

46TH EDITION

DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



17 - 27 JULY

ccadiff.ukzn.ac.za

PRINCIPAL FUNDERS



PROGRAMME PARTNERS



VENUE PARTNERS



WELCOME TO THE 46TH DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The 46th Durban International Film Festival brings together films and filmmakers from around the world in a celebration of the diversity and magic of cinema. Amid general austerity measures in the South African cultural & creative industries we have curated a programme that is worthy of the 46th edition; and one that brings the Durban International Film Festival one step closer to our 50th anniversary. The Centre for Creative Arts, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, sincerely thanks the funders, partners and various stakeholders for their continued support of the DIFF at a time when South Africa is navigating through new economic, political and social pathways.

Over the eleven-day programme, DIFF will present nearly 100 screenings at venues across the city of Durban and in surrounding communities, where cinema facilities still do not exist. Audiences will encounter a selection of some celebrated films on the festival circuit, award-winners and world premieres from South Africa and beyond. DIFF is a place to experience the world and broaden your understanding and appreciation of different cultures.

The *Isiphethu Industry Programme*, which is open and free, features industry professionals who offer their insights, priming a new generation of South African filmmakers. Alongside this are the closed programmes, *isiZulu Scriptwriting Workshop* and *Film Festival Residency*, for which participants were selected to gather to develop skills, knowledge and networks.

The Durban International Film Festival expresses its appreciation to the filmmakers and stakeholders within the national and international stakeholder community for their continued support to advance the Durban International Film Festival as one of Africa's leading film events.

Andrea Voges
Festival Manager & Head of Programming
Durban International Film Festival

REVEREND ZONDI'S WELCOME FOR THE 46TH DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

We extend a warm welcome to you as you visit KwaZulu-Natal for the 46th edition of the Durban International Film Festival (DIFF). This period marks a significant occasion for the appreciation of storytelling, creativity, and cultural exchange in KwaZulu-Natal, a province characterized by a rich tapestry of traditions, ranging from the ancient San rock art found in the Drakensberg to the vibrant Zulu culture present in rural Emazizini. This province offers the opportunity to encounter the Big Five and other



Reverend Musa Zondi, MEC for
Economic Development, Tourism
and Environmental Affairs

fascinating wildlife at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. Additionally, a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, iSimangaliso Wetland Park, reveals a diverse range of ecosystems. And there is more. Welcome to DIFF, where this year the Centre of Creative Arts, headed by Dr Ismail Mahomed, and Andrea Voges, showcase a remarkable selection of 92 films from 50 countries. This includes 29 feature films, 16 documentaries, and 26 short films. The festival features 14 world premieres, 5 international premieres, 36 African premieres, and 37 South African premieres, highlighting its dedication to showcasing a variety of innovative cinema. We recognize July as Film Month in KZN, allowing us to reflect on the significant impact of film in shaping our narratives, preserving our heritage, and projecting our identity globally. This year the DIFF festival prominently showcases the Isiphethu International Student Film Festival, which includes 21

student films representing 19 institutions worldwide. These films examine significant themes including family, identity, and resilience, showcasing the dedication and innovative viewpoints of the next generation of storytellers. The KwaZulu-Natal Tourism and Film Authority (KZNTAFA), through the Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Environmental Affairs, maintains a crucial role in fostering this growth. KZNTAFA has shown its dedication to the festival through individual film

sponsorships and by providing a grant to the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Centre for Creative Arts, the organizers of DIFF. This three-year funding initiative is designed to enhance the festival's programming and support initiatives like the IsiZulu Scriptwriting Programme, which promotes local storytelling and fosters the development of emerging talent. This year, we observe the continued presence of a KZNTAFA-supported productions on this esteemed platform, highlighting the significant narratives originating from our province. KwaZulu-Natal presents a diverse array of elements, including its cultural heritage, mountainous landscapes, coastal beauty, and the vibrant atmosphere of Durban, creating a compelling environment for filmmakers. The province's consistently warm climate, hospitable atmosphere, and dynamic cultural landscape position it as an ideal location for creative

endeavors. This experience is designed to encourage a significant number of you to consider returning to our province for your next film project. As we begin this cinematic exploration, we should recognize the ability of film to unite, provoke thought, and motivate action. This festival serves as a guiding light for both storytellers and audiences, highlighting the collective human experience through the medium of cinema. Thank you, and have a great time at the festival.

18-21 JULY 2025



16TH Durban FilmMart

BRIDGES NOT BORDERS: STORIES THAT UNITE

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NFVF FUNDED FILMS SCREENING AT THE DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (DIFF)



WE ENABLE A TRANSFORMED, DIVERSE, AND SUSTAINABLE CREATIVE MEDIA INDUSTRY

Funding Opportunities:

- Skills Development and Training
- Production and Development
- Marketing and Distribution
- Festival and Market Hosting
- Public Screening Hosting
- Market and Festival Attendance

BELAIRE SUITES HOTEL

151 Snell Parade, North Beach, Durban, 4056

031 332 4485

Free of charge

BALLITO JUNCTION NU METRO

Ballito Dr, R627, Ballito, 4399

087 055 0904

Online Bookings: www.numetro.co.za

Ticket price R80

PAVILION NU METRO

The Pavilion Shopping Centre, 77, 8 Jack Martens Drive, Westville, Durban

086 124 6362

Online Bookings: www.numetro.co.za

Ticket price R80

SUNCOAST CINECENTRE

Suncoast Boulevard, O R Tambo Parade, Durban, 4056

086 124 6300

Online Bookings: www.cinecentre.co.za

Ticket Price: R81

WATERCREST STER KINEKOR

Watercrest Mall, 141 Inanda Rd, Waterfall, Durban, 3652

086 166 8437

Online Bookings: www.cinecentre.co.za

Ticket Price: R81

07

OUR VENUES

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

031 260 2506 (08:00-16:30) | ccadiff.ukzn.ac.za

PROGRAMME IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FILMS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN.

UNRESERVED SEATING UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

CAP STUDIOS

Phoshane, Embo, Hillcrest
079 473 7208
Free of charge

LUTHULI MUSEUM

3233 Nokukhanya Luthuli Street, Groutville, KwaDukuza
032 559 6822
Free of charge

DENIS HURLEY CENTRE

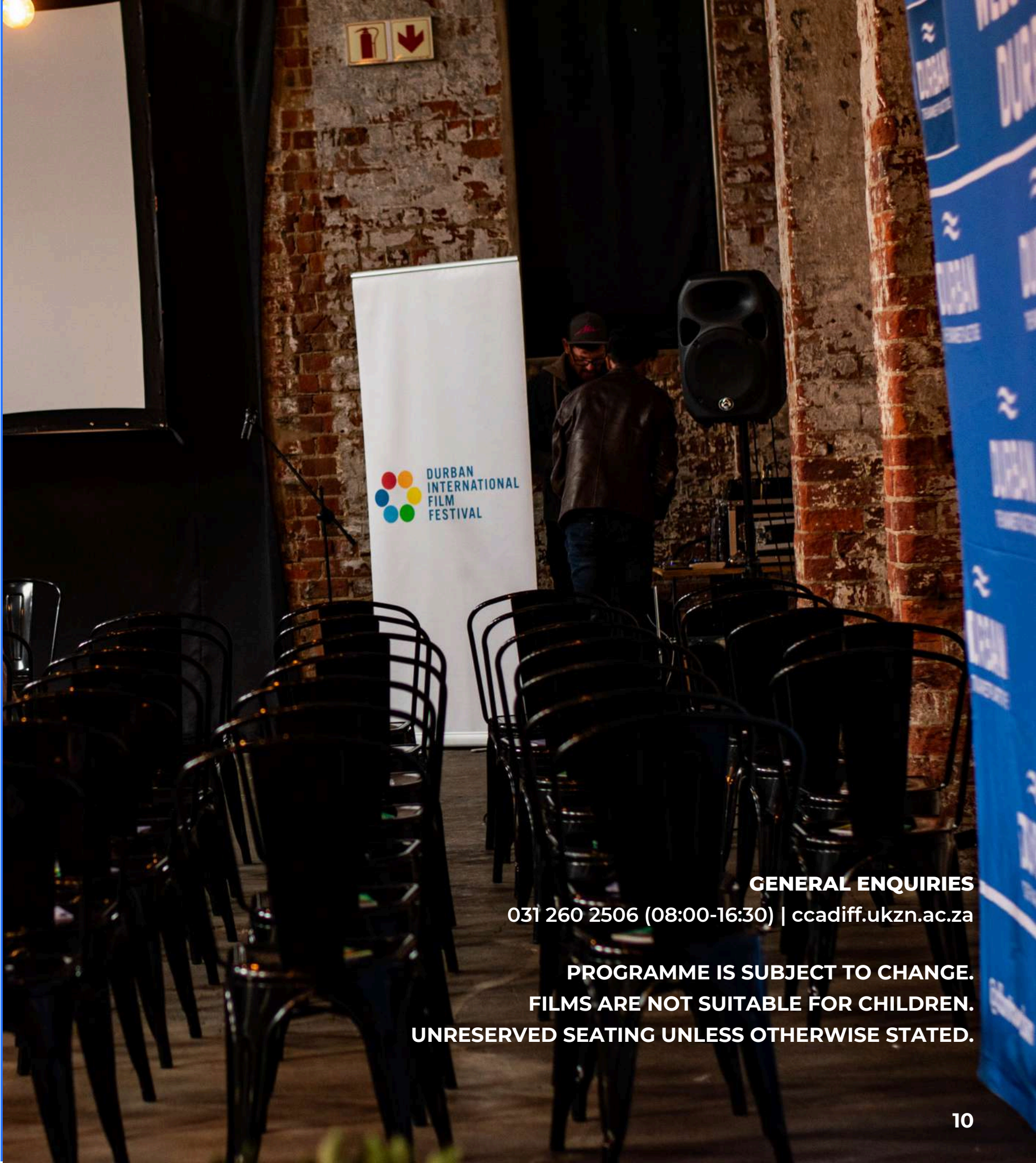
2 Cathedral Road, Durban Central
031 301 2240
Free of charge

K-CAP

25 Giya Road, Emgidweni, KwaMashu
031 504 6970
Free of charge

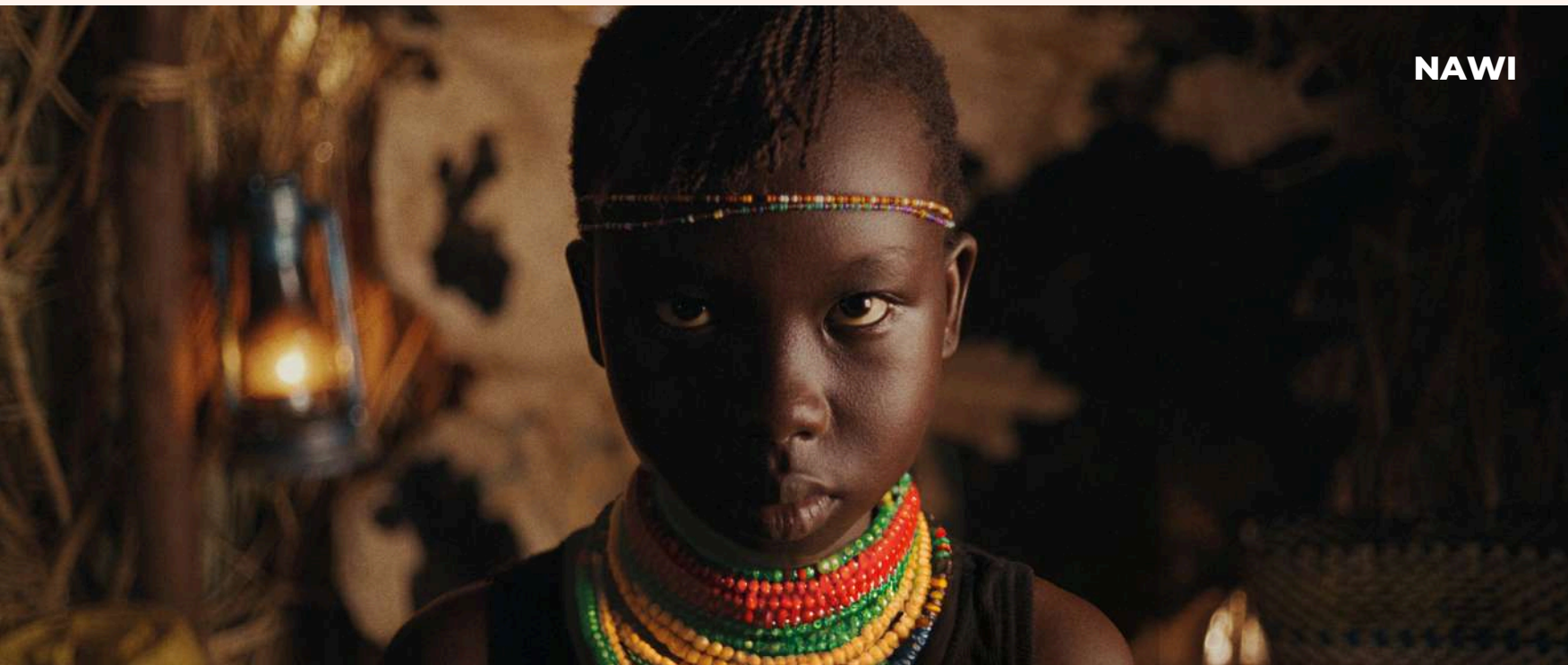
WUSHWINI PAN AFRICAN ARTS CENTRE

60 Wushwini Road, KwaNgcolosi
061 236 7230
Free of charge



GENERAL ENQUIRIES
031 260 2506 (08:00-16:30) | ccadiff.ukzn.ac.za

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NAWI

WOMEN, MORE THAN NUMBERS AT DIFF

Earlier this year, South Africa was placed 18th out of 146 countries on the gender gap index scoreboard. Globally, there are countries where the rights of women and their safety are even more precarious, and one woman or girl is murdered every ten minutes by an intimate partner or family member. While these statistics paint a bleak picture, it is difficult to grasp the humanity behind them. In this year's DIFF programme, several films give these numbers faces and voices and address the challenges that women face globally: some individually, others as a collective. They also highlight the everyday strength and courage with which women navigate their lives.

The Truck is a personal exploration of a young woman in the USA attempting to access emergency contraception. Challenged by a post-Roe vs Wade environment, the humiliation she faces while acting on a decision that will define her future is stark and in sharp contrast to the notion of a country frequently touted as “the land of the free”. In **Chilapa Girl**, a teenage mother, Yulieth, in the face of everyday misogyny, must come to terms with the harsh truth that boys and girls face very different opportunities and that it is the girl who must pay the exorbitant price for a teenage

pregnancy. While initially playful, this short film encapsulates the long-term repercussions of this primal gender differential poignantly and memorably.

The chasm between the rights and dignity of the sexes is even more pronounced in **Walud**. An ISIS soldier returns home with a young European bride, Alina, as his second wife. With scant regard for his first wife, Amuna, he treats both as property. Sanctioned by culture and emboldened by a tyrannical regime, his blatant abuse is unremarkable in the region. The harsh Syrian landscape serves as a brutal backdrop for the callous treatment he metes out. Faced with his cruelty, the two women of vastly different ages, nationality and cultural understanding form an unlikely bond. This intimate story is a microcosm of the discrimination and oppression faced by women in the Middle East. Loosely based on Syrian-born director Daoud Alabdulaa's sister's life, the film also highlights the often-invisible resistance of women in some parts of the region.

Marriage is also the focus of **Nawi**, the official submission film from Kenya for the 'Best International Feature Film' category of the 97th Academy Awards this year. The eponymous lead character is thirteen years old and is due to be married after the receipt of a dowry paid in livestock. She stands up against tradition and fights to continue attending high school. Her rebellion is echoed in the gritty black-and-white film **Majonezë**, the final film in a trilogy of dystopian short films created by Italian director Giulia Grandinetti. In Albania, Elyria conforms to the cruel and humiliating strict rules imposed by her father. Eventually, in an act of rebellion, in defiance against him and the man who says he loves her, she makes a bid for freedom.



