welcome

On behalf of the entire team at the Northwest Film Center and Portland Art Museum, welcome to the 43rd Portland International Film Festival! We look forward to you experiencing cinema unbound—seeing things anew and embracing the future of storytelling in all its forms.

Whether you are attending from just around the corner or halfway around the world, we are excited to be your hub to try new things and take risks in your viewing habits to discover new work by storytellers locally and globally in film, audio, animation, immersive performance and more. Join us, too, for talks, classes, and special events throughout the week to meet fellow filmmakers and film lovers. Or be the first to discover new talent in our Future/Future section!

Our mission over these next ten days—and year-round—is to open the doors wider, to be more inclusive, and to work together to redefine by whom, for whom, and what cinematic storytelling can be.

I’d like to extend a special thanks to our donors, members, ambassadors, and sponsors—thank you for your tireless support, and we look to you to help us extend a warm welcome to new audiences, our esteemed jurors, visiting artists, guest curators, and, of course, our Cinema Unbound honorees. And a huge special thanks to our hard-working NWFC staff and endlessly creative Film Committee who have spent nights and weekends over these past six months to bring you this one-of-a-kind, world-class festival.

Bring your friends, invite the young folks in your life, and ask newcomers to join us. Together, let’s show off the best of our community, and the creativity that is uniquely part of the fabric of Portland. Let’s celebrate how lucky we are to be bringing the world to the Northwest and sharing the talents of the Northwest with the world.

—Amy Dotson
Director Northwest Film Center

festival INFORMATION

MISSION
The Northwest Film Center is a place where filmmakers and audiences explore our region and the world through cinema. In partnership with local arts councils and other arts, education, and industry partners, the Center works to develop media arts audiences, opportunities for artists and organizations, and community.

10 MINUTE RULE
Seats for advance ticket and pass holders are held until 10 minutes before showtime, when any unfilled seats are released to the public. Advance Tickets or Passes ensure that you do not have to wait in the ticket purchase line but do not guarantee a seat. In the case of a sold out show, arrival after the 10 minute window has begun. Your early arrival also helps screenings start promptly. Advance ticket holders who arrive within the 10 minute window but are not seated may receive a voucher that can be exchanged for a ticket at the Advance Ticket Outlet. Advance ticket holders who arrive before the 10 minute window and are not seated may obtain a refund. There are no refunds or exchanges for late arrivals. Arrival after showtime, or for missed screenings.

ACCESSIBILITY
The Northwest Film Center is committed to accommodating audience members of all abilities. We allow and encourage early seating for persons with mobility constraints and accessibility concerns. Please make yourself known to the house manager for assistance. All venues have accessible seating and restrooms and also offer assisted listening devices. Other accommodations may be available at certain venues or if requested in advance; contact the Northwest Film Center or visit nwfilm.org/accessibility for more information.

REFUNDS
There are no refunds or exchanges except in the event of a screening that has been oversold before 10 minutes to showtime or in the event of cancelled screenings. Refunds are not available for passes.

CODE OF CONDUCT
The Northwest Film Center is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, welcoming environment for volunteers, staff and audiences alike, both year-round and at the Portland International Film Festival. We value creating new experiences, exploring the world around us, and building community through film.

The Northwest Film Center is committed to ensuring that all Portland International Film Festival events and location are free from harassment, discrimination, and threatening or disrespectful behavior of any kind. Anyone who engages in such conduct will have their access to festival screenings, events, and venues revoked without notice or refund. If you have experienced or observed any violations of this code of conduct, or have any concerns, please alert a member of our staff immediately.

For the PIFF Volunteer code of conduct, please visit nwfilm.org/volunteer-code-of-conduct

By attending the Portland International Film Festival you agree to abide by this code of conduct. We appreciate your participation in cultivating a positive environment.

CONTENT WARNING
FILMS with potentially sensitive content are marked with Content Warning in this guide. For more information, please see the film’s listing at cinemaunbound.org.
The Northwest Film Center invites you to join us for a night of films and celebration to open the 43rd Portland International Film Festival!

General Admission: $25
Friend, New Wave, & Supporter Members: $20

At 5:00pm, short films America and The Giverny Document will play at both the Whitsell and Cinema 21. Then, at 7:00pm The Climb will screen at Cinema 21 and at 7:15pm Clementine will screen at the Whitsell. Directly afterwards, at 9pm, we will move to the Fred & Suzanne Fields (Sunken) Ballroom for the Opening Night Party. Your ticket to either feature will grant you access to both the 5pm screenings and the party.

THE CLIMB
Michael Angelo Covino | US

This buddy comedy starts with a simple premise—two life-long pals struggle to bike up a French mountaintop—but what comes next is anyone’s guess. With incredible cinematic reinvention, ambitious long-takes, dramatic time-leaps, and a cappella interludes, the audience is invited along for the ride, no matter where it leads. Each featured vignette drives us dramatically into the chaos of Mike (director Michael Angelo Covino) and Kyle’s (writer Kyle Marvin) tumultuous friendship, introducing us along the way to family, friends, and the foul-mouthed, fierce Marissa—all of whom might just undo Mike and Kyle's relationship...and unravel the whole elliptical story itself. Feeling wholly ensconced in both the experimentation of the American indie movement and European cinema’s formalism, The Climb is 100% original, unbound storytelling that honors what came before, and yet, like its characters, forges its own path forward. A Sony Pictures Classics Release. (2019, 94 mins., in English)

3/6, 7 PM | Cinema 21

THE GIVERNY DOCUMENT
Ja’Tovia Gary | US

Ja’Tovia Gary’s latest incredible work—following renowned short films like Cakes da Killa No Homo and An Ecstatic Experience—is a hybrid poem-film meditation on the bodily autonomy of Black women. Oscillating between direct animation, street interviews with women in Harlem, a thrilling Nina Simone live performance, and quasi-idyllic scenes in Monet’s Giverny, France gardens, The Giverny Document asks crucial questions about the physical safety of Black women today. (2019, 42 mins., in English)

SCREENS WITH AMERICA
Garrett Bradley | US

This exquisite short film imagines an alternate history of Black cinema from the silents to now—and is one of the year’s most stunningly gorgeous, poetic works. A Field of Vision release. (2019, 29 mins., in English)

3/6, 5 PM | Whitsell Auditorium & Cinema 21

CLEMENTINE
Lara Jean Gallagher | Oregon

In this debut narrative feature by Oregon filmmaker Lara Jean Gallagher, two young women, each hiding something, forge a close relationship within the confines of a tranquil lake setting. Looking to hide out after a break up, 29-year-old Karen breaks into her ex’s lake house, but what she's not expecting is to find the much younger Lana, who has also claimed the swimming dock for herself. As the two women interact over the following days, secrets, feelings, and revelations come to light that force Karen into a precarious situation in which her recently wounded heart could open a Pandora’s box. With stand-out performances by Otmarra Marrero (StartUp) and Sydney Sweeny (Sharp Objects, The Handmaid’s Tale), this quiet and transfixing story pushes the boundaries of what is acceptable, or unacceptable, outside the surroundings of love. An Oscilloscope Films release. (2019, 94 mins., in English)

3/6, 7:15 PM | Whitsell Auditorium & Cinema 21
The Cinema Unbound Awards celebrates internationally-renowned artists who are trying new things, thinking bigger, or pushing forward to transform the field and the world. This small-but-mighty band of internationally renowned artists, creatives, and curators work somewhere in the middle of the Venn diagram of cinema and unboundedness. So, while we see this as our highest honor, it isn’t really an awards show—it’s a celebration of folks whose unique points of view are causing ripples in the field. It is a bellwether, a fundraiser, and a rallying cry that things are changing locally and globally—and that change is good. Some of the honorees have ties to Portland, and some are just passing through, but all of them inspire and are leading us into new ways of seeing.

**AWARD HONOREES**

**JULIE GOLDMAN**
Julie Goldman is an Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning producer and executive producer of documentary features and series, including One Child Nation, Ringside, Abous: Small Enough to Jilt, Life, Animated, Weiner, Humans of New York, Murder in the Bayou, God Loves Uganda, Buck, Sergio, Art and Craft, Solitary, and Best of Enemies.

**ROSE BOND**
Rose Bond produces work at the juncture of animation, architecture, and the street. Her large-scale, site-specific installations navigate the allegories of place and illuminate urban space. She has received honors from the American Film Institute, The Princess Grace Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Bond’s paint-on-film animated films have been presented at major international festivals and are held in the MoMA Film Collection. She heads the Animated Arts Department at the Pacific Northwest College of Art.

**TODD HAYNES**
Todd Haynes is a director whose work tirelessly addresses questions of gender and identity. His first feature film, Poison (1995) won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance. Since then, he’s directed films such as Safe (1995), Velvet Goldmine (1998), and Far From Heaven (2002). In 2006, he had six actors play Bob Dylan in I’m Not There, then directed the HBO mini series Mildred Pierce (2011) before returning to film in 2015 with Carol. His most recent releases are the Cannes-selected film Wonderstruck (2017), and Dark Waters (2019).

**JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL**
John Cameron Mitchell co-created Hedwig and the Angry Inch, which earned two Tony Awards, Best Director at the Sundance Film Festival, and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actor. He directed Shortbus (2006); Rabbit Hole (2010), and How to Talk to Girls at Parties (2018). Mitchell appears on Hulu’s Shrift and CBS’s The Good Fight. His musical podcast series Anthem: Homunculus stars Glenn Close, Patt Lipone, Cynthia Erivo, Denis O’Hare, Laurie Anderson, and Marion Cotillard. He is currently touring The Origin of Love: The Songs and Stories of Hedwig.

**AMANDA NEEDHAM**
Amanda Needham is a two-time Emmy Award winning Costume Designer who has mastered the ability to transform characters while inspiring trends in fashion. Amanda’s work can be seen on critically acclaimed television shows Portlandia, Baskets, Documentary Now, and Shrift. Film work includes Wendy and Lucy, Paranoid Park, and Green Room.

**ROB CAMERON**
Rob Cameron makes animated films, installations, and video art. He has been included in numerous major international festivals and museums, including the 55th Venice Biennale, the 2016 Whitney Biennial, and MoMA. He has been the recipient of a Peter Epaulette Foundation grant, a Xenakis Mapping Fellowship, and a Creative Capital Foundation fellowship. In 2019, Cameron received the Guggenheim Fellowship in Film and Video. He is currently working on a feature film, Eau de Nil, in partnership with the dance company, Ate9.

**MICHEL REILHAC**
Michel Reilhac is a filmmaker and immersive media experience designer. He curates immersive media content and experiences for the Venice Biennale VR Competition and for Seriesmania in Lille (France). Reilhac is also the Head of Studies for the Venice Biennale College Cinema and VR, and the Founder of Made in Lamu, a creative residency hub on the island of Lamu, Kenya.

**RAJENDRA ROY**
In 2007, Rajendra Roy joined The Museum of Modern Art as The Celeste Bartos Chief Curator of Film, a role in which he leads the Museum’s year-round initiatives to exhibit and preserve works from its collection of over 30,000 titles. Mr. Roy is a co-chair of the selection committee for New Directors/New Films, presented annually with the Film Society of Lincoln Center. He has also served on juries for organizations such as the Sundance Film Festival, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, South by Southwest (SXSW) and the Film Independent Spirit Awards.

Tickets and more information: cinemaunbound.com/awards
special screenings & EVENTS

More than just a gathering of film lovers, PIFF elevates unique voices. During PIFF, audiences and artists forge new connections through events that push cinema’s boundaries. From this stage, PIFF strives to act as a platform for underrepresented voices and serves as a catalyst for cultural appreciation, conversation, collaboration, and community building.

THE EYESLICER SEASON TWO

A 13-episode TV show that blends the boldest new American filmmaking into mind-expanding, mixtape-style episodes that feature work from over 70 filmmakers. The show has been screened in hundreds of venues around the world, from MoMA to Rotterdam to Kansas City’s oldest porn theater. Free admission.

3/5 9 AM–9 PM | Northwest Film Center Lobby
3/11 AM–11 PM | Movie Madness Miniplex
3/7 7–8:30 PM | Whitsell Auditorium (short version)

MOBILE PROJECTION UNIT

Portland’s Mobile Projection Unit, a group of video-mapping artists, led by Fernanda D’Agostino and Sarah Turner, present two nights of large-scale video mapping at the Portland Art Museum. The first projection will take place on the side of the Portland Art Museum’s Mark building for Free First Thursday on Thursday, March 5, the day prior to the official start of PIFF. On Friday March 6, during the Opening Night party, the MPU will illuminate and activate the Suzanne Fields (Sunken) Ballroom with an array of sparkling and eye popping imagery, turning the inside of the ballroom into a living, breathing disco ball.

3/5 | 3/6 | Portland Art Museum

PRINCE’S PURPLE RAIN PRESENTED BY GUEST CURATOR GINA DUNCAN

One of the great music films of all time, Prince’s electrifying debut charts the rise of an exceptionally talented young man on the way to everlasting fame, starting from humble Minneapolis beginnings. Set against that city’s pulsating music scene, the film follows Prince as a struggling musician dealing with the drama of a challenging family life, while falling head-over-heels in love with Apollonia. Featuring scintillating performances of classics like “When Doves Cry” and “1” and of course the legendary title track, Purple Rain is an unforgettable ride through the mind of a musical and performative genius. (1984, 111 mins., In English)

3/7 9 PM | Whitsell Auditorium

ANTHEM: HOMUNCULUS LIVE LISTENING PARTY

A creative, multi-media feast featuring a tangled story of visits to other planets, talking tumors and song-filled telethons pitched to save the life of the protagonist, Gibran. This game-changing, audio-based story defies all conventions and expectations, with audiences experiencing a wild, 8-hour extravaganza of over 30 songs ranging from indie-rock to dream pop to avant-garde. Creator and star John Cameron Mitchell and guests in attendance.

3/8 1–7 PM | Kennedy School
Presented by Luminary

OFF-CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY

AUDIO/VISUAL PERFORMANCE BY GUEST CURATOR REESE BOWES

A late night extravaganza from a representative group of people from differing genres in electronic music—live production, modular techno, experimental, and lo-fi hip-hop. Performances by Coast2C, Wallfacem, Reliqs (Reese) and Jazz Omari with a backdrop of custom audio reactive visuals that Reese Bowes will be controlling during each of the sets. Tickets available at pcs.org.

3/12 10 PM | The Armory

BERIO’S SINFONIA BY ROSE BOND

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OREGON SYMPHONY

Animator and Cinema Unbound Award honoree Rose Bond presents a program of eye-popping animation set to and illustrating Luciano Berio’s monumental musical-cultural portrait of New York in the late 1960s. This video—mapped and projected in the gorgeous Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall—highlights the bubbling crucible of sounds, styles, ideas, texts, and moods of the vibrant decade. Conducted by Carlos Kalmar with the vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth, this is a synesthetic event not to be missed. Tickets available at orsymphony.org.

3/14 7:30 PM | 3/15 2:30 PM | 3/16 7:30 PM
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall
REESE BOWES

Reese Bowes is an accomplished, multi-disciplinary designer with over a decade of experience designing and testing products for the technology industry. He has held the one and only position as lead industrial designer for Intel Labs in North America, and most recently was a senior experience designer at Second Story in Portland. He generated close to 20 different patentable ideas for Intel during his tenure and has been granted several final and published patents from the US Patent Office in areas ranging from novel wireless charging devices on to possible interactions and navigation techniques in virtual reality. He was also a part of research initiatives and designed devices for fields including brain/computer interfaces, autonomous vehicles, wearable devices design for both humans and animals, artificially intelligent robotics for search and rescue, and immersive display technologies and experiences.

As a visual artist and musician, Reese has both had his work exhibited in Portland at galleries like PDX Contemporary and Disjecta, and has been performing across genres in electronic music at multiple venues across the city (ST, Holoicen, Disjecta, Ace Hotel, KEX ...). Recently, his work has been a combination of experimental electronic music performance with the addition of reactive and interactive visuals. On top of this, Reese was part of faculty at the Mako+Think+Code Lab at the Pacific Northwest College of Art and taught workshops in sculpting, drawing, and product design using VR. He also helped to coordinate and facilitate several hackathons that dealt with topics ranging from air quality monitoring and wildlife tracking, on to the mitigation of disinformation tactics in social media. He is currently a part of CETI - A Creative and Emergent Technology Institute, an offshoot of the Make+Think+Code Lab. His various works and music performances are showcased at reesebowes.com, vimeo.com/reliqs, soundcloud.com/reliqs, and mixcloud.com/reliqs.

Along with two short films during the festival (see p. 31 & 34), Reese presents OFF-CENTER STAGE, an audio-visual experience (see p. 9).

3/12 10 PM | The Armory

GINA DUNCAN

Gina Duncan is the Vice President of Film and Strategic Programming at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. In this senior programming role, Duncan helps to create and implement BAM artistic programming with the Artistic Director, the VP of Education and Community, and other members of the programming team. Duncan oversees programs of the BAM Hamm Archives and BAM Humanities department, and deploys those program streams to strengthen the institution’s mission, engage new audiences, and develop curatorial diversity. Driven by a programming mission of highlighting historically marginalized artists and expanding notions of cinematic canon, Duncan also leads BAM’s film programming and operations, guides first-run film and repertory programs, oversees the annual BAMcinemaFest showcase of new American independent film, and provides strategic and artistic direction to enhance BAM’s profile as a leading independent film center.

She is currently curator for the Film Lab at SPACE on Ryder Farm.

Duncan presents a screening of Prince’s PURPLE RAIN (1984)

3/7 9 PM | Whitsell Auditorium

MICHEL REILHAC

Michel Reilhac is a filmmaker and immersive media experience designer. He curates immersive media content and experiences for the Venice Biennale VR Competition and for Seriesmania in Lille, France. Reilhac is also the Head of Studies for the Venice Biennale College Cinema and VR and the Founder of Made in Lamu, a creative residency hub on the island of Lamu, Kenya. Reilhac shares expertise and insight into the expanding world of VR (see p. 39)

3/11 7 PM | Portland Art Museum’s Miller Gallery
**First Cow**

Kelly Reichardt | US

Kelly Reichardt once again trains her perceptive and patient eye on the Pacific Northwest, this time evoking an authentically hardscrabble early nineteenth century way of life. A taciturn loner and skilled cook (John Magaro) has traveled West and joined a group of fur trappers in Oregon Territory, though he only finds true connection with a Chinese immigrant (Orion Lee), who is also seeking a fortune. Soon the two collaborate on a successful business, although its longevity is reliant upon the clandestine participation of a nearby wealthy landowner’s prized milking cow. From this simple premise Reichardt constructs an interrogation of foundational Americana that recalls her earlier triumph *Old Joy* in its sensitive depiction of male friendship, yet is driven by a mounting suspense all its own. Reichardt again shows her distinct talent for depicting the peculiar rhythms of daily living and ability to capture the immense, unsettling quietude of rural America. An A24 release.

(2019, 122 mins., in English)

3/13 8:30 PM | Cinema 21

Sponsored by Oregon Film

**Onward**

Dan Scanlon | US

Two teenage elf brothers, Ian and Barley Lightfoot, go on a journey to discover if there is still a little magic left in the world, in order to spend one last day with their father, who died when they were young. Featuring voice talent by Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Chris Pratt, Tom Holland, and Octavia Spencer. (2020, approx. 100 mins., in English)

3/7 NOON | Whitsell Auditorium (free community screening)

3/7 5 PM | Hollywood Theatre (regular screening)

Presented by Disney & Pixar
ANNE AT 13,000 FT.
Kazik Radwanski | Canada
Only able to muster petty arguments with her colleagues and uncomfortable interactions with the kids, awkward daycare attendant Anne (the magnetic Deragh Campbell) waits for her life to start making sense as she approaches 30. But when Anne goes skydiving for her friend’s bachelorette party, an unfamiliar, freer version of herself comes to the fore—which leads to a blossoming relationship with Matt (Matt Johnson), whom she meets at the wedding. If Anne can channel the experience of skydiving with both feet planted firmly on the ground, perhaps she’ll finally be able to enter something resembling adulthood. Coupled with Campbell’s detailed performance, Radwanski’s transfixing camerawork and precise editing make Anne at 13,000 Ft. a wholly relatable glimpse at a woman on the brink. (2019, 75 mins., in English)
3/8 6 PM | Whitsell Auditorium
3/15 8:30 PM | Cinematic

BORRUFFA
Roland Dahwen | Oregon
Shot on 16mm film in long, thoughtful takes, Roland Dahwen’s debut feature tells the story of an immigrant family in Oregon whose life is disrupted when it’s revealed that the father has a second family. Reeling from this news, his wife Leonara must choose to either leave her husband, her dying mother, and her son, who has a mysterious illness—or to move on, and let her husband take responsibility for the family he’s destroyed. Haunted by memories, Leonara now struggles between her desires and her responsibilities. With a pace that mimics real life contemplations, Borrufa straddles the line between documentary and narrative, while the generational tragedies of human error slowly creep through the screen. In competition. World Premiere. (2020, 110 mins., in Spanish with English subtitles)
3/7 3 PM | Whitsell Auditorium
3/12 8:45 PM | Whitsell Auditorium
Sponsored by MUBI

ATLANTIS
Valentyn Vasyanovych | Ukraine
In the not-so-distant future, Eastern Ukraine’s Donbas region is a war-ravaged wasteland of epic proportions, littered with abandoned structures and broken souls. Ex-soldier Sergiy (Andriy Rymaruk), afflicted with PTSD, lives out his days in an abandoned building while working at a steel smelting facility. Following the facility’s closure (depicted in a stunning tableau recalling early cinema), Sergiy takes a macabre new job inspecting the damage wrought by the long war with Russia, where he meets a like-minded colleague (Liudmyla Bileka) and slowly gathers hope for a better tomorrow. Vasyanovych, one of the emerging creatives behind 2014’s The Tribe (a PIFF38 selection), delves deep into the aftermath of war, producing one of the year’s most devastatingly beautiful films. U.S. Premiere. Content warning: graphic images of war. (2019, 106 mins., in Ukrainian and English with English subtitles)
3/7 8:45 PM | Cinema 21
3/14 6 PM | OMSI
Sponsored by MUBI

THE FEVER
Maya Da-Rin | Brazil/France/Germany
This hypnotic debut fiction by documentarian Maya Da-Rin follows Justino (Regis Myrupu), an unassuming middle-aged security worker at the Manaus harbor in Brazil’s Amazonas state, and a member of the indigenous Desana people. While his daughter Vanessa (Rosa Peixoto) prepares to enter medical school, Justino, on his nightly bus rides home, begins seeing evidence of strange creatures in the woods near his home, and comes down with a mysterious fever. As the fever takes hold, Justino is drawn back to his ancestral lands. The contested spaces of Brazil’s northwestern region form the uneasy backdrop to this unclassifiable fever-dream—a work that radically centers indigenous oral histories as a vital form of storytelling, in stark contrast to the emergent fascism gripping the country. (2019, 98 mins., in Portuguese and Tukano with English subtitles)
3/8 6 PM | Cinematic
3/13 3:30 PM | Cinema 21

Sponsored by MUBI
PRESENT PERFECT
Shengze Zhu | US/Hong Kong

Live streaming to the internet (in particular to social media networks) has gained recent prominence in the US, despite having been a massive industry in China for some time, with an estimated half billion people regularly streaming their daily activities—as it increasingly becomes a tool of the surveillance state.

Present Perfect sees director Shengzhe Zhu fashioning a collage of these streaming clips into a mosaic portrait of Chinese society’s marginal figures in the always-online era. The film follows a group of “anchors” through humorous, touching, and strange behavior as they develop ever-greater followings—and look for any kind of connection. A perceptive and deftly constructed vision into the present-as-future where the internet has become synonymous with real life. (2019, 124 mins., in Mandarin with English subtitles)

THE WORLD IS BRIGHT
Ying Wang | British Columbia

Made over the course of ten years, Ying Wang’s premiere feature tells the tragic story of the Deng family, who receive the sudden news that their son, Shi-Ming, who had immigrated to British Columbia, has committed suicide and been buried on Canadian soil. Riddled with questions as to what exactly transpired, Qian Hui Dong and his wife Xu Mei Li travel to Vancouver, where they spend years and money attempting to uncover the circumstances surrounding his death. Using re-enactments and interviews, Wang’s docu-thriller guides the viewer down a rabbit hole of mental illness, the crushing wheels of bureaucracy, and the vulnerability immigrants can face without cultural coping mechanisms. U.S. Premiere. (2019, 110 mins., in English and Mandarin with English subtitles)

THE WORLD IS FULL OF SECRETS
Graham Swon | US

A gothic film infused with the contemporary moment, Graham Swon’s debut feature could be described as a horror film without the horror, but rather a creeping feeling of inevitability, vulnerability, and dread. Taking place over a single night’s sleepover in an unnamed suburban hamlet, five young women recount a series of increasingly grisly stories that conjure the brutality of American society as it relates to their personal fears and experiences. Built from excellent lead performances, hypnotic narration, tight close-ups—faces, hands, candles, hair, newspaper clippings, other ephemera—and edited in an impressionistic style that prioritizes dream-logic and atmospheric dissolves, The World is Full of Secrets is an up-all-night enrapturing nightmare. (2019, 98 mins., in English)

THIS IS NOT A BURIAL, IT’S A RESURRECTION
Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese | Lesotho/Italy

In visual artist Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese’s contemporary fairy tale, lonely 80-year-old widow Mantoa prepares for death, saying farewell to acquaintances and loved ones, and getting her affairs in order—she’s done with earthly existence. But when her village—a small, tight-knit community—becomes threatened with relocation when the government announces a massive infrastructure project for their land, Mantoa gains a renewed lease on life. So she takes up the cause of resistance, protecting everything she holds dear, including the burial grounds of her entire family—meanwhile sparking a wave of resistance in the community. An incredible sensory experience featuring saturated visuals and an evocative, unique score. This is Not a Burial is a stunning entry into Mosese’s already-impressive filmography. (90 mins., in Sotho with English subtitles)

Sponsored by MUBI
features

A wide-ranging selection of the best in contemporary global cinema—fiction, documentary, animation, and hybrid works representing the present and future of cinema, in all its various forms and styles.

ADVOCATE
Philippe Bellaiche & Rachel Leah Jones | Switzerland/Israel/Canada

Speaking truth to power is Israeli human-rights lawyer Lea Tsemel's specialty, both in life and in her legal practice, which defends Palestinians accused of crimes motivated by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. A controversial figure in her homeland, with parents who fled Europe during WWII and settled in Haifa, Tsemel has worked Palestinian defense cases for over fifty years—and in Israel, everyone has an opinion about her. This thrilling documentary follows Tsemel through the high-profile trial of a 13-year-old boy, also offering forms and styles.

