

DIFF

DALLAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

DIFF

FESTIVAL PROGRAM GUIDE

2024

WHERE MOVIEHEADS



APRIL 25- MAY 2

DALLASFILM.ORG

ABOUT US

Thursday, April 25 – Thursday, May 2, 2024

Calling all MovieHeads! Get ready for eight days of film and fun with fellow aficionados at DIFF 2024, the 18th annual Dallas International Film Festival!

The Dallas International Film Festival doesn't just screen the best narrative and documentary features and short films from across the globe . . . The interaction between story tellers, audiences and the Texas community is what we strive to develop both during the festival and throughout the year.

DIFF 2024 is a global adventure that features premiere screenings, eye-opening documentaries, intriguing short films, filmmaker panels, and nightly red carpets – plus events, activations and hubs where filmmakers, screenwriters, film industry leaders, celebrities, sponsors, and audiences can all gather to enjoy and discuss film.

The Dallas International Film Festival is a special time when Dallas and the world come together to celebrate the art of film and filmmakers. Since 2006, the Festival has become the place for storytellers and audiences to connect and experience film as a community. In pursuing our mission, we are committed to:

- Providing accessible, inclusive, immersive, educational, and entertaining film experiences for all people
- Championing and celebrating diverse, emerging and underrepresented voices through curation of the broadest range of expression through film
- Fostering human connection and greater appreciation for our common humanity and our rich diversity through the shared experience of film

Make your plans now to be “Where MovieHeads Go”, and we'll see you at the movies!



HOW TO FEST

Here are some fun facts and inside information that will have you Festing like a pro.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FESTIVAL LOCATION

West Village | 3699 McKinney Avenue | Dallas, TX 75204

WHERE TO PARK

West Village is a thriving retail + restaurant + residential neighborhood, so plan to arrive in plenty of time before your screening is scheduled to start. It's a very walkable area, so find a parking garage and enjoy a stroll. Valet parking will be available during peak hours.

BOX OFFICE + BADGE PICKUP

Hours: Noon to 6:00 pm Daily (April 22–April 25) 11:00 am to 11:00 pm Daily (April 26–May 2)
Violet Crown Cinema in West Village (directly across from the theater)

BADGE HOLDERS: This is where you check in to pick up your badges and passes beginning Monday, April 22

HOW TO SEE MOVIES + BUY PASSES & TICKETS

Visit: DALLASFILM.ORG/DIFF/PASSES - You can choose which pass you want from several options ranging in price to fit your movie preferences.

On DIFF2024.EVENTIVE.ORG/SCHEDULE you can browse the dates/times of the entire festival and purchase individual tickets to select films.

DIFF FESTIVAL LOUNGE AT VIOLET CROWN

Noon to 11 PM Daily | Pass Holders receive two beverage vouchers each day for complimentary beverages from our sponsors, including beer from [Four Corners Brewing Co.](#); cocktails from [Gentle Ben Spirits](#); and non-alcoholic cocktails from [Ritual Zero-Proof Alternative](#)

OUR "FESTIVAL VILLAGE" NEIGHBORHOOD

DIFF 2024 is happening at [Violet Crown Cinema](#) in [West Village](#) at 3699 McKinney Avenue. Located in the center of the dynamic Dallas neighborhood known as [Uptown](#), West Village is a walkable shopping, dining, residential and entertainment district with direct access to the [DART Rail](#), the [Historic McKinney Avenue Trolley](#) and the [Katy Trail](#).

SCREENINGS AT THE TEXAS THEATRE

231 W. Jefferson Boulevard | Dallas, TX 75208 | The historic [Texas Theatre](#) is the site of screenings on Saturday, April 27. Please consult the [Film Schedule in Eventive](#) for movie titles and times.

DIFF 2024 OPENING NIGHT SCREENING & PARTY

1910 Pacific Avenue | Dallas, TX 75201 The screening will be followed by the Opening Night Party next door at [1910 Pacific](#). For details, please see the [Film Schedule in Eventive](#).



OPENING NIGHT



DUDE PERFECT: A VERY LONG SHOT

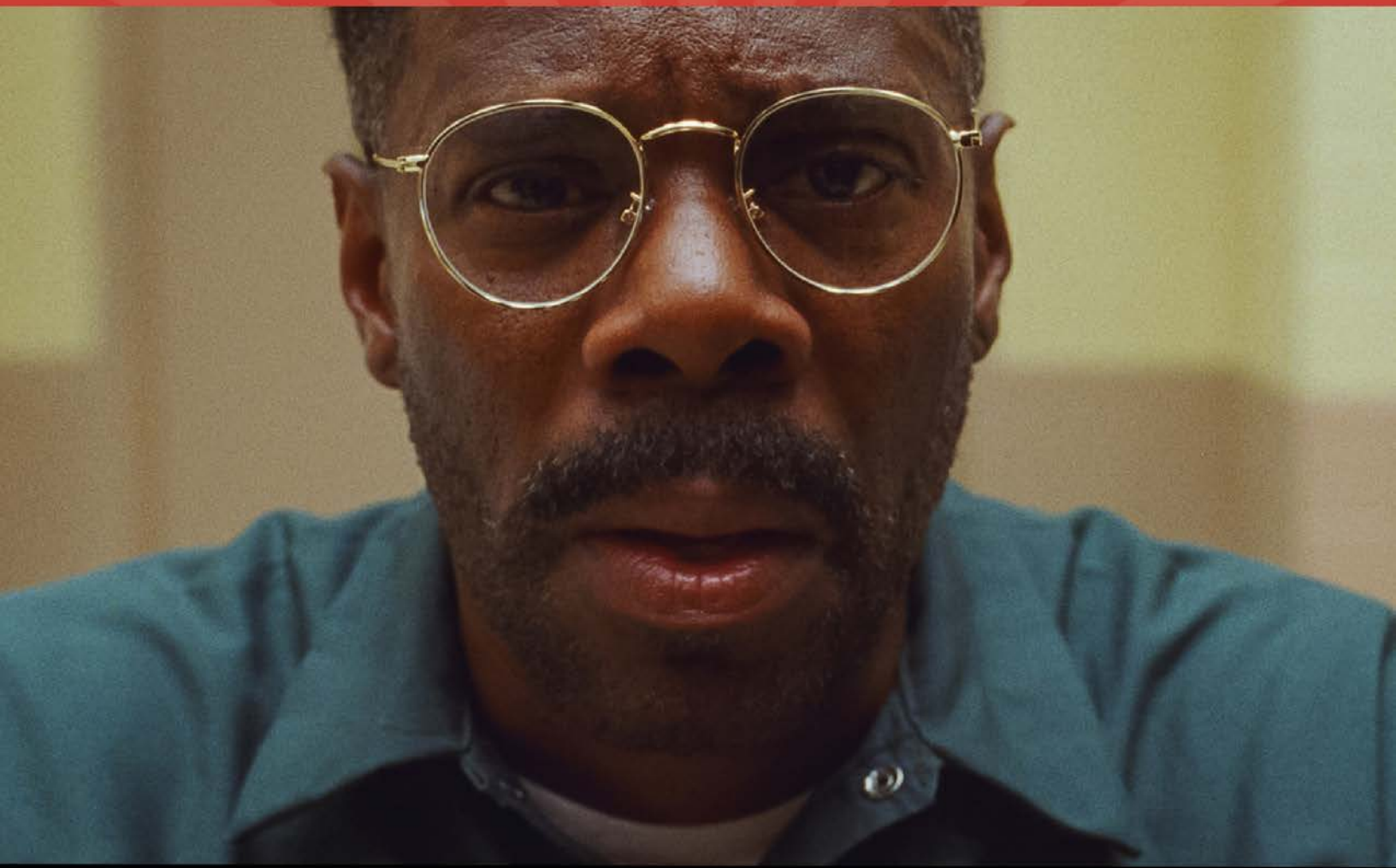
Thursday, April 25, 7:30PM
Majestic Theater

DIRECTOR: Oliver Lucian
Anderson, Louis Burgdorf

Producer: Cora Atkinson, Marie
Margolius, Carolyn Hepburn

At the dawn of YouTube, six young men from Texas A&M unknowingly began a journey together that would change the sports world forever. More than a decade later their content celebrating an unbridled joy for sports has launched the now five 'Dudes', Ty, Cory, Coby, Garrett and Cody, to a level of fame and influence they never thought possible. However, as they've grown up and grown old together the question of what's next looms large over their attempt at setting the world record for the highest basketball shot more than 800 feet over the Las Vegas strip.

CLOSING NIGHT



SING SING

Thursday, May 2, 7:00 PM

Thursday, May 2, 9:30 PM

Violet Crown

DIRECTOR: Greg Kwedar

CAST: Colman Domingo,

Clarence Maclin, Sean San Jose

Divine G (Colman Domingo), imprisoned at Sing Sing for a crime he didn't commit, finds purpose by acting in a theatre group with other incarcerated men. When a wary outsider joins the group, the men decide to stage their first original comedy, in this stirring true story of resilience, humanity, and the transformative power of art, starring an unforgettable ensemble cast of formerly incarcerated actors.

ANNOUNCING

DALLAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

DIFF

SHORTS

AUGUST 23RD - 25TH 2024



City of Dallas Arts & Culture

SUBMISSIONS OPEN
APRIL 25 2024

PREMIERE SERIES

AND ON THE EIGHTH DAY

Director: **Alexandra Chando**. Cast: **Darren Mann, Mustafa Speaks, Lindsay Morgan, Tanner Beard**. Tells the story of two small-time thieves who find themselves in a remote West Texas town.



DESIRE LINES

Director: **Jules Rosskam**. Cast: **Aden Hakimi, Theo Germaine, Em Modaff**. Past and present collide when an Iranian American trans man time-travels through an LGBTQ+ archive on a dizzying and erotic quest to unravel his own sexual desires.



DIDI

Director: **Sean Wang**. Cast: **Izaac Wang, Joan Chen, Shirley Chen**. In 2008, during the last month of summer before high school begins, an impressionable 13-year-old Taiwanese American boy learns what his family can't teach him: how to skate, how to flirt, and how to love your mom.



EZRA

Director: **Tony Goldwyn**. Cast: **Bobby Cannavale, William A. Fitzgerald, Rose Byrne**. Max Bernal is a stand-up comedian living with his father while struggling to co-parent his autistic son Ezra with his ex-wife. When forced to confront difficult decisions about their son's future, Max and Ezra embark on a cross-country road trip that has a transcendent impact on both their lives.



I SAW THE TV GLOW

Director: **Jane Schoenbrun**. Cast: **Justice Smith, Brigette Lundy-Paine, Ian Foreman**. Teenager Owen is just trying to make it through life in the suburbs when his classmate introduces him to a mysterious late-night TV show — a vision of a supernatural world beneath their own. In the pale glow of the television, Owen's view of reality begins to crack.



PREMIERE SERIES

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE

Director: **Brendan Walsh**. Cast: **Edie Falco, Bradley Whitford, Kayli Carter, Jeannie Berlin, Michael Rappaport**. Wanda has her hands full: her 8-month pregnant daughter wants a wedding which her ex-husband is flaking on paying for, her mother thinks she's dying, her wayward son is either going into rehab or the army, her long-time boyfriend doesn't excite her, but her new girlfriend doesn't either, and she barely has time for herself, not that she would know what to do with it anyway.



THE IDEA OF YOU

Director: **Michael Showalter**. Cast: **Anne Hathaway, Nicholas Galitzine, Ella Rubin**. While chaperoning her teenage daughter's trip to Coachella, Solène, a 40-year-old single mother, begins an unexpected romance with 24-year-old Hayes Campbell, the lead singer of August Moon, the hottest boy band on the planet.



RIDE

Director: **Jake Allyn**. Cast: **C. Thomas Howell, Annabeth Gish, Jake Allyn, Forrie J. Smith**. Three generations of bull riders fight to raise money to transfer the family's young daughter to a better cancer hospital. Set in Stephenville TX, Ride explores rodeo, addiction in the Heartland, and the cowboy's place in modern America.



THE DEAD DON'T HURT

Director: **Viggo Mortensen**. Cast: **Vicky Krieps, Viggo Mortensen, Garret Dillahunt**. In the 1860s, fiercely independent French-Canadian Vivienne Le Coudy embarks on a journey with Danish immigrant Holger Olsen, attempting to forge a life together in the dusty town of Elk Flats, Nevada. When Holger decides to go fight for the Union in the burgeoning Civil War, Vivienne must fend for herself, which isn't easy in a town controlled by a corrupt mayor.



WE GROWN NOW

Director: **Minhal Baig**. Cast: **Blake Cameron James, Gian Knight Ramirez, S. Epatha Merkerson**. In 1992 Chicago, as Michael Jordan solidifies a legacy, a story of two young legends in their own right begins. Best friends Malik and Eric navigate the joys and hardships of growing up in CabriniGreen.



AN ARMY OF WOMEN

Director: **Julie Lunde Lillesæter**. A group of women in Austin, Texas join forces and help build a movement of plaintiffs legally challenging the system that allowed their rapists to walk free.



HARSH TREATMENT

Directors: **Johnathan Paul, Josh Gilbert**. Cast: **Barry Corbin, Steven Michael Quezada, Jason Douglas, Jennifer Rader**. When a pair of failed outlaws botch a big score, they have to settle for a much smaller one instead – putting them in the crosshairs of a dangerous tracker who'll do just about anything to recover the priceless treasure they don't realize they've stolen.



HOLLY BY NIGHTFALL

Director: **Andy Delaney**. Cast: **Hannah James, Eric Nelsen, Jack Falahee, Jake Thomas**. A funny, sweet, and poignant story about a group of friends who are hitting crossroads in their lives, stumbling over decisions about relationships and careers.



RACING MISTER FAHRENHEIT

Director: **Michael Rowley**. Cast: **Robert "Bobby" Haas, Stacey Mayfield, Craig "Rodsmith Pressnell, Chris "Sparky" Williamson**. A 74-year-old financier sets out to gain a "pinch of immortality" by attempting to break a world speed record on a hand-built motorcycle. Atop his sidecar racer, Bobby Haas careens towards cementing his name in the land speed record books.



WATER WARS

Director: **Mario Mattei**. Nestled in the 'Valley of Hidden Waters' within the West Texas desert, Dell City thrives as a remote oasis. Yet, turmoil strikes as El Paso offers lucrative water deals to neighboring landowners. Dell City's close-knit community faces division due to new water board rules, alleged to be influenced by billionaires, locking them out of these opportunities.



INHERITANCE

Director: **Matt Moyer, Amy Toensing.** Filmed over ten years, INHERITANCE immerses audiences in a family of love, struggle, and hope as experienced through the eyes and ears of one boy, Curtis, and five generations of his extended family.



PRINT IT BLACK

Producers: **Tomas Navia, Andrew Fredericks, Megan Hundahl Streete.** After the Robb Elementary school shooting in Texas, local Uvalde Leader-News journalists are left to report on the fallout - and on one of their staff members. Reporter Kimberly Rubio rises to national prominence as an advocate for gun reform after her ten-year-old daughter, Lexi, is killed in the shooting



PORCELAIN WAR

Director: **Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev.** Under roaring fighter jets and missile strikes, Ukrainian artists Slava, Anya, and Andrey choose to stay behind and fight, contending with the soldiers they have become. Defiantly finding beauty amid destruction, they show that although it's easy to make people afraid, it's hard to destroy their passion for living.



UNLIKELY ALLIES

Director: **Anthony Pedone.** In 2003, a low-level cannabis case would end Weldon Angelos' budding and promising career in the music industry. But it would also give birth to a national movement to reform our country's criminal justice system, uniting far-right conservatives like billionaire Charles Koch and Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) with liberals such as Senator Corey Booker, Van Jones and musicians Alicia Keys, and Snoop Dogg.



WITHOUT ARROWS

Director: **Jonathan Olshefski, Elizabeth Day.** Filmed over the course of thirteen years (2011-2023), WITHOUT ARROWS chronicles the vibrance and struggle of a Lakhóta family.



NARRATIVE COMP

ELECTRA

Director: **Hala Matar**. Cast: **Maria Bakalova, Jack Farthing, Abigail Cowen, Daryl Wein**. A journalist and his female companion travel to interview a famous musician in Rome where a generous invite to a country estate becomes something much more than anyone expected...



GHOSTLIGHT

Directors: **Kelly O'Sullivan, Alex Thompson**. Cast: **Keith Kupferer, Dolly de Leon, Katherine Mallen Kupferer**. When a construction worker unexpectedly joins a local theater's production of Romeo and Juliet, the drama onstage starts to mirror his own life.



STAKES IS HIGH

Director: **Jean-Pierre Caner**. Cast: **Rahad Coulter-Stevenson, Kestrin Pantera, Noel Arthur, Larry Clarke**. WILL GOLDIN is a dreamer. He arrived in Hollywood with a suitcase and 500 bucks.



SUJO

Directors: **Fernanda Valadez, Astrid Rondero**. Cast: **Juan Jesús Varela, Yadira Pérez, Sandra Lorenzano**. When a cartel gunman is killed, he leaves behind Sujo, his beloved 4-year-old son. The shadow of violence surrounds Sujo during each stage of his life in the isolated Mexican countryside. As he grows into a man, Sujo finds that fulfilling his father's destiny may be inescapable.



WE STRANGERS

Director: **Anu Valia**. Cast: **Kirby, Kara Young, Tina Lifford**. Rayelle Martin works as a commercial cleaner in Gary, Indiana. She's mischievous, playful, and skilled at adapting to her surroundings. One day while at work, Ray is approached by Dr. Neeraj Patel, a therapist who hires her to work as his housekeeper. Who's going to say no to extra money? Not Ray.



GAME ON

ALL I EVER WANTED

Director: **Carlos P. Beltran**. Cast: **Greivis Vasquez, Kevin Durant, Kyle Lowry**. All I Ever Wanted is a riveting 7-year journey through the high-stakes world of professional basketball, showcasing NBA icons like Kevin Durant, Kyle Lowry, and Manu Ginobili. This deeply personal documentary unveils the untold story of Greivis Vasquez, former star of the Toronto Raptors and Brooklyn Nets, as he confronts the challenges of a sudden, career-ending injury.



