug use, and one who has become a vampire.



**YOU HAVE HER EYES**  
DIRECTORS: CORY STONEBROOK & JORDAN SOMMERLAD

16 MIN  
USA

A woman's fears about having children begin to manifest as visions of her dead grandmother.

**BLOCK 1**

THURSDAY 12:00 PM

THE BINDING	NEVERMORE
HIVEMIND DELUXE	THE ME IN THE TV
MARDAZMA	NAILBITER
TRAD	SOY BOY

**BLOCK 2**

THURSDAY 7:00 PM

DOWNSIZED	THE SAFETY GAMES
MEAT	SLEEP CALL
GIZAKI	
BURIED ABOVE GROUND	

**BLOCK 3**

FRIDAY 3:00 PM

YOU HAVE HER EYES	SHROOMERY
BRIAN WON'T WEAR CONDOMS	UNDER MY SKIN
PROJECT BLUE BUCKET	TARGET AUDIENCE
	CERULEA

**BLOCK 4**

FRIDAY 5:30 PM

PRIME	THE SCENE
WE'LL STILL BE HERE	CAPTIVE AUDIENCE
THE LION	HER KIND

**BLOCK 5**

SATURDAY 1:15 PM

TERROIR	PRECIOUS LIGHT
US-HER	HIDE
THE COLOR OF DARKNESS	

# SURF FEATURES



## ANTARCTICA - DOMAIN ONE

DIRECTORS: JULIÁN AZULAY & JOAQUIN AZULAY

94 MIN  
ARG

Narrated by 11-time World Surf League Champion Kelly Slater, *Antarctica - Domain One* follows brothers Julián and Joaquin Azulay as they launch a five-day surf expedition through the world's most dangerous currents to "The White Continent." Their journey raises questions: Will the countries needed to approve the mission grant permission? Where will the waves be? Will they need to trek across an active volcano to find them? Will leopard seals attack? Most importantly for the Argentinian brothers, will the expedition raise enough awareness to establish protections around Domain One, where one of the world's largest krill fishing operations threatens our planet's largest biomass? The story also features lifelong conservationist and researcher Rodolfo Werner, seasoned boat captain Ezequiel Sundblad, and Argentinian marine researcher and technician Carlos "Mono" Bellisio, as this dedicated group fights to protect the ocean they love, its marine life, and the planet for us all. - *Jasmine Dorothy Haefner*



## GUTS - A FEMALE EXPEDITION THROUGH AFRICA

DIRECTOR: PATRIZIA BRUNO  
U.S. PREMIERE

64 MIN  
ITA

More than a surf film, this sweeping road documentary follows filmmaker Patrizia Bruno and co-producer Marie-Therese Pfisterer, surfers alike, as they travel 30,000 kilometers over five months from Italy to West Africa, chasing instinct, freedom, and the stories of women refusing to accept the limits placed upon them. Their car, Petra, constantly breaks down, while border crossings, highway bandits, and police activity become a relentless source of stress. Along the way, unexpected encounters shape their journey, introducing them to an Olympic athlete, Morocco's first female mountain guide, a Mauritanian women's rights activist shortlisted for the Nobel Peace Prize and more. As they journey from the coast to inland Africa over and over, Bruno explores what one of her subjects asks, "Are you truly happy?" The film is a wild journey through the second largest continent in the world, where we find that the road is always within us. - *Jasmine Dorothy Haefner*

SUB



## PERMANENT DREAM

DIRECTOR: XAV LANGTON  
WORLD PREMIERE

65 MIN  
USA

That trip you always wanted with your friends was even better than you could have imagined. From La Jolla, California, to Oaxaca, Mexico, then across the world to Arugam Bay, Sri Lanka and Souss-Massa, Morocco, the peaceful and warm *Permanent Dream* is the new *Endless Summer*.

This near-cinéma-vérité documentary follows a group of friends immersing themselves in seemingly endless destinations and cultures, genuinely moving through places as a traveler, not a tourist—with the film showing the same reverence to the people they meet as they do to the film's main subjects. To top it off, the film soars with phenomenal earthbound and astral cinematography, an immersive low-fi new rock sound score and top-notch, absolutely killer surfing—insane aerials, triple-overhead, pitted in barrels, turns like you wouldn't believe. Through all of their travels in this *Permanent Dream* landscape, the question you really walk away with is... are you genuinely living at peace? - *Jasmine Dorothy Haefner*

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: XAV LANGTON  
EDITOR/SOUND DESIGNER: TAYLOR FUCHS

# SURF SHORTS



**THE INCREDIBLE PAULK**  
DIRECTORS: CAROLINE LOSNECK & CHRISTOPH GELFAND  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

17 MIN  
USA

Aaron Paulk, a visually impaired surfer, has found a way to navigate uncertainty—but this time, the path forward is less clear than ever.



**THE SEA & SHE**  
DIRECTOR: TYLER SHORTT  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

22 MIN  
USA

*The Sea & She* is a coming-of-age documentary about award-winning community servant Sunny Kazama, who makes history in helping Hawai'i become the first and only state in the U.S. to adopt surfing as a high school sport.

