CINEMA/CHICAGO PRESENTS

CINEYOUTH FESTIVAL

APRIL 26-28, 2019

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FRIDAY, APRIL 26

7:00pm  Opening Night Presentation of *Jawline* with Q&A

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

2:00pm – 7:00pm  Official Selection Screenings

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

10:00am – 2:00pm  Film Pitch

11:00am – 5:30pm  Official Selection Screenings

6:00pm  Awards Ceremony
        Film Challenge Presentation
        Pitch Winner Announced
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SPECIAL THANKS
Welcome to the 15th CineYouth Festival. As vital as ever, CineYouth continues to showcase the powerful voices and moving storytelling from our next generation of filmmakers.

Our programming team reviewed more than 400 submissions this year, and the 64 official festival selections reflect the wide range of issues and unique perspectives of today’s creative youth. These young filmmakers demonstrate both remarkable insight and visual creativity as they confront both personal and broader social concerns.

With work by filmmakers ranging in age from eight to 22 years old and coming from six continents, this year’s festival is truly global in scale. The vibrant selection of films by Chicago artists stands side-by-side with these international films, proving once again the great depth and strength of our city’s creative community.

We hope that your CineYouth adventure leaves you with a fresh look at how today’s youth experience and interpret our world. Our team has brought great dedication and enthusiasm to this year’s programming, and we are thrilled to share the wit, emotion, and stirring imagination of these filmmakers with you.

Mimi Plauché
Artistic Director

Ryan Saunders
CineYouth Program Manager

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Filmmaker, Pasfarda Arts & Cultural Exchange
Jawline

A film by Liza Mandelup

Winner
SUNDANCE Film Festival

6 | 2019 CINEYOUTH FESTIVAL
Jawline follows 16-year-old Austyn Tester, a rising star in the live-broadcast ecosystem who built his following on wide-eyed optimism and teen girl lust, as he tries to escape a dead-end life in rural Tennessee. Liza Mandelup’s feature debut, Jawline distills the most complex concepts about modern-day childhood and a gold-rush teen economy into one fascinating and surprisingly moving human portrait that questions what values we have passed onto our youth and discovers a new and fleeting American dream.

Post-Screening Q&A with Director Liza Mandelup

LIZA MANDELUP is a film director from New York residing in Los Angeles. She has published two photo books and shown her work in numerous exhibitions. She has been a longtime collaborator for many online platforms such as Vogue, Nowness, i-D, and Dazed, as well as having directed numerous films for many other premiere editorial platforms. Liza was featured on Filmmaker Magazine’s “25 New Faces of Independent Film 2017” and recently won the Sundance Film Festival’s “U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Emerging Filmmaker.” She is currently in production on her second feature film.
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## FRIDAY. APRIL 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening Night film presentation of <em>Jawline</em> followed by Q&amp;A</td>
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## SATURDAY. APRIL 27

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Playtime: Animation</td>
<td>35 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Time Regained: Documentary</td>
<td>64 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15pm</td>
<td>A New Outlook: LGBTQ+</td>
<td>48 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Up Past Bedtime: Horror</td>
<td>48 min</td>
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## SUNDAY. APRIL 28

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>The Pitch <em>(Music Box Theatre Lounge)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Neighboring Worlds: International</td>
<td>67 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>She Persisted: Women in Cinema</td>
<td>67 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Weight of the World: Drama</td>
<td>62 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45pm</td>
<td>Young Visionaries: Experimental</td>
<td>49 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>Cinema of Chicago</td>
<td>69 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>45 min</td>
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PLAYTIME: ANIMATION

Find companionship (before you’re eaten), yourself (before you’re reincarnated again), and maybe even something treacherous at the bottom of the lake in this colorful, eclectic animated program for the whole family. 35 mins.

Socks

Callahan Bracken | Canada | Age 17
Driven by their desire to complete their collections of matching objects, Steward and Milo claim ownership over the same mushroom, forcing them to confront their own separation in a world organized into pairs.

Pitiguá

Paula Martínez Cirilo | Puerto Rico | Age 22
In this vibrant medley of interweaving forms and colors that celebrates Puerto Rican culture, a grey kingbird and a red-tailed hawk battle over the light that sustains the night and the day.

Lilly Goes Fishing

The Bum Family | Canada | Ages 8-15
Lilly, a giant orange monster, embarks on an adventure at a lakeside fishing camp with her friend Fluffle. What mysterious secret will they discover in the depths of the lake?

