

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENTS FOR 19 YEARS!

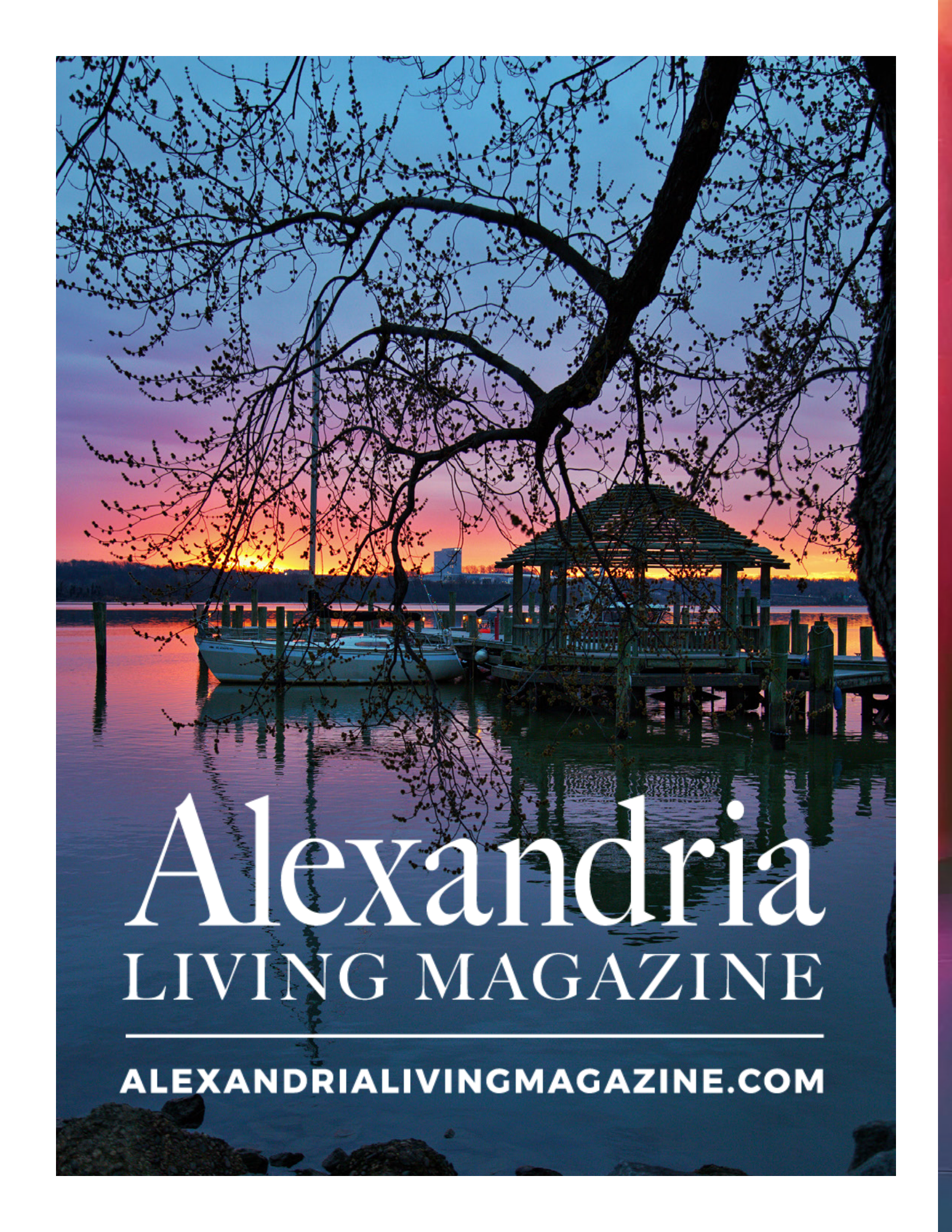
2025 ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL NOV 6-9

With a screening of
**UPSTREAM, DOWNRIVER:
UNITING FOR WATER JUSTICE**
on November 2!

AlexFilmFest.com

  alexfilmfest

 @alexandriafilmfestival

A scenic photograph of a sunset over a body of water. In the foreground, a large, dark tree with bare branches frames the top and right sides of the image. In the middle ground, a white boat is docked on the left, and a wooden gazebo with a thatched roof is on the right. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, with the sun setting on the horizon. The water reflects the colors of the sky and the structures. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Alexandria LIVING MAGAZINE

ALEXANDRIALIVINGMAGAZINE.COM

"Cinema is my home. I think I've always lived in it." —Agnès Varda

Welcome to the 19th annual Alexandria Film Festival, your home for cinema art in the port city! Like the pioneering French filmmaker Agnès Varda, we believe the power of film lies in its ability to synthesize other art forms and tap into memory and emotion, rendering a new experience, wholly unique to each individual viewer. With more than 60 films in this year's festival spanning diverse genres, highlighting underrepresented perspectives, and showcasing innovative storytelling, we promise an experience like no other.

The festival kicks off November 2 and continues November 6–9 at four venues across the city: Virginia Tech in Potomac Yard, The Lyceum in Old Town, Beatley Library, and Patagonia Old Town. Fully half our festival films were made by storytellers from the District, Maryland, or Virginia (DMV) who will join us for robust, post-screening discussions. Additionally, 70 percent of films in this year's festival are premieres, including 15 world and U.S premieres, and 14 DMV premieres.

You'll discover stories that delve into current issues, narratives that explore the human experience, and films that push the limits of imagination and technical craft. From laugh-out-loud comedies to thought-provoking documentaries to daring experimental films, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

To our talented filmmakers, festival attendees, dedicated volunteers, corporate sponsors, individual donors, and major funders including the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your participation and support.

So get ready for immersive cinema, memory-making, and the stories that remind us that we are all connected. Welcome home!



Jill Ray
Chair, Alexandria Film Festival



ZEBRA

IS A PROUD
SUPPORTER OF
ALEXANDRIA
FILM FESTIVAL



Zebra

WWW.THEZEBRA.ORG
BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER!

2025 ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAM

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2

AT PATAGONIA
OLD TOWN
6:30–8:30 PM

UPSTREAM, DOWNRIVER: UNITING FOR WATER JUSTICE

57 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Maggie Burnette Stogner, director

At this critical time when key laws such as the Clean Water Act are being demolished, stories of action, resilience, and hope, with real results, are more important than ever before. Over half of U.S. waterways are still dangerously polluted, especially in poorer communities facing crumbling infrastructure, rising waters, and climate extremes. From Lowndes County, Alabama to New Orleans, the Navajo Nation, Los Angeles, Pacific Northwest, and more, communities are uniting in an urgent fight for clean water.

Q&A with Maggie Burnette Stogner

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7

AT THE BEATLEY LIBRARY
NOON–2 PM

FINDING CONNECTIONS

PEOPLE WHO NEED PEOPLE ARE THE
LUCKIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

OPERATION DARK SITE

DISTRICT, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA (DMV)
PREMIERE

31 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Matthew Myslinski, writer/director

As she prepares to leave for college, Zoe worries as her eccentric father's behavior becomes more suspicious and erratic. She starts her own investigation, which eventually leads to a police chase and an ending she never saw coming. A well-crafted film about the lengths a father would go to connect with his daughter.

Q&A with Matthew Myslinski

FRIDAY

INFINITY GIRLS

EAST COAST PREMIERE

14 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmakers: Molly Ehrenberg-Peters, director and Alexandra Nedved, writer/director

The relationship of best friends Andi and Jess is put to the test on their annual camping trip as Jess navigates her life post-rehab and Andi wonders if she still wants to continue what has become to her more of a burden than a friendship. A richly-developed film about whether a frayed relationship can be repaired.

Q&A with Alexandra Nedved

THE BRIDGE

DMV PREMIERE

16 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Kalyne Bruce, director

Ethan's big dream of becoming the newest house music sensation seems to be on hold as his former partner finds fame as a solo artist. Will he let the setback define him or will he listen to his manager and find a way to push on through?

Q&A with Azariah Greene, writer/producer/editor

S.K.A.T.E.

WORLD PREMIERE

8 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Tom Schrack, writer/director

A skateboarder working on perfecting his new trick finds that he can use a little help from an unexpected source.

Q&A with Tom Schrack

LIFE SUPPORT

11 minutes, Short, Fiction, USA

Filmmaker: Jamon Tolbert, writer/director

Daniel Cho's life as an ER doc is focused on the needs of his patients. But the challenges of his

hectic days leave little room for his own well-being. Will he listen when a colleague suggests that caring for himself will help him better care for others?

INVISIBLE STRING

DMV PREMIERE

20 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Teranee Franshá, writer/director/producer

Klair is on the brink of fulfilling her decades-long dream of becoming an adoptive mother. But when she meets Stacey, the surrogate who will bear her child, old secrets and past injustices emerge that not only threaten the adoption, but also the fabric of both Klair's—and Stacey's—lives. A compelling drama about how families navigate their legacies and work to make their own futures.

Q&A with Teranee Franshá

2:15–4 PM

FAMILY SHOWCASE

THE SHORT GAME

96 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Frank Sanza, director

Jeremy, a talented high school golfer, struggles to find the edge he needs to win a scholarship to a top university. A family crisis, the responsibility of looking after his younger brother Ethan, who has autism, and a tragic accident threaten to end his dream before it even starts. But when everything is on the line, he finds that there's more to winning golf than talent, technique, and tee shots. A heart-warming tale of family, faith, and friends.

AT THE LYCEUM NOON-2 PM

EMPOWERED WOMEN

STRUGGLING TO OVERCOME LIFE'S HURDLES

NIGHT LIGHT

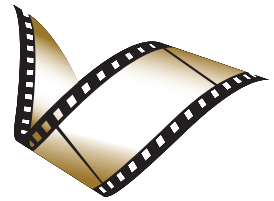
DMV PREMIERE

5 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Luke Baker, writer/director

A young woman struggles to overcome her night-time anxiety, and turns to the light to calm her fears.

Q&A with Luke Baker



MACE

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

11 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Beecher Reuning, writer/director

Macy is already nervous as a transgender, non-binary person on a blind date. But then a mysterious stranger following them leads to panic and fear. And Macy's life is forever changed when the stranger is revealed.

Q&A with Beecher Reuning

KICKOFF

U.S. PREMIERE

77 minutes, Documentary, Feature, Germany and Spain, in Kirghiz (with subtitles)

Filmmakers: Roser Corella, director/producer and Stefano Obino, director

In a small village in Kyrgyzstan, women chafing under the traditions that confine them to a lifetime of domestic chores find an outlet in soccer. This remarkable documentary shows the transformative nature of athletics and the resilience of strong women looking for greater meaning in their lives.



The Alexandria Times is a proud sponsor of the Alexandria Film Festival.

The Alexandria Times is now a nonprofit!

- You may make a tax-deductible donation at alextimes.com or by scanning the QR code below.
- Sign up for our newsletter on our website.

 @AlexandriaTimes

 @AlexTimesNews

 @AlexTimes

Alexandria  **Times**

"Alexandria's Leading Source of Local News"



AT THE LYCEUM 2–4:30 PM

CHANGING MINDS/ CHANGING SOCIETY

**PEOPLE STANDING UP FOR THEMSELVES
—AND OTHERS**

DARON

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

8 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Tanya Ruiz La Force, director/producer

Daron is a bright, engaging young man whose disability is secondary to his warm, friendly, and open spirit. With help from staff at The Bridges Center, Daron works to overcome his fear of public transportation in order to pursue a job.

Q&A with Tanya Ruiz La Force

A CITY THAT CARES

DMV PREMIERE

14 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Aaron Hosé, director/producer

A number of El Paso volunteers and agencies who provide material help for migrants are profiled in this moving documentary, which gives us a compassionate look at the human side of the southern border debate.

JOIN THE CLUB

90 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmakers: Kip Anderson, director and
Chris O'Connell, director/producer

In the heyday of San Francisco hippiedom, Dennis Peron was the man to see to score weed. As his reputation grew, so did the scrutiny of law enforcement. When the AIDS crisis hit, Peron's

Cannabis Buyers Club not only eased the suffering of many in the LGBTQ+ community, but also sparked the movement to legalize marijuana for medical use in California. This well-rounded portrait of a man with a complicated legacy is told by friends, colleagues, police, and even a few enemies he made along the way.

4:30–6:30 PM

PERSPECTIVES

**LOOKING FOR, AND FINDING,
NEW WAYS TO SEE THE WORLD**

IN SEARCH OF THE ARCTIC FOX

19 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Zach Hellmuth, director/producer/editor

Inspired by nature walks with his daughter, who was born with cerebral palsy, a filmmaker sets off on a trek to the Arctic Circle to photograph the elusive Arctic Fox for her. This film captures the wonder and beauty of his journey through some of the harshest conditions in the world.

Q&A with Zach Hellmuth

CONSEQUENCES OF THIS LIGHT

WORLD PREMIERE

3 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Leah Bedrosian Peterson, director/
cinematography

Vignettes of a rural neighborhood where residents long for connection.

Q&A with Leah Bedrosian Peterson

FRIDAY

THE SHAPE OF A SOUND

WORLD PREMIERE

4 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Sean McCoy, director

Through the eyes and works of artist Laura Sobrado, this film lets us see how music, painting, and the natural world can intersect to make art that is both beautiful and therapeutic.

Q&A with Sean McCoy

SITKA'S HIDDEN WONDERS

EAST COAST PREMIERE

43 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Ben Hamilton, writer/director/producer

A stunning documentary that blends sweeping cinematography with a deeply personal story of return. Told by award-winning wildlife filmmaker Ben Hamilton, the film explores what it means to truly see a place—through the hidden layers of one of Alaska's wildest coastal ecosystems.

GUN SHOW

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

30 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Richard Chisolm, director

A fascinating documentary following sculptor David Hess as he takes his mock military-style rifles—crafted imaginatively from household objects—on the road to observe how people interact with these “weapons of mass discussion.” The reactions tell us a lot about gun culture in America, and who we are as a society.

Q&A with Richard Chisolm

7–9 PM

DISCONTENTED

TURN ME ON

99 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Michael Tyburski, director

Residents of an ideal community, cut off from all the messiness and complications of the world, are controlled by pills that keep them “quite content.” When Joy skips her dosage, she begins to discover a whole spectrum of feelings she never knew she could have. And when she shares her new feelings with her partner William and their social group, it puts them all in danger they never expected. For fans of ‘Black Mirror,’ ‘Severance,’ and ‘The Handmaid’s Tale.’

9–11 PM

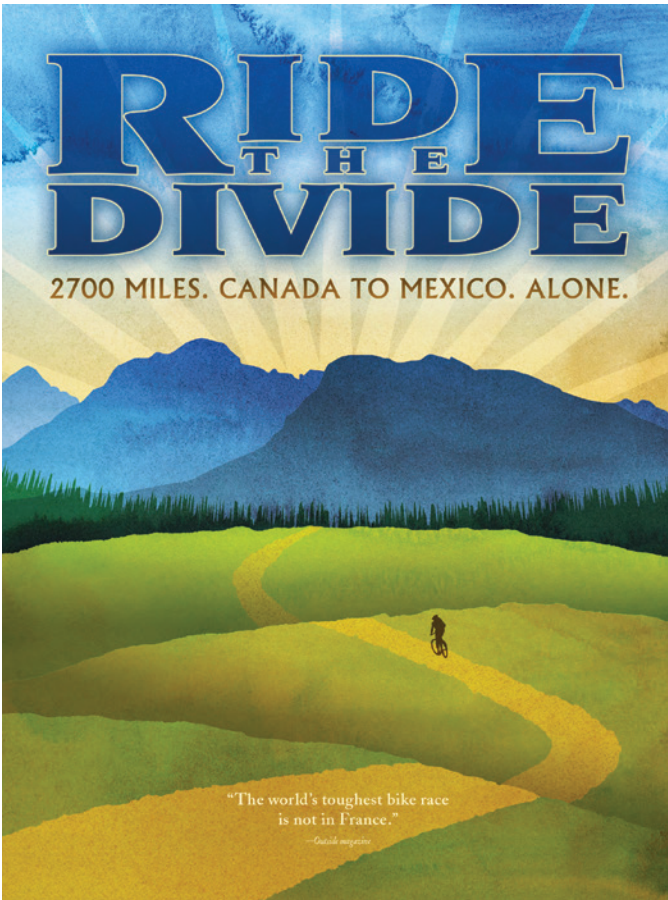
RIGHT NEXT DOOR

DRAGONFLY

98 minutes, Fiction, Feature, United Kingdom

Filmmaker: Paul Andrew Williams, director

Colleen becomes increasingly disturbed by the indifference the National Health caregivers show her elderly neighbor, Elsie. As she begins to care for Elsie herself, the two slowly form a bond and eventually become one another's confidant. But when a shocking act upends their peaceful life together, Colleen's behavior takes a turn that could mean dire consequences for both women.



**AT PATAGONIA
OLD TOWN
6:30–8:30 PM**

**SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY
SCREENING**

RIDE THE DIVIDE

82 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA and Canada
Filmmaker: Hunter Weeks, director

Fifteen years after its acclaimed first screening at the Alexandria Film Festival, we are delighted to bring this award-winning documentary back. The

story of a grueling mountain bike ride along the Rocky Mountains from Banff, Canada to the Mexican border has become an iconic tale about grit, determination, and the extremes man can endure.