## SURF FEATURE

WEDNESDAY 9:40 PM

PERMANENT DREAM

## SURF FEATURE

THURSDAY 10:00 PM

ANTARCTICA -  
DOMAIN ONE

## BLOCK 3

SUNDAY 2:40 PM

THE SEA & SHE

THE INCREDIBLE PAULK

GUTS - A FEMALE  
EXPEDITION THROUGH  
AFRICA

# TV & WEB SERIES

## COMPETITION



### ARE WE STILL MARRIED?

DIRECTOR: KIT STEINKELLNER

12 MIN  
USA

Over the course of one night, Laura must decide if she will invite her husband Jack, who has recently been turned into a vampire, back into their house.

SXSW OFFICIAL SELECTION



### CITIZANOS

DIRECTOR: EFRAÍN CORTÉS

14 MIN  
USA

In 2028, a newly minted U.S. regime with imperial ambitions embarks on an invasion of Mexico. In the crosshairs, the Torres family faces an unimaginable choice: suffer the fate of a war-torn wasteland or become Homeland *CITIZANOS*—indentured debt servants.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER: EFRAÍN CORTÉS



### CVNT

DIRECTOR: NICOLE HIGGINS

16 MIN  
USA

A struggling single mom turns to a bizarre side hustle, selling her breast milk to take care of her baby daughter.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

WRITER/DIRECTOR/ACTOR: NICOLE HIGGINS, PRODUCER: JENNIFER SHERER



### DEWEY DAYS

DIRECTOR: ZACH RINEER

34 MIN  
USA

What starts as an undesired move to the town of Dewey Beach for the summer, slowly defines prospective law student Clarice's outlook toward life as she navigates work, relationships, and music through her job at the local dive.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/CREATOR: ZACH RINEER, WRITER/CREATOR/EP: CHRISTINE RINEER, WRITER/CO-PRODUCER/CREATOR: MIKE MACERA



### THE EP

DIRECTOR: BARRETT LESLY SHULER

23 MIN  
USA

20 years after a tragedy tore them apart, two high school bandmates decide to reunite and track down their lost EP in hopes to reignite the rock-and-roll life they've always dreamed of.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

WRITER/DIRECTOR: BARRETT LESLY SHULER, ACTOR/PRODUCER: KEITH ROENKE, PRODUCER: JASMIN PATIÑO, PRODUCER/COMPOSER: ARTURO REYES, PRODUCER/COMPOSER: DONOVAN EDELSTEIN

PAGE 54



### ETHEL & ERNIE

DIRECTOR: JULIA WACKENHEIM

EAST COAST PREMIERE

21 MIN  
USA

*Ethel & Ernie* is a heartwarming comedy about the unlikely friendship between Ethel Lennon, a 73-year-old widow who has lost her driver's license and freedom after multiple car accidents, and Ernestine "Ernie" Brown, a 30s PilipinX in-home caregiver who loves her job but misses her family in the Philippines.

■ TALENT ATTENDING

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/WRITER/ACTOR: JULIA WACKENHEIM, ACTOR: ELLEN BOSCOV, PRODUCER: RYAN BUFFA



## GRINDAVIK

DIRECTOR: GARÐAR ÖRN ARNARSON  
U.S. PREMIERE

43 MIN  
ISL

A small-town basketball team struggles to stay united and find hope as a catastrophic series of earthquakes and lava flows literally split their community and their lives apart.

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: GARÐAR ÖRN ARNARSON, CINEMATOGRAPHER/PRODUCER: SIGURÐUR MÁR DAVIDSSON

SUB



## THE HUMAN, WILL

DIRECTOR: EDWARD BURSCH

7 MIN  
USA

A depressed insurance claims adjuster vows to exercise free will after his pet goldfish, Frodo, is shot and killed.

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**

WRITER/DIRECTOR: EDWARD BURSCH



## IN MY BLOOD

DIRECTOR: ALEX BENDO  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

20 MIN  
USA

Desperate to live up to his father's expectations, a talented but inconsistent minor league baseball player turns to steroids, igniting a dangerous transformation of body and mind.

SXSW JURY AWARD WINNER



## LOWELYFE: THE ONLY WAY OUT IS THROUGH

DIRECTOR: QUILAN "CUE" ARNOLD

10 MIN  
USA

Set in a post-traumatic society plagued by ancestral amnesia, *Lowelyfe* follows Agui Luz—survivor of a collapsed tower—who seeks refuge from his survivor's guilt at a mysterious clinic, only to find himself caught in a deeper test that reveals a suppressed purpose buried in his body.

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**

WRITER/DIRECTOR: QUILAN "CUE" ARNOLD



## OUT OF THE HOUSE

DIRECTOR: BRITTANI WARD  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

13 MIN  
USA

When a young Hindu American woman gets her period during the festival of Navaratri, a boozy accident derails her plans to follow traditional customs.

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: BRITTANI WARD, WRITER/PRODUCER/ACTOR: VINITHRA RAJ



## REPTILIA

DIRECTOR: CHASE COMMINS

40 MIN  
USA

All Jane wants is to fit in, despite being a Reptilian humanoid from beneath the sea. But when she joins a Meisner class to learn how to act human, she's about to find out that being a person is...complicated.

CONT'D

# TV & WEB SERIES

## COMPETITION



**SON OF A BIKRAM**  
DIRECTOR: JOHNNY REY DIAZ  
EAST COAST PREMIERE

18 MIN  
USA

Raag, an obsessive hot yoga practitioner, faces a crisis when his idol, Bikram Choudhury, is accused of sexual assault.

SXSW OFFICIAL SELECTION



**WOODEN SPOONS**  
DIRECTOR: TASNEEM AFRIDI

27 MIN  
USA

An eccentric young woman, disillusioned by career and romantic setbacks, stumbles into a bizarre spoon-selling job that unexpectedly offers her a chance to fund her true-crime podcast and reclaim control of her life.

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**

WRITER/DIRECTOR: TASNEEM AFRIDI, CINEMATOGRAPHER/CO-CREATOR: CHANCEY JUNE GANNETT, ACTOR: SIRAJ HUDA

### BLOCK 1

FRIDAY 11:00 AM

SON OF A BIKRAM	OUT OF THE HOUSE
IN MY BLOOD	REPTILIA
CVNT	

### BLOCK 2

SATURDAY 1:30 PM

GRINDAVIK	ARE WE STILL MARRIED?
LOWELYFE: THE ONLY WAY OUT IS THROUGH	DEWEY DAYS

### BLOCK 3

SATURDAY 4:00 PM

WOODEN SPOONS	CITIZANOS
THE HUMAN, WILL	ETHEL & ERNIE
THE EP	

# FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL



## HEAVENS TO BETSY

DIRECTORS: DAVE NIZIOLEK & BRENDAN WALSH

22 MIN  
USA

On the verge of giving up on life (literally), a jaded, self-destructive woman enlists a meek end-of-life care worker as her reluctant companion on a chaotic, last-minute bucket list adventure.

PRODUCED BY DARKHOUSE PROGRAMMER LUKE MILLER



## MESSI: MARADONA'S SUCCESSOR

DIRECTOR: ALEX TOMKO

8 MIN  
USA

A short film that documents Argentina's passionate love for its football icons, capturing the highs and lows experienced by the fans in Buenos Aires during the 2022 World Cup Final.



## THE PIANO MOVER

DIRECTOR: AMNON CARMİ

16 MIN  
USA

When Rafi loses a priceless grand piano on the night of a rare performance, he must find a way to replace it in time for the show.

DIRECTED BY RUFF CUTS AT THE NEW SCHOOL PRODUCER AMNON CARMİ

THE SCREENING WILL FOLLOW THE NEW SCHOOL PROGRAM



## SELF FUNDED

DIRECTORS: TIM FELLINGHAM & NATHAN JAMES ROOT

35 MIN  
DNK

A desperate first time director attempts to bankroll his dream film after finding drugs washed up on a Danish beach.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY AND STARRING ANNA ARDEN, A LIFF SUPPORTER

## BLOCK 1

THURSDAY 11:00 AM

HEAVENS TO  
BETSY

SELF FUNDED

MESSI:  
MARADONA'S  
SUCCESSOR

\* THE PIANO MOVER  
WILL BE SCREENED  
FOLLOWING THE NEW  
SCHOOL PROGRAM

# THE NEW SCHOOL/PARSONS FILMS



## DREAM ADDICTS ANONYMOUS

DIRECTOR: ELLA BRAFF

10 MIN  
USA

When Amy struggles to trudge through her monotonous everyday life, she realizes she is happier when she is asleep, forcing her to chase the secure bliss she feels when she dreams.

SUB



## INERTIA

DIRECTOR: JUAN DIEGO SILVA-ZUÑIGA

19 MIN  
MEX

A young man takes his grandfather with dementia for a final ride before putting him to rest – though he doesn't seem to be able to put the day to an end.



## MAGIC 8 BALL

DIRECTOR: DELLA JOAN

3 MIN  
USA

A chameleon with a bird for a roommate goes on a hunt for the most important answer.



## ONE MORE FOR SAFETY

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL SCHNICK

19 MIN  
USA

Through the point of view of his self-tape lens, we watch an actor, over the course of years, experience the highs and lows of life as he pursues his passion.



## ORGY EVERY OTHER DAY

DIRECTOR: SAMUEL DÖRING

13 MIN  
DEU

A spicy dive into New York's underground queer sex party scene.



## REFORGET

DIRECTOR: ZHAN (BENJAMIN) WANG

7 MIN  
CHN

When a retired rally racer approaching his 60s slowly shows signs of dementia, his son decides to step into his lifelong passion and deal with their relationship.

SUB



**TAPE OF '25**

DIRECTOR: EDUARDO MACHADO

17 MIN  
USA

In the final week of college, a tight-knit group of friends unravels when an AI-generated sextape throws them into a spiral of paranoia, jealousy, and identity crises.