Harls

Kenzie Sutton | Longwood, FL | Age 21
Trapped in an endless cycle of reincarnation, Harls finds solace in a specialized support group in this endlessly inventive stop motion animation that shows how tough it can be to simply be yourself!

Mr Bear and the Rabbit

Varun Sreedharan | San Francisco, CA | Age 13
In an idyllic woodland dwelling, an encounter between a bear and a rabbit is seemingly peaceful—until their friendship takes an unexpected turn in this short and clever digital animation.
Stargazer
Kat Garrido | Gastonia, NC | Age 18
Weighed down by the routine of a mundane life, a schoolteacher wonders what his life could have been like in this magical, handcrafted stop-motion voyage into one man’s galactic dreams.

Stray Cat Ah Q.
Mulan Fu | New York, NY | Age 21
In this gentle watercolor animation, a chance encounter between a stray cat and a young girl becomes a lifelong friendship able to withstand distance and time.

Re-Gifted
Eaza Shukla | Sarasota, FL | Age 22
Stuck in the endless cycle of re-gifting, a decorative Faberge egg struggles to lead a meaningful existence. A reminder that feelings of inadequacy should never obscure your inner beauty.

Wavy Head
Max Shoham | Canada | Age 14
Surgeons removed Max’s forehead, put his eye-sockets on a table, and reshaped his face when he was only nine months old. Blending animation with interviews, Max asks who he might have been under different circumstances.
TIME REGAINED: DOCUMENTARY

From intimate reflections on performance to ruminations about home, these meditative documentaries explore how memory informs the way we interact with our environments. *64 mins.*

Films with a * contain themes or language that may not be suitable for all ages.

Our Neighborhood: Trinitat Nova
Students from Trinitat Nova School (Barcelona) Spain | Ages 12-13
Julia arrived to Trinitat Nova over 60 years ago. Her stories about the neighborhood’s past and her own migration contrast with the voices of the young, who reflect on their own relationship to the place they call home.

Pachacuti
Suhaib Qasim | Peru | Age 18
Turning the everyday into something mythic, this observational city portrait of Cuzco explores how the cyclical nature of our lives defines the key Andean idea of pachacuti.

My Dad’s Cassettes
Andres Aurelio | Chicago, IL | Age 19
A son finds his father’s old cassettes from his first days in America. A dive into a former Chicago nightclub brings his father’s first experience with house music to life.

Lost Time
Leo Pfeifer | Seattle, WA | Age 20
His 40-year drum career cut short by a stroke, Paul Wager decides to confront his lost time head on in this engaging rumination on the restorative and life-affirming power of performance.

Boober
Sriram Papolu | Northville, MI | Age 18
The journey of Kevin Spangler, a homeless criminal turned inspiration who started a pedicab business that creates second chance jobs for people in recovery and the formerly incarcerated.
Sincretismo
Sophie Kim | Los Angeles, CA | Age 18
A Guatemalan priestess of Maximón gives insight into a deity and folk saint born of the ancient Maya traditions centuries ago, asking what happens to indigenous spirituality when colonial religions arrive.

No Such Sunrise*
Dana Brandes-Simon, Laura Li, Cella Wright Oberlin, OH | Age 22
In spring of 2017, multiple college students of color were threatened on campus. Six months after the incident, one of the harassed students seeks closure, exploring interwoven memories and personal attempts to process trauma.

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A NEW OUTLOOK: LGBTQ+

Navigating their identity amidst personal and social pressures, the characters in these films from the LGBTQ+ community courageously search to find their place in the world. 48 mins.

Ladies Day

Abena Taylor-Smith | United Kingdom
Age 22
Amma spends the day getting braids in an Afro-Caribbean hair salon. It’s full of fun, sheen spray, gossip and laughter, but how will she deal with the casual homophobia?

Wasteland

Gustav Bondeson | Sweden | Age 20
Reminiscing over the phone about the broken relationship he has failed to process, a man comes to realize that he has never truly allowed himself to mourn.

NAERA

Ramiro Muñoz | Argentina | Age 21
Sheep shearer Naera overcomes his struggle with homophobia, abuse and homelessness by finding strength in these painful experiences, driving him to devote his life to those in need.

Julie

Alexander Bergmann | Germany | Age 22
Tension slowly seeping into her relationship with night shift nurse Lou, a conflicted Julie finds momentary solace in a chance encounter with surfer Ben.

