

# 40

# FLIFF

Fort Lauderdale  
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 20-28, 2026



Major support for The Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival is provided by the Broward County Cultural Division, the Cultural Council, and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

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**FEATURE FILMS - USA**

A PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG MAN .....	14
AS YOU LIKE IT - LIKE THAT .....	15
CALIFORNIA SCENARIO .....	18
EUGENE O'NEILL'S - THE FIRST MAN .....	20
EXIT INTERVIEW .....	21
HAVANA COYOTES .....	24
HELLO BEAUTIFUL .....	24
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LAND OF THE MUSTACHES .....	27
LEGEND OF JUAN JOSE MUNDO, THE .....	28
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MOTHER, THE MENACER, AND ME, THE .....	29
MYRNA'S DEAL WITH THE DEAD .....	31
OUR FAMILY PRIDE .....	32
PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE, THE .....	33
RAGING MIDLIFE .....	34
SELL OUT .....	35

**FEATURE FILMS - INTERNATIONAL**

A WALK ALONG THE BORNE (SPAIN) .....	15
AFTERSHOCKS (CHILE) .....	16
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WINGMAN (CANADA) .....	40
WORDS OF WAR (UK) .....	40

**DOCUMENTARIES**

A BOOK OF FREEDOM .....	14
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A BOOK OF FREEDOM .....	14
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AS YOU LIKE IT - LIKE THAT .....	15
EMPIRE .....	20
INSIDE THE OASIS .....	26
MIAMI NIGHTS .....	29
MR. GOALIE .....	30
MYRNA'S DEAL WITH THE DEAD .....	31
NEWS WITHOUT A NEWSROOM .....	31
OUR FAMILY PRIDE .....	32
PYTHON HUNT, THE .....	33

Funding for this program provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. State of Florida funds were not provided.

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## WELCOME TO THE 40TH FORT LAUDERDALE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Dear Friends of Film,

Welcome to the 40th Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival (FLIFF). As we celebrate four decades of cinematic discovery, we are grateful to our audiences, filmmakers, sponsors, volunteers, and partners who helped grow FLIFF from a local celebration into one of South Florida's most respected cultural events.

Over the past 40 years, FLIFF has shown thousands of films from more than 100 countries, creating a vibrant space where artists and audiences connect through powerful storytelling. From red-carpet premieres to documentaries, student films, and local spotlights, the festival continues to honor the full spectrum of cinematic voices.



This anniversary edition features an exciting lineup of films, panels, and special events that celebrate our history while embracing the future. At FLIFF, we remain committed to sharing new perspectives, supporting filmmakers, and bringing people together through the shared experience of film.

To our filmmakers, thank you for trusting us with your work. To our sponsors, volunteers, and staff, your dedication makes this festival possible. And to our audience, thank you for showing up year after year to celebrate the art we love.

Here's to forty years of stories—and many more to come. Welcome to FLIFF 40!

With gratitude and excitement,

Lisa Grigorian,  
FLIFF President and CEO

### *Rick and Flo Celender's "Lionfish Lounge"*



FLIFF Red Carpet | Executive Producer | Director Members  
Filmmakers | Sponsors | VIP's

*Located in the John Mager Courtyard at Savor Cinema  
during Festival Hours*

## FLIFF HISTORY: SPECIAL GUESTS

### 1986 - 1995

Alan Rickman  
Ashley Judd  
Bobcat Goldthwaith  
Burt Reynolds  
Charles Durning  
Claude Atkins  
Darren McGavin  
Donald O'Connor  
Edward James Olmos  
Elisabeth Shue  
Elliot Gould  
Gian Carlo Esposito  
Gregory Hines  
Jason Connery  
Jennifer Beals  
Jerry Lewis  
Jon Cryer  
JT Walsh  
Kevin Spacey  
Lynn Redgrave  
Mark Rydell  
Marlo Thomas  
Martin Donovan  
Martin Scorsese  
Mia Sara  
Michael Caine  
Michael Moore  
Patrick O'Neal  
Peter Bogdanovich  
Roger Corman

Roger Moore  
Samuel Z. Arkoff  
Saul Rubinek  
Tim Reid  
Tony Curtis  
Treat Williams  
Van Johnson  
Vincent Price

### 1996 - 2005

Adam Goldberg  
Amanda Plummer  
Andrew McCarthy  
Armando Assante  
Arthur Hiller  
Arthur Penn  
Bryan Cranston  
Cara Buono  
Christina Applegate  
David Arquette  
Eva Marie Saint  
Fairuza Balk  
Fred Dryer  
Fred Willard  
Gena Rowlands  
George Sidney  
Howard Keel  
Irene Cara  
Jacqueline Bissett  
John Frankenheimer  
John Waters  
Jonathan Silverman  
Josh Jackson  
Kelly McGillis  
Leslie Nielsen  
Lord Richard Attenborough  
Lukas Haas  
Maria Bello  
Matt Damon  
Michael Moore  
Nestor Carbonell  
Nick Nolte  
Norman Jewison

Paul Mazursky  
Paul Sorvino  
Peter Falk  
Rob Morrow  
Sir Ben Kingsley  
Steve Guttenberg  
Tim Roth  
Veronica Cartwright

### 2006 - 2015

Ann Margret  
Anna Paquin  
Bailee Madison  
Beau Bridges  
Brandon Routh  
Bruce Dern  
Carroll Baker  
Claire Bloom  
Clara Mamet  
Connie Francis  
Daniel Baldwin  
David Keith  
Davy Jones  
DB Sweeney  
Dennis Farina  
Dennis Haysbert  
Ed Asner  
Edgar Mitchell  
Edward Burns  
Eli Wallach  
Eric Roberts  
Ernie Hudson  
Frank Whaley  
Gary Sinise  
George Hamilton  
Ian Ziering  
James Caan  
Jane Lynch  
Jane Russell  
Jason Alexander  
Jimmy Bennett  
Joe Pantaliano  
John Ratzenberger  
Joyce DeWitt  
Keith David  
Kevin McCarthy  
Lea Thompson  
Leslie Caron  
Mary Stuart Masterson  
Matthew Broderick  
Mel Stuart  
Michael Jai White

Michael Murphy  
Michelle Monaghan  
Penelope Ann Miller  
Piper Laurie  
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Richard Chamberlain  
Richard Kind  
Sen. Bob Graham  
Sen. George McGovern  
Stephen Baldwin  
Tab Hunter  
Trevor Morgan  
Wil Shriner  
William Grefe

### 2016 - 2024

Adam Rifkin  
Arlene Dahl  
Bailee Madison  
Beverly D'Angelo  
Bob Mackie  
Burt Reynolds  
Charles Martin Smith  
Cindy Morgan  
Diane Baker  
Emily Bett Rickards  
Gary Ross  
Graham Greene  
Hernan Guerschuny  
Joe Cortese

John Savage  
Justin Long  
Karen Allen  
Martin Landau  
Melora Hardin  
Michael Chiklis  
Paul Lieberstein

Peter Riegert  
Radha Mitchell  
Rene Auberjonois  
Robert Schwartzman  
Robin Thomas  
Talia Shire  
Xander Berkely

## HOW TO FEST

### ON-LINE

You can purchase all your tickets, memberships and parties at FLIFF.com

### MOVIE TICKETS

General Admission \$13/film

Movie Lover and Director Members \$8/film.

*Executive Producers and Red-Carpet members are FREE for all films. All films at Cinema Paradiso are \$8*

### SPECIAL FILM EVENTS

All Special events are discounted for Movie Lover and Director Members / *FREE for Executive Producers and Red-Carpet members*

### PARTIES - See page 6 for details on parties and special events

Most are discounted for Director Members and Free for Executive Producers and Red-Carpet members, some events that are fundraisers may not offer member discounts.

### THEATERS

**Cinema Paradiso-Hollywood**, 2008 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood  
There are two large Parking Garages within walking distance  
at \$1/hr.

**Paragon Deerfield**, 3984 West Hillsboro Boulevard, Deerfield Beach: Take I-95 West, or the Turnpike East. Free parking,

**Paragon Ridge**, 9200 West State Road 84, Davie: Just west of Nob Hill off I-595. Free parking,

**Savor Cinema**, 503 SE 6 Street, Ft Lauderdale: Follow the blue signs into The Courthouse Parking Garage and our parking attendant will open the gate for you.

### OTHER VENUES

**African American Research Library**: 2650 Sistrunk Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

**Baptist Health IcePlex**: (Florida Panthers practice facility)  
800 NE 8th St, Fort Lauderdale. Next to the War Memorial Auditorium.

**Flamingo Gardens**: 3750 S Flamingo Rd, Davie, FL 33330-1698

**IMAX, Museum of Discovery & Science**: 401 SW 2nd St, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

**NSU, Alvin Sherman Library**: Cotilla Gallery; 3100 Ray Ferrero Jr., Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

### CONTACT

Box-office 954-525-FILM (3456)  
info@FLIFF.com [www.FLIFF.com](http://www.FLIFF.com)

**Fort Lauderdale Int'l Film Festival** (mailing only)  
1314 East Las Olas Blvd #007, Ft Lauderdale 33301-2334,  
954-525-FILM (3456)

## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS



For additional information  
and to join now, visit  
[www.FLIFF.com/join](http://www.FLIFF.com/join)

### MOVIE LOVER'S CLUB\*: \$100

The name says it all! If you love movies, this is the membership for you:

Discounts on all films plus FREE Member movies throughout the year.

FLIFFShorts free (excluding opening night films and party).

*\*Does not include discounts to parties and select special events.*

### DIRECTOR: \$150 SINGLE / \$240 TEAM

Great choice if you love to watch films, and enjoy FLIFF's amazing year-round events and parties:

FREE Member Films at Savor Cinema

Discounted Tickets to year-round parties

All FLIFFShort Films Free (Opening Night film & party discounted).

Discounts to all Festival Films & Parties

FREE Festival Member Kick Off Party

Name listed in Program Guide (if active by print date)

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: \$550 / \$980

Year-round perks listed above, plus:

All FLIFFShorts and FLIFF Films, Parties and Special Events FREE\*

Festival credentials to w/picture ID

Name listed in Program Guide (if active by print date)

*\*certain fundraising events may not be included*

*(All festival events are free, with the exception of any fundraisers for charitable organizations.)*

Name listed in Program Guide (if active by print date)

### RED CARPET CLUB: \$1,900 / \$2,850

EVERYTHING presented year-round at Savor Cinema, FLIFFShorts and during the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival is FREE.

*(Again, with the exception of any fundraisers for charitable organizations.)*

*Select events at all membership levels may require an RSVP*

## SPECIAL EVENTS, PARTIES AND RECEPTIONS

### All films are at Savor Cinema unless noted

\*All receptions are included with the regular movie ticket, unless noted

#### **"MYRNA" & "OASIS" PARTY**

Friday, February 20th between films at 7pm

Pizza party between Myrna's Deal with the Dead and Inside the Oasis

#### **"EMPIRE" RECEPTION**

Saturday, February 21st. at 1pm.

#### **"MIAMI NIGHTS" BLOCK PARTY**

Saturday, February 21st - Red Carpet Arrivals: 6:00pm |

Film: 7pm | Block Party Follows

\* \$50 General Admission / \$40 Members

#### **"LAND OF THE MUSTACHES" WELCOME RECEPTION**

Sunday, February 22nd at 1:30pm..

#### **"MR. GOALIE US" PREMIERE PARTY**

Sunday, February 22nd at 3:30pm

\* \$20 General Admission / \$15 Members

#### **"CALIFORNIA SCENARIO" CAST WELCOME RECEPTION**

Sunday February 22nd at 5:00pm..

#### **"SELL OUT" PIZZA PARTY**

Sunday February 22nd at 8:00pm

#### **"SHARKS" & "AUTISTO" FILMMAKERS WELCOME RECEPTION**

Monday, February 23rd at 8:00pm.

#### **"MR. GOALIE" ICEPLEX EXTRAVAGANZA FILM & PARTY**

Monday, February 23rd - Film at 7pm, Party and Live Music follows.

**Baptist Miami Panther IcePlex**

#### **"AFTERSHOCKS" FILMMAKER WELCOME RECEPTION**

Tuesday, February 24th at 5pm.

#### **"THE PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE" WITH SPECIAL GUEST PAUL REISER**

Tuesday, February 24th – Luck of the Irish Party 6:30pm, film follows.

\* \$40 General Admission / \$30 Members

#### **"A WALK ALONG THE BORNE" FILMMAKER WELCOME RECEPTION**

Wednesday, February 25th at 5:00pm.

#### **"HELLO BEAUTIFUL" RECEPTION & BOOK SIGNING WITH SPECIAL GUEST CHRISTINE HANDY**

Wednesday, February 25th at 6pm

\* \$20 General Admission / \$15 Members

#### **"LIVE FROM FORT LAUDERDALE, IT'S CHEVY CHASE"**

Thursday, February 26th - "Caddyshack" Party - 5:30pm | Film and Conversation -6:30pm.

