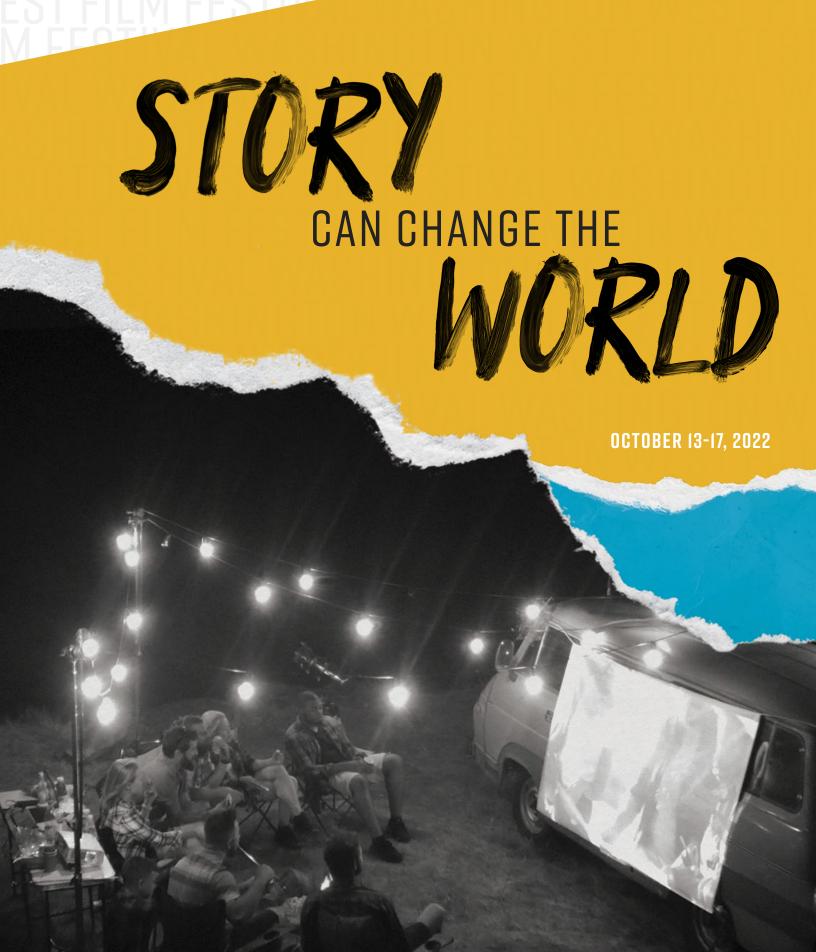
WASHINGTON WEST FILM FESTIVAL





FROM OUR FOUNDER & PRESIDENT — BRAD RUSSELL

f all the challenges that have faced our planet over the last few years, I truly believe division is what threatens our future the most. Humans innately crave acceptance and community, because it's obvious from history that humans just don't do very well when siloed from one another. Isolation and exclusion, even condescending critique (a possible pseudonym for cancel culture), eventually hurts the excluders and cancelers as much as anyone. Is this actually true? I'm convinced it is, because humans always become better when we're close enough to challenge and learn from one another.

As we begin our second decade at Washington West, I deeply believe that never before has our festival been more relevant. After our first experimental year in 2011, it genuinely surprised me to begin hearing the word "family" - a lot. Filmmakers would say, "Washington West is like a family". Volunteers would say, "I didn't know I'd feel like part of a family."

Even sponsors would say, "It's nice to be part of the Wash West family." And our audience. Often our audience describes our various theaters and parties and screenings as like "being home". It's become so important to us that Washington West has actually, truly become a home. And to so many different kinds of people from such varied backgrounds - to attorneys and school teachers, to film producers and cooks, to CEOs and college interns.

We want this to become a home for you. A home where the proven antidote to division and hurt and loneliness and even apathy will always be empathy.

When you and I empathize with others, we're forced out of our own opinions and even the drive to be right, and we're free to act with compassion. That's what home means here, and we want you to feel at home, to be at home at Washington West.

Forty years ago, we all received a special visitor from a faraway world even he missed his home (shout out to E.T. whose legacy we're celebrating this year). May we begin the next ten years leaning into the idea that here, in the suburbs of Washington, DC and all around the world, an ever-growing home has emerged, where we create new stories, better stories, inspiring stories of hope for others who need compassion and care. Join us. Be part of this movement with us. You're home here. **Story can change the world!**

Brad Russell



PROJECT HOPE

We proudly give away 100% of box office proceeds annually to help advance childhood healthcare, education, and well-being.

his year, in light of the war in Ukraine, we are partnering with **Project Hope** to deliver medicine, medical supplies, mental health support, and other urgent assistance to families in Ukraine and those who have sought refuge in Poland, Romania, and Moldova.

Project Hope is an international health and humanitarian relief organization with over 60 years of impact, including 20 years on the ground in Ukraine. They are committed to transforming lives and uplifting communities by empowering health care workers to expertly implement and teach innovative lifesaving solutions in times of need and into the future.

By being here today, by showing up and watching movies, you are contributing to the incredible mission of Project Hope and its efforts in Ukraine. Thank you.

To learn more about Project Hope visit:

www.projecthope.org.

