

23rd
Annual

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 Online Edition

November
12-22

Powered by
SEED & SPARK



ARPAFILMFESTIVAL.COM





HFPA®

**ARPA FOUNDATION FOR FILM, MUSIC & ART (AFFMA) presents
23rd ANNUAL ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

powered by Seed&Spark

This year marks the 23rd anniversary of Arpa International Film Festival, the signature event of the Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art (AFFMA), which will take place between November 12 – 22, 2020. We have an amazing and inspiring selection of 69 films from 20 countries from all over the world.

In consideration of the continuing challenges and uncertainty stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic, and per the extended federal and state guidelines, The Arpa IFF, which in the past has originally taken place at historic theaters around Hollywood, will take place online this year.

In the midst of our festival planning, having to relocate online created new and unexpected challenges for our team. This year, with the help of Seed&Spark, we worked very hard to make the transitional process easily accessible for our film audiences. While it was our hope to screen the films theatrically, streaming the films online will reach a greater viewership. From the comfort of your own home, people from all around the world can take part in our 23rd Annual Festival.

However, another international threat has affected communities across the globe and our Festival i.e., the war between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The suffering of soldiers fighting for truth, honor and justice in Artsakh leaves a deep mark, not just on our Festival, but on humanity at large. Arpa International Film Festival has decided to donate all of its proceeds from the ticket sales to aid Artsakh.

For the last 23 years, we have come together to celebrate the art of film. During the selection process, our diligent team of festival programmers set aside time to meticulously select the finalists for this year's official selection from a large pool of films received this year. Opportunity always reveals itself to our filmmakers who have made it their mission in creating stories that move audiences and create undeniable emotion. This year's Arpa IFF will once again highlight a diverse range of world cinema that explores many contemporary issues.

With an all access pass, you and your family will be able to watch all 69 films, comprised of full length features, documentaries, short narrative films, short animated films and music videos, along with the Q&A's, panel discussions and closing night awards ceremony.

As always, we have several films made by Armenian filmmakers. Just to mention a few, we have two nominated music videos, **MANOUG ME** by Hamo Arzounmanian and **ONLY LOVE** by Eric Bazilian.

Short Narrative Film, **THIS LAND** by Michael Aloyan and a short romantic comedy **GIFTED**, by Karina Weeks.

Nominated Feature documentary, **AN ARMENIAN TRILOGY**, tells the story the Composer Dan Yessian, who reconnects with his roots, writing a symphony in tribute to the 1.5 million souls lost in the Armenian Genocide. In the documentary, viewers have the opportunity to follow Yessian's journey to the ancestral homeland of Armenia. Yessian explores his own past and rediscovers Armenia's rich history, culture, and features the world-renowned Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra. The documentary asks the question: "How do you go home to a place you've never been to?"

Bared Moronian's new documentary, **BLOODLESS: THE PATH TO DEMOCRACY** is a riveting political thriller that captures the story of a revolution, as events unfold in the spring of 2018 in Armenia. In the course of history, only a few revolutions have been successful, let alone those without Bloodshed. Nikol Pashinyan, a charismatic former journalist and political prisoner, galvanized support among the youth and women by using non-violent civil disobedience protests and social media. In a short period of 6 weeks, a corrupt oligarchy was toppled and democracy restored. Bloodless recently won the "Audience Choice Award" from the Lunenburg Doc Fest of Canada and the 2020 Regional Emmy Nominee by NATAS Suncoast Chapter.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF US, is a nominated Feature-length Documentary, by Stephanie Ayanian and Joseph Myers, which follows six Armenian Americans as they navigate the 100th anniversary of the Genocide, forging identities for the next 100 years. Today, often unrecognized, it remains defining – but the long shadow of the Genocide creates a burden for young Armenian Americans that discourage them from taking up their culture.

We are happy to announce that this year we launched a platform for university students to submit their films to our film festival. Through our collaboration with the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Film Festival "ZotFest" where student filmmakers submitted their films, with the opportunity to showcase their creations beyond a university's vicinity. The intention behind our collaboration is to give a platform for upcoming student filmmakers, and we chose six films to screen at this year's festival.

23rd
Annual

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 Online Edition

November
12-22

Powered by
SEED & SPARK

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HOW OUR FESTIVAL WORKS THIS YEAR



Arpa International Film Festival is dedicated to cultivating cultural understanding and global empathy by creating a dynamic forum for international cinema. Over the past 23 years, the festival has bridged cultural divides by fostering dialogue among people of diverse backgrounds. Join us virtually for yet another journey into the diverse universe of independent cinema with an inspiring line-up of 69 films from 20 different countries worldwide.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, unfortunately, there will be no theater experience. We made it very simple for you to watch and enjoy all our films and Q&As Online, as much as you like for an 11-day period during November 12-22, 2020. Thanks to our video streaming service provider Seed&Spark, you will be able to access our entire film lineup of 69 films (15 features and 54 shorts) from 20 different countries, 18 Q&A sessions with our award nominated filmmakers, industry workshop *The Art of The Pitch* and panel discussion *Women In Filmmaking*. Wherever you may be located, on your phone, tablet, laptop, computer or TV, alone or with your friends and family you can access our 2020 film lineup exclusively via the Seed&Spark platform.

You just need to create your free Seed&Spark account first - and the easiest way to create an account is to purchase our Festival Pass or any of the individual tickets. Everything is done at one page in one click – you just need to input your payment info (or your free festival pass coupon code if you've been provided one), first and last name, email and desired password – and Seed&Spark will create your account.

Our Seed&Spark Festival page is where you can access and watch our films during November 12-22:

<https://www.seedandspark.com/festivals/arpa>

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

HOW OUR FESTIVAL WORKS THIS YEAR CONTINUED

Our Seed&Spark Festival Program page is where you can access & watch our films during November 12-22:

<https://www.seedandspark.com/festivals/arpa>

SEED & SPARK

Festival home

How it works

Tickets and passes

This is our Festival Program page with 69 films from 20 different countries, 18 Q&A sessions with filmmakers and one panel discussion, all separated into 3 major categories:

Festival Program

Features

Shorts blocks



Virtual events

- **FEATURES** (9 feature films + 6 feature-length documentaries available as 15 individual programmes),
- **SHORT BLOCKS** (54 short films, docs, animations & music videos grouped in 10 individual programmes).
- **VIRTUAL EVENTS**, free for everyone with a Seed&Spark account, all our 2020 Q&A sessions with filmmakers and panels are under this section.

Our Festival Passes and individual tickets sales are up and running with Gold All-Access festival passes available for \$50 each (to view all 69 films), and individual film tickets at \$12 each. Naturally, you will have unlimited access to all feature-length films and all short blocks for 11 days straight during November 12-22, 2020. And we would like to mention that every Festival Pass purchase and ticket sale is helping Armenians in Artsakh now. Arpa International Film Festival has decided to donate all of its profits from the ticket sales to aid Artsakh. So please help us in supporting our festival this year by purchasing our festival passes and tickets. Profits will be matched by supporting companies to help Artsakh. We hope you enjoy our Festival Experience this year!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I watch a film? To watch a film, you can: purchase an individual ticket, purchase a pass, or redeem an access code if you've been given one by the festival. If you make your purchase during the pre-order period, you'll need to wait until the festival starts to watch your film(s). You will be able to use your ticket or pass to watch the film(s) for the duration of the festival. Once the festival starts, select the title you want to watch from the Festival home page. If you have a pass or a ticket for the title selected, you can click "Watch" to begin viewing. Make sure you're logged into Seed&Spark with the e-mail that you used when making your purchase!

Where can I watch the film? You can watch the film on any Internet-connected device such as a computer, tablet, or phone (no downloads required!). You can also cast it on a TV. To watch on a TV, click play from the film page. Once the film player is open, hover your mouse over the bottom part of the frame to show icons that enable  (Chromecast) or  (Airplay).

As long as you have a Chromecast, Apple TV, or a Smart TV that supports either option, the icons should show up and the film should play on your TV.

How do I redeem an access or discount code? Codes can be redeemed during checkout. Make your purchase selection and enter your code in the "Coupon code" step on the checkout page. Please note that your code may be specific to individual tickets or passes only – in that case, your code will not work if you've selected a different product type.

I have a free access code. Do I still need to input my credit card information? Nope! At checkout, enter your free access code in the "Coupon code" field and click "Apply." And the credit card fields will disappear. Please note: If you opt to include a 10% donation to cover festival operational fees, you will need to input credit card information.

How can I purchase tickets for multiple films? Tickets must be purchased individually. Your access to all of the titles you've purchased tickets for is tied to your Seed&Spark account (using the e-mail and password that you set during checkout), so make sure you're logged in to watch! Alternatively, you can purchase a festival pass for access to all titles.

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

ABOUT AFFMA

Arpa Foundation for Film, Music & Art (AFFMA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 with the purpose of providing a platform for filmmakers, musicians and artists, whose works explore subjects of social and cultural importance. AFFMA's biggest endeavor was launching its signature Arpa International Film Festival (Arpa IFF) in 1997, which quickly came to be recognized as one of the leading indie film festivals in Southern California.

FESTIVAL MISSION

Arpa International Film Festival is dedicated to cultivating cultural understanding and global empathy by creating a dynamic forum for international cinema. Over the past 23 years, the festival has bridged cultural divides by fostering dialogue among people of diverse backgrounds. By showcasing local and international films that explore critical issues such as war, genocide, diaspora, dual identities, exile and multiculturalism, Arpa International Film Festival (Arpa IFF) has solidified its role in safeguarding films that continue to make a social impact.

FESTIVAL HISTORY

Arpa International Film Festival (Arpa IFF) was launched in 1997 by Sylvia Minassian with the support and encouragement of her husband. Since its inception, the festival has continuously embraced the diversity among local and international filmmakers.

The inaugural Arpa International Film Festival was held at the Alfred Hitchcock Theatre located at Universal Studios. Special guests included producers Hank Moonjean (*Dangerous Liaisons*, *Beauty and the Beast*) and Howard Kazanjian (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*). The festival found a new home for several years at Raleigh Studios, one of the oldest studios in Hollywood, dating back to 1915. Equally historic, the Roosevelt Hotel was the location for the festival's Award Ceremonies. Arpa International Film Festival's rapid growth and popularity in 2003-2006 brought the festival to the Arclight Cinemas in Hollywood, with the Awards Gala taking place at the Universal Sheraton Hotel.

From 2006 to 2018 the Arpa International Film Festival (Arpa IFF) has been held at the world-renowned Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood until Netflix company purchased this historic venue.

Our big anniversary, the 20th Annual Awards Gala Banquet took place at the Loews Hollywood Hotel on November 5th, 2017. Honorees included music icon Chris Cornell (in memoriam), Oscar-winning director Terry George (*The Promise*, *The Shore*, *Hotel Rwanda*, *In the Name of the Father*), actor Carl Weathers (*Rocky*, *Predator*, *Happy Gilmore*) and Oscar-winning screenwriter Alexander Dinelaris (*Birdman*), with special performances by theremin virtuoso Armen Ra and vocalist Mister X.

In 2019 the 22nd Annual Arpa International Film Festival (Arpa IFF) was forced to find a new home and it was held at the historic American Legion Theater Hollywood Post 43, showcasing a dynamic set of films from around the world.

And 2020 brought a lot of changes indeed. We were ready to celebrate our festival's 23rd birthday at the AMC Sunset 5 Theatres in Hollywood when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world. But we didn't want to just cancel our event - our filmmakers count on us to provide them with a platform to showcase their diverse work to our audience each year. Hence, we have decided to make our 23rd Annual Arpa International Film Festival (Arpa IFF) stand out this year and be available for streaming as a 11-Day Online Film Festival during November 12-22, 2020 via Seed&Spark platform.

Through the years, many industry greats have taken part in Arpa International Film Festival as honorees, presenters, emcees, special award recipients, and attendees. Celebrities such as Atom Egoyan, Dean Cain, Alanis Morissette, Leo Chaloukian, Vivica A. Fox, Roselyn Sanchez, Howard Kazanjian, Mardik Martin, Dana Daurey, Dean Haglund, Josie Davis, Alek Keshishian, Emilio Rivera, Hank Moonjean, Bob Papazian, Jim Hirsch, Cheech Marin, Tony Shaloub, Shorheh Aghdashloo, Arthur Sarkissian, Marilu Henner, Ken Davitian, Leo Quinones, Ara Keshishian, Marla Maples, Haik Gazarian, James Duke Mason, Francis Fisher, Sid Haig, David Alpay, Raya Meddine, Heather McComb, Anoush NeVart, Mike Connors, Caroline Aaron, and many others.

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER



Our Festival's goal since its inception has always been to unite filmmakers across the globe. However, the arrival of the pandemic when millions are home bound and anxious, we have produced a Covid appropriate festival, giving our viewers a new and unique theatrical experience.

For the past 23 years, Arpa International Film Festival has been the home for young, creative filmmakers. It has been an aspiring undertaking with numerous hurdles along the way, but with hard working, selfless, incredible volunteers, we have secured the essence of our festival with thought provoking films from around the world. We are trying to put on a brave face amidst the daily roar of tragic events surrounding Artsakh. However, we shall never give up, and through art form continue to create awareness and human dignity world wide.

It is the first time for our festival to make online screenings available to our audience, and together we will embrace our digital eleven days cinematic experience with loved ones.

This year, our amazing marketing director Maral Kazazian is Arpa IFF's new director. I cannot fully articulate how much she means to all of us professionally, and personally, going above and beyond, to create a healthy atmosphere. She works non stop to

make the Arpa International Film Festival a very unique one. I cannot thank her enough.

I am proud to mention our incredibly gifted producer and technical director Vanja Srdic who tackles the unending workloads through thick or thin. I appreciate you from the core of my heart.

Our wonderful board member and Jury liaison Sonia Keshishian is an incredible force to the festival and to every one of us. Each year, she brings to the festival amazing Jury members from the industry, covering every field of cinema, bringing their expertise to select the best of the best from a pool of great films. Sonia puts in a lot of time and effort toward the festival's success, and I thank her from the bottom of my heart for that.

My deepest appreciation to our esteemed jury members for their commitment, time, and creative input. You are an inspiration to all generations of artists.

I cherish my executive committee. You are family to me always, reaching out to our community, bringing your unique energy toward the advancement of our festival. Don Hannah, the genius behind the camera all these years, you are an inspiration.

Last but not least, my heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, donors, sponsors, whose generosity and love, makes our festival grow and deepen with meaning and purpose.

Sylvia Minassian, Founder

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 JULY



GABE SAPORTA Born in Uruguay and raised in New Jersey, Gabe Saporta is a musician and entrepreneur. For nearly ten years, he enjoyed multi-platinum success as the singer and creative force behind the band Cobra Starship. In 2016, Saporta and wife Erin Fetherston welcomed their first child. Wanting to spend more time with his family and less time in the spotlight, Saporta transitioned behind the scenes the following year and founded The Artist Group (TAG), a music management company. In 2018 he launched TAG MUSIC to provide full label and recording services for his clients. In 2019 TAG achieved more than 100 million streams with its first independent release, Tessa Violet's LP "Bad Ideas." In 2020 Saporta signed a global distribution deal with The Orchard to expand TAG Music's radio presence and international reach. Saporta continues to grow TAG into a full service music company providing a wide range of management and label services for its clients, and, more importantly, guidance and stewardship in-line with the company ethos: "We believe creative expression is the cornerstone of self-realization and we feel privileged to be on that journey with our artists."



ANTHONY GRIECO is a 2015 Nicholl Award winner for his script Best Sellers. It was recently produced by Cassian and Arielle Elwes and stars Michael Caine and Aubrey Plaza. Anthony has had several scripts optioned, and eagerly awaits the start of production on his next script, a Buzz Aldrin biopic to be directed by Marc Forster. In addition, Anthony is a script consultant. He has worked as a Story Specialist for The Writers Store and a mentor for the Industry Insider Screenwriting Contest. He is also the co-writer of the screenwriting book *The Pocket Screenwriting Guide: 120 Tips for Getting to Fade Out*. Anthony moved to Los Angeles when one of his first spec screenplays was solicited by various agents and managers. Within months, he had optioned his first (co-written) feature, a comedy called *I'm With Stupid*, to Peachtree Films. Anthony attended the University of Toronto where he studied English and History. He later attended Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York City and went on to act in over 50 television commercials and episodic programs. In his spare time, Anthony is an amateur photographer (favorite subjects include Los Angeles architecture, his wife's cooking, and his cats Max and Buddy), film buff, collector of Criterion films, and frequent dinner party attendee.



ERIC NAZARIAN Born in Armenia and raised in Los Angeles, writer-director-producer Eric Nazarian holds a Bachelor of Arts in Film Production from the University of Southern California's (USC) School of Cinematic Arts. He was awarded the prestigious Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for his original screenplay, *Giants. The Blue Hour*, his first feature film as writer-director, world premiered In-Competition at the 55th San Sebastian International Film Festival in Spain and the Torino Film Festival, winning several awards on the international film festival circuit, including Best Director at the Arpa International Film Festival. Formerly a photojournalist, he has made films in Armenia, Mexico and Turkey. Nazarian wrote the period drama *Three Christs* with director-producer Jon Avnet, starring Richard Gere, Peter Dinklage, Julianna Margulies and Walton Goggins, based on the book by Milton Rokeach. The film's World Premiere was at the Toronto International Film Festival. IFC Films released the film in 2020. Nazarian is an inaugural fellow of the 20th Century Fox Writers Intensive Lab (FWI). A former fellow of the USC Institute of Armenian Studies, he has lectured on world cinema and the origins of silent film at university campuses in the U.S. and Europe.

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 JULY



KAREN KONDAZIAN'S career as an actor, author, journalist, and producer, started early in life... At the age of eight, Karen was chosen to be one of the infamous children on Art Linkletter's famous Kids Say the Darndest Things. The opportunity to miss school during tapings was all it took for Karen to abandon her life's goal of becoming a CIA spy and focus on acting. She was born in Boston, completing her education at The University of Vienna and The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, after which she began her acting career in New York. Her first professional work was in the Off-Broadway, award-winning production of Michael Cacoyannis' *The Trojan Women*, later winning the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Actress in *The Rose Tattoo*. Tennessee Williams, after seeing her work, was so impressed that he gave her carte blanche to produce any of his plays in his lifetime. Other award-winning performances include *Sweet Bird of Youth* (with Ed Harris), *Vieux Carre* (with Ray Stricklyn), and *Maria Callas in Master Class*. On television, she has appeared as a series regular lead in CBS's *Shannon*, and also guest-starred in over 50 television shows and films including *James Dean* (with James Franco) and *Yes Giorgio* (with Luciano Pavarotti) — also playing *Kate Holiday* in David Wolper's award running series: *Showdown at OK Corral*. She is a lifetime member of the Actors Studio and a member of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. As an author, Kondazian is a multi-award winning novelist. Her debut novel, *The Whip*, won the USA News Book Award (Best Historical Fiction), Readers Favorite Award (Best Western Fiction), among other awards. The book was also featured on the cover of *Publishers Weekly* and is a screenplay. As a journalist, her long-running weekly column, *Sculpting Your Career*, appeared in *BackStage*, and *Drama-Logue* newspapers. Out of those columns, she created her first non-fiction book: *The Actor's Encyclopedia of Casting Directors*. Karen currently resides in Los Angeles, California, and is working on her third book.



ROMAN MITICHYAN has one of the most diverse backgrounds in the world of sports and the cinematic arena. Nicknamed "The Emperor" Mitichyan was born in Vanadzor, Armenia. A former UFC Fighter, Mitichyan is the recipient of USJI, National Championship 1st place Award, and the world bronze medalist in Sambo. Aside from his multiple martial arts achievements Mitichyan has brought his versatility in numerous films and documentaries portraying characters from all walks of life. His film credits include *Argo*, *War Dogs*, *Escape Plan*, *Takers*, *John Wick*, *The Promise*, just to name a few, opposite Hollywood giants the likes of Bruce Willis, Keanu Reeves, Sylvester Stallone, Jim Carrey, Pierce Brosnan, and the upcoming 'Fast 9' feature opposite Vin Diesel. His television credits include *Scorpion*, *Bones*, *Blacklist*, *Sons Of Anarchy*, *Homeland Numbers*, not to mention his recurring role as Sam Rudo in the popular series "The Morning Show" opposite Jenifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon. Roman credits his successful transition from fighter, to stuntman, to actor, to director and producer to his discipline, hard work ethics, relentless drive, and last but not least appreciation for all the opportunities which continue to push forward his creativity as a multidimensional actor in the entertainment industry.



CLAYTON TRUSSELL is a writer and producer best known for his work on the Netflix series, "Narcos" and "Narcos: Mexico." He was born in Los Angeles, California, and attended the University of Colorado at Boulder. His career first began on set, working on various productions, including the acclaimed HBO series "Luck", before transitioning to the writers room with the award-winning, teenage drama "Pretty Little Liars." In 2019, Clayton was nominated for a WGA award for Best Episodic Drama for his work on "Narcos: Mexico."

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 JULY



HEATHER MCCOMB is an American actress and producer with over 90 credits to her name in film and television. Heather made her film debut as the lead Zoe in Francis Ford Coppola's "New York Stories". Since then, she's continued to work with some of today's most acclaimed directors including David Gordon Green, Bryan Singer, Martha Coolidge and Wayne Wang. Heather's feature film credits include Apt Pupil, Silver Skies, Oceans of Pearls, as well as several movies that have screened in competition at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival including: All the Real Girls, God's Lonely Man, and Steel City. Heather's also had memorable roles on many notable television shows including: Prison Break, House M.D., all four CSI's, The Mentalist, Castle, The Rookie and Shameless to name a few – as well as being cast on the critically-acclaimed NBC show The Event, portraying FBI Agent Angela Collier. She is best known for her work on Showtime's breakout hit Ray Donovan, where she played Patty. Heather also recently appeared in a crossover event for Grey's Anatomy and Station 19 on ABC. In addition to her television work, Heather recently starred in the films Sweet Home Carolina, Mommy is a Murderer, Pretty Bad Actress, Shooting Star, The Cleaner and Battle Scars which Heather also produced.



CHUCK HARTER has worked in many aspects of the motion picture and television fields during his decades as a resident of Los Angeles. He conceived, produced and consulted on all aspects of the critically acclaimed documentary "Hey! Hey! We're The Monkees" which aired on The Disney Channel. Chuck also consulted on virtually the entire production of the VH1 music documentary "Endless Harmony: Beach Boys" and has participated in many different documentary projects over the years as both a consultant and advisor. "A great documentary, made by a creative team that puts 100% into it, can educate, entertain and enlighten."



JUSTIN HUMPHREYS is a writer, film historian, and curator, specializing in movie props, costumes, and other memorabilia. He has worked extensively with Bonhams Auctions and The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, among others. In 2017, Humphreys cataloged Robby the Robot from Forbidden Planet (1957), which sold for \$5.3 million and set the World Record for most expensive movie prop to ever sell at auction. He has published three books and is currently completing his fourth, the authorized biography of filmmaker George Pal. He recently appeared on the Criterion Collection's BluRay release of The War of the Worlds (1953).



SONIA KESHISHIAN - JURY LIAISON "For the past 23 years as the Jury Liaison of Arpa International Film Festival I have had the distinct pleasure in gathering esteemed industry professionals that includes directors, producers, screenwriters, actors, professors, novelists, and musicians who bring their expertise and talent in recognizing excellence in the craft of filmmaking and music. Our diverse group of jurors in our first ever virtual awards ceremony are committed to see all the films in competition and make their final decision in the categories of feature films, shorts, documentaries, animations, and music. Our awards ceremony will be different this year but for any of our filmmakers a virtual reality experience will reach worldwide film loving audiences ready to experience fresh new voices in the cinematic arena. The Annual Arpa International Film Festival continues to keep its doors open for our independent storytellers and values the generosity of our jury members whose creative input will make sure that these films are seen, studied, and acknowledged."

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



As the director of Arpa international film festival I welcome you to our virtual film festival event from November 12-22, 2020.

As we enter our 23rd year, I can confidently say Arpa International Film Festival is very much alive with a lineup of incredible films from all around the globe.

During these challenging times due to the pandemic, we have created our very own online theatre.

Our 2020 line up of features, shorts, documentaries, music videos and animation rich in cultural diversity will provide our viewers a unique experience of appreciating the stories of independent film makers.

I am deeply grateful beyond expression to recognize our founder Sylvia Minassian, who has seen the festival grow for the past 23 years making it the longest running in Los Angeles. I also want

to thank our amazing Jury Liaison Sonia Keshishian, who has made it her mission to bring giants in the entertainment industry that bring their talent and diverse points of view.

My heartfelt thanks to Karen Kondazian, for being the spirit of community and generosity with her continued support. A special thank you to our multitalented Festival Producer/Technical Director Vanja Srdic, who manages all technical aspects of Arpa International Film Festival. Last but not least, I am grateful to our hard working programming team, this year led by Cammie Jones, who explores and selects the best in each film category and music to bring a vibrant selection of films to our growing audience.

I am continually inspired and deeply grateful to Arpa's previous directors who led the festival before me.

To our supporters who not only enrich the festival but help sustain all year round I salute you!

I look forward in interacting with our film enthusiasts and together capture virtually a unique festival experience.

Maral Kazazian, Festival Director

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 AWARD NOMINATED FILMS



BEST FEATURE FILM, BEST DIRECTOR AND BEST SCREENPLAY AWARD NOMINEES

ALEKSI directed by Barbara Vekarić (2019, Croatia & Serbia, 90 min)

OMAR AND US directed by Maryna Er Gorbach & Mehmet Bahadır Er (2019, Turkey, 103 min)

UNTIMELY directed by Pouya Eshtehardi (2020, Iran, 78 min)



BEST FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY AWARD NOMINEES

AN ARMENIAN TRILOGY directed by Dan Yessian (2019, USA, 48 min)

BLOODLESS: THE PATH TO DEMOCRACY directed by Bared Maronian & Silva Basmajian (2020, USA, 95 min)

BORN JUST NOW directed by Robert Adanto (2018, USA, 84 min)

QUO VADIS 2020 directed by Gabriele Fabbro (2019, USA, 70 min)

WHAT WILL BECOME OF US directed by Stephanie Ayanian & Joseph Myers (2020, USA, 57 min)

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 AWARD NOMINATED FILMS



BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY AWARD NOMINEES

CONFESSIONS OF A RUNNER directed by Bachar Khattar (2020, Lebanon, 29 min)

FINISH LINE directed by Saeed Mayahy (2019, Iran, 13 min)

FROM KURILS WITH LOVE directed by Taylor Reese (2020, USA, 20 min)



BEST SHORT FILM AWARD NOMINEES

ALINA directed by Rami Kodeih (2019, USA, 25 min)

BABU directed by Eelum Dixit (2019, Nepal, 27 min)

BLACK HEART, RED HANDS directed by Russell Southam (2019, Australia, 15 min)

FURTHEST FROM directed by Kyung Sok Kim (2019, USA, 19 min)

RETURN (VEGER) directed by Selman Deniz (2019, Armenia & Turkey, 18 min)

THE CRITIC directed by Stella Velon (2018, USA, 15 min)

THIS LAND directed by Michael Aloyan (2019, Armenia, 17 min)

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 AWARD NOMINATED FILMS



BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM AWARD NOMINEES

10000 UGLY INKBLOTS directed by Dmitry Geller (2020, China, 8 min)

GON, THE LITTLE FOX directed by Takeshi Yashiro (2019, Japan, 28 min)

HARVEST directed by Sun Lijun (2018, China, 5 min)

MALAKOUT directed by Farnoosh Abedi (2019, Iran, 12 min)

THE ABANDONED BLOCK directed by James Bourne (2020, Canada, 6 min)

THE ROTATION directed by Hazhir As'adi (2020, Iran, 7 min)

THE WINTER directed by Xin Li (2020, Australia, 5 min)



BEST MUSIC VIDEO AWARD NOMINEES

CATALYST BARS feat. ALEXI – SMASH AGAIN directed by Alexi Papalexopoulos (2019, USA, 4 min)

ELIZABETH LEWIS – COVID BACH directed by Elizabeth Lewis (2020, Canada, 2 min)

HAMO ARZOUMANIAN – MANOUG ME (A CHILD) directed by Armen Poladian (2020, Canada, 4 min)

MANU HVALA – ONLY LOVE directed by Manu Hvala (2020, USA, 4 min)

NAMEWEE – GETAWAY TO KAOHSIUNG directed by Namewee (2020, Taiwan, 6 min)

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Don't Miss Our Free Online Event!

