



Listing Schedule of

# Official Selections

## PIFF #17

### May 8 - 11, 2024

Thank you - City of Philadelphia, UArts Lightbox Theater, Ethical Society, Canal Street Film Center, theHolodec.com, MediaBureau.com, Independence Park Hotel, Philadelphia Acting Studio, Darkroom.com, Synergetic, Purple Light Films, Underground Film Forum #UFF, All American Artists, WendySchwartzTeam.com, Unfiltered Media, Videomaker Magazine, AgoraVR, HighPoint Coffee, PTW, more...

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

### OPENING NIGHT!

Wednesday, May 8th

Ethical Society ~ 1906 Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103

**7pm - 9pm ~ "No One Asked You" (Documentary) (Philadelphia) 93 min.** Comedian, disruptor-extraordinaire Lizz Winstead (co-creator The Daily Show) and her team of activists crisscross the U.S. to support abortion clinic staff and bust stigma. Pop culture icons and next-gen comics fuel this six-year road film activating small-town folks to rebuild vandalized clinics, exposing wrongdoer politicians, domestic terrorists, and media neglect as the race to the bottom ensues. A bold call to action reminds us that when the patriarchy burns down, joy will prevail.

**Q&A with Director Ruth Leitman. Guests TBA**

**Willow (Drama) (Philadelphia) 5:56 min.** Director - Alyssa Rose Capitini. Writer - Jackie Diehl/Kaitlyn Diehl. Sound - Yaaseen Henneghan. Two sisters grapple with the changing nature of their relationship.

Wednesday, May 8th

Canal Street Film Center ~ 941 N Front Street Philadelphia, PA 19123

**8:45 pm - 9:45 pm - Festival of Music Videos: Ringleader - Reclaimed. 4:00.** Directors Adam Murphy, Jet Fisher Sanchez; **Sleep Until Noon. 6:02.** Director Andre Joseph; **ego (Ava Della Pietra). 2:37** (Philadelphia). Director Adam Lukowski; **amalgamOTION: We move as one. 3:54.** Directors Adam Daniel Mezei, Crystal Finn-Dunn; **January 28th, 2020. 3:18.** Director Kimberly Te; **The Banjo of Death Sleeping. 5:30.** Director William Harper; **Ecstasy of Love. 2:56.** Director Sam Genovese; **All Hope (Official Music Video). 3:40.** Director Danie Harris; **Hangman. 6:31.** (Canada). Director Charlie Chappell.

**7:15 pm - 8:20 pm Thriller, Drama, Documentary, and Political films walk into a theater...**

- **Leaving Yellowstone. (Thriller) (Jackson, Wyoming) 22:51 min.** Director Kayla Arend. Writer Kayla Arend. Executive Producer Spike Lee. Shiyu Li - Cinematographer. Jeff Hogan & Andrew Weller Wildlife Camera. What starts as a romantic trip in the wilderness, turns ugly as Tessa fights for her life in the winter of Yellowstone National Park.  
<https://kaylaarend.com/>
- **Nowhere (Political) (Armenia) 11:14 min.** Writer/Director/Producer Garin Hovannisian. In the city of Nowhere, shadows dream of a life without their human masters.
- **Please Ask for it (Documentary) US. 20:00 min.** Writer Director Allison Waid. Co-Director Stephen Sutton. Producer Kira Simon-Kennedy. Down on the Blues Alley in Holly Springs,

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

Mississippi, you might meet David "Fox" Caldwell, the beloved owner of Aikei Pro's Record Shop. Established in 1960 and a landmark on the Blues Trail, his shop was the hang-out for great Hill Country Blues artists like Junior Kimbrough and R.L. Burnside — earning a place in blues magazines all over the world. Featuring original music by William Tyler, R.L. Burnside, Junior Kimbrough, Precious Bryant, Little Joe Ayers, and more.

### **6:00 pm - 7:00 pm ~ The End of Humanity. US Premier. (Documentary) (Switzerland) 52 min.**

Writer Andreas Duerr/Oliver Dürr, Producer Jan-Marc Furer, Director Andreas Duerr. Strange talk has become mainstream: The end of humanity is near. AI, ChatGPT, and humanoid robots are beginning to take over. Among the technology elite, the idea is gaining ground that humans must merge with machines in order to remain useful. This idea is called transhumanism.