**BLOCK 1**

SUNDAY 1:50 PM

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| ONE MORE FOR SAFETY  | TAPE OF '25             |
| MAGIC 8 BALL         | REFORGET                |
| INERTIA              | DREAM ADDICTS ANONYMOUS |
| ORGY EVERY OTHER DAY |                         |

**NJ HIGH SCHOOL SHORTS SHOWCASE**

SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH 10:00 AM @ BIRD & BETTY'S

**A CARDINAL SIN**  
DIRECTORS: JOSIAS ORTIZ, CALEB SAMBUCCI, JAYDEN DE JESUS, TRAYSTEN L. KORPI, & CHRISTOPHER FIGUEROA-BELTRE  
EAST BRUNSWICK MAGNET SCHOOL – SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
4 min

**A DAY IN THE LIFE**  
DIRECTOR: MOLLY PEASE  
GRUNIN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY  
3 min

**HARE**  
DIRECTOR: DREW VANDENBROUCK  
COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL  
2 min

**HIGH STEAKS**  
DIRECTOR: ETHAN DAVIS  
COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL  
4 min

**LIVE**  
DIRECTOR: SABRINA CAMACHO  
DONALD M. PAYNE SR. SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY  
4 min

**MAY MISS THE MAGIC**  
DIRECTOR: CALEB SAMBUCCI  
EAST BRUNSWICK MAGNET SCHOOL – SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
14 min

**ONE GNARLY COP**  
DIRECTOR: TYLER WALSH  
COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL  
5 min

**ONE SHOT**  
DIRECTOR: DANIELLE ORTIZ  
DONALD M. PAYNE SR. SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY  
7 min

**OUR DIENASTY**  
DIRECTOR: JOSIAS ORTIZ  
EAST BRUNSWICK MAGNET SCHOOL – SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
10 min

**RED-HANDED**  
DIRECTOR: CHARLOTTE MATTHIAS  
COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL  
3 min

**THE SHOW MUST GO ON**  
DIRECTORS: ASHER STERLING GAMBLE & TRINITY PEREZ  
DONALD M. PAYNE SR. SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY  
5 min

**TRAY**  
DIRECTOR: TRAYSTEN L. KORPI  
EAST BRUNSWICK MAGNET SCHOOL – SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
5 min

**WELCOME TO UTONIC**  
DIRECTORS: NORI GRIFFITHS, KAMI LOPEZ, & DREW VANDENBROUCK  
COMMUNICATIONS HIGH SCHOOL  
10 min

# WRITE BY THE BEACH



**WRITE BY THE BEACH**  
*A FEMALE WRITERS' RETREAT*  
**OCT 17-24TH**

**SUBMIT NOW!**  
**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT - JULY 1**  
**REGULAR DEADLINE - AUGUST 1**  
**LATE DEADLINE AUGUST 20TH**

**Write by the Beach** is a week-long writing retreat for female filmmakers on Long Beach Island, New Jersey from October 17–24, 2026. This retreat offers four selected female screenwriters the opportunity to focus on their craft, connect with one another, and draw inspiration from the island's natural beauty.

Stay in an oceanfront home with breathtaking views, immerse yourself in the calm of the sea, share ideas, and develop your project. This retreat is not only about honing your craft, it's also about building meaningful relationships, exchanging insights, and supporting one another in a relaxed, creative environment.

The Lighthouse International Film Festival is proud to support female storytellers, fostering diverse voices and enriching our culture through compelling stories.

Don't miss this special opportunity. **Write by the Beach** October 17–24. Submissions are open—apply today: [lighthousefilmff.com](https://lighthousefilmff.com)

With thanks to our sponsors, Carole Rogin and LBI Dreammakers.

# INDUSTRY EVENTS



## BREAKFAST WITH THE FILMMAKERS GO BEHIND THE SCREEN. HEAR THE STORIES BEHIND THE STORIES

Start your day with coffee, breakfast, and lively conversation. Join LIFF filmmakers for an engaging panel of insights, inspiration, and behind-the-scenes moments that bring the films to life.

Come curious—this is your chance to connect, ask questions, and be part of the conversation.

**WHEN**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH  
8:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE**  
**PARKER'S GARAGE & OYSTER SALOON**  
116 Northwest Ave,  
Beach Haven, NJ 08008

*Sponsored by the TIDETABLE GROUP*

**WHEN**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH  
8:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE**  
**HOTEL LBI**  
350 W 8th St,  
Ship Bottom, NJ 08008

*Sponsored by DENA AND SAM LOMBARDO*



## MASTERCLASS: WITH RON LESHEM

*Euphoria* may be a cultural phenomenon on American TV, but few of its fans realize it originated as an Israeli series that was forced to shut down after one season due to its controversial themes. What's the story behind its collaboration with HBO? What does it take to adapt a foreign drama for a local audience? And how has so much international content found popularity among English-speaking viewers in the U.S.?

Ron Leshem, creator of the original *Euphoria* and an executive producer of the HBO adaptation, who also works regularly with Netflix, Hulu, and others, will come to LIFF to address these questions and more in a special masterclass. He'll share his experiences working on both sides of the ocean, offering a rare opportunity to explore how compelling writing can break through in any language, bridge cultural gaps, and achieve both critical and commercial success worldwide.

