56th Chicago International Film Festival

October 14-25, 2020
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Festival Tickets

TIP: Buy early to avoid disappointment! There are a limited number of tickets for each film. Think of this as a virtual cinema and we only have a certain number of “seats” available in our theater!

Important Festival Dates

September 23-27:
Members Pre-Sale
Starts at 10:00am
Cinema/Chicago members have early access to Festival tickets.

September 25:
Festival Pass Early Redemption
Starts at 10:00am
Festival Pass-holders will be able to redeem their passes to reserve their virtual screenings.

September 28:
General Public Onsale
Starts at 10:00am
Tickets available for purchase to the general public

Love movies? Purchase a pass and save!
Festival Passes are the most economical way to see multiple screenings throughout the Festival!

Moviegoer Pass:
10 Virtual Cinema admissions
Members: $90  Non-members: $110

Passport Pass:
20 Virtual Cinema admissions
Members: $170  Non-members: $210

Short Film Pass
Watch all 56 short films!
Members: $50  Non-members: $60

Please note: Passes are not valid for Drive-in Screenings, Opening Night, Special Presentations, Tributes, Special Events, or Closing Night. Tickets for these screenings and events are available through their individual film or event pages.

Where To Buy Tickets and Passes

Where To Buy Tickets and Passes

Individual film tickets are available at the following:
chicagofilmfestival.com

Festival Passes

Individual Tickets

Virtual Cinema

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Drive-In*
The Festival’s Drive-in is located at:
ChiTown Movies
2343 S. Throop St. | Chicago, IL

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*Tickets must be purchased in advance. Includes one complimentary bucket of popcorn per car. No in-person sales done at the Drive-in. Maximum 6 per car.

Regular $60 $75

All ticketing fees are included in prices. Panels and special event tickets vary in price. See the event’s webpage for ticketing information.

All programs are subject to change.

*Please note: Online Ticket Sales Only
No in-person sales

TIP: Buy early to avoid disappointment! There are a limited number of tickets for each film. Think of this as a virtual cinema and we only have a certain number of “seats” available in our theater!

Ticketing and Technical Support

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September 23-October 13
Monday-Friday
10:00am-6:00pm
Saturday-Sunday closed

October 14-25
10:00am-10:00pm

Please note: Online Ticket Sales Only
No in-person sales
Films are available to stream starting at 8:00pm on October 14 through October 25 (exceptions as noted in the film’s description.)

Once you press Play, you’ll have 48 hours to complete watching the film.

**Step One**

Purchase your **TICKET** or **PASS** at [chicagofilmfestival.com](http://chicagofilmfestival.com)

**Step Two**

Receive a confirmation of your order and receipt **via email**

**Step Three**

**Decide** how you want to watch movies

- **BROWSER**
  View online at [watch.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://watch.chicagofilmfestival.com)

- **APP**
  Chicago International Film Festival on AppleTV or Chicago Intl. Film Festival on Roku

- **TV**

  - **Download our dedicated App**
    - Roku or AppleTV (Gen 4 and above)
    - *make sure you run your updates first.*
  
  - **Cast from a computer or Android phone/tablet using the Chrome browser to a Chromecast device**
  
  - **Airplay from a computer, iPhone or iPad to an AppleTV (Gen 2 and above) or to any Smart TV bearing the “AirPlay” badge**

- **Computer**

  - PCs running Windows 7+
    - Browsers: Google Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Opera
  
  - Intel-based Macs running macOS 10.12+
    - Browsers: Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Opera

- **iPAd + Tablet**

  - iPad use Safari on iOS 11.2 or later screen mirroring not supported, set to OFF
  
  - Tablet use Chrome on Android 6.0 or later

**Step Four**

**Login or follow link** to access your movies

**TICKET HOLDERS**

receive a Virtual Access email with link one hour before film watch windows begin. Follow the link to submit your unique Voucher Code. Enjoy the show!

**BADGE HOLDERS**

receive a link to create an account at [watch.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://watch.chicagofilmfestival.com). Login to your account at [watch.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://watch.chicagofilmfestival.com) or on the Chicago International Film Festival app. Find all your films in one place.

Visit our [chicagofilmfestival.com](http://chicagofilmfestival.com) for more detailed technical instructions.
ChiFilmFest at the
Drive-In!

ChiTown Movies 2343 S. Throop St. | Chicago, IL

Join our social distanced Gala and World Premiere presentations at the ChiTown Movies Drive-In in Pilsen!

Wednesday, October 14
Opening Night 6:30pm
Belushi
Director: R.J. Cutler
U.S.
Film details on page 10

Thursday, October 15
7:00pm
David Byrne’s American Utopia
Director: Spike Lee
U.S.
Film details on page 20

Thursday, October 15
10:15pm
The Dark and the Wicked
Director: Bryan Bertino
U.S.
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Friday, October 16
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Bad Hair
Director: Justin Simien
U.S.
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Saturday, October 17
6:30pm
Ammonite
Director: Francis Lee
U.K.
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Sunday, October 18
6:30pm
The Road Up
Directors: Greg Jacobs | Jon Siskel
U.S.
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Friday, October 23
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One Night in Miami
Director: Regina King
U.S.
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Saturday, October 24
Closing Night 6:00pm
Nomadland
Director: Chloé Zhao
U.S.
Film details on page 11

For full drive-in details and FAQ visit chicagofilmfestival.com/drive-in/.
Welcome to the 56th Chicago International Film Festival... re-imagined.

So much about this year’s Festival is new, be it innovations with how we see films and interact with filmmakers and special guests or old-school throwbacks to the drive-in movie experience. But the thing that hasn’t changed is the power of great cinema, however and wherever we watch it. And the joy in discovery—a new film destined to live on as an enduring masterpiece; a debuting director certain to be recognized as a great auteur; an image that inspires an unexpected feeling or a singular idea that remains imprinted on your memory.

The programming team is thrilled and honored to present this year’s extraordinary lineup of films that celebrate cinema’s power to transport audiences wherever they might want to go, be it a far-flung land or a state of mind. We can journey together from the neighborhoods of Chicago to the barrios of Caracas, from the dense jungle of Ivory Coast to the arid highlands of Iran, from a mid-century modern hotel room in 1964 Miami to a remote farm in the Swiss Alps.

While we may be experiencing the Festival apart this year, the stories and the images that move us are a heartening reminder of how much we have in common—our shared emotions, experiences, and capacity for empathy. The virtual festival experience will bring our community of film lovers, whether in Chicago or from across the U.S., together again October 14-25.

We want to thank our extraordinary and dedicated staff who have adapted to the uncertainties and challenges of this year and used their creativity to reimagine the Festival. We also want to recognize the Governing Board of Directors for their ongoing support, insights, and hard work. Thank you also to our patrons, partners, and sponsors, for believing in the work we do and for your dedication to keeping the power of cinema alive.

We look forward to having you join us on this cinematic journey as we defy boundaries, restrictions, and quarantines....Film can take you there. Bon voyage!

Mimi Plauché  Vivian Teng
Artistic Director  Managing Director

Imagination is Your Ticket!

Programming Team:

Antony Kaufman  Sam Flancher  Joyy Norris  Yuki Solomon

Mimie Plauché  Artistic Director
Vivian Teng  Managing Director

Cinema/Chicago, the presenting organization of the Chicago International Film Festival, is a year-round non-profit cultural and educational organization dedicated to fostering better communication between people of diverse cultures through the art of film and the moving image.

Chicago International Film Festival | CineYouth Festival | Summer Screenings Program | Year-Round Membership Program and Education Screenings

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WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE

2020 CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

TOGETHER, WE CELEBRATE UNIQUE VOICES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES
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2020 Chicago International Film Festival

From his early days as a child growing up in Wheaton, Illinois, John Belushi demonstrated an extraordinary facility for comedy and music—by age 30, he’d conquered Hollywood as one of the founding cast members of Saturday Night Live and the star of the comic blockbuster The Blues Brothers. His insatiable drive made him an unstoppable and pioneering force in the world of entertainment, but as his fame grew, so did his struggles with substance abuse, leading to an untimely demise that shocked fans around the world.

