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STALLER CENTER PRESENTS



28TH ANNUAL

# STONY BROOK FILM FESTIVAL

JULY 20-29, 2023 · (631)632-ARTS

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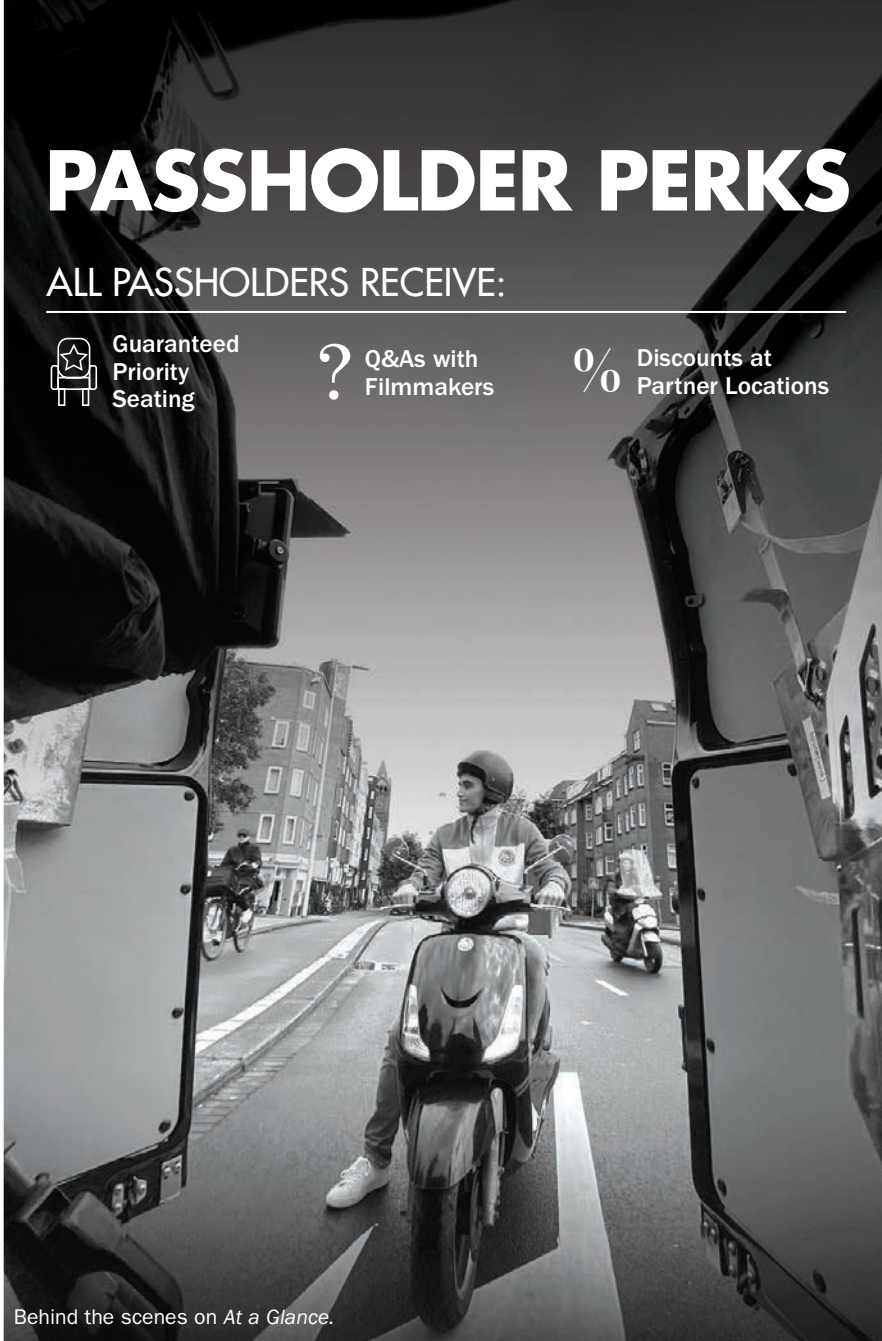
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Behind the scenes on *At a Glance*.

