

S A N T E R U N A T I O N A L S P O F F I L M F E S T I V A L

**SPECIAL EVENTS,  
VIRTUAL + IN-PERSON  
SCREENINGS,  
FILMMAKER PANELS + MORE**

**ENCORE:  
VIRTUAL + IN-PERSON  
SCREENINGS  
APRIL 30–MAY 7**

❖ **LET'S GO BACK TO THE MOVIES!** ❖



As proud sponsors of the 2023 SLO International Film Festival, Hotel SLO invites you to take advantage of our convenient location adjacent to the Palm Theater. Join us for a perfect night out before or after film screenings - where you can dine alfresco and enjoy craft cocktails.

**OX + ANCHOR**

A modern spin on the classic steakhouse, drawing inspiration from the hills and sea surrounding San Luis Obispo.  
WED-SUN 5-9P

**PIADINA**

For a casual vibe with farm-fresh fare inspired by Italy and the Central Coast.  
DAILY 11:30A-9P

**HIGH BAR**

Craft cocktails and shared bites al fresco on the rooftop.  
DAILY 2-9P  
(WEATHER PERMITTING)



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## PRODUCERS



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# SPONSORS

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MENDER  
NATE'S ON MARSH  
PASO ALMONDS

SLO PROVISIONS  
TACO WORKS

VIEW A COMPLETE AND UPDATED  
LIST ON OUR WEBSITE.

# MESSAGE *FROM THE* DIRECTOR

Many of us have deep memories of going to the movies. The smell of fresh popcorn, going on first dates, being inspired, laughing with the crowd, quietly holding back sniffles from your tears and the rush of adrenaline from all the action. Within the visually stunning Central Coast we are back to doing what we do best—host groundbreaking films in iconic venues rich with memories and history. This year I encourage you to join us to create new memories at the movies! Movies have the potential to challenge us, inspire us and create needed change within us all.

## SKYE MCLENNAN SLO FILM FEST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## SLO FILM FEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS + STAFF

Executive Director: Skye McLennan  
Associate Director: Grace Tucker  
Development Director: Chelsea Baumberger  
Programmer and Festival Assistant: Cindy Kitagawa  
Volunteer Coordinator: Matthew Brown  
Marketing Interns and Box Office Assistants: Jenna Dierkes, Maya Pugatch, Shanti Herzog  
Development Assistant: Jayne Alexander  
Board—alphabetical by last name: Lydia Bates, Sandra Duerr, David Hardberger, Maria Kelly, Nina Leschinsky, Erin McCall, Paul Metchik, Kyle Plummer, Janice Rohn, Suzanne Schonig, Tom Walters

### Additional Thanks

Graphic Designer: Elizabeth Kurrels  
Publicist: John Wildman  
Lounge Coordinator: Nicole LeBlanc  
Swag Bag Coordinators: Shoug Albahar, Madison East  
And a big thank you to all of our volunteers, sponsors and venues!

# MESSAGE *FROM THE* MAYOR

I enthusiastically support the 29th San Luis Obispo International Film Festival. I am proud of the growth of this historic event and look forward to the special events, new films, and important storytelling. This is truly one of the most exciting cultural events of the year, and I am excited that this event is being offered in-person and virtually!

ERICA A. STEWART, MAYOR  
CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO





# PASSES

## SLO FILM FESTIVAL ENCOURAGES PASS HOLDERS TO ARRIVE AT THE VENUE AT LEAST 35 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF EACH SCREENING.

Passholders will be let into the venue 30 minutes before the screening time, and will be seated on a first-come, first-serve basis. All remaining passholders will be seated in order of arrival. Passholders are not guaranteed a seat to any screening or any other festival event. Pre-sold ticket buyers will be seated 15 minutes before the screening time.

### FESTIVAL PASSES

#### ALL-ACCESS MOVIE MOGUL+ \$400

- Grants one person access to all festival screenings, receptions, workshops, panels, red carpet events and the Festival Lounge
- Full virtual encore access for one household April 30–May 7
- Access to Encore in Paso Robles screenings, May 2, 3, 4
- Please note that some events require an RSVP

#### MOVIE STAR+ \$225

- Grants access for one person to all regular festival screenings, workshops and panels
- Festival Lounge Access Wednesday through Friday before 5pm
- Special presentation screenings, encore screenings and red carpet events are NOT included
- Full virtual encore access for one household April 30–May 7

#### SLOFILMFEST@HOME \$120

- Access for one household to all virtual screenings throughout the week, April 30–May 7
- Please note that not all films are available virtually

### TICKET PACKAGES

Save on transaction fees and bring the price of individual tickets down! Not sure how to fulfill your Fan Pack? Please visit our website for step-by-step instructions on how to select your films in advance or visit us at our HQ!

#### FAN PACK 6 \$90

- Six-ticket package good for regular screenings in-person or on the virtual platform
- Purchase your Pack and then make your film selections on our website or at HQ
- You must select tickets in advance and have a ticket for the screening
- Packages can be shared between multiple people

#### FAN PACK 4 \$40

- Four-ticket package good for regular screenings ONLY AT THE FREMONT THEATER. Events and special presentation screenings not included
- Purchase your Pack and then make your film selections on our website or at HQ
- You must select tickets in advance and have a ticket for the screening
- Packages can be shared between multiple people

# VIRTUAL ENCORE FESTIVAL

## NEW THIS YEAR, WE ARE EXTENDING OUR FESTIVAL PAST THE 6-DAY EXPERIENCE!

Whether you were out of town and couldn't make the in-person screenings from April 25–30, would rather watch from the comfort of your home, or just want to continue the festivities into May, we have multiple offerings from April 30–May 7!

## JOIN US VIRTUALLY FROM APRIL 30–MAY 7!

Look for the cloud icon on film descriptions to indicate whether the film is available virtually or not. Some films are restricted to California and some have limited virtual capacity, so we suggest booking online in advance for individual ticket buyers and Fan Pack holders. Please check online film descriptions for virtual restrictions. Films can be played on your desktop or on your Smart TV through Chromecast or the Elevent App in Apple and Roku stores. More information and FAQs on virtual streaming can be found on our website.

## VISIT WWW.VIRTUAL.GOELEVENT.COM TO VIEW FILMS

If you have an All-Access Pass (Movie Mogul Pass, Sponsor All-Access, Filmmaker All-Access) or a SLOFilmFest@Home Pass, please log in to the PASS HOLDER area. If you have a Fan Pack 6 Package or have purchased individual tickets please use the TICKET HOLDER area.

Please Note: FAN PACK holders must select their films in advance and will be sent a voucher code after selection.



### SLOFILMFEST@HOME \$120 (THE VIRTUAL FESTIVAL)

The virtual pass grants access for one household to all virtual screenings throughout the week.

#### INDIVIDUAL VIRTUAL TICKETS:

\$12 General  
\$10 Student + Film Society



## VIRTUAL KEY



AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY



VIEWABLE ONLY IN  
CALIFORNIA



LIMITED  
NUMBER  
OF VIEWS  
AVAILABLE

## IN-PERSON SCREENINGS IN PASO ROBLES:

### TUESDAY, MAY 2

4:30PM

DUSTY AND STONES

7:30PM

OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

4:30PM

VICUNA SALVATION

7:30PM

I LIKE MOVIES

### THURSDAY, MAY 4

4:30PM

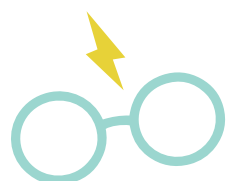
HOME OWNERS

7:30PM

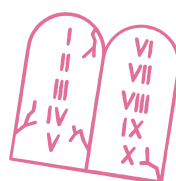
THE AMPHORA PROJECT +  
IN PURSUIT OF FLAVOR



\*VIEW A MORE  
DETAILED  
SCHEDULE ON  
PAGE 36



# TICKETS



Individual tickets can be purchased in advance across all venues. Tickets must be redeemed online for the film you are interested in seeing. All events are general admission and we suggest you arrive at least 30 minutes before showtime.

#### In-Person Single Tickets:

\$15 General  
\$12 Student + Film Society

#### Virtual Tickets:

\$12 General  
\$10 Student + Film Society

#### Red Carpet Events:

\$25 General  
\$20 Student + Film Society  
Unless otherwise stated.



#### E.T. At the Drive-In:

\$15 Per Occupant  
\$10 Under 12 years old  
\$10 Per Bicycle

Textures of Love  
Shorts Program:  
FREE with registration

#### Panels:

\$5 General  
Passes Accepted



#### REFUND POLICY:

All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.  
In the event of a sellout, refunds will be honored  
for individual ticket holders.



# LOCATIONS

## HEADQUARTER HOURS

### PRE-FEST

**April 1–April 16**

Mon, Tues, Wed:  
CLOSED

Thurs, Fri: Noon–6PM  
Sat, Sun: 10AM–4PM

**April 17–April 24**

Everyday: Noon–6PM

### DURING THE FEST

**April 25–April 30**

9AM–8PM

## FESTIVAL LOUNGE AT

EDNA  
CONTEMPORARY

## LOUNGE HOURS

**Tuesday, April 25:** CLOSED

**Wednesday, April 26:** 5PM–10PM

**Thursday, April 27:** Noon–10:30PM

**Friday, April 28:** Noon–10:30PM

**Saturday, April 29:** 10AM–6PM / 9PM–11PM

**Sunday, April 30:** 10AM–10PM



View a more detailed schedule online. Guided wine tastings, panels, workshops and more!

## VENUES

### FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS

849 Higuera St.

### FESTIVAL LOUNGE

967 Osos St.

### FREMONT THEATER

1035 Monterey St.  
fremontslo.com

### DOWNTOWN CENTRE CINEMAS

888 Marsh St.  
themovieexperience.com

### PALM THEATRE

817 Palm St.  
thepalmtheatre.com

### SUNSET DRIVE-IN

255 Elks Ln.  
facebook.com/sunsetdrivein

### LUNA RED

1023 Chorro St.  
lunaredslo.com

## ACCESS

For all accessible bookings or inquiries, or to notify us of your needs so we can make your visit as enjoyable as possible, please call 805.546.3456 or email: [info@slofilmfest.org](mailto:info@slofilmfest.org)

Visit our website for venue accessibility information: [slofilmfest.org/access](https://slofilmfest.org/access)



THEATRE

# NATE'S *on Marsh*

ESTABLISHED 2021

## DINNER SERVICE

Thursday - Monday  
5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

## STARTING GATE THE STABLES BAR

Every day Happy Hour(s)  
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

“Wonderful  
new spot.  
Fantastic  
energy, great  
food, friendly  
service.”

## PRIVATE EVENTS

Book today!



*\*Polpetta: beef, pork, and veal meatball,  
sauce pomodoro, basil gremolata, fresh  
burrata mozzarella*



450 MARSH ST. SLO, CA | 805 544 4454 | [INFO@NATESONMARSH.COM](mailto:INFO@NATESONMARSH.COM) | @NATESONMARSH



# RED CARPET EVENTS

## OPENING NIGHT

SPONSORED BY HOTEL SAN LUIS OBISPO



### JOIN US FOR OUR OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION WITH FOOD, MINGLING, AND SPECIAL FILM, BLACKBERRY.

Come and kick off the 29th SLO Film Festival by meeting our special guests and fellow film and music lovers at this year's Opening Night Reception hosted by Luna Red, just a few blocks from the Fremont Theater. We'll have live music from popular SLO County band, THE TAPROOTS, along with wine, beer and appetizers to help us ring in the start to a great week.



## BLACKBERRY

Coming straight from its premiere at SXSW, **BLACKBERRY** tells the story of Mike Lazaridis (Jay Baruchel) and Jim Balsillie (Glenn Howerton), the two men who charted the course of the spectacular rise and catastrophic demise of the world's first smartphone. Recounting the Canadian company's humble yet chaotic rise to market dominance, **BLACKBERRY** is a darkly comedic telling of the tragic tale of a Canadian company that revolutionized the way we communicate, before swiftly plummeting into obsolescence.

DIRECTOR: Matt Johnson  
WRITERS: Matt Johnson, Matthew Miller  
PRODUCER: Niv Fichman

### TUESDAY, APRIL 25

5PM RECEPTION AT LUNA RED  
7PM FILM SCREENING AT FREMONT THEATER

Reception: Only open to All-Access Passholders.  
Limited capacity. Must RSVP by Saturday, April 22.

Film Screening:  
\$25 General / \$20 Student  
All-Access Passes accepted

# RED CARPET EVENTS

## CENTRAL COAST FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE

### THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

Just a short drive to nearby major cities, the Central Coast boasts incredible scenic filming locations and some of the most amazing talent. Join us on Wednesday, April 26, as we spend the day showcasing films from our Central Coast Filmmakers and celebrate this outstanding community. Awards for this category will be presented at the Wednesday night event.

Central Coast Filmmaker Showcase juried by Jody Nelson, Randi Barros and Anuja Ganpule.



## I WANT MY SLOMTV! MUSIC VIDEO SHOWCASE

SUPPORTED BY 93.3 KZOZ

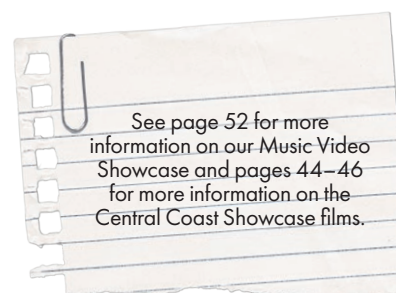
Remember back in the '80s, '90s and early 2000s when MTV actually played music videos? For the third year in a row, music videos officially have a home at our festival. We are elated to once again be able to experience and celebrate the eclectic mix of creative music videos in person alongside live music performances by **Caleb Nichols**, **Connect the Coast**, **The Honeyboys** & a **Peaking Lights** DJ set! Awards will be presented in both the Central Coast Filmmaker and Music Video Showcase on Wednesday, April 26, during our Music Video Showcase.

Music Video Showcase juried by Manuel Del Valle, David Hardberger and Ernesto Rivera.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26 FREEMONT THEATER

7:30PM LIVE MUSIC + MUSIC VIDEO  
SHOWCASE + CCFS / MV AWARDS

\$25 General  
\$20 Student / Film Society  
All-Access Passes accepted





# RED CARPET EVENTS

## E.T. LANDS AT THE SUNSET DRIVE-IN

PRESENTED BY CENTRAL COAST FILM SOCIETY  
ALSO SUPPORTED BY COAST 104.5

IT IS WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT THAT WE WILL BE RETURNING TO THE SUNSET DRIVE-IN THIS YEAR TO PRESENT A RETROSPECTIVE SCREENING OF THE ADORED CLASSIC, E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL.

New this year, in true E.T. fashion, you can cycle into the drive-in! Please dress warmly and don't forget blankets and cozy gear!

### E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL 4K RESTORATION

After a gentle alien becomes stranded on Earth, it is discovered and befriended by a young boy named Elliott (Henry Thomas). Naming the extra terrestrial E.T., he brings his new friend into his suburban home and introduces the alien to his brother and his little sister, Gertie (Drew Barrymore). Though the children decide to keep its existence a secret, E.T. soon falls ill, resulting in government intervention and a dire situation for both Elliott and the alien.



#### DRIVE-IN TIPS

- Reduce your car battery usage by bringing an FM Radio.
- Two cars per slot (look out for the white poles)
- Please park larger vehicles (trucks + vans) in the back rows to avoid blocking the view of smaller vehicles
- Snack bar is **CASH ONLY!** Enjoy all the movie-viewing staples including hot dogs, nachos, candy, soda and popcorn.



### THURSDAY, APRIL 27 SUNSET DRIVE-IN

6:30PM | GATE OPENS  
8PM | FILM BEGINS

\$15 Per Occupant  
\$10 Under 12 years old  
\$10 Per Bicycle — Cycle into the drive-in in style! We'll have an area just for cyclists

# RED CARPET EVENTS

## SURF NITE

PRESENTED BY CITY OF PISMO BEACH  
ALSO SUPPORTED BY VESPERA RESORT ON PISMO BEACH,  
SURFING FOR HOPE, THE KRUSH 92.5 AND CAYUCOS COLLECTIVE



SURF NITE IN SLO IS ONE OF THOSE RARE EVENTS FUELED BY THE ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM OF THE CROWD THAT ATTENDS EACH YEAR.

It is with great excitement that we will be returning to the FREMONT THEATER for the first time in many years to celebrate surfing on the big screen! With iconic cars, drinks in the lobby and live music from the Boomer Surf Band before the feature, join us for what's been coined the "Rocky Horror Picture Show" for surf and film lovers!

We're excited to present the 100 FOOT WAVE Experience with legendary Big Wave Surfer Garrett & his partner Nicole McNamara in attendance. McNamara's Emmy-award winning show explores big wave surfing and the pursuit conquering the 100 foot wave. This is a rare opportunity to see the show on the big screen and hear from Garrett himself and what's upcoming in Season 2.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 28 FREMONT THEATER

5:30PM DOORS OPEN + LIVE MUSIC  
7PM FILM BEGINS

\$25 General  
\$20 Student / Film Society  
All-Access Passes accepted. Must RSVP



### THE 100 FOOT WAVE EXPERIENCE

On the brink of airing Season 2, we are so thrilled to play an episode from the first season of HBO's 100 FOOT WAVE, featuring Garrett McNamara who pioneered the giant waves of the previously unknown town of Nazare, Portugal.

His effort drove the sport of surfing to new heights and helped transform this tiny fishing village into the world's preeminent big-wave surfing destination. This breathtaking six-part documentary series chronicles McNamara's quest, and we can't wait to experience one of the episodes on the big screen with you, like you've never seen it before.

After the film we'll be joined for a conversation by surfing legend and the main subject in the film, Garrett McNamara, and shown an exclusive blooper reel of the content that didn't make it into the show, and a teaser of what's to come in Season 2!



# RED CARPET EVENTS

## AWARDS GALA: A CELEBRATION OF FILM & CRAFT

PRESENTED BY COUCH FAMILY WINES  
ALSO SUPPORTED BY DOLPHIN BAY RESORT & SPA

JOIN US FOR OUR MOST HIGHLY  
ANTICIPATED EVENING AS WE CELEBRATE  
AWARD-WINNING FILMS ON THE STAGE OF  
THE HISTORIC FREMONT THEATER.

Filmmakers and special guests will grace the Red Carpet leading up to the awards ceremony. George Sidney Independent Film Awards, presented each year in several categories, are juried by film and media professionals in the industry.

Stay tuned for a late announcement on special guests!

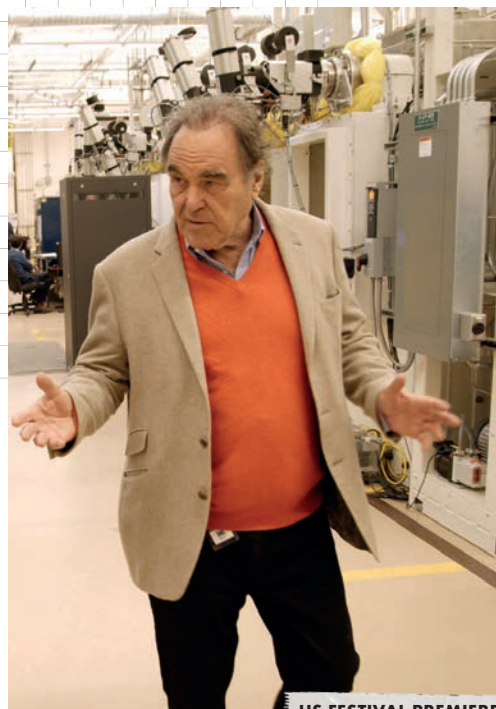
**SATURDAY, APRIL 29  
FREMONT THEATER**

**5:30PM RED CARPET  
6:30PM AWARDS CEREMONY  
9PM AFTERPARTY**

\$25 General / \$20 Student + Film Society  
All-Access Passes and Red Carpet/Special  
Presentation Tickets accepted



## NUCLEAR NOW



US FESTIVAL PREMIERE

We are excited to be hosting the US Festival Premiere of Oliver Stone's new documentary **NUCLEAR NOW**, based on the book, *A Bright Future*, by Joshua S. Goldstein. With unprecedented access to the nuclear industry in France, Russia, and the United States, **NUCLEAR NOW** explores the possibility for the global community to overcome the challenges of climate change and energy poverty to reach a brighter future through the power of nuclear energy.

Looking squarely at the problem, Oliver Stone shows us that knowledge is the antidote to fear, and our human ingenuity will allow us to solve the climate change crisis if we use it.

104 min | USA

DIRECTOR: Oliver Stone  
WRITERS: Oliver Stone, Joshua S. Goldstein  
PRODUCERS: Fernando Sulichin,  
Maximilien Arvelaiz, Rob Wilson

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30  
FREMONT THEATER**

**9:30AM**

\$15 General  
\$12 Film Society + Student  
Movie Star Passes accepted

# RED CARPET EVENTS

## CLOSING NIGHT

SPONSORED BY BHE RENEWABLES

THE 29TH ANNUAL SLO FILM FESTIVAL  
WILL WRAP UP WITH OUR AUDIENCE  
AWARD WINNERS VOTED ON  
THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL, ALONGSIDE  
A SHOWING OF **IMORDECAI**.

Based on a true story, **IMORDECAI** is a comedy about a Holocaust survivor whose life changes when his son buys him an iPhone. Mordecai (JUDD HIRSCH) likes to fix things. It's why his phone is 20 years old and held together with duct tape and tinfoil. It's why he worked his entire life as a plumber and a painter. But this is a story about the things he cannot fix: Getting older, the Alzheimer's diagnosis of his wife Fela (CAROL KANE), and his relationship with his son Marvin (SEAN ASTIN, *The Lord of the Rings*).

Sometimes, something small and unexpected can change your whole world. For Mordecai, this moment happens when his son, Marvin, replaces his ancient phone with a brand new iPhone. This act sets off a series of unexpected events and magically changes both Mordecai and the people closest to him.

Mordecai becomes friends with the "Einsteins" led by Nina, who teach him to use this strange device with no buttons. He becomes open to new experiences and new perspectives. Ultimately he begins to heal the things he cannot fix and turn the pain of his past into something beautiful. A journey that takes you through every human emotion, **IMORDECAI** teaches you that it's never too late for inspiration.

102 min | USA

DIRECTOR: Marvin Samel  
WRITERS: Marvin Samel, Rudy Gaines, Dahlia Heyman  
PRODUCERS: Marvin Samel, Dahlia Heyman  
KEY CAST: Sean Astin, Judd Hirsch, Carol Kane,  
Azia Dinea Hale, Stephanie J. Block



**SUNDAY, APRIL 30  
FREMONT THEATER**  
**7PM AWARDS + SCREENING**

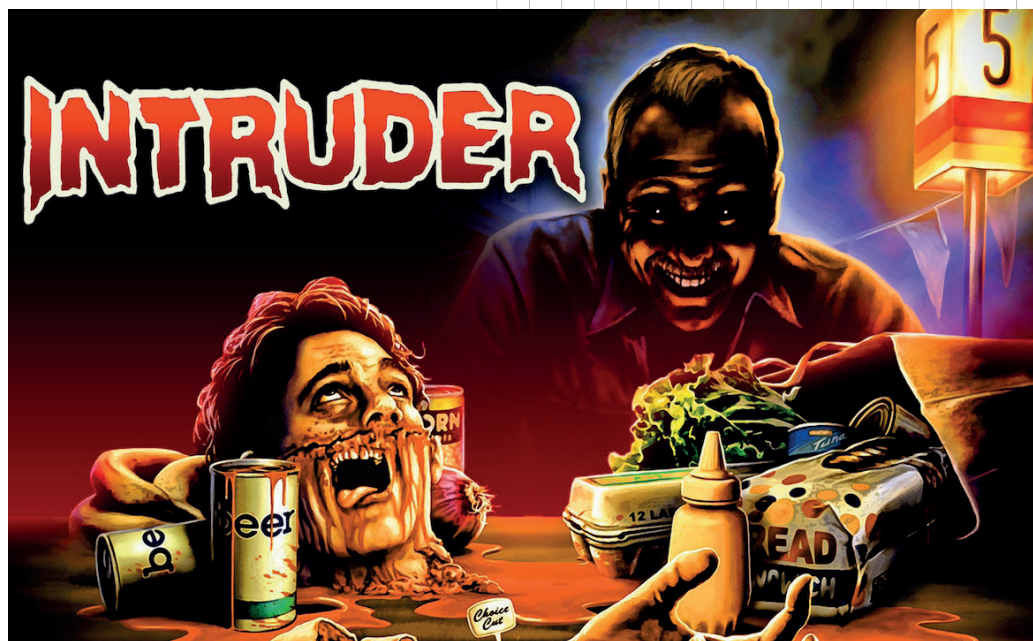
\$25 General  
\$20 Student + Film Society  
All-Access Passes + Movie Star Passes accepted



# SPECIAL SCREENINGS

## RED EYE CINEMA: A NIGHT OF MICROHORRORS

SPONSORED BY MEGAN'S ORGANIC MARKET



**KATIE NEVILLE AND JASON KAISER, FOUNDERS OF THE KILLER ANNUAL OCTOBER DIY FILM FESTIVAL, MICROHORRORS, PRESENT A SPECIAL EVENING OF TRICKS AND TREATS.**

An opportunity to see a few of the horrific shorts from the past two fests plus an exclusive retrospective slasher straight from the archives, **INTRUDER**.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28  
THE PALM THEATER**

**8:30 PM**

\$15 General  
\$12 Student + Film Society  
All-Access Passes accepted



### DISCERNMENT (2021)

Lakin Jacino

A young woman finds herself in a vulnerable mental state. When she seeks help from heaven, she finds herself in Hell (4 min).

### MASSACRE OF THE SORORITY BABES (2022)

Matt McGill

As three sorority members ponder their own existence, someone watches them...with an urge... to KILL (7 min).

### POTTY MOUTH (2022)

Ian Meyers

A foul-mouthed bully meets his match on Halloween night (5 min).

### SILENCE YOUR PHONES (2022)

Jason Kaiser

Six women's D&D campaign takes a turn for the worse (11 min).

### INTRUDER (1989)

Scott Spiegel

The overnight stock crew of a local supermarket find themselves being stalked and slashed by a mysterious maniac (88 min).

# SPECIAL SCREENINGS

## COASTAL AWAKENING: A TRIBUTE TO HUNTER S. THOMPSON

PRESENTED BY THE COASTAL AWAKENING AND THE SHANBROM FAMILY FOUNDATION  
ALSO SUPPORTED BY KVEC NEWS TALK 920 AM, 96.5 FM

Every year Coastal Awakening sponsors several films grouped around a central theme. This year, the focus is on three films in celebration of writer Hunter S. Thompson, whose appreciation for countercultures and consciousness expansion exemplifies the mission and vision of the Coastal Awakening, a loose collective of local writers, artists, historians, chefs, surfers, and philanthropists committed to preserving and promoting the unique creative spirit of the Central Coast from Ojai to Esalen. Thompson lived in Big Sur for a few years in the early 1960s and published his first magazine feature about the artists and outcasts drawn to life on the Central Coast. He wrote, "This is the way life goes in Big Sur: waiting for the mail, watching the sea lions in the surf or the dim lights of a ship far out at sea, sitting in the tubs at Hot Springs, once in a while a bit of drink — and, most of the time, working at whatever it is that you came here to work on, whether it be painting, writing, gardening or the simple art of living your own life."

Accompanying the film series will be featured speaker David S. Wills, founder of the literary journal Beatdom and author of High White Noise: The Rise and Fall of Gonzo Journalism. Wills will introduce each of the Hunter S. Thompson films and give a talk on Thompson's art of living directly following the 10am film **Animals, Whores, and Dialogue: Breakfast with Hunter Vol. 2**. Prior to the festival, David will also join the Coastal Awakening for other community events centered around Thompson and Gonzo Journalism hosted in partnership with San Luis Obispo Public Library.

View more information about these films and talks on our website.



**FRIDAY, APRIL 21  
AT THE SLO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**7PM**

The Creative Alchemy of  
Hunter S. Thompson, Spawn of the Beats:  
An Evening with Author David Wills

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22  
AT THE SLO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**12PM**

A Celebration of Gonzo Journalism and Zine Culture

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30  
AT THE PALM THEATRE**

**10AM**

**ANIMALS, WHORES,  
AND DIALOGUE:  
BREAKFAST WITH  
HUNTER VOL. 2  
(2010)**

**11:30AM**

David Wills talk: "Hunter S. Thompson  
and the Simple Art of Living Your Own Life"  
(Palm Theatre after film)

**1:30PM**

**GONZO: THE LIFE  
AND WORK OF  
DR. HUNTER S. THOMPSON  
(2008)**

**4:30PM**

**FEAR AND LOATHING  
IN LAS VEGAS  
(1998)**

\$15 General  
\$12 Film Society + Student  
All-Access Passes accepted



Photo Credit: Courier Journal



# SPECIAL SCREENINGS



## MAMA BEARS

SPONSORED BY: TRANZ CENTRAL COAST & GROWING TOGETHER: AN LGBTQ+ FUND

Spread across the country but connected through private Facebook groups, over 30,000 mothers in America—many from conservative, Christian backgrounds—fully accept their LGBTQ+ children. They call themselves “mama bears” because while their love is warm and fuzzy, they fight ferociously to make the world kinder and safer for all LGBTQ+ people. MAMA BEARS explores the journeys of two mama bears and a young lesbian whose struggle for self-acceptance exemplifies why the mama bears movement is vitally important.

DIRECTOR: Daresha Kyi | PRODUCERS: Laura Tatham, Daresha Kyi

91 min | USA

SUN 4PM DOWNTOWN



## MOON GARDEN

SPONSORED BY: 7 POINTS DELIVERY

When a little girl has a terrible accident and slips into a coma, she finds herself thrust into a darkly surreal industrial dreamworld. Haunted by a nightmarish spectre that feeds off her tears, she must follow her mother's radio-static voice to find her way back to consciousness. Shot on expired 35mm film stock with vintage rehoused lenses, MOON GARDEN is a fantastical odyssey and a visionary, handcrafted, and fully practical work of art that shows how a child can shine light even in the darkest places.

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Ryan Stevens Harris  
PRODUCER: John Michael Elfers

Fantasy, Thriller / 93 min / USA

THURS 7:30PM PALM



## OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN

SPONSORED BY: 98.1 KJUG & KRISTEN SWARTZMAN

Spread across the country but connected through private Facebook groups, Mike Hosty is a one-man band, freak of nature, comedian and talented musician able to produce original pieces and performances on the fly. When Stoney LaRue turned Hosty's “Oklahoma Breakdown” into the #1 hit of 2007, few knew anything about the creator. OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN dives into why an underground legend has his reservations about fame and limelight.

