

52nd Annual USA Film Festival April 20-24, 2022 Angelika Film Center Dallas



A Song For Cesar

© Gems Getty Images



The Duke



Meet the Calendar Girls



Meet Omar Sosa



Dale Dickey in *A Love Song*



Aubrey Plaza and Theo Rossi
in *Emily the Criminal*



Sally Struthers
with *The Getaway*



*Our Almost
Completely True Story*



John Boyega in *892*

PHOTO CREDITS: *The Duke* - Courtesy of Pathe UK - Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics; *Calendar Girls* - Love Martinsen; *A Love Song* and *892* - Courtesy of Bleecker Street.

USAFF52

WELCOME

Welcome to USAFF52

We are glad to see you! And glad to turn the page on the past two years. We hope that you will enjoy this year's program line-up showcasing films based on true stories, films that make us laugh, films that provoke thought and discussion, and films that celebrate the **power of art** and the human spirit.



Dallas Arts Month

USAFF52 is pleased to be a part of Arts Month! Dallas Arts Month is designed to build awareness and appreciation for the work of Dallas artists and organizations and foster creative learning and activity throughout the city. We encourage you to participate in the many events and programs offered by art and cultural institutions representing all disciplines. For more information, please visit www.dallasartsmoonth.com

Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month

USAFF52 is proud to once again partner with the **Sammons Center for the Arts** and **Sammons Jazz** to present screenings celebrating the rich history of Jazz. Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month (D'JAM) is a special month-long celebration of all things jazz, including the amazing jazz artists, past and present, legends and rising stars, who call North Texas home. Held each April as part of the national program called Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), D'JAM presents a variety of events highlighting and showcasing jazz in the greater Dallas area. The local initiative is coordinated by a volunteer collective of jazz presenters, jazz educators, and jazz supporters that includes nonprofit arts groups, universities, festivals, high schools, cultural centers, jazz clubs, and museums.

Special Thanks

With regard to this year's program, we want to thank all of our **filmmakers, distributors and film reps**. As always, we are honored to support your inspiring works.

We want to thank our **Sponsors and funding Partners** for their support to make the program available as **FREE ADMISSION** as part of our community outreach programs.

We also want to thank our **National Short Film Jurors** – **Karen Allen, Diane Baker, Jim Beaver, Bill Butler, Dale Dickey, Courtney Gains, Bill Haller, Chris Roe and Stephen Tobolowsky**, as well as our **local pre-screening Jury crew** for being a huge part of this year's process. A number of **Finalist Short Films** are scheduled throughout the program.

We also extend grateful thanks to our friends and **Guest Moderators** -- **Foster Hirsch** (hosting **The Getaway** screening with **honored artist Sally Struthers** on Saturday evening) and **Bud Kennedy** (hosting our **Salute to Bob Ray Sanders** on early Saturday evening).

And, as always, we extend heartfelt thanks to our **Members, Volunteers, Board of Directors, Vendors, and Friends and Colleagues** at the **Angelika Film Center**. Your partnership and support made this year's program possible.



All of our programs are held in fully-accessible facilities.

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2022

OPENING NIGHT - WEDNESDAY, April 20th

DOUBLE FEATURE: SHORT TEXAS DOCS

Wednesday, April 20 7:30pm



THE PORTAL AND THE PARK

Originally known as "Portal Park Piece (Slice)," artist Robert Irwin's sculpture has long been considered his seminal work in a career of minimalist, site-specific installations that span more than five decades. Director Quin Matthews' short documentary explores the reimagining of public land and the Irwin sculpture to serve as a "portal" into Downtown for a new generation of Dallasites. 10mins.

Presented with our friends at Parks for Downtown Dallas.

Carpenter Park will reopen to the public on May 3, 2022.



TEXAS WINES

Since the 1970s, Texas wineries have grown from 4 operating wineries to over 620 as of 2020. In this informative short documentary, filmmaker Robert Burks interviews experts and makers -- from Massina Hof to McPhersons, William Chris, Reddy Vineyards, and Farmhouse Vineyards -- while exploring the Texas wine industry from the early years of how it began to where it is today and how scientific research from Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University has played a vital role in the growth of Texan wines. 30mins. **Filmmakers in attendance.**



THE PACT

Wednesday, April 20 7:15pm

It's 1948 and 63-year-old "Out of Africa" author Karen Blixen (pen name: Isak Dinesen) is a lonely literary sensation devastated by syphilis and mourning her lost love until she meets talented 30-year-old poet Thorkild Bjørnvig. She offers him a Faustian bargain and promises him stardom if he will obey her unconditionally. As her demands become more and more pernicious, Thorkild must choose between Blixen's promise of fame or his family. From director Bille August comes this sterling adaptation of Bjørnvig's bestselling memoir "The Pact: My Friendship with Isak Dinesen." 115mins. *The Pact* will be released by Juno Films on Amazon Prime and ViaPlay SVOD on May 1st.



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN

Wednesday, April 20 7:00pm

Maurice Flitcroft is a life-long dreamer and unrelenting optimist. His philosophy in life is simple: follow your dreams -- something he encourages everyone around him to do. When 1976 arrives, Maurice -- with three adult sons and his loving wife by his side -- is staring down the barrel of unemployment as the ship building industry becomes nationalised. Facing an uncertain future, inspiration strikes him one day -- in the form of a golf club. With encouragement from his wife, he applies to enter the British Open Golf Championship, as a professional. The only drawback of Maurice's plan? He has never played a round of golf in his life. With pluckiness and optimism, Maurice pulls off a series of stunning, hilarious, and heartwarming attempts to compete at the highest level of professional golf, all without success, and much to the annoyance of the elitist golfing community -- but to the delight of fans worldwide where his exploits became folklore. Based on the remarkable true story of a man who embodied the ethos of "everyone deserves a shot at glory," *The Phantom of the Open* is the extraordinary story of an ordinary man who, with the encouragement of his family, made history by reminding us all to dream big no matter how it turns out. The film is directed by Craig Roberts, written by Simon Farnaby and based on the book by Farnaby and Scott Murray. The film stars Mark Rylance, Sally Hawkins, Rhys Ifans, Jake Davies, Christian Lees, Jonah Lees, Mark Lewis Jones, Johann Myers, Ash Tandon, Tim Steed, and Steve Oram. 104mins. *The Phantom of the Open* will be released by Sony Pictures Classics on June 17th.



OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

Patron and Sponsor Members and Corporate Sponsors of the USA Film Festival are invited to join us for a **pre-screening reception at 6:30pm** on Opening Night.

Details provided when you call in to reserve your film tickets.

JOIN US! -- Membership starts at \$150/year (tickets for 2) and includes FREE screenings every month. **For information on Festival membership**, or to join before the event, please email us at usafilmfest@aol.com.

DEDICATION

Sadly, this past year we lost many talented artists and wonderful people who were part of our USAFF alumni family including Ed Asner, Arlene Dahl, Monte Hellman, Richard Rush, Melvin Van Peebles, Michael Apted, Meatloaf, Gavin MacLeod and George Butler.

We also lost two long-standing, much-loved Board Members -- Billie Leigh Rippey and Gary Williams.

We dedicate this year's program to these wonderful artists and friends.

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2022

THURSDAY, April 21st



Courtesy of Bleecker Street

892

Thursday, April 21 7:15pm

When his monthly disability check fails to materialize, US Veteran Brian Brown-Easley (John Boyega) threatens to rob a bank for the amount the VA owes him -- \$892. Based on a true story, Abi Damaris Corbin's tense, thrilling film explores the desperation of a veteran on the brink of homelessness after bureaucracy has failed him. John Boyega gives a compelling performance alongside the late Michael K. Williams (in his final screen role). The film also stars Nicole Beharie, Connie Britton, Olivia Washington, and Selenis Leyva and is co-written by Kwame Kwei-Armah. 103mins. The film will be released by Bleecker Street in theaters starting August 26th.



SHORT FILMS/NARRATIVE (In Competition)

Thursday, April 21 7:00pm

This collection of provocative, dark, wildly creative short films portray people (and a robot pool cleaner) facing unexpected outcomes. In Andy Allo's ALICE a young woman with family problems engages in self-destructive behavior; in Kantu Lentz's COCHE BOMBA an eleven-year-old space alien fan faces a real crisis while babysitting her sister; in Jared Houseman's FOR RYAN a woman's plans for a lovely romantic evening go horribly awry; in Elvira Lind's THE LETTER ROOM a soft-hearted prison officer (Oscar Isaac) involves himself with an inmate's personal affairs; in Delphine Montaigne's OUT OF TIME a young man attempts to stimulate the memory of his dementia-afflicted grandmother; in Dan Winters' TONE two broken souls struggle to move on while living in a deteriorating futuristic society; in Leo Berne & Raphaël Rodriguez's CENSOR OF DREAMS nothing goes according to plan for the team responsible for moderating a woman's dreams; and in Emeric Leprince & Hugo Roblin's ULYX a hard working, pool-cleaning robot longs for freedom and a cleaner life in the ocean. 141mins.



LOREN & ROSE

Thursday, April 21 7:30pm

A single meal frames this three-act story of the indelible bond between Loren (Kelly Blatz), a promising filmmaker, and Rose (Jacqueline Bisset), a storied actress looking to reinvigorate her career. From a lunch meeting to discuss a possible collaboration grows a years-long friendship between two people whose love of art, understanding of grief, and faith in life's potential guide them through personal and creative hardships. With captivating performances, Russell Brown's charming film explores the relationship between a director and his mentor. 82mins.

FRIDAY, April 22nd



Photo by Marcel Zyskind

AS IN HEAVEN

Friday, April 22 7:00pm

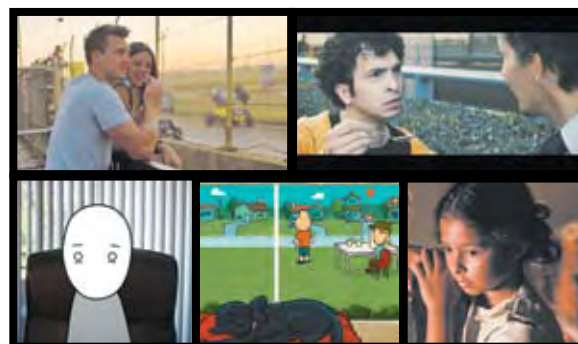
One day at the end of the 1800s, 14-year-old Lise's life is changed forever. She is the eldest of her siblings, the first in her family to go to school, and she is full of hope and confidence in life. But when her mother goes into labour, it quickly appears that something is wrong. As night falls and the labour progresses, Lise begins to understand that a day that began in childhood might end with her becoming the woman of the house. Set in rural Denmark, Tea Lindeburg's accomplished feature debut is a powerful, visually arresting coming-of-age drama based on Marie Bregendahl's 1912 novel "A Night of Death" ("En dødsnat"). 86mins. **In attendance: writer/director Tea Lindeburg.** The film will be released by Juno Films.



