Welcome to the 34th Annual Washington, DC International Film Festival Your Virtual Private Screening

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

Filmdc is the largest and longest running film festival in Washington, DC. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s Filmdc 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.

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

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Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Opening Film

ORDINARY HAPPINESS

Daniele Luchetti • Italy, 2019, 99 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 French with English subtiles

Available October 2 – 6

Co-presented with

Galleries Group (US)

Closing Film

PERFUMES

Grégory Magne • France, 2019, 100 minutes

Perfumes delicately threads 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 Velking, a master perfumer having trouble with her sense of smell. Cut this charmingly fragrant French drama Dining Mademoiselle D’Ally—Various sources

In French with English subtiles

Available October 7 – 11

Co-presented with

The Jerusalem Fund

Tickets

Thank you, sponsors!
THE CAPOTE TAPES
Elia Burcham • 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 ran into them. We hear from Capote’s 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
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. Valerie 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
Available October 7 – 11

CHUCK BERRY: THE ORIGINAL KING OF ROCK ‘N’ ROLL
Jon Brewer • England, 2019, 99 minutes
“Johnny B. Good” and “His Particular Place to Go,” Chuck Berry was an American storyteller, and his own story is an indispensable to Americans as blues is to rock ’n’ roll. Through this first 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
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 deposed 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 Shielded BBC interview with Norman Dingley, MI6’s head of the Iran station. Ralph Feinnes, playing Dingley, spills the beans.—Judy Bloch
In English, Persian, French, and Persian with English subtitles
Co-presented with BFI London Film Festival
Available October 2 – 6

THE CRACK: INCEPTION
José Luis García • Spain, 2019, 122 minutes
“Crime is a crime, but organized crime darkens,” says a character in the third of José Luis García’s noir films exploring the hard-boiled life of German Ania. His latest involves a hunt-partying couple with a penchant for high-stakes poker. Many people had reason to want the tearded. Ania—brave, determinedly through a gorgeously rendered black-and-white landscape filled with sinister 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
Beda Dacampio Felipo • Spain, 2020, 80 minutes
This elegant and melancholy 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 Raquel. 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
Available October 2 – 6

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 heists 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, the man who orchestrated the intricate heist-up, co-wrote the film’s script.—Various sources
In Spanish with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

JUST 6.5
Saeed Roustaee • Iran, 2019, 135 minutes
In Tehran, the hunt for fabled drug kingpin Nasser Khakasad is led by detective Samed, his round up crack addicts by the hoarde, interrogates families of small-time dealers, and fills teeming jail cells with the usual suspects. The mythic Khakasad don’t seem to exist—until, suddenly, he does. The commanding actor Navid Mohammadzadeh’s portrayal of this criminal’s wily intelligence and survival humanity has garnered well-deserved praise.—Judy Bloch
In Farsi with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

LOVE SARAH
Eliza Schroeder • United Kingdom, 2020, 97 minutes
This deliciously sweet 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, Carina, who convinces everyone to come together to restart the business. Enter Sarah’s ex-boyfriend, Mathew, himself a rising chef, strong, the past haunts the present.—Judy Bloch
In German with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

MADE IN BANGLADESH
Rubayat Hossain • France/Bangladesh/Denmark/Portugal, 2019, 95 minutes
In the busy metropolis of Dhaka, Shima 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, Shima connects with local feminist organizers and a quiet revolution begins to build. Hossain’s film is a nuanced and quietly moving portrait of the pleasures, possibilities, and limitations of collective Bonafide and feminist solidarity.—BFI London Film Festival
In Bengali and English with English subtitles
Available October 2 – 6

MASTER CHENG
Mika Kaurismäki • Finland/China, 2019, 114 minutes
It’s a life-affirming film one is 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 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 Finnish and Finnish with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

LA LLORONA
Jayro Bustamante • Guatemala, 2019, 97 minutes
Jayro Bustamante weaves magical realism into Guatemalan politics to tweak the ghost story based on a fact in Latin American lore: La Llorona, destined to keep weeping 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 Alva, the new maid. Through her, the past haunts the present.—Judy Bloch
In Spanish, Mayan-Ixil, and Mayan-Kaqchikel with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

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In Bengali and English with English subtitles
Available October 2 – 6

THE LIGHTER SIDE
The CFR Post • October 7 – 11
Co-presented with GLOBAL RHYTHMS: ON THE RECORD

THE LIGHTER SIDE
The CFR Post • October 7 – 11
Co-presented with JUSTICE MATTERS

THE LIGHTER SIDE
The CFR Post • October 7 – 11
Co-presented with TRUST NO ONE

THE LIGHTER SIDE
The CFR Post • October 7 – 11
Co-presented with THE CHAMPION

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THE LIGHTER SIDE
The CFR Post • October 7 – 11
Co-presented with JUST 6.5
MÁXIMA
Claudia Sparrow • USA/Peru, 2019, 88 minutes
In Peru's northwestern highlands, the Yanacocha open-pit gold mine has already poisoned the waters for miles, but the American-owned Newmont Mining Co. wants to launch 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 inhabitants all the way to D.C., eventually winning the 2016 Goldman Environmental Prize.—Judy Blich

Available October 7 – 11

MY DONKEY, MY LOVER & I
Caroline Vignal • France, 2020, 97 minutes
Antoinette is a 6th grade 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
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 is the real risk. Director Boujemaa doesn’t make an example of her; she is telling her story, for female desire threatens as heavily as the possible 5-year prison sentence for adultery. Unlike the other films, the film is not about the justice system, who questions Quick’s guilt. Director Mikael Håfström carefully lays out the pieces of the puzzle.

In French with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

THE LIGHTER SIDE
TRUST NO ONE

OUR LADY OF THE NILE
Atiq Rahimi • France/Arg/Repub/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. The potential for domestic cruelty as payback is the real risk.

In French and Kinyarwanda with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

THE PERFECT PATIENT
Miklai 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 psychosis and the Swedish justice system, who questions Quick’s guilt. Director Miklai Håfström carefully lays out the pieces of the puzzle.—Falm Springs International Film Festival

In Swedish with English subtitles
Available October 2 – 6

PUREZA
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 unscovers a sophisticated slave network. With a carnal born of desperation, she spies on the bossies 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 Blich

In Portuguese with English subtitles
Available October 2 – 6

A SON
Mehdi Barasaou • France/Tunisia/Albania/Qatar, 2019, 95 minutes
Fare Ben Youssif, a father, and his 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 in an instant casts 2006 Cannes Best Actor winner Sami Bouajila in the lead role as he probes questions of parenthood, masculinity, and personal ego.—Vijay Sisworo

In Arabic and French with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

A SOUL JOURNEY
Marco della Fonte • Spain, 2019, 75 minutes
When teenager 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, one of the world’s longest running soul music gatherings, 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 Redding, and bawdy Sugar Pie DeSanto.

In English and Italian with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

THE SPY
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 head officers occupying Norway are written 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 many roles she must play. The film is based on the life of the actual Sonja Wigert.—Davy Nuttycombe

In Norwegian, English, Spanish, and German with English subtitles
Available October 2 – 6

THIS IS NOT A MOVIE
Yang Chang • Canada/China, 2019, 103 minutes
It’s controversial to ask, “What is it about that permits this to happen?” while reporting on blown-out Hong, 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. When facing a reporter, dodging bullets is entertaining from a distance, Fisk wants you to know all that this—the violence, the suffering—is not a movie.—Judy Blich

In English and Arabic with English subtitles
Available October 7 – 11

Visit filmfestdc.org to purchase tickets

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

**Total Runtime: 91 minutes**

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

**Total Runtime: 102 minutes**

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

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

**Total Runtime: 102 minutes**

FREEZE
Maya Albanese • USA, 2020, 15 minutes, narrative
A MOTHER
Natsasha K. Ngaiza • USA, 2019, 16 minutes, narrative
DRIVING LESSONS
Marziiyeh 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

**Available October 2 – 6**

Available October 7 – 11