mammoth lakes film festival '18

May 23-27, 2018
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<tr>
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<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Minaret Cinemas</td>
<td>Damsel</td>
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<td>Sierra Event Center</td>
<td>Opening Night Party</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 24</td>
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<td>2:00pm</td>
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<td>On Her Shoulders</td>
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<td>Sierra Nevada Lodge</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Edison</td>
<td>Tourists</td>
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<td>Awards Ceremony &amp; Party</td>
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1. Edison Theater / Festival HQ
   100 College Parkway
2. US Forest Service Theater
   2930 Main Street
3. Minaret Cinemas
   439 Old Mammoth Rd.
4. South Gateway Student Apts.
   121 College Parkway
5. Sierra Event Center
   452 Old Mammoth Rd.
6. Sierra Nevada Resort & Spa
   164 Old Mammoth Rd.
7. Rafters
   202 Old Mammoth Rd.
Bishop Twin Theater
   237 N Main St, Bishop (not on map)

map & locations
As we present the fourth year of the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival I am so proud of the organic path we have taken. We have created a festival that brings artists together in an inspirational environment to celebrate the art form of storytelling in cinema. Our commitment to the filmmakers and finding the unsung heroes of the indie film world is a task to which we are wholeheartedly committed. I am truly humbled by the accolades we have received both from the filmmakers and the press. We especially appreciate the acknowledgment from MovieMaker Magazine where we have been included as one of the prestigious “Top 50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee” for the last three years.

We have carefully chosen films from filmmakers who tackle human issues. Issues that we cannot look away from if we are to live in a better world. So many of the films this season have a universal thread and commonality, sharing and exploring human stories. From a film about a young girl fighting for justice for her people’s treatment by the most horrific terrorist group in the world to a group of young men from dysfunctional, abusive families in the Rust Belt finding a universality and connection.

Many of this year’s films share the common thread of overcoming adversity and fighting for justice and bettering the human condition. We hope these thoughtful, engaging, challenging, moving films will inspire and provoke introspection and hopefully encourage positive changes within us and the world. Thank you.

SHIRA DUBROVNER
Festival Director
Building a Festival

Building a festival from the ground up has been an amazing experience. In terms of programming, an important challenge has been to establish a point of view; to seek out and attract the kind of films that take a stand and unfurl with sensitivity and style, humanity and that all-important dose of humor.

The current climate of businessocracy (as well as the cacophony of the sheer number of films being made) has contributed to a situation in which culture is served up according to an economic model. Filmmakers establish themselves as brands, most often vetted by the various big-name labs, and name recognition drives a lot of programming. Great films do come up through that process, and we will be showcasing some brilliant major-league films during the coming week. But art can’t be captured and quantified like a product.

Some of the best independent films are made by filmmakers far from or on the periphery of the beaten paths. The only way to address the cacophony is to dive in head first and watch a ton of films—submissions, films that played at other festivals, anything that trusted colleagues might have come across—and evaluate them entirely on their own merits.

Another goal for programming the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival has been to close the divide between what’s considered popular entertainment and the rarified art film. It’s a large and complex topic to unravel, but we believe it’s possible to present adventurous films that speak to audiences with great respect for their hearts and minds—films that wouldn’t dream of pandering—but that also don’t necessarily require a background in semiotics and structuralism to appreciate.

For five days we will all live under the loving rule of artocracy. Films, and art in general, serve the function of providing uncensored social commentary as well as exploring the depths of the imagination and the subconscious. Art can certainly be for art’s sake, but it can also be a powerful means of creating evolution in our consciousness. In other words, yes—films can change the world—and you and I are about to be part of that change at this wonderful annual event.

PAUL SBRIZZI
Director of Programming

light iron not all post is created equal

Congratulations to all the filmmakers at Mammoth Lakes Film Festival 2018!

Los Angeles | New York | Atlanta | New Orleans | Chicago | Albuquerque
It’s a classic tale of the Old West: Samuel Alabaster is a man searching for his true love. Parson Henry is another, much drunker man, searching for a new start. Penelope is a woman who has found her own path. And Rufus Cornell is just a mean bastard with a taste for buckskin. There’s rotgut, rawhide, rootin’ tootin’, and hootin’. Plus a little tiny horse. Starring Robert Pattinson and Mia Wasikowska.

Director Bio:
Brothers David and Nathan Zellner have written, produced, directed, and appeared in numerous award-winning shorts and feature films. Their feature work includes Goliath (Sundance 2008), Kid-Thing (Sundance 2012), and Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter starring Rinko Kikuchi (Sundance 2014) which was nominated for best actress and best director at the Film Independent Spirit Awards. Damsel is their first western.
In her own words, comedienne Gilda Radner reflects on her life and career. Weaving together her recently discovered audiotapes, interviews with friends (Chevy Chase, Lorne Michaels, Laraine Newman, Paul Shaffer and Martin Short), rare home movies and diaries read by modern-day comedians inspired by Gilda (Bill Hader, Melissa McCarthy, Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph and Cecily Strong), Love, Gilda opens up a unique window into the honest and whimsical world of a beloved performer whose greatest role was sharing her story.

Director Bio: Lisa D’Apolito is documentary and commercial director. Lisa started out as an actress in film, theater and television and went on to producing and directing, making her way to SVP/Ep of Production for an advertising agency. Her short The Gynotician starring Amber Tamblyn & David Cross won several festival awards. Love, Gilda was selected for the Deal Maker Program at Hotdocs, IFP Spotlight on Documentaries, IFP Speed Pitch and won an A&E Cine Pitch.
It is our great honor to host an evening with the celebrated actor Melissa Leo and a screening of her Academy Award® nominated performance in Frozen River. Melissa Leo received an Academy Award®, a Golden Globe Award, a Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award® and a Broadcast Film Critics Association Award for her tour de force performance in The Fighter. She also received Oscar® and SAG Award® nominations for her starring role in Frozen River, for which she won an Independent Spirit Award for Best Female Lead and a Spotlight Award from the National Board of Review, among countless other accolades. Leo also shared a Best Ensemble acting award from the Phoenix Film Critics Society for her outstanding work in 21 Grams, opposite Benicio del Toro and Sean Penn.