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### GOLD PASS | \$250

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**New!** *Opening Night Party, Long Island Music Hall of Fame, and Closing Night Party, Curry Club at Sāghar. \**

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*Good for all ten days, including Opening and Closing Night films.*

### New! FLEX PASS | \$75

*Includes all passholder perks, plus:*

- This Pass provides access to any 5 DAYS, which includes up to 10 Features and 10 Shorts (Excludes Closing Night).

*A perfect pass for those who cannot make it every night and for those new to the Film Fest experience.*

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS | \$15/\$13.50 Senior

*Available starting July 5*  
Good for 1 film slot per night, which includes 1 Feature and 1 Short.

\*Opening and Closing Night Parties are for Gold Passholders, Filmmakers & VIPs. Gold Passes are available for purchase at [stonybrookfilmfestival.com/pass](http://stonybrookfilmfestival.com/pass).

# SCHEDULE JULY 20 - 29

**F) FEATURE** **S) SHORT** PLEASE NOTE: Shorts play first at screening times. Running times are in parentheses.

Later movie start times are approximate as question & answer sessions may delay the start of the following film.

## THURS 7/20

### OPENING NIGHT

**8:00 pm**

- F) Sea of Time** (116)
- S) The Red Suitcase** (18)



OPENING NIGHT PARTY, Long Island Music Hall of Fame.\*

## TUES 7/25

**7:00 pm**

- F) Elik & Jimmy** (93)
- S) The Third Defector** (17)

**9:30 pm**

- F) Amanda** (93)
- S) Mahogany Drive** (13)

## FRI 7/21

**7:00 pm**

- F) Exodus** (102)
- S) Hit Friends** (13)

**9:30 pm**

- F) I Like Movies** (99)
- S) Chipper** (20)

## WED 7/26

**7:00 pm**

- F) RADIOACTIVE: The Women of Three Mile Island** (77)
- S) Queen Moorea** (27)

**9:30 pm**

- F) Where the Road Leads** (81)
- S) Hit Man: Secrets of Lies** (19)

## SAT 7/22

**7:00 pm**

- F) My Sailor, My Love** (103)
- S) The Countryman** (22)

**9:30 pm**

- F) Grandpa Goes South** (104)
- S) Two Chairs, Not One** (11)

## THURS 7/27

**7:00 pm**

- F) March '68** (117)
- S) The Father, the Son & the Rav Kalmenson** (15)

**9:30 pm**

- F) Yes Repeat No** (98)
- S) Demon Box** (14)

## SUN 7/23

**7:00 pm**

- F) Martha** (88)
- S) Stuck** (27)

**9:30 pm**

- F) Friends from Home** (72)
- S) At a Glance** (17)

## FRI 7/28

**7:00 pm**

- F) The Grandson** (115)
- S) Death By Puppies** (7)

**9:30 pm**

- F) First Snow of Summer** (90)
- S) Voices** (11)

## MON 7/24

**7:00 pm**

- F) Trapped Balloon** (103)
- S) Healer** (16)

**9:30 pm**

- F) A Fleeting Encounter** (85)
- S) Winter's Passing** (22)

## SAT 7/29

### CLOSING NIGHT

**8:00 pm**

- F) Divertimento** (110)
- S) The Basics of Love** (18)

**10:30 pm**

CLOSING NIGHT AWARDS



CLOSING NIGHT PARTY, Curry Club at Saghar\*.

\*Opening and Closing Night Parties are for Gold Passholders, Filmmakers & VIPs. Gold Passes are available for purchase at [stonybrookfilmfestival.com/pass](http://stonybrookfilmfestival.com/pass).

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Many of these 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.



## 8:00 PM OPENING NIGHT FEATURE

### SEA OF TIME (*Zee van tijd*)

U.S. Premiere  
Netherlands - 116 min  
Directed by Theu Boermans. Written by Marieke van der Pol.

With Sallie Harmsen (*Kenau*), Reinout Scholten van Aschat, Elsie de Brauw (*Tonio*), and Gijs Scholten van Aschat.

