

2024 Selected Film Guide

CINEMA IS THERAPY

SANDY FILM FESTIVAL

SANDY
FILM FESTIVAL

Screening

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 4TH, 2024



THE DISPUTE

WRITTEN BY
ANDREA ELLSWORTH & KASEY ELISE WALKER
DIRECTED BY MIKEY ALFRED

ABOUT THE FILM

Two best friends, from South Central Los Angeles, fantasize about living lavishly when a pre-approval letter for a credit card with no set spending limit suddenly arrives in the mail.

2023 | USA | English | COMEDY | 13 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

Mikey Alfred is an accomplished director and entrepreneur who has successfully incorporated his deeply held passions for fashion, art, film, skateboard culture, and his hometown of Los Angeles, into a burgeoning career. In the spring of 2021, Mikey made his feature film debut with the coming-of-age skateboard comedy, North Hollywood.



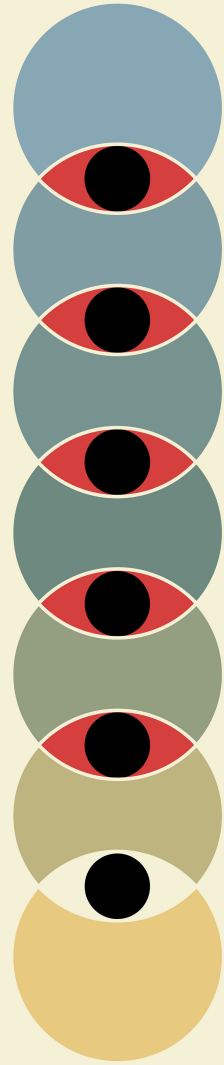
THE DISPUTE

A FILM BY ANDREA ELLSWORTH AND KASEY ELISE WALKER

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE **ABIGAIL BRESLIN** PRESENTS



**AS
EASY
AS
CLOSING
YOUR
EYES**



LAURA COOVER SEAN MARQUETTE DAWSON SWEENEY

Visual Effects Supervisor **TIMOTHY STEVENS-EUSTACE** Music by **MANDY HOFFMAN** Production Designer **KILBY RODELL** Director of Photography **ZAK AREE SANDBERG**
Co-Executive Producers **ERIN DREVER ERICA ELIAS NATHAN ELIAS PETER FRIEDMANN DANIEL GOLDEN GAIL GOLDEN JOSH GOLDEN PAULA GOLDEN AMY GOTTLIEB**
KEITH JOHNSON LUCIA JOHNSON PATRICK TEWS Executive Producers **ABIGAIL BRESLIN JON MICHAEL HILL CAREN MCVICKER JOE MCVICKER**
Co-Producers **ROBBIE KAY ASHLEY OLDS** Producers **MAX LOEB PARKER CROFT AARON GOLDEN CHRIS BLIM LAURA COOVER**
Written by **AARON GOLDEN** and **PARKER CROFT** Directed by **PARKER CROFT**
A **PAPER HORSE PICTURES** production in association with **LONDON BLUE**



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AS EASY AS CLOSING YOUR EYES

DIRECTED BY PARKER CROFT

CO WRITTEN BY PARKER CROFT AND AARON GOLDEN

ABOUT THE FILM

A grieving mother battles her addiction to a black market drug that gives her life-like dreams about the son she lost.

2023 | USA | English | DRAMA | 21 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

Parker Croft is a writer-director with a background in acting and cinematography. His short Suncatcher received sixty-two festival selections, winning thirteen awards with an additional twenty nominations. He co-wrote the feature film Falling Overnight which won the Special Jury Prize at Cinequest before streaming on Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime. His past credits as an actor include Big Little Lies, Once Upon A Time, American Horror Story, Roadies, and Nip/Tuck.

