

# STORIES BEGIN HERE

A stylized graphic of a mountain range with green and yellow peaks. A sun with an orange outline and a teal shadow is positioned behind the mountains. The background is a blue gradient with horizontal lines.

11TH ANNUAL

## MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL

A decorative graphic consisting of several concentric, rounded rectangular lines in shades of blue and teal, located on the left side of the page.

FESTIVAL PROGRAM AUGUST 20-24, 2025  
[MIDDFILMFEST.ORG](http://MIDDFILMFEST.ORG)



# SILVER MAPLE

crafting spaces where stories unfold



Whether it's a front porch where laughter echoes, a kitchen warmed by generations of meals, or a quiet study where dreams take shape, we help craft the spaces where life's most meaningful moments unfold. Just as MNFF celebrates the art of storytelling on screen, we honor the stories lived every day—at home and in our community.

*Stories begin here —  
we build what comes next.*

*Silver Maple is proud to support MNFF and  
the storytellers shaping tomorrow.*



11TH ANNUAL

# MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL

## WELCOME TO MNFF11! WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

Whether you are arriving with a meticulously highlighted schedule or you're just hoping to stumble into something great (spoiler: you will), we're thrilled to welcome you to the 11th Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. We are excited to again bring you five days of film programming that celebrates the work of first- and second-time directors and producers; more than a dozen panels and talks meant to engage and surprise you; and a delightful smattering of parties and social events that will connect you to your fellow film lovers.

This year's festival offers more than 100 films across eight screens throughout downtown Middlebury and the Middlebury College campus. Within this program you'll find comedies to entertain you. You'll find documentaries to challenge and inspire you. You'll find brave new student work. You'll find curated collections of shorts from across the world. And you'll find our dynamic Vermont Collection, featuring films told by and about those who call Vermont home. More than 60 filmmaking teams will join us in person. And nearly two-thirds of our screenings include a live, on-stage Q&A. As you thumb through these pages, we hope you find more than you can ever hope to attend: a bounty of films and talks that are variously thought-provoking, funny, complicated, introspective and playful.

As our programming team shaped this year's schedule of films, talks and special guests, two themes emerged: journalism and comedy. One theme examines how the serious work of news reporting can shape our understanding of reality, power and identity. The other reminds us that humor can be a surprisingly deft tool for social commentary, slipping insights past our defenses, one laugh at a time. Both themes ask us to interrogate the role of stories in our lives: their potential for both truth-telling and artifice, their ability to both connect and divide.

We think our Opening Night and Closing Night films reflect these dual themes as well. On Opening Night, we'll feature *Prime Minister*, the intimate and unflinching documentary that goes behind the scenes of New Zealand's former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's political career.

On Sunday, to close us out, we'll show *The Ballad of Wallis Island*, a narrative feature comedy that tells the story of former bandmates—and former lovers—who reunite for a private show at the island home of an eccentric millionaire. (Complications ensue.)

Beyond our films, we are also honored to welcome a rich roster of special guests and honorees. Special guests include US Congresswoman Becca Balint, actor Peter Sarsgaard, comedian Tina Friml, Vermont Poet Laureate Bianca Stone, *Daily Show* writer Devin Deliquanti and novelist Melanie Finn, among others. And our five MNFF11 honorees include director Allan Nicholls, director Rodney Evans, actor Gary Farmer, film scholar Scott MacDonald and *The New York Times* Chief White House Correspondent David E. Sanger. Most will appear in panels and conversations that are free and open to the public, as well as in special post-film Q&As that invite viewer participation.

While we are proud of our program this year, we are also deeply aware that a film festival is not merely a line-up of offerings. A festival is also an exchange between maker and viewer, between storyteller and audience. That's where you come in. As our tagline promises: Stories Begin Here. But we think they won't end here. We think you'll question them, debate them, laugh about them, talk about them with your wider circle of friends and family and let them shape your understanding of the world.

We hope you do.

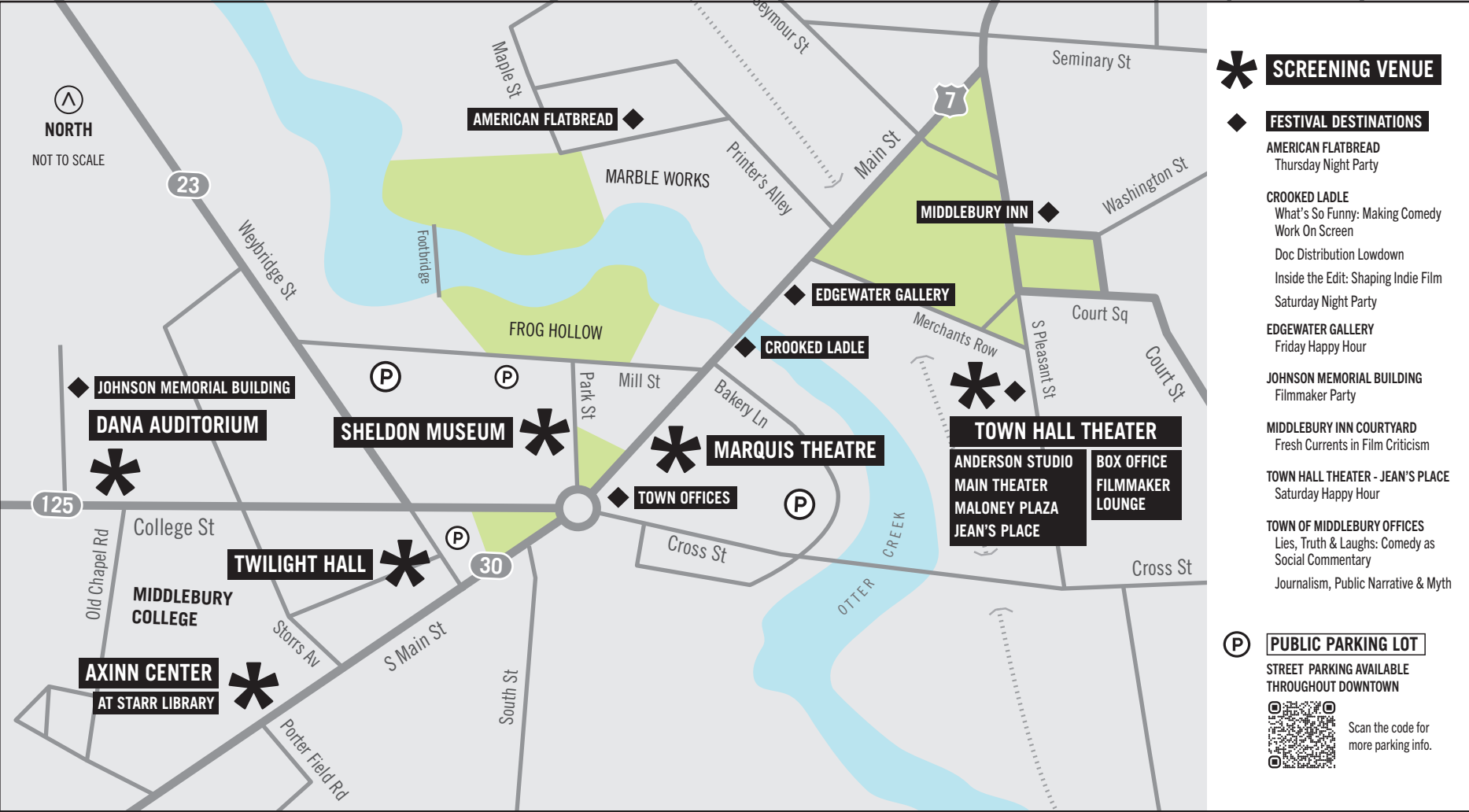


Warmly,

Caitlin Boyle  
Executive Director  
Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival



# FESTIVAL MAP



SWIFT  
HOUSE  
INN

MIDDLEBURY  
NEW FILMMAKERS  
FESTIVAL

Congratulates

*Dale* directed by Justin Streichman

2025 Winner of the Swift House Prize for Best Depiction of the Arts

From August 20 to August 24, Jessica's at Swift House Inn will offer one complimentary dessert per person with the purchase of a dinner entrée, upon presentation of a valid Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival pass.

(Offer valid for dine-in only. One dessert per guest per visit. Not valid with other promotions or discounts. No cash value. Festival pass must be shown at time of ordering.)

swifthouseinn.com

25 Stewart Ln. Middlebury, VT

802-388-9925



# HOW TO FEST

## WE'VE GONE DIGITAL!

### IMPORTANT NOTES ON PASSES, TICKETS AND BOX OFFICE

We're excited to streamline our ticketing process for MNFF in 2025! In that effort, we've gone digital with all of our advance pass and ticket purchasing this year.

If you're buying a pass or individual tickets to MNFF11, we highly encourage you to do so online, before the festival begins, at [middfilmfest.org](https://middfilmfest.org). Purchasing passes and tickets in advance guarantees you a seat to the screenings of your choice (provided you arrive on time). And it helps our staff and volunteer crew as we strive to make venue entry quick and efficient, and to make sure we have extra staff at popular or sell-out screenings. Plus: our online ticketing system enables us to collect and tally Audience Award votes more accurately and speedily!

Unlike previous years, we will not be selling passes or tickets to the festival in person prior to the festival dates, nor will individual tickets be available in person at our individual screening venues during the festival. **Instead, we encourage you to make all of your pass and ticket purchases online with a credit card.**

If you'd like to purchase a pass or ticket once the festival begins on August 20, you can still do so online, at any time—even minutes before a screening begins, if you'd like. Beginning August 20, you can also purchase passes and tickets in person at our Festival Box Office in the new wing of the Town Hall Theater. The Festival Box Office will be open daily from Wednesday, August 20-Sunday, August 24, 2025. At the Festival Box Office, we can accept cash or card payments, and we'll have staff and volunteers on site to help, too.

### FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE

LOCATION **TOWN HALL THEATER, NEW WING**

HOURS **10 AM – 4 PM WED 8/20 - SAT 8/23**  
**10 AM – 2 PM SUN 8/24**

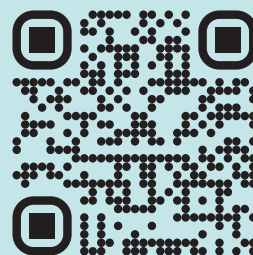
### READY TO GET STARTED?

Check out our entire film program and events schedule online at [middfilmfest.org](https://middfilmfest.org) and secure tickets right from your smartphone or home computer!

More questions? Read on for tips and answers. Still stumped or need extra support before our Festival Box Office opens? Email us at [tickets@middfilmfest.org](mailto:tickets@middfilmfest.org) and we'll help you out.

*A reminder that while we are collaborating closely with the Town Hall Theater team to present MNFF11, their usual box office staff will not be assisting with pass purchases prior to the festival. Please direct all pass and ticket questions to us at the email address above and we'll support you!*

### BROWSE THE MNFF11 PROGRAM AND RESERVE YOUR TICKETS AT MNFF2025.EVENTIVE.ORG



#### SCAN THE CODE AND YOU'RE THERE!

Open the camera app on your phone and hover it over the code. You'll see a link that brings you right to our online box office.

### WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

EMAIL ANY PASS OR TICKET QUESTIONS TO  
[TICKETS@MIDDFILMFEST.ORG](mailto:tickets@middfilmfest.org)

**CELEBRATING 11 YEARS  
OF INTRODUCING  
EMERGING VOICES IN FILM  
TO OUR COMMUNITY**

11TH ANNUAL

**MIDDLEBURY  
NEW FILMMAKERS  
FESTIVAL**



Middlebury



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## GENERAL

### THIS IS MY FIRST FILM FESTIVAL! IS IT JUST LIKE GOING TO SEE ANY OTHER MOVIE?

Well, yes and no! It will feel pretty similar from when the lights dim until the credits roll, but film festivals offer a lot of opportunities that “regular” movie screenings don’t.

The main difference is that Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival offers you exclusive access to emerging voices in film, and many of the films in our program are Vermont, New England and even world premieres. And beyond discovering films that you can’t see anywhere else, in many cases you’ll get the chance to hear from the filmmakers directly, mingle with them at parties and ask them questions about their work and inspiration.

### WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE AT EACH SCREENING?

We ask that you arrive at each screening 15 minutes in advance. Please note that even if you’ve secured a ticket online, your seat cannot be guaranteed if you do not arrive 15 minutes prior to showtime.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I SHOW UP LATE?

Our volunteers might throw you in the fountain!

Just kidding. Life happens, and if you’re running late, it’s still possible that you’ll be able to see the film. But you’ll be directed to the back of the line, which means that you might not get a seat if you’re attending a particularly popular screening. In short, always aim to show up minutes early.

### ARE THE FILMS FAMILY FRIENDLY?

Sometimes. We have a special “For All Ages” tag on our schedule that denotes which films are suitable for a younger audience. In general, we encourage parents to look over the film descriptions/trailers and use their own discretion when choosing which films are appropriate for the whole family.

## PASSES & TICKETS

### WHEN I LOOK AT THE FILMS AND SCHEDULE, I KEEP SEEING THE NAME EVENTIVE. WHAT’S THAT?

Eventive is our new online festival platform and ticketing system. We are using Eventive to streamline the process for our staff, festivalgoers and box office managers.