SEED&SPARK

presents

ART OF THE PITCH Workshop

FREE ONLINE EVENT - REGISTER/RSVP NOW!

Knowing how to convey the specifics about your project in a dynamic, succinct way can land you not only investors, but collaborators, audience members, and more.

SKILLS LEARNED: * How to prepare for a pitch meeting;

* How to adapt your pitch to different audiences; * How to follow up for a bright future.

23rd
Annual

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 19, 2020
11:30 AM PST

Powered by
SEED&SPARK

ARPA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2020 Online Edition



WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL OF OUR 2020 FILMMAKERS TO ATTEND THIS AMAZING FREE & ONLINE WORKSHOP ORGANIZED & PRESENTED BY SEED&SPARK: "ART OF THE PITCH" MAKE SURE TO REGISTER/RSVP VIA EVENTBRITE

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



I feel very fortunate to take this journey with Arpa International Film Festival's incredible team who are consistently motivated and focused toward achieving their greatest potential.

Helping filmmakers move forward in their creative work, expanding their talent, and ultimately being the source of their true fulfillment is the reason AFFMA has thrived for 23 years.

I celebrate you all.

Karen Kondazian

In Loving Memory of Lillian and Varnum Paul

Lillian & Varnum Paul

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Sylvia Minassian, our precious founder for the last 23 years, is the ideal woman we all got to love.

My beautiful friend, since we were teens, you had a dream. You wanted to share your dream and open the valve of your generous heart.

A fundamental change was about to take place. With your soulmate Haig, together with one heart and energy and mutual dedication created the Arpa International Film Festival.

Sylvia, in the face of many challenges, you became a champion of change. You were on a path. In your everyday life you came into contact with many kinds of people and heard all kinds of things but no matter how stressful the situation you uplifted the morale of your Arpa-family opening your heart

without a hesitation that would interfere with your purpose.

My childhood friend, as I look back into our memorable past with its rich experiences and sweet family atmosphere, I have learned to appreciate the vital importance of those years which gave lasting meaning and value to both our lives – granting us and others the most wonderful opportunities to benefit and attain successes and triumphs along the road of responsibility.

Sylvia with your own sense of power you understood your direction in a creative arena where your idealistic drive took flight.

Doors were opened and a flood of films from independent filmmakers from all over the globe sent their stories.

As a restless person Sylvia you did not waste a moment to put together a team. Individually and collectively we were energized by your spirited soul. Your smiling face filled your surroundings with the fragrance of love.

The Arpa International Film festival under the watchful eye of our founder has persevered 23 years with its promising present and with a future filled with great opportunities.

Our continued survival is due to the acceptance of our duties and responsibilities to serve not only independent cinema but our community as well.

My sweet friend you still tear down the challenges that lie in our path, you have taken on an enormous burden motivated by your love; you took a chance and cared more about the process than the final outcome.

From the very beginning I watched you perform your role without expectation with only joy, full dedication. Today in these challenging times I watch you still and think back on that first day where your vision radiated with full brilliance as we made use of each and every moment with certainty and optimism to push forward to manifest your dream.

Love you endlessly,

Sonia Keshishian

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



ISTANBUL
KAMER KIRAÇ
• Ж •
JEWELERY



kamerkirac.com



#kamerkirac



WINES *of* ARMENIA .com



ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 FESTIVAL TEAM



SYLVIA MINASSIAN, FESTIVAL FOUNDER

Sylvia Minassian who always had a deep passion for languages and the arts since her youth, holds a Master's Degree in French Literature. Her passion for the arts led her to start a foundation to promote the arts. Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art (AFFMA) was founded in 1995 to provide a platform for filmmakers, musicians and artists, whose work explores subjects of social and cultural importance. In 1997, Sylvia Minassian started the annual Arpa International Film Festival, with a mission to create a dynamic forum for international and local filmmakers who explore such issues as diaspora, war, genocide, dual-identity, exile and multiculturalism. Minassian believes that a festival is first and foremost a product of its participants. She takes great pride in representing AFFMA, a non-profit art foundation whose sole purpose is to recognize the diverse tapestry of international talent and presenting their creative work to an appreciative audience. Each year, the festival looks forward to screen an exceptional program of films from many different countries, taking great pride in the works of all of the filmmakers who, in their brilliant visions, have created their own distinctive place in the Global Film Community.



MARAL KAZAZIAN, FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Maral Kazazian is one of the first members of AFFMA. She holds a degree in chemistry, but her passion for films takes her around globally, and along with her husband they have become serious students of cinema. Maral's deep interest in photography allows her to connect deeper with people and the many avenues they encounter along the way, she reviews films and invites online audience to engage in creative dialogue on international and independent films.



SONIA KESHISHIAN, JURY LIASON

Sonia Keshishian holds a master degree in Dramatic Arts from the CSU in LA. While attending the Theater of Arts, Sonia was one of 40 students selected for the prestigious UCLA summer workshop theatre where she was singled out by the Los Angeles Times, Variety and the Hollywood Reporter for her work. She has acted opposite such acting giants like Ruth Warrick, James Whitmore, Betty Field, and Walter Abel in several theatre productions. Sonia has been a board member of AFFMA since its inception serving as jury liaison where experienced industry professionals pave the way for these talented filmmakers into perfecting their craft.



VANJA SRDIC, FESTIVAL PRODUCER, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, PROGRAMMING & PRINT TRAFFIC MANAGER

Vanja Srdic is a Los Angeles based filmmaker, producer and technical director with extensive experience in the entertainment industry, and enormous love for timeless music. His expertise is creative direction, production and technical management of digital film screening presentations at multi-venue film festivals and other events. As an owner of Frame House Media, Vanja runs a creative team specializing in film and video production, website design and digital content delivery, and manages all technical aspects of the Arpa International Film Festival.



DON Q. HANNAH, FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Don Q. Hannah is a Vice President, Creative Services at Film Solutions LLC, and founder/principal artist at Parallusion Media Group. Don is a member of the executive committee for AFFMA since 2004 and serves as the official photographer for the Arpa International Film Festival.



JACKLIN BOYADJIAN, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Jacklin Boyadjian earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from UCLA, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She then pursued a Masters Degree in Public Policy at Pepperdine University. This was followed by a Juris Doctorate degree in 2016, where she represented her school in the Roger Traynor California Appellate Moot Court Competition. Since August 2019 she has been employed by Wilshire Law Firm and is a contributing board member for numerous charitable organizations, including VP of the Armenian International Medical Fund. Prior to joining Wilshire Law Firm, she was with Mardirossian & Associates for 7 years. Jacklin has used her extensive experience in public relations to assist with political campaigns and in the organization of receptions for judicial leaders. She served as Executive Director of the Armenian Bar Association from 2010 to 2014.

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 FESTIVAL TEAM



LILIT HARUTYUNYAN

Lilit Harutyunyan was born in Echmiadzin city, Armenia. She started playing the violin at the age of five, later continuing her education in one of the respected music schools in Yerevan, Armenia, Sayat Nova Music School. Lilit moved to the United States with her family in 1997. First, Lilit continued her education at Glendale Community Collage in Art History, later transferring to University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Art History. One of the greatest times of Lilit's life was her time in Paris as a student at University of California in Paris. After returning to Los Angeles and graduating from UCLA, Lilit started her career in art consulting, artist representation, curating art shows and working with various art dealers and galleries in Los Angeles. Lilit joined the Hi-Am Charity Foundation team as Director of the Art Department in 2004. Since then she has helped the foundation with organizing various art exhibitions and concerts. Recently Lilit received her Juris Doctorate from University of West Los Angeles in California and currently she balances her legal career with art and music projects in Los Angeles.



BERGE KALLIBJIAN, DEVELOPMENT

Berge Kallibjian is a Million Dollar Round Table agent with New York Life. Having studied English and Political Science at UCLA, he has used his extensive knowledge and experience in marketing, sales and client relations to assist in countless fundraising efforts for many nonprofits, spanning 20 years. As a coordinator for the New York Life Foundation and serving on committees for many nonprofits, his passion for helping others is exemplified in his selfless work.



SOSSI VARBEDIAN, HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION

Sossi Varbedian has a passion and great appreciation for music, culture, languages and the arts. She studied Business Marketing and is currently studying English Literature. Attending Arpa Int'l Film Festival's 20th Anniversary three years ago at the Egyptian theatre, left her with a lasting impression that sparked an interest to getting involved with the festival. She now serves as the festivals secretary and head of administration. She's passionate about how Arpa IFF cultivates and advances culture and art by bringing a treasured value to the community.



CAMMIE JONES, HEAD PROGRAMMER

Cammie Jones is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker by day, Artist by Night, Film Lover all the time! She is currently working on a drawing/street photo project, Public Transportation to Fancy Restaurants, capturing over 50 restaurants so far.
#MagneticARTbycammiejones cammiejones.com



MASIS MARKAR, PROGRAMMER

Masis Markar is Armenian-American filmmaker, writer and film restoration professional. He has applied his 20 years of expertise to restore such classics as How Green Was My Valley, A Hard Days' Night, and All That Jazz. He has restored historical news reels as well as the personal family archives of past US presidents, royalty, international politicians, and silver screen stars. He is one of the few people in the world that has been trained on the fabric dye tint technique that was used in the silent era. He continues to write and work on his own projects. In his free time Masis enjoys visiting museums and the zoo with his wife and son.



SILVA KARAGEOZIAN, PROGRAMMER & COMMUNITY LIAISON

Silva Karageozian has lived in Southern California for most of her life. She is an alumna of UC Irvine and earned a Political Science degree. She worked in the environmental field in public relations. Later she earned a multiple subject credential and taught school in LA and Orange Counties. She left the classroom and joined Digital Networks where her work focused on the integration of technology in education. As a full time parent she became an active volunteer in her local community. This spirit of volunteerism led her back to her alma mater, where she aligned with the UCI Armenian Studies Program. She has worked to promote awareness and raise funds for Western Armenian language instruction and is co-chair of the Director's Circle for Armenian Studies at UCI. She also chartered the UCI Armenian American Alumni Chapter. She loves classic movies and documentaries. Being part of the AFFMA and the Arpa International Film Festival is an exciting way to explore and examine intriguing and relevant topics through the medium of film. She is so honored to be part of the festival Programming Team this year!

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 FESTIVAL TEAM



LORI SINANIAN, SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

As an Armenian-Venezuelan born and raised in Los Angeles, Lori Sinanian wears many hats that derive from her interest in the intersection of different modes of communicating. Sinanian holds a degree in English Literature from the University of California, Irvine. Throughout her undergraduate career, she explored the various ways to use language to effectively communicate, such as through the Newport Beach Film Festival, Anteater Television, and Insight Magazine. Through her degree, she has obtained the power of the impact of words, but always with an eye for advocacy, storytelling, and social justice.



NICK TALARICO, GRAPHIC DESIGN & VIDEO PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Nick Talarico is a Cinema and Television Arts Student at California State University Northridge, focusing on Cinematography and Video Editing. He is passionate about every aspect of the industry and loves working with others that share his love for filmmaking. This passion was ultimately sparked when he first viewed the film “Back to the Future” as a child. Nick has since set his sights on being a part of the creative processes of filmmaking.



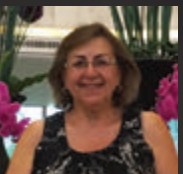
HRAG MEGUERDITCHIAN, VIDEO PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Hrag Meguerditchian is a Lebanese-Armenian born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon. Born into a Theatrical background, Hrag found his love for the performing arts since he was a child, watching plays and growing up in the backstage of theaters across Lebanon. Indulged in Music at first, then finding himself in Cinema and achieving a degree in Film from the Lebanese University – Faculty Of Fine Arts and Architecture. Hrag searches to find inspiration from Human Interaction and the intricacies of Human emotion. Focusing on becoming a Writer/Director, he wishes to make films till the end of his days.



NELLY HARUTYUNYAN, COMMUNITY LIAISON

“Vouloir c’est pouvoir – Will is the Power” is the life principal and motivation for Nelly Harutyunyan who has over 10 years of experience in international business, sustainable development and financial analyses. She is a graduate of Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University and holds a bachelor’s degree in Finance and Auditing, as well as an International Business Affairs MBA. Nelly has worked for Credit Agricole Bank for 7 years as a senior loan analyst and holds licenses in auditing and management. She then worked for global powerhouses LVMH and Pernod Ricard where she further developed her skills in international business management, branding, marketing and social media. Nelly is currently with the French-based international broadcast company Globecast North Americas as a financial reporting analyst, while pursuing real estate.



CARMEN AZINIAN LIBARIDIAN, COMMUNITY LIAISON

Carmen Azinian Libaridian was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and came to United States when she was only a few years old. She is very family oriented and adores her four children and her father who just celebrated his 90th birthday. She has been vital in helping spark collaboration between different organization in the Glendale and Los Angeles communities. Her spirit of volunteerism and the effective leadership skills she displays is truly admirable. She serves over 20 different boards including a few that she added last year.... American Armenian museum board, The Ararat charter school board and the American Armenian tournament of roses float. She is now the Community Liaison at Arpa International Film Festival committee.

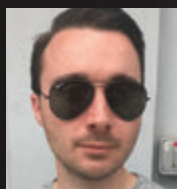


ARA TAVITIAN, COMMUNITY LIAISON

Ara Tavitian is the owner of Retro Gallery in Los Angeles, a top source for vintage accessories and lighting for more than two decades. He is also a passionate collector, always on the search for unique items from European and American sources that will add flair, sophistication, or whimsy to any home. His products have been featured in Architectural Digest, California Home + Design, House Beautiful, and many other publications.

