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VENUES

Wheeler Opera House

Crystal Theatre

Jerome An Auberge Resort

The Red Onion

The Little Nell

Gonzo Gallery

Cooking School of Aspen

The Room

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

PRESENTS

SHORTSFEST

APRIL 5-10, 2016

THE WORLD'S PREMIER & OSCAR® QUALIFYING INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE OF SHORT FILM

Wheeler Opera House IN ASPEN | Crystal Theatre IN CARBONDALE

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ASPENFILM.ORG | #SHORTSFEST16

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

Established in 1979, Aspen Film is one of Colorado's most active film arts organizations and is internationally recognized as a launching pad for filmmakers worldwide. From the presentation of new films through three landmark festivals, monthly "Aspen Film Presents" screenings and complimentary education programs, Aspen Film offers one of the most enriching cultural experiences in our area.

JOIN US

Become a member of Aspen Film today to enjoy an array of benefits and exclusive access at the 25th Annual Aspen Shortsfest and year-round.

MEMBERSHIPS BEGIN AT $150

OUR WORK IS ONLY POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF FILM LOVERS LIKE YOU.

Donor contributions support our mission to enlighten, enrich, educate, and entertain through film.

A portion of contributions at any level is tax deductible. Aspen Film is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO JOIN CONTACT

Nikki Boxer, Director of Development | 970.306.3662 | nboxer@aspenfilm.org

WELCOME

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

As we embark on this milestone Aspen Shortsfest, it is my honor to welcome you to our magical home in the mountains.

For 25 years, Shortsfest has shone a much needed spotlight on a lesser known art form, giving directors the screen time that often becomes a launching pad for successful filmmaking careers. As one of the premier short film festivals in the world and an Oscar®-qualifier, we are proud to present another outstanding program thanks to the passion and dedication of the Shortsfest Programming team led by Aspen Film Artistic Director Maggie Mackay. Keeping in the spirit of Aspen Film's founder Ellen Kohner Hunt's vision, this lineup includes films that are, in a word, unforgettable.

Shortsfest and our organization's work year-round is only possible through the strong support we receive from our community, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and board members, which continually humbles us. A special thank you to our lodging partners, who make it possible for us to bring more than 50 filmmakers from around the world to Aspen. This artist attendance and participation is one of the reasons that makes our festival so special.

We are thrilled to return to our official host venues: the Wheeler Opera House in Aspen and Cystral Theatre in Carbondale. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our friendly staff members or volunteers if you have any questions or special needs during your festival-going experience. I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting as many new film lovers as possible during Shortsfest.

On behalf of the Shortsfest team and everyone at Aspen Film, enjoy the journey!

With gratitude,
John Thew
Executive Director

ASPEN FILM

INDEPENDENT BY NATURE

It gives me enormous pleasure to present the 25th installment of Aspen Shortsfest! Shortsfest is one of the most cherished and respected film festivals in the United States, with an international reputation for its devotion to filmmakers and film lovers alike.

Culled from more than 3,200 submissions, the 56 films in our competitive shorts programs represent 25 countries from around the globe and reveal an incredibly eclectic array of approaches to storytelling and filmmaking. Along with films made by both emerging filmmakers and veterans alike, Shortsfest offers audiences myriad unique opportunities to interact with some of the best filmmakers working today.

In an increasingly chaotic and confusing world, our universal stories are, like the single-root system of the aspen trees, what connect us all. In picking up where Shortsfest's beloved 20-year veteran programmers Laura Thielen and George Eldred left off, I hope this year's lineup will offer a story for everyone.

Maggie Mackay
Artistic Director

Aspen Film Board of Trustees

Lee Rittvo, *President*
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HOW TO FEST

PASSES & TICKETS

ADMISSION TO THE 25TH ASPEN SHORTSFEST CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED USING A PASS OR A SINGLE TICKET:

PASSES

Passes are available only to Aspen Film Members at the Producer Level and above.

TO BECOME A MEMBER
visit aspenfilm.org or call 970.306.3662.

VIP PASS
Guaranteed reserved seat bearing your name for all screenings.

PRIORITY PASS
Your pick of the best available seat for all screenings 30 minutes before the start of each program.

TICKETS

GENERAL ADMISSION tickets for most Shortsfest Programs are **$15 EACH** for your pick of the best available seat 15 minutes before the start of each screening. **ASPEN FILM MEMBERS** receive a 20% discount on single tickets for **$12 EACH**.

The **FAMILY FUN!** program is **$10 FOR ADULTS AND FREE FOR KIDS.** All kids welcome to the show FREE of charge with a complimentary ticket issued by the Wheeler Box Office.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND PURCHASING TICKETS IN ADVANCE through the Wheeler Opera House Box Office, 970.920.5770 and aspenshowtix.com for all shows.

For **CARBONDALE SHOWS**, tickets can be purchased at Bonfire Coffee, 33 Main St., Carbondale.

Tickets are also available for sale at the door at the Wheeler Opera House before each Aspen screening and at the Crystal Theatre for Carbondale Screenings.

RUSH TICKETS

FIVE MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START OF EACH SCREENING, Aspen Film will make any unfilled seats available for sale. **RUSH TICKETS ARE $15 EACH.**

ASPEN FILM MEMBERS RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT ON RUSH TICKETS. The rush line forms 45 minutes prior to each screening at the Wheeler Opera House and Crystal Theatre.

Aspen Film Staff

John Thew	Executive Director
Maggie Mackay	Artistic Director
Nikki Boxer	Director of Development
Katie Shapiro	Director of Marketing & Public Relations
James Jefferies	Program Coordinator/Programmer
Regna Jones	Education Coordinator
Shawna Rahm	Operations Support
Caleb Ward	Guest Services Manager
Sarah Poppitz	Guest Services Associate
Kyle Miller	Lounge Coordinator
Terri Grob	Bookkeeper
Bryan Erickson	IT Services
Polly Pollard	Carbondale House Manager
Ruth Tobias	Program Guide Editor
Kelly Alford	Graphic Design
Manson Karbank Burke	Legal Services

Special Thanks

Aspen Film Volunteers
Bonfire Coffee
Mawa's Kitchen
Mel Blumenthal
Paradise Bakery
Red Butte Roasters
Wheeler Opera House Staff and Volunteers

VENUES

Screenings for the 25th Aspen Shortsfest are held at the **WHEELER OPERA HOUSE** in Aspen (320 E. Hyman Ave.) and the **CRYSTAL THEATRE** in Carbondale (427 Main St.).
The **FILMMAKER LOUNGE** is open daily to all pass holders from 10AM - 5PM in the **LIBRARY** at the **HOTEL JEROME** (330 E. Main St.).

Please check the schedule inside for additional Special Event, Special Programming, and Après Screening locations.

MAWA'S KITCHEN
ASPEN

SHORTSFEST CAFÉ

MAWA'S KITCHEN will have fresh meal and snack options available for purchase before and between shows in the Wheeler Opera House lobby.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have special needs covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please notify Aspen Film 970.925.6882.

Please arrive early.
In the event of a sell-out, all unclaimed seats are released 5 minutes before show time.

PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION VISIT ASPENFILM.ORG

@ASPENFILM
#SHORTSFEST16

SHORTSFEST 2016 SPECIAL EVENTS

Receptions, Après Screenings, and late night parties are all part of the festival experience. Please join us in celebrating great film with great conversation!

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

OPENING RECEPTION

6:30pm
Wheeler Opera House Lobby
Join us in kicking-off the 25th Aspen Shortsfest, before Shorts Program 1, with hors d'oeuvres, wine, and beer.
COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hosted by: Aspen Film and *The Aspen Times*

APRIL 5, 6, 7, 10
Immediately following evening screening programs

APRÈS SCREENINGS

The J Bar at the Hotel Jerome
Hang out with Aspen Film's staff and with festival filmmakers from around the world as we celebrate the day's events during these late-night get-togethers. Food and beverage discounts available with your Aspen Shortsfest pass or ticket.
COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hosted by: Aspen Film and the Hotel Jerome

FRIDAY, APRIL 8
Immediately following Shorts Program 7

APRÈS SCREENING AT THE REC ROOM

The Rec Room
515 E. Hopkins Ave.
Hang out with Aspen Film's staff and festival filmmakers as we celebrate the day's events at Aspen's newest late-night hot spot, The Rec Room. Complimentary grilled cheese sandwiches with your Aspen Shortsfest pass or ticket. Join us as we spin the night away to music chosen by you from The Rec Room's extensive vinyl LP collection.
COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hosted by: Aspen Film and The Rec Room

SATURDAY, APRIL 9
Immediately following Shorts Program 9

APRÈS SCREENING AT ERIC'S BAR

Eric's Bar
315 E. Hyman Ave.
Challenge your fellow film lovers, Aspen Film staff, and festival filmmakers to rounds of pool and shuffleboard at one of Aspen's favorite hang-outs. Eric's Bar will provide a discounted drink menu for Shortsfest pass and ticket holders.
COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hosted by: Aspen Film and Eric's Bar

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

BREAKFAST AT THE FEST

11:30am
Wheeler Opera House Lobby
Join Aspen Film board members, staff, filmmakers, and fellow festival goers for brunch before attending our Family Fun! program. Complimentary breakfast buffet, mimosas, and Bloody Marys provided.
COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hosted by: Aspen Film and Mawa's Kitchen

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

MILK & COOKIES

2:00pm
Wheeler Opera House Lobby
Bring the whole family to enjoy complimentary milk and cookies immediately following our Family Fun! screening. All kids welcome to the show FREE of charge with a complimentary ticket issued by the Wheeler Box Office.
COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hosted by: Aspen Film Cookies provided by: Paradise Bakery

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

AWARDS DINNER

6:00pm
Cooking School of Aspen
216 S. Monarch St.
Celebrate the commencement of Shortsfest as our slate of prestigious prizes is presented to filmmakers. This seated wine-dinner is open to the public. Tickets available for $75, call Aspen Film to reserve: 970.925.6882.
Hosted by: Aspen Film and Cooking School of Aspen

SHORTSFEST 2016 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Aspen Film's free, valley-wide educational programs seek to expand world views, develop critical viewing skills, cultivate curiosity, and inspire creativity. Educational enrichment opportunities for students include films in the classrooms, filmmakers in schools, attendance at festivals, filmmaker Labs, and participation on the Shortsfest's Youth Jury.
For more information contact Aspen Film at 970.925.6882.

SHORTSFEST 2016

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7
FRIDAY, APRIL 8

FILMMAKER CONVERSATIONS

Noon – 2:00pm
The Red Onion
420 E. Cooper Ave.

Get a behind-the-scenes look into the creative process of guest filmmakers from around the world at these lunch-time panel discussions.

COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hosted by: Aspen Film

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

SEED&SPARK PRESENTS: CROWDFUNDING TO BUILD INDEPENDENCE

Noon – 2:00pm
Gonzo Gallery
625 E. Hyman Ave.

Join Seed&Spark, the film industry's most ground-breaking crowdfunding platform, exclusively created to support a rich community of independent filmmakers and storytellers, for this inspirational presentation and conversation. Seed&Spark's Erica Anderson, Head of Crowdfunding & Education, will discuss everything from how to develop your funding campaign to reaching an audience you will have a lasting, flourishing, and direct relationship with. All dreamers welcome!

COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Special Thanks to The Colorado Office of Film, Television, & Media

BRIGHT IDEAS magazine

SEED&SPARK

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

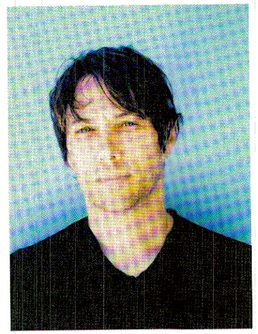
STOP ASKING PERMISSION AND TELL YOUR STORY:

A conversation with Sean Baker, Darren Dean, and *BRIGHT IDEAS* magazine

NOON-2pm
Chair 9 at The Little Nell
675 E. Durant Ave.

Celebrated director Sean Baker and producer Darren Dean (*Snowbird, Tangerine, Prince of Broadway*) sit down with *BRIGHT IDEAS* magazine's Editor-in-Chief James Kaelan to talk about Baker and Dean's latest short, *Snowbird*, world-premiering at Aspen Shortsfest and commissioned by cutting-edge French fashion house Kenzo. Come join us for this inspirational conversation discussing everything from shooting films on an iPhone to finding financing in the least likely of places.

COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Sean Baker

Darren Dean

SHORTSFEST

AWARDS

SHORTSFEST 2016

JURY

Aspen Shortsfest's Jury recognizes films with the following Oscar®-qualifying awards:

BEST ANIMATION ($2,500)
BEST COMEDY ($2,500)
BEST DOCUMENTARY ($2,500)
BEST DRAMA ($2,500)
BEST SHORT SHORT ($1,000)

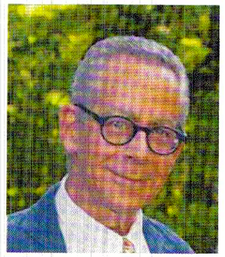
The Jury will award one film **BEST STUDENT FILM** ($1,000).

Shorstfest's audiences determine the winners of the **AUDIENCE AWARD** ($500) and the **AUDIENCE SPECIAL RECOGNITION.**

The **YOUTH JURY AWARD** ($500) is given to one film by local high school students.

The **ELLEN AWARD** named for Aspen Film's Founder and former Executive Director, Ellen Kohner Hunt, originated from an endowment raised by the community to annually award a film that embodies the spirit of Aspen Film's programming from 1976 to 1995. The 2016 Aspen Shortsfest Ellen Award Jurors are: Steve Alldredge, Linda Girvin, Gail Holstein, Ellen Kohner Hunt, and Lynda Palevsky.

Seed&Spark will select one film that crowdfunded a portion of their budget to receive the **SEED&SPARK AWARD**, which includes $250 toward the winning filmmaker's next Seed&Spark crowdfunding campaign (on campaigns of $7,500 or more), individual crowdfunding and audience-building consultation with Seed&Spark experts, and distribution on Seed&Spark's streaming platform.



David Ansen was a movie critic for *Newsweek* from 1977 to 2008. He was the Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Film Festival from 2010 through 2014. He is currently the Lead Programmer of the Palm Springs International Film Festival. He has written documentaries for TNT, HBO and PBS on Greta Garbo, Groucho Marx, Bette Davis, and Elizabeth Taylor and has written for *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Interview*, *Cosmopolitan*, and other publications. In the 1990s he served for eight years on the selection committee of the New York Film Festival.

Lisa Kennedy writes about popular culture, race, and gender – and has for more than two decades. From 2003 to 2015 she was film critic for the *Denver Post*. In 2012, she added theater critic to her title. A member of The National Society of Film Critics, she has been a juror for the American Film Institute's Top Movies, Film Independent's Spirit Awards, and the Gotham Awards. She has also been a judge for the Pulitzer Prize in criticism. Jurying for Aspen Shortsfest remains one of her favorite gigs. As she works on book and freelance projects, she continues to review films as host of "Reaction Shot," a weekly movie review show on denverpost.com.

Alex Karpovsky has directed five feature-length films and numerous music videos. As an actor, he currently plays Ray Ploshansky in the HBO comedy series *Girls* and has appeared in the last two films written and directed by the Coen Brothers – *Inside Llewyn Davis* and *Hail, Caesar!*

SHORTSFEST 2016 ASSOCIATE PROGRAMMERS

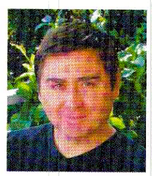
Mike Dougherty
Acquisitions Executive, Radiant Films International/Director of Programming, Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles

Angie Driscoll
Programmer
HotDocs; TIFF

Brandon Harris
Filmmaker/Critic/ Professor

James Jefferies
Programmer/ Programming Coordinator, Aspen Film

Jenn Murphy
Programmer
AFI FEST; LAFF



Cedar Sherbert
Filmmaker/ Programmer

Craig Turpin
Producer/Editor/ Aspenite

ASPEN TUE APRIL 5

6:30pm
OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION
Wheeler Opera House Lobby

Join us in kicking-off the 25th Aspen Shortsfest, before Shorts Program 1, with hors d'oeuvres, wine, and beer.

COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Hosted by:
Aspen Film and *The Aspen Times*

25TH

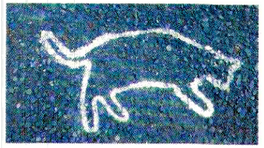
7:30pm
SHORTS PROGRAM 1
Wheeler Opera House
Total Run Time: 92 Minutes
FILMMAKER Q&A TO FOLLOW
Special Thanks to *The Aspen Times* and Toby Devan Lewis

Everything Will Be Okay

The stakes of a weekend reunion couldn't be higher for a father and his little girl in this taut yet sensitive Oscar®-nominated drama. (Patrick Vollrath, Germany/Austria, 30 min.)

I, Destini

Delicately animated in black-and-white, Destini Riley's affecting account of the impact of the prison-industrial complex on African-American families like her own was actually submitted as evidence in her brother's trial. (Nicholas Pilarski, Destini Riley, USA, 14 min.) *World Premiere*

Pickle


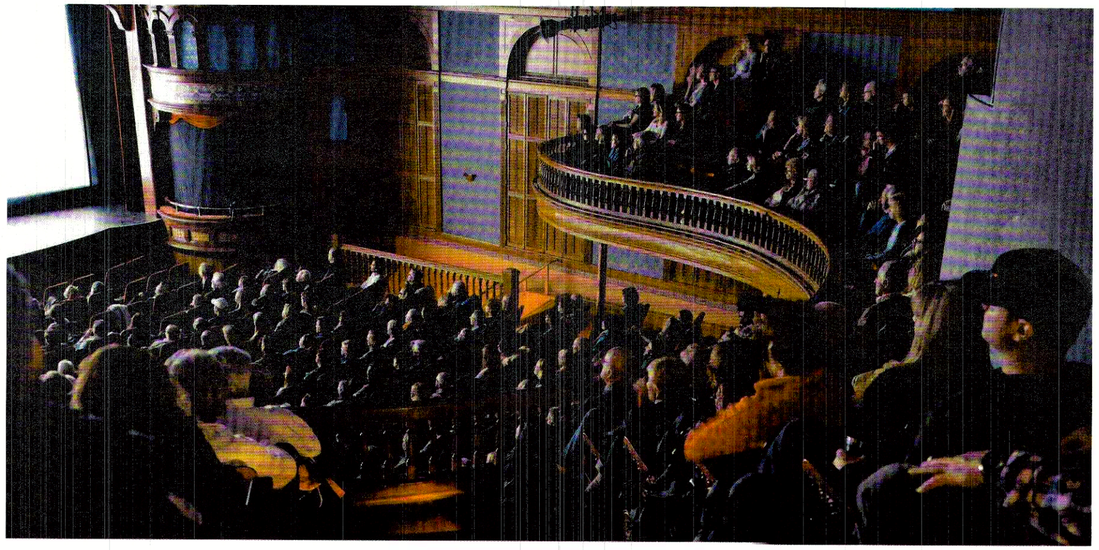
An electrocuted fish, a water-retentive goose, a paralyzed possum who eats scrambled eggs: with affection and humor, a pair of animal lovers recount the injuries and insults life has hurled at their menagerie. (Amy Nicholson, USA, 15 min.)

The Shining Star of Losers Everywhere

In 2003, Japan was plunged into economic darkness, and its people needed a ray of hope. They found one in Haru Urara, a racehorse with a pink Hello Kitty mask and a career-long losing streak. (Mickey Duzyj, Japan/USA, 18 min.)

The Evictor

A low-level gangster meets the most unexpected of adversaries when he breaks into the house of a family he's supposed to eject in this multilayered, beautifully directed drama. (Bumsue Chun, South Korea, 15 min.) *World Premiere*



ASPEN WED APRIL 6

NOON
FILMMAKER CONVERSATION
The Red Onion
420 E. Cooper Ave.
COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
See page 6 for details.

5:30pm
SHORTS PROGRAM 2
Wheeler Opera House
Total Run Time: 90 Minutes
FILMMAKER Q&A TO FOLLOW
Special Thanks to Aspen Public Radio and Esther Pearlstone

Charlotte

A teenaged girl experiences the highs and lows of an unexpected crush in this tender and honest take on coming-of-age. (Angel Kristi Williams, USA, 11 min.)

God Willing

This portrait of Palestinian artist Mais Rosol AbuSaa doubles as an inspiring examination of the role of women in Islamic society today. (Gayle Embrey, USA, 7 min.) *World Premiere*

La Laguna

"I am not Mexican. I am Mayan," says 12-year-old Yu'uk, and his statement reverberates throughout this luminous, deeply poignant journey into the heart of the rainforest, where his family's way of life is under siege and the modern world encroaches. (Aaron Schock, Mexico/USA, 38 min.)

The Orchestra

While the world around him shimmers with light and song, poor old Vernon wonders: can he ever emerge from the dark, tone-deaf shell of his own painfully shy making to strike up a tune with his new neighbor? (Mikey Hill, Australia, 15 min.)

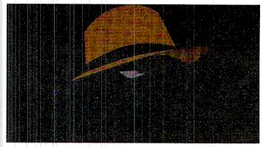
Under the Sun

The wheels of corruption propel the cycle of despair for two families in this dystopic critique of modern-industrial Chinese society. (Qiu Yang, China/Australia, 19 min.)

8:30pm
SHORTS PROGRAM 3
Wheeler Opera House
Total Run Time: 88 Minutes
FILMMAKER Q&A TO FOLLOW
Special Thanks to Alpine Bank and Nancy Wall & Chuck Wall

Before the Spring

Cairo, 2011: revolution is in the air, but Tamer–who has a bright future awaiting him and his family in America–wants no part of it. Whether he has a choice is the question compelling this gritty drama. (James Kaelan, USA/Egypt, 12 min.) *World Premiere*

A Coat Made Dark


In this dark animated fable, stolen treasure marks a change in fortune for an evil dog and his exploited manservant–but not in the way they think it will. (Jack O'Shea, Ireland, 10 min.)

House Sitting

Things always look better in the morning–and as the hapless hero of this gentle comedy discovers, sometimes they smell better, too. (Joe Burke, USA, 16 min.) *World Premiere*

Sea Breeze

In this intimate character study, a Taiwanese shopkeeper and a Filipino migrant find in one another a kindred spirit. (Chun-Yi Li, Taiwan/UK, 30 min.) *International Premiere*

She Dances for People

Mesmerizing black-and-white imagery allows an intriguing glimpse into the complex and moving history of Canada's indigenous populations. (Michelle Latimer, Canada, 4 min.) *U.S. Premiere*

World Wide Woven Bodies

Just as he's entering puberty, Mads gets ensnared in the World Wide Web in this Norwegian family dramedy set at the turn of the millennium. (Truls Krane Meby, Norway, 16 min.)

ASPEN THU APRIL 7

NOON

SEED&SPARK PRESENTS

CROWDFUNDING TO BUILD INDEPENDENCE

Gonzo Gallery, 625 E. Hyman Ave.

COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Special Thanks to The Colorado Office of Film, Television, & Media

See page 6 for details.

5:30pm SHORTS PROGRAM 4

Wheeler Opera House

Total Run Time: 90 Minutes

FILMMAKER Q&A TO FOLLOW

Special Thanks to The Aspen Club & Spa and Lee & Steve Rittvo

The Black Belt

Tackling a subject both infuriating and hopeful, acclaimed documentarian Margaret Brown's timely foray into the voter-ID debate introduces the Alabamans at the center of the fray. (Margaret Brown, USA, 11 min.)

Deer Flower

At once unsettling, whimsical, and amusing, this stop-motion, 3D-printed fairy tale follows a young boy who partakes in an ancient rite of passage. (Kangmin Kim, USA/South Korea, 7 min.)

Hotel der Diktatoren

Welcome to the Hotel Ledger Plaza Bangui. Once owned by a notorious dictator, it's palatial by the standards of the Central African Republic—particularly the local employees, who show up for work every day in hopes it will one day reopen to guests. Think *Waiting for Gaddafi*. (Florian Hoffmann, Germany/Central African Republic, 16 min.)

Just a Song

When Dennis serenades his girlfriend, things don't go as hoped—at least not for her. (Gina Hirsch, USA, 5 min.)

Melody

If music be the food of love, play on: a romance-minded young man discovers the truth of that famous line. (Jean-Pierre Caner, USA, 11 min.) *World Premiere*

Mining Poems or Odes

The shipyards of Scotland doubled as an institution of higher learning for the welder-turned-poet at the center of this lyrical portrait. (Callum Rice, Scotland/UK, 11 min.)

Mondo Cane

Celebrated American photographer Thomas Roma shares his philosophies on art, life, and the canine species while discussing two of his most influential projects with filmmaker Michael Almereyda. (Michael Almereyda, USA, 12 min.)

Panic Attack!

In this amusing, mind-bending animated glimpse into the dark stream of one woman's consciousness, one may find something all too familiar. (Eileen O'Meara, USA, 3 min.) *World Premiere*

Seide

Without hope of escape herself, can a village girl facing an arranged marriage at least set her most beloved companion free to roam the snow-covered steppes of their homeland? (Elnura Osmonalieva, Kyrgyzstan, 14 min.)

8:30pm SHORTS PROGRAM 5

Wheeler Opera House

Total Run Time: 87 Minutes

FILMMAKER Q&A TO FOLLOW

Special Thanks to AspenOUT and Paulette & Mel Blumenthal

Across the Sea

A stolen phone sheds light on the dreams and sorrows of both a new mother and a teenaged boy in this deceptively subtle and beautiful drama. (Kelly Robinson, UK, 11 min.)

Dirt

Stylish and captivating, this stark thriller unfolds less as a whodunit than as a whoitdunto. (Darius Clark Monroe, USA, 7 min.)

Edmond

In the hilariously grotesque tradition of Švankmajer and the Quay Brothers, this piece of stop-motion animation takes you on a trip around the world of an unabashed freak. (Nina Gantz, UK, 9 min.)

For A Good Time

Desperate for respite in the midst of mourning, Jane calls a number scrawled on a bathroom wall. As this bittersweet comedy shows, she gets what she's looking for. Sort of. (Aemilia Scott, USA, 20 min.) *World Premiere*

Irregulars

Against a tellingly hypnotic factory backdrop, a refugee encapsulates the global immigration crisis in his own wrenching words. (Fabio Palmieri, Italy, 9 min.) *North American Premiere*

MissMe: The Artful Vandal

From subliminal to subversive: once a hot shot in the advertising world, MissMe has since found her voice and her bliss as a Montreal street artist. (Mohammad Gorjestani, USA, 4 min.)

Semele

A tough-tender family drama ensues when a young girl tracks down her estranged father at work. (Myrsini Aristidou, Cyprus, 13 min.)

Speaking Is Difficult

Acclaimed documentarian AJ Schnack issues a lament for America's gun-violence epidemic that's all the more damning for its subtlety. (AJ Schnack, USA, 14 min.)

ASPEN FRI APRIL 8

NOON

FILMMAKER CONVERSATION

The Red Onion

420 E. Cooper Ave.

COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

See page 6 for details.

5:30pm SHORTS PROGRAM 6

Wheeler Opera House

Total Run Time: 86 Minutes

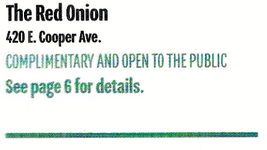
FILMMAKER Q&A TO FOLLOW

Special Thanks to City of Aspen and Adam & Melony Lewis

Dancing for You

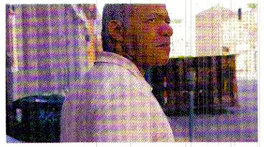
Young Vilde's passion for folk dance, zest for life, and tender affection for her beloved granddad intermingle within the picturesque framework of the Norwegian countryside in this moving documentary. (Erlend E. Mo, Norway, 29 min.) *U.S. Premiere*

First Night Out



A woman takes herself to dinner for the very first time. (Will Mayo, USA, 3 min.)

Good White People



The struggle for the soul of a historic Cincinnati neighborhood comes to an end as gentrification displaces the longtime black residents featured in this hard-hitting, emotionally resonant documentary. (Jarrod Welling-Cann, Erick Stoll, USA, 16 min.)

The Old Man and the Bird

Here's a folktale as timeless as it is intelligently animated: in the dead of winter, an elderly hermit takes in one last breath of fresh air made flesh. (Dennis Stein-Schomburg, Germany, 7 min.) *North American Premiere*

Papé

A belligerent old fisherman realizes it's time to make peace with his past in this folktale-meets-lullaby, beautifully shot on the shores of Guadeloupe. (Nicolas Polixene, France, 18 min.) *U.S. Premiere*

Step 9

With a loyal sidekick along for the ride, Marian discovers the most heartfelt search for redemption can double as a romp. (Leonora Pitts, USA, 13 min.)

8:30pm SHORTS PROGRAM 7

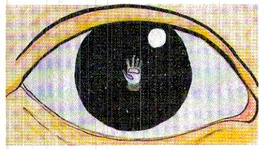
Wheeler Opera House

Total Run Time: 92 Minutes

FILMMAKER Q&A TO FOLLOW

Special Thanks to Colorado Creative Industries

Glove



An astronaut recalls a glove he lost in space in this charming animated meditation on the spirit of human endeavor. (Alexa Lim Haas, Bernardo Britto, USA, 6 min.)

Hounds

Teamwork and treachery, devotion and deceit intersect in this surreal and strangely comic tale of bureaucratic breakdown, set in a museum with a pernicious pecking order. (Omer Tobi, Israel, 30 min.) *International Premiere*

Red Folder

At his teacher's behest, a troubled student goes in search of a red folder—but is it really a red flag? (Ben Kallam, USA, 10 min.)

The Send-Off

In small-town America, a group of high-school students gathers for the biggest, brightest night of their young lives. (Ivete Lucas, Patrick Bresnan, USA, 12 min.)

Tuesday

In this slice of social realism, a teenage schoolgirl learns a bit about life during an ordinary day on the streets of Istanbul. (Ziya Demirel, France/Turkey, 13 min.)

Victor XX

His loved ones know him as Mari; strangers see him as Victor. Set in small-town Spain, this anguished yet inspiring coming-of-age story is also a coming-of-gender story. (Ian Garrido, Spain, 21 min.)

ASPEN SAT APRIL 9

NOON

STOP ASKING PERMISSION AND TELL YOUR STORY:

A conversation with Sean Baker, Darren Dean, and *BRIGHT IDEAS* magazine

Chair 9 at The Little Nell
675 E. Durant Ave.

COMPLIMENTARY AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

See page 6 for details.

5:30pm

SHORTS PROGRAM 8

Wheeler Opera House

Total Run Time: 88 Minutes

FILMMAKER Q&A TO FOLLOW

Special Thanks to Aspen Film Members

Brillo Box (3¢ off)

While tracing the 40-year journey of an Andy Warhol original from her family's living room to the auction block, documentarian Lisanne Skyler delivers a delightful, nostalgia-tinged snapshot of the American middle class, colorfully framed by a crash course in postmodernism. (Lisanne Skyler, USA, 40 min.) *World Premiere*

Oh My Father

At the heart of this quietly touching real-life portrait is the daily routine of a 98-year-old man and the daughter who cares for him. (Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck, Robert Machoian, USA, 11 min.) *World Premiere*

Snowbird

From the director of the groundbreaking indie hit *Tangerine*, in conjunction with cutting-edge fashion label Kenzo, comes this gorgeously lensed, off-the-grid, May-December romance. (Sean Baker, USA, 12 min.) *World Premiere*

Summer of Sarah

This classic coming-of-age story finds sixteen-year-old Sarah struggling to juggle her hard-working father's expectations, a demeaning job and the advances of a boy from the right side of the tracks. (Emma Benestan, France, 25 min.) *U.S. Premiere*

8:30pm

SHORTS PROGRAM 9

Wheeler Opera House

Total Run Time: 81 Minutes

FILMMAKER Q&A TO FOLLOW

Special Thanks to Aspen Film Volunteers

Bacon & God's Wrath

At age 90, Razie contemplates her journey of self-discovery upon deciding to try bacon after a lifetime of keeping kosher in this quirky, insightful documentary. (Sol Friedman, Canada, 9 min.)

Chekhov

Grief and ire shot through with wicked humor: a brief phone call from the director to his sister contains all the elements of the namesake master's works. (Jack Dunphy, USA, 5 min.)

Partners

Sex, work, money, commitment: the duo driving this wry comedy cover all the greatest hits of arguing couples before they even get out of bed in the morning. (Joey Ally, USA, 7 min.)

Someone Is Happy Somewhere

A troubled, deaf handyman and a beautiful but struggling tenant of a Brazilian high rise meet at an emotional crossroads in this intense drama, set on the night of the country's biggest soccer match. (Mario Furloni, Alvaro Furloni, Brazil, 18 min.) *International Premiere*

Stripper Wars

A strip club becomes a dreamscape for a lonely exotic dancer longing for acceptance. (Giancarlo Loffredo, USA, 7 min.)

Thanks for Dancing

A glimmer of hope arises from the depths of grief on the wintry Norwegian horizon of this enduring love story. (Henrik Martin Dahlsbakken, Norway, 19 min.) *North American Premiere*

These C*cksucking Tears

Meet Patrick Haggerty, a singer-songwriter who has worn his fiercely antiestablishment heart on his sleeve since the 1970s, when he recorded the first gay country album. (Dan Taberski, USA, 16 min.)

ASPEN SUN APRIL 10

11:30am

BREAKFAST AT THE FEST

Wheeler Opera House Lobby

See page 5 for details.

12:30pm

FAMILY FUN!

AARDMAN ANIMATIONS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

FAMILY PROGRAM

Wheeler Opera House

Total Run Time: 89 Minutes

Aspen Shortsfest is thrilled to partner with legendary animation studio Aardman Animations–the Shortsfest alum that brought you such favorites as *A Close Shave* and *Chicken Run*–in celebrating its 40th anniversary with a retrospective screening the whole family's sure to adore.

Special Thanks to Thrift Shop of Aspen and Les Dames d'Aspen, Ltd.

(Bram Ttwheam, 2012)

Aardman Original Cartoon

This cel-animated sequence features the original "Aardman," an inept superhero. (Peter Lord, David Sproxton)

Shaun the Sheep: *Cones*

Shaun and the Flock commandeer an ice-cream van, which results in an endless supply of the sweet treat–but will they be able to cover their tracks before they're discovered? (Jay Grace, 2013)

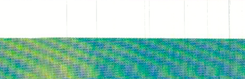
Pythagasaurus

Bumbling cavemen Ig and Uk awaken to find a volcano on their doorstep. Could their only hope be a dinosaur who's good at math? (Peter Peake, 2011)

Creature Comforts

The animals in an English zoo conduct a series of interviews on their accommodation, diet, and of course the English weather. (Nick Park, 1989)

Morph: *Grand Morph's Home Movies*

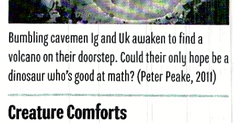


When Grand Morph shares footage of Morph as a baby, embarrassment and hilarity ensue. (Peter Lord, 1980)

Angry Kid: *Bone*

Oh no, the bone–what's that doing there? (Darren Walsh, 1998)

Purple & Brown: *Whistler*



Visited by noisy and intriguing strangers, Purple and Brown are desperate to join in the fun. (Rich Webber, 2006)

Nokia: *Dot*

The invention of the CellScope–a Nokia device with a microscope attachment–was the inspiration for this teeny-tiny film about a 9-millimeter girl called Dot, who struggles through a microscopic world. (Sumo Science, 2010)

DC's World's Funnest: *Episode I*

Superman and the gang get a youthful makeover with the help of vocal performances by youngsters. (Rich Webber, 2011)

Shaun the Sheep: *3DTV*

The Farmer's neuTV is even more 3D than he could ever have imagined! (Jay Grace, 2013)

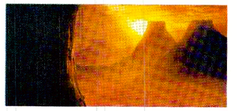
Fly

The eternal battle between man and fly is played out when a man and his dog make increasingly extreme efforts to rid themselves of a pest. (Alan Short, 2010)

Morph: *Sloped World*

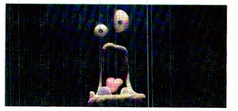
Chas has a new angle on photography. (Merlin Crossingham, 2014)

Ray's Big Idea



A plucky, pioneering, prehistoric fish has a ground-breaking plan to improve his life. (Steve Harding-Hill, 2014)

Aardman Nathan Love



View the world's most epic logo reveal for the world's most epic partnership. (Joe Burrascano, 2015)

So You Want to Be a Pirate!

Chaos unfolds as The Pirate Captain reveals his tips on becoming a dashing yet sensitive terror of the high seas. (Jay Grace, 2012)

The Wrong Trousers

A villainous penguin and a pair of automated techno-trousers plunge our clay heroes into one of their wildest adventures yet. (Nick Park, 1993)

2:00pm

MILK & COOKIES

Wheeler Opera House Lobby

See page 5 for details.

6:30pm

AWARDS DINNER

Cooking School of Aspen
216 S. Monarch St.

See page 5 for details.

CARBONDALE SAT APRIL 9

5:15pm SHORTS PROGRAM A

Crystal Theatre

Total Run Time: 85 Minutes

Special Thanks to the Towns of Basalt and Carbondale

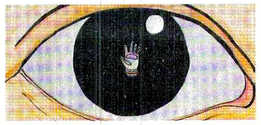
Across the Sea

A stolen phone sheds light on the dreams and sorrows of both a new mother and a teenaged boy in this deceptively subtle and beautiful drama. (Kelly Robinson, UK, 11 min.)

First Night Out

A woman takes herself to dinner for the very first time. (Will Mayo, USA, 3 min.)

Glove



An astronaut recalls a glove he lost in space in this charming animated meditation on the spirit of human endeavor. (Alexa Lim Haas, Bernardo Britto, USA, 6 min.)

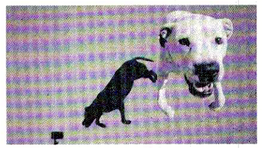
House Sitting

Things always look better in the morning–and as the hapless hero of this gentle comedy discovers, sometimes they smell better, too. (Joe Burke, USA, 16 min.) *World Premiere*

MissMe: The Artful Vandal

From subliminal to subversive: once a hot shot in the advertising world, MissMe has since found her voice and her bliss as a Montreal street artist. (Mohammad Gorjestani, USA, 4 min.)

Mondo Cane



Celebrated American photographer Thomas Roma shares his philosophies on art, life, and the canine species while discussing two of his most influential projects with filmmaker Michael Almereyda. (Michael Almereyda, USA, 12 min.)

Pickle

An electrocuted fish, a water-retentive goose, a paralyzed possum who eats scrambled eggs: with affection and humor, a pair of animal lovers recount the injuries and insults life has hurled at their menagerie. (Amy Nicholson, USA, 15 min.)

The Shining Star of Losers Everywhere

In 2003, Japan was plunged into economic darkness, and its people needed a ray of hope. They found one in Haru Urara, a racehorse with a pink Hello Kitty mask and a career-long losing streak. (Mickey Duzyj, Japan/USA, 18 min.)

7:30pm SHORTS PROGRAM B

Crystal Theatre

Total Run Time: 91 Minutes

Special Thanks to the Towns of Basalt and Carbondale

Bacon & God's Wrath

At age 90, Razie contemplates her journey of self-discovery upon deciding to try bacon after a lifetime of keeping kosher in this quirky, insightful documentary. (Sol Friedman, Canada, 9 min.)

Brillo Box (3¢ off)

While tracing the 40-year journey of an Andy Warhol original from her family's living room to the auction block, documentarian Lisanne Skyler delivers a delightful, nostalgia-tinged snapshot of the American middle class, colorfully framed by a crash course in postmodernism. (Lisanne Skyler, USA, 40 min.) *World Premiere*

Edmond

In the hilariously grotesque tradition of Švankmajer and the Quay Brothers, this piece of stop-motion animation takes you on a trip around the world of an unabashed freak. (Nina Gantz, UK, 9 min.)

I, Destini

Delicately animated in black-and-white, Destini Riley's affecting account of the impact of the prison-industrial complex on African-American families like her own was actually submitted as evidence in her brother's trial. (Nicholas Pilarski, Destini Riley, USA, 14 min.) *World Premiere*

Partners

Sex, work, money, commitment: the duo driving this wry comedy cover all the greatest hits of arguing couples before they even get out of bed in the morning. (Joey Ally, USA, 7 min.)

Snowbird

From the director of the groundbreaking indie hit *Tangerine*, in conjunction with cutting-edge fashion label Kenzo, comes this gorgeously lensed, off-the-grid, May-December romance. (Sean Baker, USA, 12 min.) *World Premiere*

CARBONDALE SUN APRIL 10

3pm FAMILY FUN! AARDMAN ANIMATIONS 40TH ANNIVERSARY FAMILY PROGRAM

Crystal Theatre

Total Run Time: 89 Minutes

Aspen Shortsfest is thrilled to partner with legendary animation studio Aardman Animations–the Shortsfest alum that brought you such favorites as *A Close Shave* and *Chicken Run*–in celebrating its 40th anniversary with a retrospective screening the whole family's sure to adore.

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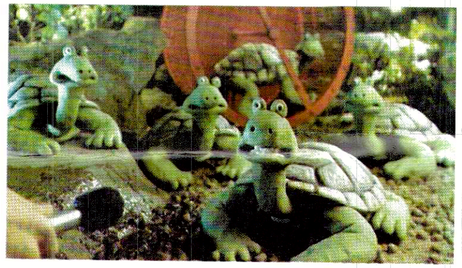
(See page 13 for program details)



5:15pm SHORTS PROGRAM C

Crystal Theatre

Total Run Time: 87 Minutes

Special Thanks to the Towns of Basalt and Carbondale

Charlotte

A teenaged girl experiences the highs and lows of an unexpected crush in this tender and honest take on coming-of-age. (Angel Kristi Williams, USA, 11 min.)

Dancing for You

Young Vilde's passion for folk dance, zest for life and tender affection for her beloved granddad intermingle within the picturesque framework of the Norwegian countryside in this moving documentary. (Erlend E. Mo, Norway, 29 min.) *U.S. Premiere*

Just a Song

When Dennis serenades his girlfriend, things don't go as hoped–at least not for her. (Gina Hirsch, USA, 5 min.)

Mining Poems or Odes

The shipyards of Scotland doubled as an institution of higher learning for the welder-turned-poet at the center of this lyrical portrait. (Callum Rice, Scotland/UK, 11 min.)

The Orchestra

While the world around him shimmers with light and song, poor old Vernon wonders: can he ever emerge from the dark, tone-deaf shell of his own painfully shy making to strike up a tune with his new neighbor? (Mikey Hill, Australia, 15 min.)

She Dances for People

Mesmerizing black-and-white imagery allows an intriguing glimpse into the complex and moving history of Canada's indigenous populations. (Michelle Latimer, Canada, 4 min.) *U.S. Premiere*

The Send-Off

In small-town America, a group of high-school students gathers for the biggest, brightest night of their young lives. (Ivete Lucas, Patrick Bresnan, USA, 12 min.)