### DO I HAVE TO MAKE AN ACCOUNT ON EVENTIVE?

When you purchase your first pass or ticket online, Eventive will ask you to create an account in order to buy passes/tickets, and from then on you will always have an account with us.

### HOW DO I PURCHASE A VERMONTER OR STUDENT PASS?

If you’re a Vermonter or a student, you can purchase the relevant pass at [middfilmfest.org](http://middfilmfest.org). When you claim your passes, make sure to bring your valid Vermont state/student identification to pick them up at the box office!

### I’M ON A BUDGET/NOT PLANNING TO STAY FOR THE WHOLE FESTIVAL. ARE THERE OPTIONS FOR ME?

Yes! Your first option is a Day Pass, which costs \$50 and gets you into all film screenings and panels for that specific day. For instance, you might consider grabbing a Day One (Thursday) pass if you know you’ll be busy for the rest of the festival.

We also offer tickets to individual screenings, which go for \$17 per screening. If you are only looking to go to a few films across the festival dates, this might be the perfect option! Or maybe you have a pass and want to purchase a standalone ticket for a friend. Just make sure to note that individual tickets will not grant you access to parties or our Friday night happy hour.

### WILL I GET A PHYSICAL PASS AND LANYARD THIS YEAR? WHERE DO I PICK IT UP?

Yep! After you order your pass online, you will have a physical pass available for pickup at our Festival Box Office in Town Hall Theater’s new wing.

Once you’ve picked up your physical pass, we encourage you to wear your pass proudly! It will get you quicker entry into screenings and parties, and it will also help our staff and volunteers to easily identify passholders. Plus, it will signal to everyone else that you have excellent taste!

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## IF I PURCHASED A FESTIVAL PASS, DOES THAT MEAN I CAN AUTOMATICALLY GET INTO EVERY SCREENING?

Not necessarily. We highly encourage you to reserve tickets to specific screenings in advance, to save your seat.

Browse the whole schedule at [middfilmfest.org](https://middfilmfest.org), select the films you're interested in attending and click on Get Tickets to add a specific film screening ticket to your pass. If you are a passholder, all tickets will be free to reserve and forever linked to your pass, which will guarantee you access to a seat in the theater (provided that you arrive 15 minutes prior to showtime!)

Whether you reserve a ticket in advance or not, please note that if you do not arrive 15 minutes prior to showtime, your seat cannot be guaranteed. At 15 minutes prior to showtime, we will let in passholders with reserved tickets first, then individual ticketholders and then passholders without reserved tickets. At showtime, any remaining seats in the theater may be given to those who have not purchased tickets in advance.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I LOSE MY PHYSICAL PASS?

Not to fear! If you lose your pass and time is of the essence, your email confirmation (on your phone or printed out) can serve as a backup for entry to screening venues for films to which you've purchased a ticket. This will work in a pinch.

If you've lost your pass and you aren't in a rush, you can bring your email confirmation back to our Festival Box Office and ask that we print a replacement pass for you.

That said, our team is small and largely volunteer powered, so please do your best to keep your pass safe.

## WAIT, IF I HAVE A PASS CONFIRMATION EMAILED TO ME, DO I EVEN NEED TO PICK UP MY PHYSICAL PASS?

Yes, we ask that you pick up your physical pass and wear it throughout the festival. This helps our festival volunteers and venue managers quickly identify you as a passholder, scan you into each venue with speed and manage lines and crowds at each venue.

Plus, while an email confirmation can be used if you have a pass emergency, we don't want you to have to rely on your phone or a printed piece of paper. Phone batteries can die; passes are forever!

## WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH OPENING NIGHT?

As of press time, this event is sold out.

If you have a ticket to this event, note that your ticketed seat will be held for you until showtime on August 20 at 6pm, after which point we may offer your seat to someone on the waitlist. You may print a physical copy of your ticket to bring to Opening Night, or show the pdf of your ticket at the door; just remember to bring your smartphone fully charged! *Even if you're a passholder, you must have a separate Opening Night ticket to attend this event.*

## IS THERE ASSIGNED SEATING FOR SCREENINGS?

All seating is general admission, first-come first-served. At 15 minutes prior to showtime, we will let in passholders with reserved tickets first, then individual ticketholders, and then passholders without reserved tickets. If you want a prime seat, reserve your ticket in advance and show up early!

## WHAT IS YOUR PASS AND TICKET RETURN AND REFUND POLICY?

All passes and tickets are non-refundable. All sales are final. If you have any questions or concerns about a purchase, please feel free to reach out to [tickets@middfilmfest.org](mailto:tickets@middfilmfest.org).

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## TRAVEL, PARKING & ACCESSIBILITY

### IS THE FESTIVAL WALKABLE?

Extremely! All of our screenings and events take place within a 20-minute walk from each other; some venues are only a few minutes away from each other. And Middlebury is a small and very walkable town in general.

### ARE YOUR VENUES ACCESSIBLE?

The short answer is yes, but please find detailed information about the specific accessibility features of each screening venue by visiting [middfilmfest.org/festival](https://middfilmfest.org/festival). If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to [accessibility@middfilmfest.org](mailto:accessibility@middfilmfest.org).



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHERE CAN I PARK?

There are many free, walkable places to park around Middlebury, but some lots are tucked away behind buildings or around corners. Here is a map that will help you find them.



SCAN FOR A PARKING MAP

Here are our recommended spots for parking for each festival venue. Note that all parking lots are walkable and convenient to key festival venues, but you should allow ten minutes between parking and arriving at your venue, just in case.

**Town Hall Theater:** Merchants Row, North Pleasant Street or after business hours, the Langrock, Sperry & Wool Law Firm (111 South Pleasant Street) or the Foote Law Firm (135 South Pleasant Street).

**Middlebury Marquis Theatre:** Mill Street Lot, Lower Library Lot or the Frog Hollow Lot.

**Dana Auditorium:** Street parking on College St/Route 125, St. Mary's Church Lot (except Sunday) or the Atwater Lot.

**Twilight Hall:** Academy Street Lot.

**Axinn Center at Starr Library (Axinn 232):** Street parking on Route 30, or the Mahaney Arts Center Lot.

**Crooked Ladle:** Mill Street Lot, Lower Library Lot or the Frog Hollow Lot.

**Edgewater Gallery:** Merchants Row, Mill Street Lot, Lower Library Lot or the Frog Hollow Lot.

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL  
IS HONORED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF ITS ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN WITH A LEAD GIFT FROM

**MICHELE AND BRUCE BAYLISS**

BUILDING UPON THIS INCREDIBLE FIRST ENDOWMENT GIFT, WE ARE EXCITED TO CREATE AN  
ENDURING FUND THAT WILL SUSTAIN THE FESTIVAL AS IT ENTERS ITS SECOND DECADE.

**THANK YOU.**



# Two Brothers Tavern

main st., middlebury | [www.twobrotherstavern.com](http://www.twobrotherstavern.com) | 802-388-0002

**Dinner**  
**Weekend Lunch**  
**Late-Night Bites**  
**Take-Out**

## Bravo to the Filmmakers of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival!

Between screenings, stop by Two Brothers Tavern for Vermont-inspired comfort fare and libations - including craft cocktails and the region's largest draught beer selection! Visit our website for menus, online ordering and reservations.



## HONOREES



**ALLAN NICHOLLS** is a Canadian actor, director, producer, screenwriter, composer and musician. Often performing multiple roles for a film, Nicholls has worked on Oscar-nominated *Dead Man Walking* (1995) and *The Player* (1992), the Palme d'Or-nominated *Cradle Will Rock* (1999) and the Golden Globe-nominated *Bob Roberts* (1992). He also co-wrote screenplays *A Perfect Couple* (1979) and the BAFTA-nominated *A Wedding* (1978), both directed by Robert Altman, and wrote and directed the film *Dead Ringer* (1981) starring Meat Loaf.



**RODNEY EVANS** is a fiction and documentary filmmaker. His feature documentary, *Vision Portraits*, had its World Premiere at the SXSW Film Festival and played theatrically in major US cities to universal acclaim. His debut fiction feature, *Brother To Brother*, won the Sundance Special Jury Prize, and garnered four Independent Spirit Award Nominations including Best Debut Performance for Anthony Mackie. His latest short, *Portal*, is currently streaming as part of Black Public Media's AfroPop Digital Shorts series. Evans was a 2020 Sundance Momentum Fellow, a 2021 Ford/Mellon Disabilities Futures Fellow and an NEH/Firelight Media Spark Fund Awardee for 2022-23.



**GARY FARMER** is an actor, artist, musician and activist who has been celebrated throughout his career for carving out space for Indigenous voices in cinema and beyond. He may be best known for his roles in cult classics like *Powwow Highway* (1989), *Dead Man* (1995) and *Smoke Signals* (1998), as well as his portrayal of the eccentric Uncle Brownie on FX's Emmy-nominated *Reservation Dogs*. Farmer also chairs the Santa Fe International Film Festival, where he created and curates the annual Indigenous Film Program.



**SCOTT MACDONALD** is author of *A Critical Cinema: Interviews with Independent Filmmakers* (5 volumes, California), *The Garden in the Machine* (California, 2001) and 14 other books, most recently *Avant-Doc: Intersections of Documentary* and *Avant-Garde Cinema* (Oxford, 2015) *The Sublimity of Document: Cinema as Diorama* (*Avant-Doc 2*) (Oxford, 2019); *William Greaves: Filmmaking as Mission* (Columbia, 2020); and most recently, *Publication as Autobiography* (Sticking Place, 2024) and *Comprehending Cinema* (Oxford, 2024). Named an Academy Scholar by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences in 2011, he has taught film history at Utica College, Bard College, Colgate University and Harvard University and currently teaches and programs F.I.L.M. at Hamilton College.



**DAVID E. SANGER** is the White House and National Security Correspondent for *The New York Times*, reporting on President Trump and his administration, with a particular focus on foreign policy and its intersection with technology, politics and superpower conflict. He has been a member of three teams that won the Pulitzer Prize and has been awarded numerous honors for national security and foreign policy coverage.



# EVENTS



WED 8/20

5:30 pm

DOORS OPEN

6 pm

FILM SCREENING  
AND POST-FILM  
CONVERSATION

8:30 pm

AFTERPARTY

TOWN HALL  
THEATER

OPENING NIGHT TICKETHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE

## MNFF11 OPENING NIGHT SCREENING AND AFTERPARTY

Opening Night features the Vermont premiere of feature documentary *Prime Minister*, which chronicles the political rise of Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand's 40th Prime Minister, as she led her nation through unprecedented challenges, implemented bold policies and became the second world leader in history to give birth in office. **Congresswoman Becca Balint**, Vermont's first female US Representative, will join for an on-stage discussion after the film. When the screening concludes, the afterparty begins!



THU 8/21

9 am

CROOKED LADLE

FREE PANEL DISCUSSION

## WHAT'S SO FUNNY: MAKING COMEDY WORK ON SCREEN

Join us for an up-close-and-personal conversation about comedy in film and television. What makes comedy writing funny? What kills—and what bombs? We hear from 2025 Emmy nominee, *The Daily Show* writer and former *The Onion* collaborator, **Devin Deliquanti**, in conversation with Obie-winning satirical puppeteer and performance artist, **Paul Zaloom** (*Fruit of Zaloom*, *Beakman's World*). Moderated by MNFF Co-Founder and Artistic Director **Jay Craven**. Free and open to the public.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of Crooked Ladle Catering, Vermont's Own and Middlebury Community Television.*



THU 8/21

11 am

TOWN OF  
MIDDLEBURY  
OFFICES



FREE PANEL DISCUSSION

## LIES, TRUTH & LAUGHS: COMEDY AS SOCIAL COMMENTARY

Join a roundtable of professional funny people, including **Devin Deliquanti**, **Paul Zaloom** and **Tina Friml**, for a lively conversation about comedy as a tool for social commentary. Plus, Tina Friml performs an exclusive MNFF live stand-up set! Moderated by **Caty Borum**. Free and open to the public.



THU 8/21

2 pm

TOWN HALL  
THEATER -  
ANDERSON  
STUDIO

FREE PRESENTATION

## THE SERIOUS POWER OF COMEDY FOR GOOD

Can comedy save us from ourselves? In this multimedia presentation, professor and author **Caty Borum** takes us on a journey through her research on showcasing and producing comedy for social good and civic power. Free and open to the public.



THU 8/21

4-7 pm

MAIN STREET

FREE

## ART STROLL

Experience local art across downtown Middlebury at the festival's first-ever Art Stroll, in collaboration with Better Middlebury Partnership. Main Street's shopkeepers will stay open late for festivalgoers eager to purchase local wares and explore local art! Free and open to the public.