CLEMENTE

Director: **David M. Altrogge**. An immersive documentary about the remarkable life and legacy of MLB icon Roberto Clemente.



COPA 71

Director: **James Erskine, Rachel Ramsay**. Cast: **Brandi Chastain, Nicole Mangas, Silvia Zaragoza**. Tells the story of the 1971 Women's World Cup, which saw soccer teams from all over the world gather in Mexico City's Azteca Stadium to compete in front of more than 100,000 spectators.



THE SENIOR

Director: **Rod Lurie**. Cast: **Michael Chiklis, Mary Stuart Masterson, Brandon Flynn**. Follows a man who, 37 years ago, was kicked off his collegiate football team for an altercation. Now at 59, he still carries that burden. He decides to go back to school to get his degree and try out for the team to redeem his past.



GAME ON SHORTS

From Man to ManiAAC: The Evolution of the Mavs ManiAACs
Bearcats: We're Still Here
We Are Flying Stars
Dreamcaster



SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

Director: **Leo McCarey**. Cast: **Cary Grant, Deborah Kerr, Richard Denning**. A couple falls in love and agrees to meet in six months at the Empire State Building - but will it happen?



CITY OF HATE: DALLAS AND THE ASSASSINATION 60 YEARS LATER

Director: **Quin Mathews**. City of Hate reveals what Dallas was like 60 years ago when President Kennedy was about to visit the city, told by people who lived there, including the filmmaker, who saw Kennedy just before the assassination, a documentary sixty years in the making.



LANE: LIFE | LEGEND | LEGACY

Director: **Brad Hughes & James Trawick**. Cast: **Elsie Frost, Clyde Frost, Kellie Macy & Tuff Hedeman**. Through the people closest to him and bull riding champions of today, we deep dive into the story of Lane Frost: a cowboy who lived a life that became a legend and ultimately left a lasting legacy on the sport of rodeo and western culture in so many ways, even to this day!



SHAKING IT UP: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LIZ CARPENTER

Director: **Abby Ginzberg, Christy Carpenter**. A journalist reports on JFK assassination, helps enact Great Society reforms in White House, co-founds women's political group, leads 1977 women's conference, and champions Equal Rights Amendment.



LOSING GRACE FINDING HOPE

Director: **Marcia Carroll**. Cast: **Sue Loncar, Patrick Long, David Long, Sally Conway, Terry Bentley Hill, Isabella Burzair, Austin Davis, Ed Burzair, Elizabeth Aughinbaugh, Libby Toudouze**. Surviving Suicide: A Mother's Journey from Pain to Purpose.



100 YARDS

Director: **Xu Haofeng, Xu Junfeng.** Cast: **Jacky Heung, Andy On, Bea Hayden Kuo.** Set in 1920s Tianjin, northern China, and centers on the rivalry between the son of a martial arts master and his most talented apprentice. When the old master dies, the two face off to take over his prominent martial arts academy.



THE CONTESTANT

Director: **Clair Titley.** Cast: **Fred Armisen, Nasubi, Toshio Tsuchiya.** The incredible true story of a man who lived for 15 months trapped inside a small room, naked, starving and alone... and completely unaware that his life was being broadcast on national TV in Japan, to over 15 million viewers a week.



DOUBLES

Director: **Ian Harnarine.** Cast: **Sanjiv Boodhu, Errol Sitahal, Rashaana Cumberbatch.** A Trinidadian street vendor must travel to Toronto and decide if he will help save his estranged father from dying.



THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS

Director: **Fawzia Mirza.** Cast: **Nimra Bucha, Amrit Kaur, Hamza Haq.** Azra is worlds apart from her conservative Muslim mother. When her father suddenly dies on a trip home to Pakistan, Azra finds herself on a Bollywood-inspired journey through memories, both real and imagined.



THE STRANGERS CASE

Director: **Brandt Andersen.** Cast: **Yasmine Al Massri, Yahya Mahayni, Omar Sy.** Tragedy strikes a Syrian family in Aleppo, starting a chain reaction of events involving five different families in four different countries.



DEEP ELLUM SOUNDS

BASTARDS OF SOUL

Director: **Paul Levatino**. Cast: **Chadwick Murray, Chris Holt, Danny Balis, Chad Stockslager, Matt Trimble, Matt Pence, Keite Young, N'Dambi**. In the limelight of imminent global fame, a Texas band's journey is marked by the unforeseen loss of their charismatic frontman, Chadwick Murray.



DANDELION

Director: **Nicole Riegel**. Cast: **KiKi Layne, Thomas Doherty, Melanie Nicholls-King**. It follows a singer-songwriter in a downward spiral as she takes a last effort gig at a motorcycle rally in South Dakota where she meets Casey, a guitarist who walked away from his dream long ago.



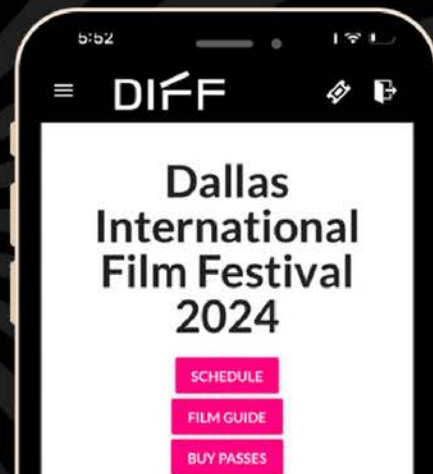
TEXAS MUSIC REVOLUTION

Director: **Troy Paff**. Cast: **Kiefer Sutherland, Charley Crockett, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Joshua Ray Walker, Tony Villanueva**. Since 1997, KHYI-FM in Dallas has championed the authentic, unpolished sound of indie Americana and country music. It's a cause that crystallized when station manager Joshua Jones founded Texas Music Revolution, an annual festival designed to showcase and introduce new musicians to local listeners.



ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW

VISIT [DIFF2024.EVENTIVE.ORG](https://diff2024.eventive.org)



MIDNIGHT SPECIALS

CUCKOO

Director: **Tilman Singer** Cast: **Hunter Schafer, Dan Stevens, Jessica Henwick** A 17-year old girl is forced to move with her family to a resort where things are not what they seem.



DARK SANCTUARY: THE STORY OF THE CHURCH

Director: **Timothy Stevens** Cast: **Joe Virus, Don Nedler, cEvin Key**. The shocking story of one of the longest running goth clubs in the US and transgressive community who call it home



DEER CAMP '86

Director: **L. VanDyke Siboutszen** Cast: **Noah LaLonde, Jay J. Bidwell, Brian Michael Raetz, Josh Dominguez, Arthur Cartwright, David Lautmann, Tina Joy, Paul Wilson** A group of hunters travel from Detroit to northern Michigan in the fall of 1986 to partake in the annual tradition of deer hunting. Upon arriving, the death of a Native American woman awakens a spirit, and the hunters become the hunted.



IN A VIOLENT NATURE

Director: **Chris Nash** Cast: **Lauren-Marie Taylor, Andrea Pavlovic, Ry Barrett** The enigmatic resurrection, rampage, and retribution of an undead monster in a remote wilderness.



THANK YOU TO
ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS



CANADIAN SPOTLIGHT

BACKSPOT

Director: **D.W. Waterson.** Cast: **Devery Jacobs, Kudakwashe Rutendo, Shannyn Sossamon.** Riley, a mid-level cheerleader, is given an opportunity to cheer with the All-Star team Thunderhawks. With competition looming, Riley must navigate her crippling anxiety, her relationship with her girlfriend, and her desperate need for approval from her new coach.



THE ISLAND BETWEEN TIDES

Directors: **Andrew Holmes, Austin Andrews** Cast: **Paloma Kwiatkowski, Donal Logue, David Mazouz.** A young woman follows a mysterious melody onto a remote tidal island. When she crosses back over at the next low tide, she emerges into a world where 25 years have passed.



THE NATURE OF LOVE

Director: **Monia Chokri** Cast: **Magalie Lépine-Blondeau, Pierre-Yves Cardinal, Francis-William Rhéaum.** Sophia is a philosophy professor in Montreal and has lived as a couple with Xavier for 10 years. Sylvain is a carpenter in the Laurentians and must renovate their country house. When Sophia meets Sylvain for the first time, it's love at first sight. Opposites attract, but can it last?



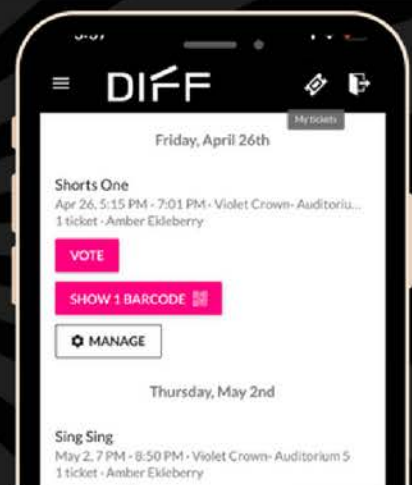
SOLO

Director: **Sophie Dupuis** Cast: **Théodore Pellerin, Félix Maritaud, Alice Moreault.** Emerging Montreal drag queen Simon must deal with two impossible loves: a passionate, yet destructive affair, with Oliver and a cold relationship with his mother, who's just returned after a 15-year absence.



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE FILMS

SCAN THE BUCKET TO VOTE
FOR YOUR FAVORITE FILM
OR VISIT
[DALLASFILM.ORG/VOTE](https://dallasfilm.org/vote)



LATINO SHOWCASE

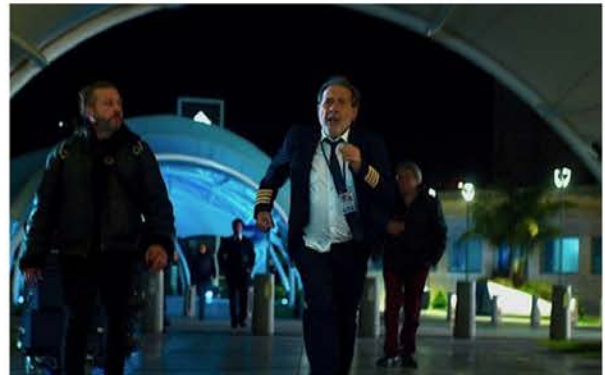
THE WINGWALKER

Director: **Alonso Alvarez-Barreda**. Cast: **Omar Chaparro, Max Arciniega, Will Rothhaar, Mercedes Hernandez**. The "Wingwalker" is the story of Julian, a father and widower whose life takes an unexpected turn when a misdemeanor lands him in jail and he is eventually deported to Mexico. Julian's nine-year-old daughter, Sofia, who has been diagnosed with a terminal heart disease and is scheduled for a heart transplant in two weeks, is left in the care of her irresponsible uncle, Nick. Knowing the possibility of never seeing his daughter alive again is real, Julian fights to go back by any means necessary.



THE EXTORTION

Director: **Martino Zaidelis**. Cast: **Guillermo Francella, Pablo Rago, Andrea Frigerio**. An experienced commercial pilot is forced to collaborate with his country's intelligence services to avoid being punished for a serious fault he committed on the job. He is quickly plunged into an underworld of intrigue and extortion that will put his life at risk and he will pay a very high price to escape from it.



LATINO SHORTS SHOWCASE

Fancy Florez's Summer Staycation
Bataca
Sand
This Boy's Vida (Made in America)
What Washes Ashore
El Soldador
Ojue



ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE ANDES

Director: **Rómulo Sulca Ricra**. Cast: **Maribel Baldeón, Juan Cano**. The Peruvian Andes. Andean shepherdess Margarita finds Lautaro, a dying Chilean soldier who has fled from a battle. She takes him home and nurses him. When he finds this out, her father decides to hide him, putting his family at risk. His only condition is that the soldier must leave when he recovers. Over time and despite the linguistic differences, the shepherdess and the soldier establish an intimate relationship. When he is discovered, the Chilean is taken prisoner but his life is spared as the shepherdess is expecting his child.



FAMILY FILMS

EMPIRE WAIST

Director: **Claire Ayoub** Cast: **Mia Kaplan, Jemima Yevu, Jolene Purdy, Rainn Wilson** Lenore Miller is an overweight, insecure teen whose talent for fashion is discovered by her confident, plus-sized classmate, forcing her into the spotlight—and into the path of both bullies and new friends. But her image-conscious mother's fears and Lenore's own deep self-loathing prevent her from wearing her own designs. Will Lenore ever feel the self-love she inspires in others?



NORTH TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE

NORTH TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE 1

Sex Club Director: Jacob Mireles | **Tissue** Director: Caroline Davis | **Pop** Director: Caroline Davis | **Reformation** Director: Nathan Macy | **Sweet Caroline** Director: Isabella Renee Huval | **Hawkshaw Swing: Caravan of Dreams** Director: Andrew Cai, Ali Agha | **Grandma's Cookies** Director: Syrus Gupta, Derian Herrmann | **Wesley** Director: Charlie Waldman, Davis Knocke | **Burger Beats** Director: Collin Thomas | **The Woods Are Dangerous** Director: Griffin Hudlow | **Friends Past the End** Director: Lily Stansbury

NORTH TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE 2

Payphone Director: Katherine Mejia | **Dark Noise** Director: Mariah Brown | **Inside Toys** Director: Lux Walker | **What You Don't Know About Dave** Director: Tyler Sword, Mo Dada, Mika Walczak | **Whale Song** Director: Ollie Carson, Emily Bauer | **Wrong Number** Director: Madison Harper | **The Real World** Director: Gareth Sigler, Mackenzie Watkins | **Day 107** Director: Neemay Shah | **Seconds Back** Director: Sophia Ninan | **Chasing Colors** Director: Jackson Perkins | **Reverie** Director: Austin Keith | **Lenore** Director: Emily Rudolph, Alondra Nunez | **Lift** Director: Michael Soler, Giovanni Spampinato

SHORTS COMPETITION

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

TR(OL)L: NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK, TOTAL REQUEST LIVE AND THE CHAIN LETTER THAT CHANGED THE INTERNET

Director: Yourgo Artsitas. In 1999, a chain letter went viral on the internet, MTV's Total Request Live was put up to a decision.

BEEN THERE Director: Corina Schwingruber Ilić. How tourists become invaders hunting for the best pictures.

EKBEH Director: Mariah Eli Hernandez-Fitch. While learning to make gumbo, personal stories of the creator's grandparents are shared as a way to honor and preserve their Indigenous history and life through oral storytelling.

THE SMALLEST POWER Director: Andy Sarjahani. During the Woman, Life, Freedom uprising in Iran, in the aftermath of the murder of Jina Mahsa Amini, a medical resident finds her voice when the chaos in the streets comes to her hospital floor.

KRISTIN DAN KUCHING KUCHINGNYA Director: Michael Kam. Shunned by her family, a 60-year-old trans woman seeks solace and balance between her faith, her identity and her beloved cats.

MY OPA LIKES ROUND NUMBERS Director: Elise Schatz. My Opa Likes Round Numbers.

BEHIND THE SUN Director: Bentley Brown. A filmmaker explores astrophysical metaphors to make sense of a failed relationship to person and place.

A BODY CALLED LIFE Director: Spencer MacDonald. A young recluse named James finds solace in microscopic life, sharing his discoveries and healing his past online.

DUMPSTER ARCHEOLOGY Director: Dustie Carter. Self-proclaimed "Dumpster Archeologist" Lew Blink embarks on dumpster diving excursions to uncover the last true stories within the refuse left in the alleyways.



SHORTS COMPETITION

SHORTS ONE

TAILS Director: \$ECK. A man forces his friend to call a coin flip. **CRUST** Director: Jens Kevin Georg. In this family, you only truly belong when you've gotten your first wound. **SOMETIMES ALONE. ALWAYS FRAGILE** Director: Nacho Ozores. Diego comes home after work and all he wants is time for himself. **MARIA** Director: Sebastian Valdivieso. Marianita brings her own son, Ale, to her nanny job for a weekend. **APHASIA** Director: Marielle Dalpé. Propelled by a jarring, lyrical aesthetic, Aphasia pulls viewers into a disconcerting sensory experience. **WE ARE ALL CRUMBS** Director: Eliana Henrich. College students Apple and Lisa sit in the cafeteria to chat and drink slimming smoothies. **WHEN WE WERE OLD** Director: Elizabeth Giamatti. As they stand on the precipice of adulthood, Kate and Lily wrestle with the subtle pressures brought to bear on their friendship. **TEA** Director: Blake Winston Rice. While rehearsing asking out the girl of his dreams, a lonely and highly allergic Circuit-Shack employee gets stung in the throat by a hornet. **TRIA** Director: Giulia Grandinetti. In a dystopian Rome, a law is enforced which doesn't allow immigrant families to have more than three children.



SHORTS COMPETITION

SHORTS TWO

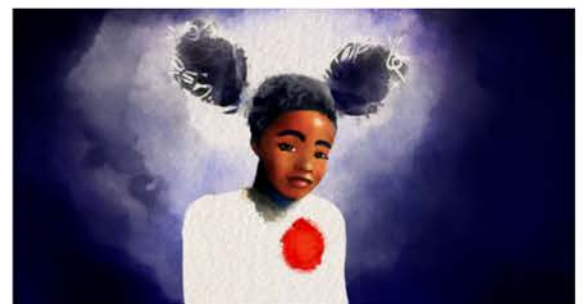
MISERABLE MIRACLE Director: Ryo Orikasa. Inspired by Henri Michaux's poems and drawings about his experiences with mescaline, *Miserable Miracle* explores the limits of language and perception, creating connections between sound, meaning, shapes and movement. **IN OUR OWN WAY** Director: Jason Headley. A man misses his chance to say goodbye to his dying brother. **MATINÉE** Director: John Brugal. A famous TV actor has 15 minutes to decide if he'll go on stage to star in a compromising pirate musical. **SOUND & COLOR** Director: Emma Foley. Having returned home after her attempted suicide, Hannah must face her dysfunctional and emotionally repressed Irish family. **JUST RIGHT** Director: Camille Wormser. After having a striking dream where she's running down the street in a duck costume, Mel wakes up feeling compelled to do something new with her day. **PRIMETIME MOTHER** Director: Sonny Calvento. Minda, a 45-year-old mother, wants nothing but to join and win in a popular and high-paying television game show called "My Amazing Mama". **THE MASTERPIECE** Director: Àlex Lora. Leo and Diana, a wealthy couple, meet Salif and Yousef, two scrap dealers, at a recycle center. **PLAY DATE** Directors: Amberlee Colson & Laura Campbell. *PLAY DATE* is a short film that follows two mothers who must navigate their relationship one year after a tragic school shooting turned their worlds upside down.