AGAIN ONCE AGAIN
Romina Paula | Argentina

Argentine actress Romina Paula (best known from Matías Páez’s recent film) makes her impressive directional debut with the searching, wholly relatable Again Once Again. Actress and mother Romina (playing a lightly fictionalized version of herself) arrives at a crossroads, her husband (Esteban Bigliardi) working day-and-night and unable to engage with his family. So, Romina and her son Ramón travel to her mother’s house, with the goal to rediscover herself, reconnect with her past, and find a way forward. A beautifully framed and observed film about a woman uncomfortably between generations, one in which small gestures and casual comments take on immense weight—leading to new relationships, a developing sense of freedom, and honest reflections on life. (2019, 84 mins., in Spanish with English subtitles)

3/7 12:30 | Cinemagic
3/14 12:15 | Cinemagic

BALLOON
Pema Tseden | China

Master filmmaker Pema Tseden’s gorgeous, elliptical seventh feature springs forth from his novel, grappling with fundamental questions of life in its focus on a rural shepherding family at a crossroads, as China imposes their population-control policies on Tibet. New to contraceptives, Dargye and Drolkar, a weathered couple who already have two precocious boys, struggle to adapt to the Draconian rules. Drolkar’s sister, meanwhile, has become a Buddhist nun to avoid motherhood—especially with her novelist ex-boyfriend, who recently published a book about their relationship. When tragedy strikes, the family becomes embroiled in a series of huge questions—of spirituality, duty, free will, and reincarnation. (2019, 102 mins., in Tibetan with English subtitles)

3/11 8:30 | Cinema 21
3/15 3:00 | Cinemagic

Sponsored by Artists Repertory Theatre

BACURAU
Kleber Mendonça Filho & Juliano Dornelles | Brazil/France

The fictional Brazilian village of Bacurau—although, in reality, there are many like it—is the entrancing setting for this near-future dystopian film. The village matriarchs’ funeral jumpstarts the action, but when the townsfolk discover that Bacurau has literally been wiped off the map and that there are strange mercenaries (led by Udo Kier) descending on their homes, the diverse cast of neighbors, family, and friends must band together to protect what’s theirs—at any cost. Realized in a truly unpredictable cinematic style that infuses all manners of genre convention (while constantly breaking the rules), Bacurau is one of this year’s most thrilling works; an engrossing portrait of a modest place and way of life besieged by bloodthirsty external forces.


3/13 8:45 | Whitsell Auditorium
3/15 6:00 | Whitsell Auditorium

BAIT
Mark Jenkin | UK

Takin inspiration from mid-century British kitchen-sink dramas, Cornish filmmaker Mark Jenkin crafts an ingenious work of cinema through his hand-processed 16mm black-and-white images and impressionistic sound design. With their childhood home sold to a bourgeois London family as a vacation retreat, fisherman Martin (Edward King) uses their father’s old boat for tourist activities—a sign of the times. But as Martin becomes increasingly frustrated with the state of affairs, a family tragedy strikes, leaving the brothers at an existential crossroads in this hard-nicking yet dreamlike film about the gentrification and erosion of rural communities. (2019, 89 mins., in English)

3/13 8:45 | Whitsell Auditorium

BIRD ISLAND
Maya Kosa & Sérgio da Costa | Switzerland

An exceptionally unique hybrid film which takes us inside a bird sanctuary where injured animals rest, recover, and heal. Bird Island tells the story of Antonin, a young man just out of rehab who’s looking for a new lease on life, and who finds his purpose taking care of birds. But this is not a simple redemption story. Rather, Bird Island takes great inspiration from Robert Bresson’s diary of a Country Priest, intertwining Antonin’s fascinating inner life with those of the various birds at the sanctuary. Content warning: graphic content. (2019, 60 mins., in French with English subtitles)

3/12 8:45 | OMSI
3/13 3:30 | Cinemagic

Sponsored by TuGlide, Alliance Française de Portland, and Malti
CHILDREN OF THE SEA
Ayumu Watanabe | Japan

After being kicked out of her summer camp, Ruka staves off boredom by following a mysterious pull to explore her parents workplace: the local aquarium. There she encounters two strange boys—Umi and Sora—who were raised by dolphins, and thus have a biologically linking to the sea. Together they go on a stunningly epic, world-changing adventure as the sea creatures around them begin behaving very oddly in response to a bizarre, never-before-heard song. Contemplative, atmospheric, and breathtaking, this animated adaptation invites a curious examination of the mysteries surrounding humanity’s relation to the sea and nature. A GKids release. (2019, 110 mins., in Japanese with English subtitles)

3/8 12:15 | Cinema 21
3/15 12:30 | Cinema 21
Sponsored by the Consular Office of Japan in Portland

COLLECTIVE
Alexander Nanau | Romania/Luxembourg

In 2015, Bucharest nightclub Collective burned down during a concert, killing 27 and injuring many more, due to unsafe conditions and a simple lack of appropriate walls. Already an untold tragedy, a full-blown scandal erupts when dozens of bum victims were improperly treated in unsanitary, underprepared Romanian hospitals. Reporters at sports paper Gazeta Sporturilor—because the mainstream press was nowhere to be found—uncovered the scandal and sought to uncover the truth behind this now-blooming societal crisis. In this eye-opening documentary thriller, director Alexander Nanau meticulously paints a vibrant, unforgettable portrait of a country and people who have been through so much, the lingering effects of which continue to roil the world-changing adventure as the sea creatures around them begin behaving very oddly in response to a bizarre, never-before-heard song. Contemplative, atmospheric, and breathtaking, this animated adaptation invites a curious examination of the mysteries surrounding humanity’s relation to the sea and nature. A GKids release. (2019, 110 mins., in Japanese with English subtitles)

3/8 12:15 | Cinema 21
3/15 12:30 | Cinema 21
Sponsored by the Consular Office of Japan in Portland

THE CORDILLERA OF DREAMS
Patricio Guzmán | France-Chile

Legendary Chilean documentary filmmaker Patricio Guzmán returns to close his recent trilogy (with Nochebuena for the Light and The Pearl Button) after he grapples with post-dictatorship Chilean society, politics, and the memory of traumas inflicted under Pinochet. Focusing on the Andes Mountains (“the Cordillera”) and their key place in Chilean identity, Guzmán fashions another incredibly perceptive, beautiful film about not just people and their daily struggles, but about the natural world’s effect on our lives—often imperceptibly, other times quite obviously. Through a series of important interviews with artists, writers, and filmmakers, The Cordillera of Dreams paints a vibrant, unforgettable portrait of a country and people who have been through so much, the lingering effects of which continue to roil the country. An Icarus Films release. (2019, 84 mins., in Spanish with English subtitles)

3/9 6:00 | Cinematic
3/11 3:30 | Whitsett Auditorium

Sponsored by Portland Film Office

CLEMENTINE
Lara Jean Gallagher | Oregon

In this debut narrative feature by Oregon filmmaker Lara Jean Gallagher, two young women, each hiding something, forge a close relationship within the confines of a tranquil lake setting. Looking to hide out after a break-up, 29-year-old Karen breaks into her ex’s lake house, but what she’s not expecting is to find the much younger Lana, who has alsoclaimed the swimming dock for herself. As the two women interact over the following days, secrets, feelings, and revelations come to light that force Karen into a precarious situation in which her recently wounded heart could open a Pandora’s box. With stand-out performances by Otilia Marrero (Star Meup) and Sydney Sweeney (The Handmaid’s Tale), this quiet and transcendent story pushes the boundaries of what is acceptable, or unacceptable, outside the surroundings of love. Winner of the Best Narrative film at the Bend Film Festival. An Oscilloscope Films release. (2019, 94 mins., in English)

3/6 7:15 | Whitsett Auditorium
3/14 8:45 | Cinema 21
Sponsored by Portland Film Office

DOGS DON’T WEAR PANTS
I.-P. Valkeapää | Finland/Latvia

Years after a life-changing loss, a still-heartbroken surgeon, Juha (Peetu Streng), takes his teenage daughter to get her tongue pierced for her birthday. While waiting, he explores the building and unexpectedly finds himself in a dungeon, pinned to the ground by dominatrix Mona (Krisztina Koszmeny). Thus begins Juha’s murky, pain-filled path through his grief. At times both riotously funny and hard to watch, this masterfully acted and visually shot film is not to be missed. About dogs. Rather, Valkeapää finds a refreshingly nuanced, sex-positive, compassionate balance in his depiction of S&M—which is so infrequently achieved on film. Content warning: slight gore. A Shudder release. (2019, 105 mins., in Finnish with English subtitles)

