THE FESTIVAL ANNEX

+ VIRTUAL REALITY
+ IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES
+ CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS
+ ANNEX LOUNGE

NOV 3 - 14, 2021

GET TICKETS AT DENVERFILM.ORG
THE FESTIVAL ANNEX

Serving as the hub for all things DFF44, The Festival Annex is where all guests, attendees, and filmmakers converge to enjoy art, performances, activations, conversations, cultural events, and more.

Now in its fifth year, The Festival Annex is host to so much of what makes the Denver Film Festival unique, presenting in-person panels of interdisciplinary experts, thought-provoking immersive experiences, and an expertly curated virtual reality program.

144 W. Colfax Ave.
McNichols Building
See Building Hours on the back

PRICING

VIRTUAL REALITY
FREE VIRTUAL REALITY ARCADE - $0
PAID VIRTUAL REALITY ARCADE
Denver Film Member: $20
Non-member: $25

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

EACH AND EVERY
Denver Film Member: $50
Non-member: $60

FIRE SEASON
Denver Film Member: $45
Non-member: $55

MY FIRST FILM
Denver Film Member: $18
Non-member: $22

RETURN THE MOON
Denver Film Member: $45
Non-member: $55

THE TELELIBRARY
Denver Film Member: $35
Non-member: $45

A THOUSAND WAYS
Denver Film Member: $30
Non-member: $40

THE WHISKEY TASTING
Denver Film Member: $55
Non-member: $65

CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS
Denver Film Member: $0
Non-member: $10

THE ANNEX LOUNGE

Kick back in our second-floor lounge between movie screenings or VR experiences. Beverages and snacks are available for purchase.

Intrinsic wine and Ratio beer is FREE for badge holders.

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNEX SPONSORS!
CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS

Join our panels for insightful conversations on film, culture, and challenging contemporary issues.

Denver Film Members: FREE | Non-members: $10

GET TICKETS AT DENVERFILM.ORG

FULL SCHEDULE
ON PAGE 35

Chicanas: Nurturers and Warriors Screening and Panel

Sat, Nov. 6 · 1:00pm · 150min · at The Festival Annex

What does it mean to be Chicana? The Denver Office of Storytelling asked activist Nita Gonzales, former City Council President Ramona Martinez, and others including State Historian Nicki Gonzales and performer Yolanda Ortega to discuss what it is to be a woman born in this country with strong Mexican and Indigenous roots and a life dedicated to social justice. This sweeping history spans centuries and is told like never before in the latest #IAmDenver film: Chicanas: Nurturers and Warriors.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

SPONSORED BY:

El Movimiento Community Advisory Committee
Gather ‘Round For A Fearful Tale – A Folk Horror Conversation

Sat, Nov. 6 · 6:00pm · 45min · at The Festival Annex

We are excited to host Kier-La Janisse — the director of the epic folk horror documentary *Woodlands Dark And Days Bewitched* and acclaimed author of the foundational horror cinema text *The House of Psychotic Women* — in a spirited conversation with Theresa Mercado, curator and host of Denver Film’s celebrated quarterly Scream Screen series.

The two will discuss how Janisse’s expansive film came together, the global reach of folk horror and its rightful place in cinema, and why viewers should make sure to check out three newly restored greats of the genre — *Eyes Of Fire*, *Clearcut*, and *Allison’s Birthday* — during their rare and restored screenings during the festival.

What We Lose When We Lose Local News

Sun, Nov. 7 · 2:00pm · 45min · at The Festival Annex

A conversation with Art Cullen Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and small-town Iowa newspaper editor, and Jerry Risius, Co-Director and DP of DFF44 Official Selection *Storm Lake*, about the importance of supporting our local news outlets, moderated by CPR arts and culture reporter Monica Castillo.

PANELISTS: Art Cullen – Subject, Jerry Risius – Co-Director

SPONSORED BY:
F*ck the Norm: Forging New Disability Representation in Media

Sun, Nov. 7 · 4:00pm · 45min at The Festival Annex

Disability is the “OG” version of living and creating outside the box. Yet, disabled artists have historically been excluded from mainstream media and the arts. Join actor/director Regan Linton (DFF44 Official Selection imperfect) and other local disabled artists who are upending stale approaches and building new movements for disability as a new frontier of artistic innovation.

