



LOS ANGELES DIVERSITY FILM FESTIVAL

AUGUST 1-14 2021
STREAMING AT LADFF.COM



LADFF is committed to providing 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.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

Festival Director: Sonja Mereu
Program Director: Nicholas Paul Ybarra
Festival Founder: Hollis McLachlan
Art Director: Erin Stone
Trailers by : Eric Seo
Film Forward Producer: Anslem Kennedy
2021 artwork by Kaylynn Kim (@notkaylynnkim)

Festival Partners:
Seth Alberg
Steve Mereu
Myava Mitchell
Steven Crawford
Olivia Lara



Lorem ipsum

Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival is a 501(c)3 non profit organization. To support, visit

LADFF.COM

LIVE SCREENINGS



7/29

BEST SUMMER EVER

with Q&A

Thursday, July 29 @7:30pm

Laemmle Town Center 5

Sage and Anthony face the drama of high school after falling in love at a dance camp over the summer. An original musical featuring a cast and crew of people with and without disabilities.

(1 hour 15min)

Written and Directed by Michael Parks Randa & Lauren Smitelli



8/5

IN THE DARK OF THE VALLEY

with Q&A

Thursday, August 5 @7:30pm

Laemmle Town Center 5

A group of mothers discover that the Santa Susana Field Laboratory was the site of one of the largest nuclear accidents in United States history; and may have exposed their children and their community to cancer-causing hazardous waste.

(1 hour 45 min)

Directed by Nicholas Mihm



8/12

AWARD WINNING SHORTS

with Q&A

Thursday, August 12 @7:30pm

Laemmle NoHo 7

Join us as we celebrate the 2021 LADFF Jury Award Winners. We will be screening the winners of the Diversity in the Arts Award, as well as Best Performance, Best Director and Best Short Film.

Award Winners will be announced on July 29th. Visit <http://LADFF.com> or follow us on social media to find out who the winners will be.

SEE US



Feeling Through, the first film to star a DeafBlind actor, is a coming of age story that follows Tereek, a teen wandering the streets of New York, when he encounters a DeafBlind man in need of help getting home. From an awkward meeting emerges an intimate bond, and a journey that forever changes Tereek.



A young dancer struggles with her bi-cultural identity when she meets a confident young Deaf drummer who stirs up old conflicted feelings about growing up hearing in a Deaf family.



Esi is a young, first generation woman from a conservative town in Missouri, where questioning her sexuality is laced with shame and guilt. After moving to LA, Esi stumbles upon a vivid house party of queer and trans people of color. For the first time in her life, Esi is welcomed into a community where she can let down her walls and take the first steps towards self acceptance.

INSPIRE STREAMING AUG 1-5

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID



When Joy's fairytale romance crashes and burns on her 35th birthday, the incessant TICK-TOCK of her biological clock pushes her to try new things.



It's Sunday morning and all Jordyn desperately wants is a little extra sleep... but it seems like that's not in the cards.



When Erica gets a last minute call to promote her Japanese American Cultural festival on the "Good Evening LA" Show, she has 2 hours to figure what to wear. A Girl Problem is a short comedy about something we've all faced- a closet full of clothes, and nothing to wear!



In a twist of perception, a Latina woman mistakes a caucasian man inside her son's home as an intruder and knocks him unconscious. A language barrier leaves them both confused about their awkward situation.

INSPIRE STREAMING AUG 1-5

OUTSIDE THE LINES



PERSPECTIVE SHIFT

Directed by Josh Searle
Written by Genevieve Clay-Smith

Perspective Shift is a documentary series which explores the triumphs and trials of some of Australia's top practitioners in the arts industries, who also happen to be people with disabilities.



PRINCESS

Directed by B Gosse and Jason Vu

Princess portrays a resolving of identity for non-binary Vietnamese-American dancer Jason Vu as they revisit memories of desire from their childhood.



MOTTA

Written and Directed by Nish Gera

"Motta" follows "hard to classify" Brazilian artist Fabio da Motta as he questions the boundaries between fantasy, power, provocation and art.



MY OTHER SON

Written and Directed by Gustavo Alonso

Sometimes with sons, as with drawings, they don't come out as you imagined. This is Gusti's story: a father who goes through denial and bewilderment in order to find unconditional love for his newborn son.



LAYERS

Directed by Bitá Shafipour

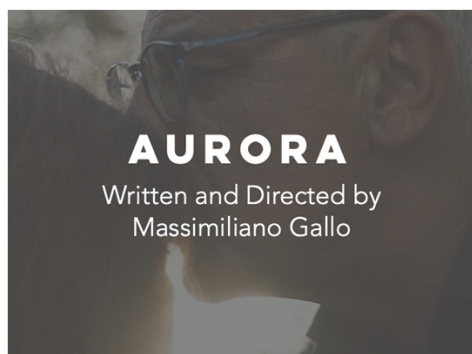
Through a series of captivating conversations with the artist, and an exploration of Hadi Salehi's experimental photography process, BAFTA nominated director Bitá Shafipour maps out a visual narrative of the creativity that shapes the artist's rich and diverse body of work.

EMBRACE STREAMING AUG 5-9

TIES THAT BIND



An adopted woman is forced to confront her darkest fear about motherhood at her sister's baby shower.



Aurora, an autistic little girl, spends her days with her mother and brother, covered by a veil like a ghost.



Imed, a young father, finding himself alone for a few days with his five year old son due to his wife's business trip, will have to confront his deepest fear.



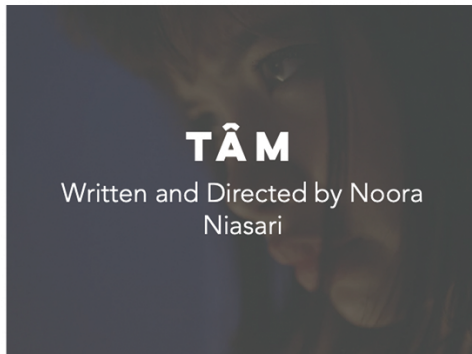
In hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico, medicine can be hard to come by. A little boy has to grow beyond his limits if he is to help his grandfather.



After a year of separation, a young Taiwanese American girl and her mom struggle to reconnect with her dad and two older sisters across familial and cultural divides.

EMBRACE STREAMING **AUG 5-9**

ON HER MARK



Tâm wakes up in a strange hotel room. As she pieces together the night before, she realizes she is not alone.



An escaped asylum seeker encounters a man on a rural beach, and must decide whether to trust him, or attempt the long journey to the nearest city on foot and alone.



Sheer Qorma is a story of belonging and acceptance, identity and family, and how it comes together under one roof, as resilient, queer Muslim women and non-binary characters of colour, choose to embrace love that exists beyond their personal beliefs and social moralities.

EMBRACE STREAMING AUG 5-9

A MANY SPLENDORED THING



Nitzan is an introverted teenager who has always felt invisible. One day her brother and his girlfriend invite Nitzan to join them on an overnight trip. An invitation that leads Nitzan down a path of self-discovery.

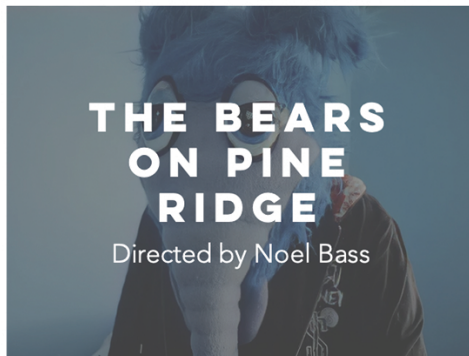


Léto is an LGBTQ 20 something boy living in a French suburb. He is stuck between a boring day job, a hostile neighborhood, and feelingless sex through dating apps. Hopelessly wandering, his feet drag him to the ice skating rink where he meets an attractive and enigmatic Syrian guy.



Duet is the story of one fateful day in the lives of 8-year-old girls May and Shadmit, who dislike each other but learn that their lives have become oddly intertwined forever.

HEAR US



The Pine Ridge Reservation declares a "State of Emergency", after a devastating rash of youth suicides tragically reaches the highest levels in the country. Due to inadequate federal assistance, residents take prevention efforts into their own hands. A tenacious Oglala Lakota elder leads the tribe's suicide prevention team and mentors a resilient young group of suicide-survivors to find their voice, encouraging them to help bring awareness and hope within the reservation.

CHINGA LA MIGRA



Aurora, Colorado's GEO ICE facility is a private immigrant detention center whose shadowy practices are obscured from advocates and lawmakers alike. But through the stories of those fighting to free their loved ones, and those who have done time on the inside, this film will shine a light on a facility too often shrouded in darkness.

THE CLASH



LITTLE BROTHER

Directed by Dikega Hadnot
Written by Dikega Hadnot & Spencer Mandel

Keith, a white school teacher, journeys to South LA to investigate the home life of his gifted student Lamont. When he meets the boy's Grandmother, the conversation grows increasingly hostile. Keith may be in store for learning a powerful lesson of his own.



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Written and Directed by Mariah Barrera

This documentary is a lyrical meditation on my father's experiences with brotherhood, incarceration, and the relationship between the two.



CHAI

Written and Directed by Arshum Rouhanian

With the grand opening of their chai stand, Iranian siblings, Sanam and Reza are faced with unexpected competition. Soon enough, the conflict becomes much more than just selling the most drinks.



THE HONEY MAKERS

Directed by Jeneffa Soldatic
Written by Deborah Grimberg

1984, North London. Two immigrants from Uganda, hardworking and prosperous, create a home in their corner market, which happens to be stuck between a swarm of bees behind their store and a ruthless group of Neo-Nazi's in front of their store.



THE ROTATION

Written and Directed by Hazhir As'adi

Two tribes attempt to claim possession of the sun in the sky. Their greed results in a brutal war, which flips both of their worlds upside down.



PUSHKIN'S PANTS

Written and Directed by Lev Brodinsky

Abraham, a 9-year-old immigrant from Ethiopia, teaches himself Russian in order to survive the difficult conditions, and creates a unique bond with Marina, his neighbor who immigrated from Russia.



The official podcast of the Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival, Film Forward is for cinephiles, by cinephiles. Through our events and podcast, LADFF establishes a true multicultural experience represented by the world's independent film community.