MY STOLEN PLANET

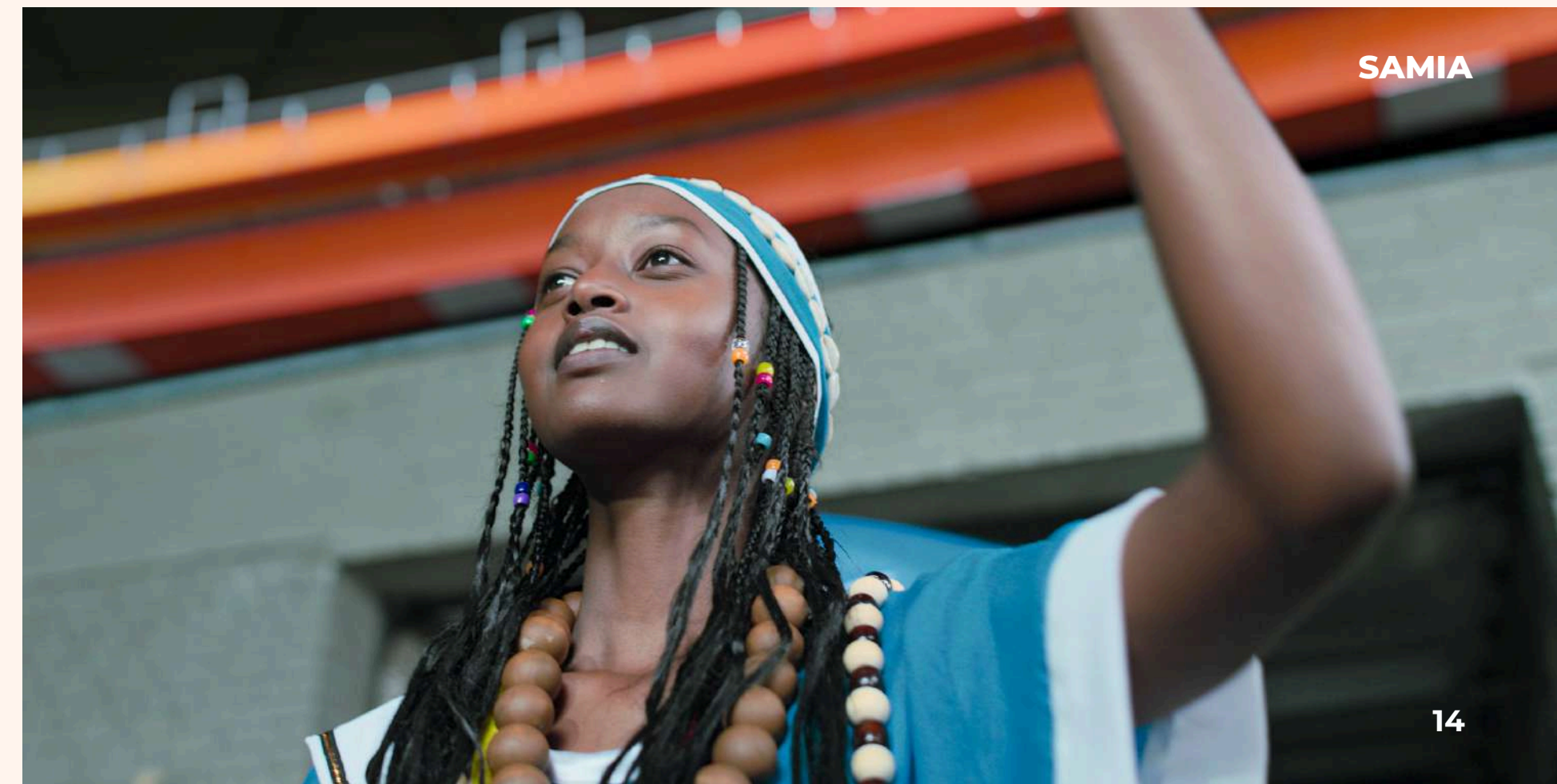
FOCUS AREAS



Binu, the teenage girl in *Chaudhary Sahab*, has no such luck. She also must fight for respect, battling the misogyny of her father and younger brother. It's the nefarious nocturnal activities of her grandfather, however, that are the most obvious evidence of a culture which overlooks the despicable deeds of men and disregards the testimony of women. The unreliability of one's lived experience is a key aspect of ***We Did Not Consent***, which directly critiques patriarchal abuse of power and the institutional exploitation of women's trust. The infiltration of activist groups by a secret unit of London's Metropolitan police and the duplicitous relationships which they formed with female activists are at the centre of this exposé. This reclamation of the women's narratives underscores their resistance to this violation and has been an integral part of their healing. Another film which deals with the collective is ***Marching in the Dark***. In rural Maharashtra, women widowed by farmers' suicides challenge patriarchal societal norms by forming a collective resistance. This critique of the patriarchal structures that burden women with unpaid debts, child-rearing, and failing farms showcases their agency in seeking empowerment or eventually fleeing Somalia. ***Samia*** follows her journey of extraordinary courage to participate in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. The film is a tribute to her fortitude and an indictment of the smuggling industry.

There are films which amplify the everyday revolutions that women participate in, often without fanfare or acknowledgement. ***My Stolen Planet*** captures the moments of joy and defiance in the life of Farah, an Iranian filmmaker. As she navigates the contrasts between domestic freedom and external oppression, she offers us a gendered perspective of Iran, post the Islamic Revolution of 1973. ***A Move*** affords us an opportunity to view Iran against the backdrop of the Women, Life, Freedom protest movement. Filmmaker Elahe Esmaili embodies the courage of her generation's struggle. As she helps her parents pack up their family home, she shows how resistance rooted in love and respect can lead to mutual understanding. The resistance exhibited by the young Somali athlete Samia Yusuf Omar led to her eventually fleeing Somalia. ***Samia*** follows her journey of extraordinary courage to participate in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. The film is a tribute to her fortitude and an indictment of the smuggling industry.

These are just some of the films which amplify the marginalised voices of women and showcase their tenacity and resilience in a world where they are often disregarded at best and brutalised at worst. Their inclusion in the programme is an important step towards redressing inequality and forms an integral part of DIFF's curatorial vision.



FOCUS AREAS

A CINEMATIC EXPLORATION OF WHO IS LEFT BEHIND

Loss is as integral to life as love is, and the oft-repeated cliché of “grief being the price we pay for love” is explored in some of the films in this year’s programme. Félicité, the young migrant in ***The Ants***, has a practical response to the death of her friend, Sandrine, and will do anything to earn the money to afford her a decent burial. For others, the response to a loss is more ethereal and prompts a reassessment of life itself. In ***The Things You Kill***, a college professor experiences a midlife crisis following the death of his mother. This existential crisis takes on a level of violent absurdity, and the audience is left pondering just how far grief will unravel you. For Aya, the sole survivor of a fatal vehicle accident, in ***Aïcha***, her presumed death allows her the opportunity to escape. She grapples with the notion that it is only in death that young women in Tunisia can free themselves from a patriarchal system, rife with misogyny and sexism. It is not only the loss of a human that can prompt soul searching. In ***Pigcasso: Million Dollar Pig***, animal rights activist Joanne Lefson must face life without her famous artistic pig, Pigcasso. With their lives so closely intertwined, his loss leads her to a new perspective on creativity and the bonds between humans and animals.

Some deaths are always more difficult to comprehend than others, and the murder of ten-month-old twins by their mother in ***Salve Maria*** becomes an obsession for a young writer and new mother. Another senseless death, caused by a drunk driver, is



THE THINGS YOU KILL

responsible for the loss of Philly’s brother, and she confronts her loss by preserving things that have died as she embarks upon taxidermy. For her mother, activism is the salve that soothes her grief in ***Dears in the Headlights***. The wives and mothers left behind by their suicidal husbands in ***Marching in the Dark*** have little time to grieve. They must deal with the harsh reality of multiple suicides in the drought-stricken rural Indian region of Maharashtra. In the first six months of 2024, 1,267 farmers in the area had taken their own lives, leaving their wives and children in a precarious financial and emotional situation. Their remarkable resilience in the face of such loss is profoundly moving. Sometimes it is only a brush with death that leaves us with an appreciation for life. Such is the case in ***Unsalvable*** when Mauro’s life is saved by a stranger, whom he later meets to express his gratitude. These films explore the meaning of life through the prism of death and grief, whether it be a close call with death or a significant loss. They all emphasise the importance of living each day to the fullest while we can.



THE ANTS



SALVE MARIA



MARCHING IN THE DARK

ENDURANCE OF THE HEART AND MIND ON THE SCREEN INSPIRES AUDIENCES

There are few sensations as satisfying as watching a character on screen survive against all odds. While their victory may only be a cinematic one, the emotional resonance and sense of hope they inspire are among the many reasons that keep us returning to some of the enduring films of our time. A master of highlighting the quiet strength required to survive insurmountable obstacles is the Korean director Lee Chang-dong. The retrospective featuring his films includes the remarkable *Oasis* (2002), the heart-wrenching *Secret Sunshine* (2007) and the disturbing *Poetry* (2010). These three films explore the human capacity to endure suffering, societal exclusion and personal trauma while never ceasing to pursue meaning and redemption. A connection between Hong Jong-du, an impulsive man with a criminal record alienated from his family, and Gong-ju, the daughter of the victim of the hit-and-run accident for which he went to jail, seems improbable. And yet, in *Oasis*, they find solace in each other, and their resilience is reflected in their ability to forge genuine connections and express mutual care in the face of societal disdain.

Moon So-ri's compelling portrayal of Gong-ju, suffering from severe cerebral palsy and wheelchair-bound, earned her the award for Best Young Actress at the Venice Film Festival. Resilience does not necessarily translate into happy endings, and often it is the struggle itself that endears characters to us. Mija, a grandmother facing the onset of Alzheimer's disease, must grapple with her grandson's involvement in a horrific crime in *Poetry*. Structured more like a poem itself than a narrative film, it offers an unflinching insight into the aftermath of sexual violence and what lengths Mija must go to find the words for herself and redemption for her grandson. A murder also shatters Shin-ae's life in *Secret Sunshine*. Following her husband's death and the murder of her son, she struggles to find meaning in life and searches for faint glimmers of light. Her resilience is of the quiet, persistent type that so many women across the globe are defined by as each and every day they get up and try to build a new world. Lee Chang-dong's portrayal of the refusal to succumb to despair, which weaves through all these films, affirms the sense that endurance is sometimes the reward in and of itself. Women too familiar with struggle and survival are the widows of Maharashtra, and in *Marching in the Dark*, they courageously continue to farm and raise their families in the face of poverty and despair. Marlee Martin's struggle is a singular one, but her fame means that she faces it under the gaze of many. The youngest recipient of the Academy Award for Best Actress at 21, for her role as Sarah Norman in the 1986 romantic drama *Children of a Lesser God*, brought her to global attention. She has blazed her trail in both the Hollywood and deaf communities, and her grit and determination are beautifully captured in *Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore*.

While the line between fiction and reality is blurred in *God's Work*, there is no denying the inner grit and determination required by those who experience homelessness.



MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE

FOCUS AREAS

Inspired by filming a documentary about homeless shelters at the Denis Hurley Centre in Durban during the pandemic, this film follows four homeless friends and their daily struggles to exist on the margins of society. Described by the producer, Sithabile Mkhize, as “not just a film about homelessness; it’s a story about power, loss, resistance—and what it costs to stay human in a world that’s abandoned its soul,” this is an insightful portrait of lives often unnoticed. Many an inner city has lost both its soul and affordable housing through gentrification. In certain areas of Cape Town, people have lost their generational family homes, and in **King George**, the streetwise owner of a strip club, George Megalos, has had enough. He battles against the well-heeled yet despicable property developer, Shane Wyntock, who cares for little except profit. George’s chutzpah, sheer grit and sense of survival are not learnt in any business school and are markers of his entrepreneurial resilience.

Whether they portray struggles of the heart, on the street or for a roof over one’s head, these are a few of the films on this year’s DIFF programme which collectively explore resilience and endurance. Characters face personal trauma, societal oppression, systemic exploitation and existential challenges. However, they find strength, purpose and often defiance within themselves, each other and their communities. Their stories are bound to remind audiences of the strength of the human spirit and our capacity to endure.



ISIPHETHU INDUSTRY PROGRAMME

FIVE-DAY PROGRAMME FOR EMERGING FILMMAKERS.
AT THE BELAIRE SUITES HOTEL.
ENTRANCE IS FREE OF CHARGE
PROGRAMME IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

MON, 21 JUL

- 10:00

MARKETING, SALES & DISTRIBUTION by **Diane Hay**
Why Marketing & Distribution Should Start with the Script
- 11:30

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING by **Ayanda Halimana**
Your Creative Voice. The Power of Telling Your Story, Your Way.
- 13:30

THE PRODUCTION WAR ROOM by **Mariki Van der Walt, David Mukwevho, Nokuthula Dlamini, Mthunzi Dubazana**
The Production War Room - real-world production challenges designed to test strategy, spark creativity, and sharpen decision-making under pressure.
- 15:00

INDUSTRY MEETS SOUTH AFRICAN GUILD OF EDITORS (SAGE) by **Melissa Parry**
Inspiring Excellence in Each Cut - How SAGE advances the art of post: the role of the picture editor, assistant editors, sound editors and post-production professionals.

TUE, 22 JUL

- 10:00

MARKETING, SALES & DISTRIBUTION by **Diane Hay**
What's Your Film's Identity and Who Is It For? Branding & Positioning
- 11:30

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING by **Ayanda Halimana**
A Home for Your Story. Exploring Platforms & Spaces Best Suited for Your Project.
- 13:30

FROM SCRIPT TO SCREEN: THE A TO Z OF CREATING A HIT SHOW USING AMALANGA AWAFANI AS A CASE STUDY by **Mthunzi Dubazana, Nontyatyambo Daniel, Busi Matonsi, David Mukwevho, Nomfundo Zondi**
"From Script to Screen: The A to Z of Creating a Hit Show" using Amalanga Awafani as a Case Study
- 15:00

INDUSTRY MEETS NATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO FOUNDATION (NFVF) by **Nceba Mqolomba and Siya Sityana**
The Producer & Director Relationship – PESP Funded Projects Brought-to-Life

WED, 23 JUL

- 10:00

MARKETING, SALES & DISTRIBUTION by Diane Hay
Niche to Noise: Building an Audience that Cares – Finding & Engaging Audiences
- 11:30

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING by Ayanda Halimana
The Independent Filmmaking Landscape in South Africa – A Tried & Tested Model? Discussion on Projects That Are Successful & Have Been Licensed.
- 13:30

PACKAGING PROJECTS FOR SUCCESS by Nisha Naidoo
What is a project package? What, why and when is a project package used?
- 15:00

INDUSTRY MEETS KZN TOURISM & FILM AUTHORITY
Exploring Innovative Film Funding Models – Public Private Partnership by Jacqueline Rainers
The Independent Filmmaking Landscape in South Africa – A Tried & Tested Model? Discussion on Projects That Are Successful & Have Been Licensed.

THU, 24 JUL

- 10:00

MARKETING, SALES & DISTRIBUTION by Diane Hay
Getting It Seen Part 1: Festival, Streaming & Hybrid Strategies – Navigating Distribution Options
- 11:30

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING by Ayanda Halimana
Alternative Funding & Commissioning Deals Outside Linear Broadcast & Straight Commission, What Else is Possible?
- 13:30

BREAKING BARRIERS: SASL & INCLUSIVE STORYTELLING by Andiswa Gebashe, Max Nodom
The power of South African Sign Language (SASL) in film and how inclusive storytelling reshapes access and representation for the Deaf community.
- 15:00

INDUSTRY MEETS DURBAN FILM OFFICE by Bongumusa Mbhele
Ethekwini Municipality Film Services

FRI, 25 JUL

- 10:00

MARKETING, SALES & DISTRIBUTION by Diane Hay
Getting It Seen Part 2: Festival, Streaming & Hybrid Strategies – Navigating Distribution Options
- 11:30

INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING by Ayanda Halimana
The Making of the Independent, Award-Winning Short Film, Sent
- 13:30

Short & Bold - Building a thriving ecosystem for African Short Films by Gbenga Adeoti
- 15:00

INDUSTRY MEETS SABC by David Makubiyane, Tshlidzi Davhana
How to submit your concept to the SABC
An overview of the different video entertainment platform needs and ways of engaging the platforms and getting content onto the platforms





CLOSED PROGRAMMES

ISIZULU SCRIPTWRITING

The isiZulu Scriptwriting Workshop is a three-week hybrid programme aimed at developing the skills of emerging scriptwriters. Five scriptwriters, with short film projects, were selected to work with a script consultant to further develop their stories. The programme will take place online from 30 June to 11 July 2025 and then in-person from 21 to 25 July 2025.

FILM FESTIVAL RESIDENCY

The DIFF Film Festival Residency takes place in Durban from 14 to 21 July, where Festival Directors will develop and unite as a network that helps to strengthen their festivals and the promotion of South African cinema. Eight Festival Directors were selected to spend the 7 days, during the 46th Durban International Film Festival, engaging around strategic planning and curation.

HIGH SCHOOLS' SCREENING

With the support of the KZN Tourism & Film Authority, almost five hundred high school students will attend a film screenings, which includes a post-screening discussion on the film's content as well as the filmmaking process and possible careers in the film industry.



JOSHUA ROUS | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 90 MIN | ENGLISH

Sponsored by a small sardine-canning company owner with financial problems, “Lucky Fish” follows the adventures of Sanjay Singh, his twin sister and an odd assortment of beauty queen hopefuls in a contest that nobody in their right mind would enter – let alone want to win!

FILMS IN COMPETITION & JURORS

The festival will culminate with an awards night on 26 July, at which awards will be announced for international features competing for Best Feature and Best Edit. The later presented by the South African Guild of Editors.

AÏCHA by Mehdi Barsaoui (Tunisia, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Qatar)
DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT by Embeth Davidtz (South Africa)
DREAMS by Michel Franco (Mexico)
LURKER by Alex Russell (USA, Italy)
MY FRIEND AN DELIE by Dong Zijian (China)
ON FALLING by Laura Carreira (United Kingdom, Portugal)
PROMISED SKY by Erige Sehiri (France, Tunisia, Qatar)
THE COURAGEOUS by Jasmin Gordon (Switzerland)
THE THINGS YOU KILL by Alireza Khatami (France, Poland, Canada, Turkey)

Further awards are adjudicated in the following categories: Best South African Feature, Best Documentary (Oscar Qualifying), Best South African Documentary (Oscar Qualifying), Best Short Film (Oscar Qualifying), Best South African Short Film, Best Student Film and Best South African Student Film (co-presented by Dante Languages).

