

Underground Film Forum PRESENTS

May 16-20, 2023



PHILADELPHIA
INDEPENDENT FILM
FESTIVAL

16

piffilms.tv



Hello and welcome to PIFF #16. We are excited to screen and meet you all (finally as this is our first full film festival since 2019!) in what promises to be a fun and exciting week of films, discussions, and innovation. Please note that all tickets are General Admission. Please get to screenings at least 15 minutes early! All tickets are Cash at door and prices vary. The festival will take Crypto at x2 the rate (losses are real but we're here for you). Please visit the filmmakers where they reside, online and in the theater. Introduce yourselves and participate in the discussions. Post @Philaindie across social media. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival at piffilms.tv Please note this guide is by day and venue and is subject to change at any time!

Enjoy the shows! See you online and in the theater! Thank you! #PIFF #16

Announcements/updates: Twitter: <http://bit.ly/philaindie> Instagram: <http://bit.ly/PIFFinsta> LinkedIn: <http://bit.ly/PIFFlinked> Tumblr: <http://bit.ly/PIFFtumblr> Quora: <https://bit.ly/QuoraPIFF> Telegram: <https://bit.ly/TelegramPIFF>

Ticketing: <https://filmfreeway.com/piffFilms/tickets>

Festival #16 Screening venues:

1. Canal Street Film Center ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123 (72 Seats)
2. PURPLE LIGHT LOUNGE ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123 (32 Seats)
3. HOLODEC VIRTUAL REALITY CENTER ~ 1516 N 5th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122
4. University of the Arts Lightbox Film Center ~ 401 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147 (280 Seats)





OPENING NIGHT! Tuesday May 16th, 6:00pm

***** TUESDAY, MAY 16th, 2023. 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm (\$20)**

Canal Street Film Center ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

May 16th, 2023 Philly Comedy Meets The World!! Join us to kick off the festival with a night of laughter and discussion on the election!

6:00 pm - 6:55 pm

1. **Laws of Motion (Comedy, Drama, Dramey) (Director - Patrick Kendall. Cast: William Thomas, Pete Mizzo, Sean Lynch, Ron Barba, Mike DiAlto, Jose Vega, Idil Bray. NY, NY) 23:58 min.** Three Friends help a Divorcee pack up his life and abandon his family home during the events of Covid-19 in Philadelphia. Each is affected by the pandemic differently. As they pack the boxes, they unpack their stories & reopen old wounds, setting in motion a collision course between the immovable past and the uncertainty of the unstoppable future.
2. **Spoons (Comedy) (Director - Shayna Davis. Cast: Fadillah Abdur-Rahim, Megan LuRose, Adam Howard. Philadelphia, PA) 2:38 min.** A woman working at a local roller rink becomes enamored with the rink's one regular patron.
3. **Hot Wheels (Comedy) (Director ~ Shayna Davis. Cast: Fadillah Abdur-Rahim, Megan LuRose, Adam Howard. Philadelphia, PA) 13:13 min.** A woman working at a local roller rink becomes enamored with the rink's one regular patron.
4. **A Brush With Death (Comedy) (Director ~ Yuval Sol Boker. Cast: Tsahi Halevi, Gily Itskovitch, Mor Sarusi, Arik Zilberman. Israel) 7:39 min.** An Israeli Mossad agent goes to a funeral and finds out he's dead.

7:15 pm - 8:45 pm

- **Acting Like Nothing is Wrong (Documentary) (Director - Jane Rosemont. Cast: Jim Hoffmaster, Wes Studi. Santa Fe, New Mexico) 88 min.** Despite what would seem to be a flourishing career, most recently playing Kermit on Showtime's "Shameless", Hollywood character actor Jim Hoffmaster struggles both professionally and personally. "Acting Like Nothing is Wrong" explores how he navigates life without a stable upbringing. Foster care and abuse lead Jim to acting, where he could finally be seen and appreciated. The film poses universal questions and illuminates mental health issues we experience on a daily basis. Do we ever completely overcome our traumas? What are our coping mechanisms? Glimmers of hope and healthy doses of comedy are vital elements in the film. <http://actinglikenothingiswrong.com/>

9:00 pm - 10:00 pm

1. **Office Ghost (Comedy) (Director - Kat Ahn. Cast: Kat Ahn, Angela Fornero, Nikki Ghisel, Neil Wang, Dave Wetzel. Philadelphia, PA) 9:55 min.** Forced to return to the office, three cubicle jockeys discover a ghost...in the office. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzUd9TZ1a8w>
2. **Meats & Cheeses. (Comedy) (Director - Brian Kesek. Cast: Parker Fairchild, Ian Ross, Robert Haydt. Leighton, PA) 6:18 min.** One of three friends vastly underestimates his knowledge of protein and dairy consumables.
3. **Hip Cat. (Comedy) (Director - Josh Kirk. Cast: Michael Bonini, Marilyn Caserta, Michael Zuccola, Alexandra Sanchez, Kimmy Dunn, Tobias Wilson, Sarah Jean Cooper, Jesse Dorfman. Providence, Rhode Island) 9:58 min.** An actor gets roped into a trendy dinner party of hip socialites, causing him to question his sanity and sense of cool.





4. **The Nest. (Comedy) (Director - Phoebe Mattana. Cast: Phoebe Mattana, Rachel Romney, Jake Roseman. NY, NJ, CA) 9:18 min.** Hilarity ensues when two soon to be step-sisters attempt to connect over a day of birdwatching in this goofball comedy. <https://www.phoebemattana.com/>
5. **Farmer Ed. (Comedy) (Director - Azwan Badruzaman. Cast: E. James Ford, Samantha Nugent, Erica Diederich, Azwan Badruzaman) 16:40 min.** After an isolated farmer makes a shocking discovery on his land, he unlocks its mysteries unbeknownst to his wife. <https://azwanfilms.com/>

***** WEDNESDAY, MAY 17th, 2023. 2:00 pm - 10:00 pm (\$12)**

Canal Street Film Center ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

2:00 pm - 3:10 pm

- **LETTERS TO FREEDOM (Drama) (Director - Joshua Williams. Cast: Kyle Lamont, Karrah Nordlund, Tobi Nordlund, Ruthellen Cheney, Bing Ingersoll, Leandra Gooden, Luke Biely. PHILADELPHIA, PA) 66 min.** It's 1864. Julie, a southern white girl, falls in love with a former slave of her father's in the middle of the Civil War. She must decide whether she wants to stay safe in the south with her family, or risk her life to be with Seth in the North.

3:50 pm - 4:50 pm

- **Dangerous (DRAMA) (Director ~ Adam Moss. Cast: Spencer Vaughn Kelly, Aleis Work, Leslie Stevens, Hunter C Smith, Quonta Beasley California, USA) 45 min.** Theo Troezen is a religious vigilante and modern cowboy. After being injured while serving his own form of justice, he takes refuge in a backwoods motel. Little does he know the motel's sweet-as-pie owner plans to seduce, torture, and murder him before the night is over.

5:15 pm - 7:00 pm

- **Things We like (DRAMA) (Director ~ Adi Jahic. Cast: Emma Kuhlman, Brandon Scott Keeton, Kim Fogelgren, George Alex, Liz Bishop, Kevin O'Peterson, Kell Porter, Simeon Webb, Noel Prophet, Drew Dunn, Liam Krivcov, Jimmy McCarthy. Philadelphia, PA) 104 min.** As her 25th birthday approaches, an insurance saleswoman decides to leave her hometown in suburban Vermont for the first time to meet a man she found on the internet.

7:25 pm - 8:25 pm Philadelphia DRAMA Series V1

- **TORN (DRAMA) (Director ~ Carmen Chan. Cast: Kammy Wong, Chester Wai, Fanny Lawren, Andrea Goldner, Harsha Reddy. Philadelphia, PA) 14:53 min.** A young actress struggles to reconnect with her family and cultural identity in the midst of her burgeoning career. An unexpected visit from her brother forces her to evaluate her own place within two cultures.
- **Driving Force (Drama) (Director ~ Max Wolf Friedlich. Cast: Jared Kemp. Brooklyn, NY) 12 min.** A young man can't seem to just get in his car and go.
- **Something Wild (Drama, Fantasy, Magical Realism, Psychological) (Director/Writer/Producer ~ Emily Janne Adams. Cast: Brooklyn Brown) 10:37 min.** A woman experiences emotional distress when a voice from the past asks her to leave the domestic life she's chosen and return to the wild.
- **Falls Cry (Drama) (Director / Writer ~ Joshua Wann) 5:31 min.** A story about one boy, living on one block, in one crazy world.

8:45 pm - 10:45 pm

- **Dress Code (DRAMA, CRIME, LGBTQ) (Director ~ Joseph Pupello. Cast: Gerard Garilli, Frank Osso, Freddie Maas, Maria Marinaro, Alex DiTrollo, Nicholas Giordano. Cedar Grove, NJ) 108 min.** Bobby Russo was born into a life of organized crime. A life of secrets and lies. As he gets older Bobby realizes that the most dangerous secrets of all are his own.





*** WEDNESDAY, MAY 17th, 2023. 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm (\$5)

PURPLE LIGHT LOUNGE ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

- **KEEPERS OF THE WAY (Documentary) (Director - Evan Cohen. Cast: Ken Macaulay, Chuck Gentlemoon DeMund. Philadelphia, PA) 21:30 min.** In this intimate portrait told through the eyes of Lenape tribal leaders in Pennsylvania, a challenging spiritual journey unfolds to heal past wounds and keep a culture alive. Over the course of a weekend, Lenape tribe members perform healing ceremonies for the land affected by the Walking Purchase—a notorious event that changed the course of the tribe's future—and reveal the dark underbelly left out of history books. The struggles, joy, pain, and resilient spirit of the Lenape all bubble to the surface as the tribe members share stories passed down through the generations and reveal their visions for the future of life on Earth. The Lenape are here to tell the world that not only are they still here—they never left.
- **THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST (Documentary) (Director/Writer/Producer ~ Tayo Giwa/Cynthia Gordy Giwa) 58:00 min.** The Sun Rises in The East chronicles the birth, rise and legacy of The East, a pan-African cultural organization founded in 1969 by teens and young adults in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Led by educator and activist Jitu Weusi, The East embodied Black self-determination, building more than a dozen institutions, including its own African-centered school, food co-op, newsmagazine, publisher, record label, restaurant, clothing shop and bookstore. The organization hosted world-famous jazz musicians and poets at its highly sought-after performance venue, and it served as an epicenter for political contemporaries such as the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords and the Congress of Afrikan People, as well as comrades across Africa and the Caribbean. In effect, The East built an independent Black nation in the heart of Central Brooklyn.
 - **INTERSECTING VOICES (Documentary, Experimental) (Director ~ Hart Ginsburg) 6:00 min.**

