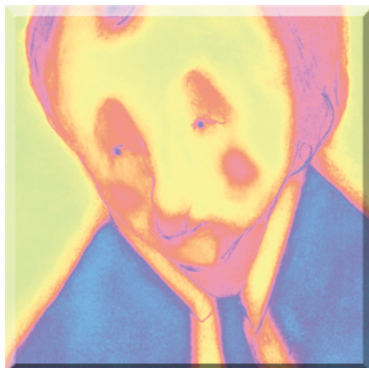




THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL

43<sup>RD</sup> Annual  
2024

# THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL



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THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL

## 2024 AWARDS PROGRAM GUIDE

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# THE THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL

Tour and streaming made possible in part by:

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The **Thomas Edison Film Festival** is a project of the **Thomas Edison Media Arts Consortium**, an independent non-profit organization based in Hudson County. The festival was launched in 1981 with the endorsement of the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange, NJ.

To become a sponsor of the **Thomas Edison Film Festival** please contact the Consortium office or make a donation via the website: [www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org)

## **Thomas Edison Media Arts Consortium**

PO Box 3426  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
USA

**Phone:** +1 551.999.8225

**Email:** [info@TEFilmFest.org](mailto:info@TEFilmFest.org)

**Website:** [www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/thomasedisonfilmfestival](https://facebook.com/thomasedisonfilmfestival)

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**FilmFreeway:** [filmfreeway.com/ThomasEdisonFilmFestival](http://filmfreeway.com/ThomasEdisonFilmFestival)



Since 1981, the mission of the **Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF)** has been to promote innovation in the art of the moving image, and the films that are the centerpiece of the festival honor Edison's vision.

Edison's films did for the eye what his phonograph did for the ear. He made 75, 20-second films in his West Orange studio. His earliest films presented magic shows, plays, vaudeville shows with dancers and strongmen, cowboys, and boxing matches.

The festival's relationship to Thomas Edison's invention of the motion picture camera and the kinoscope and his experimentation with the short film is an essential part of our mission. Shorts are the essence of the festival - not a sidebar to feature films. **TEFF** is not a conventional destination film festival, or a single city festival, or a red carpet driven event. It is a socially conscious, modern, fiercely independent traveling showcase

for shorts, reaching out to diverse audiences with provocative, timely, edgy and compelling new works by both accomplished and emerging filmmakers.

**TEFF** is an international juried film competition. We advance and support the work of diverse filmmakers from across the U.S. and around the world. These artists often represent an under-served constituency who may not have the opportunity for live public exhibition.

The **Thomas Edison Film Festival** welcomes all genres including narrative, experimental, animation, documentary, screen dance and hybrids. We celebrate films which address the environment, race and class, immigration, the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities and issues of social justice. The films we celebrate are artistic, empathetic and engaging works which simultaneously teach and entertain.



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THE 43RD ANNUAL THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL

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## STAFF

### THOMAS EDISON MEDIA ARTS CONSORTIUM

**Jane Steuerwald**, Executive Director  
**Jon Cole**, Technical Director  
**Elizabeth Kirshtein**, Festival Assistant/  
 NJ Young Filmmakers’ Festival Coordinator



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# FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR THE UNSUNG HEROES OF CINEMA: IN PRAISE OF VIEWERS!

Each year, the films that make up the **Thomas Edison Film Festival** present a collection and collision of ideas that stimulate new ways of seeing, feeling and thinking. In fact, since the early days of cinema, viewers' preferences and demands have driven innovation in filmmaking, often pushing filmmakers to create more engaging and thought-provoking content.



TEFF IN HOBOKEN

industry. **TEFF** champions films that are often characterized by their unique storytelling, artistic creativity, and a commitment to exploring unconventional themes and stories. An audience's willingness to engage with and appreciate this experimentation is vital. When viewers are open to unconventional storytelling and artistic choices, filmmakers are encouraged to explore new horizons. This can be seen in many of the exceptional films in our 2024 season.

In the documentary **"Between Earth and Sky"** by Andrew Nadkarni,



BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY



FILM AUDIENCE CIRCA 1900

Although we may seem focused primarily on the films we present, the **Thomas Edison Film Festival** has always been equally passionate about our viewers' ideas and responses to the films we bring to each and every venue we visit.

Independent films have long held a special place in the world of cinema, offering an essential alternative to the mainstream

we take a deeply personal journey with his aunt, renowned forest ecologist, Nalini Nadkarni, who pioneered the study of Costa Rican rain forest canopies. Using mountain climbing equipment she designed herself to make her ascents, she came to be known as the "Queen of the Forest Canopy." In October 2023, Nadkarni was appointed "Explorer at Large" by the National Geographic Society.



FREEDOM FOR FREEDOM

**"Freedom for Freedom,"** by Yuri Alves, delivers a powerful ode to the memory and spirit of Harriet Tubman through the spoken word poetry of Bimpé Fageyinbo, whose work digs deeply into issues related to race, culture, faith, introspection, and identity.

In the film **"250km,"** we find ourselves traveling inside a car along with an Armenian family



250KM

escaping war, as a young boy takes it upon himself to drive his family and the many others they encounter along the road, on a treacherous journey to safety. With her passion for storytelling and her unique perspective on the world, filmmaker Hasmik Movsisyan captures the essence of the human experience.



A LIFE LIKE THIS

**"A Life Like This"** by this year's Edison Innovation Award winner, James Hollenbaugh, tells the stories of four outsider artists working and living with disability in Central Pennsylvania. His empathetic and important film opens us up to what it means to these four artists to create without pretension or boundaries as a means to communicate and express how art shapes and impacts their lives.

Each of these films connects with us on a deeply personal level. They address universal themes in ways that resonate with individual experiences and emotions. Each one feels intimate, like a conversation between filmmaker and viewer. It is this personal connection that makes the work so powerful.

An audience that is open-minded, willing to embrace diversity, and

(continued next page)



(Message from the Festival Director continued)



HOBOKEN MUSEUM SCREENING



JANE STEUERWALD, POST-SCREENING Q & A

supportive of emerging talent is essential for the growth and sustainability of independent film. We continue to thrive because of our connection to you, the audience. **The Thomas Edison Film Festival** is proud and grateful to all of our supporters who truly understand and embrace artistic freedom and the art of watching.

- Jane Steuerwald,  
Executive Director



TEFF screening at the HUUB, June 2022, Orange, NJ



## OUR WEBSITE

Visitors can stream new and archived programs curated by festival director, Jane Steuerwald.

our commitment to Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion.

We invite you to search the **TEFF Archive** to view films, read essays, and more. Stream past and present individual films, and access information about our projects and

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of **NJ State Council on the Arts** for supporting our efforts to create a website that is accessible and welcoming to all.



[www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org)



The Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development

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# 2024 Thomas Edison Film Festival

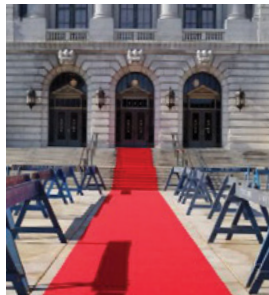
NORTH BERGEN UNION CITY EAST NEWARK JERSEY CITY WEEHAWKEN WEST NEW YORK BAYONNE HOBOKEN SECAUCUS KEARNY GUTTENBERG HARRISON

From culinary delights to distinct and charismatic cultures, each **Hudson County** neighborhood brings something special to the table. Art, adventure, local food, and history abound across our twelve character-filled towns. Learn what sets each **Hudson County** neighborhood apart.

Did you know these movies were filmed in **Hudson County**?



**THE GODFATHER**  
Liberty State Park,  
Morris Pesin Drive,  
Jersey City, NJ



**JOKER**  
William J Brennan  
Courthouse,  
Jersey City, NJ



**THE GREATEST  
BEER RUN EVER**  
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HobokenGirl



Learn about other  
Hudson County movies at:  
[visithudson.org](http://visithudson.org)



## EXPERIENCE TEFF FILM PROGRAMS IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

**TEFF** is proud to be a hybrid film festival offering opportunities for audiences to gather in-person, or to view a program on our website. At **TEFF's** home base, the **Hoboken Historical Museum**, our festival director Jane Steuerwald curates and presents a monthly film series, often with guest filmmakers present.

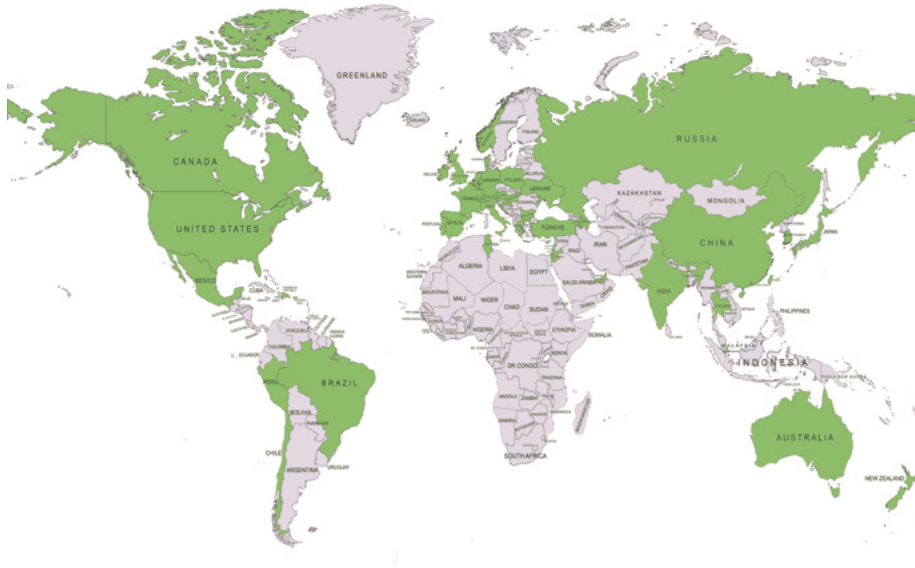


A sampling of host venues presenting **TEFF** programs in-person and on-line include:

Barrymore Film Center, Fort Lee, NJ  
Glimmerglass Film Days, Cooperstown, NY  
Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ  
Mahwah Public Library, Mahwah, NJ  
Morris Community Arts Center, Madison, NJ  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC  
Ocean County Artist Guild, Island Heights, NJ  
Savannah College of Art & Design, Savannah, GA  
Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY  
The Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY  
Towson University, Towson, MD  
University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA  
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
University of Delaware, Newark, DE



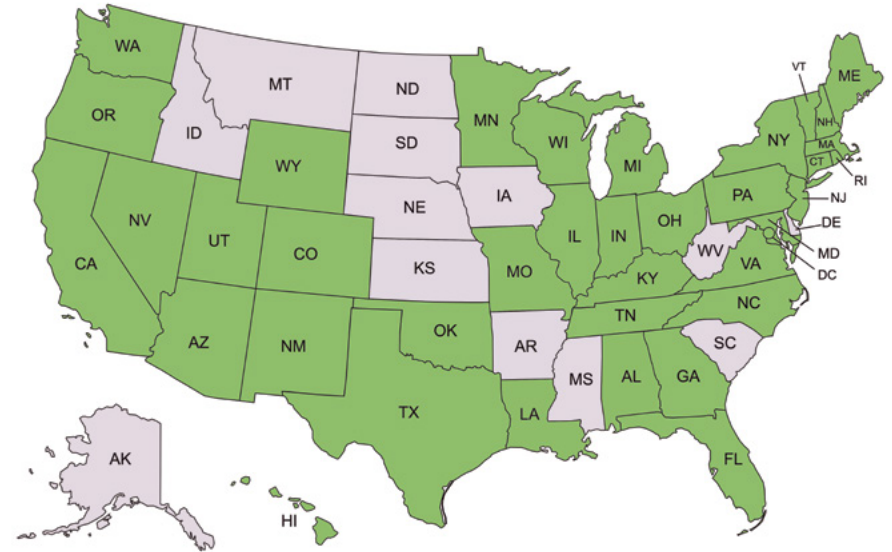
# 2024 WORLDWIDE SUBMISSIONS



We are very proud that filmmakers from all over the world choose to submit work to our festival. For our 2024 season submissions came from 49 nations across six of the seven continents.

