

6TH ANNUAL
LOS ANGELES DIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL



INSPIRE • EMBRACE • EMPOWER

AUG 22ND - 24TH
2019







LOS ANGELES DIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL

MISSION:

To provide filmmakers, actors, and stories of diverse backgrounds with a place to showcase their voice without judgment or insincere reflection; free of stereotypes and degradation. Our goal is to establish a true multicultural experience represented by the world's independent film community.

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LADFF is a 501c3 non profit organization founded in 2014 by filmmaker and educator Hollis McLachlan. LADFF grows with the intent to bring together artists and diverse stories who are so frequently underrepresented in media, through celebration and conversation.

Sonja Mereu and Nicholas Ybarra took over as Director and Programmer, respectively, in 2017. Now in its 6th and most fabulous year yet, LADFF continues to grow through community building and the incredible stories it showcases from all over the world.

Thank you for joining us!





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WEHO
Arts
weho.org/arts

THIS PROGRAM IS PRESENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD'S ARTS DIVISION

BLOCK 1
OPENING NIGHT SHORTS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22 @ 8PM

LADFF ALUMNI

Misdirection

dir. Carly Usdin (USA)
- LADFF Alumni
MISDIRECTION is a queer comedy about a college freshman who falls in love with close-up magic as an escape from her unrequited crush on her roommate and her recently-diagnosed OCD.



LA PREMIERE

Suncatcher

dir. Parker Croft (USA)
For months Kira has been living out of her car in Venice, California. Today that changes.



Halayla (Tonight)

dir. Emily Shir Segal (Israel)
Tom comes over to meet her younger girlfriend's group of friends for the first time. As the evening unfolds, she discovers a different side of herself, her girlfriend, and their relationship. At the end of the night, she'll have to make a choice



The Stone Maker

dir. Ali Navaeian (Iran)
A single father who has a kidney problem grapples with a decision that may save his body, but ruin his life.



Young Adult

dir. Jake Yuzna (USA)
On the last day of a summer camp for persons with disabilities, a teenage girl fights to connect with the boy that might be the love of her life.



On The Clock

dir. Tayo Amos (USA)
When Sofia gets her first period, Lucas sets out to secure the feminine products she needs, confronting many harsh realities along the way.



BLOCK 2

YOUNG AMERICANS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23 @ 7PM



Our Way Home

dir. Alexandra Hsu (USA)

The year is 1962. James picks up his older sister, Barbara from college for the Thanksgiving holiday. After a racist encounter in a nearby diner, they think they're being followed, but realize in the end that it's not someone they expected.



LADFF ALUMNI

Where The Dahlias Grow

dir. Jayden Gillespie (USA)

- LADFF Alumni

When a young black and Latina couple is faced with adversity, the two must decide whether to expose their significant other to their families or end their relationship.



The Dying Kind

dir. Ryan Lacen (USA)

Maggie struggles to make amends with her adopted family during her welcome home celebration.



Cherry

dir. Eugene Kim (USA)

In 1998 Daly City, Christian Flores wakes up after a long night of partying to find that his prized possession, his Mazda RX7, has been towed, but he met the girl of his dreams. After his drunken haze, can he get the car and the girl?



Thanksgiving

dir. Van B. Nguyen (USA)

A traditional Vietnamese couple prepares for Thanksgiving and faces a modern-day situation they never expected when their son brings home an unexpected guest.



Hasti Joon

dir. Sara Karimipour (USA)

In this coming-of-age comedy set in the late 70s, a rebellious 11-year-old's overbearing Persian parents want her to be more girly. Unfortunately for Hasti, in this family, looks are everything!

BLOCK 3

THE EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23 @ 9:15PM



Joy

dir. Lorena Lourenco (USA)

Joy is an experimental film that juxtaposes the distresses of being an immigrant woman in America, against the courteousness one feels obligated to present.



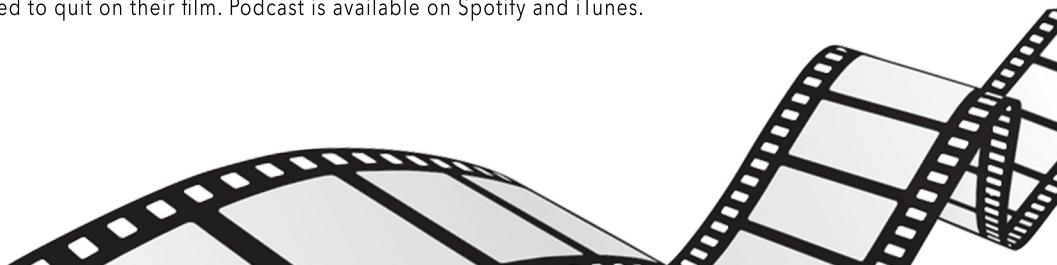
The Extraordinary Ordinary - Feature film

dir. Natalie Rodriguez (USA)

A few years after a traumatic high school experience, a young photography student moves across the country from New York to Southern California in search of a fresh start. She quickly finds that she is not alone in her struggles with anxiety and depression.



For a more in-depth look at The Extraordinary Ordinary, check out Episode 13 of the LADFF Podcast Film Forward. Writer/Director/Producer Natalie Rodriguez tells the incredible story of how her and her team refused to quit on their film. Podcast is available on Spotify and iTunes.



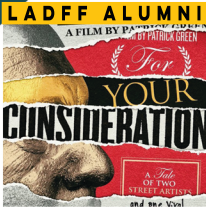
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AUSTINFILMFESTIVAL.COM // WATCH IT ON ONSTORY.TV/

BLOCK 4
THE DOC BLOCK
SATURDAY AUGUST 24 @ 3PM



For Your Consideration
dir. Patrick Green (USA)

A tale of 2 street artists and 1 viral Harvey Weinstein statue that shook up the 90th Oscars Awards.



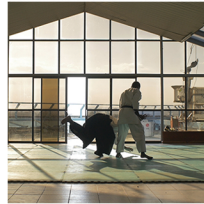
Dear, Dreamer
dir. Kristian Melom (USA)

Dear, Dreamer is a lyrical portrait of the life and work of rising literary star Jason Reynolds and a testament to the power of seeing yourself in books.



For A Better Life
dir. Yasmin Mistry (USA)

Sold for \$100 at the age of five, Fekri seeks to forgive the birth family he believed abandoned him.



The Gospel Of Combat
dir. David Hutchinson (USA/Kenya)

Threatened by the violent aftermath of Kenya's 2017 elections, a fledgling Aikido sensei ponders whether his martial art can heal old wounds.



Samira

dir. Lainey Richardson (UK)
From becoming the first female in history to join her University's all male American football team, to getting the lead in Shakespeare's Othello, Samira redefines what it means to be a woman in modern day Britain.



Sound of Silence
dir. Philippe Woodtli (Switzerland)

A young man, born severely deaf, faced exclusion from society from a young age. Thanks to skiing, Robin Gillon found his way through.



This Is Norman
dir. Kathleen Poliski & Skyler Jenkins (USA)

This is Norman is about making an extraordinary 67-year-old blind man's lifelong dream come true.



LADFF PROUDLY SUPPORTS



All Hands and Hearts
Smart Response

ALLHANDSANDHEARTS.ORG

THINKING OF VOLUNTEERING? JOIN US AS WE BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE!

BLOCK 5

LOUDER THAN WORDS

SATURDAY AUGUST 24 @ 5:15PM



Trio

dir. Kevin Giles (USA)

Two siblings struggle to coexist with their vice-riddled single mother.



Eva Non Place

dir. Martina Dimitrova (Germany)

A fairytale set in a fictional city landscape paying tribute to the design and aesthetics of the 80s, ArtDeco and camp-culture. EVA embodies a declaration for love and diversity.



SBPCH Music Video Trilogy

dir. Andrey Valdberg (Russia)

Told in three parts, a young girl is on the brink of violence while living with her abusive father, when a group of child vagabonds attempt to rescue her.



Refuge

dir. Federico Spiazzi (Greece)

Life passes slowly by inside an empty Greek bakery, until an afternoon storm strikes.

A PORTION OF THE
TICKET SALES OF THIS
BLOCK SUPPORT



SafeBAE is a survivor-founded, youth-lead national organization whose mission is to end sexual assault among middle and high school students.

SAFEBAE.ORG

LA PREMIERE Woolly Haired

dir. Benjamin Michel (USA)

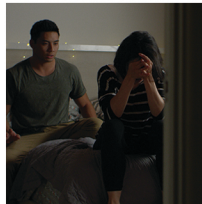
A man discovers his true nature through the breakdown of his own vices.



Disfluency

dir. Laura Holliday (USA)

We follow Jane through her daily life, from her passive usage of the phrase "I'm sorry" to her being raped and the emotional aftermath...begging the question: have we let rape become a cultural disfluency?



En La Frontera (On The Border)

dir. Arturo M. Merelo (Mexico)

In a setting surrounded by constant news of violence and organized crime, good will and fear oppose each other when a woman watches her neighbors, suspecting that they are into some kind of



BLOCK 6

ALL IN THE FAMILY

SATURDAY AUGUST 24 @ 7:15



Running Shadow

dir. Carlos Rafael Betancourt (USA)

A young Lakota woman dreams of running competitively outside the Reservation, but with broken shoes and no real track to practice on, her chances seem slim.



Gone

dir. Emma Sullivan (UK)

As four men sit in a support group wondering why all the women have gone, we watch as a young mother makes the hardest decision of her life.

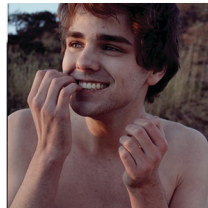
LA PREMIERE



Made to Order

dir. Alanna Murray (USA)

Archie is in her mid twenties and still living with her dad and younger sister. In order to save up and finally move out, she works delivering pizzas. And selling VHS tapes of her sister in her bedroom.



Duke

dir. Thiago Dadalt (USA)

When a nonverbal autistic teen's family is falling apart, he must find his voice to keep them together. Based on a True Story.

USA PREMIERE



Waterfall

dir. Nora Niasari (Australia)

Fourteen-year-old Zahra cannot come to terms with her Iranian mother's new Australian fiancé, Peter. In an attempt to unite the family, Peter and Leila take Zahra on a road trip in search of a waterfall.



Fireworks

dir. Guangda Zhao (USA)

A Chinese young man is living in LA when his parents show up to celebrate Chinese New Year with him. He has to learn how to take his responsibility seriously before the cracks in the family go bigger.

THE OFFICIAL PODCAST OF THE
LOS ANGELES DIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL
FOR CINEPHILES, BY CINEPHILES.

FILM FORWARD



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BLOCK 7
KNOW JOKE
SATURDAY AUGUST 24 @ 9:30



Honk For Jesus, Save Your Soul

dir. Adamma Ebo (USA)
In the aftermath of a huge and ridiculous scandal, Trinity Childs attempts to help her pastor-husband rebuild their now borderline nonexistent congregation.



Café Abundance

dir. Emily McGregor (USA)
When Ashley realizes society has been selling her nothing but bullshit her entire life, she completely loses it in the middle of a douchey, artisanal restaurant. This story begs the question: does kale quinoa make you feel empowered?

LA PREMIERE



Oh Joy!

dir. Nicholas Paul Ybarra (USA)
Joy's imagination (animation) runs wild as she tries to pull herself out of her funk through yoga and her artwork.



Lukewarm

dir. Mitch Yapko (USA)
Just your typical, mediocre, beige, room temperature sex. John and Eric put the "lust" back in "lackluster."



About A Short Film

dir. Kevin Yee (USA)
Comedian Kevin Yee makes a short film about making a short film.

To hear more about the short films *Honk for Jesus: Save Your Soul*, *Café Abundance* and *About A Short Film* check out the LADFF Podcast *Film Forward* as we get to know these incredible filmmakers and hear the amazing backstories behind their movies. All three episodes available on Spotify and iTunes.



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LOS ANGELES DIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL

- Director: Sonja Mereu
- Programmer: Nicholas Paul Ybarra
- Founder: Hollis McLachlan
- Creative Director: Erin Stone
- Festival Manager: Kristina Kondrath

Special thanks to:
Lawrin Goulston Salazar
The Actors Company
Claudia Puig

Festival Partners

- Seth Almberg
- Anselm Kennedy
- Steve Mereu
- Nanci Mereu
- Ivon Millan
- Tatiana Samano
- Leanne Smith
- Trailers by Eric Seo
- Technical Director: Darren Bui
- Projectionist: Shawna Voragen

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Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit