



filmfestdc

APRIL 19-30

WASHINGTON, DC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL • FILMFESTDC.ORG

Filmfest DC

April 19 – 30, 2023

Welcome to the 37th Annual Washington, DC International Film Festival
65 films • 30 countries • 12 days • 1 amazing festival



Photo: Chad Evans Wyatt

Movies are made to be watched on big screens with other audience members watching with us. The Covid pandemic drove us indoors, where we avoided gatherings and sat on our couches watching movies on our televisions or computer screens. Under certain circumstances watching movies at home is understandable, but that's not what inspired the creation of film festivals. That's not our mission. Film festivals involve people coming together for celebration, appreciation, and discovery. This year's Filmfest DC is an in-person event.

Filmfest DC's program of new films from around the globe will delight, enlighten, and entertain you. Premieres, comedies, thrillers, dramas, social justice documentaries, and new films by Washington filmmakers will transport you. We thank the expert team who mounted this year's Filmfest DC. We hope you are reminded why film matters.

Tony Gittens

Founder and Director
Washington, DC International Film Festival

Tony Gittens, Festival Director, and Shirin Ghareeb, Deputy Director

TICKET INFORMATION

General Admission is \$14 unless otherwise noted.

ADVANCE SALES

Visit filmfestdc.org to select the films you would like to see and make your purchase.

DAY OF SALES

Tickets can be purchased at the theater on the day of the show. Box office opens one hour before the venue's first screening of the day. Tickets will also be available online until noon on the day of the show.

DIRECTOR'S PASS

A ten-ticket **Director's Pass** for \$100.00 (\$140.00 value) is available through advance sales only and applies to \$14 screenings only.

25 AND UNDER DISCOUNT TICKET

\$5 **standby** tickets for movie lovers ages 16 to 25. Bring your ID.
(The Wharf, Opening Night and Closing Night events are excluded)

Theater Locations

Landmark's E Street Cinema

555 11th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20004

Take Metro Red, Orange, or Blue Line to Metro Center. Theater entrance is on E Street between 10th and 11th Streets. Three hours of reduced-rate parking available in adjacent garage with validation Monday – Friday after 5 p.m. and anytime on weekends.

Embassy of France

4101 Reservoir Road N.W.,
Washington, DC 20007
Street parking available.

National Gallery of Art

West Building Lecture Hall
6th Street & Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20565.
Take Metro Green or Yellow Line to
National Archives/Navy Memorial.

Penn Social

801 E St NW, Washington, DC 20004
Take Metro to Metro Center or Gallery Place-Chinatown. The entrance is on the corner of E Street and 8th Street.

The Wharf

960 Wharf St. SW, Washington, DC 20024
Take Metro Blue, Orange, Silver, or Yellow line to L'Enfant Plaza (8-minute walk) or Green line to Waterfront Metro (5-minute walk). Parking is available.
More information: filmfestdc.org

filmfestdc

Washington, DC International Film Festival

For complete details, ticket information,
and updates on Filmfest DC, please visit:

filmfestdc.org

202-234-FILM • @filmfestDC on   

OPENING FILM

CHEVALIER

Stephen Williams

USA, 2022, 107 minutes

This opulent historical drama is inspired by the incredible true story of composer Joseph Bologne, *Chevalier de Saint-Georges*. The illegitimate son of an African slave and a French plantation owner, Bologne rose to fame as a celebrated violinist-composer and fencer, complete with an ill-fated love affair and a falling out with Marie Antoinette (Lucy Boynton) and her court.

Featuring a magnetic performance from Kelvin Harrison, Jr., *Chevalier* brims with intrigue, romance, and sumptuous music and turns the spotlight on a brilliant Black artist whose legacy has been woefully obscured. Propelled by talent and ambition and a drive to surmount the racist barriers all around him, Bologne rose from outcast to improbable heights in the pre-revolution French society.

Born in Guadeloupe in 1745, Bologne grew up in Paris as a privileged but stigmatized son. He was afforded the finest education and as a gifted, vital young man, he was endowed with unparalleled musical talent, athletic skills, and a quick wit.

Director Stephen Williams brings masterful craft and genuine visual invention to Stefani Robinson's screenplay. By the time it reaches its surprising, rewarding conclusion, *Chevalier* distinguishes itself as a riveting, truly original life story. —Various sources

Wednesday, April 19, Embassy of France, \$40

Reception at 7:00 PM, followed by Film at 8:00 PM

For security reasons, film tickets at the Embassy of France must be purchased in advance. A government-issued ID will be required at entry.



AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AUX ÉTATS-UNIS

Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

Villa
Albertine



CLOSING FILM

BLACKBERRY

Matt Johnson

Canada, 2023, 121 minutes

Two mismatched entrepreneurs—egghead innovator Mike Lazaridis and cut-throat businessman Jim Balsillie—joined forces in an endeavor that was to become a worldwide hit in little more than a decade. The device that one of them invented and the other sold was the BlackBerry, an addictive mobile phone that changed the way the world worked, played, and communicated. But just as BlackBerry was rising to new peaks, it also started losing its way through the fog of smartphone wars, management indecision, and outside distractions, eventually leading to the breakdown of one of the most successful ventures in the history of the tech and business worlds.

In his earlier works (*The Dirties*, *Operation Avalanche*), Matt Johnson has proven how irresistible an urge it is for cineastes equipped with cameras to capture on film that which seems incredible or even impossible. His are the stories of seemingly unremarkable individuals who are tempted to achieve something that nobody else has. Coupled with his own brand of savage humor, Johnson amazes us with this story of two Canadian guys who, in between movie nights, invented the tool that, for better or worse, changed our way of doing pretty much everything.—Berlin International Film Festival

Sunday, April 30, 4:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Followed by a reception, cash bar, at Penn Social, \$25



Office of Cable Television,
Film, Music & Entertainment



DOWNTOWNDC





Greener Pastures

THE LIGHTER SIDE

International Comedies

- Golden Years (Switzerland)
- Goodnight (Italy)
- Greener Pastures (Israel)
- Mamacruz (Spain)
- The Pod Generation (Belgium)
- Stories Not To Be Told (Spain)



Our Brothers

ARABIAN SIGHTS

The newest films about the Arab world

- Dirty Difficult Dangerous (Lebanon)
- The (In)famous Youssef Salem (France)
- The Island of Forgiveness (Tunisia)
- Mediterranean Fever (Palestine)
- Our Brothers (France)

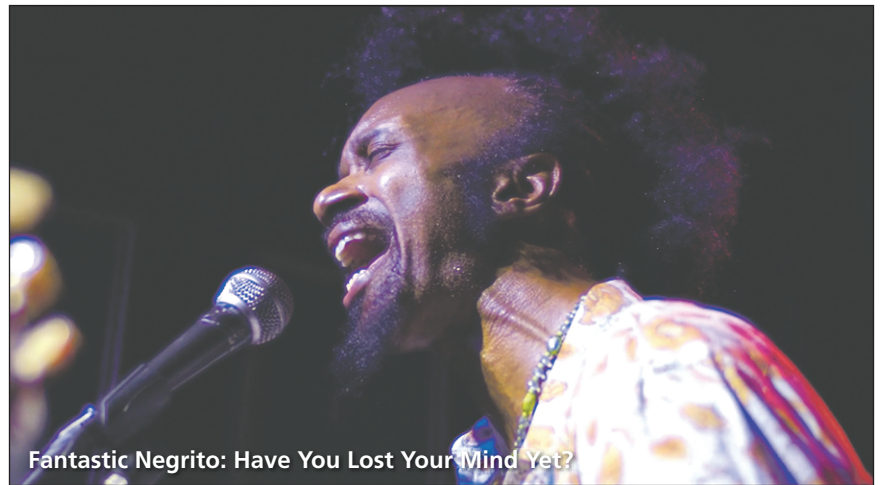


Hypersleep

TRUST NO ONE

Espionage, Crime, and Thrillers

- Hypersleep (Italy)
- On the Edge (Belgium)
- The Origin of Evil (France)
- The Substitute (Argentina)



Fantastic Negrito: Have You Lost Your Mind Yet?

GLOBAL RHYTHMS

Films on International Music

- Born In Chicago (USA)
- Divertimento (France)
- Fantastic Negrito: Have You Lost Your Mind Yet? (USA)
- Il Boemo (Czech Republic)

Why Filmfest DC Is In Person This Year

This year's Filmfest DC is an in-person event. Our films will be shown in movie theaters. There are two reasons for this. Following the Covid pandemic, national and international distributors, who provide most film festival films, are increasingly insisting their films be shown in movie theaters. Also, a mission of Filmfest DC is to make our lives more connected and meaningful. The new films from around the globe in this year's Filmfest DC will delight, enlighten, and entertain you...and are best enjoyed when shared with other people. We invite you to join us.

HIGHLIGHTS



Lakota Nation vs. United States (USA)

JUSTICE MATTERS

A competitive section that celebrates activism and creative efforts to make the world a better place, the Justice Matters section features stories of people coming together to defend democracy, empower communities and to stand up and fight for their rights and the rights of others. We thank the CrossCurrents Foundation for their support for this series.

- **Filmmakers for the Prosecution** (France/USA)
- **The Grab** (USA)
- **Lakota Nation vs. United States** (USA)
- **Las Abogadas: Attorneys on the Front Lines of the Migrant Crisis** (USA)
- **Lowndes County and the Road to Black Power** (USA)
- **Mama Bears** (USA)

The Award Jury consists of:

Jennifer Johnson, Esq.

Conrad Martin

Executive Director, Stewart R. Mott Foundation and Executive Director of the Fund for Constitutional Government

Judy Hallett

Award-winning Filmmaker and Producer



IMPACT PROJECT

As a part of Filmfest DC's commitment to encourage civic dialogue, the Impact Project works to facilitate connections between festival films and the broader DC community, especially those constituents who may not be the usual audience for a film festival. We do this by collaborating with producers of relevant festival films, providing access to community organizations and groups, and partnering with Teaching for Change to take films and filmmakers to DC school classes. This project is directed by Linda Blackaby, Filmfest DC Senior Programmer, and is supported by a grant from the Wyncote Foundation.



Washington, DC Film Society Coming Attractions:



Love film trailers?

Come preview lots of the upcoming films at the Washington, DC Film Society's semi-annual event.

Saturday, April 29, 1:45 PM
Landmark's E Street Cinema

Tickets for Washington, DC Film Society members \$3.00,
Non-members \$6.00

Go to dcfilmsociety.org for more info

CIRCLE AWARD

The *Circle Award* is a juried competition of selected films that deserve increased recognition. The *Circle Award* is named in honor of Ted and Jim Pedas, founders of Washington's Circle Theaters, which set the standard for innovative quality film programming in Washington, DC.

Films selected for this year's competition include:

- **Born in Chicago** (USA)
- **Last Film Show** (India)
- **Mediterranean Fever** (Palestine)
- **The Origin of Evil** (France)
- **The Pod Generation** (Belgium)
- **Xalé** (Senegal)

The Award Jury consists of:

Felix Angel

Former Curator, Inter-American Development Bank

Manjula Kumar

President/Executive Director, Global Performing Arts

Gregory McGruder

National Geographic Society

Peggy Parsons

Film Curator Emerita

Karen Thomas

Producer/Director, Film Odyssey

FILMFEST DC AUDIENCE AWARD

Filmfest DC will present two audience awards: one to the feature film and one to the documentary voted the most popular by our audience. Ballots will be available after each screening. All award winners will be announced on Closing Night.

SIGNIS AWARD

The SIGNIS jury will present an award to the film judged by its jury to best illuminate and celebrate what it means to be human in a diverse and challenging world.



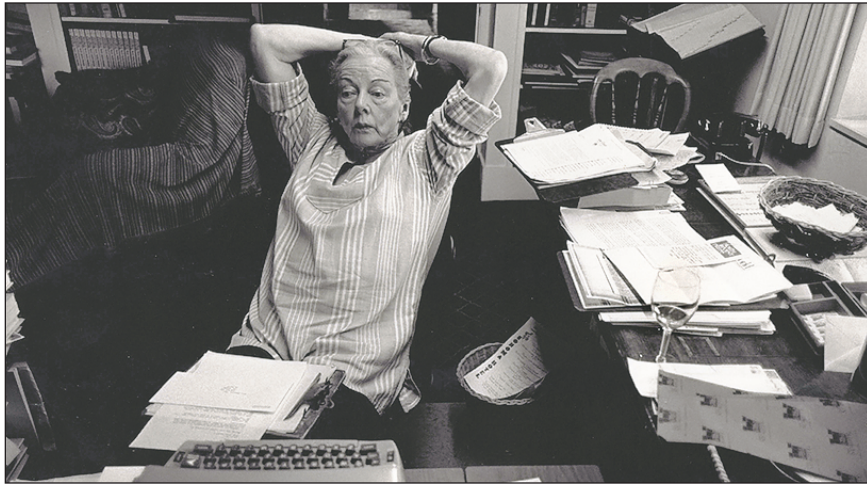
FILMFEST DC TRAILERS

This year's Filmfest DC trailers were created by three very talented film students at George Mason University: Alene Boghosian, Paul Lee, and Aidan Xavier Moriarty. Our trailers will be shown prior to festival screenings.

Please enjoy!



Catalog cover and banner designed by Alexis Thornlow



THE ART OF EATING: THE LIFE OF M.F.K. FISHER

Gregory M. Bezat

USA, 2022, color/B&W, 87 minutes

She has been called “a prophet of authenticity”; her prose was as clear as rushing water and just as unstoppable. Food and travel writer M.F.K. Fisher (1908–1992), who authored dozens of books and countless articles, is a hero to chefs and writers. She seemed native everywhere food is grown, from Provence to Napa. Hiding behind the initials, Mary Frances Kennedy Fisher had a complicated, sometimes painful life, as we learn in this documentary rich in anecdote and archival photographs. Escaping a strict Quaker upbringing, she married early and often, but only once for love. (She was a Garbo-like beauty, but a Garbo who wanted to share everything.) In her writing she was both open and oblique about sensuality and desire; hunger was her theme, making her both a feminist and foodie icon. For newcomers to Fisher, this film is a savory starter; for fans, a second helping.—*Judy Bloch*

Sunday, April 23, 3:30 PM, Landmark’s E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27, 6:15 PM, Landmark’s E Street Cinema



BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN

Pierre Földes

France/Canada/Luxembourg/Netherlands, 2022, 110 minutes

Based on the short story collection by Japanese author Haruki Murakami, *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman* is a beautifully animated film set in Tokyo just after the devastating 2011 tsunami. Throughout its seven chapters, we follow three main characters: married couple Hiroshi and Kyoko and a lonely bank worker, Mr. Katagiri. At the beginning of the film, all three are in a state of stagnation. That situation changes with an unexpected departure and an even more unexpected arrival (in the form of a giant talking frog). From here, the story spirals into separate tales of dreams, sad realities, interesting dialogue, and imagination. All the components work together seamlessly, complementing each other on almost every turn. First-time feature director and composer Pierre Földes deftly combines his roles.—*Dublin International Film Festival*

Saturday, April 22, 6:20 PM, Landmark’s E street Cinema



GLOBAL RHYTHMS

BORN IN CHICAGO

John Anderson and Bob Sarles

USA, 2020, color/B&W, 77 minutes

Be ready to tap your feet while watching this film and then dance out of the theater. To list the legendary blues artists participating or referenced in this lively documentary would take up this entire space. Suffice to say that *Born in Chicago* makes the case for the universality of music and the joy it brings. Narrated by Dan Aykroyd, the film uses archival and new footage to examine the era of the early 1960s when the blues music developed by Black artists who migrated north was nearly ignored—even in Black communities. A cohort of “white, middle-class enthusiasts” such as keyboardist Barry Goldberg and guitarist Michael Bloomfield ventured to the South Side to learn from the likes of Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, and others. The originators of this uniquely American style were then able to follow their young protégés uptown to the white clubs, and beyond.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

Friday, April 28, 6:05 PM, Landmark’s E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 5:40 PM, Landmark’s E Street Cinema



THE CHAMBERMAID

Mariana Čengel Solčanská

Slovakia/Czech Republic, 2022, 110 minutes

The master-and-servant relationship between two young women evolves into something entirely different during this romantic, historical drama set in a Prague “Downton Abbey.” It is just before the First World War and 15-year-old Anka (Dana Droppová) is sent from her Slovakian home village to work as a maid for a rich family in Prague. Resi (Radka Caldová), the insufferable daughter of the house, humiliates the insecure newcomer, but Anka soon sees through Resi’s hard surface as Anka, in servant fashion, gains insight into the family’s secrets. As the political crisis turns into the war that will split Austria–Hungary, the young couple search for a way out of a patriarchal, warring world. *The Chambermaid* is a sensual but unsentimental depiction of love, sexual awakening, and the vulnerability of women, regardless of their position on the social scale.—*Göteborg Film Festival*

IN CZECH, GERMAN, SLOVAKIAN, AND HUNGARIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 8:30 PM, Landmark’s E Street Cinema

