

SCHOOLS AT THE FESTIVAL

APRIL 23–MAY 2, 2024

Please submit all [Schools at the Festival ticket orders here](#).

Act soon, programs will fill up quickly! This year, programs will be presented in-person and online.

Food & Drink Policy. Food will not be allowed to be eaten in the theater.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols. For in-person screenings, masking is not required but is highly recommended. We recognize there are people of vulnerable populations who attend our screenings.

For online programs, unique screening links will be sent out with every RSVP to accommodate all students and teachers. All films are available to stream Mon, April 22 at 6 am PT–Mon, April 29 at 11:59 pm PT. A majority of Q&As will be pre-recorded and sent with streaming links while two programs will have an optional live online Q&A. Live Q&As will take place online at the Schools at the Festival [event page](#). Recordings of live Q&As will also be sent to registered teachers afterwards. All online Q&As will run between 30–45 minutes.

In-person screenings include a 20–30 minute Q&A with filmmakers and special guests. Please factor this time into your field trip plans.

2024 PROGRAM VENUES

Marina Lee Theater
Premier Theater
SFMOMA Phyllis Wattis Theater*

**In partnership with SFMOMA Education, school groups attending screenings at the SFMOMA have the option to also visit the galleries as a Self-Guided School Visit, free of charge. Please indicate your interest through our ticket order form and refer to SFMOMA's [visitor toolkit](#) to plan your visit.*

All Schools at the Festival programs are provided at no cost.

Schools at the Festival is made possible with the generous support of:

Katie Hall & Tom Knutsen
Nellie Wong Magic of Movies Education Fund
Sharon Ow-Wing
SFMOMA

Classroom visits with filmmakers are also available during the Festival. If you are interested in having someone visit your school directly and speak with students please fill out this form [here](#).

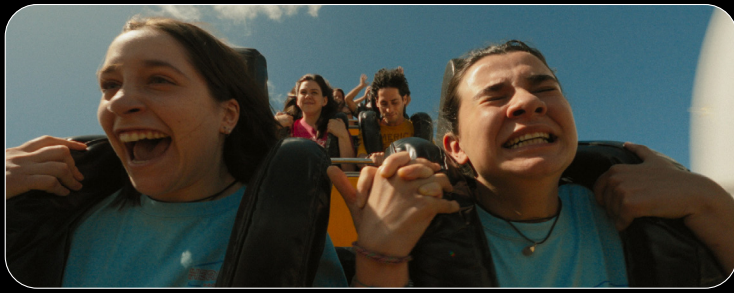
For any questions, contact the Director of Education: Keith Zwölfer, kzwolfer@sffilm.org or 415-561-5040.



**Schools at
the Festival**

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

**67th
SAN FRANCISCO
INT'L [] FILM
FESTIVAL**



Alemania

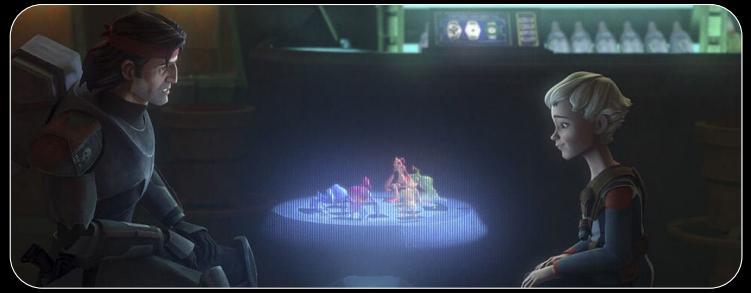
Directed by María Zanetti, Argentina/Spain, 87 min
In Spanish with English Subtitles

THU APR 25 12:30 – 2:30 PM PT | MARINA LEE

María Zanetti's vivid debut feature, inspired by her own family's story, tells the story of Lola, a 16-year-old who dreams of escaping her challenging home life. Lola struggles with school and driving lessons but the mental illness of older sister Julieta presents greater challenges. Julieta consumes their parents' time and money, leaving Lola often ignored, at constant odds with her mother, and dreaming of a different life. Maite Aguilar makes an indelible screen debut as a young woman yearning for refuge and security in this complex drama that drifts between a teen's inherent need to embark on her own path and the difficulties her parents face in meeting the disparate needs of their daughters. Striking cinematography further enhances this vibrant coming-of-age tale, the winner of Best Director and Best Screenplay prizes at Cine Ceará – Ibero-American Film Festival.

Suggested Subjects: Coming of Age, Latin American Studies, Mental Health, Spanish
Recommended Grades: 8–12

Program Note: This film contains brief profanity and brief teen alcohol/smoking use.



The Art & Science of Lucasfilm: Star Wars: The Bad Batch

Program Running Time: 120 min

TUE APR 23 12 – 2 PM PT | PREMIER

Star Wars: The Bad Batch concludes its third and final season this spring on Disney+. The series follows the elite and experimental clones of the Bad Batch as they find their way in a rapidly changing galaxy in the immediate aftermath of the Clone War. What is it like to be a part of the creative team working on such a beloved show? To help us pull back the curtain we will be joined by a talented lineup of guests: Concept Designer **Dawn Carlos** from the Design Dept., Storyboard Artist **Daniel Rosales** from the Story Dept., Sr. Color Key Artist **Molly Denmark** from the Lighting Concept/Matte Dept., and Generalist Artist **Miguel Perez** from the Lighting/FX Dept.. This marks the 15th year of our collaborative educational series with Lucasfilm, a program that demonstrates the intersection of art, science, and technology in the entertainment industry, all while making connections to current STEAM curriculum. Guests share their expertise in a behind-the-scenes, interactive multimedia presentation and participate in an in-depth discussion and Q&A.

Suggested Subjects: Art/Media, Career Path Training, Computer Science, English Language Arts, Math, Science

Recommended Grades: 6–12



Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story

Directed by Charlie Hamilton James, UK, 78 min

FRI APR 26 10 – 11:45 AM PT | SFMOMA

In a place where land ends and the sea takes over – Scotland's Shetland Islands – an orphaned otter washes up against Billy and Susan's isolated jetty. At first utterly dependent on the couple for her survival, the "wee girl" they name Molly quickly captures hearts with Billy particularly besotted. This irresistible documentary spins a tale of love and longing in its depiction of the emotional bond between Billy and the playful creature. The melancholic man finds joy, a new connection to the natural world, and purpose in caring for Molly and preparing her for independent life. **Billy & Molly** delves deep into the workings of the human (and otter) heart, becoming a rumination on what it means to give and receive love, and questioning the limits of how far one can or should go in its pursuit. The answer, like the seas that surrounds the Shetlands, is eternal and fathomless.

Suggested Subjects: Art/Media, Biology, Journalism, Marine Science, Mental Health
Recommended Grades: 4–12



Counted Out

Directed by Vicki Abeles, USA, 89 min

WED APR 24 12:15 – 2:15 PM | MARINA LEE

In the United States, math is a gatekeeper. In an increasingly algorithm-and-data driven 21st century, assumptions made about a child's mathematical ability affect their odds of finding future success with those already suffering under systemic racism, patriarchy, and/or the cycle of poverty and incarceration presumed to have fewer skills. This revealing and urgent documentary weaves together a mosaic of voices and stories across generations and professions to explain the detrimental effects of declining math skills on civic participation, legal rulings, and fulfilling careers. Further, the film challenges and demystifies mathematics education and an equation of inclusion is solved when the idea that only some of us can be "math people" is divided by zero – not allowed.

Suggested Subjects: Career Path Training, Computer Science, Economics, Journalism, Math, Peer/Youth Issues, Social Justice, Social Studies
Recommended Grades: 6–12



Didi (弟弟)

Directed by Sean Wang, USA, 90 min
In English and Mandarin with English Subtitles

THU APR 25 1:30 – 3:30 PM PT | SFMOMA

Sean Wang's auspicious, semi-autobiographical feature debut centers on a universally recognizable phase of adolescence -- that moment we begin the lifelong process of self-determination. Set in 2008 Fremont, this Sundance audience award winner follows 13-year-old Taiwanese American Chris (**Izaak Wang**) in the fleeting months prior to freshman year as he clumsily pursues his first crush, nurtures his passions for filming and skating, and experiments with the dawning intensity of online relationships via AIM chat and MySpace. Chris' college-bound sister Vivian (**Shirley Chen**) and weary mother Chuning (an illuminating **Joan Chen**) annoy him, while his acerbic grandma Nai Nai (**Chang Li Hua**, the director's real-life grandmother) can do no wrong. All three women draw his ire as Chris stumbles through a series of hilarious coming-of-age situations. Nuanced and tender, Wang's film is a layered exploration of learning to love oneself against the Darwinian backdrop of teenage cliques, cultural conformity, and the maddening frustrations of growing up.

Suggested Subjects: Art/Media, Asian American Studies, Coming of Age, Drama/Acting, English Language Arts, Peer/Youth Issues

Recommended Grades: 9–12

Program Note: This film contains profanity, brief teen alcohol/smoking use, and brief violence.



Mabel

Directed by Nicholas Ma, USA, 84 min

FRI APR 26 12:30 – 2:30 PM PT | MARINA LEE

Biracial Callie (**Lexi Perkel**) loves trees and plants and little else in **Nicholas Ma's** warm debut feature. Surly with her parents and intolerant of people who don't share her interest, she's also unhappy about changing schools after her family relocates. But as luck would have it, substitute teacher Ms. G (**Judy Greer**) is starting a botany unit in science class, and Callie wangles her way in. Held rapt by Ms. G's lectures and online speeches, Callie develops an experiment raising chrysanthemums in darkness and manages to lure Agnes, her ebullient younger neighbor, into working on the project with her. Precocious, determined, and wryly funny, Callie is a unique protagonist who leverages her love of botany to propel herself into adolescence.

Suggested Subjects: Asian American Studies, Biology, Career Path Training, Coming of Age, Drama/Acting, Science, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: 3–8



Girls State

Directed by Amanda McBaine, Jesse Moss, USA, 96 min

THU MAY 2 12:30 – 2:30 PM PT | SFMOMA

From Apple TV+ and award-winning filmmakers **Amanda McBaine** and **Jesse Moss**, a follow-up of their 2020 hit **Boys State** (SFFILM 2020) asks the thought-provoking question, what would American democracy look like in the hands of teenage girls? Similar to programs throughout the country, the American Legion Auxiliary Missouri **Girls State**, established in 1940, empowers young women across Missouri by providing immersive experiences in civic engagement, leadership, and public service. Filmed during the summer of 2022, soon after the monumental overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, *Girls State* is a political coming-of-age story and a powerful reinterpretation of what it means to govern. Utilizing the deft observational skills of the filmmaking team, we closely follow a handful of the approximately 500 passionate and fiercely intelligent young female leaders, as they collaborate and overcome different political backgrounds to build a government from the ground up, form a Supreme Court, and debate the divisive issues of the day.