To experience a timely and deeply moving story of children living in Ukraine, we encourage you to attend A House Made of Splinters, an intimate documentary that captures life at the Lysychansk Center in Eastern Ukraine, a halfway home where the children of unfit parents are sheltered while their next steps are decided. A House Made of Splinters is our Saturday Evening Showcase and will screen at 7 pm on 10/15 at the ShowPlace Icon Theater.



This is our north star as an organization – the philosophy that informs our culture, identity, and decision making.

Over the past eleven years, we've seen more filmmakers intentionally incorporate **changemaking** into their creative process. Now commonplace is the understanding that a single story told in a compelling way – whether through drama, laughter, facts, heart and everything in between - can incite real, productive change.

Change in personal perspective. Change in behavior. Change in our relationships to ideas and people. Change in policy. Change in our collective imagination.

This year, we've invited our filmmakers to share the kind of change they want to achieve. We posed two questions:

- 1. What do you hope our audiences feel or do as a result of viewing your film?
- 2. Are there any resources related to the ideas or issues explored in your film that you want us to share?

The following pages contain their answers. In the **IMPACT** statements beside/below many of the film descriptions, you'll read about a filmmaker's vision and desired impact for their film, as well as resources for further learning. So treat this as a film guide and a resource, a story can change the world toolkit to consult when the first question you have after watching a movie is "what can I do to help?"

At Washington West, we aim to cultivate a space where everyone feels empowered to explore, amplify, and take an active role in the stories they experience. So let's dive in and explore together how we can make positive change through the power of story.

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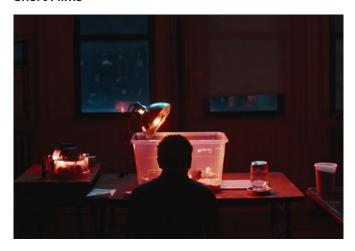
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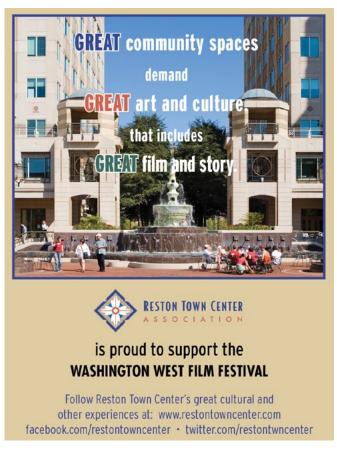


and creating change through story

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COMING SOON

IN CONVERSATION WITH TY AND TONY





Bid for an opportunity to have an intimate virtual conversation with Hollywood icons, Emmy Award Winners, and Washington West alumni, actors **Ty Burrell** (*Modern Family, The Incredible Hulk, Boondoggle*) and **Tony Hale** (Veep, Arrested Development, The Mysterious Benedict Society).

More details available soon through our newsletter and website. Keep your eyes on www.wwfilmfest.com.

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REFUGE

76 min | USA | Documentary | Opening Night

Emblematic of the Washington West mission, Refuge is proof that story can change the world. Set in the most diverse square mile in America - Clarkston, Georgia - Refuge follows the friendship between a Muslim heart doctor and a former member of the KKK, revealing what is possible when we leave the security of our tribes and what is at stake for our country if we don't.

Co-director, Din Blankenship, and subjects, Chris Buckley and Arno Michaelis, will join us for a discussion following the film.

IMPACT

We hope our film can rekindle our sense of empathy. We've captured a story about a community that insists their shared humanity is more important than any kind of shared ethnicity, faith or language. We hope that audiences will see themselves in all of the characters. If people are more likely to offer compassion to someone who is different than they are - someone of a different race, faith, or of political beliefs - if they're more likely to see a person's full humanity & offer understanding to one another after this, then we feel like the film will have been a success.

THU, OCT 13

7–9 pm Capital One Hall

Director Erin Bernhardt, Din Blankenship

Producer Erin Bernhardt, Din Blankenship

Cinematographer
Joseph East

Editor Katharine Garrison

Cast Chris Buckley, Melissa Buckley, Heval Kelli, Arno Michaelis, Amina Osman



E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL

115 min | USA | Narrative | 40th Anniversary

A cinema classic, *E.T.*tells the story of Elliott, a boy who befriends an extraterrestrial dubbed E.T., who is left behind on Earth. Along with his friends and family, Elliott must find a way to help E.T. find his way home. Nominated for nine Oscars at the 55th Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Voted the 24th greatest film of all time in American Film Institute polls.

Join us for the 40^{th} anniversary celebration of this beloved film – come in costume, bring your Reese's Pieces, and get ready to answer some trivia questions (and possibly win a prize!)

SAT, OCT 15

3:30-5:30 pm ShowPlace ICON

Director Steven Spielberg

Writer Melissa Mathison

Producer Kathleen Kennedy, Melissa Mathison, Steven Spielberg

Cinematographer

Allen Daviau

Editor Carol Littleton

Cast Drew Barrymore, Henry Thomas, Peter Coyote

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A HOUSE MADE OF SPLINTERS

87 min | Ukraine, Denmark, Sweden, Finland | Documentary | Saturday Evening Showcase

Come prepared for a moving and timely film centered around a story of hope from Ukraine. A House Made of Splinters, winner of Sundance's Best Directing Award, intimately captures the complex experience of life at a halfway home for children in Lysychansk, Eastern Ukraine.

Special guests from our non-profit partner Project Hope will join us after the screening to discuss their relief work on-the-ground in Ukraine and the surrounding region.

SAT, OCT 15

7-9 pm ShowPlace ICON

Director

Simon Lereng Wilmont

Producer Monica Hellstrom

Cinematographer

Simon Lereng Wilmont

Editor Michael Aaglund

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OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

Following our Opening Night Film and Q&A on Thursday, Oct. 13, we invite you to join us on the rooftop of Capital One Hall, with a drink on us! There are food trucks galore, putt putt golf, a lively biergarten, amazing views, and more!

THU. OCT 13

9-10:30 pm | Capital One Hall The Perch



AFTER PARTY

Following our Saturday Evening Showcase, we'll move to the lobby of the ShowPlace Icon theater for our After Party! There will be appetizers, desserts, complimentary beer/wine, and good company as we celebrate another year of making an impact with storytelling.

SAT, OCT 15

9-11 pm | ShowPlace Icon Lobby



OUTDOOR FAMILY CLASSIC: HOCUS POCUS

As part of Art Day at Reston Town Center, and in partnership with the Reston Town Center Association, we will host an outdoor, family friendly screening of the fall classic, *Hocus Pocus* at 6:30 pm on Saturday, 10/15 at Reston Town Square Park. Join us for a fun and spooky evening!

SAT, OCT 15

6:30-8:30 pm | Reston Town Center



Congratulations Washington West Film Festival

2022-2023 ArtsFairfax Grant Recipient

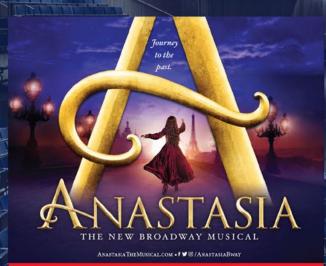
ArtsFairfax is committed to connecting you with all the arts can offer. As your designated local arts agency, we provide more than \$750,000 in funding to Fairfax County arts organizations annually.



Grants | Workshops | Events Calendar | Community Engagement

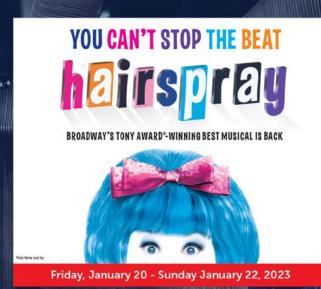
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This year's feature film lineup includes award-winning documentaries and narratives from around the world and beloved family classics.

Feature Films



THE AMERICAN DREAM AND OTHER FAIRY TALES

85 min | USA | Documentary

Filmmaker and philanthropist Abigail Disney grapples with America's profound inequality crisis, using her family's legacy as a case study to critically explore the intersection of racism, corporate power, and the American Dream.

Director Abigail E. Disney, Kathleen Hughes

Producer Abigail E. Disney, Kathleen Hughes, Aideen Kane
Editor David Cohen

SAT, OCT 15

4-6 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

We hope that audiences will come away with an understanding of the plight of workers of Disneyland and other company employees around the country.



EVERYBODY LOVES JEANNE

95 min | France, Portugal | Narrative

Everybody has always loved Jeanne. These days, she hates herself. Up to her ears in debt, she has to go to Lisbon and sell her mother's apartment, who passed away one year ago. At the airport, she runs into Jean, a whimsical and somewhat intrusive former high school classmate.

Preceded by Short Film, Shark.

Director Céline Devaux

Writer Céline Devaux

Producer Sylvie Pialat, Benoît Quainon, Luís Urbano

Editor Kelly Colburn

Cinematographer Olivier Boonjing

Cast Blanche Gardin, Laurent Lafitte, Nuno Lopes, Marthe Keller

SAT, OCT 15

1-3 pm | ShowPlace ICON



KAEPERNICK & AMERICA

81 min | USA | Documentary

An exploration of Colin Kaepernick's decision to take a knee during the national anthem and the divisive reactions it spurred in the United States, revealing unique insights into America's ongoing racial turmoil.

Director Tommy Walker, Ross Hockrow

Producer Bill Stephney, Gary Cohen

Cinematographer Scott Beer

Editor Ross Hockrow

Cast Don Lemon, Steve Wyche, DeRay Mckesson, April Dinwoodie, Hue Jackson

SUN, OCT 16

11:30 am-1:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON



LONG LIVE MY HAPPY HEAD

90 min | UK | Documentary

A touching and unexpectedly uplifting love story about a Scottish comic book artist with a brain tumor, who uses his art to communicate his experience of cancer.

Preceded by Short Film, Just in Case.

Director Will Hewitt, Austen McCowan

Producer Austen McCowan

Editor Will Hewitt, Barbara Toennieshen

Cast Gordon Shaw

FRI, OCT 14

8:30-10:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

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Feature Films



NEWTOK

93 min | USA | Documentary

To keep their culture and community intact, Yup'ik residents of Newtok, Alaska must relocate their entire village to stable ground upriver, becoming some of America's first climate change refugees.

Preceded by Short Film, Cool for You.