Lucas and Johanna live an idyllic life on their boat, passionately in love and far away from the worries of the world. When a sudden accident changes their lives forever, they find themselves separated and unable to move on with one another. Thirty-five years later, in the autumn of

their lives, they reconnect when Lucas decides to bring the heart of their struggle to life in the final theatrical production of his career. After decades of unresolved pain, they find themselves once again drawn together by their love, but will it be enough? Both heart-wrenching and hopeful, this opening night feature film is a must-see.

In Dutch, with subtitles.

Produced by Maarten Swart. Edited by Herman P. Koerts, Job ter Burg. Director of Photography: Myrthe Mosterman. A Kaap Holland Film Production from Dutch FilmWorks.



### SHORT THE RED SUITCASE

Luxembourg - 18 min  
A film by Cyrus Nowshahi

A 16-year-old Iranian girl waits at an airport with her red suitcase, contemplating a life-altering decision. An Academy Award-nominated short from the director of our 2019 Audience Award-winning short, *Portraitist*.

In English, French, and Persian, with subtitles.

OPENING NIGHT PARTY, Long Island Music Hall of Fame, catered by Bagel Express.

EXCLUSIVE Event for Gold Passholders and Filmmakers. Upgrade to a Gold Pass at [stonybrookfilmfestival.com/pass](http://stonybrookfilmfestival.com/pass)



F

## 7:00 PM FEATURE EXODUS

Sweden - 102 min  
Directed by Abbe Hassan. Written by Kristoffer Cras and Abbe Hassan.

With Ashraf Barhom (*Zaytoun*), Jwan Alqatami, and Isa Aouifia (Netflix's *Snabba Cash*).

A young Syrian refugee flees to Turkey in a crowded shipping container, expecting to be taken to Sweden and join her family upon arrival. But her plans quickly change when a raid by Turkish immigration authorities sends everyone running, and she barely escapes deportation. Soon a cynical smuggler reluctantly takes her with him, with the thought of recouping his losses from her parents. As they travel through Europe, avoiding the authorities at every turn, this mismatched duo begins forming a bond as two desperate strangers in a dangerous world.

In Arabic, with subtitles.

Produced by Anna-Klara Carlsten, Mattias Nohrborg and Olle Wirehned. Edited by Dino Jonsäter. Director of Photography: Petrus Sjövik. A B-Reel Films production from LevelK.



F

## 9:30 PM FEATURE I LIKE MOVIES

Canada - 99 min  
Written and Directed by Chandler Levack.

With Isaiah Lehtinen, Romina D'Ugo, Krista Bridges (*Aurora Borealis*) and Percy Hynes White (Netflix's *Wednesday*).

Lawrence Kweller is a self-absorbed, socially inept cinephile with his sights set on NYU's film school. When he takes a job at a video store to help earn money for college, he is caught off guard by the quirky manager who takes him under her wing. In the habit of sabotaging every friendship he's ever had and facing an increasingly uncertain future, Lawrence realizes he must change his ways. Isaiah Lehtinen and Romina D'Ugo nail their roles in this sweet, compelling, and riotously funny slice of life among the outcasts.

Produced by Lindsay Blair Goeldner. Edited by Simone Smith. Director of Photography: Rico Moran. A VHS Forever production from Visit Films.

21

FRI

## SHORT HIT FRIENDS

United States - 13 min  
A film by Daniel Rashid

Daniel Rashid (*Almost Winter*) returns to **SBFF** with a riotous tale of best friend assassins who go everywhere together. Except maybe Six Flags.



S

## SHORT CHIPPER

United States - 20 min  
A film by Shaun MacLean

After receiving a mysterious letter from his ailing father, a wayward son returns to his childhood home to wrestle with a dark family secret.



S



## 7:00 PM FEATURE MY SAILOR, MY LOVE

Finland, Ireland, Belgium - 103 min  
Directed by Klaus Härö. Written by Jimmy Karlsson and Kirsi Vikman.

With James Cosmo (*Braveheart*), Brid Brennan (*Brooklyn*), Catherine Walker (*Rose Plays Julie*) and Nora-Jane Noone (*Brooklyn*).