Q&A with Hunter Weeks, Joe Cantwell, producer, and Reuben Kline, pro cyclist

**AT VIRGINIA TECH (ALX)
BOEING AUDITORIUM
NOON–11 PM**

NOON–2 PM

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSHAIRS

CHECKPOINT ZOO

107 minutes, Documentary, Feature, United Kingdom, and USA, in English and Ukrainian (with subtitles)
Filmmaker: Joshua Zeman, director

A minute-by-minute chronicle of the extraordinary efforts of staff and volunteers who risked their lives to relocate the animals at a Ukrainian zoo caught in the crossfire in the early days of the Russian invasion. This riveting documentary shows the basic humanity that manifests itself even amidst the horrors of war.

We Were Your Community Newspaper Then And We Still Are Today

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Arlington Connection
- Connection South:
Burke, Fairfax,
Fairfax Station, Clifton,
Lorton, Springfield
- Connection North:
Great Falls, McLean, Vienna,
Oakton, Reston, Herndon,
Centreville, Chantilly
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Potomac Almanac

The Alexandria Gazette was established in 1784. This Alexandria Gazette building was located at 317 King Street. Today that space is part of the block that houses Alexandria Market Square and City Hall.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet
Publishing Since 1784

For more information, call 703-778-9431
www.AlexandriaGazette.com
Gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Photo Courtesy of Alexandria Public Library Archives



3–5 PM

WHEN COMEDY AND CONFLICT COLLIDE

COEXISTENCE, MY ASS!

95 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA and France
Filmmaker: Amber Fares, director

Comedian Noam Shuster Eliassi, a Jewish woman living in the Palestinian territories, takes her one-woman show on the road. Tackling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the struggle for equality, she challenges audiences with uncomfortable truths, while her own pursuit of coexistence begins to sound increasingly absurd.

5–7:30 PM

ORIGIN STORIES

HOW DID WE GET TO THIS PLACE?

SAVING GULLAH LAND

DMV PREMIERE

11 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Thaddeus Johnson, writer/director

Three generations of family gather on their ancestors' land off the coast of South Carolina, recounting family lore and strengthening their pledge to preserve and maintain the land for the generations to come.

Q&A with Thaddeus Johnson

IGNITING THE SPARK—THE STORY OF 'MAGIC: THE GATHERING'

116 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA
Filmmakers: Brian Stillman, director and Kelley Slagle, director/producer/editor

The world's most popular collectible card table-top game was created by a weird and wonderful gang of self-described "misfits" more than 30 years ago. How it came to be, and why it became so wildly successful, is chronicled in this highly entertaining documentary. Filled with stories from the people who were there at the beginning, and accompanied by dazzling and inventive animation, this documentary transcends the genre and gives you a front row seat at the inception of a worldwide sensation.

Q&A with Kelley Slagle

FRIDAY

8–11 PM

FRIDAY NIGHT FUNNIES

FAMILIES SAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS!

BATS IN THE BELFRY

13 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Rich West, director/producer

Over the course of one evening, Italian matriarch Noona stirs up family chaos, encounters a Diavolo (again!), pays (another) visit to the police, and still manages to act as matchmaker for her adult granddaughter in this zany comedy.

Q&A with Robin Noonan-Price, writer

A LOVELY FAMILY

DMV PREMIERE

8 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Pat Battistini, writer/director/producer

Camelia meets her boyfriend's parents for the first time, and as she soon finds out, they are anything but a lovely family.

WELCOME TO AMERICA, BRIAN WONG!

U.S. PREMIERE

13 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Kevin Nibley, writer/director

For the Stein family of Maryland, the annual softball game against the Steins of Virginia has become a decades-long humiliation. Nothing they've tried has worked to stop their losing streak. Another loss in heartbreaking fashion leads the patriarch of the Maryland Steins to adopt desperate measures.

Q&A with Kevin Nibley

THE OTHER YOU

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

78 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Shoshana Rosenbaum, director

Annie, working on her novel while trying to fulfill her role as mother and wife, is at the end of her rope. Just wishing for a little time alone to write, she stumbles into a portal that leads to an alternate universe where she can work without interruption and where her children and husband are perfectly supportive of her. But not all is as wonderful as it seems at first, and when glitches in the portal emerge, she begins to wonder if there's such a thing as too many Annies.

Q&A with Shoshana Rosenbaum; Julie Gold, writer; Kimberly Skyrme, casting/producer; and Anne Saul, cinematographer

AT VIRGINIA TECH (ALX) THE TREEHOUSE 6–9 PM

EMERGING FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE I

**EMERGING FILMMAKERS PRESENT THEIR
LATEST PROJECTS**

EXCUSE ME

DMV PREMIERE

8 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Lena Louise Streitwieser, director

Amanda is treated rudely at a coffee shop due to age discrimination. While she may have left for her job interview without the last chocolate croissant she wanted, she ends up coming away with much more.

Q&A with Lena Louise Streitwiesers

RIGHT HAND MAN

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

3 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmakers: Emma Greenman and Yaumara Carrion, writers/directors/producers

In this breezy animated film, Lucas tries to hide the puppet permanently affixed to his right hand on his first date with Cristine, but the puppet is having none of it, to Lucas' dismay.

Q&A with Emma Greenman

THE WOMAN WITH A NAME OR TWO

17 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Andrew Chi Nguyen, writer/director/producer/editor

In a post-apocalyptic world, a group of hardened scavengers waiting to meet their connection become increasingly nervous as a shifty merchant spins spooky tales of the superhuman murderous figure known only as the Woman. At first laughed off as a myth, the more the group hears, the more uncomfortable they become. Will they stick around long enough to find out if she really does exist?

Q&A with Andrew Chi Nguyen

CHANGES

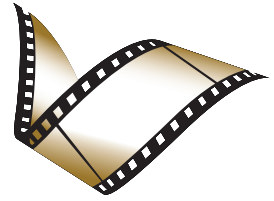
EAST COAST PREMIERE

10 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Valeria Rodriguez, writer/director

At a professional crossroads, Camila seeks advice from her mother and searches her own heart for what she truly wants in her life.

