The best in new independent film

JULY 22-31  @stallercenter

Presented by island federal
Choose the pass that’s right for you!
Join us in the theater, watch from home, or a combination of both.

LIVE: July 22-31
VIRTUAL: August 5-30

INDIVIDUAL EVENING PASSES are available for $20, starting July 6. Subject to availability.

We have a Stony Brook Film Festival pass that is perfect for you.

**GOLD PASS** | $250
Guarantees entry and preferred seating for ALL Live films + full access to the Virtual Festival.

Gold Pass Includes:
- Entry to ALL live films in July
- Access to Virtual SBFF in August
- VIP Reserved Seating
- Closing Night Awards Ceremony
- Filmmaker Q&As
- Cast your vote for Audience Choice Award
- Discounts at Hospitality Sponsor Restaurants & Businesses
- Stony Brook Film Festival Swag Bag

**FESTIVAL PASS** | $125
Guarantees entry to ALL live films.

Festival Pass Includes:
- Entry to ALL live films
- Guaranteed Seating for sold out films
- Closing Night Awards Ceremony
- Filmmaker Q&As
- Cast your vote for Audience Choice Award
- Discounts at Hospitality Sponsor Restaurants & Businesses
- Stony Brook Film Festival Gift

**VIRTUAL PASS** | $85
Guarantees access to ALL virtual films.

Virtual Pass Includes:
- Full access to Virtual SBFF in August
- Recorded Filmmaker Discussions
- One pass per household

MANY FILMS WILL INCLUDE A Q&A WITH FILMMAKERS AND ACTORS FOLLOWING THE LIVE SCREENING.

All attendees at the Live Festival will be invited to vote for their favorite films to help determine the Festival winners.

Many of the independent and foreign films have not yet been rated. All titles, dates, and times are subject to change. The Stony Brook Film Festival is produced by the Staller Center for the Arts at Stony Brook University.
LIVE SCHEDULE: JULY 22-31

Please note: Shorts play first at screening times. Parenthesis indicate film running times. Later movie start times are approximate as Q&A sessions may delay the start of the later screenings. Films are in English without subtitles unless otherwise noted.

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL: AUGUST 5-30 (See Virtual Festival schedule on Page 15.)

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Tickets and information: stonybrookfilmfestival.com • (631) 632–ARTS
THE 5TH MAN is the story of all the other kids—the ones who never felt “seen”—until Paul Limmer came into their lives.

Thursday, July 22 - 8:00 pm
OPENING NIGHT FEATURE / WORLD PREMIERE
THE 5TH MAN

United States - 71 min
Written and directed by Trey Nelson.

For 50 years, Paul Limmer was a world class track coach at Long Island’s Mepham High School. He holds New York State’s record for wins with 737 and was inducted into the 2016 New Balance Coaches Hall of Fame. Limmer’s true legacy, however, has nothing to do with awards. Thousands of former athletes, many of whom never broke a single record or won a solitary trophy, credit him for changing their lives. THE 5TH MAN is the story of all the other kids—the ones who never felt “seen”—until Paul Limmer came into their lives. This documentary is an extraordinary story about an ordinary teacher who changed so many lives.

Produced by Dexter Braff, Rebecca Stern and Adam Brenner. Edited by Savannah Bayse, Michael Choi and Catherine Trasborg. Director of Photography: Jaron Berman. A 5th Man Productions & Atlantic Pictures Production.
OPENING NIGHT SHORT
FEELING THROUGH
United States - 16 min
A film by Doug Roland.
A teen looking for a place to crash for the night encounters a DeafBlind man in need of help to get home. Nominated for the 2021 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short, this is the first film in the history of film to feature a DeafBlind Actor, Long Island’s own Robert Tarango.

PLEASE NOTE: SHORTS PLAY FIRST AT SCREENING TIMES

Be sure to stop by and visit the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery during the Festival.

DOS MUNDOS:
(Re)Constructing Narratives
Featuring nearly 40 photographs by 12 artists of color who explore issues of struggle, migration and representation.

On view at the PAUL W. ZUCCAIRE GALLERY
Staller Center, first floor
ZuccaireGallery.stonybrook.edu
Open all evenings of the Film Festival. Free admission.