Howard, a cantankerous, retired sea captain, would rather shut himself away in his dark and disordered home than accept help from his daughter Grace. When she hires Annie as domestic help for him, Howard unexpectedly falls in love with her, giving her all his affection while remaining bafflingly cold to his increasingly agitated daughter. This maturely realized meditation on late love and unresolved trauma seeks no easy answers but instead trusts the strength of its brilliant actors to convey their hopes and fears to the audience. An unforgettable story and beautifully shot film set on Ireland's west coast.

Produced by Kaarle Aho, David Collins and Kai Nordberg. Edited by Philippe Ravoet. Director of Photography: Robert Nordström. A Making Movies Oy production from Music Box Films.

## SHORT THE COUNTRYMAN

World Premiere  
United States - 22 min  
A film by Andy Kastelic

When bitterness threatens to destroy a small farming community, a mysterious stranger arrives on the scene with a curious proposition.



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## 9:30 PM FEATURE GRANDPA GOES SOUTH

U.S. Premiere  
Slovenia - 104 min  
Written and directed by Vinci Vogue Anžlovar.

With Boris Cavazza, Vlado Novak and Zala Djuric.

Frustrated and alone, jazz musician Vlado abducts his terminally ill best friend and former band-mate Boris from a hospital to travel south in his vintage motorhome to find Boris' long-lost love, Neda, before he dies. Meanwhile, young ingenue Esma finds herself on the run as the only living witness to an assassination. The two old-timers find themselves teamed up with Esma and, with the help of her family connections, travel with a group of itinerant Romani, outfoxing incompetent authorities and crazed assassins. A laugh-out-loud adventure filled with jazz, Gypsy music, and a little bit of magic.

In Croatian, Macedonian and Slovenian, with subtitles.

Produced by Branislav Srdi. Edited by Vinci Vogue Anžlovar.  
Director of Photography: Milos Srdic. Produced by A Atlanta.

## SHORT TWO CHAIRS, NOT ONE

United States - 11 min  
A film by Austin Kolodney

Director Austin Kolodney (*Almost Winter*) returns to **SBFF** with this humorous tale of a morally dubious dropshipper and a persistent, disgruntled customer.



S

**F**

## 7:00 PM FEATURE MARTHA

East Coast Premiere

Germany, Czech Republic - 88 min

Directed by Stefan Bühling. Written by Marco Rossi

With Thekla Carola Wied, Lana Cooper, Franz Hartwig and Fritzi Haberlandt.

Berlin, 1943: Upper-class widow Martha Liebermann can't imagine leaving her beloved homeland at age 85, but as a Jew, her only choice is to flee or wait to be deported to a concentration camp. Her reputation and the valuable paintings of her world-famous husband, Max Liebermann, still provide protection, but time is running out. Caught between a high-level resistance group on one side and an ambitious Gestapo commissioner on the other, Frau Liebermann starts questioning whether she can even trust her faithful and long-time housekeeper. An outstanding portrait of a truly remarkable woman, Lieberman's true story is portrayed with dignity and humanity by Thekla Carola Wied.

In German, with subtitles.

Produced by Tillman Geithe. Edited by Jens Müller. Director of Photography: Jan Prah. A Ziegler Film, MIA Film and ARD Degeto Film Production. from Menemsha Films.

## SHORT STUCK

Israel - 27 min

A film by Shoval Chiprut

An army veteran with PTSD asks two childhood friends to accompany him back to a location from their past, not realizing it is a minefield.

In Hebrew, with subtitles.

**S****F**

## 9:30 PM FEATURE FRIENDS FROM HOME

United States - 72 min

Written and directed by Joe Blank and Mike Koslov.

With Joe Blank and Mike Koslov.

This quietly hilarious and epically scenic cross-country odyssey from New York to California is both a delight for the eyes and a jab to the funny bone as childhood friends Joe and Mike make the big drive, with stops along the way. Joe has decided to move to Los Angeles, and Mike is keeping him company. Packed with deep discussions on why Niagara Falls isn't that special and how important it is - or isn't - to stick to your itinerary, this true American indie is a painfully humorous reminder of how it feels to be trapped with another person on a long, long trip.

Produced by Joe Blank and Mike Koslov. Edited by Joe Blank and Mike Koslov. Director of Photography: Joe Blank and Mike Koslov. A Blank Slate Films production.

## SHORT AT A GLANCE

New York Premiere

Netherlands - 17 min

A film by Ruud Satijn

During his evening shift, a pizza delivery guy suspects domestic violence is taking place inside the home of a wealthy customer, but will the police believe him?

In Dutch, with subtitles.

**S**

23

SUN



## 7:00 PM FEATURE TRAPPED BALLOON

New York Premiere  
Japan - 103 min  
Written and directed by Hiroyuki Miyagawa.

With Masahiro Higashide, Toko Miura (*Drive My Car*), Miyoko Asada and Kaoru Kobayashi (*Midnight Diner*).

Rinko, who has been estranged from her ailing father since her mother died, decides to visit him on the island where he lives and ask his advice about an impending career decision. During her visit, she becomes suspicious of a reclusive young fisherman named Kenji, who lives in her father's neighborhood, and brings him freshly caught fish without explanation. What would usually be a set-up for a blossoming romance between the two young leads instead turns into something much more poignant under the hand of writer/director Miyagawa and his spectacular cast.

In Japanese, with subtitles.

Produced by Yuki Okuno. Edited by Manami Tsuya. Director of Photography: Kamei Yoshinori. A buzzCrow inc. production.

## SHORT HEALER

World Premiere  
Canada - 16 min  
A film by Mackenzie Leigh

A young woman grapples with her sister's untimely death, seeking solace in an imagined reality where they grew up together.



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## 9:30 PM FEATURE A FLEETING ENCOUNTER

Switzerland - 85 min  
Directed by Romed Wyder.  
Written by Nasim Ahmadpour and Romed Wyder.

With Pooneh Hajimohammadi, Felipe Castro and Elisabet Johannesdottir.

Grappling with a mid-life crisis and a broken leg, a Swiss man escapes to an Airbnb only to discover he will be sharing it with an Iranian woman facing her own personal crisis. Mutually annoyed at having to share the apartment, tension builds as they both play off the other's prejudices until a lively American arrives and disrupts their routine. As misconceptions give way to curiosity and compassion, they find they have much more in common than they could have guessed. A fascinating and humorous character study about two people trying to find their way.

In English, French and Persian, with subtitles.

Produced by Alexander Dumreicher-Ivanceanu, Cyrill Gerber, Bady Minck and Romed Wyder. Edited by Pia Dumont. Director of Photography: Ram Shweky. From Amour Fou Luxembourg, Milan Film and Paradigma Films.

## SHORT WINTER'S PASSING

United States - 22 min  
A film by Yang Fei

An 8-year-old boy living with his grandfather makes a secret deal with a woman who wants to buy two identical urns from his family's shop.

In Chinese, with subtitles.



S





25

TUE

## 9:30 PM FEATURE AMANDA

Italy - 93 min

Written and directed by Carolina Cavalli.

With Benedetta Porcaroli, Galathea Bellugi, Giovanna Mezzogiorno and Monica Nappo (*House of Gucci*).

Back home after studying in Paris, 24-year-old Amanda lives a friendless life with her wealthy-but-dysfunctional family. When her mother tells her that she once played with a local girl when she was much younger, Amanda makes it her mission to find this grown woman and convince her that they are still best friends. An extremely entertaining, quirky, out-of-this-world comedy with a dynamic performance from Benedetta Porcaroli.

In Italian, with subtitles.

Produced by Antonio Celsi, Lorenzo Gangarossa, Mario Gianani, Annamaria Morelli, Malcolm Pagani and Moreno Zani. Edited by Babak Jalali. Director of Photography: Lorenzo Levrini. A Elsinore Film, Wildside, I Wonder Pictures, Charades, Tenderstories, La Città di Torino and Regione Piemonte production. From Oscilloscope Laboratories.

## 7:00 PM FEATURE ELIK & JIMMY

Israel - 93 min

Directed by Gudis Schneider.

Written by Liat Elkayam and Gudis Schneider.

With Tsachi Sadan and Meyran Menkes.

Jimmy and Elik meet in the army on their last day of service. He is an overweight, underachieving corporal; she is a beautiful smart-mouthed officer. They know they won't see each other again, but something clicks: they can talk. Over the next several years, they randomly run into each other, occasionally hanging out and connecting through social media, finally accepting that they have an undeniable gravitational pull. A platonic friendship develops, and everything is good... until love gets in the mix. A delightfully sharp and witty comedy.

In Hebrew, with subtitles.

Produced by Aviram Avraham and Dafna Danenberg. Edited by Dov Steuer. Director of Photography: Amit Sha'al. An Eight Productions production, from Panorama Films.

## SHORT THE THIRD DEFECTOR

United States - 17 min

A film by John Gray

What seems like a simple assignment for a spy to keep tabs on an Iranian defector becomes a more complicated game of cat and mouse in the streets of Paris.

In French, with subtitles.



## SHORT MAHOGANY DRIVE

United States - 13 min

A film by Jerah Milligan

Three Black men wake up to a nightmare: a dead white woman in their Airbnb. Tensions rise, and accusations fly until they realize the horrible, hilarious truth.





**7:00 PM DOCUMENTARY FEATURE**  
**RADIOACTIVE: THE WOMEN OF THREE MILE ISLAND**

United States - 77 min  
 Written and directed by Heidi Hutner.

With Beth Drazba, Paula Kinney, Joyce Corradi, Linda Braasch and Joanne Doroshov.

In 1979 the worst commercial nuclear accident in U.S. history occurred on Three Mile Island. This is the never-before-told story of the four homemakers and two lawyers who took the local community's case all the way to the Supreme Court, and the young female journalist who was caught in the crossfire. With eyewitness accounts and startling new evidence, this film calls into question the nuclear industry's claim that: *no one was harmed and nothing significant happened*. A thrilling documentary about the women who fought back against the nuclear industry Goliath to expose one of the worst cover-ups in U.S. history, from Professor Heidi Hutner of Stony Brook University.

Produced by Heidi Hutner and Simeon Hutner. Edited by Björn Bellenbaum, Ximena Borges and Simeon Hutner. Director of Photography: Sarah Bellingham, Valentina Caniglia, Roger Grange and Martijn Hart. From Three Mile Productions.

**DOCUMENTARY SHORT**  
**QUEEN MOOREA**

United States - 27 min  
 A film by Christine Fugate

A homecoming queen and her friends, all born with genetic conditions, struggle to fulfill their dreams in a world that is ill-prepared to accept them for who they are.



**9:30 PM FEATURE**  
**WHERE THE ROAD LEADS**

Serbia - 81 min  
 Written and directed by Nina Ognjanovic.

With Jana Bjelica, Zlatan Vidović, Vladimir Maksimović, Ninoslav Culum, Svetozar Čvetković and Igor Filipović.

An unexpected visitor with news of a coming highway arrives at a barely habited Serbian village just as the power goes out. Met with suspicion, hope, and disbelief, the visitor decides he should leave the next day, even as the villagers hold a feast to welcome him. When it becomes clear that two ne'er-do-well brothers mean him harm, only Jana takes their threat seriously, doing her best to warn him. Director Ognjanovic deftly brings this sleepy village to life in this puzzle-piece tale, told with subtle humor and impending dread, all to a breathless score by Ana Krstajic. A masterful debut feature that lingers in your mind for days.

In Serbian, with subtitles.

Produced by David Jovanovic. Edited by Rastko Ubovic. Director of Photography: Vladislav Andrejevic. A Pointless Films production.

**SHORT**  
**HIT MAN:  
 SECRETS OF LIES**

United States - 19 min  
 A film by Elias Plagianos

A reflective hitman travels to a small town where he is confronted with an artifact from his past that forces him to re-examine his personal history. With Richard Kind, Karen Allen, and Peter Reigert.



**F**

## 7:00 PM FEATURE MARCH '68

East Coast Premiere

Poland - 117 min

Directed by Krzysztof Lang. Written by Andrzej Gola and Krzysztof Lang.

With Vanessa Aleksander, Ignacy Liss, Ireneusz Czop, Edyta Olszówka, Mariusz Bonaszewski and Anna Radwan.

Young and madly in love, Hania and Janek get caught up in the 1968 student protests of the unlawful expulsion of their colleagues from their university while the Polish government ramps up the anti-Zionist campaign that will lead to the repression of Jews across Poland. To complicate matters, Janek is the son of one of the high-level officers tasked with overseeing the raids on the students, while Hania is Jewish. Feeling like Romeo and Juliet trapped in a country overwhelmed by rebellion, they fight to stay together, no matter the cost.

In Polish, with subtitles.

Produced by Wojciech Widelski. Edited by Rafal Listopad. Director of Photography: Arkadiusz Tomiak. A Film It and elewizja Polska production, from Menemsha Films.

### SHORT

## THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE RAV KALMENSON

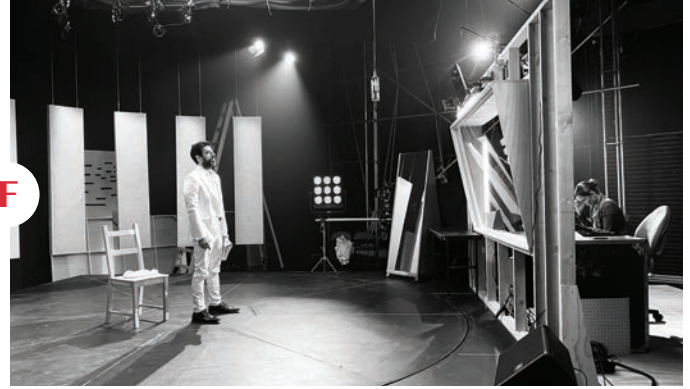
U.S. Premiere

France - 15 min

A film by Dayan D. Oualid

Every Saturday, Yoel goes to synagogue with his 6-year-old son, but on one particular Saturday, Rav Kalmenson pulls Yoel aside to inform him that his son "is lighting up".

In French, with subtitles.

**S****F**

## 9:30 PM FEATURE YES REPEAT NO

United States - 98 min

Written and directed by Michael Moshe Dahan.

With Salome Azizi, Mousa Hussein Kraish (*American Gods*), Adam Meir and Karim Saleh (*Vice*).

Three actors audition to play Palestinian-Jewish actor/activist Juliano Mer-Khamis, a former IDF paratrooper who identified himself as "100% Palestinian and 100% Jewish." As their tense rehearsals fracture their own sense of self, they find themselves at odds with their subject, their director, each other, and even themselves. But just when the story begins to implode, something unique happens: you witness the actors in real life, asking questions directly to director Michael Dahan. This brilliant, witty and thoroughly engrossing meta masterpiece tackles the topic of identity, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and film itself in the sure hands of Dahan.

Produced by Michael Dahan, Braxton Pope and Sarah Szalavitz. Edited by Benjamin Shearn. Director of Photography: B.J. Iwen.

### SHORT

## DEMON BOX

New York Premiere

Canada - 14 min

A film by Sean Wainsteim

A director transforms his intensely personal short film about trauma and the Holocaust into a painful, blunt, funny dissection of both the film and his life.

**S**



## 7:00 PM FEATURE THE GRANDSON

East Coast Premiere

Hungary - 115 min

Directed by Kristóf Deák. Written by Kristóf Deák, Nina Kov and András Vörös.

With Gergely Blahó, Tamás Jordán, Laura Döbrösi, Judit Bárdos and Gábor Jászberényi.

When a grandfather falls victim to a heartless scam that robs him of his money and spirit, his quiet and polite grandson Rudi would prefer to have it taken care of by the authorities. When the police say they can do nothing, Rudi decides he won't let the criminals get away with it. But he must change into a radically different person to find them and get restitution. And with unexpected allies on his side, he might just get the justice he seeks. An intense, charged thriller from Hungary about a situation all too familiar.

In Hungarian, with subtitles.

Produced by Tamás Zákonyi. Edited by Mano Csillag. Director of Photography Róbert Maly. A Flashback Productions film from the Hungarian National Film Institute.

## SHORT DEATH BY PUPPIES

United States - 7 min

A film by Brie Sáez

In this dark comedy, the screening interview for an artist seeking euthanasia for herself goes terribly wrong.



## 9:30 PM FEATURE FIRST SNOW OF SUMMER

U.S. Premiere

Austria - 90 min

Written and directed by Chris Raiber.

With Thomas Prenn, Verena Altenberger, and Margarethe Tiesel.

When Alexander's mother died, his father moved into an underground tunnel to be as close to her as possible. So Alexander, who has lived with his grandmother since, promised himself that he would never fall in love. Instead, he decides to live underground like his father, although in this case that means working at a lost-and-found office in the metro station that he rarely leaves. But things get complicated when he meets Caro, a young woman who works in the metro's hat shop just across from him. A magical romance whose wonderfully strange and whimsical setting is grounded by compelling performances from Thomas Prenn and Verena Altenberger as Alexander and Caro.

In German, with subtitles.

Produced by Ingrid Klingohr, Nikolaus Klingohr and Nils Klingohr. Edited by Cordula Werner. Director of Photography: Mario Minichmayr. An Interspot Film production, from Picture Tree International Films.

## SHORT VOICES

United Kingdom - 11 min

A film by Abbie Lucas

A newly moved couple becomes alarmed as they overhear their next-door neighbor's argument escalating and wonder if they should intervene.



F



## 8:00 PM CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE DIVERTIMENTO

France - 110 minutes

Directed by Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar.

Written by Clara Bourreau and Marie-Castille Mention-Schaar.

With Oulaya Amamra (*Hard Shell, Soft Shell*), Lina El Arabi, and Niels Arestrup (*Diplomacy, War Horse*).

The true story of Zahia Ziouani, who at the age of 17 decided to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a conductor. She and her twin sister and cellist Fettouma are already at a disadvantage in the Parisian classical world, being of Algerian descent and coming from a less prestigious background. But with remarkably few female conductors in Europe, it seems even less likely that Zahia will ever be taken seriously as a conductor at her school. When she is taken under the wing of conductor Sergiu Celibidache (a wonderful Niels Arestrup), Zahia receives the boost of confidence she needs. With the support of their family and community, the two sisters launch their own orchestra. Oulaya Amamra and Lina El Arabi give their all to the roles of Zahia and Fettouma, and director Mention-Schaar smartly sidesteps the many pitfalls of a biopic to create a compelling and cohesive moment in time. This beautifully uplifting film is the perfect ending to our festival.

In French, with subtitles.

Produced by Marc-Benoît Créancier and Olivier Gastinel. Edited by Benoît Quinon. Director of Photography: Naomi Amarger. An Easy Tiger and Estello Films production, from Le Pacte.

## SHORT THE BASICS OF LOVE

S

United States - 18 min

A film by Joshua Nathan



After stumbling into an armed robbery on New Year's Eve, two sanitation workers are caught off-guard by feelings for one another that they didn't realize they had.

## CLOSING NIGHT AWARDS CEREMONY

PRESENTED BY



AWARDS CEREMONY will be held on the Staller Center Main Stage and will immediately follow the Closing Night film.

## CLOSING NIGHT PARTY, Curry Club at Sāghar.

EXCLUSIVE Event for Gold Passholders and Filmmakers. Upgrade to a Gold Pass at [stonybrookfilmfestival.com/pass](http://stonybrookfilmfestival.com/pass)

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## SUPPORT THE STONY BROOK FILM FESTIVAL

The Stony Brook Film Festival, produced by the Staller Center for the Arts at Stony Brook University, 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.

The Stony Brook Film Festival has a proven track record of 28 years constantly increasing our reach and sales through creative marketing efforts and the selection of quality films from typically nearly 3,000 entries submitted each year.

In addition to our Sponsors, individual donors to the Producers Circle help fund vital projects and initiatives which go directly into the creation and development of the Stony Brook Film Festival.

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*Night Watch (Mikaela with Liberty)* ©Shimon Attie. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

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