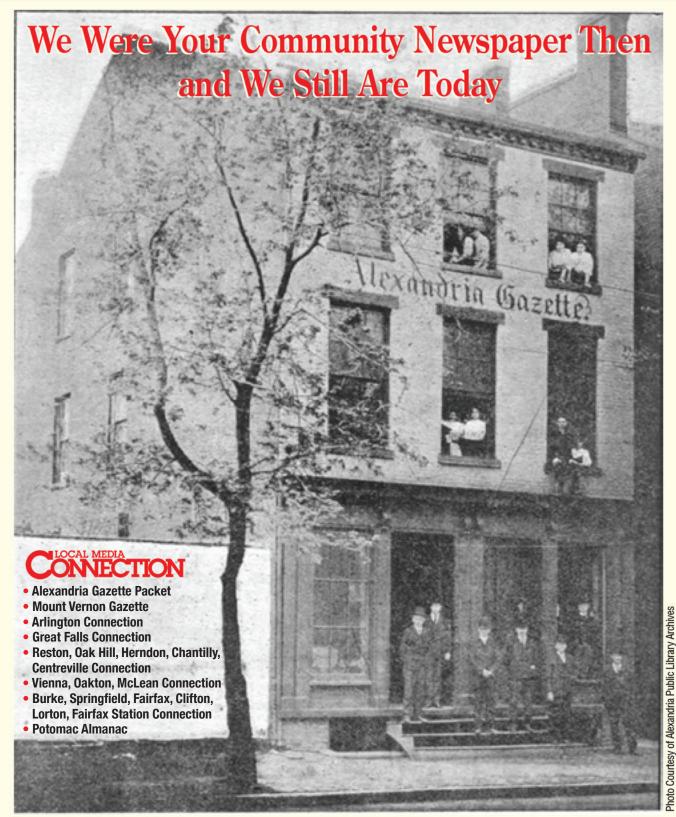


ALEXFILMFEST.COM I #ALEXFILMFEST



The Alexandria Gazette was established in 1784. This Alexandria Gazette building was located at 317 King Street. Today that space is part of the block that houses Alexandria Market Square and City Hall.

Alexandria Gazette Hacket

For more information, call: 703-778-9431 www.AlexandriaGazette.com Gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Welcome to the 2022 Alexandria Film Festival!



Film lovers, welcome to the 16th annual Alexandria Film Festival. We are thrilled to be back in person for this three-day celebration of the visual arts in November—Movie Magic Month!

This year we are screening more than 50 films from around the world—including countries from Australia to Saudi Arabia. As with every year, our festival features the work of many filmmakers in and around the D.C. metro area. As an all-volunteer organization, we've worked very hard to construct a program that will delight all cinephiles. We relish the opportunity to offer our audiences a feast of new ideas, beautiful cinematography, cultural exploration and a chance to engage in the civil discussion that underpins the vibrant democracy we all enjoy.

This festival is not possible without you, and we thank you for sharing your passion for independent films with us.

We also thank our very generous sponsors and loyal volunteers who literally make the festival happen every year.

Enjoy celebrating independents!



Dara Sanders, Chair

ON THE COVER: PAINTING BY MARK MANDOLIA





"Alexandria's Leading Source of Local News"



2022 FESTIVAL PROGRAM

SCREENING #1

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 1 Noon-3 p.m.

Nostalgia

DANCE OF LIFE

9 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Tom O'Brien

After years as a world-renowned ballerina and choreographer, Alice Meadow retires and takes up painting. One day her palette is empty of color, and she revisits her life to regain her passion.

PEN PALS

5 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Parker Lombardo

On a languid, sleepless, quarantine night, two friends, bittersweet with nostalgia for a time less isolated, tell stories about their childhood, and wonder what the future might hold.

Q&A with Parker Lombardo

HER MAGNUM OPUS

60 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Marta Renzi

A circle of friends gather to celebrate their mentor and learn that what lasts are those you leave behind.

FLOWING HOME

14 minutes, Animation, Short, Canada/France

Filmmaker: Sandra Desmazières

Two sisters grow up in Vietnam and are separated by the war between North and South. But their separation will last nearly 20 years, and the letters they exchange are their only way to connect and relieve their loneliness.

BE MOVED

54 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA Filmmaker: Jane Pitman

D.C. PREMIERE

The documentary tells the story of the Choreographers Collaboration Project (CCP), a modern dance company based in Alexandria. The story explores a broader narrative about the arts, specifically how a small local dance company can strengthen, build, and create a community that can last a lifetime.

Q&A with Jane Pitman

Schedule subject to change without notice. The Lyceum screenings are free of charge. For all other events, tickets are available on AlexFilmFest.com. "Salute to Service Members Showcase" is free of charge to veterans, active duty personnel and one guest.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 2 Noon-3 p.m.

The American Experience

WHAT'S THE MARK?

14 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Stacey Larkins

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

Through the lens of an actress unintentionally involved in a controversial commercial, the film explores the power of media and advertisements in influencing public opinion and the perpetuation of stereotypes and their effects.

THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST

58 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Tayo Giwa

This documentary chronicles the birth, rise and legacy of The East, a pan-African cultural organization founded in 1969 by teens and young adults in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

ONE PINT AT A TIME

 $88 \ minutes, \ Nonfiction, \ Feature, \ USA$

Filmmaker: Aaron Hose

Today, Black-owned breweries make up less than 1% of the nearly 9,000 breweries in operation. Eager to shift the historical perception of who makes and drinks beer, Black brewers, brand owners, and influencers across the country are reshaping the craft beer industry and the future of America's favorite adult beverage.

SCREENING #3

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 1 3:30-6 p.m.

The Dark Side

SECOND HAND

14 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Omar Juarez

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

An old mirror bears more than self-reflection, and waits for it's magical secrets to be revealed.

VAGABOND

12 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: JC Andreu

Vincent is a French international student coming to the U.S. for his studies. As his plane lands, he panics, fearing to have lost his passport. This anxiety stays with him as he encounters Customs. He is subsequently taken away for interrogation, and learns things are not always what they seem.

LILITH: NPK

12 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Elisabeth White

A young freelance journalist on her first assignment thinks she's just going to interview a weird old lady about her crazy flower, the Dead Horse Arum, which, when it blooms, smells like a rotting corpse. She's wrong. Dead wrong.

Q&A with Elisabeth White

FRANTIC

11 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Gabriel Heckel

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

A young woman suspects someone is after her while house sitting for a stranger.

Q&A with Gabriel Heckel

THIS VAST AND MYSTERIOUS OCEAN

20 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: John Bergstrom

Jason returns from distant places unknown to find his home in ruins, his wife Leah disturbed, and his daughter Chloe missing. He searches desperately for a way to return his family to the life they once knew, but his spiraling descent is illuminated only by fractured memories of a drive to the ocean, where he and Leah fell in love a very long time ago.

Q&A with John Bergstrom

THE TELL-TALE PLANT

8 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Joe Dzikiewicz

VIRGINIA PREMIERE

This Edgar Allan Poe-style story is about a woman and her unusual relationship with her pet plant.

Q&A with Joe Dzikiewicz

KAIJUBURBIA!

12 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmakers: Bailey Oliver, Nathan Henry

A rookie kaiju's plans for devastation and destruction are jeopardized after getting lost in the suburbs on his way to the big city, where he must deal with the most heinous monster of all: the HOA!

Q&A with Bailey Oliver, Nathan Henry



"An essential element of any art is risk. If you don't take a risk then how are you going to make something really beautiful, that hasn't been seen before?"

—Francis Ford Coppola

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 2 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Salute to Service Members Showcase

FREE to veterans and active duty personnel and one guest

TO BE FORGOTTEN

9 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Jorge Alvarez

A U.S. Army veteran who spent his entire youth in the military has now fallen on hard times living on the streets of New York City, without a home or a dollar to his name. Once patrolling the deserts of the Middle East with his fellow soldiers, he is now wandering the city streets alone, looking for his next meal.

SENTINEL: INSIDE A SACRED DUTY

34 minutes, Nonfiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Phil Garrison

An elite group of U.S. Army soldiers guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. They keep watch all day, everyday, without fail. They are human representations of dignity and honor. This documentary takes an inside look at the special people, past and present, who carry out this sacred duty.

Q&A with Phil Garrison

ONE OLD, ONE YOUNG

4 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Jeffrey N. Johnson

D.C. PREMIERE

The old did not speak of the war. The young did not understand it.

Q&A with Jeffrey N. Johnson

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

88 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Tom Donahue

The documentary takes aim at understanding war trauma by exploring the stories of four struggling Iraq War veterans. Candid interviews with top military and civilian leaders reveal the failed mental health policies within the U.S. military and the deadly consequences to the troops.

Q&A with Tom Donahue and Ilan Arboleda, producer

SCREENING #5

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 1 7-9:30 p.m.

Women on the Move

GUEST HOUSE

75 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA Filmmakers: Hannah Dweck, Yael Luttwak

The documentary follows the stories of three women in an Alexandria, Virginia re-entry house as they attempt to acclimate to life after being released from incarceration and battling addiction.

Q&A with Hannah Dweck and Yael Luttwak

| 6 | | 7 |

TILLIE'S GREAT ESCAPE

11 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Kate Kelsen

All hell breaks loose when a rebellious 75-year old woman, fed up with COVID quarantine and her bossy daughter, takes matters into her own hands.

Q&A with Kate Kelsen and Rodney Reyes, producer

OH MOTHER OF MINE

25 minutes, Nonfiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Anna Rawls

The documentary explores the systemic barriers mothers face in the carceral state, the generational impact left by their incarceration, and the healing that continues for mother and daughter even after their release.

Q&A with Anna Rawls

SCREENING #6

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 2 7–10 p.m.

Love and Desire

METEROIC

18 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Philip Sedgwick

EAST COAST PREMIERE

When two couples simultaneously discover a meteorite landing site, the claim to the celestial object becomes a battle of wits, gender, and a declaration of true desire.

Q&A with Christina July Kim, producer

A LONE STAR LOVE

24 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Ben Meyers

D.C. PREMIERE

David, an Irish national, makes his new home in Austin, Texas, with the help of a social media android named Viva. When he meets Texas native, Layla, he must choose between his synthetic companion and a lone star love.

JUST LET ME GO

93 minutes, Fiction, Feature, Portugal, Subtitles in

English

Filmmaker: Luis Diogo

Ricardo and Ana are a couple chosen to be the subject of a documentary about loving relationships. What nobody knows is that Ricardo wants to leave Ana, but hasn't had the courage to do so. The documentary forces him to face this reality and, in his search for answers, he involves three very close friends who share different views about what he should do.

PASSCODE

12 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Harish Chatrathi

A freelance software developer discovers he holds a fortune in cryptocurrency on a hard drive. To his dismay, he cannot remember his crypto passcode, and so he sets off to find it in this Kafka-esque dark comedy set in Washington D.C.

Q&A with Harish Chatrathi

SCREENING #7

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 1 Noon-3 p.m.

Foreign Films

FLOWING HOME

14 minutes, Animation, Short, Canada/France Filmmaker: Sandra Desmazières

D.C. PREMIERE

Two sisters grow up in Vietnam and are separated by the war between North and South. But their separation will last nearly 20 years, and the letters they exchange are their only way to connect and relieve their loneliness.

CHLORINE

17 minutes, Fiction, Short, Australia Filmmaker: Melissa Anastasia

D.C. PREMIERE

A neglected young girl steals from pregnant women at the local swimming pool, buying her the attention she desperately craves.

KALKIDANE

88 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, Ethiopia/France, Subtitles in English

Filmmaker: Hugo Lemant

Kalkidane, of Ethiopian origin, was adopted at the age of five by a French family. Thirteen years later, she finds her biological father through social networks and decides, with her parents and her French brother, also the film's director, to embark on an initiated journey in search of the first piece of the puzzle of her life.

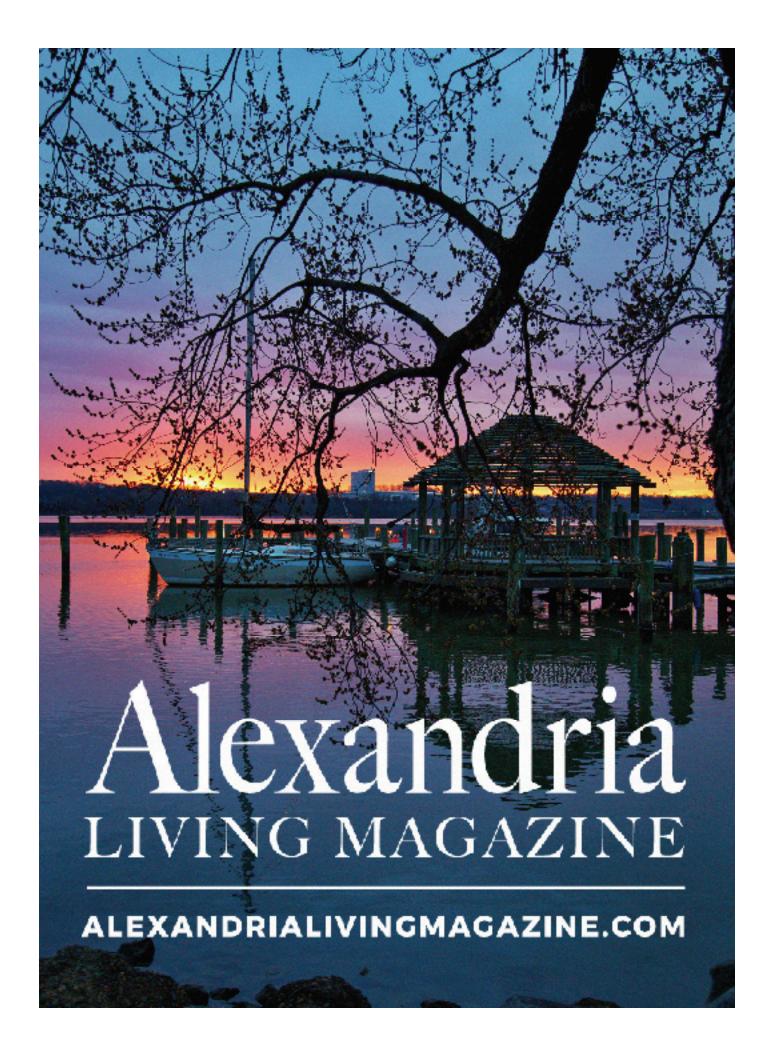




Law Office of DEBORAH G. MATTHEWS

Deborah G. Matthews

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 2 Noon-3:30 p.m.

Men and Masculinity

AARON WITH TWO A'S

17 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Michael Goldburg

Aaron starts his second career at age 65 as an actor, but when he finally manages to land a major role, he discovers he's his own worst enemy as his inner doubts threaten to derail his lifelong dream and his marriage.

Q&A with Michael Goldburg and Steve Lichenstein, writer and producer

LOOSE CHANGE

8 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Andrew Bateman

A man-child sets off to buy a new cage for his beloved hamster, but is enticed into a world of hedonism. He must become resourceful to make ends meet.

Q&A with Andrew Bateman

RENT-A-FRIEND

30 minutes, Nonfiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Carson Tappan

In 1986, a novelty VHS tape titled Rent-A-Friend introduced the world to friendship on demand. Over 30 years later, the man behind the tape reflects on the experiment and his own personal views on friendship.

CAT DADDIES

89 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA Filmmaker: Mye Hoang

D.C. PREMIERE

A heartwarming and tender portrait of a diverse group of men whose lives are forever changed by their love of cats. The film explores the varying degrees of pressure these men feel from societal expectations of what masculinity means, namely that bonding with cats is an inherently feminine trait.

RUSTLING

9 minutes, Fiction, Short, New Zealand Filmmaker: Tom Furniss

D.C. PREMIERE

In a family of sheep rustlers, a 15-year-old boy must go up against his domineering father in order to help his younger brother keep the baby lamb left orphaned by their latest slaughter.

THANK YOU

5 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Mike Kravinsky

What if you learned you would be famous in the future?

Q&A with Mike Kravinsky

CABARRUS

9 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Andrew Huggins

Set in a trailer park in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, the film delves into the misfortune of two brothers and their ailing mother while exploring themes of addiction, poverty, illness, and criminality.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 1 3:30-7 p.m.

Before and After Tragedy

HITLER'S OLYMPICS: THE DEBATE OF 1936

19 minutes, Nonfiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Julia Hocker

D.C. PREMIERE

Before the Berlin Olympics of 1936, many U.S. sports authorities and political leaders debated whether the United States should attend Hitler's Olympics. This is the story of their debate.

Q&A with Julia Hocker

THREE MINUTES: A LENGTHENING

69 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Bianca Stigter

D.C. PREMIERE

The story starts with only three minutes of footage—and unravels the mystery of a home movie shot by David Kurtz in 1938—showing images of the Jewish inhabitants of Nasielsk (Poland) before the beginning of the Shoah.

Q&A with Leslie Swift, U.S. Holocaust Museum

REPAIRING THE WORLD: STORIES FROM THE TREE OF LIFE

81 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA Filmmaker: Patrice O'Neill

The film documents Pittsburgh's powerful community response to hate in the aftermath of the deadliest

anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history. Through the voices of survivors, family members, diverse Pittsburgh residents, and leaders, the film shows unity in a moment of crisis, the resilience of a vibrant city, and a community working together to understand what it means to be "stronger than hate."

Q&A with Patrice O'Neill

SCREENING #10

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 2 4–7:30 p.m.

Battles Won and Lost

BATTLEGROUND

105 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA Filmmaker: Cynthia Lowen

D.C. PREMIERE

A timely window into the intersection of abortion and politics in America, the film follows three women who lead formidable anti-abortion organizations to witness the influence they wield. As the nation faces the end of Roe, the film also depicts those on the front lines of the fierce fight to maintain access.

BARRY FARM: COMMUNITY, LAND, AND JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

50 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA Filmmakers: Sabiyha Prince, Samuel George

Explore the history of Barry Farm, the subsequent displacement of its Black residents, and their ongoing push for justice.

Q&A with Sabiyah Prince and Samuel George

GOODBYE TO ALL CATS

54 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA, New Zealand Filmmakers: Susan Bloom, Caleigh Waldman

The human-cat love story persists amidst a movement to eradicate cats in New Zealand.

SCREENING #11

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 1 7:30–11 p.m.

Behind the Camera

BRAINWASHED: SEX-CAMERA-POWER

107 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Nina Menkes

A striking cinematic essay on the gendered nature of film language, the documentary incorporates 175 clips from celebrated films exploring a simple notion about who gets looked at on screen, and who does the looking. Premiered at Sundance 2022.

Q&A with Maria Giese, producer

EXPERIMENTAL CURATOR: THE SALLY DIXON STORY

60 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Brigid Maher

Experimental film curator Sally Dixon is known as a trailblazer in the "film as art" movement. She promoted a greater understanding and appreciation of film as an art form and the filmmaker as an artist.

Q&A with Brigid Maher

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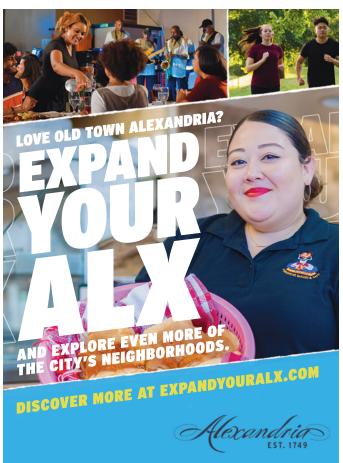
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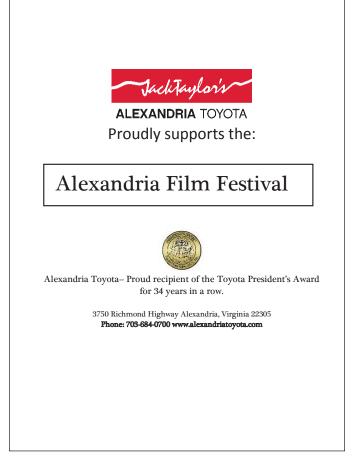




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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

AMC Hoffman Center 22 Theater 2 8–10:30 p.m.

Portraits

THE SPLIT

14 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Laura Lewis-Barr

Amy and Sam split up as the U.S. splits into two nations.

SPRING BREAK ON THE UKRANIAN BORDER

18 minutes, Nonfiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: June Musurlian

Emmy-winning journalist Peter Musurlian joins his 17-yearold daughter June Musurlian for a spring break reporting trip to Ukraine's border with Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland.

Q&A with June Musurlian

IMAGE OF AN AMERICAN: FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE

18 minutes, Nonfiction, Short, USA

Filmmakers: Ann Hartley and Jesse Eastman

This film explores Frederick Douglass' journey to ensure African-Americans have the right to vote through the creation of the Fifteenth Amendment.

Q&A with Jesse Eastman

THE PREACHER/EL REZADOR

93 minutes, Fiction, Feature, Ecuador/Columbia/Spain, Subtitles in English

Filmmaker: Tito Jara

D.C. PREMIERE

A cynical swindler uses a girl, who they say has visions of the Virgin Mary and whom many consider miraculous, for his economic benefit. Together with the parents of the "Blessed one," they will generate a business so large and lucrative that inevitably it will spin out of their hands.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

The Lyceum 1–5 p.m.

Family Showcase

FREE

COMMISSIONER GORDON: OH SNAP

3 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA Filmmaker: Sean Michael Danganan

Discover how far one dog is willing to go for the love of his life.

HITLER'S OLYMPICS: THE DEBATE OF 1936

19 minutes, Nonfiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Julia Hocker

D.C. PREMIERE

Before the Berlin Olympics of 1936, many U.S. sports authorities and political leaders debated whether the United States should attend Hitler's Olympics. This is the story of their debate.

Q&A with Julia Hocker

| 14 | | | 15 |

MIDAS

4 minutes, Animation, Short, USA Filmmakers: Ben Meyer, Mav Vitale, Lisa Qingyi Liu

The story follows the King, as his daughter, Marigold, desperately attempts to get him to see past his boundless greed—until Dionysus makes his godly entrance, bestowing upon the old king the ability to turn anything he touches to gold, and to chase his greed evermore.

Q&A with Ben Myer

MUSHER

70 minutes, Nonfiction, Feature, USA Filmmakers: Laurie Little, Anuradha Rana

Musher peels back the veil behind the bond that four women have between their dogs and the world of sleddog racing. As each woman prepares for the Copperdog annual race, we reveal the intimate insight into the mushing community, devotion to that lifestyle, and how women influence the sport.

CANARY

12 minutes, Animation, Short, Canada Filmmakers: PH Dallaire, Ben Therriault

D.C. PREMIERE

In 1922, a young boy named Sonny works in an underground coal mine with a group of adult miners. He takes care of the caged canary which the men use to detect deadly methane gas. The boy and the bird trick the miners but it leads to a tragedy he may never recover from.

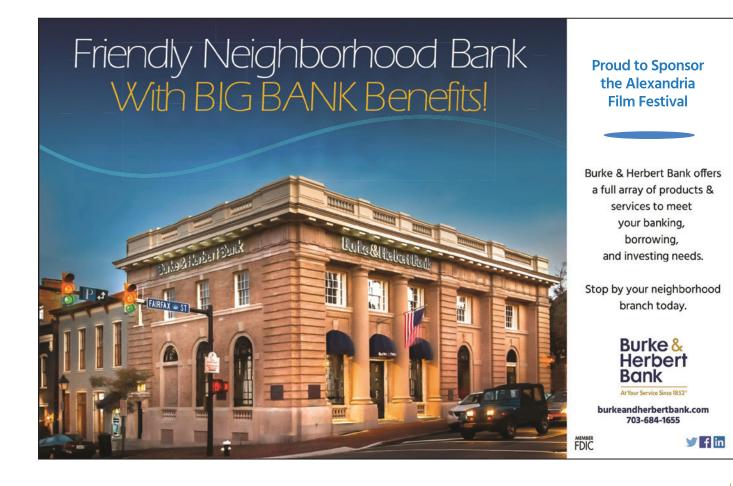


Old Town Crier From the Bay to the Blue Ridge



Three cheers to independent media of all stripes!

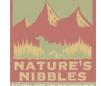
Best wishes for a successful film festival!









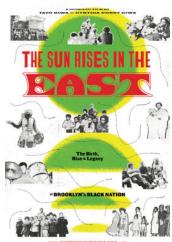


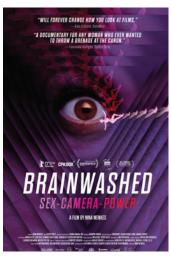
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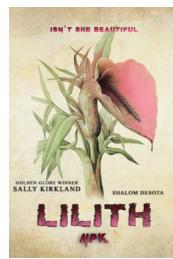
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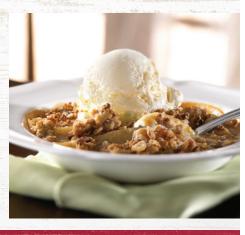


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