Director Andrew Burton, Michael Kirby Smith

Producer Andrew Burton, Marie Meade, Michael Kirby Smith

Cinematographer Samantha Andre, Colin Archdeacon, Nora Ballard, Andrew Burton, Nick Kraus, Keenan Newman, Michael Kirby Smith, Ani Yahzid

Editor Davis Coombe

SAT. OCT 15

12:30-2:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON



THE SLOW HUSTLE

88 min | USA | Documentary

An HBO original documentary that chronicles the still unsolved death of Baltimore police detective Sean Suiter, fatally shot in 2017 while in the line of duty, and explores the ongoing speculation about what really happened that day.

Director Sonja Sohn

Writer Baltimore Rising

Producer Mahrya MacIntire

Cinematographer Cliff Charles, John Benam

Editor Donna Marino

Cast Nicole Suiter, D. Watkins, Justin Fenton, Brian Kuebler. Kevin Davis

MON, OCT 17

7:30-9:30 pm | CenterStage

IMPACT

We hope the film sparks questions and conversations about how broken the structure of law enforcement is and how we can create a new system for public safety moving forward.







Short Films



AIN'T NO MERCY FOR RABBITS

16 min | Iceland, USA | Narrative

When Gramma gets sick, 7-year old Roan must learn to survive on her own in a world without drinkable water. In Shorts Program Two: Wonder of Our World.

FRI, OCT 14

6:30-8:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

1:30-3:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

As a working-class, native Nebraskan who grew up with farmers as parents, I have seen and experienced the importance of our environment and the responsibility we have to care for it. However, I also have seen a blatant disregard for the damage we cause as the effects of climate change become deadlier and more tangible. In March, 2019, historic flooding hit Nebraska, forcing entire cities to evacuate, sweeping away millions of animals and even taking the lives of several Nebraskans. After seeing the impact these floods had on my home and family, I decided to tell a story that explores what could happen not only to our beautiful environment, but to the people who are fighting for it and who have minimal economical means of surviving in a world damaged by climate change.



ANOTHER COUNTRY

12 min | USA | Narrative

Based on "Native Guard" by Pulitzer Prize Winner Natasha Trethewey, Another Country tells the story of an interracial couple raising their mixed race child in the racially polarizing times of 1956 Mississippi. In Shorts Program One: The Beautiful Complexity of Who I Am.

FRI, OCT 14

6-8 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN. OCT 16

11 am-1 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

Another Country was conceived prior to the George Floyd and Black Lives Matter protests of 2020. It was an idea that was born out of the on-going assault on African-Americans before most people took to the streets to march in favor of black lives. This is a modern tale of America. Its dark racial history. Its many flaws as a democracy. This is a film that begs the question, "when will things change?" "Or have things changed at all?" Anti-miscegenation laws may be a thing of the past, but the race issue in America has become the social ill that is prevalent in today's society. This film is not meant to preach or serve as a mouthpiece to tackle racism in America Our aim is for it to be felt and to a degree... get under your skin. This is a film seen through the observational lens of a black filmmaker, who is connecting the past to the present.



BACK TO THE SEA

6 min | USA | Documentary

A profile of Aunofo Havea, a Tongan seafarer, who trail-blazes a place for women in the maritime industry and revolutionizes how the Tongan people interact with the whales that inhabit their waters. In Shorts Program Three: And With Conviction, We Go.

FRI, OCT 14

7-9 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN. OCT 16

4-6 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

I hope that audiences are inspired by Aunofo's story, particularly in the way she took a hostile relationship that her people had with the whales into a positive and mutually beneficial one. Her innovation in this area can be an inspiration to people around the world to create better relationships with the natural world and preserve it for generations to come.



CHICKEN

13 min | USA | Narrative

In a Bronx juvenile prison, a 16-year old boy faced with losing custody of his child must discover what it takes to be a father through the raising of a chicken. In Shorts Program One: The Beautiful Complexity of Who I Am.

FRI, OCT 14

6-8 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

11 am-1 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

84% of children in juvenile detention will be re-incarcerated within 5 years. Much of this is due to residents not believing they can reconcile their past – and not receiving the proper reintegration support they need. Our team hopes that audiences realize *Chicken* isn't just a film – it's the real lives of children in our backyards.

Our team remains committed to working alongside impacted BIPOC prison communities and recently-paroled children in the Bronx/Brooklyn through local city partners Sprout by Design, C3, NYC Juvenile Justice, and the NYC Administration for Children's Services. We seek to mobilize volunteers for programs inside the detention centers, move audiences to donate to rehabilitation programs, and support mentorship and early-career programs for children exiting prisons/close-to-home facilities.

To learn more and to get involved, please visit www.chickenshortfilm.com.



COOL FOR YOU

3 min | USA | Narrative (Animated)

An animated film based on the book of the same title, *Cool for You* explains global warming in a playful and accessible way, sharing positive, easy ways to improve our impact on the earth.

Precedes Newtok.

SAT, OCT 15

12:30-2:30 pm | ShowPlace Icon

IMPACT

My hope is that a young child will watch my film and be inspired to become a scientist, an inventor or activist, and help to fight global warming.