Award-winning filmmaker R.J. Cutler chronicles Belushi’s meteoric rise and tragic fall through previously unheard audio tapes featuring the voices of collaborators, friends, and family: Dan Aykroyd, Jim Belushi, Penny Marshall, Lorne Michaels, Carrie Fisher, Chevy Chase, Harold Ramis, Jane Curtin, Ivan Reitman and wife Judy Belushi. A fitting tribute to a once-in-a-generation talent, Belushi captures the complicated and singular essence of a beloved American icon who changed the culture forever. 108 min.

Film Courtesy of SHOWTIME DOCUMENTARY FILMS
Nomadland
Director: Chloé Zhao
U.S.

Following the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, Fern (Frances McDormand) packs her van and sets off on the road exploring a life outside of conventional society as a modern-day nomad. The third feature film from director Chloé Zhao, Nomadland features real nomads Linda May, Swankie, and Bob Wells as Fern’s mentors and comrades in her exploration through the vast landscape of the American West. Winner of the 2020 Venice Film Festival Golden Lion. 107 min.

Film Courtesy of

Closing Night Patron:
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Sunday, October 18 • 5:00 PM CT

Academy Award®-winning actress Kate Winslet has brought to life some of cinema's most captivating and memorable roles. Her résumé consists of critically and commercially acclaimed work as well as a span of awards and honors that illustrate Winslet's talent and solidify her a permanent place in cinema history.

At the age of seventeen, Winslet made an international name for herself in Peter Jackson’s Heavenly Creatures, quickly followed in 1995 with her role as Marianne Dashwood in Ang Lee’s Sense and Sensibility. Winslet received her first Academy Award® nomination for this performance—she’s been nominated for a total of seven Oscars, winning the best actress statuette for her role as Hannah Schmitz in Stephen Daldry’s 2008 drama The Reader. She’s been equally lauded for her work on the small screen, winning Emmy®, Golden Globe®, and SAG Awards as Best Actress in 2010 for her performance in the title role in HBO’s five-part miniseries Mildred Pierce.

She’s also delivered memorable performances in such films as Jude, Hamlet, Titanic, Hideous Kinky, Holy Smoke, Iris, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Finding Neverland, Little Children, Revolutionary Road, Contagion, and Steve Jobs, among many others.

Her latest feature, the striking historical romance Ammonite, sees Winslet take on the role of fossil hunter Mary Anning who finds an unlikely soulmate in the wife of a wealthy aristocrat (Saoirse Ronan), which screens as a Special Presentation at the Festival this year. We are honored to pay tribute to Winslet’s singular body of work and extraordinary career.

Wednesday, October 21 • 7:00 PM CT

Rachel Brosnahan is the Emmy® Award-winning actress and producer best known for her leading role in the critically acclaimed Amazon Studios series The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel. With her starring turn in filmmaker Julia Hart’s feminist-minded thriller I’m Your Woman—screening as part of the Festival’s International Competition—she’s poised for further cinematic success, breaking new ground as a 1970s suburban housewife who finds herself on a perilous journey through the criminal underworld. On stage, Brosnahan made her Broadway debut in 2013 in The Big Knife opposite Bobby Cannavale, and she starred as Desdemona in Sam Gold’s off-Broadway production of Othello opposite Daniel Craig and David Oyelowo.

Join us for a special, in-depth conversation with this versatile performer (and Highland Park native) as we look back at the earliest days of her career: from her Emmy®-nominated breakout role as Rachel Posner in Netflix’s House of Cards, to her latest projects and the work she does behind-the-camera to bring dynamic, women-centric stories to the screen.

Presented by: Event Patron: John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Family Foundation
Artistic Achievement Award
Gianfranco Rosi

Saturday, October 24 • 2:00 PM CT

Nominated for an Oscar® for his 2017 documentary *Fire at Sea*, a compelling and elegiac snapshot of the global refugee crisis that played at the Festival in 2017, Italian filmmaker Gianfranco Rosi has been creating unique works of nonfiction art for more than two decades. The only filmmaker to win top awards at the Venice and Berlin Film Festivals with a documentary, Rosi’s image-making sublimely bridges reality and poetry. From his debut feature *Below Sea Level*, set in the deserts of California, to his recent masterpiece *Notturno*, filmed across Syria, Iraq, Kurdistan, and Lebanon and screening at this year’s Festival, Rosi creates a profoundly political cinema intensified by the lyricism and intimacy of his cinematography. His work brings us closer to those too often forgotten—the people who have been left behind in the wake of the world’s strife.

Black Perspectives Tribute

The Festival’s annual Black Perspectives Tribute has consistently honored actors and directors of the highest caliber—from legendary icons such as Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee to powerhouse performers Forest Whitaker and Viola Davis to world-class filmmakers Spike Lee and Steve McQueen, among others. This special night will once again celebrate the profound and powerful spirit of a major African-American talent with an evening of film clips and insightful conversation.

Check our website for additional information:
chicagofilmfestival.com

Co-presented by:

Consulate General of Italy
Chicago

Istituto Italiano di Cultura

LUCE CINECITTA

Film can take you there.
Audience Choice Awards presented by Xfinity

Don’t forget to vote!
Program Descriptions

- **Special Presentations and Drive-Ins**
  The most highly anticipated films of the season from celebrated filmmakers feature unforgettable real-life stories and amazing performances from the best actors working today.

- **International Competition**
  This program of striking and masterfully crafted films from around the world showcases the best in current cinema.

- **New Directors Competition**
  Screening for the first time in the U.S., these bold works from emerging talents represent the most exciting new voices in international cinema.

- **Documentary/Documentary Competition**
  These real-life stories bring you up-close and personal with the people and issues that define who we are, where we come from, and where we're going.

- **Masters**
  This program salutes the latest movies from the world's most venerable and celebrated filmmakers.

- **Out-Look**
  These films—which compete for the Festival's Q Hugo Award—reflect superbly crafted perspectives on sexuality and identity from across the globe.

- **After Dark**
  These sinister, shock-filled, and spine-tingling movies will keep your adrenaline pumping late into the night.

- **Black Perspectives**
  This program celebrates the richness and diversity of African-American and Black storytellers from Chicago to the Ivory Coast to Venezuela.

- **Cinemas of the Americas**
  A dynamic showcase of fresh work by emerging and veteran filmmakers from South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

- **City & State**
  This stellar collection of films—competing for the Festival's Chicago Award—showcase the year's best stories and brightest talents from our own backyard.

- **Comedy**
  From slapstick to satire, romantic hijinks to surrealist wit, this program presents a range of films that are funny and about funny people.

- **Love in the Time of...**
  From the flutters of first attraction to the anguish of unrequited affection to late-in-life passion, these tales of romance take you on a tour of the many faces of love.

- **Women in Cinema**
  This program highlights powerful and provocative films by both leading women filmmakers and exciting new voices.

- **Shorts**
  A robust collection of films that reflect the virtuosity and craft of the short format.

Program Sponsor: John and Jacolyn Bucksbaum Family Foundation
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All programs are subject to change.
40 Years a Prisoner
Director: Tommy Oliver
U.S.

This powerful documentary bears witness to the lifelong efforts of Michael Africa, Jr. to secure the freedom of his parents, who were incarcerated for four decades. Along with seven other members of MOVE, a Black Liberation group active in Philadelphia in the 1970s, Debbie and Michael Africa, Sr. were charged in the death of a police officer during a brutal raid by authorities at the end of that decade. Interviews with journalists, activists, and authorities, and archival footage of the MOVE commune, are intercut with Michael Africa, Jr.’s ongoing battles with the courts. With uncanny resonance to our current moment, the film delivers a bracing examination of the embattled state of liberty in the face of a racially and politically biased justice system. 109 min.

Ammonite
Director: Francis Lee
U.K.

In 1800s England, acclaimed but unrecognized fossil hunter Mary Anning (Kate Winslet) works alone on the rugged Southern coastline. With the days of her famed discoveries behind her, she now searches for common fossils to sell to tourists to support herself and her ailing mother. When a wealthy visitor entrusts Mary with the care of his wife Charlotte Murchison (Saoirse Ronan), she cannot afford to turn his offer down. Proud and relentlessly passionate about her work, Mary initially clashes with her unwelcome guest, but despite the distance between their social class and personalities, an intense bond begins to develop, compelling the two women to determine the true nature of their relationship. 117 min.