3/12 7:00 | Hollywood Theatre
3/15 8:30 | Cinema 21

FRANK AND ZED
Jesse Blanchard | Oregon

Featuring an all-puppet cast, Frank and Zed tells the story of a doomed village, whose King made a fatal deal to stop a demon from destroying the village years before. Now, as the prophecy comes true upon the King’s death, the villagers brace for an orgy of blood. Living in a destroyed castle not far from the village are Frank and Zed, a Frankenstein-type monster and his brain-eating companion. As the villagers prepare for their impending doom, the two monsters are pulled into a war of epic, puppet-mutilating proportions. This debut feature film by Jovian Blanchard is a hilarious tale of misguided fears, innocent brain consumption, and a loving friendship. This debut feature film by Jovian Blanchard is a hilarious tale of misguided fears, innocent brain consumption, and a loving friendship. A Shudder release. (2019, 90 mins., in Spanish with English subtitles)

3/8 8:30 | Cinema 21
Sponsored by Portland Film Office

GIRAFFE
Anna Nele Hartmann | Denmark/Germany

On the Danish border with Germany, a massive infrastructure project promises to displace hundreds of families, some in ancestral homes and mostly of retirement age—people with nowhere to turn and no history elsewhere. And yet, the project continues unabated. Traveling to the area to interview the affected families and gather stories of a bulldozed past, anthropologist and photographer Dara (Lisa Löwen Kongi) encounters a series of heartbreaking stories—memorializing people, relationships, and places soon to be swept into the dustbin of history. Meanwhile, Bar’s burgeoning relationship with a Polish construction worker (Jakub Bierczak) keeps her rooted in the place and creates complex emotions, excavated against the intense natural and industrial backdrop of the contemporary globalized world. A Japanese release. (2019, 97 mins., in English, Danish, German, and Polish with English subtitles)

3/8 8:30 | Whitsett Auditorium
Sponsored by MUBI Nordic Northwest, and the Scan Design Foundation

FIRE WILL COME
Oliver Laxe | Spain/France/Luxembourg

In a rural Galician village subsistant on the land but increasingly becoming a tourist destination, a lone figure walks through the rain along the road to town, returning to his family home after many years away. That figure is Amador (Amador Arias), just released from prison and looking for a fresh start. Encountering his elderly mother Benedita (Benedita Sanchez) and former acquaintances who are now trying to open a bed-and-breakfast, Amador carries a trove of secrets and desires, some of which the townshfolk know—including his past as a convicted arsonist. Featuring bravura performances by the two leads, both making their acting debut, Fire Will Come is Laxe’s most potent film to date, a smoldering tale of redemption and fury. A Kickstarter release. (2019, 90 mins., in Spanish with English subtitles)

3/7 6:00 | Cinematic
3/10 3:30 | Cinemagic
Sponsored by Pro Photo Supply

Sponsored by the Romanian American Society

Sponsored by Portland Film Office

Sponsored by MUBI Nordic Northwest, and the Scan Design Foundation

Sponsored by the Consular Office of Japan in Portland

Sponsored by the Romanian American Society

Sponsored by Portland Film Office
HAI DA MODERN
Charles Wilkinson | British Columbia

I WAS AT HOME, BUT…
Angela Schancké | Germany/Serbia

HOME IN THE WOODS
Brandon Wilson | Oregon

IT MUST BE HEAVEN
Elia Suleiman | France/Quatar/Canada/Turkey/Palestine

KILL ME TO DEATH
Danny Denai | Washington

THE LONG WALK
Matic Do | Laos

MARONA’S FANTASTIC TALE
Anca Damian | France/Romania/Belgium

LAST NIGHT I SAW YOU SMILING
Kavich Neang | Cambodia

Phnom Penh’s famed White Building is a massive site of public housing that has stood in the backdrop of Cambodian history since its construction in the early 1960s. It was demolished in 2017 after years of neglect, in particular since the fall of the Khmer Rouge. Before its demolition, filmmaker Kavich Neang, who was born and raised in the complex, returns to document the dismal conditions and pay witness to the thick cobwebs of memory held by the building’s numerous tenants who have nowhere to go and, in many cases, have lived there for decades. Underscoring the importance of public housing on the structures of resistance to repressive regimes—and to building community—cost Night I Saw You Smiling excavates crucial remembrances of era passed. (2019, 78 mins. in Khmer with English subtitles) Screens with: PAST PERFECT, Jorge Jácome, Portugal. “Many cities or countries have a distinct malaria. They are places that could be Portugal, so sunk in a painful longing of the past, and where each tension of the present is only the tip of an iceberg that is explained in successive retreats that can go straight until origin of the species, at least”—Pedro Perim, (2019, 23 mins., in Portuguese with English subtitles)

3/10 8:30 | Cinemagic
3/12 1:00 | Whitsett Auditorium

PIFF 43 MAR 2020
FEATURES
MARTIN EDEN
Pietro Marcello | Italy/France/Germany

Adapted from Jack London’s 1909 novel of the same name, this years-spanning epic portrait follows the eponymous Martin Eden (Luca Martellini) in one of the most committed performances of the year by youthful vigor to something entirely different in his later years. An aspiring writer, Martin’s poverty-stricken upbringing forms the basis for his experiences coming-of-age and his emphatically defended political and literary positions—perhaps all in the service of courting a wealthy young student (Jessica Cressy), who looks to escape the stifling bourgeois existence of her parents. A film without a time, Martin Eden dives deep into the obsessions, paranoid, and joy of a man who, through a subtle process of transformation, becomes something altogether unidentifiable to his younger self—and, ultimately, to his country. A Kino Lorber release. (2019, 125 mins., in Italian with English subtitles)

THE MONEYCHANGER
Federico Vigore | Uruguay/Argentina/Germany

Uruguay’s foremost filmmaker, and one who’s quietly becoming globally renowned, Vigore delivers his finest to date with the unfortunatly funny The Moneychanger. The film focuses on the singular character of Hubertus Braise (portrayed with aptitude by Daniel Hendler), who decides to capitalize on Uruguay’s poor economic situation in the middle of the 20th century. A man with few morals and even fewer barriers to success, Hubertus decides to get in the foreign money laundering business, but as he works his way up the ranks and saves an ever-greater share of profits, he’s tempted to destroy everything he’s ever believed in. The seductive lure of unfettered capital and the corruption of one ordinary man within its grasp are at the heart of The Moneychanger—a searing critique of runaway greed and underdeveloped economic policy. (2019, 97 mins., in Spanish with English subtitles)

ONE MAN DIES A MILLION TIMES
Jessica Oreck | US

In this incredibly powerful, urgent documentary, Cree filmmaker Jessica Oreck traces the case of Colten Boushie, a young Cree man who was murdered by the white farmer Gerald Stanley on August 9, 2016. Stanley’s subsequent murder trial and acquittal under shadowy circumstances acted as a lightning rod for widespread debate about the personal and institutional racism that permeates Canadian society—ultimately leading to inaction and hand-wringing from officials. Following Boushie’s brave family through intensifying testimony—including a historic moment of the UN—while interweaving her own personal history and the broader history of indigenous erasure in the Americas, Hubbard layers multiple complex stories together to create an intensely beautiful, and perhaps hopeful, film about profound injustice and the search for a life free from violence. (2019, 98 mins., in English)

OVERSEAS
Sung-A Yoon | Belgium/France

OfW (Overseas Filipino Workers)—a diorama that exists thanks to brutal economic conditions—number over 12 million and account for a sizable portion of the country’s GDP. Young women working in the service trades, particularly as servants for the global economic elite, comprise a large subset of the OFW population. Documentarian Sung-A Yoon writes a non-descript training facility in which Filipino women diligently prepare for their work to come, enacting all variety of roles—including those of their future employers—in a bid to be at their most stoic before they set foot in a mansion or luxury apartment building. In this touching, empathy-driven film, Yoon lightly fictionalizes situations to poignant effect, shining a light on the female experience of immigration via a particularly hidden form of precarious labor. (2019, 80 mins., in Filipino and English with English subtitles)

THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD
Armando Iannucci | UK/US

The Personal History of David Copperfield re-imagines Charles Dickens’ classic ode to grit and perseverance through the comedic lens of his award-winning filmmakers—giving the Dickensian take new life for a cosmopolitan age with a diverse ensemble cast of stage and screen actors from across the world. Emmy® winners and Oscar® nominees Armando Iannucci (In the Loop, The Death of Stalin, HBO’s Veep) and Simon Blackwell (In the Loop, HBO’s Succession) lend their very heart-filled storytelling style to revisiting Dickens’ iconic hero on his quirky journey from impoverished orphan to burgeoning writer in Victorian England. A Searchlight release. (2020, 119 mins., in English)

PAHOKEE
Ivette Lucas & Patrick Bresnan | US

Following last year’s exceptional short documentary Skip Boy (a PIFF42 selection), with Pahokee-up-and-coming filmmakers Lucas and Bresnan fashion a detailed, engaging portrait of four high school seniors in the rural Florida Everglades. A nuanced portrait of the many pressures faced by youth in contemporary America, the film also takes ample time to show us joy, from sporting events to school dances and beauty contests, revealing a complex community saturated with solidarity and deep insecurity about the future. The filmmakers thoughtfully observe the community, refusing to editorialize, but rather, allowing the lives lived—replete with happiness, sorrow, confidence, and anxiety—to shape their work. Pahokee amplifies the realities of youthful experience and gives us an unforgettable portrait on the cusp of a new decade. (2019, 110 mins., in English)

ROCKS
Sarah Gavron | UK

British-Nigerian teenager Rocks (Bubly Bakray in an unforgettable debut role), a young Black woman with a bright future but a troubled home situation, is forced to take care of her younger brother, Emmanuel; when her oft-absent mother fully disappears one day. Turning to her magnetic group of close friends for support, Rocks faces several hurdles—both in school and in ensuring Emmanuel is well taken care of (and stays unaware of their mother’s situation). The filmmakers worked for over a year with the young woman in the film (mostly non-actors) to develop the story organically and from their own lived experiences, hopes, joys, and sorrows. The resulting brilliant slice-of-life film poignantly details the struggles that many face under contemporary societal structures. (2019, 98 mins., in English)
SOPE JONES
Jesse Barr | Oregon/California

In this debut feature by Jesse Barr, executive producer by Nicole Hollander, 16-year-old Sophie Jones (played by Jessie Barr’s cousin, Jessica Barr) is grappling with the recent death of her mother. Physical intimacy with another person becomes the only way for Sophie to feel anything. She tries to keep her relationships strictly for her own empowerment—and as a means of distraction. Ultimately Sophie learns to keep her relationships strictly for her own empowerment becomes the only way for Sophie to feel anything. She tries by Nicole Holofcener, 16-year-old Sophie Jones (played by In this debut feature by Jessie Barr, executive producer by Nicole Hollander, 16-year-old Sophie Jones (played by Jessie Barr’s cousin, Jessica Barr) is grappling with the recent death of her mother. Physical intimacy with another person becomes the only way for Sophie to feel anything. She tries to keep her relationships strictly for her own empowerment—and as a means of distraction. Ultimately Sophie learns to keep her relationships strictly for her own empowerment becomes the only way for Sophie to feel anything. She tries by Nicole Holofcener, 16-year-old Sophie Jones (played by

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STATE FUNERAL
Sergei Loznitsa | Netherlands/Lithuania

In master filmmaker Sergei Loznitsa’s latest foray unearthing troves of archival material for chillingly contemporary ends, he methodically ushers us through the unprecedented March 1953 funeral of dictator Josef Stalin. The funeral, which drew several million citizens to Red Square, was a procession of mourners, while numbed speeches pay homage to Stalin, who was succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev. In contrast, at the funeral of the first woman ever to hold the title of First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Olga Benário Prestes, the women’s movement is represented by one lone marcher. In this follow-up to Oskouei’s unforgettable documentary Time: Between Privilege and Poverty (a PIFF40 selection), the filmmaker returns with a personal yet political film that grapples with the ongoing political and cultural struggle for women’s rights. Oskouei’s rough-hewn style is complemented by a film that is both raw and poetic, capturing the heart-wrenching and inspiring stories of those who continue to fight for their rights and the rights of others.

THUNDERBOLT IN MINE EYE
Sarah Sherman & Zachary Sherman | Oregon

In this honest coming-of-age tale, fourteen-year-old Harper enters high school and sparks a relationship with her older brother’s best friend. Tilly. Much different than their innocent relationship while growing up across the street, State Funeral proves Loznitsa’s expert command of the communist project’s audio-visual material. A MUBI release. (2019, 120 mins., in Japanese and Uzbek with English subtitles)

SUNLESS SHADOWS
Mehrdad Oskouei | Iran/Norway

In this follow-up to Oskouei’s unforgettable documentary Time: Between Privilege and Poverty (a PIFF40 selection), the filmmaker returns with a personal yet political film that grapples with the ongoing political and cultural struggle for women’s rights. Oskouei’s rough-hewn style is complemented by a film that is both raw and poetic, capturing the heart-wrenching and inspiring stories of those who continue to fight for their rights and the rights of others.

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SOBEY
Justine Triet | France/Belgium

Justine Triet’s third narrative feature is the unpredictable, often hilarious, and quintessentially French career. For Sibyl, the drama and contradictions inherent to Sibyl often hilarious, and quintessentially French, a film

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VITALINA VARELA
Pedro Costa | Portugal

In this follow-up to Costa’s incredible Horse Money (a PIFF ’19 selection), Vitalina Varela, a widow from Cape Verde, travels to the Fontanhas neighborhood of Lisbon for her husband’s funeral after 25 long years apart—having learned of his death only three days before her arrival. Vitalina must piece together the last two decades of his life, as she encounters his friends, co-workers, neighbors, and the local priest (portrayed by Costa regular Venturo). In her search for answers, closure, and a new beginning in Fontanhas; Bridging past and present with his haunting, shadow-heavy visual compositions that conjure the chiaroscuro paintings of the Renaissance more than anything in contemporary cinema, Costa sculpts a quiet, intense ghost story around Vitalina’s unforgettable portrayal of a woman unmoored, but sealing peace. A Grasshopper Film release. (2019, 104 mins., in Portuguese with English subtitles)
3/12 6:00 | OMSI
3/15 8:45 | OMSI

A WHITE, WHITE DAY
Hlynur Pálmason | Iceland/Denmark-Sweden

Pálmason’s sophomore feature is an entrancing, artfully constructed follow-up to Winter Brothers (a PIFF ’19 selection), in which grief, love, and revenge commingle head-on the complexities of motherhood in a post-war situation. All the while, suppressed post-war trauma envelops Lume, compelling her to reconcile past horrors with her present condition and unknowable future. Kastrati’s poignantly autobiographical story, laced by her immensely talented sister Sevdije, powerfully confronts head-on the complexities of motherhood in a post-war context. (2019, 97 mins., in Albanian with English subtitles)
3/8 12:30 | Cinemagic
3/10 1:00 | Whitsett Auditorium

THE WILD GOOSE LAKE
Diao Yinan | China

Quickly becoming one of China’s greatest contemporary filmmakers, Diao Yinan follows his slow-burn police procedural Black Coal, Thin Ice (a PIFF ’18 selection) with this neon-drenched escape-from-the-mob tale. Set on the fringes of Wuhan, the film follows Zhou Zenon (Hu Ge), a gangster run afoul of his syndicate after a late-night competition between thugs goes horribly awry, leading to an all-out, life-or-death manhunt through rain-slicked city streets, shadowy back alleys, and tucked-away noodle shops. His allies enlist ‘bathing beauty’ Liu Aia (Jiao Lun Mei) as a companion for Zhou; the two engaging in a fascinating dialogue and forming a tender, trusting relationship as they spirit through the inky black night. A contemporary thriller of the highest order, The Wild Goose Lake renders China today as a game of existential cat-and-mouse, with surprises around every corner. A Film Movement release. (2019, 113 mins., in Wuhan dialect with English subtitles)
3/9 8:30 | Cinema 21
3/14 8:30 | Cinemagic

ZANA
Antoneta Kastrati | Kosovo/Albania

Experienced documentarian Kastrati makes her fiction debut with the emotional story of Lume (Adriana Matoshi), an Albanian woman living in a small, conservative village following the War of the late 1990s. Pressured by her callous husband and mother-in-law to bear a child, but unable to do so, Lume begrudgingly turns to shady folk medicines and mystic healing in an attempt to help the situation. All the while, suppressed post-war trauma envelops Lume, compelling her to reconcile past horrors with her present condition and unknowable future. Kastrati’s poignantly autobiographical story, laced by her immensely talented sister Sevdije, powerfully confronts head-on the complexities of motherhood in a post-war context. (2019, 97 mins., in Albanian with English subtitles)
3/8 3:00 | Cinemagic
3/14 3:00 | Cinemagic
shorts one

EPHEMERA
3/7 12:30 | Cinema 21
Total running time: 76 mins.

MANIAC LANDSCAPES
Matthew Wade | Idaho
Imbued with pinks, purples, and blacks, organic life is brought to life in a seemingly abandoned house hovering in the middle of nowhere. (2019, 7 mins.)

IMBUED LIFE
Ivana Bosnjak & Thomas Johnson | Croatia
A young woman uses her talent for taxidermy to "return" the animals to their natural habitat. However, the true search for the answers begins when she starts finding a roll of undeveloped film in each of the animals she treats.”—Ivana Bosnjak, Thomas Johnson (2019, 12 mins., in Croatian with English subtitles)

THE MARVELOUS MISADVENTURES OF THE STONE LADY
Gabriel Abrantes | Portugal/France
Tired of being a banal architectural ornament, a sculpture runs away from the Louvre to confront real life on the streets of Paris. (2019, 20 mins., in French with English subtitles)

THE MARSHAL’S TWO EXECUTIONS
Radu Jude | Romania
The film confronts two different views of the execution of General Ion Antonescu, Romania’s leader during the Second World War. (2018, 10 mins., in Romanian with English subtitles)

JUDY’S WORLD
Salise Hughes | Washington
An experimental revision of Scottie’s fever dream in the Hitchcock classic Vertigo. (2018, 4 mins.)

shorts two

CHRONICLES
3/9 6:00 | Whitsell Auditorium
Total running time: 86 mins.

THE DEEPEST HOLE
Matt McCormick | Washington
In its quest to best the United States by digging a deeper hole into the Earth’s crust, the Soviet Union also breached, what many believed to be, a gateway to Hell itself. (2020, 12 mins.)

IMBUED LIFE
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PINCH
Diego Maclean | British Columbia
A man discovers a superpower that could either change or destroy everything. (2019, 4 mins.)

THE SOUND OF A WILD SNAIL EATING
Elisabeth Tova Bailey | US
“When a woman is bedridden by a mysterious pathogen, a snail takes up residence on her nightstand; together, they share an intimate journey of survival and resilience, expanding the boundaries of the bedroom.”—Elisabeth Tova Bailey. (2019, 15 mins.)

WE ONLY ANSWER OUR LAND LINE
Woodrow Hunt & Olivia Camfield | Oregon
An experimental essay film exploring the character of the Alien, non-linear indigenous experience, and the material specificity of digital video to resist the violence of Settler Colonialism. (2019, 6 mins.)
SHORTS

LOVE BIRDS
Ashley Mosher | Oregon
An American woman, discouraged with her marriage, travels deep into the Amazon, where she meets Noe, an Amazonian painter who teaches her about true longing. (2019, 8 mins.)

MAGNIFICENT
Dawn Jones Redstone | Oregon
A blind date goes awry when past fears and memories are mixed with the overwhelming power of the Pacific Northwest. (2019, 12 mins)

CENTURY: SUMMER
Stephanie Hough | Oregon
A portrait, shot on 16mm, of the director’s uncle as he heads towards retirement, on the family farm in St. Paul, Oregon. (2020, 10 mins.)

SOMETIMES ALL OF SUMMERTIME
Linda Fenstermaker | Washington
An exploration of the innocence, beauty, and energy in the natural rhythms of a season. (2019, 9 mins.)

LONGING
3/11 8:30 | Whitsell Auditorium
Total running time: 83 mins.

COLD HOLY WATER
Vanessa Renwick | Oregon
A poignant exploration of grief, stemming from the 17 days an orca mother pushed her dead calf through the Salish Sea in 2018. (2019, 6 mins.)

YOU WERE AN AMAZEMENT ON THE DAY YOU WERE BORN
Emily Vey Duke & Cooper Batterby | US
A visually stunning work following a woman’s whole life from birth to death as she struggles with loss, youth and old age, mental illness, and her insights and use of dark humor to persevere. (2019, 53 mins.)

RESISTANCES
3/12 6:00 | Whitsell Auditorium
Total running time: 92 mins.

FAST HORSE
Alexandra Lazarowich | US
“Siksika horseman Allison RedCrow struggles to build a team with second-hand races and a new jockey, Cody BigTobacco, to take on the best riders in the Blackfoot Confederacy at the Calgary Stampede.” —Alexandra Lazarowich (2018, 14 mins.)

SIGNAL 8
Steven Liu | Hong Kong/UK/US
“They said a storm is calling this way but we’re still waiting. Lives carry on in Hong Kong as traces of civic upkeep morph into sites of remembrance. Decorative structures mimic nature then occasionally malfunction—transforming common spectacle to warning signs. The light urges to tell us something but can’t quite get its point across. Patience tasted for another day. An exercise in anticipatory energy.” —Steven Liu (2019, 14 mins.)

STORIES FLOATING ON THE WIND
Nao Yoshigai | Japan
“Manazuru—A Coastal Town in Kanagawa, Japan. This City Cycling Fantasy Film uses nonfiction stories and anecdotes gathered from the locals as inspiration, and turns them into a fictional story about a girl that cycles around the town.” —Nao Yoshigai (2018, 9 mins., in Japanese with English subtitles)

SHORTS four

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA
Caroline So Jung Lee | British Columbia
Shot on 16mm, this visually expressionist film highlights South Korean women facing misogynist practices in the criminal justice system. (2019, 11 mins.)

BLACK BUS STOP
Kevin Jerome Everson & Claudrena N. Harold | US
“Students reclaim a popular gathering spot on the campus of the University of Virginia.” —Picture Palace Pictures. (2019, 9 mins.)

YOU WERE AN AMAZEMENT ON THE DAY YOU WERE BORN
Emilly Vey Duke & Cooper Batterby | US
A visually stunning work following a woman’s whole life from birth to death as she struggles with loss, youth and old age, mental illness, and her insights and use of dark humor to persevere. (2019, 53 mins.)

FORGIVE US OUR DEBT
Howard Mitchell | Oregon
A terrified 14-year-old, growing up in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood, hides foreclosure notices from his family—only to have his worst fears realized. (2019, 14 mins.)

THE MAKING OF “FROM MAXVILLE TO VANPORT”
Sika Stanton | Oregon
A documentation of the eight-month journey the Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble took in creating works about the Oregon towns, Maxville, a logging town in Eastern Oregon built in 1923, and Vanport, built in 1942 just North of Portland for shipyard workers housing significant African-American and Immigration populations at a time when many Oregonians were openly hostile to them. (2019, 10 mins.)

SWINGUERRA
Barbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca | Brazil
“In the sports court of a school, dancers rehearse under the watchful eye of a choreographer. Tensions haunt personal desires as they are observed by a rival troupe.” —Julian Ross. (2019, 25 mins., in Portuguese with English subtitles)
SPOOKY GIRLS: BEFORE THE FALL PRELUDES
The Hand and the Shadow | Oregon
An episodic puppet animation about a group of five teenage witches who conjure up more magic than they can handle. (2020, 9 mins.) *presented by guest curator Reese Bowes.

THE WOODSIDE SISTERS PRESENT
Addison Woodside | Oregon
Two sisters push forward in their dream to make a movie despite one of them getting married and the other graduating from college. (2019, 20 mins.)

YOU CAN CALL ME DAD
Alana Waksman | Montana
When a man in his forties with a strained relationship with his mother returns home after her death, he is greeted by his boyfriend, a Reiki practitioner he's never met. (2019, 12 mins.)

LIBERTY
Faren Humes | US
“Alex and Milagros deal with the disappearance of a loved one’s memorial amidst great life upheaval.”—Faren Humes. (2019, 17 mins., in English)

SHE RUNS
Qiu Yang | China/France
In an ordinary Chinese winter, a small city junior high student, Yu, tries to quit her school aerobic dancing team. (2019, 19 mins., in Wu & Mandarin with English subtitles)

BREAKAWAY
Jenny Lee Gilmore | British Columbia
A young hockey-obsessed girl dreams of one day becoming a superstar like her idol Barry Wong, but her dreams are continually dashed by her bulky brother and responsibilities at home. (2019, 9 mins.)

EXAM
Sonia K. Hadad | Iran
A teenage girl becomes involved in the process of delivering a pack of cocaine to its client, and getting stuck in a weird cycle of occurrences. (2019, 15 mins., in Persian with English subtitles)

MIKEY
Duane Shrode | Washington
Mikey Bishop is a twelve-year-old dominant junior high school wrestler who just also happens to be blind. (2019, 11 mins.)

THE OTHER BORDER
Justin Chroma Zimmerman | Oregon
High school student Gerardo Hernandez—raised in the United States since six months of age—was one of over 100 undocumented workers arrested by ICE in Ohio on June 5, 2018. After spending almost two months in prison before being released, he is now scheduled to be deported in early 2020. (2019, 9 mins.)

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**future/forward**

future/forward celebrates Northwest teens who are using their voices, stories, and technology to share creative perspectives on how the world works, or should work, as they see it. In its 43rd year as a regional teen showcase, future/forward brings youth perspectives to this year’s PIFF viewing experience and invites us to join together to acknowledge the individual emerging artists, teachers, mentors, and families who are the backbone of our vibrant youth media community.

Thanks to this year’s panel of jurors who culled through entries from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and British Columbia to make the selections:

Andre Middleton is a community activist on issues of inclusion and equity and a community connector within the arts. He is the Executive Director of Friends of Noise, a non-profit that seeks to create an all-ages art venue that is youth-oriented and youth-driven.

Spencer Garland is a visual artist. Both influenced and alienated by the blockbusters of his upbringing, he is interested in creating new Black narratives and showcasing Black experiences. Garland runs BRENDA ARTS, an after-school film program geared towards POC youth and involves film theory and production.

Rebecca Alamo Gonzales is a screenwriter, script editor, indie producer and youth filmmaker mentor who is passionate about thought-provoking, compassionate content. She writes across multiple genres and formats with in both English and Spanish.

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**selections**

**LIVING WITH ANA**
Dir. Marley Rankin with Saia Dugan, Violet Collins, Olivia Flego Wirth / Ballard High School / Seattle, WA
(ANIM) Being supported through a battle with anorexia (10:22)

**WANNABE**
Dir. Emilio Torres with Sierra Foster, Tobias Romero, Sebastian Duran, Chloe Reygers / Jackson Yeamans, Ansleigh Coplin / Seattle, WA
(NAR) Examining the cultural effects of toxic masculinity (11:44)

**POLESKI**
Dir. Brendan Hickey with Owen Russell, Ransom Miller / Studio Subtext / Seattle, WA
(ANIM) An obscure artist is offered his very own gallery (10:00)

**FULL TIME BACHELORS**
Dir. Caemon Blakely with Sebastian Johnson, Fraser Hannay, Aidan Cumming-Iecher / The Cinematheque- Indie Filmmakers Lab / Vancouver, BC
(NAR) America’s favorite 90’s sitcom, teen style! (7:06)

**THE GOLDEN CICADA**
Dir. Nathan Eaton-Benterud / Reel Youth / Peninsula, BC
(ANIM) An exploration of domination, destruction, and transformation. (3:37)
panels & WORKSHOPS

Unless otherwise noted, all panels and workshops will take place at:
SWIFT
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3/7
11 AM
FUTURE OF DISTRIBUTION
Industry professionals discuss the current state of distribution, including factors driving change, and future possibilities.

1 PM
DOCS ON THE RISE
Academy Award nominee and Emmy winner Julie Goldman and Academy Award nominee and Portland documentary filmmaker Irene Taylor Brodsky discuss opportunities for expanded creativity in emerging marketplaces.

3/10–12
5 PM – 7 PM | Jackknife, 614 SW 11th Avenue
MEET THE EXPERTS (HAPPY HOUR) – FREE!
Informal, happy hour networking opportunities to meet with industry professionals who provide assistance and services to independent filmmakers.

3/8
11 AM – 3 PM
THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICS UN-CONFERENCE
A participatory town hall about fostering an inclusive and ethically conscious media-making community with break-out sessions on topics such as power dynamics on-set, setting contractual boundaries, and practicing empathy in production.

3/15
11 AM
ABSURDISM IN PERFORMANCE
Embracing the chaotic and bizarre as story and character.

1 PM
COMPARTMENTALIZING CREATIVITY
Leading creatives discuss the art of retaining artistic integrity while employed in the commercial world.

3 PM
EYES + EARS
A conversation about the creative intersection between the film and music communities, and how filmmakers and music professionals can collaborate.

5 PM | Portland Art Museum’s Fred and Suzanne Fields Ballroom
ALTERED SPACES
Mobile Projection Unit collaborators Sarah Turner and Fernanda D’Agostino demonstrate video mapping technology using software to overlay guests’ 2D visual media onto a 3D world.
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**ARGENTINA**

- **Again Once Again** - Roxana Paule, Argentina
- **Brazzil** - Salma molina, Chile/France

**BELGIUM**

- **Oversung** - Sonny aaron, Belgium/France
- **Sara** - Carlos Simon, Italy/Poland

**BRAZIL**

- **Bacurau** - Kleber mendonça filho & julio dornelles, Brazil/FRANCE
- **The Fever** - Manoel carlos, Brasil/France/Germany
- **Sowin: We Will Stand Up** - Tanha habibi, Canada

**CANADA**

- **Anna at 15,000 ft** - Kasia Radewan, Canada
- **At the Bottom of the Sea** - Caroline Sur Jing Lee, British Columbia
- **Breakaway** - Jenny Lee Gimenez, British Columbia
- **Tasha Habibi, Canada**
- **Wing, Wing, British Columbia**

**CHINA**

- **Marona’s Fantastic Tale** - Liu xiaoxia, China
- **We Will Stand Up** - Tanha Habibi, Canada
- **Wing, British Columbia**
- **A White, White Day** - Xueyi Palmschen, Iceland/Denmark/Sweden

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

- **The World Is Full of Secrets** - Henri Plouck, Czech Republic
- **The World is Free** - Xueyi Palmschen, Iceland/Denmark/Sweden
- **The World is Bright** - Xueyi Palmschen, Iceland/Denmark/Sweden
- **Breakaway** - Jenny Lee Gimenez, British Columbia

**FINLAND**

- **Judy's World** - Xiao ren, China
- **The World is Free** - Xueyi Palmschen, Iceland/Denmark/Sweden

**FRANCE**

- **A White, White Day** - Xueyi Palmschen, Iceland/Denmark/Sweden
- **The World Is Bright** - Xueyi Palmschen, Iceland/Denmark/Sweden
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- **Breakaway** - Jenny Lee Gimenez, British Columbia

**GERMANY**

- **ValentinoValse** - Leonhard wiesendegger, Germany

**HUNGARY**

- **The Other Border** - Attila Horn, Hungary
- **The Other Border** - Attila Horn, Hungary

**IRELAND**

- **The Other Border** - Attila Horn, Hungary
- **The Other Border** - Attila Horn, Hungary

**ITALY**

- **Martin Eden** - Pietro marcello, Italy/FRANCE/Germany
- **This Is Not a Burial, It’s a Resurrection** - Matteo faina, Italy

**NETHERLANDS**

- **Children of the Sea** - Ayumi watanabe, Netherlands

**PORTUGAL**

- **The Moneychanger** - Eka sakina, France/Germany/Canada/Portugal/Palestine

**SINGAPORE**

- **Kosovo** - Zana antonietta kastelli, Kosovo

**SPAIN**

- **The Giverny Document** - Jerzy lew, Spain/France

**SWEDEN**

- **All Cats Are Grey in The Dark** - Laia sanchez, Spain/France
- **Maddie** - Antoinette kastelli, Kosovo

**SWITZERLAND**

- **The World Is Full of Secrets** - Henri Plouck, Czech Republic
- **The World is Free** - Xueyi Palmschen, Iceland/Denmark/Sweden
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**TURKEY**

- **Black Surf** - Ayda zengin, Turkey/Germany

**UK**

- **The Personal History of David Copperfield** - Armando iannucci, UK/US
- **The World is Full of Secrets** - Henri Plouck, Czech Republic

**UNITED KINGDOM**

- **The Personal History of David Copperfield** - Armando iannucci, UK/US
- **The World is Full of Secrets** - Henri Plouck, Czech Republic

**URUGUAY**

- **Bait** - Carolina checa, Uruguay/Argentina
- **You Call Me Dad** - Alana waksman, UK/US
- **You Were An Amazement on the Day You Were Born** - Vicky lea de la Rama, UK/FRANCE/CZECH REPUBLIC

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**FEATURES**

- Abridging: Roger stock, Oregon
- Advocates: Philippe bellesi & Rachel lewis, Juneau, Canada
- Again Once Again: Bonita paule, Argentina
- All Cats Are Grey in The Dark: Laia sanchez, Spain/France
- America: Garrett weaver, Pennsylvania/Canada
- Anna at 15,000 ft: Kasia radewan, Canada
- Atlantis: valerio costa, Musselmans
- Bacurau: Kleber mendonça filho & julio dornelles, Brazil/FRANCE
- Bait: Mark jenkin, UK
- Ballon: Pichard jean, China
- Bird Island: Mayra kloss, свідчення дива
- Borrova: Roland dayan, Switzerland
- Children of the Sea: Ayumi watanabe, Netherlands
- Clemente: Laura gillaggin, Canada
- The Climb: Michael angelo cohen, USA
- The Fog Will Come: Owen law, Spain/Luxembourg
- First Cow: Kelly Reichardt, US
- Frank and zede: Jene basses, Oregon/California
- The Giverny Document: Jerzy lew, Spain/France
- Portugal: The Moneychanger: Eka sakina, France/Germany/Canada/Portugal/Palestine
- Kosovo: Zana antonietta kastelli, Kosovo
- The Long Way: Mattie do, Laos
- The Moneychanger: Eka sakina, France/Germany/Canada/Portugal/Palestine
- Kosovo: Zana antonietta kastelli, Kosovo
- The Long Way: Mattie do, Laos
- You Can Call Me Dad: Alana waksman, UK/US
- You Were An Amazement on the Day You Were Born: Vicky lea de la Rama, UK/FRANCE/CZECH REPUBLIC
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**FEATURES & SHORTS**

- **The Eyeslicer Season Two**
- **Fire Will Come**
- **Marona's Fantastic Tale**
- **Haida Modern**
- **Children of the Sea**
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- **Present.Perfect.**
- **This is Not a Burial, It’s a Resurrection**
- **The World is Full of Secrets**

**PANELS & WORKSHOPS**

- **Future of Distribution**
- **Transnistra**
- **State Funeral**
- **Beyond Cancel Culture**
- **Anthem: Homunculus Live Listening Party**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS**

- **The Eyeslicer Season Two**
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- **Haida Modern**
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**OPENING NIGHT SCREENINGS**

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- **Mobile Projection Unit**
- **Future of Distribution**
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- **State Funeral**
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