PANELISTS: Regan Linton - Actor and more

Visible: The Story of arc Screening & Panel Discussion

Mon, Nov. 8 · 6:00pm · 90min · at The Festival Annex

Join the filmmakers of Visible: The Story of arc to discuss the incredible story of arc Thrift Stores and their mission of advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

PANELISTS:
Lloyd Lewis (arc CEO), Seth Weshnak (arc Ambassador), Anthony Battaglia - Director/Editor (CU Denver), Caitlin Bassolino - Producer (CU Denver), Cruz Garcia - Producer/Editor (CU Denver), Donald Zuckerman (Film Commissioner, COFTM), Jim Phelan - Moderator
Indigenous Perspectives
Sat, Nov. 13 · 12:00pm · 45min · at The Festival Annex

Join the filmmaker of DFF44 Official Selection Only the Earth and the Mountains and the subject of DFF44 Official Selection Pure Grit for a conversation with local American Indian community leaders about the filmmaking process, highlighting Indigenous culture, and facing our local history.

Get Money / Make Movies
Wed, Nov. 10 · 5:00pm · 90min · at The Festival Annex

An in-depth discussion of the mechanisms, practicalities, and legalities of financing a movie — from crowdfunding, to grants, to senior debt and investment, and everything in between. Produced by cooperation between the Colorado Bar Association’s Entertainment and Sports Law Section and the Colorado Film and Video Association.

PANELISTS: Donald Zuckerman (Colorado Film Commissioner and Member, Producers Guild of America), Rehan Hasan (Partner, Hasan Legal), Zach Warkentin - Moderator (Warkentin LLC)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
MOFFOM: Music On Film, Film On Music Panel
Sat, Nov. 13 · 3:00pm · 45min · at The Festival Annex

Denver Film proudly awards finishing funds for filmmakers through the MOFFOM (Music on Film // Film on Music) grant program. Join us for a roundtable conversation from the industry leaders that comprise our MOFFOM evaluation jury. Winners of the 2021 grant to be announced at the DFF44 Awards Brunch!

MOFFOM JURY:
Jonathan Palmer, BMG Rights Management
Heather Guibert, indie music supervisor
Caryn Capotosto, indie film producer, Museum and Crane
Loretta Munoz, ASCAP executive, Sundance ASCAP Music Cafe
Jill Sobule, Denver native, recording artist and songwriter

Our Opioid Epidemic: A Colorado Story
Fri, Nov. 12 · 5:00pm · 45min · at The Festival Annex

Leaders of the local and national efforts to end the opioid epidemic will come together on a panel hosted by the team behind the documentary film, Anonymous Sister. Featuring preeminent voices from the Colorado state government, renowned healthcare organizations, community activist groups, and those directly affected, this conversation will kick off a nationwide campaign to deepen the understanding of the opioid epidemic, reduce opioid prescribing, and strip away the harmful stigma associated with substance use disorder.

CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS
IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

Augment your reality with interactive experiences designed to challenge your senses.

PRICING LISTED AS THE FOLLOWING ON EACH EXPERIENCE:
$Denver Film Member / Non-member

SCAN BELOW TO GET TICKETS

Each And Every
75-85min · 1 person at a time · $50/60
Candle House Collective · Virtual Experience

“To the makers of music.” Taylor has been thinking a lot about Pandora’s Box. They need your help making something special. A torn paper collage with the words “each and every.” The details of this (mostly) true story about the performer are best left a surprise, but suffice it to say: Taylor can’t wait to meet you.

Just before dialing in for Each And Every, the participant should be alone with their well-charged mobile phone (and headphones). They should ensure that they’ll be undisturbed for the duration of the program.

FULL SCHEDULE ON PAGE 35
**Fire Season**

60min · 16 people at a time · $45/55 (includes park entry fee)

Capital W · **Outdoor in person at Bear Creek Lake Park**

Climate change anxiety. Motherhood. Desire. Fire. Against the backdrop of a record-breaking fire season, Capital W asks: how do you build a life amidst climate crisis? Welcome to **Fire Season**: an in-person, COVID-safe exploration of climate change and our connection to nature. Guided by the stories and prose poetry of writer/performer Monica Miklas, **Fire Season** invites audiences to explore Bear Creek Lake Park, an area touched by fire just last February.

**My First Film**

75-80min · $18/22 · **In Person**

Memory · **In person at The Festival Annex**

From memoirs to director’s commentary, the tradition of self-reflection in the film industry is nothing new. Self-reflection serves as a means for a director to further explain the significance of their work. In many cases, it functions as a distancing tactic — creating a dissonance between the filmmaker at present and their naïve former self. However, these reflections on the finished work are often as polished as the film itself, rendering the director’s ideas practiced and stale.

**My First Film** repeatedly examines “my” first, and only, feature-length narrative film through an interactive live cinema performance. Each rendition contains new revelations and nuanced narrative shifts that build on both the original work and its accumulating commentary. The audience is encouraged to reconsider the formal limits of where a film begins and ends, to see that a film is only as fixed as the world around it.
Return The Moon
85min · 60 people at a time · $45/55
Third Rail Projects · Virtual Experience

Live on Zoom, Return The Moon invites audience input to collectively create an experience that is at once a toast, a ritual, and a story. Matching decidedly analog tools of performance with the unique opportunities that the Zoom platform affords, Return The Moon combines text, movement, cinematic visuals, and music. It also enfolds offerings from audience members to create a rumination on remembrance and recurrence, the interplay of shadow and light, and how a shared experience might linger and reverberate over the passage of time.

The work also features an epistolary component; after the performance, every audience member is mailed a package that contains content and interactive artifacts from their shared event.

The Telelibrary
55min · 1 person at a time · $35/45
Yannick Trapman-O’Brien · Virtual Experience

The Telelibrary uses cutting-edge telephonic technology to provide you with adventure, entertainment, and edification from the comfort and social distance of your own home.

The Telelibrary is an interactive, literary telephone adventure for an audience the size of a phone receiver. It’s part theater, part game, part self-care, and all just a phone call away. To experience The Telelibrary, simply choose your preferred time, buy a ticket for a 45-minute slot, and when the time comes, pick up the phone and give a ring. Users often have a friend or partner join them, either on speakerphone or by merging the call.
The Whiskey Tasting
60-75min · 2 people at a time · $55/65
The Catamounts · In person at The Festival Annex

An immersive theatre experience and an actual whiskey tasting, exploring both the history and nuanced varieties of the spirit. But as your bartender begins to divulge details about their own life, you’ll be inspired to toast to the moments that brought you to where you are today.

A whiskey tasting for two audience members with one performer/bartender, all in person. You will sample four actual whiskeys, but also experience an audience-centered immersive theatre experience. Must be 21+.

FULL SCHEDULE ON PAGE 35

A Thousand Ways (Part Two): An Encounter
45-60min · 2 people at a time · $30/40
600 HIGHWAYMEN · In person at The Festival Annex
Written & created by Abigail Browde & Michael Silverstone

An Encounter brings together pairs of strangers to share physical space in the creation of a private piece of theater. Seated in an empty room, at opposite ends of a table and separated by a pane of plexiglass, two participants follow prompts on a set of notecards. This elucidating experience invites us to reconsider, in real time, what we think we know about a person — including ourselves — at a moment when virtual interactions have further fractured and flattened our already-strained co-existences. A simple stack of 200 notecards lies before the participants — an incremental script offering them new ways to see one another.
VIRTUAL REALITY ARCADE

Explore the best of new-cinema storytelling with twelve virtual-reality experiences curated from all over the globe.

FREE VR ARCADE
Access the VR Arcade for **FREE** during any of the time slots listed on the website.

Scan below to see time slots.

PAID VR ARCADE
Reserve a time slot and be one of only fifteen people to experience the Arcade at once.

First come, first serve inside the paid arcade. Experiences range from 5-30 minutes.

Scan the code to see time slots.

FULL SCHEDULE ON PAGE 35

**Book Of Distance** 20-25 min.

Written and created by Randall Okita, Produced by David Oppenheim (National Film Board of Canada)

In 1935, Yonezo Okita left his home in Hiroshima, Japan for Canada. Then war and racism changed everything. Three generations later his grandson leads us on an interactive pilgrimage through an emotional geography of immigration and family to recover what was lost.

DenverFilmFestival.Eventive.org/Schedule
Discriminator

20 min.

Discriminator is an interactive documentary exploring facial recognition databases. In 2006, director Brett Gaylor uploaded a photo of himself on his honeymoon to Flickr, a web 2.0 startup that had just been purchased by Yahoo. Thirteen years later, he discovered it had been used to train facial recognition systems by the Chinese military, Estee Lauder, and the Moscow Police.

A tale of how internet culture's early instinct to overshare helped to create technologies that are proliferating faster than the law can control, Discriminator brings audiences' faces into the frame in a combination of AI, AR and animation.

Ferenj: A Graphic Memoir

9 min.

What does it mean for your home and identity to be constructed immaterially via fragments of culture and oral history distorted by the filter of time and migration? This afrosurreal portrait of home reclaims Ethiopian-American mixed-race identity while traversing crosswalks, continents, and consciousness.
**Hangman at Home**

25 min.

“What does the hangman think about when he goes home at night from work?” Inspired by the 1922 Carl Sandburg poem of the same title, this VR single-user immersive experience explores themes of acknowledgement and participation. It is not about hanging people, but about the awkward intimacy that comes with being human, and the connection between spectator, witness, and accomplice.

The animated, interactive experience invites you into five interwoven stories, capturing pivotal moments in people’s lives. *The Hangman at Home - VR* ultimately reveals that we are all more alike than different, while raising questions of responsibility.

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**KUSUNDA**

23 min.

*KUSUNDA* is a voice-driven virtual reality experience that explores what makes a language fall asleep and what it takes to wake one up. Lil Bahadur, an indigenous shaman, is resigned to the fact that he forgot his mother tongue, while his granddaughter Hima is determined to revitalise the language.
**Minimum Mass**

20 min. · Like Amber

**MINIMUM MASS** is the story of a couple who experience a series of miscarriages and come to believe their children are being born in another dimension. Set in contemporary Rotorua, New Zealand and the speculative world of black holes, it is a short, interactive narrative virtual reality.

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**Missing Pictures 1 & 2**

8-10 min. · Astrea

**Missing Pictures** is an immersive documentary series that delves into the stories that were never able to make it on the big screen, interviewing great directors of our time to learn what happened.
**NAMOO**

5 min. · Baobab Studios

Translated to “tree” in Korean, **Namoo** (2021) is a narrative poem come to life, inspired by director Erick Oh’s grandfather’s passing; the film follows the beautiful and heartbreaking moments of a man’s life, from beginning to end.


For more information, visit [www.baobabstudios.com](http://www.baobabstudios.com)

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**Paper Birds Pt 1 & 2**

30 min.

**Paper Birds** is the story of a short-sighted child with an exceptional talent for music. He must find his way through the world of darkness to bring back his sister, taken away by the shadows. He’ll use the depth of music to open portals to the invisible world. He’ll confront the shadows, and they’ll reveal their purpose.

This journey uses the senses to evoke our inner darkness and the mystery that lies within it. The unknown that we’re often afraid to see. A story about inspiration, intuition, emotion, and how these qualities are invoked by the music.

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**VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCES**
**Reeducated**

20 min.

*Reeducated* takes viewers inside a “reeducation” camp in Xinjiang, China, guided by the recollections of three men who were caught in what is likely the largest mass-internment drive of ethnic and religious minorities since the Second World War.

**Samsara Episode 1**

21 min.

*Samsara VR* explores the concept of the embodied cognition. In this experience, the audiences will be transformed into different beings’ bodies and experience the world from entirely new perspectives.

The Changing Same is an immersive, episodic virtual reality experience where the participant travels through time and space to witness the connected historical experiences of racial injustice in America. It’s a respectful, haunting story infused with magical realism and afrofuturism about the uninterrupted cycle of the history of racial oppression – past and present.

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**For the most up-to-date schedule, go to denverfilm.org**
# Festival Annex Schedule

*For the most up-to-date schedule, go to denverfilm.org*

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## Friday, Nov 5
- **Free VR Arcade**: 10:00am - 11:45am
- **THE ANNEX LOUNGE**: 11:30am-8:30pm

## Saturday, Nov 6
- **Free VR Arcade**: 10:00am - 11:45am
- **THE ANNEX LOUNGE**: 11:30am-8:30pm

## Sunday, Nov 7
- **Free VR Arcade**: 10:00am - 11:45am
- **THE ANNEX LOUNGE**: 11:30am-8:30pm

## Monday, Nov 8
- **Fire Season**: 11:00am
- **THE ANNEX LOUNGE**: 11:30am-8:30pm

## Tuesday, Nov 9
- **Fire Season**: 11:00am
- **THE ANNEX LOUNGE**: 11:30am-8:30pm
**FESTIVAL ANNEX SCHEDULE**

*For the most up-to-date schedule, go to denverfilm.org*
### Building Hours

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**NOV 3 - 14, 2021**

Get tickets at [DenverFilm.org](http://DenverFilm.org)