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ATTENDING DOC STORIES

Tickets

General Admission.....	\$20
Student/Senior/ADA.....	\$19
SFFILM Member.....	\$16

Ticket Packs

Ticket Packs are the most flexible way to see events at a discount and may be redeemed for any regular, non-rush screening or event priced up to \$25.

6-PACK

SFFILM Members.....	\$100
General Public.....	\$120

10-PACK

SFFILM Members.....	\$150
General Public.....	\$180

Cinevisa

The best way to support SFFILM, this all-access pass includes entry to the Priority Line at all film screenings and access to the Doc Stories Lounge.

Cinevisa.....	\$500
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THE FINE PRINT

Ticket prices may vary for Special Events. Opening Night and Closing Night tickets are priced at \$35 for non-members and \$30 for members. Tickets are subject to a \$1.50 service fee. Ticket Packs are subject to a \$5 service fee. Valid ID required to receive discounts. If you require wheelchair seating or other accessibility accommodations, email ada@sffilm.org.

Purchase tickets online at [sffilm.org]

Accessibility

SFFILM is committed to providing accessible experiences at all events whether in-person or online. Event pages will be updated with accessibility information as it becomes available, which may be after tickets go on sale. For more information about accessibility at specific venues or programs, please visit [sffilm.org/accessibility] or contact ada@sffilm.org.

FILM DESCRIPTIONS

Ask E. Jean

Sun, Nov 9 at 1:30 pm PT at Vogue Theatre
Ivy Meeropol (USA 2025, 91)

"He called me a liar, and I couldn't let it stand," says E. Jean Carroll when asked why she sued Donald Trump for rape and defamation—and then sued him again. In this scintillating portrait of the writer, advice columnist, and TV personality, Carroll emerges as a multifaceted person who advocated for strong women in her titular column and TV show and yet also waited more than 20 years to bring charges against the man who assaulted her. Carroll presents her story unflinchingly and with brio, replete with biographical details, favorite profiles from her career, and lengthy sequences from the first trial's deposition which is full of discomfiting questions from Trump's team. She has the perspicacity to acknowledge her generation's imperative to "get over it and move on," while also admitting to significant lingering trauma from the crime. In standing up for truth against a man who cares little for anything but vengeance, Ms. Carroll is a warrior of our time. –Rod Armstrong

The Bend in the River + Divers

Sat, Nov 8 at 7:30 pm PT at Vogue Theatre
Robb Moss (USA 2025, 82)

Robb Moss continues his longitudinal personal filmmaking with his exquisitely crafted final film in the River trilogy. For over forty years, Moss has followed the lives of dear friends, initially captured in youthful, nude exuberance during a multi-week rafting trip in Riverdogs (1982), and later in The Same River Twice (Festival 2003). Moss reunites once more with these kindred spirits and deftly weaves together footage of their present lives with moments from the earlier films to craft a humorous meditation on memory, aging, and friendship. The Bend in the River is both a companion piece and compendium, asking viewers to consider how one navigates toward a future with fewer illusions about permanence. –Jessie Fairbanks

This film will be preceded by the short film Divers, directed by Geordie Wood (USA 2025, 7 min). This mesmerizing presentation of high divers is an ode to the human body in motion.

Opening Night: Cover-Up

Thu, Nov 6 at 6:30 pm PT at Vogue Theatre
Thu, Nov 6 at 9:30 pm PT at Vogue Theatre
Laura Poitras, Mark Obenhaus (USA 2025, 117)

Seymour 'Sy' Hersh is a renowned and respected—and at times divisive—Pulitzer prize-winning journalist. His remarkable six-decade career includes groundbreaking

coverage on the My Lai massacre, Watergate scandal, the horrors of Abu Ghraib, and much more. Filmmakers Laura Poitras (All the Beauty and the Bloodshed, Doc Stories 2022) and Mark Obenhaus worked for 20 years to build this vital portrait of a determined truth-sayer and the final result is a remarkable film that resists hagiography. Instead, Cover-Up is a sophisticated interrogation of the process of investigative documentation and the weight of its real-world consequences. As journalism and free speech are under threat, this timely documentary is essential viewing. –Jessie Fairbanks