Features Jury

Ikenna Ezenyirioha, Melissa Parry, Rethabile Ramaphakela and Themba Sibeko.

Documentary Jury

Ayanda Halimana, Diana Keam and Fibby Kiora.

Short Film Jury

Gabe Gabriels, Tanya Rossouw and Thabang Moleya

Student Film Jury

Ibee Ndaw, Lauren Fletcher and Sharon Gumede

SCREENING SCHEDULE 17 - 27 JULY 2025



THURSDAY 17 JULY

F - FEATURES; D - DOCUMENTARY; ★ FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE

SUNCOAST 1

19:00 LUCKY FISH

FRIDAY 18 JULY

SUNCOAST A

17:00 SHORTS PACKAGE A ★
78'

19:45 BLACK BURNS FAST F ★
100' South Africa

SUNCOAST B

17:15 ANCESTRAL VISIONS OF THE
FUTURE D 90' France, Lesotho,
Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia

19:30 THE THINGS YOU KILL F
113' France, Poland, Canada, Turkey

PAVILION

17:00 PEACOCK F
102' Germany

19:00 LURKER F
100' USA, Italy

WATERCREST

17:15 SHORTS PACKAGE C
105'

19:30 BLACK DOG F
110' China

BALLITO JUNCTION

17:00 SHORTS PACKAGE D
92'

19:00 BRIEF HISTORY OF A FAMILY F
99' China, France, Denmark,
Qatar

SUNCOAST A

12:15 PIGCASSO: MILLION DOLLAR PIG *D* 60' South Africa ★

14:00 THE HOME *D* ★
73' South Africa

17:00 STREET TRASH *F* ★
85' South Africa

19:00 DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT *F* ★
98' South Africa

SUNCOAST B

12:30 WAVESCAPE PACKAGE A
66'

14:30 MARCHING IN THE DARK *D*
108' Belgium, Netherlands, India

17:15 AICHA *F*
123' Tunisia, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Qatar

19:45 DREAMS *F*
95' Mexico, USA

SUNCOAST A

11:30 AISHA CAN'T FLY AWAY *F*
123' Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, France, Germany

14:00 SHORTS PACKAGE B ★
78'

16:30 PROMISED SKY *F*
92' France, Tunisia, Qatar

19:00 GOD'S WORK *F*
127' South Africa

SUNCOAST B

12:30 WAVESCAPE PACKAGE B
72'

14:30 SUDAN, REMEMBER US *D*
76' France, Tunisia, Qatar

17:00 MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE *D* 97' USA

19:15 ON FALLING *F*
104' United Kingdom, Portugal

PAVILION

14:00 PATRICE THE MOVIE *D*
102.' USA

17:00 MY FRIEND AN DELIE *F*
111' China

19:15 THE WEEKEND *F*
117' Nigeria

WATERCREST

14:30 SHORTS PACKAGE E
94'

16:30 BABY DOE *D*
100' USA

19:00 PEPPERMINT CANDY *F*
129' South Korea

PAVILION

14:15 THE COURAGEOUS *F*
80' Switzerland

17:00 SAMIA *F*
102; Italy, Germany, Belgium, Sweden

19:00 FREEDOM WAY *F*
88' Nigeria

WATERCREST

14:00 SHORTS PACKAGE F
94'

16:30 BURNING *F*
148' South Korea

BALLITO JUNCTION

17:00 LETTERS FROM WOLF STREET *D*
97' Poland, Germany

19:00 SOME RAIN MUST FALL *F*
98' China, USA, France, Singapore

BALLITO JUNCTION

16:30 NAWI *F*
99' Kenya, Germany

18:30 POETRY *F*
139' South Korea

SUNCOAST A

17:00 LURKER *F*
100' USA, Italy

19:30 THE ANTS *F*
95' Morrocco

SUNCOAST B

17:30 OF MUD AND BLOOD *D*
90' France, Germany

19:15 SALVE MARIA *F*
111' Spain

SUNCOAST A

17:00 NAWI *F*
99' Kenya, Germany

19:00 STUDENT PACKAGE A
87'

PAVILION

16:30 MISTRESS DISPELLER *D*
94' China, USA

18:30 THE LEGEND OF THE VAGABOND QUEEN OF LAGOS *F*
101' Nigeria, Germany, South Africa, USA

PAVILION

16:30 STUDENT PACKAGE B
81'

18:30 SECRET SUNSHINE *F*
140' South Korea

WATERCREST

17:00 MY STOLEN PLANET *D*
82' Iran, Germany

KCAP

12:00 SHORTS PACKAGE A
78'

WUSHWINI PAN AFRICAN ARTS CENTRE

12:00 SHORTS PACKAGE A
78'

SUNCOAST A

17:00 STUDENT PACKAGE B
81'

19:00 SUDAN, REMEMBER US D
76' France, Tunisia, Qatar

PAVILION

16:30 STUDENT PACKAGE A
87'

18:30 OASIS F
132' South Korea

WATERCREST

17:00 PIGCASSO: MILLION DOLLAR
PIG D
60' South Africa

CAP STUDIOS

12:00 SHORTS PACKAGE A
78'

SUNCOAST A

17:00 SHORTS PACKAGE C
105'

19:15 PATRICE THE MOVIE
102' USA

WATERCREST

17:00 STUDENT PACKAGE D
84'

19:00 SHORTS PACKAGE A
78'

BALLITO JUNCTION

17:00 FREEDOM WAY F
88' Nigeria

DENIS HURLEY CENTRE

09:00 SHORTS PACKAGE A
78'

11:00 SHORTS PACKAGE A
78'

PAVILION B

17:15 STUDENT PACKAGE C
76'

19:00 THE WEEKEND F
117' Nigeria

SUNCOAST A

17:00 SHORTS PACKAGE D
92'

19:00 MARCHING IN THE DARK D
108' Belgium, Netherlands, India

SUNCOAST B

17:15 STUDENT PACKAGE D
84'

19:15 BLACK DOG F
110' China

SUNCOAST A

14:00 SHORTS PACKAGE E
94'

16:30 PEACOCK F
102' Germany

19:00 AISHA CAN'T FLY
123' Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, France, Germany

SUNCOAST B

14:30 LUCKY FISH F
90' South Africa

17:00 THE HOME D
73' South Africa

19:00 SOME RAIN MUST FALL F
98' China, USA, France, Singapore

PAVILION

17:00 STUDENT PACKAGE C
76'

19:00 MISTRESS DISPELLER D
94' China, USA

WATERCREST

17:30 PROMISED SKY
92' France, Tunisia, Qatar

19:30 LETTERS FROM WOLF STREET D
97' Poland, Germany

PAVILION

14:00 SALVE MARIA F
111' Spain

16:30 BRIEF HISTORY OF A FAMILY F
99' China, France, Denmark, Qatar

19:00 THE THINGS YOU KILL F
113' France, Poland, Canada, Turkey

WATERCREST

14:30 MY STOLEN PLANET F
82' Iran, Germany

17:00 BLACK BURNS FAST F
100' South Africa

19:15 MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE
97' USA

BALLITO JUNCTION

17:00 OF MUD AND BLOOD D
90' France, Germany

19:00 BABY DOE D
100' USA

LUTHULI MUSEUM

12:00 SHORTS PACKAGE A
78'

BALLITO JUNCTION

17:00 STREET TRASH F
85' South Africa

19:00 AICHA F
123' Tunisia, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Qatar

DENIS HURLEY CENTRE

13:00 GOD'S WORK
127' South Africa

F - FEATURES; D - DOCUMENTARY; ★ FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE

SUNCOAST A

- 14:15 **SHORTS PACKAGE F**
94'
- 16:30 **THE COURAGEOUS F**
80' Switzerland
- 18:30 **THE LEGEND OF THE VAGABOND
QUEEN OF LAGOS F**
101' Nigeria, Germany, South Africa,
USA

SUNCOAST B

- 14:30 **ANCESTRAL VISIONS OF THE
FUTURE D**
90' France, Lesotho, Germany, Qatar,
Saudi Arabia
- 17:00 **MY FRIEND AN DELIE F**
111' China
- 19:15 **MY FATHER'S SHADOW**
94' United Kingdom, Nigeria

PAVILION

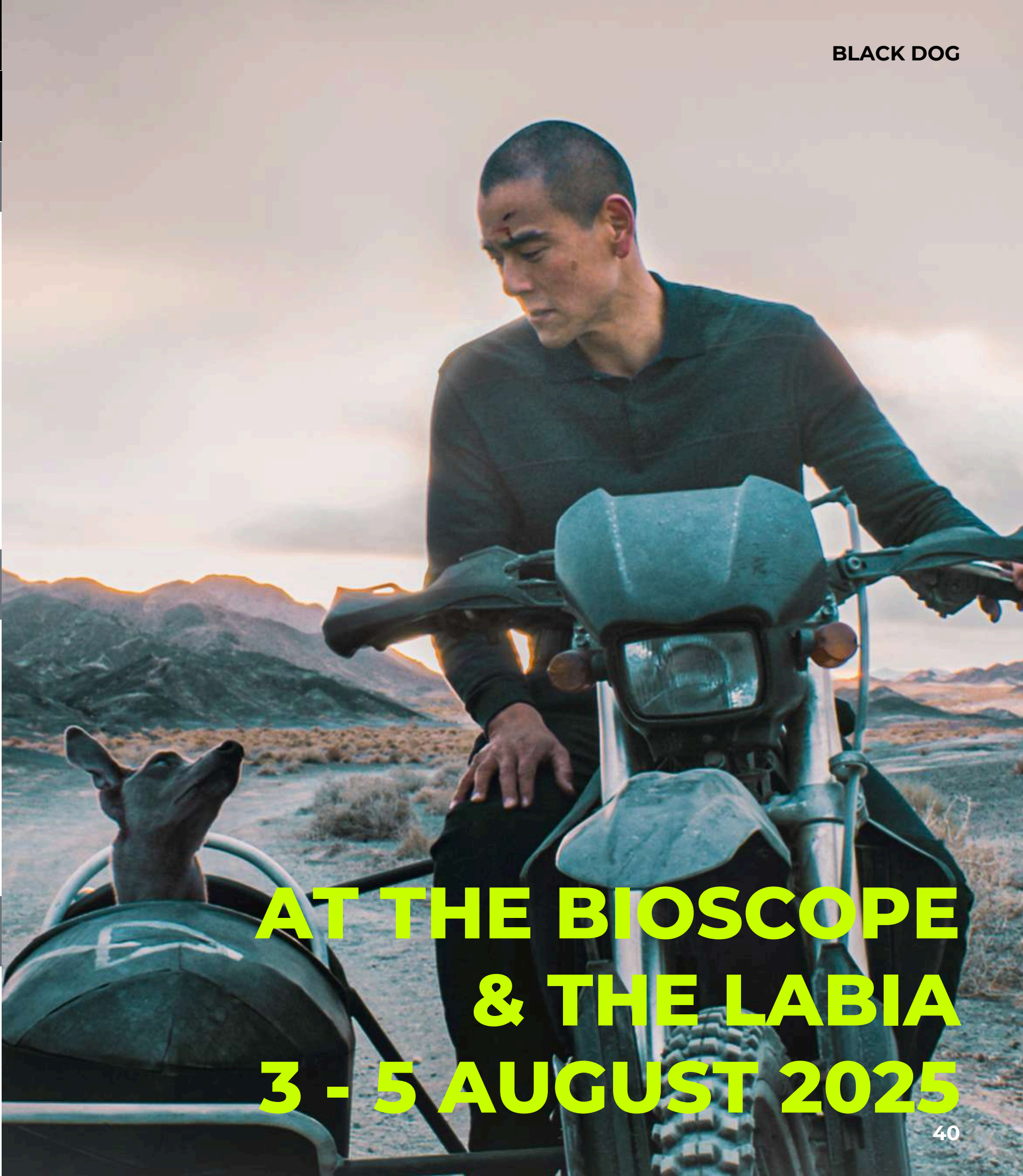
- 14:00 **THE ANTS F**
95' Morrocco
- 16:30 **DREAMS F**
95' Mexico, USA
- 19:00 **DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS
TONIGHT F**
98' South Africa

WATERCREST

- 12:00 **LUCKY FISH F**
90' South Africa
- 14:15 **SHORTS PACKAGE B**
78'
- 17:00 **GOD'S WORK F**
127' South Africa

BALLITO JUNCTION

- 17:00 **SAMIA F**
102' Italy, Germany, Belgium, Sweden
- 19:00 **ON FALLING F**
104' United Kingdom, Portugal
- 39



AT THE BIOSCOPE
& THE LABIA
3 - 5 AUGUST 2025



FRI, 1 AUG

- 12:00 GOD'S WORK by Michael James
- 15:00 PIGCASSO: MILLION DOLLAR PIG by Stefan Enslin
- 17:30 SHORTS PACKAGE A by Ari Kruger, Jason Adam Maselle, Sean Mongie, Nakhane
- 20:00 BLACK BURNS FAST by Sandulela Asanda

SAT, 2 AUG

- 14:30 SHORTS PACKAGE B by Mark Penwill, Jordy Sank, Lamar Bonhomme, Minenhle Luthuli, Julia Jansch
- 17:00 LUCKY FISH by Joshua Rous
- 19:30 DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT by Embeth Davidtz

SUN, 3 AUG

- 12:00 THE HOME by Jessie Zinn
- 14:00 STREET TRASH by Ryan Kruger



FRI, 1 AUG

- 17:30 SHORTS PACKAGE A by Ari Kruger, Jason Adam Maselle, Sean Mongie, Nakhane
- 20:00 BLACK BURNS FAST by Sandulela Asanda

SAT, 2 AUG

- 14:30 SHORTS PACKAGE B by Mark Penwill, Jordy Sank, Lamar Bonhomme, Minenhle Luthuli, Julia Jansch
- 17:00 LUCKY FISH by Joshua Rous
- 19:30 DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT by Embeth Davidtz

SUN, 3 AUG

- 12:00 GOD'S WORK by Michael James
- 14:30 PIGCASSO: MILLION DOLLAR PIG by Stefan Enslin
- 17:00 THE HOME by Jessie Zinn
- 19:30 STREET TRASH by Ryan Kruger

THE FILMS OF LEE CHANG-DONG

A RETROSPECTIVE PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
KOREAN CULTURAL CENTRE IN SOUTH AFRICA

BURNING



LEE CHANG DONG | SOUTH KOREA | 2018 | 148 MIN | SOUTH KOREA, ENGLISH WITH
ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Delivery man Jongsu is out on a job when he runs into Haemi, a girl who once lived in his neighborhood. She asks if he would mind looking after her cat while she's away on a trip to Africa. On her return, she introduces to Jongsu an enigmatic young man named Ben, who she met during her trip. One day Ben tells Jongsu about his most unusual hobby.

20 JUL 16:30 WATERCREST

OASIS



LEE CHANG DONG | SOUTH KOREA | 2002 | 132 MIN | KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Jong-du, who has three previous convictions, visits the family of the hit-and-run accident which he served time for, and meets Gong-ju, the daughter, who has cerebral palsy. He is fascinated by her and visits her when she is alone. Trying to reassure and pacify the terrified young woman, he tries to rape her, stopping only when she faints. He left his phone number in her room. To his amazement, she calls and invites him to visit her again. Over a series of clandestine meetings, the handicapped woman and the young man fall in love. However, their love is not one that is understood by anyone else.

23 JUL 18:30 PAVILION

PEPPERMINT CANDY



LEE CHANG DONG | SOUTH KOREA | 1999 | 129 MIN | KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Peppermint Candy spans 20 years in the life of Yongho, from his teens to his self-hating middle age. Drafted for military service in 1980, he is sent to quash the uprising in Kwangju, becoming part of the Korean equivalent of the Tiananmen Square massacre. He joins the police after leaving the army and becomes an expert in torturing arrested leftists. He brutally rejects his childhood sweetheart, who brings him peppermint candies he once loved. The film's seven chapters are presented in reverse-chronological order. Starting with Yongho's middle-aged death wish and ending with his first date with the only person he truly cares for.

19 JUL 19:00 WATERCREST

POETRY



LEE CHANG DONG | SOUTH KOREA | 2010 | 139 MIN | KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Mija lives with her middle-school grandson in a small suburban city along the Han River. A fashionable and curious old lady, she unexpectedly takes a poetry class at a neighbourhood cultural center and is challenged to write her first poem. Her quest for inspiration leads her to observe the everyday life she once overlooked, discovering beauty in the ordinary. As she explores, Mija is surprised by newfound wonder, like a little girl discovering the world for the first time. However, when confronted with a harsh reality, she realizes that life may not be as beautiful as she once thought

20 JUL 18:30 BALLITO JUNCTION

SECRET SUNSHINE



LEE CHANG DONG | SOUTH KOREA | 2007 | 140 MIN | KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

When her husband passes away in an automobile accident, Shin-ae and her son Jun relocate down south to her husband's hometown of Miryang. Despite her effort to settle down in this unfamiliar but much too normal place, she finds that she can't quite fit in. She opens a new piano academy and makes attempts to mingle with the neighbours, but nothing works.