- |                    |                    |                      |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Armenia            | Hong Kong          | Poland               |
| Australia          | Hungary            | Portugal             |
| Austria            | India              | Puerto Rico          |
| Azerbaijan         | Ireland            | Russian Federation   |
| Belgium            | Israel             | Singapore            |
| Brazil             | Italy              | Spain                |
| Bulgaria           | Japan              | Switzerland          |
| Canada             | Jordan             | Taiwan               |
| Chile              | Korea, Republic of | Thailand             |
| China              | Lebanon            | Tunisia              |
| Croatia            | Luxembourg         | Turkey               |
| Cyprus             | Macao              | Ukraine              |
| Denmark            | Mexico             | United Arab Emirates |
| Dominican Republic | Netherlands        | United Kingdom       |
| France             | New Zealand        | United States        |
| Germany            | Norway             |                      |
| Greece             | Peru               |                      |

# 2024 USA SUBMISSIONS



Our 2024 submissions include films from 37 U.S. States and DC.

- |                      |                |              |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Alabama              | Massachusetts  | Oklahoma     |
| Arizona              | Maryland       | Oregon       |
| California           | Maine          | Pennsylvania |
| Colorado             | Michigan       | Rhode Island |
| Connecticut          | Minnesota      | Tennessee    |
| District of Columbia | Missouri       | Texas        |
| Florida              | North Carolina | Utah         |
| Georgia              | New Hampshire  | Vermont      |
| Hawaii               | New Jersey     | Virginia     |
| Illinois             | New Mexico     | Washington   |
| Indiana              | New York       | Wisconsin    |
| Kentucky             | Nevada         |              |
| Louisiana            | Ohio           |              |



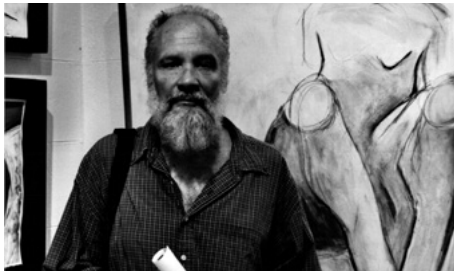
# WE ALWAYS MAKE THE MOVIE

BY JAMES HOLLENBAUGH



JAMES HOLLENBAUGH,  
COURTESY OF JORDAN GRAFF

Filmmaker Mike Kuchar once told me a story about a screening he had at a university, of his video work. A student came up to him and asked, "Mike, I have an idea for a movie, should I make it?" Mike told the



MIKE KUCHAR PORTRAIT BY JAMES HOLLENBAUGH

student, "If you have a choice, then no, do not make the movie." Much like my friend Mike, I never had the choice. I always made the movie.

I find beauty in the darkness of life. I never wanted to play in the sandbox or play sports. I devoured books about art, music, film, underground subcultures, and criminal behavior. Digging in the back of used bookstores and video outlets became a part-time job for me.

I focused on film and video production after being exposed to the work of the New York underground and avant-garde filmmakers of the 70's and 80's. This led me to Jonas Mekas and Jem Cohen. I began to create my own short films influenced by my hybrid curiosity of underground filmmaking and the study of human behavior.

My early work was shot on Super 8 film. I loved the look, texture, and celluloid imperfections I saw in films by John Waters, Doris Wishman, Nick Zedd, and Richard Kern. Extra money was used to stock

(continued next page)

[www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org)

(Hollenbaugh continued)

my refrigerator with color and B&W film to use with my Bell and Howell, picked up for \$18 at the Salvation Army. My 25-minute underground film "A Fix and A Kiss" made it to the HOWL Festival at Anthology Film Archives in 2001 and I was captivated.

In 2014, I began what became a series of non-traditional "portrait documentaries" about underrepresented artists whose work I felt was important and inspiring. The first film in the series, "Self Portrait Portrait," featured Tennessee artist Bryan Lewis Saunders.



SELF PORTRAIT PORTRAIT, JAMES HOLLENBAUGH

Bryan had been making a self-portrait of himself every day for many years. The project helped him through countless hardships and improved his life after serving time in prison. He illustrated himself daily without any goal for financial gain or glory. His portraits were striking and raw, and conveyed a variety of emotions depending on how he was feeling that day. The film won the Stellar Award at the 2015 Black Maria Film Festival,

and went on to tour universities, museums and theaters across the US and abroad. Bryan and I remain close friends to this day.



NUTHOUSE DRAWINGS – JAMES FILMING SUSAN LOWE.  
COURTESY OF BRITTANY BAKSA

The following year I met artist Susan Lowe, known for her work acting in early films of John Waters. "The Nuthouse Drawings" was to become my second film highlighting the life and work of an outsider artist, telling the story of Susan who "painted friends" to combat loneliness and depression during her stay at a psychiatric facility.

My interest in outsider art continued to grow as I collected work by the artists I met. I surrounded myself with "untrained artists" and found their sensibilities to create on their own terms fascinating and refreshing. More portraits of outsider artists followed including "The Paintings Paint Themselves," a portrait of artist Bill Mayer, living in a 200-year-old hotel in Davenport, New York. A NYC native, Bill spent hours exploring the Metropolitan

(continued next page)

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(Hollenbaugh continued)



THE PAINTINGS PAINT THEMSELVES, JAMES HOLLENBAUGH

Museum of Art, and used that inspiration to create his own style of painting on his favorite material - cardboard. While happy to sell a piece of work, he is just as happy to surround himself with his art in a quasi-permanent installation in the hotel he calls his home.

In 2020, I returned to documenting outsider artists after viewing the works of cardboard puppet artist Brent Brown at the Magical Gardens gallery in Philadelphia. Brent experienced schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder and spoke of how creating art improved his life and his mental state. We began to meet regularly in his Reading, PA studio as I documented his process and we talked about his life. "The Sticklet Weaver" went



THE STICKLET WEAVER, JAMES HOLLENBAUGH

on to become a favorite film. Brent has not been held back by his intellectual disabilities and he continues to work daily, surrounded by his magical world of creatures.

The lack of representation for outsider artists with disabilities became a central focus for me. I sent a proposal to Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, to create a documentary about four such local artists and was granted a residency there to work with students, teach workshops, and produce a film. "A Life Like This" tells the stories of Malcolm Corley, Adam Musser,



A LIFE LIKE THIS, JAMES HOLLENBAUGH.

Sybil Roe Thompson and David Nolt, who create without pretension or boundaries as a means to communicate and express how art shapes and impacts their lives. All four of the artists featured in the film subsequently shared an exhibition with me displaying selections of their artwork. Several of the artists have also joined me at speaking engagements at colleges, galleries, and on public radio

(continued next page)

[www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org)

(Hollenbaugh continued)

to talk about disability arts and discuss disability representation in the art world.

Shelby Lee Adams is an environmental portrait photographer and artist best known for his images of Appalachian family life. I was drawn to his photographs, and last spring, we began talks about creating a documentary portrait including archival footage and 50 years of his life and work. We have since traveled together to Massachusetts and Kentucky, meeting with families and talking about the history of his photographs and he has begun to create an archive for others to research and study long after he is gone.

Sometimes I wonder whether my career is really just an excuse to make new friends and meet new people. If that is true, I think I am okay with

it. If only a handful of people watch one of my films and find value in it, that is fine with me. I make films for others, but I also make them for myself.



MIKE KUCHAR AND JAMES HOLLENBAUGH CIRCA 2001

My friend Mike Kuchar is now 81 and lives in San Francisco. He continues his tradition year after year of making movies to share with the world - as do I. We don't have a choice. We always make the movie.



THE PAINTINGS PAINT THEMSELVES - BEHIND THE SCENES PHOTO OF BILL MAYER BY JAMES HOLLENBAUGH





# GLIMMERGLASS FILM DAYS

NOVEMBER 7-11, 2024

COOPERSTOWN, NY

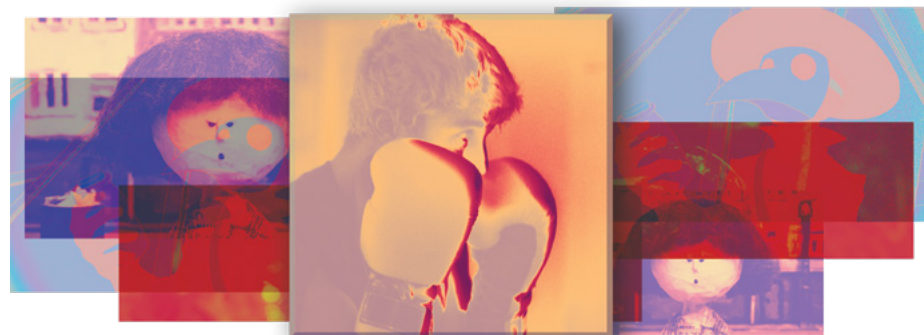
SHOWCASING THE BEST IN INDEPENDENT  
FILMS EXPLORING HUMANITY'S  
COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP WITH THE  
NATURAL WORLD, INSPIRING  
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND  
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## EDISON INNOVATION AWARD

2024 STREAMING & TOURING COLLECTION



## EDISON INNOVATION AWARD



The **Edison Innovation Award (EIA)** is presented each year to a filmmaker who has a distinguished body of work that advances the mission and legacy of the **Thomas Edison Film Festival** and demonstrates significant recognition, past and present. The filmmaker recognized is also prominent in the community of independent filmmaker/artists and is recognized as a pioneer in new forms and innovations in filmmaking.

