

ARENA THEATER

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL



2024

November 8 - 10

Friday, 7pm	Close to Home (Local Shorts)
Saturday, 2pm	Shorts from Afar (International Shorts)
Saturday, 4pm	LOL (Comedy Shorts)
Saturday, 7pm	New Visions: Live Media & Experimental Shorts
Sunday, 11am	Creatures Featured (Animal Shorts)
Sunday, 1pm	Community Action Shorts
Sunday, 3pm	Closing Reception

**We welcome you to the
second annual
Arena Theater Short Film
Festival!**

Our festival committee has been working diligently these past several months to curate a thought-provoking, eclectic, and entertaining slate of short film programs from close to home and afar.

We are thrilled to have expanded the festival to a 3 day event this year and to have over 15 filmmakers participating, with Q&A's following nearly every program. And, we're excited to offer a unique experimental film program on Saturday night, with two live media performances - be sure to check it out.

We are so grateful to the filmmakers, our sponsors and volunteers, and all of you--our audience--for your participation in this homegrown cultural event! Your support of this film festival and all our other vital programming keeps Arena Theater alive and thriving as a community treasure.

Please sit back and enjoy the stunning range of topics that will make you laugh and cry, energize you for action, and make you proud of our special town and especially our beloved theater that has ridden the waves of nearly a century to bring home to us the best in live and cinematic stories and entertainment.



**Shauna Boyd, Festival Director
and ATSFF Committee:**

Dagmar Moseley,
publicity coordinator

Annelise Jeske, film
program editor

Paul Andersen

Laura Bidner

Susan Crutcher

Sophie Earl

Kat Gleason

Lisa Joakimides (Arena Theater
Board President)

Gary Levenson-Palmer
Carol Wilder



Friday, 7pm
Close to Home
(local shorts) curated by
Shauna Boyd, Annelise Jeske, and
Gary Levenson-Palmer

*An eclectic collection from local and
regional filmmakers celebrating our
unique stories and perspectives.*

A Disappearing Forest, 9 min. Director: Tyler Schiffman

Explores the interdependence of kelp forests, sea-stars, urchins, and the people who help keep the ecosystem in balance, featuring commercial urchin diver Grant Downie. Award-winning photographer Schiffman documents the unique moments both below and above the ocean's surface. A Nature Conservancy production.

The Nature Girl, 9.5 min. Filmmakers in attendance for Q&A

A story of purpose, compassion and a deep connection to the sacredness of nature and its fragile animal life during a time of climate crisis. A collaboration of filmmakers from Northern California and the UK.

**Unwrapping Ruins, 10 min. Director: L. Scott Jones in
attendance for Q&A**

Filmed at the Gualala Arts Center, the performance art piece features Lucinda Weaver, her longtime friend Alan Bern and local musician Karl Young, and explores their backgrounds, inspiration and elements involved. Jones has been a video filmmaker for 20 years and enjoys traveling, scuba diving, and yoga.

**Hugh Asked?, 4 min. Director: Micah Stamps in attendance
for Q&A**

Hugh Knowwit receives an unexpected visit from his good friend Willy Dewitt that shakes the foundations of his reality on the latest episode of the hit sitcom, "Hugh Asked?" Willits native Stamps' final project for his degree in Cinematic Arts and Technology from CSU Monterey Bay.

**Art Explorers, 7.5 min. Director: Cassandra Young in
attendance for Q&A**

This creative arts program in Fort Bragg, CA, primarily serves adults with developmental disabilities, based on the core belief that all people have a unique artistic voice. Young is a filmmaker and photographer in Mendocino County.

Tune of Love, 7 min. Director: Frej Barty in attendance for Q&A
 High School romance wrestles with a simple question: are there better stories than the American Dream of "rags to riches?" An aspiring filmmaker, Barty loves anything analog from the High School Radio Station KAKX, to pinball, to his Mendocino County Youth Poet Laureateship.

Dago's Boots, 6 min. Director: Paul Collins in attendance for Q&A
 A glimpse into the world of a Hollywood master cobbler originally from Honduras, serving a clientele from the biggest names in entertainment to everyday people. Collins is a West Coast/California based photographer with a passion for representing everyday people as icons.

Late for A Party, 15 min. Dirs: Clowns on a Stick in attendance for Q&A
 3 clowns try to figure out a basic maneuver in this slapstick comedy, filmed in Sonoma County. *Clowns on a Stick* have created and performed dozens of short stage pieces and three full length shows.

The Land, 20 min. Director: Annelise Jeske in attendance for Q&A
 The story of ambitious back-to-the-landers who started a community-living project in Point Arena in 1967 that exists to this day. After many years in New York City, Jeske now resides in Point Arena.

Saturday, 2pm
Shorts from Afar (International)
 curated by Sophie Earll and Carol Wilder
A vibrant tapestry of captivating work from the UK, France, Mongolia, India, and the Netherlands.



Her Scents of Pu'er, (FR), 17 min. Anna-Claria Ostasenko Bogdanoff
 Master Tseng, the first woman tea master in China's history, takes us on a sense journey steeped in history as she unveils the secrets of Pu'er tea. Ostasenko Bogdanoff graduated from La Fémis cinema school in 2019 and is based in Paris.

In My Skin (En Mi Piel), (Spain), 14 min. Director: Sándor M. Salas
 Far from homogenizing parameters, flamenco uses the subversive power of art to enhance diverse bodies on stage. Disability is no longer a limit, but a creative starting point. Salas explores audiovisual language in film. He also works in creative documentary, experimental cinema and video-art.

Punch Drunk (UK), 5 min. Directors: Larry Ketang and Liam Whittle
 In a Marseilles café, a man's life is knocked off its axis when his lunch is disturbed by a chatty stranger. The short reflects the directing duo's trademarks: realistic-sounding characters in plausible yet heightened situations, moral conundrums, and a dollop of dark comedy.

Our Home, Three River Source Region, (Mongolia), 14 min. Dir: Yuan Yuan
 A Tibetan girl finds renewed strength and purpose following the loss of her beloved yak. Yuan Yuan is a Chinese writer/director based in New York. In 2023 she received her MFA from the Tisch School at NYU, where she was an Ang Lee Scholar.

Brown Brit, (UK/India), 11 min. Directors: The Romantix (Jay Stephen, Ralph Briscoe)
 A woman's journey from an arranged marriage in 1987 India to her new life on a North London council estate raising three children. The Romantix film reveals a mother's resilience, bravery in defying societal norms, and her unwavering commitment to forging her own destiny, for herself and her daughters.

Neighbour Abdi, (NL), 28 min. Dirs: Douwe Dijkstra and Abdiwahab Ali
 Somali-born Abdi reenacts his life, marked by war and criminality, with the help of his neighbor and filmmaker Douwe. Dijkstra is a filmmaker and visual artist from the Netherlands. His projects include short films documentaries, video installations, and theater performances.



Saturday, 4pm
LOL
 (Comedy shorts)
 curated by Lani Bower, Shauna Boyd, and Lex Reilly
A kaleidoscopic collection of comedy light and dark.

Cantata, 12 min. Director: Dave Fox
 Darren embarks on a journey to overcome stress-induced operatic hallucinations and reconnect with his inner child. Fox is a writer/director from Dublin with an adept ability to create likable and unique characters, marked by his innate understanding of comedy.

Dead Cat, 13 min. Directors: Danick Audet & Annie-Claude Caron

Not wanting to tell their daughter that her cat is dead, her parents furtively attempt to replace the cherished pet. There are complications... Award-winning directors Audet and Caron have collaborated on independent projects for the past ten years.

The Ballad of Tita & the Machines, 15 min. Director: Miguel Angel Caballero

When strawberry picker Tita is replaced with an AI humanoid, it turns out that humanoids cannot do her back-breaking work. Award-winning Caballero, a Queer Mexican-American/Chicano, director shines a light on our essential unsung working-class heroes in the United States.

Da's, 3 min. Director: Chris Aiken

As two young men collide and tensions rise, their pride is put to the test. And there's only one logical way to solve it. Scottish director Aiken runs two film festivals called Short Com and SI-FAN and was commissioned to make several sketch films for BBC Scotland.

Wrong Guy, 6 min. Director: Brett Maline

When a disabled dude keeps getting mistaken for other disabled dudes, he and best friend decide to lean in when he's mistaken for a disabled celebrity. Maline is disabled actor, writer, and director from small town Nebraska; he's niche because he lives with a rare type of scoliosis and drives a crappy PT Cruiser.

White Rabbit, 12 min. Director: Michael Marantz

After an unusual murder, Rachel is driven to extreme actions to protect her family. A storyteller at heart, Marantz' journey through narrative film-making includes, "We Do This Once" and "The White Rabbit" at Tribeca Film Festival.

Where Did He Die?, 1 min. Director: Cult Members in attendance for Q&A

A seance is interrupted. Since 2016, the comedy film-making collective has created sketches, short films, pilots, live shows, cartoons, podcasts, festivals and now precisely one feat.

Sis, 12 min. Director: Miranda Haymon

Surrealist black comedy: a woman's curiosity in her ex-crush's new girlfriend complicates after their cosmic meet cute at a Brooklyn rooftop party. Boston born Haymon uses lived experience to create their work and have directed a Dunkin' commercial, which, if you're from Massachusetts, is truly the stuff of dreams.

Night Session, 11 mins. Director: Ballard C Bord

A robbery morphs into a makeshift therapy session, with the burglar helping the homeowner process his impending divorce. Emmy Award & Peabody Award-winning Boyd is a producer for the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and his films have screened at over four dozen film festivals.

Saturday, 7pm
**New Visions: Live Media
Experimental Shorts +
Performances** curated
by 99, Shauna Boyd, Susan
Crutcher, Sophie Earl
*Expanded cinema blending
performance, science and
environmental expressions.*



Let's Make A Movie, 5 min. Director: Tommy Becker

Love for the cinema, love for others: Let's make a movie together. Becker's art rock films make a collage of original songwriting, spoken word, performance, costuming, animation, and in-computer design.

My Dreams Are My Reality, 4 min. Director: TEND

Recorded live April of 2024, TEND is a collaboration between multimedia artist Ashleigh Hillen and musician/composer Morgan Harrington, utilizing modular synthesis, keyboards, and live visuals.

Eclipsis, 16 min. Director: Tania Hernández Velasco

What would happen if human beings came across the Eclipsis butterfly that possesses toxins in its scales that cause powerful sensorial alterations to its predators? Born in Ciudad de México, Velasco's work explores questions of territory, nature, legacy and identity.

Rollamatic, 2 min. Director: Steve Young

A surprising and humorous kinetic adventure, starring an assortment of odd items and set to a peppy guitar-based original tune. Young is a New York-based comedy writer, songwriter, musician and filmmaker.

URTU, 3 min. Director: Rafa Zubiria

Experimental music film exploring the intersection of Chinese opera and Buddhist rituals in Bangkok's temple compounds, in collaboration with Bilbao-based composer Zabala. Zubiria is a filmmaker and visual artist from San Sebastián, Spain, using a blend of fly-on-the-wall footage and computer-generated imagery.

Blue Room, 12 min. Director: Merete Mueller

Incarcerated participants in mental health experiment view nature videos on loop, prompting reflections on isolation and the wilderness. Mueller's work includes in-depth reporting on climate change and infrastructure, and intimate stories about body image, homes, and belonging.

So I Danced Again, 4 min. Director: Lottie Kingslake

Notes in an animated sketchbook depict a meandering attempt to investigate the meaning of sounds we hear in the world. Perhaps the only response is to dance. UK-based animator Kingslake experiments with a painterly visual sensibility and a keen interest in rhythm.

More than One, 7 min. Director: Bia Gayotto in attendance for Q&A

Inspired by a group of local women mushroom foragers who embody the invisible mycelia network below our feet. Filmed at The Sea Ranch, Timber Cove and Anchor Bay and includes a chorus of local women's voices. Brazilian-born Bia Gayotto is an award-winning multimedia artist, curator and educator who lives and works on The Sea Ranch.

INTERMISSION

99 Hooker

Using found footage such as Edison's film of an acrobat or pop figures like Britney Spears mixed with generative visuals (effect processing, camera, switcher) to edit a live show, 99 extends the great American tradition of improvisation which has always blended and remixed.

99 Hooker has toured US, Europe and Japan at house shows, squats, The Hirshhorn, Other Cinema, Anthology Film Archives, Filmmakers Coop, Eyebeam, Henry Miller Library, FEED Media Center, Experiments in Cinema, Lincoln Center Walter Reade Theater, and Freddy's Backroom.

Jeremy Rourke

guitar in hand, will sing through a selection of his live cinema musical performances. The anchor of his set, *You're Not Listening*, honors a massive archive of 16mm orphaned films housed in an SF basement.

Jeremy Rourke constructs 12 frames per second homes for his performative, musical, educational and collaborative endeavors. In addition to teaching, he has screened widely: The Exploratorium, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Ashland Independent Film Festival. *When We Were Bullies* was nominated in 2022 for an Academy Award. He was the recipient of 2024 Orphan Film Symposium's Helen Hill Award.



Sunday, Nov.10
11 am
Creatures Featured
(Animal shorts) curated by
Laura Bidner and
Kat Gleason
*This collection of short films
highlights the wonder and
care inspired by considering
the animal beings around us.*

Microlife in Soil, 5 min. Director: Wim van Egmond

A compilation of videos made with a microscope showing the most prominent organisms that inhabit soil. Van Egmond is a micro photographer from the Netherlands, focusing on the hidden life underground.

A'aj, 5 min. Director: Kalie Granier

An Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation woman and a pelican dialog about the endangered kelp forest. In the Esselen Language with subtitles. Granier's work is shown in galleries and museums (United States, Europe, Argentina). She often lectures at California colleges.

Puffling, 20 min. Director: Jessica Bishopp

The delicate interplay between wildlife, the environment, and human life on a remote Icelandic island where teenagers Brita and Selma rescue pufflings (young puffins). Bishopp is fascinated by myth and subcultures, exploring universal themes embedded in our daily lives.

Manō, 5 min. Director: Brittany Briggs

Award-winning animated short about the human impact on sharks and coral reefs, as seen through the eyes of a Tiger Shark in Hawaiian waters over hundreds of millions of years. Briggs is an animation professional, filmmaker, artist, and educator.

Cafe Y Aves, 14 min. Director: Roshan Patel

Coffee farmers in Colombia work alongside Smithsonian scientists to come up with solutions that will be beneficial for birds AND coffee. Patel is an award-winning wildlife and conservation filmmaker, highlighting topics from co-existence with lions in India to coral conservation in the Caribbean.

Life in the Compost Bin, 1 min. Director: Wim van Egmond

A compilation of videos made with a microscope, showing the most prominent organisms that inhabit soil. Van Egmond is a micro photographer from the Netherlands, focusing on the hidden life underground; the world of plant roots, fungi, bacteria, and all kinds of elusive organisms.

Beyond the Herd, 20 min. Director: Michelle Fenn in attendance for Q&A

Mexican-American equestrians Amber and Isidro's kinship with mustangs echoes their own experiences with discrimination and "otherness." Fenn has a passion for exploring female-driven stories and championing underdog narratives.

1pm – Community Action shorts curated by Paul Andersen, Shauna Boyd, Sophie Earll, and Gary Levenson-Palmer

Inspiring stories of people fostering creativity, connection, opportunity, and environmental action in their communities.



Eyes Up: A Mural for the Tenderloin, 15 min. Directors: Steve Agnos and Henry Dombey

A team of talented street artists creates a six-story mural for San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. Dombey and Agnos are videographers based in San Francisco.

Wood Hood, 16 min. Director: Alex Cullen

A weekend-long group camping trip with a BIPOC-led mentorship program urges us to recognize the power and potential of a world where nature is accessible and inclusive for all. Cullen's documentary work can be seen on channels like Epix, Viceland, and Al Jazeera.

Forest Defenders, 13 min. Director: Ian A. Nelson will attend Q&A.

Features some tree defenders in Jackson Demonstration State Forest, taking direct action to prevent more logging. Nelson's award-winning films focus on the importance of biodiversity and land stewardship.

Then Comes the Body, 15 min. Director: James Krupnick

A self-taught ballet dancer opens the first ballet school in Nigeria. After humble beginnings, his students receive scholarships and opportunities abroad. New York based Krupnick is an award-winning filmmaker who creates stories from unexpected points of view with dance and movement.

Undammed, 17 min. Director: Shane Anderson

Yurok tribal attorney Amy Bowers Cordalis' journey from freeing the Klamath from testifying before Congress to passing down fishing traditions within her young family. Anderson's work focuses on salmon recovery, river protection, and socio-environmental justice.

3pm — Closing Reception

Pizza Party, featuring pizzas from Point Arena Pizza and clam chowder from Pier Place.

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The Arena Theater Short Film Festival committee would like to thank: **All filmmakers** who submitted films and participated in Q&As; and **99** and **Jeremy Rourke** for their live performances. All our generous **festival sponsors**. **Susan Palleschi** for expert sponsor solicitation assistance. **Blake More** for designing our wonderful logo. **Hall Kelley** for painstaking, eye-catching poster design. **Anne-Mary Schaefer** and **Lisa Joakimides** for above-and-beyond ad creation and coordination. **Smooth Prints** for our fabulous t-shirts and **Drew Fagan** for t-shirt artwork. **John Coogan** for creative, swift program design. Additional program curators, **99**, **Lani Bouwer**, and **Lex Reilly**. Amazing food and drink vendors for our receptions: **Uneda Eat Catering**, **Pier Place**, **Pelican Bread**, **Point Arena Pizza**, **Sheralyn Kirby**, **Little Green Bean**, **North Coast Brewing Company**, **Mariah Vineyards**, **Oz Farm**, and **Arena Market**. Lodging providers for our filmmakers: **Coast Guard House**, **Oz Farm**, and **Elk Cove Inn**. **Schmidty** for house managing and film projection, **Irene** for holding down the snack bar, **Beverly, Carol, and Shelita** for box office cashiering. Event volunteers including: **Paul Collins** (photography), **Tracy Du Pont**, **Ling-Yen Jones** and **Jon Handel**, **Scott Jones** (videography), and **Steve McLaughlin**.

And everyone attending the festival. *We couldn't have done it without you!*



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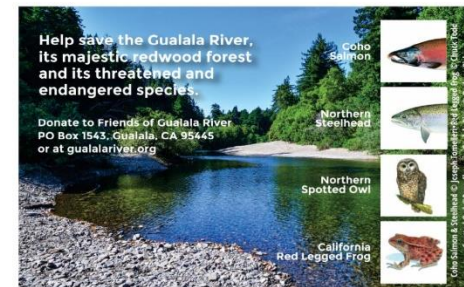
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POINT ARENA LIGHTHOUSE

The Light Station Store, Indoor Museum, 23 acre Outdoor Museum AND the 115' tall Lighthouse Tower are open for tours! Tower Tours approximately every 20 minutes, last Tower Tour around 3 p.m.
Open daily from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

EXPLORE STAY BE INSPIRED

Visit the historic Point Arena Light Station, celebrating its 154th year of lighting the way on the coast in 2024! Climb the 144 steps to the top of the tallest Lighthouse on the Pacific coast for a spectacular view. Shop the Light Station Store's impressive collection of high quality t-shirts, sweatshirts, pullovers, jackets and outerwear, jewelry, books, postcards, decorative housewares, children's items, clocks and wall art, posters, glassware and more. Explore our Indoor and Outdoor Museums. Watch for whales, harbor seals, sea lions, dolphins, pelicans, seabirds, raptors and more from our bluffs. Our seven unique and charming vacation cottages and studios are also available to rent.

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