22 JUL 18:30 PAVILION

FEATURE FILMS

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

AÏCHA by Mehdi Barsaoui (Tunisia, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Qatar)
DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT by Embeth Davidtz (South Africa)
DREAMS by Michel Franco (Mexico, United States)
LURKER by Alex Russell (USA, Italy)
MY FRIEND AN DELIE by Dong Zijian (China)
ON FALLING by Laura Carreira (United Kingdom, Portugal)
PROMISED SKY by Erige Sehiri (France, Tunisia, Qatar)
THE COURAGEOUS by Jasmin Gordon (Switzerland)
THE THINGS YOU KILL by Alireza Khatami (France, Poland, Canada, Turkey)

OUT OF COMPETITION

AISHA CAN'T FLY WAY by Morad Mostafa Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, France, Germany
BLACK BURNS FAST by Sandulela Asanda (South Africa)
BLACK DOG by Hu Guan (China)
BRIEF HISTORY OF A FAMILY by Jianjie Lin (China, France, Denmark, Qatar)
FREEDOM WAY by Afolabi Olalekan (Nigeria)
GOD'S WORK by Michael James (South Africa)
LUCKY FISH by Joshua Rous (South Africa)
NAWI by Toby Schmutzler, Kevin Schmutzler, Vallentine Chelluget, Apuu Mourine (Kenya, Germany)
PEACOCK by Bernhard Wenger (Germany)
MY FATHER'S SHADOW by Akinola Davies JR (United Kingdom, Nigeria)
SALVE MARIA by Mar Coll (Spain)
SAMIA by Yasemin Samdereli (Italy, Germany, Belgium, Sweden)
SOME RAIN MUST FALL by Qiu Yang (People's Republic of China, USA, France, Singapore)
STREET TRASH by Ryan Kruger (South Africa)
THE ANTS by Yassine Fennane (Morocco)
THE LEGEND OF THE VAGABOND QUEEN OF LAGOS by The Agbajowo Collective: James Tayler, Ogungbamila Temitope, Okechukwu Samuel, Mathew Cerf, Tina Edukpo, Bisola Akinmuyiwa, A.S. Elijah (Nigeria, Germany, South Africa, United States of America)
THE WEEKEND by Daniel Oriahi (Nigeria)



AÏCHA



MEHDI BARSAOUI | TUNISIA, FRANCE, ITALY, SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR | 2024 | 123 MIN | ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Aya, in her late twenties, still lives with her parents in southern Tunisia and feels trapped in a life without prospects. One day, the minivan in which she commutes daily between her town and the hotel where she works crashes. As the sole survivor of the accident, she realizes it could be her chance to start a new life. She flees to Tunis under a new identity, but everything is soon compromised when she becomes the main witness to a police blunder.

19 JUL 17:15 SUNCOAST | 26 JUL 19:00 BALLITO JUNCTION

AISHA CAN'T FLY AWAY



MORAD MOSTAFA | EGYPT, SUDAN, TUNISIA, SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, FRANCE, GERMANY | 2025 | 123 MIN | ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Aisha is a 26-year-old Sudanese caregiver living in a neighbourhood in the heart of Cairo where she witnesses the tension between her fellow African migrants and local gangs. Stuck between an undefined relationship with a young Egyptian cook, a gangster that blackmails her into an unethical deal in exchange for safety, and a new house she's assigned to work in, Aisha struggles to cope with her fears and lost battles, causing her dreams to cross with reality and leading her to an impasse.

20 JUL 11:30 SUNCOAST 5 | 26 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST 5

BLACK BURNS FAST



SANDULELA ASANDA | SOUTH AFRICA | 2025 | 100 MIN | ENGLISH, ISIXHOSA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Black Burns Fast is a queer and quirky coming of age film set in at a prestigious boarding school in South Africa. 17-year-old adorkable Luthando is on track for a normal academic year, until Ayanda arrives at the school and forces her to rethink everything. In the aftermath, Luthando struggles with juggling multiple identities to avoid rejection from her mother and her schoolmates as she comes to terms with her sexuality.

18 JUL 19:45 SUNCOAST | 26 JUL 17:00 WATERCREST | 1 AUG 20:00 THE LABIA | 1 AUG 20:00 THE BIOSCOPE

BLACK DOG



HU GUAN | CHINA | 2024 | 110 MIN | MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

On the edge of the Gobi desert in Northwest China, Lang returns to his hometown after being released from jail. While working for the local dog patrol team to clear the town of stray dogs before the Olympic Games, he strikes up an unlikely connection with a black dog. These two lonely souls now embark on a new journey together.

18 JUL 19:30 WATERCREST | 25 JUL 19:15 SUNCOAST

BRIEF HISTORY OF A FAMILY



JIANJIE LIN | CHINA, FRANCE, DENMARK, QATAR | 2024 | 99 MIN | MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wei, an outgoing son from a middle-class family, and Shuo, his quiet classmate, find themselves connected through some mysterious energy that draws them into each other's lives. Wei soon introduces his friend to his father, a cell biologist, and his mother, a former flight attendant. Learning that Shuo comes from a troubled background, they welcome this boy with an enigmatic charm to spend more time in their home. Shuo discovers that their comfortable existence is shadowed by unspoken secrets, unmet expectations, and untended emotions.

18 JUL 19:00 BALLITO JUNCTION | 26 JUL 16:30 PAVILION

DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT



EMBETH DAVIDTZ | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 98 MIN | ENGLISH, SHONA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Based on Alexandra Fuller's memoir of the same name, DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT captures the childhood of 8-year-old Bobo on her family farm in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) at the end of the Zimbabwean War for independence in 1980. Growing up in the midst of this long running war, Bobo internalizes both sides of the struggle. Conflicted by her love for people on opposing sides, she tries to make sense of her life in a magical way. Through her eight-year-old gaze we witness Rhodesia's final days, the family's unbreakable bond with Africa, and the deep scars that war leaves on survivors.

19 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 19:00 PAVILION | 2 AUG 19:30 THE BIOSCOPE | 2 AUG 19:30 THE LABIA

DREAMS



**MICHEL FRANCO | MEXICO, UNITED STATES | 2025 | 100 MIN | SPANISH, ENGLISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Fernando (Isaac Hernández), a young ballet dancer from Mexico, dreams of international recognition and a life in the US. Believing his lover, Jennifer (Jessica Chastain), a socialite and philanthropist, will support him, he leaves everything behind— narrowly escaping death in the process. However, his arrival disrupts Jennifer’s carefully curated world. She will do anything to protect both their futures— and the life she has built.

19 JUL 19:45 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 16:30 PAVILION

FREEDOM WAY



AFOLABI OLALEKAN | NIGERIA | 2024 | 88 MIN | ENGLISH

Faced with unfavourable laws and incessant police harassment, three young co-founders struggle to keep their startup alive. A motorcyclist faces dark times with his family after losing his livelihood. A doctor struggles with his conscience on the job while battling outdated government policies. A police pair find themselves on different sides of the law with a difficult choice to make.

20 JUL 19:00 PAVILION | 24 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION

GOD’S WORK



MICHAEL JAMES | SOUTH AFRICA | 2025 | 127 MIN | ISIZULU, ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In the heart of Durban, South Africa, a crumbling building offers a fragile sanctuary to a group of unhoused men surviving on society’s margins. Bound by quiet loyalty, they navigate a world of indifferent authorities, opportunists, and looming violence. Yet, beyond the relentless grind of the streets, their inner worlds—woven from memories, visions, and ghosts—hold a reality as vivid as the one they fight to live through.

20 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST | 26 JUL 13:00 DENIS HURLEY | 27 JUL 17:00 WATERCREST | 3 AUG 12:00 THE LABIA | 1 AUG 12:00 THE BIOSCOPE

LUCKY FISH



JOSHUA ROUS | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 90 MIN | ENGLISH

Sponsored by a small sardine-canning company owner with financial problems, “Lucky Fish” follows the adventures of Sanjay Singh, his twin sister and an odd assortment of beauty queen hopefuls in a contest that nobody in their right mind would enter – let alone want to win!

17 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST 1 | 26 JUL 14:30 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 12:00 WATERCREST 1 | 2 AUG 17:00 THE BIOSCOPE | 2 AUG 17:00 THE LABIA

LURKER



ALEX RUSSELL | USA, ITALY | 2025 | 100 MIN | ENGLISH

A retail employee infiltrates the inner circle of an artist on the verge of stardom. As he gets closer to the budding music star, access and proximity become a matter of life and death.

18 JUL 19:00 PAVILION | 21 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

MY FATHERS SHADOW



AKINOLA DAVIES JR | UNITED KINGDOM, NIGERIA | 2025 | 94 MIN

A semi-autobiographical tale set over the course of a single day in the Nigerian metropolis Lagos during the 1993 Nigerian election crisis. The story follows a father, estranged from his two young sons, as they travel through the massive city while political unrest threatens their journey home.

20 JUL 16:30 SUNCOAST 5 | 25 JUL 17:30 WATERCREST 1

MY FRIEND AN DELIE



DONG ZIJIAN | CHINA | 2024 | 111 MIN | MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Upon hearing about his father’s death, Li rushes back to his hometown in the Northeast of China. He runs into his childhood friend, An Delie, on the flight. The two have not seen each other since middle school. Even though they are heading to the same funeral, An Delie insists that he does not know Li. As Li tries to revive An Delie’s memory, a weighty past starts to emerge.

19 JUL 17:00 PAVILION | 27 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

NAWI



TOBY SCHMUTZLER, KEVIN SCHMUTZLER, VALLENTINE CHELLUGET, APUU MOURINE
| KENYA, GERMANY | 2024 | 99 MIN | ENGLISH, SWAHILI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Based on the winning story of a nationwide contest, NAWI follows a determined girl in rural Kenya. Nawi (Michelle Lemuya Ikeny) dreams of high school, but her father, Eree (Ochungo Benson), plans to marry her off to a stranger, Shadrack (Ben Tekee). Despite her family’s need for the bride wealth – a substantial amount of livestock – Nawi refuses this child marriage. Her father remains in his traditions, swayed by the counsel of uncles, brothers, and the elders. On her wedding night, Nawi flees to Nairobi, but returns when news arrives that her newborn sister must take her place. Nawi confronts her family and husband, determined to change the fate of child brides.

20 JUL 16:30 BALLITO JUNCTION | 22 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

ON FALLING



LAURA CARREIRA | UNITED KINGDOM, PORTUGAL | 2024 | 104 MIN | ENGLISH, PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

ON FALLING tells the story of Aurora, a Portuguese migrant working as a warehouse picker in Edinburgh, Scotland. Trapped between the confines of a vast distribution centre and the solitude of her own bedroom, Aurora seeks out every opportunity to resist the alienation and isolation that threaten her sense of self.

20 JUL 19:15 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 19:00 BALLITO JUNCTION

PEACOCK



BERNHARD WENGER | GERMANY | 2024 | 102 MIN | GERMAN, ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Matthias is a master of his profession. Do you need a “cultured boyfriend” to impress your friends? A “perfect son” to influence your business partners’ opinion of you? Or maybe just a sparring partner to rehearse an argument? Whatever it is, just rent Matthias! While he excels at pretending to be someone else every day, just being himself is the real challenge. In a corrosive comedy, Peacock captures with biting humour, the essence of human relationships.

18 JUL 17:00 PAVILION | 26 JUL 16:30 SUNCOAST

PROMISED SKY



ERIGE SEHIRI | FRANCE, TUNISIA, QATAR | 2025 | 92 MIN | FRENCH, ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Marie, an Ivorian pastor and former journalist, has lived in Tunisia for ten years. Her home becomes a refuge for Naney, a young mother seeking a better future, and Jolie, a strong-willed student carrying her family’s hopes. The arrival of a little orphan girl challenges their sense of solidarity in a tense social climate, revealing both their fragility and strength.

26 JUL 18:30 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 19:15 SUNCOAST 8

SALVE MARIA



MAR COLL | SPAIN | 2024 | 111 MIN | SPANISH / CATALAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

María (34), a young writer who has just become a mother, is obsessed by a shocking incident: Alice Espanet (37) has drowned her 10-month old twins in the bathtub. Writing will be the only way in which María can understand the radical experience of her own motherhood.

21 JUL 19:15 SUNCOAST | 26 JUL 14:00 PAVILION

SAMIA



YASEMIN SAMDERELI | ITALY, GERMANY, BELGIUM, SWEDEN | 2024 | 102 MIN | ARABIC, ENGLISH, SOMALI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Based on the Bestseller Don't Tell Me You're Afraid , inspired by the true story of Samia Yusuf Omar, a young Somali athlete boldly moving towards her future and becoming a symbol in the fight for freedom and women's rights worldwide. Samia challenges taboos by racing through the streets of Mogadishu, in a society where a woman is not supposed to run. Her passion will one day take her to the Olympic Games.

20 JUL 17:00 PAVILION | 27 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION

SOME RAIN MUST FALL



QIU YANG | CHINA, USA, FRANCE, SINGAPORE | 2024 | 98 MIN | WU, MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

40-year-old housewife Cai has lost track of who she is and who she wants to be. During one of her daughter's basketball matches, she inadvertently injures an elderly woman. This seemingly trivial event is a catalyst for a life spinning out of control, as past events resurface while she moves into an unknown future.

19 JUL 19:00 BALLITO JUNCTION | 26 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST

STREET TRASH



RYAN KRUGER | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 85 MIN | ENGLISH

In the year 2050, global economic turmoil has destroyed the middle class in Cape Town, South Africa, which is now divided between the ultra-rich and the unhoused. Ronald and a group of fellow houseless friends uncover a plot by the local government to “liquify” the houseless population with a sinister chemical agent called “V”.

19 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST | 26 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION | 3 AUG 19:30 THE LABIA | 3 AUG 14:00 THE BIOSCOPE

THE ANTS



YASSINE FENNANE | MOROCCO | 2025 | 95 MIN | ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Three intertwined stories follow Félicité, a young Sub-Saharan migrant at the Morocco-Spain border near Melilla. After her friend Sandrine’s tragic death, Félicité vows to honour her by returning to Tangier to earn money for a Christian burial. The second story centers on Hamid, an unscrupulous recruiter exploiting migrant workers, whose deceit ultimately costs him his job. Finally, Kenza, a wealthy young mother, hires Félicité as a nanny against her husband’s wishes, leading to escalating marital conflict that leaves Félicité facing despair.

21 JUL 19:30 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 14:00 PAVILION

THE COURAGEOUS

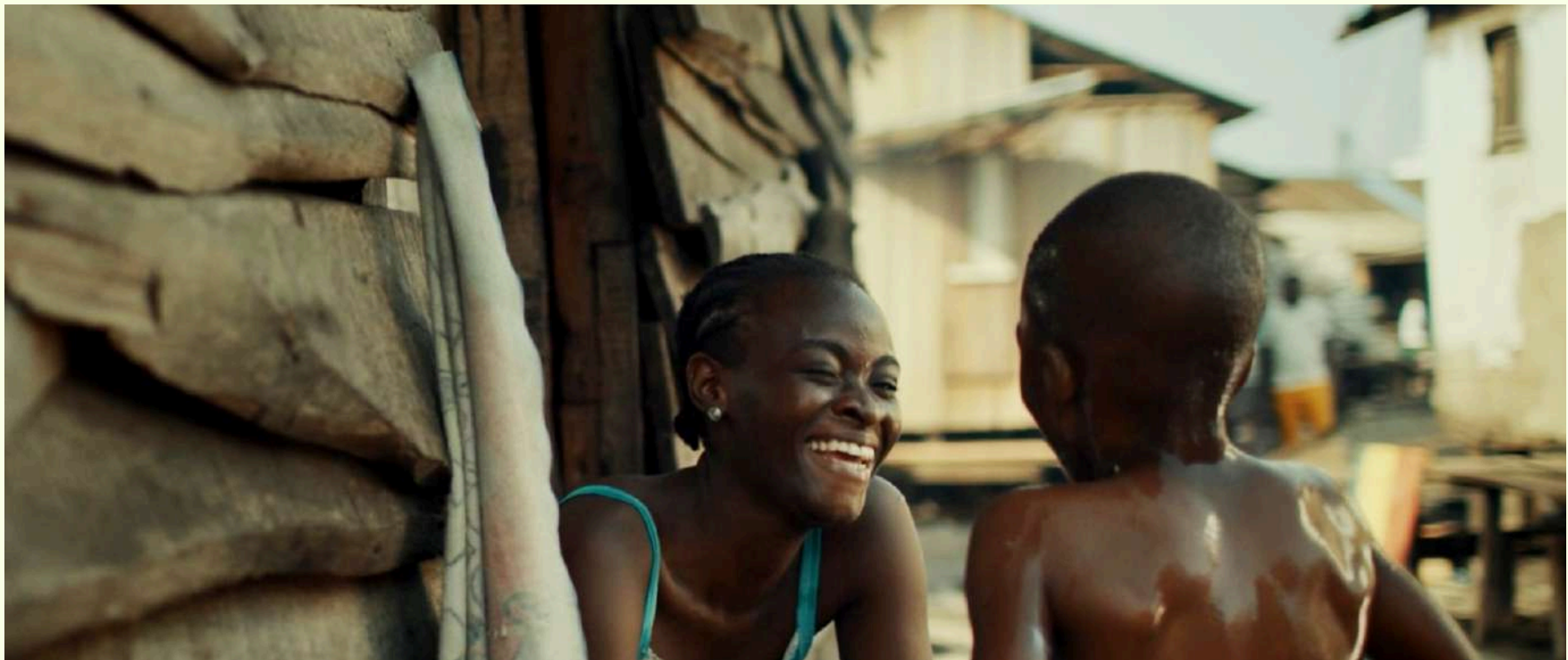


JASMIN GORDON | SWITZERLAND | 2024 | 80 MIN | FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In a small town on the edge of wild country, an eccentric and delinquent mother has had enough of the rules. Crushed by her mistakes and by a society that doesn't give a damn—or a second chance—to people like her, she'll do anything to prove to her children, and to herself, that she is still a good person.

