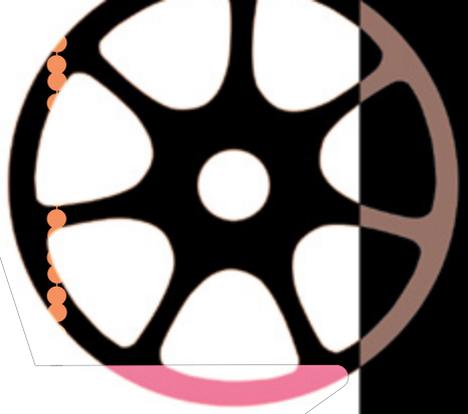
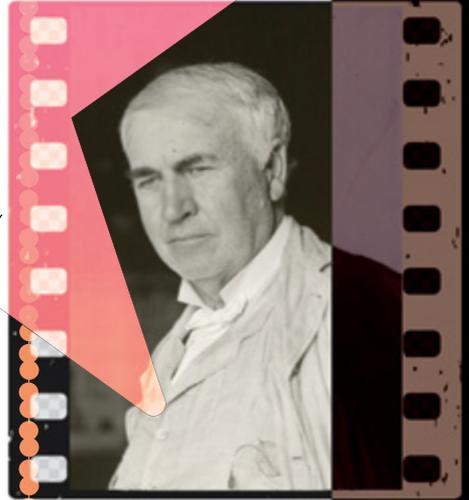




THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL



# 45 YEARS ANNIVERSARY



THOMAS EDISON BLACK MARIA  
FILM FESTIVAL

**1981-2026**



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To learn more about Thomas Edison and his Legacy go to: [ThomasEdison.org](http://ThomasEdison.org)

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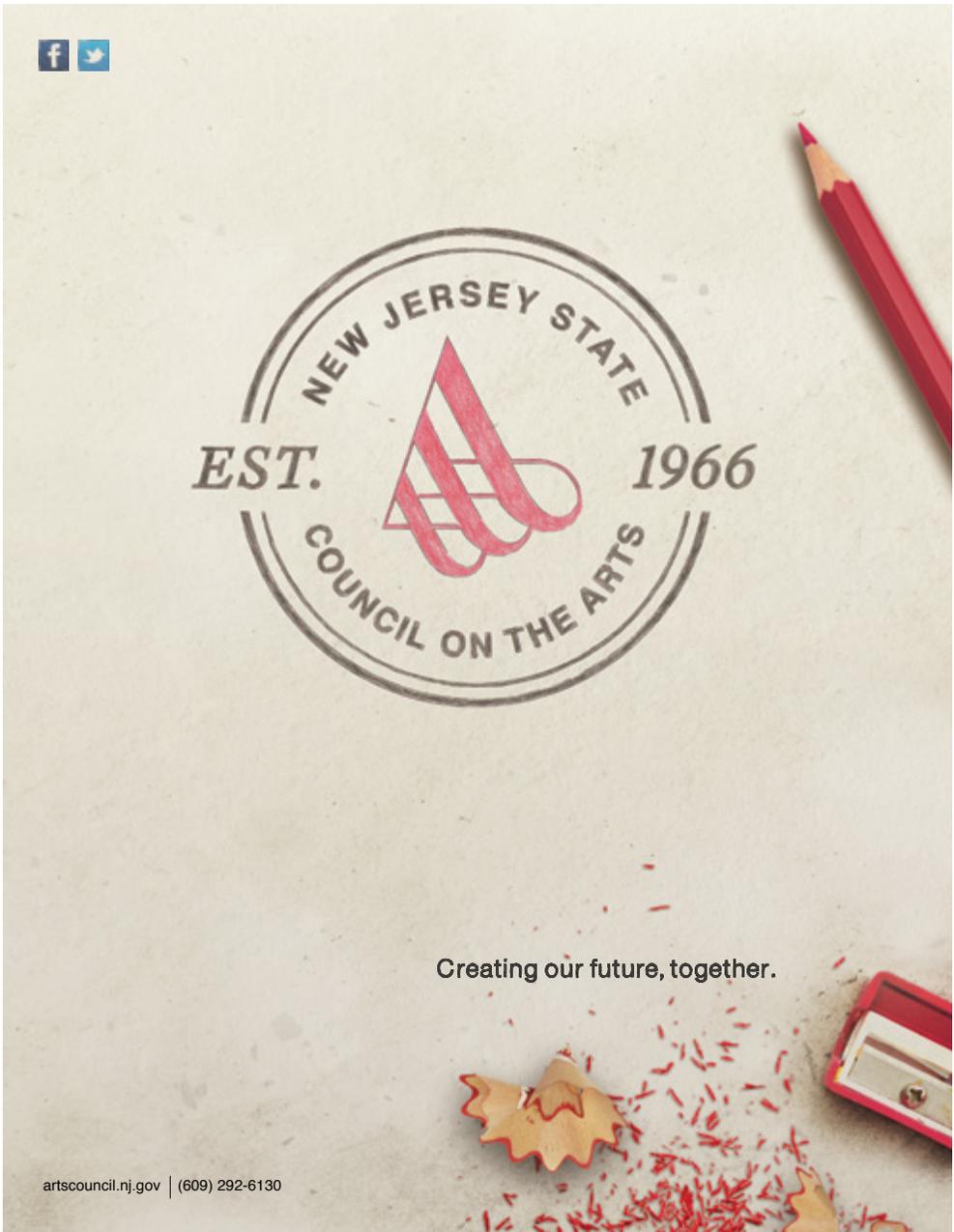


THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL

# 2026 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AWARDS PROGRAM GUIDE

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# The Thomas Edison Film Festival

## TOUR AND STREAMING MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY:

- New Jersey State Council on the Arts
- The Charles Edison Fund
- Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development
- Hoboken Historical Museum
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The Thomas Edison Film Festival is a project of the Thomas Edison Media Arts Consortium, an independent non-profit organization based in Hudson County. The festival was launched in 1981 with the endorsement of the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange, NJ.

The THOMAS A EDISON MEDIA ARTS CONSORTIUM INC. is a 501c3, non-profit, charitable organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible under the law. To become a sponsor please contact the Consortium office or make a donation via the website: [www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org).

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## About

The Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF) is an international showcase celebrating innovation in film making, inspired by the pioneering vision of Thomas Edison. Since its inception in 1981, TEFF has sought to honor Edison's legacy by promoting creativity and artistry in the moving image, much like how Edison's films revolutionized visual storytelling, and his phonograph changed the way people experienced sound.

Edison's contributions include 75 short films created in his West Orange, NJ, studio, each lasting about 20 seconds. These early works showcased a variety of subjects, from magic shows and plays to vaudeville performances, cowboys, and boxing matches. This spirit of experimentation and innovation is central to TEFF's mission.

As an Academy Awards® Qualifying Film Festival for animation and experimental shorts, TEFF is more than just a traditional destination event. It is a socially conscious, traveling showcase that

connects diverse audiences to the compelling works of independent filmmakers worldwide. By focusing on underrepresented voices, TEFF provides a platform for accomplished and emerging artists who may lack access to live public exhibitions. The festival emphasizes artistic excellence and promotes empathy and engagement through films that both teach and entertain.

TEFF celebrates a wide spectrum of genres, including narrative, experimental, animation, documentary, screen dance, and hybrids. The festival places particular focus on films addressing crucial social issues such as environmental challenges, race and class relationships, immigration, LGBTQ+ rights, human rights, disability advocacy, and social justice.

Through its selection of artistic and impactful films, TEFF continues to support a vibrant, global filmmaking community and uphold its commitment to innovation and diversity in the art of cinema.



Matt Savare, Diane Moss and Lowenstein Sandler proudly support the

# 45TH ANNUAL THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL

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# Staff

## Thomas Edison Media Arts Consortium

Jane Steuerwald, Executive Director  
 Jon Cole, Technical Director  
 Elizabeth Kirshtein, Festival Associate



[bigskyedit.com](http://bigskyedit.com)



## From the Festival Director Celebrating 45 Years of Independent Vision



**EDISON'S FILM STUDIO,  
NICKNAMED THE "BLACK MARIA." CIRCA 1893**

As we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Thomas Edison Film Festival, I can't help but look back at where this incredible ride began. In 1981, John Columbus, our Founder and Director Emeritus, launched what was then the Black Maria Film Festival. John named the festival after Thomas Edison's pioneering film studio, the very first in the nation, nicknamed the "black maria" by Edison's crew in West Orange, NJ.



**JANE STEUERWALD AND JOHN COLUMBUS  
CIRCA LATE 1980S, HOBOKEN, NJ.**

John didn't just start a film festival - he set an ambitious mission

into motion. He championed independent short films that spark conversations, break molds, and shine a light on the social issues that shape who we are. And he did it the hard way: traveling from town to town with heavy canvas bags filled with film reels of every imaginable size. It was a modern echo of those early itinerant showcases



**THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL  
AT THE SECAUCUS PUBLIC LIBRARY, NJ**

that first carried Edison's moving pictures from one community to another. Every stop became a gathering place - artists, students, neighbors - all leaning in, ready to experience films that surprised them, challenged them, or simply expanded their sense of the world.

From day one, the festival embraced filmmakers willing to take risks: artists experimenting with form and technique, giving voice to stories too often underrepresented, and exploring ideas that demanded attention. Our early screenings happened in all kinds of spaces - college classrooms, libraries, arts centers, university theaters, small community rooms -



**TEFF STELLAR AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER  
YURI ALVES SHOOTING  
"EMERGE: A NJ SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
CONCERT FILM TRILOGY" CIRCA 2020**  
wherever people welcomed bold independent filmmaking.



**FILMMAKER/CHOREOGRAPHER  
MARTA RENZI ATTENDING TEFF SCREENING  
AT THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM WITH  
HER GRANDCHILDREN.**

And then the festival grew. Not just in size but in purpose. That regional, grassroots showcase evolved into an international platform that now draws films from across the globe. Through it all, our dedication to socially engaged filmmaking has never wavered. We continue to uplift work that explores environmental justice, human rights, disability, identity, gender, race, and the complex, and often beautiful, range of human experiences.

Our transition from the Black Maria Film Festival to the Thomas Edison Film Festival honored our history while embracing a broader, future-forward vision. It reminded us that innovation in the arts has always been fueled by courage, curiosity, and conscience.



**"A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE"  
BY GERALD GUTHRIE, 2014**

Today, 45 years later, we are proud to be recognized as an Academy Award® Qualifying Festival for animated and experimental shorts, as well as a Canadian Screen Award Qualifying Festival - the only festival in New Jersey with these distinctions. And yet our core belief remains exactly the same: short films matter. They sharpen ideas, invite bold experimentation, and create space for filmmakers at every stage of their artistic journey. They hold personal stories and collective memory. They help us see differently and act differently because of what they reveal.



**"EVERYTHING TWICE"  
BY CY KUCKENBAKER, 2026**

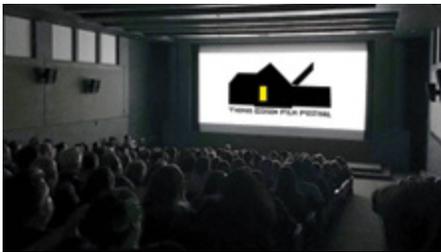
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**2026 TEFF JURY: (L-R) PEGGY PARSONS, HENRY BAKER, JANE STEUERWALD**



**"SNAKE SOUP"  
BY ZACK DEMIRTSYAN, 2026**



**TEFF PREMIERE AT THE JAMES STEWART FILM THEATER, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**

This anniversary is also a moment to celebrate the people who make this festival possible. To our filmmakers: your creativity and courage shape everything we do. To our audiences: your curiosity and generous spirit enliven every screening. To our partners and presenters across the country and around the world: thank you for bringing TEFF to your communities. And to our donors: your steadfast support ensures that independent film not only survives but thrives. I am profoundly grateful to each of you.

Looking ahead, we're energized. We remain committed to expanding our global initiatives, deepening our educational outreach, preserving and sharing our rich archives, and offering even stronger support to filmmakers. Movement has always been a defining part of the Thomas Edison Film Festival - movement across geography, across ideas, across generations of artists and audiences. So, as we celebrate 45 years, we're not merely looking back. We're using this moment as a launchpad for everything still to come.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey. Here's to the next chapter – and to the transformative power of film.



**CELEBRATE  
CINEMA**

Winning films at this festival may be eligible to enter for Oscars® consideration.

Year-round, the Academy celebrates artistry and innovation in filmmaking, inspires new generations to share our love of cinema and storytelling, preserves and creates our global film industry, and connects film fans from around the world.

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## Experience TEFF film programs in-person and online

TEFF is proud to be a hybrid film festival offering opportunities for audiences to gather in-person and to view films and film programs on our website. At the end of every summer for 20+ years, the Thomas Edison Film Festival has presented award-winning programs of short films at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.



A sampling of host venues presenting TEFF programs in person and on-line:

Glimmerglass Film Days, Cooperstown, NY  
Hoboken Historical Museum, NJ  
Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University, NJ  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC  
Ocean County Artists Guild, Island Heights, NJ  
Ramapo College of New Jersey, NJ  
Rowan University, NJ  
Savannah College of Art & Design, Savannah, GA  
Secaucus Public Library, NJ  
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
The Crandall Public Library, NY  
Towson University, Towson, MD  
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
University of Delaware, Newark, DE

[www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org)

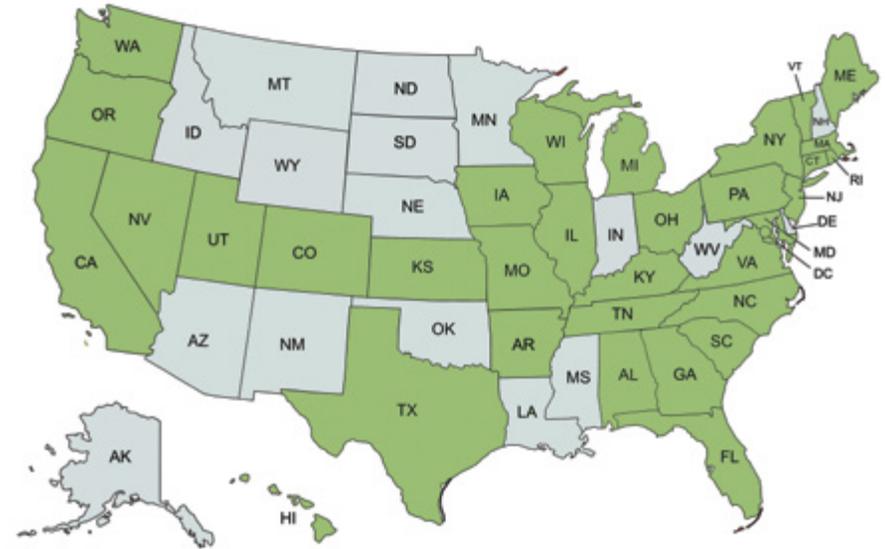
## Worldwide Submissions



We are very proud that filmmakers from all over the world choose to submit work to our festival. For our new season submissions came from 84 nations spanning across six continents.

- |                    |            |                    |                      |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Afghanistan        | Estonia    | Korea              | Serbia               |
| Argentina          | Ethiopia   | Lebanon            | Singapore            |
| Armenia            | Finland    | Luxembourg         | Slovenia             |
| Australia          | France     | Mexico             | South Africa         |
| Austria            | Georgia    | Mongolia           | South Korea          |
| Bahrain            | Germany    | Morocco            | Spain                |
| Bangladesh         | Ghana      | Namibia            | Sweden               |
| Belgium            | Greece     | Nepal              | Switzerland          |
| Brazil             | Guatemala  | Netherlands        | Taiwan               |
| Bulgaria           | Hong Kong  | New Zealand        | Tanzania             |
| Canada             | Hungary    | Norway             | Togo                 |
| Chile              | Iceland    | Pakistan           | Turkey               |
| China              | India      | Peru               | Uganda               |
| Colombia           | Indonesia  | Philippines        | Ukraine              |
| Costa Rica         | Iran       | Poland             | United Arab Emirates |
| Croatia            | Iraq       | Portugal           | United Kingdom       |
| Cyprus             | Ireland    | Qatar              | United States        |
| Denmark            | Israel     | Romania            | Uruguay              |
| Dominican Republic | Italy      | Russian Federation | Venezuela            |
| Ecuador            | Japan      | Saudi Arabia       | Zimbabwe             |
| Egypt              | Kazakhstan | Senegal            |                      |

## USA Submissions



Our 2026 submissions include films from 34 U.S. States and DC.

- |             |                |                 |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Alabama     | Maine          | Rhode Island    |
| Arkansas    | Maryland       | South Carolina  |
| California  | Massachusetts  | Tennessee       |
| Colorado    | Michigan       | Texas           |
| Connecticut | Missouri       | Utah            |
| Florida     | Nevada         | Vermont         |
| Georgia     | New Jersey     | Virginia        |
| Hawaii      | New York       | Washington      |
| Illinois    | North Carolina | Washington D.C. |
| Iowa        | Ohio           | Wisconsin       |
| Kansas      | Oregon         |                 |
| Kentucky    | Pennsylvania   |                 |



**Art21**

## Illuminating Contemporary Art for the World



AMY SHERALD - ART IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY "EVERYDAY ICONS." © ART21, INC. 2023

**Art21**, founded in 1997, redefines how audiences connect with contemporary art by giving voice to the visual artists who shape our time. Conceived by visionary curator and educator Susan Sollins, Art21 was born from a belief that while people see artworks, they rarely hear from the artists themselves. Sollins set out to change that by establishing a nonprofit dedicated to documenting the creative process and bringing it to public audiences through film, television, and education.

In 2001, Art21 premiered its groundbreaking PBS series *Art in the Twenty-First Century*, a documentary project that revolutionized the portrayal of living artists, recording crucial moments of creation and inviting audiences to see the world from an artist's perspective.



SUSAN SOLLINS (IN MEMORIAM)

The series quickly became an international touchstone, earning critical acclaim, Emmy nominations, and a Peabody Award for its fourth season in 2008. Over the following decades, Art21 expanded its impact with digital shorts series such as *Extended Play* and *New York Close Up*, *READ* interviews, and *Art21 Educators*, which continues to empower teachers nationwide to integrate contemporary art into their classrooms.

After Sollins's passing in 2014, I was appointed Executive Director and Chief Curator in 2016. I am honored to continue Susan's vision.

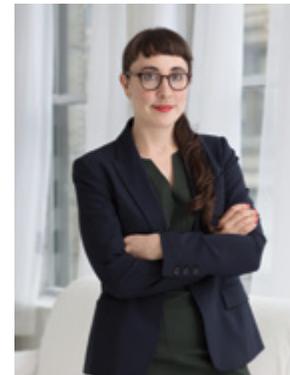
Since I started, Art21 has undergone its own digital transformation. We have expanded our series to include a global group of artists. We produce over 50 educational programs for teachers and the general public each year. We have

published two recent collections of artist interviews, and in late 2025 we launched the organization's first-ever social-first film series.

Today, Art21 stands as a pioneering institution at the intersection of art and public media continuing to illuminate creativity, inspire curiosity, and make the art of our time accessible to all. From its award-winning public television series to in-person public programs, education initiatives, and film screenings, to broadcasting documentary films free, online, and across social media platforms, we are dedicated to meeting audiences where they are. We are best described as an organization that is both an educational resource and a cultural catalyst that bridges art, media, and community.

The entire team at Art21 is grateful to TEFF for selecting Art21 films, celebrating those behind the camera, and allowing new audiences to experience the artist's voice. We hope to continue this relationship for years to come. For more information, visit [Art21.org](http://Art21.org).

Tina Kukielski  
Executive Director and Chief Curator



TINA KUKIELSKI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF CURATOR



**Ian Forster, Art21 Director**

As a producer and director, Ian Forster creates documentary content for Art21's various digital and broadcast programs. Since joining the organization in 2009, he has worked on seven seasons of *Art in the Twenty-First Century*. He graduated from the Newhouse School at Syracuse University with a B.S. in Television, Radio, and Film.

Ian recalls, "Working on the Art21 films featuring Amy Sherald, Wangechi Mutu, and Daniel Lind-Ramos was a tremendously rewarding experience as a filmmaker. Each of these artists has a unique visual language, yet they share a profound commitment to expanding how we understand identity, history, and the possibilities of art."



AMY SHERALD'S  
PORTRAIT OF MICHELE OBAMA



AMY SHERALD, IN HER STUDIO

(continued from previous page)

### Ian Forster, con't

With Amy Sherald, the process felt like entering a quiet, precise world where every brushstroke matters. It was a privilege to watch her build an image that felt at once intimate and monumental. I was particularly grateful for the opportunity to film in her childhood home and to see the family photos that inspired her approach to portraiture.

Wangechi Mutu's work is equally



WANGECHI MUTU, IN HER STUDIO

monumental but is largely inspired by the natural world. Imbued with references to African history, heritage and culture, Wangechi transforms organic materials into remarkable sculptures that remind us of our irrevocable connection to the Earth.

My time with Daniel Lind-Ramos in Puerto Rico was deeply moving. His sculptures carry the weight of community memory and convey



DANIEL LIND-RAMOS, IN HIS STUDIO

the power of transformation. The generosity with which he shared his community's histories is something I'll never forget.

Together, these films reaffirmed why I make documentaries: to witness artists expand the world in real time. It is an honor to have these films be screened at TEFF alongside the work of so many admirable filmmakers."



### Jurrell Lewis, Art21 Director

Jurrell Lewis is an artist and curator, who joined Art21 in November 2020 and is currently the Associate Curator. Jurrell holds B.A.s in Fundamentals: Issues and Texts and Visual Arts from the University of Chicago and an M.F.A. from Northwestern University.



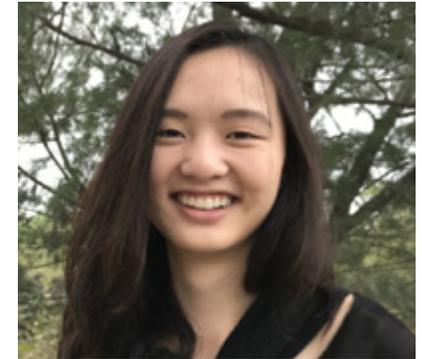
ARTHUR JAJA, IN HIS STUDIO

Jurrell remembers, "In our interview, AJ (Arthur Jafa) said something that didn't make it into the film but stuck with me throughout the process, which was "I'm increasingly less interested in what Black people think, meaning the conclusions that they come to, and more interested in how we think, how we approach a problem or a notion." That statement really unlocked the work for me and showed me how to approach directing this film. What it helped me realize is that AJ's work is not about a conclusive statement, but about examining a process. It's like that classic directive on a math test, "Show your work." His films, photographs, and installations do that; they show a specifically Black arithmetic between the question and the answer, and so I wanted this film to try and do the same. The question became, how do we uncover how and why AJ does what he does, rather than trying to explain a final product.

What I hope this film offers is an insight into how AJ thinks, but perhaps not what he thinks. I hope the film offers ways of seeing the enunciations of Blackness that he presents through his works without prescribing what those might be. I want people to come away from the film with a greater understanding of the nuances of Black life, thinking about Blackness

as a source of both abjection and of flight, and a complex field from which we must produce life.

I'm grateful to TEFF for selecting the film and providing AJ's work a platform for a broader audience to watch, discuss, and continue thinking about his ideas."



### Andrea Chung, Art21 Director

Andrea Yu-Chieh Chung is a Taiwanese nonfiction filmmaker based in New York City. Having lived and produced films across four continents, she makes films about people who are in between places and those who strive to understand and transcend differences.

Andrea reflects on how "it's been an honor to work with the Thomas Edison Film Festival team, especially Jane Steuerwald, to bring Art21 films to the residents of New Jersey and the East Coast. While I correspond with many festivals to showcase Art21 films, it felt extra special to return to TEFF in 2024 with my Art21 film "Shahzia Sikander: Melting Boundaries," a few years after



**SHAHZIA SIKANDER: MELTING BOUNDARIES,**  
BY ANDREA YU-CHIEH CHUNG

(continued from previous page)

screening my personal project, "In Good Faith," at the festival.

Shahzia Sikander considers herself to be "a traveler in time and space," and it is enlightening to have had the opportunity to document her journey of bringing these sculptures to life. Drawing inspiration from and engaging with cultures and histories across borders and time periods, she imbues layers of knowledge and meaning in her art. While every detail in Shahzia's work is deeply researched and considered, she maintains an intuitive way of working and allows feelings to guide her creative decisions, embodying the multiplicity she wants the female figures in her work to convey.

As a fellow immigrant woman from Asia, I was struck by the idea of self-rootedness that Shahzia explores in these sculptures. Beyond asserting that we can carry our roots wherever we go, Shahzia also invites everyone to think about how we all inhabit a transitory, in-between space, and can be many things at once."



### Andrew Nadkarni, Art21 Director

Andrew Nadkarni is an Oscar-shortlisted filmmaker whose work explores diaspora narratives, resilience, and identity. His debut "Between Earth & Sky" (POV/PBS) won 'Best Documentary Short' at Big Sky and Hot Springs, earned Critics' Choice and Cinema Eye nominations, and screened at over 100 festival and community events before being shortlisted for the 2024 Academy Awards. His current projects include collaborations with American Masters, Firelight Media, Art21, REI, and the Refugee Women's Network. Past credits span documentary and narrative, including Bel Canto (Peacock), Glass Onion (Netflix), and Actual People (MUBI).

Reflecting on his film: "Trey Abdella's Miserable Dream," Andrew explains, "Trey wants his art to feel like a roller coaster - beautiful, unsettling, and reflective of the misery inherent to the American dream. Our first idea was to film an interview on the Spook-A-Rama ride at Coney Island, a glimpse into Trey's mind filled with laughter, screaming, and illusion. Moving between his studio and the gaudy wonder of Coney Island, we watch him smash, distort, and reclaim the memories he once resented growing up in West Virginia. Drawing from



**"TREY ABDELLA'S MISERABLE DREAM"**  
BY ANDREW NADKARNI

hunting trips and "Live Laugh Love" décor, Trey transforms his past by breaking it apart and rebuilding it into something strange, new, and deeply felt."

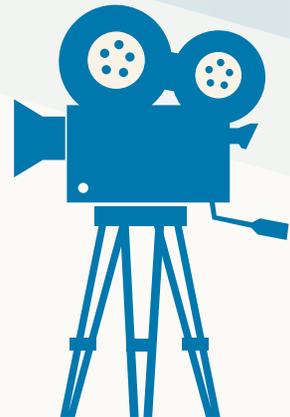
To learn more about Art21's essential work, and how they champion artists' voices, visit their website at [www.art21.org](http://www.art21.org)

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# EDISON INNOVATION AWARD

2026 Streaming & Touring Collection



## EDISON INNOVATION AWARD



### 2026 EIA Recipient: ART21

In 2021, to celebrate the Thomas Edison Film Festival's 40th anniversary, we created the **Edison Innovation Award** - an honor for filmmakers whose work advances TEFF's mission, leaves a mark on independent film, and pushes the boundaries of cinematic form. It was designed to spotlight artists whose contributions are truly extraordinary.

Now as we celebrate our 45th anniversary, we're thrilled to broaden the scope of this award to recognize not just individual filmmakers, but a trailblazing organization as well: Art21, the team behind award-winning documentary films about today's most groundbreaking contemporary artists.

Art21 began sharing films with us in 2022, immediately enriching our annual collections. Their work has allowed us to bring fresh, insightful, and engaging stories to audiences across the U.S. and beyond. The first Art21 films we programmed - *Guadalupe Maravilla & The Sound of Healing* by Rafael Salazar and Ava Wiland, and *Wangechi Mutu: Between Earth and Sky* by Ian Forster and Jackie Lebo - set the tone for an inspiring partnership. Since then, TEFF has toured eleven Art21 films at libraries, universities, museums, artist collectives, and more.

Art21's story begins with a simple but powerful idea: **art is for everyone**. In 1995, founder Susan Sollins began consulting with City Arts, a WNET/Thirteen PBS series. Two years later, she teamed up with longtime visual-arts producer Susan Dowling, and together they created Art in the 21st Century. Their vision was to inspire a

more creative and inclusive world by inviting audiences into the lives, ideas, and processes of contemporary artists.

Four years later, Art21 was filming Richard Serra at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. By 2001, the inaugural

(continued next page)



"GUADALUPE MARAVILLA & THE SOUND OF HEALING" BY RAFAEL SALAZAR & AVA WILAND



"GUADALUPE MARAVILLA & THE SOUND OF HEALING" BY RAFAEL SALAZAR & AVA WILAND



"WANGECHI MUTU: BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY" BY IAN FORSTER AND JACKIE LEBE



## EDISON INNOVATION AWARD



**RICHARD SERRA'S "THE MATTER OF TIME,"**  
MUSEO GUGGENHEIM BILBAO, COURTESY ART21



**"SHAHZIA SIKANDER: MELTING BOUNDARIES,"**  
BY ANDREA YU-CHIEH CHUNG, COURTESY ART21

practices.

Here's how Art21 describes their mission:

"At Art21, we believe that 'Art is for Everyone.' Our mission is to inspire a more creative and tolerant world through the works and words of contemporary artists... As a digital-first organization, we are the always-open museum, offering free, unobstructed



**"SHAHZIA SIKANDER: MELTING BOUNDARIES,"**  
BY ANDREA YU-CHIEH CHUNG, COURTESY ART21

access to our complete film collection and educational library... The window into the artistic process that Art21 provides fosters innovation and creativity, builds empathy, and enriches the minds of future generations."

To learn more about Art21's essential work, and how they champion artists' voices, visit their website at [www.art21.org](http://www.art21.org)

(continued from previous page)

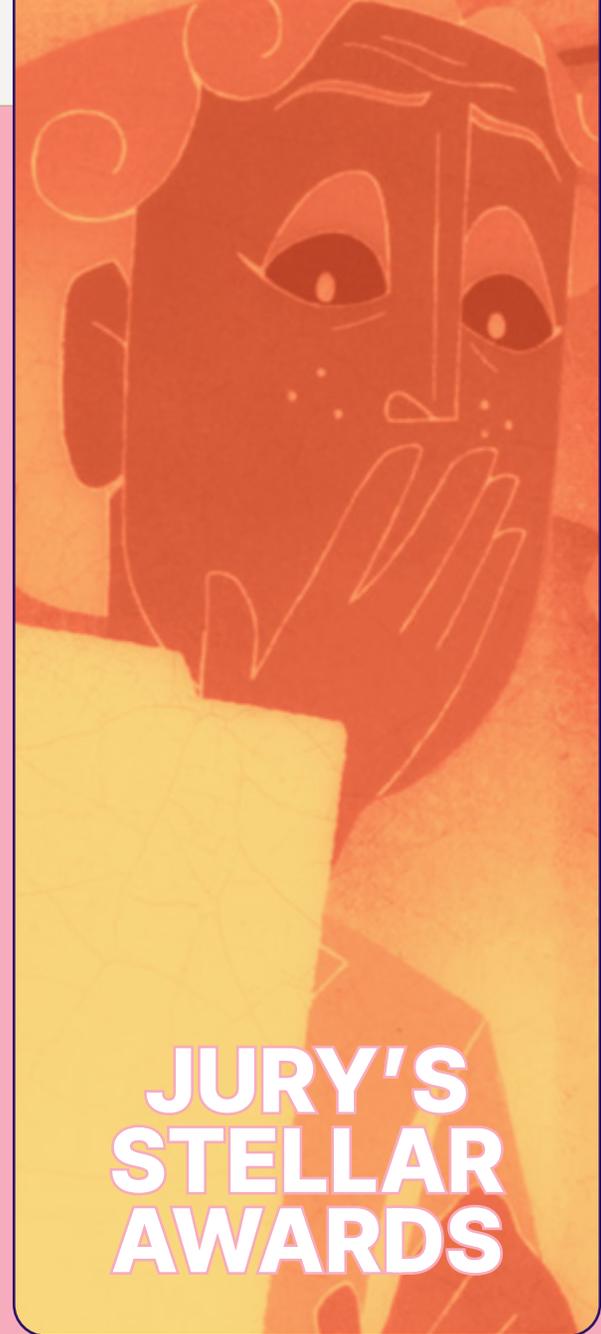
season of Art in the 21st Century aired nationwide on PBS—earning an Emmy nomination and introducing millions to a new way of experiencing contemporary art.

Since then, Art21 has produced more than 250 films featuring artists from around the world, each offering an intimate, unfiltered look at major artworks, exhibitions, and creative

### The Edison Innovation Award (EIA)

The EIA is presented each year to a filmmaker who has a distinguished body of work that advances the mission and legacy of the Thomas Edison Film Festival and demonstrates significant recognition, past and present.

The filmmaker recognized is prominent in the community of independent filmmaker/artists and is recognized as a pioneer in new forms and innovations in filmmaking.



# JURY'S STELLAR AWARDS

## 2026 Streaming & Touring Collection



## JURY'S STELLAR AWARDS

### **The Undying Pain of Existence – Animation**

5 min. by Oscar Jacobson, Ludwigsburg, Germany

A nude model poses with statuesque stillness for an elite drawing class – until an unfortunate mosquito bite challenges his self-control. Driven into madness by the itch, he's caught between the ruthless demand for perfection and his most unhinged, animalistic impulses.



### **Grit – Documentary**

14 min. by Vanina Feldshtein, Brooklyn, NY, USA

A film about people who keep going. What does it mean to be old? Once we reach a certain age are we still being seen? "Grit" looks at old age with a fresh set of eyes on three people who defy perceptions.



## JURY'S STELLAR AWARDS

### **Hollowgram – Experimental**

7 min. by Laura Iancu, Romania, and Blacksburg, Virginia, USA

"Hollowgram" conjures varicolored clusters of swirling images and sounds from places real and imagined as if looking through a flip book in a dream. It navigates the tension between the desire to share memories and possibilities with another person, and the failure of the attempt. The soundscape is crafted from wild sounds captured in Romania and are core components of the film's emotional space.



### **In Warm Waters - Narrative**

15 min. by Anna Niebert, Ludwigsburg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Trying to remember the people they once were, a young woman and her mother must dive beneath the surface to find a new form of hope. "In Warm Waters" accompanies mother and daughter on their journey around a familiar island. Fire jellyfish disrupt the harmony and intensify unspoken conflicts. In the end, they both must accept the changes in each other and the island.





## JURY'S STELLAR AWARDS

### The Oath – Screen Dance

24 min. by Alla Kovgan, Brooklyn, NY, USA

Both communal and monstrous, the human urge to move in a large mass in unison – to bond, to battle, to promise, to intimidate, to gather, to dance; this is THE OATH. "I wondered if it was possible to create a film that could conjure this sharing of energy of live bodies in space. This became my goal for the film."

– Annie-B Parson, Writer/Choreographer



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## GLOBAL INSIGHTS

### GLOBAL INSIGHTS STELLAR AWARD

#### **The Anarchist and the Fridge – Documentary**

14 min. by Yunchang Zhang, Jersey City, NJ, USA

"The Anarchist and The Fridge" tells the story of a man named Thadeaus who moved from Boston to New York over 20 years ago to pursue his ideals. Inspired by the organization, "Food Not Bombs" he survived cancer, gained community support, and established New York's first free fridge in Bed-Stuy. Now, he sees replenishing the fridge as his duty, using free food to unite the community.



Now, he sees replenishing the fridge as his duty, using free food to unite the community.



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESS & INCLUSION

### DEAI STELLAR AWARD

#### **Randy Wicker – A Portrait – Documentary**

8 min. by Nicole Pometti, Bloomfield, NJ and Rolando Nieves, Guttenberg, NJ, USA

An intimate glimpse into the life and legacy of LGBT pioneer Randy Wicker — told in his own words.



## Special Thanks

Henry Baker, Artistic Director and TEFF Advisory Board

Jon Cole, TEFF Technical Director

Patrick Fermo, TEFF Trailer Editor, Big Sky Edit

Robert Foster, Executive Director, Hoboken Historical Museum

Chris Frankin, Supervising Editor, Big Sky Edit

Lawrence "Chip" Heptig, Voiceover Talent

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Vera Sirota, Communications Associate, Hoboken Historical Museum

Sarah Van Tassel, Executive Producer, Big Sky Edit

## Stream us on the Web

Visit [www.teffilmfest.org](http://www.teffilmfest.org) to stream our new and archived programs, curated by Festival Director Jane Steuerwald, on demand. Be sure to visit our Home page throughout the year to discover TEFF's featured Film of the Month.

We invite you to explore the TEFF Archive to view films, read essays,

and experience conversations with filmmakers. Learn more about our past and present projects—and our ongoing commitment to access, inclusion, and equity for all.

We are deeply grateful for the decades-long, generous support of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, whose partnership has helped us create and sustain a website that is accessible, dynamic, and welcoming to everyone.



[TEFFilmFest.org](http://TEFFilmFest.org)



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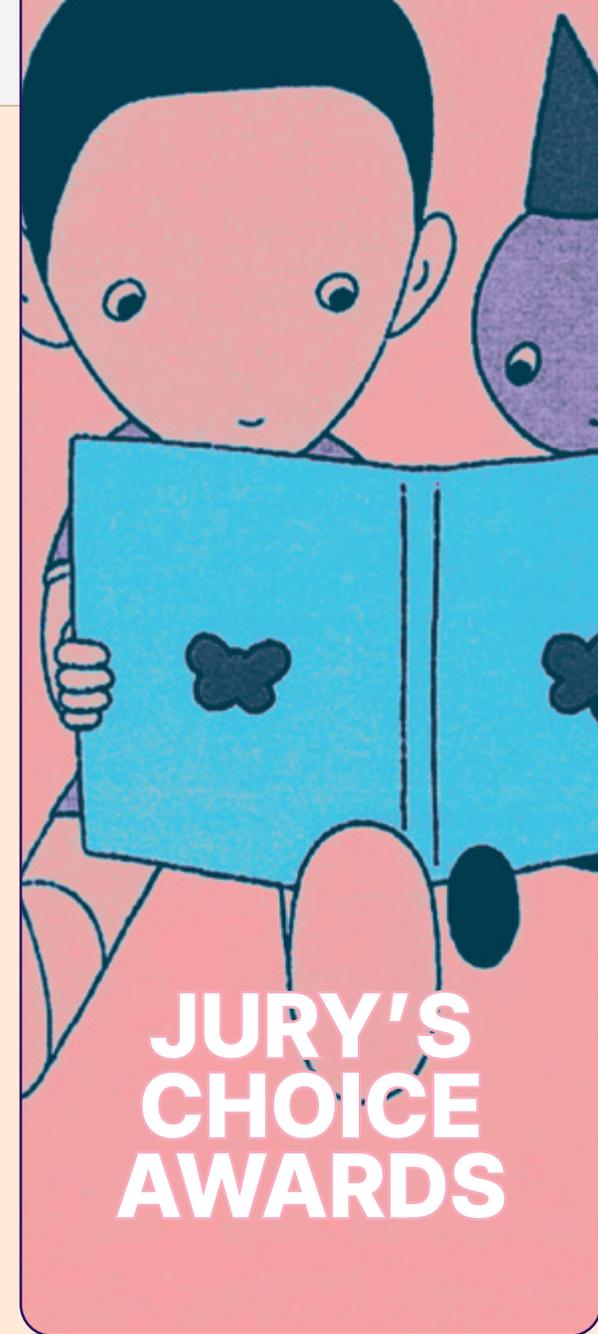
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2026 Streaming & Touring Collection



## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **A Mountain of Content – Experimental**

4 min. by Duncan Cowles, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

A filmmaker in the Austrian alps relentlessly films a mountain of content, until they themselves are content. A content creator? Or a creator, far from content?



### **Art21: Trey Abdella's Miserable Dream – Documentary**

9 min. by Andrew Nadkarni, Brooklyn, NY, USA

This short documentary follows artist Trey Abdella as he smashes cherub angels and assembles a new body of work inspired by the idea of a "blessing in disguise." Reflecting on his childhood in West Virginia and the repulsive allure of theme parks and Americana, Trey invites us into the memories that drive an artistic practice fusing painting, sculpture, and assemblage into bold, inventive, and deeply personal works.



## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **Atomic Secrets – Documentary**

12 min. by Banu Ramazanova, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and the UK

"Atomic Secrets" follows Ukrainian scientist Dmitry Kalmykov as he educates Kazakh schoolchildren about the legacy of Soviet nuclear testing at Semipalatinsk. Decades after the last explosion, the region is still uncovering radiation's hidden toll. Against the backdrop of wars, the film captures an urgent intergenerational conversation about Kazakhstan's nuclear past—and its uncertain future.



### **Blood Portal – Experimental**

40 min. by Andy Bright, LA, CA, USA

A man falls into a mysterious portal and awakens to find himself lying by the side of a bridge, with no memory of his previous life and now convinced he is the Early American photographer Edward S. Curtis. "Blood Portal" works within the landscape of dreaming to link together a series of unfolding vignettes, exploring the concept of healing oneself through Nature's gifts. With a voice-over by Isabella Rossellini.





## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **Carbon – Experimental**

4 min. by Leighton Pierce, Acton, MA, USA

The warning to Icarus: to apply moderation, humility, and wisdom to the use of the technology his father developed, remains more relevant than ever.



### **\*Chasing Kites – Narrative**

8 min. by Anna Neibert, Ludwigsburg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

"Chasing Kites" is a film about loss. Two brothers share the pain of their mother's death, but each of them deals with it in a very different way. As their flat turns into a sea of paper kites, the older brother faces the impossible challenge of being there for his younger brother without losing parts of himself.



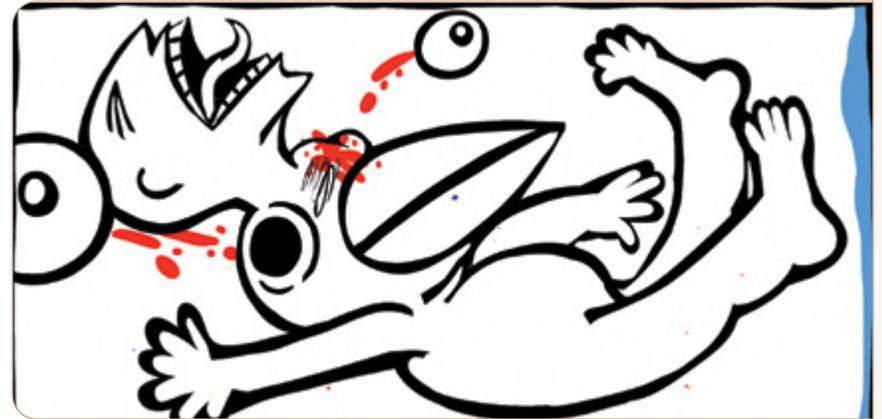
## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **Disturbia – Animation**

6 min. by Mira Yankova, Sofia, Bulgaria

This is a picture of the restless modern man. Before our very eyes a strange human-bird hybrid undergoes constant transformation to cope with the omnipresent tensions of economical, ideological, military, and climatic threats.



### **Edge – Screen Dance**

14 min. by Abel Moreno Pradas, Girona, Catalunya, Spain

Locked in, separated by a huge glass and deprived of speech, two people meet without knowing how they got there. Where are the limits that prevent us from acting in unjust situations? Are they physical or are they within us?





## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### Elves in the Valley - Narrative

18 min. by Tenglin Peng, Beijing, China

Under the Tianshan Mountains, a young Kazakh girl, Nana, and her grandfather form a deeper bond through an encounter with a special pika, a small, mountain-dwelling mammal native to Asia, leading to a heartfelt journey of growth and discovery.



### Have I Swallowed Your Dreams? - Animation

6 min. by Clara Chan, North Vancouver, BC, Canada

A poetic conversation between an immigrant daughter and her mother about sacrifices and dreams.



## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### Ima wa ima (Now is now) - Animation

5 min. by Chun Yam Keung, Hong Kong and London, UK

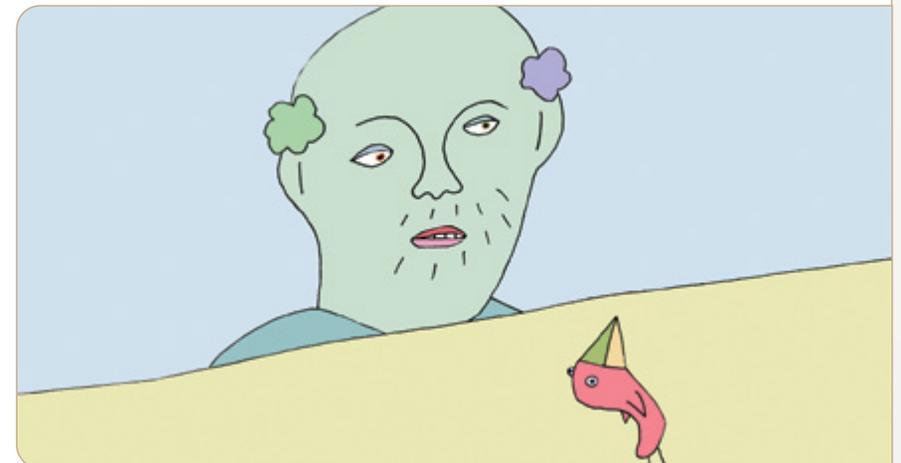
Meme, an office worker caught in the monotony of daily life, keeps encountering a caterpillar at work. At first, he instinctively removes it but as the days pass, the caterpillar triggers a distant childhood memory—one of curiosity, companionship, and the fleeting nature of time. "Ima wa ima" (Now is now) explores nostalgia, time loops, and the quiet longing for something lost yet never truly gone.



### In the Eyes of the Worm - Animation

4 min. by Emily Hubley and Max Rosenthal, East Orange, NJ

While walking, a man sees a worm by a leaf and contemplates his place in the universe. The story was inspired by Harry, the 4-year-old cockatiel.





## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **It Doesn't Pass - Experimental**

4 min. by Dan Lopez, Scranton, PA, USA

A man calls upon an entity to guide him through a difficult night.



### **Let's Wait a Little Longer - Narrative**

15 min. by Wiktoria Kwoka, Warsaw, Poland

In post-war Poland, 10-year-old Marysia lives in the countryside with her mother, Helena, who managed to survive a concentration camp. One day Helena announces that her brother - Marysia's uncle - is coming to join them for dinner. Although Marysia herself survived the occupation in shelter, she experiences first-hand that the nightmare of war does not end with the ceasefire.



## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **Olive - Narrative**

13 min. by Tom Koch, France, and NYC, NY, USA

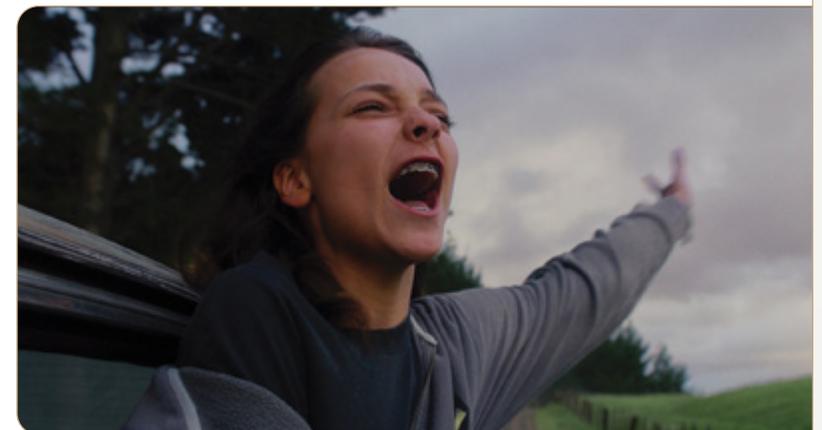
While caring for Grandma, Sam begins to question the nature of their relationship. What does a person with dementia want? When memory dissolves, what remains?



### **Pack Rat - Narrative**

18 min. by Lucy Suess, New Zealand, and Brooklyn, NY, USA

In rural New Zealand, a fifteen-year-old girl fights to keep her place among the pack of boys she has grown up with. As day turns to night, she falls into a power game with the pack's alpha - but it is the wrestle within herself that proves to be her hardest challenge.





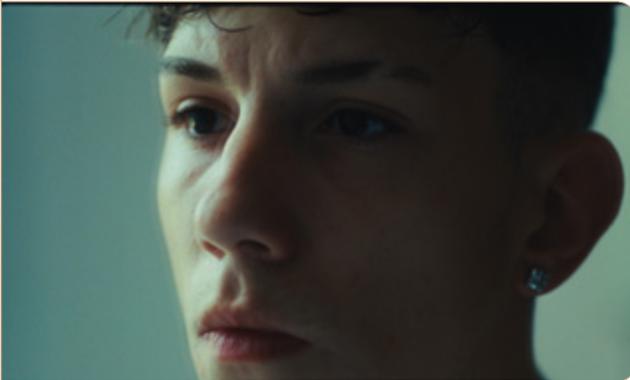
## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **Rage – Narrative**

19 min. by Fran Moreno Blanco & Santi Pujol Amat, Barcelona, Spain

Eric lives in a juvenile center. He wants to rebuild his relationship with his mother so he can live with her again when he turns 18. When she doesn't show up to visit him, he runs away to her house. There, he discovers she has a new family and that she has moved on with her life without him.



### **Son – Animation**

20 min. by Zhanna Bekmambetova, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation

"Son" is the story of a boy and his father who live in a small house on the edge of the steppe. The boy is confined to a wheelchair and can't even hold a spoon with porridge. His father is close to despair, but everything changes when one day their TV broadcasts the landing of the newest robot on Mars... This tale is dedicated to all parents who don't give up.



## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **Spoken Movement Family Honor – Screen Dance**

9 min. by Daniel Gurton, London, UK

In a British Ghanaian household bound by tradition and religion, a young girl lives under the oppressive control of her abusive father. At the family dinner table, heated arguments reveal the deep rift between them as they confront the scars of their shared history. The film is a testament to the transformative and unifying power of art in addressing universal human experiences.



### **Swim Sistas – Documentary**

11 min. by Catherine Joy White, Penshurst Place & Gardens, Kent, UK

"Swim Sistas" is a love letter to water, sisterhood, and the enduring strength of Black women across generations. Featuring the voice of Academy Award nominee Naomie Harris (Moonlight), the film flows across generations: from a young girl diving into joy, to Great Britain's first and only Black female Olympic swimmer breaking historic barriers, to a woman learning to swim at 54, defying a legacy of inherited fear.





## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **The Good Farmer and the Failed Son - Documentary**

13 min. by Ailill Martin, Ireland, UK

This story follows Jack, a drag queen, and his father Bryan, as they face an uncertain future for their farm and questions around Jack's place in it. In the traditional world of farming, much is expected of Jack as the family's only son. But up until this point he has been largely absent, leaving the day to day running of the farm to his father Bryan. As Jack becomes



more involved in the farm he begins work on a series of drag performances, which present a unique view of farming and its ever-changing future.

### **The Lifeline - Narrative**

22 min. by Hugo Becker, Verdun, Massiges, and Paris, France

On December 24, 1916, two postal couriers volunteer for a Christmas Eve mission across enemy lines to deliver mail to soldiers at the front. When their truck is struck by gunfire and crosses into contested territory, they face suspicion from both sides. An intense wartime drama unfolds through a tense cross-examination about their intentions, loyalty, and survival.



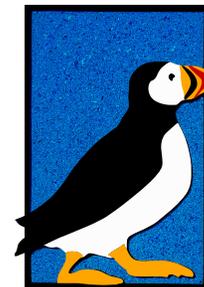
## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS



### **Voyage of the Red Rabbit - Animation**

11 min. by Sam Gualtieri, Philadelphia, PA

An anthropomorphic Rabbit-Spaceman searches for his home in the outer bounds of the universe. Meanwhile, an old man on earth eats apple pie and considers what happens in the afterlife.

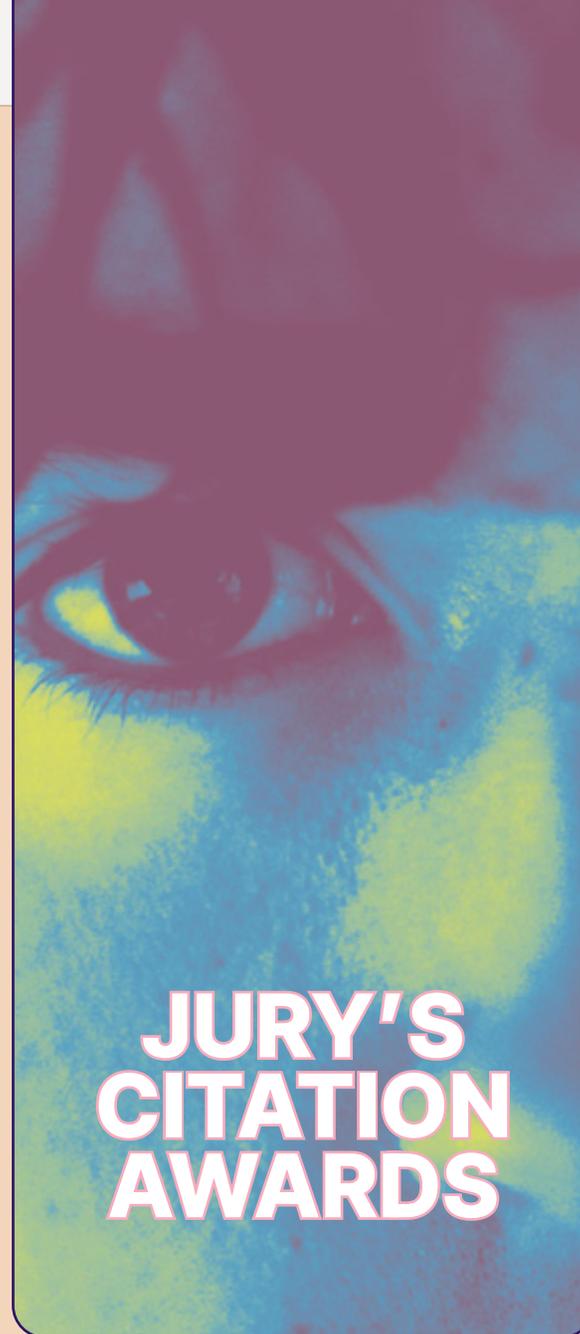


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## JURY'S CITATION AWARDS

### A Sisyphian Task - Narrative

17 min. by Gus Flind-Henry and George Malcher, London, England, UK

"A Sisyphian Task" follows Lucy, a 23-year-old newly qualified teacher, through her first year of teaching. A bright yet unflinching glimpse into the British school system, all set within the walls of Lucy's classroom. "This is a story about the vital importance of teachers and the significance of our school years. Everyone and everything within this story has been drawn from reality. Every year, we lose some of the brightest and most talented newly qualified teachers due to the lack of support, structure, and funding in our schools." – Flind-Henry & Malcher



### Awaiting the Lightning Bolt - Animation

4 min. by Marco Russo, Loana, Italy

Renato, an eccentric Renaissance inventor, dares the impossible: capturing a lightning bolt in a jar! Fueled by ambition and defying the skepticism of his peers, he races against time in a thrilling journey, where each storm offers an extraordinary glimpse into the mysteries of nature and the power of love.



## JURY'S CITATION AWARDS

### Caught in the Frame - Narrative

5 min. by Shaobo Chen, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China

Directing is an art of orchestrated illusion, sustained by collective suspension of disbelief. What you see isn't truth—it's truth deliberately unmade.



### Chicken Ghetto - Documentary

18 min. by Sangsun Choi, Lawrenceville, GA, USA

Mable is a teenager living in the Banda slum of Kampala, Uganda. She loves singing on the streets and carries many questions for God. One of her questions is - why she is the only one in her family with sickle cell disease?





## JURY'S CITATION AWARDS



### **Dizzy Cavalry - Experimental**

1 min. by Patrick Doyon, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

An 8mm reel of a Hollywood western, flickers to life once more. As the first call of the bugle rings out, the cavalry charges—swift and chaotic—while the film strains to keep pace. It ripples, trembles and tangles, caught in the chaos of gunfire and the thunder of galloping hooves.



### **Everything Twice - Documentary**

11 min. by Cy Kuckenbaker, San Diego, CA, USA

Burnout, peculiar homemade cameras, and a serious problem with his eyes - a photographer with a mysterious ailment finally realizes what his photos are about.



## JURY'S CITATION AWARDS



### **Leo: Keeping the Music Alive - Documentary**

28 min. by Adam Reim, Sewell, NJ, USA

An aging jazz promoter in West Philadelphia reflects upon his 50-year career of keeping live jazz alive in the community.



### **Mother v. Maricopa County - Documentary**

5 min. by Kristen Atwell Ford, Arizona, USA

When a young mother, Sherri Chessen, discovers she has taken Thalidomide, a dangerous drug that causes severe fetal anomalies, she makes the heartbreaking decision to end her pregnancy. It is 1962 and abortion is illegal in the United States. Her doctor and the hospital approve a private therapeutic abortion, but news of the operation is leaked to the press before it can be performed. Sherri and her husband sue the state for her right to medical care.





## JURY'S CITATION AWARDS



### **Muse - Narrative**

17 min. by Chad Zemel, LA, CA, USA

A withdrawn teenager searches for inner peace at a desert meditation center, only to be paired with a picture-perfect roommate. "This film is both a confession and an invitation: a love letter to the people who've helped me, and a call for us to reclaim intimacy in an era of rampant disconnection." – Chad Zemel



### **Snake Soup - Animation**

7 min. by Zack Demirtshyan, Yeravan, Armenia

The story of "Snake Soup" follows a soldier on his way to the battlefield, whose encounters along the way become the foundation for his blissful imagination. After a devastating explosion on the battlefield, his vivid recollections of the past intermingle and culminate in a delirious haze.



## JURY'S CITATION AWARDS



### **Stand Alone - Animation**

5 min. by Soyeon Kim, Long Beach, CA, USA

"Stand Alone" is a quiet, personal reflection on what it means to keep moving—alone—through life's uncertainties. Following the meandering path of a snake, the film becomes a mirror for our own inner journeys, where direction is unclear, and every step is shaped by instinct, struggle, and small, hard-won wisdoms.



### **The Handshake Two - Screen Dance**

6 min. by Jeong-hun Lee, Seoul, South Korea

This film playfully interprets the experience of arriving in Daerim-dong – a working-class neighborhood in Seoul - for the first time. Feelings of unfamiliarity and awkwardness are captured through hand movements and performance. Hands knead dough and pass hotteok (Chinese cake). These gestures are woven into the dance, inviting the audience to imagine the energetic life in Daerim-dong.





## JURY'S CITATION AWARDS

### **The Letter – Documentary**

5 min. by Oliver Würffel, Germany and Brooklyn, NY, USA

"On February 17th, 1945, my great-grandfather Friedrich wrote a letter to his fleeing family one hour before he was executed by the Nazis for his refusal of military service." Based on this true family story, the film relates Friedrich's farewell, narrated by his son-in-law Ernst. The original letter

will soon be part of a permanent exhibition at the German Historical Museum, Berlin.



### **The Soldier - Narrative**

35 min. by Danyl Yevhenovych Dedkov, Kyiv, Ukraine

This is a film about the consequences of almost every terrible war, devoted to very important topics - faith, military brotherhood, rehabilitation of soldiers, relations between parents and children. War is that terrible place and time when the world of the living and the world of the dead collide.



## JURY'S CITATION AWARDS



### **Two Black Boys in Paradise – Animation**

9 min. by Baz Sells, Manchester, UK

A moving and tender animated film, based on the powerful poem by Dean Atta. Two black boys go on a journey of self-acceptance and love – for each other and themselves. The film received early development support from actor Ian McKellen and was funded by The British Film Institute.



### **Why Did You Come Back Every Summer? - Narrative**

18 min. by Juli Suárez, Salt, Girona, Ossa de Mar and L'Escala, Spain

Lucia, a 22-year-old student reveals the abuse she suffered when she was a teenager, so that it will not happen again. A trip to the village where she spent her childhood will be the beginning of the process of healing, but the silence and hypocrisy of her family will be her greatest obstacle. Based on the book of the same name by Belén López Peiró.



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## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

2026 Streaming & Touring Collection



## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **a film with sound (take 3) - Experimental**

3 min. by Josh Weissbach, East Haddam, CT, USA

After making a silent film together a year ago, a father and daughter make a new movie with sound upon the daughter's request.



### **A Way to Be Together - Documentary**

18 min. by Trina Bardusco, Lambertville, NJ, USA

In a New Jersey town divided by unseen borders, a Mexican immigrant community steps into the light. Their festival sparks pride and unity—but as fear grows, even joy becomes a radical act of hope.



## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **And a Little for Me - Animation**

6 min. by Kathryn Roake, Brooklyn, NY, USA

What begins as a typical, summer beach day, an afternoon of surf, sun and dinner escalates into a theft and a riot.



### **Anotc ota ickwaporin akosiin (In my dream, I was flying) - Documentary**

5 min. by Catherine Boivin, Abenaki community of Odanak, Canada

As a mother does household chores, her daughter is seen playing in their home. The mother's voice-over talks to her own mother, a process that was part of the filmmaker's personal journey. She shares happy and painful memories and awakens deep wounds passed down from generation to generation.





## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **Art21: Arthur Jafa – Sequencing the Notes – Documentary**

10 min. by Jurrell Lewis, NYC, NY, USA

Throughout his practice, artist Arthur Jafa appropriates materials mined from the entirety of American culture, ranging from iconic films and photographs to videos posted on social media, sequencing and juxtaposing them to reveal qualities, connections, and absences that otherwise remain unseen. We watch Jafa explore the rich landscape of Black

cultural production by identifying and utilizing Black methodologies and aesthetics, uncovering the nuances of Black identity.



### **Asparagus Dead, Cherries Red - Documentary**

20 min. by Nina Moog and Elisabeth Wilke, Schrobenhausen and Munich, Bavaria, Germany

Each spring, the Schrobenhausen Asparagus Association in Bavaria elects an Asparagus Queen. During her one-year reign, she has one central task: to celebrate and embody the enticing power of this noble vegetable in Bavaria and beyond. The film is a cheerful homage to the magical vegetable that never ceases to delight us.



## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **Capital Limited - Experimental**

2 min. by Lily Ekimian Ragheb and Ahmed T. Ragheb, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

A wedding day, a tragedy, and an Amtrak train route are intertwined in this personal exploration of marriage and contemporary America.



### **Continual Rebirth – Animation**

2 min. by David Gordon Ehrlich, Springfield, VT, USA

As changing shapes continually come forward, they coalesce to more gentle realities that move off into the unknown, like life.





## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **Hermanos - Narrative**

22 min. by Rachel McDonald, Ojai, CA, USA

Inspired by true events, "Hermanos" tells the story of Santino and Tomás, brothers who flee Mexico with their mother seeking refuge after the murder of their father. Separated from each other and their mother, they are detained at the U.S. border. When an unlikely opportunity to escape presents itself, the brothers risk everything to protect each other and stay alive as they cross Texas on foot.



### **Impossible Journey - Animation**

5 min. by Daniella Schuarts and Leonardo Salomão, Brazil and NYC, NY, USA

The journey of two storks on an ordinary workday illustrates the urgent crisis in maternal health care in the United States. One stork has a relatively safe trip to deliver her baby, while the other faces significant

dangers, risking her life. The stork who barely survives is the one delivering a Black baby.



## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **Ius (Law) of Time - Narrative**

25 min. by Roberto F. Canuto and Xiaoxi Xu, Asturias, Spain and USA

Luca, a young photographer, arrives in a village in Asturias, Spain to work on an artistic project. There, he stays with Xuan, an experienced cheesemaker marked by a past full of rumors and prejudices. Through Luca's camera and Xuan's craft, they both discover unexpected connections in an intimate encounter between two seemingly opposing worlds.



### **Jimmy, Becky, and the Portal to Hell - Animation**

3 min. by John Schnall, Bloomfield, NJ, USA

It's another great day in Anywhere USA... until it isn't. This animation combines the worst of pre-programmed drag and drop app animation with full old-fashioned animation hand-drawn on paper to explore creativity in an age of artificial intelligence and shortcuts.





## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### Leaf Peeper - Experimental

3 min. by Vito A. Rowlands, NYC, NY, USA

Autumn adventurers unite! "Leaf Peeper" takes you on a frantic frolic of fall foliage until your eyes pop out. Shot on Super 8 in single frames with pixilation, puppet stop motion, frenetic pans, and plenty of plaid, this very short film packs every second with as many picturesque and picaresque frames as possible, to capture the sublime bliss of a lovely day out and about.



### Mateo - Narrative

13 min. by William Michael Anderson, Alhambra, CA, USA

An overwhelmed shipyard worker, Mateo, struggles to keep his life in order. Between his dying father, a failed marriage, and his infant son suffering from a heart condition, he is forced to confront his uncertain future.



## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### Mother - Narrative

29 min. by Sebastian Kwidziński, Toruń, Poland

Paulina is out on parole after serving a prison sentence for the murder of her husband Andrzej in self-defense. She returns to her hometown to find her 11-year-old son Nikodem. Jadwiga, Paulina's mother-in-law who takes care of Nikodem, does not want Paulina to see her son Nikodem, as she is still grieving the loss of her own son, Andrzej.



### Notes From the Sky (Nada Dari Langit) - Documentary

30 min. by Calvin Kenjiro Grover, Nivan Dhamija, Norway, ME, USA

A film that explores astronomical traditions across Indonesia's diverse archipelago. As light pollution interferes with Indonesia's observatories, interest in ancestral ways of reading the stars re-emerges — where colonial science and indigenous cosmologies trace competing maps of the sky.



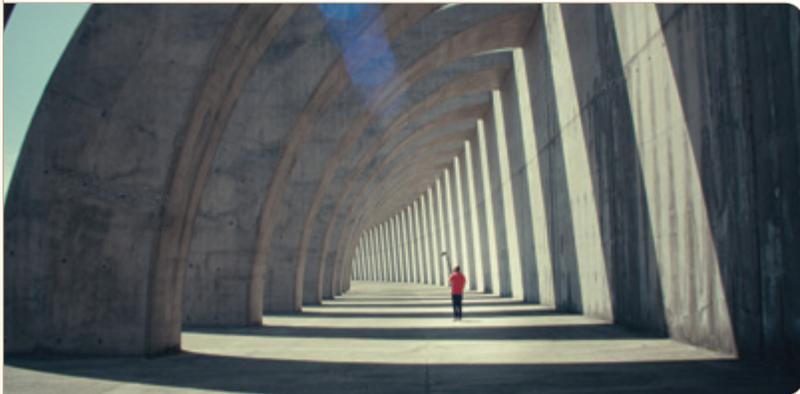


## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **Ramón Who Speaks to Ghosts – Documentary**

7 min. by Shervin Kermani, La Palma, Spain and Canada

After a volcanic eruption, Ramón walks the island of La Palma with his microphone, looking for ghosts. Filmmaker Shervin Kermani was one of two Canadians selected to work with legendary director Werner Herzog, and he made "Ramón Who Speaks to Ghosts" under Herzog's direct mentorship on the Spanish island of La Palma.



### **Recurring Dream – Experimental**

8 min. by Tim O'Connor, NY, NY, USA

A child is alone.



## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **Remember the Rats – Animation**

8 min. by Juan M. Abdo, Buenos Aires and USA

In 1920s Buenos Aires, a city shaped by European immigration, a family of rats peacefully roams Plaza de Mayo, sustained by a kind-hearted baker who shares his empanadas with them. The governor, repulsed by the rodents, travels to Paris and discovers skilled hunting pigeons. Upon returning, despite witnessing the harmony between people and the rats, he releases the French pigeons in the plaza. With these new predators patrolling their home, the rats are faced to question if there's a place for them in the plaza anymore.



### **Richard Neutra's Maslon House - Documentary**

29 min. by Scott Goldstein and Dave Yakir, Rancho Mirage, CA, USA

The demolition of Richard Neutra's Maslon House caused an international outrage and started a preservation movement. Through interviews and archival footage this documentary short brings the house back to life while sharing the story of its creation, destruction and legacy.





## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **River of Days – Experimental**

7 min. by Mark Street, Brooklyn, NY, USA

Using hundreds of transparent photographic stills animated on a lightbox and abstract Super-8 footage, "River of Days" meditates on the illusory nature of the passage of time.



### **Silent Panorama – Animation**

5 min. by Nicolas Piret, Brussels, Belgium

In this animated miniature, a drawing gradually comes to life before our eyes, telling a story not only of a wild boar on the run, but also of the ways in which people occupy the places that used to belong to nature. Based on memories of a walk in the Belgian Ardennes. This film was drawn and animated alone on a single sheet of paper as a performance.



## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **The Family Photo – Animation**

8 min. by John Norris Ray and Maria Victoria Sanchez, Willis, TX, USA

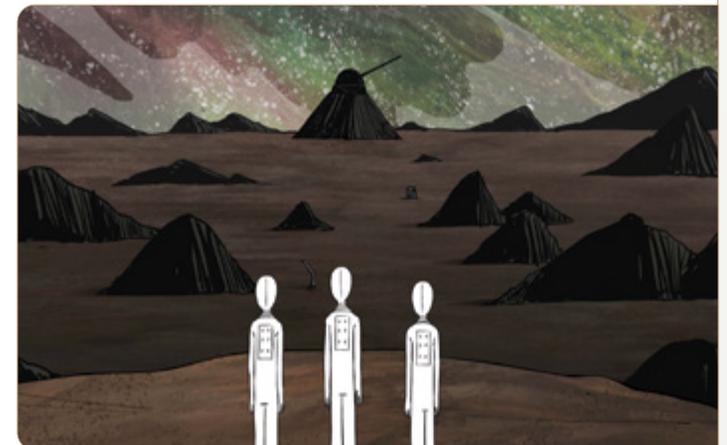
What happened after an Earth astronaut left a family photo on the moon fifty-plus years ago? This animated short explores the butterfly effect of such an action. How will it affect us all?



### **The Gun – Animation**

11 min. by Randall Christopher, San Diego, CA, USA

On a distant planet all life has been annihilated through war, but when a team of scientists arrive, they discover a terrifying weapon that still functions. Based on the short story by Philip K. Dick.





## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **The Magician – Animation**

24 min. by Bogdan Muresanu, Bilbao, Vizcaya, Spain

Sulina, Romania, 1910. It is the inauguration of the first electric power station in this Romanian port city. In the jubilation of a modern and cosmopolitan crowd, Ilarion, a prestidigitator from another time, tries to play his last card.



### **The Whistle – Animation**

7 min. by Greg Franklin, Highland Beach, FL, USA

A Jewish doctor and his family are living a comfortable life in Cologne, Germany when, in 1938, the Nazis enact a law making it illegal for a Jewish doctor to treat non-Jews. The doctor defies the law, and the consequences are harsh. Will his past determine his future? Based on a true story.



## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### **There's a Robbery in Progress – Animation**

4 min. by Morgan Miller, Brooklyn, NY, USA

The plight of a British police officer (voiced by Brian Croucher of Dr. Who fame) is nudged outside of reality when a meta mishap occurs during a bank robbery.



### **Tiny Dancer – Screen Dance**

16 min. by Paige Foskett, Kitchner, Ontario, Canada

After a misguided gift from her mother triggers a relapse, a gifted dancer struggling with an eating disorder must learn to follow the dance of her inner child, stepping toward healing, hope, and joyful resilience.





## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE AWARDS

### Two Ships – Animation

6 min. by McKinley Benson, Portugal and USA

While working opposite schedules, a couple attempts to maintain their connection through fleeting encounters.



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# HONORABLE MENTION

2026 Streaming & Touring Collection



## HONORABLE MENTION



### **a decade – Experimental**

10 min by Wrik Mead, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

"a decade" is an experimental film that fuses analog and digital techniques and reflects on the artist's life through the 1980s - a time of rebellion, discovery, and loss. Blending Super 8 and 16mm film, digital animation and personal reflection, the film drifts from punk rock to gay discos. Bookended by the deaths of his two closest friends, the film is a haunting and poetic elegy to a transformative era.

### **Akinsanya Kambon: The Hero Avenges**

28 min. by Gabriel Noguez and Sean Rowry, LA, CA, USA

Akinsanya Kambon, Black Panther and veteran of the Vietnam War, channels personal and collective traumas into powerful works of art, avenging historical injustices through sculptures imbued with African mythology, resilience, and revolutionary spirit.

### **Art21: Puppies Puppies - Radical Transparency – Documentary**

8 min. by Drew de Pinto, Queens, NY, USA

Artist Jade Kuriki-Olivo replicated her bedroom in New York City's New Museum and lived there during the run of her exhibition, making her most private space public. Following the artist and her collaborators as they move between the real and the performed, the film explores what happens when an artist turns life into an artwork.

### **Azkena – Animation**

9 min. by Ane Inés Landeta and Lorea Lyons, Bilbao, Spain

Lorea's reference points are her mother and her grandmother. Through these two generations she observes the bond that women have experienced around motherhood. Now it is up to her to decide whether or not to become a mother herself and to look for answers to pending questions.

### **Beam Me Up – Narrative**

13 min. by Roxana Stroe, Beaconsfield, UK

In a London Underground station in the late 1980s, a charismatic lift operator has a crisis of identity when he learns that he is being made redundant in three days' time.

### **Beings - Experimental**

6 min. by Zhengyang Du, China and Orange, CA, USA

Through four symbolic forms—the iron fish, the captive horse, the abandoned vehicle, and the disabled martial artist—this documentary contemplates how beings maintain dignity and meaning under forces of control, decay, and physical limitation. Moving between stillness and resistance, each vignette reflects a different state of being tethered, yet persistently alive.



## HONORABLE MENTION



### **Breaking Plates - Documentary**

25 min. by Karen Pearlman, New South Wales, Australia

A raucous documentary about the not so silent women of the silent film era, "Breaking Plates" defiantly asserts the principle that if we want to tell different stories, we have to tell stories differently

### **Chickadee Overcomes Gravity – Narrative**

2 min. by Teens with a Movie Camera, Syracuse, NY

Stuck on the ground but dreaming of the stars, an audacious chicken sets out to go where no chicken has gone before. Created in collaboration with young artists using everyday tools, smartphones, and imagination, this two-minute epic celebrates the power of persistence. Bok bok!

### **Discovering Bessie Coleman – Documentary**

26 min. by Beth Powell, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

"Discovering Bessie Coleman" celebrates the impact of Coleman's legacy as the first African American and Native American woman to earn an international pilot's license. The film shares personal stories from Coleman's family, aviation professionals, and celebrities like author and actress Karyn Parsons, recounting how they first learned about Coleman's groundbreaking achievements.

### **Dish Pit – Narrative**

13 min. by Anna Hopkins, Ontario, Canada

A former cook turned dishwasher cooks a meal after hours.

### **Dissonance – Documentary**

25 min. by Raquel Larrosa, Campamentos de Población Refugiada Saharaui en Tinduf (Argelia) and Madrid, Spain

Fatimetu Bucharaya is a Sahrawi woman who in 2019 founded SMAWT, a voluntary women's association dedicated to the detection of anti-personnel mines in the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria.

### **Fainter Echoes – Experimental**

6 min. by Brady Lewis, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Image and sound memory and dream fragments define a man, a place and a relationship in rural Pennsylvania.

### **Gardening – Animation**

14 min. by Sarah Beeby, London, UK

In the aftermath of sexual assault, a woman retreats into the garden of her own mind. She realizes that she must regain her voice and find new paths to healing before she and her garden are destroyed.

(continued next page)



## HONORABLE MENTION

(continued from previous page)

### Hey Dad – Animation

5 min. by Weifang Wang, Beijing, China

"Hey Dad" is a queer animation with no love story and no quarrels. It brings a gentle perspective to the Chinese queer community in hopes that people will understand and talk to each other.

### Is it True? – Narrative

13 min. by Hayden Goldman and Daniel Isaiah, San Diego, CA, USA

A heartfelt coming-of-age story about Lucy, a teen hiding her gender identity while starting fresh at a new school. As suspicious classmates close in on her secret, and a protective mother struggles to let go, Lucy must find the courage to embrace her identity and stand up for herself.

### Leave the Island – Animation

11 min. by Chen Wu, Taiwan and London, UK

A boy lives on an island that floats through the sky — a flying whale that is also his home. When an accident causes the whale to falter and fall, the boy begins a journey through memory and imagination, searching for what might remain when parting becomes inevitable.

### Paravan – Narrative

11 min. by Glória Halász, Budapest, Hungary

Two puppeteers, an older man and a young girl, arrive at a mysterious underground place with their peculiar packages, aiming to bring light into the darkness. While the puppeteers are fully aware that their lives are in danger in the underground shelter, they hide their fears behind the screen and perform to keep hope alive in their audience

### Path – Screen Dance

3 min. by Ian Eastwood, North Hollywood, CA, USA

Dancer and choreographer Ian Eastwood crafts an interpretation of the music with his movement to the song "Path," performed by musician Mansur Brown.

### Purgatorio – Screen Dance

6 min. by Auden Lincoln-Vogal, Iowa City, IA, USA

You can't win a game you don't know how to play, but you also can't lose.

### Rise – Narrative

21 min. by Jessica J. Rowlands, London, UK

A charismatic young boy who lives on a rubbish dump in Zimbabwe must convince a reclusive boxing coach to teach him to fight to find safety and strength in a world that has left him behind.



## HONORABLE MENTION

### Sarah Thankam Mathews: After All This – Documentary

15 min. by Andrew Nadkarni, Brooklyn, NY, USA

Following the success of her debut novel, All This Could Be Different, author Sarah Thankam Mathews embarks on her second novel, drawing from her adolescence between India and Oman. As Sarah excavates lost place and time, she must contend with the weight of truthful representation and the contradictions within her childhood memories.

### Stranger – Narrative

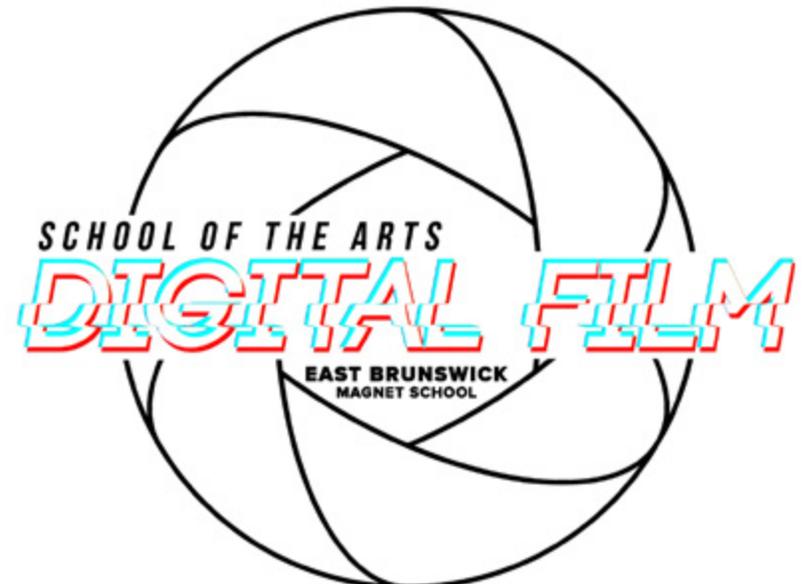
27 min. by Jens Glomnes Hertzberg, Lillehammer, Norway

Old farmer Vidar struggles to take care of his rundown farm alone, when a stranger appears and, uninvited, begins to help him. As the stranger proves to be very useful to Vidar, he slowly lets him into his life, which proves to challenge his existence.

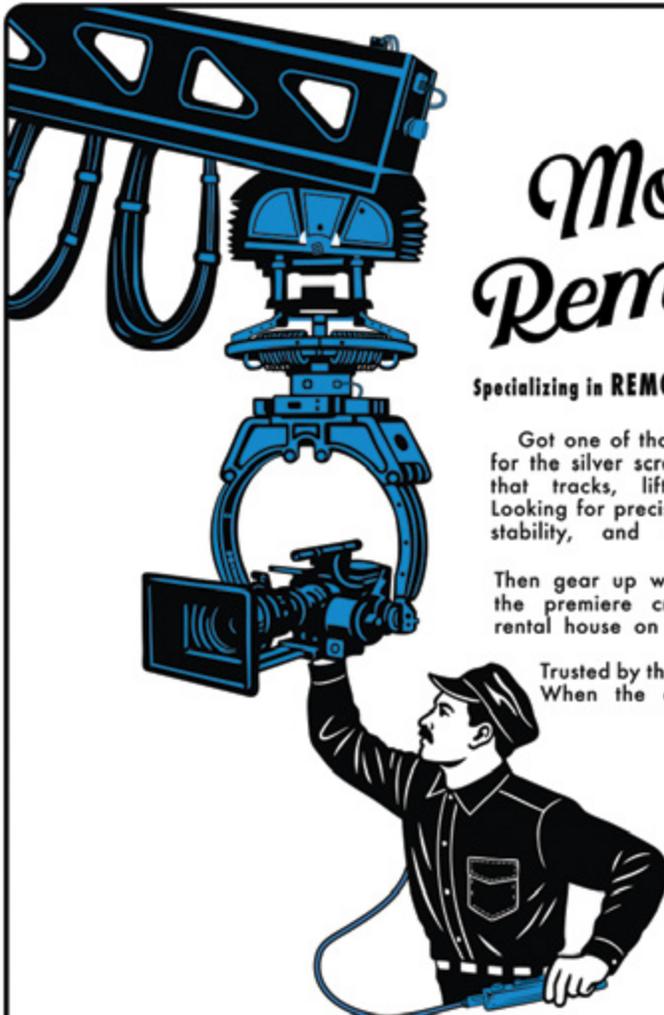
### The Neighbors – Documentary

21 min. by Mimi Chakarova, Berkeley, CA, USA

When three neighbors travel to Amsterdam for an award ceremony, their comical journey brings unexpected revelations along the way.



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**STUDENT FILMMAKERS**

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## STUDENT FILMMAKERS

### STELLAR AWARDS

#### **Between Then & Now – “Made in NJ” Stellar Award – Documentary**

7.5 min. by Paige Morton, Princeton, NJ – Princeton University

On the eve of goodbye, a girl wanders through her childhood home one last time, caught between memory and the pull of the future.

#### **Better Half – Stellar Animation**

2.5 min. by Grace Demopoulos, Hoboken, NJ – Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)

A girl explores a strange marsh and is inexplicably transformed into a rabbit.

#### **Handwoven – Stellar Documentary**

9 min. by Dasha Levin, Mason Cazalet, Mihika Das, Matthew Wisdom, San Diego, CA – Chapman University’s Dodge College of Film and Media Arts

A lyrical portrait of Nikyle Begay, a non-binary shepherd and weaver; working to preserve their way of life through the traditional art of weaving.

#### **WOAH, WOAH, WOAH – Stellar Experimental**

2.5 min. by Tae Yeon Han, CA & Santiago, Chile – Sarah Lawrence College

An ensemble of semi-abstract characters move in and out of space in all sorts of ways.

#### **The Man in the Blue Suit – Stellar Narrative**

5.5 min. by Evan Patrick Adams, Kalamazoo, MI and NYC – Florida State University

Charlie, a lone ranger, must protect Sarah from harm. As a result, Charlie becomes targeted by the Man in the Blue Suit. To protect Sarah, Charlie must overcome his limitations. Will Charlie discover who the Man in the Blue Suit is and save the woman he loves from danger?

### OFFICIAL SELECTION AWARDS

#### **All Beauty Queens Have Broken Bones – Narrative**

7.5 min by Max C. Tullio, NYC – Columbia University

Marlo believes God has told her to win the Miss Teen Indiana Pageant - but to do so, needs to break her legs to get the pity vote. Her older sister, Rose, is skeptical, but with her heavy drinking, she’s not so sure what to believe anymore.

#### **Anadromous – Animation**

5 min. by Ari Grubb, Boston, MA – School of the Museum of Fine Arts/Tufts

When they find themselves evolving out of their aquarium home, two fish set off on a musical journey of self-acceptance and queer joy, and find community in a freaky fish gay bar in the deepest depths of the ocean.



## STUDENT FILMMAKERS

#### **Beyond the Clouds – Experimental**

4.5 min. by Andrew Imai, Royal Oak, MI – University of Notre Dame

"Beyond the Clouds" is an experimental short film that explores the inherent pull of discovery and the unknown.

#### **Emulsion – Narrative**

10 min. by Aaron Dylag, South Windsor, CT – University of Hartford

When a professional photographer who is obsessed with his work finds a vintage camera to test out, he slowly discovers that a man’s soul is trapped inside it, visible though the emulsion on the photos it takes.

#### **Itlu (With Love) – Animation**

5 min. by Sriya Reddy Nallannagari, Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD)

A mother begins a handcrafted photo album that quietly records a life. Seasons pass, small routines echo, and the camera shifts from hands to the object that holds them. What endures is not the paper or the images, but the care pressed into them.

#### **L’Ouverture – Narrative**

9.5 min. by Maggie Deer, Grosse Pointe, MI – Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD)

When a little girl’s puppet theater comes to life, she becomes victim to her own imagination.

#### **Mismatch – Animation**

2.5 min. by Luna Lee, LA, CA - UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television

A seemingly ordinary matchstick, repeatedly dismissed and denied recognition as a military veteran, slowly ignites with emotion—until it finally flames up, revealing the true weight of the micro aggressions it endured.

#### **Mother Clay – Animation**

6 min. by Armin Rangani and Raha Amirfazli, Brooklyn, NY – NYU Tisch School of the Arts

A lowly temple servant in a clay-bound world makes a shocking discovery that hurls the devout society being served, into chaos.

#### **Not Your Script – Narrative**

6 min. by Phoebe Sifan Liu, LA, CA – University of Southern California (USC)

A genre-bending satire on sexism in storytelling, "Not Your Script" is a sharp, meta-comedic revenge tale about authorship, agency, and the right to be more than someone else’s plot device.

(continued next page)



## OFFICIAL SELECTION AWARDS (con't)

### **Puddle – Animation**

4.5 min. by Samuel O’Dair Hologacs, Sparta, NJ – School of Visual Arts (SVA)

Mac wakes up to a broken AC and a hungry cat, but somehow the heat causes the cat to mysteriously change. Mac must corral the creature before the repairman arrives.

### **Rainbow Rain – Animation**

5 min. by Guyu Liang, LA, CA – University of Southern California, (USC)

In a gray and rainy world, a girl begins her journey to seek the rainbow rain.

### **So Much More to Offer – Animation**

5 min. by Cullen Burt, Grant Cosko, Xingyu Gu, Hunter Hartz, Aliiv Jiao, Saleen Lee, Alison Ma, Brisa Parra, Shelby Pine, Lyndzi Ramos, Tricia Saputera, Hanyu Sun, Kaan Ust, Elaine Wong, Rosemary Wu, Ella Zhou, Pasadena, CA – University of Southern California (USC)

Lyndzi uses her own experience of being treated unfairly as a plus-sized person to raise people’s attention toward body positivity.

### **Sunrise in Prison – Documentary**

5.5 min by Quincy Bowie Jr., Daniel Chit, Katelyn Do, Andrew R. Hong, Eve Levy, Katie Lou, Johans Saldana Guadalupe, LA, CA – University of Southern California (USC)

Elizabeth "Leesa" Nomura describes her experiences as an incarcerated woman, the community she built, and the power they discovered together.

### **That’s Not Me – Experimental**

9.5 min. by Lucas O’Brien, La Canada, CA - Chapman University’s Dodge College of Film and Media Arts

A grandiose dancer obsessed with concealing their emotions and a melancholic drifter desperate to feel something cross paths over the span of one night.

### **Whirlwinds – Animation**

4 min. by Leo Wille, Kansas City, MO – Kansas City Art Institute

An eccentric old storm-chaser vows to get proof of heaven inside of a tornado to show his mocking trucker friend.

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Centenary University

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Film East Brunswick Magnet School

Cali Macchia  
Teacher of cinematography,  
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Director of Multimedia Content,  
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Margaret Parsons  
Juror, Curator Emerita,  
National Gallery of Art,  
Founder and curator  
Glimmerglass Film Days

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Video Editor, Podcaster and  
Professor of Post Production,  
Montclair State University.

Stephanie Roberts  
Teacher of English and media arts,  
Passaic Valley HS





## Pre-Screening Jurors

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Boris Gavrilovic	Stephanie Roberts
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## Jurors

**Margaret Parsons**, Curator Emerita, founded the film program at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. She served as curator of film for the Gallery for decades and organized screenings related to film history, film art, and the role of time-based media in society. She has curated media exhibitions and programs at embassies and cultural organizations including the Corcoran Gallery of Art, American University, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and Smithsonian Museum of American Art. She has served on the boards of film organizations ranging from the Robert Flaherty Film Seminar to the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, and has been on the editorial boards

for The Moving Image and the Getty Trust's experimental Art on Film in association with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She has been an international festival juror and in 2012 she founded Glimmerglass Film Days in central New York State. For her work in film preservation Parsons has received awards from the governments of France, Georgia, Italy, and the Czech Republic, and in the U.S. has been the recipient of life achievement awards from the Thomas Edison Black Maria Film Festival, DC Independent Festival, and Women in Film and Video. Her scholarship is in the field of outsider art and her articles have appeared in *Raw Vision*, *Folk Art*, *The Folk Art Messenger*, *New York Folklore*, *Curator*, and *The Moving Image*.

**Henry Baker** is a director, producer, and creative director, and the former executive director of the groundbreaking arts facility Synapse Video Center. As an educator, curator, and director, his work helped launch video as an art form in the United States. He co-created the New York State Media Alliance and pioneered the Quantel Video Paintbox artist, collaborating on The Cars' "You Might Think" music video, which won MTV's first-ever Music Video Award.

Through his company, BXB, Baker produced projects with

Menudo, Celeste Holm, HBO, Sony, Panasonic, and others. His work is held in the permanent collections of the New York Public Library and the Everson Museum of Art. He has served as a juror for the National Endowment for the Arts, the WNET-TV Lab, and the Thomas Edison Film Festival.

Baker's work explores historical and time-sensitive aspects of LGBTQ+, gay, and queer culture. His films have toured festivals internationally. His current documentary is *My Gay Uncle Bob*.



## Hudson County Movie Tour



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TRINA BARDUSCO, USA



**"ATOMIC SECRETS"**  
BANU RAMAZANOVA, USA



**"BLOOD PORTAL"**  
ANDY BRIGHT, USA



**"THE DRIVER IS RED"**  
RANDALL CHRISTOPHER, USA

The Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF) and our partners at the Hoboken Historical Museum are deeply grateful for the generous support from the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development for their long-running sponsorship of our Hudson County Movie Tour.

TEFF is proud to present unique and thought-provoking programs either in-person or virtually at the Hoboken Historical Museum, in the beautiful Rotunda at Justice Brennan Courthouse in Jersey City, at the Secaucus Public Library, and at A. Harry Moore School in Jersey City.

Our TEFF programs are announced regularly via MailChimp, so contact us at [info@teffilmfest.org](mailto:info@teffilmfest.org) to sign up for personal notifications. Look for our film program announcements on the TEFF website, the Hoboken Museum website, [www.hobokenmuseum.org](http://www.hobokenmuseum.org), and from the Hudson County Cultural Affairs Office at [www.visithudson.org](http://www.visithudson.org).

Here is a sampling of programs we are planning from January through December 2026...

To kick off 2026, keep your eyes and ears on the TEFF Homepage our screenings in Hudson County, don't miss the Thomas Edison Film Festival's Gala Premiere at the Hoboken Historical Museum on Friday, February 27th featuring top award-winning films from the 2026 collection. Doors open at 6:30pm, program starts at 7:00pm.



## Hudson County Movie Tour

Back by popular demand is our "Film of the Month" on the TEFF Homepage. January features the award-winning animated film from our archive, "The Driver is Red" by Randall Christopher, in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Set in Argentina in 1960, this true crime documentary follows the story of secret agent Zvi Aharoni as he searches for a mysterious man named Ricardo Klement. February is Black History Month, March highlights Women's HERstory Month. Each month will focus on a special film coinciding with our theme-based or genre-based virtual programming – viewable for free on our website. We will explore Animation in August, Screen Dance in November and much more!

Special events including filmmaker talks will be announced throughout 2026. These unique virtual film programs are produced in collaboration with the Hoboken Historical Museum and supported by the Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development.



**"THE SOLDIER"**  
DANYL YEVHENOVYCH DEDKOV, UKRAINE



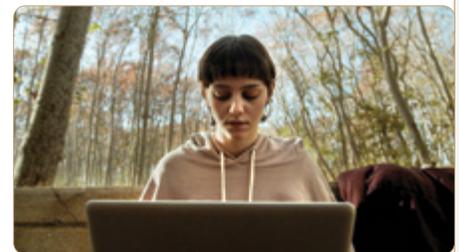
**"SON"**  
ZHANNA BEKMAMBETOVA, KAZAKHSTAN



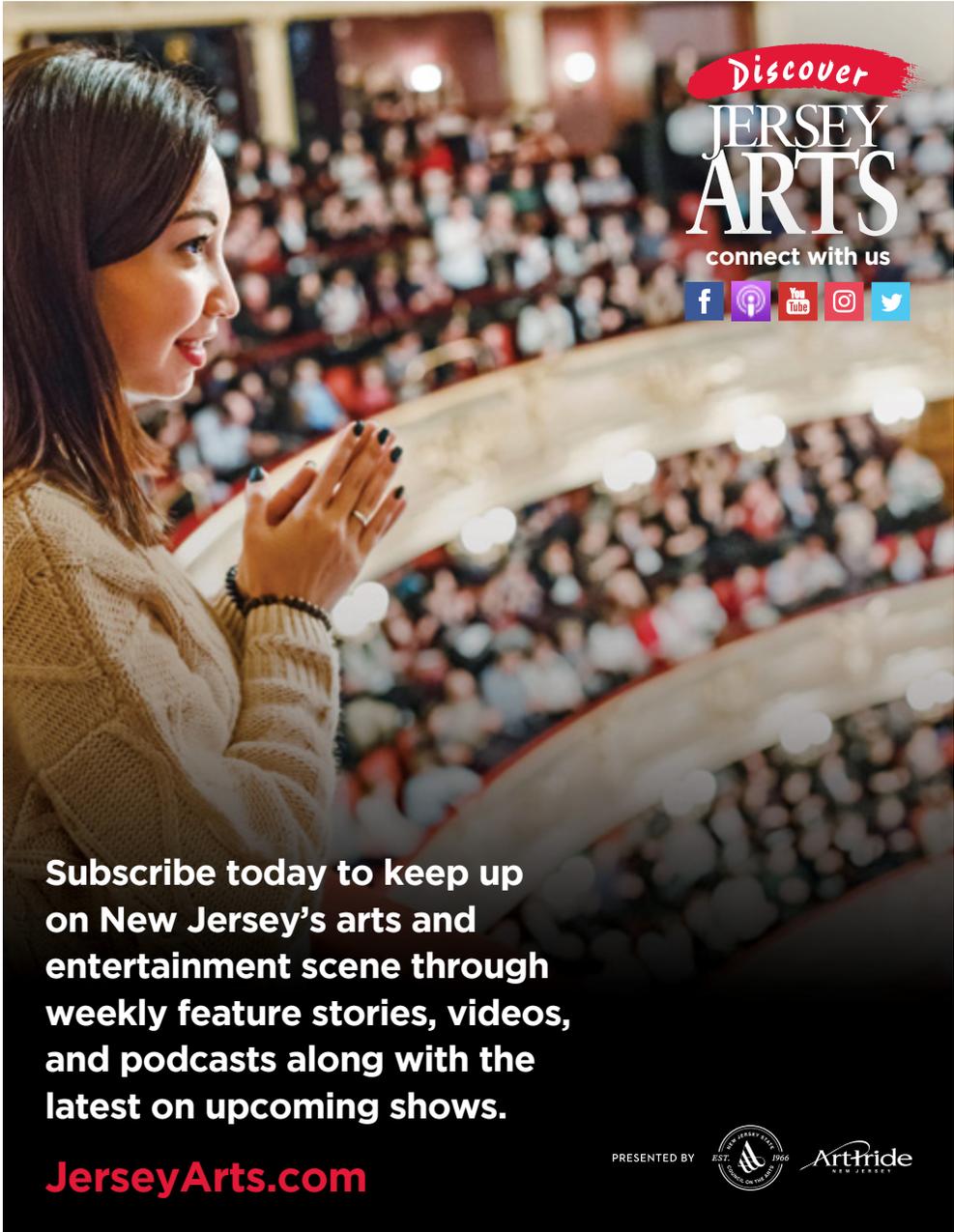
**"SWIM SISTAS"**  
CATHERINE JOY WHITE, UK



**"IN THE EYES OF THE WORM"**  
EMILY HUBLEY AND MAX ROSENTHAL, USA



**"WHY DID YOU COME BACK EVERY SUMMER?"**  
JULI SUÁREZ, SPAIN



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## Thomas Edison Media Arts Consortium supports ADA – The Americans with Disabilities Act

The Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF) is a touring festival visiting venues across the US and presenting 50+ programs a year – in-person and virtually. We carefully vet, collaborate with, and coordinate the resources of our host institutions to accomplish the highest level of ADA compliance possible. For decades, the festival has partnered with institutions that prioritize accessibility. Each host must confirm its adherence to the Consortium's strict ADA requirements to qualify as a TEFF program venue.

TEFF is proud to announce that since 2024, all films included in the TEFF tour have provided closed captioning upon request. The festival staff works with each winning filmmaker to ensure that captions are included for any film with dialog regardless of original language. Additionally, the TEFF website provides synopses of all films in its annual collection and archive, enabling patrons to preview descriptive content ahead of program presentations.

The Consortium also enhances accessibility for individuals with visual impairments. Digital TEFF program booklets from 2014 onward can be viewed on the festival's website and enlarged for ease of reading. Large-print programs are made available to host venues upon request for in-person screenings, ensuring that patrons with vision loss can engage more fully with

the festival's offerings.

Interactive engagement is another hallmark of TEFF's accessibility efforts. Programs presented in-person by the Executive Director include personalized description and real-time audience Q&A's, offering an enriched experience for individuals seeking an additional visual or auditory context. This practice reflects the festival's dedication to inclusivity.

To further its ADA compliance goals, the Consortium has developed a "Host Organization Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA Compliance) Rider and Survey." This tool ensures that venues that cannot be visited by the director personally, meet full ADA compliance standards.

The Consortium exercises best practices to recruit persons with disabilities as volunteers and employees. Through the efforts of the Consortium's ADA Compliance Committee, policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, and the Consortium reinforces its identity as an inclusive arts organization. Our unwavering commitment to accessibility ensures that TEFF programs, whether virtual or in-person, are designed to be welcoming and inclusive for all audiences. Patrons are welcome to contact the festival director:

**Jane Steuerwald**  
**Email: [Jane@TEFilmFest.org](mailto:Jane@TEFilmFest.org)**  
**Office: +1 551.999.8225**



## Support the Festival

SUPPORT  
 the  
 THOMAS  
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 FILM  
 FESTIVAL

We need your support. The **Thomas Edison Film Festival** views hundreds of submissions yearly to bring you the finest independent film in the world. We depend upon viewers like you to keep the festival going.

Grants from our major contributors only cover part of our expenses. The rest is up to you! Please help us maintain the high quality and accessibility that is essential for our film community to thrive.

**Contact the Consortium office or  
 make a donation via our website.**

**Thomas A Edison  
 Media Arts Consortium, Inc.**  
 PO Box 3426  
 Hoboken, NJ 07030 USA  
 Phone: +1 551.999.8225  
 Email: [info@TEFilmFest.org](mailto:info@TEFilmFest.org)  
 Website: [www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org)

The **THOMAS A EDISON MEDIA ARTS CONSORTIUM INC.** is a 501c3, non-profit, charitable organization registered with the State of NJ. **EIN: 52-1665274**

**Your contribution is tax-deductible** under the law, allowing you to reduce your taxable income. Starting in 2026, individuals can deduct up to \$1,000 in cash gifts to qualified public charities, even if you take the standard deduction.



# Celebrating over 45 Years of Inspiring Independent Film

## 6 Categories

### Animation

From stop-motion to computer-generated visuals, breathing life into fresh, imaginative ideas.

### Documentary

Creative explorations of real events, people, or places, presenting compelling truths through a lens of originality.

### Experimental

Non-narrative personal visions or hybrid forms that push the boundaries of conventional film genres.

### Narrative

Innovative fictional storytelling that captivates and draws us into authentic-seeming worlds.

### Screen Dance

Choreographed works where film and dance intertwine, creating a dance of both movement and camera.

### Young Filmmakers

(Students Only)

Open to student filmmakers currently attending a U.S. college or university.

Eligible Genres: Animation, Documentary, Experimental, Narrative, Screen Dance, and Hybrids.

Submission Requirements: Films must be 10 minutes or less. Must be accompanied by a valid student ID or proof of attendance at a U.S. college or university.



# Call for Entries for 2027 Early Bird Entry Date: May 1, 2026

## 2027 will be the 46th Season of the Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF)

The Thomas Edison Film Festival seeks spirited short films that explore, enrich, and expand the expressive possibilities of film as art.

TEFF is an international, open genre, touring festival. We are seeking short films in these categories, all of which can include hybrid films.

Submissions open for **2027** on these dates:  
**Early Bird** May 1 through June 31, 2026  
**Regular Deadline** July 1 – September 8, 2026

## ENTRY FEES

	STUDENT ONLY	<15 min.	<30 min.	<45 min.
<b>EARLY BIRD</b>	\$10	\$25	\$30	\$35
<b>REGULAR</b>	\$15	\$30	\$35	\$45



Submit your film on FilmFreeway at:  
<https://filmfreeway.com/ThomasEdisonFilmFestival>

**Questions?** Contact us at:

Phone: +1 551.999.8225  
Email: [info@TEFilmFest.org](mailto:info@TEFilmFest.org)  
Website: [www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org)  
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# 2026 Thomas Edison Film Festival

Celebrating innovation and 45 years of independent filmmaking.

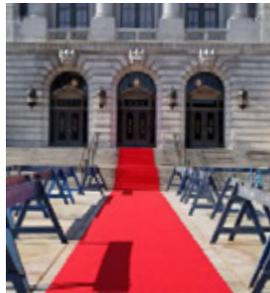


From culinary delights to distinct and charismatic cultures, each **Hudson County** neighborhood has something special. Art, adventure, local food, and movie locations abound across our twelve towns. Scan the code for a listing of the other movies filmed in **Hudson County**.

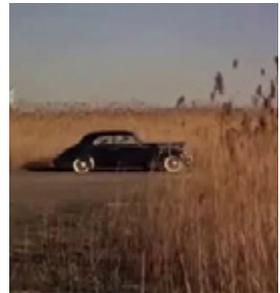
Did you know these movies were filmed in **Hudson County**?



**A COMPLETE UNKNOWN**  
Jersey Avenue,  
Jersey City, NJ



**JOKER**  
William J Brennan  
Courthouse,  
Jersey City, NJ



**THE GODFATHER**  
Liberty State Park,  
Morris Pesin Drive,  
Jersey City, NJ



Learn about other Hudson County movies at:  
**visithudson.org**