SHORTS COMPETITION

SHORTS THREE

SMOKE Director: Joshua Gallas. A firefighter returns home after the most difficult shift of his life. **GOOD BAD LUCK** Director: Vadym Medvediuk. Polish mobster, Vladek, goes on the venture of a personal vendetta. **COMPLICATIONS** Director: Ivar Aase. An intimate cam session unexpectedly turns into a suspenseful, life-and-death situation. **SOMETIMES I HEAR THE LIGHT LEAK IN THROUGH THE CORNERS OF MY ROOM** Director: Jeremiah M. Carter. Heartbroken, Madeline goes out on the town ruminating on the cyclical nature of love. **LOVE IS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT** Director: Ya'Ke Smith. Word, deeds, choices, and fate: there are many things worth fighting for, but love, the most revolutionary act there is, can conquer an empire. **MINUS PLUS MULTIPLY** Director: Chu-Chieh Lee. With containers as a motif and a metaphor for a safe place, the story surrounds the protagonist's self-searching and healing journey, exploring the relationship between emotion and space. **OUT BEYOND** Director: Salman Alam Khan. A teenage boy who has a passion for drumming, but lives in a family that does not support his ambitions. **WHAT IF I NEVER WAKE UP AGAIN?** Director: Yiqing Hu. Lucas, a 9-year-old city boy, is afraid of death and tries to stay awake at all costs. **HOLD YOUR BREATH (HALLA ANDAN)** Director: Jonas Ljung. Eric has dedicated his life to become the World Champion of holding his breath.



SHORTS COMPETITION

SHORTS FOUR

MAKING OF A CLASSIC Director: Stephen Robinson. A tumultuous day on set of one of the most successful Race films of all time: *The Blood of Jesus* by filmmaker Spencer Williams. **HONEY & MILK** Director: Dash Donato. Grayson and Alice spend a final weekend together to dismantle their domestic life as Grayson embarks on a journey of gender expansion. **POCKET BOYFRIEND** Director: Gregory Bordelon. If your ex-partner was the size of a doll, what are the ethics for turning them off? **CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE** Director: Sam Manacsca. Mila struggles as she remains unpaid at work and finds comfort in a love interest through his constant phone calls. **BISECTED** Director: Danny Pineros. In the heart of the Californian desert, a strained relationship takes a cosmic turn when a meteor crash catapults a couple into parallel dimensions. **I CAN'T BE SORRY** Director: Robert Machoian. A woman waits at a dinner to meet someone she's been waiting a long time to meet. **DEEP TISH** Director: Dave Paige. A.J.'s massage could have been better. **MINAMOTO** Director: Takuya Mera. At night Kenta is shot through his heart in his apartment. **GOLDEN CHILD** Director: Hannah Levin. A young woman is reunited with her childhood friend at a pool party and reckons with the fact that he used to pee on her when they were kids.



SHORTS COMPETITION

LATE NIGHT SHORTS

DEAD TO ME Director: Braden Bickle. The political divide over the last few years has created a toxic environment on social media and in real life. **CYCLES** Director: Will Darbyshire. When a dinner with the new neighbors goes awry, an antisocial and severely codependent couple reignite the spark in their relationship by covering their tracks. **DISTURBANCE** Director: Leonard Guzman. A young woman comes home from a trip to find her roommate attacked and bleeding on the floor...suddenly she realizes the intruder is still in the house! **PERFECT CITY: THE BRAVEST KID** Director: Shengwei Zhou. Chased by his nightmare knife hand, the paper boy has to confront his real fear which supposed to be his hope. **JACKPOT** Director: Chance Thomas Garcia. A father, mother, and son gather in front of the television set to cast their votes and watch the Society for Population Control's nightly lottery. **DAUGHTERS OF EVIL** Directors: Adam Taylor, Natasha Malone. In a sleepy Texas town in the 1960s, a girl group formed in their parents' garage. In order to find the perfect band name, the girls consulted a Spirit Board. **MR. FEETS** Director: Jake Thomas. At the gym, Gerry is the well-respected tough guy, but online, he's the popular masked food-smashing fetish creator "Mr. Feets". **DREAM CREEP** Director: Carlos A.F. Lopez. A couple awoken in the night to sounds emanating from an unlikely orifice. **WHERE THE BULLETS GO** Director: Cody Duncum. When a young boy shoots at a bird and misses, he embarks on a search to find where the bullet went. **PARALLEL UNIVERSES: THE SEQUEL** Director: A mysterious being arrives on our planet. An Experienced hunter will have an unexpected encounter and a lot to hide..



SHORTS COMPETITION

LATINO SHOWCASE SHORTS

FANCY FLOREZ'S SUMMER STAYCATION

Director: Marissa Díaz. Fancy Florez, a resourceful ten-year-old without friends or funds, sets out to enjoy a luxurious summer in her neighbor's abandoned pool when her game plan is thwarted by her archenemy, sparking an epic Mexican standoff.

BATACA Director: Cecilia Flores. Julián is a single father, who will try everything to give his daughter Renata, a very special birthday present.

SAND Director: Rossana Montoya. After the death of her father, Ilana, a 7-year-old girl, is facing grief.

WHAT WASHES ASHORE Director: Harold Nieves Fisch. What Washes Ashore is a dramatic story powerfully and artistically representing the struggles of hidden immigrants in the United States.

EL SOLDADOR Director: Alexandra Martinez. "El Soldador" tells a naturalistic story about the realities of healthcare and homelessness from the perspective of Ramon Duarte, a homeless welder who receives care from Miami Street Medicine, a street medicine team.



GAME ON SHORTS

GAME ON SHORTS

FROM MAN TO MANIAAC: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MAVS MANIAACS! Director: Tim McCarthy. What started as a one time

joke, has turned into 21 years of a one-of-a-kind mainstay in the NBA. This is the larger than life true story of the Dallas Mavs ManiAACs. **BEARCATS: WE'RE STILL HERE** Director: Brey Browne.

In the heart of Aledo, Texas, where the spirit of football is woven into the very fabric of the community, "Bearcats: We're Still Here" captures an inspiring journey through the eyes of the Aledo Tregellas 5th-grade football team. This documentary follows a season that transcends the ordinary, revealing the inspiring commitment of dedicated coaches.

WE ARE FLYING STARS Director: Todd Antony. The civil war in Sierra Leone (1991-2002) not only killed more than 50,000 people, it also led to thousands of innocent civilians having legs, arms or hands forcibly amputated by rebel soldiers. Or removed by landmines.

The film looks at the Flying Star Amputees who are a group of football teams born out of the adversity of this war.

DREAMCASTER Director: William Maher. With the help of never-before-seen technology, a blind sports enthusiast achieves his dream of becoming a sportscaster. When Cameron Black, who is completely blind, moved to Kansas City, he decided to learn more about sports to adapt socially to the sports-centric town. Little did he know, his hobby would turn into a fierce passion as he enjoyed games through radio broadcasts. When Cameron was approached by a team committed to making sports viewership accessible for all, they granted him the chance to fulfill his lifelong aspiration of becoming a live sports broadcaster.



PANELS



DIFF SCREENWRITING COMPETITION GRAND SCREENPLAY PRIZE WINNERS LIVE TABLE READS

DIFF Screenwriting Competition. **Grand Screenplay Prize Winners.** Live Table Reads. Grand Screenplay Prizes are awarded to the Best Comedy Script, Best Drama Script and Best Texas script. Grand Screenplay Prize winners receive a table read of their screenplay performed during DIFF by qualified actors.

EXHIBITION PANEL

Designed to explore the potential of cinemas amid a time of continued and substantial change for the industry. Our panelists hail from chains that represent a small part of the diversity of the North American cinema landscape. The theaters may be different, but they all share one goal: providing the best possible experience to their guests. And all three executives share one opinion: Innovation is a necessity, not an option, as the industry emerges from the most turbulent period in its history.



JURORS

TEXAS FEATURE COMPETITION



Thaddeus D. Matula
Director | Writer | Producer

Thaddeus D. Matula (Double Life Films) is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning director; including 2x ESPN 30 for 30 films, in addition to projects for HBO, BBC, PBS, THE GRAMMYS, and many more.

In 2010 Matula directed the Peabody Award-winning film *Pony Excess* about the NCAA-mandated "death penalty" on the SMU football program. When the film debuted on ESPN in December of that year, after the Heisman Trophy presentation, it landed as the highest rated documentary premiere in the network's history.

Since then Matula has served as a producer on projects on a broad range of topics including the opioid epidemic, the prep basketball star Rush brothers, brain drugs, the cryptocurrency craze, and the inventor of the modern day basketball jump shot. He has also spent time developing and filming portions of documentary projects on Kenyan runner Kipchoge "Kip" Keino, the current transformation of the city of Austin into a major international city, and the saving of an endangered species in Jamaica.



Sara Madsen Miller
Executive Producer | COO

Sara Madsen Miller is the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Producer at 1820 Productions. Sara strategically orchestrates initiatives aimed at guiding businesses to conquer market share and elevate brand recognition through bespoke visual content.

With a track record studded with Emmy Awards and accolades, Sara is integral to the execution the development of powerful branded content, contributing her expertise to drive successful outcomes. Her portfolio spans the spectrum, from captivating television shows to thought-provoking documentaries and enthralling commercials. Collaborating with industry giants like Frito-Lay, Toyota, and Mastercard and advertising agencies like GS&P and Edelman, Sara has cemented 1820's reputation as a go-to partner for excellence.

Before her tenure at 1820, Sara honed her leadership prowess during a remarkable 14-year stint at Pfizer Inc, where she expertly managed multimillion-dollar portfolios. Her strategic acumen and exceptional communication skills garnered her a constellation of awards, including the prestigious Vice President's Management Club distinction.

A graduate of Drake University, Sara holds dual degrees in Journalism and Mass Communication, as well as Business and Public Administration. Complementing her academic foundation, she further honed her executive prowess through rigorous Executive Education at Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Sara is deeply committed to community service, serving on the boards of influential organizations such as the Dallas Regional Chamber and the AT&T Performing Arts Center Endowment Board. Her dedication has been recognized through numerous civic honors, including the Dallas Business Journal Women in Business Award and the American Advertising Federation's Shining Star Award.

At home in Dallas, Sara finds solace in the company of her husband and her beloved canine companion, Zoe. With her unwavering passion for excellence and commitment to making a meaningful impact, Sara Madsen Miller stands as a beacon of leadership and inspiration in both the professional and civic spheres.



Kerri Navarro
Producer | Actress

Kerri Navarro, is a Lone Star Emmy Award-winning producer based in Dallas, Texas. With over 15 years of experience, Kerri and her team of associates have produced and directed for television, radio, films. She is valued for her organizational and logistical strength, as well as her unwavering positive attitude in the face of production challenges. Kerri has been freelancing for the past five years as a production manager for film & television.

Kerri joined the Board of Directors for the Dallas Producers Association in 2010. She served as Vice President in 2014 & 2015, and became the first female President of the DPA in 2016, serving two years.

She was on the Board of Directors of Women In Film Dallas for many years and served as Vice President for 2 years.

AWARDS

Grand Jury Prizes for DIFF 2024 will be awarded for Best Texas Short Film, Best Texas Feature, Best Documentary Short Film, Best Documentary Feature, Best International Feature, Best International Short Film, Best Narrative Feature, Best Animated Short Film, and Best Student Film within the Shorts Competition. Additionally, Audience Awards will be given for Best Documentary Feature, Best Narrative Feature, and Best Short Film. There will also be a Dallas County Historical Commission Prize for Best Historical Film and ShotDeck presents the Grand Jury Prize for Best Short Film.



JURORS

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION



Jim Kolmar
Independent Film Curator

Jim Kolmar is an independent film curator, and has programmed for South by Southwest Film Festival since 2008. He also programs for Trinidad & Tobago Film Festival and was a founding committee member of Festival Internacional de Cine Tulum (FICTU). Recent curatorial projects include a package of films for KINO! Germany Now 2023 (Goethe Institute/German Film Office), and the upcoming PANORAMICA for PLAY Acción Cultural (Spain).

He has consulted and participated on numerous international festival juries, panels, and committees, including Adelaide Film Festival, Bogotá Audiovisual Market (BAM), EFM, FICCALI, and Ventana Sur. For the last two years, he has also mentored students for London Film School.



Kelly Williams
Creative Producer | Co-Founder

KELLY WILLIAMS is a creative producer and co-founder of Ten Acre Films.

His current project, ALL THAT WE LOVE directed by Yen Tan, will world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in June. His latest features include: WHAT HAPPENS LATER starring Meg Ryan and David Duchovny, THE SENIOR directed by Rod Lurie, MARK, MARY & SOME OTHER PEOPLE (Tribeca 2021), NO FUTURE (Tribeca 2021), I USED TO GO HERE (SXSW 2020) and the short film RULES FOR WEREWOLVES (Toronto IFF 2020).

He has produced six feature films that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival including LIGHT FROM LIGHT, SORRY TO BOTHER YOU (Independent Spirit Award winner), THE LONG DUMB ROAD, HELLION, BEAVER TRILOGY PART IV, and PIT STOP (Independent Spirit Awards nominee). Sundance short film premieres include HELLION, BLACK METAL, THE SEND-OFF and DON'T BE A HERO. In addition, he produced multiple films that premiered at SXSW including 6 YEARS, 1985 and the award winning A BAD IDEA GONE WRONG & THE SUPLEX DUPLEX COMPLEX.

A 2019 Independent Spirit Award Producer to Watch nominee, Williams is also a Sundance Institute Creative Producing Fellow and a Sundance Institute Catalyst Fellow. He is a past advisor for the Sundance Co//ab, a past lecturer at the University of Tennessee and a current lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to producing, he worked as a film programmer for various film festivals and was awarded the 2007 International Film Festival Summit Excellence Award for his work at the Austin Film Festival.



Jhane Myers
Producer | Actress

JHANE MYERS is a Producers Guild of America nominee and two time Emmy award winning filmmaker, as a member of the Comanche and Blackfeet Nations, she is recognized for her passion and dedication to films surrounding and preserving the legacies of Native communities.

Most recently she is a 2024 Gotham Film and Media Institute / Cannes Film Festival Producer fellow as the first Native fellow. She was also an advising producer on the popular Ralph Lauren x Naomi Glasses collaboration campaign which was the first Native Artist in Residence program.

As an originator of Native community engagement she has established herself as a vital cultural and community resource for Native-content projects produced by the networks and studios, which over the years have included: producer for the Primetime Emmy winning Prey (20th Century/Hulu/Disney) '1883' (Paramount); The Wilds (Amazon); 'Monsters of God' (Plan B/TNT); 'Magnificent Seven' (MGM/Columbia Pictures); 'Wind River' (Weinstein Co.); 'The Lone Ranger' (Disney/Jerry Bruckheimer Films); and 'Apocalypto' (Icon Ent./Touchstone).

Myers produced the Sundance short 'The Daily Life of Mistress Red' and 'Rude Girl' in 2022, and the Emmy winning documentary 'However Wide the Sky: Places of Power' for Silver Bullet Productions in 2021. She served as executive producer on the acclaimed opera 'Sweet Land 2020,' which the Music Critics Association of North America bestowed with its best new opera award in 2021.

Myers was a producer on the documentaries 'Defending the Fire' (2017), about Native American veterans, and 'LaDonna Harris Indian 101,' about acclaimed Comanche activist LaDonna Harris, which aired on PBS in 2014. In 2018, she served as on-camera talent for PBS' 'Native America' series episode 4 on the Comanche.

As a Producing Fellow in the Indigenous Program at the Sundance Institute in 2017 she was selected for the fellowship through a national competition with the project 'Words from a Bear,' a documentary on the life of Pulitzer Prize-winning Kiowa author N. Scott Momaday, broadcast in 2019 on PBS' American Masters. In 2018 she was selected as a Time Warner Storyteller Fellow.

Myers chairs the Santa Fe Community Foundation's Native American Advised Fund (founded by renowned sculptor Allan Houser), and the community-conscious Silver Bullet Productions whose mission is to empower Native youth through the art of filmmaking. She is a member of the Polo Ralph Lauren Native American and Indigenous Advisory Council.

AWARDS

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JURORS

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION



David Gil
Senior Film & Programming Manager

David Gil is a strong and inspirational leader with a talent for maximizing the potential of available resources while maintaining focus on accomplishing project objectives. Passionate about all aspects of the creative process, and adaptable to finding the most effective way to logically present and execute ideas and initiatives.

Over 15 years of experience working in the film industry. Highly organized and detail oriented with strong multitasking and networking abilities that will allow me to successfully contribute to an organization's ongoing mission.



Melanie Addington
Executive Director

Meet **Melanie Addington**. Melanie has worked in the film festival world since 2006, first as a volunteer, and then eventually becoming the Oxford Film Festival Executive Director in August 2015. She used to be a reporter for the Oxford Eagle (a community newspaper) and then Pizza Magazine Quarterly (Global trade magazine). She still loves pizza. She is from Southern California originally but lived in the South for 20 years. She has family in Wichita and considers it a great new home. She also writes, directs, and produces films



Edwin Harris
Freelance Filmmaker

Edwin Harris, an editor and owner of Frameline Post Productions, has more than 20 years of experience in editing and production work.

Mr. Harris has served as the series Show Runner and lead/ Sr. Editor on reality TV series like, "The Center: Journey of Hope" for regional markets in the Southwest. His other works include working on the series "The Undercard," airing on KDAF CW33 - Dallas. He also served as the lead/ Sr. Editor on the Nationally syndicated cable program "Courtside Jones" for FOX Sports and NFL legend Deion Sanders' show "Sports Dads" for Veria Cable Network.

Outside of the reality TV world, Mr. Harris credits include editing independent film, national commercial television spots, and working with advertising agencies whose clientele includes Toyota/ Lexus, Intuit Software, American Airlines, GE, and Pepsi Cola Co.

Working on Music Videos and Independent Film is Mr. Harris' true passion. One such passion project was an Action Thriller feature film titled, "The Brave", screening on iTunes and Prime Video. He has also received awards from various international film festivals.

Mr. Harris enjoys working on live Music-Documentary projects. One of his favorites was having the opportunity to work with legendary rocker Rick Springfield; on his PBS show Rick Springfield 'Stripped Down' a Concert Film. Another gratifying project was working with the Indie Rock Texas band Blue October for their documentary project titled, "Get Back Up." Screening on iTunes and Prime Video, this project was met with both critical and personal success.

Mr. Harris is currently working on several development projects for both Television and film. When asked about why he chose to work in the film industry Mr. Harris simply replies, "I have always enjoyed filmmaking, it enriches my life. And hopefully, those who watch any of my projects can receive the same rich rewards."

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JURORS

SHORT FILM COMPETITION



Leigh Stieglitz Morales
Executive Producer

Leigh Stieglitz Morales is an Emmy Award-winning documentarian born and raised in Miami, FL. Her credits include 15 years as Director, Producer, and EP of MTV's True Life. Now based in Dallas, TX, Leigh is creating connections between individual stories and larger community interests including United2Learn, Literacy Achieves and The Irisi Foundation.



Jerod Couch
Director | Producer | Writer | Editor

Meet **Jerod Couch**, the creative force behind The Creative Couch, crafting top-tier film, TV, and video content from his hometown of Dallas, Texas. Armed with a Radio-TV-Film degree from The University of Texas at Austin, Jerod kicked off his journey as a Producer/Writer at ESPN, then stepped up to bat as the creative leader for Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers.

Jerod's trophy shelf gleams with four regional Emmy wins, thirteen nominations, and seven Telly Awards. His brainchild, the half-hour dramedy "#WASHED," scored a 2021 Daytime Emmy nod. His latest short film, "Meta Care," not only wowed audiences nationwide but also clinched a regional Emmy. Jerod's work has graced Inc Magazine, USA Today, Sports Illustrated, RollingOut, Deadline, Yahoo! Sports, The Hollywood Reporter, Entertainment Tonight, Deadline, ESPN, Revolt, ABC, FOX, and NBC.

And when he's not busy collecting accolades, Jerod's cooking up his next big thing—whether it's his debut feature film (2025), another TV series (2026), or a reality-bending short (2024).



Carlos Garcia, Jr
Filmmaker | Creative Director

Carlos Garcia is an Emmy-nominated, Telly award-winning narrative director whose creative energy, technical skills, and artistic vision and voice allow him to bring every story to life. As the founder and visionary behind Prax Media, Carlos is currently working on several film and podcast projects. Since 2021, he's been directing commercials for various global clients including: Shriners Childrens, Covenant House, Disabled American Veterans, and Children's International.

AWARDS

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JURORS

SCREENWRITING COMPETITION



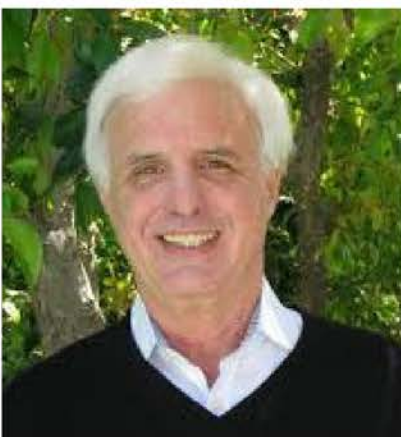
Eric Haywood
Producer | Writer

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, **Eric** began his career directing and producing music videos featuring such artists as Usher, Cee-Lo Green, Outkast, New Edition, Ice-T, and Tupac Shakur. His video for E-40's song "Sprinkle Me" was selected by MTV and XXL Magazine as the #10 Greatest West Coast Rap Video of All Time.

Eric went on to write for such shows as ABC's *Private Practice* and Showtime's *Soul Food: The Series*. Along the way, he wrote and directed three short films (*Nick of Time*, *Intersection*, and *Staring at the Sun*), each of which screened at various film festivals around the country.

Eric also wrote the Hallmark Channel original movie *Relative Stranger*, starring Eriq LaSalle (*E.R.*) and directed by Charles Burnett (*Killer of Sheep*). The film garnered three NAACP Image Award nominations and a Best Supporting Actress Emmy nomination for Cicely Tyson.

Eric wrote and directed the independent feature film *Four of Hearts* before joining the writing staff of the hit Fox drama *Empire*. He co-wrote and directed an episode of *Empire's* fourth season, then directed the award-winning short film *The Last Starship* before going on to serve as a co-executive producer for Starz's *Power*, ABC's *For Life*, and NBC's *Manifest* and *Law & Order: Organized Crime*. He has developed projects for HBO, ABC, Fox, and Starz, and is currently developing the "Black Wall Street" historical drama *Dreamland* for Peacock and Universal Television.



Lawrence H. Levy
Screenwriter | Author | Producer

Lawrence H. Levy is a highly regarded film and TV writer who is a Writers Guild Award winner and a two-time Emmy nominee. He has written for such hit TV shows as *Family Ties*, *Saved by the Bell*, *Roseanne*, and *Seinfeld*.



Michael Rowe
Writer | Producer | Comedian

Mike, as a teenager, started as a stand up comic in New York City where he performed at such notable clubs as *The Improv*, *The Comedy Cellar* and *Caroline's*. From there he landed a job writing jokes for *SNL's* *Weekend Update* and sketches for shows on MTV, A&E and Comedy Central.

This soon brought him to Hollywood where he wrote on a comedy sketch show starring Martin Short. This led to his sitcom writing career where he wrote and produced shows for such stars as George Clooney, Ted Danson and with Eddie Murphy on his animated show, *"The PJ's"*. This launched his animation career as a writer and producer on such series as *"Family Guy"* and *"Futurama."*

Along the way he was awarded 5 Emmy nominations (with 1 win), 2 Annine Awards (with 1 win) and a WGA Award for his *Futurama* episode, *"Game of Tones."* Mike was also co-executive producer on Comedy Central's animated series *"Brickleberry"* and a contributing writer on Danny McBride's animated series *CHOZEN* on FX. In 2013 he wrote and produced a documentary on *The Improv* comedy club. It starred many of the comics Mike started with like; Larry David, Ray Romano and Sarah Silverman.

Mike still finds time to write *The Comedy Central Roasts* every year and he's a contributor to *Vanity Fair* magazine.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Thursday, April 25th

7:30 PM Dude Perfect: A Very Long Shot **Gala** Documentary Q&A Majestic Theater

9:30 PM Opening Night Party **Events** Pacific Place

Friday, April 26th

4:15 PM And On The Eighth Day **Premiere Series** Texas Film Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

4:30 PM Shaking It Up: The Life and Times of Liz Carpenter **Special Presentations** Documentary Q&A
Violet Crown- Auditorium 1

4:45 PM Water Wars **World Premiere** Texas Feature Competition Documentary Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

5:00 PM City of Hate: Dallas and the Assassination 60 years later **Special Presentations** Documentary Q&A
Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

5:15 PM Shorts One **Shorts Competition** Q&A Short Film Narrative **World Premiere** Student Animation
Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

6:45 PM Ezra **Premiere Series** Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 1

7:00 PM Documentary Shorts **Shorts Competition** Q&A Short Film Documentary Student Animation
Texas Film Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

7:15 PM We Strangers **Narrative Feature Competition** Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Friday, April 26th

7:30 PM **Racing Mister Fahrenheit** World Premiere Texas Feature Competition Documentary Q&A
Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

7:45 PM **Without Arrows** Documentary Feature Competition Documentary Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

9:30 PM **100 Yards** World Cinema Narrative Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 1

9:45 PM **Harsh Treatment** Texas Feature Competition Narrative Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

10:00 PM **In A Violent Nature** Midnight Specials Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

10:00 PM **Late Night Shorts** Shorts Competition Q&A Short Film Narrative Late Night Animation Student
Texas Film World Premiere Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

10:15 PM **The Nature of Love** Canadian Spotlight Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

Saturday, April 27th

11:30 AM **DIFF Screenwriting Competition Grand Screenplay Prize Winners Live Table Reads - Texas Script**
Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

11:45 AM **High School Shorts 1** North Texas High School Showcase Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

12:30 PM **Game On Shorts** Game On Q&A Short Film Documentary World Premiere Texas Theatre Downstairs

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Saturday, April 27th

12:45 PM **LANE: Life | Legend | Legacy** Special Presentations Documentary Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

1:00 PM **Backspot** Canadian Spotlight Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

1:45 PM **High School Shorts 2** North Texas High School Showcase Violet Crown- Auditorium 1

2:00 PM **Unlikely Allies** Documentary Feature Competition Documentary Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

2:15 PM **Porcelain War** Documentary Feature Competition Documentary Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

3:30 PM **Ghostlight** Narrative Feature Competition Narrative Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

4:00 PM **Texas Music Revolution** Deep Ellum Sounds Documentary Q&A Texas Theatre Downstairs

4:00 PM **Holly by Nightfall** Texas Feature Competition Narrative Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 1

4:15 PM **Copa 71** Game On Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

4:30 PM **The Dead Don't Hurt** Premiere Series Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

4:45 PM **Documentary Shorts** Shorts Competition Q&A Short Film Documentary Student Animation
Texas Film Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

7:00 PM **Bastards of Soul** Deep Ellum Sounds Documentary Q&A Texas Theatre Downstairs

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Saturday, April 27th

7:00 PM The Idea of You **Premiere Series** Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

7:15 PM We Grown Now **Premiere Series** Narrative **Shorts before Features** Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

7:30 PM Ride **Premiere Series** Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

7:45 PM The Queen of My Dreams **World Cinema** Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 1

8:00 PM **Shorts Two** **Shorts Competition** **Q&A** **Short Film** Narrative Animation **World Premiere**
Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

9:45 PM We Strangers **Narrative Feature Competition** Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

10:00 PM Deer Camp '86 **Midnight Specials** Narrative **Q&A** Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

10:15 PM I Saw the TV Glow **Premiere Series** Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 1

10:30 PM Cuckoo **Midnight Specials** Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

Sunday, April 28th

12:15 PM Water Wars **Texas Feature Competition** Documentary **Q&A** Violet Crown- Auditorium 1

12:30 PM Without Arrows **Documentary Feature Competition** Documentary **Q&A** Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Sunday, April 28th

1:00 PM **Latino Shorts Showcase** **Shorts Competition** **Q&A** **Latino Showcase** **Short Film** **Student** **Narrative**
Texas Film **Violet Crown- Auditorium 4**

1:00 PM **Print It Black** **Documentary Feature Competition** **Documentary** **Q&A** **Premiere Series**
Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

1:15 PM **Shorts Two** **Shorts Competition** **Q&A** **Short Film** **Narrative** **Animation** **World Premiere**
Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

3:15 PM **The Wingwalker** **Latino Showcase** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 1**

3:30 PM **Inheritance** **Documentary Feature Competition** **Documentary** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 3**

4:00 PM **The Senior** **Game On** **Narrative** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 5**

4:15 PM **Clemente** **Game On** **Documentary** **Q&A** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 2**

4:45 PM **Doubles** **World Cinema** **Narrative** **Q&A** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 4**

6:15 PM **Sujo** **Narrative Feature Competition** **Narrative** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 3**

6:45 PM **The Extortion** **Latino Showcase** **Narrative** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 1**

7:00 PM **Shorts One** **Shorts Competition** **Q&A** **Short Film** **Narrative** **World Premiere** **Student** **Animation**
Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Sunday, April 28th

7:00 PM **Shorts One** **Shorts Competition** **Q&A** **Short Film** **Narrative** **World Premiere** **Student** **Animation**
Violet Crown- Auditorium 2

7:15 PM **All I Ever Wanted** **Game On** **Documentary** **Q&A** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 5**

7:30 PM **Solo** **Canadian Spotlight** **Narrative** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 4**

9:15 PM **Holly by Nightfall** **Texas Feature Competition** **Narrative** **Q&A** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 3**

9:30 PM **Late Night Shorts** **Shorts Competition** **Q&A** **Short Film** **Narrative** **Late Night** **Animation** **Student**
Texas Film **World Premiere** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 1**

9:45 PM **Unlikely Allies** **Documentary Feature Competition** **Documentary** **Q&A** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 2**

10:00 PM **Dark Sanctuary: The Story of The Church** **Midnight Specials** **Documentary** **Q&A**
Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

10:15 PM **Once Upon a Time in the Andes** **Latino Showcase** **Drama** **Narrative** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 4**

Monday, April 29th

1:00 PM **Porcelain War** **Documentary Feature Competition** **Documentary** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 3**

1:30 PM **DIFF Screenwriting Competition Grand Screenplay Prize Winners Live Table Reads - Drama Script**
Panel **Violet Crown- Auditorium 4**

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Monday, April 29th

4:00 PM **Latino Shorts Showcase** [Shorts Competition](#) [Q&A](#) [Latino Showcase](#) [Short Film](#) [Student](#) [Narrative](#)
[Texas Film](#) [Violet Crown- Auditorium 5](#)

4:15 PM **All I Ever Wanted** [Game On](#) [Documentary](#) [Q&A](#) [Violet Crown- Auditorium 3](#)

4:30 PM **Print It Black** [Documentary Feature Competition](#) [Documentary](#) [Q&A](#) [Premiere Series](#)
[Violet Crown- Auditorium 4](#)

6:45 PM **Shorts Three** [Shorts Competition](#) [Q&A](#) [Short Film](#) [Narrative](#) [Texas Film](#) [Animation](#) [Student](#)
[Violet Crown- Auditorium 4](#)

7:00 PM **An Affair to Remember** [Violet Crown- Auditorium 5](#)

7:30 PM **Stakes is High** [Narrative Feature Competition](#) [Q&A](#) [Shorts before Features](#) [World Premiere](#)
[Shorts Competition](#) [Violet Crown- Auditorium 3](#)

9:15 PM **Inheritance** [Documentary Feature Competition](#) [Documentary](#) [Violet Crown- Auditorium 4](#)

9:45 PM **Racing Mister Fahrenheit** [Texas Feature Competition](#) [Documentary](#) [World Premiere](#) [Q&A](#)
[Violet Crown- Auditorium 5](#)

10:00 PM **Sujo** [Narrative Feature Competition](#) [Narrative](#) [Violet Crown- Auditorium 3](#)

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FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Tuesday, April 30th

2:00 PM **DIFF Screenwriting Competition Grand Screenplay Prize Winners Live Table Reads - Comedy Script**
Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

4:00 PM **Ghostlight** Narrative Feature Competition Narrative Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

5:00 PM **Exhibition Panel** Events Panel Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

6:00 PM **Losing Grace Finding Hope** Special Presentations Documentary Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

6:45 PM **Shorts Four** Shorts Competition Q&A Short Film Narrative Texas Film World Premiere
Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

7:00 PM **An Army of Women** Texas Feature Competition Documentary Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

8:15 PM **I'll Be Right There** Premiere Series Narrative Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

9:15 PM **Stakes is High** Narrative Feature Competition Q&A Shorts before Features World Premiere
Shorts Competition Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

9:30 PM **Harsh Treatment** Texas Feature Competition Narrative Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

Wednesday, May 1st

1:00 PM **Empire Waist** Family Cinema Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

1:30 PM **Empire Waist** Family Cinema Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Wednesday, May 1st

4:00 PM Texas Music Revolution **Deep Ellum Sounds** Documentary **Q&A** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 4**

4:00 PM **Shorts Four** **Shorts Competition** **Q&A** Short Film Narrative Texas Film **World Premiere**
Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

4:15 PM An Army of Women **Texas Feature Competition** Documentary **Q&A** **Violet Crown- Auditorium 3**

7:00 PM Dandelion **Deep Ellum Sounds** Narrative **Violet Crown- Auditorium 5**

7:15 PM The Island Between Tides **Canadian Spotlight** Narrative **Violet Crown- Auditorium 4**

7:30 PM Electra **Narrative Feature Competition** Narrative **Violet Crown- Auditorium 3**

9:45 PM **Shorts Three** **Shorts Competition** **Q&A** Short Film Narrative Texas Film Animation Student
Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

9:45 PM The Contestant **World Cinema** Documentary **Violet Crown- Auditorium 4**

10:00 PM And On The Eighth Day **Premiere Series** Texas Film **Violet Crown- Auditorium 5**

Thursday, May 2nd

1:00 PM Electra **Narrative Feature Competition** Narrative **Violet Crown- Auditorium 3**

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DIFF

APRIL 25 - MAY 2

Thursday, May 2nd

4:00 PM **Losing Grace Finding Hope** Special Presentations Documentary Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

5:00 PM **Awards** Events Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

7:00 PM **Sing Sing** Gala Narrative Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

7:15 PM **Desire Lines** Premiere Series Narrative Violet Crown- Auditorium 3

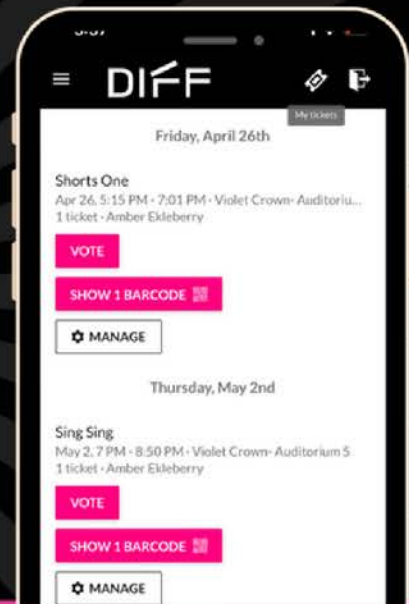
7:30 PM **Didi (弟弟)** Premiere Series Violet Crown- Auditorium 4

9:30 PM **Closing Night Party** Events Passholder Only

9:30 PM **Sing Sing** Gala Narrative Q&A Violet Crown- Auditorium 5

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