20 JUL 14:15 PAVILION | 27 JUL 16:30 SUNCOAST

THE LEGEND OF THE VAGABOND QUEEN OF LAGOS



THE AGBAJOWO COLLECTIVE: JAMES TAYLER, OGUNGBAMILA TEMITOPE, OKECHUKWU SAMUEL, MATHEW CERF, TINA EDUKPO, BISOLA AKINMUYIWA, A.S. ELIJAH | NIGERIA, GERMANY, SOUTH AFRICA, USA | 2024 | 101 MIN | NIGERIAN PIDGIN, EGUN, ENGLISH, YORUBA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Jawu lives in one of the floating slums pushed into the lagoon which gives the megacity Lagos its name – a young mother scraping by in an indifferent city. However, the spirit of the great warrior king Egbaezen has marked her for a terrible responsibility and ordeal. Danger now threatens people, as corrupt officials conspire to evict thousands from their ancestral homes. Egbaezen's spirit takes the form of an African Grey parrot, and sets in motion a chain of events that will change Jawu and her entire community forever.

21 JUL 18:30 PAVILION | 27 JUL 18:30 SUNCOAST

THE THINGS YOU KILL



ALIREZA KHATAMI | FRANCE, POLAND, CANADA, TURKEY | 2024 | 113 MIN | TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Haunted by the suspicious death of his ailing mother, Ali, a university professor coerces his enigmatic gardener to execute a cold-blooded act of vengeance. As long-buried family secrets resurface, the police tighten their noose, and doubts begin eroding his conscience. Ali has no choice but to look into the abyss of his own soul.

18 JUL 19:30 SUNCOAST | 26 JUL 19:00 PAVILION

THE WEEKEND



DANIEL ORIAHI | NIGERIA | 2024 | 117 MIN | ENGLISH

Nikiya, an orphan seeking belonging, gives her fiancé, Luc, an ultimatum: introduce her to his estranged family or lose her. Luc reluctantly agrees, hiding the dark truth about his family's past to protect their relationship. Nikiya is initially charmed by their warm, welcoming demeanor, but soon, cracks begin to appear, revealing sinister secrets. She uncovers the truth behind Luc's estrangement, realizing the price of belonging may be too high. Caught in a web of deception, Nikiya must act fast to protect herself and her unborn child.

19 JUL 19:15 PAVILION | 24 JUL 19:00 PAVILION

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

ANCESTRAL VISIONS OF THE FUTURE by Lemohang Mosese (France, Lesotho, Germany,
Qatar, Saudi Arabia)

BABY DOE by Jessica Earnshaw (United States)

LETTERS FROM WOLF STREET by Arjun Talwar (Poland, Germany)

MARCHING IN THE DARK by Kinshuk Surjan (Belgium, Netherlands, India)

MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE by Shoshannah Stern (United States)

MISTRESS DISPELLER by Elizabeth Lo (China, USA)

MY STOLEN PLANET by Farahnaz Sharifi (Iran, Germany)

OF MUD AND BLOOD by Jean-Gabriel Leynaud (France, Germany)

PATRICE: THE MOVIE by Ted Passon (United States)

PIGCASSO: MILLION DOLLAR PIG by Stefan Enslin (South Africa)

SUDAN, REMEMBER US by Hind Meddeb (France, Tunisia, Qatar)

THE HOME by Jessie Zinn (South Africa)

LETTERS FROM WOLF STREET



ANCESTRAL VISIONS OF THE FUTURE



LEMOHANG MOSESE | FRANCE, LESOTHO, GERMANY, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA | 2025 | 90 MIN | ENGLISH

Filmmaker Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese blurs the lines between reality and reconstruction through figures like the Puppeteer, the Market Seller, and the Old Farmer, Mosese unearths memories buried in the city's streets. The film explores Mosese's childhood—trying to evade death and carve meaning. From gravel roads as a child playing with wire cars, to streets of exile where he dissolved into a faceless existence. He confronts the moments that shattered and shaped him. *Ancestral Visions of the Future* is more than a story of his exile—it is an elegy for a city and a people caught between the weight of memory and the inevitability of loss.

18 JUL 17:15 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 14:30 SUNCOAST

BABY DOE

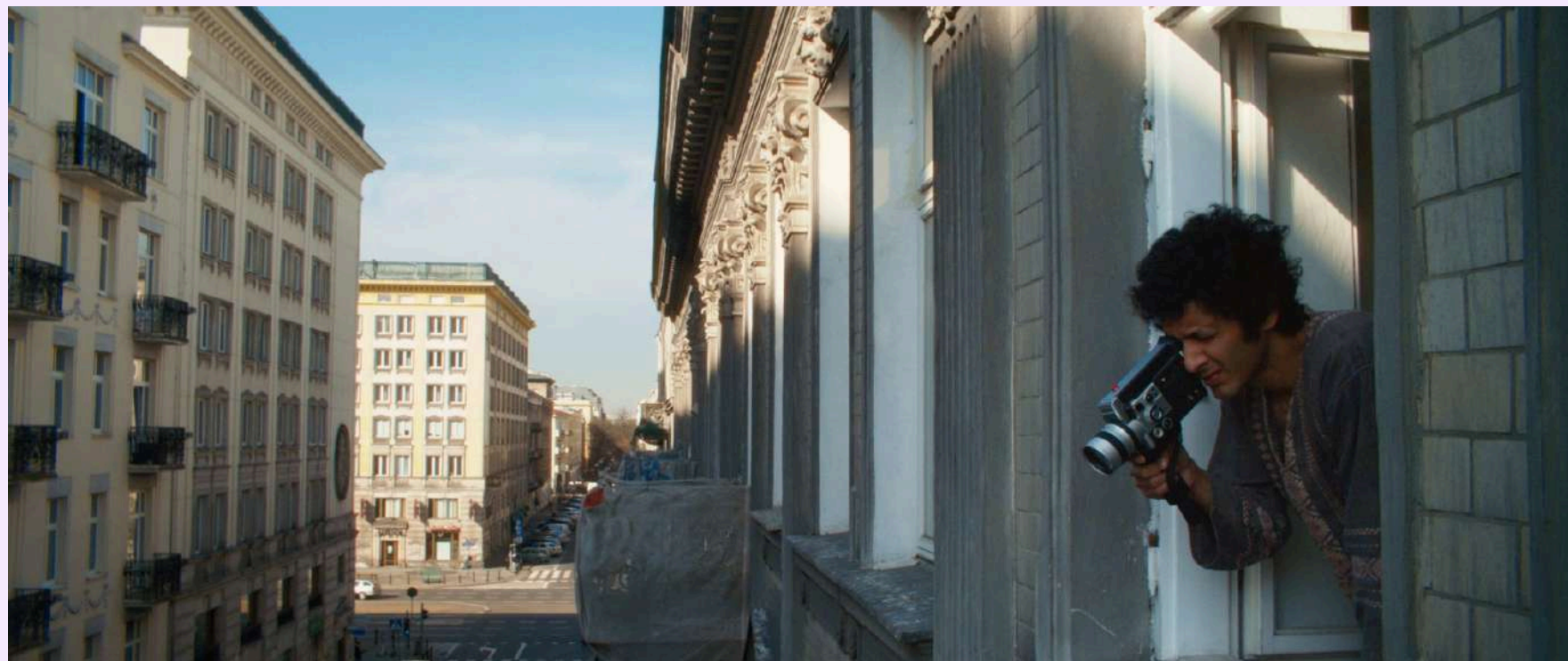


JESSICA EARNSHAW | USA | 2025 | 100 MIN | ENGLISH

Thirty years ago, Gail Ritchey, a young woman from a conservative Christian community in rural Ohio, gave birth alone and left her newborn in the woods. Now a devoted mother of three, her quiet suburban life is shattered when DNA evidence links her to the infamous cold case of “Geauga’s Child,” leading to her arrest for murder. Authorities dismiss her claim that the baby was stillborn, and the media swiftly vilify her. *BABY DOE* cuts through the headlines to uncover the human complexity of Gail’s case.

19 JUL 16:30 WATERCREST | 25 JUL 19:00 BALLITO JUNCTION

LETTERS FROM WOLF STREET



ARJUN TALWAR | POLAND, GERMANY | 2025 | 97 MIN | POLISH, ENGLISH, CHINESE, ARABIC, ROMANI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Arjun Talwar, an Indian immigrant in Warsaw, struggles to fit in after a decade. On “Wolf Street” (“Ulica Wilcza”), he begins filming his neighbors to understand his alienation. With the help of Mo, an immigrant-turned-filmmaker, Arjun uncovers the street's colorful characters - a lonely postman, a Syrian exile, and a wandering brass band. He realizes they live between past and present, navigating their struggles with belonging. The street offers solace and connection, revealing a modern Europe full of contradictions and anxieties, which often perceived as homogenous, unwelcoming, and right-wing, is faced with a mirror held up by a foreigner filmmaker who creates a witty and personal portrait of his adopted country.

19 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION | 25 JUL 19:30 WATERCREST

MARCHING IN THE DARK



KINSHUK SURJAN | BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, INDIA | 2024 | 108 MIN | MARATHI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

The drought-stricken rural region of Maharashtra, India, is hit by a butterfly effect of chaotic crises. Climate change, artificially low global prices, rising imports, and lack of regulation push farmers into bottomless debt. The result is an unbearably high suicide rate - some drink the very pesticides that trapped them in poverty. Their widows are left with unpaid loans, children to raise, and farms to manage. Marching in the Dark follows these women as they seek support from a local psychologist, sharing stories and finding strength. Their meetings become both a quiet rebellion against patriarchy and the first step toward liberation and resilience.

19 JUL 14:30 SUNCOAST | 25 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST

MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE



SHOSHANNAH STERN | USA | 2024 | 97 MIN | ENGLISH, AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In 1987, Marlee Matlin became the first Deaf actor to win an Academy Award and was thrust into the spotlight at 21 years old. Reflecting on her life in her primary language of American Sign Language, Marlee explores the complexities of what it means to be a trailblazer.

20 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST | 26 JUL 19:15 WATERCREST

MISTRESS DISPELLER



ELIZABETH LO | CHINA, USA | 2024 | 94 MIN | MANDARIN CHINESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In China, a new industry has emerged to help couples stay married despite infidelity. Wang Zhenxi is in this profession, a “mistress dispeller” who is hired to maintain bonds of marriage by any means necessary. Offering intimate access to private dramas usually hidden behind closed doors, Mistress Dispeller follows a real case of infidelity as Teacher Wang attempts to bring a couple back from crisis. Their story shifts between husband, wife and mistress to explore emotion, pragmatism and cultural norms that shape relationships in contemporary China.

21 JUL 16:30 PAVILION | 25 JUL 19:00 PAVILION

MY STOLEN PLANET



FARAHNAZ SHARIFI | IRAN, GERMANY | 2024 | 82 MIN | PERSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

My Stolen Planet is a diary-style narrative by Farah, an Iranian filmmaker born during the 1979 Islamic Revolution. She captures moments of joy and defiance while navigating the contrast between domestic freedom and public oppression. Collecting anonymous 8mm archives, she gains perspective on memory and loss. A professor named Leyla helps her identify a face from the past, bridging personal and collective histories. Inspired by her mother's Alzheimer's, Farah fights against forgetting. The 2022 Women, Life, Freedom uprising became a turning point in her life and in Iran's homemade history.

21 JUL 17:00 WATERCREST | 26 JUL 14:30 WATERCREST

OF MUD AND BLOOD

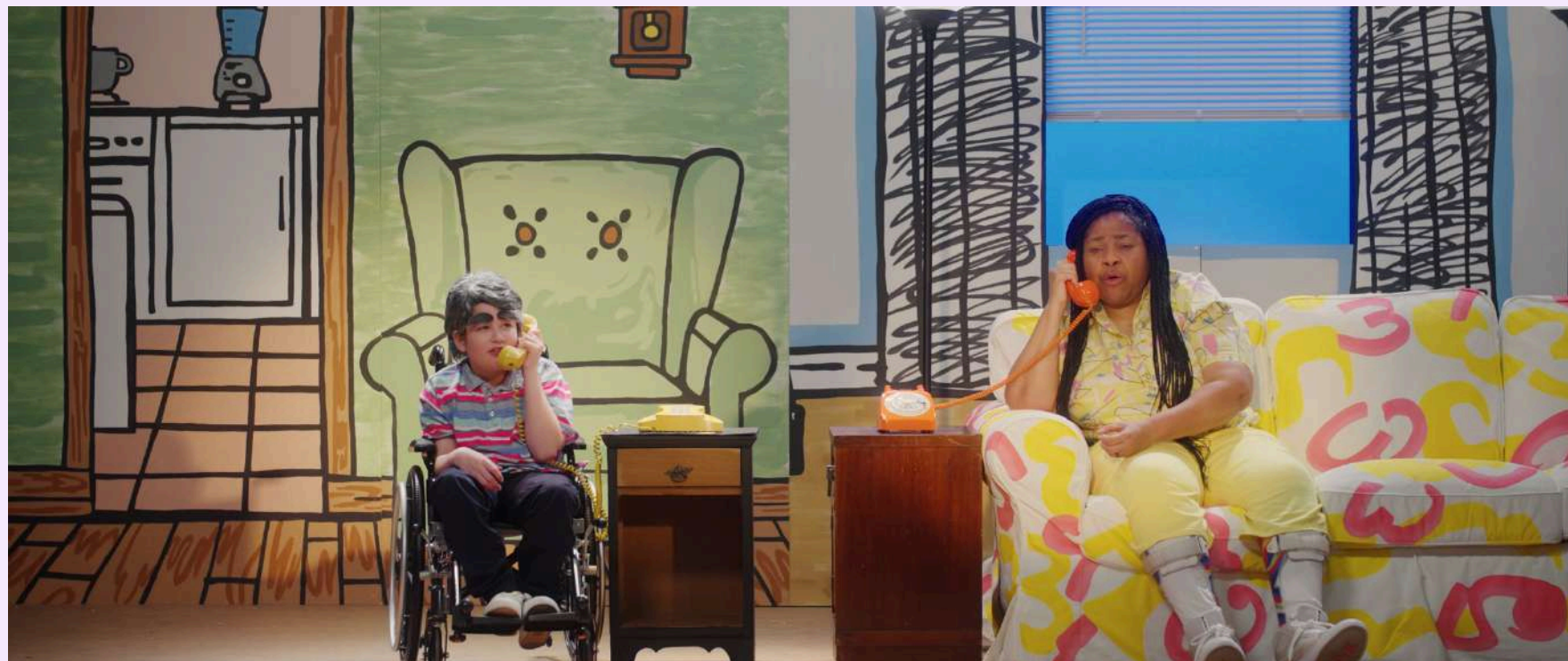


JEAN-GABRIEL LEYNAUD | FRANCE, GERMANY | 2024 | 90 MIN | ENGLISH, FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Numbi is a little village deep in the Democratic Republic of Congo mountains. With their bare hands, miners dig the coltan which finds its way – legally or not, to our industrialized world. For decades this grey gold, indispensable to almost all technological devices, has been the cause of conflict and exploitation. In Numbi, bodies are covered in mud, hands with blood, and coltan hides in pockets with the illusory hope of escaping fate and enjoying the riches of Congo. Sensitive, shocking and deeply moving, Of Mud and Blood documents the everyday existence of Numbi, revealing the hardships of which we must not look away.