A SUNY-traveling exhibition organized by En Foco.

Photo: Daesha Devón Harris, How I Got Over, One More River to Cross Series
Friday, July 23 - 7:00 pm

FEATURE

RISKS & SIDE EFFECTS

Germany - 90 min


Kathrin needs a new kidney. Her husband Arnold has the same blood type, and appears to be the perfect donor. So of course he should be willing to donate one of his kidneys to save his wife’s life, right? An uproarious comedy about love, marriage, hypochondria, friends, architects, secrets, and taking risks. In German, with subtitles.


Friday, July 23 - 9:15 pm

FEATURE

RED RIVER ROAD

United States - 90 min

Written and directed by Paul Schuyler. With Paul Schuyler, Jade Schuyler, Quinn Schuyler and Shaw Schuyler.

A family of four isolating against a pandemic virus that spreads through the internet and robs you of your ability to perceive reality—often violently—begins to unravel when they suspect one or all of them might be infected. This suspenseful, moody film was shot entirely under Covid-19 lockdown by one family—and their dog—that served as the entire cast and crew, and yet it seems destined to be one of the classic independent films of our time.


SHORT

DAVID

United States - 12 min

A film by Zachary Woods.

A depressed man reaches out for an emergency therapy session, but he’s not the only one who needs help. Featuring Will Ferrell (Stranger Than Fiction) and William Jackson Harper (Paterson).

SHORT

THE FOLLOWING YEAR

Spain - 22 min

A film by Miguel Campaña.

A widowed farmer receives the clone of the woman he lost years ago under mysterious circumstances. Featuring Rachel Keller (Fargo, Legion) and Kieran O’Brien (Chernobyl).

PLEASE NOTE: SHORTS PLAY FIRST AT SCREENING TIMES
Saturday, July 24 - 7:00 pm
FEATURE
SISTERS
France - 90 min
Directed by Yamina Benguigui. Written by Yamina Benguigui and Abdel Raouf Dafri. With Isabelle Adjani (Camille Claudel), Rachida Brakni, and Maiwenn (Polisse).

When Zorah writes a play about her childhood, her sisters are not happy. The three Franco-Algerian sisters have longed to find the little brother kidnapped by their father in Algeria thirty years ago. When they learn that their father is dying, they travel to Algeria in the hope that he will tell them where their brother is. But it is a race against time in an Algeria where a revolution is rising. A beautifully filmed story with powerful performances and magical transitions between memories and artistic interpretations. In French, with subtitles.

Produced by Yamina Benguigui. Edited by Nadia Ben Rachid and Sercan Sezgin. Director of Photography: Antoine Roch. A StudioCanal Film from The Festival Agency.

Saturday, July 24 - 9:15 pm
FEATURE
GAMES PEOPLE PLAY
Finland - 117 min
Written and directed by Jenni Toivoniemi. With Laura Birn (Absolution), Emmi Parviainen, Eero Milonoff (Border), Samuli Niittymäki, Paula Vesala (Little Wing), and Christian Hillborg.

An old group of friends gather to celebrate Mitzi’s surprise birthday party over a nostalgic weekend at an idyllic seaside villa—just like they used to do as teenagers. While the familiar surroundings and their old rituals cause them to temporarily leave their adulthood behind, new revelations make them reassess their past as well as their present. A heartfelt and ultimately uplifting film that allows for both nostalgia and sober reality. In Finnish, English and Swedish, with subtitles.

Produced by Venla Hellstedt and Elli Toivoniemi. Edited by Samu Heikkilä. Director of Photography: Jarmo Kiuru. From Level K.

SHORT
GIRLS ARE STRONG HERE
United States - 16 min
A film by Scott Burkhardt.

A Syrian immigrant mechanic is unsure how to handle a mother and daughter with more than car problems. In Arabic and English, with subtitles.

SHORT
OFF DUTY
United States - 10 min
A film by Shetal Shah.

