



Celebrating independents for 17 years!



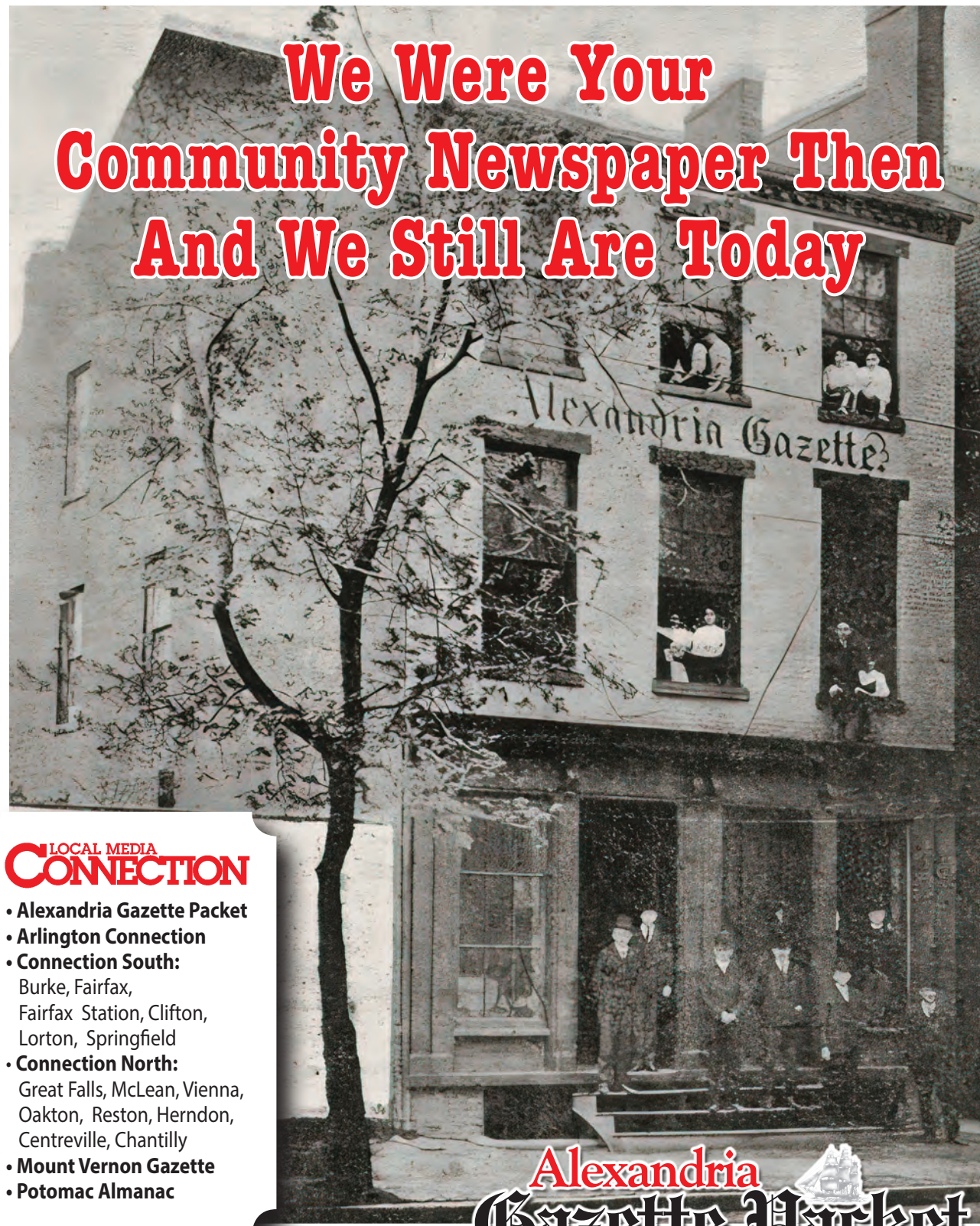
Alexandria Film Festival

November 10-12, 2023

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The Alexandria Gazette was established in 1784. This Alexandria Gazette building was located at 317 King Street. Today that space is part of the block that houses Alexandria Market Square and City Hall.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet
Publishing Since 1784

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Welcome to the 2023 Alexandria Film Festival!