**WHEN**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH  
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**WHERE**  
**SURF CITY FIREHOUSE**  
713 Long Beach Blvd,  
Surf City, NJ 08008



## MAKING LOW-BUDGET GENRE CINEMA IN A DIFFERENT TIME, DIFFERENT PLACE:

A PANEL WITH ALLAN HOLZMAN AND NORBERT PFAFFENBICHLER

Once in a galaxy far, far away...created by George Lucas under the banner of 20th Century Fox, a parallel universe emerged. Scrappy indie filmmakers produced low-budget sci-fi and horror movies, similar to *Star Wars*, but much cheaper. Hollywood veteran Allan Holzman worked with Roger Corman and others on cult films from the 1980s, such as *The Battle Beyond the Stars* (1980) and *Forbidden World* (1982), and will share his experiences from that era, where anything could happen for next to nothing. Fast-forward to the present: Austrian artist Norbert Pfaffenbichler brings his visionary nightmares to life (and death) on screen with extremely limited resources, and still manages to create his own trilogy—2551, a masterful original work. So how can we do the same in America today?

**WHEN**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH  
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**WHERE**  
**LBI MUSEUM**  
129 Engleside Ave,  
Beach Haven, NJ 08008

# TONY SHALHOUB EVENTS



## IN CONVERSATION WITH TONY SHALHOUB: MODERATED BY JASON ALEXANDER

Join us for a comprehensive, intimate, and candid conversation with Tony Shalhoub, the festival's special guest, moderated by none other than Jason Alexander, LIFF advisory board member. This special event will revisit the actor's early career and trace his ascent to global fame across film, television, and the stage. From his beginnings in the 1980s, through a wide range of commercial and independent film roles, to the remarkable popularity of *Monk* and the iconic character he defined and embodied for eight seasons.

Delving deep into the life and creative process of an actor - behind the scenes and on camera - this conversation will explore the balance between performing for an audience and the solitary, richly layered inner world that fuels the craft. It's an experience to be shared with us at Lighthouse, celebrating one of the finest actors working today.

**WHEN**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH  
4:30 p.m.

**WHERE**  
**SURFLIGHT THEATRE**  
201 Engleside Ave,  
Beach Haven, NJ 08008



## SPECIAL 30TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING: BIG NIGHT

**DIRECTORS: CAMPBELL SCOTT & STANLEY TUCCI**  
107 MIN | USA

The 1995 classic family drama *Big Night* returns to the big screen for a special 30th anniversary screening, giving audiences a rare chance to revisit this beloved, food-filled gem right where it belongs: the Jersey Shore, where it was shot and set. And not only that, but to experience the movie in the presence of Tony Shalhoub, the festival's special guest

Co-directed by Campbell Scott and Stanley Tucci, the film follows two Italian immigrant brothers, played by Tucci and Shalhoub, as they try to save their struggling restaurant with one unforgettable night of food, family, and big expectations. Featuring a standout supporting cast including Minnie Driver, Isabella Rossellini, Allison Janney, and Marc Anthony, it's a warm, bittersweet story about ambition, identity, and the cost of the American dream. - *Shirit Gal-Kedar*

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
**DIRECTOR: CAMPBELL SCOTT**  
**ACTOR: TONY SHALHOUB**

**WHEN**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH  
1:30 p.m. | 107 min

**WHERE**  
**SURFLIGHT THEATRE**  
201 Engleside Ave,  
Beach Haven, NJ 08008



## BOLIO: THE SPIRIT OF THE MUSTANG

**DIRECTOR: JIM ISSA**  
93 MIN | USA  
WORLD PREMIERE

Who wouldn't want a close, personal life coach to help them out of life's slumps? In this heartfelt indie comedy, director Jack Issa follows Dale Bolio (Eugene Cordero), a down-on-his-luck, depressed shop teacher who finds an unexpected spark in a relentlessly upbeat life coach. But just when Dale starts feeling better and regains confidence and purpose, he begins to suspect that his mentor isn't exactly who he claims to be. Blending offbeat humor with heart, this dramedy presents a story of second chances and unlikely friendship, executive produced by and featuring the festival's very special guest, Tony Shalhoub, who stars along with his wife, actress Brooke Adams. - *Shirit Gal-Kedar*

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
**DIRECTOR: JIM ISSA**  
**ACTOR: TONY SHALHOUB & BROOKE ADAMS**

**WHEN**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH  
3:30 p.m. | 93 min

**WHERE**  
**SURFLIGHT THEATRE**  
201 Engleside Ave,  
Beach Haven, NJ 08008



**FEED THE FISH**  
**DIRECTOR: MICHAEL MATZDORFF**  
92 MIN | USA

This quirky indie film from 2010, written and directed by Michael Matzdorff, is set in the depths of a Wisconsin winter and follows Joe Peterson, a burned-out children's author who escapes California after a breakup and creative slump. Seeking inspiration and perhaps redemption, he heads to a small lakeside town to take part in the annual Polar Bear Plunge, only to find unexpected connection and romance.