EMILY THE CRIMINAL

Friday, April 22 7:15pm

Emily (Aubrey Plaza) is saddled with student debt and locked out of the job market due to a minor criminal record. Desperate for income, she takes a shady gig as a "dummy shopper," buying goods with stolen credit cards supplied by a handsome and charismatic middleman named Youcef (Theo Rossi). Faced with a series of dead-end job interviews, Emily soon finds herself seduced by the quick cash and illicit thrills of black-market capitalism and increasingly interested in her mentor Youcef. Together, they hatch a plan to bring their business to the next level in Los Angeles. Making his feature film debut, writer/director John Patton Ford's dark comic thriller also stars Megalyn Echikunwoke and Gina Gershon. 93mins. **In attendance: writer/director John Patton Ford and actor Theo Rossi.** The film will be released by Roadside Attractions this Summer.



SHOWCASE SHORT FILMS

Filmmakers in Attendance!

Friday, April 22 7:30pm

Come and meet our visiting short filmmakers for a program of comedic and dramatic shorts. In Kate Cobb's DANDELIONS a writer returns to his dilapidated hometown where he is forced to reckon with the people and places he exploited for profit; in Stephen Parkhurst's IS THIS STILL A GOOD TIME a disconnected man is questioned on where he sees himself in five years during a job interview; in Victor Velasco's SPOON a businessman walking to work is interrupted by a questionable character; in Randall Scott Christopher's animated CARTOON OF A CAT SLEEPING a cat naps; and in David Bartlett's shattering MOUSIE a seven-year-old Roma girl hiding from the Nazis in a cabaret club faces imminent capture. 63mins. **In attendance: director Kate Cobb and writer/actor Kevin Bigley with DANDELIONS, director Stephen Parkhurst with IS THIS STILL A GOOD TIME, writer/director Victor Velasco with SPOON, writer/director Randall Scott Christopher with CARTOON OF A CAT SLEEPING, and writer/director David Bartlett with MOUSIE.**

Note: Films and guests are confirmed at press time; additional guests and works may appear in the line-up.

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2022

SATURDAY, April 23rd

HIGH SCHOOL SHORT FILMS

Saturday, April 23 3:30pm

Join us for a collection of class project short films from Garland High School International Baccalaureate (IB) film students in the Reel Owl Cinema program, which teaches students the art of filmmaking with an emphasis on narrative storytelling. 60mins.



OMAR SOSA'S 88 WELL-TUNED DRUMS

Saturday, April 23 5:00pm

Soren Sorensen's *Omar Sosa's 88 Well-Tuned Drums* is a fascinating documentary on the life and music of Cuba-born pianist and composer, Omar Sosa -- a multiple Grammy-nominee who has a career spanning 25+ years as a solo artist with over 30 albums. Sosa fuses a wide range of jazz, world music, and electronic elements with his native Afro-Cuban roots to create a fresh and original sound with a Latin jazz heart. The film traces Sosa's artistic origins from his birth and childhood in Camagüey, Cuba, conservatory education in Havana, and military service in Angola to his fateful mid-90s move to the U.S. 100mins. **In attendance: Omar Sosa and director Soren Sorensen.** Co-presented with **Sammons Jazz** and the **Sammons Center for the Arts.**



SALLY STRUTHERS

Appearing with *THE GETAWAY*

Legendary humanitarian and versatile star of stage, screen, and television, Sally Struthers has crafted a legacy of eclectic and unforgettable roles. A graduate of the New Hollywood movement that revolutionized American movies in the 1970s -- with stand-out performances in Sam Peckinpah's *THE GETAWAY* and Bob Rafelson's *FIVE EASY PIECES* -- Struthers burst into the national consciousness with Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning work on Norman Lear's paradigm-shifting sitcom *ALL IN THE FAMILY*. While she continued to succeed in TV over subsequent decades in such iconic shows as *9 TO 5* and *GILMORE GIRLS*, Struthers also triumphed with her singular contributions to productions of many of the stage's greatest musicals (including "Mame," "Annie," "Grease," "The Drowsy Chaperone," "Anything Goes," "42nd Street," and "Hello, Dolly!") as well as for her comedic and dramatic turns in an array of plays ranging from a gender-flipped version of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" to her acclaimed work in the hit Los Angeles production of "Always, Patsy Cline." Generations of audiences have come to appreciate her skills at comic timing and heartrending poignancy, often within the same performance.



THE GETAWAY (1972) 50th Anniversary with SALLY STRUTHERS

Saturday, April 23 7:00pm

Steve McQueen and Ali MacGraw are at their finest as husband-and-wife thieves on the run in this classic Sam Peckinpah action-thriller shot in Texas. McQueen stars as "Doc" McCoy -- a convict who makes a deal with a corrupt businessman to rob a bank in exchange for early release from prison -- in this fast-paced tale of greed and betrayal. Once free, McCoy tries to uphold his part of the agreement, but he quickly learns there is no one he can trust as he tries to get to the Mexican border alive. The film also stars Sally Struthers in a memorable performance as the kidnapped wife of a rural vet. The sizzling screenplay by Walter Hill is based on a novel by pulp legend Jim Thompson. Ben Johnson and Al Lettieri also star. 123mins. **In attendance: Sally Struthers.** Post-film discussion will be moderated by film historian **Foster Hirsch.** Presented with support from Dallas Film & Creative Industries.



Courtesy of AVROTROS

OSCAR PETERSON: BLACK + WHITE

Saturday, April 23 3:00pm

Oscar Peterson: Black + White is a ground-breaking "docu-concert" exploring the life and legacy of jazz icon and composer, Oscar Peterson: his sound, stardom, and staggering virtuosity. The film delves into the seven-decade career of the jazz master from his days as a child prodigy to the development of his signature sound on recordings with his trio, and from collaborations with the legends of his era to his brilliant solo performances around the world -- as well as his tenacious experiences confronting racism and segregation while touring the United States, which culminated with his epic composition, "Hymn to Freedom." Featuring appearances by Billy Joel, Jon Batiste, Herbie Hancock, Ramsey Lewis, Branford Marsalis, and Quincy Jones. 81mins. **In attendance: director Barry Avrich and producer Mark Selby.** Co-presented with **Sammons Jazz** and the **Sammons Center for the Arts.**



Bob Ray Sanders 1975



SALUTING BOB RAY SANDERS

Saturday, April 23 5:30pm

A 1969 graduate of North Texas State University, Bob Ray Sanders began his journalism career writing for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram where he was one of three Black journalists hired by the paper. In 1972, he joined KERA-TV as a reporter for the station's innovative "Newsroom" program -- later serving as Vice President/Station Manager of KERA-TV and as a host and producer of the station's award-winning program, "News Addition." Spanning more than four decades, Bob Ray Sanders' career has earned him some of journalism's most prestigious awards including five Dallas Press Club KATIE Awards, three Corporation for Public Broadcasting Awards, a regional Emmy Award, a National Association of Black Journalists award for Best TV Sports Feature, a National Headliner Award for outstanding investigative reporting, as well as an induction into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Black Journalists in 2017.

Join us as we celebrate Bob Ray Sanders' early career (1970s) with some of our favorite clips (from The KERA Collection) of him covering politics, culture and local interest stories including -- school desegregation and bussing, the Civil Rights Commission, the multi-million dollar class action asbestos lawsuit in Tyler, Texas, and more. His unique reporting style made him a viewer favorite -- not to mention that fantastic coat he is sporting in his Fort Worth 7th Street Gang report -- complete with the theme song from "Shaft" playing in the background! 45mins. This program is curated by the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection, SMU Libraries. Special thanks to KERA for their support. **Bob Ray Sanders in attendance.** Program will be moderated by Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist **Bud Kennedy.**



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A SONG FOR CESAR

Saturday, April 23 7:30pm

Beware a movement that sings! Directed by Andres Alegria and Abel Sanchez, *A Song for Cesar* is a unique view of the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez and the farmworker movement. Through interviews, performances, stunning archival footage and photographs, and a rich original soundtrack, the film tells the previously untold story of the musicians and artists -- including Joan Baez, Maya Angelou, and Carlos Santana -- who dedicated their time, creativity and even reputations to peacefully advance Cesar Chavez's movement to gain equality and justice for America's struggling farmworkers. Featuring Carlos Santana, Daniel Valdez, Edward James Olmos, Graham Nash, Joan Baez, Kris Kristofferson, Luis Valdez, Maya Angelou and Taj Mahal. 85mins. **In attendance: co-writers/directors Andres Alegria and Abel Sanchez, President of United Farm Workers Arturo Rodriguez, and singer Little Joe Hernandez.** Special thanks to our friends at The Mexico Institute. The film will be released by Juno Films on Amazon Prime and iTunes on June 1st.

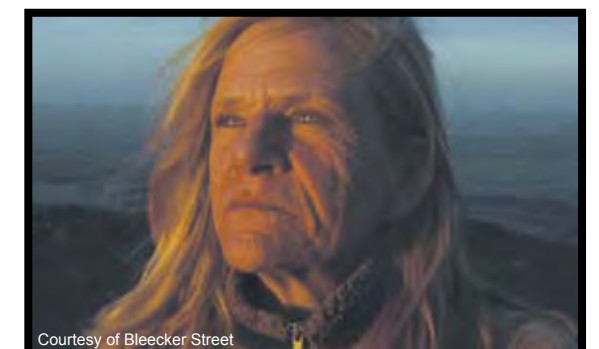


Photo by Love Martinsen

CALENDAR GIRLS

Saturday, April 23 4:30pm

Meet the Calendar Girls! They are magical reindeers at parties and churches, pink fluffy unicorns at air force reunions, and zombies at retirement homes. They are Florida's most dedicated dance team for women over 60. *Calendar Girls* is a coming-of-golden-age film about the second teenage phase: the retirement phase. The Calendar Girls give it all they've got. And they have a lot to give -- impressive makeup; handmade costumes; elaborate dance routines; and, most notably, their unparalleled enthusiasm and sparkling personalities. Through revealing conversations and choreographed dance scenes, the film captures the challenges of being a woman over 60 and the delicate balance of family, home and dance. Directors Maria Loothufud and Love Martinsen's life-affirming, feel-good documentary shakes up the outdated image of what it means to be an "old lady." It's a call for everyone to dance their heart out while you still can. 84mins. **In attendance: Calendar Girls Katherine Shortlidge and Donna Allio.** The film will be released by Juno Films in September 2022.



Courtesy of Bleecker Street

A LOVE SONG

Saturday, April 23 7:15pm

Faye is a lone traveler biding her time fishing, birding and stargazing at a rural Colorado campground as she awaits the arrival of Lito, a figure from her past who is navigating his own tentative and nomadic journey across the rugged West. Like the country music that has traditionally channeled the heartbreak and resilience of Americans in search of themselves and others -- on the road, in the margins, and off the beaten path -- writer-director Max Walker-Silverman's feature debut weaves a spare, lyrical and ultimately joyful refrain out of the wondrous and transformative act of being alone. Starring Dale Dickey, Wes Studi, Michelle Wilson, Benja K. Thomas, John Way, and Marty Grace Dennis. 81mins. **In attendance: Dale Dickey.** The film will be released by Bleecker Street in theaters starting July 29th.

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2022

SUNDAY, April 24th



DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILMS

(In Competition)

Sunday, April 24 3:30pm

This program of completely captivating true stories includes Roberto Santaguida's hypnotic AVENUE (EP. 3), which revisits six avenues in south-central Montreal; Panahbarkhoda Rezaee's meditative VAYU captures a village in Iran devastated by the 2019 floods; and Stephen Michael Simon's irresistible BACON 'N' LACES follows a New Jersey single dad of three boys who also manages a diner...but there is more to him than meets the eye. 71mins.



YOKOSUKA1953

Sunday, April 24 4:30pm

By having the same family name, director Kigawa Tsuyoshi met Kigawa Yoko. Yoko was born in Yokosuka during the turmoil of post-war Japan. As a young child, Yoko knew how deep her mother's love was for her, but she was forced into an orphanage and eventually adopted by an American family that relocated her to the United States. She had not seen nor heard from her mother in more than 66 years. In this fascinating documentary, we follow director Tsuyoshi's search for Yoko's mother's whereabouts and Yoko's first return trip to Yokosuka, Japan -- from her home in Fort Worth, TX. (Today Yoko is Barbara Mountcastle.) **In attendance: Barbara Mountcastle (Yoko Kigawa).** 105mins. *Special thanks to our guests from Asian Film Festival of Dallas.*



OUR ALMOST COMPLETELY TRUE STORY

Sunday, April 24 7:00pm

Finding true love in Hollywood has always been a challenge. When you're no longer a young starlet it's even more difficult -- regardless of how many movie star friends you have or how many episodes of "Gunsmoke" you did. And if you are a short funnyman with a face for radio, well, you can practically forget it. Still, true love can happen, and a statuesque Hollywood icon and a Jewish leprechaun might just fall forever-after in love if the stars align (and she laughs at his jokes). Directed by Don Scardino and written by Mariette Hartley and Jerry Sroka, *Our Almost Completely True Story* is a charming romantic comedy based on the "almost true" story of Hartley and Sroka's unlikely romance. The film stars Mariette Hartley, Jerry Sroka, Bernie Kopell, Tess Harper, Morgan Fairchild, John Rubinstein, Peter MacNicol, and Sam McMurray. 92mins. *Special thanks to our guests from 3 Stars Jewish Cinema.*

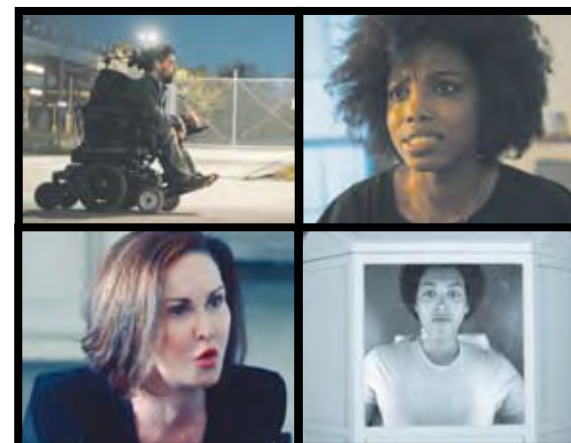


MORE SHORT FILMS

(In Competition)

Sunday, April 24 4:00pm

Join us for a program of darkly humorous films featuring unexpected outcomes. In Iftach Ofir's MIDDLE GROUND a mother and daughter find some common ground; in Magnus Lyche's THE MORNING AFTER a young teenager with an overbearing mother surreptitiously journeys to the local pharmacy to buy a morning after pill; in Marleen Valien's NOT THE 80s a man worries about his date's possible preconceptions when he reveals a secret; in Lewis Rose's POPS two siblings (Samantha Spiro and Nigel Lindsay) cannot reach a consensus on how to bury their father; in Nash Edgerton's SHARK a woman (Rose Byrne) loves pranks just as much as her husband (Edgerton); and in Peter Novosel's TELLER NUMBER FOUR a man decides to change his mundane existence by asking out the girl of his dreams but faces a slight obstacle. 88mins.

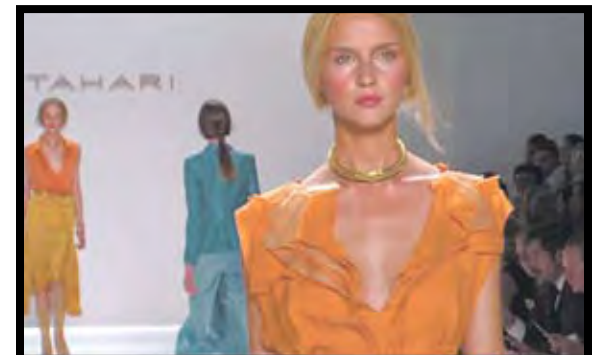


TEXAS SHORT FILMS

(In Competition)

Sunday, April 24 7:15pm

Join us for a program of short films by Texas filmmakers. In Spencer Cook and Parker Smith's humorous and poignant ACT OF GOD a disabled man whose life is a mess must re-evaluate his toxic idea of self-sufficiency; in Blue Daniels' BUTTERFLY a young painter's mental illness is manifested in the form of a dop-pelgänger; in Marcia Carroll's shattering JADED a family endures a terrible tragedy; and in JJ Pollack's JETTISON a restless young woman ships off to fight an interstellar war. 68mins. **Filmmakers in attendance.**



THE UNITED STATES OF FASHION DESIGNER ELIE TAHARI

Sunday, April 24 5:30pm

Fashion Designer Elie Tahari has been living the American Dream for more than 50 years. He came to New York City from Israel in 1971 with less than \$100 in his pocket, slept on benches in Central Park, and went on to build a billion-dollar fashion empire. There are thousands of fashion companies worldwide, but only three have lasted more than 45 years globally that are still run by their founders: Giorgio Armani, Ralph Lauren, and Elie Tahari. Tahari friend and fan, David Serero's charming film follows Tahari's life as child living in a refugee camp with his Iranian parents to his life in the fashion world and his rarely shown design process. 65mins. *Special thanks to our guests from 3 Stars Jewish Cinema.*



Courtesy of Pathe UK - Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

THE DUKE

Sunday, April 24 7:30pm

In 1961, Kempton Bunton, a 60-year-old taxi driver, stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. It was the first (and remains the only) theft in the Gallery's history. Kempton sent ransom notes saying that he would return the painting on condition that the government invested more in care for the elderly -- he had long campaigned for pensioners to receive free television. What happened next became the stuff of legend. Only 50 years later did the full story emerge -- Kempton had spun a web of lies. The only truth was that he was a good man, determined to change the world and save his marriage -- how and why he used the Duke to achieve this goal is a wonderfully uplifting tale. Directed by Roger Michell, screenplay by Richard Bean and Clive Coleman, *The Duke* stars Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Fionn Whitehead, Anna Maxwell Martin, Matthew Goode, Jack Bandeira, Aimeé Kelly, and Charlotte Spencer. 91mins. The film will be released by Sony Pictures Classics on April 29th.

SHORT FILM COMPETITION JURY 2022



Photo credits: Karen Allen - Michele Eve Sandberg; Jim Beaver - Michael Helms; Bill Butler - Owen Roizman; Chris Roe - Bart Mastroradi.

Karen Allen is an award-winning film and theatre actor and director. She has starred in over 50 films including *Animal House*, *The Wanderers*, *A Small Circle of Friends*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Shoot the Moon*, *Starman*, *Until September*, *Scrooged*, *The Sandlot*, *King of the Hill*, *Malcolm X*, *The Perfect Storm*, *Glass Menagerie*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, *White Irish Dinners*, *Bad Hurt*, *A Year by the Sea*, and *Colewell*. (Both Karen's performance and the film were nominated for Independent Spirit Awards in 2020). She has recently completed work on the films *Unsinkable*, *Things Seen and Heard*, and *A Stage of Twilight*. She has appeared in many television films and series. She began her work as an actor in the theatre and has appeared both On and Off Broadway for the past 30 years ("The Monday After the Miracle," "Extremities," "Speaking in Tongues," "Temporary Help," "The Miracle Worker," "The Country Girl," "Beautiful Bodies," "The Glass Menagerie," and Jon Fosse's "A Summer Day"). Her directing work in the theatre began 10 years ago with productions of "The Batting Cage," "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair du Lune," "Moonchildren," "Extremities," and the Obie Award winning world premiere of Lucy Thurber's "Ashville." Most recently she directed John Patrick Shanley's play "Outside Mullingar." In 2017 she directed the award-winning short film *A TREE. A ROCK. A CLOUD.* (based on Carson McCullers' short story). She is on the Theatre faculty of Bard College at Simon's Rock, a member of the Actor's Studio in NYC, and on the Board of the Berkshire International Film Festival and the Amazon Conservation Team. She owns the design studio and store Karen Allen Fiber Arts in Great Barrington, MA.

Jim Beaver has a worldwide fan following for his roles as the gruff-but-tender prospector Ellsworth on HBO's hit Western series "Deadwood" and as the beloved demon hunter Bobby Singer on all 15 seasons of "Supernatural." He currently stars as Spencer Williams on the CBS comedy "B Positive" and as Defense Secretary Robert Singer on the hit Amazon show "The Boys," making him one of Hollywood's busiest and most popular character actors. He is well-known for playing Sheriff Shelby Parlow on "Justified" and gun dealer Lawson on "Breaking Bad" and its prequel "Better Call Saul." Additional previous television credits include "The Ranch," "Days of Our Lives," "Reasonable Doubts," "Thunder Alley," "Harper's Island," "Day Break," "John from Cincinnati," and "Big Love" -- to name a few. In addition to television, Beaver has starred in the films *In Country*, *Crimson Peak*, *Blindfire* and Guillermo del Toro's Oscar-nominated *Nightmare Alley*. Other film credits include *Joy Ride*, *Sister Act*, *Bad Girls*, *Next*, *Adaptation*, *Turner and Hooch*, and *The Life of David Gale*. As a stage actor, he has appeared in plays across the country -- most recently starring in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at the Berkshire Theatre Festival and "The Man Who Came to Dinner." He spent five seasons with the Dallas Shakespeare Festival playing lead roles in "Macbeth" and "Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia" in national tours as well as "The Lion in Winter," "The Hasty Heart," "The Rainmaker," "The Mousetrap," "The Lark," and "Charley's Aunt" in regional productions. Jim is a three-time Los Angeles Dramalogue Critics Award-winner for his plays, "Verdigris," "Semper Fi," and "Sidekick." He was a film critic/columnist for ten years and is the author of two books of film history -- currently working on his third. A Marine Corps veteran of Vietnam and former Chairman of the Board of Theatre West in LA, Jim is a Cherokee-German native of Laramie, Wyoming who was raised in Irving, Texas. He was married to actress Cecily Adams from 1989 until her death in 2004. Currently, he lives in Los Angeles with their daughter Madeline and his wife, singer Sarah Spiegel.

Diane Baker is a pioneer in the film and television industry. In a career that has spanned over 50 years, she has received numerous awards and acclaim as an actress, producer and director (including multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations). Diane's film credits as an actress include *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *The Best of Everything*, *300 Spartans*, *Nine Hours to Rama*, *Mirage*, *Marmie*, *The Prize*, *Strait-Jacket*, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Silence of the Lambs*, and the television films *Inherit the Wind* and *About Sarah*. Additionally, she has appeared in numerous television shows including several episodes of "House, MD," "Law & Order: SVU," "ER," "Unscripted," as well as "First Monday in October," "The Blue and the Grey," and the miniseries "Jackie O." In addition to acting, Ms. Baker is fascinated with filmmaking; her first effort as a producer came in the self-financed documentary *Ashiana*. As President and CEO of Baker Street Entertainment, she produced *Portrait of Grandpa Doc*, "One of a Kind," *Never Never Land*, "A Woman of Substance," and the documentaries *To Climb a Mountain and Miracles in the Making*. She is currently co-producing a six-part series with her partner, commercial/documentary filmmaker Dennis Powers on the history of illustration for American television. The recipient of numerous lifetime honors and awards -- and several Emmy nominations -- Baker's career continues today as a documentarian and academic (Chair Emeritus: Executive Director of School of Motion Pictures and School of Acting at the Academy of Art University). She has Honorary Doctorates from the University of Irvine and Academy of Art U and received the "Global Citizen Award 2019" for her documentary work on replacing landmines with grapes in Croatia and Afghanistan. Currently, Ms. Baker is creating a two-year post-graduate film/acting program "Global Film Connect - The Robert Osborne Center for Film History," to give auditioning students an opportunity to work with professionals in an industry setting where they will learn to produce small, meaningful films and continue the legacy of TCM's Robert Osborne, with whom she enjoyed a lifelong friendship.

Bill Butler is an artist, innovator, and cinematographer that has marked with more first-time directors than any other cinematographer working today -- directors with the caliber of Francis Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg, William Friedkin, Jack Nicholson, Sylvester Stallone, Bill Paxton, Ivan Reitman, John Badham, Milos Forman, Peter Hyams, Phil Kaufman, and the list goes on. His creativity and ability to understand the director's vision, interpreting their needs in addition to the actors' and crew's, have garnered him two Emmy awards for *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Raid on Entebbe*, an Emmy nomination for "The Thorn Birds," and an Academy Award nomination for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Butler has over 80 film credits including *Jaws*, *Grease*, *Child's Play*, *Sniper*, *Rocky II*, *Rocky III*, *Rocky IV*, *Stripes*, *Big Trouble*, and *Anaconda*. To this day, he remains the only Director of Photography to so successfully make the transition from television to film. He has directed numerous -- some award-winning -- commercials. As an innovator in electronic television, he originated much of the look that dominates television today -- such as the use of the 'seamless' background. In 2002, Bill Butler was the recipient of the coveted ASC Lifetime Achievement Award. His special understanding of complex personalities, tremendous compassion for others, and ability to relate to actors, directors, and the crew makes him one of the most sought after cinematographers/Directors of Photography in the motion picture, television and advertising industries. At home, Bill spends his time with his wife, Iris; they have two daughters, Genevieve and Chelsea.

Born and raised in Knoxville, TN, **Dale Dickey** is a veteran of film, television and the theatre. She has over 60 film credits - most notably Debra Granik's acclaimed *Winter's Bone*, winning the Film Independent Spirit award for supporting actress and sharing the Gotham Award for Best ensemble for her role as 'Merab'. Her other film credits include *Flag Day*, *Palm Springs*, *Leave No Trace*, *Hell or High Water*, *Iron Man 3*, *Changeling*, *Domino* and *The Pledge* in addition to the upcoming titles *A Love Song*, *No Exit*, and *Wash Me In The River*. With over 50 television productions, she is best known for her numerous recurring roles on projects such as "Them," "Unbelievable," "Claws," "Vice Principals," "True Blood," "Justified," "Breaking Bad," and "My Name Is Earl" and will appear in the upcoming television series "A League of Their Own" for Amazon. Her theatre career spans from Broadway to off (and off-off), numerous Regional productions, as well as many L.A. stages including the Geffen.

Bill Haller is an 24-year veteran animator whose career has encompassed a wide variety of work ranging from commercials, short film, animated features and VFX films in which he has acted as both an animator and has supervised animation. He has been responsible for creating the visual style and development work for various films such as *SCOOB!*, *Hotel Transylvania*, and *Book of Life*. Along with contributing to the work for many awards in advertising work, he was also nominated for a VES award for "outstanding character animation in an animated film" for Dracula in *Hotel Transylvania*. Bill's animation credits also include *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, *Surfs Up*, *Open Season*, *Open Season 2*, *Open Season 3*, *Rock Dog*, *Smurfs*, *Smurfs 2*, *Cats and Dogs 2*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks 2*, *Prince Caspian*, *Speed Racer*, *I am Legend*, *Beowulf*, *Monster House*, *Son of the Mask*, *Blade Trinity*, and *Scooby Doo 2*. Most recently, he has served as Animation Supervisor on the Netflix title *Back to the Outback* through Reel FX Creative Studios and will serve as director on the upcoming Warner Bros. title *Scoob!: Holiday Haunt*.

With over 130 credits to his name in a wide variety of roles, **Courtney Gains** celebrates 35 years in the film and television business. Gains first achieved success during the 1980s with a variety of roles in films such as *Children of the Corn*, *Back to the Future*, *Can't Buy Me Love*, *Colors*, *The 'Burbs* and *Memphis Belle*. His recent films include *Queen Bees*, *River* and *Charming the Hearts of Men*. In addition to his film work, Gains has guest-starred on several notable television shows including "Seinfeld," "Monk," "In the Heat of the Night," "Tales from the Crypt," "ER," "The Guardian" (recurring role) and, most recently, the mini series "Texas Rising," "Its Always Sunny in Philadelphia," "Criminal Minds," and BET's "Tales." Gains has also worked as an acting coach and a musician. He once performed live on stage with Phish and has several solo albums. In 2006, he was the front man for the band Benny Bliss and the Disciples of Greatness, which spun off a rock and roll, anti-technology road comedy film. He released an EP with his band Ripple Street in 2015, a full LP in 2018, and several singles in 2021. He is currently working on a new solo EP set for a 2022 release.

Manager, writer, award-winning producer and director **Chris Roe** entered the entertainment business in 1996, after starting his talent management agency, Chris Roe Management. Since then, his company has become well respected in the entertainment industry, managing clients such as George A. Romero (until his passing), Clive Barker, Bruce Davison, Meg Foster, Monte Markham, Mariette Hartley, Courtney Gains, Judy Geeson, and the legendary Malcolm McDowell -- to name a few. In 2007, he co-wrote/produced/directed the award-winning documentary feature, *One for the Fire*. He also produced and co-directed a television pilot, "Soul of the City," and has acted as producer or executive producer on films such as *Suing the Devil*, *The Employer*, and *Bereave*. In 2018, he launched his production company, Tea Time Productions, Inc. CEMETERY TALES: A TALE OF TWO SISTERS (which screened at USAFF) was the company's first production. A TALE OF TWO SISTERS has won over 50 awards and received over 40 nominations worldwide. Currently, Roe has multiple projects in development and several properties optioned. Roe is a proud member of the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences, The Producers Guild of America, and a board member of the George A. Romero Foundation (GARF). He resides with his family in Los Angeles, CA.

Stephen Tobolowsky has appeared in over 250 movies and television shows. He is best known for roles in *Groundhog Day*, *Memento*, "Silicon Valley," "Californication," "Glee," "The Goldbergs," and Norman Lear's new "One Day at a Time." He co-wrote *True Stories* with David Byrne and Beth Henley. He wrote and performed *Stephen Tobolowsky's Birthday Party* that premiered at the HBO Comedy Festival and his concert film *The Primary Instinct* (which screened at USAFF in 2018). Stories from his notable podcast "The Tobolowsky Files" have been heard across the country on NPR and PRI radio stations and can be heard anytime on Slushfilm.com and on iTunes. His books of short stories, "The Dangerous Animals Club" and "My Adventures with God," are published by Simon and Schuster.

SCHEDULE & TICKET INFO.

ANGELIKA FILM CENTER

WEDNESDAY APRIL 20	THURSDAY APRIL 21	FRIDAY APRIL 22	SATURDAY APRIL 23	SUNDAY APRIL 24
			3:00pm Oscar Peterson: Black + White 3:30pm High School Shorts 4:30pm Calendar Girls 5:00pm Omar Sosa's 88 Well-Tuned Drums 5:30pm Saluting Bob Ray Sanders	3:30pm Short Docs 4:00pm More Short Films 4:30pm Yokosuka1953 5:30pm The United States of Fashion Designer Elie Tahari
7:00pm The Phantom of the Open 7:15pm The Pact 7:30pm Double Feature: The Portal Texas Wines	7:00pm Short Films/ Narrative 7:15pm 892 7:30pm Loren & Rose	7:00pm As in Heaven 7:15pm Emily the Criminal 7:30pm Showcase Short Films	7:00pm The Getaway (1972) 7:15pm A Love Song 7:30pm A Song for Cesar	7:00pm Our Almost Completely True Story 7:15pm Texas Short Films 7:30pm The Duke

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USA FILM FESTIVAL

Ticket Info

Tickets for all programs are

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(quantities are limited)

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214-821-6300

Phone lines open **10:30am to 5:00pm**
Monday - Friday beginning on dates below.

*** USAFF Members**

May **CALL to RESERVE Tickets**
beginning **APRIL 13th**

*** General Public**

May **CALL to RESERVE Tickets**
beginning **APRIL 18th**

DAY-OF SHOW tickets will also be available
at the Angelika Film Center upstairs sales desk
beginning ONE HOUR prior to EACH showtime.

Theater Location

All programs will take place at the
Angelika Film Center / Dallas

5321 E. Mockingbird Lane at Central Expressway

Parking in garage is free.

Seating & Safety Info

- **Facemasks** are recommended (but not required).
- **Seating** -- We plan to seat no more than 75% of auditorium capacity for most programs.

Membership

JOIN US -- We need your support -- and we make it fun!
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