Hidden

Jess O’Brien | United Kingdom | Age 17
Solomon reads aloud a poem with a beauty that surprises all his classmates except one, Katie. The poem has a secret meaning only they understand.

Metamorphosis

Natalie Jasmine Harris | Laurel, MD | Age 20
Anxious about heading into her new life at college, an inexperienced and queer Amani seeks guidance from her friends after a game of “Never Have I Ever.”
UP PAST BEDTIME: HORROR

Mythical demons, identity crises, and frightening hallucinations are all on display in this program of films that give voice to the things that go bump in the night. 48 mins.

Next One Please
Alexandra Rieser, Alina Fromm
Austria | Ages 18-19
Trapped in limbo at a psychologist’s waiting room, four patients’ obsessions rapidly evolve into chaos, blurring the line between the real and the imagined.

Onye Nmefie (The Trespasser)
William Boyd | Nigeria/United Kingdom
Age 22
An African folktale in modern day England. Trapped in a time loop by a demon named The Trespasser, a grieving young man must confront the past relationship with his late grandmother in order to survive.

White Noise
Frida Perez | Los Angeles, CA | Age 22
In a provocative look at the gaze behind narratives of racial suffering, a struggling waitress signs up for a paid psychological study seeking diverse participants, not realizing she is the subject of a voyeuristic experiment.

Butterfly
Ella McKeon | Los Angeles, CA | Age 11
Confronting her image in the bathroom mirror, a young girl enacts a violent and transformative revolution within her body, thus discovering a potential new identity that lives beneath her skin.

Wild
Morgana McKenzie | Canada | Age 18
Summer 1937. Something is living in the corn field. Young Ida doesn’t know what it is, but it seems to understand her better than anyone else on her uncle’s farm.
NEIGHBORING WORLDS: INTERNATIONAL

With a mixture of live action and animated films from Africa, Asia, and Europe, this program presents a global journey through personal, political, and spiritual landscapes. 67 mins.

Films contain themes or language that may not be suitable for all ages.

Palacio de San Rodrigo

Len Frago, Mika Quizon  
Philippines | Age 19

In this satire of Duterte’s “war on drugs,” a disenfranchised family encounters sickness and accusations of thievery while the upper class inhabiting the luxurious Palacio de San Rodrigo prosper.

Everyflower

Cai Yuanqing | China/France | Age 22

Haunted by memories of her former life, a young, mentally ill runaway returns to her childhood home. She discovers that while her family has moved away, the pain remains.

Guitar Player

Lydia Harland | United Kingdom | Age 9

A young lad takes to the streets with his acoustic guitar, but his punk sensibility seems to be a nuisance to passersby. Perhaps someone with a unique perspective could see his charm!

Sagrado

Bruno Raciti | Italy | Age 20

A young man’s journey toward deliverance and consecration, Sagrado is an impressionistic look at his physical relationship to his hometown landscape and sacred places.

Cricket

Jean De Dieu Ngirabaganwa | Rwanda | Age 18

The inspiring story of a young girl who, following the unexpected passing of her mother, finds a sense of peace in a women’s cricket team. Directed by youth in Rwanda under the guidance of Films Without Borders.
Sudden Growth
Sine Juhl | Denmark | Age 22
Bodies start changing, limbs grow rapidly, and hairs turn up in the most unexpected places. This stop-motion animated short tells a humorous and honest story of puberty.

Look Into My Eyes
Students from Rey Pastor High School
Spain | Ages 16-17
Glued to her phone and isolated from her parents, Candela finds comfort wandering the city with a friend who shows her how to reconnect with those she loves.
SHE PERSISTED: WOMEN IN CINEMA

A revolution is brewing, and women filmmakers are leading the charge. These clever, incisive, and deeply-felt films revel in subverting traditional representation. 67 mins.

Tundra

Carol Nguyen | Canada | Age 20
Aching with sympathy, Tundra follows a mother who dreams about her missing daughter, trying to cope with her loss while navigating a chilly environment at home.

Periods and Other Lady Bits

Katrina Nilles | La Grange, IL | Age 21
Illustrated with empathy and tenderness, three women in various stages of their lives share intimate stories about their relationships with their bodies.

Goose Town

Nikki Milan Houston | Chicago, IL | Age 20
Despondently driving around an industrial foreign town, a single mother posing as a customer service representative makes calls from different pay phones, attempting to reach the father of her child.

Witches and Bitches in Britches, Oh My!

Raine Bracken | Canada | Age 20
Macabre environments set the stage for a commentary on the power of language, demonstrated through the history of the word “witch” and its continued relevance in today’s society.

A Makeup Tutorial

Olivia Schroder | Indianapolis, IN | Age 17
In a shocking and innovative tutorial, a young girl shares with us her greatest beauty secret. The results are absolutely stunning!
Space Ghosts
Helenor Harris-Evans, Tra My Anderson, Nicolas Ferree | Richmond, VA | Age 18
Waking up to find herself trapped in a spaceship, a young woman learns to come to terms with her loneliness with the help of an instructional VHS tape.

Mad Lib Pixie Dream Girl
Kylie Murphy | Shrewsberry, NJ | Age 22
Using the best kept secret in the film industry, two desperate male screenwriters create a relentlessly bubbly and quirky female character as the love interest of their leading man.

Party of Two
Maria Alvarez | Los Angeles, CA | Age 21
Over the course of one emotionally tumultuous night, a depressed Maxine encounters a carefree woman who helps her discover a reason to live.
WEIGHT OF THE WORLD: DRAMA

Confronted with a range of painful challenges, the characters in these films reveal beauty through resilience in this life-affirming program. 62 mins.

Films contain themes or language that may not be suitable for all ages.

Yellow Slip

Julia Elihu | San Diego, CA | Age 21
When Amelia realizes her undocumented mother and closest confidant, Mariana, might be in trouble with the authorities, she is abruptly confronted with the idea of a life on her own.

Blue Was Here

Tristan Blue Jackson | Portland, OR | Age 19
Visiting his old friend Shane, a lonely Blue can’t help but romanticize the past while clinging to the last remnant of their fading friendship.

Swing Dreams

Samuel Johnson | Chicago, IL | Age 19
This magical pop music video delves into the anxieties and delusions of a hard breakup, following a pathetically dramatic boyfriend on the road to closure.

Responsibility

Mehmet Ali Avci | Denmark | Age 15
Struggling to raise his little sister, Dennis joins a gang hoping to make ends meet. But he soon discovers his limits when he is convinced to rob a home in a wealthy neighborhood.

ALEX.

Brenden Osborn | Portland, OR | Age 21
On a seemingly ordinary day, a man receives a phone call with news of a terrible loss. Unsure how to cope, he acts on his last glimmer of hope to make an important call.
For Your Safety
Lea Rodbarry | Evanston, IL | Age 21
When Homeland Security makes her husband “disappear,” a determined young woman sets out on a laborious quest for truth, navigating Kafkaesque bureaucratic barriers in her attempt to free him.

Grey Heart
Theo Taplitz | Los Angeles, CA | Age 15
Filled with enough angst and stress to turn his hair grey, teenaged Holden and his family each try to cope in their own ways after their abusive father moves out.
Utilizing a variety of visual formats, these poetic and ambitious experiments in short filmmaking explore nostalgia, self-love, and the powerful influence of the past. 49 mins.

**I am afraid of the lights**  
**Kiernan Francis | Chicago, IL | Age 17**  
A montage of the day in the life of a high school student, where over-stimulating classroom and social environments lead to feelings of dissociation.

**Nostos**  
**Anastasia Comelli | Australia | Age 21**  
A sunny and nostalgic personal recollection of intergenerational stories and experiences passed down, reinterpreting the ancient Greek literary theme Nostos: an epic hero’s homeward journey from sea.

**Honey, Baby, Doll**  
**Kate Von Mende | Los Angeles, CA | Age 17**  
Mixing stop-motion animation with live action footage, the anxiety ridden psyche of a teenage girl is embodied by a Barbie doll defending herself against a swarm of sticky googly eyes.

**SELF.**  
**Mackie Mallison | Brooklyn, NY | Age 19**  
Four humorously troubling vignettes that explore how social media has changed the way we view ourselves, stripping away the mask of happiness to reveal the melancholic qualities of contemporary self-obsession.

**Gate of Understanding**  
**Keng U Lao | Macau | Age 22**  
Take a reflexive tour of Macau’s “Gate of Understanding” monument, originally built in 1993 in honor of Luso-Chinese relations, which has since been cordoned off after falling into disrepair.
Miss Pristine
Halina Leona Katz | Canada | Age 18
In this transgressive music video for HEX Toronto, a group of women gleefully dissect human organs in parallel with a surreal montage of antiquated medical imagery.