### 2024 EIA Recipient James Hollenbaugh Writer/Director/Producer



JAMES HOLLENBAUGH

**James Hollenbaugh** is a Pennsylvania-based filmmaker predominantly working in small gauge film formats. Focusing primarily in the documentary and experimental genres, his work has screened in all fifty states and fourteen different countries.

Hollenbaugh's films have been seen in art cinemas, universities, galleries, libraries, museums and festivals and have been programmed at Slamdance, The American Documentary Film Festival, Chicago Underground Film Festival, Anti Matter, Analogica, Maryland Film Festival, Experiments in Cinema, Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, Istanbul International Experimental Film Festival, Revelation Perth International Film Festival, Iowa City International Documentary Film Festival, the Philadelphia International Film Festival, and Athens International Film Festival.

Jim has also lectured extensively and screened his films at colleges, universities, museums, and galleries including The National Gallery of Art, Echo Park Film Center, Anthology Film Archives, Rhode Island School of Design, Savannah College of Art and Design, University of Delaware, New Jersey City University, Emerson College, and



NUTHOUSE DRAWINGS, JAMES  
HOLLENBAUGH

(continued next page)



## EDISON INNOVATION AWARD

(EDISON INNOVATION AWARD continued)

University of the Arts.

He is the recipient of numerous awards from the **Thomas Edison Film Festival** (formerly the Black Maria Film Festival) including the Jury's Stellar Award in Documentary, 2015; Director's Choice Awards in 2016, 2017, and 2022; a Jury's Citation Award in 2018; and the DEAI Stellar Award in 2024 for his film, **"A Life Like This."**



A LIFE LIKE THIS, JAMES HOLLENBAUGH

In the fall of 2022 Jim was awarded a grant and artist residency at Franklin & Marshall College for Social Practice and Community Engagement. A 2023 solo exhibition highlighted a documentary and additional film elements created during his residency to share the stories of four artists working with disability in the Central Pennsylvania Community. The documentary, **"A Life Like This"** went on to win the Best Social Impact Award at the 2023 Reading Film Festival, and the DEAI Stellar Award at the **Thomas Edison Film Festival**, 2024.



MOVIATE POSTER

Jim has been the Program Director for over fifteen years at **Moviate**, a volunteer operated, not for profit organization, dedicated to bringing independent, underground, and avant-garde cinema and sound events to the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania area. He also programs screenings at the annual **Moviate Underground Film Festival**.



JIM HOLLENBAUGH, CALEB SMITH, GARY ADELSTEIN OF BERKS FILMMAKERS.

You can learn more about his work at <https://www.jameshollenbaugh.com>



# NICE

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of  
The Thomas Edison Film Festival 2024.



[niceshoes.com](http://niceshoes.com)





# SUPPORT THE THOMAS EDISON FILM FESTIVAL

## We need your support! ¡Necesitamos su apoyo!

The **Thomas Edison Film Festival** views hundreds of submissions yearly to bring you the finest independent film in the world. We depend upon viewers like you to keep the festival going.

Grants from our major contributors only cover part of our expenses. The rest is up to you! Please help us maintain the high quality and accessibility that is essential for our film community to thrive.

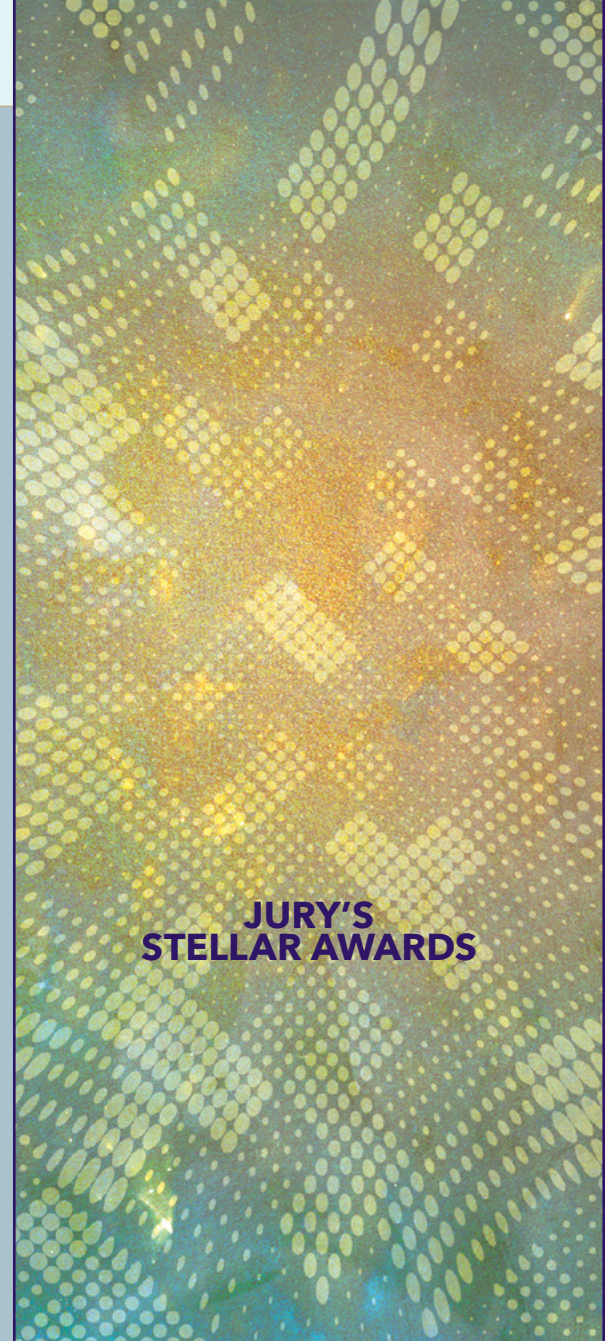
Contact the Consortium office or make a donation via the website.

**Thomas Edison Media Arts Consortium**  
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Hoboken, NJ 07030 USA  
Phone: +1 551.999.8225  
Email: [info@TEFilmFest.org](mailto:info@TEFilmFest.org)  
Website: [www.TEFilmFest.org](http://www.TEFilmFest.org)

El **Thomas Edison Film Festival** exhibe cientos de presentaciones cada año para traerte la mejor película independiente del mundo. Dependemos de espectadores como tú para mantener el festival en marcha.

Las contribuciones de nuestros principales contribuyentes solo cubren una parte de nuestros gastos. ¡El resto depende de ustedes! Ayúdenos a mantener la alta calidad y la accesibilidad que son esenciales para que prospere nuestra comunidad cinematográfica.

Póngase en contacto con la oficina del Consorcio o haga una donación a través del sitio web.



**JURY'S  
STELLAR AWARDS**

2024 STREAMING & TOURING COLLECTION

**A Tiny Man – Animation**  
**10 min. by Aude David and Mikaël Gaudin, Montpellier, France**

Displeased with his wife's body, a man sneakily administers a mysterious serum supposed to make her lose weight quickly. But following a sleight of hand reversal by his wife, it is he who swallows the beverage...



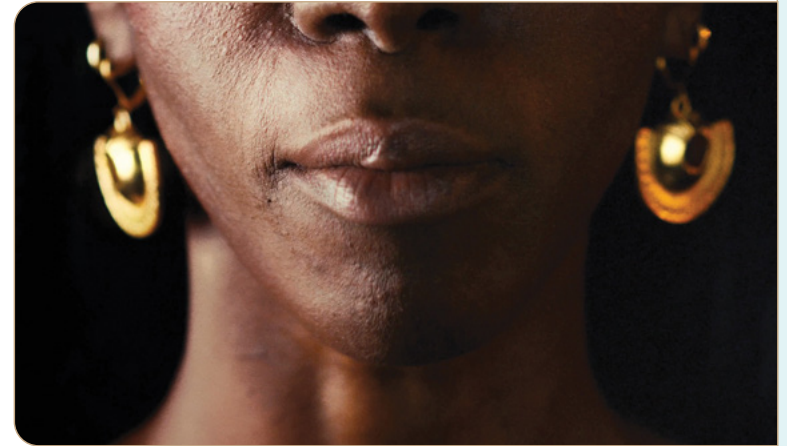
**Tracing Imperfection – Documentary**  
**8 min. by Chehade Boulos, Pompano Beach, FL, USA**

As master conservator Naoko Fukumaru demonstrates "Kintsugi," the Japanese art of repairing pottery using gold, she recalls how learning the practice has taught her to embrace her own imperfections as its mended her own life.



**Freedom for Freedom – Experimental**  
**4 min. by Yuri Alves, Newark, NJ, USA**

Poet Bimpé Fageyinbo delivers a powerful ode to the memory and spirit of Harriet Tubman, while evoking the urgency of real freedom for Black people, then and now.



**250km – Narrative**  
**22 min. by Hasmik Movsisyan, Yerevan, Armenia**

When a war suddenly breaks out, a 14-year-old boy finds himself faced with a decision that could save his family. With no time to think, he embarks on a treacherous 250-kilometer journey to safety. Based on actual events.

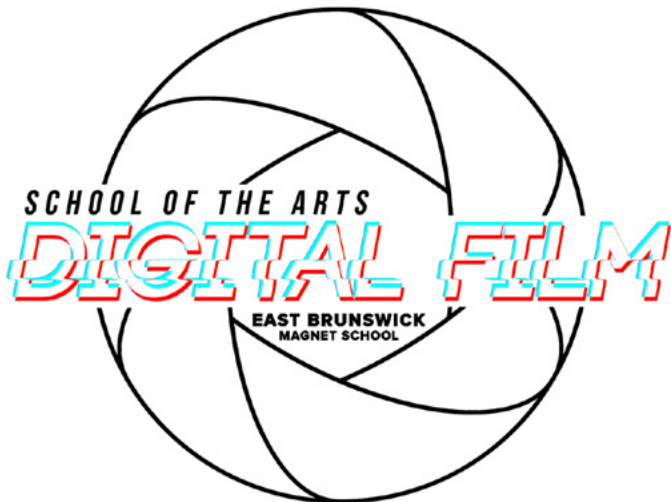




## JURY'S STELLAR AWARDS

### **Impossible Image – Screen Dance** **8 min. by Karen Pearlman and Richard James Allen,** **New South Wales, Australia**

“Impossible Image” remixes the anarchy and gender play of women of the 1920s, with the fury, irony, and sly humour of dancing women in the 2020s. Cutting together contemporary action and archival footage Pearlman creates a montage of rage, hilarity and feminist protest echoing across 100 years.



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DAY ONE  
AGENCY



## GLOBAL INSIGHTS AWARD

### GLOBAL INSIGHTS AWARD

**Between Earth and Sky – Documentary**  
**25 min. by Andrew Nadkarni, Brooklyn, NY, USA**

Renowned ecologist Nalini Nadkarni studies “what grows back” after a disturbance in the rainforest canopy. After surviving a life-threatening fall from a tree, she must turn her research question onto herself to explore the effects of disturbance and recovery throughout her own life.



2024 STREAMING & TOURING COLLECTION



## DEAI AWARD

DIVERSITY, EQUITY,  
ACCESS & INCLUSION

### DEAI AWARD

**A Life Like This – Documentary**  
**43 min. by James Hollenbaugh, Harrisburg, PA, USA**

A documentary portrait, highlighting the lived experiences and creative work of four outsider artists working and living with disability in Central Pennsylvania. Artists with both mental and physical disability, consistently face discrimination, inequity, and underexposure at both local and national levels. “A Life Like This” tells the stories of these four artists who create as a means to communicate and express how art shapes and impacts their lives.



2024 STREAMING & TOURING COLLECTION





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## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS

2024 STREAMING & TOURING COLLECTION



## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS

### 13 Driver's Licenses – Documentary 26 min. by Ryoya Terao, Tarrytown, NY and Germany

The discovery of 13 confiscated driver's licenses from 1938 leads a small German town to face its horrendous and regrettable past. With no other clue but those licenses, a group of high-school students with their tenacious teacher, uncover the fates of the town's former Jewish citizens.



### A Place for Us – Screen Dance 6 min. by Leigh-Ann Esty and Ellie Gravitte, Hoboken, NJ, USA

"West Side Story" is the tale of two rival male gangs who constantly fight to protect their territory. Their animosity is all consuming, to the point where the leaders of the gangs fight to the death. Leonard Bernstein's iconic score allows us to feel the joy, complication, and pain of what it means to love and lose. Six female cast members from Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" play with a gender flip of the iconic prologue.



## JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS

### A Place without Fear – Animation 30 min. by Susanne Deeken, London, UK

Through a non-linear, abstract and surreal form of storytelling "A Place without Fear" follows a protagonist through a labyrinth of physical and emotional situations, set in a house which acts as both the set for the story and a metaphor for the mind.



### A World in the Evening – Experimental 9 min. by Dan Boord and Luis Valdovino, Boulder, CO, USA

Cities at night, the rebuilding of a fire-devastated fourteenth-century cathedral, a lonely eighteenth-century New Mexico mission, and the poetry and theatre of Federico García Lorca are among the inhabitants of "A World in the Evening." The film offers visual and literal poetry—poetry that cannot be reconciled with the brutality of history.







**JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS**

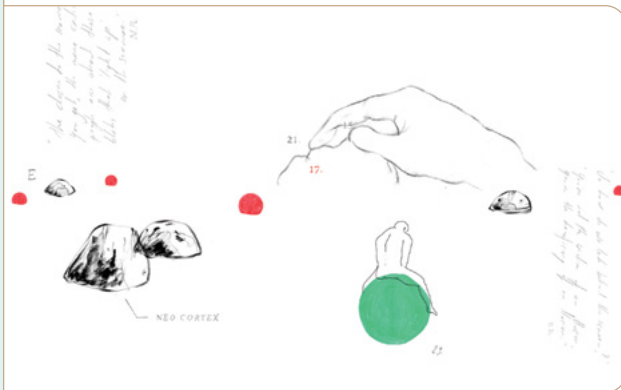
**AIKĀNE – Animation**  
**14 min. by Dean Hamer, Daniel Sousa, and Joe Wilson,**  
**Haleiwa, HI, USA**

A valiant island warrior, wounded in battle against foreign invaders, falls deep into a mysterious underwater world. Everything changes when the octopus who rescues him transforms into a handsome young man. “We hope this heroic gay romance reflects the world we’d all like to live in – a world where courage has no limit and love has no bounds.”



**Beautiful Figures – Animation**  
**4 min. by Soetkin Verstegen, Brussels, Belgium**

Thoughts ripple over the pages of a personal notebook, kept during a stay at different science labs in Zürich. They float from one to another, like a mind map of unfinished ideas on memory, medical imaging, cells, and aging.



**JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS**

**Blue Hour – Narrative**  
**15 min. by J. D. Shields and Maya Korn, LA, CA, USA**

Two personal journeys intersect when a struggling young photographer is hired for a cheap last minute portrait gig. The unfolding photo session, while transient, leaves an indelible mark on both women.



**Bold – Screen Dance**  
**3 min. by Alla Kovgan and Miko Malkhasyan, NY, NY, USA**

A surreal night shift of a female prison guard turns into a juggling fiesta, celebrating diversity and the solidarity of women.





**Demon Box – Narrative**  
**14 min. by Sean Wainstein, North York, Ontario, Canada**

After festival rejections, a director revises his intensely personal short film about trauma, suicide, and the Holocaust, and transforms it into a painful, blunt and funny dissection of the film and his life.



**Don't Forget to Take Medicines on Time – Animation**  
**2 min. by Xiaoxuan Han, Beijing, China**

"Whenever it rains in summer, my rhinitis becomes very serious, and bad moods keep popping up like mushrooms after the rain."



**Flutz – Animation**  
**8 min. by Ryan McCown, Brooklyn, NY, USA**

A rivalry between two figure skaters, their coaches, and a witch.



**Heimatfilm – Experimental**  
**16 min. by Marion Kellman, Cologne, Germany**

"Heimatfilm" presents the essence of the German movie genre of Heimatfilm - sentimental films set in idealized country surroundings. The scheme of these films was simple: love stories that arrive at a happy ending, following misunderstandings and the appearance of a villain. The filmmaker follows this iconic plot, edited together with scenes and sequences from 50 such films. "Heimatfilm" is a chilling work that shines a light on the German psyche and imagination pre-WW2.





**I Was There – Experimental**  
**14 min. by Chi Jang Yin, Chicago, IL, USA**

Meditating on a survivor’s memories, “I Was There” traces the experience of a physician who recounted his day as a rare witness of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Saving American lives is a commonly accepted narrative of why the U.S. government dropped the bomb. This narrative, however, contradicts the findings of personal letters, documents, and arsenal photography housed at

the Truman Presidential Museum. The evidence uncovers a reason for testing the atomic bomb on humans – competing for war power against Russia and securing U.S. dominance in global politics.



**Island – Experimental**  
**3 min. by Jack Cronin, Canton, MI, USA**

An enchanting and lyrical filmic postcard from Isle Royale National Park, Lake Superior, Michigan.



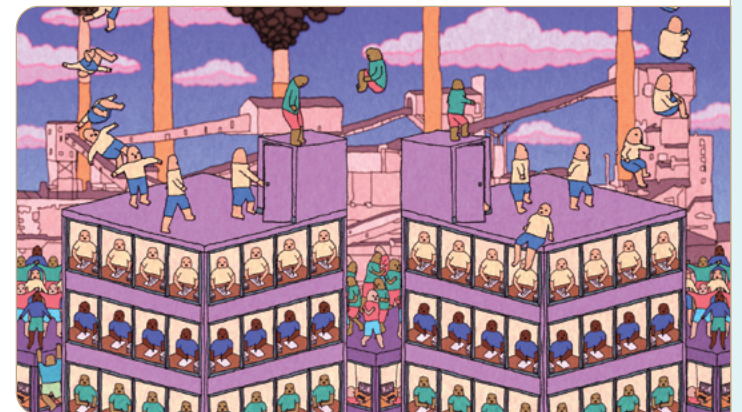
**Last Days of Summer – Narrative**  
**14 min. by Stenzin Tankong, India and Montpellier, France**

A recurring mysterious sound from mountains in the Himalayas is heard only by two curious young shepherds. Unable to convince the villagers of the ominous nature of the sound, they journey into the unknown to unravel the mystery.



**Menagerie – Animation**  
**4 min. by Jack Gray, Philadelphia, PA, USA**

“Menagerie” is a study of the daily motions and mundane tasks of contemporary city life. Featuring hundreds of looping animated characters, the film explores how the repetitive actions of our day-to-day lives quickly spiral into an endless kaleidoscope of abstraction.





**JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS**

**Minus Plus Multiply – Animation**  
**4 min. by Chu-Chieh Lee, London, UK**

With containers as a motif and a metaphor for a safe place, this film's story surrounds the protagonist's self-searching and healing journey, exploring the relationship between emotion and space.



**Offering – Screen Dance**  
**5 min. by Marlene Millar, Montreal, Québec, Canada**

"Offering" creates a joyful convergence between the Migration Dance Film Project's body percussion artists and emerging artists from dance (gigue, contemporary, street) and circus arts. The choreography uses the power of procession in Montreal's urban borough of Little Burgundy to amplify its storyline of (re)imagined homescape in the era of mid-pandemic.



**JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS**

**Radio Silence – Narrative**  
**20 min. by Ric Serena, Burbank, CA, USA**

As a successful radio DJ, Tracey made a career out of her love for music and its connection to the human experience. But when confronted with her mother's illness, she is forced to reevaluate her own life. Divided between the hauntingly beautiful memories of her past, fears of the future and the painful realities of her present, she gives herself the ultimate challenge – a broadcast of reconciliation.



**Sea Spray – Documentary**  
**59 min. by Chin-Yuan Ke, Taipei, Taiwan**

Taiwan's people and society have increasingly estranged themselves from the sea that surrounds them. This documentary follows a group of young creative performers as they reconnect with and experience Taiwan's ocean shorelines with their entire beings. They use their personal experiences of ocean life, evolution, and environmental change to create their performance art.







**JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS**

**Simulation – Screen Dance**  
**12 min. by Heather Lang and Purdie Baumann,**  
**Sunnyside, NY, USA**

“Simulation” is about reclaiming the sacred love of dancing. Our body knows, if we listen, that there is a deeper call for community, ritual, and radical joy. The film is an homage to music artist Róisín Murphy, nightlife, the filmmakers’ love

of fashion, the infinite wisdom of nature, and the symbiosis and power of coming together to dance.



**The Bower – Narrative**  
**18 min. by Marco Alessi, London, UK**

It’s 1991: queer life is dominated by HIV/AIDS and the disastrous fallout of Thatcher’s government. In a quiet corner of the English coastline, Seb takes his friend Terri to witness a triumphant celebration of queerness: Derek Jarman’s camp and playful canonization in his garden at Prospect Cottage. 30 years later, Terri takes her young employee Jude on a surprise trip to Dungeness, back to



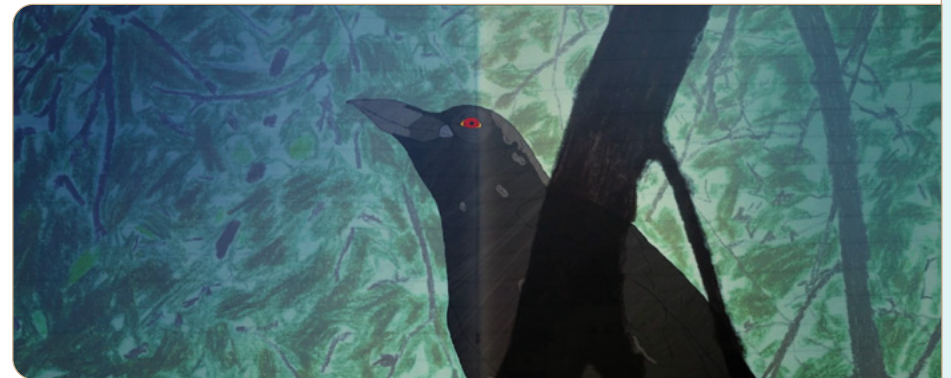
the very same spot that shaped her life. “The Bower” shines a light on how attitudes to the LGBTQ+ community and HIV have changed over decades and explores the idea of queer inheritance in this story of hope and friendship.



**JURY'S CHOICE AWARDS**

**The Old Young Crow – Narrative**  
**12 min. by Liam LoPinto, Japan and**  
**NY, NY, USA**

An Iranian boy befriends an old Japanese woman at a graveyard in Tokyo.





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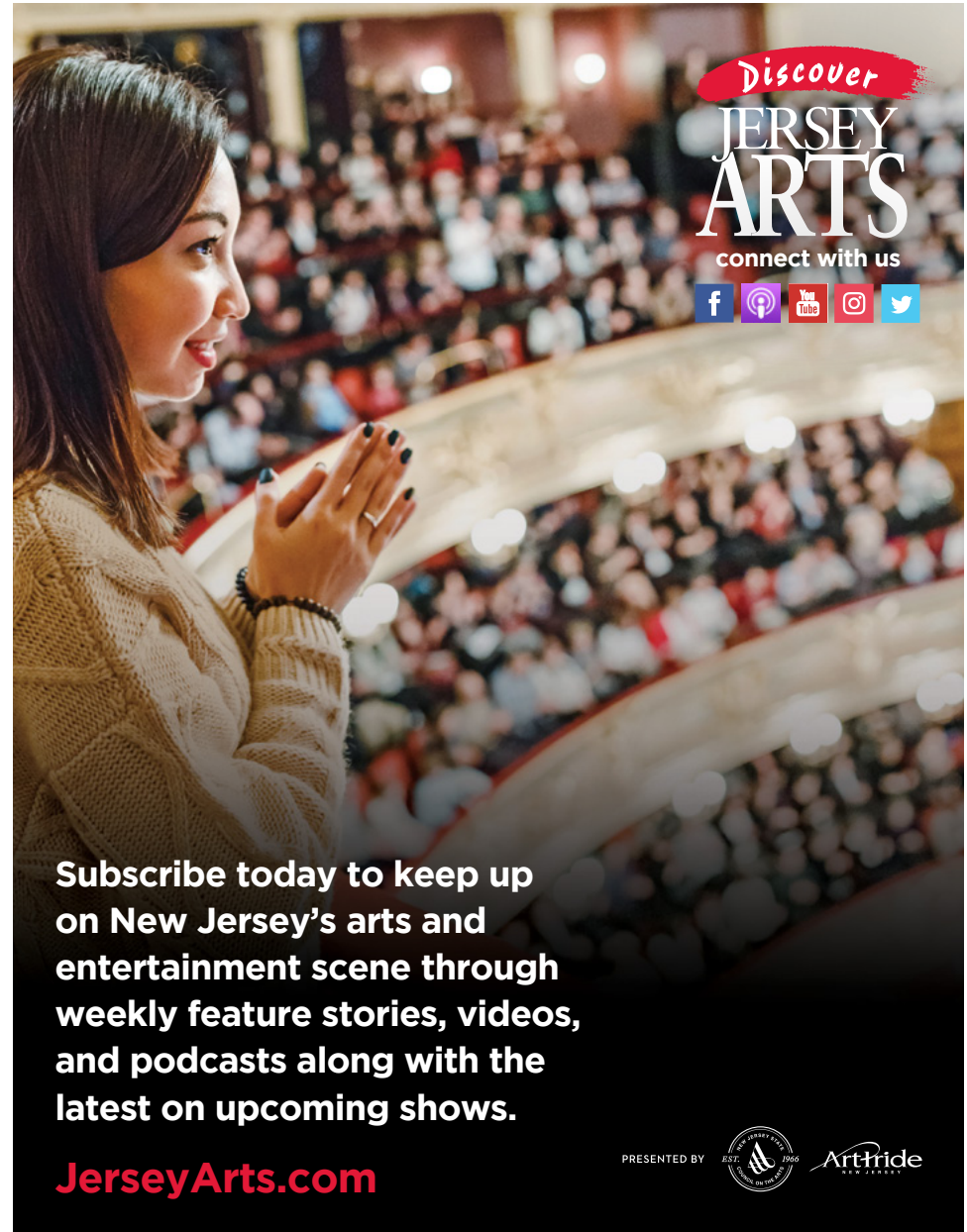
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JURY'S  
CITATION AWARDS

2024 STREAMING & TOURING COLLECTION

**2cent/10coil – Experimental**  
**10 min. by Monteith McCollum, Binghamton, NY, USA**

Part science, part history, “2cent /10coil” is an exploration into the physical properties of a U.S. postage stamp and the anomalies it presents when subjected to the beam of an electron microscope. Integrated within, are the philosophical musings and speeches of a man in his last weeks of life on a quest entitled, “The Voyage of Understanding.”



**A Day in February – Narrative**  
**7 min. by Klaas Diersmann, London, UK**

In another country, separated from her husband and family, one phone call is all Galyna has to learn of their safety.



**A Paw Over Dark – Animation**  
**10 min. by Dorian Saisse and Marissa Molson, Calabasas, CA, USA**

A washed-up actor performs night after night in a grimy theater to a nearly empty audience. Then everything changes when a clueless dog jumps on stage.



**A Spell for Queer Home – Documentary**  
**40 min. by Amanda Madden, Salt Lake City, UT, USA**

“I arrive in a ghost town in the desert. I am here to cast a queer home spell.” Braiding together embodied exploration, stories and wisdom from queer and trans folks across the country, and original spell songs, this film is a meditation and reflection on the question – what does it mean to be at home as a queer person?





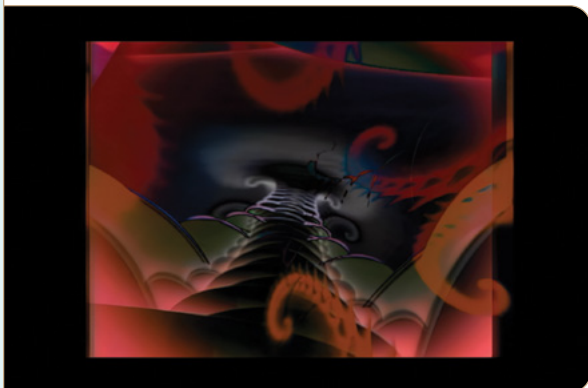
**Daniel Lind-Ramos – Documentary**  
**14 min. by Ian Forster – Art 21, NY, NY, USA**

Inspired by his hometown Loíza's diverse and inventive culture, Puerto Rican artist Daniel Lind-Ramos combs the beaches and streets for palm fronds, items that wash up on the shore, and discarded everyday materials that speak to the story of the Caribbean. Transformed into artwork that reflects the history and energy of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, these objects are folded into narratives about immigration, natural disaster, and colonization.



**Flora – Experimental**  
**3 min. by John Hawk, Agua Dulce, CA, USA**

"Flora" is the latest progression in John Hawk's series of lyrical video abstraction utilizing antique video synthesizers in combination with modern computer driven software to further process and upscale the imagery. "The piece pays homage to the pioneering video work of Nam June Paik and Steina and Woody



Vasulka whose courage and steadfastness gave video art the foundation and relevance necessary to flourish in the world of moving imagery."

**Fore & Aft – Documentary**  
**26 min. by Gabe Gerzon, Newburyport, MA, USA**

For over 230 years, Lowell's Boat Shop has perched over the Merrimack River in Massachusetts. It holds the distinction of being America's oldest continually operated wooden boat shop. Once an economic powerhouse, Lowell's is now primarily a museum, National Historic Landmark, and vital hub for youth mentorship. Graham McKay, master boat builder, imparts the nuances of boat building to apprentices, reanimating a dying craft. He finds an uncommonly precocious pupil in William, a 16-year-old drawn to the water and the workshop.



**I Have Just – Narrative**  
**14 min. by Ece Akalin, Istanbul, Turkey**

A cab driver who recently lost his son, tries to talk about it to the people he drives, but no one listens.



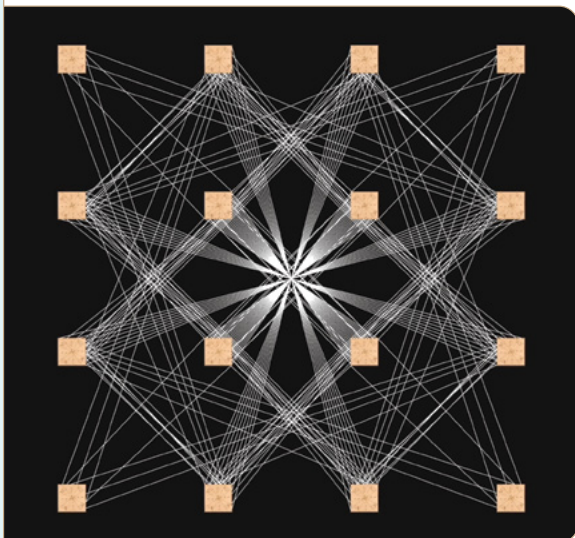
**Inventor Crazybrains and the Girl called Bird – Experimental  
13 min. by Jefferson Everest Crawford, Strafford, VT, USA**

The objects found inside a house seem of little historical importance – two diaries. But taken together, they form a fantastical little story... and so a filmmaker finds herself caught between fiction and memory, believing the impossible.



**Lightbreak – Animation  
3 min. by Luke Shannon, Princeton, NJ, USA**

A generative light algorithm studying reflection, refraction, and materiality.



**Lotus-Eyed Girl – Experimental  
6 min. by Rajee Samarasinghe, CA, USA**

“Lotus-Eyed Girl” is loosely based on the erotic poem “Caurapañcāśikā” by Bilhana, written in prison upon discovery of his clandestine affair with Princess Yamini-purnatilaka. The verses were written while Bilhana awaited judgment, not knowing if he was to be executed or exiled. His fate is unknown.



**Man-Made – Narrative  
15 min. by Plum Stuppel-Harris, UK**

Funerals can be true male environments where men want to cry but refuse to while their past rides up to hit them. Eddie Holgate is caught in this exact situation. His father has built him up all his life to be tough, but as a tumultuous and charged service at his team’s football pitch sparks unwanted memories, Eddie is forced to examine the man he idolized his father to be, against the husband and caregiver he was not.





**Mira – Animation**

**12 min. by Eva Louise Hall, Raytown, MO, USA**

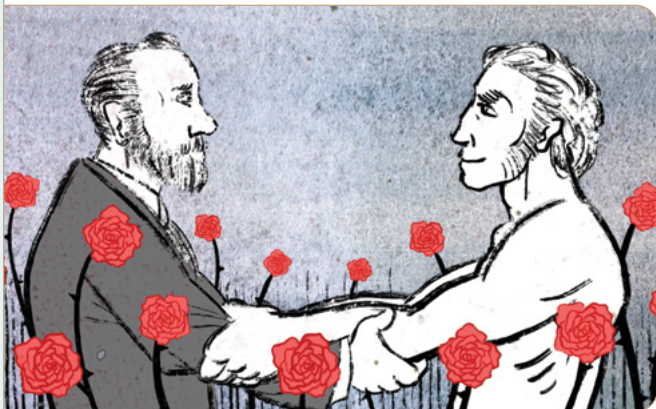
Ready to quit her dreams of becoming a celebrated accordionist after busking day after day for an isolating swamp metropolis that isn't listening, young Mira finally gets a taste of recognition one evening when she meets Lore; a charismatic and successful performer who takes an interest in Mira's talents.



**My Dear Mr. Whitman – Animation**

**2 min. by Jeremiah Dickey, Palisades, NY, USA**

This short film is part of the documentary series "Queer for Fear." It illuminates an 1872 letter of adoration sent to American poet Walt Whitman by a young British writer named Bram Stoker, years before he would find fame as the author of the novel "Dracula." The letter has since become the focus of much historical conjecture.



**Note of Defiance – Documentary**

**15 min. by Brian Henderson, Greenbay, WI, USA**

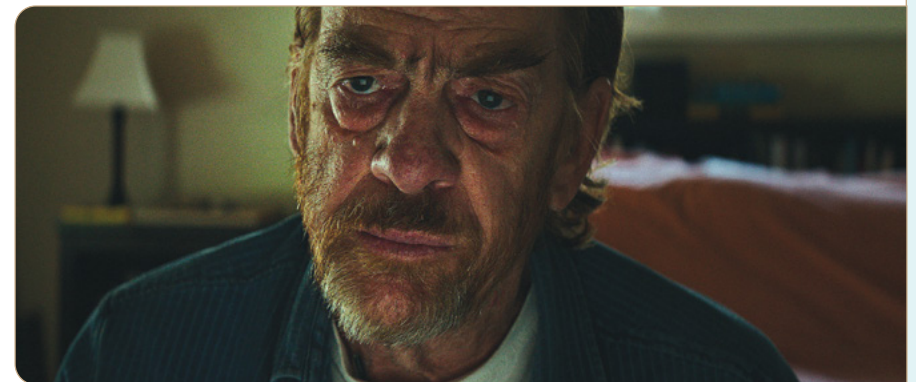
Filmed in early 2023, on the Ukrainian-Russian border, "Note of Defiance" explores two artists' use of art as a means of cultural survival. In Kharkiv, Ukraine, attacks on civilian centers have forced cultural sites to close. The Kharkiv State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre is one of the biggest cultural sites in the city forced to close due to these attacks. These two featured performers provide concerts and lessons anywhere they can; from parking garages to bomb shelters.



**Ollie – Narrative**

**16 min. by Eli Daughdrill, Seal Beach, CA, USA**

"Ollie" tells the story of a man named Randy who's made the difficult decision to place his adult, developmentally disabled son in a facility because he feels he can no longer care for him. He returns home to an empty house, a lot of guilt, and nowhere to put it.



**Our Males and Females – Narrative**  
**11 min. by Ahmad Alyaseer, Amman, Jordan**

A father and mother are faced with the painful task of washing and shrouding their deceased transgender daughter. Shrouding is an Islamic religious practice that is deemed obligatory to carry out upon death. But when no one agrees to wash her and shame falls onto the family, how far is the father willing to go to make sure his “son” is washed?



**Pacifier – Experimental**  
**5 min. by Xiaoxuan Han, Beijing, China**

“I invited six people of different ages to talk about their fears, and then tried to comfort them with pacifiers. People outside the cradle seem to no longer need pacifiers. Faced with a more complex world, they have learned to make their own pacifiers.”



**Pilipala – Animation**  
**1 min. by Yinan Liang, Jersey City, NJ, USA**

An animated short inspired by the annual Spring Festival in China. Spring festival is a traditional Chinese festival with thousands of years of history. The filmmaker’s idea is to convey a strong feeling of happiness and joy to the audience.



**Reversal – Experimental**  
**6 min. by Diane Nerwen, Brooklyn, NY, USA**

“Reversal” combines images and sounds from movies released or broadcast in 1973, the year the Supreme Court decided Roe v Wade. In the strange new reality ushered in by the Dobbs decision, the slogan “We won’t go back” is recalled with bitter irony. This collage piece evokes the spectre of regression and repression that has followed the Court’s decision.





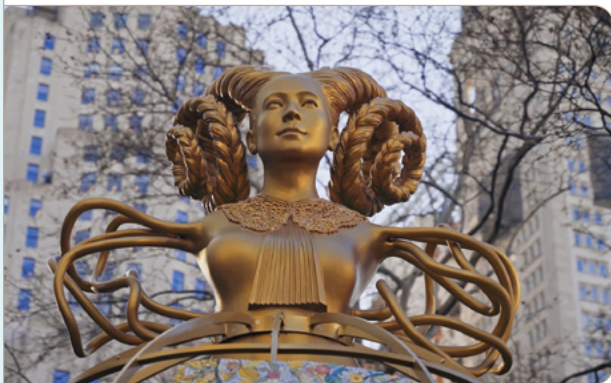
**Shadow Box – Narrative**  
8 min. by Pierce Csurgo, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

After losing his latest match, a lonely boxer contends with his coach's harsh training methods and must decide if he'll fight again.



**Shahzia Sikander: Melting Boundaries – Documentary**  
9 min. by Andrea Yu-Chieh Chung – Art 21, NY, NY, USA

Known for addressing colonial histories and erasures through traditional Indian and Persian manuscript paintings, Artist Shahzia Sikander is creating two sculptures for her first major public art commission in New York City. "Witness" installed in Madison Square Park, and "Now," sits atop the Appellate Division, First Department, Supreme Court of the State of NY alongside statues



of famous lawmakers like King Louis IV and Moses. Shahzia reimagines monuments as markers of boundary-breaking, feminine spirit, and collective visibility.

**The Blue Balloon (Le Ballon Bleu) – Narrative**  
14 min. by Katherine Griffin, Marina del Rey, CA, USA

"The Blue Balloon" is an homage to the 1956 classic French film "Le Ballon Rouge" (The Red Balloon). When a girl with a blue balloon crosses paths with a boy and his red balloon, it's clear a greater magical force is at play in the streets of Paris. Like the film it celebrates, this is a story about the magic of childhood and the importance of friendship. The film showcases many of the same Parisian locations as the 1956 classic French film.



**The Little Man – Screen Dance**  
4 min. by Richard Kuller, Van Nuys, CA, USA

A college dance instructor arrives at school on a slow day to practice in the campus studio. Things happen.





JURY'S  
CITATION AWARDS

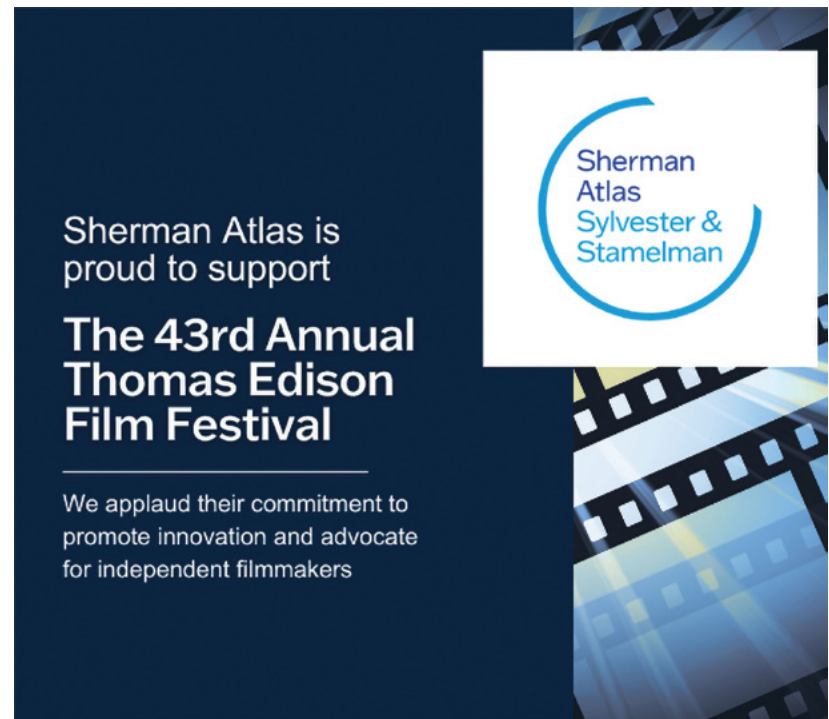
**The Seaside – Narrative**  
**10 min. by Christian Elliot and Elle Ginter,**  
**Kent, UK and LA, CA, USA**

Simona's friend promises her that she can earn a lot of money working by the sea. But instead, she is forced into prostitution with violent men every night. She tries running away, but is caught, dragged back, and punished. Simona is desperate to escape, but how?

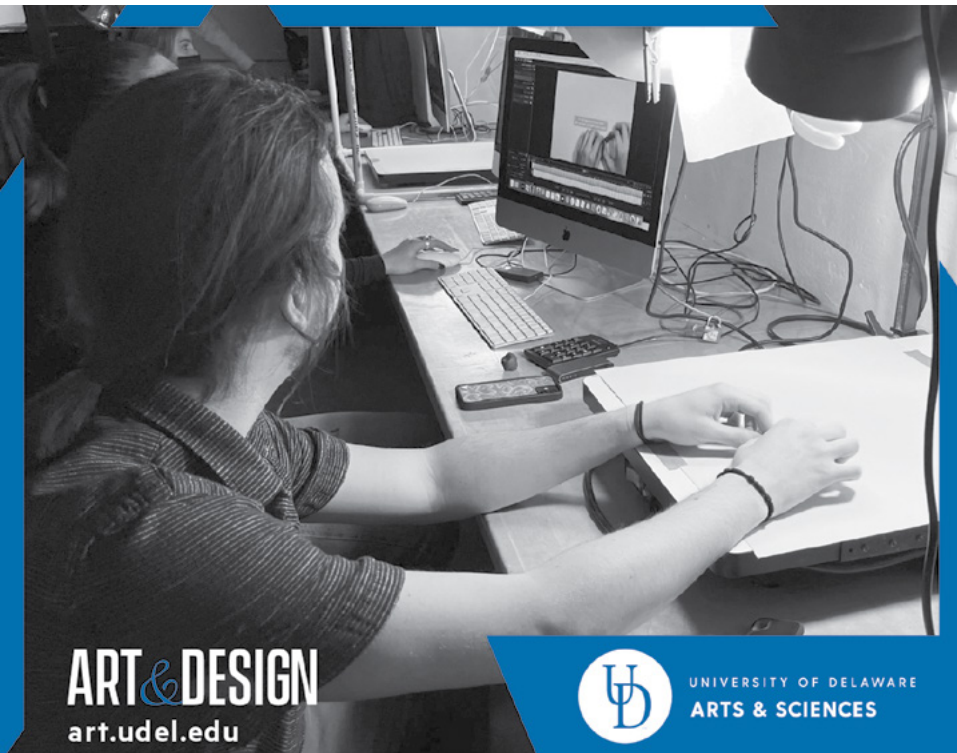


**Tomato Kitchen – Animation**  
**9 min. by Junyi Xiao, Pasadena, CA, USA**

"Tomato Kitchen" is a social fable. The tomato-character can be any one of us. As a Chinese person who lives and works in the U.S., the filmmaker has seen the exclusion and suppression of new immigrants by old immigrants, including women who have been abducted and sold to the countryside becoming accomplices and abducting and selling women themselves. "Tomato Kitchen" is telling a similar story. An accident interrupts Lee's dinner with his colleagues. The dark truth of the Tomato Kitchen along with Lee's hidden past are revealed by this unexpected incident.







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**Algorithm Takedown – Animation**  
**4 min. by Alex Budovsky, Brooklyn, NY, USA**

An animated music video commissioned and performed by Hip Hop and Hot Jazz Timpanist, Jonathan Haas aka Jonny H. and the Prisoners of Swing. The film brings to life music composed by legendary drummer Lenny White, who recorded and performed with Miles Davis and Chick Corea and underlines lyrics written and performed by rapper Walter West.



**Aski, the mother of all – Experimental**  
**4 min. by Amélie Courtois, Mashteuiatsh, Quebec, Canada**

A poetic film inspired by nature and what it offers us: colours and softness. A tribute to Mother Earth, this film takes the time to look at the little details of the forest.



**ATM – Animation**  
**3 min. by Oolluo Tseng, LA, CA, US and Taiwan**

A story about a money machine, a poor man, and cat food.



**Cataract – Documentary**  
**15 min. by Łukasz Iwanicz, Warsaw, Poland**

A film about three strong women who always had it rough. Despite the tedium of everyday life and a sense of helplessness, they still try to find meaning in the world around them.







**Disabled: A Love Story – Animation**  
**13 min. by Sheila M. Sofian, Pasadena, CA, USA**

An animated documentary that explores the relationship and struggles of Terry, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, and her husband Jon, who has cared for her since her diagnosis.



**Duet – Documentary**  
**30 min. by Lyuwei Chen, NY, NY, USA**

Having forged his own path out of desperation, MacArthur Genius musician Bright Sheng describes his experience of becoming a musician during the Cultural Revolution in China. Being a musician was the only way he could embrace his destiny, but it is a path that his talented 11-year-old daughter isn't sure she wants herself.



**Empty Spaces – Animation**  
**6 min. by Ayan Novruzlu, London, UK**

A humanoid creature keeps filling the empty spaces in its body with anything it can to keep noise away. After a series of events, it finally discovers the initial missing parts of itself in an open-ended conclusion.



**Fleshwork – Experimental**  
**7 min. by Lydia Cornett, Brooklyn, NY, USA**

At a butcher shop in Jeromesville, Ohio, four meat processors situate their labor within their own minds and bodies.





**Flower Gathering at Night – Documentary**  
**15 min. by Zihlun Jian, Taiwan**

Some people like to cook – maybe not just to eat, but to enjoy the atmosphere of cooking, sharing and taking care of each other. This introspective short film, links generations and local crops. The running water at the end is a blessing and leaves behind a sense of resilience and care.



**France – Experimental**  
**6 min. by Philip Cartelli and Mariangela Ciccarello, NY, NY, USA**

“The four corners of the hexagon.” The formal simplicity of the “hexagon” (which refers to the idealized shape of metropolitan France) is countered in the film by convoluted drawings and twisted branches of a coastal environment, evoking French colonial domination and the illusion of national unity and harmony.



**It's Hard to Wait – Narrative**  
**7 min. by Tetiana Chorna, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine**

This film is about the psychological experiences of a young girl due to the military conflict in Ukraine caused by Russian aggression. She suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder but finds the strength to believe in the best.



**Len & His Spitfire – Documentary**  
**11 min. by Noelle Duddridge, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada**

As a young child of the 1920's, Leonard John Duddridge sustained serious injuries from a dynamite blast cap. As a young adult, despite his disability, he enlisted in the fight against the Germans in World War II. Adventures and near death ensues, after he finds himself in the cockpit of a Spitfire.







**Less of a Man – Experimental**  
**14 min. by Arkus Arkus, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

Male breast cancer survivors want to remain invisible in the staunch patriarchal societies where having a “woman’s disease” is a subject of shame and ridicule. Based on true stories, “Less of a Man” delves into the turbulent psyche of a survivor during his mammogram, grappling with shattered masculinity and overwhelming fear.



**Meditations – Animation**  
**9 min. by Adolfo Ruiz, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**

An animated film that revolves around a psychotherapy session set in a dystopian future. By probing the inner psyche, a novel form of technology produces a therapist in the image of a lost family member. The encounter reveals a form of meaning-making, mediated by technology, that emerges from the patient’s recounting of events.



**Mon Valley Trilogy – Documentary**  
**5 min. by Tony Buba, Pittsburgh, PA, USA**

One of legendary documentarist Tony Buba’s series of short films related to the steel industry and critical to understanding steel in the Mon Valley of Pennsylvania.



**My Dad is a Transvestite – Narrative**  
**19 min. by Jingni Wang, Cheng Du, Si Chuan, China**

After the loss of his wife in an earthquake, a father and his daughter come to live in Cheng Du. The daughter has always blamed her father for her mother’s death, but their estranged relationship takes a turn when the daughter finally learns hidden secrets about her father.





**Nisei – Narrative**  
**21 min. by Darren Haruo Rae, Studio City, CA, USA**

Based on stories from the filmmaker’s grandfather, “Nisei” follows the journey of two Japanese American brothers during World War II. Stripped of their citizenship and placed in internment camps, they volunteer for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all-Japanese American unit that sacrificed everything to prove their loyalty to a country that didn’t want them. Torn between country and family, they face the enemy overseas along with adversity at home.



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**Soundscape – Documentary**  
**14 min. by Timmy O’Neil, Zephyr Cove, NV, USA**

“Soundscape” shares the sightless experience of climbing a mountain via echo location, touch and imagination. The film features Erik Weihenmayer, a global adventure athlete and author who is fully blind, as he ascends a massive alpine rock face deep in the Sierra Nevada.



**The Bellmaster – Documentary**  
**5 min. by Madeline McDonald, Princeton, NJ, USA**

“The Bellmaster” is a behind-the-scenes look at one of the largest instruments in the world – the carillon. These thousand-pound bells have been part of the human soundscape for thousands of years and the bellmaster of Princeton University, Lisa Lonie, offers a masterful demonstration of the instrument as well as the history of Princeton’s carillon.



**The Expectation of the Observed – Animation**  
**5 min. by Stephanie J. Williams, Washington, DC, USA**

This experimental short considers the unrecognized labor in having and being a body. The puppets, disembodied meaty legs, flayed of skin, dance in repetition even as they start to disintegrate.







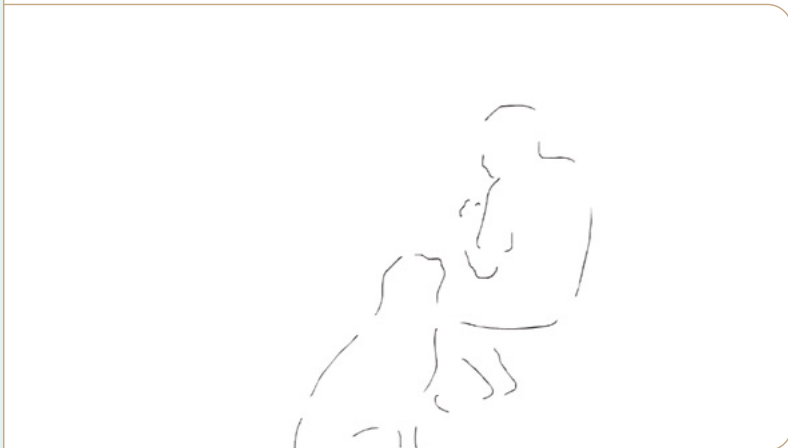
**Undertones – Screen Dance**  
**5 min. by Kat Castro, Somerset, NJ and Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

An experimental movement film that delves into the intricate layers of human existence, blending architecture, music, and movement to explore themes of curiosity, tension, connection, and release.



**unspoken moments – Animation**  
**3 min. by Dawn Luong, Chicago, IL, USA**

An exploration of the moments in our lives where some things don't need to be said to be understood.



**Walls Running – Screen Dance**  
**2 min. by Charlotte Griffin, Irvine, CA, USA**

“Walls Running” is part of a series of short “Impromptus” commissioned by Debra Noble, Director of Dance Repertory at California State University, Fullerton. Director Charlotte Griffin collaborates with Jaime Cano and Michelle Oosterbaan to immerse the dancers within layered abstract worlds.



**We All Fall – Animation**  
**4 min. by Robert Walls IV, Philadelphia, PA, USA**

A mysterious doctor visits a plague-ridden village.



**HONORABLE MENTION  
AWARDS**

2024 STREAMING & TOURING COLLECTION

**HONORABLE MENTION  
AWARDS**



**Arava** – Narrative  
27 min. by Sarah Meital Benjamin, NY, NY, USA

**Cancer Alley** – Documentary  
9 min. by Pamela Falkenberg, Rockford, IL, and Jack Cohran, Austin, TX, USA

**Chevalier** – Narrative  
16 min. by Frederic Zeimet, Luxembourg

**Classic Daddy** – Animation  
8 min. by Jae Chu and Manffy Lai, New Taipei City, Taiwan

**Cut** – Narrative  
6 min. by Youness Benali, London, UK

**Dancing with the Unknown** – Screen Dance  
3 min. by Iasonas Psarakis, Attica, Greece

**Deep Rooted** – Documentary  
33 min. by Kyle McDonnell, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**Fast Life** – Narrative  
24 min. by Paul Rigoux, Paris, France

**Fred** – Narrative  
6 min. by Bjorn Franklin and Johnny Marchetta, Wigan, UK

**Funnel Mantra** – Narrative  
11 min. by Andres Gonzalez Galindo, LA, CA, USA

**Gabriela** – Narrative  
16 min. by Evelyn Lorena, Wilmington, NC, USA

**Half-Dream** – Experimental  
11 min. by Jan Grabowski, Warsaw, Poland

(continued next page)



## HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS

**Infinite Lines** – Documentary  
7 min. by Louka Hoogendijk, Amsterdam, Netherlands

**let me tell you a secret** – Experimental  
4 min. by Yanbin Zhao, LA, CA, USA, and Shanghai

**Mercy** – Documentary  
14 min. by Xinyue Wu, LA, CA, USA

**Mirror Mirror (Double Vision)** – Experimental  
3 min. by Johannes DeYoung and Natalie Westbrook, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Mud Man** – Screen Dance  
4 min. by Madi Lee and Eleanor Somerville, Brisbane, Australia

**Night Hawkes** – Narrative  
12 min. by Atlas Ferrera, LA, CA, USA

**Our Bodies Like Dams** – Experimental  
10 min. by Sarah Finn, Brooklyn, NY, USA

**Radiation Robot** – Animation  
6 min. by Papersteps, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

**Requiem** – Documentary  
16 min. by Rowena Potts, Redfern, Australia

**Sealed Off** – Narrative  
17 min. by Tianyu Jiang, NY, NY, USA and Macao

**Shura** – Documentary  
26 min. by David Damian Figueroa and Kayvon Derek Shanian, Arizona, USA

**Sometime, Somewhere** – Narrative  
18 min. by Logan Findlay, London, UK

## HONORABLE MENTION AWARDS

**The Discoverer of the Discoverers** – Documentary  
25 min. by C. S. Nicholson, Oslo, Norway

**The Exchange Girl** – Documentary  
9 min. by George Larkin, La Crescenta, CA, USA

**The Naming of Things** – Narrative  
10 min. by Gadi Rubin, Montvale, NJ, USA

**The Perfect Shot: Antarctica** – Documentary  
10 min. by Quinn Halleck and Artem Shestakov, Miami, FL, USA

**Twenty** – Narrative  
16 min. by Jason Hogan, London, UK

**Vision** – Animation  
7 min. by Çağıl Harmandar, Tokyo, Japan

**Will You Remember Me?** – Documentary  
13 min. by Will Dowler, Medway, MA, USA

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## THOMAS EDISON MEDIA ARTS CONSORTIUM ADVISORS

**Henry Baker** - Creative Director

**Margaret Parsons** - Juror, Curator Emerita National Gallery of Art,  
Founder and curator Glimmerglass Film Days

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**Kristy Seymour** - Visual Arts Program Associate



## JURORS

**Margaret Parsons, Curator Emerita**, founded the film program at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. She served as curator of film for the Gallery for decades and organized screenings related to film history, film art, and the role of time-based media in society. She has curated media exhibitions and programs at embassies and cultural organizations including the Corcoran Gallery of Art, American University, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Museum of American History, and Smithsonian Museum of American Art. She has served on the boards of film organizations ranging from the Robert Flaherty Film Seminar to the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, and has been on the editorial boards

for The Moving Image and the Getty Trust's experimental Art on Film in association with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She has been an international festival juror and in 2012 she founded Glimmerglass Film Days in central New York State. For her work in film preservation Parsons has received awards from the governments of France, Georgia, Italy, and the Czech Republic, and in the U.S. has been the recipient of life achievement awards from the Thomas Edison Black Maria Film Festival, DC Independent Festival, and Women in Film and Video. Her scholarship is in the field of outsider art and her articles have appeared in Raw Vision, Folk Art, The Folk Art Messenger, New York Folklore, Curator, and The Moving Image.

**Henry Baker, Director, Producer, Creative Director**, former Executive Director at the ground-breaking arts facility: Synapse Video Center. His work as educator, curator and director helped launch video as an art form in America. He co-created the NYS Media Alliance. Then, as one of the first-ever Quantel Video Paintbox artists, he collaborated on The Cars "You Might Think" music video - winner of the MTV Music Video Award. His company, BXB, enabled him to produce projects with Menudo, Celeste Holm, HBO,

SONY, Panasonic and others. You'll find his works in the permanent collections of the NY Public Library and Everson Museum of Art. He served as a dedicated juror for the National Endowment for the Arts, WNET-TV Lab, Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Thomas Edison Film Festival. His award-winning documentaries "PISS OFF X" and "Pup Perfect" have toured in 60+ film festivals around the world. He resides with his husband in Washington DC.





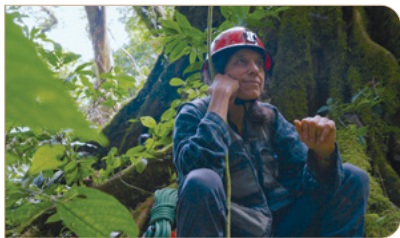
# HUDSON COUNTY MOVIE TOUR



A PLACE FOR US,  
Leigh-Ann Esty and Ellie Gravitte



A PLACE WITHOUT FEAR, Susanne Deeken



BETWEEN EARTH AND SKY, Andrew Nadkarni



BLUE HOUR, J. D. Shields and Maya Korn

The Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF) and our partners at the Hoboken Historical Museum are grateful for generous support from the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development for their long-running sponsorship of our Hudson County Movie Tour.

TEFF is proud to present unique and thought-provoking programs either in-person or virtually at the Hoboken Historical Museum, in the beautiful Rotunda at Justice Brennan Courthouse in Jersey City, and twice a year at the Secaucus Public Library.

Our TEFF programs are announced regularly via MailChimp, so contact us at [info@teffilmfest.org](mailto:info@teffilmfest.org) to sign up for personal notifications. Look for our film program announcements on the Hoboken Museum website, [www.hobokenmuseum.org](http://www.hobokenmuseum.org) and from the Hudson County Cultural Affairs Office at [www.visithudson.org](http://www.visithudson.org)



# HUDSON COUNTY MOVIE TOUR

Here is a sampling of programs we are planning from February through December 2024...

To kick off our screenings in Hudson County, don't miss the Thomas Edison Film Festival's Gala Premiere at the Hoboken Historical Museum on Saturday Feb. 24th, featuring top award-winning films from the 2024 collection. Doors open at 6:30pm, program starts at 7:00pm.

Films celebrating Women's HERstory Month may be seen through the month of March. Films honoring Earth Day will be featured in April, and June ushers in our annual Pride Month Celebration – an event you won't want to miss!

Screenings featuring animation, dance, narrative, and documentary are planned every month, alongside themed programs, filmmaker talks, and so much more. Special events will be announced throughout 2024. Our film nights await!



BOLD, Alla Kovgan and Miko Malkhasyan



FLOWER GATHERING AT NIGHT, Zihlun Jian



MENAGERIE, Jack Gray



WALLS RUNNING, Charlotte Griffin

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## SPECIAL THANKS

**Henry Baker**, Festival Associate and TEFF Advisory Board  
**Adam Barone**, Managing Director/Co-Founder SONIC UNION  
**Jon Cole**, Technical Director, Thomas Edison Film Festival  
**Chris Franklin**, Supervising Editor, Big Sky Edit  
**Robert Foster**, Executive Director, Hoboken Historical Museum  
**Lawrence "Chip" Heptig**, Voiceover Talent  
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 National Gallery of Art and TEFF Advisory Board  
**Ellen Pope**, Executive Director, Otsego 2000  
**Kennisa Ragland**, Editor, Big Sky Edit



## THANKS TO THE PRE-SCREENING JURORS

Henry Baker	Elizabeth Kirshtein
Jon Cole	Ann LePore
Edith "Didi" Goldenhar	Cali Macchia
Steve Gorelick	Jane Steuerwald
John Hawk	and Film & Media Arts students
Clayton Hemmert	at Princeton University, Ramapo
Amy Hicks	College of NJ, Towson University
Joel Katz	and University of Delaware





## THOMAS EDISON MEDIA ARTS CONSORTIUM SUPPORTS ADA – THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The **Thomas Edison Media Arts Consortium - Thomas Edison Film Festival** is fully committed to ensuring that accessibility guidelines and requirements as set forth by the federal government and state of New Jersey are implemented in as timely and efficient a manner as possible.

**The Consortium** is consistently responsive to making film accessible for all people with disabilities and will continue to strive to provide the utmost accessible experience possible. Through our programming, design, and service, we reach out to and provide assistance and appropriate accommodations whenever possible. We provide effective communication and follow best practices of effective and sensitive techniques to serve

members of the community with disabilities.

**The Consortium** is also committed to exercising best practice and outreach in regard to recruiting persons with disabilities as festival volunteers, interns, and employees whenever possible. **The Consortium**, through the efforts of the **ADA Compliance Committee**, regularly reviews its policies and procedures to adapt, accommodate and address any issues or problems that might arise in regard to **ADA** compliance and regularly assesses its progress in achieving full compliance. People with disabilities and/or their liaisons are welcome to contact the festival director at:

Email: [Jane@TEFilmFest.org](mailto:Jane@TEFilmFest.org)  
Phone: +1 551.999.8225



## CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR 2025 EARLY BIRD ENTRY DATE: MAY 1, 2024

2025 will mark the 44th Season of the **Thomas Edison Film Festival (TEFF)**.

The Festival seeks spirited short films that explore, enrich, and expand the expressive possibilities of film as art.

TEFF is an international, open genre, touring festival seeking short animation, experimental, documentary, screen dance, narrative, and hybrid films.

Submissions open for 2025 on these dates:

**Early Bird** May 1 through June 31, 2024

**Regular Deadline** July 1 – September 6, 2024

<b>Under 15 min.</b>	<b>16-30 min.</b>	<b>31-45 min.</b>
\$25 Early	\$30 Early	\$35 Early
\$30 Regular	\$35 Regular	\$45 Regular

Submit your film on **FilmFreeway** at:

<https://filmfreeway.com/ThomasEdisonFilmFestival>

**Questions? Contact us at:**

Phone: +1 551.999.8225

Email: [info@TEFilmFest.org](mailto:info@TEFilmFest.org)

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# THE EDISON FOUNDATIONS

To learn more about Thomas Edison and his Legacy go to: [ThomasEdison.org](http://ThomasEdison.org)

*Thomas A Edison*

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One Riverfront Plaza, Suite 340

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