Most recently, she starred as Reverend Mother in Sony Picture Classics’ Novitiate and portrayed the outspoken activist Madalyn Murray O’Hair in Netflix’s The Most Hated Woman in America. Leo was featured in Adam McKay’s The Big Short, for which she was nominated for Best Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture by the Screen Actors Guild. On the small screen, Leo stars as Goldie in the Showtime series I’m Dying up Here, executive-produced by Jim Carrey. Leo studied drama at Mount View Theatre School in London, England, and later at the SUNY Purchase Acting Program.

The screening of Frozen River will be followed by a ceremony for the Sierra Spirit Award, honoring Melissa Leo’s bold and fiercely independent acting career and the consistently outstanding quality of her work.
After surviving the 2014 genocide of the Yazidis in Northern Iraq and escaping sexual slavery at the hands of ISIS, 23-year-old Nadia Murad gave a testimony before the U.N. Security Council that was heard around the world. Nadia suddenly became the face of the Yazidis—a historically persecuted and voiceless religious minority. Despite longing for a normal life away from the spotlight, Nadia takes on the role of an activist in hopes of halting the ongoing genocide and bringing ISIS commanders to justice.

Director Bio: Alexandra Bombach is an award-winning cinematographer, editor and director from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her first feature documentary, Frame By Frame, had its world premiere at SXSW 2015 and won more than 25 film festival awards. In 2016 she directed the Pulitzer Center-supported New York Times Op-Doc Afghanistan by Choice. Alexandra's production company RED REEL has been producing award-winning, character-driven stories since 2009.
Pick of the Litter follows a litter of puppies from the moment they’re born and begin their quest to become Guide Dogs for the Blind, the ultimate canine career. Along the way, the dogs meet a community of dedicated individuals who train them to do amazing, life-changing things in the service of their human. The stakes are high and not every dog can make the cut. Only the best of the best. The pick of the litter.

Director Bio:
Dana is an award-winning filmmaker of both fiction and documentary films. Her 2015 film Batkid Begins was distributed by Warner Bros./New Line Cinema. Don’s film Theory of Obscurity premiered at SXSW 2015 and was released theatrically by Film Movement. He has won numerous awards for his films, photography, and editing. Their previous films include Witch Hunt (TIFF 2008) Love Hate Love (Tribeca 2011) and The Human Experiment (Mill Valley and IDFA).

A 52-year-old Hungarian woman has been serving a family for a decade, working 20 hours a day—without getting paid. Treated like an animal, she only gets leftovers to eat and no bed to sleep in. The presence of the camera helps her realize she isn’t completely alone. She begins to show signs of trust, gathers her courage and reveals her plan: “I am going to escape.”

Director Bio:
Bernadett Tuza-Ritter is a Hungarian independent film director and editor. She studied directing and editing at the University of Theatre and Film Arts Budapest. In 2013 she worked as a director on the project Cinetrain–Russian Winter, which won the audience award at Visions du Réel. A Woman Captured, her first feature length documentary, premiered at IDFA 2017.
A mule, often mistaken for a donkey, is defined as the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse. Historically, mules have most commonly been known as “working animals” with an attitude problem. Dyna Does Dressage is a documentary about the first mule ever to compete at the national level in the competitive equestrian sport of dressage. Defined by the International Equestrian Federation as “the highest expression of horse training,” the idea of mules competing at this level has never been considered. This underdog story follows Dyna and her owner/rider, Laura, as they defy odds to find their place among this elite world of horse riding.

Director Bio: Sarah Crowe has been producing documentaries, narratives, commercials and corporate videos for 10 years. Her doc Hit ‘Em in the Mouth premiered at the 2012 Bicycle Film Festival in New York and has played internationally. Her Emmy-nominated documentary Welcome to Doe Bay was a 2012 Seattle International Film Festival Official Selection and received the honor of playing in the “Best of SIFF ’12” event. Dyna Does Dressage is Sarah’s directorial debut.

Director: Sarah Crowe
Featuring: Laura Hermanson, Casie Fairbanks, Maggie Moore, Pat Bartlett, Renee Johnson

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Director: Sarah Crowe
Featuring: Laura Hermanson, Casie Fairbanks, Maggie Moore, Pat Bartlett, Renee Johnson
Friday May 25, 5:30pm  Edison Theater

USA, 85 min, West Coast Premiere

NARRATIVE FEATURES

Director/Writer: Wendy McColm
Cast: Wendy McColm, Cooper Oznowicz, Alexander Stasko, Sara Estefanos, William Gabriel Grier, Lenae Day

Six characters yearn to be seen and heard: Janet, the wannabe Instagram star; her boyfriend Sam, unable to face his fears and perform as a stand-up comedian; Tom, a Russian cowboy obsessed with Jeff Goldblum; Daniel, a self-help tape maker unable to help himself; Marty, a victimizing caretaker; and Jo, who steals the identities of others to avoid her inability to be vulnerable.

Director Bio: Wendy McColm is a Los Angeles-based writer/director and all-around expressionist, living and creating in the light of authenticity. Wendy’s work ranges from reinventing brands like H&M and Saks 5th Avenue to making shorts that have screened at numerous festivals, including Tribeca. Birds Without Feathers is her first narrative feature.