Someday My Daughter Will Make Art About When I Was Young
Tessa Hill | Canada | Age 17
Using scanned photographs and drawings, the filmmaker immerses herself in the process of understanding her mother and, in turn, herself through the eyes of her future daughter.

Umbilical Cord to Heaven
Don Josephus Raphael Eblahan
Philippines | Age 22
In modern day Philippines, a metaphysical merging of past and present permeates through the landscape as ancient deities are reawakened, causing people to experience the spiritual connection between body and nature.
Diverse in style and subject, these narrative and documentary films from Chicago filmmakers reveal the richness of our creative community, a city with distinct voices ready to be heard. *69 mins.*

**Galinha**  
**João Pereira-Webber** | Chicago, IL | Age 22  
A young girl emigrates to a new land where, struggling with loneliness and the malice of her cantankerous neighbors, she finds a friend in an unexpected form: a chicken! *Presented in 16mm*

**Panzón**  
**Emilio Nieto** | Chicago, IL | Age 19  
Formally ambitious and deeply vulnerable, *Panzón* follows a Mexican-American teen in Chicago as he struggles with body image and self-acceptance.

**Pilsen Not For Sale**  
**Natalie Braye, Liliana Bravo** | Chicago, IL  
Ages 18-19  
The state of Chicago’s historic Pilsen neighborhood, undergoing a change in identity amidst gentrification, told through the eyes of Pilsen’s local artists and the historic murals that have defined the community.

**Hear Her Voice: Hidden Victims of Gun Violence**  
**India Harris, Jaliyah Thompson, Gina Navarrete, Maya Thompson**  
Chicago, IL | Ages 16-17  
An emotional exposé on female victims of gun violence in Chicago, *Hear Her Voice* is told with a powerful sense of urgency by the victims themselves as they reflect on the state of their community.

**Present**  
**Myles Keogh** | Chicago, IL | Age 16  
Returning to the villa where two women spent countless summers, one finds herself haunted by memories of who they used to be together and how their paths have diverged.
Moon Miner
Christopher Rohrbeck | Chicago, IL | Age 22
In this sci-fi pastiche, a blue-collar spaceman from the 22nd century must settle his differences with the robot built to replace him as they mine the solar system’s creamiest cheese from local moons.

Our Transition
Connor O’Keefe | Chicago, IL | Age 21
Mixing home videos, photos, and interviews, this personal portrait explores Connor’s own transition as a youth by documenting the journey from the perspective of his parents.

AWARD PARTNERS

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[Images of Brenda Robinson and the Chicago International Film Festival logo]

--- ANIMATION --- COMEDY --- DOCUMENTARY ---

[Images of Flashpoint Chicago and Columbia College Chicago logos]

--- DRAMA --- EXPERIMENTAL --- HORROR ---

Byron and Judy Pollock
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--- INTERNATIONAL FILM --- LGBTQ+ --- WOMEN IN CINEMA ---

[Images of Pasfarda Arts & Culture Exchange and Flashpoint Chicago logos]
In less than eight hours, Film Challenge participants planned, shot and edited their short films on Saturday, April 6 at Flashpoint Chicago, a Campus of Columbia College Hollywood. The experience encouraged them to flex their creative muscles and work collaboratively in teams, all under the thrill of a deadline!

Finished films will be screened at the CineYouth Awards Ceremony on Sunday, April 28.

Thank you to our Film Challenge Collaborators and Leaders:
Flashpoint Chicago:
John Otterbacher
Amy Rising
Michael Stadler

Teaching Artists:
Ayesha Abouelazm, Carrie Graham, Ksenia Ivanova, Oscar Montesdeoca, Youngbin Song, John Talley, Ernest Whiteman III

Student Assistants:
Tyler Babb, Christopher Blakewell, Celeste Coleman, Morgan Farage, Elijah Love, Drew Whitney
The art of pitching is a vital skill for any filmmaker. The CineYouth Pitch Workshop brought filmmakers 16-22 years old to Columbia College Chicago for a one-day pitching workshop on Saturday, April 13. A morning training session included instruction from film industry experts and an example pitch demonstrated by CJ Arellano and Becca Stahl, winners of The Pitch at Industry Days at the 54th Chicago International Film Festival. The workshop culminated in participants taking their new skills and pitching their own projects to a panel of educators and industry professionals to gain constructive feedback.

Thank you to our Pitch Workshop collaborators and leaders:
CJ Arellano
Ron Falzone
Columbia College Chicago
Becca Stahl

Pitch Workshop Judges:
Daniel Andries
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FILM PITCH

One of our favorite things to ask young filmmakers we meet is, “What are you working on next?” From year-to-year, we watch as the filmmakers at CineYouth hone their skills, refine their personal styles and grow as artists.

We are proud to present the fourth annual CineYouth Film Pitch, a one-day competition for selected participants to present their works-in-progress to a panel of industry professionals. Pitching filmmakers will receive direct feedback from our panelists, while also competing to win a cash prize to support their project.

Pitch Participants
1. Kristina Tokar • age 21 • Project: Family Tree
2. Sriram Papolu • age 19 • Project: Blood Water Brothers
3. Grace Golembiewski • age 18 • Project: A Touch of Heart
4. Emily Gray • age 20 • Project: The Scholar
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Cinema/Chicago, the parent organization of the Chicago International Film Festival, is a non-profit arts and education organization dedicated to fostering better communication between people of diverse cultures through the art of the moving image.

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2019 CINEYOUTH FESTIVAL | 29
Established in 1992, our year-round Education Program brings film to Chicago students, showcases the creativity of young filmmakers, and facilitates the development of young audiences.

**EDUCATION SCREENINGS**
At Cinema/Chicago, we recognize that film is a powerful tool to expose and teach young audiences about diverse cultures, viewpoints and subject matter. Since 1992 our year-round Education Screening program has brought a broad spectrum of films to more than 100,000 Chicago Public School students grades 6-12. During the annual Chicago International Film Festival, students have the opportunity to engage with world-class cinema and interact with filmmakers and film subjects in post-screening discussions. Bus transportation, study guides, and curriculum support is provided to students and educators free of charge.

**CINEYOUTH**
Held for three days every Spring, the CineYouth Festival highlights the creativity of the next generation of directors, writers, and performers by showcasing the work of filmmakers 22 years old and younger. The event also offers young filmmakers exciting internship and scholarship opportunities and hands-on development workshops.

**STUDENT FILM COUNCIL**
Our Student Film Council brings together public, private, and suburban high school students for exciting events and experiences that nurture their shared passion for cinema. Throughout the school year, the Council attends numerous film festivals and film events and engages in conversations with directors, producers, and Festival programmers with the goal of developing their understanding and appreciation of film, its relationship to audiences, and the role that film organizations play in the cultural life of the city.

For a full list of our program donors, visit chicagofilmfestival.com/education
WE ARE CINEMA/CHICAGO
Cinema/Chicago is a year-round non-profit cultural and educational organization dedicated to fostering better communication among people of diverse cultures through the art of film and the moving image. We present the annual Chicago International Film Festival as well as exciting education and community programs that engage, entertain, and enlighten Chicagoans of all backgrounds and ages.

FREE SUMMER SCREENINGS
Our Summer Screenings Program is a free weekly film series running from May through October that showcases films from around the world. Presented in partnership with the City of Chicago and various consulates and cultural organizations, it has become one of the most popular public programs in Chicago, bringing together film and cultural enthusiasts from all walks of life.

SEE THE WORLD
The Chicago International Film Festival celebrates its 55th anniversary in 2019! Showcasing the latest from cinema’s grand masters and introducing the work of its newest visionaries, the Festival presents films representing more than 50 countries. Festivalgoers enjoy the amazing opportunity to meet film artists from around the world such as Guillermo del Toro, Steve McQueen, and Barry Jenkins, as well as attend tributes to international luminaries including Steven Spielberg, Carey Mulligan, and Helen Mirren.

SPOTLIGHT ON DIVERSITY
Now in its 23rd year, our Black Perspectives Program celebrates the richness and diversity of African American filmmaking and outstanding work by black filmmakers from around the world. The Program also pays tribute to notable African American artists including Spike Lee, Viola Davis, and Sidney Poitier among others. Cinemas of the Americas spotlights the fresh and vibrant work of emerging and veteran filmmakers from South and Central America. The Festival also presents Out-Look, celebrating LGBTQ+-themed films exhibiting new artistic perspectives on sexuality and identity.

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