A woman wearing a hijab tries to prevent a racist police officer from harassing a pregnant homeless woman. Featuring Aizzah Fatima.
Sunday, July 25 - 7:00 PM
FEATURE
PERSONA NON GRATA
Denmark - 91 min


Laura—or Irina, as she now calls herself—returns to her hometown for her brother’s wedding after distancing herself from her rural family. Now an established writer living in Copenhagen, she has just published a book about her childhood. Much to her surprise, the bully who tormented her as a youngster, and to whom she wrote about in detail in her memoir, is now the future bride of her brother. A laugh-out-loud dark and strangely wonderful comedy. In Danish, with subtitles.


Sunday, July 25 - 9:15 PM
FEATURE / WORLD PREMIERE
ANCHORAGE
United States - 82 min

Directed by Scott Monahan. Written by Dakota Loesch. With Scott Monahan, Dakota Loesch, Christopher Corey Smith.

Two brothers attempt to drive a trunk full of opioids from Florida to Alaska to cash-in big in the Land of Gold. An unexpected act of violence in the California desert derails their trip and sets them on a crash course with tragedy. By equal turns hilarious, poignant, tragic and terrifying, this one-of-a-kind film explores the toxic relationship between men and the national crises of opioid addiction. Acted brilliantly by director Scott Monahan and screenwriter Dakota Loesch.


SHORT
ON THE SIDEWALK, AT NIGHT
United States - 9 min

A film by Alexander Deland, Jr.

A disillusioned young dancer finds her unhappiness is being interrupted by a chatty stranger. A charming short made by student filmmakers over three nights.

SHORT
THE SAVERINI WIDOW
France - 19 min

A film by Loïc Gaillard.

A widow’s life falls to pieces when her son is killed in an attack. Left with only her dog, she plots a desperate scheme. With stunning visuals and no dialogue, this film keeps you riveted to the end.
Monday, July 26 - 7:00 PM

FEATURE

AS FAR AS I KNOW

Hungary - 77 min

Written and directed by Nándor Lőrincz and Bálint Nagy. With Balázs Bodolai, Gabriella Hámori, Attila Menszátor-Héresz, and Iván Fenyő (Jarhead).

When a couple working in the same company find the news of their impending adoption overshadowed by the pregnancy of their friends, their very different reactions lead to an argument on the bus home. The woman unexpectedly gets off at a random stop, and the man stays in his seat, arriving before her. When she arrives home much later and in distress, it becomes clear to him that something terrible has happened. A brilliantly made film that wrestles with questions of perspective, memory, and victimhood. In Hungarian, with subtitles.


Monday, July 26 - 9:15 PM

FEATURE

WILLOW

Republic of Northern Macedonia, Hungary, Belgium - 101 min

Written and directed by Milcho Manchevski. With Sara Klimoska, Natalija Teodosieva, Kamka Tocinovski and Nenad Nacev.

A young peasant woman performs a strange ritual, prays fervently, and finally seeks the help of an aged sorceress—all in the attempt to get pregnant. Centuries later, two contemporary women find themselves struggling with their own beliefs, modern science, and societal mores, in their own struggles to navigate motherhood. With its amazing images and unconventional narrative, this is a film whose story and characters exhibit that rare authenticity that makes you forget you’re watching a movie. In Macedonian, with subtitles.

Produced by Jane Kortoshev and Milcho Manchevski. Edited by Nicolas Gaster. Director of Photography: Tamás Dobos. From Kino Lorber Inc.

SHORT

DA YIE

Ghana, Belgium - 20 min

A film by Anthony Nti.

A foreigner who takes two children on an unexpected trip through Ghana’s coast starts to question his intentions. In Akan, English and French, with subtitles.

SHORT

THE NIGHT I LEFT AMERICA

United States - 12 min

A film by Laki Karavias.

While waiting for his mother’s visa renewal, a teenage boy in Texas confronts his unwanted memories of Uganda. In English and Swahili, with subtitles.
Tuesday, July 27 - 7:00 PM

FEATURE
FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS
India - 84 min


From the director of 2018’s *Rammat Gammat* comes the story of Chandra and Dharam, who run an inn that hovers high above the only road in a small Himalayan village. The terrain is difficult, as they must transport their son down the mountain in his wheelchair. Chandra believes the boy needs more medical attention, but Dharam would rather put the money toward a shamanic ritual. With amazing scenery and stellar acting, this is a searing portrait of the power dynamics at play between tradition and modernity. In Hindi, with subtitles.