2018 Summer Arts Schedule
Visit our website for a complete schedule of events: monoarts.org

41st Annual
Mammoth Celebrates the Arts
July 1, 2, 3 & 4, 2018
Footloose Parking Lot

44th Annual
June Lake Jam Fest: September 8 & 9, 2018, Gull Lake Park
Kids Summer Art Camps in Mammoth Lakes & Lee Vining
July & August

Art & Wine Classes @ the Art Center & Gallery

Mono Arts Council Gallery exhibits in the Minaret Mall

Thank you to our sponsors:
When her daughter’s aging dog dies, Maria’s house arrest puts her into equally painful and funny situations that soon entangle her neighbors. As she copes with the issues that have led her—a world traveler—into a self-inflicted prison, her daughter Meredith discovers her own identity through a search for her biological family.

Director Bio:
S. Cagney Gentry is from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. His debut feature Harvest (2015) played numerous festivals and won a prize at Athens International. Thomas Southerland’s first narrative feature Proud Citizen won the Jury Prize at New Orleans (2014) and eight other Jury and Audience awards; it’s available on Fandor. He teaches filmmaking at Wake Forest University.

A teenager crosses over into a hip-hop-musical dreamscape at the moment of her tragic death and contemplates her life: what it was and what it could have been. Spoken word, beatboxing, and hip-hop dance combine to tell the tragic story of nineteen-year-old Myeisha Jackson, and the fateful night she crossed paths with the police.

Director Bio:
Gus Krieger is a Los Angeles-based director/producer/writer of stage and screen. Credits include The Binding (writer-director, 2016), Fender Bender (producer, 2016). Would You Rather (associate producer, 2012), and The Killing Room (writer, Sundance Midnight, 2009). On Twitter @MrGusK.
Friday May 25, 8:00pm US Forest Service

USA, 94 min, West Coast Premiere

Director/Writer: Orson Oblowitz
Cast: Rosemary Hochschild, Ana Mulvoy Ten, Roger Guenveur Smith, Michael Parks, Ella Thomas, Jon Lindstrom

On her 60th birthday, the proud owner of a Los Angeles strip club finds herself in hot water over a 25 year old debt to the mob, leading her on a downward spiral of violence and revenge through the underbelly of Los Angeles.

Director Bio: Orson Oblowitz graduated from Emerson College. His photography has been shown in New York, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Boston and Dubai. He has over a decade of experience working in film as a director, cinematographer, editor, and producer. His credits as a DP include the award winning documentaries *Sea of Darkness* and *Heavy Water: The Life and Times of Nathan Fletcher*, and the music video for Kill Frenzy's “All Night Long.” *The Queen Of Hollywood Blvd.* is his debut feature film.

NARRATIVE FEATURES

USA, 87 min

Director: Trevor Stevens
Writer: Bomani J. Story
Cast: Heston Horwin, Diamond White, Allie Marie Evans

When a lone freshman arrives at Rock Steady University he discovers that the campus is controlled by two warring factions: Kappa Brutus Omega and The High Society. His bike is stolen and shuffled into the fraternities’ most valuable source of income, the bicycle market. Turning the University into more of a war zone than a place of education, the freshman plays the rival fraternities against one another to reclaim his stolen bicycle.

Director Bio: Trevor Stevens began working in films as an actor at age 12, quickly becoming infatuated with the magic behind the camera. He’s inspired by Leone’s *Fistful of Dollars* and Kurosawa’s *Yojimbo*—two filmmakers from different sides of the world who twisted a tired genre with a brand new sense of purpose and style. Whether behind camera or in front of it, Trevor tells stories of average people pushed into extraordinary circumstances.

NARRATIVE FEATURES

USA, 94 min, West Coast Premiere

Director: Gabriel Bagnaschi
Scotland / 9.5 min / N. American Premiere

A teenage boy living in a tough Edinburgh neighbourhood has to figure out how far he’s willing to go to save his break-dancing crew when his best friend starts pushing for a street gang.
Saturday May 26, 5:30pm Edison Theater

**Icebergs**

Director: Eirini Vianelli / USA, Greece / 7 min

Based on the book Scenes by screenwriter Efthymis Filippou (Dogtooth, The Lobster, The Killing of a Sacred Deer), Icebergs is an existential, dark comedy consisting of 14 short vignettes, ranging from the mundane to the absurd.

Sunday May 27, 2:30pm Edison Theater

**Satellite Strangers**

Director: James Bascara / USA / 6 min / West Coast Premiere

A microscopic view of a cosmic dance, deep in the woods.

**Presented in Glorious Cinema-O-ke!**

Aries Santos is a Fil-Aus feminist documentarian who is struggling to complete her new film. Her subjects are the male members of “TMD—Tru Male Dynamics,” a company formed to teach men how to seduce women. Meanwhile a sex worker named Melody slays into the night. The line between reality and fiction blurs, and blood is shed on the neon lit streets of Melbourne.

**Director Bio:**

Matthew Victor Pastor (MVP) is a filmmaker of Filipino heritage from Melbourne. A Victorian College of the Arts alum, his Master’s film I am JUPITER I am the BIGGEST PLANET was awarded Best Director and the New Voice Award. His narratives focus on young Asian Australians trying to make sense of their arts, homes, and homelands.

**Spain, 94 min, International Premiere**

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**Satellite Strangers**

Director: James Bascara / USA / 6 min / West Coast Premiere

A microscopic view of a cosmic dance, deep in the woods.
**Tower. A Bright Day.**

**Poland, 106 min, N. American Premiere**

**Director/Writer:** Jagoda Szelc  
**Cast:** Anna Krotoska, Małgorzata Szczerbowska, Rafał Cieluch, Rafał Kwietniewski, Dorota Łukasiewicz-Kwietniewska

Mula lives with her family in the country. Just before her daughter’s First Holy Communion, Mula’s long lost sister pays them a visit, harboring a secret. The family believes in reconciliation, but Mula has her reasons to feel afraid of Kaja.

