Welcome to the 23rd Chicago Underground Film Festival!

Thank you for coming!

\m/  
Bryan Wendorf  
Programmer and Artistic Director
**FESTIVAL STAFF**

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- Twitter: @cuff_chicago
- Instagram: chicagoundergroundfilmfestival #CUFF2016
- Mailing address: 1658 N. Milwaukee Ave, PMB #125 Chicago, IL 60647

**Ticket Information**
- Tickets for all films are available at the theatre box office one hour before the first screening of the day on the day of the show. Advance tickets may be purchase online through Universe.com
- **Ticket prices:** Tickets for all screenings are $10 except for Opening Night which is $20 and includes admission to the festival after party.

**Festival Passes Available!**
- $80 gets you into an unlimited number of screenings. You’ll still need to claim a ticket at the box office on the day of the show. Festival passes must be presented at the box office and do not guarantee a pass holder entry if a screening sells out. Passes are non-transferable and non-refundable. Pass holders and ticket holders must arrive at least 30 minutes in advance to be guaranteed admission to screenings and events. Tickets are available until they are designated as RUSH ONLY. At that point, all attendees will be directed to the RUSH LINE to fill additional seats.

**Disclaimer:**
- All programming is subject to change.

**Special Thanks:**
- Matt Fishman, Jennifer Zacarias, Danny McNeil and the staff at the Logan Theatre, John Miripini, John Klacsman and Anthology Film Archives, Ciara Rufino and Molly Feingold at Mana Contemporary, Photosio Cinemas at Calumet Fine Arts, Regina Greene - Front Porch Productions, Christy Lemaster - Nightingale Cinema, Warren Cockerham, Todd Arrbruter, Service Is Us, Ben Marcus, Molly Hewitt, Comfort Station, Liz Mason - Sings, Josh Mabe, Michael Philips, Ralph McKay, Paul Giarronzo - Elastic Arts Foundation, Emily Greene, Kate Bowen, Dana Bassett, Callin Arnold and everyone at ACE Projects, David Atkins - Parts and Labor, Robby Haynes - Analog, Nader & Courtney - Celeste, Steve Krakow, Julian Antos, Abina Manning and the Staff at Video Data Bank, Luther Price, Christine Beebe, Kate McEdwards at Oscilloscope Laboratories, Jeremiah Meyie, Maria TZ, Ariel Zetina, Laura Zilber, Johann Moon & Michael DeMasi, Jesse Palmack, Keely Dowd, Jeff Kolar, Jonathan Burgess, Shannon A. Kennedy, Fred Longberg-Holm, Jim Becker, Bruce McCline, Ben Billington, Brian Estelman, Bailey Hamilton - Laguna drive-in Screenings, Company, Kayla Comerford, Operation Simon | William Harris Lee Co., Karen Jackson - Pleasure Chest, Barbizon, Field Notes, Chicago Honey Co-op, Kristin Romariz (Merz Apothecary), Jennifer Riester - Trace's Book Club, Maria and Brooke Akyon-Barnett (KGO Photo), Joe Sipic - Station Donuts, Pow Wow, Bowtruss Coffee, Alex Pistorios - Cinemageddon, Scott Fiett, Aron Montes de Corte - 2112, Pete Abel, Dan Gruenpeter and Megan Donnelly - AbelCine, Jon Brieter, Derek Lant, Shane Stanta, Regina Lupo - Momentum, Willam Grant & Sons, Kathy Byrne - SAG-AFTRA, Todd Luchan, Rentech Solutions, Ashley Galloway - Perrier and anyone we forgot to mention (possibly you).
Embracing Documentary, Narrative, and Emergent Media

Vibrant Chicago Location – World Renowned Hub for Documentary Filmmaking

Amazing Internship Opportunities in New York, L.A., and Chicago

Guaranteed $5000 Production Grant

**IFP/Chicago**

is a non-profit organization committed to the idea that independent film is an important art form and a powerful voice in our society.

**Benefits of membership include:**

- Free or discounted rates to all IFP/Chicago screenings, workshops and events, including the IFP/Chicago Filmmakers Conference
- Discounted rates for Chicago Underground Film Festival passes, screenings and special events
- Membership rates for IFP/Minnesota events
- 20% discount on Tribeca Flashpoint Digital Professional Institute Classes
- Voting privileges for Film Independent’s Spirit Awards
- Monthly e-newsletter

### Membership Rates

- Annual Membership - $75
- Student Membership - $50

To join, visit us at www.ifpchicago.org
EXHIBITS AND INSTALLATIONS

No Body Now On Earth But Yours
I AM LOGAN SQUARE 2644 N Milwaukee Ave
featuring works by Cassandra Davis and curated performances by local artists
Exhibition May 27th - June 10th
Special CUFF Reception with Live Performances, June 3rd, 5pm

No Body Now On Earth But Yours brings together the interdisciplinary works of Cassandra Davis and curated live performances to explore larger themes of ritual, spiritual experience and ecstasy. The exhibition will showcase her recent video installation Baptism in conjunction with the Chicago Underground Film Festival as this year’s featured video installation artist, as well as additional interdisciplinary works in this solo show. Cassandra Davis’ current body of work explores cloth as a form of establishing shroud and sanctuary, seeking to capture the spiritual ecstasy experienced by devoted believers. Her work arises at intersections between her photographic discipline and investigation of materiality, her Pentecostal upbringing and current exploration of queer identity.

Luther Price: Flesh Fracture
Mana Contemporary 2233 S Throop
June 3 – August 12, 2016
Opening, Friday, June 3, 6-8pm

Since the mid 1980’s, Boston-based visual artist Luther Price has been known for his iconic, deeply personal, and at times disturbing, Super-8mm films and live performances. In recent years, Price has moved from the Super 8mm format to recycled, distressed, and hand-painted 16mm films and 35mm slides, initially as a practical way of sharing a likeness of his films without risking the original works. Eventually, Price began sequencing these slides and projecting them as loops. Selections of the slide-based work were featured in the 2012 Whitney Biennial and recently acquired by the Museum of Modern Art and the ICA Boston. This exhibition features selections from Price’s most recent series of 35mm slides, Sugar Fractures, alongside 2 carousels from his 2012 series Utopia, and 2 carousels from his 2015 series Meat Chapter 3, the third chapter in Price’s ongoing, multimedia series, Meat.