BAXTER FILMS
PRESENTS



FINALIST
SANDY FILM
FESTIVAL
2024

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ONUR YAĞIZ

FATİH THE CONQUEROR

THOMAS CUREL | EMRE ÖCAL

UMUT KÖKER | REDOUANNE HARJANE | CÉLINE ELHAN GÜNEŞ | EMİN TUNÇ

WRITTEN BY ONUR YAĞIZ DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MATHIEU GAUDET ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NATHALIE JAPIOT SCRIPT CANELLE LE CLAINCHE ART DIRECTOR FLORENT CHICOUARD PROSEUTER ETHEM ONUR BILGIÇ SOUND CEDRIC BERGER - BENJAMIN ROSIER EDITING MONA-LISE LANFANT - JOSEPH COMAR PRODUCTION MANAGER THOMAS MAGGIAR
A FILM BY ONUR YAĞIZ PRODUCED BY PIERRE-LOUIS GARNIER
WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF FRANCE TÉLÉVISIONS WITH THE SUPPORT OF LA RÉGION AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES IN ASSOCIATION WITH LE CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINÉMA ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CNC WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF FONDS IMAGES DE LA DIVERSITÉ - AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA COHESION DES TERRITOIRES

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CNC

ISAN

La Région
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

FATİH THE CONQUEROR

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ONUR YAGIZ

ABOUT THE FILM

This Saturday is a Turkish wedding day at Espace Venise. Huddled in a car in the parking lot, Fatih, 21, wants to get married. He has set his sights on Ipek, Recep's sister. But neither Murat, his best friend, nor Recep, nor even Ipek are aware of this yet.

2023 | Turkey | French, Turkish | COMEDY | 15 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

Onur Yagiz (1986) was born in France to Turkish parents. He studied literature, theatre and film at the Sorbonne-Nouvelle University, before directing Patika (2013) and Toprak (2017). Fatih the Conqueror is his third film.



DOSTANA NIKOLIĆ

5/3/0

a film by Danilo Stanimirović

FMK 2023.

5/3/0

DIRECTED BY Danilo Stanimirovic

ABOUT THE FILM

After a disturbing taxi ride, and an even worse party, a teenage girl must return home with a menacing taxi driver who insists on her sitting next to him.

2023 | Seria | Serbian | DRAMA | 15 MIN

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Danilo is a young filmmaker, teacher and conceptual artist from Požarevac, Serbia. His short films were screened at festivals around the world and won numerous awards.

Currently, he is on master studies for directing at FDU, and TV series at FMK in Belgrade, where he works as a teacher associate.

SANDY
FILM FESTIVAL

Screening

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 5TH, 2024



LONELY SEASON

ACTOR: ELNAZ NAGHIBI | MAJID NOROUZI

WRITER DIRECTOR PRODUCER: HAMID-REZA MAHMOUDI

LONELY SEASON

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
HAMID REZA MAHMOUDI MEHRIZI

ABOUT THE FILM

Farzaneh was a compassionate mother and a faithful wife. The life with love was going on, but unfortunately, her life was overshadowed by the shadow of darkness. While she was struggling with problems and circumstances, she accidentally found a secret that changed her life course completely...

2023 | Iran | Persian | DRAMA | 14 MIN

DIRECTOR'S BIO

I am Hamidreza Mahmoudi Mehrizi. I started my artistic activity in high school with the encouragement of my teacher. In high school, I was a member of the theater group and started writing different stories. After finishing high school, I started and finished filmmaking classes in the presence of the artist's professors, Masoud Kimiaei, Dariush Mehrjooi, and Hamid Saarigian. After that I started making films...



ADAM AUDIO

JAY WOOD PRESENTS

HOMESICK

THE DOCUMENTARY

DIRECTED BY NOEL WALTON



HOMESICK

DIRECTED BY NOEL WALTON

ABOUT THE FILM

HOMESICK: THE DOCUMENTARY, follows Chicago-based rapper and producer, Jay Wood, as he collaborates with the Central State University Invincible Marching Marauders Marching Band for his latest single, HOMESICK. Wood reflects on the challenges of putting this live performance together as an independent artist and how important this moment is to his growth personally and professionally.

2023 | USA | English | DOC | 10 MIN

DIRECTOR'S BIO

I'm originally from Chicago, IL but, I'm currently working in New York City as an associate producer for CNN Max. Prior to my current assignment, I was the associate producer for the weekly talk show 'King Charles', hosted by Gayle King and Charles Barkley. I channel my passion for storytelling into the realm of filmmaking. I love any opportunity to bring stories to life through a lens. This creative pursuit not only complements my journalistic background but also adds a unique dimension to my storytelling skills.