**Director Bio:** Born in Wroclaw, Poland in 1984, Jagoda studied at the Faculty of Graphic Arts and Media Art of the Academy of Art and Design in Wroclaw. From 2009 to 2015, she studied in the Directing Department at the Film School in Lodz. **Tower. A Bright Day.** is her first feature film.

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**Vidar the Vampire**

**Norway, 83 min**

**Director/Writers:** Thomas Aske Berg, Fredrik Waldeland  
**Cast:** Thomas Aske Berg, Brigt Skrettingland, Kim Sønderholm

Vidar is a farmer. He tends to his duties, is a good Christian and suffers endless insults from his mother. His life is in a rut; he craves excitement. However, a chance encounter with a vampire who claims to be Jesus will mean an entirely new existence for Vidar. At first he embraces the madcap freshness of the experience, but it’s not long before he begins to question whether his humdrum existence was a much better life.

**Director Bio:** Thomas Aske Berg is a trained actor and self-taught filmmaker from Stavanger, Norway. He has starred in films both in Norway and the US. He has made several short films and music videos with partner John Iver Berg, most notably **Believe the Dance**, a fantasy-horror-dance-comedy-short which screened at festivals all over the world, winning four Best Short Film awards. Fredrik Waldeland is a director and editor from Stavanger, Norway. His award-winning short films include **Skattens Pris** and experimental short **Forever Alone**.

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**Clean Blood**

**Director:** Jordan Michael Blake / USA / 11 min / West Coast Premiere

A Christmas movie about family, the Apocalypse and an immaculately pregnant man.
**DOCUMENTARY FEATURES**

**buddha.mov**

India, 83 min, West Coast Premiere

**Director:** Kabir Mehta

**Featuring:** Buddhadev Mangaldas

Lured by the chance of being the protagonist of a documentary film, Buddha Dev, a 27 year old flamboyant cricketer from Goa, starts authorising unrestricted access into the most private parts of his life.

**Director Bio:** Kabir Mehta’s docu-fiction short Sadhu In Bombay premiered at the 29th European Media Art Festival where it won the EMAF Award for best film. It had its North American premiere at Slamdance Film Festival and subsequently won the award for Best Narrative Film at the 55th Ann Arbor Film Festival. Kabir’s first feature length project BUDDHA.mov won a grant at NFDC Film Bazaar 2016 and had its premiere at Tatnail Black Nights. He is also selected to develop his fiction feature film project Showdots at Le Groupe Oust’s LIM platform—the European development programme for limited budget feature films.

**crime + punishment**

USA, 83 min

**Director:** Stephen Maing

**Featuring:** Sergeant Edwin Raymond, Officer Felicia Whitely, Officer Sandy Gonzales, Investigator Manuel Gomez, Pedro Hernandez

Stephen Maing’s documentary about the NYPD’s illegal policing quotas and other discriminatory practices gets the blood boiling. This unnerving documentary about the New York City Police Department’s harmful, money-grubbing methods spans the years 2014 through late 2017, though the corruption it tackles head-on has long been a staple of an organization that purports to exercise Courtesy, Professionalism and Respect.

**Director Bio:** Stephen is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker and visual journalist. His feature documentary High Tech, Low Life, about two of China’s first dissident citizen-journalists, was broadcast on PBS’s award-winning series POV. His short The Surrender received a 2016 World Press Photo Award for best documentary and an Emmy nomination for outstanding short documentary. Maing is a fellow of Sundance Institute’s Documentary Film Program.

**down escalation**

USA, 83 min

**Director:** Shunsaku Hayashi

/Japan / 7 min

Falling down, it feels ecstasies is filling up its body. Delving into the deeper layers of itself, the flesh is melted down in the shell until the form is no longer.

**Sunday May 27, 5:00pm US Forest Service**

**documentary features**

**USA, 83 min**

**Director:** Shunsaku Hayashi

(/Japan / 7 min

Falling down, it feels ecstasies is filling up its body. Delving into the deeper layers of itself, the flesh is melted down in the shell until the form is no longer.
**Tourists**

**Thursday May 24, 9:30pm US Forest Service**

A documentary film assembled from amateur video materials recorded by participants of sightseeing tours. Through the lens of the amateur camera, we watch the collective rituals of contemporary tourists. The filmed world takes on masks, graces the camera, stands on its head and demands payment. Traveling through exotic countries, we discover a reflection of our civilization. A contemporary conquest—the constant march of tourists acquiring the world with a digital camera.

**Director Bios:**

**Mateusz Romaszkan** is an award-winning film editor for numerous documentaries and narrative features, including the Oscar-nominated, multiple award-winning *Rabbit a la Berlin* (2009); *15 Corners of the World* (2014); and *Performer* (Berlinale Forum 2015).

**Marta Wójtowicz-Wcisło** was born in 1980 and holds degrees in Spanish philology and cultural studies and a doctorate in political studies. She has worked as a guide in Africa and Latin America. In 2010 she carried out research in El Colegio de México. In 2012-2013 she was assistant lecturer at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora at the Jagellonian University. She’s a translator and author of numerous articles on Latin America.

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**Minding the Gap**

**USA, 93 min**

**Sunday May 27, 12:30pm Edison Theater**

A coming-of-age saga of three skateboarding friends in a Rust Belt town hit hard by decades of recession. In his quest to understand why he and his friends all ran away from home when they were younger, director Bing Liu follows 23-year-old Zack as he becomes a father and 15-year-old Keire as he gets his first job. He’s thrust into the middle of Zack’s tumultuous relationship with his girlfriend and Keire’s inner struggles with racial identity and memories of his deceased father. He explores the precariously balanced childhood and adulthood.