The Eyes of Ghana + In My Day

Sat, Nov 8 at 11 am PT at Vogue Theatre
Ben Proudfoot (USA 2025, 90)

Two-time Academy Award-winner Ben Proudfoot returns to Doc Stories with his feature debut, which tells the enchanting story of Ghanaian documentarian Chris Hesse. At 93 years old, Chris reflects back on the early days of his career as a personal cinematographer for former Ghanaian president and revolutionary Kwame Nkrumah. Hesse's proximity to Nkrumah allowed him to serve as keen witness and documentarian of what became the genesis of the African independence movement of the 1950s and '60s, a watershed period in African history that resisted colonial rule. With his memories and vision fading, Hesse teams up with a new generation of African filmmakers to repatriate a treasure trove of films thought to have been destroyed in the coup that put an end to Nkrumah's reign. Produced by Barack and Michelle Obama and Moses Bwayo (Bobi Wine: The People's President 2022) this inspirational journey to reclaim lost histories and cultural memories gives hope for future generations. –Jordan Klein

This film will be preceded by the short film In My Day, directed by Iga Lis (Poland, 12 min). Captured in the quotidian poetry of the phone call, conversations between grandmothers and granddaughters shed light on intergenerational inheritance and evolution.

Closing Night: A Life Illuminated

Sun, Nov 9 at 7 pm PT at Vogue Theatre
Tasha Van Zandt (USA 2025, 89)

Tasha Van Zandt returns to SFFILM (After Antarctica, Festival 2021), with a luminous profile of pioneering marine biologist Dr. Edie Widder and together they take audiences on an thrilling deep-sea mission. Fueled by a cinematic and scientific determination to capture bioluminescent life as it has never been filmed before, this visually stunning film is a breathless adventure. Blending archival footage with present-day expeditions, the film offers a rare glimpse into the ocean's glowing ecosystems while tracing Widder's personal and professional journey. More than a portrait of a scientist, A Life Illuminated is a meditation on curiosity, perseverance, and the power of seeing what has long been

hidden. It's a dazzling exploration of life at the edges of human knowledge—and a reminder of the wonders that still wait in the dark. –Jessie Fairbanks

Community Screening: My Mom Jayne

Thu, Nov 6 at 3:30 pm PT at Vogue Theatre

Mariska Hargitay (USA 2025, 106)

Fans of Jayne Mansfield will not want to miss this moving and revelatory documentary about the actress, directed by her daughter, Mariska Hargitay. “I want to understand her now,” Hargitay says as the film opens, and the reasons behind the distance and the time it took to tell this story become clear as it proceeds. Blending archival photos and excerpts from film and television with present-day interviews with family members, Hargitay paints a picture of a woman who spoke multiple languages and played piano and violin, who was misunderstood and mistreated by the industry, kept some secrets, and died tragically young. Hargitay pieces together a multivalent portrait of motherhood, of disappointment and divorce, stardom and sexism, and of what the legacy means for Mansfield’s surviving family. The film is full of surprises, humor, and tearjerking moments as Hargitay skillfully examines all of the disparate elements of what made a movie star and immensely complicated mom. –Rod Armstrong

Newport & The Great Folk Dream

Fri, Nov 7 at 7:30 pm PT at Vogue Theatre

Robert Gordon (USA 2025, 99)

Robert Gordon and Joe Lauro’s comprehensive archival assemblage of the seminal Newport Folk Festival from 1963-66 covers the history of the festival, the importance of folk music in America, how race and culture were brought to bear, and finally and most importantly, the glorious music. A list of featured performers is a veritable who’s who of the era’s notable musicians (Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Odetta, Seeger, The Staples Singers) alongside lesser-known revelations such as The Chambers Brothers, Bessy Jones, and a group from Cape Breton that manages to use a piece of cloth as a musical instrument. While the music remains central, politics is a key facet of the genre and Gordon’s film examines vital issues of equity and inequity that swirled around Newport in these four years. The inimitable Pete Seeger sums up the range of amazing music presented, stating, “Is all this folk music? Well, yeah, this country is full of lots of different kinds of folks.” –Rod Armstrong

Powwow People

Sat, Nov 8 at 2 pm PT at Vogue Theatre

Sky Hopinka (USA 2025, 88)

Following his Persistence of Vision Award at the 2025 San Francisco International Film Festival, Sky Hopinka returns with a stirring new vérité documentary. Presented as a single day at a contemporary powwow gathering, Hopinka observes rituals, regalia, and

song. The film team organized the powwow event themselves, inviting dancers, singers, and vendors to both participate and help make this film. In documenting the shared and the personal experience, Hopinka interrogates the act of viewing and the construct of filmmaking. His loose structure allows viewers to experience the rhythm and movements of dancing, the sacrality of traditions, and pull of heritage. It is both a powerfully immersive experience and a cinematic testament on the strength of the Indigenous community. –Jessie Fairbanks

Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk

Sun Nov 9 at 4 pm PT at Vogue Theatre

Sepideh Farsi (France/Palestine/Iran 2025, 112)

Documented over the course of a year, Iranian dissident filmmaker Sepideh Farsi held a series of dialogues with Palestinian photojournalist Fatma Hassona. Captured ineluctably through WhatsApp calls, Fatma speaks of the harrowing circumstances she is living in, while Gaza City is under siege from a barrage of Israeli military airstrikes. What begins as a series of conversations of the day-to-day becomes an illuminating and deeply poetic manifestation of Fatma's wisdom, exuberance, and unyielding positivity in the face of perpetual bombardment. Put Your Soul on Your Hand and Walk ultimately became a sobering memorial for Fatma and her family, who tragically lost their lives to an airstrike on April 16, 2025, but also remains as a soulful testimony of Fatma's resilient spirit and profound humanity. –Jordan Klein

Shorts Block: New York Times Op-Docs

Total Runtime: 78 min

Fri, Nov 7 at 5 pm PT at Vogue Theatre

SFFILM's partnership with the New York Times' Op-Docs, a short-form documentary series, presents its 11th-annual iteration with a curated program of five short films that invite you to see from new perspectives. From an international ensemble of filmmakers and subjects, these films interrogate vital current topics, spanning artificial intelligence, disability, climate change, and beyond. Expanding digital frontiers allow unprecedented access to create and consume, but also to manipulate images and viewers. From the confessions of a mutli-hyphenate performer in a wheelchair to the whimpers of melting glaciers in Switzerland, these films are a magnifying glass to the underside of this era of globalization and technology. This program encourages reflection: seeing not only the screen, but also what the screen reflects back to us as individuals and collectives. –Sabrina Kim

Am I the Skinniest Person You've Ever Seen?

Eisha Marjara (Canada 2025, 24 min)

In this immigrant coming-of-age story, Eisha Marjara recounts her lively upbringing in a Punjabi-Canadian family, which takes a dangerous turn when she embarks on a strict diet with her sister, Seema.

Crying Glacier

Lutz Stautner (Switzerland 2025, 10 min)

The ever-growing urgency of the climate crisis yields a slow and sensorial experience as Swiss artist Ludwig Berger memorializes the Morteratsch Glacier through recording the sound of it melting.

Death of a Fantastic Machine

Maximilien Van Aertryck and Axel Danielson (Sweden 2025, 17 min)

A dynamic and probing portrait of the camera, raising questions about its future in media and skepticism of the image—and how to tell fact from fiction.

Their Eyes

Nicolas Gourault (France 2025, 22 min)

Where do self-driving cars learn how to drive? This film exposes the harsh contrast between the lives of people who enjoy cutting-edge technology in Silicon Valley and the laborers in the Global South who teach the machines to see.

View from the Floor

Megan Griffiths, Mindie Lind (USA 2025, 5 min)

Multi-hyphenate artist and musician Mindie Lind recalls her experience with exploitation in the media industry as a young performer born without legs—and destined for the limelight.

Shorts Block: Spaces of Resistance

Total Runtime: 90 min

Sun, Nov 9 at 11 am PT at Vogue Theatre

This collection of four documentary shorts epitomizes the symbiotic work of journalism and filmmaking. From voices including Emmy-winning Palestinian journalist Bisan Owda and veteran CBS reporter Steve Hartman, these films deploy animation, archives, and photography to explore history and legacy in personal and public realms. Spaces are sites of collective memory: the empty bedroom of a school shooting victim, or the basketball court, which becomes an unlikely arena for Black civil rights struggles. Filmmakers recall the resistance against the war in Vietnam and paint a portrait of fishing in Gaza amid ongoing bombardment. Resistance is collaborative across timescales and communities; so is filmmaking. In this program, established and emerging voices in nonfiction film heed a timely call to remember the past, witness the present, and steward the future. -Sabrina Kim

All the Empty Rooms

Joshua Seftel (USA 2025, 33 min)

Journalist Steve Hartman and photographer Lou Bopp visit the empty bedrooms of victims of school shootings, offering rich portraits of spaces, families, and love.