Produced by Alan McAlex and Ajay Rai. Edited by Parikshhit Jha and Simon Price. Director of Photography: Dominique Colin. From Jar Pictures.

Tuesday, July 27 - 9:15 PM

FEATURE
EVERYTHING IN THE END
United States - 80 min

Written and directed by Mylissa Fitzsimmons. With Hugo de Sousa, Bergdis Julia Johannsdottir, Lilja Pórisdóttir (*Sense8*) and Joi Johannsson (*His Dark Materials*).

Made over 11 days in Iceland right before the world went into lockdown, this film about a man seeking solace from brief human connections in a small village during Earth’s final days seems downright prescient. The breathtaking scenery, the conversations between people waiting for the inevitable, and the interplay between the actors are all seamless as you are drawn to Paulo’s quest for closure before everything comes to an end. A reflective and timely film with scenes that stay with you for days.

Produced by Mylissa Fitzsimmons, Þórunn Guðjónsdóttir and Brenden Hubbard. Edited by Nicole McClure. Director of Photography: Todd Hickey.

SHORT
THE MUSIC VIDEO
Canada - 14 min

In French, with subtitles
A film by Camille Poirier.
A 13-year-old tomboy agrees to change her style to be in her brother’s music video, with unintended results.

SHORT
MAX IS BLEEDING
United States - 8 min

A film by Jordan Anstatt.
When a man and woman bring their injured dog to a vet, it’s clear that something else is wrong. A chilling story for our time, based on a real life incident.
**Wednesday, July 28 - 7:00 PM**

**FEATURE**

**SUN CHILDREN**

Iran - 99 min


12-year-old Ali and his friends work hard to survive doing small jobs in a garage and committing petty crimes to make fast money. When Ali is entrusted to find a hidden treasure in an underground tunnel, he and his friends must enroll at the Sun School, a charitable institution that tries to educate street kids. Iran’s Oscar submission for this year’s Best International Film. In Persian, with subtitles.


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**Wednesday, July 28 - 9:15 PM**

**FEATURE**

**THE CASTLE**

Lithuania, Ireland - 91 min

Written and directed by Lina Luzyte. With Barbora Bareikyte, Gabija Jaraminaite, Jurate Onaityte and Martyna Peszko.

Monika is a thirteen-year-old Lithuanian girl living in Dublin with her mother and her grandmother, who has dementia. After singing with her mother at a small local, they are approached with an invitation to play in 'The Castle,' which they are told is one of the best music venues in Ireland. Her mother accepts that there is no future for them in music and sells their keyboard, but Monika comes up with a plan to get EUR100 so she can rent a keyboard and perform. In Lithuanian and English, with subtitles.


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**SHORT**

**NOISY**

United States - 10 min

A film by Cedric Hill.

On a noisy subway two strangers discover they have way more in common than where they’re heading. In English and American Sign Language, with subtitles.

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**SHORT**

**INVERNO**

Italy - 17 min

A film by Giulio Mastromauro.

The youngest member of a Greek community of carnival workers learns to confront loss with the help of his family. In Greek, with subtitles.
Thursday, July 29- 7:00 PM

FEATURE

MURDER AT CINEMA NORTH

Israel - 83 min

Written and directed by Avida Livny.

In 1957, as people lined up to see the WWII-themed French classic *A Man Escaped at Tel Aviv’s Cinema North*, a young man fired two bullets into the crowd, seemingly without any intention of causing harm. This begins the story that connects this young criminal Holocaust survivor to an Italian-Jewish engineer who wanted to see a movie, a German music teacher who forgives her husband's murderer because of her Buddhist faith, and a Jewish woman who carried on an affair with a Nazi to save her children. As the lines from a single event reach backwards and forwards in time, you find yourself drawn into the world of this amazing documentary. In English and Hebrew, with subtitles.

Produced by Dana Eden and Shula Spiegel. Edited by Yoni Kohen. Director of Photography: Avner Shahaf. From Go2Films.

Thursday, July 29- 9:15 PM

FEATURE

HOW TO STOP A RECURRING DREAM

United Kingdom - 83 min


Faced with a split-custody break-up, Yakira—the oldest daughter in a broken family—kidnaps her estranged younger sister and takes to the road, in an attempt to reconnect before they are separated. What could have been just a coming-of-age domestic drama instead has that energy of a thriller and the suspense of a mystery as these broken people are forced to confront what it means to be a family.


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SHORT

DEVEK

Israel - 14 min

A film by Uriya Hertz.

When a young man takes his sick mother to visit a psychic medium near the Dead Sea, things do not go as planned. In Hebrew, with subtitles.

SHORT

THIS UNCERTAIN MOMENT

United States - 15 min

A film by Toby Wosskow.

An American woman struggles to maintain a long-distance relationship with her Chinese boyfriend. From the director of the short film *Sides of a Horn* which played at the 2019 festival.
Friday, July 30 - 7:00 PM

**FEATURE**

**LORELEI**

United States - 111 min


Just released after serving a 15 years sentence, Wayland tries to get his life back together without getting back into trouble. While living at a church halfway house, he runs into his High School girlfriend Dolores who is attending a single mom’s support group. Now with three children—all with different absentee fathers—Dolores and Wayland try to reconnect and make the best of difficult circumstances. Pablo Schreiber and Jena Malone grab your attention with their honest, lived-in performance of these survivors.


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Friday, July 30 - 9:15 PM

**FEATURE**

**PERFUMES**

France - 101 min


Anne Walberg, a former celebrity in the perfume world, has fallen from grace in her career and now her skills are still in demand from companies looking to mask the odors of their products. Over the years she has become selfish and ill-tempered, but when she hires a down on his luck chauffeur they strike up an unlikely and respectful friendship. A refreshingly nuanced comedy that avoids unnecessary complications as it offers a fascinating glimpse into the ‘smell’ business. A certified crowd pleaser. In French, with subtitles.

Produced by Frédéric Jouve. Edited by Beatrice Herminie and Gwen Mallauran. Director of Photography: Thomas Rames. From DistribFilms US.

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**SHORT**

**SWIPE**

United States - 5 min

A film by Anthony Sneed.

A delinquent teenage boy learns a valuable lesson about growing up when he messes with the wrong person. A true story from the director’s disreputable adolescence, with some well-deserved retribution added for fun.

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**SHORT**

**GANEF**

United Kingdom - 14 min

A film by Mark Rosenblatt.

A little girl, spooked by a tale from her mother’s past, begins to imagine their beloved family cleaner is a thief. Featuring Sophie McShera (*Downton Abbey*) and Lydia Wilson (*Love Is Thicker Than Water*). In English and Yiddish.
A once renowned tennis prodigy faces his own demons, providing a nail-biting conclusion to the Film Festival.

Saturday, July 31 - 8:00 PM
CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE / NEW YORK PREMIERE
FINAL SET
France - 105 minutes

Written and directed by Quentin Reynaud. With Alex Lutz, Ana Girardot (The Returned), and Kristin Scott Thomas (Gosford Park, The Darkest Hour).

Thomas was once renowned as a young tennis prodigy, but never had the career he hoped for. His alternatives appear to be coaching the children of wealthy socialites, sports commentary, or becoming a house-husband. But at 37, against all recommendations from his family, he decides to return to the French Open, in spite of declining physical fitness and a shattered knee. To succeed he will not only have to overcome the physical demands, but will have to face his own demons as well as a young tennis genius who disturbingly reminds him of himself. This intense, complexly drawn film provides the perfect nail-biting conclusion to close the festival. In French, with subtitles.

Produced by Léonard Glowinski. Edited by Jean-Baptiste Beaudoin. Director of Photography: Vincent Mathias. A StudioCanal Film from Film Movement.

Awards Ceremony immediately follows Closing Night film screening.
VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE | August 5 - 9
FEATURE: The 5th Man | Short: Feeling Through
FEATURE: Risks & Side Effects | Short: David
FEATURE: Red River Road | Short: The Following Year
FEATURE: Sisters | Short: Girls Are Strong Here
FEATURE: Games People Play | Short: Off Duty

WEEK TWO | August 12 - 16
FEATURE: Persona Non Grata | Short: On the Sidewalk at Night
FEATURE: Anchorage | Short: The Saverini Widow
FEATURE: As Far As I Know | Short: DA YIE
FEATURE: Willow | Short: The Night I Left America

WEEK THREE | August 19 - August 23
FEATURE: Fire in the Mountains | Short: The Music Video
FEATURE: Everything in the End | Short: Max is Bleeding
FEATURE: Sun Children | Short: Noisy
FEATURE: The Castle | Short: Inverno

WEEK FOUR | August 26 - August 30
FEATURE: Murder at Cinema North | Short: Devek
FEATURE: How to Stop a Recurring Dream | Short: This Uncertain Moment
FEATURE: Lorelei | Short: Swipe
FEATURE: Perfumes | Short: Ganef
FEATURE: Final Set

For the Virtual Festival, all movies will be available on their release date starting at 7:00 pm through the following Monday at 11:59 pm. Passholders will be able to watch films multiple times and will have access to the films the entire weekend. Pre-recorded discussions with filmmakers, directors, cast and crew will be included with the Virtual Festival Pass.

For more information on the virtual Festival visit stonybrookfilmfestival.com/virtual
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SUPPORT THE STONY BROOK FILM FESTIVAL

The Stony Brook Film Festival is independently funded through philanthropic support from individual donors, corporate partners and Suffolk County. Our donors are the reason for our continued success and we are extremely grateful for the impact they help to make in the film industry and in our community far and wide.

Generous support of the Stony Brook Film Festival has a tremendous impact on the filmmaker and audience experience by allowing us to host over 50 independent filmmakers each year from across the globe to premiere their work on our big screen and share a behind the scenes conversation on stage with the audience. We are able to fly directors, producers, actors, etc. into NY, put them up in a wonderful Long Island hotel, offer personal ground transportation and provide catering with meals each night with the help of our amazing hospitality partners.

The Stony Brook Film Festival has a proven track record of 26 years constantly increasing our reach and sales through creative marketing efforts and the selection of quality films from typically over 3,000 entries submitted each year.

The Stony Brook Film Festival averages approximately 14,000 audience members throughout the 10-day Festival. Be sure to check out our website to read testimonials from various guests and filmmakers alike. Typically film festivals screen the films in multiple locations which house small theaters. The Stony Brook Film Festival is unique in that all films are screened in our 1,000 seat theater allowing for increased attention to be given to all of the selected films.

Donate to the Stony Brook Film Festival at stonybrookfilmfestival.com/support

Featured highlights since the inception of the Stony Brook Film Festival

| 1,056 Films Screened | 514 Filmmakers Hosted representing 77 countries | 54 World Premieres Featured | 76 US Premieres Featured | 75 films have been picked up for distribution, Oscar-nominated or won filmmaker awards |
PROMOTIONS FOR ALL PASSHOLDERS

See specific passholder offers and discounts at stonybrookfilmfestival.com/perks

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STONY BROOK FILM FESTIVAL PASSES MUST BE SHOWN AT TIME OF REDEMPTION

Please visit the sponsor’s website for details on hours and reservation policies.
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are thrilled to be opening our doors again this summer! We have missed seeing you here in our theater. This year’s Festival boasts 35 new independent films, available to watch evenings in-person from Thursday, July 22 to Saturday, July 31, with the encore option to watch virtually in August.

From new American and world premieres to the best foreign-language films from over fifteen countries, we have a thrilling and engaging schedule for this year’s Festival.

There are three pass options to choose from, and we know we have a pass that’s perfect for you! We hope to see you at the Staller Center this July to enjoy our Festival.

Best Wishes,
Alan Inkles

Additional support for the Stony Brook Film Festival is provided by

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Cary & Marisela Staller
Freddie Staller in memory of Erwin Staller
Stony Brook Cancer Center
The Subject - Lanie Zipoy
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The Festival is made possible through generous philanthropic support.

To donate to the Producers Circle please visit stonybrookfilmfestival.com/support

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Order online
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Plan your visit
Go to stonybrookfilmfestival.com/visit
Director Yamina Benguigui and actress Isabelle Adjani discuss a scene for *Sisters.*