## Upcoming Events



THT Young Company Classical Presents

### Peter and the Starcatcher

**Saturday Aug 16** 2pm & 7pm

Tickets: \$10-\$25



Summer Sounds Outdoor Concert Series

### Atom & The Orbits

**Saturday Aug 16** 5:30pm

THT Plaza: **FREE**



Summer Sounds Outdoor Concert Series

### Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra Pops Concert

**Sunday Aug 17** 6-7pm

River Front Park, Marble Works: **FREE**



Summer Sounds Outdoor Concert Series

### Bobby Alu

**Friday Aug 29** 5:30pm

THT Plaza: **FREE**



A Special Screening Event

### No One Cares About Crazy People

**Saturday Sept 6** 2pm

Historic Theater: \$5 - \$17



THT Presents

### Bread + Puppet Theater

**Sunday Sept 7** 4pm

Addison County Fairgrounds: \$20

72-76 Merchants Row  
MIDDLEBURY

Tickets:

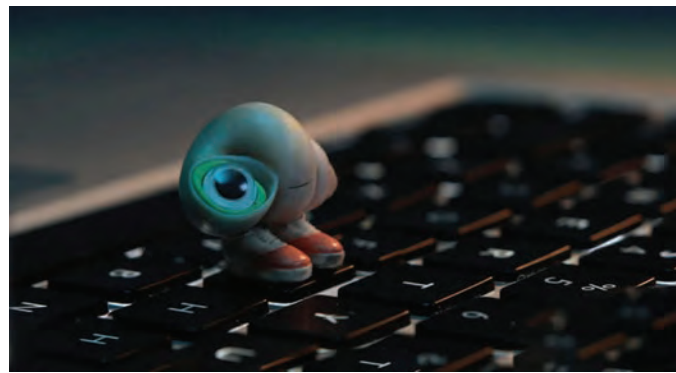
[townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org)

802-382-9222

SPONSORED BY



## EVENTS



**THU 8/21**

**8 pm**

TOWN HALL  
THEATER -  
MALONEY  
PERFORMING  
ARTS PLAZA

**FREE** OUTDOOR SCREENING

### MARCEL THE SHELL WITH SHOES ON

Once the sun sets, come watch this whimsical and poignant feature film about the adventures of a mollusk living in an Airbnb with his friends. Bring a chair or a blanket and join us with the whole family! Featuring a Q&A with writer and editor **Nick Paley**. Free and open to the public.



**THU 8/21**

**8:30 pm**

AMERICAN  
FLATBREAD

**PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE**

### THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY

After a full day of festivaling, we invite passholders to let loose with conversation, camaraderie, drinks and the musical stylings of DJ Amit Prakash at American Flatbread in the Marble Works.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of American Flatbread.*



**FRI 8/22**

**9 am**

CROOKED LADLE



**FREE** PANEL DISCUSSION

### DOC DISTRIBUTION LOWDOWN

Join **Emily Abi-Kheirs** (WGBH), **Eric Ford** (Vermont Public) and documentary directors **Yael Melamede** and **Chad Ervin** as they discuss the state of documentary distribution today. Moderated by MNFF Executive Director **Caitlin Boyle**. Free and open to the public.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of Crooked Ladle Catering, Vermont's Own and Middlebury Community Television.*



# EVENTS



**FRI 8/22**

**11 am**

**TOWN OF  
MIDDLEBURY  
OFFICES**

**FREE** PANEL DISCUSSION

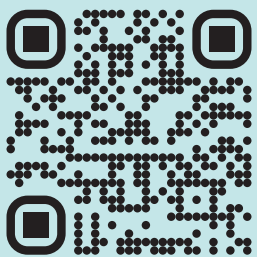
## JOURNALISM, PUBLIC NARRATIVE & MYTH

Join *The New York Times* White House and National Security Correspondent **David Sanger**, *VT Digger* Editor-in-Chief **Geeta Anand**, *The New York Times* movie critic **Alissa Wilkinson** and the filmmaker behind *A Calling* in a conversation about the catalyzing power of journalism in the creation of public narratives—both factual and mythical. Moderated by *Addison Independent News* Editor **John McCright**. Free and open to the public.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of the Town of Middlebury and Middlebury Community Television.*

**BROWSE THE MNFF11 PROGRAM AND RESERVE  
YOUR TICKETS AT**

**MNFF2025.EVENTIVE.ORG**



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**WE'RE HERE TO HELP.**

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[TICKETS@MIDDFILMFEST.ORG](mailto:TICKETS@MIDDFILMFEST.ORG)**

# SUPER HEROES

**aren't only in the movies!**



**Let our team of super heroes  
work with you to regain  
your personal super powers.**



**achhh.org**

Providing Addison County residents with high quality health care at home.



**AddisonCountyTherapies.org**

Offering timely evaluations and plans to help decrease pain, increase mobility, and get you back to the activities you love.



**The Medicine Chest, LLC**

**MedicineChestVT.com**

A local source for medical equipment that can improve your life. Curbside pickup or delivery available.







[www.woodwarevt.com](http://www.woodwarevt.com)

Route 7 South • Middlebury VT

Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays

**FINE  
FURNITURE**  
**802-388-6297**

## EVENTS



**FRI 8/22**

**5 pm**

**DANA  
AUDITORIUM**

**TICKETS \$17 FREE FOR PASSHOLDERS**

**CONVERSATION**

### THE NEW COLD WARS: IN CONVERSATION WITH DAVID SANGER

*The New York Times* White House and National Security Correspondent **David Sanger** joins us to discuss his latest *New York Times* best-selling book, *New Cold Wars: China's Ruse, Russia's Invasion, and America's Struggle to Defend the West*. Moderated by VT Digger Editor-in-Chief **Geeta Anand**.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of Vermont Book Shop.*



**FRI 8/22**

**5 pm**

**EDGEWATER  
GALLERY,  
MERCHANTS  
ROW**

**PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE**

### FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR

Passholders are warmly invited to join us for happy hour, live music and local art prior to the evening's film screenings.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of Edgewater Gallery.*



**FRI 8/22**

**9 pm**

**JOHNSON  
MEMORIAL  
BUILDING**

**INDUSTRY AND FILMMAKER PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE**

### FILMMAKER PARTY

Filmmakers: time to party! Meet us at Johnson Memorial Building to snack, sip, dance to the beats of DJ McLean Macionis and connect with other filmmakers from around the world.



# EVENTS



**SAT 8/23**

**9 am**

**CROOKED LADLE**



**FREE** PANEL DISCUSSION

## INSIDE THE EDIT: SHAPING INDIE FILM

How does a film come together in the editing room? Join a panel of doc and narrative editors, including **Collin Davis**, **Matthew Valdez**, **Rachel Shuman** and **Evelyn Franks**, as they reflect on the invisible craft of shaping raw footage into finished films. Moderated by MNFF Senior Programmer **Simeon Hutner**. Free and open to the public.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of Crooked Ladle Catering, Vermont's Own and Middlebury Community Television.*



**SAT 8/23**

**4 pm**

**MIDDLEBURY  
INN COURTYARD**

**FREE** CONVERSATION

## FRESH CURRENTS IN FILM CRITICISM

Join us for an intimate conversation with **Alissa Wilkinson**, movie critic at *The New York Times*, as she reflects on current trends in film criticism at the *Times* and beyond. Moderated by MNFF Co-Founder and Artistic Director **Jay Craven**. Free and open to the public.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of The Middlebury Inn.*



**SAT 8/23**

**5 pm**

**TOWN HALL  
THEATER -  
MALONEY PLAZA**

**FREE**

## SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR

Between film screenings, sample wines (complimentary for passholders!) from Lincoln Peak Vineyard and purchase food-truck eats from James Beard-nominated A Taste of Abyssinia. Free and open to the public.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of Lincoln Peak Vineyard. Rain location: Jean's Place.*



**SAT 8/23**

**2 pm**

**AXINN CENTER  
(AXINN 232) AT  
STARR LIBRARY**

**FREE** PANEL DISCUSSION

## SHOOT LIKE A DP; THINK LIKE AN EDITOR

Join us for a masterclass in documentary cinematography and editing from **Daniel B. Gold**, in conversation with MNFF Senior Programmer **Simeon Hutner**. Free and open to the public.



**SAT 8/23**

**2 pm**

**TOWN HALL  
THEATER -  
ANDERSON  
STUDIO**

**FREE** PANEL DISCUSSION

## POETRY & STORY: WHY IT MATTERS

Join Vermont Poet Laureate **Bianca Stone** and Vermont-based author and filmmaker **Melanie Finn** as they discuss the intersection of poetry, cinema and story. Moderated by MNFF Executive Director **Caitlin Boyle**. Free and open to the public.

*This event is made possible with the generous support of Vermont Book Shop.*



**SAT 8/23**

**8:30 pm**

**CROOKED LADLE**

**PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE**

## SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY

Come to our blowout party at Crooked Ladle, featuring delicious eats, craft cocktails and the amazing DJ Serena (aka Serena Kim!).



# EVENTS



SUN 8/24

8 am

**INDUSTRY AND FILMMAKER PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE**

## FILMMAKER BREAKFAST

Recover from your Saturday-night shenanigans with a cozy breakfast for visiting filmmakers, industry guests and the festival board.



SUN 8/24

6 pm

TOWN HALL  
THEATER

FREE

## CLOSING NIGHT AWARDS CEREMONY

Prior to our closing night film, join us for a celebration of our prize-winning filmmakers and the festival supporters who make these prizes possible. Free and open to the public.



SUN 8/24

9 am

AXINN CENTER  
(AXINN 232) AT  
STARR LIBRARY

FREE PRESENTATION

## FILMS MADE FROM OTHER FILMS: FROM THE AVANT-GARDE TO THE VIDEO ESSAY

MNFF11 Honoree and Hamilton College Professor of Cinema and Media Studies **Scott MacDonald** offers a curated selection of experimental films from the archive, guiding us through a history of avant-garde work. Free and open to the public.



SUN 8/24

7:30 pm

TOWN HALL  
THEATER

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

## THE BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND

Join us for our final film selection of MNFF11! In this British comedy-drama, an eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island tries to make his fantasies come true by getting his favorite musicians (who also happen to be ex-lovers) to perform at his home.



SUN 8/24

2 pm

TOWN HALL  
THEATER -  
ANDERSON  
STUDIO

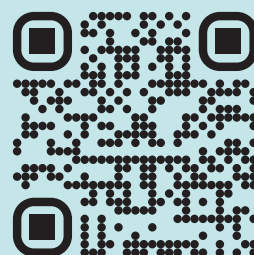
FREE PRESENTATION

## VIDEO ESSAYS: EXPERIMENTS IN SOUND & IMAGE

Join **Jason Mittell**, Professor of Film & Media at Middlebury College, for this showcase of video essays, all of which were developed in Middlebury. Free and open to the public.

BROWSE THE PROGRAM & RESERVE TICKETS

[MNFF2025.EVENTIVE.ORG](https://mnff2025.eventive.org)



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[TICKETS@MIDDFILMFEST.ORG](mailto:tickets@middfilmfest.org)



# SPECIAL GUESTS AND PANELISTS



**ALISSA WILKINSON** is a writer and teacher, and a movie critic at *The New York Times*. Her latest book is *We Tell*

*Ourselves Stories: Joan Didion and the American Dream Machine*.



**CONGRESSWOMAN BECCA BALINT** is Vermont's first female US Representative. She lives in Brattleboro, Vermont with her wife, two teenagers and dog Wheelie.



**BIANCA STONE** is Vermont's Poet Laureate, a teacher and a creative director. Her poetry collections include

*The Near and Distant World*, forthcoming in January from Tin House, and *What Is Otherwise Infinite*, winner of the 2023 Vermont Book Award.



**CATY BORUM** is an award-winning media producer, scholar and author of four books about entertainment media

and social change, as well as Executive Director of the Center for Media & Social Impact (CMSI) and Professor at American University.



**CHAD ERVIN** is a documentary director, producer and editor whose films have won Emmy, Peabody and Polk

awards. He lives in Vermont and specializes in films about civic and social issues.



**COLLIN DAVIS & MATTHEW VALDEZ** are an Emmy award-winning filmmaking and editing team based in Los Angeles.



**DANIEL B. GOLD** is a cinematographer, director and producer whose career spans more than three decades and

includes more than 30 feature documentary credits for films broadcast on HBO, Netflix, PBS, SHOWTIME and Apple TV.



**DEVIN DELLIQUANTI** is currently a staff writer on *The Daily Show*, where his work has earned him an NAACP Image Award,

five WGA Award nominations and eight Primetime Emmy Award nominations.



**EVELYN FRANKS** is an award-winning editor specializing in documentary, with credits for films distributed on BBC 4,

BBC 3, BBC World Service, CNN, Al Jazeera English, VICE, HBO and in theatrical release.



**ERIC FORD** is the Executive Producer and Host of the series *Made Here* on Vermont Public,

which has been in production since 2016. The series highlights films and filmmakers from New England and Quebec.



**GEETA ANAND** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author and university dean. She recently returned to Vermont

to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *VT Digger*.



**JASON MITTELL** is Professor of Film & Media Culture at Middlebury College. He is Project Manager for *[in]Transition*, a journal of videographic criticism.



**JOHN MCCRIGHT** is a News Editor at the *Addison Independent*, where he has worked for more than 20 years.



**MELANIE FINN** is a critically acclaimed author based in Vermont, known for *Away From You*

(2004), *The Gloaming* (2016), *The Underneath* (2018) and *The Hare* (2021).



**PAUL ZALOOM** is a puppeteer and filmmaker known for his role as Beakman on the science education TV classic,

*Beakman's World*, and has written and performed 16 solo puppet shows, including *White Like Me: A Honky Dory Puppet Show*.



**RACHEL SHUMAN** is an award-winning documentary editor and director whose films have screened at major festivals

around the world and have aired on POV, *Independent Lens* and international broadcast stations.



**TINA FRIML** is a Vermont-raised and New York-based standup comedian who has appeared on *The Tonight Show*

*Starring Jimmy Fallon* twice in the past three years and was named the 2018 winner of Vermont's Funniest Comedian at the Vermont Comedy Club.



**Yael MELAMEDE** is a director and producer and founder of SALTY Features. She is a member of the Academy of Motion

Pictures Arts & Sciences as well as a Graduate of Yale University's School of Architecture (MArch) and Yale University (BA).



# Middlebury Art Stroll

August 21 | 4:00–7:30 PM

**Join us**  
for a special evening  
of art, creativity, and  
community during the MNFF!

Wander through downtown and  
explore a vibrant mix of **galleries,**  
**museums, creative shops, and special**  
**spaces**, each offering something  
unique and inspiring.

## Art Hop locations:

- #1 Henry Sheldon Museum  
1 Park Street
- #2 PhotoPlace Gallery  
3 Park Street
- #3 Otter Creek Custom Framing  
3 Park Street
- #4 Stone Mill Marketplace  
3 Mill Street (Frog Hollow)
- #5 Edgewater Gallery (Frog Hollow /  
Middlebury Falls)  
1 Mill Street
- #6 American Flatbread  
137 Maple Street
- #7 The Jackson Gallery (Town Hall  
Theater, downstairs)  
72–76 Merchants Row
- #8 Edgewater Gallery (On the Green)  
6 Merchants Row
- #9 Sparrow Art Supply  
44 (or 52) Main Street
- #10 Danforth Pewter  
46 Main Street
- #11 Adagio Chocolates  
52 Main Street
- #12 Buy Again Alley  
60 Main Street
- #13 Vermont's Own Gifts & Goods  
64 Main Street
- #14 Middlebury Studio School  
94 Court Street
- New Address!** #15 The Frog in Frog Hollow  
Side of the Middlebury Shop, Mill St



**Come explore. Come be inspired. Come stroll.**

Experience  
**MIDDLEBURY**  
VERMONT



## NARRATIVE FEATURE



**LELA MEADOW-CONNER** Lela is Founder/CEO of mamafilm, President of Art House Convergence, a coalition of independent exhibitors connecting, amplifying and advocating for mission-driven cinemas; the former Executive Director of Film Festival Alliance, the co-founder of The Popcorn List; and the co-founder of rePROFilm. She's currently the co-Director of Programming for the Athena Film Festival at Barnard College, and as an award-winning producer, her credits include *Chasing Chasing Amy* (Tribeca, 2023), the Oscar-qualifying, Vimeo Staff Pick short film *Run Amok* (2023), the video-first podcast *Green Tide Rising* (2024) and the forthcoming experimental documentary *Monstrous Me*.



**HURIYYAH MUHAMMAD** is an award-winning director, writer and producer whose projects have been invited to the Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Institute, Outfest, Newfest, AFI, Austin Film Festival, New Voices in Black Cinema, American Black Film Festival and selected by The Criterion Collection. Huriyyah is an NAACP Image Award Nominee, the 2024 HBO Short Film Competition Winner, a 2024 SeriesFest Winner, a Sundance Creative Producing Award Winner and an alum of the prestigious AFI Directing Workshop for Women (DWW) and the Film Independent Episodic Directing Intensive.

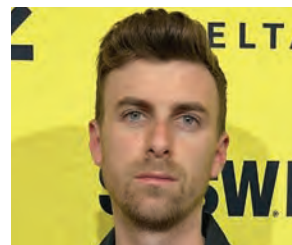


**AARON KATZ** is Senior Vice President of Acquisitions at Oscilloscope Laboratories, where he is responsible for all initiatives related to acquiring finished films and bringing in projects at various stages of production for possible financing and distribution. Aaron also focuses on digital film initiatives and strategy for the release of upcoming Oscilloscope titles across all digital platforms. Previously Aaron worked at various film festivals as a coordinator of programing and filmmaker relations.

## NARRATIVE SHORT



**AVRIL Z. SPEAKS** is a producer, director and showrunner and a former professor at Howard University. Avril has produced several award-winning films, including *Jinn*, which premiered at SXSW and won Special Jury Recognition for Writing, and the South African film *African America*, which was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and four African Movie Academy Awards. As a director and showrunner, Avril has worked with companies such as Now This and Vox Media Studios. She is a recipient of the inaugural Dear Producer Award, the Sundance Momentum Fellowship and is a recent recipient of the Film Independent/Netflix Amplifier Fellowship. She is a recurring creative advisor for Global Media Makers, and is one of the founding members of Distribution Advocates, where she hosts the podcast Distribution Advocates Presents. Avril is also a member of Producers United.



**SAM CUTLER-KREUTZ** is an Oscar-nominated director, writer and producer based in New York City. His first short film, *Flounder*, premiered in the Clermont-Ferrand International Competition 2022. His second, *A Lien*, was nominated for the 97th Academy Awards. His third short, *Trapped*, premiered at SXSW 2024 Narrative Shorts Competition, where it won the Special Jury Prize and at Palm Springs ShortsFest, where it was awarded Best US Short. Sam's work has been shown at SXSW, Palm Springs ShortsFest, Clermont-Ferrand, SIFF, Austin, Vancouver, Hamptons, Rhode Island, Oldenburg, Brooklyn Film Festival, Flickerfest and Festival Regard, among others.



## DOCUMENTARY FEATURE



**DARA MESSINGER** is a filmmaker and programmer with 20 years of experience in the documentary industry. As the longtime Director of Programming at DCTV in New York's Chinatown, she has overseen the honored organization's public programs, including programming for the brand-new Firehouse: DCTV's Cinema for Documentary Film. Through DCTV's many affordable educational and exhibition programs, Dara has helped to support and champion hundreds of filmmakers from a diversity of backgrounds and their independent projects. In addition to her work at DCTV, Dara is an active filmmaker and has been a member of the award-winning Meerkat Media Collective since 2008.



**KIYOKO MCCRAE** is Program Director at Chicken & Egg Films, which provides funding, mentorship and industry access to a global community of women and gender-expansive filmmakers. Previously, Kiyoko was Director of Documentary Programming and Filmmaker Labs at the New Orleans Film Society and Managing Director of Junebug Productions. An award-winning film and theater director, Kiyoko's films have screened at AFI Docs, Calgary, Hot Springs, Flickers Rhode Island, IndieMemphis, Cucalorus and Milwaukee and have been supported by the Center for Asian American Media, Firelight Media, Reel South, World Channel, Southern Documentary Fund and others. She is a 2017-2018 Intercultural Leadership Institute Fellow, a 2020 John O'Neal Cultural Arts Fellow and a member of A-Doc.



**HASAN OSWALD** is a documentary director whose filmmaking has covered the water crisis in Flint, Michigan (*Forgotten USA*), drug trafficking and homelessness in Camden, New Jersey (*Higher Love*), and the international diaspora of conflict refugees for National Geographic (*Hell on Earth*). His latest documentary, *Mediha*, follows a teenage Yazidi girl processing her trauma after being held captive by ISIS. *Mediha* won the Grand Jury Award and Audience Award (runner-up) at DOC NYC in 2023. Hasan was also named one of DOC NYC's 40 under 40 documentary rising stars to watch, co-presented by HBO Documentary Films.



**CHLOE GBAI** is an Emmy-nominated producer and filmmaker. Her most recent project, *Shut Up And Paint*, was released in 2022 on POV Shorts, played numerous film festivals, and has been honored with a Cinema Eye Nomination and Shortlisted for the 2023 Academy Awards for the Short Documentary category. Chloe currently works on the Original Documentary Films team at Netflix. She's a graduate from NYU's Gallatin School and a proud member of Brown Girls Doc Mafia, a 2020 Impact Partners Producing Fellow, a DOC NYC New Leader and a member-in-residence of the Meerkat Media Collective.

## DOCUMENTARY SHORT



**EMILY ABI-KHEIRS** is a Boston-based independent documentary programmer and producer. She is currently the programming manager at WGBH, a renowned public broadcaster and the largest producer of PBS content, and Program Director at Salem Film Fest. In 2022, she was recognized as a Documentary New Leader by DOC NYC for her work to create a more inclusive and equitable documentary field through intentional community building and creative collaboration. Previously, she managed artist support programs and led marketing strategy at Women Make Movies. She is a LEF New England Flaherty Film Fellow and a 2022 IDA Getting Real fellow.



**CAITLIN MAE BURKE** brings over fifteen years of producing experience to her work supporting and expanding the Sandbox Films slate as Head of Production and Development. An Emmy-winning producer and Oscar-shortlisted Executive Producer, Caitlin's work has been broadcast and screened in movie theaters internationally, recognized with Emmy, Grand Clio and Gotham Awards, and nominated for Critic's Choice, Independent Spirit and Cinema Eye Honors, as well as numerous "Best of festival" designations. In her prior role as Co-Director of IF/Then Shorts at Field of Vision, she oversaw over 115 short documentaries from development to distribution as a supervising or executive producer. She is an inaugural inductee into DOC NYC's 40 Under 40 and alumna of Berli-nale Talents, and member of the Television Academy's Documentary branch.



**LUCY LERNER** is a programmer, curator and producer; she holds roles as Senior Programmer of Shorts at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Senior Manager of Programming at AspenFilm, Senior Programmer at Mountainfilm and Curator and Producer for the Psychedelic Cinematique, a program of the Psychedelic Science Conference. Her diverse background includes a 17-year tenure at the Telluride Film Festival, where she served as the Managing Director of the SHOWcorps office.

# STAFF



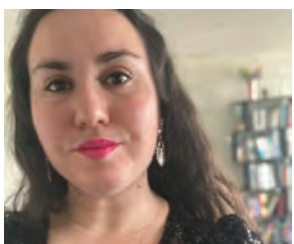
**CAITLIN BOYLE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**JAY CRAVEN**  
CO-FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**SIMEON HUTNER**  
SENIOR PROGRAMMER



**KATE LEMBERG**  
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



**REGAN O'BRIEN**  
FESTIVAL ASSISTANT



**KSENIIA LEBID**  
FESTIVAL INTERN



**GRAYDON HANSON**  
FESTIVAL INTERN



**CAMPBELL KELLER**  
FESTIVAL INTERN

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featuring local ingredients

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craft cocktails & beer, select wines

indoor and outdoor seating  
take out available

**CHEERS, MNFF!**  
Join us for the Thursday Night Party  
August 21 | 8:30 pm

✦ ✦ ✦

WED/THU lunch 11-2 dinner 5-9 | FRI/SAT lunch 11-2 dinner 4:30-9  
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# SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY 8/20

MNFF2025.EVENTIVE.ORG ■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

6 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER Prime Minister (1h42m) ★ Extended Q&A Opening Night ticketholders only, please

9 pm

MALONEY PLAZA Opening Night Party Opening Night ticketholders only, please

# SCHEDULE THURSDAY 8/21

MNFF2025.EVENTIVE.ORG ■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

9 am

TWILIGHT HALL The Waste Commons (60m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

DANA AUDITORIUM Shorts Program: Narrative Spotlight Overcomer (12m) Cliff Edge (15m) ■ Learners (21m) Sally Get the Potatoes (17m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

CROOKED LADLE FREE Panel: What's So Funny: Making Comedy Work On Screen (1h30m)

11 am

TOWN HALL THEATER Andre Is An Idiot (1h28m) Oh Yeah! (17m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

TWILIGHT HALL Far Out: Life On & After the Commune (1h25m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

DANA AUDITORIUM DJ Ahmet (1h39m)

MARQUIS THEATRE Mad Bills To Pay (1h41m) The Steak (8m)

AXINN CENTER Room For Us? (1h47m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

TOWN OFFICES FREE Panel: Lies, Truth & Laughs: Comedy as Social Commentary (1h30m)

2 pm

ANDERSON STUDIO FREE Presentation: The Serious Power of Comedy for Good (1h30m)

TWILIGHT HALL Anxiety Club (1h26m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

DANA AUDITORIUM Walk With Me (1h29m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

MARQUIS THEATRE Remaining Native (1h27m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

SHELDON MUSEUM FREE Presentation: Paint Me A Road Out Of Here (1h29m)

2:15 pm

AXINN CENTER Student Film Program: Doc Shorts A Good Death (19m) ■ Hey Hugo (16m) ■ Two Trees (15m) ■ Boil That Cabbage Down (25m) ■ Kitty Kathryn Sings The Blues (13m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

4 pm

MAIN STREET FREE Downtown Art Stroll (1h)

5 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER The Silence of My Hands (1h20m) ■ In Totality (13m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

TWILIGHT HALL Arrest the Midwife (1h18) ★ ■ Filmmaker Q&A

DANA AUDITORIUM Traces of Time (1h16m) ★ ■ Filmmaker Q&A

MARQUIS THEATRE Fantasy Life (1h31m)