Film lovers, welcome to the 17th annual Alexandria Film Festival. We are thrilled you are joining us for this three-day celebration of cinema art!

This year we are screening more than 60 films from around the world at locations across the city: The Beatley Library, The Lyceum and AMC Hoffman Center. As with every year, our festival also features the work of many filmmakers local to the DC-metro area. As an all-volunteer organization, we've worked very

hard to develop a diverse program that will delight all film enthusiasts. We relish the opportunity to offer our audiences a feast of new ideas, beautiful cinematography, cultural exploration, and a chance to engage in the civil discussion that underpins the vibrant democracy we all enjoy.

This festival is not possible without you, and we thank you for sharing your passion for independent films with us.

We also thank our very generous sponsors and loyal volunteers who literally make the festival happen every year. Unfortunately, not all businesses support the arts, so please patronize those that do.

And most of all, we thank our filmmakers, whose artistry and vision animate the festival year after year.

Let's celebrate independents!

Dara

Dara Sanders, Chair



Alexandria LIVING MAGAZINE

ALEXANDRIALIVINGMAGAZINE.COM

2023 FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Schedule subject to change without notice. The Beatley Library screenings are free of charge. For all other events, tickets are available on AlexFilmFest.com. "Salute to Service Members" is also free of charge to veterans, service members and their guests.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
at **THE BEATLEY LIBRARY**

The Beatley Library Noon–2 p.m.

STUDENT FILMS

Exploring the Reel World of Young Filmmakers

SUENOS DE MI HIJA

12 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA, Subtitles in English
Filmmaker: Cecilia Romo

Samantha, a first-generation Latina, clashes with her mother Rosa over Samantha's dream to become an alternative punk rock musician.

Q&A with Cecilia Romo

HOOF TRIMMER

13 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Kate Woods

Without Mark Burwell and the other 5,000 cow hoof trimmers in America the modern dairy industry would cease to exist.

Q&A with Kate Woods

ARMING THE LEFT

23 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Will Allen-DuPraw

Amid growing political tensions and rising incidents of violence between America's far right and far left, groups like the Socialist Rifle Association have taken shape.

Q&A with Will Allen-DuPraw

WHIRLED OF AN ARTIST

11 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Bodhi Ethan Bryan-Roig

A sculptor recounts his trials and tribulations trying to find his footing in the art world.

Q&A with Bodhi Ethan Bryan Roig

FLOWERS DIE FIRST

16 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Gwyn Newcomb

Romance ensues when a citrus-packing girl in 1940 California receives a response to a letter she sent to deployed soldiers.

Q&A with Gwyn Newcomb and Christina Caralis, writer/producer

PERSONALIZED FUTURES

9 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Max Delfino

In a future in which a personalized algorithm decides the majors students pursue, Kate, an econ major with an artistic calling, is faced with a dilemma.

THE MENACE FROM ABOVE

6 minutes, Animation, Short, Saudi Arabia
Filmmaker: Mariam Khayat

In the shallow waters of the Red Sea, a happy-go-lucky fish is forced to set out on a journey to save the sea creatures from a soulless monster before it kills all life underwater.

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The Beatley Library 2–4 p.m.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

Presented with I Am ALS

NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN

82 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Christopher Burke

Brian Wallach, a father of three diagnosed with ALS at age 37, and his wife Sandra fight for their own future while seeking to build a brighter one for thousands of others with what was once known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Q&A with Christopher Burke and Andrea Goodman, I Am ALS and Tim Tobin, moderator

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

at **THE LYCEUM**

The Lyceum 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

UNDER THE GUN

Crosshairs and Consequences

Presented with Safer Country

ARMING THE LEFT

23 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Will Allen-DuPraw

Amid growing political tensions and rising incidents of violence between America's far right and far left, groups like the Socialist Rifle Association have taken shape.

Q&A with Will Allen-DuPraw

THE SONG OF RIFLES

114 minutes, Fiction Feature, Burkina Faso, Subtitles in English

Filmmaker: Jean Elliot Ilboudo

Simon, a 12-year-old, is abducted and turned into a child soldier by a ruthless rebellion group that has ravaged his African village and others like it in pursuit of power. Simon faces a decision to stay or escape with fellow child soldiers.

Q&A panel with Paul Friedman, Safer Country, and Vijaykumar Mirchandani, producer, The Song of Rifles

The Lyceum 2–4:30 p.m.

CLUE LA PALOOZA

Movie Mysteries

FLEECED

22 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Samuel Van Fossen

A former child star, haunted by his past, becomes a serial killer.

Q&A with Samuel Van Fossen

ART THIEF

94 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Arthur Bjorn Egeli

After stealing a painting from a local museum, a passionate, but untalented artist is thrust into the midst of an even bigger theft.

Q&A with Arthur Bjorn Egeli and Jackie Emerson and Chris Lazzaro, actors



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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11
at **AMC HOFFMAN CENTER**

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 1
11 a.m.–1 p.m.

SHORTS 1

Mini Masterpieces

HEADS UP, EYES FORWARD

15 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Will Rooney

When tragedy strikes brothers Landon and Ryan, one emerges with his perspective of the world changed forever.

SALEEG

10 minutes, Fiction, Short, Saudi Arabia,
Subtitles in English
Filmmaker: Afnan Bawyan

A lonely old lady living in a neighborhood full of strangers is overwhelmed by massive amounts of food she prepares by accident, threatening her living conditions.

AZIZ

10 minutes, Fiction, Short, Poland, Subtitles in English
Filmmaker: Aleksander Szamalek

Aziz, who barely gets by delivering food for a living in a city new to him, is tested when a friend of his best friend steals his mode of transportation, upending Aziz's life.

ISKANDER

15 minutes, Fiction, Short, Netherlands,
Subtitles in English
Filmmaker: Donnya Zidan

A talented astronomer on the brink of a scientific breakthrough loses his grip on reality.

THINGS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

World Premiere

14 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Gary Gasse

Following the Civil War, Alma, a war widow, and her young son Edward, self-proclaimed clairvoyants, help grieving families make a spiritual connection with the departed.

Q&A with Gary Gasse, Bill Phillips, executive producer

THE FAKE ID

World Premiere

7 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Halle Kaufax

Two 20-year-old college students in NYC attempt to use their fake IDs to get into a bar for happy hour, and experience wildly different outcomes.

Q&A with Halle Kaufax

VULNERABLE

East Coast Premiere

17 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmakers: Clare Wolf Behringer, David Navarro

As Ginny struggles to process unsettling news, her friends and family do their best to support her.

Q&A with Clare Wolf Behringer and David Navarro

APPLE PIE

Mid-Atlantic Premiere

10 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Erin Borg

A woman faces a new and harsh reality when she is pressured to eat a slice of apple pie that she does not want to eat.

Q&A with Erin Borg

THE MENACE FROM ABOVE

6 minutes, Animation, Short, Saudi Arabia
Filmmaker: Mariam Khayat

In the shallow waters of the Red Sea, a happy-go-lucky fish is forced to set out on a journey to save the sea creatures from a soulless monster before it kills all life underwater.

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 2

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

CHASING DREAMS

Transforming Ideals into Action

LED BY COMPASSION

10 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: David Garcia

The inspirational story of one man's desire to make a positive impact in his community and the successful movement it sparked.

BRIEF, TENDER LIGHT

95 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Arthur Musah

At America's elite MIT, a Ghanaian alum follows four African students as they strive to graduate and become agents of change for their home countries Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Q&A with Arthur Musah

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 1

1–3 p.m.

SHORTS II

Tiny Tales, Big Screen

THE COUNTRYMAN

Virginia Premiere

21 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Andy Kastelic

Bitterness threatens to destroy a small farming community until a stranger arrives with a curious proposition.