One Player Place
Michael Lopez and Chris Collins
Logan Theatre Lounge, June 1-5

Artists Michael Lopez and Chris Collins bring you the digital-art-game-arcade-zone entitled, One Player Place. Are you or your friends smart or brave enough to take on these unique, challenging, and mesmerizing vignettes or environments? This digital galaxy of adventure and entertainment includes Crystalized Third Act, Body Double Mountain, Whole Earth Land, Secret Handshake, and Stuff on Stuff on Stuff and more. Free! See the future! In the lounge area.

Still Never The Same
Jesse Malmed
Logan Theatre Lounge, June 1-5

“...In 2005, I was in the middle of college, trying to figure out how to make art and how to engage meaningfully with both the histories and futures of artist cinema. Or experimental film. Or video art. Or media art. Or whatever I was calling it then and am calling it now. I made a piece - my first big one - called NTSC. Now, a decade deeper into making art, that piece acts as a fascinating portal into a younger artist’s concerns and enthusiasms. Some things are the same, some things have been abandoned, a number of things have been added. STILL NEVER THE SAME is a remix, a reconsideration, a retrieval, a reconvening.” —JM

FESTIVAL PARTIES & SPECIAL EVENTS
Curated by Danielle Campbell.
Sponsored by: Hendrick’s Gin and Lagunitas Brewing Company

Wednesday, June 1
Opening Reception: June 1, 6pm-8pm @ Logan Theatre Lounge
Chicago Underground Film Festival Opening Night Party
Elastic Arts Foundation 3429 W Diversey Ave #208, 10 PM

Join us in celebrating the commencement of the 23rd Annual Chicago Underground Film Festival with this special opening night event. The celebration will take place at Elastic Arts immediately following the screening of Tony Conrad: Completely In The Present. The night features a series of notable and captivating performances including Tony Conrad’s Amplified Drone Strings featuring Jim Becker (Violin), MV Carbon (Cello) and Fred Lonberg-Holm (Cello), Ben Baker Billington and a live film performance by Bruce McClure.

Thursday, June 2
Parts and Labor 2700 N Milwaukee Ave 10pm
CUFF Karaoke night with Caitlin Arnold!
Get your glad rags on and join the CUFF staff, visiting filmmakers and KJ Roseanne Arnold for this fun night of karaoke at Parts and Labor!

Caitlin Arnold is the assistant director of ACRE and hosts karaoke during the summer at the residency. This somehow turned into a bi-monthly gig at the Charleston bar in the Bucktown neighborhood of Chicago. When hosting karaoke, Arnold goes by the pseudonym KJ Roseanne Arnold and her specialty is the finely curated list of songs she likes to hear people sing.

Friday, June 3
ACRE Projects 1345 W 19th St 10pm

The biggest party of the 23rd Annual Chicago Underground Film Festival showcases some of the most interesting and powerful electronic and industrial music being made today. A true reflection of the CUFF ethos, these acts distort, manipulate and defy conventional musical genres. Featuring performances from Pedestrian Deposit, Hogg, Forozan Into Femininity, and Jeff Kolar with DJ sets from Beau Wanzer and Alex Barnett.

Saturday, June 4
Celeste 111 W Hubbard St 10pm

Attention all creatures and slimy underwater things: the 23rd Annual Chicago Underground Film Festival brings you a late night dance party CREATURES OF THE LAGOON hosted by the one and only GLAMHAG, at one of the best bars North of the Chicago River, Celeste. Featuring a performance from Chicago-based electronic powerhouse GEL SET, DJ set by ARIEL ZETINA and more performances TBA.

Bring your leeks, be ready to sweat, and make sure you order the fried chicken!

Sunday, June 5
Analogue 2523 N Milwaukee Ave 10pm

The 23rd Annual Chicago Underground Film Festival will come to a close with a night meant for saying goodbye and having one last drink, with MTZ spinning records until close. XOXOPhotobox will be snapping photos of all who attend!
BAR TALK

All Bar Talks take place in the Logan Theatre Lounge

Ray Pride returns to host three 90-minute sessions in which audiences join spirited, wide-ranging conversations about the rapid evolution of filmmaking in the modern media landscape, the exciting revolution seen through emerging voices, and how bold and risk-taking films chosen by the festival’s programmers reflects the best and most promising trends crowding the horizon.

Thursday, June 2, 5pm: PERSISTENCE OF VISION
Has underground stayed underground? A survey from now back into the past millennium.

“I call intoxication of the mind that state in which pleasure exceeds the possibilities which desire had entertained.” —Roland Barthes, citing Flemish mystic John of Ruysbroeck.

Friday, June 3, 5pm: DREAM LOGIC
Thematically, formally: how does cinema process the form of dream?

“The mind of the dreamer is fully satisfied with whatever happens to it. The agonizing question of possibility does not arise.” —André Breton, Manifestoes of Surrealism

Saturday, June 4, NOON: PRINCIPALLY PLEASURE
Beauty: beauty of transgression, beauty of decadence, beauty of form, beauty of precision, beauty of abandon, perfume and sweat, lust and loss.

“Make visible what, without you, might perhaps never have been seen.” —Robert Bresson

Chicago’s longest-running movie reviewer, moderator Ray Pride is film critic of Newcity, a longtime contributing editor of IFP-published Filmmaker magazine, news editor of Movie City News (moviecitynews.com) and a photographer.

Sunday, June 5, NOON: WORKING WITH SAG-AFTRA’S SHORT FILM AGREEMENT
Kathy Byrne and Writer/Director John Lerchen will be on hand to answer questions about working with the SAG-AFTRA Short Film Agreement. If you have not yet had the opportunity to hear the details about this Agreement, and discover the ease and affordability of working with the contract in order to work with professional performers – this is the perfect opportunity to do so. Kathy is Director of TV/Theatrical for SAG-AFTRA Chicago. John is a Columbia College graduate who is currently working on his 3rd SAG-AFTRA feature. He has done approximately 10 SAG-AFTRA shorts in the past few years.

2016 FESTIVAL AWARDS & JURY

Although the art of filmmaking is not a competition, The Chicago Underground Film Festival does give awards. The festival jury will present six awards to films and videos selected as best or most interesting in whatever categories they see fit. Additionally “Made in Chicago” and Audience Choice awards will also be presented.

2016 Jurors

Jeffrey Bowers
Jeffrey Bowers is Senior Manager of Curation at Vimeo and also curates VICE media’s VICE Shorts and writes their column, “I’m Short, Not Stupid.” In the past he has programmed for Tribeca Film Festival, Hamptons Film Festival and Rooftop Films.

Rebecca Hall
Rebecca Hall is Executive Director of the Northwest Chicago Film Society and Operations and Digital Communications Manager at the Gene Siskel Film Center.

Tim Kinsella
Tim Kinsella is the author of two novels, Let Go and Go On and On (2014, Curbside Splendor) and The Karaoke Singer’s Guide to Self-Defense (2011, Featherproof Books) and one book of non-fiction All Over and Over (2015, Joyful Noise / Featherproof Books). In 2014 he became the publisher and editor at Featherproof Books. Since 1996 his band Joan of Arc and its related projects have released dozens of albums and they continue to tour internationally on a regular basis. In 2015 he was both the Artist-in-Residence at Joyful Noise Records and the Visiting Writer at Roosevelt University, as well as serving on the programming committee at Chicago Filmmakers: Recent projects include multiple commissions for the MCA Chicago and The Museum of Contemporary Photography, as well as his ongoing collaborations with the experimental theater company Every house has a door.

Spencer Parsons
Spencer Parsons has been screening his short films at CUFF for over a decade, including 2015’s Bite Radius (named one of the top 5 short films of the year in New City). He has also directed the features I’ll Come Running(2008) and Saturday Morning Massacre (2012), and also served as Senior Programmer, and then as a curator for the Cinematexas International Short Film and Video Festival in Austin, TX, from 2000-2007. He is an Associate Professor in media production at Northwestern University.

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The Chicago Underground Film Festival is proud to present the World Premiere of Tony Conrad: Completely In Present, a two-decades-in-the-making documentary about the legendary artist’s extraordinary life and influential work. One of the great American artists of our era, Conrad’s work has remained largely unknown to the world at large. Conrad’s career has directly touched and influenced most major contemporary movements in art, film, and music since the early 1960s, pushing the boundaries of what moving images and sound can be and providing inspiration for artists and musicians everywhere. Conrad performed in Jack Smith’s legendary underground film Flaming Creatures, for which he also provided the soundtrack. His own work with film commenced audaciously in 1966 with The Flicker, a film composed entirely of black and white frames, which turned the firm world on its head and helped launch the movement of “structural filmmaking” that dominated experimental film for the next decade. Working with composers such as Stockhausen and La Monte Young he was a central figure in the development of Just Intonation and Minimalism which led to his subsequent role in the formation of the Velvet Underground, directly or indirectly influencing all guitar-based rock music that followed. Conrad was an early proponent of public access television as a democratic activist tool. He continued to perform and make groundbreaking works right up until his death in April of this year and had finally begun to achieve the recognition he deserved.

Reflecting Conrad’s own unconventional and forward-thinking means of creating art, Tony Conrad: Completely In Present mixes intimate footage of the artist and his collaborators and accomplices shot by Hubby over the past two decades, along with selections from Conrad’s personal archive of recordings and films, and of course the always surprising and playful Tony Conrad guides viewers through free associative narratives of his astounding and creative life.

“Tony Conrad has slowly been emerging from avant-gardist obscurity over the past few years, and about time. His multifold career—as experimental film and video-maker, composer, musician and sound artist—still looks radical and prescient a half-century after it began”—The New York Times
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<tr>
<th>Film Title</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Length, Format, Year, Country</th>
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Engram of Returning
Daïchi Saïto
19 min., 35mm, 2015, Canada
“Accompanied by an extraordinary improvisational score by Montreal-based musician Jason Sharp, Daïchi Saïto’s Engram of Returning is an epic 35mm CinemaScope metaphysical travelogue that reveals a supernal world which pulses and flickers with formal patterns and deep hues.” —Andrée Picard

THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID
AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS
Ben Rivers
98 min., 35mm, 2015, UK
“Sublime and surreal in equal measure, the latest feature by British filmmaker Ben Rivers (Two Years at Sea) charts a mysterious transformation from observational making-of to inventive adaptation. The Sky Trembles... begins with dramatic views of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, where a filmmaker (Spanish director Oliver Laxe) is in the midst of a complex shoot with caravans and horses. Rivers surveys the scene with his 16mm Bolex, capturing the sensual sfumato effects of the sun and the pastel glow of the landscape. As Rivers observes the director at work and the film crew in contemplative repose, clearly bored by the frustrating fits and starts of shooting, a portrait of a mythic landscape emerges, with the spectacle of long-abandoned film sets serving as a reminder of the region’s long history as a site of international film production.

As traces of artifice begin to meld with and co-exist alongside the real, The Sky Trembles... veers into hallucinatory misadventure. Inspired by Paul Bowles’ story “A Distant Episode” (which is also the title of Rivers’ new short film, screening in Wavelengths 2) and elements drawn from the life and stories of Moroccan writer and artist Mohammed Mrabet, the film’s second half follows Laxe’s director as he abandons his set and is then brutalized and forced into captivity as the “King of Cans” — a shift that cleverly refracts the deceptive documentary mode of the first half and converts the film into an ingenious meditation on the illusion of cinema itself.

Reminiscent of the radical, oniric films Philippe Garrel made during the underground Zanzibar movement of the late sixties, The Sky Trembles... marks a notable departure for Rivers. Though recalling his previous work in its breathtaking 16mm cinematography and study of a lone, wandering man in a far-flung locale, it is rawer, more disquieting, more capacious, and verges on the psychedelic.”—Andrée Picard
THE LOVE WITCH

The Love Witch
Anna Biller
120 min., 35mm on video, 2015, USA

“The Love Witch is the story of Elaine, a beautiful young witch, determined to find a man to love her. In her gothic Victorian apartment she makes spells and potions, and then picks up men and seduces them. However, her spells work too well, and she ends up with a string of hapless victims. When she finally meets the man of her dreams, her desperation to be loved will drive her to the brink of insanity and murder. With a visual style that pays tribute to Technicolor thrillers of the '60s, The Love Witch explores female fantasy and the repercussions of pathological narcissism.”

“I wanted to make a movie about a witch, because I think that every woman is made to feel like a witch by the men who don’t understand her: that is, mysterious, dangerous, different, abnormal. Elaine, the main character of The Love Witch, has men constantly freaking out around her because of her sexiness. But they don’t really love her, and this makes her feel lonely and alienated. So she takes her revenge. It’s a fun movie in that I went all the way with my cinema fantasies, going deeply into the visual world of an iconic witch, but it’s also a realistic portrait of a pathological narcissist. Elaine is monstrous, wreaking havoc wherever she goes, but she is also sympathetic, because she has essentially been driven mad by being a woman, and is struggling to find love and acceptance in a world that has disappointed her at every turn.” —AB

WARNING:
The producer, distributor, and exhibitors waive all liability for physical or mental injury possibly caused by the motion picture. The producer, distributor, and exhibitors waive all liability for physical or mental injury possibly caused by the motion picture. Since this film may induce epileptic seizures or produce mild symptoms of shock treatment in certain persons, you are cautioned to remain in the theater only at your own risk. A physician should be in attendance.
Terrestrial
Calum Walter
11 min., video, 2015, USA
“The observations of an object in motion: A mobile device captures the trajectories of objects liberated from and bound to land, against a backdrop of uniquely human dissonance.” —CW

A Disaster Forever
Michael Gitlin
16 min., video, 2015, USA
“Derived from a 25-year old cassette tape, transcribed and re-enacted on a surround recording stage, A Disaster Forever positions us on the unfamiliar terrain of a highly idiosyncratic cosmology.” —MG

Lighthouse
Paul Clipson
5 min., 16mm, 2015, USA
“A collage of city surfaces, layers and levels of space, meant to blur with and contrast to the guitar-drone soundtrack of Kong Mudas Sound and Fennesz. Filmed in New York, San Francisco and Hong Kong.” —PC

Must See
Nellie Kluz
13 min., video, 2016, USA
“All over America, rain or shine, pilgrims journey together.” —NK

Light Licks: Pardes/Night Time Is The Right Time
Saul Levine
4 min., 16mm, 2014, USA
“LIGHT LICKS are ecstatic flicker films inspired by jazz and mystic visionary practice, PARDES ancient Persian for walled garden. In Hebrew and Aramaic paradise, heaven, the garden of Eden, the peak or terminus of ecstatic visionary trance flight NIGHT TIME IS THE RIGHT TIME moon play light garden be loved” —SL

An Appearance of Fortitude
Rajee Samarasinghe
5 min., video, 2015, USA/Sri Lanka
“Part of an ongoing series of American psychogeographies, this particular piece investigates the idea of “remoteness,” as two people establish a curious rapport in a sleepy Southern Californian suburb.” —RS

Crippled Symmetries
Beatrice Gibson
26 min., video, 2015, UK
“A precocious 11 year old capitalist and his side-kick, an ailing composer, are the two unlikely protagonists of this experimental meditation on money, music and abstraction in post crisis Britain. The work is inspired obliquely by William Gaddis’ epic satirical novel JR (1975).” —KJE

Grace Period
KyungMook Kim & Caroline Key
62 min., Video, 2015, South Korea/USA
“Combining documentary with experimental video, Grace Period documents the activities of female sex workers in the Yeongdeungpo red-light district in Seoul, South Korea. Facing constant police crackdowns and the threat of permanent closure following the opening of a massive shopping complex adjacent to their workplaces, the women of Yeongdeungpo band together in protest. Archival footage, mostly shot by the women themselves, shows their collective efforts as they organize with other sex workers from brothels across the country. In creative and daring acts of resistance, they launch a series of demonstrations that trace a lineage to Korea’s democratic union movements of the 1980s—denouncing the government and corporate interests, demanding decriminalization, and declaring their rights as” —KK, CK
**Rabbit Season**
Michael Bell-Smith
5 min., video, 2014, USA

“A scene from the 1951 Warner Bros cartoon’s iconic encounter between the hunter, the rabbit, and the duck frames a loose essay film, the video adopts a variety of tones and genres to touch upon themes of resistance, taste, the construction of meaning, and the exhaustion of choice.” —MB

**Discontinuity**
Lori Felker
16 min., video, 2016, USA

“Discontinuity highlights the unexpected fissures that can form between us, including the things that can fall in and get lost. When Tabitha returns “home” after a separation from her boyfriend, Stephen, what they’ve been missing becomes opaquely clear and who they’re becoming makes it hard for them to see each other. Their disconnections are mirrored in the film’s approach to editing, its confusion of time and space, and a free-wheelin’ clowder of cats.” —LF

**Chums From Across the Void**
Jim Finn
17 min., video, 2015, USA

“In this third Inner Trotsky Child video, narrator Lois Severin—a former Trotskyite turned suburban housewife—attempts to radicalize the personal fulfillment and self-help scene. Like the Christian fundamentalist activists in the 1970’s who prepared the way for the Reagan Revolution, the Inner Trotsky Child movement was a way to cope.” —JF

**Bev**
Samy Burch & Alex Mechanik
26 min., video, 2015, USA

“The son of a serial killer goes to a trust workshop in Tampa, has nightmares.” —SB, AM

**Terror of Frankenstein**
Tim Kirk
92 min., video, 2015, USA

“Director's Commentary: Terror of Frankenstein is an exercise in extreme metafictional tragicomedy. Presented as the commentary track of a cynically rushed repressing of a forgotten (but 100% genuine) Frankenstein film’s DVD (in lieu of unspecified ‘recent events’), this project transforms the film into an entirely new, all too human horror story. Featuring Clu Gulager as Gavin Merrill, director of the 1977 original who is happily exploiting the unmentioned tragedy linked to the film, the recording session becomes both a mystery and its own sort of Frankenstein story as he clashes with ‘Terror of Frankenstein’s’ screenwriter (Zack Norman) and, ultimately, its star (Leon Vitali from Stanley Kubrick’s Eyes Wide Shut and Barry Lyndon, playing himself.) “Director’s Commentary: Terror of Frankenstein” is Mystery Science Theater 3000 by way of Sartre, an icy satire of the monsters on screen, behind the camera, and in the audience.” —TK
**The Puddle**
Serdar Yilmaz
10 min., video, 2015, Turkey
“A man in the flea market walks while checking walls covered with old posters and counters full of stuff with prying eyes. Due to the incarnating object that he sees on one of the counters just carries him away into another reality.” —SY

**On Surgery**
Russell Sheaffer & Aaron Michael Smith
8 min., Video, 2015, USA
“On Surgery attempts to replicate the physical process of bone surgery on the body of 16mm film stock. By wetting raw, unprocessed 16mm color negative film, separating out the photosensitive emulsion from the base of the film using a medical scalpel, and then reapplying the layers, the only images visible are representative of the scars left on the film. The music for the film is taken entirely from the sounds of the projection of the 16mm film and from a reading of one of Sheaffer’s post-surgical diary entries.” —RS

**Conversations With The Dead: Birth Caul Bardo**
Irvan Gamboa
4 min., 16mm on video, 2016, USA
“A chemically treated and rust bathed hallucinatory vision of the Tibetan Bards. A film about the cyclical rhythms of dream and myth: A subterranean rossichia tapestry of bardo-themed symbols.” —IG

**The Betrayal**
Susan Young
6 min., video, 2015, UK
“A woman trusts her psychiatrist, but becomes enmeshed in his prescriptive web. At its dark heart, The Betrayal is a twisted, deadly love affair.” —SY

**The Immortal Jellyfish**
Colin West McDonald
9 min., video, 2015, USA
“After misreading her clock, Claire goes on an existential crusade to discover the truth behind time itself.” —CM

**In the Sky of your Thoughts what the Clouds Are**
Craig Webster
15 min., video, 2015, USA
“A spandex-clad wanderer is led by a boy into a strange world.” —CW

**Bang Ubot**
Fabio Sciacchetti & Vincenzo Core
26 min., video, 2016, USA
“A diaphanous shadowed woman rests beyond the confine of thousand liquefied nights, writes her secret on a piece of paper and, speechless, asks the uncovered sky if it’s true what they say, that beyond the tides live creatures made out of dreams. Is it a dream the dream that I see? Is it a sound the sound that I hear? The image, seeing itself in the mirror, says: it is not that what I show you that matters, but what I conceal, what vanishes beyond the boundary of the visible.” —FS, VC

**Champion**
Andrés Passoni
18 min., video, 2015, Argentina
“Every Sunday greyhound fans take their passion to the dog tracks. The spectators gather attracted by big bets, they watch the animals with the program in hand and choose their favorites to bet on them a sum of money hoping to win the prize with the greyhound champion.” —AP

**Snowbirds**
Lorenzo Gattorna
9 min., Video, 2015, USA
“The onset of northern winter transitions towards the solace of southern latitudes. A dense nostalgia nestles into the former as a peculiar splendor surfaces upon the latter. However, what remains constant is a forecast for the near future. A certain unease surrounds eventual passersby and the establishment of permanence.” —LG

**Solitary Acts #6**
Nazli Dincel
11 min., 16mm, 2015, USA
“This is a feminist critique of the Oedipal complex. The filmmaker recounts an abortion she had in 2009. The aborted child survives and becomes her lover. Her subject is filmed in a private act.” —ND

**First Time**
Steven Summers
7 min., video, 2015, USA
“A meditation on VHS tapes and the act of losing one’s virginity.” —SS

**I Remember Nothing**
Zia Anger
18 min., video, 2015, USA
“A student, unaware that she is epileptic, tries to get through another day. The film is structured in five sections, after the phases of a seizure.” —ZA
Lullaby Optic
Steve Wood
8 min., Video, 2015, USA
"An abstract work generated by moving lights through multiple video feedback loops resulting in a catalog of transient electronic forms. Captured in-camera, with no additional graphics or color enhancement. Scored with sounds from the NASA archives, and also with recordings of circuit-bent toys." —SW

The Known Universe
Lisa McCarty
4 min., Video, 2015, USA
"The Known Universe is comprised of every publicly available image captured by the Hubble Telescope." —LM

Focus on Infinity
Joerg Burger
80 min., Video, 2014, Austria
"The question concerning the origin of our cosmos and our existence has moved humanity for thousands of years. Where do we come from, what are we and where do we go? Looking for answers to these questions, scientists dig deep into the dimensions of our thoughts – to the limits of our imagination. Mathematics and Physics reached a certain degree of abstraction, not absolutely comprehensible for laypersons. What is keeping the innermost of the world together – creation or evolution? Theories and conclusions of natural science make you think about the purpose of life. Rational thinking rises to a new challenge: It gets confronted with an intellectual world that only philosophers and theologians seem to have known so far. Conversely, belief needs to deal with questions regarding the scientific background of creation. Enormous challenges are waiting, and the search for the answers is still going on. This film will bring up questions, that are important to modern cosmology and quantum physics." —JB

This Home Is Not Empty
Carol Nguyen
4 min., video, 2014, Canada
"A personal film questioning the 'lies you tell yourself' through a metaphorical lens." —CN

DUST - The wanted life
Giulio Baraldi
21 min., video, 2014, Germany/Italy
"DUST is the adventure of eight physically and mentally disabled persons who have been living in the Cottolengo Institute of Turin for over fifty years. This is neither a script nor an attempt to tell their discomfort. Through a creative artistic path revolving around theatre, these characters in search of an author stage themselves and the life that they would like to lead." —GB

Still At Large
Paul Rooney
11 min., video, 2015, UK
"The work seems to be an essay film about Holy Island, northern England, written and presented by Nicholas Still. But there is another, sinister, voice on the soundtrack, perhaps the voice of ‘narrative’ itself, submerging everything in its sadistic tide." —GB

Spawned Seeds
Eugene Sun Park & Sara Zalek
3 min., video, 2016, USA
"One of the major developments in 20th-century contemporary dance, Butoh combines dance, theater, improvisation and influences of Japanese traditional performing arts to create a unique art form that is both controversial and universal in its expression." —EP

Rock Clay Sand
Straw Wood
11 min., 16mm, 2015, USA/Canada
"A group works together to build a cottage out of inexpensive, local resources in Northern California. The film documents the gestures and materials that are part of the process." —AH

Open Hearing
Brian Ashby, John Corbett, & Terri Kapsalis
10 min., video, 2015, USA
"A dog is rescued from the railroad tracks. Citizens have their say while councilmen watch. Which is more precarious? Will somebody please do something? A collaborative mediation on the tensions between image, sound, and word that journeys beyond the human in the circus of politics." —BA
Old Friends
Bruce Bundy
11 min., video, 2015, USA
“Kat and Arthur are married, Clara and Nicholas are too, and they all share a long friendship from their pursuits in higher education. Kat and Arthur have left the academic realm in favor of assuming control of a family-owned funeral parlor, while Clara and Nicholas have gone the route of adjunct professors; all are haunted by their positions. Clara and Nicholas taunt Kat and Arthur for leaving academia while lamenting their own newly onset professorial malaise, and envying their backdoor exit, while Kat and Arthur savor their roles as ejected fools while aching somewhat for the self-satisfying virtues of an academic life. They drink a lot and their strange, kinky, beautiful and tormented dynamics dance them through the course of their evening-long, heady reunion, proving that they are, indeed, old friends.” —BB

Excursions
Daniel Martinico
80 min., video, 2016, USA
“In the hopes of revitalizing their marriage, a husband and wife retreat to a remote cabin getaway with some longtime friends. Their pleasant interaction quickly assumes a relentless intensity as they push one another, mentally and physically, towards transcendence. This shortcut to enlightenment, however, has unexpected consequences.” DM

“Excursions is a slow burn that eventually sets your hair on fire. What begins as an idyllic couples getaway for Los Angeles yuppies quickly subverts into an animalistic symphony of oddities that pulls viewers down a rabbit hole, and then collapses the hole behind them.” —Josh Mandel, Slamdance

Over&Over
Michael Fleming
8 min., 35mm on video, 2016, The Netherlands
“A 35mm found footage, hand manipulated, analogue collage film. It focuses on how fear and revenge is used in commercial cinema. Suggesting to be in control of our fear of mortality. Decimate what threatens us... In a same way the surface of the film material has been treated; by peeling, scalping, cutting, burning and destroying the image.” —MF

Body Contours
Kristin Reeves
5 min., video, 2015, USA
“Make movies in your mind, feel the soundtrack, and drift away from your body for the win. Produced through a media art residency at Signal Culture using real-time analog video processing tools.” —KR

16mm Sound Film
Aaron Kutnick
2 min., 16mm on video, 2014, USA
“The origins of film scratches.” —AK

Actual Case History
Tony Gault & Elizabeth Henry
9 min., video, 2015, USA
“Rotoscope animation reshapes a film into an examination of “the vague, indefinite fears which keep growing in our minds.” —TG,EH

Odessa Crash Test
(Notes on Film 09)
Norbert Pfaffenbichler
6 min., video, 2014, Austria
“One of the most iconic moments in the history of film is reimagined with smashing success.”
CLOWN

I found the mask at a thrift store in Cambridge, where I was living in the 90's. It was 1990. I bought the mask and brought it home. I put it on in the mirror in the bathroom and started to say "fuck it suck it". And chased my friend Lisa out of the house. I bought some Super 8 color sound film and planned a weekend at my parents' home on the beach. The back yard had a sea wall. This made a brilliant and most wonderful stage to work with the horizon and changing sky. I had worked this way before, with "Warm Broth" and "Green". The landscape was always amazing and waiting. So, in the back of my parents' home on the ocean... I filmed my clown chapters...

They began with the idea of filming "CLOWN" characters in on Super 8 color sound 35mm cartridge shot at 24 frms. So, in camera... I wanted to make a seemless in camera story "CLOWN". This idea went on for a while...

The screaming clown came about because we were having a surprise birthday party for "Areia"... She was only a very small child but we all got in clown drag... And hid when she came in with her mother and surprised her...

With cake / confetti and balloons... She was afraid at first. But she knew it was us... I had developed the screaming clown for that... Her birthday... As time went on and I had a Super 8 print made of the film... I contued to film more chapters... I completed the film in 2002... A Super 8 sound color film... In some of the other chapters... I may have taken things a bit far... But that's ok... Have a nice day... But oh... how I miss Super 8 color sound film... I'd suck a dick for a brick... Of film... Luther Price

A
60 min, Super 8mm-to-digital, 1995. Digitally restored by Anthology Film Archives with support from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

"A is a relentlessly rancid, alcoholic and drug-induced journey through which Edie, a washed-up and broken movie starlet finds herself alone, and ugly with only glittering memories of her silver past." —L.P.
**WHEEL OF FORTUNE REVERSED**

**Memento Mori**
Ali Aschman  
4 min., Video, 2014, USA  
"An old briefcase opens to reveal the lives of objects, in this reflection on the ravages of time and the tendency of all things towards death and disappearance..." —AA

**Crush**
Christopher McKee  
11 min., Video, 2015, USA  
"A romantic encounter in the not-so-normal life of a girl named Sandra. A love letter to the films of David Cronenberg and Wes Anderson, this dark comedy explores the themes of young love, parental guidance, obsession, and pleasure." —CM

**The Puppet Man**
Jacqueline Castel  
9 min., Video, 2015, USA  
"A supernatural killer stalks a young woman and her friends in a seedy, neon-lit dive bar in this short film featuring horror legend John Carpenter." —JC

**Disco Inferno**
Alice Waddington  
12 min., Video, 2015, Spain  
"A weary hell minion is on a mission to rescue her boss, who has entrenched herself on a palace surrounded by a bunch of lost souls. But the Devil is not willing to return to her daily routine." —AW

**Gorgeous Vortex**
Todd Lincoln  
15 min., Video, 2015, USA  
"A high fashion horror film about a woman who is haunted by her past and on the run from a secret organization." —TL

**Sticky Drama**
Jon Rafman and Daniel Lopatin  
11 min., Video, 2015, USA  
"Featuring a cast of over 35 children and developed in collaboration with Daniel Lopatin (a.k.a. Oneohtrix Point Never), the video brings to life a fantastical world in which characters are on a quest, battering for dominance and in a race against time to archive past histories. Inspired by the costumes, staging and extended improvised narratives of Live Action Roleplay (LARP), the video reflects the vivid, often violent world of children’s imaginations and games, as well as extending ongoing investigation into the nature of memory and the horror of data loss." —JR

**Maggie’s Problem**
Molly Hewitt  
30 min., Video, 2014, USA  
"From the dark depths of the unknown comes a creature which baffles science and could terrify the world. But what happens when she is unable to contain her sinister desires? Maggie has a problem and it is a very big problem indeed!" —MH

**DEPROGRAMMED**

**The Ladies**
Tyler Zoanni  
13 min., Video, 2015, USA  
"For 50 years, a group of Ukrainian women has gathered in New York’s East Village to make dumplings for their church. This observational short offers an evocative portrait of ‘the ladies’ and the work, faith, gossip, and humor that brings them together.” —TZ

**Deprogrammed**
Mia Donovan  
84 min., Video, 2015, Canada, US Premiere  
"Deprogrammed is a feature-documentary about the rise of Ted ‘Black Lightning’ Patrick’s deprogramming technique and anti-cult crusade. Deprogramming, as a form of cult intervention, started in 1971 and quickly snowballed into a vast underground movement composed of concerned parents, ex-cultist-turned-deprogrammers and some sympathetic law-enforcers whose mission was to physically and mentally remove individuals from groups referred to as ‘cults’. Inspired by her stepbrother’s deprogramming by Patrick in 1991, Mia Donovan meets the infamous ‘Father of Deprogramming’ himself and begins to unravel his notorious legacy.” —MD
Booger Red
Berndt Mader
95 min., Video, 2015, USA
"Booger Red is a hybrid narrative/documentary film where fictional journalist, Onur Tukel, investigates the true case of the 'Mineola Swingers Club' trials. In 2006, seven people were sentenced to life for purportedly running the largest child sex ring in Texas history—inside of a swingers club in Mineola, TX. Onur, portraying a veteran reporter, interviews the actual defendants and lawyers involved in the trials. On his journey through the seedy underbelly of east Texas, Onur is forced to confront his own history with abuse while he discovers that the allegations at the root of his investigation might have never happened..." BM

"Booger Red falls somewhere between Errol Morris's The Thin Blue Line and Call Northside 777’s cynicism." —The Austin Chronicle

Of Birth and Brittle Teeth
Marinah Janello
6 min., Video, 2015, USA/Spain
"Of Birth and Brittle Teeth chronicles the lives of a group of farmers located in central Spain, dedicated to living off the land that they tend. With the use of spoken poetry and documentations of their daily lives, the film encourages the viewer to see the agronomist and their harvest as one." —MJ

Infrastructures
Aurèle Ferrier
23 min., Video, 2014, Switzerland
"Infrastructures involves a journey through a landscape of infrastructures that are common to an everyday reality of routine. Yet here we find these environments are deserted. This allows attention to focus instead on the design and spatial arrangements of the objects, which become centrally present. ‘’ —AF

Anoûme
Lena Ditte Nissen
13 min., video, 2014, Germany
"Interweaving documentary images from the two matrilineal tribes of the Moshu (China) and the Kuna (Panama) this film connects alleged female societies from continent to continent. The link between these two worlds is the filmmaker herself, trying to cope with the otherness of what is seen and the strangeness of the inner experience." —LN

Exile Exotic
Sasha Litvintseva
14 min., video, 2015, UK
"Steeped in elliptical history and historical simulacra, Exile Exotic is set at a hotel that is a replica of the Kremlin. Narrating the exotic beginnings of my mother’s and my exile from Russia, the film serves as a platform for us to visit the Kremlin again, albeit by the side of a pool. This film is a pilgrimage. This film comes in waves." —SL

The Masked Monkeys
Anja Dornieden & Juan David González Monroy
30 min., 16mm, 2015, Germany
"The masked arts of Indonesia are thousands of years old. They are commonly referred to as wayang topeng (wayang: shadow or puppet; topeng: mask). It is believed that wayang topeng originated from tribal death rites, where masked dancers were considered the interpreters of the gods. In the lowest rungs of Javanese society a unique manifestation of these masked traditions can be found. Its practitioners are performers, but they are not merely entertainers. Their aim is not simply to amuse. Their ambition is to be respected, to be honored, to be successful. They have embarked on a path they know will lead to a higher state, to an honorable and noble position.” —ADJM
THE HANGED MAN

Instrument
Anna Kipervaser
6 min., video, 2014, USA
“Connecting time and place through undiscovered empty space between hemispheres.” —AK

Tiniest Dreams
Randy Sterling Hunter
6 min., 16mm on video, 2014, Austria
“Two cannot become one. This idea threads its way through Tiniest Dreams conceptually, and it is persuasively conveyed by the formal division of the work into two parts as well.” —Christian Holler, Six Pack Films

Animal Landscape
Shelley Dodson
4 min., video, 2014, USA
“African animals transform the environment as the relationship between predator and prey unfolds.” —SD

Toledo, My Father
Carson Parrish
8 min., 16mm on video, 2015, USA
“An underexposed night on the town with my dad and the movie palaces of yore.” —CP

White Zone
Gaelle Cintre
22 min., 16mm on video, 2015, France
“Four women who are electro-hypersensitive—a rare condition where people find themselves acutely intolerant to electromagnetic fields including cell phone signals and WiFi—are driven deep into the French Alps in search for remote underground shelter. Because of their situation, their way of life has never been photographed. Until now. Zone Blanche is a film without electricity.” —GC

Shades of Shadow
Amir George
8 min., Video, 2015, USA
“Commissioned by Chicago Film Archives, Shades of Shadows is a collaboration with psychedelic soul band The O’Mys, that delves into spiritual myths and ritual sacrifice. Created with archival footage, the characters in the film seek to manifest a better self.” —AG

Cup of Stars
Ryan & Tyler Betschart
4 min., 16mm on Video, 2015, USA
“A vivid tableau of tenderness, Cup of Stars finds two brothers under a cool night sky, fishing for stars and supernovas. Using dream logic under their own bizarre terms, The Betschart Bros. subtly express through a smearing of light and the telling of folktales, ideas of growing up as siblings in Southern California.” —RB, TB

VENOM AND ETERNITY FOR BEGINNERS

The Mess
Peter Burr
14 min., Video, 2016, United States
“A journey to the threshold of a utopian labyrinth. We follow the perspective of Aria End - tasked with cleaning up this feral structure.” —PB

HIGH PRIESTESS

All Tru-ish
Mina Mir
3 min., Video, 2015, USA
“A One-sided relationship is depicted through a series of vibrant, absurdist vignettes.” —MM

Dear Lorde
Duke & Batterstey
27 Min., Video, 2015, USA
“Bone collector Maxine Rose, a 14 year old teenage girl, is looking for validation from her heroes, amongst them the primatologist Jane Goodall, bishop Desmond Tutu and the New Zealand teen pop star Lorde. Offering them a gift of language, Maxine Rose stands for the desire to be visible and understood, not unlike the desire of an artist. We are particularly impressed by the multilayered story telling structure, the freshness of the characterization, and the honest exploration of an artists’ vulnerability.”

Pattern For Survival
Kelly Sears
7 Min., Video, 2015, USA
“Pattern for Survival channels the frenetic energy and aggression of security and preparedness. As you read the rest of this manual, keep in mind the need for a survival strategy.” —KS

Crystal Lake
Jennifer Reeder
20 Min., Video, 2016, USA
“A group of young girls take over a skate park, forming an all-female force field on the half pipe. There on the reclaimed ramp, with no boys around, they are thriving and visible. This is an anthem for young feminists, which presents female friendship as a means to survive adolescence. EVERY GRRRL-SHAPED BREATH IS A BATTLE CRY.” —JR

Baghdad, Iowa
Usama Alshaibi
34 Min., Video, 2015, USA
“Tiniest Dreams, artistic yet grounded in a personal cultural mash-up of memory and pain, is seen through the camera, or the windshield as screen, as an attempt to reach a border between the seen and unseen. The town Baghdad, Iowa, is an imagined place that connects my personal memories and trauma to an artistic space, which in turn allows both fears and desires to be expressed. Baghdad, Iowa is the mask, the shadow and the right stars that sing the sorrow song of death. The traveler is you and the voice you hear is your own. You might be dreaming, so don’t wake up until you arrive in Baghdad, Iowa.” —UA

THE DAY OF TWO NOONS

Crystal Lake
Jennifer Reeder
20 Min., Video, 2016, USA
“Connecting time and place through an undiscovered empty space between hemispheres.” —AK

THE MESS

A group of young girls take over a skate park, forming an all-female force field on the half pipe. There on the reclaimed ramp, with no boys around, they are thriving and visible. This is an anthem for young feminists, which presents female friendship as a means to survive adolescence. EVERY GRRRL-SHAPED BREATH IS A BATTLE CRY!” —JR
Chorus
Josh Lewis
15 min., 16mm, 2015, USA

“To the accuser who is the god of this world.” — JL

Luminous Echoe
Chelsey Lorae
15 min., video, 2015, USA

“Shot entirely inside a Los Angeles residence, Luminous Echoes creates an abstract experience of sights and sounds in a city dwelling.” — CL

All Systems Go
Shannon Lee
5 min., video, 2015, USA

“A pilot destroys a UFO in his memory. Created with colored pencils and videographics, as well as repurposed found footage and sound” — SL

Yapi
Nathaniel Draper & Aaron Khandros
9 min., video, 2015, Greece

“Greece is covered in concrete tumors — yapi, half-finished buildings left in permanent limbo, skeletal structures like temples to some obscure future gods. Emerging from their obscurity, the yapi grow to take on a life of their own. The future of their meaning, and their moment, are up for grabs.” — ND, AK

Gulls at Gibraltar
Stephen Broomer
4 min., 16mm, 2015, Canada

“Seagulls hover and dip on the rocky coastline of Gibraltar Point. Tilting and multiple horizons camouflage the birds, splintering and gathering the lone gull to the flock.” — SB

Mental Space
Toby Tatum
7 min., video, 1015, UK

“A vision in a dream. Follow a stream of consciousness deep into a world transformed by the shaping spirit of the imagination.” — TT

Fish Point
Pablo Mazzolo
7 min., 16mm, 2015, Argentina

“The film is an impressionist, kinetic exploration through the natural landscape of Fish Point, the Provincial Nature Reserve on Pelee Island (Ontario, Canada).” — PM

2183 Days
Natasha De Betak
26 min., video, 2015, France/India

“Filmed over a period of five years; An unique cinematic observation of a Holy man who has been on a hunger strike to save the sacred river Ganga. Year after year, his body crumbles and on the 2183rd day he dies. Expressionism and poetry meet to create a sublime journey of an unusual soul.” — NDB

Prima Materia
Azin Seraj
9 min., video, 2015, USA

“To the alchemists, the crudest base materials concealed a divine spark, a latent, transformative potential obscured within the darkness of matter. Prima Materia draws on the cryptic language of esoteric alchemy to distill, through the use of elemental processes and symbolically charged objects, both the personal experience and psychological phenomenon of surviving trauma.” — AS

The Alchemist Cookbook
Joel Potrykus
82 min., Video, 2016, USA, Chicago Premiere

“Young outcast Sean has isolated himself in a trailer in the woods, setting out on alchemical pursuits, with his cat Kaspar as his sole companion. Filled with disdain for authority, he’s fled the daily grind and holed up in the wilderness, escaping a society that has no place for him. But when he turns from chemistry to black magic to crack nature’s secret, things go awry and he awakens something far more sinister and dangerous.” — JP
VEXING to the Mind, HEAVENLY on the Palate