And Tomorrow the Entire World
Und morgen die ganze welt
Director: Julia von Heinz
Germany

How far would you go to stand up for what you believe in? Wide-eyed and idealistic law student Luisa is convinced by best friend Batte to move into an Antifa commune in Berlin, leaving the comfort of her parents’ middle-class home behind. While most of the residents hold to non-violent ideals, one faction, led by the charismatic Alfa, starts preparing to take more radical action to counter the ever-louder voices of their adversaries on the far-right. Already torn between her loyalty to her longtime friend and her attraction to Alfa, Luisa soon finds herself surprised by the changing nature of her own personal and political convictions. This urgent, layered drama finely details the many faces of activism and dissects the nature of justice in the face of extremism. German with subtitles. 111 min.

Any Crybabies Around?
Nakuko wa ineega
Director: Sato Takuma
Japan

Young parent Tasuku (rising star Taiga Nakano) has spent his life assiduously avoiding any responsibility in his small town in northern Japan. But when he’s caught drunk and naked on live national TV coverage at the local Namahage festival, in which men dress as ogres and scare children into behaving, he flees to Tokyo in shame. After two years of rock-bottom city living, he returns home, ready to embrace adulthood. But will the town and his family have him back? Skillfully weaving traditional culture into a thoroughly contemporary story, this sensitive and assured drama asks what it truly means to be a man. Japanese with subtitles. 106 min.
Apples
*Mila*
Director: Christos Nikou
Greece | Poland | Slovenia

In this chimerical, brooding feature debut, a mysterious pandemic rages across the globe causing sudden amnesia in the infected. When solitary Aris is afflicted, he finds himself enrolled in an experimental rehabilitation program. His treatment: performing prescribed tasks mimicking life’s milestone moments and capturing these new memories with a Polaroid camera. Just as Aris is finding his footing, an encounter with a woman undergoing the same therapy sets him on a different path. Through images deadpan, strange, and surreal, Yorgos Lanthimos collaborator Christos Nikou posits a beguiling reflection on memory, identity, nostalgia, and loss. *Greek with subtitles. 90 min.*

Bad Hair
Director: Justin Simien
U.S.

In this hilarious horror satire set in 1989, an ambitious young woman gets a weave in order to succeed in the image-obsessed world of music television, but her flourishing career comes at a cost when she realizes that her new hairstyle might have a mind of its own. As he did with his auspicious debut *Dear White People*, Justin Simien combines sharp, witty storytelling with piercing insights about race, Black identity, and American society. With terrific performances from newcomer Elle Lorraine and an all-star cast including Lena Waithe, Kelly Rowland, Usher Raymond, and Vanessa Williams as her boss-from-hell, *Bad Hair* is topical, funny, and full of hair-raising thrills. *115 min.*

Becoming Mona
*Kom hier dat ik u kus*
Directors: Sabine Lubbe Bakker | Niels van Koevorden
The Netherlands | Belgium

Life is what happens when you stop living for others and start living for yourself. This poignant tragicomic film follows Mona from early childhood, when she is inculcated to be a quiet, obedient presence in the world. She blossoms into a talented young artist, but years of repressing her feelings have impaired her emotionally, binding her to unhealthy relationships at work and at home. Still, there is a fierce, independent spirit that lies inside her, waiting to be liberated. Assured direction elicits flawlessness, seamlessly connected performances from actresses Tanya Zabarylo and Olivia Landuyt in the title role as a young woman and young girl respectively. *Dutch with subtitles. 100 min.*

Careless Crime
*Jenayat-e bi deghat*
Director: Shahram Mokri
Iran

A group of four men in modern-day Iran plot to burn down a movie theater, an act that replicates a historical tragedy that occurred 40 years prior, as society was teetering on revolution. The cinema in their crosshairs is premiering a film about an unexploded missile—a crowd gathers outside the theater in anticipation. Past and present, fact and fiction merge as the world begins to bend toward surreality. Featuring accomplished performances from a stellar ensemble cast and deftly juggling seemingly disparate narrative threads, *Careless Crime* pieces together a bracing reflection on cinema and its significance in Iranian life. *Farsi with subtitles. 139 min.*
The Comeback
Revansch
Director: Patrik Eklund
Sweden
A promising badminton player in her youth, Annbritt lost the Swedish championship finals in 1983, and, three decades later, she still hasn’t recovered from the defeat. Convinced that the loss was the result of the umpire’s missed call, she has since spiraled downward, a bottle of alcohol her constant companion. Buoyed by the unflagging enthusiasm of her son Matthias, who eagerly awaits her comeback, Annbritt is persuaded to train for a rematch against her old rival, in true Rocky Balboa style. But is the embittered, often-pickled aging athlete up to the challenge? Oscar® nominee Patrik Eklund’s off beat comedy with a heart holds out the hope that life just possibly might offer second chances. Swedish with subtitles. 93 min.

Charlatan
Director: Agnieszka Holland
Czech Republic | Ireland | Poland | Slovakia
In this richly drawn portrait, celebrated Polish filmmaker Agnieszka Holland (Europa, Europa, Spoor) manifests the riveting life and work of Czech herbalist and faith healer Jan Mikolášek, who cured hundreds with natural remedies. Magnanimous with his abilities, he treated the poor and wealthy alike, never turning away a patient—including the occupying Nazis forces and the president of the country. Yet, it was this last relationship that led to Mikolášek’s downfall, as he was prosecuted for charlatanism by the subsequent Communist government. In yet another incisive historical tale, Holland shines a light on a singular, extraordinary figure and reveals the complexity of—and human susceptibility to—the political machinations of the times. Czech with subtitles. 118 min.

The Columnist
De kuthoer
Director: Ivo van Aart
The Netherlands
Femke is over it! The constant critique, the gaslighting for speaking her truth, the trolls’ anonymous, sexist insults. A columnist for a revered publication in The Netherlands, the divorced, city-dwelling single mother faces a daily barrage of negativity on social media. Sure, she shouldn’t read the comments, but who doesn’t read the comments?! Meanwhile, her teenage daughter is waging a fiendishly clever campaign for free speech against her high school principal. After enduring another disgusting rounding of ridicule for a recent piece, Femke snaps. A satisfying, bloody, and hilarious revenge tale that dares to confront bullies in the most delightfully dark ways. Dutch with subtitles. 84 min.

City So Real
Director: Steve James
U.S.
Acclaimed director Steve James (Hoop Dreams, The Interrupters) returns with another exceptional chronicle of our vibrant yet deeply fractured metropolis. This epic docuseries begins with Chicago at a crossroads, still reeling from the police shooting of Laquan McDonald and in the midst of the highly contentious 2019 mayoral election. The series’ final episode picks up a year after the mayoral election in 2020, as the city simultaneously grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread social upheaval following the police killing of George Floyd. Inspired by Chris Marker’s classic documentary La joli mai, James ventures north and south, east and west, tracking the candidates and everyday citizens, from protests to penthouses, reflecting both the divisions that separate us and the issues that unite us. English, Spanish, Punjabi with subtitles. 315 min.
Dear Comrades!

Dorogie tovarischi!

Director: Andrey Konchalovsky

Russia

Novocherkassk, USSR. June 1962. Lyudmila, a devout Communist Party official, is a scourge of anything she perceives as anti-Soviet sentiment. After a strike at the local factory catches her and other local Party officials off guard, Moscow decides to step in with force. As the situation spirals out of control, Lyudmila begins a desperate search for her missing daughter, who had joined the striking workers, in the face of curfews, mass arrests, and the authorities’ ruthless attempts to cover up the state violence. Her once unquestioning faith in the Party line is shaken by her growing awareness of its human toll, completely unraveling the world she thought she knew. Filmed in arresting black and white, this historic tale bristles with immediacy—and its current resonances are astonishing. Russian with subtitles. 120 min.

The Dark and the Wicked

Director: Bryan Bertino

U.S.

A secluded home, a looming menace, a family struggling to stay united. If you think you’ve seen this one before, rising talent Bryan Bertino (The Strangers) wrenches a whole new level of terror from this harrowing fable for our grief-stricken times. When adult siblings Louise and Michael return to the farm where they grew up to say goodbye to their dying father and comfort their distressed mother, they soon find themselves overwhelmed by waking nightmares and an unstoppable evil that threatens to consume them all. Saturated with dread and disturbing turns for the worse, The Dark and the Wicked taps into deep anxieties about our responsibilities to our loved ones—while also taking us on a spine-chilling trip. 94 min.

Days Rizi

Director: Tsai Ming-Liang

Taiwan

Isolated and lonely, Kang drifts through an urban landscape searching for relief from an unknown ailment. Shut off from the outside world, Non lives in a sparse apartment, meticulously going through the motions of his daily routine. The two meet in an anonymous hotel room with hopes of finding consolation and healing in one another. Crafting visuals with quiet patience and stunning composition, master filmmaker Tsai-Ming Liang imbues his onscreen world with simple images and multiple meanings. Featuring a pair of brilliant, wordless performances, this beautifully spare film is a cathartic meditation on human connection in a world of alienation. Without dialogue. 127 min.

David Byrne’s American Utopia

Director: Spike Lee

U.S.

In this one-of-a-kind concert film, Oscar®-winning director Spike Lee brings the Talking Heads frontman’s critically acclaimed Broadway show to vivid life. Recorded during its recent run in New York City, the production sees Byrne joined by an ensemble of 11 musicians, singers, and dancers from around the globe—including Chicago bassist Bobby Wooten III and Milwaukee guitarist Angie Swan. Together, they invite audiences into a joyous, surreal staged landscape, suffused with the spirit of human connection and social justice. Featuring songs from Byrne’s 2018 solo album in addition to popular Talking Heads favorites such as “Once in a Lifetime” and “Burning Down the House,” and a rousing cover of Janelle Monáe’s protest song, “Hell You Talmbout.” 105 min.

Dear Comrades!

Dorogie tovarischi!

Director: Andrey Konchalovsky

Russia

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Fireball: Visitors from Darker Worlds
Directors: Werner Herzog | Clive Oppenheimer
U.K. | U.S.

Following their award-winning films Encounters at the End of the World and Into the Inferno, legendary filmmaker Werner Herzog and volcanologist Clive Oppenheimer take viewers on an extraordinary globe-trotting journey to discover the deep impact that meteorites have had on our planet, both physical and psychic. From the tiniest micrometeoroids to massive shooting stars (which have left “unimaginable apocalypse,” intones Herzog, in their wake), Fireball combines affable portraits of idiosyncratic scientists with a fascinating contemplation of the universe and what it means for the human race when pieces of the cosmos leave their mark. 97 min.

Finding Yingying
Director: Jiayan “Jenny” Shi
U.S.

In April 2017, idealistic Chinese student Yingying Zhang came to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study agriculture. Six weeks later, she went missing. Filmmaker Jiayan “Jenny” Shi chronicles the circumstances around her disappearance and its devastating consequences on her family, friends, and community. All the more resonant and timely in the wake of rising anti-Chinese sentiment in the U.S., Finding Yingying is at first an intriguing mystery and, ultimately, a haunting and heartbreaking expose of the state of current U.S.-Chinese relations. English, Mandarin with subtitles. 98 min.

For Madmen Only
Director: Heather Ross
U.S.

In this at once hilarious and poignant look at the life of improv impresario Del Close, Festival alum Heather Ross (Girls on The Wall) tracks the comedy trailblazer from “human torch” sideshow act to his influential and contentious rise at The Second City, mentoring such greats as Bill Murray, John Candy, and Tina Fey, among many others. Inspired by his semi-autobiographical DC Comics anthology Wasteland, the film delves into the inner workings of Close’s wacky mind through inspired reenactments, archival clips, and interviews with such devotees as Bob Odenkirk, Tim Meadows, and Adam McKay. The result is a lively, multi-layered picture of a man and his mission, riding on the edges of genius and despair, creativity and insanity. 85 min.

Farewell Amor
Director: Ekwa Msangi
U.S.

After 17 years in New York, working to support his family back in Angola, Walter has grown ever more comfortable living as a single man in the U.S. When wife Esther and daughter Sylvia are finally able to join him in the city, the three must find a way to reconnect as the time apart has rendered them virtual strangers. Arranged in chapters told from the perspective of each character, this insightful, beautifully conceived film captures the immigrant experience with finely detailed nuance, as Sylvia’s embrace of urban youth culture and dance sets the stage for an inevitable clash of cultures and values. From their colliding worlds can they fashion an entirely new sense of home? 101 min.
I Am Greta
Director: Nathan Grossman
Sweden
Sometimes, it takes only one person to start a movement. This captivating documentary tracks teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg for a momentous 13 months, from her initial school strike for climate justice outside the Swedish Parliament to her astonishing wind-powered voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to speak at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. With remarkable access to Thunberg and her father, Swedish director Nathan Grossman paints both an intimate and candid portrait of a savvy, indefatigable girl unafraid of her detractors and an inspiring look at her unceasing battle to save the planet. A Hulu Original Documentary. Swedish, English with subtitles. 97 min.

I’m Your Woman
Director: Julia Hart
U.S.
Suburban housewife Jean (Rachel Brosnahan, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel) lives a seemingly easy life, supported by husband Eddie’s (Bill Heck) career as a thief. But when Eddie betrays his partners, Jean and her baby are forced to go on the run, and Eddie’s old friend Cal (Arinzé Kene) is tasked with the job of keeping them safe. After Cal mysteriously disappears, Jean befriends Teri (Marsha Stephanie Blake), and the two women set out on a perilous journey into the heart of Eddie’s criminal underworld. A decidedly female take on crime dramas of the 1970s, I’m Your Woman is a tale of love, betrayal, motherhood, family and what it takes to claim your life as your own. 120 min.

Gaza Mon Amour
Directors:
Tarzan Nasser | Arab Nasser
Palestine | France | Germany | Portugal | Qatar
Sixty-year-old Palestinian fisherman and life-long bachelor Issa (Salim Daw) holds a secret torch for Siham (Hiam Abbas), a dressmaker at the market. Just as he is getting up the courage to propose to her, Issa nets an ancient statue of a well-endowed, larger-than-life-sized Apollo. When the Hamas authorities get wind of the existence of this mysterious treasure, the troubles begin. Has Apollo fated Issa to a loveless life? Will he be able to find his way back to Siham? Twin directors Tarzan and Arab Nasser (Dégradé) return to the Festival with this gentle, layered love story set against a playfully sly snapshot of life in modern-day Gaza, with all of its entanglements and absurdity. Arabic with subtitles. 87 min

Kubrick by Kubrick
Kubrick par Kubrick
Director: Gregory Monro
France | Poland
A trove of never-before-heard audio recordings forms the spine of this cinematic essay on the methods and madness of master director Stanley Kubrick. Bouncing between the exquisitely crafted worlds of 2001: A Space Odyssey and Barry Lyndon and the dark, violent terrain of A Clockwork Orange, The Shining, and Full Metal Jacket, this rhapsodic documentary teases out some of the notoriously reclusive filmmaker’s inspirations—from Jungian philosophy to anti-authoritarian politics—as it celebrates the mysteries and intricacies inherent in his work. Above all, the film is an eye-opening tribute to Kubrick’s singular, enduring filmography. English, French, Italian with subtitles. 72 min.
Seven-year-old Sasha has always identified as a girl. Initially resistant, her parents have come to embrace what Sasha has known all along, and so begins their journey together in a slow-to-adapt world. A stand-out at this year's Berlin Film Festival, Little Girl is a profound and heartrending portrait of Sasha's everyday struggles to be recognized by her school, her peers, and her small community in Northeastern France. Beautifully crafted and intimately photographed, Cannes award-winner Sébastien Lifshitz's latest gem offers compassionate insight into the pains, joys, and simple yet sublime victories Sasha experiences in her search for acceptance. French with subtitles. 85 min.

Meet Mama Gloria. Chicago's Black transgender icon Gloria Allen, now in her 70s, blazed a trail for trans people like few others before her. Emerging from Chicago's South Side drag ball culture in the 1960s, Gloria overcame traumatic violence to become a proud leader in her community. Most famously, she pioneered a charm school for young transgender people that served as inspiration for Chicago playwright Philip Dawkins' hit play Charm. Luchina Fisher's empathic and engaging documentary is not only a portrait of a groundbreaking legend, but also a celebration of unconditional love, the love she received from her own mother and that she now gives to her chosen children. 76 min.

In southern Brazil—in a strange Austrian colony of sorts lost in time—indigenous-Black man Cristovam has arrived from the north to take a job at a milk factory. In the face of unrelenting xenophobia and racism, he finds refuge in an abandoned house filled with art objects and folkloric memorabilia that connect him back to his roots. Soon, the mysterious relics start to provoke a metamorphosis within him. Endowed with a newfound sense of identity and power, Cristovam's quiet forbearance turns to emboldened action—and tension mounts, building to a mythic, stunning conclusion. Rich, evocative photography and an unsettling tone envelop this uncanny tale that unmasks the social, racial, and political tensions facing Brazil today. Portuguese, German with subtitles. 93 min.

It should come as no surprise that the FBI mounted a relentless campaign of surveillance and harassment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but this astonishing documentary reveals both the shocking details of the operation and the complexity of the iconic man in its crosshairs. Using newly declassified files, Oscar®-nominated filmmaker Sam Pollard (Chicago International Film Festival's “Best of the Fest” director of Two Trains Runnin' and Sammy Davis Jr: I've Gotta Be Me) brilliantly weaves together revelatory restored archival footage, Hollywood movie clips, and interviews with key cultural figures to tell an astonishing and chilling story about power, racism, and the dark side of the U.S. government. 104 min.

Courtesy of IFC Films
**Notturno**  
Director: Gianfranco Rosi  
**Italy | France | Germany**  

From the Oscar®-nominated director of *Fire at Sea*, this lyrical tour-de-force captures the peoples and places ravaged along the borders between Syria, Iraq, Kurdistan, and Lebanon. The mournful dirges of mothers, plaintive patients enacting a play in a psychiatric hospital, the grace of female Peshmerga warriors, a lone boatman navigating waters against the backdrop of the blood-red dawn—the film’s beautifully composed vignettes capture the signs of violence and war, all the while celebrating the perseverance of its survivors. *Notturno* is both a vivid snapshot of the Middle East and humanity as it struggles to come out of the darkness. Arabic, Kurdish with subtitles. 100 min.

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**New Order**  
*Nuevo orden*  
Director: Michel Franco  
**Mexico | France**  

Imagine the French Revolution transposed on contemporary Mexico City in the hands of provocative Mexican filmmaker Michel Franco (*Daniel and Ana, After Lucia, Chronic*). The result: a disquieting cautionary tale for a society marked by extreme class divisions. Just beyond the walls of a heavily guarded home where a lavish upper-class wedding is underway, protests, chaos, and violence have seized the streets. The shocking outburst of class warfare soon bleeds into the party, setting into motion a brutal *coup d’état*, all seen through the eyes of the sympathetic young bride and the servants who work for—and against—her wealthy family. Deploying a salvo of arresting images, *New Order* breathlessly traces the collapse of one political system as a more harrowing replacement springs up in its wake. Spanish with subtitles. 86 min. For mature audiences

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**Night of the Kings**  
*La nuit des rois*  
Director: Philippe Lacôte  
**Côte d’Ivoire | France | Canada | Senegal**  

A young man is sent to “La Maca,” a prison in the middle of the Ivorian forest ruled by its inmates. As tradition goes with the rising of the red moon, he is designated by the Boss to be the new “Roman” and must tell a story to the other prisoners. Learning what fate awaits him, he begins to narrate the mystical life of the legendary outlaw named “Zama King” and has no choice but to make his story last until dawn. *French, Dioula, Nouchi (Ivorian slang) with subtitles*. 93 min.  

*Courtesy of Neon*

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**Of Fish and Men**  
*Von Fischen und Menschen*  
Director: Stefanie Klemm  
**Switzerland**  

In the lush Swiss countryside, single mom Judith is raising her young daughter Milla while running the family fish farm with the help of worker and friend Gabriel. The three live and labor quietly in their peaceful corner of the world. When the unexpected arrival of Gabriel’s brother threatens that tranquility, the specter of impending disaster casts a shadow over their pastoral life. When the devastation comes, it’s chilling. This taut thriller poses provocative questions about the weight of guilt, the complexity of forgiveness, and the price of redemption. Swiss-German with subtitles. 89 min.
Padrenostro
Director: Claudio Noce
Italy
Rome, 1976. Timid and eager-to-please 10-year-old Valerio witnesses the attempted assassination of his father Alfonso by a terrorist commando. Fear, anxiety, and vulnerability overwhelm the family, as they struggle to regain a sense of security and restore normalcy to their lives. When Christian, a slightly older and bolder rebellious boy appears seemingly out of nowhere and befriends Valerio, his outlook starts to shift. Their meeting will change his life forever, as the two seem to exist in a chimerical world outside of everyday reality. Loosely based on the director’s own childhood experience, Noce deploys magical realist elements to both wondrous and nightmarish effect, creating an intimate and stirring rendering of trauma and its enduring aftermath. Italian with subtitles. 122 min.

The Prophet and the Space Aliens
Director: Yoav Shamir
Israel | Austria
Founded in the 1970s by Frenchman Claude Vorilhon (a.k.a. Raël), the International Raëlian Movement is a quasi-religious cult built on the idea that aliens created the human race. When acclaimed Israeli director Yoav Shamir (Checkpoint) is invited by the charismatic Raël to chronicle his followers’ colorful ways of life and meet free-spirited members across the globe, the director finds more questions than answers: Is Raël a modern-day prophet or a scam artist? And even if Raëliism is bunk, is it really so different from other religions? This funny and fascinating documentary examines the complexities of belief and devotion in ways both unexpected and enlightening. English, French, Jula, Japanese with subtitles. 86 min.

Preparations to Be Together for an Unknown Period of Time
Felkészülés meghatározatlan ideig tartó együttlétére
Director: Lili Horvát
Hungary
To what lengths would you go in pursuit of true love? After building a successful career in the U.S., neurosurgeon Márta impulsively returns home to Hungary, in pursuit of the man of her dreams. The two had an impassioned affair at a medical conference, but when she finds him in Budapest, he claims that they’ve never met. Undaunted, she begins to establish a new life, working at the local hospital, renting a shabby apartment—and tracking her beloved’s movements online and in the real-world. But then she begins to doubt her perception of reality. Is he spinning an elaborate deception or has her obsession trapped her in a world of illusions? Hungarian, English with subtitles. 96 min.

One Night in Miami
Director: Regina King
U.S.
On one incredible night in 1964, four icons of sports, music, and activism gather to celebrate one of the biggest upsets in boxing history. When underdog Cassius Clay, soon to be called Muhammad Ali (Eli Goree), defeats heavyweight champion Sonny Liston at the Miami Convention Hall, Clay memorialized the event with three of his friends: Malcolm X (Kingsley Ben-Adir), Sam Cooke (Leslie Odom Jr.) and Jim Brown (Aldis Hodge). Based on the award-winning play of the same name, One Night in Miami is a fictional account inspired by the historic night these four formidable figures spent together. It looks at the struggles these men faced and the vital role they each played in the civil rights movement and cultural upheaval of the 1960s. More than 40 years later, their conversations on racial injustice, religion, and personal responsibility still resonate. 114 min.
Schoolgirls Las niñas
Director: Pilar Palomero
Spain
Growing up in small-town Spain in the early ‘90s, 11-year-old Celia is ever the responsible student and considerate daughter. When impossibly cool Brisa storms in from Barcelona, she upsets the order of the girls’ strict Catholic school, run by nuns with a stern disposition and an iron fist. Unexpectedly, the two girls become fast friends, and soon Celia is swept up in a rebellious clique that breaks all the rules and flaunts authority. Her eyes newly opened to the world, Celia starts to raise questions about her own family background, including her absent father. This astute drama—in which the young character’s coming of age mirrors the post-Franco restless social energy around her—is anchored by salient performances from its young cast, who effortlessly convey the tensions and anxieties of adolescence. Spanish with subtitles. 97 min.

The Reason I Jump
Director: Jerry Rothwell
U.S. | U.K.
Based on the groundbreaking memoir by 13-year-old author Naoki Higashida, this fascinating documentary uses an immersive, impressionistic approach to chronicle the rich inner lives of non-speaking autistic people from India, Britain, the U.S., and Sierra Leone. Filmmaker Jerry Rothwell draws empathic portraits of his subjects and their families, and then, in a visually sumptuous artistic flourish, he interweaves their experiences with images of a young Japanese boy playing on a stormy coast. All the while, narrated passages from Naoki’s book describe the way in which he perceives the world around him. The critical message: not being able to speak does not mean there is nothing to say. 82 min.

The Road Up
Directors: Greg Jacobs | Jon Siskel
U.S.
From the award-winning team behind the Chicago International Film Festival hit poetry slam documentary Louder than a Bomb, comes this inspiring and emotional film following Jesse Teverbaugh, a charismatic leader at the Chicago-based job-training program Cara. With tough-love and dedication, Teverbaugh mentors four Chicaanoons during their precarious journey from homelessness, addiction, and incarceration to stable employment. The Road Up is not only a powerful chronicle of America’s unforgiving economic and social structures, but also captures the essential role that community, connection, hope, and love play in overcoming adversity. 93 min.

Sleep Schlaf
Director: Michael Venus
Germany
Plagued by a recurring series of nightmares all set inside the same village hotel, flight attendant Marlene (Sandra Hüller, Toni Erdmann) goes hunting for answers, only to wind up hospitalized, paralyzed from trauma. Fearing for her mother’s well-being, Mona (Gro Swantje Kohlhof) checks into a hotel near the hospital, the very one haunting Marlene’s nightmares. Despite the friendly overtures of the caretaker and his wife, Mona, the sole guest during the off-season, finds herself trapped in a web of unsettling visions of the past that threaten to claim her own sanity. First-time filmmaker Michael Venus channels Grimm’s Fairy Tales by way of David Lynch to fashion a chilling debut where dreams and reality collide. German with subtitles. 100 min.

Presented by: Goldman Sachs
Patron: Lauren Robishaw
Sunday, October 18
6:30pm
The Special  *Especial*
**Director:** Ignacio Márquez  
**Venezuela | U.S.**

In this thoughtful and uplifting debut, the profoundly charming Chuo is having to navigate the challenges of early adulthood with Down Syndrome. He feels a growing need for independence from his father José, who struggles to provide and care for his son as he grapples with demons past and the disappointments of dreams deferred. When Chuo lands a job at a small graphic design studio, he begins to find community and discover purpose and a sense of self. Long parted by an ocean of silence and shame, will father and son be able to fulfill the promise of Chuo’s dreams and build a common future? *Spanish with subtitles.* 91 min.

Spring Blossom  *Seize printemps*
**Director:** Suzanne Lindon  
**France**

In this delicate yet intrepid and striking debut, writer-director Suzanne Lindon delivers an astonishingly assured turn as a restless Parisian teen bored by the parties and pastimes of her peers and confronting her sexuality. When she meets Raphaël (Arnaud Valois), an actor nearly 20 years her senior, attraction quickly turns to passion. Despite their age difference, the kindred spirits are drawn to one another, and the two become lovers. But will Suzanne begin to wonder if the more innocent pleasures of youth are passing her by? *French with subtitles.* 73 min.

Striding into the Wind
**Director:** Wei Shujun  
**China**

Fed up with his final year at film school, skilled sound recordist Kun is searching for something more. He coasts through class, works dead-end jobs, and is constantly at-odds with his girlfriend. With a newly minted drivers’ license, an old second-hand Jeep, and his best friend in tow, Kun takes up with a film production and embarks on a journey of self-discovery across China’s lush, varied landscape. Featuring winning performances and directed with a wry emotional clarity, *Striding into the Wind* is a keenly observed meditation on movies, modern China, and the meandering restlessness of youth. *Mandarin with subtitles.* 130 min.

Summer of ’85  *Eté ‘85*
**Director:** François Ozon  
**France**

A summer romance takes a dark turn in this mesmerizing coming-of-age story set on the Normandy coast. After capsizing his friend’s boat in a storm, teenage Alexis is first rescued by the ever-charismatic David, then seduced by his irresistible charm and devil-may-care attitude. But what begins as a carefree, passion-filled adventure for Alex, swept along by the vagaries of young love, becomes something more sinister as demons from David’s past emerge. Shot on 16 mm film and immersed in peak 1980s fashion and music, inimitable French filmmaker François Ozon’s hypnotic tale slowly builds and then races head-on toward an inexorable conclusion. *French with subtitles.* 100 min.
**Sylvie’s Love**  
**Director:** Eugene Ashe  
**U.S.**

In *Sylvie’s Love*, the jazz is smooth and the air sultry in the hot New York summer of 1957. When Sylvie (Tessa Thompson), the daughter of a record-shop owner (Lance Reddick), meets Robert (Nnamdi Asomugha), a saxophonist who gets a part-time job at the shop, the two begin a friendship that sparks a deep passion in each of them unlike anything they’ve felt before. Years after their summer romance comes to an end, Sylvie has success as a TV producer, while Robert tries to come to terms with what the age of Motown is doing to jazz, the music that defines his work. While life continues to take Sylvie and Robert in different directions, they cross paths again, only to find their feelings for each other remain the same. Writer-director Eugene Ashe combines romance and music into a sweeping story that brings together changing times, a changing culture, and the true price of love. 154 min.

**Sweat**  
**Director:** Magnus von Horn  
**Poland | Sweden**

This insightful drama about loneliness and insecurity in the digital age chronicles three days in the candy-colored life of social media celebrity Sylwia Zajac. The beloved fitness instructor preaches positivity and acceptance to her 600,000 followers as she documents her every move, thought, and feeling. To the dismay of her sponsors, she holds back nothing from her fans—from her desire for a boyfriend to her family squabbles—and a video of her breaking down in tears goes viral. Will the sudden appearance of a stalker prompt Sylwia to reconsider her choices? Stage actress Magdalena Kolęsnik delivers a mesmerizing turn as the self-obsessed Internet star, exposing what it means to live a life online. *Polish with subtitles.* 100 min.

**There is No Evil**  
*Sheytan vojud nadarad*  
**Director:** Mohammad Rasoulof  
**Germany | Czech Republic | Iran**

Four thematically connected, meticulously constructed stories follow characters whose decisions to carry out executions (or not) have life- and soul-altering consequences. Devoted family man Heshmat cares for his aging mother, wife, and daughter—but where does he go every morning before dawn? Young soldier Pouya, who has been assigned to the prison death penalty unit, will do anything to escape his military duty. Javad gets a short leave to surprise his beloved Nana on her birthday—but when he arrives, he receives an even bigger shock. Bahram must explain to his niece why he has abandoned his medical career to live as a beekeeper. At once sobering and heady, Mohammad Rasoulof’s brilliant anthology film offers a humanistic reflection on the exacting social, psychological, and emotional toll of taking another’s life. *Farsi with subtitles.* 150 min.

**Things We Dare Not Do**  
*Cosas que no hacemos*  
**Director:** Bruno Santamaría  
**Mexico**

In the small town of El Roblito, where wild horses gallop through the streets and children roam nearby mangrove forests, life appears idyllic. But 16-year-old Noño has a secret that runs counter to the local culture defined by machismo; Noño loves to dress in women’s clothes. In this gorgeously photographed snapshot of rural Mexico, cinematographer-turned-director Bruno Santamaria reveals repression, violence, and beauty in equal measures, and the exquisite story of an individual who bravely defies the gender norms of their society. *Spanish with subtitles.* 71 min.
The Ties *Lacci*
Director: Daniele Luchetti
France | Italy

In early 1980s Naples, husband Aldo (Luigi Lo Cascio) confesses to wife Vanda (Alba Rohrwacher) that he’s been unfaithful, causing a rupture in their once-happy union. Their two young children, stuck firmly in the middle, bear the emotional fallout. But the ties that bind can be inescapable, even without love. Now, 30 years later, Aldo and Vanda are still together, but their relationship with one other and with their now-adult children continues to be shaped by heartbreak and resentment. In his affecting portrait of a marriage in crisis, acclaimed filmmaker Daniele Luchetti (*My Brother is an Only Child*, *Our Life*) crafts a stirring domestic drama that shifts back and forth through the years—time, it seems, doesn’t heal every wound. **Italian with subtitles. 100 min.**

Transoceánicas
Directors: Meritxell Colell | Lucía Vassallo
Spain | Argentina

A years-long correspondence between two filmmakers, this poetic, intimate work finds two friends separated by geography yet bound by their strong emotional connection and the art of the moving image. Meritxell Colell (*Facing the Wind*), who lives in Barcelona, and Buenos Aires-based Lucia Vassallo (*Línea 137*), share moments from their lives both beautiful and banal as they craft an achingly personal dialogue about memory, their current environs, and their lives past and present. Beautifully edited and elegantly structured, *Transoceánicas* is a vivid, layered film about enduring friendship, fierce femininity, and film’s capacity to transcend gulls of space and time. **Spanish with subtitles. 116 min.**

’Til Kingdom Come
Director: Maya Zinshtein
Israel | U.K.

Emmy®-winning Israeli filmmaker Maya Zinshtein (*Forever Pure*) returns to the Festival with this riveting exposé that investigates the unlikely connection between Jews and evangelical Christians in the U.S. and Israel, and the startling hypocrisy at its core. From conversations with a devout pastor and his congregation in rural Kentucky to meetings with religious leaders in Washington D.C. and Israel, Zinshtein closely follows Chicago native Yael Eckstein, President and CEO of the influential advocacy group the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, in her fundraising and coalition-building efforts. What she uncovers is a shocking alliance rooted in apocalyptic prophecy and driven in unprecedented ways by Donald Trump’s White House. **English, Hebrew, Arabic with subtitles. 82 min.**

True Mothers *Asa ga kuru*
Director: Kawase Naomi
Japan

After a long and painful struggle with infertility, Satoko and her husband Kiyokazu stumble across Baby Baton, a non-profit organization that matches couples who can’t conceive with mothers who are unable to raise their children. Realizing that adoption could make their family whole, the couple soon brings home a son, little Asato. But six years later, a young woman named Hikari, who identifies herself as the boy’s birth mother, comes calling, demanding compensation. As tensions escalate, Satoko chooses to confront Hikari over her claim to the child. Told with clarity and vibrancy, this involving dramatic thriller deftly weaves together breathtaking visuals with incisive social commentary. An evocative, assured addition to the canon of films that detail and redefine the modern family in Japan. **Japanese with subtitles. 139 min.**
Under the Open Sky  
Subarashiki sekai  
Director: Nishikawa Miwa  
Japan  
Hirokazu Kore-eda protégée Nishikawa Miwa (Dear Doctor) returns to the Festival with her compassionate yet pointed tale chronicling an ex-con’s rough re-entry into civil society. In and out of institutions—from orphanages to juvenile homes to penitentiaries—since childhood, former Yakuza Mikami (Koji Yakusho, 13 Assassins, Shall We Dance?) is released from his most recent 13-year stint in prison. But what comes next? Bolstered by friends and allies in unexpected places, Mikami must adapt to life on the outside as he struggles to secure both employment and a new sense of self. Eliciting an anchoring, nuanced lead performance from Yakusho, director Miwa delivers a discerning indictment of the prospects for rehabilitation in an unforgiving world.  
Japanese with subtitles. 126 min.

Twilight’s Kiss  
Suk suk  
Director: Ray Yeung  
Hong Kong  
By the time taxi driver Pak and retired single father Hoi meet, both men have long since left behind their days of youth. Diligent providers, they take great pride in the families they have raised, but in their brief initial encounter the laws of attraction take hold, and the two men sense they share a special bond. Their budding, if hesitant, friendship unleashes a torrent of feelings that they’ve taken great pains to repress, and as each casts back over their personal histories, the promise of a loving future together takes hold. Queer filmmaker and Chicago International Film Festival alum Ray Yeung’s (Front Cover) sanguine, moving tale celebrates the possibilities of finding romance and true connection at any age. Cantonese with subtitles. 92 min.

Undine  
Director: Christian Petzold  
Germany | France  
In this bewitching magical realist tale of love, seduction, and loss, Undine (Paula Beer, Transit, Frantz) works as a historian lecturing on Berlin’s urban development. But she is no ordinary woman. When the man she loves leaves her, the myth of the water nymph catches up with her; Undine is fated to claim the life of the man who betrayed her and return to the water. Celebrated German filmmaker Christian Petzold spins gold from a fabulous tale that sees Undine seek to reclaim her own destiny, as she finds love anew with the kind-hearted Christoph (Franz Rogowski, In the Aisles, Transit). German with subtitles. 90 min.

The Woman Who Ran  
Domangchin yeoja  
Director: Hong Sangsoo  
South Korea  
Apart from her husband for the first time in years, Gamhee (played by inimitable Kim Minhee) has a series of encounters with friends both planned and by chance. Over the course of their conversations, details about her life and relationship with her spouse begin to emerge. Is she trying to escape from something? Veteran filmmaker Hong Sangsoo’s trademark minimalism is on full display as he forgoes overly-scripted scenarios for more natural, improvisatory moods. Long takes and dialogue-heavy scenes are punctuated by empathetic, sometimes hilarious zoom-ins. Tenderly crafted and impeccably performed, the film skillfully observes the comedic dysfunction of everyday human communication. Korean with subtitles. 77 min.
**Shorts 1**  
**What We’re Made Of—City & State**  
107 min.

These innovative shorts showcase the very best in Chicago and Illinois filmmaking across a wide variety of genres and forms. Featuring works by Andre Muir and Danielle Alston, Jennifer Boles, Hannah Welever, Orlando Leroi, Lisa Barcy, Ian Bertorelli, Alex Heller, and Ben Strang.

**Patois** is a tender character study of a young Jamaican girl desperate to fit in. **The Reversal** arranges and animates thousands of stunning glass-plate photographs to ponder the reversal and transformation of the Chicago River. A futuristic dating app becomes a lifeline for an agoraphobic woman in **Swipe Up, Vivian!** In **Pegasus,** a brutal interaction with the Chicago police finds a young Black father searching for freedom beyond the limits of the atmosphere. A group of tattered paper dolls daydream alternate realities and explore the hidden lives of their caregivers in **The Ephemeral Orphanage.** **Sacred Brick Technology** incisively contemplates the history and legacy of brickwork in Chicago. A hilariously overprotective mother does her best to defend her daughter in **Grizzlies.** **A Mystery to Me** is an inspiring portrait of a woman named Vanetta and her determined battle against a rare muscular disorder.

**Shorts 2**  
**Disconnect the Dots—Animation**  
82 min.

Surreal visions, distant memories, and fantastic underworlds teem with life in this program of animated films from around the world. A wide variety of styles gives voice to the depth and wonder of memory, character and landscape. Featuring works by Yngwie Boley, J.J. Epping, Diana van Houten, Frédéric Schulz, Alberto Vázquez, Josephine Lohoar Self, WeiJa Ma, Alexandra Ramires, and Renee Zhai.

**Pilar** (The Netherlands/Belgium) is a stunning hand-painted animation about a woman fascinated with the wilderness beyond the walls of her post-apocalyptic village. A British chimney sweeper describes his exploitive everyday routine forcing children to become workers in the beautifully hand-drawn **The Chimney Swift** (Germany). **Homeless Home** (Spain) employs expressive, detailed animation to depict characters adrift and alone in a dark fantasy world. Michael, a gay mouse in his twenties, sees an old jacket and begins to sorrowfully reminisce in the stop-motion **The Fabric of You** (UK). **Step into the River** (China) is a sumptuously-drawn fable about the consequences of China’s one-child policy. In **Tie** (Portugal/France), two characters search for missing pieces of themselves in a gloomy, surreal landscape. A wild blend of animation styles and techniques depicts a young woman afraid of losing everything in the cosmic ode, **O, Black Hole!** (UK)

**Shorts 3**  
**A Creeping Chill—After Dark**  
87 min.

From bodily fluids to walking nightmares, grave peril abounds in this program of audacious late-night fare. Triumphs of mood and tone, these films give voice to persistent feelings of dread and unease. Featuring works by Santiago Menghini, Ariel Zengotita, Jennifer Lumbroso, Parker Finn, Jasper De Bruin, and Ariane Boukerche.

A man in the throes of **Regret** (Canada) must survive the night when the physical manifestation of his inner demons begins to stalk him. A reclusive college student is driven insane after picking a booger he can’t **Flick** (U.S.) away. After an accident in the French countryside, a woman feversishly escapes to the woods in order to survive. She becomes **The Doe** (France). In **Laura Hasn’t Slept** (U.S.), an insomniac solicits the help of her therapist in a desperate attempt to escape her nightmares. **Nightingale** (The Netherlands) ponders a hospital’s eerie hallways as a nurse makes her rounds on the night shift. In **They Salivate** (France), a couple’s kiss becomes an unforgettable, hypnotic study of human relationships.

**Shorts 4**  
**The World as We Know It — Documentary**  
93 min.

Personal, political, philosophical, and emotional, this collection of films showcases the very best in documentary form—from essayistic meditations to vérité assemblages and deeply felt human portraits. Featuring works by Kanas Liu, Jamie Meltzer and Chris Filippone, Katarzyna Warzecha, Carmine Grimaldi, Erica Beebe, and Robin Klengel, Leonhard Müllner and Michael Stumpf.

Shot on the streets of Hong Kong during the 2019 Extradition Bill protests, **Comrades** (Hong Kong) is a moving portrait of uprising and solidarity. **Huntsville Station** (U.S.) observes the comings and goings of a Greyhound station near Huntsville State Penitentiary—the first stop for inmates released on parole. Sifting through old letters between his parents, Adam uncovers an extraordinary family secret in the emotional animated **We Have One Heart** (Poland). Profiling a pastor, his wife, and a dwindling congregation, **When Two or Three** (U.S.) is a picture of faith and the search for God in small-town Arizona. **Radia** (UK) is a shepherd and farmer whose childhood and circumstances prevented her from access to education. The film is an urgent observation about prescriptive fate, agency, and determination. **How to Disappear** (Austria) contemplates the act of desertion within the world of a videogame.

**Shorts 5**  
**The Life of the Mind—Drama**  
90 min.

Deeply felt characters and stirring performances are featured in this program of films that reckon with humanity, history, and time. An eclectic mix of styles and subjects is united by their expertly rendered observations about lives past and present. Featuring works by Baran Sarmad, Omer Sterenberg, Kathy Esquenazi Mitrani, Pham Ngọc Lân, Nawaf Al Janahi, and Thelyia Petraki.
In Spotted Yellow (Iran), a young girl with a yellow spot on her face begins to understand what it means to be a giraffe. A solitary surveilling a gay Palestinian couple begins to question everything in Listening In (Israel). Buzzkill (U.S.) follows an adolescent girl as she desperately tries to fit in with a group of South Florida teenagers. In The Unseen River (Vietnam/Laos), an old woman visits an ex-lover while a sleepless young boy seeks the advice of a monk—a dreamy document of the rhythms of the Mekong. An abandoned old man drifts Somewhere in Time (United Arab Emirates) as he battles death with a beautiful memory. Bella (Greece) is a striking and emotional blend of fiction and documentary that chronicles a woman and world in flux at the end of the Cold War.

Shorts 6
It Hurts to Laugh — Comedy
91 min.

Pitch-black comedies, absurd deadpan oddities, and farcical send-ups are featured in this program of films that revel in the hilarity of life’s stresses and contradictions. Featuring works by Bridget Moloney, Gunhild Enger, Georgi M. Unkovski, Zach Woods, Kerri Kirch Schneider, Guy Maddin, Evan Johnson, and Galen Johnson.

Blocks (U.S.) is an existential comedy about the mother of two young children who begins to spontaneously vomit toy blocks. Play Schengen (Norway) details a gaming company’s hilariously fraught effort to educate children about the European Union. After an unsuccessful attempt to renew his car registration, Dejan finds himself in a bureaucratic trap that tests his determination in the darkly comedic Sticker (Macedonia). In dire straits and thinking of ending it all, David (U.S.) turns to his therapist, played by Will Ferrell, for help. The people of the village Virago (Estonia) brace themselves for an unusually perilous 40th birthday celebration. Stump the Guesser (Canada) finds a vaudevillian showman on an absurd quest to disprove the theory of heredity.

Shorts 7
Evidence of Things Unseen—Black Perspectives
81 min.

This program showcases the talents of Black filmmakers from across the diaspora, painting a sweeping image of Black life in the United States and abroad. A collection of varied genres and styles, these films are reflective, observant, and sometimes hilarious. Featuring works by Terrance Daye, Nico Oppen and Shannon St. Aubin, Kantarama Gaighiri, Amina Sutton, Maya Tanaka, Tebogo Malebogo, and Pat Heywood and Jamil McGinnis.

A young boy wrestles with his sense of self on the day of his cousin’s funeral in the tenderly directed Ship: A Visual Poem (U.S.). A warmhearted portrait of teenager summer days, When I Write It (U.S.) follows two young Oakland artists as they come to grips with the change all around them. Ethereality (Switzerland) blends fiction and documentary to create a moving reflection about migration, home, and belonging. An aspiring artist discusses the challenges of finding affordable housing in a new city and the compromises she has to make with her spooky new roommates in The Price of Cheap Rent (U.S.). Heaven Reaches Down to Earth (South Africa) follows Tau and Tumelo during a journey across the South African landscape. When Tau comes to a realization about their sexuality, it sets in motion a cascade of thoughts and emotions. In Gramercy (U.S.) a young New Jersey native returns to his hometown, where his ongoing battle with depression becomes a poetic exploration of brotherhood and personal struggle.

Shorts 8
Unknown Realms—Experimental
60 min.

This collection of aesthetically bold works envisions new worlds both personal and cosmic. Masterfully crafted and elegantly composed, these experiments in science fiction embark on an odyssey toward the outer reaches of human experience and cinema. Featuring works by Jacqueline Lentzou, Dorian Jespers, and Ben Rivers.

Sofia’s anxiety attack becomes an intergalactic dialogue with the universe in The End of Suffering (a proposal) (Greece). Sun Dog (Russia/Belgium) follows the wanderings of a young locksmith living in a frozen city in the Russian Arctic. His surreal dreams corrode his relationship to reality and create a phantasmagoric universe. Look Then Below (U.S.) conjures futuristic beings and smoke-filled landscapes as it documents fantastic new worlds beyond the realms of time and space.

Shorts 9
Daydreaming — Family-Friendly Animation
70 min.

Outrageous animals, sentimental memories, and mysterious creatures are featured in this program of animated films. From stop-motion wonders to hand-drawn oddities, this collection is hilarious, sentimental, and sweet. Featuring works by Taylor Meacham, Benoit Chieux, Gil Alkabetz, Helena Hilario and Mario Pece, Atsushi Wada, Cristina Vlitches Estela and Paloma Canonica, Marjolaine Perreten, and Aline Höchli.

To: Gerard (U.S.) tells the heartfelt story about the art of illusion and the magic of inspiring someone to follow their dreams. Excited to share a sweet treat with a friend, Anna must first pass through a spooky forest supposedly haunted by a bearded giant in Melting Heart Cake (France). On One Stormy Night (Germany), a fire burning in the hearth falls in love with a lightning bolt and goes on an adventure to find it. Inspired by true events, Umbrella (Brazil) tells the story of Joseph, a boy whose only dream is to have a yellow umbrella. A man and his dog show off their hilarious exercise routine in My Exercise (Japan). Souvenir (Spain) uses beautiful stop-motion animation to tell the story of a father, daughter, and an extraordinary journey through their memories. Slugs are having a hard time keeping up with the pace of the city insects; When the stock market hits rock bottom, the bees see only one solution in Why Slugs Have No Legs (Switzerland). The Last Day of Autumn (Switzerland/Belgium/France) finds all of the animals of the forest gathering together for a great bicycle race as winter slowly approaches.
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