Screened as part of our tribute to Tony Shalhoub, the film features a warm, subtle and comic performance from LIFF's special guest as the town's sheriff. - *Shirit Gal-Kedar*

■ **TALENT ATTENDING**  
**DIRECTOR: MICHAEL MATZDORFF**  
**ACTOR: TONY SHALHOUB**

**WHEN**  
SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH  
10:00 a.m. | 92 min

**WHERE**  
**LBI FOUNDATION**  
120 Long Beach Blvd,  
Long Beach, NJ 08008

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# JASON ALEXANDER'S MASTERCLASS



## JASON ALEXANDER'S MASTERCLASS FOR ACTORS SHOWCASE

HOSTED BY THE LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Lighthouse International Film Festival is proud to invite audiences to a public showcase featuring the final performances by actors participating in the creative process of actor, director, and educator Jason Alexander.

Through daily four-hour sessions, Mr. Alexander will mentor eight selected participants in an exclusive masterclass held at beloved Bird & Betty's.

The masterclass culminates on Thursday, June 11, with a live public showcase at the historic Surflight Theatre, where participants will perform their works in progress on stage in front of an audience, followed by a live conversation and Q&A with Jason Alexander.

## ABOUT JASON ALEXANDER

Jason Alexander holds a degree in Theatre Studies from Boston University and trained for over a decade with leading teachers and mentors. That foundation led to a 50-year, award-winning career across film, television and stage.

He's widely known for his iconic role as George Costanza on *Seinfeld* and his body of work includes more than 30 feature films, numerous television series and extensive stage work with seven Broadway appearances. He is a Tony and Grammy Award winner as well as an eight-time Emmy nominee.

## PUBLIC SHOWCASE

This showcase is available to All Access badge holders, or individual tickets may be purchased online at [LighthouseFF.com](https://LighthouseFF.com)

**WHEN**  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH  
noon - 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE**  
**SURFLIGHT THEATRE**  
201 Engleside Ave,  
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Eileen Hessel, renowned local luxury real estate agent and "Realtor to the Stars," is a dedicated supporter of the Lighthouse Film Festival. Through her generosity, expertise, and tireless commitment, Eileen has played an integral role in welcoming filmmakers, celebrities, and distinguished guests from around the world to our Island. As a trusted consultant and premier rental specialist, Eileen has coordinated exceptional accommodations for notable guests including Jason Alexander and Tony Shalhoub, ensuring every visitor experiences the very best accommodations. Known for her personalized approach and deep knowledge of the luxury beach rental market, Eileen specializes in maximizing value for beach house investors through expert property management, professional staging, and concierge-level cleaning services. Her passion for hospitality and excellence continues to make a lasting impact on the film festival industry on LBI.

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### ART CLASSES

Art Classes offer hands on workshops for all ages, with instruction in painting, ceramics, mosaics, mixed media, and more, across a range of skill levels.

**ALL SUMMER LONG**



### WORKS ON PAPER EXHIBITION

Works on Paper is a national juried show of contemporary art created on paper showcasing the creative possibilities of the medium.

**ON VIEW MAY 16 - JULY 5**



### 20TH ANNUAL BARNEGAT BAY DAY

Barnegat Bay Day is a family friendly event celebrating the ecology and importance of Barnegat Bay through hands on activities, local organizations, and environmental education.

**JULY 8 FROM 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM**



### THE ART OF LIFEGUARDING EXHIBITION

The Art of Lifeguarding is a one-night-only photography exhibition celebrating the culture and spirit of Long Beach Island's lifeguards.

**JULY 11 FROM 6 PM - 10 PM**



### TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL

Tennis and Pickleball programs offer lessons, clinics, and open play for all ages and skill levels, set on scenic courts near the bay.

**ALL SUMMER LONG**



### COAST EXHIBITION

Coast is a juried exhibition featuring New Jersey artists whose work is inspired by the shoreline, coastal environments, and life by the sea.

**ON VIEW JULY 18 - AUGUST 9**



### 60TH ANNUAL SEASHORE HOUSE TOUR

The 60th Annual Seashore House Tour invites guests to explore a curated selection of exceptional Long Beach Island homes, showcasing design, architecture, and coastal living.

**AUGUST 5 FROM 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM**



### YOGA AND WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

Yoga and Wellness Workshops offer relaxing, restorative sessions including yoga, meditation, and mindfulness practices for all levels.

**ALL SUMMER LONG**



### MEMBER+STUDENT+FACULTY EXHIBITION

Member+Student+Faculty showcases artwork by LBIF members alongside student and faculty artists, highlighting creativity across all experience levels and mediums.

**ON VIEW AUGUST 22 - SEPTEMBER 6**



### PLEIN AIR PLUS EXHIBITION

Plein Air Plus features artists painting on location across Long Beach Island, capturing its landscapes, light, and coastal atmosphere.

**ON VIEW SEPTEMBER 12 - NOVEMBER 1**



### HOLIDAY MARKET FESTIVAL

The Holiday Market Festival transforms the gallery into a festive marketplace featuring local artists, handmade gifts, and seasonal shopping to celebrate the holidays.