21 JUL 17:30 SUNCOAST | 25 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION

PATRICE: THE MOVIE

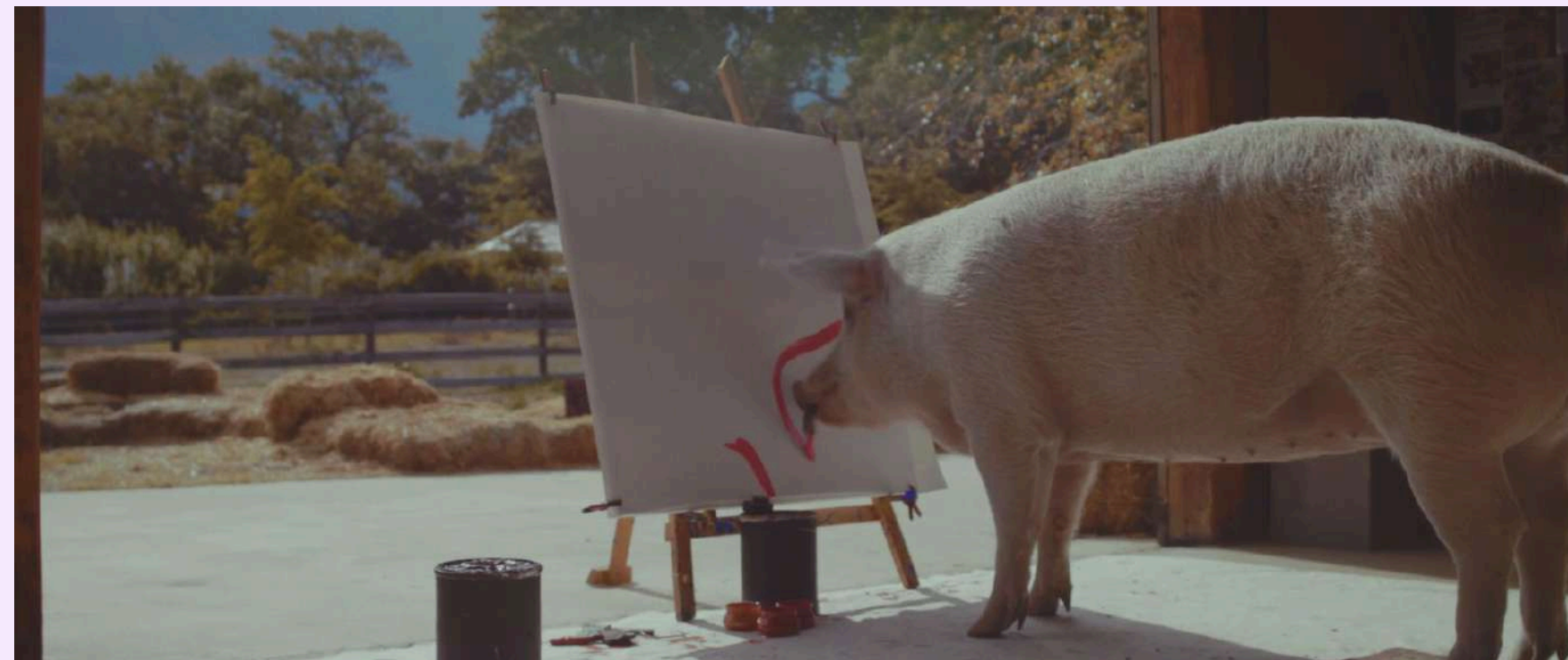


TED PASSON | USA | 2024 | 102 MIN | ENGLISH

Patrice has found the love of her life, Garry, who is also disabled. They want to get married, but doing so, or moving in together, cuts the government benefits they need to survive. Despite this, they plan a commitment ceremony, but when Patrice's wheelchair van breaks, she has to quit the job she fought years to get. Replacing the van is nearly impossible, as she can't have over \$2,000 in her account without losing her benefits. With longtime friend Ted Passon, she recreates scenes from her life, starring children as herself at every age, to show the fight to keep the life she built.

19 JUL 14:00 PAVILION | 24 JULY 19:15 SUNCOAST

PIGCASSO: MILLION DOLLAR PIG



STEFAN ENSLIN | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 60 MIN | ENGLISH

In Franschhoek Valley, South Africa, a piglet destined for slaughter is given a second chance at life—and a gift. Pigcasso, rescued by animal rights activist Joanne Lefson, becomes the world's first painting pig, creating artworks that challenge perceptions of animal intelligence and artistic expression. A quirky experiment turns into sold-out exhibitions, collaborations with global brands like Swatch, and a record-breaking sale. Jo comes to terms with knowing their adventure has left a mark on the world, as Pigcasso's health declines. Pigcasso shows the power of creativity and the bond between humans and animals.

19 JUL 12:15 SUNCOAST | 23 JUL 17:00 WATERCREST | 3 AUG 14:30 THE LABIA
| 1 AUG 15:00 THE BIOSCOPE

SUDAN, REMEMBER US



HIND MEDDEB | FRANCE, TUNISIA, QATAR | 2024 | 76 MIN | ARABIC, ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Shajane, Maha, Muzamil, Khatab and the voice of the poet Chaikhoon are politically active and artistically creative. This film is the collective portrait of a generation fighting for freedom with words, poems and chants. Faced with a corrupted army responsible for war crimes in Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile, they could have lost heart. Without the dream guiding them, the power of imagination and the might of poetic discourse, they would not have overthrown the former regime. The film relates the uneven struggle that pitted the voices of the revolution against the fire of the militia.

20 JUL 14:30 SUNCOAST | 23 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST

THE HOME



JESSIE ZINN | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 73 MIN | ENGLISH, XHOSA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

The Home weighs in as a good-humored portrait of the oldest and largest Jewish homes in South Africa as its clients kvetch about companions and battle to elect a new Resident Committee. The residents are attended – with notable affection – by carers who are mostly Xhosa-speaking Black women working on minimum wages. “The Home” works as a gentle observational comedy but it’s also a record of a microcosmos of South Africa today, where a legacy of racial and economic segregation still lingers.

19 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST | 26 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST | 3 AUG 17:00 THE LABIA, 3 AUG 12:00 THE BIOSCOPE

SHORT FILM COMPETITION

DEARS IN THE HEADLIGHTS

SHORTS PACKAGE A

KING GEORGE by Ari Kruger (South Africa)
PUNTER by Jason Adam Maselle (South Africa)
THE HOUSE THAT NEVER SLEEPS by Sean Mongie (South Africa)
B(L)IND THE SACRIFICE by Nakhane (South Africa)

SHORTS PACKAGE B

SWIM HARD by Mark Penwill (South Africa)
FLEAS by Jordy Sank (South Africa)
MEMOIRS OF AMANDA by Lamar Bonhomme (South Africa)
BEING YOU by Minenhle Luthuli (South Africa)
DEARS IN THE HEADLIGHTS by Julia Jansch (South Africa)

SHORTS PACKAGE C

UNSAVABLE by Javier Marco (Spain)
PASTA NEGRA by Jorge Thielen Armand (Canada, Colombia, Italy,
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
ASHES ARE BURNING by Lucas Leônidas (Argentina)
VOX HUMANA by Don Josephus Raphael Eblahan (Philippines)
FLYING CARPET by Justin Amorim (Portugal)

SHORTS PACKAGE D

THE TRUCK by Elizabeth Rao (United States)
CHILAPA GIRL by Juana Lotero López (Colombia)
GRANDMA NAI WHO PLAYED FAVORITES by Chheangkea (Cambodia,
France, USA)
MAJONEZĚ by Giulia Grandinetti (Italy)
DANSE MACABRE by Tobi Onabolu (Benin)

FRATER



SHORTS PACKAGE E

CATKILLER by Isabel Vaca, Arturo Mendicuti (Mexico)

GENEALOGY OF VIOLENCE by Mohamed Bourouissa (France)

DISTANT by Nagbhushan Deshpandey (India)

WE DID NOT CONSENT by Dorothy Allen-Pickard (United Kingdom)

CHAUDHARY SAHAB by Amit Pahel (India)

SHORTS PACKAGE F

SIDE A: A SUMMER DAY by Kin Fai Wan (Taiwan)

AICHA by Sanaa El Alaoui (Morocco)

A MOVE by Elahe Esmaili (Iran, United Kingdom)

FRATER by Valentin Guiod (France)

A MOVE



ELAHE ESMAILI | UNITED KINGDOM, IRAN | 2024 | 27 MIN | FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Elahe returns to her hometown in Mashhad, Iran, to help her parents move to a new place after 40 years. Influenced by the Woman-Life-Freedom movement, she's also hoping for a bigger move beyond just a new apartment.

20 JUL 14:00 WATERCREST | 27 JUL 14:15 SUNCOAST

AICHA



SANAA EL ALAOUI | MOROCCO | 2024 | 25 MIN | ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A 17-year-old girl, torn by an emotionally distant mother, faces a tragic fate while swimming at the beach. Overcome with guilt and grief from the consequences of her actions, the mother participates in a Gnawa ceremony to summon Aicha Kandicha. Through this mystical ritual, she seeks to confront her sorrow and heal the broken bond with her daughter.

20 JUL 14:00 WATERCREST | 27 JUL 14:15 SUNCOAST

ASHES ARE BURNING



LUCAS LEÔNIDAS | ARGENTINA | 2024 | 23 MIN | SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Two brothers deliver vegetables in the hills of Córdoba, Argentina. Bruno, the older brother, wants to leave the town. However, one single cigarette will make him face up to his younger brother's torment before he leaves.

18 JUL 17:15 WATERCREST | 24 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

B(L)IND THE SACRIFICE

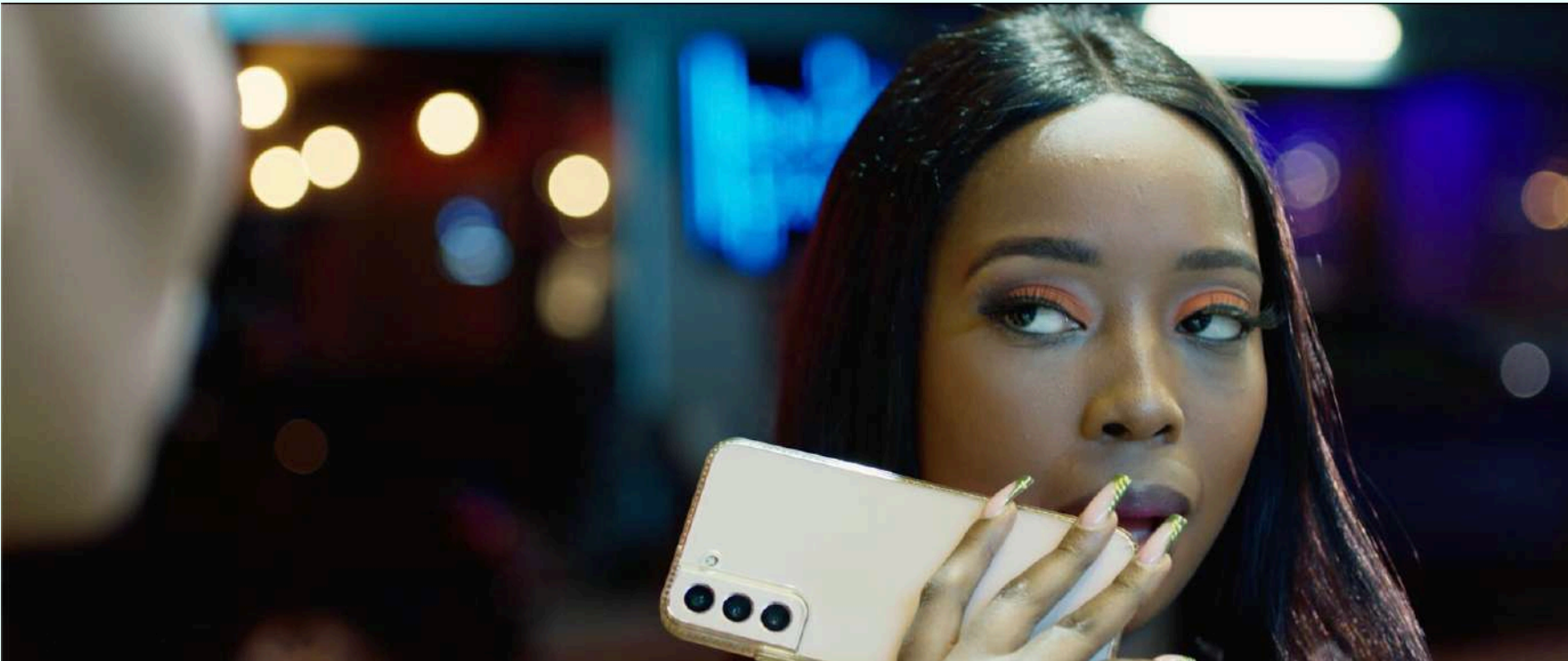


NAKHANE | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 22 MIN | ISIXHOSA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A family of nomads and their servants wander the land led by their patriarch, The Father, who has convinced them that he speaks to God directly. But the son has begun to question this claim, and that won't be tolerated by The Father for long.

18 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST | 24 JUL 19:00 WATERCREST | 21 JUL 12:00 WUSHWINI
| 22 JUL 12:00 KCAP | 23 JUL 12:00 CAP STUDIOS | 24 JUL 09:00 DENIS HURLEY |
24 JUL 11:00 DENIS HURLEY | 25 JUL 12:00 LUTHULI MUSEUM | 1 AUG 17:30 THE
LABIA | 1 AUG 17:30 THE BIOSCOPE

BEING YOU



MINENHLE LUTHULI | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 22 MIN | ENGLISH, TSWANA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A reserved screenwriter sits in the middle of a press interview when a question about her past triggers a panic attack, causing her to faint. She wakes up and realizes she has traveled back in time to meet her outspoken younger self and must convince her not to make the mistake she has regretted for most of her life.

20 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 14:15 WATERCREST | 2 AUG 14:30 THE LABIA | 2 AUG 14:30 THE BIOSCOPE

CATKILLER



ISABEL VACA, ARTURO MENDICUTI | MEXICO | 2024 | 24 MIN | SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Bear and his neighbour Ivan are locked in a tense relationship. When Ivan's cat, Gretel, is attacked, Bear saves her and forms an unexpected bond with her. This act of compassion sparks an even greater conflict between the two, pushing their enmity to dangerous levels.

19 JUL 14:30 WATERCREST | 26 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST

CHAUDHARY SAHAB



AMIT PAHEL | INDIA | 2024 | 19 MIN | HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Chaudhary Sahab is a film about an old man in the village of Haryana, India. He is a very religious and highly reputed person in his village. Due to his reputation and being head of the family everyone calls him Chaudhary Sahab. His son Hariom considers him as one of the purest souls, yet he takes advantage of everyone's trust around him, while he practices his dark desires in his private time. When his granddaughter accidentally catches him, things start getting worse.

19 JUL 14:30 WATERCREST | 26 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST

CHILAPA GIRL



JUANA LOTERO LÓPEZ | COLOMBIA | 2024 | 17 MIN | ENGLISH, SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Through observation we discover the story of Yulieth (age 11-13), a brave and rebellious fishing girl from Chilapa (native of Urabá, Chocó), transitioning into adolescence. She faces the difficulty of growing up in a wild territory where natural beauty coexists with the hostility of machismo. Despite the warnings, Yulieth becomes a teenage mother, while her developing identity is caught between the impulses of her dreams and her reality.

18 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION | 25 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

DANSE MACABRE



TOBI ONABOLU | BENIN | 2024 | 21 MIN | ENGLISH

Combining poetry, dance, music, and archival audio, Danse Macabre paints a portrait of the human psyche, from the work of Dr Carl Jung, exploring the different aspects of the conscious and unconscious through character performances from dancers, singers, unseen voices, and musicians. The wisdom of ancestral memory is depicted via the Yoruba Egúngún masquerade. Synthesising styles from a range of geographies, including references of Yoruba dance, songs and proverbs; contemporary electronic music; Ingmar Bergman’s “The Seventh Seal”; Hector Berlioz’s “Symphonie Fantastique”; and the work of Marina Abramovic.

18 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION | 25 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

DEARS IN THE HEADLIGHTS



JULIA JANSCH | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 16 MIN | ENGLISH

After losing her brother to a drunk driving accident, Philly discovers an unusual way to process her pain—through taxidermy. She salvages roadkill creatures and meticulously restores them, transforming tragedy into art. Finding solace in giving lost lives a second form of existence. Her mother, Caro, channels grief into activism as a leader in SADD (South Africans Against Drunk Driving) and with MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), she fights to prevent others from experiencing the same heartbreak. Dears in the Headlights examines the many ways we confront loss - to celebrate life, honor the living, and transform pain into purpose.

20 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 14:15 WATERCREST | 2 AUG 14:30 THE LABIA | 2 AUG 14:30 THE BIOSCOPE

DISTANT



NAGBHUSHAN DESHPANDEY | INDIA | 2024 | 19 MIN | KANNADA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

After a heated argument between his parents, Rohith’s father, Krishna, leaves the house in anger. Assuming the blame lies solely with his mother, Veena. Rohith follows his father, feeling compelled to fix things. Rohith’s father demands that he ensure Veena quits her job. As he tries to fulfill his father’s request, he is forced to confront a harsh reality: the deeply ingrained patriarchal mindset of his father and the broader societal expectations placed on his mother. An incident shakes Rohith’s understanding, leading him to question his assumptions.

19 JUL 14:30 WATERCREST | 26 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST

FLEAS



JORDY SANK | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 15 MIN | ENGLISH, SHONA, ZULU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tonderai, a young Zimbabwean boy living in a South African township, anxiously awaits his mother’s return from work at nightfall. He fears the worst for her due to a recent bout of xenophobic attacks. He watches over his gravely ill and bedridden younger brother who becomes desperate for drinking water. With no running water in their shack, Tonderai must now venture out to the communal amenities to bring his brother back safe drinking water and in doing so must risk his life from his neighbours who are attacking foreigners.

20 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 14:15 WATERCREST | 2 AUG 14:30 THE LABIA | 2 AUG 14:30 THE BIOSCOPE

FLYING CARPET



JUSTIN AMORIM | PORTUGAL | 2024 | 29 MIN | PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Based on one of the many true stories within the biggest case of institutionalised pedophilia in Portugal, 'Flying Carpet' follows Ricardo, a teenager searching for a way out of a ruthless reality that traps him and everyone around him, preventing them from reaching for the stars.

18 JUL 17:15 WATERCREST | 24 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

FRATER



VALENTIN GUIOD | FRANCE | 2024 | 22 MIN | FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In the middle of summer, while moving out, Tom finds a family picture. At only ten years old, as the fantasy world of childhood seems to vanish before his eyes, Tom falls back into repressed memories. His recollection grows into a heartrending portrait of the family he once idealized.

