



5th ANNUAL

SOCIALLY RELEVANT™
FILM FESTIVAL NY

2018

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and be moved.

7 DAYS 35 COUNTRIES 70 FILMS

March 16-22
**Cinéma
Village**

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2018 SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York

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WELCOME



Dear SRFF Friends,

Five Years already! SR Socially Relevant™ Film Festival New York
welcomes you from its new home, Cinema Village, one block away
from where it was born five years ago.

As we strive to raise awareness for everyday social issues through
the powerful medium of cinema, our hope is that through the 207
films from 33 countries screened to date we can make a difference by
promoting tolerance, understanding, acceptance, and love. We strive
to become a platform for Socially Relevant™ film content as we shine
the spotlight on filmmakers who choose to tell human interest stories.

In the current socio-political climate and the gender-based power dynamics in the film industry,
a strong platform for showcasing new works is needed more than ever.

This year, we bring you a new selection of 70 films from 35 countries dealing with a diverse
range of social issues that touch upon the lives of ordinary and extraordinary people, just like
yourselves. Fifty percent of our slate is women-directed not by quota, but by virtue of the quality
of the work. We are growing, yet remaining accessible, equitable, grassroots, and hopefully
impactful in the long run and wide reach.

We, at SRFF, are grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of our past four editions.
This is a collective effort and without everyone's help, it is not possible to bring it to fruition.
I am deeply grateful to our board members, the dedicated festival team, and our interns who
came from China, France, the Ivory Coast, and the US, working tirelessly to bring you this fifth
edition, and our new group of volunteers, here to help during the festival week.

Special thanks to the talented SRFF filmmakers, past and present, for choosing to tell socially
relevant stories and resisting commercial dictates. They are now under the scrutiny of our Inter-
national Jury members who have agreed to view and rate the selected films despite their busy
schedules. Thank you jury members and filmmakers.

This year, the festival's educational component continues to offer free workshops, spotlight pa-
nels, roundtables, and script readings in addition to industry panels. Words of appreciation and
gratitude are due to our distinguished panelists who have generously accepted to donate their
time, and share their hard-earned valuable knowledge to inspire a new generation of filmma-
kers. Thank you, panelists.

We are proud to enjoy the support and endorsement of foundations, granting bodies and bu-
sinesses such as the New York State Council of the Arts, The Lower Manhattan Cultural Coun-
cil, The German Consulate General of New York, Fairway Law Firm in Paris, and the presence
of our supporting partners who share our vision. Needless to say, we would not have been able
to chart this journey without their generous help and backing of our funders, and without the
complicity of our partners. Thank you, sponsors and partners!

And, it would all have been totally meaningless and futile without you all, our dear audience
members, film lovers, socially responsible citizens, and now, friends. This is your festival!

Take a seat and be moved.

Nora Armani
Founding Artistic Director
SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York

COMING SOON TO THEATERS

LOU

ANDREAS-SALOMÉ
THE AUDACITY TO BE FREE

"Sharp as an eagle and courageous as
a lion, and yet an utterly feminine girl."
- Friedrich Nietzsche

"All feminine frailties, and perhaps most
human frailties, were foreign to her."
- Sigmund Freud

"Lou - how splendid you are!"
- Rainer Maria Rilke

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WELCOME



The City Of New York
Mayor's Office Of Media And Entertainment

March 2018

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2018 SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York!

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the festival, an outstanding achievement for the festival organizers as well as the diverse filmmakers whose work is showcased. Throughout this festival, you'll have the opportunity to see a wide range of films, each raising awareness about the most pressing issues currently facing our society. Considering New York City's growing reputation as an international hub for production, there's no better place for this festival to call home. The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment supports filmed media in its many forms through our Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting, a one-stop shop for all production needs in New York City, and through NYC Media, the official TV, radio, and online network of the City of New York.

Each year, our office works with hundreds of film, television, digital, and commercial projects that film on location throughout the five boroughs. We provide these productions with a number of useful resources, including the "Made in NY" Discount Card, which provides special offers for film industry professionals at more than 1,200 local businesses. We also offer educational and workforce development programs, such as our ongoing "Made in NY" Talks series, which welcomes leaders from a variety of media and entertainment sectors to share expertise about their industries with interested New Yorkers. Additionally, our "Made in NY" Marketing Credit program offers promotional support for projects in which at least 75% was produced in New York City.

Our agency's newest initiatives to ensure greater representation in the film and TV industry include the Made in NY Writers Room, a mentorship program for TV writers from diverse backgrounds, launched in collaboration with the Writers Guild of America East and the NYC Department of Small Business Services; funding of over \$8 million enabling the creation of the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, the first public graduate school of cinema in New York City, and a school committed to cultivating new and emerging voices in film; a \$1 million grant to CUNY J-School's Center for Community and Ethnic Media to bring a key sector of New York City's media landscape into the digital age; and the Made in NY PA Training Program, which has trained more than 600 low income New Yorkers, many of whom were unemployed, for entry level jobs on film and television sets.



Julie Menin, Commissioner
Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment

SR Socially Relevant Film Festival™ New York is a 501 c 3 not-for-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

AWARDS

AWARDS

Vanya Exerjian Award

Empowering Women and Girls

The **Vanya Exerjian Award** is presented to a film or a person in recognition of their work in raising awareness towards violence against women and girls. It is named in commemoration of Founding Artistic Director Nora Armani's late cousin and uncle, victims of a violent hate crime.

The Narrative Grand Prize

The Candy Factory offers the winning narrative feature film free consultation advice and a first look distribution option.

The Documentary Grand Prize

IndiePix Unlimited offers digital distribution on IndiePix to the winning documentary. **Cinema Libre Studio** offers exclusive, one-on-one 90-min. consultation and 25% off on post work. **SundanceNOWDoc Club** offers a two-year subscription and DVD's.

Short Docs and Narratives

IndiePix Unlimited offers 5-6 curated films digital distribution through IndiePix Unlimited listed under the SR Socially Relevant Film Festival collection. **Final Draft** offers scriptwriting software certificates to winners.

Three Script Writing Awards

Final Draft offers certificates to download latest scriptwriting software. **InkTip** offers free listing to the winning scripts on InkTip.

Finalist Scripts

RunRunRun!

The Lives Of Abbie Hoffman
by Michael J. Shapiro

Chasing Honey

by Laura Shamas

The Man Who Killed Hitler

by Fausto Politti

East of Mecca

by Dr. Sheila Flaherty

American Snake Pit

by Dan Tomasulo

Shepherding Cassie

by Mike Oborn

Riding on Duke's Train

by Ken Kimmelman

VAROUJAN STORYTELLING AWARD

The award is offered across all categories for the talent of storytelling in memory of a great raconteur V.A.S. Ekserdjian.