DANI'S TWINS

39 min | USA | Documentary | Local Spotlight

Dani's Twins captures the high-risk pregnancy and dynamic early parenting journey of Dani Izzie, one of the world's few quadriplegics ever to give birth to twins.

SAT. OCT 15

3-5 pm | ShowPlace Icon

IMPACT

Our aim is for this film to be part of the current cultural moment that is seeing disabled people take ownership of disability narratives. When our experiences are authenticated through honest representation and the reappropriation of our own voices, we can catalyze change and foster inclusion. We'd like audiences to translate their deeper awareness into positive change, specifically:

- Improving access to reproductive healthcare for disabled people
- Eliminating discrimination affecting parental rights for people with disabilities
- Providing access to comprehensive caregiving and a functional care ecosystem
- Incentivizing companies to manufacture products and services that are universally designed and accessible

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Short Films



FIGHT OR FLIGHT

14 min | USA | Documentary

In a story of self-resilience, Fight or Flight chronicles the journey of the only female pilot employed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife who overcame childhood trauma by taking to the sky. In Shorts Program Two: Wonder of Our World.

FRI, OCT 14

6:30-8:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN. OCT 16

1:30-3:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

Fight or Flight lives in tribute to "championing mental health" as a lifelong journey and hopes to reach youth, pilot and outdoor industry professionals, and sexual assault victims and therapists as its main audience. We believe this film can serve as a powerful uplifting tool for many walks of life, including serving as a way for young adults to process and gain courage to confront the lifelong and buried traumas they have encountered in their lives.



FREE TO CARE

14 min | USA | Documentary

Lisa Creason, a reformed felon who dreams of becoming a nurse, fights an unjust law to provide for her family and create opportunities for thousands of others in her state. In Shorts Program Three: And With Conviction, We Go.

FRI, OCT 14

7-9 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

4-6 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

As part of the impact campaign for Free to Care, our goal is to reverse the law in 15 states where similar restrictions on ex-felons exist. We hope audience members come to us with connections and resources to create more equitable opportunities in their states.



HEART VALLEY

19 min | UK | Documentary

A loving portrait of Welsh shepherd Wilf Davies, who has never left his valley, eats the same meal every day, and works his farm alone, where his family of over 100 black-spotted sheep rely on him. In Shorts Program One: The Beautiful Complexity of Who I Am.

FRI, OCT 14

6-8 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

11 am-1 pm | ShowPlace ICON



THE HOSTAGE

7 min | USA | Narrative

A bored, middle-aged woman, desperate for an adrenaline rush, becomes entangled with a crew of dangerous diamond thieves. *In Shorts Program One:* The Beautiful Complexity of Who I Am.

FRI, OCT 14

6-8 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

11 am-1 pm | ShowPlace ICON



JANWAAR

11 min | India, USA | Documentary

Janwaar celebrates a rambunctious group of kids whose lives are transformed when a skatepark is built in their small village in India, breaking down generations of caste and gender barriers in the process. In Shorts Program Two: Wonder of Our World.

FRI, OCT 14

6:30-8:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

1:30-3:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

My only hope for audiences watching the film is to feel something positive – to see the smiles on the faces of the kids and feel that infectious happiness themselves. Our world is full of stories and documentaries that leave you feeling hopeless, and I just wanted to tell a story that offered something different, if only for 10 minutes or so. I also hope the people feel enticed to turn their viewing experience into impact for the kids. You can learn about their nonprofit, here: https://rural-changemakers.com



JUST IN CASE

14 min | UK | Narrative

Within the ambiguous safety of a service station, a concerned father and his scared daughter, who struggles with bipolar disorder, seek refuge.

Precedes Long Live My Happy Head.

FRI, OCT 14

8:30-10:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

We made this film for two reasons. 1) to educate people on the nuances of bipolar disorder, and in doing so, help to eradicate the stigma and 2) in the hopes that it'll bring comfort to someone watching, even if that's just one person -- to make them feel less alone.

#wwfilmfest 3I

Short Films



LITTLE FOREST

8 min | Argentina | Narrative (Animated)

A meditative, animated story of a young girl, Mizu, and her evolving relationship with a tree - a tree that she helps save, and that ultimately helps save her. In Shorts Program Two: Wonder of Our World..

FRI, OCT 14

6:30-8:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

1:30-3:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

Enjoy and listen to the earth;)



ONE BUCK WON'T HURT

16 min | USA | Documentary

This coming-of-age story follows four black teenagers from adolescence to adulthood who tap dance for tips in New Orleans, showing the joys and pains of growing up fast in the incarceration capital of the world. In Shorts Program Three: And With Conviction, We Go.

FRI, OCT 14

7-9 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

4-6 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

Witnessing firsthand the disparities of our city, I've become passionate about shining a light on the crushing impact of carceral policies on Black communities. At its core, the goal of this film was to tell a coming-of-age story singular to New Orleans. In doing so, we give a face to the individuals most affected by the systemic injustice of Louisiana, where 95% of the youth arrested are Black. We watch the hopelessness and anger that flows directly from seeing authority figures presume them a threat to society (and punishing them as adults).

For many Black youth in New Orleans, being incarcerated is almost treated as an inevitability. As Deymond says in the cold open: "There's two things to do down here: go to jail or die." One Buck Won't Hurt is an unambiguous affirmation of just how much Black lives matter and exactly why we still need to say so.