Q&A with Valeria Rodriguez



SHADOWS OF THE PAST

24 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Teairrah Nicole Green, director/editor/cinematography

A vivid account of a little-known campaign of genocide by colonial Germany in what is now Namibia at the turn of the 20th century. The stories of mass killing and torture—as well as the establishment of concentration camps that would be copied to even more deadly effect 40 years later—are still horrific today. This film tells an important story which has been overlooked by history.

Q&A with Teairrah Nicole Green

ALOHA LAHAINA ALOHA

EAST COAST PREMIERE

59 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: John Gabriel Kuenzli, writer/director/producer

In their own words, survivors of the devastating wildfire in 2023 that destroyed the historically and culturally important town of Lahaina on the island of Maui, recount the horror they experienced and the resilience with which they are now rebuilding. The filmmakers help put into context the critical role Lahaina has played in the lives of its inhabitants and all Hawaiians.

Q&A with John Gabriel Kuenzli

NOW INNOVATING IN ALEXANDRIA:

TOMORROW'S TECH LEADERS.



Learn more:
vt.edu/tech



**THE CENTER
OF NEXT**



**VIRGINIA
TECH®**

ALEXANDRIA HYUNDAI

is proud to support
The Alexandria Film Festival

We're excited to welcome you to our brand-new Hyundai Dealership.
Visit us today and experience the next level of service at our state-of-the-art facility.

"I'm happy to say all my cars over
the last 18 years have come from
Alexandria Hyundai!"

- Patti North
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



www.AlexandriaHyundai.com (703) 535-6840

Law Office of
DEBORAH G. MATTHEWS

Deborah G. Matthews

110 North Royal Street, Suite 575
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
www.DMatthewsLaw.com

703 548.3699
fax: 703 637.1325
dgm@DMatthewsLaw.com



**OPEN DAILY
10AM-8PM**



101 N. Union Street
Old Town Alexandria



www.unionsandwichco.com

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8

AT THE LYCEUM
NOON-3 PM

FAMILIES FINDING THEIR WAY

BABY BROTHER

12 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Harold Batista, writer/director

Six year-old Timmy is about to become a big brother, but he's focused on something more important: the latest video gaming system. When events take an unexpected turn, Timmy learns in a heartbreaking way that having things is not as important as family. **Note: not recommended for young children.**

Q&A with Harold Batista

500 FIREFLIES

106 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Lysandra Petersson, writer/director/
producer

As his marriage is falling apart, Daniel takes his teenage daughter, June, back to his hometown hoping to find stability and comfort in familiar surroundings. Daniel soon realizes that much has changed since he left, and that he may need to make some changes too, or risk alienating June forever.

Q&A with Lysandra Petersson; Zan Gillies, writer/
producer; and Zach Laliberte producer/actor

AT VIRGINIA TECH (ALX)
SCREENING ROOM 2
NOON-11 PM

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT NOON-2:30 PM

PRETTY UGLY

EAST COAST PREMIERE

75 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Andrea Palombella, writer/director/
producer

A personal journey sparked by her mother's breast cancer, the filmmaker crisscrosses the country to expose the toxic and dangerous ingredients in our most basic beauty and personal care products, how the manufacturers obscure what goes into their products, and how consumers can find safer and more wholesome alternatives.

Q&A with Andrea Palombella

NO CHOICE 2:30-4:30 PM

NO CHOICE

EAST COAST PREMIERE

95 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Nate Hilgartner, writer/director

Amy struggles to balance her life between her low wage job, money for college, and caring for her mother who's become addicted to opioids. Just when she sees what might be a way out, she is challenged as never before. An unblinking look

SATURDAY

at the vicious cycle of poverty and lack of health-care options far too common in today's America.

Q&A with Nate Hilgartner; Shannon Semier, producer; Hannah Deale, actor; Maria Prudente actor/casting; and Robert Denzel Edwards, actor

ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES WOMEN SHOWCASE 4:30-6:30 PM

REVERSE

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

5 minutes, DocuDrama, Animated Short, USA
Filmmaker: Kaustav Mukherjee, writer/director

In this wholly original film, the annual Hindu celebration of Women Power through the worship of the goddess Durga is starkly contrasted with the horrifying violence women face daily—often sanctioned or tacitly approved by the patriarchal society. The hypocrisy is laid bare in this powerful story.

Q&A with Kaustav Mukherjee

COMPARSA

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

79 minutes, Documentary, Feature, Guatemala and USA, in Spanish (with subtitles)

Filmmakers: Vickie Curtis writer/director/producer and Doug Anderson, director/producer

In a Guatemalan barrio silenced by fear, two teenage sisters lead a luminous rebellion: unleashing giant puppets, fire, and artful performance to protest gender violence in a joyful fight for survival. An inspiring film about resilience in the face of societal repression.



SIBLING SOJOURNS 7-9 PM

VINTAGE JOURNEY

EAST COAST PREMIERE

7 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Philip C. Sedgwick, writer/director

A brother and sister, brought together for a family reunion at their family's legacy ranch, find much more than they expected while rummaging through the family possessions. The secrets revealed lead them to an unexpected place in their own relationship.

OldTownCrier

From the Bay to the Blue Ridge



Three cheers to independent media of all stripes!
Best wishes for a successful film festival!

PROUD TO BE ALEXANDRIA'S BANK
FOR MORE THAN 170 YEARS

Burke&Herbert Bank[®]

burkeandherbertbank.com • 855-571-5824

MEMBER
FDIC 

SATURDAY

BROTHER VERSES BROTHER

91 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Ari Gold, director

Real-life brothers and musicians Ari and Ethan Gold play exaggerated versions of themselves in this fresh take on sibling relations. Filmed in a single shot, we wander with the Gold brothers on a whimsical tour through San Francisco's North Beach, Chinatown, and Russian Hill neighborhoods as they search for a place to gig, find a new love, meet up with their friends (including Brian Bell of Weezer) and to check on their aging father. Part comedy, part romance, part travelogue through the haunts of the Beat Generation, this charming film is accompanied by a soundtrack of their own remarkable music.

LATE NIGHT CHILLS AND THRILLS 9-11 PM

HOMIE

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

13 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Kevin John Henry, writer/director/producer

When Mitch's troubles with his neighbor escalate, his smart home device decides to take the feud to a whole new, and very dangerous, level.

Q&A with Kevin John Henry

CASE 1,968

WORLD PREMIERE

15 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Javier Antonio Duenas, writer/director/producer

Jim is haunted by memories of being abducted by aliens. His former girlfriend, Carol, says it's all in his head. But how to explain the weird scar on his chest?

Q&A with Javier Antonio Duenas

SALVADOR

WORLD PREMIERE

15 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Javier Antonio Duenas, writer/director/producer

A routine missionary call in the suburbs takes a diabolical twist for two Christian missionaries, when they are asked by the family to perform an exorcism on their son. A spine-tingling film that will make you question your own beliefs.

Q&A with Javier Antonio Duenas

PROSTHESEUS

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

4 minutes, Fiction, Short, Canada and USA

Filmmaker: Mikhail Maertens, director

This clever animated short asks how far we will go and what will we sacrifice to make our everyday tasks easier.

Q&A with Mikhail Maertens

GOLINGO: BATTLE TECHNOLOGY

5 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Ann Kim, director/ animator

This experimental film opens up a dystopian world with inventive use of animation and sound to convey a state of complete chaos where violence and demons rule.

Q&A with Ann Kim

GO DOWN, DILLER

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

23 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Andrew Bateman, writer/director/producer

A single father desperately tries to protect his daughter from the talking bear working at the local fast food restaurant in this allegorical tale of the stress and anxiety of parenting in today's world.



**AT VIRGINIA TECH (ALX)
THE TREEHOUSE
6-9 PM**

EMERGING FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE II

THE IDEA OF US

WORLD PREMIERE

110 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Kaleb Rutledge, writer/director/producer

Sometimes, a break-up ends with a dramatic clash, but mostly relationships just fizzle out until

there is nothing left. An account of a relationship from both sides, this melancholy little film is a look at how things came to an end.

Q&A with Kaleb Rutledge

MASKS

U.S. PREMIERE

3 minutes, Fiction, Short, Japan

Filmmaker: Zulian Tjuatja, writer/director

This quietly powerful film gives us a glimpse of the life of a woman in the traditionally male-dominated society in Japan, and the many masks she must wear to get through her day.

Q&A with Zulian Tjuatja

POMPEII

WORLD PREMIERE

11 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Bodhi Bryan-Roig, writer/director

When the world is ending, do you stay put and await the inevitable, or try to find a way out and make a break for it? This thought-provoking film set in a dystopian near-future, tells the tale of a group of friends facing these very questions, and how each of them responds.

Q&A with Bodhi Bryan-Roig

SECOND CHANCE

U.S. PREMIERE

9 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: India Anne Mitchell, writer/director/producer

An unflinching look at the juvenile justice system through the lens of a single case. The juvenile, his parents, the judge, attorneys, and probation officer all provide a well-rounded perspective on a significant societal concern.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY

HASIK

DMV PREMIERE

95 minutes, Documentary, Feature, Philippines and USA, in English, Cebuano, Tagalog (with subtitles)

Filmmakers: Mandy Qua, director/producer and Marissa Mejia, director/producer

Seed savers preserve the integrity of indigenous plants and crops, helping to maintain native cultures and cuisine. This documentary chronicles the extraordinary efforts by seed savers throughout the Philippines, and the obstacles they face to prevent the loss of their heritage in a changing world.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9

AT THE LYCEUM
NOON-5 PM

SALUTE TO SERVICE MEMBERS I NOON-2 PM

BLK OPS “THE REAL LIFE EQUALIZER” AND “THEY CALL HIM MAD MAX”

Two 30-minute Episodes

Filmmakers: Chris McPhee, director/producer and Ruben Ayala, producer

Glimpse the inner workings of elite Black Ops units around the world and discover the inside story of some of the most dramatic operations in recent history. From assassin rampages of death and destruction to rescuing 800 people from gunman and suicide bombers, watch these courageous teams put their lives on the line to complete their task.

Q&A with Chris McPhee

SALUTE TO SERVICE MEMBERS II 2:30-5 PM

SAY THEIR NAMES

DMV PREMIERE

14 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Rodney Remson, director/producer

Outside Chicago, a dedicated group of family, fellow service members, and friends built and maintain a memorial to the fallen, so that America will never forget their names or the sacrifice they made for our nation.

Q&A with Rodney Remson

THOSE WE HONOR

DMV PREMIERE

19 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Scott May, director/editor

As the number of veterans in the greatest generation dwindles, preserving their stories and their legacy is becoming even more critical. This project recorded five American fighting men back in 2013, with the understanding that their interviews would not be released until after their deaths. Here are living heroes, talking about their lives before, during, and after their service in World War II.

TRIBAL

84 minutes, Docudrama, Feature. USA

Filmmakers: Brandon Borrego & Louis Borrego, writers/directors

This gripping action film brings to life the remarkable stories of three combat veterans. For the first time, these veterans share their experiences, taking the audience through intense combat and poignant moments of loss both on and off the battlefield. Their stories provide a powerful reflection of their journey after two decades of war, highlighting the daunting challenges they face integrating into modern society.

AT VIRGINIA TECH (ALX) BOEING AUDITORIUM 12-5 PM

TIANANMEN TONIGHT NOON-2:30 PM

DMV PREMIERE

83 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmakers: Bestor Cram, director/producer and Michael Streissguth, writer/director/producer

A fascinating look at how television journalists covered the uprising in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989. Using archive footage, behind the scenes reports, and interviews with many of the participants, the story of how CBS News came to be in the Square and how they navigated the hostile Chinese government to broadcast the images around the world is a tale of journalistic zeal and remarkable courage. Their efforts remind us that integrity in journalism is a worthy goal, even in a world that seemingly has lost sight of it.

Q&A with Bestor Cram, Michael Streissguth, and Tom Bettag, former executive producer of the CBS Evening News and ABC's Nightline; moderated by Gordon Lubol, NBC News

NAVIGATING RELATIONSHIPS 2:30-5 PM

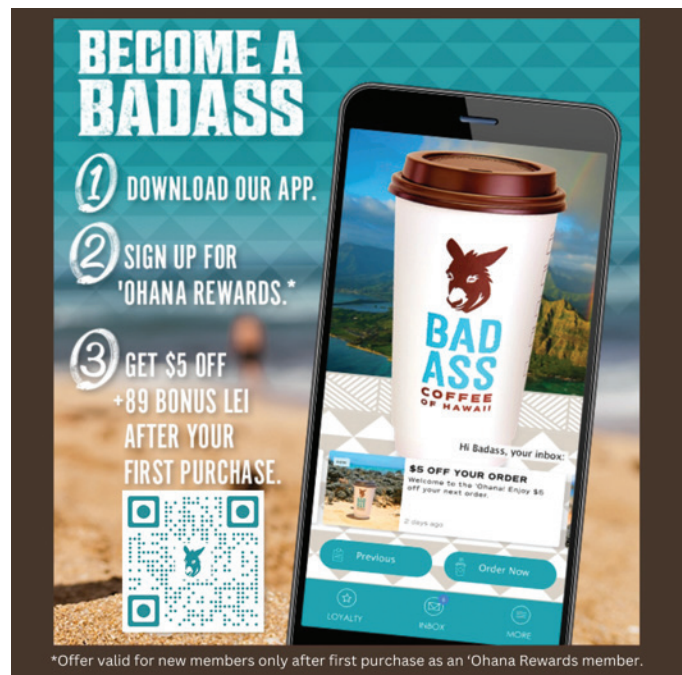
TAKEOUT

EAST COAST PREMIERE

12 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Marcus Ellison Jr., writer/director/producer

While waiting for their delivery order, old grievances bubble up between Lola and Darius as they



Franconia Family Medicine

6160 Fuller Court
Alexandria, VA 22301

Susan E. Bienert, M.D.
drbienert@mdvip.com
703-922-3994

W. James Pettit, M.D.
drpettit@mdvip.com
703-922-5998



Our attention to detail is evident in everything we do – from local produce, premium hand-cut steaks and a larger selection of bison dishes than any other restaurant. We pride ourselves on delivering American dining the way it was meant to be enjoyed.

TED'S MONTANA GRILL - ALEXANDRIA

2451 EISENHOWER AVE. | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | 703-960-0500



Reserve your table at **TEDSMONTANAGRILL.COM**

©2022 Ted's Montana Grill Inc.

take stock of their relationship. Between his demanding job and her needs for more quality time together, they seem to be headed for an impasse even before the food arrives.

Q&A with Marcus Ellison Jr.

BRUNCH!

WORLD PREMIERE

6 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Sam Casscells, director/composer

At a crossroads in their relationship, two lovers talk about their brunch options for the day, but it's what's not being said that carries the most weight.

Q&A with Sam Casscells

ELLE/ELLE

DMV PREMIERE

20 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Kelley Kali, director

A frank and nuanced look from both sides of a relationship as one partner transitions and her partner is conflicted about how he feels as he mourns the loss of the man he married.

Q&A with Kelley Kali

KEMBA

108 minutes, Docudrama, Feature. USA

Filmmaker: Kelley Kali, director

Kemba Smith is a Virginia woman who was sentenced in the 1980's to nearly 25 years in prison for a drug case after she was misled by the prosecutors and after her case was mishandled by her attorneys. Thanks to the dogged determination of her family and the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund, her ordeal became a national referendum on the unequal application of mandatory minimum sentencing and led to changes to the guidelines.

Q&A with Kelley Kali and Kemba Smith



**BriarTek congratulates the Alexandria Film Festival
on its 19th year of celebrating independents.**



BriarTek.com



Since 1957, Conte's has been a privately owned and operated bicycle shop dedicated to providing personal service and top quality cycling products for every kind of rider. Headquartered in Virginia, Conte's has eight locations across the D.C. metro area. Conte's is proud to sponsor the Alexandria Film Festival and donate a bike in support of this great community event.

Love to be in your own home?
You can watch films there too!



Let me help you!



Jim Connolly
Realtor, SFR, NAR Green
Licensed in VA, DC & MD
Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.
Cell: 202.510.7400
Office: 202.483.4100
jim.connolly@lfri.com
www.jimconnolly.com

LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

Forbes
REAL ESTATE



**Old Town,
New Vantage Point.**



@hotelheronalexandria
www.heronalexandria.com

HERON

The Alexandria Film Festival
Gratefully Acknowledges the Support of
the Alexandria Commission for the Arts
and the City of Alexandria



*We are Proud
to Support the
Alexandria Film
Festival.*

Hadeed SINCE 1955

ORIENTAL RUG CLEANING
AND IN-HOME SERVICES

WWW.JOEHADEED.COM



**MATT and
TONY'S**

ALL DAY KITCHEN + BAR

JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR

FROM 3-6 PM

TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS

FEATURING HANDCRAFTED COCKTAILS
AND SNACK SPECIALS



1501 Mount Vernon Ave.
703.429.4950
www.mattandtonysva.com



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks

Max Acchione, IXM Corporation
Berhane Beraki, Burke & Herbert Bank
Ashley Bishop, Virginia Tech
Cheesetique
Edoardo Buenaobra, Patagonia Old Town
Joe Cantwell
Jim Connolly
Marialy Duncan, Beatley Library
Nicole Evans, NOVA

Deborah Funk, Connection Newspapers
Carolyn Griffin, MetroStage
Dr. Matthew Henry, ACHS
Gordon Lubold
Caroline Miller, Vertical Entertainment
Jaclyn Maraldo, The Lyceum
Patty Moran, ACHS
Jane Petty, Burke & Herbert Bank
Shirley Ruhe Alexandria Gazette

