The 46th Denver Film Festival is dedicated to Anna Maglione Sie

(1945-2023)

Founder of the Maria and Tommaso Maglione Italian Filmmaker Award
A BIG THANK YOU TO THE

ANNA & JOHN J. SIE FOUNDATION

FOR THEIR CONTINUED YEAR-ROUND SUPPORT OF

Denver Film
BOX OFFICE
During the festival, the Box Office will open one hour prior to the first screening at each venue.

*Pre-Festival Box Office is located at:*
Sie FilmCenter  
2510 East Colfax Avenue  
(free parking available in the garage)

*Pre-Festival Box Office Hours:*
October 5: 11:00am - 7:00pm (Members Only)  
(Sie FilmCenter)  
October 6 - October 28:  
Tuesday-Saturday 11:00am-7:00pm  
(Sie FilmCenter)  
October 30 - November 2: 11:00am - 7:00pm  
(Velowood Cyclery, Badge Pick Up)  
November 3: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
(Velowood Cyclery, Badge Pick Up)

For further information: 720-381-0813  
Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

BUYING TICKETS
ONLINE at denverfilm.org
If you are a Denver Film Member, be sure to log in to your account first to receive your discount. Then click the showtime to purchase tickets.

IN PERSON
October 5: 11:00am - 7:00pm (Members Only)
October 6 - October 28th:  
Tuesday-Saturday 11:00am-7:00pm (Sie FilmCenter)
October 30 - November 2: 11:00am - 7:00pm  
(Velowood Cyclery, Badge Pick Up)
November 3: 9:00am - 5:00pm  
(Velowood Cyclery, Badge Pick Up)

DURING THE FESTIVAL
Box Offices open one hour prior to the first screening of the day at each venue.

REDEEMING TICKET PACKS & VOUCHERS
Go to the festival website and log in via the button in the upper right corner of the page. Make sure that you log in using the same email that you used to purchase your pass.

You can then click the “Schedule” button from the top of the page to view the festival program.

Click on a film that you would like to see, then click the “Order Tickets” button.

A couple options may pop up, depending on your membership status with Denver Film. Select the option: “Order 1 ticket with pass: Your Name+Pass or Package Type”($0.00)”. Please be sure you are using your DFF46 Pass or Package by selecting the $0 option.

Click “Buy” to complete your reservation.

You will receive a confirmation email containing a pdf with a QR code that we will scan when you arrive at the appropriate venue for your film.

PASS PICK-UP
If you purchased or were issued a pass, you can pick up your badge at the following locations on the specified dates:

October 30-November 2 | 11:00am - 7:00pm @ Velowood Cyclery (just across from the Sie)
November 3 | 9:00am - 5:00pm @ Velowood Cyclery (just across from the Sie)

After November 3rd, your badge can be picked up at the Sie FilmCenter Box Office during normal business hours. The Box Office will open one hour prior to the first screening of the day, and close after the last film begins.

If you have any questions or issues, please email boxoffice@denverfilm.org, or call the Sie FilmCenter Box Office at 720-381-0813.
Denver Film Member: $350
Non-Member: $450

This pass includes:
• Opening Night Red Carpet Presentation
• 3 Special Presentations (1 ticket to each)
• 5 General Admission tickets
• Panels
• Lounge entry
• Customers must reserve their individual tickets in advance either online or at the Box Office

*All benefits subject to availability. This pass is non-transferable.

MILE HIGH PASS

Denver Film Member: $350
Non-Member: $450

This pass includes:
• Opening Night Red Carpet Presentation
• 3 Special Presentations & Special Events (non-concurrent)
• Unlimited General Admission tickets (non-concurrent)
• Panels
• Lounge entry
• All parties/receptions
• Priority seating
• High Priority access to box office services

*All benefits subject to availability.

All Access Passholders may reserve individual tickets either online or at the Box Office. All Access Passholders will also have access to concierge ticket services, including ticket selection and recommendations. We highly recommend reserving/selecting your tickets early, as many events may quickly reach capacity.

This pass is non-transferable. Limited quantities available.

ALL ACCESS PASS

Denver Film Member: $1,000
Non-Member: $1,250

Ticket Sales: Online ticket purchases are available and highly encouraged. Physical tickets will not be printed at the Box Office. All tickets will be scanned prior to event entry. You may present your scannable tickets on your smartphone, or print them at home. Before purchasing tickets, please verify your schedule and venue information.

No refunds or exchanges will be made.

Arrive Early: Attendees must be seated 10 minutes prior to program start time. Late seating is not permitted. The best way to ensure your spot at a screening is to arrive well in advance of the start time. We will begin seating roughly 30 minutes before the announced start time. When the theater opens, staff will begin by scanning Denver Film Members and Passholders before moving to general ticket holders.

Denver Film Festival reserves the right to deny access to any individual. Concessions are available at the Sie FilmCenter and AMC 9 + CO 10. Outside food or drink is not permitted.

STANDBY TICKETS

If a screening’s allotment of advance tickets has sold out, there may be standby tickets available. At staff discretion, standby line numbers at each venue’s box office are given one hour prior to the screening time. Standby numbers will be admitted sequentially prior to the screening on a space-available basis. No discounts accepted. All standby tickets are full price.

ACCESSIBILITY

Devices and services can be provided when available. We seek to ensure that all events are accessible for everyone and welcome feedback to improve our services. Please contact us with questions or concerns at accessibility@denverfilm.org. Check out our Venue webpage for details on each venue.

STAY UP TO DATE

Subscribe to Denver Film Festival’s newsletter for daily updates, schedule changes, special announcements, and more. denverfilm.org/newsletter

LET’S CONNECT

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@thedenverfilm

The most up-to-date festival schedule, FAQs, and pricing are available at: denverfilm.org

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Ticketing Inquiries:
303.381.0813 | boxoffice@denverfilm.org

Regular Screenings
Denver Film Member: $13 | Non-Member: $17

Special Presentations
Denver Film Member: $25 | Non-Member: $30

Panels
Denver Film Member: $5 | Non-Member: $10

Red Carpet Opening Night Film (pre-film reception included)
Member: $60 | Non-Member: $75

Industry Late Night
Member: $20 | Non-Member: $25

Colorado Filmmaker Party
Member: $20 | Non-Member: $25

Awards Brunch
Member: $40 | Non-Member: $50

Culinary Cinema
$150

Closing Night Party
Member: $70 | Non-Member: $75

Mile High Pass
Denver Film Member: $350 | Non-Member: $450

All Access Pass
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This guide is your resource for enjoying everything the festival has to offer, including more than 180 films from around the world.

Enjoy a break between films in the Pinemelon Festival Lounge at AMC 9 + CO 10. Kick back and get your snack on courtesy of Pinemelon, Denver’s first and only online grocer. Join us for a cocktail, glass of wine or a pint. Lounge access is available for all festival badge holders. Alcoholic refreshments presented by Ratio Beerworks, Family Jones, Republic National Distribution, and more.

An App-etite for Local!
Locally-sourced groceries delivered straight to your door!

GIVEAWAY!
Download the PineMelon app for a chance to win (10) VIP tickets and a backstage tour at Film on the Rocks 2024 season! Terms and conditions apply.*

Use code DFVIP35 and get $35 off your first order!**

*To enter giveaway, download the free PineMelon app and sign up for a free account during the giveaway period (starts 10/01/2023 and ends 11/30/2023). No purchase necessary. Emails will be collected and shared with Denver Film. **Promo cannot be combined with other discounts and is valid through 11/30/2023.
OPENING NIGHT
Friday, November 3
Ellie Caulkins Opera House | 8:00pm

American Fiction
Directed by Cord Jefferson
USA (2023) 117 min.

American Fiction is Cord Jefferson’s hilarious directorial debut, which confronts our culture’s obsession with reducing people to outrageous stereotypes. Jeffrey Wright stars as Monk, a frustrated novelist who’s fed up with the establishment profiting from “Black” entertainment that relies on tired and offensive tropes. To prove his point, Monk uses a pen name to write an outlandish “Black” book of his own, a book that propels him to the heart of hypocrisy and the madness he claims to disdain.

Courtesy of MGM / Orion Pictures
Maxine's Baby: The Tyler Perry Story
Directed by Gelila Bekele, Armani Ortiz
USA (2023) 115 min.

Writer, actor, filmmaker, studio head, and media titan, Tyler Perry, is America’s consummate multihyphenate. But underneath this entertainment behemoth is a man working humbly to heal his childhood trauma by transforming his pain into promise. With unfettered access, filmmakers Gelila Bekele and Armani Ortiz lead us into the inner world of a man, whose story has never fully been told, as he becomes a father and a media mogul with a mission to pave his own road to the top. The product is a profound lesson on remembering where you came from to know where you want to go.

Courtesy of Amazon Studios

The Boy and the Heron
Directed by Hayao Miyazaki
Japan (2023) 124 min.

A young boy named Mahito yearning for his mother ventures into a world shared by the living and the dead. There, death comes to an end, and life finds a new beginning. A semi-autobiographical fantasy about life, death, and creation, in tribute to friendship, from the mind of Hayao Miyazaki.

Courtesy of GKIDS
CLOSING NIGHT
Saturday, November 11
DMNS Infinity Theater | 7:30pm

Followed by the
Closing Night Party
Sips (with a Z) at Meow Wolf
9:00pm

I.S.S.
Directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite
USA (2023) 95 min.

An eerily prophetic high-stakes thriller set entirely in the confines of the International Space Station (ISS), where astronauts face a call to duty in a fateful and terrifying way. While tensions flare aboard the ISS, a worldwide conflict occurs on Earth, and the astronauts receive orders from the ground to take control of the station by any means necessary.

Director Gabriela Cowperthwaite in person

In Partnership with

Courtesy of Bleecker Street Media

Followed by the
Closing Night Party
Sips (with a Z) at Meow Wolf
9:00pm
OPENING NIGHT PRE-RECEPTION

Get red carpet ready because we’re kicking things off in style this year! Join us for our Opening Night Pre-Reception at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, featuring drinks, bites, entertainment, and other festivities. The Opening Night film will immediately follow the reception.

Friday, November 3
6:00pm – 8:00pm
Ellie Caulkins Opera House

INDUSTRY LATE NIGHT

Join in late-night fun and antics at The Clayton in Cherry Creek, where the drinks will be flowing, the music will be bumping, and the people watching will be off the charts. Meet new friends, nosh with notable filmmakers, and gather with industry insiders.

Saturday, November 4
9:00pm – 1:00am
The Clayton

CULINARY CINEMA

Indulge your culinary senses at Sap Sua for our Culinary Cinema night at the post-film dinner, featuring a menu inspired directly by The Taste of Things. The evening caters to foodies and is a gourmand feast for all, celebrating food, wine, and the history of gastronomy.

Monday, November 6
Screening @ 4:45pm; Dinner @ 7:30pm
Sap Sua
COLORADO FILMMAKER PARTY

Celebrate the Colorado film industry with us at Mirus Gallery. Hobnob with filmmakers, directors, producers, and everyone with a Colorado connection! Enjoy drinks and bites from Serendipity Catering. Brought to you by Colorado Native and Mirus Gallery.

Thursday, November 9
9:00pm – 1:00am
Mirus Gallery

AWARDS BRUNCH

Celebrate the best of the Denver Film Festival by toasting filmmakers with mimosas and Bloody Mary’s at our Awards Ceremony and Brunch presented by the Jacquard Hotel.

Sunday, November 12
11:00am – 1:00pm
Jacquard Hotel

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY

Wana Brands is closing out DFF46 with a final celebration in partnership with Meow Wolf. Keep the festival spirit alive with drinks, bites, music, and stories that made this year’s Festival so memorable. Ride the Closing Night Party vibe into the next year as we bid farewell to films, parties, and newfound connections. Ticket purchase includes Meow Wolf exhibit access from 9 pm – 12 am.

Saturday, November 11
9:00pm – 1:00am
Sips (with a Z) at Meow Wolf
**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt**  
Directed by Raven Jackson  
USA (2023) 92 min.  
Award-winning poet, photographer, and filmmaker Raven Johnson debuts a captivating, haunting, and richly layered film that explores a woman’s life in the deep south of Mississippi. Johnson beautifully weaves an ode to the fabric of generations that shape humanity through the decades.  
Sponsored by Wana Brands Foundation  
Fri Nov 3 6:45pm Sie FilmCenter  

**All of Us Strangers**  
Directed by Andrew Haigh  
UK, USA (2023) 105 min.  
Adam (Andrew Scott) has a chance encounter with a mysterious neighbor, Harry (Paul Mescal). As their relationship develops, Adam is preoccupied with dreamlike memories of the past and finds himself drawn back to his childhood home. Upon return, he discovers his parents (Claire Foy and Jamie Bell) appear to be living just as they were on the day they died 30 years ago.  
Presenting Sponsor Sheila K. O’Brien & William LaBahn  
Fri Nov 10 7:00pm Denver Botanic Gardens  

**Dream Scenario**  
Directed by Kristoffer Borgli  
USA (2023) 101 min.  
In this wickedly entertaining horror comedy, family man and professor Paul Matthews’ (Nicolas Cage) life gets turned upside down when millions of strangers suddenly start seeing him in their dreams. But when his nocturnal appearances take a nightmarish turn, Paul is forced to navigate his newfound stardom.  
Sponsored by Ballard Spahr  
Thu Nov 9 7:00pm Denver Botanic Gardens  

**Eric LaRue**  
Directed by Michael Shannon  
USA (2023) 119 min.  
Eric LaRue follows Janice (Judy Greer), the mother of a 17-year-old boy who shot and killed three of his classmates in school. As the days move toward a meeting of the mothers affected by her son’s actions, Janice struggles for insight through exchanges with her husband (Alexander Skarsgård), pastor, and coworkers. The story becomes not about the violence but about what we choose to think and do in order to survive trauma. The sympathy we feel for Janice is complicated by the dark path she takes to find her way toward healing.  
Mon Nov 6 7:00pm Sie FilmCenter  

**La Chimera**  
Directed by Alice Rohrwacher  
Italy, Switzerland, France (2023) 133 min.  
This film follows the adventurous journey of love lost by a British archaeologist who gets caught in the illegal trafficking of ancient finds. Everyone has their own chimera, something they try to achieve but have yet to find. This lively expedition is played out between the contrasts of the living and the dead, forests and cities, and celebrations and solitudes, showing how humanity is constantly searching for chimera.  
Presented by the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation  
Sponsored by Isarti Travel, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, University of Denver - Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures  
Mon Nov 6 7:00pm Denver Botanic Gardens  

**Monster**  
Directed by Kore-eda Hirokazu  
Japan (2023) 126 min.  
When her young son starts behaving strangely, his mother feels that something is wrong. Believing that a teacher is responsible, she storms into the school demanding answers. But as the story unfolds through the eyes of the mother, teacher, and child, the truth gradually emerges.  
Presented by William LaBahn  
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat, Ratio Beerworks  
Sat Nov 11 6:15pm Sie FilmCenter
Occupied City
Directed by Steve McQueen
USA (2023) 262 min.
The past collides with the precarious present in filmmaker Steve McQueen’s documentary Occupied City. McQueen creates two portraits: a haunting door-to-door excavation of the Nazi occupation and a vivid journey through modern-day protests and a pandemic. What emerges is both devastating and life-affirming, an expansive meditation on memory, time, and perhaps, what’s next.

Sun Nov 5 1:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Old Oak
Directed by Ken Loach
UK, France, Belgium (2023) 113 min.
A once-thriving village in northern England has fallen on hard times. When a group of Syrian refugees relocates into the floundering town, prejudices develop between the community when its newest inhabitants arrive. The Old Oak, the town’s last standing pub’s proprietor, forms an unexpected friendship with a young Syrian woman, and new possibilities arise for the divided village.

Presenting Sponsor Sheila K. O’Brien
Sat Nov 4 7:30pm Sie FilmCenter

Perfect Days
Directed by Wim Wenders
Japan, Germany (2023) 125 min.
A profoundly moving and poetic reflection on finding beauty in the everyday world around us. Hirayama seems utterly content with his simple life as a public facilities cleaner in Tokyo. Outside his structured routine, he fills his day with his passion for music, books, and trees. But a series of unexpected encounters gradually reveals more of his past.

Sun Nov 5 6:30pm Denver Botanic Gardens

The Promised Land
Directed by Nikolaj Arcel
Denmark, Germany, Sweden (2023) 127 min.
Impoverished Captain Ludvig Kahlen (Mads Mikkelsen) risks his life to conquer a vast, uninhabitable land in 1755. He’s on a mission to cultivate crops and build a colony for the King in exchange for a royal name for himself. But the sole ruler of the area, the merciless Frederik De Schinkel, believes this territory belongs to him.

Sun Nov 5 7:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Robot Dreams
Directed by Pablo Berger
Spain, France (2023) 103 min.
Robot Dreams is a whimsical, animated film based on an unlikely partnership between Dog and his new self-built robot companion. The pair go everywhere together throughout NYC, discovering life in the ‘80s. One summer night, Dog sadly abandons Robot at the beach. Will they ever meet again?

Sat Nov 11 6:30pm Sie FilmCenter

The Teachers’ Lounge
Directed by Ilker Çatak
Germany (2023) 98 min.
This gripping drama about conformity, racism, and rebellion is an incisive look at the rapidly shifting power dynamics and complex search for truth in the contemporary educational system. Carla, a dedicated sports and math teacher, starts her first job at a high school and quickly learns her role as a power player. After a series of thefts, she investigates the matter and tries to do everything right, but the efforts threaten her integrity.

Sat Nov 4 6:45pm Sie FilmCenter
See it at the
Sie
FilmCenter

See what’s playing at denverfilm.org
2510 E Colfax Ave
Located by Tattered Cover + Twist & Shout

Celebrating the Power of Film to Enhance Our World

Wana Brands FOUNDATION

Proudly Supporting the 46th Denver Film Festival
wanabrandsfoundation.org
Spice Room
3100 E Colfax Ave Denver, CO 80206
15% discount on all food items (excluding alcohol) to Denver Film Festival ticket holders

We are a neighborhood Indian bistro that offers delicious cuisines from the rich royal heritage of India. We are committed to providing you with an exceptional dining experience every time you walk through our door. Each dish on our extensive menu is prepared to order using only the freshest and highest quality ingredients. We are open every day from 11 am to 9 pm.

Kochi Cafe
4100 E 8th Ave, Denver, CO 80220
Festival attendees get half off our signature drinks


Miss Molly's
2600 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80206
Festival attendees will receive a 20% discount on all menu items!

Miss Molly's is an East Coast Italian-inspired bakery offering a tasty array of unique items, including specialty cakes and desserts, calzones, and other savory items. We are open 7:30 AM-11 PM daily.

Le French
846 Albion St, Denver, CO 80220
Complimentary seasonal cocktail with the purchase of an entrée

Le French is a gourmet, casual-chic French bistro specializing in modern Parisian cuisine with global influences. The family-owned and operated restaurant serves dinner nightly, lunch on weekdays, and brunch service Friday through Sunday. A thoughtful cocktail program is complemented by an extensive wine list.

Postinos
All Denver locations
Buy a bruschetta board, receive a free glass of wine

Postino WineCafé is a casual Italian-inspired restaurant and wine bar. The restaurant delivers a compact yet crave-worthy menu of “snacky things,” bruschetta, from-scratch soups, salads and panini sandwiches. The ever-changing beverage program features boutique wines and craft beers, and includes more than 25 wines by the glass. Postino serves lunch, dinner, weekend brunch and happy hour.

Local Jones
249 Columbine St, Denver, CO 80206
20% off any food & beverage purchase

Local Jones is a warm and inviting neighborhood restaurant and bar in the heart of Cherry Creek serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Boasting contemporary American cuisine, an extensive cocktail and playul wine programming, Local Jones enhances Halcyon's inviting atmosphere where guests inevitably want to settle in and stay awhile.

Water Grill
1691 Market St, Denver, CO 80202
Free Half Dozen Oysters with an Entrée Purchase

Devoted to quality and inspired by the season, Water Grill is a seafood destination and signature experience to enjoy the first catch of the season and a deep selection of fish, lobsters, crabs, oysters and shellfish on a robust menu that frequently changes. We offer over 15 different oyster varieties daily, and just like wine, their flavor profiles are infinite. Allow us to help you create the perfect wine or beer pairing before or after the film fest.

Sap Sua
2550 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80206
A complimentary glass of bubbles for anyone who sees a film

We serve non-traditional Vietnamese food, on East Colfax Avenue. We hope to maintain the integrity of traditional flavors while taking creative liberties, and playful, yet intentional deviations from tradition.

Bar Max
2412 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80206
$3 off regular menu drinks

Craft Cocktails, Conversation, Colfax. We specialize in unique craft cocktails and mocktails sourced from local, women-, biopc-, and LGBTQ+ owned/operated businesses. Thirsty for more? Enjoy some ice cream and elevated bar bites, or try our mezcal and cheese flight. Located just a 2 minute walk from Sie FilmCenter, come in for a cocktail (or several) and keep the conversation going before or after enjoying your film!
Casting: An Immersive Experience

DANCE. ACT. LAND THE BIG GIG.

Casting invites a small audience of up to 12 participants to see whether they have that star power it takes to book the big gig.

Absurd and poignant, Casting is an intimate, immersive experience that invites attendees to explore the choices we make when we want to stand out and those we make when we want to connect.

The experience combines theater, dance and interactive sound and video design.

40 Watts From Nowhere

40 Watts From Nowhere puts you in the shoes of 90s counterculture icon Sue Carpenter who found herself leading a double life: magazine writer by day, pirate radio host by night. With her illegal station KBLT, Sue captured the attention of misfit music lovers from every walk of life ... and the authorities.
MARIA AND TOMMASO MAGLIONE ITALIAN FILMMAKER AWARD

Carolina Cavalli

Carolina Cavalli was born in Milan. In 2017, she was the recipient of the San Francisco Film Society Kenneth Rainin Foundation Filmmaking Grants. In 2018, Cavalli won the Italian screenwriting award Premio Solinas. Her debut feature Amanda premiered in September 2022 at the 79th Venice International Film Festival and internationally at the 47th Toronto International Film Festival. Amanda received 3 nominations for the Italian David di Donatello and was nominated for 2 Nastri d’Argento awards. Cavalli co-wrote the film Fremont along with the Iranian film director and producer Babak Jalali. Fremont premiered in January 2023 at the Sundance Film Festival. In November 2022, her first novel, Metropolitania was published by Fandango Libri.

BREAKTHROUGH DIRECTOR

Michael Shannon

Presented to an established creative, making their directorial debut. Academy Award®, Golden Globe® and Tony Award® nominated actor Michael Shannon continues to make his mark in entertainment, working with the industry’s most respected talent and treading the boards in notable theaters around the world. Eric LaRue is his directorial debut. Shannon will be presented with the award and participate in a post-screening Q&A of Eric LaRue on Monday, November 6th at the Sie FilmCenter.

CINEMAQ LABAHN IKON FILM AWARD

Andrew Haigh

Presented to an outstanding entertainment contributor from the LGBTQIA+ community. Andrew Haigh has written and directed three award-winning feature films: Lean on Pete (2017), 45 Years (2015), and Weekend (2011). He was the executive producer and lead writer/director on the HBO show Looking (2014 to 2016). His latest TV project was a five-part adaptation of The North Water (2021) for BBC & AMC. Haigh’s new film, All of Us Strangers will screen on Friday, Nov. 10th at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Haigh will participate in an on-stage conversation along with the award presentation.

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BREAKTHROUGH DIRECTOR

Michael Shannon

Presented to an established creative, making their directorial debut. Academy Award®, Golden Globe® and Tony Award® nominated actor Michael Shannon continues to make his mark in entertainment, working with the industry’s most respected talent and treading the boards in notable theaters around the world. Eric LaRue is his directorial debut. Shannon will be presented with the award and participate in a post-screening Q&A of Eric LaRue on Monday, November 6th at the Sie FilmCenter.

CINEMAQ LABAHN IKON FILM AWARD

Andrew Haigh

Presented to an outstanding entertainment contributor from the LGBTQIA+ community. Andrew Haigh has written and directed three award-winning feature films: Lean on Pete (2017), 45 Years (2015), and Weekend (2011). He was the executive producer and lead writer/director on the HBO show Looking (2014 to 2016). His latest TV project was a five-part adaptation of The North Water (2021) for BBC & AMC. Haigh’s new film, All of Us Strangers will screen on Friday, Nov. 10th at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Haigh will participate in an on-stage conversation along with the award presentation.

MARIA AND TOMMASO MAGLIONE ITALIAN FILMMAKER AWARD

Carolina Cavalli

Carolina Cavalli was born in Milan. In 2017, she was the recipient of the San Francisco Film Society Kenneth Rainin Foundation Filmmaking Grants. In 2018, Cavalli won the Italian screenwriting award Premio Solinas. Her debut feature Amanda premiered in September 2022 at the 79th Venice International Film Festival and internationally at the 47th Toronto International Film Festival. Amanda received 3 nominations for the Italian David di Donatello and was nominated for 2 Nastri d’Argento awards. Cavalli co-wrote the film Fremont along with the Iranian film director and producer Babak Jalali. Fremont premiered in January 2023 at the Sundance Film Festival. In November 2022, her first novel, Metropolitania was published by Fandango Libri.

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American Independent Award

American Independent Award is given to the best American Independent Narrative Feature and includes a $2,500 cash award. Past Awardees include Nanny, Farewell Amor, Ghostbox Cowboy, Hunter Gatherer, and Krisha.

Krzysztof Kieslowski Award for Best Feature Film

Krzysztof Kieslowski Award for Best Feature Film honors the best narrative feature film. Past Awardees include EO, Drive My Car, Shoplifters, Rams, Volcano, and Persepolis.

Banel & Adama
Blaga's Lessons
Do Not Expect Too Much from the End of the World
Evil Does Not Exist
The Shadowless Tower
Tótem

Maysles Brothers Award for Best Documentary

Maysles Brothers Award for Best Documentary is given to the best documentary feature film and includes a $2,500 cash award. Past Awardees include All These Sons, Wrestle, AlphaGo, Do Not Resist, The Search for Emak Bakia, and Kurt Cobain About a Son.

Caterpillar
Four Daughters
Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project
In the Rearview
Motherland
Songs of Earth

Shorts Awards

Grand Jury Award Short Film
Liberty Global Best Student Domestic Short
Liberty Global Best Student International Short
Marilyn Marsh Saint-Veltri Award for Best Student Animation Short

Parachute
Smoking Tigers
The Sweet East

For more info on the awards, scan here.
Explore and celebrate cinema in all its diverse and captivating forms with the Film Sections that make this festival a true tapestry of storytelling and creativity.

These sections are part of Denver Film’s year-round programming—highlighting stories that celebrate the intricacies of our community: the best in queer cinema, women-centric programming, LatinX stories, Asian and Asian American cinema, European and Foreign cinema, American Independent cinema, Colorado films, and so much more. These films represent some of the best in the world, and should be at the top of your movie-watching list.

**FIND MORE FILMS**
There’s more than one way to search for this year’s program. Scan below to explore more!

Search by type, genres, and sections:

![QR Code](image)

View the whole program:

![QR Code](image)

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**CineLatinx**
Highlighting cinema from the Americas, including indigenous cultures. CineLatinx celebrates the diversity of storytelling within the Latinx community.

The Delinquents
Going Varsity in Mariachi
The Settlers
They Shot the Piano Player
Tótem

**CinemaQ**
Queer voices. Queer visions. Queer lives. Experience the best in films that highlight LGBTQ+ community within the DFF46 CinemaQ program.

All of Us Strangers
Caterpillar
Fancy Dance
Femme
Housekeeping for Beginners
Monster
The People’s Joker

Sponsored by

![Serendipity](image)

Presented by

**WILLIAM LABAHN**

Sponsored by

![Ratio Beerworks](image)
Colorado Spotlight

Ever more diverse and collaborative, Colorado’s filmmaking scene continues to grow, producing works that screen in both film festivals and theaters around the country. This section features both homegrown talent, and stories told about our state.

Colorado Shorts: Documentary
Colorado Shorts: Narrative
The Great Divide
Hard Miles
Ileana’s Smile
On the Edge: Witold-K
An Open Door
Publish or Perish
Soft Liquid Center
Summer of Violence

Sponsored by

Mary Watson

With support from

Italian Showcase

Italy is the longtime home of a diverse and vibrant filmmaking community. The 46th Denver Film Festival is pleased to present four new Italian works from established and emerging directors.

The Beautiful Summer
A Brighter Tomorrow
Ennio
Kidnapped
La Chimera

Presented by

Sponsored by

COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

FAMILY JONES

5280 MAGAZINE

isarti Travel

Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Consulate General of Italy

City of Denver

Colorado Public Radio

RMCPX

KQMR

THE SHOP
Late Night Showcase

Go to the outer limits of cinema with the Denver Film Festival’s Late Night Showcase. This year’s selection of nine features and a shorts package ranges from traditional horror flicks to cult comedies to straight-up mind melters.

Conann
Eight Eyes
Hello Dankness
Infested
Late Night with the Devil
The People’s Joker
Raging Grace
Riddle of Fire
The Sacrifice Game
Shorts 5: Late Night

Sheila K. O’Brien Spotlight on U.K. & Ireland Cinema

In recognizing the myriad of talents and achievements within the U.K. and Ireland film industries, the Sheila K. O’Brien Spotlight is presented annually during the Denver Film Festival. We aim to take a look at the diverse and compelling cinematic works of our country’s closest allies across the Atlantic.

All of Us Strangers
Femme
Is There Anybody Out There?
Notes from Sheepland
The Old Oak

Women + Film

Women+Film showcases documentaries, narratives, and short films celebrating the best in women-centric programming; both by and about women. These thought-provoking stories of women from around the world are sure to inspire all audiences.

Four Daughters
Happy Clothes: A Film About Patricia Field
Maestra
Milisuthando
Smoke Sauna Sisterhood
Smoking Tigers
Someday We’ll Tell Each Other Everything
Valeria Is Getting Married

Presented by

Sponsored by

Sheila K. O’Brien

KBCO
97.3FM

TALOMA PARTNERS
About Dry Grasses
Directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan
Turkey, France, Germany, Sweden (2023) 197 min.
Samet, a young art teacher, is finishing his fourth year of compulsory service in a remote village in Anatolia. After a turn of events he can hardly make sense of, he loses his hopes of escaping the grim life he seems to be stuck in. Will his encounter with Nuray, herself a teacher, help him overcome his angst?
Sat Nov 4 1:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Thu Nov 9 2:45pm Sie FilmCenter

All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt
Directed by Raven Jackson
USA (2023) 92 min.
Award-winning poet, photographer, and filmmaker Raven Johnson debuts a captivating, haunting, and richly layered film that explores a woman’s life in the deep south of Mississippi. Johnson beautifully weaves an ode to the fabric of generations that shape humanity through the decades.
Special Presentation
Sponsored by The Clayton, Xfinity, Wana Brands Foundation
Fri Nov 3 6:45pm Sie FilmCenter

All of Us Strangers ★
Directed by Andrew Haigh
UK, USA (2023) 105 min.
Adam (Andrew Scott) has a chance encounter with a mysterious neighbor, Harry (Paul Mescal). As their relationship develops, Adam is preoccupied with dreamlike memories of the past and finds himself drawn back to his childhood home. Upon return, he discovers his parents (Claire Foy and Jamie Bell) appear to be living just as they were on the day they died 30 years ago.
CinemoQ, Sheila K. O’Brien Spotlight on U.K. & Ireland Cinema, Special Presentation
Presenting Sponsor Sheila K. O’Brien & William LaBahn
Fri Nov 10 7:00pm Denver Botanic Gardens

American Fiction
Directed by Cord Jefferson
USA (2023) 117 min.
American Fiction is Cord Jefferson’s hilariously directorial debut, which confronts our culture’s obsession with reducing people to outrageous stereotypes. Jeffrey Wright stars as Monk, a frustrated novelist who’s fed up with the establishment profiting from ‘Black’ entertainment that relies on tired and offensive tropes. To prove his point, Monk uses a pen name to write an outlandish ‘Black’ book of his own, a book that propels him to the heart of hypocrisy and the madness he claims to disdain.
Opening Night Presentation
Presented by Moye White and Baird The Palm Group
Sponsored by Visit Denver
Fri Nov 3 8:00pm Ellie Caulkins Opera House

The Animal Kingdom
Directed by Thomas Cailley
France (2023) 130 min.
In this dystopian, sci-fi thriller, the world is hit by a wave of mutations, transforming humans into hybrid creatures. François does everything he can to save his wife, who is affected by this mysterious condition. As some of the creatures disappear into a nearby forest, he embarks with Emile, their 16-year-old son, on a quest to find her with some help from a local police officer.
Wed Nov 8 4:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Thu Nov 9 6:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Anselm
Directed by Wim Wenders
Germany (2023) 93 min.
Art comes to life in this 3-D and 6K-resolution documentary featuring Anselm Kiefer, one of today’s most innovative and important painters and sculptors. Filmmaker Wim Wenders traces Kiefer’s life stages from his native Germany to his current home in France and presents a cinematic experience displaying the deep respect from one artist to the other.
3-D presentation
Sat Nov 4 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 1:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Bad Press ★
Directed by Rebecca Landsberry-Baker, Joe Peeler
USA (2023) 98 min.
A gripping documentary based on the modern-day struggles of the freedom of the press takes flight when the First Amendment gets grounded. Angel Ellis, a reporter for Mvskoke Media, is punished for doing her job - reporting the news. When Ellis questions tribal officials' integrity, Muscogee Nation places the newspaper under jurisdiction. That's when the real fight for truth and transparency begins.
Sponsored by Wana Brands Foundation, Westword
Fri Nov 3 6:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 4 1:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Banel & Adama
Directed by Ramata-Toulaye Sy
France, Senegal, Mali (2023) 87 min.
This visually arresting drama follows Banel and Adama, a young couple who live in a remote village in northern Senegal. For them, nothing else exists except for their love for each other. Their perfect relationship is put on a collision course with their community's customs.
Krzysztof Kieslowski Award for Best Feature Film
Thu Nov 9 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Fri Nov 10 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Beautiful Summer
Directed by Laura Luchetti
Italy (2023) 111 min.
A romantic drama set in the sweeping countryside of Turin in 1938 characterizes the mysterious journey into adulthood. Young Ginia experiences ecstasy and turmoil during her “beautiful summer” by surrendering to her first great love. During a sensual and provocative meeting with a female lover, she confronts her overwhelming feelings, celebrating the courage to be herself.
Italian Showcase
Presented by the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation
Sponsored by Isarti Travel & University of Denver - Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures, Istituto Italiano di Cultura
Mon Nov 6 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Tue Nov 7 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Blaga’s Lessons
Directed by Stephan Komandarev
Bulgaria, Germany (2023) 114 min.
When a retired, recently widowed teacher falls prey to a phone scam, she’s left robbed of her life savings and without any money for her late husband’s grave. Her life turns upside down when she realizes that there’s no way of gaining her money back, up until she receives an alluring, yet suspicious offer for work.
Krzysztof Kieslowski Award for Best Feature Film
Sat Nov 4 4:15pm Sie FilmCenter
Sun Nov 12 11:15am AMC 9 + CO 10

Blood for Dust ★
Directed by Rod Blackhurst
USA (2023) 98 min.
In this action-packed Fargo-vibe thriller, a traveling salesman named Cliff (Scoot McNairy) desperately struggles to make a living for his family and ends up on a dangerous path with his colleague Ricky (Kit Harington). On a quest for quick cash, the duo finds themselves in a battle to stay alive after a drug exchange turns into a bloodbath.
Fri Nov 10 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 3:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Boy and the Heron
Directed by Hayao Miyazaki
Japan (2023) 124 min.
A young boy named Mahito yearning for his mother ventures into a world shared by the living and the dead. There, death comes to an end, and life finds a new beginning. A semi-autobiographical fantasy about life, death, and creation, in tribute to friendship, from the mind of Hayao Miyazaki.
Centerpiece Presentation, Colorado Dragon Boat
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat, Butler Rents
Wed Nov 8 7:00pm Denver Botanic Gardens
The Breaking Ice
Directed by Anthony Chen
China (2023) 97 min.
Young urbanite Haofeng, who is visiting cold, wintry Yanji, a city on China’s northern border, feels lost and adrift. By chance, he meets Nana, a charming tour guide who instantly fascinates him. She introduces him to Xiao, a personable but frustrated restaurant worker. The three bond over a drunken weekend and confront their traumas. Their frozen desires slowly thaw as they seek to liberate themselves from an icy world.

Colorado Dragon Boat
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat
Fri Nov 3 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 4 4:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

A Brighter Tomorrow
Directed by Nanni Moretti
Italy, France (2023) 95 min.
Award-winning DFF favorite Nanni Moretti dishes up another crowd-pleaser in A Brighter Tomorrow. Set against the sweeping backdrop of Rome, Moretti captures the perils of Giovanni, a fictional Italian filmmaker whose marriage is in crisis and facing financial trouble. Giovanni dances and sings his way through his challenges and instigates a myriad of high and low musical notes that mirror life.

Italian Showcase
Presented by the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation
Sponsored by Isarti Travel & University of Denver - Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures, Istituto Italiano di Cultura
Wed Nov 8 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Thu Nov 9 4:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Caterpillar
Directed by Liza Mandelup
USA (2022) 111 min.
The quest for beauty and fulfillment gets tested in this revealing documentary. Struggling to feel seen, David becomes infatuated with a mysterious company’s promise to transform people’s lives by permanently changing the color of their eyes. After traveling to India to get the controversial procedure, questions arise about whether artificial beauty is worth the risk.

CinemaQ, Maysles Brothers Award for Best Documentary
Presented by William LaBahn
Sponsored by Ratio Beerworks
Sat Nov 4 7:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 5 1:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Search by type, genres, and sections:

View the whole program:
Colorado Shorts: Documentary
95 min.🌟

**Freeform**, USA, directed by Peter Vo: Through a conversation with his younger cousin, a dancer talks about the freedom of dance and how music inspires him to move in his own way.

**Cue Card Girl**, USA, directed by Aidan Nelson, Violet Dempsey: An inside look at what really went on backstage of Saturday Night Live during its iconic 1980s era through the lens of Eileen O’Brien.

**A Good Neighbor**, USA, directed by Maggie Hartmans, Brittany Zampella: A Latina single mother fights against racism and climate change as she campaigns for Commerce City’s city council in one of the nation’s most polluted zip codes.

**Python Huntress**, USA, directed by Nicholas Orris, Matt Deblinger: A glimpse into the life of Donna Kalil, an environmentalist who spends her nights patrolling the Florida Everglades in search of the Burmese Python—an invasive apex predator that has devastated local wildlife.

**Come One Come All - A Circus With A Purpose**, USA, directed by Nathan Ward: Run away to the social circus in Salida, Colorado, and experience how life under the big tent is more than juggling knives, clowns, and walking the tightrope - it’s about changing lives.

**Colorado Spotlight**
Sponsored by COFTM, Colorado Public Radio, The Family Jones, Rocky Mountain Public Media, 5280 Magazine, AOR

With support from Mary Watson
Wed Nov 8 7:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Thu Nov 9 3:30pm Sie FilmCenter

Colorado Shorts: Narrative
89 min.🌟

**All Choked Up**, USA, directed by Alison Volk: A woman must decide whether to save her husband when he starts choking on a sandwich during lunch.

**That Time of the Month**, USA, directed by Ann Allsopp: A murder investigation takes a reporter and her cameraman to the house of three women roommates, who turn out to be werewolves.

**Dippy Club**, USA, directed by Jenelle Pearring: Genny attends a Christian summer camp and experiences her first crush and fleeting physical encounter with an older boy.

**Sparkle**, USA, directed by Kristen Wolf: A non-binary child struggles to find the perfect Father’s Day gift for their disapproving dad.

**Portrait of a Cowboy**, USA, directed by Devon Wycoff: The gut-punch feeling of grief and the healing process are exposed in this narrative short when Alex returns home for the first time since her father’s death to prep the family farm for auction.

**There is Light in Us**, USA, directed by Bruce Tetsuya: Upon returning to his childhood home, a man is struck by memories and visions about the mysterious disappearance of his mother.

**Dirty Rotten Tofu and the Gohan Girls**, USA, directed by June K. Inuzuka: In the Wild West, three Asian women are on the run from a Chinatown crime boss, who wants them back “Dead or Alive.”

**Colorado Spotlight**
Sponsored by COFTM, Colorado Public Radio, The Family Jones, Rocky Mountain Public Media, 5280 Magazine, AOR

Sponsored by COFTM, The Family Jones, Rocky Mountain Public Media, 5280 Magazine

With support from Mary Watson
Thu Nov 9 6:15pm Sie FilmCenter
Fri Nov 10 4:15pm Sie FilmCenter

Common Ground
Directed by Josh Tickell, Rebecca Tickell
Mexico, USA (2023) 105 min.

Common Ground is the highly anticipated sequel to the juggernaut success Kiss the Ground. The documentary unveils a dark web of money, power, and politics behind the country’s broken planetary system. The film explores how regenerative agriculture can help heal the soil, our health, and the planet before it’s too late.

**Sponsored by Caz Matthews, Colorado Environmental Film Festival**

Mon Nov 6 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Tue Nov 7 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Conann
Directed by Bertrand Mandico
France, Luxembourg, Belgium (2023) 105 min.

A mythical, bizarre late-night cult film where an underworld dog named Rainer travels through the abyss and recounts Conann’s six different lives. Set across eras, Rainer visits Conann throughout her childhood, including time spent as an enslaved person to her barbarian horde all the way to her accession to the doors of the current world.

**Late Night Showcase**
Fri Nov 3 9:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 4 9:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Concrete Utopia
Directed by Um Tae-hwa
South Korea (2023) 130 min.
A massive earthquake hits Seoul in this intense thriller where people are desperately struggling to stay alive. With only one apartment building left in the rubble, residents try to instill order in the new dystopian world to keep everyone safe.

Colorado Dragon Boat
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat
Fri Nov 3 6:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Sun Nov 5 6:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Deep Rising
Directed by Matthieu Rytz
USA (2023) 93 min.
Narrated by Jason Momoa, Deep Rising illuminates the vital relationship between the deep ocean and life on Earth. This exquisite and informative environmental documentary explores the many issues concerning the destructive consequences of mining metals from the ocean floor.

Sponsored by Caz Matthews, Datura Home
Wed Nov 8 7:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Thu Nov 9 4:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Crime is Mine
Directed by François Ozon
France (2023) 102 min.
Parisian flair from the '30s oozes on the big screen when a young, talentless actress named Madeleine is accused of murdering a famous producer. With help from her best friend Pauline, a young unemployed lawyer, she faces acquittal and begins a new life of fame and success - until the truth comes out.

American Independent Competition
Fri Nov 10 9:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 6:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Deep Sea
Directed by Tian Xiaopeng
China (2023) 112 min.
A family-friendly, 3-D animated film, Deep Sea focuses on the mysterious journey Shenxiu experiences after traveling with her family on a cruise ship, where she falls and breaks into the fancy “Deep Sea” restaurant. Set upon an old transformed submarine, Shenxiu meets an array of eclectic characters that come to life through brilliant animation.

Colorado Dragon Boat
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat
3-D presentation
Sat Nov 4 1:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 5 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Cypher ★
Directed by Chris Moukarbel
USA (2023) 78 min.
Director Chris Moukarbel captures the weird and sinister side of fame in this pseudo-documentary that dives into the music industry's conspiracy theories and secret societies. The story follows the astronomical rise of rapper Tierra Whack in an artist showcase but leaves viewers questioning everything they see.

American Independent Competition
Fri Nov 10 9:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 6:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Delinquents
Directed by Rodrigo Moreno
Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Luxembourg (2023) 180 min.
Beguiling and unpredictable, The Delinquents is a deadpan comedic heist following Buenos Aires bank employee Morán, who dreams up a scheme to steal enough money to support a modest retirement. He then confesses and serves time while his co-worker Román holds on to the cash in a remote location where his life changes forever.

CineLatinx
Sponsored by Serendipity Catering
Sat Nov 4 1:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 5 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
**Disco Boy**

Directed by Giacomo Abbruzzese  
France, Italy, Belgium, Poland (2023) 91 min.

Fate meets its match at a nightclub after two soldiers are pit against one another in a battle. Before the chance encounter, their paths are anything but easy. Aleksei endures an arduous journey across Europe and enlists in the French Foreign Legion. In the Niger Delta, Jomo fights against oil companies that threaten the survival of his village. Beyond borders, life and death, their destinies still intertwine.

Sat Nov 4 9:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10  
Fri Nov 10 2:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

**Do Not Expect Too Much from the End of the World**

Directed by Radu Jude  
Romania, Luxembourg, France, Croatia (2023) 163 min.

True to form, director Radu Jude sets his absurdist comedy-drama in two parts in a dizzying landscape. In part one, meet Angela, an overworked production assistant who must drive around Bucharest looking to cast a “safety at work” video. Soon, she encounters Marian, a half-paralyzed worker, who gets the part. In part two, Marian reveals on camera that a work-related accident is due to the company’s negligence, which ignites a scandal.

**Krzysztof Kieslowski Award for Best Feature Film**

Thu Nov 9 7:00pm Sie FilmCenter  
Fri Nov 10 4:00pm Sie FilmCenter

**Dream Scenario**

Directed by Kristoffer Borgli  
USA (2023) 101 min.

In this wickedly entertaining horror comedy, family man and professor Paul Matthews’ (Nicolas Cage) life gets turned upside down when millions of strangers suddenly start seeing him in their dreams. But when his nocturnal appearances take a nightmareish turn, Paul is forced to navigate his newfound stardom.

**Special Presentation**

Sponsored by The Clayton, Xfinity, Ballard Spahr, Butler Rents

Thu Nov 9 7:00pm Denver Botanic Gardens

**Drift**

Directed by Anthony Chen  
France, UK, Greece (2023) 93 min.

Jacqueline (Cynthia Erivo), a young refugee, lands alone and penniless on a Greek island, where she tries first to survive and then to cope with her past. While gathering her strength, she begins a friendship with a rootless tour guide (Alia Shawkat), and together, they find the resilience to forge ahead.

Tue Nov 7 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10  
Wed Nov 8 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

**Double Vision**

62 min.  
See listing on page 15

Take a trip down memory lane with this series of eight films by Janie Geiser spanning 2013-2018 that show family photographs found at various thrift stores - brought back to life in all of their truth and fiction. **Cathode Garden:** A young woman moves between light and dark, life and death, a latter-day Persephone. **The Hummingbird Wars:** Theater in a time of war, which is the theater of any time. **Silent Sister:** Through medical illustrations, charts, and photographs of abandoned hospitals in pre-suburban Los Angeles, this film focuses on the intersection of landscape and the body. **Kriminalistik:** Elusive evidence is scientifically arranged and cataloged, suggesting a corridor to knowledge. **Look and Learn:** This film looks at visual vocabulary and its use in the daily world. **Fluorescent Girl:** Fluorescent light reflects on a girl’s image, found in a book of photographs in a bookstore. **Flowers of the Sky:** The early 20th century is elegantly resurrected with two thrifted photographs superimposed to reflect another time in the present day. **Valeria Street:** Used to examining images of strangers, Janie Geiser explores new territory after unearthing images of her father, which forces Geiser to examine the indexical value of photography and film.

Mon Nov 5 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Eight Eyes
Directed by Austin Jennings
USA, Serbia, North Macedonia (2023) 88 min.
A couple takes a trip to former Yugoslavia to mend their soured marriage. A mysterious local named Saint Peter, who eagerly offers to be their guide, appears, and the couple embark on an impromptu sightseeing expedition. They soon find themselves trapped in a nightmare where supernatural forces threaten their lives. Shot entirely on 16 mm, Eight Eyes will make you think twice about your next holiday.

Late Night Showcase
Fri Nov 3 9:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Sat Nov 4 9:15pm Sie FilmCenter

Evil Does Not Exist
Directed by Ryusuke Hamaguchi
Japan (2023) 106 min.
A pastoral village outside of Tokyo becomes the perfect tourist spot for glamping. As developers encroach upon the land, their plans threaten to destroy the modest and peaceful life of the village inhabitants, especially the local water supply. Mismatched intentions cause unrest in the community and endanger the ecological balance of the nature plateau and way of life. Will the locals win, or will the developers create their comfortable ‘escape’ to nature?

Colorado Dragon Boat, Krzysztof Kieslowski Award for Best Feature Film
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat
Mon Nov 6 7:15pm Sie FilmCenter
Fri Nov 10 6:45pm Sie FilmCenter

Ennio
Directed by Giuseppe Tornatore
Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Japan (2023) 156 min.
Giuseppe Tornatore pays tribute to Ennio Morricone, retracing the life and works of the legendary composer - from his debut with Sergio Leone to Quentin Tarantino’s Oscar®-winning The Hateful Eight.

Italian Showcase
Presented by the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation
Sponsored by Isarti Travel & University of Denver - Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures, Istituto Italiano di Cultura
Fri Nov 10 1:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 12:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Fallen Leaves
Directed by Aki Kaurismäki
Finland, Germany (2023) 81 min.
This gentle tragicomedy is Aki Kaurismäki’s latest entry to his Proletariat Series (Shadows in Paradise, Ariel, and The Match Factory Girl). Fallen Leaves tells the story of two lonely people searching for love and meeting each other by chance in Helsinki. Their path gets clouded by alcoholism, lost phone numbers, not knowing each other’s names or addresses, and life’s tendency to place obstacles in the way of happiness.

Brit Withey Artistic Director Recognition
With support from Gloria Campbell and John Verwys
Sat Nov 11 1:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 4:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Eric LaRue
Directed by Michael Shannon
USA (2023) 119 min.
Eric Larue follows Janice (Judy Greer), the mother of a 17-year-old boy who shot and killed three of his classmates in school. As the days move toward a meeting of the mothers affected by her son’s actions, Janice struggles for insight through exchanges with her husband (Alexander Skarsgård), pastor and coworkers. The story becomes not about the violence but about what we choose to think and do in order to survive trauma. The sympathy we feel for Janice is complicated by the dark path she takes to find her way toward healing.

Special Presentation
Sponsored by The Clayton, Xfinity
Mon Nov 6 7:00pm Sie FilmCenter

Fancy Dance
Directed by Erica Tremblay
USA (2023) 90 min.
A sister has gone missing on the Seneca-Cayuga Reservation in Oklahoma, and a family is now responsible for her teenage daughter. Every spare minute is used to find their niece’s Mom while helping her prepare for an upcoming powwow. The search gradually becomes a far deeper investigation into the complexities and contradictions of Indigenous women and their role in society.

CinemaQ
Presented by William LaBahn
Sponsored by Ratio Beerworks, Wana Brands Foundation
Tue Nov 7 4:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Wed Nov 8 6:45pm Sie FilmCenter
Fantastic Machine
Directed by Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck
Sweden, Denmark (2023) 85 min.
Fantastic Machine is a visually exuberant documentary on the power of the camera showcasing images from social media, archive footage, home videos, live-streaming material, and private documentation. Each collage offers a sociological glimpse of how photography has evolved in the past 200 years. Filmmakers Axel Danielson & Maximilien Van Aertryck focus on society’s obsession with selfies and image-based entertainment and how it has changed human behavior.
Sat Nov 4 9:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 5 4:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Feeling That the Time for Doing Something Has Passed
Directed by Joanna Arnow
USA (2023) 87 min.
This irreverent, drift comedy follows the life of Ann (Joanna Arnow), a morose New Yorker in her 30s who feels stuck in all areas of her life. To her dismay, the years have quickly gone by in her long-term casual submissive sexual dynamic relationship. Ann begins to feel increasingly alienated as she wrestles with herself, family relationships, and the reality of her low-level corporate job.
American Independent Competition
Fri Nov 3 6:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 4 4:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Four Daughters
Directed by Kaouther Ben Hania
France, Tunisia, Germany, Saudi Arabia (2023) 107 min.
A unique cinema experience, this documentary explores the intimate journey of hope, rebellion, violence, transmission, and sisterhood that questions the very foundation of society. A Tunisian woman discovers that her two oldest daughters have disappeared. To fill in their absence, the filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania invites professional actresses into the family, intending to lift the veil on the daughter’s life stories.
Women+Film, Maysles Brothers Award for Best Documentary
Sponsored by Taloma Partners, KBCO, Colorado Party Rental
Tue Nov 7 7:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Wed Nov 8 4:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Frybread Face and Me
Directed by Billy Luther
USA (2021) 83 min.
A heartfelt coming-of-age story featuring a charming Native American cast featuring a sweet reminder of innocence. When an 11-year-old city boy is sent to his grandmother’s ranch against his will, he meets his cousin. An unexpected friendship teaches him the importance of family, tradition, and what it means to be a Navajo man.
Sun Nov 5 4:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Mon Nov 6 7:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Femme
Directed by Sam H. Freeman, Ng Choon Ping
UK (2023) 99 min.
This compelling, yet tense drama is filled with secret seduction and physical prowess that builds into a cat-and-mouse thriller. Jules, a well-known drag queen, is met with a homophobic attack. Though he defends himself, his self-esteem and career take a hit. When he encounters his attacker in a gay sauna, safety takes a turn.
Sheila K. O’Brien Spotlight on U.K. & Ireland Cinema, CinemaQ
Presenting Sponsor Sheila K. O’Brien & William LaBahn
Fri Nov 3 9:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Wed Nov 8 6:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project
Directed by Joe Brewster, Michèle Stephenson
USA (2022) 102 min.
Legendary poet Nikki Giovanni’s story comes to life on screen through intimate vérité, archival footage, and visually innovative treatments of her written word. The filmmakers push the boundary in this biographical documentary by capturing time and space, revealing the enduring influence of one of America’s greatest living artists and social commentators.
Maysles Brothers Award for Best Documentary
Sat Nov 11 4:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Sun Nov 12 12:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Going Varsity in Mariachi
Directed by Alejandra Vasquez. Sam Osborn
USA (2023) 105 min.
In the competitive world of high school mariachi, the musicians from the South Texas borderlands reign supreme. Under the guidance of Coach Abel Acuña, the teenage captains of Edinburg North High School's acclaimed team must turn a shoestring budget and diverse crew of inexperienced musicians into state champions.

CineLatinx
Sponsored by Serendipity Catering
Sat Nov 11 1:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 2:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Great Divide ★
Directed by Tom Donahue
USA (2023) 89 min.
With the backdrop of the Colorado State House attempting to pass Red Flag Laws, this documentary delves into the history of violence in America from the slave trade to the Sand Creek Massacre, presented in nine chapters.

Colorado Spotlight
Sponsored by COFTM, Colorado Public Radio, The Family Jones, Rocky Mountain Public Media, 5280 Magazine
With support from Mary Watson
Tue Nov 7 7:15pm Sie FilmCenter
Wed Nov 8 4:30pm Sie FilmCenter

Happy Clothes: A Film About Patricia Field ★
Directed by Michael Selditch
USA (2023) 100 min.
Fashionistas unite! Happy Clothes fills the glam cup with its candid glimpse into the creative process and extraordinary career of costume designer Patricia Field, whose vision impacted fashion and pop culture for six decades. A savvy businesswoman, a two-time Emmy®-winning and Oscar®-nominated force, Field is best known for her work on Sex and The City and Emily in Paris.

Women+Film
Sponsored by Taloma Partners, KBCO, Colorado Party Rental
Thu Nov 9 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Fri Nov 10 4:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Hard Miles ★
Directed by R.J. Daniel Hanna
USA (2023) 108 min.
Inspired by the life of Greg Townsend (Matthew Modine) and Colorado’s Ridgeview Academy Cycling Team, a strong-willed social worker assembles a cycling team of teenage convicts. The group embarks on a transformative 1000-mile ride, where they overcome fear and find triumph. The story twists and turns throughout and takes on a whole new level of meaning in personal growth.

Colorado Spotlight
With support from Mary Watson
Sponsored by COFTM, Colorado Public Radio, The Family Jones, Rocky Mountain Public Media, 5280 Magazine
Sat Nov 11 3:30pm Denver Botanic Gardens

Green Border
Directed by Agnieszka Holland
Poland, France, Czech Republic, Belgium (2023) 147 min.
In the treacherous and swampy forests that make up the so-called “green border” between Belarus and Poland, refugees from the Middle East and Africa trying to reach the European Union are trapped in a geopolitical crisis cynically engineered by Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko. In an attempt to provoke Europe, refugees are lured to the border by propaganda promising easy passage to the EU. Pawns in this hidden war, the lives of Julia, a newly minted activist who has given up her comfortable life, Jan, a young border guard, and a Syrian family intertwine.

Sun Nov 12 2:15pm Sie FilmCenter

Hello Dankness
Directed by Soda Jerk
Australia (2022) 70 min.
Taking the form of a suburban stoner portrait, the film follows a neighborhood from 2019 to 2021 as reality disintegrates into conspiracy and other contagions, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Hello Dankness comprises hundreds of film samples and is a political fable that bears witness to the psychotropic spectacle of American politics.

Late Night Showcase
Fri Nov 10 10:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Sat Nov 11 9:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Hey Viktor!
Directed by Cody Lightning
Canada (2023) 102 min.

A laugh-out-loud ‘mockumentary,’ Hey Viktor! follows Cody Lightning of childhood fame from the 1998 film Smoke Signals. A documentary crew follows Cody around the reserve in northern Alberta while he attempts to make the sequel by re-uniting the original cast. Determined to prove his talents are more than porn and fracking commercials, Cody puts everything he has into making the sequel a success in an attempt to win over the admiration of his estranged wife and kids.

Sponsored by The Canadian Consulate
Fri Nov 10 6:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Sat Nov 11 3:30pm Sie FilmCenter

Hoop Dreams ★
Directed by Steve James
USA (1994) 170 min.

A collaboration of the Denver Film Festival and The Word. A Storytelling Sanctuary’s 2023 Denver NEA Big Read program. The screening of this seminal coming-of-age documentary will be followed by a brief reading of Natalie Diaz’s Postcolonial Love Poem, and a panel discussion moderated by Viniyanka Prasad, Co-Executive Director of The Word. The panel will discuss the role of basketball and storytelling in our communities, the dreams they fuel, and the pathways for connection and release they provide.

Retrospective
Sun Nov 5 12:00pm Holiday Theater

Housekeeping for Beginners
Directed by Goran Stolevski
North Macedonia, Sweden, Kosovo, Poland, Serbia, Croatia (2023) 103 min.

From acclaimed filmmaker Goran Stolevski comes a story exploring the universal truths of family, both the ones we’re born into and the ones we find for ourselves. Dita never wanted to be a mother, but circumstances force her to raise her girlfriend’s two daughters, tiny troublemaker Mia and rebellious teen Vanessa. A battle of wills ensues as the three continue to butt heads and become an unlikely family that has to fight to stay together.

CinemaQ
Presented by William LaBahn
Sponsored by Ratio Beerworks
Tue Nov 7 7:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Wed Nov 8 4:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

I.S.S. ★
Directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite
USA (2023) 95 min.

An eerily prophetic high-stakes thriller set entirely in the confines of the International Space Station (ISS), where astronauts face a call to duty in a fateful and terrifying way. While tensions flare aboard the ISS, a worldwide conflict occurs on Earth, and the astronauts receive orders from the ground to take control of the station by any means necessary.

Closing Night Presentation
Sponsored by Meow Wolf
Sat Nov 11 7:30pm DMNS Infinity Theater

FIND MORE FILMS
There’s more than one way to search for this year’s program. Scan below to explore more!

Search by type, genres, and sections:

View the whole program:
Ileana's Smile
Directed by Brad Corrigan
USA (2023) 103 min.

Ileana’s Smile is the tragic story of a girl with a lightning smile who endures life in a trash dump community in Managua, Nicaragua, and the unlikely friendships that form around her. The film follows American musician Brad Corrigan, a Nicaraguan taxi driver, and pastor Bismark Rocha as they try to open up new healing paths for Ileana and her devastating choices.

Colorado Spotlight
With support from Mary Watson
Sponsored by COFTM, Colorado Public Radio, The Family Jones, Rocky Mountain Public Media, 5280 Magazine

Sat Nov 4 4:00pm Holiday Theater

Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell
Directed by An Pham Thien
Vietnam, Singapore, France, Spain (2023) 182 min.

Thien takes the body of his sister-in-law - who died in a freak motorcycle accident - and her five-year-old son, who miraculously survived, to their hometown in the Vietnamese countryside. On the road, the man has a series of sublime dreams and enthralling encounters that reignite suppressed memories and forbidden desires. Deep in the labyrinth of these phantom pursuits, he questions life’s meaning.

Colorado Dragon Boat
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat

Sat Nov 11 12:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 3:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

In the Rearview
Directed by Maciek Hamela
Poland, Ukraine, France (2023) 84 min.

A volunteer aid van serves as an escape for Ukrainians during the life-threatening conflict. This collective portrait chronicles the experiences of Ukrainians who share a single goal: to find a safe haven in the throes of battle. While the war remains in the backdrop, its reflection and impact are evident and raw. The intimate setting allows an authentic observation of war as it unfolds and gives voice to the desperate souls caught in the crosshairs.

Maysles Brothers Award for Best Documentary
Fri Nov 10 4:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 5:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Iron Butterflies
Directed by Roman Liubyi
Ukraine, Germany (2023) 84 min.

On July 17, 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was shot down by Russian forces over eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 people. Director Roman Liubyi confronts the truth from individual testimonies in this contemporary historical documentary and crafts a unique yet evidence-driven examination of violence. Despite the truth, the Kremlin denied allegations, even after butterfly-shaped shrapnel was found in the pilots’ bodies at the crash site. This act of mass murder not only destroyed people’s lives but contained the seeds of the future we now live in.

Wed Nov 8 7:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Thu Nov 9 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Is There Anybody Out There?
Directed by Ella Glendining
UK (2023) 87 min.

Is There Anybody Out There? is an emotionally driven documentary that ignites the power of the human spirit. This story shares a woman’s journey searching for others living with the same rare disability and what it feels like to navigate in a world of ableism. The film captures what it takes to love oneself despite societal labels.

Sheila K. O’Brien Spotlight on U.K. & Ireland Cinema
Presenting Sponsor Sheila K. O’Brien
Co-sponsored by MSterious Miracles

Mon Nov 6 5:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Thu Nov 9 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Infested
Directed by Sébastien Vaniček
France (2023) 90 min.

Creepy, crawly scares ensue in this French horror late-night flick. A loner purchases a deadly spider that escapes and soon reproduces, turning an apartment building into a giant trap. The only option for survival is to flee the spiders’ web.

Late Night Showcase
Fri Nov 10 9:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 9:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Join or Die
Directed by Rebecca Davis, Pete Davis
USA (2023) 104 min.
Political scientist Robert Putnam ignites a conversation about America's civic unraveling and the science of asking smart questions about social capital. Putnam, known for *Bowling Alone*, addresses the decades-long decline in community while the film crosses the country finding the spaces where people still connect. Joining a club or a sports league just may save us all!
Fri Nov 10 7:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

King Coal
Directed by Elaine McMillion Sheldon
USA (2023) 78 min.
Emerging from the long historic shadows of the coal mines, *King Coal* untangles the pain from complex beauty and illuminates the innately human capacity for change. Deeply situated in Central Appalachia, the documentary transcends time and place, emphasizing how all connection runs through an immersive mosaic of belonging, ritual, and imagination.
Sponsored by Caz Matthews
Thu Nov 9 7:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Fri Nov 10 2:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Kidnapped
Directed by Marco Bellocchio
Italy, France, Germany (2023) 134 min.
In 1858, in the Jewish quarter of Bologna, the Pope's soldiers burst into the home of the Mortara family. By order of the cardinal, they have come to take their son. The child was secretly baptized by his nurse as a baby and the papal law is unquestionable: he must receive a Catholic education. Edgardo's parents, distraught, will do anything to get their son back. But the Church and the Pope will not agree to return the child, to consolidate an increasingly waver power.
Italian Showcase
Presented by the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation
Sponsored by Isarti Travel, University of Denver - Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures
Tues Nov 7 4:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Fri Nov 10 1:30pm Sie FilmCenter

La Chimera
Directed by Alice Rohrwacher
Italy, Switzerland, France (2023) 133 min.
This film follows the adventurous journey of love lost by a British archaeologist who gets caught in the illegal trafficking of ancient finds. Everyone has their own chimera, something they try to achieve but have yet to find. This lively expedition is played out between the contrasts of the living and the dead, forests and cities, and celebrations and solitudes, showing how humanity is constantly searching for chimera.
Italian Showcase, Special Presentation
Presented by the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation
Sponsored by Isarti Travel & University of Denver - Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures, Istituto Italiano di Cultura
Mon Nov 6 7:00pm Denver Botanic Gardens

Late Night with the Devil
Directed by Colin Cairnes, Cameron Cairnes
Australia (2023) 92 min.
It's Halloween, 1977, and a late-night live television broadcast is about to go horribly wrong. *Late Night With The Devil* is a tale about Jack Delroy, who hosts ‘Night Owls,’ a syndicated talk show that has long been a fan favorite, but recently ratings have plummeted. Desperate to turn his fortunes around, Jack plans a Halloween special like no other, unaware he is about to unleash evil into the living rooms of America.
Late Night Showcase
Thu Nov 9 9:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Fri Nov 10 9:15pm Sie FilmCenter

Maestra
Directed by Maggie Contreras
USA (2023) 88 min.
Five incredible women from around the world are boldly breaking the glass ceiling in the male-dominated world of orchestral conducting. This documentary profiles each maestra as they participate in the world’s only all-female conducting competition.
Women+Film
Sponsored by Taloma Partners, KBCO, Colorado Party Rental
Fri Nov 10 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Mami Wata
Directed by C.J. “Fiery” Obasi
Nigeria (2023) 107 min.
Based on West African folklore, adorned in stunning traditional dress, the villagers of Iyi worship the Mermaid-deity Mami Wata and look to guidance from Mama Efe, who serves as an intermediary and healer. Doubt falls upon the village when children begin to die and disappear. The plot thickens when a rebel warlord seizes Iyi, and villagers must decide who to trust and restore Mami Wata’s glory.
Sat Nov 4 5:45pm Sie FilmCenter
Tue Nov 7 4:15pm Sie FilmCenter

Maxine’s Baby: The Tyler Perry Story
Directed by Gelila Bekele, Armani Ortiz
USA (2023) 115 min.
Writer, actor, filmmaker, studio head, and media titan, Tyler Perry, is America’s consummate multihyphenate. But underneath this entertainment behemoth is a man working humbly to heal his childhood trauma by transforming his pain into promise. With unfettered access, filmmakers Gelila Bekele and Armani Ortiz lead us into the inner world of a man, whose story has never fully been told, as he becomes a father and a media mogul with a mission to pave his own road to the top. The product is a profound lesson on remembering where you came from to know where you want to go.
Centerpiece Presentation
Sponsored by Butler Rents
Tue Nov 7 7:00pm Denver Botanic Gardens

Menus-Plaisirs Les Troisgros
Directed by Frederick Wiseman
France, USA (2023) 240 min.
A foodie’s delight! This immersive documentary chronicles the day-to-day operations of a three Michelin-star restaurant, featuring the legendary chefs who have made this culinary empire a destination in Central France. Director Frederick Wiseman embarks on a mouthwatering journey showcasing the restaurant staff’s extraordinary artistry, ingenuity, and hard work in creating, preparing, and presenting meals of the highest quality.
Sun Nov 12 2:15pm Sie FilmCenter

Milisuthando
Directed by Milisuthando Bongela
South Africa, Colombia (2023) 128 min.
Set in past and present South Africa, Milisuthando is a poetic coming-of-age personal essay documentary on love and what it means to be human in the context of race. The film is explored through the lens of Milisuthando, who grew up during apartheid but didn’t know it was happening until it was over, and her memories.
Women+Film
Sponsored by Taloma Partners, KBCO, Colorado Party Rental
Mon Nov 6 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Wed Nov 8 4:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Mission
Directed by Jesse Moss, Amanda McBaine
USA, India (2023) 103 min.
In 2018, a young American missionary, John Chau, was killed while attempting to contact one of the world’s most isolated Indigenous peoples on the remote North Sentinel Island. Through exclusive interviews and unprecedented access to Chau’s personal diaries, we learn the mythology of exploration. The Mission reveals Chau’s father’s heartbreak as a thirst for adventure becomes a fatal obsession.
Tue Nov 7 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Fri Nov 10 1:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Molli and Max in the Future ★
Directed by Michael Lukk Litwak
USA (2023) 93 min.
A grounded romantic comedy set in an absurd galaxy, Molli and Max takes the appeal from When Harry Met Sally and combines sci-fi with old-school practical visual effects. The filmmakers rely on hand-built models, miniatures, puppets, stop-motion animation, and cutting-edge technology to create a universe like no other. Tentacles! Robots! Glorp!

American Independent Competition
Fri Nov 3 9:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 4 6:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Monster ★
Directed by Kore-eda Hirokazu
Japan (2023) 126 min.
When her young son starts behaving strangely, his mother feels that something is wrong. Believing that a teacher is responsible, she storms into the school demanding answers. But as the story unfolds through the eyes of the mother, teacher, and child, the truth gradually emerges.

CinemaQ, Colorado Dragon Boat, Special Presentation
Presented by William LaBahn
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat, Ratio Beerworks, The Clayton, Xfinity
Sat Nov 11 6:15pm Sie FilmCenter

Motherland
Directed by Alexander Mihalkovich, Hanna Badziaka
Sweden, Ukraine, Norway (2023) 92 min.
As young Nikita apprehensively enters his military conscription, Svetlana travels the country looking for justice for her son, murdered while in military training. It is 2020, and activists rage in the street against state-led violence rooted in the Soviet practice of “dedovshchina”, the cruel abuse that supposedly turns boys into soldiers but is instead the very mechanism of fear and violence the government uses to control its populace.

Maysles Brothers Award for Best Documentary
Sat Nov 4 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 5 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Notes from Sheepland ★
Directed by Cara Holmes
Ireland (2023) 70 min.
Notes from Sheepland bursts with candid observations of lipstick-wearing, always swearing, no-nonsense artist and shepherd, Orla Barry. Through her fields, her digital diaries, and the pedigree sheep she cares for, we discover how the art is in the doing.

Sheila K. O’Brien Spotlight on U.K. & Ireland Cinema
Presenting Sponsor Sheila K. O’Brien
Co-sponsored by GHPIA, Aer Lingus
Fri Nov 10 4:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Sat Nov 11 1:15pm Sie FilmCenter

Occupied City ★
Directed by Steve McQueen
USA (2023) 262 min.
The past collides with the precarious present in filmmaker Steve McQueen’s documentary Occupied City. McQueen creates two portraits: a haunting door-to-door excavation of the Nazi occupation and a vivid journey through modern-day protests and a pandemic. What emerges is both devastating and life-affirming, an expansive meditation on memory, time, and perhaps, what’s next.

Special Presentation
Sponsored by The Clayton, Xfinity
Sun Nov 5 1:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

National History Day Colorado Student Festival: Frontiers in History ★
60 min.
This special showcase highlights noteworthy short documentaries created by middle and high school students for the National History Day in Colorado program and will feature post-film Q&As with each student filmmaker and a live NHDC performance.

Free Screening
Sun Nov 12 11:15am Sie FilmCenter
The Old Oak
Directed by Ken Loach
UK, France, Belgium (2023) 113 min.
A once-thriving village in northern England has fallen on hard times. When a group of Syrian refugees relocates into the floundering town, prejudices develop between the community when its newest inhabitants arrive. The Old Oak, the town's last standing pub's proprietor, forms an unexpected friendship with a young Syrian woman, and new possibilities arise for the divided village.
Sheila K. O’Brien Spotlight on U.K. & Ireland Cinema, Special Presentation
Presenting Sponsor Sheila K. O’Brien
Sat Nov 4 7:30pm Sie FilmCenter

On the Edge: Witold-K ★
Directed by Piotr Wyczert, Jacek Knopp
Poland, USA (2023) 88 min.
Every life touches history, but some are swept along by events that are hit with uncustomary force. Such is the case with 90-year-old Witold-K, a Polish-American prolific artist and citizen of the world, whose life tells a story of creativity, courage, and survival. Witold is an extraordinary ambassador for Polish culture, especially in his adopted home city of Denver.
Colorado Spotlight
With support from Mary Watson
Sponsored by COFTM, Colorado Public Radio, The Family Jones, Rocky Mountain Public Media, 5280 Magazine
Sat Nov 4 1:45pm Sie FilmCenter
Mon Nov 6 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

An Open Door ★
Directed by John Barnhardt
USA (2023) 65 min.
This documentary celebrates the influential life of Colorado State University's Dr. Temple Grandin and her groundbreaking work in livestock. The film speaks with Dr. Grandin, her colleagues, industry professionals, and those she has influenced with her personal experience with autism, lessons learned, and her lasting legacy.
Colorado Spotlight
With support from Mary Watson
Sponsored by COFTM, Colorado Public Radio, The Family Jones, Rocky Mountain Public Media, Caz Matthews, 5280 Magazine
Tue Nov 7 7:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Thu Nov 9 4:30pm Sie FilmCenter

Pamfir
Directed by Dmytro Sukholytka-Sobchuk
Ukraine, France, Poland, Chile (2023) 106 min.
On the eve of a traditional carnival in Western Ukraine, Pamfir returns to his family after months of absence. Their love is so unconditional that when his only child starts a fire in the prayer house, Pamfir has no choice but to reconnect with his troubled past. Determined to repair his son's reputation, Pamfir takes a risky path with irreversible consequences.
Mon Nov 6 4:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Tue Nov 7 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Parachute
Directed by Brittany Snow
USA (2023) 107 min.
Brittany Snow (Pitch Perfect) makes her directorial debut in Parachute, where characters Ethan and Riley meet on the same day they are released from precarious situations. This messy romantic drama weaves its way in and out of their lives in the Big Apple. Snow tackles addiction, anxiety, and co-dependency as Riley and Ethan learn to navigate their convictions and perils found in their early 20s.
American Independent Competition
Sat Nov 11 6:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 4:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Peak Season
Directed by Henry Loewner, Steven Kanter
USA (2023) 82 min.
It’s easy to fall in love with the scenic views and rugged beauty of Jackson Hole and the Tetons, but when New Yorkers Amy and Max arrive for a romantic getaway, their relationship gets rocky. Max gets called away on business, and adrift Amy is left alone in the tourist town, but not for long. A free-spirited stranger breezes into Amy’s life, making an instant connection. This bond is taken to new heights while Amy faces a crossroads in her future.
Mon Nov 6 5:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Tue Nov 7 5:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
The People’s Joker
Directed by Vera Drew
USA (2022) 92 min.
An unfunny, aspiring clown named Joker grapples with her gender identity, finding first love, and a fascist caped crusader - all while founding an illegal comedy theater in Gotham City. This wildly creative parody illuminates a modern-day trans journey.

Late Night Showcase, CinemaQ
Presented by William LaBahn
Sponsored by Ratio Beerworks, Wana Brands Foundation
Sat Nov 11 9:00pm Sie FilmCenter

Publish or Perish
Directed by David Liban
USA (2023) 100 min.
A tenure-obsessed English professor accidentally takes a student’s life. Desperate to protect his career, he makes a fateful decision, sending his life spiraling out of control.

Colorado Spotlight
With support from Mary Watson
Sponsored by CFVA, COFTM, Colorado Public Radio, The Family Jones, Rocky Mountain Public Media, 5280 Magazine
Sat Nov 11 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 1:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Perfect Days
Directed by Wim Wenders
Japan, Germany (2023) 125 min.
A profoundly moving and poetic reflection on finding beauty in the everyday world around us. Hirayama seems utterly content with his simple life as a public facilities cleaner in Tokyo. Outside his structured routine, he fills his day with his passion for music, books, and trees. But a series of unexpected encounters gradually reveals more of his past.

Special Presentation
Sponsored by The Clayton, Xfinity, Butler Rents
Sun Nov 5 6:30pm Denver Botanic Gardens

Raging Grace
Directed by Paris Zarcilla
UK (2023) 99 min.
In this nail-biting thriller, an undocumented immigrant lands a job as a care worker for an elderly man, securing a better life for her and her daughter. But a dark discovery emerges and threatens to destroy everything she's strived for and holds dear.

Late Night Showcase
Fri Nov 10 9:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 8:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Promised Land
Directed by Nikolaj Arcel
Denmark, Germany, Sweden (2023) 127 min.
Impoverished Captain Ludvig Kahlen (Mads Mikkelsen) risks his life to conquer a vast, uninhabitable land in 1755. He’s on a mission to cultivate crops and build a colony for the King in exchange for a royal name for himself. But the sole ruler of the area, the merciless Frederik De Schinkel, believes this territory belongs to him.

Special Presentation
Sponsored by The Clayton, Xfinity
Sun Nov 5 7:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Richland
Directed by Irene Lusztig
USA (2023) 93 min.
Richland portrays a proud Washington-state community for its heritage as a nuclear company town and its role in creating the atomic bomb. This nuclear origin story presents a timely examination of the habits of thought that normalize the extraordinary violence of the past and observational present. The documentary encounters nuclear workers, Indigenous tribes, and a Japanese granddaughter of atomic bomb survivors.

Mon Nov 6 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Tue Nov 7 4:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10
**Riddle of Fire**
*Directed by Weston Razooli*
USA (2023) 113 min.
This neo-fairytale set in Wyoming follows three mischievous children who embark on an odyssey when their mother asks them to run an errand to find her favorite blueberry pie. While on the hunt, poachers kidnap the children. Together, they battle a witch, outwit a huntsman, befriend a fairy, and become best friends forever.

**Late Night Showcase**
Fri Nov 3 8:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 4 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

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**Robot Dreams**
*Directed by Pablo Berger*
Spain, France (2023) 103 min.
Robot Dreams is a whimsical, animated film based on an unlikely partnership between Dog and his new self-built robot companion. The pair go everywhere together throughout NYC, discovering life in the '80s. One summer night, Dog sadly abandons Robot at the beach. Will they ever meet again?

**Special Presentation**
Sponsored by The Clayton, Xfinity
Sat Nov 11 6:30pm Sie FilmCenter

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**The Sacrifice Game**
*Directed by Jenn Wexler*
USA (2023) 90 min.
The Blackvale School for Girls, 1971. It’s bad enough that students Samantha and Clara can’t go home for the holidays, but things take a deadly turn when a gang of cult killers arrives at their doorstep–just in time for Christmas.

**Late Night Showcase**
Fri Nov 3 9:15pm Sie FilmCenter
Sat Nov 4 9:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

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**A Sensitive Person**
*Directed by Tomás Klein*
Czech Republic, Slovakia (2023) 120 min.
In this off-kilter dystopian journey into the backwaters of the Czech Republic, a father and son disguise themselves as women on a wild adventure through a magical but cruel landscape. Along the way, they encounter a series of local oddballs and are forced into the drama of their dark stories. The ordeal hits a turning point when the dad must decide whether or not he can cope with his own life or choose to fight for his children and family.

**Mon Nov 6 4:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10**
**Thu Nov 9 4:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10**

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**Rule of Two Walls**
*Directed by David Gutnik*
Ukraine (2023) 77 min.
Blurring the lines between what’s in front of and behind the camera, the film explores the depths of making cinema during the war in Ukraine. This documentary provides an intimate look into the rhythms of daily life, as seen through the eyes of Ukrainian artists who remained in their country to make art as a defiant act in the face of aggression.

**Tue Nov 7 4:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10**
**Wed Nov 8 4:00pm Sie FilmCenter**

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**The Settlers**
*Directed by Felipe Gálvez*
Chile, Argentina, France, Denmark, UK, Taiwan, Sweden, Germany (2023) 97 min.
Set in Chile at the beginning of the 20th century, a wealthy landowner hires three horsemen to demarcate the perimeter of his extensive property. The expedition, composed of a young Chilean, an American mercenary, and led by a reckless British lieutenant, soon turns into a violent conquering quest.

**CineLatinx**
Sponsored by Serendipity Catering
**Sat Nov 4 8:15pm Sie FilmCenter**
**Mon Nov 6 4:30pm Sie FilmCenter**
The Shadowless Tower
Directed by Zhang Lu
China (2023) 144 min.
A soul-searching, middle-aged food critic seeks a new perspective while reconsidering his failings as a father, a son, and a lover. His journey takes us through the local eateries of vibrant Beijing with his young photographer colleague. At the same time, they discover that even though the seasons change, one thing remains the same: The White Pagoda - where they all meet sooner or later.

Colorado Dragon Boat, Krzysztof Kieslowski Award for Best Feature Film
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat

Sun Nov 5 3:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Fri Nov 10 4:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Shorts 1: Narrative ★
92 min.
The Family Circus, USA, directed by Andrew Fitzgerald: A Vietnamese-American family’s plan to cover up a drunk driving accident begins to unravel when their emotional baggage spills out in front of the police. Tender, USA, directed by Samm Hodges: A missing wallet threatens to destroy a teenager’s life. AirHostess-737, Greece, directed by Thanasis Neofotistos: A flight attendant collapses in flight, convinced that her problem is her new braces. Take Me Home, USA, directed by Liz Sargent: After their mother’s death, a cognitively disabled woman and her estranged sister must learn to communicate in order to move forward.

Sponsored by AOR
Fri Nov 3 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 4 1:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Shorts 2: Documentary ★
108 min.
Nāi Nāi & Wāi Pó (Grandma & Grandma), USA, directed by Seon Wang: Director Seon Wang’s grandmothers, Nāi Nāi and Wāi Pó, form a grandma super team that dances, stretches, and farts the sorrows away. Under G-d, USA, directed by Paula Eiselt: Inspired by the lawsuits filed in Florida challenging the state’s abortion ban on the basis of religious freedom, Under G-d examines the national Jewish response launched by Rabbis, Jewish organizations, and interfaith leaders to challenge the overturning of Roe state by state. Ever Since, I Have Been Flying, Switzerland, directed by Aylin Gökmen: A 60-year-old man, who grew up in a nomadic tribe in the mountains of southeast Turkey, recalls moments from his youth. The Passing, USA, directed by Ivete Lucas, Patrick Xavier Bresnan: A veterinarian must help his neighbor through one of the hardest days of her life. How We Get Free, USA, directed by Geeta Gandbhir, Samantha Knowles: Over the course of two years, How We Get Free follows Elisabeth Epps as she works to end cash bail on all fronts: from bailing people out of jail to protesting in the streets to running for office as one of the first abolitionist candidates in Colorado.

Sponsored by AOR
Fri Nov 10 6:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 12:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Shorts 3: Animation
97 min.

Inglorious Liaisons. France, directed by Chloé Alliez, Violette Delvoye: Alcohol flows freely at a party and things heat up when friends Lucie and Maya realize they have hidden feelings for each other. The Lovers, Sweden, directed by Carolina Sandvik: Candlelit dinner sets the mood at a restaurant where a couple deals with escalating bodily transformations in this horror and unromantic comedy. Margarethe 89, France, directed by Lucas Malbrun: Leipzig, 1989. Margarethe, a young punk opposed to the East German regime, is detained in a psychiatric hospital. Well Wishes My Love, Your Love, Malaysia, Sweden, directed by Gabriel Gabriel Garble: Newly orphaned and freshly wounded from a loss, a boy lends his companion a prosthetic arm for the day, exposing them to different textures and materials in nature. In the Big Yard Inside the Teeny-Weeny Pocket, Japan, directed by Yoko Yuki: A charming animation rhyme that weaves together the many days of observing, recording, and experimenting. Tomato Kitchen, China, USA, directed by Junyi Xiao: An unexpected incident interrupts a dinner with colleagues, exposing dark truths and hidden secrets. Christopher at Sea, France, directed by Tom CJ Brown: Hoping he discovers what lures so many men to sea, Christopher embarks on a transatlantic voyage, sending him on a journey into solitude, fantasy, and obsession.

Sponsored by AOR
Sat Nov 4 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 5 1:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Shorts 4: Avant-Garde
95 min.

Bigger on the Inside. USA, directed by Angelo Madsen Minax: A trans man star-gazes in the solitude of an isolated wooden cabin, flirts with guys, and takes drugs - pushing his way through a cosmology of embodiment. Sunflower Siege Engine, USA, directed by Sky Hopinka: Moments of resistance, sovereignty, and belligerence intersect and diverge through the nature of the reservation system, including the documentation of the Indigenous-led occupation of Alcatraz to the reclamation of Cahokia. Jill, Uncredited, UK, Canada, directed by Anthony Ing: Prolific British background actor Jill Goldston takes center stage in this unique portrait of her performances - Mr. Bean to The Elephant Man - crafting a lyrical journey through popular culture and a haunting study of a life lived out of focus. It’s Raining Frogs Outside, Philippines, directed by Maria Estela Paiso: The world is about to end, and Maya travels to her childhood home in the province of Zambales, where it rains frogs. Life Without Dreams, USA, directed by Jessica Bardsey: Life Without Dreams is set within the outer space of consciousness, where the surfaces of far-out planetary bodies form the terrain for an exploration of the gradual disappearance of darkness, 24/7 capitalism, and insomnia. Maria Schneider, 1983, France, directed by Elisabeth Subrin: In a cross-genre work that tends to history, history, and form, three acclaimed actresses reenact a troubling interview with the iconic French actress Maria Schneider (1952-2011), whose traumatic experience on the set of the legendary Last Tango in Paris only resurfaced after #MeToo.

Sponsored by AOR
Wed Nov 8 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Thu Nov 9 4:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Shorts 5: Late Night ✪
92 min.

The Mundanes. USA, directed by Adam Wilder, Nicole Daddona: Get to know the Mundanes - a faceless suburban family with an unusual appetite. You’re Not Home, Ireland, directed by Derek Ogpuchukwu: When an ominous mold appears in their room, two African brothers seeking asylum are faced with a dark entity lurking within their direct provision center. Dead Enders, USA, directed by Fidel Ruiz-Healy, Tyler Walker: A disaffected gas station clerk finds out why they call it the ‘graveyard shift’ after oil drillers set loose a group of mind-controlling parasites. Ticks, USA, directed by Sam Max: Amid a violent breakup, Jenny, a drifter, encounters a presence in the woods that causes them to turn against their partner. In The Flesh, USA, directed by Daphne Gardner: Tracey is just trying to jerk off with her bathtub faucet like normal when old memories surface, the pipes explode with dirty water, and she starts leaking black goo. Pruning, USA, directed by Lola Blanc: When a far-right political commentator discovers she has inspired a mass shooting, she must contend with her conscience, by any means necessary. Alicia, Spain, directed by Tony Morales: Carolina will have to deal with the childhood fears of her daughter Alicia, who has just gone blind and believes that an old woman lives in her room. A Folded Ocean, USA, directed by Ben Brewer: A young man faces the wrath of criminals targeting people who are famous on the internet, but things take an unexpected turn when their scheme fails. Claudio’s Song, UK, Ukraine, directed by Andreas Nilsson: A young man faces the wrath of criminals targeting people who are famous on the internet, but things take an unexpected turn when their scheme fails.

Late Night Showcase
Sponsored by AOR
Fri Nov 3 9:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 4 9:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

FIND MORE FILMS
There’s more than one way to search for this year’s program. Scan below to explore more!

Search by type, genres, and sections:

View the whole program:
Smoke Sauna Sisterhood
Directed by Anna Hints
Estonia, France, Iceland (2023) 89 min.

A group of women gather in a dark smoke sauna where they share their innermost thoughts. In the saturated heat, the women wash off the shame trapped in their bodies to regain their strength. Vulnerabilities are released that are universally beautiful and recognizable.

Women+Film
Sponsored by Taloma Partners, KBCO, Colorado Party Rental

Sat Nov 4 7:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Wed Nov 8 4:15pm Sie FilmCenter

Smoking Tigers ★
Directed by Shelly Yo
USA (2023) 91 min.

Hayoung, played by rising star Ji-young Yoo, is a lonely 16-year-old Korean-American girl struggling with her identity at an elite summer boot camp. Full of teenage angst, hidden shame, and the desire to fit in, Hayoung hides her problematic family woes and lower-income background. She staggers between the demise of her parent's marriage while attempting to make new friends, only to discover the bittersweet pains of coming of age.

Colorado Dragon Boat, American Independent Competition, Women+Film
Sponsored by Colorado Dragon Boat, Taloma Partners, KBCO, Colorado Party Rental

Fri Nov 10 7:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 4:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Someday We’ll Tell Each Other Everything ★
Directed by Emily Atef
Germany (2023) 129 min.

It’s the summer of 1990, and things are heating up in the countryside of former East Germany. Maria, who is about to turn 19, lives with her boyfriend on his parents’ farm. In an atmosphere buzzing with possibilities, love is born from a secret passion full of longing and desire that devours everything in its path. All it takes is one touch to ignite an all-consuming passion between Maria and Henner, the farmer next door who is headstrong and charismatic but twice her age.

Women+Film
Sponsored by Taloma Partners, KBCO, Colorado Party Rental

Fri Nov 3 6:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 4 4:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Somewhere Quiet ★
Directed by Olivia West Lloyd
USA (2023) 98 min.

In this psychological thriller, Meg escapes a brutal kidnapping and travels with her husband, Scott, to his family’s compound on Cape Cod. Solitude gets disrupted by Scott’s odd cousin, Madelin, who is staying next door. To Meg’s surprise, the two are quite close, and soon, Madelin’s presence creates a rift. Vivid nightmares haunt Meg each night, with a growing suspicion that Scott and Madelin are hiding something.

Fri Nov 10 9:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 9:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Songs of Earth
Directed by Margreth Olin
Norway (2023) 90 min.

Songs of Earth is a majestic symphony and love letter to nature that cascades to life on the big screen. In this breathtaking journey, the filmmaker’s father serves as the guide and leads the film through Norway’s most scenic valley. A place where he grew up in which generations have been living alongside nature to survive.

Maysles Brothers Award for Best Documentary
Sponsored by Caz Matthews

Sat Nov 11 4:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 4:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sorcerer ★
Directed by William Friedkin
USA (1977) 121 min.
Sorcerer is considered the last great masterpiece of the 1970s and the most ambitious film ever directed by the late William Friedkin (The French Connection, The Exorcist). Its release was overshadowed by Star Wars, which hit screens simultaneously. A gritty, existential thriller, Sorcerer raises universal questions about the nature of fate while also reflecting the sense of nihilism that marked this era of American life. Rediscover this once-forgotten masterpiece with a discussion with scholars from Dphi (Denver Project for Humanistic Inquiry).
Retrospective
Sponsored by Dphi
Thu Nov 9 6:45pm Sie FilmCenter

The Space Race ★
Directed by Diego Hurtado de Mendoza, Lisa Cortés
USA (2023) 91 min.
The bright dreams of Afrofuturism become a reality in The Space Race with the stories of Black astronauts, such as local artist Ed Dwight seeking to break the bonds of social injustice to reach for the stars. Film directors Diego Hurtado de Mendoza and Lisa Cortés profile the pioneering pilots, scientists, and engineers who joined NASA to serve their country in space, even as their country failed to achieve equality for them back on Earth.
Sponsored by Wana Brands Foundation, Martha’s Vineyard African American Film Festival, & The Color of Conversation
Thu Nov 9 7:00pm DMNS Infinity Theater

Story & Pictures By ★
Directed by Joanna Rudnick
USA (2023) 84 min.
Children’s picture books come to life on the big screen with an inside look at three well-known artists whose experimental illustrations and artistry reflect the mysteries of childhood. Through rare archival stop-motion animation, this documentary takes the audience into the very pages of classics such as Goodnight Moon, Where the Wild Things Are, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and The Snowy Day.
Sat Nov 4 1:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Sun Nov 5 1:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Transformative Experiences
Through the Power of Diverse Voices in Film
Student Shorts: ★ Animation Competition
84 min.

Spring Roll Dream, UK, directed by Mai Vu: When Linh’s father visits, she is confronted with the past and culture she left behind in Vietnam. Saltwater, USA, directed by Declan McKenna: As a relationship reaches a turning point, one person’s fragile understanding of control begins to haunt their dreams. Under Cover, Croatia, directed by Darian Bakliža: Bullies take center stage in this animated film, displaying the psychological perspective of boys who physically show their lack of understanding or empathy for people who are different. Such Miracles Do Happen, Poland, directed by Barbara Rupik: Statues come to life, leaving their pedestals to calmly walk straight ahead in the same direction while spectators watch the procession in pure fascination. Pipes, Switzerland, directed by Kilian Feusi, Jessica Meier, Suanth Ravichandran: Bob the plumber is hired to fix a broken pipe and lands to his surprise in a gay fetish club. Human Resources, France, directed by Toke Madsen: Trapped in a neglectful family situation a gay boy must take a new job from his neighbor. Still Waters, USA, directed by Aurora Brachman: Through a series of extraordinarily honest and intimate conversations, filmmaker Aurora Brachman examines the intergenerational fallout of experiences her mother endured as a child. Invasive Species, USA, directed by Annie Ning: A young Asian American sound artist confronts feelings of imposter syndrome at her first-ever artist’s residency. Alpha Kings, USA, directed by Enrique Pedraza Botero, Faye Tsakas: From a rented mansion in suburban Texas, a group of young men sell a hyperbolic, alpha male version of themselves on the internet. We Were Meant To, USA, directed by Tari Woriebi: In a world where Black men have wings and their first flight is a rite of passage, Akil must defy fears, insecurities, and societal barriers while discovering his perfect launch into manhood. Sponsored by Liberty Global
Fri Nov 10 7:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Sat Nov 11 1:00pm Sie FilmCenter

Student Shorts: ★ Domestic Competition
98 min.

Sulam, USA, directed by Noam Argov: When an immigrant teen must help her mom before a school exam, tensions of belonging in a new country bubble to the surface. Ricky, USA, directed by Rashad Frett: An ex-offender struggles with newfound freedom and pursues redemption at all costs after receiving a job from his neighbor. Still Waters, USA, directed by Aurora Brachman: Through a series of extraordinarily honest and intimate conversations, filmmaker Aurora Brachman examines the intergenerational fallout of experiences her mother endured as a child. Invasive Species, USA, directed by Annie Ning: A young Asian American sound artist confronts feelings of imposter syndrome at her first-ever artist’s residency. Alpha Kings, USA, directed by Enrique Pedraza Botero, Faye Tsakas: From a rented mansion in suburban Texas, a group of young men sell a hyperbolic, alpha male version of themselves on the internet. We Were Meant To, USA, directed by Tari Woriebi: In a world where Black men have wings and their first flight is a rite of passage, Akil must defy fears, insecurities, and societal barriers while discovering his perfect launch into manhood. Sponsored by Liberty Global
Sat Nov 11 4:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 1:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

Student Shorts: ★ International Competition
92 min.

She Always Wins, UK, directed by Hazel McKibbin: A young woman brings her new boyfriend home for his first family visit and faces all the complicated moves in the dance of dominance, deference, and self-diminishment. Graveyard of Horses, China, directed by Xiaoxuan Jiang: A frigid winter and untimely snowstorm on the Mongolian steppe aggravates the lives of a pregnant herder and her B-year-old daughter, taking them to places they’ve never been, both physically and emotionally. The Newt Congress, Switzerland, Germany, directed by Matthias Sahli, Immanuel Esser: Adapted from Karel Capek’s War with the Newts, The Newt Congress takes place in a building surrounded by nature where participants have come together to optimize the exploitation of giant talking newts. Will You Look At Me, China, directed by Shuli Huang: A young Chinese filmmaker returns to his hometown in search of himself, as a long overdue conversation with his mother sends the two of them into a quest for acceptance and love. The Kidnapping of the Bride, Germany, directed by Sophia Mocorrea: The traditional act of the kidnapping of the bride is still an integral part of many weddings in German-speaking countries, but the custom shatters a newly married couple’s equality. Sponsored by Liberty Global
Sat Nov 11 7:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Sun Nov 12 11:45am Sie FilmCenter

FIND MORE FILMS
There’s more than one way to search for this year’s program.
Scan below to explore more!
Summer of Violence

Directed by Nicki Micheaux
USA (2023) 111 min.

Violent crimes jolted the metro Denver area in 1993, causing unrest and uncertainty known as the “Summer of Violence.” These tragic events are the setting for college grad Naomi’s tumultuous summer when she turns down law school to pursue poetry—a decision her parents find unacceptable. Forced to find her own way, Naomi uses her creativity to rally around the community but spirals when those close to her die from gang activity.

Colorado Spotlight
With support from Mary Watson

Sat Nov 11 6:15pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sun Nov 12 2:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Sweet East

Directed by Sean Price Williams
USA (2023) 104 min.

Sean Price Williams makes his directorial debut and - known for his cinematography for films by Alex Ross Perry and the Safdie brothers - creates a picaresque journey through the cities and woods of the Eastern seaboard. Bored with her class trip to D.C., Lillian, a high school senior from South Carolina, is eager to see the world outside of the rigid itinerary. Full of deranged and hilarious moments, Lillian encounters oddballs and strange factions along her road trip.

American Independent Competition
Fri Nov 10 6:45pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Sat Nov 11 8:30pm AMC 9 + CO 10

The Taste of Things

Directed by Anh Hung Tran
France (2023) 145 min.

Set in the 19th-century French countryside, this culinary delight follows the life of Dodin Bouffant, a chef living with his personal cook and lover Eugénie (Juliette Binoche). They share a long history and love of gastronomy, but Eugénie refuses to marry Dodin, so the food lover decides to do something he has never done before - cook for her.

With support from Gloria Campbell and John Verwys
Sponsored by Sap Sua

Sat Nov 4 3:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Mon Nov 6 4:45pm Sie FilmCenter

The Teachers’ Lounge

Directed by Ilker Çatak
Germany (2023) 98 min.

This gripping drama about conformity, racism, and rebellion is an incisive look at the rapidly shifting power dynamics and complex search for truth in the contemporary educational system. Carla, a dedicated sports and math teacher, starts her first job at a high school and quickly learns her role as a power player. After a series of thefts, she investigates the matter and tries to do everything right, but the efforts threaten her integrity.

Special Presentation
Sponsored by The Clayton, Xfinity

Sat Nov 4 6:45pm Sie FilmCenter

They Shot the Piano Player

Directed by Javier Mariscal, Fernando Trueba
Spain (2023) 103 min.

Animation meets documentary in this celebratory origin story of the world-renowned Latino musical movement Bossa Nova. The sounds of samba and the music of Brazil come to life when a journalist looks to uncover the truth behind the disappearance of young piano virtuoso Tenorio Jr. They Shot The Piano Player captures a fleeting time in Latin American history in the 60s and 70s, just before totalitarian regimes took control.

CineLatinx
Fri Nov 10 2:00pm Sie FilmCenter

Tótem

Directed by Lila Avilés
Mexico, Denmark, France (2023) 95 min.

In her follow-up to The Chambermaid, director Lila Avilés crafts a choral film about letting go and celebrating life in an unexpectedly beautiful way. What starts as planning for a surprise party quickly turns into a chaotic atmosphere. Family bonds are shattered when everything changes dramatically throughout the day’s events. As daylight fades, the young and old embrace the essence of family and cherish the breath of life.

Krzysztof Kieslowski Award for Best Feature Film, CineLatinx
Sponsored by Serendipity Catering

Sat Nov 11 1:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Sun Nov 12 2:30pm Sie FilmCenter
Valeria Is Getting Married
Directed by Michal Vinik
Israel (2022) 76 min.
Over the course of a day, Valeria, a young Ukrainian woman, arrives in Israel for an arranged marriage. She joins her sister, Christina, who has been living in Israel for some time and met her husband through a similar arrangement. Christina is happy with her new life and wants the same for her sister. The introduction does not go as planned.

Women+Film
Sponsored by Taloma Partners, KBCO, Colorado Party Rental
Sat Nov 4 2:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10
Fri Nov 10 2:00pm AMC 9 + CO 10

White Plastic Sky
Directed by Tibor Bánóczki, Sarolta Szabó
Hungary, Slovakia (2023) 111 min.
Set in 2123, faced with diminishing resources, the human race can only survive through a trade-off: at the age of 50, every citizen gradually turns into a tree. When Stefan discovers that his beloved wife Nora has voluntarily signed up to donate her own body before her time, he sets out on an adventurous journey to save her at all costs.
Fri Nov 3 7:00pm Sie FilmCenter
Sat Nov 11 3:45pm Sie FilmCenter

Zinzindurrunkarratz
Directed by Oskar Alegría
Spain (2023) 89 min.
After 41 years, Oskar Alegría finds his father’s Super-8 camera, two reels of unused film, and two pieces of footage in storage. The only problem is that the film has no sound. This prompts Oskar to dive deep into sound’s role in constructing our memories. Intrigued by the past, he travels with Paolo, an adorable donkey, down the shepherding roads his father once traversed in Basque country. Using the same Super-8 camera, he recaptures the noises of falling rocks, sheep, donkeys, and other natural tones along the way.
Tue Nov 7 6:45pm Sie FilmCenter
Wed Nov 8 6:30pm Sie FilmCenter
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OPENING NIGHT AT ELLIE CAULKINS OPERA HOUSE
AMERICAN FICTION

TUE, NOVEMBER 7  7:00PM
CENTERPIECE AT DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
MAXINE'S BABY: THE TYLER PERRY STORY

WED, NOVEMBER 8  7:00PM
CENTERPIECE AT DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
THE BOY AND THE HERON

SAT, NOVEMBER 11  7:30PM
CLOSING NIGHT AT THE DMNS
I.S.S.

FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

SIE FILMCENTER
2510 E. Colfax Avenue
Next to Tattered Cover/
Twist & Shout

AMC 9 + CO 10
826 Albion Street
Denver, CO 80220

ELLIE CAULKINS
OPERA HOUSE
1385 Curtis Street
Denver Performing
Arts Complex

DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS
1085 York Street
Sturm Family Auditorium inside
the Freyer-Newman Center

MCA DENVER AT
THE HOLIDAY THEATER
2644 W 32nd Ave
Denver, CO 80211

DENVER MUSEUM OF
NATURE & SCIENCE (DMNS)
2001 Colorado Blvd
Denver, CO 80205

Visit denverfilm.org for maps, trailers and tickets, scan QR code below:
### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

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