\* \$25 General Admission / \$20 Members

#### **"IF YOU SHOULD LEAVE BEFORE ME" WELCOME RECEPTION**

Thursday, February 26th at 8:15pm

#### **"WINGMAN" FILMMAKER WELCOME RECEPTION**

Friday, February 27th at 6pm

\* \$15 General Admission / FREE for FLIFF Members

#### **"GUY HARVEY DOCUMENTARY" & CLOSING NIGHT PARTY**

Saturday, February 28th | Reception - 5:30pm | World Premiere - 6:30pm | Q&A and Party follows  
**MODS IMAX**

\* \$50 General Admission / \$40 FLIFF Members

## SCHEDULE

SAVOR CINEMA FORT LAUDERDALE		CINEMA PARADISO HOLLYWOOD		PARAGON RIDGE DAVIE		PARAGON DEERFIELD BEACH					
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026</b>											
6:00 PM	Myrna's Deal with the Dead	31	2:30 PM	Wild Alps	39	3:00 PM	Saffron Robe	35	3:00 PM	Aftershocks	16
7:30 PM	Inside the Oasis	26	3:45 PM	A Walk Along the Borne	15	5:00 PM	The Roots	34	5:00 PM	The Spell of Forever	37
			5:45 PM	Sharks	36	7:00 PM	California Scenario	18	7:00 PM	Havana Coyotes	24
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026</b>											
11:30 AM	Saffron Robe	35	2:00 PM	About Face	16						
1:30 PM	Empire	20	3:30 PM	A Portrait of a Young Man	14	3:00 PM	The Spell of Forever	37	3:00 PM	Words of War	40
3:00 PM	The Roots	34	5:30 PM	Two Times João Liberada	38	5:00PM	The Legend of Juan Jose Mundo	28	5:15 PM	Autisto	17
4:45 PM	Words of War	40	7:30 PM	If You Should Leave Before Me	25	7:00 PM	Havana Coyotes	24	7:30 PM	Raging Midlife	34
<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026</b>											
12:00 PM	My Underground Mother	30	12:30 PM	News Without a Newsroom	31						
2:00 PM	Land of the Mustaches	27	2:30 PM	As You Like It – Like That	15	3:00 PM	The Snake & the Whale	36	3:00 PM	The Roots	34
4:00 PM	Mr. Goalie	30	4:30 PM	As You Like It – Like That	15	5:00 PM	Aftershocks	16	5:00 PM	Uvalde Mom	38
6:30 PM	California Scenario	18	6:45 PM	Eugene O'Neill's - The First Man	20	7:00 PM	The Python Hunt	33	7:00 PM	Hello Beautiful	24
8:30 PM	Sell Out	35									
<b>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026</b>											
5:15 PM	Descent into the Blue	19	1:00 PM	Obraz: Tower of Strength	32						
6:30 PM	Sharks	36	3:15 PM	Uvalde Mom	38						
8:15 PM	Autisto	17	5:00 PM	High School Thieves	23	5:00 PM	Raging Midlife	34	5:00 PM	The Legend of Juan Jose Mundo	28
			7:00 PM	Hello Beautiful	24	7:00 PM	Sell Out	35	7:00 PM	The Mother, the Menacer, & Me	29
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026</b>											
5:30 PM	Aftershocks	16	1:00 PM	My Underground Mother	30						
6:30 PM	The Problem with People	33	3:00 PM	License to Love	28						
			5:00 PM	Havana Coyotes	24	5:00 PM	Words of War	40	5:00 PM:	Obraz: Tower of Strength	32
			7:00 PM	Raging Midlife	34	7:00 PM	A Walk Along the Borne	15	7:00 PM	Eugene O'Neill's - The First Man	20
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026</b>											
5:30 PM	A Walk Along the Borne	15	1:00 PM	Dream Boats	19						
7:30 PM	Hello Beautiful	24	2:45 PM	Autisto	17						
			5:00 PM	The Mother, the Menacer, & Me	29	5:00 PM	Obraz: Tower of Strength	32	5:00 PM	California Scenario	18
			7:00 PM	California Scenario	18	7:00 PM	Sharks	36	7:00 PM	Kill City: Dead on the Money	27
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026</b>											
6:00 PM	Live from FTL, It's Chevy Chase	25	1:30 PM	The Gringa and the Musician	22						
8:45 PM	If You Should Leave Before Me	25	3:00 PM	The Bear Inside the Whale	17						
			5:00 PM	Land of the Mustaches	27	5:00 PM	Hello Beautiful	24	5:00 PM	Sell Out	35
			7:00 PM	Words of War	40	7:00 PM	High School Thieves	23	7:00 PM	License to Love	28
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026</b>											
5:30 PM	Our Family Pride	32									
7:00 PM	Wingman	40									
9:15 PM	Telepathic Letters	37									
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026</b>											
1:00 PM	News Without a Newsroom	31	<b>SPECIAL SCREENINGS</b>								
3:00 PM	Complicated	18	4:30 PM	Book of Freedom		African American Library, FREE	14				
4:45 PM	High School Thieves	25	5:30 PM	Immutable		African American Library, FREE	26				
7:00 PM	Exit Interview	21	7:00 PM	Mr. Goalie		Panthers Iceplex, FREE	30				
8:45 PM	Kill City: Dead on the Money	29	<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026</b>								
			6:00 PM	Descent into the Blue		NSU Library, FREE	19				
			7:00 PM	Guardians of Yellowstone		Flamingo Gardens	22				
			<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026</b>								
			5:30 PM	Guy Harvey: The Documentary		MODS Imax	23				

## SPECIAL GUESTS



**Chevy Chase** is an American comedian, actor, and writer best known for his influential role in shaping modern comedy. Born Cornelius Crane Chase, in New York City, he began his career as a comedy writer for television. Chase rose to fame in 1975 as an original cast member of *Saturday Night Live*, where his deadpan delivery and physical comedy—especially on “Weekend Update”—made him a breakout star. He went on to become one of Hollywood’s biggest comedy actors in the 1980s, starring in films such as *Caddyshack*, *National Lampoon’s Vacation*, *Fletch*, and *Three Amigos*. His portrayal of Clark Griswold became one of the most recognizable characters in American film comedy. In later years, Chase found renewed success on television with the sitcom *Community*. **Chevy will be joining us at FLIFF40 on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> for the program “Live from Savor Cinema, it’s Chevy Chase”**



**Paul Reiser** is an American comedian, actor, writer, and producer best known for his work in television, film, and stand-up comedy. Born in New York City, he studied music and composition before turning to comedy. Reiser gained national attention in the 1980s with stand-up appearances and a memorable role in *Beverly Hills Cop* (1984), followed by films such as *Aliens* (1986). He achieved major success on television as the co-creator, writer, and star of the hit sitcom *Mad About You*, which earned multiple awards and made him one of the highest-paid TV actors of the era. In later years, Reiser appeared in shows such as *Stranger Things* and *The Kominsky Method*, maintaining a long and influential career in entertainment. **Paul will be the special guest for the screening of “The Problem with People”. A comedy that he wrote and stars.**



**Jamie Kennedy** is an American actor, comedian, and writer known for his work in film, television, and stand-up comedy. He began his career performing stand-up and working behind the scenes in Hollywood before gaining on-screen recognition. Kennedy rose to fame in the late 1990s with his role as Randy Meeks, the horror-movie expert in the *Scream* film series, which showcased his comedic timing and pop-culture savvy. He went on to star in films such as *Bowfinger*, *Enemy of the State*, and *Malibu’s Most Wanted*. Kennedy also created and starred in *The Jamie Kennedy Experiment*; a hidden-camera comedy show that became a hit in the early 2000s. In addition to acting, he continues to perform stand-up comedy and work on various entertainment projects. **Jamie will be joining us for a screening of the comedy “Wingman” on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.**



**Jeremy Piven** is an American actor and producer best known for his sharp, fast-talking performances in film and television. Growing up in Evanston, Illinois, his parents ran the Piven Theatre Workshop immersing him in acting from a young age. Piven began his career with supporting roles in films such as *Say Anything...*, *Singles*, and *Grosse Pointe Blank*. He achieved widespread fame portraying the aggressive Hollywood agent Ari Gold on the HBO series *Entourage* (2004–2011), a role that earned him three Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe. Known for his intensity and comedic edge, Piven has also appeared in stage productions and continued film and television work, maintaining a prominent presence in entertainment. **Jeremy is part of the cast of “Miami Nights” which will have its World Premiere at FLIFF40.**



**Rutanya Alda** is a Latvian-born American actress known for her work in film and television from the 1970s through the 1990s. She immigrated to the United States as a child, growing up in New York City and began her career in theater before transitioning to screen roles. She is best known for appearing in several notable films, including *The Deer Hunter* (1978), *The Amityville Horror* (1979), *Mommie Dearest* (1981), and *Vigilante* (1982). On television, she was a familiar presence on daytime dramas, most notably portraying Maggie Shelby on *One Life to Live*. Often cast in intense or dramatic roles, Alda built a reputation as a reliable and versatile character actress with a strong screen presence. **Rutanya share’s her life story in “The Land of Mustaches”**



**Guy Harvey** is a marine wildlife artist, conservationist, and oceanographer renowned for his depictions of game fish and ocean life. He moved to Jamaica at a young age, where he developed a lifelong passion for the sea and marine wildlife. Harvey studied marine biology at the University of the West Indies, combining his scientific knowledge with his artistic talent. He gained international recognition for his highly detailed and dynamic paintings of fish and other marine creatures, which have been featured in books, calendars, and merchandise. Beyond art, Harvey is a dedicated conservationist, founding the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation to support marine research, sustainable fishing, and ocean preservation. **FLIFF40 will host the World Premiere “Guy Harvey: Documentary” at our closing night on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the MODS Imax.**



**Will Yun Lee** is an American actor and martial artist known for his versatile roles in film and television. Lee began his career with modeling and small acting roles, eventually gaining recognition for his skill in action and dramatic performances. He has appeared in films such as *The Wolverine* (2013), *Safe* (2012), and *Altered Carbon* (2018), showcasing his martial arts abilities and screen presence. On television, Lee is known for roles in series like *Hawaii Five-0*, *The Man in the High Castle*, *the Good Doctor*, and *Altered Carbon*, where he often plays complex, physically demanding characters. In 2002, People named Lee as one of their “50 Most Beautiful People”, and in 2007, he was named one of the 15 “Sexiest Men Alive” **Will joins us for the film “California Scenario”, along with several other cast members.**

## SPECIAL GUESTS



**Terrence Howard** is an American actor, singer, and producer known for his powerful performances in film and television. Howard began his acting career in the early 1990s, gaining recognition for supporting roles in films such as *Mr. Holland's Opus* (1995) and *Dead Presidents* (1995). He achieved widespread acclaim for his Academy Award-nominated performance in *Hustle & Flow* (2005) and went on to star in *Crash* (2004), *Iron Man* (2008), and *The Butler* (2013). On television, Howard is known for his lead role as Lucious Lyon on the hit Fox series *Empire* (2015–2020), earning praise for his commanding presence and emotional depth. In addition to acting, he is a singer and entrepreneur, recognized for his artistic versatility and impact on contemporary entertainment. **Terrence joins us at FLIFF40 for the world premiere of "Miami Nights".**



**Brooklynn Prince** is an American actress recognized for her compelling performances as a child actor. She was born on April 6, 2005, in Tampa, Florida, and developed a passion for acting at a young age. Prince gained critical acclaim for her breakout role as Moonee in the 2017 film *The Florida Project*, where her naturalistic and emotionally rich performance earned widespread praise and established her as a rising talent in Hollywood. Known for her expressive performances and on-screen charisma. Despite her young age, she has already built a reputation as a versatile and promising actress, poised for a long and successful career in film and television. **Brooklynn joins us with the film "California Scenario"**



**Jon Huertas** is an American actor best known for his work in television, on *Castle* and *This is Us*. Before pursuing acting, Huertas served in the United States Air Force, an experience that influenced his disciplined approach to his craft. Huertas began his acting career with small roles in films such as *Batman & Robin* and *Magnolia* before transitioning to television. Known for his versatility and strong screen presence, Huertas has successfully navigated both drama and comedy, building a steady career in Hollywood. **Jon is part of the ensemble cast of "California Scenario"**



**Danay García** is a Cuban-American actress best known for her role as Luciana Galvez on the popular television series *Fear the Walking Dead*. Born in Havana, Cuba, García moved to the United States to pursue an acting career. She gained recognition for her compelling performances in both film and television. She has also worked in independent films and international projects. With her captivating presence and dedication to her craft, Danay García continues to build a successful career, earning a loyal fan base and respect in the entertainment industry. **Danay joins us at FLIFF40 for the world premiere of "Miami Nights".**



**Sydelle Noel** is an American actress and former professional athlete known for her dynamic roles in television and film. She initially pursued a career in track and field before transitioning to acting. Noel gained recognition for her role on the Netflix series *Luke Cage*, where her strong presence and compelling performance stood out. She has also appeared in other TV shows such as *Orange Is the New Black*, *S.W.A.T.*, and *GLOW*, showcasing her versatility across genres. **Sydelle joins us at FLIFF40 for the world premiere of "Miami Nights", where she has a leading role.**



**Tuc Watkins** is an American actor best known for his work in television and film. Tuc gained widespread recognition for his roles on the soap operas *One Life to Live*, and *Days of Our Lives* and later for playing Bob Hunter on the groundbreaking sitcom *Desperate Housewives*. Beyond television, he has appeared in films and on stage, showcasing his versatility as a performer. Watkins is an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and visibility in Hollywood. **Tuc joins us in a leading role in the film "Exit Interviews"**



**Garrett Clayton** is an accomplished actor, singer, and dancer best recognized for his roles in Disney's "Teen Beach Movie" and NBC's "Hairspray Live!" He gained critical acclaim for his performance in the indie thriller "King Cobra" and has appeared in films such as "Peel" and "Between Worlds." Has appeared in TV shows like *The Fosters*, *Shake it up*, *Jessie*, *Fairly Odd Parents*, *Real O'neals*. Clayton has also starred in various musicals, including Off Broadway's "IT: A Musical Parody," and alongside Al Pacino in *God Looked Away* and enjoys being a content creator and had gained a following, surpassing 7.8 million.



**John Lewis** is a versatile actor, producer, and creative force with a career spanning decades across film and television. Renowned for his powerful presence and emotional depth, he delivers compelling performances in drama, action, and thriller roles, as well as memorable supporting characters that elevate every production. Beyond acting, Lewis is an accomplished producer who collaborates with respected studios and filmmakers to bring meaningful stories to the screen. His artistic range is further shaped by a multifaceted background as a musician and singer-songwriter, along with his experience as a former mixed martial artist who competed in elite organizations including the UFC. This rare blend of disciplines informs his authentic, grounded approach to storytelling.

TERRENCE  
HOWARD

JEREMY  
SUMPTER

SYDELLE  
NOEL

JEREMY  
PIVEN

THOMAS  
JANE

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DRAMA FREE FILMS  
PRODUCTION

# MIAMI NIGHTS

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Jeremy Sumpter

Sydelle Noel

Jeremy Piven

John Lewis

Danay Garcia

The Florida Panthers and FLIFF present

# MR. GOALIE

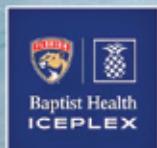
THE LIFE STORY OF HALL OF FAME  
GOALKEEPER GLENN HALL

Monday,  
February 23rd

7:00 PM Screening  
PARTY & LIVE MUSIC  
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Irish Reception  
Feb 24th, 6:30pm, Savor Cinema

COLM MEANEY      PAUL REISER  
**THE PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE**

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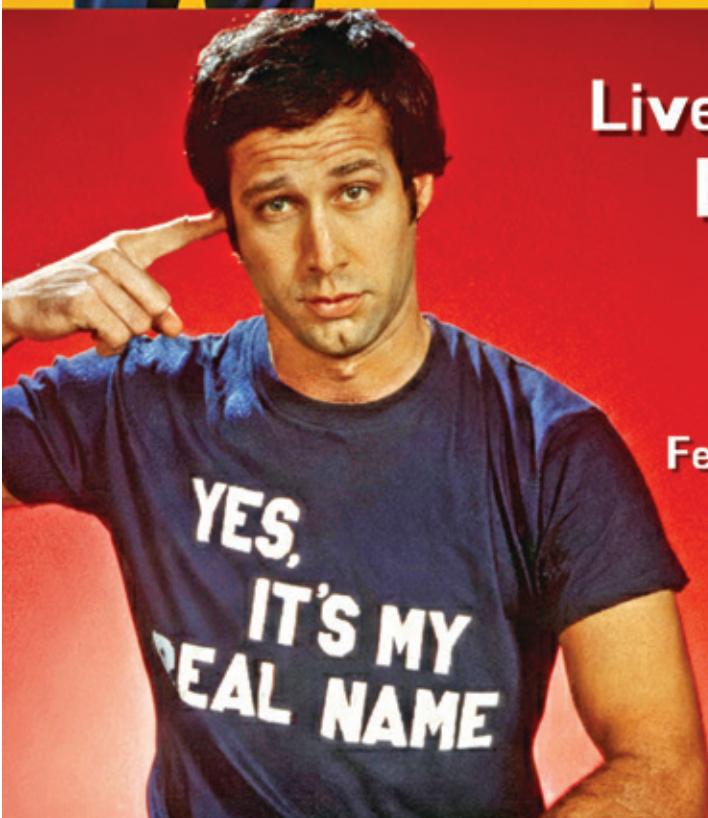
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6:30 PM  
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7:30 PM  
Q&A AND CLOSING NIGHT PARTY

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# GUY HARVEY

THE DOCUMENTARY



## DOCUMENTARY



## SUNSHINE CELLULOID



### A BOOK OF FREEDOM: THE CONFESSIONS OF FRANCISCO MENÉNDEZ

BROWARD PREMIERE

USA / 2026 / 49 min / Documentary, Florida Slavery

Director: H. James Gilmore; Producers: Tracy Halcomb  
Contact: [hjames@acadiapictures.com](mailto:hjames@acadiapictures.com)

After a black slave from the Carolinas escapes to Spanish Florida, he becomes the leader of the first sanctioned free black settlement in North America and ultimately a hero in the fight against the British. *A Book of Freedom: The Confessions of Francisco Menéndez* is a docudrama that incorporates documentary evidence and historical fiction to tell the true story of one of the most remarkable people in Florida history.

**Special Guests:** H. James Gilmore and Dr. Tracy Halcomb

**Director:** Students of the Cinematic Art Program at Flagler College



The Cinematic Arts program at Flagler College is based around the production of a multi-year film project created entirely by students under the supervision of a visiting filmmaker.

### A PERFORMANCE BY FEMINAFRIKA FOLLOWS THE FILM



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### A PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG MAN

BROWARD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 90 min / Drama, Male Anorexia

Director, Writer: Brandon Shenk; Producer/Editor: Yining Xu; Executive Producer: Iman Zawahry; Co-Producer: Yu Ying Chien; Contact: [sirinfilms@gmail.com](mailto:sirinfilms@gmail.com)

Gray, the younger son in a lower middle-class religious family, strives for some semblance of control against the letdowns and pressures from family, friends and adolescence. Gray feels increasingly disillusioned and deceived, which compels him to deeper forms of self-hatred. Desperate to make peace with himself and his family, he has to find a way to overcome his personal afflictions.

**Special Guests:** Brandon Shenk, Jackson Kelly, Richard Gunn, Angelina Lewis, John Paul Kakos



**Director:** Brandon Shenk wants to explore and develop narrative stories that push the boundaries of contemporary cinema and challenge audience members to wrestle with tough, multi-layered dilemmas and questions. He received his master's in film production from Florida State University, and his bachelor's from University of Florida, graduating *summa cum laude* in English and Mass Communications with a creative writing thesis. Currently he serves as a part-time lecturer in cinema studies and production at the University of Florida, as he submits his second feature script - a horror comedy - to festivals.

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## A WALK ALONG THE BORNE

EAST COAST PREMIERE

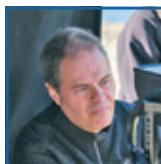
Spain / 2024 / Spanish w/English subtitles / 112 min / Comedy, Drama

Director, Writer: Nick Igea; Writer: Elio Quiroga, Zebina Guerra; Producers: Nick Igea, Elisa Saldaña; Key Cast: Rodolfo Sancho, Ruth Gabriel, Natalia Verbeke, Roque Ruiz, Tábata Cerezo, Lluís Oliver, Toni-Lluís Reye; Contact: nickigea@gmail.com

In a small city, students enrolled in a film course cling to dreams of becoming filmmakers. Their teacher, a man who once chased that same dream and failed, refuses to nurture their ambitions, fearing they will end up broken by the same illusions, that ruined him.

**Special Guest:** Nick Igea

**Director:** Nick Igea, born in Palma de Mallorca, Spain in 1974, studied cinema in Madrid. He has shot 4 short films as director, winning several international awards with them. He teaches cinema at Complutense University in Madrid. "A walk along the Borne" is his first feature film as director.



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## AS YOU LIKE IT - LIKE THAT!

WORLD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English, Spanish / 80 min / Comedy, Drama

Director, Writer, Producer: Isabel Custer; Producer: Mark Pulaski; Key Cast: Junet Morales, Nick Puga, Jordi Vilasuso, Ruben Rabasa, Vicki Klein, Norris Joffre, Patrick Decile; Contact: isabel@abuelacontent.cl

A struggling Miami actress and single mom must choose between a potential Hollywood breakthrough and her true passion, when she attempts to direct a multicultural Shakespeare production while also secretly filming a TV series, leading her to discover where her heart truly belongs.

**Special Guests:** Mark Pulaski, Juan Barriga, Junet Morales and Nick Puga



**Director:** Isabel Custer is a Swiss-Peruvian-Chilean filmmaker and performer whose work is rooted in personal truth, cultural nuance, and a love for storytelling in all its forms. Born in Lima and raised between continents, Isabel has lived and worked in New York, Paris, London and Miami. She holds degrees from NYU Tisch and La Sorbonne, and began making films at just 16, honing her voice across fiction, documentary, advertising, and journalism.

A passionate advocate for community-driven cinema, Isabel serves on the board of the Miami Film Lab and is the founder of the Key Biscayne Film Festival, which champions local artists and independent voices.

## DOCUMENTARY



## WORLD CINEMA



### ABOUT FACE

BROWARD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 60 min / Documentary, Ballet, Asian American

Director, Writer: Jennifer Lin; Producers: Jon Funabiki, Cory Lin Stieg, Jennifer Lin; Contact: jenniferlin1100@yahoo.com

Two Asian American dancers try to persuade the world's leading ballet companies to jettison Asian stereotypes, including dancing in yellowface. Georgina Pazcoguin and Phil Chan battle entrenched tradition and political pushbacks as they shine a critical spotlight on The Nutcracker and other beloved classics in this vivid account of cultural missteps and creative evolution.

**Special Guest:** Jennifer Lin

**Director:** Jennifer Lin is an award-winning journalist who worked as a correspondent for The Philadelphia Inquirer in China, New York and Washington, D.C. Her first documentary, *Beethoven in Beijing*, premiered on PBS's Great Performances in April 2021.

### AFTERSHOCKS

WORLD PREMIERE

Chile / 2025 / Spanish w/English subtitles / 88 min / Drama, Mystery, Suspense

Director, Writer: Diego González; Writer: María Paz Gonzalez; Producer: Sergio Karmy. Key Cast: Julio Jung, Francisca Lewin; Contact: diegogonzalezdurney@gmail.com

After a powerful earthquake, Catalina returns to her old family home to help her father, Domingo, sell the property following the sudden death of her uncle Héctor. Between them unfolds a space of mourning and reconciliation, marked by unresolved guilt and inherited silences. In their forced coexistence, cracks begin to reveal the shadow of Héctor, an absent figure who never truly left. *Replicas* is a drama of mystery and memory, where both seismic and human aftershocks threaten to bring down what little still stands.

**Special Guest:** Diego González

**Director:** Diego Gonzalez was born in Santiago, Chile, in 1981. He began making short films during his university years, participating in Chilean and international festivals. He studied film at the Escuela de Cine de Chile and attended screenwriting seminars with Robert McKee and Patricio Guzmán, among others.



## WORLD CINEMA



## DOCUMENTARY



### **AUTISTO**

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Morocco / 2024 / Arabic w/English subtitles / 114 min / Drama, Mystery, Suspense

Director, Writer: Jerome Cohen-Olivar; Producers: Zhor Rose Fassi-Fihri; Key Cast: Lounba Abidar; Contact: zhorff@z-lms.com

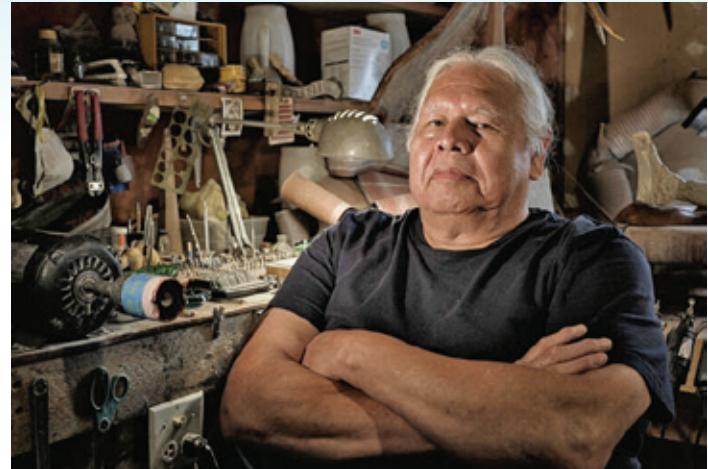
Malika raises Adam, her severely autistic son, in the constant fear of losing him. After a tragedy pushes her toward placing him in an institution, a strange man enters their lives. Mahmoud, a ragged cemetery keeper who communes with the dead, forms a wordless bond with Adam, leading him into moments of wild freedom. As their connection grows unsettling, Malika must decide how much control she can surrender—and at what cost.

**Special Guests:** Jérôme Cohen-Olivar, Zhor Fassi Fihri, and Amina Benhaddou

**Director:** Jerome Cohen-Olivar spent most of his childhood in Morocco where he shot small horror films in Super 8MM before leaving for Los Angeles. He studied college at UCLA and later at the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute.



His first short film *SUSAN SUSAN*, a satire about illegal immigration to the United States, was bought by Disney. *COOL CRIME*, a bitter comedy about a gang of ghosts wandering in Los Angeles, opened the PALM SPRINGS festival and allowed him to sign with the artistic agency CAA.



### **THE BEAR INSIDE OF A WHALE**

FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 91 min / Documentary

Director: Kenneth J Harvey  
Contact: kennethjharvey@yahoo.com

Stan Hill Jr. is a Haudenosaunee artist living in Miawpukek First Nation Reserve, Newfoundland. He and his family discuss racism, identity, religion, creation and art, along with the cultural extinction of the Beothuk of Newfoundland.

**Director:** Two-time Canadian Screen Awards and Giller Prize nominee, Kenneth J. Harvey is an award-winning filmmaker, journalist, photographer and international bestselling author. His films and TV programs have aired on CBC, Documentary Channel and NTV, and have screened at over seventy film festivals around the world.



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## AMERICAN INDIE



### CALIFORNIA SCENARIO

EAST COAST PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 98 min / Drama

Director: James Takata; Writers: James Takata, Dara Resnik; Producers: Dara Resnik, Jon Huertas, Jhennifer Webberley, Jen Prince; Key Cast: Will Yun Lee, Abby Miller, Brooklynn Prince, Minnie Mills, Jon Huertas, Jes Macallan, James Saito, Jean Yoon, Ellen Greene;  
Contact: [californiascenariomovie@gmail.com](mailto:californiascenariomovie@gmail.com)



When single parents Jacob and Laura separately bring their struggling children to Noguchi's sculpture garden to grapple with shared family legacies of survival, they discover the possibility of building something new together... one day.

**Special Guests:** Members of the Cast

**Director:** James Takata is a director, writer, and cinematographer. James' television directorial debut was on the NBC series *This Is Us*. He has also directed episodes of ABC's *The Company You Keep* and *Criminal Minds: Evolution* for Paramount+.



Born and raised in Los Angeles, Takata was inspired to become a filmmaker by Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing*. He earned his B.A. in Studio Art from the College of William and Mary, with studies at the Art Institute of Florence. Takata was selected for the DGA's prestigious Director Development Mentorship Program in 2024, where he was paired with mentor Bethany Rooney.

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**Robert Plotka**

## DOCUMENTARY



### COMPLICATED

EAST COAST PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 85 min / Health, Family, Legal

Director, Producer: Andrew Abrahams.  
Contact: [andrew@openeyepix.org](mailto:andrew@openeyepix.org)

In a time when the failures of healthcare in America are coming under scrutiny, *COMPLICATED* tells the poignant story of kids with complicated illness suffering at the margins of mainstream medicine—and their parents who risk losing them if they go too far to help: a shocking look at a hidden epidemic in pediatric care when complex disease, lack of research, and the limits of child protection collide.

**Special Guests:** TBD

**Director:** Andrew is an award winning, two-time Oscar-shortlisted producer/director/cinematographer/editor of creative non-fiction films. He is also the founder and president of Open Eye Pictures. Andrew studied at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism and USC's School of Cinema, ultimately receiving a master's degree in Visual Anthropology. Andrew is a former board director of the Jewish Film Institute and past member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. He has been recognized by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences with honors for Outstanding Documentary Achievement.

## DOCUMENTARY



## DOCUMENTARY



### DESCENT - INTO THE BLUE

BROWARD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 57 min / Marine Biology, Conservation, Eco-system

Director: Rory Fielding; Writers: Rory Fielding, Cynthia Bilder Caminiti; Producers: Rory Fielding, Mia Laurenzo, Felipe Marrou, Scott Rogo, Cortney Fielding; Narrator: Peter Coyote; Contact: [roryelding@gmail.com](mailto:roryelding@gmail.com)

DESCENT - Into the Blue is a powerful and impactful documentary, showcasing the best of the human spirit - the fight to save our ocean's ecosystem and critically endangered coral reefs. The film's inspiration was the original symphony Terra Nostra, musically portraying the story of climate change. The documentary features stunning 6K underwater cinematography, researchers and volunteers who tirelessly strive to reverse the damage and preserve our vital coral reefs. DESCENT is cinematic, uniquely featuring poetry written and recited by young students, inspired by our oceans.

**Special Guest:** Rory Fielding

Screening to be held at the NSU Alvin Sherman Library

**Director:** Rory Fielding is an Emmy award-winning director and producer. He recently produced the national PBS Documentary "Troubled Waters" featuring Ted Danson, focusing on the human impact facing our oceans and its sea creatures, which was nominated for five Emmys, winning two for Outstanding Photography and Best Director.



Rory has directed numerous films including biographies of musical artists, George Harrison, Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones and others. His latest film, "We're All Plastic People Now" explores the effects of plastic pollution not only on our oceans, but on human health, winning an Emmy for Long Form Documentary.

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### THE DREAM BOAT

FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 88 min / Well Being, Overcoming Challenges, Sports, Adventure, Friendship, Family

Director, Writer: Zach Thompson; Producer: Jesse Scolaro; Executive Producers: Mickey Sumner, Parker Williams; Key Cast: Ben Towill, Charles Layton; Contact: [scolarojesse@gmail.com](mailto:scolarojesse@gmail.com)

"Dream Boats" follows two friends and fellow chefs as they attempt to row across the Atlantic Ocean, transforming a test of endurance into a journey of purpose and discovery.



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## DOCUMENTARY



## AMERICAN INDIE



### EMPIRE

#### WORLD THEATRICAL PREMIERE

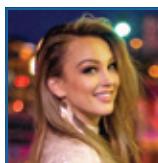
USA / 2025 / English / 60 min / Documentary, Fort Lauderdale, Cigars

Director, Producers: Brittnay Therese Dawson; Key Cast: Ryan Leeds, Jason Reznik, Pete Berntsen, Alex San Giovanni, David Resnick, Joe Lancer, Jose Menendez, Miya Burt-Stewart, Rum Chopra, Gracee Smith; Contact: brittnaytherese@gmail.com

What began as one man's tribute to his late father became a cultural force that reshaped South Florida's cigar scene. Empire follows the journey of a modest lounge as it transforms into a hidden world of sophistication, ritual, and belonging — a place where people from every walk of life come together to find community and connection, all forged through the leaf. At its core, the film is an invitation to slow down and rediscover the quiet art of conversation in an increasingly disconnected world.

**Special Guests:** Brittnay Therese Dawson, plus members of the "Empire" team featured in the film

**Director:** Brittnay Therese is a South Florida-based filmmaker and creative director whose work explores culture, community, and the hidden stories found in unexpected places. Raised in rural America, she cultivated a filmmaker's eye for the quiet details and resilient voices that shape everyday life. As a female independent filmmaker, she is committed to elevating underdog stories and the communities built on heart and passion.



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## AMERICAN INDIE



### EUGENE O'NEILL'S - THE FIRST MAN

#### FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 150 min / Period Drama

Director: Hardeep Giani; Writer: Eugene O'Neill, Hardeep Giani; Producers: Hardeep Giani, Matthew Pitts-Tucker; Key Cast: Vincent Andriano, Charlotte Asprey, Alan Turkington, Rebecca Lee, Josie Kidd, Charlie Roe, Kate Copeland, Richard Emerson - Gould, Martin Laer, Alex Francis, Nesba Crenshaw, Cat Mckeever; Contact: hgiani@yahoo.com

This is the first-ever film adaptation of The First Man - an early and rare story from the pen of Nobel laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, Eugene O'Neill.

World renowned anthropologist Curtis is consumed by grief over his young daughters' deaths. He finds solace in immersing himself in preparations for his upcoming expedition to Asia, where he aims to unravel the mystery of "The First Man." However, he must confront an undercurrent of family conflict as he battles against his relatives' unsettling suspicions that his wife Martha is carrying his best friend Bigelow's child.

**Special Guest:** Hardeep Giani



**Director:** Hardeep Giani is a renowned Director and Producer in Film and Television. Having studied film directing in New York at the NYFA and Motion Picture Pro - he has also gained qualifications from NFTS, London Film School, Raindance and Dov-Simens Producers course. His Short films long form documentary 'F\*\*K It, It's Over' have won numerous awards at film festivals. His First Feature 'Eugene O'Neill's - The First Man'.

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## AMERICAN INDIE



### EXIT INTERVIEWS

#### FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 90 min / Drama, LGBTQ+

Director, Writer, Producer: Garrett Abdo; Key Cast: Tuc Watkins, Adam Huss, Joseph Haro, Thomas Dekker, Ray Santiago, Nick Hagelin;  
Contact: michaelb@filmforwardproductions.com

Robert, a middle-aged gay man, begins a personal documentary project following his long history of failed relationships. As a professional but emotionally vulnerable individual, Robert decides to interview six of his ex-boyfriends, each of whom represents a distinct chapter in his love life. His ultimate goal is to find out why these relationships ended and to use the documentary as a means of personal growth—or so he believes. With the support of his sister Deborah, Robert prepares for the emotionally challenging task ahead.

**Special Guests:** Garrett Abdo, Tuc Watkins

**Director:** Garrett Abdo began his career in stand-up comedy more than 33 years ago. After years of booking one-nighters, he opened the prestigious Uptown Comedy Corner in 1993 and is a managing partner of the Upscale Atlanta Comedy Theater. Abdo was the first to headline Dave Chappelle and the first to pay Chris Tucker for a comedy performance.



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## DOCUMENTARY



### THE GRINGA AND THE MUSICIAN

BROWARD PREMIERE

Peru, Bolivia and Germany / 2024 / English / 61 min / Documentary

Director, Writer: Roberto Pazos; Writer, Producer: Steve Hunsicker; Contact: info@pazostv.com

The Gringa & the Musician is based on the life of German environmentalist, Aune Hartmann. Aune, a is brutally murdered while visiting South America to help people in indigenous communities. But due to both the incompetence and corruption of law enforcement in Peru and Bolivia, her killer remains free. Family and friends want justice but feel helpless fighting the cultural differences.

**Special Guests:** Roberto Pazos & Steve Hunsicker

**Director:** *My main reason to produce this film is to share the legacy of a person (Aune) who always wanted to do good things for everyone, especially the forgotten people. Driven by a passion for ecology, Aune cultivated a special love for South America. Unfortunately, she was betrayed by the person that came from her beloved land of Peru.*



## DOCUMENTARY



### GUARDIANS OF YELLOWSTONE, THE YELLOWSTONE COUGAR PROJECT

BROWARD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 57 min / Conservation, Environmental, Wildlife

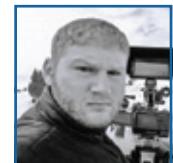
Directors, Writers, Producers: Max Freund, Andy Adkins, William Freund; Contact william@fstopfoundation.or

Guardians of Yellowstone takes viewers deep into the wild heart of Yellowstone National Park to reveal the hidden lives of cougars—stealthy apex predators whose presence is vital to the health and balance of the ecosystem.

Audiences will also get to meet specific cougars, each with their own unique story of survival, resilience, and connection, set against the stunning backdrop of Yellowstone's majestic landscapes. Through breathtaking visuals, intimate field footage, and deeply moving storytelling, Guardians of Yellowstone celebrates not only the cougars themselves, but the human guardians who ensure their legacy endures, reminding us of all of the fragile beauty and interconnectedness of life in the wild.

**Special Guest:** Max Freund

**Director:** Max Freund is an award-winning conservation filmmaker and producer whose work blends ecological insight with cinematic storytelling. As director and producer of *Guardians of Yellowstone: The Yellowstone Cougar Project*, Freund helped shape a compelling narrative around one of Yellowstone's most elusive predators. His work reflects a deep commitment to wildlife conservation and the power of visual media to inspire public engagement.



## DOCUMENTARY



## WORLD CINEMA



### GUY HARVEY

WORLD PREMIERE

USA / 2026 / English / 60 min / Biography

Director: Nick Nanton; Producer: Katie Tschopp; Supervising Producer: Nick Ruff; Contact: katie@astonishent.com

The documentary follows Guy Harvey's journey from an inquisitive boy to a leading advocate for ocean conservation. Raised in Jamaica and trained as a marine biologist, he devoted his life to the creatures that first sparked his imagination. Through striking artwork that captures the beauty and power of ocean life, Harvey created images that have become iconic. Beneath the surface of his paintings, however, lies a deeper story—one of commitment, discipline, and a lifelong mission to protect the waters that shaped his purpose. What began as childhood sketches of blue marlins has evolved into a global initiative where art, science, and conservation converge. This film explores that remarkable journey, presenting an intimate portrait of a man driven to safeguard the oceans for future generations.

**Special Guests:** Guy Harvey, Nick Nanton

**Director:** 22-Time Emmy Award Winning Director/Producer, Nick Nanton, has become known for telling stories that connect. Why? Because he focuses on the most fascinating subject in the world: PEOPLE. As an award-winning songwriter, storyteller and Best-Selling Author, Nick has shared his message with millions of people through his documentaries, speeches, blogs, lectures, songs and best-selling books.



### HIGH SCHOOL THIEVES

EAST COAST PREMIERE

Romania / 2024 / Romanian w/English subtitles / 110 min / Drama, Comedy, Coming-Of-Age, Heist

Director: Tudor Petremarin; Writers: Mihai Manescu, Tudor Petremarin; Producer: Tudor Petremarin; Key Cast: Karina Jianu, Ana Toda, Stefan Iancu, Dragos Prundeanu; Contact: tudor@fulgmedia.ro

In order to fulfill their dreams, four teenagers decide to make money by selling online SAT subjects. Sofi wants to raise money to pay for her college in Switzerland, Alex wants to build his own recording studio, Amalia wants to impress her senator father, and Tomita wants an adventure.

Everything is going well until they are all forced to face the reality around them and the consequences of their actions.

**Director:** Tudor Petremarin is a Romanian filmmaker, whose passion for movie-magic started in high school and has never left him since. His university short films were selected at local and international film festivals. For the last decade he has worked on various Romanian tv shows and series, commercials and music videos.



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## AMERICAN INDIES



## AMERICAN INDIE



### HAVANA COYOTES

#### WORLD PREMIERE

USA, Cuba / 2025 / English and Spanish / 74 min / Drama

Director, Writer, Producer: Benjamin Orici; Writer: Luis Abel Oliveros; Producers: Wendell Laurent; Key Cast: Roberto Romero, Mayra Mazorra, Annabel Novo, Juannalise Ramos, Georbis Martinez; Contact: havanacoyotes@gmail.com

In the shadow of war, Julia, a Cuban American, travels to Havana to collect her grandmother's ashes—a woman she never knew but whose life choices have shaped her own. While there, she meets three Cuban contemporaries and comes face-to-face with the life she might have lived had her father not been sent as a boy to Miami during "Operation Peter Pan."

**Special Guests:** Wendell Laurent, Barney Oldfield and Benjamin Orifici

**Director:** Benjamin Orifici's *Havana Coyotes* is the first American feature shot in Cuba with a fully Cuban cast since 1959, exploring US-Cuba biases and shared patriotism. A director who champions "Film Terroir," creates intimate, place-driven, handcrafted films that challenge audience expectations through distinctive visual and emotional worlds. Benjamin holds an MFA from the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, advises Anthology Film Archives, and remains active in Cuba-related cultural work through AFLFC.



RECEPTION INCLUDED

### HELLO BEAUTIFUL

#### FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 98 min / Drama

Director, Writer: Ziad H Hamzeh; Producers: Christine Handy, Michael Espinosa; Key Cast: Tricia Helfer, Tarek Bishara, Sadie Stratton, Lisa Marcos; Contact: hamzeh.ziad@gmail.com

Willow (Tricia Helfer) has everything the world could envy – a glittering career as a supermodel, a stunning home, a husband who adores her, Khalil (Tarek Bishara), and two bright, beautiful children, Isabel (Sara Boustany) and Alex (Liam Anderson). To outsiders, her life is picture-perfect.

But behind the perfect smile lies a woman walking a tightrope.

Her teenage daughter is spiraling. Her husband is pulled in every direction. And her mother-in-law, Mariam (Susan Shalhoub Larkin), is an unrelenting force of tradition and opinion.

Based on the true story of Christine Handy and her bestselling novel, *Walk Beside Me*, *Hello Beautiful* is a moving portrait of transformation, a journey through illness into strength, and a reminder that sometimes, the most radiant beauty comes from within.

**Special Guests:** Christine Handy, Ziad Hamzeh

**Director:** Ziad H Hamzeh is an award-winning director, producer, and writer. He won the Golden Palm at the Beverly Hills Film Festival for "Hello Beautiful", which he also wrote and produced, and produced the Tunisian hit "Take My Breath", Tunisia's submission for the 2025 Oscars for best international film



His work spans films including "Upstanding", "The Island of Forgiveness", "Forbidden Womanhood", "The Flower of Aleppo", "Dreams I Never Had", and "Irrefutable Proof", earning top festival honors worldwide. His documentaries—"The Letter", "Woman", and "¡Henry O!"—received critical acclaim and multiple awards.

Ziad's feature "Shadow Glories" was praised by The Los Angeles Times as "powerful and distinctive." He is a member of the Producers Guild of America and serves on its diversity committee.

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## DOCUMENTARY



## AMERICAN INDIE



### I'M CHEVY CHASE AND YOU'RE NOT SPECIAL SCREENING

USA / 2026 / English / 60 min / Documentary

Director: Marina Zenovich; Producers: P.G. Morgan, Isabel San Vargas, Austin Wilkin; Key Cast: Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Dan Aykroyd, Goldie Hawn, Lorne Michaels, Ryan Reynolds, Martin Short



I'm Chevy Chase and You're Not charts Chevy Chase's rise from breakout Saturday Night Live phenomenon to box-office royalty, thoughtfully examining the complexities and challenges that have shaped his legacy. With biting wit and disarming candor, Zenovich unpacks how the man once crowned America's comedy golden boy became its favorite cautionary tale. At its heart, I'm Chevy Chase and You're Not is the story of a performer with outsized gifts, who could make a nation laugh – but who could not always outrun his own contradictions – and whose films still circulate in the zeitgeist, quoted and rediscovered by new generations.

**Special Guests:** Chevy Chase, Marina Zenovich

**Director:** Marina Zenovich is an American filmmaker known for her biographical documentaries. Zenovich first studied drama at the USC, graduating with a degree in Journalism. Zenovich studied acting at the William Esper Studio in Manhattan, furthering her studies with Ron Burrus and Stella Adler. She later acted in several movies including Robert Altman's *The Player* and actress Talia Shire's *One Night Stand*. In 1997, Zenovich began working as a segment producer on John Pierson's TV series *Split Screen*. Due to her work on *Split Screen*, she became interested in becoming a director and working on feature documentaries.



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### IF YOU SHOULD LEAVE BEFORE ME

FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 120 min / Romance, Fantasy, LGBTQ

Director, Writer: J. Markus Anderson, B. Robert Anderson; Producers: Christopher Pegut, Shane P. Allen, J. Markus Anderson, B. Robert Anderson; Key Cast: Shane P. Allen, John Wilcox, Tom Noga; Contact: jmarkus@chiefsoverkings.com



Mark and Joshua, a long-term couple, discover a mysterious door hidden in their wardrobe. In this new realm, they encounter an elderly couple who have recently passed away and seek guidance to move on. Meanwhile, Joshua, who is already deceased, fears that his own door may never appear. As more doors materialize, and more souls receive the help they need to move on, a troubling truth emerges: Mark has secretly concealed Joshua's door out of his deep-seated fear of losing him forever. This shocking betrayal shatters Joshua, plunging him into the haunting realm of lost souls. Now, Mark must confront his grief and face the unknown with courage, while recovering the enduring spirit of Joshua.

**Special Guests:** J. Markus Anderson, B. Robert Anderson and Christopher Pegut



**Director:** J. Markus Anderson and Boyd Anderson are brothers and filmmaking partners who co-wrote and co-directed the 2025 drama/fantasy film *If You Should Leave Before Me*. They are the founders of the production company Chiefs over Kings, established in 2023. They have collaborated on various projects for over a decade, including the web series *For The Win* and *Food Quest*, and the award-winning short film *Limbo* (2020).

## DOCUMENTARY



### IMMUTABLE

FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 93 min / Documentary, Teens

Director, Producer: Charlie Sadoff, Gabriel London; Producer: Keith Brown; Contact: charlie@mightyrics.tv

Immutable is a feature documentary that follows a group of students from the Washington Urban Debate League as they fight to find their voices in a world that too often tries to silence them. Against the backdrop of a city marked by inequality—and in the lingering shadow of the COVID pandemic—these young debaters confront daily challenges that range from housing instability to neurodivergence. For some, debate is a path to college. For others, it's a lifeline.

**Special Guests:** Gabe London and Charlie Sadoff

**Director:** Students of the Cinematic Art Program at Flagler College



The Cinematic Arts program at Flagler College is based around the production of a multi-year film project created entirely by students under the supervision of a visiting filmmaker. Over the course of 5 semesters, the students in the program wrote the script, organized all aspects of pre-production, were cast in many of the roles, took on all of the crew positions on set, and edited the footage together. In short, they did it all as a collaborative effort.

A PERFORMANCE BY FEMINAFRIKA PRECEDES THE FILM



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## DOCUMENTARY



### INSIDE THE OASIS: THE STORY OF SOUTH FLORIDA'S GAY MECCA

SPECIAL SCREENING

USA / 2024 / English / 47 min / Documentary, LGBT

Director, Writer, Producer: Andy Perrott; Writer: Leslie Anne Frye-Thomas; Producer: Louis Pedraza; Key Cast: Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Dean Trantalis, Shevrin Jones, Fred Fejes, Sharon Gless; Contact: andy@lightshipstudios.com

Narrated by Emmy-winning actor Sharon Gless, INSIDE THE OASIS: The Story of South Florida's Gay Mecca explores the LGBTQ+ community's evolution in Broward County from the 1950s to the present. Through archival footage and firsthand accounts, the film charts the fight against discrimination, the triumph of visibility, and the fragile nature of progress as newly emboldened political forces once again challenge the community's hard-won rights.

**Special Guests:** Andy Perrott



**Director:** Andy Perrott is an award-winning film, television, and commercial director and producer with more than 25 years of experience. He founded his production company, Lightship Entertainment, in 1999 after serving as an Executive Producer at both Lifetime Television and The Walt Disney Company. Based in Orlando, he produced the Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade for a decade, earning the show's only national Emmy Award.

## AMERICAN INDIE



### KILL CITY: DEAD ON THE MONEY

EAST COAST PREMIERE

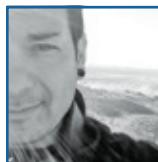
USA / 2025 / English / 97 min / Drama, Crime, Thriller, Action

Director, Writer, Producer: Robert Benavides Jr; Producers: Peter Mavromates, Kenneth Colom, Juan Rivera, Lee Comanche; Key Cast: Kenneth Colom, PJ King, Becca Scott, Charlie Glackin, Alanna Forte, Ronnie Lee, Charlotte Benesch, Charli Burnet, Jon Chavira, Dale Sloan, Kyler Coffman, Monique Sleeper, Aundre Dean, Nassim Nadery, Juan Amador, Hector Navarro, Jesse Ray, Johnny Diaz, Derek Mikula, Dorian Dane, Drew Moore; Contact: ballisticdigital@gmail.com

Van, a small-town hustler with big-city dreams, signs on as the wheelman for what should've been a clean, one-point five-million-dollar score. But after a violent crash flips the getaway, Van wakes up in a body bag—money gone, presumed dead, and marked for it. Betrayed and left for dead, every breath becomes a fight for survival as Van navigates the deadly fallout tearing through the streets of Kill City.

It's inspired by the gritty storytelling of Pulp Fiction, the stylized mayhem of Sin City, and the razor-sharp character work of Reservoir Dogs and Jackie Brown, our films deliver a high-octane mix of violence, wit, and cinematic swagger.

**Director:** Robert Benavides Jr. is a versatile and seasoned talent in the film industry, having collaborated with some of the most influential filmmakers of his generation. His career began at Silver Pictures, where he interned in the development office under Susan Downey. He soon moved into production, working on Shane Black's *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, starring Robert Downey Jr., Val Kilmer, and Michelle Monaghan.



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## AMERICAN INDIE



### LAND OF THE MUSTACHES

FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2024 / English / 90 min / Historical Drama

Director: Leon Joosen; Writer, Producer: Rutanya Alda; Editor: David Ray; Composer: Charles Bernstein; Animation: Candy Kugel; Key Cast: Rutanya Alda. Contact: rutanyaalda@gmail.com



For the children and women of all wars, it never leaves.

Land of the Mustaches is an autobiographical story of a young girl growing up in the Displaced Persons refugee camps with her mother and grandmother after World War Two left them starving and stateless, and her father's disappearance into Stalin's notorious Gulag labor camps in Siberia with only what he was wearing the day he was abducted—two hard paths that parallel each other until they finally merge into one story: The ultimate celebration of resilience and the human spirit.

**Special Guests:** Rutanya Alda

**Director:** Leon Joosen is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences with a long and distinguished career in animation and directing. Credits include Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Scooby Doo*, and *The Muppet Babies*.



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**THE LEGEND OF JUAN JOSE MUNDO**

BROWARD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 92 min / Comedy, Drama, Coming of Age

Director: Michael Walker; Writers: Michael Walker, Susan Gomes; Producers Alfred Sapse, Michael Goodin; Key Cast: Anna Mirodin, Hannah Kepple, Alejandro Byrd; Contact: [mike@pango lms.com](mailto:mike@pango lms.com)

Set in suburban NY in 1984. Julie Gornick hosts a charismatic, larger than life Spanish exchange student. As he starts hooking up with the girls in her class, Julie falls in love with him. Or what she thinks is love.

**Special Guests:** Alejandro Byrd

**Director:** Michael Walker is an independent filmmaker based in New York City. His work spans both film and television, with a focus on coming-of-age stories and offbeat comedies that explore the complexities of everyday life. He has directed several award-winning films, including *Price Check*, starring Parker Posey and *Chasing Sleep*, starring Jeff Daniels. His most recent feature, *Paint*, starring Olivia Luccardi and Josh Caras, won Best Film at the 2022 Dances With Films festival.

**LICENSE TO LOVE**

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Russian Federation / 2025 / Russian w/English subtitles / 103 min / Melodrama

Director: Anton Maslov; Writer: Maria Maslova; Producers: Eduard Ilyan, Denis Zhalinsky, Vitaly Shlyappo; Camera: Valery Makhmudov; Editor: Kirill Abramov; Key Cast: Yulia Peresild, Vladimir Vdovichenkov, Ekaterina Voronina, Kirill Rusin, Sofia Zaika; Contact: [hanna@eastwood.agency](mailto:hanna@eastwood.agency)

Katerina works in a registry office. She helps seal loving hearts, while her own marriage has been on hold for a long time. Katerina's husband has been in a coma for five years, and the family seems to be stuck with him. A new love brings a major change in Katerina's life, forcing her to make choices that she was previously afraid to make.

**Director:** Anton Maslov was in Volgograd and graduated from the directing department of the Wordshop communication academy of BBDO, Igor Voloshin's workshop. Winner of TEFL, the Association of Film and Television Producers Award, the National Internet Content Award (IRI) and others. Nominated for the Golden Eagle. Anton lives and works in Moscow.





## MIAMI NIGHTS

WORLD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 107 min / Action, Crime, Thriller

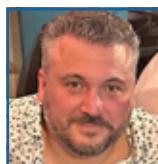
Director: Justin Steele; Writers: Amanda Konis, Steven Lloyd Bennett; Producers: Darryll C. Scott, John Lewis, Natalie Kline; Key Cast: Terrence Howard, Jeremy Piven, Thomas Jane, Jeremy Sumpter, Sydelle Noel, Manu Bennett, Sofia Pernas, Danay Garcia; Contact: darryll.c.scott@gmail.com



War heroes Lt. Mason Lane & Captain Lisa Gardner -- who together rescued a famous journalist David Wolfe from being held hostage in Afghanistan -- return home to Miami after being discharged from their military service. But returning to civilian life is harder than they imagined. Desperate to get back on their feet, Lisa and Mason take a security job from a former Captain. Their assignment was to transport a priceless diamond to an auction house. But after being threatened by a Miami crime boss, Mason hatches a plan to steal the diamond, win back his ex-girlfriend, pay off the gangster, and set him and Lisa up for life. Can he pull it all off and live to tell his story?

**Special Guests:** Jeremy Piven, Terrence Howard, Jeremy Sumpter, Sydelle Noel and Danay Garcia

**Director:** Justin Steele is a filmmaker known for slice-of-life storytelling with a gritty, suspenseful edge. His work spans global ad campaigns, music videos, and acclaimed shorts. As Lead Producer and CEO of the Los Angeles-based studio Drama Free Films, Justin continues to deliver bold, character-driven work.



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## THE MOTHER, THE MENACER, AND ME

BROWARD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 91 min / Comedy, Drama

Director: Jon Salmon; Writers: Chris Carvalho, Chris Plaushin; Producers: Chris Carvalho, Chris Plaushin, Tony Estrada, Tim Harms; Key Cast: Lorraine Bracco, Leah Remini, James Austin Kerr, Christine Spang, Alfonso Caballero, Brian Tichnell, Kellan Tetlow, Jeremy Luke, Monica Bhatnagar, Judy Kain; Contact: chris\_p\_carvalho@yahoo.com

Eddie Mathews dreams of being a successful horror filmmaker but currently struggles to pay the bills as a telemarketer, who schleps presidential bobble heads. His wife, Anna, is about to deliver their second child and with little money in the bank Eddie has no alternative but to move in with his disapproving mother-in-law and her son, a washed-up minor league hockey player.

Despite the circumstances, Eddie is unwilling to give up on his dream and hustle to complete the filming of his dark comedy about a vigilante who kills Karen. Driving him to succeed is his best friend, Joe, and his imaginary companion, The Menacer, who takes the form of a comedically villainous presence clad in a dark cloak and mask. Eddie scrambles to do whatever is necessary to bring Killing Karen to life -- including selling his vintage Dracula poster collection, the family's van, and enlisting some unlikely actors, including his wife's gynecologist, to fill out his cast. Killing Karen has the potential to be his breakthrough show, and Eddie gets word that a big Hollywood streamer may be interested. But the clock is ticking and as Eddie's financial and familiar responsibilities continue to grow his dream hangs in balance.

**Special Guests:** Chris Carvalho, Michael A. Vargas

**Director:** Jon Salmon first picked up a video camera when he was 8 years old in Austin, Texas. He attended USC and afterwards became a founding member of the viral comedy collective 5 Second Films. As a result of 5SF, Salmon co-directed his first feature, *Dude Bro Party Massacre III*, which developed a cult following with a sold-out 10 city Alamo Drafthouse tour in 2023.



## DOCUMENTARY



## DOCUMENTARY



### MR. GOALIE

US PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 89 min / Documentary, Sports

Director: Ryan McInerney, Writers: Ryan McInerney, Patrick McMahon; Producers Ryan McInerney, Kenny Hanson; Key Cast: Glenn Hall, Bobby Hull, Gerry Cheevers, Scotty Bowman, Jordan Binnington, Red Berenson, Bob Plager, Bernie Parent, Mike Vernon, Grant Fuhr, Darren Pang; Contact: ryan.mcinerney@gmail.com

94-year-old Glenn Hall, nicknamed 'Mr. Goalie', was born in 1931 and was a Hall of Fame goalkeeper in the NHL from 1955-1971. Glenn Hall holds an unbeatable record of 552 consecutive games in goal, and he did it without wearing a face mask.

**Special Guests:** Ryan McInerney, plus current and past Hockey players, coaches and executives

**Director:** Ryan Daniel McInerney was born in Chicago, Illinois, where most of his childhood revolved around being an ice hockey goalie. When not standing between the pipes, Ryan could be found making videos with friends. Upon graduation FAU, Ryan was able to join the Screen Actors Guild and eventually join the Directors Guild of America. Currently he works as an Assistant Director on Movies, TV shows, and Commercials.



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### MY UNDERGROUND MOTHER

BROWARD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / Czech, English, German, Hebrew, Polish, Yiddish / 88 min / Holocaust, Women, World War II

Director, Producer, Writer: Marisa Fox; Producers: Deborah Shaffer, Kelly Sheehan; Key Cast: Emmanuelle Chriqui, Jen Cohn; Contact : marisafox@me.com

What's the price of silence? That's the driving question in *My Underground Mother*, a documentary that explores the daring sisterhood and hidden traumas of women during the Holocaust through a daughter's unraveling of her late mother's story.

**Special Guest:** Marisa Fox

**Director:** Marisa Fox is an award-winning journalist with 30+ years in print, broadcast and digital media, covering major events from 9/11 to COVID. A former producer for WNET, VH1 and FX, she's written for top outlets and earned ASME honors. She curates Holocaust memorial projects, speaks internationally, and holds multiple Northwestern degrees, including an award-winning graduate thesis.



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The Schwartz Family, in  
memory of Janet Schwartz

AND

Carole Solomon

**MYRNA'S DEAL WITH THE DEAD**

SPECIAL SCREENING

USA / 2025 / English / 50 min / Comedy

Director, Producer, Writer: Andy Perrott; Writer: Kris Andersson, Producer: Louis Pedraza,  
Contact: andy@lightshipstudios.com



In the seventh installment of this telenovela-style comedy series, Myrna is desperately searching for Baby Oscur, the missing heir to the family fortune—stolen by her arch-nemesis, Kittay. Out of options and at her wits' end, Myrna seeks help from her longtime friend Dixie Longate, a psychic whose séances offer a hilariously unconventional path to the truth.

**Director:** Andy Perrott is an award-winning film, television, and commercial director and producer with more than 25 years of experience. He founded his production company, Lightship Entertainment, in 1999 after serving as an Executive Producer at both Lifetime Television and The Walt Disney Company. Based in Orlando, he produced the Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade for a decade, earning the show's only national Emmy Award.

**Washington Post**

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## OBRAZ (The Tower of Strength)

### FLORIDA PREMIERE

Montenegro / 2024 / Albanian, Montenegrin w/English Subtitles / 97 min / Drama, WWII, Historical

Director: Nikola I. Vukcevic; Writers: Melina Pota Koljevic, Ana Vujadinović, Nikola Vukcevic, Zuvdija Hodžić; Producers: Nikola I Vukcevic, Christopher Thoke, Milorad Radenovic, Nevena Savic, Dario Domitrovic; Key Cast: Edon Rizvanolli, Xhejvana Terbunja, Selman Jusufi, Elez Adzovic, Alban Ukaj, Nikola Ristanovski, Aleksandar Radulovic, Vuk Bulajic, Branimir Popović, Igor Bencina, Ana Vuckovic; Contact: office@galileoproduction.com

A persecuted Christian child finds shelter in the house of the enemy, who is a Muslim. The host faces an awestruck choice: to save the child's life and his own integrity - or risk losing his family to a group of armed kinsmen. The Official Montenegrin Oscar Entry for 2025, in the Best International Feature Film category.

**Director:** Dr. Nikola I. Vukcevic is a prominent Montenegrin film and theatre director, university professor of Film Directing, and Head of the Department of Film and Media at the National University of Montenegro. He serves as the National Delegate of the Assembly of the Federation of European Film Directors (FERA) and held the position of President of the Festival Council of the Montenegro International Film Festival from 2020 to 2022. A Ph.D. in Filmology he is also an alumnus of the prestigious Fulbright Program (FIP) and a member of the Film Committee of the Montenegrin Academy of Arts and Sciences (CANU).

Through his multifaceted roles, Nikola Vukčević occupies a distinguished position within Montenegro's artistic landscape, far beyond his accomplishments as a film director. OBRAZ marks his second experience as the official Montenegrin Oscar entry in the Best International Feature Film category.



## OUR FAMILY PRIDE

### MADE IN BROWARD

Broward / 2025 / English / 47 min / Drama, Comedy

Director, Writer, Producer: Glen Evelyn; Director, Producer: Dominic Giannetti; Key Cast: Garrett Clayton, Rachel Alig, Michael Nardelli, William Mark McCullough, Glen Evelyn  
Contact: glenevelyn@icloud.com

A husband and father of three (Jaime) finally reveals a truth he's buried for decades -- he's gay -- and wife and their children, watch as their dad now lives the best version of himself.

The pilot presentation episode of "Our Family Pride" is an intimate and emotionally raw comedy-drama that explores how a recently out father in his 50's confronts the past trauma that he silently endured -- from his earliest experiences of homophobia to the quiet unraveling of a man challenged by living a double life.

**Special Guests:** Directors Glen Evelyn, Dominic Giannetti, Cast member Garrett Clayton, plus members of the cast and crew

**Director:** Glen Evelyn is the founder of GunnerMAX Productions, a boutique independent film studio. After coming out in his thirties, following a marriage to a woman and decades spent closeted, Glen was inspired to tell stories that reflect the complex journeys of LGBTQ+ individuals navigating self-acceptance later in life.



Dominic Giannetti is the founder of Giannetti Films and is an award-winning director, writer, and producer. With over 30+ years in the entertainment industry, Dominic has produced over 10 feature films and has worked on over 100 professional TV, Movie, and Music video sets.

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Barbara Ryan

## WORLD CINEMA



## DOCUMENTARY



### THE PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE

SPECIAL SCREENING

Ireland / 2024 / English / 102 min / Comedy

Director: Chris Cottam; Writers: Paul Reiser, Wally Marzano Lesnevich; Producers Max Brady, Chris Cottam, Paul Reiser; Key Cast: Colm Meaney, Paul Reiser, Lucianne McEvoy, Jane Levy, Eimear Morrissey, Patrick Martins, Aidan Jordan

In Ireland, Ciárán cares for his father Fergus, who is near death. Fergus asks him to heal the long-standing rift with their American relatives. Ciárán contacts Barry, a cousin in New York, who agrees to visit. Initial meetings suggest that Fergus's wish for reconciliation may be filled. Fergus dies, and his will reveals that part of his estate is to be left to Barry, causing clashes between the cousins, with disagreements over inheritance and belonging. Despite repeated conflicts, Ciárán and Barry gradually begin to understand each other. By the end, the two reach a tentative truce, hinting at the possibility of reconciliation.

**Special Guests:** Paul Reiser

**Director:** Chris Cottam was born on September 30, 1973 in Wegberg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. He is a director and producer, known for *The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan* (2018), *The Lives of the Saints* (2006) and *The Problem with People* (2024).



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### THE PYTHON HUNT

BROWARD PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 91 min / Documentary

Director: Xander Robin; Cinematography by David Bolen, Matt Clegg; Contact: [lydia@oscilloscope.net](mailto:lydia@oscilloscope.net)

Every year, the Florida government calls upon the general public to compete in an invasive python removal contest in the Everglades in an attempt to save the threatened ecosystem. For ten grueling nights, an eclectic group of amateur hunters confront the dangerous terrain, nocturnal creatures, and their own desires. Meanwhile, one professional hunter leads the charge to undermine the competition, questioning what hides beneath the python mania gripping the 'glades.

**Director:** Xander Robin is a filmmaker from South Florida. His debut feature film, *ARE WE NOT CATS*, premiered at the 73rd Venice Film Festival. His work as a director has screened at film festivals across the world, including Sundance, Rotterdam, Sitges, and AFI Fest. In 2021, he directed three episodes of the HBO original series *CHILLIN ISLAND*, for the Safdie Brothers' Elara Pictures.



His first documentary feature, *THE PYTHON HUNT*, produced by Artists Equity, premiered at SXSW 2025, where it received a Special Jury Award. It will be released in theaters by Oscilloscope Laboratories in 2026.

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**AMERICAN INDIE****WORLD CINEMA****RAGING MIDLIFE**

FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 96 min / Comedy

Director: Rob Taylor; Writer, Producer: Nicholas Costa; Key Cast: Paula Abdul, Eddie Griffin, Walter Koenig, Emily Sweet, Darielle Mason, Nic Costa, Rob Taylor; Contact: nicholas@lombobardi.com

Alex and Mark, two midlifers, hunt down a tank top once worn by their idol, 80s wrestler "Raging Abraham Lincoln." Pursuing them is Alex's sister Mindy, a big-game hunter dubbed "Bald Eagle Killer". After losing an online auction, Alex and Mark launch heists to beat Mindy and steal the prize from the winner, Tyler Roberts, a grieving daughter trying to fulfill her father's wish to be cremated in the legendary tank top and sent to Valhalla at sea. But after an unexpected spark with Tyler, Alex must choose between the woman who surprises him and the greatest trophy in entertainment-sports history. Think *The Hangover* meets *Indiana Jones*.

**Special Guests:** Rob Taylor, Nic Costa, Bryna Smith, and Matt Zak

**Director:** Rob Taylor has been turning mundane filmmaking into movie magic for over 20 years. Rob has done practical effects and art direction on television pilots, feature film, and advertisement for magazines and billboards. Rob's other directorial works include *Evil Cult* (2003) and *Neil Stryker and the Tyrant of Time* (2017).

**THE ROOTS**

USA PREMIERE

Spain / 2026 / English / 90 min / Thriller

Director: Omar Bermúdez; Writers: Luis Manuel Lopez Roman, Juan Velarde; Producer: José Magán; Key Cast: Paz de la Huerta, Agnes Bruckner, Owen Roe, Michael Redmond.; Contact: magofilms@mago.films.com

A man attempts to escape his tragic past by finding work at an olive press in a remote village. He soon discovers that the ghosts following him are not the only ones lurking in the shadows.

**Special Guests:** Luis Manuel Lopez Román, Xander Berkley

**Director:** After more than ten years as a post production coordinator and film editor and several years working as a director for English agencies, Omar Bermúdez made his debut as a film director with *The Roots*, a psychological thriller about how people can go on while he fights with his ghosts of the past. This project was a huge challenge due to the complexity of the shooting: 10 days and an international cast with big actors such as Paz de la Huerta, Agnes Bruckner and Owen Roe.



SPONSORED BY

**Lee Carson**

## DOCUMENTARY



## AMERICAN INDIE



### SAFFRON ROBE

FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 85 min / Buddhism, Spiritual

Director, Writer, Producer: Jane Centofante; Producers: Jayne Hufschmid, Kraig Butrum; Narrator: Corey Brill; Contact [jane@satreeproductions.com](mailto:jane@satreeproductions.com)

Saffron Robe is a feature documentary that follows a revered Buddhist abbot in the remote northern region of Laos as he navigates the challenges of a sacred life under a communist regime.

**Special Guests:** Jane Centofante, Kraig M. Butrum

**Director:** Jane Centofante began as an editor at several publications, later becoming a freelance editor and researcher focused on non-fiction, including books on current events and biographies of Dian Fossey and Bob Hope. She also runs Boardwalk Press, an independent travel and gift-book publisher. A pivotal trip to Laos inspired her move into documentary filmmaking. Saffron Robe is her debut. She lives in Los Angeles



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### SELL OUT

FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 90 min / Drama, Comedy, Romance

Directors, Writers: Nick Ashy Holden and Josh Ashy Holden; Producers: Jennifer Kuczaj, Morgan Pollitt; Key Cast: Gabriel Luna, Adrienne Palicki, Temple Baker, Olivia Applegate, Stephanie Hunt, Nick Ashy Holden, Jimmy Gonzalez, Adeline Holden, Bill Wise; Contact: [mishnoon@gmail.com](mailto:mishnoon@gmail.com)

A neurotic novelist can't tell if his biggest problem is the blank page, his Southern family —or his best friends off the rails political campaign.

**Special Guests:** Nick Ashy Holden



**Director:** Brothers and writing/directing/producing partners, Josh and Nick Holden, started their production company Mishnoon in Austin, TX in 2008. They cut their teeth on music docs and music videos in the Outlaw Country music scene with the likes of Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Kris Kristofferson and others. Originally born in Los Angeles, the brothers were raised in Louisiana, and moved to Austin, TX for college in the early 2000's, where they have remained ever since. Sell Out is their second feature film. Their first, Golden Rut is currently streaming on Prime, iTunes and other platforms.

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## WORLD CINEMA



## DOCUMENTARY



### SHARKS

#### WORLD PREMIERE

Sweden / 2025 / English / 77 min / Crime, Drama, Thriller

Director, Writer: Elias Holgersson; Producer: Elias Holgersson, Alexander Ekman, Amanda Funkquist; Key Cast: Carl Backman, Kola Krauze, Amadeus Gustafsson, Lova Hellberg; Contact: elias@holgersson98@gmail.com



A thief on the verge of self-ruin gets his life thrown upside down when his paths cross with a professional organization. 'Sharks' is a black-and-white neo-noir drama-thriller about a man on the margins of society who becomes ensnared in a criminal underworld. What begins as petty theft spirals into a deadly moral unraveling.

**Special Guest:** Elias Holgersson

**Director:** Having nurtured a fascination with storytelling since early childhood and making his first short films in his pre-teen years, Elias Holgersson now makes his feature debut with 'Sharks' - a stark, black-and-white neo-noir drama-thriller.



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### THE SNAKE AND THE WHALE

#### FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2025 / English / 90 min / Crime, Investigative Journalism

Director: John Carlos Frey; Executive Producer: Scott Levy; Cast: Ken Balcomb, Ed Chaney, Nakia Williamson-Cloud, Howard Garrett, Dr. Deborah Giles, Rosie Cayou James, Doug Johnson, Kevin Lewis, Raynell Morris, Chris Pinney, Jim Waddell; Contact: redfishbluefishfilm@gmail.com

When an apex predator is in decline, so too is its ecosystem. Investigative journalism exposes ongoing corruption in the US Congress, falsely claiming that four federally owned dams are crucial to the Northwest power grid, while hiding the fact that an ecosystem collapse is in progress. At stake are salmon runs--once among the greatest runs in the world--and the salmon-eating Orcas facing imminent extinction.

**Special Guests:** Scott Levy & Mary Grant

**Director:** John Carlos Frey is a six-time Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker, investigative journalist and author. Frey, originally from Tijuana, Mexico, is based in Los Angeles, California. His investigative work has been featured on programs and networks such as HBO, Net ix, Hulu, NewsHour, 60 Minutes, PBS, ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, CNN, Nightline, Democracy Now! The Weather Channel, Dan Rather Reports, Fusion TV, Current TV, Univision, and Telemundo.



## WORLD CINEMA



### THE SPELL OF FOREVER (AKA "The Answer to Forever")

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

China / 2025 / Chinese w/English subtitles / 83 min / Drama

Director, Writer: Ryan Zheng; Producer: Yu Zhu;  
Contact: fdzyc@163.com

After losing her parents in an earthquake, 6-year-old Jiaying grew close to her "grandma." When she discovered the woman was illiterate, Jiaying taught her to write, and they became best friends. Later, she learned her grandma had cancer—and that everyone would eventually die. Heartbroken, Jiaying was inspired by the classic Chinese tale Adventures of Monkey King and set out to find the mythical "Forever Fruit" for her grandmother.

**Director:** Ryan Zheng, born in Tangshan, China, is a director and editor. Initially drawn to science, he ultimately pursued cinema, working with directors like Gu Changwei on acclaimed films such as *Life is a Miracle* (2011). This is his first feature as writer and director, set in his hometown and inspired by his coming-of-age experiences. Zheng's films combine philosophical depth with intimate storytelling, reflecting the vision of China's new generation of filmmakers.



## DOCUMENTARY



### TELEPATHIC LETTERS

FLORIDA PREMIERE

Portugal / 2024 / English / 71 min / AI, Horror, Literature

Director; Edgar Pêra: Writers; Fernando Pessoa, Howard Phillips Lovecraft; Producer: Rodrigo Areias;  
Contact: sales@bandoparte.com

Howard Phillips Lovecraft and Fernando Pessoa were among the most influential writers of the first half of the twentieth century. Although they lived during the same period, Pessoa and Lovecraft never knew each other. Even so, there is a striking complementarity between their lives and their works.

Telepathic Letters is a film whose images were created exclusively through artificial intelligence. The film establishes a dialogue between the authors' letters, essays, poems, and works of fiction, imagining a correspondence between the two writers constructed entirely from their own texts. This exchange gives rise to a new universe of artistic and literary possibilities, merging Pessoa's Sensationalism with Lovecraft's Weird Realism.

**Director:** Edgar Pêra, active since 1985, is a Portuguese filmmaker known for his unconventional, humorous, and experimental style. Early works include *Reproduta Interdita* and the award-winning *The City of Cassiano*. He co-founded Akademya Luzoh-Galaktika, collaborated with Rodrigo Areias, and created 3D films including Pessoa adaptations and *Cinesapiens*. His comedy *Inside Out* was a hit, and recent projects include *Cinekomix!!!*, *Kinorama*, and the psycho-thriller *Não Sou Nada – The Nothingness Club*.



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## WORLD CINEMA



## DOCUMENTARY



### TWO TIMES JOÃO LIBERADA

FLORIDA PREMIERE

Portugal / 2025 / Portuguese w/English subtitles / 70 min / Bio, trans, LGBTQ

Director, Writer, Producer: Anayansi Prado; Writer: Pablo Proenza; Producers: Ina Fichman, David Goldblum; Contact: anayansiprado@gmail.com

João, an actress from Lisbon, stars in a biopic about Liberada, a gender-nonconforming figure persecuted by the Portuguese Inquisition in the 18th century. The film's production becomes a battleground as João clashes with the director over how Liberada's legacy should be portrayed. These tensions deepen as João's dreams are increasingly haunted by Liberada's ghost, blurring the lines between past and present. When the director succumbs to a mysterious paralysis, leaving the film unfinished, João is left to navigate the unfolding chaos. She faces unanswerable questions, not only about the film's future but also about her own connection to Liberada's spirit and story.

**Director:** Paula Tomás Marques is a Portuguese filmmaker and teacher living between Porto and Lisbon. They directed the films *IN CASE OF FIRE* (2019), *BLINDMAN'S BUFF* (2021) and *DILDOTECTONICS* (2023), exploring themes of gender, sexuality and historiography. These themes are informed by her lived experience and by historical and sociological research, which is part of her practice. Paula has also worked as a cinematographer, editor and script supervisor.



### UVALDE MOM

FLORIDA PREMIERE

USA / 2024 / English, Spanish / 88 min / Latin, Mass Shooting, Motherhood

Director, Writer, Producer: Anayansi Prado; Music: Cristian Paduano; Camera Operator: Baldovino Midali, Manuel Paolino; Contact: danielganke@gmail.com

Uvalde Mom tells the story of Angeli Gomez, the mother who captured national attention when she rushed into Robb Elementary to save her two sons from a mass shooting. With exclusive access to Angeli, the film spotlights an ordinary, working class, Latina single mom and centers her as an American hero while also uncovering a faulty system that has been exposed by one of the deadliest mass shootings of children in American history.

**Special Guests:** Anayansi Prado, Angeli Gomez

**Director:** Anayansi Prado is an award-winning documentary director and producer with over 20 years of filmmaking experience. Her work has focused on issues of immigration, indigenous land rights, race identity, education and other social and humanitarian issues.

Anayansi's films have aired nationally on PBS and abroad. Anayansi holds a bachelor's degree in TV & Film Production from Boston University. Born in Panama, she resides in Los Angeles, CA.





## WILD ALPS

US PREMIERE

Italy / 2025 / English / 52 min / Nature, Wildlife, Environment

Director, Writer Producer: Anayansi Prado; Music: Cristian Paduano; Camera Operator: Baldovino Midali, Manuel Paolino; Contact: danielganke@gmail.com

In the middle of Europe, the Alps stand out impressively against the horizon. Home to many animal species whose fates intertwine among these peaks: from the grass frogs that embark on long journeys of love to the extraordinary choreographies of the white-throated dipper to gain his partner. Through a privileged and fresh look at life, love, difficulties and strategies adopted by these animals, we are able to discover that it's not always the stronger who prevail but those who help each other.

**Director:** Daniele Gangemi graduated in Cinema at the University of Pisa and specializes in Documentary at the Scuole Civiche in Milan.



He began working as a cameraman and video journalist for major national broadcasters and created his first socially themed documentary, *Prima Donna* (First Lady), which was selected for the International Documentary Festival Visioni dal Mondo. Gangemi later dedicates himself to producing documentaries about the relationship between humans and nature in the pre-Alpine context.

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## WING MAN

FLORIDA PREMIERE

Canada / 2025 / English / 100 min / Comedy



Director, Writer: Harland Williams; Producers: Justin Levine, David Lipper; Key Cast: Kayla Wallace, Harland Williams, Jamie Kennedy, Russell Peterse, Shiva Negar, David Tipper, Evan Mars; Contact: stardustpictures@gmail.com

WingMan, He's Taking One For The Team.

Turk who is stuck in the 80's, always wearing leather & velvet, is hired as Bob's Wingman unknown to Bob by his dad - to teach him how to pick up women - all the while Bob is down and out, loses his job, loses his wife; yet, his Dad is getting more action then he ever has.

**Special Guests:** Jamie Kennedy, Harland Williams and Justine Levine

**Director:** Comedian and actor Harland Williams is known, the world over, for his hilarious movie roles and outlandish stand-up and sketch comedy routines.



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## WORDS OF WAR

FLORIDA PREMIERE

United Kingdom / 2025 / English / 118 min / Drama, Journalism

Director: James Strong; Writer: Eric Poppen; Producers Mark Maxey, Sean Penn, Kia Jam; Cinematographer: Mike Eley; Key Cast: Maxine Peake, Jason Isaacs, Ciarán Hinds, Ian Hart, Ben Miles, Ellie Bamber, Harry Lawtey, Naomi Battrick; Contact: mark@rollingpictures.com

Journalist Anna Politkovskaya risked everything to speak the truth. As an unflinching, independent voice for the Russian people, her fearless reporting exposed injustice, brutality, and corruption—placing her life in constant danger. Though she was ultimately silenced, her voice endures. Anna Politkovskaya's legacy lives on as a powerful testament to the courage of journalism and a stark reminder of the deadly risks faced by those who refuse to look away. Her story demands vigilance, reminding us that the right to report the truth must be defended—at any cost.

**Director:** James Strong is an International Emmy and multiple Bafta award winning director/producer best known for his work on *Mr Bates vs The Post Office* (2024) *Fire Country* (2022) *The Suspect* (2022) *Vigil* (2021) *Crime* (2021) *Vanity Fair* (2018) *11-22-63* (2016) *Doctor Who* (2012) *Downton Abbey* (2013) *Broadchurch* (2013) and the feature film *United* (2011). His next feature *Anna* starring Maxine Peake and Ciaran Hinds is set for release in 2024.



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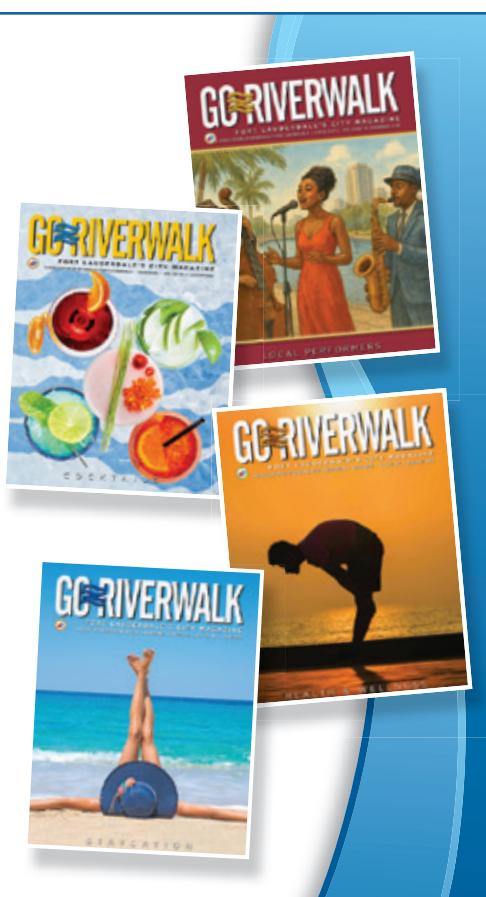


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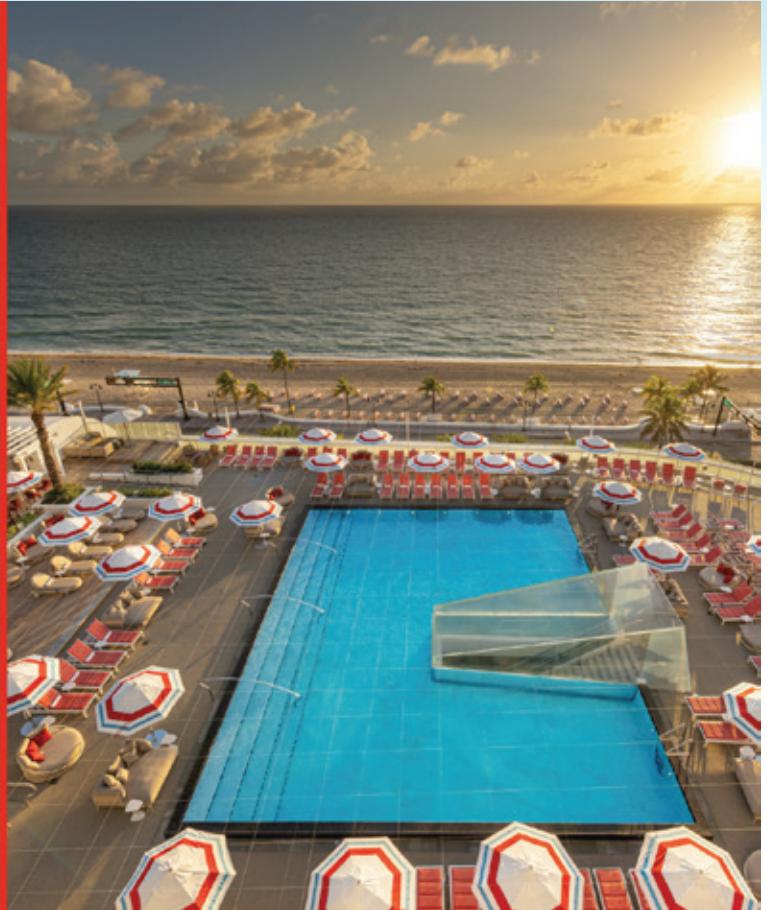
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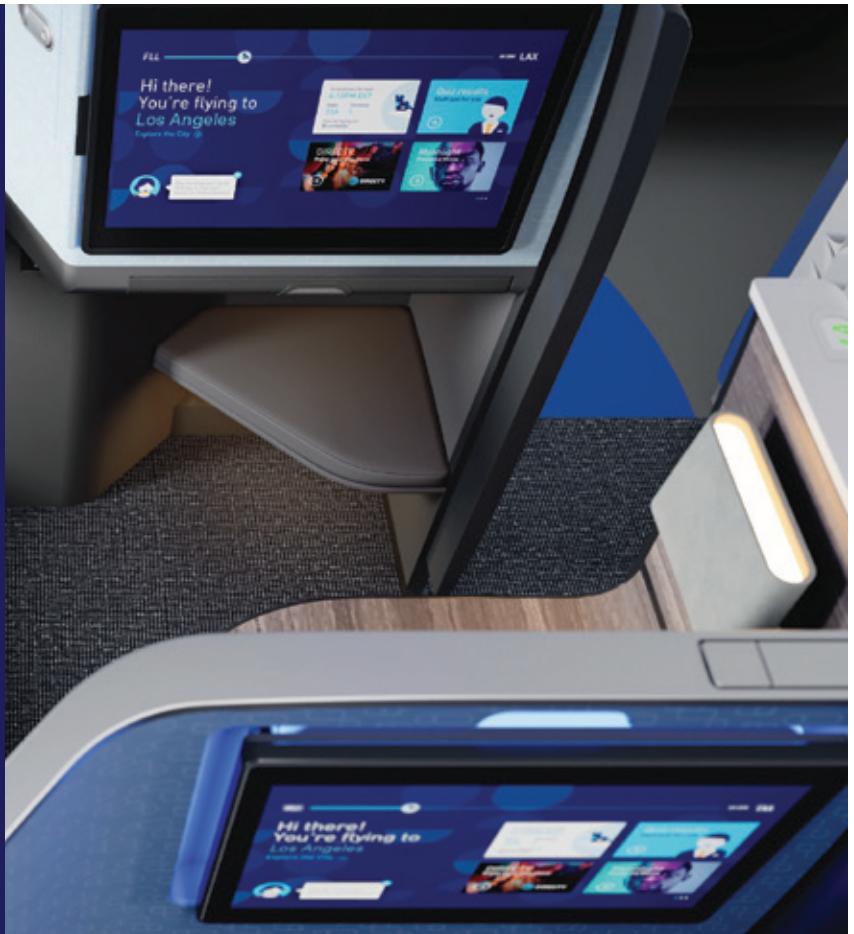
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## JURY



**MARK MOORMANN** is a South Florida-based filmmaker whose acclaimed documentaries have screened theatrically, at major film festivals (Sundance, Toronto, SXSW), and worldwide television.

His directorial credits include the Grammy-nominated 'Tom Dowd & the Language Of Music', the MTV Movie & TV Award-nominated 'The Day the Music Died', and the SXSW Audience Award-winner 'For Once In My Life'. He's worked as a cinematographer on noted documentaries including 'Studio 54', 'Sour Grapes', and 'Icahn: The Restless Billionaire'.

Moormann's collaborations with musical icons include Aerosmith, Michael Jackson, Ray Charles, and Amy Winehouse, and sports superstars Lionel Messi, Serena Williams, Mike Tyson, and Conor McGregor.



**NOY LEVI** is an artist and content creator focused on classic cinema and Hollywood history, with an emphasis on making legacy films accessible to younger audiences. Through her work, she explores how Golden Age and early modern films continue to resonate culturally today, particularly when viewed through contemporary perspectives. Her content centers on classic Hollywood, film history, and the evolving relationship between past and present cinema. She is based in South Florida.



**TAS SALINI** is a producer, writer and director, who has directed over a hundred music videos that have aired on MTV, BET and hosts of TV channels worldwide. He has produced and directed seven docs Salini also produced, wrote and directed a romantic comedy feature 'Gringo Wedding' that premiered at FLIFF and won many awards at festivals and was released theatrically.

Tas teaches film courses at Broward College and leads an online film discussion every month for Nova Southeastern University and Broward Library system. Currently, he is writing a screenplay for a feature film that he intends to shoot in UK.



**WIL SHRINER'S** debut feature film "Hoot" brings his Florida background and twenty years of comedy and directing to a Newbury award winning book by Carl Hiaasen. Wil directed and wrote the screenplay, and the film, produced by Jimmy Buffett, opened on 3,000 screens across the nation and quickly became a Top Ten box-office draw. Hoot was inducted into the Museum of Modern Art's collection. It was recently named by the Smithsonian as one of the top five environmental films.

On the small screen, Shriner is proud to have won the Humanitas Award for an episode of NBC's "Frasier" entitled 'Something About Dr. Mary' dealing sensitively with the issue of racism. Shriner has directed episodes of "Everybody Loves Raymond", "Becker", "Ladies Man", "My Wife and Kids", "Norm", "Married to the Kelly's", "Two Guys and a Girl", "Luis", "Raising Dad" and the "Gilmore Girls".



**THOMAS SWICK** grew up in Phillipsburg, NJ, and lives in Fort Lauderdale, FL, where he spent 19 years as the travel editor of the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. He is the author of four books, the most recent being *Falling into Place: A Story of Love, Poland, and the Making of a Travel Writer*. His work has appeared in national magazines, literary quarterlies, online publications, and various anthologies, including six editions of *The Best American Travel Writing*. In his spare time, he plays tennis, takes photographs, and draws cartoons. Some of his writing and cartoons can be found on his website: [thomasswick.com](http://thomasswick.com).



## Scheduled Dates

**Feb 23:** African American Research Library

**Feb 24:** Flamingo Gardens

**Mar 4:** Gold Coast Jazz

**Apr 14:** New City Players

**May 13:** Stonewall Archives

**May 18:** Haitian Heritage Month

**Jun 8:** BLINC

*Plus: more dates TBA*

**Reel Connections** will be featured throughout 2026. Provided by a grant from Funding Arts Broward, FLIFF will collaborate with film events with Broward County Cultural and community partners

## Mager Courtyard Classics

**Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Birdcage

**Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Annie Hall

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Fargo

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

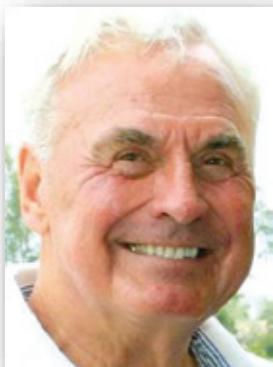
Groundhog Day

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## FLIFF LEGENDS

### Janet Schwartz

Volunteer Coordinator  
Superstar member  
Entre Nous



**John Mager**  
Millenium Club founder  
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Visionary

*Thank you to the Mager and Schwartz families for their continued support of FLIFF*

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February 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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