Suggested Subjects: Activism, Career Path Training, Journalism, LGBTQ+ Studies, Peer/Youth Issues, Political Science, Religion, Social Studies, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: 6–12

Program Note: This film contains profanity.



Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa

Directed by Lucy Walker, USA, 98 min
In English, Nepali, and Sherpa in English Subtitles

FRI APR 26 10 AM – 12 PM PT | MARINA LEE

A heroine hides in plain sight as a dishwasher in a Connecticut Whole Foods in **Lucy Walker's** astonishing documentary. The film tells the inspiring story of **Lhakpa Sherpa**, the first Nepali woman to conquer Mount Everest and survive. Walker captures this elite athlete's life as she prepares for a tenth summit – a new record for women mountaineers. The world knows her from her top-of-the-world exploits but Walker's portrait reveals a range of seemingly insurmountable challenges that Lhakpa manages to transcend. At this "low altitude," the mother of three endures the hardscrabble challenges as an immigrant and single parent. Through it all, she perseveres, finding purpose in both daily and historic accomplishments. **Mountain Queen** shines a deserving spotlight on Lhakpa's unyielding determination and spirit as it brings her incredible saga to triumphant heights.

Suggested Subjects: Asian Studies, Health, Journalism, Physical Education/Sports, Social Studies, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: 7–12

Program Note: This film contains brief swearing and mentions of domestic violence.



Puffin Rock and the New Friends

Directed by Jeremy Purcell, Ireland, 79 min

MON APR 29 10 AM – 12 PM PT | MARINA LEE

Cartoon Saloon, the renowned Irish studio known for their beautifully crafted hand-drawn animation, is celebrating its 25th anniversary. SFFILM has showcased their 2D masterpieces all the way back to their first feature. This new film builds upon the world created in their award-winning preschool TV series of the same name, and brings back family favorites Oona, Baba, May, and Mossy. With visually stunning designs and vibrant colors, each frame of the film honors the lush natural beauty of the Irish coast while also featuring powerful themes of belonging, friendship, and courage. When the last Little Egg of the season disappears under mysterious circumstances, Oona and her new friends race against time to bring the Little Egg home before a big storm hits Puffin Rock, putting the entire island in danger.

Be sure to bring paper and pencils to draw along with guest Jeremy Purcell during the Q&A.

Suggested Subjects: Art/Media, Biology, English Language Arts, Environmental Science, Marine Science

Recommended Grades: K–3



She Creates Change

Directed by Martha Adams, USA, 55 min

In English and multiple languages with English Subtitles

WED APR 24 10 – 11:30 AM PT | MARINA LEE

The challenges facing young women in historically low-income communities are illuminated through a unique combination of animated shorts followed by live-action documentaries in **She Creates Change**, a series in collaboration with Room to Read, a global education nonprofit promoting gender equality. The narratives of six courageous young women from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Vietnam display the unique obstacles that each faces, including sexism, colorism, low self-esteem, climate change and how they seek to overcome these obstacles using their educational skills. Each story explores how the young women overcome societal expectations and advocate for themselves while exploring universal themes of leadership, collaboration, critical thinking, resilience and dignity.

Suggested Subjects: Activism, African Studies, Art/Media, Asian Studies, Career Path Training, Journalism, Peer/Youth Issues, Science, Social Studies, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: 4–12



Ru

Directed by Charles-Olivier Michaud, Canada, 116 min

In French and Vietnamese with English Subtitles

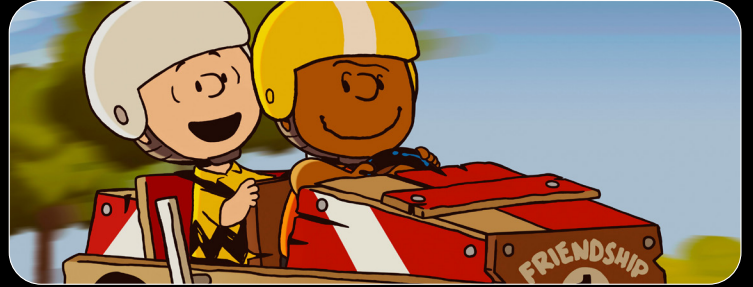
FRI APR 26 12:15 – 2:35 PM PT | SFMOMA

Ten-year-old Tinh's family flees Vietnam after the 1975 fall of Saigon, undertaking an arduous journey to Quebec in **Charles Oliver Michaud's** gripping adaptation of **Kim Thúy's** award-winning novel. As Tinh works through the trauma and memories of war and forge an identity in Canada, her educated, formerly wealthy family struggles to adapt to their new circumstances as refugees. Tinh overcomes her shyness to learn a new language, find her voice, discover an unfamiliar culture and adjust to life in Quebec. **Chloé Djangji** is riveting as Tinh in a drama that combines a harrowing recreation of the family's flight from Vietnam, striking cinematography, vivid flashbacks, and a compelling narrative to create a hauntingly beautiful portrayal of healing told from the powerful perspective of a young girl coming to terms with her past.

Suggested Subjects: Art/Media, Asian Studies, Coming of Age, Drama/Acting, English Language Arts, French, History, Immigration, Mental Health

Recommended Grades: 7–12

Program Note: This film contains brief violence and depiction of war.



Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home, Franklin

Directed by Raymond S. Persi, Canada, 39 min

THU APR 25 11 AM – 12:15 PM PT | SFMOMA

From Apple TV+, the timeless Charlie Brown universe, and co-written by cartoonist **Robb Armstrong**. The origin story for one of Peanuts' most beloved characters follows Franklin as he moves to a new town and navigates making friends. Franklin, the first Black character in Peanuts, was introduced in 1968 as a response to the assassination of MLK Jr, as a way to embrace positive representation in popular media. Everywhere he goes Franklin finds support in a notebook filled with his grandfather's advice on friendship but when Franklin tries his usual strategies with the Peanuts gang, he has trouble fitting in. That's until he learns about the neighborhood Soap Box Derby race. He's sure that winning the race will also mean winning over some new friends. Franklin and Charlie Brown work together to build a car and in the process become good buddies. But as the race nears, the pressure mounts — can their car and newfound friendship make it to the finish line?

Be sure to bring paper and pencils to draw along with guest Robb Armstrong during the Q&A.

Suggested Subjects: African American Studies, Art/Media, English Language Arts, Peer/Youth Issues

Recommended Grades: K–5

FROM FACT TO FICTION

Total Running Time: 70 min

MON APR 29 10 – 11:45 AM PT | SFMOMA

This striking collection of shorts explores the imaginative and thought-provoking range that film as a medium can showcase. Topics traverse immigration and family secrets, the freedom to choose one's path in teenagehood, and an athlete's Olympic dreams. This selection by brilliant filmmakers telling stories from around the world features narrative, documentary, and animated films utilizing craftful scripts, stunning cinematography, and collaged animation to create a delightful assortment of some of the best that the SFFILM Festival has to offer.

**Titles are listed alphabetically rather than in order of play.*

Boat People

(Directed by Thao Lam, Kjell Boersma, Canada, 10 min)

A second-generation daughter conceptualizes her parents' journey from Vietnam through the movement of ants.

Choices

(Directed by Kameishia Wooten, USA, 12 min)

Under the bleachers of a Los Angeles high school, three friends reflect on their decisions surrounding pregnancy and motherhood, and the freedom to choose their path.

Don't Look Down

(Directed by Ilanna Barkusky, USA, 8 min)

A serious brain injury dashed Kiana Davis's dream of competing in the Olympics. Who is an athlete when they can no longer perform? Confronted with that question, Davis finds a new dream and sense of purpose.

Muna

(Directed by Warda Mohamed, UK, 19 min)

In English and Somali with English Subtitles

Teenage Muna balances the fear of missing out on adventures with friends with learning how to care for her family as they grieve a lost loved one long-distance.

Rizoo

(Directed by Azadeh Navai, Iran/USA, 16 min)

In Farsi with English Subtitles

New to Tehran, Rizoo feels out of place but as she adjusts to life in a new country, she finds comfort in different moments around town.

Where Do Ideas Come From?

(Directed by Joysi Olijhoek, Netherlands, 5 min)

Let your ideas run wild as this exploration of found footage and spoken word helps us to make creative connections and playful discoveries.



Suggested Subjects: African American Studies, Art/Media, Asian Studies, Coming of Age, Health, Immigration, Middle Eastern Studies, Muslim Studies, Peer/Youth Issues, Religion, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: 6–12

Program Note: This program contains brief adult themes.

SHORTS 5: FAMILY FILMS

Total Running Time: 68 min

THU APR 25 10 – 11:45 AM PT | MARINA LEE

TUE APR 30 10 – 11:45 AM PT | SFMOMA

THU MAY 2 10 – 11:45 AM PT | SFMOMA

Wondrous and whimsical shorts from near and far corners of the world grace our festival screen for the enjoyment of the entire family. The latest from Tonko House, Pixar, and independent filmmakers share central themes of innovation and curiosity. A wooden puppet embarks on a journey of self-discovery as she questions whether or not she fits in, while a mother-daughter rodeo duo connects to their roots and legacy. Explore where ideas and inspiration come from in thought-provoking found footage and experience the charming, and maybe a little gross, feelings of a young first kiss. These enchanting stories – true, not-so-true, and animated – are sure to inspire laughter, curiosity, tears, and awe in both the youngest and most seasoned filmgoers.

**Titles are listed alphabetically rather than in order of play.*

Battery Mommy

(Directed by Seungbae Jeon, South Korea, 8 min)
In Korean with English Subtitles

Mommy charges in to save the day in this so-cute-I-could-die follow-up to **Jeon Seung-bae's** electrifyingly entertaining **Battery Daddy**, the 2023 Festival's Shorts: Family Film Golden Gate Award winner.

Bottle George

(Directed by Daisuke 'Dice' Tsutsumi, Japan/USA, 13 min)

A mischievous cat and a young girl facing family troubles meet an unusual creature in this latest short from the award-winning studio Tonko House.

Coach Pancake

(Directed by Gabriel Olson, USA, 6 min)

Former soccer star Andres, lovingly named "Coach Pancake" by his students, finds his calling training six-year-olds to find their superpowers on and off the field.

Dynasty and Destiny

(Directed by Travis Lee Ratcliff, USA, 7 mi)

Their passion for rodeo and the weight of their family's legacy in the sport bind together mother-daughter duo Kaneshia and Kortnee.

A Little Beetle Returns

(Directed by Elene Sebiskveradze, Georgia/Norway, 4 min)

Through elaborate and colorful designs, a beetle goes on a wondrous journey to get to the outdoors.

Little Fan

(Directed by Sveta Yuferova, Shad Lee Bradbury, Germany, 5 min)

In this charming animation, a small curious fan has an unexpected encounter that grows into a meaningful friendship.

Self

(Directed by Searit Kahsay Huluf, USA, 7 min)

After wishing upon a star, a wooden woman desperate to fit into the shiny world embarks on a journey of self-love in this latest from Pixar.

Where Do Ideas Come From?

(Directed by Joysi Olijhoek, Netherlands, 5 min)

Let your ideas run wild as this exploration of found footage and spoken word helps us to make creative connections and playful discoveries.

Yuck!

(Directed by Loic Espuche, France, 13 min)

In French with English Subtitles

Yuck! Ew! Kissing on the mouth is gross but during a summer camping trip, little Léo secretly wants to try.



Suggested Subjects: African American Studies, Art/Media, English Language Arts, French, Latine Studies, Peer/Youth Issues, Physical Education/Sports, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: K-6

Program Note: A film in this program contains brief depictions of alcoholism.

SHORTS 6: YOUTH WORKS

Total Running Time: 78 min

MON APR 29 12:30 – 2:15 PM PT | SFMOMA

TUE APR 30 12:30 – 2:15 PM PT | SFMOMA

Youth Works celebrates and spotlights young filmmakers from within the Bay Area and as far across the globe as Ukraine and rural China. With works encompassing out-of-this-world visual effects, innovative hand-drawn animation, and intimate interviews, these young filmmakers do not shy away from pushing boundaries and displaying their talent. Through their unique viewpoints, we peek into their communities, adolescence, and the growth and transformation that happens in early adulthood. From tales of fantastic journeys, radical self-acceptance, and feminine power, to understanding one's culture and identity, these films introduce us to an up-and-coming group of cinematic voices carrying us one short at a time into the next generation of filmmaking.

**Titles are listed alphabetically rather than in order of play.*

Comma

(Directed by Sonia Leliukh, Ukraine/Germany, 4 min)

Enter into a striking animated portal of Ukrainian people living their everyday lives despite the tragedies of war.

FATALE

(Directed by Kayen Manovil, USA, 4 min)

Through music, enchanting nature, and movement, explore a vibrant meditation on the power and joy of teenage femininity.

Gentle Breeze

(Directed by Wenwei Hu, China, 4 min)

An old man, a young boy, and a bunch of balloons take a fantastic journey through rural China.

like a stone or flower

(Directed by Kaiya Jordan, USA, 10 min)

Three Bay Area Asian American artists across generations reflect on the ability of art to transcend rationality and logic.

Majid, the Muslim Rapper

(Directed by Kea Morshed, USA, 10 min)

In Oakland, an up-and-coming Muslim rapper struggles to balance his faith with the provocative nature of his song lyrics.

Make Art, Reese!

(Directed by Mika Lim, USA, 8 min)

Hoping to make a masterpiece, a young artist explores the meaning of art and rediscovers why he creates in the first place.

Maps

(Directed by Esmé Nix, USA, 8 min)

Two best friends navigate high school as explorers, discovering new lands. When they find no island where they fit, they learn to change course.

Puppet Back Up

(Directed by Maxwell Downer, UK, 9 min)

In the streets of Southampton, England, two artists create interactive giant puppet theater shows to create understanding and community dialogue surrounding climate issues.

Sil-tteu-gi

(Directed by Yezy Suh, USA, 5 min)

In Korean with English Subtitles

Growing up 6,000 miles away from her grandparents, a young Korean-American reflects on lost family stories and the culture uprooted from her life.

Substratum

(Directed by Harvey Abrahams, Australia, 7 min)

Isolated and surrounded by power, a young boy attempts to change the path of his dictator father. Will peace prevail or will he succumb to his family's history?

Weathered

(Directed by Patrick Jang, USA, 9 min)

Three teenagers openly share their personal stories of struggle and transformation that allowed them to embrace self-acceptance.



Suggested Subjects: Activism, Art/Media, Asian American Studies, Career Path Training, English Language Arts, Mental Health, Muslim Studies, Peer/Youth Issues, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: 7–12

Program Note: This program contains profanity and brief mentions of abuse.

A bright yellow graphic element consisting of a large circle with four corner tabs extending outwards, resembling a sticker or a piece of paper.

**Schools at
the Festival**

ONLINE PROGRAMS

A grey graphic element consisting of a large circle with four corner tabs extending outwards, similar to the yellow one above it.

**67th
SAN FRANCISCO
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Counted Out

Directed by Vicki Abeles, USA, 89 min

Pre-recorded Q&A with registration

In the United States, math is a gatekeeper. In an increasingly algorithm-and-data driven 21st century, assumptions made about a child's mathematical ability affect their odds of finding future success with those already suffering under systemic racism, patriarchy, and/or the cycle of poverty and incarceration presumed to have fewer skills. This revealing and urgent documentary weaves together a mosaic of voices and stories across generations and professions to explain the detrimental effects of declining math skills on civic participation, legal rulings, and fulfilling careers. Further, the film challenges and demystifies mathematics education and an equation of inclusion is solved when the idea that only some of us can be "math people" is divided by zero – not allowed.

Screening link(s) will be sent to view film at your convenience. Viewing window April 22-29.

Suggested Subjects: Career Path Training, Computer Science, Economics, Journalism, Math, Peer/Youth Issues, Social Justice, Social Studies

Recommended Grades: 6-12



Madu

Directed by Matt Ogens, Joel Kachi Benson, USA / UK / Nigeria, 101 min
In English and Igbo with English subtitles

Pre-recorded Q&A with registration

Anthony Madu was first discovered in a short viral video clip, joyfully dancing barefoot in the rain. 12-year-old Anthony soon leaves his family and community in Nigeria to study at one of the most prestigious ballet schools in the world in England. Having never left his home outside of Lagos, Anthony finds himself thrust into a new world where his wildest dreams are suddenly within reach. His courageous journey is a story of extraordinary obstacles as he searches for belonging and acceptance, a family far away, and unexpected challenges that could impact his future. Forming a rich and immersive tapestry told on multiple continents, directors **Matt Ogens** and **Joel Kachi Benson** introduce the world to a boy chasing a dream of inspiration that will resonate with us all in this Disney+ original documentary.

Screening link(s) will be sent to view film at your convenience. Viewing window April 22-29.

Suggested Subjects: African Studies, Art/Media, Career Path Training, Dance, Health, Journalism, Mental Health, Peer/Youth Issues

Recommended Grades: 4-12



Farming While Black

Directed by Mark Decena, USA, 75 min

Pre-recorded Q&A with registration

Local filmmaker, **Mark Decena**, explores the rise in Black and BIPOC-owned farms, following the story of independent Black farming in the United States from its historical roots in the early 1900s to a current rising generation of farmers led by Leah Penniman at Soul Fire Farms. The height of Black-owned farms peaked at 14 percent in 1910 and has dwindled to less than 2 percent today. Reclaiming their rightful ownership to land, Leah, as well as fellow farmers and organizers, sow the seeds of reconnection to ancestral roots and the knowledge of African agrarianism. Their mission is to nurture Black community wealth & health by investing in Black agricultural systems in the Northeast and South. The documentary blossoms into themes of urban farming, revolutionary justice, and sustainable agricultural heritage.

Screening link(s) will be sent to view film at your convenience. Viewing window April 22-29.

Suggested Subjects: Activism, African American Studies, Biology, Career Path Training, Environmental Science, History, Political Science, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: 6-12

Program Note: This program contains brief historical imagery of violence.



Porcelain War

Directed by Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev, Ukraine / USA / Russia, 90 min
In English and Russian with English Subtitles

Pre-recorded Q&A with registration

When forced from their home in Crimea, husband-and-wife artists Slava and Anya, their faithful dog Frodo, and dear friend Andrey, reclaim their destiny as they choose to stay in Ukraine and fight. Setting aside their civilian life and past selves, Slava and Andrey join a special ops unit on the frontlines, while Anya makes delicate porcelain art amid constant bombing. Made in partnership with US based co-director **Brendan Bellomo**, these first time film collaborators steel themselves against the atrocities of war by cherishing spring blossoms, lifelong friendships, and long walks through their beautiful, ravaged country. It is rare for a documentary to capture a war unfolding in real time with such lucidity, while also transcending the immediacy of violence to celebrate the indomitable power of the human spirit. Buoyed by a passion for living and charming animated sequences, this Sundance Documentary Grand Jury prize-winner vividly depicts the human need to create and compulsion to survive.

Screening link(s) will be sent to view film at your convenience. Viewing window April 22-29.

Suggested Subjects: Art/Media, Journalism, Political Science, Social Studies

Recommended Grades: 10–12

Program Note: This program contains brief profanity and violent war footage.



She Creates Change

Directed by Martha Adams, USA, 55 min
In English and multiple languages with English Subtitles

Pre-recorded Q&A with registration

The challenges facing young women in historically low-income communities are illuminated through a unique combination of animated shorts followed by live-action documentaries in **She Creates Change**, a series in collaboration with Room to Read, a global education nonprofit promoting gender equality. The narratives of six courageous young women from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Vietnam display the unique obstacles that each faces, including sexism, colorism, low self-esteem, climate change and how they seek to overcome these obstacles using their educational skills. Each story explores how the young women overcome societal expectations and advocate for themselves while exploring universal themes of leadership, collaboration, critical thinking, resilience and dignity.

Screening link(s) will be sent to view film at your convenience. Viewing window April 22-29.

Suggested Subjects: Activism, African Studies, Art/Media, Asian Studies, Career Path Training, Journalism, Peer/Youth Issues, Science, Social Studies, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: 4–12

SHORTS 5: FAMILY FILMS

Total Running Time: 68 min

WED MAY 1 10 – 10:45 AM PT | FOR ONLINE Q&A

Screening link(s) will be sent to view film at your convenience. Viewing window April 22-29. Recording of Q&A will also be sent to registered teachers.

Wondrous and whimsical shorts from near and far corners of the world grace our festival screen for the enjoyment of the entire family. The latest from Tonko House, Pixar, and independent filmmakers share central themes of innovation and curiosity. A wooden puppet embarks on a journey of self-discovery as she questions whether or not she fits in, while a mother-daughter rodeo duo connects to their roots and legacy. Explore where ideas and inspiration come from in thought-provoking found footage and experience the charming, and maybe a little gross, feelings of a young first kiss. These enchanting stories – true, not-so-true, and animated – are sure to inspire laughter, curiosity, tears, and awe in both the youngest and most seasoned filmgoers.

*Titles are listed alphabetically rather than in order of play.

Battery Mommy

(Directed by Seungbae Jeon, South Korea, 8 min)

In Korean with English Subtitles

Mommy charges in to save the day in this so-cute-I-could-die follow-up to **Jeon Seung-bae's** electrifyingly entertaining **Battery Daddy**, the 2023 Festival's Shorts: Family Film Golden Gate Award winner.

Bottle George

(Directed by Daisuke 'Dice' Tsutsumi, Japan/USA, 13 min)

A mischievous cat and a young girl facing family troubles meet an unusual creature in this latest short from the award-winning studio Tonko House.

Coach Pancake

(Directed by Gabriel Olson, USA, 6 min)

Former soccer star Andres, lovingly named "Coach Pancake" by his students, finds his calling training six-year-olds to find their superpowers on and off the field.

Dynasty and Destiny

(Directed by Travis Lee Ratcliff, USA, 7 mi)

Their passion for rodeo and the weight of their family's legacy in the sport bind together mother-daughter duo Kanesha and Kortnee.

A Little Beetle Returns

(Directed by Elene Sebiskveradze, Georgia/Norway, 4 min)

Through elaborate and colorful designs, a beetle goes on a wondrous journey to get to the outdoors.

Little Fan

(Directed by Sveta Yuferova, Shad Lee Bradbury, Germany, 5 min)

In this charming animation, a small curious fan has an unexpected encounter that grows into a meaningful friendship.

Self

(Directed by Searit Kahsay Huluf, USA, 7 min)

After wishing upon a star, a wooden woman desperate to fit into the shiny world embarks on a journey of self-love in this latest from Pixar.

Where Do Ideas Come From?

(Directed by Joysi Olijhoek, Netherlands, 5 min)

Let your ideas run wild as this exploration of found footage and spoken word helps us to make creative connections and playful discoveries.

Yuck!

(Directed by Loïc Espuche, France, 13 min)

In French with English Subtitles

Yuck! Ew! Kissing on the mouth is gross but during a summer camping trip, little Léo secretly wants to try.



Suggested Subjects: African American Studies, Art/Media, English Language Arts, French, Latine Studies, Peer/Youth Issues, Physical Education/Sports, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: K-6

Program Note: A film in this program contains brief depictions of alcoholism.

SHORTS 6: YOUTH WORKS

Total Running Time: 78 min

WED MAY 1 12:30 – 1:15 PM PT | FOR ONLINE Q&A

Screening link(s) will be sent to view film at your convenience. Viewing window April 22-29. Recording of Q&A will also be sent to registered teachers.

Youth Works celebrates and spotlights young filmmakers from within the Bay Area and as far across the globe as Ukraine and rural China. With works encompassing out-of-this-world visual effects, innovative hand-drawn animation, and intimate interviews, these young filmmakers do not shy away from pushing boundaries and displaying their talent. Through their unique viewpoints, we peek into their communities, adolescence, and the growth and transformation that happens in early adulthood. From tales of fantastic journeys, radical self-acceptance, and feminine power, to understanding one's culture and identity, these films introduce us to an up-and-coming group of cinematic voices carrying us one short at a time into the next generation of filmmaking.

*Titles are listed alphabetically rather than in order of play.

Comma

(Directed by Sonia Leliukh, Ukraine/Germany, 4 min)

Enter into a striking animated portal of Ukrainian people living their everyday lives despite the tragedies of war.

FATALE

(Directed by Kayen Manovil, USA, 4 min)

Through music, enchanting nature, and movement, explore a vibrant meditation on the power and joy of teenage femininity.

Gentle Breeze

(Directed by Wenwei Hu, China, 4 min)

An old man, a young boy, and a bunch of balloons take a fantastic journey through rural China.

like a stone or flower

(Directed by Kaiya Jordan, USA, 10 min)

Three Bay Area Asian American artists across generations reflect on the ability of art to transcend rationality and logic.

Majid, the Muslim Rapper

(Directed by Kea Morshed, USA, 10 min)

In Oakland, an up-and-coming Muslim rapper struggles to balance his faith with the provocative nature of his song lyrics.

Make Art, Reese!

(Directed by Mika Lim, USA, 8 min)

Hoping to make a masterpiece, a young artist explores the meaning of art and rediscovers why he creates in the first place.

Maps

(Directed by Esmé Nix, USA, 8 min)

Two best friends navigate high school as explorers, discovering new lands. When they find no island where they fit, they learn to change course.

Puppet Back Up

(Directed by Maxwell Downer, UK, 9 min)

In the streets of Southampton, England, two artists create interactive giant puppet theater shows to create understanding and community dialogue surrounding climate issues.

Sil-tteu-gi

(Directed by Yezy Suh, USA, 5 min)

In Korean with English Subtitles

Growing up 6,000 miles away from her grandparents, a young Korean-American reflects on lost family stories and the culture uprooted from her life.

Substratum

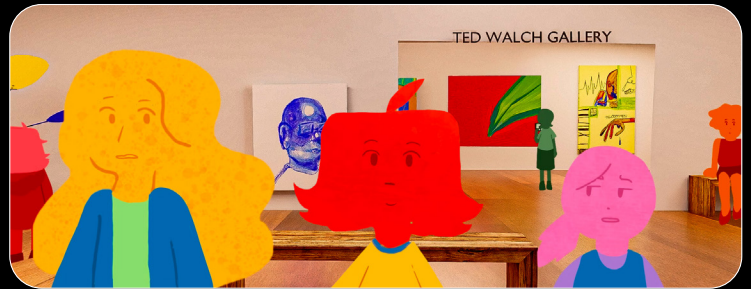
(Directed by Harvey Abrahams, Australia, 7 min)

Isolated and surrounded by power, a young boy attempts to change the path of his dictator father. Will peace prevail or will he succumb to his family's history?

Weathered

(Directed by Patrick Jang, USA, 9 min)

Three teenagers openly share their personal stories of struggle and transformation that allowed them to embrace self-acceptance.



Suggested Subjects: Activism, Art/Media, Asian American Studies, Career Path Training, English Language Arts, Mental Health, Muslim Studies, Peer/Youth Issues, Women and Gender Studies

Recommended Grades: 7–12

Program Note: This program contains profanity and brief mentions of abuse.

PROGRAMS BY SUGGESTED SUBJECTS AND THEMES

ACTIVISM

Farming While Black
Girls State
She Creates Change
Shorts 6: Youth Works

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Farming While Black
From Fact to Fiction
Shorts 5: Family Films
Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home,
Franklin

AFRICAN STUDIES

Madu
She Creates Change

ART/MEDIA

The Art & Science of Lucasfilm: Star Wars:
The Bad Batch
Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story
Didi (弟弟)
From Fact to Fiction
Madu
Porcelain War
Puffin Rock and the New Friends
Ru
She Creates Change
Shorts 5: Family Films
Shorts 6: Youth Works
Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home,
Franklin

ASIAN STUDIES

From Fact to Fiction
Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa
Sherpa
Ru
She Creates Change

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Didi (弟弟)
Mabel
Shorts 6: Youth Works

BIOLOGY

Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story
Farming While Black
Mabel
Puffin Rock and the New Friends

CAREER PATH TRAINING

The Art & Science of Lucasfilm: Star Wars:
The Bad Batch
Counted Out
Farming While Black
Girls State

Mabel

Madu
She Creates Change
Shorts 6: Youth Works

COMING OF AGE

Alemania
Didi (弟弟)
From Fact to Fiction
Mabel
Ru

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Art & Science of Lucasfilm: Star Wars:
The Bad Batch
Counted Out

DANCE

Madu

DRAMA/ACTING

Didi (弟弟)
Mabel
Ru

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Art & Science of Lucasfilm: Star Wars:
The Bad Batch
Didi (弟弟)
Puffin Rock and the New Friends
Ru
Shorts 5: Family Films
Shorts 6: Youth Works
Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home,
Franklin

ECONOMICS

Counted Out

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Puffin Rock and the New Friends
Farming While Black

FRENCH

Ru
Shorts 5: Family Films

HEALTH

From Fact to Fiction
Madu
Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa
Sherpa

HISTORY

Farming While Black
Ru

IMMIGRATION

From Fact to Fiction
Ru

JOURNALISM

Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story
Counted Out
Girls State
Madu
Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa
Sherpa
Porcelain War
She Creates Change

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Alemania

LATINE STUDIES

Shorts 5: Family Films

LGBTQ+ STUDIES

Girls State

MARINE SCIENCE

Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story
Puffin Rock and the New Friends

MATH

The Art & Science of Lucasfilm: Star Wars:
The Bad Batch
Counted Out

MENTAL HEALTH

Alemania
Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story
Madu
Ru
Shorts 6: Youth Works

MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

From Fact to Fiction

MUSLIM STUDIES

From Fact to Fiction
Shorts 6: Youth Works

PEER/YOUTH ISSUES

Counted Out
Didi (弟弟)
From Fact to Fiction

Girls State

Madu
She Creates Change
Shorts 5: Family Films
Shorts 6: Youth Works
Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home,
Franklin

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ SPORTS

Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa
Sherpa
Shorts 5: Family Films

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Farming While Black
Girls State
Porcelain War

RELIGION

From Fact to Fiction
Girls State

SCIENCE

The Art & Science of Lucasfilm: Star Wars:
The Bad Batch
Mabel
She Creates Change

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Counted Out

SOCIAL STUDIES

Counted Out
Girls State
Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa
Sherpa
Porcelain War
She Creates Change

SPANISH

Alemania

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

Farming While Black
From Fact to Fiction
Girls State
Mabel
Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa
Sherpa
She Creates Change
Shorts 5: Family Films
Shorts 6: Youth Works

THEATER LOCATIONS

Marina Lee Theater	2149 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, CA
Premier Theater	1 Letterman Dr # B, San Francisco, CA
SFMOMA Phyllis Wattis Theater	151 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA

2024 SCHOOLS AT THE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

TUE	APR 23	12 PM PT	The Art & Science of Lucasfilm: Star Wars: The Bad Batch	PREMIER
WED	APR 24	10 AM PT	She Creates Change	MARINA LEE
WED	APR 24	12:15 PM PT	Counted Out	MARINA LEE
THU	APR 25	10 AM PT	Shorts 5: Family Films	MARINA LEE
THU	APR 25	11 AM PT	Snoopy Presents: Welcome Home, Franklin	SFMOMA
THU	APR 25	12:30 PM PT	Alemania	MARINA LEE
THU	APR 25	1:30 PM PT	Didi (弟弟)	SFMOMA
FRI	APR 26	10 AM PT	Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa Sherpa	MARINA LEE
FRI	APR 26	10 AM PT	Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story	SFMOMA
FRI	APR 26	12:15 PM PT	Ru	SFMOMA
FRI	APR 26	12:30 PM PT	Mabel	MARINA LEE
MON	APR 29	10 AM PT	Puffin Rock and the New Friends	MARINA LEE
MON	APR 29	10 AM PT	From Fact to Fiction	SFMOMA
MON	APR 29	12:30 PM PT	Shorts 6: Youth Works	SFMOMA
TUE	APR 30	10 AM PT	Shorts 5: Family Films	SFMOMA
TUE	APR 30	12:30 PM PT	Shorts 6: Youth Works	SFMOMA
THU	MAY 2	10 AM PT	Shorts 5: Family Films	SFMOMA
THU	MAY	12:30 PM PT	Girls State	SFMOMA

ONLINE PROGRAMS LIVE Q&As

WED	MAY 1	10 AM PT	Shorts 5: Family Films	(Q&A Only) Online
WED	MAY 1	12:30PM PT	Shorts 6: Youth Works	(Q&A Only) Online

PRE-RECORDED Q&As

The following films will have pre-recorded Q&A(s) sent out with screening link(s).

Counted Out
Farming While Black
Madu
Porcelain War
She Creates Change