Special Jury Mentions of Best Actor and Best Actress:

Announced at the awards ceremony.

WFCC - Women Film Critics Circle - Award

WFCC jury give this award to a film of their choice.

The SRFF Official Awards Trophy

The Molten Bowl Designed and donated by Michael Aram.

POND 5

Certificates for purchasing stock footage from the Pond 5 collection are presented to the winners of the Documentary and Narrative feature categories.

City Winery

Special wine from City Winery offered to the winners as a testimony of good wine and good times - SRFF 2018 Fifth Edition labelled - courtesy of City Winery.

Surprise Awards

Every year the festival surprises the filmmakers with awards in special categories, such as Brave Documentarian, Social Justice Advocate, Lifetime of Inspiration, Ensemble work and similar awards.



"I am proud to support the mission of the SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York. Movies have a unique ability to bring social issues to life and films like these can truly change lives, I should know."

—Erin Brockovich

PANELS & PANELISTS



Smartphone filmmaking workshop

When: March 15, 7:00 pm

Where: Thurgood Marshall Room—80 La Salle Street, NY, NY 10027

Instructor: Ching Juhl—*Filmmaker/educator/concert violist.*



Editing your documentary footage

When: March 17, 10:15-11:30am

Where: School of Visual Arts MFA Social Documentary Film Theater—136 West 21st street, 1st floor, New York, NY 10011

Panelists: E. Donna Shepherd – *Award-winning editor, Mar Trevino – Filmmaker, Eve Cuyen – Cinematographer filmmaker, editor and sound designer, Peter S. Crosby – Producer and cyclist, Cheree Dillon – documentary editor*
Moderator: Christopher Atamian: *storyteller, journalist and director.*

Distribution revisited

When: March 17, 11:45 - 1:00 pm

Panelists: Wendy Lidell: *Kino Lorber, Inc, SR. VP Theatrical/Nontheatrical Distribution & Acquisitions. Jeremy Workman – Creative Director of Wheelhouse Creative, Valerio Caruso: Director Cineuropa, Simon Taufique – NYC producer, composer and festival programmer Erika Peek: Indiepix, Erika Edwards* **Moderator:** Christopher Atamian: *storyteller, journalist and director.*



SAG-AFTRA low-budget film production

When: Tuesday, March 20, 10:30 am–12:30 pm

Where: SAG-AFTRA NY Local, 1900 Broadway, 5th Fl, New York, NY 10023



NY Loves Film Roundtable

When: Friday, March 20, 1:30 pm

Where: Cinéma Village

Meet the team from the New York State Governor's Office of Motion Picture & Television Development for a roundtable discussion.

Sustainable filmmaking

When: March 21, 1:15 pm

Where: Cinéma Village

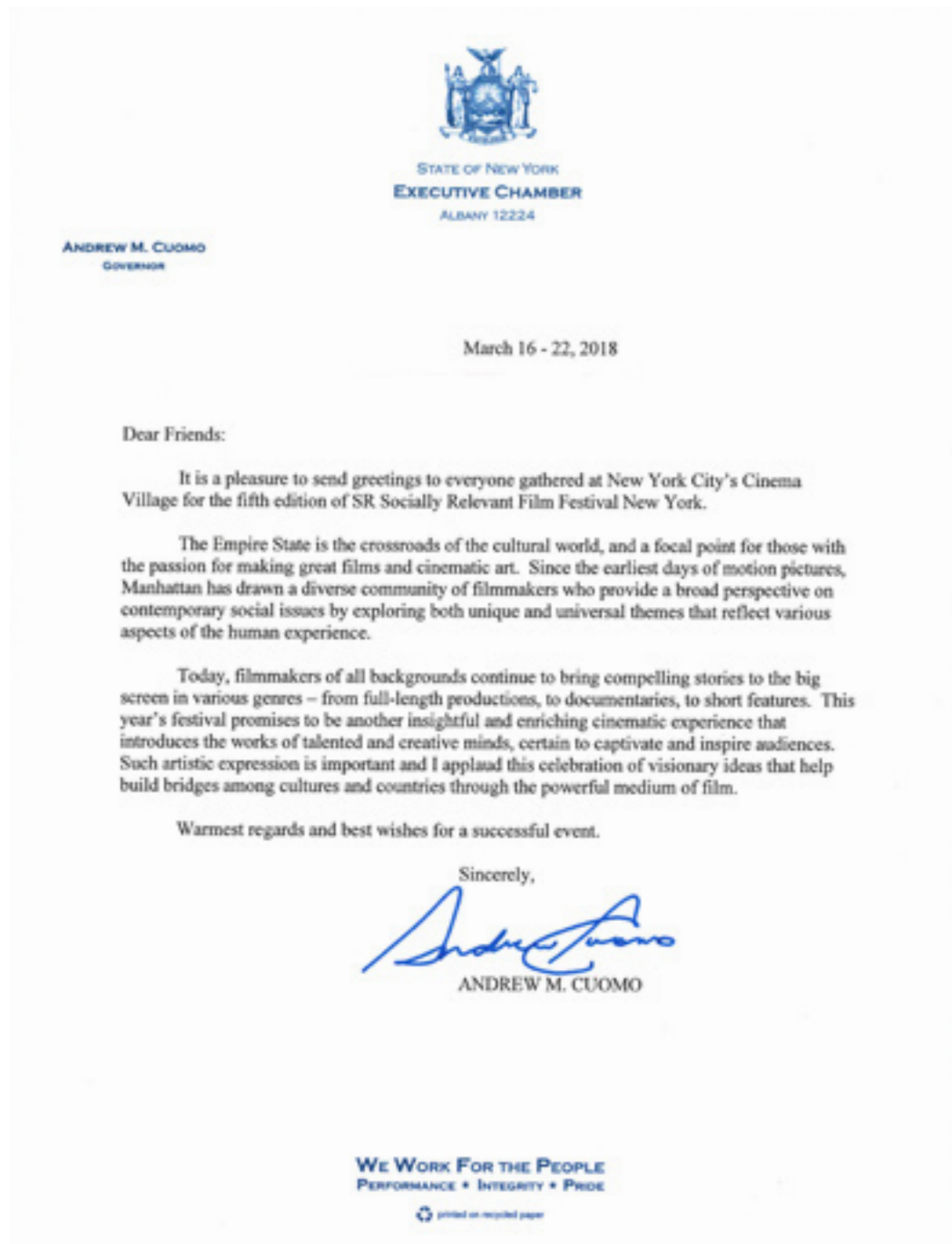
Panelists: Mick Reed, Tina DiFelicianantonio - *Naked Eye Productions*
 Jennifer Cherrier—*Professor Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Brooklyn College, Moderator:* Lucie Tripon: *writer.*

Script reading—excerpts from the 7 finalist scripts

When: March 22, 3:30 pm | **Where:** Cinéma Village

Directed by: **Jillie Simon**—*award-winning actor/singer-songwriter/producer*
 Read by: **Adela Maria Bolet, Tom Bozell, Natalie Hoy, Alex Emanuel, Barry Hirsch, Asa James, Jason Kellerman, Brian Linden, Dominic Marcus, Chris McDonnell, Chiko Mendez, Melissa Murray, Celester Rich, Doug Rossi, Jillie Simon, Fred Velde, Jonathon Wexler, Dwayne Daniels II**

All panels and workshops take place at Cinéma Village unless otherwise specified.



SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

Spotlight panel | Monday, March 19 6:00pm Cinéma Village
WOMEN | GENDER EQUALITY | HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Screening of short films followed by a panel discussion



panelists:

Ambassador Swanee Hunt

Founding Director of the Women and Public Policy program Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Ruchira Gupta

Founder and Executive Director of Apne Aap

Simone Monasebian

Director New York UNODC Office

Felicia Greenfield

Actress (Homeland, House of Cards)

Jessica Vale

Filmmaker (Small Small Thing)

THE SELLING OF INNOCENTS (10-minute excerpt)

Ruchira Gupta, William Cobban

60 minutes • Documentary • Produced in association with CBC • 1996

The largest red-light district in India — perhaps the world — is The Falkland Road Kamatipura area of Bombay. The young girls who work in the brothels are modern-day sex slaves. In fact, many of them are Nepalese children valued for their exotic looks. Ultimately, the film is a riveting account of the hope that exists in the most desperate of situations.

FILMS FROM THE UN MEDIA PARTNERSHIP UNDPI
India: Girls for sale | 2016 | 13'

In India — a child is abducted every 8 minutes. Most are girls. One in three is never found.

Lebanon: Women Carve Their Destinies | 2016 | 8'

In Lebanon, women are breaking out of traditional economic roles, and, with a little help, reviving traditional skills to shape their own futures.

Canada: A History of Violence | 2016 | 10'

Indigenous women — Canada is facing an under-reported crisis. Since 1980, more than eleven hundred indigenous women and girls have been murdered or gone missing.

Saving Women's Rights in Iraq | 2017 | 9'

Iraq's elections have helped move it towards democracy, but the on-going violence, extremism, and chaos still threaten the nation's most vulnerable citizens: women and children.

SPOTLIGHT EVENTS

Spotlight workshop | Sunday, March 18 10:15am CRS NY

A Propos Theatre | Bergen, Norway

Action learning with the arts

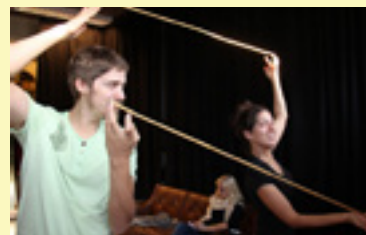
Theatre workshop with bamboo sticks

workshop conducted by:

Jan-Kåre Breivik – Presentation of the film

The Fall of the Bamboo – and the Rise of a Community

Solvei Stoutland – Bamboo Session – Physical Ensemble Work


Spotlight performance | Wednesday, March 21 5:30pm Cinéma Village
**TIME IN LIVE SOUND & SILENT MOTION PICTURES:
POWER DYNAMICS IN WEIMAR CINEMA**

World Premiere

Electro-acoustic Film Score and Excerpts from

Weimar Films collage:

Composed, edited and performed by Yael Acher

'KAT' Modiano

A “real-time” response to a time-based artifact of cinema from the Weimar era, Modiano transforms the tradition of live music accompaniment of silent films to a contemporary level of experimentation. The film collage features individual and social power dynamics through motion picture motifs that intensify social relevance.



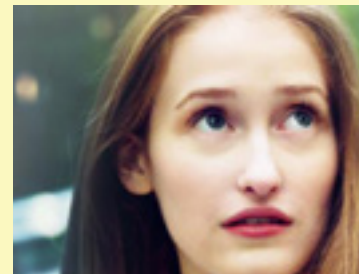
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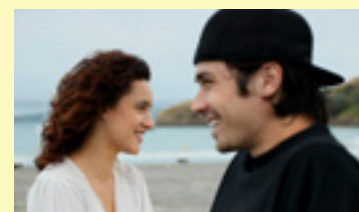
Ruchira Gupta, Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Felicia Greenfield, Maro Chermayeff, Simone Monasebian, Jessica Vale, Yael Achet 'KAT' Modiano, Rose Vicelli Gustine, Jason Ward, Valerio Caruso, Jordan Mattos Erica Peek Anjali Sharma, Stevan Pelton, Amanda Nguyen, Adam Moore, Louis Proyect, Michael Aram, Christopher Pelham, Catherine Manning, Ara Araz, Nurhan Becidyan, Hayk Arsenian, Anita Naserian, George Yacoubian, Elizabeth Akian, Talene Kachadourian, John Kazanjian, Dirk Robertson, Jillie Simon, DJ Stacy, Arthur Marblestone and the Management of Cinema Village, Lee and Adriel, jury members, panelists, our catering partners, all our volunteers, interns, and all the wonderful friends and supporters who helped us, and who we may have inadvertently failed to mention. THANK YOU!

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION



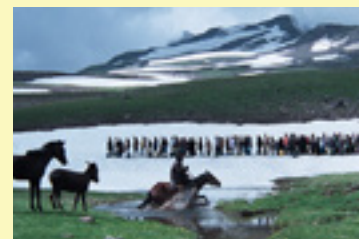
DARCY – NY PREMIERE

Heidi Philipsen & Jon Russell Cring | USA | 2017 | 96'
It's summer break and fifteen-year-old Darcy works in her family's motel, a seedy operation on the edge of town. Sustaining the motel is the practice of taking in occupants who until recently were incarcerated—an arrangement that Darcy's parents make with the Department of Corrections for a price. Those desperate strangers lurking the halls sleep for a night or more, never knowing who is shooting up, or who is leading a man to a working-girl next door.



FIND YOUR VOICE – WORLD PREMIERE

Chris Herd | Australia/New Zealand | 2016 | 96'
For young Maori rapper Elvis "E" Pineaha, winning the lottery marks the beginning of an unexpected journey. Follow E as he travels from Australia to New Zealand to find his voice against the backdrop of a music scene tainted by money and greed. Family and Maori culture ultimately become a guiding light for E as he realizes the power of identity through his roots.



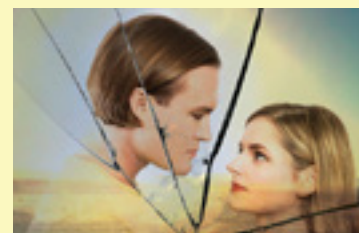
HOT COUNTRY, COLD WINTER – NY PREMIERE

David Safarian | Armenia/The Netherlands/Germany | 2016 | 104'
A tale of a man and a woman suffering near-absurd circumstances during a total energy crisis right after the break down of the Soviet Union. Their narratives, recollections, imagination, and dreams are depicted in this powerful feature film dealing with a period of modern history, not so far away from our times.



LOU ANDREAS-SALOMÉ: THE AUDACITY TO BE FREE – NY PREMIERE

Cordula Kablitz-Post | Germany | 2016 | 113'
A published novelist, poet and essayist, Salomé's desire to live a life free from convention scandalized society but spurred genius and passion in others, including Friedrich Nietzsche, Paul Rée and her lover, the poet Rainer Maria-Rilke. Under the tutelage of Freud, she became the first female psychoanalyst.



LOVE & EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN – NY PREMIERE

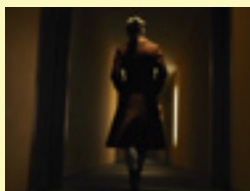
Jeremiah Kipp | USA | 2017 | 100'
The intertwining stories of love, family, and relationships in the Hamptons, which are put to the test when a summer party ends with a sexual assault, causing the relationships to implode. What unravels in Love & Everything In Between.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

**ARMENIANS OF THE WORLD—New York Premiere**

Carmen Labaki | Lebanon/Armenia/Syria/Turkey | 2017 | 56'

On a journey that documents the pain and suffering of the Armenian people from Turkey to Syria, to Lebanon and Armenia; the film tells the stories of agony, death, and lost dreams. It records the lives of the Armenian people, resurrecting their voices from the graves, despite the dangers and taboos encountered during the filming.

**CAUSE OF DEATH: UNKNOWN—New York Premiere**

Anniken Hoel | Norway | 2017 | 85'

After director Anniken Hoel's sister Renate dies mysteriously while being treated with certain medications, Hoel probes into the circumstances and uncovers a web of dark goings on in the world of prescription anti-psychootics. Her query sparks a global investigation into the crimes of "Big Pharma".

**DOING NOTHING ALL DAY—US Premiere**

Margarete Hentze | Germany | 2017 | 63'

A young mother starts the search for the ideal school for her son and discovers the tradition of democratic schools, where they practice self-determined education – a system that seeks to employ the freedom of choice to the process of education. She speaks with scientists and advocates of the democratic education movement in Germany, England and Israel.

**ELLIS ISLAND: THE MAKING OF A MASTER RACE IN AMERICA—World Premiere**

Robert Tutak | USA | 2017 | 69'

"We in the United States have an opportunity, which is unique in history, for the practice of eugenic principles. Our country was founded and developed by picking men and women. And today, by selecting our immigrants through proper immigration legislation, we have the power to pick out the best specimens of each race to be the parents of our future citizens."

**HOTEL EVEREST—New York Premiere**

Claudia Sobral | USA | 2017 | 39'

Follow the efforts and relationship of two unlikely peace activists: Eden Fuchs, a retired Israeli army colonel, and Ibrahim Issa, a Palestinian born in a refugee camp, joined by the Idahoan founders of the Centre for Emerging Futures, Whit and Paula Jones at the Hotel Everest. This Palestinian owned business nestled between Bethlehem and Jerusalem provides a haven where both Israelis and Palestinians are equally welcome and free to meet together.

**INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE: TREET PIANO—New York Premiere**

Maureen Ni Fiann | United Kingdom | 2017 | 42'

Acoustic pianos that were once at the heart of our community lives are being dumped. Thousands go to landfill every year. In this film we see how some get rescued and are put on the street for anyone to play. Street pianos become a magnet for a rich diversity of players and bring human connection into urban spaces.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

**JERUSALEM IN LINE—New York Premiere**

Amir Har-Gil | Israel | 2015 | 60''

Since the 1967 six day war, and the annexing of East Jerusalem to Israel, its Arab population has lived in a sort of limbo, being recognized as Israeli residents but not as Israeli citizens. This film explores this state of perpetual limbo through the lives of three East Jerusalem inhabitants; a sick man in need of medical treatment, a girl seeking recognition by Israel and a man attempting to rebuild his demolished home. The film offers an understanding of the impact the Israeli Palestinian conflict has on regular people striving to lead lives under extraordinary circumstances.

**KEEP BELIEVING—New York Premiere**

Wouter de Kuijper | The Netherlands/India | 2017 | 52''

Frans Baartmans left his home in The Netherlands in 1979 to live in India amongst the Dalits in the slums of Nagwa, Varanasi. Being born a Dalit means you are born without a voice and excluded from society and all basic human rights. Together with this community, Frans is fighting the powers that be on a daily basis, aiming for equality, acknowledgement and dignity. The right to exist.

**SANDS OF SILENCE: WAVES OF COURAGE – New York Premiere**

Chelo Alvarez-Stehle | USA/Mexico | 2017 | 52'

A 15-year quest to expose the underworld of sexual exploitation and trafficking from Asia to the Americas leads world-reporter Chelo Alvarez-Stehle back to the windswept beach where her childhood ended and family secrets began. As Chelo documents the transformation of sex trafficking survivors, she meets Virginia Isaías, a Mexican woman whose life is engulfed in a cycle of sexual exploitation. Escaping with her 6 months old daughter from a sex trafficking ring in Mexico, Virginia crosses the US border in search of freedom.

**SHINERS—New York Premiere**

Stacey Tenenbaum | Canada | 2016 | 78'

Take a journey around the world to learn about one of its most overlooked professions. Meet men and women from Tokyo, La Paz, New York, Toronto and Sarajevo who have devoted their lives to cleaning our shoes. A character-driven documentary, Shiners introduces you to people and their families who have a valuable lesson to teach about job satisfaction, and in turn, life satisfaction.

**STICKMAN—New York Premiere**

Margaret Galbraith | USA | 2017 | 63'

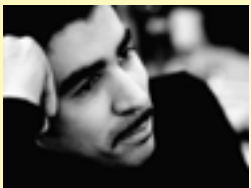
Stickman is the incredible story of Roosevelt Wilkerson's journey off the street and the transformative — and unlikely — friendships he makes along the way. Stickman demonstrates that love and compassion hold no economic or racial boundary and have the power to transform each one of us.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

**STITCHING PALESTINE—New York Premiere**

Carol Mansour | Lebanon | 2017 | 78"

Twelve resilient, determined and articulate Palestinian women sit and talk of their lives before the Diaspora, of their memories, and of their identity. Their narratives are intertwined by the enduring thread of the ancient art of embroidery that stitches together the story of their homeland, of their dispossession, and of their unwavering determination that justice will prevail...