5:30 pm - 6:35 pm FESTIVAL OF MUSIC VIDEO

- **PIFF #16 Festival of MUSIC VIDEOS. See and feel original video making and be the judge of who's the best!** We're incredibly lucky to view so many Music Video's from across the globe since our inception. Year after year, we experience the interetsing and genre pushing sights and sounds.

*All Music Video's play throughout the festival across multiple screens!





*** THURSDAY, MAY 18th, 2023. 12:30 pm - 10:00 pm (\$12)

Canal Street Film Center ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm Matinee ... SCIENCE FICTION in shorts

- **THE KISS (Experimental) (Director ~ Gianluca Vassallo. Cast: Michele Sarti, Tiziana Troja. Italy) 5:12 min.** Nothing is enough.
- **Gemini (Science Fiction) (Director ~ Sam Eisenhower. Cast: Chris DeJesus, Jhei Marie, Ryan Wong, Thomas Michael, Logan Koch) 24:54 min.** A man suffering from amnesia searches for whispers of his past in a post-apocalyptic world, while being hunted by human-like "Agents".
- **Hey Alexa (Science Fiction, Fantasy) (Director ~ Xochi Blymyer. Cast: Stevie Lynn Jones) 10:20 min.** Alexa is helpful, she's funny, she's kind, she's a friend, who is she? A day in her life...with us.
- **REARVIEW (Director ~ Victor Dewayne Kirksey-Brown. Cast: Sky Turiello, Talief Ticker) 10:20 min.** A glimpse into Wit and Regina's relationship, all through moments they share in the car. Rearview is an interracial, queer love story based on the experiences of writer/director Victor Kirksey-Brown. This is a heartfelt and intimate portrayal of love through a lens rarely shown.

1:30 pm - 2:35 pm

- **The Best Days of Your Life (Dark Comedy, Thriller) (Director ~ Aaron Dougherty. Cast: Alan Michael Dougherty, Kyle Ament, Benzino, Lawrence "Omega" Edwards, Christian Kimbrough, Jake Brown, Cilicia Clarkson, Brian Newman, Mike Samp, Johnnie Calloway. Independence, Missouri) 61 min.** Derrick's best friend is now married. He dreads the idea of marriage and resolves that he'll never tie the knot. But on one fateful and frightful day, Derrick falls asleep and the unexpected rears its head. Worse yet, it's more real than he thinks

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

- **Perfectly Good Moment (Drama) (Director ~ Lauren Greenhall. Writer ~ Amanda Jane Stern. Cast: Stephen Carlile, Amanda Jane Stern. NYC) 71 min.** This psychosexual thriller asks the question: what happens when the things that make your relationship passionate and exciting are the same things that make it toxic? Ruby and David have been together on-and-off for 8 years, since she was 19 and he 34. Six months after Ruby last ran out on him, she has returned. Once the initial bliss of the reunion wears off, old toxic patterns re-emerge.

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm SHORT FILM CORNER

- **Blackphobia (Afro-Surrealistic, Dramatic) (Director ~ David D Jones. Cast: Frank Volpe, Tierra Goode. Philadelphia, PA) 18:31 min.** Blackphobia is an Afro-Surrealistic, dramatic film that takes a satirical look at race and culture in America from the vantage point of a White Police Officer. This disillusioned Officer must undergo a Psychological Examination to determine his level of competency before he is allowed to return to duty after an altercation with a Young Black Man. Throughout his journey, he travels through an unexpected and outrageous world of racial stereotypes, misconceptions, contradictions, misunderstandings, appropriation, and Social Media exploitation.
A hard-nosed Philadelphia police officer must undergo a psychological evaluation to determine his competency before he is allowed to return to duty after an altercation with a 25-year-old Black man.
- **Me & Mine (Director ~ Jeff Lambert Wingfield. Cast: Kyleesha WIngfield-Hill. NJ, USA) 5:00 min.** Me & Mine is an expressionistic film short depicting a young African American Woman running for Mayor, Sheila Warren. Sheila is invited to a Local Television station to introduce herself to the community and introduce her platform and policies. However, the Host, Michael Stern, bombards her with divisive questions projecting her





as a separatist. Herein, Sheila garners her ancestors' faith, strength, and fortitude to stand up to the bigotry and ideology of the red herring and Strawman Host.

- **(de)Vice Grip (Documntary, Experimental) (Director ~ Padrick Sean Rich. Cast: Amy Ulrich) 3:00 min.** A short film about the "terms of service" agreements of social media applications and smartphone devices.
- **I am Danny Torres (Documentary, Narrative) (Director/Writer ~ Abigail Torres Melendez/Eric Melendez. Cast: Danny Torres. Philadelphia, PA) 13:52 min.** Created by Abby Torres, #SOMOSSOCIETY: I Am Danny Torres is part of a series of short documentaries, highlighting the everyday people of Philadelphia's Puerto Rican community. I Am Danny Torres shows what it takes to keep our community beautiful while teaching Puerto Rico's rich culture in Philadelphia.
- **Between Heaven and Earth (EcoDocumentary) (Director ~ San CS. Writer San CS/Jen Reid. Producer Warrior Dreamzz. Philadelphia, PA) 6:39 min.** Between Heaven and Earth, an eco-cinematic short, is a love letter to the Western Ghats and its Great Indian Hornbill. Classified, protected and vulnerable, Kerala's state bird is considered a national treasure. The Western Ghats is an ecological hot spot and this extraordinary bird is an example of the richness of the region. <https://www.warriordreamzzllc.com/>
- **Dangerous Grounds (Documentary) (Director/Producer Vinu Joseph. Producer Diana Nicolae. Philadelphia, PA) 15:00 min.** A Documentary about Dr. Cuthbert, a lifelong resident of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and his continuing battle to shut down the Limerick Nuclear Power plants due to the health risks it poses to the residents who live near them!

7:00 pm - 8:10 pm WEB SERIES

Come be surprised by a mix of genres and nationalities bringing the world to the web. This is a unique hour of intrigue, drama, comedy, and other filmmaking. Each series presents its (less than 10 minute) pilot. (Local meets Global)

8:30 pm - 9:35 pm **PIFF #16 Festival of Animation**

- **Grapeful Balloons (Animation) (Director Joshua Perrin) 8:35 min. (Philadelphia)**
- **Deep Field (Animation) (Director ~ April Merl) 5:00 min. (USA)**
- **Stories We Could Have Told (Animation) (Director ~ Darcy Miller) 19:05 min. (USA)**
- **Hospes (Animation) (Director ~ Stephanie J. Williams) 11:05 min. (USA)**
- **When Mama & Me Lived Outside: One Family's Journey Through Homelessness. (Animation) (Director ~ Peter Menchini) 8:11 min. (California, USA)**
- **How Are You? (Director ~ Jian Gou) 2:37 min. (China)**
- **Eulogy For The Dandelion. (Director ~ Gloria Maria Civantos) 3:03 min. (United Kingdom)**
- **Tavla. (Animation) (Director ~ Zoe Bysal) 7:47 min. (Savannah, Georgia) (Savannah College of Art and Design)**

*** THURSDAY, MAY 18th, 2023. 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Free)

PURPLE LIGHT LOUNGE ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

- **Mariupal Ukraine (Director ~ Mariia Mykhno. Writer ~ Anastasiia Bazdyrieva. Producer ~ Aleisa Petrova. USA) 33:45 min.** A Documentary about the war in Ukraine. Mariia Mykhno is a film director from Ukraine. She and her team want to show you a terrible truth about the War in Ukraine.
- **The Last Woman (Director/Writer ~ Nairrit Dass. India) 7:00 min.** The film is dedicated to the Widows in India who are struggling for the Human Right to Dignity.





***** THURSDAY, MAY 18th, 2023. 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm**
HOLODEC VIRTUAL REALITY CENTER ~ 1516 N 5th Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122

6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

- **Thank You For Sharing Your World (VR)** (Director ~ Yu Sakudo. Japan) 30 min.
- **Visiting James Simon (VR)** (Director ~ Gerda Leopold. Germany) 12:30 min.
- **Baroque Moments On Fire (VR)** (Director anabela Acosta. France) 7:02 min.
- **Stay alive, My Son (Chapter 1) (VR)** (Director ~ Victoria Bousis. Greece) 40 min.
- **Dinner For One (VR)** (Director ~ Gavin Quinn. Ireland) 26:36 min.
- **Latte Artist (VR)** (Director ~ Min Park. Korea, Republic of) 4:52 min.
- **Our Compass (VR)** (Director ~ Susan R. Larkin. USA) 8 min.

LIVE SCREENINGS at the Holodeck - AI on film.

***** FRIDAY, MAY 19th, 2023. 2:00 pm - 10:00 pm (\$12)**

Canal Street Film Center ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

2:00 pm - 3:35 pm

- **Artificial Flowers (Experimental)** (Director ~ Jamin Scotti. Cast: Emily Charouhas, Andrew Villarreal. California, USA) 85 min. Two accomplished LA-based writers meet in a high-rise apartment; over the course of a single evening, they use each other to explore the darkest parts of their personalities.
- **Adam is Dreaming (Experimental, Science, Documentary)** (Director, Animator, Editor ~ Wendi Yan. Cast: Adam Haar Horowitz. California, USA) 5:47 min. A dream scientist at MIT, Adam Haar Horowitz, takes a nap and shares his vision for dreams beyond scientific research.

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm

- **The Bytes Dreams are made of (Experimental)** (Director ~ Alessandro Amaducci. ITALY) 67 min. The dream world of the digital machine manifests itself on the computer screen as a stream of images and sounds that spreads over the network. A streaming of digital consciousness.
- **3 Muses (Experimental)** (Director ~ Marcia Haufrecht. USA) 18:47 min. 3 females, 3 different ages, 3 different nationalities, all artists go through their day and come together giving inspiration and comfort to each other through art.

5:40 pm - 6:40 pm

- **Follows the Leader (Documentary/Experimental)** (Director ~ John Cannizzaro. USA) 32:57 min. A comic, found-image collage film on/about/by Marcel Duchamp (the French-American painter, sculptor, chess player, and writer whose work is associated with Cubism, Dada, and conceptual art) - encompassing works and ideas NOT SEEN and/or LESS SEEN by/from Duchamp and/or Rrose Selevy. Duchamp's maxim "One can look at Seeing, one can't hear Hearing" leads us through this film about looking, thinking, and especially laughing. An idea disguised as a film in the form of an assisted readymade, even.
- **My Father in the Cloud** (Director ~ Ruth Patir. Cast: Avi Patir, Ziva Patir, Assaf Patir, Yael Patir, Omri Dekel Kadosh. Israel) 24:41 min. Director Ruth Patir wants to dance with her late father again. In her





docu-animation film she employs new technologies, from motion capture to AI, as she tries to cheat death in the era of virtual realities.

7:00 pm - 8:10 pm

- **Death By Reversal (Director/Writer/Producer ~ Jet Wintzer. New Jersey, USA) 43 min.** A frustrated unhinged indie filmmaker analyzes his filmography of experimental shorts, a moon hoax documentary, a psychedelic music video and his post apocalyptic feature, whilst unleashing vitriolic commentary on modern film culture and the mysterious deaths of various collaborators.
- **11:07 (Drama) (Director ~ Christopher Romano. Bridgeport, PA) 12:16 min.** A couple grows old together. At its core, this movie is about love, and what it means to be in love.
- **Yo Yo Dominance (Experimental AI) (Director ~ Lucky Meisenheimer, M.D. California, USA) 2:44 min.** An experimental film done by artificial intelligence. Only the editing and prompts were done by a human. Artwork, voiceovers, animations, music and story were all created by AI.

8:10 pm - 9:50 pm Philadelphia SHORT FILM CORNER (Drama)

- **Revival (Drama) (Director ~ Josh Han. Cast: SungChul Choi, Sung Oh, Max Yillah, Gabe Calderon. New Jersey, USA) 43 min.** Luke Kim, a young Korean American drug dealer, is pressured by his friends and his desperate circumstances to get back at a rival drug dealer encroaching on their business . They decide on robbing an offering from this rival who happens to attend the same church where his estranged father ministers. As the plan commences, Luke attempts to balance his desire to attain the money and the need for his father's love/acceptance. This becomes more difficult when the plan goes awry and Luke is forced to choose which direction he wants his life headed.
- **Accept It (Drama) (Director ~ Zach Rineer. Philadelphia, PA) 11:04 min.** A revelation involving Demo CDs causes the already strained relationship of a mother and son to degrade further as pent-up secrets are exposed. (Temple University)
- **Medea (Drama) (Director ~ 菲菲feifei 仲zhong. Cast: China) 13:29 min.** A story about a woman struggling between her career and family after finding her having an unexpected pregnancy. Hejiahui is a stage performer who plays the main role in the play Medea. The director is leading them for a national tour for the next half year. Yet she finds herself pregnant. Then, Medea, the Ancient Greek character who killed her own sons, enters Jiahui's mind.
- **Storage (Drama) (Director/Writer ~ Colin Francis Costello. Cast: Laura Huckaby, Kate Schrader, Jordan Butcher, Alicia Blasingame, Francesca De Luca, Megan Penn. Philadelphia) 16:56 min.** After waking up in a basement storage room with no memory of how she got there or who put her there, a pragmatic doctor must learn to work with an emotionally unstable cheerleader in order to escape.
- **Rearview (Drama) (Director/Writer ~ Victor Dewayne Kirksey-Brown. Cast: Sky Turiello, Talief Ticker) 14:20 min.** A glimpse into Wit and Regina's relationship, all through moments they share in the car. Rearview is an interracial, queer love story based on the experiences of writer/director Victor Kirksey-Brown. This is a heartfelt and intimate portrayal of love through a lens rarely shown.





*** FRIDAY, MAY 19th, 2023. 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm (\$5)

PURPLE LIGHT LOUNGE ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

- **Job Interview (Experimental) (Director/Writer ~ Carlos Osuna. Cast: Diego Cardoso. Columbia) 81 min.** Gabriel (18) is a rapper who lives on the outskirts of Bogotá. Seen from afar Gabriel is part of the landscape, observing him carefully from the distance we will have to guess what it is that afflicts him so much, what it is that he desires so much.
- **Intersections (Experimental) (Director ~ Hart Ginsburg. Chicago, IL) 5 min.** Gabriel (18) is a rapper who lives on the outskirts of Bogotá. Seen from afar Gabriel is part of the landscape, observing him carefully from the distance we will have to guess what it is that afflicts him so much, what it is that he desires so much.

*** FRIDAY, MAY 19th, 2023. 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm (\$12)

University of the Arts Lightbox Film Center ~ 401 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

May 19th, 2023

6:00 pm - 8:05 pm

- **Even Hell Has Its Heroes (Music Documentary, North West History) (Director - Clyde Peterson. Seattle, Washington USA) (East Coast Premier) 110 min.** Since 1989, the slowest metal band on the planet has conjured some of music's most striking tectonic changes. Not only did the band Earth create a glacially paced subgenre of metal and play a pivotal role in the popularization of grunge, but visionary leader Dylan Carlson also did it while battling small-town boredom, heroin addiction, and the tragic death of his roommate and best friend, Kurt Cobain. Despite the high volume of its beloved and beautiful drone metal, Earth has rarely had much to say for itself. For the first time, in a moving saga that respects the music as much as the ragtag cast of eccentrics and surreal Pacific Northwest majesty that shaped it, Clyde Petersen gets to the core of the could-have-been-tragic triumph of Earth, the slow band that changed everything it touched.
 - **Solidarity (Director - Mark L. Mazzeo. Philadelphia, PA USA) (Philly Premier) 5:48 min.** When Reilly and Darwin hear about budget cuts at the office, they agree to act in solidarity to save their jobs.

8:20 pm - 9:40 pm

- **Rendezvous (Experimental) (Director - Shuvam DasGupta. Cast: Philadelphia, PA USA) 7:28 min.** A silent film about a person talking...
- **Gambler (Drama) (Director - David R. Anderson. CAST: Cast: James Quattrochi, Mark Rolston, Amy Motta, Patrick Luwis, Anthony Cipriani. California, USA) 17:45 min.** Sometimes you need to put all your chips in... For someone else. thegamblersshortfilm.com/
- **Terri (Drama, Thriller, Mystery) (Director Meiko Taylor. Cast: Ron G, Hillary Phillips, MAJOR, David Hunter Jr.) Philadelphia, PA USA) 21:00 min.** A husband and wife struggle to communicate after an unexpected tragedy.
- **Mespil in the Dark (Drama) (Director - Gavin Quinn. Cast: Aidan Gillen (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0318821/>), Olwen Fouere (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0288260/>), Robert O'Mahoney (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0641691/?ref=fn_al_nm_1) Dublin, Ireland)**





15:04 min. Aidan Gillen stars as Anthony Patterson. He packs away his belongings in boxes including the only novel he ever wrote which he is sending to his son. He has a list of jobs to complete. He is methodical. He is calm, clinical, going about the business of a man preparing to leave the world. A man who seems relieved to have made the decision. But the most painful thing will be a last zoom call with his son.

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

- **Something New (Drama) (Director - Michelle Bosseey. Cast: Sami Rappoport, (Pen15), Jacey Powers, (David Cromer's Our Town), Laila Ayad, (Grey's Anatomy), Derek Carley, (Married. No Kids.), Leah Sprecher, (Broadway Barbara), Sherry Mandajuano (Young and the Restless), Kate Sullivan (Mani) Philadelphia/New York, USA) 14:29 min.** On a tumultuous wedding day, five women prepare to walk down the aisle while a teenage bridesmaid probes about what really happens on the wedding night. A subversive and political take on the rom-com genre that reveals the disturbing truth behind one bride's pre-nuptial cold feet.

* All short films will screen prior to the feature.

Q & A with short and feature filmmakers & cast in attendance.

*** SATURDAY, MAY 20th, 2023. 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm (\$5)

PURPLE LIGHT LOUNGE ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

12:10 pm - 1:40 pm - MATINEE! \$5

- **MIRROR MOVES (THRILLER) (Director ~ James Greer. USA) 85 min.** A woman discovers she's been married to a serial killer for fifteen years, albeit unwittingly. Her mind fractures as she examines her complicity -- should she have known? Could she have prevented him from killing?.
- **THIS DAY (Sidavy Kuong) (Director ~ Philadelphia, PA) 4:39 min.** Sidavy "Aviva" Kuong aspires to do a lot of creative goals from writing stories to film making. She is a Cambodian American Jewish creator who is interested in things like animation, historical fiction, and thrillers.

*** SATURDAY, MAY 20th, 2023. 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm (\$12)

Canal Street Film Center ~ 924 Canal Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

12:45 pm - 2:30 pm

- **BOY MAKES GIRL (Science Fiction) (Director/Writer ~ Mark Elias. Producer Lee Elias. Philadelphia, PA / California) 105 min.** A software programmer on the autistic spectrum follows his own logic in creating a human-like robot as his perfect mate - but cannot program or control true love.
 - **PARROT (Drama, LGBTQ) (Director ~ Kyle B. Thompson. CAST: Wesley Holloway, Ian Morrison, Steve Cavanaugh, Donna Glaesener, Laura Jill Newman. Philadelphia, PA) 4:39 min.** A drag queen protects a child during a crisis as prejudices reach a breaking point.

2:45 pm - 4:00 pm SHORT FILM CORNER Deuce + Horror

- **Initiative (Fantasy/Comedy) (Director ~ Grayson Berry. Writer ~ Bob Seenkewicz. Cast: Bob Senkewicz, Brian O'Halloran, Bill Timoney. Howell, NJ) 17:31 min.** Initiative is the story of Pete. He and his friends, Dave, Ed and Larry, have been playing their tabletop Role Playing Game for years. Pete is their Game Master, creating the adventure they play out. Or is this all inside his broken mind?





- **No Witnesses (Crime) (Director/Writer ~ Rob Watt. Cast: Drew Grant, Brian Macready, Eric Rosenberg, Kirk Koczanowski, Emma Waters. Clinton, NJ) 15 min.** A hitman's night goes off the rails when a few unlucky people witness him on the job.
- **You'll Always Have Hope (Drama) (Director/Writer ~ Darienne Woodard. Cast: Jaime Jessica Barnes. Philadelphia, PA) (BIG PICTURE ALLIANCE) 15 min.** A woman's birthday surprise is crashed when she begins to suspect her wife is cheating and her daughter may be a psychopath
- **Sentence (Science Fiction) (Director/Writer ~ Seungmin Cho. Cast: Yeongpyo Kim, John D. Michaels, Amy Aleha, Lenina Karlsson. Korea) 9:36 min.** Only a few tenacious human writers (Brian, Edward, and Alice) remain in the realm of creation while beautiful sentences created by Athena (AI writer) bombard human writers every minute. Now, human writers must decide whether to survive until death as writers or leave the realm of creation to live as human beings.
- **Banshee (Horror) (Director/Writer Michael David Charles Hicks. Cast: Taylor Rae Cole, Jason Brown. Royersford, PA) 17 min.** Paranoia and anxieties build as two exhausted parents argue whether or not the loud screams they hear are that of their infant child or the Banshee of old Irish legend.

4:10 pm - 5:25 pm Short THRILLER's

- **Chekhov (Thriller) (Director/Writer ~ Anis Hamdoun. Producer ~ Mika Schmitt. Cast: Dellair Youssef, Fatina Laila, Johnny Mhanna. Germany) 30 min.** The film explores the dark world of the Syrian Secret Service and the collective subconscious of its political detainees. It is based on the true stories of those who survived the underground Syrian death cells, including that of the director's friend, a theatre actor who became a Director of Photography after surviving Syria.
- **Drift (Thriller) (Director ~ Nicole Cinaglia. Cast: Nicole Cinaglia, Joe Raffa, Juniper Ghazi, Jenn Nangle. Philadelphia) 24 min.** In a post-apocalyptic world, a woman on the brink of suicide, finds a new reason to live when two strangers knock on her door.
- **Hermantia (Thriller) (Director ~ Louis C Obioha. Cast: Emely Cartagena, Cecille C Colón, Xavier Reyes, Sebastian Medina. Brooklyn, NY) 20 min.** A woman does whatever it takes to save her younger sister from human traffickers in Puerto Rico.

5:50 pm - 7:05 pm Science Fiction from the otherworld.

- **The Mask In Our Hands (Science Fiction) (Director/Writer ~ Joseph Sacks. Composer: ZubinHensler. Cast: Ross Philips, Vico Ortiz, Alexandra Metz. California/Philadelphia, PA) 18:23 min.** When a family man wins a seat on the world's most popular virtual talk show, he is forced to reconcile his dark past in front of millions of impressionable viewers.
- **Awake (Science Fiction) (Director ~ Francesco Paolo Cordaro, Andrea Cordaro. Writer ~ Francesco Paolo Cordaro. Cast: Megan Greener. New Paltz, NY) 17 min.** Farmers, John and Betty, can sense something's not quite right on their farm in New York's Walkkill River Valley. They are disturbed to discover their beloved cow has been mutilated and their crops wrecked again - all while someone (or something) stalks them just out of reach.
- **June (Science Fiction) (Director/Writer ~ Dwayne Cameron. Cast: Sarah James, John Callen, Brooke Williams. Visual Effects ~ Charlie Tait. New Zealand) 14:54 min.** June is a story about the fragility of life; the primal forces that drive and control us and the mystery of hope and new beginnings. Willow and David receive a serious diagnosis from their doctor and attempt to deal with the mundane as their world disintegrates in the following 24 hours. This one day in June for the couple holds raw despair, unleashing carnal natures but a transcendent occurrence offers them the hope of new life.
- **Strings (Science Fiction) (Director/Writer ~ Rodrigo Rodrigo Moreno. Cast: Jamie Hundt. Brownsville, Texas, USA) 13:00 min.** Penny has her share of demons, and she's about to take on one





more. Despite her inability to play, Penny has big dreams of becoming the world's greatest axe player. After stealing one from an antique shop, she decides to break it in at the local punk bar she frequents. Things don't go very well, and Penny ends up face down in the alley after being thrown out by the owner. Defeated, she quickly turns to a familiar vice, shooting smack to ease the pain. As her high subsides, a dark presence approaches her with a proposition: Penny gives up three souls, and all her dreams come true.

7:45 pm - 9:30 pm Drama

- **Rainfall the Band (Music Drama/Documentary) (Director/Writer ~ Shane Pelzman. Producer ~ Julia Ochsenreiter, Shane Pelzman. Philadelphia) 15:15 min.** Rainfall The Band follows an up-and-coming rock band in their dressing room as they battle nerves, band dynamics and self-sabotage during the 15 minutes leading up to their biggest show to date.
- **6:16 (Drama, Addiction/Recovery) (Director/Writer ~ Trevor Allem. Cast: Trevor Allem, Terra Lane, Andrew Schmid. USA) 13:17 min.** Two lovers and heroin users/dealers, Sophia and Nero, must decide whether or not to call emergency services after their friend overdoses in their apartment - the moral decision could land both of them in jail.
- **Rebellious 8 (Drama, Comedy) (Director ~ Alexander Pineiro. Cast: Cesar Munoz, Rose Gutierrez, Alana Johnson, Nassier Kelly, Alexander Pineiro, Zach Mellado, Aurea Gonzalez, Sophia Perola. NY) 16:50 min.** Rebellious 8 is the story of a rag-tag group of individuals who act as a family, using their superpowers to operate a working business; however since the times of COVID, their business has been failing. Out of desperation there is one final act in an attempt to save it.
- **Arrivals & Departures (Drama, Comedy) (Director/Writer ~ Christopher Jarvis. Cast: Brett Mercer, Ana Gomez, Kelly Thiede, Scott Sanford. Detroit, MI) 14:50 min.** After getting fired from his Hollywood job, Will returns to his home town to attend an old friend's birthday party, where he unintentionally wreaks havoc and is forced to question his past decisions and what he'll do next.

*** Saturday, MAY 20th, 2023. 5:10 pm - 11:00 pm (\$12)

**University of the Arts Lightbox Film Center ~ 401 South Broad Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19147**

May 20th, 2023

5:10 pm - 6:20 pm * Director in attendance.

Wet (Thriller, Drama, LGBTQ) (Director - Luke Alln & LaVeta Cameron. Cast: Jordon Campbell, Karina Banks, Nadiya Jackson, Nicholas John Brennan. U.S). 71 min. (PA Premier) Gabrielle Delacroix is a sex worker and a martial artist. Ava Moore owns a porn empire. They have fallen in love. Over breakfast, they read the news of murders in the LGBTQ community. The murderer is leaving homophobic Biblical quotes as clues to their identity. Detective Andrea Marks, a former minister, takes the case. Ruby Redd is an LGBTQ activist and proprietor of High End, a transwoman only escort service. Amber Light, a sex worker, is Ruby's best friend. Rev. Raphael is also a friend of Ruby's and is pastor of Church of the Word. All three seek to expose the murderer.

6:40 pm - 8:25 pm * Director and Cast members in attendance.

Shoulder Dance (Drama, LGBTQ) (Director - Jay Arnold. Cast: Matt Dallas, Rick Cosnett, Samuel Larsen, Maggie Geha, Taylor Frey) Philadelphia, PA USA) 103 min. (Philadelphia Premier) Best friends Ira and Roger haven't seen each other in 24 years. When Roger arrives unexpectedly for the weekend, long suppressed desires





dangerously resurface. As the boundaries of friendship, love, and sex collide, the strength of Ira's long term relationship with Josh is tested as never before in the romantic drama "Shoulder Dance."

8:50 pm - 10:25 pm * Director and Cast members in attendance.

Humanity Stoked (Documentary, Skateboarding, Humanity) (Director - Michael Ien Cohen. Cast: Tony Hawk, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Shepard Fairey, Chuck Treece, Jose Gonzalez, Lizzie Armanto, Amelia Brodka, Njajah Huston, Rob Machado, Bob Burnquist. NYC) 93 min. (PA premier) A documentary about the beauty in overcoming fear and other challenges facing humanity as seen by icons of pro skating, science, art, music, activism, and education, all of whom share experiences and perspectives shaped by their love of skateboarding. Featuring world-famous skateboarders, scientists, artists, musicians, activists and educators, all of whom are skateboarders. The iconic cast, respected as leaders in their fields, reveal their unique experiences and insights on being human. Their perspectives on issues that affect humanity's ability to move forward together are shaped by their own backgrounds, and often inspired by their love of skateboarding. The conversations focus on understanding fear, depression, addiction, education, activism, philanthropy, racism, sexism, homophobia, and the environment. The film's purpose is to inspire deeper thinking, more empathic perspectives, and open conversations about human issues.

* All short films screen prior to the feature. PLEASE show respect to all of the filmmakers and do not leave in the middle of the screenings!

* Q & A with short and feature filmmakers & cast in attendance. Please see listings as things are updated and will change.





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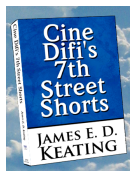
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