Margaret Townsend, Old Town North Community Partnership
Ana Vides, Conte's Bike Shop
Margaret Wohler
Jef's Pizza
Pupatella's
St. Elmo's Coffee Pub
Wegmans
Women in Film and Video DC
Hagan van Baars, Affordable Signs and Banners

We greatly appreciate the support of our individual donors

Tundey Akinsanya
Leslie Armstrong
Brian and Madeline Bachir
Michelle Bartoli Cain
Betsy Biffi
Nancy Breslin
Patrick S. Burke
Chris Colligan
Geneva Collins
Mark DeBlois
Erika Dogan
Denise Dunbar
Alma Edgerly
Tre Ferguson
Carter Flemming

Melissa Frederick
Susan Amber Gordon
Carolyn Griffin
Guy and Michelle Hocker
Dawn Hurto
Cozetta Johnson
Sharon Ladin
Priscilla Masters
Randy McCracken
Anne Merrill
Nancy Merrill
Elisa Morsch
Robin Noonan-Price
Patti North
Eileen O'Brien

Judy Parkins
Elizabeth Partoyan
Susan Pizitz
John and Gillian Ray
Marta Renzi
Dara Sanders
Wendy Sanders
David Slater
Joan and Irwin Singer
Kristin St. John
Susan Townsend
Mary Beth Warner
Clifford Whitham
Margaret Wohler

Alexandria Film Festival Executive Committee

Gillian (Jill) Ray, Chair
Chris Colligan, Vice Chair and Program Lead
Dara Sanders, Chair Emeritus

David Griffin, Webmaster
Randy McCracken, Communications and Photography

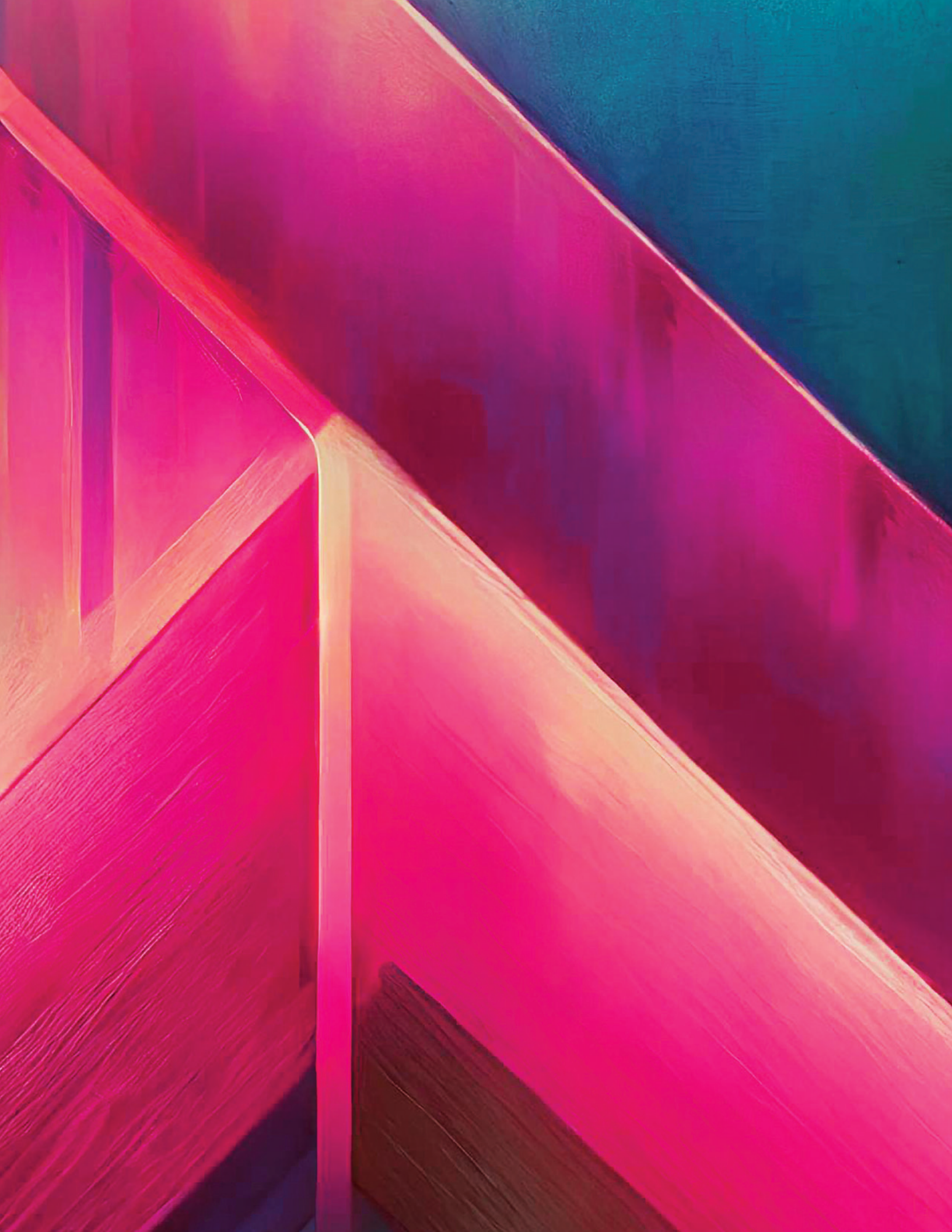
Anne Merrill, Social Media
Elisa Morsch, Graphic Designer
Patti North, Executive Director
Alexis Turek, Community Outreach

Alexandria Film Festival Planning Committee

Tai Dieudonne
Daniela Eckert
Marianne Elbertson
Tre Ferguson
Casie Graham
Leslie Heron

Julie Hocker
Bill Hoston
Stacy Jones
Valentine Kass
Michaelangelo Kim
Keonna Lanay

Christine Leuenberger
Christopher Masciarelli
Carrie McGee
Robin Noonan-Price
Emma Tainter





ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL

©2025 Alexandria Film Festival