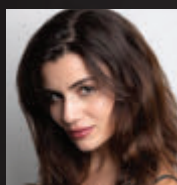
ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 FESTIVAL TEAM



JAMES ANANIAS, THEATER MANAGER

James Ananias is a mechanic by trade but has worked at other film festivals for ten years. Once starting as a volunteer and working his way to his current position of theater manager. Though not having any direct involvement in the film industry, he has shown great diligence through the years in performing his duties for the festival's production. Working with staff, volunteers, and patrons so everyone enjoys the festivities.



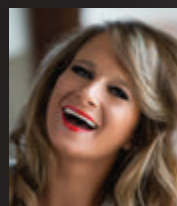
LORENA DILANIAN, FESTIVAL ADVISOR

Lorena Armine vDilanian is a Los Angeles native and first generation Armenian-American. While studying psychology and film at UC Irvine, she grew an interest in art as an effective medium to facilitate healing and provoke change. She has been a volunteer with Arpa Film Festival since 2013 with the intention of supporting independent, international filmmakers and the merging of cultures through storytelling.



ALEEN KHACHATOURIAN, FESTIVAL ADVISOR

Aleen Khachatourian is a Los Angeles based artist who is experienced in film, music, and theatre production. Her work in the music industry has involved creative direction of Endeavor Studios (an independent label), music video direction, artist management and touring. As an innovative strategist, she spends time collaborating on businesses, projects and productions. In addition to taking the stage, she has spent the last decade as the Program Director of DiscoveryOnstage; a youth theatre education company. Leading with a hybrid skill set of logistical acumen and creative passion; she emphasizes expression through the arts. As a writer, Aleen's arsenal comes stocked with scripts, plays, poetry, and songs. For her, storytelling has been the most integral tool for introspection and understanding the human experience.



MARIA ELENA INFANTINO, FESTIVAL ADVISOR

Maria Elena Infantino is an International Singer and Actress. She graduated in acting in London at ALRA (Academy of Live and Recorded Arts) in 2010. Her debut was at the Royal Albert hall, singing for the 50th Beatles Anniversary, starring Dame Shirley Bassey. That same year she was nominated for the 21st annual L.A. Music Awards as best International artist. Subsequently she created her one woman show on legendary Edith Piaf, which premiered in Los Angeles at the Marilyn Monroe Theatre, at the Lee Strasberg Institute, and subsequently at the Grammy Museum. Among the many successes that this show generated for Ms Infantino, was the inauguration on June 12th of the Piaf and Miles Davis USPS forever stamp, at the Rubin Museum in New York. She has been associate producer and actress in various independent films such as "The Admired" starring Jacqueline Murphy, and "Job's daughter" with Corey Feldman, Eric Roberts and Doris Roberts, "The secret of joy", ITV Yorkshire UKseries "Emmerdale" and more. Maria Elena is also on the board of charitable causes such as Caterina's club founded by CNN hero chef Bruno Serato which feeds 5,000 unprivileged kids a day and Ranch hands rescue in Texas, which provides therapy for abused children and animals.

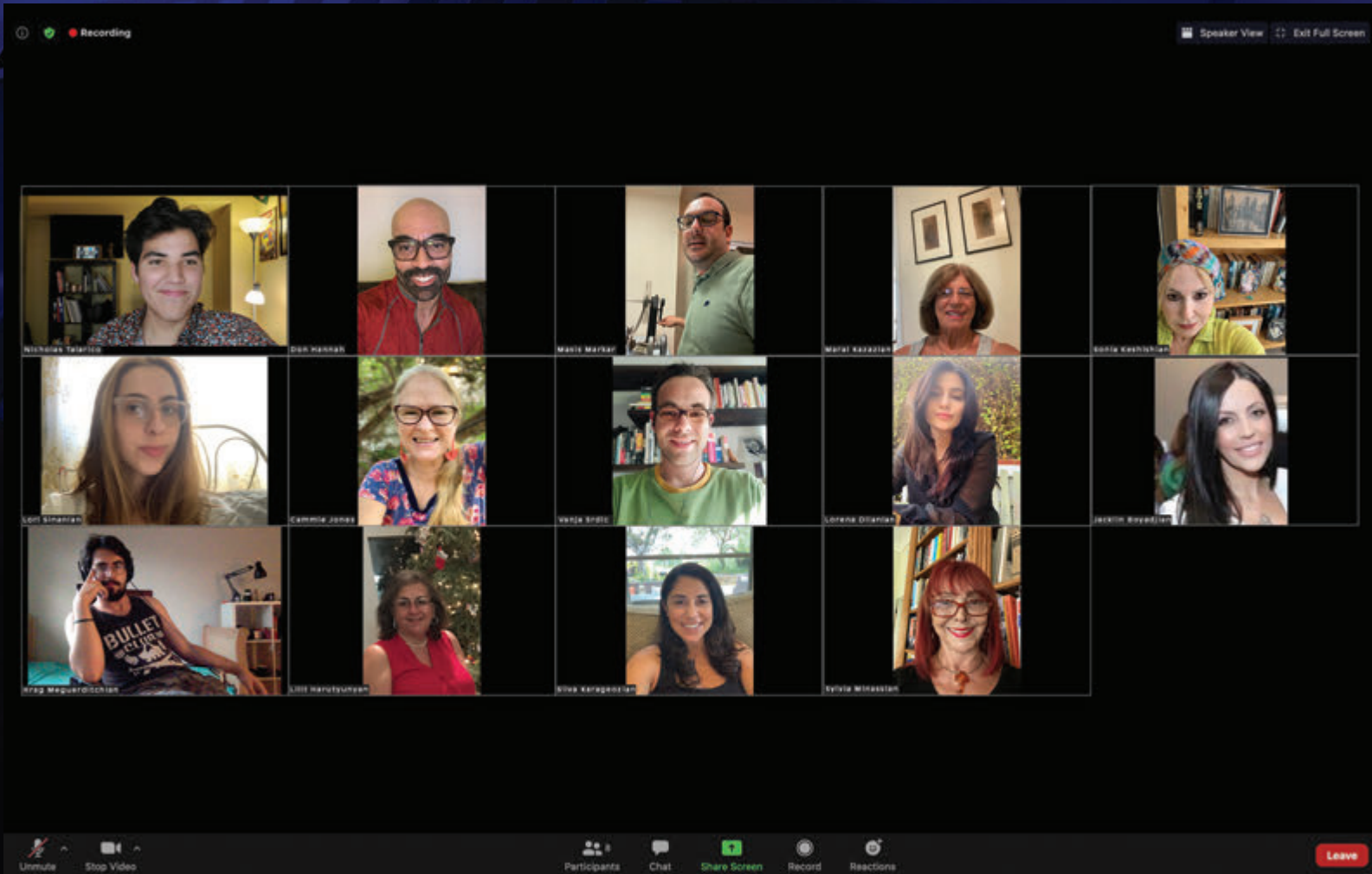


MANVEL SARIBEKYAN, FESTIVAL ADVISOR (ARMENIA LIAISON)

Manvel Saribekyan, film producer Republic of Armenia. Founding Director of "Man Pictures" Studio. He is the author and producer of "The Map of Gratitude" and several other film projects produced by Man Pictures Studio. Author of the film idea and Producer of "The Fate and the Art", "The Map of Salvation" produced by Man Pictures Studio.

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 FESTIVAL TEAM

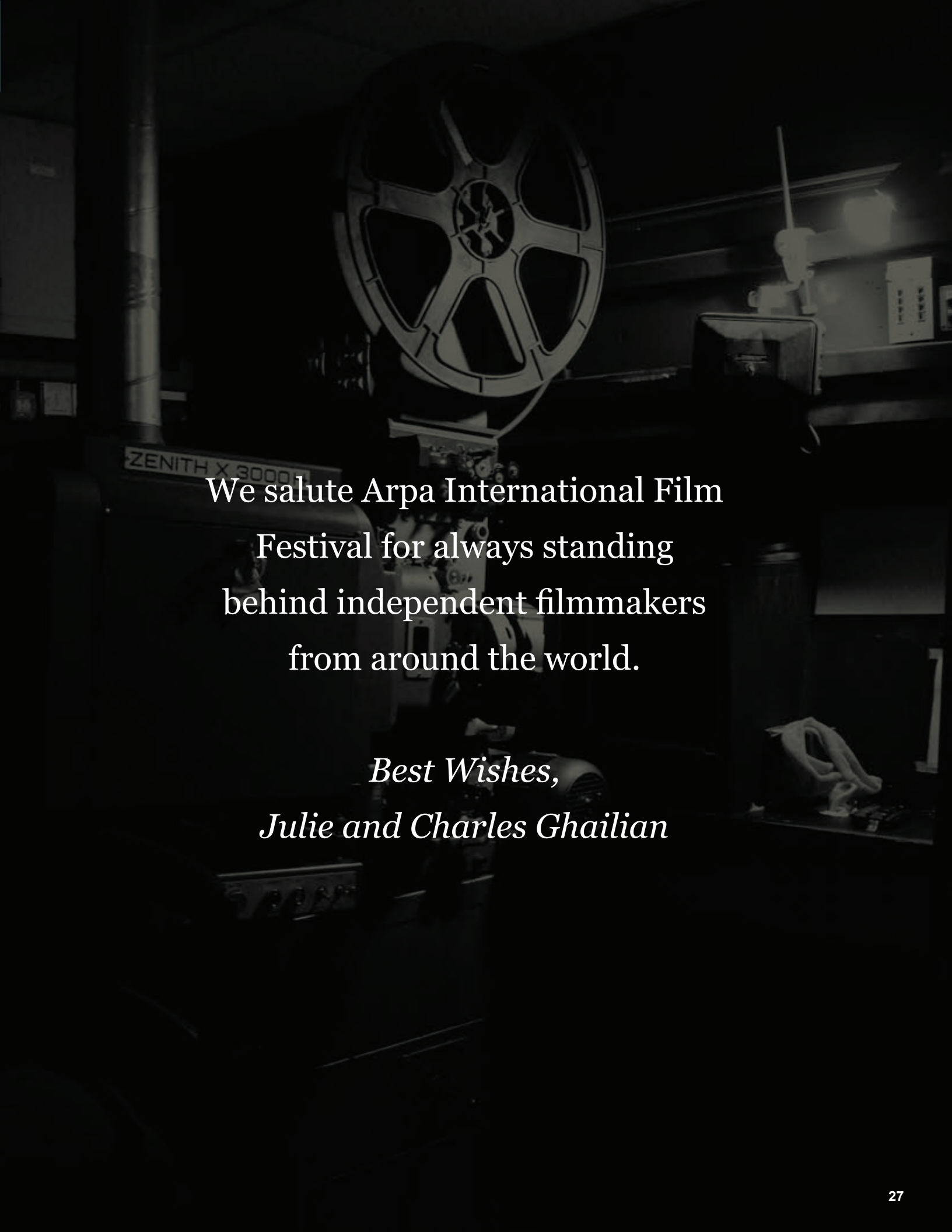


FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Nicholas Talarico, Don Hannah, Masis Markar, Maral Kazazian, Sonia Keshishian, Lori Sinanian, Cammie Jones, Vanja Srdic, Lorena Dilanian, Jacklin Boyadjian, Hrag Meguerditchian, Lilit Harutyunyan, Silva Karageozian, Sylvia Minassian

NOT PHOTOGRAPHED:

Berge Kallibjian, Sossi Varbedian, Nelly Harutyunyan, Ara Tavitian, James Ananias, Aleen Khachatourian, Maria Elena Infantino, Manvel Saribekyan.



We salute Arpa International Film
Festival for always standing
behind independent filmmakers
from around the world.

*Best Wishes,
Julie and Charles Ghailian*



We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the winners and gifted filmmakers for their proven contribution to the cinematic arena.

We appreciate and value your stories that are uniquely your own.

Maral & Navasart
Kazazian

*Congratulations to
Arpa International Film Festival
on 23 amazing years!
We salute all the participants and honorees!*

Lori and Angelo Ghailian

ASTROLOGIE
C A L I F O R N I A

MARDIROSSIAN & ASSOCIATES

www.garolaw.com





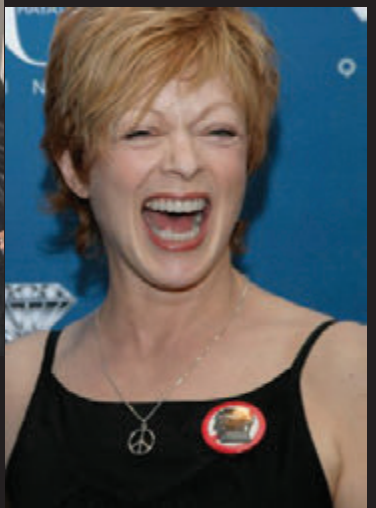
★ Refined Eye

www.refinedeye.com

818.424.9171

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

HIGHLIGHTS



ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

HIGHLIGHTS





SIERA

www.sierajewelry.com

Congratulations on your 23d year!