STUDIO NORTÉ

OFF THE PICTURE PICTURES

MAEVE



STUDIO NORTÉ IN ASSOCIATION WITH OFF THE PICTURE PICTURES PRESENTS "MAEVE" FEATURING KIRA PEARSON AVERY ANDERSON
NIGEL DEFRIEZ BROOKE BUNDY JULIA CROCKETT KATHY PEARSON CINEMATOGRAPHY BY NINA REYES ROSENBERG & CADE HOWELL
MOVEMENT DIRECTION BY JULIA CROCKETT PRODUCED BY KAT MILLS MARTIN & KIRA PEARSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BROOKE BUNDY & NIGEL DEFRIEZ SCREENPLAY BY KIRA PEARSON DIRECTED BY KAT MILLS MARTIN & KIRA PEARSON

MAEVE

DIRECTED BY KAT MILLS MARTIN & KIRA PEARSON
WRITTEN BY KIRA PEARSON

ABOUT THE FILM

Pregnant, & relentlessly friendly, Maeve finds herself unable to speak when an unseen force steals her voice.

2023 | USA | English | COMEDY | 9 MIN

DIRECTORS' BIO

Kat Mills Martin is an award-winning director and writer from Hawaii, recognized as a 2023 Women in Film Directing Fellow. Her work has screened at festivals including Raindance, Austin Film Festival, and Hawaii International Film Festival.

Kira Pearson is an acclaimed filmmaker and interdisciplinary artist based in Los Angeles. Known for her heartfelt, often absurdist comedy, she co-created the Queer feature Wake Up Leonard, which became a critical darling and is now streaming on Amazon Prime and AppleTV+. Her latest short film, Maeve, explores pregnancy in a tech-saturated world, reflecting her hands-on approach as both a performer and creator.



COTTAGE GROVE

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY GEORGE ELLZEY JR.

ABOUT THE FILM

A young man struggles to communicate with his stroke-afflicted father, and at the same time, stay true to himself.

2023 | USA | English | DRAMA | 13 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

George Ellzey Jr. is an independent director and Chicago native best known for his award-winning experimental film, SWITCHIN', featured on NBC5 Chicago and now streaming on OTV Open Television. He is driven to explore the oft-ignored narratives of minorities in film, specifically focusing on the black male experience.

Above all, George crafts simple stories with complex layers.

A FILM BY
GEORGE ELLZEY JR.

COTTAGE GROVE

STARRING: PATRICK AGADA, SEAN BLAKE, RJ MAYS, DANYELLE MONSON, & SHAWN ROUNDTREE JR.
EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY JORDAN SHIELDS, IMANI DAVIS, BRIAN & ERIKA SEWELL & ERIC CAMPBELL
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ELLZEY WINTER PRODUCTIONS, INSTINCTVISION FILMS LLC & DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT



A FILM BY **MELISSA KONG**

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY MELISSA KONG

ABOUT THE FILM

After her father's death, a woman in intensive therapy for debilitating contamination OCD must confront his death and her OCD with a totally normal, not weird at all, therapy exercise.

2023 | USA | English | COMEDY | 12 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

Melissa Kong grew up watching The Golden Girls with her mom and WWF wrestling matches with her dad, so it's no wonder she has the sarcasm of a Sophia Petrillo, the heart of a Rose Nylund, and the showmanship of...well any wrestler. Like her writing, she can be silly yet profound. She earned her MFA in Writing for the Screen & Stage from Northwestern University, studied abroad in London at LAMDA, and is a graduate of iO and Second City. She's 5feet tall, has a second-degree black belt, and can do clapping push-ups. She loves writing about what makes people special, especially herself.



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a short dance film by angela townsend
directed by gabriella wiltz

I SAID, NO

FULL SPECTRUM FEATURES AND MOTION/PICTURES DANCE PROJECT PRESENT I SAID, NO STARRING ANGELA TOWNSEND LUIZ RAMOS RIGGIO CORDERO BOBBI PONDER MARIA LUISA TORRES KIMBERLY RIVERA AND ROCKY QUINONES MUSIC BY BRENDEN CABRERA AND PETER 'MAESTRO' VALE CHOREOGRAPHED BY ROCKY M. QUINONES AND KIMBERLY RIVERA EDITOR ARIANA DE SIMONE PRODUCED BY ANGELA TOWNSEND TALIA KOYLASS LUZZO ASSOCIATE AND IMPACT PRODUCER JASMIN TAYLOR DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JANA MCLAIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS EUGENE SUN PARK AND JASON MATSUMOTO WRITTEN BY ANGELA TOWNSEND AND GABRIELLA WILTZ DIRECTED BY GABRIELLA WILTZ



I SAID, NO

DIRECTED BY GABRIELLA WILTZ
CO WRITTEN BY GABRIELLA WILTZ AND ANGELA TOWNSEND

ABOUT THE FILM

A young woman and her friends teach a man to respect her "no".