20 JUL 14:00 WATERCREST | 27 JUL 14:15 SUNCOAST

GENEALOGY OF VIOLENCE



MOHAMED BOUROUISSA | FRANCE | 2024 | 15 MIN | FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A young man sits in the car with his girlfriend. Two policemen in an unmarked car pull up to command a routine identity check. They invite him out and proceed methodically to a pat-down, as he stands in front of the car, under the dismayed eyes of his girlfriend.

19 JUL 14:30 WATERCREST | 26 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST

GRANDMA NAI WHO PLAYED FAVORITES



CHHEANGKEA | CAMBODIA, FRANCE, USA | 2025 | 19 MIN | CENTRAL KHMER WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

During her chaotic family’s Qingming visit, dead Grandma Nai sneaks away from her peaceful afterlife after overhearing that her queer grandson is about to get engaged to a woman.

18 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION | 25 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

KING GEORGE



ARI KRUGER | SOUTH AFRICA | 2025 | 16 MIN | ENGLISH

George Megalos is the controversial and charismatic owner of King George strip club in Lower Woodstock Cape Town. The locals regard George with resentment and picket outside his club as they believe his sleazy business brings a bad name to the neighbourhood. When Shane Wyntock, a smug property developer buys up all the properties on the block and serves George an eviction notice, George is forced to unite the misfits of colourful characters in his club if they are to save his business.

18 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST | 24 JUL 19:00 WATERCREST | 21 JUL 12:00 WUSHWINI | 22 JUL 12:00 KCAP | 23 JUL 12:00 CAP STUDIOS | 24 JUL 09:00 DENIS HURLEY | 24 JUL 11:00 DENIS HURLEY | 25 JUL 12:00 LUTHULI MUSEUM | 1 AUG 17:30 THE LABIA | 1 AUG 17:30 THE BIOSCOPE

MAJONEZË



GIULIA GRANDINETTI | ITALY | 2024 | 22 MIN | ALBANIAN, SERBIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Ersekë, Albania. Elyria lives with her family following the strict rules imposed by her father, hiding her anger with obedience. A powerful desire for rebellion grows in her day by day that will lead her to the fulfillment of a bitter, but necessary, act of revolution.

18 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION | 25 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

MEMOIRS OF AMANDA



LAMAR BONHOMME | SOUTH AFRICA | 2025 | 17 MIN | ENGLISH

Amanda's world was shaped by the harsh echoes of her parents' criticism, and this shattered her self-esteem as a child. At the age of 74, Amanda is a testament to the transformative power of self-achievement. Defying the odds has led her to set her sights on one final, seemingly insurmountable goal: completing the 109 km Cape Town Cycle Tour for the 23rd time.

20 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 14:15 WATERCREST | 2 AUG 14:30 THE LABIA |
2 AUG 14:30 THE BIOSCOPE

PASTA NEGRA

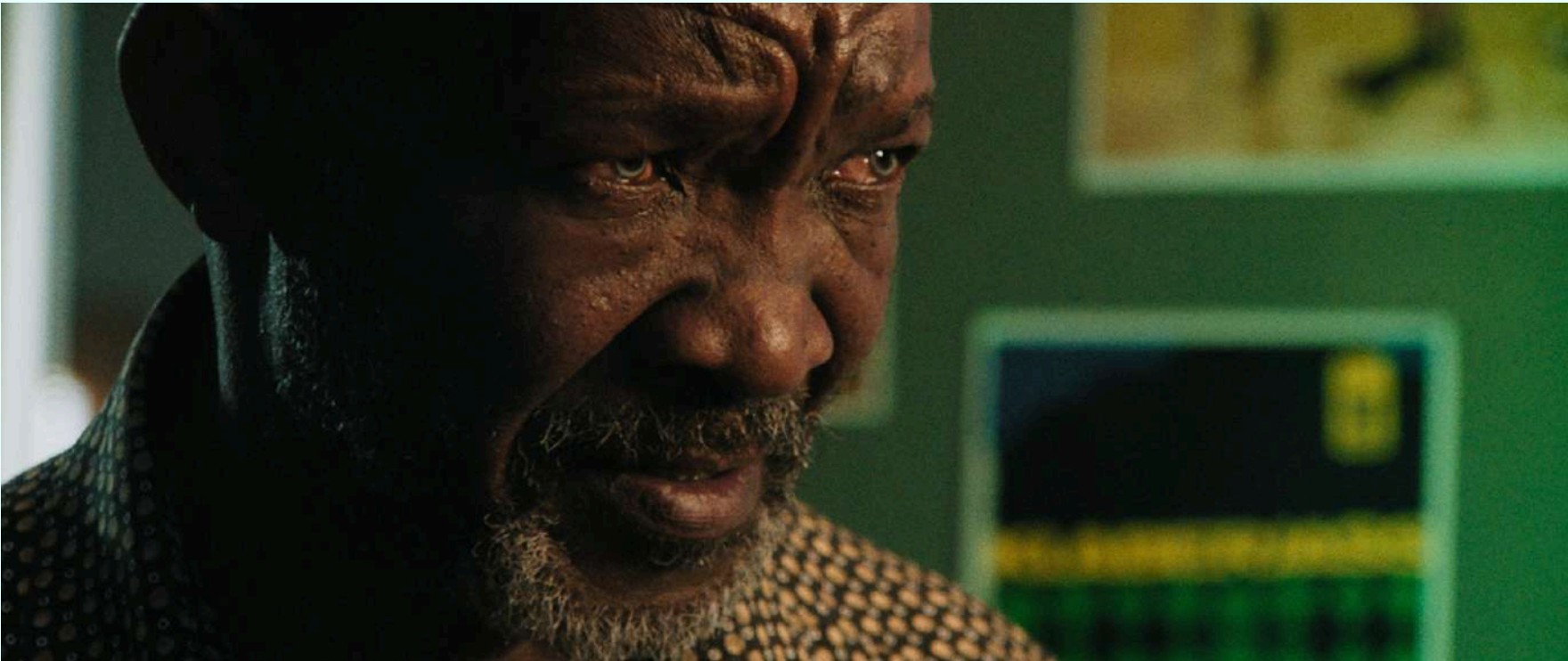


JORGE THIELEN ARMAND | CANADA, COLOMBIA, ITALY, VENEZUELA, BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF | 2024 | 14 MIN | SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Three Venezuelan women cross the border into Colombia to buy a packet of pasta.

18 JUL 17:15 WATERCREST | 24 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

PUNTER



JASON ADAM MASELLE | SOUTH AFRICA, USA | 2024 | 14 MIN | ENGLISH, AFRIKAANS, ISIXHOSA WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

11 year old Brett's perfect plan to surprise his father for his birthday is thrown into jeopardy as his dad hijacks the agenda by corralling his son to the local Johannesburg betting bar with the promise of resuming the day's festivities as soon as possible. Inside the bar, tensions rise as Brett realizes his father's scheme after he is tasked with making a seemingly harmless horse racing bet on his dad's behalf. Desperate to save his father's birthday surprise, Brett accepts the responsibility only to unwittingly unleash a sea of chaos that enmeshes him in his dad's debts and crooked dealings as he starts to unravel the man who he thinks his father is.

18 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST | 24 JUL 19:00 WATERCREST | 21 JUL 12:00 WUSHWINI | 22 JUL 12:00 KCAP | 23 JUL 12:00 CAP STUDIOS | 24 JUL 09:00 DENIS HURLEY | 24 JUL 11:00 DENIS HURLEY | 25 JUL 12:00 LUTHULI MUSEUM | 1 AUG 17:30 THE LABIA | 1 AUG 17:30 THE BIOSCOPE

SIDE A: A SUMMER DAY



KIN FAI WAN | TAIWAN | 2024 | 21 MIN | HINDI, MANDARIN CHINESE, YUE CHINESE (CANTONESE) WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fei will get the best birthday present ever if he finishes his homework. That is what his mother has promised him. But it's already the last day of summer, and Fei hasn't received anything yet. On this day, the two of them have been arguing all day. After their big fight, Fei frustratedly sorts out his schoolbag and suddenly finds a cassette tape he has forgotten. It's part of the school assignment, recording a summer day on the tape, which he had forgotten entirely. With time running short, Fei and his mother decide to renew their relationship and set off on a bold plan to rewind the clock and experience the last day of summer together.

20 JUL 14:00 WATERCREST | 27 JUL 14:15 SUNCOAST

SWIM HARD



MARK PENWILL | SOUTH AFRICA | 2025 | 9 MIN | ENGLISH

Along Africa’s southern coastline, near a small seaside town, a group of ragtag swimmers have come together to train for the ultimate chance; a shot at the 2028 Olympics. In anticipation of their impending glory, the Association’s founder and leader David, has hired Jess to photograph his team’s road to victory. Jess, alone and struggling to find her place in the world, thinks she’s landed her dream job, and maybe even a home. There’s just one problem. This swim team is strictly anti-water.

20 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST | 27 JUL 14:15 WATERCREST | 2 AUG 14:30 THE LABIA | 2 AUG 14:30 THE BIOSCOPE

THE HOUSE THAT NEVER SLEEPS



SEAN MONGIE | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 26 MIN | ENGLISH

A writer, Ayanda Mkhize (50s), clones himself to be able to punt more of his pulp-fiction books. He has drained himself of his whole life essence, which has been poured into his books via his clones. He is tired, and so are the clones – the other dimensions of himself that he keeps locked behind doors, symbolic of the way he has imprisoned himself in servitude to his art. When an aspiring writer, Sbu Dlodlu (20s), arrives to interview his idol, past and present are at stake as Ayanda must duel for survival. Starring celebrated actors Mothusi Mogano and Sechaba Ramphele.

18 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST | 24 JUL 19:00 WATERCREST | 21 JUL 12:00 WUSHWINI | 22 JUL 12:00 KCAP | 23 JUL 12:00 CAP STUDIOS | 24 JUL 09:00 DENIS HURLEY | 24 JUL 11:00 DENIS HURLEY | 25 JUL 12:00 LUTHULI MUSEUM | 1 AUG 17:30 THE LABIA | 1 AUG 17:30 THE BIOSCOPE

THE TRUCK



ELIZABETH RAO | USA | 2024 | 13 MIN | ENGLISH

Present day small town America. Two teens find themselves in a bind. Jo and Arash know that in their town, abortion is shameful at best, and illegal at worst. Together, they set out to buy the morning after pill, encountering a world of power dynamics and American hypocrisy that they never expected.

18 JUL 17:00 BALLITO JUNCTION | 25 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

UNSALVABLE



JAVIER MARCO | SPAIN | 2024 | 18 MIN | SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Mauro has arranged to have dinner at a luxurious restaurant with Ángel, the strange man whose life he saved a few weeks ago. But what initially seemed like a simple invitation of gratitude will gradually turn into a tense and unsettling encounter, especially when Mauro realizes who is the person that he saved.

18 JUL 17:15 WATERCREST | 24 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

VOX HUMANA



DON JOSEPHUS RAPHAEL EBLAHAN | PHILIPPINES | 2024 | 22 MIN | TAGALOG WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In the aftermath of an earthquake, the police find a man in the woods. A zoologist, a sound recorder, and a news team grapple with the truth that he may be the cause of all the natural disasters that devastated this small mountain town.

18 JUL 17:15 WATERCREST | 24 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

WE DID NOT CONSENT



DOROTHY ALLEN-PICKARD | UNITED KINGDOM | 2023 | 18 MIN | ENGLISH

For decades, a secret unit in London’s Metropolitan police infiltrated local activist groups and formed romantic relationships with their targets. Now, three women are revisiting scenes from their lives in order to reclaim the narrative, and make sense of what happened.

19 JUL 14:30 WATERCREST | 26 JUL 14:00 SUNCOAST



THE TASTE OF PORK BELLY

STUDENT FILM
COMPETITION

STUDENT PACKAGE A

- NOHAM by Victorine Dumort, Marie Fotso-Guifo (Belgium)
- HODA - MOTHER ON HOLD by Rabelle Ramez Erian (Egypt)
- THURSDAY by Maja Bresink (Germany)
- THE KIDS WILL BE ALRIGHT by Sigi Van Roy (Belgium)
- NESMA Rahaf Ahmed Adel by (Egypt)

STUDENT PACKAGE B

- LEAPT NICHES by Dominique Spies (South Africa)
- NO MORE POOL TIME by Jonas Baumann (Germany)
- STAY OUT OF THE SUN by Zola Franchi, Vivienne Ayres, Nidhi Kumar (United States)
- SWEDEN by Nik Azad (Germany)

STUDENT PACKAGE C

- MARIE & ME by Diane Premi (Canada)
- THE TASTE OF PORK BELLY by Sophie SHUI (Taiwan)
- MFE2 DILO-DILO by Mbuso Cyril Gamede (South Africa)
- THE PENITENTIAL ACT by Ben Lyons (United Kingdom)

STUDENT PACKAGE E

- ROLL NO. 52 by Patro Saroj Kumar (India)
- WALUD by Daood Alabdulaa, Louise Zenker (Germany, Syria)
- FOR HIS SAKE by Antoinette Steyn (South Africa)
- DOU by Jing Zhao (China)

DOU



JING ZHAO | CHINA | 2024 | 23 MIN | MANDARIN CHINESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Dou is a contemporary adaptation of a Chinese folktale from the 18th-century tale collection Liaozhai. After a young piano teacher falls victim to her dictatorial husband's abuse, she transforms into a fox and haunts the spaces of the living.

24 JUL 17:00 WATECREST | 25 JUL 17:15 SUNCOAST

FOR HIS SAKE



ANTOINETTE STEYN | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 11 MIN | AFRIKAANS, ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

For His Sake explores the lives of Faizel and his son, Shuaib, who own and run Art's Barber Shop, a third-generation business in the heart of Ida's Valley, Stellenbosch. This short documentary delves into the relationship between fathers and sons, emphasising themes of generational legacy and the importance of family.

24 JUL 17:00 WATECREST | 25 JUL 17:15 SUNCOAST

HODA - A MOTHER ON HOLD



RABELLE RAMEZ ERIAN | EGYPT, GERMANY | 2024 | 30 MIN | ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Hoda, a tattooed choir singer, Coptic Christian, and fighter against adversity, longed to have biological children, but her wish remained unfulfilled. Twenty years ago, she met little Mariam at a Coptic children's home. Despite adoption being forbidden by law in Egypt, Hoda's love for Mariam blossomed, as if Mariam were her own daughter. Their relationship is tested when Mariam falls in love with a young man and gradually distances herself from Hoda. Simultaneously, Hoda cares for her aging mother whose relationship has been conflicted since Hoda's childhood.

22 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST | 23 JUL 16:30 PAVILION

LEAPT NICHES

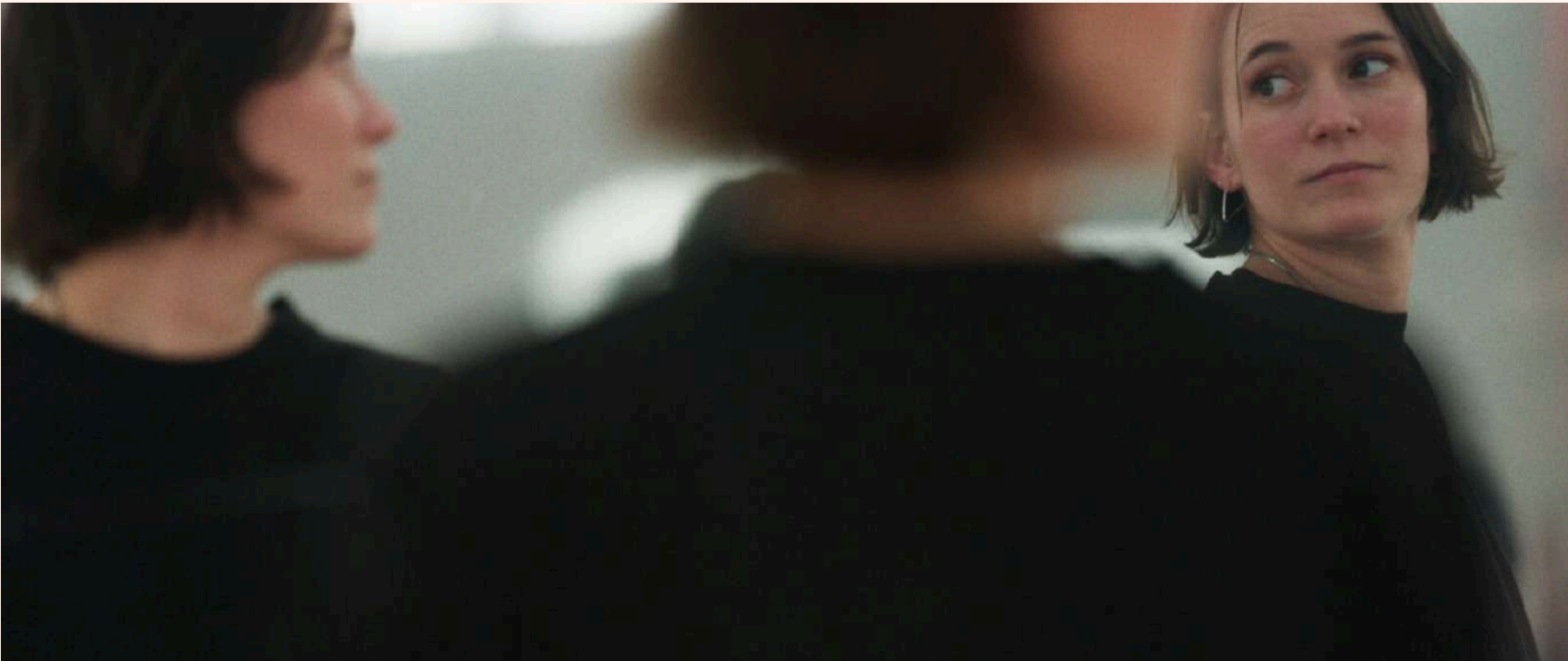


DOMINIQUE SPIES | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 4 MIN | ENGLISH

Orphan Allie is picked up by her sequestered grandfather, Gram Pops, in his deep-sea exploration submarine. They try to connect, but Allie draws over his space with crayons. When Gram Pops confiscates them, she sneaks into his office to steal them, triggering the light and scaring herself with his eerie specimen collection. Realizing this, Gram Pops playfully leads her to the wheelhouse, where a wondrous display of bioluminescent squid lights up the deep sea. Allie takes his hand, beginning their beautiful and hopeful bond.