**Recoil. (Thriller) (Newtown, PA) 5:11 min.** Writer, Director, Producer Hunter T Candelaria. Cast Misha Pharaone. Soundtrack ELEKTRIKILL. The past is just two steps behind. <https://nitetea.com/>

**Thursday, May 9th**

**The Holodec 1516 N 5th St Suite 102, Philadelphia, PA 19122**

### **FESTIVAL of the FANTASTIC! VR/AR/ AI & Animation OFFICIAL SELECTIONS!**

**\$20 for ALL experiences and films! Please Note ~ Doors open at 6:00 pm and selections are experienced until-10 pm. Some films and experiences will stay loaded until June 1st! We will update these listings the day of the festival. Check the listings! Come experience the next phase of Cinema. All selections are experienced in our partners 21st Century Holodec and on demand via headsets. See you there!**

- **Kiyo's Room. (Japan) 6:17 min.** Director Misa Haru. Kiyo and Hina live in a tiny apartment where they have spent a lot of time together. They've laughed, they've cried, and it's Kiyo's birthday again.
- **Forget. (China/Italy) 4:44 min.** Director YunXuan Cao. 100 years later. With the continuous development of technology, we build a happy utopian paradise where everyone forgets their worries. All we need to do is follow the rules every day and we'll be endlessly happy. But is that really the truth? What is something more profound that is forgotten and erased? Some answers may be found in this short film.
- **Una Mañana Del 2030. (A Morning Of 2030) (Argentina) 13:00 min.** Estás en tu cama junto a la persona que amas, en una mañana del 2030. El sol por la ventana te ilumina, enviando a tu cerebro la señal para arrancar el sistema operativo de tu vida. Abres tus ojos Y despiertas.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

- **The Tipping Force. (UK) 1:45 min.** Director Katie Morris. An artificial intelligence nearing sentience emerges as a spectral observer caught amidst the eternal complexities of existence. Straddling the expanse between creation and consciousness, it spectates the paradoxes of human nature from the shadows.
- **Love & Lethal Endings. (Brooklyn, NY) 2:50 min.** Director Dan Trimarchi. In this darkly comedic AI short film, hit woman Scarlett takes center stage as a guest on a dating podcast's Valentine's Day special. As she recounts her annual misdeeds, she weaves a wickedly entertaining tale of date nights that end six feet deep.
- **My Inner Ear Quartet. (Japan) 35:00 min.** Director Koji Yamamura. Four musicians and two shrimps live in the lonely boy's ear, playing and dancing in response to his tears. As appreciation, he shook his cookie tin with the objects he collected inside. The boy grew up and learned to control his tears...This is a literary VR, written by Akutagawa Award-winning author Yoko Ogawa, directed by Academy Award-nominated artist Koji Yamamura, and produced by Kodansha VR Lab.
- **Holes of Matter. (France) 4:26 min.** Director Anabela Costa. A hole is an aperture, an opening through something, an empty space that gives you access to another.
- In a metaphorical way, we can say that holes of matter are the way to discover and explore others fields, through a hole the magic of a potential new world where everything is possible is in.
- **The Dance of the Nain Rouge. (US) 3:00 min.** Director Erik Millikin. "The Dance of the Nain Rouge" is an experimental decolonial Detroit demonology deepfake dream dance documentary, based on the legend of the Nain Rouge ("Red Dwarf") of Detroit. According to folklore and urban legend, the Nain Rouge is a supernatural shape-shifting native being who was brutally attacked by xenophobic colonists and has since been seen dancing as an omen of successful rebellions by the oppressed, having reportedly been seen before events such as the victory of Chief Pontiac at the Battle of Bloody Run in 1763 and the 1967 Detroit Rebellion against racism and police brutality.
- **TRETA. (Italy) 2:50 min.** Director Francesco Siro Brigiano. "My reign as let a scar on every face of time...just like mine..." it's a dreamy fable, full of symbol ... in a dark dimension, man is unconsciously controlled by an evil jester...from a mysterious dimension an advanced civilization of sentient beings lines up to start a battle
- **The Duguesclin Tower. 14:41 min (France)** Director Ronan LIOT. Augustine opens the doors to the donjon of the Duguesclin Tower, a remnant of the 13th-century medieval castle in Grand-Fougeray. What starts as a simple visit quickly transforms into an unexpected journey into the past, deep into the heart of the medieval era... A time-travel experience that is bound to leave a lasting impression.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

Thursday, May 9th

- **Nirwana Gold. 13:30 min (Germany)** Director Andreas Waldenmaier. Chapter I: Shanti - The viewer enters the atrium of a temple and is immediately drawn into a multi-sensory, meditative experience which culminates in a feeling of complete loss of consciousness. Chapter II: Samsara - The viewer is invited to experience birth followed by an immersive and emotional journey of the soul, traveling through the most important phases of life up until death. Chapter III: Zen - Alternating between the perspective of deadly predator or fearful prey, the viewer experience show all elements of nature are harmoniously interconnected. For the presentation of the trilogy at a festival, the three individual chapters were cut together to simplify and speed up the screening. Therefore, the ice cream of the first chapter will introduce the trilogy and its fragrance will lead into the experience.
- **Eximium Cor - Verdant 9. 26:19 min (US)** Director John Kalning. Eximium Cor - Verdant 9 explores the intricate and complex journey of two cyborgs, navigating through the challenges of identity, existence, and the quest for a soul.
- **Voyage into the Sea of Awareness: Unearthing (Taiwan) 10:00 min.** Director Yi-Hua Wang. In various religious rituals and philosophical mindsets, the emphasis is often placed on "transformation." Within the realm of inner knowledge, such actions are referred to as "alchemy of consciousness." Having personally undergone this journey, I find that the refinement process of pearls, as opposed to gold, resonates more closely with my own life experiences, be it from a female perspective or in terms of personality, including those elusive subconscious connections. Virtual reality space, serving as a mobile meditation sanctuary, allows me to look "inward," shaping a path to enter a state of flow that is uniquely my own. By using the strokes of painting, I immerse myself in a meditative state. I refer to this process as "diving into the sea of consciousness to seek pearls." With the hope that a 360-degree immersive visual meditation experience will bring us together, let us focus on this journey to discover the inner pearls within each of us.
- **Infinity Eggs. (First AI Series) (Poland) 5:00 min.** Director Vladimir Nefedov. An encounter with an extraterrestrial civilization triggers irreversible evolutionary processes in the past, present and future.
- **Ever You Leave: A Neighborhood (Philadelphia) 4:37 min.** Director Geoffrey Beatty. Ever You Leave: A Neighborhood Sketchbook is a hand-drawn, animated, 360° film documenting people, places, and things in the historic Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia. It is also a meditation on the relation between movement, space, and creativity.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

- **Sarah Palin Forever. (Rochester, NY) 12:51 min.** Director Eryk Salvaggio. A teenage girl has spent her entire life inside an endlessly repeating political rally.
- **A Completely Sad Miracle. (US) 6:04 min.** Director/Writer Henry Jack Toll. Music: Shiraz Dhume, Henry Jack Toll. A deranged artist in the present day begins a correspondence with John Howland, a pilgrim who fell off the Mayflower during his voyage to America 400 years ago.

### PIFF #17 FESTIVAL OF ANIMATION!

- **Crystal Galaxy Enforcers. (Jersey City, New Jersey) 4:05 min.** Director Kirk Howle. Flying through space in a crystal ship, Modnar encounters an annoying nemesis.
- **Impossible Decision. (Philadelphia) 61 min.** Directors Lonnie Smith, Kantia Smith, Writer Lonnie Smith, Producer Lonnie Smith. Realizing there is no one to care for his autistic son after he's gone, a dying father must decide whether or not to put his son's life in the hands of a billionaire scientist specializing in artificial intelligence.
- **In C, Too. (NY, NY) 4:05 min.** Directors Dean Winkler, John Sanborn. "In C, Too" illuminates how close our dreams are to a common reality. Through structured visual improvisational techniques, the work explores how humanity survives because of our imagination and desire to transcend. "In C, Too" is also an origin story, operating in renunciation to mortality, focused on life's essentials – existence, exploration and how entropy ignites evolution.
- **The Tin Woods. (Portland, Oregon) 10:40 min.** Director Nick Boxwell. While exploring an abandoned cabin, the Tin Woodman finds...his original head? Based on the original Oz books by L. Frank Baum, this short stop-motion film explores the origins of the Tin Woodman and how he came to be made of tin.
- **Boobeee Cheet Sheetz. (US) 2:29 min.** Director Adrienne C. Fowler. Can't beat the heat? We've got your back, erm, chest! <https://hollaartyourboy.com/>
- **Critterz. (US) 4:57 min.** Director Chad Nelson. While filming an unexplored misty forest, a stuffy science documentarian gets more than he bargained for when he meets its inhabitants: a gang of feisty little Critterz with unforeseen personalities.
- **Misfortune. (Warminster, PA) 7:01 min.** Director Linda Kudzmas. Adapted from a Polish folktale, 'Misfortune' tells the story of two sisters; Marta the elder, and Zofia the younger. Marta is very rich, and lives in luxury. Zofia is very poor because Misfortune lives on her stove. Misfortune plagues Zofia, causing disasters that constantly keep her struggling to survive. When Zofia cleverly rids herself of Misfortune, Marta becomes jealous and risks everything to get Misfortune once again, living on Zofia's stove.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

Thursday, May 9th

Canal Street Film Center ~ 941 N Front Street Philadelphia, PA 19123

### PHL COMEDY Night!!

Screenings followed by LIVE! Standup Improv. Host Mike Salvi!

**8:20 pm - 9:10 pm. Mistransaction. (Comedy) 50 min (Philadelphia).** Director/Writer Raheem Roher. Producers No Egos World Media In Association with: Cugini Productions, XLNZ Productions, and WeBeAround Co. In pursuit of their entrepreneurial dreams, two friends stumble upon a brick of cocaine. Seeing it as an opportunity to kickstart their business venture, they dive into a risky journey to sell it.

### 6:10 pm - 7:50 pm **Short Laughs... Comedy Overload!**

- **Midnight Flowers. (Comedy) (Wyndmoor, PA) 15:10 min.** Director Noah Cohn. It's a quiet rainy evening at a 24-hour flower shop, and the mild-mannered clerk Freddie lays out mouse traps around the store to stop an evasive vermin that has been eating all the merchandise. At the same time, he gets anxious when his favorite regular customer, Mrs. Calloway, a quirky but loving old woman, doesn't arrive to pick up her arrangement on schedule.
- **Xandr. (Comedy) (California) 10:39 min.** Director Jonathan Chao. When lonely high school student Luke befriends Xander the Genie, he's forced to consider if making his one wish is worth losing his new genie best friend.
- **BANGER. (Comedy) (Falls Church, Virginia) 5:00 min.** Director Dimitri Max. A once-celebrated musician grappling with waning success faces a pivotal moment when his perfectionism clashes with the demands of a deadline.
- **Happy BirthGay. (Comedy) (Israel) 16:00 min.** Director Niv Manzur. Sad Farce. Mom throws her son a grandiose surprise BirthGay party, celebrating a year of his coming out of the closet.
- **Relish Man. (Comedy) (New Jersey) 16 min.** Director Daniel Young. After tragedy strikes a family's beloved condiment, a man's thoughts of revenge begin to consume him.
- **Couple of Cards. (Comedy) (New Providence, New Jersey) 7:13 min.** Director Frederic Lehne. Two silly old farts - Fredric Lehne and Reed Birney - have coffee at Ida's diner, like they do every morning, when unexpected events compel them to confront the past, their lifelong rivalry, and the memory of the gal who broke both their hearts, while still giving hope for the future.
- **Star Students. (Comedy) (Austin, Texas) 14:02 min.** Director Truman Matheny. Star Students is a dystopian satire where Gene, a timid highschooler, in order to give the other

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

students perfect scores, is selected at random by Jordan, a sassy jock, to kill herself. She must demolish Jordan's deadly system or she will be forced to take her own life.

- **7 Minutes in the Closet. (Comedy,Drama) (Bala Cynwyd, PA) 7:00 min.** Two best friends, Samuel and Emma, are sent into a closet during a party. Samuel decides this would be a good time to tell Emma that he's gay.

### **5:00 pm - 6:00 pm** **Did you know? Documentaries - The Untold Story**

- **Blue Beat Baby - The Untold Story of Brigitte. (Documentary) (UK) 30:00 min.** Director Joanna Wallace. "The Beat Girl" has been representative of ska, ska subculture, and women in ska since 1979, but little has been known about the real woman who inspired the icon....until now. This never-before-told story will take you back in time to 1964 and introduce you to the world of movers and shakers, musicians and mods, ska and strip clubs...and The Fabulous Brigitte Bond. Brigitte Bond / Brigitte Saint John / Brigitte St. John was the earliest known transgender ska musician and was also the woman who inspired the iconic "Beat Girl" logo for 2-Tone band The Beat.
- **The Projectionist: A Collector's Journey. (Documentary) (Philadelphia) 22:23 min.** Director John Cornelissen. The Projectionist: A Collector's Journey, will sweep you away on a whimsical journey through early motion picture history and the technology that made it possible. With captivating storytelling about an immigrant from Greece, his love for the cinema, and his passion for collecting the silent film projectors that brought story telling to the silver screen.

### **3:45 pm - 4:50 pm** **Science Fiction [B] - Outwardly thoughts.**

- **Survivors. (Science Fiction) (US) 21:06 min.** Director Jeremy Sery. After waking up in a stranger's house, Sarah at first thinks she has been rescued from an extraterrestrial intervention. However, Sarah begins to sense that something is not right as she begins to pick up on her savior's erratic behavior...
- **Isolation of the Mind. (Science Fiction) (New Jersey) 32:02 min.** Director Maximus Cardillo. When a group known as Revelation of the Mind finds out they have been living in a computer simulation their whole lives they aggressively pursue the creators. Everyone in the group is scheduled for execution because of their actions.



# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

Thursday, May 9th

### 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm - EXPERIMENTAL films from the Abyss

- **The Governors. (Experimental, Other) (Brooklyn, NY) 19:45 min.** Director Tristan Nash. The non fiction experimental film, THE GOVERNORS, creates a narrative space in the historical record of the state of Arizona by focusing on the preserved words and audio and visual recordings of the State's political leaders. The Film draws on archival video, news reports, and found footage arranged in an elaborate collage of themes and images to tell the modern political story of our country's youngest continental state. Native born Filmmaker Tristan Nash appears in the film, and uses this constructed narrative to interrogate the sense of place, memory, and his lived experience in Arizona.
- **Ancient Lore. (Experimental) (Germany) 5:32 min.** Director Patrick Müller. Troubled waters and accursed thaumaturges: Lovecraft's haunting vision of the sea and the unfathomable mysteries that lie within its depths, but also the ancient lore hidden beneath the waters.
- **SELF. (Experimental) (Bayamón, Puerto Rico.) 10:36 min.** Director César Abreu. In the midst of a troubled world dominated by political turmoil, patriarchal hierarchies, and systemic racism, SELF takes viewers on an intimate journey of personal exploration. Capitalizing on the artistry of dance, the film immerses us in the human experience, unearthing traumas we encounter in the constant pursuit of our ultimate potential. The film follows dancer Maxfield Haynes as they navigate personal struggles, confront societal barriers, and embark on a transformative quest to discover their inner selves. Music is by the interdisciplinary performance collective Perception Project.
- **The Color of Fireworks. (Experimental) (Iraq) 4:06 min.** Director Israa Al-Kamali Director of Photography Mohammed Al Agha. Israa Al-Kamali is an LA and Qatar-based Iraqi director and screenwriter with industry experience in the US and Middle East. She has directed various short films and worked both above and below the line on different film sets. Her work tackles social justice issues, feminism, and immigration. She is passionate to unearth stories about people's joys and tragedies, the kind that are personal yet universal. She founded the Independent Iraqi Film Festival, a platform dedicated to celebrating Iraqi films. Her first feature The Anxious Place which explores themes of friendship, home, and loss in the midst of globalization.
- **Always, Already. (Experimental) (Astoria, NY) 28:09 min.** Director Ken Sackheim. "Always, Already", starring Cara Buono (Stranger Things, Mad Men), John Schoenthaler, and featuring philosopher Friedrich Ulfers, is a hybrid film consisting of narrative, documentary, and animation elements that explores the theme of the illusory nature of identity in a universe defined by perpetual flux. Through its innovative blend of

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

storytelling techniques, the film delves into how individuals perceive the world through the lens of fixed identities, only to confront the profound truth that everything is in a constant state of process. Ultimately, "Always, Already" challenges viewers to reconsider their notions of self and existence, daring them to embrace the bold realization that there is no you, only process, and everything is always, already in flux.

- **Bloodcream (Experimental) (Peruvian Born, Miami raised) 9:00 min.** Elise Valderrama. Boy meets girl. Girl meets cake demon. Love conquers something..? Anyway, at least there's cake. **\*\* Strobe Warning \*\***

### 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm - Short Stories [D].

- **Harlem Fragments (Afrofuturism/Drama/Sci-Fi) (NY,NY) 17 min.** Director Cameron Tyler Carr. An Afro-futurist scrapbook storytelling of a Harlem Black family's beautiful destruction during the 2008 recession. A natural disaster so mesmerizing you can't look away from the tragedy. Based on true events
- **Love Language (Drama) (UK) 10:37 min.** Tasha, an enthusiastic secondary school student, is deeply infatuated with her older boyfriend, Jamie. She finds herself trapped in a tumultuous web of love and manipulation. Jamie's indifference drives Tasha to desperate lengths to win his affection, ultimately leading her to become entangled in a dangerous plot against a rival gang.
- **Order My Steps Short film (Drama) (Philly Premier) (NY, NY) 18:12 min.** After almost 20 years of separation, Peg, an incarcerated woman, meets with her daughter, Dorian through a family reconciliation program. As they try to connect, memory intrudes, reminding them of the addiction, neglect and betrayal that kept them apart all of these years. Will this meeting begin to mend this ruptured family?
- 1. **River (Drama) (Ohio) 11:45 min.** Director Rafal Sokolowski, Kanat Omerbekuv. River, a trans woman, returns home to attend the funeral of her estranged father. She arrives consumed by regret for not seeing him before he passed, but instead of closure, she finds that the funeral has been staged and that her father faked his death to lure her into 'conversion therapy'.
- **My Youth (Drama) (Islamic Republic of Iran) 10:11 min.** Director Aria Tahbaz. During their journey up north, Ali and Behzad come across Maryam, a hitchhiker who is headed towards Rasht in hopes of finding a job. However, upon their arrival, she finds out that the job is no longer available. After spending some time together, Maryam makes the decision to remain in Rasht while Ali and Behzad carry on with their travels to Tehran.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

Friday, May 10th

Ethical Society ~ 1906 Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103

**12:00 - 1:45 pm**

**Tim Travers & the Time Travelers Paradox. (Science-Fiction) (Spokane, WA) 103 min. Winner - Best Sci-Fi Cinequest 2024!** Director Stimson Snead. Writer Stimson Snead. Producer Rich Cowan. Producer Felicia Day. Producer Ben Yennie. Cast: Samuel Dunning, Felicia Day, Danny Trejo, Keith David, Joel McHale. It is called the Time Travelers Paradox. In which a scientist creates a Time Machine and kills their younger self. So now a man who should not- can not- exist, somehow does. That is the Paradox, and Paradoxes are impossible. And the man who has created it, is Tim Travers. A reclusive mad scientist whose stated mission in life is to stand alone with God at the end of time, and tell the bastard off.

**11:00 am - 11:45 am Science Fiction - The First Campaign ~ \$10 Matinee**

- **Reverie. (Science-Fiction) (Pittsburgh, PA) 10:39 min.** Director Kelli Elizabeth Horan. In a future where time travel is used as a form of therapy, Imogen grapples with the weight of her troubled past and is given the opportunity to revisit her younger self and confront the experiences that shaped her present self.
- **T-Minus. (Science Fiction) (Fort Collins, CO) 12:51 min.** To make the leap into space, astronaut Ben Fletcher must leave behind a life that could have been.
- **Outer Reaches. (Science Fiction (Australia) 12:20 min.** Two space explorers crash-land on a desolate planet during their mission to find a new home for humanity. Their hopes unravel when they discover the planet is inhabited by a voracious swarm of sentient microorganisms, with one explorer becoming a host for the alien agenda. As the infection spreads, the commander is faced with an agonizing decision: sacrifice himself to halt the menace or unleash it upon the universe.
- **We can Voyage There. (Science fiction) (Brooklyn, NY/Philadelphia) 10:05 min.** Director Tedra Millan. Tonight, Project Revelations announces whether or not life exists outside of Earth. Eager to hear the results are Chloe, a young high schooler who can't help but look beyond, and her mom Deb, who once was on her way to getting an advanced degree in space studies but now works at Gizmo's Electronics.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

Friday, May 10th

### Canal Street Film Center ~ 941 N Front Street Philadelphia, PA 19123

9:45 pm - 10:45 pm **Science Fiction is Now [A]**

1. **Sapphire (Science Fiction) (Philadelphia) 34:55 min.** Director Peter Mathew Gaudisio. A rebellious police detective investigates a murder case that she shouldn't be in. What ensues is a mind-bending re-capture of an elusive criminal.
2. **Greed (Science Fiction) 5:30 min.** Director Mike Hay Writer Maiké Hay/Patrick de Caumette. Later in the 21st century, GovCorp, a ruthless global organization, rules over most of the Western hemisphere. Ever accelerating developments in AI and droid technologies allow GovCorp to enforce a strict code of repression against anyone questioning their supremacy. Propaganda, surveillance, and a powerful droid army keep the population of Novus Heim, the megacity at the heart of GovCorp's empire, in a state of docile obedience. However, there is a small underground resistance brewing, determined to wake the population from their slumber and to break free from tyranny. Can Vita, the head of the resistance, lead the citizens of Novus Heim to freedom?
3. **MANGATA. (Science Fiction) (Germany) 15:38 min.** Director Maja Costa. As a child, little Alya is the only survivor of a tragic Mediterranean crossing from Africa to Europe. Many years later, as an astronaut of an important lunar mission, Alya loses communication with her base. She is confronted with her past trauma, and now Mångata - "the road to the moon", which already saved her life once, will help her again.

8:00 pm - 9:30 pm **Ghostlight. (Drama) (Philadelphia) 81 min.** Director/Writer/Producer Tatyana Yassukovich. Cinematographer Heather Treston. Struggling through the loneliness of lockdown, a group of theater artists seek ways to find community and experience their craft through that most isolating of locations: the internet.

6:35 pm - 7:35 pm **1hr of Horror!!**

- **Kenny's Absinthe. (Horror) (Slovenia) 11:55 min.** Director Gregor Gašperin. A catfishing troll finds himself on the wrong side of the hook.
- **Don't Bother The Neighbors! (Horror, Lovecraft, Sci-fi) (Philadelphia) 6:32 min.** Director Jeff Gorcy. Jay gets more than he bargained for when he goes upstairs to tell off his noisy neighbors.
- **Cloaked. (Horror) (Philadelphia) 6:00 min.** Director Blake Halloway, Robert Lamantia. The classic story we all know takes on a chilling twist when a jogger is lured off the forest path by a mysterious song.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

- **The Pencil. (Horror) (Kazakhstan) 10:24 min.** Director Thomas Schultz. Sara, a struggling artist who discovers a unique magical pencil that can solve all of her problems by bringing her drawings to life. However, her dreams turn into a nightmare when a malevolent demonic creature from Kazakh legends is inadvertently unleashed.
- **Queen of the Night. (Horror) (US) 7:45 min.** Director Lauren E. Pruitt. In a world where vampires exist but are rarely seen, a timid young woman meets a stranger with a dark secret that will change her life forever.

**5:15 pm - 6:20 pm**

**24 Frames Lalla (Drama, Horror, Surreal) (New Mexico/Philadelphia) 52 min.** 24 Frames

Lalla blends the genres of coming of age, horror, auto fiction, and surrealism. The story is about Lalla Grotowski, a non-binary, down and out, beginner filmmaker, who is trapped inside their house during the pandemic with a bottle of pills, a recurring nightmare that won't let up, and a monster from their subconscious that haunts them day and night. There's only one way out of this crisis...to make a film on their own.

**The Pointy Slippers (Body Horror) (Philadelphia) 8:27 min.** Director Christina Acevedo. Holding in pain can be deadly. The Pointy Slippers tells the story of a woman who, on a date, conceals the excruciating pain caused by her new shoes, only to discover that her hidden suffering takes on a life of its own, becoming impossible to ignore

**3:35 pm - 4:45 pm** **Web Series**

- **Female Republic of Lebanon (Drama, Irony) (Germany) 20:45 min.** Director Christian Stahl. 1: Ruling Queens, Kitchen Kings & Men in the Forest
- **Lines (Drama) (NY, NY) 24:00 min.** Director Sara Werner. An 80s Ivy League college student grapples with confusion and shame after a visit to an older painter's studio off campus.
- **Johnny Series (Drama) (Philadelphia) 19:53 min.** Director Amir Rogers. Johnny series follows a crew of ambitious creatives as they are introduced to the lucrative world of car theft by the crew's leader, Percy. This series explores the dark side of the American dream, where crime seems like the only path to success.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

Saturday, May 11th

Ethical Society ~ 1906 Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103

4:45 pm - 5:30 pm ~ **45 minutes of Horror!!**

- **13 Steps (Horror) (Los Angeles, CA) 25:00 min.** Director David Lawrence. A woman performs a grueling ritual to banish a malevolent presence from her home, only to discover that the monster may be a manifestation of her own personal demons.
- **Greenhouse (Horror) (Philadelphia) 15:20 min.** Director Eddie Brick, Brian Diroff. While housesitting his girlfriend's apartment, Stan begins to think one of her houseplants has taken on a life of its own.

6:00 pm - 7:10 pm ~ **Drama in Shorts**

- **The Woman in the Room (Drama) (Philadelphia) 23:26 min.** Director Danny Donnelly. "The Woman in the Room" is the story of a man burdened with his decision to end his mother's life. Is it murder or mercy? A thought-provoking look at end-of-life decisions and how one man deals with the guilt that comes with them. Screenplay based upon the short story "The Woman in the Room" copyright 1978 Stephen King; used by permission, all rights reserved.
- **The Lost Weekend (Drama) (Bridgewater, MA) 21:47 min.** Director Charlie Norton. "The Lost Weekend" is a coming-of-age drama starring Brendan Egan (Universal Pictures' Jem & The Holograms, Ugly Sweater), Chloe Lang (Nickelodeon's LazyTown) and Henry Lynch (Showtime's Dexter: New Blood, Netflix's The Society) written and directed by Charlie Norton. In the Summer of 2004, James, a teenage boy grappling with his masculinity, embarks on a weekend trip to Cape Cod. As he confronts toxic expectations about what it means to be a man, James must make a life-changing decision that will shape his future.
- **Nisei (Drama) (Studio City, CA) 21:28 min.** Director Darren Haruo Rae. Inspired by stories from my grandfather, Nisei follows the journey of two Japanese-American brothers through World War II, Minoru and John Miyasaki. Stripped of their citizenship and placed in internment camps, they volunteer for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all Japanese-American unit that sacrificed everything, to prove their loyalty to a country that doesn't want them. Torn between country and family, they must face the enemy overseas along with adversity back home.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

Saturday, May 11th

### Canal Street Film Center ~ 941 N Front Street Philadelphia, PA 19123

12:40 pm - 1:40 pm - [The Music Doc Block.](#)

- **Jacob Wrestling With the Angel by Jacob Composer Frederick Kaufman (Music Documentary) 12:47 min.** Director Zack Ben-Amots. A film collaboration and music documentary.
- **Claiming Edge. (Music Documentary) (Ridgewood, NY) 14:57 min.** Director Bridget McGuigan. Following five musicians from across the U.S., Claiming Edge showcases the rich community that makes up the straight edge hardcore scene. For them, claiming straight edge isn't just a declaration of sobriety, it's a commitment to yourself and the community. Using interviews, show footage and a soundtrack that'll get anyone to mosh, this documentary paints a clear picture of the participants' love and dedication to the subculture and music.
- **Shostakovich and Meyer: The Making of Prelude and Fugue. (Music Documentary) (Philadelphia) 11:22 min.** Director Matt Hagesteun. Kazakh, Korean, and American Pianist Seoyon MacDonald shares about the discovery of an unfinished Prelude and Fugue by famed Russian composer Dimitri Shostakovich, and its recent completion by his friend and Polish composer, Krzysztof Meyer. In addition to Seoyon's performance of the piece, she discusses her connections to Meyer and Shostakovich as well as how this recording project helped her process living in three distinct cultures.

2:00 pm - 2:45 pm

- **The Billy Cox Documentary. (Music Documentary) (West Chester, PA) 42 min.** Director Phillip Smith. In this rare conversation with legendary bass player Billy Cox, he shares never before heard stories of his time alongside the world's most famous guitar player. From their first jam as U.S. Army inductees to their historical performance in 1969, their bond as friends nurtured highly productive creative simpatico up until Jimi's untimely death. The truth behind the legends and myths are revealed, as Cox shares stories of his friendship and collaborations with the defining characters of the 60's psychedelic rock movement and beyond.
  - **CHI. (Drama) (Philadelphia) 6 min.** Director Ryan Scott. Chi Wah Lau is a father and husband given 18 months left to live after a terminal cancer diagnosis. He struggles with the darkness of facing his own mortality.

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

3:15 pm - 4:45 pm

- **The Carnival. 125 Years of the Penn Relays (Documentary) (Philadelphia) 75 min.** Director Justin Jarrett. From Award-Winning Director Justin Jarrett and Emmy Award Winner "JB" James Brown (CBS/Showtime), comes The Carnival: 125 Years of the Penn Relays. For more than a century, The Penn Relays have defied the odds on their way to becoming one of the longest running sporting events in history. From breaking world records to breaking down barriers, they have helped revolutionize the sport of track and field while playing host to everyone from World Champions to Olympic icons and creating a legacy that will last forever.

5:05 pm - 6:00 pm. **Philly Short Stories [A]**

- **Barely Recognizable (Philadelphia) (Mystery, Thriller) 22:12 min.** Director Francesco Battaglia. A reunion between estranged siblings grows tense as secrets are revealed.
- **Canvas (Drama, Action, War) (Philadelphia) 10:00 min.** Director Logan McCurry, Mitchell Workman. Jackson, a Vietnam War Veteran, uses his art to work through his trauma and PTSD.
- **The Hypnotist (Suspense) (Philadelphia) 6:22 min.** Director Tai Birch. A group of friends gather together after having not seen each other in a while due to the pandemic. For fun, they hire a party guest who has a few tricks up his sleeve. But what happens when things get out of control?
- **Be Thyself (Drama ) (Philadelphia) 14:00 min.** Director Daniel Rosendale. Alan, a newly deceased queer man, tries to escape Final Judgment, a game show hosted by God.
- **Unpacking (Drama) (Philadelphia/Brooklyn, NY) 8:24 min.** Director Julia Bess Grinberg. While sorting through the final possessions of a once-shared home, a separated couple is forced to confront past issues.

6:20 pm - 7:20 pm **Philly Short Stories [B] and friend.**

- **Sci Kids (Kids, BIPOC) (Philadelphia) 17 min.** Director Chop Mosley. Four friends sneak into their school's science lab to make their favorite thing - slime! They soon discover that the secret ingredient that they used to make the slime has given them extraordinary brilliance in science, technology, engineering and math (S.T.E.M)! Excited about their newfound abilities, the Sci-Kids work together to avoid mayhem as they solve mysteries at the school.
- **Millie's Carefree Day (Drama) (Turnersville, New Jersey) 9:10 min.** Writer/Director/Producer Michael Licisyn. Producer Sarah Braun. Cast Kathryn Miller, Rachel Keefe. Weighed down and despondent from crushing depression, Millie tries to



# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

escape the daily grind by deciding today will be different. However, she must first confront her trauma before it consumes her.

- **Astronaut (Science-Fiction) (Philadelphia) 5:52 min.** Director Brian McCole. An astronaut deals with a rapidly failing spacecraft, leading to a surprising resolution.
- **Meditations on Ecclesiastes (Drama, Poem) (Philadelphia) 8:24 min.** Director/Writer Aiden Guynes. The sun rises and the sun sets. The strivings of man flash before our eyes. All the while, the stream continues to flow.
- **The Last Taste (Documentary) (Philadelphia) 6:34 min.** Director James W. Winborn. An Abusive Relationship plays out in front of family and friends.
- **The Batman vs Suge Knight (East Coast Premier)(Fan, Comedy, Action)(Kansas City, MO) 7 min.** The Dark Knight has been hearing a lot of altercation and fear in the rap industry. He decides to take matters in his own hands and visits the boogeyman himself, Suge Knight.

**Saturday, May 11th**

### Lightbox Theater ~ 401 S Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19147

**2:20 - 4:30 pm ~ Who? (Drama) (Philadelphia) 155 min.** Director Tiona. Kendra Wright, now a woman scorned, must figure out "WHO?" is the culprit to her HIV infection. Determination, laced with thoughts of vengeance lead to life changing answers that open forgotten memories and forbidden doors. **Q&A to follow with Cast and Crew.**

- **The Therapist. (Drama) (New Jersey) 9:35 min.** Director Cynthia M McKnight. A turn in the therapist world where you are now transported from a couch to a room of technology to deal with your past delusional pain and behavior.

**1:10 PM - 2:00 PM**

**Methadone Mile (Drama) Boston, MA) 25:00 min.** Director Johnny Hickey. Missy (Justina Valentine) a recovering drug addict balances her dysfunctional family intertwines with the collateral damage of the Boston's "Methadone Mile" - A homeless safe haven for drug addicts, where three methadone clinics, the Boston County Jail, and two homeless shelters encompass a three block radius in the heart of Boston. **Q&A to follow with Cast and Crew.**

# Philadelphia independent Film Festival #17 May 8 - 11, 2024

## Listing Schedule of Official Selections

### PIFF Filmmakers Lounge/Digital Soapbox Live

All Q&A for Canal Street screenings will take place in the filmmakers lounge. Screenings will be reprised all week in the lounge. The Digital Soapbox is up the entire festival. Come hang out and present. Check back for added films and other additions and subtractions to the official PIFF #17 program on our social sites or via our website at [piffilms.tv](http://piffilms.tv). Thank you!

Notes: