

52 films • 35 countries • 10 days • 1 amazing film festival

Filmfest DC is the largest and longest running film festival in Washington, DC. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Filmfest DC will be virtual, allowing you to enjoy these remarkable films from the comfort of your own home. Enjoy your private screening!

Festival Guide

Our films will be presented in two sections. Films in Section 1 will be available for viewing from October 2nd through October 6th. Films in Section 2 will be available from October 7th through October 11th.

Tickets

General admission is \$9.00 per film. A ten-ticket Director's Pass is available for \$70.00 (\$90.00 value). Visit **filmfestdc.org** to select the films you would like to see and make your purchase. There are a limited number of tickets available for each film.

For complete details, ticket information, and updates on Filmfest DC, please visit filmfestdc.org



ORDINARY HAPPINESS

Daniele Luchetti • *Italy, 2019, 93 minutes*

In this humorous contemplation on life, bumbling Paolo passes away after being hit by a car and is catapulted into an afterlife that resembles a crowded post office. Paolo receives the good news that he is entitled to another 92 minutes of life. As he reflects on both the profound and insignificant moments of his existence, he discovers what really shapes our daily lives, our relationships, and who we are.—Various sources

In Italian with English subtitles

Available October 2 – 6



OPENING FILM

CLOSING FILM



PERFUMES

Grégory Magne • France, 2019, 100 minutes

Perfumes delicately treads the line between comedy and social realism as filmmaker Grégory Magne uses the right blend of ingredients to craft an enchanting story about the budding friendship between Guillaume, a professional chauffeur trying to gain custody of his daughter, and the haughty Anne Walberg, a master perfumer having trouble with her sense of smell. Call this charmingly fragrant French drama Driving Mademoiselle D'Aisy.—Various sources

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Available October 7 – 11

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

MAJOR SPONSORS











OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

SPONSORS















OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF

Visit **filmfestdc.org** to purchase tickets

In Arabic with English subtitles Available October 7 – 11



1982

Oualid Mouaness • USA/Lebanon/Norway/Qatar, 2019, 100 minutes

In June 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon, which was already reeling from civil war. At a private school on the outskirts of Beirut, as the geopolitical conflict inches closer, it's hard for a dreamer like 11-year-old Wissam to comprehend the gravity of the impending violence. His teachers, Yesmine and Joseph, try to mask their growing fears and hide fractures in their relationship as they

fall on different sides of the political divide.—Toronto International Film

Co-presented with

Middle

ARABIAN SIGHTS

BANKSY MOST WANTED

Aurélia Rouvier and Seamus Haley • France, 2020, 90 minutes

Banksy is the Robin Hood of the art world, stenciling politically poignant, deceptively charming pictures illegally in public spaces in broad daylight. Never seen in action, Banksy embodies the contradictions of being famous for being anonymous, accessible for being inaccessible. This documentary includes unabashed villains, the collectors who kidnap Banksy works by extracting the walls they appear on, and unassuming heroes, like the townsfolk who demand, "Return our Banksy!" and get it back.—Judy Bloch

IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Available October 2 – 6



BEASTS CLAWING AT STRAWS

Kim Yong-hoon • South Korea, 2020, 108 minutes

In this highly original debut thriller by writer-director Kim Yong-hoon, a Louis Vuitton bag filled with cash brings together a colorful band of strangers in hot pursuit. Popular actor Jung Woo-sung plays a hapless customs officer in the grip of an outstanding debt to gangland sharks; Korean superstar Jeon Do-yeon is his girlfriend and his foil. Kim intricately entwines the many characters and employs Elmore Leonard-style twists on the best of yakuza-type plotting.—Judy Bloch

In Korean with English subtitles

vailable October 2 – 6

Co-presented with



Korean Cultural Center Washington, D.C. 워싱턴한국문화원

TRUST NO ONE



BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Najwa Najjar • Palestine/Iceland/Luxembourg, 2019, 93 minutes