**TALIEN—US Premiere**

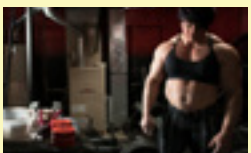
Elia Graziano | Italy | 2017 | 84"

A father and son take to the road in an old military truck-turned-camper to find new beginnings in old places. Aldo, 60, is Moroccan and his original Arabic name is Abdelouahaba. He's lived in Italy since before his son—34-year old Elijah (or Ilyesin)—was born. The film follows their journey back to Aldo's home as the cultural web that makes up their character unfolds upon the screen.

**TAMPON, OUR CLOSEST ENEMY—New York Premiere**

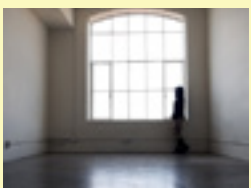
Audrey Gloaguen | USA | 2017 | 52"

After working for 5 years for the France 2 channel as an investigative reporter for the News and for the show Complément d'Enquête, she joined the Coyote production company as an Editor-in-chief in charge of magazines. She created the documentary series called Fourchette et sac à dos (France 5 channel) and has supervised reports for the show Envoyé spécial (France 2 channel).

**TRANSFORMER—New York Premiere**

Michael Del Monte | Canada | 2017 | 75'

From white trash kid, to decorated U.S. Marine, to bodybuilder, to world record powerlifter, Matt Kroczaleski faces his most challenging feat of strength yet: becoming a woman.

**WHEN I STUTTER—New York Premiere**

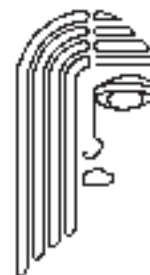
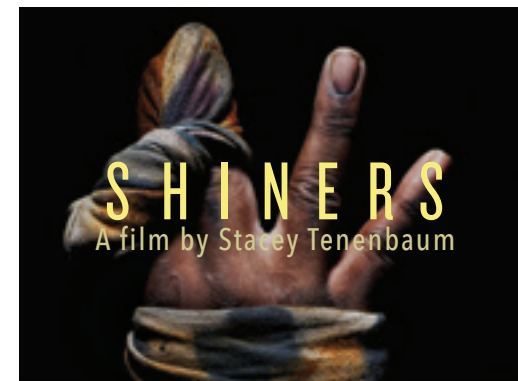
John Gomez | USA | 2017 | 67'

The primary goal of "When I Stutter" is to help bring greater understanding and empathy to a group of people that contend with an often misunderstood communication disorder. Over the course of 4.5 years, 19 people shared stories about how stuttering has impacted their lives. These stories run the gamut of human emotions...Some stories are dark, some are funny and others, triumphant!

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Submit your short film for a chance to screen at AGBU Performing Arts' annual "Armenians in Film at Lincoln Center" series on November 16th

DEADLINE TO APPLY: September 16th, 2018 | performingarts@agbu.org



Congratulations Nora and the
SR Socially Relevant Film Festival Team

AIWA NJ Affiliate

My very best wishes for a successful event.

—Elizabeth Akian



Armenian Network of America, Inc.

• Greater New York Region •

SINCE 1984

SCHEDULE OF FILMS & PANELS

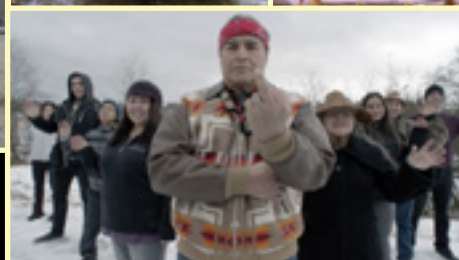
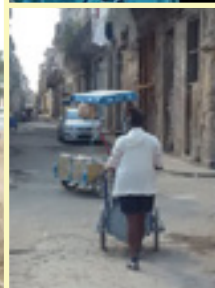
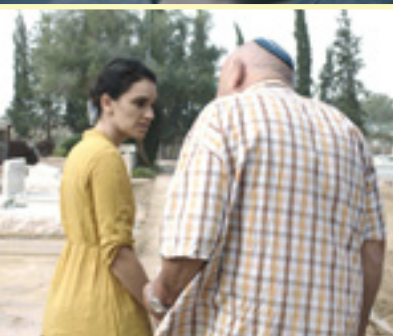
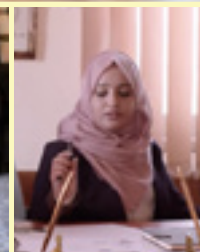
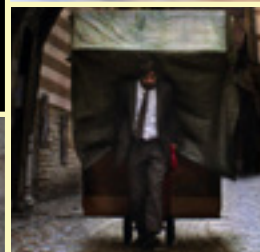
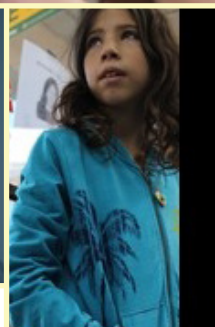
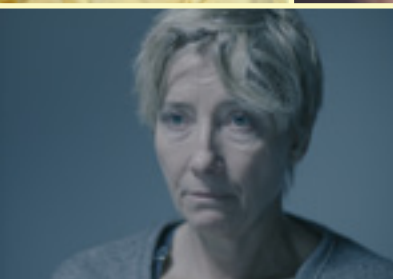
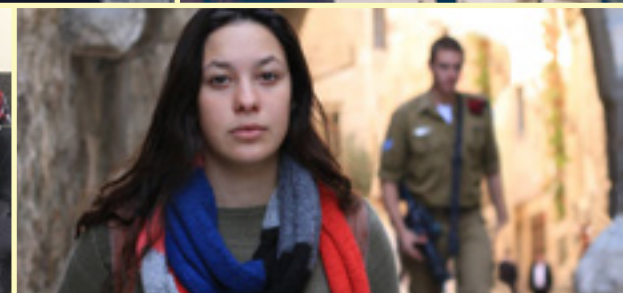
THURS 3/15	7:00 PM	Smartphone filmmaking workshop by Ching Juhl	Thurgood Marshall Room
FRI 3/16	3:30 PM	Shorts: Whose Disability?	Cinéma Village
	5:15 PM	Doc: When I Stutter	
	7:00 PM	Opening Ceremony–Welcome Feature: Lou Andreas-Salome: The Audacity to be Free	
	9:30 PM	OPENING RECEPTION Doc: Stickman preceded by: Malik and the Turtle	
SAT 3/17	10:15 AM	Industry Workshop 1: Editing your Documentary Footage	SVA-Social Doc Film
	11:45 AM	Industry Workshop 2: Distribution Revisited	
	1:00 PM	Doc: Doing Nothing All Day Preceded by: Common Ground	Cinéma Village
	3:30 PM	Doc: Cause of Death: Unknown	
	5:30 PM	Doc: Shiners Preceded by: Mercedes: Portrait of Street Sweeper	
	7:00 PM	Feature: Love and Everything in Between	
	9:30 PM	Doc: Transformer Preceded by: Big hips, big Dreams and Dragtivists	
SUN 3/18	10:15 AM	Theatre Workshop: A Propos Theatre-Bamboo workshop	CRS-NY
	1:00 PM	VR/ 360° Films: Five films in competition to be viewed on Gear VR by Samsung	Cinéma Village
	4:00 PM	Shorts: Sustainable Communities	
	6:00 PM	Doc: Armenians of the World	
	7:30 PM	Feature: Hot Country Cold Winter	
	9:30 PM	Doc: Keep Believing Preceded by: No Reservations and Peacekeeper	
MON 3/19	3:30 PM	Shorts: Where is Home?	Cinéma Village
	6:00 PM	Spotlight Panel: Gender Equality and Human Trafficking	
	7:30 PM	Doc: Tampon, our Closest Enemy Preceded by: Free Period	
	9:30 PM	Doc: Ellis Island	

SCHEDULE OF FILMS & PANELS

TUES 3/20	10:15 AM	SAG-AFTRA Low Budget Film Production Workshop	SAG/AFTRA
	1:30 PM	NY Loves Film - Governor's Office for Film - Filming in New York Workshop	Cinéma Village
	4:00 PM	Shorts: Dreamers Having a Nightmare	
	6:00 PM	Doc: Stitching Palestine	
	7:30 PM	Doc: Jerusalem in Line Preceded by: The Girl and The Gravedigger's Daughter	
	9:30 PM	Doc: Hotel Everest Preceded by: Objector and Youth Local Councils	
WED 3/21	1:15 PM	Panel: Sustainable Filmmaking	Cinéma Village
	3:30 PM	Shorts: Aging Gracefully New York Workshop	
	5:30 PM	Doc: Instrument of Change: Street Piano Spotlight Performance: Time in Live Sound & Silent Motion Pictures:Power Dynamics in Weimar Cinema	
	7:30 PM	Feature: Find Your Voice	
	9:30 PM	Doc: Sands of Silence: Waves of Courage	
THURS 3/22	1:15 PM	Panel: Measuring the Impact of Documentary Films	Cinéma Village
	3:30 PM	Scriptwriting competition: Finalist Script Readings	
	5:15 PM	Doc: Talien	
	7:00 PM	Closing Awards Ceremony Closing Feature Film: Darcy Preceded by: That Was New York	
	9:30 PM	CLOSING PARTY	BY INVITATION

SHORT FILM BLOCKS

FRI 3/16 3:30–5:30 Whose Disability?	SUN 3/18 4:00–5:30 Sustainable Communities	MON 3/19 3:30–5:30 Where is Home?	TUES 3/20 4:00–5:30 Dreamers having a nightmare	WED 3/21 3:30–5:30 Ageing Gracefully
Unheard–18' Life in Strides–19' Weavers - 21' Gold Mettle–30'	Streams of Plastic–5' REFUSE–a food journey–5' The Forgotten Farragut–9' Fall of the Bamboo...10' Beyond the Grid–29'	Invisible–7' Sidewalk Angels–13' The World is Round–14' Journey Without a Map–17' Inside the Wardrobe–25'	The Swing–9' I Seek Asylum–10' The Shelter–9' The Hammamis–15' The Hostage–30'	95 Never Looked so Good–9' Head Above Water–10' Artemis & the Astronaut–13' Eila–13' Beyond the Beyonds–30'



NARRATIVE SHORTS PROGRAM

ARTEMIS & THE ASTRONAUT – World Premiere

Alice L. Lee | USA | 2018 | 13'

Artemis and Henri have spent a lifetime together. Loved one another deeply and imperfectly. Four weeks ago Henri died, and today the school is coming for his beloved piano. So much was left unsaid as Henri's mind ebbed away. And then Artemis hears Henri crying in the next room. Will Artemis get a chance to be with Henri one last time?.

FREE PERIOD – US Premiere

Alison Piper | United Kingdom | 2017 | 6'

When schoolgirl Leanne can't afford a sanitary pad she lines her underwear with toilet paper and ends up bleeding in front of her class during a presentation. Leanne overcomes this humiliation with a shocking act of rebellion – against a bully, a teacher, and against the stigma which acts as a barrier to her needs.

HEAD ABOVE WATER – New York Premiere

Eric Shahinian | USA | 2017 | 10'

A devoted husband is forced to confront his doubts about remaining the caretaker of his wife suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

I SEEK ASYLUM – New York Premiere

Anna Southgate | United Kingdom | 2017 | 9'

Based on actual asylum interviews, the film shows what faces survivors of trafficking and torture when they come to the UK. Emma Thompson portrays one of the refugees in the film.

INSIDE THE WARDROBE – New York Premiere

Sebastien Carfora | France | 2017 | 25'

In a world where appearance is more important than what's inside, Frank lost everything and now lives on the street. To survive and reintegrate into society, he can only count on his abilities to adapt, his incredible imagination, his suit and his closet...

MALIK AND THE TURTLE – US Premiere

Adnane Tragha | France | 2017 | 19'

Eighteen-year old Malik lives with his mother in La Courneuve, in the northern suburb of Paris. He wants to become a top athlete and he trains hard everyday to accomplish his dream. One day his coach announces to Malik that he is registered for the next Junior French Championships. However, his entourage suspect him of taking performance enhancing drugs.

NO RESERVATIONS – New York Premiere

Trevor Carroll | Canada | 2017 | 11'

A political satire inspired by true-life events, giving a hypothetical look at what life would be like if the roles in Standing Rock were reversed. Protests erupt as an upper-middle class Caucasian neighborhood attempts to thwart the construction of a pipeline from an Indigenous Corporation.

SIDEWALK ANGELS – New York Premiere

Paulo Miranda | Brazil | 2017 | 13'

Sao Paulo, Brazil, a chaotic frenzied city, with homeless, helpless, forgotten people living at the corners of society. Paiva, a retired, lonesome widower, lives a monotonous routine, an idle existence. In his walks through the streets of the city, Paiva spots an ambulance picking up homeless people. Paiva believes that he may or may not have found a new purpose for his life

NARRATIVE SHORTS PROGRAM

THE GIRL – New York Premiere

Lihi Sabag | Israel | 2016 | 10'

Dafna, a social worker, pays a visit to Esti, the single mother of a little girl. Dafna must deal with the agonizing decision of whether or not Esti is a fit mother for her child. If not, the child will be taken into state custody.

THE GRAVEDIGGER'S DAUGHTER – New York Premiere

Shira Gabay | Israel | 2016 | 17'

Esther's father was a gravedigger who in his last will and testament left only one significant request: that one of his sons continue with his profession. None of his sons have the slightest interest in doing so. Esther is the only daughter in this traditional 'Sephardic' North African home, and embarks upon a struggle to carry on her father's legacy of humility and kindness over the objections of her family and community. A feminist film with a sprinkling of graveyard humor.

THE HOSTAGE – American Premiere

Kerstin Höckel | Germany | 2017 | 30'

Based on Friedrich von Schiller's ballad about a friendship beyond death. Two refugee girls exchange their identities because one of them will be deported and desires to say goodbye to her lover. The airplane with her best friend is about to take off. But she runs to free the hostage. This act of true love moves the passengers. And they stand up for the girls to prevent the take-off

THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING THE OTHER – New York Premiere

Marcey Frutchey | USA | 2017 | 10'

The story of a young, biracial girl named Iris who sets out to discover what it means to be an "other." Along her way, she encounters a pair of immigrants, a homeless veteran, and a transgender female who all bring some piece of the definition to light.

THE SHELTER – New York Premiere

Ysabel Fantou | Germany | 2017 | 9'

Based on true events: Erwin and Hildegard get lost while on a hiking holiday in Bavaria. They end up in a strange guest house, not knowing that it's long closed and now a refugee shelter. Only when demanding the bill for the delicious meal, the truth unravels.

THE SWING – US Premiere

David Witchell | United Kingdom | 2017 | 9'

Maja, a young Polish girl living in England, learns the price of being different when she is subject to increasing xenophobia.

UNHEARD – World Premiere

Lauren Ide | USA | 2017 | 18'

Young Emily, a local small town girl runs away from home after finally being fed up with the estranged relationship with her parents, and her struggle with being bullied at school. Having left her hearing aids behind, Emily is left to wander the unknown of the world. With little way to communicate, and only a few dollars to her name, Emily struggles with her inability to hear. This is Emily's story, a world without sound.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS PROGRAM

95 NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD—New York Premiere

Tymm Holloway | USA | 2016 | 8'

This Documentary short highlights Simeon Holloway's accomplishments from early beginnings to the prominent historical record of his involvement in the elite first all-Black US B-1 Navy Band. The first African Americans to serve in the modern Navy at any general rank with no recognition from the Navy. Divulging the story of the oldest Negro Navy Band. He unveils a passion to stay on the road even if driving.

BEYOND THE BEYONDS—World Premiere

Laurence Powell | United Kingdom | 2017 | 30'

Film on the life and work of Irish based artist, UK Birmingham born 81-year-old painter, John Kingerlee.

BEYOND THE GRID—New York Premiere

Vinit Parmar | USA | 2017 | 29'

This ethnographic portrayal poetically captures the lives of impoverished, remote island villagers in India's Varanasi region. They have lived without electricity for eons, and now, quite possibly they are the first developing village to switch to renewable energy.

BIG HIPS BIG DREAMS—New York Premiere

Melanie McLean Brooks | USA | 8'

The film follows a woman during what seems like an ordinary day—through her daily routines, her thoughts on personal hygiene, love and a life-long pursuit to be comfortable in her own skin. As night falls, though, she finds solace in the glitz of New York City's burlesque scene and finds that unraveling her layers of fringe and rhinestones is the perfect way to just be herself— Tina Tassels.

COMMON GROUND—US Premiere

Nicolas Iordanou & Sylvia Nicolaides | Cyprus | 2017 | 20'

Following the war in 1974, in which more than 200,000 Greek and Turkish Cypriots were displaced, the island of Cyprus has remained divided until today, separating the two communities that once lived together. An art project between children of the two communities that never actually met, but exchanged video messages between them and materials from their city, creates a communication bridge between them.

DRAGTIVISTS—New York State Premiere

Savannah Rodgers | USA | 2017 | 6'

Dragtivists is a short documentary about the intersection of activism and drag performance.

EILA—US Premiere

Cecilie Nørgaard | Denmark | 2016 | 13'

A sensuous, academically based, existential portrait of Eila, an 85 year old lesbian trans woman, struggling – a decade after her transition – to define herself as the woman she has always felt like being—and to get to understand how it happened that the circumstances that finally made her identity complete, devastated others. Despite the relational complications, the story of Eila reminds us that it is never too late to become oneself.

GOLD METTLE—New York Premiere

Nicholas Carney | USA | 2017 | 30'

While this film is about the success of Delaware county's soccer teams, it is first the story of a group of athletes who come together against all odds to achieve something greater than themselves. Gold Mettle is a film that inspires audiences to reach beyond themselves and support others in endeavors that build communities of support and celebration.

INVISIBLE—New York Premiere

Matthew Gannon | USA | 2017 | 7'

This documentary explores the plight of the 3.5 million Americans who experience homelessness each year and calls on Congress to act on their behalf. In creating it, first-time student director Matt Gannon hopes to prompt people to stop and think about the issue of homelessness, in order to spark real and tangible change.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS PROGRAM

JOURNEY WITHOUT A MAP—New York Premiere

Jill Woodward | USA | 2017 | 16'

In this short documentary, Abdul discovers an unlikely passion in contemporary dance, tapping into the healing power of art as he seeks asylum in Greece from his native Afghanistan.

LIFE IN STRIDES—New York Premiere

The Institute for Documentary Filmmaking - Life in Strides team | USA | 2017 | 19'

Jake, a young man with autism, has become a champion in therapeutic horseback riding. Jake's mother Joanne has been by his side throughout his riding career, helping her son stay calm on his horse. Now, Jake is put to the test as he enters his first non-therapeutic riding competition, where the circumstances are outside Jake and Joanne's control.

MERCEDES: PORTRAIT OF STREET SWEEPER—New York Premiere

Amie Williams & Meena Nanji | USA/Cuba | 2016 | 8'

In the final months before the embargo is lifted, Mercedes works as a street sweeper in Old Havana and shares her life and dreams.

OBJECTOR

Molly Stuart | USA/Israel | 2017 | 16"

As a 19-year-old Israeli, Atalya is obligated to enlist in the armed forces. But she has witnessed military rule in the occupied Palestinian territories – a reality that most other young Israelis never experience – and one that leads her to become a conscientious objector. The film offers a window into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the perspective of a Jewish woman making an uncommon sacrifice.

PEACEKEEPER

Nicholas Markart & Tyler Knutt | USA | 2017 | 13'

Native Americans from Standing Rock speak out on the pipeline, the repetition of history, and their roles as water-protectors in a struggle for modern sovereignty.

REFUSE—A FOOD JOURNEY—World Premiere

Nick Whitworth | United Kingdom | 2017 | 5'

Social enterprise REfUSE collects food that would otherwise go in the bin to make delicious Pay-As-You-Feel meals. Their vision is to reveal the true value of things, places and people that are unjustly wasted or overlooked.

STREAMS OF PLASTIC—New York Premiere

Thierry Rigoine de Fougerolles | France | 2017 | 5'

There is a Global Alert on Floating Trash. Rivers and creeks are like arteries flowing to our heart, the Ocean. Plastic pollution is like cholesterol trying to get to the heart, downstream. Join us for a journey to Central America and South-East Asia where groups are helping to stop the flow of community's "cholesterol" - plastic pollution before it impacts those downstream, or along our coastlines and reefs once it reaches the sea.

THAT WAS NEW YORK—New York Premiere

Bek Markas | USA | 2017 | 5"

Bek Markas a kid born and raised in New York City goes on a search to speak with his favorite characters who were once just like us trying to make it in this town when 'New York was New York.

THE FALL OF THE BAMBOO AND THE RISE OF A COMMUNITY

Raúl Capote Braña, Jan-Kåre Breivik & Solvei Stoutland | Norway | 2017 | 10'

A short documentary around action learning and creation of a laboratory for social change based on two experimental university workshops (2014 and 2016) for master students from diverse fields (social science, community work, theatre/music) in Bergen, Norway. Key topics have been - physical ensemble work, dumpster diving, community music/drumming, photovoice, Facebook activism, ritual sharing/bartering, baking bread, and the art of making socially relevant parades etc.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS PROGRAM

THE FORGOTTEN FARRAGUT—US Premiere

Sonya Shields | USA | 2017 | 9'

Located in Northern Brooklyn, DUMBO has become the borough's most expensive neighborhood and New York City's fourth richest neighborhood overall. Just blocks from DUMBO is NYC Housing Authority's Farragut Houses, which has housed low-income Brooklynites since 1952. These are the stories of the residents of the forgotten Farragut Housing Projects, as told by Brooklyn Community Services.

THE HAMMAMIS—New York Premiere

Molly Bareiss | USA | 2017 | 15'

This short documentary takes an intimate look at the struggles of a Syrian refugee family and the new hope they've found upon settling in the US while touching on the contentious national dialogue surrounding the entrance of Syrian refugees into the United States.

THE WORLD IS ROUND SO THAT NOBODY CAN HIDE IN THE CORNERS—PART I—New York Premiere

Leandro Goddinho | Germany | 2017 | 14'

The journey of an African gay refugee seeking asylum in Germany.

WEAVERS OF IMAGINATION—World Premiere

Sadegh Jafari | Islamic Republic of Iran | 2017 | 21'

The story of blind people who weave carpets by using Brail. Weaving carpets is difficult and requires precision and a keen eyesight. These blind people believe that if there was a place where people did not bother them, they would have a better life.

YOUTH LOCAL COUNCILS: A PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT—World Premiere

Keenan Newman, Ben Henretig & Adam Warmington | USA | 2017 | 7'

Meet Lana Abu-Hijleh, a development expert and civil engineer who experienced first-hand the tragedies of conflict, and who founded a model of youth civic engagement that is spreading from the West Bank across the globe. The Youth Local Councils engage over 25,000 Palestinian youth in the West Bank, giving them a voice and stake in their communities. Through elected bodies, these youth are proposing, planning and executing community projects, and practicing leadership and good governance to transform their society, in an environment that bets against them.

VR/360° FILMS

DOWN TO THE PLASTIC OCEAN

Dan Aguar | USA | 2017 | 4'—Environment and Climate

MY BEAUTIFUL HOME

Romain Vakilitabar | USA | 2017 | 6' 50"—Poverty

NEW SONG

Katherine Gardner | USA | 2017 | 8'—Humanitarian Work

OUR NATURE – HONEY PRODUCTION

Mário Di Po | Brazil | 2017 | 5'—Sustainability/Climate

THE GREAT – A VR GREAT WHITE SHARK EXPERIENCE

Roy Kimhi | Mexico | 2017 | 6' 27"—Animal Preservation

THE FESTIVAL TEAM

NORA ARMANI: Founding Artistic Director

LUCIE TRIPON: Panels/Production

ARMEN SPENDJIAN: Admin Assist/Social Media & Marketing

JOSEPHINE MADINIER: Intern/ Submissions/Filmmaker Relations

SHIRLEY ZHANG: Intern/Submissions/Film lists & annotations

CHIARA SPAGNOLI GABARDI: PR/Outreach Consultant

JOHN BENNETT: Marketing/Promotion

MICHAEL CLAES: PR/Marketing/Sponsorships

KYLE PERRY: Outreach reserach and communication

JILLIE THOMAS: Script selection/readings director

SYLVIA MEAD: Event and Volunteer coordinator

ANJALI SHARMA: Press and community liaison

ARED SPENDJIAN: Art Director/Branding

CHING JUHL: Video and photos

CONNIE AREVALO: Video

ARMEN SPENDJIAN: Official Festival Trailer

MARTIN ARUSHANYAN: Website maintenance

YIFU QIAO: Intern/Research

SEAN JUHL: Intern/General office

MIKE JANKOWITZ: Outreach

LINDA SELMAN: Outreach

FAITH SWARTZ: Outreach

NARRATIVE FEATURE
JURY:

Nicole Ansari
Valerio Caruso
Andre Fuad Degas
Najla Said

NARRATIVE SHORTS
JURY:

Justin Ambrosino
Jeo Baby
Darine Hotait
Natalie Johnson

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
JURY:

Morgan Jennes
Claus Mueller
Edie Nugent
Dirk Robertson

DOCUMENTARY SHORT
JURY:

Antony Di Franco
Gabrielle E Ewing
Marta Houske
Gregg Jamback
Paul Redman

SCRIPT WRITING
JURY:

Lynn Frances
Brigitte Gauthier
Monique Mbeka Phoba
Lisa Savy

WOMEN FILM CRITICS
CIRCLE:

Andrea Chase
Valerie Complex
Maria Estevez
Yasmin Kleinbart
Edie Nugent
Rose Pacatte FSP
Jessica Peña
Maria Cristina Rodriguez
Mimi Torchin & Lyron Cohen



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