Also Resisters

Christina D. Bartson (USA/UK 2025, 14 min)

Lyrical and prophetic, this archival film draws on the writing of American pacifist David E. McReynolds to trace the development of American militarism and antiwar resistance from the late 20th century to the present.

Free Fish

Bisan Owda (Palestine/Portugal 2025, 23 min)

Palestinian journalist Bisan Owda documents the daily life of fishermen on the besieged shores of the Gaza Strip, home to 4,500 fishermen.

Hoops, Hopes & Dreams

Glenn Kaino (USA 2025, 20 min)

The Black civil rights struggle from Martin Luther King Jr. to Barack Obama's historic presidency amassed community and power from an unlikely common denominator between the people and political leaders: basketball.

The Tale of Silyan + S the Wolf

Sat, Nov 8 at 4:30 pm PT at Vogue Theatre

Tamara Kotevska (North Macedonia 2025, 81)

From the co-director of the Oscar-nominated *Honeyland* (Festival 2019) comes this poetic story of family, land, and storks. In the countryside of North Macedonia, elderly farming couple Nicola and Jana are working on the second story of their home, hoping their extended family will return there from abroad. Falling crop prices and overall economic troubles make this unlikely, but hope persists. Woven into this dynamic is the titular myth involving an angry father who turns his son Silyan into a stork when the boy threatens to leave home. In the film, this folk tale takes on a lived dimension of absent family when Nicola rescues a wounded stork from a graveyard and builds the majestic bird a nest on the in-progress landing of his own empty home. Director Tamara Kotevska seamlessly merges the allegorical and the quotidian to moving and visually spectacular effect. –Rod Armstrong

This film will be preceded by the short film *S the Wolf*, directed by Sameh Alaa (France/Egypt 2025, 10 min). Sameh Alaa recounts early lessons in masculinity, vanity, and family in an odyssey of hair growth and loss.

Teen Workshop: Documentary Filmmaking and Creating Understanding

Sat, Nov 8 at 2 pm PT at SFFILM FilmHouse

Join James Robinson, Emmy-award-winning filmmaker, video producer for New York Times Opinion, and author of the recent young adult book *Whale Eyes: A Memoir About Seeing and Being Seen*, for a documentary workshop for teens focused on generating

understanding through creativity. By sharing his personal experiences as well as the stories of others, James's short *How Life Looks Through My 'Whale Eyes'* and his *Adapt-Ability* series explore how it feels to live with a disability while also promoting recognition, understanding, sensitivity, and compassion. In this workshop, James will lead students through his own work and break down strategies and storytelling skills that transform misunderstanding into connection. Students will then be able to work on their own film idea guided by the question "How do we get people to care?" while pushing students to reflect on a piece of their story that the world might not understand.

–Soph Schultz Rocha

VENUES

Vogue Theatre
3290 Sacramento St

SFFILM Doc Stories Lounge
(Sponsored by ESPN Films 30 for 30)
Laureate Bar and Lounge
444 Presidio Ave

SFFILM FilmHouse
455 9th Street

TRANSIT

The Vogue Theatre and SFFILM Doc Stories Lounge (Sponsored by ESPN Films 30 for 30) are served by Muni Lines 1, 2, 3, 24, 43, and 38. Walking times from the transit stops to theaters vary between 1–15 minutes.

SFFILM FilmHouse is approximately a 20-minute walk from Civic Center BART station.

PARKING

At the Vogue Theatre and SFFILM Doc Stories Lounge (Sponsored by ESPN Films 30 for 30), metered street parking is available in the surrounding neighborhood. It is generally free after 6 pm and on Sundays.

At SFFILM FilmHouse, metered street parking is available in the surrounding neighborhood. It is generally free after 6 pm.