**OPEN NOVEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 13**



### CAMP

Camps at LBIF offer engaging, hands on experiences in art, nature, sports, and more, designed to inspire creativity and curiosity for all ages.

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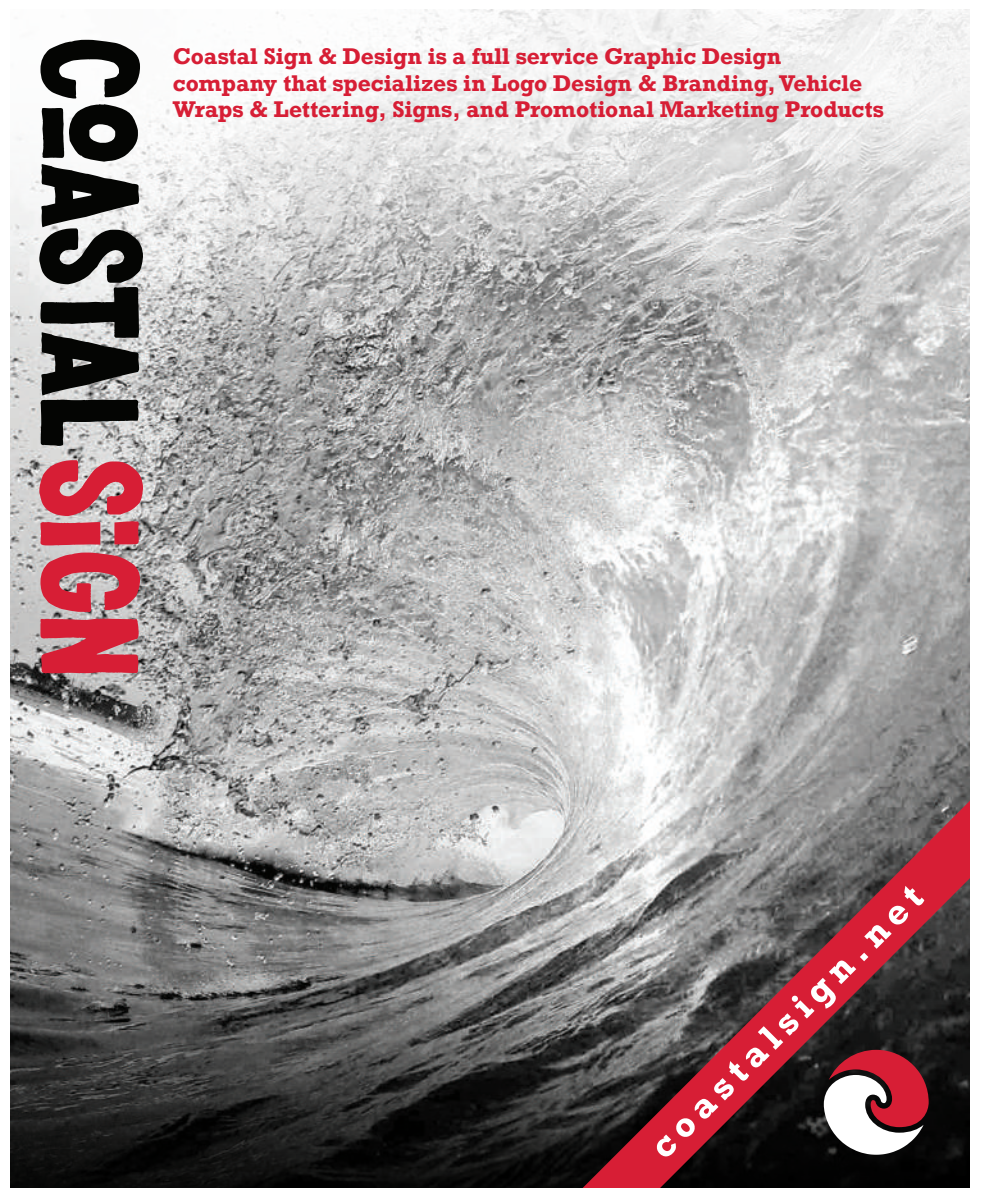