TRUE NORTH: HONEST STORIES OF FINDING HOME

Virginia Premiere

24 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Suzie Galler

A group of distressed war veterans, who feel alienated from society upon their return from duty, find healing and connection by sailing on the Chesapeake Bay.

Q&A with Suzie Galler

UNSUITABLE

East Coast Premiere

15 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Kaustuv Mukherjee

A second-generation Indian American fights against societal conformism.

Q&A with Kaustuv Mukherjee

MIC DROP

11 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Joshua Reed

A struggling rapper comes to terms with his ex-girlfriend's commercial success as a pop superstar.

Q&A with Joshua Reed

RAJ - LOST AND FOUND

East Coast Premiere

15 minutes, Fiction, Short, India, Subtitles in English

Filmmaker: Saraswathi Vani Balgam

A young man learns his family's dark secret and is unable to accept the truth about his identity.

Q&A with Vijaykumar Mirchandani, producer

DOS BROS FORCE

Virginia Premiere

15 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA, Subtitles in English

Filmmaker: Jyothi Kalyan Sura

In a struggling immigrant household, a little girl's birthday wish, and her brother's well-intentioned mistake, teach their workaholic father that being present for their family is as important as working for their future.

Q&A with Vijaykumar Mirchandani, producer

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AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 2

1–3 p.m.

PAST LIVES

Breaking Chains and Forging Freedom

1805

Virginia Premiere

30 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Daniel Jacobson

Basammer, an enslaved man, escapes a Virginia plantation with his secret wife Marfay, in pursuit of freedom. The journey tests their love, pitting it against their morality as they battle the laws of nature and of man.

BLOODLINES OF THE SLAVE TRADE

World Premiere

73 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Markie Hancock

Rodney, who is Black, and Susanna, who is white, have very different lived experiences as their slave trading ancestors continue to impact their lives.

Q&A with Markie Hancock

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 1

3–5 p.m.

ARTISTIC VISION

Palettes and Portals

STRINGS OF TRADITION

Virginia Premiere

8 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Christian Origenes

Ryan and Aaron Fini create beautiful musical instruments, bringing awareness to the importance of classical music and the craft of instrument-making.

THE OLD YOUNG CROW

U.S. Premiere

12 minutes, Animation, Short, Japan,

Subtitles in English

Filmmaker: Liam LoPinto

An Iranian boy befriends an old Japanese woman at a graveyard in Tokyo and together they explore loss, belonging, familial love, and the beauty of nature.

DIVINE INSTINCT

Virginia Premiere

89 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: James Gossard

Step into the world of Gary Spinosa, once a rising sculptor of international renown, who chose instead to follow his artistic vision by becoming a recluse, living on a farm, and creating art that transcends and blends spiritual and religious philosophies.

Q&A with James Gossard

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 2

3–5:30 p.m.

IMMIGRANT STORIES

Because We're All Just Visitors on Planet Earth

Presented with Ayuda

CROSSES IN THE DUST

Mid-Atlantic Premiere

51 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Christine Kane

A law professor and her students assist organizations fighting the ongoing immigration crisis along the Arizona-Mexico border while honoring those who have perished on their journey to America.

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Hotel AKA Alexandria introduces a new level of style and sophistication with an inspired balance of modern minimalism and refined midcentury elements. This tranquil urban retreat, designed by world-renowned architect and designer Piero Lissoni, features spacious accommodations and a thoughtful array of premium amenities including a private cinema, Technogym fitness center, beautifully landscaped terrace, French patisserie and café, and a sleek bar and lounge.

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TEMPORARIES

90 minutes, Fiction, Feature, Canada,
Subtitles in English

Filmmaker: Pier-Philippe Chevigny

To save her sinking finances, Ariane takes a job at a local corn plant as a French-to-Spanish interpreter for seasonal migrant workers. As Ariane begins to witness how the workers are being taken advantage of, she finds it increasingly difficult to keep quiet.

Q&A with Alicja Johnson and Sandra Benavente, Aydua, and Luis Oliva, actor

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 1 5–7:30 p.m.

FUR REEL Tales with Tails

BY MY SIDE

Virginia Premiere

30 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmakers: Vicki Topaz, Wynn Padula

Three veterans and their families bravely share their pain, fear, and the difficult realization that they've lost time and love that they may never get back again. All found hope where no one had looked—in the heart of a faithful service dog.

Q&A with Vicki Topaz

CAT CITY

East Coast Premiere

79 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA
Filmmaker: Ben Kolak

Chicago has a love/hate relationship with feral cats. Cat colonies, maintained by TNR (trapped, neutered, returned) activists like Autumn, help control rats and provide love to their caretakers. But birders like Annette see it differently. Will science intervene to better inform policy and yield outcomes for the people and animals in the Windy City?

Q&A with Ben Kolak

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 2 5:30–7:30 p.m.

REEL REVOLUTION Breaking Norms in Experimental Cinema

EAT FLOWERS

14 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: River Finlay

When photographer and writer Cig Harvey discovers her best friend is diagnosed with Leukemia, she sets out to fill her world with color and light.

Q&A with River Finlay

THE MOTHS

72 minutes, Fiction, Feature, Poland,
Subtitles in English
Filmmaker: Piotr Stasik

After being cut off from their technology, a group of boys ages 8-15 years flee a gaming camp, agree not to speak, and hide out in abandoned places for 20 days. The break with gaming causes dramatic and unexpected consequences.

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 1 7:30–9:30 p.m.

FAMILY ACCEPTANCE Bye, Bye, Brady Bunch

MANDARINS

Alexandria Premiere

14 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Chelsie Pennello

The black sheep of a Chinese-American family attempts to eulogize her mother with a story about pigeons.

Q&A with Chelsie Pennello

TWO LIVES IN PITTSBURGH

Virginia Premiere

91 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Brian Silverman

Confronted by his mother's illness and his child's exploration of gender, a traditional blue-collar guy is torn between who he has always been and who his child needs him to be.

Q&A with Annie O'Donnell, actor

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 2

7:30–9:30 p.m.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, COMEDY

THE FAKE ID

World Premiere

7 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: Halle Kaufax

Two 20-year-old college students in NYC attempt to use their fake IDs to get into a bar for happy hour and experience wildly different outcomes.

Q&A with Halle Kaufax

CINEMETA (A SHORT FILM KEENLY AWARE OF ITSELF)

DMV Premiere

10 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA

Filmmaker: James Arterberry

Two military veterans turned amateur filmmakers argue over how to create the perfect, festival-worthy short film.

Q&A with James Arterberry

LOUSY CARTER

80 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Bob Byington

Variouly labeled as a deadbeat by his ex, a failure by his mother, and a shell of himself by his best friend, Professor Lousy Carter suffers a moody reality that gets worse through a bad medical diagnosis.

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West End Business Association

“An essential element of any art is risk. If you don’t take a risk then how are you going to make something really beautiful, that hasn’t been seen before?”
—Francis Ford Coppola

Businesses share risk with artists. Joining the West End Business Association (WEBA) can help.

Contact us to learn how at alexandriaweba.org.

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 1

9:30–11 p.m.

FIGHT OR FLIGHT

Exit Strategies

NORTH OF ALBANY

Virginia Premiere

90 minutes, Fiction, Feature, Canada,

Subtitles in English

Filmmaker: Marianne Farley

After her teenage daughter Sarah injures a bully at school, Annie makes the decision to flee Montreal and head with Sarah and her son to Florida where Sarah’s father lives. But their car breaks down in a small village in the Adirondacks where they meet another broken family, and it is there that they discover truths about their intentions.

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 2

9:30–11 p.m.

WEISSER GLASS STUDIO LIGHT AND MAGIC SHOWCASE

HOLY FRIT

119 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Justin Monroe

Tim, a talented LA artist, bluffs his way into winning a commission to create the world’s largest stained-glass window. The problem is, Tim doesn’t know how to make it. After a desperate search, he finds someone who might have the answer.

Q&A with Sharon Moffitt and Rachel Brooks, Weisser Glass Studio and Brian Kelly, moderator

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
at **AMC HOFFMAN CENTER**

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 1
Noon–1:30 p.m.

PERFECTLY NORMAL
**A Conventional Tale of a
Unconventional Family**

NORMALE

87 minutes, Fiction, Feature, France,
Subtitles in English
Filmmaker: Olivier Babinet

Bright and industrious 14-year-old Lucie does her best to juggle school, a part-time job, and trying to write a novel, while taking care of her dad, who has multiple sclerosis. While fun loving, he is not the most responsible father. When a social worker tries to intervene, Lucie and her dad concoct an elaborate scheme to make social services believe they are a perfectly normal family.

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 2
Noon–2:30 p.m.

WARRIOR WOMEN
She Persisted

**INTERCEPTION-JAYNE KENNEDY-AMERICAN
SPORTSCASTER**

Virginia Premiere
15 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Safiya Songhai

When a bronze-skin “bombshell” rocks the world of Sunday morning football, millions tune in, but few know the tumultuous story of Jayne Kennedy, the first Black woman to boldly run interception on the racial lines of American sportscasting.

THE THREE PHASES OF ISA

Virginia Premiere
16 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Andi Chapman

Isa’s 20-year marriage is riddled with domestic violence. After another dispute, she flees. But in a moment of mental escapism, she confronts younger versions of herself attempting to gain the freedom she so desperately seeks.

Q&A with Mildred Langford, writer

PRIVACY

85 minutes, Fiction, Feature, India,
Subtitles in English
Filmmaker: Sudeep Kanwal

Roopali, an operator at a surveillance command and control center in Mumbai is ambitious, but constantly fights her own guilt and resists a dark past. Things get complicated when Roopali ignores protocol and investigates a robbery/murder that takes place on her watch.

Q&A with Sudeep Kanwal

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 1
1:30–4 p.m.

JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY
Odyssey of the Open Road

EGGHEAD & TWINKIE

87 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA
Filmmaker: Sarah Kambe Holland

Recently out Asian American teen Twinkie and her nerdy best friend Egghead set off on a 2,000-mile road trip to meet her online crush.

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 2
2:30–5:30 p.m.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCACY

**Stories of Structural Oppression,
Black Resilience, and People Power**

*Presented with the PLTI Alexandria
People's Assembly*

SEGREGATED BY DESIGN

18 minutes, Animation, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Mark Lopez

A history of how federal, state and local governments unconstitutionally segregated major metropolitan areas in the U.S. through law and policy.

THE CITY

43 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA
Filmmakers: Ralph Steiner, Willard Van Dyke

This 1939 New York World's Fair Science and Education film promotes President Roosevelt's three segregated New Deal towns to white families.

GUARDIANS OF THE FLAME

East Coast Premiere

70 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA
Filmmaker: Daniel Wolff

Undeterred by decades of prejudice, post-Katrina neglect, and ongoing appropriation of their traditions, three generations of the multi-talented Harrison family guard their legacy and define what Black masking culture means in New Orleans today.

Q&A panel with Adrienne Fikes, the PLTI Alexandria People's Assembly, and special guests: Megan Searing Young, the Greenbelt Museum and Historic House; Roy O. Priest, Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission Chair, and former Executive Director and CEO of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority; and Theopia Jackson, former director of The Association of Black Psychologists

AMC HOFFMAN THEATER 1
4–6 p.m.

BELIEF BUSTERS

Challenging Thought Paradigms

WITCH HUNT

World Premiere

31 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Anthony Sherin

Conrad Bromberg tells the story of the 1940s blacklisting of his father, J. Edward Bromberg along with many others, and the impact that McCarthyism and the House Un-American Activities Committee had on the film industry as well as the nation.

Q&A with Anthony Sherin, Maria Giese, producer and Allison Silberberg, moderator

UNCHARITABLE

90 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA
Filmmaker: Stephen Gyllenhaal

Dan Pallotta, founder of the AIDS Rides, builds the case for a radical new way of giving by demanding that charities be freed from traditional sackcloth-and-ashes constraints so that they can truly change the world.

OldTownCrier

From the Bay to the Blue Ridge



Three cheers to independent media of all stripes!
Best wishes for a successful film festival!



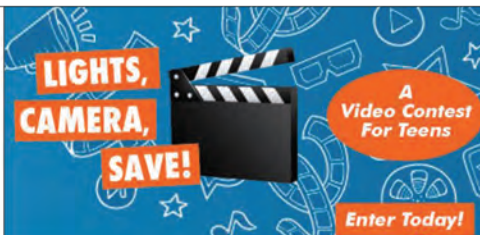
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Calling all Teen Videographers!

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The American Bankers Association Foundation Lights, Camera, Save! Video Contest is open to all teens between the ages of 13 and 18.

Contest deadline is December 1, 2023.

For more information and complete rules, visit burkeandherbertbank.com/contest or email save@burkeandherbertbank.com

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
at **THE LYCEUM**

The Lyceum
11 a.m.–1 p.m.

SALUTE TO SERVICE MEMBERS

**CINEMETA (A SHORT FILM KEENLY
AWARE OF ITSELF)**

10 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmaker: James Arterberry

Two military veterans turned amateur filmmakers argue over how to create the perfect, festival-worthy short film.

Q&A with James Arterberry

MY OVER THERE

13 minutes, Fiction, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Bob Celli

Lenore McDowell, an Army nurse and veteran of WWI, reveals a dramatic and deeply personal part of her life during her time “over there” that she has never shared before.

Q&A with Bob Celli

SOLDIER

22 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Justin Zimmerman

Daniel Krug, a veteran, has lost 11 of his closest military friends, and almost lost himself, to PTSD.

Q&A with Robert Hornak, producer

**TRUE NORTH: HONEST STORIES OF
FINDING HOME**

24 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmaker: Suzie Galler

A group of distressed war veterans, who feel alienated from society upon their return from duty, find healing and connection by sailing on the Chesapeake Bay.

Q&A with Suzie Galler

BY MY SIDE

Virginia Premiere
30 minutes, Documentary, Short, USA
Filmmakers: Vicki Topaz, Wynn Padula

Three veterans and their families bravely share their pain, fear, and the difficult realization that they’ve lost time and love that they may never get back again. All found hope where no one had looked—in the heart of a faithful service dog.

Q&A with Vicki Topaz

The Lyceum
1–3 p.m.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

Fire and Grace

NO MATTER WHAT

Virginia Premiere
48 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA
Filmmakers: Gayle Nosal, Beret Strong

For Cassy Bustos and her family, the meaning of unconditional love is tested over and over as they try to heal and navigate through substance abuse, trauma, the criminal justice system, and re-entry from prison.

Q&A with Lisa Allen, producer

WE RISE

World Premiere

64 minutes, Documentary, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Michael Afendakis

Driven to the cause of social justice, a high school mock trial team from Silicon Valley explore the defense and prosecution positions of a murder case while sharing their personal challenges and crises.

Q&A with Michael Afendakis and Jonathan Leveck, producer

The Lyceum

3–5 p.m.

ENCORE, ENCORE!


ART THIEF

94 minutes, Fiction, Feature, USA

Filmmaker: Arthur Bjorn Egeli

After stealing a painting from a local museum, a passionate, but untalented artist is thrust into the midst of an even bigger theft.

Q&A with Arthur Bjorn Egeli and Jackie Emerson and Chris Lazzaro, actors



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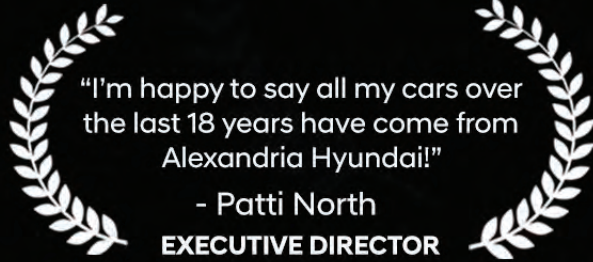
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