5:30 pm

TOAD HALL Industry Reception (1h) Industry passholders only, please



# SCHEDULE THURSDAY 8/21

CONTINUED

7:30 pm

TWILIGHT HALL	Champions of the Golden Valley (1h21m) ■	Dale (10m) ★■
DANA AUDITORIUM	Natchez (1h26m) ★	
MARQUIS THEATRE	Friendship (1h40)	
AXINN CENTER	Forge (1h55m)	
MALONEY PLAZA	<b>FREE</b> Screening: Marcel the Shell With Shoes On (1h30m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A <i>Rain location: Anderson Studio</i>

8:30 pm

AMERICAN FLATBREAD	Thursday Night Party (2h) <b>Passholders only, please</b>
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# SCHEDULE FRIDAY 8/22

MNFF2025.EVENTIVE.ORG ■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

9 am

TWILIGHT HALL	The Prison Show (57m)	
DANA AUDITORIUM	Shorts Program: Doc Spotlight	Big Cat (15m) Expression Of Illness (21m) ■ Imaginary Parachute (27m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A
AXINN CENTER	The Players (1h34m)	
CROOKED LADLE	<b>FREE</b> Panel: Doc Distribution Lowdown (1h30m)	

11 am

TOWN HALL THEATER	Bad Press (1h38m)	
TWILIGHT HALL	My Omaha (1h25m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	Crocodile Tears (1h38) ★■	Filmmaker Q&A
MARQUIS THEATRE	Powwow Highway (1h31m)	Extended Q&A
AXINN CENTER	Life After (1h39m)	
TOWN OFFICES	<b>FREE</b> Panel: Journalism, Public Narrative & Myth (1h30m)	

2 pm

TWILIGHT HALL	There Was, There Was Not (1h34m)	
DANA AUDITORIUM	Love, Chaos, Kin (1h38m) ★■	Filmmaker Q&A
MARQUIS THEATRE	Pistachio Wars (1h15m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
AXINN CENTER	Shorts Program: Narrative Spotlight	Audio Description (5m) ■ Breadwinner (17m) ■ Dark Orange (6m) I Am A German Shepherd (15m) ★■ M. L'espérance (9m) Sunflower Shadows (13m) Filmmaker Q&A

5 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	The Gas Station Attendant (1h23m)	
TWILIGHT HALL	Ada (1h21m) ■	Expiration Date (14m) ★■ Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	The New Cold Wars: In Conversation With David Sanger (1h30m)	
MARQUIS THEATRE	Omaha (1h23m)	Sender Unknown (12m)
AXINN CENTER	Land With No Rider (1h20m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
EDGEWATER GALLERY	Friday Happy Hour (1h30m) <b>Passholders only, please</b>	

# SCHEDULE FRIDAY 8/22 CONTINUED

7:30 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	Open (1h22m) ■	Cafuné (17m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
ANDERSON STUDIO	Coroner to the Stars (1h23m) ■	My Back Pages (10m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	Hundreds Of Beavers (1h48m)		
MARQUIS THEATRE	Eephus (1h38m)	Q&A	
AXINN CENTER	Rebel With A Clause (1h26m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A	

7:45 pm

TWILIGHT HALL	The Librarians (1h34m) ■	A Calling (11m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
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9 pm

JOHNSON MEMORIAL BUILDING	Filmmaker Party (2h 30m)	Filmmaker and Industry Passholders only, please	
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# SCHEDULE SATURDAY 8/23

MNFF2025.EVENTIVE.ORG ■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

9 am

DANA AUDITORIUM	Gone Guys (46m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
CROOKED LADLE	FREE Panel: Inside the Edit: Shaping Indie Film (1h30m)	

11 am

TOWN HALL THEATER	Been Here Stay Here (1h26m) ■			Filmmaker Q&A				
TWILIGHT HALL	The Making of the Saltmarsh Sparrow (42m) ★■			Filmmaker Q&A				
DANA AUDITORIUM	Student Film Program: Narrative Shorts	Fallacies (23m)	New York Day Women (9m) ■	Vas Mar (19m)	Cats (13m)	Dandelion (20m) ■	Into Dust (14m)	Filmmaker Q&A
MARQUIS THEATRE	Vision Portraits (1h18m) ■		Filmmaker Q&A					
AXINN CENTER	Jack And Lou: A Gangster Love Story (1h44m)							

2 pm

ANDERSON STUDIO	FREE Panel: Poetry & Story: Why It Matters (1h30m)					
TWILIGHT HALL	Student Film Program: Narrative Shorts	The Custodian (15m) ■	Sunshine City (16m) ■	Kosher Test (16m) ★■	My Father's Wedding (16m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	To a Land Unknown (1h46m)					
MARQUIS THEATRE	The Encampments (1h20m)					
AXINN CENTER	FREE Masterclass: Shoot Like a DP; Think Like An Editor (1h30m)					

4 pm

MIDDLEBURY INN	FREE Conversation: Fresh Currents in Film Criticism (1h)							
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5 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	Mr. Nobody Against Putin (1h30m)		
TWILIGHT HALL	Predators (1h36m)		
DANA AUDITORIUM	How Deep Is Your Love (1h37m)		
MARQUIS THEATRE	Gaucho Gaucho (1h25m)	Camille A. Brown: Giant Steps (16m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
JEAN'S PLACE	FREE Saturday Happy Hour featuring Lincoln Peak Vineyards		



# SCHEDULE SATURDAY 8/23

CONTINUED

7:30 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	Speak. (1h44m)
ANDERSON STUDIO	Checkpoint Zoo (1h43m) ★
TWILIGHT HALL	Seeds (2h3m) ★
DANA AUDITORIUM	Tatami (1h43m) ★
MARQUIS THEATRE	The Player (1h25m) ■ Extended Q&A
AXINN CENTER	Black Snow (1h42m)

8:30 pm

CROOKED LADLE	Saturday Night Party (2h30m) Passholders only, please
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# SCHEDULE SUNDAY 8/24

MNFF2025.EVENTIVE.ORG ■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

8:30 am

Filmmaker Breakfast (2h) Filmmaker and industry passholders only, please
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9 am

AXINN CENTER	FREE Presentation: Films Made From Other Films: From The Avant-Garde To The Video Essay
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11 am

ANDERSON STUDIO	The New Yorker Theater: A Talbot Legacy (27m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A
TWILIGHT HALL	Shorts Program: Narrative Spotlight Madrina (7m) ■ Free Chair (28m) ■ Chasers (31m) Holy Heaviness (9m) Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	Under the Volcano (1h42)
MARQUIS THEATRE	Dead Man (2h1m) Extended Q&A

2 pm

ANDERSON STUDIO	FREE Presentation: Video Essays: Experiments In Sound & Image (2h) ■
TWILIGHT HALL	La Liga (23m) ★ ■ Braiding A New Life (37m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	Dead Ringer (1h41m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A

2:15 pm

MARQUIS THEATRE	Mulholland Drive (2h27m) Extended Q&A
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6 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	FREE : Closing Night Awards Ceremony (1h)
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7:30 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	The Ballad of Wallis Island (1h40m)
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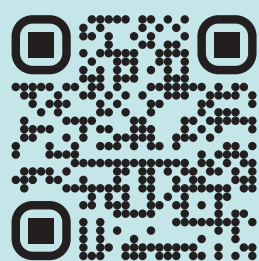
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# FILMS A-Z

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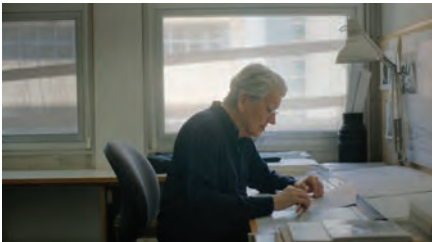


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- INDICATES FEATURE FILM
- 🕒 INDICATES SHORT FILM

## Ada

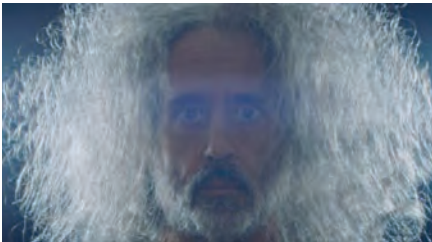


VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
Israel  
English,  
Hebrew

A portrait of an architect tested by the impossible choices between career, country and motherhood. *This event is made possible with the generous support of Vermont Integrated Architecture.*

● 81 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Yael Melamede  
Produced by: Yael Melamede, Hilla Medalia

## André Is an Idiot

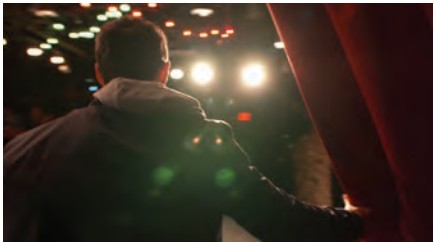


United  
States  
English

André, a brilliant idiot, is dying because he didn't get a colonoscopy. His sobering diagnosis, complete irreverence and insatiable curiosity send him on an unexpected journey, on which he learns how to die happily and ridiculously without losing his sense of humor.

● 87 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Anthony Benna  
Produced by: Ben Cotner, Joshua Altman, Andre Riccardi, Tory Tunnell, Stelio Kitrilakis

## Anxiety Club



United  
States  
English

A humorous and heartfelt look at our common experience of anxiety, through the lens of some of the most brilliant (and anxious) comedians working today.

● 86 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Wendy Lobel  
Produced by: Carolin Ehrenburg, Scott Sinkler, Jonathan Gray, Wendy Lobel

**WINNER: CLIO VISUALIZING HISTORY PRIZE**

## Arrest the Midwife



**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

The arrest of trusted midwives ignites an unexpected rebellion, as Amish and Mennonite women break from tradition and emerge as fierce political activists.

● 78 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Elaine Epstein  
Produced by: Elaine Epstein, Robin Hessman

## Audio Description

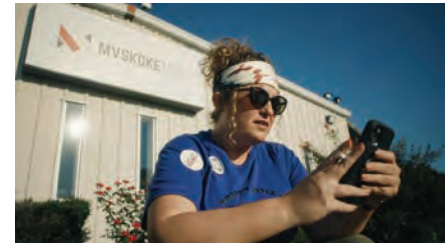


**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

A lonely visually impaired man begins to hear his life audio-described.

🕒 5 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Luke J. Salewski  
Produced by: Lee Pugsley, Luke J. Salewski

## Bad Press



United  
States  
English

When the Muscogee Nation suddenly begins censoring its free press, a rogue reporter fights to expose her government's corruption in a historic battle that will have ramifications for all of Indian Country.

● 98 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, Joe Peeler  
Produced by: Conrad Beilharz, Garrett F. Baker, Tyler Graim, Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, Joe Peeler

## The Ballad of Wallis Island



United  
Kingdom  
English

An eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island tries to make his fantasies come true by getting his favorite musicians (who happen to be ex-lovers) to perform at his home.

● 100 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: James Griffiths  
Produced by: Rupert Majendie

## Been Here Stay Here



**VERMONT  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English,  
German

Facing the climate crisis, locals on Tangier Island, off the coast of Virginia, stay connected through their faith in the face of rising sea levels and the forthcoming sinking of the island.

● 86 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: David Usui  
Produced by: Giorgio Angelini, David Usui, Martha Wollner

## Big Cat



**UNITED STATES  
PREMIERE**  
United  
Kingdom  
English

For years, there have been reports of a large, black panther stalking the countryside around England's famous Glastonbury Festival. As the filmmakers search for the animal, the cat begins to watch them back.

🕒 15 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Naomi Pallas  
Produced by: Naomi Pallas, Sebastien Rabas

## Black Snow



United  
States  
Russian

In a remote Russian mining town, black snow falls due to the extreme pollution. A Siberian eco-activist and mother, dubbed the "Erin Brockovich of Russia," steps up as a citizen journalist and fights for her community.

● 102 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Alina Simone  
Produced by: Kirstine Barfod

## Braiding A New Life



United  
States  
English,  
Swahili,  
Fante, Twi

A Ghanaian asylum seeker navigates life in Southern Vermont with her team of close friends and allies.

🕒 37 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Willow O'Feral, Brad Heck  
Produced by: Willow O'Feral, Brad Heck

## Breadwinner



**WORLD  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

An obsessive baker moves in with her boyfriend just as her sourdough starter develops a bloodthirsty craving.

🕒 17 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Camila Grimaldi  
Produced by: Camila Grimaldi, Polina Buchak, Arielle Friedman, Nicole Lynn Cohen



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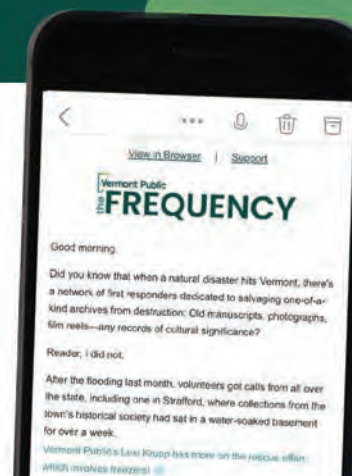
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## Cafuné



**VERMONT  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

An exotic dancer in an open marriage comes to realize her fear of losing her desirability while on a romantic getaway with a lover.

🕒 17 min

Narrative

Directed by: Joanne Nguyen

Produced by: Joanne Nguyen, Vicky Culhane, Colleen Sullivan, Jamila Hache, Grace Hanna

## A Calling



**WORLD  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

A tribute to fallen journalists who risked their lives to report their stories.