PRECIOUS HAIR & BEAUTY

11 min | UK | Narrative

An ode to the mundanity and madness of the high street in London, told through the window of an African hair salon. *In Shorts Program Two: Wonder of Our World.*

FRI, OCT 14

6:30-8:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

1:30-3:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON



RED HORIZON

35 min | USA | Documentary

The story of a group of pilots dedicated to keeping alive the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen while pursuing their dreams of becoming professional aviators and inspiring the black community to change the racial imbalance in aviation. In Shorts Program Three: And With Conviction, We Go.

FRI, OCT 14 7-9 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

4-6 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

Relationships provide answers. There is opportunity everywhere if we are willing to see the world through a different lens. We encourage the audience to visit Tuskegee and meet the pilots. Take a flight and see history from the air!



SHARK

14 min | Australia | Narrative | Saturday Evening Showcase

A wickedly dark comedy about a newly married couple whose quest to outdo each other with pranks leads to an unexpected and outrageous calamity.

Precedes Everybody Loves Jeanne.

SAT, OCT 15

1-3 pm | ShowPlace ICON



SILENT RHYTHM

36 min | USA | Documentary | Local Spotlight

An exploration of the relationship between dancers and music through the lens of the Gallaudet Dance Company, where every member is either deaf or hard of hearing.

SAT, OCT 15

3-5 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

I wanted to create something, in partnership with the Gallaudet dance company, that addresses deaf people as complex and complete people with real lives and aspirations. While simultaneously creating something interesting and engaging for community members who may have never had the opportunity to meet a deaf person. My intended outcomes are to have people walk away having learned more about deaf culture, deaf community, and social stigmas still in place today.

Because I grew up bilingual in American Sign Language and English I was able to explain my project to the dancers in the company. I asked them to contribute anything they wanted the larger public to know about deaf and hard of hearing people. I emphasized how much I wanted their input and involvement, since it has often been a history of storytellers deciding the narrative for this community without one, ever asking them and two, often getting it wrong.

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Short Films



STREET REPORTER

27 min | USA | Documentary | Local Spotlight

Centered on DC native Sheila White, Street Reporter is an intimate story about the power of community journalism and the courage to never stop searching for a place to call home.

SAT, OCT 15

3-5 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

Street Reporter seeks to break down stereotypes of people experiencing homelessness, to create empathy and build a vision for a world where all people have a place to call home.



TOUCHLINE

15 min | Jordan, USA | Narrative

During the Israeli Occupation of Palestine in 1948, Ahmad, a 17-year-old Palestinian boy, faces the consequences of the war in his hometown that forces him to give up his dream of being a professional football player. In Shorts Program One: The Beautiful Complexity of Who I Am.

FRI, OCT 14

6-8 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

11 am-1 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

I want the audience to know the suffering and struggle that the Palestinian people faced during the Israeli occupation of Palestine in 1948. I want to introduce them to the Palestinian Nakba and let them know the Palestinian side of the story.



WARSHA

16 min | France, Lebanon | Narrative

A Syrian migrant working as a crane operator in Beirut volunteers to cover a shift on one of the most dangerous cranes, where he is able to find his freedom. In Shorts Program One: The Beautiful Complexity of Who I Am.

FRI, OCT 14

6-8 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

11 am-1 pm | ShowPlace ICON



WINN

17 min | USA | Documentary

After suffering a miscarriage in prison due to shackling, Pamela Winn becomes an inspiring activist, leading millions to support the Dignity Bill and her mission to end shackling and prison birth.

In Shorts Program Three: And With Conviction, We Go.

FRI, OCT 14

7-9 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

4-6 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

We hope audiences empathize and feel moved by this crucial human rights issue through Pamela Winn's compelling personal story. We hope audiences feel inspired by Pamela's story of resilience, strength and ultimate triumph and by the power one person can have in shaping laws that forward justice and dignity. We also hope audiences feel stirred to become advocates in their own right: to vote people into office who care about and will fight to pass laws protecting incarcerated pregnant people.



WOOD HOOD

16 min | USA | Narrative

Wood Hood follows DeVaughn, a 15-year old kid from New York City as he takes a weekend trip with Camping To Connect, a BIPOC-led mentorship program that teaches leadership, brotherhood, and inclusion in the outdoors. In Shorts Program Two: Wonder of Our World.

FRI, OCT 14

6:30-8:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

1:30-3:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

IMPACT

We hope that they come away believing that nature belongs to everybody, and that more access, diversity and representation in the outdoors is critical for a more just and equitable society (and critical for the health and wellbeing of urban youth). We'd like for them to support our efforts at Camping to Connect.



#wwfilmfest 35



Short Film Programs are curated compilations of short films that screen together like a visual playlist. This year's line-up consists of three traditional programs, a special local spotlight, and a collection of films by students from George Mason University and Loudoun County High Schools. Short Film PROGRAMS

SHORTS PROGRAM ONE: THE BEAUTIFUL COMPLEXITY OF WHO I AM

120 min | Documentary, Narrative

Even seemingly simple situations are layered with complexity. These shorts feature characters who explore and experiment with the complex nature of their identities -- pushing boundaries, challenging stereotypes, and reveling in the beauty of how things are or could be.