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER: Christopher Fitzpatrick

92 min / USA

WED 7:30PM PALM  
ENCORE TUES 7:30PM PASO



## PARTY GIRL (1995)

SPONSORED BY: MADONNA INN

A brand new restored version of a cult classic that was the first film to ever premiere live on the internet in 1995! Parker Posey stars as a 20-something, irresponsible party girl who bailed out of jail by her librarian godmother. To repay the loan, she starts working at the library and gradually turns her life around. This is a rare opportunity to see this unique film oozing with fashion, one of a kind characters and a non-stop party!

DIRECTOR: Daisy von Scherler Mayer  
WRITERS/PRODUCERS: Harry Birkmayer, Sheila Gaffney  
KEY CAST: Parker Posey, Liev Schreiber, Omar Townsend, The Lady Bunny

Comedy / 94 min / USA

FRI 4:30PM PALM

# SPECIAL SCREENINGS



## ROMAN HOLIDAY (1953)

SPONSORED BY: NATE'S ON MARSH

In celebration of its 70th anniversary, we bring back a cinematic classic in a beautiful restored version. Audiences are invited to fall in love with Oscar winners Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck all over again in this romantic comedy classic. Nominated for a total of 10 Academy Awards, a modern-day princess who, rebelling against the royal obligations, explores Rome on her own. She soon meets an American newspaperman who pretends ignorance of her true identity, in the hopes of obtaining an exclusive story. Naturally, his plan falters as they inevitably fall in love.

DIRECTOR: William Wyler  
WRITERS: Dalton Trumbo, Ian McLellan Hunter, John Dighton  
PRODUCERS: Lester Koenig, Robert Wyler, William Wyler

118 min / USA

SUN 4PM FREMONT



## SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN

SPONSORED BY: LATINO OUTREACH COUNCIL

This music documentary still remains as a captivating tale about the best singer-songwriter you've never heard of. An Oscar winning documentary that tells the remarkable story about a man by the name of Sixto Rodriguez. Rodriguez, the child of a Mexican immigrant with working class parents in Detroit, had the voice and songwriting skills of Bob Dylan but his albums failed to sell in the United States in the 1970s. Little did he know that he was in fact a cultural phenomenon in South Africa. Two South African record store owners go on a quest to get to the bottom of what happened to their musical hero.

DIRECTOR: Malik Bendjelloul

86 min / Sweden, United Kingdom, Finland

SUN 1PM FREMONT



## WE ARE STILL HERE

SPONSORED BY: SWIFT ACTION FUND

WE ARE STILL HERE is a unique Indigenous film that weaves together eight powerful tales to tell a sweeping story of hope and survival. Through the eyes of these protagonists, the film traverses 1,000 years (past, present, and future) to explore kinship, loss, grief, and resilience. In a universal story, WE ARE STILL HERE ultimately shows the strength of love and hope in overcoming shared traumas that Indigenous people from Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific continue to face.

DIRECTORS: Beck Cole, Dena Curtis, Tracey Rigney, Danielle MacLean, Tim Worrall, Renae Maihi, Miki Magasiva, Mario Gaoa, Richard Curtis, Chantelle Burgoyne  
\*see full credits on our website\*

90 min / Australia, New Zealand

SUN 10:30AM PALM

SLO LIFE TIP #25

# KEEP OUR GREEN HILLS CAMERA READY



Lights, camera, climate action! Did you know Visit San Luis Obispo's Keys for Trees program donates a portion of your hotel room charge to plant trees in our community? It's an easy way to travel sustainably while you're here for the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, plus support our city's vision to be carbon neutral by 2035.

Learn about our goal to plant 10,000 trees and other sustainable tourism initiatives at [VisitSLO.com/Sustainable-SLO](https://VisitSLO.com/Sustainable-SLO)



## GEORGE SIDNEY INDEPENDENT FILM COMPETITION

Our annual film competition continues to attract exciting new independent films from around the world. Named after George Sidney, the Festival's first recipient of the King Vidor Award, Sidney was a Central Coast resident and a passionate supporter of independent filmmaking.

A panel of more than 100 screeners evaluated over 1,200 submissions, helping us make some very difficult decisions to finalize our Official Selections. The finalists in competition are juried by a panel of film and media professionals, and cash prizes will be awarded at the Fremont Theater during our Awards Night Gala on Saturday, April 29. Jury bios are available at [slofilmfest.org](https://slofilmfest.org)

### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

RENEE TOD — Producer/Development Executive - B-Side Films

COREY MCLEAN — Alumni Filmmaker, HAVANA LIBRE

### NARRATIVE FEATURES

CHELSEA CHRISTER — Alumni Filmmaker, BLEEDING AUDIO

HERB STRATFORD — Film Festival Programmer/Film Critic

KRISTIN BAUER — AMC Networks SVOD/Sr. Manager, Marketing

### DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

RENEE WHALEN — Documentary Journalist

ROB YOUNG — Alumni Filmmaker, BRING THEM HOME (Award Winner, 2022)

### NARRATIVE SHORTS

LORENA GORDON — Alumni Filmmaker, AT LAST

A.J. GORDON — Alumni Filmmaker, AT LAST

## ADDITIONAL FILM COMPETITIONS

### CENTRAL COAST FILMMAKER SHOWCASE

JODY NELSON — Producer/Educator — Nelson Films

RANDI BARROS — Filmmaker/Editor

ANUJA GANPULE-SHEOREY — Alumni Filmmaker, CANDLE & THE CURSE

### MUSIC VIDEO SHOWCASE

MANUEL DEL VALLE — Alumni Filmmaker, THE SKY BELONGS TO NO ONE (Award Winner, 2022)

DAVID HARDBERGER — Filmmaker/VFX Artist

ERNESTO RIVERA — Visual Artist/Experimental Painter



# NARRATIVE FEATURES

## THE BEEHIVE

SPONSORED BY: 93.3 KZOZ

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Alexander Lasheras  
PRODUCERS: Alexander Lasheras, Arun Fryer, Mike Johnston



A captivating science-fiction drama follows a family facing an unexplainable cosmic event on their farm. When the young, curious and adventurous Rosemary discovers what she assumes to be a large beehive growing on a branch of one of their trees, she visits it each day to carefully document its unusual growth and soon discovers it's not what she thought it was. Featuring up-and-coming Indigenous talent and a scenic Canadian landscape, as the hive and threat grows, so do tensions within the community and family.

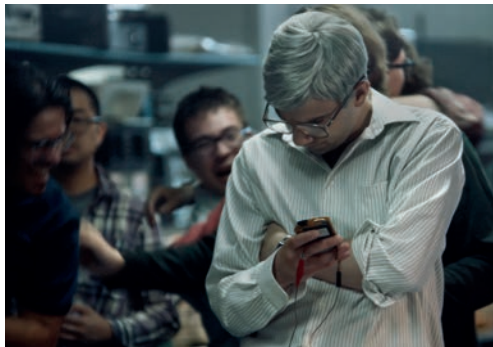
Sci-Fi, Drama / 86 min / Canada

**THURS 7:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 4PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 7:30PM PALM**

## BLACKBERRY

SPONSORED BY: MATCHFIRE

DIRECTOR: Matt Johnson  
WRITERS: Matt Johnson, Matthew Miller  
PRODUCER: Niv Fichman



BLACKBERRY tells the story of Mike Lazaridis (Jay Baruchel) and Jim Balsillie (Glenn Howerton), the two men who charted the course of the spectacular rise and catastrophic demise of the world's first smartphone. Recounting the Canadian company's humble yet chaotic rise to market dominance, BLACKBERRY is a darkly comedic telling of the tragic tale of a Canadian company that revolutionized the way we communicate, before swiftly plummeting into obsolescence.

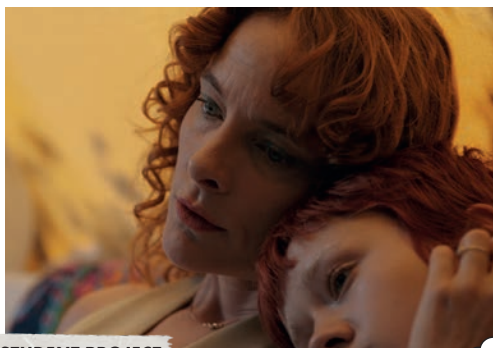
Drama / 124 min / Canada, USA

**TUES 7PM FREMONT**  
**THURS 10:15AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 4PM DOWNTOWN**

## EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE LOVED

SPONSORED BY: MAGGIE KING IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND DALE KING

DIRECTOR: Katharina Woll | WRITERS: Florian Plumeyer, Katharina Woll | PRODUCERS: Markus Kaatsch, Nina Poschinski, Michael Grudsky



On a blisteringly hot summer day, psychotherapist Ina notices something is wrong with her but doesn't have time to worry about it. With patients waiting at her practice, her daughter threatening to move in with her father, her boyfriend pressuring to move them to another country, and her self-centered mother's 70th birthday party closing in, Ina is desperate to please everyone without losing herself.

Comedy, Drama / 80 min / Germany

**THURS 1:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 6:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 1:30PM DOWNTOWN**

STUDENT PROJECT

# NARRATIVE FEATURES

## HOME OWNERS

SPONSORED BY: TREVOR, EMILY & BABY GEORGE KIMBALL

DIRECTORS: Pablo Aragues, Marta Cabrera  
WRITER: Pablo Aragues  
PRODUCER: Marta Cabrera



WEST COAST PREMIERE

In search of their forever home, Ana and Maxi are shown the house of their dreams for less than their budget. Everything is perfect until they realize that it is even better than they thought: the house gives them everything they ask for. This fast-paced, surrealist and thrilling comedy leaves you on the edge of your seat as Ana and Max discover what happens when they stop asking the house for what they want.

Comedy, Horror / 72 min / Spain

**WED 6PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 3:15PM DOWNTOWN**  
**ENCORE THURS 4:30PM PASO**

## I LIKE MOVIES

SPONSORED BY: POINT OF ACTION

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Chandler Levack  
PRODUCERS: Lindsay Blair Goeldner, Evan Dubinsky, Chandler Levack



Teenage cinephile Lawrence dreams of attending film school in the Fall. In order to raise the hefty tuition fee, he gets his dream job at a local video store, Sequels. Wracked with anxiety about his future, he begins alienating the most important people in his life — his best friend Matt and his single mother Terri — all while developing a complicated friendship with his older female manager, Alana. As graduation looms, a series of painful realizations force Lawrence to realize that he has some growing up to do.

Comedy, Drama / 99 min / Canada

**THURS 12PM FREMONT**  
**SAT 4:30PM PALM**  
**ENCORE WED 7:30PM PASO**

## JAMOJAYA

SPONSORED BY: COAST 104.5

DIRECTOR: Justin Chon | WRITERS: Justin Chon, Maegan Houang | PRODUCERS: Alan Pao, Justin Chon, David Matheny, Joseph Dang, Alex Chi, Yama Cibulka, Shaun Sanghani



Straight from Sundance, JAMOJAYA follows James, an aspiring Indonesian rapper, as he records his debut album for a major U.S. record label. Accompanied in Hawaii by his father and former manager, who is still mourning the death of James' brother and unwilling to surrender control of his career, James sinks deeper in debt to the label. Caught between the music industry's commercial demands and a power struggle with his suffocating but loving stage dad, James is forced to find his voice.

Drama / 90 min / USA

**THURS 2PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 1:30PM FREMONT**  
**SAT 1PM PALM**

# NARRATIVE FEATURES

## LAND OF GOLD

SPONSORED BY: FREDERICK LAW FIRM

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Nardeep Khurmi  
PRODUCERS: Nardeep Khurmi, Keertana Sastry, Pallavi Sastry, Simon Taufique



First-generation Punjabi truck driver Kiran is a soon-to-be dad. When on the job he hears pounding inside his shipping container and finds a young Mexican-American girl inside, his already tumultuous life takes a drastic turn as he seeks to reunite her with her family. What begins as a road trip to Boston becomes much more as they form a friendship and teach each other unforgettable lessons.

Drama / 105 min / USA

**THURS 4:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 6:45PM DOWNTOWN**

## MEDITERRANEAN FEVER

SPONSORED BY: PAUL & ROBYN METCHIK

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Maha Haj  
PRODUCERS: Baher Aghbariya, Thanassis Karathanos, Martin Hampel, Juliette Lepoutre, Pierre Menahem, Marios Piperides, Janine Teerling



Waleed, an aspiring writer suffering from chronic depression, develops a close relationship with his new neighbor, a small-time crook. Though having an ulterior plot in mind, the scheme turns into an unexpected friendship between the two men and leads them through a journey of dark encounters.

Drama, Dark-Comedy / 108 min / Palestine, Germany, France, Cyprus and Qatar

**THURS 4:30PM PALM**  
**SAT 7PM PALM**

## OUR FATHER, THE DEVIL

SPONSORED BY: PAUL & ROBYN METCHIK

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Ellie Foubi  
PRODUCERS: Ellie Foubi, Joseph Mastantuono



An African refugee works as the head chef at a retirement home in small-town France, but her quiet existence is upended by the arrival of Father Patrick, a charismatic priest with whom she's convinced she shared a traumatic past in her homeland. As Father Patrick charms all her co-workers, Marie must decide if she will exact her revenge or cling to the new life she's built. Nominated for an Independent Spirit Award.

Content Warning: Mature themes and sexual trauma.

Drama / 108 min / USA, Cameroon

**THURS 7:15PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 7PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 1:15PM DOWNTOWN**

# NARRATIVE FEATURES

## RODEO

SPONSORED BY: PERINET

DIRECTOR: Lola Quivoron  
WRITERS: Lola Quivoron, Antonia Buresi  
PRODUCER: Charles Gillibert



A unique and high speed first-time feature from Venice Film Festival, RODEO shares the story of a hot-tempered and fiercely independent Julia, who thrives in hostile environments and turns every situation to her advantage. Her obsession with the high-octane world of urban 'Rodeos'—illicit gatherings where riders show off their bikes and latest daring stunts — sparks a chance meeting with a volatile clique. Striving to prove herself to the ultra-masculine gang, Julia performs cons and runs errands for their incarcerated ring leader.

Drama / 107 min / France

**THURS 7PM PALM**  
**FRI 7:30PM PALM**  
**SAT 5PM DOWNTOWN**

## SCRAPPER

SPONSORED BY: CINDY WATHEN-KENNEDY

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Charlotte Regan  
PRODUCERS: Theo Barrowclough, Eva Yates, Farhana Bhula, Michael Fassender, Conor McCaughan, Daniel Emmerson, Jim Reeve



Following her mother's death, a resourceful 12-year-old girl, Georgie, continues to live alone in their London-outskirts flat. Making money stealing bikes and keeping the social workers off her back by pretending to live with an uncle, her plan works like a charm until Jason (Harris Dickinson, Triangle of Sadness), her long-estranged father, shows up. Sizing him up as a rubbish dad, Georgie wonders why he's suddenly taking an interest. Straight from Sundance, this vibrant, joyful, imaginative father-daughter story beautifully brings together two emotionally tangled people: a grieving kid thrust into adulthood and a father in over his head.

Comedy, Drama / 84 min / UK

**THURS 6PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 3:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS

SPONSORED BY: MARY BAIAMONTE

DIRECTOR: Juan Felipe Zuleta | WRITER: Leland Frankel  
PRODUCERS: Juan Sebastian Jaimes, Matthew August Jeffers, Juan Felipe Zuleta, Masha Leonov, Sarah Hay, Leland Frankel, Ramfis Myrthil



Peter is a misanthropic little person hiding from the world in his shabby New York City apartment. When an unexpected visit from his upbeat and unhinged neighbor, Winona, forces him out of his shell and onto an impromptu road trip to what she believes to be an upcoming alien visitation site, he reluctantly agrees. On their increasingly surreal odyssey, Peter and Winona encounter bickering lesbian cosplayers, shroom-addled survivalists, and even extraterrestrial highway cops. But the further they go and the more their trauma comes to light, it becomes clear that the only thing more nerve-wracking than being abducted is being alone in the universe.

Drama / 100 min / USA

**THURS 12PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 11:30AM DOWNTOWN**



# DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES SPONSORED BY MECHANICS BANK

## BODY PARTS

SPONSORED BY: WOMEN MAKING WAVES

DIRECTOR: Kristy Guevara-Flanagan  
PRODUCER: Helen Hood Scheer



In an industry historically dominated by the male gaze, *BODY PARTS*, featuring Jane Fonda and other prominent actresses in the industry, traces the evolution of intimacy on screen, uncovering the often invisible and uncomfortable realities behind some of the most iconic scenes in cinematic history. Exploring the toll it takes on those directly involved and their impact on women in the real world, this insightful and revealing documentary celebrates the positive changes now rippling through the entertainment industry and the bold creators leading the way.

86 min / USA

**FRI 5PM PALM  
SUN 10:30AM DOWNTOWN**

## BUTTERFLY IN THE SKY

SPONSORED BY: MONA & GORDON JENNINGS

DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS: Bradford Thomason,  
Brett Whitcomb | WRITER: Bradford Thomason



This nostalgic and feel-good documentary tells the story of the beloved PBS children's series, *Reading Rainbow*, its iconic host LeVar Burton, and the challenges its creators faced in cultivating a love of reading through television. With the series focused on bringing books to life and finding fun in reading, *Reading Rainbow* and Burton became a conduit to learning for children of every background, delving behind the pages to the people, places and things each story explored.

86 min / USA

**THURS 3PM FREMONT  
SAT 10AM DOWNTOWN  
SUN 12PM DOWNTOWN**

## CROWS ARE WHITE

SPONSORED BY: PATRICIA GOMEZ & FRANKLIN M. SEIPLE, ARCHITECT

DIRECTOR: Ahsen Nadeem | WRITERS: Ahsen Nadeem,  
Matt Mayes, Dawn Light Blackman  
PRODUCERS: Riel Roch Decter, Sebastian Pardo, Ahsen  
Nadeem, Ben Renzo, Jill Ahrens, Ryan Ahrens



After decades of living a secret life and struggling to reconcile his desires with his faith, a filmmaker travels to a strict Japanese monastery in search of guidance. But the only monk who will help him prefers ice cream and heavy metal over meditation. Together they forge an unlikely friendship that leads them to higher truths and occasionally a little trouble. Shot over five years on three continents, *CROWS ARE WHITE* is an exploration of truth, faith and love, from the top of a mountain to the bottom of a sundae.

100 min / USA

**THURS 5PM DOWNTOWN  
FRI 3:45PM DOWNTOWN  
SUN 10:15AM DOWNTOWN**

# DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## DUSTY AND STONES

SPONSORED BY: 98.1 KJUG & HYDE PARK PARTNERS

DIRECTOR: Jesse Rudoy  
PRODUCERS: Melissa Adeyemo, Jesse Rudoy



Dusty and Stones struggle to sustain a country music career in their tiny African kingdom of Swaziland and yearn for greater recognition. When they are unexpectedly invited to record their songs in Nashville and compete in a Texas battle of the bands, the two cousins journey to the heart of American country music, determined to win big and turn their careers around.

83 min / USA

**FRI 2:30PM DOWNTOWN  
SAT 11AM DOWNTOWN  
ENCORE TUES 4:30PM PASO**

## THE GRAB

SPONSORED BY: STACEY HUNT & IRENE SHIPPEE & JANICE ROHN

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Gabriela Cowperthwaite  
PRODUCERS: Nathan Halverson, Amanda Pike, Blye  
Pagon Faust, Nicole Rocklin, Gabriela Cowperthwaite



In the newest documentary by the director of *Blackfish* (2013), an investigative journalist uncovers the truth behind the money, influence and rationale that goes into the covert efforts to control the most vital resources on the planet — food and water.

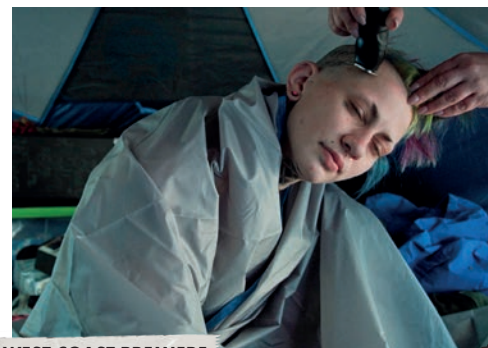
104 min / USA

**WED 11:30AM FREMONT  
FRI 11AM DOWNTOWN  
SAT 1:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## HOLLYWOOD'S FINEST

SPONSORED BY: BIZ STEINBERG IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND HOWARD STEINBERG

DIRECTOR: Claire Hannah Collins  
WRITERS: Claire Hannah Collins, Gale Holland  
PRODUCERS: Gale Holland, Erik Himmelsbach-Weinstein



An intimate portrait of motherhood on the streets of Los Angeles, *HOLLYWOOD'S FINEST* follows McKenzie through pregnancy in a Hollywood unhoused encampment to the fight to recover her child from the custody of the city's Family Services. By detailing the support McKenzie received from her street family, nomadic mom and social worker and her own history of addiction and housing insecurity, *HOLLYWOOD'S FINEST* looks into the complex network of social workers and bureaucracy she encounters while struggling to find her footing in mainstream society.

78 min / USA

**WED 5:30PM DOWNTOWN  
FRI 10:30AM DOWNTOWN  
SAT 10:30AM DOWNTOWN**

WEST COAST PREMIERE



# DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## IN PURSUIT OF FLAVOR

SPONSORED BY: THE KRUSH 92.5

DIRECTOR: Gerod Bond  
WRITERS: Gerod Bond, Ashwin Muthiah  
PRODUCER: Matthew Courchaine



WEST COAST PREMIERE

An apologetic sommelier returns to his once-home of Georgia to explore the humble and hidden truth about wine and its inception. In touring the lush countryside and documenting the deceptively simple process of Georgian winemaking and the unique fruits of its labor — namely, orange wine — Ashwin rediscovers the original magic that saved his life and brought him to the world of flavor.

61 min / USA

**WED 1:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 1:30PM PALM**  
**ENCORE THURS 7:30PM PASO**

## LOVELY JACKSON

SPONSORED BY: SHARON & JOHN DOBSON

DIRECTOR: Matt Waldeck | WRITERS: Rickey Jackson, Matt Waldeck | PRODUCERS: Matt Waldeck, Rickey Jackson, Ben Hecht, Travis Killian, Jillian Wolstein



CA

Following the longest wrongfully incarcerated person in U.S. history, LOVELY JACKSON is the harrowing true story of Rickey Jackson, a man who spent 39 years on death row and in prison for a crime he was convicted of based solely on the eye witness testimony of a 12-year-old neighborhood paper boy. In a retelling of his experience, Jackson returns to the prison he was sent to as an innocent man and guides his younger self from death row to freedom.

104 min / USA

**THURS 4PM PALM**  
**SAT 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 3:15PM DOWNTOWN**

## NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN

SPONSORED BY: THE MARTHA OLSON FERNANDEZ FOUNDATION, THE BAUMBERGERS IN MEMORY OF HELEN BAUMBERGER & TOM WILSON IN TRIBUTE TO JACKIE MACFARLANE

DIRECTOR: Christopher Burke  
PRODUCERS: Tim Rummel, Christopher Burke



At just 37, Brian Wallach was diagnosed with ALS and quickly discovered that there is no system built to help patients like him deal with this new reality. Instead, he found a broken and failed system in which doctors told patients to "get their affairs in order and get ready to die." From executive producer Katie Couric and featuring interviews with Barack Obama and Mark Zuckerberg, NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN follows the formation of I AM ALS, Brian's patient-led nonprofit dedicated to patients taking control of the fight for their lives, breaking down walls and finding new solutions.

82 min / USA

**THURS 1:15PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 12:15PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 1:45PM PALM**

# DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## OKAY! THE ASD BAND FILM

SPONSORED BY: PRAMS

DIRECTOR: Mark Bone | WRITERS: Gregory Rosati, Andrew Simon | PRODUCERS: David Bodanis, Mark Bone, Amalie Bruun, Gregory Rosati, Andrew Simon, Tamara Sulliman



Following the members of The ASD Band, four talented musicians with autism embark upon the challenging journey of writing their first original album and gearing up to perform in their first live show.

87 min / Canada

**THURS 3PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 2PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 10AM FREMONT**



Sensory Friendly Screening

## PASANG: IN THE SHADOW OF EVEREST

SPONSORED BY: SHARON DOBSON & SUZAN BOATMAN

DIRECTOR: Nancy Svendsen | WRITER: Sharon Wood  
PRODUCERS: Sharon Wood, Christy McGill, Andrea Pierpont



Though Nepalis assist as sherpas for tourists daily, Pasang Lhamu Sherpa risked everything to become the first Nepali woman to summit Everest. As an uneducated, Indigenous woman and a Buddhist in a Hindu kingdom, Pasang's dream to scale the legendary mountain pitted her against family, foreign climbers, her own government, and nature itself. Her determined pursuit of Everest plays out within the context of her nation's quest for democracy and the emergence of the commercial climbing industry.

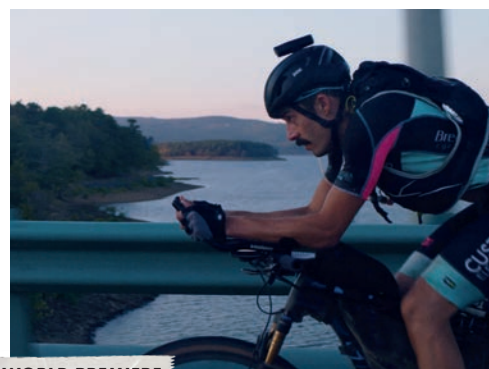
71 min / USA

**THURS 10:30AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 11AM FREMONT**  
**SUN 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**

## RELENTLESS RIDE

SPONSORED BY: COVELOP

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCERS: Brian Hill, Adam Harbottle



WORLD PREMIERE

Every year, cyclists brave the Arkansas High Country bike-packing race on some of the best and worst gravel roads in the state, riding 1,000 miles and climbing 80,000 feet. With little to no sleep and having to carry, find, or buy everything needed to complete the course, some cyclists push their limits to achieve the fastest known time while others simply try to finish the race and find themselves along the way. As bodies fail and minds betray, these cyclists explore the depth of their own humanity.

106 min / USA

**THURS 11AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 2PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 1PM DOWNTOWN**



# DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

## SURF NATION

SPONSORED BY: ADAMSKI, MOROSKI, MADDEN, CUMBERLAND & GREEN LLP

DIRECTORS: Jessica Chen, Jeremiah Bogert Jr.  
PRODUCERS: Diane Quon, Nevo Shinaar, Jessica Chen, Jeremiah Bogert Jr.



As China trains its first generation of Olympic surfers, two promising young athletes navigate adolescence, freedom and their love of the sport. Filmed over a two-year period, SURF NATION follows as hundreds of young recruits leave their families and are paid to live together in a communal hotel, take classes six days a week, and become elite surfers. Though the recruits face extreme pressure to avoid being kicked out of the program, their Australian coaches teach not only technique, but surfing's central attribute: individuality, in a culture that demands conformity.

88 min / USA

WED 4:30PM PALM  
FRI 12:45PM DOWNTOWN  
SUN 10AM DOWNTOWN

## VICUNA SALVATION

SPONSORED BY: PACIFIC WILDLIFE CARE

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Luis Ara | PRODUCERS: Luis Ara, Michael Safley, Dale Cantwell, Bruno Franco Abuapara, Andrew Curtis, Aaron Marcellino



WORLD PREMIERE

At more than 5,000 meters above sea level, VICUNA SALVATION tells the incredible story of the conservation of a species and the empowerment of a community that lives in the Peruvian mountains. With the vicuña producing the finest wool fiber in the world and its garments costing thousands of dollars, poachers and the black market led to the near-extinction of the species. Alerting the Peruvian government to the situation, global brands and communities made a pact to only market garments that were made with certified fiber.

65 min / USA

FRI 1:30PM DOWNTOWN  
SAT 10AM DOWNTOWN  
ENCORE WED 4:30PM PASO

Over the past couple of years we've watched as we've all become comfortable watching movies at home on our couches.

While this was necessary and has allowed for more accessibility and convenience, there's nothing like entering those big theater doors, smelling popcorn, waiting in anticipation as the trailers play for slightly too long, and then all at once being transported to another place, life, time or feeling.

Jokes are always a little funnier when the people around you are laughing too. Jump scares are somehow more frightening. Heartbreak is a little more earth shattering when immersed in the silence and tears of everyone around you, and happy endings are substantially sweeter when you've all been on this two-hour journey together.

Physically going to the movies is an experience. It becomes a memory. An "Oh I haven't seen that since it came out in theaters!" Or "Wow I can't believe that was 10 years ago!" Or the bragging rights of "Yep, saw that one in theaters on opening day!"

Who did you go with? What was the audience like? Did you dress up and wait in line for hours? Was there a rude couple who wouldn't stop making noise throughout the whole film? Did you laugh about that afterwards?

While we are excited to offer a virtual festival for those who are unable to attend in person, we are even more excited to see movies on the big screen with you!

LET'S GO BACK TO THE MOVIES!



THEATRE

# SCHEDULE TUESDAY

LOCATION	TIMES	
HQ	OPEN 9AM-8PM	
LUNA RED	OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION (p10) 5PM	
FREMONT	OPENING NIGHT (p10) DOORS OPEN 6:15PM	MOVIE STARTS 7PM

# SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY

LOCATION	TIMES		
HQ	OPEN 9AM-8PM		
PALM	SHOE SHINE CADDIE (p46) 4PM  SURF NATION (p30) 4:30PM	SHORTS #5: FAMILY MATTERS (p48) 7PM  OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN (p18) 7:30PM	
DCC	ANGULOS DE LA HORA (p44) + THE GREATEST OF ALL TINA (p45) 11AM  BREAD BIKE (p44) + SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT (p56) 12PM	THE AMPHORA PROJECT (p44) + IN PURSUIT OF FLAVOR (p28) 1:30PM  FRESH TO FRIGHTENING (p45) + EPIC BILL (p44) 2:30PM  FRIENDS CALL US UNLUCKY (p45) + WOODSMAN (p56) 3PM	SHORTS #3: POWER IN COMMUNITY (p48) 5PM  HOLLYWOOD'S FINEST (p27) 5:30PM  HOME OWNERS (p23) 6PM
FREMONT	WHALE-ROADS (p46) + THE GRAB (p27) 11:30AM	JACK HAS A PLAN (p45) 2:30PM	MUSIC VIDEO / CCFS RED CARPET (p11) 6:30PM  MUSIC VIDEO SHOWCASE + CCFS / MUSIC VIDEO AWARDS (p11) 7:30PM
LOUNGE	LOUNGE OPEN 5PM-10PM	CCFS FILMMAKER MIXER 5PM	MUSIC VIDEO / CCFS AFTERPARTY (p11) 9PM

# SCHEDULE THURSDAY

LOCATION	TIMES		
HQ	OPEN 9AM–8PM		
PALM		<b>LOVELY JACKSON</b> (p28) 4PM  <b>MEDITERRANEAN FEVER</b> (p24) 4:30PM	<b>RODEO</b> (p25) 7PM  <b>MOON GARDEN</b> (p18) 7:30PM
DCC	<b>SHORTS #1: LIFE, ANIMATED: ANIMATION SHORTS</b> (p48) 9:30AM  <b>SHORTS #2: I'M OKAY</b> (p48) 10AM  <b>BLACKBERRY</b> (p22) 10:15AM  <b>PASANG</b> (p29) 10:30AM  <b>RELENTLESS RIDE</b> (p29) 11AM  <b>UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS</b> (p25) 12PM	<b>SHORTS #3: POWER IN COMMUNITY</b> (p48) 1PM  <b>NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN</b> (p28) 1:15PM  <b>EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE LOVED</b> (p22) 1:30PM  <b>JAMOJAYA</b> (p23) 2PM  <b>OKAY! THE ASD BAND FILM</b> (p29) 3PM  <b>SHORTS #4: I'M HERE</b> (p48) 4PM  <b>SHORTS #6: REMEMBER WHEN?</b> (p48) 4:15PM  <b>LAND OF GOLD</b> (p24) 4:30PM	<b>CROWS ARE WHITE</b> (p26) 5PM  <b>SCRAPPER</b> (p25) 6PM  <b>SHORTS #5: FAMILY MATTERS</b> (p48) 6:30PM  <b>OUR FATHER, THE DEVIL</b> (p24) 7:15PM  <b>THE BEEHIVE</b> (p22) 7:30PM
FREMONT	<b>I LIKE MOVIES</b> (p23) 12PM	<b>BUTTERFLY IN THE SKY</b> (p26) 3PM	<b>CAL POLY SHORT CUTS</b> (p49) 6PM
DRIVE-IN			<b>E.T. AT THE DRIVE-IN</b> (p12) Doors Open Photo Ops 6:30PM  <b>MOVIE STARTS</b> 8PM
LOUNGE	OPEN 12PM–10:30PM		

# SCHEDULE FRIDAY

LOCATION	TIMES		
HQ	OPEN 9AM–8PM		
PALM		<b>PARTY GIRL</b> (p18) 4:30PM  <b>BODY PARTS</b> (p26) 5PM	<b>RODEO</b> (p25) 7:30PM  <b>MICROHORRORS + INTRUDER</b> (p16) 8:30PM
DCC	<b>SHORTS #4: I'M HERE</b> (p48) 10AM  <b>SHORTS #6: REMEMBER WHEN?</b> (p48) 10AM  <b>HOLLYWOOD'S FINEST</b> (p27) 10:30AM  <b>THE GRAB</b> (p27) 11AM  <b>UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS</b> (p25) 11:30AM	<b>SURF NATION</b> (p30) 12:45PM  <b>SHORTS #1: LIFE, ANIMATED: ANIMATION SHORTS</b> (p48) 1PM  <b>VICUNA SALVATION</b> (p30) 1:30PM  <b>DANI'S TWINS (p42) + OKAY! THE ASD BAND FILM</b> (p29) 2PM  <b>DUSTY AND STONES</b> (p27) 2:30PM  <b>SHORTS #5: FAMILY MATTERS</b> (p48) 3:30PM  <b>CROWS ARE WHITE</b> (p26) 3:45PM  <b>THE BEEHIVE</b> (p22) 4PM	<b>SHORTS #2: I'M OKAY</b> (p48) 5:30PM  <b>SHORTS #3: POWER IN COMMUNITY</b> (p48) 6:15PM  <b>LAND OF GOLD</b> (p24) 6:45PM  <b>OUR FATHER, THE DEVIL</b> (p24) 7PM
FREMONT	<b>PASANG</b> (p29) 11AM	<b>JAMOJAYA</b> (p23) 1:30PM	<b>SURF NITE (p13) DOORS OPEN MUSIC / MINGLING</b> 5:30PM  <b>FILM STARTS</b> 7PM
LOUNGE	LOUNGE OPEN 12–10:30PM		<b>SURF NITE AFTERPARTY</b> 8:30PM



# SCHEDULE SATURDAY

LOCATION	TIMES		
HQ	OPEN 9AM–8PM		
PALM	JAMOJAYA (p23) 1PM  IN PURSUIT OF FLAVOR (p28) 1:30PM	I LIKE MOVIES (p23) 4:30PM	MEDITERRANEAN FEVER (p24) 7PM  THE BEEHIVE (p22) 7:30PM
DCC	SHORTS #4: I'M HERE (p48) 9:30AM  VICUNA SALVATION (p30) 10AM  BUTTERFLY IN THE SKY (p26) 10AM  HOLLYWOOD'S FINEST (p27) 10:30AM  DUSTY AND STONES (p29) 11AM	NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN (p28) 12:15PM  SHORTS #2: I'M OKAY (p48) 12:30PM  LOVELY JACKSON (p28) 1PM  THE GRAB (p27) 1:30PM  RELENTLESS RIDE (p29) 2PM  HOME OWNERS (p23) 3:15PM  SCRAPPER (p25) 3:30PM	BLACKBERRY (p22) 4PM  RODEO (p22) 5PM  EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE LOVED (p22) 6:30PM
FREMONT	OKAY! THE ASD BAND FILM (p29) 10AM	TEXTURES OF LOVE (p50) 1PM	FILMMAKER RED CARPET (p14) 5:30PM  AWARDS GALA 6:30PM
LOUNGE	PANEL #1: SOUND DESIGN (p55) 10AM  LOUNGE OPEN: 10AM–6PM	PANEL #2: THE MAGIC OF EFFECTS FOR FILM (p55) 12:30PM  PANEL #2: SO YOU WANT TO WRITE A SCREENPLAY (p55) 3PM	AWARDS NIGHT AFTER PARTY (p14) 8:30PM  LOUNGE OPEN: 9PM–11PM

# SCHEDULE SUNDAY

LOCATION	TIMES		
HQ	OPEN 9AM–8PM		
PALM	ANIMALS WHORES AND DIALOGUE (p17) 10AM  WE ARE STILL HERE (p19) 10:30PM	GONZO (p17) 1:30PM  NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN (p28) 1:45PM  FEAR AND LOATHING (p17) 4:30PM	
DCC	PASANG (p29) 9:30AM  SHORTS #1. LIFE, ANIMATED: ANIMATION SHORTS (p48) 9:45AM  SURF NATION (p30) 10AM  CROWS ARE WHITE (p26) 10:15AM  BODY PARTS (p26) 10:30AM	BUTTERFLY IN THE SKY (p26) 12PM  SHORTS #6: REMEMBER WHEN? (p48) 12:15PM  RELENTLESS RIDE (p29) 1PM  OUR FATHER, THE DEVIL (p24) 1:15PM  EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE LOVED (p22) 1:30PM  FILMMAKERS OF TOMORROW + AWARDS (p54) 3PM  LOVELY JACKSON (p28) 3:15PM  MAMA BEARS (p18) 4PM	
FREMONT	NUCLEAR NOW (p14) 9:30AM	SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN (p19) 1PM  ROMAN HOLIDAY (p19) 4PM	CLOSING NIGHT IMORDECAI + AUDIENCE AWARDS (p15) 7PM
LOUNGE	LOUNGE OPEN 10AM–10PM	PANEL #4: WOMXN MAKING WAVES (p55) 12:30PM	LOUNGE OPEN 10AM–10PM



# SCHEDULE ENCORE WEEK

## ENCORE IN PASO ROBLES

SUPPORTED BY TRAVEL PASO, PARK CINEMAS AND BAKER WINE & GRAPE ANALYSIS



In addition to the Virtual Festival this year we are bringing the magic of the SLO Film Festival to North County for an exclusive week of screenings! Enjoy some of the 2023 festival films in the newly remodeled Park Cinemas in Downtown Paso Robles!

All-Access Passes will be accepted, and individual screening tickets are available.

DATE	TIMES
TUESDAY, MAY 2	<b>DUSTY &amp; STONES</b> (p27) 4:30PM
	<b>OPENING NIGHT — OKLAHOMA BREAKDOWN</b> (p18) Includes a special acoustic performance and Q&A with Mike Hosty and filmmaker Christopher Fitzpatrick 7:30PM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3	<b>VICUNA SALVATION</b> (p30) 4:30PM
	<b>I LIKE MOVIES</b> (p23) 7:30PM
THURSDAY, MAY 4	<b>HOME OWNERS</b> (p23) 4:30PM
	<b>GEORGIAN BITES OF FLAVOR AT THE JUNCTION</b> 5PM Enjoy special inspired Georgian bites and wine at the new restaurant Junction Paso Robles before a screening of THE PURSUIT OF FLAVOR
	<b>THE AMPHORA PROJECT</b> (p44) + <b>THE PURSUIT OF FLAVOR</b> (p28) 7:30PM Pre-Reception & Film — \$25/20 Film only — \$15/12
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 3, 4	<b>FESTIVAL LOUNGE AT THE JUNCTION</b> Enjoy fabulous wine, beer and Spanish tapas for purchase while you wait between films. Conveniently located just a few blocks from the Park Cinemas! 4:30PM–9PM  710 Pine Street Paso Robles, CA 93446



# NARRATIVE SHORTS

## CROOKED TREES GON GIVE ME WINGS

SPONSORED BY: BERN SINGSEN

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Cara Lauren Lawson  
PRODUCERS: Stephanie Nilles, Matthew Di Paolo



Savannah’s moss-covered forests full of whispering winds and enchanted branches are alive to Bertie Bee, the gifted granddaughter of an experienced midwife. As she absorbs the wisdom of folk medicine, Bertie Bee works with her mystical connection to the spirit world as she becomes exposed to the tragedies of a wounded American past.

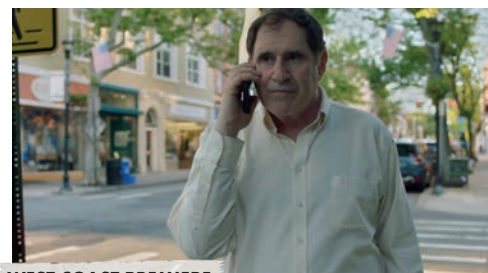
Drama / 15 min / USA

**WED 7PM PALM**  
**THURS 6:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 3:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## HIT MAN: SECRETS OF LIES

SPONSORED BY: EBERLE WINERY

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER: Elias Plagianos



WEST COAST PREMIERE

When a reflective hitman travels to a small town to complete a job, he is unexpectedly confronted with an old photograph from his past that forces him to re-examine his career and question his family history.

Drama / 19 min / USA

**THURS 4:15PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 12:15PM DOWNTOWN**

## I HAVE NO TEARS, AND I MUST CRY

SPONSORED BY: TALLEY VINEYARDS

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Luis Fernando Puente  
PRODUCER: Rollins Wimber



Maria Luisa is ready to escape immigration limbo, but when her green card interview takes an unexpected turn, she faces the anxiety of losing the life she had planned.

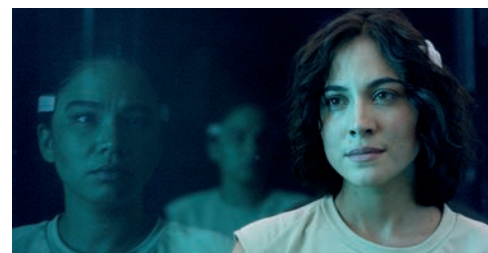
Drama / 13 min / USA

**THURS 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 5:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 12:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## KEEP/DELETE

SPONSORED BY: SHERRIE RHEINGANS

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Kryzz Gautier  
PRODUCERS: Maya Butler, Corsica Wilson, Kryzz Gautier



In a future where memories are stored like files, a broken couple is offered the ability to wipe every trace of their relationship from their minds.

Sci-Fi, Romance / 19 min / USA

**THURS 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 5:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 12:30PM DOWNTOWN**



# NARRATIVE SHORTS

## LAIKA AND NEMO

SPONSORED BY: DAVID HARDBERGER & MAGGIE MEANS

DIRECTORS: Jan Gadermann, Sebastian Gadow  
WRITER: Jan Gadermann  
PRODUCER: Johannes Schubert



STUDENT PROJECT

Nemo looks different. Nobody else dares to make their daily outfit a diving suit and huge helmet. As bullying and loneliness threaten to overcome him, he meets Laika, an astronaut who helps him learn to accept himself for who he is, no matter what others say.

Animation / 15 min / Germany

**THURS 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 9:45AM DOWNTOWN**

## THE MATTRESS

SPONSORED BY: QUALITY SUITES DOWNTOWN SAN LUIS OBISPO

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER: Arash Hassanpour



US PREMIERE

When Mohsen's peers see that there's a wet mattress with a yellow spot hanging from his balcony, the 8-year-old boy is caught in a misunderstanding with his friends who judge and ridicule him. Despite their mockery, knowing that they are unaware of the true situation, Mohsen makes the important decision to stand on his own two feet.

Drama / 7 min / Iran

**THURS 4PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**

## MISO

SPONSORED BY: NURSE MO

DIRECTOR: Kelly Walker | WRITER: Mariah Bess  
PRODUCERS: Mariah Bess, Alex Sgambati, Camille Bernier-Green



Cat is pregnant and doesn't want to be, and with limited options and scarce support, she decides to enlist the help of a local doula who aids people as they take matters into their own hands. With Sophie's help, Cat manages her at-home abortion, and emerges with a deeper sense of personal power.

Drama / 10 min / USA

**THURS 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 5:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 12:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## MY DEAR SON

SPONSORED BY: CONNIE BOOTON

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Wing Yan Lilian Fu  
WRITER: Egle Vertelyte



In a capitalist city where the social expectation is to have proper and perfect children, a woman unexpectedly gives birth to a cat. Not behaving like an ordinary baby, Rose tries her best to change him even when it means changing his true nature. Longing to find a connection, she remembers something about herself that she'd forgotten a long time ago, and understands she will need to learn to love and accept him for who he is.

Animation / 9 min / Hong Kong, UK

**THURS 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 9:45AM DOWNTOWN**

# NARRATIVE SHORTS

## MY EYES ARE UP HERE

SPONSORED BY: PARCH & FABLE RUNE

DIRECTOR: Nathan Morris | WRITERS: Aminder Virdee, Arthur Meek | PRODUCERS: Katie Dolan, Vanessa Muir, Naomi Wallwork



CA

When a broken condom propels a beautiful woman and her one-night stand on a mission to find a morning-after pill, nothing goes as planned. Mostly because she is disabled, their trip becomes an eye-opening odyssey as her visible disabilities quickly transform people into their worst selves, and places into obstacles. But through it all, there's something special about the way she approaches the world.

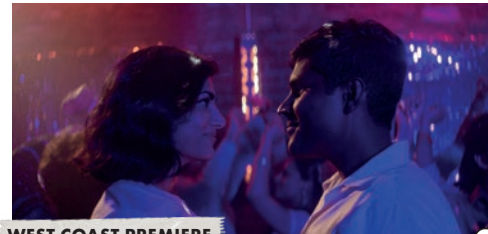
Comedy, Romance / 14 min / UK

**THURS 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 5:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 12:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## MYSORE MAGIC

SPONSORED BY: FIRST AMERICAN TITLE

DIRECTOR: Abijeet Achar  
WRITERS: Abijeet Achar, Alex Woodruff  
PRODUCERS: Alex Woodruff, Abijeet Achar, Tim Reis



WEST COAST PREMIERE

A 1982 disco competition hosts the true and unlikely romance between Premi and Vasu — one an outsider from a tiny island in Africa and the other a show-off from a high caste family. With one in the audience and one dancing on stage, Premi and Vasu spark a romance that embodies the humanity and hope of those monickered as "immigrants" years before their eventual journey to the West.

Romance, Drama / 14 min / USA

**WED 7PM PALM**  
**THURS 6:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 3:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## OTHER HALF

SPONSORED BY: SANDRA DUERR

DIRECTOR: Kalina Kalcheva  
WRITER: Laura Jayne Tunbridge  
PRODUCER: Michelle Brøndum



STUDENT PROJECT

OTHER HALF follows Ren's journey through a mystical labyrinth of potential suitors as they attempt to find their other half and form a Merged Couple. With each trial, Ren tries harder to win their suitor's approval, desperately changing themselves, but little does Ren realize that something much more important is at stake — the loss of their own individuality.

Animation / 14 min / UK

**THURS 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 9:45AM DOWNTOWN**

## OUT OF TUNE

SPONSORED BY: AMERICAN RIVIERA BANK

DIRECTOR: Portlynn Tagavi | WRITER: Erika Hamilton  
PRODUCERS: Erika Hamilton, Alexis Sterling, Diana Zollicoffer, Christian Loubek



This heartfelt comedy spotlights a proud Black woman who gets a second chance at performing and defining her identity in her own terms. From adolescent to adulthood, Maya navigates the boundaries of racial identity and her love for the band Journey. She slowly frees herself from having something to hide to understanding she has nothing to prove.

Comedy, Drama / 15 min / USA

**THURS 4PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**

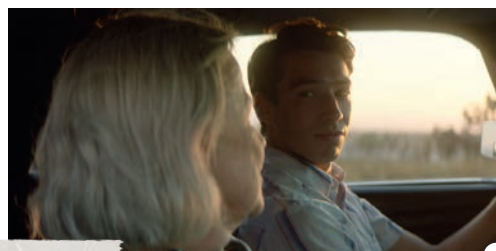


# NARRATIVE SHORTS

## REST STOP

SPONSORED BY: B.K. RICHARD & EMILY ROSTEN

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Noah Sellman  
PRODUCERS: Russell Goldman, Matt Marder, Ishi Metkar



US PREMIERE

In the near future where automated and electric vehicles now dominate the roadways, a young auto mechanic spends his days trying to keep his family's rest stop afloat. As his grandmother's age starts to catch up with her, Ben searches for any means to keep the business alive while trying to find his place in the newly mechanized world.

Sci-Fi, Drama / 15 min / USA

**THURS 4:15PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 12:15PM DOWNTOWN**

## ROSEMARY A.D. (AFTER DAD)

SPONSORED BY: THE DOLPHIN BAY RESORT & SPA

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Ethan Barrett  
PRODUCER: Tiffany Barrett



WEST COAST PREMIERE

In a profound and thought-provoking animation, a father cradles his newborn daughter and wonders if she would be better off without him as he imagines many different outcomes and scenarios of the unknown future.

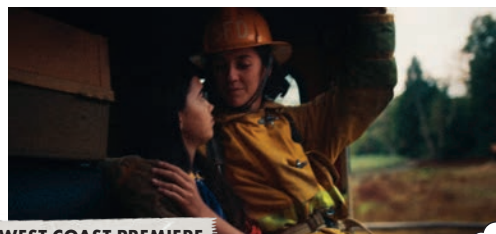
Animation / 10 min / USA

**THURS 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 9:45AM DOWNTOWN**

## SMOKE EATER

SPONSORED BY: JAMES & FELICIA CASHIN

DIRECTOR: Gloria Mercer  
WRITER: Aidan West  
PRODUCERS: Gloria Mercer, Aidan West, Thea Loo



WEST COAST PREMIERE

After the babysitter cancels at the last minute, Barbara is forced to bring her young daughter Robin along to her shift at the fire station. Robin is immediately fascinated by the other firefighters and the novelty of the station. But in the dead of night she secretly witnesses something that she shouldn't and comes to appreciate the difficulties her mother faces on the job.

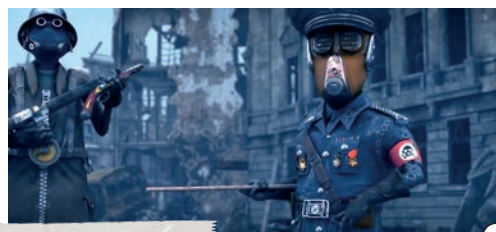
Drama / 12 min / Canada

**THURS 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 5:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 12:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## THE SPRAYER

SPONSORED BY: TOM & JUDY WALTERS

DIRECTOR: Farnoosh Abedi | WRITER: Negah Fardiar  
PRODUCER: Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults



WEST COAST PREMIERE

In a land occupied by a sprayers army, no one has the right to grow any kind of plant, and most are unaware that plants ever existed. One day a soldier finds a seed buried deep in the dust, and his curiosity fosters the start of something new and extraordinary.

Animation / 9 min / Iran

**THURS 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 9:45AM DOWNTOWN**

# NARRATIVE SHORTS

## THEY GROW UP SO FAST

SPONSORED BY: ANNE SHANNON

DIRECTOR/WRITER: John F. Beach  
PRODUCER: Martin Spanjers



Fast and frantic, this airtight comedy follows Brian the morning after meeting Amy during a night out on the town. When he wakes up and things seem more serious between them than they left it the night before, he realizes that life is moving a lot faster than he anticipated as it keeps changing at the blink of an eye.

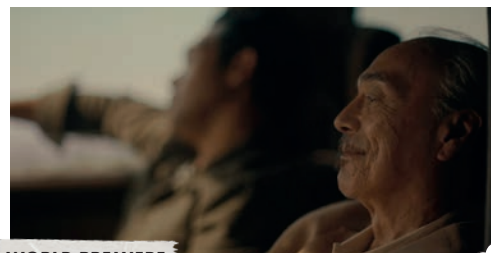
Comedy / 10 min / USA

**WED 7PM PALM**  
**THURS 6:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 3:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## THE VAN

SPONSORED BY: HERMAN STORY

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Bernard Badion  
PRODUCERS: Gilbert Galon, Cindy Lu, Chris Quintos



WORLD PREMIERE

After the death of his mother, a son's stubborn father refuses to move out of the family home unless he can bring his broken down van that he uses to communicate with his late wife. Giving into the pressures to rehabilitate the van, the two come to understand each other, the complexities of grief and learn to move forward together.

Drama / 19 min / USA

**WED 7PM PALM**  
**THURS 6:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 3:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## WEI-LAI

SPONSORED BY: CONNIE BOOTON

DIRECTOR: Robin Wang  
WRITER: Tony G.X. Shi  
PRODUCERS: Naomi Shroff-Mehta, Andy Yi Li



STUDENT PROJECT

After getting tired of being disciplined and not feeling loved by his family, Wei-Lai decides to show up at his best friend's family home and offers himself up for adoption. The story follows a culturally displaced Asian American boy who, by leaving home, discovers what home means to him.

Comedy, Drama / 14 min / USA

**THURS 4PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**

## WILD ONES

SPONSORED BY: AMERICAN RIVIERA BANK

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Hanly Banks Callahan  
PRODUCERS: Stephanie Gumpel, Allie Jane Compton



WEST COAST PREMIERE

When a mother's chores are thwarted by the needs of her exuberant son, she reluctantly lets them go to play with him. In doing so, she discovers a beautiful, wilder part of herself — a part that will be faced with confusion when she recognizes the loss of her old self.

Psychological Thriller / 8 min / USA

**WED 7PM PALM**  
**THURS 6:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 3:30PM DOWNTOWN**



# DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

## BELOW SURFACE

SPONSORED BY: JANET KERSHAW-MCLENNAN M.D.

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Lukas Hauser  
PRODUCERS: Judith Bookbinder, Wade Lew, Mary Lake Polan, Frank Bennack, Sam McConnell



CA

A multicultural, multigenerational story exhibiting the extraordinary power of community through an unlikely subject: a YMCA Aquafit class. Gathering numerous moving stories, *BELOW SURFACE* demonstrates how kindness and caring for others, combined with exercise, can be an antidote for grief, stress, and physical illness.

19 min / USA

**THURS 4:15PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 12:15PM DOWNTOWN**

## DANI'S TWINS

SPONSORED BY: ACCESS FOR ALL

DIRECTORS: Brad Allgood, Steve Dorst  
PRODUCERS: Angie Gentile, Dani Izzie, Andy Arias



A one-in-a-billion story of disabled pregnancy and parenting, *DANI'S TWINS* captures the pregnancy and early parenting journey of one of the few quadriplegics in history to give birth to twins. While a source of great joy, the pregnancy is highly susceptible to an array of risks, but amid the many ups and downs, Dani's unwavering determination to deliver healthy babies and be a great mother is at the forefront.

39 min / USA

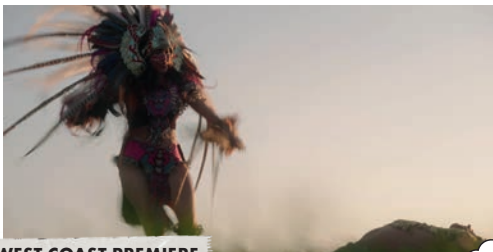
**WED 5PM DOWNTOWN**  
**THURS 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 2PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 6:15PM DOWNTOWN**

**OC** Open Caption  
and ASL Q&A

## DECOLONIZING DINNER

SPONSORED BY: EDIBLE MAGAZINE

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Alejandro Miranda Cruz  
PRODUCERS: Alejandro Miranda Cruz, Noel Miranda



WEST COAST PREMIERE

*DECOLONIZING DINNER* follows two Native chefs as they present an authentic journey into the origins of Indigenous cuisines across the Americas. It's an authentic and beautiful story of how traditional Native cuisine can break down barriers and create pathways to healing.

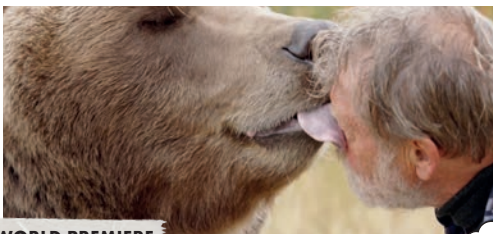
12 min / USA

**WED 5PM DOWNTOWN**  
**THURS 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 6:15PM DOWNTOWN**

## GOOD BOY

SPONSORED BY: MED STOP URGENT CARE CENTER MADONNA PLAZA

DIRECTOR: Russell Chadwick  
PRODUCERS: Ed Zwick, Sausha Seus  
KEY CAST: Sean Penn, Brad Pitt, Robert Duvall



WORLD PREMIERE

Remember the bear in *Legend of the Falls*, *Into the Wild*, and *The Edge*? *GOOD BOY* brings you along the journey of how a man found kinship in the arms and claws of a 1,500-pound grizzly bear. Brad Pitt, Sean Penn, Robert Duvall and other Hollywood favorites recall how Bart The Bear, Doug Seus, and his incredible family built a bond that took them all over the world, on screen, and to the Oscars stage with some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

35 min / USA

**THURS 4:15PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SUN 12:15PM DOWNTOWN**

# DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

## IMALIRIJIT

SPONSORED BY: LYGIA SMIDT & ROXY PECK

DIRECTORS: Vincent L'Hérault, Tim Anaviapik Soucie  
WRITER: Vincent L'Hérault  
PRODUCER: François Dubé



Following in his grandfather's footsteps, Tim wants to start his own research to study water quality to benefit his Inuit community, Pond Inlet in Nunavut. He embarks on an inspiring journey that will lead to empowerment, change and adaptation for the community that's challenging the modern reality of the Canadian Arctic.

27 min / Canada

**WED 5PM DOWNTOWN**  
**THURS 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 6:15PM DOWNTOWN**

## KYLIE

SPONSORED BY: FLEX PERFORMING ARTS & ERICA A. STEWART & SHAY M. STEWART

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: Sterling Hampton  
WRITERS: Sterling Hampton, Kylie Jefferson



Kylie, a Black ballerina from the inner city of Los Angeles, expresses her trials and tribulations within the ballet community that is consumed with looks, body image and perfection. In an artistic and graceful visual compilation, *KYLIE* shows the young woman's struggles being a Black woman in the culture of ballet, and grapples with what comes with the sports pressures.

5 min / USA

**THURS 4PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**

## OUTSIDE LINE

SPONSORED BY: DIVERSITY COALITION SLO COUNTY & JEFF AND KERRY HELLER

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Jack Gordon  
PRODUCERS: Jack Gordon, Emma Barcklow



*OUTSIDE LINE* tells the inspiring story of Rajah Caruth, a Washington D.C. native who has forged a path as a rising star in NASCAR. One of the only Black drivers in the sport and among the very few who got their start with virtual racing, the film follows him as he prepares for a bold new chapter in his racing career.

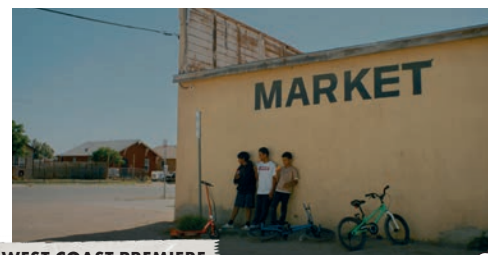
17 min / USA

**THURS 4PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN**  
**SAT 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**

## UNTIL THE RAIN COMES BACK

SPONSORED BY: JAMES & FELICIA CASHIN

DIRECTORS: Lauren Tyler Brimeyer, Jack Bushell  
PRODUCER: Neil Thekdi



WEST COAST PREMIERE

Stratford, a once vibrant and blossoming farming community filled with bustling businesses and surrounded by flourishing crops, now sits dry, dilapidated and crumbling in the broken heart of California's Central Valley. Told through the stories of five strong-willed and impassioned Stratford residents, *UNTIL THE RAIN COMES BACK* illuminates the story of life without water.

17 min / USA

**WED 5PM DOWNTOWN**  
**THURS 1PM DOWNTOWN**  
**FRI 6:15PM DOWNTOWN**

# CENTRAL COAST SHOWCASE

## THE AMPHORA PROJECT: PAST FORWARD

SPONSORED BY: LIBBIE AGRAN—THE WINE HISTORY PROJECT OF SLO COUNTY & THE KRUSH 92.5

DIRECTORS: Libbie Agran, Timothy Clott  
WRITER: Timothy Clott  
PRODUCERS: Libbie Agran, Noel Resnick



Some of today's top winemakers lead us on a journey from 6,000 BC to today as ancient wine-making vessels are explored. Featuring local winemakers and wineries, THE AMPHORA PROJECT tells the story of making wine in clay.

39 min / USA

**WED 1:30PM DOWNTOWN**  
**ENCORE THURS 7:30PM PASO**

## ÁNGULOS DE LA HORA

SPONSORED BY: INN AT THE COVE

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Kyle Novak  
PRODUCER: Kseniya Rukavishnikova



When their flight is unexpectedly grounded, two strangers agree to a spontaneous fling, but only on the condition that they remain anonymous. As their brief encounter ends, the impermanence of their time together mirrors something much greater waning in the distance.

16 min / USA

**WED 11AM DOWNTOWN**

## BREAD BIKE

SPONSORED BY: KIM & JERRY SCOTT

DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS: Beth Gage, George Gage  
WRITER: Beth Gage



WEST COAST PREMIERE

With their passion for baking, making friends and a philosophy that everyone loves good food, Sam, Matt and Mariah turn their obsessive hobby into their profession. BREAD BIKE is the story of chasing your passion, creating delicious food, promoting healthy local produce, building community and having fun all at the same time.

19 min / USA

**WED 12PM DOWNTOWN**

## EPIC BILL

SPONSORED BY: PACIFIC EYE SURGEONS

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Quinolyn Benson-Yates  
PRODUCERS: Leslie Murphy, Sean Murphy, Kyle Murphy



A bankrupt self-made millionaire finds success again in extreme endurance athletics. Returning to a race that's defeated him for years, Bill pushes beyond his limits and questions whether finishing these events defines his identity — or if he can discover a deeper reason for being in the arena.

92 min / USA

**WED 2:30PM DOWNTOWN**

# CENTRAL COAST SHOWCASE

## FRESH TO FRIGHTENING — THE SHARON GREEN STORY

SPONSORED BY: SEACREST OCEANFRONT HOTEL

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER: Gareth Kelly



The world of competitive yacht racing and yacht photography is fast, exciting, glamorous, and historically dominated by men. Inspired by her father's Canada's Cup triumph, Sharon Green entered the fray in the early 1980s, establishing herself as one of the finest yacht racing photographers of her generation.

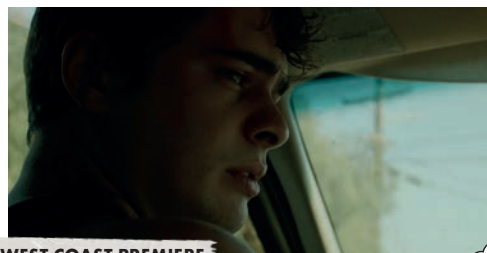
20 min / USA

**WED 2:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## FRIENDS CALL US UNLUCKY

SPONSORED BY: ERIN & MIKE MCCALL

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Alyssa Toledo  
PRODUCERS: Jonathan Daviss, The Stevensons



WEST COAST PREMIERE

Two petty criminals dream of pulling off a big heist, but when they attempt a home invasion they quickly realize their ill-conceived plan starts to unravel immediately. Things go from bad to worse when the homeowners unexpectedly return home. What follows is a chaotic and tense game of cat and mouse.

Drama / 30 min / USA

**WED 3PM DOWNTOWN**

## THE GREATEST OF ALL TINA

SPONSORED BY: HOTEL CERRO

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Brody Gusar  
PRODUCERS: Brody Gusar, Krystyna Walters



A woman struggling with depression decides that life is too hard and things will be better off if she becomes her spirit animal, a goat. Expertly balancing humor and heart, THE GREATEST OF ALL TINA will take you on a wild and absurd journey filled with unexpected twists and turns.

Comedy, Drama / 94 min / USA

**WED 11AM DOWNTOWN**

## JACK HAS A PLAN

SPONSORED BY: HYDE PARK PARTNERS

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Bradley Berman  
PRODUCER: Chris Metzler



When Jack, a man with a terminal brain tumor for 25 years, decides to end his life, his family and friends struggle to accept his decision. Jack's best friend documents his three-year quest to die a happy man in an inspiring story about self-determination, creativity, and transcendence.

73 min / USA

**WED 2:30PM FREMONT**



# CENTRAL COAST SHOWCASE

## SHOE SHINE CADDIE

SPONSORED BY: PALM THEATRE

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Leonard Manzella  
PRODUCERS: Leonard Manzella, Simo Nylander



US PREMIERE

SHOE SHINE CADDIE humanizes the homeless experience by capturing the irresistible spirit of 61-year-old Adrian Spears. After years of incarceration, he's now homeless, surviving on the streets by shining shoes on a street corner, while fighting for custody of his 3-year-old daughter.

63 min / USA

WED 4PM PALM

## SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

SPONSORED BY: TIDES OCEANVIEW INN & COTTAGES

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER: Robin Smith



Every October, local artists stage hundreds of handmade scarecrows throughout Cambria for an acclaimed annual scarecrow festival. SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT follows the crow makers over the summer as they whip together unique works of art out of an array of random craft supplies.

40 min / USA

WED 12PM DOWNTOWN

## WHALE-ROADS

SPONSORED BY: PACIFIC WILDLIFE CARE

DIRECTORS: Ethan Takekawa, Michael Lee, Meg Kievman, Emma Holm-Olsen | WRITERS: Emma Holm-Olsen, Meg Kievman | PRODUCERS: Ethan Takekawa, Michael Lee



STUDENT PROJECT

Exploring the intersection between commercialization and marine protection, WHALE-ROADS provides insight into a past where humans have exploited whales for profit, while offering hope for a future in which whales and humans can co-exist peacefully.

15 min / USA

WED 11:30AM FREMONT

## WOODSMAN

SPONSORED BY: PARRISH FAMILY VINEYARD

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Elliot Peters  
PRODUCERS: Elliot Peters, Phineas Peters, Scott Haennelt



WORLD PREMIERE

A young married couple, Alan and Lottie, make do with what they've got: each other. After an accident has left Lottie bedridden and nonverbal, the two must find new ways to communicate. While dealing with resentment for his ailing wife, something enigmatic calls out to Alan from the distance.

Psychological Thriller / 25 min / USA

WED 3PM DOWNTOWN

# The Land of Scene-Stealing Scenery

Big-time landscapes ready made for the big screen.

Three hours from Hollywood, SLO CAL offers 3,616 square miles of wide-open coast, classic beach towns, sprawling ranch lands and lush vineyards. Find the perfect backdrop for your next commercial, photo shoot, TV series or feature film. With 315 days of sunshine here, it's always a beautiful day on set.

Start scouting your perfect location at [FilmSLOCAL.com](http://FilmSLOCAL.com)



FILM  
SLO  
CAL  
COMMISSION

# SHORTS PROGRAMS

## #1: LIFE, ANIMATED: ANIMATION SHORTS

An animation shorts block exploring aspects of life, love and loss. (56 min)

**LAIKA AND NEMO +  
ROSEMARY A.D. +  
MY DEAR SON +  
THE SPRAYER +  
OTHER HALF**

**THURS 9:30AM DOWNTOWN  
FRI 1PM DOWNTOWN  
SUN 9:45AM DOWNTOWN**

## #2: I'M OKAY.

5 Short Films about women overcoming challenges, making difficult choices, and changing the status-quo. (68 min)

**MISO + KEEP/DELETE +  
SMOKE EATER +  
I HAVE NO TEARS,  
AND I MUST CRY +  
MY EYES ARE UP HERE**

**THURS 10AM DOWNTOWN  
FRI 5:30PM DOWNTOWN  
SAT 12:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## #3: POWER IN COMMUNITY

Impact-driven, change-making documentary films showcasing different communities and cultures. (96 min)

**DECOLONIZING DINNER +  
IMALIRIJIT +  
UNTIL THE RAIN COMES BACK +  
DANI'S TWINS**

**WED 5PM DOWNTOWN  
THURS 1PM DOWNTOWN  
FRI 6:15PM DOWNTOWN**

## #4: I'M HERE.

Films that explore the nature of identity, exclusion and the power in being oneself. (60 min)

**WEI-LAI + KYLIE +  
OUTSIDE LINE +  
THE MATTRESS +  
OUT OF TUNE**

**THURS 4PM DOWNTOWN  
FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN  
SAT 9:30AM DOWNTOWN**

## #5: FAMILY MATTERS

A mixture of films exploring familial relationships in all forms. (67 min)

**MYSORE MAGIC +  
WILD ONES +  
CROOKED TREES  
GON GIVE ME WINGS +  
THE VAN +  
THEY GROW UP SO FAST**

**WED 7PM PALM  
THURS 6:30PM DOWNTOWN  
FRI 3:30PM DOWNTOWN**

## #6: REMEMBER WHEN?

A series of shorts that reflect on the past. From a retired hitman to a legendary grizzly bear adapting to a changing world, and sharing unforgettable memories with your friends at the local Y. (88 min)

**HITMAN: SECRETS OF LIES +  
REST STOP +  
GOOD BOY +  
BELOW SURFACE**

**THURS 4:15PM DOWNTOWN  
FRI 10AM DOWNTOWN  
SUN 12:15PM DOWNTOWN**

## MORE SHORTS PROGRAMS:

**CAL POLY  
SHORT CUTS**  
p49 (120 min)  
**THURS 6PM  
FREMONT**

**TEXTURES OF  
LOVE SHORTS  
PROGRAM**  
p50 (90 min)  
**SAT 1PM  
FREMONT**

**WE ARE  
STILL HERE**  
p19 (76 min)  
**SUN 10:30AM  
PALM**

**FILMMAKERS OF  
TOMORROW  
SHOWCASE**  
p54 (88 min)  
**SUN 3PM  
DOWNTOWN**

# CAL POLY SHORT CUTS

**SPONSORED BY THE CAL POLY INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN LIBERAL ARTS,  
CENTER FOR EXPRESSIVE TECHNOLOGIES, AND ART & DESIGN DEPARTMENTS.**

**SHORT CUTS FEATURES 10 SHORT FILMS CREATED  
BY CAL POLY STUDENTS UNDER THE MENTORSHIP  
OF RANDI BARROS, SCREENWRITER, EDITOR, AND  
ISLA LECTURER, AND JAMES WERNER, ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF ART & DESIGN.**

These films depict stories reflecting the promising filmmaker's shared sentiments and creative visions. Engage with emotionally charged stories exploring love, loss, discovery, and unexpected moments of connection. From writing the scripts to filming the scenes, students of different majors have come together to bring their stories to life. See tomorrow's filmmakers at work today.



## A BEACH DAY

A man and a woman meet as strangers on a beach, form a relationship, have a child, and then must cope with one of those things being taken away.

## BETWEEN BAKERY WALLS

When a co-dependent widowed fly wants to celebrate his maggot baby's birthday, he must steal a piece of cake by traversing across the bakery where the day's sweets are kept, before the giant baker catches him and leaves his baby an orphan.

## BOYS WILL BE BOYS

A self-proclaimed outcast sets his sights on a girl in his class and becomes determined that they will be together.

## CRACKED

Lana is having trouble navigating a breakup until she enlists her new roommate to help her deal with her heartbreak and maybe get a little revenge.

## LOST

Two boys enter their grouchy, elderly neighbor's house in an attempt to retrieve a missing item, but soon find themselves lost and desperate to escape.

## MISREMEMBRANCE

A young couple are preparing to move when they stumble upon an old photo album that reveals unexpected truths and lies.

## PAINT ME LIKE

In this offbeat romantic comedy, struggling painter Jeremy encounters Elise, a wannabe model, who forces him to take on a commission he doesn't want. In an unexpected turn of events, the two realize they just might need each other to make it big in the city.

## SAUDADE

As the world adjusts to the new normal created after the pandemic, a young college student must confront her unresolved emotions about her romance with an old friend during quarantine.

## SIX MONTHS

A young woman grapples with grief and the fact that nothing lasts forever in the wake of her best friend's passing.

## VIGILIUS HAUFNIENSIS: THE WATCHMAN

An anxious college student must battle a monstrous presence when it begins to haunt his emotional and academic life.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28  
FREMONT THEATER**

**6PM**

\$15 General  
\$5 Students  
All passes and packages are accepted.



# TEXTURES OF LOVE SHORTS

SPONSORED BY CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

## LOVE CAN BE PRICKLY, SMOOTH OR BURNING WITH DESIRE.

It can be between lovers, family, friends or ancestors. The possible textures of love are infinite. R.A.C.E. Matters has curated a free program of five contemporary short films that will evoke the experience of feeling the different textures of love. Before the program, join R.A.C.E. Matters at Saints Barrel for a brunch mixer with appetizers, bubbles, and exciting updates. Purchase brunch tickets at [racematterslo.org](http://racematterslo.org)

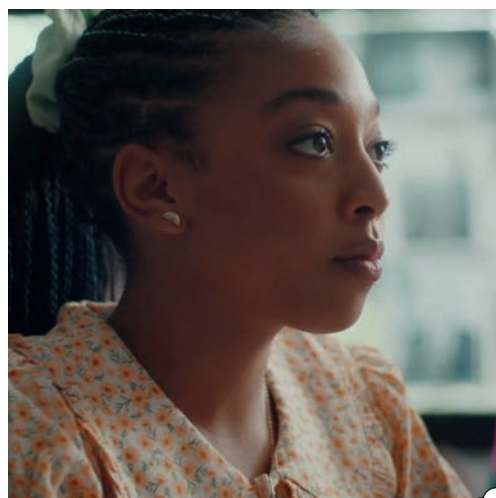
**SATURDAY, APRIL 29  
FREMONT THEATER**

1PM

**R.A.C.E MATTERS BRUNCH  
SAINTS BARRELL**

10:30AM

FREE ADMISSION. PLEASE RSVP  
ONLINE. CONTENT WARNING:  
MATURE THEMES.



### A REAL ONE

As different as night and day, Lauren and Keisha, two 17-year-old girls entering their final weeks of senior year, stand on the cusp of adulthood when Lauren is forced to reveal a secret that threatens their lifelong friendship. Even as they grow apart, Lauren and Keisha must depend on one another to navigate the most complicated parts of growing up, and find they must take matters into their own hands to see one another through to the other side.

DIRECTOR/WRITER: McKenzie Chinn  
PRODUCERS: Lisa Masseur, Sarah Minnie

16 min / USA



### DEAR MAMA...

Set in the 1990s in South LA, a family grieves a recent loss while packing up their home in hopes of putting the past behind them. When a musical icon dies, Tanisha plans to attend a vigil but when she's met with resistance from Nate, they're both forced to confront the emotional aftermath of their own tragedy before taking the first steps to heal.

DIRECTOR: Winter Dunn  
WRITER: Charmaine Cleveland  
PRODUCERS: Nicole Mairose Dizon, Xin Li, Jordan Hart, Dea Vazquez, Francisco Velasquez

14 min / USA



WORLD PREMIERE

### JAHLEEL & STAR

In an intimate portrayal of the effects incarceration has on families, two siblings travel to see their father in prison. Along the journey, Star confides in her brother and Jahleel reveals a defining moment from his past, presenting his sister with a letter that will make her rethink the circumstances surrounding the estranged relationships in their family.

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER:  
Monique Wilhoit

12 min / USA



### THE MARIGOLDS LISTEN

The life of a relationship told through a bouquet of flowers, THE MARIGOLDS LISTEN shows the forgotten interconnectedness to our surroundings and the care that is needed to maintain them. With a shift in perspective, the filmmaker takes on the point of view of a bouquet of flowers that thrives or wilts in reaction to a couple's relationship.

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Jacob Figueroa  
PRODUCERS: Jacob Figueroa, Bryan Biebl

6 min / USA



STUDENT PROJECT

### WE WERE MEANT TO

In a world where Black men have wings and their first flight is a rite of passage, Akil must defy his own fears, insecurities, and societal barriers while discovering his perfect launch into manhood. With the help of his crush and two best friends, will Akil take his first flight or fall to the same fate as his father?

DIRECTOR: Tari Wariebi  
WRITERS: Tari Wariebi, Christina K. Licud  
PRODUCER: Jordan Tyner

28 min / USA



# MUSIC VIDEOS

PRESENTED BY 93.3 KZOZ



## REMEMBER BACK IN THE '80S, '90S AND EARLY 2000S WHEN MTV ACTUALLY PLAYED MUSIC VIDEOS?

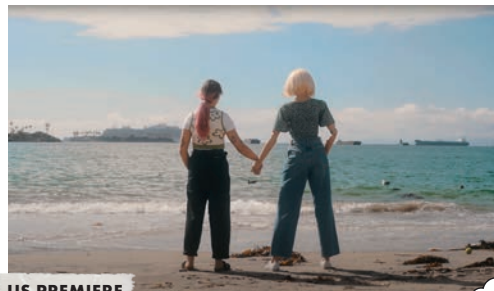
For the third year in a row, music videos officially have a home at our festival. We are elated to once again be able to experience and celebrate the eclectic mix of creative music videos in person alongside a live music performance!

Awards will be presented to videos in three categories on Wednesday, April 26 during our Music Video Showcase. Juried by Manuel Del Valle, David Hardberger and Ernesto Rivera.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26  
FREMONT THEATER**

**7:30PM LIVE MUSIC + MUSIC VIDEO  
SHOWCASE + CCFS / MV AWARDS**

\$25 General  
\$20 Student / Film Society  
All-Access Passes accepted



US PREMIERE

### BETTER NOW

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER: Eric Alt



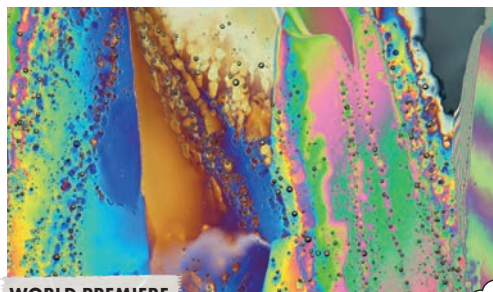
### CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER: Deanna Wardin



### BONES

DIRECTOR/WRITERS: Jill Sachs, Angeline Armstrong  
PRODUCER: Megan Melrose



WORLD PREMIERE

### CIRCLE 12: FOAM AND SAND

DIRECTOR: Shawn Knol



### CLEAR

DIRECTOR: Jedediah Roberson  
WRITER/PRODUCER: Jonathan Bareford



### HAPPY SONG

DIRECTOR: Sasha Solodukhina  
WRITERS: Sasha Solodukhina, Sarah VanDerMeer  
PRODUCERS: Emily MacKenzie, Jeremy Blum



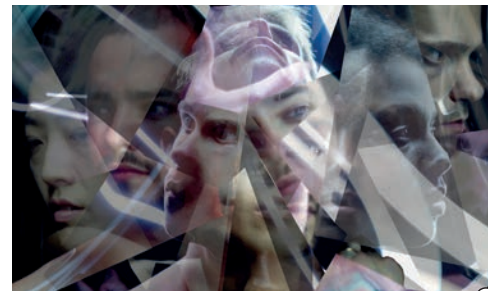
### FADE INTO YOU

DIRECTOR/WRITER: David M. Helman  
PRODUCERS: Cristian Quintero, Jean Mouglin



### KJE MED ARE

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Anika Salvesen  
PRODUCERS: Linn Helene Løken, Anika Salvesen



### A FEAST THAT NEVER COMES

DIRECTOR: Maria Juranic | WRITER: Sven Britt  
PRODUCERS: Rachel Morgan, Sven Britt, Maria Juranic



### RAMON

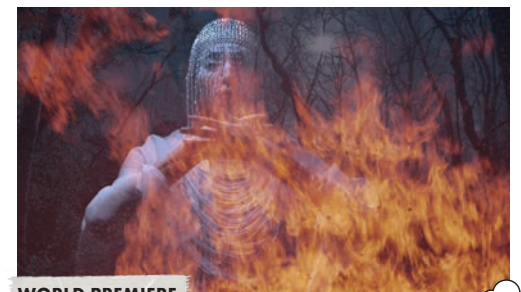
DIRECTOR: Katie Neville  
WRITERS: Caleb Nichols, Katie Neville, Jason Kaiser, Drew Silvaggio  
PRODUCER: Jason Kaiser



WORLD PREMIERE

### GOOD DAY

DIRECTOR: Angelo Deprater  
WRITERS: Angelo Deprater, Lorde Sanctus  
PRODUCER: Connect the Coast



WORLD PREMIERE

### WILDERNESS

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Andrea Diaz  
PRODUCERS: Andrea Diaz, Dani Gros



# FILMMAKERS *OF* TOMORROW

SUPPORTED BY MARK BUCHMAN OF THE BOARD OF  
SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Now in its 17th year, this program continues to inspire youth filmmakers from around the world to share their talents with our festival audience. This showcase presents some of the very best films submitted this year from around the world by filmmakers in elementary, middle and high schools. All films, 10 minutes and under, are eligible for cash prizes in several categories.

## HIGH SCHOOL



### BETH

FILMMAKER: Ava Bounds | Yorkshire, England

### HARDCORE

FILMMAKERS: Madeleine Case,  
Grace Rynerson | Calabasas, CA

### THE HOLE

FILMMAKERS: Piotr Kaźmierczak,  
Łukasz Kościelny, Jacek Łuczynski | Legnica, Poland

### LOST: A BACKYARD ADVENTURE

FILMMAKERS: Coleman Seamus, Freeman Howe |  
San Luis Obispo, CA

### MAXIMUS

FILMMAKERS: Brielle Lubin, Sarah Morton,  
Sophie Ramirez | Tarzana, CA

### MONA

FILMMAKERS: Lori Mae Hernandez,  
John Rourke, Cado Dhinsa | San Luis Obispo, CA

### A PIECE OF RANCH

FILMMAKER: Jiayang Liu | Casper, Wyoming

### PISTACHIO ICE CREAM

FILMMAKER: Amira Kopeyeva | Idyllwild, CA

### THE REFLECTION ON MY SCREEN

FILMMAKERS: Abida Chowdhury, Leslie Gomez,  
Christell Pelico, Zaira Ortiz | Los Angeles, CA

## MIDDLE SCHOOL



### EXTRA CHEESE

FILMMAKERS: Benny Eldridge, Maggie Cross,  
Otto Nixon, Phoebe Cross | San Luis Obispo, CA

### MAGIC ERASER: DELETE!

FILMMAKERS: Zi-Jun Wang, Yun-Yen Li,  
Zi-Fei Wang, Yun-Hua Li, Chia-Chao Li | Taiwan

### STOP PEBBLE MINE

FILMMAKER: Mason Mirabile | Arlington, VA

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



### BADMINTON JOURNEY

FILMMAKER: Sean Kang | Anaheim, CA

### PLAYGROUND

FILMMAKERS: Walter Duncan,  
Marie-Pierre Bonniol | Berlin, Germany

### SUNDAY, APRIL 30 DOWNTOWN CENTRE CINEMAS

3PM SCREENING  
4:30PM AWARDS

# SLO JEWISH FILM & LEARNING

SUPPORTED BY THE JCC FEDERATION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO AND SAN LUIS OBISPO HILLEL  
(WWW.JCCSLO.COM)

In partnership with the SLO Jewish Film and Learning Festival, this year you can watch a selection of their films during our virtual encore festival April 30–May 7. This program features one feature length documentary and two short films.

## JEWS OF THE WILD WEST



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DIRECTOR: Amanda Kinsey  
Documentary / 80 min / USA

## THE BROKEN CANDLE



SPONSORED BY: MARY BAIAMONTE

DIRECTOR: Felix Kiner  
Animation / 9 min / USA

## OMI



SPONSORED BY: DIVERSITY COALITION  
OF SLO COUNTY

DIRECTOR: Adam Lebowitz-Lockard  
Narrative / 15 min / USA

### APRIL 30–MAY 7 VIRTUAL ENCORE WEEK

\$12 General  
\$10 Student / Film Society



# BEHIND *THE* SCENES PANELS

SUPPORTED BY THE NEW TIMES

## LEARN FROM THE PROS!

Panels take place at the festival lounge and are free to all passholders and \$5 for general admission

## #1. SOUND DESIGN

Sound is one of those aspects of a movie that you don't realize the importance of until it's missing or done badly. Rarely getting the credit they deserve, we're bringing together a group of folks in the sound industry to talk about their processes, influences, and the invisibility of their extremely important craft.

SATURDAY 10AM

## #2. THE MAGIC OF EFFECTS FOR FILM

Join local effects legends David Hardberger and Jeff Barnes whose combined credits include Pan's Labyrinth and The Lord of the Rings as they delve into the history of Special and Visual Effects explaining the difference and how some of those related techniques on each side could be used separately and together for projects of all sizes today.

SATURDAY 12:30PM

## #3. SO YOU WANT TO WRITE A SCREENPLAY?

This workshop will help you generate original, compelling ideas for feature or TV pilot scripts, and guide you along the steps for transforming those ideas into character driven, well plotted first drafts.

SATURDAY 3PM

## #4. WOMXN MAKING WAVES

Following the final screening of BODY PARTS, catch this wave of womxn discussing an industry historically known to hold strong gender inequalities. With a wave of positive change influencing the industry in recent years, these womxn will share some of the progress being made, efforts to have more inclusivity amongst sets, if the efforts are working, and the strides we still need to make.

SUNDAY 12:30PM





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life thickens,  
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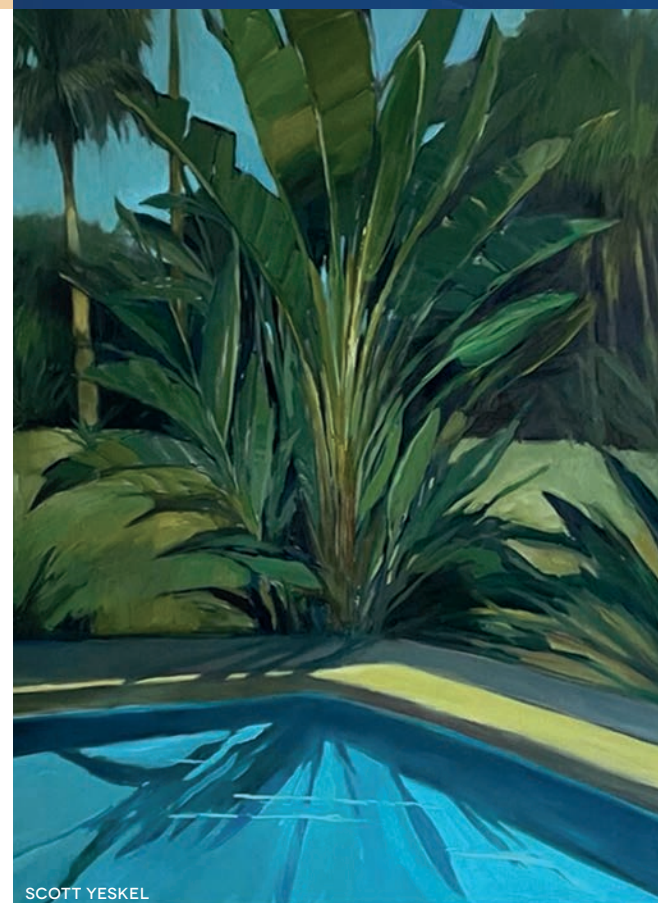
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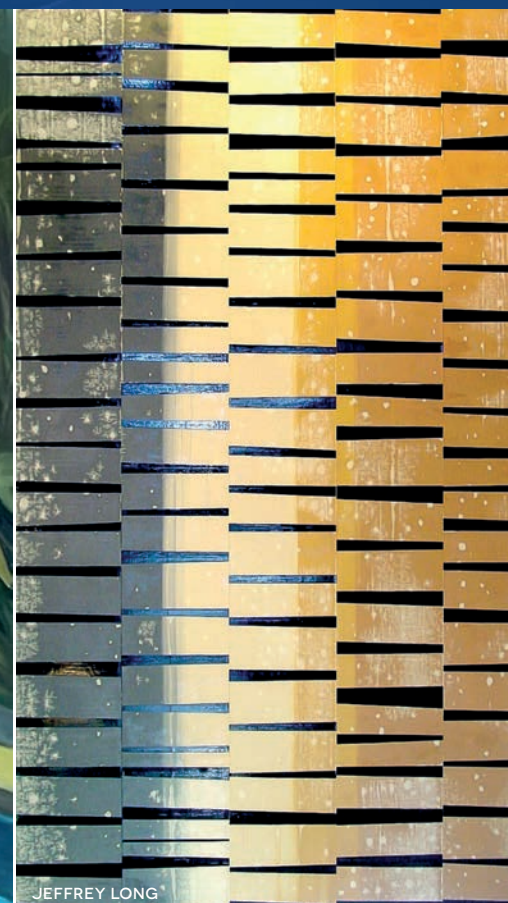
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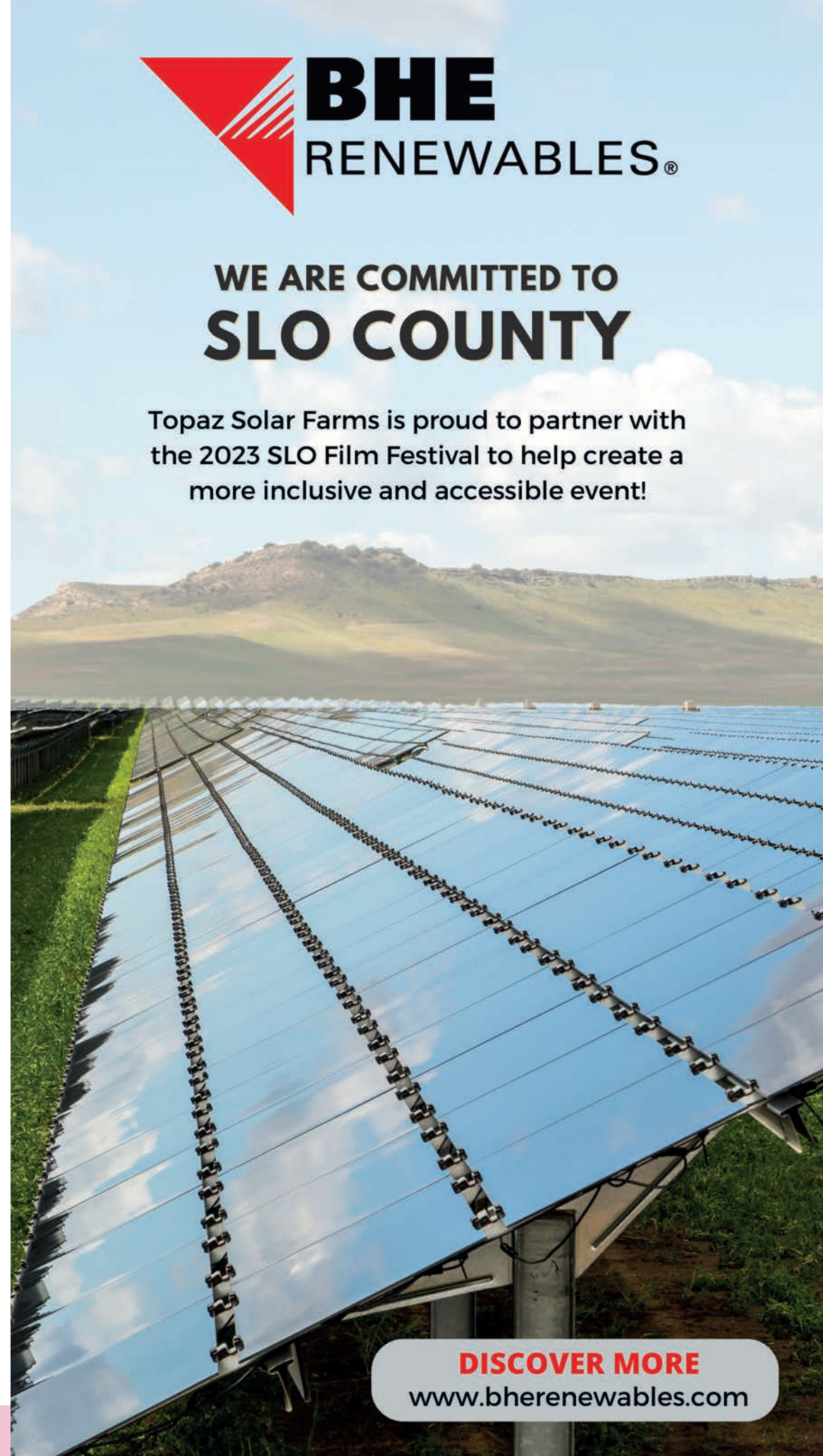
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