22 JUL 16:30 PAVILION | 23 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

MARIE & ME



DIANE PREMI | CANADA | 2024 | 12 MIN | FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

This documentary explores a young woman’s journey to reconstruct her identity and confront her tumultuous past as an escort. It is a portrait of deep-seated trauma viewed through a lens of compassion and empathy. This is Mary’s journey: a dazzlingly compelling tale that offers a glimmer of hope in a world filled with darkness.

24 JUL 17:15 PAVILION | 25 JUL 17:00 PAVILION

MFE2 DILO-DILO



MBUSO CYRIL GAMEDE | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 22 MIN | ZULU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A historical narrative that depicts the daily routines in a dormitory in the 1990s. The title and concept was inspired by a location primarily designated for males. Hostels are typically characterized as male-dominated spaces embodying traditional male ideologies. We selected this site to value the presence of man-made areas in various forms. In the era of apartheid, hostels were reserved for industrious and employed men. Utilizing the hostel in the film symbolizes respecting people and relates to the growth of a man, the surroundings, and the perspective that a young person goes through.

24 JUL 17:15 PAVILION | 25 JUL 17:00 PAVILION

NESMA



RAHAF AHMED ADEL | EGYPT | 2024 | 11 MIN | ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Shortly after her caregiver, Olfat, passed away, Nesma, 12 years old, is now forced to live life as Olfat; manipulating everyone into thinking that Olfat is still alive. This plan was put in place by Olfat before her death, to protect Nesma from having to go back to the orphanage. By wearing her clothes, mimicking her actions, and playing pre-recorded tapes of her voice, Nesma pretends to be Olfat, completely depriving herself of her childhood. Everything goes according to plan, until the orphanage calls for Nesma's routine check-in.

22 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST | 23 JUL 16:30 PAVILION

NO MORE POOL TIME



JONAS BAUMANN | GERMANY | 2024 | 35 MIN | GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

No More Pool Time centers around how we as society discuss renunciation, and a pool owner who finds himself in a moral dilemma between the promise of a pool to his young daughter and his new partner's charity event for a water project in Africa. A satirical drama about double standards, guilt, and the vicious cycle of a culture of blame, where in the end, everything is at stake, except for the water.

22 JUL 16:30 PAVILION | 23 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

NOHAM

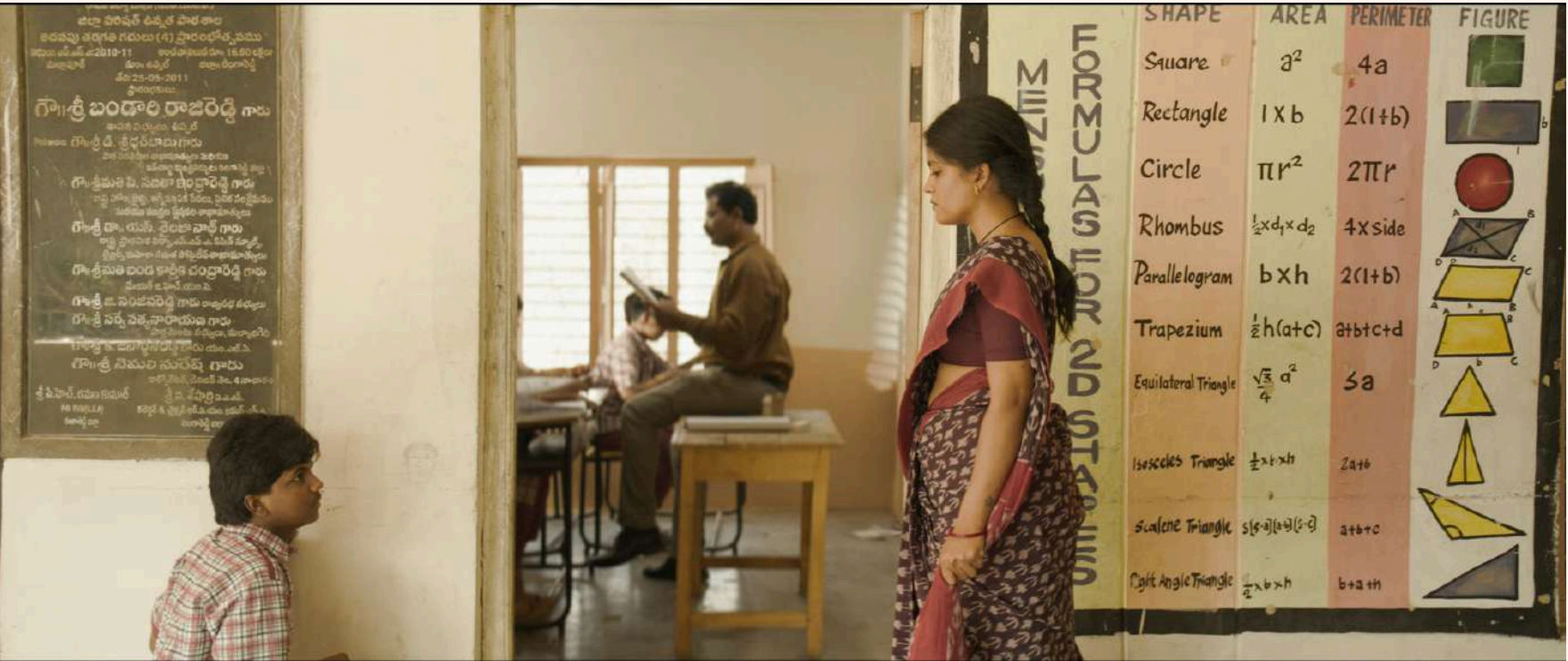


VICTORINE DUMORT, MARIE FOTSO-GUIFO | BELGIUM | 2024 | 15 MIN | FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

On his way to Christmas Eve, Noham is dropped off at a hotel by his father. There he finds his mother, whom he hasn't seen since she left the family home. In this room, Noham tries to decipher the mystery behind his mother's isolation.

22 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST | 23 JUL 16:30 PAVILION

ROLL NO. 52



PATRO SAROJ KUMAR | INDIA | 2024 | 21 MIN | TELUGU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

It is a coming of age film which revolves around the heartwarming story of a mother and her son who encounter various challenges but always maintain their unwavering hope. The protagonist Shankar unravels his own self leading to a journey of self-discovery and unexpected revelations. A mischievous son who is failing exams makes an attempt after his mother wagers on him to pass but he realises about efforts when they are evicted from the house.

24 JUL 17:00 WATECREST | 25 JUL 17:15 SUNCOAST

STAY OUT OF THE SUN



ZOLA FRANCHI, VIVIENNE AYRES, NIDHI KUMAR | UNITED STATES | 2024 | 15 MIN | ENGLISH

A visual scrapbook of individuals' memories of colourism, recounting the messages they received about skin tone during their youth and examining how these experiences have left lasting imprints on their lives today.

22 JUL 16:30 PAVILION | 23 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

SWEDEN



NIK AZAD | GERMANY | 2024 | 27 MIN | GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A printer won't stop printing, civil servants who constantly celebrate birthdays and a fisherman who doesn't catch any fish. A man finds himself in an office and is confronted with all these things. Involuntarily, he has to admit to himself that Sweden was nothing special and that smoking is deadly.

22 JUL 16:30 PAVILION | 23 JUL 17:00 SUNCOAST

THE KIDS WILL BE ALRIGHT



SIGI VAN ROY | BELGIUM | 2024 | 14 MIN | DUTCH, FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Aaron is on the brink of adulthood but struggles with the responsibilities that come along with it. He’s still in search of his place in the world while also trying to provide the best circumstances for his little brother James to grow up in.

22 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST | 23 JUL 16:30 PAVILION

THE PENITENTIAL ACT



BEN LYONS | UNITED KINGDOM | 2024 | 23 MIN | ENGLISH

John, released from prison into the unforgiving North-West of 1986, finds himself abandoned by his family and homeless. When John returns to his childhood church, he comes across Father Upton preaching fire and brimstone from the pulpit, and becomes enthralled by the display of sadism. Believing himself worthy of the divine punishment that Upton offers, John pursues the priest and attempts to provoke him, through a most heinous act.

24 JUL 17:15 PAVILION | 25 JUL 17:00 PAVILION

THE TASTE OF PORK BELLY



SOPHIE SHUI | TAIWAN | 2024 | 20 MIN | CHINESE - MIN NAN, MANDARIN CHINESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A-Mao spends his days exploring with his little sister and his buddy A-Bao. When they are hungry, there are sweet potatoes and snails to eat, and sometimes they can eat some of the pork belly that his mother gets as a gift. His father cannot find work and is depressed, often drinking. Apart from washing people's clothes, A-Mao's mother prostitutes herself in exchange for pork to feed her family. A-Mao hears his parents quarrelling and he understands where the pork belly comes from. He starts to detest his mother and refuses to eat the pork belly that he once liked so much.

24 JUL 17:15 PAVILION | 25 JUL 17:00 PAVILION

THURSDAY



MAJA BRESINK | GERMANY | 2024 | 16 MIN | GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A night in which a father and daughter roam the streets of the city. In search of something to eat but actually in search of a relationship with each other. They don't argue. They just have nothing to say to each other.

22 JUL 19:00 SUNCOAST | 23 JUL 16:30 PAVILION

2014: Amuna and her husband Aziz, an ISIS fighter, live as shepherds in the rural Syrian desert. When he takes a very young, European ISIS convert as his second wife, Amuna's everyday life is thrown into turmoil. WALUD ولود is an Arabic adjective and describes the potential to create new life. In relation to humans, it refers to pregnancies and the possibility of bearing many children."

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Annapurna College of Film and Media, Chapman University, Film Academy Baden-Württemberg GmbH, Film university Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, INIS – National, Institute of Image and Sound, Institut des Arts de Diffusion, London Film School, Luca, School of Arts, National Taiwan University of Arts, Stellenbosch University, The American University in Cairo, The Animation School (PTY)Ltd, The London Film School, The University of Television and Film Munich, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Television and Film Munich // Annapurna College of Film and Media, Chapman University, Film Academy Baden-Württemberg GmbH, Film university Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, INIS – National, Institute of Image and Sound, Institut des Arts de Diffusion, London Film School, Luca, School of Arts, National Taiwan University of Arts, Stellenbosch University, The American University in Cairo, The Animation School (PTY)Ltd, The London Film School, The University of Television and Film Munich, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Television and Film Munich // Annapurna College of Film and Media, Chapman University, Film Academy Baden-Württemberg GmbH, Film university Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, INIS – National, Institute of Image and Sound, Institut des Arts de Diffusion, London Film School, Luca, School of Arts, National Taiwan University of Arts, Stellenbosch University, The American University in Cairo, The Animation School (PTY)Ltd, The London Film School, The University of Television and Film Munich, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Television and Film Munich // Annapurna College of Film and Media, Chapman University, Film Academy Baden-Württemberg GmbH, Film university Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, INIS – National, Institute of Image and Sound, Institut des Arts de Diffusion, London Film School, Luca, School of Arts, National Taiwan University of Arts, Stellenbosch University, The American University in Cairo, The Animation School (PTY)Ltd, The London Film School, The University of Television and Film Munich, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Television and Film Munich // Annapurna College of Film and Media, Chapman University, Film Academy Baden-Württemberg GmbH, Film university Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, INIS – National, Institute of Image and Sound, Institut des Arts de Diffusion, London Film School, Luca, School of Arts, National Taiwan University of Arts, Stellenbosch University, The American University in Cairo, The Animation School (PTY)Ltd, The London Film School, The University of Television and Film Munich, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Television and Film Munich // Annapurna College of Film and Media, Chapman University, Film Academy Baden-Württemberg GmbH, Film university Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, INIS – National, Institute of Image and Sound, Institut des Arts de Diffusion, London Film School, Luca, School of Arts, National Taiwan University of Arts, Stellenbosch University, The American University in Cairo, The Animation School (PTY)Ltd, The London Film School, The University of Television and Film Munich, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Television and Film Munich // Annapurna College of Film and Media, Chapman University, Film Academy Baden-Württemberg GmbH, Film university Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, INIS – National, Institute of Image and Sound, Institut des Arts de Diffusion, London Film School, Luca, School of Arts, National Taiwan University of Arts, Stellenbosch University, The American University in Cairo, The Animation School (PTY)Ltd, The London Film School, The University of Television and Film Munich, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Television and Film Munich

WAVESCAPE FILMS

WAVESCAPE

CHANGING TEMPO



NOW NOW MEDIA | SOUTH AFRICA | 2022 | 15MIN

This beautifully shot mini biopic will appeal to surfers and non-surfers as it follows exceptionally talented Cape Town surfer Mikey February around Africa in the years following his decision to turn away from competitive surfing to pursue a career as a free surfer. These carefully curated vignettes from his travels are a sumptuous depiction of Mikey's incredible virtuosity riding a range of surfboards on the Wild Coast, and in Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal, Mozambique and Angola. Whatever he rides, whether including bonzers, twinnies, or thrusters, his panther-like stance and stylish grace are a thing to behold.

19 JUL 12:30 SUNCOAST

KELP TOWN



WILL BENDIX | SOUTH AFRICA | 2022 | 8 MIN

Professional South African surfer Adin Masencamp takes us on a journey into the thick kelp beds of a surfing spot in the deep ocean off Cape Town. Swells from distant storms have travelled for many kilometres before they crack over the rock reef and explode like a water bomb. To surf here requires dodging abalone poachers and the occasional shark, not to mention the wave itself, which breaks like the infamous Pipeline of Hawaii, only in freezing cold water over huge clumps of kelp.

19 JUL 12:30 SUNCOAST

LE JARDIN: THE SECRET OF SOFI



ALAN VAN GYSEN | MOROCCO | 2024 | 40MIN

Part travelogue, part adventure into the mythical waves of Morocco, a small group of friends discovered a surf spot called Safi in the early 1980s. They made a pact, swearing each other to secrecy and surfed it alone for decades. But a secret this good is hard to keep. This right breaking wave seems to go on forever. It is widely regarded as the best right-hand point break on earth., famous for delivering endless tubes and bone-crushing wipeouts. But the fame led to a crossroads, and its future hangs in the balance. Features Ramzi Boukhiam, Ross Clarke-Jones, Matt Bromley, and Eli Beukes, among others.

20 JUL 12:30 SUNCOAST

SURFING THE ISLAND OF SHARKS



NOW NOW MEDIA | SOUTH AFRICA | 2022 | 9 MIN

Reunion Island is a paradise for surfers but, after a series of fatal shark attacks, surfing all but ceased for several years, except at the small enclave of La Jetée. A special journey takes place to connect with this incredible island and its people. Shark attacks are still a concern, and surfing outside designated protected areas is technically illegal, but there has not been an attack on the island in several years. Scientists can't say with certainty why, but there is important research being done and the protected areas at places like St Leu have made getting in the water safer.

19 JUL 12:30 SUNCOAST

THE SOURCE



NICK SOKOLOFF | SOUTH AFRICA | 2024 | 32 MIN

Some people have called this one of the best travelogues and self discovery movies. Utilising incredible cinematography and gorgeous music, it depicts pro surfer Koa Smith's trip from Hawaii to South Africa to make a surf movie. As a digitally cluttered "influencer" approaching burnout, the sights, sounds and people of South Africa helps him realise the need to slow down to feel connection, nature and introspection. His trip becomes a transformative journey that showcases the power of simplicity. Something we could all do with in these troubled times.

19 JUL 12:30 SUNCOAST

WHERE WE THRIVE



DEAN LESLIE | SOUTH AFRICA | 2023 | 34MIN

From the opening line holy macaroni cheese balls! to the closing credits of this tribute to the significant role in surf culture played by Kommetjie, near Cape Town, we get a fascinating glimpse into how a rural backwater "too far" from Cape Town became a surfing mecca. This sumptuously filmed adventure documentary, narrated by endurance runner Ryan Sandes, is a non-pretentious unearthing of the small town gem of the "Kom", the birth of big wave surfing in South Africa and the adventure potential of the rugged Cape Peninsula. The film is quintessentially an ode to adventure, and that communality that binds us all together.

20 JUL 12:30 SUNCOAST





DIRECTORS AT 46TH DURBAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL