

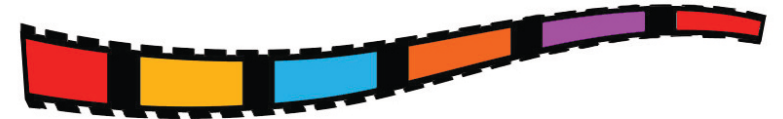


Gualala

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Sea Ranch Lodge



ARENA THEATER
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL



2023

Friday, November 10

Saturday, November 11


red stella
dress ★ shoe ★ gift ★ home



**the
good
food
club**





Welcome One and All to the Inaugural Arena Theater Short Film Festival!

We are thrilled to reach this milestone in our classic 1928 venue. An earlier festival may have come long before us in our storied history, but be assured that our 2023 Festival will not be the last!

A diligent cast of local film lovers worked over months to bring you these treasures from our own North Coast neighborhood, across the country and around the world.

We are deeply grateful to our curators, volunteers, sponsors, and mostly - you! - our audience making this landmark event possible.

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

Arena Theater Short Film Fest Committee

Shauna Boyd – festival coordinator

Dagmar Moseley – publicity coordinator

Annelise Jeske – film program editor

Carol Wilder – T-shirts

Paul Andersen

Sophie Earll

Lisa Joakimides

Gary Levenson-Palmer

Amanda Mahaffey



Friday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

International Short Films

curated by Carol Wilder and Sophie Earll

Travel the globe with us to Brazil/NYC, Mongolia, China, Morocco, Congo and Viet Nam with the latest young award-winning filmmakers

Viet Nam Trilogy

In 2012 a team of five U.S. filmmakers traveled to Hanoi University (HANU) to establish the first documentary film lab in the country. Here are three creative expressions of their visit

Media HANU: A Retrospective (John Coogan, 4:35), Floating Lives Floating Lives (Nguyen Thi Van Anh, Tran Ngoc Diep, Dang Thanh Huong, 8:58), Beyond the Scrap Yard (Nhat Hoa, 5:51).

The Great Find (2022) 11:56 (Brazil/NYC) - Director: Cacau de Santana Araujo

A Brazilian visitor to New York City documents the "unspoken culture of hand-me-downs" that dot the streets, saving items from the landfill while enriching the lives of their new owners.

Araujo is a Brazilian filmmaker, MA candidate in Documentary Filmmaking at The New School. She was featured as a Rising Artist in a segment at PBS/Thirteen (2020).

Q&A with the filmmaker

Heading South (2021) 12:33 (Mongolia) - Director: YuanYuan

Mongolian Girl Chasuna visits her father in the city, meets unwelcome addition to the family. Yuan Yuan is a Chinese born writer-director. *Heading South* won the Jury Prize at Hong Kong International Film Festival, and Best Student Film at DGA, Palm Springs and Aspen ShortFest. Yuan graduated from NYU Tisch Grad Film program in 2022

Natural Disasters - (2023). 4:20 (China) - Director: Tiffany Jiang

This found footage film is an exploration into "natural disasters" within the home or family structure. The writing mixes explanations of natural disasters and personal recollections. Tiffany Jiang is a Chinese-American filmmaker making short documentaries related to identity struggles, cultural taboos, and personal traumas. M.A. in Media Studies from The New School in May 2023.

Family in Exile (2021) 15:00 (Morocco) - Director: Fatima Matousse

Lost opportunities, repression and dreams in the lives of a family of women. Fatima Matousse is an independent Moroccan filmmaker and has won multiple international awards for her "Family in Exile."

Untitled [feature-in-progress]. (2022) 20:00 (Congo) - Director: Maliyamungu Muhande

"Soukouma" [working title] is an auto ethnographic documentary, reflecting on cultural displacement and cultural connection from afar.

Maliyamungu Muhande is a Congolese non-fiction filmmaker, artist and educator based in New York.



Saturday, Nov. 11
11-12:30 p.m

Ocean Shorts Programs curated by Amanda Mahaffey and Paul Andersen

A carefully curated collection of short films focused on our greatest natural resource -- water - and its effect on lives across the globe.

Steelhead and Rainbow Trout 1:00

Miss Isabel's 4-5th Grade Class at the Pacific Community Charter School created a stop motion film telling the story of Steelhead and Rainbow Trout.

The Custodians (2023) 17:00 - Director: Arthur Neumeier

Four locals from Scotland are reclaiming their natural coastlines, restoring wildlife, creating sustainable industries, demonstrating how to work with, not against, the world's oceans. Neumeier has shot a wide variety of content for lifestyle, action sports, and outdoor brands.

Evidence of Us (2021) 12:00 - Director: James Q Martin (aka "Q")

The film reveals the long shadow of pollution, over-consumption and waste cast by plastic use and what it means to be good stewards of our shared home. Martin (aka "Q") ,an award-winning adventure photographer filmmaker featured worldwide.

If You Give a Beach a Bottle 5:14 - Director: Max Romey

An exploration of the complicated relationship between humans and plastic. Anchorage-based Romey uses his unique blend of watercolors, animation, and videography to highlight complex environmental problems.

Tiger (Shark) King 7:06 - Director: Clayton Conn

Follows diver, shark lover Jim Abernethy in his destigmatizing of sharks as mindless killers. Shot on location at Tiger Beach in the Bahamas by Mexico City-based filmmaker Conn.

Bring the Salmon Home 13:43 - Director: Shane Anderson

Captures the determination of the Klamath River tribal communities as they host a 300+ mile run from ocean to headwaters in support of the largest river restoration project in history -- the removal of four Klamath River dams. Anderson is an Emmy-winning documentary director and producer focusing on natural history, environmental justice, river restoration, and salmon recovery in the American West.

Earth 13:56 - Director: Ben Weiland

A journey into the obscure reaches of Iceland with a group of surfers who make their way to an uncharted valley to catch some incredible waves. Weiland is known for his documentaries centered on surfing in some of the most remote and coldest frontiers around the globe, from Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula to the Alaskan Aleutians.



1:00-2:30pm

Comedy Shorts Program

Curated by Lani Bouwer,
Shauna Boyd,
Luke Daly-Kulani

From the Garden of Eden to an
apocalyptic future and the afterlife,
these thought-provoking shorts

Beginners Luck (2020) 15:00 - Director: Casey Feigh

A team of strangers makes it all the way to the championship where they face the perennial champs, in this tale of a small bowling league changing people's lives. Feigh is a comedic director, actor & writer and creator of Holy Shit Improv in Los Angeles.

Miss Patti (2022) 10:00 - Director: Kate Hamilton

Patti, a seemingly deferential cleaning woman, cheerfully endures the passive-aggressive condescension of her hipster employers Lauren and Lily... until Patti is left alone. Hamilton is a writer, director and producer with a BFA in Theatre. She co-founded female-driven Queen's Gambit Films, who's most recent short film won the audience award at SXSW.

I Can Change (2020) 15:00 - Director: Jim Jenkins

The night before his wedding, an underachiever receives the power to stop time, so he attempts to make major life changes his fiancé wants him to make, all before morning. Jenkins is a NY-based commercial director who has shot many famous actors. After years of working in 30 and 60 seconds, this is his first short film.

Lilith and Eve (2022) 6:00 - Director: Sam de Ceccatty

When the first woman on Earth meets... the first-first woman on Earth... an adult feminist re-imagining with Eve accidentally bumping into Lilith, Adam's first wife and equal. French-American director De Ceccatty's film premiered at Tribeca's animated shorts program.

My Eyes Are Up Here (2022) 14:00 - Director: Nathan Morris

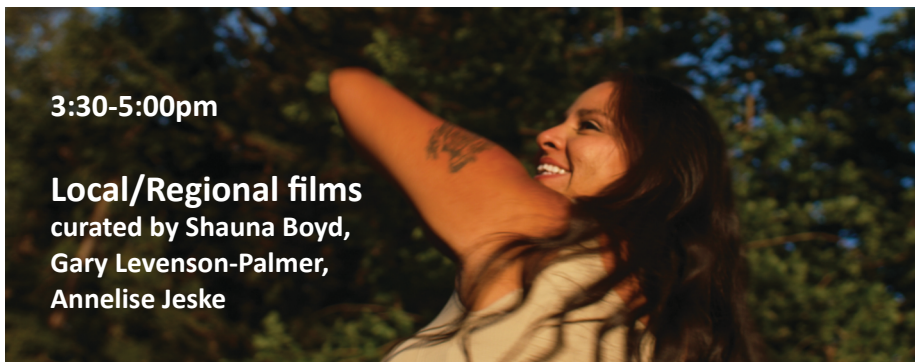
Disabled woman on a mission to get a morning after pill. Only thing in her way is... Everything. London-based Morris made award-winning documentaries in New Zealand and his first short film, "At Dawn," won Directors Choice at the Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Death and Ramen (2023) 14:00 - Director: Tiger Ji

After botching his suicide, a ramen chef goes on an unintended late night odyssey with the Grim Reaper. They share a bowl of noodles and discover what it means to be human. Tiger Ji is a writer/director from Hong Kong. An NYU graduate, Tiger's films blend East-West tones. Now based in New York, he's adapting "Death and Ramen" into a feature.

Lunch Tattoo (2022) 11:00 - Director: Nicholas Luciano

Two friends get their first tattoo in an attempt to break their family's anti-tattoo legacy. An indie comedy featuring Los Angeles tattoo artists and the actors' parents. Luciano is an indie film director, writer, producer and video editor based in Los Angeles. "Lunch Tattoo" - official selection: Dances With Films, DC Shorts and festivals throughout the country.



3:30-5:00pm

Local/Regional films
curated by Shauna Boyd,
Gary Levenson-Palmer,
Annelise Jeske

An eclectic collection of shorts from local and regional filmmakers, celebrating our unique stories and perspectives. **Q&A with several filmmakers after.**

Chishkale: The Blessing of the Acorn 5:00 - Director: Linda Mai Green
Bernadette Smith, from the Manchester band of Pomo Indians, performs the "Acorn Dance," a contemporary Indigenous dance to honor the sacred, traditional food of California Natives. Green is a filmmaker based between San Francisco and Mendocino County.

He Won't Belong (2023) 22:00 - Director: Dominic Mercurio
In the midst of a storm on a desolate strip of California's lost coast, two strangers begin to uncover each other's past. **_Will attend Q&A.**
Mercurio is an award-winning San Francisco based filmmaker and musician.

A Skate Park Would be Nice 3:00 - Director: Kai Leeper-Sale
These are reasons why should have a skate park in point arena. **_Will attend Q&A.**
Sale grew up between Point Arena and San Francisco. Currently, he is attending SFSU and makes videos with his friends for their creative project Huskm3dia.

Grounding Light (2022) 19:00 - Director: L. Scott Jones
A film featuring local Fred Mitouer, internationally known for his groundbreaking somatic therapy and his work with the author as well as other clients. **_Will attend Q&A.**
Jones, a nationally known filmmaker, has traveled extensively in the US, Europe, and Egypt.

Witch and the Wand 6:00 - Director: Jason Belleza
A clumsy and passionate little witch girl named Zoe is learning to make her wand.
Made over the span of a semester, the short is the first project of Pending Animations, founded by college students at Cal State Fullerton.

Pomo Land Back: A Prayer from the Forest 7:00 - Director: Evan-Marie Petit
Honoring the vital movement towards indigenous-led stewardship and repatriation of forests. Petit hails from the red earth of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Georgia, the original homeland of her ancestors, the Aniyywviya (Eastern Cherokee).

Garcia River 8:00 - Director: Sashwa Burrous - Coldwater Collective
After years of planning, the team at The Nature Conservancy has broken ground on one of the largest in-stream restoration projects in California to restore this important salmon habitat. The Coldwater Collective is a production company motivated to share solution-oriented stories about our changing planet and social virtue. **Will attend Q&A.**

Closing Reception – 5:30-6:30pm

Party and mingle with filmmakers, attendees and friends while enjoying food and drink from the Good Food Club, Point Arena Pizza, Franny's Bakery, and Little Green Bean. Beer and Wine



7:00-8:30pm

Town Destroyer (2022)
Preceded by the short "Ghosts" –
Q&A with Executive Producer: Peggy Berryhill

Curated by Susan Crutcher and the ATSFF festival committee

Two films that explore how to look at art and history at a time of polarized national debate over the power of images, racism, and trauma.

Ghosts 17:00 - Director: Jeffrey Palmer
The story of three Kiowa boys' daring escape from a government boarding school in Anadarko, Oklahoma, in 1891, to attend a ghost dance ceremony at a distant Kiowa encampment.
Kiowa filmmaker, professor and media artist Palmer is currently working on his second feature film, based on his short film "Ghosts."

Town Destroyer (2022) 53 minutes
Produced and Directed by Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman
Executive Producer: Peggy Berryhill (Muscogee)
The story focuses on a passionate dispute over historic murals at a public high school depicting the life of George Washington, a man Seneca leaders called "Town Destroyer" after he ordered their villages destroyed during the Revolutionary War.



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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.



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The Arena Theater Short Film Festival committee would like to thank:

All filmmakers who submitted films to this first festival and participated in Q&As. All our generous **festival sponsors**. Visit **Mendocino** for grant funding. **Hall Kelley** for painstaking, eye-catching poster design. **Anne-Mary Schaefer** and **Lisa Joakimides** for above-and-beyond ad creation and coordination. **Sam at Smooth Prints** for our fabulous t-shirts. **John Coogan** for creative and swift program design. Volunteer program curators **Lani Bouwer**, **Susan Crutcher**, and **Luke Daly-Kulani**. Amazing reception food vendors: **Good Food Club**, **Point Arena Pizza**, **Franny's Cup and Saucer**, **Izakaya Gama**, **Amber's Diner**, **Little Green Bean**. **Schmidty** for house managing and projection. Day of volunteers: **Ling-Yen Jones** and **Jon Handel**, **Tracy Du Pont**, **Kat Gleason**, **Steve McLaughlin**. And all of you for attending the festival!

We couldn't have done it without you!