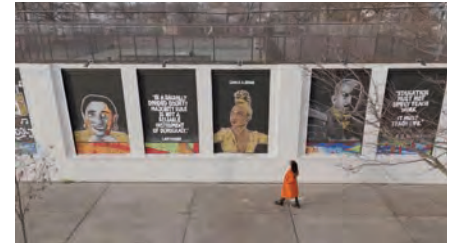
🕒 11 min

Documentary

Directed by: Thomas D. Herman

Produced by: Thomas D. Herman, Ben Avishai, Michela Sandberg

## Camille A. Brown: Giant Steps



**VERMONT  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

Follow the five-time Tony-nominated director and choreographer Camille A. Brown (*Gypsy, Hell's Kitchen*) as she elevates the possible with bold explorations of everyday movement and African Diasporic dance.

🕒 16 min

Documentary

Directed by: Michelle Parkerson, Shellée M. Haynesworth

Produced by: Shellée M. Haynesworth

## Champions of the Golden Valley



**VERMONT  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English,  
Persian

After missing his chance to become Afghanistan's first Olympic skier, a coach inspires his home village to create its own ski competition.

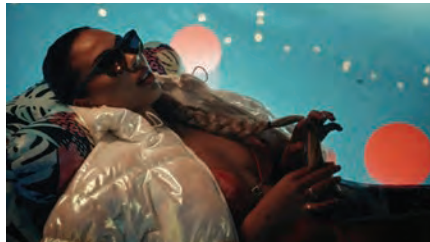
● 81 min

Documentary

Directed by: Ben Sturgulewski

Produced by: Katie Stjernholm, Baktash Ahadi

## Chasers



**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English,  
Tagalog

At a house party in LA, a young dreamer recently manipulated by her crush copes with the abuse she's faced by changing the nature of their relationship.

🕒 31 min

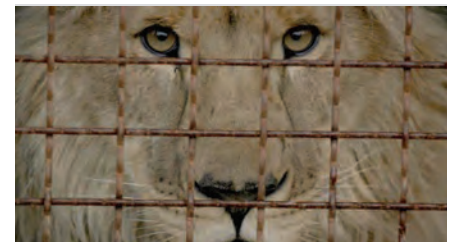
Narrative

Directed by: Erin Brown Thomas

Produced by: Beth Napoli, Hayden Greiwe, Olivia Haller, Elle Shaw

## WINNER: KATE HEARST PRIZE FOR HUMAN CONNECTIVITY

## Checkpoint Zoo



United  
Kingdom  
English,  
Russian,  
Ukrainian

A heroic team of zookeepers and volunteers risk their lives to save thousands of animals trapped in a zoo behind enemy lines during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

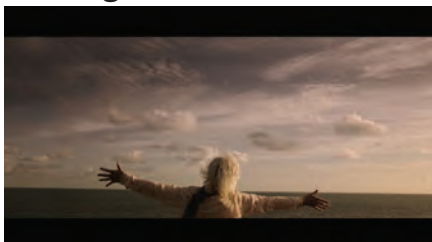
● 103 min

Documentary

Directed by: Joshua Zeman

Produced by: Ian Davies, Torquil Jones, Joshua Zeman, Zachary Mortensen

## Cliff Edge



**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
Kingdom  
English

Feeling isolated, Mary leaves her house on a mesmeric but difficult journey to resolve her relationship with her estranged daughter.

🕒 15 min

Narrative

Directed by: Ann Hawker

Produced by: Ann Hawker, Shelagh Mcleod

## Coroner to the Stars



**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English,  
Portuguese

An exploration of the extraordinary life of Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the former Los Angeles County Chief Medical Examiner and "coroner to the stars" who pushed forensic science into the spotlight—even as many sought to silence him.

● 83 min

Documentary

Directed by: Ben Hethcoat, Keita Ideno

Produced by: Billy Ray Brewton, John Henry Hinkel, Tommy Andres, Ben Hethcoat

## WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING

## Crocodile Tears



**VERMONT  
PREMIERE**  
Indonesia  
Indonesian

An overbearing mother who lives with her son in a secluded crocodile farm spirals out of control when her son sees the outside world and falls for a girl for the first time.

● 98 min

Narrative

Directed by: Tumpal Tampubolon

Produced by: Mandy Marahimin



WINNER: SWIFT HOUSE PRIZE FOR BEST DEPICTION OF THE ARTS

## Dale



NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE  
United  
States  
English

Dale Hikawa was the first Asian American woman to join the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Taking stock of her long career, this trailblazing violist reflects on the meaning of life and work.

🕒 10 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Justin Streichman

## Dark Orange

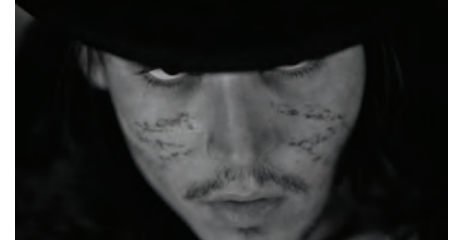


UNITED STATES  
PREMIERE  
Iran, Islamic  
Republic of  
English

A young couple seems to have a peaceful life together, but a closer look reveals their relationship is marred with problems—including violence, depression and neglect.

🕒 6 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Zahra Azadpour  
Produced by: Reza Mousavi

## Dead Man



Germany  
Cree, English

William Blake, an accountant turned fugitive, is on the run. During his travels, he meets a Native American man called Nobody, who guides him on a journey to the spiritual world. *Featuring an extended Q&A from MNFF11 Honoree Gary Farmer.*

● 121 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Jim Jarmusch  
Produced by: Demetra J. MacBride

## Dead Ringer



United  
States  
English

Documentary concert footage is woven into a fictional story of two brothers—one a Meat Loaf doppelganger—who are striving to meet their rock-star idol. *Featuring an extended Q&A from MNFF11 Honoree Allan Nicholls.*

● 101 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Allan F. Nicholls  
Produced by: Al Dellentash, David Sonenberg

WINNER: JURY PRIZE FOR BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

## DJ Ahmet



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
Macedonia  
Macedonian,  
Turkish

Teenaged Ahmet, from a remote Yuruk village in North Macedonia, finds refuge in music while navigating his father's expectations, a conservative community and his first experience with love—a girl already promised to someone else.

● 99 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Georgi M. Unkovski  
Produced by: Ivan Unkovski, Ivana Šekutkoska

## Eephus



United  
States  
English

With an imminent construction project looming over their beloved small-town baseball field, a pair of New England rec-league teams face off for the last time.

● 98 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Carson Lund  
Produced by: Tyler Taormina, Michael Basta, David Entin, Carson Lund, Brian Clark

## The Encampments



United  
States  
English

Students flood Columbia University's lawn to create the Gaza Solidarity Encampment in order to pressure their university to divest from American and Israeli weapons companies.

● 80 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Michael T. Workman, Kei Pritsker  
Produced by: Munir Atalla, Matthew Belen, Kei Pritsker, Michael T. Workman

WINNER: JURY PRIZE FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

## Expiration Date



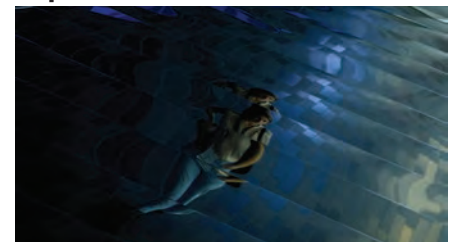
United  
States  
English

A son reflects on the waning years of his father's dairy farm and his decision not to carry on its legacy.

🕒 14 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Giles Perkins  
Produced by: Giles Perkins

WINNER: SPECIAL JURY RECOGNITION

## Expression of Illness



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
United  
States  
English

When she learns that her treatment isn't over, documentary filmmaker and thyroid cancer survivor Bryn Silverman embarks on a solo investigation into her healthcare, discovering the importance of community in the healing process.

🕒 21 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Bryn Silverman  
Produced by: Bryn Silverman, Naveen Chaubal



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## Fantasy Life



United States  
English

After getting laid off, a thirty-something paralegal in New York starts babysitting his psychiatrist's three granddaughters and falls for their mother, an actress in a rocky marriage.

● 91 min

Narrative

Directed by: Matthew Shear

Produced by: Charlie Alderman, Chris Dodds, Amanda Peet, Philip Keefe, Emily McCann Lesser, David Bernon, Sam Slater

## Far Out: Life On & After the Commune



United States  
English

The story of two rural New England communal farms, and the writers, activists and artists who transformed Vermont and Western Massachusetts.

● 85 min

Documentary

Directed by: Charles Light

## Forge



VERMONT PREMIERE  
United States  
Cantonese, Mandarin, English, Spanish

In Miami, siblings Raymond and Coco Zhang run a profitable art forgery ring. When they meet millionaire Holden Beaumont, they're coerced into creating counterfeit masterpieces as a front for his old American family's art collection.

● 115 min

Narrative

Directed by: Jing Ai Ng

Produced by: Liz Daering-Glass, Gabrielle Cordero, Jing Ai Ng, Damian Bao

## Friendship



United States  
English

Suburban dad Craig falls hard for his charismatic new neighbor, as Craig's attempts to make an adult male friend threaten to ruin both of their lives.

● 100 min

Narrative

Directed by: Andrew DeYoung

Produced by: Raphael Margules, J.D. Lifshitz, Johnny Holland, Nick Weidenfeld

## The Gas Station Attendant



VERMONT PREMIERE  
United States  
English

A daughter reflects on her father's life—weaving the story of his miraculous journey from the streets of India with the realities of life in America.

● 83 min

Documentary

Directed by: Karla Murthy

Produced by: Karla Murthy, Rajal Pitroda

## Gaucha Gaucho



United States  
Spanish

A celebration of a community of Argentine cowboys and cowgirls known as Gauchos, living beyond the boundaries of the modern world.

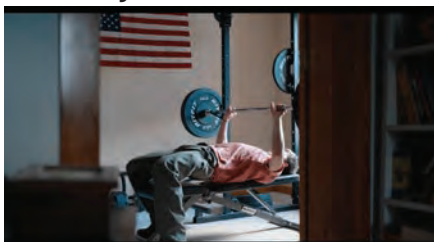
● 85 min

Documentary

Directed by: Michael Dweck, Gregory Kershaw

Produced by: Michael Dweck, Matthew Perniciaro, Cameron O'Reilly, Gregory Kershaw, Christos V. Konstantakopoulos

## Gone Guys



United States  
English

An exploration of the current national crisis facing boys and young men, supported by data brought to life through animation. *A panel discussion with the filmmakers and community members will follow the screening.*

● 46 min

Documentary

Directed by: Chad Ervin

Produced by: Angela Snow

## Holy Heaviness



NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE  
Iran, Islamic Republic of  
No Language

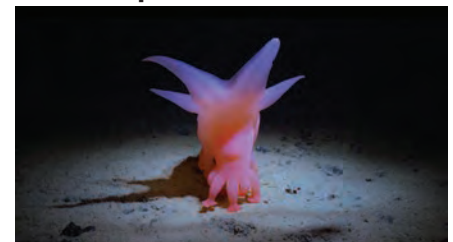
A tender yet meaningful take on the unbearable lightness of the death of loved ones.

● 9 min

Narrative

Directed by: Farnoosh Abedi, Negah Fardiar

## How Deep Is Your Love



NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE  
United Kingdom  
English

In the last unknown territory on Earth, time is running out for biologists to study undersea wildlife, as deep sea mining threatens fragile ecosystems.

● 97 min

Documentary

Directed by: Eleanor Mortimer

Produced by: Jacob Thomas

## Hundreds of Beavers



United States  
English

In the 19th century, a drunken applejack salesman must go from zero to hero and become North America's greatest fur trapper by defeating hundreds of beavers.

● 108 min

Narrative

Directed by: Mike Cheslik

Produced by: Kurt Ravenwood, Matt Sabljak, Ryland Brickson Cole Tews

WINNER: JURY PRIZE FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

## I Am a German Shepherd



UNITED STATES  
PREMIERE  
Brazil  
Portuguese

An animated fable about the pleasure of getting in touch with your true nature, as told through the story of a German shepherd who leaves his flock of sheep.

⌚ 15 min

Narrative

Directed by: Angelo Defanti

Produced by: Bárbara Defanti

## Imaginary Parachute



WORLD  
PREMIERE  
Belgium  
French

An immersive exploration of the imaginative worlds of children in a school in Belgium.

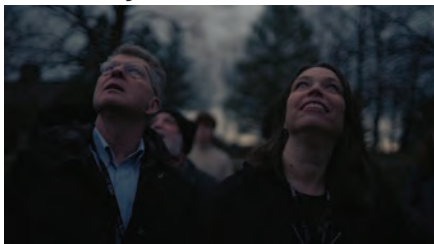
⌚ 27 min

Documentary

Directed by: Alizé Loumaye

Produced by: Alizé Loumaye, Hanoulia Salame

## In Totality



NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE  
United States  
English

One woman's existential journey into the path of the total solar eclipse.

⌚ 13 min

Documentary

Directed by: Jesse Rudoy

Produced by: Jesse Rudoy, Jonathan Olson

WINNER: THADDEUS STEVENS PRIZE FOR SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

## La Liga



United States  
Spanish

In rural Vermont, immigrant dairy farmworkers endure hardship and oppressive working conditions while forging community through soccer and collective action.

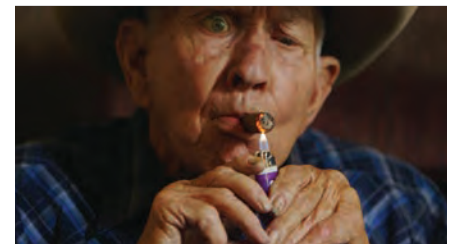
⌚ 23 min

Documentary

Directed by: MacPherson Christopher, Paul Rosenfeld

Produced by: Tik Root

## Land With No Rider



NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE  
United States  
English

The last cowboys of New Mexico eke out a fragile survival in a world of isolation, memories and rugged beauty as an epic drought devastates the American West.

● 80 min

Documentary

Directed by: Tamar Lando

Produced by: Tamar Lando, Hunter Robert Baker, Judith Mizrachy

## Learners



UNITED STATES  
PREMIERE  
United Kingdom  
English

When David, a retired widower, reluctantly agrees to give driving lessons to his son's girlfriend Ellen, things get off to a terrible start. Can they find enough common ground to tolerate one another?

⌚ 21 min

Narrative

Directed by: Paul Testar

Produced by: Ben Jacob Smith, Tilly Taylor, Emer Heatley

## The Librarians



United States  
English

Librarians unite to combat book banning, defending intellectual freedom on democracy's frontlines amid unprecedented censorship in Texas, Florida and beyond.

● 94 min

Documentary

Directed by: Kim A. Snyder

Produced by: Maria Cuomo Cole, Jana Edelbaum, Kim A. Snyder, Janique L. Robillard

## Life After



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
United States  
English

A gripping personal investigation that exposes the tangled web of moral dilemmas and profit motives surrounding assisted dying. Disabled filmmaker Reid Davenport uncovers shocking abuses of power while amplifying the voices of the disability community.

● 99 min

Documentary

Directed by: Reid Davenport

Produced by: Colleen Cassingham





# VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: EAST MEETS WEST

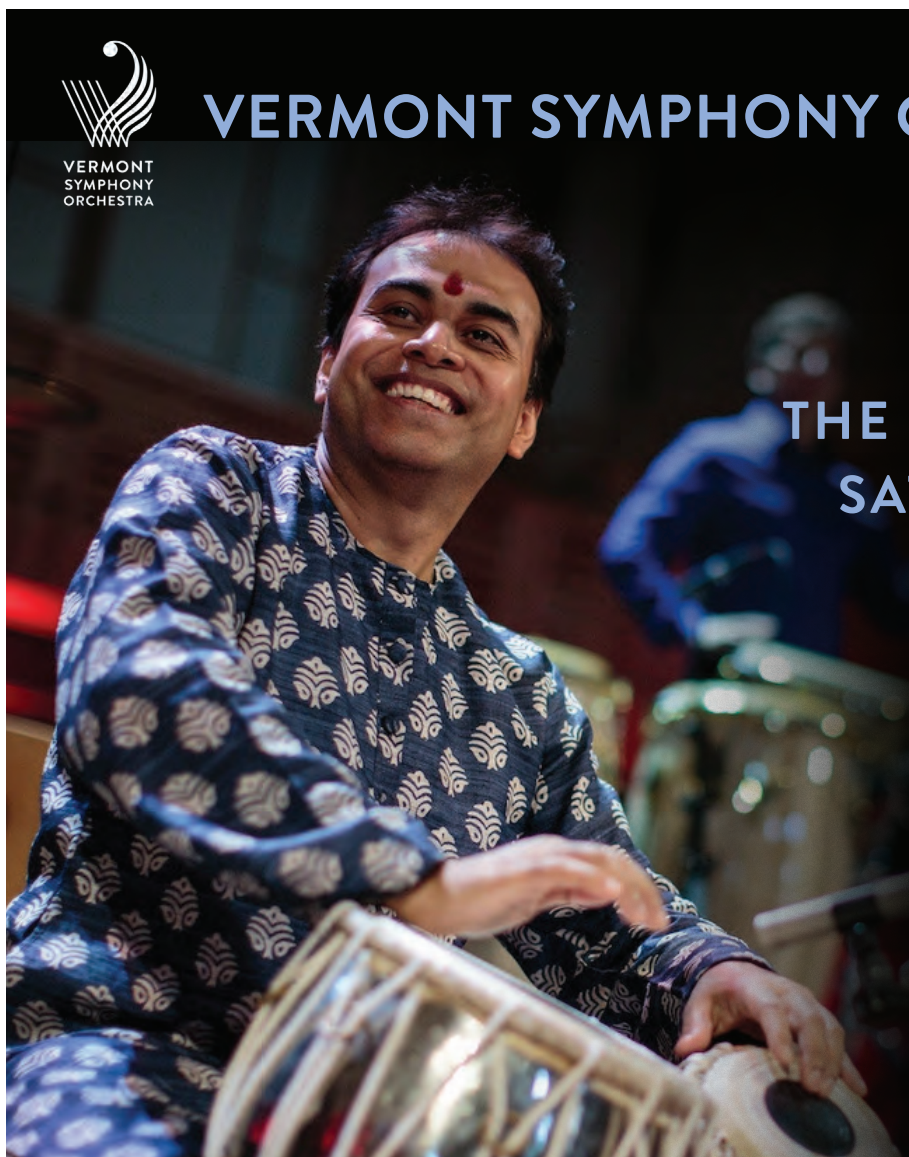
THE FLYNN, BURLINGTON  
FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 26 | 7:30 PM

THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE, RUTLAND  
SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 27 | 7:30 PM

RAVI SHANKAR *Symphony*  
DINUK WIJERATNE *Tabla Concerto*  
SANDEEP DAS *Mohini*  
MODEST MUSSORGSKY *Pictures at an Exhibition*

TICKETS AT  
VSO.ORG

Andrew Crust, Conductor  
Sandeep Das, Tabla  
Rajib Karmakar, Sitar



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### HOURS:

Lunch: Thursday-Friday, 11:30 am-2:30pm. Saturday-Sunday, 12:30 pm- 3:00 pm  
Dinner: Wednesday to Sunday, 4:30-8:00 pm  
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**WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING**

## Love Chaos Kin

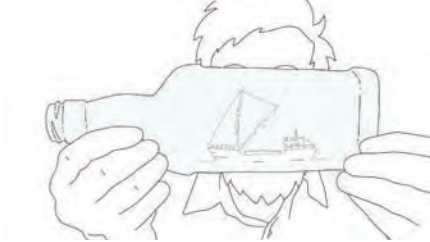


**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English,  
Tamil

An Indian immigrant mother helps her adopted twin daughters reconnect with their white birth mother and estranged Native American father, exposing raw class divides while transforming their understanding of identity and belonging.

● 98 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Chithra Jeyaram  
Produced by: Chithra Jeyaram

## M. L'espérance



Canada  
No  
Language

A storm is brewing at the neighbor's house. As Mr. L'esperance works to make her a gift to bring some peace of mind, the old man is assailed by a flood of resurfacing memories.

🕒 9 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Chantale Boulianne

## Mad Bills to Pay (or Destiny, dile que no soy malo)



United  
States  
Spanish,  
English

Rico's summer is a mix of chasing girls and hustling homemade cocktails out of a cooler on Orchard Beach, the Bronx. But when Destiny, his teenage girlfriend, crashes at his place with his family, his carefree days come to an end.

● 101 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Joel Alfonso Vargas  
Produced by: Paolo Maria Pedullà

## Madrina



**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

A young woman stirs up bitter resentment in an attempt to reconnect with her estranged family at Christmas. Realizing she may never "go home" again, she forges a kinship with migrants seeking refuge in her city.

🕒 7 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Missy Hernandez  
Produced by: Miguel Silveira

**WINNER: GAIA PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKING**

## The Making of the Saltmarsh Sparrow

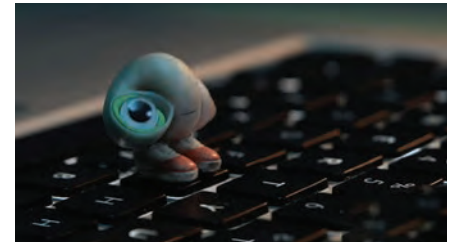


United  
States  
English

As the saltmarsh sparrow disappears from its imperiled salt marsh habitat, wildlife filmmakers reveal the behind-the-scenes process of capturing the story on film.

🕒 42 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Matt Aeberhard, Melanie Finn  
Produced by: BirdStory

## Marcel the Shell with Shoes On



United  
States  
English,  
Spanish,  
Portuguese

A cash-strapped documentary maker decides to make his newest documentary about a mollusk shell he finds living in his Airbnb. *Featuring a Q&A with Writer Nick Paley. Free, outdoor screening; bring your own chair and blanket!*

● 90 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Dean Fleischer Camp  
Produced by: Elisabeth Holm, Andrew Goldman, Caroline Kaplan, Paul S. Mezey, Dean Fleischer Camp, Jenny Slate

## Mr. Nobody Against Putin



Denmark  
English,  
Russian

As Russia launches its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, schools across Russia's hinterlands are transformed into recruitment stages for the war. A brave teacher goes undercover to film what's really happening.

● 90 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: David Borenstein, Pavel Talankin  
Produced by: Helle Faber

## Mulholland Drive



United  
States  
English

After a car wreck on Mulholland Drive renders a woman amnesiac, she and a Hollywood-hopeful search for clues and answers across Los Angeles. *Featuring an extended Q&A with MNFF11 Honoree and Vermont Poet Laureate Bianca Stone.*

● 147 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: David Lynch  
Produced by: Alain Sarde, Neal Edelstein, Tony Krantz, Michael Polaire, Mary Sweeney

## My Back Pages



**VERMONT  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

As Mitch Blank prepares to donate his vast Bob Dylan memorabilia collection, he reflects on the nature of collecting and the emotions around letting it go.

🕒 10 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Nick Canfield, Paul Lovelace  
Produced by: Nick Canfield, Paul Lovelace



## My Omaha



**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

Filmmaker Nick Beaulieu returns to his hometown to document its surging racial justice movement while seeking to reconnect with his staunchly pro-Trump father, Randy.

● 85 min

Documentary

Directed by: Nick Beaulieu

Produced by: Nick Beaulieu, Doug Block

**WINNER: JURY PRIZE FOR BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**

## Natchez



**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

*Natchez* captures a clash between history and memory through a small Mississippi town reliant on antebellum tourism to survive. Who has the right to share America's story?

● 86 min

Documentary

Directed by: Suzannah Herbert

Produced by: Darcy McKinnon

## The New Yorker Theater: A Talbot Legacy



**VERMONT  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

In 1960, Dan and Toby Talbot opened the New Yorker Theater on the then-dangerous Upper West Side of New York. With no money or experience, the Talbots transformed this 900-seat living room into one of America's most influential cinemas.

🕒 27 min

Documentary

Directed by: Sergio Maza

Produced by: Maria Politano, Cara Yeates, Sergio Maza

## Oh, Yeah!



**NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

The story of the iconic electronic music group Yello and the phenomenon of their 1980s hit song, exploring the song's cultural impact and its enduring place in the American psyche.

🕒 17 min

Documentary

Directed by: Nick Canfield

Produced by: Nick Canfield

## Omaha



United  
States  
English

After a family tragedy, siblings Ella and Charlie are unexpectedly woken up by their dad and taken on a journey across the country, experiencing a world they've never seen before.

● 83 min

Narrative

Directed by: Cole Webley

Produced by: Preston Lee

## Open



**SNEAK  
PREVIEW**  
Slovakia  
Slovak

Can two people be totally honest with each other? In a culture where infidelity is almost expected, Tomas and Diana try to create something radically different.

● 82 min

Documentary

Directed by: Diana Fabianova

Produced by: Silvia Panakova

## Overcomer



**VERMONT  
PREMIERE**  
United  
Kingdom  
English

A self-conscious woman with a striking scar battles anxiety when an online job interview is switched to an in-person one.

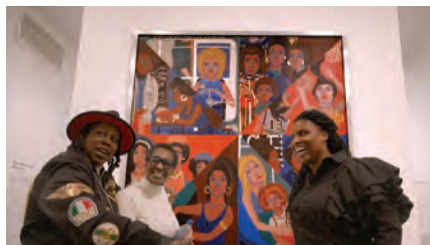
🕒 12 min

Narrative

Directed by: Wale Adetula

Produced by: Andre Wooz

## Paint Me a Road Out of Here



**VERMONT  
PREMIERE**  
United  
States  
English

The 50-year journey of women at Rikers Jail and a painting that leads the way out. *A printmaking demonstration from Revolutionary Press's John Vincent will follow.*

● 90 min

Documentary

Directed by: Catherine Gund

Produced by: Tanya Selvaratnam

## Pistachio Wars



**UNITED STATES  
PREMIERE**  
New  
Zealand  
English

There's a hidden side to California's healthy snack industry. Documenting towns ravaged by drought, farms built on oil fields, mass extinction and a water heist straight from the plot of *Chinatown*, the film takes a road trip into the dark heart of the American Dream.