Friday, April 28, 8:35 PM, Landmark’s E Street Cinema



CHILE '76
Manuela Martelli

Chile/Argentina, 2022, 95 minutes

Three years into the Pinochet regime, Carmen (Aline Küppenheim) supervises the renovation of her family's waterfront vacation home while her doctor husband (Alejandro Goic) is away working at the hospital. She also visits with her grandchildren and spends time reading to the blind. Her privileged life is interrupted when a priest (Francisco Ossa) asks Carmen to secretly care for a wounded man (Nicolás Sepúlveda) who is hiding from the government. She is soon drawn into the rebels' world, making dangerous trips to deliver coded messages and to try to learn more about the man under her watch. As Carmen's two worlds draw closer together, revealing the contrasts between her powerful social set and what is going on in the country at large, fear and paranoia become palpable and threaten to overtake her. Writer-director Manuela Martelli keeps the tension high, thanks partly to composer Mariá Portugal's haunting soundtrack.—*Dave Nuttyncombe*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 8:35 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 22, 8:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



GLOBAL RHYTHMS

DIVERTIMENTO
Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar

France, 2022, 110 minutes

Based on the lives and careers of twin sisters Zahia and Fettouma Ziouani (Oulaya Amamra and Lina El Arabi, respectively), who created the celebrated Divertimento Orchestra, director Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar's inspiring film offers delightful insights into the musical mind and a compelling story of young women defying the odds—and society—to live their dreams. That the girls are immigrants from the lower-class suburbs of Paris is only one of the hurdles to overcome. In that supposedly sophisticated city, Zahia must struggle for respect and even the opportunity to follow her passion. When she finally gets the chance to meet her idol, the celebrated conductor Sergiu Celibidache (Niels Arestrup), he tells her "conducting isn't for women." Meanwhile, Fettouma's teacher denies her a coveted award she clearly deserves. The two young women struggle to bring music to people normally denied its charms. Their perseverance yields an uplifting experience for viewers.—*Dave Nuttyncombe*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 4:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Thursday, April 27, 8:25 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



EAST COAST PREMIERE
ARABIAN SIGHTS

DIRTY DIFFICULT DANGEROUS
Wissam Charaf

Lebanon/France, 2022, 84 minutes

Winner of the Venice Film Festival's Europa Cinemas Label Award, *Dirty, Difficult, Dangerous* portrays a forbidden love in present-day Beirut. Ethiopian migrant house maid Mehdiya is in love with handsome Syrian scrap metal collector Ahmed. The two make an unlikely pair. Ahmed escaped from Syria after having been hit by shrapnel from a bomb, and Mehdiya tries to free herself from her suffocating employer. As a result of his wounds, Ahmed is affected by a mysterious disease and his body is slowly transforming into metal. As Ahmed's physical condition starts to get worse, the couple seizes an opportunity to flee Beirut in a desperate attempt to start over elsewhere. The film is a captivating allegorical story that employs a combination of seriousness and humor to highlight the sociopolitical struggles of marginalized communities in Lebanon.—*Various sources*

IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 5:45 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Thursday, April 27, 8:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS
Felix van Groeningen and Charlotte Vandermeersch

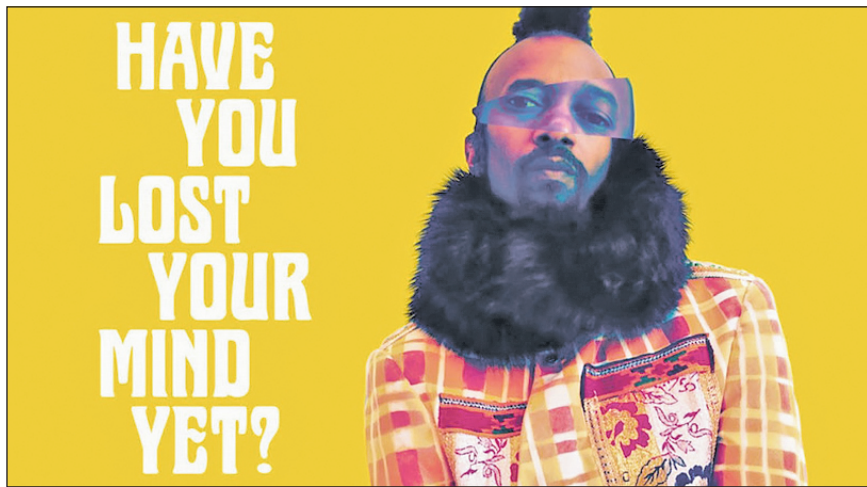
Italy, 2022, 147 minutes

Winner of the Cannes Jury Prize, *The Eight Mountains* is a film that demands and rewards the big screen. In northwest Italy's spectacular Aosta Valley region, two boys—city mouse Pietro (Luca Marinelli) and local herder Bruno (Alessandro Borghi)—craft a friendship around their differences during Pietro's summer visits with his family. Over the decades and into manhood the relationship has its literal ups and downs, but its basis is like the mountain glaciers that, as Pietro's father says, store history as they move. This saga of friends as brothers, and the dreams of fathers, is adapted from Paolo Cognetti's well-loved novel with care for the characters' internal lives and for the massive environs that so impact them. The mountains' enfolding grandeur and constancy sustains Bruno and challenges Pietro until gradually those tables turn.—*Judy Bloch*

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 8:05 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Wednesday, April 26, 8:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema





GLOBAL RHYTHMS

**FANTASTIC NEGRITO:
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND YET?**

Yvan Iturriaga and Francisco Nuñez Capriles
USA, 2022, 91 minutes

This insightful and supremely entertaining documentary traverses the amazing 50-year personal and musical evolution of Xavier Dphrepaulezz, now known professionally as Fantastic Negrito. Banished during his teenage years by his strict Muslim father in Oakland, Xavier became part of the foster care system. After a harrowing experience selling drugs, he fled to LA to pursue a commercial music career. Clearly talented, he was signed to a major label as a pop artist but eventually rebelled against the industry's pigeonholing of his music and joined LA's burgeoning Afro-futurist punk scene. After getting in touch with his Southern roots, Xavier returned to Oakland and developed his own form of the blues. This misfit had finally found his calling. We experience an intimate portrait of a distinctive performer and songwriter as well as the eras and multiple places he inhabited, interwoven with samples of his songs and thrilling performances.—*Cornelius Moore*

Sunday, April 23, 7:45 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 4:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE LIGHTER SIDE

GOLDEN YEARS

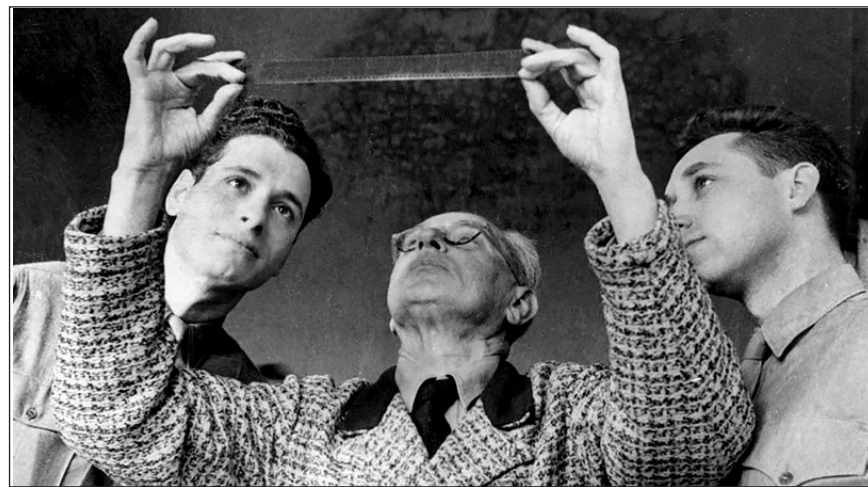
Barbara Kulcsar
Switzerland, 2022, 92 minutes

At his own retirement party, Peter doesn't seem to be having much fun. When his children reveal their gift, an ocean liner cruise, Peter's wife, Alice, is still the only one excited. As the couple debate when, or if, to embark, Alice's friend suddenly dies, leaving behind a distraught husband, Heinz, and a secret. Peter invites Heinz along on the cruise to cheer him up, which prompts Alice to realize that although she and her husband are on the same boat, they are taking different journeys. That observation becomes literal when Alice doesn't return from shore leave and travels in search of an answer to her friend's mysterious secret. Meanwhile, a now-vegan Peter is exercising so much that his health is deteriorating. And then there are Peter and Alice's children to worry about. This insightful film is full of surprises for travelers of any age.

—*Dave Nuttycombe*

IN SWISS GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 4:25 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 4:30 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



JUSTICE MATTERS

FILMMAKERS FOR THE PROSECUTION

Director: Jean-Christophe Klotz; Producers: Céline Nusse, Paul Rozenberg, Sandra Schulberg
USA, 2022, 59 minutes

When WWII ended it wasn't over for two young veterans, the Hollywood screenwriting brothers Budd and Stuart Schulberg. The Nuremberg trial was pending, and they were handed the mission to hunt down and compile the countless films and photographs of rallies and atrocities that the Nazis, in their insatiable vanity, left in their wake. It was the prosecuting judge's inspiration to use the defendants' own documented words and actions to damn the high-ranking Nazi officials on trial. In the courtroom, history met film history: The movie screen took center stage, even displacing the judge. We know about "the arrogance and cruelty of power" that was put on trial at Nuremberg; it's still out there, as Nazi-hunter Eli Rosenbaum notes. This engrossing film takes us back to the moment when the images the Schulbergs corralled were new to people's eyes and had the power to convict.—*Judy Bloch*

Thursday, April 27, 6:05 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 8:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE LIGHTER SIDE

GOODNIGHT

Massimo Cappelli
Italy, 2022, 100 minutes

There aren't enough hours in the day for Luca. He loves going to clubs, spending time on social networks, watching TV, playing video games, and betting. These activities leave no time for his studies, playing the piano, or lending a hand at his father's business. Like so many people, Luca finds himself caught between what he *wants* to do and what he *should* do. Frustrated with that situation, Luca calculates that sleep consumes valuable hours of precious time, up to two-thirds of one's lifetime. If only there was a way he could skip sleeping and avoid all that down time. When Luca finally achieves his goal, his life morphs into an eternal day in which he can pursue his interests to the fullest extent possible. But can there be too many hours in a day? This engaging comedy explores that concept.—*Various sources*

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 5:35 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Co-presented with:





JUSTICE MATTERS

THE GRAB

Director: Gabriela Cowperthwaite; Producers: Nathan Halverson, Amanda Pike, Blye Pagon Faust, Nicole Rocklin
USA, 2022, 104 minutes

A deadly scramble for food and water animates twenty-first century world politics, whether we know it or not. After seeing *The Grab*, you won't be able to un-know it. But how does it work? Who or what is the muscle behind, for example, foreign companies being allowed to deplete Arizona farmers' aquifers, or "private investors" blithely bulldozing African family farms? Nathan Halverson, of the vaunted Center for Investigative Reporting, has made finding the secret forces in this plunder (an old-fashioned word for a new kind of colonialism) the centerpiece of his work. His team's chase for vital bits of information is built into the film's structure; they expose international espionage around resources, replete with heroes and villains, leakers and mercenaries. Unfortunately, it's not fiction. If history lessons help us understand how we got here, future lessons like *The Grab* are essential to determining where we are going.—*Judy Bloch*

Friday, April 21, 9:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Wednesday, April 26, 6:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE LIGHTER SIDE

GREENER PASTURES

Assaf Abiri and Matan Guggenheim

Israel, 2022, 90 minutes

The privatization of the Postal Service cost recent widower Dov both his job and his pension and ultimately his cherished home, where all his good memories still seem to live. Even his friends and fellow co-workers who live in the retirement home with him can't cheer him up, no matter how hard they try. But when he learns about the facility's program for dispensing state-sponsored medical cannabis, Dov sees a way to get his home back and solve all of his problems. This plan, of course, leads to amusing problems that involve the police, the Mafia, and a potential new love interest. In this sly caper comedy, we learn that all is not right.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

IN HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 5:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 8:45 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
TRUST NO ONE

HYPERSLEEP

Alberto Mascia

Italy, 2022, 103 minutes

In a frighteningly plausible near future, government prison reform has led to inmates being kept in suspended animation, awakened quarterly to be "realigned with reality" and confronted about their crimes by psychologists. And so we meet Dr. David Damiani (Stefano Accorsi) at his job interrogating a man sentenced for murder. Damiani is trying to avoid unpleasant memories, those of his wife's suicide. Although he has met a striking new woman, Viola (Katsiaryna Shulha), his life soon becomes upended again when he is informed that his contract at the prison will not be renewed. As he works with one last patient, everything goes wrong. The inmate knows more about Damiani's life than he should. Director Alberto Mascia sends us on a journey where we must decide what is real. Is Damiani a hero or villain? Who is controlling the narrative? And, ultimately, are we all sleeping?—*Dave Nuttycombe*

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 8:25 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Friday, April 28, 8:40 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Co-presented with:



GLOBAL RHYTHMS

IL BOEMO

Petr Vaclav

Czech Republic/Italy, 2022, 137 minutes

At the height of his career, Czech-born composer Josef Mysliveček was the most prolific and sought-after figure in Italian opera, bound for immortal celebrity. Nearly three centuries later, his name isn't forgotten to classical music scholars, but neither does it have anything approaching household status; the facts and records of his personal life, meanwhile, have largely been lost to history. Via a blend of free narrative speculation and exacting musical presentation, Petr Vaclav's stately, sumptuous biopic *Il Boemo* seeks to restore a degree of iconic status to a talent latterly overshadowed by relative eighteenth-century contemporaries. This is costume drama of a traditional, ornately brocaded stripe, a classical music lesson for classicists. It features live music recorded for the film by the Czech ensemble Collegium 1704 and performances by real-life opera stars.—*Variety Magazine*

IN ITALIAN, GERMAN, AND CZECH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 2:25 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 3:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

All screenings at Landmark's E Street Cinema unless otherwise noted

Wednesday, April 19

OPENING NIGHT

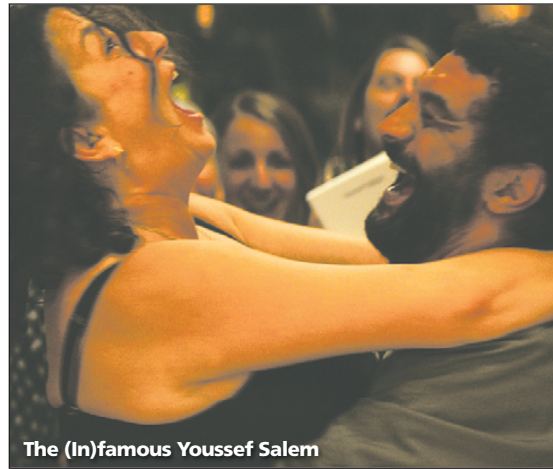


CHEVALIER

Embassy of France
Reception at 7 PM
Film at 8 PM

Friday, April 21

- 6:00 PM **Lakota Nation vs. United States**
- 6:05 PM **Our Brothers**
- 6:10 PM **Last Film Show**
- 6:15 PM **The Substitute**
- 8:05 PM **The Eight Mountains**
- 8:30 PM **The Origin of Evil**
- 8:35 PM **Chile '76**
- 9:00 PM **The Grab**



The (In)famous Youssef Salem

Saturday, April 22

- 2:15 PM **My Sailor, My Love**
- 3:00 PM **Lakota Nation vs. United States**
- 3:30 PM **Short Stories 1**
- 4:00 PM **Divertimento**
- 4:25 PM **Golden Years**
- 6:00 PM **Revoir Paris**
- 6:05 PM **Mediterranean Fever**
- 6:15 PM **The Sixth Child**
- 6:20 PM **Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman**
- 7:30 PM **Dough (The Wharf)**
- 8:15 PM **Chile '76**
- 8:20 PM **The (In)famous Youssef Salem**
- 8:25 PM **Hypersleep**
- 8:30 PM **The Chambermaid**



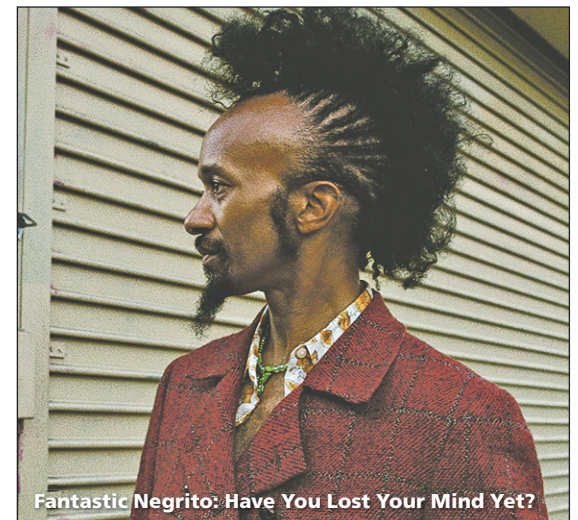
The Chambermaid



Il Boemo

Sunday, April 23

- 2:25 PM **Il Boemo**
- 3:00 PM **The Tuba Thieves**
- 3:20 PM **Last Film Show**
- 3:30 PM **The Art of Eating: The Life of M.F.K. Fisher**
- 5:15 PM **Greener Pastures**
- 5:30 PM **The Pod Generation**
- 5:35 PM **Goodnight**
- 5:45 PM **Dirty Difficult Dangerous**
- 7:15 PM **Mamacruz**
- 7:35 PM **Our Brothers**
- 7:45 PM **Fantastic Negrito: Have You Lost Your Mind Yet?**
- 7:50 PM **Stories Not To Be Told**



Fantastic Negrito: Have You Lost Your Mind Yet?

Festival Schedule

Wednesday, April 26

- 6:00 PM **On the Edge**
- 6:05 PM **Las Abogadas: Attorneys on the Front Lines of the Migrant Crisis**
- 6:10 PM **Town Destroyer**
- 6:15 PM **The Grab**
- 8:00 PM **The Eight Mountains**
- 8:10 PM **Short Stories 2**
- 8:30 PM **My Sailor, My Love**
- 8:35 PM **The Sixth Child**

Thursday, April 27

- 6:00 PM **Mamacruz**
- 6:05 PM **Filmmakers for the Prosecution**
- 6:10 PM **Xalé**
- 6:15 PM **The Art of Eating: The Life of M.F.K. Fisher**
- 8:00 PM **The Origin of Evil**
- 8:05 PM **On the Edge**
- 8:15 PM **Dirty Difficult Dangerous**
- 8:25 PM **Divertimento**

Friday, April 28

- 6:00 PM **Mama Bears**
- 6:05 PM **Born in Chicago**
- 6:10 PM **Mediterranean Fever**
- 6:15 PM **Revoir Paris**
- 8:20 PM **The Island of Forgiveness**
- 8:30 PM **Las Abogadas: Attorneys on the Front Lines of the Migrant Crisis**
- 8:35 PM **The Chambermaid**
- 8:40 PM **Hypersleep**



My Sailor, My Love

Saturday, April 29

- 1:00 PM **MetroShorts**
- 1:45 PM **Washington DC Film Society Coming Attractions**
- 2:00 PM **Mama Bears**
- 3:00 PM **Il Boemo**
- 3:45 PM **Lowndes County and the Road to Black Power**
- 4:00 PM **Fantastic Negrito: Have You Lost Your Mind Yet?**
- 4:30 PM **Golden Years**
- 5:40 PM **Born in Chicago**
- 6:00 PM **The (In)famous Youssef Salem**
- 6:15 PM **The Pod Generation**
- 6:30 PM **The Substitute**
- 7:30 PM **A Simple Wedding (The Wharf)**
- 8:00 PM **The Island of Forgiveness**
- 8:15 PM **Filmmakers for the Prosecution**
- 8:30 PM **Stories Not To Be Told**
- 8:45 PM **Greener Pastures**



Born In Chicago



Blind Willow Sleeping Woman



Xalé

Sunday, April 30

- 2:00 PM **Nam June Paik: Moon Is the Oldest TV (National Gallery of Art), FREE**

Sunday, April 30

CLOSING NIGHT



BLACKBERRY

Landmark's E Street Cinema
Followed by a reception at
Penn Social



NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
ARABIAN SIGHTS

THE (IN)FAMOUS YOUSSEF SALEM

Baya Kasmí

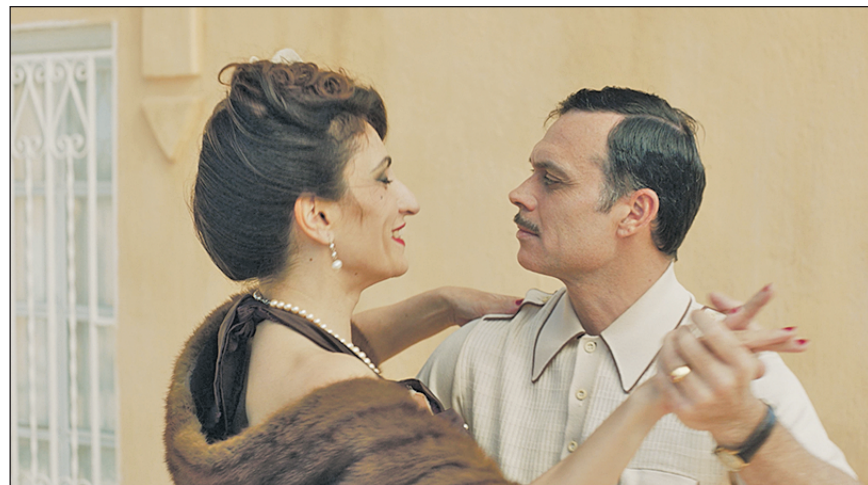
France, 2022, 96 minutes

In this entertaining comedy, Youssef Salem is a previously unsuccessful Maghrebi novelist whose new book, *Toxic Shock*, becomes an unexpected hit and is shortlisted for the Goncourt, France's most coveted literary honor. Overnight, Youssef transforms from eternal loser to the most talked-about best-selling author in Paris. Distraught by the surprising success of his novel in which he depicts the failings of his family in a thinly veiled way, he goes to great lengths to prevent his parents from reading it. Youssef has to face the true price of success for the first time as he struggles with the fallout precipitated by the achievement of his dream and the weight of his family's and community's judgment. Despite its humorous theme, the film provides rich reflection on the serious matter of family ties, immigration, culture, and literature.—*Various sources*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 8:20 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 6:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



US PREMIERE
ARABIAN SIGHTS

THE ISLAND OF FORGIVENESS

Ridha Behi

Tunisia, 2022, 90 minutes

Helmed by one of the leading Tunisian directors, *The Island of Forgiveness* transports viewers to the 1950s on the island of Djerba before Tunisia's independence, when Djerba was home to a multitude of ethnic backgrounds and diverse religions and everyone lived harmoniously side by side. Accomplished author and professor Andrea Licari, a Tunisian of Italian descent, returns to his native Djerba from Rome to scatter his mother's ashes. While he's there, he is flooded with nostalgia, including memories about family, friends, and secrets, and he's consumed by the burgeoning political unrest in the Muslim community over the French occupation. The film stars legendary actress Claudia Cardinale as a sharp-talking grandmother. Like all of Ridha Behi's films, *The Island of Forgiveness* has a magical quality.—*Various sources*

IN ARABIC, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 28, 8:20 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 8:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Co-presented with:
SHAKSHUKA

A Tunisian Community Cultural Institution



JUSTICE MATTERS

LAKOTA NATION VS. UNITED STATES

Jesse Short Bull and Laura Tomaselli

2022, USA, 120 minutes

For the Lakota the Black Hills (He Sapa) are sacred land, so much so that they consider the hills "our relative." Such words matter. With narration by acclaimed Ogala poet Layli Long Soldier, this documentary explores history and the power of language. It deftly navigates a story of betrayal, extermination, assimilation, and the ongoing resilience of the Lakota and other Očeti Šakówin people. Although it is a deep-dive into a painful colonial history, the film is the opposite of heavy. Co-director Laura Tomaselli characterizes it as multi-genre (part Western, part legal thriller) while its lyric visuals adhere to the motto "Film nature like a church." In the end, the words matter, whether they include the original treaties that the U.S. broke before the ink was even dry, or the precisely expressed thinking in this film's intimate interviews that, along with Long Soldier's poem, articulate the Očeti Šakówin experience.—*Various sources*

Friday, April 21, 6:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 22, 3:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



JUSTICE MATTERS

LAS ABOGADAS: ATTORNEYS ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE MIGRANT CRISIS

Director/Writer: Victoria Bruce; Producer: Laura Seltzer-Duny

USA, 2022, 94 minutes

Amid news of the chaos and countless human tragedies that defined the U.S.-Mexico border scene during the Trump years, you could be forgiven for not thinking to ask how it felt to be an attorney on the front lines of the crisis. Indeed, the four women profiled in writer-director Victoria Bruce's powerful documentary barely stop to ask themselves. Charlene D'Cruz and Rebecca Eichler meet the migrant caravans with their own mobile lawyering out of Eichler's van; Mulu Alemayehu counsels online and Jodi Goodwin counsels on the sidewalk. These adept legal contortionists find their way around the Administration's ever-changing immigration laws. As viewers, we root for them as much as for the asylum seekers we meet, individuals from Central America and Cameroon with harrowing stories that are at once typical and uniquely theirs. Out of border camps teeming with humanity come these individual humans, steeped in goodness. Let them in.—*Judy Bloch*

IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wednesday, April 26, 6:05 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Friday, April 28, 8:30 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



LAST FILM SHOW

Pan Nalin

India/France/USA, 2021, 110 minutes

A perfect complement to *Cinema Paradiso*, this ode to the world of celluloid film sparkles like the light shining through a projector. A contender for the Oscars® Best International Film award, *Last Film Show* is set in the Indian countryside, where young Samay is a charming troublemaker who seeks meaning in his backwoods life. When his Brahman father takes him to the movie theater—"just this once," as he considers the art form sinful—Samay's life is changed. He meets projectionist Fazal, who lets the youngster watch all the forbidden films from the projection booth. Stealing some film trims, Samay creates his own type of projector and thrills his friends. But what Samay and Fazal don't realize is that they are at the end of the film era, with digital systems on the way. The film builds to a transcendent finish sure to warm the hearts of cinema lovers.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

IN GUJARATI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:10 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Sunday, April 23, 3:20 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



JUSTICE MATTERS

MAMA BEARS

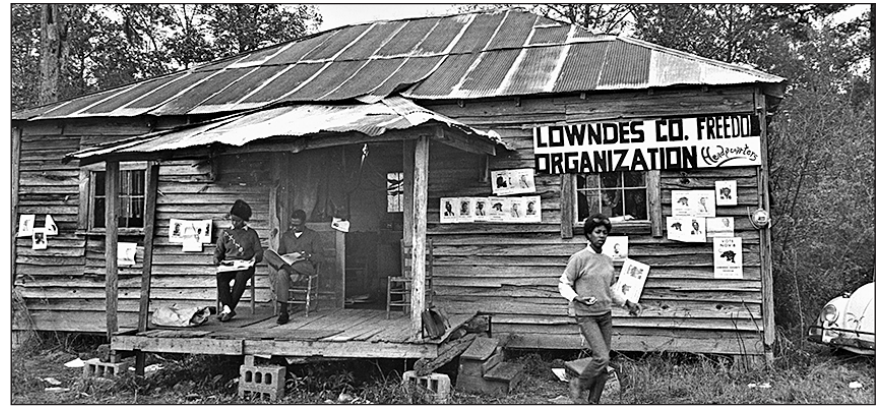
Director: Daresha Kyi; Producers: Laura Tatham and Daresha Kyi

USA, 2022, 91 minutes

For fundamentalist Christian parents of gay and transgender children, the path to acceptance and support of their child can be terrifying. They face rejection by relatives and excommunication by the Church at the center of their lives. Enter *Mama Bears*. What started as a Facebook group is now a 30,000-strong community for such vulnerable families. The film follows three young people whose quest to be themselves inevitably changes their parents. Smart and voluble Kai is a little trans girl who began taking her mother, Kimberly, on this journey as soon as she could talk. Kimberly shares her metamorphosis from punitive parent in denial to fierce defender of her daughter's rights (in Texas, no less). For viewers on the outside of these issues, *Mama Bears* offers incredibly moving entry into two worlds: the hearts of gay and transgender individuals, and Christian spirit when it is freed from dogma.—*Judy Bloch*

Friday, April 28, 6:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 2:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



JUSTICE MATTERS

LOWNDES COUNTY AND THE ROAD TO BLACK POWER

Sam Pollard and Geeta Gandbhir

USA, 2022, 90 minutes

In 1965, Lowndes County, Alabama had only four registered Black voters although the county's population was over 80% Black. It was known as "Bloody Lowndes" because of its history of racial violence. A courageous group of Black men and women braved this violence to register to vote and invited the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) workers to help them. Through archival footage and interviews with people who lived through those threatening times, Sam Pollard and Geeta Gandbhir's documentary brings to the screen the drama and challenges they faced. With their rallying cry of "Black Power," the people of Lowndes and the young SNCC organizers dramatically changed the dynamic of the times.—*Various sources*

Saturday, April 29, 3:45 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Co-presented by the SNCC Legacy Project in partnership with PARTICIPANT

Panelists: SNCC veterans Courtland Cox and Jennifer Lawson



the
SNCC Legacy Project



THE LIGHTER SIDE

MAMACRUZ

Patricia Ortega

Spain, 2022, 90 minutes

Mamacruz is a humorous tale of sexual rediscovery. Devoutly religious Cruz leads a routine existence with her husband and precocious granddaughter while her daughter, Carlota, chases her dream of becoming a professional dancer in Vienna. While she's attempting to navigate the Internet, a single errant click momentarily exposes Cruz to online pornography. She's mortified but suddenly reminded of her own desires. Initially unsure of where to aim her newly rediscovered sensuality, Cruz fruitlessly looks to her beloved church and befuddled husband for satisfaction before finding solace in a women's sex therapy group and beginning a tentative journey toward self-love. Co-writer/director Patricia Ortega's spirited, sensitive satire embeds a celebration of Cruz's sexual reawakening, blossoming into a tender, honest depiction of the woman's resolve to reassess and redefine her entire existence.—*Sundance Film Festival*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 7:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27, 6:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



MEDITERRANEAN FEVER

Maha Haj

Palestine/Germany/France, 2022, 108 minutes

When Waleed knocks on his new neighbor Jalal's door to complain about the noise distracting him from his writer's block, the men discover they are in the same line of work: making excuses for a living while their wives go off to jobs. Waleed (Amer Hlehel) is a failed novelist and Jalal (Ashraf Farah) is a small-time crook; perhaps Waleed can gain some character and plot insights if he tags along on Jalal's shady escapades? What the chronically depressed Waleed offers in return changes daily and develops darkly. Writer-director Maha Haj finds black humor in these two flawed but very human figures and generosity in the shifting nature of their fraught friendship, expertly portrayed by the two leads. Haj builds universally recognizable comedy into the film's cultural milieu—middle-class Arab life in Haifa—as well as an implied history specific to these striving citizens of a lost homeland.—*Judy Bloch*

IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Co-presented with:

The Jerusalem Fund
For Education & Community Development
مستودع القدس للتعليم والتنمية الاجتماعية

Saturday, April 22, 6:05 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Friday, April 28, 6:10 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

EAST COAST PREMIERE
ARABIAN SIGHTS



MY SAILOR, MY LOVE

Klaus Härö

Finland/Ireland/Belgium, 2022, 103 minutes

On a remote point on the brutally beautiful Irish seacoast, Howard, a retired sea captain (a hulking and foreboding James Cosmo) waits out his days by working on crossword puzzles in a large house gone to seed. His daughter, Grace, a nurse living in the city, has other plans and arranges for an older local woman, Annie, to come care for her father a few days a week. Of course, good intentions are rarely rewarded and soon enough everyone is angry and upset. But something finally gives in Howard, and he and Annie begin a tentative romance. *My Sailor, My Love* is not a predictable senior rom-com. It is a richly crafted story of two women in one difficult man's life and the reverberations of family dynamics down the years.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

IN ENGLISH

Saturday, April 22, 2:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Wednesday, April 26, 8:30 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



NAM JUNE PAIK: MOON IS THE OLDEST TV

Amanda Kim

USA, 2023, 107 minutes

Internationally recognized, Korean-born artist Nam June Paik (1932-2006) is often referred to as the "father of video art" for his avant-garde work with electronic media, including television, video sculptures, installations, and performances. Paik coined the term "electronic superhighway" long before the Internet was omnipresent and he heavily influenced generations of artists in all genres. Kim's first feature documentary uses archival footage and clips from Paik's work to recount his collaborations and fascinations with other artists such as Joseph Beuys, Charlotte Moorman, David Bowie, Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, Allen Ginsberg, Merce Cunningham, and his great mentor and friend, John Cage.—*Various sources*

Sunday, April 30, 2:00 PM, National Gallery of Art, FREE



ON THE EDGE

Giordano Gederlini

Belgium/France/Spain, 2022, 100 minutes

In this thrilling game of cat and mouse, Leo Castañeda (Antonio de la Torre) is a Spanish metro driver living in Brussels. During his shift one evening, his eyes meet those of a young man on the platform who has a familiar face. Leo recognizes his son, Hugo, just as he falls onto the rails and later dies at the hospital. Leo had not seen his son for years. In his attempt to try to understand the reasons behind his death, Leo will discover that Hugo was involved in a bloody heist. Leo sets off to track down the criminals responsible for the murder under the watchful eye of the police, who are also investigating the robbery. They will soon discover that Leo's skills in tracking and apprehending violent criminals are not those of a mere metro driver.—*Various sources*

IN FRENCH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27, 8:05 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

TRUST NO ONE



THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

Sébastien Marnier

France, 2022, 123 minutes

When the French get their *Knives Out*, things get *haute*. In this mystery-thriller, Stéphane (Laure Calamy) works in a sardine-packing factory and in her off hours visits her girlfriend in prison. *La vie en rose* it's not. Stéphane reaches out to Serge, the father she never met, and the luxurious world he offers. What's to be made of Serge's family, including his compulsively acquisitive Bette Davis-like wife and his understandably suspicious older daughter and business scion, Georges (Serge clearly wanted boys)? Soon something starts to smell fishy: Is it Stéphane, straight from the sardine-packing factory, or is it that her newfound patriarch is beginning to exhibit the true *couleurs* of his class? It takes the family's youngest member to warn her new aunt, "Family is a contamination." Director Sébastien Marnier indulges himself with split-screen arrays and delicious mystery tropes like fly-eating plants and nose-bleeding maids. You should, too.—*Judy Bloch*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 8:30 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27, 8:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

TRUST NO ONE



OUR BROTHERS

Rachid Bouchareb

France, 2022, 90 minutes

On a Saturday night in December 1986, Paris's Latin Quarter teems with protesting students and baton-happy cops following the passage of an infamous education reform bill. Meanwhile, the bodies of two young men lie unclaimed in the morgue. For now, only a kindly morgue attendant will "say their names." Within days, both names—Malik Oussekin and Abdel Benyahia—resonate as *causes célèbres* in this film based on the true story of two lives cut short by unrelated police violence on the same night. Each of these children of immigrants was striving to be part of French society. In a fast-paced yet thoughtful narrative, director Rachid Bouchareb weaves two families' searches for their sons with the intricate machinations of a police coverup. The crisscrossing thread in this weave is the motorcycle cops themselves, menacing posers that were ubiquitous in Paris at the time. It's when they dismount that trouble begins.—*Judy Bloch*

IN FRENCH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:05 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Sunday, April 23, 7:35 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

ARABIAN SIGHTS



THE POD GENERATION

Sophie Barthes

Belgium/France/USA, 2022, 109 minutes

This film won the Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. A New York couple, Rachel (Emilia Clarke) and Alvy (Chiwetel Ejiofor), live in a not-so-distant future where technology provides ever-more convenient living. A rising tech company executive, Rachel lands a coveted spot at the Womb Center, which offers couples a convenient maternity by way of detachable artificial wombs, or pods. A social satire of detachment parenting, Sophie Barthes' third feature delves into the fraught, comedically tantalizing relationship between technology, nature, and society. In her imaginative world, AIs make coffee, print toast, track productivity, and measure people's "bliss index." But at what cost? Even nature is no longer natural; there are "nature pods." Barthes brings a funny, philosophical sensibility to her questioning of society's giddy pursuit of convenience, tech's intrusion in our lives, womb envy, and the commodification of... everything.—*Sundance Film Festival*

Sunday, April 23, 5:30 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 6:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



REVOIR PARIS

Alice Winocour

France, 2022, 103 minutes

Mia is a survivor of a terrorist attack in Paris and carries an unhealed emotional scar. A translator by trade, Mia (Virginie Efira, in a marvelously interior, César-award-winning performance) must create a coherent narrative of her experience by piecing together memory fragments of the incident. A film that starts out a deceptively cinematic Paris postcard becomes an intrigue of close-up details: a Monet waterlily; a hand, whose hand? An arm, whose? The face of someone she knows to be dead. This is how Mia re-sees the city now. In her search for answers, Mia reluctantly joins a group of fellow survivors struggling to feel lucky to be alive, including Thomas (Benoît Magimel), wry, bitter, still on crutches, but who just might hold her up. Was he the one who held her hand while they hid together in a closet during the attack?—*Judy Bloch*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 6:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Friday, April 28, 6:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE SIXTH CHILD

Léopold Legrand

France, 2022, 92 minutes

Franck and his wife Miriem are Travelers—Romani denizens of a trailer community on the outskirts of Paris. Because they have five children, some already in school, and no money, they don't "travel"; they just struggle to get by on Franck's on-and-off scrap metal business. Julien and his wife Anna are attorneys in the city; they have plenty of money, but their struggle is that they can't have children. When Miriem finds herself pregnant with her sixth child, these two desperate couples strike a deal that one side fears is immoral and the other knows is illegal. In Léopold Legrand's debut feature, what seems at first like a broad, provocative question of ethics and law narrows down, like an iris-in, to two women's needs and their conspiracy to meet them. Holding this center are Sara Giraudeau (*The Bureau*) as Anna and Judith Chemla (*A Woman's Life, Spiral*) as Miriem.—*Judy Bloch*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 6:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Wednesday, April 26, 8:35 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



TRUST NO ONE

THE SUBSTITUTE

Diego Lerman

Argentina, 2022, 110 minutes

Recently appointed as a substitute literature teacher at a high school in an underserved area of Buenos Aires, Lucio (Juan Minujín) has to hit the ground running if he wants to find a way to connect with the minds—and the realities—of a cohort of students with far tougher things than homework to worry about. Lucio also has big shoes to fill: those of his ailing father, known as "El Chileno" (Alfredo Castro), a well-loved community organizer who is about to open a soup kitchen but is constantly being threatened by a local gang as they seek total control of the area through drugs and corrupt politics. When one of his students lands in trouble with the local kingpin, Lucio has to step out from his teaching duties to protect both the teenager and the fragile bond he's forging with his pupils.—*Toronto International Film Festival*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:15 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



Co-presented with:
Embassy of the
Argentine Republic
United States of America



THE LIGHTER SIDE

STORIES NOT TO BE TOLD

Cesc Gay

Spain, 2022, 100 minutes

Writer-director Cesc Gay (*Truman*) returns with five tales of human vulnerability and the hilarious, painful, and extremely awkward curveballs life sometimes throws us. From the insane dynamics of couples (including those already established, about to come into being, or likely to end soon) to the big, big decisions we can make in the blink of an eye, to the raw honesty found in the not-so-white lies friends sometimes tell each other, the spotlight here is on situations we'd rather forget about, let alone make public. The general tone of the fluid pieces might be slightly sardonic, and you may find yourself judging the flawed characters, commiserating with them, or feeling a deeper sympathy for their inability to govern their emotions or do better when they know they should.—*Various sources*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 7:50 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 8:30 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



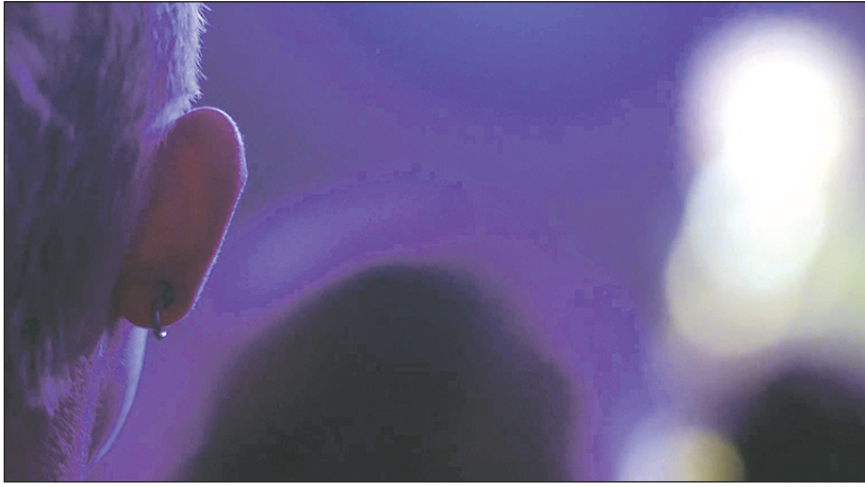
TOWN DESTROYER

Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman

USA, 2022, 53 minutes

Art lines the halls of San Francisco's George Washington High School and so does heated controversy. Masterful New Deal-era murals by Victor Arnautoff, a left-wing artist and student of Diego Rivera, extolled the school's namesake and told a daring truth for 1936: The Father of Our Country was a slave-owner, and he oversaw the bloody siege of Native American lands. Some ask, do today's high school students really benefit from walking by ultimately demeaning images of enslaved people and a life-size murdered Indigenous man on a daily basis? Exactly whose story is this? *Town Destroyer* deftly examines the many facets of an argument over art history in a time of racial reckoning. Students, parents, Indigenous artists, and art historians weigh in, but the film's muse might be muralist Dewey Crumpler, who observes, "Chains are broken through heat, through the power of friction." There's plenty of that here.—*Judy Bloch*

Wednesday, April 26, 6:10 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE TUBA THIEVES

Alison O'Daniel

USA, 2023, 91 minutes

This film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. It's not a literal story about tubas and thieves, but instead about sound and its absence. Between 2011 and 2013, a series of unusual thefts occurred targeting 12 Southern California high school band rooms with thieves absconding with more than 20 tubas. Using this quirky series of unsolved crimes as a source of inspiration, director and visual artist Alison O'Daniel blends elements of documentary and fiction to create a unique sensory experience that defies categorization. What happens when sound is no longer present? What shifts in the senses when a marching band loses its booming tonal anchor? Featuring a cast of mostly d/Deaf actors and told through a d/Deaf/Hard of Hearing lens, *The Tuba Thieves* asks its audience to become active participants in this cinematic experience and offers the challenge to engage—and perhaps *think*—differently.—*Andrea Passafiume*

IN ASL (AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE) AND ENGLISH WITH OPEN CAPTIONS

Sunday, April 23, 3:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema



XALÉ

Moussa Sene Absa

Senegal, 2022, 101 minutes

The condition of women and the challenges young people face are at the center of *Xalé*, the latest visually rich film by veteran Senegalese filmmaker Moussa Sene Absa. Set in a picturesque seaside community, the town's characters embody the aforementioned themes. Teenage twins and best friends Awa and Adama differ on achieving the best futures. Top student Awa bets on education while Adama plans to leave on a perilous ocean journey to Europe. Fatou, a successful beauty shop owner, has her independence threatened by family dictates forcing her to marry Atoumane, a disgruntled taxi driver. However, when Atoumane assaults women, the community demands accountability. Vigorous Senegalese music and dance performances are uniquely integrated into the film as singing and colorfully attired storytellers follow behind the characters as the plot advances. *Xalé* was Senegal's Best Film submission for the 2022 Oscars®.—*Cornelius Moore*

IN WOLOF WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 27, 6:10 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

SUNSET CINEMA AT THE WHARF

Enjoy special Filmfest DC outdoor films
on the big screen at The Wharf!



DOUGH

John Goldschmidt

UK/Hungary, 2015, 94 minutes

In this timely and poignant comedy, the always reliable Jonathan Pryce plays Nat, a curmudgeonly old Jewish baker struggling to keep his family business going in London's East End. On the other side of town, Ayyash, a young Muslim immigrant, is searching to find any job other than working for a dangerous small-time pot dealer. After Nat's assistant quits, Ayyash finds his way to Nat's bakery. While Nat's off negotiating with his late partner's wife and simultaneously fending off her advances, Ayyash accidentally drops a bag of marijuana into the challah dough. Suddenly, business picks way up. Surprised by all the new young customers lining up, Nat initially doesn't suspect Ayyash. However, the kid is scrambling to keep both jobs and keep both bosses from learning about each other. —*Dave Nuttycombe*

Saturday, April 22, 7:30 PM, The Wharf



A SIMPLE WEDDING

Sara Zandieh

USA, 2018, 88 minutes

Produced by and co-starring Rita Wilson (*My Big Fat Greek Wedding*), this uproarious debut feature from Sara Zandieh presents an authentic and diverse look at finding love in this day and age and all the complications that come with it. After successfully sabotaging another of her parents' arranged marriage setups, the ever-charming and rebellious Nousha seems destined for singledom. But Cupid's arrow is waiting in the wings when Nousha meets the artsy Alex at a feminist protest. Their secret tryst can be kept under wraps for only so long before Nousha's parents call for wedding bells to ring. As two very different cultures and families collide, Nousha and Alex quickly learn that this wedding will be anything but simple.—*Palm Springs International Film Festival*

Saturday, April 29, 7:30 PM, The Wharf

A kaleidoscopic lens on our world today and life in these times.

SHORT STORIES 1

Total running time: 94 minutes



Southern Afternoon

MOVING VIOLATION

Eric Bergemann / USA, 2022,
4 minutes, narrative
A traffic stop triggers relationship issues.

THE BREAKTHROUGH

Daniel Sinclair / USA, 2022,
14 minutes, narrative
Jane and Teddy are on the brink of divorce. When their marital problems come to a sticking point, they have an unexpected breakthrough.

LUNCHBOX

Anne Hu / USA, 2022,
17 minutes, narrative
While preparing lunches from her childhood for her own daughter, a Taiwanese-American woman struggles to forgive herself for pushing away her immigrant mother.

YOU LEFT ME ALONE

Lauren Fondren / USA, 2022,
15 minutes, narrative
When a crisis forces Erica to go home to confront her estranged sibling, she fights to revive their childhood connection and finds that some wounds are too deep to heal.

SWIMMING THROUGH

Samantha Sanders / USA, 2022,
16 minutes, documentary
As the pandemic rages on and the brutal Chicago winter draws near, Deirdre, Helen, and Jennefer—avid open water swimmers—make a pact to continue through the snow and ice.

SEEDS

Morningstar Angeline and Ajuawak Kapashesit / USA, 2021,
12 minutes, narrative
Grieving the loss of their parents, Indigenous sisters Loretta and Raven cope in different ways. While one finds catharsis in their mother's old VHS camera, the other struggles with a potential pregnancy.

SOUTHERN AFTERNOON

Tian Lan / China, 2022,
16 minutes, narrative
(UYGHUR AND MANDARIN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
In Southern China, an Uyghur father who is unable to read Mandarin discovers that his 14-year-old daughter has received a possible love letter.

Saturday, April 22, 3:30 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

SHORT STORIES 2

Total running time: 87 minutes

SUNSCREEN **OC**

Edna Luise Biesold / USA, 2021,
10 minutes, narrative
(AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE)
A couple's relationship is put to the test when the sunscreen goes missing during a day at the beach.

THE ONLINE SHOP

Carsten Woike / Germany, 2022,
12 minutes, narrative
(GERMAN W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
For a seemingly close family, a quiet evening at home reveals a darker truth.

I AM HOME

Kymon Greyhorse / USA, 2021,
2 minutes, experimental
(NAVAJO (DINÉ) W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
Navajo/Tongan director Kymon Greyhorse proffers a love letter to their ancestors and a joyful ode to the co-existence of past and present within each Indigenous person.

TAKE ME HOME

Liz Sargent / USA, 2022,
16 minutes, narrative
After their mother's death, a cognitively disabled woman and her estranged sister must learn to communicate in order to move forward.

SOBRE ELAS

Bruna Arcangelo / Brazil, 2022,
14 minutes, documentary
(PORTUGUESE W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
Profiles of three Brazilian women demonstrate that female liberation is collective, not individual.

OC * Open Captions



I Am Home

PLUS

Bohdan Romanko / Ukraine, 2022,
10 minutes, narrative
(NO AUDIO DIALOGUE; ENGLISH TEXT)
A romantic relationship unfolds via text messages between a Ukrainian man inspired to join the defense forces and a friend from the office who anxiously follows his journey.

MULIKA

Maesha Maene / Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2022,
14 minutes, narrative
(FRENCH AND SWAHILI W/ENGLISH AND FRENCH SUBTITLES)
In this Afrofuturist visual poem, an "afronaut" emerges from the wreckage of his spaceship on the edge of a volcanic crater and descends into the city he discovers below it.

WELL WISHES MY LOVE, YOUR LOVE

Gabriel Garble / Sweden and Malaysia, 2022,
9 minutes, animated
(MUSIC, NO DIALOGUE)
In this dazzling celebration of color and nature, a boy finds a unique way to bring the world to his newly disabled and house-bound friend.

Wednesday, April 26, 8:10 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

MetroShorts

The sixth edition of our popular program of films from the vibrant, creative community of filmmakers in DC and the immediate Metro area.

Total Running Time: 93 minutes

Members of filmmaking teams from all the films are expected in person.



A Chocolate Lens

Saturday, April 29, 1:00 PM, Landmark's E Street Cinema

"MEET CUTE"

Shawn Patrick Tilling / Canada, 2022,
3 minutes, animation

For two people waiting for the bus, it is a fateful day. Shawn Patrick Tilling draws on the silent movies of the 1920s as his influence for this charming wordless courtship.

THE LEGACY OF LEE'S FLOWER SHOP

Kamilah Thurmon / USA, 2022,
23 minutes, documentary
Started in the U Street corridor in the Jim Crow era, Lee's Flower and Card Shop is the oldest continuously family-owned flower business in Washington, D.C. This loving portrait of family and community is a lens through which to observe the history of Black-owned business in the nation's capital.

MANDARINS

Chelsie Pennell / USA, 2022,
14 minutes, narrative
The black sheep of the family attempts to eulogize her mother with a dark story about pigeons.

WOULD YOU STILL LOVE ME?

Ramsey Telhami / USA, 2022,
4 minutes, narrative
A romantic picnic takes a highly unexpected turn.

BLACK FIRE

Kia Freeman-Hicks and Patrick Mamou / USA, 2022,
27 minutes, documentary
In 1975, Jimmy Gray and J. Plunky Branch founded Black Fire Records to produce culturally relevant jazz and progressive music for the Washington, D.C. community. Their ground-breaking creativity in the studio is a testament to how music and activism of that era came together to revolutionize the music business.

A CHOCOLATE LENS

Gabriel Veras / USA, 2022,
21 minutes, documentary
How do you take a picture and tell a whole story? This short film chronicles Steven Cummings' photographic journey through a disappearing Black Washington. The resulting images are a love letter to Black people across America.

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Filmfest DC on TV

The festival is partnering with Washington's popular Public Television stations. Tune in to WETA and WHUT for exciting films by some of our city's talented local filmmakers.

WETA IS THE OFFICIAL TELEVISION STATION OF FILMFEST DC. It is the leading public broadcasting station in the nation's capital. This month *WETA Metro* brings you a diverse selection of exciting short films that will entertain as well as inform you.



This program airs on **WETA Metro**, April 15 at 8:00 PM.

weta.org/livestream

WHUT is the public television station of Howard University. It provides quality programming that is relevant and informative. **Filmfest DC-DC Rhythms** is a series of lively musical documentaries featuring both local and national musical talent.



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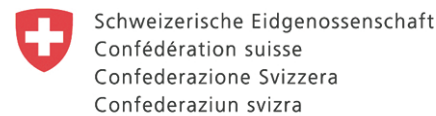
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