- Carmen Libaridian and Family

ARTURO'S ARTURO'S SHOE FIXX

9467 S. Santa Monica Blvd.
Beverly Hills CA 90210

SUEDE & LEATHER
TENNIS SHOE
CLEANING

SHOE, HANDBAG
AND JACKET
REPAIRS

NEW PURSE LINING

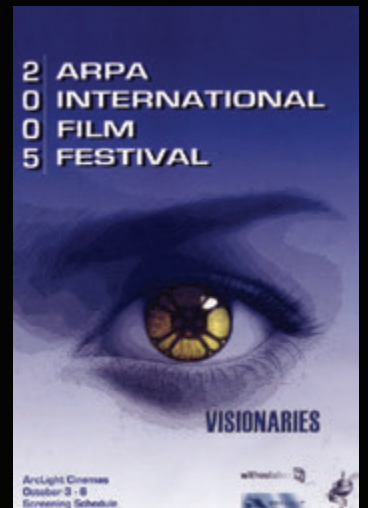
ALTERATIONS &
"CUSTOMIZATION"

BOOT SIZING
for Men & Women



BEFORE AFTER

23 YEARS OF ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL POSTERS



23 YEARS OF ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL POSTERS





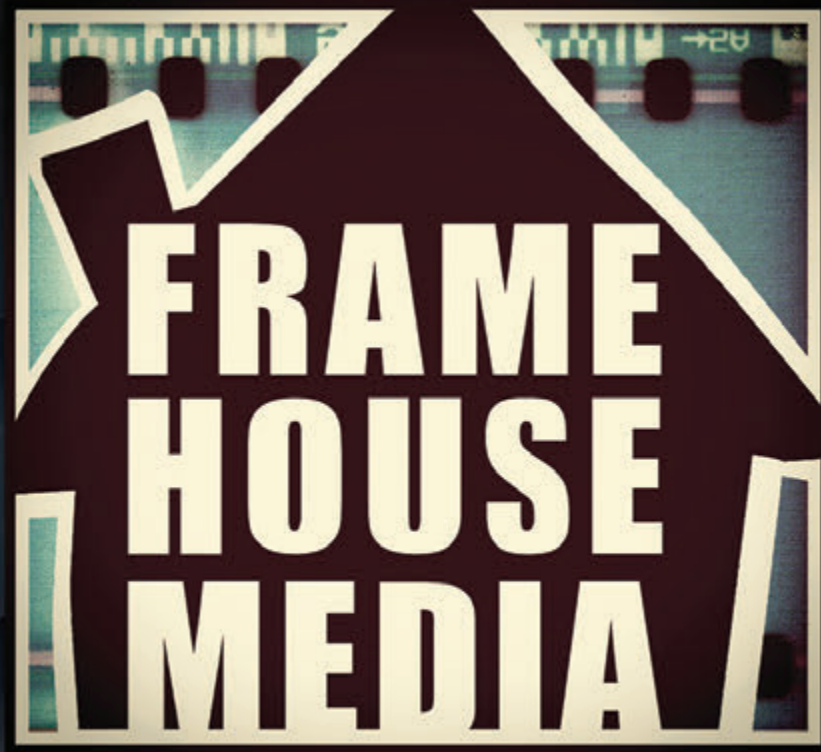


ARKAPHOTO.COM - 323.660.7573



**“Congratulations on your
23rd Anniversary.
Looking forward to many
more years of amazing films
from talented artists!”**

Isabel and Eddy Zohrabian



FILM, VIDEO, WEB, MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION

CREATIVE MARKETING SOLUTIONS, SEO, CUSTOM SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT



*H*ovhannes
*B*abakhanyan
H.B.

Actor | Singer

347.781.8778 | 818.396.0340

hbabakhanyan@yahoo.com

www.facebook.com/hovhannesb

www.hovhannesbabakhanyan.com





Discover
HOLLYWOOD
MAGAZINE



EARTHSTONE OVENS

WOOD, GAS & COAL FIRE OVENS
earthstoneovens.com



VICTORIA COLLINS INTERIOR DESIGN

victoria@victoriacollinsinteriors.com

@vemstarinteriors

818-259-0222



**ARMENIAN
ENOUGH**

2020 MEDIA SPONSORS

Asbarez
ARMENIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER

THE
**ARMENIAN
OBSERVER**

The American
Mirror-Spectator

Discover
HOLLYWOOD
MAGAZINE

THE CALIFORNIA COURIER
The Award-Winning and Best Reviewed Historical Weekly Since 1958

PACIFICA RADIO
KPFK 90.7FM
Since 1959
LOS ANGELES

CA .GOV **California** filmcommission

SEED & SPARK

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



ALEKSI (2019, Croatia & Serbia)

Feature Narrative Film, Drama, Comedy, Coming of Age

Running Time: 90 min

**LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST
SCREENPLAY, BEST DIRECTOR & BEST FEATURE FILM AWARD**

Director & Writer: Barbara Vekarić

Producers: Marina Andree Skop, Darija Kulenović Gudan, Barbara Vekarić,
Snezana Penev, Gordan Kicić

Cast: Tihana Lazović, Goran Marković, Sebastian Cavazza, Jason Mann,
Leon Lucev, Neda Arnerić, Aljoša Vučković

Synopsis: Living under her parent's roof and control, Aleksi ignores the pressing responsibilities of adulthood by indulging her impulses with the various men in her life. Shot entirely on the beautiful Croatian coast, ALEKSI is an indie-style dramedy that tackles the topic of "the second coming of age" and figuring out life goals on the brink of one's thirties in a realistic fashion.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



AN ARMENIAN TRILOGY (2019, USA)

Feature-length Documentary, Armenian History, Music
Running Time: 74 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD

Director: Dan Yessian
Producer: Ohad Wilner
Editor: Stewart Shevin

Synopsis: Composer Dan Yessian reconnects with his roots, writing a symphony in tribute to the 1.5 million souls lost in the Armenian Genocide. Follow the journey to his ancestral homeland of Armenia as he explores his own past and rediscovers Armenia's rich history, culture, and music - featuring the world renowned Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



BACK UP! (2019, France)

Feature Narrative Film, Drama

Running Time: 90 min

USA PREMIERE

Director: Christophe Gros-Dubois

Writers: Franck Gros-Dubois, Christophe Gros-Dubois

Producer: Constant Gros-Dubois

Cast: Astrid Bayiha, Kamal Moummad, Kader Lassina Touré,
Sylvain Charbonneau, Dominique Lollia, Pierre Rousselet, Ricky Tribord

Synopsis: When a young man from the suburb of Paris is killed by the Police, a French alternative media outlet called “BACK UP!”; along with its free-spirited female journalist investigate the causes of yet another Police Brutality scandal. Her nonconformist and scrutinous inquiries will not only help them shed some light on the mysterious disappearance of a militant ecologist, but also provide a much needed impartial media platform for the sister of the young deceased.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



BLOODLESS: THE PATH TO DEMOCRACY (2020, USA)

Feature-length Documentary, History, Politics, Human Rights

Running Time: 95 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD

Directors: Bared Maronian and Silva Basmajian

Writers: Bared Maronian and Silva Basmajian

Director of Photography: Bardig Kouyoumjian

Music Score: Serouj Baghdasarian

Producers: Bared Maronian, Silva Basmajian, Seda Grigoryan

Cast: Nikol Pashinyan, Armen Sarkissian, Shombi Sharp, Arsinee Khanjian, Maria Titizian, Mikael Zolyan, Anna Ohanyan

Synopsis: In the course of history, only a few revolutions have been successful, let alone those without Bloodshed. Nikol Pashinyan, a charismatic former journalist and political prisoner, galvanized support among the youth and women, by using non-violent civil disobedience protests and social media. In a short period of 6 weeks, a corrupt oligarchy was toppled and democracy restored. Deemed short of a miracle, BLOODLESS is a riveting political thriller, capturing the story as events unfold in the spring of 2018 in Armenia.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



BORN JUST NOW (2018, USA)

Feature-length Documentary, Performance Art, Women
Running Time: 84 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD

Director & Writer: Robert Adanto

Producer: Anthony E. Zuiker

Cast: Marta Jovanović, Ivana Ranisavljević, Kathy Battista, Anja Foerschner, Milica Pekić, Jovo Bakić, Vladislav Scepanović, Jean-Daniel Ruch, Sara Kostić

Synopsis: *Born Just Now* offers an intimate look at Marta Jovanović, a Belgrade-based artist struggling to cope with the violence that has ended an eight-year marriage. Daring to live on her own terms, Jovanović has chosen art and art-making over marriage and abuse. Through provocative acts of endurance exploring intimacy, motherhood and the trauma of the Balkan wars, she seeks to confront, release, and liberate her own pain in the name of art in a realistic fashion.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



LONE WOLVES (2019, Spain)

Feature Narrative Film, Thriller, Crime, Drama

Running Time: 80 min

Director, Writer & Producer: Sergi Arnau

Cast: Joel Minguet, Pau Barredo, Joan Massotkleiner, Martí Peraferrer, José María Blanco, Hermann Bonnín

Synopsis: Lone Wolves is about corruption in high places, set in a prison drama and with a film noir aesthetic. LONE WOLVES has a structure similar to RESERVOIR DOGS, where through several episodes we will discover why certain characters ended up in jail.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



MIN ALESH? (2019, Ethiopia)

Feature Narrative Film, Drama

Running Time: 84 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Director & Writer: Amleset Muchie

Producer: Selamawit Mare

Cast: Amleset Muchie, Henok Wondimu, Alebachew Mekonnen, Dirbwork Seyifu

Synopsis: A 21-year-old girl by the name of Selam grew up in one of the poorest slums in Ethiopia yet maintained her strong moral principles and core values. She found solace in running and saw it as a vehicle to change her life and that of her family. Her relentless efforts pay off when she wins a race of her life in the international scene.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



MIRACLE IN THE DESERT: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE SALTON SEA (2019, USA)

Feature-length Documentary, Environment, Pollution

Running Time: 78 min

Director & Producer: Greg Bassenian

Synopsis: The Salton Sea is an unfolding environmental disaster of extraordinary magnitude. As the largest lake in California begins to dry, millions of lives are in danger as clouds of toxic dust, massive fish kills and the destruction of an entire ecosystem threatens the health of millions in southern California, many who have no voice or little representation in the state legislature. If the state of California does not act quickly, it will be the worst environmental disaster of a generation.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



OMAR AND US (2019, Turkey)

Feature Narrative Film, Drama, Human Rights

Running Time: 103 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SCREENPLAY, BEST DIRECTOR AND BEST FEATURE FILM AWARD

Directors: Maryna Er Gorbach & Mehmet Bahadir Er

Writer: Mehmet Bahadir Er

Producer: Mehmet Bahadir Er

Cast: Hala Alsayasneh, Cem Bender, Emrah Dogan

Synopsis: Ismet is a recently retired Turkish soldier whose last post was as a Commander of the Coast Guard at the Turkish maritime border. New to civilian life, he struggles to communicate with his family and the people around him. His only son abandoned him and left for the U.S., and now his wife wants to join her son, too. In an unexpected turn of events, he suddenly becomes neighbors with two refugees, Omar and Mariye. Through this encounter and firsthand experience of what refugees have to go through, he is finally able to face his prejudices and reexamine his worldview.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



ONCE UPON A JUDGMENT DAY (2020, Turkey)

Feature Narrative Film, Drama, Western

Running Time: 109 min

USA PREMIERE

Director, Writer & Producer: Mehmet Tanrisever

Cast: Soydan Soydaş, Tarik Tanrisever, Süleyman Kabaali, Asuman Dabak, Yaşar Alptekin, Mehmet Tanrisever, Mürşit Ağa Bağ, Seda Keskol, Ümit Acar

Synopsis: Arife, who once lived in the rural areas of Anatolia, makes a living by telling stories to people at weddings. Her husband, Dancer Civan, who entertains people by dancing in the same environments, suddenly has a heart attack while walking on mountainous terrain to catch a wedding. Witnessing the death of her husband in a cave, Arife remains helpless with the arrival of three bandits in the stories she constantly tells. The bandits, who are suddenly irritated by the advent of Arife, threaten to kill Arife. However, when Arife begins to tell the stories of the three bandits with a mysterious, dramatic, and unusual speaking style, the bandits lower their weapons and listen to the stories of Arife with curiosity, until the sunrise. The pain, troubles, and secrets of the bandits have been fully revealed. Now the bandits will make a decision to either kill Arife, by burying their secrets with her, or they will repent and leave their land.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



QUO VADIS 2020 (2020, USA)

Feature-length Documentary

Running Time: 70 min

WEST COAST PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD

Director & Writer: Gabriele Fabbro

Producers: Jessica Ghitis, Gabriele Fabbro, Kelvin Shum

Cast: Ydalie Turk, Melanie Wick, Jimmy Chen, Olivia Matterson, Jessica Ghitis, Marcello Mariani, Jolanda Pozzi, Jean Guillou, Paolo Sanvito, Carlo Ignazio Misasi, Corinne Montaperto, Alberto Cariello

Synopsis: A post millennial journey to Italy before the coronavirus outbreak. While encountering various faces of the contemporary Italian decline, the trip turns into an existential experience arising doubts within a group of ambitious filmmakers, moved by the nostalgia of the humble life that they abandoned to follow their dreams.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



RESPITE (2019, USA)

Feature Narrative Film, Action, Crime, Drama

Running Time: 80 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Saro Varjabedian

Writers: Ali Abouomar, Saro Varjabedian

Producer: Monte Bezell

Cast: Monte Bezell, Julián Joaquín, Ahmet Devran Dayanc, Haythem Noor, Leslie Kalarchian, Baylen Thomas

Synopsis: Jimmy Baz, a down-and-out private-eye is reluctantly hired by the parents of a missing college aged boy to find their son. As Jimmy searches for the missing boy he stumbles upon a series of murders and now believes he is on the hunt for a serial killer targeting muslim men. Things take a sinister turn as his investigation leads him into the underworld of Bachi Basi, the taboo Afghani practice of child sex trafficking of young boys that are made to resemble young girls.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



SCENT OF MY DAUGHTER (2019, USA, France, Turkey)

Feature Narrative Film, Drama

Running Time: 95 min

Director & Writer: Olgun Özdemir

Producers: Olgun Özdemir, Ron L.Carr, Marc Brunet

Cast: Clemence Verniau, Çağlar Ertuğrul, Yılşen Özdemir, Şerif Sezer, Tolga Güleç

Synopsis: Beatrice's life changed dramatically during the terrorist attack in Nice July 2016 where she lost her parents, her husband and three year old daughter, who came to admire the fireworks on the famous Promenade des Anglais. Beatrice, fulfilling the wishes of her father, decides to repatriate the bodies in his native Armenian village in Hatay, Turkey, near the Syrian border. Beatrice desperately tries to commit suicide when Hevi, a minority Yezidi girl, prevents her to die. Hevi makes her understand that she escaped from the hands of her persecutors but she has a sister, who must be in one of the refugee camps around the area. Béa-trice decides to help her to find her sister, accompanied by Ibrahim, a young Turkish expatriate who came to visit his family. Together, they will live a human adventure, beyond the borders to gradually pass from pain to resilience.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



UNTIMELY (2020, Iran)

Feature Narrative Film, Drama

Running Time: 78 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SCREENPLAY, BEST DIRECTOR AND BEST FEATURE FILM AWARD

Director & Writer: Pouya Eshtehardi

Producer: Mohammad Sajadian

Cast: Iman Afshar, Shayan Afshar, Awa Azarpira, Mahsa Naroui, Ayoub Afshar

Synopsis: Hamin is a young private doing his military service in a watchtower in the borderline of Iran and Pakistan. Impatient for a day off to attend his sister's wedding ceremony, he gets into a fight with his commander. Up in the watchtower, Hamin reviews the past years and the things that have happened to him and his sister since their childhood. Hamin in Balochi means the heat of summer.

2020 FEATURES & DOCUMENTARIES



WHAT WILL BECOME OF US (2020, USA)

Feature-length Documentary, Armenian History, Diaspora

Running Time: 57 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD

Directors: Stephanie Ayanian, Joseph Myers

Writers: Mary McDermott, Greg Feinberg

Cast: Jon Simonian (Former Investment Banker), Sebu Simonian (Singer, Songwriter, Capital Cities), Michael Aram Wolohojian (Designer, Artist), John and Annie Sweers (Volunteers in Armenia), Aram Hamparian (Executive Director, Armenian National Committee of America), Lory Tatoulian (Comedian, Social Satirist), Karine Shamlian (Granddaughter of Living Genocide Survivor, Asdghig Alemian), Richard Hagopian & Andrew Hagopian (Oud Master & His Grandson)

Synopsis: 100 years ago, Armenians were nearly annihilated by Genocide. Today, often unrecognized, it remains defining – but the long shadow of the Genocide creates a burden for young Armenian Americans that discourage them from taking up their culture. What Will Become of Us follows six Armenian Americans – famous and otherwise – as they navigate the 100th anniversary of the Genocide, forging identities for the next 100 years. How can Armenian Americans honor their past, while unshackling themselves from its trauma?

23rd Annual

ARPA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
2020 Online Edition

November
12-22

Powered by
SEED & SPARK

Don't Miss Our
18 Q&As with Filmmakers
and Free Panel Discussion
WOMEN IN FILMMAKING

**YOU CAN EASILY FIND AND WATCH
ALL THIS CONTENT FOR FREE
UNDER OUR VIRTUAL EVENTS SECTION**

Festival Program

Features Shorts blocks Virtual events

**PANEL: WOMEN
IN FILMMAKING**

Moderator: **Natalie Qasabian** - Producer
Arpa IFF 2018 Rising Star Award Recipient

Michelle Alexandria - Distributor, Glass House Distribution since 2015

Micky Levy - Screenwriter, Director

Kelli McNeil - Writer, Actress, Voiceover Artist and Producer



SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #1 Running Time: 119 mins

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



THE ABANDONED BLOCK (2020, Canada) Animation, Drama, Art History, Running Time: 6 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director, Writer: James C. Bourne

Logline: A useless, damaged, forgotten block of marble, after years of neglect ends up becoming one of the most beloved works of art.



JO & KESSY: ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES (2019, France) Short Documentary, Artists, Disability, Running Time: 17 min

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Director, Writer: Nwaye Zar Che Soe

Producer: Benjamin Lemaitre

Cast: Jo Swing, Kessy Mac Queen

Logline: Two French artists with disabilities who have passionate dreams in Music but they never met before.



THE SPORT OF INCHES (2020, USA) Short Documentary, Sports, Rowing, UCI Student Film,

Running Time: 9 min

Director: Larry Tang

Assistant Director: Lori Sinanian

Producer: Luis Gonzales, Anteater TV

Cast: UCI Rowing Team

Logline: A look into the inner workings of a west-coast college rowing team, and the passion that drives them to move forward.



CONFESSIONS OF A RUNNER (2020, Lebanon) Short Documentary, Sports, Addiction, Recovery,

Running Time: 29 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD

Director: Bachar Khattar

Producers: Bachar Khattar, Patrick Vaughan, Denise Jabbour, Jerome Gary, Tim Rockwood

Cast: Patrick Vaughan, Avedis Kalpaklian, Ali Kedami, Laurent Esteoule-Bado, Phyllis Neriah Tsang

Logline: Healing and redemption while pursuing a running record on the 470km Lebanon Mountain Trail.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #1 Running Time: 119 mins

PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



DANDELION (2020, USA) Short Narrative, Romance, Drama , Running Time: 13 min
WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Jorg Viktor Steins-Lauss

Writers: Ryan T. Johnson, Michael Coles, Alex Nicole McConnell

Producers: Jorg Viktor Steins-Lauss, Mark Ragunton, Ryan T. Johnson

Cast: Ryan T. Johnson, Sidney Flack, Alex Nicole McConnell, Gaynell Doshier, Corey Cannon, Kayli Hessler, Kathy Jordan, David Murphy, Katrina Johnson, Marcos Calvillo

Logline: An elderly man remembers the full life of love he has lived, with the help of a wish he made on a dandelion years before.



LIFELESS (2020, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Running Time: 15 min

Directors, Writers, Producers: Alex Fedosov & Elvira Sinelnik

Cast: Elvira Sinelnik, Erin Michele Soto, Ian Michaels, Sophia Fedosov

Logline: Elza is a tired young mother who has lost her bearings and values in life.



ODD DRAWS (2020, USA) Short Narrative, UCI Student Film, Running Time: 5 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Director: Lloyd Ea

Writer & Producer: Albert Le

Cast: Derick Gonzalez, Lilla Lavanakul, Andrew Stefani, Kerry Vang, Albert Le

Logline: A Poker-man Tournament turns into an epic final showdown between an elite member and an underdog.



IN THE SAME DIRECTION: JEFF PIFHER & SOCRATES' TRIAL (2020, USA)

Short Jazz Doc,

Running Time: 17 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Director: Alexander Craven

Producers: Jeff Pifher, Merlin Showalter, Jeff Pifher

Cast: Harlan Hodges, Ian Wurfl, Eric England, Misha Bigos, Colin Cook, Corey Coverstone, René G. Boscio, Jason LaRocca

Logline: The story of Jeff Pifher and his band Socrates' Trial and their idea of what jazz can be today.



UNFRAMED (2020, USA) Experimental Animation, Multimedia, Running Time: 8 min
WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Sona Yeghiazaryan

Writers: Sona Yeghiazaryan, Tatev Yeghiazaryan Producer: Tatev

Cast: Armen Azadian, Seda Sargsyan, Lucy Yeghiazaryan, Tatev

Logline: A short film about three characters who discover a world outside of the frames they have been painted in.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #2 Running Time: 121 mins

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



MANU HVALA - ONLY LOVE Music Video, 2020, USA, Running Time: 4 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST MUSIC VIDEO AWARD

Artist: Manu Hvala

Song Writers: Eric Bazilian, Michael Caruso, Glenn Goss

Producers: Martin Stibernik, Eric Bazilian

Logline: 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. Only Love features contributions from friends and fans all over the world. It's what we need right now.



FROM KURILS WITH LOVE (2020, USA) Short Documentary, Adventure, Wildlife,
Running Time: 20 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD

Director: Taylor Rees

Producer Povel Torudd

Cast: marine mammal biologist Vladimir Burkanov, scientist Rishi Sugla,
scientist Jeff Kerby

Logline: Vladimir, a scientist on a mission to help fulfill his quest to understand and protect the Kuril Islands before his age fails him, hitch hikes aboard a boat filled with adventure photographers.



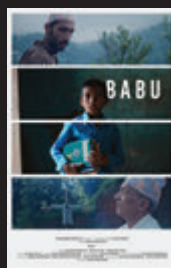
HARVEST (2018, China) Animation, Short, Running Time: 5 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director: Lijun Sun

Writer: Fan Beilu

Producer: Huixin Li

Logline: Chinese Ink Painting-style Animated Short Film.



BABU (2019, Nepal) Short Narrative, Drama, Family, Running Time: 27 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director: Eelum Mani Dixit

Writers: Eelum Mani Dixit, Tanmay Chowdhary

Producers: Ajaya Upadhaya, Ryan Michael Connolly

Logline: When disaster strikes, a ten year old Nepali boy's life is turned upside down.



NAMEWEE - GETAWAY TO KAOHSIUNG (2020, Taiwan) Music Video, Pop,
Running Time: 6 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST MUSIC VIDEO AWARD

Artist, Director & Writer: Namewee

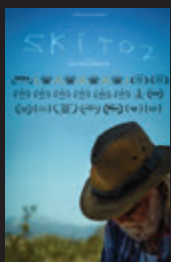
Producers: UJay & Tidus

Cast: Namewee

Logline: A getaway to Kaohsiung City.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #2 Running Time: 121 mins

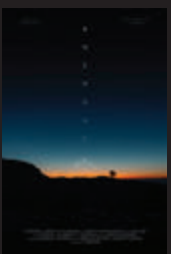
PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



SKITTOZ (2020, France) Short Narrative, Drama, Running Time: 12 min
Directors & Writers: Alexis & Diego Perrotte
Producers: Fabrice Sakoun, Louise Meschini
Cast: Lee Boek, Alice Bowden
Logline: A caravan in the American desert... An old couple... A beer, a joint and mosquitoes.



THE WINTER (2020, Australia) Animation, Student Film, Running Time: 5 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD
Director, Writer, Producer & Animator: Xin Li
Music & Sound: Miguel Otero
Visual Effects: Dave Abbott
Logline: Walking in a snowy forest, a peasant sees an unusual deer and goes to follow it. The deer allures him and the peasant even wants to catch it.



ANEMONE (2019, Italy) Short Narrative, Drama, Sci-Fi, Action, Running Time: 17 min
WORLD PREMIERE
Director, Writer: Alessandro Marcon
Producers: Domenico Preli, Alessandro Marcon
Cast: Helga Greggio, Gianmarco Fabris, Erica Bianco, Domenico Preli
Logline: In a future where humanity is forced to leave Earth, Jane is faced with a dilemma: leaving behind her only friend alive on Earth, or finding him and risking to lose her only chance to escape from the dying planet?



10000 UGLY INKBLOTS (2020, China) Animation, Short, Running Time: 8 min
USA PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD
Director & Writer: Dmitry Geller
Producer: Zheng Ligu
Logline: The film adopts the painting art forms of Chinese famous painters Zhu Da (pseudonym Ba Da Shan Ren) and Shi Tao in the late Ming and early Qing dynasties. This work uses the unique creation perspective. The rich Chinese ink painting combined with the modern animation language is used in this work. The film tells the story of two like-minded painting masters who have not met for a long time.



THIS LAND (2019, Armenia) Short Narrative, Drama, Crime, Running Time: 17 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD
Director & Writer: Michael Aloyan
Producer: Monika Ivonne
Cast: Karren Karagulian, Leona Paraminski, Frano Maskovic
Logline: Azat, an Armenian immigrant selling counterfeit designer bags on the streets of Los Angeles, strikes a bond with a woman from his night school only to face the pitfalls of the American Dream.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #3 Running Time: 126 mins

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



CATALYST BARS & ALEXI - SMASH AGAIN Music Video, 2019, USA,

Running Time: 4 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST MUSIC VIDEO AWARD

Artists: Catalyst Bars & ALEXI

Writer: ALEXI

Producer: Alexi Papalexopoulos

Cast: Catalyst Bars, ALEXI, Danin Jacquay, Arthur Santiago



MALAKOUT (2019, Iran) Animation, Fantasy, Running Time: 12 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director, Writer: Farnoosh Abedi

Producer: Ali Gholami

Logline: Music was his passion...Love was his masterpiece.



SERVED (NIÁW) (2020, Morocco) Short Narrative, Comedy, Running Time: 7 min

Director: Kamal Moummad

Writers: Mohamed Mansour, Adja Awa Seck, Kamal Moummad & El Hadji Mamadou Kebe

Producer: Mansour Bengeloune (aka No I\$\$ue)

Cast: Mohamed Mansour, El Hadji Mamadou Kebe, Adja Awa Seck & Kamal Moummad

Logline: A bully in Senegal (West Africa) is about to get SERVED.



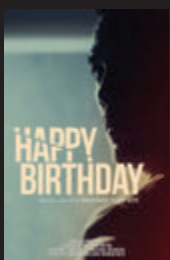
EMME (2019, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Thriller, Neo Noir, Running Time: 15 min

Director, Writer: Toshiki Yashiro

Producers: Sky Mejias, Enmi Yang, Toshiki Yashiro

Cast: Melissa Ann Taylor, Stefan Scott, Shaquille Mathurin, Summer Benefield, Nilda Santiago, Julissa Garza

Logline: Emme is surrounded by distrust, with a loose grip on reality.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY (2018, USA) Short Narrative, Comedy, Drama, Thriller,

Running Time: 7 min

Director, Writer: Mustafa Toby Eck

Producers: Mustafa Toby Eck, Adam Makary, Omar Al Dakheel

Cast: Dustyn Gulledge, Vishesh Chachra, Emily Fonda

Logline: On his birthday, Vince gets the surprise of his life when he assumes the worst of his absent girlfriend.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #3 Running Time: 126 mins

PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



BLACK HEART, RED HANDS (2019, Australia) Short Narrative, Crime, Thriller, Drama, Running Time: 15 min

WEST COAST PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director & Writer: Russell Southam

Producers: Adam Spinks, Russell Southam, Owen Elliott

Cast: Kurt Bayly, Benjamin W Sullivan, Gemma Dart, Benn Spillane, Kya Stewart, Keely Spedding, Campbell McGillivray, Kashmala Sameer, Albert Goikhman, Caitlin Murphy, Josh Megarritty, Tamaryn Hurly

Logline: A first time killer learns what it really takes to pull off the perfect crime.



DARK SENSES (2019, USA) Short Narrative, Romance, Thriller, Mystery, Running Time: 20 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Director, Writer: Vaz Andreas

Producer: Vaz Andreas, Alain Azoulay

Cast.: Vaz Andreas, Alain Azoulay, Kathleen Randazzo, Eric Skanlan, Martin Khachatryan

Logline: After years of struggle in finding deeper connection with women, Sean stumbles into a place where he experiences dating and true connection by only using two of his five senses.