● 75 min

Documentary

Directed by: Rowan Wernham, Yasha Levine

Produced by: Rowan Wernham

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## The Player



United States  
English

A Hollywood executive is sent death threats by a writer whose script he rejected. *Featuring an extended Q&A with MNFF11 Honoree Allan Nicholls.*

● 124 min

Narrative

Directed by: Robert Altman

Produced by: Nick Wechsler, David Brown, Michael Tolkin

## The Players



NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE  
Canada  
English

In 1994, young Emily joins an avant-garde theater cast. Drawn to her castmates' bohemian world and feeling like family, she gets entangled in the group's complicated power dynamics.

● 94 min

Narrative

Directed by: Sarah Galea-Davis

Produced by: Sonya Di Rienzo, Aeschylus Poulos

## Powwow Highway



United States  
English

Two Northern Cheyenne men take a road trip from Montana to New Mexico to bail out the sister of one of them who has been framed and arrested in Santa Fe. On the way, they begin to reconnect to their spiritual heritage. *Featuring an extended Q&A with MNFF11 Honoree Gary Farmer.*

● 91 min

Narrative

Directed by: Jonathan Wacks

Produced by: Jan Wieringa

## Predators



United States  
English

*To Catch a Predator* was a popular television show designed to hunt down child predators. *Predators* is an exploration of the scintillating rise and staggering fall of the show and the world it helped create.

● 96 min

Documentary

Directed by: David Osit

Produced by: Kellen Quinn, David Osit, J. Gonçalves

WINNER: CLIO VISUALIZING HISTORY PRIZE

## Prime Minister



United States  
English

Chronicling Jacinda Ardern's tenure as New Zealand PM, navigating crises while redefining global leadership through her empathetic yet resolute approach.

● 101 min

Documentary

Directed by: Michelle Walshe, Lindsay Utz

Produced by: Gigi Pritzker, Rachel Shane, Cass Avery, Leon Kirkbeck, Katie Peck

## The Prison Show



NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE  
United States  
English,  
French

In Houston, Texas, a local radio airs a weekly show catered to prisoners and the families they've left behind.

● 57 min

Documentary

Directed by: Gabriella Kessler

Produced by: Fabrice Coat, Constance Ortuzar, Thibault Dufour, Philip Drouin, Gabriella Kessler

## Rebel With a Clause



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
United States  
English

A grammar guru takes her pop-up grammar advice stand on a road trip across all 50 states to show that comma fights can bring us closer together in a divided time.

● 86 min

Documentary

Directed by: Brandt Johnson

Produced by: Brandt Johnson

## Remaining Native



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
United States  
English

Ku Stevens, a 17-year-old Native American runner, struggles to navigate his dream of becoming a collegiate athlete as the memory of his great grandfather's escape from an Indian boarding school begins to connect past, present and future.

● 87 min

Documentary

Directed by: Paige Bethmann

Produced by: Jessica Epstein, Judd Ehrlich, Paige Bethmann

## Sally, Get the Potatoes



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
United States  
English

A little girl's innocence is shattered when she takes an unexpected ride in her wealthy family's rolling laundry cart and learns their secrets.

● 17 min

Narrative

Directed by: Danicah Waldo

Produced by: Patricia Chica, Jess DuBois, Sarah Parr, Cade Waldo, Danicah Waldo

WINNER: HERNANDEZ/BAYLISS PRIZE FOR TRIUMPH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

## Seeds



United States  
English

An exploration of Black generational farmers in the American South reveals the fragility of legacy and the significance of owning land.

● 123 min

Documentary

Directed by: Brittany Shyne

Produced by: Danielle Varga, Brittany Shyne, Sabrina Schmidt Gordon

## Sender Unknown



NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE  
United States  
English

Grace's regimented world upends as mysterious packages arrive on her doorstep, each box containing an item she unknowingly needs in the near future.

● 12 min

Narrative

Directed by: Lauren Coggiola

Produced by: Lauren Coggiola, Noor Lawson

WINNER: RALPH STEINER PRIZE FOR POETIC CINEMA

## The Silence of My Hands



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
Mexico  
Spanish,  
English

Rosa, the first deaf law student in Guadalajara, and Sai, an immigrant from California confronting her gender identity, try to stay together despite their realities and the distance that separates them.

● 80 min

Documentary

Directed by: Manuel Acuña

Produced by: Monica Velasco

## Speak.



United States  
English

Five top-ranked high school oratory students spend a year crafting spellbinding spoken word performances with the dream of winning one of the world's largest and most intense public speaking competitions.

● 104 min

Documentary

Directed by: Jennifer Tiexiera, Guy Mossman

Produced by: Jennifer Tiexiera, Guy Mossman, Pamela Louise Griner

## Sunflower Shadows



Iran, Islamic Republic of  
Persian

Pouya is a teenage boy who faces challenges in confronting his own world of oppression with his mother and Tala, a painter who lives next door.

● 13 min

Narrative

Directed by: Roya Zambagh

Produced by: Shima Zambagh

WINNER: GAMBLE-PAISON PRIZE FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

## Tatami



Georgia  
English,  
Persian

Iranian judoka Leila and her coach attend the World Judo Championships, aiming for Iran's first gold medal. During the event, they face an ultimatum from the Islamic Republic government.

● 105 min

Narrative

Directed by: Guy Nattiv, Zar Amir Ebrahimi

Produced by: Mandy Tagger Brockey, Adi Ezroni, Guy Nattiv, Jaime Ray Newman

## There Was, There Was Not



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
Armenia  
Armenian,  
English

The first line of every Armenian fairy tale is There Was, There Was Not. The phrase evokes the collective myth of a homeland lost forever—and the film tells the story of four women's resistance to that loss.

● 94 min

Documentary

Directed by: Emily Mkrtichian

Produced by: Brock Williams

## To a Land Unknown



United Kingdom  
Arabic,  
Greek,  
English

A Palestinian refugee living on the fringes of society in Athens gets ripped off by a smuggler and sets out to seek revenge.

● 106 min

Narrative

Directed by: Mahdi Fleifel

Produced by: Mahdi Fleifel, Maarten van der Ven, Layla Meijman, Geoff Arbourne

WINNER: SHOULDICE FAMILY PRIZE FOR BEST VERMONT-MADE FILM

## Traces of Time



United States  
English

Over the final six years of his mother's life, a filmmaker documents their time together. What began as an act of staying connected evolves into a meditation on memory, loss, how to hold on... and how to let go.

● 76 min

Documentary

Directed by: Simeon Hutner

Produced by: Simeon Hutner



Under the Volcano



Poland  
English,  
Ukrainian,  
Spanish

A blended Ukrainian family spends the last day of their vacation in Tenerife, Spain. When Russia's invasion of Ukraine strands them on the island, they must contend with isolation, duty, fear and each other.

● 102 min  
Narrative  
Directed by: Damian Kocur  
Produced by: Mikołaj Lizut, Agnieszka Jastrzębska

Vision Portraits



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
United  
States  
English

An in-depth exploration of the creative paths of blind and low-vision artists, including a photographer, a dancer, a writer and the filmmaker. *Featuring an extended Q&A with MNFF11 Honoree Rodney Evans.*

● 78 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Rodney Evans  
Produced by: H. Robert Wunder, Rodney Evans

Walk with Me



VERMONT  
PREMIERE  
United  
States  
English

Charlie and his wife Heidi must learn to live with Charlie's Early-Onset Alzheimer's disease. Over four years, they criss-cross the country, redefining how life will be lived to its fullest.

● 90 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Heidi Levitt  
Produced by: Vanessa Perez, Heidi Levitt

The Waste Commons



NEW ENGLAND  
PREMIERE  
United  
States  
French,  
Wolof

An exploration of the dramatic transformations involved in the impending closure of the city waste dump in Dakar, Senegal, and the lives that hang in the balance.

● 60 min  
Documentary  
Directed by: Rosalind Fredericks, Sarita West  
Produced by: Rosalind Fredericks, Sarita West, Mamadou Dia, Maba Ba

# ARTS + LEISURE

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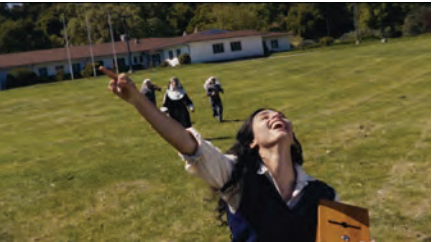
**Cats**



**The Custodian**



**Dandelion**



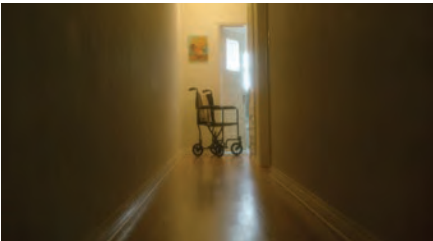
**Fallacies**



**Free Chair**



**A Good Death**



**Hey Hugo**



WINNER: JEANINE BASINGER PRIZE FOR BEST STUDENT FILM

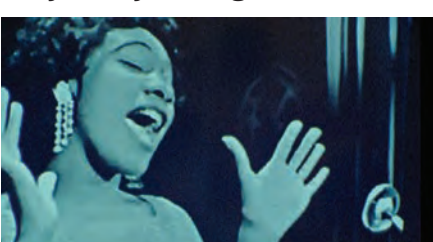
**Into Dust**



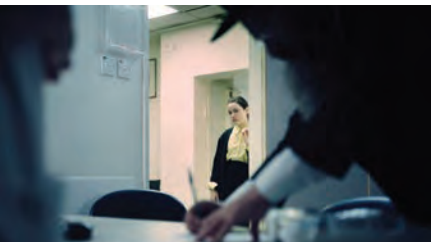
**Jack and Lou: A Gangster Love Story**



**Kitty Kathryn Sings the Blues**



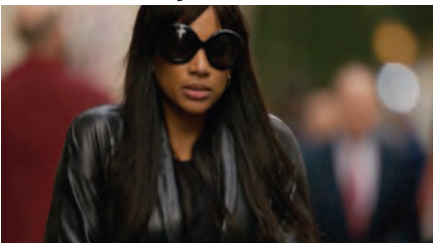
**Kosher Test**



**My Father's Wedding**



**New York Day Women**



**Room for Us?**



**The Steak**



**Sunshine City**



**Two Trees**



**Vas Mar**







# Announcing the Off Stage Series!

Due to the **ALL ACCESS PROJECT** construction, the first few months of our 2025-2026 season will take place in venues all around Vergennes!

Scan the QR code for more info or visit [VergennesOperaHouse.org](http://VergennesOperaHouse.org)

**Most events are free!**



## The Off Stage Series Schedule *(thus far)*

- Sept. 7: Ladies Rally - starts at the City Green
- Oct 4: The Will Patton Ensemble - Rockers
- Oct 18: Alyx Magic - Bixby Library
- Nov 1: Big Blue Trunk - Lulu & Rockers
- Nov 23: Thanksgiving Hymn Sing  
Christian Reformed Church
- Dec 5/6: Broadway Direct - Congregational Church  
(ticketed)
- Jan 10: Duo Dolce - 10 Green Street
- Jan 23: Hokum Bros - TBD
- Feb 14: Dan Levine & Bill Carmichael Walsh - Vergennes Grand
- Feb 28: Josh Clevensline - Rockers Pizzeria

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72-76 MERCHANTS ROW



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### DANA AUDITORIUM

356 COLLEGE STREET



### TWILIGHT HALL

50 FRANKLIN STREET

## VENUE ACCESSIBILITY

We strive to provide as detailed information as possible regarding the accessibility of each of our screening venues. If you have an access need or accessibility question that's not answered below, please send us an email at [accessibility@middfilmfest.org](mailto:accessibility@middfilmfest.org).

### TOWN HALL THEATER

[townhalltheater.org/accessibility](http://townhalltheater.org/accessibility)

- Accessible parking and a ramp into the main floor lobby
- Elevator available to access all performance/gathering spaces
  - with the exception of the third level balcony
- Accessible seating and companion seating available upon request
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with an FM hearing system

### MARQUIS THEATRE

[middleburymarquis.com](http://middleburymarquis.com)

- Fully accessible Main Theater; upstairs Screening Room only available via stairs
- Accessible bar/café; features two short steps with a foldable ramp available upon request
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with an FM hearing system
- Equipped with visual assist (Main Theater only)

### AXINN 232

[middlebury.edu/college/arts/accessibility](http://middlebury.edu/college/arts/accessibility)

- Fully accessible theater
- One space for a wheelchair and some floor-level seating
- Ramp in front of building
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with visual assist (upon request)

### DANA AUDITORIUM

[middlebury.edu/college/arts/accessibility](http://middlebury.edu/college/arts/accessibility)

- Fully accessible theater
- 1 wheelchair space at the front; 8 Auditorium seats can be removed to create 4 additional wheelchair seating spaces
- Ramp into building
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with visual assist (upon request)

### TWILIGHT HALL

[middlebury.edu/college/arts/accessibility](http://middlebury.edu/college/arts/accessibility)

- Space for wheelchairs/floor-level seating available
- Ramp in back of building
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with visual assist (upon request)



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The steadfast generosity of our private donors has supported Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival's growth since its founding in 2015. We recognize the below donors whose patronage has made our work possible over the last eleven years. Thank you.

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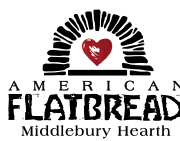
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