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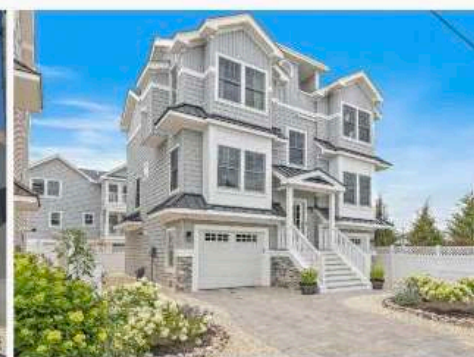
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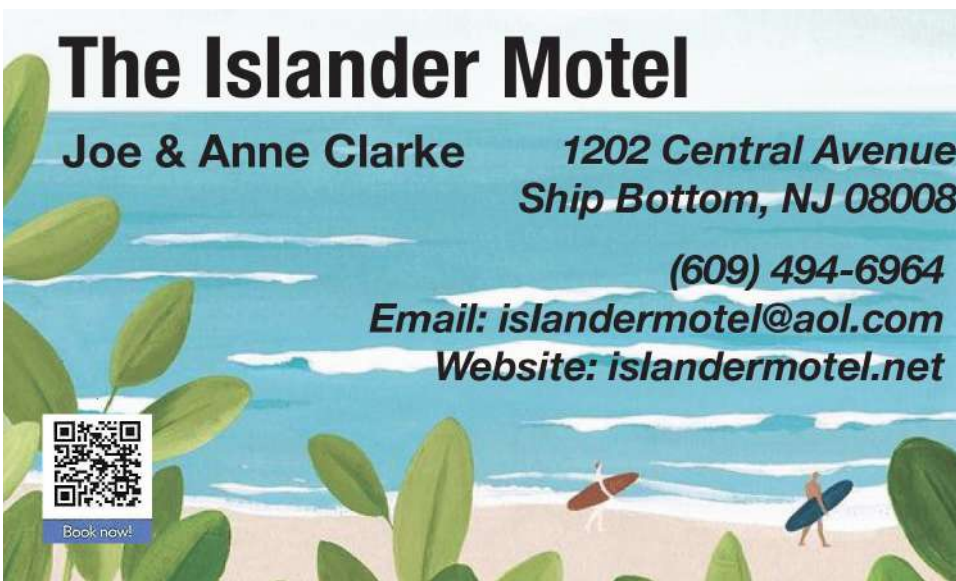
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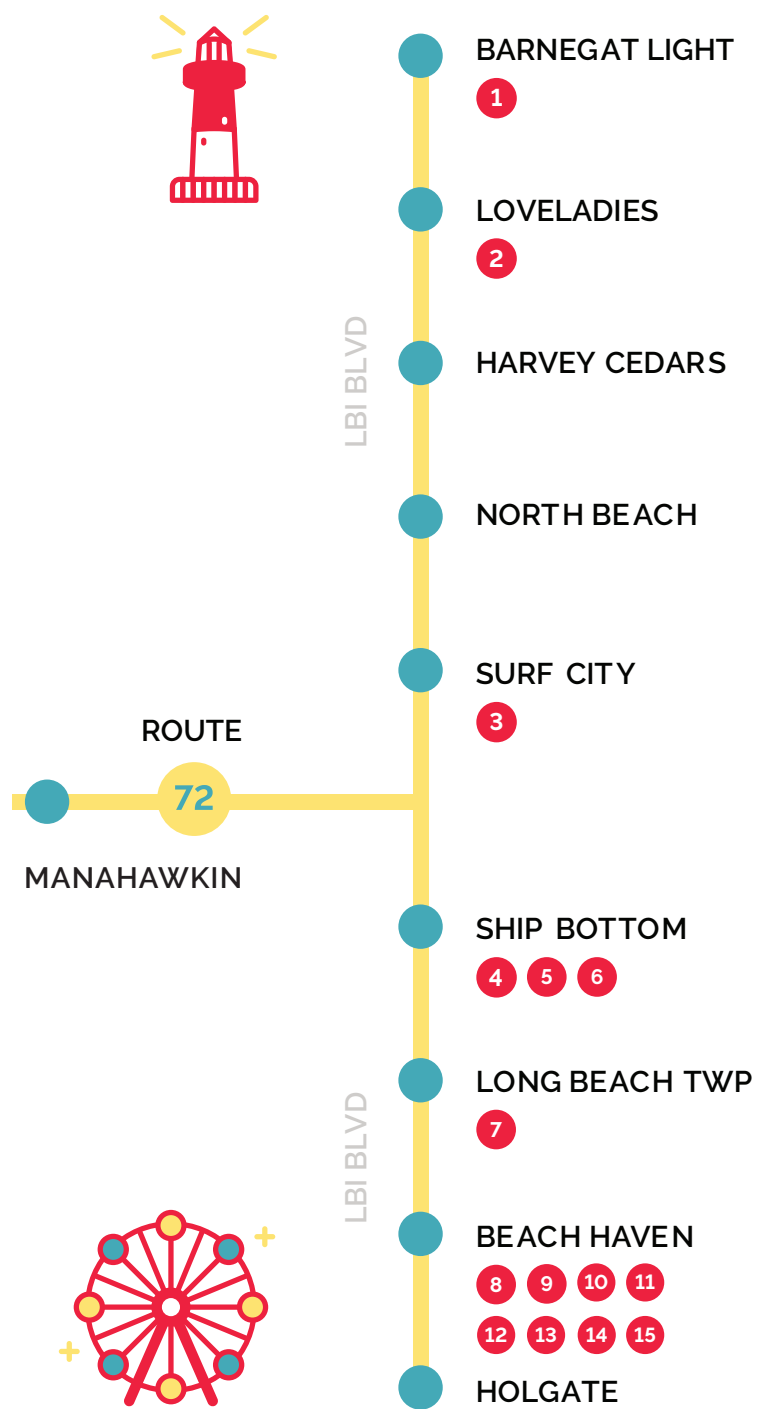
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