In this complex and enthralling weave of road movie, love story, and mystery, a middle-class Palestinian couple, Salma (Mouna Hawa) and Tamer (Firas Nassar), drive from their West Bank home to Nazareth, in Israel, to file the necessary paperwork for a divorce and find themselves chasing a history they didn't know they had. Their journey reveals the emotional and moral compromises a lover, a village, and a state can make to survive.—Judy Bloch

In Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles

Available October 2 – 6

Co-presented with

The Jerusalem Fund

GLOBAL RHYTHMS: ON THE RECORD



BILLIE

James Erskine • UK, 2019, 96 minutes

Billie Holiday is considered one of the greatest singers ever; however, her troubled life remains swathed in myth. In the 1970s, as research for a never-completed biography, journalist Linda Kuehl began audiotaping hundreds of hours of interviews with Holiday's associates in the jazz world, family, and even the narcotics agent who arrested her. Via this must-see documentary, these interviews are publicly presented for the first time and reveal new details about Holiday's life.—Cornelius Moore

Available October 2 – 6



BYE BYE MR. ETXEBESTE!

Asier Altuna and Telmo Esnal • Spain, 2019, 100 minutes

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

In this unsparing satire on gender relations and small-town realpolitik, Mayor Etxebeste has every reason to fear he is next as embezzlement scandals hit nearby towns. His search for a stand-in takes him no further than his wife, Maria Luisa. With ML in charge, things in the moribund town start to change but even a clean sweep kicks up dust. Basque directors Altuna and Esnal show how droll everyday corruption can be.—Judy Bloch

IN BASQUE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Available October 2 – 6

THE CAPOTE TAPES

Ebs Burnough • USA, 2019, 96 minutes

This remarkable look at acclaimed author Truman Capote and the mid-century New York high society he chronicled and lived in offers surprises and insights into what commentator Lewis Lapham calls "the beginning of celebrity culture." The film draws on taped interviews done by George Plimpton after Capote's death. We hear from Capote confidantes and foes including Lauren Bacall, Norman Mailer, and William F. Buckley, and the reclusive Harper Lee makes a brief appearance.—Dave Nuttycombe

Available October 7 – 11



THE CHAMPION

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Leonardo D'Agostini • Italy, 2019, 100 minutes

When rebellious Italian soccer star Christian Ferro can't stay out of trouble off the field, he is ordered to earn his diploma or be cut from the team. Valerio, the professor hired to tutor Christian, doesn't realize his client is so famous. Valerio grapples with his own troubles as he and Christian learn the value of teamwork and find that the path to redemption doesn't always fly as straight as a soccer ball.—Dave Nuttycombe

In Italian with English subtitles

Available October 7 – 11

Co-presented with





CHUCK BERRY: GLOBAL RH THE ORIGINAL KING OF ROCK 'N' ROLL

GLOBAL RHYTHMS: ON THE RECORD

Jon Brewer • England, 2019, 99 minutes

In songs like "Johnny B. Goode" and "No Particular Place to Go," Chuck Berry was an American storyteller, and his own story is as indispensable to America's as blues is to rock 'n' roll. Through this film's access to Berry's family and musicians who revere him as a guitarist of unmatched agility, we see how Berry rose from the segregated South of the 1950s to become the original King of Rock 'n' Roll.

—Judy Bloch

Available October 2 – 6



COUP 53

JUSTICE MATTERS

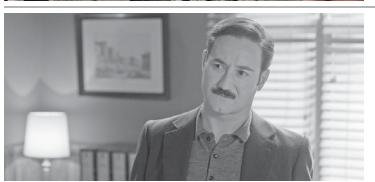
Taghi Amirani • UK/Iran/USA, 2019, 119 minutes

Summer 1953 saw the overthrow of Iranian prime minister Dr. Mohammad Mosaddegh and the installation of the dreaded Shah. Oil was the game. Although the United States took credit for the coup, Britain never officially acknowledged its role. Taghi Amirani and editor—co-writer Walter Murch reveal new evidence, including the transcript of a mysteriously excised BBC interview with Norman Darbyshire, MI6's head of the Iran station. Ralph Feinnes, playing Darbyshire, spills the beans.—Judy Bloch

In English, Persian, Italian, and French with English subtitles

José Luis Garci • Spain, 2019, 122 minutes

Available October 2 – 6



THE CRACK: INCEPTION

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
TRUST NO ONE

"When a crime goes unpunished, the world gets darker," says a character in the third of José Luis Garci's noir films exploring the hard-boiled life of Germán Areta. His latest case involves a hard-partying tailor with a penchant for high-stakes poker. Many people had reason to want the tailor dead. Areta weaves determinately through a gorgeously rendered black-and-white landscape filled with sinewy cigarette smoke as the film pays homage to Hollywood noir classics.—Dave Nuttycombe

In Spanish with English subtitles

Available October 7 – 11



THE CURSE OF THE HANDSOME MAN

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Beda Docampo Feijóo • Spain, 2020, 90 minutes

This elegant and mischievous comedy follows Humberto, a lifelong trickster and seducer who is now living a quiet life in Madrid after having served time in prison for a scam that cost him his relationship with his son, Jorge, whom he hasn't spoken to in years. One day, Jorge, an honest, hardworking man, finds himself with no other choice than to ask his estranged father for help.—*Various sources*

In Spanish with English subtitles

vailable October 2 – 6

Co-presented with





THE HEIST OF THE CENTURY

Ariel Winograd • Argentina, 2020, 114 minutes

In this box-office hit thriller/comedy adaptation of what has been dubbed "the heist of the century," Argentine director Ariel Winograd chronicles with remarkable detail one of the most spectacular robberies in criminal history. When the all-star crew of thieves pulled off the caper of the century, it made them more than a fortune—it made them folk heroes. Fernando Araujo, the man who orchestrated the intricate hold-up, co-wrote the film's script.—*Various sources*

In Spanish with English subtitles

Available October 7 - 11



JUST 6.5

TRUST NO ONE

Saeed Roustaee • Iran, 2019, 135 minutes

In Tehran, the hunt for fabled drug kingpin Nasser Khaksad is led by detective Samad; his team rounds up crack addicts by the horde, interrogates families of small-time dealers, and fills teeming jail cells with the usual suspects. The mythical Khaksad doesn't seem to exist—until, suddenly, he does. The commanding actor Navid Mohammadzadeh's portrayal of this criminal's wily intelligence and faltering humanity has garnered well-deserved praise.—Judy Bloch

IN FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Available October 7 – 11



LA LLORONA

JUSTICE MATTERS

Jayro Bustamante • Guatemala, 2019, 97 minutes

Jayro Bustamante weaves magical realism into Guatemalan politics to tweak the ghost story based on a figure in Latin American lore: La Llorona, destined to weep eternally for her children who died by her own hand. An aging general's genocide trial becomes a revelation for his family and a test of will for the indigenous Mayan-Ixil protestors camped at their gate. Enter Alma, the new maid. Through her, the past haunts the present.—Judy Bloch

In Spanish, Mayan-Kaqchikel, and Mayan-Ixil with English subtitles

Available October 7 – 11



LOVE SARAH

Eliza Schroeder • United Kingdom, 2020, 97 minutes

This delicious dramady will delight fans of tasty baked goods and juicy family secrets. When star baker Sarah dies unexpectedly, plans to open a bakery with her best friend are thrown into chaos. The repercussions also affect Sarah's daughter, Clarissa, who convinces everyone to come together to restart the business. Enter Sarah's ex-boyfriend, Matthew, himself a rising chef, stirring the pot. Can everyone stand the heat from both the kitchen and each other?—Dave Nuttycombe

In German with English subtitles

Available October 2 – 6



MADE IN BANGLADESH

Rubaiyat Hossain • France/Bangladesh/Denmark/Portugal, 2019, 95 minutes

In the busy metropolis of Dhaka, Shimu supports her unemployed husband by working as a seamstress in a garment factory. Shaken by the management's casual lack of accountability after a fire kills a colleague, Shimu connects with local feminist organizers and a quiet revolution begins to build. Hossain's film is a nuanced and quietly rousing portrait of the pleasures, possibilities, and limitations of collective liberation and feminist solidarity.—*BFI London Film Festival*

In English and Bengali with English subtitles

Available October 2 – 6



MASTER CHENG

Mika Kaurismäki • Finland/UK/China, 2019, 114 minutes

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
AMERICAN PREMIERE

If it's a life-affirming film you're needing, then Master Cheng might be just the ticket. In veteran Finnish director Mika Kaurismäki's heartwarming, fish-out-of-water tale, professional chef Cheng travels with his young son to a remote village in Finland to connect with an old Finnish friend he once met in Shanghai. Cheng is soon a celebrated member of the community. Unfortunately, his tourist visa is soon to run out and it's up to the villagers to come up with a plan to help him stay.—*Various sources*

In English and Finnish with English subtitles

Available October 7 – 11

4 34th Annual Filmfest DC FilmfestDC.org

MÁXIMA Claudia Sparrow • USA/Peru, 2019, 88 minutes

In Peru's northeastern highlands, the Yanacocha open-pit gold mine has already poisoned the waters for miles, but the American-owned Newmont Mining Corp. wants to branch out with the new Conga Mine. It has one obstacle. She is Máxima Acuña, a subsistence farmer who refuses to leave and who has taken the case for her land and its habitat all the way to D.C., eventually winning the 2016 Goldman Environmental Prize.—Judy Bloch

In Spanish and English with English subtitles

vailable October 7 – 11



THE LIGHTER SIDE

JUSTICE MATTERS

Caroline Vignal • France, 2020, 97 minutes

Antoinette is a school teacher passionately involved with the married father of one of her students. When her lover cancels their plans for a romantic tryst to vacation with his wife on a multi-day hike, Antoinette makes a rash decision: she will make her own way to the mountains and surprise him on the trail. An official selection for Cannes 2020, this delightful movie blends life lessons, romance, insight, and scenery.—Vancouver International Film Festival

In French with English subtitles

Available October 7 – 11



NOURA'S DREAM

ARABIAN SIGHTS

Hinde Boujemaa • Tunisia/Belgium/France/Qatar, 2019, 92 minutes

Noura works in a hospital laundry room. While her husband does time, she falls in love with someone else. Noura wants a divorce, but this is no simple matter. The potential for domestic cruelty as payback for female desire threatens as heavily as the possible 5-year prison sentence for adultery. Unlike everyone in Noura's life, director Boujemaa doesn't make an example of her; she is telling her story, beautifully and directly.—Judy Bloch

IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Available October 2 – 6



OUR LADY OF THE NILE

Atiq Rahimi • France/Belgium/Rwanda, 2019, 93 minutes

Set in 1973, this immersive coming-of-age portrait follows several Rwandan girls at a Belgian-run Catholic boarding school, taking inspiration from true events that foreshadowed the 1994 genocide during the Rwandan Civil War. Many of the girls belong to elite families while others hold less privilege; further division is sown by ballooning anti-Tutsi rhetoric under existing Hutu rule, all flanked by typical adolescent mischief and curiosity that has much higher stakes.—Toronto International Film Festival

In French and Kinyarwanda with English subtitles

vailable October 7 – 11



THE PERFECT PATIENT

TRUST NO ONE

Mikael Håfström • Sweden, 2019, 122 minutes

Based on true events, *The Perfect Patient* is gripping Nordic noir. Thomas Quick is the most notorious serial killer ever convicted in Sweden. Years into his life sentence at a psychiatric prison his life is changed by Hannes Råstam, a prize-winning investigative reporter examining police and the Swedish justice system, who questions Quick's guilt. Director Mikael Håfström carefully lays out the pieces of the puzzle.—Palm Springs International Film Festival

In Swedish with English subtitles

Available October 2 – 6



PUREZA

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Renato Barbieri • Brazil, 2019, 101 minutes

While searching for her missing son, Pureza hires on as a cook for a team of agricultural workers in the Amazon and uncovers a sophisticated slave network. With a canniness born of desperation, she spies on the bosses and secretly feeds the workers. The film is based on the experiences of a woman who confronted a nation's corrupt labor ministry and whose actions led to some 50,000 enslaved Brazilian workers being freed —Judy Bloch

In Portuguese with English subtitles

Available October 2 – 6



RESISTERHOOD

Cheryl Jacobs Crim • USA, 2020, 96 minutes

The mood of this documentary is joyous as it explores the avenues women take toward activism and catalogs the injustices that have brought about protests in the last 3 years. In focusing on the greatgranddaughter of a suffragette and the granddaughter of a slave, a young LGBTQ athlete, and an Egyptian-American grandmother running for city council, it suggests that ours is not a time out of joint but is part of a continuum.—Judy Bloch

Available October 2 – 6



ARABIAN SIGHTS

Mehdi M. Barsaoui • France/Tunisia/Lebanon/Qatar, 2019, 95 minutes

Fares Ben Youssef, his wife, Meriem, and their 11-year-old son, Aziz, are enjoying a sense of renewal and freedom after the Tunisian Revolution. One day, as they accidentally drive past a conflict between Islamic militants, a stray bullet hits Aziz. This film about a father whose entire world comes apart shrewdly casts 2006 Cannes Best Actor winner Sami Bouajila in the lead role as it probes questions of parenthood, masculinity, and personal ego.—Various sources

In Arabic and French with English subtitles

Available October 7 – 11



A SOUL JOURNEY

GLOBAL RHYTHMS: ON THE RECORD

Marco Della Fonte • Italy/UK, 2019, 75 minutes

When teenaged Graziano Uliani heard the music of Otis Redding, he was so captivated that he wanted to pay tribute. In a hillside town in Italy, Uliani organized the Porretta Soul Festival, which has been going strong for 30 years, attended by thousands from all over Europe. A Soul Journey presents exciting scenes from festival performances by Rufus Thomas, Solomon Burke, Sam Moore, Otis Clay, and the bawdy Sugar Pie DeSanto.—Cornelius Moore

In English and Italian with English subtitles

Available October 7 - 11

Co-presented with

italiano

SPIDER

Andrés Wood • Chile/Argentina/Brazil, 2019, 105 minutes

TRUST NO ONE

In this taut political thriller, the sudden reappearance of Gerardo, a revolutionary thought to have died during Chile's violent early-1970s revolution, shocks a powerful businesswoman, Inés, and her lawyer husband, Justo. And so Spider begins its frantic race along parallel storylines. We see the fevered and intense relationships between young Inés, Justo, and Gerardo while their older counterparts must deal with the consequences of their youthful idealism.—Dave Nuttycombe

In Spanish, German, and Haitian with English subtitles

Available October 2 – 6



THE SPY

TRUST NO ONE

ARABIAN SIGHTS

Jens Jonsson • *Norway/Belgium/Sweden, 2019, 100 minutes*

A war is underway, but glamorous Norwegian-Swedish star Sonja Wigert just wants "people to enjoy themselves." The Nazi officers occupying Norway are smitten with the adored actress. When Swedish intelligence agents try to recruit her as a spy, she's reluctant—until her father is arrested as part of the resistance. Sonja begins losing herself in the many roles she must play. The film is based on the life of the actual Sonja Wigert.—Dave Nuttycombe

In Norwegian, English, Swedish, and German with English subtitles

Available October 7 – 11



THIS IS NOT A MOVIE

Yung Chang • Canada/Germany, 2019, 106 minutes

If it's controversial to ask, "What is it about us that permits this to happen?" while reporting on blownout Homs, Syria, then the Beirut-based foreign correspondent for *The Independent*, Robert Fisk, is indeed controversial. Philosophical and articulate, Fisk is not about to let anyone define him. If watching a reporter dodge bullets is entertaining from a distance, Fisk wants you to know that all this—the violence, the suffering—is not a movie.—Judy Bloch

IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Available October 7 – 11

6 34th Annual Filmfest DC FilmfestDC.org

FilmfestDC.org

34th Annual Filmfest DC 7

THREE SUMMERS

Sandra Kogut • *Brazil/France 2019, 94 minutes*

If the working class and the ruling class changed positions, would the workers be just as resourceful? Are the rich in control only because of their money? In this blend of drama, comedy, and political commentary, comic actress Regina Casé provides an answer as Madá, the housekeeper-in-chief for a family's beach home in Copacabana. When kindly Edgar is jailed in a government crackdown, his family is paralyzed. Madá, however, doesn't skip a beat.—Miguel Pendás

In Portuguese with English subtitles

Available October 2 – 6



THE WEASEL'S TALE

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Juan José Campanella • Argentina/Spain, 2019, 129 minutes

There are many weasels in this devilishly witty tale of dark secrets and brutal honesty colliding with modern ambition. In a dilapidated country mansion, aging movie diva Mara spends her days mournfully re-watching her past triumphs while her housemates and her invalid husband and co-star banter dissolutely. When a bright young couple stumbles onto the property, Mara and her housemates are instantly suspicious of them and set out to expose their deception.—Dave Nuttycombe

In Spanish with English subtitles

Available October 7 - 11



WORKFORCE

David Zonana • Mexico, 2019, 82 minutes

After his brother falls to his death on a building site, Francisco pursues justice and revenge by secretly moving into the partially built house. When the owner mysteriously dies, Francisco invites the crew to join him. As more and more families move in, the film builds, almost Buñuel-like, on its contradictions between extreme wealth and extreme poverty; between idealized space and what happens when real people inhabit it; between aspiration and temptation.—Judy Bloch

In Spanish with English subtitles

Available October 7 – 11



YALDA, A NIGHT FOR FORGIVENESS

TRUST NO ONE

Massoud Bakhshi • Iran/France/Germany/Switzerland/Luxembourg, 2019, 89 minutes

Maryam is a young woman who has been sentenced to death for murdering her husband, Nasser. Iranian law allows the victim's family to forgive her and spare her life, so Maryam's fate will be decided by Nasser's daughter, Mona—on a popular televised reality show, in front of millions of viewers. Although Maryam and Mona are subject to Iran's profound patriarchy, they find agency, moral authority, and freedom within those confines.—Sundance Film Festival

In Farsi with English subtitles

Available October 2 – 6



METROSHORTS

Total Runtime: 91 minutes

Filmfest DC presents MetroShorts, showcasing works from some of our most exciting filmmakers in the Washington, DC metro area.

12 INGREDIENTS OVER THE GENERATIONS Sam Hampton • USA, 2019, 13 minutes, documentary

ALEX'S BIGGEST RACE

Julia Hoppock • USA, 2019, 14 minutes, documentary

THEY SAY I'M YOUR TEACHER
Catherine Murphy • USA, 2019, 9 minutes, documentary

THE RUNAWAYS

Dewey Ortiz, Jr. • USA, 2019, 22 minutes, narrative

DISPATCHES FROM THE VIETNAM WAR Keith Lane • USA, 2019, 4 minutes, animation

THE LIGHT IN PROVENCE

Mark Williams Hoelscher • USA, 2019, 16 minutes, documentary

THE FIRST
Mohammed Saffouri • USA, 2019, 14 minutes, documentary

Available October 2 – 6



SHORT CUTS

Total Runtime: 102 minutes

Maya Albanese • USA, 2020, 15 minutes, narrative

Natasha K. Ngaiza • USA, 2019, 16 minutes, narrative

DRIVING LESSONS

Marziyeh Riahi • Islamic Republic of Iran, 2019, 13 minutes, narrative

NO, I DON'T WANT TO DANCE!

Andrea Vinciguerra • UK, 2019, 3 minutes, animation **BLOCKS**

Bridget Moloney • USA, 2019, 11 minutes, narrative

A collection of new and diverse international shorts celebrating works by emerging filmmakers.

JOE & THE SHAWL Nicole Ballivian • USA, 2019, 11 minutes, narrative

Stenzin Tankong • India, 2019, 14 minutes, narrative

ACUITZERAMO

Miguel Ángel Caballero • USA/Mexico, 2019, 16 minutes, narrative

STATE OF GRACE Lourdes Portillo • USA, 2020, 4 minutes, animation

Available October 7 – 11