



## FILM PROGRAM

Below is a list of the 2017 competition sections, sidebars and shorts programs:

### 2017 SBIFF COMPETITION SECTIONS

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION  
INDEPENDENT COMPETITION  
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION  
NORDIC CINEMA COMPETITION  
SOCIAL JUSTICE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION  
SPAIN/LATIN AMERICA CINEMA COMPETITION

### 2017 SBIFF SIDEBARS

**ABOVE AND BEYOND:** A selection of exhilarating documentaries that explore surf culture and the search for new waves.

**APPLEBOX:** A series of free award-winning animated films for families.

**CINEMATIC OVERTURES:** A selection of films that showcase the world of performance including music, theater and dance.

**CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA:** An international selection of feature films that highlight diverse stories from global perspectives. Sponsored by Visit The Santa Ynez Valley

**CRIME SCENES:** An international selection of crime thrillers and neo-noirs filled with gritty underworlds and moral nihilists.

**KOLNOA:** A selection of feature films and documentaries that examine Israel from a variety of diverse historical, cultural and political perspectives.

**REEL NATURE:** A selection of natural history documentaries that highlight key issues facing the environment and wildlife.

**SANTA BARBARA FEATURES:** A selection of films that are directed by Santa Barbara filmmakers or feature key issues in the local community.

**SCREEN CUISINE:** An international selection of feature films and documentaries that examine the cultural layers of cuisine.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** A selection of international award winning feature films and documentaries.

## **2017 SBIFF SHORTS PROGRAMS**

ANIMATED SHORTS  
COMEDIC SHORTS  
DOCUMENTARY SHORTS  
DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: REFUGEES  
DRAMATIC SHORTS  
LIVE-ACTION SHORTS: DRAMEDY  
LIVE-ACTION SHORTS: THRILLERS  
SANTA BARBARA DOCUMENTARY SHORTS  
SANTA BARBARA SHORTS  
SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES

Below is the list of World and US Premieres, followed by the competition sections, festival sidebars and shorts programs. For the complete list of films and other special events please visit [www.sbiFF.org](http://www.sbiFF.org).

### **29 WORLD PREMIERE FEATURE FILMS** (listed alphabetically)

#### **arrangiarsi (pizza...and the art of living)**, USA/Italy

Directed by Matteo Troncone

When Matteo's life falls apart, he moves into a 1985 VW van, traces his roots to Naples, birthplace of pizza, and discovers "arrangiarsi," the art of making something from nothing. He realizes he's not only "living the film," but needs to master arrangiarsi to survive.

#### **Bokeh**, USA

Directed by Geoffrey Orthwein and Andrew Sullivan

Cast: Maika Monroe, Matt O'Leary

When a couple on vacation in Iceland wake up to find that everyone has disappeared, they begin to question everything they know about themselves and the world.

#### **The Cat That Changed America**, USA

Directed by Tony Lee

This documentary explores the plight of P22, a celebrated mountain lion in Los Angeles who became trapped in Griffith Park after crossing two of the busiest freeways in North America, the 405 and the 101.

#### **Charged**, USA - \*Opening Night Film

Directed by Phillip Baribeau

Featuring: Eduardo Garcia, Jennifer Jane

Charged with 2400 volts of electricity, Eduardo Garcia lost an arm, ribs, muscle mass and nearly his life, but more important than what he lost is what he found.

**Cradle of Champions, USA**

Directed by Bartle Bull

Featuring: James Wilkins and Titus Williams,

Heroes, dreams, heartbreak, and redemption: the three-month urban odyssey of the New York Golden Gloves, the world's largest, oldest, most important amateur boxing tournament.

**Different Flowers, USA**

Directed by Morgan Dameron

Cast: Shelley Long, Emma Bell, Hope Lauren, Rob Mayes, Sterling Knight

Millie and Emma are sisters with a rocky relationship who bring out the best and worst in each other. When Emma helps Millie run out on her big Kansas City wedding, they embark on an adventure neither could have anticipated.

**Every 40 Years, USA**

Directed by Eric Goldrich and Benjamin Friedberg

Gunhill Road returns to music 40 years after breaking into the Billboard Top 40 charts. EVERY 40 YEARS is about second chances and the power of chasing your dreams one more time.

**The Gateway Bug, USA**

Directed by Johanna B. Kelly

Over 2 billion people on earth eat insects for protein. THE GATEWAY BUG explores how changing daily eating habits can feed humanity in an uncertain age, one meal at a time.

**Gaviota: The End of Southern California, USA**

Directed by Shaw Leonard

In a monumental collaboration of artists, activists, and environmental organizations, this film documents the last remaining 20 miles of wild coastline in Southern California and the wildlife that thrives there.

**The Good Catholic, USA**

Directed by Paul Shoulberg

Cast: Danny Glover, John C. McGinley, Zachary Spicer, Wrenn Schmidt

Daniel loved his job as a small town priest more than anything. Then he met Jane. God help him.

**Grass Stains, USA**

Directed by Kyle Wilamowski

Cast: Kaitlyn Dever, Pablo Schreiber, Tye Sheridan

A teenager must balance the emotions he feels falling in love for the first time with the guilt he holds for the death of his girlfriend's older brother in a prank gone awry.

**Island Earth, USA**

Directed by Cyrus Sutton

A revealing documentary that follows the lives of Native Hawaiians to explore the realities of a food supply that are increasingly controlled by large corporate interests.

**John G. Avildsen: King of the Underdogs, USA**

Directed by Derek Wayne Johnson

Featuring: Sylvester Stallone, Ralph Macchio, Burt Reynolds, John G. Avildsen, Jerry Weintraub, Carl Weathers

An examination of the Oscar-winning director who brought to life some of cinema's most beloved motion pictures, including ROCKY, THE KARATE KID, and SAVE THE TIGER.

**Kangaroo, Australia**

Directed by Kate McIntyre Clere and Mick McIntyre

A documentary that reveals the unsettling truth about Australia's love-hate relationship with its beloved icon, and uncovers the largest mass destruction of wildlife anywhere in the world.

**Liberty in a Soup, Haiti/USA**

Directed by Dudley Alexis

Every New Year, in celebration of Independence Day, Haitian families feast on joumou soup. The soup represents war and victory, oppression and freedom, and the celebratory traditions of Haitian culture.

**Little Pink House, USA**

Directed by Courtney Moorehead Balaker

Cast: Catherine Keener, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Callum Rennie

Based on a true story, a small-town nurse defends her home and the blue-collar neighborhood she loves against white-collar power brokers.

**Lives Well Lived, USA**

Directed by Sky Bergman

Forty people aged 75 to 100, with a collective life experience of 3000 years, share their secrets, wit, and wisdom on how to live a meaningful life.

**Mabel, Mabel, Tiger Trainer, USA**

Directed by Leslie Zemeckis

The story of Mabel Stark, the world's first female tiger trainer who claimed her love for her tigers was so great that she wanted to die in the ring.

**Orbiter 9** (Órbita 9), Spain

Directed by Hatem Khraiche Ruiz-Zorrill

Cast: Clara Lago, Alex Gonzalez, Andres Parra, Belen Rueda

A young woman on a deep space mission has her life turned upside down by a chance encounter with an isolated engineer.

**Rebels on Pointe**, Canada/Italy/Japan/USA/UK

Directed by Bobbi Jo Hart

A cinéma vérité documentary that celebrates Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo -- the all male, drag ballet company founded over 40 years ago on the heels of New York's Stonewall riots.

**September 12th**, USA

Directed by David Heinz

Cast: Joe Purdy, Amber Rubarth, Krisha Fairchild

Two strangers, both folk musicians stranded in California, take a road trip to New York in the days after 9/11. A story about the kindness of strangers and the power of music.

**Seraphonium Live!**, USA

Directed by Byl Carruthers

Over 40 Santa Barbara musicians perform the genre-bending Debut Album by Monte Schulz's 'Seraphonium', in a Sold-Out performance, at Santa Barbara's Marjorie Luke Theater.

**Sixteen Legs**, Australia

Directed by Niall Doran and Justin Smith

As the world rapidly descends into the next period of global mass extinction, a message of hope comes from an unlikely hero: a creature, often reviled, that has survived previous mass extinctions and climatic change in a magical ecosystem hidden beneath one of the world's last great wildernesses.

**Sleepwalker**, USA

Directed by Elliott Lester

Cast: Richard Armitage, Kevin Zegers, Haley Joel Osment, Izabella Scorupco, Ahna O'Reilly

A woman reconstructs her life after the apparent suicide of her novelist husband, but is met with terrifying and frequent bouts of sleepwalking.

**Strawberry Days** (Jordgubbslandet), Sweden

Directed by Wiktor Ericsson

Cast: Nelly Axelsson, Stanislaw Cywka, Julia Kijowska, Przemyslaw Sadowski, Torkel Petersson

15-year-old Wojtek travels to Sweden from Poland with his parents to work on a farm picking strawberries. He encounters a dark underworld where foreign guest workers are exploited by indifferent Swedes. Against all odds, he forms a connection with the farmer's daughter.

**That's Not Me**, Australia

Directed by Gregory Erdstein

Cast: Alice Foulcher, Isabel Lucas, Richard Davies, Belinda Missevski, Rowan Davie

Polly's dreams of making it as an actor are shattered when her identical twin sister Amy lands a plum role in an HBO show and starts dating Jared Leto. Mistaken for her famous sister at every turn, Polly decides to use her sister's celebrity for her own advantage – free clothes, free booze, casual sex... with disastrous consequences for them both.

**Tribal Justice**, USA

Directed by Anne Makepeace

Two tribal court judges create innovative justice systems, striving to reduce incarceration rates by restoring rather than punishing offenders, while providing a model of restorative justice in action.

**The Vervet Forest**, USA/South Africa

Directed by Kyle Salazar

The story of five orphaned baby monkeys in South Africa and the struggle to save their home.

**Where Have You Gone, Lou DiMaggio?**, USA

Directed by Brad Kuhlman

Featuring: Larry David, Colin Quinn, Suzie Essman, Joy Behar, Jeff Garlin and Roy Romano. From 1985 to 1989 Lou DiMaggio was a regular at the iconic "Catch a Rising Star" comedy club in New York City. This documentary follows Lou as he seeks advice about his return to stand-up from small group of celebrated comedians. After all this time, can Lou rediscover his voice and once again become relevant in the world of comedy?

**47 U.S. PREMIERE FEATURE FILMS** (listed alphabetically)

**About Us** (Entonces nosotros), Costa Rica

Directed by Hernán Jiménez

Cast: Hernán Jiménez, Noelia Castaño, Marina Glezer

Diego, trying to salvage the relationship with his girlfriend, plans a beach getaway to propose and clear the air. A chance encounter turns a perfect weekend in paradise into Diego's worst nightmare.

**Angry Inuk**, Canada

Directed by Alethea Amaquq-Baril

Inuit director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril joins a new tech-savvy generation of Inuit as they campaign to challenge long-established perceptions of seal hunting.

**At your Doorstep** (Cerca de tu casa), Spain

Directed by Eduard Cortés

Cast: Sílvia Pérez Cruz, Lluís Homar, Adriana Ozores, Iván Massagué, Manuel Morón  
An evicted mother, a banker with a conscience, and a police officer sing and dance in this inspiring Brechtian musical drama about maintaining hope through daily struggles and an economic crisis.

**Ben-Gurion, Epilogue**, Israel/France

Directed by Yariv Mozer

Using newly discovered 1968 interview footage of David Ben-Gurion, this documentary reveals his prophecy and worldview while showcasing his dedication to Zionism and a life of self-examination.

**The Black Pin**, Montenegro/Serbia

Directed by Ivan Marinovic

Peter, a misanthropic orthodox priest, returns to his idyllic Montenegrin peninsula to nurse his demented mother. He quickly gets into a conflict with superstitious villagers who will seek creative ways to chase him away

**Bluefin**, Canada

Directed by John Hopkins

A passionate study of the giant bluefin tuna, the largest tuna species in the world at the brink of collapse.

**By Accident** (par accident), France

Directed by Camille Fontaine

Cast: Hafsia Herzi, Emilie Dequenne, Mounir Margoum

In this tense thriller, two women from very different backgrounds form a bond following a hit-and-run accident.

**Carrie Pilby**, USA

Directed by Susan Johnson

Cast: Bel Powley, Nathan Lane, Gabriel Byrne, Vanessa Bayer, Colin O'Donoghue, Jason Ritter  
Awkward, isolated and disapproving of most of the people around her, a precocious 19-year-old genius is challenged to put her convictions to the test by venturing out into the NYC dating scene.

**Codename Holec** (Deckname holec), Austria/Czech Republic

Directed by Franz Novotny

Cast: Johannes Zeiler, Vica Kerekes, Kryštof Hádek, David Novotny, Gerrit Jansen, Michael Fuith

A director films the 1968 Russian invasion of Prague and, with his girlfriend, takes the film to a director in Vienna. The director knows her well, but he knows the Czech Secret Service even better.

**The Constitution** (Ustav Republike Hrvatske), Croatia

Directed by Rajko Grlić

Cast: Nebojša Glogovac, Ksenija Marinković, Dejan Aćimović, Božidar Smiljanić

The unlikely relationships that form in a shared apartment building reveal a series of social, political, and ethnic issues that point to larger problems, a perfect metaphor for modern-day Croatia.

**The Crest**, USA

Directed by Mark Christopher Covino

Featuring: Andrew Jacob, Dennis Kane

Two descendants of an Irish king journey to an island where he once presided--not to reclaim the land, but to surf the waves.

**Cruelty** (Grimmd), Iceland

Directed by Anton Sigurdsson

Cast: Guðrún María Bjarnadóttir, Þorsteinn Gunnar Bjarnason, Helgi Björnsson

Reykjavik, a city known for its carefree lifestyle and peaceful existence, is rocked when two sisters who have been missing for three days are found brutally murdered. The two best detectives in the police force are tasked to solve the case.

**The Fixer** (Fixeur), Romania

Directed by Adrian Sitaru

Cast: Tudor Aaron Istodor, Mehdi Nebbou, Nicolas Wanczycki, Diana Spatarescu, Adrian Titieni

In this charged moral drama, a headline-grabbing sex scandal gives a news network trainee a chance for his big break, forcing him to decide how far he is willing to go to get ahead.

**The Fury of a Patient Man** (Tarde para la ira), Spain

Directed by Raúl Arévalo

Cast: Antonio de la Torre, Luís Callejo, Ruth Díaz

A romance between a gentle Madrid laborer and a working single mother becomes a struggle for survival when the woman's violent boyfriend returns from prison.

**The Gambler** (El jugador), Argentina

Directed by Dan Gueller

Cast: Alejandro Awada, Pablo Rago, Guadalupe Docampo, Lali González, Esteban Bigliardi, Andrés Zurita, Oscar Alegre



When a retired gambler develops a weakness for his boss's granddaughter, trouble is a sure bet. This psychological thriller is based on the famous short novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

**Godspeed**, Taiwan

Directed by Chung Mong-Hong

Cast: Michael Hui, Na Dow, Leon Dai, Chung-Hua Tou, Matt Wu, Yi-Wen Chen, Vincent Liang  
A Taiwanese drug mule's foolproof smuggling method is thrown out of whack when he catches a ride with the wrong cab driver. GODSPEED stars Hong Kong comedy legend Michael Hui.

**Hands of a Mother** (Die hände meiner mutter), Germany

Directed by Florian Eichinger

Cast: Andreas Döhler, Jessica Schwarz, Katrin Pollitt, Heiko Pinkowski

At a family reunion aboard a ship, Markus remembers for the first time what his mother did to him when he was a child—and Markus and his wife must confront an ugly truth.

**Heal the Living** (Réparer les vivants), France/Belgium - \*International Gala

Directed by Katell Quillévéré

Cast: Tahar Rahim, Emmanuelle Seigner, Anne Dorval, Bouli Lanners, Kool Shen

Following the aftermath of an accident, three seemingly unrelated stories are intertwined around the moment when tragedy meets hope.

**Holy Biker** (Reza a Lenda), Brazil

Directed by Homero Olivetto

Cast: Cauã Reymond, Humberto Martins, Sophie Charlotte, Luisa Arraes, Júlio Andrade

Set in a lawless and arid Brazilian landscape, this edgy action film follows a gang of armed motorcyclists who risk their lives in search of a miracle to make it rain.

**House of Others** (Skhvisi sakhli), Georgia

Directed by Rusudan Glurjidze

Cast: Salome Demuria, Ia Sukhitashvili, Olga Dihovichnaya, Alexander Khundadze

Two families have physically survived a devastating civil war, but are faced with deep emotional scars as they try to build new lives.

**I'm Not a Rebel** (Yo no soy guerrillero), Mexico

Directed by Sergio Sánchez

Cast: Juan Pablo Castañeda, Luis Arrieta, Manuel Uriza

A student hijacks a plane to save his love who has been taken by the secret police. Despite being set in a dark time in Mexico's history, this is a comedy about what it means to be a rebel.

**In The Blood** (I Blodet), Denmark

Directed by Rasmus Heisterberg

Cast: Kristoffer Bech, Elliott Crosset Hove, Victoria Carmen Sonne

Four students buy an apartment together in Nørrebro, Copenhagen, and move in together. We follow their 20s, their ups and downs and the loneliness they discover after they split.

**Jeffrey**, Dominican Republic/France

Directed by Yanillys Perez

Jeffrey is a kid from the streets of Santo Domingo who dreams of becoming a reggaeton singer. In order to achieve his goals, he must first overcome the tough realities of the world around him.

**Jericó, The Infinite Flight of Days**, France/Colombia

Director: Catalina Mesa

Featuring: Celina Acevedo, Cecilia Bohórquez, Laura Katherine Foronda

This colorful, poetic, and lush documentary presents an intimate view of eight women of all ages in the Colombian village of Jericó, revealing their stories, their inner lives, and their wisdom.

**The Journey is the Destination**, UK/South Africa/Canada

Directed by Bronwen Hughes

Cast: Ben Schnetzer, Maria Bello, Ella Purnell, Kelly Macdonald, Sam Hazeldine

This is an inspiring recreation of the life of the late Dan Eldon, a photojournalist, artist, and activist who documented the violence and famine in Somalia and the end of apartheid in South Africa..

**Ken San**, Japan

Directed by Yuichi Hibi

Featuring: Michael Douglas, Martin Scorsese, John Woo

This documentary is a study of Ken Takakura, often described as Japan's greatest and last movie star.

**Mali Blues**, Mali/Germany

Directed by Lutz Gregor

Featuring: Fatoumata Diawara, Ahmed Ag Kaedi, Bassekou Kouyaté

Mali is considered the cradle of jazz and the blues, but its rich musical tradition is threatened. After fleeing Mali as a young woman, rising music star Fatoumata Diawara returns for a concert performance.

**The Man (Mesteren)**, Denmark

Directed by Charlotte Sieling

World famous artist Simon moves to Copenhagen to meet up with his son Casper, a street artist, for the very first time. Later Simon finds out that Casper uses the meet as an art project scheduled for showing in London, secretly filmed.

**Men of Wood & Foam**, Australia

Directed by Shaun Cairns

In the 1950s and '60s, as surfing became a sport and developed a culture of its own, six enterprising friends changed the shape of Australian surfing. They were known as the Brookvale Six.

**Moka**, France/Switzerland

Directed by Frédéric Mermoud

Cast: Emmanuelle Devos, Nathalie Baye, David Clavel

A grieving woman pursues a couple whom she suspects of killing her son in a hit-and-run.

**The Most Beautiful Day** (Der geilste tag), Germany

Directed by Florian David Fitz

Cast: Matthias Schweighöfer, Florian David Fitz, Rainer Bock

Andi and Beno are terminally ill, but before each meets his end, they grab some cash and head out on a road trip in search of the most beautiful day.

**My Hero Brother**, Israel/India

Directed by Yonatan Nir

In this remarkable and inspiring story, a group of young people with Down syndrome embark on a demanding, two week trek through the Himalayas, accompanied by their siblings.

**The Nest** (Il nido), Switzerland/Italy

Directed by Klaudia Reynicke

Cast: Ondina Quadri, Fabrizio Rongione, Diego Ribon, Sonia Gessner, Luigi Diberti

Cora has returned to Bucco to help her father organize the annual Feast of the Virgin. The arrival of a mysterious man upsets the town's harmony, unearthing a crime committed 40 years ago.

**Piuma**, Italy

Directed by Roan Johnson

Cast: Luigi Fedele, Blu Yoshimi, Michela Cescon

An unexpected pregnancy turns a young couple's world upside down. Hesitant and tentative, Ferro and Cate must navigate the most exciting and complicated nine months of their lives, trying not to lose their purity and unique poetic air.

**Pyromaniac** (Pyromanen), Norway

Directed by Erik Skjoldbjærg

Cast: Trond Hjørt Nilsen, Per Frisch, Liv Bernhoft Osa, Henrik Rafaelsen, Agnes Kittelsen

Nineteen-year-old Dag has recently returned to the village where his father is chief of the volunteer fire brigade. His parents notice that he has changed--and then the fires begin.

**A Queer Country**, UK

Directed by Lisa Morgenthau

Uncovering how liberal attitudes are often at odds with Israel's legal structure, this documentary shows what it's like to identify as LGBT in a country steeped in social and political controversy.

**A Quiet Heart** (Lev shaket meod), Israel

Directed by Eitan Anner

Cast: Ania Bukstein, Giorgio Lupano, Lior Lifshitz, Uri Gottlieb, Rona Lee Shimon, Irit Kaplan

A young concert pianist in Jerusalem is persecuted by ultra-religious groups. Faced with escalating isolation and violence, she must use music as a bridge to overcome towering religious barriers.

**Rage** (Ikari), Japan

Directed by Sang-il Lee

Cast: Ken Watanabe, Mirai Moriyama, Kenichi Matsuyama, Go Ayano, Suzu Hirose, Aoi Miyazaki, Satoshi Tsumabuki.

In this arresting ensemble thriller, a grisly unsolved murder links three seemingly unrelated stories in three different Japanese cities.

**Revenge** (Hevn), Norway/Canada

Directed by Kjersti Steinsbø

Cast: Siren Jørgensen, Frode Winther, Maria Bock, Anders Baasmo Christiansen, Trond Espen Seind

Rebekka sets out to confront a man who, years before, assaulted her recently deceased sister. As her plan falls apart, she must decide how far she is willing to go to seek revenge.

**Shadows of Paradise**, Canada

Directed by Sebastian Lange

Featuring: David Lynch, Bobby Roth

When a spiritual luminary dies, how do his devotees continue? This film documents Transcendental Meditation's metamorphosis following the passing of its founder, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

**Soof 2**, Netherlands

Directed by Esmé Lammers

Cast: Lies Visschedijk, Fedja van Huêt, Achmed Akkabi

After her marriage comes undone, Soof has to reinvent herself and get her tumultuous life back on track.

**Tamara**, Venezuela/Uruguay/Peru

Directed by Elia K. Schneider

Cast: Luis Fernández, Mimí Lazo, Prakriti Maduro, Karina Velásquez, Julie Restifo, Carlota Sosa, Tamara Adrián

A successful lawyer with a wife and two small children finally comes to terms with his neglected past and his desire to become a woman.

**Tiger Theory** (Teorie Tygra), Czech Republic

Directed by Radek Bajgar

Cast: Jirí Bartoska, Eliska Balzerová, Tatiana Vilhelmová

In this hugely successful tragicomedy, veterinarian Jan sets off on a last pilgrimage in search of the wild.

**Tommaso** (L'intelligenza del maschio), Italy

Directed by Kim Rossi Stuart

Cast: Kim Rossi Stuart, Cristiana Capotondi, Camilla Diana

Tommaso is a young actor and a compulsive perfectionist. In a case of eternal adolescence, Tommaso leaves his wife and spirals further into lust and immaturity.

**Water and Sugar: Carlo di Palma**, The Colours of Life, Italy

Directed by Fariborz Kamkari

A galaxy of cinema luminaries, including Ken Loach, Ettore Scola, Wim Wenders and Bernardo Bertolucci, pay tribute to the great Italian cinematographer Carlo di Palma.

**Welcome Home**, Belgium

Directed by Philippe de Pierpont

Cast: Arthur Buysens, Martin Nissen, Harry Cleven. Claude Semal

Two teenagers have been friends since childhood. Disillusioned by life in their hometown, they escape and hide in vacant homes left by others who have gone on vacation.

**Window Horses** – The Poetic Persian Epiphany of Rosie Ming, Canada

Directed by Ann Marie Fleming

Cast: Ellen Page, Sandra Oh, Nancy Kwan, Shohreh Aghdashloo

In this warm and whimsical animated film, a young Canadian poet of Chinese and Persian descent navigates cultural and generational divides after being asked to perform at a poetry festival in Iran.

**2017 SBIFF COMPETITION SECTIONS** (listed alphabetically) - NOTE: Some films may also be cross-listed in one or more festival sidebars

## **DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION**

**Ben-Gurion, Epilogue**, Israel/France - US Premiere

Directed by Yariv Mozer

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Featuring: David Lynch, Bobby Roth

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Directed by Brad Kuhlman

Featuring: Larry David, Colin Quinn, Suzie Essman, Joy Behar, Jeff Garlin and Roy Romano. From 1985 to 1989 Lou DiMaggio was a regular at the iconic "Catch a Rising Star" comedy club in New York City. This documentary follows Lou as he seeks advice about his return to stand-up from small group of celebrated comedians. After all this time, can Lou rediscover his voice and once again become relevant in the world of comedy?

## INDEPENDENT COMPETITION

**Bokeh**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Geoffrey Orthwein and Andrew Sullivan

Cast: Maika Monroe, Matt O'Leary

When a couple on vacation in Iceland wake up to find that everyone has disappeared, they begin to question everything they know about themselves and the world.

**Carrie Pilby**, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Susan Johnson

Cast: Bel Powley, Nathan Lane, Gabriel Byrne, Vanessa Bayer, Colin O'Donoghue, Jason Ritter, William Moseley

Awkward, isolated and disapproving of most of the people around her, a precocious 19-year-old genius is challenged to put her convictions to the test by venturing out into the NYC dating scene.

**Different Flowers**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Morgan Dameron

Cast: Shelley Long, Emma Bell, Hope Lauren, Rob Mayes, Sterling Knight

Millie and Emma are sisters with a rocky relationship who bring out the best and worst in each other. When Emma helps Millie run out on her big Kansas City wedding, they embark on an adventure neither could have anticipated.

**The Good Catholic**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Paul Shoulberg

Cast: Danny Glover, John C. McGinley, Zachary Spicer, Wrenn Schmidt

Daniel loved his job as a small town priest more than anything. Then he met Jane. God help him.

**Grass Stains**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Kyle Wilamowski

Cast: Kaitlyn Dever, Pablo Schreiber, Tye Sheridan

A teenager must balance the emotions he feels falling in love for the first time with the guilt he holds for the death of his girlfriend's older brother in a prank gone awry.

**The Journey is the Destination**, UK/South Africa/Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Bronwen Hughes

Cast: Ben Schnetzer, Maria Bello, Ella Purnell, Kelly Macdonald, Sam Hazeldine

This is an inspiring recreation of the life of the late Dan Eldon, a photojournalist, artist, and activist who documented the violence and famine in Somalia and the end of apartheid in South Africa.

**Little Pink House**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Courtney Moorehead Balaker

Cast: Catherine Keener, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Callum Rennie

Based on a true story, a small-town nurse defends her home and the blue-collar neighborhood she loves against white-collar power brokers.

**September 12th**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by David Heinz

Cast: Joe Purdy, Amber Rubarth, Krisha Fairchild

Two strangers, both folk musicians stranded in California, take a road trip to New York in the days after 9/11. A story about the kindness of strangers and the power of music.

**Sleepwalker**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Elliott Lester

Cast: Richard Armitage, Kevin Zegers, Haley Joel Osment, Izabella Scorupco, Ahna O'Reilly

A woman reconstructs her life after the apparent suicide of her novelist husband, but is met with terrifying and frequent bouts of sleepwalking.



**That's Not Me**, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Gregory Erdstein

Cast: Alice Foulcher, Isabel Lucas, Richard Davies, Belinda Missevski, Rowan Davie

Polly's dreams of making it as an actor are shattered when her identical twin sister Amy lands a plum role in an HBO show and starts dating Jared Leto. Mistaken for her famous sister at every turn, Polly decides to use her sister's celebrity for her own advantage – free clothes, free booze, casual sex... with disastrous consequences for them both.

**Window Horses – The Poetic Persian Epiphany of Rosie Ming**, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Ann Marie Fleming

Cast: Ellen Page, Sandra Oh, Nancy Kwan, Shohreh Aghdashloo

In this warm and whimsical animated film, a young Canadian poet of Chinese and Persian descent navigates cultural and generational divides after being asked to perform at a poetry festival in Iran.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

**The Black Pin** (Igla ispod praga), Montenegro/Serbia - US Premiere

Directed by Ivan Marinovic

Cast: Nikola Ristanovski, Bogdan Diklic, Jelisaveta 'Seka' Sabli, Filip Klicov

Peter, a misanthropic orthodox priest returns to his idyllic Montenegrin peninsula to nurse his demented mother. He quickly gets into a conflict with superstitious villagers who will seek creative ways to chase him away.

**Codename Holec** (Deckname holec), Austria/Czech Republic - US Premiere

Directed by Franz Novotny

Cast: Johannes Zeiler, Vica Kerekes, Kryštof Hádek, David Novotny, Gerrit Jansen, Michael Fuith

A director films the 1968 Russian invasion of Prague and, with his girlfriend, takes the film to a director in Vienna. The director knows her well, but he knows the Czech Secret Service even better.

**The Constitution** (Ustav Republike Hrvatske), Croatia - US Premiere

Directed by Rajko Grlić

Cast: Nebojša Glogovac, Ksenija Marinković, Dejan Aćimović, Božidar Smiljanić

The unlikely relationships that form in a shared apartment building reveal a series of social, political, and ethnic issues that point to larger problems, a perfect metaphor for modern-day Croatia.

**The Fixer** (Fixeur), Romania - US Premiere

Directed by Adrian Sitaru

Cast: Tudor Aaron Istodor, Mehdi Nebbou, Nicolas Wanczycki, Diana Spatarescu, Adrian Titieni  
In this charged moral drama, a headline-grabbing sex scandal gives a news network trainee a chance for his big break, forcing him to decide how far he is willing to go to get ahead.

**Godspeed**, Taiwan - US Premiere

Directed by Chung Mong-Hong

Cast: Michael Hui, Na Dow, Leon Dai, Chung-Hua Tou, Matt Wu, Yi-Wen Chen, Vincent Liang, Vithaya Pansringarm

A Taiwanese drug mule's foolproof smuggling method is thrown out of whack when he catches a ride with the wrong cab driver. GODSPEED stars Hong Kong comedy legend Michael Hui.

**Hands of a Mother** (Die hände meiner mutter), Germany - US Premiere

Directed by Florian Eichinger

Cast: Andreas Döhler, Jessica Schwarz, Katrin Pollitt, Heiko Pinkowski

At a family reunion aboard a ship, Markus remembers for the first time what his mother did to him when he was a child—and Markus and his wife must confront an ugly truth.

**House of Others** (Skhvisi sakhli), Georgia - US Premiere

Directed by Rusudan Glurjidze

Cast: Salome Demuria, Ia Sukhitashvili, Olga Dihovichnaya, Alexander Khundadze, Malkhaz Jorbenadze, Sabina Akhmedova, Zurab Magalashvili

Two families have physically survived a devastating civil war, but are faced with deep emotional scars as they try to build new lives.

**The Nest** (Il nido), Switzerland/Italy - US Premiere

Directed by Klaudia Reynicke

Cast: Ondina Quadri, Fabrizio Rongione, Diego Ribon, Sonia Gessner, Luigi Diberti, Giovanni Franzoni

Cora has returned to Bucco to help her father organize the annual Feast of the Virgin. The arrival of a mysterious man upsets the town's harmony, unearthing a crime committed 40 years ago.

**A Quiet Heart** (Lev shaket meod), Israel - US Premiere

Directed by Eitan Anner

Cast: Ania Bukstein, Giorgio Lupano, Lior Lifshitz, Uri Gotlieb, Rona Lee Shimon, Irit Kaplan, Ludi Boken, Yoav Levi

A young concert pianist in Jerusalem is persecuted by ultra-religious groups. Faced with escalating isolation and violence, she must use music as a bridge to overcome towering religious barriers.

**Rage** (Ikari), Japan - US Premiere

Directed by Sang-il Lee

Cast: Ken Watanabe, Mirai Moriyama, Kenichi Matsuyama, Go Ayano, Suzu Hirose, Aoi Miyazaki, Satoshi Tsumabuki.

In this arresting ensemble thriller, a grisly unsolved murder links three seemingly unrelated stories in three different Japanese cities.

**Tiger Theory** (Teorie Tygra), Czech Republic - US Premiere

Directed by Radek Bajgar

Cast: Jirí Bartoska, Eliska Balzerová, Tatiana Vilhelmová

In this hugely successful tragicomedy, veterinarian Jan sets off on a last pilgrimage in search of the wild.

**Tommaso** (L'intelligenza del maschio), Italy - US Premiere

Directed by Kim Rossi Stuart

Cast: Kim Rossi Stuart, Cristiana Capotondi, Camilla Diana

Tommaso is a young actor and a compulsive perfectionist. In a case of eternal adolescence, Tommaso leaves his wife and spirals further into lust and immaturity.

## **NORDIC CINEMA COMPETITION**

**In the Blood** (I Blodet), Denmark - US Premiere

Directed by Rasmus Heisterberg

Cast: Kristoffer Bech, Elliott Crosset Hove, Victoria Carmen Sonne

Four students buy an apartment together in Nørrebro, Copenhagen, and move in together. We follow their 20s, their ups and downs and the loneliness they discover after they split.

**Cruelty** (Grimmd), Iceland - US Premiere

Directed by Anton Sigurdsson

Cast: Guðrún María Bjarnadóttir, Þorsteinn Gunnar Bjarnason, Helgi Björnsson

Reykjavik, a city known for its carefree lifestyle and peaceful existence, is rocked when two sisters who have been missing for three days are found brutally murdered. The two best detectives in the police force are tasked to solve the case.

**The Man** (Mesteren), Denmark - US Premiere

Directed by Charlotte Sieling

World famous artist Simon moves to Copenhagen to meet up with his son Casper, a street artist, for the very first time. Later he finds out that Casper uses the meet as inspiration for a new art project.

**Pyromaniac** (Pyromanen), Norway - US Premiere

Directed by Erik Skjoldbjærg

Cast: Trond Hjort Nilsen, Per Frisch, Liv Bernhoft Osa, Henrik Rafaelsen, Agnes Kittelsen

Nineteen-year-old Dag has recently returned to the village where his father is chief of the volunteer fire brigade. His parents notice that he has changed--and then the fires begin.

**Revenge** (Hevn), Norway/Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Kjersti Steinsbø

Cast: Siren Jørgensen, Frode Winther, Maria Bock, Anders Baasmo Christiansen, Trond Espen Seind

Rebekka sets out to confront a man who, years before, assaulted her recently deceased sister. As her plan falls apart, she must decide how far she is willing to go to seek revenge.

**Sami Blood** (Sameblod), Sweden/Denmark/Norway

Directed by Amanda Kernell

Cast: Lene Cecilia Sparrok, Maj-Doris Rimpi, Hanna Alström, Anders Berg, Latarina Blind

A Sámi girl in the 1930s is removed from her family and sent to a state boarding school intended to raise its Indigenous people to a level deemed "acceptable" to the rest of Swedish society.

**Strawberry Days** (Jordgubbslandet), Sweden - World Premiere

Directed by Wiktor Ericsson

Cast: Nelly Axelsson, Stanislaw Cywka, Julia Kijowska, Przemyslaw Sadowski, Torkel Petersson

15-year-old Wojtek travels to Sweden from Poland with his parents to work on a farm picking strawberries. He encounters a dark underworld where foreign guest workers are exploited by indifferent Swedes. But against all odds he forms a connection with the farmer's daughter.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION**

**Angry Inuk**, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Alethea Amaquq-Baril

Inuit director Alethea Arnaquq-Baril joins a new tech-savvy generation of Inuit as they campaign to challenge long-established perceptions of seal hunting.

**The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe**, Australia - US Premiere

Directed by Ros Horin

A group of traumatised former refugees in Sydney take on the risky challenge of creating and performing in a piece of theatre about their lives. In the process they are transformed, empowered and healed; and their play triumphs.

**Bluefin**, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by John Hopkins

A passionate study of the giant bluefin tuna, the largest tuna species in the world at the brink of collapse.

**Breaking Point: The War for Democracy in Ukraine**, USA/Ukraine

Directed by Mark Jonathan Harris and Oles Sanin

When their country is invaded by Russia, Ukrainians of all backgrounds rally to the country's defense, creating a new sense of Ukrainian nationhood in the process.

**Gaza Surf Club**, USA

Directed by Philip Gnadl and Mickey Yamine

Cast: Sabah Abu Ghanem, Mohammed Abu Jayab, Ibrahim Arafat

Sick of occupation and political gridlock, the surfers of the Gaza Strip find their own taste of personal freedom in the waves of the Mediterranean.

**Gulistan, Land of Roses**, Canada

Directed by Zaynê Akyol

In the mountains and deserts of Kurdistan, female PKK guerrillas are fighting ISIS. In this startling and intimate and immersive documentary, these revolutionary women invite us into their daily lives, speak frankly about their ideals and share reflections on their world.

**Island Earth**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Cyrus Sutton

A revealing documentary that follows the lives of Native Hawaiians to explore the realities of a food supply that are increasingly controlled by large corporate interests.

**Kangaroo**, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Kate McIntyre Clere and Mick McIntyre

A film that reveals the unsettling truth about Australia's love-hate relationship with its beloved icon, and uncovers the largest mass destruction of wildlife anywhere in the world.

**Mali Blues**, Mali/Germany - US Premiere

Directed by Lutz Gregor

Featuring: Fatoumata Diawara, Ahmed Ag Kaedi, Bassekou Kouyaté

Mali is considered the cradle of jazz and the blues, but its rich musical tradition is threatened. After fleeing Mali as a young woman, rising music star Fatoumata Diawara returns for a concert performance.

**A Queer Country**, UK - US Premiere

Directed by Lisa Morgenthau

Uncovering how liberal attitudes are often at odds with Israel's legal structure, this documentary shows what it's like to identify as LGBT in a country steeped in social and political controversy.

**A Revolution in Four Seasons**, USA

Directed by Jessie Deeter

Cast: Jawhara Ettis, Emma Ben Jemaa

This seminal documentary tells the story of two women with opposing political views fighting for their different versions of a democratic future for Tunisia, the country that sparked the Arab Spring.

**Tribal Justice**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Anne Makepeace

Two tribal court judges create innovative justice systems, striving to reduce incarceration rates by restoring rather than punishing offenders, while providing a model of restorative justice in action.

## **SPAIN/LATIN AMERICA CINEMA COMPETITION**

**About Us** (Entonces nosotros), Costa Rica - US Premiere

Directed by Hernán Jiménez

Cast: Hernán Jiménez, Noelia Castaño, Marina Glezer

Diego, trying to salvage the relationship with his girlfriend, plans a beach getaway to propose and clear the air. A chance encounter turns a perfect weekend in paradise into Diego's worst nightmare.

**At your Doorstep** (Cerca de tu casa), Argentina - US Premiere

Directed by Eduard Cortés

Cast: Sílvia Pérez Cruz, Lluís Homar, Adriana Ozores, Iván Massagué, Manuel Morón, Iván Benet, Oriol Vila

An evicted mother, a banker with a conscience, and a police officer sing and dance in this inspiring Brechtian musical drama about maintaining hope through daily struggles and an economic crisis.

**The Fury of a Patient Man** (Tarde para la ira), Spain - US Premiere

Directed by Raúl Arévalo

Cast: Antonio de la Torre, Luís Callejo, Ruth Díaz

A romance between a gentle Madrid laborer and a working single mother becomes a struggle for survival when the woman's violent boyfriend returns from prison.

**The Gambler** (El jugador), Argentina - US Premiere

Directed by Dan Gueller

Cast: Alejandro Awada, Pablo Rago, Guadalupe Docampo, Lali González, Esteban Bigliardi, Andrés Zurita, Oscar Alegre

When a retired gambler develops a weakness for his boss's granddaughter, trouble is a sure bet. This psychological thriller is based on the famous short novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

**Holy Biker** (Reza a Lenda), Brazil - US Premiere

Directed by Homero Olivetto

Cast: Cauã Reymond, Humberto Martins, Sophie Charlotte, Luisa Arraes, Júlio Andrade, Silvia Buarque, Jesuíta Barbosa, Jonathan Azevedo  
Set in a lawless and arid Brazilian landscape, this edgy action film follows a gang of armed motorcyclists who risk their lives in search of a miracle to make it rain.

**I'm Not a Rebel** (Yo no soy guerrillero), Mexico - US Premiere

Directed by Sergio Sánchez

Cast: Juan Pablo Castañeda, Luis Arrieta, Manuel Uriza

A student hijacks a plane to save his love who has been taken by the secret police. Despite being set in a dark time in Mexico's history, this is a comedy about what it means to be a rebel.

**Orbiter 9** (Órbita 9), Spain - World Premiere

Directed by Hatem Khraiche Ruiz-Zorrill

Cast: Clara Lago, Álex González, Belén Rueda

A young woman on a deep space mission has her life turned upside down by a chance encounter with an isolated engineer.

**Tamara**, Venezuela/Uruguay/Paraguay - US Premiere

Directed by Elia K. Schneider

Cast: Luis Fernández, Mimí Lazo, Prakriti Maduro, Karina Velásquez, Julie Restifo, Carlota Sosa, Tamara Adrián

A successful lawyer with a wife and two small children finally comes to terms with his neglected past and his desire to become a woman.

**2017 SBIFF SIDEBARS** (listed alphabetically) - NOTE: Some films may be cross-listed in more than one festival sidebar

**ABOVE AND BEYOND:** A selection of exhilarating documentaries that explore surf culture and the search for new waves.

**Bunker 77**, USA

Directed by Takuji Masuda

Featuring: Laird Hamilton, Tony Alva, Johnny Knoxville, C.R. Stecyk III, Art Brewer

In a tribute to "Bunker" Spreckles, a hedonistic '70s surf punk known for his colorful antics, this documentary features archival footage and interviews with Laird Hamilton, Tony Alva, and Johnny Knoxville.

**The Crest**, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Mark Christopher Covino

Featuring: Andrew Jacob, Dennis Kane

Two descendants of an Irish king journey to an island where he once presided--not to reclaim the land, but to surf the waves.

**Gaza Surf Club, USA**

Directed by Philip Gnadl and Mickey Yamine

Featuring: Sabah Abu Ghanem, Mohammed Abu Jayab, Ibrahim Arafat

Sick of occupation and political gridlock, the surfers of the Gaza Strip find their own taste of personal freedom in the waves of the Mediterranean.

**Given, USA**

Directed by Jess Bianchi

Featuring: Aamion Goodwin, Daize Goodwin, Given Goodwin, True Goodwin

Seen through a child's eyes, Given's family explores world cultures while surfing along the way. This deeply moving film offers a humbling contrast of a small voice traveling through a big world.

**Men of Wood & Foam, Australia - US Premiere**

Directed by Shaun Cairns

Featuring: Midget Farrelly, Nat Young, Bob McTavish, The Brookvale Six: Gordon Woods, Scott Dillon, Denny Keogh, Bill Wallace, Barry Bennett, Greg McDonagh

In the 1950s and '60s, as surfing became a sport and developed a culture of its own, six enterprising friends changed the shape of Australian surfing. They were known as the Brookvale Six.

**APPLEBOX:** A series of free award-winning animated films for families.

**Finding Dory, USA**

Directed by Andrew Stanton, Angus MacLane

Featuring: Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks, Ed O'Neill

The friendly but forgetful blue tang fish begins a search for her long-lost parents, and everyone learns a few things about the real meaning of family along the way.

**Moana, USA**

Directed Ron Clements, John Musker

Featuring: Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Rachel House

In Ancient Polynesia, when a terrible curse incurred by the Demigod Maui reaches an impetuous Chieftain's daughter's island, she answers the Ocean's call to seek out the Demigod to set things right.

**Zootopia, USA**

Directed by Byron Howard, Rich Moore

Featuring: Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman, Idris Elba



In a city of anthropomorphic animals, a rookie bunny cop and a cynical con artist fox must work together to uncover a conspiracy.

**CINEMATIC OVERTURES:** A selection of films that showcase the world of performance including music, theater and dance.

**At your Doorstep** (Cerca de tu casa), Argentina - US Premiere

Directed by Eduard Cortés

Cast: Sílvia Pérez Cruz, Lluís Homar, Adriana Ozores, Iván Massagué, Manuel Morón, Iván Benet, Oriol Vila

An evicted mother, a banker with a conscience, and a police officer sing and dance in this inspiring Brechtian musical drama about maintaining hope through daily struggles and an economic crisis.

**The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe**, Australia - US Premiere

Directed by Ros Horin

A group of traumatised former refugees in Sydney take on the risky challenge of creating and performing in a piece of theatre about their lives. In the process they are transformed, empowered and healed; and their play triumphs.

**Harmonia**, Israel

Directed by Ori Sivan

Cast: Tali Sharon, Alon Moni Aboutboul, Yana Yossef, Ali Suliman, Itai Shcherback, Tamir Tavor, Liron Amram

Inspired by a biblical story from the book of Genesis, HARMONIA is a feminine interpretation of the story of the “mothers” and their two half brother boys. By that, challenging the metaphorical origin of the historic clash between the two conflicted peoples, now seeking harmony through the world of classical music.

**Indivisible** (Indivisibili), Italy

Directed by Edoardo de Angelis

Cast: Angela Fontana, Marianna Fontana, Antonia Truppo, Antonio Pennarella, Peppe Servillo, Gaetano Bruno, Gianfranco Gallo, Massimiliano Rossi, Marco Mario de Notaris

Teenage conjoined twins, blessed with beautiful voices, are exploited by their father as an entertainment act. They face an emotional decision when a doctor claims he can separate them.

**Jeffrey**, Dominican Republic/France - US Premiere

Directed by Yanillys Perez

Jeffrey is a kid from the streets of Santo Domingo who dreams of becoming a reggaeton singer. In order to achieve his goals, he must first overcome the tough realities of the world around him.

**King of the Dancehall**, USA

Directed by Nick Cannon

Cast: Nick Cannon, Whoopi Goldberg, Busta Rhymes, Kimberly Patterson

Nick Cannon directs and stars in this high-energy musical about a young man from Brooklyn who gets caught up in the vibrant Kingston music scene during a visit to Jamaica.

**Mali Blues**, Mali/Germany - US Premiere

Directed by Lutz Gregor

Cast: Fatoumata Diawara, Ahmed Ag Kaedi, Bassekou Kouyaté

Mali is considered the cradle of jazz and the blues, but its rich musical tradition is threatened. After fleeing Mali as a young woman, rising music star Fatoumata Diawara returns for a concert performance.

**Rebels on Pointe**, Canada/Italy/Japan/USA/UK - World Premiere

Directed by Bobbi Jo Hart

A cinéma vérité documentary that celebrates Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo -- the all male, drag ballet company founded over 40 years ago on the heels of New York's Stonewall riots.

**Score**, USA

Directed by Matt Schrader

This documentary brings Hollywood's premier composers together to give viewers a privileged look inside the musical challenges and creative secrecy of the world's most widely known music genre: the film score.

Featuring: Hans Zimmer, Danny Elfman, John Williams, Trent Reznor, James Cameron, Randy Newman, Quincy Jones, Howard Shore

**CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA:** An international selection of feature films that highlight diverse stories from global perspectives. Sponsored by Visit The Santa Ynez Valley

**1:54**, Canada

Directed by Yan England

Cast: Antoine Olivier Pilon, Sophie Nélisse, Lou-Pascal Tremblay, David Boutin, Patrice Godin, Robert Naylor, Anthony Therrien, Guillaume Gauthier

Tim, a high school student and science geek, tries to avoid provoking the local bullies. But when his only friend and crush meets tragedy at their hands, Tim decides to take his own revenge.

**Glory** (Slava), Bulgaria/Greece

Directed by Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov

Cast: Stefan Denolyubov, Margita Gosheva

After a railroad worker finds and turns in a large sum of cash abandoned on the tracks, the state rewards him with a new wristwatch. He soon finds himself in the middle of a corruption scandal, used by PR executives to plot a diversion.

**In Between** (Bar bahar), Israel/France

Directed by Maysaloun Hamoud

Cast: Mouna Hawa, Shaden Kanboura, Sana Jammeli

Three Palestinian women sharing an apartment in the vibrant heart of Tel Aviv find themselves doing the same balancing act between tradition and modernity, citizenship and culture, fealty and freedom.

**Little Wing** (Tyttö nimeltä Varpu), Finland

Directed by Selma Vilhunen

Cast: Linnea Skog, Paula Vesala, Lauri Maijala

In this sharp and touching portrait of adolescence from Oscar-nominated Finnish filmmaker Selma Vilhunen, a 12-year-old girl sets out on an impromptu quest to find her birth father.

**Moka**, France/Switzerland - US Premiere

Directed by Frédéric Mermoud

Cast: Emmanuelle Devos, Nathalie Baye, David Clavel

A grieving woman pursues a couple whom she suspects of killing her son in a hit-and-run.

**The Most Beautiful Day**, The (Der geilste tag), Germany - US Premiere

Directed by Florian David Fitz

Cast: Matthias Schweighöfer, Florian David Fitz, Rainer Bock

Andi and Beno are terminally ill, but before each meets his end, they grab some cash and head out on a road trip in search of the most beautiful day.

**The Oath** (Eiðurinn), Iceland

Directed by Baltasar Kormákur

Cast: Hera Hilmar, Baltasar Kormákur, Gísli Örn Garðarsson

A father tries to pull his daughter out of her world of drugs and petty crime, only to find that danger can be found in the most unexpected of places.

**One Night of Love** (Una noche de amor), Argentina

Directed by Hernán Guerschuny

Cast: Sebastián Wainraich, Carla Peterson, Rafael Spregelburd, María Carámbula, Justina Bustos, Soledad Silveyra

Leo and Paula, married for twelve years, go out for a rare evening without the kids. By the end of the night, they ask whether to fix their marriage—or to go their separate ways.

**Piuma**, Italy - US Premiere

Directed by Roan Johnson

Cast: Luigi Fedele, Blu Yoshimi, Michela Cescon

An unexpected pregnancy turns a young couple's world upside down. Hesitant and tentative, Ferro and Cate must navigate the most exciting and complicated nine months of their lives, trying not to lose their purity and unique poetic air.

**The Shepherd** (El pastor)

Directed by Jonathan Cenxual Burley

Cast: Maribel Iglesias, Miguel Martín, Alfonso Mendiguchía

A lonely shepherd's home and way of life is threatened when building promoters become interested in his land.

**Soul on a String**, China

Directed by Yan Zhang

Cast: Quni Ciren, Kimba, Siano Dudiom Zahl

After discovering a sacred stone in the mouth of a deer, Taibei, a solitary Tibetan cowboy, embarks on a mission: to bring it back to the holy Mountain of Buddha's Handprint.

**The Teacher** (Ucitelka), Slovakia/Czech Republic

Directed by Jan Hřebejk

Cast: Zuzana Mauréry, Zuzana Konečná, Csongor Kassai

Allegations are made against a seemingly empathetic, kind, and amiable-looking teacher, claiming that she uses her students to manipulate their parents into providing her with minor handyman assistance, unearned material comforts, and even a love affair.

**This Beautiful Fantastic**, UK

Directed by Simon Aboud

Cast: Jessica Brown Findlay, Andrew Scott, Jeremy Irvine

A young woman who dreams of being a children's author makes an unlikely friendship with a cantankerous, rich old widower.

**CRIME SCENES:** An international selection of crime thrillers and neo-noirs filled with gritty underworlds and moral nihilists.

**At the End of the Tunnel** (Al final del túnel), Argentina

Directed by Rodrigo Grande

Cast: Leonardo Sbaraglia, Clara Lago, Pablo Echarri, Federico Luppi, Javier Godino

Crippled by an accident, paraplegic Joaquin uses his tech wizardry to discover that his neighbors are digging a tunnel in order to rob the bank next to his apartment.

**By Accident** (Par accident), France - US Premiere

Directed by Camille Fontaine

Cast: Hafsia Herzi, Emilie Dequenne, Mounir Margoum

In this tense thriller, two women from very different backgrounds form a bond following a hit-and-run accident.

**Cruelty** (Grimmd), Iceland - US Premiere

Directed by Anton Sigurdsson

Cast: Guðrún María Bjarnadóttir, Þorsteinn Gunnar Bjarnason, Helgi Björnsson

Reykjavik, a city known for its carefree lifestyle and peaceful existence, is rocked when two sisters who have been missing for three days are found brutally murdered. The two best detectives in the police force are tasked to solve the case.

**Godless** (Bezboj), Bulgaria/Denmark/France

Directed by Ralitzza Petrova

Cast: Irena Ivanova, Ivan Nalbantov, Ventsislav Konstantinov, Alexandr Triffonov, Dimitar Petkov

A Bulgarian physiotherapist, struggling to survive, forms a friendship with an elderly patient. This sublime morality play explores the corruptibility of the spirit and the possibility of atonement.

**Godspeed**, Taiwan - US Premiere

Directed by Chung Mong-Hong

Cast: Michael Hui, Na Dow, Leon Dai, Chung-Hua Tou, Matt Wu, Yi-Wen Chen, Vincent Liang, Vithaya Pansringarm

A Taiwanese drug mule's foolproof smuggling method is thrown out of whack when he catches a ride with the wrong cab driver. GODSPEED stars Hong Kong comedy legend Michael Hui.

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Directed by Homero Olivetto

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Cast: Ondina Quadri, Fabrizio Rongione, Diego Ribon, Sonia Gessner, Luigi Diberti, Giovanni Franzoni

Cora has returned to Bucco to help her father organize the annual Feast of the Virgin. The arrival of a mysterious man upsets the town's harmony, unearthing a crime committed 40 years ago.

**Rage** (Ikari), Japan - US Premiere

Directed by Sang-il Lee

Cast: Ken Watanabe, Mirai Moriyama, Kenichi Matsuyama, Go Ayano, Suzu Hirose, Aoi Miyazaki, Satoshi Tsumabuki.

In this arresting ensemble thriller, a grisly unsolved murder links three seemingly unrelated stories in three different Japanese cities.

**Welcome Home**, Belgium - US Premiere

Directed by Philippe de Pierpont

Cast: Arthur Buysens, Martin Nissen, Harry Cleven. Claude Semal

Two teenagers have been friends since childhood. Disillusioned by life in their hometown, they escape and hide in vacant homes left by others who have gone on vacation.

**KOLNOA:** A selection of feature films and documentaries that examine Israel from a variety of diverse historical, cultural and political perspectives.

**Ben-Gurion, Epilogue**, Israel/France - US Premiere

Directed by Yariv Mozer

Using newly discovered 1968 interview footage of David Ben-Gurion, this documentary reveals his prophecy and worldview while showcasing his dedication to Zionism and a life of self-examination.

**Dimona Twist**, Israel

Directed by Michal Aviad

This stunning documentary focuses on women from North Africa and Poland who journeyed to Israel by ship in the 1950s and 1960s and were sent to Dimona.

**Harmonia**, Israel

Directed by Ori Sivan

Cast: Tali Sharon, Alon Moni Aboutboul, Yana Yossef, Ali Suliman, Itai Shcherback, Tamir Tavor, Liron Amram

Inspired by a biblical story from the book of Genesis, HARMONIA is a feminine interpretation of the story of the "mothers" and their two half brother boys. By that, challenging the metaphorical origin of the historic clash between the two conflicted peoples, now seeking harmony through the world of classical music.

**In Between** (Bar bahar), Israel/France

Directed by Maysaloun Hamoud

Cast: Mouna Hawa, Shaden Kanboura, Sana Jammeli

Three Palestinian women sharing an apartment in the vibrant heart of Tel Aviv find themselves doing the same balancing act between tradition and modernity, citizenship and culture, fealty and freedom.

**My Hero Brother**, Israel/India - US Premiere

Directed by Yonatan Nir

In this remarkable and inspiring story, a group of young people with Down syndrome embark on a demanding, two week trek through the Himalayas, accompanied by their siblings.

**A Queer Country**, UK - US Premiere

Directed by Lisa Morgenthau

Uncovering how liberal attitudes are often at odds with Israel's legal structure, this documentary shows what it's like to identify as LGBT in a country steeped in social and political controversy.

**REEL NATURE:** A selection of natural history documentaries that highlight key issues facing the environment and wildlife.

**Bluefin**, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by John Hopkins

A passionate study of the giant bluefin tuna, the largest tuna species in the world at the brink of collapse.

**The Cat that Changed America**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Tony Lee

This documentary explores the plight of P22, a celebrated mountain lion in Los Angeles who became trapped in Griffith Park after crossing two of the busiest freeways in North America, the 405 and the 101.

**Gaviota: The End of Southern California**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Shaw Leonard

In a monumental collaboration of artists, activists, and environmental organizations, this film documents the last remaining 20 miles of wild coastline in Southern California and the wildlife that thrives there.

**Kangaroo**, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Mick McIntyre and Kate McIntyre Clere

A documentary that reveals the unsettling truth about Australia's love-hate relationship with its beloved icon, and uncovers the largest mass destruction of wildlife anywhere in the world.

**Sixteen Legs**, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Niall Doran and Justin Smith

As the world rapidly descends into the next period of global mass extinction, a message of hope comes from an unlikely hero: a creature, often reviled, that has survived previous mass extinctions and climatic change in a magical ecosystem hidden beneath one of the world's last great wildernesses.

**The Vervet Forest**, USA/South Africa - World Premiere

Directed by Kyle Salazar

The story of five orphaned baby monkeys in South Africa and the struggle to save their home.

**SANTA BARBARA FEATURES:** A selection of films that are directed by Santa Barbara filmmakers or feature key issues in the local community.

**Every 40 Years**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Eric Goldrich and Benjamin Friedberg

Gunhill Road returns to music 40 years after breaking into the Billboard Top 40 charts. EVERY 40 YEARS is about second chances and the power of chasing your dreams one more time.

**The Gateway Bug**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Johanna B. Kelly

Over 2 billion people on earth eat insects for protein. THE GATEWAY BUG explores how changing daily eating habits can feed humanity in an uncertain age, one meal at a time.

**Gaviota: The End of Southern California**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Shaw Leonard

In a monumental collaboration of artists, activists, and environmental organizations, this film documents the last remaining 20 miles of wild coastline in Southern California and the wildlife that thrives there.

**Lives Well Lived**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Sky Bergman

Forty people aged 75 to 100, with a collective life experience of 3000 years, share their secrets, wit, and wisdom on how to live a meaningful life.

**Seraphonium Live!**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Byl Carruthers

Over 40 Santa Barbara musicians perform the genre-bending Debut Album by Monte Schulz's 'Seraphonium', in a Sold-Out performance, at Santa Barbara's Marjorie Luke Theater.



**SCREEN CUISINE:** An international selection of feature films and documentaries that examine the cultural layers of cuisine.

**arrangiarsi (pizza...and the art of living)**, USA/Italy - World Premiere

Directed by Matteo Troncone

When Matteo's life falls apart, he moves into a 1985 VW van, traces his roots to Naples, birthplace of pizza, and discovers "arrangiarsi," the art of making something from nothing. He realizes he's not only "living the film," but needs to master arrangiarsi to survive.

**Cafe Nagler**, Germany/Israel

Directed by Mor Kaplansky, Yariv Barel

The director embarks on a journey to reveal the story behind the legendary Café Nagler, owned by her family during the 1920s in Berlin, and finds that historical truths can be overrated.

**Ella Brennan: Commanding a Table**, USA

Directed by Leslie Iwerks

Featuring: Emeril Lagasse, Danny Meyer, Tim and Nina Zagat, Daniel Boulud, Jeremiah Tower  
With the success of New Orleans iconic establishment Commander's Palace, restaurateurs and chefs from all walks of life credit the important role chef Ella Brennan has played in building and enhancing American cooking and hospitality.

**The Gateway Bug**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Johanna B. Kelly

Over 2 billion people on earth eat insects for protein. THE GATEWAY BUG explores how changing daily eating habits can feed humanity in an uncertain age, one meal at a time.

**Island Earth**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Cyrus Sutton

A revealing documentary that follows the lives of Native Hawaiians to explore the realities of a food supply that are increasingly controlled by large corporate interests.

**Jeremiah Tower: The Last Magnificent**, USA/Mexico

Directed by Lydia Tenaglia

Featuring: Mario Batali, Anthony Bourdain, Francesca De Luca

Both a biopic of a complicated man and an exploration of the gathering forces that converged to shape a new American cuisine and create the cult of "celebrity chef"... A consummate hedonist, Jeremiah Tower's career spans the riotous sexual revolution of the 70's to the high rolling "greed-is-good" spirit of the '80s.

**Liberty in a Soup**, Haiti/USA - World Premiere

Directed by Dudley Alexis

Every New Year, in celebration of Independence Day, Haitian families feast on joumou soup. The soup represents war and victory, oppression and freedom, and the celebratory traditions of Haitian culture.

**Soof 2**, Netherlands - US Premiere

Directed by Esmé Lammers

Cast: Lies Visschedijk, Fedja van Huêt, Achmed Akkabi

After her marriage comes undone, Soof has to reinvent herself and get her tumultuous life back on track.

**Theater of Life**, Canada

Directed by Peter Svatek

An extraordinary soup kitchen in Milan - the Refettorio Ambrosiano - run by internationally renowned chef Massimo Bottura and 40 of the world's best chefs. All food served was made from the food waste of Expo Milano 2015. The film also tells the compelling story of several of the refugees and homeless the Refettorio served.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** A selection of international award winning feature films and documentaries.

**Afterimage**, Poland

Directed by Andrzej Wajda

Cast: Boguslaw Linda, Aleksandra Justa

The last movie of Andrzej Wajda tells the story of one of the best artists of the 20th Century, Wladyslaw Strzeminski, who battled Stalinist orthodoxy and his own physical impairments to advance his progressive ideas about art.

**Chasing Trane: The John Coltrane Documentary**, USA

Directed by John Scheinfeld

Featuring: Denzel Washington, Wynton Marsalis, Sonny Rollins

The documentary explores the global power and impact of the music of John Coltrane and reveals the passions, experiences and forces that shaped his life and revolutionary sounds.

**The Commune**, Denmark/Sweden/Netherlands

Directed by Thomas Vinterberg

Cast: Fares Fares, Ulrich Thomsen, Trine Dyrholm

A story about the clash between personal desires, solidarity and tolerance in a Danish commune in the 70's.

**The Distinguished Citizen**, Argentina/Spain

Directed by Gastón Duprat, Mariano Cohn

Cast: Oscar Martínez, Dady Brieva, Andrea Frigerio

After refusing big and prestigious awards all over the world, Mr. Mantovani, Literature Nobel Prize winner, accepts an invitation to visit his hometown in Argentina, which has been the inspiration for all of his books. It turns out that accepting this invitation is the worse idea of his life.

**Godless** (Bezbog), Bulgaria/Denmark/France

Directed by Ralitza Petrova

Cast: Irena Ivanova, Ivan Nalbantov, Ventsislav Konstantinov, Alexandr Trifonov, Dimitar Petkov

A Bulgarian physiotherapist, struggling to survive, forms a friendship with an elderly patient. This sublime morality play explores the corruptibility of the spirit and the possibility of atonement.

**I Am Not Your Negro**, USA

Directed by Raoul Peck

Featuring: James Baldwin, Raoul Peck

Writer James Baldwin tells the story of race in modern America with his unfinished novel, Remember This House.

**Indivisible** (Indivisibili), Italy

Directed by Edoardo De Angelis

Cast: Angela Fontana, Marianna Fontana, Antonia Truppo

Teenage conjoined twins, blessed with beautiful voices, are exploited by their father as an entertainment act. They face an emotional decision when a doctor claims he can separate them.

**Land of Mine**, Denmark/Germany

Directed by Martin Zandvliet

Cast: Roland Møller, Louis Hofmann, Joel Basman

A young group of German POWs are made the enemy of a nation, where they are now forced to dig up 2 million land-mines with their bare hands.

**My Life as a Zucchini** (Ma vie de courgette), Switzerland/France

Directed by Claude Barras

Cast: Gaspard Schlatter, Sixtine Murat, Paulin Jaccoud

After his mother's disappearance, Courgette is befriended by a police officer Raymond, who accompanies him to his new foster home filled with other orphans his age. At first he struggles to find his place in this strange, at times, hostile environment. Yet with Raymond's help and his new-found friends, Courgette eventually learns to trust and might find true love.

**Norman: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer**, USA

Directed by Joseph Cedar

Cast: Richard Gere, Lior Ashkenazi, Michael Sheen, Steve Buscemi, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Josh Charles, Dan Stevens, Hank Azaria

A veteran "fixer" in NYC's Jewish community gets in over his head when he sets out to impress the visiting Israeli foreign minister.

**On the Other Side** (S one strane), Croatia

Directed by Zrinko Ogresta

Cast: Ksenija Marinkovic, Lazar Ristovski, Tihana Lazovic

20 years ago, Vesna moved her family to Zagreb, away from the events that almost destroyed their lives. However, an unexpected call will bring back the memory of a secret that she has been trying to hide all these years.

**The Salesman** (Forushande), Iran/France

Directed by Asghar Farhadi

Cast: Shahab Hosseini, Taraneh Alidoosti, Babak Karimi

After their old flat becomes damaged, Emad (Shahab Hosseini) and Rana (Taraneh Alidoosti), a young couple living in Tehran, are forced to move into a new apartment. Once relocated, a sudden eruption of violence linked to the previous tenant of their new home dramatically changes the couple's life, creating a simmering tension between husband and wife.

**Toni Erdmann**, German/Austria/Romania

Directed by Maren Ade

Cast: Sandra Hüller, Peter Simonschek, Michael Wittenborn

An alternately hilarious and mortifying comedy about the fraught relationship between a repressed corporate consultant and her incessantly prank-playing dad.

**Your Name** (Kimi no na wa), Japan

Directed by Makoto Shinkai

Cast: Ryūnosuke Kamiki, Mone Kamishiraishi, Ryō Narita

In this enchanting and thought-provoking animated film, two high school kids who have never met - city boy Taki and country girl Mitsuha – awaken to find they have swapped bodies.

**2017 SBIFF SHORTS PROGRAMS** (listed alphabetically)

22 WORLD PREMIERES

17 US PREMIERES

**ANIMATED SHORTS**

**Balcony**, Hungary - US Premiere

Directed by David Dell'Edera

Midday heat and silence engulfs the streets of a downtown housing estate.

**Confined** (Confino), Italy - US Premiere

Directed by Nico Bonomolo

The power of art redeems an artist from the confinement imposed by the fascist dictatorship in Italy.

**Edward the Gorilla, USA**

Directed by Charles D'Avignon

Edward the Gorilla is lonely on his birthday, but he gets a surprise present that certainly makes his day more interesting.

**Fish with Legs, Australia - US Premiere**

Directed by Dave Carter

A school of fish wakes up to discover that everyone has grown legs. Only one fish claims the change is due to evolution.

**Kukuschka, Russia**

Directed by Dina Velikovskaya

Kukuschka is a bird, who follows the sun. It seems to her as if she already could touch It, but the Sun is still far away. Suddenly she is not alone anymore, but for two it's even more difficult to keep going so fast. She will reach the Sun, may be tomorrow may be the day after.

**Lead in the Head (Du plomb dans la tête), France - US Premiere**

Directed by Aurore Peuffier

A wolf is taken down and brought back to the village as a trophy. But the animal is not dead and the bullet lodged in its skull has repercussions on its psyche.

**Post No Bills, Australia - World Premiere**

Directed by Robin Hays

Noodle Boy must make his way through a series of obstacles and challenges in order to save Miss Fortune.

**Second To None, Ireland**

Directed by Vincent Gallagher

The world's second oldest man hatches a plan to claim the top spot.

**Spring Jam, New Zealand**

Directed by Ned Wenlock

A young stag, lacking impressive antlers, must improvise sweet music if he's to have a chance during the mating season.

**swiPed, USA**

Directed by David Chai

An animated comedy about a world dominated by technology and social media. Is humanity being swiped away?

**“The Talk”**: True Stories About the Birds & the Bees, Canada

Directed by Alain Delannoy

There are things in life you never forget. One of them, like it or not, is "The Talk."

## COMEDIC SHORTS

**3-Way** (Not Calling), Canada

Directed by Molly McGlynn

Cast: Emma Hunter, Emily Coutts, Kristian Bruun, Marni Van Dyk

A woman riddled with existential dread on the eve of a big birthday convinces her partner to have a threesome that changes everything...and nothing.

**A Done Deal**, Canada

Directed by Simon Lamarre-Ledoux, Pierre-Marc Drouin

Cast: Richard Fréchette, Steve Laplante, Pascale Tremblay

Remy, a hitman for a small-time Montreal mobster, has to kill Fernand, an old associate who talks too much. The plan is simple: invite him for coffee, offer him a ride and shoot him in the alley. Easy! A done deal...

**Catseye**, USA

Directed by Kevin Huang

Cast: Scott Stanley

A kitten chasing the unattainable.

**Discipline**, Switzerland - US Premiere

Directed by Christophe M. Saber

Cast: Frank Semelet, Florence Quarternoud, Garance Rohr, Adel Ahdy, Nour Gayed

It is 9:30pm in a grocery store in Switzerland. In a moment of anger, a father loses patience and disciplines his disobedient child. A shocked customer immediately intervenes and as others start to get involved the situation gradually escalates into chaos...

**Facon**, Australia - US Premiere

Directed by Joshua Dang

Cast: Jane Watt, Shaun Colnan, Will Gabriel, Melinda Arnold

Tia must confess her love of meat to her vegan boyfriend before he meets her family.

**Frankie Keeps Talking**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Annabelle Attanasio

A coffee date turns sour when a young woman realizes her date will not stop talking... to himself. Feeling invisible and infuriated, she goes to drastic lengths for his attention.

**It's Been Like A Year**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Cameron Fay

Cast: Jack Quaid, Nikohl Boosheri, Matt Edwards

A sexually stifled young man grows increasingly distracted during a rendezvous with an attractive young woman.

**Otherhalf**, USA

Directed by Ben West

Cast: Eric Normington, Josh Bednarsky, James Bartz, Jayme Lynn Evans, Adrienne Whitney

After his legs walk out on his body a man visits a therapist to find a way to put himself back together.

**Surrogate**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Olivia Hamilton

Cast: Olivia Hamilton, Stephanie Turner

Two estranged best friends reach a breaking point when one is the pregnancy surrogate for the other.

## DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

**Battling Back**, USA

Directed by Jeff Zimbalist, Michael Zimbalist

An abused foster child is adopted by his boxing coach, who pushes him to achieve new heights in and out of the ring and channel his energy into a sport that ends up saving his life.

**The Discarded**, Brazil/USA

Directed by Annie Costner

Guanabara Bay seems doomed to become a lifeless cesspool, except for the dedication of a few Cariocas, whose efforts give hope for a brighter future.

**Mama Rwanda**, USA

Directed by Laura Hinson

A modern tale of the work/life balancing act, MAMA RWANDA illuminates the remarkable lives of two women mixing the wit of motherhood with the spirit of entrepreneurship to overcome extreme poverty.

**Perfectly Normal**, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Joris Debeij

A high-functioning autistic man balancing reality with his imaginary world, proves that one can make deliberate choices to find stability and to be more present in life.

**Seven Dates With Death**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Mike Holland

The story of Moreese Bickham, the oldest living survivor of death row. Bickham describes his killings, his experience on death row and how he was able to get out with his life.

**DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: REFUGEES**

**Dancing In Limbo**, Malawi/USA - World Premiere

Directed by Amanda Larsh, Caroline Roffe, Hannah Bradford, Nick McDonald

When dance becomes the only way to express yourself and forget your troubles as a refugee, true passion emerges.

**High Chaparral**, USA

Directed by David Freid

Sweden's Wild West solution to the Syrian refugee crisis.

**Port of Entry**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Andrea Meller, Marisa Pearl

"Port of Entry" captures a group of refugees during their first moments in America at a roadside motel in Newark, New Jersey, exploring the sense of loss and hope that pervades the refugee experience.

**Refuge**, Greece/USA

Directed by Matthew. K Firpo

Refuge is a chronicle of human stories from the European Refugee Crisis in Greece, focused on humanity and hope.

**Refugee**, USA

Directed by Emily Moore, Joyce Chen, Emily Chen

'Refugee' tells the story of a West African woman who left her five children in 2003 in order to come to the US and provide them with a better future.

**DRAMATIC SHORTS**

**4 Pounds of Flowers**, USA

Directed by Rob Richert

Cast: Chris Chalk, Laura Heisler, Matthew Mongillo, Emilie Talbot



For the last 5 years, Kayla and her boyfriend Trevor have scraped by working their small weed grow. On the eve of their last sale of the season, Kayla realizes she is pregnant which compels her to confront Trevor's idealism and their way of life.

**The Bathtub** (Die Badewanne), Austria/Germany

Directed by Tim Ellrich

Cast: Simon Jaritz, Rainer Wöss, Stefan Pohl

Three brothers try to dive back into their idealized past through an old family picture of them in a bathtub.

**Hitch**, Australia - World Premiere

Directed by Poppy Walker, Sophie Hexter

Cast: Martin Sacks

A young, deaf runaway hitches a ride with a mysterious man.

**Lacrimosa**, Austria - World Premiere

Directed by Tanja Mairitsch

Cast: Saskia Rosendahl, Frowin Wolter

A young girl Mila wakes up in an unknown world full of mysteries. On her journey through ever changing surreal landscapes she meets her lost lover Theo.

**Risky Game** (Va Banque), Germany

Directed by Stefan Plepp & Christine Kabisch

Cast: Stefan Plepp, Laurens Walter, Sinha Melina Gierke

17years old Melanie gets beaten by her father when she has bad grades. When she fails completely in a test in physical science, she tries to blackmail her teacher. But he's not the nerd she seemed him to be. He has his own violent history. Who's victim, who's the offender?

**Stairway** (Stopnice), Slovenia

Directed by Miroslav Mandic

Cast: Davor Golubovic, Liza Marija Grasic, Lovro Karunc Dobravc, Jasa Savic

When you are away from an environment which evokes intense memories, your imagination makes that environment larger and more beautiful. When you return to the place you craved for, you are often disappointed.

**LIVE-ACTION SHORTS: DRAMEDY**

**10 K**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Neil LaBute

Cast: J.J. Kandel, Clea Alsip

A man and a woman meet on a wooded path. Is it an accident or something planned? Is it the first time or the hundredth? '10K' is a suburban mystery shot through with humor and tension and desire.

**Chicken / Egg**, UK - US Premiere

Directed by James D'Arcy

Cast: Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Hayley Atwell, Max Fowler

Mark's a good guy. Kenneth not so much. Mark's gonna help Kenneth out. Maybe.

**Hairpin Bender**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Maureen Bharoocha

Cast: Lauren Lapkus, Nicole Byer, Mary Holland, Aparna Nancherla, Marcy Jarreau

When stand-up and improviser Michelle Marcus is over the rat race of Los Angeles, her fellow comedian friends band together and have one last night out on the town.

**Louder**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Jake Viramontez

Cast: Francesca Eaddy, Crystal Bush, Bettina Devin, Panther Jones

Remy Pointe lives in a world of silence. You can't raise your voice above 60 decibels, otherwise you disappear. No one knows where you go or what happens to the vanished.

**Megan's Shift**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Zeke Farrow

Cast: Zeke Farrow, Kristin Slaysman, Sarah Butler, Christine Woods

Zeke never should have taken Megan's shift.

**Pregame**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Andrew Rhymer, Jeff Chan

Cast: Aaron Schroder, Brian McElhaney, Christine Bullen, Maya Erskine, Nick Reinhardt, Patrick Woodall, Scarlett Bermingham

A group of friends implodes while stubbornly pursuing their self interests on New Years.

**Writer's Block**, USA

Directed by Troy Miller

Cast: Jane Lynch, Rizwan Manji, Andy Kindler, Anthony 'Citric' Campos, Tyler Clark, Jessica Leigh Gonzales

Past her prime and afflicted with a severe case of writer's block, a veteran songwriter finds new inspiration in a bird that takes up residence outside her home.

**LIVE-ACTION SHORTS: THRILLERS**

**The Beast** (Zvir), Croatia - US Premiere

Directed by Miroslav Sikavica

Cast: Marko Ban, Ivan Smoljo

A rashly accepted job at a construction site in a coastal resort becomes a pain in the neck of a backhoe loader operator from the hinterland who, in order to retain paternal authority and get the legal, but dirty demolition work done, needs to remove an unwanted witness.

**The Call**, UK - US Premiere

Directed by Ethan Jahan

Cast: Chris Leaney

What happens when the news you read and listen to becomes reality?

**Cul-De-Sac**, USA - US Premiere

Directed by Damon Russell

Cast: Shawn Christensen, Phoebe Tonkin

Parents living at the end of a quiet Cul-De-Sac discover a listening device inside their sons teddy bear.

**Fugit**, Spain - US Premiere

Directed by Marta Bayarri

Cast: Oriol Ruiz, Nil Cardoner, Carles Tomás, Astrid Camprubí, Jordi Llovet

Carles travels by car with his teenage son, Pol. An unexpected incident will change the course of their lives.

**Porcupine**, Canada/Taiwan/USA

Directed by Clifford Miu

Cast: Samantha Bilinkas

To protect her infant child on New Year's Eve from an impending intruder, a young widow asks the 911 operator for permission to shoot.

## **SANTA BARBARA DOCUMENTARY SHORTS**

**The 11**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Alexandra Vasquez

Taking place on MTD's Line 11, this short documentary breaks unspoken barriers between strangers and proves that everyone has a story to tell.

**The Beelievers**, USA

Directed by Leah Bleich

By delving into the eccentric world of backyard beekeeping, this documentary provides an angle on the small but powerful ways that everyday people can help the planet.

**The Boatmaker**, USA - World Premiere

Directed by Casey McGarry

Architect Ken Minor spent 25 years building a beautiful wooden sailboat in a barn next to his house in a California canyon with the dream of sailing around the world.

**Lead End, USA**

Directed by Amanda Jack and Moises Jinho

A look into protecting the California condor from harm and potential lead poisoning.

**Lost Crops, USA - World Premiere**

Directed by Chris Jenkins

A doctor in search of sustainable superfoods teams up with an experienced botanist and humanitarian for an international journey of discovery.

**Planted, USA - US Premiere**

Directed by Olivia Lucero

A charismatic carnivore explores the culture of veganism and learns about the most sustainable form of eating.

**SANTA BARBARA SHORTS**

**The Hostage, USA - US Premiere**

Directed by Bryce Paul

Cast: Andy Fernuik, Paul Miller, John Robilette, Mike Power

Two incompetent kidnappers struggle with a very resilient hostage and must decide what to do with him.

**The Financial Teller, USA - World Premiere**

Directed by Mike Winger

Cast: Robert Byrne, Hayley O'Connor, Hope Zweig, Sean Jackson

Robert's retirement strategy changes after he meets with a financial planner.

**Twinsburg, USA**

Directed by Joe Garrity

Cast: Joe Garrity, Phil Garrity, Kate Charlotte Hodges, Tess Hodges

Feeling sentimental about his fading twin identity, Jerry reunites with his reluctant brother at the world's largest gathering of twins.

**Working Class Hero, USA**

Directed by Jake Martin

Cast: Colleen Klinefelter, Logan Hunter, Nick Cron-DeVico

Two office workers are convinced their colleague is the superhero "Superior Man," and they go to great lengths to prove it.

**Last Blind Date, USA - US Premiere**

Directed by Brent Florence

A sham-man and a bungling woman meet on social media for their last blind date.

**My Marilyn, USA - World Premiere**

Directed by Marcus Mizelle

Cast: Courtney Morse, Beverly Hyde, Spencer Gibb

A young, Marilyn Monroe-obsessed actress struggles with delusions of grandeur, identity, and her own naiveté in Hollywood.

**One Shot, USA - World Premiere**

Directed by Ryan Slattery

Cast: Mario Guilin, Alexa Rakow

An ex-military man is home, and he is on a personal mission. It all comes down to one night, one plan, and one shot.

**Someone's Hero, USA - World Premiere**

Directed by Amalie Lintrup

Cast: Hunter Paul, Aaron Anthony, Andrew C. Fultz

A washed out police cadet failing to carry on his family's legacy of decorated police officers in light of his dead brother's passing decides to find the hero within in the most roundabout way – the neighborhood watch.

**SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES**

**Coastal Guardians, USA**

Directed by Andrew Han

Exploring the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, the Chumash leader who proposed it, and all of the proponents for and against its implementation.

Preceding: **Gaviota: The End of Southern California**

**Devereux Slough, USA - World Premiere**

Directed by Michael Love

Devereux Slough is a sanctuary for myriad birds and wildlife and a serene natural environment for people to enjoy in Santa Barbara, California

Preceding: **Gaviota: The End of Southern California**

**Don't Sell My Guitars, USA - World Premiere**

Directed by Lynn Montgomery

A beloved country musician whispers a final request to his wife.

Preceding: **Every Forty Years**

**Hand.Line.Cod**, Canada - US Premiere

Directed by Justin Simms

Set in the coldest waters surrounding Newfoundland's rugged Fogo Island, this doc follows a group of "people of the fish"-traditional fishers who catch cod live by hand, by hook and line, one at a time.

Preceding: **Bluefin**

**Losing Ground**, USA

Directed by Trevor Lestak

Ranch owners on the Gaviota Coast fight to protect their land and way of life.

Preceding: **Gaviota: The End of Southern California**

**Native Tongue**, Philippines - US Premiere

Directed by Miguel Luis

A series of short documentaries on street cuisine in the Philippines that examine the stories behind these culinary chefs and cultural traditions.

Preceding: **Screen Cuisine Feature Films**