**Director Bio:** Bing Liu moved from China to Alabama to California to Rockford, Illinois with his mother before he was eight years old. He made DIY skateboarding films as a teenager. In 2014 he began collaborating with Kartemquin Films on his first feature *Minding the Gap*, a co-production of POV and ITVS. Bing is also a Story Director and DP for the upcoming Steve James mini-series *America to Me*. Bing is a 2017 Film Independent Fellow and Garrett Scott Development Grant recipient.

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**Featuring:** Bing, Zack, Keire

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**Documentary Features**

**Friday May 25, 5:30pm US Forest Service**

**Vianey**

Director: Marko Vuorinen  
Featuring: Vianey Otero

An intensely personal documentary portrait of the life and hardships of the New Jersey- and Bronx-based underground hip hop artist Vianey Otero, also known by the stage name So Icey Trap. The raw and at the same time lyrical coming-of-age story reveals the reality behind growing up on the streets, the lure of escorting, everyday life in jail, and being a female artist in the music industry.

Director Bio: Marko Vuorinen (1974) is a Finnish, Helsinki-based and internationally awarded documentarian, fine arts photographer and writer. Vuorinen’s work concentrates on social issues, gender equality, and sexuality. Marko Vuorinen is primarily interested in the women’s perspective. He believes in the unifying power of sharing our stories with one another. He works in the borderland between film and visual arts, approaching filmmaking as a form of contemporary art.

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**Bonne nuit du fond des bois**

Director: Camille Demers-Lambert / Canada / 22 min / US Premiere

Among black spruces and electric pylons, Sylvain and his wolfdogs are getting ready for the winter. Bonne nuit du fond des bois is an immersion in a boreal solitude.

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**White Tide**

USA, 83 min, West Coast Premiere

**Saturday May 26, 3:00pm US Forest Service**

**White Tide**

Director: Theo Love  
Featuring: Rodney Hyden, Danny Pardo, Bob Willey, Jamie Hyden, Emily Hyden, Bo Butterworth

When the great recession wipes out Rodney’s construction business in Central Florida, his family faces a nightmare of debt. One evening around a campfire, Rodney hears a story from an old, barefooted hippy that just might solve his family’s problems. There’s an island. There’s a map. And there’s buried treasure...$2 million dollars just waiting for someone to dig it up. But there’s just one slight problem: he doesn’t have a shovel. Oh, and the $2 million dollars just happens to be in cocaine form.

Director Bio: With a name like Theo Love (yes, that’s his given name), some would say he was destined for stardom, but his journey was a long way from his home in South East Asia. So he did what any other dreamer would do—he bought a camera and a plane ticket. He eventually became a commercial director, an Emmy-winning editor, and a screenwriter. His critically acclaimed directorial debut Little Hope was Arson was curated by PBS’ Independent Lens and played theatrically across the country, launching Love’s directing career.

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**Finland, USA, 55 min, West Coast Premiere**

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**Thursday May 24, 11:30am Edison Theater**

**A small town girl discovers a letter from her father’s post office that lures her into a friendship with a troublesome passer-through.**

*Zula the Infinite*

Director: Jillian Dudley  
USA  
16 min  
World Premiere

**In the remote Russian Arctic, an aging scientist and his son are trying to recreate the Ice Age. They call their experiment Pleistocene Park—a perfect home for two woolly mammoths, resurrected by modern genetics. But the mammoths are only a means to a bigger end: defusing a carbon time bomb frozen in the permafrost to slow the effects of global warming.**

*Zula the Infinite*

Director: Grant Slater  
USA  
26 min

**Small pieces of information can be stored separately within a shared container. The most efficient containers can house multiple pieces of information in the same location, intersecting from different angles.**

*Flower Plastic*

Director: Annapurna Kumar  
USA  
3 min  
World Premiere

**After 20 years, Fay is driving out to the desert to visit her estranged father in order to deliver an important message.**

*Fay Away*

Director: Rainer Lipski  
USA  
12 min  
World Premiere

**A young couple’s romantic weekend is interrupted by a birth control mishap.**

*Mountain Castle Mountain*

Director: Emily Ann Hoffman  
USA  
13 min

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USA  
13 min
Thursday May 24, 2:00pm Edison Theater

**travelogue tel aviv**
Director: Samuel Patthey / Switzerland / 6 min / West Coast Premiere

A young art student from Switzerland arrives in Tel Aviv for a six-month stay. Through drawing he will learn to analyze, understand and open himself to this contradictory environment.

**berliners**
Directors: Paula Galimberti, Pedro Deltell, Gonzalez Pihán / Germany, Spain / 14.5 min / N. American Premiere

In a local sports center, a man with a great need to talk but little to say recounts a recent dream to a nearby colleague. This seemingly harmless event will bring deeply unsettling consequences.

**how to reach god through proper exercising**
Director: Gabriel Herrera Torres / Poland / 19 min / US Premiere

A comedy about two crises: the Spanish migration crisis and the love crisis in the Tinder era. To laugh and cry at the same time.

**birthday**
Director: Luise Niss / Norway / 8 min / World Premiere

Oline has gathered her sisters to celebrate their father’s birthday, but pride, miscommunication and a slightly odd choice of venue get in the way of the festivities.

**careful how you go**
Director: Emerald Ferrell / UK / 13 min

A darkly comic three-part film about malevolent women.

**shadow animals**
Director: Jerry Carlson / Sweden / 21 min

A dance-based drama of discoveries about human behaviour.

**shorts block 1**

**sponsored by**

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sponsored by

Friday May 25, 12:30pm Edison Theater

BJ Annie is the founder of the Golden People, a movement which claims that you can live without eating and reach a higher level of consciousness.

Longtime friends Dan and Kevin adjust to their evolving surroundings in the unforgiving environment of Flatbush, Brooklyn. A raw comedy of city life.

A young single mother leaves her crying infant at home in the middle of the night to go and buy baby formula.

In a factory in the middle of nowhere, a group of workers keep waiting indefinitely. Every full moon a telephone rings. Always with the same message: “Be patient. We are on our way.”

the golden people
Director: Victoria Garza / Mexico / 12 min / World Premiere

flatbush misdemeanors
Directors: Dan Perlman, Kevin Iso / USA / 11 min / West Coast Premiere

babies
Director: Yuval Shapira / USA / 19 min / N. American Premiere

this, my favorite mural
Director: Michael Arcos / USA / 11 min / West Coast Premiere

In a month
Director: Jonas Kærup Hjort / Denmark / 30 min / US Premiere

 BJ Annie
A young filmmaker goes from making no-budget internet videos with his friends to getting paid for making sketch comedy for a soulless YouTube content aggregator.

Lilly and the baby
Directors: The Bum Family / Canada / 12 min

During a bachelorette weekend at a cabin in the woods, Wendy is forced to confront the one-sided relationship with her best friend Kristin.

Onikuma
Director: Alessia Cecchet
Italy, USA / 12 min / West Coast Premiere

Onikuma is a Japanese yokai, a demon bear known for chasing horses. Surrounded by a foreign landscape, two women will understand that demons can come in different forms.

A curious janitor helps his anxious co-worker overcome his fear of love.

Hallway
Director: Robin Summons
Australia / 12 min

A fat, smug caterpillar doesn’t want to become a butterfly. In song and rhyme, the horrors of metamorphosis are revealed.

Cocoon/Cocoon
Directors: Ori Goldberg, Ilai Mangulies / Israel / 7 min / West Coast Premiere

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towards the experimental control of dreaming
Director: Ryan Betschart / USA / 2 min / West Coast Premiere
A visual prose poem on a missed encounter during a brief period of altered states of consciousness.

the man who forgot to breathe
Director: Saman Hosseinpuor / Iran / 15 min / West Coast Premiere
At odds with his wife and seeking autonomy, a man makes a life-changing decision.

shorts block 4

audition
Director: Richard Van / USA / 14 min
Unable to find a sitter, an aspiring actress has no choice but to drag her three-year-old son to her audition.

little wonder
Director: JoJo Carman / USA / 3 min
Username: Stray_Cat trolls internet dating sites for a true lover to fulfill her special request, but will she ever find that wonderful someone.

hollywood
Director: Jérémi Roy / Canada / 7 min / West Coast Premiere
Liliana is training for a dancing audition and Antoine is having his first major role, a stage play. Their mutual distaste for each other's work soon becomes apparent and it quickly becomes personal.

black dog
Director: Joshua Dean Tuthill / USA / 15 min / West Coast Premiere
A dark family drama set during the space race of the 1960s elucidates a time of heated social and political tension.

holy pink: fragrant
Directors: Clementine Leger, Benjamin Whately / USA / 2.5 min
A meditative, psych-soaked journey.

men don't whisper
Director: Jordan Firstman / Writers: Jordan Firstman, Charles Rogers / USA / 22 min
After being emasculated at a sales conference, gay couple Reese and Peyton decide the only way to regain their confidence and prove their masculinity is to sleep with some women.

A meditative, psych-soaked journey.

sponsored by
A train ride in Hungary becomes an inner journey as the filmmaker’s grandmother, Gloria Almanza, celebrates her 100th birthday in tropical Nicaragua, thousands of miles away.

David versus Goliath tale of a small community that battles monopolistic telcos for their town’s right to build a locally owned high-speed fiber network.

Robert Kidney has been a musical force since the 1970s. Despite decades of praise by peers, the band remains obscure. The powerful and complex person behind this band, living and working in the shadow of Midwestern decay.

After rehabilitating two abandoned baby moose, David Lawrence vows to never harm another living thing. When tragedy strikes, David is forced to confront a violent past.

For San Francisco’s 911 dispatchers, the city is hard to escape.

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The DEFA Studio for Animation Film was founded in Dresden, East Germany, in 1955. Over the next two decades, the state-owned studio became one of the most modern animation centers in Europe. By the time it closed its doors in 1992, it had produced almost 2000 animation films for cinemas and television. They spanned all classic animation techniques, including cartoons, silhouette and puppet films, shadow plays, claymation and stop-motion animation, representing a high level of craftsmanship and creativity. DEFA’s animation films fascinated national and international cinema and television audiences and were shown at film festivals all over the world.

For the last 25 years, the German Institute for Animated Film (DIAF) in Dresden and the DEFA Film Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst have been fostering awareness and distribution of this unique collection of animated films. In celebration of this silver anniversary, the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival is presenting a retrospective devoted to the legacies of East German animation, with live English dubbing by renowned German actor/comedian/musician Flula Borg. Seven selected shorts, produced by the first generation of directors at the DEFA Studio for Animation Film, give a taste of the fantastic, magical world of animated films from a vanished country.

We would like to thank the DEFA Film Library at UMass Amherst (umass.edu/defa) and the DEFA Foundation in Berlin for making this program possible. All screenings are North American Premieres.

SATURDAY MORNING INDIE CARTOONS

cartoons from east germany

with flula borg

Sponsored by

Flula Borg

Flula Borg

cartoons from east germany

with flula borg

Flula Borg

cartoons from east germany

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cartoons from east Germany

with Flula Borg

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Filopat and Patafil want to race against each other. But neither of them likes to lose, so they come up with tricks to outsmart each other.

Many drummers come together from different places. Sometimes it isn't easy to transport the drum. They all gather in a square... All that effort for playing two beats.

The little bunny has heard so many stories about ghosts and robbers that he's scared. But one day, when a fox tries to catch the timid bunny's friend, he overcomes his fear. Based on the children's classic by Elizabeth Shaw.

A pair of magical scissors cuts a little man with huge boxing gloves out of black paper. He comes to life and, confident of his powers, he grabs the scissors and cuts out a giant opponent. But he may have overestimated his strength.

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One little duckling is smaller than all the rest; it wonders how it can get bigger and stronger. The duckling asks the mole, the frog, the stork... but each of them gives a different answer. One day, the duckling finds the solution...

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After this mother’s disappearance, Courgette (Zucchini) is befriended by a police officer named Raymond, who accompanies him to his new foster home filled with other orphans his age. At first he struggles to find his place in this strange and at times hostile environment. But with Raymond’s help and his new-found friends, Courgette eventually learns to trust and might find true love.

Director Bio:
Born in 1973 in Sierre, Switzerland, Claude studied at École Emile Cohl in Lyon and got his degree in anthropology and digital images. He made a series of shorts before directing My Life As A Zucchini, which received an Oscar Nomination in the Animated Feature Film category as well as a César for Best Animated Feature and a César for Best Book Adaptation.
Participating Restaurants

Restaurants offering 20% off to MLFF badge holders

**Bleu Handcrafted Foods**
106 Old Mammoth Rd.
760-914-2538

**Breakfast Club**
2987 Main St.
760-934-6944

**Burgers Restaurant**
(Reopens May 25)
6118 Minaret Rd.
760-934-6622

**Good Life Café**
126 Old Mammoth Rd.
760-934-1754

**Hugs Ice Cream**
The Village at Mammoth
6201 Minaret Rd.
760-934-9316

**Liberty Sports Bar & Grill**
3399 Main St.
760-965-0514

**Rafters Restaurant**
202 Old Mammoth Rd.
760-934-9431

**Roberto’s Mexican Café**
271 Old Mammoth Rd.
760-934-3667

**Samurai**
452 Old Mammoth Rd.
760-965-0507

**Stellar Brew & Natural Café**
3280 Main St.
760-924-3559

**Thai’d Up**
587 Old Mammoth Rd.
760-934-7355

**Good Life Café**
126 Old Mammoth Rd.
760-934-1754

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Wine Seminars · Raffle · Dessert
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Supporting arts and culture in the Eastern Sierra since 1989
Opening Night Gala
Wednesday May 23, 9:00pm, Sierra Event Center
Kick off Mammoth Lakes’ fourth annual independent film festival in style! Dance the night away to some sweet tunes, enjoy an open beer and wine bar, and meet our visiting filmmakers.

Meet the Press
Brunch, Beer-Tasting and Panel Discussion
Friday May 25, 10:30am, Sierra Event Center
Overview of “the industry” (trends, news, players) from the perspective of top-tier media reporters and editors, with a discussion on what attracts their attention and coverage to your project. A frank discussion of working with the media to catapult your projects and careers to success. Sponsored by VER.

Moderated by Jacques Thelmaque of Filmmakers Alliance
Speakers: Lindsay Bahr—Associated Press
Shalini Dore—Variety
Alonso Duralde—TheWrap
Tim Rhys—Publisher of MovieMaker Magazine

From Production to Distribution
Champagne Brunch and Panel Discussion
Saturday May 26, 10:30am, Sierra Event Center
Industry professionals will offer you inside insight into getting your film made and sold in the rapidly changing world of production and distribution dominated by streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime.

Moderated by Jacques Thelmaque of Filmmakers Alliance
Speakers: Allison Amor—Emmy Award-Winning producer
Peter Baxter—Filmmaker, co-founder of Sundance Film Festival
Devin DiGonno—Director of Acquisitions, Lakeshore Entertainment
Rachel Winter—Academy Award-Winning producer
David Zellner—Filmmaker

Filmmakers Bash by Non Plus Ultra
Saturday May 26, 10:00pm, Rafters
Come celebrate and honor our visiting filmmakers with an on-the-road experience of L.A.’s futuristic art-pop indie club Non Plus Ultra! Enjoy an open beer and wine bar and explore dimensions of ecstatic consciousness with DJ Paul McCaffrey and performances by HOTT MT and Vinyl Williams.

Hour Of The Time Majesty Twelve (HOTT MT) is an LA-based experimental pop group inspired by sci-fi fantasy scores and medieval arrangements. Together, duo Spooki Tavi and Aisha Dala create cartoon-like psychedelic worlds. Since their formation in 2012, the group has collaborated with The Flaming Lips, Ariel Pink, Erykah Badu, and Ke$ha.

Vinyl Williams is a celestial rock group tangibly based in Los Angeles, CA, and intangibly inhabiting Xi, Alnilam— the center star of Orion. Their sound depicts a multi-religious realm of sacred architecture, spinning in lush ecstatic & deep hypnotic rhythms. Williams also creates his own immersive realms in the form of 360º videos, downloadable explorable worlds, and interactive web art.

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Saturday May 26, 10:00pm, US Forest Service
An additional screening of shorts by filmmakers who are in attendance. No intro, no Q&A; we put them in order of running time; shortest first, and screen as many as we can fit into two hours.

Closing Night Awards Gala
Sunday May 27, 9:00pm, Sierra Event Center
It may seem like the Mammoth Lakes Film Festival is coming to a close. But this is just the beginning, right? Jury Awards will be presented for Best Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Narrative Short, Animation Short and Documentary Short as well as the Bravery Award. Audience Awards will be presented for Narrative Feature and Documentary Feature.

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Filmmakers Happy Hour
Thursday May 24, 5:00-7:00pm, Duke’s Restaurant & Spa
Enjoy your sweetest happy hour yet - an open bar at Duke’s in the lobby of the Sierra Nevada Resort & Spa. Mingle with fellow film-goers and our visiting filmmakers.

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Sierra Event Center


Located in the Heart of Mammoth Lakes, the Sierra Event Center is the perfect location for your next event. The expansive, panoramic views of the sierras paired with a tailored customer service experience is sure to make your next event a smash!

Contact us for your next event!

Kathleen Rudder
kathleenrudder@gmail.com

Claire Olson
claireaolson@gmail.com

Awards & Prizes

Winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony and Party, starting at 9pm on Sunday the 27th at the Sierra Event Center.

Jury Award for Best Narrative Feature
$1,000 Cash
$10,000 Panavision Camera Rental Grant
$10,000 Light Iron Post Production Package
Orson Trophy

Jury Award for Best International Feature
$500 Cash Award
Orson Trophy

Jury Award for Best Narrative Short
$1,000 Cash Award
Orson Trophy

Jury Award for Best Documentary Short
$500 Cash Award
Orson Trophy

Jury Award for Best Documentary Feature
$1,000 Cash Award
Orson Trophy

Jury Award for Best Animation Short
$500 Cash Award
Orson Trophy

Bravery Award
$500 Cash Award
Orson Trophy

Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature
$1,000 Cash Award
$5,000 Panavision Camera Rental Grant
Orson Trophy

Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature
$1,000 Cash Award
Orson Trophy
Lindsey Bahr

Lindsey Bahr is currently a film reporter and critic for The Associated Press. Formerly a writer at Entertainment Weekly, she has reported on all facets of the film business including the Academy Awards and other major award shows, film festivals, breaking news, trend stories, talent profiles, and box office analysis. Prior to Entertainment Weekly, Bahr was a contributing writer for The Atlantic, where she produced feature articles on movies, television and music. She is based in Los Angeles.

Documentary Features

Peter Baxter

Peter Baxter is a filmmaker and President and Co-founder of the Slamdance Film Festival. Baxter has been responsible for developing Slamdance into a community that discovers and supports new filmmakers. Alumni whose first work showed at Slamdance have gone on to earn over $13 billion at the Box Office. His latest documentary, The BRITISH, chronicles the Grosvenor Nationals battle to win a world lacrosse championship and is described by Sports Illustrated as “a powerful story of identity, sovereignty and spirituality.” Baxter grew up in Gloucestershire, England and lives in Los Angeles with his family.

Documentary Features

Shalini Dore

Shalini Dore has been an editor with Variety for a long time now. A former newswoman, she transitioned to magazines with Variety, specializing in international entertainment. She has been to the Cannes Film Festival as well as Palm Springs, the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles and Hapa Valley. Film festivals are places where we can discover little gems before they get adopted by the big distributors. Besides being the features news editor at Variety, Dore is also the internship coordinator, a position that helps encourage the next generation of entertainment journalists.

International Narrative Features

Alonso Duralde

Alonso Duralde is the Film Reviews Editor for What the Flick?! and Senior Programmer at Slamdance. Duralde heads up MovieMaker Production Services, which assists independent producers. He serves on the board of the historic Hollywood Theater in Portland, Oregon, and divides his time between Los Angeles, Oregon, and New England.

Narrative Features
Ana Souza

Ana Souza was born in Brazil and was raised in Amsterdam. She holds a BA in Film Studies from the University of Warwick and an MA from the University of Southern California. She is an Associate Programmer of short films for AFI Fest and the LA Film Festival, where she also served as an Associate Producer for features last year. Her work in festivals has ranged from programming to industry relations; hospitality, and event production, in festivals including Sundance, Outfest, AFI FEST, the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, Ambulante Documentary Festival, NALIP’s Latino Media Fest and the No Budget Film Festival. Souza partnered with arts collective Non Plus Ultra to launch Nonplussed Fest, an underground music and shorts festival going into its third year. She was a programming fellow for Film Independent’s Project Initiate in 2016. She has also produced a number of short films that have traveled to festivals around the world. She is currently working at Sundance in the programming department.

Vincent Spano

Born in NYC, at 18 Spano was cast in The Black Stallion Release. He then starred in John Sayles’ Baby It’s You. Film roles include Amos Poe’s Alphabet City: Writer with Peter O’Toole; Alive, directed by Frank Marshall; John Sayles’ City of Hope; and a comedic turn in John Landis’ Oscar. In television films, Spano won praise for his performance in the Steven Schachter-directed The Engagement Ring. He headlined HBO’s Tales from the Crypt. He also directed, edited and produced the short Tony & Bobby and co-directed High Expectations.

Nicole Sperling

Nicole Sperling is a Hollywood Correspondent for The Hollywood Reporter, where she covets the awards circuit, film festivals, and breaking news and runs the gamut from celebrity profiles to trend stories and behind-the-scenes features. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and three children but is often in Mammoth trying to make the most out of her season pass.

Rachel Winter

Rachel Winter is the Academy Award-nominated producer of the acclaimed film Dallas Buyers Club, which earned six Academy Award nominations including Best Picture and Best Supporting Actor for Jared Leto. The film also received accolades from the Producers Guild of America, the Golden Globe Awards, the Gotham Awards, and the Independent Spirit Awards. Winter has spent two decades in the entertainment industry, serving as an Associate Programmer of Narrative Features at AFI FEST, the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles, Ambulante Documentary Festival, NALIP’s Latino Media Fest and the No Budget Film Festival. Souza partnered with arts collective Non Plus Ultra to launch Nonplussed Fest, an underground music and shorts festival going into its third year. She was a programming fellow for Film Independent’s Project Initiate in 2016. She has also produced a number of short films that have traveled to festivals around the world. She is currently working at Sundance in the programming department.

Shorts

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Special Thanks:

Brian Morataya
Technical Director

Lesley-Anne Hoxie
Festival Manager

Paul Sbrizzi
Programming
Director of

Shira Dubrovner
Festival Director

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Joy

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M...
You Focus On The Shot
We’ll Focus On The Rest
Congratulations To The Filmmakers