Warsha (p. 34)

Another Country (p. 28)

Touchline (p. 34)

Chicken (p. 29)

The Hostage (p. 31)

Heart Valley (p. 30)

FRI, OCT 14

6-8 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

11am-1 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SHORTS PROGRAM TWO: WONDER OF OUR WORLD

120 min | Documentary, Narrative

Whether through observation, advocacy, or intervention, there's always an element of wonder when engaging with the natural world. These shorts underscore the power of, and our dynamic relationship with, the great outdoors, from London's high street to the mountains of Colorado.

Precious Hair & Beauty (p. 32)

Wood Hood (p. 35)

Little Forest (p. 32)

Ain't No Mercy for Rabbits (p. 28)

Fight or Flight (p. 30)

Janwaar (p. 31)

FRI, OCT 14

6:30-8:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

1:30-3:30 pm | ShowPlace ICON



SHORTS PROGRAM THREE: AND WITH CONVICTION, WE GO

120 min | Documentary

Trailblazers, movers and shakers, characters with conviction -- these shorts provide a glimpse into the lives of people who are boldly challenging norms and expectations in the hopes of changing the narrative or writing a new story all together.

Back to the Sea (p. 28)

One Buck Won't Hurt (p. 32)

Free to Care (p. 30)

Red Horizon (p. 33)

WINN (p. 35)

FRI. OCT 14

7-9 pm | ShowPlace ICON

SUN, OCT 16

4-6 pm | ShowPlace ICON

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

101 min | Documentary

In celebration of burgeoning local film talent, this showcase includes short films by and about people and communities in the greater DMV region.

Street Reporter (p. 34)
Dani's Twins (p. 29)

Silent Rhythm (p. 33)

SAT. OCT 15

3-5 pm | ShowPlace ICON

GMU STUDENT SHOWCASE

75 min | Documentary, Narrative

A collection of short films by outstanding FAVS (Film and Video Studies) students from our partner school, George Mason University.

My Mother's Daughter Jennifer Vu

Transitions Nathan Ridings

White Mirror Taj Kokayi

Perspectives Sujay Khona

Tri-Hard Shawn Malangyaon

Fourth Block Tiffany Vu

Untitled Mom Doc Daniel Taylor

Even in Death Jasmine Gates

SAT. OCT 15

12-2 pm | ShowPlace ICON

LOUDOUN COUNTY STUDENT SHOWCASE

75 min | Documentary, Narrative

A lineup of 5-min shorts made by high school students from Loudoun County, as part of a new initiative to empower and celebrate local youth talent.

Audrey Austin Haley Herold

My Shadow Samantha Bernat, Sofia Moscoso

A Collection of Things I Find Beautiful

Brandon Foley, Catie Cabral

Running on Empty Jonathan Kirkpatrick

Dopple Tejas Sojitra

RidgeRidge Orienation Brandon Foley,

Catie Cabral

The Baker Krisna Agarwal

FRI, OCT 14

11 am-12:30 pm | Lightridge High School

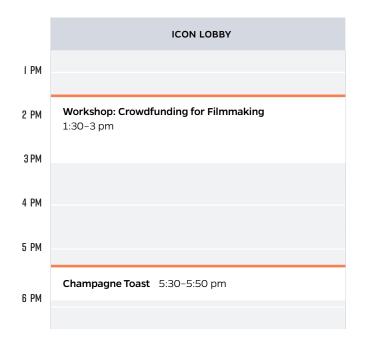
SCHEDULE

Thu. Oct 13

	CAPITAL ONE HALL ENTRANCE TO THE VAULT	CAPITAL ONE HALL THE VAULT	CAPITAL ONE HALL THE PERCH
3 PM			
4 PM			
5 PM			
6 PM			
7 PM	Red Carpet 6-7 pm		
8 PM		Opening Night: REFUGE 7-9 pm p. 14	
9 PM			
IO PM			Opening Night Reception 9-10:30 pm p. 18
II DM			
II PM			
II PM			

Fri, Oct 14





Narrative

Documentary

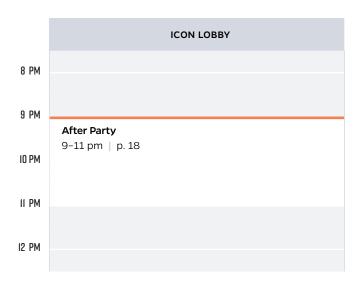
Event

Short Film

	ICON 1	ICON 2	ICON 3
5 PM			
6 PM			
	Shorts Program 1: The Beautiful Complexity of Who I Am	Shorts Program 2:	
7 PM	6-8 pm p. 38	Wonder of Our World 6:30-8:30 pm p. 38	Shorts Program 3: And With Conviction, We Go
8 PM			7–9 pm p. 39
9 PM	Long Live My Happy Head		
10 014	Preceded by Just in Case 8:30-10:30 pm p. 23		
10 PM			
II PM			
12 PM			

Sat. Oct 15

	ICON 1	ICON 2	ICON 3
II AM			
12 PM	GMU Student Showcase 12-2 pm p. 39	Newtok	
1 PM 2 PM		Preceded by Cool For You 12:30–2:30 pm p. 24	Everybody Loves Jeanne Preceded by Shark 1–3 pm p. 22
3 PM			
4 PM 5 PM	Local Spotlight 3–5 pm p. 39	E.T 40th Anniversary 3:30–5:30 pm p. 15	The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales
6 PM			4-6 pm p. 22
7 PM			SATURDAY EVENING SHOWCASE:
8 PM			A House Made of Splinters 7–9 pm p. 16
9 PM			





Sun, Oct 16

	ICON 1	ICON 2
IO AM		
II AM		
12 PM	Shorts Program 1: The Beautiful Complexity of Who I Am 11am-1 pm p. 38	Kaepernick & America 11:30-1:30 pm p. 23
1 PM		
2 PM	Shorts Program 2: Wonder of Our World 1:30-3:30 pm p. 38	
3 PM		
4 PM		
5 PM	Shorts Program 3: And With Conviction, We Go 4-6 pm \mid p. 39	
6 PM		
7 PM		
8 PM		

● Short Film ● Narrative ● Documentary ● Event

Mon. Oct 17

	CENTERSTAGE	
7 PM		
8 PM	The Slow Hustle 7:30-9:30 pm p. 24	
9 PM		
IO PM		



Signature





DIGITAL

Supporting





















Friends of the Festival

Bar Taco Blu Print

Bow Tie Cinemas Custom Ink

DoubleTree by Hilton

Duck Donuts Dulles Church Einstein Bagels

Evans Home for Children

FilmFreeway

George Mason University

Greystone

Kendra Scott Ledos Pizza Lucasfilm

Maxey Media

MovieMaker Magazine

PaddyWax Popped! Republic Proud Source Water Reston Serenity Smile Robert Duvall Children's Fund

Simple DCP Shots of LYFE Ted's Bulletin

The Children's Inn at NIH

Trader Joe's **Uncle Julios**

Virginia's Kids Belong

Our Team

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Christine Bryson, Director of Operations
Samantha Dols, Director of Programming and Impact
McKenzie Russell, Digital Support

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Board Chair

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Terre Jones, President Emeritus, Wolf Trap
Harold Mintz, L.A. Representative, Washington West Film Festival
Snuffy Walden, Guitarist and Emmy Award Winning Composer

Operations Team

Jonathan Baker, Operations Support Alton Bryant, Volunteer Assistant Leslie Dominy, Box Office Co-Lead Christa Geno, Social Media Andy Lipshultz, Operations Support Cedrick Reaves, Photographer Lisa Walters, Box Office Co-Lead

Jury

Our 2022 Jury is composed of Washington West alumni and award-winning filmmakers with extensive industry experience.

Gautam Chopra

Tod Hardin

Christopher Mason

Ngwatilo Mawiyoo

Angelique Molina

Bonnie Kathleen (BK) Ryan

Interns

Olivia Kozlevcar William R. Fochtmann Jaiden Williams

Screening Team

Demetrius Allen

Yaren Ay

Jonathan Baker

Alton Bryant

Judy Caplan

Felicity Dean

Chris Dina

Sonja Dsouza

Luciana Ducceschi

Mawuli Dzirasa

Monica Epstein

Dominic Green

Luke Hellyer

Vibhati Kulkarny

Andy Lipshultz

Sarah McDonald

David Mendes LaDane Moselv

Iman Mostafa

Jen Mueller

Steve Neal

Cynthia Phillips

Todd Pruett

Anna Schuster

Bonnie Shor

Gail Shor

MJ Stemp

Rand Wachsstock

Lisa Wallington

Tickets

In-person Screenings

\$15.00

In-person Spotlight Events

\$25.00 - \$35.00

locations

Reston, Virginia

CenterStage (Reston Community Center)

2310 Colts Neck Rd. Reston, VA 20191

Reston Town Center

12034 Town Square St. Reston, VA 20190

Tysons, Virginia

Capital One Hall

7750 Capital One Tower Rd. Tysons, VA 22102

McLean, Virginia

ShowPlace ICON Theater

1667 Silver Hill Dr. McLean, VA 22102

Aldie, Virginia

Lightridge High School 41025 Collaboration Dr. Aldie, VA 20105

Social Media

Website

wwfilmfest.com

Facebook

@Washington West Film Festival

Instagram

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@WWFilmFest

Film Ratings

Unless specifically described as a family friendly film or event, all screenings in our program are considered unrated (most films do not require or have an official MPAA rating). Films may tackle sensitive subjects or contain images and language not suitable for all audiences. Viewer discretion advised. If you have questions about a particular film, you may reach out to inquiry@wwfilmfest.com.

The views and opinions expressed in films do not reflect the views and opinions of the Washington West Film Festival, its sponsors, volunteers, staff, or Board of Directors.



STORY Can Change The WORLD

You can join the story by becoming a member.

Membership at Washington West provides you with access to the most exciting aspects of the film festival while also providing you with the opportunity to make a difference in the community. Join Washington West as a member today. Together, we can change the world —one film at a time.

\$1,000 — ACTOR LEVEL

\$5,000 — DIRECTOR LEVEL

\$10,000 — PRODUCER LEVEL

To learn more about specific membership level benefits, please email **membership@wwfilmfest.com**.