THAT STUPID ARMENIAN'S MOTION PICTURE SHOW OR GAREN (2019, Lebanon) Short Narrative, Comedy, Running Time: 13 min

Director, Writer: Hrag Megherditchian

Producer: Sarah El Khoury

Cast: Hrayr Kalemkerian, Meghety Dono, Elyssa Salhani, Jennifer Nasrallah, Natalia Saliba, Stephanie Ghougassian, Etienne Seukunian, Carmen Balian

Logline: A young man who has never fallen in love before, finally does. But the person he falls in love with, does not love him back.



GIFTED (2020, USA) Short Narrative, Romantic Comedy, Fantasy, Running Time: 19 min

Director, Writer: Karina Weeks

Producers: Karina Weeks, Will Hanna

Cast: Karina Weeks, Travis Flesher, Will Hanna, Bruce Stamboltsyan, Margarita Stamboltsyan, Gvidon

Stamboltsyan aka Robin Goodman, Dee Drenta, Santi Franzon, Lara Franzon

Logline: A lighthearted comedy about a charming new couple who get to know each other a bit better during a holiday evening with an unusually eccentric family.



LOOSE THREAD (2020, USA) Short Narrative, Sci-Fi, UCI Student Film, Running Time: 14 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Director, Writer: Angel David Ochoa

Producers: Yanit Mehta, Christine Petrivelli and Javier Salas

Cast: Aaron Miller, Lilla Lavanakul, Christine Petrivelli, Lloyd Ea, Cybelle Kaehler, Brody Rogers, Kiki Ruiz

Logline: A couple spends a surreal evening in a Mexican restaurant on their anniversary.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #4 Running Time: 120 mins

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



HAMO ARZOUMANIAN - MANOUG ME (A CHILD) Music Video, 2020, Canada,
Running Time: 4 min
WORLD PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST MUSIC VIDEO AWARD
Director, Writer: Armen Poladian
Producers: Armen Poladian, Vahak Poladian
Cast: Hamo Arzoumanian, Gabriel Bedrosian, Angelique Astourian-Kirijian,
Garo Tawetian, Armen Poladian
Logline: A story about a boy during the Armenian Genocide of 1915.



RETURN (VEGER) (2019, Armenia & Turkey) Short Narrative, Drama,
Running Time: 18 min
LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD
PRESENTED BY "HRANT DINK FOUNDATION"
Director: Selman Deniz
Writers: Selman Deniz, Zekeriye Aydoğan
Producer: Zekeriye Aydoğan
Cast: Anahit Ghukasyan, Şahin Yalçın, Baran Aktaş, Vedat Oyan
Logline: Eyup, following the mind of a madman, crosses Mount Ararat, begins to search for his aunt and his past.



I'LL BE SEEING YOU (2020, USA) Short Narrative, UCI Student Film,
Running time: 11 min
Director, Writer & Producer: Xueshi Li
Cast: Kevin Xu ,Wang Donald Yin, Alan Xue
Logline: Li Haipeng, a Chinese immigrant in LA, who receives a wedding invitation from his son in hometown, decides to make a choice between continuing his addiction and overcoming it.



FURTHEST FROM (2019, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Family, Coming of Age,
Running Time: 19 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD
Director: Kyung Sok Kim
Writer, Producer: Rex Reyes II
Cast: Amanda Christine, Tucker Chandler, Jasmin Jean-Louis, Mignon
Logline: When a water contamination issue forces a trailer park to be closed, a young girl must come to terms with leaving everything and everyone she's ever known behind.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #4 Running Time: 120 mins

PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



CARNE (2020, USA) Short Narrative, UCI Student Film, Running time: 10 min
WORLD PREMIERE

Director, Writer: Dylan Quintero

Produced by: Nikolas Sani, Dylan Quintero

Cast: Dagoberto Quintero, Sylvia Quintero, Dylan Quintero

Logline: Beto lives a lonely life following the recent death of his wife. When he learns of his grandson's visit, he prepares their favorite dish for the special occasion: Carne Asada.



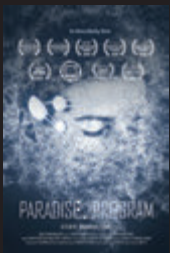
MORA & CHENCHI (2020, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, LGBTQ, Romance,
Running Time: 20 min

Director & Writer: Diego Toussaint

Producer: Maria Fernanda Arroyo, Diego Toussaint

Cast: Helena Corona, Miriana Moro

Logline: After the death of her mentor, an LA-based tween magazine writer returns to her high school best friend after being apart for eleven years.



PARADISE PROGRAM (2019, USA) Short Narrative, Sci-Fi, LGBTQ, Romance,
Running time: 10 min

Director, Writer: Shanshan Zhang

Producer: Shanshan Zhang, Sihan Xu

Cast: Ignacyo Matynia, Nick Genta, Tianyi Ba

Logline: Traveling between digital consciousness and reality to spend time with his fiancé, Cyan must face the choice of sacrificing one of these worlds.



GON, THE LITTLE FOX (2019, Japan) Stop-Motion Animation, Drama, Fantasy,
Running time: 28 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director: Takeshi Yashiro

Writers: Takeshi Yashiro, Takaaki Honda

Stop-Motion Animation: Takeshi Yashiro, Keita Ueno, Nozomi Sakimura, Yoko Asano

Producers: Masaaki Oikawa, Takanori Toyokawa

Cast: Makoto Tanaka, Miyu Irino, Tatsuya Kohda

Logline: Based Upon Japanese Children's Story, "Gon, the Little Fox" by Nankichi Niimi.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #5 Running Time: 125 mins

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



ANDRAS SCHIFF - COVID BACH Music Video, 2020, Canada, Running Time: 2 min
WEST COAST PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST MUSIC VIDEO AWARD

Director, Animation, Design, Producer: Elizabeth Lewis

Pianist: Andras Schiff

Composer: J.S. Bach

Logline: This stream of consciousness animation, set to J. S, Bach The Well Tempered Clavier, weaves in and out between abstract and nightmarish visions. Then the dream ends...but does it?



ECHO (2020, Iran) Animation, Drama, Environment, Running time: 7 min

Director, Writer, Producer: Barzan Rostami

Logline: The story of ECHO is about understanding and perception of wildlife, and environmental abuse and its consequences on the human race.



DABUR (2019, Iran) Short Narrative, Drama, Running Time: 13 min
WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Saeid Nejati

Writers: Saeid Nejati & Fatemeh Ashari

Producers: Saeid Nejati & Mahdieh Gholam Hosseini

Cast: Majid Potki, Mehri Sadat Ale Agha, Faren Hassani Niya

Logline: One father encounters his first experience of this daughter's period.



TWENTY EIGHTY (2020, Korea) Short Narrative, Drama, Fantasy, Human,
Running Time: 40 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Eunjoon Na

Writer: Young-A Yoo

Producer: Soyoon Kim

Cast: Wook Jung, Seungmin Lee

Logline: A story between Yoon Jong-gu, Mister "Jekyll and Hyde," who is searching for his buried youth and Jihoon, a job seeker who is slowly captivated by Mr. Yoon's annoying but strangely charming character.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #5 Running Time: 125 mins

PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



WEEKEND (2019, Iran) Short Narrative, Social Drama, Running Time: 8 min

Director, Writer & Producer: Ario Motevaghe

Cast: Mostafa Latifkhan, Sahar Taherkhani, Fardin Ghaderi, Malihe Esfandiari, Bardia Shariati

Logline: Moniri and Kheradmand family are in the park for a picnic. But after finishing their meal, it is revealed that they are here for something else.



FENCED (2019, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Running time: 24 min

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Director: Rodrigo Zan

Writer: Horacio Ramírez

Producers: Nupur Mehra, Vatsa Barot

Cast: Victor P. Alvarez, Kriss Dozal, Tony Garcia Mikaela Moody, Donovan Farwell, Brian Cogley, Vanessa Arcia

Logline: A US Border Patrol agent Chris who accidentally shoots and kills the son of a Mexican immigrant.



THE FAVOR (2020, France) Short Narrative, Drama, Running time: 15 min

Director: Bruno Henry

Writer: Maryline Mahieu

Producers: Florence Elomo Akoa, Gaultier Barra

Cast: Anne-Sophie Trébel, Bruno Henry, Joaquim Tivoukou, Giazzy

Logline: Christelle works with Pascal, they appreciate each other, she becomes strange, absent and bothered, and wants a child with him.



38 MINUTES (2020, USA) Short Narrative, Action, Military, Running Time: 17 min

Director, Writer: Paul Lacovara

Cast: Katrina Law, Philip Winchester, Ian Anthony Dale

Logline: Saving his family from an incoming ballistic missile, may be the only chance to save himself.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #6 Running Time: 127 mins

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



THE ROTATION (2020, Iran) Animation, Student Film, Running Time: 7 min
LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director & Writer: Hazhir As' adi

Animator & Supervisor: Rashid Abedin

Logline: There will be a war between two nations, living on two sides of a mountain, in order to seize the sun.



FINISH LINE (2019, Iran) Short Documentary, Sport, Human Rights,
Running Time: 13 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD

Director, Writer, Producer: Saeed Mayahy

Cast: Dorna Mahini

Logline: Can she move on?



LIGHT IN THE MIST (2020, USA) Short Documentary, UCI Student Film,
Running Time: 13 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Director: Ryan Wang

Logline: A healing and safe place for women in the mountains of Nepal brings into being the beauty of life.



THE CRITIC (2018, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Psychological, Thriller, Running
Time: 15 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director, Writer: Stella Velon

Producer: Jean Gabriel Kauss

Cast: Stella Velon, Alan Smyth, Todd Karner

Logline: A starry-eyed actress with a troubled past faces her harshest critic during an interview gone wrong.



ALINA (2019, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Thriller, Holocaust, Running Time: 25 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director: Rami Kodeih

Writer: Nora Mariana

Producers: Nora Mariana, Courtney Prather, Rami Kodeih

Cast: Alia Shawkat, Rebeca Robles, Dorota Puzio, Erika Soto, Jillian Federman, Sean Harmon, Edin Gali, Mark McCullough, Weetus Cren, Daisy Vernon-Huhn,

Jason Bernardo, Michael J. Claman, Chris Homestad, Robert Hope

Logline: As Nazis separate children from their parents in the Warsaw Ghetto, a gang of women risks everything to smuggle their friend's three-month-old baby to safety.

Inspired by true events. Starring Alia Shawkat (ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT, SEARCH PARTY), Edin Gali (MAD MEN), Rebeca Robles (BETTER THINGS), Erika Soto (VIDA), and Mark McCullough (LOGAN LUCKY).

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #6 Running Time: 127 mins

PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



THE ABJURANTS (2019, Italy) Short Narrative, Sci-Fi, Drama, Running Time: 15 min
WEST COAST PREMIERE

Director: Antonio De Palo

Writer: Piero Rossi, Antonio De Palo

Producers: Piero Rossi, Antonio De Palo, Giampietro Preziosa, Angelo Troiano

Cast: Valeria Solarino, Claudia Potenza, Antonio De Matteo, Michelangelo Dalisi

Logline: 2087. Vera and Roberta are two “Abjurants”, meaning women who refused to adhere to the Eugenics Programme imposed by the Government and who have been consequently confined to an unknown location and used as test subjects. Their only purpose in life is recalling to mind their lovers’ facets.

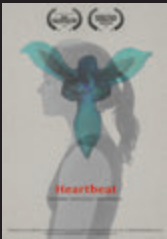


THE BLUE BED (2020, Canada) Short Narrative, Drama, Running Time: 14 min
LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Director, Writer, Producer: Alireza Kazemipour

Cast: Anahita Eghbalnejad, Bitā Beygi, Hamed Rahimi Nasr, Alipouya Ghasemi

Logline: A middle-aged woman uses a temporary marriage agency to ensnare an attractive girl.



HEARTBEAT (2020, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Running Time: 9 min

Director: Chi Wang

Writers: Qianying He & Zhishen Bi

Producer: Qianying He

Cast: Sarah Brine, Anne Scottlin, Ameer Franczyk

Logline: Under the impact of the passing on anti-abortion “Heartbeat Bill”, the struggling conflict between a pregnant 18-year-old and her devoted Christian mom begins to rise and their distinct beliefs gradually lead them apart.



THROWAWAY BOY (2019, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Running time: 16 min
WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Michael Pinckney

Writer: Charles Becco

Producer: Charles Becco, Terrey Kelley

Cast: Jaelin Taylor, Lindsay Milligan, Alexander Emanuel

Logline: Throwaway Boy is about a young man who exploits himself to achieve the American Dream.

BEST OF ANIMATION

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



10000 UGLY INKBLOTS (2020, China) Animation, Short, Running time: 8 min

USA PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director & Writer: Dmitry Geller

Producer: Zheng Liguo

Logline: The film adopts the painting art forms of Chinese famous painters Zhu Da (pseudonym Ba Da Shan Ren) and Shi Tao in the late Ming and early Qing dynasties. This work uses the unique creation perspective. The rich Chinese ink painting combined with the modern animation language is used in this work. The film tells the story of two like-minded painting masters who have not met for a long time.



ECHO (2020, Iran) Animation, Drama, Environment, Running time: 7 min

Director, Writer, Producer: Barzan Rostami

Logline: The story of ECHO is about understanding and perception of wildlife, and environmental abuse and its consequences on the human race.



HARVEST (2018, China) Animation, Short, Running time: 5 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director: Lijun Sun

Writer: Fan Beilu

Producer: Huixin Li

Logline: Chinese Ink Painting-style Animated Short Film.



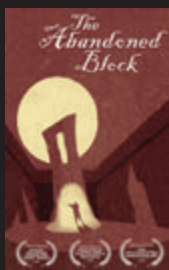
MALAKOUT (2019, Iran) Animation, Fantasy, Running time: 12 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director, Writer: Farnoosh Abedi

Producer: Ali Gholami

Logline: Music was his passion...Love was his masterpiece.



THE ABANDONED BLOCK (2020, Canada) Animation, Drama, Art History,

Running Time: 6 min

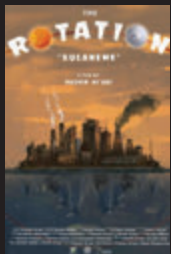
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director, Writer: James C. Bourne

Logline: A useless, damaged, forgotten block of marble, after years of neglect ends up becoming one of the most beloved works of art.

BEST OF ANIMATION

PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



THE ROTATION (2020, Iran) Animation, Student Film, Running Time: 7 min
LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director & Writer: Hazhir As'adi

Animator & Supervisor: Rashid Abedin

Logline: There will be a war between two nations, living on two sides of a mountain, in order to seize the sun.



THE WINTER (2020, Australia) Animation, Student Film, Running Time: 5 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director, Writer, Producer & Animator: Xin Li

Music & Sound: Miguel Otero

Visual Effects: Dave Abbott

Logline: Walking in a snowy forest, a peasant sees an unusual deer and goes to follow it. The deer allures him and the peasant even wants to catch it.



UNFRAMED (2020, USA) Experimental Animation, Multimedia, Running time: 8 min
WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Sona Yeghiazaryan

Writers: Sona Yeghiazaryan, Tatev Yeghiazaryan

Producer: Tatev

Cast: Armen Azadian, Seda Sargsyan, Lucy Yeghiazaryan, Tatev

Logline: A short film about three characters who discover a world outside of the frames they have been painted in.



GON, THE LITTLE FOX (2019, Japan) Stop-Motion Animation, Drama, Fantasy.
Running time: 28 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT ANIMATED FILM AWARD

Director: Takeshi Yashiro

Writers: Takeshi Yashiro, Takaaki Honda

Stop-Motion Animation: Takeshi Yashiro, Keita Ueno, Nozomi Sakimura, Yoko Asano

Producers: Masaaki Oikawa, Takanori Toyokawa

Cast: Makoto Tanaka, Miyu Irino, Tatsuya Kohda

Logline: Based Upon Japanese Children's Story, "Gon, the Little Fox" by Nankichi Niimi.

BEST OF SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



THE SPORT OF INCHES (2020, USA) Short Documentary, Sports, Rowing, UCI Student Film, Running Time: 9 min
Director: Larry Tang
Assistant Director: Lori Sinanian
Producer: Luis Gonzales, Anteater TV
Cast: UCI Rowing Team
Logline: A look into the inner workings of a west-coast college rowing team, and the passion that drives them to move orward.



CONFESSIONS OF A RUNNER (2020, Lebanon) Short Documentary, Sports, Addiction, Recovery, Running Time: 29 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD
Director: Bachar Khattar
Producers: Bachar Khattar, Patrick Vaughan, Denise Jabbour, Jerome Gary, Tim Rockwood
Cast: Patrick Vaughan, Avedis Kalpaklian, Ali Kedami, Laurent Esteoule-Bado, Phyllis Neriah Tsang
Logline: Healing and redemption while pursuing a running record on the 470km Lebanon Mountain Trail.



FINISH LINE (2019, Iran) Short Documentary, Sport, Human Rights, Running Time: 13 min
LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD
Director, Writer, Producer: Saeed Mayahy
Cast: Dorna Mahini
Logline: Can she move on?



FROM KURILS WITH LOVE (2020, USA) Short Documentary, Adventure, Wildlife, Running Time: 20 min
LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD
Director: Taylor Rees
Producer: Povel Torudd
Cast: marine mammal biologist Vladimir Burkanov, scientist Rishi Sugla, scientist Jeff Kerby
Logline: Vladimir, a scientist on a mission to help fulfill his quest to understand and protect the Kuril Islands before his age fails him, hitch hikes aboard a boat filled with adventure photographers.

BEST OF SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



LIGHT IN THE MIST (2020, USA) Short Documentary, UCI Student Film, Running Time: 13 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Director: Ryan Wang

Logline: A healing and safe place for women in the mountains of Nepal brings into being the beauty of life.



JO & KESSY: ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES (2019, France) Short Documentary, Artists, Disability, Running Time: 17 min

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Director, Writer: Nwaye Zar Che Soe

Producer: Benjamin Lemaitre

Cast: Jo Swing, Kessy Mac Queen

Logline: Two French artists with disabilities who have passionate dreams in Music but they never met before.



IN THE SAME DIRECTION: JEFF PIPHER & SOCRATES' TRIAL (2020, USA) Short Jazz Doc, Running Time: 17 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Director: Alexander Craven

Producers: Jeff Pipher, Merlin Showalter, Jeff Pipher

Cast: Harlan Hodges, Ian Wurfl, Eric England, Misha Bigos, Colin Cook, Corey Coverstone, René G.

Boscio, Jason LaRocca Logline: The story of Jeff Pipher and his band Socrates' Trial and their idea of what jazz can be today.

BEST SHORT FILM AWARD NOMINEES

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



ALINA (2019, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Thriller, Holocaust, Running Time: 25 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director: Rami Kodeih

Writer: Nora Mariana

Producers: Nora Mariana, Courtney Prather, Rami Kodeih

Cast: Alia Shawkat, Rebeca Robles, Dorota Puzio, Erika Soto, Jillian Federman, Sean Harmon, Edin Gali, Mark McCullough, Weetus Cren, Daisy Vernon-Huhn, Jason Bernardo, Michael J. Claman, Chris Homestad, Robert Hope

Logline: As Nazis separate children from their parents in the Warsaw Ghetto, a gang of women risks everything to smuggle their friend's three-month-old baby to safety. Inspired by true events. Starring Alia Shawkat (ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT, SEARCH PARTY), Edin Gali (MAD MEN), Rebeca Robles (BETTER THINGS), Erika Soto (VIDA), and Mark McCullough (LOGAN LUCKY).



BABU (2019, Nepal) Short Narrative, Drama, Family, Running time: 27 min
NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director: Eelum Mani Dixit

Writers: Eelum Mani Dixit, Tanmay Chowdhary

Producers: Ajaya Upadhaya, Ryan Michael Connolly

Logline: When disaster strikes, a ten year old Nepali boy's life is turned upside down.



BLACK HEART, RED HANDS (2019, Australia) Short Narrative, Crime, Thriller, Drama
Running time: 15 min

WEST COAST PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director & Writer: Russell Southam

Producers: Adam Spinks, Russell Southam, Owen Elliott

Cast: Kurt Bayly, Benjamin W Sullivan, Gemma Dart, Benn Spillane, Kya Stewart, Keely Spedding, Campbell McGillivray, Kashmala Sameer, Albert Goikhman, Caitlin Murphy, Josh Megarrity, Tamaryn Hurly

Logline: A first time killer learns what it really takes to pull off the perfect crime.



FURTHEST FROM (2019, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Family, Coming of Age,
Running Time: 19 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director: Kyung Sok Kim

Writer, Producer: Rex Reyes II

Cast: Amanda Christine, Tucker Chandler, Jasmin Jean-Louis, Mignon

Logline: When a water contamination issue forces a trailer park to be closed, a young girl must come to terms with leaving everything and everyone she's ever known behind.

BEST SHORT FILM AWARD NOMINEES

PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



RETURN (VEGER) (2019, Armenia & Turkey) Short Narrative, Drama, Running Time: 18 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE / NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD PRESENTED BY "HRANT DINK FOUNDATION"

Director: Selman Deniz

Writers: Selman Deniz, Zekeriye Aydoğan

Producer: Zekeriye Aydoğan

Cast: Anahit Ghukasyan, Şahin Yalçın, Baran Aktaş, Vedat Oyan

Logline: Eyup, following the mind of a madman, crosses Mount Ararat, begins to search for his aunt and his past.



THE CRITIC (2018, USA) Short Narrative, Drama, Psychological, Thriller, Running Time: 15 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director, Writer: Stella Velon

Producer: Jean Gabriel Kauss

Cast: Stella Velon, Alan Smyth, Todd Karner

Logline: A starry-eyed actress with a troubled past faces her harshest critic during an interview gone wrong.



THIS LAND (2019, Armenia) Short Narrative, Drama, Crime, Running time: 17 min

NOMINATED FOR THE BEST SHORT FILM AWARD

Director, Writer: Michael Aloyan

Producer: Monika Ivonne

Cast: Karren Karagulian, Leona Paraminski, Frano Maskovic

Logline: Azat, an Armenian immigrant selling counterfeit designer bags on the streets of Los Angeles, strikes a bond with a woman from his night school only to face the pitfalls of the American Dream.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #10 Running Time: 62 mins

UCI DEPARTMENT OF FILM & MEDIA STUDIES ZOTFEST SELECTION

FILMS IN THIS PROGRAMME WILL BE SCREENED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:



ODD DRAWS (2020, USA) Short Narrative, UCI Student Film, Running time: 5 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Director: Lloyd Ea

Writer, Producer: Albert Le

Cast: Derick Gonzalez, Lilla Lavanakul, Andrew Stefani, Kerry Vang, Albert Le

Logline: A Poker-man Tournament turns into an epic final showdown between an elite member and an Underdog.



CARNE (2020, USA) Short Narrative, UCI Student Film, Running time: 10 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Director, Writer: Dylan Quintero

Produced by: Nikolas Sani, Dylan Quintero

Cast: Dagoberto Quintero, Sylvia Quintero, Dylan Quintero

Logline: Beto lives a lonely life following the recent death of his wife. When he learns of his grandson's visit, he prepares their favorite dish for the special occasion: Carne Asada.



THE SPORT OF INCHES (2020, USA) Short Documentary, Sports, Rowing, UCI Student Film, Running Time: 9 min

Director: Larry Tang

Assistant Director: Lori Sinanian

Producer: Luis Gonzales, Anteatr TV

Cast: UCI Rowing Team

Logline: A look into the inner workings of a west-coast college rowing team, and the passion that drives them to move forward.



LOOSE THREAD (2020, USA) Short Narrative, Sci-Fi, UCI Student Film, Running time: 14 min

WORLD PREMIERE

Director, Writer: Angel David Ochoa

Producers: Yanit Mehta, Christine Petrivelli and Javier Salas

Cast: Aaron Miller, Lilla Lavanakul, Christine Petrivelli, Lloyd Ea, Cybelle Kaehler, Brody Rogers, Kiki Ruiz

Logline: A couple spends a surreal evening in a Mexican restaurant on their anniversary.

SHORT FILMS PROGRAMME #10 Running Time: 62 mins

UCI DEPARTMENT OF FILM & MEDIA STUDIES ZOTFEST SELECTION

PROGRAMME CONTINUES:



I'LL BE SEEING YOU (2020, USA) Short Narrative, UCI Student Film,
Running time: 11 min

Director, Writer, Producer: Xueshi Li

Cast: Kevin Xu, Wang Donald Yin, Alan Xue

Logline: Li Haipeng, a Chinese immigrant in LA, who receives a wedding invitation from his son in hometown, decides to make a choice between continuing his addiction and overcoming it.



LIGHT IN THE MIST (2020, USA) Short Documentary, UCI Student Film,
Running Time: 13 min

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

Director: Ryan Wang

Logline: A healing and safe place for women in the mountains of Nepal brings into being the beauty of life.



This year, we have launched a platform for university students to submit their films to our film festival. We've collaborated with the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Film Festival "ZotFest" where student filmmakers submitted their films, with the opportunity to showcase their creations beyond a university's vicinity. ZotFest is an annual student film-run festival at the University of California, Irvine. The festival is a sub-organization of FADA (Film-Arts-Drama Alliance) at UCI which proposes to provide filmmaking opportunities for students of all majors. The intention behind our collaboration is to give a platform for upcoming student filmmakers. By building a bridge of collaboration between a university and a film festival, we hope to establish a platform for students, to encourage them to make the best movies. By giving student filmmakers the Arpa International Film Platform, it to showcase students' films to our international audience, while simultaneously being part of a competitive program. We are all very excited to see what happens next!

2020 AWARD WINNERS

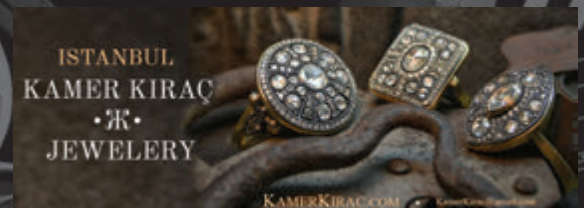
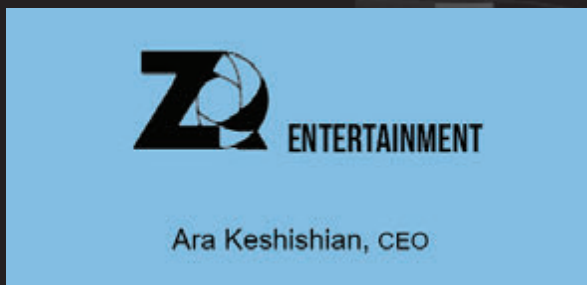


2020 AWARD WINNERS



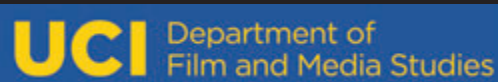
ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 SPONSORS



ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 SPONSORS



23rd
Annual

November
12-22

Powered by
SEED & SPARK

ARPA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2020 Online Edition



ARPAFILMFESTIVAL.COM

Acknowledgments

TF Educational Foundation
HFPA
Dr. Eric Esrailian
Karen Kondazian
ZQ Entertainment
Wines of Armenia
Dr. Zaven Khatchaturian
Dr. Haig Minassian
Sonia and George Keshishian
Corinne and Ara Keshishian
Siera Jewelers
Maral and Navasart Kazazian
Refined Eye Design
Printefex Inc.
Don Q. Hannah Photography
Donna Walker (KPFK Radio)
Ara Khachatourian (Asbarez)
Osheen Keshishian (Observer)
UCI Department of Film and Media Studies

Michael Ashjian, Esq.
Assembly member Adrin Nazarian
Councilman Paul Krekorian
Senator Kevin De Leon
Senator Anthony Portantino
Congresswoman Jackie Speier

Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art
(AFFMA) extends its gratitude and thanks
to ACF Community Center



Ara Keshishian, CEO



TF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION