



#PIFF

OFFICIAL 2020 FESTIVAL #13

UNDERGROUND FILM FORUM #UFF SELECTIONS AND BEST OF...

Thank you, thank you for your patience and wisdom. Thank you to Philly Tech Week #ptw20. Thank you to the #UFF Underground Film Forum. Thank you, Purple Light Films, Ultimate Robot Films, Philadelphia Acting Studio, East Side Podcast, Tinsel & Tine, Vector Group Consulting, UArts, Seed&Spark, Media Bureau, MBPS, and all of those wise souls who gave us their opinions.

Stay safe.

We will see you all online and next year, 2021, at the 14th festival.

The Festival Team 2020



Welcome to the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival Underground Film Forum and Best of ... 2020 guide. This is the 13th annual festival, Covid-19 version. We are proud to represent 163 films as Official Selections. The following Best of... guide is [downloadable](#). Go here [for the 2020 schedule](#). Please hit the links in the filmmakers bio's and visit their pages and social media to comment on their work!

What you have is a global delicacy of films across multiple genres. These are new and emerging artists. The intricacies with writing, lighting, acting, and FX are clever, a wonder. Explore. Visit all 163 to discover what they have to say and how they say it. And what's next.

It's been a tough year for all. Thank you for sticking by our festival and most importantly, for all the encouragement and comments, via DM or live, it means a lot to all of us. #phillyfilm #piff #piffilms #VisitPhilly

Best to everybody, we will see you online soon and live in May, 2021 for festival #14! Visit us at <http://piffFilms.tv> or on Twitter [@Philaindie](#).

Thank you!

~ Underground Film Forum #uff / PIFF FILMS #13

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## Best of Feature Narrative ~



- **Best of... Love is not Love. (Romance, Drama)**

**Director Stephen Keep Mills. With Alejandra Gollas, Louise Martin & Tonya Cornelisse. TRT 95 min. (LA,CA/US)** Early December, New York City, and everyone is on the hunt for love. Why? Because they haven't found it and because they haven't found it, they make it into a myth and chase the myth instead. That is not love in this romantic drama of fantasy, fate, and yearning. More:

<https://www.triskelionent.com/index.html>



- **Film Forum Selection: Made in Chinatown. (Action, Comedy) Director James Lew, Bobby Samuels TRT 98 min. (Lansdale, PA/US)**

Chinese guy "Vinny" Chow's haphazard and hilarious efforts to join the Italian Mafia to earn some respect, to get the love of an Italian girl, and to find his identity in the only city in the world where you can be whatever you want. Well... More:

<https://madeinchinatownmovie.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection: Taking the Fall. (Drama) Director Josh Marble. Writer Steven Hellmann. TRT 104 min. (LA/US)**

Tyler returns from a six year prison sentence for a surprise reunion with his former college friends to discover that they've all veered off course under the pressure of millennial culture. Weighed down by the combination of college debt, hefty living costs, and the dawn of social media, this generation is overworked, underpaid, and quite simply:

stuck. More: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9265050/reference>



- **Film Forum Selection: Gotta Get Down to it. (Drama) Director Jonathan Tazwell. TRT 75 min. (Iowa/Kenyon College/US)**

This story is a drama about Valerie Martin, a young college professor of African-American descent, who works at Sedalia College, a small midwestern liberal arts school. When the college's invitation to a controversial conservative speaker threatens to divide the campus, Val is pressured into introducing the speaker and serving as the public face of the event. More:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9470144/fullcredits>





○ **Film Forum Selection: Nina of the Woods.**

**(Drama). Director Charlie Griak. With Megan Hensley, Dan Bielinski, Shawn Boyd, Ricardo Vázquez, Rachael Davies, Emily Fradenburgh. TRT 91 min.**

**(Minneapolis, MN/US)** NINA OF THE WOODS is a meditative take on the thriller genre that follows the story of aspiring actress, Nina Noon, after she agrees to lend her “local authenticity” a supernatural reality TV show filming near the tiny town she left as a young child. She and the documentary crew follow an enigmatic guide deep into the labyrinthine wilderness, where they seem to encounter an ancient, hypnotic force that locks the team under a subtle spell. More: <https://www.stalkingninamovie.com/>



○ **Film Forum Selection: First Person: A Film About**

**Love. Director Ashley Cahill. Producer Brighton McCloskey. With Valene Kane, Jazzy De Lisser, Odessa Young, James DeBello. TRT 88 min. (US)**

Stifled by her family life and the stranglehold of feminine expectations, a mother who has it all decides to pursue herself above all else and refuses to bend to society's mores, even in the face of unspeakable tragedy. More: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7617946/reference>



**Best of Science Fiction ~**

● **Best of... Faction. (NYC NANOPUNK Thriller) Director Shannon Frady, Dianna Martin. TRT 40min.**

**(US)** Pursuing closure after the death of his fiancée in Beijing, a globetrotting stringer discovers a secret war over stolen U.S. military nanotech poised to revolutionize the international illicit narcotics trade.

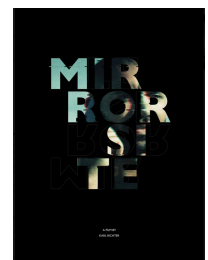
More: <http://www.tourdefilm.com/2019/index.html>



○ **Film Forum Selection: Pandemia. (SciFi.**

**Documentary) Director Yiannis Biliris and Producer, Gwendoline Biliris. TRT 3:47. (Hong Kong)** We enjoy a superpower, we enjoy pleasure and opportunities – all whilst being totally unaware of the possible downsides. Or, at least, unaware of the upcoming changes. What does human experience mean? Are we heading towards a new norm, before we even realize it? More:

<https://visualsuspect.co/projects/pandemia/>







○ **Film Forum Selection: Mirror Site. (Drama, Sci-Fi)**

**Director/Writer Karl Richter. Producer Travis LaSalle. With Michael Marcel, Jill Renner, Brenda Nascimento, Krishna Grace, Kayla Sarian, Kendall Chappell. TRT 12:18. (Canada)** A young man finds himself questioning his reality through a repetition of his life borne of his digital prison. More:

<https://www.cynicalsmile.tv/>



○ **Film Forum Selection: Progeny. (Sci-Fi) Director Justin Daerny. TRT 29:13. (California/US)**

This is a world exactly like ours, except that the wealthy elites are aliens, living and working among us, but with one key difference: they reproduce by implanting their offspring in a human host who raises the alien child as his own. When a blue-collar man is forcibly implanted with his alien boss's parasitic offspring, he asks his wife to help him remove the parasite -- a dangerous and forbidden act. More: <http://progenymovie.com/>



○ **Film Forum Selection: POD. Director**

**Salvatore Sciortino. Music Michael Giacchino. Director of Photography, C.J. Brion. With Ben Gavin and Kiara Mccarthy. TRT 9:27. (US)** An experimental Sci-Fi film directed by Salvatore Sciortino, music by Michael Giacchino More:

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4522953/>



**Best of Experimental Film ~**



● **Best of: 'IN MY DREAM LAST NIGHT...' AN**

**EXHIBITION OF FILMS, STILLS, SOUND & OBJECTS BY CAMILLA STÆRK AND HELENA CHRISTENSEN. TRT 11:05.**

**(Denmark)** With collaborators Chrysta Bell, Jackson Carter, Oh Land, Salman Rushdie, Sean Penn, Sebastian Sartor, TRENTMØLLER / FRITZE and Waris Ahluwalia. Cinematography by James Demetri and Christian Larsen. Produced and executed in partnership with Velem and

Milk, New York. 'IN MY DREAM LAST NIGHT...' IS THE ARMATURE BEHIND AN ONGOING SHORT FILM AND SOUND CONCEPT BY CREATIVE DUO

STÆRK&CHRISTENSEN. More: <https://staerkandchristensen.com/blogs/projects/film>

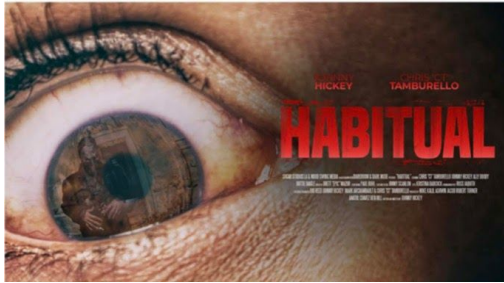


○ **Film Forum Selection: through the breeze. Director/Writer Mohsen Emaminouri. With Targol Mesbah and Mohamad Talani. TRT 15 min.**

**(Iran)** Based on a poem by the renowned Iranian poet Ahmad Shamloo from his collection of poetry Odes For The Earth, Through the Breeze narrates the encounter of two disillusioned lovers, Zamin (Earth) and Ensan (Human) in the city of San Francisco.

## Best of Horror ~

- **Best of... Habitual. Director Johnny Hickey. Producer Scott Michelson. With Chris "CT"**



**Tamburello. TRT 90min. (Boston, MA. US).** A fistful of drug-popping ravers takes a heavy dose of something new and unusual that leads to a hellish trip to an underground party at an abandoned asylum in Salem, Massachusetts. Plans to



dance and get wasted all night drastically morph into chaotic hallucinations; as the plot unfolds, the characters fall deeper

into a metaphorical mind-bending hole. Filmed at abandoned hospitals in New England, the asylum's hallways and stairwells spell captivity for the young partygoers, who eventually spiral into horrifying paradoxes, blurring the line between nightmares and reality. More:

<https://www.instagram.com/thejohnnyhickey/>

- **Film Forum Selection: Blind. (Horror) Director Marcel Walz. With Sarah French, Caroline Williams, Jed Rowen, Tyler Gallant, Jessica Galetti. TRT 88 min. (Germany)**



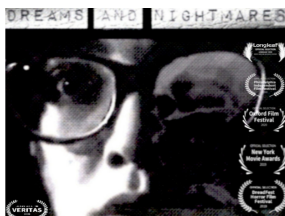
Faye, a former actress that lost her vision due to a botched laser eye surgery, struggles to put her life back together while living alone in her dream house in the Hollywood Hills. Supported by her friend Sophia, she starts opening up to Luke, a personal trainer who is mute and can only communicate through his

cell phone. When a masked stranger named Pretty Boy shows up, Faye will realize that she isn't as alone as she thinks. More: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3231736/bio>

- **Film Forum Selection: Shut Eye. (Horror) TRT: 15min. Director Robert Gregson. With Mia Darrow. (Brooklyn, NY)**

A recovering addict isolates herself in a nearby rental home while she gets her life on track. Haunted by episodes of sleep paralysis and visions of silhouetted demons, she scores an Ambien from the strange property manager in order to get a good night's rest. When the episodes intensify and town secrets come to light, she's certain the haunting forces aren't only in her mind. More:

<http://www.robertgregsonfilm.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection: Dreams and Nightmares. (Horror/Experimental) Director John Alston. TRT 3:18. (Kernersville, NC. US)** This experimental narrative combines scenes of horror and beauty, using a classic animation method. More:

○



- **Film Forum Selection: TICKS. (Horror) Director Chloe Carroll. TRT 3:18. (Philadelphia, PA/US)** When three young adults venture into the woods, a Tick bite could be more deadly than they ever imagined. More: <https://www.fearcrypt.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection: Human Hibachi. (Horror) Director Mario Cerrito III. With Wataru Nishida. TRT 75 min. (Local/US)** A man documents his girlfriend's 35th birthday on his phone. What he captures through the night are some of the most disturbing human acts imaginable. More: <https://www.instagram.com/humanhibachi/>

## Best of Thriller ~



- **Best of... White Card. (Thriller/Drama) Director Pedro Urrutia. With Damian Alcazar, Julio Bracho, Pepe Sierra, and Hector Anibal. Antonio Riestra, Director of Photography. Guillermo Moreno, Steadicam Operator. TRT 98 min. (Dominican Republic)** A Dominican Policeman lives between criminals and cops bringing criminals to justice under White Card -- killing criminals

without repercussions -- forcing him to choose who to sacrifice from both worlds. Since 2016, Pedro has been working on and developing "White Card", a film calling out the reality of a secretive group within the National Dominican Police, who take justice in their own hands under the White Card premise of "killing criminals without repercussion." It is a film based on true events told by people whom Pedro personally knows, and who are connected to this secret underground world. They have given Pedro all the rights to tell this astonishing and untold story to the rest of the world. More: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3850433/>





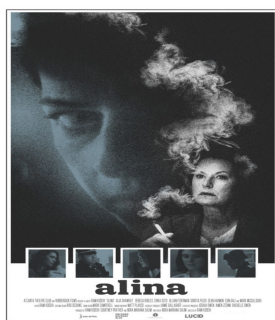


○ **Film Forum Selection: Divertimento.**

**(Thriller, Mystery, Suspense) Director Keyvan Sheikhalishahi. With Kellan Lutz, Torrey Devitto, Ola Rapace, Götz Otto, Christian Hillborg, Ellie Heydon, Brittany Gonzales Lutz. TRT 30 min. (France)**

Jonas Olsen (Kellan Lutz), a chess player haunted by a tragic past is given an opportunity to participate in a mysterious game, Divertimento. DIVERTIMENTO is a short with Kellan Lutz (Twilight, Expendables, FBI Most Wanted), Torrey DeVitto (Chicago Med), Ola Rapace (Skyfall), Götz Otto (Cloud Atlas), Christian Hillborg (Fleabag), Ellie Heydon (Harlots) and Brittany Gonzales Lutz. This movie between reality and imagination is made by 21-year-old French filmmaker Keyvan Sheikhalishahi. More:

<https://www.ukfilmreview.co.uk/post/filmmaker-interview-with-keyvan-sheikhalishahi>



○ **Film Forum Selection: Alina. (Thriller)**

**Director Rami Kodeih. TRT 24:51. (Los Angeles/US)**

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

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11569874/reference>



○ **Film Forum Selection: Comatose. (Drama/Thriller)**

**Director Christian Lindanbury. TRT 10:38. (New Jersey/US)** Faith

confronts her traumatic life experiences in order to find her inner self. More:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSqu2WJx0G0&feature=youtu.be>



○ **Film Forum Selection: The Turner Exhibit. (Thriller)**

**Director/Writer Mathew Gregory Bainbridge. With David Costabile, JD Cullum, Angelica Page, Michele Pawk, Elizabeth Cassedy, Charlie Dreizen, Donna DeSeta. TRT 24:48. (Baltimore, MD/US)** Growing

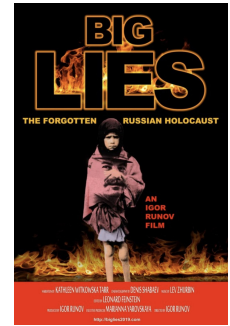
resentment between brothers Anthony and Alex Turner, one successful and the other struggling, leads to tragic consequences. Over the course of three holiday gatherings, tensions caused by strained family bonds and social inequity boil over into jealousy, deception and betrayal. More: <https://www.yearoftheratproductions.com/>



## Best of Political ~

- **Best of... Big Lies. (Political/Documentary) Director Igor Runov. Producer Vie Clip International. TRT 38:58. (US)** The “Big Lies”

concept was coined by Adolf Hitler as a propaganda weapon in his famous “Mein Kampf” but was first used by Joseph Stalin to cover up massive man-made hunger in the Soviet Union in the early 30s. The main character is an American writer who travels to Russia these days. She meets the last survivors of Holodomor. Soon she understands that the war of Russian



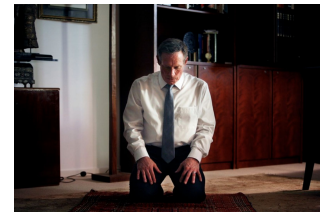
peasantry, started by Bolsheviks 100 years ago, isn't over yet. She also uncovers many controversial facts about the role played by American media and business in the early '30s in Soviet Russia. Even more staggering – she starts to understand the connection between those events and current domination of fake news and total mistrust on today's post-truth world. More:

<https://biglies2019.com/the-filmmakers/>

- **Film Forum Selection: Real American Chicken. (Political/Satire) Director Fredric Lehrne. TRT 9:06. (US)** An all-American family tries to enjoy an

all-American evening at home while fascist death squads ravage their neighborhood. More:

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0499791/?nmdp=1>

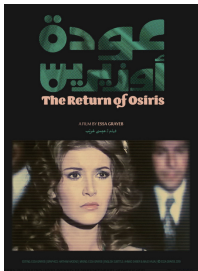


- **Film Forum Selection: The Return of Osiris.**

**(Political/Experimental) Director Essa Greyeb. TRT 13:45. (State of Palestine)** On June 9, 1967, the Egyptian president at the time, Gamal

Abdel Nasser, appeared on television and radio to inform the Egyptian citizens of their country's defeat in the war. During the speech, he also announced his resignation. For many, Nasser's speech was the first hint of the full scope of the loss and the disillusionment with the pan-Arab vision he had led. More:

<https://www.essagrayeb.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection: Make America Safe. (Political/Musical) Director Blanche Baker. TRT 18:41. (NY/US)** MAKE AMERICA SAFE is a musical send-up

the 2nd Amendment. What if in the next few years citizens were required to carry weapons in order to ensure the safety of the public? What if the motto “If everyone is armed there will be no more crime” became the law of the land? More:

<https://filmfreeway.com/MakeAmericaSafe>



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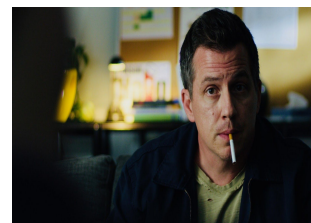
## Best of Comedy ~

- **Best of... Kensington. (Comedy) Director Matt Ferrucci. With Mather Zickel,**



**Michael Marc Friedman, Kim Director, Andrea Grano, Yumarie Morales, George Russo, Dusty Warren, Mike Gantz, Cathy Giannone. TRT 25:29 min. (LOCAL/LA/US)**

When uptown therapist Doug Harper begrudgingly relocates to Philadelphia because of his wife's promotion, he moves his practice to the crime riddled, blue-collar neighborhood of Kensington. A



place where the locals believe therapy is something strictly reserved for "rich" assholes who just need to learn how to suck it up and roll with the punches. More:

<https://www.kensingtontheseries.com/>

- **Film Forum Selection: #PrincessProblems.**

**(Comedy/Drama) Director Maritza Gomez. With Brittany Lee Hamilton, Shyrley Rodriguez. TRT 18:43 min. (New Jersey/US)**

In the strenuous world of children's party entertainment, an overly positive and well-meaning

"princess" must win over a practical writer who is doing a story on female role models.

More: <https://www.princessproblemsfilm.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection: You Look Amazing. (Comedy) Director Jen Wineman. TRT 12:26 min. (Brooklyn, NY/US)**

YOU LOOK AMAZING is a comedy about three old friends who reunite and find out that each other's lives aren't exactly what they seem. It's about the alluring oppression of social media, facing outward when all you want to do is fold inward, and getting shitfaced. More: <https://www.jenwineman.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection: Winfield Historical Times...And Other Oddities. (Drama/Fantasy)**

**Director Julia Cowle. With Talia Ryder, Mimi Ryder, Elise Hudson, Alexis Batten, Cordelia Commando. TRT 30min. (NY, NY/US)**

'Winfield Historical Times and other Oddities' is a dark comedy/mystery about a young girl named Chloe, who lives a sedate suburban life in her small cul de sac of colorful neighbors. The peaceful, tree lined street, where the world looks to be in perfect order, belies the fact that behind the picturesque front doors, things are not what they appear to be. More: [https://www.instagram.com/julia\\_cowle](https://www.instagram.com/julia_cowle)



## Best of Documentary Film ~

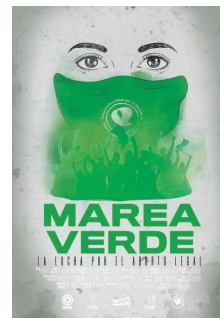
- **Best of... The Road to the Law. The fight for Legal Abortion.**



**(Marea Verde) (Documentary) Director/Writer/Producer Angel Giovanni Hoyos. Producer Sol Purriños. TRT 100 min.**

**(Argentina)** The green tide that infected South America in 2018 and that continues extending has a history behind, a path traveled by struggle, militancy and politics. "The Way of the Law" makes this fight visible. More:

<https://nacla.org/news/2019/10/03/oaxaca-abortion-decriminalization-green-tide>

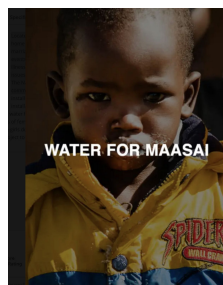


- **Film Forum Selection: The Roost. (Travel, Documentary) Director Jesse Koester. TRT 80 min.**



**(Japan)** A journey into the minds behind the metal of Japan's alt-moto scene. 2 Years, 12 cities, and a wide open throttle, The Roost traverses the land of the rising sun in search of the personalities, places, events, and machines driving Japan's alternative motorcycle scene. More: <https://www.theroostjapan.com/>

- **Film Forum Selection: Water for Maasai. (Documentary)**



**Director / DP Aly Spengler. TRT 4 min. (Kenya/US)** Located at an all girls refugee boarding school - The Naning'oi School is home to over 400 young girls who are runaways fleeing from forced child marriages, female genital mutilation, and other extreme life altering events. Like many in the community, these girls suffer from countless illnesses, and not having access to clean water is the root to many of the issues that unfold here. The community where this school is located is The Nashipai Maasai village, one of the 42 indigenous Maasai communities that still inhabit Africa today. More: <https://www.instagram.com/alyspengler/>

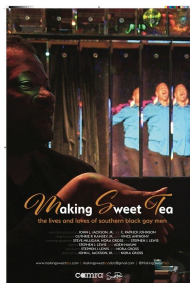
- **Film Forum Selection: The Extractive Gaze. (Documentary) Director**

**Steve McGuire. TRT 47 min. (Ohio/US)** Neuro-marketers learn to read customers' thoughts. Our sensitive genetic data go into central data banks available to insurance companies. Software now recognizes us by our gait and our typing pattern as well as world-wide facial recognition. Increasingly, marketers extract data thought to be private or personal, and use it to shape our experience. This film is not limited to straight journalistic reportage. Rather it seeks to generate curiosity and discussion regarding these matters, as well as to entertain. More:



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/steve-mcguire-2ba76016/>

○ **Film Forum Selection: Making Sweet Tea.**



**(Documentary/Narrative) Director John L. Jackson, Jr. & Nora Gross TRT 90 min. (Chicago/US)** Making Sweet Tea is documentary film that chronicles the journey of southern-born, black gay researcher and performer, E. Patrick Johnson, as he travels home to North Carolina to come to terms with his past, and to Georgia, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C. to reconnect with six black gay men he interviewed for the book, Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South—An Oral History. More: <https://sweetteafilm.com/>



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**Best Music Documentary ~**

● **Best of... The Offline Playlist. (Music Documentary) Director**



**Brian C. Miller Richard TRT: 48:30. (New Orleans/US)** A first-of-it's-kind concert that paired New Orleans artists on a Spotify playlist with the fans who were listening to it, live at the hallowed Preservation Hall. Staring Jon Batiste, Irma Thomas, Curren\$, Mannie Fresh, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and more New Orleans legends. More:

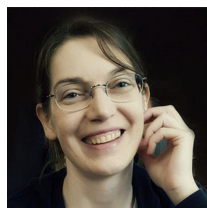
<https://www.neworleans.com/about-us/visit-new-orleans-campaigns/the-offline-playlist/>



○ **Film Forum Selection: Clara. (Music Documentary) Director Benjamin Montel. TRT**

**30min. (France)** "Clara" is an intimate and powerful portrait of the rising star of French pop Clara Luciani. More: <https://vimeo.com/364822489>

○ **Film Forum Selection: Serenade to the Wind. (Music Documentary) Sanela Bajric, Director and Andrea**



**Candio, Producer. TRT 59 min. (Croatia)** "Let my music be performed!" were the last words of Aldo Finzi, the composer that wasn't allowed to perform his art because he was Jewish. In 1937 La Scala Theater in Milan held a contest for a new opera. The winning opera should have been "La Serenata al Vento" (The Serenade to the Wind) composed by Aldo Finzi, a young, but already successful composer. But Aldo Finzi was Jewish, and racial laws were going to be enacted in a few months, so the contest was nullified and the prize never awarded. More: <http://www.serenadetothewind.com/>





## Best of Foreign Film ~



- **Best of... Marlene. (Thriller/Horror) Director Andreas Resch. With Cordula Zieglonka, Thomas Clemens, Anne Weinknecht, Matthias Grunsky, Valentin Schreyer, Matthias Schott. Camera. Kacper Habisiak, Sound Design. TRT: 105 min. (Berlin, Germany)**

This nightmarish film tells the story of a woman, Marlene, who moves to Berlin in order to begin a new life and soon meets her upstairs-neighbor Flo, seemingly a nice guy. MARLENE is part of the emerging slow-burn horror film movement.

More: <https://www.facebook.com/marleneahorrorale>



- **Film Forum Selection: Under the Flag. (Drama)**

**Director/Writer Jlawei Cheng. Writer Dhruv Kanungo. Michelle Chung and Leann Lei. TRT 15 min. (China)** A driven and conscientious girl at China's premier dance school gets the lead position in a prestigious performance but struggles to accept it after she learns that her mother has bribed the teacher to buy her the part. More:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11211858/reference>



- **Film Forum Selection: The tears' thing.**

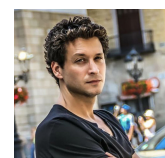
**(Drama, Romance) Director Clémence Poésy/Eric Forestier. Photography Joe Russell. With India Hair, Sabine Timoteo. TRT 25 min. (France)** Florence is an actress.

Preparations for her new role will challenge her in a way she could never have seen coming. More: <http://www.yukunkun.fr/index.php?cat=1&id=32>



- **Film Forum Selection: Anna. (Thriller)**

**Director Dekel Berenson. TRT 14:59. (UK)** Living in war-torn Eastern Ukraine, Anna is an aging single mother who is desperate for a change. Lured by a radio advertisement, she goes to party with a group of American men who are touring the country, searching for love. Nominated for a short Palme d'Or, BIFA award winner for Best British Short Film, and was shortlisted for a BAFTA. More: <https://www.annashortfilm.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection: Thieves. (Thriller) Director/Writer Julius Christian/Christian Telmer. Producer Daniel Leighton. With Morten Holst. TRT 14:48. (Denmark)** A desperate pickpocket reconsiders his actions when he encounters another pickpocket stealing from a pregnant woman. Thieves is a visual narrative and tragic story using images and sound alone - no words. More:

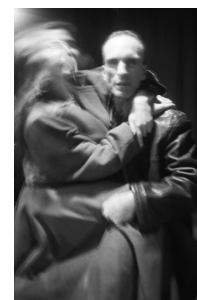
<https://cargocollective.com/juliusstelmercom/Thieves/>



## Best of Short Film ~



- **Best of... Let's Get Lost. (Drama) Director/Writer Sam Stillman. Producer André Bojanic and Eléonore Hendricks. Sean Price Williams, Lighting. With Stella Schnabel, Peter Greene, and Eloisa Sanros. TRT 18:06. (NY/US)** Ozzy, beset on all sides by the eccentricities of the artists around her, escapes her jazz club to go on an adventure with Jack- a talented and mysterious urban forest-sprite singer. More: <https://letterboxd.com/film/film:597942/>



- **Film Forum Selection: I Will Not Say His Name. (Drama) Director John Taylor Timmons. TRT 5:34. (Florida/US)** After committing a mass shooting, a young man takes refuge in his family's vacation house in hopes of hearing his name announced on the news, only to hear that he will be the first mass shooter to remain unnamed. More: <https://www.iwillnotsayhisnamemovie.com/>

- **Film Forum Selection: Little Sicily. (Drama) Director Nina Juliana. With Nicole Masterson, Mia Pumo, Ilaria Malvezzi, and Davide Petrillo. TRT 15 min. (US)** In 1950s Little Italy, Delaware, a teenage girl from an immigrant family must decide whether to destroy another woman's life to save her own. Her sister is the only one she can trust to hide her secret from her strict Sicilian family. Together, they try to weasel out of trouble - but if they fail, the consequences could lead to someone's death. More: <https://www.instagram.com/LittleSicilyFilm/>



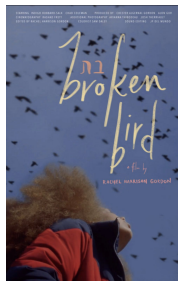
- **Film Forum Selection: There's No Word for Us. (Drama) Director Jane Rowan, Nora Hawari. TRT 18:02. (Philadelphia, PA/US)** Jen and Erik struggle to get through the worst day of their lives - their daughter's funeral. The grief becomes too much to bear sending Jen over the edge and on the road by herself where she unexpectedly faces what took her daughters life. More: <https://www.theresnwordforus.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection: Rarepublic. (Drama/History) Director Tomasz Dobosz. Marcin Magiera, Director of Photography. With Patryk Szwichenberg, Agata Różycka, and Marek Siudym. TRT 21:26. (Poland)** A famous writer Tadeusz Dołęga-Mostowicz travels around Poland with his charming assistant, Diana, and interviews all sorts of achievers. More: <http://niepospolita.pl/>







- **Film Forum Selection: Broken Bird. (Drama) Director Rachel Harrison Gordon. With Indigo Hubbard-Salk, Chad L. Coleman, Jari Jones, Mel House, Bill Aiken. TRT 10 min. (New Jersey/US)** Birdie, a biracial girl raised by her Jewish mom, spends a rare visitation day with her father while preparing for her Bat Mitzvah. They share a meal, she overcomes her doubts, and decides to risk inviting him back into her life. Birdie confronts what independence means as she steps into adulthood on her own terms. More: [brokenbirdfilm.com/](http://brokenbirdfilm.com/)

## Best of Animation ~

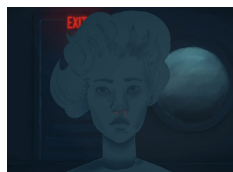


- **Best of... A Special Gift - A Troublemakers Story. Director Nildo Essa. TRT 6:23. (Mozambique)** Lili, Stretch and ZéGordo, AKA, the Troublemakers, decide to surprise their friend Rosita by decorating her school for the neighborhood's annual Christmas dinner, however, they didn't expect to deal with Stinky who is a jealous kid and is willing to spoil the decorations and the event altogether. More: <http://fxida.com>



- **Film Forum Selection: Fresh Green. Director Ida Greenberg. TRT 4:21 (Baltimore, MD/US)** In an empty bar, a lone patron plays a game of pool. More: <https://irjgreenberg.com/>

- **Film Forum Selection: Martian Farm. Director Erik Horvitz. TRT 7:05. (Philadelphia, PA/US)** Created in partnership with Erik Horvitz of Smokey Toons, Philadelphia Funk Band Swift Technique has released a new animated web series. The series tells the story of a hard working crew looking to get far away from their landlord. Really far away. To their farm on Mars! More: <https://www.swifttechnique.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection: Exit. Director Maya Pirulli. TRT 3:25. (US)** We're drowning in consciousness. More: <https://www.uarts.edu/academics/animation>



- **Film Forum Selection: Dive. Director Tenzin Yougyal. TRT 3:19. (US)** A high dive to a strange place. More: <https://www.uarts.edu/academics/animation>



○ **Film Forum Selection: #FearTheChair. Director Gallospole.**

**TRT 1:09. (Local/US)** #FearTheChair is a Public Service Announcement (PSA) by TARAC WIPPP, The American Right for Adequate Chair Width In Public & Private Places. TARAC WIPPP is a Washington, DC lobbying organization who advocates on behalf of Americans with metabolic differences victimized by the weaponization of chairs. This campaign, #FearTheChair, aims to bring awareness to the most discriminated group in America, obese Americans. More: <http://gallospole.com/>

○ **Film Forum Selection: Untitled III. Director Nora**

**Szgeti. TRT 3:40. (US)** And the Artist said: Let there be lemon, and there was lemon. More:

<https://www.uarts.edu/academics/animation>

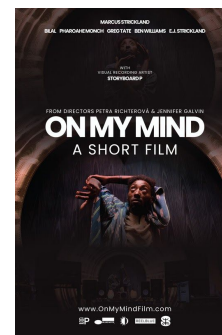


**Best of Music Video ~**

● **Best of: On My Mind. Director Petra Richterova, Jennifer**



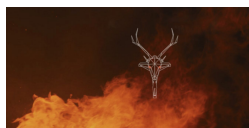
**Galvin. (Georgia/NY/US)** With the questions of life on his mind, a saxophonist reunites on Bronx streets with his musician friends seeking solidarity while an ethereal being dances among them, taunting notions of love and summoning ancient wisdom. ON MY MIND is an abstract, Afro-cosmic film, aesthetically and symbolically grounded in African culture and New York history. Based on vanguard saxophonist and Blue Note recording artist Marcus Strickland's latest track "On My Mind remix,"



urbanscapes and spiritual objects bring artists into a rare, contemporary dialogue, reflecting the song's timeless contemplation and resounding with mystical reverberation. Featuring Marcus Strickland, Bilal, Pharoahe Monch, Greg Tate, Ben Williams, EJ Strickland and Storyboard P. More: <https://twitter.com/marcustrickland/>

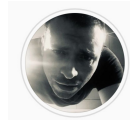
○ **Film Forum Selection: Kiss Me Malibu. Director**

**Mikel Arriz. TRT 4:18. (Spain)** About the insecurities and overthinking that TV shows, religion, culture and belief systems create in us during male-female relationships and in courtship. It makes fun of us and the roles we take in that process, without making any moral judgements. The story is narrated through a song. More: <https://valledelcielofilms.com/valle-portfolio/kiss-me-malibu/>



○ **Film Forum Selection: Chinatown Slalom**

**"Just Love". Director Stefano Bertelli. TRT 2:14. (Italy)** true love ... everything you don't have to say and to do to woman to make her fall in love. Set in romantic Amsterdam. more: [www.seenfilm.com](http://www.seenfilm.com)



○ **Film Forum Selection: Swift Technique ft. Lady Alma - Landlord.**



**Director TRT 4:40. (Philadelphia, PA/US)** Swift Technique teams up with Philadelphia animation legend Erik Horvitz of Smokey Toons to create the debut music video from their newest album release, Martian Farm. Featuring the vocal talents of Lady Alma, "Landlord" explores a narrative familiar to many of us – that of being down, out and dodging grown folk responsibilities. More: <https://www.swifttechnique.com/>



○ **Film Forum Selection: Dr. Dog. Heart Killer. Director Brendan Hubbard. TRT 3:22. (Philadelphia, PA/US)**

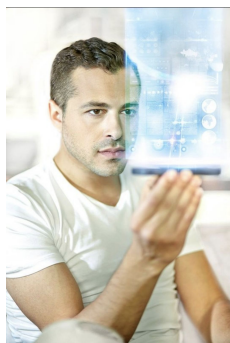


A man loses himself in various cities searching for the place he belongs until finally he realizes he's late for his bands show. More: <https://www.drdogmusic.com/>



**Best of Web Series ~**

● **Best of: Tech Talk. With Jonny Caplan and Jessy Katz.**



**TRT 24 min. (US)** Discover the world's hottest start-ups, emerging entrepreneurs & innovators, and exciting new technologies. Gain pertinent insights into the makings of each rising star! TechTalk (12x30), is a unique documentary TV Series, created to discover and highlight innovative and upcoming start-ups and entrepreneurs around the world.

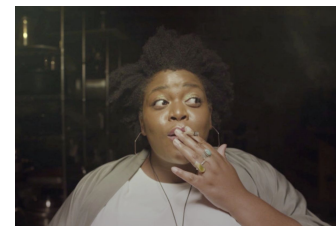
Filmed in some of the hottest innovation hubs across the world, shot on location in the offices of each emerging start-up, we take you to see wow-factor revolutionary new technologies, which have never been seen before, all to help showcase new technology and entrepreneurs to the worldwide audience. Created and hosted by CEO and Executive

Producer by Jonny Caplan, a Serial Entrepreneur & Technology Expert, with more than 20 years' experience in developing new technologies and concepts for major worldwide brands, and Co-Hosted by Singer & 'The Voice' finalist and rising female Entrepreneur, Jessy Katz. More: <http://www.thetechtalkshow.com/>

○ **Film Forum Selection: InQueerie. Director Ryan Fields, Alexandra Rose, Animah. With Bobbie Esposito, Evan Brooks, Jessica Hendeerson, Bobby Ceriello, Alexandra Foucard. TRT 5 min. (NY/US)**



InQueeri follows two Queer college kids, Teddy and James, on a spiritual journey to make sense of their various identities in a world full of liberal zombies and normative nancies. More: <https://www.inqueerwebseries.com/>

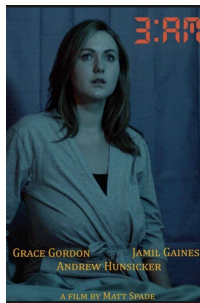


## Best Local Film ~ Short

- **Best of... (Short): Kill or Be Killed. Director Wesley Mellott. TRT (Local/US)** Waking up, tied to a tree with no recollection of how he got there, husband and father Mark finds himself thrust into the ultimate game of survival. The objective of the game is simple: KILL or BE KILLED. **More:** <https://twitter.com/thinkingartent>

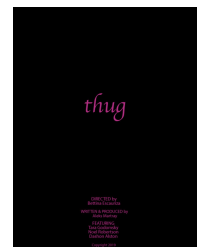


- **Film Forum Selection (Short): Luna. (SciFi) Director Viren Shinde. TRT 8:24. (Philadelphia, PA/US)** While filming a commercial for new artificial intelligence, Luna, the AI takes on a mind of its own. **More:** <https://www.nullpointerfilms.com/>



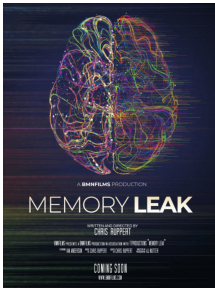
- **Film Forum Selection (Short): 3 A.M. (Drama) Director Matt Spade. Producer E. Morgan Spade. With Grace Gordon. Jamil Gaines, and Andrew Hunsicker. TRT 11:51. (Philadelphia,PA/US)** A young mother questions religion and spirits with her open-minded husband, but a severe thunderstorm brings a ghostly visitor that has her questioning her beliefs. **More:** <https://www.instagram.com/nosmileforfrank/>

- **Film Forum Selection (Short): Thug. (Drama) Director Bettina Escauriza. Writer Aleks Martray. With Tara Godomsky. TRT 21:30. (Paraguay/Philadelphia,PA/US)** After a chance encounter, a mother stalks the boy accused of bullying her son. **More:** <https://www.bettina-escauriza.com/>



- **Film Forum Selection (Short): QueerBoy Begins. (Mystery) Director/Writer Dave Sarrafian. Producer Jennifer Hanley, Shaunpaul Costello, Dave Sarrafian. With gil johnson, falon joslyn, carter horton, andrew carroll. TRT 22:06. (Philadelphia, PA/US)** Joss Grey must find out who's killing people while finishing his midterm.





○ **Film Forum Selection (Short): Memory Leak.**  
**Director/Writer Chris Ruppert. With Ian Anderson, Lorelei Anderson. TRT 18:55. (Philadelphia, PA/US)** A tragic accident drives a father to push the boundaries of science. Will the emotional scars turn to physical scars, or are some wounds too deep to heal? More: <http://bmnfilms.com/>

○ **Film Forum Selection (Short): City of Shells. (Supernatural/Thriller)**



**Director/Writer/Producer Sean Hamilton. With Emilie Krause, Aram Aghazarian, Corinna Burns. TRT 34:05. (Philadelphia, PA/US)** A short supernatural thriller in which a woman's disappearance sets off a series of strange events. In a vision, a man gifted with otherworldly sight becomes aware of a powerful force that has been operating among the human world and manipulating it for its own purposes. City of Shells visually imagines how this force might be somehow connected to the city's changing landscape, and what its intentions are. Set among the booming development of an east coast U.S. city and its decaying

architecture, the characters of the film are caught in a struggle between different entities that have become the inhabitants of these old and new shells. More:

<https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Shells-1741835306045995/>

○ **Film Forum Selection (Short): Flatlanders.**



**(Drama) Director/Writer Michael Bell. Director of Photography/Editor Dana Yurcisin. With Cat London and Biff Swenson. TRT 7:30. (Philadelphia, PA/US)** Eric is out of phase with reality. Seeking the help of a therapist, Monica, he attempts to break the cycle and reach inner peace. What Eric doesn't remember is he has tried this before, will this time be different?



## Best Local Film ~ Feature

- **Best of... (Feature): Heartless. (Drama)**

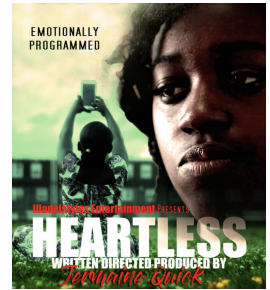


**Director Jermaine Quick. With LaCinda Trotter, LaCinda Trotter, Craig McLaren, Nina Pitkow, Sharaf Renwick, Romeo Clanton, and Tasgene West. TRT 80 min.**

**(Philadelphia, PA/US)** A story about mental illness and domestic violence seen through the eyes of a child. A young girl living with her alcoholic mother who also suffers from depression, and a father who works all the time, is forced to learn life through her cellphone.

Henceforth, HEARTLESS is the film she watches which deals with mental illness and domestic violence. What will she learn? How will she interpret what she see's? More:

<https://twitter.com/eqphilly>



- **Film Forum Selection (Feature): Made in Chinatown. (Action, Comedy)**



**Director James Lew, Bobby Samuels TRT 98 min. (Lansdale, PA/US)** Chinese

guy "Vinny" Chow's haphazard and hilarious efforts to join the Italian Mafia to earn some respect, to get the love of an Italian girl, and to find his identity in the only city in the world where you can be whatever you want. Well...More: <https://madeinchinatownmovie.com/>



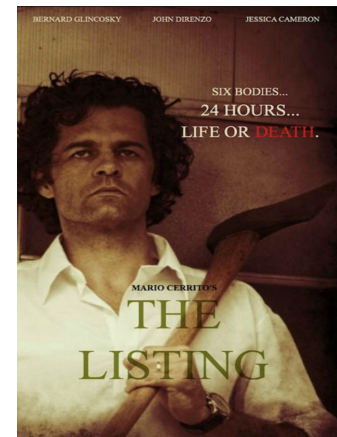
- **Film Forum Selection (Feature): The Listing.**



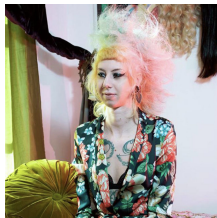
**Director Mario Cerrito III. With Bernard Glincozy, John Drenzo, and Jessica Cameron. TRT 74 min. (Norristown, PA/US)** Michael Mourer is a family man and a successful realtor. However, his current listing could be his last as he is unexpectedly black

mailed with a harsh time restraint. More:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheListingMovie/>



- **Film Forum Selection: Secret Lover: A Rock and Roll Musical. Director Hannah Hamilton. TRT**



**(Philadelphia, PA/US)** The internet has a virus and the bug is rock n roll! In this dystopian hellscape, Sally and her band are trying to rip, rock, and shake it up but once you're caught in the web things get sticky! More: <https://floorelevenfilms.com/>



## Best of... Individual Awards 2020...

### Actor (Female): Nominations & Best of...

- Kristan Conrad (The Wolf)
- Elizabeth Francis (Shining Earth)
- Stella Schnabel (Let's Get Lost)
- Megan Hensley (Nina of the Woods)
- Valene Kane (First Person: A Film About Love)
- Leann Lei (Under the Flag)
- Brittany Benjamin (Fading Star)
- India Hair (The tears' thing)
- Torrey DeVitto (Divertimento) (Thriller)

Best of... **Stella Schnabel (Let's Get Lost) (Drama)**

### Actor (Male): Nominations & Best of...

- Patryck Szwichtenberg (Rarepublic/Neipospolita) (Drama)
- Kellan Lutz (Divertimento) (Thriller)
- Morten Hoist (Thief) (Drama)
- Chad L. Coleman (Broken Bird) (Drama)

Best of...**Patryck Szwichtenberg (Rarepublic/Neipospolita) (Drama)**

### First Time Director: Nominations & Best of...

- Stephen Mills (Love is not love) (Drama)
- Bobby DeJesus (Dolores) (Drama)
- Tomasz Dobosz (Rarepublic/Neipospolita) (Drama)
- James Lew and Bobby Samuels (Made in Chinatown) (Comedy)
- Antonia Grace Glenn. (The Ito Sisters. An American Story)  
(Documentary)

Best of...**Stephen Mills (Love is not love) (Drama)**

## Best of... Individual Awards 2020...

### Director: Nominations and Best of...(Female)

- Antonia Grace Glenn (The Ito Sisters. An American Story) (Documentary)
- Nina Juliano (Little Sicily Short Film) (Drama)
- Clémence Poésy (The tears' thing) (Drama)
- Sanela Bajric (Serenade to the Wind) (Documentary)
- Rayka Zehtabchi (Ours to Tell) (Documentary)

Best of...**Sanela Bajric (Serenade to the Wind) (Documentary)**

### Director: Nominations and Best of...(Male)

- Pedro Urrutia (White Card) (Thriller)
- Johnny Hickey (Habitual) (Horror)
- Ashley Cahill (First Person: A Film About Love) (Drama)
- Brian C. Miller (The Offline Playlist) (Music Documentary)
- Jermaine Quick (Heartless) (Drama)

Best of...**Pedro Urrutia (White Card) (Thriller)**

### DP: Nominations and Best of...

- Marcin Magrera (Rarepublic/Neipospolita) (Drama)
- William Greenawalt (The Roost) (Documentary)
- Derek Shreves (Fading Star) (Drama)
- William J. Gray (The Turner Exhibit) (Thriller)
- Julia Swain (Down to Nothing) (Drama)
- Jon Coy (The Wolf) (Drama)
- Matthias Grunsky (Marlene) (Thriller)
- Clint D'Souza (Limited)

Best of...**William Greenawalt (The Roost) (Documentary)**

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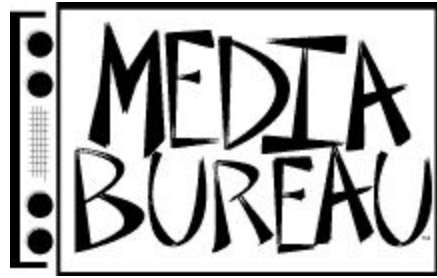


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