2023 | USA | English | Short Film | Music Video | 6 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

Gabriella Wiltz is an LA-based writer/director and movement thinker from Chicago, IL with a passion for telling character-driven stories, especially those about three-dimensional Black women and their personal, often psychological, experiences navigating life. Her dance background has made exploring movement and our experiences in our bodies a touchstone of her filmmaking process as she continues to explore new integrations between dance film and narrative storytelling.

VIC MENSA
BLUE EYES

A FILM BY ANDRE MUIR



FILMED IN KINGSTON, PORTMORE, PORTLAND, OCHOS RIOS, ACCOMPONE
JAMAICA

BLUE EYES

DIRECTED BY ANDRE MUIR

ABOUT THE FILM

"Blue Eyes" is a film that explores the relationship between the demonization of traditional African spiritual systems, the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and how it all ties into mass incarceration. These themes unfold through Vic Mensa's life journey as he returns to his roots.

2023 | USA | English | MUSIC VIDEO | 13 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

Writer and director Andre Muir is the son of Jamaican immigrants, born in Chicago, and now living in Brooklyn, NY. Andre Muir creates spiritual stories that explore the importance of language as it pertains to culture and its use for communication (or lack thereof) throughout his work. He often relies on a naturalistic, absurdist approach to speak to deeper truths, utilizing drawn-out moments and uninterrupted shots to bring tension to his scenes. Most recently, Andre was selected as Sundance Screenwriters Intensive fellows and a Chicago International's inaugural CIX Lab Fellow.

KHARY LAURENT



YOUR
BRAVADO
SHALL
BE
ENDED



A CATAPULT OPERA PRODUCTION

TELEKINETIK

COMPOSED BY **KHARY LAURENT** DIRECTED/PRODUCED BY **GEORGE CEDERQUIST** STORY BY **KHARY LAURENT**

CATAPULT OPERA PRESENTS A **EARTH LUNAR** PRODUCTION
MADE POSSIBLE BY **JCFFF** KHARY LAURENT FRESNEL LAURENT "TELEKINETIK"

SOUND DESIGN **RICK SCHULER** COSTUME DESIGNER **KATE SETZER KAMPHAUSEN** EDITED BY **RICK SCHULER** PRODUCED BY **GEORGE CEDERQUIST**
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **KRISTINA RODRIGUEZ** CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **GREG JOYE** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **NEAL GOREN**

CATAPULT OPERA MARCH 7
WWW.CATAPULTOPERA.ORG



TELEKINETIK

DIRECTED BY **GEORGE CEDERQUIST**
WRITTEN & COMPOSED BY **KHARY LAURENT**

ABOUT THE FILM

“Telekinetik,” a genre-bending short musical film. The “hip-hopera” is a surreal, moody tale of an aspiring vigilante being tormented by a shaman. To tell the story of civilian justice and the violence it leaves in its wake, classically trained Khary Laurent switches between hip hop bars to operatic vocals.

2023 | USA | English | SCI-FI, DRAMA | 10 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

George is the Producing Artistic Director of Chicago Fringe Opera, called “the city’s alt-opera company” by the Chicago Tribune. A recipient of the 2022 Best Music Video Award at the Aladerrri International Film Festival, as well as two American Prizes in Directing, George’s production of Silent Night was chosen as a winner of Opera America’s 2013 Director-Designer competition. He proudly uses zero social media platforms.

JOHN MCDONNELL

ASHKON HAIDARI



GET AWAY



A FILM BY MAX FITZPATRICK

MUSIC BY

BROTHERS OF DESTRUCTION

GET AWAY

DIRECTED BY MAX FITZPATRICK

ABOUT THE FILM

A Low Life bets his "hard earned" money on a nice game of Pool.

2023 | USA | English | Music Video | 3 MIN

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Max Fitzpatrick is an actor and filmmaker, born and raised in Chicago. After graduating Columbia College he went on to complete the improv program at Second City, studied acting at The Annoyance Theater and Black Box Theater. He is also a very competent editor and has directed short films and music videos. Max believes that filmmaking is a wonderful process of creating art and community. Together those create ideas for originality, inspiration and change.

SQUIRREL FLOWER

FINALIST
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ALLEY LIGHT

DIRECTED BY WEIRD LIFE FILMS

ABOUT THE FILM

The video for Alley Light by Squirrel Flower, is a celebration of the timeless and cinematic landscape of Chicago. Inspired by Michael Mann's "Thief" (1981), it is an exploration of the ways in which Chicago hasn't changed in the last 4 decades, and an attempt to capture the feeling of exploring the city's sprawling streets and alleys on long summer nights.

2023 | USA | English | Music Video | 3 MIN

DIRECTORS' BIO

WEIRD LIFE FILMS is a director trio comprised of Ryan Ohm, Jackson James and Laura Gordon. Among us you will find: several Vimeo staff picks, many narrative projects, a little brand work, a handful of festival selections, an Emmy nominee, 3 Chicagoans, 2 dog parents, a high school friendship, a film school friendship, 3 moped riders, an editor, a cinematographer, a production designer, too many music videos to count and most of all 3 great friends.

White Girl Jukes

by Rachel Fox Joravsky



WHITE GIRL JUKES

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY RACHEL FOX JORAVSKY

ABOUT THE FILM

Brave White Girl is passionate about throwing ass.

2023 | USA | English | Reel | 1 MIN

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Rachel Joravsky is a comedian, tv writer, and actor from Chicago. Rachel's comedy has been featured on Comedy Central, Grownish MTV, Refinery 29, BET, Vulture and more. She is a staff writer for Audible's Story Pirates Podcast and Alley Oop, a kids sports podcast from Steph Curry. She's also a story editor for Story Pirates TV on PBS. Her writing has been featured in Reductress and The Forward. She's performed her solo sketch show Rachel Joravsky is a Thirsty White Ally in Chicago, Brooklyn, and LA. Rachel was a 2021 LABA Fellowship recipient for her digital comedy special, *Rachel Joravsky is Thriving off of The Government*. Rachel frequently eats almonds she finds at the bottom of her bag. Horny yet?!

BUSY, BUT GOOD

DIRECTED BY GABRIEL CUILIER

ABOUT THE FILM

Emanuel Edwards was working his day job trying to find out how to best use his artistic sensibilities, “If you don’t use it, you lose it” - In this first episode of Busy, but Good we explore what it means to be an entrepreneur, the daily routine, what it means to be a seller, what he looks for in the pieces he loves, etc.

2023 | USA | English | Reel | 1 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

Gabriel Cuillier grew up in a suburb outside an Air Force Base in Sherwood, Arkansas with a camcorder glued to his hand. Now based in Chicago, Gabriel works full-time as the owner and operator of Mxxd Media, a video production studio that specializes in producing bespoke content for people, initiatives, and brands. Gabriel plans to continue to direct and produce films, series, and skits that tell honest stories of alienation, acceptance, and growth through the lens of mixed-race families and people of color.

Busy, but good

EMANUEL EDWARDS

FINALIST
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THE WONDERS WITHIN US

DIRECTED BY MAËLLE BONNEGRACE



ABOUT THE FILM

Through a lonely night a girl reminds herself who she is.

2023 | Canada | English | Reel | 1 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

Since very young, after her mother bought her first camera Maëlle Bonnegrace is passionate about visuals and then cinema. At the age of 17, Maëlle studied Cinema in Montreal, and in the same year, following her meeting with two equally passionate friends, she launched her audiovisual production company, OMLSTUDIOS, specializing in fashion visuals. Between fashion and cinema, the young woman prefers to go for it and learn on the job.



GETTING BACK INTO IMPROV

DIRECTED BY MATT PORTER

ABOUT THE FILM

Standup comedian dips her toes into improv.

2023 | USA | English | Comedy | REEL | 3 MIN

DIRECTOR BIO

Matt Porter is a writer, director, and sometimes actor. He is the co-director/co-writer/co-star of the Webby Award-winning Comedy Central web series NEW TIMERS. His narrative short films have screened at Tribeca, Santa Barbara, Palm Springs, Frameline, Hollyshorts, Short of the Week, and others. His short film DAMAGE won Best Narrative Short at the Riverrun International Film Festival in North Carolina, and his first feature film 5 DOCTORS, which he co-directed, co-wrote, and co-stars in, premiered at the Austin Film Festival in 2016 and was distributed by Gravitas Ventures. He is currently writing for Family Guy, as well as for an upcoming show for Peacock.